

Railway Herald

Issue 297 - 9th January 2012



The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

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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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DRS starts six-week trial passenger service

A six-week trial to operate a peak-hour commuter service for workers at Sellafield, commenced on 9th January. The train, which will be operated by DRS, is part of the new transport strategy for the Sellafield plant, allowing workers to use public transport.

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Near disaster on Gloucestershire-Warwickshire Railway as car lands on railway, Kennet Signal Box finds a new home on the Colne Valley Railway and work starts on Cob widening at Porthamdog.

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Vossloh order confirmed

DRS has confirmed that it has ordered 15 Eurolight mixed traffic locomotives, to a UK loading gauge specification, from Vossloh.

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Concourse work on target

Work on the construction phase of the new Western Concourse at London King's Cross was completed on target prior to Christmas

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Network Rail's Snow Train

The first vehicles for Network Rail's new severe weather trains, have been moved to Tonbridge West Yard.

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'Duchess' on running-in turns

Duchess of Sutherland is currently undertaking running-in turns at the Midland Railway, Butterley, prior to operating its main line test run.

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Front Cover Caption:

With its destination firmly in view, Freightliner Class 70 No. 70005 hauls an Ellesmere Port to Fiddlers Ferry coal working through Daresbury on 22nd December. **Nigel Capelle**

Happy New Year to all readers

This issue marks the start of an exciting year for *Railway Herald*.

It is our seventh year of publication and will shortly see the production of the 300th issue of the magazine.

Aside from that there are a large number of changes to take place over the coming months that will result in a bigger, better magazine for our readers.

While the changes will not find favour with everyone, the aim throughout is to improve the quality of the magazine and the level of the news service that *Railway Herald* provides. It also gives the editorial team the ability to enhance the coverage by using the latest technology.

We will be telling you more about the changes, which start with the launch of a new website in early February, over the coming weeks.

To allow work to be concluded on the new project, this issue is somewhat shorter than usual, but we will be back to normal from next Monday, Issue 298.

On behalf of the Editorial team we would like to wish all our readers, advertisers and contributors all the best for 2012.



▲ Class 460 EMUs still make an occasional appearance on Gatwick Express duties. On 1st January 2012, Class 460 No. (4600)01 approaches Salfords with the 09.45 London Victoria to Gatwick Airport service. **Phil Beard**

Class 460s to be disbanded and reformed into five-car Class 458/8s

Commuters on South West Trains (SWT) are to benefit from longer peak-time trains and extra services in two-and-a-half-years time as part of an investment that has been announced by the Department for Transport (DfT) and SWT.

An additional 60 carriages are being added to the SWT fleet, and around 8,000 extra peak-time passengers will be able to travel into London Waterloo every morning as eight-car trains are lengthened to run with 10 carriages. The refurbishment of 60 former Gatwick Express Class 460 coaches, combined with refurbished trains from South West Trains' existing fleet, will provide the added capacity. As a result, the existing four-car Class 458 fleet will be reconfigured into

five-car trains, with six additional sets being created by incorporating equipment from the '460s'.

The new fleet of 36 five-car units will be known as Class 458/5. They will form part of the rolling stock element of the SSW High Level Output Specification and will deliver 10-car services on certain routes. The modification work has been contracted to Alstom, which in turn will use Wabtec Rail to undertake the physical work. The total cost of the project will be almost £42 million and the new five-car EMUs are scheduled to enter service in spring 2013. Only four of the original Class 460 vehicles will remain unused, but spares recovered from them will support the new fleet. The additional carriages will begin arriving from May 2013, with all new services in place by July 2014.

Services from Windsor, Weybridge (via Staines,) and Hounslow (via both Richmond and Brentford) will be lengthened, and two additional Reading-Waterloo trains will run each way, together with an additional morning peak Hounslow-Waterloo service. These trains will use Platform 20 at the former Waterloo International Terminal, which will come back into use from 2014. A limited number of services between Waterloo and Portsmouth, Southampton and Alton will also be lengthened by cascading units.

The agreement between the DfT and South West Trains will also see money invested in train depots at Wimbledon, Farnham and Clapham, as well as the creation of two new sidings at Guildford, all of which are expected to create new jobs.

DRS confirms order for new Vossloh locos

Direct Rail Services has confirmed to *Railway Herald* that the potential order for new freight locomotives has been confirmed with Spanish construction company Vossloh.

The new locos, which have yet to be assigned a class number, will be a mixed-traffic diesel locomotive, capable of reaching 100mph in traffic, and based upon the existing Eurolight locomotives that are currently in use in Germany. The British variety will be slightly different to conform with the loading gauge requirements, but will meet the latest emission standards. They will be built in Spain and equipped with a 3,750hp Caterpillar c175 engine and ABB AC traction equipment. The order is for 15 locomotives, with options for additional 'add-on' orders in the future. The first of the class will arrive in late 2013, and DRS says it expects them to arrive in batches, akin to recent imports of American diesels, rather than the delivery of a prototype locomotive first. The livery for the new fleet has yet to be decided.

ORR issues enforcement orders on Network Rail to improve performance

Following an extensive investigation into declining punctuality on key parts of the National Network, the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has found Network Rail (NR) in breach of its licence, and has proposed two enforcement orders requiring the company to develop new robust plans to help recover performance.

The ORR says that NR is contravening its licence in respect of declining performance in the freight sector. The company has not only missed its performance target - currently freight delays are 32% worse than the end of year target - but is not doing all it can to reach this target. Also ORR maintains that it is likely to contravene its Network licence in respect of deteriorating performance of long distance passenger services. Punctuality in this respect is currently 87.1%, well short of the regulatory target of 90.9%. NR has admitted it is not able to deliver the target this year, and is also likely to miss next year's. ORR needs to be satisfied that the company is doing everything reasonably practicable to achieve its targets, but has been hindered by the lack of robust quantification of initiatives and projections in the plans NR has produced.

