

CARDIFF & AVONSIDE RAILWAY SOCIETY

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www.cardiffandavonside.org.uk



MAGAZINE

Issue 615

May 2023

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Front Cover Photo May 2023 Issue 615:

175104 stands at Platform 2 at Cardiff Central whilst working 1W60 Milford Haven - Manchester Piccadilly on 10/04/23.

[K. Davies]

Rear Cover Photo May 2023 Issue 615:

66752 passing through Cardiff Central on 04/04/23 working light engine from Dee Marsh Junction to Margam.

[K. Davies]

FUTURE EVENTS

Trip 590

LONDON FLYER

Saturday 25/05/23

A one day trip to London to do as you wish.

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

Proposed Itinerary: None

Permits: None

Departure Time from 68 Long Road, Mangotsfield, BS16 9HP = 0500 am
Other pick-up points may be arranged with Dave FORSE.

Return Time to Mangotsfield area = approx 2130 pm

Book By Date = 18/05/23

Safety Equipment (PPE) required: None

Trip 591

CHANNEL TUNNEL

Saturday 03/06/23

A one day trip to the Channel Tunnel area.

Proposed Trip Fare = £33 **Fare with Day Membership** = £36

Proposed Itinerary: Dollands Moor; Cheriton; Tonbridge sidings

Permits: None

Departure Time from 68 Long Road, Mangotsfield, BS16 9HP = 0600 am
Other pick-up points may be arranged with Dave FORSE.

Return Time to Mangotsfield area = approx 2130 pm

Book By Date = 27/05/23

Safety Equipment (PPE) required: None

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 01/07/23

**** NOTE - this date and location is subject to confirmation with the venue**

Subject to confirmation, it is expected that this years Annual General Meeting will be held in the upstairs room at the Pen & Wig public house, 22-24 Stow Hill, NEWPORT, NP20 1JD on Saturday 1st July 2023, commencing at 12.00 midday.

This will be a milestone 50th Annual General Meeting

Food will be provided for those members attending.

The pub is a short walk from Newport Railway Station.

From the station entrance, cross the road and turn left. Turn right down a paved street opposite the old station entrance. Stow Hill is a left and right zig zag from the bottom of this street.

Bookings

Please note that the current practice of members putting their name forward as a "provisional" booking will no longer continue. Only confirmed bookings will be taken by the Bookings Secretary.

Trip bookings will 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 where possible regardless of whether they are a member or non-member.

Forms should be submitted either on a trip, or by post to Dave Forse, or by downloading from the Society web site cardiffandavonside.org.uk and e-mailing the completed form to: bookings@cardiffandavonside.org.uk

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

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.

Members are also reminded that where an individual leaves an in-progress trip to pursue their own interest then it is the responsibility of that individual to rejoin the trip at the pre-agreed time and location.

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 Dave Forse 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 Dave Forse 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 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 NOTICEBOARD

Committee Changes

Simon Reeve has volunteered to help with the running of the Society and has been co-opted onto the committee. Simon will pick up the vacant Membership Secretary role taking over from Simon Chainey who provided help with membership administration on an informal basis.

NOTES & NEWS

Bristol Parkway, Stoke Gifford, Pilning, Yate and Westerleigh

22/03 An obstruction due to a rock slide on the Badminton side of Chipping Sodbury tunnel saw the line closed with IET 800315 working 1L22 1323 Swansea - Paddington having passed Westerleigh junction at 1458 (1 late) being held Chipping Sodbury, but 6C03 Northolt - Severnside SITA refuse containers with 66001 was diverted via Bath then being stopped for 3 hours in Bath Goods loop with an unspecified problem and eventually terminated in the Bulk Handling Terminal at Avonmouth (see Avonmouth and the Severn Beach branch line notes & news).

Later 'ROG' 37800 headed a 5Q76 0800 Ely Papworth sidings - Newport Docks (1713) Sims Metals conveying EMU sets 317881 + 317347 for scrapping, passing Swindon at 1451 (1 early) then using the up line at Rushey Platt and passing Chipping Sodbury at 1522 (26 late) and Westerleigh junction 1523 (15 late), this working seemed to have had minimal delays.

26/03 A rare gathering in Parkway station at 1040 was 220003 calling with 1V46 0930 Birmingham NS - Plymouth as 220002 + 220001 were stopped alongside with 1S43 1031 Bristol TM - Glasgow Central.

28/03 Following on from 756001 being delivered towards the end of last year, a second train headed by DB 66002 with a 756002 + 756004 + 756005 consist running as 5Q99 0240 Ripple Lane - Cardiff Canton sidings (0912) operated passing Reading at 0558 (85 late), Swindon 0659 (33 late) and departing Pilning loop at 0759 (3 late).

29/03 'ROG' 37800 moved what was believed to be the final scrap stock movement (from this location) 5Q76 0215 (Tues) Ely Papworth sidings - Newport Docks (1231) Sims Metals formed of barriers 6378/9, EMU set 317344, barriers 6330/6340/6346, which having passed Slough at 0713 (79 late) was delayed by a track side cable fire and held near Maidenhead eventually being recorded Slough West at 0955 (240 late), passing Swindon at 1134 (256 late), departing Parkway at 1245 (139 late) and passing Pilning non-stop at 1304 (104 late).

31/03 Having made an early hours visit to Severn Beach (also see Avonmouth and Severn Beach line notes & news) the NRMT Colas HST set with power cars 43274 975984 977994/3 975814 977984 43290, worked 1Z20 0441 Paddington - Derby RTC (1616) via Swansea and Yate passing Newport at 0713 (15 early) outward and Patchway 1158 (9 early) on the return.

01/04 The mainline was closed from Swindon - Parkway and between Swindon and Bath around 1000 due to flooding. The 6C48 1150 Appleford - Machen having passed Didcot East junction at 1157 was diverted via Bath (which had reopened - having closed first due to issues in Box tunnel). Also earlier at Box, Turbo 165135 working 2M26 1321 Westbury - Swindon was terminated at Chippenham (due to further flooding at Rushey Platt, outside Swindon) and diverted via Box on the return 'wrong line' (to reverse at Bath) whilst IETs 800035 + 800036 with 1B07 0848 Paddington - Swansea (1132) also Rushey Platt affected, was also diverted using the up line having passed Wootton Bassett junction at 1207 (142 late), arriving Parkway at 1352 and departing at 1400 (235 late!) following a reverse. The Swansea arrival time being later recorded as 1541 (249 late!). Box Tunnel was fully reopened around 1230.

03/04 Recently delivered Stadler 'Flirt' DEMU set 756002 set out on its first day of mileage accumulation runs starting as 3Q30 0719 Cardiff Canton sidings - Newport (0546) via Parkway the return being noted

Patchway at 0821, the next move 3Q31 0856 Newport - Swindon (1044) being noted arriving Pilning loop at 0921 and departing 0951, the days other booked moves being 3Q32 1101 Swindon - Newport (1206), 3Q33 1245 return to Swindon (1345) and 3Q34 1420 back to Cardiff Canton sidings (1639).

Also the return 6X04 0456 Fenny Compton - Taunton Fairwater yard (0944) track replacement train (trt) was routed via Bristol top n' tailed by 66591 + 66510 and reported passing Uffington at 0639 (8 late), Parkway 0828 (3 early) and Worle junction 0903 (1 early).

06/04 70808 worked the diverted 6M50 1140 Westbury - Bescot Up Engineers sidings departmental (1634) formed with 1 OCA 122258 and 1 YKA 996629 flat passing Bath at 1232 (8 late) and Yate 1308 (2 late).

17/04 The 6M50 Westbury - Bescot Up Engineers yard (1634) departmental again diverted was formed with 10 FEA flats departing at 1115 (35 late), passing Bath at 1145 (31 late) and Yate 1227 (41 late) double-headed with 70808 + 70803.

18/04 66125 + 66188 top n' tailed 6W55 0848 Westbury - Yate Middle (1028) for Tytherington branch work which had arrived Parkway at 1006 (5 early) but was held to 1259 (162 late), to allow 60055 to clear the branch on 6Z22 loaded departure to Appleford (1601) which had departed the quarry at 1056 (17 early), the 6W55 ballast drop taking place in the Iron Acton and Latteridge areas.

The passing loop just off the junction at Yate Middle still remains out of use not allowing two trains to pass actually on the branch.

19/04 Having departed Westbury at 1041 and passed Lawrence Hill at 1132, 70808 + 70811 double-headed 6M50 1140 Westbury - Bescot Up Engineers sidings (1634) departmental formed with 6 MXA /1 OCA wagons.

Due to an incident at Cheltenham (also see Gloucester notes & news) a return 5V84 1010 Doncaster Works Wabtec - Laira Trsmd (1755) ecs move formed 43208 XC03 43304 having passed Chesterfield at 1056 (31 early) was diverted at Wichnor junction and routed via the West Coast and Great Western mainlines passing Rugby at 1240 (off route) and Ealing Broadway 1405 (off route) rejoining the normal booked route at Bristol East junction at 1535(33 late).

Having arrived at its destination at 0639 via the normal Cheltenham, Stroud Valley route with 66763 as 6V70 scrap empties from Liverpool EMR the 6M71 1830 18 loaded JNA box return to Liverpool EMR (0203) via Hereford was routed via Bristol (not double-headed via the Lickey, as previously due to the Nuneham Bridge closure) with the same loco passing Patchway at 1935 (5 late).

Locos recorded on Westerleigh fuel tank duty have included;
60010/015/020/024.

Locos recorded on Tytherington stone duty have included;
60055. 66001/009/013/025/030/084/087/098/107/115/152/155/179/182/194/206.

Bristol Temple Meads, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road

20/03 Road bus replacements were in operation between Weston-super-Mare and Taunton due to track work. Associated engineering train records during the day included; 66849 + 70811 top n' tailing - 6F20 0523 Westbury - Bridgwater arriving at 0701 having passed Worle at 0643 with a 3 IEA / 3 JNA / 14 MLA box wagon consist, 66846 - 6F21 0645 Westbury - Bridgwater (0843) with a 16 JNA / 9 MLA box wagon consist passing Trowbridge at 0719 (24 late), 66850 - 6F22 1103 Westbury - Bridgwater (1248) passing

Trowbridge at 1122 (10 late) and Uphill junction 1237 (5 late) with 10 MLA / 12 JNA / 3 IEA empty box wagons, 66028 - 6W50 1244 Oxford Hinksey yard - Bridgwater (1541) via Newbury passing Trowbridge at 1418 (6 late), Bath 1438 (8 late) and Uphill junction 1530 (5 late) with empty box wagons and 66516 - 6Y56 1517 Westbury - Bridgwater (1643) passing Bradford junction at 1529 (2 late) and Uphill junction 1630 (5 late) with a 7 MLA / 17 JNA / 1 IEA box wagon consist.

21/03 68001 + 68018 were on 6V74 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater nuclear flask duty with FNA wagons 709229017-2 + 709229037-0 passing Standish junction as 6V74 down at 0639 and on the return Uphill junction 1359 and departing Temple Meads at 1442 using the later 6M67 path.

