Railway Herald

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The weekly railway enthusiast's magazine

Railway Herald

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16th May 2011

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Marcus Betts

Swanage Railway enjoys successful diesel gala

The Swanage Railway entertained the crowds last weekend with another of its now annual diesel gala weekends. Headlining the event were the visits of the Class 56 Group's Class 56/3 No. 56301 and GBRailfreight's Class 73/2 No. 73205 *Jeanette*.

Read more on Page 19

In This Issue

First Great Western franchise
First Group has announced that it will hand the Greater Western franchise back three years earlier than expected.

Click here to read the story on Page 3

Metro & Light Rail News
Public consultations start on Northern Line extension to Battersea and Docklands to Forest Hill, and DLR 3-car upgrade complete.

Click here to read the story on Page 4

Edinburgh Trams Latest
The saga of the Edinburgh Tram system continues to rumble forward, although a positive outcome to mediation suggests a thaw may be coming.

Click here to read the story on Page 5

Chiltern's Mobile Ticketing
A new ticket 'app' from Chiltern Railways provides travellers on its services with a totally mobile way of buying tickets.

Click here to read the story on Page 6

Elsewhere in this issue

7 News in Pictures
The weekly round-up from a pictorial viewpoint of newsworthy and unusual workings across the country.

14 Preservation News
Details about the Mid-Norfolk Railway's forthcoming 'South London' gala weekend, Wirksworth line enjoys success with over 8,000 passengers, *Tornado* to visit the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, and the Bodmin & Wenford Railway participate in a Royal visit.

Essentials

8 Railtours & Excursions
Including comprehensive listings.

24 Diary
The dates of slide shows and information presentations.

Front Cover Caption:

Class 92 No. 92017 makes steady progress towards the Lune Gorge with the 06.15 Rugby to Mossend Tesco express at Docker on 5th May. John Wade

▲ First Group says that it is handing back the franchise, without exercising its right to the additional three years, and will be bidding for it again. On 10th May, Class 43 No. 43141 leads the 10.00 Penzance to Paddington away from Camborne, a location that has recently changed with the removal of the 60ft-tall fir trees. **Craig Munday**

First Group announces it will hand the Greater Western franchise back to the Government in 2013

First Group has decided not to take up the option of a three-year extension to the Greater Western franchise, which it has held since 1st April 2006, and that is due to expire on 31st March 2016, subject to targets being met.

When the franchise was up for renewal previously, three companies were in the running, First Group, National Express Group and Stagecoach Group. The franchise was awarded on 13th December 2005 to First Group, which undertook to pay the DfT a premium of £1,131 million over the 10-year length of the franchise contract, with the final three years being dependent upon service performance achieving preset targets, but this extension was acceptable and declinable by both the DfT and First Group.

First Group has said that it is exercising its option not to extend the franchise beyond March 2013, saying that the conditions had significantly changed since the contract was first negotiated. The move has been described as a 'tactical decision' to allow the organisation to bid for a longer franchise that will also include redeveloping Reading station and the electrification of the Great Western Main Line.

By handing back the franchise, as permitted within its agreement with the DfT, the transport group will avoid paying 73% of the premiums originally agreed to. When the deal was negotiated, over £826 million in premiums were to be paid back within the last three years, a move that business analysts have described as a clever bid.

Talking to the Guardian newspaper, Transport Minister, Teresa Villiers said the move would allow the DfT to draw up a new contract in line with Government proposals for longer franchises and commented that the "Department for Transport had always anticipated that the Great Western franchise could end in 2013 and had catered for this eventuality in its refranchising programme".

Network Rail gets £3 million fine

Network Rail has been fined £3 million for safety failings that resulted in the Potters Bar rail disaster, nine years after the tragic event took place.

The accident happened in 2002 during the period that Railtrack was in charge of infrastructure maintenance, however, Network Rail accepts the liabilities it inherited when the company took over. Six passengers were killed in the accident, while a seventh individual also died as a result of flying debris.

The prosecution under the Health & Safety at Work Act was brought by the ORR, although it was earlier decided that a similar case against Jarvis for its part in the accident would not proceed as it was no longer in the public interest.

Network Rail said that all 25 recommendations from the industry inquiry have been acted upon and closed out, as have the 24 that resulted from the HSE investigation. In addition, NR commented that private contractors have not been in control of the day-to-day maintenance since 2004.

Coal services return to Cwmgwrach

▼ On 12th May, the first loaded coal train for at least three years, and the first on the line to use HTAs, left Cwmgwrach. Here, Class 66/0 No. 66187 passes Resolven with the inbound empties, forming the 07.56 Margam to Cwmgwrach. **Phil Trotter**

Metro and Light Rail News

Northern Line extension moves forward

Transport for London and developer Treasury Holdings are to commence a public consultation to hear local residents' views on the proposed Private Sector funded 3km extension of the Northern Line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station.

