

Railway Herald

Issue 184 - 7th July 2009



The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

All editorial emails should be sent to the editor. To email a member of the team, send your message to firstname.surname@railwayherald.com

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We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at editor@railwayherald.com

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Website

Our website contains all back issues of the magazine and is available at www.railwayherald.com

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Back to the past for Virgin West Coast?

To provide backup to its intensively used Class 390 'Pendolino' and Class 221 'Super Voyager' fleets, Virgin Trains has refurbished its WB64 Mk3 set. The work is being completed at Wabtec Doncaster and is due to be completed by 21st July.

Full story on
Page 3

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Editorial

Observant readers will have noticed that this issue is slightly shorter than usual!

This is unfortunately due to numerous technical and IT problems experienced at the Editorial Office over the past couple of days. So that we did not delay the publication of this issue, some of the planned content from this week's magazine has been held over until Issue 185.

Our apologies for any disappointment that this may cause, but we hope to be back to normal from next week.

In This Issue

National Express finish

National Express have announced that it has reached agreement with the Department for Transport to hand the East Coast franchise back from August.

[Click here to read the story on Page 4](#)

S&C closure in July

The Settle & Carlisle line will under-go a two-week closure in July for further track improvement work, including lifting of a permanent speed restriction.

[Click here to read the story on Page 5](#)

Wolverhampton Loop?

Residents of Wolverhampton are being asked for their views on plans to extend the Midland Metro in a single-track loop around the city centre.

[Click here to read the story on Page 6](#)

York-Beverley plans

A campaign to reopen the York to Beverley rail link has received a boost as it is to be recommended to the Local Government Authority

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Essentials

9 Railtours & Excursions

News from the charter scene, with comprehensive tour listings.

14 Diary

The dates of slide shows and information presentations.

Front Cover Caption:

Class 66/0 No. 66082 passes through Carlisle on 3rd July with loaded FCA wagons heading south.

Brian Morrison



Virgin unveils new look WB64 set

The 'new look' for the Porterbrook owned, Virgin Trains' leased Mk3 loco-hauled trainset was shown for the first time at Wabtec Rail's Doncaster Works on 1st July.

The first refurbished coach from the nine-coach train was placed on view, and Virgin Trains announced that it would be making the stock available for private charter operations as well as retaining it as a strategic spare to provide insurance against any major damage being sustained by a Pendolino or Super Voyager. Additionally, the set will be used on a Fridays-only service from London to Preston at 18.46, providing relief to the busy 18:30 Glasgow and 18:33 Liverpool departures.

The work at Wabtec has involved gutting the vehicles to enable new carpets, lino, and re-upholstered seating to be fitted. Improvements to safety have been made

with the replacement of the internal doors. To provide the same facilities to that of the '221s' and '390s', at-seat power points are being installed and WiFi will also be provided. All of the glazing is being upgraded to the current standards with laminated glass being fitted. The air-conditioning equipment is also being replaced by a re-engineered module developed by Wabtec to give better reliability. Externally, the coaches are being finished in the current Virgin Trains silver livery.

The nine-coach train will comprise three First Class vehicles (11007, 11018 and 11048), a catering vehicle (No. 10212) and five Standard Class vehicles (Nos. 12011, 12078, 12122, 12133 and 12138, plus DVT No. 82126). The work is due to be completed by 21st July. A Class 90 or Class 57 will be available for haulage and the coaches will be based at Alstom's Wembley Depot.

- ▲ The new livery on Mk3 RFM No. 10212.
- ▲▶ The attractive livery of Mk3 DVT No. 82126.
- ▶ The refurbished interior of the Mk3 TSOs in the set. All: C. A. Mera



National Express to hand East Coast franchise back to DfT

Following failed attempts over the past few months to renegotiate the financial terms of its East Coast franchise with the Government, National Express is to hand back the contract at the end of August, as otherwise its funding for the King's Cross-Edinburgh main line will run out by the end of the year.

A number of railway pundits maintained that the company had bid far too high when taking over the franchise from GNER, and they have been proved right. A total premium of £1.4 billion was bid for the seven-year term, but it is now admitted that the income of its subsidiary National Express East Coast (NEXC) has slipped £20 million into the red this year.

The situation will begin what is likely to be a lengthy dispute over liabilities, as the Government has criticised National Express for not transferring funds from its two other profitable franchises, and is threatening to withdraw the contracts from National Express East Anglia and

c2c. National Express, however, maintain that legally it is only committed to funding NEXC and disputes the legality of any claims upon the other two franchises, maintaining that they are only forfeited should there be a default. Technically it does not appear that there is a default, as handing back the franchise will be when the £72 million the parent group was contracted to provide has been used up, and it is said to have offered £100 million to terminate the matter amicably.

