Railway Herald

Issue 287 - 17th October 2011

The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 287
17th October 2011

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

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

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

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

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ISSN 1751-8091

Photo Special : Autumn colours around Durango

Railway Herald normally confines itself to covering the UK rail scene, however, the Fall colours in Colorado are too spectacular to ignore! The first of a two-part 'special' looks at the 'Fall Photographers Special' on the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad.

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Front Cover Caption:

Recently repainted into all-over BR green livery, Class 40 No. D306 *Atlantic Conveyor*, **completed with period LMS set, heads for Bridgnorth at Highley on 8th October. Brian Garrett**

Blackfriars to become largest solar bridge

The new London Blackfriars station, which is being constructed on the existing 1886-built Victorian railway bridge spanning the River Thames, will upon completion become the world's largest solar bridge, having over 4,400 solar photovoltaic (PV) panels installed. the only other solar bridge known in the world is in Brisbane, Australia, built in 2009.

A new roof, added to the Blackfriars structure, will incorporate over 6,000m2 of PV panels, and will also be the largest solar array in London. The panels will generate an estimated 900,000kWh of electricity every year, providing 50% of the station's energy and reducing CO2 emissions by an estimated 511 tonnes per year. In addition to solar panels, other energy saving measures at the new station will include rain harvesting systems and sun pipes for natural lighting.

New joint control room opens at Euston

A new control room at Euston station has opened as a joint effort between Network Rail, London Midland and Virgin Trains.

The project marks the first time that a joint control room has been built from scratch, with both train operators and Network Rail contributing to the design. The new facility improves both the management of station personnel and the flow of information between station staff and train operators. This helps reduce the dwell time for trains at the terminus, improves train performance and reduces delays for passengers.

Network Rail launches major consultation on rail scheme

Network Rail has introduced its biggest ever consultation exercise to obtain the views of the public on its vision for rail in the North.

The consultation will include exhibitions held in stations, town halls and shopping centres in an effort to get as many people to comment as possible. The company's emerging plans for a new short section of railway linking Manchester Victoria and Piccadilly stations, called the Ordsall Chord will be displayed, along with a wider vision for rail investment and the Northern Hub. The event will also include consultations for electrification and improvement proposals for Manchester Victoria station, which have been put together with Transport for Greater Manchester. Thousands of members of the public are expected to attend the series of events, which will run in Greater Manchester throughout October. The consultation is in four parts:

The **Ordsall Chord**, a new piece of railway Network Rail wants to construct in central Manchester to link Piccadilly and Victoria stations and provide faster, more frequent services across the North. This was funded by the Chancellor in the 2010 Budget and is an Infrastructure Planning Commission pre application consultation.

The **Northern Hub**, of which the Ordsall Chord is the first part, is a plan to stimulate economic growth by upgrading the rail network across the North. Independent assessments estimate that it could deliver over £4 billion of benefits and 20,000 to 30,000 new jobs for the North.

Electrification of key routes in the North West between Manchester, Liverpool, Blackpool and Preston, the Government having confirmed funding for this investment in October 2010. The work will help deliver a reliable railway, tackle overcrowding and reduce the cost of the railway.

Transforming **Manchester Victoria** station to a transport interchange that is safer, better and more spacious. Plans include a brand new state of the art roof, new and improved connections to MEN Arena, improvements to the ticket office, new shops and cafes, the canopy and paving at the station frontage and refurbished heritage features. In addition, there are plans for new platforms to accommodate faster, more frequent trains to Liverpool, Leeds and Manchester Airport as part of the Northern Hub, and a number of proposed commercial developments next to the station.

▲ **Gatwick Express Class 460 EMUs Nos. (4600)05, (4600)07 and (4600)08 have been split in half at Stewarts Lane Depot, pending a transfer away from the operator. These units are reported to have have been earmarked for service with neighbouring operator South West Trains. Matthew Baxter**

Britain's newest station at Buckshaw opens to services

The latest of a series of new stations opened in recent years, Buckshaw Parkway, welcomed its first passengers on 3rd October.

The station, located near Chorley in Lancashire, serves Buckshaw Village and is the result of a £6.8 million project which has been created by a joint venture between Chorley Council and Lancashire County Council, and both Northern Rail and Network Rail, with money from the Community Infrastructure Fund, which has helped to create the station ticket office, waiting area and car park.

The station itself has state-of-the-art facilities, including a 150-metre long platform, 200 car parking spaces, bus and taxi drop-off points, a fully accessible station building and steel footbridge with lifts.

Northern Rail will manage Buckshaw Parkway and operate the majority of services. For the first two weeks there will be two trains per hour in each direction during the day, with one per hour in the evening.

From 17th October, however, First TransPennine Express trains will start to call, providing an extra service per hour in each direction during the day and evenings.

The two-platform station, on the same Manchester to Preston line as Chorley, is expected to accommodate 450,000 passengers a year.

▲ **Buckshaw Parkway station opened on 3rd October. Two days prior to the opening, contractors were busy putting the final touches to the site. David Felton**

▼ **At 06.58 on 3rd October, Class 150/2 No. 150269 working the 06.19 Blackpool North to Manchester Victoria service, became the first train to call at the new Buckshaw Parkway station. John McIntyre**

Southern introduces longer trains

Southern will be introducing longer trains on three routes when the new winter timetable comes into effect on 11th December, platform extensions and power supply upgrades enabling an increase in the number of seats on the East Grinstead, Sydenham and Redhill routes.

Many morning and evening peak services on the East Grinstead line will be lengthened from eight to 10 or 12 carriages, with those on the Sydenham route being lengthened from eight to 10, and the Redhill benefitting from additional coaching stock with two peak trains being lengthened to 12 carriages.

Southern's Development Director, Alex Foulds, said: "The introduction of additional Class 313 trains on the South Coast, and efficiencies made at Southern Traincare depots, which improve the availability of rolling stock, means that more Class 377 trains will become available to use on these routes. The result being an overall increase in capacity of 3,000 and 2,000 seats in the morning and evening peaks respectively".

Freightliner OOCL special operates

Freightliner ran a special dedicated OOCL service on 5th October, to mark the continued partnership between the two companies.

The train, consisting of 52 containers, departed Trafford Park Terminal for Southampton, and followed the contract signing between Peter Ip, Managing Director of OOCL UK Branch, and Adam Cunliffe, Managing Director of Freightliner Limited, for a second 10-year agreement. The first 10-year contract service between Southampton and Manchester has saved 38,000 tonnes of CO_2 emissions, and during the past ten years, OOCL has used Freightliner's services to take more than 320,000 lorries off the roads in Great Britain.

Capacity is now to be increased by 50%, with daily wagons being linked between the Freightliner terminal at the Port of Southampton, and serving Freightliner's terminal networks at Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester. The Trafford Park terminal will become the busiest in the country, moving in excess of 700 boxes each day.

New services for Scotland introduced from December timetable change

The new December timetable shows ScotRail increasing the number of weekday Glasgow-Inverness services from three to five, and Inverness-Edinburgh and Inverness-Glasgow both having an extra weekday train.

