

# The Railway Herald



First refurbished Class 158  
outshopped for East Midlands Trains  
**Page 3**

£20 million upgrade for  
Derby Etches Park depot  
**Page 4**

Rain and snow hit rail services across  
the South West and Midlands  
**Page 5**

Projects shelved as ORR provides  
less money than Network Rail wanted  
**Page 6**

Railtour Listings **Page 10**  
Preservation View **Page 15**  
Events Diary **Page 16**

## Front Cover

**Class 168 Clubman No. 168110 approaches Princes Risborough on 23rd October, forming the 10.20 Chiltern service from Marylebone to Birmingham Snow Hill. Brian Morrison**

## Rear Cover

**Displaying its recently applied Northern Rail colours, Class 142 No. 142043 passes alongside the Keadby and Stainforth Canal near Scunthorpe in late October, working the 10.17 Scunthorpe - Lincoln via Sheffield service. Richard Tuplin**

## Publication

The *Railway Herald* is published every Monday 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.  
[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](#).

## Tornado takes to the main line for testing



▲ Britain's newest mainline steam locomotive, 'A1' Pacific No. 60163, yet to be named Tornado, takes pride of place on the turntable at the National Railway Museum, York. The locomotive will take to the rails this coming week for the final part of its mainline certification programme. **Ron Cover**

The next phase of testing for 'A1' Pacific No. 60163 commences the week, as the locomotive works a series of engine and support coach and loaded test trains from York.

Having undergone several weeks of testing and mileage accumulation on the Great Central Railway, the locomotive moved to York in late October and having been unloaded at the Holgate depot of Network Rail, the 'A1' turned its first wheels on the National Network when it was dragged across to the NRM by Class 08 No. 08911 *Matey* and DRS Class 37/6 No. 37602.

Unfortunately for photographers, all three of the mainline test runs will take place under the cover of darkness, as this is the only time that suitable paths could be provided.

The first run, is an engine and support coach trip from the NRM to Scarborough and back on Tuesday 4th November, departing York at 18.59, arriving Scarborough at 20.12 and returning at 22.15 after being turned. Two days later, and the first of the loaded test runs operating up to 60 mph takes place, with a triangular run from the NRM to Sheffield,

then to Barrow Hill and back to York. This trip will depart from York at 19.49, running via Milford Junction (20.14 to 20.34), Moorthorpe and Sheffield (21.47 to 22.05, to run-round) arriving Barrow Hill at 23.10 and departing again at 00.27 to York, arriving back at 02.31. The final run will see the locomotive working at up to its current maximum speed of 75mph from York northwards to Tyne Yard on 18th November. The train will depart from York Holgate Sidings at 18.56 and uses the freight avoiding lines to head north, passing Northallerton at 19.29 and Durham at 20.01. At Tyne Yard the locomotive will take water and be turned on the triangle linking the ECML with the Tyne Valley line, before returning at 22.53 to York, arriving 00.39. The A1 Locomotive Trust is still hopeful of achieving main line certification for the 90mph running, but understandably, this is something that will be approached after several months of standard mainline operation, having settled the locomotive in and having gained mainline experience. The team at *Railway Herald* wish the A1 Locomotive Trust well and we will have a special report on the final stages of the 'A1's' mainline certification in the new year.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT OUR  
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## First refurbished Class 158 outshopped for EMT

**The first of East Midlands Trains' fleet of 25 Class 158/0s to be refurbished was shown at Derby on 31st October.**

The work on No. 158783 was carried out by DeltaRail at the Derby Railway Technical Centre and has been given the same East Midlands livery as the Class 222 Meridians.

In addition to the new colours, internal refurbishment includes new seats, new toilets, the introduction of CCTV and installation of a passenger

counting device that allows passenger loading to be monitored automatically. Improved air conditioning units are being fitted where necessary to the majority of the fleet and there are modifications to various other systems to provide improved reliability.

The units are used primarily on Liverpool-Norwich services, via Manchester, Sheffield and Nottingham and including the foyr tip-up seats, the refurbished '158s' now have 158 seats!

▲ *Class 158 No. 158783 is pictured within the Delta Rail workshops.*

▶ *The refreshed driving cab of the refreshed Class 158/0 units.*

▼ *The passengers seating, now in a red upholstery, keeps its mainly airline style. All: Brian Morrison*



## £20 million upgrade for Etches Park

East Midlands Trains (EMT) has announced that it has awarded a contract to carry out a £20 million upgrade to its Derby Etches Park Depot.

The contract has been awarded to C. Spencer Limited, a North Lincolnshire based company, and work is expected to start on 3rd November and is scheduled for completion by early 2010.

Two brand new train maintenance sheds are to be constructed, predominantly used to maintain the company's 'Meridian' fleet. At the same time a major upgrade of the existing maintenance shed will take place to improve the efficiency of the depot in maintaining the rest of the EMT fleet and provide much better staff facilities. The specific work to be undertaken includes construction of a new 180-metre long, three road, train maintenance shed, including new stores, office accommodation and staff facilities, installation of under-frame wash and extract ventilation facilities and refurbishment of the operational staff accommodation facilities in the existing train maintenance depot and construction of a new wheel lathe facility.

A further contract is to be awarded on the back of the main contract for a new fuelling and inspection point.



▲ The first Bombardier Class 378 Desiro No. 378001 completed its trials on c2c metals from Shoeburyness and on 30th October, hauled by GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66731, travelled to Stewarts Lane Depot via Southend Central, Barking, Stratford, Camden Road, South Acton, Barnes and Clapham Junction to reach its destination. The unit is scheduled to undergo regular night trials on the East Grinstead line during early November. The unit is pictured in the sidings at Shoeburyness in mid-October. **Ken Brunt**

## Quiet coach enforcement on c2c routes

c2c is trialing a new device on its services between London – Tilbury/Shoeburyness whereby windows in 'quiet' carriages will be covered with a film that jams mobile phone signals.

