

Railway Herald

Issue 296 - 19th December 2011



The weekly railway enthusiasts' magazine

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Publication

Railway Herald is published weekly, 47 times a year.

Submissions

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

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

Website

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

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First branch of the high-speed LGV Rhin-Rhone route

The introduction of the Winter 2011 timetable on 11th December saw the commencement of services on the latest French high speed route or LGV (Ligne Grande Vitesse), the first section of the Eastern Branch of LGV Rhin-Rhone.

Read more on
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Christmas Break

This issue is our last of the year, with Christmas just around the corner, the editorial team will be taking a well-earned break over the festive period.

Actually, there is little time for a break because of all the plans we have for 2012, and the work that is needed to progress them! However, the **next edition of *Railway Herald*, Issue 297** will be published on **Monday 9th January 2012**, from when we will be back to our normal weekly schedule.

In the meantime, all the editorial team at RH would like to wish all our contributors and readers a very **Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year**

Elsewhere in this issue

11 News in Pictures

The weekly round-up from a pictorial viewpoint of newsworthy and unusual workings across the country.

18 Preservation News

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In This Issue

FCC introduces 12-car trains

The first 12-car FCC Thameslink services between Bedford and Brighton commenced in the peak hours on 12th December.

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Peterborough upgrade

A £43 million upgrade of Peterborough station, heralding longer trains, extra platforms and new footbridges and lifts has been announced.

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Metro & Light Rail

Nottingham tramway extension contract awarded, Glasgow Subway celebrates 115 years, and Croxley rail link gets the green light.

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Norwegian shunters arrive

The first of 10 Bo-Bo locomotives that will be used as shunters for internal movements at SSI Lackenby by GBRf have arrived in Great Britain.

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Front Cover Caption:

Bathed in winter sunlight, BR 'Britannia' Class No 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* passes Conington North with 'The Lindum Fayre' charter on 3rd December. **Andy Moore**

First Capital Connect introduces 12-car peak hour services on Thameslink route

First Capital Connect started the expansion of its passenger capacity on 12th December, by introducing the first 12-car trains on some Thameslink peak-hour services between Bedford and Brighton.

To make this possible, 14 platforms have been lengthened at stations across the route, over 160km of new power cable has been laid to provide, and the power required by longer trains. The vast majority of this work was completed overnight and at weekends to reduce disruption to passengers.

At Farringdon station a new spacious ticket hall came into use to provide the additional capacity that will be required, not only for the longer, more

frequent services made possible by the Thameslink programme, but also future Crossrail services. Farringdon is now set to be transformed into London's newest transport hub, with Thameslink, Crossrail and London Underground services all meeting there from 2018 to provide over 140 trains an hour! At Blackfriars, a new station entrance to the north has now opened, following the new southern entrance that opened on 5th December, and was reported in these pages in last week's issue.

◀ On the first day of 12-car operation, 12th December, the 08.02 Thameslink service from Brighton to Bedford arrives at Blackfriars, consisting of Class 377/5s Nos. 377521, 377502 & 377510. **Bill Turvill**

◀ The opening of the new ticket hall/entrance hall at Farringdon allows for the temporary closure of the original Grade II listed London Underground entrance for refurbishment. The programme includes opening up the entrance to create more space and a direct link into the new Turnmill Street concourse on the eastern side. The station will remain open during the closure with London Underground passengers being redirected to use the new Turnmill Street concourse, with First Capital Connect Thameslink route passengers being directed towards the newly opened ticket hall. The newly refurbished London Underground entrance is scheduled to reopen on 6th February 2012, and from then on passengers will be able to use all three entrances into Farringdon station.

Brian Morrison



HS2 would attract investment says the majority of Scottish businesses

Almost three quarters of Scottish businesses believe high-speed rail would attract new investment to Scotland, and business, transport and civic leaders have begun a case to have high-speed rail extended beyond the north of England.

The Scottish Partnership Group for High Speed Rail, formed by Minister for Housing and Transport, Keith Brown, has published a report detailing the benefits for business, communities and the environment, and a survey carried out by the Group found that 72.5% of Scottish businesses believe it would attract new investment. The Fast Track Scotland document also reports that the line would benefit Scotland to the tune of around £24.8 billion. Introducing the document, Mr Brown said: "The argument for a high-speed rail network in the UK is strong, but it is stronger when Scotland is included. That is the clear

message from this report and one that the Scottish Government fully backs. This report sets out in very real terms, just how beneficial it would be on so many fronts to have the high-speed rail network extended to Scotland." The Partnership Group brought together Glasgow and Edinburgh city councils, Network Rail, Scottish Chambers of Commerce, Transport Scotland and a number of other bodies chosen to represent the widest possible cross-section of Scottish civic and business life - and it calls for the remit of the HS2 company, formed by the Department for Transport, to provide detailed planning for the proposed line to be extended to Scotland.

The report concludes: "It is imperative that high-speed rail is developed in the UK. It is also imperative that Scotland is included if the UK is to see the full benefits of its contribution to the economy".

Work underway at Three Bridges site

Work has started on a state-of-the-art rail operating centre at Three Bridges, which will become the nerve centre of operations in Sussex.

The new centre is one of three major projects either underway or planned for Three Bridges. The other schemes are the construction of a maintenance depot for the new Thameslink trains, which is due to begin in early 2012, and a series of improvements to the station and subway that are currently being carried out. The operating centre will become one of 14 planned across the country over the coming years. Major construction of the Three Bridges

centre is expected to be completed by early 2013. The station improvements mentioned include a new waiting area and toilets on Platforms 3 and 4, relocating the ticket gates, and better drainage in the car park.

The Thameslink depot will be 11,200 square metres, and is due to come into operation from 2015. In addition to the main depot building, which will be able to take up to five 12-car trains at a time, the site will include a warehouse and office space, train cleaning equipment, sidings for stabling trains overnight, an electricity substation and a staff footbridge. New car and cycling facilities will also be built for the staff.



▲ The second anniversary of the start of Southeastern's High-Speed Class 395 services was marked on 13th December. Over 8.2 million passengers were carried in the second year of operations, an increase of a million compared with the first year. The high speed operation has also expanded to meet local passenger and stakeholder demand, with additional services starting from Maidstone West in May and then subsequently from Sandwich and Deal in September. Similarly the service proved vital to the successful hosting of The Open Golf tournament at Royal St George's with 37,000 spectators travelling by train. Here, Class 395 'Javelin' No 395019 departs from Dover Priory on 11th May, forming the 15.44 Southeastern HS1 service to St Pancras International.

