Railway Herald

Issue 266 - 9th May 2011

The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 266
9th May 2011

Editor
Richard Tuplin

Contributing Editor
Brian Morrison

Railtour Editor
John Whitehouse

News Researcher
Bill Turvill

All editorial emails should be sent to the editor. To email a member of the team, send your message to firstname.surname@railwayherald.com

Publication
Railway Herald is published weekly, 47 times a year.

Submissions
We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at *editor@railwayherald.com*

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. There is currently no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

Website
Our website contains all back issues of the magazine and is available at **www.railwayherald.com**

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ISSN 1751-8091

Richard Tuplin

Tornado unveiled in BR Brunswick Green livery

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust officially showed off the new look to LNER A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* at the National Railway Museum on 9th May, when the locomotive took pride of place on the turntable in the Great Hall.

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East Coast named its first HST, since taking over the franchise, at Lincoln on 8th May, with No. 43208 becoming *Lincolnshire Echo*

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Front Cover Caption:

The sole surviving Class 17 'Clayton' No. D8568 approaches Keens Lane Crossing, Chinnor, with a service from Thame Junction on 20th April.
Gary Thomas

Extra services for Golf Championships

Southeastern has announced that it will be running special, direct high-speed services to take passengers to and from The Open Golf Championships at Royal St Georges.

The services to Sandwich will run between 14th-17th July and will almost halve the time of existing direct main line services, saving almost an hour on the journey. Peter Dawson, Chief Executive of The R&A, said: "Whenever The Open comes to Royal St Georges, we welcome a large number of enthusiastic spectators from London and the surrounding area. This new service brings The Open Championship closer to the Capital than ever before, and we hope that it will encourage more people to enjoy a day at golf's oldest Major."

The Class 395 'Javelins' will cut the journey time to 80 minutes, compared to the main line direct services that take 135 minutes. There will be two direct high-speed trains to Sandwich each hour during the morning from St Pancras International, and two services an hour back from lunchtime onwards. This will help transport many of the expected 180,000 spectators to the Championship throughout the four days.

There will also be an additional main line service each hour to Sandwich during this period providing four trains an hour via Canterbury or Dover. Additional early-morning trains from St Pancras will ensure that spectators can get to the course to see the first tee times.

New staff accommodation for NXEA Orient Way Facility

National Express East Anglia has opened new staff accommodation at Orient Way carriage sidings, which was developed to replace the former Thornton Fields location.

Opened in 2008, the facility, which provides NXEA with a carriage stabling and servicing close to London Liverpool Street, was established as a replacement for Thornton Fields following its closure as part of the Olympic Park development.

A £1 million brand new carriage washer has recently been opened and the completion of the £520,000 staff accommodation project provides up-to-date facilities for the servicing team.

▲ Class 321s Nos. 321321, 321327, 321448 and 321421 join Class 90 No. 90002 and Class 379 No. 379015 at Orient Way Carriage Sidings on 6th May.

▼◀ Mark Phillips, Operations Director for NXEA cuts the tape to officially open the new building.

▼ The new washing facility. **All: Brian Morrison**

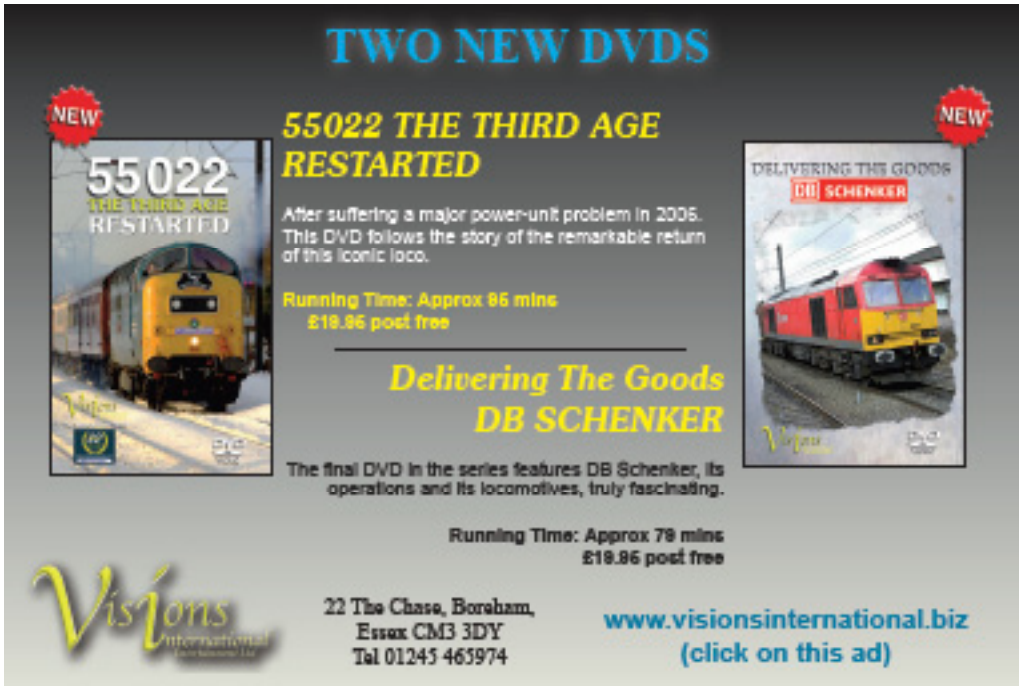
RAIB investigate culvert collapse at Bromsgrove

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) is carrying out an investigation into the partial failure on 6th April of a brick arch culvert carrying a stream under a four-track railway and three adjacent sidings, south of Bromsgrove station.

During an inspection of the line, an unusual dip was revealed in the track, and a speed restriction of 20mph was imposed on three of the four lines at the location. Shortly before 06.00 the following morning, divers inspected the culvert that passes under the line and discovered that the central (oldest) section of the culvert was in a poor condition. At this location the culvert is about 1.8 metres wide, 1 metre high and comprises a three-ring brick arch supported on brick abutments. The profile of the crown of the brick arch had become flattened and a 600 mm x 600 mm section of the arch had partially failed, allowing ballast to drop from the track bed above into the watercourse.

All four lines were blocked and services diverted. One line was re-opened to traffic at 08.28 and another at 17.00 that afternoon. Traffic was not restored on all four running lines until 8th April (with a speed restriction) once engineers had completed a temporary structure over the top of the failed arch to support the track bed. During this period many trains were diverted via Worcester, Droitwich Spa and Kidderminster, which caused significant disruption to both passenger and freight services.

The RAIB says that although no incident occurred involving a derailment, the partial failure of the structure meant that the consequences could have been worse, and as such the investigation will include a review of the inspection, maintenance and risk management of the structure and others of its type. Network Rail has been notified of the RAIB investigation.



Metro and Light Rail News

▲ A rare move took place on 6th May, when four cars of Central Line 1992 Tube Stock were transferred from Ruislip Depot to Ealing Common Depot, via Rayners Lane. Central Line stock is normally barred from all other LU lines because of various issues surrounding electronic/signal immunisation, so had to be propelled by four cars of 1962 Tube Stock, normally used for autumn leaf-clearing duties. The ensemble passes Sudbury Town on the Piccadilly Line. The vehicles, plus four others that moved the previous day, are to be used on the South Ealing test track over the coming week. **Kim Rennie**

Midland Metro tram damaged in accident

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch is carrying out an investigation into an incident when a tram, travelling towards Birmingham at around 40mph, struck a section of steel tubing, known as a cantilever tube, which had become partially detached from a post supporting overhead line equipment.

The incident, which occurred shortly after 13.00 on 20th April, caused severe damage to the tram's pantograph, the detachment or partial detachment of a number of other cantilever tubes and the consequent loss of support for the contact wires over a distance of about 200 metres.