However, from comments made by Transport Secretary, Lord Andrew Adonis, the future of National Express in the railway industry appears somewhat bleak. He said: "I note that the parent group of previous franchise failures are no longer in the UK rail business. It is simply unacceptable to reap the benefits of contracts when times are good, only to walk away from them when times become more challenging". A publicly owned company will take over East Coast operations from September, and

the process of appointing a replacement operator from the private sector will begin at the end of 2010. The travelling public should not be affected by the changes.

Commenting on the Government's decision to take the East Coast franchise into temporary public ownership, Sir Richard Branson, Founder of Virgin Group said: "Should the East Coast franchise go into default, the Government has made the right decision to take it back. If you bid for a car, a painting or a house and can't pay for it, it always reverts back to the under-bidder or the owner. A train franchise should be no different. I would encourage the Government to re-let this franchise as soon as is possible, but also use it as an opportunity to look again at the franchise system and ensure some level of innovation, financial robustness and quality is built in. We have been the under bidder on three different occasions, spent £15 million in the process and lost to people who have put in unrealistic bids. This cannot be right".

▼ Carrying full National Express livery, Class 43 powercars Nos. 43299 and 43306 (rear) power away from Pitlochry on 5th July forming the 09.30 Inverness to London King's Cross 'Highland Chieftain' service. **Richard Tuplin**



High speed success for Southeastern as 'Javelin' services are strengthened

Following the successful launch of the 'preview' High Speed 'Javelin' services on 29th June, passenger numbers using the service have required Southeastern to double the length of the trains on two peak services from six to 12 cars, the 07.48 from Ashford International to St Pancras and the 17.37 from St Pancras International to Ashford.

The new trains complete the journey in 37 minutes, compared with the time on the normal trains of around 1 hour, 20 minutes. The 'preview' timetable is for three morning peak trains from Ashford International to St Pancras and three return services in the evening peak. There are also six trains from Ebbsfleet International in the morning peak to St Pancras and six back in the evenings. Throughout the day, services run twice hourly between Ebbsfleet and St Pancras.

SYPTTE renews call for regional investment

The South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive has renewed its call for more investment in the region's rail infrastructure to help relieve overcrowding, and is talking with the Department for Transport (DfT) as concerns mount that the number of additional carriages earmarked for the Northern Rail franchise may be greatly reduced.

The DfT pledged 182 additional carriages to Northern Rail in 2007 in a bid to help relieve overcrowding, the company running the bulk of local services between Sheffield, Rotherham, Barnsley and Doncaster, but speculation is mounting that it may be planning to halve this number, and that some may not be new. Plans also remain unclear for other operators, such as East Midland Trains and TransPennine Express, which run inter-city services. South Yorkshire MPs were expected to press the issue firmly at a Westminster Hall debate 'Spending on railways in the North of England' on 1st July. Over the last five years there has been a 43% increase in the number of rail journeys in South Yorkshire.



▲ Class 66 No. 66841 powers a Long Marston to Stockton move as it approaches Worcester Shrub Hill on 29th June with Class 20s Nos. 20901 and 20905, Class 56 No. 56021 and Class 31 No. 31423 in tow, plus eight flat wagons. The latter two locos were destined for Stockton. **Stephen Tucker**

Engineering work for Settle & Carlisle in July

A major piece of work on the Settle & Carlisle line will mean that a 30mph speed restriction that has been in place for nearly 40 years can be removed.

By the autumn, trains will be able to travel at twice that speed, reducing delays to both passenger and freight services. The £6 million plus project is in the Kirkby Thore area, which is riddled with mine workings connected to the nearby gypsum works. The ground in and around the site is unstable, so the speed restriction has been in place to ensure train safety. Network Rail say: "From time to time, 'sink holes' have appeared in land alongside the railway. These are like craters that have formed where the land has dropped into old mine workings. We cannot run the risk of one appearing under the railway itself, which is why there is a permanent speed restriction in place".

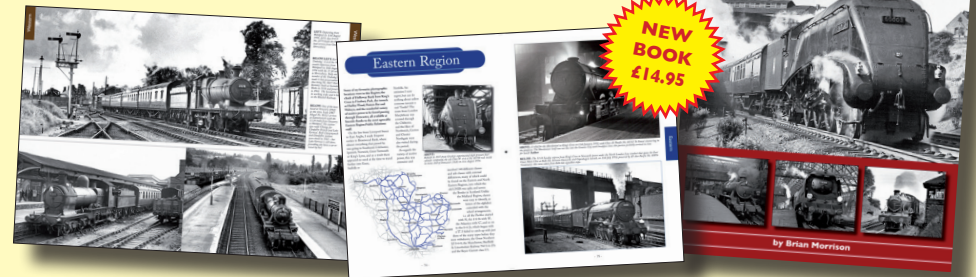
Work will be carried out to three separate

bridges, as well as to the railway embankment, and the track on a section of line nearly a mile long will be replaced during a closure of the line from 9th to 28th July. Two of the bridges carry the railway over tracks between farmland. One will be strengthened and the other filled in with the agreement of the landowner. The third bridge carries a single carriageway road over the railway between Kirkby Thore and the Milburn/Long Marton road and needs to be strengthened to bring it in line with modern-day standards. The road has been closed and diversions put in place.

