

# The Railway Herald



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## Front Cover

**On the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway, Class 24 No. 24081 stands at Cheltenham Racecourse having arrived with a demonstration freight service on 5th April. Jack Boskett**

## Rear Cover

**Compare the front and back covers to see just how the weather can change! This was how Class 47/3 No. 47376 looked at Toddington at the start of the day on 6th April! Brian Garrett**

## Publication

The Railway Herald is due to be published every Friday and is available on e-mail subscription or from our website at [www.railwayherald.co.uk](http://www.railwayherald.co.uk)

## Submissions

We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at [editor@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:editor@railwayherald.co.uk)

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. Currently there is no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

## Website

Our website contains all the back issues of the magazine together with a host of new features which will be online soon!

[www.railwayherald.co.uk](http://www.railwayherald.co.uk)

## National Rail Timetable

The entire UK National Rail Timetable is now available as a PDF download from the Network Rail website.

Produced in the same fashion as the printed version and ordered by table number, the current timetable is available by clicking [here](#).

The railway by-laws and information for enthusiasts are also available online from the Network Rail website, by clicking [here](#).

## Farewell to Folkestone Harbour

**Kingfishers 'Golden Arrow' on 12th April looks like being the very last fare-paying passenger train down the branch from Folkestone East to Folkestone Harbour.**

Battle of Britain No. 34067 *Tangmere* is the rostered locomotive, and it is planned to undertake an extra 'photographic'

departure during the layover period at the Harbour station. It is believed the branch will formally close later that day with the very last working understood to be a Network Rail saloon from Hoo Junction.

Recently the branch has been used by the VSOE British Pullman for a number of its trains, the last

of is operated from the terminus on 10th April.

### Last train to Folkestone

Timings for the very last train, believed to be a pair of Class 73 'EDs' and an observation saloon on 12th April, can be obtained from the forum area of our website, by [clicking here](#).



▲ DRS Class 37/0s Nos. 37059 and 37218 pass Dawlish on 4th April with a northbound test train. Stacey Thew

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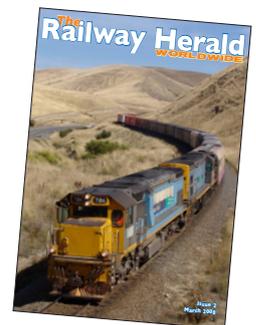
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### Featured in Issue Two

- ◆ The latest news and events from across Europe, the America's and the Asia Pacific region
- ◆ **Railroading USA** - John Day starts the first of a major new series examining photo locations and opportunities around the United States. Part 1 looks at the busy areas around Chicago.
- ◆ **China Steam Spectacular** - Cyril J. Lofthus looks at some of the remaining steam operations throughout China.

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### Editorial Team:

Richard Tuplin  
Brian Morrison  
John Whitehouse

Editor  
Contributing Editor  
Railtour Editor

[editor@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:editor@railwayherald.co.uk)  
[brian.morrison@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:brian.morrison@railwayherald.co.uk)  
[john.whitehouse@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:john.whitehouse@railwayherald.co.uk)

### Editorial Address:

The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire, United Kingdom. DN17 2WY

**Telephone:** 0844 870 0735

**E-mail:** [editor@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:editor@railwayherald.co.uk)

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## New look for Northern Rail and East Midlands Class 156 DMUs

▶ Northern Rail has teamed up with the National Railway Museum (NRM) to create a special vinyl wrap for Class 156 No. 156490. The new livery features images of trains from across the ages including a replica of Stephenson's Rocket, the record breaking Mallard and the cab of a Eurostar. The theme continues inside with tabletop designs encouraging families to visit the museum by train. **NRM**

▼ The first of East Midlands Trains (EMT) fleet of 11 Class 156s, No 156415, has been reliveried and re-branded at Derby by Bombardier, and the remaining 10 are expected to have been attended to by early May. The Class 222 Meridian fleet will follow. Meanwhile, the first of EMT's HST fleet is currently being repainted at Neville Hill Depot, and the contract is being finalised for the full refurbishment of the Class 158 fleet, which is due to start in the summer. **EMT**



### Can you help improve FGW services?

**First Great Western is looking for passengers who want to be involved in helping to improve the quality of its service by joining an independent panel.**

Volunteers who regularly use train services from a variety of stations on the First Great Western network are invited to apply to join one of the Customer Panels. The invitation is open to all types of passengers, commuter, business and leisure, who have an interest in train travel and want to help improve the train service operation.

Three Customer Panels cover the First Great Western network; they meet FGW Directors and senior managers four times a year to provide feedback on strategic issues and provide informed input into developing company initiatives.

Key industry representatives, including

Network Rail, the Department for Transport and Passenger Focus, also attend the meetings. Panel members may also be involved in sub-committees, which focus on particular themes such as timetables and fares. The roles are voluntary, although train travel passes for meetings are provided.

Applicants over the age of 16 are asked to write a detailed letter of application, covering their personal regular train travel arrangements and indicating main areas of concern. Applicants should also detail what they hope to get out of the role and how they can benefit the Panel.

All applications should be sent to Lesley Colman, Customer Liaison Manager at: First Great Western, Milford House, 1 Milford Street, Swindon, SN1 1HL. The closing date is 2 May 2007.

### Wrexham service to start

**The Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railway Company's new direct train service to London is planned to start on Monday 28th April, with five trains a day in each direction between Wrexham, through Shropshire and on to London Marylebone.**

The announcement was made after the company received its safety certificate and formal operating licence from the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR). The company's own trains are currently being refitted by Marcroft Engineering in Stoke-on-Trent, and are due to be completed this summer. In the meantime, to allow passengers to take advantage of the new service as soon as possible, the company is hiring trains for use from 28th April for the first few months of operation.

Driver training runs have now been in operation for several weeks over the route, making use of EWVS Class 67 locomotives and vehicles from the Cargo-D Mark 3 fleet. Three members of the EWVS Class 67 fleet, which will be motive power for the new service, have been outshopped in the new colours, see separate story.

❖ As part of its ongoing investment to provide improved facilities at stations and on trains, First ScotRail has concentrated on bringing about improvements to a number of stations across the Central belt, particularly with regard to Customer Information Systems (CIS), public toilets and covered waiting facilities. A total of 19 stations are involved, bringing the total number with enhanced facilities to 159 across the network. In addition, waiting rooms have now been provided at Clarkston, Helensburgh Central and Kilmarnock, and seating and two waiting shelters on the Glasgow-bound platform at Cambuslang.

❖ Twelve of South West Trains' stations have had new fencing installed in a £200,000 joint project with Network Rail. Life-expired wooden fencing at Bedhampton, Bournemouth, Byfleet & New Haw, Earley, Farnham, Feltham, New Malden, Raynes Park, Virginia Water, Wandsworth Town, West Byfleet and Worcester Park has been replaced with new metal fencing to improve the look of the stations and provide a more secure environment.

❖ Arriva CrossCountry has become the first train operating company to offer passengers a timetable covering the entire national rail network, providing the facility to create and download personalised timetables when visiting the company's website at [www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk](http://www.crosscountrytrains.co.uk). Alternatively, they can ask for their timetable to be emailed to them. Website users can simply create a personalised timetable to meet their needs, stipulating journeys via specific stations and receiving a display of all calling points of their service.