Richard Price, ORR's Chief Executive, said: "Rail customers expect high levels of train punctuality. Network Rail has achieved a lot in recent years, but while it signed up to improve performance year-on-year, its performance is now worsening. The company must do everything reasonably practicable to reach its targets and needs to deliver robust

plans to prove that it is tackling declining performance, working with train operators to put things right. Factors outside Network Rail's control have contributed to the performance gap, but they do not account for the whole of the discrepancy. Our investigation found that the recent deterioration in performance is down to factors including major asset failures, congested routes and poor management of track condition, in addition to external factors like cable theft. Network Rail must shoulder the responsibility for any weakness in its performance. I am also today encouraging passenger and freight operators to work with Network Rail to get the most out of the network for customers".

The enforcement orders require Network Rail to work with the relevant passenger operators to produce, by the end of February 2012, robust plans showing that it is doing everything reasonably practicable to deliver the performance commitments for long distance services in 2012-2013. The Regulator has also called on NR to establish a 'recovery board' for freight performance at which the freight operators can call on the company to take specific measures to tackle performance for freight services - the first time such a mechanism has been used. After further extensive investigation, ORR has decided that NR is not in breach of its licence with regard to performance in Scotland, and has robust plans in place to achieve improvements. This means that the Regulator will be taking no formal action at this stage, but will be watching closely to ensure improvements are made.



▲ Work was well advanced in this view of the new Western Concourse, taken on 8th August last year. **Richard Tuplin**

Next stage of King's Cross concourse completed on time

Major construction work on the new western concourse at London King's Cross station has been completed on schedule, and over 600 people - from engineers, electricians and builders to carpenters, stone masons and abseilers - who are working to transform the terminus got into the festive spirit in the week before Christmas to celebrate the end of the major project.

The new concourse is the standout feature of the £500 million redevelopment of King's Cross to make it into a world-class transport hub. The striking domed roof covers an area three-times the size of the existing concourse and is big enough to fit over six Olympic-sized swimming

pools. As well as providing a brighter, more spacious station, the western concourse will contain a wide range of new food and drink outlets and shops, plus improved facilities that will enhance the journey experience for passengers.

Work to build the new concourse, which started in 2009, involved up to 1,150 people on site at any one time and included the installation of 1,000 tonnes of steel, 5,000,000 ceramic tiles, 500 lights, 1,000,000 specially made heritage bricks to restore and rebuild World War 2 bomb damage and the ticket office, 9,000m² of granite floor tiles and 5,000,000 metres of cabling.

Most of the complete station redevelopment will be finished by 2012 in time for the Olympic Games, with the transformation

complete by 2013. Once completed, 50 million passengers will use the new station each year, 10 million more than today.

An additional platform, increasing reliability and capacity at the station, has already been built, and the new station will include integrated transport links with international and domestic services from St Pancras International and the Underground.

The Grade I listed façade will be restored to its former glory by demolishing the current single-storey extension to the station, and work to create a new open piazza in front of the station, larger than Leicester Square, will start following the Olympics, and is scheduled for completion in 2013.

■ In March, trains are to start calling at Goodwick station for the first time in almost 50 years, campaigners saying that the existing Fishguard station at the ferry terminal is too far outside the town and parking charges are prohibitively expensive. Following the Welsh Government spending £1.4 million funding five extra trains running Monday to Saturday, an increase in the number of trains calling at Fishguard from two to seven, around £325,000 is now being spent to reopen the old station closer to town. The old derelict timber building has been cleared and Network Rail has lowered and realigned the track closer to the existing platform.

■ The Scottish Government is to invest at least £50 million to enhance cross-border Caledonian sleeper services. Ministers have put the funding forward to ensure that the services operate with a number of improvements. This follows the recent offer made by the Treasury of £50 million for the service if the Scottish Government could match it. The Minister for Housing and Transport, Keith Brown, said: "The Scottish Government provides significant support for the Caledonian sleepers through the existing ScotRail franchise and it was always our intention to ensure a continuing and improving service for

passengers beyond 2014. I am delighted to now confirm that we have submitted proposals to the Treasury that will see us invest, as a minimum, £50 million to ensure that the Caledonian sleepers are enhanced to offer better facilities and a more responsive service to passenger needs".

■ Following a procurement competition run by Southern, Bombardier Transportation has secured an additional order for 130 Electrostar cars, the new vehicles to augment Southern's existing fleet of Class 377 EMUs. They will be manufactured in the UK, and it is hoped that the new contract, valued at £188 million, will help secure the company's future in Derby, with initial production commencing in the latter half of this year. The Department for Transport is providing over £80 million towards the deal and has agreed to vary the franchise agreement to support the procurement.

■ Freightliner Heavy Haul (FHH) and EDF Energy have entered into a new haulage agreement for coal deliveries to EDF's power stations at Cottam and West Burton. The revised, long-term deal gives EDF increased capacity to meet its future requirements, and builds upon the FHH service performance record and relationship that has developed over the last 10 years.



▲ Class 37/4 No. 37423 *Spirit of the Lakes* reverses the stock off a Carlisle to Barrow pre-trial run into the sidings at Barrow-in-Furness on 28th December. The service started for six-weeks on 9th January. **Simon Atkinson**

DRS commence six-week commuter passenger trial for Sellafield

A six-week trial to operate a peak-hour commuter service for workers at Sellafield, commenced on 9th January.

The train, which will be operated by DRS, is part of the new transport strategy for the Sellafield plant, allowing workers to use public transport to travel to and from work. The new strategy aims to significantly reduce car journeys to the site over the next two years. The service will depart from Carlisle at 06.15, calling at stations en

route to Barrow-in-Furness, arriving at 09.08. It will then run ECS to Sellafield to stable during the day before forming the return working, which leaves at 16.48, arriving back in Carlisle at 18.32. The trial will comprise three Mk2 coaches reserved for Sellafield workers, with a further Mk2 in the consist for public use. Normal National Rail fares apply to members of the public. Sellafield workers will be able to purchase a special six-week season ticket, which will have a specific seat reserved for the

duration of the ticket. DRS is talking with various organisations, including the Maryport Rugby Club, with a view to creating free parking areas for those wanting to join the train. It is understood that a review of the operation, which is being undertaken jointly between DRS, Northern Rail and the Sellafield plant, will take place approximately three weeks into the trial, following which a decision will be made as to its future. It is understood that a Class 37 will be the motive power.

