Railway Herald

Issue 298 - 16th January 2012

The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

Railway Herald

Issue 298
16th January 2012

Editor
Richard Tuplin

Contributing Editor
Brian Morrison

Railtour Editor
John Whitehouse

News Researcher
Bill Turvill

All editorial emails should be sent to the editor. To email a member of the team, send your message to firstname.surname@railwayherald.com

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

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

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

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

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ISSN 1751-8091

Philip Parker

Next batch of Class 70s arrive through Liverpool

After the recent arrival of Class 70s Nos. 70013 to 70016 at Newport Docks, the next of the fleet, No. 70017, has arrived on a scheduled shipping service at Liverpool. It is understood that at least four locomotives will be delivered in this way.

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Upgrade for Hastings line
Work began on 9th January on a major upgrade of the line between Hastings and Ashford International, to provide more reliable services.

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New addition to tube map
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HS2 gets the green light
Transport Secretary announces that plans for HS2 are to go-ahead providing capacity and faster journey times across the country from 2026.

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Work is continuing on the remodelling work at Reading, with progress being made on the new 'Southern' platforms and on bridge replacements.

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Front Cover Caption:

Colas Rail Class 66/8 No. 66850 heads for Ais Gill summit past the hamlet of Crosby Garrett with the 12.44 Carlisle Yard - Chirk loaded logs on 12th January. John Wade

Southwark council gives go ahead to London Bridge rebuild proposals

The transformation of London Bridge station has taken a major step forward after design proposals were given the go ahead by Southwark Council.

A key part of the £6 billion Thameslink programme to redevelop the station includes a completely new platform layout, which will allow a metro-frequency of trains on the Thameslink route and the creation of Britain's largest station concourse, with new entrances on Tooley Street and St Thomas Street making the station more accessible and easier to use.

Initial non-disruptive preparatory work, including diverting utilities and other facilities, will be undertaken this year ahead of major construction activity.

The station will be built in approximately nine phases of work, beginning in summer 2013 and completed in 2018. It will remain operational throughout.

West Ham service improvements

▼ **Thanks to a signalling upgrade in the area, the number of c2c trains calling at West Ham station in peak hours has increased from four to 12 in the mornings and from four to 11 in the evenings. The additional services are a franchise commitment by National Express. On 6th January, Class 357/2 Electrostar No. 357228 arrives forming a service from Shoeburyness to London Liverpool Street. Brian Morrison**

First of the next batch of Class 70s arrive at Liverpool

▲ **The first of the next batch of Class 70s, No. 70017, is moved off the ACL ship at Liverpool Freeport on 10th January. The four locomotives in this batch are being shipped individually, and this is the first time that a diesel locomotive has arrived through Liverpool, and only the second, since the importing of American and Canadian-built diesels started in the mid-1990s, that has not arrived through Newport. Philip Parker**

Shipping Company ACL were given responsibility for importing the latest addition to Freightliner's motive power fleet when Class 70 No. 70017 became the first of the fleet to arrive into the UK through Liverpool Freeport.

ACL operate a regular schedule of ships between the USA and the UK, and it appears that either Freightliner or General Electric have decided that this method may be more cost-effective. Such movements do not require the use of a dedicated sailing, and as evidenced by the above photograph, the locomotive in this case, has been shipped and offloaded on a dedicated trailer, called a mafi, that was purpose-built for conveying electric locomotives from Europe to America.

The next locomotive in the batch, No. 70018, is expected to dock at Liverpool on 17th January, with the remaining two following over the next few weeks.

The move is also notable as apart from Class 66/0 No. 66001, which arrived in the country through Immingham Docks, this is the first time that Newport Docks has not been used, and could see the start of a new method of importing locomotives. The ACL service across the Atlantic was also used to convey the damaged No. 70012 back to General Electric in the United States, after it was damaged while being unloaded at Newport Docks.

14-27 OCTOBER 2012

Steam Loco Classes: Er, SO17, P36, 2xL, LV and Su. Double headed L class Moscow to Rostov and return.
Route: Moscow - Bologoye - Ostashkov - Torzhok - Ryazan - Voronezh - Rossoch - Rostov - Salsk - Kavakazskaya - Kislovodsk - Mineralyne Vody - Dzheguta - Rostov - Moscow.
Steam traction throughout the tour. Own private train, including comfortable sleeping cars, 2 restaurant cars, kitchen, bar and shower cars. Photo stops throughout. Sightseeing by bus with local guide at loco service stops for those not wishing to photo locomotives. Full board throughout the trip Moscow back to Moscow on train (excludes alcoholic drinks), including one night hotel before and after the tour on B&B basis, and airport transfers.
Price, excluding flights and visas: £5995 per person (supplement for single compartments)

For further details, please contact Jim Colley

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▲ **Work is well underway on the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, with both end towers plus the middle tower now encased in sheeting to protect the workers on the scaffolding that surrounds the structure. During work that will last two years, £10 million is to be spent on strengthening the bridge, replacing 50,000 bolts, removing 12 coats of paint and finally, using 35,000 litres of special paint to protect it from corrosion. A pair of unidentified powercars cross the River Tamar on the bridge in this view, with the 10.06 London Paddington to Penzance 'Cornish Riviera'.**
John Whitehouse

NXEA completes work at Colchester North station

The newly upgraded Colchester North station was officially opened on 23rd December, the improvements having been provided by National Express East Anglia.

The work represents an investment of £2.2 million as part of the National Stations Improvement Programme, and with contributions from Essex County Council and Colchester Borough Council through the Station Travel Plan and Cycle Colchester programmes.

The much-improved facilities include reinstatement of the former main entrance on the south side of the station, and provision of a new ticket office and booking hall, together with a new, extended canopy on the walkway to Platform 3 and additional waiting shelters. There are also improvements to the south side forecourt with better vehicular access, improved signage, lighting and CCTV, and improved pedestrian access and parking for taxis, new bus shelters and an electronic information terminal on the north side forecourt, New cycle parking facilities have also been provided, giving a capacity for 350 cycles.

■ The Office of Rail Regulation has begun criminal proceedings against Network Rail for a breach of health and safety law which caused the 17.15 Virgin Pendolino from London Euston to Glasgow Central to derail on the West Coast Main Line near Grayrigg in Cumbria, on 23rd February 2007. One passenger was killed and 86 people were injured, 28 seriously. The first hearing is due to take place at Lancaster Magistrates' Court on 24th February.