There will also be more services calling at Broughty Ferry and Gleneagles. An extra service is also being introduced for the morning peak between Elgin and Inverness; Alness will receive an extra call, and a new train from Edinburgh will serve Dunbar on Saturday nights. In addition an extra Dundee-Edinburgh morning peak hour service, the 07.38 Dundee-Newcraighall, will make up for the withdrawal in May of CrossCountry's 07.35 Dundee-Plymouth service.

Metro and Light Rail News

District Line changes

London Underground has announced that the proposed changes to the District Line will go ahead following overwhelming support during a public consultation.

Almost 80% of passengers were in favour of the changes, which include removal of weekday Kensington (Olympia) services to allow five additional trains on the Wimbledon branch during the morning peak. The new timetable will be introduced in December, and is designed to reduce delays and provide capacity for an additional 4,000 passengers every weekday morning on the busy Wimbledon branch, which carries nearly 30% of District Line passengers.

In the evenings, there will be further capacity for more than 800 people on services to Ealing Broadway, and an enhanced late evening service on the Wimbledon line with six trains per hour until 23:30.

The Olympia service provided by the District Line will continue to operate at weekends, and LUL says that special services will operate to serve major weekday events at the Olympia exhibition centre. The changes do not affect National Network services to Kensington Olympia.

As part of London Underground's upgrade plans, the District Line will be completely upgraded with new air-conditioned S7 Stock trains being introduced on the line from 2013 and a new signalling system introduced by 2018. Overall, the upgrade will deliver 24% more capacity to the line.

Currently more than 20% of District Line trains are held up entering Earl's Court behind an Olympia train, and this wait in the tunnel will be removed, directly speeding up journeys for the 150,000 passengers affected. The line is one of the busiest on the Tube network, used by more than 700,000 people each day.

New T&W Metro livery

Nexus has unveiled the new livery for Metro trains as the first refurbished Metrocar returns to the region after a major refurbishment.

Metrocar 4041, the first of 90 to be stripped down and refitted by Wabtec Rail, Doncaster, has a light metallic grey and black finish, incorporating the iconic bright yellow brand colour of the Tyne and Wear Metro.

The new colour scheme will replace the current 'red, green or blue' Metro train liveries, which date back to the mid 1990s, when the fleet last underwent its half-life refurbishment.

The first Metrocar to be completed as part of a £385 million modernisation programme, was No. 4041 *Harry Cowans*, named after the late Gateshead Councillor and MP, in honour of the work he did in the 1970s to get the Tyne and Wear Metro built.

▶ **Tyne & Wear DB Regio Metro car No. 4041 arrives at North Shields by road on 7th October, sporting the brand new livery the fleet will carry. Allan Mckever**

New London Underground 'S' stock tests on the District Line

◀ ▲ **S Stock undertook its first daytime testing on the District Line on 9th October, operating within a possession between Aldgate East and Barking. Here, the train stands at Aldgate East the previous evening, prior to the start of testing. This is an S8 Stock train temporarily shortened to S7 formation by the removal of one car. This train currently has temporary 'new train' brandings, to prevent members of the public trying to board. Both: Kim Rennie**

UK News In Brief

■ Following the resignation of Defence Minister Dr Liam Fox, Transport Minister Philip Hammond has been transferred to the MoD. Replacing him as Transport Secretary, in what has become mini-cabinet reshuffle, is Justine Greening, who was previously the Economic Secretary within the Treasury.

■ The Siemens Class 350/2 fleet operating London Midland services between Birmingham, Northampton and Euston recorded no technical failures in the last four-week period. This is equivalent to 382,240 miles between technical failures and sets a new UK record for a passenger train fleet. The 37 Class 350/2 trains were introduced from December 2008, and have consistently shown strong reliability growth, with continued reductions in delays and cancellations. The fleet is intensively used and the Euston services also feature frequent attach and detach operations to match train length to demand and make the most efficient use of the fleet throughout the day.

■ DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd (DBS) is to upgrade five Class 92s for operations on High Speed 1, the locomotives being the only motive power that can operate railfreight on the route. Special signalling equipment is being installed in each of them, providing the ability to work with the new signalling systems on the line. With one locomotive already fitted with this equipment, the investment will provide DBS with a fleet of six High Speed 1 enabled locomotives to operate regular services, regular European sized services on High Speed 1 beginning during this autumn. The work to introduce rail freight services onto High Speed 1 has been supported by the European Commission's Marco Polo programme.

Network Rail fined £80,000 for H&S breach

In May this year, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) prosecuted Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd for a contravention of three sections of the Health & Safety at Work Act after a train hit a collapsed public footbridge and derailed, injuring seven people.

Network Rail pleaded guilty at Loughborough Magistrates' Court to the charges of contravening health and safety law and this month was fined £80,000 plus costs of £32,000.

The incident occurred on 1st February 2008, when a lorry, delivering to a Network Rail construction site near Barrow-upon-Soar station struck a footbridge over the railway. The bridge collapsed, blocking the rail line, and shortly afterwards a Nottingham to Norwich train, travelling at 65 mph, crashed into the debris and derailed. The investigation by the ORR found that Network Rail had failed to properly plan, manage, and supervise the deliveries of bulk material to its worksite. In this instance, the lorry that struck and demolished the footbridge was allowed to drive along the site with its tipper body raised.

▲ **Semaphore signalling still operates in several pockets on the Mid-Sussex (Arun Valley) line, and is believed to be the last remaining such system on any main line from London. Here, an 'up' train, led by Class 377/4 No. 377423 speeds past Amberley's 'up' home signals on 29th September, with the 'down' advance starter in the distance. Ian Docwra**

Top level changes for Stagecoach Group

Stagecoach Group has announced that Andy Pitt (52), Managing Director of South West Trains, has confirmed that he plans to retire on 2nd January 2012, after having more than 28 years' experience in the passenger rail industry.

South West Trains was last month named 'Passenger Operator of the Year' at the 2011 National Rail Awards, as well as winning the 'Maintenance Team of the Year' award in partnership with Siemens for the class-leading reliability of its train fleet.

Tim Shoveller, Managing Director of East Midlands Trains, which has been GB's best performing long-distance train operator for nearly three years, will take over as MD-designate at SWT on 1st December. Tim (38), who has 20 years' experience in the rail industry, began his career at Guildford. He has been Managing Director at East Midlands Trains since Stagecoach Group won the franchise in 2007. He joined Stagecoach from Virgin Trains where, as Business Development Director and previously Operations Director, he played a key role in the success of Virgin West Coast. Before that, he was Operations Director at Midland Mainline, and has also held a senior position at Eurostar. He is also a Fellow of the Institution of Railway Operators.

Stagecoach Group has also confirmed that David Horne, currently Commercial and Customer Service Director at East Midlands Trains, will succeed Tim Shoveller as Managing Director of the company. David (39), currently Commercial and Customer Service Director at East Midlands Trains, led the successful bid by Stagecoach for the East Midlands franchise. He has worked in the rail industry since 1993, and has experience of Inter-city, Regional and London & South East sectors in various commercial and strategic roles.

