

Railtalk | Magazine

Issue 95 | August 2014 | ISSN 1756 - 5030

Contact Us

Editor: Andy Patten editor@railtalkmagazine.co.uk

Co Editor: David david@railtalkmagazine.co.uk

Charter Scene charter.scene@railtalkmagazine.co.uk

The Nosh Report nosh.report@railtalkmagazine.co.uk

Contents

Pg 2 - Welcome

Pq 46 - Pictures

Pg 122 - News and Features

Pg 129 - Fares Advice

You

Pg 174 - From the Archives

Submissions

Pictures, articles and news can be entered through the forum, or by email to us at:

entries@railtalk.net

Please include a detailed description and credits.

Railtalk Magazine is published monthly by Railtalk Group. © Railtalk 2014

3 - Charter Scene

Pg 138 - The Nosh Report

Pg 139 - Different View

Pg 142 - Preserved Railways

whilst it lasted!

Andy

Welcome to Issue 95 of Railtalk Magazine. Each month we bring you a round up of pictures, news and reports.

Well where can I start this month. We have had a cracker of a month, excellent weather, plenty to do and a few cyclists around to put Yorkshire on the Map. I think I'll start with the latter, the 'Tour de France'. Everyone, myself included expected our rail network to collapse

over the weekend of the 5th & 6th July. Well in fairness, it's not like a normal commuter day runs perfectly without problems is it? Add 2 million (some say more) people all going in the same direction at the same time and you would expect chaos, right(?). Well no. Thanks to some excellent planning by Network Rail, DB Schenker, DRS, Northern & TPE, it was an event to remember, with only a slight failure on the Sunday. The UK rail network operators performed brilliantly and put our rail service on the map for the world

to see. However I do feel we should make more use of locos and stock on regular occasions when loadings are known to be high.

Moving onto the other amazing feet of this month, July. We have had some cracking weather, yes you are in the UK and yes, we have had

nearly a month of full sunshine and good weather. As you will see, this issue is jammed packed with high-quality photos from Railtours

and Passenger/Freight workings from this glorious month! Just a pity that August has started with grey, wet weather, oh well it was nice

This issue wouldn't be possible without: Ken Abram, Michael J Alderdice, John Alsop, Steve Andrews, Geoff Barton, Robert Bates, Brian Battersby, Barry Beeston, Sam Bilner, Matthew Bird, Ben Bucki, Pete Cheshire, Julian Churchill, Liam Coates, John Coleman, Lorenzo D'aniello, Keith Davies, Neil Davies, Robert Duff, Derek Elston, Eddie Emmott, Dave Felton, Paul Fuller, Jonathan Gill, Paul Godding, Carl Grocott, Richard Hargreaves, Dave Harris, Darrel Hendrie, Brian Hewertson, Stuart Hillis, David Hollowood, Derek Hopkins, Colin Irwin, Jon Jebb, Richard Jones, Michael Lynam, Steve Madden, Phil Martin, Jonathan McGurk, David Mead, Lewis Mitchell, Chris Morrison, Ken Mumford, Alan Naylor, Gerald Nicholl, James Passant, Dave Peel, Ian Platt, Neil Pugh, Wayne Radford, Charlie Robbins, Gary Smith, Gary S. Smith, Stewart Smith, Daniel Stanbridge, Chris Stanley, Steve Stepney, Craig Stretten, Simon Sugden, CJ Sutcliffe, Alex Thorkildsen, Steve Thompson, Alan Usher, Tim Ward, Stuart Warr, James Wise, Shep Woolley and the guys at RailUK.

Front Cover: Celebrating 50 years of the Class 14 locomotives, Nos. D9537 and D9539 are seen at Ramsbottom on July 27th during a gathering of 10 locos. Brian Battersby

This Page: GBRf 's Class 47 815 powers through Doncaster working the Middleton Towers to Goole Glassworks Sand Train on July 1st. Alex Thorkildsen

















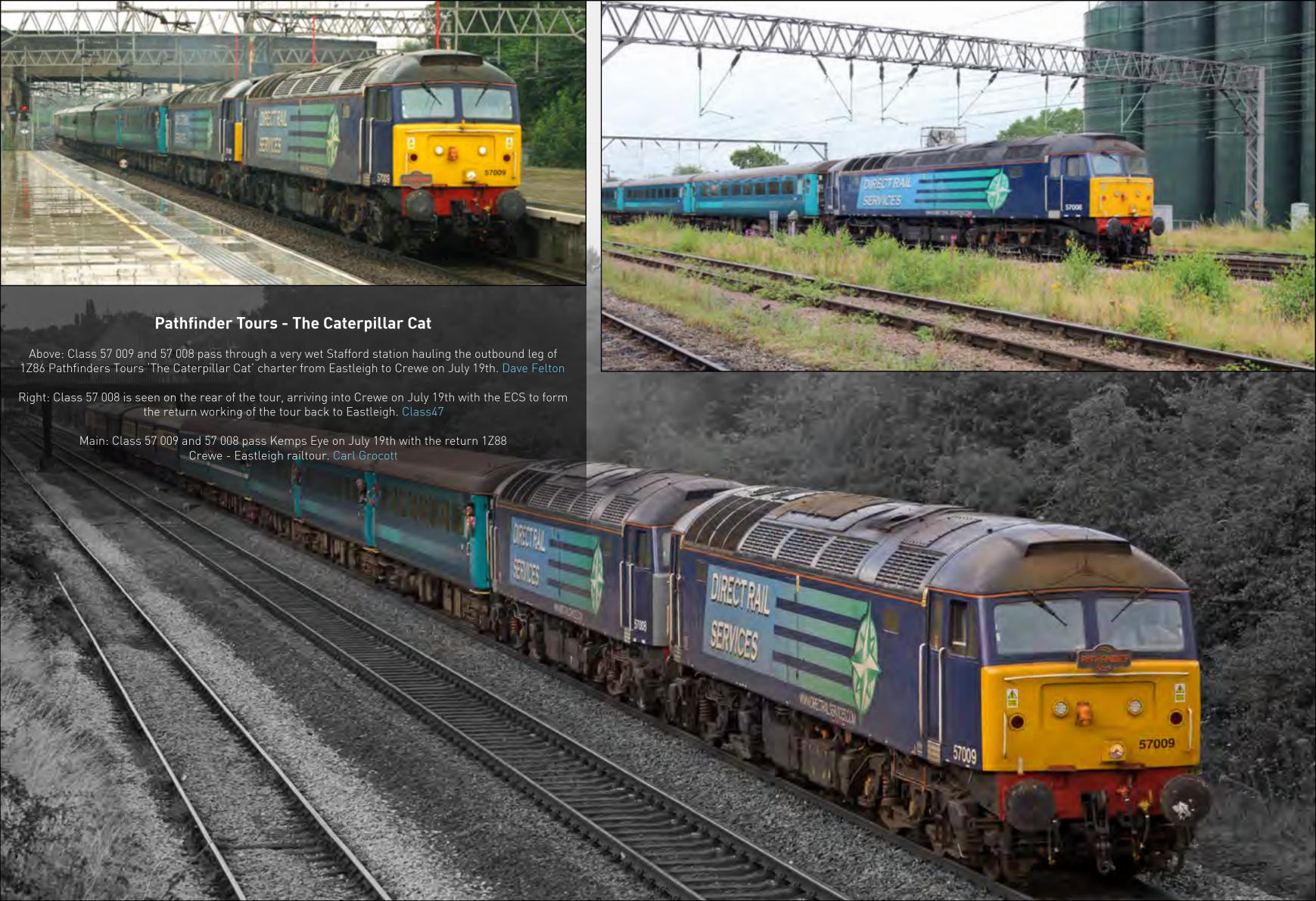
Hastings Diesels Ltd. - The Hastings Diesels Crewe

Right: Hastings DEMU No. 1001 is seen stabled at Crewe on July 12th, after arriving with the tour from Hastings. Brian Battersby

Main: The preserved 'Hastings' DEMU No. 1001 journeyed from its East Sussex home to Cheshire on July 12th. The 1Z06 Hastings - Crewe railtour is seen here passing Shugborough, Staffordshire on its way to Crewe. Gary S. Smith





































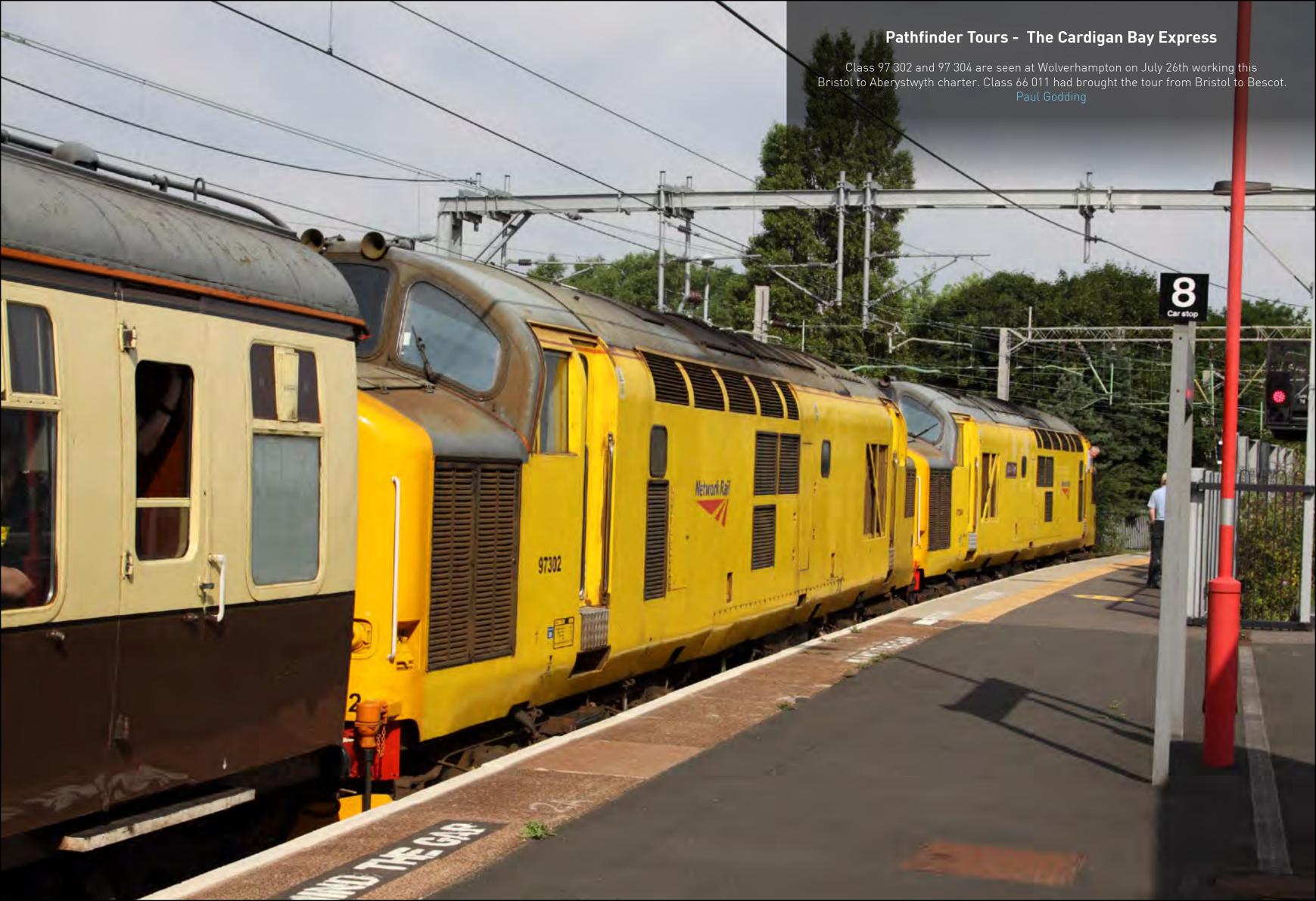




































The Retro Shakespearean Tug - Bank Holiday Monday 25 August 2014 WWW.RETRORAILTOURS.CO.UK

WE HAVE REQUESTED A CLASS 60 LOCOMOTIVE TO HAUL THE MAIN PART OF THIS TOUR.

Join us for a scenic day trip to Shakespeare country this summer. Picking up at the stations listed right, we journey into the Midlands, and through the Warwickshire countryside until reaching the birthplace of Shakespeare, Stratford-upon-Avon.

You will have around 4 hours to visit the many sights Stratford has to offer, including several locations associated with Shakespeare, such as his family homes and birthplace. You'll also have the opportunity to soak in the old world charm of the town, with numerous independently owned shops and cafes. The train will return to stations as per the outward itinerary in the early evening.

To book visit the website or alternatively postal bookings can be sent to the address below.

