Railway Herald

Issue 293 - 28th November 2011

The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 293
28th November 2011

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Additional Rolling Stock for FGW franchise

First Great Western is to benefit from the addition of several extra diesel multiple units, as well as 15 Mk3 buffet cars, which are to be converted into Standard Class vehicles, allowing some HST sets to be increased to 2+8 formation.

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Front Cover Caption:

A pair of GWR Pannier tanks, Nos. L94 (ex-7752) and 9600 storm past Washwood Heath Sidings No. 1 Signal Box on a charter to Leicester on 19th November. John Whitehouse

Extra carriages for FGW franchise over next six months

Passengers across the Greater Western franchise are set to benefit from additional seats as extra rolling stock is added to the region, following a vehicle shuffle elsewhere.

A total of 15 Mk3 buffet-car vehicles, currently in store, are to be converted to Standard Class seated coaches, which will be added to several of FGWs 2+7 HST sets, increasing the number of seats per set by 84. The trains will be diagrammed onto London-bound morning peak services and London departures in the evening.

On the Thames Valley route some services will be lengthened by the use of Class 165/166 Turbo units currently used on the Reading-Basingstoke service. The latter route will gain six Class 150 DMU vehicles, believed to be the original three-car Class 150/0 sets Nos. 150001 and 150002, which will be based at Reading Depot.

Oxford and the Cotswold main line will be provided with the five Class 180 DMUs (Nos. 180102, 108103, 108104, 180106 and 180108) that were originally allocated to, but never used by, East Coast. Three of these sets have recently been sub-leased to Northern for services in the North West, although these will all be returned by the December timetable change this year. It is understood that all five sets will be refurbished before entering traffic.

Two Class 150 carriages will be added to Bristol services, allowing two Class 153s to be cascaded onto Truro to Falmouth and Exmouth to Torbay routes.

The extra rolling stock, which are planned to come into service in time for the London 2012 Olympic Games, will be provided at a total cost through to the end of the FGW franchise in April 2013 of £28.9 million. The carriages providing additional capacity to Falmouth, Truro and Torbay are being part funded by Devon and Cornwall County Councils, as well as a contribution from the Devon & Cornwall Community Rail Partnership.

▼ **In March 2006, an unidentified Class 180 and classmate No 180113 await their next departures, while Class 332 No. 332004 prepares to head to Heathrow Airport on a non-stop service. Brian Morrison**

Class 317s to have daily working to Norwich

▼ **The 17.02 Liverpool Street to Norwich service, and 19.30 return working, have been booked for a 12-car Class 321 since the start of the service. However, from the winter timetable change on 11th December, a trio of Class 317s are the booked power. From 23rd November, three Class 317s took over the diagram for three days in lieu of Class 321s. On the third day of the working, Class 317s Nos. 317649, 317658 and 317892 are pictured on arrival at Colchester with the northbound service. On this occasion, the train had an enforced lengthy stop due to signalling problems at Manningtree that resulted in the service being diverted to Mistley, to reverse and access the east to north curve at Manningtree, finally reaching Ipswich 42 minutes late. Antony Guppy**

New wagons authorised for Channel Tunnel use

Eurotunnel, which transports 1.2 million trucks each year and is a world leader in intermodal transport, has stated that it is delighted that the Modalohr wagon has been authorised for use in the Tunnel.

Modalohr wagons, built by LOHR Industries, are used on dedicated rail freight corridors across France. The low level, articulated wagons enable side loading of trucks on special terminals, as they do not have canopies or superstructures of the type until now imposed for Eurotunnel's Shuttles. Their use will be the first time since the tunnel opened in 1994 that new rolling stock has been approved by the Inter-Governmental Commission.

The project has been part of Eurotunnel's strategy to apply the European Technical Specifications for Interoperability to the Channel Tunnel to enable the growth of freight traffic between the UK and continental Europe. It is an important addition to the open access policy operated by Eurotunnel, which has, among other things, already seen the halving of access charges.

Authorisation to use Modalohr wagons will allow the planned Autoroute ferroviaire atlantique to be connected directly to the Channel Tunnel, potentially bringing significant new traffic to this country.

Railway Herald

NEW BACK ISSUES CD-ROM AVAILABLE

covering Issues 201 to 290

In January 2010, Railway Herald produced a CD-ROM containing all back issues from Issue 1 to 200, along with all supplements and editions of our 'Worldwide' magazine produced to date.

A number of readers have been asking if we are producing an update with the latest editions, so here it is ... and in time for Chrismas too!

The new disc starts from Issue 201 and contains all high-resolution versions of each issue up to No. 290 and will be available from 15th November, priced at £5 post free within the UK, and £6.50 outside the UK - the ideal gift for Christmas.

If you have yet to purchase the original disc, then both discs (spanning Issues 1 to 290) can be obained for £8.50 post free within the UK or £10 outside the UK. To order your copy, simply click this advert to visit our website and order online, or call the Editorial Office on 01904 500175, between 09.30 and 17.00, Monday to Friday.

Visit us online 24 hours a day at www.railwayherald.com

Metro and Light Rail News

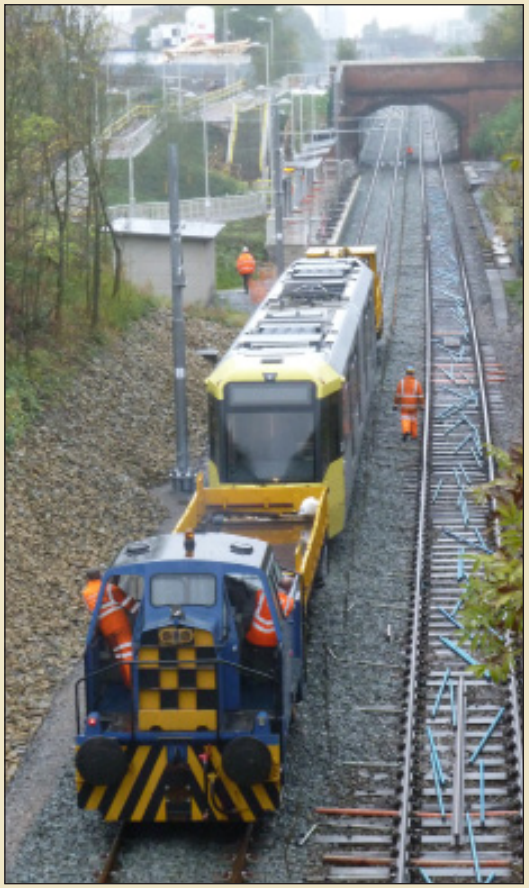
Tottenham Court Road reopens after first phase of £500m project

London Underground's Northern Line platforms at Tottenham Court Road station reopened on 28th November, after eight months of behind-the-scenes work to make it possible to build new access routes, new staircases and a lift.

During the closure, a team of more than 100 have been working around the clock to complete the critical structural works, involving the installation of more than 1,000 tonnes of new steel tunnel sections. When complete in 2016, station capacity will dramatically increase as part of the major upgrade.

The £500 million upgrade is part of the plans to ease congestion, improve accessibility and provide direct interchange with Crossrail services when they arrive in 2018. When Tottenham Court Road station was built over 100 years ago, it was not designed to be used by the 147,000 people that now use it daily, or the 200,000 plus daily users expected when Crossrail comes to the station in 2018.

First Tram on Oldham Route and First T68 set in new colours



◀ The next phase of work on the Metrolink extensions moved a step forward in October, when Tram No. 3037 was hauled by Sentinel 0-4-0 diesel 'Enterprise', hired from the Ribble Steam Railway, over the Oldham route, to just north of the Freehold stop. Here, the tram is pictured being propelled past the Dean Lane stop, with the Network Rail line to the GM Waste Depot on the right. R. Clarke

▼ Metrolink Tram No. 1003, numerically the third of the original batch of Firema-built T68 light rail vehicles, stands at Altrincham on 21st November, after having a vinyl wrap applied with the centre section showing promotional advertisements for Manchester's Christmas Markets, while the cab and ends are in the latest yellow and silver corporate colours. Christopher Lowe

FCC to create extra Standard Class seats on 377/2s

First Capital Connect (FCC) is halving the number of First Class compartments on its new class 377/2 Electrostars to create 230 more seats for Standard Class ticket holders.