The tram struck several of the detached cantilever tubes causing damage to the front and rear windscreens, side windows and doors. The vehicle came to a stand at the Jewellery Quarter tram stop, and all passengers and crew were able to exit onto the platform. It was then discovered that two adults and three children had suffered cuts due to broken glass. All required hospital treatment but were released following treatment. Repairs were carried out and the tramway between Soho Benson Road and Birmingham was re-opened with a partial service on 24th April.

The RAIB preliminary examination suggests that a component of the overhead line equipment failed prior to the approach of the tram. This failure caused a cantilever tube to become foul of the tram and/or its pantograph.

UK News In Brief

■ Hitachi Rail Europe, together with Durham County Council and Merchant Place Developments are hosting an open day on 26th May at the Xcel Centre, Newton Aycliffe, where more than 700 individuals representing over 400 companies will be given the opportunity to hear more about Hitachi's new 450,000sq ft purpose-built manufacturing plant to be built in the town. The companies will be the first to learn about the new business opportunities presented by the construction in the factory of the next generation of Hitachi Super Express trains, which will be used on the East Coast Main Line and the Paddington to South Wales main line. The deal with Hitachi, which was confirmed by Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond in March, will create 500 direct jobs by 2015.

■ Network Rail's devolved route structure for the Scotland and Wessex geographical operational units went live on 3rd May. The new units will transfer more power, responsibility and accountability to the regions.

■ Irish Rail is planning to install wind turbines in the car parks of six key stations by the end of the year. The turbines will take up one car parking space, and will reduce energy costs for the operator. Last year the Irish Rail energy bill was €29.2 million, down by €32 million from the previous year!

■ Automatic ticket barriers are to be installed at Anderston, Argyle Street, Charing Cross and Glasgow Central low and high level stations, as work on the £5.7 million project to cut fare dodging gets underway. Installation will be carried out at night and should be complete by late July.

■ Freightliner Intermodal has confirmed that it signed a new multi-year agreement with Maersk earlier this year for committed space for up to 190,000 intermodal boxes on its services from Felixstowe to destinations throughout the country. The company currently provides 21 daily services from the port.

■ Chiltern Railways is taking over operation of the Oxford to Bicester Town service from 22nd May, replacing the current operator First Great Western. The move is the first step to create a new London to Oxford, via Bicester, service, which is dependent upon a Transport and Works Act order being granted. The company has also restored two waiting rooms at Leamington Spa as part of a £395,000 upgrade at the station. The original 1930s wooden fittings have been restored, automatic doors fitted and toilets upgraded. The volunteer Friends group has funded reproduction GWR mirrors and a new hearth.

■ While answering a question in the House from St Albans MP Anne Main, the Secretary of State for Transport, Philip Hammond, revealed that Network Rail caused 58% of the delays to First Capital Connect (FCC) services. The figures cover the period between January 2010 and March 2011, and shows 28% of delays were down to FCC, while the remaining 13% were as a result of other operators.

LNWR takes over four DB Schenker Rail depots

Train maintenance specialist LNWR is set to grow its business after expanding operations to include four Axiom Rail depots transferred from DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd to Arriva's LNWR rail maintenance operations.

The transfer of the passenger train servicing and rolling stock maintenance depots at Bristol, Cambridge, Eastleigh, and Tyne Yard to the Crewe-based business gives it a combined turnover of £30 million with a 210 strong workforce.

Mark Knowles, Managing Director of LNWR, said: "Bringing the expertise in the five depots together will help us to grow our operations in the years ahead. By working as one company we can offer more to the industry. We have highly skilled people at all of our depots ready to deliver, and are already looking at how we can use our joint capacity to offer more overnight fuelling, repair and servicing, plus quality routine maintenance, as well as major refurbishment and overhaul work for train operators and rolling stock companies".

LNWR is working on plans to enhance facilities for staff at the sites and invest in new equipment and people to assist in future bids for more heavy maintenance and refurbishment work, in addition to its established train servicing activities.

The company was founded in 1996 and, following significant investment in its Crewe workshops, has become a leading servicing facility for modern electric and diesel units. It services one of the most diverse fleets of trains in the country, and is one of the largest depots and stabling facilities on the West Coast Main Line. The four former Axiom Rail depots, which transferred to LNWR on 21st April, primarily maintain and fuel CrossCountry's Voyager and Class 170 fleets. They also carry out maintenance and servicing programmes for Riviera Trains and some light maintenance work for DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd on wagons and locomotives.

▲ Refurbished Chiltern Railways 'bubblecar' No. W55034 stands on Aylesbury on 5th May. **Paul Goodwin**

◀ Chiltern Railways other passenger 'bubblecar' No. W55020 stands on Aylesbury on 22nd April, alongside the remains of a now scrapped 'bubblecar'. **Alan Wallwork**

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Class 380 investment cost was incorrectly reported by Transport Scotland

Transport Scotland has told *The Herald* **newspaper in Scotland, that the cost of leasing the new Siemens-built Class 380s has doubled, as original figures were low.**

The Government agency is due to pay £430 million for the 38 trains, and insisted that the cost of the order had not increased, but that incorrect figures were used when announcing the investment.

According to the newspaper, the discrepancy came to light earlier this year after ScotRail publicly referred to £430 million investment in the '380' fleet, prompting a complaint to the Advertising Standards Agency by Bill Forbes, a rail campaigner, that was later rejected as the claims were found to be accurate.

Four-year extension to Harsco deal for GBRf

GB Railfreight has secured an extension to its contract with Harsco Rail Limited for a further four years.

Under the agreement, GBRf will continue to provide qualified train drivers for route conductor services, predominantly in the South and East of England but also in other areas, for Harsco's rail-grinding operations. Harsco currently operates four switch and crossing rail grinders under a contract with Network Rail, in addition to its own machine.

Auction of pre-war posters

Five pre-war railway posters depicting Scarborough and Bridlington will be sold at a Christies auction on 12th May.

Each poster is 50 inches wide and was produced for the London and North Eastern Railway between 1924 and 1935. The oldest dating from 1924 shows Scarborough Castle, while another, of a couple in a speedboat named *The Queen* was produced in 1930 and that could sell for between £1,500 and £2,000.

However, the most valuable is expected to be a 1932 Bridlington poster created by Tom Purvis, and is valued at between £2,000 and £3,000.

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▲ The rare sight of a DEMU on the Londonderry line is observed on 28th April, as No. 453 enters Castlerock with the 13.10 from Londonderry. The outbound working from Belfast having been diverted to Portrush.

▼ NIR Unit No 459 failed at Belfast Great Victoria Street on 30th April, prior to working to Carrick. It was removed to York Road Depot by classmate No 452, seen here crossing Dargan Bridge. Both: Chris Playfair

The Irish Angle

▲ Having undergone a major overhaul at Eastleigh Works, Class 33/0 No. 33012 undertook a test run from Eastleigh to Bournemouth T&RSMD on 5th May, with Class 73s Nos. 73136 and 73205 in tow. On arrival at Bournemouth, the entourage collected 3CIG No. 1498 and the '33' worked the train to Swanage, in preparation for the diesel gala weekend. Here, the first leg to Bournemouth passes Beaulieu Road.