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For further details, please contact Jim Colley

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GBRf win new to rail cross-country petroleum contract

GB Railfreight (GBRf) has secured a major new contract with petroleum supplier Greenergy.

The company delivers around 20% of petrol, biofuel and diesel to the UK's petrol stations, and the new to rail contract will see GBRf moving petroleum products

from Immingham terminal to the newly refurbished Inver Terminal at the Queen Alexandra Dock in Cardiff.

To support the 'green' factor, GBRf is helping to reduce the carbon footprint by moving bulk loads by rail, assisting the truck fleet in its deliveries.

In the first instance, GBRf will operate the Immingham-Cardiff run with 22 petroleum wagons twice a week, with the view to extending these services to serve the network of fuel terminals across the UK in the future. The operation commenced on 15th December last.

▼ With flood warnings issued, as well as flood barriers and sandbags put in place, First Trans Pennine Express Class 185 No. 185138 crosses the River Ouse at York bound for Scarborough on 6th January. This was the highest flood in recent years. **Thomas Blampied**



Cargonet locos settle into new environment at Redcar

Imported to replace some GEC locos at Lackenby works, five ex-Norwegian Cargonet Bi8 Bo-Bo locomotives were towed 'dead' on 20th December, from Teesport to SSI UK Lackenby works, 'topped and tailed' by GEC shunters.

Some of the GEC locos will be retained at Lackenby for permanent way and light shunting duties, but the others that have been cannibalised will be melted down on site. The 'Bi8s' will be used on the main line hauling 'Torpedoes' from Redcar blast furnace to the Lackenby

continuous caster. The locos are currently painted in Cargonet all-over yellow with red cabs. Numbers of the first four are 8.712, 8.716, 8.719 & 8.720.

It is believed that there are several minor gauging issues at certain parts of the operating route that are being attended to.

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Class 37 Turns : Loads of DRS 37s in action on a variety of trains, diverted flasks, departmental trips and on-hire to DBS. Plus, 'heritage' traction and some '97/3s' as well!

The 70s : New arrivals 70007 to 70011 at work, plus a look where '70s' are breaking new ground - working freightliners to Cardiff Wentloog and Southampton Maritime FLT; coal trains to Ironbridge power station.

Freight Flows / Loco Gallery : lots of exciting action including

Deltic 'R.S.G' - Makes the national news headlines working GBRf Alumina trips between North Blyth and Lynemouth, plus an outing on 6E45 over the West Highland Line!

Weardale Coal - Colas Rail break into the coal market working coal trains over the private Weardale Railway from Wolsingham to Scunthorpe steelworks and Ratcliffe p.s.

Rock Armour - Freight returns to the West Somerset Railway with DBS and Mendip Rail Class 59s bringing boulders to Minehead to strengthen sea defences.

Yorkshire RHTTs - Six 'heritage' Class 20s working the York-based RHTT 'Sandite' trains.

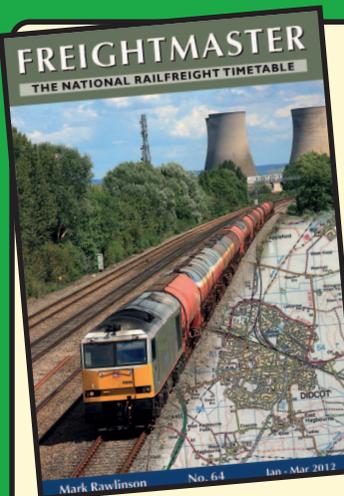
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Recent Improvements

In case you haven't seen a recent copy of Freightmaster recently, you may well be unaware of some of the improvements we have made to the timetable locations, which include an exciting new concept - **DOUBLE TIMETABLES**. These provide timings at **two locations** but contained in a **single timetable**, to let you see, at a glance, what freight passes through a specific area. Here they are

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The Irish Angle

▲ The scene at York Road Depot in Belfast on Boxing Day. Here Class 450s Nos. 8455 and 8454, Class 3000 No. 3006 (just visible), Class 450 No. 8458 and Class 201 No. 228 can be seen on depot. This is likely to be the last year that this view will be seen as all '450s' are expected to be disposed of in the next 12 months. While a member of the Class 450 fleet has once again returned to work on the Portrush branch, a new timetable will be introduced shortly that will see an hourly service from Portrush to Belfast introduced, removing the need for the branch diagram. **Chris Playfair**

First CrossRail Tunnel Boring Machine heads for UK

The first £10 million Crossrail Tunnel Boring Machine (TBM) has been constructed and is undergoing final testing before being shipped from Germany to Tilbury Docks.

The manufacturer, Herrenknecht, is completing last minute checks, after which the 140 metre-long TBM will be dismantled and shipped. On arrival it will be reassembled at Westbourne Park, near Crossrail's Royal Oak Portal, ready for tunnelling to begin. Crossrail Ltd has confirmed that the first tunnel drive will start in March.

To construct the 21km of

twin-bore tunnels required for Crossrail, eight TBMs will be required and will undertake 10 individual tunnel drives to form the 6.2 metre diameter bores. The first TBM components were expected to arrive at Tilbury by the end of December last, with the pieces for the second machine following in January. Reassembling each TBM after delivery will take approximately two months.

As the TBMs advance forward, pre-cast concrete segments will be placed in rings behind the machines. Construction of the concrete segment plant at Old Oak Common is now

complete, and this facility will start manufacturing the 70,000 segments required for the western tunnels, between Royal Oak and Farringdon, this January.

