

## Number 2 · 2022 Summer

The summer newsletter has sections about:

- Steam in Poland
- Great Western Railway 1931 Service Timetables
- The Sutherland Transport and Trading Co. Ltd, Scotland
- Engine working notices
- The *Timetable World* shop.





Recently added is an <u>East German timetable</u> from 1960. This is just a year before the Berlin Wall was built severing most cross-border connections.



## Steam in Poland



2-10-0 steam loco (unidentified) at Poznan 11<sup>th</sup> July 1976.

Image credit: Ray Reed / RCTS Collection

In the late 1980s, Poland was the last country of Europe which still had widespread use of main line steam locomotives. It also

had a very dense network of branch lines, as many people relied upon public transport for their daily commute, with car ownership being relatively uncommon. Modernisation of the railway was taking place – principally in the form of electrification.

*Timetable World* now has a good selection of PKP's public timetables and interactive system maps, and some representative employee timetables. There is now a dedicated page explaining the timetables, but also how UK-based enthusiasts captured steam workings.

#### https://timetableworld.com/steam-in-poland/

A *Timetable World* contributor was one of those steam chasers in the 1980s. He has scanned a 1987 timetable and explains his pencilled annotations. This is a unique record of haulage, and how train heating requirements caused it to toggle between steam and diesel.

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# Great Western Railway Service Timetables 1931

Service timetables were issued to GWR employees. In 15 sections, they listed every scheduled train of all classes passenger, mail, milk and other perishable goods, general goods, minerals, coal, and the like, for every main and branch line and mineral railway. Additionally, the September 1931 timetable recorded the paths reserved for summer-only services, which were marked as "suspended".

The original timetables were printed on cheap paper over 90 years ago and are yellowed and brittle. The scans have been whitened but any imperfections in the originals will remain.

TABLES.

REFERENCE

PONTYPOOL

REFEITHSTO

No. 8. GREAT WESTERN RAILWAY.

NEWPORT, BLAENAVON.

BRYNMAWR,

PONTYPRIDD, NEW TREDEGAR TALYLLYN JUNCTION.



The 2,500 pages for a full set of service timetables are presented in three formats:

Using the standard Timetable World grid for 1. online viewing (free-of-charge) Timetable link As a set of 15 downloadable PDF files from 2. the Timetable World shop

3. From Amazon, as two volumes (which can be purchased independently). The original pages are mostly presented two per sheet, with the print size approximately 80% of the original. 982 pages become 504 pages in Part 1, and 1,506 pages become 770 pages in Part 2. Page numbering resets within each section.



In GWR days, 0-6-0 No. 876 (ex Cambrian Railway) at Oswestry shed 10<sup>th</sup> August 1937

fied in the

PRIVATE AND NOT FOR PUBLICATION.

SERVICE TIME

LYLLYN JS

Image credit: R P Phillips / RCTS Collection



# Sutherland Transport and Trading Co. Ltd, Scotland



Here's a nice simple timetable to study. The bus company provided services in the far north-west of Scotland, centred on the railway station at Lairg.

### Timetable link

The routes served fishing ports dotted around the coast, with almost no population in the interior. The ports were outwardlooking to the sea, and by no

means isolated, but a simple appointment in Inverness might take two days.

Route 500 is now a (overly) popular coastal drive connecting these settlements. Then, roads were almost all single track with passing places. Journeys were slow.



All buses left Lairg at 13:45 after meeting the 12:57 train from the South (and the 11:57 from the North). There would have been a flurry of staff sorting parcels and passengers buying tickets. At first sight, it appears that four buses were in use, for Durness, Scourie, Lochinver, and Bettyhill, and a fifth connecting bus (or taxi) for Kinlochbervie. But it is possible that Scourie and Durness were served by sharing one vehicle to the junction at Laxford. Now, the iconic Kylesku Bridge has replaced a ferry, and the best road to Scourie takes a different line.