▼ The second convoy was worked by WCR Class 57/6 No. 57601 from Kidderminster to Swanage, hauling Class 56/3 No. 56301, Class 37/5 No. 37503, Class 55 No. 55009 and Class 52 No. D1062. **Both: Simon Skidmore**

East Coast names Class 43 powercar after Lincolnshire newspaper

▲ East Coast named Class 43 powercar No. 43208 *Lincolnshire Echo* at Lincoln on 8th May, as the first part of its marketing drive to promote the new daily service to London King's Cross that commences with the start of the new timetable on 22nd May. The naming was performed by John Barn, the current editor of the Lincolnshire Echo newspaper, pictured with Karen Boswell, EC Managing Director. **Richard Tuplin**

▼ After apparently suffering problems in the Didcot area the previous day, Class 70 No. 70009 stands over the Inspection pit at Southampton Maritime Freightliner Depot in the early hours of 29th April. **Jason Norris**

St Pancras Hotel officially reopens, 76 years after it closed

▲ The grand exterior of the former Midland Railway hotel, now the Renaissance St Pancras Hotel, clearly shows its historic origins. After an external refurbishment in the 1990s, the internal renovation has cost £100 million. Guests were welcomed from 21st March, but the hotel had its official Grand Opening on 5th May, 138 years after its first opening.

▶ The long-term renovation of the hotel has restored many of its features, including the grand staircase, pictured here. Opened in 1873, the Midland Hotel originally provided 300 rooms. Today's new-look building provides 67 apartments on the upper levels and 244 hotel bedrooms on the lower floors, along with two restaurants and meeting rooms! **All: Brian Morrison**

New Borough High Street bridge in place

A new rail bridge was successfully moved into place over Borough High Street at London Bridge during the Bank Holiday weekend. The bridge will play a vital role in increasing capacity, reducing delays and providing better connections for the 50 million passengers who travel through the station every year.

The uniquely designed bridge is 72-metres long, six-metres high and weighs 1,200 tonnes. Work started in the early hours of 30th April, and the road was re-opened to traffic by 05.00 on 3rd May, during which time, the bridge travelled an average of 7mm per second, before being lowered into place.

The bridge is part of the 507-metre-long Borough Viaduct which runs above the highly built up Borough Market area. Finding space for such rail infrastructure in a densely built up urban area has been a challenge, and in some places it is not more than 16cm away from existing buildings. The viaduct is nestled in between listed buildings, its foundations are strategically located to avoid London Underground tunnels, and the popular Borough Market has been partly relocated during the works. The Borough viaduct will rejoin the existing railway just outside London Bridge station. To build the southern stretch of the viaduct, some of the arches on the station approach will need to be remodelled, but by 2018 the new viaduct will link into a redeveloped London Bridge station

▼ The refurbished Staythorpe Signal Box on the Nottingham to Newark Castle line seen on 30th April. Located at the Newark end of the route, it retains all mechanical semaphores, including two heavy pulls for the two distant signals. Still in situ but clipped and padlocked out of use are the connections into the 'down' reception sidings. There has been talk of these sidings being brought back into use for delivery of oil to the new Staythorpe Power Station, but as yet nothing has transpired. **John Illingworth**

The News In Pictures

◀ West Coast Railway Company utilised one of its Class 33s on 28th April, to power a Carnforth to Southall stock move. Class 33/2 No. 33207 *Jim Martin* is pictured powering through Cheddington. **Alan Wallwork**

◀▼ Previously operated by DRS, Class 66/4 No. 66405 has now been repainted in to GBRf colours and renumbered as Class 66/7 No. 66737. The locomotive was used on a private charter on 7th May, seen here passing Melton Mowbray, with the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust's superbly restored LMS saloon in tow. The locomotive was named *Lesia*, after GBRf Managing Director John Smith's wife, prior to departing Wellingborough. The charter headed to Oakham, before the '66' and saloon continued ECS to Peterborough, prior to returning via the same route later in the afternoon. **John Whitehouse**

▼ One of the GB Railfreight Class 73 fleet has been repainted into a heritage livery at St. Leonards Depot. Class 73/2 No. 73205 *Jeanette* is pictured in the Intercity Mainline colour scheme after being outshopped on 28th April. The locomotive was due to make an appearance at the Swanage Railway's diesel gala weekend. **Andy Armitage**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

9th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	61994	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Mallaig & return
Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Glasgow Central-Preston-Manchester (tbc)- Birmingham (tbc)- Oxford-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks
10th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	61994 & 45231	Fort William-Crianlarich-Dumbarton Central-Coatbridge
	46115	Coatbridge-Carstairs-Beattock-Carlisle-Oxenholme (for Windermere)
11th May 2011		
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Rugby-Coventry-Wolverhampton-Shap-Beattock-Mossend-Cumbernauld-Dalmeny-Forth Bridge-Tay Bridge-Dundee-Dundee-Perth-Mossend and return as outwards
12th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	45407 & 44871	Carnforth-Chester-Shrewsbury-Llandrindod Wells-Llanelli-Carmarthen
Railway Touring Co.	4494	York-Leeds-Doncaster-Sheffield-Derby-Water Orton-Tyseley-Shirley-Henley in Arden-Stratford upon Avon and return
13th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	44871 & 45407	Carmarthen-Severn Tunnel-Chipping Sodbury-Swindon-Reading-London Victoria
	70013	London Victoria-Canterbury West-Minster
Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Holyhead-Chester-Shap-Beattock-Mossend-Forth Bridge-Tay Bridge-Dundee-Perth-Mossend-Beattock-Shap-Chester-Holyhead
Steam Dreams	70013	London Victoria-Minster-Dover Priory-Ashford-Bromley South-London Victoria
14th May 2011		
Statesman Rail	tbc	Swindon-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham NS-Crewe-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle and rtn
Railway Touring Co.	48151	Manchester Victoria-Warrington BQ-Crewe-Shrewsbury-Craven Arms-Llandrindod Wells-Pantyffynnon-Swansea District Line-Newport(-Shrewsbury and return)
Railway Touring Co.	30777	London Victoria-Woking-Southampton-Wareham-Swanage and return
UK Railtours	EMT HST	London St. Pancras-Kettering-Leicester-Melton Mowbray-Peterborough-March-Ely-Thetford-Wymondham -Dereham (MNR)-Wymondham-Norwich and return
SRPS Railtours	61994 & 45231	Polmont-Falkirk High-Helensburgh Upper-Crianlarich-Rannoch-Fort William & rtn
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Battle-Tonbridge-Kensington Olympia-Aylesbury-Quainton Rd and return
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Quainton Road-Claydon Jct-Quainton Road (twice)
16th May 2011		
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return
17th May 2011		
Pathfinder Tours	71000	(Sheffield-Doncaster-)York-Newcastle-Edinburgh Waverley and return
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return
18th May 2011		
Rail-Blue Charters	tbc	Skegness-Nottingham-Shap-Carlisle and return **Postponed**
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return
19th May 2011		
Steam Dreams	86259 & 46115	(London Euston-)Preston-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-Preston(-Euston)
UK Railtours	71000	(London KX-)York-Leeds-Hellifield-S&C-(Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York-KX)
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and 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.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
RED Tours cancelled 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

There is a pleasing variety of tours to look forward to over the coming week, with steam, modern and heritage traction all featuring.

Two contrasting tours headline, one of which is another outing for the very popular Hastings DEMU. On 14th May it heads for 'Metroland' from Hastings and the usual pick-up points with options to visit Beaconsfield or Aylesbury en route, but the main destination for the 'Metrolander' is Quainton Road for the Buckinghamshire Railway Museum. Allied to which the DEMU will also form two shuttles from Quainton Road, departing at 11.35 & 14.00, to Claydon LNE Junction, via Calvert.

The other features an East Midlands Trains HST from St Pancras to the Mid-Norfolk Railway for their Drags and Rescues Gala, and all proceeds will be donated to the Railway Children charity. Outwards, the train is routed via Leicester, Peterborough, March, Ely and Thetford to Wymondham, while a short break will be taken at Norwich (a unique location for HSTs) on the return. UK Railtours is taking the bookings and EMT providing the HST free of charge.