Light can still pass through, but Wi-Fi, radio and phone signals are blocked. The transparent

coating, made of a combination of metals, plastics and chemicals, was developed in America to stop wireless communications being hijacked.

One out of every four carriages on c2c trains is already a designated quiet zone where phones and other electronic

gadgets are banned, but the company has taken action amid complaints that some passengers are flouting the noise ban. Certain jamming devices are illegal to operate, but the coating used by c2c is lawful because passengers who sit in quiet carriages agree to terms and conditions.

▼ The 09.00 CrossCountry HST from Glasgow to Plymouth arrives at Derby on 31st October 2008, powered by XC-liveried Class 43 powercars Nos. 43285 & 43303 with six ex-Midland Mainline colours. In Platform 2a opposite is East Midlands Class 222 Meridian No. 222017 with a service to Nottingham. **Brian Morrison**





▲ At first glance this image could be said to be a local river in full flow having burst its banks - alas it is actually Network Rail's Great Western mainline between Exeter St. Davids and Tiverton Parkway! The track at this point being around two-feet under water. **Network Rail**

## Rain, hale and snow ... but which is the odd-one out!

Severe flooding near Hele Bradninch has led to the suspension of all rail services between Exeter St. Davids and Tiverton Parkway stations, affecting rail passengers travelling with First Great Western and Arriva Cross Country.

The level crossing is also closed to traffic and pedestrians. Lines will remain closed until the weather conditions stabilise, allowing to make any immediate and essential repair to be carried out. The railway track is two-feet under water, making it impossible for

engineers to determine the areas and scale of damage at this stage.

Chris Rayner, Route Infrastructure Maintenance Director, Network Rail said: "Our people are working as hard and as quickly as possible to deal with the effects of this extreme weather. The atrocious conditions are currently hampering work but we are monitoring the situation closely. We look to start repair work as soon as the condition stabilises and bring the track back up."

▼ It wasn't just the rain that the railways had to contend with as evidenced by Desiro Class 350/1 No. 350105 arriving at Tile Hill with a Coventry-bound service, in conditions more usually associated with January than October. An unidentified classmate heads in the opposite direction for Birmingham New Street. **Michael Purchase**



## Cars to Belgium as new automotive terminal opens

New Transport Minister, Lord Andrew Adonis, opened the new Keypoint Swindon rail terminal on 31st October.

The terminal is designed to help tackle local congestion and substantially reduce carbon dioxide. It will transport some 23,000 vehicles each year from the Honda factory to the Channel Tunnel, meaning almost 3,000 fewer transporters on the roads. The new terminal will allow Honda to export cars from its Swindon plant to the European logistics centre

in Gent, Belgium. The terminal links directly to the Honda facility, and has been developed jointly between Honda and Kilbride Group.

Up to two trains a week will run from the terminal, each carrying over 200 cars, mostly 5-door and 3-door hatchback Civic models. Honda (UK) already transports cars to Newcastle and Scotland by rail, via Bristol. The new service leaves Swindon at around 16.00 and arrives at Gent at 07.00 the next morning.

❖ A cost-cutting proposal by Northern Ireland Railways could mean the end of Sunday train services. The Department of Regional Development, which funds the system, is seeking extra funds to prevent cutbacks amid rising fuel bills and maintenance costs. If this funding is not provided, one scenario would see Sunday train services being stopped and possibly a cessation of services after 22.00. Translink has said that it had no plans at the present time to curtail services, but it remained under constant financial pressure and would keep its plans under review.

❖ Leasing company Porterbrook is to be sold by Abbey National to a consortium that includes Antin Infrastructure Partners, Deutsche Bank and Lloyds TSB, the value of the transaction said to be in the region of £2 billion. About 5,500 rail vehicles are involved. Abbey National is owned by Banco Santander of Spain and the deal is likely to be as a result of the world banking problems, allowing Santander to bolster its capital base. The sale is subject to the usual regulatory approval, but should be completed before the end of this year. This is the second rail leasing company sale, Angel Trains having been sold by Halifax Bank of Scotland earlier this year to a consortium led by Babcock & Brown. It seems likely that Great Britain's third ROSCO, HSBC Rail, is also likely to end up in new hands as it is reported that the bank has appointed two sets of advisers as a preliminary to an auction.

❖ New ticket gates at Leeds costing £1.6 million went live on 26th October. The 25 automatic gates have replaced the existing ticket booths, improving access and making it easier for passengers to travel through the station. The new gates will accept MetroCards.

❖ Network Rail has announced that it intends to build its new national headquarters in Milton Keynes. The company has signed an agreement with Milton Keynes Partnership, which will allow it to begin construction work on the site of the town's National Hockey Stadium. Details have yet to be finalised for the project, but developments are set to be completed in spring next year.

❖ A company called E-Rail is endeavouring to reopen the Edinburgh south-suburban rail line, which would link Gorgie, Morningside and Craigmillar with Waverley and Haymarket stations. It says that the project could act as a blueprint for future transport projects across Scotland and has already attracted £8.5 million from landowners along the proposed route.



◀ On 17th October, Class 153 No. 153356 passes Eastleigh ex-works, bound for Tyseley. **Robert Jefferys**

## New Ramsgate depot opens

**The new Southeastern Depot in Ramsgate has been opened, the facility securing 160 jobs.**

It has taken 18 months to construct, at a cost of £35 million and mainly looks after the Class 375 Electrostar EMUs, but will have overnight capacity to store the new Class 395 'Javelin' units. The new train care facility has a bogey drop and five elevated/pitted inspection roads with seven 12-car sidings. A rail vehicle transfer unit has also been built to accept lorry deliveries of trains/tampers/cranes and the like, and a trainwash is also installed. The old Ramsgate Depot was cleared of existing track some 18 months ago to allow the new facility to be constructed.