Station Improvements Round-Up

Funded by East Coast and Network Rail through the Government's National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP), work has begun on a £2.5 million redevelopment of Peterborough station, the project including a smart new frontage, lighter and brighter interior and a larger concourse.

The first phase of work is preparatory for improvements to Platforms 4 and 5, including the creation of a new waiting room. The redevelopment will be in three phases, each lasting about three months, and is scheduled for completion by early summer 2012, during which time services should be unaffected by the work, meaning less disruption for the near five million passengers that use the station each year.

In Scotland, C. Spencer Ltd will construct the new £11 million Dalmarnock station, which is to be redeveloped in time for the 2014 Commonwealth Games, when it will be a key transport hub for those travelling to and from many of the Games' events. The contract includes the delivery of a new, fully DDA-compliant station building, relocated to Dalmarnock Road, lift access to both platforms, a new pedestrian footbridge, new surfaces on both platforms, and new passenger information and communication systems. Work is already underway on site, and is expected to be completed by Autumn 2013. The project is being delivered on behalf of Transport Scotland and the funding partners, SPT, Clyde Gateway, Glasgow City Council and the European Regional Development Fund.

◀ **The new stairs and lifts installed at Feltham station provide a total new-look, as the 15.12 South West Trains service from Reading to Waterloo arrives, formed of Class 458 Juniper EMUs Nos. (45)8021 and (45)8004.**
Brian Morrison

IDEAL GIFTS FOR RAILWAY CHILDREN
(2-9 years)

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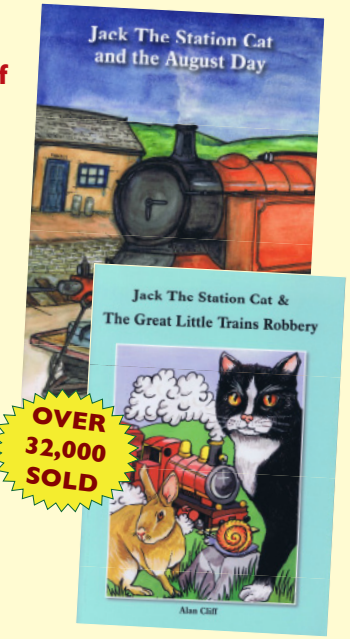

The News In Pictures

◀ The usual sight of a Class 92 on the daily Daventry - Mossend TescoLiner was disturbed on 28th September, when lack of a suitable electric locomotive led to the use of a Class 66 instead. Running 30 minutes late as it passed Balshaw Lane Junction, No. 66134 struggled with the heavy load of 32 wagons, which the normal Class 92 traction handles with ease. **Fred Kerr**

◀▼ With temporary numbers applied, Class 60 No. 60054 is pictured on arrival back at Toton on 12th October, having worked a test run to Peterborough and back. It is understood that this locomotive is likely to be the next to gain DB red livery. **Craig Adamson**

▼ GBRf has recently operated a new biomass trial train between Doncaster and Avonmouth, that if successful, could commence regular operations in January next year. While the southbound run was 'topped and tailed', the return was double-headed. Here, Class 66/7s Nos. 66731 *Interhub GB* and 66726 *Sheffield Wednesday* pass Ashchurch on 11th October, heading north. **John Stretton**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Monday 17th October 2011

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

Tuesday 18th October 2011

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

Wednesday 19th October 2011

Compass Tours	2xWCRC 37	Preston-Penrith-Carstairs-Helenburgh Upper-Crianlarich-Oban & return	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	

Thursday 20th October 2011

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

Friday 21st October 2011

Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Glasgow Central-Manchester-Birmingham-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	

Saturday 22nd October 2011

6024 Pres. Soc. Ltd	6024	(Oxford-)Worcester Shrub Hill-Stratford upon Avon & return	**Cancelled**
Compass Tours	tbc	Ayr-Kilmarnock-Dumfries-Gretna Green-Carlisle-S&C-Helifield-Leeds-York & rtn	
Railway Touring Co.	6024 & 70013	(Poole-Eastleigh-)Westbury-Exeter SD-Newton Abbott-Totnes-Plymouth & return	
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	London Paddington-Eastleigh-Fawley (NR Limit)-Totton Yard-Hamworthy Quay (NR Limit)-Winchester Baltic sidings-Eastleigh Works-London Waterloo	
Spitfire Railtours	2xWCRC 37	London Waterloo-Chertsey-Wembley Central-St. Albans Abbey-London Euston	
UK Railtours	tbc	London Paddington-Severn Tunnel-Cardiff-Swansea Burrows Sidings -Cwmgrwrach-Onllwyn-Jersey Marine-Port Talbot Parkway-Cardiff-Severn Tunnel-Paddington	

Monday 24th October 2011

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

Tuesday 25th October 2011

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

Wednesday 26th October 2011

Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Hooton-Chester-Stockport-S&C-Carlisle-Workington-Preston-Stockport-Hooton	
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Swanley-Appledore-Rye-Battle-Sevenoaks-Swanley-London Victoria	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	

Thursday 27th October 2011

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

Friday 28th October 2011

Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Glasgow Central-Manchester-Birmingham-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks	
WCRC	Jacobite Pool	Fort William-Glenfinnan-Arisaig-Mallaig and return	

Saturday 29th October 2011

Branch Line Society	2xDBS 66	Crewe-Garston-Crewe-Birmingham NS-Wolverhampton Steel terminal-Water Orton-Stud Farm Quarry-Central Rivers-Crewe	
Carnforth Visitor Cen.	44932/48151	Carnforth-Hellifield-Blackburn-Preston-Carnforth	**Cancelled**
Steam Dreams	tbc	London Paddington-Taunton-Bishops Lydeard-Minehead & return	**Postponed**
Steam Dreams	tbc	London Paddington-Taunton-Totnes-Plymouth & return	**Postponed**
UK Railtours	tbc	London Waterloo-Basingstoke-Yeovil Jct-Exeter St.Davids-Okehampton & 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

Rare track is the feature of this week's charters, with both UK Railtours and Spitfire heading off the main line to traverse rare mileage for passenger workings.

South Wales is the target for UK Railtours 'Valley of the Witch', booked to visit both Cwmgwrach and Onllwyn, as well as visiting Swansea Burrows Sidings. The train originates at London Paddington, and follows the South Wales main line through to West Wales as far as Llanelli.

Meanwhile, Spitfire Railtours has two of its 'Route & Branch' workings, commencing with version No. 3, departing from Paddington, and visiting Fawley, Totton Yard, Hamworthy Quay, Eastleigh Works, Portsmouth Harbour and Aldershot during the course of the day, before returning to London Waterloo. Here the train reverses, becoming version 3.14, and follows a 'sling-shot' itinerary around the southern suburbs of the Capital, via Staines, Wimbledon and East Putney, before heading northwards over the West London line for a journey along the branch from Watford Junction to St Albans Abbey. WCR Class 37s should feature in "top and tail' mode.

Compass Tours is also in action, commencing with 'The Autumn Highlander' on 19th October with a visit to Oban from Preston, which picks up along the West Coast Main Line via Penrith, Carlisle and Motherwell, and should also feature West Coast Class 37s.