The days Bristol - Taunton line engineer trains included; 66846 - 6F22 0226 Bridgwater - Westbury which arrived at 0520 with a 10 MLA / 12 JNA / 3 IEA wagon consist, 66028 - 6Y56 1500 Bridgwater - Westbury which passed Uphill junction at 1456, Parsons Street 1519 and departed Temple Meads at 1546 with a 7 MLA / 1 IEA / 17 JNA empty wagons, 66591 - 6Y58 1343 Westbury - Bridgwater (1559) passing Trowbridge at 1402 (9 late), Temple Meads 1504 (-) and Uphill junction 1528 (4 early) with a 10 JNA / 6 MLA / 1 IEA wagon consist, 66540 - 6Y59 1605 Westbury - Bridgwater 25 MXA loaded ballast train passing Bathampton junction at 1605, Temple Meads 1627, Uphill junction 1652 and Highbridge & Burnham 1706 and 66850 - 6W50 1000 Bridgwater - Westbury (1153) passing Uphill junction at 1130 (72 late) and Temple Meads 1155 (66 late) with a 14 MLA / 10 JNA / 1 IEA wagon consist conveying used ballast.

22/03 Pullman dedicated 67024 powered 1V80 0947 Victoria - Bath VSOE passing Trowbridge at 1243 VSOE arriving at 1318 (8 late), the return being 1092 1556 to Victoria (1946), the ecs running 5C80 1310 to East Depot for servicing (and 5092 1537 return).

Colas 37254 + 37116 were an evening arrival having passed Bromsgrove at 0939 (1 late) with 1Z22 0823 Derby RTC - Kingsland Road (2227) test train via Hallen Marsh junction.

Steam 70000 Britannia with support coach worked through the area as 5Z70 0621 Crewe HS - Swanage (2146) via Yeovil junction (to turn, for tender to lead from Yeovil), Dorchester West (reverse) and Poole for a steam gala and line use passing Moreton-on-Lugg at 0828 (9 late) and Lawrence Hill 1133.

Also 66707 + 66722 passed Uphill junction at 1847 and Highbridge & Burnham 1934 top n' tailing a 6G72 1724 Westbury - Bridgwater (1902) auto-ballaster working.

23/03 Engineering train records through the area included; 70807 - 6C42 Westbury - Westbury (via Didcot and Bristol East yard) formed with 5 HQA auto-ballasters, passing Bath and 0637 and Lawrence Hill 0733, 66707 + 66722 top n' tailing - 6G72 0923 Bridgwater - Westbury arriving Temple Meads at 0906 with a 10 HQA auto-ballaster consist, 66556 + 66597 top n' tailing - 6Y62 0646 Bridgwater - Westbury (0849) passing Uphill junction at 0721 (15 late), Temple Meads 0753 (18 late) and Bath 0809 (18 late) and 66415 - 6Y63 0525 Bridgwater - Westbury passing Parsons Street at 0701 (54 late) with a 1 OCA / 2 YWA / 1 FEA and 29 coal-fish wagon consist.

24/03 The Bristol - Taunton line was once again fully open with the passage of the 6M60 (FO) Exeter Riverside - Bescot freight.

Later 68018 + 88005 arrived Bridgwater at 0744 having passed Temple Meads at 0617 (35 early) on the 6V74 nuclear flask service from Crewe Coal sidings.

Following the previous day Portbury Dock branch incident, the test train was returned as 5Z55 1107 Kingsland Road - Derby RTC (1458) passing Yate at 1324 (108 late).

25/03 Two rail-tours in the area were; 60062 (in the special fire/steel livery and now named 'Chloe') - Pathfinder Tours 'March Magician' 1Z30 0512 Temple Meads - Crewe (0948) the first part of the trip which later took in Knowsley Freight terminal and Liverpool Dock (in a top n' tail formation with GBRf 60076), departing Parkway at 0530, the inward ecs having arrived 5Z30 0110 ex Burton Wetmore sidings) and the return working being 1Z33 1810 Tuebrook sidings - Temple Meads (2322) and DEMU 1001 - Hastings Diesel Ltd 'Avon Ambassador' 1Z65 0655 Hastings - Temple Meads (1206) and 1Z67 1636 return to Hastings (2206) the outward passing Swindon at 1106 (3 early), departing Bath at 1152 (4 late) and passing Keynsham at 1200 (5 late) where the return was later recorded at 1643 (2 late), then departing Bath at 1654 (1 late) and passing Swindon at 1731 (1 late). The chime whistle (believed to be off a steam loco) fitted on one driving end only was sounded to good effect on the return near Keynsham with S60118 'Tunbridge Wells' (now with a modified 'non standard' yellow front end warning panel) leading.

Two light-engine loco moves during the day were; 66597 + 66556 + 66415 noted Saltford near Keynsham at 1152 running 0A54 1122 Westbury - Stoke Gifford and later 66169 also passing the same location at 1239 as 0012 1106 (SO) Margam Lip - Eastleigh Trsmtd.

26/03 The previous days rail-tour stock was returned as 5Z33 1015 Bristol East yard - Burton Wetmore sidings (1400) with main train loco 60062 (noted running round the stock at 0940) and passing Horfield junction at 1025 (-), Yate 1036 (1 early) and Cheltenham 1127 (14 early) the near full blue/grey c/stock formation being recorded as; M17105 M3314 M3364 W3386 M3345 M3390 W1651 (choc/cream) M1200 M6051 M6067 E6156 M5998.

28/03 A freight and departmental record were; 68003 + 68009 passing Bedminster at 0753 (117 late) and Worle junction 0810 (116 late) on 6V74 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater nuclear flasks and more unusually 59103 + 66556 double-heading 6V18 1322 Doncaster Wood yard - Taunton Fairwater wagon move passing Worle junction at 2316 (4 late) and Taunton station 2350 (9 late).

31/03 68003 + 68009 were the 6V74 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater flask locos passing Kidderminster at 0659 (3 late) with a 2 FNA (709229038-8 + 709229024-8) wagon consist.

Later in the day, Bristol East yard again became host to two following day rail-tour ecs moves. LSL 47593 + 47805/D1924 top n' tailed 5Z87 0855 ex. Crewe HS (due Bristol East 1242) which passed Abergavenny at 1125 (6 late), departed Pilning loop at 1223 (1 late) and passed Lawrence Hill at 1238 (4 late) with 'Golden Arrow' c/stock; 17159 3045 3122 80044 3100 3148 3125 1863 3107 3330 3348, and Midland Blue Pullman HST formed 43046 41059 41183 40802 41176 41169 40801 41182 44078 43055, with 5Z18 1032 also ex. Crewe HS passed Hereford at 1251 (2 late), Abergavenny 1315 (1 late), Patchway 1412 (1 late) and arriving at 1435 (8 early) from Temple Meads.

01/04 47593 + 47805 double-headed 1Z88 0613 Temple Meads - Canterbury West (1244) 'Golden Arrow' with steam 61306 Mayflower (not 34046 Braunton reported as carrying a special 'Golden Arrow' livery, but failed!) taking over at Hanwell Bridge junction and returning to the same location (47593 having been left there) the outward departing Bath at 0709 (15 late), and departing Newbury at 0813 (22 late).

Later the Midland Pullman HST set with power cars 43055 + 43046 powered the 'Lord of the Isles' 1Z20 0548 Paignton - Penrith North Lakes (1228), passing Uphill junction at 0726 (1 late), departing Temple Meads at 0748 (-) and passing Yate at 0811 (1 late). The train was set to visit Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh over the following days.

02/04 47593 + 47805 (D1924) top n' tailed return 5Z93 1522 Bristol East yard - Crewe HS (1922) rail-tour stock passing Lawrence Hill at 1525 (3 early) and Pilning 1539 (12 early) passing here non-stop.

03/04 The Blue Pullman HST set with power cars 43046 + 43055 returned south with the 'Lord of the Isles' 1Z28 0822 Inverness - Carlisle Upperby and 1Z29 1654 onwards from Carlisle to Paignton (0005).

04/04 DRS 57308 commenced a short series of driver route refresher light-loco runs as 0Z30 0915 Crewe Gresty Bridge - Temple Meads (1323) passing Horfield junction at 1245 (1323). The booked return was 0Z31 1423 to Crewe (1939).

The Midland Blue Pullman HST returned as 5Z31 1533 Goodrington HS - Crewe (2145) passing Newton Abbot at 1545 (14 early), Taunton 1629 (17 early), Uphill junction 1652 (11 early), Horfield junction (on the main line) at 1753 (6 late) and Abergavenny 1850 (2 early).

06/04 68003 + 68009 with FNAs 709229010-7 + 709229006-5 worked 6V74 0200 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater nuclear flasks arriving at 0630 and returning in the later 6M67 path at 1333 (43 early).

Having been cancelled during the previous day, 57308 was back on route learning light-engine duty again as 0Z30 0915 Crewe Gresty Bridge - Temple Meads (1323) and 0Z31 return 1423 return to Crewe (1939) the outward passing Stafford at 1006 (8 early), Yate 1245 (14 early) and Lawrence Hill 1304 (15 early).

07/04 The J.Hoskin (Loco Services Ltd. director) 2023 private charter with coaching stock; Sc6311 Generator Car M17159 10520 Sleeping Car 6708 Mount Helicon/The Hippocrene Bar 99993 Dining Car 6706 Mount Mgahinga 46014 Moidart 6705 Ardnamurcan, reached Bristol for an overnight stop as 1Z24 1539 Crewe - Bristol East Depot (1902) via Hereford passing Abergavenny at 1741 (5 early), Severn Tunnel junction 1830 (-) and Patchway at 1858 (14 late) this being the third of the six day outing which had commenced at London Euston with D213 (40013) + electric 90001 (which had brought in the ecs), had steam haulage with 34027 Taw Valley over the Severn Valley Railway to Bridgnorth and the Class 40 again to North Wales and an overnight Llandudno stop.

08/04 The private charter continued westbound as 1Z25 0655 Bristol East yard - Truro (1248) via Fowey Dock (Carne Point) double-headed with 37667 + 37521 passing Yatton at 0715 (1 late) and into the loop, Bridgwater 0738 (5 late) and Totnes 0852 (5 early). Onwards from Plymouth was in a top n' tail formation, the train passing Burngullow junction at 1227 (4 late) then departing Lostwithiel at 1040 (1 late) and arriving at the same location having traversed the Fowey branch at 1142 (8 late).

Further movements were; 5Z25 1250 Truro - Penzance Sloper sidings (1342) ecs passing Camborne at 1309 (3 late) and 5Z26 1500 Penzance station (Sloper sidings not being used) - St.Austell (1624) ecs (which passed Marazion at 1536) for 1Z26 1634 St.Austell - Kingswear (1920) for Dartmouth for an overnight stop, passing Totnes at 1758 (8 early) and departing Newton Abbot at 1822 (3 early) (also see MISCELLANEOUS Devon & Cornwall).

Later in the day, following a 'failed' back to back move 7 days earlier,

Inter-City 125 livery, now carrying 'Laira Diesel Depot' nameplates 43184 with 43366 named 'HST 40' headed north as a 0Z43 1530 Laira Trsmd - Leeds Neville Hill (0001) back to back move passing Totnes at 1550 (12 early), Exeter St.Davids 1647 (16 early), Uphill junction 1735 (27 early) and Yate 1819 (27 early).

