

Railtalk | Magazine

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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

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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.

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Welcome to Issue 96 of Railtalk Magazine. Each month we bring you a round up of pictures, news and reports.

As we steam (pun intended) into September, I look back at the Summer and can't help but think, "What I good one we have had!" We have had some cracking railtours, galas and general rail movements across the past month or two, which has kept them shutters clicking. I know I've said it before, but only a few years people thought that the UK rail network was dull and boring. Now, (see below), we have fantastic looking (yes I maybe the only one thinking that) new locos, we also have more heritage traction back on the mainline under commercial working than we ever imagined.

Now, September, my personal favourite month of the year. Not just because in the calender we have a excellent scene of a pair of Westerns (side note, watch this space for Railtalk 2015 calendar info). But in my opinion the favoured livery being BR blue with full yellow ends, please don't lynch me, WLA readers. As the months fly by though it's that fact that September is the start of the RHTT season, when the sound of EE engines can once again be heard whistling past my desk. I say that though, as this year we have a hope that there might be some of those shiny new class 68s working. Anyway without going on too much, lets all look forward for the highly anticipated 2014 RHTT season. Let those leave fall!

Andy

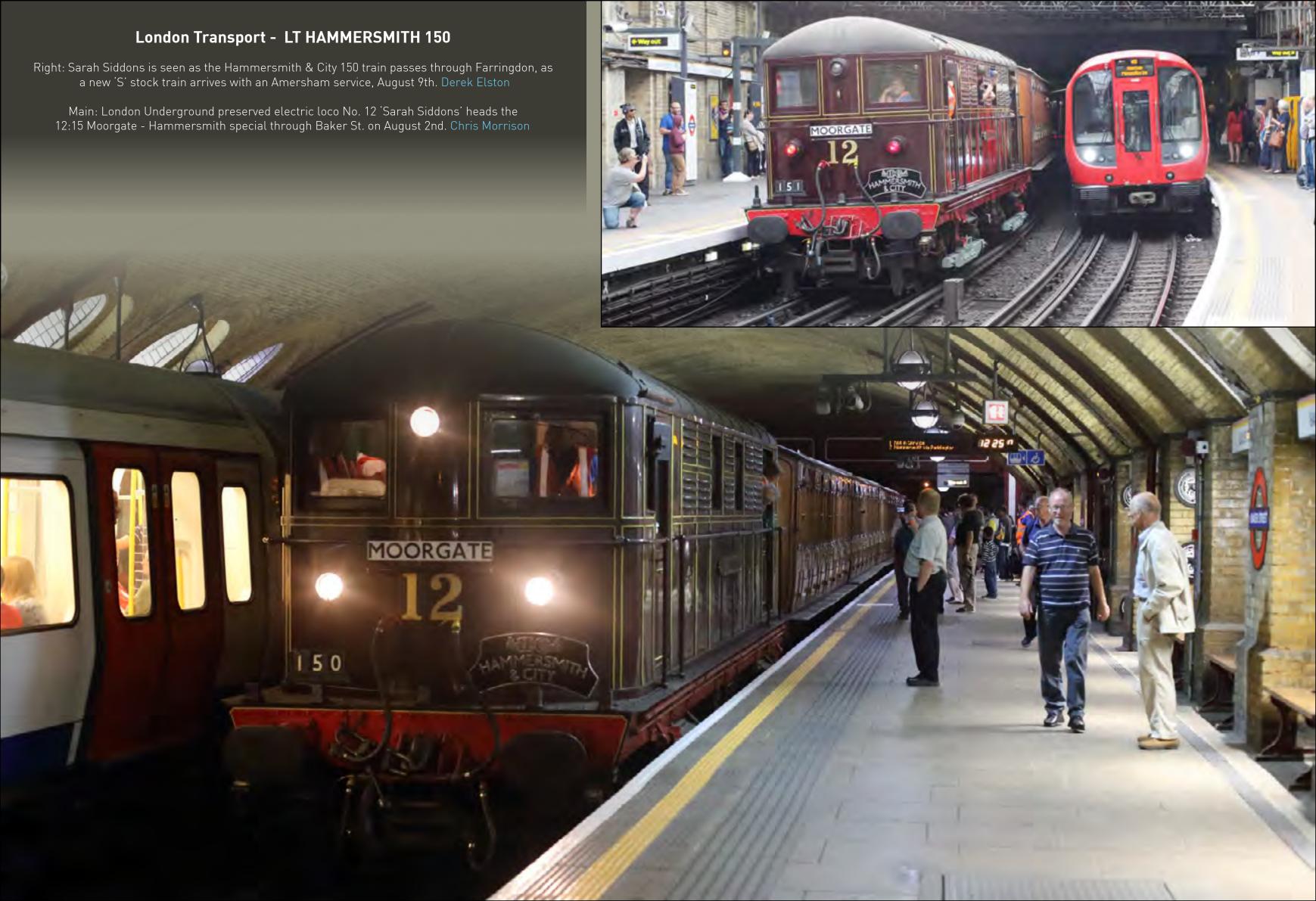
This issue wouldn't be possible without: Ken Abram, John Alborough, Michael J Alderdice, John Alsop, Steve Andrews, Geoff Barton, Robert Bates, Brian Battersby, Barry Beeston, Sam Bilner, Matthew Bird, Amy Bucki, Ben Bucki, Pete Cheshire, Julian Churchill, Liam Coates, John Coleman, Lorenzo D'aniello, 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: On August 8th, DRS' Class 57 310 came to the aid of 57 603 on the 1A40 Paddington - Penzance sleeper, but then fails itself at Plymouth with loss of power. Steve Andrews

This Page: DRS' Class 68 007 'Valiant' is seen working the 0Z28 Kingmoor - Teesside - Kingmoor route learner



















Railway Touring Company - THE WEYMOUTH SEASIDE EXPRESS

On August 17th, the Weymouth Seaside Express didn't quite run to plan for the first charter to be hauled by Southern Light Pacific Battle of Britain Class No. 34067 'Tangmere' for a while. It left Bristol Temple Meads on time in the morning but was delayed by a signal failure near Bradford-on-Avon. It therefore arrived and departed Yeovil Pen Mill around half an hour late. It then suffered slipping problems and was delayed a further two hours, eventually arriving in Weymouth two and a half hours late. Unfortunately there was no diesel on the back, which might have solved the problem. West Coast's Class 33 029 arrived in Weymouth in the afternoon, as the steam loco was unable to go to Yeovil for turning due to the time, and hauled the train back to Bristol with Tangmere trailing.





Right: In connection with the major cycling event in London, Class 86 259 'Les Ross' approaches Doncaster working from Edinburgh to London King's Cross on August 8th.

Alex Thorkildsen

Main: Another photo of Class 86 259 'Les Ross', taken a day later on August 9th, working the same route from Edinburgh to London Kings Cross. Robert Bates









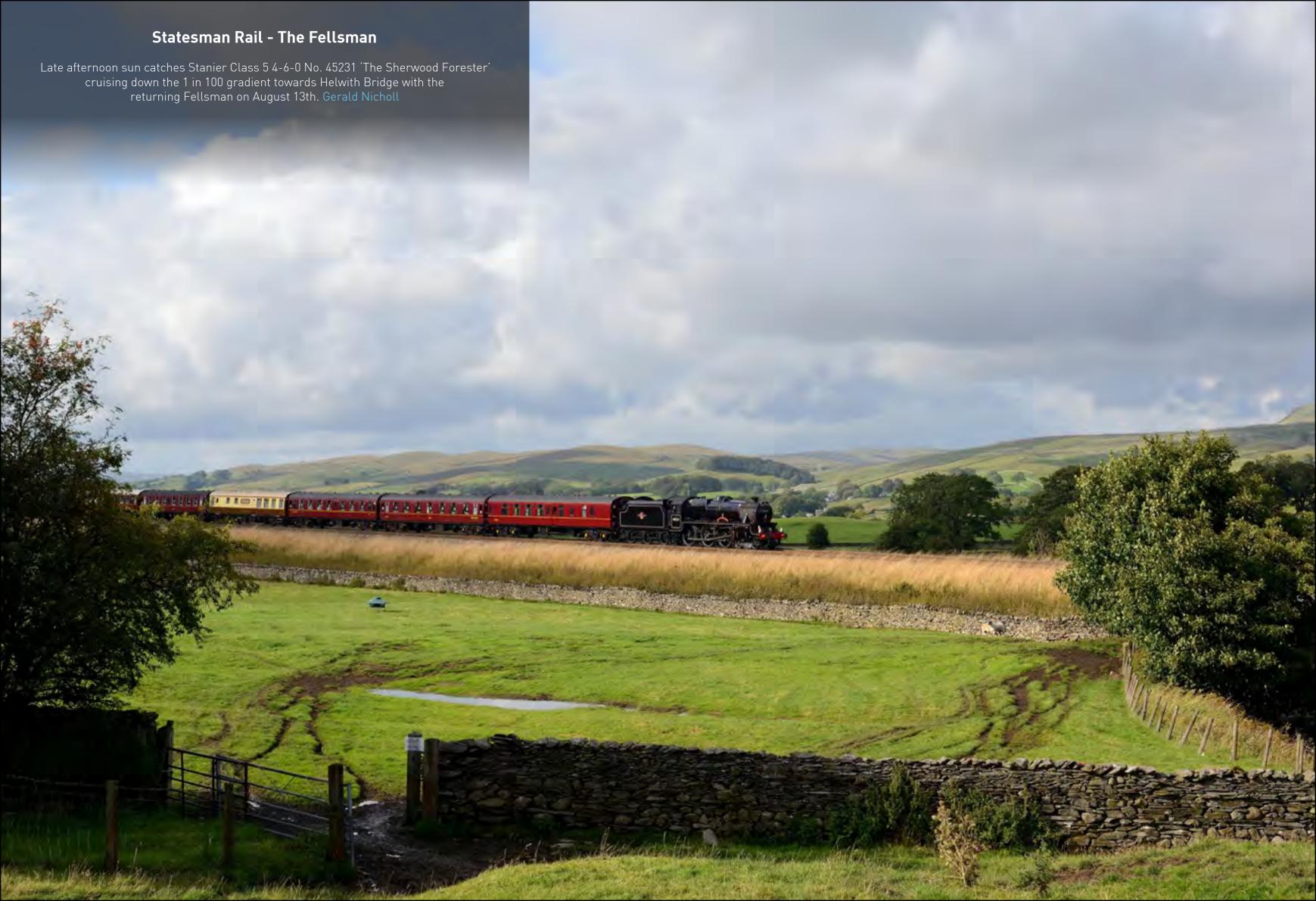
























Statesman Rail - The Fellsman

Top Left: On August 13th, West Coast's Class 37 518 pulls into a busy Long Preston station to collect passengers for the Wednesdays 1Z52 Fellsman to Carlisle. On this date the tour was steam hauled on the return journey only due to FBU strike action. Michael Lynam

Bottom Left: West Coast Railway's Class 37 518 is seen attached to the rear of 1Z53 Statesman Rail's 'The Fellsman' on the return leg from Carlisle to Lancaster with LMS Class 8F No. 48151 in charge of the train as it passes through Langho station on August 6th. Dave Felton

Below: On August 27th, LMS Stanier Class 5 4-6-0 No. 45231 'Sherwood Forester' approaches Gisburn with the last Fellsman of the 2014 season. Michael Lynam







GBRf Staff Charter

Left: Class 87 002 'Royal Sovereign' approaches Doncaster working the ECS from Acton Lane Reception Sidings to Heaton T&R.S.M.D. on August 8th. Alex Thorkildsen