Following the first TBM beginning work in March, a second will start from Royal Oak a few weeks later to form the second bore. The remaining TBMs will be introduced from the Limmo Peninsula in the Royal Docks towards Farringdon; from Pudding Mill Lane and Plumstead in 2013; and from Limmo Peninsula to Victoria Dock in 2014. All Crossrail tunnelling is scheduled for completion by the end of 2014.



Preparing for winter with the snow trains

▲ ▼ The first vehicles for one the new Network Rail snow trains have arrived at Tonbridge West Yard. The snowplough wagons are ZZAs Nos. 99.70.9592.002-8 and 99.70.9592.006-9, while the equipment wagons are YXAs Nos. 99.70.9594.012-5 and 99.70.9594.001-8 (pictured above). The YXAs are modified intermodal flat wagons, fitted with interchangeable pods that carry the necessary equipment. **Patrick Seale**



Edinburgh-Glasgow route upgrade progresses

Network Rail has announced contracts worth £55 million associated with the Edinburgh Glasgow Improvement Programme (EGIP).

Morgan Sindall will construct a new £25 million station at Haymarket to create a fully accessible station, as well as an integrated train, tram, bus and taxi transport hub. BamNuttall is to reconstruct or remove a number of structures around the central belt in a £27 million project, and Carillion will

deliver a range of track alterations, also in the central belt, in a deal worth £3 million.

The contracts form part of the £1 billion EGIP scheme. The Programme will also electrify 350km of the existing rail network in the central belt, including the main Edinburgh Waverley-Glasgow Queen Street line, and provide opportunities to increase services and reduce journey times on routes between Alloa and Dunblane and Edinburgh and Glasgow.

► After the allocated motive power for a Doncaster Railport to Felixstowe service, Class 66/5 No. 66556, failed at Grantham Class 66/9 No. 66955 was sent to rescue it. Unfortunately, this subsequently failed at Peterborough, resulting in Freightliner's recently acquired Class 66/4 No. 66415, which was on route-learning duties, being added to the front of the consist, pictured passing Whitemoor Drove crossing, March.

Colin Makcrow

► One of the two newly-liveried Arriva Trains Wales Mk3 DVT vehicles, No. 82306, previously No. 82144, is pictured at Cardiff Central on 22nd December in the company of Class 57/3 No. 57306 en route to Cardiff Canton Depot. **Matt Ryder**

▼ Observed passing Chinley on 2nd January, with the 10.14 Sheffield to Manchester Piccadilly service is Class 150/2 No. 150226 that been reunited. Vehicle No. 57226 was previously in three-car set No. 150010 in the Network West Midlands livery, while No. 52226 was in three-car set No. 150013, which never lost its Central Trains colours. **Graham Doe**



PMR Tours announces 2012 programme of activities featuring its Green 'Duchess'

PMR Tours, the charter arm of the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust has confirmed the first main line operating dates for its re-liveried 'Duchess'

'The Yorkshire Coronation' on 21st April becomes the first operation, with No. 46233 *Duchess of Sutherland* working to Scarborough via York. The train starts the day at Kettering, and picks up diesel-hauled at Leicester, Loughborough and East Midlands Parkway then Derby, where the steam section commences, and finally Chesterfield.

The presence of No. 46233 at York that day will add even more spice, as Railway Touring Company's 'Great Britain V' is due to change traction in the city during the day. So, York will see a 'Princess Coronation' twice, as well as an 'A4' and, if the current issues are sorted out in time, an 'A3'!

Next will be a favourite working of PMR, from Crewe to Holyhead and back, the 'Welsh Dragon' originating at Bristol Temple Meads, and calling at Bristol Parkway, Cheltenham Spa, Worcester Shrub Hill, Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton to Crewe, where No. 46233 takes over.

There then follows two return workings over Shap, for many the ancestral home of the Princess Coronations, commencing with 'The Citadel Express' on 26th May from Lincoln, Newark Castle, Nottingham, Uttoxeter, Stoke on Trent and Crewe, where the steam section starts and terminates. Two weeks later, and PMRs 'Royal Scot' sets out from Milton Keynes Central, calling at Northampton, Rugby, Nuneaton, Tamworth, Stafford and Crewe, where the steam section again commences for the attack on Shap.

Finally, on 16th June there is

'The Fylde Coast Express', which is a more leisurely day out (for the locomotive, at least) to Blackpool, with steam coming on at Crewe, but staying on to Derby on the return, en route back to The West Shed at Butterley. This train starts at Sheffield, and picks up at Chesterfield, Belper, Derby, Uttoxeter and Stoke-on-Trent before Crewe.

The 'Night Owl' working on Wednesday 28th March is now confirmed, with the loaded test run operating from Derby to Crewe, via Lichfield, with additional pick-ups at

Hathersage and Chesterfield behind diesel traction. *RH* understands that No. 46233 is also in the frame for the Preston to Bristol Temple Meads leg of RTC's 'Great Britain V' which is scheduled for 27th April.

Meanwhile, running-in continues on the Midland Railway with the objective of getting 1,000 miles under the belt before the main line 'light engine' working that will take place early in March. Currently, the locomotive's repaint is nearly complete, but it is running without smoke deflectors due to the need to have access to the steam pipes.

▼ The 'Northern Belle' passes Colton Junction on 6th January, with Class 47/4 No. 47841 at the helm, en route from Birmingham International to Edinburgh. The train had been delayed after the failure of a preceding service freight resulted in it being diverted via the Erewash Valley. Class 47/7 No. 47790 was on the rear. **Ron Cover**



Charity steam working to celebrate end of the steam ban is cancelled

Gauging and operational issues are blamed for the eventual cancellation of the re-dated 'Help for Heroes' tour that was due to feature No. 6024 King Edward I from Hereford to Birmingham Snow Hill, and then No. 60163 Tornado back to London Paddington on 25th February.

It is particularly disappointing because this tour was also celebrating the 40th anniversary of No. 6000 King George V finally breaking BR's infamous steam ban when it, too, ran from Hereford to Birmingham Moor Street in October 1971.