Outward (dep) Return(arr) Leeds 06:02 21:29 21:11 06:15 **Dewsbury** Huddersfield 06:27 20:58 06:53 Stalybridge 20:29 07:13 Reddish South 19:46 07:25 19:36 Stockport 08:30 18:52 Crewe Stratford-upon-Avon arr 11:49 dep 16:15

These timings may be subject to change.









































































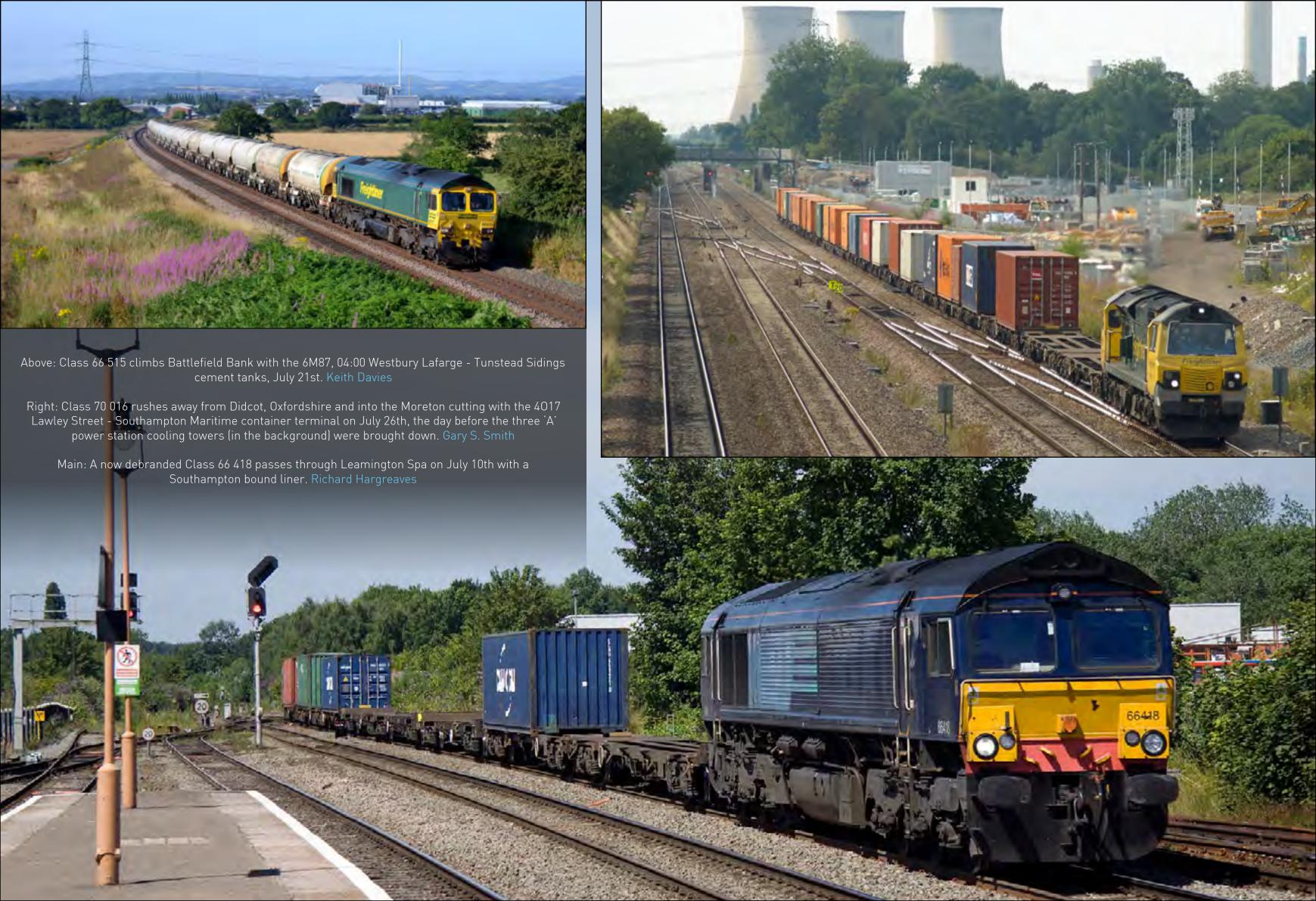










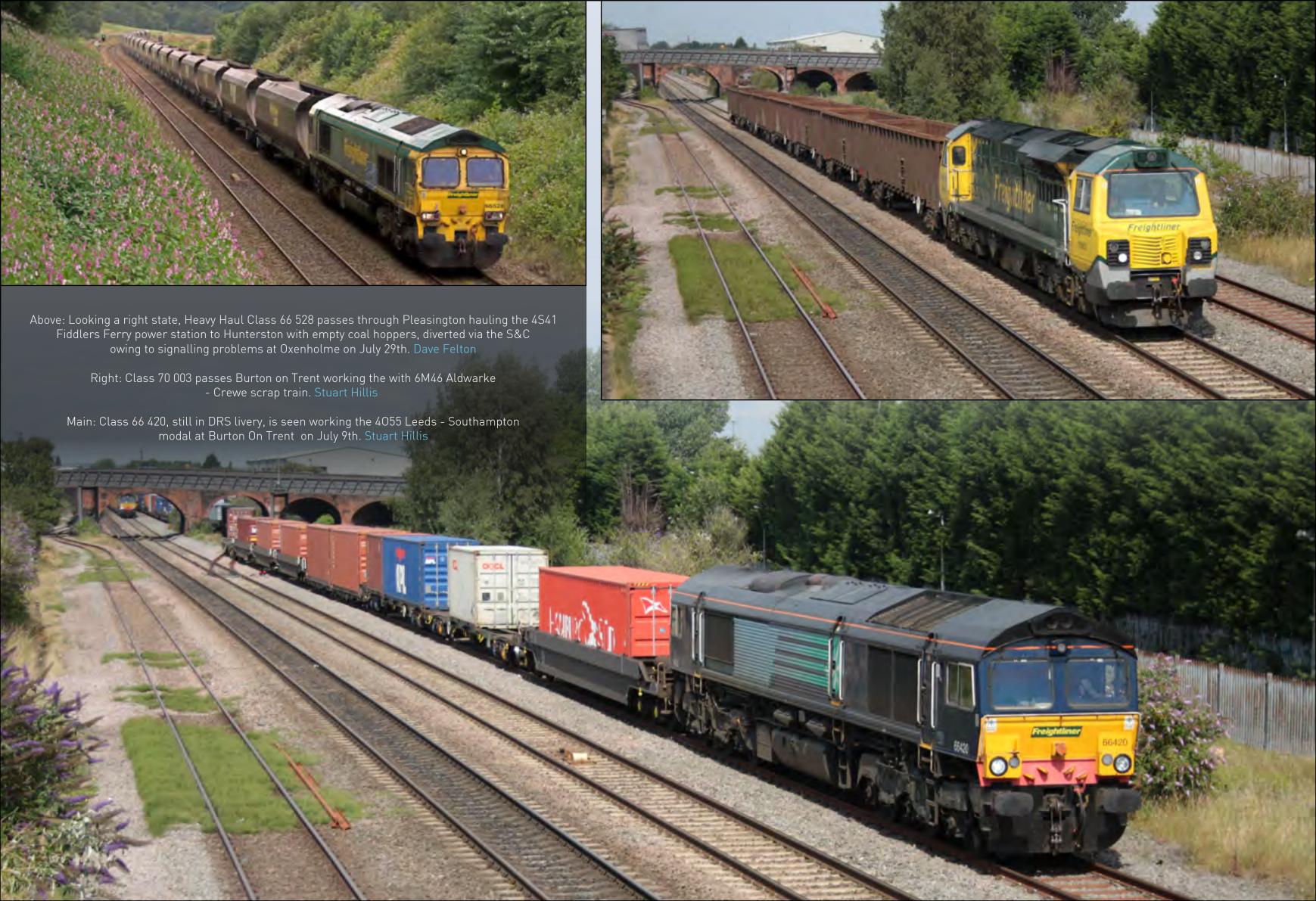






















































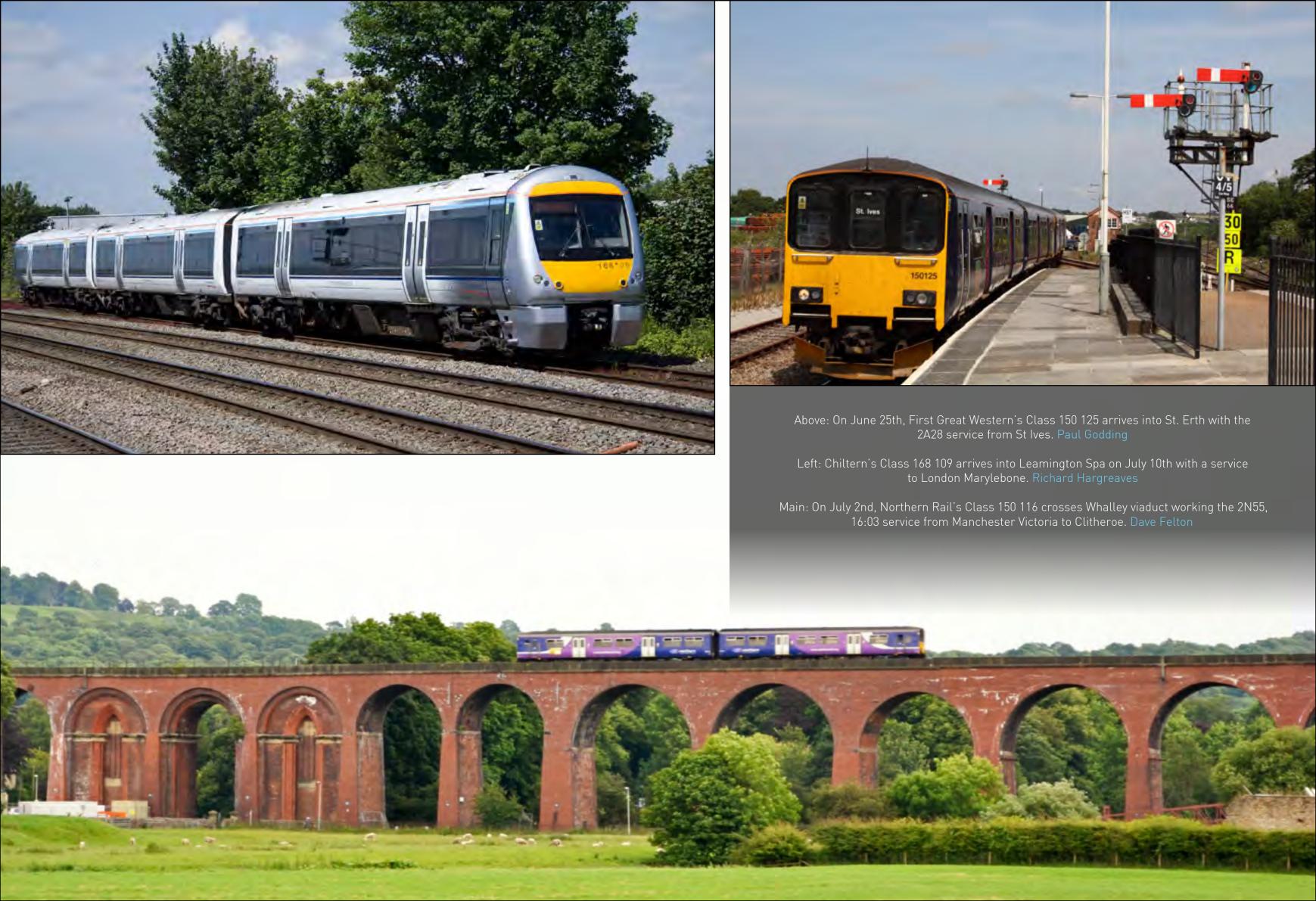








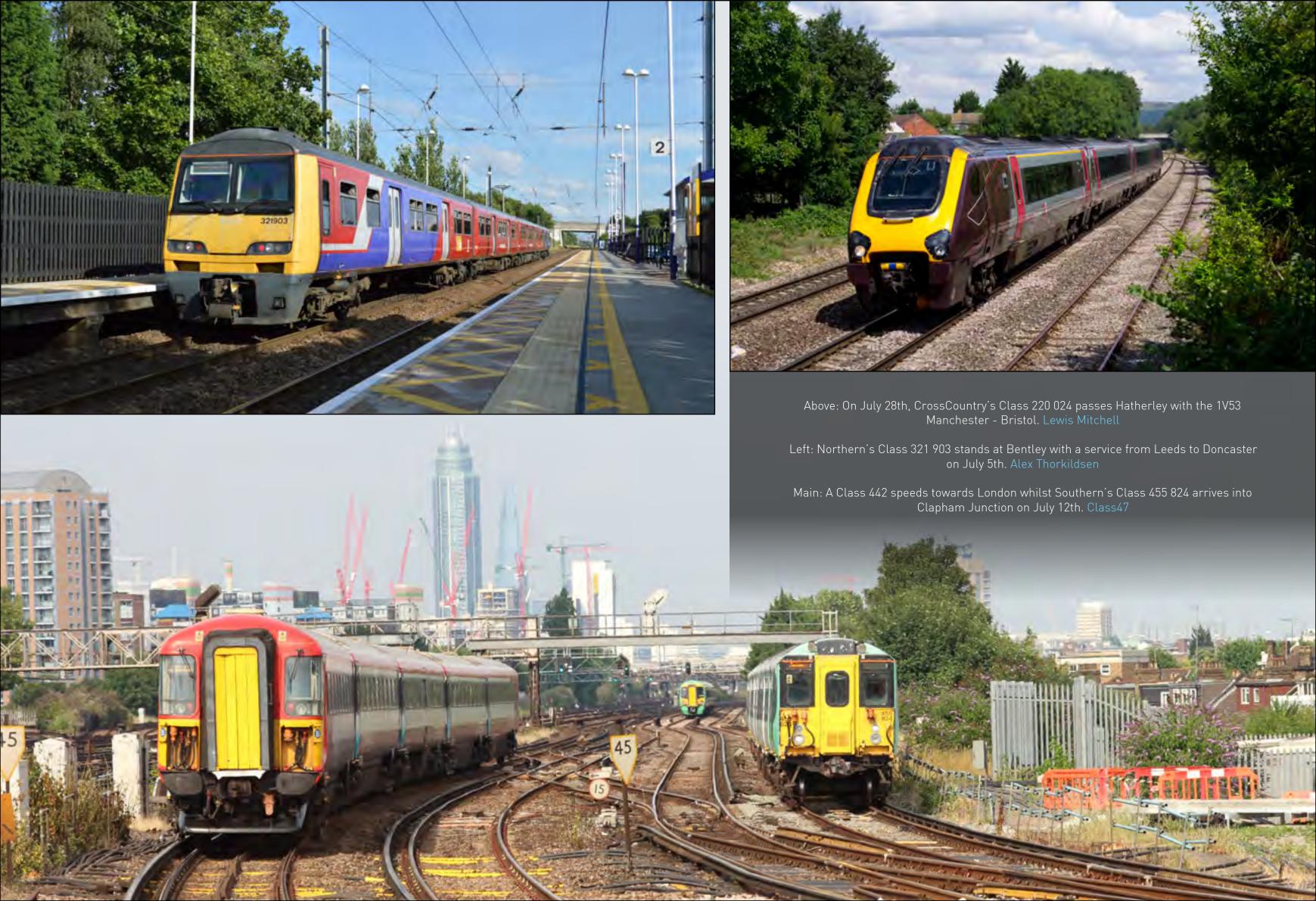
















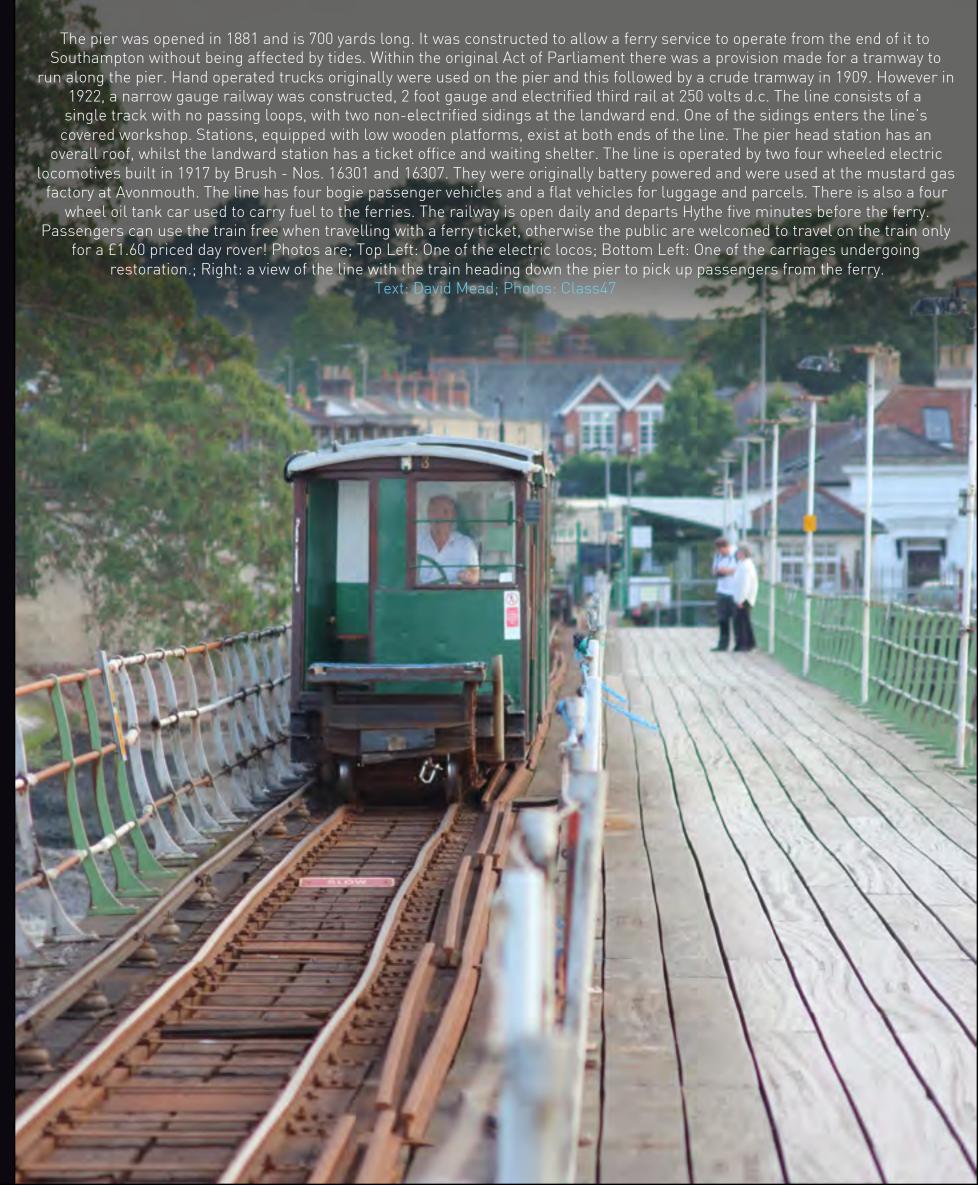
















Fares Advice with RailUK

This month more questions and answers on the complex ticketing system of Britain's Railways.

Problem With London Underground

Q: I am travelling across the UK on a Dublin bought SailRail ticket. I was expressly told by train staff in both Holyhead and Chester to travel via London and that my ticket covered me for the underground between Euston and Kings Cross.

At Euston, because the Irish issued tickets don't fit the ticket machines, a staff member let me through to the underground without a problem having seen my ticket. However, when I got to Kings Cross a very aggressive ticket attendant wouldn't let me out and told me my ticket didn't cover the underground and that I would be fined.

I told him Holyhead and Chester both said it did and that Euston hadn't had an issue with it so he let me through and said I wouldn't be fined this time but to be careful.

My question is, who was right? Holyhead, Chester and Euston or Kings Cross?

A: These gateline assistants get a large salary (more than me - but have to have only a fraction of the knowledge and less responsibility) however there is no apparent requirement for them to be particularly intelligent or keen to learn the job, or particularly customer friendly. While the majority are very good at the job and very keen and helpful, some are not, and I am well aware that King's Cross certainly has it's share of those who are not.

Although they can come across as aggressive and threatening, they're not actually able to issue Penalty Fares as they're not authorised collectors, so unless there's an authorised collector to refer you to, they can't issue a Penalty Fare (also

known as a "fine" but it technically isn't a fine) so have to "let you off this time". You may well have encountered one of the ones who don't believe in LU/NR ticket inter-availability; they seem to have a dislike for non-LU tickets in general.

I've had arguments with them in the past. The most important thing is to be calm and polite and not in any way be provoked. Some of them appear to try to provoke a reaction, because then they can justify calling the police or other nonsense. Remaining calm and polite is the way to win when encountering these well paid, yet unknowledgeable, individuals.

Ticket Splitting

Q: I live in Manchester and I often make the journey home to visit my parents in Nottingham. I started to hear about ticket splitting so I decided to give it a go for my return journey i.e. Nottingham to Manchester. I made this journey on Saturday 2nd August with East Midlands Trains. I purchased my tickets on Friday 25th July online. A standard single fare at this time between Notts and Manchester was £18. I decided to try splitting my ticket at Sheffield and the results were pretty staggering! An advanced ticket between Notts and Sheffield was £4 and Sheffield to Manchester £6. A saving of £8 was fantastic and so I purchased these tickets. I stress that these were advance tickets and I had specific travelling times, however it was the SAME train, I just had to switch seats. It was the 14:47 from Notts to Sheffield and then departed at 15:41 from Sheffield to Manchester Piccadilly. There was a 4 minute wait at Sheffield. Once on my journey the train conductor came round to check my ticket. I don't know if this was my downfall but I explained that I had split my ticket and would be staying on at Sheffield- I showed him all my tickets at this time. He immediately told me what I was doing was absolutely wrong and that I could not split advance tickets.