## Wymondham students win award in partnership with National Express

An engineering project set up by National Express East Anglia (NXEA) and Wymondham High School has reached the finals of the Eastern Daily Press Business Awards, where the project was short listed for the Industry Partnership Award. Sixth form students from Wymondham High School worked in partnership with the engineering fleet team at Crown Point Depot, Norwich, as part of an engineering education scheme.

The four students worked on a project to come up with a solution to improve the reliability of the air-operated internal doors

on the Mk3 coaches that operate between Norwich and London Liverpool Street. The solution involved adjustments to the operation of the doors through the development of an electrical box and replacement of relays to regulate the automatic movement of the doors more consistently.

The prototype was built by the students and fitted to a replica carriage door, which was developed and built by Crown Point technicians Stuart Lawler and Luke Greenfield with the intention to move towards a proper vehicle trial. NXEA Engineers Nigel Teulon and Jason

Mills also oversaw the project. Stuart Lawler commented; "The students demonstrated a high degree of engineering initiative and competence, which impressed the team at Crown Point and the train leasing company, Porterbrook. We hope they will consider the rail industry in the future, if they decide to pursue engineering as a career".

The students who took part in the project were Andy Knights, Matt Rudling, Ryan Frost and Tom Dougall. NXEA will be working with Wymondham High school students once again next year on a new electronics related project.

## Discounted fares on Settle route in November

Discounts of up to 69% are being offered this winter for travel on the Settle & Carlisle line.

Northern Rail and Metro are offering anyone with a West Yorkshire MetroCard or Metro English National Concessionary Pass (ENCP) the opportunity to take advantage of the scheme. The special offer is a day return ticket for just £8 from Leeds, Bradford Forster Square or any intermediate Metro station on the Airedale Line, travelling to anywhere on the Leeds-Settle-Carlisle and Lancaster – Morecambe routes.

The offer runs from 3rd – 14th November inclusive. MetroCard holders can travel any day of the week and weekends and Metro ENCP holders can travel anytime from Monday to Friday. The spectacular scenery on the S&C being a photographer's paradise, Metro is running a photography competition through its web site at [www.wymetro.com](http://www.wymetro.com)

## Stand-in for NXEA Class 170 on Cambridge route

▼ An unusual sight at Cambridge on 30th October was Class 156 No. 156407 operating the 09.12 Cambridge-Norwich service. This route is almost exclusively operated by NXEA's fleet of Turbostars. Here, Class 156 No. 156407 (in Wherry Lines promotional livery) arrives at Cambridge. **Thomas Blampied**



## New station for Slattocks

**Slattocks could have its own railway station under last minute changes to the congestion charge bid in Manchester.**

A last minute alteration by Manchester City Council to revise Transport Innovation Fund (TIF) proposals to include the station were agreed on 31st October at a meeting of the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities (AGMA).

The heads of the 10 authorities that form Greater Manchester agreed to look into the feasibility of constructing a heavy rail line in the Slattocks area, as they meet to rubber stamp revised proposals to the TIF bid to invest £2.8 billion in public transport improvements in return for introducing a pay-as-you-drive scheme.

The decision came after it was revealed that Rochdale would receive an additional Metrolink option to the Kingsway Business Park, and that Heywood would also have a railway connection looked into, leaving Middleton with nothing but generic city-wide improvements. Sir Richard Leese, speaking at the AGMA meeting said: "I would like to add a station at Slattocks to serve both the Stakehill Industrial Park, nearby Hopwood Hall College, and to provide some access to Middleton."



## Infrastructure projects shelved or scrapped as ORR funding falls short

▲ **Kemble is one of the places that would have benefitted from the investment, however the doubling of the Kemble to Swindon route is now on the back-burner. Class 43 powercars Nos. 43091 and 43198 enter the single line section at Kemble with a London Paddington-bound service on 30th October. Ken Brunt**

**The Office of Rail regulation (ORR) has awarded Network Rail £26 billion in its five-year report published on 30th October, some £2.4 billion less than the operator had wanted.**

A total of 19 projects have been scrapped or put on hold, one of them being plans to speed up the London to South Wales mainline when the Severn Tunnel is shut by restoring a single-track 12-mile section of line between Swindon and Kemble, which is the only diversionary route between South Wales and London when there is engineering work on the main line.

First Great Western says it is disappointed that the £32 million scheme to upgrade the route to a double line had not been approved as it means that passengers will still face journey times of an extra hour between South Wales and London at weekends and in the

evenings when the Severn Tunnel is closed. Also among the projects shelved were two in Cardiff to tackle future overcrowding on the city's commuter network, the Valleys Lines by speeding up the Ninian Park to Radyr line and the upgrade of Cogan junction. The Swindon to Kemble line was cut back to one line amid the Beeching cuts in 1968, when one track was taken up to save money on maintenance. Trains are currently forced to wait for services coming in the opposite direction, resulting in delays and restricting capacity.

Another victim of the cuts is a £25 million scheme to remodel a stretch of line at Redhill, intended to make journeys to London more reliable and less overcrowded. Some train services to and from London are currently slowed down by a 'pinch point' layout at Redhill.

## SOUTH CHINA STEAM PHOTO TOUR

19 MARCH - 10 APRIL 2009

ANOTHER INTERESTING STEAM PHOTO TOUR TO INDUSTRIAL AND EXOTIC LOCATIONS!

After a very successful tour of North China, we are this time heading to the interesting South, which, whilst not having the huge mines of the North, offers some lovely scenic lines, as well as the more usual industrial locations.



Some of the lines are home to the now rare QJ type locos, which we should see still at work. Some time will also be spent enjoying the spectacular NG Shibaxi Railway, with coal, mixed freight and passenger services into the remote villages in the hills.

Please contact Jim Colley for full itinerary and prices for this fascinating tour.