During this week Steam Dreams' 'Cathedrals Explorer' will be in operation, and a by-product is an extra SRPS working from Polmont to Fort William to reposition 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* and 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45231 *Sherwood Forester* back to 'The Fort' for commencement of the West Coast's 'Jacobite' season on Monday 16th May, after the various 'Explorer' turns.

The Railway Touring Company has two workings on offer, commencing on 12th May with the 'William Shakespeare', which unsurprisingly ends up at Stratford-upon-Avon. Due to the situation with Britannia (see separate report) it is believed that 'A4' Pacific No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* will now haul this train and will be re-routed from York to Doncaster and then Sheffield, not using the Harrogate Circle. This is followed on 14th May with the first 'Sussex Belle' of the year, featuring 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* or No 34067 *Tangmere* from Victoria to Swanage and return.

Compass Railtours' 'North Wales Scotsman' goes to Dundee from Holyhead on 13th May, taking in both Forth and Tay Bridges en route, while next day Statesman head for Carlisle from Kemble, working over the Settle & Carlisle in both directions.

▼ **LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **heads north through Scrooby, with the 09.24 London King's Cross-York 'Cathedrals Express' charter on 29th April. Steven Craig**

About to enter Ferryside station on 30th April, are DRS Class 37s Nos. 37688 *Kingmoor TMD* **and 37194, with a returning Spitfire Tours excursion. BR large logo-liveried Class 47/4 No. 47580** *County of Essex* **was attached to the rear of the train. The charter, the 17.25 Carmarthen to Preston, was almost on time at this point, and according to the photographer sounded wonderful as the '37s' powered northwards with 13-coaches and a Class 47 in tow! Stuart Warr**

Plenty of variety in Pathfinder Tours summer charter programme

Pathfinder's summer programme due to be announced on 9th May features two notable tours featuring Class 20s.

Both happen within two of weeks of each other, with perhaps the main working being on Friday 26th August from Crewe to the Dartmouth Royal Regatta, which will take a pair of DRS Class 20s throughout to the Paignton & Dartmouth's terminus at Kingswear. The train will take the Kidderminster route around the West Midlands. The second working involves privately owned examples, Nos. 20142 & 20189, which will work a mini-tour add-on to Pathfinders DBS Class 66-hauled main Swindon to York working on 13th August. The Class 20s will work a circular tour from York, which involves traversing the Pennines, outwards via the Calder Valley, and returning over the Standedge route.

English Electric traction at the other end of the scale features on 3rd September, when Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* works throughout from Crewe to Weymouth, which may be the first charter train over the Cotswolds Line for a good while, following the completion of the project to reinstate double track sections at strategic locations to increase line capacity. To complete a circular tour, after working south via Oxford and Basingstoke, it will return by way of Yeovil and Westbury to rejoin the outward route at Norton Junction.

There is one new steam tour to mention, booked for August Bank Holiday Monday 29th August, which has No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* from Bristol TM to Carmarthen, on a tour that originates at Dorridge and picks up via Oxford and Swindon.

If August is a month for the enthusiast, then July has some classic getaways to please everyone, commencing on 9th July with an outing from Swindon and stations via Cheltenham Spa and the West Midlands to York, Durham, Newcastle, Alnmouth and Berwick-upon-Tweed, followed a week later with a trip from Eastleigh and stations through to Nuneaton, to Carlisle for the DRS Open Day, as well as other off-train options from Oxenholme and Penrith.

The remaining tour is something of a land cruise, from Cardiff and stations via Cheltenham Spa and Birmingham to Carlisle, outwards around the Cumbrian Coast and back over Shap. Pairs of DBS Class 67s should feature, except for the DRS Open day working, which has still to be confirmed.

Looking further ahead, those interested in a through trip between Blaenau Ffestiniog and Caernarfon should keep 31st October free, as Pathfinder will be providing the opportunity. Its train starts at Bristol Temple Meads and picks up via Birmingham, and will set down at both Llandudno Junction and Bangor to join either Ffestiniog or Welsh Highland trains for a through journey. Full details of pick-up and set-down points as well as route information is available on our website railtour listings.

Meanwhile, Pathfinder will now have the honour of working the first charter train with No. 60163 *Tornado* in BR Brunswick green livery on its 18th June 'Canterbury Tornado', which originates at Poole and will be steam-hauled from Willesden to Canterbury West and back. Earlier, as 'West Country' No. 34046 *Braunton* is not yet available for main line work, No. 70000 *Britannia* has been booked for the 28th May 'Pompey Pacific' which is steam-hauled throughout from Bishops Lydeard.

Ups & Downs

■ Unconfirmed reports indicate that there will be a private charter on 15th May in connection with the official reopening of the Renaissance Hotel at St Pancras. If correct, the route will be from St Pancras to Canterbury, and then back to Kensington Olympia, with No. 34067 *Tangmere* the nominated traction. If subsequently confirmed it will appear in our website listings.

■ It seems likely that No. 70000 *Britannia* will be sidelined for between two to three weeks for remedial work to be undertaken on the right-hand side cross-head and bearings. The white metal on the crosshead has been replaced by the West Somerset Railway's works at Williton, while attention is now being concentrated on a big-end bearing that was found to be 'warm' after the locomotive's stint on Steam Dreams' recent working to Stratford-upon-Avon. It has not deemed to have failed, but is considered not fit for purpose and is being replaced. An issue with the valves has been attributed to a lubrication problem, which has been dealt with by the use of a different grade of oil. As the locomotive is still fresh from overhaul, a team from LNWR at Crewe will be taking a look at the issues over the coming days. Additionally LNER Gresley A4 Class Pacific No. 60019 Bittern, which is currently masquerading in LNER Garter blue liver as long-lost classmate No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* is expected to haul the Railway Touring Company's 'William Shakespeare' on 12th May. *Britannia* is expected to return to main line duties on 30th May, covering for the unavailable West Country Pacific No. 34046 *Braunton* on Pathfinder's 'Pompey Pacific'.

Cathedrals Explorer problems : the cavalry is on its way!

An embattled Graeme Bunker remained in good spirits on Sunday morning, despite the problems which have beset Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Explorer' since it set off from Kensington Olympia early on Friday morning.

He had already dealt with the late loss of No. 70000 *Britannia* prior to departure with Black 5 No. 45305 covering the opening leg around Kent, thus releasing No. 34067 *Tangmere* to move north to cover the key Carlisle to Stirling leg on 7th May. However, as No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* powered north from Victoria to York came the news that both the S&C and the Glasgow and South Western legs would have to be diesel hauled due to the risk of fire following the prolonged drought in those areas.

To compound matters further, as the pair of WCR Class 37s worked the York-Carlisle-Stirling turn, LMS 'Black 5' No. 45231 sustained a tender hot box, between Penrith and Carlisle, while on its positioning move to Stirling.

With the crisis mounting, drastic action was needed: call Riley's International Rescue! So, the latest plan is for No. 44871 to run from Grosmont to Fort William on Monday 9th May, double-head the 'CE' south to Coatbridge on Tuesday with No. 61994 *The Great Marquess*, and then on 11th May run light to Carnforth to join up with stablemate No. 45407 ready to take the 'CE' south to Carmarthen on 12th May.

Meanwhile, as this is being written, K4 No. 61994 and WCR Class 37 No. 37676 are shattering the peace on the West Highland as they double-head the move from Stirling to Fort William. The final update being that No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* is due to move north on 9th May to relieve the K4 & 'Black 5' at Coatbridge on Tuesday's southbound move from Fort William to Oxenholme.

