Railway Herald

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The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

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28th April 2011

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Edward Gleed

Pictorial coverage of 'Great Britain IV'

Coverage of the key sections of the 2011 'Great Britain IV' charter, operated by Railway Touring Company, which included unbroken steam operation from Wick to Penzance for the first time, as part of the nationwide charter.

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The Next Issue of RH ....

Because of our amended publishing schedule over the recent Easter holiday and the forthcoming May Day bank holiday, there will be **NO** issue on 2nd May.

This will mean that our **next** edition, Issue 266 will be published on

Monday 9th May 2011

from which point we will be back to our normal weekly publication cycle.

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Front Cover Caption:

GWR 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* **passes Burbage Wharf on the climb to Savernake summit, bound for Paddington with the final part of 'GB4' tour on 24th April. Tony Bart**

Network Rail to transform London Bridge station

New plans to transform London Bridge station to enable a more frequent and reliable service to operate have now been published by Network Rail.

The project includes a new concourse, bigger than the pitch at Wembley Stadium, which will sit underneath the tracks. Two new entrances are to be constructed on Tooley Street and St Thomas Street, which will improve links between the areas around the complex. This work, coupled with changes and improvements to the infrastructure around the station, will mark the final phase of the Thameslink programme for longer trains and more frequent services to more destinations.

Network Rail will be seeking the views of station users, local residents and businesses, before submitting a planning application for the redevelopment. This period of consultation will include an exhibition at the station in week commencing 16th May, and details can be found online. The five year construction project is planned to get underway fully in 2013 and is scheduled for completion in 2018.

Apart from the new concourse at street level and the new entrances, other features include natural light for the concourse that will come through the canopies that will cover the platforms above, step-free access to all platforms from the main concourse, and space for around two thirds more passengers to use the station. In addition there will be an increase in the number of tracks going through the station from six to nine and a reduction from nine to six in the number of terminating platforms. This will enable 18 of the planned 24 Thameslink services per hour to call there.

Work is already underway at the station, with the Shard development funding a new bus station (a part of the London Bridge Quarter improvements), and a new entrance and upper concourse to be completed next year. Over the Bank Holiday weekend commencing 29th April, the Thameslink programme will take a significant step forward, with the bridge that will carry the extra tracks through the station being slid into place over Borough High Street.

The Thameslink Programme itself will relieve congestion across London's transport network by allowing longer, more frequent trains to run to and through the Capital. The first phase of the programme is due for completion by mid-2012, and includes new stations at Farringdon and Blackfriars. The second phase involves the redevelopment of London Bridge station as well as extensive track and signalling work in the area, and is due for completion in 2018.

The Government's commitment to the £6 billion Thameslink programme was reaffirmed in November last year with the announcement that the full programme, including the purchase of new trains to service the route, would go ahead as promised.

▼ How the Tooley Street entrance to London Bridge will look. **Network Rail**

Freightliner commences new contract

Freightliner Heavy Haul began a new contract with Quinn Glass on 14th April, running it's first train from the Sibelco UK Middleton Towers quarry to Quality Freight's facility at Ellesmere Port, transporting sand on behalf of Quinn Glass, a division of the Quinn Group.

The sand will be used in the manufacture of glass containers for the food and beverage industries at its plant at Elton, near Runcorn. This is the start of a long-term contract, the start-up consisting of three trains a week into Ellesmere Port before the operation transfers in November this year to the Elton site.

Freightliner Heavy Haul is providing the haulage and wagons as well as stock management of the products on behalf of the Quinn Group. Once the Elton site is rail connected, the company will deliver the sand directly into the site, but in the interim there will be a short road leg between Ellesmere Port and Elton for final delivery of product.

Southeastern presents yet another livery

▲ In the latest Southeastern livery style after refurbishment, Class 465/0 Networker No. 465030 approaches London Bridge on 19th April 2011, forming the 15.07 Southeastern roundabout service from Cannon Street to Cannon Street, via Sidcup and Woolwich Arsenal, this being the return leg. The first Networkers to be refurbished returned with the original grey lower body stripe still in place, but with the yellow doors changed to blue. Then, the body stripe was omitted altogether but the blue doors were continued. The third version still had blue doors but the control panels below the bodysides had now been painted black. This style was followed by the lower body stripe and the control boxes both in black. This fifth type of livery retains both blue doors and black body stripe, but the stripe no longer extends all the way to the base of the bodyside and the skirts now remain white! There are also a variety of differences in the liveries of the Class 375 Electrostar fleet. **Bill Turvill**

New fund aims to improve stations across the country

Stations across England, Scotland and Wales could benefit from a new £100 million station improvement fund introduced by Network Rail and the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC).

To be eligible, proposals must make improvements to the station environment and also reduce the overall public subsidy for rail by generating a financial return. There is no cap on the maximum value of proposals, and bids are welcomed from third party organisations as well as train operators and Network Rail itself.

Mike Goggin, Director of Stations and Customer Service at Network Rail, said: "This is a great opportunity for the rail industry as a whole to think innovatively about how to improve stations without increasing the burden on the taxpayer. It is also an opportunity for local authorities and third parties to get involved, and we encourage prospective projects to build relationships locally to improve the strength of their bid".

A panel including the Department for Transport, ATOC and Network Rail will assess proposals. To be considered for the first tranche of funding, proposals are requested before 17th June. A second tranche will be released in October for which proposals are requested by 30th September. Entitled the Station Commercial Projects Facility, the project is in addition to the National Stations Improvement Programme funding and the Control Period 4 Performance Fund.

RAIB investigates level crossing barrier incident at Lydney

The Rail Accident Investigation Bureau (RAIB) is carrying out an investigation into an incident that occurred at Lydney station level crossing, on the line between Severn Tunnel Junction and Gloucester, on 23rd March.

The level crossing has full-width power-operated lifting barriers that are controlled by a crossing keeper from the adjacent former signalbox. At about 13.25 on the day, the crossing keeper found that he was unable to raise one of the barriers after the passage of a train. Over the next hour, four trains passed over, the last of these, the 13.45 Cardiff-Nottingham service, passed over the crossing at about 60mph while the barriers were in the raised position. There were some road vehicles waiting at the crossing, where the red flashing lights were showing, but the rail signal protecting the crossing was showing green, and the train drivers were unaware of the incident.

