

Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

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Website

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

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A Festival of Steam on the Severn Valley

The Severn Valley Railway held its 'Festival of Steam' gala over the 6th-8th March, featuring a wide variety of visiting steam motive power including *Sir Nigel Gresley*, *Oliver Cromwell*, *Duke of Gloucester* and *Nunney Castle*.

See the action
on Page 16

News Highlights



5 Circle line stops being a circle!

From December, London Underground's Circle Line will no longer be going around in circles! The route is to be extended to Hammersmith and run clockwise to Edgware Road.

11 Royal '47' back on the mainline

After being presented by EWS to the National Collection, the Royal Class 47 No. 47798 *Prince William*, which has been stored at Carnforth, returned to mainline passenger work on 7th March.

Hull Interchange opens

HM The Queen officially opened the new rail/bus interchange at Hull on 5th March, after having arrived in the city on the Royal Train.

[Click here to read the story on Page 3](#)

Stock movements

To support the new Thameslink timetable, several short-term stock moves are to take place to cover for the late delivery of new vehicles.

[Click here to read the story on Page 4](#)

Kingmoor Open Day

DRS has announced that an Open Day is to take place at Carlisle Kingmoor on 11th July, tickets are by application only.

[Click here to read the story on Page 7](#)

Worldwide Report

News and pictorial events from around the globe with specific reference to North America and Europe.

[Click here for World News on Page 19](#)

Essentials

9 Railtours & Excursions

News from the charter scene, with comprehensive tour listings.

22 Diary

The dates of slide shows and information presentations.

Front Cover Caption:

Wearing full NXEC white and grey livery, Class 43s Nos. 43317 and 43319 pass Middleton, near Belford, on 7th March. **Richard Tuplin**

Shotton refurbishment commences

Work to modernise run-down Shotton station gets underway this week. The £1.5 million revamp will include platforms being resurfaced and new waiting shelters being fitted, the installation of automatic ticket vending machines and a wheel ramp to help cyclists carrying bicycles over stairs.

The signage is also to be improved, and chicanes will be installed on access ramps to higher-level platforms to give pedestrians right of way. The footpath from the higher-level to lower-level platform will also be widened. The work is being funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, and will be carried out by Arriva Trains Wales and Network Rail.

Work to build a new ticket office and waiting room on the higher-level platform will start in February 2010, subject to the regional transport partnership body for North Wales getting funding from the Assembly government. Shotton is the only station in Wales taking part in a Department of Transport scheme to increase non-car travel links to railway stations.

A recent study found that, apart from Wrexham, it has the highest number of people living within 5km anywhere in North Wales. An exhibition of the work is on display at the station ticket office from 07.30 to 10.30 until 20th March.

Laurenkirk on track for May opening

Progress is continuing to be made towards the reopening of Laurencekirk station, Network Rail proposing that the official opening will take place on 18th May.

The building, which seemed to be being pulled apart, is now being put together again to the preservation and heritage specifications of the original building, and once finished the interior will be painted in the Caledonian blue and light cream as before. The

exterior walls will be painted an ivory colour to make it stand out. The stone foundations for the ramps at either side of the footbridge are being built; they are attractive and a considerable improvement on the metal provision in the original plans.

Overall, the station is looking good, and by May should be complete and ready for passengers to travel from Laurencekirk, both north and south, with 10 choices of trains stopping each way from Monday to Saturday.

SPT to spend £5 million on developing new 'Park & Ride' schemes in Scotland

Strathclyde Partnership for Transport (SPT) has been allowed to bring forward £5 million of capital spend from its allocation for 2010/11 to this coming financial year to develop more Park and Ride projects in the west of Scotland.

The three hugely successful Subway Park and Ride sites at Glasgow Shields Road, Bridge Street and Kelvinbridge are used by over 300,000 vehicles every year, and Shields Road has won awards for excellence from transport agencies. Locations of further sites are to be announced.



Hull Transport Interchange opens

HM The Queen and HRH The Duke of Edinburgh visited Hull on 5th March for a series of engagements in the city, the first being the unveiling of a plaque at the newly-refurbished Transport Interchange, which sees rail and local/regional bus services brought together in a modern setting. The Royal party arrived on the Royal Train worked by dedicated Class 67s Nos. 67005 *Queen's Messenger* and 67006 *Royal Sovereign*. All: Richard Tuplin



Major work unveiled for Birmingham New Street

Birmingham New Street station is to have a £600 million face-lift by 2014.

After over five years of preliminary planning, international design consultancy Atkins in collaboration with Foreign Office Architects (FOA) will be the joint designers of the station, to be renamed as the New Street Gateway.

When New Street station was rebuilt in 1967, it was designed to cater for 60,000 passengers a day; now, it must accommodate twice that amount. With 60% of trains travelling between London and the north of England passing through it, the complex serves 35 million passengers each year, and these numbers are expected to grow to approximately 53 million.

The New Street Gateway is designed to handle increasing passenger numbers for 30 to 40 years into the future, with the capacity to accommodate high-speed rail facilities if necessary. As part of the redevelopment, the concourse will be expanded by three-and-a-half times its original size and will be enclosed by a giant light-filled atrium.

Platforms will become brighter, cleaner and more accessible, serviced by 42 new escalators and 14 new lifts. Better links into and through the station will be created with eight new entrances to the building, and the areas around the station regenerated.

Makeover for Bolton

A £4 million overhaul of passenger facilities at Bolton station to improve waiting areas, passenger information and security has been announced.

The work includes a new concourse area and improvements to passenger facilities on the platforms, and is scheduled to start on

site this autumn, with a hopeful completion by spring 2010.

Over £2 million has already been spent on the major refurbishment of Bolton Interchange, the work including upgrading the rail overbridge, refurbishing the lifts and providing enhanced lighting, floor finishes, handrails and redecoration.



In preparation for the stock shuffle, testing has been undertaken on the Southern network, with London Midland's Class 350/1 'Desiro' No. 350114, pictured here at Clapham Junction on 6th March. Brian Morrison

All aboard for the latest game of musical trains on the National Network

The prize in this latest game? Well, commuters in the south-east may still get to work ... but the train you are travelling in may not be working for the operating company you think it is!

Problems with the delivery of new Class 377 Electrostars from Bombardier Derby, caused by outside suppliers of parts going out of business due to the recession, is to result in a cascade of trains between rail operators across the south-east of London to allow key work on Thameslink to begin on 22nd March, to keep the programme on schedule.

First Capital Connect (FCC) was due to receive 23 new four-car Electrostars to help operate a new timetable from 22nd March, closing the Thameslink route Moorgate branch, allowing Network Rail to close three platforms at Blackfriars and start rebuilding the station to take 50% longer, 12-coach trains, which is a key part of the £5.5 billion programme to reduce overcrowding on the Thameslink route from Bedford to Brighton. However, the first train could not be delivered to the Thameslink route operator until 27th February – three and a half months late – and only two more are due for delivery in time for 22nd March. The remainder are promised to arrive by the summer.

In response, the Department for Transport has triggered a cascade of coaching stock involving Southern and Southeastern to ensure that there is enough replacement rolling stock to operate the 22nd March timetable. FCC has said that there is an increase in the risk of potential disruption because there will be fewer

spare trains (three instead of 10) than were originally planned to cover train failures and the loaned trains would be operating on unfamiliar infrastructure. Farringdon station will already have many more passengers interchanging with the Tube following the closure of the FCC Thameslink route branch line to Barbican and Moorgate as part of the new timetable, and train failures could create more rush-hour congestion there.

In the short term, Southern is providing eight Class 377/2 Electrostars from its existing fleet to make up for shortfalls in the Bombardier delivery schedule; Southeastern is also providing four Class 465/466 units to temporarily run four services a day into and out of City Thameslink, releasing four Class 319s from services to work on the Thameslink route from Bedford to Brighton; FCC is temporarily postponing planned refurbishment activities on its 319 fleet to increase the number of units available to run on the route.

The cascade, while solving the problems for First Capital Connect, creates issues for Southern, which will have a unit shortfall. The result is that London Midland is to loan some of its Class 350 Desiros to fellow Govia operator Southern for the latter's East Croydon to Milton Keynes services.

