Railway Herald

Issue 294 - 5th December 2011

The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 294
5th December 2011

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Website
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King Edward I bows out of main line ticket in March

For GWR 'King' No. 6024 *King Edward I*, the final main line charter workings of its current 10-year boiler certificate will take place in March next year, including what is likely to be its last run along the Great Western Main Line before the advent of electrification.

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Rail projects announced
The Chancellor's Autumn Statement included over £1.4 billion of funding for key rail projects, including the East-West Rail Link.

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Europorte '92s' for HS1
Following in the footsteps of DB Schenker, Europorte has received approval for its Class 92 fleet to operate freight services over HS1.

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Light Rail & Metro News
The extension of the Midland Metro system to reach Birmingham New Street is likely to be delayed because of issues in re-routing buses!

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Front Cover Caption:

Deltic No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **passes the now closed High Street signal box as it arrives at Lincoln with an SRPS charter from Linlithgow on 2nd December. Graham Lightfoot**

Centenary for Arbroath

A series of events were held at Arbroath station on 3rd December to mark its upcoming 100th birthday.

The programme ranged from a 're-enactment' of the first train ticket sold at the station to carol singing by the Arbroath Male Voice Choir and the Limelight Company performing musical selections.

There were also displays by Kerr's Miniature Railway, the Angus Railway Group, the Caledonian Railway (Brechin), Angus College, and ScotRail, and there was an exhibition of the station's history and heritage held in the waiting room. Also a new model railway layout, Fastleigh, was built especially for the centenary celebration by Perth & District Model Railway Club and made its debut at the event. Visitors were met by 'Arbroathians from 1911', volunteers from the community in costumes of the time.

Network Rail to answer criminal proceedings over Elsenham deaths

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has commenced criminal proceedings against Network Rail for breaches of Health and Safety law that led to the deaths of two teenage girls at Elsenham station footpath crossing on 3rd December 2005.

The prosecution follows the conclusion of ORR's reopened investigation into the deaths of the two girls, aged 13 and 14 years old, who were struck by a train at the Essex footpath crossing. The investigation, which was originally closed in May 2007, was reopened by ORR in February this year when a further Network Rail document was brought to ORR's attention.

The Director of Railway Safety at ORR, Ian Prosser, said: "After careful consideration and examination of Network Rail documents not previously seen by ORR, we have concluded that there is enough evidence, and that it is in the public interest, to bring criminal proceedings against Network Rail for serious breaches of Health and Safety law which led to the deaths of Olivia Bazlinton and Charlotte Thompson at Elsenham station footpath crossing in December 2005".

The first hearing will take place at Chelmsford Magistrates' Court on 31st January 2012.

Chancellor's 'Autumn Statement' brings good news for rail network

In his Autumn Statement, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, George Osborne, announced that over £1 billion of invesment will be made in the railway network.

The moves include £290 million to electrify the Transpennine route between Manchester and Leeds, and a further £270 million to reinstate the East-West Rail Link, between Bicester, Aylesbury and Bletchley. Network Rail will be supported to deliver £390 million of enhancement and renewal works to improve stations and infrastructure, as well as providing resilience against extreme weather.

In London, improvements will see smart ticketing extended across the Capital and South-Eastern rail network at a cost of £45 million, with £80 million providing 130 new carriages for the Southern franchise, and a further £290 million to limit the increase to regulated rail and Transport for London fares in January next year. Elsewhere, subject to commitment by April 2013 from a construction group to develop the site and make agreed contributions, the Government is to consider allowing the Mayor of London and partner authorities the ability to develop the Northern Line extension to Battersea. There is also £4 million in funding to accelerate the upgrade of the Tyne & Wear Metro.

This is one occasion when the rail network has faired better than the national road network, the latter having seen over £1 billion investment announced during the Autumn Statement, compared with over £1.4 billion for rail.

The move is seen as very positive by the rail industry, with several key projects reaching fruition, some more unexpected that others. The Transpennine route between Manchester and Leeds will link in with the North West Triangle electrification project, which will see Manchester's links with Liverpool, via Earlestown, and Preston, via Bolton, both equipped with overhead wires. However, many are now saying that it would be short-sighted to stop the electrification at Leeds, and an extension, at least to York, would provide a better, more connected, electrified network. Without an extension of the overheads to Colton Junction, near York, where the route meets the ECML, it is not known how this development will affect TransPennine Express services, all of which start or terminate journeys at Newcastle, Middlesborough, Scarborough, Hull or York, on the East Coast, and pass through Leeds. Without a major redesign of the timetable, which would almost inevitably force passengers to change trains at Leeds, leading to longer journey times, or through the use of hybrid diesel/electric units, the project would be likely have minimal impact on passengers, except to reduce journey times between Manchester and Leeds by between 15 to 20 minutes, assuming electric traction is used. Railfuture Chairman Mike Crowhurst said: "Whilst it's very welcome, it's imperative that it doesn't stop at Leeds. To make sense, it must continue to York and include the branches to Hull, Middlesbrough and Scarborough".

