Railway Herald

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The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

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12th September 2011

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Bombardier launches Flexity2 at Blackpool

Bombardier marked the start of two new eras at Blackpool on 8th September, first and foremost was the official worldwide launch of its new Flexity2 product, secondly was the preview the new trams that will operate at the Lancashire resort.

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FGW Honours GWS

First Great Western has marked the 50th anniversary of the Great Western Society by naming a HST powercar at Didcot.

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Metro & Light Rail News

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Remembering Tom Kendall

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Lyd outshopped in green

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Irish Rail DMU No. 22029 passes Borris-in-Ossary, near Ballybrophy, with the 09.00 Birdhill - Dublin special on 4th September, a rare appearance for the class on the line. Neil Dinnen

Worldwide launch of Bombardier's new Flexity2 tram takes place at Blackpool

Bombardier undertook the global launch of its latest design of light rail vehicle at Blackpool on 8th September.

The company is constructing 16 of its new Flexity2 light rail vehicles for the resort, to replace the outdated heritage trams currently in use. Flexity2 is the latest innovation in the Bombardier LRV family, and builds on the experience gained in the delivery of over 3,500 trams worldwide.

For its part, the Blackpool Tramway, which is now in its 126th year of continuous operation, transports over four million passengers annually, the majority of those during the summer period. While many will be sad to see the loss of the older trams, new accessibility regulations that come into effect in 2019, led to both Blackpool and Lancashire County Councils seeking out new ways of revitalising the system, and improving performance and reliability, while meeting the new requirements.

The new Flexity2 fleet is the outcome, and the delivery of set No. 001 marks the start of a new chapter for the tramway. This vehicle will undergo extensive type testing at Blackpool, prior to the second set arriving towards the end of the year, following which, the remaining 14 sets will quickly follow.

The trams, which seat 72 passengers, have a light and spacious interior, with full-width gangways and comfortable seating. The low-floors throughout make them fully wheelchair accessible, while the technology behind the scenes makes the vehicle highly energy-efficient. Technology plays a major part in Flexity2, with the driver having touch-screen controls as part of an intelligent cab.

▲ **The first of the new look and the first public appearance of the Flexity2 tram, not only in Blackpool, but worldwide. Set No. 001, currently the only one of the 16-strong fleet to be delivered, stands outside the Starr Gate Depot on 8th September. Richard Tuplin**

Over the past two winters, major upgrade work on the track has been undertaken, both to renew life-expired infrastructure and to improve the ride quality for the new fleet. As part of the system improvements a new, modern, purpose-built depot has been constructed at the southern end of the tramway at Starr Gate. The maintenance complex is equipped to handle most operational repairs to the trams, and is split between a seven-road stabling shed and three-road maintenance shed. The maintenance shed can hold six vehicles at any one time, with two of the roads having full length overhead wires, while the third road is equipped with OHL for the first half of its length. The key part of the depot is that while it is the sole base for the new trams, it has been built and designed with the ability to stable and maintain the heritage fleet, although day-to-day operations will remain at the current Rigby Road Depot. The Bombardier trams have been built with dedicated lifting points, which are used by the mobile jacks at the depot, while the older heritage trams are to be modified to allow lifting to take place. Starr Gate is equipped with a brand new wheel lathe, which was the most expensive item of equipment for the new depot, at a cost of £850,000. It will allow the maintenance team to turn all wheels of a Flexity2 set in a day, while a heritage tram can be turned in around five hours, a vast improvement on the current four-week timescale! The facility also features overhead access platforms, which are linked into the depot's protection system, and prevent staff accessing the roof areas while the OHL remains live.

On the land side of the depot is

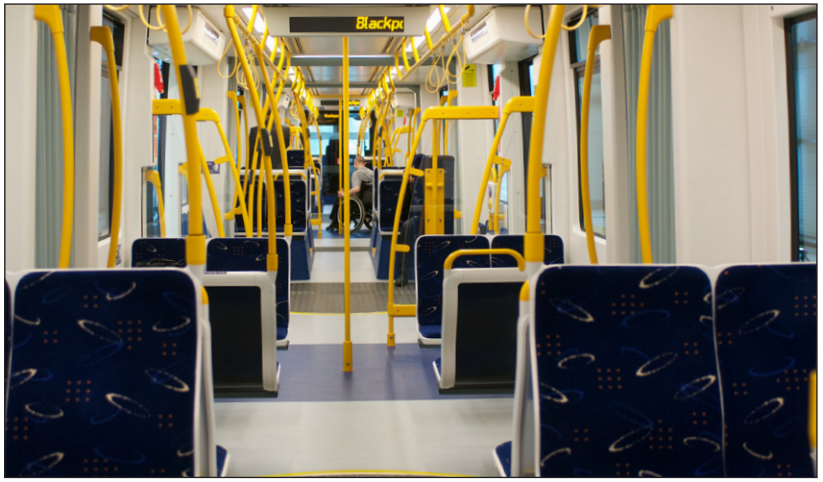
the seven-road stabling shed. Given the salty sea-air of the resort, it is hoped that daily washing, together with inside storage, will help to reduce corrosion. Outside the stabling shed is an intelligent vehicle washer, which has the ability to deal with both the new and heritage trams. While maintenance and stabling of the heritage fleet will remain unchanged from the present arrangements, space at Starr Gate Depot has been reserved, and the track layout is designed, to allow a heritage building to be constructed in the future to replace Rigby Road.

It is not all out with the old and in with the new however, a small number of the heritage trams are being retained and modified for operation alongside the modern vehicles. Passengers will be able to choose between the two types, with a five-minute interval service between each.

Blackpool now becomes a showcase for Bombardier, with the company promoting the Flexity2 design, not only across the UK and Europe, but also worldwide, with many system operators expected to visit the Lancashire resort to experience and see the product in action. The second customer for the type has already signed a contract, with the Australian Queensland Government ordering 14 trams for its Gold Coast Rapid Transit system, which will be designed, built, financed, operated and maintained by Bombardier. Showing the customisable aspects of Flexity2, the Queensland versions will have space for surfboards!

Within Blackpool, the council is currently approaching the end of a feasibility study, as a result of gaining European funding, to examine the options for extending the system to serve Blackpool North station, and as part of this work, two thirds of a delta junction was installed at North Pier during the closure last winter, which will allow a future extension to take place with minor disruption to the tramway. Part of the same study also looks at the possibility of introducing a tram-train operation in the future, potentially serving Preston through the proposed extension to Blackpool North station, which would allow easier access to the Promenade for visitors without having to change modes of transport on arrival in the resort.

With its new trams, and improved tramway, the future looks bright for Blackpool's system.



▼ On its first daytime working out of the depot, set 001 stands alongside the Pleasure Beach during the press run on 8th September. All: Richard Tuplin

▶▲ The stabling roads at Starr Gate Depot.
▶ The spacious interior of the three maintenance roads.
▶▼ Onboard the low-floor Flexity2 tram.

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EAST MIDLANDS TRAINS · Network Rail

▲ Managing Director of FGW, Mark Hopwood, and Chairman of the Great Western Society, Richard Croucher, unveil the nameplate on Class 43 No. 43024 on 10th September. **Ken Brunt**

FGW marks 50 years of Great Western Society

In recognition of 50 years at the forefront of UK railway preservation, First Great Western has named Class 43 powercar No. 43024 after the Great Western Society.

The *Great Western Society 1961 – 2011 Didcot Railway Centre* nameplate was unveiled by Managing Director of FGW, Mark Hopwood, and Chairman of the Society, Richard Croucher, on the turntable at Didcot Railway Centre on 10th September.

SWT picks Blackberrys

South West Trains (SWT) has announced plans to provide smartphones to more than 850 of its front line customer service staff in a drive to improve real-time communication with passengers.

BlackBerry devices will be issued to all South West Trains guards, as well as a number of frontline staff, including station managers and many platform staff. The investment by SWT means that its staff will have access to better information about services as well as detailed, up-to-date information about any disruption on the network. Through the smartphones, staff will be able to access the internal Live Departure Board providing an enhanced level of information for passengers, as well as other travel websites such as National Rail Enquiries and Transport for London to help with queries about onward connections.

The BlackBerry devices will replace a pager system used by the Network Rail/South West Trains integrated control centre based at London Waterloo to send messages to conductors and front line staff. The smartphone roll-out starts this month and will be complete by March next year.