However, all joking aside, 10 out of 10 to the organisations and TOCs involved in the switch-around that allows the new timetable to come into effect – at least on this occasion it is not just the easiest option that has been chosen to the detriment of passengers.

Commuters could be offered a discounted ticket offer for Kent high-speed commuter trial

Commuters taking early advantage of the high-speed rail link into London may be able to do so for a period at reduced rates.

The Hitachi Class 396 'Javelin' trains will begin running to St Pancras International for a trial service in the summer, and passengers boarding at Ebbsfleet will be able to take advantage of the service first, before a limited service starts from Ashford International – and Southeastern says it may look to get passengers to give the trains a try with some discount fares. This won't last, however, and by the time

the full service is introduced on 13th December, it is anticipated the fares will be up to 35 % higher than existing rates.

Sarah Boundy of Southeastern, said: "Our aim is to start preview services between Ebbsfleet and St Pancras and then it is likely that at a later date we will be able to add a limited service in the morning and afternoon to and from Ashford. The price for the full service year has not yet been set and it is likely that we will not say what the price will be until a lot nearer the time. We will decide what we charge for the preview services at the time."

Decision on listed status for Trimley station awaited

Campaigners are waiting to hear if Trimley station on the Felixstowe branch will be saved from the bulldozers and recognised as part of the country's architectural heritage.

Network Rail wants to demolish the 1891-built station because it is said that its current condition means it is too dangerous to leave standing and too expensive to maintain - and would cost some £100,000 to repair.

However, council officers

at Suffolk Coastal believe that the Victorian building merits consideration for listing by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport because of the quality of its architecture, and its historical value. It is the only surviving country station from the old Great Eastern Railway, and is older than Felixstowe Town station, which is Grade 2-listed.

The council has now asked the Government to list the station - and ministry officials have six months to decide.

Metro and Light Rail News

Not quite a circular service!

London Underground's Circle Line is having an extension added to its orbital route around the City and West End in a major transport revamp.

Trains will no longer be just 'going round in circles' but will have a fixed starting point at Hammersmith, the aim being to increase reliability and capacity on the District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines with which it shares tracks.

The Circle, first completed in 1894, runs without a fixed starting point, linking most of London's rail terminals, but from December, trains will start at Hammersmith and run along the

Hammersmith & City tracks through Shepherd's Bush to Edgware Road, then join the current Circle route clockwise to Liverpool Street, Aldgate and Victoria, back to Edgware Road and terminate after making a single loop. They will then reverse and run anti-clockwise back to Victoria, Aldgate and Edgware Road, returning to Hammersmith.

This doubles the number of trains between Edgware Road and Hammersmith but also means that passengers between South Kensington and Baker Street on the present loop will have to change at Edgware Road.

Jubilee Signalling

London Underground's Jubilee Line has begun training courses for signallers to learn how to maintain the new signalling system, which is currently being installed along the route to provide faster, more frequent passenger services.

The training covers: how to protect and maintain the new equipment, including cables laid along the track, axle counters, control centre computers and computers located in stations along the whole line; possible faults that may occur and how to find and fix them; ensuring the signals open platform edge doors correctly when trains arrive in stations along the Jubilee Line extension, and operating the central control systems which will run the whole line.

Fleet teams are also being trained to maintain the core signalling equipment that is now contained on the trains rather than along the track or in central control centres. While operational employees learn about the computer-based system that will replace the electro-mechanical equipment that currently ensures safe train movements, upgrade teams are continuing to install and test the new system. The Jubilee Line heralds the first time anyone has tried equipping an existing railway with such sophisticated equipment – while a full service continues to run. Both systems need to be operational at the same time. The training courses will run until the autumn to ensure that all Jubilee Line signallers have the qualifications they need to run the line when the upgrade is completed in December.



▲ The new look Tower Gateway terminus on 2nd March. **Kim Rennie**

Tower Gateway reopens ahead of schedule

On 2nd March, the refurbished Tower Gateway station on the Docklands Light Railway re-opened, well ahead of schedule.

Improvements costing £13 million have been made to the station, which had been closed for eight months. These include: the construction of a horseshoe-style platform, which makes it easier and faster for passengers to get on or off trains; platform and track remodelling, to allow longer three-car trains to operate from early 2010; the installation of new canopies that provide better protection from adverse weather conditions, and new energy-efficient escalators. The work was the first in a series of improvements being finished this year to pave the way for the introduction of three-car DLR trains before the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

New Government company to oversee stock purchases

Transport Minister Lord Andrew Adonis has announced that his Department has set up a new company to oversee the early procurement of 202 new diesel train carriages costing around £300 million.

The company, Diesel Trains Limited, has been set up as part of the Chancellor's pre-budget review announced in November last, which will see an extra £1 billion dedicated to accelerating major transport projects.

The new DMUs are due to relieve overcrowding in the Thames Valley, around Bristol and on longer distances in northern England. The trains are set to enter service by 2012, subject to negotiations with First Great Western, TransPennine Express and Northern Rail.

However, the Department for Transport makes clear that it does not intend to be a long-term owner of trains and the new company is not intended to compete with other rolling stock leasing companies. To ensure this is the case, the DfT will invite the market to bid either for the company or for the assets and related contracts within it, and to take on the ownership and leasing of the trains. A successful bidder to build the new DMUs is expected to be announced next month.



▲ This was the 09.30 Liverpool Street - Norwich service, which propelled by No. 90005, failed at Stratford with power problems on 5th March. After setting down the passengers at Stratford, it then staggered on to Ilford to await rescue from Cotswold Rail Class 47/4 No. 47818 Emily. Here the train passes Parsons Heath 'ECS' en route from Ilford to Norwich Crown Point. **Antony Guppy**

West Hampstead upgrade work

Camden Council has given the go-ahead for work to start on reshaping West Hampstead station and Network Rail can now build a new footbridge with step-free access to the Thameslink platforms.

It will allow disabled people, parents with prams and buggies and people with luggage easier access to the trains, and marks the first phase of work on the interchange project that has been 20 years on the drawing board! However, residents are now worried that surrounding streets will not be able to cope with wheelchairs and prams, and will make the area more dangerous for pedestrians.

In the past, there have been numerous injuries as people have scrambled to cross the roads near the overground and underground stations, and Network Rail and Camden Council are being urged to take action to widen the pavements before the bridge opens later this year.

UK News In Brief

● Filey has been chosen to test a new safety system for railway crossings, which could have averted the accident at West Knpton, on the line between Scarborough and Malton. The new Radar-style technology, which would be the first of its kind to be used in Great Britain, works on the principle of detecting obstacles on the line once the barriers are lowered. It then triggers a changing of the signals to stop trains passing. The level crossing next to Filey station has been chosen to pilot test the equipment in a trial that is part of ongoing efforts by Network Rail to improve the safety of railway crossings throughout Britain.

■ Blaming the recession, the Wrexham Shropshire & Marylebone Railway is cutting the number of its weekday services. The 'least popular' 15.23 and 17.23 Wrexham to Marylebone and the 10.17 and 12.17 from London have been stopped, but weekend trains are unaffected. The cuts mean that people travelling from Wrexham General will now only have three trains in each direction on weekdays to choose from.

■ Transport Scotland has announced that a new peak-hours direct train from Alloa to Edinburgh and return is to begin in May, the service running Mondays

to Fridays. The new route comes in response to higher than anticipated numbers of travellers using the rail link, which reopened in May last year after 40 years. Some 400,000 people are expected to use the line this year, more than twice the number originally thought, and about a quarter of the journeys will be to Edinburgh. The new trains will depart from Alloa at 07.38, arriving in Edinburgh at 08.45, with the evening return departing at 17.33, arriving at Alloa at 18.42.

■ Blackburn, together with Darwen Council, is in talks with Northern Rail and Network Rail about a new state-of-the-art

station being built in Darwen. Funding of some £500,000 has already been earmarked for the project, and the proposed building will feature a manned ticketing office, improved passenger information and a waiting area that will replace the two shelters in the existing station. Final designs are still to be drawn up. Since the late 1980s, the station has been unmanned. However, there has been investment at the station in recent years, which has included the installation of CCTV cameras covering the car park, walkways and platforms, new planters and signage and improvements to landscaping and fencing.