Three days later and the company has 'The Settle & Carlisle Explorer' charter from Ayr to York, which picks up at Kilmarnock and then Glasgow & South Western stations through to Gretna Green, ahead of a trip over the Settle & Carlisle, traction is most likely West Coast Class 47s.

The cancellation of 'The Cotswold Venturer' (see separate article) has freed up No. 6024 *King Edward I* to operate over a route for which it has no gauging problems, that is the Great Western main line from Westbury to Plymouth, via the South Devon banks. On 22nd October it is booked to replace the advertised No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*, and will double-head with No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on the Railway Touring Company's 'Devonian', which originates at Poole, and will pick up diesel-hauled via Southampton and Salisbury to Westbury.

▼ **BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70000 accelerates the VSOE through Bradford-on-Avon, bound for Bath and Bristol on 12th October. Roger Burfitt**

▲ Sun and snow-capped mountains surround LMS 'Black 5' No. 45407 on the wilds of Rannoch Moor during the 2009 photo charter, but rain, hail, wind, and sun, all in the space of a few minutes are not uncommon on the desolate moor! **John Whitehouse**

West Highlands photo charter moved to late October

This year's West Highland photographic charter has been redated and will now operate on 29th/30th October, featuring Class K4 No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* **on the first day, working to Corrour and Mallaig, while Ian Riley's 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44871 will head the Sunday train to Arisaig, with the return to Banavie being operated by the 'K4'.**

This is a wonderful opportunity to see steam in action in some of the most stunning areas of Scotland. The cost of the two-day charter is £280, reflecting the additional expense this year of moving the 'K4' to Fort William specifically to take part in the event. In previous years, the charter has been blessed with the full range of weather conditions, which have produced some memorable images.

Additionally, on the Monday following the charter there is the likelihood of being able to follow the returning steam-hauled empty stock move from Fort William to Carnforth, featuring the 'Jacobite' locomotives and stock (note that this working is NOT part of the charter arrangements and is subject to alteration).

The redating of the charter weekend, has created some vacancies, and anyone interested in joining this event should contact the organiser, John Hunt, on 01723 850029 or by clicking here.

UKRAINE 2012

UKRAINE DIESEL AND MODERN TRACTION TOUR
28 April - 11 May 2012 14 days (13 nights)

After a break in 2011 we are offering this interesting tour once again using the Dzherelo private train throughout. This time the tour will return to the West of Ukraine but mainly visiting depots which we did not get to previously, from Chop in the south to Kovel in the north. The tour will be limited to 22 persons so early expression of interest is advisable. Unfortunately, like everything else, the price has increased since 2010, but it still offers good value given that we have our own private train.

Please email Jim Colley for itinerary:
enquiries@eerailtours.eu

East Europe Railtours
Birchwood, Shatterford, Nr Bewdley, Worcs. DY12 1TP
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Tel: +44(0)1299 861529 Fax: +44(0)1299 861058

A Problematic and challenging few weeks for charter operators for a variety of reasons

To say that the last few weeks has been challenging for railtour operators would probably illicit the brusque reply from them, to the effect of, when is their business not challenging!

The East Coast issue has already had a good airing from the railway press, as well as other media outlets, and the current position seems to be one of quiet consideration of the problems surrounding that vexed stretch of railway. The unfortunate lineside fires on 2nd September, while very serious and disruptive, were just one further incident on the line that had been subject to a number of earlier problems, ranging from failures of overhead and signalling equipment through to copper cable theft and reliability problems with locomotive performance.

There is not one singular answer to these problems, and the issue of steam operations over the East Coast Main Line, either on weekdays or at weekends, needs to be wrapped up in the overall solution to sorting out the route. It is understood that this process is now underway, and everyone must be patient in awaiting the result of the deliberations.

The expected casualty of all this was Steam Dreams' London King's Cross to York 'Cathedrals Express' on 30th September, but it also played a part in the unfortunate need to replace steam with diesel on the 'Saltburn 150' celebratory train from York to Boulby.

The unexpected additional cancellation was Railway Touring Company's 'White Rose' a few days earlier, also booked King's Cross to York, but this time unrelated to East Coast issues, as the rostered locomotive, 'A4" No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*, was unavailable.

Elsewhere, the question of gauging steam locomotives has again been brought into focus by the cancellation of two tours featuring No. 6024 *King Edward I*. It appears that the 'King' is considered out of gauge at several locations, with the problem being centred on the front buffer beam, it is understood that No. 6024 will be subject to laser measurement before being permitted to operate over new routes. One of the reasons for the concern is that in certain locations where stations are situated on a curve, modern rolling stock has enabled the track to be slewed nearer to the platform to reduce the gap between the carriage doors and the platform edge. Resolution of this issue is awaited, but not before the unfortunate loss of two tours.

Modern traction tours have not been exempt from problems either, with Pathfinder having to pull its heavily booked 'Coal Grinder' just a few days prior to its operating date of 1st October, due to routing issues in South Wales, and with DRS having problems in providing the rostered pair of Class 37s, as a result of, it was stated, problems following a windscreen blowing out (or rather in, to be accurate) during Pathfinders 'Buffer Puffer' working on 17th September. Pathfinder hopes to announce a revised date for the tour soon. As a consequence, doubts had also been raised about a potential cancellation of the 'Ousing Dove' scheduled for 15th October, but in the end the planned motive power was made available and the tour operated. 'Operational issues' were also cited by West Coast Railway for the SRPS Railtours charter from Carlisle to Oban booked for 24th September, being cancelled. The same reason is also attributed to Steam Dreams being unable to operate its 'Cathedrals Express' from Ashford to Stratford-upon-Avon on 15th October, which has now been redated to 17th December, again from Ashford, but now heading to Bath Spa and Bristol in place of Stratford-upon-Avon.

▼ **With the sun almost set, GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043** *Earl of Mount Edgcombe* **encounters the almost inevitable signal check on the approach to Norton Bridge with the returning 'Ticket to Ride' charter from Liverpool Lime Street to Tyseley on 1st October. Geoffrey Dingle**

Spitfire heads for the Scottish capital

Of the three new charters in late November recently announced by Spitfire Railtours, two are heading for Edinburgh.

On 26th November, Spitfire set out from Birmingham International and head north over the West Coast route with its 'Lowland Growler III', which is scheduled for a pair of West Coast Class 37s. This train also continues north from Edinburgh with the 'Perth Panther III' add-on, which works outwards via the Forth Bridge and Cowdenbeath, and returns around the Fife Coast through Kirkcaldy. Three days later, Edinburgh again is the destination with 'The Scotsman', this time from Worcester Shrub Hill, picking up via Birmingham New Street, Derby, Chesterfield and York and the East Coast route, hauled by 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* throughout. Again there is an add-on, this time under the title of 'The Royal Scots Tay II', which continues to Dundee, via both the Forth and Tay Bridges. The joint themes of Edinburgh and English Electric is, of course, further underlined as a week earlier on 19th November, Spitfire also has its redated 'Edinburgh Explorer II' featuring Class 50s Nos. 50044 *Exeter* and 50049 *Defiance* throughout from Preston, via York and Newcastle, plus also heading an add-on mini tour around the Fife Circle, which will be outwards over the Forth Bridge and Cowdenbeath with the return along the coast through Kirkcaldy. The remaining new tour is the 'Yuletide York' on 26th November, which marks a departure from normal Spitfire tours in utilising an East Midlands Trains HST from London St Pancras to York, picking up along the Midland main line, together with an add-on to Scarborough for those who fancy a bracing afternoon by the North Sea.

