

LNWRS Press Digest No 69

983. **Demolition of Wolverton Works moves closer.** In Headline News, a half page report on the latest moves by developer St Modwen to replace the works with 375 houses. *The Railway Magazine* Vol 161 No 1,374 (September 2015).

984. **Morecambe's AM1 electrics.** An article on the LNWR Siemens units converted to AC traction for use on the Lancaster, Morecambe and Heysham line. A short history and a nice 1964 picture of M28222M at Morecambe. *Rail Express Magazine* (July 2015).

985. **Webb's not so wonderful compounds - a chronology.** The promised second part of Rob Adamson's article. This part, of five pages, looks at the Teutonic, Greater Britain, John Hick, Jubilee, Alfred the Great and 'Bill Bailey' classes and gives a final assessment. The article has five pages with three small photographs of No 1304 *Jeanie Deans* at Shrewsbury, No 1930 *Ramilies* at Oxenholme and No 1912 *Colossus* in the works. *Friends of the National Railway Museum Review* No 153 (Autumn 2015).

There is also a long letter from our Peter Davis, making extra comments on part one of the series (see Press Digest reference 976).

986. **The Formative Years of the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway Part 1.** This article, by Jeffrey Wells, looks at the beginnings in the 1840s of the railway which has become one of the best known sections of the West Coast Main Line between London and Scotland. It includes a map and fifteen illustrations, with extended captions, from all periods between the 1840s and the 1960s. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 11 (November 2015).

987. **Charles Nash and the Railway Theft Gangs.** A five page article by Alistair F Nisbet, looking at the activities of gangs robbing on the railways in the 1840s. The public spirited Mr Nash was left out of pocket in his quest to bring the gangs to justice. Included particularly for the exterior and interior views of Curzon Street station, Birmingham, albeit from a later period. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 11 (November 2015).

988. **25 years of the Windsor link.** Alan Taylor's review of the modern link built to connect Manchester Piccadilly (previously London Road) and Victoria. Four pages and four colour photographs. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 12 (December 2015).

989. **Visiting Willesden shed.** A four page feature of ten colour photographs from the camera of Geoff Rixon. Evocative pictures of

ex LMS locomotives in the mid 1960s, mostly remarkably clean!  
*Backtrack* Vol 29 No 12 (December 2015).

**990. R Herbert Lapage: a forgotten engineer and his locomotives.** A three page biography with six photographs/illustrations and a bibliography. Included here for his involvement in the supply of two Dubs built Webb three cylinder compounds to the Buenos Aires Western Railway. His work with the Worsdell - von Borries compounding system appears to have been more successful. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 12 (December 2015).

**991. The Formative Years of the Lancaster & Carlisle Railway.** The second part of Jeffrey Wells' extensive article, with eight pages and fifteen photographs/illustrations (see Press Digest reference 986). More aspects from the 1840s: features of the line and its operation, riots, strikes, trial trips, openings, and some statistics from the building period. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 12 (December 2015).

**992. Napsbury.** Two pages from Peter Butler about a lost station on the Midland main line, with five photographs from the 1950s. The Midland? A connecting link between the LNWR St Albans branch and Napsbury was used to carry Midland construction traffic between 1868 and 1891. *Backtrack* Vol 29 No 12 (December 2015).

**993. A wheeltapper's lot.** A four page article by Tony Robinson, with ten photographs/illustrations and a map. The article relates the experiences of Tommy Jones in the Chester area immediately after railway nationalisation. He started as a cleaner at Mold Junction shed but this is primarily about the work of a carriage and wagon examiner, a job which I imagine changed little from the LNWR period. *Backtrack* Vol 30 No 1 (January 2016).

With thanks to Graham Evans, Peter Stanton and Chris James.

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We would also very much welcome contributions for periodicals not currently covered regularly and any comments on the digest. Please contact Chris James.