Subsequent testing by Network Rail found that the level crossing equipment had functioned as it was designed to, but that it was possible to raise the barriers by hand without affecting the aspects of the protecting signals. At this particular level crossing, the keeper was not provided with any indication of the state of the signals or any means of controlling them, other than an emergency replacement switch.

The investigation will examine the sequence of events leading up to the incident, the implications of the design that enabled the signals to show a 'proceed' aspect when the barriers were in the raised position, the adequacy of the instructions and training given to the staff who operated and maintained the crossing, and other factors that may have affected the incident.

▼ **Class 66/0 No. 66102 passes Stirling North signal box on 22nd April with the Inverness to Mossend 'Stobart Rail' service on what was the penultimate day of DBS operation, with traction reverting to DRS from the following week. Graeme Eadington**

UK News In Brief

■ Richard Morris has taken over as chairman of the Friends of the Settle Carlisle Line (FoSCL), the 3,500-strong support group for the famous line, which was set up 30 years ago to oppose its closure. He replaces Mark Rand, whose 5-year tenure as chairman took the FoSCL to new heights, the Friends gaining recognition as a respected deliverer of projects and a lobbying organisation, both inside and outside the rail industry.

■ Work on a £10.6 million contract has begun at Waterloo station to construct a new retail balcony, providing more space on the concourse. The scheme will create 20,000 sq ft of new retail space at first-floor level allowing shops and kiosks currently in the middle of the overcrowded concourse to be cleared, creating more space and making it easier for passengers to move around. The existing first-floor offices are to be converted into 18 new retail spaces and a 220 metre-long balcony will be constructed.

■ It has been reported in the *Daily Telegraph* that Deutsche Bahn, which already owns Arriva, is eyeing up Stagecoach with a view to a possible takeover bid.

■ The Ribblehead Station Visitor Centre, celebrating the history and heritage of the Settle & Carlisle line, together with its stations, tunnels and viaducts, has been refurbished and reopened to visitors on 20th April. A new book on the line by celebrated local author Bill Mitchell was also put on sale there on 25th April, with Bill in attendance at the station to sign copies. A new DVD by Roger Hardingham was also released at the event..

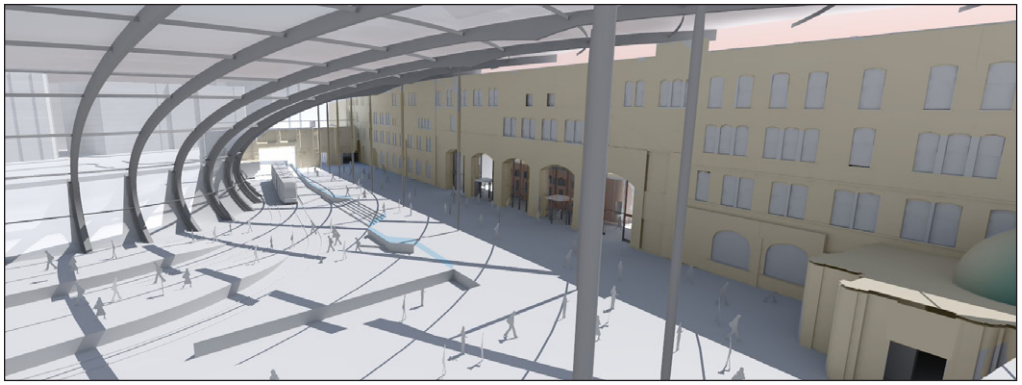
▲ Irish Rail's annual weedsprayer operated between Wexford & Clonmel on 20th April, and made a visit to the South Wexford line, which was closed in September 2010, to spray the entire route. The gated crossings were operated by the train guard, and problems were also encountered with the interlock of the Barrow Bridge. Here 071 Class No. 079 and train sit in Wexford siding awaiting the crew to arrive. **Chris Playfair**

The Irish Angle

Network Rail unveils new modern look proposed for Manchester Victoria

Network Rail has revealed new images of the future station at Manchester Victoria. The visuals show how the station could look in less than five years time, and are an early indication of how the premises could be transformed into a major regional interchange, with plans for wider investment being developed separately as part of the Northern Hub scheme.

With this added investment, improvements to the railway in the region would top £700 million, including newly electrified lines between Manchester and Liverpool. Graham Botham, Programme Sponsor, Network Rail said that the organisation had been working closely with the city council and English Heritage to resolve any planning issues resulting from the station's Grade II listed status, and that a brand new, state-of-the-art roof, likely to be made of ETFE, the material used at Piccadilly station will flood the station with natural light. The £20 million cost is to be split between Network Rail (£16 million) and Transport for Greater Manchester (£4 million). Both concerns are also redeveloping plans for the station, with new shops and cafes, better Metrolink facilities, new and improved links to the Manchester Evening News MEN arena, and refurbishment and renewal of the building.



DfT lays out expectations for Anglia

The Department for Transport (DfT) has set out the level of service it expects from the companies shortlisted to run rail services in Greater Anglia, following publication of the invitation to tender document for the short 17-month franchise.

The new operator will take over from February 2012, and will be responsible for services to destinations from London Liverpool Street and across Greater Anglia, including Great Yarmouth, Kings Lynn, Southend, Ipswich and Cambridge, until at least July 2013. As one of the rail franchises serving Stratford and the Olympic stadium, the new operator will be responsible for introducing longer and more frequent trains during the London 2012 Olympic Games, and the DfT has set out objectives for the franchise in the invitation to tender that include managing and delivering changes required to accommodate Crossrail.

The companies shortlisted for the contract are Abellio Greater Anglia Limited (NV Nederlandse Spoorwegen), Eastern Railway Limited (Go-Ahead Group PLC), and Stagecoach Anglia Trains Limited (Stagecoach Group plc). The Government expects to announce the successful bidders for both the Greater Anglia and for InterCity West Coast franchises in autumn this year.

The DfT plans to reform rail franchising and to lengthen rail franchises to around 15 years. This shorter franchise will allow time for reforms identified by Sir Roy McNulty's review of the rail industry's value for money to be properly considered and built into the terms of the subsequent Greater Anglia franchise.