▲ **Carnforth-based LMS 'Royal Scot' No. 46115** *Scots Guardsman* **returned to the main line on 1st October, at the head of the 'Train of Hope' charity fundraising charter. Here, the excursion passes Low Borrow Bridge in the Lune Gorge on its northbound working. Ian Cawthorne**

'Train of Hope' raises £40,000 for CLIC Sargent children cancer charity

After a highly successful outing with No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* **on 1st October from Crewe to Carlisle, 'Train of Hope' fundraising will continue until the end of the year with a view of pushing the amont raised over the £40,000 mark.**

Additionally on the day, the Stratford 47 Group, which supplied Class 47/4 No. 47580 for the final leg of the working from Hellifield to Crewe, and Duncan Hill Ltd, which supplied the water tanker, both waived their charges.

Meanwhile, a further e-Bay auction is in progress with further exceptional items on offer, including a Freightliner cab ride for two, a day on a Desiro Class 350 simulator, a visit to the Manchester Victoria signalling simulator, and an Arriva Trains Wales pass for four people

Photographs of the train are also available, as are the last few remaining limited edition prints of the John Cowley GRA 'Keep Calm and Carry On', depicting the wartime evacuation of children from Crewe station.

And there is more! The organisers are certainly keen, because look out for 'Train of Hope 2012'.

With the pantograph almost at full stretch, EWS-liveried Class 90 No. 90028 approaches Copmanthorpe, near York, with UK Railtours' 'City of York' charter from King's Cross on 1st October. **Paul Braybrook**

▲ With a mixed coaching stock rake in tow, S&DJR Class 7F 2-8-0 No. 88 departs Loughborough with the 11.30 service to Leicester North, during the GCRs Autumn Steam Gala on 7th October. **Kev Gregory**

Authentic chimney purchased for LMS-Patriot Project

The LMS-Patriot Project, which aims to built a new Patriot class locomotive, to be called *The Unknown Warrior*, has purchased an original chimney at the September Sheffield Railwayana Auction.

It was originally fitted to unrebuilt Patriot No. 45539 *E. C. Trench*, which was scrapped in 1961, and the chimney and whistle were purchased from British Railways shortly afterwards by an enthusiast. The whistle was also for sale in the same auction, but after intense bidding was eventually sold to another bidder.

However, Patriot Project Member and supporter David Hughes who attended the auction and was bidding on behalf of the Project, is looking to obtain an LNWR type whistle, the correct type for a parallel boiler 'Patriot'.

David Bradshaw, LMS-Patriot Project Chairman said: "The 'Patriot' chimney is very iconic, and being unique to the class is an instantly recognisable part from a long missed class that many enthusiasts will remember. It is fantastic that we have been able to obtain an original 'Patriot' part. For main line running the locomotive will need to be built to a reduced height to fit within the 13ft 1in maximum height required by Network Rail for new railway vehicles. This will entail either lowering the boiler in the frames by 1½ inches or making a new reduced height chimney to fit within the 13ft 1in limit. Depending on what is done, the original chimney that we have obtained may be used on the locomotive. It will certainly assist with the making of a new pattern if needed, and provide a genuine link with the original locomotives. It is planned to exhibit the chimney at Llangollen, and possibly use it as a temporary donations box for use at Llangollen Railway Galas."

In the longer term, the chimney may be fitted to a new smokebox, which has already been manufactured, and used as a fundraising aid for the remainder of the boiler appeal. The Project would like to thank David Hughes, together with another Patriot Project supporter, who generously made donations to enable the purchase of the chimney.

South Tynedale cancels Santa Specials to concentrate on line extension

The South Tynedale Railway at Alston is trying hard to open its extension to Lintley by Easter next year.

In 2010, the most severe winter for decades set back building the new line and the routine track maintenance programme. The need to catch up with the work has resulted in the management reluctantly deciding to cancel this year's Santa Special trains in December. The railway relies on its many keen volunteers for almost all its work, and Chairman Norman Cook, explained: "We are committed to opening our new line next spring and we have had to plan how we can best use volunteers' efforts. Our Santa trains are a very popular part of our programme, but we felt that, this year, we would be unable to guarantee the high quality our customers know and expect of us. We aim to be back next Christmas with new attractions and even better Santa trains than before. Next summer the longer train ride in the lovely South Tyne valley will be greater value than ever".

▼ **Becoming the first GWR 'Manor' to work on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, No. 7822 *Foxcote Manor* climbs the grade through Darnholme with a demonstration freight service on 1st October. Simon Roberts**

News Briefs

■ The North British Locomotive Group (NBL) has announced that the new website for its Steam Mastershot service has been completed and can be found on www.steam-mastershot.co.uk. The service is now live and dates can be taken for the remainder of 2011. Advance bookings for 2012 are also now available on request. You do not need to be a NBLPG Member to take part.

■ British Railways Standard 4MT Mogul No. 76084 is now very much looking like a steam locomotive again, with the boiler in the frames and the smokebox in place. Once allocated to Lower Darwen, the engine now has a 24D shedplate and the name of the shed on the front bufferbeam. The target of a late 2012 steaming is looking more of a reality with each passing month.

■ The Heritage Lottery Fund is to provide £422,000 to go towards the project by the London Transport Museum to restore the world's oldest known surviving example of an underground railway carriage, the scheme designed to help celebrate the 150th anniversary of the London Underground network. Built in 1892, Metropolitan Railway Jubilee Carriage No. 353 will be restored to give visitors the opportunity to explore early underground railway travel. The vehicle was delivered to the Ffestiniog Railway's Boston Lodge Works in Porthmadog in August in anticipation of the grant being awarded, the grant also helping to fund an apprentice working towards a NVQ2 Level 2 in carpentry. Boston Lodge is the oldest operational railway works in the world, building and maintaining steam locomotives and carriages for the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railways, as well as undertaking projects for other railways.

▲ **Hauling an demonstration freight from Kemsley Down to Sittingbourne, 1905-built Kerr Stuart 0-4-2ST *Melior* passes Milton Regis on 24th May 1998. Brian Morrison**

Successful season for Sittingborne & Kemsley

The Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway has run its final trains of the 2011 season, and the railway is now closed until Good Friday, 6th April 2012.

The season, however, has been a particularly successful one; passenger figures are roughly equal, if not slightly better, than 2007, and the operating year ended with a taste of what is to come - passengers on the last departure from Kemsley Down being taken onto Milton Regis Viaduct as far as the gate at Sittingbourne Viaduct station, the first proper public train on the viaduct since 26th December 2008.