While the track is removed for the bridgework to be carried out, two concrete slabs will be cast over the trackbed to strengthen and stabilise it, should sinkholes appear in the future. When the track is put back, continuously welded rails will be used to give a smoother, quieter ride for passengers and to cause less wear and tear to the track and trains.

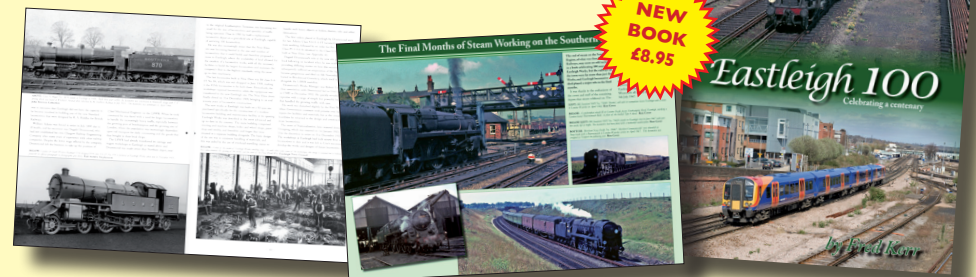
From the days when steam was king and diesels were just a thought on the horizon...

One of Britain's most renowned railway photographers, Brian Morrison, takes us through some of his archive of over 100,000 images with a look back at steam action from the 1950s around the country, region-by-region. **Regional Steam** is a brand new 128-page printed book including over 200 high quality, black & white photographs.



To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Eastleigh Works comes this limited print run book

The railway town of Eastleigh has a fascinating history and this special 56-page printed book illustrates the years from the arrival of the railways and documents the growth of the town and its works over the past 100 years since the workshops first opened their doors. **Eastleigh 100** also features numerous black & white and colour images.



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Metro and Light Rail News

Glasgow subway gets new train wash facility

As part of Strathclyde Partnership for Transport's (SPT) subway modernisation programme, a contract worth £665,500 to build a modern new train wash facility at Broomloan Depot has been approved.

The existing drive-through train wash system is 33 years old and despite regular servicing, often breaks down. When this happens, maintenance staff end up finishing off the job by hand using buckets and brushes. Replacement of the existing system has been planned in two stages and in all will cost almost £1 million. It began in April last year when a £305,000 contract to supply the mechanical brushes element of a new system was approved, and work to build the specified system is nearing completion. The second stage involves a detailed specification for civil engineering improvements to

ground conditions and drainage on site at Broomloan depot. This work is due to start later this month.

The SPT Director of Subway Operations welcomed the investment saying: "With 41 cars in the fleet, washing them by hand when the train wash breaks down is not an option. We like to keep the fleet looking as pristine as possible and the new system is designed to work like a giant car wash. It will have brushes that cover the train shape and move up and down the cars. Each wash will take about 15 minutes to complete and we aim to wash each train every two days. We are steadily working through a programme of planned improvements for the Subway to make it more attractive to our customers. The new train wash facility will provide a much easier, more efficient way of keeping the fleet spick and span".

New Wolverhampton Loop for Midland Metro?

Residents of Wolverhampton are being asked for their views on plans to extend the Midland Metro tram system in a single-track loop around the city centre, linking to the railway station.

The proposals would link the Metro stop at Wolverhampton St Georges to the City's new transport interchange, creating a seamless connection between bus, train and tram. The £30 million scheme would also make it easier for people to travel round the city centre, making it a more attractive

and convenient place for people to live, work, visit and shop. Transport authority Centro, which is developing the route in partnership with Wolverhampton City Council, is holding a series of exhibitions during July, and is asking people to come along and give their views on the proposals. These will be taken into account during the detailed design of the scheme. Centro is putting together a business case for the extension, which will be submitted to the Department for Transport for funding approval. The Wolverhampton Loop involves

trams travelling clockwise on a single track around the city centre, starting at the existing terminus at St Georges and along Market Street, Princess Street, Lichfield Street and Pipers Row, and linking to the city station. The scheme also includes a submission for new, longer trams, which would run around the loop and on the existing line between Birmingham and Wolverhampton. These would be able to carry up to 40% more people during peak times, and 75% more off peak, and would run at an increased frequency of every six minutes.



- UK News In Brief**
- ■ Three men who caused repeated disruption to rail services in Kent by stealing cable have been jailed for a total of 17 years. They were sentenced at Maidstone Crown Court on 25th June, having been found guilty of conspiracy to steal and damaging property and being reckless as to whether life would be endangered.
 - ■ Eurostar has advised a House of Commons Committee that it will be unable to co-operate with proposed checks on travellers entering Great Britain, because demanding the personal information required at the point of check-in would be illegal both in France and Belgium.

The additional information is now a requirement of the e-Borders programme, but Eurostar says that it would not be possible, within the present law, to provide information about its passengers to the new database. The new e-Borders system is intended to cover 95% of people entering the country by the end of 2010, but if Eurostar cannot participate, that target could not be reached, because over 9 million people now use the services annually.