▲ **The current shortage of locomotives and expansion of traffic, has seen GB Railfreight lease several additional Class 66 locomotives. One of those is ex-Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66580, which joined the GBRf fleet on 18th April, and is pictured passing Basingstoke during a 'light engine' movement from Eastleigh Works to Hoo Junction, to commence work for its new operator. Fred Kerr**

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or click this advert

◀ On 21st April, GBRf-livered Class 66/7 No. 66737, formerly Class 66/4 No. 66405, approaches the site of Finedon station, just north of Wellingborough, with the 13:11 Washwood Heath-Wellingborough departmental working, consisting of sleeper wagons. The loco has been outshopped in a modified livery, having different sized bodyside numbers. **Lorenzo D' Aniello**

◀▼ Continuing issues with its Class 57/6s has led to First Great Western using a Class 08 to bring the Night Riviera stock to and from Paddington. Old Oak Common's No. 08483 *DUSTY Driver David Miller* waits to release No. 57602 *Restormal Castle* and train from the historic terminus on 18th April. **Ian Hall**

▼ GBRf-hired Class 08 No. 08445 crosses Park Road in Trafford Park on 19th April, while working from the Containerbase terminal at Barton Dock Road to the Freightliner terminal where Class 66/7 No. 66710 took over for the remainder of the journey to Ripple Lane. **Christoper Lowe**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

28th April 2011		
Steam Dreams	6201	London King's Cross-Stevenage-Peterborough-Grantham-Doncaster-York & return
30th April 2011		
Statesman Rail	tbc	B'pool North-Preston-Bolton-Stockport-Stoke-Nottingham-Lincoln-Spalding & rtn
Rail-Blue Charters	DBS Class 67	Ealing Broadway-Reading-Coventry-Shap-Carlisle-Carlisle-S&C-Crewe & return
Railway Touring Co.	45305 & 70013	(Slough-Bristol TM-Penzance)-Penzance-Bristol TM(-Swindon-Reading-Slough)
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Guildford-Shalford-Redhill-East Croydon-London Victoria
Vintage Trains	4965 & 5043	Tyseley WR-Walsall-Wolverhampton-Crewe-Llandudno Jct-Llandudno & return
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Bridlington-Beverley-Goole-Doncaster-March-Ely-Norwich-Great Yarmouth & rtn
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Preston-Stockport-Whitchurch-Llandrindod Wells-Carmarthen-Fishguard Harbour-Cardiff-Newport-Abergavenney-Hereford-Craven Arms-Shrewsbury & return
Cruise Saver Travel	2xDRS 47	Southampton Western Dock-Solihull-Derby-Leeds-York-Edinburgh Waverley
1st May 2011		
Pathfinder Tours	6024	(Bristol TM-Margam Yard)-Llanelli-Carmarthen(-Tenby-)Pembroke Dock-Llanelli-Port Talbot Parkway-Bridgend-Cardiff Central-Newport-Bristol Temple Meads
2nd May 2011		
Statesman Rail	tbc	Sheffield-Loughborough-Hinckley-Nuneaton-Walsall-Crewe-Llandudno & return
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Southport-Wigan Walgate-Huddersfield-Keighley-S&C-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-Wakefield-Healey Mills-Huddersfield & return as outwards
North East Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Newcastle Central-Cramlington-Alnmouth-Fort William & return
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Skegness-Sleaford-Grantham-Kensington Olympia-Arundel-Chichester & return
4th May 2011		
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Carlisle-Dumfries-Troon-Kilwinning-Crianlarich-Rannoch-Fort William & return
6th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	34067	Kensington Olympia-Canterbury West-London Victoria
	6201	London Victoria-Kensington Olympia-Peterborough-Doncaster-York
Rail-Blue Charters	86101	Watford Jct-Northampton-Crewe-Shap-Beattock-Edinburgh Waverley & rtn
7th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	46115	York-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle
	70000	Carlisle-Dumfries-Kilwinning-Lenzie-Larbert-Stirling
UK Railtours	tbc	Stevenage-Finsbury Park-Stratford-Norwich-Sheringham-Holt-Sheringham-Cromer-Wroxham-Thetford-Ely West Curve-March-Peterborough-Stevenage-London KX
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Ipswich-Stowmarket-Cambridge-March-Doncaster-York-Durham-Newcastle upon Tyne-Berwick upon Tweed-Edinburgh Waverley & return
MCRUA	DBS Class 67	Chester-Northwich-Stockport-Stalybridge-York-Newcastle & return
Railway Touring Co.	70013	Watford Junction-Bedford-Kettering-Loughborough-Alfreton-Barrow Hill-Rotherham-Conisbrough-Doncaster-York-& return
SRPS Railtours	2xWCRC 47	Glenrothes with Thornton-Falkirk High-Crianlarich-Fort William-Mallaig & return
8th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	61994 & 45231	Stirling-Larbert-Dumbarton Central-Crianlarich-Rannoch-Fort William
9th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	61994	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Mallaig & return

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.

Exploring the Cathedral cities with Steam Dreams

Steam Dreams moves into new territory on Friday 6th May when Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* **sets out from Kensington Olympia with the opening leg of the 'Cathedrals Explorer', which over the following eight days engages in a tour that reaches many of the key scenic areas of Great Britain, with steam featuring throughout.**

After *Tangmere* has circumnavigated Kent it returns the train to London Victoria, where 'Princess Royal' 8P Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* will be waiting to take the train northwards, via the East Coast Main Line, to York. Next day, it is 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* to Carlisle, via the S&C, where BR Standard Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* will be located to head the 'Cathedrals' north to Stirling, by way of the Glasgow & South Western line, including, it is understood, a trip along the Glasgow City Union Line between Shields and High Street Junctions. A pairing of 'Black 5' No. 45305 *Alderman A.E. Draper* and 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* is next, as on Sunday 8th May the duo head the train from Stirling in the late morning through to Fort William, followed by a return working to Mallaig with No. 61994 on the following day, Monday 9th May. The train returns south on Tuesday 10th May to Oxenholme, with the 'Black 5' & 'K4' pairing working through to the Coatbridge area, where once again *Britannia* will be waiting to take over the train for the remainder of the journey to the Lake District.