Stagecoach joins calls for new measures on scrap dealers that aim to reduce railway cable theft

Cable theft on the National Network has grown by around a third between 2008/9 and 2010/11, and Brian Souter of Stagecoach has joined Network Rail in calling for new regulations to tackle the problem.

The vandalism costs the industry over £770 million each year despite existing measures such as burying cables, use of CCTV, special identifiers on cables, invisible marking of cable, securing cable in place, the use of trembler alarms and a scrap dealer education programme in partnership with British Transport Police. Extra, dedicated BTP officers are also being recruited.

A range of measures are being called for, including a robust licensing regime, replacing the current registration system, with clear requirements upon the dealer to take steps to reduce the risk that stolen materials are purchased or received. Under the measures, scrap metal dealers would be required to pay a licence fee and would be forced to only undertake cashless payments for scrap metals.

UK News In Brief

■ Southeastern has introduced a new official Southeastern Twitter feed and a 'line of route' iPhone App, both providing passengers with live train running information on the move. Southeastern's App for iPhones compliments the line of route website tool launched at the end of last year. It gives an immediate status of all Southeastern lines, each showing either Good Service, Minor Disruption or Major Disruption. Travellers can also see details of on time, delayed, cancelled or altered services.

■ New signalling has been installed and is being commissioned on the 'Robin Hood Line' route, the equipment allowing the railway between Radford Junction (north of Nottingham) and Shirebrook to be controlled from a single desk in the East Midlands Control Centre at Derby. Buses replaced trains between Nottingham and Worksop on 10th/11th September while the commissioning was completed.

■ Southeastern has announced that it will be running extra services for the opening of Westfield Stratford City on 13th and 17th September. With over 150,000 visitors expected for the opening day of the new shopping centre, Southeastern is taking the opportunity to test plans for the Olympics and Paralympics next year. The extra services will involve an additional two trains an hour running between St Pancras International and Ebbsfleet International, via Stratford International, from approximately 07.00 until 23.00. The extra services will also use the International platforms at Stratford International station. Following the opening of Westfield, the current bus connection between the International and the Regional stations will cease to run from the 20th September. Instead, passengers have the choice of a walking route through the shopping centre or the newly opened DLR extension.

■ Lord Berkeley, Chairman of the Rail Freight Group (RFG), will appear before the House of Lords EU Internal Market, Energy and Transport Committee on 12th September. This will be the penultimate evidence session in the inquiry, which is investigating the development of international rail passenger services in the European Union, using the Channel Tunnel as a case study. The Committee hopes to take further evidence from Eurotunnel before considering its findings and reporting later this year.

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Metro and Light Rail News

CrossRail enabling work commences at Whitechapel station

A new look Whitechapel station opened to passengers on 5th September.

The work has involved rationalising the platforms for London Underground services as part of the advance work for CrossRail. Whitechapel will become a key interchange on the new cross-London route, with CrossRail, London Overground and the Hammersmith & City and District Underground lines. Because of the increasing number of people expected to use the station, CrossRail alone will have 24 trains in each direction at peak times, Platforms 2 and 3 have been removed, as has the siding adjacent to Platform 4, known as No. 25 Road. Platform 4 has become the new Platform 2 and has been extended width wise, with trains now running on the alignment that was previously No. 25 Road. Ongoing work will see the former Platforms 2 and 3 filled in to create a large single island platform, providing a bigger area for passengers to move around. All the trackwork was completed in a tight schedule to enable the new signalling system associated with the layout to be completed, tested and commissioned.

It is understood that the new underground CrossRail platforms, which will be located just to the north of the station, will become the new Platforms 2 and 3. The new CrossRail station, together with the Overground and enlarged Underground platforms, will provide passengers with an improved interchange between services, and all lines will share a common concourse, ticket hall and gateline.

▲ A District Line service, formed of D Stock arrives into the new Westbound Platform 2 at Whitechapel on 6th September. This has been created by widening the old Platform 4 line over the top of the old westbound running line and converting the former No. 25 Road siding into the new Westbound main line.

▼ Looking west, the old Platform 3, with its now severed and disused track, is on the left and the former Platform 2 on the right, the track having already been lifted. This area will be covered over to create a large island platform **All: Kim Rennie**

The Irish Angle

▲ For the Gaelic Athletic Association Hurling Final between Tipperary and Kilkenny in Dublin on 4th September, Iarnrod Eireann ran an additional service for Tipperary supporters from Birdhill, Nenagh and Roscrea over the secondary Nenagh Branch route. The special was provided after a campaign by local politicians. One of the Mitsui Rotem units, No. 22029, arrives at Nenagh with the 09.00 Birdhill - Dublin Heuston G.A.A. Special. **Neil Dinnen**

▼ One of only three 8111 Class locomotives operating with Northern Ireland Railways, No. 112 departs from Whitehead with the 10.25 positioning train to Dublin Connolly on 8th September, with the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland Mk2 set, and 'Dutch' van No. 462 in tow. **Chris Playfair**

▲ A total of 42 new ticket gates have been installed at London Bridge terminus platforms. Awaiting departure in this view in late August are a Class 377, forming the 14.55 to Brighton, four-car Class 171/8 Turbostar No. 171806, forming the 14.53 to East Grinstead, and a Class 455/8 EMU, that will be heading for Tattenham Corner. **Brian Morrison**

Bombardier workers head for London in protest over Thameslink contract

Hundreds of Bombardier workers headed to London on 7th September, the day of the Transport Select Committee hearing, to call on the Prime Minister to save Britain's last train manufacturer.

Diana Holland, the Assistant General Secretary of the union Unite, giving evidence at the hearing, said: "Unions, local politicians from all parties and business leaders from Derbyshire are showing a rare moment of unity today to call on the Government to save Bombardier, Britain's last train maker. In a highly symbolic gesture they have even travelled to London from Derby in a train built by Bombardier workers. Unite will also give its evidence to the Transport Select Committee today on why the Government should rethink its decision on Thameslink. There are 3,000 jobs at Bombardier in Derby and thousands more in companies that supply the train manufacturer. When the country's economy is so uncertain and manufacturers are struggling, the Government should be using its buying power to support UK employment and manufacturing skills. No other European country would put its last train maker in jeopardy, the Government must wake up and act to support UK manufacturing".

However, the Transport Secretary, Philip Hammond, told the same committee that 1,400 redundancies at the firm's Derby factory were regrettable, but that delaying the Thameslink trains contract would be unacceptable, and as such the preferred bidder status will not be reviewed. Many hopes now potentially hang on the outcome of a preliminary inquiry by the National Audit Office (NAO).

Should the NAO decide that a full-scale investigation is required, the key question for the Government will be whether it is willing to continue with the proposed contract while the investigation is ongoing?

Station Improvements Round-Up

A new second entrance to Witham station has opened, providing improved access for commuters using what is one of the busiest stations in Essex.

The new entrance has been funded jointly by Essex County Council, Network Rail and the Department for Transport's 'Access for All' scheme, and now provides a direct link from the station car park to the platforms. A new staircase and passenger lift joins up with an extended station footbridge, meaning passengers no longer have to negotiate a walk from Easton Road to the main station entrance. The second entrance also improves accessibility for disabled passengers and those with pushchairs, and the scheme includes disabled parking and covered cycle racks adjacent to the new entrance.

Two sets of new 77-step escalators have been installed at the Docklands Light Railway station, Custom House, boosting its capacity by 72% ready for the 2012 London Olympic Games, being able to carry 200 people per minute. The station also directly serves the busy ExCel centre, the venue for many trade shows throughout the year, and when Crossrail is completed, the legacy of the new escalators will be to provide an efficient interchange with the new railway. The project cost £2.7million with £600,000 contributed by the Olympic Delivery Authority. A further package of improvements is planned for stations along the Eastern route, from Poplar to Beckton and Poplar to Woolwich, later this year. They will deliver better lighting, new seating and enhanced information displays for passengers.