## Engine working notices

Timetables for employees do not always follow the standard tabular layout. <u>Engine Working Notices</u> (EWNs) document the journeys to be made by locomotives and drivers.

We have an example from British Railways Southern Region for 1964, showing engine duties and the regular class of engine. Engines are steam, diesel, and electric. Overlaying the engine duties are the duties for drivers and firemen. <u>Carriage Working Notices</u> (CWNs) have a similar function.

The example shown is quite intricate; others have long periods of engines being inactive.

EWN link

The original document applied to Summer Saturdays only. It was stapled to allow for rapid flicking between pages as crew worked out their duties straddling multiple engines.

A <u>Platform & Carriage Working Notice</u> is for station staff, describing movements in and out of a station.

Platform & CWN Link (London Victoria station)

South Western Divisio	m-SATURDAYS ONLY 12
SALISBURY DUTY No. 461.	SALISBURY DUTY No. 462.
7 P./6 F. (West Country Class).	7 P./6 F. (West Country Class)
Off No. 463 Friday.	Off No. 461.    — Nine Elms Loco.
	(10) Off No. 476, dispose.
	(10) On 140. 476, dispose.



## Shop

Original timetables are becoming increasingly rare and expensive. For instance, an original British Railways Scottish Region 1955 timetable recently sold for £18 at an online auction. The auction was spread over 28 days, did not include other 1955 items, and the book probably disappeared onto a shelf in a private collection.

*Timetable World* provides the same content online free of charge. A permanent digital archive enables researchers to find what they need, at any time, and with no need to travel to a national archive or wait for something to come up at auction.



You can also purchase the Scottish Region 1955 timetable as a facsimile from Amazon as published by *Timetable World*, along with the other 1955 editions. It can be delivered to your door by Amazon for £9 within 48 hours in the UK, and on a similar basis in other markets. All books are B5-sized, to look good together on a shelf. A PDF download direct *Timetable World* from is £6.

Do people still buy books?

The range of titles now available from railway publishers is greater than ever. Modern printing technology permits shorter print runs, and the challenge is to develop content. Photograph albums are easy, and *Timetable World's* facsimiles are an example of re-imagining existing content.

### Promotion

*Timetable World* is experimenting with how to promote the Shop. Digital and traditional channels are being tested as follows:

If you're a Facebook user, you may have seen this graphic in a May promotion of the GWR 1931 Service Timetables. The promotion seemed to work well, both in generating sales and visibility for the *Timetable World* online archive. As the stats suggest over 1,100 people read the post in detail, it represented excellent value for money.





Magazine advertising is significantly more expensive than digital. But it will be tried in the autumn to see how well it works.

Amazon is currently running some paid promotion until mid-June. It causes the facsimiles to be suggested to customers based on their previous behaviours.

Your ideas for other facsimiles are always welcome.





### The archive

*Timetable World* is a fully digital historical archive. The online archive covers transport modes with regular schedules, meaning railways, urban transit, bus services, and airlines. It includes timetables and maps.

#### https://timetableworld.com/

The aim is to have representative examples at different times, not comprehensive coverage of every time. The focus is on transport networks in timetable books rather than loose leaflets.

#### Volunteering

*Timetable World* is run entirely by volunteers. The archive is non-commercial, free to use, and privately funded by the administrator. If you find it useful, please consider what you can give back:

- Sign up for indexing tasks online

- Contribute timetables for digitisation as a loan or donation.

#### **The Timetable World Shop**

All timetables and maps can be accessed online free-of-charge.

There is a charge made for downloading PDF files of timetables for customers to "own". The proceeds help to defray the costs of running the website.

### Amazon

Selected timetable books are available for customers wishing to purchase a printed book. Orders are handled Amazon, where available, and fulfilled locally. The proceeds help to defray the costs of running the website.



Newsletter editor:

**Matthew Shaw** 

Contact email address:

timetableworld.com@gmail.com