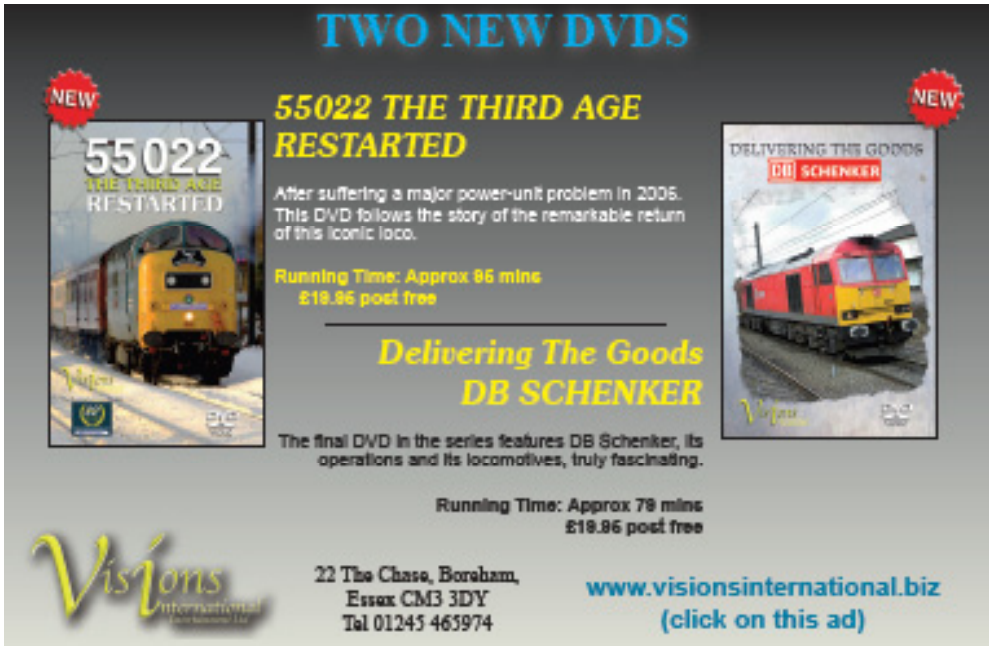
The Greater London Authority's Tube extension is part of a package of transport measures that would enable the regeneration of its wider Opportunity Area, covering Vauxhall, Nine Elms and Battersea. It will supplement existing Tube and National Rail stations, as well as the Vauxhall bus interchange, and help ease pressure on Vauxhall station.

Subject to funding and further planning permission, the Northern Line extension could be completed in 2017.

DLR three-car upgrade work completed

The Docklands Light Railway has confirmed that its upgrade of services to three-cars (three independent two-car units coupled together) has been completed on time and within budget.

The work has included a £325 million upgrade to the signalling system, together with longer platforms and a new station at South Quay. Longer trains commenced operation on the Tower Gateway to Beckton route from 9th May. The actual passenger numbers for the 2010/2011 period, which show a 12.8% increase year-on-year and 1.2 million above the expected number, with over 78 million people travelling.



TfL open DLR proposals for public consultation

Transport for London (TfL) has put forward proposals for extending the Docklands Light Railway beyond Lewisham.

The route, which would terminate at Forest Hill, could see stations constructed at Ladywell, Medusa and Catford. While locals around Ladywell are in support of the move, the Forest Hill Society says terminating at Forest Hill is the wrong decision, although it supports the idea of the extension. The group says an extension to Bell Green would open up the other side of Forest Hill and Bellingham and would be a better proposal.

The extension is just one of the proposals originally put forward in the Mayor of London's 'London Plan' published last year, in which the TfL map of proposed extensions shows an extension from Lewisham to Catford and onto Forest Hill. Part of the plan also mentions, albeit it briefly, the proposed extension of the DLR system from Gallions Reach to Dagenham Dock, which is currently unfunded. More enlightening is the suggestion of possible major extensions westwards for the Docklands system. Also covered under the heading of a post-2018 completion are the potential routes from Bank to London Victoria station, which would see the route extended from the current terminus through a new section via City Thameslink, Charing Cross and Green Park. Not mentioned in the document, but included in a map of potential DLR extensions released by TfL, is a branch from City Thameslink, including stations at Holborn and Euston, terminating at St Pancras.

The document goes on to suggest that further extensions could be to the north from Stratford International to Walthamstow Central, via Leytonstone, and to the south from Lewisham to Catford, via Hither Green, Hayes and Beckenham.