This winter, work will be carried out at Sittingbourne Viaduct, Milton Regis (Asda) Halt and Kemsley Down stations to prepare for the full reopening of the line next Easter. There will be no Santa Specials this year. There is a lot of work to do to get the railway ready, and so 'Work Weekends' will be held on 15th/16th & 29th/30th October, 5th/6th & 19th/20th November and 3rd/4th & 17th/18th December. Everyone is welcome to come along to help, and a works train will depart Milton Regis (Asda) Halt at 10.00 on each of the stated days, returning at 16.00. Free day membership, tools, training and lunch will be provided, and further dates for 2012 will be announced nearer the time.

The railway was almost closed completely after the last train on 26th December 2008, but the volunteers would not let it die, successfully fighting closure and having been fortunate in having a very positive new landlord in Essential Land.

Historic NER book to be preserved

A generous donation by the Ken Hoole Trust has enabled a well-regarded and well-used railway book to be preserved for future use at the Head of Steam Museum in Darlington.

The North Eastern Railway Collieries, Works and Sidings book will now be scanned and rebound. The book, from the museum's Ken Hoole Collection, dates from 1895. Since 1992, it has been held at the Head of Steam's Ken Hoole Study Centre and used repeatedly over the years by researchers and visitors. Many years' of heavy use on the railways and subsequently in the Study Centre as a reference document resulted in the book showing signs of damage.

Also at the Head of Steam Museum, Darlington, is an exhibition covering the building of Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*, the first main line steam locomotive to be built in this country since the 1960s. The exhibition, the first of its kind, looks at the story of the locomotive, and has been created by Mark Allatt, Chairman of the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, and the objects curated by David Elliott, A1's Director of Engineering.

Dave Tetlow, Head of Steam Manager, said: "This was an important story for the museum to tell. Local people are so proud that *Tornado* was built here, and this exhibition goes some way to highlight the importance of our continuing involvement with the railways". The exhibition runs until 31st March 2012, and the Head of Steam is open during the winter on Wednesdays to Sundays from 11.00 until 15.30. Call 01325 460532 for more information.

Churnet Valley extends share issue deadline to December

The Churnet Valley Railway has extended its share offer until 31st December, and with the total currently standing at £311,000 are confident that with the Santa Special season approaching as well as trains operating to Cauldon Lowe on 29th December, the target of £450,000 is achievable.

The proceeds of the share issue will be split between contributing to the provision of a catering facility at the Cheddleton base and investing in Moorland & City Railways (MCR). The MCR, which was responsible for reopening the line from Leekbrook Junction to Cauldon Lowe last year, is presently in the process of clearing the trackbed of the line west from Leekbrook Junction towards Stoke-on-Trent, and is expecting to run the first trains over the first few miles of the line to Endon early in the New Year, followed by extending to Milton and finally joining up with the main line at Fenton in two stages later during 2012.

Most of the track-bed to Endon has now been cleared of vegetation, and the task is now to conduct a thorough inspection to highlight what action is required to bring the line back to an operational standard. While the re-opening of the line as far as Endon will be mainly symbolic, it will, nevertheless, act as a powerful marketing tool to Moorland & City in highlighting that the push to rejoin the National Network is becoming ever more a reality. There is no doubt that 2012 should be an exciting year for rail development in North Staffordshire. Meanwhile, the CVR has recruited the services of LMS 'Black 5' No. 44767 George Stephenson, which is now at Cheddleton and will play a central role in re-opening the line to Endon and beyond. It is expected to stay with the CVR until March 2012.

Bachmann releases another NRM exclusive model in OO Gauge

▲ **Bachmann Europe plc has again teamed up with the National Railway Museum, York, to produce another exclusive model, this one in the form of Midland Compound No.1000 , the 4-4-0 that was preserved in 1951 and is currently on a three-year loan to the Scottish Railway Museum at Bo'ness. It is the third NRM exclusive locomotive from Bachmann and was available in its standard form from 11th October, priced at £135.00. The platinum model is priced at £175.00 and is presented in a platinum colour box with plinth and numbered certificate. As one would expect it is a faithful reproduction of the original, its performance equal to its looks. Straight from the box the running is very smooth handling six Midland Railway clerestory roof coaches with ease, with both fast and slow running being faultless. in short it is a fine model that would grace any collection. Chris Dixon**

▲ **The boiler of No. 46233** *Duchess of Sutherland* **is carefully lifted from the lorry, after arriving back at the West Shed on 11th October. John Whitehouse**

Boiler returns to West Shed after overhaul

A major milestone in the overhaul of No. 46233 *Duchess of Sutherland* **occurred on 11th October, when the locomotive's boiler was returned to the West Shed from the LNWR Works at Crewe.**

It was only the discovery of some last minute work to the transverse firebox stays, which required three to be replaced, that caused the boiler overhaul to run just slightly over the target date of early September. The boiler itself was regarded as being in good condition, and the main work undertaken was new shoulder plates fitted on each side of the outer casing of the firebox, which will be hidden by the cab when the 'Duchess' has been reassembled after renewal of the flue and small tubes, attention to both the fire-hole outer ring, washout plugs and foundation ring rivets, and checking and overhauling of the the cab fittings.

The boiler lift proceeded without a hitch, and was then positioned on a pair of accommodation bogies that enabled it to be pushed into the shelter of the West Shed. In the ensuing days a team of volunteers and West Shed staff have been replacing the boiler cladding, commencing by lagging it with insulating material, prior to attaching the sheet metal cladding itself.

The tender is complete and in grey undercoat, while the cab has been rubbed down, ready to have its previous LMS black livery covered by undercoat prior to the final application of BR Brunswick green. The 'bottom end' is also virtually complete with just a few outstanding jobs to be completed in readiness for the great day when the boiler is once again reunited with the frame. Trust Chairman, Malcolm Baker, is pleased with progress to date and the expectation that mileage accumulation will begin on the Midland Railway in the New Year, prior to a 'light engine' and support coach main line test run. This will be followed by a loaded run a shortly after, and those who affectionately remember the 'Night Owls' of old, should watch this space!

BR 8P Class Pacific No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* **departs from Wansford on the Nene Valley Railway during a Russ Hillier photographic charter on 29th September. Stuart Chapman**

◀ **Class 45 'Peak' No. 45060** *Sherwood Forrester* **approaches Wansford, on the Nene Valley Railway, during the first day of the Autumn Diesel Gala on 30th September. Gary Thomas**

▼◀ **Visiting the railway courtesy of Devon & Cornwall Railway, Class 56/3 No. 56303 and Class 31/1 No. 31190 pass Sutton Cross with a Peterborough (NVR) to Wansford service during the diesel gala on 1st October.**

▼ **Carrying its weather-worn, and heavily faded EW&S livery, Class 37/5 No. 37503 heads a Wansford to Peterborough (NVR) train through Sutton Cross the same day. Both: Paul Manley**

In torrential rain, the 2011 SVR diesel gala was marked by a line-up at Kidderminster on 5th October. From left to right are Class 40 No. D306, Class 20 No. D8059, Class 25 No. D7612 and Class 14 No. D9520, the latter complete with an appropriate headcode. **Scott Lewis**