■ Siemens has announced that the first bogie for the City Thameslink Desiro has been completed at its bogie manufacturing centre in Graz, Austria. Subject to close of contract with the DfT, the SF7000 bogie will be used on the Thameslink trains route from 2015.

■ c2c has been named the most punctual train operator for the past 12 months with 96.3% trains on time.

■ ScotRail has announced that it is to try using '3D' graphics to brighten the look of train toilets. The walls are being covered with laminated images featuring designs using a 'deceive the eye' technique to give the impression of being in 3D. The feature has been introduced on a train serving key cities including Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Inverness, and the complete pilot programme will be rolled out on 16 Class 170 Turbostars.

■ With 'Access for All' funding from the Department for Transport, a new footbridge, giving wheelchair access, is to be installed at Chirk station as part of a £1.2 million upgrade.

■ A large set of Olympic Rings was unveiled at the entrance to the French end of the Channel Tunnel on 20th December. The manufacturing and placement of the Rings was privately financed by Eurotunnel, which has worked closely with the French National Olympic Committee. They measure 9.4m wide and 4.6m high, and were transported in segments to the Channel Tunnel entrance near Calais. They were assembled and installed in situ over two nights by a team of five rock climbers. Each ring is fixed to the wall with 10 anchor points to hold it in place against the aerodynamic effect generated by trains entering the tunnels at up to 160kmh.

■ Passengers at Long Eaton station are to benefit from improved access. Work is underway to installing two new lifts to give step-free access to both platforms.

■ Since the £250 million route upgrade to the Chiltern main line, around 50,000 extra passengers have used services from London to Dorridge, Warwick and Birmingham Moor Street, with the latter seeing a 25% growth in passenger figures.

New powers proposed to protect passenger interests

Plans for the Rail Regulator to be given more powers to protect passengers' interests have been announced in a joint consultation published by the Department for Transport (DfT) and the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR).

The consultation, entitled 'A greater role for ORR regulating passenger franchisees in England and Wales', seeks views on the potential for an expanded role for the ORR to allow it to put passengers at the heart of regulation. Under the proposals, which would see the Government step back from rail regulation, new licence conditions would enable the independent rail regulator to ensure passenger complaints were handled properly, as well as taking on responsibility for monitoring train performance and service standards. The plans aim to simplify the regulation in England and Wales to make the rail industry more efficient and transparent. The proposals build on the findings from Sir Roy McNulty's 'Rail Value for Money Study' published in May, which concluded that significant changes are needed if the rail industry is to achieve its full potential. These include a move towards an integrated regulator for the whole rail industry to support closer working between different parts of the sector. The immediate package of reforms includes proposals that the ORR should take on additional responsibilities for complaints procedures transferred from the DfT, and be responsible for all aspects of approving, monitoring, and enforcing compliance with complaints procedures through station and passenger train licences, as well as being responsible for approving, monitoring and enforcing disability policy. Additional long term proposals include whether responsibility for monitoring and the enforcement of train punctuality and reliability should be transferred to the ORR, and that the monitoring and enforcement of service quality standards and compensation agreed in the franchise, or committed to in the franchise bidding process, could be implemented by the ORR via a licence rather than by the Government through a contractual mechanism. The consultation closes on 2nd March.

Upgrade work commences on Hastings to Ashford route

Work began on 9th January on a major upgrade of the line between Hastings and Ashford International, which will provide more reliable journeys and be the first step in potentially reducing journey times in the future.

The nine-week programme centres on essential maintenance work in Ore tunnel to improve the drainage and repair lining to the inside of the structure to prevent water seeping through. In order to take full advantage of the track closure, Network Rail has rescheduled other improvement works to avoid further disruption in the future. These include renewing the track through the tunnel and around the Ore area, three-quarters of a mile of track between Rye and Winchelsea, and around one mile between Ashford and Ham Street. This will result in old jointed track being replaced with continuous rails.

In addition, three sets of points will be refurbishment, rail-over-road bridges at Doleham and Three Oaks replaced, and maintenance undertaken on an embankment between Ashford and Ham Street. Maintenance of 18 bridges and culverts between Ashford and Hastings will also be undertaken to enable the line speed to be increased.

▲ **Class 171/7 No. 171724 passes Cheeseman's Green working the 13.51 Ashford International to Bexhill service on 8th January, the last day of operations until early March due to the closure of Ore Tunnel. Joshua Brown**

During the work, no trains are running between Ashford and Hastings, with Southern providing rail replacement bus and taxi services. The work is scheduled for completion on 9th March.

Metro and Light Rail News

London cable car brings new addition to Tube Map

Although the Emirates Air Line London cable car is not a railway, its route across the River Thames has now been included on the London Underground Tube Map.

When complete, the cable car will allow passengers to cross the river between the two terminals at Greenwich Peninsula and the Royal Docks, 200ft in the air. Located near the Royal Docks terminal, the North Intermediate Tower is the first of three towers to have been fully erected, with the remaining two structures scheduled to be completed by late spring 2012 in time for the Olympic Games.

The route's inclusion on the Tube map is the first time in the map's 78-year history that a commercial brand has been able to put its name to a transport link and station as a result of a partnership between Transport for London (TfL) and Emirates, the new route is featured as the 'Emirates Air Line cable car' and shown 'Under Construction'. The inclusion of the Emirates Air Line cable car crossing is a major milestone for the airline, which has sponsored the scheme under a 10-year £36 million sponsorship deal.

The map also highlights how the new scheme will integrate into the wider transport network by providing an additional step-free access interchange between the Jubilee Line and the automated Docklands Light Railway.

▼ **The first of the new Flexity2 trams for Blackpool, No. 001, is hauled past the Pleasure Beech by a recovery unit on 12th January. It is understood that the requirement to 'drag' the set was not the result of a failure, but due to the overhead power being switched off on this section while modification works to the track take place. It is believed that the two running lines have been relaid too close together. James Lonsdale**

▲ **Track relaying at Pontsarn necessitated freight diversions via Tondu on 8th January. Here, Class 60 No. 60054 arrives at Tondu with the 10.34 Margam to Llanwern working, which was the first train over the Margam to Tondu route for some considerable time. Not altogether unexpectedly, the train was heavily delayed due to adhesion problems on the rusty line from Margam. Phil Trotter**

Work at Holgate should mean operational improvements for York

The south end of York station is no longer a bottleneck for services on the East Coast Main Line (ECML) after up to 40 engineers per shift worked through the Christmas period to install new track and signalling systems.

Infrastructure work at Holgate to install an additional line and a new junction was completed earlier this year. Because the programme to control the new signalling layout is extensive and complicated, the commissioning was held back to Christmas, when there were no trains running.