I told him I had no idea what I had done was wrong and that I thought that as I had valid tickets for both parts of my journey this was legitimate. I even offered to leave the train in the 4 minute gap at Sheffield and reboard as if I was a new customer. He said that he would let me do it this once but if I did it again I would be fined. Obviously this shook me up as I like to think of myself as someone who abides by the rules!

A: Its perfectly valid and detailed in our Ticketing Guide on this page. Your split is covered by section 19b of the National Rail Conditions of Carriage. This is not the first time EMT have taken exception to valid ticket combinations.

Section 19 of the National Rail Conditions of Carriage tells us what combinations of tickets are allowed: "You may use two or more tickets for one journey as long as together they cover the entire journey and one of the following applies:

(a) they are both Zonal Tickets (unless special conditions prohibit their use); (b) the train you are in calls at a station where you change from one ticket to another; or

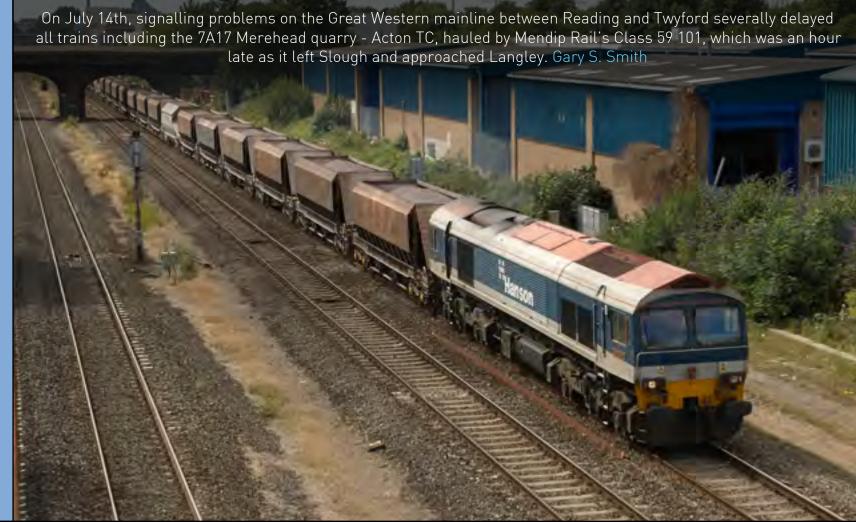
(c) one of the tickets is a Season
Ticket (which for this purpose
does not include Season Tickets or
travel passes issued on behalf of a
passenger transport executive or local
authority) or a leisure travel pass, and
the other ticket(s) is/are not."
Break of journey is a separate
thing and only applies if you leave
the station before you reach the
destination on your ticket.

Ticket Advice for All

Advice on rail ticketing is available on railforums.co.uk in the 'Fares, Tickets & Routeing' section.

We believe this to be the best source of UK rail fares advice available anywhere, as we have a team of people who are familiar with the complex rail fares system who can help you. Never pay over the odds again, and ask us if you need help! see you there.







Did You Know....

In 1842 Queen Victoria became the first British monarch to ride in (on?) a train. The G.W.R. built a special royal carriage to take her from Slough to London (Paddington). As a result of her 'charmed' experience, she regularly used trains. That was the positive side. The negative side was that she was fussy about speed - especially fast starts - and was it true that she insisted that her train stopped every time she wanted to eat or use the "little girls' room?"



WEEKDAYS								SUNDAY					
	p.m. I	a.m.		.pm.	pm.	p.m.j	p.m.		8. m. l	p.m.	1		
Oxford	8 0	9 28	121	335	422	618	1010		1125	1035			
Yarnton	8 10	9 36	122	343	430	626	1018						
Cassington Halt	8 14	9 40	122	4 347	434	630	1024		1136	1047			
Evnsham	8 20	9 46	123	353	441	636	1031		1143	1054			
South Leigh	8 26	9 52	123	5 359	447	642	1038		1149	11-1			
Witney	8 31	9 57	124	1 4 4	452	648	1043			11.6			
dep.	8 35	10 4	124	5 410	458	656	1049	cone	1159	1112		*****	*****
Brige Norton & B'ton	8 48	1016	125	3 420	5.8	7 9	11 0		12 9	1122			
Carterton	8 51	1020	1 3	2 423	514	715	11 8	ion	1217	1130	marin		
Alvescot	9 46	1025	1	5	521	721	1114		1223	1137			10000
Kelmscott & Langf'd	9 52	1032	1 1	2	528	727	1120		1229		1000		
Lechlade	8 59	1039	11 1	9	535	734	1128		1238	1152		0000	
Fairford	107	1047	1 2	5	542	741	1135		1245	12 0			
	2.m. 3	um ja	LOS. I	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	pm	pm.	3.00		p.m.	155	12
Fairford				1115	1235	2 2		610	9 6		636		
Lechlade	73.		23	1123	1243	210		618	9.14		644		
Kelmscott & Langf'd	78.	9	28	1128	1248	215	*****	623	9 20		650		
Alvescot		9	34	1134	1254	221		629	9 26		656		
Carterton		140 9	39	1139	1259		438	634	9 32				
Brize Norton & B'ton		147 9	44	1144	9	231	443	639	9 38				
Witney arr.	736 8	354 9	51	1151	1 16	238	450	646	9 45			******	
dep.	740 5	0	0 0	1157	1 22	243	5.5	654	9 50			******	
South Leigh	745 9	5 1	0.6	12.2	1 27	248	510	659	9 56	· com			
Eynsham		20/21/10	011	12.7	1 32	253	516	7.4	10 1	111111			10.10
	758 9	11711	018	1214	1 39	3 0	523	711	10 8		734		
Cassington Halt			022					715					

The above timetable is just one found in the top publication.