❖ A 13-year-old girl was rescued from a blazing building in the village of Essendine in the East Midlands on 27th March, thanks to the bravery of three members of a Network Rail ultrasonics team. The team, who specialise in detecting track defects using an ultrasonic rail flaw detector, happened to be driving past the house on their way to a job when they saw flames and a girl trapped indoors. One of the team members called the emergency services while his colleagues smashed a double glazed window with a concrete slab to gain access, after being unable to break down a locked door. Thanks to the quick actions of the team, the girl only suffered moderate burns to her hands and face and is expected to make a full recovery.

## Scottish Executive extends First Scotrail franchise

**The Scottish Executive has formally extended the First ScotRail franchise for a little over three years, to November 2014.**

The current franchise began in October 2004 for seven years, with a provision for a three-year extension. The agreement involves an investment fund of

more than £70 million under the control of Transport Scotland, and also introduces a profit sharing mechanism.

Some of the improvements include extensions of express services between Edinburgh and Glasgow and extra early morning trains to allow passengers from Ayr, Dumfries, Dunblane, Gourrock,

Kilmarnock, Kirkcaldy and Perth to connect with inter-city services arriving in London before noon.

The deal also creates a £1 million fund for small businesses and communities to use empty station buildings, and will provide improved rail services for the Commonwealth Games in Scotland in 2014.

## Heathrow Terminal 5 branches open ... and work!



▲ The new six platform Heathrow Terminal 5 (T5) station opened to the public on 27th March. Two platforms are dedicated to Heathrow Express (HEX), two to the Piccadilly line and two (not currently open) which are reserved for Crossrail. The 13.35 HEX service to Paddington awaits departure from T5 Platform 4 on 3rd April, formed of Class 332s Nos 332214 and 332202.

◀ A Piccadilly Line train for Cockfosters departs from Heathrow Terminal 5 Platform 6 on 27th March, the day that the station first opened to the public. Both: Brian Morrison

## Robin Hood Line Sunday service

**East Midlands Trains has announced that the Robin Hood Line, which runs from Nottingham to Worksop via Mansfield, will be running a Sundays service from December.**

10 trains will operate each way between 09.30 and 19.30. Nottinghamshire County Council will fund the service until May 2011, but if the line is as well used as expected it is hoped that the Department for Transport will fund it on a permanent basis after that time. Mansfield is the largest town in the UK not to have a Sunday rail service and the line is the most successful re-opened railway in England. It is used by over one million passengers per year.

## First London, now Liverpool as plans for Wrexham electrification continue

**Merseytravel is continuing to drive forward plans for a £60 million electrification of some or all of the route between Wrexham and Bidston, a key line into North Wales.**

Known as the Borderlands scheme, a study by Merseytravel and the Welsh Assembly will be completed within weeks, after which a further study looking into the design of the scheme will follow later in the year.

The project, a key part of Merseytravel's rail improvement programme, would mean many thousand more passenger journeys on the cross-border line every year, greatly improved connections between Wrexham

and Liverpool City Centre and access to the Deeside Industrial Park. It could also serve areas of high unemployment, including Beechwood, Woodchurch and inner Birkenhead and would bring about new stations at Deeside and Woodchurch.

The line currently has a number of problems, including under investment, track speed restrictions, extremely tight turn-around times and a need to change at Bidston for cross border journeys. The rail fortunes for Wrexham have changed significantly in recent months, with the new Wrexham & Shropshire service to Marylebone and the proposed Virgin service to Euston.

## Alloa route training starts



▲ The first train to use the reopened Stirling-Alloa-Kincardine line was the 13.00 Hunterston-Longannet, which is normally formed with HAAs and runs via the Forth Bridge. On 5th April, the train used modern HTA hopper wagons and operated over the new Stirling to Alloa route, seen at the passing loop to the east of Alloa. **Peter Kellett**

The first freight train to run between Stirling and Kincardine operated on 5th April as part of an EWS Energy driver training programme in preparation for the opening of the route to traffic, scheduled for 19th May.

The restored 21km line will allow coal MGRs to reach Longannet Power Station via Stirling, instead of using the congested Forth Bridge. Operationally, this will bring major benefits to EWS Energy traffic. Until the opening of the Alloa route, coal services to Longannet have been restricted to the older two-axle HAA wagons, due to weight restrictions on the Forth Bridge. The opening of the new route and the ability for loaded trains to access Longannet without traversing the Forth Bridge will allow EWS to use the modern HTA hoppers on the traffic, increasing the tonnage carried. An increase in the train length is also likely at some point.

The new route also opens up Longannet Power Station to the competition. Freightliner and First GBRf's modern bogie coal hoppers have had the same restriction on the Forth Bridge as the EWS HTA wagons, which is the reason why the GBRf coal traffic a few years back used two-axle aggregate hoppers. The opening of Stirling to Alloa will also allow them access to potential new contracts.

Passenger services will run from Glasgow to Alloa, via Stirling, and driver training for these has also been underway recently. The trains will be operated by First ScotRail as part of the Scottish rail franchise.



▲ On 2nd April, Class 158 No. 158721 prepares to depart from Alloa with a driver training run to Stirling. The line on the left continues to Kincardine and Longannet Power Station and connects into the National Network at Dunfermline. **John M. Anderson**

## 007 links Ebbsfleet Liverpool's 'age of steam' art gallery exhibition

**The 007 National Express direct coach link has been improved and now features new links to Ebbsfleet International station.**

The 007 coach route provides direct services from Canterbury, Dover and London Victoria to the doors of Ebbsfleet International. A timetable has been designed to suit Eurostar train times, with coaches at least every two hours.

**The National Museums of Liverpool are holding an 'An art in the age of steam' exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, depicting the excitement of the steam train in art from the earliest days, through the boom years of Victorian railways to the end of regular services in the 1960s.**

The exhibition is the most wide-ranging yet held to look at how artists responded to the extraordinary impact that steam trains had on landscape and society and is one of the highlights of Liverpool's European Capital of Culture year. Around 100 paintings,

photographs, prints and drawings from some of the world's greatest art collections come together in the extensive display, including original works by such famous names as Manet, Monet, Pissarro, Rodin and Van Gogh.

The exhibition runs from 18th April until 10th August and entry is free. The Walker is in Liverpool city centre, close to the entrance to the Queensway Tunnel and Lime Street Station. For further information on the exhibition and on directions to the Walker art gallery [click here](#).

❖ Three more local lines have joined the Community Railway Partnerships network, the South Fylde Line between Blackpool South and Preston, the Lakes Line between Windermere and Oxenholme and the Severn Beach Line from Bristol.

❖ Freightliner Group Ltd took over the operating lease of Doncaster Rail Freight terminal from 25th March. The site, owned by Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, was previously operated by DHL Exel Supply Chain. Freightliner regards the acquisition as an important step in the development of inland transportation from the international gateways, as recently highlighted in the Eddington report, and plans to expand capacity at Doncaster to facilitate the growth in the deep-sea container market and to encourage more rail freight transport.

❖ Passengers travelling to Fort William now have a healthy opportunity to take in the local scenery, First ScotRail having teamed up with the local cycle hire company, Off Beat Bikes, to provide rail travellers with a chance to hire bicycles at discounted rates. To take advantage of the offer, one simply needs to show a valid rail ticket before setting out to enjoy the fine Fort William countryside. Discounts start at 10% for half-day hire.