▼ **Improvements to Gloucester station have commenced, with a covered walkway having been erected linking the canopies on Platforms 1 and 2, while an enclosed waiting area has also been added at the west end of Platform 1. Derek Jones**

DB Schenker remembers former colleague in Class 60 naming

▶ **Class 60 No. 60007 was named *The Spirit of Tom Kendell* at a private event at Knottingley Depot on 7th September. The naming was held in remembrance of Tom Kendell, a young and enthusiastic engineer at the company who lost his life in an accident. The name was unveiled by Tom's father, Mark Kendell, in front of friends and family members. The locomotive has also had the logo of DB Schenker's safety campaign for employees, called 'Switch on to Safety', applied to it.**

▶ **From left to right, after the naming are John Langton, Head of Risk Management for DB Schenker Rail, Tom's parents Andrea and Mark Kendell and Bethany Snow. Paul Bigland/DB Schenker**

Virgin Trains fly 21st century technology back to the 1950s!

Virgin Trains has introduced a new retro 1950s-style advertising campaign to create awareness that it is now the quickest way to travel between Birmingham and London.

The consumer-focused 'Fly Virgin Trains' campaign centres on the speed of the train between Birmingham and the Capital, the campaign being featured on poster sites and across digital and social media.

Annerie Hughes, VT Head of Marketing, said: "The new 'Fly Virgin Trains' campaign brings to life the speed at which you can travel between Birmingham and London. The illustrated route harks back to the growth of commercial air travel and the 1950s - a time when the whole world suddenly became more accessible. In a similar way the speed and frequency of the Virgin Trains' service brings the UK's two largest cities closer for both business and leisure purposes".

The new campaign achieves the 1950s style superbly, although it is interesting to see that elements of modern day life, quite rightly in a 21st century marketing campaign, remain very evident ... could this be the first 1950s poster to depict the interior of a railway carriage, complete with laptop computer! Also the Capital skyline is complete with the London Eye and the O^2 Arena.

Some of the new 1950s style promotional posters that Virgin are to use. VT

The News In Pictures

◀ With the launch of its new timetable on 5th September, Chiltern Railways has rebranded its ex-Wrexham and Shropshire sets with the Chiltern and 'Mainline' logos, and added a light and dark blue stripe to the top and bottom of the windows respectively. Its Mk3 Buffet Cars have been branded with the words 'Business Zone' across the Kitchen area of the bodyside, and on the passenger door, while the vehicles have additionally gained three icons on the side, denoting the refreshments, Wi-fi and powerpoints. Class 67 No. 67014 stands at Birmingham Moor Street on 7th September, prior to working the 15.55 service to London Marylebone. **John Whitehouse**

◀▼ Colas Rail Class 66/6 No. 66848, recently outshopped from Eastleigh Works, having been renumbered from Class 66/5 No. 66575, makes its first appearance on the 12.29 Carlisle to Chirk loaded timber working, as it passes Pleasington on 5th September. **David Hollowood**

▼ The 14.04 First Capital Connect Thameslink service from Brighton to Bedford arrives under the new station roof at Farringdon on 5th September, formed of Class 377/5 Electrostar No. 377501. **Brian Morrison**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Monday 12th September 2011

Railway Touring Co.	46115	Glasgow Central-Carnforth(-Preston-Crewe)	**Postponed**
Railway Touring Co.	46115	Fort William-Rannoch-Crianlarich-Garelochead-Dumbarton Central-Glasgow QS	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	

Tuesday 13th September 2011

Railway Touring Co.	tbc	London Victoria-Basingstoke-Weymouth-Dorchester South-Woking-Waterloo
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return
Railway Touring Co.	46115	Springburn-Mauchline Jct-Dumfries-Shap-Preston-(-Manchester Vic-Crewe)

Wednesday 14th September 2011

Statesman Rail	tbc	Lancaster-Preston-Clitheroe-Appleby-Carlisle & return	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	
Torbay Express Ltd	4492 or 70000	Poole-Bournemouth-Southampton-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads & return	
Rail-Blue Charters	DBS Class 67	West Ruislip-Stoke-Newcastle Central and & return	**Cancelled**
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Crewe-Preston-Lockerbie-Springburn-Westerton-Crianlarich-Oban and return	

Thursday 15th September 2011

Steam Dreams	60163	London King's Cross-Lincoln & return
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return

Friday 16th September 2011

WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return

Saturday 17th September 2011

NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Ipswich-Stowmarket-Cambridge-Peterborough-York-Durham-Newcastle-Hexham-Carlisle-Sellafield-Carnforth-Copy Pit-Doncaster-Ipswich-Norwich
NRM	tbc	York-Shildon-York Shuttle Service
Pathfinder Tours	2xWCRC 37	Crewe-Watford Junction-Finsbury Park-Stratford-East Ham C2C Depot-Fenchurch Street-Orient Sidings-Stratford-Staines-East Croydon-Selhurst Depot Departure Road-London Victoria-Sutton-Clapham Jct-Wembley Yard-Watford Junction & rtn
Rail-Blue Charters	DBS Class 67	Watford Jct-Bletchley-Stoke-Huddersfield-Skipton-Carlisle and return via Shap
Railway Touring Co.	60019 & 5029	London Paddington-Taunton-Plymouth & return as outwards
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Various	Birmingham Intl-Derby-Crewe-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Ravenglass-Carnforth-Hellifield-Shipley-Sheffield-Derby & return
UK Railtours	EMT HST	London St. Pancras-Luton Airport Parkway-Nottingham-Sleaford-Skegness & rtn
Vintage Trains	5043	Tyseley WR-Worcester SH-Evesham-Oxford-Reading-London Paddington & rtn

Sunday 18th September 2011

Torbay Express Ltd	6024	Bristol Temple Meads-Taunton-Newton Abbott-Paignton-Kingswear & return
NRM	tbc	York-Shildon-York Shuttle Service

Monday 19th September 2011

WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return

Tuesday 20th September 2011

WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return

Wednesday 21st September 2011

Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	York-Normanton-Huddersfield-Bolton-Preston-Ravenglass-Workington-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham-York & return to Wigan North Western as outwards
HF Railtours	60163	(Crewe-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-)Preston-Shap-Beattock-Glasgow Central & rtn

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

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked. **RED** Tours cancelled by the operator
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator **BLUE** Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Appropriate end to an exceptional year for RSG

This year has been an exceptional year for 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey***, and not just for the fact that this is its 50th year in traffic, having been released from Doncaster Works in February 1961.**

Probably the high spot was the short-term hire by GBRf to cover the flow from North Blyth to Lynemouth on the Rio Tinto Alcan tanks during April and May, culminating in the exceptional dash to Fort William on 30th May to work the empty Alcan tanks back from Lochaber to Mossend.

It is interesting to note that No. 55022 has actually covered three of the big four Scottish branches this year; Kyle of Lochalsh and the Far North for the SRPS in May and June, and Fort William as already mentioned above, and which should have been visited again this coming week with Spitfire's 'Lochs and Glens Napier', which is now heading to Oban. That just leaves Stranraer to be so blessed with a visit - one for 2012 maybe?

A day out from London King's Cross to Edinburgh in March for Spitfire Railtours, along its old stamping ground of the ECML, was allied to positioning moves from and to Preston either side of the main tour, while more recently there have been trips to Paignton, Weston-super-Mare and Weymouth.

To conclude a truly splendid year of main line action, the annual SRPS Linlithgow to Lincoln charter on 2nd December, will again see *Royal Scots Grey* on the ECML south from Edinburgh, before turning left at Doncaster for the final few miles to Lincoln via Gainsborough Lea Road and Saxilby.

▼ **LMS Stanier 'Black 5' No. 45305 makes easy work of the climb up Pleasington Bank, with Class 47/4 No. 47580** *County of Essex* **providing assistance from the rear, with the return leg of the 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' to Crewe on 27th August. David Felton**

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

There is much to look forward to during the coming week of railtours, with perhaps the highlight being the working of 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **throughout from Crewe to Oban on Spitfire Railtours' 'Lochs and Glens Napier' on 14th September.**

This, one will recall, was postponed quite close to the original departure date of 10th August due to rolling stock problems at West Coast, and it is good to see that the re-dated tour has been achieved little more than a month later, although as a result of timing issues, the train is now heading to Oban, rather than Fort William as originally planned. Due to the length of the journey there are no frills, just a straightforward high-speed run from Crewe to the outskirts of Glasgow, and then the more tortuous climb over the West Highland Line to Oban. It should prove to be a worthy challenge for *Royal Scots Grey*.

This is just part of an interesting few days on the West Highland, as there will also be steam-haulage two days earlier with the 'West Highland Steam Express' operated by the Railway Touring Company, which was featured in this column last week.