Brian Morrison

West Hampstead Thameslink opens to the public

The new Thameslink station at West Hampstead (illustrated on page 6 of last week's issue) opened to the travelling public on 14th December, providing passengers with improved access to the station, less congestion, more capacity and easier interchange with nearby Underground and Overground services.

The entrance in Iverson Road links to a new footbridge with lifts to all platforms, providing step-free access at the station for the first time. The platforms have also been lengthened to

accommodate 12-carriage trains. The new entrance is now alongside an embankment that has been built up to allow the pavement to be widened from 1.5m to 12m. The existing lime trees have been incorporated into the new public space, and the new station can be seen clearly from West End Lane, which is a key design objective.

A green tiled wall, designed to reflect the changing colours of the lime trees, provides an interesting feature on the station approach, brightening the walkway while also drawing people towards the station.

■ Network Rail has joined forces with DB Schenker to transport furniture destined for its new national centre in Milton Keynes from the continent – saving around 100,000km of lorry journeys. A high number of desks, chairs and tables made by furniture supplier Vitra, based in Weil am Rhein, Germany, will be transported by train from nearby Basle in Switzerland to Hams Hall freight terminal in Birmingham in early 2012. The combined length of wagons required to move the furniture is more than half a kilometre!

■ Freightliner's latest new-build locomotives, Nos. 70014-70017, arrived at Newport Docks on 17th December, aboard the ship *BBC Colorado*. Unloading started almost immediately.

■ Freight operator J.G. Russell has exercised a break clause in the contract to run the Telford International Railfreight Park (TIRP) at Donnington, near Wellington, according to the *Shropshire Star* newspaper. The facility was opened in 2009, but Russells are reported to have said that the loss of a coal contract meant that it was bearing losses on the operation of the facility that could not be sustained. The report adds that Telford & Wrekin District Council are paying Russells £2,250 per week to continue to run TIRP, which until recently was

used to store several Class 508 EMUs, all of which have recently been transferred to Eastleigh for further storage. The only other traffic seems to be Ministry of Defence workings to the nearby Army Depot. A new operator is being sought.

■ The winter timetable for London Midland brought in several changes from 11th December, including the addition of new services and extra coaches on some of its established ones. Among the changes is the provision of an extra 686 seats per day on Walsall trains, 153 seats per day on Shrewsbury services, and 604, 531, 157 and 177, respectively, to and from Leamington, Stourbridge, Hereford and Stratford-upon-Avon. Some Chase Line peak services will have an extra coach, as will two early morning trains to Birmingham that will now start from Rugeley instead of Hednesford.

■ 'Access for All' Improvements at Sutton Coldfield station costing £2 million have ensured Birmingham's Cross-City line remains one of the most accessible rail routes in the country. With its new lifts and upgraded footbridge, the station has become the 19th out of 24 stations on the route to be equipped for step-free access, and work is already underway at two more at Selly Oak and Northfield.



▲ An artists impression of how the new platforms 6 and 7 will look at Peterborough from December 2013. **Network Rail**

Major upgrade to take place at Peterborough with new platforms

A £43 million upgrade of Peterborough station, heralding longer, more frequent trains, extra platforms and new footbridges and lifts has been announced.

Over four million people use the station each year, and this number is set to rise dramatically, with the number of people travelling between the city and London forecast to double over the next 25 years. The investment will provide the extra capacity needed to cater for the forecast growth in passenger numbers on all routes to and through Peterborough, and also paves the way for new services to new destinations such as Gatwick Airport.

When finished in December 2013, the station will have a modern main building, extra platforms to increase capacity and reduce congestion, easier access thanks to new lifts, and longer platforms ready for new, longer trains serving more destinations.

Peterborough is a major rail

interchange, served by a complex mix of commuter and long-distance services travelling both east-west and north-south. Network Rail's redevelopment will increase capacity through the station, with two new platforms constructed on the west side for use by trains travelling on east-west routes, freeing up the existing platforms for north-south services.

Platform 1 which is a bay platform at the south end, will be removed as the current platform 2 will be extended and renumbered to become Platform 1. Platform 3 (that becomes Platform 2) will be widened and a new platform (the new Platform 3) added for future London-bound high-speed services. The main station footbridge will be updated and extended to serve the new platforms, with lifts providing step-free access between the station entrance and all platforms for the first time.

In addition to the new platforms, Platforms 2 and 3 will be extended

to facilitate future 12-car Thameslink services, which will provide direct connections from Peterborough to London and destinations across the South East. Platforms 4 and 5 will be extended in readiness for future Intercity Express services, which will provide new trains on long-distance routes to the north of England and Scotland and two new platforms, to become 6 and 7, will be built. A new goods loop will also be created to the west of the station to increase freight capacity on the key cross-country route from the port of Felixstowe to the Midlands and beyond.

Work has started to clear the land to the west of the station in preparation for major works to be carried out starting in April 2012. In addition to the £43 million project, work funded by East Coast and Network Rail has already begun on a £3 million scheme to make the station brighter, provide bigger entrance and a larger concourse.

Metro and Light Rail News

Contract to build new Nottingham tram routes awarded

Tramlink Nottingham has been awarded the contract to complete a major expansion to the city tram system. Work is set to start in the New Year on the £570 million project to provide two new lines and expand the existing network by 17.5 km.

Comprising three major international companies, two leading equity investment partners and a top flight local bus company, Tramlink will immediately take over the operation of the existing Nottingham Express Transit (NET) Line One, which has been open since 2004.

Chairman, Roger Harrison, said: "We have put together a world-class partnership and we are confident of being able to create a network which will not only be

efficient and effective in terms of meeting the city's transport needs but which will also help to take Nottingham's international status to a new level".

The Tramlink Nottingham Consortium includes Alstom, Taylor Woodrow, Keolis and Wellglade (owners of local bus operator Trent Barton) as well as Meridian Infrastructure and Infravia Fund as financial investors. After an extensive tender period, Tramlink was selected as preferred bidder in March, and since then work has been underway finalising details of the 23-year concession contract.

When complete, the system will serve 20 of the 30 largest employers in Greater Nottingham, and help to create a first class transport interchange at Nottingham station, itself the

subject of a major £67 million redevelopment project. It is planned that passenger services across the whole of the expanded tram network will be fully operational by the end of 2014.