■ Chiltern Railways are to rebuild the currently disused parcels bays at Oxford station to make them suitable to handle five-car trains for the Evergreen 3 project

◀ Arriva Trains Wales-liveried Class 57/3 No. 57314 heads south through Woodacre, near Garstang, with the Carlisle yard to Chirk timber train on 1st July. **Anthony Roberts**

Boost for re-opening York to Beverley route

A campaign to reopen the York to Beverley rail link has received a boost after East Riding of Yorkshire Council's cabinet agreed to recommend the scheme to the Local Government Authority for consideration by the Government, the move being made under the Sustainable Communities Act, which allows local people to say what their area needs and to apply for Government funding.

The £240 million project had been ear-marked as a long-term goal due to likely difficulties securing funding, but a report to the council said re-opening the rail link would bring social and environmental benefits, would remove more than 1,000 vehicles a day from local roads and lead to reductions in congestion, pollution, noise and accidents.

The report said: "Up to 850 vehicles a day could be removed from the A1079 and up to 300 vehicles a day from the A166. Free-flowing traffic journeys can reduce vehicle emissions and greenhouse gases, and transfer of journeys from rail to road would improve environmental considerations of noise, pollution, fumes etc".

► Class 37/6 No. 37605 leads classmate No. 37612, Class 47/7 No. 47709 Class 47/4 No. 47841 and Class 37/0 No. 37261 past Grimsley, near Banbury, with a Crewe Gresty Bridge-Eastleigh 'light engine' move on 29th June. **Mark Miller**



UK News In Brief

■ Chiltern Railways has introduced a mobile browsing site to make it simpler and easier to find information that is wanted when you are on the move. The new mobile version can be found at m.chilternrailways.co.uk, which is compatible with the majority of mobile phones. The site gives passengers live travel news, information to get in touch, an easy way to check train times, news in brief, station information (including a map to show you how to get there) and all the latest offers. The site was developed by web agency Imaginet, which also

designed Chiltern Railway's website, which won Best Travel website in the New Media Age Awards 2008 and Best Website in Communications in Business 2008.

■ Network Rail, London Midland and Telford & Wrekin Council are joining forces to improve facilities at Telford Central station with an £800,000 revamp, the main building will be re-glazed, swing doors replaced with automatic ones and toilets given disabled access. In addition, the Shrewsbury platform will have a new shelter and more

seating will be installed into the booking hall, while the canopy over Platform 1 will also be extended and new signs and extra cycle storage provided. Landscaping of the area is included in the proposals and people waiting for taxis and buses will be provided with better waiting facilities. It is hoped work on the improvements will begin at the start of 2010 and be completed by early next summer.

■ Truro station has been closed after torrential rain caused the roof to cave in

above the ticket office on 2nd July. A spokesperson from First Great Western confirmed that the building would be closed temporarily as parts of the roof have to be pulled down before it can be repaired. Passengers can only buy daily tickets in cash from a machine on Platform 2.

■ Chiltern Railways is to run a through 'one-off' Bridgnorth to London Marylebone service on 15th August. The train will depart Bridgnorth at 07.45 and call at all SVR stations to Kidderminster, arriving in London at 11.59

RH Statistical Information

Every month, *Railway Herald* receives numerous queries for information on how many copies of the magazine are downloaded and how popular is the website, so we have decided to publish the figures here, every week, subject to space.

Covering the period 27th June-6th July
Last weeks Issue 183 was downloaded **29,158** times (+6%) and a total of **5,178** copies of previous issues were also downloaded. The RH website has provided **137,003** (+20%) web pages to users, an average of **13.5** pages every minute, seven days a week! *Railway Herald* now has a monthly average download of **113,144**, the figures in brackets being the percentage change from last week.

The News In Pictures



◀ Advenza Freight Class 66/8 No. 66841 passes Hanslope on 1st July with the Colas Rail-operated Dollands Moor to Hams Hall intermodal service. This train is normally worked by Colas Rail using hired-in Class 56 locomotives from Hanson Traction. On this occasion, however, it is understood that three wagons on the train were conveying dangerous goods not covered by Colas Rail's safety case, hence the hiring in of Advenza Freight to operate the service.

Derek Elston.