Previously trains travelling from Leeds to the North East and Scotland conflicted with other passenger services, often resulting in services being forced to stand before they could access a platform. This has now been resolved, creating greater freedom of operation and a better flow of trains into and out of the station.

The investment at Holgate is around £9.5 million and is part of a package of works scheduled between 2009 and 2014 to improve capacity and the reliability of services on the main line. In all the investment in the ECML is worth approximately £600 million.

The Irish Angle

▲ The newly introduced Class 4000 Railcars have been venturing further than the booked Larne Line workings. On 10th January, the 16.00 Belfast Great Victoria Street to Londonderry service was in the hands of set No. 4002, seen here at Coleraine. **Chris Playfair**

▼ Intercity Railcar No. 22033 sustained an underfloor fire on the third vehicle while working the 15.05 Galway to Dublin Heuston service on 2nd September. The set was finally moved from Laois Traincare to Inchicore Works for repairs on 12th January by 071 Class No. 076. **Neil Dinnen**

£32.7 billion HS2 project is given the green light

Transport Secretary, Justine Greening, has announced that Britain will have a national high-speed rail network providing new capacity and faster journey times across the country from 2026.

The £32.7 billion HS2 route will be a Y-shaped rail network with stations in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Sheffield and the East Midlands linked by high speed trains conveying up to 26,000 people each hour at speeds of up to 250mph. The trains will also connect seamlessly with the existing WCML and ECML to serve passengers beyond the HS2 network in Preston, York, Liverpool, Newcastle, Edinburgh and Glasgow. It is to be constructed in two phases; the first will be a new 140-mile line between London and Birmingham by 2026, and the second phase will involve lines built from Birmingham to Leeds and Manchester by 2033.

A formal consultation on second phase routes will begin in early 2014 with a final route chosen by the end of that year. The first phase of HS2 will also include a connection to Europe via the Channel Tunnel, and on completion the network will include a direct link to Heathrow Airport. The project will mean very substantial time savings between Britain's cities, reducing a Birmingham to Leeds journey from two hours to just 57 minutes and a Manchester to London journey from two hours eight minutes to only one hour eight minutes. Birmingham to London journeys will be almost halved from one hour 24 minutes to 45 minutes, four minutes less than the fastest 49-minute service featured in the consultation.

A commitment to reducing the effects of the line on the countryside will result in 79 miles of the 140-mile route between London and Birmingham running in tunnels or cuttings. Compared with the original consultation route the amount of tunnel railway has risen to 22.5 miles. The new line will run through 13 miles of the Chilterns Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, but the new measures mean that less than two miles will be at or above surface level.

HS2 trains will be up to 400 metres long with 1,100 seats, and as stated will travel at speeds of up to 250mph. Double-decker trains could be introduced to run on the network and would be compatible with HS1 and the Channel Tunnel. Services using HS2 and existing rail lines will use standard-size non-double-decker high-speed trains.

Confirmation that the new network will be built follows one of the largest public consultation exercises ever undertaken, which set out both a high-level plan for a complete network and a detailed route for a first phase from London to Birmingham. Justine Greening said: "No amount of tinkering with our Victorian rail infrastructure will deliver this leap in capacity."

London-Frankfurt service delayed until late-2015

Deutsche Bahn has confirmed that its proposed service to London has been delayed by two years.

The company says that the new Velaro-D trains, of which 16 will be equipped to operate to London, are running around a year late, with the first set, now due to be delivered towards the end of this year. While DB says its rolling stock provider has advised it of a severe delay, Siemens says the knock-on effect to the service is due to the fact that DB has not confirmed the equipment that it wanted the trains to be fitted with.

DB is hoping to gain approval to operate the Velaro-D train through the Tunnel shortly, but the delay now means that Eurostar, which hopes to use a similar design for its e320 trains on an expanded European network from 2014, could gain a significant foothold in the marketplace by starting its services first.

Work continues on Reading Upgrade

▲ Work continues on the new 'Southern' platforms at Reading on 7th January, as Class 43 powercar No. 43175 approaches with a service from Paddington. **Ian Hall**

◀ The new bridge over Cow Lane in Reading, which will carry the West Curve over a public road, is in position and works proceed to rebuild the embankment on 27th December. The old brick bridge was replaced with the new structure in 107 hours over Christmas. **Ken Brunt**

Railway Herald

NEW BACK ISSUES CD-ROM AVAILABLE

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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. The new disc starts from Issue 201 and contains all high-resolution versions of each issue up to No. 290, priced at £5 post free within the UK, and £6.50 outside the UK.

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

▶ One of Network Rail's Class 57/3s No. 57312 is pictured stabled at Tonbridge West Yard, along with two converted ex-Gatwick Express Luggage Vans, and GBRf Class 73/2s Nos. 73206 & 73208. **Andrew Wood**

▼▶ Less than three weeks since its arrival, a very shiny Class 70 No. 70014 departs from Toton on 6th January, on the low level lines heading for Trent Junction and ultimately Crewe Basford Hall yard, with the 11.49 empties from Ratcliffe Power Station. **John Illingworth**

▼ Unusually, a pair of GBRf Class 66/7s, Metronet-liveried No. 66718 leading and GBRf-liveried No. 66731 on the rear, deputised for the usual Type 1 motive power on 9th and 10th January, when two services operated from Derby Litchurch Lane to Old Dalby. The Class 66s were standing in for the normal Class 20s, leased from DRS, as these were at Carlisle Kingmoor believed to be for a technical modification. On 10th January, the GM-duo, plus normal barrier vehicles dodge the shadows at Coalville on the lightly used stretch from Burton-upon-Trent to Bardon Hill. **John Whitehouse**

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

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

Freight Flows / Loco Gallery : ***lots of exciting action including ....***

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

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

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

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

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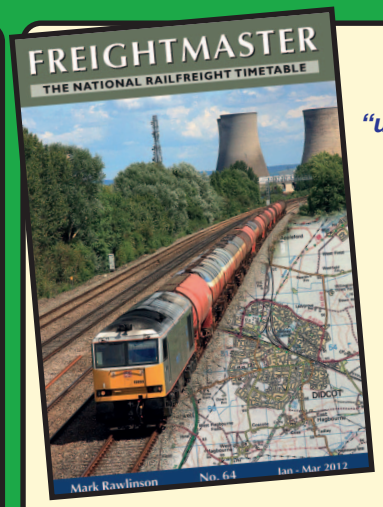
BRCW Class 27s	Network South East	'Speedlink'	Woodhead Line



