

The Railcar Association News Bulletin



EDITORIAL

Welcome to Issue 135. This edition is the quietest in a long while so suggests we are all now busy out and about riding and restoring our railcars!

Gala “season” is upon us with the modest number of DMU events approaching. First up is the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway on the 14/15 May followed by the Llangollen event on 11/12 June. Both railways are offering five sets in traffic.

The two planned gala visitors for this year include W&M Railbus 79900 which will be visiting Llangollen for their June event, plus Derby Lightweight 79900 which will be attending the annual Convention at the Dean Forest Railway later this year.

I finish with some livery “froth”. It is pleasing to see Class 101 E51213 (East Anglian Railway Museum) carrying Blue & Grey colours. Whilst we all appreciate that most railcars only carried either BR Green or BR Blue during the “days of steam”, it is also important that they are represented across the UK showcasing the entire history of the units we aim to preserve.

For that reason, I applaud the recent modest increase in Blue & Grey vehicles recently (remember Class 108 E53599 last year?) which is flying the flag for the 1970’s/1980’s. A reasonable balance of eras surely provides the public with the best variety and interest, mirroring the mix of eras represented in the world of steam preservation. Whoever said that the DMU story ended in 1968?

Chris Moxon

NEWS

Ecclesbourne Valley Railway: Class 122 W55006 is now ready for traffic once again after its interior has been boosted by a lino clean and seating reupholstery.



Telford Steam Railway: Long stored Class 104 vehicles E59228 & E53556 have now been sheeted over in another attempt to protect them from the elements.

Weardale Railway: The first train to arrive into Witton-le-Wear for 63 years was operated by E55012. The Weardale Railway now has an 11 mile run each way on selected days.



Strathspey Railway: Class 117 SC51402 received new injectors last month.

Mid Norfolk Railway: A four-car Class 101 unit has been seen again following test runs of L836 (Blue/Grey) in multiple with 101695 (Green).

Dean Forest Railway: Class 108 M51914's cab replacement is progressing well with the vehicle watertight again and due into the paint marquee.



Class 104 56182: The major winter project of overhauling the six exterior doors is almost at the reassembly stage, with all six doors stripped down, repaired and the wooden frames and individual components all repainted. The exterior metal skins are still awaiting shot blasting. Whilst waiting or this, a tent (inspired by the Dean Forest DMU Group!) has been erected around the front 1/3rd of M56182 so that bodywork can commence. The First Class has now almost been fully stripped out which will allow said bodywork repairs to be undertaken.

Class 110 59701: Rapid progress has been seen at the East Lancashire Railway on this vehicle of late. Roof leaks have been cured whilst the result of roof leaks, rotten flooring, has also been replaced at the toilet end of the vehicle. A new wall panel has also been fitted at this end and many toilet components have been cleaned up ready for refitting. The lower half of one side of the body has been sanded down ready for repainting and several sections of rotted doorway and guttering have either been fixed or replaced.

RESTORATION NEWS

Class 104 50455: Sanding and priming is completed on the No2 side with the No1 side currently at the filling stage.



Class 105 51485: At Bury the Cravens powercar has been receiving a full bogie overhaul to set it up for (hopefully) years of trouble free service.





Branch Line Byways

Lure of Steam Events is pleased announce a new photographic charter on 13th May 2016 that will re-create the halcyon days of branch line travel.

The Ecclesbourne Valley Railway in Wirksworth is now home to two original BR Derby Lightweight DMU sets. While one of these is not currently operational, we'll be able to replicate a once-common sight - that of a pair of these units passing each other at a branch line station. The line is also home to a restored green liveried 'Bubble Car' DMU, which will be in use on the day, and a 3-car Metro Cammell set in original late 1950s condition. A feature of the event will be the chance to photograph one of the units towing 'tail traffic' in the form of a covered van, a common sight in the 1950s and early 1960s but seldom re-created today.

We'll use re-enactors to bring some of the scenes to life, making use of the idyllic stations and the stunningly restored interiors of the units themselves.

Bringing things a little more up to date, we'll recapture the decline of the 1980s, with a 2-car blue and grey DMU and desolate, deserted platforms. Tickets for this action-packed charter are priced at just £40 each, and must be bought in advance via the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway's website at:

www.e-v-r.com/multiplememories



MOVEMENTS

Class 101 51213 was moved from the **East Anglian Railway Museum** to **Peak Rail** for contract repairs and a repaint into Blue & Grey, the vehicle returning to its home on the 17th March.



TIME TRAVELLER

Green Era

[Class 101 - Sunderland](#)

[Class 108 - Barnoldswick - 1961](#)

Blue Era

[Class 127 - Luton - 28/10/77](#)

[Class 105 - Mistley - 4/83](#)

[Class 128 - Iver - 6/3/86](#)

[Class 121 W55032 - Severn Beach](#)

Blue/Grey & Later

[Class 101 - Burntisland - 5/10/85](#)

[Class 120 M51575 - Skipton - 12/4/86](#)

[Class 110 51846 - Honley - 30/8/86](#)

[Class 101 DB977391 - Cark & Cartmel
- 2/6/94](#)

- Recollections of DMUs on the national network.
- Requests for information
- News & images of recent DMU activity
- Anything that may be of interest to readers

Feel free to send submissions at any time to railcar@live.co.uk but no later than May 30th for Issue 136 (due out July)

SUBMISSIONS

Hopefully the contents of this bulletin was both interesting and informative. If you know anyone who could provide similar material found in this issue for future bulletins, please make yourself or them known to railcar@live.co.uk The following types of submission would be most welcome:

- Photographs of vehicles in service
- Restoration articles
- Reports on special events
- DMU modelling articles
- Articles on DMU history



GALLERY



Class 108 51941 departs Bewdley, 28/2/16 (T.Carwithen)



Class 101 50160 departs Grosmont bound for Pickering, 12/3/16 (S.Swain)



E50619 departing Norchard, 19/3/16 (C.Walker)



51226 leads a Class 101 4-car formation, 22/4/16 (D.Orr)



Class 108 M54504 pauses at Corfe Castle, 7/4/16
(S.Thomas)



GWR Railcar W20 under restoration, 10/4/16 *(M.Hughes)*



Class 100 sporting an alternative route indicator at County School, 19/3/16 *(C.Moxon)*



A shiny 51427 returned to the GCR, 23/4/16 *(B.Battersby)*