Alstom will draw on its expertise in infrastructure and turnkey projects for the construction of the new track, power, signalling and the supply and maintenance of 22 Citadis trams as well as the maintenance of the existing 15 Line One trams. The contract is the first tram project in the UK for Keolis, and reinforces the group's position as the world's largest tram operator.

NET Phase Two is funded by Nottingham City Council, the Government, and through a combination of tram fare revenue and a Private Finance Initiative arrangement over the life of the concession. The Government provides approximately 66% of the estimated £570 million cost, and the remaining 34% comes from Nottingham City Council, mainly through the Workplace Parking Levy, which is a charge on employers based in the city that provide 11 or more car parking places for employees.

◀ On the existing section of the line, Nottingham Express Transit LRV No. 212 *Sir Jesse Boot*, named after the man who transformed a small herbal store into the pharmaceutical giant **Boots The Chemist**, climbs up-grade along Victoria Street with a service to Station Street. **Richard Tuplin**



Glasgow subway celebrates 115th birthday

Passengers who travelled by the Glasgow Subway on 14th December received a number of special treats as the network celebrated its 115th birthday.

The day-long celebration included a year's free Subway travel for one lucky traveller, along with free ticket offers for 115 other Subway winners, 115 chart album giveaways, an 8GB iPod Touch, complimentary cupcakes and much more. The prizes, courtesy of the Evening Times and Capital FM, marked the anniversary of the Subway, which opened in 1896.

Originally built for the Glasgow District Subway Company, it was the third underground railway in the world behind London (1863) and Budapest (1896) but the only one to be hauled by a giant cable. Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, which now owns and operates the system, has begun a multi-million pound modernisation project to ensure the Subway remains at the heart of the city for generations to come.

The Subway had a low-key opening on its first day, but as word spread thousands queued outside stations to experience travel by a non-steam train for the first time. The original clutch-and-cable system, with one cable

for each direction, was driven from a steam-powered plant on Scotland Street, between West Street and Shields Road stations.

In 1923 the Subway passed into the hands of Glasgow Corporation Transport Department and was converted to electric traction in 1935. It ran with little further change until 1977, when the new operators, Greater Glasgow Passenger Transport Executive, closed it for two years to allow for major modernisation. The Subway in its present form reopened for operation in April 1980. Now part of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport, it is one of the few railways in the UK remaining in public ownership and 'vertically integrated', where SPT responsibility covers all aspects of operation and infrastructure. The route is a loop almost 6.5 miles long, and extends both north and south of the River Clyde. The tracks have the unusual narrow gauge of four feet and a nominal tunnel diameter of 11 feet, even smaller than that of the deep-level lines of the London Underground. The system is unusual compared to other metro systems, as it has never been expanded from its original route in more than 100 years.

Croxley rail link finally gets go-ahead

The long-running £120 million Croxley Rail Link project has now been approved by the Government.

The new link will connect Croxley station on the Metropolitan Line with the currently disused track between Croxley Green and the overground Watford High Street station. A large rail bridge will run from Baldwins

Lane in Croxley Green, past the Harvester restaurant and over the dual carriageway. The new railway will then run along Watford Road, the Grand Union Canal, and through west Watford, where two new stations are scheduled to be constructed in Ascot Road and Vicarage Road.

The extension to the 'Met' should be open by 2016.



The Irish Angle

▲ GM-built Class 8111 No. 8113 stands at Antrim on 15th December, with a ballast train from Ballymena, while it awaits permission to proceed onto the closed Lisburn/Antrim branch to shunt the wagons ready for loading. **Chris Playfair**

East Coast commemorate City of York

East Coast named Class 91 No. 91102 City of York on 1st December.

The naming was undertaken by 89-year-old ex-BR driver, Reg Turver, who was the allocated driver after HST powercar No. 43064 was named *City of York* in 1983. After the ceremony, East Coast treated Mr Turver (pictured with EC Managing Director Karen Boswell) to a cab ride to London, on the 10.01 semi-fast service from York. **Ron Cover**



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First Norwegian GBRf locomotives arrive in Great Britain



▲ One of the recently acquired CargoNet Norway Di8 Class Bo-Bo locomotives is pictured at Trondheim in early December, prior to shipment to the UK. All 10 locomotives will be repainted into GBRf/SSI livery in due course. **Bob Tiller**

The first five of the Mak/Siemens (Vossloh) locomotives purchased by GBRf from CargoNet in Norway were expected to arrive at Tees Dock on 18th December. The remaining five are due to be delivered in mid-January.

A total of 10 Bo-Bo 2,100hp locomotives, originally built in 1996/1997 and equipped with Caterpillar engines, have been purchased for use on internal shunting duties at the SSI Lackenby works in Redcar. The locos will be

maintained at Lackenby on behalf of GBRf by Electro Motive Diesels.

Following on from our report in the last issue relating to the new DH50 locomotive now at the Celsa Works in Cardiff and working for GBRf, it is confirmed that the locomotive is not a demonstrator as previously noted, but is one of two refurbished engines hired by the company for a period of five years from Hunslet Engine Company (itself part of LH Group Services) at Barton-under-Needwood. The locomotive is currently being used

for driver and maintenance training, while the second loco is due to be delivered in mid-January. Once both are proven, the two Class 08s currently based on site will be moved to other GBRf locations.

In addition, the Class 09 locomotive operating at Barton Dock, Manchester, No. 09002, is confirmed as being owned by GBRf, having been refurbished by Hunslet Engine Company, along with classmate No. 09009, which will be used by GBRf at an undisclosed location in the new year.



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 Christmas too!

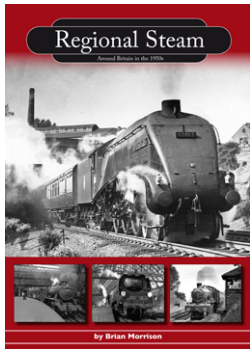
The new disc starts from Issue 201 and contains all high-resolution versions of each issue up to No. 290 and will be available from 15th November, priced at £5 post free within the UK, and £6.50 outside the UK - **the ideal gift for Christmas.**

If you have yet to purchase the original disc, then both discs (spanning Issues 1 to 290) can be obtained 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.