■ First Great Western is running 25 extra trains to meet passenger demand over the four-day Cheltenham Festival. Huge crowds are expected to descend on the event, taking place at Cheltenham Racecourse from 10th to 13th March, and people are being urged to book seats free of charge when they buy their tickets. Three additional services will run from Paddington to Cheltenham each morning with three extra making the return journey each evening, except Friday when four more trains will run as the festival draws to a close. A large fleet of buses will be on hand to take racegoers to and from the racecourse.



Northern Charters

PROUDLY PRESENT

THE AYR BRUSH. Sat 06 June 2009

Join us on board this very special train from Crewe via the W C M L to Glasgow Central and Ayr.

We will be departing Crewe at approx 07.30 calling at Warrington Bank Quay, Wigan North Western, Preston, and Carlisle. We have requested free time in Glasgow of approx 3 – 4 hours for those not wishing to travel on to Ayr.

Traction will be 2x AC Locomotives throughout, provided by the AC Locomotive Group. Utilising the Rail Blue Charters MK11 stock, to provide, a high standard of comfort, and that, authentic "Rail Blue Era" experience.

Fares for this special train are First Class £74.00 Adult, £69.00 Child. A supplement for a private table for two in First Class £15.00 per table (limited basis). Std Class £59.00 Adult, £49.00 Child. Special Standard Class only fare for passengers Joining at Carlisle £49.00. Also 5% Discount for all Rail Staff on production of Valid Railway Staff ID.

PART OF ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS TRAIN WILL BE DONATED TO RAILWAY CHARITIES

Buffet Car and Draft Real Ale Bar available on Train

To Book Please Contact Northern Charters on 01925813182 or send Chqs postal orders payable to Northern Charters to 56 Lincoln Close, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 4LU.

E Mail Enquiries to info@northerncharters.co.uk. Or web link www.northerncharters.co.uk



July Open Day for DRS at Carlisle Kingmoor TMD

Direct Rail Services has announced that it is to hold an open day event in July.

The event, which will take place at the company's Carlisle Kingmoor depot on 11th July will be open to ticket holders only.

Readers can visit the new DRS website at

www.directrailservices.com

and apply for tickets online. All tickets will be randomly selected after the closing date on 12th June. Alternatively applications can be made by post to Direct Rail Services Ltd, Open Day 2009 Application, Kingmoor Depot, Etterby Road, Carlisle, Cumbria, CA3 9NZ.

Postal Applications must

state clearly the applicants full name, full postal address and telephone contact number and whether it is a single or family ticket that is required.

Applications for family tickets must include all names of the family group. Please note that there is a maximum of two adults and two children under 16 within family groups.

New ticket office for London Euston

▼ Work is now at an advanced stage on the new ticket office for London Euston station, which is scheduled to open later in the year. This new office will replace the existing ticket windows on the concourse. This was the view on 9th March. **Chris Dixon**



The News In Pictures

◀ With several members of the DRS Class 20/3 pool stored following the end of the 2008 Sandite season, Nos. 20303 & 20304 head north through Preston with a Crewe to Sellafield 'flask' working on 5th March. **Mick Langton**

◀ Several long-withdrawn Class 56 locomotives are currently stored in the old sorting sidings at Healey Mills in West Yorkshire. Pictured on 28th February are Class 08 No. 08665 with Class 56s Nos. 56033, 56041, 56048, 56053, 56055, 56056, 56068, 56072, 56079, 56093, 56099, 56110, 56116, 56119 and 56134. **Brad Joyce**

▶ The unusual combination of a pair of two-car Class 466 Networkers Nos. 46606 & 466034 at New Eltham on 6th March, form the 14.48 Southeastern service from Cannon Street to Dartford, via Sidcup. This is normally a Cannon Street-Cannon Street roundabout service via Sidcup and Woolwich Arsenal. **Brian Morrison**



UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

12th March

Pathfinder Tours 60163 The Tyne Tornado(Cardiff Central-Bristol Parkway-Barnt Green-Birmingham New St-Coleshill Parkway-Burton on Trent)-York-Durham-Newcastle(break)-Durham-York-(& return)

14th March

Railway Touring Company 60007 Bridgnorth-Kidderminster-Stourbridge Junction-Tame Bridge Parkway-Walsall-Tamworth-Nottingham-Newark-Lincoln (& return)
 Railway Touring Company 70013 London Victoria-Headcorn- Ashford-Folkestone East-(Folkestone Hbr)-Folkestone East-(Folkestone Hbr) (twice)-Folkestone Hbr-Ashford-Canterbury West-Margate-Faversham-London Victoria

15th March

Past Time Rail 45407/76079 Manchester Victoria-Peak Forest-Buxton (break/rev) & return

20th March

VSOE 35028 London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Staines-Woking-Reigate-Redhill-East Croydon-Clapham Jct-London Victoria

21st March

Hastings Diesels Ltd Hastings DEMU Hastings-St. Leonards-Tunbridge Wells-Tonbridge-Redhill-Guildford-Havant-Fareham-Eastleigh-Romsey-Salisbury & return
 Railway Touring Company 70013 Norwich-London Liverpool Street-Lowestoft **Postponed**

22 March

Past Time Rail 45407 Manchester Victoria-Standedge-Copy Pit-Blackburn-Manchester Victoria

28 March

Compass Tours 2xRiveria 47 Blackburn-Chorley-Bolton-Manchester Piccadilly-Stockport-Macclesfield-Nuneaton-Windsor & Eton Riverside & return
 Pathfinder Tours 2xDBS 37 Nottingham-Leicester-Nuneaton-Barnt Green-Cheltenham Spa-Newport-Cardiff-Pontyclun-Bridgend-Marchgam Goods Lines (rev)-Ogmore Vale Ext-Tondu (rev)-Bridgend-Aberthaw-Ebbw & Park Jcts-Machen (to NR limit/rev)-Uskmouth (NR Limit/rev) (Cl.60 tnt)-Newport (Cl.08/09) & return (revised itinerary)
 Railway Touring Company 6233 (Worcester Shrub Hill-Kidderminster-Stourbridge Junction-Birmingham New St- Crewe-Hellifield (break))-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Penrith-Shap-Preston-(& return)
 UK Railtours 2xDBS 67 Cambridge-Finsbury Park-Ealing Broadway-Slough-Taunton-Norton Fitzwarren-Minehead & return
 Vintage Trains 5043 Solihull-Banbury-Oxford-Chippenham-Bath Spa-Bristol TM and return
 Past Time Rail 76079/45407 Manchester Victoria-Chinley-Sheffield(break)-Meadowhall-Barnsley-Penistone-Huddersfield-Hebden Bridge-Rochdale-Manchester Victoria

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

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.

RED Tours cancelled by the operator

GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator

BLUE Provisional excursion

WCRC West Coast Railway Company

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

The Week Ahead

Will it be or won't it be, that is the question? The answer? The last charter down the branch to Folkestone Harbour, of course.

Whichever is the answer, and the bookies will probably be offering evens for each outcome, the visit of No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* to Folkestone Harbour on 14th March with the Railway Touring Company's 'Golden Arrow' is without doubt the tour of the week. Departing from London Waterloo the train travels to the coast via Orpington, Tonbridge, Paddock Wood, Headcorn and Ashford. The final approach to the Harbour from Folkestone East will be diesel hauled to position the 'Britannia' on the front for the return ascents of the fearsome 1 in 30 incline.

RTC has advised that there will be two 'dummy' departures leaving at 11.25 and 12.00, with the 'actual' departure timed for 13.09. However, other timings indicate just one 'dummy' departure, therefore any change from two 'dummy' departures will be detailed in our railtour listings on the Railway Herald website. After the final departure, the train continues diesel-hauled from Folkestone East to Ashford, where after a further reversal No. 70013 again takes charge to Canterbury West for a layover prior to the return to Waterloo via

Minster, Ramsgate, Whitstable, Faversham and the Medway Towns. The tour also rekindles memories of the time when 'Britannias' ruled the roost on 'Golden Arrow' workings between 1951 and 1958, when Nos. 70004 *William Shakespeare* and 70014 *Iron Duke* were transferred to Stewarts Lane specifically for that purpose.