Note that the first train of the day leaves at 8 0 <u>p.m.</u> from Oxford according to this timetable! The next train of the day is the 9 38a.m. from Oxford.

What is interesting are the times taken by the first train between Carterton (8 51) and Alvescot (9 46) as well as Kelmscott & Langf'd (9 52) and Lechlade (8 59) and Lechlade and Fairford (10 7).

These are obviously misprints but can you imagine how busy an ex-G.W.R. fireman (and tired) IF those timings (where the train appears to go backward in time) were true.

How and when this publication came into my possession I just can't remember.



Loco Fleet List 2014

This publication gives a reference to all the Diesel & Electric Locomotives which have operated on Britain's railways from the early experimental era right up until the present day.

This information has been put together to give an easy reference to the numbering and official naming of each locomotive and includes all withdrawn, preserved and currently operating locos in TOPS classification order.

Contents

- Diesel Locomotives
- DC Electric & Electro-Diesel Locos
- AC Electric Locomotives
- Eurotunnel Locomotives
- Unclassified & Prototype Locos
- Locomotive Names

Loco Fleet List 2014 is available via mail order for just £7.99 plus £1.99 P&P with a cheque or postal order made payable to: L Miller and sent to: 7 Wood Street, Warrington, WA1 3AY or by using Paypal when visiting the Milz Publications website.

Web:www.milzpublications.co.uk Email:lee@milzpublications.co.uk





2014

THE COMPLETE
LIST OF DIESEL
AND ELECTRIC
LOCOMOTIVES TO
RUN ON BR AND
THE NATIONAL
RAIL NETWORK

Euston station development to provide more space and choice for passengers

Passengers at Euston can look forward to a bigger, better station with more shops and a wider choice of food and drink as Network Rail begins a £12.5m development of the station.

More than 70m people use Euston station every year and passenger numbers are growing faster than any other London terminus. Network Rail's scheme will create more space both inside and outside the station while giving passengers, local residents and people working in the area a better selection of shops as well as places to eat and drink.

Phase one of the scheme will see the piazza outside the station cleared of kiosks and replaced with 'grab and go' food units incorporated into the front of the station, providing more space and a more pleasant atmosphere. The new units will open from summer 2015.

Inside the station, an 8,000 sq ft balcony will be created, featuring a new bar, a selection of casual dining outlets and a comfy seating area overlooking the main concourse. The balcony will be fully accessible via escalators, stairs and a lift and is expected to open to the public in late 2015.

Phase two of the scheme will see the current station food court converted into an improved and expanded retail area, offering a range of quality brands. This should be complete by the end of 2015.

Hamish Kiernan, commercial retail director at Network Rail, said: "More than a million people use Euston station every week and this number is only set to grow further. Our plan for Euston will provide more space and a better atmosphere for passengers as well as an attractive mix of food, drink and shopping options for people travelling to or through the station.

"Our award-winning developments at King's Cross and Waterloo showcase what can be achieved at our major stations and now as we move our focus to Euston, we are confident we can create a bigger, brighter station for everyone."

Network Rail and its contractors have planned the work in order to minimise any disruption to station users during construction. The station will remain open throughout and train services will not be affected.





"Momentous day" for GB Railfreight as first new Class 66s arrive on UK soil

On July 11th, GB Railfreight welcomed the arrival of the first batch of its new Class 66 locomotives from the U.S. into the Port of Newport. They represent the first batch of an order of 21 Class 66s from Electro-Motive Diesel (EMD) and are part of the company's largest ever investment in new locomotives. The next two batches will be arriving on UK shores over the next six months.

The five locomotives arrived at the Port at 22:00 on Thursday, July 10th, before being unloaded and coupled together again at 08:00 on the morning of Friday, July 11th. Then they were transported to EMD s maintenance depot in Doncaster. The purchase of 21 Class 66 diesel locomotives will take GB Railfreight s current Class 66 fleet to 71. They have been secured ahead of the change in EU emissions legislation which, from January 2015, sees new regulations coming into force that could impact the ability to obtain compliant and affordable locomotives. The company hopes this procurement drive will assist in doubling turnover over the next three years, supporting the creation of more jobs and encouraging growth into new freight sectors.

John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, said: This is a momentous day for GB Railfreight. This first batch is five of 21 new Class 66 locomotives that will be arriving at the Port of Newport over the next 9-12 months. As a company, we have had an exceptional year. These locomotives will allow us to grow our business further in 2015 and continue to provide our customers with the optimum level of service, signifying the confidence we have in the development of the UK rail freight sector and helping us keep the UK economy moving. We have been working closely with EMD on this project and I want to thank them for all their hard work and dedication in reaching this point. We hope to continue this relationship throughout the rest of the manufacturing and delivery process. Billy Ainsworth, Progress Rail and EMD President and Chief Executive Officer, said:I am extremely pleased that after an exhaustive search of different options available, GBRf selected the EMD Class 66 locomotive as it provides optimal product life cycle cost through its durability, reliability and sustainability. GBRf s decision reinforces EMD s position as the leading locomotive provider in the markets we serve.

Grand Central success continues as September 2015 opening is confirmed

With the stunning atrium roof above Grand Central successfully lowered into place, the official opening of Grand Central has been confirmed as September 2015.

atrium space which, on completion, will be the size of a football pitch. Over 95% of the waste material will be re-used on site or recycled.

Keith Stone, leasing director for Grand Central, said: "Grand Central is fully integrated with the modern, redeveloped station which will provide millions of people from across the region with unparalleled access to a range of exciting brands and a premium shopping experience.



Nearly 85% of the 1/2million sq ft of floor space has now been taken with Joules, Cath Kidston, Fat Face, Jolie Papier and Monsoon Accessorize confirming their presence alongside the 250,000 sq ft John Lewis and Kiehls, The White Company and L'Occitane in Grand Central.

The opening of Grand Central and John Lewis will coincide with the completion of the world-class Birmingham New Street station which will transform rail travel for millions of passengers every year.

Opening Grand Central together with the completed station concourse will provide an unprecedented customer experience and enable shoppers from across the region and beyond to plan their visit by rail or road, and over 50 million people are expected through the building each year. In addition to the 60 shops, restaurants and cafes in Grand Central, the development will include a further 60,000 sq ft of retail. restaurants and cafes at concourse level.

The shops at Grand Central will be complemented by the best shopper dining offer in the city, with an exciting array of restaurants and cafes to encourage increased dwell time. Brands including Giraffe, Carluccios, Caffé Concerto, Pho, Tortilla, Tapas Revolution, Crepe Affaire, Yo! Sushi and Square Pie have all signed up to Grand Central, with additional dining choices at concourse level.

The next key construction milestone for the project involves an extensive demolition programme to remove approximately 6,000 tonnes of reinforced concrete, to create the stunning "With the vast majority of our retailers and restaurants opening new shops in the city, Grand Central will complement the significant entertainment offer already in Birmingham and elevate the city up the retail hierarchy."

John Lewis has also today announced that Lisa Williams will become head of branch at its regional flagship department store in Birmingham. Lisa is currently head of branch at John Lewis High Wycombe and this month celebrates 25 years since she first joined the John Lewis Partnership. Born in Shirley, this new role will see Lisa return to her family base in Birmingham. Lisa Williams, head of branch at John Lewis Birmingham said: "I'm absolutely thrilled to be taking on this new challenge in the UK's second largest city. I look forward to establishing our regional flagship shop in the centre of Birmingham and in the heart of the local community. "This new role brings me back to Birmingham where I was brought up and where most of my family and friends still live. I can't wait to recruit a new team of Partners and reveal the shop to our customers during September 2015."

Rail Minister Claire Perry said: "The redevelopment of Birmingham New Street station will transform the daily journey of millions of people and the project is also hugely important for Birmingham and the local economy upon which thousands of jobs depend. The scale of the new station highlights the ever increasing demand for rail travel across the country and this is just a small part of the £38billion being invested to maintain and enhance Britain's railway network over the next five years - more than has been spent since Victorian times. This Government is delivering a real Rail Renaissance for British travellers.



Baroness Kramer officially opens James Cook station

Minister of State for Transport, Baroness Kramer, has officially opened a new £2.2m Tees Valley rail station that is vital to the area's transport infrastructure. Baroness Kramer named the train she arrived on – Captain James Cook, Master Mariner - and unveiled an official opening plaque to mark the development of the James Cook station behind The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough, which has been achieved through a partnership involving Tees Valley Unlimited, Northern Rail, Network Rail, Middlesbrough Council and South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Up to 17 Northern Rail trains on the Esk Valley line call at the new stop, which has been established following a successful Local Sustainable Transport Fund bid from the Department for Transport by TVU, the Local Enterprise Partnership for Tees Valley. Transport Minister Baroness Kramer said: "I am very pleased that we have been able to contribute £2million towards the new station at The James Cook University Hospital, which will serving staff, patients and visitors as well as enhancing the wider transport network. Good transport connections act as an engine for economic growth, and link local people to vital services."

David Robinson, TVU Board Member, said: "The development of this station is important for Tees Valley as it provides an alternative means of access to a large employment site and surrounding developments. It also is helping to ease congestion and parking issues and improve traffic flow along one of the area's busiest transport corridors. "This scheme, which is part of a wider package of investment and improvements to rail transport in Tees Valley, demonstrates how partners and stakeholders are working together for the benefit of the area's residents and organisations."

The James Cook station investment dovetails in with a £4.5m scheme to boost rail travel that will see 11 other stations - Allens West, Billingham, Gypsy Lane, Longbeck, Marske, Marton, Nunthorpe, Redcar Central, Redcar East, South Bank and Stockton - receive improvements to passenger facilities.

Improvements include electronic timetabling, signage upgrades, shelters, improved lighting and seating and the installation of CCTV. Alex Hynes, Managing Director for Northern Rail comments: "We're delighted to celebrate the opening of our new station and welcome Baroness Kramer to the region. The development of James Cook station forms a crucial part of a wider scheme to improve rail travel in Tees Valley.

"These enhanced transport connections are important to ensure that residents and visitors to the area can access more facilities throughout the north."

Derby Enterprise Growth Fund Supports Rail Company Expansion

Derby based Railway Vehicle Engineering Limited (RVEL) has secured grant support from the £20 million Derby Enterprise Growth Fund (DEGF) which will be the catalyst for growth and it is anticipated to create 33 new jobs.

RVEL have been awarded a £165,000 grant from DEGF towards their £487,000 investment programme which will see a new paint facility installed and other significant enhancements take place at their engineering facilities in the RTC Business Park on London Road, Derby.

RVEL's new paint shop has been designed specifically for the painting of railway locomotives and rolling stock – enabling the company to win more business and potentially increase its £12 million turnover by £5 million a year. RVEL hopes to open the new paint shop in September of this year.

The new jobs created will be a combination of project managers and paint shop personnel, as well as skilled engineers, welders and fitters. The new roles will support RVEL's expansion plans as it targets growing demand in the industry for specialist rolling stock maintenance and overhaul skills, to cater for passenger and freight growth on Britain's railways.



Andy Lynch, managing director of RVEL, said: "We are grateful to Derby City Council and the Derby Enterprise Growth Fund for supporting our growth plans.

"DEGF funding will allow us to fast-track the installation of a paint facility that will help us meet growing customer demand and allow us to speed up recruitment of local people into our growing and successful business.

"Today's announcement is further proof that Derby supports local companies and the City's unique cluster of rail businesses, which is the largest in the world."

RVEL specialises in engineering work on railway traction and rolling stock. Based in Derby, at the heart of the UK rail industry RVEL offers modern, well equipped workshops that provide customers with a full range of rolling stock engineering solutions; from train servicing through routine fleet maintenance to the heaviest of vehicle and component re-engineering projects.

DEGF is supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund and run by Derby City Council. It aims to support the growth and job creation at businesses in Derby and the travel to work area through a mix of loans and grants. Councillor Martin Rawson, Derby City Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning, Environment and Regeneration chairs the DEGF panel of industry and financial experts who consider applications.

He said: "Derby celebrates 175 years of rail manufacturing this year which is a major milestone for our city.

"The DEGF panel has been very impressed by the quality and calibre of the applications from companies in this sector such as RVEL who continue to be innovative and ambitious in their future growth plans.

"The continued growth of the rail industry is crucial to the economic health of the city and companies such as RVEL evidently remain committed to increasing the number of skilled local jobs for local people."

Applications continue to be welcomed by Derby City Council. To find out more visit: www.derby.gov.uk/degf.

Alternatively call 01332 641628 or email degf@derby.gov. uk

Photo: An artist's impression of the new paint facility at RVEL.



Stark safety warning to Grimsby level crossing users

Network Rail and the British Transport Police (BTP) have issued a warning that reckless and dangerous behaviour at Grimsby town centre level crossing could end in tragedy. Footage captured by CCTV cameras at crossings on Littlefield and Wellowgate shows pedestrians using the crossings after the lights and sirens have started, and in some cases, as the barriers are coming down. One piece of footage, which was filmed at the Wellowgate crossing, shows a group of young people running over the crossing after the barriers have started to lower, and become stuck on the wrong side of the barriers until they physically lift it.

Other footage shows pedestrians walking over the crossings as the barriers are starting to lower, when the lights and sirens would be clearly showing and sounding. Vicki Beadle, community safety manager for Network Rail, said: "Some people are not using these crossings in a safe way. This is not only against the law, but puts people's lives in danger.