▶ The driver of Class 42 'Warship' No. D821 *Greyhound* opens up after a speed restriction at Sterns, and powers through the platform at Eardington with the 12.40 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth service on 8th October, during the Severn Valley Railway's diesel gala event. **John Whitehouse**

▼▶ An unusual and rare passenger working formed of a pair of 0-6-0 shunters enters Bewdley, having run round their train. Double-headed by Class 08 No. D3022 and Class 11 No. 12099, the pair arrive ECS to form a shuttle working to Kidderminster on 8th October. **David Bissett**

▼ Class 14 diesel-hydraulic No. D9520 passes Class 25 No. D7612 as it enters Bridgnorth hauling the Severn Valley Railway's DMU set. **Stephen Tucker**

Making a spectacular sight on the climb between Ingrow and Damems, LMS 'Black 5' No. 45212 has charge of the 12.40 service from Keighley, during the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway's Autumn Steam Gala on 7th October. **Paul Braybrook**

◀ **The glow from the fire reflects on the backhead of the tender as resident Class 9F 2-10-0 No. 92214** *Cock O' The North* **climbs the final few yards into Goathland, with the last southbound working of the NYMR's Autumn Steam Gala, the 18.00 Grosmont to Pickering service, on 2nd October. Fred Kerr**

▼◀ **GWR 'Manor' No. 7822** *Foxcote Manor*, **complete with a full matching rake of coaches, starts the climb away from Grosmont on 30th September, with a Pickering bound service. Philip Benham**

▼ **The unique Stephenson link motion LMS 'Black 5' No. 44767** *George Stephenson* **is pictured deep in picturesque Northdale, between Goathland and Newtondale Halt on 1st October, while working the 13.30 Sunday Lunch 'Moorlander' service from Grosmont. Nick Wise**

Caledonian Railway '812 Class' 0-6-0 No. 828 heads towards Foley Park tunnel on the Severn Valley Railway during a Matt Fielding photographic charter on 3rd October. **Stuart Chapman**

Preservation News Pictorial

◀ **The National Railway Museum celebrated the Silver Jubilee of the Deltic design at Locomotion, Shildon, over the weekend of 6th-8th October, by bringing together all of the remaining production Deltics with the Prototype. From left to right are Nos. 55002** *King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry*, **55019** *Royal Highland Fusilier*, *DELTIC*, **D9016** *Gordon Highlander*, **D9009** *Alycidon*, **55022** *Royal Scots Grey* **and D9015** *Tulyar*. **Fred Kerr**

◀▼ **Visiting the West Somerset Railway, Great Northern Railway 'N2' 0-6-2T No. 1744 has power to spare, as it approaches Crowcombe Heathfield with the 09.20 Minehead to Bishops Lydeard demonstration freight working on 29th September. Paul Barlow**

▼ **Robinson-designed GCR O4 class 2-8-0 No. 63601 stands on the newly commissioned turntable at Quorn & Woodhouse on 7th October, during the Great Central Railway's Autumn Gala event. Peter Sikes**

Railway Herald **normally confines itself to covering the UK rail scene, however, the Fall colours in Colorado are too spectacular to ignore! In the first of a two part 'special', Graham Lightfoot presents a selection of scenes from the Durango & Silverton Narrow Gauge Railroad's 'Fall Photographers Special' in September.**

▶ **The steam from Durango & Silverton Class K28 No. 478 creates a rainbow as it blows off on the approach to Rockwood station on 25th September.**

▼▶ **No. 478 does a run past at the Colorado Trail in the Animas River Canyon with the special mixed train, as it shunts into the siding to be passed by the Northbound passenger service to Silverton.**

▼ **The 1923-built 2-8-2 crosses the Silverton Trestle the same day. The Fall colours presenting a superb backdrop.**
All: Graham Lightfoot

In the upper reaches of the Valleys of South Wales on 7th October, the hues of autumn can be seen as Class 66/0 No. 66063 curves round the northern approach to Bedlinog, working a loaded coal service from Cwmbargoed Coal Disposal Point to Aberthaw Power Station. **Stuart Warr**

Class 55 No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **heads a convoy of five Deltics through Diggle on 11th October, en route from Shildon to Bury for the ELR's Deltic event. In tow are Nos. 55019, 55002, D9009 and D9016. Neil Bradley**

Recently reinstated Class 60 No. 60065 passes the disused Thorpe Marsh Power Station on 7th October, working from Preston Docks to Lindsey Oil Refinery.
Ryan Carroll

Passing the delightful setting of Twerton, west of Bath, Mk3 DVT No. 82146 leads the EWS management train with motive power supplied by Class 67 No. 67029 *Royal Diamond* on the rear, working from Bristol Barton Hill to Ealing Broadway on 8th October. **Edward Gleed**

17th October 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'J.G.Robinson and other Locomotive Artists - Part 1' by Ken Grainger. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick,YO32 4AG. 'A Pot Pourri of Britains Railways' by Tim Cooper. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Bryan Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

RCTS (Chester)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road,(opposite station entrance), Chester. 'Great Railway Photographers' by Brian Stephenson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Rd, Coventry. 'Chiltern Railways Progress' by Adrian Shooter. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'Milepost 82.5 - The History of the WCML at Rugby' by Stephen Weston. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Roade)
Roade Village Hall, Bailey Brooks Lane, Roade. 'The Lancashire and Yorkshire Railway in LMS Days' by Noel Coates. Meeting commences at 14.00.

RCTS (Shenfield)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davis. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stafford Rly Society
St Leonards Social Club, St Leonards Avenue, Stafford. 'Years of Blue' by Mike Richards. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Horton on 01785 840622 for details.

18th October 2011

Monmouthshire Rly Society
Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP. 'Lynton & Barnstaple Railway' by P. Gower. Start 19.15. £3 Admission.

RCTS (Cambridge)
Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge. '50 Years of the Bluebell Railway' by Dri Gerald Siviour. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS(Scunthorpe)
The Ashby Star Inn, Rochdale Road, Ashby. 'A 45 Year Wander with a Camera' by David Walker. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Near Yarm, TS15 9JW. 'Tilting Trains - APT-E' by Kit Spackman. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

19th October 2011

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby)
Jury's Inn Hotel, Station Street, Nottingham. 'Modern Track Maintenance' by Neil Hobden. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 or at colin.cowey@talk21.com for details.

RCTS(Eastleigh)/Mid Hants Railway/S&D Trust
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Steam on Southern Lines' by Neil Kearns.Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533 for further details.

20th October 2011

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre,Barrow Hill Depot. 'Diesels in the Peak District' by Phil Lockwood & Enid Vincent. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50 members, £2 non members. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for further details.

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Those were the Years that were - The 1960's' by Geoff Plumb. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Irish Railway Record Society (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW1 2HR. 'Modernisation of Irish Rail: 1997-2011' by Oliver Doyle. Starts 19.00. £3.50 Donation. Contact the Secretary at irrslondon@hotmail.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows. WA12 9SH 'Standard Gauge Preservation in Denmark, Norway & Sweden' by John Owen. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact the Secretary, Neville Bond on 01925 226473 or email lcgb.nw@blueyonder.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Sheffield & Doncaster)
Rutland Arms, Brown Street, Sheffield, S1 2BS. 'Energy Renewables, Reuse and Recycling on the Railway' by Martin Wooff. Starts 18.15. Contact the Secretary, Vivek Vilay on 07763 724259.