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UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Friday 20th January 2012

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Virginia Water-Woking-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria

Saturday 21st January 2012

UK Railtours	2xDBS 66	London Paddington-Southall Yard-Brentford Goods-West Drayton-Colnbrook(rev)-West Drayton-Acton Wells-Willesden-Milton Keynes Central-Railcare Wolverton Works-Haversham Sidings-Milton Keynes Central-Bletchley Flyover-Swanbourne-Fenny Stratford(rev)-Bletchley-London Euston

Saturday 28th January 2012

Railway Touring Co.	44871 & 45407	Manchester Victoria-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-Blackburn-Manchester Victoria
UK Railtours	2xDBS 66	London Paddington-Southall Yard-Brentford Goods-West Drayton-Colnbrook(rev)-West Drayton-Acton Wells-Willesden-Milton Keynes Central-Railcare Wolverton Works-Haversham Sidings-Milton Keynes Central-Bletchley Flyover-Swanbourne-Fenny Stratford(rev)-Bletchley-London Euston ***REPEAT TOUR***

Saturday 4th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Birmingham International-Crewe-Carlisle-Crianlarich-Oban-Crianlarich-Ft William

Sunday 5th February 2012

Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Fort William-Crianlarich-Carlisle-Crewe-Stafford-Birmingham NS-Birmingham Intl.

Saturday 11th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
UK Railtours	Mendip 59	London Paddington-Slough-Reading-Westbury-Whatley Quarry-Frome-Cranmore (East Somerset Railway)-Merehead Quarry-Frome-Westbury-Reading-Paddington

Sunday 12th February 2012

Steam Dreams	6024	London - Bath Spa (connection to Wells). Route details to be confirmed
Vintage Trains	4965	Tyseley WR-Leicester-Loughborough-Burton upon Trent-Tamworth HL-Tyseley WR

Friday 17th February 2012

VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Virginia Water-Woking-Redhill-East Croydon-Victoria

Saturday 18th February 2012

Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Watford Junction-Rugby-Chester-Llandudno Junction-Bangor & rtn

Saturday 25th February 2012

Pathfinder Tours	2xDBS 66	Tame Bridge Parkway-Derby-Church Fenton-Low Fell/Greenfield/Pelaw Jcts-Jarrow branch-Durham-Ferryside-Seal Sands (NR limit)-Billingham Jct-Eaglescliffe-Northallerton East/Longlands Jcts-Thirsk-York-Colton Jn-Derby-Tame Bridge Parkway
Railway Touring Co.	70013 or 45305	(London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
Steam Dreams	6024 & 60163	London Paddington-Hereford-Birmingham SH-London Paddington **Cancelled**
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Rugby-Crewe-S&C-Carlisle Currock Jct-Maryport-Workington-Ravenglass-Grange over Sands-Preston-Rugby-London Euston

Thursday 1st March 2012

Steam Dreams	6024	London Paddington-Reading-Cardiff & return

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

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

Railtour Spotlight

by John Whitehouse

'The Concrete Cow', UK Railtours' offering on 21st January, would on a normal weekend be a candidate for tour of the week, but this week it is the only modern traction tour.

The UKR working has a lot to offer, as well as the chance to view (from the train) the herd of concrete cows in a field near Milton Keynes, the creation of Canadian artist Liz Leyh in 1978, consisting of three cows and three calves that has drawn critical acclaim as well as, no doubt, a few raised eyebrows!

Following a departure from London Paddington, the charter initially works out over the Great Western main line to Southall Yard, where it will reverse to visit Brentford Goods. Next, will be a trip along the Colnbrook branch, via West Drayton, before heading around London, via Acton Wells and Acton Canal Wharf, to Willesden to head north along the West Coast Main Line to the Railcare Works at Wolverton, which will be reached by a double reversal, before burrowing beneath the main lines. The plan is to work through the works complex to the northern extremity, Haversham Bank Sidings.

After regaining the West Coast route, the train proceeds to Bletchley, where it will offer a rare chance to travel over the flyover through to the stop board on the old East-West route near Swanbourne, just over one mile distant from Bletchley. A reversal at Fenny Stratford will be necessary for the tour to once again regain the WCML, followed by a run back to London Euston, where the train finally terminates. DBS Class 66s should feature.

The only other charter within the period is a VSOE British Pullman operating behind SR Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* around the Surrey Hills on 20th January.

▼ **The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's 'A1' Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado* **attracts attention at Leamington Spa on 30th December, while working UK Railtours' 'William Shakespeare' excursion, bound, not unsurprising, for Stratford-upon-Avon. John Whitehouse**

Steam Dreams to review the way it handles the operational side of its charter business

Steam Dreams is believed to be reviewing the way it handles the operational aspects of its charter programme.

It is understood that that the charter operator has issued an 'invitation to tender' document, relating to its operational services for the next three years. The move comes at an interesting time for the industry, with the recent developments relating to a possible sale of Riviera Trains, the growing enthusiasm of Direct Rail Services in the charter market and the emergence of Devon & Cornwall Railways (part of the British American Railway Services Ltd).

Although DRS holds a passenger licence that includes charter train services, it is not believed that this involves steam operations. However, the understanding is that DCR is permitted to operate steam services as part of its operating licence, although not the Class 1 movements required for passenger charter services. It will be interesting to see if any of these hitherto fringe players in the charter market show any inclination to go head to head with the industry's main players, West Coast Railways and DB Schenker.

In the busy world of the rail charter industry, the planning, resourcing and operating of services is one of the most important aspects of the business, and involves ensuring that all key requirements of a charter, ranging from checking the Rules of the Route, and submission of the bid, liaising with Network Rail and other third parties, through to resourcing the key personnel, are all completed in good time to ensure the smooth running of the train on the day. This is the hidden side of the charter business, the important part that the travelling public give no thought to when everything proceeds according to plan!

Steam Dreams' move to put its operations out to tender may be viewed against a market place that is becoming very competitive, especially with the growing maturity of providers such as Compass Railtours which has now consolidated its position from the fringes to being a main player. Equally, this year has seen all the charter operators release their programmes much earlier than previously, and moreover, those scheduled cover a much longer period, in many cases through to the autumn. Of course, lurking in the background is both the national and world economic situation, and it is likely that in 2012 domestic budgets will be squeezed even more, leaving less disposable income for non-essential spending, such as days out by train.

With all this on the horizon, the charter companies will naturally be looking at their profit margins, and costs will be at the top of the list to review, which no doubt will be uppermost in the mind of Steam Dreams when it comes to considering the tenders received for the business.