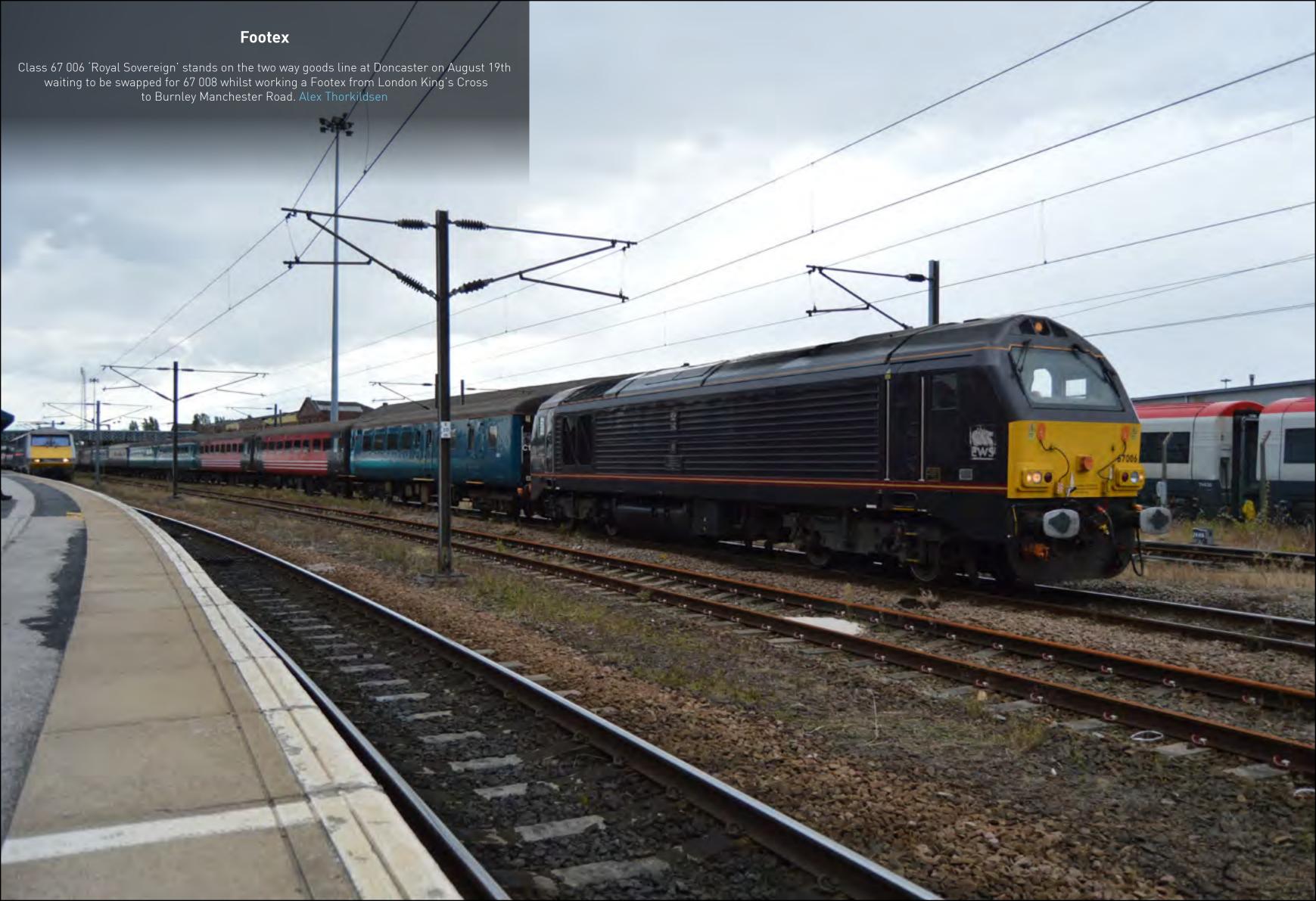
Main: The day after, August 9th, Class 87 002 speeds through Colton Junction with a Newcastle to London Kings Cross staff excursion. Robert Bates





















Torbay Express Ltd. - The Torbay Express

Right: BR (SR) Rebuilt Bulleid Light Pacific locomotive No. 34046 'Braunton' passes Cockwood Harbour on August 17th with the return 'Torbay Express' heading for Exeter and Bristol. Phil Martin

Main: At Cockwood Harbour on August 3rd, a couple of weeks earlier, the return working of the Torbay Express, 1Z28 Kingswear - Bristol was handled by 'Nunney Castle', seen here in fine form, no doubt startling a few motorists on the road towards Starcross. Steve Thompson













