

# CARDIFF & AVONSIDE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Established 1971

[www.cardiffandavonside.org.uk](http://www.cardiffandavonside.org.uk)



## MAGAZINE

Issue 556

June 2018

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### **Front Cover Photo June 2018 Issue 556:**

**[Kevin Davies]**

D5613 (31 190) stands in the former Motor-Rail dock at Bristol Temple Meads on 23/05/13.

### **Rear Cover Photo June 2018 Issue 556:**

**[Kevin Davies]**

Henbury, Peckett 1940/37 in passenger use on the Bristol Harbour Railway on 23/05/13.

## FUTURE EVENTS

**Trip 540**                      **LEIGHTON BUZZARD & BEDFORDSHIRE**                      **Sunday 10/06/18**

A one day trip on a Sunday visiting the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway plus other locations in and around the Bedfordshire area.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £35                      Fare with Day Membership = £38

**Proposed Itinerary:** Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway; plus other locations TBA

**Permits:** TBA

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 26th May 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: Hi-Viz Vest & Safety Shoes

**Trip 541**                      **ECCLESBOURNE VALLEY & STEEPLE GRANGE**                      **Saturday 23/06/18**

A one day trip featuring visits to the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway & the Steeple Grange Light Railway.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £32                      Fare with Day Membership = £35

**Proposed Itinerary:**

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway, Wirksworth -- VISIT (£5.00 per person)

Steeple Grange Light Railway, Wirksworth -- VISIT (£12.00 per person)

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 9th June 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: Hi-Viz Vest & Safety Shoes

### NOTES

(1) The visit to the Ecclesbourne Valley will be in the morning & the visit to the Steeple Grange will be in the afternoon.

(2) The visit to the Steeple Grange railway includes full access to all lines and locos and refreshments and full membership of the railway until 31st March 2019.

(3) The Trip Fare includes the £12.00 for the Steeple Grange Visit, but not the £5.00 for the Ecclesbourne Valley.

**Trip 542**

**LONDON FLYER**

**Saturday 07/07/18**

A one day trip to do as you wish in London, to include a visit to the Transport for London Museum Acton Depot for those interested

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £25      Fare with Day Membership = £28

**Proposed Itinerary:** None (excluding depot visit)

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 23rd June 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: None

**NOTES**

(1) The admission to the Acton Depot is £12 (£10 for concessions). This will be additional to the Trip Fare.

(2) To help the organisers would all trip participants please state when booking whether they wish to do the depot visit so that relevant tickets can be purchased in advance.

**Trip 543**

**KENT & EAST SUSSEX RAILWAY**

**Saturday 28/07/18**

A one day trip visiting the preserved Kent & East Sussex Railway, and hopefully the Rother Valley Railway.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £30      Fare with Day Membership = £33

**Proposed Itinerary:** Kent & East Sussex Railway (all locations); plus Rother Valley Railway, Robertsbridge if time permitting

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 9th June 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: Hi-Viz Vest & Safety Shoes

**NOTES**

(1) There is a fee for the K&ESR which is broken down as; £18 for a return train ride (no concessions) and £10 for a 'behind the scenes' visit. This will be additional to the Trip Fare.

(2) Participants are required to pay a mandatory £10 (non-returnable) deposit for this trip as there is a deposit to be paid to the railway.

(3) The balance is due to the K&ESR six weeks before the trip (hence the early June book by date).

**Trip 544**

**ESSEX MINIATURES**

**Saturday 18/08/18**

A one day trip visiting miniature railways in and around the Essex area.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £35      Fare with Day Membership = £38

**Proposed Itinerary:** Paradise Wildlife Park, Broxbourne; Royal Gunpowder Mills, Waltham Abbey; Barking Park Light Railway, Barking; Romford Model Engineering Club, Hornchurch; Barnards Miniature Railway, West Horndon; Canvey Miniature Railway, Canvey Island; Hockley (grounded City & South London Body); Southend Pier Museum, Southend-on-Sea; Ashington Road, Rochford (grounded GER body); Langford & Beeleigh Railway, Museum of Power, Maldon; Poplar Nurseries Miniature Railway, Marks Tey; Wimbish Light Railway, Wimbish;

**Permits:** Permissions being sought for all locations

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 4th August 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: TBA

**Trip 545**

**STATFOLD BARN ENTHUSIASTS DAY**

**Saturday 08/09/18**

A one day trip visiting the Statfold Barn Railway.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £28      Fare with Day Membership = £31

**NOTE** that the trip fare excludes the admission price to Statfold Barn which must be paid as a non-refundable deposit in advance (usually about £10.00)

**Proposed Itinerary:** Nemesis Rail, Burton-on-Trent; LH Group, Barton-under-Needwood; Statfold Barn Railway, Tamworth; Quattro Plant, Brownhills

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 25th August 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: TBA

**Trip 546**

**YORKSHIRE WEEKEND**

**Saturday 06/10/18 - Sunday 07/10/18**

A two day trip visiting locations in East & the lower part of North Yorkshire.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £80      Fare with Day Membership = £86

**Proposed Itinerary:** Plasmor Ltd, Great Heck; Potter Group, Selby; Skipwith Station Holidays, North Duffield; North Cave, nr Hull; South Cave Tractors, Brough; The Zachariah Pearson, Kingston-Upon Hull; Streetlife Museum, Kingston-upon Hull; Fort Paull, Kingston-upon-Hull; Hornsea; Cliff Top, Skipsea; Wansford Trout Farm, Driffield; Yorkshire Wolds RRP, Wetwang; Tim Ackerley, Leavening; Skirpenbeck; Holgate Works, York; Holgate Allotments, York; Railway Institute Bowling Club, York; Poppleton Road Allotments, York; Earswick; Dawnay Arms, Newton-on-Ouse; Low Wood Caravan Park, Pateley Bridge; Tarmac Plc, Swinden Quarry, Skipton; Almshouses, Beamsley; Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway;

**Permits:** Permissions being sought for several locations

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0300-0400 am on Saturday 06/10

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm on Sunday 07/10

**Book By Date** = 8th September 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: Hi-Viz Vest & Safety Shoes

**NOTES**

(1) The Trip Fare excludes the cost of B&B. Participants will have to pay for this - price is £40.00 for single & £60.00 for a twin (£30.00 per person). All rooms are en-suite with a cooked breakfast.

(2) Due to accommodation restrictions this trip will be for a maximum of 12 participants - based on a first come first served basis - with a reserve list in place.

(3) Accommodation will be an overnight stay in Selby. This is the only place available having tried over 80 places in York, Harrogate & Selby

**Trip 547**

**DIDCOT/SWINDON FLYER**

**Saturday 17/11/18**

A one day flyer trip to the Didcot/Swindon areas to do as you wish.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £18      Fare with Day Membership = £21

**Proposed Itinerary:** None

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: None

**Trip 548**

**LONDON FLYER**

**Saturday 08/12/18**

A one day trip to the Capitol to do as you wish.

**Proposed Trip Fare** = £25      Fare with Day Membership = £28

**Proposed Itinerary:** None

**Departure Time** from Bristol area = approx 0630 am

**Return Time** to Bristol area = approx 2130 pm

**Book By Date** = 24th November 2018

**Safety Equipment** (PPE) required: None

### **Important Notice for Trip Participants**

Members are reminded that to ensure the smooth running of a trip that participants must follow the direction and instructions given by the leader of the trip on the day.

### **Bookings**

Trip bookings will now only be accepted on a Trip Booking Form. Completed Trip Booking Forms should be returned to the Bookings Secretary prior to the Book-By Date. To secure participation on a trip it is the responsibility of the individual to ensure that their completed Trip Booking Form is submitted in advance of the Book-By Date. Booking requests received on a Trip Booking Form after the Book-By Date will be filled on a first come first served basis regardless of whether they are a member or non-member.

Please also note that any "provisional" booking which has not been confirmed by a Trip Booking Form will not secure participation on the trip and will not be chased by the Bookings Secretary after the Book-By Date has passed.