Garter Blue 'A4' steps in for *Tornado*

Without doubt one of the highlights of the 2011 main line steam season has been the relaunch of 'A4' No. 60019 *Bittern* **in the guise of LNER No. 4492** *Dominion of New Zealand*, **in garter blue livery.**

The loco will now deputise for the unavailable 'A1' No. 60163 *Tornado* on the three WCR operated Steam Dreams workings on 26th May to Bath and Bristol, 4th June to York and 11th June to Hereford, Ludlow and Shrewsbury. The 'A4' is also working for Steam Dreams' to Bath and Bristol on 23rd June, Minehead on 2nd July, Cambridge and Ely on 14th July and York on 21st July.

STOP PRESS : 'Princess Royal' Line Up

The two preserved 'Princess Royal' locos will be on display at The West Shed on 14th May.

The opportunity, which will have a small fee of £3, will be the unique chance to photograph No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* (making a short visit) and No. 46203 *Princess Margaret Rose* side-by-side. Further details can be found at www.prclt.co.uk

▼ **LMS Stanier Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **powers the 'Cathedrals Express' from King's Cross to York on the approach to Harringay on 28th April. Brian Morrison**

Hoovers to Edinburgh and a 'Deltic' to Fort William from Spitfire this summer!

'The end of the line' could be a by-line for two new tours from Spitfire Railtours, as it has plans for Aberystwyth on 16th July and Fort William on 10th August.

Throw in an Edinburgh and Fife Circle add-on, and the mix, with all these tours having English Electric traction, becomes interesting! The 'Cambrian Coast Express' on 16th July runs from London Euston, recreating those halcyon days of holiday trains from the Capital to the Cambrian Coast. The train is booked for a pair of DRS Class 37s to Shrewsbury, but at present what will take the train forward to Aberystwyth is still to be confirmed due to the complications caused by ERTMS. Note also, that the company is operating positioning trains on Friday 15th July from Preston to Euston, via the Trent Valley, and back to Preston on Sunday 17th July from Paddington, via Tame Bridge Parkway. Spitfire also advise that the positioning special on 15th July is not connected with that evenings redated 'Route n' Branch' tour, which will use West Coast's green set and West Coast Class 37's.

If you fancy a long day out with a 'Deltic', then Wednesday 10th August is for you, with Crewe to Fort William and back with No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* no doubt ticking a few boxes! An early start from Crewe, picking up through to Motherwell and then over the West Highland Line for about 90 minutes in 'The Fort' returning as outwards for a near midnight arrival at Crewe.

Three days later, Edinburgh is the destination with a pair of Class 50s from Preston, routed across the Pennines via Diggle to York and then East Coast Main Line to Waverley. A Fife Circle add-on adds some spice, but these will not be the first 'Hoovers' over the Forth Bridge, as that honour probably fell to Nos. 50031 & 50049 on 6th March 2005 on Pathfinder's re-routed 'Monarch of the Glen' tour. Spitfire says that the traction this time will be Nos. 50044 *Exeter* and 50049 *Defiance*. Additionally, the 'Salopian Viking' on 28th May heads for York from Birmingham International, picking up via Shrewsbury and Crewe with a pair of DRS Class 37s, which also has 'The Growling Geordie III' add-on to Newcastle, via Eaglescliffe and Stockton. 'The Riviera Rat II' on 9th July is a stand-alone add-on to the 'Deltic'-hauled 'Devonian' tour from Doncaster to Paignton, and will feature the Paignton & Dartmouth Railway's Class 25 No. D7535 *Mercury* on two round trips between Paignton and Kingswear. These two workings will operate irrespective of whether or not the timings dovetail with those of 'The Devonian'.

▼ Compass Railtours ran its first charter from Southport on 2nd May, when the terminus saw the first public loco-hauled passenger working for over two years. The train was operated in 'top and tail' mode with Class 47 No. 47270 *Swift* leading and classmate No. 47580 *County of Essex* on the rear. The charter curves out of Southport, en route to Carlisle via Manchester, Copy Pit, Blackburn and the Settle & Carlisle route. Fred Kerr

Hoping to raise cash!

The Train of Hope charitable appeal is now beginning to pick up steam, with a number of key fundraising activities up and running.

The first of several on-line auctions has been introduced, which has an aeronautical theme with conducted visits to RAF bases among the items on offer. The auction is being conducted through eBay, and the access code is 'trainofhope2011' to participate. Raffle tickets, with top prizes including trips to the USA and aboard the VSOE British Pullman are now also on sale at £2 each, and can be purchased directly from the organisers.

Also taking place is the auction of an original painting by John Cowley GRA depicting children being evacuated through Crewe station, featuring a Midland Compound 4-4-0. A limited number of prints will also be available in due course.

Tickets for the main fund-raiser, the 'Train of Hope' on 1st October, hauled by No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* from Crewe to Carlisle, outwards over Shap and returning by way of the S&C, are now on sale. Funds are being raised to support the children's cancer charity CLIC Sargent, and full details of both this and the events mentioned are available by clicking here.

Sarah Siddons on the Met

The London Transport Museum will be running special trains in conjunction with the Rickmansworth Festival on 22nd May.

The trips will feature the electric locomotive No.12 *Sarah Siddons* and the iconic preserved 1938 Tube Stock. *Sarah Siddons* will be working with Mk1 coaching stock and in 'top and tail' mode with a Class 20 locomotive, probably No. 20189 or No. 20227. The two separate trains will be operating between Harrow-on-the-Hill, Watford, Rickmansworth and Amersham throughout the day, and the full operating timetable and fares can be obtained from www.ltmuseum.co.uk.

As a bonus, the friends of the London Transport Museum will be running a free bus service between Rickmansworth station and the Festival site, which will include the use of their classic Route Master Bus RM1.

Crowds throng around LMS 'Black 5' No. 45305 and BR Standard 7P No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* at Penzance on 30th April. The locos were preparing to work the return leg of 'The Royal Duchy' charter.
Craig Munday (taken with authorisation)

A rare shot of a loco-hauled service leaving the northern exit to Central Rivers Depot. Class 66/0s Nos. 66157 and 66119 pass at Barton North Junction on 24th April with the Branch Line Society's 'Another Trent Explorer' charter. **John Tuffs**

DRS Class 47/4s Nos. 47832 *Solway Princess* **and 47501** *Craftsman* **pass Lea Marston on 30th April, with an Southampton to Edinburgh 'Cruise Liner Special' working. Of note is the promotional livery on the BSO vehicle. John Whitehouse**

May Madness at...

The Mid-Norfolk Railway

MNR

May 14/15
Drags and Rescues

DMUs, EMUs, HST and blue/grey coaches being rescued and dragged

Visiting HST courtesy of East Midlands Trains

EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS

British Rail Blue 86101 with blue/grey Mk2 coaches

Courtesy of Electric Traction Ltd.

All available locomotives in traffic. HST visiting Saturday.

SOUTHERN WEEKEND

May 21/22

Featuring 50019 'Ramillies', 73210 'Selhurst' 3-CIG 1497 'Freshwater' and visiting 73109

Vintage buses RF626 and RT3902, entering public service for the first time since 1971

1497 will be renamed on Saturday and was withdrawn from BR service a year on Sunday

73109 courtesy of Transmart Rail Company

Visit www.mnr.org.uk or call 01362 871523

Dereham Station, Station Road, Dereham, Norfolk, NR19 1DF

Tornado shown off to covenanters in Brunswick Green

Prior to its return to full operational condition in late May, LNER A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* took pride of place in the NRMs Great Hall on 9th May.