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## UKRAINE

### Diesel and Modern Traction Tour

17 - 30 May 2009

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After our very successful 2008 tour of depots in Western Ukraine, this time we are heading to the less visited Eastern Ukraine. Again we visit lots of depots and five strategic reserves, plus the great Locomotive Works at Lugansk. Photo runpasts at scenic locations.



This is a fully inclusive tour, Kiev - Kiev, using the Dzhereho private train.



Please contact Jim Colley (telephone or e-mail below) for full details of itinerary and price

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▲ Class 37 No. 37038 heads north through Stafford in 'full gloom' on 30th October hauling the ex-Stobart Pullman Mk3s, owned by DRS, from Wembley to Crewe carriage sidings. Brad Joyce

## Welcome to the age of the 21st century rubbish bin!

**Rubbish bins could make a limited comeback on London Underground stations and city streets, due to a new type that have been built to withstand the blast of a terrorist's bomb.**

The steel armour-plated bins have been developed to withstand at least 75% of a blast's force and contain the fireball resulting from an explosion. Hundreds of them are due to be installed through London's financial district next year after the British company behind them spent five years testing them to destruction in the Mexican desert. The bins are designed to have digital screens on the side that will relay news, financial and travel information to passers-by throughout the day. Bins were removed from the London Underground in February 1991 following an IRA blast in Victoria Station. Most were removed from the City the following year, and the last few were taken away after a large bomb left in a bin in Bishopsgate exploded in April 1993. Environmental groups have blamed the lack of bins for an increasing tide of litter across the country, but with each new bin costing £30,000 and weighing roughly a ton, it is unlikely they will be used in anything but the most sensitive locations!

## ATOC urges train operators to contribute to NNSG

**The Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) has said that the success of the National Networks Strategy Group, announced on 29th October by the Secretary of State for Transport, will depend upon the contribution that train operators can make to its work.**

ATOC sees the establishment of the Group as a potentially positive development in addressing the vital need to add more capacity to cater for the predicted continued growth of the railway, and believes that a range of options for enhancing the network needs to be considered as a whole. This could include schemes that can be taken forward relatively quickly, as well as more medium- and long-term initiatives, such as extending electrification to significant parts of the network and building new lines.

Michael Roberts, Chief Executive of ATOC, said: "This is a good initiative in that it should allow us to think about various options in the round and to ensure that the costs and benefits of these options are properly considered. However, it is vital that train operating companies have a direct role in this work. Running 20,000 services a day gives these companies a deep understanding of passenger needs and future demand. These are key insights to ensuring the industry as a whole identifies the right priorities for investment. We have already been working directly with the Department for Transport on the case for electrification and with Network Rail on the future development of the railways. We look forward to playing a full part in this new initiative."

## Matlock branch to be upgraded to take heavier trains

**The Derwent Valley line from Matlock to Derby once had through trains from Matlock to London and was also used to host excursion trains from far afield.**

However the condition of some bridges on the single line branch north of Ambergate has meant that for the last few years only lightweight diesel railcars have been able to access the line, East Midlands Class 222 Meridians being too heavy for the line due to the weakness of the bridges.

Now Network Rail is to take action to remove the weight restrictions, starting this month. This will mean some closures of part of the line during the work from 9th to 14th November, when trains will run from Derby to Whatstandwell with a bus service from there to Matlock. The second phase will take place in the New Year, when bridges in the Matlock area will be tackled. This work is scheduled to take place from 17th to 24th January.

## Could trains run to Hunstanton once again?

**West Norfolk Council is to look again at the idea of re-opening the Lynn to Hunstanton line that was closed as part of the Beeching cuts in 1969, despite being used by some 700 people a day in summer and 250 a day in winter.**

Re-opening the route was last discussed in the 1990s, when there was much support for the idea in principle, except from the owners of homes or businesses built on or near the old line! Nowadays, the environmental case for reviving the line and

relieving road congestion in and around Hunstanton is considered to be even stronger.

One legacy from the line's past is the ornate station at Wolferton, where the platforms became a familiar transfer point for monarchs and their VIP guests before the three-mile carriage ride to Sandringham House. The Queen boarded the Royal Train there for the last time in 1966, and the station was closed three years later to become first a museum, and then restored to its Victorian splendour as four private houses.

## Upgrade for Nottingham

**Major improvement work has been approved for Nottingham station in an effort to cut delays.**

The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has agreed that Network Rail can spend £9.8 million on upgrading signals and adding a seventh platform. It is hoped that this will stop trains having to wait outside the station for a platform. Earlier this year the ORR approved £55 million to upgrade the line between London and the East Midlands.

## Metronet staff to transfer to Transport for London

**Metronet employees are set to transfer to Transport for London in December in a move that will mark the completion of TfL's takeover of the bankrupt Tube infrastructure company.**

Some 6,000 Metronet staff are expected to go on to TfL's books, reassuring unions that workers' pension arrangements and other terms of employment will not be compromised under the new structure for upgrading the Tube.

Metronet, which was responsible for maintenance and upgrade work on nine London Underground lines, went into administration in July 2007 with TfL gaining control of its works programme in May this year.