Forms should be submitted either on a trip, or by post to John Dicks, or by downloading from the Society web site [Cardiffandavonside.org.uk](http://Cardiffandavonside.org.uk) and e-mailing the completed form to: [bookings@Cardiffandavonside.org.uk](mailto:bookings@Cardiffandavonside.org.uk)

Members are also reminded to keep the Bookings Secretary informed of their intentions regarding their participation on trips.

## **New Data Protection Regulation**

The new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) comes into effect from 25<sup>th</sup> May 2018. Therefore we'd like to make you aware of what the Society are doing with your personal data.

This is a summary of how the Society obtains, stores, uses and shares your personal information. A more detailed Privacy Notice will be available on the Society web site.

### **Whose data do we process?**

We collect and process personal information about you in your capacity as a member of the Cardiff and Avonside Railway Society (the **Society**).

### **What data do we process?**

We process information such as names and contact details.

We collect this data when you apply to be a new member of the Society and give you the opportunity to review it when you are offered the option to renew your membership of the Society.

### **Why do we process data?**

We process your personal information so that we can provide you with a monthly Society magazine and other relevant Society correspondence, and so that we can contact you regarding Society activities

### **Who do we share your data with?**

We only share your personal information with persons on the Society committee whose recognized role it is to contact you regarding Society activities and to provide you with Society correspondence.

Your personal information is not shared with other third parties.

### **What rights do you have?**

You have the right to object to the processing of your personal information, the right to request access to your personal information and the right to request that any mistakes in your personal information are corrected.

Please contact the Membership Secretary if you wish to exercise any of these rights.



## **NOTICES**

### **Card Payment Facility**

Members are reminded that the Society now has the facility for debit and credit card payments to be taken on trips.

### **Photographs for Magazine Cover and Web Site**

There remains an urgent need for members to submit photographs for the magazine cover. Photographs should ideally be from within our area and preferably digital, although any photographs of interest will be considered for publication. Please send via e-mail to Kevin Davies at the e-mail address at the front of the magazine. Any photographs submitted which don't make it onto the front cover will be considered for publication on the Society web site photo gallery alongside the photos normally taken on Society trips, unless a request is made not to publish them.

### **General Trip Information**

1. Although trip timings and costs advertised are based on Bristol area departures, fuel/train fare to an advertised departure point from Cardiff and Newport will be paid by the Society upon agreement with the Events Organiser. If you live outside the areas served by these points but on route for a trip please contact Roy Morris to arrange a pick up point that is mutually convenient.
2. The fare structure for Society members is as follows  
ADULT - FULL FARE.  
CHILD - QUARTER FARE.  
DAY MEMBERSHIP (TRIP MEMBER) - AS ABOVE + £3 per trip day  
A child is a person who has not yet reached their seventeenth birthday and is still in full time education. People who are not Society members or family members will have their fares increased by the Day Membership rate (£3 per day).
3. The discounts highlighted above for family members refer to travel costs only. Accommodation, and permits / admission fees will be charged at cost price.
4. Members who wish to go on a trip must contact John Dicks prior to the book by date to confirm that they still intend to go on the trip.
5. Where a trip is organised with an itinerary to a specific area, it may sometimes be possible to drop off a member en-route. This is known as the Trip Flyer option. Availability and exact duration of stay will be at the discretion of the Events Organiser. The fare for this option will be negotiable, depending on the drop off point and seat availability.
6. For members living outside the normal pick up/drop off areas it may be possible to be picked up en-route. This is known as the Trip Hiker option. Fares and availability are at the discretion of the Events Organiser.

7. The Society mobile **07751 246365** will be switched on throughout the duration of society trips. Please do not use it outside these times for time critical communications as voice mails and texts may not be picked up immediately.
8. Participants who confirm their booking on a Trip Booking Form prior to the "book by" date will have priority regardless of whether they are a member or non-member. Booking requests received on a Trip Booking Form after the "book by" date will be filled on a first come first served basis regardless of whether they are a member or non-member.

### **Society Yahoo! News Group**

There is a Yahoo! news group available which you can subscribe to allow you to get e-mail alerts for any workings or reports posted by other group members. We also use this to provide you with any updates on Society events. To join you can use the link on the Home page of the Society web site [www.cardiffandavonside.org.uk](http://www.cardiffandavonside.org.uk) or send an e-mail to [cardiffandavonside-suscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:cardiffandavonside-suscribe@yahoogroups.com)

The more members who join and contribute will help all members of the society.

### **Society FaceBook Group**

The Society has a Facebook Group. If you have a Facebook account you can find us by searching for "Cardiff and Avonside Railway Society" or by clicking on the link on the home page on the Society website. We will use the site to publish information about forthcoming trips and obviously for members to share and information and photographs. If anyone has any other ideas as to how we can use Facebook, please get in touch with either Kevin or Roy.

### **Introduce a Friend**

Society members who introduce a friend to the Society are entitled to a £4 credit amount when that person joins the Society. This can be put towards the cost of a future trip or future membership renewal. Membership forms are available on the Society web site, or from the Membership Secretary.

## **NOTES & NEWS**

### **Bristol Parkway, Stoke Gifford, Pilning, Yate and Westerleigh**

**28/04** For their Premier League game with Swansea City, Chelsea organized a loco hauled football special using the Burton Wetmore based blue/grey set top n' tailed with Royal Train duo 67005 + 67006. This DBC working ran outward as 1Z64 1036 Paddington - Port Talbot Parkway (1505) and passed Swindon at 1220 (30 early), arrived Bristol Parkway at 1253 (43 early) and departed at 1341 (-) a booked Challow loop stop having not taken place, passed Pilning at 1349 (2 late) and Newport 1411 (2 late). The return working was 1Z66 2105 Port Talbot Parkway - Paddington (0022) the stock being listed as; 9526, 5961, 6051, 6067, 5998, 1200, 3333, 3345, 3386, 3397, 3390 which then went ecs to Southall Wcr for overnight stabling prior to a return move to Burton during the following day.

Another loco record for the day was 66023 + 66192 + 66020 forming the Saturdays only week end departmental loco transfer move running as 0Z12 1242 Newport ADJ - Eastleigh yard (1658) which passed Pilning at 1353 (34 late) and on the day was terminated at Westbury. With the mainline closed between Gloucester and Cheltenham for a signalling up grade over the week end, Arriva Trains XC used Turbo-star set 170104 between South Wales and Gloucester for road bus connections north. On this date the unit was recorded passing Pilning at 1315 working the 1M99 1245 Cardiff Central - Gloucester service.

**29/04** Having passed Uffingham 1322, 66562 + 66590 + 66528 were an afternoon arrival as a 0V25 1205 Eastleigh yard - Stoke Gifford light-engine move. Arriva XC set 170104 was used on a second day of 'shuttles' being noted passing Patchway at 1125 on the 1M94 1045 Cardiff Central - Gloucester service and through the same location at 1243 on the booked return, 1V03 1205 Gloucester - Cardiff Central.

For the record the other workings during the day were; departures from Cardiff Central (with the Gloucester arriving times in brackets) - 1M67 1345 (1456), 1M75 1645 (1754), 1M85 1945 (2054) and departures from Gloucester (with the Cardiff arriving time in brackets) - 1V06 1523 (1635), 1V09 1823 (1930) and 1V12 2123 (2236).

Engineering train records included; 66023 - 6W37 1053 Westbury - Briton Ferry (1400) which passed Bradford junction at 1053 and Lawrence Hill 1140 formed of 5 HQA and 5 JJA wagons and 66536 - 6Y98 0850 Tram Inn - Westbury (1147) which passed Lawrence Hill at 1049 and Bradford junction 1125.

**01/05** A 3Z13 0940 Derby RTC - Exeter Riverside (1556) with 37175 and dept c/stock; 6260, 999605, 9702 having arrived Water Orton at 1156 (48 late) and departed at 1222 (75 late) was terminated at Landor Street (Birmingham) at 1307 (113 late) with brake problems and returned back to Derby the Class 37 leading.

**02/05** The 4V31 0753 London Gateway - Bristol West Rail port headed by 66572 was diverted - reason unknown and recorded passing Filton Abbey Wood at 1256.