▼ **On 7th January, the 'Northern Belle' passes through Coton Lane, Tamworth, powered by DRS Class 47/4s Nos. 47828 and 47818 in 'top and tail' mode. The train originated at Manchester and headed south along the West Coast Main Line to its destination at Kensington Olympia. John Edkins**

Railway Touring Company releases 2012 tour programme, with over 100 trains planned

Nigel Dobbing at the Railway Touring Company (RTC) has firmly signalled his confidence in the charter market for 2012 by announcing a programme of 100 trains through to October. Additionally there will be the planned 'Great Britain V' and 'West Highlander Steam Express' tours, which are due to operate in April and September respectively.

The schedules include some interesting days out as well as the usual (and expanded) portfolio of repeat itinerary workings during the high season that spans from July through to September.

This week *Railway Herald* will take a look at what RTC has on offer in the high season, commencing with a new train, 'The West Somerset Steam Express', which is booked to operate on Saturdays commencing 28th July, and then 4th, 11th August, 1st September and finally on Friday 7th September. The locomotive pool is quoted as Nos. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*, 34067 *Tangmere*, 70000 *Britannia* and 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*, with the train operating from London Paddington to Taunton via the Berks and Hants route, before continuing on to West Somerset Railway (WSR) metals at Norton Fitzwarren through to Bishops Lydeard, where WSR traction will take over for the remainder of the journey to Minehead.

After a two-hour break, the charter will return with WSR traction to Bishops Lydeard, where the main line locomotive will be waiting (after being turned on the new Norton Fitzwarren triangle) to head back to Paddington, setting down at the outward pick-up points of Newbury, Reading and Slough.

Weymouth features very strongly in the RTC programme, with no less than 19 regular interval workings heading for the Dorset coastal resort. Of that total, 11 trains will be mid-week 'Dorset Coast Expresses' from London Victoria, picking up at Staines, Woking and Basingstoke, and also setting down at Bournemouth. The feature is the plan to use a different locomotive in each direction, with the engine that operated the outward service being used to bank the return working from Weymouth on the ascent of Upwey Bank to Dorchester South. Operating dates vary, with a train each Thursday in July, and 13th, 20th and 27th September, and two Tuesday workings on 21st & 28th August, together with 'specials' on 14th & 15th August that are aligned to the Olympic Games sailings events at Weymouth. The locomotive pool is the same as for the West Somerset trains, and as with last year the return working is to London Waterloo.

Meanwhile, Sundays from 1st – 22nd July, 19th & 26th August and 16th & 23rd September will again see 'The Weymouth Seaside Express' in operation from Bristol Temple Meads, picking up at Keynsham, Bath Spa, Trowbridge, Westbury and Frome. The route south will be via Castle Cary, Yeovil Pen Mill, Maiden Newton and Dorchester West, taking on Evershot Bank en route, with either No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* or No. 34046 *Braunton*.

Attention now turns to the north for the remainder of RTC's high season workings, which reflects its 2011 programme with some slight variations. Once again 'The Scarborough Flyer' will be departing from Crewe each Friday from 20th July through to 14th September, picking up at Wilmslow, Stockport, Huddersfield and Wakefield Kirkgate en route, with the option of alighting at York or continuing for a bracing afternoon at Scarborough.

Also working out of Crewe on Saturdays will be the 'Cumbrian Mountain Express', picking up at Wilmslow, Stockport, Manchester Victoria, and then via Chat Moss, Wigan North Western and Preston. The route is clockwise, that is north over Shap and returning along the Settle & Carlisle, with booked dates of 21st July, 4th, 11th, 18th August and 1st September. Alternatively, on 28th July and 25th August, the 'CME' departs from Liverpool Lime Street, and picks up at St Helens Central, Wigan North Western and Preston.

The New Year will have some additional 'North Wales Coast Expresses', as in addition to the usual workings from Liverpool Lime Street, which pick up at Broad Green, Warrington Bank Quay, Frodsham and Chester, there is a new itinerary from Crewe that works via Wilmslow, Stockport and Manchester Piccadilly, before regaining the normal route to again call at Frodsham and Chester. This train, although resulting in a later return departure from Holyhead, will enable RTC to tap the lucrative Mancunian market. Dates from Crewe are 22nd July and 5th & 12th August, and from Lime Street on 29th July and 19th & 26th August.

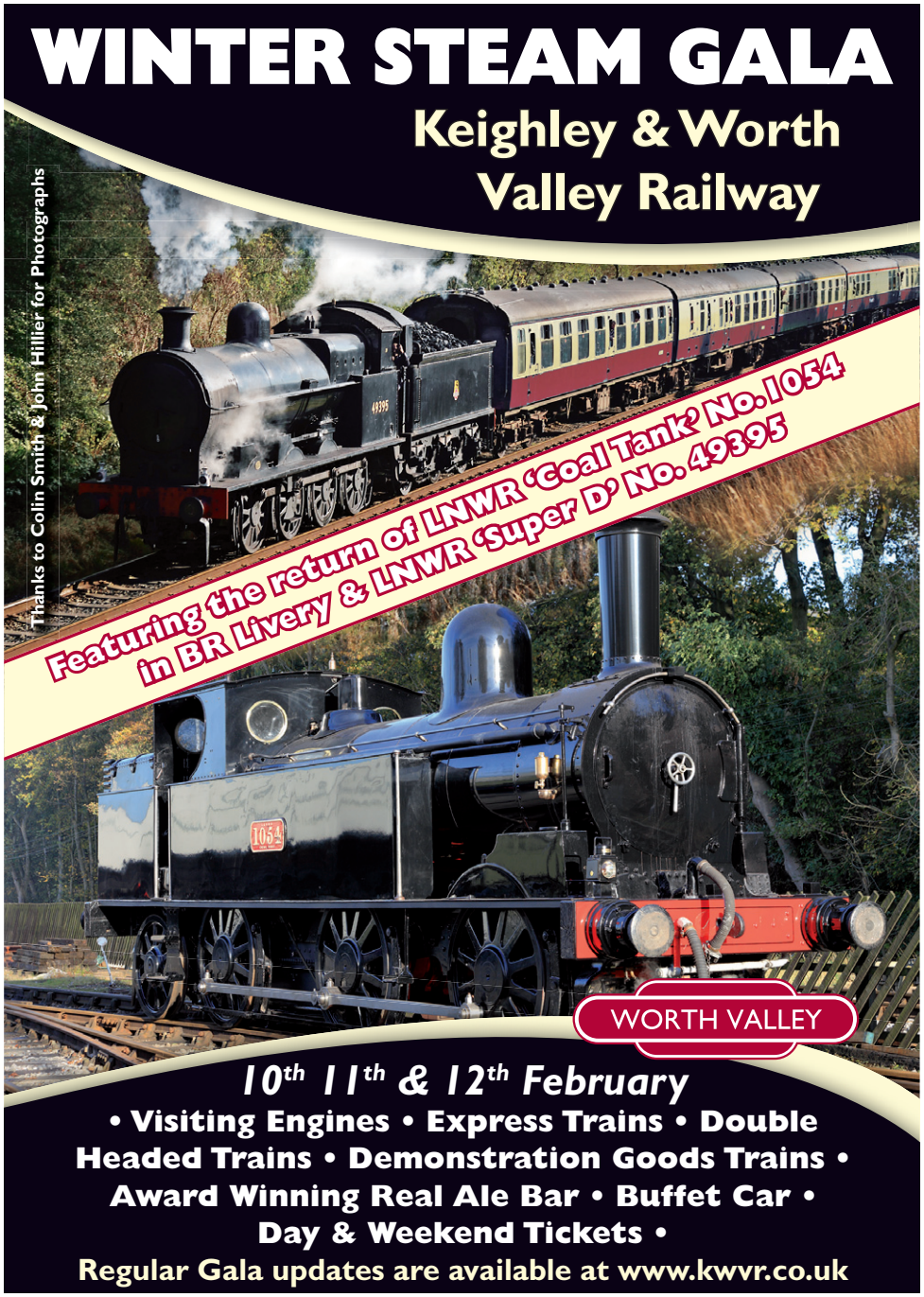
The Crewe locomotive pool, which will cover the 'Scarborough Flyers', 'CME's and 'NWCE's is likely to consist of No. 46233 *Duchess of Sutherland*, No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* and 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45305, plus, subject to obtaining a further boiler ticket extension, No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*.