The following day is, for the want of better words, a 'rest day', when the joys of the Lakes and Fells can be explored by other means of transport, ahead of setting out from Carnforth on Thursday 12th May with Ian Riley's 'Black 5s' for Carmarthen, which will be reached via the Central Wales Line. All that remains then is the final dash back to London Victoria on Friday 13th May, again with Riley's 'Black 5s', which will now take the direct route, via the South Wales main line through Cardiff, the Severn Tunnel and Chipping Sodbury. Waiting at London Victoria will be *Oliver Cromwell*, for the final steam section into Kent to return those passengers who joined the train at Minster, eight long days ago! Steam Dreams says that there remain only a few options to join the train for part of its itinerary, like the Scottish legs for instance, or for single journeys. These are very much subject to availability, which can be confirmed by telephoning the operators on 01483 209888.

New tours announced by Rail-Blue Charters

Rail Blue Charters has announced four new tours for this July, two of which will use the now relatively rare route for passenger loco-hauled trains, from Wrexham to Shrewsbury, via Chirk.

Chester and Shrewsbury are the two options, and on 1st July the train sets out from Morpeth, picking up through to York, and then travelling via the Hope Valley outwards and the Calder Valley on the return. Harlow Town is the next origin on 13th July, again to Chester and Shrewsbury, this time picking up across the Fens to Stamford, and then via Loughborough, the Erewash Valley and the Hope Valley to Chester. The return is via Stoke-on-Trent and Castle Donnington, to Loughborough.

York and Scarborough are the destinations on 16th July, from Didcot Parkway, via Oxford and Coventry to Lichfield Trent Valley, and then the WCML to Warrington, before diverging onto the Calder Valley route outwards to York, Standedge and back. The fourth tour is on 20th July to Carlisle from St Albans, which picks up along the Midland Main Line as far as Market Harborough, and then heads to Nuneaton and Tamworth, ahead of a run along the WCML over Shap. The return takes in the S&C.

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

This spotlight will cover the period up to 8th May, the date of the next issue, and includes two busy weekends of charters.

While the majority of excursions are aimed at the general market, there are a few significant enthusiast based tours to talk about. And then there is Steam Dream's 'Cathedrals Explorer' that gets underway during the currency of this review, and which will be dealt with separately.

Two of the steam tours on offer feature double-heading, both booked for 30th April. The first is the Railway Touring Company's 'Royal Duchy', a positioning working that returns 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45305 *Alderman A.E. Draper* and 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* from Penzance following their turn on the Great Britain IV tour last Saturday. This train originates at Slough, with the steam section being from Penzance to Bristol Temple Meads. The other double-header has steam throughout from Tyseley Warwick Road to Llandudno, and brings the unusual sight of a pair of ex-Great Western locomotives to the North Wales Coast main line. It also offers a rare chance for steam through to Llandudno itself, instead of the more usual call at 'The Junction'. Readers will not be surprised to discover that the traction will be Nos. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* and 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe*. The attraction of Llandudno, other than it being a very pleasant seaside town, is the 'Victorian Extravaganza and Transport Festival', which is taking place at the resort over that weekend.

RTC is again in action the following Saturday, 7th May, with 'The Yorkshireman' from Watford Junction to York, via a quite circuitous route commencing with the Bletchley to Bedford line, before following the Midland route to Kettering, where it diverges for Harringworth and Melton Mowbray to regain the Midland Main Line at Syston Junction. It is then via Loughborough, Erewash Valley and Barrow Hill to Rotherham, continuing through Conisbrough to Doncaster and then finally the East Coast to York. Not many tours nowadays can boast three trunk routes in its itinerary, as well as featuring 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* throughout.

West Wales is the feature of two tours on consecutive days. Spitfire Railtours' 'The Welshman' charter heads for Carmarthen and Fishguard Harbour (rather than the previously planned destination of Tenby, due to lack of train crew) from Preston on 30th April, which includes a trip over the Central Wales Line outwards and the Welsh Marches on the return, behind a pair of DRS Class 37s. The second, is Pathfinder's 'Pembroke Coast Explorer' that goes the extra mile to the end of the branch at Pembroke Dock, the following day. The tour starts at Bristol Temple Meads and is steam hauled by the 'Green King', No. 6024 *King Edward I* from Margam Yard to Carmarthen outwards, after which the train continues diesel-hauled to Pembroke Dock. The return is steam hauled throughout and is routed by way of the Swansea District Line.

In addition to RTC's 'The Yorkshireman', Rail Blue Charters also use Watford Junction as an originating point for the 'West Coast Premier II' on 6th May, which is due to feature Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier* throughout on an outing to Edinburgh. Earlier on 30th April, the 'Great Western Fellsman' heads for Carlisle from Ealing Broadway, and reaches the West Coast at Nuneaton, via Oxford and Leamington Spa, and continues northbound over Shap, returning by way of the Settle & Carlisle. DBS Class 67 traction should feature.

Also on 30th April, Statesman Railtours head for the flower festival at Spalding from Blackpool North, while Railtourer keep to the East Coast with a Bridlington to Norwich or Great Yarmouth charter, both of which should feature West Coast Class 47s. Meanwhile, a VSOE British Pullman working is scheduled for Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* from London Victoria, via the Surrey Hills.

Bank Holiday Monday, 3rd May, has a host of diesel-hauled tours, with Statesman Rail heading for Llandudno (for the Victorian Festival) from Sheffield, Compass Railtours 'North Country Rambler' includes both the S&C and Tyne Valley on its charter from Southport, while Railtourer head out of Skegness to Arundel and Chichester. Meanwhile, North East Railtours opens its 2011 season with a long haul from Newcastle to Fort William.

UK Railtours 'Norfolkman' headlines the diesel-hauled charters on Saturday 7th May, becoming just the second tour of the year to use the reinstated level crossing at Sheringham. The tour is booked for a pair of DBS Class 66s, and sets out from Stevenage and works through to Holt on the North Norfolk Railway, with the obligatory splitting of the train at Norwich. The north features strongly among the remaining tours, with SRPS going to Fort William and Mallaig from Glenrothes with Thornton, Nenta Traintours heading for Edinburgh Waverley from Norwich, and the annual outing for the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association heading for Newcastle, from Chester.

To conclude, it is always pleasing to report a tour that has sold-out, which is exactly what Compass Tours has achieved with its 4th May 'West Highlander' from Carlisle to Fort William, which picks up along the Glasgow & South Western before heading around the Ayrshire Coast, via Troon, to reach the West Highland Line by way of Paisley Gilmour Street and Dumbarton.