It is a busy day for RTC, as the company is also co-promoter, together with the Severn Valley Railway Association, of 'The Severn Valley Limited' on 14th March, which is designed to return 'A4' No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* back from the SVR to the NYMR after starring in last weekend's 'Festival of Steam'. The steam section of the tour features through running from the SVR, as the train originates at Bridgnorth, to Lincoln and then after a break, onwards to Doncaster, where a diesel takes over for the return to the Midlands. The outward route is via Kidderminster, Old Hill, Bescot, Walsall, Water Orton, Tamworth, Nottingham and Newark to Lincoln, and then onwards through Gainsborough Lea Road to Doncaster.

Pathfinder take a now rare solo foray into the world of steam-hauled charters on Thursday 12th March with the 'Tyne Tornado', which features 'A1' No. 60163 *Tornado* on its now familiar territory between York and Newcastle. The

tour provides an opportunity for those in the South West to join in on the Tornado phenomenon, as it starts diesel-hauled from Cardiff Central, picking up at Newport, Gloucester, Cheltenham Spa, Coleshill Parkway and Burton-on-Trent, with courtesy road coach connections to Gloucester from Bristol Parkway and Cam and Dursley, together with service train connections to Coleshill Parkway from Barnt Green and Birmingham New Street.

Sunday 15th March heralds the first of three planned 'Buxton Spa Expresses' for Past Time Rail, which have 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407 operating outwards from Manchester Victoria to Buxton via Stockport, Hazel Grove and Chapel-en-le-Frith. The return follows the freight route to Great Rocks Junction and Peak Forest, and then back to Manchester Victoria via Chinley and New Mills.

Later in the week, Past Time has three diesel-hauled trains from London Euston to Cheltenham Spa for this year's horse racing festival, which is one of the major events in the horse racing calendar. The trains operate on 10th, 11th & 13th March, and run via the West Coast Main Line as far as Nuneaton then operating via Water Orton, Camp Hill and Bromsgrove. These trains are being operated on behalf of Totesport.

Up-to-date Railtour listings are available 24 hours a day at www.railwayherald.com

Railway Touring Company announce 'The Snowdonia and Northern Fells' six-day holiday

Always innovative, the Railway Touring Company has put together a package, which for £1,050 provides six days of steam action in some of the most scenic parts of the country.

Building on its extensive experience of organising overseas tours, RTC is now looking to apply the same principles in the UK. Under the heading of 'The Snowdonia and Northern Fells', it will be offering four days of mainline steam action plus visits to four narrow gauge lines in North Wales.

The first tour operates from 31st July, when everyone meets up at Chester, which provides an opportunity to explore the city. Next day there is a coach transfer to Liverpool Lime Street to join the 'Cumbrian Mountain Express', which is northbound over Shap and returns to Liverpool via the Settle & Carlisle.

After returning to Chester for the night, Sunday provides a trip to Holyhead aboard the 'North Wales Coast Express'. Sunday night

is spent in Bangor ahead of a superb day on Monday that consists of an ascent of Snowdon on the Snowdon Mountain Railway in the morning, followed by a trip along the recently extended Welsh Highland Railway, in the afternoon from Caernarfon.

Tuesday commences with a coach transfer to Machynlleth to join the 'Cambrian' throughout to Pwllheli and then back to Porthmadog. The Ffestiniog Railway is next, travelling the full length of the line to Blaenau Ffestiniog prior to a coach transfer to Llandudno for the final overnight stop. Wednesday morning starts with a trip on the Great Orme Railway, before transferring to the Town station to join the 'Welsh Mountaineer' for a return to Blaenau Ffestiniog, but this time along the Conwy Valley line. The six-day extravaganza concludes with the return to either Chester or Crewe on the 'Welsh Mountaineer'.

A further tour with the same itinerary is due to operate from 21st August.

First railtour for Class 97/3 locos announced

Two years ago a group of local Network Rail employees organised a railtour that visited several branches in and around the Bristol area.

Known as 'The Bristol Coal Stone Haul', it was both successful and contributed a lot of money to the Railway Children Charity. The good news is, especially for the Railway Children's Charity, that they are at it again! The team, which work in the Bristol Panel Box or Swindon's Integrated Control Centre, have organised 'The Cambrian Mountaineer' on 9th May, the highlight of which will be the first use of a Network Rail Class 97/3 on a passenger train.

For good measure, the Fifty Alliance's

Class 50 No. D444 *Exeter* will lead the train from Swindon, picking up at Chippenham, Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads, before heading north to Shrewsbury via Cheltenham Spa, Birmingham New Street and Wolverhampton.

At Shrewsbury the Class 97/3 will be attached for its historic run via Welshpool and Machynlleth to Aberystwyth. The return will be hauled by the Class 50 throughout, with the Class 97/3 being detached at Shrewsbury, and will head home via Coventry, Leamington Spa, Banbury and Oxford to complete what promises to be an excellent circular day out. Spitfire Railtours is acting as booking agents for the tour.

▼ On the return working of its Scottish visit, Class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* crosses the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-upon-Tweed with Past Time Rail's 'The North Briton' charter on 7th March. The train had originated at Leeds in the morning, being hauled north to Edinburgh by Class 67 No. 67006 *Royal Sovereign*. *Tornado* worked the return leg from the Scottish capital as far as York. **Richard Tuplin**



- ■ Railway Touring Company advise that its 'Royal Duchy' on 5th April will now run only as far as Par, as gauging issues preclude the train operating through to Newquay. The steam section will now be from Didcot to Par with Nos. 5029 *Nunney Castle* and 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, with Class 52 No. D1015 *Western Champion* covering both the Paddington-Didcot leg, as well as the return from Par to Bristol Temple Meads. A Class 47 will return the train to Paddington.
- ■ The Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association has a 9th May date to Peterborough, Ely or Cambridge. The 'Great Eastern Express' is from Chester and calls at most intermediate stations to Northwich, Knutsford and Altrincham, together with Chinley before heading east via the Hope Valley Line. Go to www.mcrua.org.uk for more details.
- ■ Spitfire has an affinity with No. 87002 *Royal Sovereign*, no doubt going back to the company's frustrated attempts at operating a farewell tour a couple of years ago. Well things have certainly moved on positively, as not only did the chance arise to operate the Class 87's formal return to mainline passenger operations last year, but on 11th July, Spitfire has 'The Electric Scot', which is due to feature *Royal Sovereign* from Birmingham International, via New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay and Preston, through to Glasgow Central. And for a little extra, there is also the chance to participate in a mini-tour from Glasgow Central to Ayr, which will feature No. 87002 'topping and tailing' with a diesel.
- ■ As recently mentioned, the jewel in the SRPS charter programme features No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* from Perth to Inverness and back on a tour which starts diesel-hauled at Polmont. Please note that the date quoted in our original article of 27 June has been changed, and the tour will now operate one week later on Saturday 4 July. There is no change to either the itinerary or traction.

News In Brief



▲ The National Collection-owned, but West Coast Railways operated, and recently recertified Class 47/4 No. 47798 *Prince William* powers a Preston – Whitby railtour over the 'Little North Western' between Carnforth and Wennington on 7th March. **Nigel Capelle**

RTC expands summer steam programme with the Conwy Valley line

The Railway Touring Company is gearing up for probably its busiest year yet, with over 40 tours in the pipeline between now and early October, and that does not include the 'Great Britain 2'.

As always, Nigel Dobbing is looking to provide something different, and it is interesting to note plans to bundle up a number of tours to sell as an inclusive package in August (see separate article), based around the North West.

The company's high season programme is being expanded this year with a new operation from Crewe to Blaenau Ffestiniog entitled 'The Welsh Mountaineer', with double-headed steam along the steeply graded and highly scenic Conwy Valley Line. It will also bring steam back to Llandudno

Town for the first time in several years as it is planned to take a break at the genteel resort, prior to the run to Blaenau Ffestiniog. Trains are booked to operate on 5th & 19th August.