**04/05** At 0740, Stoke Gifford 'downside' held the following; 66507, 66528, 66536, 66543, 66587. Later 66009 arrived in Pilning down loop at 2114 working 6V73 Swindon EMR - Cardiff Tidal sidings loaded scrap a duty also now operating in more recent weeks to Liverpool by GBRf.

**07/05** The 'downside' held; 66517, 66533, 66536, 66538, 66547, 66566 at 0830.

**09/05** 37612 did a repeat performance on the 3Z67 Derby RTC - Temple Meads test train which passed Filton Abbey Wood at 1402 (72 late) with driving van 9702 leading.

**10/05** 70816 passed Ashchurch at 1545 (1 early) and Yate 1636 (-) working 4V49 Leeds Stourton - Briton Ferry (1922) sand empties formed of ex. Freightliner HHA coal wagons.

**12/05** With Filton bank under a further weekend blockade, road buses operated between Parkway, Filton Abbey Wood, Temple Meads and Clifton Down during the day. The 6Z12 1242 Newport ADJ - Eastleigh East yard (1726) was diverted via Swindon and Reading West curve with 3 bogie fuel tanks as the consist headed by 66063 + 66076 + 66013 + 66142 and reported passing Parkway at 1307 (26 early) and Swindon Highworth junction 1350 (23 early). During the afternoon the 'downside' held; 66536, 66539 (alloy 0Y42 1820 light-engine to Westbury), 66550, 66560, 66587. An arrival was 66518 + 66538 as 0C61 1404 light-locos from East Usk yard.

With a worksite in the Filton Abbey Wood station area the following associated engineering trains were reported; 70812 + 66849 top n' tailing - 6C22 0336 Oxford Hinksey yard - Filton Abbey Wood (0500) empty coalfish, 66849 - 6C22 1300 Filton Abbey Wood - Oxford Hinksey yard (1433) return formed of loaded coalfish wagons and reported passing Parkway at 1647 (219 late) and Swindon 1746 (231 late), 70812 + 70807 top n' tailing - 6C24 0930 Westbury - Stoke Gifford signal B589 (1130), 70811 - 6C25 1522 Oxford Hinksey yard - Stoke Gifford signal B589 (1730) empty coalfish which passed Parkway at 1724, 70806 + 708xx - 6X21 1952 (Fri) Bescot Up engineers sidings - Narrowways Hill junction (0030) and 70808 - 6X26 1656 Westbury - Stoke Gifford signal B589 (2000) with crane DRK81613 as part of the consist which passed Parkway at 1956 (2 early).

A 6X23 0902 Westbury - Stoke Gifford signal B589 also operated with unidentified Class 70 hauling power.

**13/05** Engineering train loco allocations and reports included; 70808 - 6X26 0906 North Somerset junction - Westbury (0949) stopped just south of Stapleton Road station at 1330 (with crane DRK81613 as part of its consist), 66849 - 6C28 0803 Westbury - Bristol East junction formed of loaded ballast JNA/MLA boxes and reported as running round in Temple Meads at 0930 and departing at 0958 (44 late) for the Filton bank worksite at Dovercourt Road footbridge for mechanical road vehicle off-loading and later 6C28 1600 Filton Abbey Wood - Westbury (1839) empties departing the worksite at 1500 and 70816 - 6C29 1320 Westbury - Bristol East junction (1432) which arrived at the worksite at 1637 for part unloading later moving on to the old Horfield station site being later booked as a return 6C29 2030 Filton Abbey Wood - Westbury (2316) movement. Track relaying on the 'bank' from the Constable Road over bridge on this date noted the 'up relief' line laid with sleepers and rails as far as the Bonnington Walk near where a cross over was in position to the 'down relief' which has been laid half-way in the opposite direction down the 'bank' with a signal BL1586 stopping proceedings prior to its relocation.

**16/05** DRS 37425 was noted held at Parkway with inspection saloon 975025 Caroline at 1730 on a 5Z02 1233 Derby RTC - Cardiff Canton sidings (1848) move.

**18/05** Two IET test train records at Parkway station during the afternoon were; 800004 arriving at 1325 from Swindon and 802101 at 1358 from Paddington later returning up at 1410 for Reading.

Locos recorded on Westerleigh fuel tank duty has included; 60040/091. 66701/761

Note; GBRf 66761 worked 6V58 Immingham Puma - Westerleigh and 6E45 return to Port Clarence (passing Gloucester yard at 1255) on 08/05.

This was believed to be only the third working of this service. 66701 worked this train on 15th May becoming the fourth.

### **Bristol Temple Meads, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road**

**19/04** The Colas Class 67s, 67023 + 67027 with dept c/stock; 975091, 72631, 97997, 6260 returned north as 1Z23 Temple Meads - Tyseley Lmd (1915) following the previous days arrival (also see May Magazine under Bristol TM, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road notes & news) using the normal Thursday path being recorded departing Temple Meads at 0810 (5 early) passing Severn Tunnel junction (following a reverse at signal Nt1730) at 0837 (8 late) and Bath 1008 (21 late) following the usual second reverse

in Temple Meads.

Other reports for the day included Turbo set 166203 running 5Z65 St. Phillips Marsh - Exeter (via Exeter depot) arriving platform 1 in St. Davids station at 1233 also visiting numbers number 2 - 4 for clearance purposes and IET sets 800003 + 800004 work a 5Z19 0933 North Pole Iep - Taunton test move being noted departing Swindon at 1104 and 800003 solo later passing Stapleton Road at 1222 on a 5Z20 1208 working to Stoke Gifford having been detached in Temple Meads station as part of a staff training move.

**20/04** A West of England IET test working saw sets 802002 + 802001 run 5X90 0638 Stoke Gifford - Penzance and 5X91 1217 return to Stoke Gifford, the outward passing Totnes at 0853 and the return Totnes again at 1502 and Uphill junction 1639. The same two sets had also worked this diagram during the previous day.

**21/04** Two engineering train records were; 66118 - 6W34 1811 Westbury - Duffryn West (0030) which passed Bath at 1840 (3 early) formed of 6 JNA, 1 IEA and 1 MLA wagons and 66200 - 6W35 2022 Westbury - Duffryn West (0100) which passed Lawrence Hill at 2123 (2 late) formed with 10 JNA, 3 MLA and 1 IEA wagons.

**22/04** Train crew shortages assumed down to voluntary Sunday working saw a number of GWR service cancellations during the day. Arriva XC Sunday HST allocations were reported as; 43285 + 43357 - 1V48 0810 Leeds - Plymouth / 1S55 1425 Plymouth - Edinburgh Waverley, 43321 + 43207 - 1V50 0900 Leeds - Plymouth / 1E63 1524 Plymouth - York and 43384 + 43301 - 1V56 0908 Edinburgh Waverley - Plymouth / 1E75 1825 Plymouth - Leeds.

**23/04** Test unit 950001 arrived in the area as 2Q08 0442 Derby RTC - Bristol TM (1300) having passed Cheltenham at 0922 (4 late) and Lawrence Hill 1257 (3 late).

A departmental train record and loco allocation was; 66035 - 6W36 1040 Newport Adj - Westbury which passed Stapleton Road at 1137.

**24/04** Test unit 950001 worked 2Q08 0453 Bristol TM - Laira (1257) via Bath, Westbury, the Quarries and Bath later passing Yatton on the return west at 0944 (7 late) and arriving Totnes platform 1 at 1246. Later 70805 passed Filton Abbey Wood at 1006 running 0F84 1030 Bristol East yard - Barry light-engine.

**25/04** 68002 + 68026 were paired on the 6M63 Bridgwater - Crewe Coal sidings nuclear flasks (formed with FNAs 550029 + 550033) which was reported passing Worle at 1154 and Parkway 1321. The train's inward 6V74 working was recorded as arriving Bridgwater at 0546. Later, Turbo set 166218 became the latest arrival in the Bristol area as a 3U77 1019 Reading depot - St. Phillips Marsh (via Parkway) move which passed Goring & Streatley at 1041.