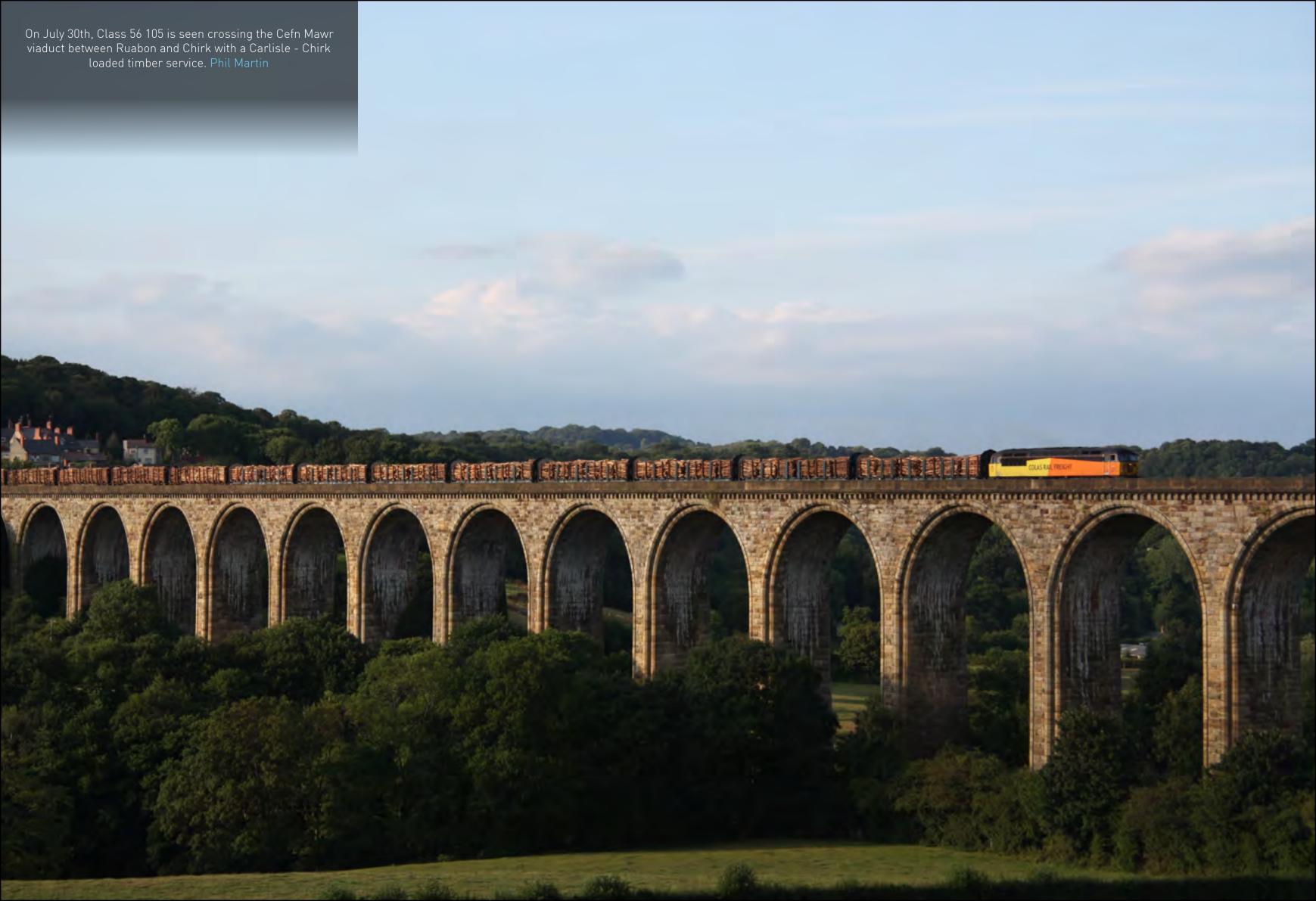






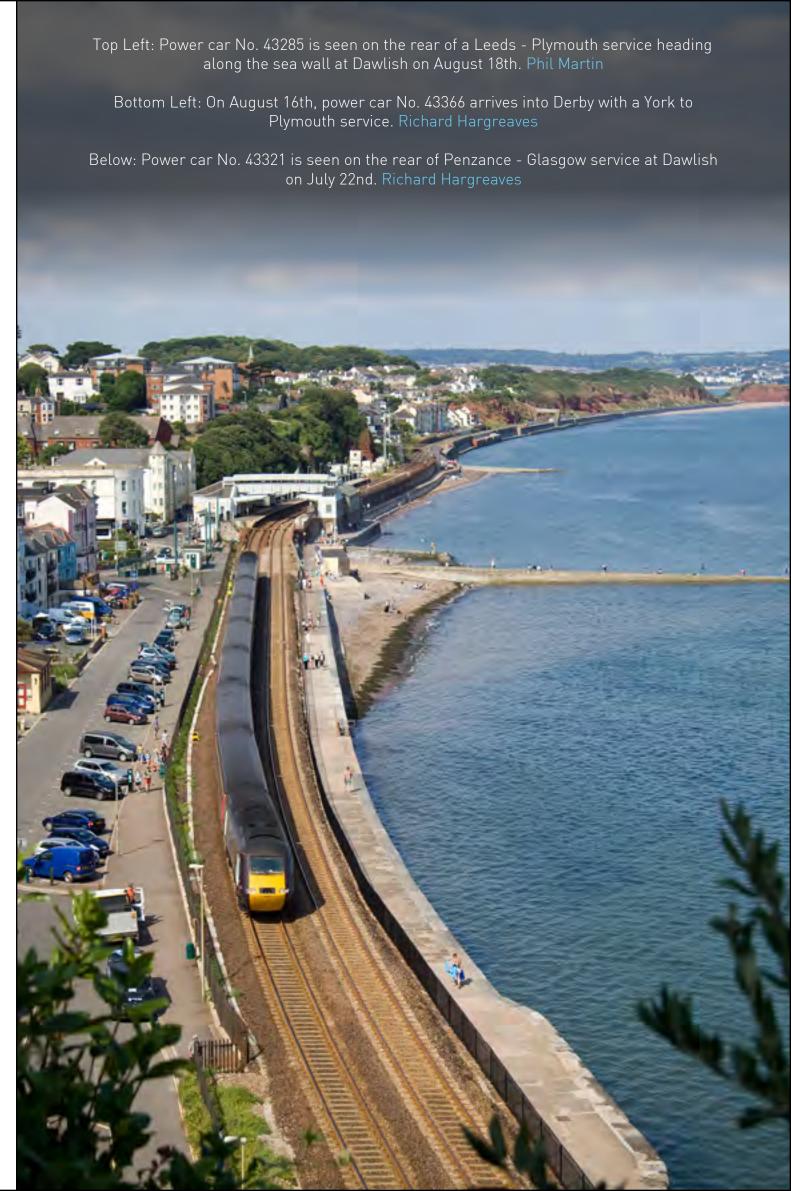






















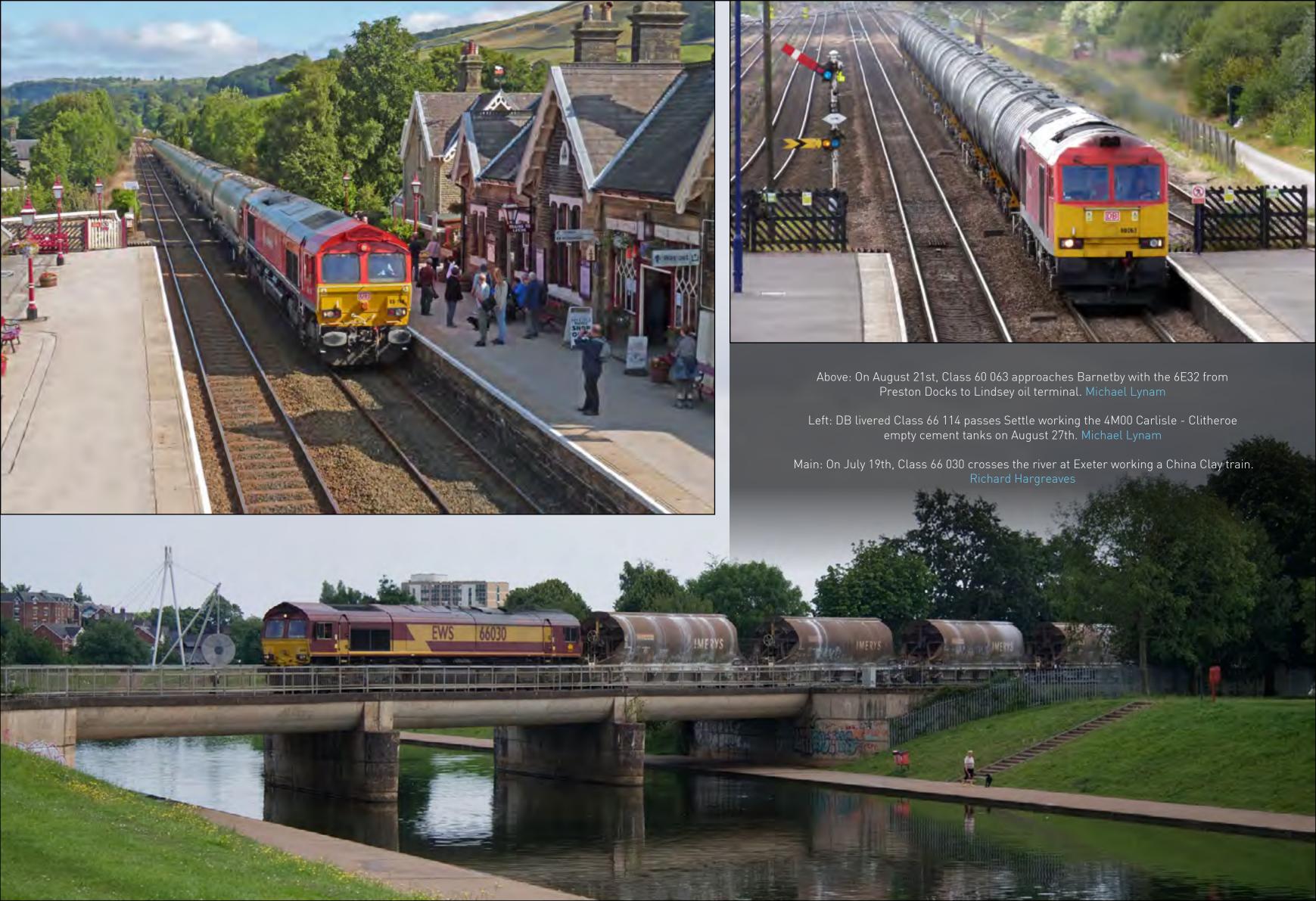














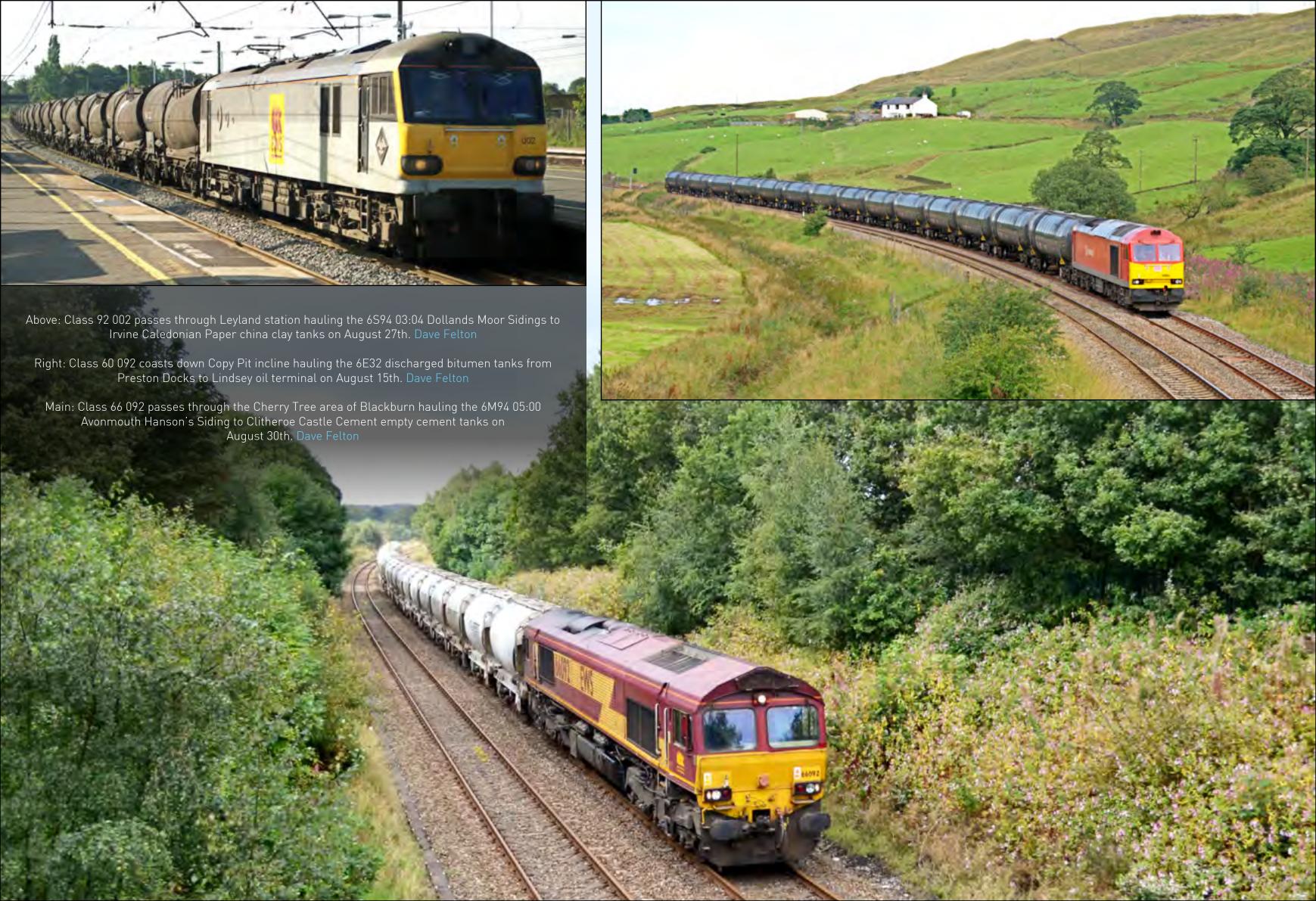




























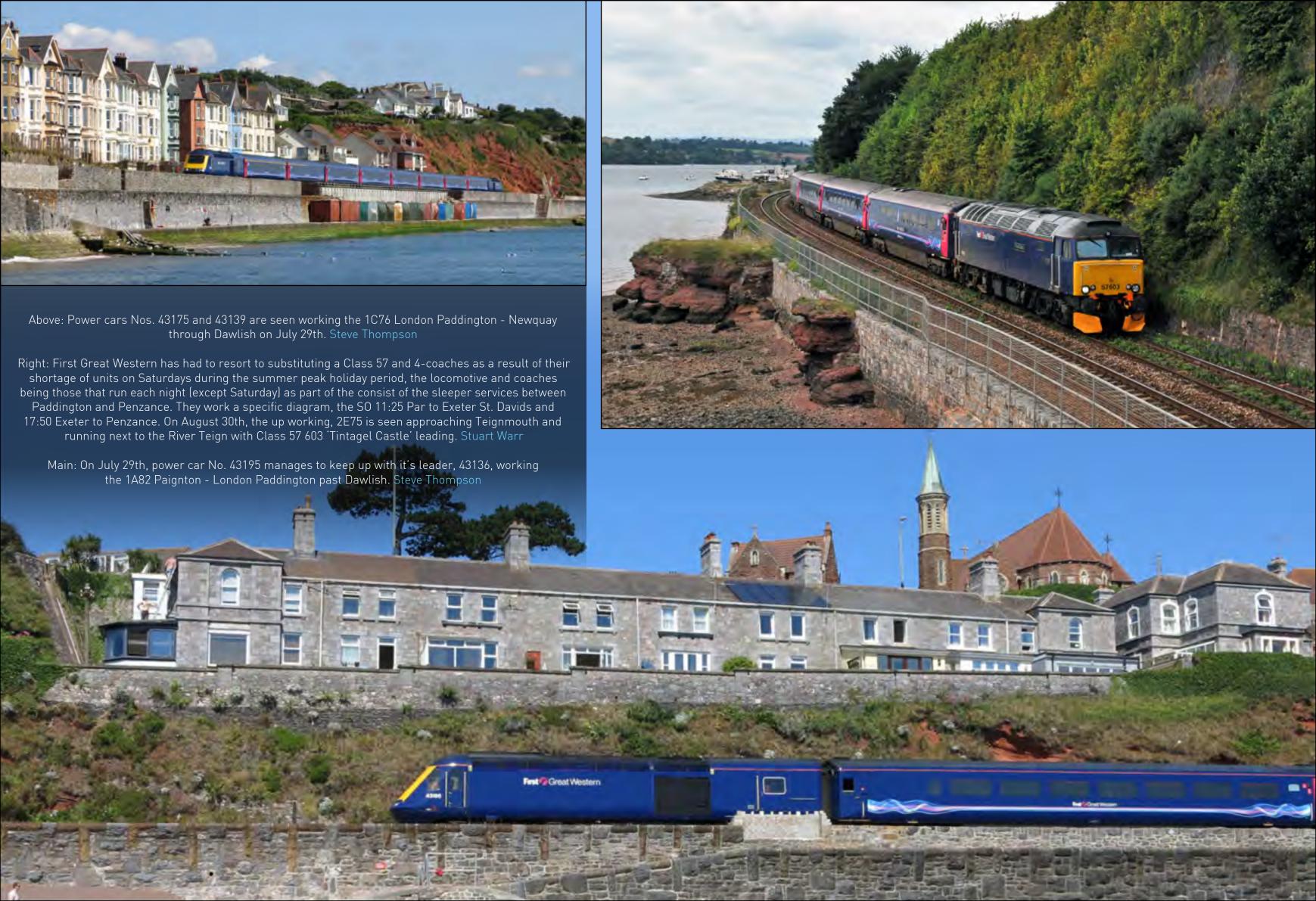
















































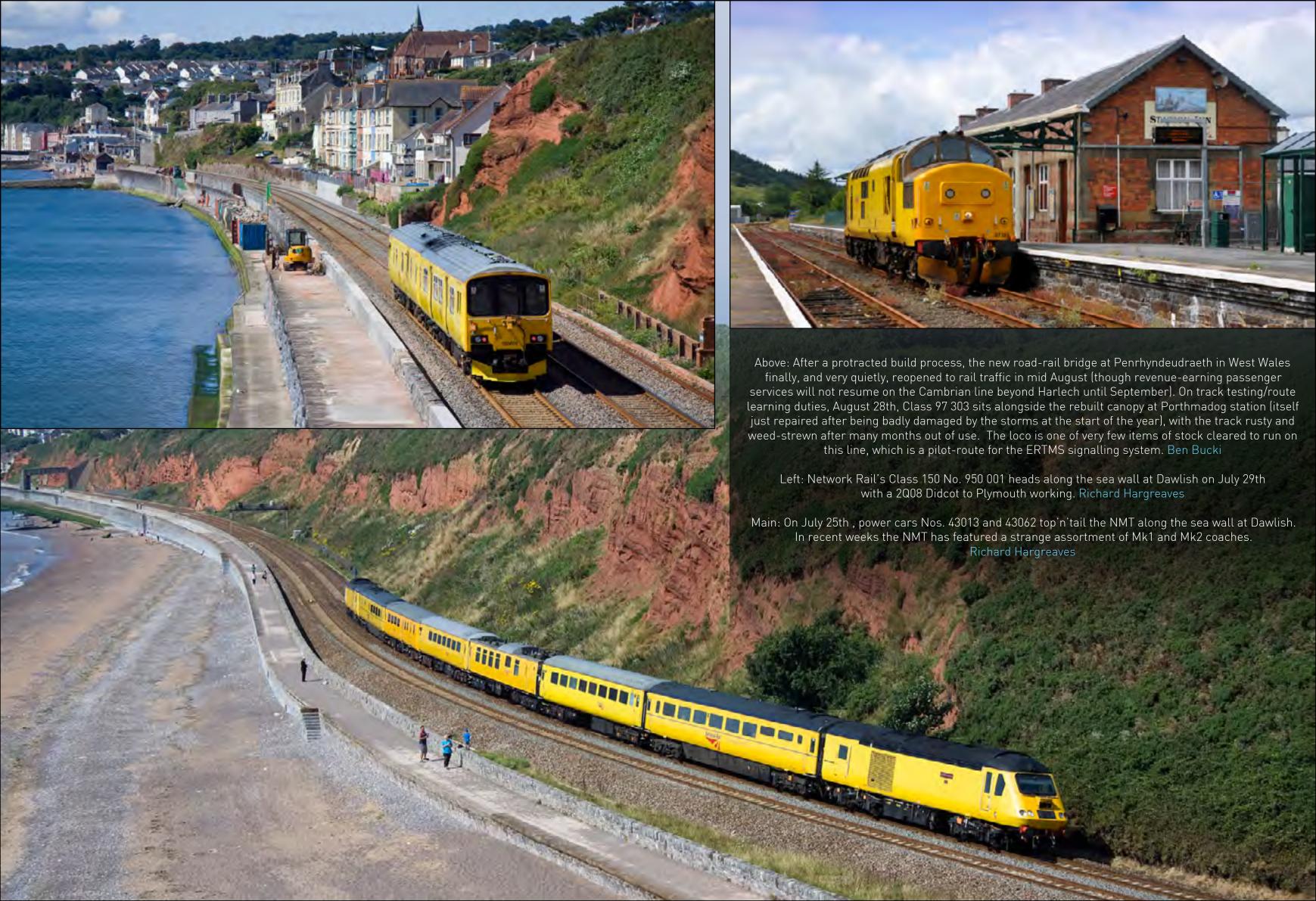












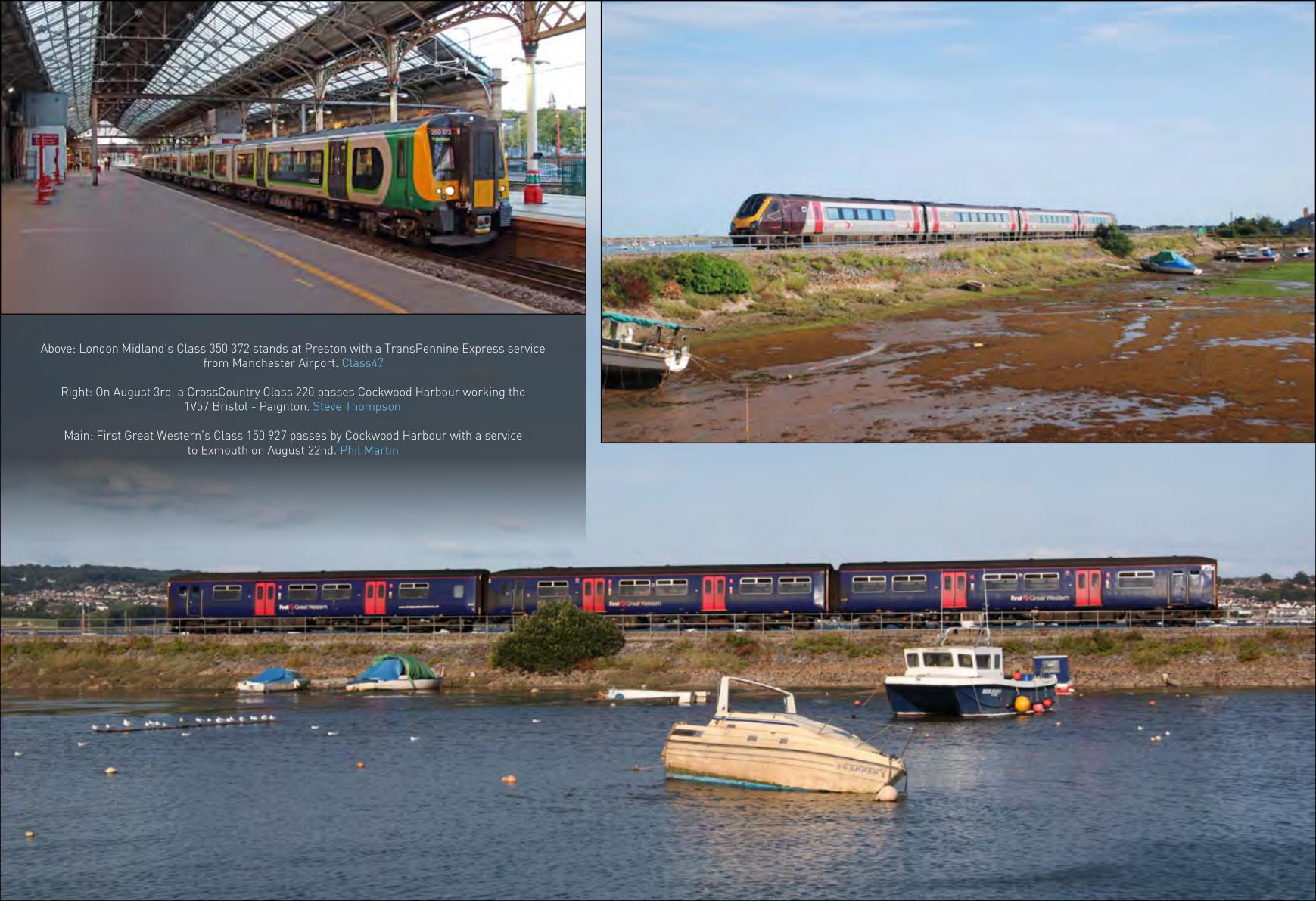
















































Fares Advice with RailUK

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

Gateline staff inadequate training

Q: From my recent experiences of SWT and Chiltern Railways, it appears that gateline staff are no longer being informed about basic ticketing rules. The last two times I've travelled overnight from Scotland I've been denied entry to platforms at Waterloo and Marylebone because the ticket has yesterday's date on it. I patiently explain that I'm just trying to complete a 600 mile journey which started the previous evening, to no avail. I get sent to the ticket office, where eventually someone tells them to let me through It's no use pointing out that yes, the date does change every night, and, using their logic, everyone should have been thrown off the sleeper at Carlisle.

I can understand the barriers rejecting the ticket but there's no excuse for the staff being unaware of the rules concerning Break Of Journey. I presume others have encountered the same problem; has anyone found a solution?

A: I'd normally suggest showing them a relevant extract from the NRCoC but if they've been that badly trained, they probably haven't got a clue what they are. If it happens again put a complaint in. And if you miss a train because the muppets won't let you board, I suppose that makes you eligible for Passenger Charter repay schemes as it's within the railway's

Getting an earlier connecting train with an advance ticket

Q: A friend of mine has an advance ticket to travel from Luton to Penzance. The itinerary has him catching the 08.48 service from Luton to St Pancras in order to connect with the 10.06 to Penzance which is the only train he has a reservation coupon for. Would he be allowed to catch an earlier train from Luton in order to have more time to travel between stations in London?

A: The public rules say you should take "appropriate" connecting services. There is no definition of "appropriate" but, for sure, allowing an extra half an hour is obviously appropriate. This is not part of the guidance to staff (also available in our Fares Guide: 1.1.3 Advance tickets) is that only unreservable trains can be caught. Stevenage to London on EC is given as an example of an exception. The position Luton to St Pancras is unclear.

Common sense would indicate that this should be an exception. It would not be clear to a passenger wishing to take the first available train to London that there would be any reason why such a train would not be an "appropriate connecting service"

Stopping short on an advance during disruption?

Q: A friend of mine travelled yesterday from Coventry to Cosham, on a First Class Advance routed VWC&Connections. The itinerary was: 1151 Coventry-Watford Jn; 1251 Watford Jn-Clapham Jn; 1338 Clapham Jn-Cosham (operated by Southern, via Horsham) In the event the 1338 was cancelled, and after speaking to the ticket office he was directed to the 1352 to Portsmouth and Southsea (operated by SWT), on which he travelled to Havant with no argument (the guard did check tickets), and then was picked up from Havant rather than waiting for a train to Cosham.

Now, technically, by stopping short he has breached the no-break-ofjourney rule on advance tickets. In the event, there wasn't any problem.

However, is there some clause in the NRCoC which makes what he did permissible due to the disruption caused by the cancelled train? Something like abandoning a journey? It seems somewhat churlish to force a passenger to complete a journey that's already late, when they could make up some time by stopping short and getting a lift..

A: If delays occur, you can either stick with the itinerary and claim compensation as appropriate, or contractual terms, but I agree that the abandon your journey. If you abandon in a case like this, the fares would almost certainly be the same, so no refund due. Some forum members recently travelled from London to a small place in Wales, with a 10 minute connection from Swansea.

> The FGW Guard informed them if they went to Swansea and missed the connection, they'd have to abandon their journey. FGW customer services confirmed they'd get nothing back if they did this but the Guard was incorrect to say they'd have to abandon as a taxi would be provided. However if they made a connection at another station and were over an hour late they'd be compensated. So they chose to complete the journey.

> I'd argue that compensation should still be provided to the customer to the extent that would have applied had he waited for the train and completed the journey.

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 thecomplex rail fares system who can help you. Never pay over the odds again, and ask us if you need help! See you there!

First Capital Connect turns travel time into productive time for passengers

First Capital Connect (FCC) and O2 have announced the launch of free O2 Wifi for passengers at seven stations across both routes on its network, available from Wednesday 20th August, with Luton and Elephant & Castle launching at a later date. The seven stations are: Bedford, Hertford North, Hitchin, Huntingdon, West Hampstead, Elstree & Borehamwood and Welwyn Garden City.