## East Midlands Control Centre opens at Derby

**The Secretary of State for Transport, Ruth Kelly, opened Network Rail's East Midlands Control Centre (EMCC) in Derby on 3rd April as part of a £250 million, six-year investment programme to provide renewed signalling across the region.**

Since construction began in November 2006, £15 million has been spent in turning a derelict, brownfield site in Derby into a modern facility, which will eventually control the signalling and operations for the entire East Midlands rail network. The building

is the first of its kind in the UK, having been built to a modular design, enabling modern facilities to be provided at an efficient cost, and is the first of a number of similar control centres planned around the country. The EMCC has been designed to meet the latest building regulations and environmental standards with a view to reducing carbon emissions and saving energy, for example, using solar water heating to reduce the amount of fossil fuel used to generate hot water, reducing CO2 emissions by over 1.2 tonnes per year.

## Freightliner takes over Manchester waste

▼ **Class 66/6 No. 66614 passes through Guide Bridge on 9th April with the 09.16 Roxby to Northenden empties. Freightliner Heavy Haul has taken over operation of the Greater Manchester Waste Authority 'binliner' trains from EWS as from 31st March, on an interim short-term contract. The main contract is still being negotiated and it is believed that EWS, Freightliner and First GBRf are all bidders. Once the main contract is awarded, the interim Freightliner contract will cease. Jonathan Stevenson**



## RailManager

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Time for a different kind of number?

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 Work on EARL to be suspended during review  
 Eurostar's full high speed timetable won't arrive until December  
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 Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London's newest tube station

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## Looking back at decades of diesels

**A collection of three programmes looking back at the West Country since the 1970s.**

### Diesel power in the West Country (£15.95)

Filmed between 1990 and 1998, the programme takes the viewer on a lineside journey from Bristol & Salisbury to Penzance via all the surviving intermediate branch lines. It comprises probably the most comprehensive tour of the region ever condensed into one programme and includes a staggering 23 different types of locomotive. Running time approx 83 minutes.



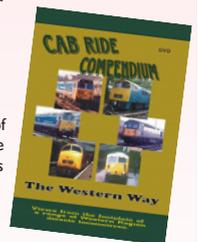
### Four decades to Kingswear (£19.95)

A look at the variety of steam and diesel traction that has operated over the Paignton to Kingswear branch since 1973. As well as the beautiful scenery on the 7-mile stretch between Paignton and Kingswear, we see views of some of the specials en-route to their destination, thus high speed runs also feature. An amazing array of 80 different steam and diesel locomotives appear in this programme, some in several locations. Running time approx 72 minutes.



### Cab Ride Compendium - The Western Way (£19.95)

Rather than concentrate on just one journey we have put together a compilation of six footplate trips spanning a period of 30 years. First is Exeter St. Davids to Salisbury with 50018 Resolution on 23 June 1991, then Class 47 No 47573 is our steed from Plymouth for Newton Abbot on 18 December 1988. Next we travel Bury to Rawtenstall on the East Lancs Railway in the cab of D832. Onslaught before boarding D1013 Western Ranger for the climb of Eardington bank on the Severn Valley Railway. Then its a ride in the cab of the Blue Pullman on the Bristol to Bath section in the 1970s and finally, double-headed Cromptons from Exeter Riverside with 33108 (paired with 33114) to Meldon Quarry on 14 September 1990. Running time approx 105 minutes.



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▲ Recent months have seen a Midland Mainline-liveried Mk3 set on hire to First Great Western to supplement the fleet during the coaching stock refurbishment programme. With the refurbishment now complete, the MML set has been returned to the leasing company. Here Cotswold Rail-liveried Class 47/4 No. 47828 Joe Strummer passes 40 Steps Bridge, Taunton, with the 15.30 Plymouth Laira to Doncaster West Yard. The set will become one of the additional National Express HST Mk3 sets following overhaul. **Brian Garrett**

## Nameplate auction

**Freightliner is to hold a further nameplate auction.**

The plates on offer are Freightliner Venturer, The Felixstowe Partnership, European Rail Operator of the Year, Aldaniti, Airey Neave, Andrew A Hodgkinson and Elizabeth Garrett Anderson, together with a Crewe International Terminal logo.

Interested readers may obtain further details or table their offers in the form of a sealed bid on Freightliner's website, [click here](#) for further details. The closing date for bids is 17.00 on Wednesday 30th April 2008.

▼ As previously reported, Cotswold Rail has commenced operation of a regular steel scrap service from Stockton in the North East to Cardiff. The traffic expanded at the start of April, with the introduction of a new service from Sims Metals at Beeston, near Nottingham, also to Cardiff. The first train of the new flow, powered by Advenza Freight-liveried Class 57/0 No. 57005, passes Bromsgrove on 7th April bound for Cardiff. **Don Gatehouse**



## Cambrian Line upgrade work commences

**From 19th April, the line between Shrewsbury and Aberystwyth, Machynlleth and Pwllheli is to be improved as Network Rail begins work on the Cambrian Line.**

Jointly funded by the Welsh Assembly Government and Network Rail, the £13 million enhancement project will allow an increase in trains to an hourly service, boosting the number of passenger services from 38 to 57 per day. The Cambrian line currently serves more than 390,000 passengers, and this could be increased by another 55,000 when the additional trains commence operating. The work will be carried out in several phases and is planned for completion by Spring 2009.

New and enhanced passing loops are to be installed at Dovey Junction, Talerddig and between Welshpool station and Fron level crossing. The track and platforms at Dovey Junction are to be raised to reduce the impact of flooding in the area and signalling is to be updated.

The line is scheduled to become the first in the country to deploy the industry's newest signalling technology, the European Rail Traffic Management System (ERTMS), an in-cab signalling and train control system that could make lineside signalling a thing of the past.

## Can I carry your luggage sir?

**South West Trains and Island Line Trains are teaming up with Carry My Luggage to offer a door-to-door luggage delivery service.**

Carry My Luggage is an independent company that can collect and distribute luggage to and from any UK address. The company can also deliver and collect luggage for some cruise operators at Southampton Docks.

The company removes the hassle normally associated with travelling with luggage by collecting items prior to travel and delivering them to their destination. With its 'state of the art' tracking systems, Carry My Luggage monitors every item from collection through to delivery, ensuring security and peace of mind.

South West Trains' passengers who take advantage of this new scheme will receive a 5% discount on the cost of any order placed with Carry My Luggage.



▲ The new look for three EWS Class 67 locomotives. Nos. 67013, 67014 and 67015 have all been outshopped from Toton TMD wearing a modified version of the EWS Executive colours. The new livery, for locomotives dedicated to the Wrexham & Shropshire Railway service, provides an attractive two-tone grey colour scheme, as pictured here on Class 67 No. 67014, arriving at Banbury with three of the Cargo-D Mk3 vehicles in tow on 7th April. Ken Brunt

## The onboard shop is now closed ... permanently

**Arriva CrossCountry's Voyager fleet is to have additional seating and more luggage space, a contract for the work having been signed with Bombardier.**

Starting in September, an extra 16 seats and 20% more luggage space is to be introduced to each of the 22 Class 221 five-car Voyagers, with 14 extra seats and 25% more luggage space provided

in the 35 Class 220 four-car trains.