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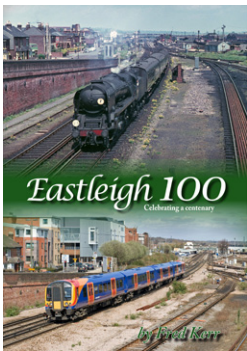
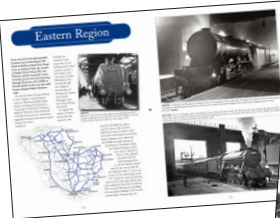
If you enjoy our occasional 'Turning the Clock Back' series then you will love this title!



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

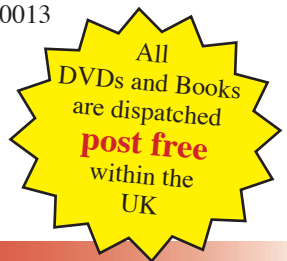
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Our Steam Focus DVD concentrates on the UK scene and features both heritage railway and main line steam action.

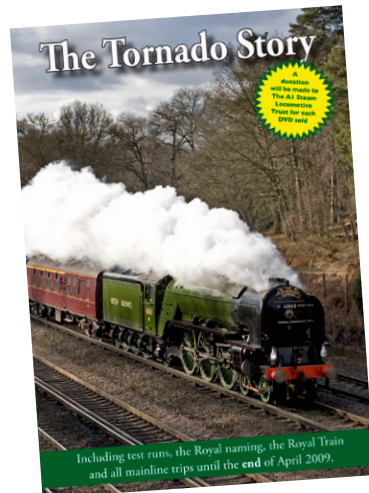
This programme looks at a broad range of news and events from the past six to nine months, with action of locomotives from all four pre-nationalisation companies, plus British Railways Standards. Locations featured include the East Lancashire, Ffestiniog, Great Central, Llangollen, Mid-Hants and North 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



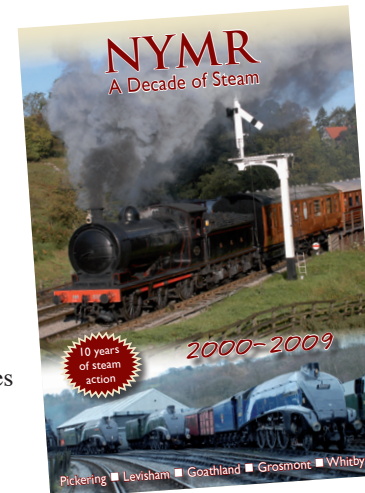
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Follow Britain's newest standard gauge steam loco over its first year on the main line, with views and details on its construction as well as heritage railway gala events. Also includes the locomotives 'Royal' naming at York and archive footage of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

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First branch of the high-speed LGV Rhin-Rhone route opens to services

By Peter Lovell
The introduction of the Winter 2011 timetable on 11th December saw the commencement of services on the latest

French high-speed route or LGV (Ligne Grande Vitesse), the first section of the Eastern Branch of LGV Rhin-Rhone.
The 140km section

from Villiers Le Pots, near Genlis, Dijon, to Petit Croix, near Mulhouse on the French-Swiss border, has a line speed of 320kph (200mph) and cost €2.3 billion.

Extensions from Villiers Le Pots to Genlis (15km) and Petit Croix to Lutterbach (35km) on the outskirts of Mulhouse will complete this 190km route once funding has been agreed. The planned Western and Southern branches will provide direct LGV north and south facing connections from Dijon and the Eastern Branch to the existing LGV Sud Est from the Mediterranean to Paris, with onward links to the UK, and the Benelux countries.

New out of town stations have been built at Belfort-Montbéliard and Besançon with a new €20 million Technicentre Alsace at Mulhouse with servicing facilities for six TGV sets.

In addition to speeding up existing domestic services to Paris and between Strasbourg, Lyon and the Riviera, the line will open up new opportunities linking the south of France and Spain with southern Germany and north west Switzerland.

Daily services will operate from next year between Frankfurt, Lyon and Marseille, and also between Basle and the south of France, and SNCF has ordered 30



▲ SNCF Class 72/1 No. 72179 eases out of the new Technicentre Alsace on 10th December, for the final time with the stock of the 12.44 Mulhouse - Paris Wst.

Euro Duplex TGVs that will be capable of operating through to Germany, Switzerland and Spain. In addition, by 2015 the company will have refurbished the 60 Sud Est TGV sets that provide domestic services.

The new high-speed services will inevitably draw traffic from the existing routes that rely more on Regional TER services, particularly on the Mulhouse-

Belfort-Besançon-Lyon corridor. The loco-hauled Strasbourg to Lyon services have been withdrawn, and diesel-hauled services between Paris and Mulhouse on the former Paris to Basle line will now only operate as far as Belfort.

The two daily loco-hauled Brussels to Zurich services have been retimed for 200km running, with motive power now being provided by SNCF Class

26000 locomotives. This has brought to an end, the final duties for the remaining Strasbourg Class 15000s, a class that has been associated with express passenger workings in eastern France for nearly 40 years since their introduction in 1972. Following the change in diagrams, the remaining 15000s have been reallocated to duties around Normandie and Paris Nord.



▲ In preparation for the commencement of services over the new Rhin-Rhone LGV route on the following day, refurbished Sud Est TGV set No. 15 was exhibited at Mulhouse station on 10th December, resplendent in the latest SNCF Carillon livery.

▼ SBB dual-voltage Stadler shunter No. 922-016 draws SNCF Class 15000 No. 15022 into the SNCF platforms at Basle SBB station on 10th December, with the afternoon Zurich - Brussels service. This was the last occasion that a Class 15000 was scheduled to operate this service. **All: Peter Lovell**



► Prior to the commencement of a new freight flow, GBRf operated a series of route learning trips between Derby and Burton-upon-Trent, heading as far north as Lincoln and Barnetby. While four out of the five trips were operated by Class 66/7 No. 66739, Class 20/3s Nos. 20301 and 20304 were used for the final working. The '20s' had been operating around North Lincolnshire earlier in the week, on route learning duties into Immingham. Here, No. 20304 leads its classmate through Lowdham on 2nd December, with the Burton - Lincoln section of the diagram. **John Illingworth**

▼ With a clear blue sky forming the backdrop, the unique-liveried DB Schenker 'Switch on to Safety' Class 60 No. 60007 *The Spirit of Tom Kendall* passes Manea in Cambridgeshire, on the Peterborough to Ely route, working a retimed Peak Forest to Ely stone train. **Colin Makcrow**



UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

Monday 19th December 2011

Steam Dreams 60163 Basingstoke-Woking-Staines-West Hampstead-Norwich & return

Wednesday 21st December 2011Railway Touring Co. 70013 London Victoria-Hastings-London Victoria **Cancelled**
VSOE 35028 London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Staines-Woking-Guildford-East Croydon-Victoria**Thursday 22nd December 2011**

Steam Dreams 34067 London Victoria-Redhill-Tonbridge-Canterbury-Dover-Folkestone-Ashford-London

Wednesday 28th December 2011Railway Touring Co. 44871 & 5690 Manchester Victoria-Carlisle and return **Postponed****Thursday 29th December 2011**PTG Tours Ltd 60163 (Nottingham-Leicester)-Willesden Area-Rochester and return **Cancelled****Friday 30th December 2011**

UK Railtours 6024 London Paddington-Bicester-Banbury-Stratford upon Avon-Tyseley-Paddington

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL READERS**Saturday 7th January 2012**

VSOE 35028 London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Staines-Woking-Guildford-East Croydon-Victoria

Saturday 14th January 2012

Pathfinder Tours DBS Class 66 Bristol Parkway-Barnt Green-Coventry-Banbury-Didcot Power Station-Appleford Sidings-Bristol Parkway-Newport-Aberthaw PS-Barry-Bristol Parkway & return

Saturday 28th January 2012

Railway Touring Co. tbc Manchester Victoria-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-S&C-Blackburn-Manchester Victoria

Saturday 4th February 2012Railway 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**Railway Touring Co. 70013 or 45305 (London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)
Spitfire Railtours 2xDRS 37 Fort William-Crianlarich-Carlisle-Crewe-Stafford-Birmingham NS-Birmingham Intl.**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**Saturday 18th February 2012**

Railway Touring Co. 70013 or 45305 (London Euston-Northampton-Preston)-S&C-Carlisle-Shap-(Preston-Euston)

Saturday 25th February 2012Pathfinder 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-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-Didcot -)Hereford-Swindon-Oxford-Leamington Spa-Solihull-Birmingham Snow Hill-(loco change)-Oxford-Reading-London Paddington**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**As this will be the last railtour spotlight until mid-January, may we first of all wish every reader a Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year.**

Steam action dominates over the festive period, with four tours operating on the run up to Christmas Day, and then one important working before the end of year. Steam Dreams sets the ball rolling on 19th December when it takes No. 60163 *Tornado* from Basingstoke to Norwich, working via West London, Cambridge and Ely. Two days later and there should have been two mid/late morning departures from London Victoria, starting with No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* on Railway Touring Company's 'Sussex Belle' to Hastings, and back to London, however, this train has now been cancelled, leaving No. 35028 *Clan Line* (working as No. 35017 *Belgian Marine*) as the only steam working on 21st December, as it heads a VSOE British Pullman Christmas Luncheon train from the Capital, booked for the usual Surrey Hills route, via Guildford and Redhill.

Finally, Steam Dreams brings down the shutters on the pre-Christmas festivities with the 'White Cliffs Luncheon Circular' on 22nd December, with No. 34067 *Tangmere* booked to take the train via Canterbury and Deal (non-stop it is assumed) and then around the coastal route between Dover and Folkestone.

After Christmas there is something of a cracker, with a 'King' from Paddington to Stratford-upon-Avon, via the Chilterns. Just the thing to blow away the post-Christmas

by John Whitehouse

blues? This is a UK Railtours charter featuring No. 6024 *King Edward I* on the predictably titled 'William Shakespeare', which will take on Saunderton Bank en route to the home of the Bard. After the break, the feature will be tender-first working over the North Warwickshire Line to Tyseley, where after a reversal, the 'King' will again face the right way for the run back to Paddington. A fitting tour for No. 6024 to close 2011, as the locomotive is on the eve of withdrawal for overhaul in a few month's time.

There is little activity in the first two weeks of the New Year, with the exception of a VSOE British Pullman luncheon working around the Surrey Hills with No. 35028 *Clan Line* on 7th January, followed by Pathfinder's 'Abercot Generator' on 14th January, which as the name implies will be a good old Pathfinder track bash, calling into both Didcot and Aberthaw Power Stations. The train, which will be hauled by a DBS Class 66 starts the day at Bristol Parkway, and then works north via Cheltenham Spa and Birmingham New Street, before turning south to Didcot, then onwards to Birmingham International, Coventry, Leamington Spa, Banbury and Oxford. After a quick trip around the internal circuit at Didcot, the train then visits the Hansen-owned Appleford Sidings, before heading west via the requested goods loops at Steventon, Hullavington, Bristol Parkway and Cogan, then traversing one of the internal circuits at Aberthaw. The return to Bristol Parkway includes a trip over the Bishton Flyover. The train returns setting down as outwards.

When contacting railtour operators, please mention *Railway Herald***A full listing of all known steam and modern traction charters for 2012 is available on the dedicated Railtours section of our website by visiting****www.railwayherald.com/railtours**

ECML weekday steam is back - but only for DB Schenker

Network Rail says that following discussions with charter train operators, it has started to relax its rules on weekday steam operations on the East Coast Main Line.

Steam charters over the route were previously banned between London and the Scottish border on weekdays following the delays and severe disruption caused by a light engine movement from York to Southall in September. The movement of BR Standard 7MT Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* and SR 'King Arthur' No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*, brought chaos to the route when several lineside fires were started by the 'King Arthur', resulting in the movement being terminated at Newark Northgate and No. 30777 removed by road to Loughborough.

Discussions have been ongoing with the two steam operators, DB Schenker and West Coast Railway

Company, over how weekday steam is operated and can be managed on the ECML, and Network Rail says that several issues have now been resolved with DB Schenker that have provided NR with the confidence to allow steam operations. Sources have told *Railway Herald* that the main areas for discussion were related, in part, to Fitness To Run examinations and how such exams are carried out, together with traincrew assessment and competency issues.

The relaxing of the restrictions does not, however, apply to West Coast Railway Company at the present moment in time. Network Rail has confirmed that the company has submitted various information and documentation to support its case for a relaxation in its restrictions on operating weekday steam on the ECML, and says that it will be discussing the issue with WCRC further in the New Year.