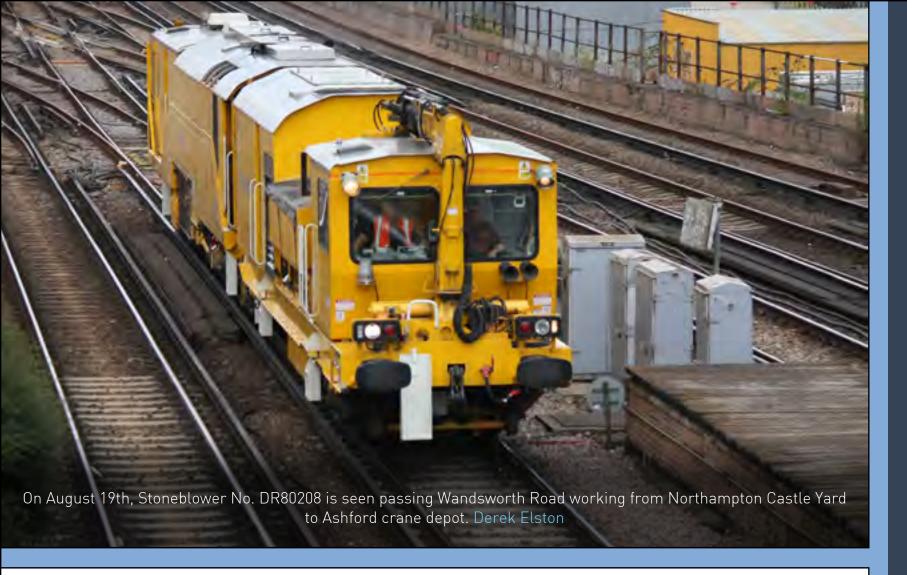
Passengers will be able to log on to 02 Wifi at all of these stations and be able to check out the latest journey information, keep up to date with social media, and check emails whilst on the move.

FCC's Customer Service Director Keith Jipps said: "I am delighted to announce the launch of complimentary Wifi at nine of our key stations. We know time is precious to our busy passengers; Wifi will turn travel time into productive time by giving fast access to the web, our mobile website and mobile ticketing app. It will help passengers keep in touch with friends and family on the go.

He added: "FCC is committed to on-going investment in our network and offering our customers a better valuefor-money service. "This is part of a £2 million-plus on-going investment in our network to celebrate our 8th anniversary. Other areas of investment include cleaner trains, improved customer assistance and additional improvements to stations along the route."

Harpal Singh, Managing Partner of Passenger Services at 02 said: "The rapid evolution of digital technology has significantly changed consumer expectations, in particular around mobile connectivity. We all know how important a seamless experience is to passengers, so working with First Capital Connect to bring 02 Wifi to nine of its stations shows that the industry is making great strides in providing passengers with the digital tools they want. Thanks to 02's fast, safe and reliable wifi passengers across First Capital Connect's network will be able to connect any personal device, and be productive on the move.





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

Rail investment in Blackpool continues

Network Rail is to make additional investment in the line between Preston and Blackpool North as part of its commitment to provide a better railway in the north west of England.

As well as electrifying the line, a new modern signalling system will be installed while the track layout at Blackpool North station will be changed to allow for longer trains to serve the town.

The improvements are part of Network Rail's £1bn+ investment in the north west which will help to provide passengers with a faster, more reliable and efficient

Completing the electrification, signalling and track upgrades at the same time will mean just one period of closure resulting in less future disruption to passengers and less of an impact on the local economy.

Martin Jurkowski, principal sponsor at Network Rail, said: "We have grasped the opportunity of electrification and the need for new signalling to carry out further modernisation and improvement work along the route which will provide a more reliable and efficient railway for Blackpool. This will help to deliver maximum benefits for passengers and while there will be short-term disruption while the work is completed, this will be far outweighed by the long-term benefits. We will work closely with the train operators to minimise disruption as much as possible and to provide passengers with the information they need to plan their journeys during this time."

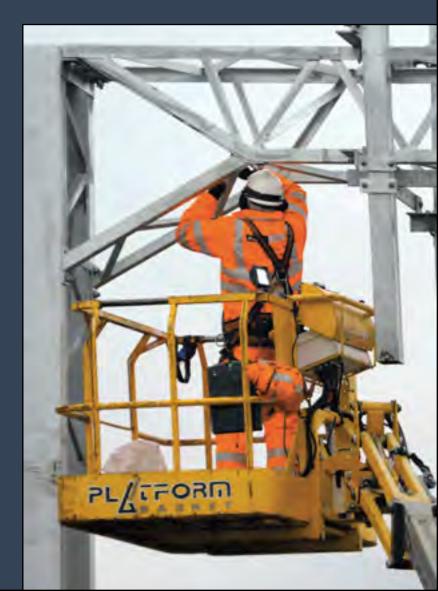
Rail minister Claire Perry said: "This is proof that our plan to transform rail travel across the north is progressing and will provide a world-class railway that offers more seats, improved connections and better journeys. This will help secure lasting economic growth across the region. "In addition to the £1bn being invested in major transport improvements in this area, we have also asked Virgin Trains to look at introducing direct services from Blackpool to London from December, benefiting passengers even further."

Rob Warnes, programmes and planning director for Northern Rail, said: "We are fully supportive of the further investment by Network Rail to develop the railway in the north. This new approach will allow more improvements to be carried out on the line than had been previously planned. We have been working closely with Network Rail to ensure this is carried out at a time which will have minimal impact on our customers and the local economy of Blackpool."

Chris Nutton, FTPE programme director, said: "The railway in the north is being invested in and developed to improve customer experience, choice and journey reliability. Some improvements are being made now to allow for extra capacity in the future. We are fully supportive of this joined up approach. The engineering improvements in and out of Blackpool are two fold, with some of the work bringing benefits immediately and some of the work future proofing the infrastructure.

"Whilst any closure of the line is an inconvenience for customers it is much better to only inconvenience passengers once and complete the upgrades in one stretch as opposed to multiple closures.'

As a result of this additional investment, the Blackpool line work programme has been rescheduled, with the main works starting in mid-December 2016 and lasting approximately three months, avoiding the key holiday period for the resort.





70 tonne steel beam signals major milestone at Manchester Victoria station

Manchester Victoria station is undergoing a £44m transformation as part of the £1bn+ Northern Hub and North West Electrification Programme.

As part of the redevelopment, a new state-of-the-art roof is under construction and on August 2nd, the ninth and largest steel rib was lifted in to place using 750 tonne crane, one of the largest in the country. Measuring nearly 100 metres long and weighing nearly 70 tonnes, the beam was lowered into place to form the corner section of the station's modern and iconic new roof.