The work is scheduled to take about 12 months to complete. Space for the additional seating is being created by minor modification of interior layouts and it has been possible to retain all of the existing toilets.

Increased luggage space will be achieved by the introduction of new and improved luggage stacks throughout each train and use

of some of the space created by removal of the onboard shop, which will also incorporate the cycle storage area. Following passenger feedback, the shop will be replaced by an at-seat service of food and drink throughout the train.

CrossCountry Managing Director Andy Cooper said: "Interior redesign of our Voyager trains will make a significant

contribution to our commitment to increase seating across our network by up to 35%. Getting a seat and having more space for luggage are customer priorities, and these changes will allow us to improve the service we offer. People are naturally reluctant to leave their possessions behind and take a walk to the shop, and we know that service of food and drink at the seat is very popular."

## Direct Rail Service gain and lose with Class 66s

**DRS has invested in a further four low emission Class 66/7 locomotives, expected to arrive in this country in September.**

With this new addition to its fleet, the company will be relinquishing 10 Class 66s following the expiry of the contractual agreement with the leasing company, and say that this has always been its strategy in order to ensure that its motive power remains the most efficient and up to date. The future for the 10 released Class 66s is not currently known.

## London Overground orders seven additional Class 378 EMUs from Bombardier at a cost of £23 million

**London Overground has announced that it has taken up an option to order seven more four-car Class 378 units from Bombardier costing cost £23 million.**

The extra trains will be delivered during the last quarter of 2009 and the first quarter of 2010, directly following the previous order for 44 trains, which are currently being constructed at Derby. Ian Brown, Managing Director London Rail said: "London Overground was able to take up the option because

progress with Network Rail in planning for a major upgrade of the infrastructure of the North London Line has reached the point where we are confident that more frequent services can be reliably provided."

Crucially, the new trains will allow London Overground to increase the frequency of trains to eight per hour on the core route between Camden Road and Stratford as required by London's Olympic and Paralympics Games Transport Plan and for future growth.

## Northern Rail refurbishes 150/2s

**Following Northern Rail's refurbishment of its Class 158 DMUs and interior refresh work on former Arriva Trains Northern Class 150/2 fleet, work is now well under way to refurbishing its Class 153 fleet.**

Northern Rail is refurbishing its Class 153s. The first completed was No. 153317, and others so far treated are Nos. 153301, 153316, 153324, 153330, 153331, 153351 and 153378. The work undertaken includes replacing carpets with grey vinyl flooring, a re-trim of the Richmond high-backed seats to Northern Rail purple with white/grey lines moquette trim, repainting the dado side panels, partitions and wall ends in lilac blue colour, installation of yellow circular LED 'easy to see, easy to press' DIPTAC tactile passenger door controls and the outer livery changed to Northern Rail colours. Basically the Class 153s now have a very similar interior to the Class 155s, apart from the '153s' having Richmond seating and the '155s' having Chapman seating.



◀ The uniquely liveried Class 60 No. 60074 Teenage Spirit passes Salt Lake Cottages, Ribbleshead, with the 12.40 departure from Newbiggin on 4th April. Terry O' Connor

❖ Due to operational difficulties, Compass Tours has postponed its Workington outing on 3rd May, which was due to operate to Aberdeen with Class 40 No. 40145. Instead, Compass hope to run to Aviemore and Inverness on 7th June, again from Workington, Maryport, Aspatria, Wigton, Carlisle, Lockerbie and Motherwell, but now with a pair of Riviera Class 47s for traction. The 5th May tour from Barrow-in-Furness to Aberystwyth, also booked for No. 40145, will run as advertised.

❖ Bad coal is cited as the reason that No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* was diesel piloted from Exeter St Davids to Bristol Temple Meads on the return leg of Railway Touring Company's 'Dartmouth Express' on 29th March. The locomotive suffered from poor steaming on the outward leg, and despite great efforts to clean the fire while being serviced on the Paignton & Dartmouth Railway, it soon became obvious on the return that the coal, which RH understands had been loaded at the East Lancashire Railway prior to setting off for this trip, was not up to the job and was going to severely inhibit No. 6201 on the return. With Whiteball to be surmounted, the decision was taken to seek assistance. Earlier, on the outward run, *Princess Elizabeth* connected 'heavily' with the buffer stop at Kingswear which is reported to have pushed them back by around one foot. Thankfully, the locomotive did not incur any damage as a result of the incident which happened at very low speed.

❖ For the most comprehensive and up-to-date railtour listings on the internet, [click here!](#)

## August summer steam action in the North West

**The Railway Touring Company has provided Railway Herald with advance notice of its provisional plan for a series of trains during the high summer period, concentrated around August.**

The proposals, which are still subject to confirmation, provide a weekend of steam activity from north-western departure points. Having been the provider of the 'Scarborough Spa Express' last year, which this year will be entirely a West Coast operation, the indication is that RTC has not complete given up on Scarborough by virtue of a planned train each Friday in August from Crewe and Manchester Victoria to the East Coast resort.

This is followed by a planned August Saturday service from either Manchester Victoria (three planned departures) and Liverpool Lime Street (two planned departures) to Carlisle, outwards via

the WCML and Shap, returning across the Settle & Carlisle.

The weekend activities conclude each Sunday in August with a Liverpool Lime Street to Holyhead train, which would provide the North Wales coast with its first regular steam service since the demise of British Rail's 'North Wales Coast Express' over 20 years ago.

The pool of locomotives is believed to include Nos. 60009 *Union of South Africa*, 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* and 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*. By basing the trains on the Crewe, Liverpool, Manchester triangle, the company will be reaching out to a potentially wide catchment area, which will also include the Midlands conurbation, and it will therefore be interesting to see how these plans develop. Look out for further details of these trains in this section as soon as they become available.

## Stirling steam opens Alloa line

**The much anticipated re-opening of the Stirling to Alloa railway line will take place on 19th May with the recommencement of passenger services after a gap of 40 years.**

The 13-miles of reinstated track between Stirling and Kincardine is regarded as the most important railway infrastructure project that Scotland has witnessed in decades (see separate story in Newsdesk).

The official opening ceremony will take place on 15th May for which steam traction has been requested, this will be followed by an opportunity to ride on the first passenger trains along the new line behind both steam and heritage diesel traction. The SRPS will be operating the two trains between Alloa and Stirling, the first

provisionally set to depart from the new station at Alloa at 13.30 with K4 class mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* in charge.

The return from Stirling, provisionally at 14.30, will be in the hands of Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey*. The second train is booked to depart Alloa at 15.30, returning from Stirling at 16.30, again steam hauled on the outward leg and diesel on the return. Each leg will take around 20 minutes. Fares are £15 First class, £10 Standard class and children £5. For anyone wishing to make a long weekend of Scottish steam, the SRPS is also operating No. 61994 on two trips around the Edinburgh South Suburban and Fife Circles on 18th May (see Issue No. 125).

## 5029 returns

**Following completion of a heavy general overhaul at Tyseley Locomotive Works, 'Castle' No. 5029 Nunney Castle is all set for a mainline return with a loaded test run provisionally scheduled for 15th April from Tyseley to Leicester, preceded it is believed, by a 'light-engine' working to Stratford-upon-Avon.**

The engine was steamed and moved around the yard at Tyseley on 1st April without any serious problems being found, but any further action has been delayed due to the broken bogie spring that caused the cancellation of earlier booked mainline workings.