**Rail-Blue Charters**



**Lincoln Christmas Market**

**December 6th from Shrewsbury to Lincoln**  
powered by heritage diesel Class 40 No. 40145

*Pick ups at Crewe, Wilmslow, Stockport  
and Sheffield*

**Standard Class** £54 Adult (£39 Child)

**First Class** £79 Adult (£59 Child)

**Premier Class** £119 Adult



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[www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour list](http://www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list)

## 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.

8th November		
Vintage Trains	4965 & 5043	Solihull-Dorridge-Banbury- Gloucester (break/rev) & return
Railway Touring Company	60007	Scarborough-York-Wakefield Kirkgate-Chester (break)-Crewe (and return)
15th November		
Spitfire Railtours	40145	<b>The Capital Whistler</b> Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Leeds-Doncaster- London KX and return
22nd November		
Compass Tours	2xRiviera 47	Llandudno Jct-Colwyn Bay-Rhyl-Flint-Chester-Helsby-Frodsham-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-Carstairs-Edinburgh (break/rev) & return
Past Time rail	45407/76079	<b>The Cotton Mill Express</b> Manchester Victoria Stalybridge-Huddersfield-Hebden Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria
Vintage Trains	4965	<b>Rood Ashton Hall Farewell</b> Tyseley Warwick Road-Walsall-Wolverhampton-Stafford- Crewe Chester & return
23rd November		
Past Time Rail	tbc	Manchester Victoria- Bolton-Entwhistle-Blackburn-Clitheroe-Hellifield-Wennington-Carnforth-Lancaster-Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria
27th November		
Railway Touring Company	60019	Haywards Heath-Hove-Worthing-Chichester-Eastleigh-Salisbury-Warminster-Bath and return
UK Railtours	2x EWS 67	London Kings Cross-Potters Bar-Stevenage- Leicester-Nuneaton-Bromsgrove-Worcester Shrub Hill (break/rev) & return
29th November		
Compass Tours	2xRiviera 47	Liverpool South Pky-Mossley Hill-Liverpool Lime Street-Rainhill-St. Helens Jct-Newton le Willows-Manchester Victoria-Stockport-Stratford upon Avon (break/rev) & return
NENTA Traintours	2xCR C147	North Walsham-Wroxham & Hoveton-Norwich-Wymondham-Attleborough-Ely (pu & coach connection from Ipswich, Stowmarket, Bury St.Edmunds & train connection from Cambridge)-March-Peterborough- Keighley-Skipton (break/rev) & return
Railway Touring Company	60019	London Kings Cross-Peterborough-Doncaster(-York) and return
UK Railtours	2x EWS 67	London KX-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough- Skipton & return
3rd December		
UK Railtours	EWS 67 (pair)	Huntingdon-Stevenage-Potters Bar-London Finsbury Park-Bath Spa-Bristol Temple Meads (break/rev) & return
5th December		
SRPS	tbc	Linlithgow-Edinburgh Waverley-Drem-Berwick upon Tweed-Alnmouth-Morpeth-Cramlington-Newcastle Upon Tyne-Durham-York-Doncaster-Gainsborough-Lincoln (break/rev) and return

**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 busier week than of late for railtours, commencing on 5th November with a VSOE British Pullman working from London Victoria to Bath and Bristol.**

The train is due to feature No. 35028 *Clan Line* from Victoria via Salisbury to Westbury, where the train will continue diesel-hauled. Steam takes over again at Westbury on the return, back to Victoria via Newbury, Reading and Staines.

Two steam-hauled tours are scheduled for 8th November, and as reported elsewhere in this issue, Tyseley's 'Castle' No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* was officially certified for mainline use on 30th October and will double-head Vintage Trains Solihull to Didcot return working with stablemate No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall*, which will also be the 'Hall's' penultimate mainline outing prior to withdrawal for overhaul. The Railway Touring Company offer 'A4' Pacific No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* on its 'Cheshireman' from Scarborough, picking up at Malton, York, Wakefield Kirkgate and Huddersfield. The train proceeds across the Standedge route to Chester, via Warrington, with steam operating as far as Crewe on the return.

The Branch Line Society is operating a tour to North Blyth on 8th November, which originates at Finsbury Park. Using EWS Class 66s in 'top and tail' mode, the charter is due to visit many of the lines in the area including Bedlington, Cambois and North Blyth Alcan (to the Network Rail limit). It is also due to travel mainline to Berwick-upon-Tweed (down goods loop). For a detailed route and booking details go to [www.branchline.org.uk](http://www.branchline.org.uk) or telephone 0114-275-2303

### Useful Weblinks

- Online railtour listings
- Tour operators contact details
- Current fire-risk status info
- Email the railtours editor

▼ **The wind swirls the steam and smoke from LNER 'A4' No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley around the arches of Ribbleshead Viaduct on 1st November. The locomotive made its first visit to the S&C since its recent overhaul when it powered a Peterborough to Carlisle charter on the Hellifield to Carlisle and Carlisle to Carnforth legs of the tour. John Robinson**



## Land cruises head north over the border at Easter!

The Scottish land cruise market has become very popular with tour operators in recent years for many reasons, but without question, and especially in the current economic climate, the main one being that a full train is very profitable.

So it is perhaps not surprising that Easter 2009 has four on offer, three of which will be operating between Good Friday, 10th April and Easter Monday 13th April. Two operators, Pathfinder and Past Time Rail, go head to head for part of their pick up route as the former starts at Salisbury and picks up along the Avon Valley before heading to Birmingham and then to Crewe via Shrewsbury, while the latter also picks up at Shrewsbury and Crewe, having previously travelled north from Taunton to Gloucester and then via Lydney and the Welsh Marches.

Pathfinders' 'West Highlander' operates to Fort William, Mallaig and Oban while Past Times'

'Scottish Chieftain' covers Oban, Ayr and Stranraer, with the bonus of a run over the Settle & Carlisle on the way home.

The third operator is UK Railtours, whose proprietor John Farrow was responsible for pioneering these trips with Hertfordshire Railtours. Its trip operates from London King's Cross along the traditional charter path to Doncaster, where the tour diverges from the East Coast for a northbound run over the Settle & Carlisle and onwards to overnight in Glasgow. Fort William and Ardrosson Harbour (for a trip to the Isle of Arran) are the main features, with an added bit of spice being the opportunity for a rare chance to traverse the freight-only branch from Ayr to Chalmerston - and, of course, also making its way around Scotland from 9th April will be the Railway Touring Company's mammoth 'Great Britain II', whose provisional locomotive rosters are available below.