The Northern Fells provide an obvious attraction, and RTC has plenty to offer with 'Cumbrian Mountain Expresses' operating on 18th July northbound over the Settle & Carlisle, returning via Shap with 'A4' No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*; then on 8th & 29th August from Crewe northbound via Shap, with S&C on the return. On 1st & 22nd August RTC has trains from Liverpool Lime Street, also north over Shap and south over the S&C.

The S&C workings form part of a weekend of steam operations that start on Fridays from 31st July until 28th August

from Crewe via Standedge and York to Scarborough, followed on Sundays from 2nd August until 30th August from Liverpool Lime Street to Holyhead. All these trains are to be worked from a pool of locomotives consisting of Nos. 60009 *Union of South Africa*, 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* and 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*.

Also, each Sunday in August, RTC will be operating a 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from York to Carlisle and back picking up along the Aire Valley. This is similar to the operation planned by West Coast last year, and although currently no locomotives are specified, it is likely that these trains will use the West Coast pool set aside for the weekday 'Scarborough Spa Expresses' that operate Tuesday, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 21st July until 3rd September.

Bodmin & Wenford Railway prepares for its Spring Diesel Gala

The Bodmin & Wenford Railway's Spring Diesel Gala on 28th-29th March is again to feature a line-up of heritage diesel traction from the resident fleet.

Locomotives planned to be in action are Class 47/3 No. 47306 *The Sapper*, Class 37/0 No. 37142 and Class 50 No. 50042 *Triumph*. The steeply graded Cornish branch, with inclines as steep as 1:37, will again offer the prospect of heritage diesel traction working hard.

The locomotives will operate an intensive timetable of trains over the six-mile line from Bodmin Parkway to Boscarne Junction, via Bodmin General, and during the course of the day there will be nine departures from Bodmin General (six to Bodmin Parkway, three to Boscarne Junction) at: 09.40, 10.40, 11.35, 12.20, 13.15, 14.00, 14.55, 15.40

and 16.40. There will also be the opportunity for visitors to extend their day – or savour the action over the whole weekend – by having a further whole-line trip, perhaps with a glass of beer, on board the 'Real Ale Evening Special' on the Saturday evening, departing Bodmin General at 18.00, which will be hauled by No 37142. There will be a photographic stop en route between Bodmin General and Boscarne Junction.

An Adult Day Rover costs £13.50, with an Adult Weekend Rover (which offers over 130 miles of heritage diesel haulage) available for just £17.

All trains will have an on-train buffet & bar car serving hot and cold drinks, snacks and light refreshments, and there is also a Refreshment Room at Bodmin General and a café in the old signalbox at Bodmin Parkway.



Safer future beckons for Transrail-liveried Class 56

After a first failed attempt, the latest Class 56 locomotive to be preserved was finally moved from Immingham TMD on 20th February.

Class 56 No. 56101, previously named *Mutual Improvement*, and now carrying weather-worn Transrail-grey livery, was towed from Immingham by

Class 66/0 No. 66008 to Barrow Hill Roundhouse, via Doncaster Carr depot. Restoration of the Type 5 is now to commence to return it to full working order.

▲ Following its arrival from storage at Immingham, a rather weather-beaten No. 56101 stands in the yard at Barrow Hill on 22nd February. **David Wragg**



Spring Diesel Weekend

28 & 29 March

47306 "The Sapper"
37142
50042 "Triumph"

Credit Crunching
Ticket Prices!

Adult Day Rover - £13.50
that's about £1.22 per return trip!

Adult Weekend Rover - £17
that's about £0.85p per return trip!

Saturday Evening
**REAL ALE
SPECIAL**

Included in rover tickets,
1800 -2130 including visit
to Public House that serves food.

click here for timetable and more info!

BODMIN & WENFORD

RAILWAY

South Devon Railway celebrates 40 years of preservation

The South Devon Railway is preparing to celebrate its 40th anniversary year after the seven-mile route from Totnes to Buckfastleigh line was reopened in 1969 by, of all people, Dr Richard Beeching!

The ruby year starts with a nine-day Easter steam festival held between 5th-13th April, which features eight different former GWR steam locomotives. Four visiting engines have been drafted in for the nine-day event, which is set to be one of the highlights of the Railway's 137-year history, from when it was first opened in May 1872. The four visitors coming in are 6400 class 0-6-0PT No. 6435 and 4575 class Prairie

No. 5552, both from the Bodmin & Wenford Railway, together with another Prairie No. 5542 from the Gloucester Warwickshire, and 5600 class 0-6-2T No. 6695, courtesy of the 6695 Locomotive Group and normally based on the Swanage Railway.

The home fleet will be 1366 class 0-6-0PT No. 1369, 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 3803, 5700 0-6-0PT No. 5786 (repainted in temporary BR Black for the event) and a third Prairie No. 5526. During Sunday 5th April, the anniversary date, there will be goods, dining and auto train workings in a special 'old friends reunited' timetable with four locos (Nos. 1369, 6435 as 6412, 5786 and 5542, hopefully disguised as No. 4588).



After 43 years ... welcome back *Sir Archibald Sinclair*

▲ Bulleid Battle of Britain class Pacific No. 34059 *Sir Archibald Sinclair*, owned by the Bluebell Railway, successfully passed its insurance boiler steam test and the initial static steam test on 3rd March, and on the following day moved for the first time in steam within the yard at Sheffield Park since being withdrawn from traffic by BR in May 1966. The locomotive has now returned to the workshop for attention to some minor issues that were present at the test, and after completion of these, further testing and running in will be undertaken. The locomotive is the first member of the rebuilt Battle of Britain class to return to traffic and will be the first to carry a completely newly-constructed 5,250 gallon tender, which has been given number 3273, the number of the locomotive's final tender when withdrawn. **John Fry**

Southwold Railway Steam Park plans approved

The Southwold Railway Trust has announced that Waveney District Council Development Control Committee has approved its planning application for the Southwold Railway Steam Park.

The Trust has already set up a heritage project to create a replica 2-4-2 Sharp Stewart tank locomotive likely to cost about £200,000. The 'Loco Fund', thanks to the support of members and others visiting the Southwold Railway Shop at 27 Southwold High Street,

currently stands at around £7,500. The Trust was seeking suitable local premises for the construction of the locomotive and considering ways in which the necessary funds might be raised, and came up with the idea of the Southwold Steam Railway Park, which addresses both of these problems in a way that also provides an asset to the community.

The Southwold Railway itself was a 3ft narrow gauge line that connected Halesworth to Southwold from 1879 to 1929.

Toddington's 'Hall' moves to West Somerset Railway for re-assembly

The components of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway's (GWR) long-term resident locomotive, Modified Hall class 4-6-0 No. 6960 *Raveningham Hall*, are moving to the West Somerset Railway Association's Williton workshops to be reassembled and returned to steam.

The locomotive was approaching the end of a long and extensive overhaul at Bill Parker's Flour Mill workshops in the Forest of Dean and was expected to be returned to the

GWR's Toddington headquarters in time for its 25th anniversary as part of the Cotswold Festival of Steam at the end of May this year, the freshly-completed tender having already been delivered.

However, overhaul of the owner's West Country class Pacific No. 34046 *Braunton* has just been completed at the Williton workshops and the team that carried out that work will now finish the remaining work on the Hall. It is explained that the work done by the Flour Mill is of the highest quality, but as the Williton team is now

free after completing *Braunton*, it makes sense for them to finish the remaining work on *Raveningham Hall*. The engine is then expected to spend the remainder of the year running-in on the West Somerset.

It is recognised that the locomotive's spiritual home is at the GWR, especially as it hauled the Royal train conveying HRH The Princess Royal for the opening of the railway's extension to Cheltenham Racecourse in 2003, and it is fully expected it to spend time on the Cotswold line in the future.

New group formed to create heritage line for the Yorkshire Wolds region

Talks are being held on the possibility of re-opening a railway line across the Yorkshire Wolds, where no trains have run for some 50 years.