The locomotive has been outshopped in GW-style lined green livery with the wording 'British Railways' on the tender.

## Stobart Pullman heads to the Highlands

▼ **The Stobart Pullman 'Easter West Highlander' tour headed north from London King's Cross behind Class 47/4s Nos. 47802 and 47501 on 21st March. The following day, the train headed north to Oban, hauled by Class 37/0 No. 37069 and Class 37/4 No. 37423. Here, the pair cross the River Orchy as it flows into Loch Awe, to the west of Dalmlally on 22nd March. Peter Kellett**





A sight not often seen at Cheltenham is that of a 'Deltic' on a charter working! Class 55 No. 55022 Royal Scots Grey stands at Cheltenham Spa on the evening of 29th March, having worked a Cardiff to Llandrindod Wells circular tour that finished at Crewe. Jack Boskett

## The Week Ahead

The early part of the week is dominated by Railway Touring Company's 'North Briton', the full itinerary for which can be found in our railtour listings on the website.

Suffice to say the tour runs to Kyle of Lochalsh on 14th April, returns to Glasgow Central on 15th April, and thence to London on 16th April, currently with the steam section terminating at Peterborough. Also on 16th April, VSOE has No. 35028 *Clan Line* from London Victoria to Westbury on a 'British Pullman' working that continues diesel-hauled to Bath Spa and Bristol Temple Meads.

Steam Dreams continue the hectic steam action on 17th April with a 'Cathedrals Express' from London Waterloo to Bath Spa and Bristol with Battle of Britain No. 34067 *Tangmere*. The outward route is via Staines and then Woking, Salisbury and Westbury, while on the return the train is booked along the direct route from Woking via Surbiton. Next day, Past Time operate its 'Welsh Dragon' featuring Carnforth-based LMS Stanier '8F' No. 48151 over the Central Wales Line, working from Shrewsbury via Llandrindod Wells and the Swansea District Line to Newport, where diesel traction takes over for the return to Crewe.

The following Saturday, 19th April, witnesses three further steam-hauled excursions; Railway Touring Company has a 'Central Wales Explorer' from Leicester with the steam section being Shrewsbury to Newport, again via Llandrindod Wells. Traction is Ian Riley's pairing of BR Standard 4MT No. 76079 and LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407.

Kingfisher has the Severn Valley Railway in its sights with the 'Severn Valley Phoenix' from Kensington Olympia, which is booked for No. 60019 *Bittern* from Didcot and running via Swindon, Kemble and Cheltenham to Kidderminster. The return is as outwards. The third special is a now rare steam outing for Pathfinder, which originates at Bristol Temple Meads and has No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* on the Crewe – Holyhead – Crewe section.

Pick of the diesel-hauled tours is Spitfire's 'The Wey-farer' from Crewe to Weymouth. Traction will be DRS Class 20s, but, the company says, how many locomotives will depend on the weather! It is all to do with platform space at Weymouth, so if it is fine there will be three Class 20s, but if the forecast is for a cold day and a generator car is required, it will only be two locos to ensure that the train fits the platform! The outward route is via Birmingham, Oxford, Swindon, Salisbury, Southampton and Poole, while on the return the train is booked via Basingstoke and Didcot.

Elsewhere, both Green Express and Stobart Rail are in action with Class 47s, the former to Dundee from Skipton and the latter to Bristol Temple Meads from Letchworth. Please note that all Stobart Pullman services prior to this date are cancelled.

Finally, an unshamed plug for The Chester Model Railway Club and Ffestiniog Railway Dee & Mersey Group who have jointly organised 'The Dorset Coast Express' for 19th April. Featuring EWS Class 67s, it will pick up at Hooton, Wrexham, Gobowen and Shrewsbury and then proceed via Birmingham, Oxford and Basingstoke to set down at Brockenhurst, Bournemouth and Poole. There is, we understand an option to visit the Swanage Railway along with other local attractions. Visit the organisers website for more information, at [www.chestermodelrailwayclub.co.uk](http://www.chestermodelrailwayclub.co.uk)

### UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on steam, diesel and electric railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

12th April		
Kingfisher Railtours	34067	(Taunton-Ealing Bdwy)-Willesden area-Folkestone Harbour-Canterbury West (break) and return
Pathfinder Tours	40145	Birmingham NS-Stroud-Kemble-Swindon-Didcot Pky-Ealing Bdy-Ipswich-Lowestoft (break/rev)-Reedham-Thetford-March-Leicester-Birmingham NS (40145)-Didcot Parkway (66)
PMR Tours	6233	Leicester-Alfreton-Chesterfield-York-Scarborough and return
Railway Touring Company	60019/60007	<b>'The North Briton' Day 1</b> London KX-York(60019)-Edinburgh(71000)
Vintage Trains	2xClass 47	Birmingham Moor St-Tyseley-Solihull-Dorridge-Warwick Parkway-Leamington Spa-Eastleigh-Portsmouth Harbour (break/rev) and rtn
13th April		
Railway Touring Company	60009 & 61994	<b>'The North Briton' Day 2:</b> Edinburgh-Dundee-Aberdeen-Inverness.
14th April		
Railway Touring Company	61994	<b>'The North Briton' Day 3:</b> Inverness-Kyle of Lochalsh-Inverness
15th April		
Railway Touring Company	61994 & 60009	<b>'The North Briton' Day 4:</b> Inverness-Perth (61994 & 60009)-Perth-Stirling Glasgow Central (60009)
16th April		
Railway Touring Company	60007, 60019 & 55022	<b>'The North Briton' Day 5:</b> Glasgow Central-Carlisle-Newcastle-York (60007)-York-Peterborough (60019 or 55022)
Steam Dreams	60019	London-Salisbury-Bath-Bristol and return <b>Postponed</b>
17th April		
Steam Dreams	60019	London Victoria-Salisbury-Bath Spa-Bristol TM and return
19th April		
Heartland Rail	2xCR C147	Bristol TM-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham NS-Southport and return
Kingfisher Railtours	6024	(Kensington Olympia-Clapham Jct-Staines-Reading-Didcot-Swindon)-Swindon-Worcester-Kidderminster-(Bridgnorth) and return

#### Key to tour listings:

**BLACK** Charters expected to operate as booked.

**GREEN** Tours postponed to a future date by the operator

**WCRC** West Coast Railway Company

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

**RED** Tours cancelled by the operator

**BLUE** Provisional excursion

**Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Check with the operator before travelling any distance.**

#### Useful Weblinks

- Online railtour listings
- Tour operators contact details

- Current fire-risk status info
- Email the railtours editor



▲ With all Railtour Touring Company trains now being operated by EWS/Riviera Trains rather than West Coast Railway Company as has previously been the case, RTC has agreed a deal to make use of a dedicated set of Mk1 vehicles, all of which have now been painted in the attractive 'carmine and cream' colour scheme. The train was launched with a luncheon special from London Euston to London Victoria via Surrey, hauled by LNER A4 Pacific No. 60019 Bittern. The train is pictured in a rare patch of sunshine at Virginia Water on 11th April. **Brian Morrison**