▲ **Class 185 No. 185106 departs from Leeds with a Newcastle to Manchester Airport service. The announcement of the Transpennine Electrification should see this service worked by EMUs in the future - but what will happen if the Leeds to York 'electrification' gap is not filled? Will passengers be forced to change trains, or will we have diesel services running under the wires? Richard Tuplin**

Metro Chairman, Cllr James Lewis, said: "As well as being extremely important in their own right, these electrification projects may also offer an opportunity for 'fill in' schemes, such as the Harrogate and the Caldervale lines, and we will be pursuing this with Network Rail and the Department for Transport".

The biggest surprise of the announcement was the inclusion of the East-West Rail Link in the statement. The route will allow the Great Western and Chiltern routes to Oxford and Aylesbury respectively, to be connected to the West Coast Main Line at Bletchley, as well as a direct link into the Bletchley to Bedford route, providing access to the Midland Main Line. Hugh Jaeger from Railfuture questioned the proposed timescales however, saying: "Why 2017 when the route is already a railway? Railway works will stop during the Olympics and Paralympics next year and rail engineers will have less work to do – how about making a start on the works then when the machinery is underutilised?"

Europort 92s approved for HS1

Europorte Channel has been granted approval for the use of its fleet of 11 Class 92 locomotives on HS1 between London and the Channel Tunnel.

Access to HS1 means that the company can haul larger gauge freight traffic, with the journey time from the Tunnel to London being reduced from four hours on traditional routes to just 70 minutes. Europorte Channel drivers are currently being trained on the new route and commercial services are expected to start in early 2012.

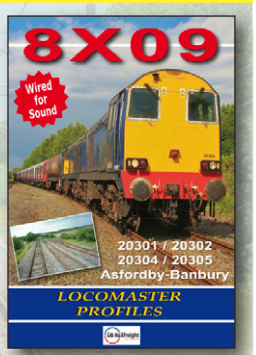
A locomotive change will still be needed when arriving in France, as the class are still unauthorised there.

The latest ***WIRED FOR SOUND*** cab-ride DVD

8X09

4 x Class 20 : Asfordby-Banbury

Travel on board a train with a difference - GB Railfreight's 8X09 Asfordby to Neasden, conveying brand new S Stock for London Underground's Metropolitan Line. The four Class 20s hauling the train have been WIRED FOR SOUND to capture their 1000hp English Electric engines hard at work. Due to numerous operating restrictions, the 8X09 has to travel from Leicestershire to London the long way round...a far more interesting route!



The first stage of the journey is along the short branch from the Asfordby test centre to Melton Mowbray. After reversing , the train then heads to Syston Junction for a spirited run along the Midland Main Line to Leicester. South of there, the 8X09 reverses again – this time onto the 30-mile 'freight only' Leicester & Burton Line via Coalville. This is a fascinating route famous for its mining subsidence and the climb up Desford bank has the Class 20s at full bore. At Branston Junction the 8X09 joins the Derby to Birmingham main line before taking the line from Kingsbury Junction to Whitacre Junction. The journey across the West Midlands is via Water Orton, Washwood Heath, Tyseley and a pathing stop in Dorridge loop. After that it continues to Leamington Spa from where the Class 20s power their way uphill for the following 14 miles through Harbury cutting to Fenny Compton. As night falls, we leave the train at Banbury and the programme concludes with a series of atmospheric lineside shots as the train passes through various stations on the last leg of its journey to London.

With a running time of 3 hours 15 minutes, 8X09 is released this week on DVD priced at £19.95 (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling us on our CREDIT CARD HOTLINE on 01753 545888.

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▲ **On 26th November, Class 66/0 No. 66150 approaches the summit of Llanvihangel Bank (between Abergavenny and Hereford) working from Exeter Riverside to Bescot. This train usually conveys just china clay slurry tanks, but on this day the first three vehicles were two carriages and a crane from Bescot, being returned north following a recent derailment in the Exeter area. At this point the train had been climbing for nearly seven miles, and was moving slowly on the 1-in-95 grade. Stuart Warr**

Network Rail fined £20,000 after failing to ensure employee safety

Network Rail has been fined £20,000 and ordered to pay costs of £9,000 following a prosecution brought by the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) for Health & Safety offences after a train hit maintenance equipment at Acton West junction in June 2008.

The sentencing at Isleworth Crown Court follows an ORR investigation into the incident. On the night of 24th June 2008, five Network Rail maintenance workers were preparing to work on the track at Acton West junction. Through a planning error, they had been sent to a location that was not blocked to trains. The workers placed a trolley carrying equipment onto the line, unaware that a train was routed towards them and they had to scatter to avoid being hit.