The trains operate on the Thameslink routes and will have one First Class compartment from each four carriage set declassified. With space at a premium on many services, passengers asked FCC to review the seating layout on the Class 377/2s, and a study showed that changes could be made and that there would still be enough seats to satisfy First Class demand.

An extra 10 Standard Class seats have now been provided on each of the 23 trains, the work having been undertaken at Cauldwell Depot, Bedford.

From 12th December, FCC is also adding almost 2,000 further seats to its peak hour services by lengthening eight trains per day to 12 carriages.

Testing of new TfL Class 378 on WCML finishes

▼ **Testing of the three additional Class 378 EMUs on the West Coast Main Line, between Crewe and Rugby, continues apace. On 24th November, Class 378/2s Nos. 378257 and 378210 stand at Crewe awaiting a run south. The duo finished the day by working through to Wembley Yard, then onwards during the evening to New Cross Depot. John Whitehouse**

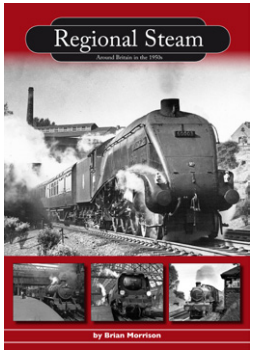
The Irish Angle

▲ **The first Dublin DART to carry the Emirates advertising livery entered traffic on 22nd November. 8520 Class No. 8632 is pictured at Dublin Connolly, working the 12.30 Malahide - Greystones service on its first day in traffic. Neil Dinnen**

▼ **Since the failure of 450 Class No. 8452** *Olderfleet Castle* **on 27th October, services on the Portrush branch have been worked by a C3k unit. However, within the past week, the older traction has returned to the route. On 23rd November, set No. 8458 replaced No. 8455, and the former is pictured at Coleraine before working the 17.30 service to Portrush. This diagram is expected to last until 23rd December, from when it is likely to return to a C3k unit. Chris Playfair**

Special Offers for Christmas

If you enjoy our occasional 'Turning the Clock Back' series then you will love this title!

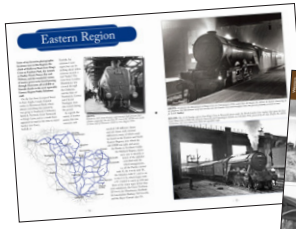


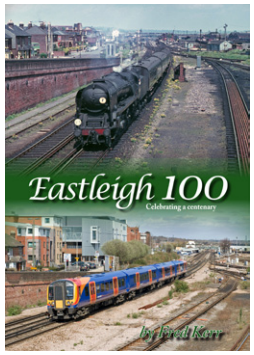
Regional Steam

by Brian Morrison

Normal RRP £14.95
Offer Price £8.50

Brian Morrison looks at steam action across Great Britain in the 1950s, with a chapter on each region, and a wide selection of loco types featured, this book provides a fascinating insight into operations in the 1950s.





Eastleigh 100

by Fred Kerr

Normal RRP £8.95
Offer Price £4.95

A look at the life and times of Eastleigh, both as a railway location, and the works, with an overview of the projects carried out at the works, as well as colour images of steam in the '60s.

STEAM FOCUS

Normal RRP £13.95
Offer Price £6.99

Our Steam Focus DVD concentrates on the UK scene and features both heritage railway and main line steam action.

This programme looks at a broad range of news and events from the past six to nine months, with action of locomotives from all four pre-nationalisation companies, plus British Railways Standards. Locations featured include the East Lancashire, Ffestiniog, Great Central, Llangollen, Mid-Hants and North Yorkshire Moors Railways, plus mainline charter workings featuring 5043 Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, 35028 Clan Line, 6233 Duchess of Sutherland, 44871, 46115 Scots Guardsman, 48151, 60009 Union of South Africa, 60163 Tornado, 70013 Oliver Cromwell and much much more.

There is also the ability to turn the narration off, leaving the viewer to enjoy the pure sounds of steam in action.

Running time is 70 minutes

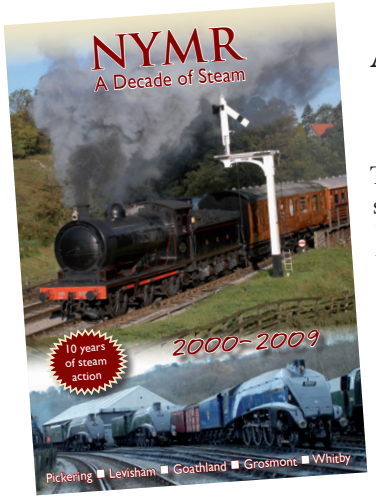
All DVDs and Books are dispatched **post free** within the UK

ALL DVD programmes reduced to £6.99 - one time only!

The Tornado Story

Normal RRP £11.95
Offer Price £6.99

Follow Britain's newest standard gauge steam loco over its first year on the main line, with views and details on its construction as well as heritage railway gala events. Also includes the locomotives 'Royal' naming at York and archive footage of A1s in action in the 1960s.



NYMR A Decade of Steam

Normal RRP £15.95
Offer Price £6.99

This programme charts the steam action on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway between 2000 and 2009, covering the variety of locomotives that have worked the line in that time. Over 35 locomotives are seen in action across the line in this 100-minute DVD programme.

LIMITED STOCK

Offers are valid until 31/12/11, or while stocks last. **To order visit www.rhpublishing.co.uk or call 01904 500175 (09.30-17.00 weekdays)**
or send a cheque or postal order, payable to 'Railway Herald' to RH Publishing, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. DN17 2WY.
Overseas postage is charged at £4.50 GBP per order

▶ The unique Medite-liveried Class 66/7 No. 66709 *Joseph Arnold Davies* hauls Europorte Class 92 No. 92043 through Leytonstone High Road on 25th November, while working Stobart containers from Spain to Ripple Lane. The train had arrived in the UK via the Channel Tunnel. The return working that evening, the 20.08 Ripple Lane to Dollands Moor service, utilised No. 66709 as far as Wembley Yard, from where the Class 92 took the train under its own power to Dollands Moor for onwards transit through the tunnel. **Stuart Chapman**

▶▼ DBS Class 90 No. 90029 *The Institution of Civil Engineers* couples up to ScotRail-liveried classmate No. 90019 at Crewe on 18th November, before heading off to Crewe Electric Depot while Class 57/3 No. 57311 *Parker* is on 'Thunderbird' duties. **Nigel Capelle**

▼ One of GBRf's Class 09 locomotives, No. 09009, is pictured en route from Barton Dock to the exchange sidings at Trafford Park, with the Manchester Barton Dock to Felixstowe Intermodal service on 24th November. Class 66/7 No. 66741 took the service forward to East Anglia. **Steve Kemp**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Tuesday 29th November 2011

Compass Tours	2xWCRC 47	Rugby-Birmingham NS-Stafford-Preston-Shap-Beattock-Edinburgh Waverley & rtn
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Worcester Shrub Hill-Tamworth HL-Derby-York-Edinburgh Waverley
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Edinburgh Waverley-Stirling-Perth-Ladybank-Burntisland-Edinburgh

Wednesday 30th November 2011

Torbay Express Ltd	4492	Poole-Bournemouth-Brockenhurst-Southampton-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return

Thursday 1st December 2011

Steam Dreams	70000	(Rainham (Kent)-Rochester-)Willesden-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads & return
Virgin Trains	FL90 & VT57	London Euston-Watford Junction-Milton Keynes Central-Chester and return

Friday 2nd December 2011

SRPS Railtours	55022	Linlithgow-Waverley-Cramlington-York-Doncaster-Lincoln and return