In a letter to tour participants the organisers speak of their inability to resolve issues which meant that the tour could not proceed operationally and "deliver a large donation to the Charity". The gauging issues are said to particularly relate to No. 6024, which seems to be going through

a difficult patch of late, and is now just months away from withdrawal following the expiry of its already extended boiler certificate.

However, all is not lost, as Steam Dreams has stepped into the breach, and has agreed that those booked onto the 'Help for Heroes' train can transfer to its 1st March St David's Day 'Cathedrals Express' from London Paddington to Cardiff Central, and that all proceeds from that train will be donated to the charity.

All the partners associated with the original train will continue to strive to ensure that the 1st March working is as successful as possible, and will ensure that a five figure sum will be donated to the charity. Additionally, the services of King Edward I on the day will be provided free of charge, and a raffle supporting the 'Help for Heroes' cause will be held on Steam Dreams Valentine' Day working to Bath Spa.

Train of Hope raises over £40,000 for CLIC Sargent charity

The Train of Hope team, which consists of five Virgin Trains' Longsight-based drivers, have now completed their fund raising efforts.

Immediately before Christmas, the team presented their chosen charity, CLIC Sargent, which supports children suffering from cancer, with a cheque for £40,080. The highlight of the fund raising efforts was 'The Train of Hope'

itself, which was steam hauled by No. 46115 Scots Guardsman over the northern fells on 1st October. It proved to be a monumental effort by the group, which had no previous experience of fund raising, and who are to be congratulated for their magnificent achievement.

A 'Train of Hope' was mooted for 2012, but it will not now happen and the team are looking ahead to 2013.



▲ The Train of Hope team hand over the cheque for £40,080 to CLIC Sargent. **Train of Hope**

■ To the great disappointment of many, West Coast not be operating the popular high season 'Cambrian' steam workings this year, as the problem of finding suitable portable ERTMS kit has still not been resolved. Network Rail indicate that finding a solution to applying ERTMS to steam traction is 'more complex than it looks', and the company appear to have passed the mantle to West Coast to project manage a solution, hopefully in time for a return of steam operations in 2013 to one of the most scenic routes in the land. No doubt one of the underlying problems seems to be that Network Rail and its contractors, Ansaldo, underestimated the complexity of converting the route in the first place, which has been clearly evident by the resultant problems experienced by Cambrian line services since ERTMS was fully commissioned in March 2011.

■ UK Railtours is finalising details of further tours in 2012, which will include (subject to confirmation) a rare chance to sample the Old Dalby Test Track on a proposed tour from London: it is suggested that Thursday 31st May is kept clear in your diary if you are interested. A few days later and a potential East Midlands HST charter from London St. Pancras to the York Railfest is planned for 2nd June, followed by a mid-summer 'West Highlander' weekend land cruise between

8th and 11th June. Following the success of its visit to the theatre at Buxton in 2011, Gilbert and Sullivan fans will have the chance to enjoy 'H.M.S. Pinafore' at Harrogate on 25th August. Our website listings will be updated as soon as these, and other UK Railtours' charters are confirmed.

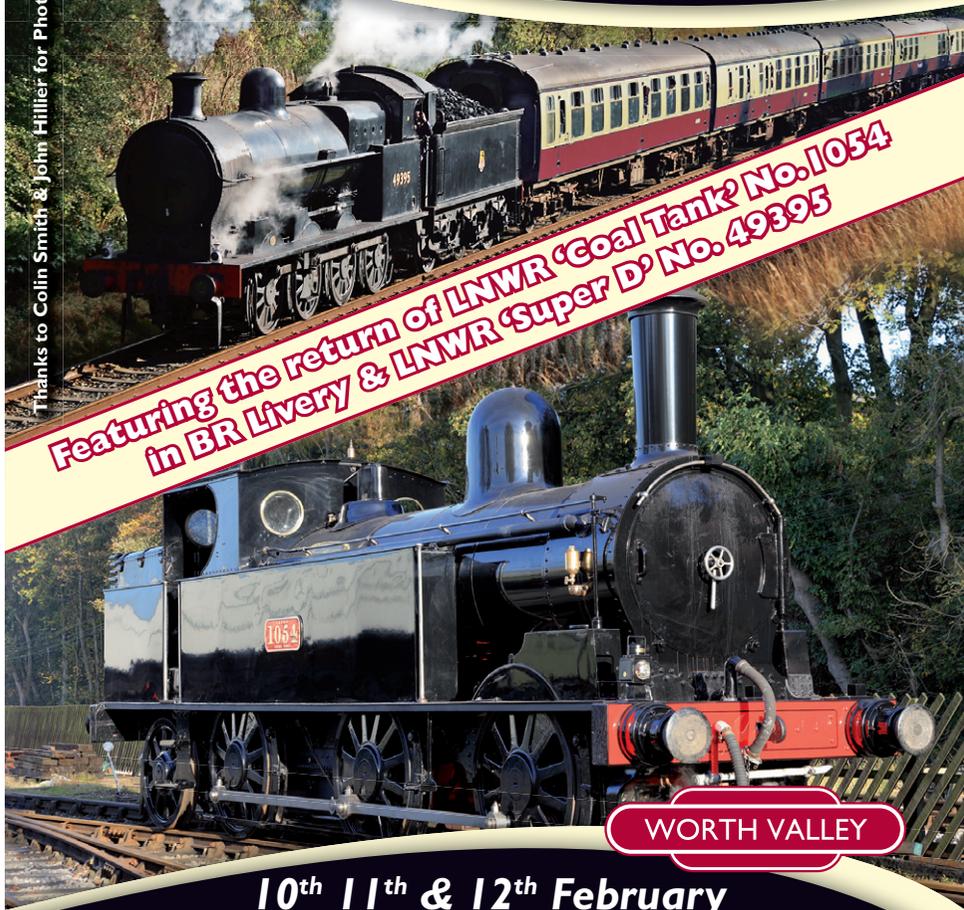
■ Statesman Railtours will be operating out of Aberystwyth on 8th September, with its 'Cumbrian Mountain and Coast Statesman'. The company will be following the tried and tested circuit of heading north over the S&C to Carlisle, and after a break at the Citadel City, returning south along the Cumbrian Coast. A great day from Cambrian Line stations, which has further interest for the enthusiast community as Statesman will be using two Network Rail Class 97/3s between Aberystwyth and Shrewsbury, with West Coast Class 47s dealing with the remainder of the tour. Pick-up points are Borth, Machynlleth, Caersws, Newtown, Welshpool, Shrewsbury, Whitchurch, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay and Wigan North Western.