It is a busy week for Spitfire, with its 'Cumbrian Crusader V' from Birmingham International to Carlisle, via Derby, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay, Blackburn and the Settle & Carlisle booked for 17th September. The return works around the Cumbrian Coast to Carnforth, and then over the Little North Western to Hellifield and Moorthorpe, before returning south by way of Sheffield, Derby and back through Burton-on-Trent and Tamworth to Birmingham. DRS traction will feature, including pairs of Class 57s and 37s along with a Class 66/4.

Pathfinder will also be in action on 17th September, working south from Crewe and Birmingham, on its 'Buffer Puffer 9.0' with a pair of West Coast Class 37s in 'top and tail' mode, which during the day is scheduled to visit the c2c depot at East Ham, London Fenchurch Street, Aldershot, London Victoria and Selhurst Depot before returning back north.

Meanwhile, working out of London from St Pancras International will be an East Midlands' HST for UK Railtours on the 'High Speed Jolly Fisherman' - no prizes for guessing the destination. Suffice to say it will be bracing, as Skegness always is, which will be reached by way of Nottingham, after picking up at Luton Airport Parkway and Kettering. The other modern traction excursion, operated by Nenta Traintours, heads for Carlisle and the Cumbrian Coast line from Norwich and the usual pick-up points before heading north along the East Coast Main Line via York and Durham. Carlisle is reached by way of the Tyne Valley, while the return also features the climb to Copy Pit summit.

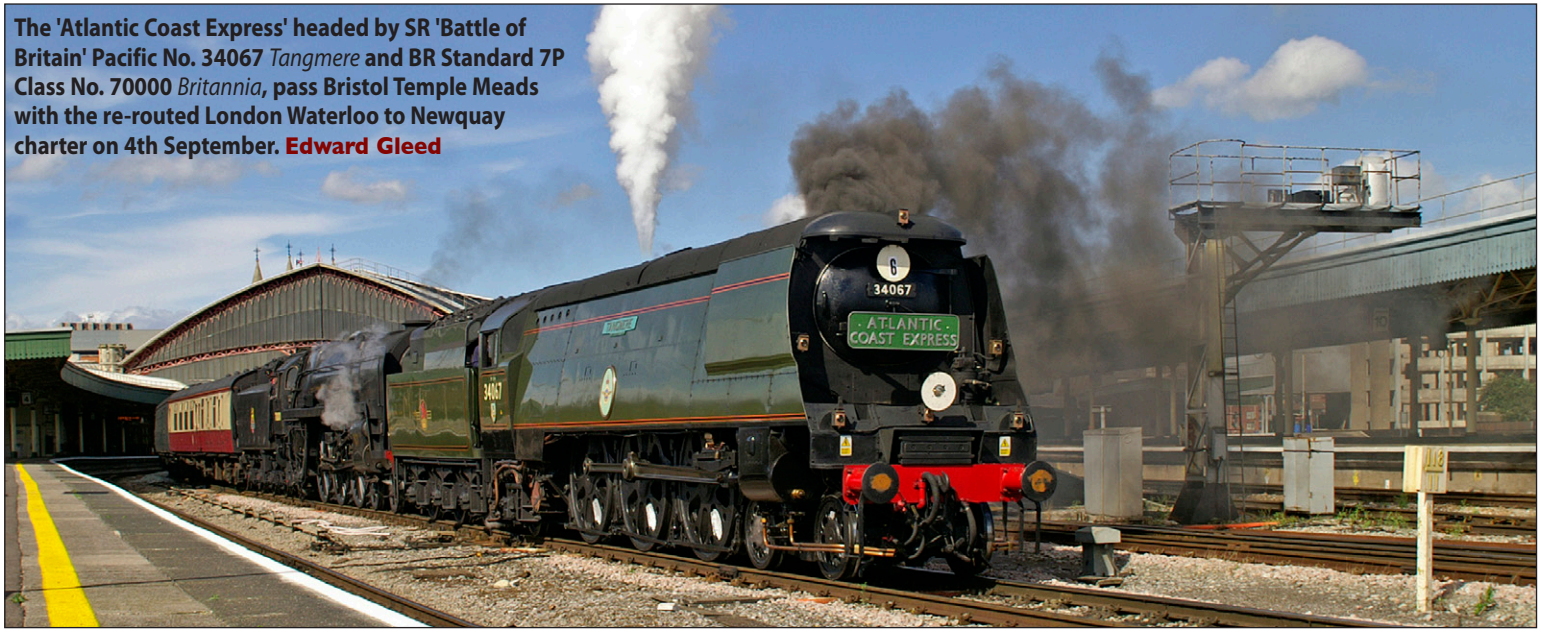
The steam working of the week has to be Vintage Trains' 'Cathedrals Express' on 17th September. This is not a case of borrowing the title from Steam Dreams, but a celebration of the express train of that name that operated from London Paddington to Hereford, via Oxford and Worcester. It is also the first steam-hauled working over the Cotswold main line following its recent upgrade and signalling improvements.

'The Cathedrals Express' in BR days was diagrammed for a 'Castle', and it is very apt that the first steam working over the line for a good few years will be in the hands of Tyseley's No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* that is booked throughout from Tyseley Warwick Road, via Birmingham Snow Hill, Worcester Shrub Hill, Moreton-in-Marsh, Oxford and Reading to London Paddington, and return.

This will be the second steam working using London Paddington on 17th September, the first being The Railway Touring Company's 'Mayflower', which features LNER A4 Pacific No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* throughout to Plymouth, which is booked via the Berks and Hants route to Taunton, where GWR 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* will be waiting to give the 'A4' some assistance over the South Devon banks.

The National Railway Museum will be 'going main line' with the first of two weekends of steam operations. The museum will be connecting its two sites at York and Shildon by operating two return shuttle workings each day on both this coming weekend and the 24th/25th September. Trains will run from the South Yard at the NRM to Shildon station, calling also at Darlington North Road. The first outward journey from the NRM York, and last return journey of the day from Shildon will be diesel-hauled by a Class 47, while the morning working from Shildon and afternoon departure from York will be steam-hauled. A pool of steam locomotives was originally announced, but of that group LNER 'A3' Pacific No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* and SR 'N15' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* will not now be available, and it appears as if 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* will cover most of the steam turns.

▼ **After its recent operations on the 'Scarborough Spa Express' workings, LMS 'Black 5' No. 44932 headed back to Carnforth on 30th August, leaving 'Britannia' No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell* **to operate the final week. The ECS move to Carnforth and morning southwards 'SSE' departure to Scarborough, via Wakefield, departed together, resulting in this amazing scene of parallel running at Colton Junction. Peter Styles**



The 'Atlantic Coast Express' headed by SR 'Battle of Britain' Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* and BR Standard 7P Class No. 70000 *Britannia*, pass Bristol Temple Meads with the re-routed London Waterloo to Newquay charter on 4th September. Edward Gleed

All change for 'Atlantic Coast Express' as failures change itinerary

If would be of little surprise if there were dark mutterings about 'Murphy's Law' in the Steam Dreams office on Wednesday morning following the 'eventful' Atlantic Coast Express.

For the uninitiated, 'Murphy's Law', which is equally well known as 'Sods Law', states quite simply that if something can go wrong, it will go wrong! And, often this is the case despite all best efforts to prevent it happening! And the one thing that can be said about Steam Dreams 'Atlantic Coast Express', is that 'Murphy's Law' applies.

Actually what went wrong was completely beyond the control of Steam Dreams, and is, in the world of rail tour operators, the nightmare waiting to happen'. The plan was for SR 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* to power the first part of the charter on 6th September from London Paddington, via Reading and Newbury, to Westbury, where SR 'Battle of Britain' Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* and BR Standard Class 7P Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia*, itself a late replacement for SR 'West Country' Pacific No. 34046 *Braunton*, were to be positioned ready to head the 'ACE' onwards through Devon to its destination of Newquay.

After the passengers had enjoyed a day on Cornwall's Atlantic Coast, the pairing were due to haul the train back to Exeter St Davids, where *Tangmere* would be detached and proceed to Yeovil Junction for servicing, while *Britannia* continued over the northern part of the old Southern Railway's 'Withered Arm' to Okehampton. The charter was then to return to Exeter diesel-hauled, where No. 70000 would be detached, prior to the diesel continuing to Yeovil for *Tangmere* to take over for the last leg back to London. A very pleasing schedule, with plenty of hard work for the locomotives.