09/04 An engineering train record was; 66188 + 66080 top n' tailing - 6W97 0805 Landore junction - Eastleigh East yard (1308) which departed Bathampton loop at 1113 (8 late).

10/04 The Midlands bound loaded china clay ran in an amended path as 6M60 1651 Exeter Riverside - Bescot Downside (2327) passing Cowley Bridge junction at 1648 (7 early), Flax Bourton 1858 and Yate 1934 (10 late).

11/04 The morning Midlands departmental from Westbury operated as 6X50 unusually with DB 66104 (assumed on loan to Colas?) as 1040 to Bescot (1634) passing North Somerset junction at 1130 (2 early), Yate 1206 (20 late) and Cheltenham 1240 (24 early).

Later steam 70000 Britannia with support coach returned from the Dorset coast as 5Z72 0720 Swanage - Crewe HS (1757) passing Hamworthy at 0811 (8 early), Westbury 1132 (3 late), North Somerset junction 1258 (4 late) and Pilning 1325 (-).

12/04 Chiltern Trains 165023 was an unusual Bristol area visitor as 5V65 0829 Wembley - Barton Hill (1213) passing Parkway at 1126 (21 early) suggesting the possibly of a new maintenance / refurbishment contract, although it was later learnt that sets are to receive train protection equipment upgrades, to latest MkIV specifications.

Later the Blue Midland Pullman HST passed through the area working the 'English Riviera Pullman' 1Z51 0551 Hull - Paignton and 1Z53 1606 return to Hull (2336) formed 43055 44078 41183 40801 41182 41059 41176 40802 41149 41108 43046, passing Standish junction at 1035 (9 late), Yatton 1122 (leaving out the booked loop stop), Taunton 1156 (4 early) and Torre 1258 (1 late).

On the freight side, 68017 + 68016 were the Bridgwater flask locos working a single FNA wagon 709229031-3, returning in the later 6M67 1400 path.

13/04 70809 powered the diverted 6M50 1040 Westbury - Bescot engineer sidings (1631) departmental which passed Yate at 1209 (23 late) and Gloucester Yard junction 1255 (11 early) whilst 66704 was on a what was believed another diversion (due to the bridge closure near Oxford) an MoD stores move as 3F04 1018 Marchwood - Kineton (1810) via Birmingham passing Hawkrige junction at 1255 (16 late), Lawrence Hill 1346 (25 late) and Yate 1315 (34 late).

14/04 Steam 45596 Bahamas made the long journey south with support coach for Railway Touring Company 'Great Britain XV' duty as 5Z96 0934 Keighley & Worth Valley Railway - St.Philips Marsh (2120) via Blackburn, Crewe and the Welsh Marches departing 9 minutes early and passing Patchway at 2113 (29 late).

15/04 More steam activity with 34046 Braunton arriving with Saphos Trains 'Great Western Envoy' 1Z40 0620 Rugby - Temple Meads (1219) via Wembley (London), having taken over from D213 (40013) + 47810/D1924 at Hanwell Bridge Loop (the Class 40 remaining here) the train departing here at 0917 (2 late), then passing Reading at 0958 (-), departing Newbury Race course (following a water-stop) at 0919 (1 late), passing Trowbridge 1142 (3 late) and Keynsham 1219 (8 late), the return 1Z47 1704 to Rugby (2354) being noted again at Keynsham at 1715 (3 late).

This trains local ecs moves were 5Z47 1230 Temple Meads - Bristol East

yard (1303) via Lawrence Hill and 5Z49 1639 return to Temple Meads (1644) the stock being listed as; 17013 (loco support-accompanying the train loco) 3045 3122 80044 3100 3148 5125 1863 3107 3330 3348.

Later the 2023 Railway Touring Company round Britain steam extravaganza was an arrival behind 44932, originally booked for 35018 British India Line (which would have been making a Bristol debut in the mainline preservation era) as 1Z10 0711 Paddington - Plymouth (1429) passing Taunton at 1203 (-), Wellington (Somerset) 1210 (1 early) and 1Z13 return to Temple Meads (2103) which passed Hemerdon loop at 1749 (2 late), Totnes 1809 (4 late), Taunton 2013 (8 late) and Yatton 2046 (2 late) with c/stock; 80204 (loco support) 99347 99352, (Pullmans), 1961 99351 99350 99348, (Pullmans), 99128 99371 99723, which was booked 5Z14 2111 ecs to Kingsland Road (2126).

Another record for the day was 66066 passing Lawrence Hill at 1257 as 0012 (SO) Margam Lip - Eastleigh light-engine.

Two West Wales destined engineer workings were; 66849 + 66847 top n' tailing - 6C23 1752 Westbury - Jersey Marine North junction (2109) passing Filton Abbey Wood at 1902 and 66563 + 66539 top n' tailing - 6Y41 1252 Westbury - Jersey Marine North junction passing Lawrence Hill at 1134.

16/04 Two 'Great Britain' day two (of six) related morning steam departures were; 45596 Bahamas - 1Z16 0830 Temple Meads - Chester (1349) 'Great Britain XV' passing Patchway at 0844 (4 late) and Abergavenny 0945 (5 early) and 44932 - 5Z95 1003 St.Philips Marsh - Carnforth Steamtown (1801) loco and support coach (80204) which had brought the tour in during the previous evening, passing Pilning at 1100 and Cwmbran 1210 (7 early). A further associated light-loco move was the 'Great Britain' diesel support 47802 which passed Patchway at 0849 (2 late) running 0Z16 0837 Temple Meads - Holyhead Car MD (1734).

17/04 A departmental record was 66546 + 66597 top n' tailing a 6A40 1323 Westbury - Abercynon (1557) move with a 1 YWA / 4 JNA / 7 MLA / 2 IEA wagon consist passing Lawrence Hill at 1433 (23 late).

Two further evening departmental records were; 66849 + 66847 top n' tailing - 6C44 2118 Westbury - Cross Keys (0050) with a consist of seven box wagons passing Lawrence Hill at 2215 (4 late) and 70808 - 6V46 1902 Bescot Up Engineer sidings - Westbury (2325) passing the same location at 2144 (32 early) with a consist of 5 JJA / 5 HQA auto-ballasters and 4 salmon flats.

18/04 68001 + 68018 worked 6V74 0200 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater single FNA (709229012-3) nuclear flask which arrived at 0629.

Later DC Rail 56091 headed to the Westbury area for light-engine route learning work as a 0Z56 0800 Chaddeston - Merehead (1301) move passing Castle Bromwich at 0900, Yate 1028 and Lawrence Hill 1046 (8 early). Then followed 0Z57 1310 Merehead - Westbury (1401), 0Z58 1407 return to Merehead (1418) and 0Z59 1501 return to Bristol TM (1656) passing Bath at 1704 (31 late).

Diversion records included; 70807 - 6M40 1142 Westbury - Stud Farm Cliffe Hill (1945) ballast empties formed 19 IOAs passing Bath at 1230 (3 late) and Yate 1334 (5 late) and 70808 - 6M50 1040 Westbury - Bescot Up Engineers sidings (1634) passing Bradford junction at 1050 (8 early) and Lawrence Hill 1131 (1 early) with a 4 MXA wagon consist. A 5Z01 1400 Derby RTC - Exeter Riverside (1803) and associated following day move to Paignton (via Fowey and Penzance) and the booked 5Z04 1030 return from Exeter on 20th booked for 37418 + saloon 975025 Caroline was cancelled.

19/04 DC Rail 56091 was back on route learning light-engine duties as 0Z56 0732 Temple Meads - Merehead (0841), 0Z57 0910 return to Westbury, 0Z58 1021 return to Merehead and 0Z59 1100 return to Chaddeston (via Cheltenham) which arrived Bristol Parkway DGL at 1349. At a price of £620 return, Pullman livery 67024 again (for the review period) worked 1V80 0947 Victoria - Bath and 1092 1556 return to Victoria (1946) which arrived at 1308 (5 late) and later on the return departed Westbury at 1624 (1 early), the ecs operating 5C80 1310 to Bristol East yard (1323) and 5092 1537 return to Bath (1550) with c/stock; 6313 99536/5 99546 99539/0/2 99543 99537/1 99541/5. Also test unit 950001 was an arrival as 2Q08 1027 Derby RTC - Temple Meads (1639) passing Filton Abbey Wood at 1611 (2 early) having covered the Westerleigh Puma oil branch from Yate enroute. Diversion records included; 70807 - 6M40 1142 Westbury - Stud Farm Cliffe Hill (1945) virtual quarry stone empties formed with 19 IOA wagons, passing Lawrence Hill at 1244 (-), but held at Bristol Parkway until 1432 (72 late) due to an incident at Cheltenham. Later 66847 + 66849 passed Lawrence Hill at 2208 (3 early) working 6C41 2118 Westbury - Cross Keys (0050) engineers formed with 4 MLA /3 JNA box wagons.

Avonmouth and the Severn Beach branch line

23/03 With an engineering block at the east end of Llanwern Works, the 6M23 (Wed) 1922 Margam - Dee Marsh (0752) steel headed by 66749 was routed via Avonmouth (for a second day, again with the same loco), for a loco run round using Port of Bristol internal rail track near Holesmouth junction. The working was recorded Brentry on the Henbury loop at 0111 departing Hallen Marsh junction at 0126 and arriving Holesmouth junction (for the Port of Bristol) at 0136 and passing Brentry again at 0209 on the return to south Wales.

Also present in the Bulk Handling Terminal was 66001 with the previous days 6C03 Severnside SITA loaded refuse containers (which had been diverted - also see Bristol Parkway, Stoke Gifford, Pilning, Yate and Westerleigh notes & news) the 6A03 return empties having been cancelled, this working later in the day going forward as a 1357 (61 early) journey completion move to Severnside SITA (1539).

24/03 The 6M23 1945 (Wed) Margam - Dee Marsh steel again with 66749 was again diverted via Avonmouth for a loco run round the working arriving at 0130 and departing Holesmouth junction back to south Wales at 0154 with 66798 later arriving at 0211 on 13 loaded Hansons PGA tanks as 6V41 1707 (Thur) from Penyffordd.

27/03 The 6M42 0920 cement empties to Penyffordd with 66798 were originally cancelled, but then re-timed as an 1157 departure passing Brentry (on the Henbury loop) at 1157 and Patchway 1214 (1 late) being routed via the Severn Tunnel and Hereford.

31/03 The Colas test HST covered the branch as 1Z17 1733 (Thur) Derby RTC - Paddington (0423) arriving at the terminus at 0053 and departing 0103 (3 early), then passing Avonmouth at 0113 (1 late) and Shirehampton 0118 (2 early), with power cars 43274 (leading inward) + 43290 (also see Bristol Parkway, Stoke Gifford, Pilning, Yate and Westerleigh notes & news). 2023 marks the 25th Anniversary of the first HST visit to Severn Beach on 3rd January 1998, 43137 (set 0029) 43124 working Hertfordshire Railtour's 'Severn Vales' trip from Paddington which also covered the Ebbw Vale then

freight-only line during the day (also see March 1998 Magazine - issue 313).