■ The 'Old Curiosity Mystery Tour' on 3rd December, operated by Hastings Diesels Limited, had some unexpected motive power for part of the working, when a technical fault in one cab of the Hastings unit, resulted in Class 73/2 No. 73213 being added to the front of the train at Tonbridge.

WINTER STEAM GALA

Keighley & Worth Valley Railway

Thanks to Colin Smith & John Hillier for Photographs



Featuring the return of LNWR 'Coal Tank' No. 1054 in BR Livery & LNWR 'Super D' No. 49395

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Near disaster at G-WR as car ends up on trackbed

Three occupants of a Vauxhall Vectra had a lucky escape on New Years Eve when their car was in collision with another vehicle immediately next to the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway's overbridge, which carries Southam Lane over the railway.

The impact of the side-on collision forced the vehicle, which had been approaching the bridge, to be pushed through the wooden fencing next to the bridge parapet, down the embankment bonnet first, resulting in it coming to rest on its roof partly straddling the railway.

Within minutes of the accident, the 13.00 Winchcombe to Cheltenham Racecourse service, hauled by ex-Turkish Railways Stanier Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 45130 was approaching the scene, running tender first, and a further accident was averted by the vigilance of fireman Derek Smith who spotted the overturned vehicle, the train coming to a stand some 90 yards short of the scene.

The three occupants of the vehicle escaped with only only minor cuts and bruises. The car was recovered later in the day by a road crane, while the train was propelled back to Winchcombe. Trains were suspended for the rest of the day, with normal services operating on New Year's Day, after an inspection found no damage to the track.

G-WR spokesman, Ian Crowder, told *RH* that this was the third incident at Southam, and



▲ The aftermath of the accident. The car had crashed through fencing to the left of this photograph and landed on its bonnet before turning upside down. Ian Crowder

action is now urgently required to improve the safety at the junction by the overbridge as well as measures to protect the railway from further similar incidents. If the accident had taken place just minutes later the consequences almost certainly would have been much more serious, as there would have been a collision between the train and the car.

The railway received an unofficial visit by the Rt. Hon Ed Miliband MP, Leader of the Opposition, on New Year's Day who was visiting friends locally, and is reported to have been impressed by the railway.

Kennett Signal Box moves to Colne Valley Railway

After negotiating with Network Rail for some time, the Colne Valley Railway (CVR) at Castle Hedingham has received Kennett signalbox.

The Railway had only heard on 14th December that the box would be available if it could arrange collection on 18th December. There then followed a hectic few days arranging lorry and crane hire.

The box is an 1880 built Great Eastern Railway Type 2 wooden structure, modernised in the late 1990s with GRP cladding and a toilet

extension. After removing the toilet extension, frame and interior fittings, Network Rail used a 150-tonne crane to lift it across two tracks at Kennett and place it onto the waiting lorry.

It then arrived at the CVR, where it was unloaded by a 40-tonne crane onto a Sturgeon wagon right in the middle of the CVR's busiest Santa Special!

It is now hoped to install the box at the Drawell end of the mile-long track, working with Hedingham box (ex Cressing) and Nunnery Street box (ex Wrabness).

Porthmadog Harbour alterations contract awarded

A contract has been awarded for the first phase of the major alterations to the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway's station at Porthmadog.

At present, both Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland trains have to share a single platform at Harbour station, which dates back to 1865. This results in inconvenience for passengers and adds operational complications for railway staff, and a million pound station improvement plan has now been drawn up.

The first phase involves the delivery of some 25,000 tonnes of rock from the nearby Minffordd Quarry

to enable the westernmost 260 metres of the 200-year-old Cob embankment to be widened to enable the construction of a new platform for use by Welsh Highland trains and to completely rework the station layout. Work will commence this January and is scheduled for completion by early spring.

Local hauliers will transport the rock from Minffordd Quarry by road to Porthmadog. In addition to staff working on the Cob, others will be based at Minffordd to select rock and supervise the loading. Road transport for the two-mile journey was chosen on

environmental grounds and to avoid the double handling of the rock involved in delivery by rail or sea.

After delivery, rocks will be put in place one by one at low tide using specialised plant, resulting in a widened and strengthened sea defence. After the Cob widening phase of the project is complete, engineers and volunteers will begin the process of laying track and building new platforms at the historic station.

The complete project is scheduled for completion in time for the main operating season in 2013.

Llangollen promotes extension to Corwen

A recreation of the Corwen station running-in board has been placed on display in Corwen town centre as a statement of intent by the Llangollen Railway to bring the trains back to a new station to the east of the town.

The sign, measuring 10ft by 2ft, has been recreated to traditional Great Western Railway standards by the team of volunteers at Carrog station. It has been erected on pillars in a prominent position alongside the pathway from the car park to the town square, aimed at increasing the awareness of the railway extension project.

At the unveiling, Llangollen Railway Chairman, Jim Ritchie, referred to the historical detail of the two railways that came to Corwen in 1864 and the ending

of the through route in 1964 after 100 years of service, saying that it was now the Llangollen Railway's intention to complete its extension project by the end of 2012 with a new Phase 1 temporary platform to be erected, to which the Corwen running-in board would be transferred in due course. To assist the completion of the project, he asked for additional help in raising the balance of £40,000 in donations to complete the matched funding requirement needed by the Llangollen Railway Trust Ltd. Work on the clearance of the trackbed is now making rapid progress, and volunteers are active with track laying to the west of Carrog, aimed at reaching the half-way point at Bonwm in time for the 'Steel, Steam and Stars 3' event planned for April 2012.