Saturday 3rd December 2011

Cruise Saver Travel	DRS 47	Glasgow Central-Preston-Manchester-Birmingham-Oxford-Southampton Docks
NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	North Walsham-Norwich-Ely-Peterborough-York-Keighley-Skipton and return
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Doncaster-Huntingdon-St. Neots-Canterbury and return
UK Railtours	EMT HST	London St. Pancras-Kettering-Loughborough-Nottingham-Lincoln & return
Pathfinder Tours	DBS Class 67	Eastleigh-Basingstoke-Oxford-Water Orton-Tamworth-Lincoln-Cleethorpes & rtn
Statesman Rail	2xWCRC 47	Wolverhampton-Shrewsbury-Crewe-Preston-Shap-Beattock-Edinburgh and return
Steam Dreams	70000	London Euston-Northampton-Rugby-Lichfield TV-Stafford-Crewe-Chester & rtn
Railway Touring Co.	4492	London King's Cross-Peterborough-Grantham-Newark Northgate-Lincoln & rtn
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Virginia Water-Woking-Redhill-East Croydon-London Victoria
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Tunbridge Wells-Bromley South-London Bridge-Rochester & return
Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Rochester-Mystery trip around Kent-Rochester
Virgin Trains	VT Class 390	London Euston-Watford Junction-Manchester Piccadilly & return

Sunday 4th December 2011

Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley Warwick Road-Nuneaton-Hinckley-Leicester-Melton Mowbray & return

Wednesday 7th December 2011

Cheshire Cat Tours	tbc	Stratford upon Avon-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-Stratford-upon-Avon	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co.	34067	London Victoria-Hastings-London Victoria	**Cancelled**
Torbay Express Ltd	tbc	Poole-Bournemouth-Brockenhurst-Southampton-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	

Thursday 8th December 2011

Steam Dreams	70013	Ely-Cambridge-Harlow Town-Broxbourne-West Hampstead-Oxford & return

Friday 9th December 2011

UK Railtours	tbc	Hitchin-Stevenage-Hertford North-Finsbury Park-Winchester & return
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-London Victoria

Saturday 10th December 2011

Cheshire Cat Tours	DBS 67	Chesterfield-Loughborough-Bath-Bristol TM & return	**Cancelled**
Cheshire Cat Tours	DBS 67	Cardiff Central-Abergavenny-Shrewsbury-Crewe-York-Durham & return	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Bridlington-Beverley-Selby-York-Newcastle-Edinburgh Waverley & return	
Railway Touring Co.	34067	Three Bridges-Hove-Worthing-Salisbury-Westbury-Trowbridge-Bath Spa & return	
Railway Touring Co.	4492	Cambridge-Ely-March-Peterborough-York & return	
Statesman Rail	2xWCRC 47	Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria-Wilmslow-Crewe-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	
Steam Dreams	70000	Southend Central-Basildon-Upminster-West Hampstead-Winchester-Eastleigh & rtn	

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

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

Steam Dreams welcomes Colchester to its programme for 2012 ... and *Clan Line*!

Two striking features leap off the page while viewing Steam Dreams' 2012 programme; the first is the ever-increasing variety of departure points outside London, and secondly is the name *Clan Line*!

Until recently, the celebrated Merchant Navy Pacific has been the preserve of VSOE on its steam-hauled 'British Pullman' services, together with the occasional working for John Farrow's UK Railtours. Although *Clan Line* has worked for Steam Dreams before, as an emergency stand-in for an errant 'Black 5' on the pre-Christmas 2010 'White Cliffs Luncheon' working, it is now booked to haul one of the 'signature' workings, the annual 9th July train from London Waterloo to Weymouth, to commemorate the last BR steam working on the Southern that took place on that date in 1967. On 9th July 2012, the itinerary is again Waterloo to Weymouth, only this time with a Merchant Navy. Will we see more of No. 35028 on Steam Dreams trains? 'Maybe' was the reply from Graeme Bunker.

Another significant event will be the opening up of the London & South West main line to steam once again on the section between Yeovil Junction and Honiton, through to Exeter for the first time since 2009. This will be enabled due to planned re-signalling on this hitherto 'banned' stretch, which will provide the additional paths necessary to once again operate steam charters. The first to take advantage of this facility will be its 3rd May working from London, which will now be steam-hauled throughout on the outward working, and from Yeovil Junction (where the steam locomotive will return to from Exeter for servicing) with a diesel covering the section from Exeter. Another route that has recently been reopened to charter operations is the Cotswold main line between Oxford and Worcester, and Steam Dreams will be heading that way too, on 23rd August from London.

Returning to the first comment, it is interesting to see that new originating points for 2012 is Colchester, with trains to York on 10th May and the Settle & Carlisle on 30th August, Westbury for a working via Swindon to Canterbury on 26th June and Banbury to Swanage on 19th April. Northampton and Southend also re-appear, with workings to Winchester (26th July) and Gloucester (16th June) respectively, while Salisbury has two booked trains, to Worcester on 28th June and Cambridge on 6th September. Other regional departures include Peterborough to Salisbury (4th April), North Kent to Stratford-upon-Avon (23rd April), Lewes to Oxford (5th July), Ashford to Salisbury (12th July) and Cambridge to Canterbury (19th July).

Finally, on 1st March 'King' No. 6024 *King Edward I* is due to head Steam Dreams' traditional St David's Day working from London Paddington to Cardiff, which is likely to be the last main line working of the locomotive prior to being withdrawn for overhaul. It could also be the last time the 'King' can be seen on an 'uncluttered' 'Brunel's Billiard Table', that is the Paddington to Swindon main line, as the 'fast track' electrification of the route could well mean the wires will be up before the forthcoming overhaul of No. 6024 is completed.

Further details of all known charters can be obtained on our website at www.railwayherald.com/railtours or by clicking here.

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

With the dark days of November receding, the bright lights of Christmas beckon, which means that after something of a mini-hibernation over the past few weeks, the railtour companies are awash with charters.

This is an important time for them, as the demand for festive trains has been, in the past, very good and provides the opportunity to put some money into the bank and perhaps even make the profit and loss account look a bit more healthy. From a business perspective, a good Christmas is crucial, because during January and February particularly, their income stream is meagre with few tours booked to operate while costs remain constant.

So the festive season is vital for more than just giving the passengers a good time, but, judging by this week's programme, a good time is exactly what they will get! The Lincoln Christmas Fayre is always a popular destination, and has some making up to do for the cancellation of last year's event due to the appalling weather. This year, the SRPS will be the first visitors on 2nd December, when they use 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* on the traditional annual visit, which originates at Linlithgow, and picks up via Edinburgh Waverley and East Coast points through to Durham, and includes a wander over part of the old Midland & Great Northern Joint Railway route through Gainsborough Lea Road and Saxilby. A Class A4 will be visiting next day, as the Railway Touring Company employ No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* on the 'Lindum Fayre' from London King's Cross, which is booked to work over the East Coast Main Line both ways.

To further emphasise the variety of traction heading for Lincoln on 3rd December, UK Railtours will be using an East Midlands Trains HST on its outing from London St Pancras International, while Pathfinder will have a DBS Class 67 on the tour from Eastleigh, which sets down at Lincoln, before heading further east for the benefit of those with retail aversion to clear their heads with a bracing afternoon next to the North Sea at Cleethorpes.

Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads will be the joint destinations of Torbay Express' 'Bath Spa Christmas Express' on 30th November from Poole, which also serves Bristol Temple Meads. Motive power is likely to be 'A4' No. 4492, as stablemate No.70000 *Britannia* is in action on the following day for Steam Dreams, also to Bath Spa and Temple Meads, but in this case from Rainham in Kent, booked to pick up at the Medway towns. However, because of the gauging problems affecting steam on the route (see last week's *RH*) this train will now be diesel-hauled from Rainham through to Willesden, where the steam section will commence. Steam Dreams then hang onto No. 70000, as two days later it has the West Coast main line to deal with from London Euston, via Northampton and the Trent Valley to Crewe, and then onwards to Chester. Finally, Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* should return to main line action, also on 3rd December, following its absence for annual maintenance, on a VSOE British Pullman luncheon train via the Surrey Hills.

Edinburgh remains a popular destination, and three tours will be heading that way over the next few days commencing with Spitfire Railtour's 'The Scotsman' on 29th November, which is booked for 'Deltic' haulage throughout from Worcester Shrub Hill, via Birmingham New Street, Derby and York, aided by a West Coast 47 or 57 outwards in double-headed mode, and 'topping and tailing' on the return. The double-heading arrangement impacts on the add-on 'Royal Scots Tay III' mini-tour that was supposed to head for Dundee via both Forth and Tay Bridges. However, as double-heading is not permitted over the Tay Bridge, the mini-tour will now head for Perth, outwards via Stirling and back through Ladybank and the Fife coastal route. With the 'Deltic' charging up the East Coast, Compass Railtours will be heading for the Scottish Capital from Rugby, through Birmingham New Street and then north along the WCML, with West Coast power at the helm. The last working also originates in the West Midlands, as Statesman Railtours set out from Wolverhampton, but diverge through Shrewsbury before reaching the WCML at Crewe for the visit to Edinburgh.