▼ **With machine gun like exhaust, GWR 'Castle' No. 5043** *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* **works hard as it crosses the border between Yorkshire and Lancashire, while climbing the final mile to the summit of Copy Pit with the 'Red Rose' from Tyseley to Blackburn on 16th April. Alan Taylor**

▲ **LNER A1 Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado* **is pictured in the workshop at the NRM on the 21st April, while being reassembled after its steam test. Michael Young**

A1 Steam Locomotive Trust to work with DB Schenker for 2011 main line work

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust has said that LNER A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* **will not be operated by West Coast Railway after the Trust used a contractor that was "unacceptable" to the train operating company.**

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the main line operations of which, have been in the hands of DB Schenker since *Tornado* first steamed on the National Network, says that this was the latest of several attempts over the past three years to reach an agreement with West Coast Railways over the operation of the loco, all of which have failed to reach fruition. The Trust Chairman Mark Allatt said that they were disappointed not to be working with West Coast Railways during 2011, adding that the Trust "will now be working closely with partners and friends to re-shape *Tornado's* 2011 programme".

A written statement to the railway press by West Coast Railway, General Manager, James Shuttleworth, said "WCR was approached by the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, with a view to No. 60163 *Tornado* being operated by WCR in 2011, following on from the completion of winter repairs and maintenance. WCR was prepared to consider this, subject to full supplier audit, as required by WCR's Safety Management System, as part of its Safety Certificate requirements. Unfortunately, the Trust failed to meet the requirements of the audit, specifically, by the use of unacceptable contractors, for the cylinder re-boring work, despite having been explicitly advised not to do so. However, should the Trust be willing to correct these defective actions, WCR would be prepared to reconsider its application".

In response, a statement issued by A1 Steam Locomotive Trust Chairman, Mark Allatt, confirmed that its Quality Management System processes were reviewed by West Coast Railway in November 2010, and its arrangements for supplier assurance were one of several processes that were examined, with no issues of significance found. The issue surrounds the contractor that was used for the cylinder liner work that took place in February this year. It goes on to say that, "The work has in addition been seen and passed inspections by WCR themselves and WCR appointed Qualified Independent Engineers. The Trust believes these inspections to be an appropriate action by WCR in carrying out its due diligence responsibilities. The work has also been inspected by the Trust's independent Vehicle Acceptance Body. All parties were satisfied that the work had been carried out correctly and that the finish on the cylinder bores was to the required standard. The Trust therefore believes that WCR does not have a valid reason to refuse to operate the locomotive on account of the cylinder boring work".

While the lack of *Tornado* on West Coast Railway charters will disappoint many people, the locomotive will continue to see extensive main line use under DB Schenker operation, although because of the issues described above, the first three charters booked for the 'A1' will now feature alternative motive power. The Trust says that following the boiler repairs and a successful steam test, *Tornado* is expected to be ready for traffic from 26th May, and its first National Network charter in new Brunswick green livery will now be Pathfinder Tours' 'The Canterbury Tornado' on 18th June, from Poole to Canterbury, with steam haulage forward from Willesden.

Ups & Downs

■ The high temperatures that affected most of the country last week, together with a significant lack of rain has raised the spectre of a steam ban due to the risk of lineside fires. This time of year is always regarded as having the highest risk of fire due to the large amount of exposed dead vegetation that is tinder dry and has yet to be covered by new growth. The situation is being monitored, and if it does deteriorate then action may well be taken. It is understood that one region has expressed some concern already that booked steam operations on its patch could set off disruptive fires. However, at the time of writing it looks like some much-needed rain is on the way to ease the situation.

■ Looking ahead and the Steam Dreams programme of trains in late May and early June booked for haulage by 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* have been affected by the decision of West Coast not to operate the loco on its safety certificate. It is understood that alternative traction is being arranged for the tours, which are to Bath and Bristol on 28th May, York on 4th June and Hereford, Ludlow and Shrewsbury on 11th June, and an announcement is likely after the Bank Holiday weekend. According to industry sources, another topical ex-East Coast Pacific is a likely replacement.

■ A derailment at Eastleigh while shunting the empty coaching stock for Pathfinder's 'Easter Highlander' four-day Scottish charter during the early hours of 22nd April could have doomed the sell-out train. However, thanks to industry co-operation, a replacement coach was substituted for the de-railed vehicle then, after all necessary checks were completed, and armed with a hastily supplied revised set of timings, the tour ran, and even arrived in Inverness only 17minutes late on the original timings. Obviously there had been changes to the route, as for instance, instead of running via Gloucester, it took the direct line via the Severn Tunnel to reach the Welsh Marches, with passengers from the connecting stations affected being picked up by bus to join the train.

The SRPS celebrated Easter by running its circular railtours around the Fife Circle and along the Alloa to Stirling route. Both trips used LNER 'A4' No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley,* **seen here accelerating along the Forth foreshore at Culross on 24th April, with the first trip of the day from Linlithgow. Fred Kerr**

BR Britannia Class Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* departs from the water stop at Hinksey with the 17.00 Stratford-on-Avon - Paddington charter on 23rd April. **Ken Brunt**

'Great Britain IV' brings steam haulage throughout from Wick to Penzance

There was much elation from the Railway Touring Company camp as No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* **came to a stand at Paddington on 24th April, following the completion of the fourth 'Great Britain' tour, which this year finally achieved the objective of operating steam traction uninterrupted on one train from Wick through to Penzance.**

Additionally, on the opening leg from King's Cross to Tyne Yard, the train was hauled by 'A4' Pacific No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*, resplendent in LNER garter blue, and carrying the wheel valances that enhanced the streamlining when first introduced into traffic. It was, of course, No. 60019 *Bittern* in disguise, as reported last issue, but it certainly looked the part.

Also in the mix was perhaps the first appearance of a 'Royal Scot' on the Forth and Tay Bridges, as well as on the road to Aberdeen and Inverness? If anyone knows differently, please let us know.