▲ The ability for West Coast Railway to run over the core ECML route will be discussed with Network Rail in the New Year, meanwhile, the current restrictions remain in place. On 15th December, LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern*, still running in the guise of long-lost classmate No. 4492 *Dominion of New Zealand*, approaches Colton South Junction with RTC's 'York Yuletide Express' from Norwich, the steam conveniently blowing down to hide the diesel behind the A4! The train was routed from Peterborough, via Lincoln and Gainsborough to Doncaster, and then via Knottingley and Church Fenton, to York. Unusually, it was 'topped and tailed' by WCR Class 47s, with the steam purely added to the front. On this occasion, the second tender was not used following a recent problem with a hot box. **Paul Braybrook**

■ An unusual working between London Euston and Birmingham New Street has come to light; a special train chartered by Sky Go Movies is offering free travel to families as part of a promotion for the new Sky products. It is understood that it will be possible to watch films on board via a Wi-Fi connection by way of laptops and I-Pads. The train is booked to run on 22nd December, from Euston in the morning and back from New Street in the evening. Go to www.skyuser.com for more details of how to obtain free tickets. Quite what the train will consist of has yet to be clarified, both in terms of stock and traction.

■ Budgie Transport is a Lancashire-based travel firm specialising in canal-based holidays, but which in the past through its Residential Rail arm has sponsored steam trips. After a period absent from the charter scene the company has now announced two trips on 7th September under 'The Lancashire Circle' name. Two trains will operate, departing from Preston at around 09.15 and 14.30, picking up at Lancaster, Carnforth and Hellifield, before returning to Preston via Blackburn. There are a number of options - passengers can travel on both journeys or make use of a special coach transfer between Preston and Helifield, or vice-versa, to undertake just half of the trip. Traction is to be

confirmed, but most likely from the Carnforth pool. For further details, [click here](#).

■ Cruise Saver will again be operating trains from Scotland to Southampton Docks in 2012, to connect with cruise liner sailings. Trains will operate from Edinburgh Waverley and Glasgow Central, from the former picking up at Newcastle, Leeds and Derby and from the latter at Carlisle, Preston and Stockport. In all, 25 trains have been announced, all with balancing northbound workings at the end of each cruise, the first of which will operate from Edinburgh on 21st April, and then with trains each month through to 15th December, each connecting with a specific sailing operated by either Cunard or P&O Cruises.

■ The formal main line return of No. 46233 *Duchess of Sutherland* is now confirmed for the evening of Wednesday 28th March, with a 'Night Owl' working from Derby to Crewe, via Lichfield and the Trent Valley. The train will commence diesel-hauled from Hathersage at provisionally 16.20, and Chesterfield at 16.45. The steam departure from Derby will be around 17.45, with an estimated return arrival at 23.15. Fares range from £55 First Class to £45 Standard, and there will be a real ale bar and sandwiches available on the night. To book telephone 01773 743986 between 09.30 and 16.30.

RTC traverses rare routes for steam haulage

On the face of it, the Railway Touring Company's 'Lincolnshire Poacher' on 3rd March is a straight forward London King's Cross to Cleethorpes charter, except that this could not be further from the truth, as it is actually an exploration of some of the remoter lines of South Yorkshire!

With 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* in charge, the run to Retford is quite straight forward, picking up at Potters Bar, Stevenage, Huntingdon and Peterborough en route. However, at Retford, instead of travelling north over the East Coast Main Line, the train will delicately traverse the sharp curves that connect the ECML to the Worksop line at Whisker Hill Junction. It then continues via Shireoaks, to join the old South Yorkshire Joint Railway at Brancliffe East Junction, and heads north via Maltby Colliery, avoiding Doncaster and joining the old Manchester, Sheffield and Lincolnshire railway route via Scunthorpe, Barnetby and Grimsby to Cleethorpes.

The departure from the seaside resort will be diesel-hauled with No. 70013 at the back for a visit to the New Holland branch, where after a reversal, *Oliver Cromwell* will again take charge to return the train to Peterborough, via Market Raisen, Lincoln, Newark Northgate and Grantham. It then returns to King's Cross diesel hauled from Peterborough.

A week later, and Cleethorpes is the originating point for RTC's 'The Tynesider', headed again by No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, which additionally picks up at Grimsby, Barnetby, Scunthorpe, Crowle and Hatfield & Stainforth, before avoiding Doncaster to reach York, via Wakefield Kirkgate. The train heads north along the ECML

to set down at Durham and Newcastle, and has the option for passengers to stay on board for a run around the Blyth and Tyne. The return is steam-hauled to York, where a diesel will take over for the return to Cleethorpes. The following day, RTC offers a complete change of scenery and traction, with No. 34067 *Tangmere* scheduled to head out of London Waterloo to visit both Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads. The train is routed out along the South Western main line via Surbiton, picking up at Woking, Basingstoke and Salisbury, before turning north for Westbury and onto Bath Spa and Bristol. The same two destinations feature also in the company's 22nd March working from Three Bridges, again with *Tangmere*, which will call at Haywards Heath, Preston Park (for Brighton), Hove and Worthing before continuing via Fareham and Eastleigh to Salisbury, and then again north through Westbury.

March will be a busy period for No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, as it features in RTC's 'The Heart of Midlothian' on 17th March, and the 'Auld Reekie' on 24th March. The former starts diesel-hauled at Huddersfield, and picks up at Dewsbury, Leeds and York, where the steam section commences through to Edinburgh Waverley, following the ECML throughout. The return is diesel-hauled, leaving *Oliver Cromwell* in Edinburgh and in position for the following week's 'Auld Reekie', which operates outwards from Manchester Victoria to Edinburgh behind diesel traction, picking up at Bolton, Wigan North Western and Preston, before heading northwards over both Shap and Beattock. The return steam section mirrors this routing, with No. 70013 doing the honours throughout back to Manchester Victoria.