▼ **LMS 'Princess Coronation' No. 46233 passes Butterley on the Midland Railway on 7th January during running-in and mileage accumulation. As of this point, the 'Duchess' had over 300 miles under its belt, and PRCLT Chairman Malcolm Baker told *RH* that so far everything was going well with just a few minor issues to be resolved prior to the application of the final coats of paint and lining out. The running in process is expected to continue for several more days until *Duchess of Sutherland* has passed the required 1,000 miles figure. **John Whitehouse****



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Giving a new meaning to 'catching the train to take the plane', Class 377/5s Nos. 377509 and 377504 depart Gatwick Airport on 13th December, with the 12.54 Bedford - Brighton service, while a British Airways Boeing 737 passes over on its final approach to the runway. **Lewis Smith**





DBS Class 60 No. 60024 in faded EWS colours makes a rare appearance on the former Southern Region at Battledown, heading the 10.19 Hinksey Yard-Eastleigh Yard civil engineers train with Long Welded Rail carriers on 20th December.

Chris Wilson



Colas Rail Class 47/7s Nos. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* and 47749 *Demelza* arrive at Kilmarnock with six FGW Mk3 Buffet cars in tow for overhaul at Wabtec. The train worked from Eastleigh with 12 stored buffet cars to Carlisle, where it was split into two rakes for the final section. **Alasdair Edington**

On the return leg of its first revenue earning working, Class 70 No. 70014 passes Burton-on-Trent on 6th January, with empty coal hoppers from Ratcliffe Power Station, bound for Liverpool Bulk Terminal. **Stuart Hillis**



9th January 2012

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire. YO25 6PX. DVD and slide show. Meeting commences at 19.30 £2 donation. All welcome. Contact the Secretary 011377 254068 for further details

Plymouth Rly Circle

St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'A Tapestry of Britain's Railways' by Richard Green. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome. £1 Admission.

RCTS (East Croydon)

Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'The 4-COR' - Southern Electric Express Trains' by Peter Staveley. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Ipswich)

Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'A Year in my Life 1977 - a B&W (digital presentation)' by Dave Pearce. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton)

St Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. 'Archive Railway Cine Films from the 1920's and 1930's' by Mike Leech. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)

St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Around Britain from the 1920's to the 1960's' by John Morten. Starts 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)

Old Wulfenians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'AGM'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £2.50. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)

Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'John's Highland Fling' by John Burling. Starts 19.30. £3 donation. Contact the Secretary on 01273 504791 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

Lauriston Hotel, 15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan KA22 8EA. 'Swiss Railway Scenes in the 1960s' by Allan M.Fullerton. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

York Railway Circle

The Library, Archbishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Steam Road Locomotives' by John Meredith. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 or at locopatrick@aol.com.

10th January 2012**Abergavenny and District Steam Society**

Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'A Treasurer's Trove' by Robin Smith. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford on 01793 335862.

GW Society (Bristol)

BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Great Western Miscellany - Accidents & More' by Brian Arman, Robin Jordan. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Meon Valley Loco Society

St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. 'Railways of the East Midlands' by Steve Bigley. Starts 20.00. Admission £2. Contact John Barrodale on 02392 640951 for details.

RCTS (Nottingham)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'Developments around Nottingham' by Chris Carter. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)

Vestry Hall, Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'Some Disasters - a few triumphs' by Jim Summers. Starts 19.30. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for further details

11th January 2012**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote Street Club, Ne Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'One Step in Front of the Doctor' by Blake Paterson. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society

Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Railfreight' by Tony Berkeley. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cardiff)

Old Church Rooms, Radyr. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Around the Branch Lines of Wales and the Marches' by Nigel Wassell. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)

Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Branch AGM & Quiz'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society

Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street Guildford. GU1 4SB. 'Steam in Rhodesia' by Ian Wright. Starts 19.30. Contact 01372 379216 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)

The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London. N1 9AT. Members Slides 'Winter'. Starts 19.00. £3 donation. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for details.

12th January 2012**Bath Railway Society**

Bath Geen Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'Doubling of the Cotswold Line' by Tim Maddocks. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01225 312564 (Evenings) for details.

Continental Rly Circle (London & Home Counties)

St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Railways of Portugal' by Tony Bowles. Starts 19.15. Admission £2. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

Ffestiniog Rly (Bristol)

BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'Narrow Gauge in North America' by Richard Stedman-Jones. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Tim Maynard on 01275 341889 for details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society

Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP. 'The Titfield Thunderbolt & Camerton Branch' by Simon Castens. Meeting commences at 19.15. £3 Admission.

RCTS (Newcastle)

The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Minor Railways of Northumberland Part 2' by Roger Jermy. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

13th January 2012**Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society**

Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrinton Road, Altrincham, WA14 1HF. 'Steam Across Java in 1980' by John Sloane. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

GCR Leicester Area Grp

St Bartholomews Church Hall, Church Lane, Quorn. 'The North Wales Coast Line - Part 3, on to Holyhead' by David Scudamore. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact John Calton on 07714 546163 for further details.

GW Society (Swindon)

Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Echoes of the GWR.' plus 'B&R DVD Presentation' by Trevor Young & Peter Tough. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01793 495976 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)

United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans. 'Goodbye Kodachrome - Hello Digital' by David Eatwell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01442 251540 (after 18.00) for details.

Shropshire Rly Society

The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Red for Danger' by Robin Mathams. Meeting commences at 19.30

14th January 2012**Irwell Vale Railway Photographers**

Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'BR Steam - 40 Years Apart' by Steve Fort. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation £3. Contact Mike Taylor on 01282 436653 for further details.

RCTS (Edinburgh)

Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'A Miscellany of Vintage Diesels' by Hamish Stevenson. Meeting commences at 14.30. Contact the Secretary at evanwilliams@talktalk.net for further details.

