Railway Herald

Issue 264 - 18th April 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 264
18th April 2011

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Arriva Trains Wales unveils new look Class 158s

Arriva Trains Wales officially introduced the first refurbished Class 158 back into traffic at Aberystwyth on 15th April in a striking new livery. The refurbished unit is the first of 24 to be completed by LNWR Crewe.

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The Next Issue of RH ....

Because of the forthcoming Easter and May Day bank holidays, the publishing schedule will be amended for the next two weeks. With the Bank Holidays, there will be **NO** issue on 25th April or 2nd May, however, there will be an issue published on the middle Thursday.

This will mean that our **next** edition, Issue 265 will be published on

Thursday 28th April 2011

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Front Cover Caption:

An unbelievable sight in the 21st Century, with hired-in Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* on a revenue earning GBRf freight service. Here, it departs from North Blyth on 12th April, with loaded alumina tanks, bound for the Alcan plant at Lynemouth. John Lewins

ScotRail starts refurbishment of Class 314s at Springburn

The first refurbished ScotRail Class 314 EMU No. 314212 re-entered service on 11th April, all 16 of the fleet are to receive attention at Springburn Works by October.

The refurbishment increases the level of comfort in carriages, with new seat covers and cushions among the enhancements. In addition, a series of modifications are being made to improve the reliability of the fleet as part of the £800,000 project, which also includes new lino and a complete 'refresh' of the carriage interiors. All will be repainted inside, including gangways, and will receive new lighting. Five of the units will be rebranded in the new 'ScotRail, Scotland's Railway' unified livery, while the remaining sets will retain their existing livery.

The '314s' are used on Glasgow Central - Cathcart Circle and Glasgow Central - Neilston, Newton and Gourock/Wemyss Bay services.

▲▲ The first of the Class 314s to be outshopped from Springburn Works in the ScotRail 'Saltire' livery, No. 314212, stands in the works yard.

▲ The interior of No. 314212, showing the 2+3 seating and new upholstery. **Both: ScotRail/Bill Wilson**

Historic LC&DR crests to be fully restored

The two historic London, Chatham & Dover Railway crests at the southern end of Blackfriars Railway Bridge have been dismantled as work continues on the construction of a new cross-river station as part of the Thameslink Programme.

The original bridge was dismantled in 1985, but the LC&DR shields on the southern abutment were restored in 1990, and both abutment and shields were Grade II listed in 1995.

Contractors working on the Thameslink programme dismantled the cartouches, which weigh 16,100 kg each. Network Rail intends to have each of the pieces professionally cleaned to remove any graffiti and the cast iron pieces will then be repaired and painted. The cartouches, which are nearly 150 years old, will then be reassembled and installed back-to-back above the western side of the new south station entrance.

Some of the columns of the old bridge have been partially demolished to allow the existing bridge to be widened to accommodate the new platforms and tracks. The Thames Path will be diverted to run underneath the southern abutment of the former bridge. One of the matching shields, which originally stood on the northern abutment, now adorns the garden of railway enthusiast Sir William McAlpine.

▲ One of the London Chatham & Dover Railway Invicta plaques on Blackfriars Bridge in August 2007. **Brian Morrison**

DBS wins its largest container contract

The container shipping company CMA CGM, has awarded a two-year contract to DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd (DBS) to deliver over 25,000 containers per year.

Operating five times a week with three trains per day, DBS will deliver containers from the Port of Southampton to inland terminals at Birmingham, Manchester Trafford Park and Wakefield. The trains will also be able to convey the larger 9ft 6" containers following upgrading of the Southampton to the West Midlands route as reported in Issue 263.

The agreement is the largest UK container contract ever signed by DB Schenker.

East Coast hopes to find that Eureka moment!

East Coast is changing the way that it provides at-seat service to First Class passengers, as part of the launch of its new Eureka timetable on 22nd May.

At present, the company is one of the few that still provides a restaurant facility, as well as an at-seat service with a menu choice that is relatively similar to that available to Standard Class passengers through the buffet counter. From May that all changes, as East Coast removes the restaurant feature from its services. With the aim of attracting more passengers, especially those currently using flights from the North East and Scotland, the company is revamping its First Class food offering, to provide a more efficient at-seat service, and are moving to a cart-based system, similar to that used by Virgin Trains.

To accommodate the 17 catering carts that will be loaded onto each train, modifications are being made to all Mk3 and Mk4 kitchen cars, as well as two out of the three First Class Mk4 vehicles, and one First Class Mk3 coach. The Mk4 vehicles are being worked on at Bounds Green Depot in North London and at Brush Works at Loughborough, while the Mk3 vehicles are being dealt with at Kilmarnock. The kitchen area of the buffet cars, or service vehicles as East Coast call them, are being totally gutted, with new equipment (including plate warmers, steam ovens, microwaves and coffee machines) being installed along with several holding racks for both ambient temperature and chilled catering carts.

The first of the Mk4 First Class coaches loses six seats, as a bay of four is removed to accommodate two ambient temperature catering carts, while the opposite bay of two seats will become staff only. No changes take place to the middle First Class vehicle, while the final coach before the DVT will also have stands for a further two catering carts installed. On the HST sets, there are no changes to the First Class vehicles, with the exception of the leading coach in the southbound direction, which loses the toilet nearest to the powercar that becomes a storage area and holding position for two of the catering carts.

The whole project represents an investment of over £12 million by East Coast, £4.5 million of which is directly related to the rolling stock changes. The project is not just concerned with on-train activities however, the new catering service being supported 'off-train' by Rail Gourmet, which has also made a large investment in being able to accommodate the new working practices, as well as dealing with the 2,700 catering carts!

▲ Two of the Mk4 coaches currently being worked on, Nos. 11219 (nearest) and 11405 stand in Loughborough Works on 11th April.

▶▲ The gutted interior of Mk4 RSB No. 10326. This space will be occupied by catering carts and a work top.

▶ The work taking place in Mk4 FO No. 11219 to fit two catering cart stands. All: Richard Tuplin

Arriva starts refurbishment and repaint of its Class 158 fleet

Arriva Trains Wales officially introduced the first refurbished Class 158, back into traffic at Aberystwyth on 15th April.

The refurbished unit is the first of 24 to be completed by LNWR Crewe, and offers passengers greater comfort with new upholstery and extended leg room across approximately 134 seats, together with an additional space for wheelchairs, and improved cycle and luggage storage space, while toilet facilities will be improved to include baby changing units.

A new Passenger Information System has also been installed, and electrical points made available on most table seats. The unit has also received the new ATW livery. Work on the remaining fleet is due for completion by summer 2012.

▲ Class 158 No. 158840 awaits departure from Shrewsbury in its new livery.

▼ ▼◀ The new look interior to the set.

All: Richard Jones

Eurostar looks to the future with new corporate branding

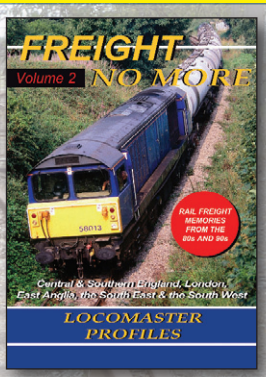
Eurostar will be changing its branding and introducing new service enhancements, reflecting its plans and ambitions for the future.

To mark the start of a new chapter, Eurostar has developed a new identity. The new branding will be rolled out over the coming months, first on the website and travel tickets, then on stations and trains.