Meanwhile, south of the border, a religious theme binds two other tours operating on 3rd December; the Archbishops of Canterbury and York are the two most senior clerics in the Church of England, and their respective seats are, conveniently, the joint destinations of Railtourer, which will be heading for the former from Doncaster, and Nenta Traintours which is destined for the latter from North Walsham and Norwich. Both trains should feature West Coast Class 47 or 57 traction.

The last two tours also stand out. Hastings Diesels ever-popular DEMU is again in action in the South East, working north from Hastings, and picking up at the usual haunts through to London Bridge, where after a reversal, the train heads for the Victorian Dickensian Christmas festivities that will be taking place in the Medway town of Rochester. However, the train title, 'The Old Curiosity Mystery Tour' has more to do with what follows, if the lid can be kept firmly on the route details, which nowadays is unlikely! This is because there will be an add-on after Rochester, with the plan of having a wander around Kent before it is time to return to Rochester, and collect those passengers that left the train earlier, prior to returning to to Hastings. Network Rail cannot, at present, provide a route because of engineering work, and so where they will be going will be a secret. Of course, you can await the inevitable station announcement that the train at Platform 1 is the mystery tour to ....!

Vintage Trains' outing on 4th December however has a definitive destination - Melton Mowbray - for a visit to the town's festive Victorian Fayre from Tyseley Warwick Road via Coleshill Parkway, Nuneaton and Leicester, and will be hauled by No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall*.

▼ **Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067** *Tangmere* **approaches Southampton on 24th November, as it heads the Railway Touring Company's 'Bath and Bristol Christmas Express' from Poole to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads. Wayne Radford**

▲ **Class 50s Nos. 50049** *Defiance* **and 50044** *Exeter* **stand at Edinburgh Waverley on 19th November, with Spitfire Railtours 'Edinburgh Explorer II' charter from Preston, via York. Here, the duo awaits departure from the Scottish capital with the return working to Lancashire. John Anderson**

Successful north-east heritage line charters for PLEG

The Preserved Locomotive Enthusiast Group operates a number of one-off events around the country, usually with some unique opportunity involved.

The latest of these events took place on 20th November, when the Group had the opportunity for a tour over the scenic Weardale Railway, using the resident shunters that are normally used on the coal traffic.

Initial enquiries were met with a refreshingly warm response and a date was promptly selected to avoid clashing with railtours or other preserved railway events. The original request was for Class 08s Nos. 08588 and 08870, but it soon became apparent that the former was in need of maintenance work and would not be available. As a result the resident 'Dutch' English Electric shunter No. NS653 was used alongside No. 08870.

On the day, 120 passengers joined the train and a fantastic donation of nearly £2,000 was made in fares and the on-train raffle, the first prize of which, was a cab ride back from Stanhope to Bishop Auckland West. All raffle proceeds were to the benefit of the active Weardale Youth Team.

With three Mark I coaches, the two shunters did lose a little time to Stanhope, where a refreshing leg-stretch break was provided along with the necessary tea and coffee, while photographs were taken and the service train departed formed by one of the resident Class 141 DMUs.

The trip back to Bishop Auckland ran according to time, and included visiting the depot at Wolsingham under steam power to pick up some unusual track for the 'track bashers', and allow the service train to pass, before making the advertised Network Rail service train connection at Bishop Auckland.

The same day also found a second tour being arranged at Locomotion, the NRM at Shildon, using the resident Class 03 shunter. Following initial enquiries, a plan was soon put together for a two-trip operation that allowed use of the service train connection between the two venues.

A donation of £500 was made which was very gratefully received, especially as numbers could have easily been reduced by the foggy weather. Passengers also included two members of the public! A number of passengers took the advertised option and travelled on both Trains A and B.

Tractionwise, the '03' looked great, even inside the cab, and PLEG were delighted that Shildon were able to provide a bonus on the day with the provision of 'Dutch' No. NS663 *Annette*.

PLEG hopes to revisit the Weardale Railway in the New Year, and would like to thank all the staff and volunteers, together with those at the NRM for a very special day out.

▼ **A foggy day in Weardale brings a wintery feel to the surroundings as English Electric 0-6-0s Nos. NS653 and 08870 stand at Stanhope on the Weardale Railway with a PLEG railtour from Bishop Auckland to Stanhope and back. Alex Thorkildsen**

Ups & Downs

■ With the 2011 'Jacobite' season just completed, West Coast has now announced the dates for the 2012 season. The morning trains will operate on each weekday from Monday 14th May through to Friday 26th October, with weekend workings added from Saturday 23rd June until Sunday 26th August. Also, the additional afternoon train that was introduced in the 2011 season, will continue in 2012, and operate from Monday 4th June until Friday 31st August. A notable change is that the afternoon train next year will now operate every weekday, also between those dates, which adds significant extra capacity for 'The Jacobite', as high season workings are frequently fully booked long in advance of the departure date. There is no news yet of the likely locomotive pool, but a return to the West Highlands for 'K1' No. 62005 looks a likely bet, as is a Riley 'Black 5' for part of the season. All that remains now is news of the 'Scarborough Spa Express' and whether the ERTMS problem on the Cambrian has been cracked!

■ One of the curiosities of charter operations is why more tours don't go to Southport. It is an elegant, genteel sort of place with good shops and a huge beach. According to the press, it is where the famous and the good of Liverpool hang out. But, very few charters go there. Maybe it suffers from being tucked in between Liverpool to the south, and Blackpool to the north. Anyway, UK Railtours is making an attempt to redress the situation, as its 'Sandgrounder' is heading to Southport on 31st March from Stevenage, Potters Bar and Finsbury Park. The route outwards will be along the WCML, before diverging through Wigan Wallgate to reach Southport by way of Burscough Bridge. After a no doubt bracing stroll, or taking the tram along the pier (it is the second longest in the UK), the train then takes the Calder Valley route across the Pennines back to London King's Cross, which includes a rare locomotive-hauled working over the line from Huddersfield to Penistone, through Denby Dale. By the way, according to UKR, a 'sandgrounder' is the name applied to people from Southport, and reflects that the town was built on sand when founded back in Victorian times.

■ Vintage Trains has confirmed that the much anticipated visit of 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* will take place as originally planned over the weekend of 26th-28th May next year. The train will be steam-hauled throughout, this becoming the first of its class to venture north of the border, and includes on 27th May a circular luncheon train from Linlithgow that crosses the Forth Bridge twice in its itinerary, both northbound. This is because the route is outwards through Inverkeithing and Kirkcaldy, then via the Thornton Junctions to Stirling, via Cowdenbeath and Alloa, and the return then continues beyond Linlithgow, across the Forth Bridge for the second time, to terminate at Inverkeithing. Ticket sales will open once the 2012 programme is released.

■ HF Railtours, following its mammoth working with *Tornado* to Glasgow Central in September, go for a more conservative tour for its next train on 17th December. It will be diesel-hauled from Carlisle and head for Chester, and more particularly its festive shopping opportunities. The train works out via the Cumbrian Coast, picking up at Wigton, Maryport, Workington, Whitehaven, St. Bees, Seascale, Millom, Barrow-in-Furness, Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands and Preston.