The train struck the trolley, sustaining minor damage and passengers on board had to be evacuated. Fortunately nobody was injured.

ORR's investigation found that Network Rail had failed to ensure the safety of its employees working on the site. The company failed to adequately plan, control and monitor the safety measures needed before its workers accessed the live network.

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

Birmingham delays

The extension of the Midland Metro through the central Birmingham shopping area to New Street is unlikely to open until 2015.

The £133 milllion scheme was expected to be open to services in late-2014, but problems in diverting buses from Corporation Street have resulted in the timescales slipping. During the peak hour, 140 buses use the street, but once work on the scheme starts the route will be pedestrianised. Work will then commence on moving gas and water mains, plus electricity cables, to allow rails to be laid.

TfL to purchase Docklands maintenance

Transport for London (TfL) has announced that it expects to be able to save up to £250 million through the purchase of two companies responsible for the maintenance of the London City Airport and Woolwich Arsenal branches of the Docklands Light Railway.

City Airport Rail Enterprises plc and Woolwich Arsenal Rail Enterprises are currently responsible for the maintenance of the respective branches, but TfL estimates that, due to the unique circumstances of the organisation's ability to raise finance, and also current market conditions, the saving could be made by restructuring the financing arrangements of the two companies, with the savings used to invest in further transport improvements.

The maintenance arrangements contracted by both companies with Colas Rail will remain in place following the financial restructuring.

▼ **London Underground District line 'C' Stock train arrives at West Brompton, with an Edgware Road to Wimbledon service, led by DM No. 5568. Ian Docwra**

GBRf names one of its Class 66/7s after Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club

Boldness and tenacity are just two of the many qualities enjoyed by 15 year-old Harry Cartwright of Wolverhampton, as it is those very attributes which finally bought about a successful conclusion to his campaign to persuade GB Railfreight to name a locomotive after his favourite football club, Wolverhampton Wanderers.

The lifelong Wolves fan began writing to GB Railfreight Managing Director, John Smith, two years back, and in the meantime has strengthened his campaign by acquiring 1,200 followers to his Facebook pages, and perhaps as importantly, the support of fellow Wolves supporters, rock legend Robert Plant and broadcaster and model Suzi Perry.

John Smith, a Sunderland supporter, finally gave in, and GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66736 was formally named *Wolverhampton Wanderers* at Wolverhampton station on 2nd December, followed by a formal gathering at Wolves' Molineux stadium. The attractive nameplate is similar to that carried by other GBRf locomotives named after football clubs, and is based on the design once carried by the LNER B17 class.

The date of the naming is also relevant, as Harry's Wolves were due to meet John Smith's Sunderland at Molineux on 4th December!

▲ **Harry Cartwright, stands beside the newly named Class 66/7 No. 66736 at Wolverhampton on 2nd December. John Whitehouse**

Thameslink platform lengthening completed

The final platform extensions needed to allow 12-car trains to operate on the Bedford to Brighton Thameslink route from next month were completed at Flitwick and Harlington stations on 15th November.

Over the last four years, 41 platforms at 12 stations on the Midland main line at Bedford, Flitwick, Harlington, Leagrave, Luton, Luton Airport Parkway, Harpenden, St Albans, Radlett, Elstree & Borehamwood, Mill Hill Broadway and West Hampstead have been lengthened, allowing 12-car trains to be run, resulting in a 50% boost in capacity on peak services. In addition to the lengthened platforms, power supplies have also been upgraded and two central London stations, Blackfriars and Farringdon, are in the course of being redeveloped.

Farringdon station's new ticket hall will open on 12th December, marking the first step to transforming it into one of London's newest and most important transport hubs. At 165 square metres, the spacious ticket hall is designed to accommodate passengers for FCC's 12-car trains on the Thameslink route, which will serve Farringdon from 12th December. The new ticket hall also provides the additional capacity that will be required for future Crossrail services from 2018. The opening of the new ticket hall also allows for the temporary closure for refurbishment of the original 1863 Grade II listed LUL entrance.

The programme includes opening up the entrance to create more space, new ticket offices, and a direct link into the new Turnmill Street concourse on the eastern side of the station. The station will remain open during the closure with passengers being redirected to use the new Turnmill Street concourse and Thameslink passengers being directed towards the newly opened ticket hall.

The refurbished London Underground entrance is scheduled to reopen on 6th February 2012. From then on passengers will be able to use all three entrances into Farringdon station, making it easier to access and to change between services.

Attention all readers! News of important changes

Next year, *Railway Herald* will celebrate its seventh birthday - something of a landmark for a publication that was initially only a 'one-off' to show what could be done with the technology of the day!

But technology moves on, and early in the New Year, *Railway Herald* will be updating its delivery system to allow us to provide a better service to the growing readership, and also attempt to remove the current problems that some readers face, such as download issues, corrupt files and slow download speeds.