A meeting has been held in Malton by the Yorkshire Wolds Restoration Project, which initially hopes to restore one-and-a-half miles of track on the Malton to Driffield Junction line. The currently unused trackbed runs through some fine scenery, and links such places such as Sledmere and Fimber, Wharham Percy and its medieval village of Burdale, and Thixendale and North Grimston, all in

the heart of the Wolds. The Yorkshire Wolds Restoration group was formed last October and alternates its meetings between Driffield and Malton. It has recruited 30 members, some of whom are connected with preserved railways, including the Embsay & Bolton Abbey line and the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway.

The group hopes the railway's heritage potential will attract grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and it will also apply to Yorkshire Forward, promoting the potential employment and income-generation for Malton and Driffield that it could provide.

Bodmin Pannier heads to Blaenavon for gala event

The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway (PBR) has confirmed that 6400 class 0-6-0PT No. 6435 from the Bodmin and Wenford Railway will be visiting the line for it's 140th Anniversary Gala on 12th/13th September.

The Gala celebrates the 140th anniversary of the opening of the railway to goods traffic from Brynmawr to Blaenavon on 1st November 1869, and as with the

2008 Gala will feature an intensive service of trains on the I in 37 line.

With 5700 class 0-6-0PT No. 7754 having been active just down the valley until 1970 on the Talywain–Blaenserchan NCB line, the visit of No. 6435 will no doubt stir a lot of memories for many local people.

The PBR 2009 season itself commences on 10th April with the first ever four-day opening weekend and Class 73 No. 73128

working with 3CEP EMU No. 1198 will handle services on the Friday. On Saturday, Class 31 No. D5627 should make its preservation debut following successful completion of final remedial work, and on the Sunday and Monday the popular family 'Easter Bunny' trains will be steam-hauled with Devonport Number 19 in charge each day.

The Railway is due to open the extension to Blaenavon in little over a year's time.



▲ **Class 73 No. 73136 *Perseverance*, currently on short-term loan to the Bluebell Railway for use on construction trains to remove excavated material from Imberhorne Cutting, was used on a one-off passenger working on 7th March. The 'ED' became the first mainline diesel to work a passenger service on the heritage line when it powered the 'Wealden Exclusive' from Sheffield Park to Kingscote and return, pictured departing from Sheffield Park. Tony Sullivan**

Steaming back to Beamish Colliery

Beamish Museum and the Bowes Railway have teamed up again to bring Bowes' Andrew Barclay 0-4-0ST No. 22 to the long dormant Beamish Colliery.

The site is an accurate recreation of a typical North East colliery, complete with a working 1855-built winding engine, underground tours, lamp cabin and network of railway lines. No. 22 will run on weekends throughout March, at Easter and for the museum's newly developed 'Power for the Past' event on 28th – 31st May and demonstration shunting activities will be given in the industrial location.

The new horse operated wooden waggonway at Beamish was given trials on 20th February – the first such operation in the North East for 168 years! With manpower provided by Peter Brassett and transport curator Paul Jarman, and horsepower provided by 13-year-old Clydesdale mare

Bonnie, the museum team ran several trips along the 200yard wooden railway with a replica chaldron waggon. Braking tests were carried out as well as observations of the rail/wheel interface, which revealed the ease of running on seasoned oak rails.

The replica waggonway itself was built two years ago and was based on archaeological discoveries from the Lambton D pit in County Durham. It was then buried up to rail level and sown with a Georgian meadow seed mix. This has been allowed to grow and consolidate the surface into a turf suitable for the horse to walk on. Tests being successful the museum now hopes to occasionally demonstrate the wooden waggonway as an additional railway attraction on the 400-acre site. The formation allows for a future extension onto fishbelly iron rails on stone sleeper blocks should funding become available.

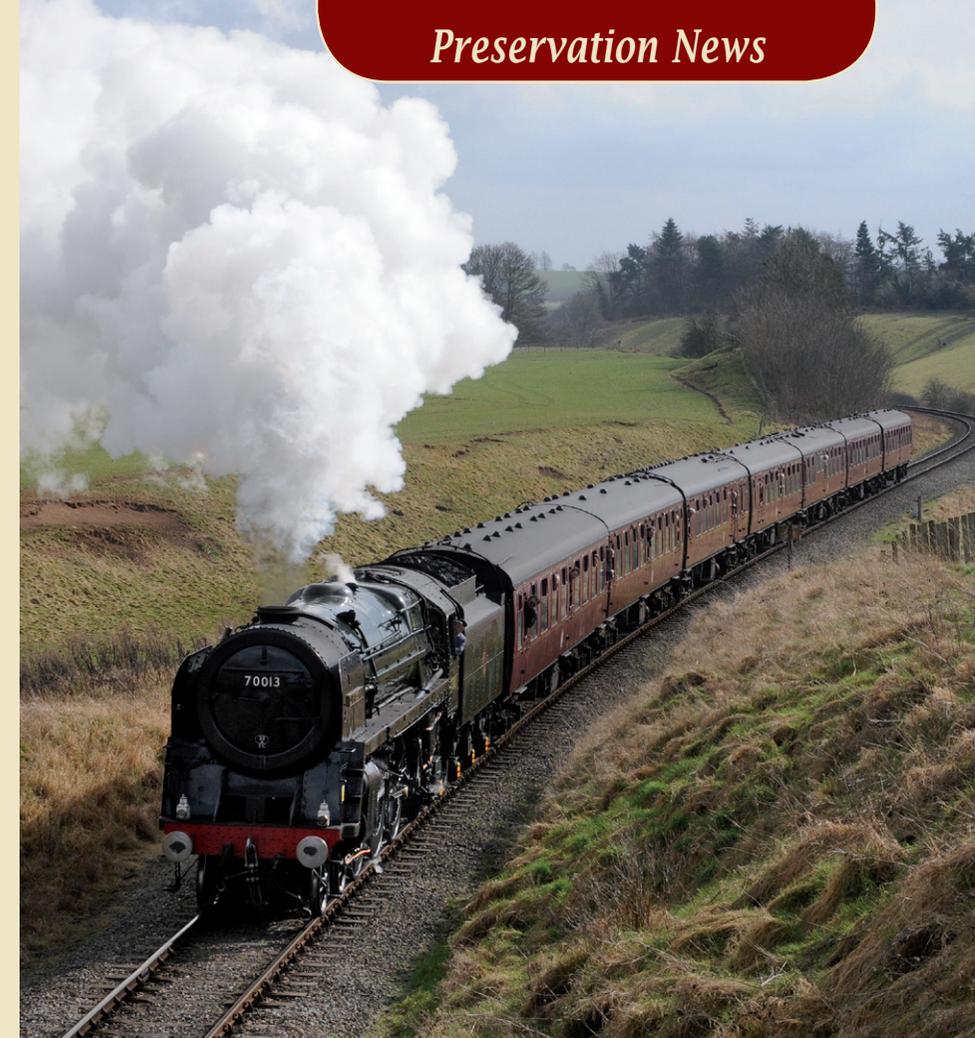


Steam returns to Whitwell & Reepham station

▲ **One of the first trains to use the relaid running line of 500yds in the goods yard is pictured at the newly-opened Whitwell and Reepham Midland & Great Northern station on 28th February - the 50th Anniversary of the closure of the M&GN. The locomotive used was a 1942-built Peckett 0-6-0ST. David A. Waskett**



On 8th March during the North Norfolk Railway's 'Thats Yer Lot' gala, LMS '4F' 0-6-0 No. 44422 & GER 'N7' 0-6-2T No. 69621 coasts through Bridge 304 near Deadman's Cutting, Weybourne. **Steve Allen**



Severn Valley 'Festival of Steam' Gala

▲ Seen making light work of Eardington Bank on 6th March, as it approaches the summit while heading the 12.25 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth train, is 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*.

◀▲ The classic combination of an A4 on ex-LNER 'teak' stock is not a common sight, and the SVR made full use of this opportunity during its 'Festival of Steam' gala over the weekend. No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, in its early BR blue livery, drifts down Eardington Bank with the 13.05 service from Bridgnorth on the same day.

Both: John Whitehouse

◀ An atmospheric shot of 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* on two 'Syphon' vehicles waiting to pass a passenger service at Hampton Loade on the evening of 6th March.