Panniers wandering around the Midlands

▲ **Vintage Trains-operated GWR Pannier 0-6-0PTs Nos. L94 and 9600 cross the River Trent near Burton-on-Trent with the 'Double Headed Panniers' tour on 19th November. Frank Lees**

◀ **London Transport-liveried No. L94 (formerly GWR/BR No. 7752) pilots BR black-liveried No. 9600, as the pair pass Shustoke foot crossing on the outward journey from Tyseley to Leicester. Mick Rogers**

'Hoovers' on the East Coast Main Line are not the most common sight in history! Here, Nos. 50049 *Defiance* and 50044 *Exeter* pass Manors in Newcastle on the 'Edinburgh Explorer II' charter to the Scottish Capital. **Alex Thorkildsen**

Despite the restrictions on midweek steam charters on the ECML, A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* was permitted to work Steam Dreams' 'The Cathedrals Express' between Peterborough and York on 24th November. On the outward journey, the train approaches Colton Junction. **Paul Braybrook**

60163 TORNADO

New Steam for the Main Line

Your chance to continue making history

The last of the renowned Peppercorn class A1 was scrapped in 1966. But in 2003 a brand new class A1, 60163 Tornado was brought to life by a dedicated team of volunteers. And now we urgently need your help to keep *Tornado* on the main line.

The Peppercorn class A1's were the last of the great express passenger locomotives designed by the London & North Eastern Railway. British Railways built 49 of them at its Doncaster and Darlington works in 1948/9. They were the last word in speed, style and glamour – but none escaped the scrapmans' torch.

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust – a registered charity - built a new A1 to the original design at its workshops in Darlington. The project was launched in 1990 and when the £3 million locomotive was completed she was officially named *Tornado* by TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall. Fitted with additional water capacity and the latest railway safety electronics the locomotive is fully equipped for today's main line railway.

The Trust is still seeking to raise funds to repay the outstanding £500,000 borrowing to complete her construction and to provide a support coach for her main line operations. The crowds continue to turn out to see *Tornado*. However, for this to continue we still need your help – and you can come on board for the price of a pint of beer a week! Visit our website at www.a1steam.com to see how!

Christmas Gift Ideas for the Tornado Enthusiast

	Cost	Qty	Total
Tornado Pen silver with logo (black ink)	£1.00	....	£.....
Tornado Photo Fridge Magnet	£1.00	....	£.....
Badge, Oval Tornado in Brunswick Green	£2.00	....	£.....
Tornado Bookmarks, Green with gold lettering.	£2.00	....	£.....
Pocket Notebook, Tornado in Gold relief	£2.50	....	£.....
Tornado Key Ring by REV Gomm	£5.00	....	£.....
Tornado Key Ring with logo	£2.50	....	£.....
Tornado Tea Towel	£5.00	....	£.....
Tornado Mug	£6.00	....	£.....
Tornado Baseball Cap Navy	£8.00	....	£.....
Tornado Beanie Hat *Pink, Navy, Black and Bottle Green (Please circle colour required)*	£8.00	....	£.....
Tornado Sweat Shirt: With embroidered logo *Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)*	£22.00	....	£.....
Tornado Fleece: With embroidered logo *Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)*	£26.00	....	£.....
Tornado Polo Shirt: With embroidered logo *Bottle Green or Navy in M L XL XXL sizes (Please circle colour and size)*	£20.00	....	£.....
"Absolutely Chuffed 2" DVD Published by GoodGuys Media	£19.99	....	£.....
Tornado Jigsaw	£17.00	....	£.....
Hornby Rail Road Tornado 'Special Edition' Apple Green *Limited edition of 1200*	£90.00	....	£.....
Hornby Tornado Rail Road, Apple Green	£75.00	....	£.....
Hornby Tornado Train Pack, Brunswick Green with 3 coaches	£150.00	....	£.....
Tornado Coal Model by Unity Gifts			
'OO' Gauge	£30.00	....	£.....
'N' Gauge	£10.00	....	£.....
Haynes Tornado Manual Book.	£19.99	....	£.....
Tornado 2012 Calendar	£10.00	....	£.....
Tornado Christmas Cards			
Packs of 4 different designs A6 size	£4.00	....	£.....
Packs of 4 different designs A5 size	£6.00	....	£.....

A number of the above items can also be ordered online using the official website at

www.a1steam.com

(Click this advert to visit the website)

Post & Packing is £5. Cheques should be payable to Tornado Merchandising Ltd sent to: Darlington Locomotive Works, Hopetown Lane, Darlington, County Durham. DL3 6RQ

Bluebell's *Sir Archibald Sinclair* withdrawn from traffic

After a short operating period of just 30 months, the Bluebell Railway-based Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34059 *Sir Archibald Sinclair* **has been withdrawn from traffic as a result of boiler issues.**

An inspection of the right thermic syphon, which aids the water circulation in the firebox and increases the evaporative surface, revealed that it was badly fractured, with the left hand syphon approaching a similar condition. At the same time, a number of leaking stays on both sides of the firebox, several of which were showing signs of star-fracturing in the surrounding plate work, were also discovered.

While it would have been feasible to have repaired the problems, the likelihood of a repeat was too high to consider, and as a result the locomotive's boiler certificate has been terminated and the engine stopped.

The current plan is to complete the outstanding work on the SECR 'H' class 0-4-4T No. 263 and SR 'S15' 4-6-0 No. 847, returning both to traffic, with their places in the workshop being taken by the Battle of Britain and the SR 'Q' class 0-6-0 No. 541. The boiler of No. 34059 will then be lifted out to allow the repairs to take place. Current estimates are that work, which will include renewing the firebox platework up to the level of the brick arch, will commence towards the end of 2012, taking around nine months to complete, with the locomotive hopefully returning to steam in mid-2013, although the final date is dependent upon funding and no other work being found to be necessary. Once completed *Sir Archibald Sinclair* will return to traffic with a full 10-year boiler certificate in place.

Roger Cruse, Chairman of the Battle of Britain Locomotive Group, told *Railway Herald* that it was not yet possible to put a confirmed figure on the repairs, but the bill is "likely to be around £60,000" minimum, a figure that could easily increase if additional work is discovered. The crucial element for the group is to raise funds to contribute towards the repair, and the hope is to have the funding readily available for when the work starts, allowing it to proceed without delay.

Any readers wishing to donate to the fund can send a cheque or postal order, payable to 'Bluebell B.O.B. Locomotive Group', to Bluebell B.O.B. Locomotive Group, c/o 21 St Stephens Road, Hounslow, Middlesex, TW3 2BH.

Finely Detailed Locomotive Illustrations by Richard Green

Battle of Britain Class, No. 34059 Sir Archibald Sinclair

Shown in 1964 condition – **£10** from every print will go to 34059's firebox repair fund • Size: 690mm x 305mm • Scale: 8mm/ft • 450 Signed and Numbered • Price: £29·50 •

LOCOS IN PROFILE | *www.locos-in-profile.co.uk*

Royal Corps of Signals raises £1,000 for Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal

Soldiers from the Royal Corps of Signals based at Blandford Forum, Dorset, have raised over £1,000 for the Royal British Legion's Poppy Appeal, thanks to a sponsored run, row and cycle at Swanage station.

Using rowing and cycling machines on the platform – and running six kilometres – 48 soldiers of the Signal Regiment travelled a total of 650 miles, which was the equivalent distance from Swanage to its twin town of Rudesheim, near Frankfurt, Germany. The sponsored effort took place between 09.00 and 15.00 on 12th November, with the troops also being at Swanage station with collection buckets to raise extra money for the Poppy Appeal, which is now in its 90th year.

Since 1984, soldiers from the Royal Signals have helped with the installation of telephone exchanges, lineside telegraph and telephone poles on the Swanage Railway, as the tracks to Harmans Cross, Corfe Castle and Norden have been re-laid. The Regiment has also been helping with the improvement of Herston Halt, on the outskirts of Swanage, which was the Railway's first newly built station, opened in April 1984.

West Country Pacific on Freight

Resident unrebuilt West Country Pacific No. 34007 *Wadebridge* **is pictured in superb lighting conditions between Ropley and Four Marks, on the Mid-Hants Railway, on 13th November, while working a photographic goods charter. The operation of such charter services provides a valuable income for the heritage railways and locomotive owners, at a time when the railways would not normally see any use. David Gibson**

Liverpool Museum opens dedicated rail gallery as the Royal Opening of Phase 2 approaches

▲ The Transport Gallery within the Museum of Liverpool, with *Lion* and Motor Coach No. 3 from the Liverpool Overhead Railway. **Fred Kerr**

By Fred Kerr

The Museum of Liverpool (MOL) revealed Phase 2 of its development programme, comprising four galleries, on 25th November, when members of the press were invited to preview progress prior to its official opening by HM The Queen on 2nd December.