However, Mr Murphy stepped in as early as Friday afternoon, when, as previously reported, the ECML was brought to a halt for a significant period of time by lineside fires that were attributed to *Sir Lamiel*, which was en route from York to Southall with 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*.

Hot cinders from the ash pan of No. 30777 are believed to have been cited as the unconfirmed reason, which resulted in the positioning move being sidelined at Newark Northgate. The ECML problems will no doubt be keenly looked at by Network Rail, but although the delays were significant, it is understood that two Class 91 failures around Peterborough later in the afternoon also contributed considerably.

A Class 47 was dispatched from Carnforth the following day to haul the 'Brit' to Southall, while the plan was to return *Sir Lamiel* by road to Loughborough to investigate the problem, although it is believed that one week later, the sheeted-over *Sir Lamiel* remains at Newark awaiting transfer.

This left Steam Dreams with a traction problem for Sunday, and after many hectic, and probably on occasions, frantic telephone conversations, the combined efforts of the tour company, Network Rail and West Coast came together with a Plan B.

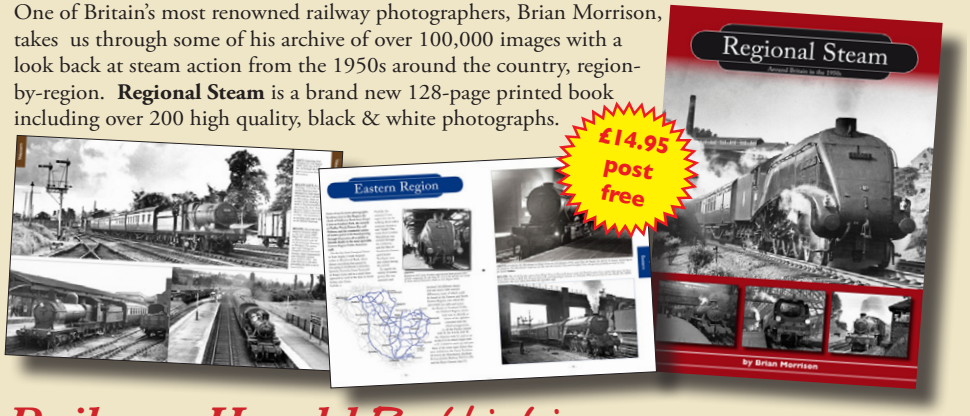
Considering this meant a virtual re-write of the timings, plus the need to arrange a revised schedule of watering and serving points through to Taunton, this really was a superb effort by all involved. The 'ACE' was steam-hauled throughout by *Tangmere* and *Britannia* and re-routed to operate from London Waterloo to Basingstoke and Salisbury, before heading for Westbury, Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads to reach Taunton, from where it continued as advertised. The re-routing worked, and everything was going well until the train was put into Tiverton Junction loop due to an issue with No. 34067. The problem was of sufficient gravity for the 'Battle of Britain' to be taken off the train, which was delayed by some two hours to await the arrival of West Coast's Class 47 No. 47500, to pilot No. 70000 over the South Devon banks. Because of the lack of run-round facilities at Newquay, the train was steamed-hauled into the resort, with some banking assistance from the Class 47.

Unfortunately, it was not possible to resource a replacement for *Tangmere* at short notice, so the return run operated from Newquay through to Okehampton with No. 70000, and was diesel-hauled throughout on the return, via Exeter and the old London & South Western main line to Waterloo. While obviously a great disappointment to many, particularly the passengers, the 'ACE' once again proved that in adversity the industry pulls together and ensures that the passengers are looked after.

The aftermath is that No. 70013 was available to haul Shepherd Neame's 'Spitfire' and 'Hop Picker' trains on 4th September, and in the absence of No. 30777, which was booked for the London-Weymouth leg of Tuesday's 'Dorset Coast Express', the NRMs 'Brit' also provided the motive power for that train throughout. To maximise steam-mileage it was diesel-hauled from Weymouth to Southampton, with *Oliver Cromwell* then taking over to work via Redbridge, Romsey and Andover to rejoin the planned route at Basingstoke. Meanwhile, *Tangmere* was dragged back to Carnforth on 8th September, where the investigation as to what went wrong has begun.

From the days when steam was king and diesels were just a thought on the horizon...

One of Britain's most renowned railway photographers, Brian Morrison, takes us through some of his archive of over 100,000 images with a look back at steam action from the 1950s around the country, region-by-region. **Regional Steam** is a brand new 128-page printed book including over 200 high quality, black & white photographs.



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Ups & Downs

■ For anyone looking for a decent investment opportunity, there are just a handful of the Limited Edition 'Keep Calm and Carry On' prints, depicting the evacuation of children, remaining. Each is signed by the artist John Cowley GRA, together with Sir Richard Branson and Pete Waterman, and can be acquired for a very reasonable £145. There are other options available where prints are signed by either Sir Richard Branson or Pete Waterman, together with unsigned copies. Full details, as well as how to book on the 'Train of Hope' itself can be found on website.

■ Torbay Express are obviously pleased with the loadings attained on its new 'Bath Spa Express' workings from Poole to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads, as an additional pair of Christmas-themed trains have been scheduled for 30th November and 7th December, each picking up at Poole, Bournemouth, Brockenhurst and Southampton Central. The traction for these tours has not yet been detailed, but a blue 'A4' or black 'Britannia' would seem to be a likely bet.

■ Engineering work has scuppered RTC's 'Woolwinder' on 6th November, but all is not lost, as instead 'The Buxton Spa Express' will be operated from Lancaster, picking up at Preston, Bolton and Manchester Victoria, before proceeding to Buxton Spa, via Denton and Stockport. After a break in the spa town, the train heads over the Hope Valley line to Sheffield, and then via Barnsley and Dewsbury to the Calder Valley line, for an assault on Copy Pit and back to Manchester Victoria by way of Blackburn and Bolton. The train is scheduled for the Ian Riley's pairing of LMS 'Black 5s' Nos. 44871 & 45407.

▼ **Class 67 No. 67028 approaches Cheltenham Spa on 3rd September, while working the Venice Simplon Orient Express 'British Pullman' from London Victoria to Worcester Shrub Hill. Heading in the opposite direction is one of the Arriva CrossCountry HSTs, with powercar No. 43304 on the rear, forming the 06.01 Glasgow Central to Paignton service. Tony Rispoli**

On 3rd September, Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **accelerates away from Worcester Shrub Hill with Pathfinder Tours' 'The Dorset Deltic Explorer' from Crewe to Weymouth.**
Stephen Tucker

BR Standard 7P 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* **races along the sea wall and approaches Dawlish Warren with the Newquay to Okehampton leg of the 'Atlantic Coast Express', unfortunately in wet and windy weather on 6th September.**
Peter Smith

Hoovering around North Wales

PTG Tours operated its first UK-based weekend charter from London Euston to North Wales on 3rd/4th September.

The train should have been powered by two Class 50s, in the form of Nos. 50044 *Exeter* and 50049 *Defiance*, but unfortunately, it was not possible to get the latter locomotive ready in time.

◀ **Class 50 No. 50044** *Exeter* **speeds through Flint with the the 'Snowdon Ranger' railtour returning from Holyhead to London Euston, via North Llanrwst, on 4th September. The train used Virgin Trains' refurbished Mk3 set, complete with Class 57/3 No. 57304 on the rear. Paul Manley**

◀▼ **Working the North Llanrwst to Llandudno Junction leg of the 'Snowdon Ranger', Class 57/3 No. 57304** *Gordon Tracy* **passes Tal-Y-Cafn on the Conwy Valley line on 4th September, thought to be the first visit of the class to the line. David Hennessey**

▼ **Heading back to the Capital, No. 50044 crosses Shifnal Viaduct. John Whitehouse**