RCTS (Exeter)

Conference Room, Great Western Hotel, Exeter. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'The Avocet Line' by Richard Giles. Meeting commences at 19.00.

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.

▼ During the Christmas and New Year period, Network Rail often undertakes major engineering projects across the network. One of the smaller tasks is being carried out in this view on New Years Day at Bristol East Junction. Two Stoneblowers are seen at work within an engineering possession on the 'Up' and 'Down' main lines while Class 150 No. 150243 passes by on the 'Up' Filton line while working the 09.41 service to Cheltenham Spa. A CrossCountry Voyager can be seen stabled on Barton Hill depot. **Edward Gleed**



Stephenson Locomotive Society

Kidderminster Railway Museum, adjoining SVR Station, Kidderminster DY10 1QX. 'Members' Presentations'. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 01242 582152 for further details.

**16th January 2012
NYMR (York)**

New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick, YO32 4AG. 'Life on the Line' by Gordon Reed. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Bryan Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

RCTS (Chester)

The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, opp. station entrance, Chester. 'Terminus Part 3' by Barry Shore. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Coventry)

Maudslay Hotel, 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Members' Picture Presentation'. Start 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford)

West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'The Gezira Light Railway of Sudan; by Alan Wild. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)

Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Afghanistan Railways' by David Brice. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stafford Rly Society

St. Leonards Social Club, Stafford. 'Steam on the Metropolitan' by John Tarrant. Meeting commences at 19.30. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01785 840622 for further details.

17th January 2012**RCTS (Cambridge)**

Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Primary School, Galfrid Road, Cambridge. 'Diesels and Steam in East Anglia in the 1950's and 1960's' by Rodger Green. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Cheltenham)

The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. 'Viva la Revolution' by Stewart Blencowe. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at paulandpauline@gearey.fslife.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hull)

Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Slides from the 1960's' by Alan Ferguson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary at richardh@djbroady.co.uk for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teesside TS15 9JW. 'Ride the Silvertown' by Ted Parker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

18th January 2012**RCTS (Eastleigh)**

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Plasser Track Machines' by Mark Simmons. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary, Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533 for further details.

Severn Valley Railway (South East)

The Bishops Finger, 9-10 West Smithfield, London EC1A 9JR. 'Slide Show' by Dave Soggee. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Willis on 0208 923 1839 for further details.

19th January 2012**Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society**

The Roundhouse, Barrow Hill. 'Fifty Years of Railway Photography, Part 4' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission Members £1.50, Non-members £2. Contact 01246 472450 or e-mail beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Irish Railway Record Society (London)

The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW12HR. '1950's Steam Around Belfast' by Colin Weatherup plus AGM. Meeting commences at 19.00. Donation: Members £2.50, Non-Members £3.50. Contact the Secretary at irrlondon@hotmail.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Gt Britain (Nth West)

The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows. WA12 9SH '35 Years as a Railway Civil Engineer' by Tony Icke. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for further details.

RCTS (Darlington)

The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Hush, Hush' by Bill Brown. Starts 19.00.

RCTS (Ipswich)

Bridge Ward Social Club, 68 Austin Street, Ipswich. 'Out and About - My Recent Travels' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Shipley)

Saltaire Methodist Church, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Now and Then - Memories from an ex BR Fireman (Digital)' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society

St John's United Reformed Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet, EN5 1RH. 'The Great Central Railway 2011' by Geoff Burton. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 368 6200 for further details.

20th January 2012**Gosport Rly Society**

The Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport. 'The Privatized Railway' by Ian Copplestone. Meeting commences at 20.00.

Great Western Society (Taunton)

Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton TA3 5DE. 'Steam, Steam & a Little Exhaust' by Peter Triggs. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Scrapped or Survived - Pre-Grouping Locos after 1923 -' by David Stewart-David. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

21st January 2012**Stephenson Loco Society**

The Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. 'Area AGM' followed by 'Down the American Road?' - Industrial Research on the LMS 1923-1947' by Professor Colin Divall. Starts 14.00. Contact the Secretary on 0161 928 2461 for further details.

23rd January 2012**Plymouth Rly Circle**

St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'The Classic Traction Review of 2011' by Steven Andrews. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. Admission Members £1, Visitors £2.

RCTS (Maidenhead)

Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Rail Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland' by Stuart Baker. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)

St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Branch AGM'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Weston Favell)

Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'London Underground - Trains and Stations' by Bill Hardy. Starts 14.00.

24th January 2012**RCTS (Woking)**

The United Reform Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Swindon Works - The Golden Years - 1880 to 1924' by Rev. Canon Brian Arman. Meeting commences at 19.00

RCTS (Nottingham)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'My Varsity Run - (Lincoln to Rugby)' by Martin Bromley. Starts 19.30.

25th January 2012**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote Street Club, Ne Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'AGM & 'The Railway System of the Panama Canal' by Malcolm Bown. Meeting commences at 20.00. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 819401 for further details.

RCTS (Chichester)

Council Meeting Room 2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'Going Digital' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 19.30.

26th January 2012**RCTS (Peterborough)**

St Luke's Church, Mayors Walk, Peterborough. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Slide Presentation' by Robert Warburton. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Preston)

Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. '45 Year Wander with a Camera' by David Walker. Starts 19.30.

Stevenage Locomotive Society

The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'Digital Modern Freight' by Bob Sweet. Starts 19.45. Visitors welcome. £2 admission. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076 for further details.

27th January 2012**Great Western Society (North West)**

St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'From the Slums to the Sidings' by D.Armstrong. Starts 19.30.

Great Western Society (Oxford)

Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6QS. 'The GW Trust Photographic Collection' by Laurence Waters. Starts 19.30.

Shropshire Rly Society

The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Old, New, Borrowed & Blue' by Geoff Cryer. 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

Class 73/2 No. 73201 Broadlands departs from London Charing Cross on 5th January, with a Grove Park to Grove Park, via Rochester, test train working. Class 73/1 No. 73107 was on the rear. Stuart Chapman

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PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE

THE PLAYHOUSE THEATRE