The museum, which is the first National Gallery in the world devoted to the history of a regional city, was initially opened in July 2011 with a target of 750,000 visitors per year, since when over 500,000 visitors attended in the first three months of opening. The first stage was centred on creating the framework of Liverpool's history, while the second stage includes the portrayal of the Industrial Revolution and its transport developments.

The main focal point is a two-level exhibit with the centrepiece being the iconic Liverpool & Manchester Railway (L&MR) 0-4-2 locomotive *Lion*, built by Todd Kitson & Laird in 1838, with a film backdrop on three screens of *Rocket* and *Lion* working L&M passenger services between the two centres.

Lion is a much valued local icon, having been ordered as one of two locomotives in 1837 by the L&MR to haul luggage trains, and withdrawn from service in 1859. It was sold to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company which used it as a stationary pumping engine at Princess Dock until 1928, when the locomotive was presented to the Liverpool Engineering Society by the Dock Board. Restored at Crewe Locomotive Works in time to be part of the centenary celebrations of the L&MR in 1930, it was then placed in store, before returning to active duty as a 'extra' in the 1937 film 'Victoria the Great' following which it was 'plinthed' at Liverpool Lime St until removal in 1941. After various film roles and the occasional operational runs, including the 150th L&MR celebrations of 1980, *Lion* returned to store after a tour of heritage lines in 1988.

The locomotive is surrounded by several complementary transport exhibits to illustrate the city's history as an international port, including a Sentinel Super Steam Tractor from 1927 that was widely used on the dockside roads, and the only known surviving Phaeton automobile from 1900 that was built by the locally based William Lea Motor Co. Ltd.

The upper gallery has been built to recreate the era of the much missed Liverpool Overhead Railway (LOR), colloquially known as 'The Dockers' Umbrella', with Motor Coach No 3 as the centre piece of the reconstruction of Pier Head station. This vehicle is the last-known surviving motor coach from the now defunct railway. The recreation is accompanied by the Lumiere Brothers archive film footage from 1897, which shows the Port of Liverpool and its importance as a transport interchange, and a scale model of the docks complex showing both the LOR route through the dock area and the network of railway lines that once served the location.

These two main galleries are supported by a further two special galleries – History Detectives and City Soldiers – that further establish the framework of Liverpool's history. The former provides a 38-metre timeline starting from the grant of Liverpool's charter in 1207 to an unspecified future to show how the city changed from the Ice Age to the Modern City.

As the Museum approaches the opening of this latest phase, it has acknowledged with gratitude the support of major funding from the Northwest Regional Development Agency, the European Regional Development Fund, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Department of Culture, Media and Sports, whose grants of over £55 million have helped establish the progress to date, as well as the generous support from trusts and foundations grants and corporate and individual donations, which are all greatly appreciated.

Severn Valley looks forward to a busy year and celebrates its 150th anniversary

After its bonanza autumn steam gala, the Severn Valley Railway is keeping up the pace with an equally high profile Spring Gala in 2012, which will be a three day affair spanning 23rd-25th March.

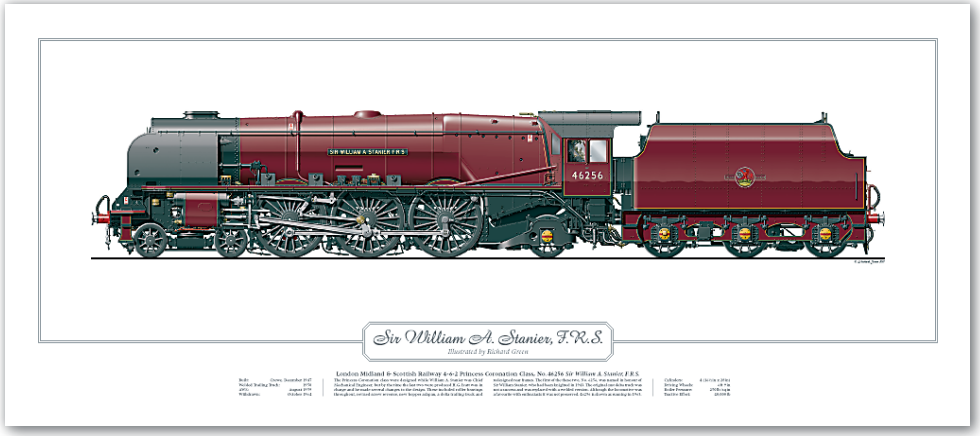
The gala event will the themed around blue liveried locomotives, the headliner's being Jeremy Hosking's 'A4' No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand,* with which the railway is hoping to operate its rake of Gresley 'Teak' coaches, and, paying a return and welcome visit, the Strathspey Railway's McIntosh 812 class 0-6-0 No. 828.

Later next year the SVR will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the opening of the line from Worcester through to Shrewsbury, when a special service will be operating. The formal celebrations will take place over the weekend of 19th & 20th May. Look out for further details of both events in due course.

Meanwhile, Santa Special services, which are booked to run each weekend on the run-up to Christmas, look to be selling well. This period probably places the most pressure on the locomotive department, and with Class 9F 2-10-0 No. 92212 having now returned to its normal home on the Mid-Hants Railway, the Severn Valley Railway has taken the Llangollen Railway's BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80072 on short-term hire to cover this busy period.

The railway will also be operating between 26th December and 2nd January, with Kidderminster departures at 10.25, 12.00, 12.30, 14.00 and 16.00 and Bridgnorth departures at 10.10, 11.50, 13.50, 15.15 and 15.50. The Engine House at Highley will also be open.

Finely Detailed Locomotive Illustrations by Richard Green



Duchess Class, No. 46256 Sir William A. Stanier, F.R.S.

The print shows the locomotive as running in 1963 – BR crimson lake with LMS lining

• Size: 420mm x 305mm • Scale: 8mm/ft • 350 Signed and Numbered • Price: £29·50 •

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▲ GWR 4200 Class 2-8-0 No. 4247 was in action at the Avon Valley Railway on 20th November. Here, the locomotive departs from Bitton, with a service to Oldfield. **Mike Ware**

▼ BR Class 02 0-4-0DH No. D2868 is pictured at its new home in the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester, on 18th November. **Steve Kemp**

Class 20 locomotives have not been seen on the Gainsborough-Brigg-Barnetby route in many years, but on 18th November, Nos. 20142 and 20227 power past the box at Kirton Lime Sidings, with a diverted 'one-off' Northorpe to Malton RHTT working. **Richard Tuplin**