▼ Two forms of East Coast motive power are pictured alongside each other at Retford on 7th April. In the southbound platform road, Gresley 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 Bittern awaits the road to continue south to Old Oak Common, as it is passed at speed on the 'main' by Network Rail's NMT set, lead by Class 43 No. 43062 John Armitt. **Richard Deas**





▲ To assist with the training and route learning of drivers, Wrexham and Shropshire Railway Company has hired Chiltern Railways Class 121 'Bubblecar' No. 960014. The unit is pictured adorned with Wrexham and Shropshire branding at Tyseley Railway Museum on 9th April. **Keith Stenhouse**

▼ Arriva Cross Country are progressing with the rebranding of its Class 220 Voyager units. One of the latest sets to carry the new livery is Class 220 No. 220025, shown passing Cullompton on 29th March with the 07.30 Penzance - Manchester Piccadilly service. **Brian Garrett**





## Class 66 action

▲ The reliability of the recently overhauled HST powercars has caused a number of problems for Grand Central in recent weeks. The failure of a set at High Dyke, near Grantham, on 4th April, while working the 06.48 Sunderland to London King's Cross service, resulted in the set being towed back north to Heaton by Class 66/0 No. 66158. The train is pictured passing through York. **Gary Pinkney**

▶ The rare sight of a First GBRf coal train at Peterborough. First GBRf-liveried Class 66/7 No. 66724 Drax Power Station is pictured at Peterborough Eastfield with a rake of HYA coal hoppers on 10th April. **David O'Rourke**

▼ Freightliner Intermodal Class 66/5 No. 66533 Hanjin Express crosses a fast-moving mud-laden River Usk at Newport (Gwent) on 9th April, with a Cardiff Wentloog to Southampton Millbrook Freightliner service. **Wilf Smith**



## Unusual workings



▲ The Royal Train visited Totnes on 10th April, as HM The Queen was visiting Dartmouth Royal Naval College. With the Royal Claret-liveried train in tow, matching Class 67s Nos. 67005 Queen's Messenger and 67006 Royal Sovereign await departure from Totnes.

**Nathan Williamson**

◀ DRS Class 57/0s Nos. 57011 and 57009 pass Whittlesey on the Peterborough to Ely route on 9th April with a Crewe to Stowmarket 'light-engine' move. **David O' Rourke**





## Class 180 movements

▲ Following its failure with prop shaft/gear box problems on 27th April 2007, while working a First Great Western service, Class 180 No. 180105 was dumped at Swindon for a short while before being returned to Old Oak Common, where it became a source of spares to keep the rest of the fleet working. With the Class 180s slowly being returned to the leasing company, the unit was moved to Wolverton for repairs to full working order. Here the set is seen leaving the works, heading back to Old Oak Common. **Antony Guppy**

▼ A sight that is likely to become more frequent in the coming months as Class 180 DMUs are introduced onto Hull Trains services. Here No. 180110 passes Biggleswade with a Crofton to Oxley working on 2nd April. **Alisdair Anderson**





▲ Visiting GWR Pannier No. 5764 climbs away from Alresford on the Mid Hants Railway with its two coach formation, working the 12.08 Alresford-Medstead service on 30th March. David Warwick

## Kinlet Hall operation on GCR to raise funds for the return to steam of Witherslack Hall

Visiting GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4936 *Kinlet Hall* was scheduled to enter traffic on the Great Central Railway on 6th April.

The Railway is also investigating the possibility of other special events with the engine to promote a fund for the return to steam of

classmate No. 6990 *Witherslack Hall*, which is in the custody of the David Clarke Railway Trust, the Great Central's supporting charity. *Kinlet Hall* is currently 'wearing' the rods from *Witherslack Hall*, making a photographic line up of the two an intriguing possibility!

## NRM inundated with people's memories of the end of steam

The National Railway Museum has been inundated with Britain's 'steamy' memories, after it launched an appeal for the public's recollections of the late 1960s end of mainline steam.

However, the museum is still looking for memories from the South, the Midlands and Scotland in particular, having already had a huge response from the North.

As part of the preparation for '1968 and All That', the NRM's nine-day gala celebrating the 40th anniversary of the official end of BR steam, it is looking for people from all over the UK that were personally involved in steam's swansong.

So far the Museum has been contacted by people who were passengers on the '15 guinea special', the last ever BR steam-hauled run on 11th August 1968,

the men who worked across the railway network during the last years of steam, as well as the enthusiasts who watched the last steam trains in their area pass by.

The Museum is hoping to assemble an 'archive' of personal recollections from people across the nation with a story about the end of steam in their area, to set the importance of the event in history. The NRM is also hoping to use some of the best stories as part of the interpretation for its May Bank Holiday event on 24th May – 1st June.

Those happy to talk to the media about their unique and special tale about steam's past should email [pressoffice@nrm.org.uk](mailto:pressoffice@nrm.org.uk) or write to Steam Memories, Press Office, National Railway Museum, Leeman Road York YO26 4XJ.



**NORTH YORKSHIRE MOORS RAILWAY**  
PICKERING-LEVISHAM-GOATHLAND-GROSMONT-WHITBY

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No less than SIX  
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**BRAND NEW  
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◀ **Privately-owned Class 73/1 No. 73101, carrying the unique-Pullman livery, is pictured on the Llangollen Railway on 11th April at Glyndyfrdwy West, working the 13.00 Llangollen - Carrog service. The loco is carrying the headcode of a Waterloo - Southampton Western Docks boat train! Fred Kerr**

## 200,000 images donated to NRM archive

**The National Railway Museum (NRM) has acquired a massive photographic archive stretching back some 80 years, containing over 200,000 images.**

The collection consists of the original pictures taken by the official photographic unit of British Rail and its predecessor, the London & North Eastern Railway.

The unit was based in York, and its brief was to photograph railway civil engineering projects large and small along the East Coast Main Line and across much of the rail network in northern England. After privatisation the archive went into the care of Jarvis plc and BRB (Residuary) Ltd, the British Railway Board's successor, and has now been donated to the National Collection.

The pictures will be added to the already extensive photographic archive housed in the museum's £4 million research centre, 'Search Engine'. The collection fills a gap in the National Collection due to its rare pictorial records of the LNER and BR Eastern Region, and includes images of major construction projects, such as the building of stations and bridges and the electrification of the railway, together with special events and photographs recording the day-to-day operation of the railway, and also includes images of locomotives and vehicles built at York Carriage Works.

Ed Bartholomew, the NRM's Senior Curator, Conservation & Collections Management commented that: "This is a significant addition to the NRM's world-class archive, especially as many of these photographs can be matched to existing items in the collection. We are very much looking forward to re-housing this amazing collection in our continuously growing Search Engine facility."

'Search Engine' is the NRM's state-of-the-art Archive and Research Centre that allows access to the museum's comprehensive library, archive and image collection. The Museum's specialist archives team are currently working on cataloguing the new collection, with the aim of making the material accessible to the public over the next few years.

## West Somerset Railway fleet expands

**The West Somerset Railway has bought Class 2800 2-8-0 No. 2874.**

Built in 1918 at the Swindon workshops of the GWR, and originally based at Old Oak Common (81A), the locomotive was used by the GWR for most of its life hauling coal from South

Wales and was withdrawn from Neath shed (87A) in 1963. It laid in Dai Woodham's scrapyard at Barry for many years and has never been restored. It is currently kept at the Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway.