Ian Joslin, area director for Network Rail, said "This is a significant milestone in the redevelopment of Manchester Victoria station which will become a vital transport hub as well as an iconic new building. The new concourse will be lighter, brighter and more modern than the old one and will complement the original station building's beautifully restored architecture. When it opens next year, Manchester Victoria will be a station of which the city can be proud of."

Later this month, work will begin to install the roof's ETFE (ethylene tetrafluoroethylene) panels, a lighter and cheaper alternative to glass. The material, which is used at Manchester Piccadilly station, Birmingham New Street station and the Eden Project in Cornwall, has self-cleaning properties and will allow large amounts of natural light in to the station for the first time.

Plans for Manchester Victoria also include a new bridge link to the Phones 4u arena, which is due to open later in August, along with improvements to the concourse and a programme of refurbishments to many of Manchester Victoria's Grade II listed features and buildings.

The remaining roof sections will be installed over the next few months with the whole station redevelopment due for completion in early 2015. The Northern Hub and North west Electrification Programme will provide a foundation for future transport developments, including those proposed in the One North report which calls for improved links between cities in the north.

Cambrian Coast railway up and running

The train service between Harlech and Pwllheli is open for business again from Monday September 1st following the successful rebuild of Pont Briwet viaduct.

The project has seen the 150 year-old wooden bridge over the Afon Dwyryd near Llandecwyn replaced with a modern structure.

Mark Langman, Network Rail's route managing director for Wales, said: "I am grateful for the support we had in communities like Barmouth, Harlech and Tywyn during our efforts to re-open the lower section of the line following the unprecedented storm damage earlier this year.

"Now Gwynedd Council has completed the rail section of Pont Briwet, we are thrilled that services can now resume all the way to Pwllheli. I'd like to thank the communities for their patience while the work has been carried out."



Funded by the European Regional Development Fund, Welsh Government, Network Rail and TraCC, and managed by Gwynedd Council, the project has also involved line speed improvement work across the new bridge as part of plans to deliver faster journey times on the route.

With the rail bridge now complete, trains are now able to run the entire Cambrian Coast line for the first time since late 2013.

The upper section of the Cambrian Coast railway closed between Harlech and Pwllheli in November 2013, shortly after the £20m bridge-replacement project commenced, so work to replace the structure could be conducted safely. Further work was required on the Cambrian Coast earlier this year after ferocious winter storms caused widespread damage. The lower section of the line – between Dovey Junction and Harlech – closed in January, after storms and tidal surges severely damaged the infrastructure.

The railway was quickly opened between Dovey Junction and Barmouth, with more substantial works needed at Llanaber. Following a £10m programme to repair the damage, the railway opened between Barmouth and Harlech in May.

Work continued at Pont Briwet through the summer months and, now the rail-bridge is complete, trains can continue onward from Harlech to Pwllheli.

As the railway line is now open to trains, Network Rail is reminding people of the risks of trespassing on the railway.

Mr Langman continued: "The communities along the line have been extremely patient while this vital work has been carried out, however we know that some people have been taking shortcuts across the railway while it has been closed.

"We would like to remind them that trains are now running as normal and trespass on the railway or misuse of level crossings is extremely dangerous as well as being a serious criminal offence. We want everyone to stay safe and stay off the tracks."

Ben Davies, Stakeholder Manager for Arriva Trains Wales says "It is great to see the Cambrian coast line fully up and running again and we look forward to welcoming customers old and new to use what I believe to be one of the most beautiful scenic rail journeys in the UK. This line plays an important role in people's daily lives and I know the hundreds of school children returning to school for the autumn term will be glad that the service is now fully operational. As part of the celebrations we have a special "Pricebuster" promotion for local journey s on the Cambrian Coast line – we hope this will act as an added incentive for more people, both locals and tourists alike, to use the line. "



Ed Tickett returns to First Capital Connect with new images from his 'Modern Day Guide to Using the Railways'

First Capital Connect (FCC) has released its fourth and final set of images featuring fictional character Edwin Tickett and his 'Modern Day Guide to Using the Railways'.

The four new images, which are part of a 19 image series, encourage passengers to arrive at the station with plenty of time, be aware of fellow passengers feeling unwell when travelling and make sure the whole family boards safely and minds the gap.

Ed and his guide first appeared on the FCC network in October last year. Since then he has shared his advice on various topics regarding being safe on the railways and mindful of fellow passengers when travelling.

FCC Customer Service Director Keith Jipps said: "Ed Tickett and his 'Modern Day Guide to Using the Railways' has been very popular with our passengers who have told us they have felt more engaged by it in regards to railway safety.

"We care about our passengers' safety and comfort which is why we ran this campaign to encourage safer and more considerate behaviour. We know from research that we need to use humour to grab people's attention and our latest findings show that this campaign has been incredibly successful."

'The Modern Day Guide to Train Etiquette' can be found at: firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/safety

Attention all passengers: Virgin Trains now gives you Nectar points every time you travel

Virgin Trains has teamed up with Nectar, the UK's largest loyalty programme to announce an exciting new partnership giving customers the opportunity to collect Nectar points when booking tickets online at virgintrains.com from 12 August 2014. Virgin Trains customers will receive 2 Nectar points for every £1 spent on tickets purchased on the Virgin Trains website. Virgin Trains' customers who book online will be asked to enter their Nectar card number at 'checkout' to receive points on their ticket purchase. Around 31.9 million journeys a year are made with Virgin Trains, providing even more opportunities for Nectar cardholders to collect points as they travel for either business or leisure.

Graham Leech, Executive Commercial Director at Virgin Trains said: "On top of our great value fares, we are delighted to be partnering with Nectar to offer our customers an even bigger reward for choosing us."

Will Shuckburgh, Nectar Managing Director said; "Bringing Virgin Trains on board is fantastic news for Nectar as we continue to add big brand, household names to the coalition. Thousands of Nectar cardholders travel on Virgin Trains each and every day, so this exciting addition to the programme is guaranteed to make their trips around the UK even more rewarding."

To mark the launch of this exciting partnership, a double points offer will run for two months from 12 August 2014. During this time, customers will be able to collect 4 Nectar points for every £1 spent when booking tickets online. Rail users who are not currently Nectar cardholders can apply for a Nectar card via the Nectar website (Nectar.com) or by collecting a registration pack at any Sainsbury's or Homebase store

Terms & Conditions

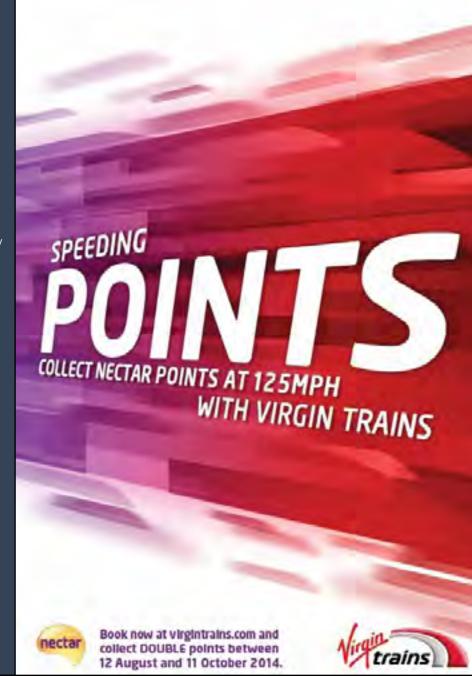
- 1. Collect 2 points for every £1 spent on Virgin Trains' tickets bought online through virgintrains.com (desktop website & mobile website.) From September 2014, you'll also be able to collect points using the Virgin Trains' app.)
- 2. All journeys where a customer travels on a Virgin Trains' service (whether for the whole journey or just part of it) are eligible for Nectar points. So, a journey on a Virgin Trains' service between London and Manchester would receive points, as would a journey including travel on a Virgin Train between London and St Helens Central.
- 3. At present season tickets can't be purchased online and are therefore not eligible for Nectar points.
- 4. To collect points you must enter the last 11 digits of your

Nectar card number at check out on virgintrains.com

- 5. Incorrect or invalid Nectar cards or Nectar card numbers will not be awarded points. Customers are responsible for ensuring the number entered is correct.
- 6. Points will appear on the account within 28 days of buying your tickets.
- 7. In the case of a refund the awarded Nectar points will be deducted from the Nectar account within 28 days of the refund. Where a change is made to your booking, the points collected will be increased or reduced based on the final transaction amount.
- 8. Points cannot currently be redeemed on virgintrains.com.
- 9. Points cannot be collected on any element of a transaction which is paid for by redeeming a National Rail Travel voucher.

Virgin Trains reserves the right to:

- •Withdraw at any time any Nectar points that were granted in the case of any fraudulent activity or in error
- •Withhold or delay issuing Nectar points
- •Change these terms at any time





First trains operate on the newly upgraded Swindon to Kemble line

Network Rail's £45m project to upgrade the line between Swindon and Kemble was successfully completed in late August, paving the way for greater capacity, reduced journey times and a better experience for passengers. The infrastructure upgrade along the route included the reinstatement of the second line between Swindon and Kemble, improvements to earthworks to accommodate the new track, and the installation of new signalling equipment which will safely control the movement of trains.

The new infrastructure provides increased capacity, which will be crucial to meet future passenger demand and will reduce delays for a more reliable service. These improvements will also be essential to enable trains from south Wales to be diverted along this route when Bristol Parkway station and the Severn Tunnel are closed for electrification work.

Simon Maple, Network Rail's route programme and project sponsor, said: "Now that our work is complete, passengers can look forward to fewer delays and reduced journey times in the future. It also means we can minimise the disruption caused by our electrification work and ensure the region gets maximum benefit from a modern, electric railway.

"As is the case with most major works, a certain amount of disruption is unfortunately unavoidable and I would like to thank passengers and local residents for their continued patience and understanding."

Other improvements incorporated as part of the upgrade project include the installation of additional signals between Kemble and Standish Junction, level crossing upgrades at Minety and Purton Collins Lane and the installation of a new footbridge in Stroud.

Rob Mullen, First Great Western's general manager central, said: "These are vital infrastructure works to help pave the way for increased capacity and reduced journey times, and better performance and punctuality that electrification and new electric trains will bring for future services.

"We have worked closely with our colleagues at Network Rail to keep disruption to a minimum but I must thank our customers for their understanding and patience as we seek to make the improvements that we know they want to see."

West Coast main line reopens after August closures help to build a better railway

The West Coast main line reopened on time on August 26th after Network Rail completed the third successive weekend of upgrade work at Watford.

Over the bank holiday weekend, including bank holiday Monday, more than 300 track workers and engineers continued to replace and install new sections of railway and parts of the new modern signalling system in the area.

Planning is already underway ahead of the next West Coast main line closure at Watford which will take place between Christmas Eve and Monday 29 December.

Jim Syddall, acting route managing director for Network Rail, said: "The past three weekends have seen a significant amount of work completed which will help to provide a better and more reliable railway on the West Coast main line through Watford.

"I would like to thank passengers for their patience while the work was carried out as it meant longer journeys and alternative routes for many travelling in and out of London.

"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 are still a further four weekends of work to come, starting with the next closure over the Christmas period.

"There is never a good time to close the railway but this work is essential to provide a reliable railway for the millions of passengers who use this section of railway every year."

The August closures were 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.

Terry Oliver, London Midland's head of west coast services, said: "We are really pleased with the number of passengers that followed our advice and chose to travel with other operators during the closures. We'd like to thank them once again for their patience and cooperation.

"We will continue to work with Network Rail, industry

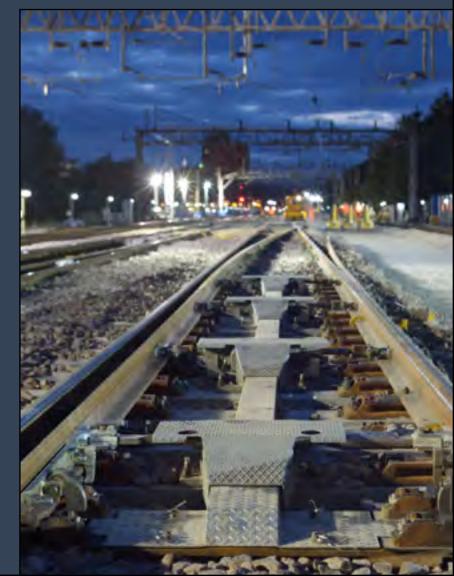
partners and key stakeholders when planning the strategy for the December closure, ensuring that inconvenience is minimised and that passengers are kept up to date with the latest information."

Phil Bearpark, Virgin Trains' executive director for operations and projects, said: "There is never a good time to close the West Coast main line – Europe's busiest mixed-use rail route – and we'd like to thank our customers for bearing with us during the disruption this caused.

"Our staff have worked really hard to ensure that those travelling with us or on alternative services have been well looked after and given the correct support to help them make their journeys.

"This is always a learning experience and we'll ensure that any lessons from the August line closures are built into our plans for the next round of closures planned this Christmas."

Information will be made available well in advance of the Christmas closure and Network Rail will continue to work with affected train companies to raise awareness. Passengers can plan any journey and get the latest travel information at www.nationalrail.co.uk.