09/04 Following a similar Sunday daylight operation in August 2022, Colas operated a UTU (1) test train with dept c/stock; 99666 72630 9806 62384 9701, with 37175 as 3Q58 1055 Derby RTC - Kingsland Road (1811) via Filton and Bristol East (reverse) passing Northfield (Birmingham) at 1208, departing Charfield loop at 1352 (5 late), passing Montpelier (with the loco leading) at 1517, Henbury 1603 and again at 1626 down (following a reverse in platform 4 at Parkway) and Sea Mills 1719 (4 early). The train had crossed 'local' Severn Beach Turbo services each way at Avonmouth and its next allocation was 3Q06 2243 to Exeter Riverside (0223) via Bath and Westbury.

17/04 66563 passed Filton Abbey Wood at 0407 running 0C67 0326 Westbury - Avonmouth West Wharf light to collect the Hinkley C construction stone empties but was surprisingly returned as 0C68 0958 ex. Avonmouth again light passing Bradford junction at 1055.

Locos recorded on stone duty have included;
66501/537/592/614/618. 66711/764/795.

Locos recorded on cement duty have included;
66706/725/762/766/798.

Locos recorded on refuse container duty have included;
66001/025/044/115/155/194/206.

Portbury Branchline

21/03 TfW 'tram-train' set 398007 was road moved direct to the new depot site at Taff Wells becoming the first to do so.

23/03 The return 1Z23 0645 Kingsland Road - Derby RTC test train formed with dept c/stock; 5971 5995 72631 6263, being top n' tailed by 37254 (leading) + 37116 having passed Temple Meads at 0654 (1 early) struck a fallen tree of substantial size on the Bristol side of Sandstone no. 3 tunnel, the lead loco receiving front end (and side) panel and a buffer damage, a bent headlamp bracket and hand-rail. There were no injuries, the working being eventually able to return to Bristol with 37116 following checks calling Parsons Street from 0818 - 0823 (26 late) prior to being terminated back in Kingsland Road arriving here before 0900.

11/04 Although this was thought to be the arrival day (having been quoted in the 'railway press' on behalf of the operator) for the first Rail Operation Group's Class 93 93001 from Stadler Spain, the ship 'Vega Leader' had arrived after this date without the loco on board. It was believed testing was still undergoing in Spain prior to the movement by sea taking place.

Bristol area workings during January

4C12 (*4C90) Acton yard - Tytherington Quarry stone empties (DB)
21/01 66190. 26/01* 66097. 27/01* 66099.

4E18 (* 4Z18) 0947 Taunton Fairwater - Doncaster Wood yard used sleepers (G&W)

11/01* 66415. 18/01 66545. 25/01 66416.

Note; Train on 25/01 operated as a 0E18 light-engine move.

4L32 Wentloog - London Gateway containers (G&W)

09/01 66514. 10/01 66514. 11/01 66520. 12/01 66520. 18/01 66564.
19/01 66507. 20/01 66507. 23/01 66507. 24/01 66507. 27/01 66504.

4L36 Wentloog - Felixstowe containers (G&W)

09/01 66415. 11/01 66516. 12/01 66566. 18/01 66418. 19/01 66588.
23/01 66518. 24/01 66539. 26/01 66547. 27/01 66414 + 66557.
30/01 66540.

4051 (SO) Wentloog - Southampton Maritime containers (G&W)

21/01 66507. 28/01 66505.

4071 Wentloog - Tilbury containers (G&W)

31/01 66568.

4V18 Doncaster Wood yard - Taunton Fairwater yard departmental (G&W)

20/01 66618. 24/01 66502.

4V27 Quainton Rail-head - East Usk yard stone empties (DB)

21/01 66087 + 66199.

4V35 (SO) London Gateway - Portbury Auto-terminal loaded containers (G&W)

28/01 66594.

6A27 (* 6A85 Moreton-on-Lugg) East Usk yard - Hayes loaded stone (G&W)

11/01 66604. 12/01*66603. 24/01 66622.

6A83 (* 6Z57 Theale MO) Avonmouth Bennetts-West Drayton loaded stone (G&W)

12/01 66544. 17/01 66539. 26/01 66539. 31/01 66605.

Note; Train on 12/01 returned 6C85 to Stoke Gifford only.

6B33 Theale - Robeston (Margam SO) empty fuel tanks (DB)

09/01 66097 + 60010. 10/01 60010. 13/01 60010. 19/01 60020.
23/01 60020. 24/01 60020. 26/01 60020.

6B51/6B52 Llanwern Exchange sidings - Swindon Stores loaded and return
empty steel (DB)

09/01 66089.

6B80 (* 6C48 Appleford) Stoke Gifford - Machen Quarry stone empties (G&W)

21/01* 66618. 28/01 66618.

6B91 East Usk - Theale loaded stone (G&W)

18/01 66603.

6C03 Northolt sidings - Severnside Sita loaded and return empty (* 6A03 to
Brentford) refuse containers (DB)

03/01 66179. 04/01* 66179. 05/01 66112. 09/01 66133. 10/01 66190.
11/01 66190. 18/01 66105. 20/01 66111. 21/01 66068. 23/01 66068.
24/01 66075. 25/01 66075. 26/01 66105. 27/01 66105. 28/01 66133.
29/01* 66133.

Note; Train on 03/01 started at Brentford. Return train on 04/01 operated
as 6Z03 with a 1041 departure routed via Clifton Down.

6C58 Oxford Banbury Road - East Usk yard stone empties (G&W)
12/01 66518. 18/01 66538. 19/01 66538. 24/01 66610. 26/01 66538.
27/01 66538.

6C67/6C68 Westbury-Avonmouth West wharf loaded & return empty stone (G&W)
20/01 66553. 21/10 66610.
Note; The train empties on 21/10 ran to Bristol West Freightliner.

6M30 Tytherington - Quainton rail-head loaded stone (DB)
12/01 66041 + 66187.
Note; Train was terminated at Westbury having collided with a fallen tree
in the St.Annes area of Bristol.

6M42 Avonmouth Hansons - Penyffordd cement empties (GBRf)
18/01 66798. 20/01 66798. 27/01 66798.

6M78 (*6Z78,** 6Z77 to Westbury) Tytherington - Quainton rail-head loaded
stone (DB)
07/01** 66168. 07/01* 66105. 09/01 66041. 10/01 66112.
12/01 66187. 18/01 66190. 19/01 66199. 20/01 66087.
23/01 66111. 26/01 66102 + 66125.
Note; Inward empties from Westbury on 07/01 were 4Z10 (6Z77) & 4Z12 (6Z78)

6V32 Tilbury -Trostre steel (GBRf)
20/01 66759. 27/01 66303.

6V41 Penyffordd - Avonmouth Hansons loaded cement (GBRf)
17/01 66798.

6V71 (MO) Cliffe Vale - Exeter Riverside china clay empties (DB)
09/01 66077. 16/01 66077. 23/01 66070. 30/01 66007.

6V74 / 6M63 Crewe Coal sidings - Bridgwater empty and return loaded
nuclear flasks (DRS)
09/01 68016 + 68018. 27/01 68001 + 68007.

6V84 Clitheroe - Avonmouth Hansons loaded cement (GBRf)
09/01 66755. 13/01 66791. 18/01 66791. 25/01 66791. 30/01 66791.

6Z11 Hayes - East Usk yard stone empties (G&W)
08/01 66604.

6Z21 / 6Z22 Appleford* / Bristol East yard - Tytherington Quarry and
return loaded stone (DC Rail)
04/01* 60029. 05/01* 60029. 11/01 60029. 12/01 60029. 18/01 60029.
20/01 60029. 23/01* 60029. 24/01 60029. 27/01 60029.

6Z26 Machen - Appleford loaded stone (DC Rail)
31/01 60029.

6Z86 West Drayton - East Usk stone empties (G&W)
11/01 66538. 12/01 66538. 16/01 66518. 18/01 66518. 19/01 66518.
24/01 66540. 26/01 66540. 27/01 66540.

6Z92 Theale - East Usk yard stone empties (G&W)
28/01 66610.

Gloucester

23/03 A landslip between Naas crossing (near Lydney) and Awre saw the line closed being reopened around 1100 with a 20 mph line speed.

At Gloucester at least two freight trains (6V02 Tees Yard - Margam and 6V77 Immingham Sorting sidings - Margam) had been held, these being eventually allowed to go forward using the speed restricted up line. Diversions and cancellations also took place prior to the route fully reopening.

26/03 With space having been created with a clear out of locos and stock in the reception yard at Long Marston, the first South-Western Trains 10-car 'Aventra' set 701004 arrived for storage headed by GBRf 47749 running as 5Q70 0650 Eastleigh Trsmd - Long Marston (1644) passing Winchester at 0704 (2 late), Reading 1112 (9 late), Swindon 1206 (2 late), Stroud 1242 (11 late) and Cheltenham 1301 (1 late). A number of these sets (expected to be 16) dating from 2019 waiting entry into service are set to arrive here over the coming weeks, with others also in store at Worksop (normally on release from Derby Litchurch Lane works) and MoD Marchwood.

31/03 Flooding between Cheltenham and Birmingham saw a number of Arriva XC train cancellations during the day.

05/04 GBRf 47749 continued on EMU storage duties moving set 701030 as 5Q66 1000 Willesden South-West sidings - Long Marston (1558) via Swindon passing Standish junction at 1353 (75 late). During the following day set 701048 was the trains consist, again with the same loco.

Later due the bridge problem near Culham (also see MISCELLANEOUS notes & news) the return loaded 6M71 1629 Swindon EMR - Liverpool EMR (0648) loaded scrap (which recesses in Cocklebury yard) was double-headed (as being diverted and routed via the Lickey Bank) with 66725 + 66713 and reported passing Swindon station at 2033 (57 early) and Standish junction 2114 (64 early). This was once the trains normal route when DB worked with a banking loco available at Bromsgrove if needed.

07/04 66041 headed the first diverted 6E11 1107 Appleford - Milford sidings (1802) fly-ash tanks passing Steventon at 1233 (64 late), Stroud 1419 (104 late) and Cheltenham 1446 (106 late).

08/04 Steam 61306 Mayflower + 47810 (D1924) top n' tailed Saphos Trains 'Cotswold Explorer' 1Z50 0635 Norwich - Worcester Shrub Hill (1446) and 1Z64 1633 return to Norwich (0015).

With second assisting diesel loco 47593 left at Hanwell Loop, where the steam took over, the outward passed Maidenhead at 1205 (32 late), Kemble 1407 (35 late) and Cheltenham 1500 (40 late), with 47810 now leading and Mayflower now at the rear, the train having run and reversed on the Gloucester triangle (as booked).

The trains c/stock formation was listed as; 35479 (loco support) 17013 3045 3122 80044 3100 3148 3125 1863 3107 3330 3348.

12/04 Observations at Standish junction included; 66849 - 6M50 Westbury - Bescot departmental passing at 1242 (having earlier been noted passing Hawkrigge junction at 1048), 66127 - diverted 6E11 Appleford - Milford sidings ash tanks at 1248, 47749 - 5Q66 Willesden - Long Marston EMU 701023 (becoming the fourth set moved so far) storage move passing at 1256 and 70808 - diverted 6M40 Westbury - Stud Farm Cliff Hill ballast empties at 1339.