Tez Pickthall



Diesels on the Nene Valley

▲ For the Nene Valley Railway's Diesel Gala event, DRS provided Class 37/5 No. 37667, which worked in 'light engine' from Norwich. The 'heavyweight' tractor passes Sutton Cross on 7th March with the 10.50 departure from Wansford. **Paul Townsend**

▶▲ Immaculately turned out resident Class 40 No.D306 *Atlantic Conveyor* leaves Wansford Station during the diesel gala on the same day. **Alistair Hawkins**

▶ First GBRf provided one of its latest Class 66/7 locomotives for the event. Here, No. 66732 working the 12.15 Wansford to Peterborough, accelerates away from the speed restriction across the level crossing at Station Road, Castor. **Steve Madden**

[Contents Page](#)



Still deputising for the non-availability of the Departmental Class 150 DMU, DRS Class 37/6s Nos. 37605 and 37609 pass Shildon, County Durham, with a track recording coach. On the left is part of the short stretch of track which at one time gave access to Shildon wagon works but is now used by the Locomotion Museum. **John Lewins**



Deutsche Bahn brings all railfreight activity under DB Schenker

Freight transportation at Deutsche Bahn is now operating under the name DB Schenker Rail, and is responsible for all national and European rail-based movements.

The newly formed business is comprised of five business segments, DB Schenker Rail now including the companies of the Railion Group, English Welsh & Scottish Railway Holdings Ltd. (now DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd), Transfesa in Spain, in which DB holds a

majority stake, Italy-based Nordcargo, and Polish PCC Logistics, which the company acquired at the end of January.

For this, the approval of the responsible bodies and authorities regarding the takeover is still pending. DB Schenker Rail now has a workforce of around 36,000, and operates 120,000 freight wagons and 3,900 locomotives, the largest fleet on the continent.

The new business unit includes the

regionally structured business sections West, Central and East, and the cross regional Automotive and Intermodal segments.

Region West includes among others Great Britain, France, Spain and Portugal. Region Central includes Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Denmark and Sweden, and Region East is to be developed for Eastern Europe, including Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Russia and Belarus.

Alstom continues with deliveries of Prima locomotives for SNCF

▼ One of the latest Prima locomotive for SNCF to emerge from the Alstom factory at Belfort, BB475000 Class No. 475101 stands in the factory yard. Alstom



Stadler Hungarian works starts production

Stadler Szolnok Kft, the Hungarian branch of Stadler Rail Group, has acquired the last licence needed for the launch of its operation and has commenced production of aluminium train bodies.

It is planned that the plant will weld and paint the bodysells of at least seven FLIRTs out of the 30 trains, which Stadler is going to deliver to the Hungarian State Railways by 2010. The local share in the

production process means that most of the state-of-the-art trains operating in the country will be partly Hungarian made.

The plant will have a maximum capacity of 60 vehicles for this year, which will proportionally increase with the number of employees. After completion of the investment, the plant, at full capacity, will be able to produce approximately 200 aluminium bodies per year, with the employment of around 200 people.

130 Voith shunters ordered for DB AG

Despite the economic downturn, German Railways, DB AG, has ordered 130 new shunting locomotives with the newest technical standards.

The investment amounts to some €250 million. The existing locomotives could have been used for shunting yard operations for much longer, but DB AG says that it is important to operate with modern pollution-free, energy-

saving motive power.

The locomotives ordered are of type Gravita 10 BB from Voith Turbo in Kiel, and are one of the newest developments on the market. It corresponds to the European technical standards TSI, and fulfils all legal environmental standards. The emission limit values valid starting from 2009 are kept, and compared with the old fleet, both the NOx and the particle emissions are substantially reduced.

BTP and Amtrak Police exchange counter-terrorism practices

Members of the Amtrak Police Department, Amtrak Office of Security Strategy and Special Operations and British Transport Police (BTP) this week will jointly patrol several stations along Amtrak's north east corridor as part of the first major USA & UK exchange of railway security and counter-terrorism practices.

The BTP visit is designed to solidify a security partnership between Amtrak and British rail police by sharing lessons learned and best policing methods and practices to protect rail passengers on both sides of the Atlantic. Beginning in Washington Union station, several uniformed BTP superintendents, sergeants and constables will witness first-hand Amtrak's security operations onboard trains and at stations. Police and tactical forces, counter surveillance personnel and K-9 detection units will conduct the operations, and throughout the week, British rail officials will observe similar activities at stations Philadelphia 30th Street, Baltimore Penn and New York Penn.

The Amtrak Chief Operating Officer said: "The rail community continues to be a target worldwide, and protecting passengers from harm is paramount. If one member of the community is targeted, we all feel the effects one way or another. By sharing best police practices and lessons learned with our British counterparts and others, we can build a safer and more secure rail environment for riders internationally".

US railroads continue to be hit by the global economic downturn

The global recession has brought about a downfall in rail freight traffic throughout North America during February.

USA rail carload traffic stood at 1,109,035 carloads in February 2009, down 14.5% compared to February 2008. USA rail intermodal traffic (which is not included in carloads) fell 18.7% (167,608 trailers and containers) to 726,343 units in February. Visible evidence of the economic downturn, aside from the above figures, is the fact that Union Pacific currently has around 48,000 of its 421,000 vehicles and 1,200 of 7,200 locomotives stored on sidings and has abandoned routes across 23 states, while BNSF has stored over 35,000 wagons from a total of 200,000 and mothballed 700 locomotives.

► Central Virginia experienced heavy snowfall on 2nd March, which caused disruption to railroad traffic, especially to the route between Washington DC and Richmond, Virginia, after a number of the points had frozen and caused southbound freights to stack up. This was exacerbated as the crews ran out of time, as had occurred with this train, led by GE ES44DC No. CSX5320, which was at a standstill for several hours. CSX requested that southbound Amtrak Train 89 stop and pick up the stranded crews as it headed south and took them to the CSX terminal at Acca Yard in Richmond. This was the scene at the North Ashland crossing. CSX then sent a new crew around five hours later to move the train forwards to Richmond. **Cliff Middlebrook**



▲ VIA service 85 crosses above the frigid waters of the Grand River as it enters Kitchener on its way from Toronto to Sarnia on 28th February, led by VIA Rail EMD F40PH No. 6413. **Wayne Shaw**





The new motive power of GO Transit. New MP40PH-3C locos appear on three trains converging under Bathurst Street in Toronto, Ontario, on 2nd March. From left to right Train No. 454 approaches with No. GO624 on the point passing a westbound train propelled by No. GO620. On the right, Milton GO train No. 156 approaches with No. GO622 leading, two minutes from arrival at Union Station. **Dave Young**

9th March 2009

Lincoln Railway Society
St Hughs Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. 'Rail Privatisation' by Christian Wolmar. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for details.

RCTS (Sheffield Branch)

St Matthews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Nottingham to Norwich' by Martin Bromley. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton Branch)

Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton. 'South African Steam' by Dave Walker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01902 758882 (Evenings) for details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)

The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'The Devil's Dyke Branch' and 'The Kemptown Branch' by Chris Bedford. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

York Railway Society

Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'A to Z of Yorkshire Transport - a slide show of trains, trams, buses, trolleybuses, canals and rivers' by John Holroyd. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for details. Visitors £2 entrance fee.

10th March 2009**Abergavenny and District Steam Society**

Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'When Steam Reigned Triumphant' by Michael Harvey. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for details.

Great Western Society (Oxford Group)

Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. Group AGM. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Great Western Society (Bristol Group)

BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton. 'Singapore - A Transport of Delight' by Gerald Nichols. Starts 19.45.

RCTS**(Nottingham Branch)**

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'The Nottingham Suburban Railway' by David Birch. Meeting commences at 19.30.

The 8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)

The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich CW9 5RB. Quiz Night. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Michael Lenz on 01606 44959 for further details

11th March 2009**Basingstoke & District****Railway Society**

Wote St.Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Modern Industrial Scene in the UK and Europe' by Nick Kelly. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for details.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group

Royal Air Force Club, 5 Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes DN35 8LQ. 'Round Britain by Rail - Part 2' by Tony Othen. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mike Hartley on 01724 341358 for further details

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)

10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St James Park tube. 'Rugby Schemes' by Ben Venables. Doors open 17.30 for 18.00 start. Contact the Secretary, Alison Stansfield on 0770 332 6080 or by e-mail at alison.stansfield@btinternet.com for further details.