"When the sirens and lights sound at a crossing, people should not attempt to cross it. I understand it can be frustrating waiting for trains to pass at level crossings, but please be patient, wait for the trains to pass and for the crossing to open and clear. Trying to rush across could possibly mean more delays for everyone. "It is never worth the risk. Even if you manage to cross without getting hurt, misusing level crossings can cause delays to train services and other people."

Inspector Tracy Metcalf from the British Transport Police (BTP), said: "Despite our constant warnings and enforcement action, motorists are continuing to risk their lives and the lives of others at level crossings. Incredibly, some people are still willing to put their lives on the line by ignoring warning lights and sirens and trying to dash through crossings when trains are approaching. "Our main concern is for the safety of those who use level crossings everyday. We are more interested in preventing accidents and saving lives than enforcement. "Most accidents are as a result of impatience; not being prepared to wait and trying to beat the train. For the sake of 60 seconds, a little patience can prevent lives being ruined.

"I have seen what happens when a train hits a car or person and have had the sad duty of destroying people's lives by informing them that their loved ones have died. I would urge anyone who thinks trying to beat the red light is OK, take a second to think of the consequences and stop. It might just save your life. If anyone witnesses motorists ignoring level crossing procedures please contact BTP on Freephone 0800 405040 or text 61016 in confidence," she added.

EAST COAST WHISKS LINCOLNSHIRE'S 'FARMER WINK' ON A TRIP OF A LIFETIME

July 23rd was a day to remember for Lincolnshire's own 'Farmer Wink', as he made a first-ever rail journey for a capital day out by train with East Coast.

The 64-year old, real name Robert Carlton, became a local celebrity after making regular appearances on BBC Radio Lincolnshire, discussing everything from agricultural matters to preserving the county's traditional dialect.

During a live radio broadcast from the Lincolnshire County Show last month, the countryman confessed to presenter William Wright that he'd never set foot on a train in his life – and had only ever been to London on the back of a potato lorry.

Inspired by his story, the radio station and East Coast teamed up to whisk 'Farmer Wink' to London in First Class style on-board the 07.20 train direct from Lincoln to London King's Cross, for a packed day in the big city.

East Coast spokesman Richard Salkeld said: "When we heard about Farmer Wink's story, we were happy to invite him to enjoy a return journey with us on our direct Lincoln to London service.

"We hope he'll be impressed by the home comforts we're providing during his journeys to and from London, and perhaps becomes a regular customer on our route."

East Coast Guard Dan Webster made a special announcement to welcome 'Farmer Wink' onto the railway for the very first

time, and presented him with his own king-size ticket as a memento of his first ever train journey.

His packed itinerary in the capital included a photo stop on the steps of 10 Downing Street, a live appearance on BBC Radio 2's Jeremy Vine lunchtime show, a visit to Borough Market to see Lincolnshire produce on display, and a trip to the top of western Europe's tallest building, The Shard. 64-year-old 'Farmer Wink', from Minting near Horncastle, has worked on the same farm for 48 years, and has rarely been more than 30 miles from his home village.

BBC Radio Lincolnshire drivetime presenter William Wright said: "Farmer Wink is a hugely popular figure with our listeners thanks to his regular appearances on-air. When he told me he'd never been on a train, I offered to go with him and follow his first ever journey and that's how it all started.

"We've followed his progress throughout the day, including a photo on the front steps of 10 Downing Street, a visit to Broadcasting House and a trip to the top of The



Shard, and of course that first ever train journey courtesy of East Coast."

Photo: Lincolnshire personality 'Farmer Wink' prepares for his first ever train journey by East Coast's direct service from Lincoln to London, carrying a specially made giant ticket. Alongside him is East Coast Train Guard Dan Webster. © East Coast

Passengers reminded to plan their journeys ahead of Watford railway upgrades in August

Passengers are being reminded to check for changes to their journeys on the West Coast main line this August as Network Rail continues its investment in the railway in the Watford area.

Network Rail will be closing the West Coast main line on three separate occasions between London Euston and Watford in August to carry out significant upgrade work. As a result passengers will need to use alternative routes to travel in and out of London.

The railway will be closed between Saturday 9 and Monday 11 August; Saturday 16 and Monday 18 August; and Saturday 23 and Monday 25 August. A reduced service will run until 4pm on Monday 11 and Monday 18 and the railway will be closed on Monday 25, reopening on Tuesday 26 August.

The closures will affect passengers from across parts of Scotland, the West Midlands and the north west who plan to travel to London along the West Coast main line. Jim Syddall, acting route managing director for Network Rail, said: "The section of track at Watford is one of the most intensively used, high-speed pieces of railway in Britain and has seen tremendous growth in traffic and passengers over the last five years.

"There is never a good time to close the railway and we apologise for the inconvenience caused but this work is essential to maintain reliable train services for the millions of passengers who travel on this route every year.

"We have worked with all our industry partners to provide passengers with information in advance and will continue to during the work to minimise disruption as much as possible."

The August closures follows the May Day weekend closure earlier this year, part of eight weekend and bank holiday closures which will take place until April 2015. Significant upgrade work is being carried out to improve reliability and punctuality along this section of the railway.

To complete the work, more than 21,000 tonnes of stone ballast will be used, more than 28,000 tonnes of waste will be removed from the site and 11,000 new railway sleepers will be installed as part of nine miles of track renewals.

Network Rail is working closely with the train operating companies who will provide alternative routes in and out of London for passengers.

Although alternative arrangements will be in place, journey times will be considerably longer and passengers are being advised to avoid travelling to and from London on the West Coast main line during the closures if travel is not essential.

Terry Oliver, London Midland's head of west coast services, said: "My advice would be to use an alternative train route where possible. London Midland has arranged for its tickets to be accepted by selected operators to allow passengers to do this.

"If you need to travel along the affected route during the closures, remember to allow plenty of time, plan ahead and check before you travel.

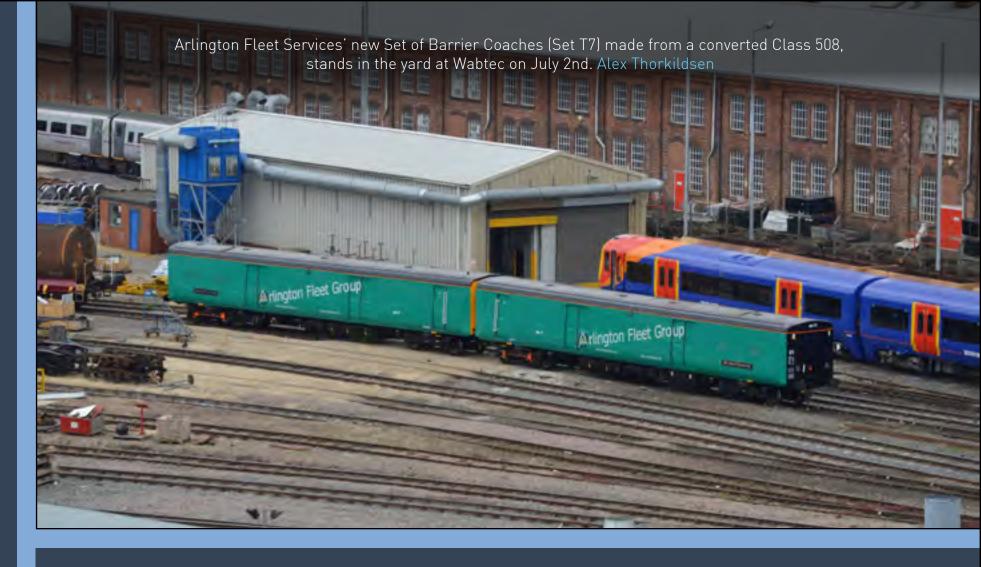
"We have worked to minimise inconvenience and we will continue to update passenger information. Staff will be at stations along the closed route to provide assistance."

Phil Bearpark, operations and customer service director for Virgin Trains, said: "We understand that improvement works can have a big impact on passengers and strongly advise customers to check their journey in advance and allow extra time if necessary.

"We have worked closely with Network Rail and industry partners to ensure alternative travel arrangements are in place and to keep disruption to a minimum whilst this important work is carried out."

In all cases, Virgin Trains' customers will need to use an alternative train operator for journeys to and from London. Those that have access to other routes via Chiltern Railways, East Midlands Trains and East Coast are being encouraged to use these instead. Southern services will also be impacted.

As part of a joint passenger campaign, travellers should use National Rail Enquiries to check and plan their journey if they have to travel during this time using: www.nationalrail.co.uk/Watford.



Roof refurbishments to be completed at Paddington station

Passengers are set to benefit from a more pleasant travelling experience after Network Rail awarded a £20m contract to complete the refurbishment of Paddington station's historic roof.

The first phase of the work, which was completed in July 2011, involved the renovation of the barrel roof above platforms nine to 12 (known as span four). Starting this month, the final phase is scheduled to be complete by the start of 2016 and will see a similar refurbishment carried out on the station's original spans one to three above platforms one to eight, which formed the original station and were built by Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

Using the same tried and tested method that was employed to carry out the work for span four, the renovations work will be carried out using a suspended scaffold above the platforms, minimising disruption to commuters.

Andrew Coulson, project manager for Network Rail, said: "This work is not only necessary to extend the life of the roof, but also improve the environment of the station for the 35m people who use it each year.

"We are therefore pleased to award this contract to the Colas Rail and Morgan Sindall Joint Venture, who already have experience of successfully renovating this historically significant building. By undertaking these further renovations, we hope to enhance the experience of commuters and continue to improve the running of the station."

The completion of the roof will be delivered jointly by Network Rail and the Colas Rail and Morgan Sindall Joint Venture.

As Paddington station is a Grade I listed building, the renovation work will be sensitively undertaken. Morgan Sindall already has experience of this through their renovation of span four which won a number of industry awards. The work will include strengthening the roof's steelwork; repairs to the original wrought iron structure and decorative scrolls; upgrading the lighting system and replacing the polycarbonate roof lights; undertaking internal redecoration; and making improvements to the roof's drainage.

Rail operating centre officially opened in Manchester

A new signalling centre which will eventually control large parts of the railway in the north west of England has been officially opened in Manchester. The leader of Manchester City Council, Sir Richard Leese, was joined by representatives from Network Rail, TransPennine Express and Northern Rail to formally open the state-of-the-art rail operating centre (ROC) on July 21st.

The rail operating centre, near Ashburys station in Manchester, is one of 12 which will eventually manage the entire rail network across Britain, replacing more than 800 signal boxes and other operational locations currently used to control trains. All 12 centres will have more advanced signalling tools and technology that will help reduce delays, improve performance, increase capacity, provide better information to passengers and offer better value for money for passengers and taxpayers.

Sir Richard Leese, leader of Manchester City Council, said: "This new centre will be an important part of a major overhaul of the north west's rail network, vastly improving the service and making it easier for tens of thousands of people to access jobs in and around Manchester using public transport."

Jim Syddall, Network Rail's acting route managing director for the north west region, said: "This new rail operating centre means that Manchester will be one of the most important places on the railway map in the north west. "When fully operational, it will help to boost performance, increase capacity and provide a better level of service to passengers across the north west and help the railway recover more efficiently during periods of disruption.

"As well as contributing to a better railway, it will also help boost the local economy and help with the regeneration of this part of the city, with several hundred jobs to eventually be relocated here." A spokesperson for First TransPennine Express and Northern Rail said: "The railway across the north of England is subject to massive investment and improvement and the dedicated signalling centre at Ashbury's is another example of that. "It will allow for teams from Network Rail and rail operators such as FTPE and Northern to work more closely together thus ensuring that customers benefit from quick and collaborative decision making.

"This type of investment will allow for improved service reliability and performance which benefits everyone."

The line between Huyton and Roby, near Liverpool, is the first section of railway being controlled from the Manchester ROC following the recent resignalling and upgrade work carried out earlier this month. The next sections of railway to be controlled from the ROC will be parts of central and north Manchester in 2015. Later this year the ROC will be home to Network Rail, TransPennine Express and Northern control staff who monitor the operational railway and help to deal with incidents as and when they arise. Working together in the same building as the increasing number of signallers will help the railway industry as a whole react to disruption in a quicker and more efficient way, reducing delays and providing passengers with better, more accurate real time information.

Over the next 20 years all of the railway in the north west of England will be controlled from the ROC, bordered by Crewe to the south, Todmorden in the east, Carlisle in the north and the Welsh border to the west.

When fully operational, up to 400 staff will work from the ROC, operating the railway 24 hours a day.

Construction of the ROC building was carried out by Morgan Sindall on behalf of Network Rail.







On July 12th, a pair of Eurostars are seen in London St. Pancras. Class47

SOUTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY SOCIETY

A club for anyone interested in the railways of Southern England.



www.southerncountiesrailwaysociety.co.uk

Network Rail plans exciting new vision for Cardiff Central



Network Rail is planning the biggest transformation of Cardiff Central station since it was first built in the 1850s.

The company is exploring options to deliver a major redevelopment of the station during its next five-year funding period, which starts in 2019. The plans could see an extension to the Grade II listed building to create a bigger, better and brighter station.

A major upgrade to the signalling technology in the Cardiff area is already underway and work has also started to electrify the line from Swansea to London. These programmes will help future-proof the railway by enabling faster, more frequent trains across the South Wales network.

But with passenger numbers forecast to grow significantly over the next decade and beyond, the station also needs to respond to the rising demand.