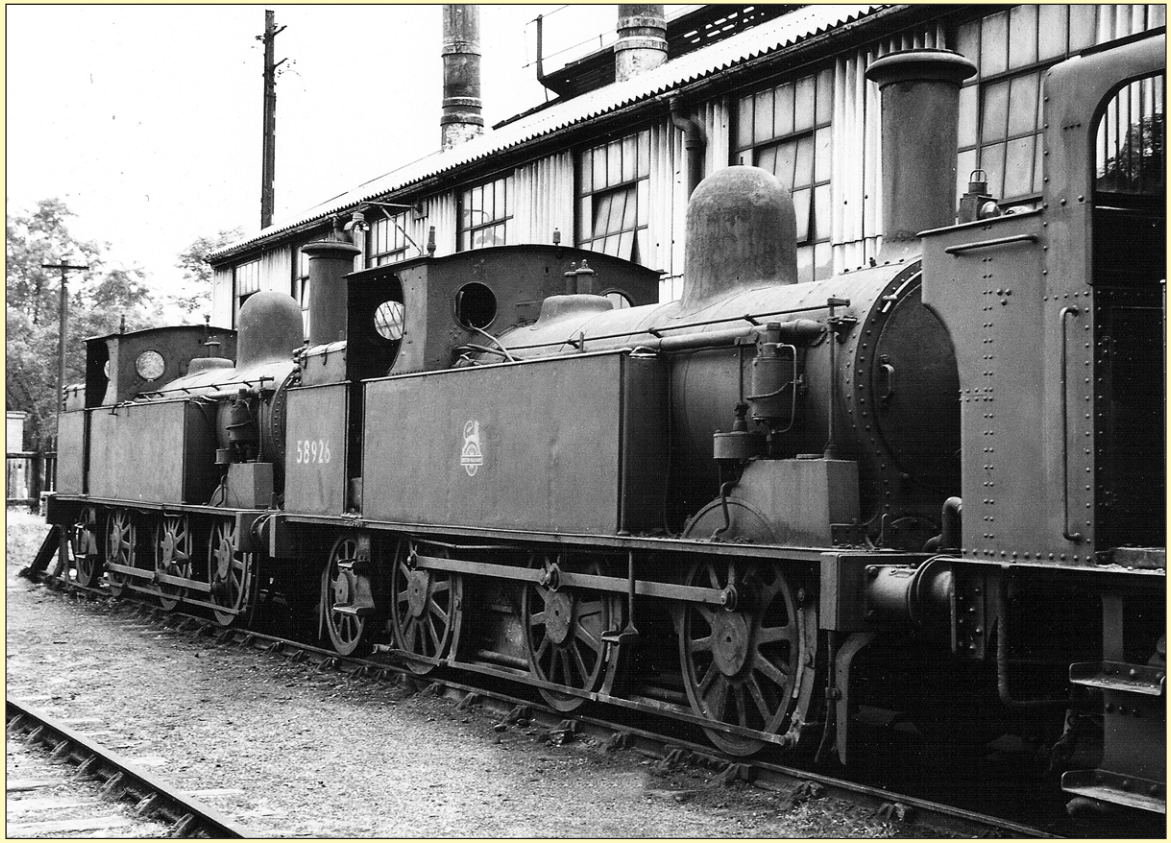
LNWR Coal Tank to be outshopped in BR black in February

The overhaul of the National Trust's LNWR Coal Tank 2F 0-6-2T No. 1054, which has been in the care of the Bahamas Locomotive Society (BLS) as custodians from the National Trust since 1973, will be completed shortly at Ingrow shed on the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway (KWVR).

It last worked in 1998 and there has been increasing speculation as to when the engine will reappear and what livery it will carry, and the BLS has now announced that the locomotive will re--enter traffic during the KWVR's February Gala next year, in BR livery as 58926.

It is hoped that it will be possible for the loco to appear in several other of the liveries it has carried since 1882, including when it was LMS No. 7799, before it is finally repainted in its original LNWR lined livery as No. 1054.

In addition to participating in the 'Steel, Steam & Stars' event to be held next April at the Llangollen Railway, there has already been significant interest for it to appear elsewhere.



Withdrawn 1882-built Webb LNWR Class 2F 'Coal Tanks' Nos. 58926 and 58891 in store outside Abercynon shed (88E) on 26th June 1955. **Arthur Carpenter**

Several enquiries for its use on photographic charters have also been received.

There is no doubt that its pairing once again with an LNWR 'Super D' 0-8-0 is eagerly awaited as No. 58926 and 'Super D' No. 49121 were used to haul the last train on the Abergavenny–Merthyr line on 5th January 1958.

While LNWR 0-8-0 No. 49395 is scheduled to appear at the Llangollen April event, plans are well advanced for the visit of the NRM's 'Super D' to the KWVR's February Gala.

As part of its successful application to the Heritage Lottery Fund, the BLS has stated that it will develop some 'outreach' activity and that, in addition to visiting other railways over a period of time, a carefully and well-researched book accompanied by an audio-documentary on CD would be produced.

This 256-page book entitled "Bashers, Gadgets & Mourners: the Life and Times of the LNWR Coal Tanks" has just been published by the BLS, and represents over seven-years research by its author Peter Skelton, the BLS Archivist.

Priced at £25 including postage, it is available from the BLS, 22 Windsor Street, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA14 5JR. All cheques should be made payable to Bahamas Loco Trading Limited.

The *Mardy Monster* comes to Blaenavon as Big Pit branch opens

There will be a small, but very significant addition to the heritage railway mileage of the UK on 16th September, with the opening of the Big Pit branch on the Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway (P&BR).

The official opening will take place on the morning of Friday 16th September, followed by the first departure from Furness Sidings at 11.00 for Bleanavon High Level, the new branch being a key development for the railway, as well as being an important boost for tourism in the area.

The Big Pit is the National Mining Museum of Wales, and the new rail connection will bring in extra visitors both to the museum and the railway, as well as to the local area itself.

The P&BR will also be operating an 'Industrial South Wales Steam Gala' throughout the weekend, with a fine array of visiting locomotives available to pit their strengths against the adverse grades of the heritage line. Locomotives scheduled to be in operation throughout the weekend, are RSH 'Austerity' No. 71515 *Mach Nawwies Ltd*, Bagnall No. 19 HM Dockyard Devonport and Peckett's Nos. 1163 *Whitehead*, 2150 *Mardy Monster* and 1859 *Sir Gomer*.

A special timetable on the Big Pit branch will operate on Friday, together with an extensive timetable on both the 'main line' and Big Pit branch on Saturday and Sunday. A demonstration freight will also operate, while at the Big Pit there will be a photographic display of industrial steam, access to Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST *Nora* and a lecture on South Wales Industrial Railways on 17th September.

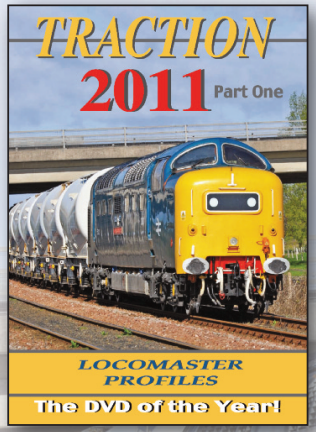
A photographic charter is also due to operate on 23rd & 24th September, more information of which is available by emailing info@pbrly.co.uk.

Full details on the operations, timetables for the three days of the gala weekend, and passenger fares can be found on the P&BR website by clicking here.

The latest addition to the Traction DVD series

TRACTION 2011

PART 1: January-June



The first six months of 2011 have thrown up some of the most unusual workings in many years. Add to that the numerous fleet changes, locomotive developments and selected highlights from the world of preservation and the latest instalment in this highly-acclaimed series is a real eye-popper! Among the many items featured in this 100-minute DVD are.....

55022 on hire to GB Railfreight working the Alcan alumina tanks; 20304 & 20305 hauling a rake of container flats from Harwich to Peterborough; 92026 hauling a rake of 41 'Seacow' ballast wagons for export; 47739 hauling stored KSA wagons to Hamilton; 73206 shunting in Peterborough Yard; 66842 works the first Colas coal train over the Weardale Railway; an amazing 10 loco convoy of Class 66s; the WSMR farewell at London Marylebone; DRS hauling Boat Trains to Southampton Docks and the luxury Northern Belle; FGW's 57603 arriving at Loughborough for a re-paint; 91101 at Kings Cross on its first day in 'Flying Scotsman' livery; 20303 & 20309 deputising for steam on the Northern Belle to Holyhead; 'Crompton' D6515's main line test run following its Eastleigh Works overhaul; 56312 on hire to Colas towing a ballast cleaner; Network Rail Class 97s at work on the Cambrian route; DRS 37s on the Henley-on-Thames branch; 57601 towing 2 Grand Central HST power cars; 57314 towing 2 Virgin 'Voyager' coaches; 50044 returns to the main line re-painted in BR blue; 20308 on inspection saloon duties at York...and 56301 makes a spectacular comeback at the Swanage gala!