▶ **A Docklands Light Railway service from Bank arrives at Lewisham on 12th May, led by Class BO7 unit No. 120. An extension of the line from here through to Forest Hill is now under consideration.**
Brian Morrison

Network Rail looks at station congestion

Network Rail has published an analysis of passenger congestion at stations, together with a range of measures to relieve the problem as part of its network Route Utilisation Strategy (Stations).Congestion can affect passengers at smaller, local stations as much as at the biggest and busiest.

It can be limited to peak times or be a continuous problem that only affects a particular part of a station.Stations such as King's Cross, Birmingham New Street and Reading are already undergoing major redevelopments to cope with projected passenger numbers, so the analysis identifies stations not covered by committed enhancement schemes that would benefit from further investigation into congestion reduction measures.

It is recommended that interventions are investigated to understand and address crowding by the end of Control Period 5 in 2019 at the following stations: Basingstoke, Bristol Parkway, Clapham Junction, Earlsfield, Liverpool Central, Liverpool Lime Street, London Charing Cross, London Fenchurch Street, London Victoria, Preston, Surbiton and Wimbledon.

Network Rail will publish the final strategy document after a 60-day consultation period with stakeholders.

Edinburgh trams rumble on

The frustrating situation surrounding the construction of Edinburgh's tramway system continues.

The situation does appear to be improving, albeit very slowly. Following mediation between TIE and consortium contractor Bilfinger Berger and Siemens (BBS), work has now resumed around the tram depot at Gogar and also in the Haymarket area.

The council has announced that Princes Street, already shut to cars, will be closed to buses as well from 3rd July to allow BBS to repair the road surface, erect street lighting and install overhead line equipment poles, as well as work around the tram stop. The tramway work has so far cost around £440 million out of a proposed budget of £545 million. At present it is still not known what the final cost will be, when the service will start, or even, where the line will run.

It has been confirmed that up to 10 trams could be leased to Croydon.

▲ Class 201 No. 228 works the 13.20 Dublin Connolly to Belfast service through Balmoral, where platform works are taking place to accommodate up to 6-car sets for the annual Balmoral Show. **Chris Playfair**

The Irish Angle

UK News In Brief

■ The Railway Heritage Trust has made 10 awards during April, ranging in value from £3,500 to £95,000. The grants provide finance towards the refurbishment work to create a museum at Glenfinnan, the restoration of Bedale Signal Box, which the Wensleydale Railway lease from Network Rail, the restoration of the station buildings at Moorthorpe and Wakefield Westgate, the booking office at Clapham Junction, a new shelter at Skipton, refurbishment of the toilets at Appleby station and a small grant for providing replacement doors and windows at Peckham Rye station. Bringing new use into redundant station structures is a key part of the Trust's work, and in addition to the Glenfinnan Museum, it is supporting the restoration of old station buildings at Fort Matilda, near Gourock, for a model railway club, and at Inverurie, where the former Laird's waiting room is being refurbished to provide a new café. The total value of the 10 grants awarded is close to £380,000

■ Solar panels are to be installed on the roof of Blackfriars station to create 1.058MV of energy, reducing the energy bill.

■ Kent County Council has presented its rail action plan to the Government. The proposals could form part of the next rail franchise that starts in 2014, and among other things call for regular peak trains to London's West End and City stations from every major town in the county. It also calls on the DfT to limit the fare increases to the current level of 3% above inflation.

← Contents Page

Fully mobile ticket system from Chiltern

Chiltern Railways has become the first operator to introduce a fully integrated mobile system for the purchase and use of rail travel tickets.

The new system works on both normal handsets and Smartphone's from Apple, Blackberry, Nokia, Sony Ericsson and Samsung, and the company says an 'app' for Google's Android system will be released soon.

The software for the phone allows the purchase of rail tickets, which can be redeemed through a QR code (3D barcode) on the phone screen that can be read by Chiltern's ticket barriers, or by redeeming a printed ticket at the station. At present, only Chiltern has implemented the mTicket technology that allows ticket gates to read the QR code, so the usability of the 'app' is limited to Chiltern services.

However, the innovation marks the first time that any rail passengers have been able to use both Smartphones and everyday handsets to buy and receive rail tickets through one transaction. Additionally, unlike most commercial booking services, the Chiltern Railways application does not charge a booking fee, and the application is free to download. To get the application, passengers just need to text 'Chiltern' to 88600 or search the relevant app stores.