Business Premier and Eurostar Leisure passengers will shortly see a number of enhancements to the service.

Rail freight nostalgia from the 1980s and 1990s

FREIGHT NO MORE



This is the second of two programmes featuring freight trains that no longer run as well as branch lines and terminals that no longer exist. Volume 2 focuses on Southern England with footage from the 1980's and 1990's when freight trains had plenty of variety - not only in their wagons but also their haulage. Among the many items featured in this 110 minute DVD are....

Bardon Hill bitumen; Oakamoor sand; Caldon Low limestone; Langley Green chemicals; Long Eaton tanks; Fletton flyash; coal traffic on the Silverdale & Denby colliery branches; Wisbech pet food and tin plate; Kings Lynn-Ketton coal; East Anglian Speedlinks; Fen Drayton sand; West Thurrock oil terminal; Quidhampton ECC tanks; Park Royal Guinness traffic; Akeman Street UKF fertiliser; coal to Chinnor cement works; Little Barford flyash; tank traffic to Micheldever, Littlemore and Slough Estates; Speedlink coal to Chessington South, Aylesbury and West Drayton; domestic heating oil trains to High Brooms and Staines West; Lavant sand; Moorswater and Heathfield china clay; Northfleet cement; Chatham Docks waste; Northfleet gypsum and cement; Dover 'Linkspan' operation; Newhaven aggregates; Paddock Wood perishable goods; Hamworthy Junction cement; Frome bitumen; Exeter-Dollands Moor china clay....and many, many more!

Features loco classes 08/20/25/31/33/37/45/47/50/56/58/60/73

Volume 2 of FREIGHT NO MORE is available on DVD priced at £19.95 (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling us on our CREDIT CARD HOTLINE on 01753 545888.

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UK News In Brief

■ London Midland and ASLEF have reached an agreement on the way forward on drivers' terms and conditions. The company says it is now working to restore normal services, but advises passengers to expect some further disruption while trains are re-planned.

■ Bombardier officially opened its new Learning Centre on 13th April. The on-site centre will enable employees to conveniently gain access to a wide range of courses either to complement their workplace roles or to acquire an entirely new skill. Courses range from business degrees, foreign language or IT skills and advanced vocational training, to leisure-related activities.

■ A woman died on a Northampton to London, London Midland service on 11th April. It is believed that she started the fire with the intention of suicide. All passengers were detrained at Leighton Buzzard, and services to/from London Euston were severely disrupted for the evening.

■ The proposed £30 million rail interchange at Gogar has been suspended due to the uncertainty over the Edinburgh Tram project. The station would have allowed passengers from Glasgow and Fife to transfer onto trams for the onward journey to Edinburgh Airport.

■ The BBCs 'The One Show' visited the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway recently to film a short piece on the Beeching Cuts. The filming used a train hauled by Class 26 No. 26024 to undertake two trips to Birkhill, allowing the crew and reporter John Sergeant to film on board.

■ With large numbers of passengers expected to travel to London for the Royal Wedding, Southeastern will be running a Saturday timetable and two extra High Speed services on 29th April, the 07.44 from Dover Priory and 06.53 from Margate. Where possible, the company's Metro services to Charing Cross and London Victoria will also be lengthened to meet the expected numbers travelling.

■ The mothballed quarry at Barrington is to be reactivated as a tip to dispose of waste material. 1.2 million cubic metres of waste from major building projects in London will be transported by rail to the site by Cemex UK to infill several parts of the quarry, allowing it to be restored to agricultural use. Cemex is currently involved in bidding for the contract to remove the waste from the Crossrail tunneling project. As the material will be arriving at the site by rail, the Barrington Light Railway, which previously served the quarry, is to be reopened and is likely to see three return trips along the route, five days a week. Two level crossings on the line are to be upgraded.

■ £1.7 million is to be spent at Blackburn to provide a roof to Platform 4, the only one not to be covered, since a major refurbishment of the station 10 years ago. The canopy will also cover the currently exposed subway ramp and the work will include the installation of a lift and CCTV.

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▲ Irish Rail 5ft 3ins vehicles in Railcare at Springburn, Glasgow, on 11th April, under repair following a derailment in Laois Traincare Depot in January 2010. The unit concerned was No. 22037, and the vehicles in Springburn for repair are Nos. 22437 , 22537 & 22637.
Chris Playfair (courtesy of Irish Rail & Railcare Springburn)

The Irish Angle

Class 322 EMUs to be cascaded as 'extra' coaches

The five ex-Stansted Express four-car Class 322 EMUs that have been in service with ScotRail are to be cascaded to Northern.

The units are currently still in service for ScotRail, but are due to be transferred to Northern from December, when software problems and commissioning of the new ScotRail Class 380s are expected to have been resolved. The '322s' will be used to provide additional services between Leeds, Skipton, Ilkley and Doncaster, the cascade from Scotland allowing some of Northern's DMUs to be transferred to the Leeds-Bradford-Manchester route.

The Department for Transport described the trains as 'additional', and part of the 650 extra coaches that have been promised by 2014. Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond, said: "Even at a time of severe pressure on public spending, we cannot afford not to invest in Britain's future - and that is why we are investing more than £10 million in providing these extra carriages for Yorkshire commuters.".

Obviously, however, the DfT has rewritten the definition of 'extra', as these EMUs, built in 1990 by BREL at York to a similar specification as the West Yorkshire Class 321/9s, are simply being redeployed around the network, rather than being additional vehicles, unlike the Class 380s that are replacing the Class 322s in Scotland.

Metro and Light Rail News

Bombardier is 'preferred bidder' for signalling contract

Following the collapse of the Public Private Partnership (PPP) and failed PPP contractor Metronet in June 2007, London Underground Ltd (LUL) was left with a number of contracts that were not fit for purpose.

One of these was for a new signalling system on the sub-surface lines, covering over 300km of track and serving some 40% of the Tube network. LUL decided to re-tender for this, as the original contract did not provide the best technical solution or the best value for money. Had it been completed, it would also have left LUL with the legacy of a signalling system not compatible with others across the Tube network. The new contract and the efficiencies it will deliver means Transport for London (TfL) will save hundreds of millions of pounds, now and in future, on the original PPP solution. LUL issued an invitation to tender for this contract in July 2009 and, since then, has been engaged in a competitive negotiated procedure with a number of bidders. In July 2010, it selected to two bidders, one of which was Bombardier, which has now been selected as the Preferred Bidder. When complete, the upgrade will deliver 65% more capacity on the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines, 24% more capacity on the District Line and 27% on the Metropolitan Line.

London Underground has also been working with and learning from other world metros, such as the Madrid Metro, in order to develop innovative ways to upgrade the Tube but minimise disruption. As a result, the new contract provides for no weekend closures simply for signalling installation and testing work. There will still be a need for weekend closures to upgrade track and platforms, of course, but these will be contained in much smaller geographical areas and will not mean closures to full lines as has been experienced during previous upgrade work on other lines.