However, this was the 'visible' operation, which ran very well over the extent of the tour. How it was made to happen is yet another story, which can be put into some perspective by detailing the positioning movements required to get locomotives and crews into place for their turn of duty on the main train. On 16th April the main train, as already mentioned, ran from King's Cross to Tyne Yard with No. 4492, and then onwards to Edinburgh with classmate No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, which had earlier worked north with its support coach from the

▶ **LNER A4 Pacific No. 60019** *Bittern*, **masquerading as No. 4492** *Dominion of New Zealand* **eases for Brafferton curve, with the first leg on 16th April. Steve Taylor**

▼▶ **In the late afternoon sunlight, classmate No. 60007** *Sir Nigel Gresley* **crosses the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-upon-Tweed. John Woolley**

▼ **The two celebrities of the first day, No. 60007** *Sir Nigel Gresley* **and No. 4492** *Dominion of New Zealand* **stand side-by-side in Tyne Yard, after arrival of the tour from London. Philip Benham**

North Yorkshire Moors Railway to Tyne Yard, and then after arrival at Waverley continued, again with support vehicle, to Bo'ness where it arrived just before midnight. Meanwhile, No. 4492 was booked to move from Tyne Yard to the NRM at York, where it was due to be put on display.

Earlier that day Ian Riley's 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 & 45407 had set off from Bury for the mammoth trip to Inverness, and then onwards during the night of 17th/18th April to Wick to be in position to haul the train back to Inverness on the 18th. Also heading north on 16th April was No. 46115 from Carnforth to Edinburgh Joppa, for it to be in position to take the leg from Waverley to Inverness, via Aberdeen. So, on one day alone West Coast had organised seven steam movements in connection with 'GBIV', together with operating two other main line charters for Vintage Trains and Steam Dreams!

To further complicate matters, No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* was booked from Thornton Yard to Inverness on Sunday 17th April, for its turn on the Kyle working on 19th April, and then back with No. 46115 from Inverness on Wednesday 20th April as far as Perth, where the 'K4' returned to its base, while the 'Scot' went on to Cadder Yard in readiness for the Glasgow Central to Preston working next day.

Finally, on Thursday 21st April, as No. 46115 was heading south with 'GBIV', Riley's two 'Black 5s' were heading from Cadder Yard to Grosmont, while No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* was working north from Tyseley to Carnforth ahead of taking the Preston to Bristol Temple Meads leg on 22nd April. Also on 22nd April, Nos. 45305 and 70013 had worked from Southall to Bristol, ahead of hauling 'GBIV' to Penzance on 23rd April and to round off the positioning moves, No. 60007 worked from Bo'ness to Grosmont two days later.

As can be readily seen, the 'GBIV' operation involved a huge logistical exercise involving the movement of both locomotives and crews around the country, and particularly over the long distances to the north of Scotland that featured strongly in this year's itinerary. The fact that it all worked well is a credit to everyone involved, and especially West Coast and RTC.

Perhaps the only possible downside to this year's 'Great Britain' was a substantial fire in the area around Forsinard that decimated over 1,000 hectares, including a RSPB reserve, and required the attention of four fire appliances and helicopter support to bring the blaze under control, an exercise that took nearly 12 hours. Controlled burning had been reported in the vicinity, but the fire is reported to have coincided also with the passing of 'GBIV', hauled by the two 'Black 5s'. The intensity of the blaze also resulted in the following service train from Wick and Thurso to Inverness being terminated at Georgemas Junction. The actual cause of the fire is still to be determined, and perhaps never will be. But nevertheless, the 'Great Britain' legend seems set to continue, as talk of a 'GBV' includes splitting the train with separate Mallaig and Kyle of Lochalsh portions as well as a return visit to Stranraer. Whether this remains speculation or becomes fact is awaited with interest.

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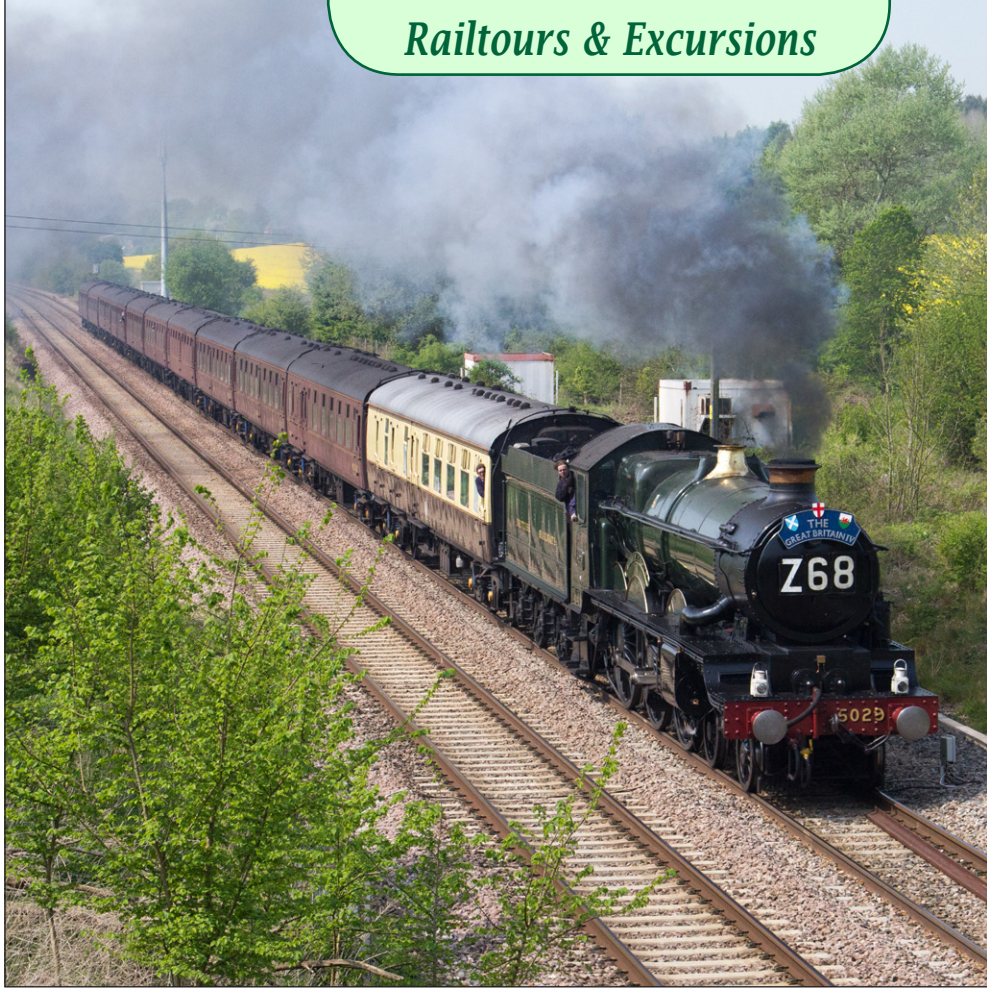
▲ **LMS 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115** *Scots Guardsman* **crosses the Forth Bridge on 17th April at the start of its journey northwards to Inverness, via Aberdeen.**