The 'Welsh Mountaineer' also survives into another season. This train, which runs from Preston to Blaenau Ffestiniog, has struggled in the past, and no doubt owes its continuance to being a key part of RTC's s seven-night 'Snowdonia and Northern Fells' tour that encompasses a number of the company's day workings as well as trips on Welsh narrow gauge lines. The 'Welsh Mountaineer' is booked to run on 31st July, together with 14th & 28th August, picking up at Warrington Bank Quay, Frodsham and Chester. As in past years, to ensure that the steam locomotive works chimney first along the steeply graded Conwy Valley branch through Betws-y-Coed to Blaenau Ffestiniog, it is turned at Chester, and then runs tender-first to Llandudno Junction, where the train reverses. The booked traction is either 'Black 5' No. 45305 or Stanier 8F No. 48151.

And finally, there is 'The Waverley' from York to Carlisle, which this year will revert again to Sunday workings each week from 22nd July through to 9th September, picking up also at Leeds, Shipley, Keighley and Skipton with Appleby being an alternative set-down point. Traction will be provided from West Coast's locomotive pool based at York for its high season 'Scarborough Spa Expresses' (details of which are expected soon), and consist of Nos. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* and 'Black 5' No. 44932, although RTC does mention the 'possibility' of 'Jubilee' No. 45699 *Galatea*. Now that would be interesting!

In next week's issue, a look will be taken at RTC's other planned workings, of which there are several of note.

▼ BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* **will be working for RTC, based at Crewe, during the summer. Here, it departs from Loughbrough on the GCR with a service to Leicester on 30th December. Chris Horkley**



The 11.15 'Southport Express' departs from Liverpool Exchange on 23rd September 1976, led by Class 502 Driving Car No. M28356M. **Brian Morrison**

New home secured for historic Class 502 vehicles

There has been good news for The Friends of the 502 Group who have made a provisional agreement with The Merseyside Transport Trust (MTT) to relocate the ex-Merseyrail Class 502 at the Trust's new premises at Burscough, near Ormskirk.

If the deal is concluded, this will afford a secure, long term undercover base which will provide a dry all-year round working area, as well as protecting the Class 502 the weather. The MTT maintain a collection of buses dating back to the days of Liverpool Corporation Transport as well as the later Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority. They have recently moved to these new premises, and are currently transferring their collection of buses, which when re-housed will leave plenty of spare room, to accommodate the Class 502.

The strong Merseyside connection fulfils the Friends aim of acquiring a new base closer to Merseyside which should be the catalyst for generating much more local interest and support for the long term restoration process. The connection with the MTT will also be a positive move, as the long term aim of both organisations is preserving the transport heritage of the area.

Talks with the MTT continue with the hope that the Class 502 can be moved to Burscough sometime in February, but this will depend on a final agreement being reached as well as the anticipated £4,000 movement cost being raised. Also, the access to the MTT's facility will cost £250 per month which will be an ongoing commitment to the group. The appeal for the cost of transportation remains, and potential donors are being asked to commit to a direct debit arrangement of £10.04 per month (502p per vehicle) to cover the monthly rent as well as ongoing projects.

Overhaul of National Trust-owned *Hugh Napier* nears completion at Boston Lodge

The National Trust's 1904 Hunslet 0-4-0ST No. 855 *Hugh Napier*, part of the Penrhyn Castle collection, is undergoing restoration at the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland's Boston Lodge Works, and on 10th January was successfully steam tested.

Once the restoration is complete in late spring, the F&WHR and the National Trust will be working together on a programme of visits around the UK. The loco was a quarry engine that worked at Penrhyn Quarries, where it was part of the Large Quarry class. It weighs around 7½ tons and has been part of the collection at Penrhyn Castle since 1966.

In July last year, the locomotive and its new boiler were transported to Boston Lodge Works for restoration to working order, after which it will become a roving ambassador for the National Trust, visiting other locations around the UK including the F&WHR where it will be used for light duties and on special occasions.

Elsewhere, after extended trials with oil firing since being outshopped in early 2010, the replica Lynton & Barnstaple Manning Wardle *Lyd* has been converted to coal. The loco ran for the first time on 12th December, crossing the Cob and then to Minffordd. This was the first time a coal-fired Lynton & Barnstaple loco had run since *Lew* hauled the demolition train on the Lynton & Barnstaple in 1936.

On 13th December, the loco double-headed the 10.15 service train to Blaenau Ffestiniog with Single Fairlie *Taliesin*. Performance was excellent and *Lyd* took the 13.35 service, comprising six cars, up to Blaenau on its own. No problems were encountered and the loco ran to time.