▲ One of the latest Bombardier-built Docklands units, No. 106, brings up the rear of an arrival at Stratford Regional from Canary Wharf. **Richard Tuplin**

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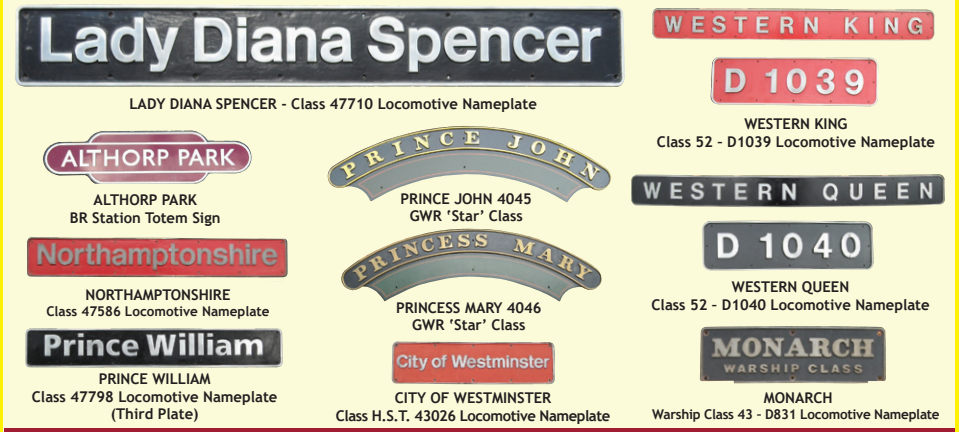

LADY DIANA SPENCER - Class 47710 Locomotive Nameplate
WESTERN KING Class 52 - D1039 Locomotive Nameplate
ALTHORP PARK BR Station Totem Sign
PRINCE JOHN 4045 GWR 'Star' Class
WESTERN QUEEN Class 52 - D1040 Locomotive Nameplate
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE Class 47586 Locomotive Nameplate
PRINCESS MARY 4046 GWR 'Star' Class
PRINCE WILLIAM Class 47798 Locomotive Nameplate (Third Plate)
CITY OF WESTMINSTER Class H.S.T. 43026 Locomotive Nameplate
MONARCH Warship Class 43 - D831 Locomotive Nameplate

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Railway Herald

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Network Rail starts £200 million capacity enhancement project around Cardiff

Network Rail has begun a £200 million plan to boost the rail capacity of the Cardiff and Cardiff Valleys areas by 2015.

The scheme is to ease congestion and remove the rail bottleneck on the city line, allowing an extra four trains per hour to run through the Cardiff area. This will unlock the potential for more and longer trains to serve the Valley Lines and boost the railway's capacity, bringing 600 more seats during rush hours. The large upgrade will also allow more freight trains to operate through Cardiff, and rail services generally will also become more reliable as the signalling equipment becomes more robust and efficient.

Passenger demand in the Cardiff and Valleys areas is increasing at 8% on average each year. It is forecast that the number of passengers travelling in the areas will exceed 12 million per year by the end of 2015. With 900 trains already travelling through the Cardiff area to support current demand every day, the railway urgently needs more capacity by the end of this decade.

The scheme will modernise the dated signalling infrastructure to be compatible with electrification and the advanced European Railway Train Management System (ERTMS). The existing track layout, built in the 1930s, at Cardiff East Junction will be untangled, and extra tracks will be built on parts of the railway in Cardiff and the South Wales Valley. New platforms will be created at Cardiff Central, Cardiff Queen Street, Barry, Tir-phil, Caerphilly and Pontypridd, to accommodate more and longer trains. Extra efforts will also be put in to improve the accessibility and station environment of Cardiff Central, Cardiff Queen Street and Pontypridd.

The main engineering work will begin by this coming autumn, and is planned to be completed within three years, in time for new trains to be introduced to the Valley area by 2018. Network Rail is currently tendering for different contractors, including signalling, buildings and track, to help deliver the scheme, while the detailed design plan is being finalised and some minor preparatory work begins onsite.

The improvements in detail include an extra platform at Cardiff Central for more trains to travel to and from the Valley lines, and a refurbished southern entrance and new lifts. Two extra platforms are to be provided at Queen Street, to accommodate more trains to and from the Valleys. The station will also have an extra bay platform for the Cardiff Bay shuttle service to operate, and will have a new entrance and lifts for better access. Doubling of the Treforest Curve (Cardiff West Junction to Ninian Park) will be done to enable improved train frequency for the City lines. Barry station is to have an extra platform to provide extra capacity, especially for trains to be diverted to minimise disruption, and there is to be an upgrade to the freight line at Cogan Junction to provide extra capacity for passenger services, especially for diversions, to minimise disruption. An extra platform and passing loop will be constructed at Tir-phil to enable increased frequency of trains to half hourly, and an additional platform at Caerphilly will create extra capacity for an extra two trains to run per hour to and from Bargoed, and make more seats available on services between Caerphilly and Cardiff. Pontypridd will get another platform and a passing loop to allow an extra two trains an hour to run between Pontypridd and Radyr.

▲ **It is believed that Colas Rail Class 66/8s are to be transferred to GBRailfreight later this year, although what motive power Colas will then use is unclear. GBRf has also taken on ex-Freightliner Class 66/5s Nos. 66579 to 66581, the latter two already being used with their new operator. Here, No. 66845 passes through the Ribble Valley at Nappa, with the 12.15 Ribblehead-Chirk logs on 9th April. John Wade**

▼ **South West Train's Fulwell station is the latest to have been awarded the Secure Station Accreditation Certificate, a national scheme that recognises measures taken to improve station security and reassure passengers and staff that efforts are being made to deter crime and antisocial behaviour. Local MP and Government Business Secretary, Vince Cable, who surprisingly arrived, not in a limousine, but on bicycle, presents the certificate to SWT Managing Director, Andy Pitt, surrounded by SWT management, and the BTP station audit team. The station lighting along walkways has been improved, while Help Points and the CCTV system have been upgraded. Brian Morrison**

◀ With the parched vegetation and heat shimmer more reminiscent of the African bush than the Cambridgeshire Fens, recently repainted GB Railfreight Class 66/7 No. 66728 heads towards the Wisbech Road level crossing, near Manea, with the company's recently commenced flow from Bow Goods, in East London, to Tyne Dock on 8th April. **Julian Hodgson**

◀▼ Class 67 No. 67027 powers through Uffington on 9th April, with a short rake of East Coast Mk4s from Brush Works, Loughborough, to Bounds Green Depot. These vehicles were returning from the catering modification programme. **Tony Rispoli**

▼ Due to a shortage of Class 66 motive power, GBRf utilised Class 20/3s Nos. 20301 *Max Joule 1958-1999* and 20302 on 11th April. Here, the pair pass Eastrea with a departmental service from March Whitemoor to Tallington, just north of Peterborough. **Will Faichney**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

18th April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	44871+45407	(Inverness-)Wick-Georgemas Jct-Helmsdale-Brora-Dingwall-Inverness

19th April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	61994	Inverness-Dingwall-Achnasheen-Kyle of Lochalsh & return
Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Edinburgh Waverley-Newcastle-Leeds-Solihull-Oxford-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks

20th April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	45407+44871	Inverness-Aviemore-Pitlochry-Perth-Glasgow Central

21st April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	46115	Glasgow Central-Dumfries-Carlisle-Shap-Preston

22nd April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	5029	Preston-Crewe-Shrewsbury-Bristol Temple Meads
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Gloucester-Hereford-Crewe-Shap-Beattock-Carstairs-Perth-Aviemore-Inverness
UK Railtours	tbc	London King's Cross-Stevenage-Peterborough-York-Newcastle-Dumbarton