Investment to transform Hamilton Square station

Hamilton Square station in Birkenhead is to be redeveloped as part of ongoing investment in the railway in Merseyside. Working with Merseyrail and Merseytravel, Network Rail will invest £4m in the station as part of its commitment to provide a better railway to meet the demands of an ever increasing number of passengers. Passengers will benefit from improved platform and tunnel areas which will include new flooring, brighter lighting and better passenger information. The station will look cleaner, lighter and less cluttered and it will be easier for passengers to plan their journey. To complete the upgrade, the station will be closed from Monday 29 September until spring 2015. Trains will continue to run through the station but won't stop. Ian Joslin, area director for Network Rail, said: "This work will significantly improve Hamilton Square station and provide passengers with a better beginning or end to their journey. "The redeveloped station will be a positive addition to the railway in Merseyside, building on the recent improvements made at Lime Street, Liverpool Central and James Street. "The nature of the work means it can only be carried out while the station is closed. We apologise for the inconvenience this will cause but passengers can be assured we are working closely with Merseyrail and Merseytravel to minimise disruption as possible." Maarten Spaargaren, managing director of Merseyrail, added: "We know that the temporary closure of the station is not good for customers in the short term, but I am confident that that the upgrade will make a big difference and people will really like the new look and feel. A lot of thought will go into improving signage and customer information, making travel on the network easier and more pleasant."

Councillor Liam Robinson, chair of Merseytravel, said: "There has been significant investment to improve station facilities across the railway network in the Liverpool City Region in the last few years and we're delighted to once again work with Network Rail and Merseyrail on the next station in this large scale refurbishment programme. "We appreciate that the work will involve some significant disruption to passengers who normally use the station in the short-term but we are confident that it will bring significant improvements for them in the longer term." A rail replacement bus service will be in place from Hamilton Square throughout the closure. Operating in a loop, it will take customers to Birkenhead Central and Conway Park.

Buses will run every five minutes between 7am and 10am and 4pm and 7pm, Monday to Friday, and every 10 minutes at all other times. The bus round trip will take about 15 minutes and 20 minutes at peak-times. The work at Hamilton Square station is part of a ongoing project to improve all five stations in Liverpool city centre. Liverpool Central was redeveloped in 2012 and Lime Street and James Street in 2013. Moorfields is due to be refurbished next year.

Batteries included: Network Rail begins on-track trials of prototype battery-powered train

Britain's first battery-powered train is being put through its paces in a series of on-track trials – a move which could ultimately lead to a fleet of battery-powered trains running on Britain's rail network which are quieter and more efficient than diesel-powered trains, making them better for passengers and the environment.

Network Rail has successfully completed the retrofitting of its first battery-powered train and has now embarked upon a programme of trials at a test track in Derby, which will culminate with a series of high-speed tests at the Rail Innovation and Development Centre (RIDC) in Nottinghamshire later this year.

Network Rail has a target to reduce the cost of running Britain's railway by a further 20 per cent. At the same time, we are always looking for ways to make the railway greener too. This project has the potential to contribute significantly towards both those goals.

"It's still early days for what is an exciting and experimental project that tackles these two key objectives, but we're thrilled to begin the next phase of testing and look forward to running the train on-track in live, highspeed tests."



Although the project is in its very early stages, Network Rail and its partners believe battery-powered trains could be used to bridge gaps in otherwise electrified parts of the network or be used on branch lines where it would not be cost effective to install overhead electrification equipment, bringing the additional benefits of making the new trains cost-effective and sustainable.

Using an Abellio Greater Anglia Class 379 unit, which normally operates using electricity drawn from overhead power lines, Network Rail and its industry partners – including Bombardier, Abellio Greater Anglia, FutureRailway and the Department for Transport who are co-funding – have installed six battery rafts to the full train at Bombardier's facility in Derby, where the first on-track test runs are now taking place.

Network Rail's senior engineer leading on the Independently Powered Electric Multiple Unit (IPEMU) project, James Ambrose, said: "Over the next five years,

The battery rafts fitted to the Class 379 unit contain a battery box, isolation switch, power distribution control panel, battery charging inverter, batteries and battery monitoring system, all mounted within a bespoke, purpose-built rig. Their creation follows the successful testing of several types of battery technologies, including lithium iron magnesium and hot sodium nickel salt.

James added: "Although we've retrofitted the Abellio Greater Anglia Class 379 unit with lithium iron magnesium batteries, we continue to test other possible solutions so we can gather as much information and comparison data as possible for future development."

Additional battery tests are now underway at the Bombardier Mannheim facility in Germany. On-track trials of the Abellio Greater Anglia Class 379 are now underway at a test track in Derby, and high-speed running has been scheduled at the RIDC towards the end of the year.

Schoolgirls raise the roof with IT competition work experience prize

Six secondary school students have been getting a roof-raising experience by visiting the £44m redevelopment at Manchester Victoria station. The tour was part of their prize of two weeks paid work experience, after winning Network Rail's Could IT Be You? competition to encourage more young women into technology careers.

The competition was launched in October 2013 after Susan Cooklin, Network Rail's chief information officer, raised concerns about the rapid slide in the number of women entering the UK's IT sector. The latest figures from e-skills UK shows the proportion of women working in technology roles in the UK has more than halved since the 1980s despite technology becoming an increasingly integral part of our everyday lives.

During the two weeks, the girls shadowed Network Rail's IT managers, attended meetings and saw how technology helps run Britain's railway, which carries more than 4m people and hundreds of tonnes of freight a day. They also visited signalling centres, stations and the National Records Centre, which holds over five million historical records including original architectural drawings by Brunel, which are still used today by 21st century engineers.

Could IT Be You? winners take up their paid work experience prize - here at Manchester Victoria redevelopment

Hannah Blair, aged 18, from West Wickham in south London and runner up in the competition, spoke about her time with Network Rail: "The highlight of my week was the visit to Wembley signalling centre. To see the live operation of trains being run from Euston to Watford Junction was amazing. It was interesting to see the different types of technologies working together and it really helped to open my eyes to what a complex operation Network Rail undertakes daily."

Dani Ball, aged 17, from Nottingham, also a runner up, said: "The thing that surprised me the most was the variety of roles available. One of my favourite experiences was seeing how the biggest crane currently being used in the country is helping transform Manchester Victoria station."

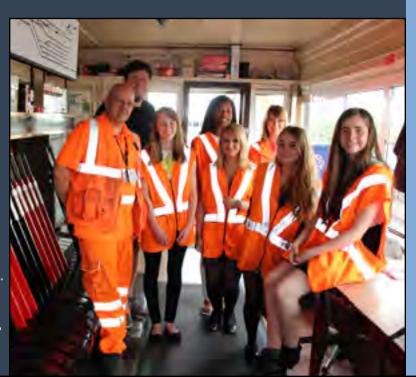
Zoe Moore, aged 17 from Towcester in Northants, was the overall winner of the 2013 competition

and will have her first year's university fees paid for by Network Rail. She said: "One of the most unusual things we got to see was all the historical railway records at the National Records Centre in York, the oldest of which was from 1509. One particularly special document contains Florence Nightingale's signature from a land deed. Where else do you get to see that?"

Network Rail CIO, Susan Cooklin, said: "Popular culture has helped create a perception amongst young women that a career in IT is all about writing code in basement offices – the reality couldn't be further from the truth. All these girls have shown a creative mind for solving problems and good communication, and these are the skills that business leaders are after. Everyone in my team is thrilled to be able to showcase how much technology there is on the railway and hopefully inspire them to become technology gurus of the future."

Could IT Be You? winners take up their paid work experience prize - here at Wembley signalling centre

Could IT Be You? 2014 will be launched in September, with the same top prize of the first year of university fees paid for by Network Rail. The winner and runners up will also receive paid work experience as a prize. A new website will accompany the launch but those interested can keep up to date on what's happening by following the team @couldITbu14





GB Railfreight brings hardy 'Yeoman Highlander' back to the UK

GB Railfreight has formally confirmed the purchase of the locomotive 59 003, named 'Yeoman Highlander', from German-based Heavy Haul Power International (HHPI).

This will be the first Class 59 to join the GBRf fleet, exemplifying the company's intention to build its presence in both the aggregates and bulk materials freight markets.

Class 59 003 has heavy haul capability and can be subsequently used to shift anything from stone aggregate to oil tankers. Given this power, it will be used on flows across the UK where it is deemed useful and appropriate.

This once again affirms the company's commitment to not only growing UK rail freight, but also boosting the supply chain across the various sectors. British companies will now be able to benefit from a locomotive that has successfully hauled coal trains in Germany for the last 15-20 years.

The contract states that the 59 003 will be delivered to the UK at the end of August 2014, ready to put into traffic by December 2014.

John Smith, Managing Director of GB Railfreight, said: "We're delighted to be bringing the 'Yeoman Highlander' back to the UK. The extra power it provides will be of a prime importance for our work in the aggregates market and will allow us to further expand our business in other areas. This will be the first Class 59 to join our fleet, and from December, we hope to have it working on flows across the UK."

Talking Statues at London Paddington station

Visitors to London Paddington station can listen to the statues of The Unknown Soldier and Isambard Kingdom Brunel for the first time. Voiced by the actors Sir Patrick Stewart and Hugh Bonneville, the statues have been brought to life as part of the Talking Statues project, which Network Rail is supporting. The Unknown Soldier is voiced by Sir Patrick Stewart reading a monologue inspired by the soldier's scarf. Sir Patrick Stewart said: "I think 'Talking Statues' is a lovely idea. It brings a sense of intimacy and personality to the statues that surround us all". The piece was written by the playwright Tony Harrison: "People often assume that he's wearing a belt of bullets round his neck but if you look closely you see that it's a knitted scarf." explains Harrison. "I imagined it as red scarf, hand knitted by his mother..."

The statue of Brunel has been animated by Hugh Bonneville, reading a piece written by the playwright Rachel Wagstaff. "Brunel was such a fascinating man," says Wagstaff. "It's wonderful that he can be recognised in the station which he designed!". Hugh Bonneville added: "The idea of discovering unsung heroes and bringing them to life is captivating. This is certainly an exciting way of bringing them to our attention". Nick Hartnell, Network Rail's station manager at London Paddington welcomed the Talking Statues project: "We're delighted to see the statues at the station brought to life in this manner. I hope that passengers who have the time will stop and listen to these statues for a few moments." The project sees 35 statues in London and Manchester animated by a cast of actors and comedians. The producers, Sing London, have commissioned some of the nation's most celebrated writers to pen monologues for the statues, which will speak for one year.

Other London statues in the project include:

- Dominic West as a stir crazy Achilles in Hyde Park
- Jeremy Paxman defending free speech as John Wilkes in Fetter Lane
- Baker Street's Sherlock Holmes, as imagined by Anthony Horowitz
- Nicholas Parsons as Samuel Johnson's famous cat, Hodge in Gough Square
- Hugh Dennis as a goat in Spitalfields
- Alan Johnson MP as Rowland Hill, inventor of the Penny Black in EC1
- Simon Russell Beale as Isaac Newton at the British Library



Talking Statues in Manchester include:

- The Reading Girl, in Manchester Central Library, written by Dame Jacqueline Wilson,
- Tom Conti as Lincoln in Manchester's Lincoln Square, written by Gary Younge, Prunella Scales as Queen Victoria in Piccadilly Gardens. Written by Katrina Hendry whose play about Victoria generated great acclaim.
- Coronation Street star David Neilson propping up the bar as LS Lowry at Sam's Chop House, written by exciting new talent, Kiran Benawra
- Russell Tovey as code-breaker Alan Turing, penned by Mark Ravenhill.

A public competition has been launched to animate another four statues:

- The Leaping Hare on Crescent and Bell, Broadgate Estates, London
- Isis, Hyde Park, London
- Shakespeare, quarding the way to knowledge at British Library, London
- T-Rex, the Jurassic giant housed in Manchester Museum

The winning monlogues will be chosen in November and be recorded by well known public figures. Details of the contest can be found at www.talkingstatues.co.uk.





Class 57 003 takes 68 002 through Daresbury. Mark Enderby

SOUTHERN COUNTIES RAILWAY SOCIETY

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



www.southerncountiesrailwaysociety.co.uk

Farmers urged not to come a crop-per on a level crossing this harvest



Network Rail is reminding farmers and farm-workers of the importance of level crossings safety as they gather their crops this harvest.

There are hundreds of user-worked crossings on farmland in Britain, which see a marked increase in traffic during the harvest season. Figures collated over the past ten years reveal that the number of collisions and near misses at these types of crossings also sharply increases over the harvest months.*. Since the beginning of June, Network Rail has recorded dozens of incidents of level crossing misuse on farm crossings. Fortunately none of these have resulted in collisions or serious harm but they have caused over ten hours of delays to rail services. Vincent Briggs, level crossing manager for Network Rail, said "Harvest gathering is an extremely busy time for farmers, with level crossings that are seldom used during the rest of the year coming into almost constant use.

"While most farm crossings are used correctly and safely, that is not always the case and we have already seen a number of dangerous examples of crossing misuse this year. "We're asking farmers with level crossings on their land to make sure that everyone who comes onto their farm knows how to use the crossing correctly." National Farmers' Union regulatory affairs adviser Ben Ellis added: "Farmers with land either side of the railway rely heavily on being able to use level crossings. We remind our members to follow the safe working procedures for the particular crossing, cutting corners can cost lives." General advice for the safe operation of a user worked crossing include:

- Read all the signs and follow the instructions
- If there are no lights, stop, look both ways and listen before you cross. If there is a railway telephone, always use it to contact the signal operator to make sure it is

safe to cross. Inform the signal operator again when you are clear of the crossing so trains are not unnecessarily delayed

• Train speeds can be deceptive. Don't be fooled into thinking that you can beat an approaching train.