▼ **The 'Scot' heads for Inverness, between Insch and Huntly, later the same day. Both: John Whitehouse**

LMS 'Black 5s' Nos. 45407 and 44871 pass Fearn Lodge, Ardgay, with the 'Great Britain IV' charter from Wick to Inverness on 18th April. **Peter Smith**



◀▲ **Its 07.00 on the morning of 19th April and LNER 'K4' 2-6-0 No. 61994** *The Great Marquess* **climbs the bank at Fodderty with the Kyle of Lochalsh leg of the 'Great Britain IV' railtour. Donald Taggart**

◀ **GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5029** *Nunney Castle* **powers away from Preston in superb lighting conditions with day seven of the tour, bound for Bristol via Crewe, Shrewsbury and the Welsh Marches route. This leg was originally due to be in the capable hands of GWR 'King' No. 6024** *King Edward I*, **however gauging issues resulted in the loco change. Kevin Truby.**

▲ **On the final day of operations, GWR 'Castle' Class No. 5029** *Nunney Castle* **heads for the summit at Savernake with the last leg of the 'Great Britain IV' tour from Bristol to London Paddington on 24th April. Dave Swan**

The early morning sun illuminates Bristol Temple Meads as the station plays host to LMS 'Black Five' No. 45305 and 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*. The duo depart with the penultimate day's working bound for Penzance on 23rd April. **Edward Gleed**

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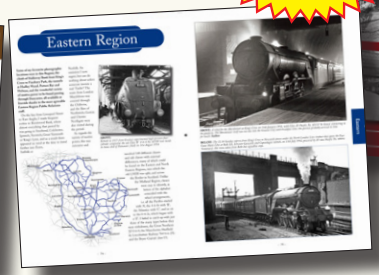

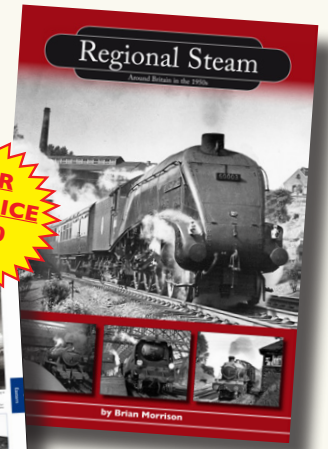

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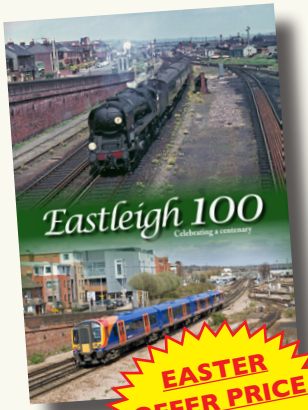

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The Tornado Story

60-minute DVD. ***Normal Price £11.95***

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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.

NYMR : A Decade of Steam

100-minute DVD. ***Normal Price £15.95***

Charting the steam action on the NYMR between 2000 and 2009, this 100 minute long DVD programme features over 35 different steam locomotives hard at work on the line.

The engines featured include: GWR 3440 *City of Truro* and 6619. SR 825, 32678, 34028 *Eddystone*, 34081 *92 Squadron* and 34101 *Hartland*. LMS 44767 *George Stephenson*, 45212, 49395 and 53809. LNER 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, 60009 *Union of South Africa*, 60019 *Bittern*, 60163 *Tornado*, 60532 *Blue Peter*, 60800 *Green Arrow*, 61264, 61994 *The Great Marquess*, 62005, 63395 and 65462. BR 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, 75014, 75029, 76079 and 90775.

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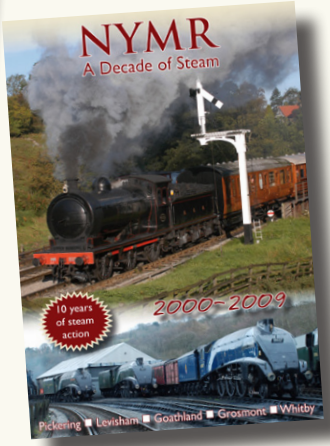

Steam Focus

75-minute DVD. ***Normal Price £13.95***

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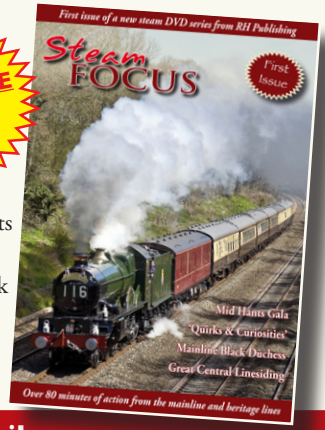
The first issue of our twice-yearly Steam Focus DVD magazine, looks at action from the first half of 2010, as well as some of the more notable events during 2009.

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



Issue 2 of Steam Focus will be available at the **end of April** - watch the website and our adverts for further details

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Mallard to take summer break in Germany

▲ **Gresley 'A4' Pacific No. 4468 *Mallard* is set to become the star attraction at an exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of Germany's short ownership of the world- speed crown for steam traction. From July to October this year the record-breaker will be on display at the DB Museum in Nuremberg alongside the Deutsche Reichsbahn 4-6-4 locomotive No. 05002 that achieved 124mph in 1936. *Mallard* stole No 05002's thunder just two years later in July 1938, when it achieved 126mph at Little Bytham, near Grantham, and the British-built locomotive has retained the record ever since. After the Nuremburg exhibition, the 'A4' will return to the National Railway Museum in York to take up its place in the Great Hall. *Mallard* will leave its current home, the NRM in Shildon, by road, and will then travel by ship to Germany, before being hauled by a DB locomotive, accompanied by engineers from the NRM. The locomotive is pictured outside the NRM, and minus connecting rods, on 22nd June last year, shortly before being moved to Shildon. Richard Tuplin**

Cambrian trains run through Oswestry once more

Trains once again began running from the Victorian station building of Oswestry on Good Friday, for the first time since Dr Beeching closed the line to passenger services in 1967.