▶ QR Codes, such as this one, are being introduced as a new way to pass data to a mobile phone. By using the phone's camera with dedicated software, such as NeoReader on the iPhone, the phone can interpret and act on the information. This code, for example will take readers to the Railway Herald website. RH

▲ Class 66/0 No. 66136 passes through Hackney Wick, on the North London Line on 12th May, hauling the 09.56 Didcot Yard to Rlpple Lane coal empties. This flow has been operating since late March. Brian Morrison

▼ On 6th May, DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66201 makes good progress as it heads a rake of 31 empty HTA wagons from Margam to Redcar through the delightful location of Gatcombe, situated along the Severn Estuary, roughly midway between Chepstow and Gloucester. Edward Gleed

◀ Class 121 'Bubblecar' No. 960014 continues to be used on driver training duties between Bicester North and Didcot, in preparation for the takeover of First Great Western services between Oxford and Bicester North by Chiltern Railways on 22nd May. Here No. 960014 departs Oxford on 9th May. **Alastair Wood**

◀▼ First Trans Pennine Express Class 185 'Pennine' DMU No. 185122 speeds south through Brock on 9th May with an Arnside to Manchester Airport service. These workings normally originates from Barrow, but is currently starting and terminating at Arnside because of engineering works between there and Barrow-in-Furness. **Fred Kerr**

▼ The former station at York, more recently known as West Offices is being redeveloped by York council. At the side is a former NER hut that was constructed in 1903. This has recently been donated to the Derwent Valley Light Railway. The building is being carefully taken down for later reconstruction at the Yorkshire Farming Museum at Murton. **Paul Colbeck**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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	
20th May 2011			
Rail-Blue Charters	tbc	Berwick upon Tweed-Kyle of Lochalsh and return	**Cancelled**
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return	
21st May 2011			
Pathfinder Tours	71000	(Gloucester-Kidderminster-Preston-Shap-)Carlisle-S&C-Crewe(and return)	
PMR Tours	6201	(Sheffield-Chesterfield-Alfreton-)Derby-York-Scarborough and return	
Railtourer	tbc	(St. Neots-)Doncaster-S&C-Carlisle(-Carlisle-Hexham-Doncaster and return)	
Railway Touring Co.	44871 & 5690	(London Paddington-)Newport-Llandrindod Wells and return)	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	48151	(Manchester Victoria-)Shrewsbury-Llandrindod Wells-Pantyffynnon-Swansea District Line-Cardiff-Newport(-Hereford-Shrewsbury and return)	
Statesman Rail	tbc	Stockport-Huddersfield-Sheffield-Tamworth-Oxford-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	
Vintage Trains	5043	(Tyseley Warwick Road-)London Euston-Nuneaton-Water OrtonTyseley WR	
22nd May 2011			
Shepherd Neame	70013	London Victoria-Maidstone East-Ashford-Canterbury-Faversham and return	
Shepherd Neame	70013	Faversham-Gillingham(-Sheerness-on-Sea)-Faversham	
UK Railtours	2xDBS 66	London Paddington-Didcot Parkway-Newport-Gaer Jct-Park Jct-Machen-Park Jct-Ebbw Jct-Cardiff Central-Ystrad Mynach South Jct-CwmBargoed-Caerphilly-Cardiff Queen Street-Cardiff Central-Newport and return	
Railway Touring Co.	70000	London KX-Grantham-Derby-Matlock-Rowsley and return	**Cancelled**
23rd May 2011			
Cruise Saver Travel	2xDRS 47	Southampton Docks-Oxford-Lichfield TV-Stoke-Crewe-Shap-Glasgow Central	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return	
24th May 2011			
HF Railtours	70000	Liverpool South Parkway-London Euston and return	**Cancelled**
Steam Dreams	34067	Southend Central-Kensington Olympia-Basingstoke-Salisbury-Sherborne and rtn	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return	
25th May 2011			
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Malliag and return	
26th May 2011			
Steam Dreams	4492	London Victoria-East Croydon-Redhill-Guildford-Bath Spa-Bristol TM 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. **RED** Tours cancelled by the operator
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator **BLUE** Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

The Settle & Carlisle is the place to be for steam in the coming days as there are four charters planned at the end of this week.

On Thursday 19th May, Steam Dreams is booked to head out of Euston, while down the road UK Railtours will work north from King's Cross. The former will 'glide' northwards behind Class 86/2 No. 86259 *Les Ross* with 'The Cathedrals Express' to Carlisle, which will be electrically hauled to Preston and back from Carnforth. At Preston, No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* will be waiting to take the train forward to Carlisle, via the S&C. It returns via Shap. The 'Scot' is booked to be followed over the S&C around 30 minutes later by No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester*, heading UKR's 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from York onwards to Carlisle. This train returns via the Tyne Valley and ECML, which leaves 'The Duke' at Carlisle to pick up the southbound working from Carlisle to Crewe, again over the S&C, for Pathfinder on its similarly entitled 'CME' on Saturday 21st May, which originates at Gloucester. On the same day Railtourer is also S&C bound with steam, with either *Scots Guardsman* or 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44932. The train sets out diesel-hauled from St Neots, with steam taking over at Hellifield through to Carlisle, before returning via the Tyne Valley.