The locomotive has now been reunited with its boiler, after repairs in Germany, and the majority of its winter maintenance has been completed. All attention is now focused on final preparations for its 'light engine' and main line test runs, which are in the process of being organised for mid-May.

The locomotive will carry Brunswick green livery for approximately 18 months. It will continue to be operated by DB Schenker on the main line, and the diary for the early part of the year is currently being reworked, although it is now known that *Tornado* will make an appearance on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway from 25th May to 5th June- details next issue.

▲ *Tornado* **takes pride of place at the NRM on 9th May.**

▶ **The early BR emblem on the tender, which will likely be changed to the later version around Christmas. Both: Richard Tuplin**

Preservation News In Brief

■ The LMS-Patriot Project has been offered spare motion parts from 'Jubilees' Nos. 45562 *Alberta* and 45697 *Achilles*, which have been in storage since the two locos were scrapped in the 1960s. The parts will be acquired if sufficient funds can be raised to purchase them. The items made available by 'Jubilee' owners including 7029 Clun Castle Ltd., include one outside connecting rod, a set of coupling rods, outside radius rods, combination levers, crossheads, drop links and union links. These parts are identical to 'Patriot' motion parts and will save the Project a considerable amount of money compared to making entirely new parts. The LMS-Patriot Project needs to raise around £50,000 to acquire and refurbish the parts, and thanks Bob and Alistair Meanley and Michael Whitehouse at Tyseley Loco Works, for their assistance. Details on making donations can be found online at www.lms-patriot.org.uk.

■ The WSR diesel diagram (11.45 and 15.05 from Bishops Lydeard and 13.15 and 17.35 return workings) will be in operation on 15th July (D7017), 16th July (D832), 22nd July (D1010), 23rd July (D832), 29th July (D1661), 30th July (D6566), 5th August (D1010), 6th August (D7017), 12th August (D1661), 13th August (D6566), 19th August (D7017), 20th and 26th August (D1010), and 27th August (D832). The mid-week 'Quantock Belle' dining train will be worked by Class 14 No. D9526 on 8th and 22nd June and 6th July.

▲ **The new overall roof at Pickering was recently completed, returning the station to its original Victorian condition. The work, which has been funded by a Heritage Lottery Fund grant, with additional support from Yorkshire Forward and public donations, has cost £1.6 million, and has also created a new two-storey education centre at the station. LMS 'Black 5' No. 45428** *Eric Treacy* **arrives at Pickering, underneath the new roof, which is covered with more than 8,000 welsh roof slates. Philip Benham**

Spa Valley hosts the 'Eridge Executioner' diesel day

For heritage traction enthusiasts, what could be better than an entire day out sampling the now extended Spa Valley Line between Tunbridge Wells West and Eridge with Class 37 & 33 haulage?

The answer is exactly that, with an entire day of operations with Nos. 37254 and 33063, and on Friday 24th June with nine departures from Tunbridge Wells West between 09.10 in the morning until 19.35 in the evening. The Class 37 will be on 'the hill climbing end' of 'The Eridge Executioner', that is facing towards Tunbridge Wells West, and all day Rover Tickets will cost a bargain £10, which will be available on the day.

Bar Car *Kate* will be included in the consist for serving real ale, together with other drinks and light refreshments. Proceeds of funds raised on the day, which is being organised by 37254 Fund members John Waddington and Daniel Jenner, will be split between the Spa Valley Railway and the 37254 Fund (to help fund a bogie overhaul and future body work repairs and a repaint).

A full timetable for the day is available at www.37254.co.uk

Appeal for platform upgrade and reinstatement of the canopy at Leyburn

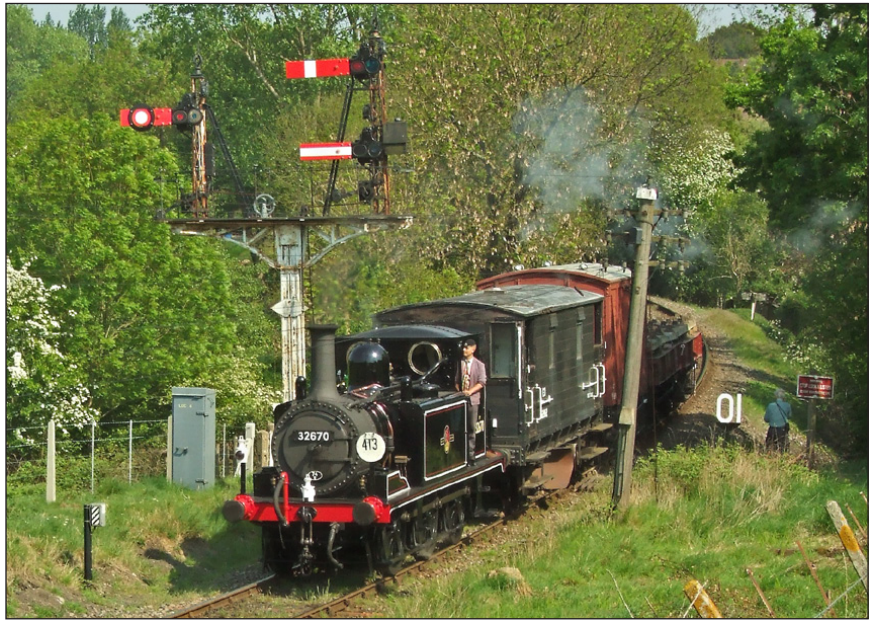
The Friends of Leyburn Station have launched an appeal to raise funds for the resurfacing of Leyburn Station platform, and ultimately the reinstatement of the canopy to provide much needed dry shelter in bad weather.

Phase I, which the Friends aim to complete by the end of this year, will involve removal of the existing loose chip topping material, new drainage, realignment of the platform edge tactile paving and the laying of a substantial amount of blacktop by specialist contractors. Completion of the scheme will greatly enhance the facilities for all who use the station. Estimates for this initial stage of work have been obtained, and suggest that including an allowance for unforeseen complications, a figure of £8,500 is a realistic target.

Since operating the premises on behalf of Wensleydale Railway plc, the Friends have self-financed the great majority of improvements at the station, but the scale of this project is such that a helping hand is required, particularly if Phase II (the canopy) is to become a reality.

Donations to the Leyburn Station Platform Fund may be made online at http://www.wensleydalerailwayassociation.com or by post to Leyburn Station Platform Fund, Leyburn Station, Harmby Road, Leyburn DL8 5ET, Please make cheques payable to Wensleydale Railway Association – Leyburn Branch.

▼ **LB&SCR 'Terrier' No. 32670** *Bodiam* **drifts town Tenterden Bank, shortly after departure from Tenterden Town, with a freight for Wittersham Road during the Steam Gala at the Kent and East Sussex Railway on 30th April. Ashley Smith**



◀ Class 33/0 No. 33063 *R J Mitchell* awaits departure time at Eridge on 30th April, prior to leaving with a mid-afternoon service to Tunbrige Wells West on the Spa Valley Railway. **Phil Beard**

◀▼ In an unusual colour scheme, undercoat green, Class 37/4 No. 37421 approaches Furnace Sidings with a service from Blaenavon High Level to Whistle Stop on 2nd May. The railway has applied to the local council for planning permission to build a new station and ticket office at Big Pit. The track is already laid and it is hoped to be operational by September this year. **Phil Bidwell**

▼ On the Derwent Valley Light Railway, Class 03 No. 03079 is pictured awaiting its next working from Murton Park on 1st May. The railway here forms part of the Yorkshire Museum of Farming and is located on the north-eastern side of York. **Paul Colbeck**

Duchess back for early 2012?