With the need to move various parts of the current system over to the new servers, along with transferring user accounts to the new publishing system, the changeover will be staged, over a six week period from late December.

Because of the way that the new system works, readers will be required to login, or at least register an email address to gain access to the magazine. To facilitate this and allow for the staged transfer, we will be updating the current website with effect from the next issue, which will mean that ALL readers will need to login to access the magazine. It will remain **FREE** to access and your email address will not be given out, neither will we bombard you with emails.

If you are unable to remember your login details, currently experience problems logging in, or do not have access to the email account that you originally used to sign up with, please email us at editor@railwayherald.com and we will endevour to sort out any issues. If you are not currently a member of the website, you can sign up for a free account by clicking here.

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Station Improvements Round-Up

A new transport interchange at Audley End station was officially opened on 25th November, the project being funded by Essex County Council in partnership with National Express East Anglia.

▲ The new road/rail interchange area, with the new shelter, at Audley End. **Antony Guppy**

The aim of the project is to increase the public's use of sustainable modes of transport, buses, cycles and taxis, when travelling to and from the station, especially from the Saffron Walden area, and to improve access for pedestrians.

The features include the Introduction of a one-way system to ease traffic flow in the station car park, creation of a bus turning area and a new bus stop and shelter at the south end of the car park. Also included is a dedicated taxi-rank immediately outside the station, and a covered cycle parking area.

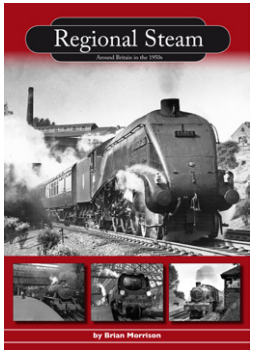
Moving onto the Southern Region, and the first phase of a multi-million pound upgrade to increase capacity and make it easier for passengers to move around East Croydon station is scheduled to begin over Christmas with the removal of the disused Royal Mail conveyor bridge that runs across the platforms.

A series of large mobile cranes will remove sections of the disused structure to make way for a new footbridge that will allow passengers to transfer between platforms without using the busy ramps and concourse, and later will provide access to and from the Ruskin Square development and Lansdowne Road. Lifts will be installed on the new footbridge to provide an alternative step-free route around the station. The footbridge has been designed to complement the main station building and surrounding area.

There will be customer information and retail facilities down the central spine of the bridge. In phase one of the works, the bridge will be open to ticket holders only. However, in phase two, which is provided for in the wider 'masterplan', it will be altered to create two separate halves – one for ticket holders to get to the lifts and platforms, the other for members of the public to cross the railway, linking businesses and communities on the east and west. East Croydon is the start or end for 20.5 million journeys every year, making it the 14th busiest station in the country and the third busiest station in Britain outside central London.

Special Offers for Christmas

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

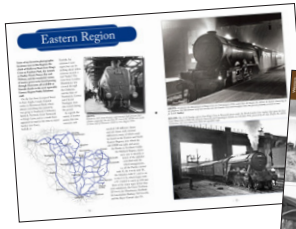


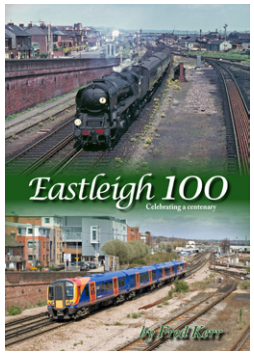
Regional Steam

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

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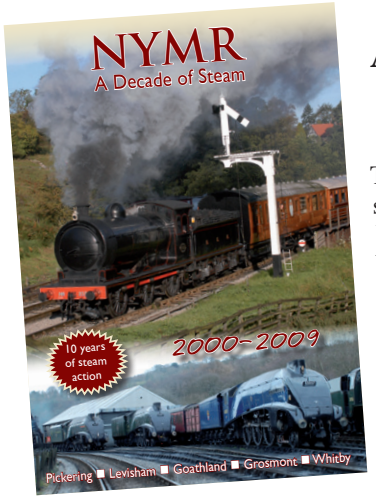
The Tornado Story

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

▶ Class 47/3 No. 47375 and Class 56/3 No. 56302 head the 10.00 Burngullow to Burton-on-Trent 'Silver Bullet' wagons into Taunton on 30th November. The wagons are due to be refurbished for further work on a new contract in Scotland.
Alexander Martin-Brown

▶▼ Formerly with East Midlands Trains, Class 43 powercar No. 43074 was one of two transferred to East Coast prior to the launch of the new ECML timetable in May. The vehicle, recently operated by East Coast Trains, is made ready to be shunted into Wabtec's Doncaster Railway Works on 28th November. The other powercar transferred earlier in the year was No. 43072, which having been re-engined and repainted at Brush Traction, Loughborough, has now been renumbered to become Class 43/2 No. 43272. **Allan McKever**