Vintage Trains 'Great Western Midlander' features the first departure from Birmingham New Street with a Great Western 'Castle'. To be accurate, No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* became the first 'Castle' to pass through New Street a while ago while in the consist of the returning Vintage Trains 'Pride of Swindon' tour on 16th October, which was being hauled by a Class 47. Again, No. 5043 will feature, and the plan will be the same as the tour from New Street last year with No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*. A Class 47 will drag the train from Tyseley Warwick Road to New Street, positioning No. 5043 outside the enclosed part of the station so as not set off the fire alarms! Outwards the train runs via Birmingham International, Rugby, and Northampton, while the return continues along the Trent Valley via Nuneaton to reach Tyseley by way of Water Orton.

Meanwhile, No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, will be heading for Scarborough with PMR Tours 'Yorkshire Coronation' from Derby. The train commences diesel-hauled at Sheffield, the title reflecting that PMR are temporarily shorn of its usual steed, No. 6233, and that the 'elder sister' will be deputising. Another ex-LMS locomotive in action on 21st May will be Stanier Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151, which will be making its way from Shrewsbury to Newport, via the Central Wales line for RTC. This train starts diesel-hauled at Manchester Victoria, and returns from Newport along the Welsh Marches Line.

Steam features on Sunday 22nd May, with Kent brewers Shepherd Neame operating its usual early season special from London to Faversham, where the company is based. This time No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is the motive power, and the main train will operate from London Victoria, running via Maidstone East, Ashford and Canterbury. There will an be additional Faversham to Sheerness excursion in the afternoon, which will be diesel-hauled on the section from Gillingham to Sheerness-on-Sea, with steam continuing back to Faversham. This positions No. 70013 ready for the return to Victoria, which will run around the coast through Folkestone.

There are just two diesel-hauled tours to mention, the most significant being UK Railtours 'Thames Taff' which operates on Sunday 22nd May from Paddington to visit branch lines in South Wales, with a pair of DBS Class 66s throughout. The train heads to Newport from Paddington, and then after a short break, heads for the Machen Branch, before continuing to Cardiff and onto Ystrad Mynach and the heavily graded line to Cwmbargoed. The other tour is a Statesman Railtours' working from Stockport to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads, via Huddersfield, Sheffield and Tamworth.

New Cheshire Cat Tours operator appears from Riviera Trains

Cheshire Cat Tours (CCT) is a new tour operator whose first two tours are now open for bookings.

The first train is from Stratford-upon-Avon to Edinburgh on Thursday 30th June, which picks up at Dorridge, Solihull, Tyseley, Birmingham New Street, Tame Bridge Parkway, Stafford and Crewe, and then follows the West Coast Main Line throughout to Carstairs.

Three days later and Cardiff is the originating point for a trip to Carlisle, outwards via Shap and returning along the Settle & Carlisle. This train picks up at Newport, and then along the Welsh Marches at Cwmbran, Abergavenney, Hereford, Leominster, Ludlow, Craven Arms, Shrewsbury and Crewe.

CCT is effectively the railtour arm of Riviera Trains and is looking to exploit the general interest market as against specific sectors such as enthusiast trains. They are based in Crewe and the operation is being lead by David Peacock, who is also Riviera's Crewe-based fleet manager. He says that CCT will be working principally with DB Schenker and DRS for the operation of its trains, and Pathfinder will be sole booking agents. Its tours will use mainly Riviera's Mk2 air-conditioned rolling stock and the company will be offering the full range of ticketing options from Standard Class through to Premier Dining.

As the general tourist is being targeted, traction will mostly be DBS Class 67s or DRS Class 47s, although David Peacock did not rule out using more specialist traction if the right opportunity arose.

A programme of up to 14 trains is planned for the remainder of the year, which averages out at around two per month. Within the Riviera empire, CCT is seen as complementing the Pathfinder programme, as its target markets are considered to be quite different.

The name is taken from the infamous grinning 'Cheshire cat'. For full details of the tours go to www.cheshirecattours.co.uk

◀ **LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **climbs away from Colton Junction, south of York, on the East Coast Main Line on 28th April, with the return leg of Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' charter bound for London King's Cross. Paul Braybrook**

Ups & Downs

■ The Railway Touring Company has cancelled next week's planned tour from King's Cross to Matlock and the Peak Railway. The tour had already been re-dated from March, and a number of reasons have been put forward with RTC saying it is due to operational difficulties. What is known is that the physical connection between the National Network and the heritage line is now in place, but it is understood that 'getting the paperwork in place' for the use of the crossing may also have hindered matters. Another attempt to run the tour is likely.

■ One of the side effects of Direct Rail Services taking over the contract for hauling 'The Northern Belle' is that the scheduled steam haulage of the Father's Day train to Holyhead will now be diesel-hauled in place of the advertised No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*. The reason for this is straightforward; DRS do not have the facility for operating steam traction on its safety case. So, no more steam on the 'Northern Belle', but as it has already been a good while since the last steam-hauled train, the effect will be negligible.