▲ On a cold and frosty morning on the East Lancahire Railway, Class 40 No. D335, complete with full steam heat, stands at Irwell Vale with the first train of the day on 14th January. **Simon Atkinson**

Record breaking year for Bodmin & Wenford

The Bodmin & Wenford Railway (BWR) has recorded its third successive record-breaking year, with the number of passengers being carried and total turnover raised to another new high.

After the last 'Mince Pie Special' train had returned to Bodmin General station on New Year's Eve, the BWR had recorded its best-ever results in a calendar year, recording a total of 55,789 passengers, an increase of 6.6% on 2010, which itself was a record year. Achieving such impressive results for the second consecutive year is a major milestone for the railway and its staff, the majority of whom are volunteers, and a fitting finale to its 25th anniversary year, the first train movements on the line in the preservation era having occurred in June 1986.

The year concluded in fine style with a very successful 'Winter Steam Up' gala, which had a trio of genuine 'Cornish' locomotives working, two GWR 'small prairie' tanks Nos. 5521 & 5552, and L&SWR Beattie well tank No. 30587, working an intensive timetable, the latter with a train of three restored former goods brake vans, which proved particularly popular with visitors.

The Railway will next be operating services in mid-February, with special Valentines dining trains, followed by standard timetabled services during part of the school half-term holidays.

Great Central proposes 10 locomotive line up for January Gala including return of Ivatt 2MT

The Great Central Railway will be operating a three-day gala over the weekend of 27th-29th January.

The star attraction will be visiting Class M7 0-4-4T No. 30053 from the Swanage Railway, with a strong supporting cast, including a GCR debut for recently overhauled Ivatt Class 2MT Mogul No. 46521, plus a 100th birthday appearance for Class 04 2-8-0 No. 63601.

Adding further weight to the gala will be 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, 'King Arthur' No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* and 'Hall' No. 4953 *Pitchford Hall*, along with BR Standard Class 2MT Mogul No. 78019, Class N7 0-6-2T No. 1744, 'Jinty' 0-6-0T No. 47406 and Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 8624.

An intensive timetable will operate over all three days, further details of which will be available on its website. The plan is for departures every 50 minutes from Loughborough on Saturday and Sunday from 09.00, operating through until late afternoon. There will also be a local service operating together with demonstration freights and 'fast' TPO workings throughout the gala. From 16.30 on Saturday the 'GCR Twilight' show will be in full swing at Quorn, with an 'intense period of activity' including freight and non-stop TPO trains operating. Also the new turntable will be in operation. For those who would like to get even closer to the action, one-way footplate passes are available at £40 each.

Barry celebrates 75th anniversary of the Class 73s

Barry Tourist Railway will be celebrating the 50th anniversary of the introduction of the Class 73 Electro-Diesel locomotives with an event on 29th January.

It will be using its ex-Eurostar Class 73/1 No. 73118, which will be operating 'light engine' between Barry Island and Waterside stations between 13.00 -16.00.

A 'cab pass', which will entitle the holder to a round trip, will cost £16.50, and departures from Barry Island are expected to be roughly every 25 minutes.

The railway also hopes to be operating the Class 73/1 with passenger stock later in the year.

Mixed Traffic Weekend starts MNR 2012 events

The Mid Norfolk Railway will hold its Winter Mixed Traffic Event on 18th/19th February.

The weekend will have a regular passenger service operated by both loco-hauled and DMU vehicles, with the occasional freight working.

The line will also use the event to launch its Railcar Bar and says that it plans to have all available home fleet locomotives in service.

▼ **Southern Railways U class 2-6-0 No. 1638 glints on the approach to Horsted Keynes on the Bluebell Railway, with the 15.00 departure from Sheffield Park on 2nd January. Greg Burrows**

In preparation for the recommencement of activities after the Christmas break, the Structure Gauging Train and Track Recording Train operated together as a positioning move from Derby to Grove Park, in South London, via Solihull and Oxford on 2nd January. With NR Class 97/3 No. 97301 leading and Class 31/1 No. 31285 at the rear, the consist passes Lea Marston, near Water Orton. **John Whitehouse**

DBS-operated Class 66/0 No. 66099 crawls at walking pace as it passes Waitby Rock Cutting on the Settle & Carlisle line, with the late running Shap Summit to Leeds Stourton loaded stone working on 9th January. **John Wade**

DRS Class 37/6s Nos. 37607 and 37606 are pictured in 'top and tail' mode working a Plymouth to Derby test train along the Teign Estuary, near Teignmouth, on 11th January.
Alexander Martin-Brown

As part of the current driver training programme at Warrington, Class 92 No. 92030 *Ashford* is seen working between Arpley and Carnforth with a short load on 9th January, as it drifts through Euxton with the return run. **Fred Kerr**

DRS Class 37/4 No. 37423 stands at Barrow-in-Furness on 9th January, having worked the first southbound train of the six-week passenger trial from Carlisle, aimed primarily at Sellafield workers. **Steve Philpott**

16th January 2012

NYMR (York)
New Earswick Sports and Social Club, New Earswick,YO32 4AG. 'Life on the Line' by Gordon Reed. Starts 19.30. Contact Bryan Blundell on 01904 764648 for further details.

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

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

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

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

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

17th January 2012

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

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

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

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

18th January 2012

RCTS (Eastleigh)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Plasser Track Machines' by Mark Simmons. Starts 19.45. Contact Ted Vaughan on 02380 849533 for further details.

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

19th January 2012

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

Irish Railway Record Society (London)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London NW12HR. '1950's Steam Around Belfast' by Colin Weatherup plus AGM. Starts 19.00. Donation: Members £2.50, Non-Members £3.50. Contact the Secretary at irrslondon@hotmail.com for further details.

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

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

RCTS (Ipswich)
Co-op Education Centre, Fore Street, Ipswich. 'Out and About - My Recent Travels' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.30.

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

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

20th January 2012

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

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

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

21st January 2012

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

23rd January 2012

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

RCTS (Maidenhead)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'Rail Atlas of Great Britain and Ireland' by Stuart Baker. Starts 14.15.

RCTS (Sheffield)
St Mathews Church Room, Carver St, Sheffield. 'Branch AGM'. Starts 19.30.

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

24th January 2012

RCTS (Woking)
The United Reform Church, White Rose Lane, Woking. 'Swindon Works - The Golden Years - 1880 to 1924' by Rev.Canon Brian Arman. Starts 19.00

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

25th January 2012

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

RCTS (Chichester)
Council Meeting Room 2, County Hall, West Street, Chichester. 'Going Digital' by Colin Boocock. Starts 19.30.