▼ First Scotrail Class 90 No. 90019 arrives at Ipswich on 30th June with the 11.30 Norwich to Liverpool Street service, made up of a full National Express-liveried set. No. 90019 is the second First Scotrail-liveried '90' on hire to National Express (classmate No. 90024 being the other), having arrived at Norwich Crown Point on 29th June after running 'light engine' from Ilford. **Keith Partlow**



UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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

9th July

Steam Dreams 34067 London-Weymouth & return

10th July

VSOE 35028 London Victoria-Staines-Guildford-Redhill-London Victoria

11th July

Past Time Rail 60163 (Basingstoke-)Bristol TM-Totnes-Plymouth & return **Cancelled**
 Railtourer 2xWCRC 47 Barrow in Furness-Lancaster-Llandudno Jn-Blaenau Ffestiniog & return
 Railway Touring Company 70013 Mill Hill Broadway-Melton Mowbray-Barrow Hill-York (& return)
 Spitfire Railtours 87002 Birmingham International-Crewe-Glasgow Central & return
 Spitfire Railtours 87002 Glasgow Central- Ayr-Glasgow Central

12th July

Past Time Rail 45407&76079 Manchester Victoria- Peak Forest-Buxton & return **Cancelled**
 Torbay Express Ltd 60163 Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear & return
 Vintage Trains 5043 B'ham SH-Henley-Stratford upon Avon-Dorridge-B'ham SH (twice)

16th July

Steam Dreams 70013 London-Cheltenham Spa-Worcester Shrub Hill & return

17th July

Compass Tours 2xRiveria 47 Crewe-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-Preston-Lancaster-Oxenholme-Pitlochry-Aviemore (break/rev) & return
 Spitfire Railtours DRS Class 37 *The West Highlander: Day 1*: Preston-Carlisle-Motherwell-Fort William-Mallaig-Fort William

18th July

Compass Tours 2x Riveria 47 Nuneaton-Atherstone-Tamworth Low Level-Lichfield TV-Stafford-Stoke on Trent-Kidsgrove-Alsager-Crewe- Preston-Shap-Carlisle (break)-Workington-Sellafield-Ulverston-Carnforth-Preston & return

Past Time Rail

tbc **The Cotton Mill Express** **Cancelled**
 Railway Touring Company 6233 (Worcester Shrub Hill-Kidderminster-Stourbridge Jct-Birmingham NS-Wolves-)Crewe-Warrington Bank Quay-Preston-Shap-Carlisle (break)-Carlisle-Shap-Preston-Crewe (& return)Now via Shap in both directions

Spitfire Railtours DRS Class 37 *The West Highlander: Day 2*: Fort William-Crianlarich (rev)-Oban (break)-Crianlarich-Motherwell & Carlisle-Preston

Vintage Trains 4936 Tyseley Warwick Road-Coleshill Parkway-Burton Upon Trent-Willington- Nottingham-Newark-Lincoln (break/rev) & return

16 Jul

Steam Dreams 70013 The Cathedrals Express London- Cheltenham Spa-Worcester Shrub Hill (break/rev) & return

The following are classed as scheduled steam services, operating several times each week.

| | | | | |
|---------------|------|--------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Daily | WCRC | The Jacobite | Fort William-Mallaig-Fort William | 45231 or 62005 |
| Mon-Thurs/Sat | NYMR | Whitby | Pickering - Whitby | 75029, 76079, 828 |

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

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked. **RED** Tours cancelled by the operator

GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator **BLUE** Provisional excursion

WCRC West Coast Railway Company

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

The Week Ahead

A quieter weekend for charters looms, possibly as a result of the high-season regular itinerary trains such as the 'Torbay Express' and 'Shakespeare Express' now operating. Having said that, the schedule for the coming weekend is an interesting one.

Tour of the week is probably Railway Touring Company's 'Yorkshireman' on 11th July, which features 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* throughout. Originally scheduled as a Mill Hill Broadway to York, it now actually originates at Watford Junction, which brings steam to the lower end of the West Coast Main Line for the first time in a good while. The train is now booked to run via Bletchley to Bedford, where it will pick up the Midland Main Line to continue north via Kettering, Harringworth, Melton Mowbray, Toton and Chesterfield. The return is the same as outwards.

There is also mid-week steam to look forward to, with a Steam Dreams 'Sunny South Special' on 9th July with Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* from Clapham Junction to Weymouth and back to London Waterloo along

with a VSOE 'Surrey Hills' featuring Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* on 10th July.

Just two non-steam operations are booked for 11th July, with Spitfire's 'Electric Scot' being the most high profile working. The tour is a classic one along the West Coast Main Line from Birmingham International, via Birmingham New Street, Wolverhampton, Stafford and Crewe, through to Glasgow Central with Class 87 No. 87002 *Royal Sovereign*. At Glasgow Central there is an option to stay aboard for a mini-tour to Ayr via Paisley Gilmour Street, Kilwhinning, Barrasie and Prestwick Town, returning as outwards, with No. 87002 'topping and tailing' with a West Coast Class 47. Following which Spitfire also offers a trip around the Cathcart Circle with the West Coast Class 47, before the main train returns south, again with *Royal Sovereign* in charge.

'The Snowdonian' is a joint West Coast & Railtourer charter from Barrow-in-Furness, picking up at Dalton, Ulverston, Grange-over-Sands, Carnforth, Lancaster and Preston to Blaenau Ffestiniog. West Coast Class 47s should feature.