The overhaul of No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **is proceeding at a pace, which if continued, and subject to any unforeseen problems, could mean that it will be ready for a main line return by the spring of next year.**

The main driving wheels are due to be reunited with the frame next week, while the work on the boiler, which is currently focused on the top feed, is hoped to be completed by August. This means that reassembly could be well advanced by the end of this year.

Meanwhile, voting in 'The Race for the Livery' continues with the current position showing crimson lake remaining in the lead with 727 votes, followed by Brunswick green and BR blue hotly contesting second place with 625 and 583 votes respectively, while Ivatt black has all but given up with just 67 votes. Of course, the good news amid the clamour for votes is that the cost of the repaint (whichever it may be) has already been virtually secured. Speculation is rife as to what the result would be if the 'alternative voting' system was adopted following last weeks referendum?

Turning back time

▶ An idyllic scene on the Midland Railway - Butterley on 29th April, as the resident LMS 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47324 heads across the reservoir at Butterley with a short vintage train from Hammersmith. The vintage train runs again on 27th-29th August, while before then on 21st/22nd May, the railway holds its annual diesel gala weekend

Michael Stokeley

KEIGHLEY & WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY

DIESEL GALA WEEKEND

WORTH VALLEY 20th, 21st and 22nd May 2011 WORTH VALLEY

A variety of diesel traction operating on the branch, including:
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HNRC '20' and DRS '37' for North Norfolk diesel gala

The North Norfolk Railway will be operating a diesel gala this year, the first for a while, which is due to take place over the weekend of 25th/26th June.

The star of the event will be the appearance of HNRC's latest acquisition, Class 20 No. 20118, which arrived at Sheringham, via the level crossing in late April for a three-month stay.

To complete a strong line up, the Class 20 will be joined by the recently refurbished Class 101 DMU, Class 25 No. 25057, Class 37 No. D6737 and Class 47 No. 47367. It is also planned for a DRS Class 37 to feature in the gala. In the NNR's own words, 'adding a quirky touch' will be the use of its unique Leyland Railbus LEV1, which was originally tested in East Anglia.

NNR Managing Director, Hugh Harkett, commented: "We hope for renewed success with this gala, in which case it will again become a regular event".

Full details are available from www.nnrailway.co.uk, or telephone 01263 820800. As a guide, all day hop-on, hop-off fares are £16 adult, £15 senior citizen, £10 child or a family ticket will cost £45. Note also, there is a 15% discount on all advance bookings made prior to 17th June.

MHR 'Bubblecar' becomes permanent GW-R resident

▼ **Having arrived from the Mid Hants Railway on 27th April, following its purchase by the newly formed Cotswold Diesel Railcar Ltd for operation on the GW-R, Class 122 'Bubblecar' No. W55003 departs with its first public GW-R working on 28th April, the 16:00 Toddington-Hailes-Laverton-Toddington service. Peter Smith**

▲ **ACLGs Class 86/1 No. 86101** *Sir William A Stanier* **approaches Lichfield Trent Valley on 6th May, with Rail-Blue Charters' 'West Coast Premier II' excursion from Watford to Edinburgh excursion. John Whitehouse**

Planned failures for Mid-Norfolk gala

The Mid-Norfolk Railway's 'Drags and Rescues' weekend will take place over 14th/15th May, when visitors can expect a high failure rate of the scheduled motive power. However, the good news is that it is all planned, hopefully, and if something amiss does happen then there will be the resources available to deal with it!

A feature of 14th May will also be the visit of an East Midlands Trains HST (see also Railtour Spotlight) which will travel along the branch to Dereham, and is expected to 'fail' at some point and be rescued by a conveniently positioned 'Hoover', namely the MNR's resident Class 50 No. 50019 *Ramilles*.

The big news is the arrival of Class 86 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier*, which will be joined by South West Trains-liveried Class 73/1 No. 73109 *Battle of Britain 50th Anniversary*. The Class 86 is expected to drag the Class 73/1 to Norwich, where they will reverse, with the Class 73/1 then dragging the 'Sparkie' to the MNR at Wymondham. Both locomotives will feature during the two-day gala with several 'drags' lined up for No. 86101, which will be paired with the MNR's rake of Mk2 blue & grey liveried coaches. It is understood that the '86' will be returning to Willesden soon after the gala, while the '73' will remain for the following week's 'South London Gala' (details in the next issue).

The home fleet will also be heavily involved, with Rail blue-liveried Type 1 No. D8069 and Class 31/4 No. 31438 being joined by 'Dutch' liveried Class 37 No. 37003, Mainline-liveried Class 37 No. 37219, InterCity-liveried Class 73/2 No. 73210 and, of course, No. 50019 in large logo. The South West Trains 3CIG No. 1497 is also expected to put in an appearance, but its use will be limited in view of the following weekend's activities.

An intensive timetable will be operating, full details of which will be available on the website www.mnr.org.uk which is currently being revised following the confirmation that Nos. 73109 and 86101 will be attending. One day Rover Tickets will cost £15 for an adult and £7.50 for children, and for the weekend £25 and £12.50 respectively.

Preservation View

A return of steam traction to two of Beamish Museum's short railways taken place over recent months.

In April, the open air museum held the Great North Steam Fair, which included LNER 'Y7' No. 985 from the North Norfolk Railway and an 1847-built 0-4-0T from the Bluebell Railway.

◀ On 16th April, the 1923-built LNER 'Y7' 0-4-0T No. 985 from the North Norfolk Railway shunts within the confines of the restored and rebuilt Rowley Station.

▼◀ The previous day, and at the start of the 'Great North Steam Fair', Fletcher-Jennings 1847-built 0-4-0T No. 3 *Captain Baxter*, visiting from the Bluebell Railway, draws a short rake of wagons away from the colliery loading area and past the village cottages.

▼ Also operating within the colliery area was the museum's own 1871-built 0-4-0 vertical boilered Coffee Pot No. 1. Both *Captain Baxter* and Coffee Pot No. 1 worked together at the Dorking Greystone Lime Quarry until 1960 and the event presented the first time in over 50 years that the two had been seen together!

All: John Lewins

Recently named BR '9F' 2-10-0 No. 92214 *Cock o' the North* **passes Abbots House with a Goathland to Pickering freight working, during the North Yorkshire Moors Railway 175th anniversary of the Whitby and Pickering Railway gala on 1st May. David Carr**

The East Anglian Railway Museum's 'N7' 0-6-2T No. 69621 has recently returned following a number of years based at the North Norfolk Railway. On 1st May, the locomotive passes Chapel North Signal Box with two vintage Great Eastern coaches. **Stuart Chapman**

With the new VTG Rail tanks still shining, Class 66/0 No. 66139 powers through Pleasington on 15th April, with the 08.55 Preston Docks to Immingham empty bitumen tanks. **David Hollowood**

One working that can occasionally produce a Class 60 is the 11.25 Westbury Yard-Newport ADJ service. On 3rd May, it passes Lawrence Hill, with nearly 1,500 tonnes in tow and motive power provided by Class 60 No. 60040 *The Territorial Army Centenary*. **Edward Gleed**

Daytime Class 92 workings are limited on the WCML but one duty is the Mossend to Hams Hall service that is worked by Class 92 traction as far as Bescot. On 4th May, traction was provided by No. 92022 *Charles Dickens* **pictured at Balshaw Lane Junction, Preston. Fred Kerr**

DRS Class 37/6s Nos. 37602 and 37603 power towards Shap Summit as they pass Great Strickland with a diverted Sellafield-Crewe flask service on 27th April. **John Wade**

9th May 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield, YO25 6PX. 'Variety - Mainline Steam, WCML Upgrade, DLR, Hull to Scarborough'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary on 01377 254068 for further details.