▼ The final pair of FGW Class 142s to be transferred to Northern Rail, Nos. 142030 and 142001, pass Rewe, soon after leaving Exeter on 30th November, forming the 12.29 Exeter St Davids to Newton Heath stock movement.
Keith Turley

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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	
UK Railtours	35028	London Victoria-Canterbury West-Deal-Folkestone-Ashford-London Victoria	

Sunday 11th December 2011

Railway Touring Co.	6201	Liverpool Lime St-Manchester Victoria-Healey Mills-York & return

Monday 12th December 2011

Steam Dreams	60163	Chertsey-Dorking Deepdene-Redhill-Purley-Kensington Olympia-Ely & return

Wednesday 14th December 2011

Steam Dreams	60163	London Victoria-Staines-Woking-Guildford-Eastleigh-Salisbury-Sherbourne & rtn	
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley WR-Hinckley-Leicester and return	**Cancelled**

Thursday 15th December 2011

Cruise Saver Travel	DRS Class 47	Edinburgh-Newcastle-Leeds-Solihull-Oxford-Basingstoke-Southampton Docks	
Railway Touring Co.	4492	Norwich-March-Peterborough-York and return	
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley WR-Hinckley-Leicester and return	**Cancelled**

Friday 16th December 2011

UK Railtours	tbc	London Paddington-Westbury-Ludgershall-Basingstoke-Mortimer-Paddington

Saturday 17th December 2011

Hastings Diesels Ltd	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Battle-Wadhurst-Tonbridge-Kensington Olympia-Shepherds Bush & rtn	
Pathfinder Tours	DBS 66, 60, 08	Westbury-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham Intl.-Bescot-Warrington BQ-Edge Hill Down Wapping Siding-Dallam RMT-Walton Jct Old Sidings-Latchford-Ditton Sdgs-Runcorn-Gresty Green Sidings-Basford Hall-Stafford-Birmingham New St & return	
Railway Touring Co.	4492	London King's Cross-York(-Newcastle-)York-London	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Co	4492 (60019)	London King's Cross-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough-York & return	
Statesman Rail	2xWCRC 47	Leicester-Langley Mill-Chesterfield-Sheffield-Doncaster-Edinburgh Waverley & rtn	
Steam Dreams	60163	Ashford-Tonbridge-Bromley South-Staines-Reading-Bath Spa-Bristol TM & return	
UK Railtours	tbc	London King's Cross-Doncaster-Goole-Anlaby Road Jct-Beverley & return	
Vintage Trains	5043	Tyseley Warwick Road-Tamwort-Derby-Chesterfield-York & return	
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Virginia Water-Guildford-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria	

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

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

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

The days ahead are dominated by festive steam charters from the Railway Touring Company and Steam Dreams, both of which are again competing for that valuable Christmas trade, and are joined this week by both UK Railtours and Torbay Express which are also offering steam charters.

Torbay Express starts the week off with the second of two 'Bath Spa Christmas Expresses' from Poole to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads on 7th December, which feature No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand* throughout.

The attraction of the UK Railtours working on 10th December is that it features No. 35028 *Clan Line* on a non-VSOE working, although the train does mimic the British Pullmans as it is an all dining affair to Canterbury, outwards via Maidstone East, and returning along the coastal route via Dover. It has been reported that the Merchant Navy will be operating on the day in the guise of No. 35017 *Belgian Marine*. The question is, will it be *Clan Line* or *Belgian Marine* at the head of the actual British Pullman on previous day, as VSOE will be operating a Surrey Hills luncheon working from London Victoria on 9th December?

Steam Dreams, meanwhile, have three trains planned, which are workings to Oxford from Ely and Cambridge on 8th December, with 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, then to Winchester and Eastleigh from Southend with classmate No. 70000 *Britannia* on 10th December, and lastly to Ely from Chertsey which picks up around the Surrey Hills circuit on 12th December with No. 60163 *Tornado*.

RTC also weigh in with three charters, two of which are booked for 10th December and feature Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* from Three Bridges to Bath Spa via Hove, together with a Cambridge to York via March 'Yuletide White Rose' with No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*. Next day No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* heads RTC's third train of the weekend on the traditional 'York Yuletide Express' from Liverpool Lime Street to York, via Manchester Victoria and the Calder Valley.

In addition to steam-hauled services, there are also four modern traction tours. UKR head for Winchester (for carols in the cathedral) on 9th December, most probably with a DBS Class 67 up front. Cheshire Cat's tour to York and Durham from Cardiff, which runs via the Welsh Marches, should also feature a DBS Class 67, while both Railtourer and Statesman should have West Coast traction for the respective tours from Bridlington, via Selby to Edinburgh Waverley, and from Preston, via Wolverhampton to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads.