▼ **LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* is pictured at Egham working 'light engine' and support coach from Alton to Southall, prior to its trip the following day from London to Doncaster. Also in the consist was *Bittern's* second tender. **Gary Packer****





On the first day of operation for the 2009 season of Vintage Trains' 'Shakespeare Express' services, GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 Earl of Mount Edgcumbe approaches Tyseley with the 12.37 service from Stratford-upon-Avon on 5th July.
John Edkins



▲ LNER A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* visited Devon on 5th July, seen departing Paignton for Bristol Temple Meads with the inaugural 'Torbay Express' of the season. **Barry Stirman**

◀ LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* passes Diggle with the 'Coast to Coast' charter from Liverpool to Scarborough on 4th July. **Steve Chapman**

Ups & Downs by John Whitehouse

Apologies to all concerned, last week the gremlins attacked and we got our dates truly mixed up!

So, we would like to confirm that Railway Touring Company's 'Welsh Mountaineer' trains from Crewe to Llandudno and Blaenau Ffestiniog will operate on Wednesdays 5th and 26th August. We are sorry for any confusion this may have caused.

Chiltern Trains has announced that the winning entry to name its 1st August London Marylebone to Stratford-upon-Avon special with No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* is the 'Bekoning Bard', reflecting its call at Beaconsfield to celebrate the 80th anniversary celebrations of the Bekonscot Model Village. For more details visit steamtrain.chilternrailways.co.uk or telephone 0207 333 3139.





Duchess of Sutherland for MR operations

The Midland Railway will be operating a gala weekend on 11th/12th July with special services on the Golden Valley Light Railway that will include demonstration freight trains.

However, the biggest draw will be the use of No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* on Midland Railway service trains throughout the weekend.

Among other attractions there will be displays in the Historical Model Railway Society headquarters building. For more details go to www.midlandrailwaycentre.co.uk or telephone 01773 747674.

▲ Class 44 No. D8 and recently repainted Class 37/0 No. 37152 run-round their train at Rowsley South at the end of the Peak Rail diesel gala on 28th June. The appearance of No. 37152 in 1980s Railfreight red stripe creates a striking image alongside the 1960s green Class 44. **Chris Stevenson**

Toddington's 2800 Class on target for September steaming

The Cotswold Steam Preservation's Class 2800 2-8-0 No. 2807 has had its front tubeplate fitted to the boiler at Llangollen, which has allowed the boiler to be turned right side up ready for tubing.

The tubes are due to arrive there imminently, and re-tubing should take a few weeks. This will allow for the hydraulic test before the end of the month, followed by fitting further parts and a steam test. At the same time, volunteers will

complete the boiler cladding. The boiler will then be mounted into the frames and piped up. The steam test in the frames is scheduled for the end of August.

Meanwhile progress on the chassis at its home base at Toddington has been good and it will be transported to Llangollen around 21st July. This gives ample time to prepare for the boiler to be fitted, meaning that everything is still on schedule for a first movement in preservation under its own steam during September.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

The debut in preservation of Class 08 - 08927 in action all day Friday

Summer Diesel Gala

Friday 10th-Sunday 12th July

Featuring: 20137, 37215, 37324, 47105 *and* the return of 47376
PLUS! Visiting 20154, 31162 AND 33109!

Visit of NRM's Class 02 D2860 on brakevan rides at Toddington all weekend, plus intensive timetable between Toddington and Cheltenham.

Trade stands at Toddington all weekend!

15 mins from M5 Junction 9

The Railway Station, Toddington, Glos. GL54 5DT
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Charting the story of Britain's newest steam loco

The Tornado Story

This 60-minute DVD tells the story of the project and the construction of 'Tornado'.

Produced in co-operation with The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the DVD shows the construction, testing (both on the Great Central & National Network) together with all of the loco's mainline runs until the May 2009.

Also included is the unveiling at the NRM, the Royal naming at York, and *Tornado's* appearances at Barrow Hill & the NYMR steam gala.

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Looking immaculate in its newly applied BR rail blue livery, Network Rail Class 31/1 No. 31106 climbs towards Grantshouse summit on 2nd July, hauling Class 43 No. 43013 and Class 31/6 No. 31602 while working the 12.02 Derby RTC - Craigentenny stock move. **Paul Armitage**

29th June 2009**Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Brighton Branch)**

Brighton Model Railway Club
 Room, BR London Road Station,
 Shaftesbury Place, Brighton.
 'Kemp Town Junction Memories' by
 Derek Osborne. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS**(Northampton Branch)**

West Midland Day Ranger. Contact
 D. Pick on 01604 810613 or email
 northampton@rcts.org for details.

1st July 2009**Burton Railway Society**

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall
 Road, Burton upon Trent.
 'Preserved Locomotives of the LMS
 and The North Briton Rail Tour' by
 Alan Price. Starts 19.30. Admission
 £1.50 non members. Contact Mark
 Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details.

2nd July 2009**GCR Society****(Rotherham Branch)**

The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road,
 Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW.
 'Classic Film Night' with Mick Hayes.
 Meeting commences at 19.30.
 Contact Mick Hayes on 01709
 820544 for further information.