The remit for the initial design work has been to integrate the historic elements of the station into a new, modern building that better reflects passenger needs.

The plans will provide a bright, spacious concourse with improved connectivity to platforms as well as enhanced retail opportunities and additional places to eat and drink. The aspiration is for the station to offer both an improved experience for passengers and for it to be a destination in its own right serving the local community emerging around it.

Along with the changes to the passenger experience, the project will see a major redevelopment of the entire station site. The proposals envisage a new multi-deck car park, commercial developments on the existing south side and Saunders Road car parks and an

enhanced transport interchange and public realm.

Mark Langman, route managing director for Network Rail in Wales, said: "The station area is a prime location for commercial development, as the BBC Wales headquarter announcement shows, and we are really excited by the site and the opportunities it will unlock to redevelop the station.

"This is a unique opportunity to create a new station environment that is a fitting entrance to the capital city of Wales. We're pleased to be working with the Welsh Government, Cardiff Council and industry partners, including Arriva Trains Wales, to enhance the city and the quality of transport in the region.

"Our plans will help deliver a vastly improved experience for the tens of thousands of passengers that use the station every day. It will be the focal point of the Central Cardiff Enterprise Zone and will seamlessly blend our significant investment programme, including the re-signalling scheme and electrification, with other improvements to the local urban environment."

Ian Bullock, managing director for Arriva Trains Wales, said "We have seen a significant increase in passenger numbers using trains into Cardiff Central station and this is forecast to grow significantly in the future.

"We are excited by the plans being developed and look forward to working with all parties to ensure that the needs of passengers and staff are met. A particular aspect we look forward to developing with partners is for those using the station following special events in the city. "The plans have the potential to make Cardiff Central a landmark station not only for Cardiff but the railway nationally."

The Nosh Report

Welcome to a the "Nosh Report" your monthly dip into what's available in the eating world, or to put it another way, where have I had some decent nosh, or have been recommended to have some decent nosh, this month.

This month something different, courtesy of First Capital Connect:

A-listers' food on offer at Alexandra Palace station

The Yard café opened its doors to customers at Alexandra Palace station on Thursday 17th July. The Yard is owned by local chef Adele Young, whose clientele includes high profile celebrities and leaders of industry.

Following the recent £143,000 refurbishment of Alexandra Palace's ticket hall, Adele has ensured that The Yard's décor fits in with the heritage look and feel of the station. The Yard will be offering fresh artisan sandwiches and salads using locally sourced ingredients. With the addition of the pizza oven, customers will be able to purchase fresh sourdough pizzas to eat in or takeaway.

First Capital Connect Customer Services Director Keith Jipps said: "First Capital Connect is proud to announce its latest food offering of The Yard at the recently refurbished Alexandra Palace station, run and owned by local chef to the stars, Adele Young.

"The Yard will offer fresh, great quality food made with local ingredients and is perfect for passengers looking to grab a light bite at lunch time or something heartier in the evening from The Yard's very own pizza oven.

"Adele has created a fresh looking shop balancing the perfect mix of a modern offering with the heritage look unique to the railway. Adele regularly caters for a number of high profile clients in their homes including A-list stars and leaders of industry. Sadly she's sworn to secrecy and can't say who they are!

"FCC is committed to on-going investment in our network and offering our customers a great choice of facilities at our stations."

On a day to day basis The Yard will be run by former Honey and Co. chef Bonnie Young and Craig Ritchie.

Adele added: "The Yard is a young and vibrant place, run by chefs who have trained in London and overseas, aiming to bring a friendly vibe to local Alexandra Palace residents and commuters."



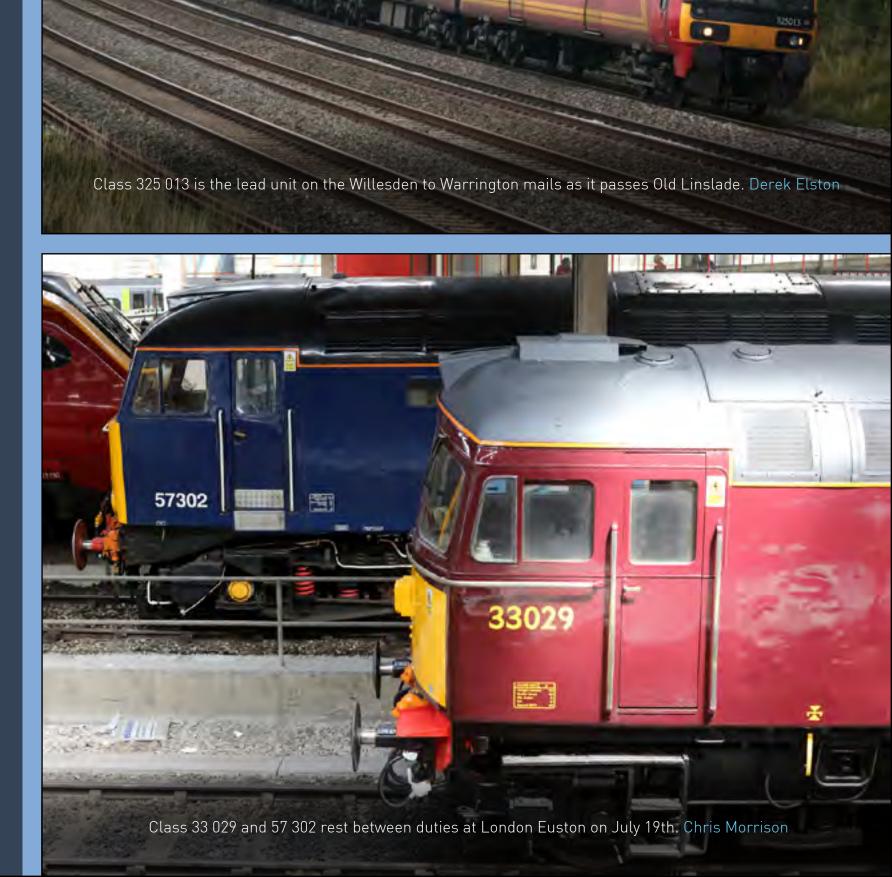
Photo: Adele Young and Keith Jipps open The Yard ©FCC



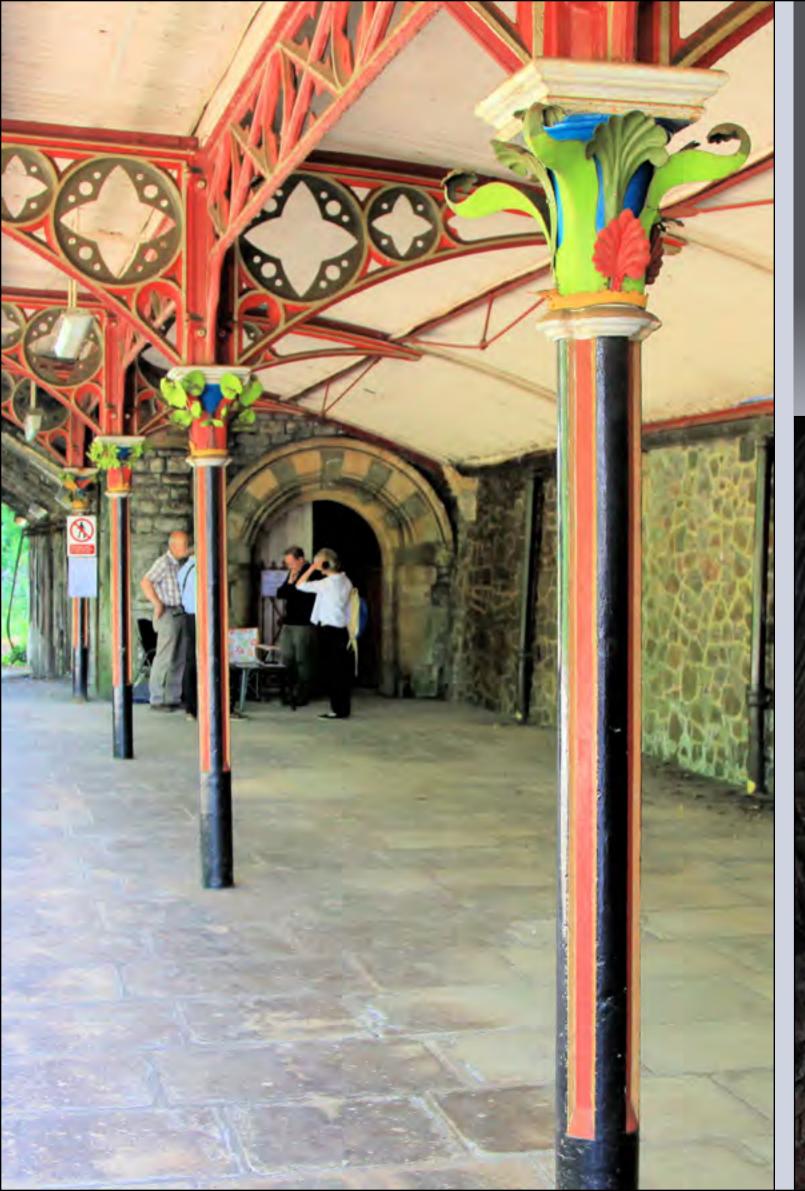
Lets hope that it is a great success and next time that I'm down in London, I will certainly try and make time to pop in.

If you have any suggestions for next months report then please do get in touch either to the editorial team or to the address below, and thanks for reading.

Send your emails to:
nosh.report@railtalkmagazine.co.uk







The Worm at Great Malvern

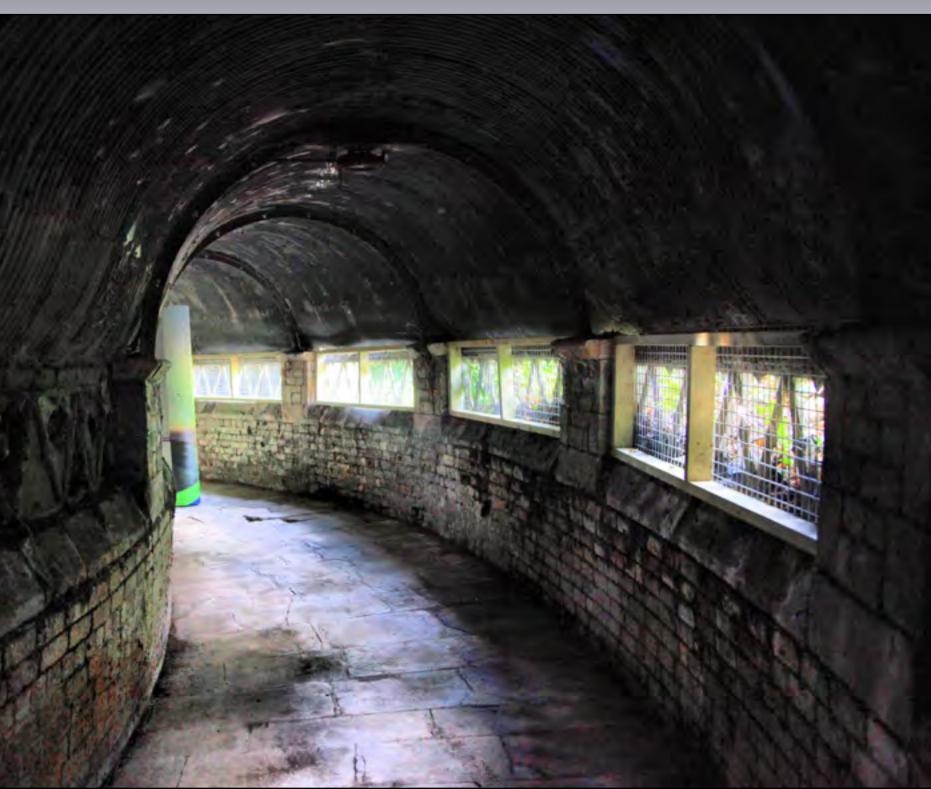
A bit of railway history which is not normally open to the public.

The down platform at Great Malvern station was linked to the old Imperial Hotel (now Malvern Girls College) by a semi-underground pedestrian walkway arched over with corrugated iron sheeting. This passed under the adjacent road and enabled first class passengers and luggage to access the hotel.

Known locally as "The Worm" it was opened in 1862, the end nearest the college is now blocked. The structure is listed but has been allowed to fall into a rather decayed state although there is now some hope that it will be restored. A second tunnel ran into the Imperial Hotel served by a siding which has now been lifted. This enabled coke for the hotel's boilers to be taken directly into the basement.

Left: The entrance to 'The Worm' from the down platform. Neil Pugh

Below: Inside 'The Worm'. Neil Pugh















A ROADSHOW WITH A DIFFERENCE!