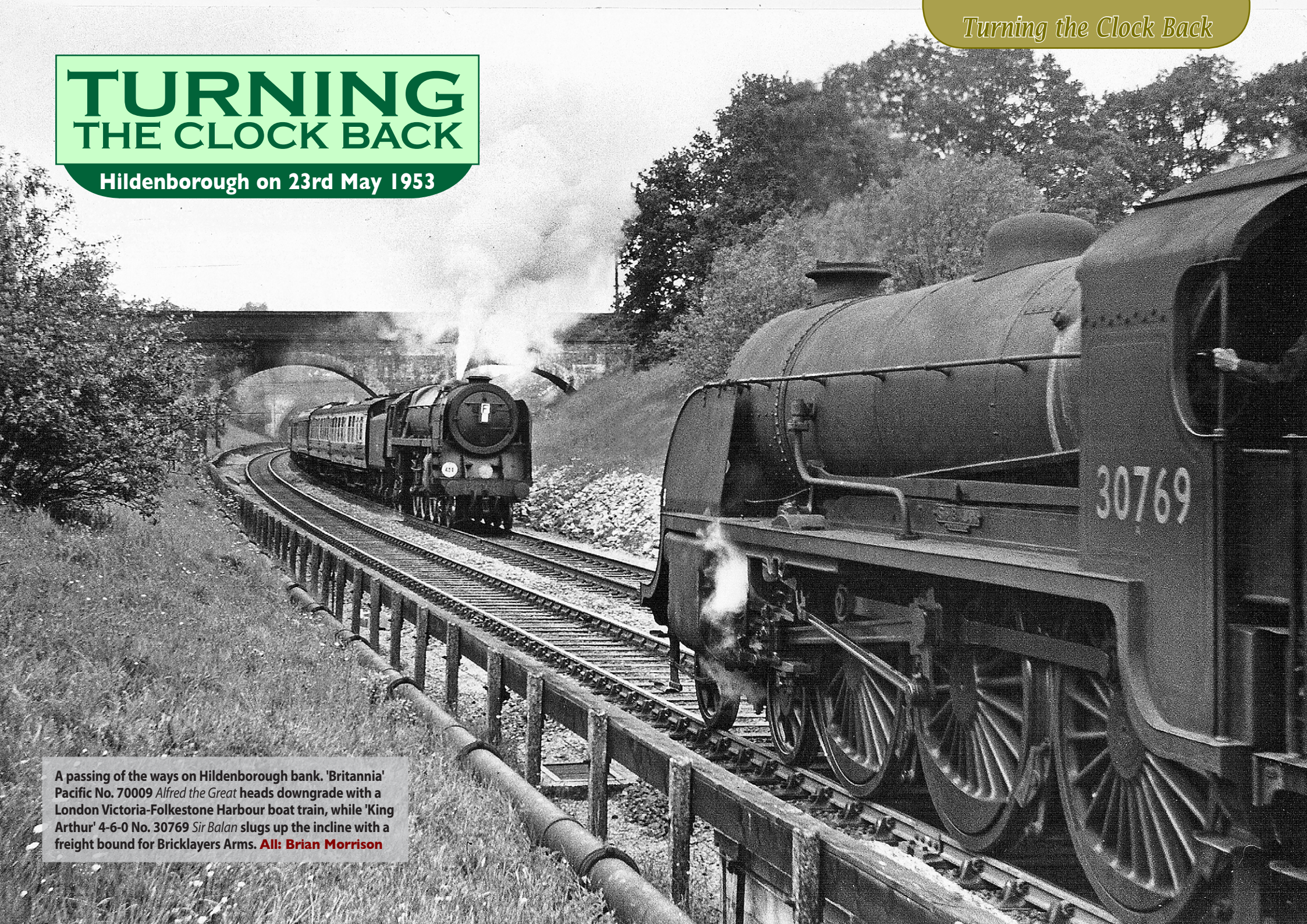
Huckford Viaduct, situated between Bristol Parkway and Westerleigh Junction, is lit by the autumn sunlight as Freightliner Class 66/9 No. 66951 passes with the 13.39 Avonmouth West Wharf-Didcot stone working on 24th November. **Edward Gleed**

On 23rd November, the final movement of a Class 508 from Donnington to Eastleigh took place, pictured passing Leamington Spa, hauled by Medite-liveried Class 66/7 No. 66709 *Joseph Arnold Davies*. **Stuart Warr**

Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66848 slowly climbs to the summit at Ais Gil, as it passes Birkett Common on the S&C, with the 12.50 Carlisle - Chirk timber service on 14th November. **Andrew Wood**

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK

Hildenborough on 23rd May 1953



A passing of the ways on Hildenborough bank. 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70009 *Alfred the Great* heads downgrade with a London Victoria-Folkestone Harbour boat train, while 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30769 *Sir Balan* slugs up the incline with a freight bound for Bricklayers Arms. **All: Brian Morrison**

Before the Kent Coast electrification scheme, third rail did not extend beyond Sevenoaks, and the Southern Region was quite happy to issue a lineside photographic permit for stretches of line such as the 1-in-122/144 bank between Tonbridge and Sevenoaks, named after the only station between the two towns, Hildenborough, which opened in May 1868.

Today, Hildenborough has a service of approximately two trains an hour in either direction. Many more trains pass through the station non-stop, however, such as services to Hastings, Margate, Ramsgate and Tunbridge Wells, and of course all are now worked by a few types of electric multiple unit.

On my visit nearly 60 years ago, the climb was in a fairly clear cutting that is now well covered with bushes and trees. There is little freight on the route, but that fact hasn't changed much as even in the 1950s such trains were not a common sight.

The motive power, however, was much more diverse, and in a stay at the lineside of some seven hours, I photographed 12 different classes, the most common being the 'Schools' 4-4-0s, but varying from humble 'H' and 'R' Class 0-4-4Ts on the local services to all three types of Bulleid Pacific and even 'Britannias' on the continental expresses!

▲ **Arriving at Hildenborough station, Wainwright H class 0-4-4T No. 31164 heads the 17.05 local service from Tonbridge to Dunton Green.**

◀ **It was usual for engines to produce plenty of exhaust when climbing Hildenborough bank, but this amount from an unrebuilt Battle of Britain Pacific racing downhill towards the station was unusual. At the head of a boat train from London Victoria to connect with the Dover Ferry, is No. 34071** *601 Squadron*.

◀▲ Climbing from Hildenborough to Sevenoaks Tunnel, Kirtley designed SE&CR R1 class 0-4-4T No. 31704 has charge of the 11.59 auto train from Tonbridge to Dunton Green. At this time, the locomotive was the only one of the class fitted for 'push & pull' working.

▲ Hauling a heavy holiday relief for Cannon Street, Wainwright SE&CR L class 4-4-0 No. 31771 struggles up the 1-in-122 section of the incline. When pictured, the train was travelling at no more than 5mph, and it seemed that the 1914-built locomotive would stall at any minute - but its manful struggles paid off and it managed to reach the summit at Sevenoaks Tunnel, following which it recovered on the downhill 1-in-160 stretch of line to Dunton Green.

◀ With ample steam to spare, 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70004 *William Shakespeare* **descends the bank at speed, heading the 'Golden Arrow' express from London Victoria to Dover Marine.**

Allocated to Dover shed (74C), 'Schools' 4-4-0 No. 30921 *Shrewsbury* climbs Hildenborough bank on 23rd May 1953 with an express from Dover Marine to London. When Bulleid fitted a multiple jet blastpipe and large chimney to some half of the class in 1938, the performance of the locomotives certainly improved.

28th November 2011

RCTS (Brighton)
Brighton Railway Model Club Room, London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Branch AGM and Photo Competition'. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Great Central - Two Joint Lines and a Main Line' by John Soer. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield)
Sheffield Scouts. Head Quarters, Trippet Lane, Sheffield. 'Narrow Gauge Niceties' by John Holroyd. Meeting commences at 14.00.

RCTS (Wellingborough)
British Rail Sports and Social Club, Broad Green, Wellingborough. 'BR Steam in the 50's and 60's' by David Kelso. Starts 14.00.

29th November 2011

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way & Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Archive' by Brian Stephenson. Starts 14.00.

1st December 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Sheffield)
The Harlequin, 108 Nursery Street, Sheffield S3 8GG. 'Members Evening'. Starts 19.30. Contact Ken Grainger on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

North East Essex Railway Association
1st Floor, The Community Centre, The Triangle Centre, Frinton-on-Sea. 'Slides from Colour Rail' by Bev Steel. Starts 19.45. Admission £1.50. Contact 01255 677165 for details.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Members Slides Evening'. Starts 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
St John's Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal LA9 4LL. 'Recent Railway Rambles' by David Alison. Starts. Contact 01539 720706 for details.

2nd December 2011

Cambridge Rly Circle
Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. TBA by Mike Page/Alan Denny. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'The History & Development of LNWR Coal Tanks' by Peter Skellon. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

3rd December 2011

Stephenson Loco Society
The Friends' Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester M2 5NS. 'The Chairman's Christmas Quiz' by Malcolm Dickin. Starts 14.00. Contact 0161 928 2461 for further details.

5th December 2011

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Members' Evening & Christmas Social'. Starts 19.30. Admission £1.50. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'Annual Photographic Competition'. Starts 19.30. £1 Admission.

Stafford Rly Society
St. Leonards Social Club, Stafford. 'A Colour Rail Journey' by Paul Chancellor. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01785 840622 for further details.

York Railway Circle
The Library, Archibishop Holgate's School, Hull Road, York YO10 5ZA. 'Main Line Steam in 2011' by Karl Jauncey & Dave Richards. Starts 19.30. £2 donation. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for details.

6th December 2011

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

Locomotive Club of Great Britain(Bedford)
The St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford, MK42 0DL. 'Engine Sheds Part 2' by Chris Banks.Starts 19.30. £1 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149 for further details.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP 'The Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway's Blaenavon H.L.Extension' . Starts 19.15. £3 Admission.