23rd April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	45305+70013	Bristol Temple Meads-Exeter St. Davids-Plymouth-Penzance & return
Statesman Rail	tbc	Shrewsbury-Wrexham-Chester-Knutsford-Stockport-Blackburn-S&C-Carlisle & rtn
Steam Dreams	70000	London Paddington-Beaconsfield-High Wycombe-Stratford upon Avon & return
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Inverness-Keith-Aberdeen-Keith-Inverness
UK Railtours	tbc	Dumbarton-Arrochar & Tarbet-Crianlarich-& return
Branch Line Society	2xDBS 66	Crewe-Derby-Cheddleton Yard-Sinfin-Doncaster-Askern-Gascoigne Wood-Brayton Jct-Barlow Sidings-Selby-Heck-Plasmor-Nth Lindsey Light Rly-Foreign Ore Branch-Wrawby Jct-Lincoln-Beeston-Derby-Blythe Bridge-Alsager-Crewe

24th April 2011

Railway Touring Co.	5029	Bristol Temple Meads-Westbury-Newbury-Reading-London Paddington
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Inverness-Wick (rev)-Wick-Georgemas Jct-Thurso-Wick-Inverness
UK Railtours	tbc	Dumbarton-Stirling-Tay Bridge-Dundee-Stonehaven-Forth Bridge-Dumbarton
SRPS Railtours	60007	Linlithgow-Forth Bridge-Burntisland-Thornton Jcts-Alloa-Stirling-Linlithgow
SRPS Railtours	60007	Dalmeny-Burntisland-Thornton Jcts-Alloa-Stirling-Inverkeithing
Branch Line Society	2xDBS 66	Crewe-Stone-Lichfield Trent Valley Jct-Central Rivers Depot-Leicester South Jct-Nuneaton-Rugby-Lifford East Jct-Burton Up Goods-Sheffield-Edale Loop-Guide Bridge-Crewe

25th April 2011

Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Inverness-Perth-Stirling-Carstairs-Beattock-Shap-Preston & return as outward
UK Railtours	tbc	Dumbarton-Carlisle-S&C-Hellifield-Leeds-Doncaster-Peterborough-London KX
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Grimsby-Barnetby-Scunthorpe-ECML-Finsbury park-Hastings & return

27th April 2011

Rail-Blue Charters	DBS Class 67	Harlow Town-Bishops Stortford-Cambridge-March-Peterborough-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-Grantham & return

28th April 2011

Steam Dreams	6201	London King's Cross-Stevanage-Peterborough-Grantham-Doncaster-York & return

30th April 2011

Statesman Rail	tbc	B'pool North-Preston-Bolton-Stockport-Stoke-Nottingham-Lincoln-Spalding & rtn

Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Check with the operator before travelling any distance.

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked. **RED** Tours cancelled by the operator

GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator **BLUE** Provisional excursion

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

With The Railway Touring Company's 'Great Britain IV' in full flow this week, it does tend to overshadow other charter activity.

It was dealt with in some detail in Spotlight last week, and so for this issue, which runs over the next weekend through to 28th April, concentration will be on other tour activities, of which there is a good number. In fact, what could be better than the first 'Princess Royal' out of King's Cross? After missing out on the chance last year, LMS Stanier Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* is due to head Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' from the old Great Northern citadel on Thursday 28th April, with a return working to York. 'Lizzie' is standing in for the unavailable LNER A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*, and its performance on the East Coast route is awaited with anticipation.

An East Coast stalwart that will be in action on Sunday 24th April is Grosmont-based LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, which is employed on the two 'Forth Circle' workings for SRPS Railtours. The route is now firmly established, running first over the Forth Bridge and then around the Fife Coast before cutting inland to return to Stirling, via Cardenden, Cowdenbeath, Dunfermline, Kincardine and Alloa. The train then continues via Larbert and Polmont to Linlithgow, the originating point for the morning train. It will then continue ECS to commence the afternoon run, which picks up at Dalmeny and Inverkeithing.

The Branch Line Society will be making full use of the Easter weekend by running two complex tours based on a connection with the River Trent. To say complex is perhaps an understatement, as the totality of the routes covered and an indication of the planning involved can only be accurately judged by looking at the full itineraries of each tour detailed in the website railtour listings, which have been updated with some changes since first published. Both tours start from Crewe, and pick up through to Stoke-on-Trent, where on 23rd April the 'Trent Explorer' initially heads north to visit locations in Derby, Sheffield, Selby, Scunthorpe and Immingham. The next day's 'Another Trent Explorer' heads for the Birmingham area via Cannock Chase, then east to Rugby before turning north for the Sheffield area, calling in at Central Rivers Depot near Burton-on-Trent on the way. It concludes by working back to Crewe via the Hope Valley.

Easter is also a time for the traditional land cruise, and this year is no exception with both Pathfinder and UK Railtours offering a four-day break in Scotland, both setting forth on Good Friday, 22nd April. Pathfinder favour the West Coast route from Gloucester and the Welsh Marches to Inverness on Day 1, visit Keith and Aberdeen on Day 2, ahead of a visit to the Far North on Day 3, returning as outwards on Day 4.

Meanwhile, UK Railtours will be working north via the East Coast route to its base at Dumbarton, ahead of a visit to Arrochar & Tarbet on the West Highland Line for Day 1, followed by a visit to Stonehaven, via Stirling, and Dundee outwards, with the added bonus of crossing both Tay and Forth Bridges on the return to Dumbarton. The return home also takes the West Coast route to Carlisle, and then for further enjoyment, the Settle & Carlisle south back to the East Coast Main Line at Doncaster.

Two other tours take in the Settle & Carlisle during the period under review, with Statesman heading that way on 23rd April from Shrewsbury, and Rail Blue's 'Cambridgeshire Fellsman' from Harlow Town on 27th April, which returns via the Tyne Valley. Rail Blue's charter is booked for a DBS Class 67, while West Coast Class 47s should feature for Statesman and Railtourer.

A joint West Coast and Railtourer operation concludes the week's review with the 'Channel Coast Express' from Grimsby to Hastings, which also offers a Finsbury Park set down.

New series of steam-hauled trains from South Coast to Bath and Bristol

Torbay Express is about to expand its portfolio of regular steam workings with the announcement of a 'Bath Spa Express' to operate on alternate Wednesdays throughout August and September through to early October.

The train is booked to pick up at Poole, Bournemouth, Brockenhurst and Southampton Central, prior to heading to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads. The route is likely to be the traditional one via Salisbury and Westbury. The locomotive pool is advertised as Nos. 4492 (60019) *Dominion of New Zealand* (ex-Bittern) and 70000 *Britannia*, while the coaching stock is scheduled to be the Riviera 'Royal Scot' set. The train is booked to operate on 3rd, 17th, 31st August, 14th & 28th September and 5th October.

'Top and tail' electrics on memorial train

Rail Blue's 'Mark Honey Memorial' working on 6th August between London Euston and Glasgow Central will now be operated by Class 86 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier***, which was one of Mark's favourites and now additionally ACLG stablemate Class 87 No. 87002** *Royal Sovereign***.**

The AC Electrics will be in top and tail mode. Earlier, on 6th May, No. 86101 will be in charge of Rail Blue's 'West Coast Premier II' throughout between Watford Junction and Edinburgh Waverley. Both locomotives have a strong connection with Cargo D, and Mark was very much involved in helping the ACLG returning both locomotives back to mainline action. Also, their working to Canterbury on 10th June will now pick up at Swinton and Meadowhall instead of Barnsley and Wombwell, due to restrictions imposed by Network Rail in the Barnsley area. All other advertised pick-up points remain unaffected.