▶ Running around 15 minutes early, Class 55 No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* **passes Copmanthorpe on the approach to York, with Class 57/6 No. 57601 in tow, hauling Spitfire Railtours' 'The Scotsman' from Worcester to Edinburgh on 29th November. Paul Braybrook**

King Edward I bows out of in March for overhaul

The main line reign of No. 6024 *King Edward I* **will end (for the time being) on 17th March, when the 'King' is booked to work Pathfinder's 'Torbay Limited' forward from Bristol Temple Meads to Kingswear.**

The train originates at Shrewsbury and picks up diesel-hauled along the Welsh Marches. After working the train, the 'King' will head off for what is believed to be a 'fast track' overhaul.

Two weeks earlier on 3rd March, the 'King' will make a no-doubt, emotional arrival at London Paddington with Pathfinder's 'Bristolian' from Bristol Temple Meads. Unfortunately it will not be a non-stop run, as it is booked to take water at Wantage Road, but none the less, with electrification pending, this could well be the loco's last run over the classic Great Western route before the wires go up. The train starts the day at Birmingham International, and picks up via Worcester Shrub Hill and Cheltenham Spa en route, diesel-hauled, to Temple Meads.

Sandwiched between these two workings is a 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' on 10th March, which brings No. 70000 *Britannia* south over the Settle & Carlisle from Carlisle, following its earlier run northbound to Carlisle for UK Railtours on the previous Saturday. This train sets out diesel-hauled from Bristol Temple Meads, and picks up via Cheltenham Spa and Birmingham New Street to Crewe, before continuing north over Shap to Carlisle. Steam works through to Crewe on the return, where diesel-haulage again continues back to Temple Meads.

Despite all this steam mileage, Pathfinder has not forgotten its 'roots', as on 25th February the 'Tyne Tees Rambler' sets about some serious track bashing, which includes rare mileage in Tyne Yard before a visit to the Jarrow branch on South Tyneside. After a reversal at Jarrow, the train retraces its route back to Durham and onwards to Ferryhill, where it diverges from the East Coast Main Line to head to the Seal Sands branch, which includes the spur to the Network Rail limit after a reversal at Seal Sands Branch Junction. The train regains the ECML at Northallerton by use of the dive-under from Northallerton East to Longlands Junction (via Longlands Tunnel). 'Topped and tailed' DB Schenker Class 66s are booked throughout on the tour, which originates at Tame Bridge Parkway and works north via Birmingham New Street, Derby, Chesterfield, Sheffield and York.

Finally, an interesting situation looms, as Pathfinder and Spitfire railtours are going head to head for their respective annual visits to the Mazey Day at Penzance, which next year will be held on 23rd June. Pathfinder has announced that its train, which will be 'Deltic' hauled by Martin Walker's No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey*, will commence from Birmingham International, picking up at Stourbridge Junction and stations via Worcester Shrub Hill and Cheltenham Spa to Bristol Temple Meads. The train will feature additional set down options at Truro, for Falmouth, and St Erth, for St Ives. Spitfire has responded by confirming its trip will also start at Birmingham International, with pick-up details to follow. It should be an interesting concourse at International that morning, but more importantly, the day will be an 'English Electric Fest', as Spitfire's motive power will be a pair of Class 50s.

A 'Boat' and a pair of 'Hoovers' to the Duchy on a summer Saturday is going to be one great day out for both those travelling and those linesiding! Don't forget also, that between the two, Pathfinder and Spitfire filled three trains to Penzance for this year's Mazey day, so over capacity should not be a problem.

UKRAINE 2012

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

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

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

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

▲ SR Battle of Britain Class Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* powers along the 'up' relief line at Pirbright on 26th November, bound for the Capital with a 'Christmas Shopping' special from Swanage to London Euston. This view shows the streamlined casing doing its job of lifting the exhaust up and over the cab, improving the view for the footplate crew. **Peter Lovell**

▶ 'The Marches Monarch' was run in connection with the Christmas Market at Ludlow on 26th November, being diesel-hauled from Eastleigh to Bristol Temple Meads where GWR King Class 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* took over for the journey to Shrewsbury. Here, the train climbs past Llanvihangel, just north of Abergavenny, and almost at the summit, after a climb of around seven miles. **Stuart Warr**

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Peppercorn A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* works hard as it passes Craven Arms on 26th November, with the 08.06 'Cathedrals Express' charter from London Paddington to Ludlow. **Hugh Ballantyne**

BR 'Britannia' Pacific No.70000 lays a smoke screen across the Vale of White Horse, as the crew attempt to to regain lost time on the approach to the site of Shrivenham station with the 'Cathedrals Express' for Bristol on 1st December. A points failure at Willesden had delayed the train earlier in the journey. **Tony Bartlett**