RCTS (Hitchin Branch)

Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin. 'Out and About' by Hugh Gould. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)

The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) Branch AGM. Meeting commences at 19.00. Refreshments available during the evening. A £2 donation is requested. Contact the secretary Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for details.

12th March 2009**Continental Railway Circle**

St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylbone, London NW1 6NJ. 'India & Nepal' by Richard Pelham. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the society secretary Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or e-mail akpalmer@talktalk.net for details

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans)

United Reform Church Hall, Watford Road, Chiswell Green. 'The Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Monmouthshire Railway Society

Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Avenue, Newport. 'The 1960's in Colour, from the late Derek Cross archive' by David Cross. Starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Branch)

The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham B1 1RT. 'Cambrian Line Enhancements' by Richard Langford. 'ECML Hitchin Grade Separation' by Norman Kelsell. Starts 18.00. Contact Ian Wardle on 0782 441 0961 for further details

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon Branch)

Matt MacDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon, CR0 2EE. 'The Bluebell Railway Northern Extension' by Chris White. Doors open at 17.30 for 17.45 start. Contact the Society Secretary, Martin Creswell on 0780 326 0645 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)

Location to be Confirmed. Presidential Address by Bob Cummings. Meeting commences at 12.30. Contact the society secretary Rob Cummings by e-mail at rob.cummings@networkrail.co.uk or telephone 07798 858784 for further details.

RCTS**(Newcastle Branch)**

The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'India/Portugal Safari' by David Anderson. Meeting commences at 18.30.

RCTS**(Preston Branch)**

Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'A Rail Tour round Glorious Devon' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30.

13th March 2009**Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society**

Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Persia - Back door to Russia in 1942/ Steam & Modern Traction in the 1960s' by Robin Patrick. Starts 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for details.

Great Western Society (Swindon Group)

Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon SN3 1JE. 'Through the Lens of a Railwayman' by Mike Goodfield. Meeting commences at 19.00.

RCTS**(Edinburgh Branch)**

Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'Industrial Railways' by Alistair Ness. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS**(West Riding Branch)**

Visit to Network Rail Signalling School, Leeds at 13.00. Contact the society secretary Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile 07887 908501 for details.

Scarborough Railway Society

The Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'The Michael Medd Photo Collection'. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact, Adrian Scales at email@scarboroughrailwaysociety.org.uk

Shropshire Railway Society

The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury 'Modern Traction and Trams' by Jason Cross. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Colin Hatch on 01961 650985 for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

If so, then please email the details to the editor, remembering to include the date, starting time and location, together with details of the event, speaker and entrance charges if applicable.

It is not necessary, but helpful to people, if you can also include a contact name and phone number/ email address for the organisation 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.

Internet Links

Links to the various society websites can be found on the website, or by [clicking here](#).

▼ On 2nd March, First Capital Connect Class 319s Nos. 319441 & 319007 stand in Moorgate Thameslink platforms, having worked a late-evening peak service from St Albans. As the last evening peak service had already departed, these units would shortly head off for overnight stabling at Cricklewood Depot. **Richard Boddy**



14th March 2009 Bournemouth Railway Club

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, junction of Alma Road and Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'Moving the Coal' by Terry McCarthy. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 or by e-mail at martyn.thresh@ntlworld.com for details.

16th March 2009 Great Central Railway (Spinkhill Branch)

The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB 'Roving Britain's Railways' by Paul Beardsley. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

Kent and East Sussex Railway (Ashford Group)

The Railway Staff Club, Beaver Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 7RR. 'Talylyn and Other Railways' by John Snell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Keith Mapley on 01303 269138 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Dorking)

Pethick-Lawrence House, 85 South Street, Dorking. 'Plandamp' by David Heal. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Chester Branch)

The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road (opposite station), Chester. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Starts 19.45.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)

Weston Favell Parrish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'On Narrow Gauge Tracks' by Tom Heavyside. Meeting starts at 14.00.

RCTS (Oxford Branch)

West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. 'A Thames Valley Odyssey' by Chris Wilkinson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield)

Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'The Master Cutler' by Ken Grainger. Starts 19.30.

18th March 2009 Burton Railway Society

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent. Illustrated Presentation by Richard Binding. Starts 19.30. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)

Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'National Delivery Service and Its Roll in delivery of Rail Grinding by Mike Turner. Starts 17.30. Contact 07789 765291 for further detail

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham and Derby Branch)

The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station, Derby. 'Sustrans Connect 2' by Huw Davies. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 for details.

RCTS (Eastleigh Branch)/Mid Hants Railway/S&D Trust

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Rails to Infinity' by Terry Nicholls. Starts 19.45.

19th March 2009 Breconshire Railway Society

R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'The Heart of Wales Line' by Hywel Jones. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Modelling Gravesend Central' by David Larkin. Starts 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)

St David's Club, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows. 'Preservation in Steam in Ireland' by Cliff Parr. Starts 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society

British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway' by Paul Whittle. Doors open at 19.45 for 20.00 start. Admission £2 for non members.

RCTS (Darlington Branch)

The Scout Bldking, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.00.

RCTS(Hull Branch)

Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. '40 Years of Steam with a little help from the Enemy' by Steve Batty. Meeting commences at 19.30.

20th March 2009 Great Western Society (Taunton Group)

The Village Hall, Stoke St.Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Railways of Scotland 1968-2000' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Central London)

Keen House, Calshot Street, London N1 'Palmer's Recent Travels; by Adrian Palmer. Meeting commences at 19.00.

Purbeck Railway Circle

Catholic Church Hall, Rempstone Road, Swanage 'Castlemans Corkscrew - The First Railway in Dorset' by Brian Jackson. Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30 start.

21st March 2009 Great Western Society (South West Group)

The Parish Centre, Church End Road, Kingskerswell, Torbay. 'Steam in the Good Old Days' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 18.30.

21st -22nd March 2009 Swanage Railway

Railway at Work Weekend

23rd March 2009 RCTs (Maidenhead Branch)

Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. 'The Rebirth of the Welsh Highland Railway' by Robin Higgs OBE. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Sheffield Branch)

St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street, Sheffield. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30.

24th March 2009 RCTs (Nottingham Branch)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'The Dukeries Route' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Woking Branch)

Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Town Square, Woking. 'The Art of Railway Photography' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.15.

25th March 2009 Basingstoke & District Railway Society

Wote St.Club, New Road, Basingstoke 'Overseas Trips 2008' by Richard Green. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

26th March 2009 RCTs (Brighton Branch)

Brighthelm Church and Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. Branch AGM and Members' Slides. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Newcastle Branch)

The Brunswick Memorial Hall, Newcastle. 'London Sheds in the 50's and 60's' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 14.00.

RCTS (Preston Branch)

Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'Railways around Scotland featuring Steam and Diesel' by Les Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Pudsey Branch)

The Fulneck Room, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey. Branch AGM followed by Members' Slides. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (West Riding)

Pudsey Civic Hall A.G.M. followed by Members slides. Starts 19.30.

27th March 2009 Great Central Railway (London Branch)

The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, Euston, London NW1 2HR. TBA. Starts 19.30. Contact Richard Butler on 01525 372487 for details.

Great Western Society (North West Group)

St Hilda's Clubroom, Slater Street, Latchford, Warrington. Joint Meeting with the '8E' Society. Starts 19.30.

Great Western Society (Oxford Group)

Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. 'The Stratford upon Avon & Midland Junction Railway' by Andy Thompson. Starts 19.30.

Scarborough Railway Society

The Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'WYSIWYG (What you see is what you get) by Alan Ward. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact, Adrian Scales at email@scarboroughrailwaysociety.org.uk for further details

Back Issues

All of the back issues of the magazine are available 24 hours a day, on our website www.railwayherald.com

Rear Cover Caption

Class 153 single-car unit No.153369 cuts a solitary figure as it plies its trade on the St Erth-St Ives branch shuttle on the last day of February. It departs from St. Ives with the 10.30 service for St Erth. Chris Dixon

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