■ Bert Hitchen's LMS 'Black 5' No. 45231 was reported on test between Carnforth and Hellifield on 12th May, no doubt following repairs after running a tender hotbox en route to 'Cathedrals Explorer' duties in Scotland last week. The locomotive moved to Stirling on 14th May, ahead of joining Class K4 Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* on the SRPS tour from Polmont to Fort William, which positions both locos in the West Highlands for the commencement of the 2011 'Jacobite' season on Monday 16th May. The coaching stock was due to move to Fort William on 13th May, diesel-hauled.

■ **STOP PRESS:** Word is that the next 'Cathedrals Explorer' charter could feature Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* along the Highland Main Line to Inverness, returning south, via Aberdeen.

Gatwick Express-liveried Class 73/2 No. 73202 *Dave Berry* **was used to haul a Class 442 unit into Brighton on 1st May in connection with a PLEG charter around Brighton Lovers Walk Depot. The '442' was hauled back to the depot by resident Class 09 No. 09012** *Cedric Wares*, **complete with a 'Brighton Belle' headboard. John McIntyre**

LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45305 and BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* reach the top of Hemerdon bank on the climb out of Plymouth with 'The Royal Duchy', from Penzance to Slough on 30th April. **Paul Maycock**

GWR 'King' No. 6024 *King Edward I* **runs alongside the Tywi Estuary near Ferryside, with Pathfinder Tours 'The Pembroke Coast Explorer' charter from Pembroke Dock to Bristol Temple Meads on 1st May.**
Phil Trotter

Rail-Blue Charters' Watford Junction to Edinburgh excursion cautiously approaches Balshaw Lane Junction, with the ACLGs Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier FRS* at the helm. The train was running under adverse signals due to a conflicting movement slightly further north at Euxton Junction. **John McIntyre**

Mid Norfolk heads for South London for its next gala weekend event

Following its successful 'Drags and Rescues' weekend, the Mid-Norfolk continues with a southern theme for this coming weekend.

Entitled the 'South London Weekend' it is a nostalgic 20 years or so step back in time to recall the sort of trains that were the norm on the main line routes running south from London on what was the old Southern Region of British Rail.

Star of the show will be 3CIG EMU No. 1497, which was withdrawn from traffic exactly 12 months ago on 22nd May 2010. On Saturday 21st May No. 1497 will be renamed *Freshwater*, and will operate on the 'slow' service in tandem with one of the Class 73s, either No. 73109 on short-term loan from South West Trains or the MNR's own No. 73210 *Selhurst*.

The 'fast' service will be in the hands of Class 50 No. 50019 *Ramilies*, which will be hauling the blue and grey liveried Mk2 set. Also on display will be MLV 68004.

To enhance the 'South London' theme, two preserved ex-London Transport buses will be in operation, including No. RT 3902, which will be making its first public appearance since its withdrawal from service in 1971, the year that 3CIG No. 1497 was built.

RT 3902 will share a shuttle service between Dereham and County School with No. RF 626.

Trains will operate between Dereham and Wymondham Abbey hourly from 09.30 until 18.30 on Saturday and 17.30 on Sunday.

On 21st May, the 12.30 departure from Dereham will be a demonstration freight, returning from Wymondham Abbey at 13.30.

Full details of the event together with a detailed timetable for the weekend can be found online at www.mnr.org.uk

▼ **Standing in for the ailing Mallet locomotive, 'new build' *Lyd*, in pseudo-BR livery, crosses Britannia Bridge as it approaches the Ffestiniog Railway's Porthmadog Harbour station on 24th April, with the 14.50 vintage shuttle service from Rhyd Ddu. John Stretton**

Over 8,000 passengers travel at Wirksworth

The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway (EVR) is celebrating a glorious first month of operations over its new extension from Wirksworth through to Duffield.

Over 8,000 passengers have been carried since the line opened for business on 8th April, creating a revenue stream in excess of £50,000. The positive effect on the local communities is also being noted, with comments from local traders about the upsurge in their turnover when the railway is operating.

It is of note also that around one-third of the passengers are arriving by train at Duffield, which has the effect of significantly increasing the loadings on East Midlands Trains' Derby to Matlock service, a fact which has been noted by the main line operator.

Without question, the hire of the BR Standard Class 2MT Mogul No. 78019 from the Great Central Railway has been a great success. It is now approaching the last week of its stint at Wirksworth, and will be in action over the coming weekend. In the days after No. 78019 the services will be shared between the DMU fleet and the hauled stock featuring Type 1 (Class 20) No. 8001, and in due course Class 31/4 No. 31414.

The EVR is also actively seeking to hire in another ex-main line locomotive for later in the season, especially around the time of the Wirksworth Festival in early September.