Earlier this year, Network Rail launched a nationwide awareness programme targeting motorists who drive for a living. The programme, delivered by its team of 100 level crossing managers, provides training sessions reminding drivers that although it may seem an inconvenience to have to wait at a crossing, especially when they are trying to meet delivery deadlines, crossings are in place to save lives – theirs as well as those on trains. As well as the risk to life, the misuse of a level crossing also poses a threat to the career of a professional driver as it is a criminal offence to misuse a level crossing.

Actual numbers for the period 2004 -2013:

	Strikes	Near-misses
Jan	2	65
Feb	2	55
Mar	0	81
Apr	1	83
May	4	100
Jun	7	132
July	7	120
Aug	7	131
Sep	8	105
Oct	4	93
Nov	3	54
Dec	4	58

In the past four years, Network Rail has invested £130 million into its programme to improve level crossing safety. During this time it has:

- Closed nearly 800 level crossings
- Replaced footpath crossings with footbridges
- Installed warning lights as an additional safety measure at footpath crossings
- Launched a new schools programme Rail Life teaching both primary and secondary school children about how to stay safe when crossing the railway
- Rolled out safety camera enforcement vans
- Invested in new technology such as the obstacle detection radar technology
- Introduced power operated gate openers
- Installed spoken warnings to announce when "another train is coming" after one train has passed through
- Employed more than 100 new dedicated level crossing managers

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 I visited The White Horse at Church Fenton (A busy little junction on the York to Leeds line)

Well this was a real surprise. I had only ever previously been to the Indian restaurant at Church Fenton, which is located on the station, so after alighting from the train it was just a short walk into the village. Pie which was bursting with meat and was serves with some excellent chips, veg and gravy.

I found a really excellent review of this place online, and thought I would share it here:

An unassuming but quite large village local with a large lounge and saloon bar, free wifi, good choice of beer and quite simply the best home made pies anywhere! I stayed in a B&B in the village in March 2014 and wandered over to the pub on a very quiet Monday night about half eight. After finishing a telephone conversation outside I stepped in and ordered a pint of Black Sheep



The White Horse
Main Street, Church Fenton
North Yorkshire LS24 9RF
Tel: 01937 557143

Food is served:

Daily Lunch: Served from 12 noon to 2.30pm Monday to Saturday.

Sunday Lunch: Served at 12 noon, 1.30pm and 3pm Sunday.

A La Carte : Available Monday to Saturday (lunch or evening) and Sunday evening.

The menu is very comprehensive and the portions are substantial. I went with a group and although we all commenced by saying we would have dessert, none of us did, as we were all too full! There was also a real problem with choice here, and to be honest although most of the group had different dishes, and they all looked lovely, a special mention has to go to the Steak

and enquired whether food was being served.

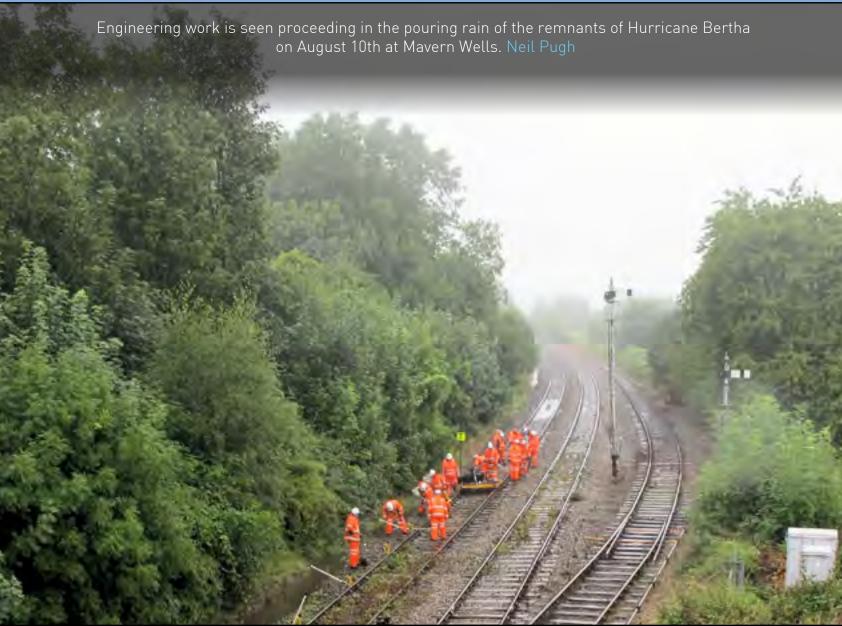
I was disappointed to hear that as it was so quiet, the kitchen had closed at half eight and also that the curry house was closed on a Monday also.

Oh well, two more pints and a packet of nuts would have to do - beer is food after all. As I sat down, the very kind lady in the kitchen walked over and enquired whether I would like home made steak and mushroom pie with veg and new pots? Is the Pope a catholic I replied and cancelled the nuts! Great service and also, when the food came out simply great food. A pie the size of a house brick stuffed full of tender, juicy beef and mushrooms. light and velvety pastry with new potatoes, broccoli, cauliflower, carrots and green beans all with a jug of piping hot gravy - kill me now my work here is done! All for £8.50 too!

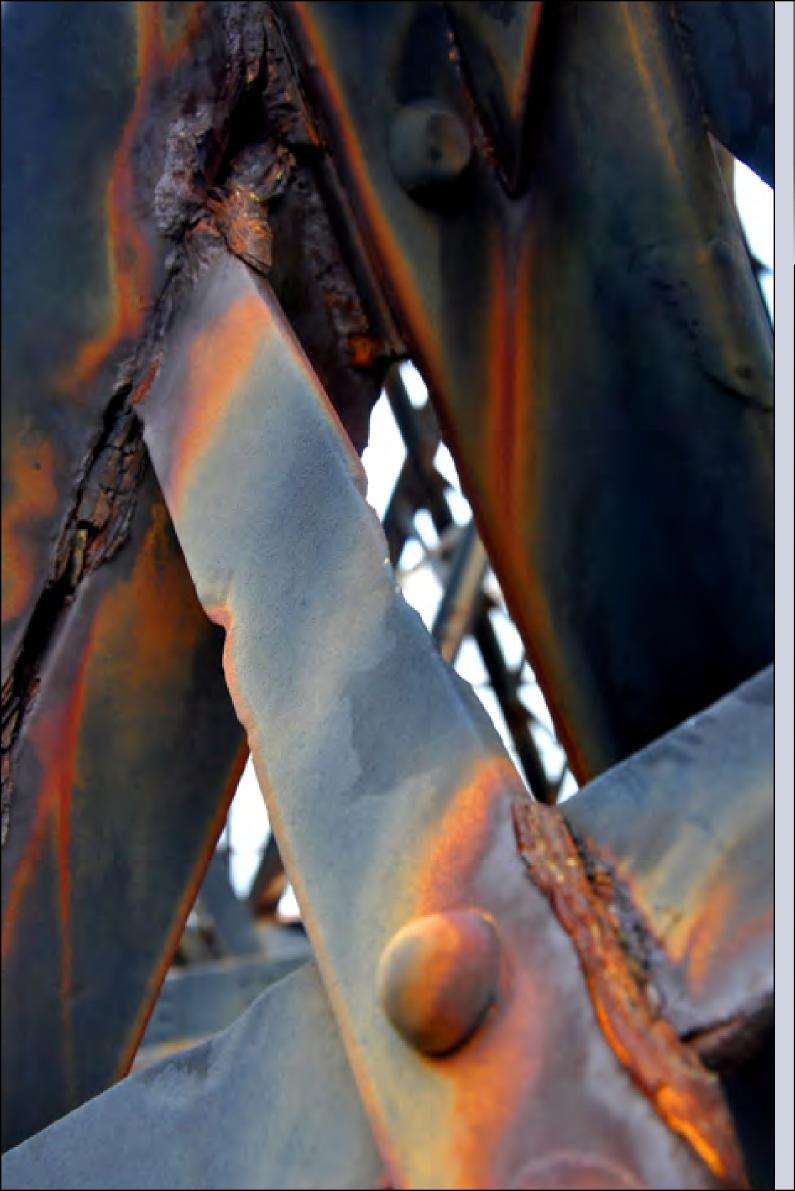
If you have any suggestions for next months report then please do get in touch either to the editorial team or to the address below, and thanks for reading.

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









Left: A close up of the metal work on the former swinging-section of Barmouth Viaduct, and the slow decay after over a century exposed to the sea air is apparent on the ageing structure, but it does make for some interesting shades and colours.

Ben Bucki

Below: Looks like the signal box at Rye need a little roofing work done. Derek Elston















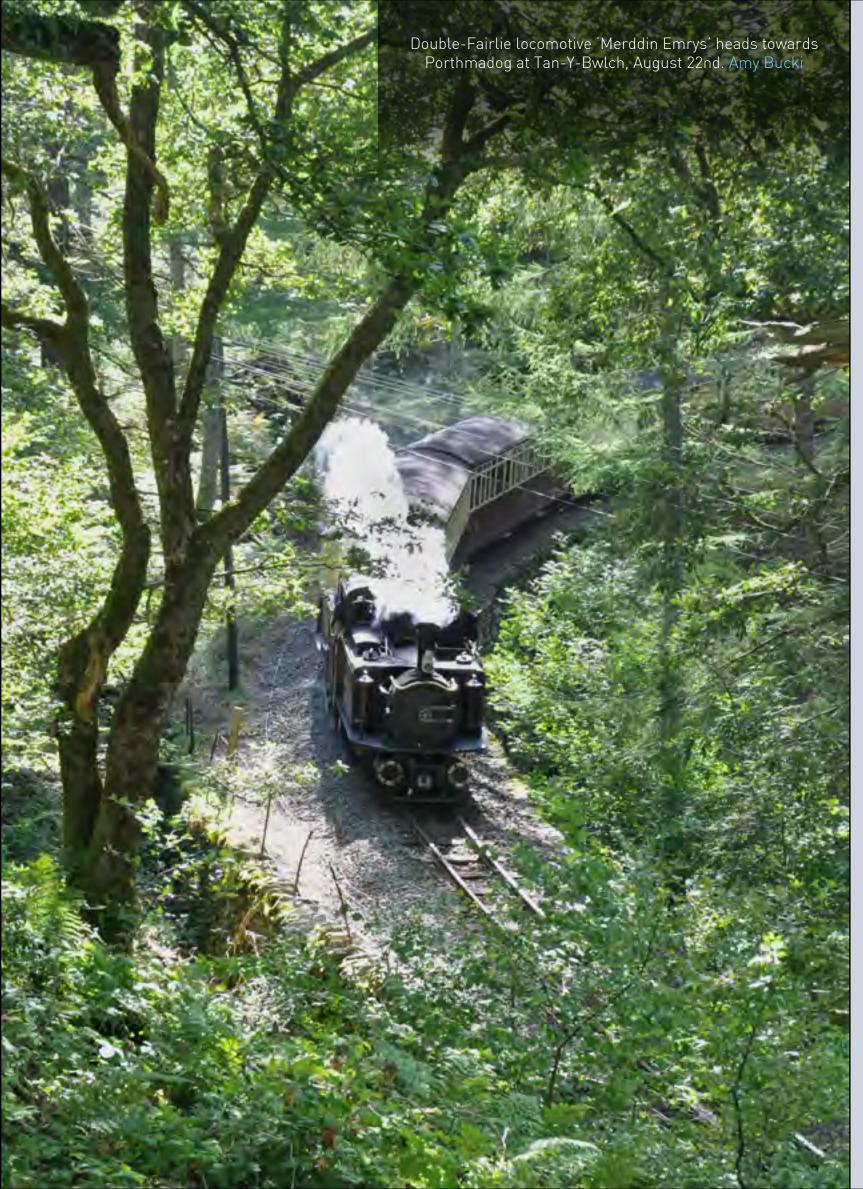














Over 50 new layouts confirmed for GCR's 2015 'Model Event'

Examine the very best models and ride behind their giant counterparts! Friday 19th, Saturday 20th and Sunday 21st June 2015

The Great Central Railway's inaugural 'Model Event' was so successful, it will be staged again in 2015, with over 50 layouts already confirmed!

'We have managed to secure the cream of the crop' said John Elliott of Soar Valley Model Railway Club. 'We are delighted with next year's line-up, we thought this year's was going to be tough to beat, but we've already cracked it!'

Amongst those confirmed are 82G – Templecombe Road, Casterbridge, Coppell, Dorehill, Great Train Robbery, Harpenden East, Hungerford, Newcastle by the Water, Waterloo Street, Warton Road and Woodhead.

Andrew Jones said 'We are delighted to be bringing our Harpenden East layout next year. We came this year with our QUESTA layout and we loved the concept of the event, visitors can travel on full size steam and diesel locos to look at a variety of miniatures. The quality and variety of the layouts was superb; we can't wait to be part of the event in 2015.'