Having set down its passengers at Ludlow, Royal-liveried Class 67 No. 67005 heads the ECS from UK Railtours' charter that originated at Basingstoke, through Wooferton on 26th November, heading for Hereford, where it stabled. **John Whitehouse**

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

Its back! *Duchess of Sutherland* passes its steam test

▲ **The overhaul of No. 46233** *Duchess of Sutherland* **took another important step forward on 2nd December, when in the presence of the boiler inspector, the safety valves lifted at the prescribed pressure as the boiler was worked up to its operating maximum. It passed this important test, and is now all set to move onto the last phase prior to a return to main line operations. It is understood that the 'Duchess' will now remain at the West Shed, where the new BR Brunswick green livery will be applied prior to commencement of mileage accumulation next year. The Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust (PRCLT) wants to have 1,000 miles under its belt before the main line test run, pencilled in for early March 2012, which will give ample time to sort out any problems that manifest during the running-in period. Incidentally, No. 46233 already has 22 miles on the clock, following a secret working over the Midland Railway last week! Paul Wood**

Chasewater Railway holds farewell day for *Asbestos*

A regular performer at the Chasewater Railway will bow out after Christmas, as the 101-years-old Hawthorn Leslie 0-4-0ST *Asbestos* **(Works No. 2780 of 1909), will be retiring from public service on 1st January 2012 upon the expiry of its boiler certificate.**

To celebrate the stalwart work that *Asbestos* has put in over the years, it is planned for a grand send off with a special day of workings featuring the locomotive. It will be assisted by the Railway's Robert Stephenson & Hawthorn 0-6-0T *Nechells No. 4* (Works No. 7684 of 1953) during the day. More details will follow, and the railway is looking to raise £30,000 to fund the overhaul of *Asbestos*, which is anticipated will take three years to complete.

Laboratory 4 moves to Coventry Museum

The Electric Railway Museum at Coventry has taken delivery of 'Laboratory 4', known as the 'Hastings Coach', which was the first vehicle to run with the Advanced Passenger Train Prototype (APT-P) suspension and tilt systems.

A former buffet car on the Hastings line, it also had a specially built tilt system hydraulic pack that could be used to test alternative components. The APT-P was the first train to successfully implement an active tilt mechanism in passenger service in the UK, increasing speeds significantly on tight rail curves. The most powerful domestic train to have operated in Britain, it set the UK rail speed record of 162.2 mph in December 1979, a record that stood for 23 years.

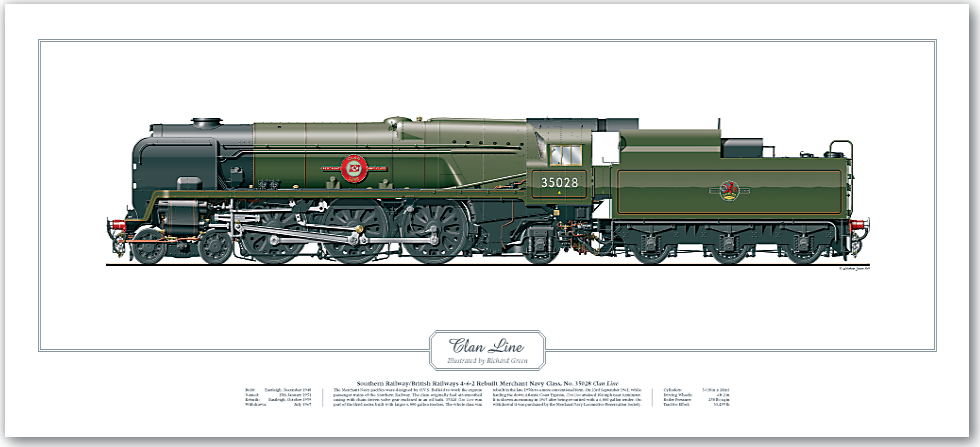
The Electric Railway Museum already houses one of the APT-P's non-driving power cars, No. 49006, on loan from the National Railway Museum, as well as HSFV 1 (High Speed Freight Vehicle), which was fundamental in the development of the APT project.

With 'Laboratory 4' arriving in Coventry, the trio of historic vehicles can enable the Electric Railway Museum to fully tell the story of the development of high-speed electric rail travel within the UK, as well as the influence that the APT project had internationally. 'Laboratory 4', Departmental No. RDB975386, is a bogie coach built by British Rail in 1958 and withdrawn from service as a buffet car in 1963-4. For 10 years it was used as a paint store before seeing a new life as a suspension test vehicle for the APT-P project, when it was transferred to British Rail's R&D Division in 1974.

Sold to the Advanced Passenger Train Experimental (APT-E) Conservation & Support Group in April this year, the coach has now moved to the museum, and current plans involve repairs being made to the corroded side of the vehicle before being repainted into the original livery that it carried while at the Railway Technical Centre (RTC) in Derby.