New build steam locomotive project Gresley class P2 No. 2007 Prince of Wales and world famous Peppercorn class A1 No. 60163 Tornado take to the roads of the UK as part of a high profile advertising campaign

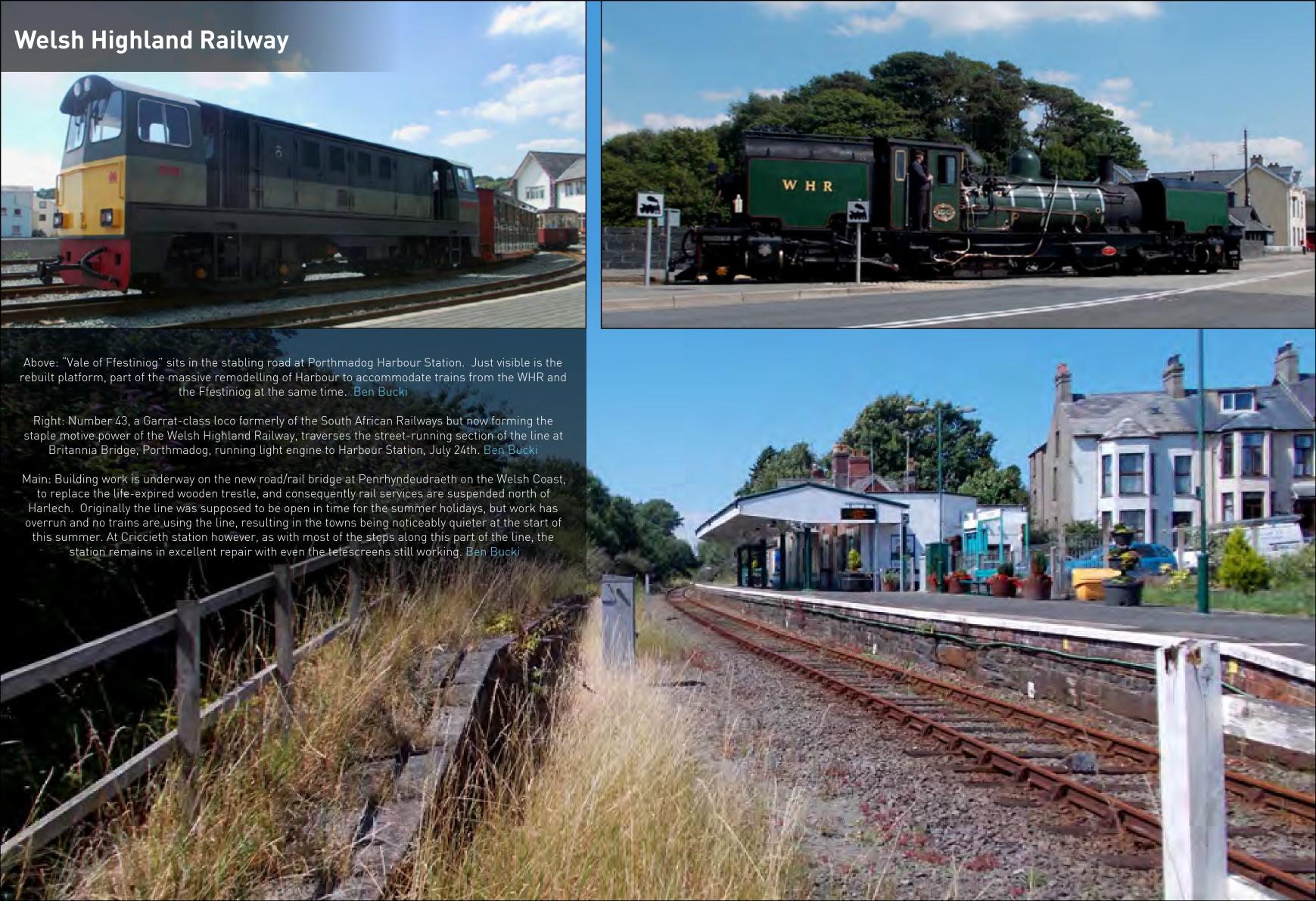


With the frames for new Gresley class P2 No. 2007 Prince of Wales now in place at Darlington Locomotive Works and all eight driving wheels ordered and in the process of being cast at William Cook Cast Products (WCCP) of Sheffield, the fund raising for this mammoth project continues at pace. Key to its ongoing success is raising awareness beyond the core railway enthusiast community, securing support and donations from the wider general public. In an ambitious move for a new build steam locomotive project, The Trust have secured the services of a 40ft mobile billboard to help not only spread the message and drive funding, but secure a mutually beneficial relationship with one of the countries longest serving road hauliers as haulage partner, namely L Hunt & Sons of Basingstoke.

The trailer is designed to have a working life covering the duration of the 7 year anticipated build for No. 2007 Prince of Wales. During that time, it will cover hundreds of thousands of miles and be visible to millions of motorists and pedestrians across the country. Forming part of L Hunt & Sons haulage fleet, the trailer will be put to work immediately, but will be used for the first time by The Trust to transfer the driving wheels from William Cook Cast Products in Sheffield to Darlington Locomotive in the next few weeks.

The class P2 2-8-2 'Mikado' locomotives were the most powerful passenger steam locomotives to operate in the UK, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley to haul 600 ton trains on the arduous Edinburgh to Aberdeen route. Sadly the design was never fully developed and they were rebuilt in 1943/44 and scrapped by 1961. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust (a registered charity) is building the seventh member of this class over seven years at an estimated cost of £5m through its P2 Steam Locomotive Company subsidiary. The project will demonstrate how the design can be fully realised through use of modern computer design and modelling techniques, enabling the new locomotive to deliver its full potential hauling passenger trains at high speed across today's national network.

Derrick Hunt, Managing Director for L Hunt & Sons commented: We are delighted to be a partner of this amazing project! The road haulage industry was largely blamed for taking freight off the rails following WWII, contributing in part to the demise of steam. As one of the countries longest serving road hauliers, its great to be in a position to help put steam back on the main line for the public to enjoy'. Derrick added: We are looking forward to playing our part in not only making sure the trailer is as visible as possible on the highways of Britain, but assisting where and when we can in the transport of parts to Darlington Locomotive Works for the production of No. 2007 Prince of Wales. Over the years we've moved many heritage items, including the worlds oldest caravan to Buckingham Palace in 2007, so we are honoured to be able to add this significant Royal connection to our own varied and 118 year delivery history'.









THOUSANDS OF MODEL RAIL ENTHUSIASTS MAKE TRACKS TO GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY

The Great Central Railway's inaugural giant model railway exhibition, 'The Model Event', has been declared a stunning success by organisers. The award winning Leicestershire heritage line staged the event over three days in June. Over 4,500 of visitors enjoyed a mix of more than sixty layouts and trade stands.

"We were overwhelmed by how quickly the event took off," said the line's Marketing Manager, Kate Tilley. "We had invested substantially in staging a quality event which would genuinely be a full day out and it paid off. We had many visitors who have never been to the railway before. So many people said how much they enjoyed the event, where everyone could get close to many different layouts of all shapes, sizes and gauges."

Unusually the event wasn't concentrated on a single site, with visitors able to take steam train rides between the line's stations and visit different displays. Full size locomotives were also on display alongside the main exhibition halls and there were displays from model engineers too.

The Great Central is now taking on board comments from visitors to prepare a repeat of the event to be staged in summer 2015. The line has thanked the many sponsors who enabled the event to take place and the huge support from the Soar Valley Model Railway Club whose well-honed exhibition expertise meant everything went smoothly.

David Haarhaus, Bachmann's Sales & Marketing Manager said 'Bachmann Europe were delighted to support this successful new event, to call it a model railway exhibition does not reflect the size, number or diversity of the attractions that were offered over the three days. Having worked closely with Kate and her Great Central Railway team for many years, we were confident that it would be executed to a very high standard. Feedback from our Bachmann Collectors Club members was very positive, and so pledging our support for the next event was a simple decision.'

One of the highlights was the unveiling of a brand new model of the GCR's reunification project featuring a new bridge across the Midland Main Line. The project, one of the largest in railway preservation is now moving ahead. For more information and to donate, see www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify

Photo: Marquee at Quorn/©Dennis Willcock















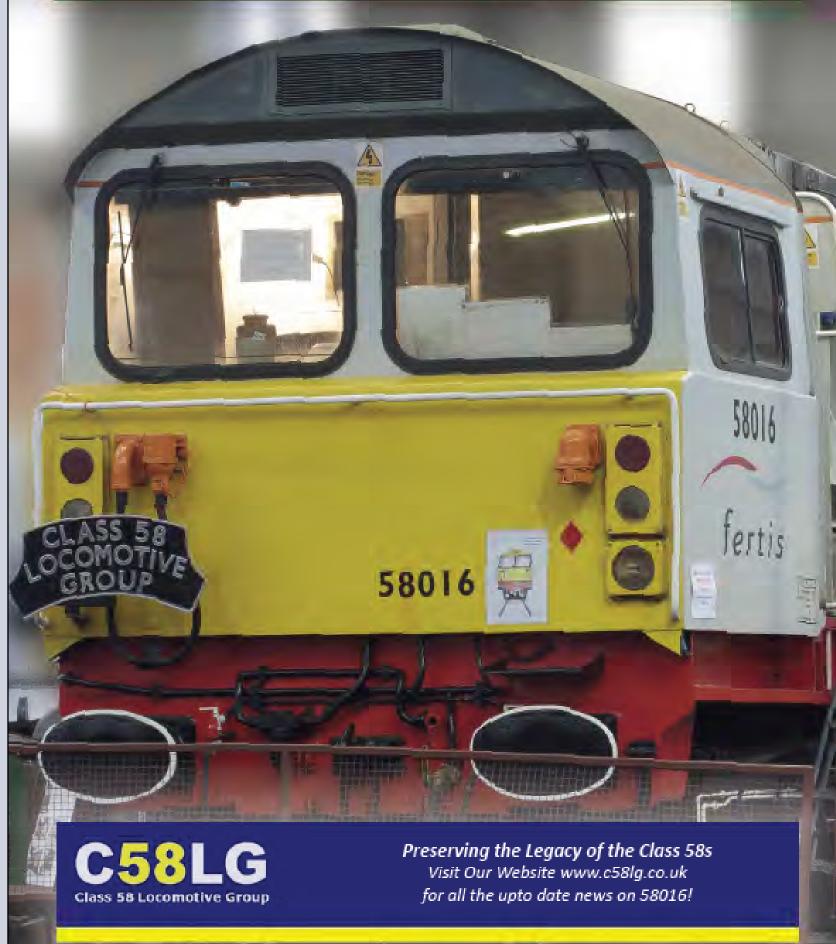


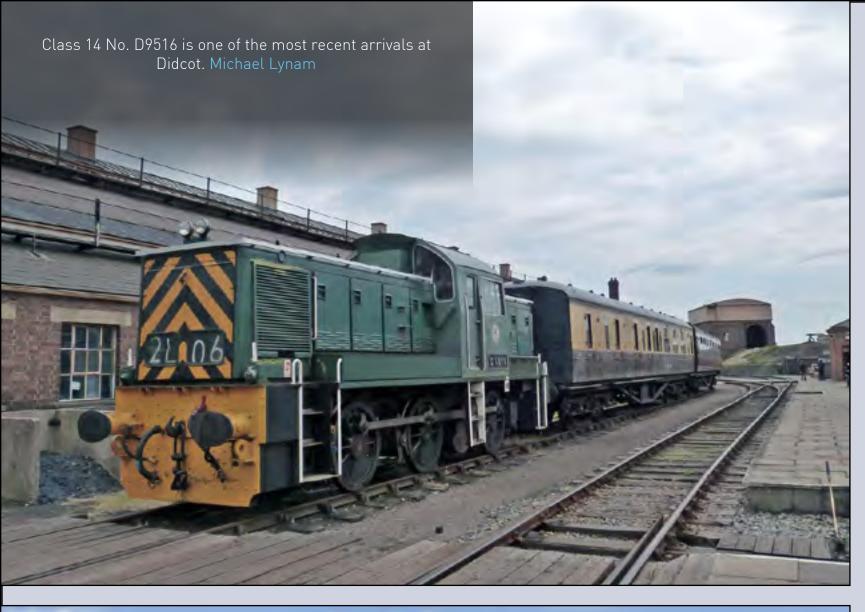


Join The Class 58 Locomotive Group and help support the restoration of 58016!

There are various ways to help the C58LG:

- Become a Member
- Decome a memoer
- Make a donation
- Become a working volunteer
- Buy official C58LG merchandise









SWANAGE RAILWAY CELEBRATES WINNING A PRESTIGIOUS & COVETED TRIP ADVISOR 'CERTIFICATE OF EXCELLENCE'

Volunteers and staff at Dorset's popular heritage railway are celebrating winning a prestigious and coveted Certificate of Excellence from Trip Advisor – the world's largest travel website.

Rebuilt from nothing since 1976, the award-winning five-and-a-half mile heritage line to Harman's Cross, Corfe Castle and Norden Park & Ride carries more than 210,000 passengers a year.

Swanage Railway General Manager Richard Jones said: "Achieving a Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence is a great credit to our team of dedicated volunteers and staff who work very hard to deliver an enjoyable and memorable visit for our many passengers throughout the year.

"The Swanage Railway has received 589 Trip Advisor reviews, of which 67 per cent were rated in the 'excellent' category and 26 per cent were rated 'very good'," he added.

Swanage Railway Company Chairman Peter Sills explained: "Everyone is absolutely delighted to have won this prestigious and coveted Trip Advisor award.

"It's is a wonderful recognition of all the hard work that our staff put into giving our passengers the best day out possible.

"Customer feedback is key to the Swanage Railway improving still further its high customer standards," added Mr Sills.

New volunteers are always welcomed by the Swanage Railway, no prior experience is necessary as full training is available. For an informal chat – and to find out more – contact our volunteer co-ordinator Mike Whitwam on 01929 475212 or email volunteer@swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk.

