

842. **Forty Days.** A 4 page feature containing 8 colour photographs of Class 40 diesels, from the camera of Michael Mensing. A number are on the West Coast route, and at Manchester London Road they are under the control of ex LNWR semaphore signals! *Backtrack* Vol 26 No 12 (December 2012).

843. **The Long Day.** A 2 page article by Brian Topping remembering a cold and tedious day on the footplate, working from Bury shed, hauling a dead 'Black Five' from Patricroft to Crewe. 4 photographs of late BR steam. *Backtrack* Vol 26 No 12 (December 2012).

844. **The Very Last Steam Train on the Cromford and High Peak Line.** Phil Waterfield discovered that the actual last steam train was several days after the 'Last Day' rail tour, to clear the remaining wagons. 3 pages with 7 colour and black and white photographs. *Backtrack* Vol 26 No 12 (December 2012).

845. **Just Add More Cylinders – Simple.** Part 1 of Miles MacNair's article on the evolution of the British four cylinder simple expansion locomotive. This part covers the period from the 1820s to near the end of the pre-grouping period, with several references to Crewe trained engineers and Crewe built locomotives. 6 pages, 1 photograph, 10 drawings/artist's impressions and 23 references. *Backtrack* Vol 26 No 12 (December 2012).

846. **The Varsity Line's Missing Links.** Jeffery Grayer's review of the line's status and recent developments on it. 3 pages, illustrated with 6 photographs take pre-closure. *Backtrack* Vol 26 No 12 (December 2012).

847. **The World's Largest Signal Box.** This item recounts Chris Milner's visit to Severn Bridge Junction box, Shrewsbury, in July 2012. It is currently the world's largest mechanical box, built by the LNWR in 1903 (to last?), Grade II listed and likely to remain operational until at least 2030. 3 pages and 8 colour photographs. *The Railway Magazine* Vol 159 No 1,341 (January 2013).

848. **Focus on Chester.** 2 pages with 5 of Hugh Ballantyne's colour photographs of blue diesels, taken in 1979. Chester Nos. 2 and 6 signal boxes figure large in 3 of them. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 1 (January 2013).

849. **Birmingham in the 1950s & 60s.** This article recounts Mike Thorne's personal experiences as a train spotter. He appears to favour chocolate and cream, but ex. LMS lines are not neglected. 6 pages with 8 photographs, 1 in colour. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 1 (January 2013).

850. **The Militant Furies and the Railways.** Alistair F Nisbet considers how the railways were targeted during the campaign for women's suffrage. The article particularly covers the period of civil disobedience from 1912 to the start of the First World War when numerous attacks were made on the railways, including the LNWR. 8 pages with 13 photographs. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 1 (January 2013).

851. **Centre Bearings, Weak Frames and all that,** by Edward Talbot. Ted's considered analysis of the belief that LNWR engines had weak frames, its origin and to what extent it was true, with reference to well known authors and engineers of the past. 4 pages and 8 photographs. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 1 (January 2013).

852. **The Romance of the Journey to Skye,** by Peter Tatlow with 4 pages, 6 photographs and 11 references. Inspired by a letter in *The Field* from August 1974 which references a poem from the early 20th century. The journey started, of course, from Euston. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 1 (January 2013).

853. **Lord Monkswell's Notebooks, Introduction and Part 1,** by Ted Talbot with acknowledgement to others. 8 pages. Some years ago five notebooks covering individual yearly periods between 1895 and 1939 were bought at auction. They provide a fascinating commentary on railway operation during this period. Monkswell was a Foreign Office official in his early working years before elevation to the peerage. He travelled extensively in the UK and Europe, recording his experiences. *Railway Archive* No 35.

854. **Lord Monkswell's Notebooks, Part 2.** 12 pages. *Railway Archive*, No 36.

855. **Lord Monkswell's Notebooks, Part 3. 15 pages.** *Railway Archive*, No 37.

856. **The Architecture of the Chester and Holyhead Line.** James Johnson looks at features of the line between Holyhead and Llandudno – arches, bridges, castellated towers and lions! 5 pages, 9 photographs (some in colour) and a bibliography. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 2 (February 2013).

857. **The Railway in Court: Passenger's Luggage.** The first of an occasional series on interesting railway legal cases, by Bill Taylor. This looks at 7 cases relating to charging and loss of personal baggage. The LNWR won its case. 5 pages, 8 photographs and 7 references. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 2 (February 2013).

858. **Work in Progress Penrith.** 2 colour photographs of steam powered trains, taken by David Idle on 26 August 1967. Construction work for the Penrith by-pass/M6 is much in evidence. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 2 (February 2013).

859. **Just Add More Cylinders – Simple.** The second part of Miles MacNair's analysis – of 'Dreadnaughts', 'Claughtons', Robinson 4-6-0s and locomotives from foreign climes. 6 pages, 7 photographs, 2 drawings and 16 references. Part 1 is Press Digest item 845. *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 2 (February 2013).

860. The letters page of *Backtrack* Vol 27 No 2 (February 2013) has two interesting letters in response to Ted Talbot's analysis of the story of the LNWR's weak frames (Press Digest item 851).

With thanks to Ted Talbot and Chris James. Thanks also to David Moore, our Webmaster, you should find that entries are posted to our Webb site as soon after publication as our contributors can manage.

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We would also very much welcome other contributions, for periodicals not currently covered regularly. Please contact Chris James.