**26/04** Changes in the Railway Touring Company 'Great Britain' steam hauled round Britain programme operating as 'GB XI' saw no West of England mileage or mainline passage between Taunton and Bristol. Steam 45212 was in charge of the Day 8 section through Bristol running as 1Z25 0803 Cardiff Central - Yeovil junction (1255) via Bath being reported as leaving out booked stops at Newport and East Usk arriving Pilning loop around 60 early, departing here at 0859 (46 early), Bristol East depot loop following a water stop at 1040 (-) and Bathampton junction loop at 1100 (3 early). The train then continued as 1Z26 1442 Yeovil junction - Swanage (1805) via Weymouth top n' tailed with 45212 + SR 'U' 31806 (making it's return to mainline passenger debut following a 10 year boiler

overhaul). West Coast 37668 was the trains diesel support being recorded passing Trowbridge at 1205 light running 0Z25 1111 Bristol East down goods loop - Swanage.

Day 7 had seen SR 'MN' 35018 British India Line head the train from Carnforth to Crewe and LMS 'Jubilee' 45699 Galatea between Crewe and Cardiff via the Central Wales line (the 'booked' loco 48151 being deemed 'out of gauge'!).

Seven different steam locos were used during the 9 day trip these being; 31806, 35018, 45690, 45699, 48151, 60103, 61264.

**28/04** The Tyne & Wear Metro car 4022 which had arrived at Barton Hill depot during the summer last year had reappeared in the nearest siding to the car park and in the open with the coach connection area and electrics heavily sheeted over. It is unclear what has actually happened regarding the status of this out of service set and whether it was ready to be road moved back north (or had been returned for further rectification work?!). An engineering train record was; 66118 - 6W36 1720 Westbury - Llandeilo junction (0030) formed of 4 MLA and 4 JNA box wagons and reported passing Bath at 1744 (1 early) and Lawrence Hill 1801 (1 late).

**01/05** Following a gap 'off lease' HST stock moves restarted with power cars 43142 + 43003 (the latter formerly named Isambard Kingdom Brunel) and intermediate coaches; 41125, 42280, 42502, 42265, 42279, 42281 (LA11) formed a 5Z43 1015 Laira - St.Phillips Marsh working which passed Totnes at 1105 and Uphill junction 1211.

**02/05** 68002 + 68025 worked the 6V74 and 6M63 return Crewe - Bridgwater nuclear flask service (with single FNA 550049) the outward arriving at 0750 and the return departing at 1106, arriving Temple Meads at 1154 and passing Charfield at 1327.

A second 'off lease' HST stock move to Bristol took place during the day with 43152 + 43031 with intermediate coaches; 44004, 44035, 41010, 42023, 42553, 42365, 42012, 42014 (LA71) which passed Totnes at 1059, Exeter St. Thomas 1129, Bridgwater 1204 and Yatton 1226 as 5Z43 1015 Laira - St.Phillips Marsh.

Following the arrival of 165119 in late March, a second two car set 165129 arrived in the area as a 5Z74 1042 Reading - St.Phillips Marsh transfer move.

**03/05** The previous days 'de-branded' HST stock move continued north as 5M59 0029 St.Phillips Marsh - Leicester Lip (0619) and was reported passing Bath at 0050 (8 early) and Kettering at 0531 having been route via the Great Western and Midland mainlines.

Another appearance for steam 45212 (in place of A4 60009 Union of South Africa) working Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' 1Z82 0843 Victoria - Bristol TM (1319) and 1Z84 1638 to Victoria (2116) return with c/stock; 99035 (loco support), 5216, 5171, 9104, 13440, 99348 Topaz, 99352 Amethyst, 13320, 1666, 5237 and reported inward passing Clapham junction at 0857 (5 early), Basingstoke 1057 (5 late), arriving Westbury at 1235 (7 early), passing Avoncliff at 1248 (5 early) and Keynsham 1317 (4 early). The train having passed Newton-St-Loe, near Bath at 1314 was noted being closely followed by IET sets 800004 + 800003 working a late running 5Z19 0933 North Pole IEP - Taunton (1312) test move which was terminated in Temple Meads at 1338 (91 late).

On the freight side the 6B36 0816 Moorswater - Aberthaw Cement works (1800) return cement empties formed of 23 PCAs with 70804 was again recorded running well up on the booked time passing Taunton at 1113 (133

early) and Parsons Street 1155 (135 early) although departure from Temple Meads was closer to the booked time at 1451 (17 early).

A departmental record was; 66536 + 66563 top n' tailing - 6X04 0545 Honeybourne North junction - Taunton Fairwater TRT which passed Temple Meads at 0921 (17 late) and Taunton station 1016. The train had been used on relaying the Long Marston branch line overnight.

**04/05** The days Arriva XC HST allocations were as follows; 43384 XC05 43301 - 1V44 0600 Leeds - Plymouth / 1S51 1225 Plymouth - Glasgow Central, 43357 XC04 43285 - 1V50 0606 Edinburgh Waverley - Plymouth / 1E63 1325 Plymouth - Leeds and 43366 XC01 43304 - 1V52 0601 Glasgow Central - Plymouth / 1E67 1625 Plymouth - Leeds. The NRMT HST set was on the Old Oak Common - Penzance - Paignton - Bristol TM - Taunton - Paddington - Derby RTC test circuit during the day.

**05/05** Weekend engineering work saw the mainline closed between Paddington and Reading with some GW HST services using as in the past, Marylebone via Oxford and Banbury putting an hour onto journey times into the Capital. The Stroud Valley line was also closed between Standish junction and Swindon. A shortage of train crew also meant some additional train cancellations during the day and NR providing late details to the train planners of the blockades also affected services.

An unidentified GW Turbo set worked 5Z44 2053 St.Phillips Marsh - Fareham (0030) and 5Z45 0038 Fareham - Bristol TM (0545) which actually departed at 0234 (116 late) on what was believed station platform clearance tests in each direction.

**06/05** With HST sets only being cleared to Marylebone, some IET record workings at Bristol for the day included; 800023 + 800029 - 1C15 1340 Reading - Bristol TM arriving at 1451 (then working 5C15 1534 Bristol TM - Stoke Gifford empty) 800031 + 800017 - 1A22 1505 Bristol TM - Reading and 800027 + 800033 - 1A33 1856 Taunton - Reading. Arriva Trains XC HST set allocations were listed as; 43384 + 43301 - 1V50 0900 Leeds - Plymouth / 1E63 1524 Plymouth - York and 43304 + 43366 - 1V56 0908 Edinburgh Waverley - Plymouth / 1E75 1825 Plymouth - Leeds.

**07/05** Excluding three car units 150001 and 150002 it was believed that only 150126 remained as the last Class 150/1 to be operating from the Bristol area the 2-car set being recorded as departing Temple Meads at 0957 (2 late) on the 2C69 0856 Cardiff Central-Penzance (1439) GW service.

**08/05** Plain blue 37612 powered a 3Z67 1203 Derby RTC - Bristol TM High Level (1830) test train (with dept c/stock; 96604, 96606, 6263, 999605, 9702) which passed Filton Abbey Wood at 1740 with the loco on the rear. The train later returned passing the same location at 1922 (4 late) as 3Q62 1910 Bristol TM high level - Derby RTC (0500).

**09/05** 37259 + 37218 worked west light-engines as 0V74 Crewe Gresty Bridge - Taunton Fairwater passing Yate at 0459 (20 early) and Bridgwater 0554 (31 early) to test the two drift snow ploughs based here (one having been returned from recent repair). The working was 7Z15 1015 Taunton Fairwater - Taunton Fairwater (1142) via Highbridge up loop (booked 1045 - 1105) the outward passing Taunton station at 1013 (7 early) and Bridgwater 1032 (7 early) following the 2U12 0924 Exeter St. James halt - Bristol Parkway (1135) GW service and Bridgwater again at 1100 (15 early) on the return. The train running formation northbound was recorded as; ADB965231 (ZZA) + 37218 + 37259 + ADB975209 (ZZA). Having worked west with IET 800013 on the 3A09 0530 Stoke Gifford - Taunton empty stock move (which forms a 1A09 0712 Paddington service) 800030 ran onwards as 5Z88 Taunton -

Laira (0807) which departed at 0710 (119 late) and 5Z74 1425 return to Stoke Gifford (1738) test runs, the return passing Taunton station at 1608 (6 early) and departing Temple Meads at 1658 (19 late).