Unusually the event isn't concentrated on a single site, visitors are able to take train rides between the line's stations and visit different displays. Full size locomotives and rolling stock will also be on display alongside the main 35,000 square foot exhibition hall and there will be displays from model engineers too.

The GCR is delivering the event alongside the Soar Valley Model Railway Club again. Our normal fares will apply for this event with tickets costing just £15 including all day travel!







GREAT CENTRAL RAILWAY REUNIFICATION: NEXT PHASE OF WORK GETS UNDERWAY

THOUSANDS OF POUNDS SAVED AS LEADING CONSULTANTS SPONSOR HISTORIC CANAL BRIDGE SURVEY

Survey work has taken place on a disused Victorian bridge over the Grand Union canal in Loughborough as the Great Central Railway steps up its reunification project. XEIAD, a specialist civil engineering consultancy examined the bridge, which dates from the late 1890s, to determine how much work will be required before it can carry steam trains again.

The Great Central Railway is planning to reunite two sections of the former Main Line to create an eighteen mile heritage line between Nottingham and Leicester. Already the two halves of the railway are working in partnership with Network Rail to build a new bridge across the Midland Main Line, which is the key component of the missing 500 metres of track that needs to be rebuilt.

With the recent announcement of two grants of half a million pounds from the Government's Local Growth Fund, the GCR is now accelerating its plans to reunify the railways. Attention is now turning to other parts of the project including the repairs to the canal bridge. Unlike the bridge over the Midland Line it wasn't demolished after the closure of the railway but it is in a state of disrepair. XEIAD sponsored the survey providing two its of trained engineers for two days, work which would have otherwise cost tens of thousands of pounds. Besides measuring and photographing the structure they were also able to use a pontoon on the canal to examine the underside of the bridge decks in detail.

Bill Ford, the Managing Director of the Great Central Railway said, "We are extremely grateful to XEIAD. Their professional team have kick started the next phase of our exciting reunification project. The report they produce will help us draw up detailed plans to repair the bridge which in turn will allow us to cost the work and most importantly, get it underway! In years to come our heritage trains will make a fine site crossing the bridge."

Olivier Garrigue, Chief Executive Officer of XEIAD said "XEIAD are delighted to be among the many partners who actively support the redevelopment of the Great Central Railway project. We recently had the opportunity to inspect and assess the condition of the Canal Bridge and will continue to contribute in all ways we can. We found that the elements of the structure we inspected ranged from a fair condition to some requiring repairs but nothing that cannot be achieved if we all pull together."

The grand reunification project is expected to cost six and a half million pounds. Besides the award from the Local Growth Fund, the GCR is currently raising one million pounds to build the new bridge across the Midland Main Line with Network Rail. The work must be completed before the Midland line is electrified. Five hundred and ninety thousand pounds has now been raised.

Bill continued, "The reunification project is really gathering pace. We must now raise the remaining money to complete the construction of the Main Line bridge. Our Local Growth Fund grant can't be spent on that part of the project. Thankfully railway enthusiasts across the country and the local community has been very generous and we hope that will continue. Then we look forward to making rapid progress on the rest of the infrastructure required for the project."

Trains could be running over the new link along the full length of the 18 mile railway within a few years subject to finance being available.

To donate to the GCR Bridge appeal;

Send a cheque made payable to the David Clarke Railway Trust and marked 'Bridge Appeal' to Lovatt House, 3 Wharncliffe Road, Loughborough, Leics, LE11 1SL

Or donate on line using a credit or debit card at www.gcrailway.co.uk/unify







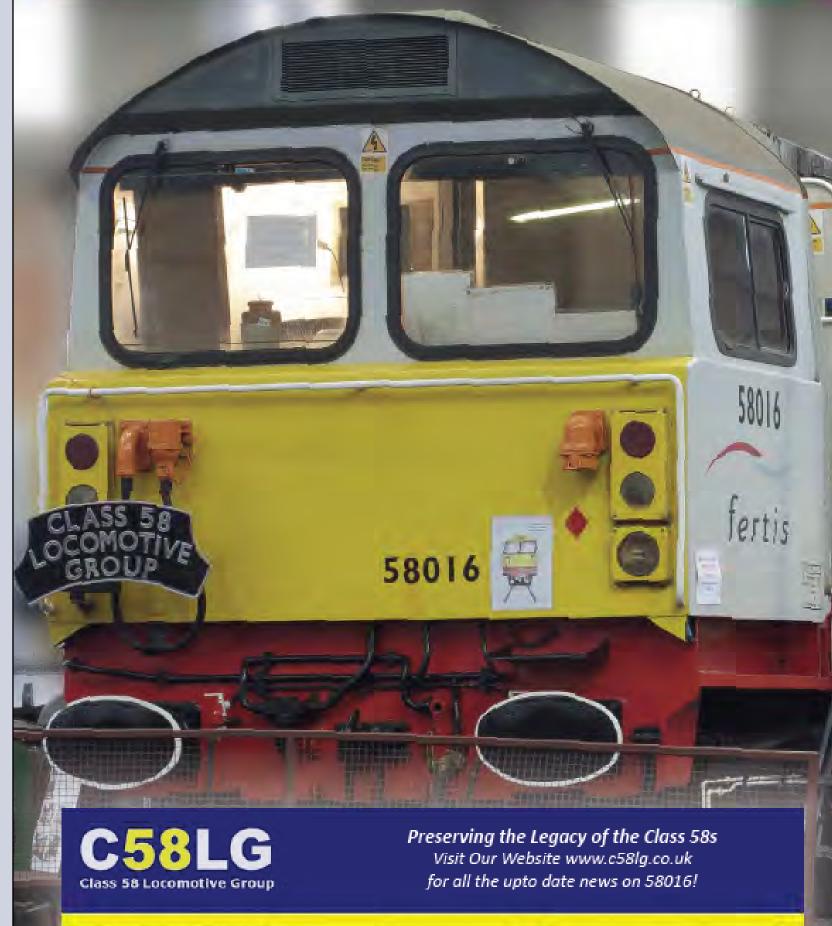




Join The Class 58 Locomotive Group and help support the restoration of 58016!

There are various ways to help the C58LG:

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





















AUTHOR SIGNS LANDMARK BALL CLAY HISTORY BOOK AT THE UNIQUE AWARD-WINNING PURBECK MINERAL AND MINING MUSEUM

A dedicated author who has spent more than 50 years researching the history of the Isle of Purbeck's important ball clay mining industry has signed copies of his new landmark book at the unique award-winning Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum near Corfe Castle. Growing up in Wareham and going to school in Swanage, Chris Legg signed copies of 'Fayle's Tramways – Clay Mining in Purbeck' at the Norden museum, next to the Swanage Railway's Norden station and Purbeck District Council's park and ride car park, on Bank Holiday Monday, 25 August, 2014.

With the free admission volunteer-run Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum opened for the day, the occasion was marked with a special appearance by a Victorian narrow gauge steam locomotive No. 542 'Cloister' which was named after a horse that won the Grand National during the 1890s. Published by the Twelveheads Press based at Chacewater near Truro in

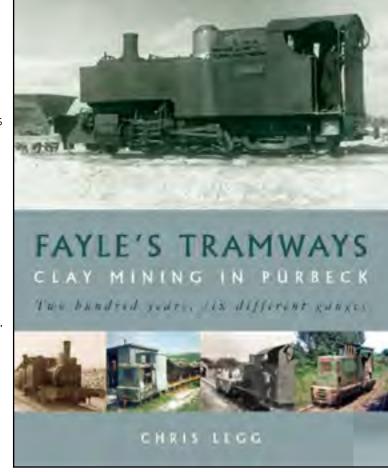
Cornwall – and featuring 225 illustrations – copies of Chris Legg's hardback 'Fayle's Tramways – Clay Mining in Purbeck' are £28.00 each.

The new landmark book by the retired pharmacist, who used to work in Wareham, covers some 200 years of history and six different gauges of narrow gauge railways that transported ball clay from the Isle of Purbeck for use in the potteries of the Midlands which exported their ceramic wares across the world.

Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum Chairman Peter Sills said: "Everyone was absolutely delighted that Chris Legg travelled from his home in Suffolk to sign his new landmark book in the area where ball clay has been mined for more than 400 years. It's very apt and it was a very special day enjoyed by many people with an interest in the subject. "Ball clay mining industry and narrow gauge railway enthusiasts have been waiting with anticipation for many years for Chris to complete his 50 plus years of meticulous research and write his book – a wait that has been well worthwhile," explained Mr Sills.

Explaining the history and technology behind ball clay mining – which has been taking place in the Isle of Purbeck since the 16th century – the Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum features a realistic reconstruction of an underground mine tunnel, a rebuilt ball clay trans-shipment building, a 300 metre section of narrow gauge railway as well as an engine shed with viewing area.

Mining Museum – just go on-line and visit 'www.pmmmg.org' or call 01929 481461.



Part of the Swanage Railway Trust and its educational remit, the museum is the result of some 40,000 hours of work – and has been achieved thanks to a £100,000 European Union grant from the Chalk and Cheese organisation as well as £40,000 donated by museum members.

Swanage Railway Trust Chairman Gavin Johns explained: "The Swanage Railway Trust is very proud to have played an important part in the creation of the Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum as among the Trust's aims is to preserve, conserve and educate. "Because Chris Legg knew many Purbeck ball clay miners, managers and their families over many years, his new book is a very people orientated story with fascinating photographs and drawings – many of which are published for the first time," he added.

A 0-4-0 wheel arrangement saddle tank steam locomotive, 'Cloister' was built by Hunslet of Leeds in 1891 for the Dinorwic slate quarry – once the largest slate quarry in the world – at Llanberis in north Wales a cost of £500. Planned and built by a small team of dedicated volunteers over more than a decade, the award-winning Purbeck and Mineral Mining Museum is open on Saturdays, Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 11am and 4.30pm. Admission is free. Donations are welcome to help fund continuing preservation and development work at the Purbeck Mineral and





Spa Valley Railway







NEW CUSTODIAN FOR THOMPSON CLASS B1 NO. 61306 MAYFLOWER

Retired businessman and long-term London & North Eastern Railway (LNER) enthusiast David Buck has acquired LNER-designed Thompson class B1 No. 61306 Mayflower from the Boden family for an undisclosed sum. The locomotive will be managed on behalf of David Buck by The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the builders, owners and operators of new main steam locomotive No. 60163 Tornado which is also currently building Britain's most powerful steam locomotive No. 2007 Prince of Wales.

The Thompson class B1 two-cylinder mixed traffic 4-6-0s steam locomotives were designed for medium mixed traffic work by Edward Thompson. Introduced in 1942, 274 were built for the LNER and 136 were built for British Railways (BR) after nationalisation in 1948 with the class eventually totalling 410. The prototype for the new class B1 4-6-0 was built at Darlington and entered service in December 1942. With cost saving a wartime priority the LNER re-used existing patterns, jigs and tools to economise on materials and labour and extensive use was made of welding instead of steel castings. The LNER placed substantial orders with two outside builders: Vulcan Foundry and the North British Locomotive Company of Glasgow. The B1s operated throughout LNER territory, with the first normal withdrawal occurring in November 1961 with the remaining locomotives were withdrawn between 1962 and 1967. Two B1s have been preserved, these being No. 61264 and No. 61306.

No. 61306 was built in 1948 by the North British Locomotive Company. It was allocated to Hull Botanic Gardens Depot until June 1959, when it was transferred to nearby Hull Dairycoates Depot, where it remained until June 1967, when it was transferred to Low Moor Depot, Bradford. Withdrawn in September 1967, No. 61306 was privately purchased for preservation at Steamtown in Carnforth. There it was painted into LNER Apple Green Livery and given the number No. 1306 and the name Mayflower. In 1978, No. 1306 moved to the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire, where it remained until 1989, when it was taken out of service for a ten-year overhaul at Hull Dairycoates and subsequently the Nene Valley Railway. In 2006 a further overhaul was undertaken at Boden Rail Engineering Ltd, Washwood Heath and the locomotive returned to the main line in 2012 as No. 61306 in Apple Green livery with 'British Railways' on the tender. Since the time it has been under the care of Neil Boden and has always been an exemplary locomotive both in terms of the high quality of its turn out and its operational pedigree.

Having only completed around 2,000 miles since its last overhaul, No. 61306 will be available for private hire by heritage railways and for use on main line charter trains. It is anticipated that the locomotive will initially move to the North Norfolk Railway in Sheringham.

David Buck commented: "I am delighted to become the new custodian of No. 61306 Mayflower. I have vivid memories of B1s working in and around Ipswich and this is the fulfilment of a childhood dream. The Boden family have always ensured that the locomotive was immaculately presented and this will continue as Mayflower seeks work on heritage railways and main line charters."

Neil Boden added: "The Boden family has had the pleasure of owning Mayflower for over 30 years and we are delighted that this wonderful locomotive is going to David Buck who will continue to maintain the same high standards of presentation and who really cares about the locomotive."

Mark Allatt, chairman, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, concluded: "We are delighted to be working with David to operate this much-loved LNER designed locomotive and bring it to new audiences up and down the country. As a Darlington designed locomotive, No. 61306 Mayflower is a perfect complement to No. 60163 Tornado."