▼ LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley arrives at Carlisle on 1st November with Past-Time Rail's 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' charter. After a short break, the train returned via Shap and the West Coast Main Line. Malcolm Brown



## RTC announce loco line-up for Great Britain II

The Railway Touring Company has announced the provisional locomotive roster for its 'Great Britain II' next year.

The train starts at London Victoria on 6th April, running to Bristol Temple Meads with No. 34067 *Tangmere*. Next day, after a diesel-hauled trip to Penzance, Nos. 5029 *Nunney Castle* and 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* are positioned to return the tour to Bristol, and then on 8th April continue to Preston via Hereford with No. 70013 alone.

Maybe the highlight is from Preston to Glasgow Central on 9th April, which could well be the first time a 'Royal Scot' has covered the route throughout

in 45 years, when No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* takes over the train. Two 'Black 5s' Nos. 45231 & 45407 are then in the frame to cover the run to Inverness on 10th April, with one of the 'Black 5s' being joined by Class K4 No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* for a return working to Kyle of Lochalsh on the following day.

The return south is booked via Aberdeen, again with the two 'Black 5s' to Edinburgh Waverley on 12th April, with the final steam leg to York being scheduled for No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* on 13th April. The final section back to London will be diesel hauled.

## 'Champion' to Kyle in 2009

The highlight of Pathfinders' recently released provisional programme for 2009 has to be the weekend excursion planned for 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* to Inverness and the Kyle of Lochalsh.

The plan is to run from Bristol via Birmingham and the West Coast Main Line through to Inverness on Friday 19th June, which will be followed by a more leisurely day to Kyle of Lochalsh on 20th June, before the return south on the following day. An intensive three days does seem to be somewhat of an understatement!

Other tours utilising No. D1015 are proposed for 12th September to Blaenau Ffestiniog and 31st October to Buxton and Hindlow. Branch lines also feature strongly with visits to freight lines in the north-west on 24th January, Scottish freight lines on 8th February, the Rylestone branch on 7th March, South Wales freight lines on 28th March and Hamworthy and Fawley on 23rd/24th May (in conjunction with Eastleigh Works Open Day).

❖ Class 86 No. 86259 *Les Ross* is booked to haul a charter to Manchester Piccadilly being organised by Birmingham-based local radio station BBC WM in aid of its appeal on behalf of 'The Kidney Kid's', which is looking to raise £1.5 million to provide a new kidney unit at Birmingham's Children's Hospital. *Les Ross* himself, fellow BBC WM presenter Ed Doolan and Father Christmas will be travelling with the train, which is booked to pick up at Birmingham New Street, Tame Bridge Parkway and Wolverhampton. Vintage Trains is taking the bookings on 0121 708 4960 and fares range from £39 adult return to £99 premier dining. Birmingham New Street to Manchester Piccadilly was prime Class 86 territory back in those pre-Voyager days.

❖ Spitfire Railtours says that due to operational reasons, Network Rail has advised that its 29th November charter from Poole cannot be routed to York and Newcastle. Instead the tour will set down at Manchester Victoria and continue for an afternoon in Blackpool. A local fare of £20 adult and £10 child for a return trip from Manchester Victoria to Blackpool North. WCRC Class 37s are the booked traction.

❖ Tyseley's newly restored Castle No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* gained its mainline certificate on 30th October after an early morning 'light engine' test run to Stratford-upon-Avon, and a loaded test run in the afternoon that featured four coaches and Class 47 No. 47773 on the rear. Running main line via Hatton in each direction, the loco was worked up to its maximum speed of 75mph, culminating in a rousing and noisy climb through Snow Hill tunnel, which enlivened the early evening for hundreds of commuters! The loco becomes the eighth and last engine of the Tyseley collection to gain a mainline certificate, the fourth 'Castle' they have outshopped, and the 12th locomotive to be overhauled at the works for mainline operations.

The end of the current timetable should see the end of Class 508 usage in Kent by Southeastern, and a railtour featuring the class will hopefully be organised for 13th December. The plan is to run from London Victoria via Beckenham to London Bridge, and then via East Croydon and Tunbridge Wells to Hastings for a break. The return will take in Maidstone West, Strood, Sheerness-on-Sea, Sittingbourne and back to London Victoria via Herne Hill. At the moment, expressions of interest are required, and if there is sufficient interest more details will follow. To express interest go to <http://www.508farewell.co.uk>



## Top 'n' Tailed Class 67s

▲ On the final weekend that some Chiltern Railways and Wrexham & Shropshire services were diverted from London Marylebone into London Paddington, Class 67s Nos. 67013 and 67025 pass Park Royal on 19th October with the 09.55 from Wrexham. Just days after this photograph was taken, all three Wrexham & Shropshire sets were converted from 'top and tail' operation to DVT push-pull mode.. **Ken Brunt**

▼ Empty stock of the Royal Train approaches Cheddington on 23rd October, heading for Wolverton. Class 67 No. 67006 Royal Sovereign leads with No. 67005 Queen's Messenger on the rear. **Brian Morrison**





## Tho' leaves may fall, the trains won't crawl!

▲ The DRS York-based RHTT workings have generally seen 'top and tail' action from two of the five Class 20s based there. Here, No. 20303 leads the train into Gilberdyke, with No. 20301 (nearest the camera) Max Joule 1958-1999 at the rear on 17th October. **Graham Tomlinson**

▼ Class 66/0 No. 66172 leads a Biggleswade to Highbury Vale RHTT service past Langford (south of Biggleswade) on 30th October. **Paul Townsend**





## Locomotive movements

▲ Five Class 73s Nos. 73141, 73201, 73107 Spitfire, 73208 Kirsten and 73206 Lisa in five different liveries pass Paddock Wood with a St Leonard's Yard to Hoo Junction via Tonbridge 'light engine' working on 31st October. [Andrew Crampton](#)

▼ On 26th October, Class 87 No. 87022 is pictured onboard a lowloader on the A500 near Crewe, a mile and a half into its long journey to Bulgaria. It was accompanied by classmates Nos. 87010 and 87028, all heading for Hull Docks for export. [Dave Henderson](#)





▲ Wearing its unique Stephenson Clarke blue livery GWR 0-6-0PT No. 3650 is seen at Didcot on 29th October, working a passenger service on the demonstration line with an autococh. **Stuart Chapman**

▼ In dismal light, Class 56/3 No. 56311 arrives at Orton Mere, on the Nene Valley Railway, with the last departure of the day from Peterborough on 1st November. **Paul Townsend**



## Commuter service for East Lancs as congestion charge looms?

The East Lancashire Railway is to be brought into use as a commuter service to Manchester as part of congestion charge plans.