▼ **Newly arrived 'Laboratory 4' coach No. RDB975386 stands at Coventry, with APT-E non-driving power car No. 49006 beyond. ERM**

Finely Detailed Locomotive Illustrations by Richard Green



Rebuilt SR/BR Merchant Navy Class, No. 35028 Clan Line

The print portrays the locomotive as running in 1965 – attached to a 6,000 gallon tender

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

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

▲ **BR Standard 5MT No. 73156 stands alongside SR West Country No. 34039** *Boscastle* **inside the workshops at Loughborough on 19th November. The overhaul of both locomotives appears to be progressing well. Chris Horkley**

All change at Williton as locos arrive and depart

Class 14 0-6-0 diesel-hydraulic No. D9518 has arrived at its new base at Williton on the West Somerset Railway.

The 'Teddybear' is currently in National Coal Board livery and requires extensive repairs, which it is hoped can be progressed over the coming months. Two of the bigger tasks that need to be undertaken before No. D9518 returns to traffic, is a full re-wire of the locomotive, together with tyre-turning. The work is likely to take two to three years to complete. Once operational, it will be a particularly useful addition to the West Somerset Railway, especially when paired with the other resident Class 14 No. D9526. Currently a single '14' is limited to just shorter trains, due to the gradients on the railway, but a pair will be able to haul normal length service trains. The locomotive has been purchased by a DEPG member.

Elsewhere, leaving the railway is Class 03 Shunter No. 03119 which has moved onto pastures new.

SVR commits to three-day diesel event in October

The Severn Valley Railway has confirmed another three-day diesel event for 2012.

Following the success of this year's diesel gala in October, the SVR has committed to another similar event in 2012 that is booked to take place between 4th and 6th October. Additionally, the first visitor has already been confirmed, which is the Diesel Traction Group's 'Clayton' Type 1 (later Class 17) Bo-Bo No. D8568, normally resident at Chinnor.

The 'Clayton' will join SVR-based 'Warship' No. D821 *Greyhound*, and further visiting engines during the event

B17 Locomotive Trust to be based at Mid-Norfolk

The Mid-Norfolk Railway has announced that the B17 Steam Locomotive Trust is to move to the railway before the end of the year.

The Trust aims to build a brand-new LNER B17 class 4-6-0 steam locomotive, none of the originals having survived into preservation. The 'B17s' were introduced by the London and North Eastern Railway at the end of the 1920s to fulfil increasing demands in passenger traffic and totalled 73 locomotives, all of which carried names of either stately houses, association football clubs or local regiments.

The new locomotive will be built to the standards required for operations on both the National Network and the numerous heritage railways. Forming the core of the Trust's current activities are two tenders, a GE Pattern type and the LNER Group Standard type, both types were used by Class B17s in service. Both require thorough restoration and replacement of the superstructure, which in the case of the former, was removed many years ago. The tenders are to be moved to the Mid Norfolk Railway before the end of the year, where restoration will commence. The team will also be undertaking initial design work on completing a strengthened locomotive frame, with roller bearings and canon axleboxes on the main driving axles, rather than the original design of plain bearings, axleboxes and wedges, which, in traffic, needed frequent adjustment to compensate for wear and tear.

It is hoped that with adequate and regular funding, the locomotive could be complete within 10 years, and the Mid-Norfolk Railway has said that its steam team may be able to assist with the project.

Fresh from overhaul, Class 60 No. 60091 pauses at Peterborough while working the 17.52 service from Toton to Whitemoor Yard. **Craig Adamson**

Set against the chimneys of Whittlesey's brickworks, EWS-liveried Class 66 No. 66054 passes with a partially loaded Wakefield Europort to Felixstowe Docks service on 30th November.
Kev Gregory

GBRf Class 73/2 No. 73212 leads a Tonbridge West Yard to Dover Priory Network Rail working through Ashford International on 30th November, with converted GLV No. 68504 in tow. **Joshua Brown**

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.

▼ **DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66076 passes the site of the former Lostock Hall motive power depot, hauling the discharged Preston Docks to Lindsey empty tank wagons on 30th November. David Felton**

Great Central 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.

RCTS (Woking)
The United Reformed Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Level Crossings' by John Tilly. Meeting commences at 19.00. Please contact Alan Norris on 01252 315967 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. Meeting commences at 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 Loco 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 01372 379216 for 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. Meeting commences at 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.

Rear Cover Caption

Proof, if proof were needed, that you don't always need a sharp train, taken from a front, three-quarter perspective, to make a stunning photograph. With a flash from the pantograph an unknown East Coast Class 91 and Mk4 set speed north across Connington level crossing, south of Peterborough, taken during a timed-exposure. The lowering or raising of the barriers adds movement to the scene. Adrian Perks

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