Photo: Corfe Castle signal box. ©ANDREW PM WRIGHT













'BE-SPOKE' FUNDRAISING SCHEME LAUNCHED TO BUILD NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE

SPONSOR A DRIVING WHEEL SPOKE

As funding pledges for new Gresley class P2 steam locomotive No. 2007 Prince of Wales pass the £1m milestone less than ten months after its launch, a new 'be-spoke' fund raising campaign has been launched – sponsor a driving wheel spoke. The new scheme will initially be open only to those who joined The Founders Club which funded the project's dramatic racing-start and its new 'P2 for the price of a pint' monthly covenantors and is part of a broader Dedicated Donation scheme where supporters can sponsor a variety of components.

The class P2 2-8-2 'Mikado' locomotives were the most powerful passenger steam locomotives to operate in the UK, designed by Sir Nigel Gresley to haul 600 ton trains on the arduous Edinburgh to Aberdeen route. Sadly the design was never fully developed and they were rebuilt in 1943/44 and scrapped by 1961. The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust (a registered charity) is building the seventh member of this class over seven years at an estimated cost of £5m through its P2 Steam Locomotive Company subsidiary. The project will demonstrate how the design can be fully realised through use of modern computer design and modelling techniques, enabling the new locomotive to deliver its full potential hauling passenger trains at high speed across today's national network.

The dedication of No. 2007 Prince of Wales's frames on Saturday 19th July at Darlington Locomotive Works in the presence of 200 of the projects supporters and sponsors as well as the Member of Parliament for Darlington Jenny Chapman MP and the Mayor of Darlington Councillor Gerald Lee marked the formal start of construction of Britain's most powerful steam locomotive. Having set an initial target of £100,000 seed funding through The Founders Club to pay for the frames, more than 330 people are now on-board after just nine months. Due to the Trust's charitable status this could be worth well over £400,000 to the project. The Founders Club will close to new members at the end of July.

Public interest in seeing a new Gresley class P2 become a reality sooner rather than later is high and over 450 people have already signed up to the 'P2 for the price of a pint of beer per week' (£10 per month or more) covenant scheme since its launch four months ago. This means that the project has already received pledges of over £1,000,000 of the £5m needed over the next seven years.

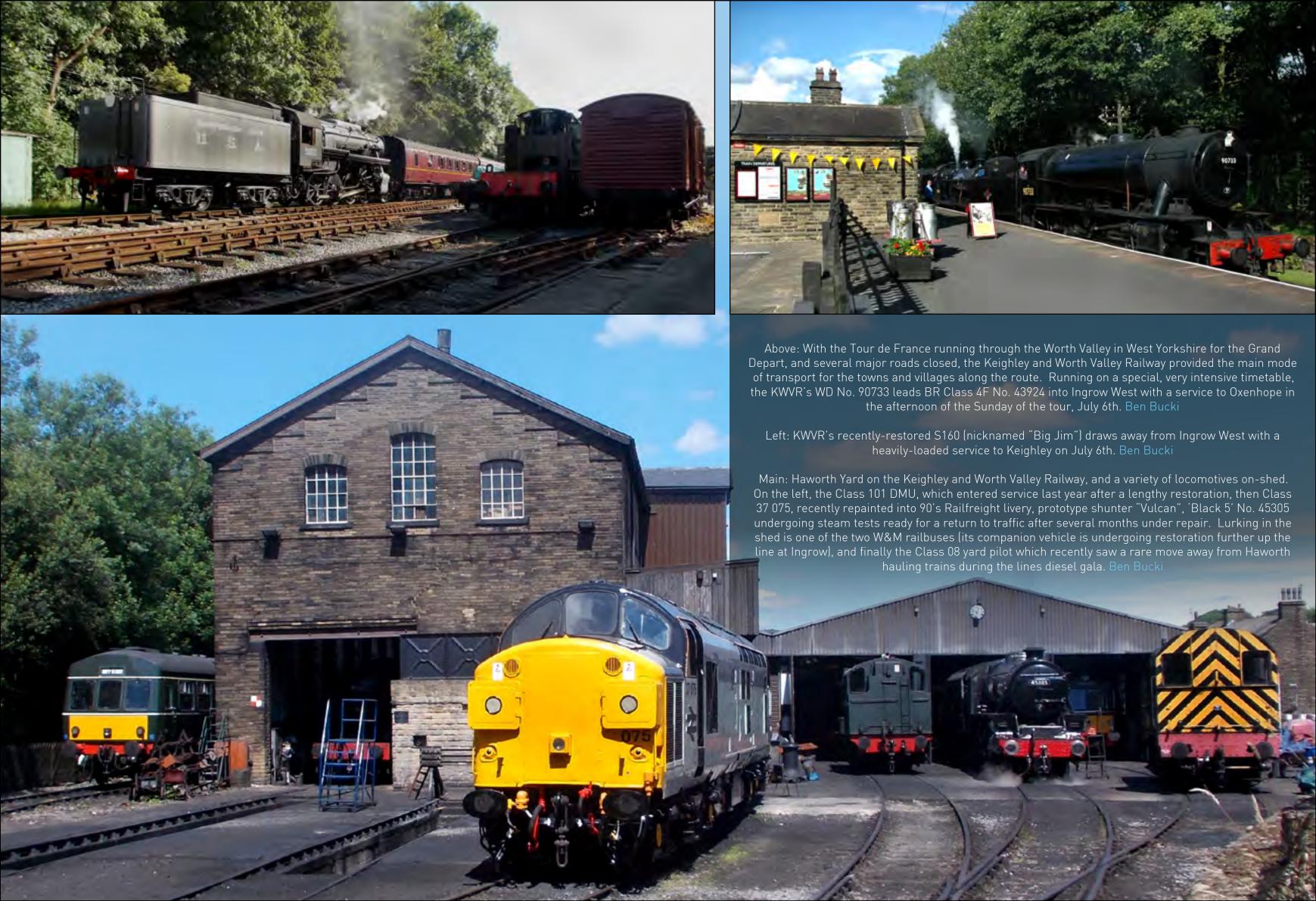
Dedicated Donations will initially only available to members of The Founders Club and Covenantors. In addition to being able to sponsor one or more of the 18 spokes of the 6ft2in driving wheels for either £600 (or £25pm for 24 months) supporters have to option to sponsor a range of different components from a 'Drag box wing plate LH rolling and profiling' at £50 to a '6ft 2in driving wheel casting and proof machining' at £12,000 (or £200pm for 60 months). Supporters who subscribe to the scheme will have their names inscribed on the official roll of honour at Darlington Locomotive Works listing the components sponsored, receive a certificate recording the sponsorship and copy of the drawing of the component. New components available for sponsorship will become available as construction progresses

Mark Allatt, chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, commented: "We are delighted with the level of support that the project to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive has received since its launch less than ten months ago. With over £1m pledged we are now at the stage we were with Tornado some five years into the project.

"We are hopeful that we will have completed the rolling chassis for No. 2007 Prince of Wales towards the end of 2015 and we remain on-track for completion in 2021. However, to maintain this progress we need to continue to raise in excess of £700,000 per year. We are therefore taking the opportunity of the frames dedication to launch the Dedicated Donation scheme.

"This major fund-raising initiative is a unique opportunity for supporters to have their name associated with a component of No. 2007 and the funds raised will help to ensure that Prince of Wales will be completed within the next seven years. Just as with the similar scheme that helped to fund the construction of Tornado, supporters who subscribe to the scheme will have the satisfaction of pointing to the part of the locomotive they paid for when No. 2007 enters service. "With the dedication of No. 2007's frames, the ordering of all of the wheels and the casting of the first driving wheel, no-one can now doubt that we really mean business. 2014 will see further major announcements as the construction of Prince of Wales gathers pace."













GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY SECURES ONE MILLION POUNDS OF GOVERNMENT MONEY TOWARDS REUNIFICATION

MONEY WILL ALLOW NEXT STAGES OF WORK TO CREATE AN EIGHTEEN MILE HERITAGE RAILWAY TO GET UNDERWAY

The Great Central Railway has secured one million pounds of funding from the Government's 'Local Growth Deal' as part of an £80m allocation to the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership. The money will support GCR's Bridging the Gap project to reinstate 500 metres of missing track, reuniting two separate heritage railways, to create an eighteen mile railway stretching across the East Midlands.

In partnership with Network Rail, GCR is embarking on a major infrastructure project which will bring new jobs, training and business opportunities not just to Loughborough but across the region.

Already the railway has raised five hundred thousand pounds via a public appeal towards a key bridge which will carry Great Central trains across Network Rail tracks.

Bill Ford, MD of GCR said, "We are delighted by the one million pound award. Thanks to the generous support of Network Rail and the public we've been able to make a start on this long held vision with our 'Bridge to the Future' campaign. Today, the government have come on board too, which will accelerate our plans to reunite the railways. Once complete, as well as becoming one of the best tourist attraction in the UK, GCR will offer improved testing facilities for the rail industry, opportunities for joint business ventures and bring a much needed boost to the local economy. We'd like to thank everyone in the Leicester and Leicestershire Local Enterprise Partnership for supporting our bid and securing the funding."

The overall reunification scheme is expected to cost six and a half million pounds and trains could be running between the north of Leicester and the southern outskirts of Nottingham within five years. Besides the new bridge over Network Rail, an existing canal bridge needs to be repaired, a new bridge over an access road needs to be built and 300 metres of missing embankment reinstated.

The GCR is stressing that its one million pound 'Bridge to the Future' appeal for the required new bridge will continue. "We need to demonstrate our ability to match fund the government grant" added Bill "Money is still coming into the appeal and we are confident we will raise a million pounds by summer 2015."

Nicky Morgan, the Conservative MP for Loughborough said, "Local Growth Deals are part of the Government's aim to devolve funding decisions away from Whitehall to local business-led partnerships and directly into projects which will make a real difference to the local economy. I am delighted that Great Central Railway has received a grant of £1m towards the Bridging the Gap project. GCR are working closely with Network Rail and various local partners on one of Loughborough's the most exciting regeneration projects. An 18 mile heritage railway line, with a direct connection to the mainline rail network will create jobs and unlock further investment opportunities not just in the town but across the whole of Leicestershire."

Alan Kemp, a director of Great Central Railway Nottingham said "We have planning permission for the Main Line bridge, we have started work on that vital part, and now we can make plans for the rest of the project too. Momentum is building to bring the Great Central Railway Nottingham together with our counterparts in Leicestershire to create something unique that the region and country can be proud off."

For more details about the reunification project and to donate to the Bridge to the Future project see to: www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify























DEDICATED VOLUNTEERS PRESENTED WITH 35 YEAR SERVICE AWARDS MARKING THE FIRST PASSENGER TRAINS IN 1979

Dedicated Swanage Railway volunteers – whose pioneering efforts helped to run the line's first fledgling passenger trains over a few hundred yards of hand-laid track during the summer of 1979 – have been presented with awards for 35 years of sterling service. The special certificates and badges were presented to nine people by Swanage Railway Trust chairman Gavin Johns in front of the small industrial diesel shunter that hauled the first train, a half-painted 1940s carriage, on Sunday, 5 August, 1979.

The poignant ceremony took place at Corfe Castle station during the popular heritage line's 'Swanage 35' weekend celebrations marking those first historic trains at Swanage station which ran at just five miles an hour and carried 1,600 passengers over ten afternoons during August, 1979.

Gavin said: "Thirty-five years ago, Corfe Castle station was a derelict and overgrown wasteland but at Swanage the first seeds were being sown with track being laid by hand which has grown, yard by yard, into the Swanage Railway that is seen and enjoyed by more than 210,000 passengers a year.

"All this has been achieved by the dedicated efforts of our volunteers and staff. Through these 35 year service awards, the Swanage Railway Trust is thanking a group of pioneering volunteers – who have a total of 280 years of devoted service between them – for their support and achievement.

"This is a poignant opportunity to remember those people who cannot celebrate this achievement today and their magnificent contribution is very gratefully acknowledged," explained Gavin who is also a volunteer signalman on the Swanage Railway.

The first passenger trains at Swanage since the last British Rail passenger train on Saturday, 1 January, 1972, were composed of 1947 built Bulleid semi-open brake third coach No. 4365 hauled by McLaren engined four-wheel Fowler diesel shunter No. 4210132 'May' – with passengers boarding from a temporary scaffolding platform under the Northbrook Road bridge.

Those first trains ran after the Swanage Railway's landlord at Swanage station – the town council – gave the newly formed Swanage Railway Company permission to run weekend trains from Sunday, 5 August, to Sunday, 2 September, 1979, up to four times an hour between 2pm and 5pm.

Pioneering Swanage Railway volunteer Peter Frost, who also helped to lay the tracks since 1976, could not attend the award ceremony because he was driving 'Tornado' so the 56-year-old from Bournemouth was presented with his certificate and badge on the prestigious steam locomotive.

Fellow 35 year service award recipient Nigel Clark – a steam locomotive driver – said: "Although there were times in the early days when things looked bleak, I was confident that the Swanage Railway would ultimately succeed because I was a teenager full of enthusiasm and optimism."

Carriage and wagon restorer Jeremy Weller explained: "It's amazing to recall how many obstacles the Swanage Railway has overcome and every inch of progress had to be fought for against the background of possible failure."

Peter Sykes added: "Progress over the years has been thanks to the hard work of many people. I am proud that my efforts over the decades have been part of the team that has developed the Swanage Railway into the third busiest heritage railway in the country."

New volunteers in many roles are always welcomed by the Swanage Railway with full training being given. For an informal chat – and to find out more – contact volunteer co-ordinator Mike Whitwam on 01929 475212 or email 'volunteer@ swanagerailwaytrust.org.uk'.





