13/04 37610 was on test train duty powering an out and back 3Q64 1021 working to Swindon (booked 1430 - 1438) via Gloucester the outward passing Newport Maindee West junction at 1052 (5 late), Standish junction 1328 (-) and Rodbourne junction (near Swindon) at 1449 (8 late) on the return.

A further South-Western Railways EMU set 701025 was delivered to Long Marston for storage as a 5Q66 working from Wembley, again headed by 47749 and reported passing Swindon at 1155 and Standish junction 1251 (3 early).

14/04 An early route change (due to the Nuneham river bridge closure near Culham) took place for Pathfinder Tours 'Spring Highlander' 1Z74 0700 Swindon - Dorridge (0947) worked by Royal 'Platinum Jubilee' livery 67007 carrying a 'Pathfinder Rail-tours 50 Years' headboard, the ecs having to run 5Z74 0110 Burton Wetmore sidings - Swindon (0641) where the loco ran round, then returning north departing Cheltenham at 0808 (3 late) and later continuing as 1Z75 1017 Dorridge - Newcastle (1508).

17/04 Freight diversions included; 66182 - 6E11 1107 Appleford - Milford sidings (1825) fly-ash tanks formed with 18 FCA flats passing Swindon at 1216 (13 late) and Standish junction at 1257 (10 late) with 66014 appearing on this working two days later and more unusually 66302 + 66761 + 66755 + 66125 - 6X01 1018 Scunthorpe Trent yard - Eastleigh East yard (1944) passing Hexthorpe junction at 1101 (8 early), Cheltenham 1606 (3 early) and Swindon 1743 (1 early) with a consist of 13 JZA/1 YEA wagons. Further locos recorded on this diverted working were; 66302 (18/04) and 66721 (19/04).

19/04 A fatality at London Road level crossing Cheltenham involving 66706 working 6M42 0920 Avonmouth Hansons - Penyffordd cement empties at 1105 caused a number of delays and service cancellations well into the late afternoon.

Turbo 166207 was terminated at Ashchurch for Tewkesbury working 2F14 1041 Great Malvern - Warminster service at 1117 (5 late) followed by Turbo-star 170619 at 1126 (19 late) with 1V06 0907 Nottingham - Cardiff Central and 165131 was terminated Gloucester with 2V58 0823 Southampton Central - Great Malvern service. Some of the other affected trains included Voyager 222026 on the 1V49 0935 Manchester Piccadilly - Bristol TM was terminated Gloucester and 1V50 0606 Edinburgh - Plymouth with HST 43321 XC02 43301 stopped at Birmingham NS. The 6M42 Penyffordd cement empties were eventually allowed to continue forward passing Ashchurch at 1409 (162 late) but was believed to have been eventually terminated at Bescot.

A further South-Western Railways 'Aventra' (branded as 'Arterio' by South-Western Railway staff) EMU set 701051 was moved as 5Q64 0709 Eastleigh Trsmd - Willesden South-West sidings (0939) passing Chertsey at 0823 (10 early) and then 5Q66 1009 onwards to Long Marston (1544) via the normal route and the Stroud Valley, being held at Gloucester Yard junction until 1415 (32 late) due to the earlier mentioned incident at Cheltenham.

Swindon

21/03 The 6L21 1321 Westbury - Dagenham Dock (2008) loaded stone service now regularly double-headed headed was a booked diversion passing Fairwood junction at 1353 (1 late), Chippenham 1523 (15 late) and Swindon Highworth junction 1604 headed by 66951 + 66618.

29/03 66713 brought in 6V70 Liverpool EMR -Swindon EMR (0704) scrap empties as a 19 JNA empty consist passing Droitwich at 0738 (182 late) and Standish junction 0840 (164 late), the working having been delayed in the Crewe area.

10/04 Engineering train activity included; 66703 - 6G70 1000 Reading West junction - Westbury (1158) which departed at 1114 (11 late) with a consist of auto-ballasters, 66792 - 6Z71 0847 Reading West junction - Westbury (1038) passing at 1046 (55 late) and 66712 + 66850 top n' tailing - a re-timed (from the previous evening) 6X20 1015 Reading West junction - Westbury (1159) passing Didcot at 1655(375 late!).

Locos recorded on 6V15 Boston (Sleaford sidings) - Swindon stores imported automotive steel have included; 60062 (06/04).

Locos recorded on 6V70 Liverpool EMR-Cocklebury yard scrap empties (& 6M71 loaded return via Oxford) have included; 66713 (20/03*, 27/03*, 29/03).

Note; * Train started at Small Heath Caledonia yard.

Westbury

20/03 The 6V71 1507 (MO) Stoke Cliffe Vale - Exeter Riverside yard (0133) china clay empties headed by 66035 with 11 JIA wagons was diverted and onwards from Castle Cary routed via Yeovil Pen Mill and Honiton being reported Yeovil junction at 0028 (9 late), due to track-work in the Taunton area (also see MISCELLANEOUS Great Western notes & news).

26/03 70807 + 66848 top n' tailed 5 HQA auto-ballasters as 6C24 1827 Westbury - Westbury (1005) via Looe the outward passing Taunton at 1958 (38 late).

27/03 70803 powered 6M50 0801 departmental wagon move to Bescot Up Engineers sidings (1634) with a 42 wagon rake of condemned 4-wheel coal-fish wagons passing Bradford junction at 0800 (13 early) and Swindon 0848 (15 early).

29/03 DB 66136 'on hire' to Colas worked 6M50 0801 Westbury - Bescot departmental wagon move with 5 MXA / 13 YKA wagons and later, 66749 departed at 1437 and passed Swindon at 1534 working 6M47 1218 Marchwood - Kineton MoD stores with a 1 FAA / 6 FYA empty flat consist.

A departmental working was 66596 + 66545 top n' tailing a return 6Y60 0520 Liskeard - Westbury working having passed Totnes at 0929 (118 late) and departed Taunton station at 1107 formed with 10 auto-ballasters.

30/03 A return engineers was 66792 heading a 6G72 2054 Westbury - Cogload junction (2300) via Taunton Fairwater yard with a 5 JJA wagon consist passing Taunton at 0556 (31 early) and Castle Cary 0756 (18 early) on the following morning 6G73 0620 return to Westbury (0839).

31/03 Two return departmentals were; 70803 + 70807 top n' tailing - 6C43 2137 (Thur) Westbury - Westbury (via Gloucester New yard) passing Bath up 0723 and 66792 - 6G72 0610 Castle Cary - Westbury passing Fairwood junction at 0638.

01/04 A loco line up report as at 1425 recorded; down yard 66702. 66848. Colas siding 70807. 70808. 70811. next to platform 3 66080.

02/04 Two return Sunday engineers were; 70811 passing Bedwyn down at 0932 (65 early) powering a 6C97 0850 Bedwyn - Westbury (via Theale) working and 66003 passing Pontyclun 0923 with 6W97 0810 Bridgend - Westbury (via Margam).

04/04 A return departmental was 70811 passing Taunton at 0801(5 late) with 6C40 2132 (Mon) Westbury - Westbury (0859) via Plymouth.

07/04 An engineering train report saw 66506 pass Swindon at 1522 (2 late) and Lawrence Hill 1632 (2 early) powering 6F02 1420 Reading West junction - Westbury (1751) via Bristol, with a 9 JNA / 9 MLA / 2 IEA box wagon consist.

08/04 Easter weekend engineering train reports included; 66848 - 6F23 0738 Reading West junction - Westbury (1119) via Bristol passing Uffington at 0616 (143 early), Chippenham 1054 (off route) and Bradford junction 1131 (23 late) with a consist of 4 JNA /1 MLA box wagons / 4 YWA flats, 66848 - 6F24 1434 Westbury - Reading West junction (1735) via Bristol passing Bath at 1306 (2 late) and Bristol Parkway 1538 (8 late) with a 10 JNA /9 MLA /1 IEA box wagon consist, 66792 - 6G72 1033 Westbury - Reading West junction (1304) via Melksham with a consist of 30 coal-fish and 6 MXA lobster wagons passing Trowbridge at 1051 (10 late) and Swindon 1135 (10 late) and 66304 - 6G73 1233 Westbury - Reading (1410) passing Thingley junction at 1347 (48 late) and Swindon 1418 (46 late) with a consist of 6 MLA / 11 JNA /3 IEA box wagons.

15/04 An area loco line up at 1430 recorded; down yard 66044. 66188. 66546. 66597. 66792. Colas sidings 66847/849. 70803/7/8/9. DB office (outside) 66066.

17/04 70807 passed Bradford junction at 0454 working 6V14 2230 (Mon) Stud Farm - Westbury loaded virtual quarry stone later followed by 66849 + 66847 top n' tailing the return 6C44 0540 Cross Keys - Westbury departmental at 0732.

Other freight workings during the day included 66614 - 6L21 1321 Whatley - Dawley Loop (1410), 66546 + 66597 top n' tailing - 6A40 1323 Westbury - Abercynon (1346), 59101 - 6V62 1321 Southampton - Whatley (1440), 59204 - 6Z60 1105 West Drayton - Whatley (1445), 59104 - 7C77 1220 Wembley - Merehead (1515), 66619 - 6C48 1249 Appleford - Whatley (1548), 66792 light engine - 0031 1730 Westbury - Eastleigh, and 66414 - 6V12 1538 Woking - Merehead (1745).

66066 was on shunting manoeuvres in the yard whilst 66846 70809 and 70811 were also present in the yards.

19/04 Returning engineering trains included; 66563 + 66566 top n' tailing - 6Y60 1837 (Tues) Westbury - Westbury (via Bridgend) working passing Bradford junction at 0723 and 66847 + 66849 top n' tailing - 6C41 0540 Cross Keys - Westbury arriving at 0744.

Taunton

29/03 The track replacement train top n' tailed by 66591 + 66510 having passed Woodborough at 0710 as 6X04 0400 ex. Ruscombe was an arrival. Following its arrival during the previous evening (see Bristol TM, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road notes & news) 59103 was returned at the rear of a 6C84 0840 move from Fairwater yard to Westbury (0955) with a two wagon (NR JJAs 12927 + 12910) formation led by 66510 passing Taunton station at 1043 (118 late).

30/03 66591 + 66510 top n' tailed the 6C76 1249 Bishops Lydeard-Fairwater yard used ballast waste empties arriving back early at base at 1130.

06/04 66591 + 66510 top n' tailed the return 6X04 0500 Highbridge & Burnham - Fairwater yard trt passing Taunton station at 0602.

11/04 Day 6 of 6 for the Loco Services (Hoskins) Directors outing operating as 1Z31 0845 Kingswear (for Dartmouth) - London Euston (1546) with 37521 + 37667 double-heading passing Newton Abbot at 0939 (2 early), Dawlish 0949 (2 early), Taunton 1059 (5 early), Castle Cary 1125 (5 early) and Newbury 1243 (9 early).

18/04 66776 passed down at 2231 (52 early) working 6G72 2030 Westbury - Westbury (0359) 5 HQA auto-ballaster (via Exeter).