**10/05** Following the previous days snow-plough testing 37218 + 37259 returned north light as 0Z63 0918 Taunton Fairwater - Crewe Gresty (1516) which passed Taunton station at 0859 (26 early) and Worle junction 0922 (33 early).

**14/05** Having arrived in Bristol on 11th May and come 'off lease' 153373 + 153305 (in a under coat grey/white livery) + 153380 continued north as 5E17 1025 St.Phillips Marsh - Leeds Neville Hill (1722) which passed Lawrence Hill at 1051 (5 late) and Yate 1123 (-) following a short 'recess' at Parkway. Later 37259 + 37218 returned following the snow plough test run on 9th May as a 0Z63 0755 Crewe Gresty Bridge - Penzance Sloper sidings (1856) light-engine route refresher (for a forthcoming rail tour in June) being reported passing Yate at 1233 (75 early), departing Temple Meads at 1351 (41 early), passing Bridgwater at 1421 (61 early) and Taunton 1430 (59 early). Another Class 37 record for the day was 37099 on the rear of a 3Z62 1232 Derby RTC - Exeter Old Yard waggonersway (2241) with driving van 9708 leading and reported passing Standish junction at 1758 (1 early) and Yatton station at 2043 (29 early) prior to a loop stop here.

**15/05** 37218 + 37259 returned light-engine from the previous days West Country route-refresher as 0Z09 1020 Penzance - Crewe Gresty Bridge (2008) being reported passing Ivybridge at 1222 (4 early), Yatton 1417 (10 early) and Yate 1544 (18 late).

**16/05** Steam 35028 Clan Line, now re-established back on Belmond Pullman VSOE duties following overhaul worked 1Z91 0843 Victoria - Bristol TM (1238) and 1Z93 return to Victoria (2143) the outward passing Bathampton junction at 1307 (5 late) and departing Bath at 1320 (9 late).

**18/05** An engineering train record was; 66849 - 0100 Westbury - Westbury (1049) via Worcester SH formed of 5 HQA auto-ballasters and reported passing Lawrence Hill at 0900 (1 late) on the return.

### **Bristol West Railport**

Locos recorded here on container duty have included;

66415/505/516/518/524/536/540/541/544/556/557/560/562/566/572/953.

### **Avonmouth and the Severn Beach branch line**

**28/02** Additional information and a correction (April Magazine) - Cwmbargoed is unlikely to supply Aberthaw PS with coal for the forthcoming 2018 - 2019 winter period as Welsh coal has high chlorine and sulphur content unsuitable for burning at Aberthaw following plant modifications recently carried out here.

**24/04** The curtain was finally brought down on the DBC operation in the Bulk Handling terminal with the removal of the final coal HTA wagon with defective couplings. Late running was the order of the day for 66104 which passed Brentry at 1354 inward working 6Z70 0830 Newport ADj - Avonmouth BBht with three BYA 'barrier type' steel coil wagons and passing the same location on the return at 1556 (313 late) with the defective wagon and the three steel wagons as 6Z71 back to Newport ADJ. A single coalfish wagon is now the sole occupier of the east sidings area at one time a EWS/DB wagon repair centre moved here from Stoke Gifford 'downside' in the late 1990s and a loco fuelling point which opened in the early 2000s.



**28/04** The engineering blockade between Gloucester and Cheltenham saw the 6M90 return cement empties retimed as a 0614 departure to Bescot downside (1002) via the Severn Tunnel, the Marches route and Hereford.

**08/05** The 6C03 1820 Brentford - Severnside Sita (2336) refuse container train was diverted via Bristol Parkway for two nights, with locos 66100 + 66134 in a top n' tail formation passing Brentry towards Hallen Marsh junction on this date at 2245 and the same location (with the loco order reversed) at 2236 during the following evening.

**17/05** GBRf undertook a 'trial' move using 22 PCA tanks headed by 66714 and running as 6V35 2305 (Wed) Clitheroe - Avonmouth Hansons (0555) which was routed via Crewe, Stafford, Tamworth, Nuneaton, Coventry, Oxford, Didcot, Swindon and Parkway arriving at 0615 (having actually departed at 2150, the inward empties being moved as 6M91 1211 Bescot 'downside' - Clitheroe earlier in the day). At 1115 the train was noted in the dock area split, with 10 wagons in the discharge area, and the other 12 on the former Bennett's loop road. The return was 6M80 1800 Avonmouth Hansons - Bescot 'downside' (2115) which departed at 1736 and passed Yate at 1830 (7 late).

Locos recorded on stone duty included; 59001/101/202/203. 66061/065/200.  
Locos recorded on cement duty have included; 66017/055/077/121/144. 66714.  
Locos recorded on refuse container duty have included; 66095/100/134.

### **Portbury Branchline**

A surprise u-turn by the Government has now meant the 'expected' £47 million grant from the Transport Department to fund the shortfall of the required £116 million needed to reopen the Portishead line to passenger trains has now been re-directed to three new road projects in North Devon, Yorkshire and Leicestershire. North Somerset Council say they will continue to apply for funding despite the disappointing news although the latest planned reopening date of 2021 may be affected.

### **Bristol area workings during February**

4C09 East Usk yard - Portbury coal empties (FL)

02/02 66509. 28/02 66953.

4E18 Taunton Fairwater - Doncaster Wood yard used concrete sleepers (FL)

07/02 66559 + 66596. 28/02 66529.

4L31 0903 Bristol West Railport - Felixstowe containers (FL)

01/02 66955. 02/02 66420. 05/02 66598. 06/02 66501.

08/02 66548. 09/02 66598. 12/02 66515. 13/02 66420.

14/02 66956. 16/02 66420. 19/02 66506. 20/02 66415.

21/02 66505. 22/02 66514.

4025 1625 Bristol West Railport - Southampton Maritime containers (FL)

19/02 66544.

4051 / 4070 \* (MO) Wentloog - Southampton containers (FL)

05/02\* 66548. 12/02\* 66587. 19/02\* 66531.

4057 1329 Wentloog - Southampton Maritime loaded containers (FL)

01/02 66506. 02/02 66504. 05/02 66520. 08/02 66592.

09/02 66547. 12/02 66501. 13/02 66596. 14/02 66514.  
16/02 66587 + 66591. 19/02 66565 + 66554. 20/02 66544.  
21/02 66591. 22/02 66596 + 66523. 26/02 66566.

4V28 Southampton Maritime - Bristol West Railport containers (FL)  
10/02 66515.

4V31 0752 London Gateway - Bristol West Railport containers (FL)  
01/02 66598. 02/02 66598. 05/02 66501. 06/02 66501.  
09/02 66501. 13/02 66523. 14/02 66523. 17/02 66523.  
22/02 66418. 27/02 66418.

4Z47 (TThO) Tilbury - Wentloog containers (FL)  
15/02 66543. 20/02 66529.

4Z71 (MWO) Southampton Maritime - Wentloog containers (FL)  
26/02 66953.

6A83 Avonmouth Bennetts - West Drayton / \* Theale loaded stone (DB)  
05/02\* 66143. 09/02 66009. 12/02\* 66094. 14/02 66124.  
16/02 66030. 23/02 66108. 28/02 66182.

6B22 Avonmouth BBHt - Aberthaw PS loaded coal (Colas)  
01/02 70807. 02/02 70807. 05/02 70807. 07/02 70807.  
08/02 70807. 12/02 70807. 13/02 70807. 15/02 70812.  
19/02 70812. 20-22/02 70812. 26/02 70806. 28/02 70806.

6B33 Theale - Robeston (Margam SO) fuel tank empties (DB)  
02/02 60039. 09/02 60054.