TRACTION 2011 PART 1 is available now on DVD priced at £19.95 (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling our CREDIT CARD HOTLINE on 01753 545888.

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▲ **Former Turkish 8F 2-8-0 No. 45160 from the G-WR visited the Barry Tourist Railway on 3rd/4th September. Here, it departs from Barry Island on the second day, with a service for Hood Road. Nick Wilcock**

Turkish 8F in operation at Barry Waterfront Festival

Turkish Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 45160 has arrived at the Barry Tourist Railway, and was in steam on 3rd/4th September, hauling the Rail Centre's 1957 Class 101 Metro-Cammell DMU *Iris 2***.**

The loco was the first tender locomotive ever to run at Barry, and formed an important part of the town's Waterfront Festival. The Stanier-designed '8F' was British built during World War II and shipped to Turkey where it became known by the Turks as a 'Churchill 8F' after Britain's then Prime Minister. It was repatriated to Great Britain in 1989 by the Churchill 8F Locomotive Company and restored to full working order, returning to steam last year at its home base on the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway.

Recently repatriated 'Churchill 8F' No. 45166 is also at Barry, currently in store.

S&D flavour comes to the Great Central Railway

A taste of the Somerset & Dorset Railway is to come to the Great Central Railway for a spectacular line-up of steam motive power at the line's four-day Autumn Gala from 6th to 9th October.

Eight locomotives will take part in a festival of steam, which for the first time will last for four days. Visiting S&D 7F 2-8-0 No. 88 will be the main attraction, along with West Country Pacific No. 34007 *Wadebridge*, neither of which have operated on the Great Central before, and both bringing with them a flavour of the Somerset and Dorset Railway that was closed in the 1960s.

In addition 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No.30777 *Sir Lamiel* returns to the line, offering the prospect of seeing the two Southern locomotives passing each other on GCR`s double track. Five locomotives from the current home fleet of the GCR will also join the line up, including the sole surviving GCR Class O4 2-8-0 No 63601, which will be 100 years old in January next year, GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No 4953 *Pitchford Hall* and LMS 3F 0-6-0 No 47406.

The event could also be the first to feature the recently installed turntable at Quorn & Woodhouse station, which is nearing completion. A new café seating 50 people has also opened at the station, giving a perfect vantage point to watch passing trains.

www.mnr.org.uk/events/diesel

MNR The Mid-Norfolk Railway

'HEAVY HAUL' AUTUMN DIESEL GALA

Friday September 23rd to Sunday 25th

PHOTO: BOB FOSTER

THE MID-NORFOK RAILWAY IS PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE A SPECTACULAR LINE UP OF TYPE 5 DIESEL LOCOS TO VISIT OUR 11-MILES OF TRACK FOR A UNIQUE EVENT THIS SEPTEMBER.

OUR AUTUMN DIESEL GALA IS NOT TO BE MISSED!

PHOTO: GORDON WHITE

Timetables and fares are still being finalised, and will be announced on our website very soon.

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Telephone: 01362 851723 More details and timetables at: www.mnr.org.uk

The Mid-Norfolk Railway, Railway Station, Station Road, Dereham, Norfolk NR19 1DF.

Standard Gauge pointwork for sale

A hard-to-find section of track acquired by the Mid-Suffolk Light Railway (MSLR) for its extension to Blacksmith's Green has been put up for sale.

Part of the standard gauge trackwork retrieved from Ipswich Lower Yard in early July, is a three-way turnout, which the MSLR has no need for in its current or future plans.

The turnout, which is 150 yards long at a ratio of 1-in-8, and has 19 separate components, is being offered for sale to the heritage rail community. Anyone with an interest should contact the MSLR Chairman, Roger Gregory, on 07769 906035.

FR's *Lyd* takes to the rails in authentic L&B colour scheme

Lynton & Barnstable Railway (L&BR) replica Manning Wardle 2-6-2T No. 190 *Lyd* has finally appeared in Southern Railway green livery.

The loco, built at the Ffestiniog & Welsh Highland Railway's Boston Lodge works at a cost of £500,000, is a significantly improved design based on the L&BR's *Lew*, built in 1925 and exported to South America when the railway closed in 1936.

Lyd, which was completed in 2010 and outshopped in a mock BR livery, maintains the L&BR tradition of naming locomotives after Devon rivers with three-letter names. The repainted *Lyd* appeared in public for the first time during the Welsh Highland Railway's Super Power event on 10th September, when it was rostered as Porthmadog Harbour station pilot and also hauled the first service train in its new guise.

The loco paid a visit to its spiritual home in North Devon last year and negotiations are underway to organise a repeat appearance wearing its authentic Southern livery. The loco is currently oil-fired but will be converted to a coal burner over the winter.

▲ **A sight long wished for by many. Carrying Southern green livery, No. 190 *Lyd* stands against the dominant backdrop of the Snowdonia mountain range, outside Boston Lodge Works, on 7th September.**

▶ **Only three coats of varnish remain to be applied, as Glenn Williams concentrates on the task in hand on 6th September. Both: FR**

▶ **Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST No. 1700 *Wissington* undergoes restoration in the shed at Weybourne. Built in 1938 for the British Sugar Corporation at Wissington in Norfolk, it spent its life hauling beet and other such produce, until finally retired in 1978. After spending 20 years on static display at Sheringham, it is currently being returned to working order. Kev Gregory**

▼ **BR Standard Class 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80078 is pictured on a Allelys lorry at the Great Dorset Steam Fair on 3rd September, after a demonstration loading. The loco was then taken around the main arena several times, with the lorry sometimes being pulled by up to four steam traction engines! Peter Watson**

North Norfolk gala brings loco variety to Holt

The North Norfolk Railway held its Steam Gala weekend on 3rd/4th September, with the star attraction being visiting Ivatt 2-6-0 No. 43106, recreating the days when the class were regular performers on the Midland & Great Northern route through Sheringham.

Also in action was visiting LMS 'Black 5' No. 45305, which arrived over the railway's main line link. On 2nd September, former South Lynn employees were reunited with the engine they worked in the steam era, one of whom was Leslie Gore, the last driver of No. 43106 while it was based at South Lynn.

◀ The Severn Valley's 'Flying Pig' No. 43106 heads for Holt, at Bridge 303, on 4th September. **Ashley Dace**

◀▼ London Transport-livered GWR Pannier No. L99 departs Sheringham with the 13.59 service for Holt, with the Gresley Quad-Art four-coach set, on the same day. **Kev Gregory**

▼ GER J15 No. 65462 and Ivatt No. 43106 double-head the late running 18.08 from Sheringham on 3rd September, catching the late afternoon sun on Kelling Bank. **Ian Williams**

London Midland Class 172/3 No. 172345 arrives at Birmingham Snow Hill with an additional working from Stourbridge Junction. London Midland now has nine three-car Class 172s that commenced passenger operations on 5th September.
Steve Washbourne

In the early morning light, East Midland Trains Class 158 No. 158812 passes over Beggars Bridge in Turves, with 05.50 Norwich to Liverpool Lime Street service, on 2nd September. **Kev Gregory**

Class 66/0 No. 66213 heads eastwards on the Great Western Main Line, near Steventon, on 3rd September, with an Oxford Hinksey to Westbury working, conveying two RHTT sets, in preparation for the commencement of the Sandite season. **Tony Bart**

12th September 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield, YO25 6PX. 'DVD & Slide Show'. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact 01377 254068 for details.

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG 'Westwards from Dover looking for steam' by Peter Groom. Starts 20.00, All welcome, £3 admission. Contact 01522-705365 for details

RCTS (Northampton)
St. Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. '1960/70s Railway Memories' & ' Constructing Replica North Eastern Railway Signals' by Craig Donald. Starts 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'Winter Steam in China' by David Eatwell. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archibishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Sheffield Victoria & The Great Central War Memorial' by Ken Grainger. Starts 19.30. £2 donation requested. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for further details.

13th September 2011

Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'The Dick Sansbury Collection' by John Barrowdale. Starts 20.00.

GW Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Last Days of Steam in the Southern Region & Early Days of Steam on Preservation' by Paul Dibbens. Starts 19.45. All welcome. Contact 01454 324230 for details.