19/04 66506 + 66510 top n' tailed the return 6X04 0515 Didcot Parkway -

Fairwater yard arriving Westbury at 0710 (86 early) and later passing Castle Cary at 0903 (1 early).

Newport

20/03 'ROG' 37884 delivered former Mersey-Rail EMU sets 507019 + 508122 to South Wales for scrapping as 5Q78 2255 (Sun) Birkenhead EMUD - Newport Docks (1059) Sims Metals for scrapping arriving Craven Arms at 0548 (for a booked stop) departing at 0854 (64 late) and passing Newport at 1059 (10 late). 67010 was later recorded having departed Crewe at 1055 with a 3Z71 Cardiff Canton sidings Mk IV ('black' livery) set ecs move.

21/03 DC Rail used Machen Quarry again with 60055 loading 6Z25 0317 empties from West Drayton passing at 0623. Problems are still on going on the Tytherington Quarry branch regarding track condition where this train would have been normally loaded. The return 6Z22 which departed at 1050 for Appleford (1556) however, having passed Newport at 1150 (2 late) was held in East Usk yard, reason unknown.

A return engineering train was; 66556 + 66572 top n' tailing - 6A47 0905 Abercynon - Westbury passing Severn Tunnel junction at 1040 with 15 coal-fish wagons.

22/03 West Coast 47813 + 47815 ran 0Z47 0900 Carnforth Steamtown - Landore Tmd (1543) light-locos passing at 1443 (23 late) believed for Mk IV coaching stock 'tests'.

29/03 'Stadler' 756001 was reported as out on mileage accumulation runs and again also over the following day.

On the freight side 60010 + 60015 powered 6H25 0920 Margam - Llanwern steel passing Newport down at 1040.

31/03 Tfw sets 197013 and 197021 were noted working through Newport at 1445 on 5Z01 1140 Chester - Cardiff Canton.

01/04 66003 passed Severn Tunnel junction at 1333 working 0012 1106 (SO) Margam LIP - Eastleigh light-engine.

03/04 60011 departed Llanwern at 0724 with 18 BTA steel wagons forming a 6F05 0332 Margam - Newport Docks service.

04/04 Newly delivered Stadler 756002 was noted at the station ready to run as a 3Q31 0856 to Swindon mileage accumulation run.

08/04 66104 + 66105 + 66188 passed at 1123 running as 0012 1106 Margam Lip - Eastleigh departmental week-end working light-engines.

13/04 Following mileage accumulation work for recently delivered DEMU 756002 mainly over the previous week, it was now the turn of 756004 which was noted departing Newport at 1240 as a 3Q33 working to Swindon (1346).

Cardiff

20/03 Transport for Wales Class 67 diagram DMU cover was listed as; 150237 (1W55) and 150240 (1V33).

'Valleys' departmental traffic included; 66415 - 6A44 0319 Westbury - Abercynon which passed Taffs Well at 0609 with a 15 coal-fish wagon consist, 66597 + 66532 top n' tailing - 6A45 0354 Westbury - Abercynon (0630) passing Bath at 0416 (4 early) and Newport 0506 (24 early) and 66556 + 66523 top n' tailing - 6A46 0609 Westbury - Abercynon (0928) passing Newport at 0859 (27 late).

21/03 Tfw Class 67 DMU cover was reported as; 150245 (1W55), 153362 + 153329 (1W91) and 158837 (1V91).

23/03 Class 67 and stock DMU cover was in the hands of; 150241 (1V31), 158821 (1W55) and 158828 (1V33).

25/03 The line from Pontypridd - Merthyr Tydfil was closed for engineering work.

29/03 DMU loco and stock diagram cover included; 150237 (1W55) and 150256 (1V31).

30/03 DMUs 153353 + 153922 (1W55) and 175009 (1V31) were loco hauled train cover.

31/03 DMU 150256 covered one of the booked loco and stock duties commencing (at least) with the 1V31 0454 Crewe - Cardiff Central. Stadler Flirt sets 231001 (recently named 'Sultan') 231003 and 231010 were noted in service in the Cardiff area.

02/04 A Colas loco log train swap saw the arrival of 56051 replacing 56094 which worked 0Z57 1100 Port Talbot Up yard - Bescot Tmd (1443) via Kidderminster light passing Newport at 1151.

03/04 Helping DMU cover for the TfW loco and stock diagrams included, 150281 + 150229 (1V31), then 150229 only completing the diagram (1W55 / 1V42 / 1W23 / 1K66) whilst Stadler 'Flirt' DEMU set 756004 was viewed as present in Canton sidings.

05/04 New Stadler 'Flirt' DEMU sets 231006 231011 and 756103 were reported as in store at Barry and were believed as having been located here since the end of March.
Also noted was 231001 (named 'Sultan') whilst working 3Y02 0659 Pontypridd - Barry Down sidings then 3F04 0825 return - Cardiff Canton sidings empty moves.

06/04 DMU cover for Transport for Wales diagrams included; 153381 + 153926 (1V31), 158827 (1V33) and 175006 (1W91).

08/04 Saturday loco and stock diagrams were covered by DMU sets 175011 (commencing 1V34 0627 Cardiff - Manchester Piccadilly) and 175102 (commencing 1W11 0434 Cardiff - Manchester Piccadilly), 67014 (HD05) was allocated 1W55 0849 Cardiff - Manchester Piccadilly, 1V42 1230 return to Cardiff, 1W63 1650 return to Manchester and 5K63 2025 ecs to Crewe CS, and an unidentified Class 67 and coaches on the third starting with 1V31 0533 Holyhead - Cardiff Central.

10/04 66720 and 66752 were noted stabled at Cardiff Celsa.

16/04 West Wales engineers area trains included; 66847 + 66849 top n' tailing - 6C23 1800 Jersey Marine North junction - Westbury (2119) passing Central station at 1418 (278 early) and Lawrence Hill 1534 (291 early) with a 13 JNA / 2 MLA box wagon and 2 FEA / 1 YWA flat consist, 66539 + 66563 top n' tailing - 6Y41 1000 Jersey Marine North junction - Westbury (1316) passing Pontyclun at 1134 (58 late) and Lawrence Hill 1301 (41 late) with 10 HQA auto-ballasters and 66597 + 66546 - 6Y42 1025 Westbury - Llandeilo junction (1435) passing Horfield junction, Bristol 1129 (1 early) and Severn Tunnel junction 2145 (21 early) with a 5 JJA / 5 HQA auto-ballaster consist.

17/04 Only one loco and stock diagram commencing with 1W91 was covered with a Class 67 (and set HD05) with DMUs 150269 (1V91), 175007 (1V33), 175116 (1V31) with 175009 (return 1W55) working the other passenger full or part diagrams.

18/04 Today's DMU cover was in the hands of 153325 + 153914 (1V31) and 153362 + 153921 (1W91).

19/04 DMUs 150267 (1W57), 158821 (1V31) + 158830 (return 1W55), covered all or part of the days TfW loco and stock diagrams, with the 1V91 0533 Holyhead - Cardiff Central being cancelled.

Transport for Wales loco Loggings

67010 - 1V96 / 1W96 (HD02) 03/04.
67012 - 1V33 (HD01) 18/04.
67013 - 1V91 (HD04) 18/04. 1V33 (HD04) 19/04.
67014 - 1V91 (HD0?) 30/03. 1V33 (HD05) 10/04.
67015 - 1V91 (HD06) 20/03. 1V33 (HD06) 21/03. 1V91 (HD06) 23/03.

Locos diagrams;

1V31 0454 Crewe - Cardiff Central, 1W55 0849 return to Manchester Piccadilly, 1V42 1220 return to Cardiff, 1W23 1649 return to Manchester, 1K66 2030 return to Cardiff.
1V33 0626 Manchester Piccadilly - Cardiff Central, 1W93 1125 return to Holyhead, 1V98 1634 return to Cardiff.
1V91 0533 Holyhead - Cardiff Central, 1W57 1052 return to Manchester Piccadilly, 1V46 1430 return to Cardiff, 1W65 return to Manchester.
1W91 0648 Cardiff Central - Holyhead, 1V96 1133 return to Cardiff, 1W96 1714 return to Holyhead.

Coaching stock formations

HD01 - 12225. 12315. 10325. 11325. 82226.
HD02 - 12219. 12304. 10328. 11324. 82229.
HD04 - 12211. 12310. 10318. 11319. 82201.
HD05 - 12224. 12326. 10321. 11320. 82200.
HD06 - 12222. 12323. 10330. 11321. 82227.

Note; Set HD05 has 12477 now removed.

Locos recorded on Daventry - Wentloog TESCO container duty have included; 66422 (07/04), 66424 (24/03), 66433 (13/04, 19/04).

Locos recorded on Baglan Bay log duty have included; 56051 (06/04, 19/04). 56094 (20/03 loaded 6Z54 outward only, 23/03, 30/03, 31/03).

Locos recorded on Margam/Port Talbot (from Cwmbargoed) coal duty have included; 66011/089/136/188.

Locos recorded on Corby Steel duty have included; 66061/150/181.

Locos recorded on Dee Marsh steel have included; 66720/749/752.

Locos recorded on Round Oak steel duty have included;

60024. 66007/010/080/088/104/149/151/188.

Locos recorded on Barry Dock container duty have included;

66418/507/562/590.

Locos recorded on Machen stone duty have included; 60055. 66416/542/560.

PRESERVATION & INDUSTRIAL MATTERS

Gloucestershire & Warwickshire Railways

For the forthcoming diesel gala over 7th - 9th July the following locos are expected to be in use; 5081 D6948 20137 45149 47105 47376, with DMU set L425.

An as yet 'guest loco' was still to be announced.

GWS Didcot

Following the locos appearance alongside 3 other Class members in early March, marking the Great Western Railway Castle loco centenary, 4079 Pendennis Castle set out on a preserved line tour with planned visits to

the Severn Valley Railway and Gloucester & Warwickshire Railway. On 13th April the loco was noted working a head boarded 'Ian Allen Birkenhead Flyer' special on the Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster.

Pilton Farm, West Pennard, Glastonbury (BA6 8NQ)

Paul Chant, the farm owner here has now constructed a running line (with a 'new' entrance level crossing gate!) alongside the A361 road and is now building a new station where a recently acquired 1979 built MkIII buffet coach 10258 (from the Midsomer Norton S&D Trust) now resides. Future plans could see 'on train dining' introduced, the location also having an ex. Whatley Quarry Thomas Hill/Sentinel (4vVBT) loco 136C/64, believed not to be in working order present.

Road Movements

19/04 'Saint' Class loco 2999 'Lady of Legend' (formerly 4942 Maindy Hall) heading south-bound M5 junction 12 (Stroud) at 1220 enroute to the West Somerset Railway for the lines Spring Gala.

St.Philips Marsh HST Depot, Bristol

02/04 An unusual arrival here for wheel-lathe attention was preserved Kent & East Sussex 0-6-0ST No. 25 Northian (HE 3797/53) on an S.A.Smith road low loader during the morning.

Swanage Railway

04/04 Volunteer and rail enthusiast Peter Frost, who travelled on the final through BR train to Swanage at the age of 13 in January 1972 was the conductor/driver on what was billed as officially the first 'through' preservation passenger service 2C18 1044 Corfe Castle to Wareham (platform 2) arriving at 1105 (4 early), 51 years later using a four car DMU (W51356 + W59488 + W51388 + W55028).