Leander withdrawn for overhaul

Reports indicate that 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* **has been withdrawn from traffic following firebox problems encountered while working 'The Buxton Spa Express' at the end of February.**

The locomotive was already in the last year of its current ticket, and the strategic decision has been made to proceed straight to a 10-year overhaul. *Leander* has been a stalwart performer, and will be particularly missed from this year's 'Fellsman' where it has become almost synonymous with the train.

Early indications place No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* with the lion's share of RTC's 'Scarborough Flyer' duties this year, with the Stanier Pacific covering every turn except for the trains booked for 29th July, 12th August and 2nd September. 'Lizzie' is also earmarked for two 'Cumbrian Mountain Expresses', which are those on 30th July and 13th August that operate from Crewe via Manchester Victoria to Carlisle, via Shap, and returning over the S&C.

Currently, it is believed the only other locomotive in the pool based at Crewe is No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*.

▲ **The weak-sunlight glints off the boiler of LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **as it passes Uttoxeter on 9th April with a Vintage Trains' charter from Chester to Tyseley. John Whitehouse**

Locomotive problems hit main line steam charters

Two issues have affected main line steam over the past week.

Firstly, BR 'Britannia' 7P Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* was piloted back from Skegness on 9th April by Class 37/5 No. 37676 *Loch Rannoch* while working Railway Touring Company's 'Jolly Fisherman', following the discovery of a 'minor firebox issue' while the locomotive was being serviced at the East Coast resort. Unconfirmed reports point to a lap seam issue.

Secondly, Steam Dreams' 'Cathedrals Express' from Basingstoke to Lincoln, hauled by SR Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*, ran into a catalogue of issues during its journey. Initially it was the diesel positioned at the rear of the train, again West Coast's Class 37/5 No. 37676, which caused no end of problems.

Brake and overheating issues are believed to have been at the core of the problems, which caused the locomotive to shut down on several occasions, resulting in emergency brake applications. A frustrated *Tangmere* crew and the 'Cathedrals Express' finally arrived at Lincoln some 150 minutes late. The day did not, unfortunately, improve with *Tangmere* finally getting away from Lincoln nearly two hours late, only to be declared a failure at Connington Loop with a reported hot bearing. Class 47/4 No. 47500 rescued the train, having been dispatched earlier, no doubt in response to the problem with the Class 37. *Tangmere* was left at Connington, where running repairs were believed to have been undertaken the following day. The tour is reported to have arrived back at Basingstoke around 01.30, over two hours late. A case of 'Murphy's Law', if there ever was one?

▼ **SR Battle of Britain Class No. 34067** *Tangmere* **makes a fine sight at Winchfield on a cold and grey morning, working a 'Cathedrals Express' charter from Basingstoke to Lincoln on 13th April. Dave Swan**

▲ **SR Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028** *Clan Line* **passes Crookwood with the return working of the VSOE from Bristol to London Victoria on 13th April. Stephen Moore**

Ups & Downs

■ Direct Rail Services has confirmed that as part of its contract to operate the 'Northern Belle', it will provide Class 47 motive power for over 85 trains a year, for the next five years. As part of the deal, two locomotives, one of which will be Class 47/7 No. 47790, are also to be repainted into Northern Belle colours.

DOMINION OF NEW ZEALAND

▼ **Freshly outshopped from a repaint at Southall, LNER A4 Pacific No. 60019** *Bittern*, **is now masquerading as one of the Coronation Pacifics, No. 4492** *Dominion of New Zealand.* **Originally named in 1937 to mark the Coronation of King George VI, the repaint provides the first opportunity to see an example of a Coronation-liveried Pacific in the UK for 72 years. To commemorate the occasion, Locomotive 60019 Limited, Railway Touring Company, Tower Assurance NZ and the team at Southall Depot in West London are donating £10,000 to the Christchurch New Zealand Earthquake Charitable Trust. His Excellency Mr Derek Leask, High Commissioner of New Zealand High Commission, presided over the naming ceremony at King's Cross prior to departure. Here, the A4 passes Hitchin with the first stage of the 'Great Britain IV' charter on 16th April. Seymour Puff**

◀ **After working north to Tyne Yard, the A4 returned to the NRM at York, where No. 4492** *Dominion of New Zealand* **was placed on public display from 18th-21st April. Ron Cover**

▲ **The replica nameplate carried by No. 60019. Ron Cover**

BR Class 7P Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* **approaches Spalding with RTC's 'The Jolly Fisherman' charter from London King's Cross to Skegness on 9th April. Adrian Perks**

DB Schenker Class 67 No. 67003 leads the VSOE through Rugeley Trent Valley on 9th April, with a London Victoria to Runcorn excursion for the Grand National. **John Whitehouse**

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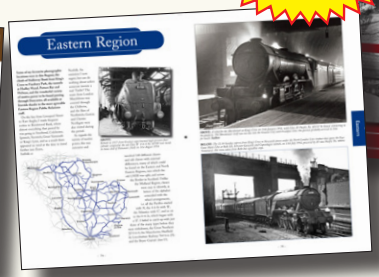

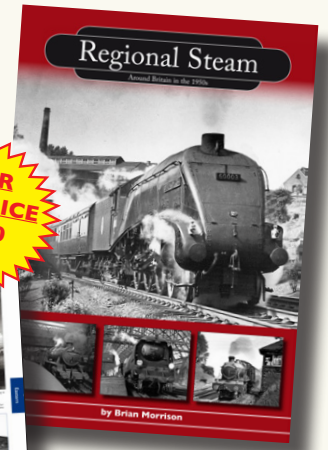

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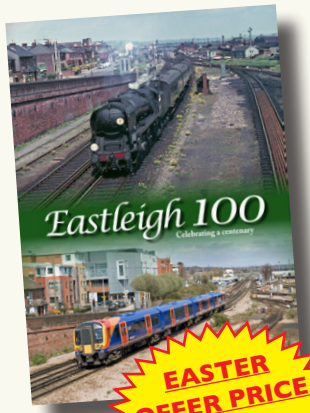

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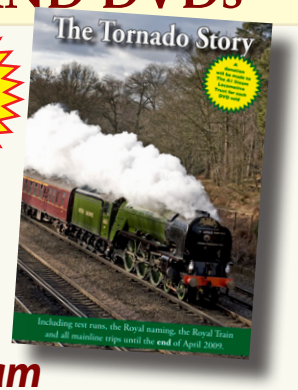
This 60-minute DVD tells the story of the project and the construction of 'Tornado'. Produced in co-operation with The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the DVD shows the construction, testing (both on the Great Central & National Network) together with all of the loco's mainline runs until the May 2009. Also included is the unveiling at the NRM, the Royal naming at York, and *Tornado's* appearances at Barrow Hill & the NYMR steam gala.



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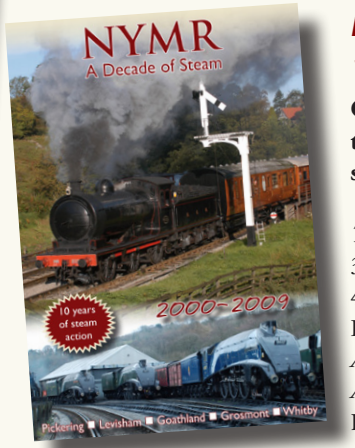

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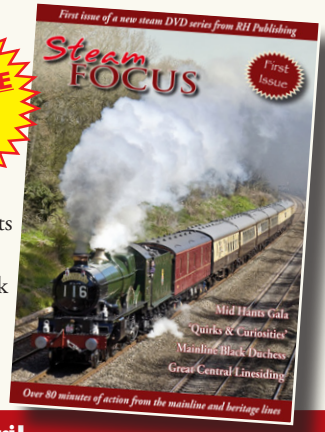
The first issue of our twice-yearly Steam Focus DVD magazine, looks at action from the first half of 2010, as well as some of the more notable events during 2009.