North East Essex Railway Association
Frinton Community Centre, The Triangle, Frinton. 'Slide Show' by Bev Steele. Starts 19.30. All welcome.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'A Journey from John O'Groats to Land's End (part1)' by Alistair Jeffery. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for further details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'The WC & P Railway' by Paul Gregory. Starts 20.00. Contact the Chairman, Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for further details.

7th December 2011

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Even More Steam in the Landscape' by Mike Tyack. Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 819401 for further details.

Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent DE14 3BG. '45 Years of Railway Photography - Part 2' by Les Nixon. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details

Stephenson Loco Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes Bromley. 'Round the World by Train' by Colin Boocock. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 289 9935 for details.

Warwickshire Railway Society
Lamp Tavern P.H., Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Member's Slide Evening & Christmas Quiz'. Starts 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for details.

8th December 2011

Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'British Railways in Transition in the 1960's' by Mike Beale. Starts 19.30. All welcome. Contact Kevin Plummer (Evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Continental Railway Circle
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ 'More Vintage Overseas Material from the Whitehouse Collection' by Michael Whitehouse. Starts 19.15. £2 Admission. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for further details.

Grantham Rly Society
St. Wulfram's Church Hall, Church Street, Grantham, NG31 6RR 'AGM and Members' Slides'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Phil Mason on 01476 407569 for details.

Irish Railway Record Society (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW1 2HR. 'IRRS - The Story So Far' by Tim Moriarty. Starts 1900. £3.50 Admission. Contact the Secretary at irrslondon@hotmail.com for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans. 'Carrying the Load' by Dave Baker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01442 251540 (after 18.00) for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
St John's United Reformed Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet EN5 1RH. '"Yorkie" - An East Coast Adventure' by Bernie Holland & Mick Barstow. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 368 6200 for further details.

Stevenage Loco Society
The Community Arts Centre, Roaring Meg Retail Park, London Road, Stevenage SG1 1XN. 'South American Steam' by John Bennett. Starts 19.45. £2 Admission £2. Contact the Treasurer on 07803 046076 for further details.

9th December 2011

Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrinton Road, Altrincham, WA14 1HF. 'Current Developments on Metrolink' by Tony Williams.Starts 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

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

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

Web Links

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

▼ **East Coast Class 43/2 No. 43309 is en route to King's Cross with the 11.15 service from Leeds, as it passes a northbound East Coast Class 91-hauled train at Barnby Lane Crossing on 24th November. Graham Lightfoot**

GC Railway Leicester Area Group
St Bartholomews Church Hall, Church Lane, Quorn. 'Main Line Steam 2011 on Video' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Starts 19.30. Contact John Calton on 07714 546163 for further details

Great Western Society (Swindon)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'A Railway Observer's Journey' by Bernard Pearce followed by Christmas Meeting. Starts19.30. Contact 01793 495976 for further details.

Great Western Society (Oxford)
Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford OX2 6QS 'Members' Christmas Evening & Quiz". Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01865 511987 (Daytime) for further details.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Preservation in Medium Format - BR Scene in the 1980's' by Simon Hopkins. Meeting commences at 19.30.

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

10th December 2011

Cornwall Rly Society
Redruth Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'The Bodmin & Wadebridge Rly' by Michael Messenger.

Irwell Vale Railway Photographers
Irwell Vale Village Church, Irwell Vale, Rossendale. 'Monochrome Slides from the Peter Fitton Collection' by Barry Atkinson. Starts 19.30. £3 donation. Contact Mike Taylor on 01282 436653 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
Kidderminster Rly Museum, next to SVR Station, Kidderminster, DY10 1QX. 'Christmas Event - Buffet, Quiz & Presentations'. Starts 14.00. Contact 01242 582152 for details.

12th December 2011

Driffield & East Yorkshire Rly Society
The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffield YO25 6PX. 'Show of 3 DVD programmes'. Starts 19.30. £2 Donation . All welcome. Contact 01377 254068 for further details.

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, Harewood Crescent, North Hykeham, Lincoln LN6 8JG. '1960's Steam Around North Wales & The East Midlands' by Michael Clemens. Starts 20.00. All welcome, £3 Admission. Contact Publicity Member on 01522 705365 or for further details.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)
Old Wulfunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'The South Staffordshire Railway' by Bob Yate. Starts 19.30. £2.50 Admission. Contact Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)
Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre, Southwick. 'Members' Night. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

Stephenson Loco Society
Lauriston Hotel, 15 South Crescent Road, Ardrossan KA22 8EA. 'Glasgow & South Western Railway Stations in North Ayrshire' by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 19.30. Contact 01294 822303 for further details.

13th December 2011

Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen and Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'The History of Oakwood Press'. Starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford on 01793 335862 for further details.

Great Western Society (Bristol)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. 'GWR 175 Updated….' plus 'GWS 50' by Bristol Group Committee. Starts 19.45. Contact 01454 324230 for details.

Meon Valley Locomotive Society
St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. 'Memers' Slides'. Starts 20.00. £2 admission. Contact John Barrowdale on 02392 640951 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle)
Carnforth Royal Station Hotel, Carnforth. 'Christmas Social'. Starts 18.00. Contact Philip Bull on 07964 103202 for further details.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Vestry Hall, Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'Steam in Britain Over the Last 40 Years (2)' by Alistair Maclean. Starts 19.30. Contact Fred Landery on 01698 457777 for details.

Stephenson Loco Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teesside TS15 9JW. 'History of the Rosedale Railway' by Wayne Barnacal. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01642 313451 for further details.

14th December 2011

Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'Bumper Annual Film Show' by Alan Willmott. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street, Guildford FU1 4SB. 'Railways of the Antipodes - The Sixties and the Noughties' by Mike Brookes and 'The Dartmoor Railway' by John Manners. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT. (near Kings Cross station). 'Christmas Quiz' by Paul Russenberger. Starts 19.00. £3 Admission. Contact Ron Dawes on 0208 660 3532 for details.

15th December 2011

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Roundhouse Lecture Theatre,Barrow Hill Depot. 'Annual Christmas Social'. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact beardspaul@aol.com for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West)
The Pied Bull, 54 High Street, Newton-le-Willows. WA12 9SH. 'Vulcan Foundry' by Keith Naylor. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473 for details.

16th December 2011

Gosport Rly Society
Methodist Church, Stoke Road, Gosport. 'Christmas Railway Film Show' by Alan Wallbank. Starts 20.00.

GW Society (Taunton)
Village Hall, Stoke St Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Didcot: A Great Awakening' by Richard Antliff. Starts 19.30. Contact 01823 334188 for further details.

Stafford Rly Society
St. Leonards Social Club, Stafford. 'Members' Evening'. Starts 19.30. All delcome. Conact the Secretary on 01785 840622 for further details.

17th December 2011

GW Society (Sth West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'Christmas Meeting'. Starts 18.30. Contact 01803 336329 for further details.

19th December 2011

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Bamford & Howden Reservoir Rly' by Ted Hancock. Starts 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for further details.

NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick,YO32 4AG. 'Enjoyable Pictures Around Britain' by Robin Patrick. Starts 19.30. Contact 01904 764648 for details.

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'Bernard Mills Annual Review of the Year'. Starts 19.30. All welcome. £2 Admission.

20th December 2011

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
The St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford, MK42 0DL. 'Christmas Special & Branch Photographic Competition. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact B.Cross on 01525 750149 for further details.

2nd January 2012

North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'AGM & 'DVD Extravaganza' by Ted Parker. Starts 19.30. £1.50 Admission. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Archive Video' by Tony Endersby. Starts 19.30. Contact southeast@rcts.org.uk for details.

3rd January 2012

RCTS (Watford)
St.Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'And You Thought They Were Clean' by Chris Youett. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire) /LRTA
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Russian Trams and Tramways' by Mike Russell. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact 02380 670028 for details.

Rear Cover Caption

Given the right weather conditions, some attractive images can be obtained as the sun sets, during the winter afternoons. Here, an unidentified Class 220 Voyager heads northwards along the ECML as it approaches York at Copmanthorpe, with the 11.46 Southampton Central to Newcastle, via Doncaster, service on 24th November, the last rays of sun glinting off the bodyside.
Richard Tuplin

Magazine Information

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