Other booked trains during the 're-opening' day, also worked by this DMU formation were; 2C19 1119 Wareham - Swanage (1200), then 2C20 1300, 2C22 1423, 2C24 1623 departures from Swanage and 2C21 1305, 2C23 1519 and 2C25 1719 returns from Wareham, the final train being to Corfe Castle (1742) only (for the DMU sets to stable).

Over the following day the service operated as a three car set minus W55026.

Preservation work started on the 'Isle of Purbeck' line which had been completely lifted as far as Norden (the far section still being retained for freight to the mainline at Worgret junction) at Swanage station in February 1976.

An earlier 'through train' attempt in 2017 using locos and stock, documented in recent Magazines had ended in a loss making failure.

West Somerset Railway

A report suggests King Class loco 6024 King Edward I is set to have the outstanding overhaul work enabling mainline return is to be completed at the Crewe LNWR facility.

The loco has been located in the goods shed at Minehead for a number of years where a large amount of the work has taken place, with the tender which is believed complete having seen attention at Bristol Barton Hill depot.

MISCELLANEOUS

Avanti West Coast

The operator has been given a further 6 month contract with improvements observed by the Government regarding reliability particularly relating to service cancellations. A new full time table is planned for an October / November introduction recovering from reductions made during August last year relating to a driver shortage and lack of volunteers for Sunday working. The company serve London, Glasgow, Manchester and North Wales.

Arriva XC

26/03 HST set 43207 XC02 43303 working 1S55 1427 Plymouth - Edinburgh was terminated at Exeter St.Davids in platform 4 with an 'interlock' issue the set eventually being returned as 5Z77 empty to Laira Trsmd.

01/04 Celebrity 'Inter-City 125' livery HST power car 43184 (not 43304 as originally allocated) + 43366 formed a 0Z43 0820 Laira Trsnd - Leeds Neville Hill (1545) but having passed Totnes at 0735, the move was terminated at Exeter St.Davids at 0828 with a horn defect on 43184 (which now carries 'Laira TMD Diesel Depot' nameplates), this being noted as in the 'on' position when passing Dawlish at 0752!

07/04 Celebrity 'Inter-City 125' livery HST power car 43184 + 43366 ran as a back 0Z43 1530 Laira Trsmd - Laira Trsmd (1658) test run via Newton Abbot (booked 1616-1621) passing Totnes up at 1527 (35 early).

Beeching Act

27/03 This was the date 60 years ago which saw the start of the British Rail system changed forever as forthcoming Government 'money saving' closures and cut backs commenced.

Class 313

With the final batch in service, working for Govia Thameslink now facing withdrawal, set 313201 is expected to be preserved by the Rail Service & NSE Railway Society and returned to full Network South-East livery with the overhead line pantograph reinstated and passed for mainline use, an ambitious rail-tour to Cardiff being planned for July 2024! A Class farewell rail-tour is expected to operate on 29th April using 313201 along with a second set.

Class 398

The first Transport for Wales 'tram-train', set 398007 has arrived in South Wales being moved direct from Royal Portbury dock to the new depot at Taffs Well (also see Portbury branch line notes & news). 36 sets in total are to be delivered for a Treherbert, Aberdare, Merthyr - City link service following 'Core Valley Line' modifications. Each three coach set has 126 seats with a 252 passenger carrying capacity, one unit making it to Berlin, Germany for display at the 2022 Railway Innovation Exhibition. A Pontypridd - Treherbert service could commence initially as running in for test and training purposes starting from early May lasting through to early 2024 when operations are expected to be extended to Aberdare, Merthyr and further a field. Current Class 398 status; 398001/2/3/6 at NR test track Ashfordby and 398007 at Taffs Well Depot.

Cornwall

19/04 DB 66060 undertook a JIA bogie wagon trial over the Fowey Dock (Carne Point) branch for the first time moving 5 of the type as 6G09 1319 ex. St. Blazey. The move was reported as passing Golant on the branch down at 1441 and 1614 up on the return.

Devizes

A new railway station on the Berks & Hants mainline between Pewsey and Westbury will now not take place following a Network-Rail feasibility study which deemed the planned location as being too far from the Wiltshire town. The site could however form part of a new Wiltshire Transport plan in the future.

Devizes originally on a branch line from Hungerford to Holt junction was originally closed to passengers in April 1966.

Devon & Cornwall

The Loco Services, Jeremy Hoskings 6 day 2023 private train covered several West Country branch lines (with Class 37s 37521 + 37667) on Sunday 9th April running 1Z27 0910 Kingswear (for Dartmouth) - Truro (1224), arriving Newton Abbot at 1003 (-) and departing at 1013 (3 early) following a reverse and passing Totnes at 1024 (6 early). The next move was 5Z27 1229 Truro - Penzance Trsmd ecs and 1Z28 1935 Penzance - St. Ives (2059) to stable over night.

During the following day, the train ran 1Z28 0607 St. Ives - Penzance (0709), then 5Z30 1307 ecs to Camborne passing Liskeard at 1526 for the 1Z30 1400 move back to Kingswear for Dartmouth (1742) and a second overnight stay here, having called Totnes from 1618 - 1623 and Goodrington Sands 1709 - 1729 on the Torbay line to allow steam 4277 to pass on a service train to Paignton (also see Bristol Temple Meads, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road and Taunton notes & news for 8th April and 11th April).

DBS

It has been reported that 60063 will be the last Class member to receive 'classified' repair work. Three other planned 60 overhauls have been cancelled, but several company Class 66 locos could receive an engine up grade at Toton, with similar spec to those fitted to Freightliner's sub Class 66/6 locos.

DRS

Chiltern Trains dedicated 68014 is the latest loco to receive a 'celebrity' repaint during early April into an 'On Track for a Green Future' livery retaining part Chiltern silver on one half with a green/blue end with 'Go HVO' branding.

GBRf

27/03 66799 moved recent European GM imports now re-numbered 66307 + 66308 as 0001 1005 Doncaster Up decoy - Eastleigh East yard (1934) light-engines passing Oxford at 1543 (122 early).

Global British Railways HQ

With Eastleigh (Southampton) and Swindon also contesting from the south, Derby was announced during late March as the new hub for all Network Rail planning and operations.

Great Western Railway

20/03 With the mainline closed between Weston-super-Mare and Taunton (also see Bristol TM, Barton Hill and Kingsland Road notes & news) further track work on the down line through Taunton station saw a number of diversions via Honiton, Yeovil and Castle Cary including; 57603 - 1A50 2145 (Sun) Penzance - Paddington sleeper which departed Exeter St.Davids towards Central station at 0305 (27 late) and IETs (with Honiton passing times); 800036 + 800024 - 1A71 0504 Plymouth - Paddington at 0637 (2 early), 802015 + 802017 - 1A73 0640 Plymouth - Paddington at 0826 (1 late), 802111 - 1C69 0637 Paddington - Plymouth at 0919 (24 late) and 800316 - 1A77 0736 Plymouth - Paddington at 0942 (20 late).

Later set 800319 with the 1A96 1740 Plymouth - Paddington service called Pinhoe station (near Exeter) and other stations along the route to Yeovil in place of a cancelled South-Western Trains working.

27/03 Both up and down sleeper services operated in a top n' tail formation (due to engineering work at an unknown location) 57604 + 57603 with 1A50 2115 (Sun) Penzance - Paddington and 57605 + 57602 on the balancing 1C50 2350 (Sun) Paddington - Penzance.

29/03 57605 + 57602 arrived Plymouth at 0515 top n' tailing the 1C50 2345 (Tues) sleeper service from Paddington. A detached 57605 later made a 0Z77 0820 Laira Trsmd - Laira Trsmd (via Newton Abbot) light-engine test run passing Totnes on the outward at 0849 and calling here from 0931 - 0944 on the return.

A track side electrical fire near Maidenhead caused a number of problems and saw DMU set 150232 in use for IET cover later in the day running 3Z89 1800 Exeter - Taunton and 1Z89 1838 Taunton - Plymouth, the booked 1A88 1415 Plymouth - Bristol TM set having been delayed by the fire.

03/04 387172 387173 and 387174 are now off lease from GWR & are now operated by Great Northern. They were moved to Peterborough Nene Carriage Sidings by 37608 on 5Q45 Reading Traincare Depot - Peterborough Nene CS.

05/04 One Coach (836006) from IET set 802006 has been renumbered 22442 to honour and remember the number of service men lost in the World War II Normandy landings, the set being noted calling Patchway at 1135 with the new numbering on the 2C73 1135 Cardiff Central - Penzance local service.

Long Marston

03/04 Movement records for this date saw former GWR 'bi-mode' unit 769943 arrive as a 5Q10 storage move from Reading and East Midlands 156907 depart as a 5Q97 move back to Derby Etches Park following 'mods'.

Nuneham Viaduct, Oxfordshire

05/04 The brick and steel split line River Thames bridge suffered severe structural subsidence on the down track with crumbling stone work beneath thought to be linked to recent high river levels and nearby field flooding, closing the mainline from Oxford between Radley and Culham projected to at least June 23rd.

Initially a 20 then 5 mph speed restriction was introduced before complete line closure took place. Freight traffic from Appleford was subsequently diverted including the Milford sidings fly-ash now routed via the Stroud Valley and Cheltenham with containers from Southampton to and from the north now running via the West Coast mainline.

A return empty stone to East Usk yard from Oxford Banbury Road was also diverted on 4th April via Cheltenham as a 6Z58 1230 departure formed with

21 JNA boxes headed by 66542, this traffic is believed now 'temporary' suspended. A temporary access structure is expected to be put in place prior to the main work taking place.

Pathfinder Tours

20/05 The 'Heart of Wales Explorer' Rail-tour planned to operate on this date has been cancelled due to Class 37 loco availability.

Rail Adventure

22/03 The 'spot hire' European stock move company used its British based HST power cars 43468 + 43480, 43465 + 43484 to haul newly delivered 'Mersey-Rail' EMU units 777142/4/6, as a 6Q77 Willesden Up & Down relief line - Walton Old Junction MSC sidings.

Road Movements

05/04 Two former TfW Class 769 coaches heading north-bound M5 on separate road lorry trailers near Stroud (junction 13) at 1400.

Stratford-on-Avon

04/04 The modular weed-killing train visited here in the early hours as 3Q98 2154 ex. Kings Norton, 66717 + 66766 top n' tailing the move.

Working Undercover

An unspecified location in the Forest of Dean (believed to be near Lydney) is being used by rail engineers specialising in steel bridges to assist and train similarly qualified personal from Ukraine on rebuilding work, with around 300 bridges having been damaged or destroyed since the Russian invasion early in 2022.

Local MP and Transport Minister Mark Harper was present to view the operation and welcome the first engineers taking part in the scheme to arrive towards the end of February.

TRACK MACHINES & DEPARTMENTALS

20/03 Patchway (Bristol) - 98008 passing at 1317 (-) with a 3Z07 0945 Derby RTC - Cardiff Taff Vale sidings (1511) via Yate move.