Featuring the East Lancs, Ffestiniog, Great Central, Llangollen, Mid-Hants and North Yorkshire Moors Railways, plus main line action from across the country, including *Mallard* moving to Shildon, *Duchess of Sutherland* in black livery, A4 Pacific No. 60009 Union of South Africa on the Highland Main Line, and much more. A special feature covers the Ffestiniog Railway's 'Quirks & Curiosities' weekend and



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Saint Mungo to return to traffic

One of the ScotRail 'push-pull' Class 47/7s No. 47703 is set to return to traffic on the Wensleydale Railway.

The '47/7' escaped a number of potential visits to the scrapyard and is now being assessed for an early return to service following a long period in store at Leeming Bar. The railway is working with the Harry Needle Railroad Company, which owns it, to rectify a number of faults and return the former *Saint Mungo* to operating condition. It is hoped to reintroduce it at a special weekend to be arranged during the coming months.

Didcot to steam both GWR 'King' locomotives on Easter Saturday

The Didcot Railway Centre is gearing up for a gala, the highlight of which has not been seen since the end of steam.

On Easter Saturday, for one day only, both GWR 'King' class locomotives, Nos. 6023 *King Edward II* and 6024 *King Edward I* will be in action together at the centre. The two locos will take turns on the demonstration line, together with some double-heading and 'side-by-side' poses. Also during the day, GWR Railcar No. 22 and the Broad Gauge replica *Firefly* will be in action.

For the remainder of the weekend, the new 'King' will be in action on its own, alongside Firefly, with GWR Railcar No. 22 also working on Good Friday, while on Easter Sunday and Easter Monday GWR 5700 class 0-6-0 Pannier No. 3738 will replace the railcar. On the days when it is not working, No. 6024 *King Edward I* will be positioned either in or around the shed area for photographs.

▼ **Class 37/9 No. 37906 was used on a driver experience trip from Bo'ness to Manuel and back during the morning of 27th March, and then operated three service trains departing Bo'ness at 14.00, 15.00 and 16.00. Here, the driver of the '37/9' applies power as the 14.00 service leaves from Bo'ness. Ian Lothian**

Start of a big year for Pontypool & Blaenavon line

The big event this year will be the opening of the Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway's (PBR) extension to The Big Pit, which is the National Coal Museum that offers visitors the experience of what a working coal mine was like, including underground tours.

The railway connection should enhance both entities, especially for the PBR, by increasing the number of travel options for intending passengers. Most of the track work on the new branch has been completed and tamped, with just outstanding point work remaining. A September opening is on the cards.

More immediately, the extension to the PBR's main workshop, the 'Top Shed', has been completed, which has doubled the length of the facility and can now accommodate a rake of six Mk1 vehicles in two rows of three. Class 37/4 No. 37421 is the first to claim space in the new area for attention to brakes and bodywork, and a subsequent repaint into Regional Railways livery. 5700 class Pannier No. 9629, a long-term restoration project, will take the place of the Class 37 in due course. Also the rare Manchester & Milford coach has been moved into the 'Top Shed' extension, where restoration continues at a slower pace than anticipated due to the vehicle being in a poorer state of repair than expected.

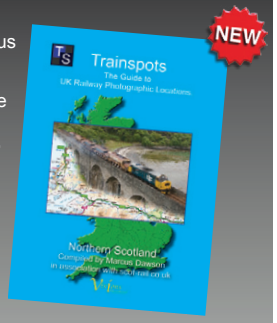
Civil engineering projects are centred on the abutments of the Varteg Road Bridge, together with associated land clearance to the south of the bridge to allow relaying to commence as soon as the new bridge is commissioned. There has also been a change of direction, with station work now concentrated at Furnace Sidings, with work on the new station building commencing next February, resulting in work ceasing for the time being at Bleanavon High Level. The stonework recovered from Pontypool Crane Street, originally destined for Blaenavon High Level will now go instead to the Furnace Sidings building.

Looking ahead, there is an 'Anything Goes gala' on 1st/2nd May featuring the home steam and diesel fleet, and there will be major steam and diesel galas in the autumn, as well as other scheduled events throughout the summer. Full details are available on the website.

▲ **Class 47/3 No. 47367 approaches Dead Mans Bridge, near Sheringham, with a service from Holt on 10th April. The locomotive has recently returned to service and has gained BR blue livery. Gary Thomas**

TRAINSPOTS - NORTHERN SCOTLAND

This edition features the northern half of Scotland and provides a valuable aid to all those who like to photograph or observe our railways. Features 68 main locations plus many more additional locations near the main spots. Every location is shown on an Ordnance Survey map and full directions on how to reach it whether it be by car or public transport (we also include sat-nav and map co-ordinates). In addition there are plenty of photos to illustrate the location, helpful details covering what you are likely to see, where to park, local amenities, whether you will need steps to get your shots, the best times of day to photograph from the location and whether you are likely to encounter any grumpy livestock!



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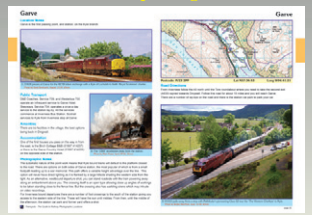

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Ribble Steam Railway stamps its mark on railway history

The Ribble Steam Railway (RSR) gained a further exhibit for its museum site on 2nd April, when the 'Mail by Rail' exhibition was formally opened by the Mayor of Preston to initiate the RSR's 2011 operating season.

The exhibition, consisting of a number of panels, was introduced by John Baron, Chairman of the Association of British Philatelic Societies (ABPS), who noted that the panels traced the history of the railway's involvement with the carriage of mail that began on 11th November 1830, when Liverpool & Manchester Railway trains began carrying mail between the two cities.

Within 11 years of this initial operation, the Post Office employed mail guards on 20 major rail routes (including one in Ireland) plus a further five routes within Scotland, in a development that was improved by the Conveyance of the Mails by Railways Act (1838). The Act was a response at the time to complaints sent to the Postmaster General regarding late deliveries caused by railway problems, including locomotive breakdowns, and empowered him to require railway companies to provide the necessary facilities for the carriage of mail, including special carriages to facilitate the sorting of mail on route.

The rapid expansion of the mail train network resulted in the final horse-drawn mail coach (from London to Norwich) being withdrawn in January 1846, and the rail-borne mail services growing throughout the Victorian period. The demise of the network began after World War II, when motor vehicles became more common place and it was further decimated by the Beeching era when many of the lines closed and traffic was obliged to move to road carriage. A further review in 1988 resulted in the mail service being reorganised, with many Travelling Post Offices (TPO) being re-routed or removed, and mail less frequently carried in the guard's compartment of network passenger services. Further reviews since then have seen the number of dedicated mail services further reduced, with rail now handling only a minimum traffic as road transport becomes the norm for internal carriage and air for international carriage of mail.