▲ Sentinel 0-4-0 No. 6515 *Isebrook*, arrives at Quainton Road with a freight service during the 'Spring Steam Gala' at the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre on 2nd May. Alongside is Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST No. 699 *Swanscombe*. **Roger Brown**

MIDLAND RAILWAY – BUTTERLEY DIESEL EVENT 21st & 22nd MAY
(with a 1980's theme!)

Trains running every 35 minutes from 10:00 until 16:25
Featuring: 08590, 20048, 25321, 33201, 44004, 45041, 45133 and 47401
(subject to availability)

Variety of Diesel Locomotives on all trains ❖ Intensive Timetable in Operation ❖ Drive a Class 08 ❖ Bottled Beer available
Barbeque at Butterley Station ❖ Railway Museums
West Shed Experience ❖ Victorian Railwayman's Church
Demonstration Signal Box ❖ Narrow Gauge Railway
Model Railways ❖ Buffets & Shops

Anybody who attends with a 1980's vehicle will be entitled to half price train fare!

Midland Railway – Butterley,
Butterley Station, Ripley, Derbyshire, DE5 3QZ
Near junction 28 – M1, Signposted from A38
Tel 01773 570140 Email midland.railway@btconnect.com
www.midlandrailwaycentre.co.uk

Tornado to visit NYMR in late May

LNER A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* is to visit the NYMR in late May.

Assuming that the final recommissioning and main line test runs proceed as planned, the 'A1' should arrive at Grosmont on 25th May.

It will then be in service on 26th May, working the 10.30 and 13.30 services from Pickering and 12.00 and 15.00 return. The locomotive will also be in action 28th May-1st June and 4th/5th June. Its Mondays-Saturdays diagram will be 09.30, 12.30 and 15.30 departures from Grosmont, and the 11.00, 14.00 and 17.00 return workings, while on Sundays it will operate the 10.30 and 13.30 from Grosmont and 12.00 and 16.00 return. The loco will not be working on 2nd/3rd June.

On 30th/31st May, a 'Pie and Pea' supper train will operate behind *Tornado*, between Grosmont and Battersby and return. Tickets are £25 adult, and £12.50 children. Normal fares will apply to all other trains.

In addition, the railway hopes to run its North Eastern Railway shuttle between 28th May and 1st June, formed of NER 'J72' 0-6-0T No. 69023 and two LNER/NER coaches.

Butterley Diesel Gala Weekend

The Midland Railway at Butterley will be holding a diesel gala over the weekend of 21st/22nd May, when most of the home fleet will be pressed into action.

Although there will be no Class 40 or 50 present this time, as both suffered effects of the harsh winter, but there will be three 'Peaks' in action in the shape of Nos. 44004, 45041 and 45133, together with Class 08 No. 08590, Class 20 No. 20048, Class 25 No. 25321, Class 33/2 No. 33201 and Class 47/4 No. 47401.

A special timetable will operate on both days featuring a dozen return workings, some of which will be double-headed. The event has a 1980's theme and will feature a barbeque at Butterley station. Full details, including the timetable and locomotive allocations, are available at www.mrbevents.co.uk.

▲ HRH Princess Alexandra is introduced to the locomotive crew of GWR 6400 Class 'Pannier' No. 6435 at Bodmin on 4th May. **BWR**

Royal visit for Bodmin & Wenford line

The Bodmin & Wenford Railway welcomed Her Royal Highness Princess Alexandra to Bodmin General station on 4th May, as part of an official visit to Cornwall.

The Princess, who was accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Lady Mary Holborow, was greeted on her arrival at Bodmin General station by Richard Jones, the General Manager of the railway and Keith Searle, Chairman of the BWR Trust.

After touring the station and talking to visitors, Princess Alexandra was introduced to the locomotive and train crew, before being invited by the guard to board the line's auto train, formed of GWR 6400 Class 0-6-0PT No. 6435 and trailer No. W232W for a return trip along the Boscarne Junction branch.

MNR

Southern Weekend

Saturday & Sunday May 21-22

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

Intensive 2-train timetable

Rededication of 1947 'Freshwater'

Vintage London Buses RT3902 and RF626
entering public service for the first time since 1971

For further details visit:
www.mnr.org.uk

Call 01362 871523

Over 50% of Churnet Valley share issue taken up

The Churnet Valley Railway (CVR) is delighted at the response to its latest share issue, its fourth to-date, which was started on 30th March to raise capital to both invest in the Moorland & City Railway Company and fund the building of a new and much needed catering facility at Cheddleton.

In little more than a month since the launch, nearly £250,000 has been raised towards the objective of £450,000, which is well ahead of expectations. Incentives to generate early interest seem to have been very effective judging by the success of the issue to-date, but these expired at the beginning of May and so a slowdown in the rate of investments is now expected.