▲ Northern Belle-liveried Class 47/7 No. 47790 *Galloway Princess* passes Darmsden, near Needham Market on 13th December, with the 11.34 Norwich to Peterborough, via Ipswich, charter. **John Day**

▼ On 12th December, A1 Class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* passes between Chilworth and Gomshall in beautiful lighting conditions, with the 'Cathedrals Express' charter bound for Ely. **Yoshi Hashida**





Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* crosses the viaduct at Fareham with a charter to the Bath Christmas Market from Three Bridges on 10th December. **Greg Burrows**



Following a sponsorship deal, SR Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* has been renamed and renumbered as long-lost classmate No. 35017 *Belgium Marine* until the New Year. Here, the train approaches Ashford on a frosty morning with the 'Canterbury Christmas Lunch' charter from London Victoria to Canterbury West on 10th December. **David Heeney**



BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70000 *Britannia* passes through West Horndon with the 'Cathedrals Express' from Southend to Eastleigh on 10th December. **John Argent**

Learn to drive a steam locomotive at MOSI's Steam School

The Museum of Science & Industry, Manchester (MOSI) has begun a Steam School as one of several unique gift ideas.

Trainees on the Steam School will learn how to drive the historic *Agecroft No. 1* steam locomotive as well as its battery locomotive, and to shunt wagons around the Museum site (the former 1830 Liverpool Road station, the world's oldest passenger railway station). Other unusual gift ideas at MOSI include a photography workshop by acclaimed Manchester photographer Andrew Brooks on 10th January. The School will run from February, although tickets are available now for the experience as a gift for Christmas.

Railway Officer, Matthew Jackson, said: "It is a wonderful experience to drive a steam locomotive around this historically significant site. The sight and the smell of the steam on a cold

winter's day are evocative of another era, and you really get to appreciate the work involved in powering this magnificent piece of engineering. This is a unique gift for anyone who is intrigued by old machinery, trains or unusual forms of transport".

Agecroft No. 1 was used to shunt coal between Agecroft Colliery and Agecroft Power Station, and has recently been painstakingly restored by MOSI. The 28-ton loco was built in Newcastle in 1948 and can haul well over 1,000 tons. It was one of three Swinton-based locomotives used by the British Electrical Authority to service the power station until the early 1980s.

The MOSI Steam School will include two hours on the railway, a tour of MOSI's Power Hall, lunch, a photograph and certificate. To book, contact MOSI on 0161 6060169 or email steamschool@mosi.org.uk

Churnet Valley gala includes double-headed 'Black 5s' to Caudon Lowe

The major feature of the Churnet Valley Railway's steam gala booked for 25th/26th February will be the double-heading of 'Black 5s' over the steeply graded route to Caudon Lowe.

There will be two 'Black 5s' in attendance, as in addition to the already resident No. 44767 *George Stephenson*, the CVR will be hiring in No. 45379 from the Mid-Hants Railway for the occasion. The gala will also feature the debut of USATC S160 No. 6046 in preservation, while at the same time saying farewell to

large Prairie No. 5199, which will be returning to the Llangollen Railway after a three-year stay in North Staffordshire.

All trains to Caudon Lowe will be banked, and a demonstration freight train will make two round trips between Kingsley & Froghall and Leekbrook on both days. Also, both the locomotive and carriage works will be open to visitors.

Should you not feel able to wait that long, the CVR will also be operating two round trips from Kingsley & Froghall to Caudon Lowe on 28th & 29th December.



▲ Repairs to the NRMs LNER A3 Class Pacific No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* are progressing at Ian Riley's workshops at Bury. The additional work that has been discovered within the frames has added around £500,000 to the cost of the overhaul, but re-wheeling should take place in early January. The NRM Director, Steve Davies, says that he is committed to having the locomotive at the 'Fab4' event at Barrow Hill at the end of March, although at this stage, it is not known whether the 'A3' will be in steam or not. **Richard Tuplin**

Recognition for DPS and plea for help to finish *Tulyar*

The Deltic Preservation Society has won the Rail Express Modern Traction Award, presented as part of the Heritage Railway Association Annual Awards 2011.

The award has been given for working with 'Locomotion' at Shildon and the East Lancashire Railway to host the 'Deltic Gathering' celebrations that marked the 50th Anniversary of 'Deltic' locomotives, and in particular for bringing together the surviving seven locos at Shildon.

Peter Kenan, Secretary of the DPS, said it was an honour for the Society to receive the award and that thanks have been paid to all those involved, especially Martin Walker, the KOYLI Group and all the staff and volunteers at the NRM, Locomotion

and the East Lancashire Railway.

The Deltic Preservation Society undertake a major push to complete the restoration of No. 55015 *Tulyar* during 2012, which started back in April 1997. The society is particularly interested to hear from any reader who would like to lend a hand, specifically anyone with an electrical engineering background who would be willing to help rebuild the control cubicles. Alongside this work, the DPS is also preparing No. D9009 *Alycidon* for the National Network.

Any readers who are interested in helping, or in finding out more, should send an email to **Mike Hallam-Rudd**, the DPS Volunteer Liaison Officer, for further details.

Appeal launched to move Class 502 to a new home

The ex-Merseyrail Class 502 EMU, consisting of Motor Car 28361 and Driving Trailer 29896, which has been stored at Tebay for the past few years, has to find a new home, the landlord of the site having given the owning group notice to quit, as it is understood that the site has been sold.

The two-car EMU is owned by the Friends of the 502 Group, to whom ownership was passed from the National Railway Museum when the train was released from the National Collection in 2009, the NRM choosing the Great Eastern Class 306 instead.

A number of possible new sites are being investigated, with the aim of securing covered accommodation if possible, which would go a long way in arresting the deterioration of the unit over the years. However, a more immediate hurdle is the need to raise £4,000, which is the estimated cost of transporting the two vehicles to a new home, and an appeal for donations has been started. Details of how to donate can be found at www.Class502.org.uk.

The EMU is one of a class introduced by the LMS for services around Merseyside in 1939, and the fleet plied its trade through to 1980,

when the last of the class was withdrawn. One unit was claimed for the National Collection, as the class has some historical importance, and in time it was restored to LMS maroon livery and enjoyed some main line work during, and after the centenary of Mersey Rail operations in 1986. It was based at Southport's Steamport Depot, and remained active on the main line until 1989, when an overhaul became due.

This, unfortunately, was the start of a long decline, there being no money available for the overhaul and the conditions at Southport were not ideal and some structural deterioration set in. This was compounded when Steamport closed, and the only home for the Class 502 that could be found was open-air storage at Kineton. Its situation was crystalised in 2007, when Kineton gave the NRM notice to quit, which resulted in a re-evaluation as to how an EMU should be represented in the National Collection, with the Class 502, now in an even worse state of repair, being discarded.

Enter The Friends, whose society had been formed in 2007 with the express intention of restoring the Class 502 EMU, and now have that very daunting task ahead of them.