Lincoln Rly 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, Entrance fee £3. Contact Publicity Member on 01522-705365 for further details

Permanent Way Institution (London)
10th Floor, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London. 'Understanding Trackbed' by Dr Mike Thorn. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Alison Stansfield on 07703 326080 or at alison.stansfield@permanentwayinstitution.com for further details.

Plymouth Railway Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth. 'Members Slide Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission Members £1, Visitors £2.

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

RCTS (East Croydon)
Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. 'The Brighton Atlantic Project; by David G.Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30.

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

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

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'Swiss Railways' by Geoff Dingle. Starts 19.30. Admission £2.50. 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 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 for further details.

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 for fruther details

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 Gt Britain (Nth London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'Steam Railway Videos at Home and Abroad' by Jim Pentney. Meeting starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary Tony Stratford at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

RCTS (Chester)
'Observation at Warrington Bank Quay 10.00 - 16.00. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 3768089 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. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly 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 starts 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'. Meeting starts 19.00. £3 donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for further details.

12th May 2011

Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'The Maurice Dean Collection - Steam Slides' by Ian Bennett. Starts 19.30. Contact Kevin Plummer on 01225 312564 for 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 or a akpalmer@talktalk.net for details.

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. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £3.

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. ContactJon Wells on 07714 064898 or at jwells@carillionplc.com for 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 Rob Cummings on 07798 858784 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales)
The Town Crier Inn, City Road, Chester. 'Rebuilding the WHR' by Alasdair Stewart. Starts 18.30. Contact 07771 672274 for details.

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

13th May 2011

GW Society (Swindon)
Lawn Communiy Centre, Guildford Avenue, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Swindon Works 2003-2008' by Pete Tough. Starts 19.30. Call 01793 495976.

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

Scarborough Rly 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. Starts 14.30. £2 donation. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

Cornwall Rly Society
Redruth Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'From Dream to Steam: The Tornado Story' by A1 Steam Locomotive Trust. Starts 18.30.

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.

▼ **On 29th April, Network Rail-liveried Class 31/6 No. 31602** *Driver Dave Green* **pushes the 07.57 Bristol Barton Hill to Derby, via the Heart of Wales line, test working through Llandovery station. In this view, the train, led by one of the converted Mk2 DBSOs, No. 9702, is about to rejoin the single line. Stuart Warr**

RCTS (Exeter)
Great Western Hotel, Exeter. 'Californian Rails' by David Mitchell. Meeting commences at 19.00.

16th May 2011
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB 'More Trains, Trams, Trolleys and Trivia' by Frank Greaves. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (York)
Marriott Room, York Central Library, Library Square, York. 'Engineering a Railway for the World's Longest Train' by David Potter. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Aiston on 07787 612227 or at kaistonyork@btinternet.com for further details.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Out and About; by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxord Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney off Botley Road. 'Branch AGM and Members Slides' Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Railways around the South East' by Geoff Dunster. Starts 19.30.

17th May 2011
Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire)
The Pullman Room, The Cosmopolitan Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds LS1 4AE. 'Chiefly Beyond the Chunnel' by John Hoyle. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Martin Wooff on 07747 160949 or at abcts@daelnet.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Cambridge)
Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge' 'The West Coast Main Line Southern Section since Nationalisation' by Bob Ballard. Starts 19.30. Contact jamesj.crane@gmail.com for further details.

18th May 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)
Arup Auditorium, 63 St Thomas Street, Bristol. 'Tales from the Bush' by Phil Ransom. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Phil Harrison on 01179 765432 or at philip.harrrison@arup.com for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Gautrain Train Transforming Travel in South Africa' by Jim Watson. Joint meeting with the Institution of Railway Operators. Starts 17.30. Contact Jack Scott on 07789 765291 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Irish)
Hayes Hotel, Thuries. TBC. Starts 14.00. Contact the Secretary, Tara McCadden on 00353 87 2943562 or at tara.mccadden@irishrail.ie for further details.

RCTS (Eastleigh)/Mid Hants Railway
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Wartime Infrastructure and Faslane Port; by Mike Walshaw. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533 for further details.

19th May 2011
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre,Barrow Hill Depot. 'A Mixed Bag from two Leicester Rail Enthusiasts' by Mike Greenwood & Trevor Follows. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50 members, £2 non members. Contact the Organiser at beardspaul@aol.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, WA12 8EW. AGM and Members/ Visitors Slides and Digital Photos. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary, Neville Bond on 01925 226473 or email lcgb.nw@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Bourne End Community Centre, Bourne End SL8 5SX 'A Railway Retirement Part 2' by Phil Marsh. Meeting starts at 20.00.

Permanent Way Institution (Sheffield & Doncaster)
Rutland Arms, Brown Street, Sheffield S1 2BD. 'Life Extension of Railway Track Systems' by Brian Counter. Starts 18.15. Contact Vivek Vilay on 07763 724259 for details.

RCTS (Darlington)
The Scout Buuilding, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Decline of Steam in South West Durham' by Frank Tweddle. Starts 19.00.

RCTS (Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Building a Dream - Creating a Storm - Tornado' by Keith Crabtree. Starts 19.30.

20th May 2011
GW Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Culm & Exe Valleys to Ilfracombe' by Peter Gray. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

21st May 2011
GCR Society
LMRCA, Hillmorton Road, Rugby, CV22 5AL. AGM at 11.00. 'Life and Times of Rugby GC' by Tony West. Starts 14.00. Contact Bob Gellatly on 01909 565763 for further details.

23rd May 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Aspects of Track Safety' by Colin Wheeler and Ryan Stolpmann. Starts 18.30. Contact Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 for further details.

RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Portuguese Steam in the 1960's' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Maindenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Branch AGM and Members' Presentation'. Starts 19.30.

24th May 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby)
The Hallmark Hotel, adjacent to Derby station, Derby. 'New Build High Speed Track' by Barnaby Temple. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 or at colin.cowey@talk21.com for further details.

RCTS (Woking)
The Wheatsheaf, Chobham Road, Woking. 'Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway' by Graham Cartland-Glover and 'Addlestone to Beijing by Rail' by Irene Rabbits.Preceded by Branch AGM. Meeting commences at 19.15.

25th May 2011
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. '1947 - 2007 60 Years of the British Mail Line Diesel' by John Chalcraft. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

RCTS (Chichester)
Committee Room 2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'The Running of First Great Western' by Mark Hopwood. Starts 19.30.

27th May 2011
Great Western Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Resources Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6QS. 'In an English Country Garden' by Richard Crane. Starts 19.30.

29th May 2011
Stevenage Locomotive Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'AGM 2011 followed by Members Present'. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasure on 07803 046076 or at alan.pitt@lineone.net for details.

31st May 2011
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'South Africa in the 1960's' by Ron White. Starts 14.00.

1st June 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)
Network Rail RSAR Site Office, 80 Caversham Road, Reading. 'An Insight into the Railway Heritage Trust' by Andy Savage. Meeting commences at 17.45. Contact the Secretary, Peter Simmonds on 07796 266264 or at peter181102@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

2nd June 2011
Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. TBA. Starts 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

3rd June 2011
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A15, UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport, NP20 2BP. 'Railway Tales' by Dr Peter Waterman OBE. Meeting commences at 19.00. Admission £5 (in support of the G&WR Appeal).

7th June 2011
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
2 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22. 'Open Evening". Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary Tony Stratford at stratford_tony@hotmail.com.

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

Eurostar Class 373 set No. (37)3201 departs Temple Mills Eurostar Depot on 6th May, working empty coaching stock to London St Pancras International, the leading power car now sporting the new company branding. Antony Guppy

Magazine Information

Editorial Address:
The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY
Telephone: 01904 500175

Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England).
VAT Registration: 942 6509 14
Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

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