However, two interesting facts have emerged, the average investment in the new share issue is around the £500 mark, and that two-thirds of the subscribers are new to the company having not participated in previous issues. Details of the CVR share issue and how to obtain a prospectus can be found by clicking here

As a consequence of the success of the issue so far, work is expected to start on the clearance of the first section of the line to Stoke-on-Trent in early June, and Moorland & City (MCR) are optimistic that as a result of the good condition of the infrastructure a reopening from Leekbrook Junction to Endon, the first settlement of note on the route to Stoke, which is a distance of just over two miles, may well be ready for a reopening by late September.

Meanwhile, work on the run-round loop at Cauldon Lowe is near to completion and formal commissioning will follow. The CVR in conjunction with MCR will be operating trains to Cauldon Lowe from Kingsley & Froghall during the summer, with departures from the latter booked for 10.30 and 13.45, which also pick up at Cheddleton. Trains will be steam hauled on 4th June, 3rd July, 6th August and 3rd/4th September, and will be operated by a DMU on 5th June, 2nd July, 7th August and 2nd October.

▲ LMS 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47406, visiting from the Great Central Railway, arrives at Ludborough on the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway with a photographic freight on 5th May. Stuart Chapman

175th anniversary celebrations

◀ **BR Standard 9F class 2-10-0 No. 92214** *Cock o' the North* **approaches Esk Valley with a Pickering-bound service during the gala weekend on 29th April. The celebrations marked the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Whitby and Pickering Railway.**

◀▼ **Seen approaching Thompson Foss, resident LMS 'Black 5' No. 45428** *Eric Treacy* **pilots visiting classmate No. 45407 with a Grosmont - Pickering service on 30th April.**

▼ **The following day, and the star attraction of the railway, LNER Gresley A4 Pacific No. 60007** *Sir Nigel Gresley* **climbs the 1-in-49 grade through Thompson Foss with a complete matching rake of maroon-liveried Mk1 coaches. All: John Woolley**

One of the stars of the gala weekend was BR Standard 8P Pacific No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester*. The loco is pictured rounding the curve at Darnholme on 1st May with the first Grosmont to Pickering service of the day. **Yoshi Hashida**

Swanage Diesel Gala Weekend

▶ Class 56/3 No. 56301 undertook its first passenger operations in preservation during the weekend. Here, it leads a train out of Norden station on the Swanage Railway heading towards Corfe Castle on 7th May. A number of locomotives were visiting the gala, including 'Western' No. D1062 *Western Courier* from the Severn Valley Railway. **Chris Jeffery**

▼▶ Visiting Class 73s Nos. 73205 *Jeanette*, courtesy of GB Railfreight, and No. 73136 *Perseverance*, courtesy of Transmark Trains, head the 09.15 Swanage to Nordon service past the ruins of Corfe Castle on 6th May. The leading '73' has recently been repainted into Intercity colours at St Leonards. **Steve Boley**

▼ Resident Class 33/0 No. D6515 departs Harmans Cross with the 14.25 Harmans Cross to Norden shuttle service on 6th May, with visiting refurbished Class 37/5 No. 37503 on the rear. **Marcus Betts**

Class 92 No. 92001 *Victor Hugo* drags Class 380s Nos. 380018 and 380019 northwards on the approach to Otford Junction in the spring sun, with a Dollands Moor to Polmadie move on 3rd May. **Andrew Crampton**

The Bulgarian Railway Company (BZK) is one of the operators that use ex-British Class 87s. On 8th May, No. 87028 -7 and 87033-7 'top and tail' a train of sulphuric acid tanks. The train is pictured in the sun in Pirdop yard as the storm clouds rapidly approach. **Robin Patrick**

The use of Class 20s on flask trains is now very rare. On 12th May, Nos. 20303 and 20308 head past Otford Loop working the Dungeness to Willesden flask service. **Lewis Smith**

With Battersea Power Station on the skyline, CCTV liveried Class 456 No. 456006 approaches at London Victoria with a local service from London Bridge on 6th May. **Gary Packer**

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.

▼ With the chimneys of the brickworks in the background, GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66712 and its rake of 23 loaded ballast boxes make a colourful sight as they round the curve towards Blackbush level crossing at Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire, with a Mountsorrel to Whitemoor 'Virtual Quarry' service on 20th April. Julian Hodgson

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)
Joint Meeting with LCGB (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Programme of 1960s/1970s slides' by Les Dench. 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 AGM. Starts 19.15.

25th May 2011
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. '45 years of Railway Photograpy' by Colin Metcalf. 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

BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* **passes the Midland Railway signal box at Oakham, while working 'The Yorkshireman' charter on 8th May from Watford Junction to York.**
John Whitehouse

Magazine Information

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