After two years hard work, the newly-opened section currently runs a half-mile to the Middleton Road Bridge in the town, but the intention of Cambrian Heritage Railways is to eventually operate for eight-and-a-half miles to Llanyblodwell.

A brakevan shuttle is now scheduled to run every Sunday during the summer months, with a Metro-Cammell Class 101 DMU service on Saturdays and at quieter times.

The route was finally closed to freight in 1988, after remaining open to serve Blodwell Quarry.

▲ **1874-built Haydock Foundry 0-6-0WT *Bellerophon* approaches North Thoresby on 24th April, during the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway's 'Easter Steam Gala'. Also present for the event was LMS 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47406 from the Great Central Railway and a Peckett 0-4-0ST from the Appleby-Frodingham Railway Preservation Society. Richard Tuplin**

Preservation News In Brief

■ The Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway has reported that more than 680 people travelled on the first of four trips on 22nd April that A4 No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* undertook on the line, during a brief stay between main line duties.

■ The Epping Ongar Railway has taken delivery of a BR Mk1 TSO coach, No. E3984, which has been made available to the line by the Saffron Walden Model Railway Club. The coach is in remarkably complete condition externally, and still has many of its interior fittings, although it is missing many of the seats after being used to display model railways.

■ The West Somerset Railway reports that Class 33 No. 33057 (D6575) has returned to the line following significant work being undertaken in recent weeks. Some jobs remain outstanding, but it is hoped that the loco will be running later in the year. The railway also advises that its Class 14 No. D9526 will haul several dining trains this year.

◀ BR Class 04 No. D2279 shunts stock around the yard at Chappel and Wakes Colne on 27th April. **Ashley Dace**

◀▼ Recently restored Ivatt 2MT 2-6-0 No. 46512 is pictured at Boat of Garten on the Strathspey Railway in early April. The locomotive has just brought in the last service of the day, and is preparing to return 'light engine' to the shed at Aviemore. **Andy Carr**

▼ Carrying Railfreight Coal livery, Class 31/1 No. 31130 *Calder Hall Power Station* stands at Shenton on the Battlefield Line, after arrival with a service from Market Bosworth on 16th April. **Jamie Course**

▼ The Llangollen Railway Spring Steam Gala, held over 8th-10th April, celebrated the return to traffic of the line's iconic GWR Manor Class No. 7822 *Foxcote Manor* following overhaul. Also in traffic during the event was GWR 6400 Class 0-6-0PT No. 6430, here seen leaving Glyndyfrdwy on 10th April with the 15.25 goods from Llangollen to Carrog.

◀ On the same day, the 10.15 Llangollen to Carrog service is headed by GWR 5600 Class 0-6-2T No. 5643 and GWR 'Manor' No. 7822. Here, the pair approach Glyndyfdwy. **Both: Fred Kerr**

Signalling commissioned at Bodmin General

Following successful final testing, commissioning and certification in mid-April, the Bodmin & Wenford Railway has announced that its new signalling installation at Bodmin General station was used for the first time on 18th April.

Completion of the re-signalling project marks another significant milestone in the development of the line, which celebrates its 25th anniversary this year with the reintroduction of traditional semaphore signalling at Bodmin General for the first time for 44 years.

British Railways closed the original signalbox in December 1967, and the box structure itself was demolished in the early 1970s, leaving little more than a 'basic railway' until final closure of the line in September 1983. Reconstruction of the signalbox on its original site at the end of the platform at Bodmin General was completed in 1997, and was one of the first principal projects funded by the Bodmin & Wenford Railway Trust. Work on reinstating the signalling itself commenced initially at around the same time, but did not start in earnest until two years ago.

The new system, which uses traditional Great Western lower quadrant signals, will provide a number of distinct benefits, including enabling the railway to run a two-train service when required, provide more operating and commercial flexibility and further enhance the 'period look' of the station.

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◀ **The Dartmoor Railway's 4CEP DMBSO No. 61743 has entered passenger service on the line, after being repainted by the volunteer C&W team. The vehicle, originally part of Ramsgate-allocated EMU No. 1589, carries blue and grey livery. A matching TS No. 70508, which was part of unit No. 1595, is also being restored in the same livery to form a planned air-braked loco-hauled set. No. 61743 is currently being used with Mk1 Courier Coach No. 80225 and Class 08 No. 08937, due to the non-availability of Class 205 DEMU No. 1132 as a result of engine repairs. Passenger services run on weekends and Bank Holidays. The repainted coach heads the 16.00 departure to Meldon on 24th April. P. Wagstaff**

▼ **Both working 'Kings' were in action and on display at the Didcot Railway Centre on 23rd April. Here, BR blue-liveried No. 6023 *King Edward II* and BR green-liveried No. 6024 *King Edward I* stand side-by-side in front of the shed building. Phil Trotter**

DRS Class 47/4 No. 47810, which was named *Peter Bath MBE 1927-2006* **at Southampton Docks on 19th April, and classmate No. 47501** *Craftsman* **climb through Penyclawdd with Pathfinder's 05.51 Salisbury to Carlisle 'The Easter Highlander' charter on 22nd April. Phil Trotter**

Class 70 No. 70008 passes Rectory Junction as it approaches Radcliffe-on-Trent on the outskirts of Nottingham with a diverted 06.24 Crewe Basford Hall - Felixstowe intermodal service on 23rd April. **John Illingworth**

Class 73/1 No. 73138 leads the 10.10 Selhurst to Derby RTC test working past Wilmorton Bridge, on the outskirts of Derby, on 22nd April, with Class 31/6 No. 31602 on the rear. **John Illingworth**

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.

▼ **Despite rumours to the contrary, the appearance of 'Deltic' No. 55022 on the GBRf-operated Alcan flow has continued. Here, the loco approaches Freemans Level Crossing with the 10.50 Lynemouth - North Blyth working on 20th April. Fred Kerr**

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 Officces, 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

From the Wood Down Road bridge in Coulsdon on 23rd April, are Class 377/1 No. 377119, forming the 10.21 from London Victoria to Brighton, passing Class 377/4 No. 377452 leading the 10.00 from Horsham to London Bridge. Tony Callaghan

Magazine Information

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