6(4)B35 Hayes (\*Southall) - Moreton-on-Lugg stone empties (DB)  
04/02\* 66109. 06/02 66080. 06/02 66040. 08/02 66040.  
14/02 66080. 22/02 66039.  
Notes; Trains on 06/02 (66080) and 22/02 started at Acton.

6B49 / 6B50 Llanwern - Swindon Stores steel and return empties (DB)  
02/02 66108. 05/02 66168. 09/02 66084. 19/02 66221.  
Notes; Trains on both 05/02 and 19/02 ran in the early MO departure and  
return paths and head-coded 6B51 / 6B52.

6C03 Brentford (Southall SuO) - Severnside Sita and return (6A03\* 0514)  
Refuse containers (DB)  
04/02 66154.

6C80 / 6B80 Westbury - Machen empty and return loaded stone (DB)  
10/02 66039. 17/02 59203.

6B36 (ThO) Moorswater - Aberthaw Cements Works cement empties (Colas)  
01/02 70812. 08/02 70816. 15/02 70817. 22/02 70802.

6C36 (TFO) Westbury - Aberthaw Cement Works cement empties (Colas)  
02/02 70812. 09/02 70816. 13/02 70817. 16/02 70807.  
20/02 70804. 23/02 70802. 27/02 70806.

6M60 0303 (FO) Exeter Riverside - Bescot china clay freight (DB)  
02/02 66120. 09/02 66085.

6V32 Tilbury - Trostre steel (GBRf)  
24/02 66760.

6V35 (MFO) 1451 Bescot (downside) - Avonmouth Hansons loaded cement (DB)  
19/02 66144.

6V51 Warrington Arpley - Portbury empty car carriers (TThO) (DB)  
08/02 66027.

6V74 / 6M63 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater & return nuclear flasks (DRS)  
13/02 68005 + 68032. 16/02 68001 + 68005. 20/02 68017 + 68018.  
27/02 68017 + 68018.

6V78 Tilbury - Trostre steel (GBRf)  
01/02 66716. 08/02 66748. 10/02 66748. 14/02 66760.  
22/02 66760.

6V99 (TO) Bescot - St.Blazey freight (DB)  
06/02 66085. 13/02 66207. 20/02 66192. 27/02 66106.

6(4)Z47 (\*6/4V03) Wembley - Cardiff Docks stone empties (DB)  
01/02\* 66095. 02/02 66095. 06/02\* 66095. 08/02\* 13/02\* 66103.  
22/02\* 66024.

Notes; Trains on 02/02 and 23/02 started from Crawley.  
Train on 06/02 started from Acton and on 13/02 from Southall.

### **Sharpness Branchline**

**24/04** 68020 + 68025 were paired on the 6V73 / 6M56 CEGB Berkeley low level containerized waste trip.

**25/04** Colas 37219 was on a 0C01 0730 Bescot down side - Bescot down side light loco move (possibly a route refresher) via reverse moves at Berkely Road junction (Sharpness branch) and Hereford.

**01/05** 68002 + 68026 worked the outward 6V73 and 6M56 CEGB Berkeley low level radioactive container waste trip using flat wagons 92769 + 92703 the return passing Cheltenham at 1223. Other Class 68 combinations on this service during the rest of the review period were; 68023 + 68030 (08/05) and 68016 + 68018 (15/05).

### **Swindon**

**22/04** 37254 was routed via the GWML and the Golden Valley leading a 3Z01 1312 Reading Triangle sidings - Derby RTC (1916) test train formed with dept c/stock; 6397, 99666, 72630, 62384, 9714 passing Swindon at 1410 (13 early), Stroud 1444 (19 early) and Cheltenham 1504 (24 early).

**23/04** 66755 passed Swindon station at 0522 working 6Z96 0802 Doncaster Hexthorpe yard - Swindon Eurometals empty scrap JNA and JXA wagons

### **Westbury**

**20/04** 70802 + 70806 + 70807 formed a 0Z98 1200 Westbury - Bescot light-engine move which was noted passing Cheltenham at 1352.

Two engineering train records were; 66848 + 66849 top n' tailing - 6C43 0556 Park junction - Westbury which passed Bradford junction at 0743 and 66951 + 66587 top n' tailing 6Y45 Exeter Riverside - Westbury which passed Castle Cary at 0711.

**22/04** Two engineering train loco allocations and reports were; 70813 - 6C27 0747 Westbury - Plymouth formed of 9 wagons and recorded passing Dawlish at 0918 and Newton Abbot 0928 and 66536 - 6Y40 1440 Plymouth - Westbury (1733), the outward working of the latter being 6Y40 1921 (Sat) Oxford Hinksey yard - Plymouth (2335).

**23/04** 66736 passed Warminster at 1430 working the 6M46 Marchwood - Bicester MoD trip formed of a VGA van and 15 FYA flats and DBC 66118 + Colas 66846 + 66848 were noted passing through Dean at 1539 on a 13 wagon 6V41 1447 Eastleigh yard - Westbury departmental.

**25/04** Windhoff MPV set DR98909 + DR98959 was returned north as a 3Z10 0604 Basingstoke - Kings Norton Overhead line depot (via Bath and Yate) working being reported passing Warminster at 0730.

**27/04** Not routed via Bristol for 2018 the regular 'Cornish' VSOE April weekend tour ran via the Berks & Hants route as 1Z98 0948 Victoria - Truro (1743) top n' tailed by dedicated locos 67021 + 67024 and reported departing Westbury at 1249 (4 late), Taunton 1424 (4 late) and passing Ivybridge at 1540 (2 early).

The train's c/stock formation was listed as; 99545, Vera, Lucille, Ibis, Audrey, Minerva, Phoenix, Cygnus, Gwen, Ione, Zena, 9502.

**29/04** The return VSOE outing was again not routed via Bristol, the 1Z83 1215 Truro - Victoria being headed by 67021 + 67024 and reported as departing St. Austell at 1240, passing Totnes at 1402 and Castle Cary 1641 where the locos were noted in a top n' tail formation.

Engineering train loco allocations and reports were; 66846 + 70817 top n' tailing - 6C97 0900 Crediton - Westbury rail train which passed Fairwood junction at 1118 formed of 12 JZAs and 1 YEA wagon and 66075 - 6W31 0730 Thingley junction - Westbury (1117) via Bristol East loop.

**30/04** 70817 + 70816 + 70811 + 70810 passed Swindon Highworth junction at 1424 (4 late) running 0Z75 1319 Oxford Hinksey yard - Westbury (1518) light locos following week-end engineering train duties. Later 66543 + 66526 were recorded passing Castle Cary at 1424 (8 early) and Trowbridge 1702 (2 early) top n' tailing a 6X04 Taunton Fairwater - Honeybourne North junction (1955) TRT (formed of 14 IFA and 4JYA wagons) for use on relaying the Long Marston branch line. Also during the day an ex. works GBRf repaint 66788 (former DBC 66238) worked the 6M40 Stud Farm / Cliff Hill ballast, the loco still being involved with this diagram well into May.

**02/05** The 6V40 Eastleigh yard - Westbury departmental conveyed a crane DRK81611 and associated runners only and was treble-headed with 66061 + 66051 + 66023 departing at 1422 (15 late).

**17/05** 66221 + 66142 returned a 6W60 Westbury - Westbury (via the Falmouth branch) auto-ballaster in a top n' tail formation which passed Liskeard at 0642 (29 late) and Taunton 0848.

**18/05** GBRf 66732 visited the little used MoD sidings at Warminster with several empty KWA flats on a 6V07 working believed to have originated from Marchwood.

Locos recorded on Exeter stone duties have included; 66035. 59002/201/203/205.

## Newport

**20/04** The NRMT HST set with power cars 43013 + 43014 and running as 1Q20 0750 Crewe L&WR sidings - Derby RTC (1721) via Hereford and the Marches was noted arriving Newport to reverse at 1206 (80 late - reason unknown).

**24/04** 66131 passed Newport at 1144 working a 6Z43 1051 Cardiff Tidal sidings - Bristol East junction cabling train formed of the usual 11 YDAs and 2 VXA vans (one on each end of the wagon set).