6th July 2009**RCTS (Ashford Branch)**

The Elwick Club, Church Road,
 Ashford. 'Cairnryan Military Port
 and Diesel Locos of WW2' by Mike
 Walshaw. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Swanage Railway (Bath Area)

St John's Church Hall, St John's
 Road, Bathwick, Bath. 'Isle of Wight
 Transport Roundup' by Malcolm
 Tong. Meeting commences at 19.30.
 Admission £1. Contact John Lakey
 on 01225 315918 for further details.

7th July 2009**Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society**

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill
 Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB.
 'The Art of Railway Photography'
 by Alan Crotty. Meeting starts at
 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474
 833320 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford Branch)

St John's Church Hall, St John's
 Street, Bedford. 'Robert Stephenson
 (Part3)' by Dr Michael Bailey.
 Meeting commences at 19.30.

8th July 2009

RCTS (Hitchin Branch)
 Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford
 Park. 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland
 Railway' by Andy Savage. Meeting
 commences at 19.30.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)

The Model Railway Club, Keen
 House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1
 9AT (near Kings Cross Station).
 'Countries Bordering Switzerland.
 Members Slides. Meeting
 commences at 19.00. A £2 donation
 is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on
 020 8660 3532 for further details.

9th July 2009**Continental Railway Circle**

St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore
 Road, Marylebone, London nW1 6NJ.
 'White Pass and Yukon Railway'
 by Philip Wormald. Meeting
 commences at 19.15. Admission
 £2.00. Contact Adrian Palmer on
 01932 850624 for details.

10th July 2009**RCTS (West Riding Branch)**

Peterborough, Nene Valley Railway -
 March by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm
 Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail
 at bigmal.w.br.rcts@talk21.com for
 further details.

11th July 2009**Bournemouth Rly Club**

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist
 Community Centre, junction of
 Alma Road and Heron Court Road,
 Bournemouth. 'Colour-Rail in Person'
 by Ron White. Meeting commences
 at 14.30. Admission charge £2.

RCTS**(Northampton Branch)**

Visit to the Battlefield Line by
 Mini Bus. Contact D. Pick on
 01604 810613 or by e-mail at
 northampton@rcts.org for further
 details.

RCTS**(West Riding Branch)**

Colne Valley Railway, Ipswich by Mini
 Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274
 589488 or bigmal.w.br.rcts@talk21.com
 for details.

12th July 2009**RCTS**

(West Riding Branch)
 Norwich Crown Point and Mid
 Norfolk Railway by Mini Bus. Contact
 Malcolm Riley as above for details.

13th July 2009**RCTS**

(Northampton Branch)
 Line-side Observation at Kings
 Sutton Station from 17.00 hours.
 Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or
 by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org
 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)

The Deall Room, Southwick
 Community Centre. 'Southern Steam
 in the 60s' by Terry Cole. Meeting
 commences at 19.30. Donation of
 £2 requested. Contact the Secretary,
 Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094
 or by e-mail at b.cakebread@
 ntlworld.com for details.

14th July 2009**Abergavenny and District Steam Society**

Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens,
 Flannel Street, Abergavenny
 'More Travels of a Ferroequinologist'
 by Terry McCarthy. Meeting
 commences at 20.00. Contact the
 Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.
 mumford@ntlworld.com for details.

RCTS**(Merseyside Branch)**

Observation at Chesterfield (optional
 visit to Barrow Hill). Contact Geoff
 Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail
 at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for
 further details.

15th July 2009**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote St Club, New Road,
 Basingstoke. 'The Railways of
 Czechoslovakia' by Jeremy Harrison.
 Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary
 on 01256 326096 for further details.

16th July 2009**Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society**

Barrow Hill Roundhouse.
 'Grand Central - The Story So Far'
 by Giles Fearnley. Doors open 19.00
 for 19.30 start. Admission: members
 £1.50, non members £2.00

Breconshire Railway Society

R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon
 AGM. Meeting commences at
 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Arthur
 Robison on 01982 560219 for
 further details

Marlow & District Railway Society

British Red Cross Society, Victoria
 Road, Marlow. 'London Tramways -
 the story to 1952' by David Buerger.
 Doors open 19.45 for 20.00. Non-
 members £2.

▼ **Metronet GBRf Class 66 No. 66719 Metro-Land powers a ballast train towards a weekend possession at Hawkesbury Street, Dover, on 4th July, pictured passing through Folkestone Warren. Andrew Wood. Andrew Wood**

**RCTS(South Essex Branch)**

Annual visit to the Mangapps Farm
 Railway Museum. Contact John
 Stone on 01245 464756 for details.

RCTS (Thames Valley Branch)

Observation & Photography at
 Didcot Station. Contact Murray Lewis
 on 01189 426681 for further details.

22nd July 2009**RCTS (Bristol Branch)**

Afternoon Observation at Oxford
 and Evening at Didcot Stations.
 Contact Paul Udey on 01225 427779
 for further details.