26th January 2012

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

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

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

27th January 2012

Great Western Society (North West)
St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington WA4 1DN. 'From the Slums to the Sidings' by D.Armstrong. Starts 19.30.

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

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Old, New, Borrowed & Blue' by Geoff Cryer. Starts 19.30

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.

▼ **Arriva Trains Wales Class 175 No. 175005 makes a station stop at Shotton Low Level on 28th December, with a Llandudno to Manchester Piccadilly service. The overbridge here carries the Bidston to Wrexham line to the High level station platforms off to the right of the picture. The Shotton High and Low names were dropped in the 1990s but are still used by locals and railway personnel to differentiate between the two stations. Adrian Perks**

28th January 2012
Great Western Society (South West)
Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay TQ12 5LD. 'Eastern European Steam in the 2000s' by Les Folkard. Starts 18.30. Contact the Secretary on 01803 336329 for further details.

30th January 2012
RCTS (Sheffield)
Sheffield Scouts Headquarters, Trippet Lane, Sheffield. 'South Wales Railway over the Past 30 Years' by Geoff Morris. Starts 14.00.

31st January 2012
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Diesels and Steam in East Anglia in the 50's & 60's' by Rodger Green. Starts 14.00.

1st February 2012
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent DE14 3BG. 'Preserved Steam on Video' (A Review of 2011) by Karl Jauncey & Dave Richards. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details

Stephenson Loco Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes St, Hayes, Bromley. 'Two Inches Over and Two Inches Under - Mountain Railways' by Ray Schofield. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 289 9935 for details.

Warwickshire Railway Society
Lamp Tavern P.H., Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Steam in Scotland from 1959 Onward to Present Day' by Roger Johnston. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for details.

2nd February 2012
RCTS (Milton Keynes)
The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'Strictly Freight Only Part 3' by Brian Ringer. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Railway Tales' by John Evans. Meeting commences at 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. 'Members' Evening'. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for details.

3rd February 2012
Cambridge Rly Circle
Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD.' 1,000 Eggs on a Bicycle' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham)
St Laurence Pastoral Centre, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LX. 'Nostalgia of Steam on 16mm Cine' by Chris Pratt. Starts 19.30. Contact David French on 07791 770595 for further details.

RCTS (Bristol)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'Steam through Gloucestershire' by Ian Thomas. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)
County Hotel, Lancaster Road, Carnforth. 'Challenges of Timetable Planning' by David Langton. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'NYMR 175 and Onwards' by Phillip Benham. Starts 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle. 'Tyneside Electrics Part 3' by Bill Donald. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946 for further details.

6th February 2012
North Yorkshire Moors Railway (Northallerton)
Northallerton Town Cricket Club, Farndale Avenue, Northallerton. 'Railway Heraldry' by Steve Frost. Starts 19.30. £1.50 Admission. Contact 01642 767233 for details

Plymouth Rly Circle
St Edward's Church Hall, Home Park Avenue, Peverell, Plymouth PL3 4PG. 'The Great Way Round' by Terry Nichols. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome. £2 Admission.

RCTS (Ashford)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at southeast@rcts.org.uk for further details.

RCTS (Birmingham)
Christ Church Community Hall, Burney, Ward End. 'American Wanderings' by Gordon Davies. Starts 14.00.

RCTS (Northampton)
St. Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. '170 Years of the Royal Train' by Chris Hillyard. Starts 19.30.

7th February 2012
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A10 UWCN City Campus, Usk Way, Newport NP20 2BP. 'BR Steam in the 1960s' by Derek Brixey. Starts 19.15. Admission non-members £3.

RCTS (Watford)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Starts 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire) /LRTA
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Railways of the East Midlands' by Steve Bigley. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact John Goodrich on 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
Function Room, Weston super Mare Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare, BS23 1QX. 'Limbering up in Paris and One Day in Paris' by Ian Chancellor and ' Main Line Steam in Germany and England' by Peter Doudney. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. £1 admission. Contact 01934 628289 for further details.

8th February 2012
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote Street Club, New Road, Basingstoke RG21 7NG. 'Signal Boxes, People & Trains on the Berks & Hants Line' by David Canning. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact 01256 819401 for details.

Continental Railway Circle (London and the Home Counties)
St. Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. 'Steam in India' by Geoff Warren. Starts 19.15. £2 Admission. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or at akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details.

Oxfordshire Rly Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Oxford OX2 9LD. 'AGM & Members' Short Talks. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Cardiff)
Old Church Rooms, Radyr. 'Out and About in the Last 24 Months' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Hitchin)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Stop Look and Listen' by David Cole. Starts 19.30.

Stephenson Loco Society
Y.M.C.A., Bridge Street, Guildford, GU1 4SB. 'Members' Evening'. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01372 379216.

9th February 2012
Bath Railway Society
Bath Green Park Station Meeting Room, Bath. 'GWR Miscellany (and a Few Accidents)' by Rev. Canon Brian Arman. Starts 19.30. Visitors Welcome. £2 Admission. Contact Kevin Plummer (Evenings) on 01225 312564 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green, St Albans. 'Thomas Brassey: Supreme Railway Builder' by Dr David Brooke. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01442 251540 (after 18.00) for further details.

RCTS (Newcastle)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Out and About in the Past Year' by Hugh Gould. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary at jimbrick@fsmail.net for details.

10th February 2012
Altrincham Electric Rly Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrinton Road, Altrincham, WA14 1HF. Great Western Railway Lines in South & Mid-Wales' by Tony Icke. Starts 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for further details.

GCR Leicester Area Group
St Bartholomews Church Hall, Church Lane, Quorn. 'The Last Days of B.R.Steam' by Derek Huntriss. 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. AGM & 'Quiz' by Joe Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01793 495976 for further details.

Shropshire Rly Society
The Gateway, Chester Rd, Shrewsbury. '2011 Show' by Karl Jauncey and Dave Richards. Meeting commences at 19.30

Back Issues

All back issues are available on our website, 24 hours a day - visit **www.railwayherald.com** and click on 'Magazine'.

Rear Cover Caption

An unidentified set of new Bombardier-built 'S8' stock is pictured on the Metropolitan Line at Northwick Park. Technical issues are rumoured to have caused the temporary suspension of deliveries from Old Dalby. Ken Brunt

Magazine Information

Editorial Address:
The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY
Telephone: 01904 500175

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

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