**21/04** Passengers on Pathfinder Tours GBRf worked 'The York Moors Venturer' 1Z47 0527 Newport - Scarborough (1216) headed by newly acquired ex. Colas 47749 failed to reach their destination following a loco failure, the booked return 1Z48 1700 Scarborough - Newport (2348) having to be re-timed. Formed with c/stock; 4949, 1813, 3123, 21269, 3068, 3066, 3147, 1671, 3098, 3120 the train was reported as departing Chepstow at 0545 (5 early) and Worcester SH 0712 (2 late) but was in trouble on Old Hill bank in the Birmingham area around 0800 where Freightliner 66518 was provided to assist departure from Birmingham NS being at 1158 (199 late!). At Derby GBRf 66778 replaced 66518, the eventual arrival time in York being at 1449 (218 late) where the train was terminated. The return off York was at 1740 - 24 minutes early on the original booked departure time, the working being later noted passing East Usk, Newport at 2345 (1 late) with 66778 top n' tailing 47749 still attached at the rear of the train.

**29/04** 66127 passed Abergavenny at 1102 with 26 empty MBAs as 6V81 1030 Hereford - Cardiff Tidal sidings (via Llanwern).

**30/04** GBRf 66704 passed Newport at 0719 powering 6V77 0405 Croft Quarry - Cardiff Pengam sidings stone empties.

**01/05** 66559 headed a 4E42 1225 Margam - Hunslet yard wagon move via Parkway and Cheltenham which passed Newport at 1345.

**09/05** A diesel tank and pump hired from 'Speedy Hire' was noted in position alongside the former EWS fuelling point building to fuel Freightliner locos working the Wentloog / Barry container service diagram as no access is available at Wentloog for this type of facility from the 'relief' line at present.

**10/05** Having departed 40 early at 1539, 66539 failed working the 4071 Wentloog - Southampton Maritime service (formed of empty FSA flats) west of Ebbw junction, 66536 being the rescue loco removed from the 6V75 0930 Dee Marsh - Margam (1743) steel service having arrived at Ebbw junction no 1 road at 1700 and departed light at 1712 to assist the container service. The train was then moved to East Usk yard and was believed to have been taken forward by 66536, with the 6V75 not leaving Ebbw junction until 1917 assumed with a new loco. With the up and down mainlines not in use due to electrification work several east bound services were severely delayed due to the incident.

**15/05** Another reported loco failure was DBC 60007 working the 6B13 Robeston - Westerleigh Puma energy loaded fuel tanks at Pencoed loop, the rescue loco being 60091 the train later being noted passing Bishton Fly-over (near Magor) on the main line at 1118.

## Cardiff

**24/04** GBRf 66768 passed Marshfield at 0744 working 6B42 0730 Pengam sidings - Neath Abbey Wharf stone empties.

**25/04** Further GBRf stone activity saw 66765 work 6B42 0730 Pengam - Neath Abbey Wharf stone empties passing Marshfield at 0724 formed of 13

empty JNAs and 6B75 1421 Neath Abbey Wharf - Pengam loaded return passing Pontyclun at 1600 (28 early).

**29/04** DRS 37612 passed Great Malvern at 1716 working 0Z37 1545 Derby RTC - Cardiff Canton sidings light-engine. The loco then worked to Swansea and back on a NR route learning trip during the following day passing Barry at 1301 (12 early) on the 0Z37 1245 Cardiff Canton - Swansea (1438) move. The booked return was 0Z38 1500 Swansea - Cardiff Canton (1725) also booked via Barry.

**30/04** 66562 passed Central station at 0806 working 4010 0737 East Usk - Onllwyn coal empties.

**01/05** 37612 was still active on route learning trips running 0Z37 1400 Cardiff Canton - Cardiff Canton (1521) which was reported as departing Newport at 1407 (13 late) on the first of two return trips from this location.

**02/05** 68011 was a South Wales arrival on a 0Z82 0620 Crewe Gresty Bridge - Cardiff Canton light-loco move which passed Cheltenham at 0836 and later 70817 transferred two barrier coaches 6364, 6365 as a 5Z62 1308 Barry - Cardiff Canton stock move (via Newport ADJ) which passed Marshfield up at 1409.

Other records for the day was 70810 powering a 6M54 1051 Briton Ferry (Neath Abbey Wharf) - Washwood Heath sand move via Oxford which passed Central station at 1136 and Swindon 1416 formed of 20 HHA wagons and 66143 on a 6E09 1545 Cwmbargoed DP - Scunthorpe BSC (via Barry, Margam and the South Wales mainline) loaded coal service formed of 15 HTAs and reported passing Llanbradach (near Caerphilly) at 1837 (3 early).

The earlier inward working of this train was 4C94 0836 Margam - Cwmbargoed DP which had passed near Caerphilly at 1127.

**05/05** 66169 arrived in South Wales working 6V81 1325 Rotherham - Cardiff Tidal sidings loaded scrap wagons which was reported passing Barnt Green at 1740.

**10/05** MPV DR98909 + DR98959 was active on Valley Lines weed-killing duty being noted passing Llanbradach (near Caerphilly) northbound at 2237 (28 late) on a 3Z10 2014 Margam - Margam via Cwmbargoed and Rhymney.

**13/05** Road buses were operating between Cardiff Central, Treherbert and Aberdare during the day due to engineering work.

**18/05** Test unit 950001 was on overnight Valley line duties being reported passing near Caerphilly at 2134 (3 early) northbound on a 2Q08 move from Cardiff Canton to Landore which also took in Pontypridd, Cwmbargoed and Bridgend. Work has continued during the review period on electrification work between Newport and Cardiff with only the relief lines often in use between the two cities.

Locos recorded on Daventry - Wentloog TESCO container duties have include; 66425 (19/04, 20/04, 24/04, 25/04, 29/04, 30/04, 01/05, 02/05).

Locos recorded on Port Talbot coal have included; 66538/547.

Locos recorded on Dee Marsh steel have included; 66509/553/569.

Locos recorded on Hope (Earles) coal cement duty have included; 66107/197.

Locos recorded on Port Clarence tank duty has included; 66725.

Locos recorded on Baglan Bay log duty has included; 70817.

Locos recorded on Bridgend Ford Engine Works duty has included; 70814 (17/04, 24/04, 26/04). 70817 (10/05, 17/05)

## PRESERVATION & INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

### Avon Valley Railway

By mid-May, 08202 had returned to the line from a 'hire' period at Wolverton Works.

### Gloucester & Warwickshire Railway

The line has suffered 4 recent bridge strikes by road vehicles at Broadway on the Easter re-opened northern section. New strengthening steel beams are being put in place to provide extra protection, the structure having been hit a number of times over the years before passenger trains had recently returned.

### Mainline Preservation

**08/05** Diesel gala tour locos 50049 + 50031 + 45041 set off from the Severn Valley Railway as 0Z45 1021 Kidderminster SVR - Swanage (1914) via the Stroud Valley line and were reported passing Swindon at 1318 (2 late).

**14/05** A second gala 'convoy' this time for the forthcoming Severn Valley Railway event saw 20205 + 20189 + 73136 + LT 4-TC set + 20142 + 20007 run as 5Z20 1115 Ferme Park reception line - Kidderminster SVR (1635) which was reported passing Pangbourne at 1344 (38 late) and Stroud 1504 (10 late).

### Road Movements

**10/05** Choc/cream livery MkI 4507 was noted at Haldon Hill near junction 30 on the M5. The move was apparently turned and headed back west bound and was believed destined for the Torbay Steam Railway.

**16/05** Class 31 31235 (un-numbered and in a blue/part silver 'graffiti' livery) west bound M4 near junction 20 (Almondsbury) at 1000 en-route from the Mid-Norfolk Railway to the Dean Forest Railway.

### West Somerset Railway

**28/04** The yearly April Cornish Belmond VSOE outing from London was subject to an itinerary change the outward running via the Berks & Hants route and not Bristol (see Westbury notes & news) and the Saturday circular running to Bishops Lydeard instead of an up and back move to Taunton and at one time a second evening trip to Kingswear on the Torbay Steam Railway.