23/03 Bristol Kingsland Road - DR75010.

26/03 Taunton - DR73905 passing at 1327 (3 early) as a 6J44 1055 Par - Bristol Kingsland Road move and DR73920 passing at 1318 (8 early) running 6J81 1048 Gloucester Horton Road - Par. Kingsland Road - DR73121. DR73931. DR75406. Exeter Riverside - DR79102/3/4/5 (allox. 6Q01 to Southall).

28/03 Swindon Transfer yard - DR73115 + DR77905 both calling on a 6U13 Crewe - Lydney move.

31/03 Newport Maindee depot - DR73936 (allox. 6J02 0943 To Plymouth Tavistock junction). Taunton Fairwater yard - DR73120 + DR77909 (allox. 6Q53 to Oxford CS together). Reading Triangle sidings - DR73122 + DR77010 (both allox. 6Q55 0855 - Plymouth Tavistock yard together). Liskeard - DR73920 (allox. 6J81 1148 to Taunton Station sidings). Taunton Station yard - DR80302 (allox. 6U41 0830 to Upminster).

03/04 Cardiff Canton sidings - DR75407.

19/04 Gloucester Horton Road - DR73936 (allox. 6J02 to Reading Triangle sidings).

TRIP REPORTS

TRIP 587

LONDON FLYER

25th February 2023

Compiled from notes made by John Dicks, Dave Forse, and Mike Crew courtesy of wwrail.net and <https://freightmasterinteractive.uk>

Where a location was visited at different times the notes have been amalgamated under one heading.

Ealing Broadway

Emu Sets 345013/018 387150 IET Set 800008

Acton Yard

Locos 66061/098/182

Wagons 81 70 5500 039-9/040-7/057-1/239-5/302-1/316-6/319-5/323-7/339-3/340-1/343-5/345-0/366-6/373-2/374-0/375-7/627-1/633-9/639-6/653-7/679-2/691-7/993-7/996-0/999-4

Westbourne Park

Emu Sets 345004/007

Paddington Turn Back Siding

Emu Set 345069

Paddington Approaches

Locos 57602 Restormel Castle/605 Totnes Castle

MkIII Coaches 17175 12161 10217 10601 10594 10596 10563

Emu Sets 345031/064

Tottenham Court Road

Northern Line 3 car Sets 51541/547/548 52541/547/548 53541/547/548

Euston

Locos 92018/020 Billy Stirling/028/043 Andy Williams

Emu Sets 350109/111/119/120/121/124/233/240/247/250/252/260/263/266

350376 350404/406/409 378212/232 390016/046 390107/122/126/131 City of Liverpool/137/148 Flying Scouseman/156/157 Chad Varah 710267/271 710376/378

Mkv Sleeper Coaches 15004/007/008/009/010 15101/102/106/110 15206/208/211/212/213/214 15303/308/310/313/320/321/324/325/326/327/328/332/336/338

South Hampstead

Emu Set 710256

Queens Park

Bakerloo Line 4 car Set 3263/563 4263/363

Willesden Depot

Locos 66709 Sorrento/715 Valour

Emu Sets 710258 710377

Willesden Sidings

Locos 66429
66429 4M07 Tilbury - Daventry
8749060335 8749060269 8749061317 7049010630 7049010010 8749061358
8749060418 8749061705 8749060152 8749060293 8749060178 7049010739
8749060012 8749060350 8749060277 8749060251 7049010572 8749060111
7049010465 7049010556 8749060384

Wembley Yard

Locos 66001 66546 66740 Sarah 90008/048 92041 Vaughan Williams
Wagons 81 70 5932 613/615/619/621/623/626/636/637/657/658-4/659-2/660-
0/661-8/662-6/663-4/664-2/665-9/666-7/667-5/668-3/669-1/670-6
66001 6M45 Dollands Moor - Daventry
8028292858 8028292668 8029291412 8029290158 8029291685 8028292155
8029291396 8028292478 8029290026 8028292379 8029290687 8029290802
8029291420 8028292908 8028292700 8029291792 8029291479 8028292361
8029291271 8028292114 8029291065 8028292924

Harrow & Wealdstone

Emu Sets 350110/247
Bakerloo Line 3 & 4 car Sets 3235/264/335/449/549/564 4235/264/335/549/
558/564

Euston

Emu Set 710258
Northern Line 3 car Set 51509 52509 53509

Tottenham Court Road

Emu Set 345011

Custom House

Emu Sets 345005/006/010/011/013/017/019/022/027/029/032/033/035/039/
042/051/055/056/059/064/068
DLR 2 car Sets 04/09/11/29/63/96/103/130/144/153

Canary Wharf

Emu Set 345050

Whitechapel

Emu Sets 345031/045/051

London Bridge

Emu Sets 5708 375204 375622 375709 375810/821 377602 465012/019/
024/026/038 465152/160/194 465901/914/915/927 466037 700029/034
Jubilee Line 3 & 4 car Sets 96007/024/105 96207/224/305 96407/424/505
96607/705

Waterloo

Emu Sets 5713/733 450083/116 707016/019

Clapham Junction

Loco 66152
Emu Sets 701014/028/047

Wagons 33 70 6955 075-0/092-5
66152 6Y25 Acton - Hoo Junction
7069550925 7069550750 7069550735

Victoria

Emu Sets 375625 375819 377301/302 377419 377513 377612 378205
465042 465185 465917/918 466014
S7 underground Sets 21305/306/491/492 22305/306/491/492 23492
24305/306/491/492 25306

Stratford (Services on the main line were not running)

Loco Robert AE 2068/1933 (plinthed in Meridian Square) (P150, 18EL)
Emu Sets 318233 Ian Brown CBE 345012/014/030/031/045/046/048/063/064/069
378204/205/214/218/229
Central Line 2 car Sets 91003/007/027/029/037/043/057/071/079/085/091/
115/117/125/127/137/141/143/151/161/165/171/197/207/213/221/223/227/229/
231/247/249/253/267/271/277/281/305/317/319/325 92003/007/022/024/027/
029/037/043/057/068/071/079/085/091/112/115/117/122/125/127/136/137/141/
143/151/161/165/171/178/197/207/213/221/223/227/229/231/247/249/253/267/
271/277/281/305/317/319/325/418/426/448 93022/024/068/112/122/136/178/
418/426/448
Jubilee Line 3 & 4 car Sets 96001/009/046/056/057/099/104
96201/209/246/256/257/299 96401/409/446/

Paddington

Emu Sets 345013/030/031/064

Acton Yard

Locos 66064/182
Wagons 81 70 5500 014-2/015-9/036-5/044-9/375-7/635-4/648-7

Ealing Broadway

Emu Sets 345011/024 Heidi Alexander/039/042

22/02/23 & 01/03/23

WESTBURY

Members Private Trip

Report provided by Mike Crew

22/02/23

Bristol Temple Meads

158769*

Bristol East Depot

60029 6Z21 Bristol East Depot - Tytherington

Bradford Jn

0722 66546 66539 6A09 Merehead - Acton
0727 66419 0Y60 Westbury - Westbury

Hawkeridge Jn

0730 66623 6A82 Whatley - Hayes

Westbury

66055 66144 66152 66847
158745 158747 158748 158749 158750 158760 158762 158765 158766 158769
158885 159008 159012 159018 159019 165130 165131 165132 165134 165135
165136 165137 166201* 166202 166203 166207 166209 166211 166214 166219
166220 166221 800306 800307 800311 802104 802105

Freight Workings

66618 6C19 Whatley - Westbury (0755), 7C27 Westbury - Exeter (0828);
70805 6M50 Westbury - Bescot (0822);
66532 7V53 Bow - Merehead (0835), 7B12 Merehead - Wootton Bassett (1220);
59203 6A60 Whatley - Oxford Banbury Road (0854-1017);
59206 6C29 Willesden - Merehead (0943);
66790 6F21 Westbury - Bedwyn (1013);
66301 6F22 Eastleigh - Theale (1040);
59004 6Z16 Whatley - Appleford (1104);
66597 6A17 Merehead - Colnbrook (1120-1214);
66848 6O41 Westbury - Eastleigh (1122);
66603 6C68 Avonmouth - Whatley (1208-1210);
59202 6C31 Theale - Whatley (1223);
66572 6F24 Eastleigh - Theale (1236-1238);
66423 0Z30 Eastleigh - Westbury (1323), 0B30 Westbury - Cardiff Tidal
(1324);
66419 0Y60 Westbury - Westbury (1337);
66605 6V16 Fareham - Whatley (1341-1454);
59101 6C48 Appleford - Whatley (1415);
66115 6F16 Bedwyn - Westbury (1433);
59103 6C61 Neasden - Merehead (1450);
66508 6F23 Westbury - Bedwyn (1458);
66603 + 66610 6L21 Whatley - Dagenham Dock (1520-1524);
59104 7C77 Wembley - Merehead (1536);
59005 6V18 Allington - Whatley (1635).

Keynsham

1721 66596 4L50 Wentloog - Tilbury

Kingsland Road

37421 37610

Bristol Temple Meads

166212*

01/03/23**Bristol Temple Meads**

158749*

Kingsland Road

37099

Bristol East Depot

60028

Westbury

158747 158749 158750 158765 158766 158767 158769 158885 158958
159009 159013 159107 165102 165130 165132 165134 165136 165137
166204 166205 166206 166208 166209 166213 166214* 166215 166217 166220
800316 800319 800321
802103 802110 802113

Freight Workings

66618 6C27 Whatley - Exeter Riverside (0744);
66040 6F43 Bedwyn - Westbury (0749), 6M47 Westbury - Acton (0947);
59103 7V53 Bow - Merehead (0755);
70803 6M50 Westbury - Bescot (0809);
56113 0Z72 Westbury - Eastleigh Arlington (0828);
66087 6F42 Bedwyn - Westbury (0853);
66561 6A60 Whatley - Oxford Banbury Road (0900-0918);
66549 0C84 Fairwater Yard - Westbury (0905), 6C73 Westbury - Fairwater
Yard (1217);
70811 + 66192 6C08 Yeovil Pen Mill - Westbury (0906);
DR73907 6J89 Bedwyn - Westbury (0922);
66610 6A19 Whatley - West Drayton (1023);
66846 6F41 Bedwyn - Westbury (1025);
66302 6O41 Westbury - Eastleigh (1053), 0V40 Eastleigh - Westbury (1548);
59004 6A17 Merehead - Colnbrook (1105-1206);
70811 6M40 Westbury - Stud Farm (1129);
59101 6C31 Theale - Whatley (1146);
66847 0Z66 Westbury - St.Philips Marsh (1151);
56113 + 70802 0Z98 Eastleigh Arlington - Bescot (1203);
59103 + 59005 6L21 Whatley - Dagenham Dock (1315-1324);
59201 6V16 Fareham - Whatley (1352-1425);
66537 0F67 Westbury - Merehead (1417);
66745 6F40 Bedwyn - Westbury (1433);
66539 6C61 Neasden - Merehead (1454);
66533 6F39 Bedwyn - Westbury (1500);
59202 6C48 Appleford - Whatley (1541);
66544 7C77 Wembley - Merehead (1606).

Bristol Temple Meads

158951*

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