Considerable funds will be required for the restoration,

which will be phased over a number of years. It is expected that the first phase will be the restoration of the tender in order to augment the railway's existing fleet, a decision on the timescale for the locomotive to follow after a detailed inspection of the remaining components.

## Green Arrow bows out with leaking tubes

**One of preservation's favourite locomotives, the National Railway Museum's LNER 'V2' No. 4771 Green Arrow bowed out on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 2nd April.**

The locomotive, which was

spending the final weeks of its boiler certification on the railway was failed after leaking tubes were discovered in the boiler. The 'V2' is due to move to Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon for long-term display.

▼ **During the first weekend of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway LNER Festival, 'V2' No. 4771 Green Arrow climbs the 1-in-49 bank to Goathland through Beck Hole with the line's restored rake of LNER Gresley teak coaches on 30th March. Nick Wise**



# Preservation View



▲ Visiting Class 27 No. 27066 leads the resident Class 20 No. D8137 through Hailes Abbey between Toddington and Winchcombe, on 5th April, the first day of the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway's diesel gala event. **Jack Boskett**

▼ The following day brought a very different landscape as the area was covered in a liberal coating of snow! With its steam heat boiler working to perfection, Class 47/0 No. 47105 powers a six-coach train bound for Cheltenham Racecourse, away from Toddington on 6th April. **Brian Garrett**





▲ What is believed to be the first line-up of LNER 'A4' Pacifics for over 40 years! From left to right are No. 60009 Union of South Africa, No. 60019 Bittern and No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley at Grosmont on 28th March. **Richard Tuplin**

▼ One of the star's of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway's record-breaking LNER Festival weekends was LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 Bittern, pictured here climbing into Goathland, complete with chime-whistle blowing, with the 12.40 Grosmont - Pickering service on 6th April. **Fred Kerr**





▲ The scene at Pickering on 5th April as LNER 'A4' No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley arrives with the 12.40 service from Grosmont. On the left was visiting J15 No. 65642. The railway played host to more than 12,000 visitors over the two weekends. **Fred Kerr**

## The North Yorkshire Moors Railway (NYMR) has described its LNER Steam Festival as an unqualified success.

Visitors came from far and wide to enjoy a unique experience over two weekends with three Class A4s in steam, and despite the mixed weather, the Railway played host to over 12,000 visitors.

Commenting on the weekend, NYMR General Manager, Philip Benham, said: "We are delighted with the success of the event which was three years in the making. Many visitors remarked on the unique experience of seeing the three A4 Pacifics together in steam. They have been able to ride behind them, take photographs of them, and generally enjoy the sight, sounds and smells. They have had to wait some 40 years to see such a sight, and we are delighted to have given them this opportunity here on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway."

The first weekend also saw the last run of another well-known locomotive, the National Railway Museum's LNER V2 class Mogul No. 4771 *Green Arrow*. With its 10-year boiler certificate due to expire at the end of April, sadly the engine had to be retired early due to a boiler fault on 31st March.

The success of the festival

means that the Railway has been given a vital shot in the arm financially at the start of the 2008 season. It hopes to continue this success with more special events through the year, and by operating a comprehensive timetable linking Pickering, Levisham, Goathland and Grosmont – and also Whitby;

on most days through April, the NYMR will be running direct services to/from Whitby every Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Sunday, with even more days to come as spring and summer unfold. Further information about train running times and ticket prices can be obtained from NYMR

Customer Services on 01751 472508 or from [info@nymr.co.uk](mailto:info@nymr.co.uk)  
A limited number of Commemorative Brochures from the LNER Steam Festival are still available at a reduced rate of £3.00 each including postage and packing. These can also be obtained from NYMR Customer Services.

▲ The North Norfolk Railway's 'J15' 0-6-0 No. 65462 was used on demonstration freights and local passenger shuttles across the six-day event. On 4th April, the locomotive is seen climbing hard on the 1-in-49 grade from Grosmont to Goathland at Beck Hole with a freight service. **Nick Wise**





▲ On the Saturday and Sunday of both weekends, the railway operated steam-hauled services from Whitby along the Esk Valley Line to Battersby Junction. On 30th March and 6th April LNER BI No. 61264 and LNER K1 No. 62005 were provided to work the services, with trains passing at Glaisdale. Here the 'BI' approaches with a service from Whitby, while the 'K1' waits to proceed with a service from Battersby. **Nick Wise**



► The third working 'A4' present at the gala event was John Cameron's No. 60009 Union of South Africa. Here, the locomotive approaches the outskirts of Pickering on 27th March. **Richard Tuplin**

The editor welcomes details of forthcoming events, talks, slide shows, conferences, model railway exhibitions and club meetings for inclusion within this section.

Details should be sent via email to

[editor@railwayherald.co.uk](mailto:editor@railwayherald.co.uk) and should include a brief outline of the event, including the speakers name if appropriate, date, time and location, together with contact details (either telephone, web or email). *Railway Herald* cannot

accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or events which are amended, cancelled or postponed. Information, such as advance programmes and club meeting line-ups can also be sent through the post to the editorial address.

## 11th April 2008

**Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society**  
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Slides of Steam' by Cliff Parr. Meeting commences at 19.30. Non-members £3.00

## 12th April 2008

**Bournemouth Railway Club**  
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre. 'Salisbury to Yeovil' by John Nicolas. Meeting starts at 14.30.

## Stephenson Locomotive Society (Midlands Area)

Kidderminster Railway Museum 'Working the Lickey' memories and views of footplatemen who have worked the incline. Meeting commences at 14.00. Entrance Fee £2, including refreshments

## 14th April 2008

**Lincoln Railway Society**  
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'Coming up with the goods' by Stuart Donoho. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365.

## Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)

10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube. 'Heathrow Express - Wheel/Rail Management' by Mark Chestney. Contact Paul Gammage by email [pigammage@aol.com](mailto:pigammage@aol.com) for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

## Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)

Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester. Speaker and details to be confirmed. Meeting starts at 12.30. Contact Rob Cummings on 0161 228 5321 for further details

## Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales Branch)

Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport. 'Modular S&C' by Geoff South, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664 for further details. Meeting commences at 18.00

## York Railway Circle

Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Steam & Diesel 1960s to 1980s' slide shot by Barry Plues. Meeting commences at 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

## 15th April 2007

### Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)

The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds. 'The Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage, PWI President. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949 for further details and information.

### Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Section)

Croydon College, Room B110. Modern Plant by Peter Watson. Contact Martin Creswell on 0208 663 5427 for further details. Doors open 17.30 for an 17.45 start.

### Marlow & District Railway Society

Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'Main line steam 1902-1960: the Ken Nunn Collection' by Graham Stacey. Meeting commences at 20.00. Non-members £2

### Railway Correspondance & Travel Society

Victory Club, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. 'Branch Annual Business Meeting'. Meeting starts at 19.30.

## 16th April 2007

### Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)

Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Scotlands Railways - A 20 year vision for rail in Scotland' by Clair Keggie and David Prescott, Rail Policy, Transport Scotland. Contact Jack Scott on 0141 952 2562 for further details. Meeting commences 17.30

### Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)

Holiday Inn Hotel, Castle Marine, Nottingham. 'The Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage, PWI President. Contact Colin Cowey on 01949 837067 for further details.

### Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)

Arup Auditorium, 63 St. Thomas Street, Bristol. Absolute Track Geometry - West Coast Main Line comes up to speed by Paul Stronage. Contact Alex Simpson on 01242 519828 for further details. Doors open 17.30 for an 18.00 start.

## 17th April 2007

### Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)

The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside 'A Cycle Trip Around Ireland in 1953.' by John Owen. Meeting commences at 19.30.

### Marlow & District Railway Society

Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'Main line steam 1902-1960: the Ken Nunn Collection' by Graham Stacey. Meeting commences at 20.00. Non-members £2

### Stephenson Locomotive Society

United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. 'Linesiding around 1960 by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 19.30.

## 17th-26th April 2008

### Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)

'Fedecrail Tour' in Austria. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at <http://www.lcgb.org.com>

## 18th April 2008

### Great Western Society (Taunton Group)

Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Bespoke Buildings' by Martin Prior. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for further details.

## 21st April 2008

### Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)

The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill 'BR Standards in Colour' by Ashley Shimell. Commences 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for further details.

### Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Dorking)

Pethick-Lawrence House, 85 South Street, Dorking, Surrey 'Waterloo' by Ted Goodman. Meeting commences at 19.30.

## 23rd April 2008

### Basingstoke & District Railway Society

Miniature railways by Colin Brading. Wote St. Club, New Road. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact: 01256 326096.

## 24th April 2008

### Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon)

United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'Half a Century Ago' by John Cramp. Meeting starts at 19.15.

### Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)

Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Joint meeting with Reading Transport Group - Railway Quiz and slide/video presentation. Meeting starts at 19.30 for 19.45. A donation is requested

### RCTS (Sussex Branch)

Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Lineside Greetings" by Douglas d'Enno. Meeting commences at 19.30. £1.50 donation is requested

## 26th April 2008

### Bournemouth Railway Club

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre. The judging of this years slide competition by Russell Burrridge will be followed by his talk on the 'Festiniog Railway in 1970 and 1980s'. Meeting starts at 19.30.

### Locomotive Club of Great Britain

St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford. Annual General Meeting. Meeting starts 14.30.

## 30th April 2008

### Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)

South Bank University. Half Days Technical Seminar on 'Practical Inspection and Maintenance of Switches and Crossings'. Contact Paul Gammage by email [pigammage@aol.com](mailto:pigammage@aol.com) for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

## 1st May 2008

### Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)

The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'A journey down the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway' by Mick Hayes. Commences 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for further details.

## 2nd May 2008

### Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)

Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham. Group AGM followed by Members Slides. Commences 19.30.

**3rd-4th May 2008****Porthmadog Railway Exhibition**

Glaslyn Leisure Centre, Porthmadog. Standard and Narrow Gauge layouts featuring mainline, industrial and light railways. 10.00-16.00 Entrance £4 incl. free guide, children under 14 free if accompanied by an adult.

**3rd-7th May 2008****Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Overseas Tour)**

'Champagne Express' in Luxembourg. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at <http://www.lcgb.org.com>

**6th May 2008****The Locomotive & Carriage Institution**

LUL HQ St James Park (Room 727 The District Room). Presentation by Mr. A. Savage from Rail Accident Investigation Bureau. Contact Alan Spencer on 07933 509987 for further details.

**Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)**

Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'From bulb fields to gum trees', Doug Cross and Peter Hall share a variety of tramway destinations. Starts 19.30. Entrance fee £2

**Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)**

Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington, Underbridge Reconstruction - Slitting Mill. Contact Phil Dooner on 01325 390318 for further details. Meeting starts at 19.00.

**7th May 2008****Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley section)**

Sussex House, Reading. 'Maintaining the Isle of Wight Steam Railway' by Denis Rapley. Contact Rodney Pinchen by email at [rodney@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:rodney@tinyworld.co.uk) for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

**Burton Railway Society**

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. 'The four regions 'namers' show' by Alan Sainty. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

**8th May 2008****Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Section)**

The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham. Shugborough Viaduct Reconstruction by S. Turner. Contact Ian Wardle on 0121 345 3931 for further details. Doors open 17.45 for an 18.15 start.

**Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales)**

Dolphin Hotel, Whitewalls, Swansea. Geotextiles and Geosand by Paul Sharley, TWB Group. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664 for further details. Meeting commences at 18.00

**10th May 2008****Bournemouth Railway Club**

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre. 'The Leslie Hyde Collection' by Michael Harvey. Meeting commences at 14.30.

**12th May 2008****Lincoln Railway Society**

St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'When the wall came down' by Graham Lightfoot. Meeting starts 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

**York Railway Circle**

Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'AGM followed by a 'Steam Spectacular 1960s tot he present day' in DVD format by Ian Wolstencroft. Starts 19.30. Non-Members £2

**13th May 2008****Abergavenny & District Steam Society**

Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. Barry Foster Films and AGM. Starts 20.00.

**Great Western Society (Bristol Group)**

Room 7, BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. "The Railways of Scotland" talk by Les Nixon. Starts 19.30 for 19.45. Non-members welcome. Contact: 0117 987 3244

**The 8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)**

The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich 'Settle & Carlisle Perspectives' by Tony Icke. Commences 19.45. Contact 01606 44959 for further details.

**14th May 2008****Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group**

RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes 'Diesels' by Mike Eggenton. Commences 19.30. Contact 01724 341358 for further details.

**Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)**

10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube. 'Work of the Railway Industry Association' by Jenny Candfield. Contact Paul Gammage by email [pjgammage@aol.com](mailto:pjgammage@aol.com) for details. Meeting starts at 17.30

**15th May 2007****Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)**

The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside 'Freedom of Scotland in 1961' by John Sloane. Meeting starts 19.30.

**Marlow & District Railway Society**

Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'Ideals above one's station' by Mark Evans. Meeting starts at 20.00. Non-members £2

**Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)**

Park Inn, North Street, York. 'Maintaining jointed track' by Simon Pumphrey, Network Rail. Meeting starts at 18.00. Contact Martin Fairbrother on 01904 611922 for further details.

**16th May 2008****Great Western Society (Taunton Group)**

Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'My Lifetime Hobby' by Amyas Crump. Starts 19.30, Contact 01823 334188.

**Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)**

The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. Sitrling to Alloa and Kincardine by Scott Prentice, Network Rail. Contact Nicola Topping on 0131 550 4273 for details. Meeting starts at 18.00.

**19th May 2008****Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)**

The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill 'Post-War Modernisation of the Sheffield Railway Scene' by Nick Wheat. Commences 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for details.

**20th May 2007****Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)**

The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds. Energy Efficiency, Recycling and the reuse of resources on the railway by Martin Woofe. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949 for further details and information.

**Internet Links**

Further contact details for the clubs and societies list in this column can be obtained from our new-look website by [clicking here](#).

**Should your club or society event be listed here? If so then please email the editor with the appropriate details.**

▼ **Compass Tours' 'Pennine Fellsman' used EWS Class 37/4s Nos. 37401 and 37405 throughout on 5th April. The pair are seen climbing through Diggle on the outward leg, the 06.57 Wolverhampton to York. Upon arrival in York the train worked a circular mini tour around the Harrogate loop to Leeds and back to York before returning to Wolverhampton via Sheffield and the Hope Valley route. Jonathan Stevenson**





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