▲ With snow on the higher hills in the background, behind Cheltenham, 'Modified Hall' No. 7903 *Foremarke Hall* is seen from the top of Cleeve Hill as it makes a dramatic departure from Cheltenham Racecourse station on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway with a 'Santa Special' bound for Winchcombe on 18th December. **Jack Boskett**

During the last week of the 2011 RHTT season, Class 37/5 No. 37510 leads a Norwich to Lowestoft RHTT working through Buckenham on 9th December. **Colin Makcrow**





The partial demolition of the original GWR buildings is now underway at Reading as part of the refurbishment of the station. This was the scene on 14th December, with the original 1860 station building just visible on the left, as an unidentified FGW HST departs for the West Country. **Ken Brunt**



Class 67 No. 67022 approaches Crewe on 14th December, with Class 325s Nos. 325013, 325003 and 325007 in tow, as the mail working heads North from Willesden to Sheildmuir.
Chris Playfair

Three trains at Eastleigh are seen heading in the 'up' direction on 14th December, as Class 450/0 No. 450028 is overtaken by Class 444 No. 444033, and Class 59/2 59205 awaits the road for the Romsey route. The platform canopies and footbridge are being refurbished at present. **Ian Docwra**



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. £3 Admission. Contact 01522 705365 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.

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 & Chickens, Flannel St, Abergavenny. 'The History of Oakwood Press'. Starts 20.00. Contact Ken Mumford on 01793 335862.

GW 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 Loco Society

St Peter's Church Hall, Free Street, Bishops Waltham. 'Members' Slides'. Starts 20.00. £2 admission. Contact John Barrowdale on 02392 640951.

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. Starts 19.00. Contact Alan Norris on 01252 315967 for details.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)

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

Stephenson Loco Society

Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teesside TS15 9JW. 'History of the Rosedale Railway' by Wayne Barnacal. Starts 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 GU1 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 Entry. Contact Neville Bond on 01925 226473.

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 welcome. Contact 01785 840622.

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. £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 & Photo 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, Farnedale Avenue, Northallerton. 'AGM & DVD Extravaganza' by Ted Parker. Starts 19.30. £1.50 Admission. Contact Ian McInnes on 01642 767233 for further details

RCTS (Ashford)

The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Archive Video' by Tony Endersby. Starts 19.30. Contact southeast@rcets.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.

▼ After its stay in the West Country, Class 142 No. 142001 is one of those that has recently returned to Northern Rail, and seen here with classmate No. 142040, on the rear of the 09.48 Wigan to Rochdale service on 16th December. **Phil Wallis**



Stephenson Locomotive Society

Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'Swanning Around - The London Rail Scene 1987-1993' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

Warwickshire Railway Society

Lamp Tavern P.H., Barford Street, Highgate, Birmingham B5 6AH. 'Rambling around the Regions - Pre 1968 - UK Steam' by Richard Ike. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Don Taggart on 01746 710676 for further details.

5th January 2012 RCTS (Milton Keynes)

The Crown, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'Branch AGM' followed by 'Members' Presentations'. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire) /LRTA

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Russian Trams and Tramways' by Mike Russell. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact 02380 670028 for details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society

Function Room, Weston super Mare Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare, BS23 1QX. 'British Railways in Black and White' by Mike Goodfield. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. £1 Admission. Contact 01934 628289 for details.

4th January 2012 Burton Railway Society

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent DE14 3BG. 'Archive Film Show - Steam in the 50s & 60s' by Michael Clemens. Starts 19.30. £2 Admission. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537.

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.

RCTS (Preston)

Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'British Railways from the late 1970s to 2006 with Steam and Diesel' by Graham Roose. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)

Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL. 'Scotland's Railways in the 1970s' by Ken Falconer. Starts 19.30. Contact Dr Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

St John's Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendall LA9 4LL. 'Sir William Tite & The Lancaster & Carlisle Railway' by Gordon Biddle. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the Secretary on 01539 720706 for further details.

6th January 2012**Cambridge Rly Circle**

Arbury Community Centre, Campkin Road, Cambridge CB4 2LD. 'An East Anglian Miscellany' by Richard Adderson (TBC). Meeting commences at 19.30.

Gloucestershire**Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham)**

St Laurence Pastoral Centre, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham B31 2LX. 'Members' Miscellany'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact David French on 07791 770595 for further details.

RCTS (Bristol)

St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'Post War Years on the St Pancras District' by Arthur Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Carnforth)

County Hotel, Lancaster Road, Carnforth. 'The Lancaster and Carlisle Railway' by Peter Robinson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Travels in the 'Perilous' Realms - Preserved Railways in the South of England' by George Falkner. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 688946 for further details.

Stephenson Loco Society

The Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough TS1 5NQ. 'Miniature Railways - 1860 to the Present' by Derek Humphreys. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01642 313451 for further details.

9th January 2012**Driffell & East Yorkshire Rly Society**

The Sidings, Middle Street South, Driffell, East Riding of Yorkshire. YO25 6PX. DVD and slide show. Starts 19.30 £2 donation. All welcome. Contact the Secretary 01377 254068 for further details

Plymouth Rly Circle

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

RCTS (East Croydon)

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

RCTS (Ipswich)

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

RCTS (Northampton)

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

RCTS (Sheffield)

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

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton)

Old Wulfunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton WV3 8NA. 'AGM: Miscellany - Accidents & More' by Brian Arman, Robin Jordan. Starts 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex)

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

Stephenson Loco Society

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

York Railway Circle

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

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

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

GW Society (Bristol)

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

Meon Valley**Locomotive Society**

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

RCTS (Nottingham)

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

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)

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

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

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

Oxfordshire Rly Society

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

RCTS (Cardiff)

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

RCTS (Hitchin)

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

Stephenson Loco Society

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

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)

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

12th January 2012**Bath Railway Society**

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

Continental Rly Circle (London & Home Counties)

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

Ffestiniog Rly (Bristol)

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

Monmouthshire**Railway Society**

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

RCTS (Newcastle)

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

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

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

GCR Leicester Area Grp

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

GW Society (Swindon)

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

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

GWR 'Castle' No. 5043 Earl of Mount Edgcumbe catches the late morning sun as it leaves Milford tunnel and heads for Belper with 'The Christmas White Rose' excursion from Tyseley Warwick Road to York on 17th December. Frank Lees

Magazine Information**Editorial Address:**

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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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