Pullman dedicated 67021 + 67024 top n' tailed the 1Z79 0844 Penzance - Bishops Lydeard and the 1Z80 1705 return (the advertised destination of Minehead not being permitted due to the Class 67 locos being over weight for the line!) the outward passing St. Austell at 1014 and Totnes 1135 and the return Norton Fitzwarren at 1755 (1 late) and Starcross 1830. The cost for participants on this day outing was reported to be £435.00 each!! Whilst in Cornwall the train was stabled at Penzance.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### All Change Again on the East Coast

The franchise over the London - Edinburgh route run by Virgin and Stagecoach has returned to public operation 5 years early and will become

the LNER to at least 2020 when it will once again become available to be operated following bidding by a private company. It is believed an over bid to run and subsequent substantial running losses has seen the Government again take control this being the third change of hands since 2015 the two other operators in the past three years having been GNER and National Express.

### **Arriva XC**

Laira depot at Plymouth is expected to take on the maintenance programme for the Cross Country HST sets from the December timetable change over. The depot here has seen a reduction in work load with the reallocation of GW HST sets following the arrival and passenger introduction of the Class 800 IET units.

### **Capital Saver**

London resident Tom Church visiting a friend in Bristol recently was very surprised at the single rail fare of £218 and successfully set out to beat this total by travelling by road!

He purchased a 1997 Honda Civic (with 135,000 miles on the clock) for £80.00 with a valid MoT from Gumtree, bought six months road tax at £81.38, with 28 days temporary insurance cover at £20.43 and £25.00 worth of fuel on the day for the 120 mile trip.

The cost of his road journey ended up as £206.81, a GWR spokesman stating that if Mr. Church had left an hour later in the day he would have saved £125.00!!

### **Colas**

The company is reported to be setting up a loco servicing and maintenance depot at Plymouth Tavistock yard. This location is already in use by the operator for track machine stabling and repairs.

### **GBRf**

The company is expected to commence movement of cement from Penyffordd Cement works (North Wales) over the coming weeks following a new contract. This location only receives one return rail movement of coal from Killoch Colliery (Scotland) each week the product being moved by road from the plant. The company was also expected to take over the Avonmouth Hanson's cement service during June the train becoming daily with material also needed for the Hinkley C nuclear power station construction.

### **Great Western Railway**

**20/04** 57605 ran 0Z78 1255 Laira - Penzance light to collect HST set 43136 OC30 43138 the latter power car with exhaust vent fire damage suffered in Penzance station on 17th April (see May Magazine under Miscellaneous - Great Western Railway news) and formed a 5Z78 1030 Penzance - Laira move which was recorded departing Plymouth station at 1207.

**21/04** The 1A40 2115 (Fri) Penzance - Paddington sleeper service with 57605 (and c/stock; 17175, 12100, 10219, 10589, 10534, 10584, 10616) failed in Newton Abbot platform 3 at 0122 with brake problems, a HST set formed 43193 OC55 43027 eventually arriving from Laira as a replacement departing with passengers transferred at 0406 (210 late!). 57306 later arrived light to move the loco and train forward as 5A40 0710



Newton Abbot - Reading Train care depot which passed Exeter St.Davids at 0736 (3 late), Cogload junction 0805 (2 early) and Clink Road junction (Frome) 0834 (5 early).

For the record the corresponding down train with 57604 running as 1C99 2345 (Fri) Paddington - Penzance (with c/stock; 17174, 12142, 10225, 10563, 10594, 10590, 10532, 10596) departed Par at 0702 - problem free! The Dartmoor Railway Supporters group chartered a HST set (GW green 43188 LA15 43093) for a second year. The 'Royal Oke' 1Z44 0710 Okehampton - Stratford-on-Avon (1132) via Swindon, Melksham and Oxford passed Taunton at 0834 (3 early) and Clink Road junction (Frome) 0902 (2 early). During the lay-over period in the Midlands the set ran 1Z56 1152 Stratford-on-Avon - Banbury (1314) and 5Z45 1441 Banbury - Stratford-on-Avon (1531) return empty for a 1Z45 1613 return to Okehampton (2046). Other HST news has seen the 'Exeter Panel Signal box 21st Anniversary 2009' power car name plates been re-attached to 43162.

**26/04** IET sets 802002 + 802001 passed Swindon at 0843 on a 5Z90 Stoke Gifford - Reading test run and 800004 + 800003 were on a 5Z19 North Pole Iep - Taunton working which passed Cholsey at 1041.

**02/05** IET set 802101 worked the 5X30 1421 North Pole IEP - Swindon via Gloucester test working being reported passing Gloucester Tuffley junction at 1633 (34 early) on the return.

**09/05** IET set 800304 was on the 5X30 1421 North Pole IEP - Swindon via Gloucester test run which was reported passing Gloucester Tuffley junction at 1637 on the return.

**10/05** IET set 800302 worked a 5Z51 1042 Reading - Stoke Gifford (1026) via Newbury and Frome and was reported arriving Westbury outward at 0818 (4 early) and departing Frome at 0852 (5 late) on the return.

Later HST power car 43130 was noted passing Ashburton south-bound on the A38 at 0953 heading for Laira on a road transporter and then the same vehicle took 43034 north departing Laira at 1412.

**11/05** 153305 + 153373 + 153380 were due to come 'off lease' their final booked working being the 2M67 1852 Paignton - Bristol TM service.

**14/05** Pacer set 143621 was used in place of a HST on the 'Castle' HST diagram starting as 2E12 0728 Liskeard (instead of Penzance) - Exeter St.Davids. 143619 covered this first working during the following day this time starting from Par.

**15/05** An interesting overnight move was modified and GW green repainted HST power cars 43004 + 43042 running back to back as a 0V84 2100 (Mon) Doncaster Webtac - Laira (0400) which was reported passing Temple Meads at 0040 and arriving Laira at 0321.

These power cars will be available for use with the 'Castle' 2 + 4 HST on the second set (GW02) of coaches their conversion work being underway. IET records for the day included; 800009 + 800030 working 5Z88 0606 Stoke Gifford - Laira passing Tiverton Parkway at 0701 and Laira junction 0837 and 802101 noted at Bristol Parkway at 1020 on a 5Z92 move to Paddington.

**17/05** GW green HST power car 43004 (which had returned to Laira from Doncaster two days earlier) was noted heading north on a road loader on the M5 passing junction 18 (Avonmouth) at 1800 believed destined for Old Oak Common.

Some electrification news was that the overhead lines were due to be energized between Didcot and Swindon over the Spring Bank holiday weekend 26th - 29th May during an engineering blockade and wires are now reported in position to and beyond Hullavington in the direction of Badminton.

## **TRACK MACHINES & DEPARTMENTALS**

- 19/04** Patchway - TRS rrvs - E1321 (911303-4), E1334 (040456-5), TRS761 (911312-5). Trailers E1344 (010359-6), (010978-3), T1001 (010970-0), T011 (010980-9).
- 29/04** Totnes - DR75406 which departed at 1353 on a 6J83 1100 Westbury - Plymouth move.
- 30/04** Cardiff Taff Vale sidings - DR73907 which later worked as 6J89 1131 departure to Plymouth Tavistock yard.
- 03/05** Dawlish - DR75406 noted passing at 1125 on a 6J83 1030 Plymouth Tavistock yard - Bristol Kingsland Road move.
- TXM Avonmouth - rrvs 2764, 4206 (940737-8), 4260 (940198-3), 4752, 5425 (940183-5), 6208, 6560 (9111102-3).
- 10/05** Plymouth Tavistock junction - DR80205 which later passed Taunton at 1901 running as a 6U25 move to Gloucester Horton road.
- 12/05** Filton Abbey Wood - Quattro rrvs 144, 462, 528, 533, 537, 462, 546, 1108.
- 17/05** Avonmouth St.Andrews Junction signal box - RP sky-lift FR1346 (940255-3).

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Can all information for the magazine please be sent to Simon Chainey by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the month, either at the address at the front of the magazine or by e-mail to: [magazine@Cardiffandavonside.org.uk](mailto:magazine@Cardiffandavonside.org.uk)