24th - 27 July 2009**Locomotive Club of Great Britain - UK**

Tour, Dawlish.
 Train Watch.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

If so, then please email the details to the editor, remembering to include the date, starting time and location, together with details of the event, speaker and entrance charges if applicable.

It is not necessary, but helpful to people, if you can also include a contact name and phone number/ email address for the organisation that can be published.

Railway Herald reserves the right to edit details entered in this section, which may also be displayed on our online events diary. The information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Internet Links

Links to the various society websites can be found on the website, or by [clicking here](#).

25th July 2009**RCTS (West Riding Branch)**

Visit Rhyl Miniature Railway by Rail. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

26 July 2009**RCTS****(Merseyside Branch)**

Car Trip to Ribble Steam and Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railways. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for details.

28th July 2009**RCTS (Welwyn Garden City Branch)**

The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane. '38 Years a Railwayman - North London and Herefordshire' by Dave Cockle. Meeting starts at 14.15.

29th July 2009**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Lickey Incline' by Dave Besley. Starts 19.30. Contact 01256 326096 for further details.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)

Day out to Bletchley for Observation. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.br.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

3rd August 2009**RCTS (Ashford Branch)**

The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'South Eastern Railways and the Class 395's' by Mike Gibson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS**(Northampton Branch)**

'Southern Day Ranger'. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for details.

4th August 2009**Weston super Mare Railway Society**

The Function Room, The Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. Members' slides. Meeting commences 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 for details.

5th August 2009**Burton Railway Society**

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent. 'Lost Railways of Derbyshire' by Geoffrey Kingscott. Starts 19.30. £1.50 non members. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details.

6th August 2009**Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)**

The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Reedie's Railway Rambles' by Gordon Reed. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details.

RCTS**(Northampton Branch)**

'Visit to the Kent and East Sussex Railway by Mini Bus'. Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for details.

10th August 2009**Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)**

The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'CTR: Section 2' by Phil Bassett. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. For details contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

11th August 2009**Abergavenny and District Steam Society**

Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny 'The Mumbles Railway' by Royston Kneath. Starts 20.00. For details email ken.mumford@ntlworld.com.

RCTS (Merseyside & N. Wales Branch)

'Observation at Rugby (Joint with MRS) &/or Nuneaton'. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 375808 for details.

12th August 2009**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The West Somerset Railway' by Keith Smith. Starts 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact 01256 326096 for further details.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group,

Royal Air Force Club, 5 Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes DN35 8LQ. 'Isle of Man Vintage Transport' by Howard Turner. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact Mike Hartley on 01724 341358 for further information.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)

The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross Station). 'Switzerland 1977-2007' by Alan Pike. Meeting commences at 19.00. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

13th August 2009**RCTS****(West Riding Branch)**

'3 Day Observation in South Wales including Newport, Cardiff & Bristol Temple Meads'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.br.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

17th August 2009**Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)**

The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Buses of Booth & Fisher' by Andy Firth. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

RCTS**(Northampton Branch)**

'Visit to the SVR'. Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for details.

RCTS**(Thames Valley Branch)**

'Observation & Photography at Didcot Station'. Contact Murray Lewis on 01189 426681 for details.

19th August 2009**RCTS****(Humberside Branch)**

'Evening at Barnetby'. Contact R. Hall on 01482 501058 or by e-mail at richardh@djbraody.co.uk for details.

20th August 2009**Breconshire Rly Society**

R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon 'The Daffodil Line' by David Postle. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. Bring a Thing. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the secretary Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

20th - 25th August 2009**LCGB Overseas Tours.**

Germany 'Chemnitz Rail Fest' LCGB Membership is compulsory for these tours.

21st August 2009**Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)**

Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Then Till Now' by Philip Kelly. Meeting commences at 19.30.

23rd August 2009**RCTS****(West Riding Branch)**

'Crewe Basford Hall at 12.00 hrs'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.br.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

25th August 2009**RCTS (Mersey & N.Wales Branch)**

'Lancashire Day Ranger'. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

26th August 2009**Basingstoke & District Railway Society**

Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'F.W.Webb of the London and North Western Railway' by Martin Bloxom. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the branch secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

27th August 2009**Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)**

The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Coming up with the Goods' by Steward Donohoe. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details.

1st September 2009**Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society**

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Transport options at Walt Disney World' by Dekota Dibben. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain**(Bedford Branch)**

St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford MK42 0DL 'The Dick Schaeffer and Ian Hall Collection' by Ken Dickens. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)

Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Varied Railway Interest - both old and new' by Martyn Davies. Meeting starts at 19.30. Admission charge £2. Contact the Secretary, John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

Back Issues

All of the back issues of the magazine are available 24 hours a day, on our website www.railwayherald.com

Rear Cover Caption

On the East Lancashire Railway, visiting 'Western' No. D1062 *Western Courier* passes Burrs on 3rd July with the 16.16 service from Rawtenstall, during the ELRs Diesel Gala weekend. **John Edkins**

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