RCTS(Darlington)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'The Best Underground Railway in the World'. by David Barraclough. Starts 19.00.

RCTS(Ipswich)
Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'Carlisle - Railway Mecca and Football Outpost' by Colin Briggs. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John's United Reformed Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. EN5 1RH. 'West from Dover' by Peter Groom. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 368 6200 for further details.

21st October 2011

Cambridge University Railway Club
William Thatcher Room, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 'Office of Rail Regulation' by Ian Prosser. Starts 20.30. All Welcome. Contact Tom Corker at secretary@curc.org.uk for further details.

Gosport Rly Society
Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport. 'New Zealand Railways' by Colin Brading. Starts 20.00.

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke S Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Wandering Wessex in the 1960s' by Amyas Crump. Starts 19.30. Visitors Welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for details.

Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington, WA4 1DN. '1968: The Last Year of Steam' by Barrie Rushton.Starts 19.30. All Welcome.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne.NE1 1SE. 'Digital Members' Evening'. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946 for details.

22nd October 2011

GCR Society
St John's Community Centre, Church Street, Penistone S36 6AR. 'The Woodhead Line' by John Quick. Start 11.00 and 'Woodhead the Lost Railway' by Stephen Gay. Starts 14.00. Contact Bob Gellatly on 01909 565763 for further details.

24th October 2011

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh/Glasgow)
Room M001, Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow. 'Realising the Potential of GB Rail' by Sir Roy McNulty. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Alan Morrison on 07834 507497 for further details.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'Wandering Wessex' by Amyas Crump. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission.

RCTS(Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road. Shipley. 'The South Yorkshireman - Bradford to Marylebone' by Ken Grainger. Start 19.30.

RCTS(Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road, Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Heading Eastwards (Part 2)' by John Blackwell. Starts 19.30.

RCTS(Maidenhead)
Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Addlestone to Beijing by Train; by Andy Davis & Irene Rabbits. Starts 19.30.

RCTS(Northampton)
Parish Hall, Booth Lance South, Weston Favell. '1988 Clapham Disaster' by Maltolm Roughley. Starts 14.00.

RCTS(Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Steam on Cine in the 1960s Across England, Scotland and Wales' by Mike Clemens. Starts 19.30.

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 Blackpool Tramway in its final days of entirely 'heritage' operation, open boatcar No. 600 passes the Hilton Hotel bound for Pleasure Beach on 30th September. Steve Kemp**

25th October 2011

RCTS (Nottingham)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'Branch AGM'. Starts 19.00.

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Carden City. 'Irish Railways' by David Soggee. Starts 14.00.

RCTS(Woking)
The United Reform Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Strictly Freight Only' by Brian Ringer. Starts 19.00.

26th October 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Emerging Tram Systems - UK and Overseas' by Paul Dawkins. Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for further details.

RCTS(Chichester)
Council Meeting Room2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'The British Transport Police' by Graham Cottington. Starts 19.30.

27th October 2011

MHR Preservation Society (Thames Valley)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading RG4 8AX. 'Portugese Trams' by Graham Bilbe. Starts 19.30. £2 donation.Contact info@mid-hants-thames-valley.org.uk

RCTS(Preston)
Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'Capturing the Present and Recreating the Past' by Jason Cross. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'The Celtic Fringe - Steam' by David Mitchell. Starts 19.45. Admission £2. Contact Alan Pitt on 07803 046076 for details.

28th October 2011

Cambridge University Railway Club
William Thatcher Room, Fitzwilliam College, Cambridge. 'UK Rail Fares and Ticketing' by David Mapp. Starts 20.30. All Welcome. Contact Tom Corker at secretary@curc.org.uk.

GW Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford, OX2 6QS. TBA. Starts 19.30. Visitors Welcome.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. '1960's B.R.Steam' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30.

31st October 2011

Permanent Way Institution(Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'French High Speed Trains - Part 2'. by Michael Bunn. Starts 18.30. Contact Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 for further details.

1st November 2011

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Unknown Warrior New Build 4-6-0 Patriot Help for Heroes' by Richard Sant. Starts 19.45. Contact Bob Poole on 01474 326232 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain(Bedford)
The St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford, MK42 0DL. 'Moved by Steam' by Richard Inwood (the Bishop of Bedford) & Mike Smith. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149 or at b.cross@ntlworld.com for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex)
The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Waterloo, London. 'Reading Remodelling - An Update' by Sean Murray. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Richard Workman on 01426 645771 or at richardworkman@tiscali.co.uk.

RCTS (Shipley)
Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road, Shipley. '30/40 Years Back' by John Holroyd. Meeting commences at 14.00.

RCTS (Watford)
St.Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'The Dean Forest Railway' by Peter Adams. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. AGM followed by Members' Slides. Starts 19.30. Admission £2. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. AGM. Starts 20.00. Contact the Chairman, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or at wsm1977rlysocy@talktalk.net for further details.

2nd November 2011

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Paisley Corridor Improvements - Phase 1' by Neil Hamilton. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Alan Morrison on 07834 507497 or at alan.morrison@akinsglobal.com for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)
Network Rail RSAR Site Office, 80 Caversham Road, Reading. 'Signalling Renewals and Maintenance. 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
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'On and Off the Footplate' by Bill Davies. Starts 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. 'Steam in China' by Roger Scanlon. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

3rd November 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'On and Off the Rails' by John Wragg. Starts 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (York)
Marriott Room, York Central Library, Library Square, York. 'Manchester Metrolink Expansion' by David Philpott. Starts 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Aiston on 07787 512227 or at kaistonyork@btinternet.com for further deal

RCTS (Milton Keynes)
SThe Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'An Introduction to British Signal Box Design' by Andy Grimmett. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Penmanshiel Revisited' by Jim Summers. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John's Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendall LA9 4LL. 'Episodes from My Career on the Railway' by Phil Thickett. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for further details.

4th November 2011

Cambridge Railway Circle
Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. 'Phil Marsh of Railway Magazine'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Great Western Society (Taunton)
Rockwell Green School, Rockwell Green, Nr Wellington. 'End of Steam - Start of Preservation' by Peter Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'More London Steam' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)
County Hotel, Lancaster Road, Carnforth. 'Producing the Rail Atlas for Great Britain and Ireland' by Stuart Baker. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'Working on the Railroad - USA' by Phil Kirkland. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

5th November 2011

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. 'The Great Orme Tramway, Llandudno - A History of the Line' by Mike Crabtree. Starts 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 0161 9282461 for further details.

7th November 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'A Tribute to Great British Railway Photographers' by Brian Stephenson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact the Group Secretary, Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details

RCTS (Ashford)
Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'The Bluebell Railway 1960 to 2010' by Gerald Siviour. Starts 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

Nature at its best, during the recent spell of exceptional weather. Class 20 No. 20107 was in action at the NVRs Diesel Gala, and here, crosses the River Nene and enters Wansford on 30th September. Steve Boley

Magazine Information

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

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