John Baron then invited Albert Richardson, the Mayor of Preston and a retired engine driver whose regular duties were over the West Coast Main Line, to formally open the exhibition before joining the special shuttle service hauled by Chris Beet's Peckett No. 1370 *May*, which was waiting at the museum's platform.

Many of the items on display at the exhibition have been supplied from the private collections of North West members of the ABPS, and Paul Gaywood, vice-chairman of the ABPS.

▼ **Ribble Steam Railway Curator Robin Green stands aside as Albert Richardson, the Mayor of Preston, greets John Baron, Chairman of ABPS, while Paul Gaywood, the Vice-chairman of ABPS looks on.** **Fred Kerr**

▲ **SR Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34059** *Sir Archibald Sinclair* **passes Three Arch Bridge on the approach to Horsted Keynes on 9th April, with a train from Sheffield Park to Kingscote on the Bluebell Railway. This was the combined 15.00 service train and 15.30 Lounge Car service, giving a seven coach set as a result of a loco failure.** **Ashley Smith**

Lack of funds cancels NRM+ project at York

The NRM was formally advised on 11th April that its bid for £7 million from the Regional Growth Fund (RGF) had failed.

The museum says the bid was always a long-shot, and was made to compensate for the loss of £10 million funding form other sources. In a statement, NRM Director, Steve Davies said: "... there is absolutely no chance in the current climate of us closing the significant funding gap we now face. Ian Blatchford (Director of NMSI), the NMSI Board of Trustees and I now share the view that NRM+ as a cohesive project is no longer viable and will therefore be cancelled."

The Museum's recently commenced redevelopment of the City entrance will continue, and the refurbishment of Station Hall, along with several minor but significant adjustments to the Great Hall, which will make use of vehicles that were restored in anticipation of the NRM+ project being successfully delivered.

New rolling stock shed to be built at Leaming Bar

Wensleydale Railway's small team of paid staff and volunteers has maintained rolling stock in the open for many years.

The severe weather in December, illustrated the problems graphically, as the Santa trains were kept running. However, starting 50-year-old diesels outside in temperatures as low as -14c with water freezing as it ran along hoses, was an uphill struggle and is a situation that cannot continue. A new two-road shed capable of housing four coaches or locomotives is to be provided at Leeming Bar.

The Wensleydale Railway Association has already committed £25,000 to the project, and Wensleydale Railway plc, the train operating company, is dedicating share capital to the cause. Once complete, the work will not only revolutionise the railway, but will also act as a springboard for many future developments. Donations to help raise the remaining funds may be made online by clicking here.

▲ **The Rushden, Higham and Wellingborough Railway celebrated the opening of Phase 1 of its extension towards Higham on 9th/10th April. Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST 2168 *Edmundsons* steams into Rushden passing Class 31 No. 31206 complete with a Higham Flyer Headboard on the first day of the celebrations. Adrian Perks**

Appeal launched to return NRM's *Shannon* to steam

An appeal has been started to return the unique George England 0-4-0WT No. 5 *Shannon* back to full working order in time for the Great Western Society 50th anniversary celebrations in mid-September.

The appeal is a collaboration between the National Railway Museum, (the owners of *Shannon*), the Great Western Society (the custodians), and a national magazine. The target is £14,000, following a £1,000 donation from the Heritage Railway Association.

Although it is 35 years since *Shannon* last steamed, initial inspections indicate that the locomotive does not require too much work. Last used at the Stockton & Darlington 150th anniversary celebrations in 1975, it was withdrawn with a suspected crack in the copper tubeplate. However, modern techniques can now repair such fractures with relative ease.

Most of the work will centre on the boiler which requires a retube and de-scale. Upon completion of the work, it is believed that the 1857 Wantage Tramway locomotive will be the oldest working standard gauge steam locomotive possibly in the world.

Preservation News In Brief

■ The Dean Forest Railway has received Grant Aid funding to rebuild Whitecroft station. Building work by contractors will begin at the end of this month and is scheduled for completion by the end of the year. People will be able to see progress throughout the year as the work will be undertaken on closed days, while the line returns to usual working on advertised running days.

■ The K&WVR is to hold its diesel gala event from 20th to 22nd May. Highlight for many will be the rare appearance of Class 24 No. D5061 away from the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. Other visitors will be Class 37 No. 37264, Class 47/7 No. 47715 *Poseidon* and Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55019 *Royal Highland Fusilier*, plus an unspecified DRS locomotive. In addition, the resident Class 20 No. 20031, Class 25 No. 25059 and English Electric shunter, No. D0266 *Vulcan* will be in action. Evening services will operate, along with the popular real-ale bars.

Philip Hammond visits LNWR Crewe

The Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, visited the Crewe based steam locomotive engineering works of London & North Western Railway Heritage Ltd on 12th April.

During the one-hour tour, he was given an introduction to steam engineering techniques. The works, owned by Pete Waterman OBE, reflect the loco building past of the town, and through its apprenticeship scheme now teaches specialist engineering skills to a growing number of young 'would be' engineers.

▲ **LNWR Heritage Works Manager Steve Latham explains the finer points of locomotive tyre fitting to Transport Secretary Philip Hammond, while Pete Waterman looks on. Keith Langston**

Recently returned to traffic, Class 60 No. 60024 powers northwards through Heamies Bridge, near Norton Bridge, on the West Coast Main Line with the 15.10 Toton Yard-Crewe Virtual Quarry departmental service on 8th April. **Geoffrey Dingle**

Class 67 No. 67012 *A Shropshire Lad* **is pictured with one of the Mk3 sets previously used by Wrexham & Shropshire, stabled in the sidings outside Birmingham Moor Street on 9th April.**
Steve Llewellyn

Caught in early morning sunlight, Class 57/3 No. 57313 speeds through Whitchurch with Arriva Trains Wales 05.32 Holyhead - Cardiff service on 12th April. **Nigel Capelle**

18th April 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB 'BR Standards at Work around the Country - Part 3' by Ashley Shimwell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports & Social Club, White Rose Avenue, York YO32 4AG. 'The Derwent Valley Railway' by J.Stockwell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact B.Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Permanent Way The Rhodesian Way' by Ted Harner. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 or at tedwardian@gmail.com for further details.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 'The Classic Traction Collection' by Steven Andrews. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission Visitors £2.

Stafford Rly Society
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Cromford & High Peak Railway' by Roger Crombleholm. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622 for further details.

19th April 2011

Permanent Way Institution (W. Yorks)
The Pullman Room, The Cosmopolitan Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds LS1 4AE. 'Goole Swingbridge Refurbishment' by John Billcliffe. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Martin Wooff on 07747 160949 or at abcts@daelnet.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf Inn, Chobham Road, Woking. 'Copyright BR - The British Railways Photographic Unit' by John Goss. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact 01252 315967 for details.

RCTS(Cheltenham)
Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL502SY. 'Branch AGM followed by Members' Slides/Talks'. Starts 19.30.

20th April 2011

Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)
Arup Auditorium, 63 St Thomas Street, Bristol. 'Evergreen 3 Project; by Allan Dare. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Phil Harrison on 01179 765432 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'The Edinburgh to Glasgow Improvement Project (EGIP)' by Geoff Cook. Meeting commences at 17.30. Contact the Secretary Jack Scott on 07789 765291 or at jack.scott1@btinternet.com for further details.

21st April 2011

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. 'Industrials in the Age of Steam' by John Sloane. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary, Neville Bond on 01925 226473 or email lcgb.nw@blueyonder.co.uk.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Wakeman Road, Bourne End, SL8 5SX. 'A Tour of South America' by Ron White. Starts 20.00. Admission £3.