Meon Valley Loco Society
St. Peters Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham, Hampshire. 'Chairman's Night' by Barry Eagles. Starts 20.00. £2 Admission - all welcome. Contact John Barrowdale on 02392 640951 for further details.

14th September 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Broad Gauge Railway Journey Pt 2' by Canon Brian Arman. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davis. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Radyr. 'Scottish Railrovering in the 1970s and 1980s' by Stephen Miles. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Freight Trains Around Britain in the 21st Century' by Geoff Brockett. Starts 19.30.

Swiss Rly Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. (near Kings Cross). 'Cantons Bern and Solothurn' by Roger Jones. Starts 19.00. £3 donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for details.

15th September 2011

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre,Barrow Hill Depot. 'Steaming Through Britain' by GB Productions. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales)
Newport. Venue TBA. 'Welsh Highland Railway Infrastructure' by John Streeves. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, James Hepburn on 07919 307726 for further details.

RCTS (Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Traction in the Deltic Era' by Hugh Ballantyne. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. 'Members Evening. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact 0208 368 6200 for details.

16th September 2011

GW Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, nr Taunton, TA3 5DE. 'Archive Films' by Paul Dibbens. Meeting commences at 19.30. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Richard Trevithick & the Early Steam Railways' by Philip Hosken. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946.

17th September 2011

GW Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay, TQ12 5 LD. 'Didcot - The Great Awakening' by Richard Antliffe. Starts 18.30. All welcome. Contact 01803 336329.

19th September 2011

GCR Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Classic Film Night' by Mick Hayes. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (York)
New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick, YO32 4AG. 'Yorkshire Buses' by Geof Dickson. Starts 19.30. Contact Bryan Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, Chester. 'Teenage Memories of the Early 1960s'. by Bob Casselden. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Rail Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland' by Stuart Baker. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'Chiltern Railways - Operations and Developments' by Adrian Shooter. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Out and About Again' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30.

Stafford Railway Society (joint meeting with Continental Railway Circle)
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Steam in South America' by Nick Tindall. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622.

20th September 2011

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
The Kings Arms, St Mary's Street, Bedford, MK42 0AS. AGM followed by Branch Photographic Competition. Starts 19.30. £1 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149.

PW Institution (Nottingham & Derby)
Aston Court Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station. Derby. 'Peterborough to Nuneaton W10 Gauge Clearance Project' by Rob Clark & Andrew Farnwoth. Starts 18.30. Contact Colin Cowey on 07946 482343.

PW Institution (West Yorkshire/York)
NRM, York. 'North East Rly Engineers Forum'. Starts 18.30. Contact Martin Wooff on 07747 160949 for details.

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'A Journey from Cromer to Whitby' by Tony Arnold. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at richardh@djbroady.co.uk for details.

21st September 2011

Permanent Way Institution(Glasgow)
Uptairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Haymarket North Tunnel'. Starts 17.30. Call Jack Scott on 07789 765291 for details.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Scout and Guide Hall, Godalming. 'The Redhill to Reading Line' by Bruce Nathan. Starts 14.15. Contact 01372 379216 for details.

22nd September 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesent DA12 1BB. 'AGM'. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for further details.

MHR Preservation Society (Thames Valley)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX. 'The Gloucester and Warwickshire Railway' by David Hall. Meeting commences at 19.30. £2 donation. Contact info@mid-hants-thames-valley.org.uk for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows. WA12 9SH 'Nothing After 1968' by Richard Greenwood. Meeting commences at 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

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

▼ **DRS Class 66/4 No. 66417, currently on hire to Freightliner Intermodal, passes Thingley with a Bristol to Tilbury intermodal service on 2nd September. Stephen Moore**

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN 'Dave Bakers Film Night' Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact Alan Pitt on 07803 046076 for further details.

23rd September 2011
Shropshire Railway Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Manchester Ship Canal & its Railways' by Chris Makepease. Meeting commences at 19.30.

24th September 2011
Bournemouth Railway Club
Winton Methodist Community Centre, All Purpose Room, Junction of Alma Road & Heron Court Road, Winton, Bournemouth BH9 1DE. 'Members' Slides' by Club Members. Meeting commences at 19.30. Members £2. Visitors welcome, donation of £2 requested. Contact the Chairman on 01202 742099 or at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com for further details.

26th September 2011
Permanent Way Institution(Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'The Modernisation of Irish Rail 1997 - 2010' by Oliver Doyle. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 or at tedwardian@gmail.com for further details.

Plymouth Railway Circle
St. Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth, Devon. PL3 4PG. "Saved from the Fire" 16mm filnm show by Paul Dibbins. Starts 19.30. £2 admission.

RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'British Industrial Steam' by John Borrowdale. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green.
'A Railway Success Story' by Kate Marjoribanks. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Your 15 Slides of Yesteryear - something to interest all members'. Starts 19.30

RCTS (Northampton)
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'Copyright British Railways - the work of the BR Photoraphic Units' by John Goss. Starts 14.00.

27th September 2011
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Unusual Locos' by Nick Kelly. Starts 14.00.

RCTS (Woking)
Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Town Square, Woking. 'The Kings Cross Station Redevelopment Programme' by Tom Fernley. Starts 19.00.

28th September 2011
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

29th September 2011
Great Central Railway Society (London)
Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, King's Cross, N1 9DA. 'My Life as Station Master at Finmere' by Gerald Summerfield. Starts 18.30. Contact Richard Butler on 01525 372487.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'More Steam Delight's from Peter's Collection ' by Peter Gray. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact the Treasure on 07803 046076 for further details.

30th September 2011
Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington, WA4 1DN. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephan Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30. All welcome.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. TBA by Richard McClean. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946 for details.

1st October 2011
Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester.M2 5NS.
'The Railway Career of a Career Railwayman' by Stephen Cornish. Starts 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 0161 928 2461 for further details.

3rd October 2011
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Mainly Scottish Steam' by Ken Falconer. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact the Group Secretary, Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details.

RCTS(Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'That Was the Year that Was 1965' by Geoff Plumb. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS(Birmingham)
Christ Church Community Hall, Burney, Ward End. 'Carlisle - A Railway Mecca and Football Outpost' by Colin Briggs. Meeting commences at 14.00

Stafford Railway Society
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Engine Sheds - Part 4, Eastleigh to Frome' by Chris Banks. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622 for details.

4th October 2011
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB.
'World Ship Society' by Jimmy Poole. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain(Bedford)
The Kings Arms, St Mary's Street, Bedford, MK42 0AS. 'Peter Bland Collection Part 2' by Bryan Cross. Starts 19.30. £1 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex)
The Freemantle Club, Waterloo Road, Southampton. 'Eastleigh Works - Phoenix Rising from the Ashes' by Bruce Knight. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Richard Workman on 01426 645771 or at richardworkman@tiscali.co.uk.

RCTS(Watford)
St.Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'The Rail Scene in the USA' by David Walker. Starts 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'A to Z of Signalboxes' by Ted Goodman. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact the Secretary, John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for further details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'Main Line Steam in England and Germany' by Peter Doudney. Starts 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

4th October 2011
North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. 'BR Branch Lines in Colour' by David Soggee. Meeting commences at 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact Roger Harvey on 01255 677165 for further details.

5th October 2011
Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)
Network Rail RSAR Site Office, 80 Caversham Road, Reading. 'Trainborne Infrasucture Inspection' Speaker TBA. Meeting commences at 17.45. Contact the Secretary, Malcolm Pearce on 07967 667019 or at malcolm.pearce@bbrail.com for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Garden Room, Old Schools Buildings, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'Members' Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

Warwickshire Railway Society
Lamp Tavern P.H., Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Asian Miscellany of Steam' by Mike Squires. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

6th October 2011
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room. 'The Lynton and Barnstaple Railway - Its Rise, Fall and Rebirth' by Dave Tooke. Starts 19.30. All Welcome. Contact Kevin Plummer (Evenings) on 01225 312564 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (York)
Marriott Room, York Central Library, Library Square, York. 'The Crossrail Project' by Graham Reid. Starts 18.00. Contact Ken Aiston on 07787 512227 or at kaistonyork@btinternet.com for further deal

RCTS(Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford. '1,000 Eggs on a Bicycle' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

GWR 0-6-0T No. 823 *Countess* **arrives at Llanfair Caereinion on 4th September, during the WLLR's Steam Gala, with the GWR replica train - the replica coaches having been constructed by the Ffestiniog Railway. Stuart Chapman**

Magazine Information

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