Commuters in Rossendale will be able to catch a train from Rawtenstall through to Heywood and on to the city centre under Greater Manchester's congestion charging scheme. The decision to introduce Manchester congestion charges will be decided by residents of Greater Manchester in a referendum to be held in December. As part of the changes, bus fares will also be capped and will be simplified so that there is a standard charge for short journeys, and another for other trips.

## More diesel operation for the Great Central Railway in 2009

The Great Central Railway (GCR) timetables for 2009 are being finalised, but it is expected that the 12.15 train will be diesel hauled all year round (except at special events as advertised), the duty being shared between the fleet.

Class 27 No. D5401 has now returned to the GCR, with the intention that it becomes part of the home fleet. One of the ex-Irish Railway's steam heat vans is in the final stages of commissioning. This will allow it to actually run in the train, which means that for the first time ever at the GCR, diesel services can be steam-heated.

With this in mind, the 12.15 train will run diesel-hauled even in the low season (Jan / Feb / Mar / Nov 2009). The railway is also adding an additional diesel running event for the 2009 timetable. It will take place over the weekend of 10th / 11th January, featuring three (or possibly four) diesels from the home fleet running amid a steam service. The GCR is hoping that diesel enthusiasts will support the extra event and the 12.15 train throughout the year.

◀ GWR Large Prairie tank No. 5199 is pictured on the Bluebell Railway, on loan from the Llangollen Railway. Having just climbed Freshfield Bank with a full head of steam, the locomotive is seen with the 15.00 departure from Sheffield Park to Kingscote on 27th October. **Andrew Wood**

**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.

### 3rd November 2008

#### RCTS (East Croydon)

Small Hall, Croydon Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove. 'Brunel's Timber Trestle Bridges' by Brian Lewis. Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### RCTS (Port Sunlight)

The Lever Club, Greendale Road. 'The Railways of Saltney' by Geoff Pickard. Meeting starts 19.45.

### 4th November 2008

#### Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB Quiz Night by Brian Heyes, Terrier Trust. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 8333320 or visit [www.gres.org.uk](http://www.gres.org.uk) for details.

#### Locomotive & Carriage Institution

London Underground Limited HQ, St. James Park Station, London. 'British Railways Board Residuary' by Gregory Beecroft, Director. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith for details by email [smithstuart@btinternet.com](mailto:smithstuart@btinternet.com)

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

St. John's Church Hall, St. John's Street, Bedford. '50th anniversary: 1968-2002' by Branch Members. Meeting commences at 19.30

#### Locomotive Club of Great Britain (London Branch)

Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stewart Crescent, Wood Green, London. N22 5NJ. '1960s Steam Miscellany' a black and white slide show by Alan Sturrock. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

Matt MacDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 2EE 'East London Line Extension' by Mark Eaden and Matt MacDonald. 17.30 for 17.45 start. Contact Martin Creswell on 020 8663 5427 for further details or e-mail [martin.creswell@atkinsglobal.com](mailto:martin.creswell@atkinsglobal.com).

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

Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington. 'Haltwhistle Embankment Works' by Paul Fairburn, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact Dave Lugsden on 01904 389838 for details or e-mail [David.Lugsden@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:David.Lugsden@networkrail.co.uk).

#### Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)

The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Gretna to Annan Redoubling' by Kevin Clough, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Nicola Topping on 0141 555 4290 for details or e-mail [nicola.topping@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:nicola.topping@networkrail.co.uk).

#### Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Section)

The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Waterloo, London. 'Basingstoke Resignalling' by Mark Somers, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558 or e-mail [e.gosling@ntlworld.com](mailto:e.gosling@ntlworld.com).

#### RCTS (Watford)

St Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road. 'London Steam on Shed' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### Yeovil & District Railway Society

Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil 'BR Rail: 1980's & 1990's' by Quentin Hawkes. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Roger Marsh on 01935 814367 for further details.

### 5th November 2008

#### Burton Railway Society

Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. 'Railways in the Peak District' by Les Nixon. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537. Meeting commences at 19.30

#### Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)

Sussex House, Reading. 'Reopening of the Ebbw Vale Branch' by David Quintin, Amey and Simon Wheat, Arup. Meeting commences at 17.45. Contact Peter Simmons, e-mail [peter181102@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:peter181102@yahoo.co.uk) for further details.

#### RCTS (Ipswich)

St Thomas Church, Back Room, Bramford Lane. 'The B17 Footballers' by Colin Briggs. Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. Members night. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the local secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further details.

### 6th November 2008

#### Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)

The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'The GCR class 2 / LNER class D7 New Build Project' by Mike Fairburn. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for further details.

#### North West Film Archive

Lycrum Theatre, Crewe. 'South Cheshire on Film' by Geoff Senior, the Archive's Collections Assistant. Commences at 19.30. Contact Geoff Senior on 0161 247 3097 for further information.

#### Permanent Way Institution (York)

Park Inn, North Street, York. 'Modular S&C on Network Rail' by Geoff South and Kevin Percival, Network Rail. Doors open at 17.30 for 18.00 start. Contact Martin Fairbrother on 01904 611922. mobile 07802 657839 or e-mail [m.fairbrother@btinternet.com](mailto:m.fairbrother@btinternet.com) for further details.