22nd April 2011

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester St, Shrewsbury. 'Society AGM'. Starts 19.30. £3 Donation. Contact the Secretary on 01743 243295 for details

27th April 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Members Quartet Evening'. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

28th April 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR. 'Merseyrail' by Richard Crane. Starts 18.30. Contact Richard Butter on 01525 372487 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Solent)
Crofton Club, Stubbington. 'Wheel/Rail Interface' by Dr Mark Burstow. Starts 19.30. Contact Brian Hackford on 07515 621432 or at brian.hackford@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'The Peter Bland Collection Part 1' by Bryan Cross. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076.

29th April 2011

Scarborough Rly Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Talk by a Well Known Engine Driver on the NYMR' by Chris Cubitt. Starts 19.45.

30th April 2011

Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton. BH9 1DE 'Built by Bulleid - Part 2' by Club Members. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 for details.

2nd May 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. Members' Evening & End of Season Social. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

3rd May 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'Bring a Thing 2011' Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
55 Broadway, London. 'The Royal Train - An Illustrated Presentation' by Michael Foster. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Stuart Smith at smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. '60s Meanderings' by Brian Dyes. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165 for further details.

RCTS (Watford)
St. Thomas' United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Heineken Days' by Andy Grimmett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'The Isle of Man' by Keith Burbidge. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'Steam on Road and Rail' by Malcolm Ranieri. Starts 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

4th May 2011

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opp. Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Technical Visit - CMX Manufacturing' by Mike Westoby. Starts 18.00. Contact Alan Morrison on 0131 221 5772 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)
Network Rail RSAR Site Office, 80 Caversham Road, Reading. 'Cotswold Line Redoubling' by David Quintin, Amey & David Northey. Starts 17.45. Contact Peter Simmonds on 07796 266264 or at peter181102@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

Warwickshire Rly Society
The Lamp Tavern, Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham. 'Paul Barrows Remembered - BR Steam pre-1968". Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

5th May 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. TBA. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

If so, then please email the details to the editor, remembering to include the date, starting time and location, together with details of the event, speaker and entrance charges if applicable. It is not necessary, but helpful to people, if you can also include a contact name and phone number/email address that can be published.

Railway Herald reserves the right to edit details entered in this section, which may also be displayed on our online events diary. The information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Web Links
Links to the various society websites can be found by clicking here. Is yours missing? Send the details to the editor.

▼ **In glorious warm spring sunshine, Class 66/0 No. 66053 restarts the 14.26 Round Oak-Margam empty covered steel service from the loop at Ashchurch, after the passage of a CrossCountry working, on 9th April. John Stretton**

Permanent Way Institution (Sheffield & Doncaster)
Rutland Arms, Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BD. 'Does Modern Track Need Ballast - And Can We Afford It?' by Colin Wheeler. Meeting commences at 18.15. Contact Vivek Vilay on 07763 724259 for details.

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford MK11 1BE. 'Euston to Bletchley in Steam & Early Diesel Days' by Ron White. Starts 19.30.

6th May 2011
GW Society (Nth West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'B.R. Steama' by J.Field. Meeting starts 19.30. Visitors welcome.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'The Reading Station Rebuilding Project; by Callum Macleod. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)
Royal Station Hotel, Market St, Carnforth. 'Outdoor Visit'

9th May 2011
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG. 'A Show of Two Halves' by Jim Sparks & Roger Childs. Starts 20.00. All welcome, £3 Admission. Contact 01522-705365 for details

Permanent Way Institution (London)
10th Floor, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London. 'Understanding Trackbed' by Dr Mike Thorn. Starts 18.00. Contact Alison Stansfield on 07703 326080.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 'Members Slide Evening'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission.

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Digital Extravaganza' Branch Members. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (East Croydon)
Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove. 'The Brighton Atlantic Project' by David Jones. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)
Bridge Ward Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'Latin Rails; by Ray Schofield. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Railway Relics' Branch Members. Starts 19.30.

SVR (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'Swiss Railways' by Geoff Dingle. Starts 19.30. £2.50 Admission. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'On Board Southern' by Alan Harvey. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA 'Heritage Cine Films' by Allan Dawson. Starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com.

10th May 2011
8E Railway Association
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich, CW9 5RB 'Chinese Steam' by Geoff Coward. Starts 19.45. Contact Paul Tench on 07790 486735

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Transports of Delight' by Terry McCarthy. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'Steam Railway Videos at Home and Abroad' by Jim Pentney. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary, Tony Stratford, by email at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

RCTS (Chester)
'Observation at Warrington Bank Quay 10.00 - 16.00. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or at geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk.

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Pot Pourri of Slides' by Eddie Parker. Starts 19.30.

11th May 2011
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Steam in Fifty Countries' by Hugh Ballantyne. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD.
'Preserved Byways of Great Britain' by Gerald Siviour. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.
'Hadley Wood Widening/Scottish Railtour 1962' by John Burdon. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Radyr)
Old Church Rooms, Park Road, Radyr.
'Steam on the Main Line in 2010' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. (near Kings Cross station)
'Members' Slides - Swiss Mountain Railways'. Starts 19.00. £3 donation requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for further details.

12th May 2011
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Bodmin and Wenford Railway' by Richard Jones. Starts 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer on 01225 312564 for further details.

Continental Rly Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. '150th Anniversary North West Frontier Railways' by Nick Lera. Starts 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624.

Locomotive Club of Gt. Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, Nr St Albans. Branch AGM & 'On and Off the Footplace' by Bill Davies. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10, UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport, S.Wales NP20 2BP. 'Metre Gauge Railways of N.Spain 1960/1' by Peter Gray. Starts 19.15. £3 Admission.

Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham)
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham B1 1RT. 'Technical Visit - Birmingham Moor Street Project'. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Jon Wells on 07714 064898 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton)
Mott MaDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 2EE. 'Reading Station Area Remodelling' by Sean Murray. Starts 17.45. Contact the Secretary, Martin Cresswell on 07815 968245 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool)
Ove Arup Offices, St James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester. 'A Gauging Project' by Tony Kearns. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Rob Cummings on 07798 858784 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales)
The Town Crier Inn, City Road, Chester. 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway' by Alasdair Stewart. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Lynne Garner on 07771 672274 for details.

RCTS (Newcastle)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Sugar Cane Railways in the Caribbean' by Roger Darsley. Meeting commences at 19.30.

13th May 2011
Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Communiy Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Swindon Works 2003-2008' by Pete Tough. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01793 495976 for further details.

RCTS (Edinburgh)
Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'The Airdrie - Bathgate Project' by Hugh Wark. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Scarborough Railway Society
Scarborough Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Engines Built in Leeds' by Donald Townsley. Starts 19.45.

14th May 2011
Bournemouth Rly Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE
'The Didcot Story' by Michael H.C.Baker. Meeting commences at 14.30. £2 donation. Contact the Chairman, Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 or at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com for further details.

Back Issues

All back issues are available on our website, 24 hours a day - visit **www.railwayherald.com** and click on 'Magazine'.

Rear Cover Caption

Partners in power! Matching DBS-liveried, Class 60 No. 60011 and Class 59/2 No. 59206 *John F. Yeoman Rail Pioneer* **head for Whatley Quarry with the 14.30 empty aggregate hoppers from Acton Yard, as they pass Reading on 11th April. Tony Callaghan**

Magazine Information

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