#### RCTS (North East Branch)

The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street. 'Pre-War LNER Steam from the W.B.Greenfield Collection' by David Whitfield. Meeting commences at 14.00.

#### RCTS (Milton Keynes)

CIU Workingmen's Club, London Road, Stony Stratford. 'A Silk Purse for a Sows Ear' by Lers Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal. 'Fortieth Anniversary of the End of Steam' by Peter Fitton. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the local secretary on 01539 720706 or further details.

### 7th November 2008

#### Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Area)

Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham. 'More Steam in the 1960s' by Steve Bach. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start.

#### Great Western Society (Taunton Group)

Rackwell Green School, Brooklands Road, Rockwell Green, Wellington. Somerset. TA21 9DJ. 'Trains in the Countryside' by Peter Triggs. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01823 334188 for details.

### RCTS(Bristol)

St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'London Steam on Shed in the 1960s' by Peter Groom. Meeting starts 19.30.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough. 'Memories of the Consett Line' by Steve Shields and John Metcalf. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact local secretary on 01642 321205 for details.

### 8th November 2008

#### Bournemouth Railway Club

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Bournemouth. 'The Metre Gauge Railways of Northern Spain' by David Soggee. Meeting commences at 14.30. Entrance £2 to members and non-members. Contact the club secretary Martyn Tresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

#### Cornwall Railway Society

The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Northern Electrics - the development of variety' by John Glover. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 for details.

#### RCTS (West Riding Branch)

'Day out to London by Rail'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589499 or mobile 0788 7908501 for details.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster. 'A Walk Past the Brickworks' by John New. Meeting commences at 14.15. Contact the local secretary on 01242 582152 for details.

### 9th November 2008

#### Halifax Model Railway Club

The Club Rooms, 5 Deal Street, Halifax. Model Railway Exhibition. Open 10.00-16.00. Free admission, donations accepted. Refreshments available at a small charge.

#### RCTS (West Riding Branch)

'Visit to Crewe LNWR 10.00 hrs & Basford Hall 12.00 hrs'. Contact Malcolm Riley on mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

### 10th November 2008

#### Lincoln Railway Society

St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. AGM & Photo Competition. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.





#### Permanent Way Institution (London)

10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London  
 'European High Speed Switch Reliability' by Tony Fifield. Doors open at 17.30 for 18.00 start. Contact Paul Gammage by e-mail on [pjgammage@aol.com](mailto:pjgammage@aol.com) for further details.

#### Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)

The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'Return to Beddgelert' by Andrew Marshall. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested.

#### RCTS (Northampton)

St Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. 'Quiz v LCGB Bedford for the Ashes Trophy' Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. 'The Remarkably Consistent Ardrossan MPD (67D) Locomotive Allocation' by Hamish Stevenson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact local secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

#### York Railway Society

Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Favourite preserved steam around the UK in the last 20 years' by Robert Falcolner. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232. Visitors £2.

#### 11th November 2008 Abergavenny & District Steam Society

Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'European Steam' by Colin Bradling. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the secretary Ken Mumford on 01793 335862 for details.

#### Permanent Way Institution (Solent)

HMS Sultan, Gosport. '21st Century Tamping' by Martyn Tilford, Colas Rail. Meeting commences at 17.30.

#### RCTS (North West Branch)

'Observation at Chesterfield 08.30 - 19.30.' Contact the society secretary Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 for further details or email [geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk).

#### RCTS (Nottingham)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'Around Nottingham in the 1950's and 60's' by Bill Chapman. Meeting commences at 19.30.

#### Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Lanarkshire Area)

Vestry Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'From the Algarve to the Artic Circle - 25 Years of European Rail Travel' by Robin Ralston. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the society secretary on 01698 457777 for further details.

#### 12th November 2008 Basingstoke & District Railway Society

Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Basingstoke etc.. in the 1960s' by Simon Foote. Meeting commences at 20.00 Contact 01256 326096 for details. Visitors welcome.

#### Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group

RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes. 'The GN(I): A Rhapsody in Blue' by Ken Grainger. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the society secretary on 01724 341358 for further details.

#### Permanent Way Institution (North Wales)

The Town Crier Hotel, Chester 'Signalling for Non Signalling Engineers' by Mat Lupton, Atkins. 18.00 for 18.30. Contact Carl Baker on 01782 717472, mobile 07920 856703 or e-mail [carl.baker@networkrail.co.uk](mailto:baker@networkrail.co.uk) for further details.

#### Permanent Way (Nottingham & Derby)

The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station. 'Climate Change - The Effects on Embankments and Slopes' by Neil Dixon. (Joint meeting with ICE East Midlands Geotechnical Group. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Colin Cowey on 01949 837067, mobile 07946 482343 or e-mail [colin.cowey@talk21.com](mailto:colin.cowey@talk21.com) for further details.

▲ Pairings of two Class 60s or Class 66s are not uncommon, but the pairing of a Class 66 and Class 60 is more unusual. Here Class 66/0 No. 66085 leads Class 60 No. 60031 ABP Connect south through Chesterfield on 29th October with one of the long-welded rail engineer's trains. Mick Glaves

#### Internet Links

Further contact details for the clubs and societies listed can be obtained from our website by [clicking here](#).

**Should your club or society event be listed here? If so then please e-mail the Editor with the appropriate details, which should include the name of the society or group, postal address of the location that the event is being held, starting or opening times, speaker and talk title or attractions and publishable contact details.**

#### RCTS (Hitchin)

Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road. 'Anything on Wheels' by Mark Smith. Starts 19.30.

#### Stephenson Locomotive Society

YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford. 'The Southern and Western in the 1950's and 60's' by Hugh Davies. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact local secretary on 01372 379216 for further details.

