# The Railway Herald

www.railwayherald.co.uk

Issue 103 - 5 October 07
ISSN 1751-8091

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## Front Cover

***Newly delivered Class 66/4s Nos. 66425 (leading) and 66421 (rear) 'top-and-tail' one of the RHTT services through Apsley, at the London end of the West Coast Main Line on 2nd October.*** **Alisdair Anderson**

## Rear Cover

***An alternative view of Class 90 No. 90020 as it awaits departure from London Euston with the 16.51 service to Birmingham New Street on 3rd October.*** **David Guy**

## Submissions

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

## Publication

The Railway Herald is due to be published every Friday and is available on e-mail subscription or from our website at www.railwayherald.co.uk

## Website

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

**www.railwayherald.co.uk**

## 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.

# Newsdesk

## Hitachi Class 395 'Javelin' start mainline testing

▲ *The very first mainline test run of Class 395 'Javelin' No. 395001 is pictured during a short break around 02.00 on 2nd October, in appalling conditions at Headcorn. This was the first time the unit had moved under its own power on the National Network and was hauled to the test site by a Class 375 from Ashford Depot. Various test runs will take place throughout the Southeastern network and on the CTRL over the coming months.* **Chris Nye**

## Welcome back to Nene Valley's No. 37518

▼ *Preserved Class 37/5 No. 37518 powers towards the camera at Orton Junction on the Nene Valley Railway while working its preservation debut passenger service on 5th October.* **Paul Townsend**

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Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England)

*Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY*



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▲ *An artists impression of the CrossRail trains.* **All graphics from Transport for London/Department of Transport**

# London's CrossRail scheme finally gets the go-ahead

**Having secured agreement for its massive £16 billion funding, the much-delayed Crossrail east-west link for London was given the go-ahead by the Government on 5th October.**

The Government will pay for a third of the cost with another third financed from borrowing against revenue from future fares. The final third will emanate primarily through a supplementary levy on London business rates, although small businesses will be exempt.

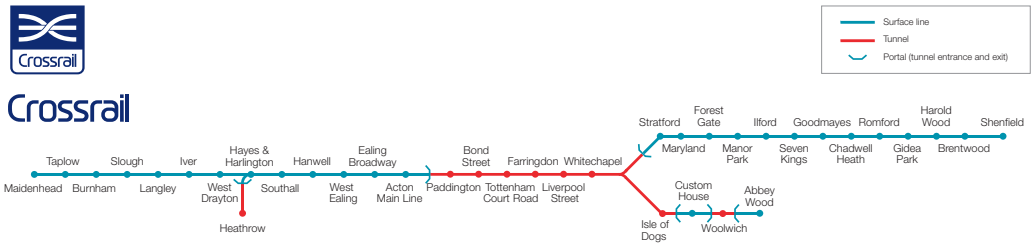
The Parliamentary Royal Assent is expected next year, with enabling works commencing in 2009, followed by the start of CrossRail construction in 2010. But it will be 2017 before the first passenger services start operating.

The new line will be capable of carrying 200 million passengers a year and is to run between Maidenhead and Shenfield with a spur linking it to Heathrow and another from Whitechapel to the Isle of Dogs and Woolwich, terminating at Abbey Wood. It will be 73 miles long, of which 25 miles will be underground between Paddington and just east of Whitechapel. New building will be required at the underground stations across Central London and also at Woolwich. The route will add 10% to the Capital's transport capacity and it is said will generate an additional 30,000 jobs, of which 14,000 will be on the line's construction,. The undertaking will be the largest engineering project ever in Europe.

One downside to the scheme has been voiced by the Rail Freight Group (RFG) however, which is worried about loss of freight paths, particularly between Reading and Acton and Stratford and Shenfield, as no commitment has been given to an alternative route upgrade to enhance Felixstowe-Peterborough-Nuneaton direct.

The RFG is asking for a reduction in the number of Crossrail services running between peak hours, saying that 12 trains an hour throughout the day from Shenfield will be almost empty.

RFG Chairman, Tony Berkeley says: "We note the Prime Minister's statement that, by generating an additional 30,000 jobs and helping London retain its position as the world's pre-eminent financial centre, it will support Britain's economic growth and maintain Britain's position as a leading world economy, but Crossrail won't do any of this if its building materials and the imports for this pre-eminent financial centre have to trundle up the M4 or the A14 in trucks. We need a more joined up government!"




# New railway learning centre for Central Trains staff

**Staff learning and development has moved up another gear with the opening of a new centre for Central Trains' staff at New Street station, Birmingham.**

Equipped with computers and a library giving information on a wide range of courses, the centre provides excellent educational and development opportunities for train, station and administration staff alike.

The learning centre, which was officially opened by Central Trains Managing Director Stephen Banaghan on 26th September, was developed as a joint venture between the rail unions and the company.

The learning centre project was funded by the TUC's Rail Union Learning initiative, which provides educational opportunities for members of all three rail unions, and is supported by Central Trains.

The centre, based at the 'booking-on' point, reflects the changing nature of jobs and the workplace in general in the UK, as the introduction of new technology and the shift from manufacturing to service industries requires employees to learn and adapt to new skills.

The creators of the centre have worked with Solihull College to develop a suite of initial courses, some of which are non-vocational, ranging from IT skills to numeracy, all aimed at encouraging staff to learn new skills for the future.

▶ A bridge carrying the main West Coast railway line over a busy Liverpool dual carriageway is to be repainted a subtle shade of green in time for the city's Capital of Culture celebrations. The bridge, which spans the A562 Smithdown Road in Wavertree, is currently painted battleship grey and pockmarked with rust patches. Network Rail, which will be carrying out the work, has joined with Liverpool City Council to fund the £75,000 project.

▶ Network Rail is to undertake extensive maintenance and track improvement works on the Highland Line between Perth and Inverness next month to help reduce the potential impact of severe winter weather on the line. The company will be undertaking a series of earthwork and rock stabilisation projects at Dalnamain, Dalnacardoch and Dunkeld to help guard against rockfalls and landslips. Drainage will also be improved at the latter location. In addition to this maintenance and stabilisation work, Network Rail will be renewing sections of track at Muirton, Dalanraoch and Almond Viaduct as part of the planned maintenance and renewals programme. In order to deliver these improvements to the Highlands' rail network, the works will require a nine-day suspension of services between Perth and Inverness from 10th to 19th November. Replacement bus services will be provided serving all stations and connecting into and out of trains at Perth and Inverness for the duration of the closure. Caledonian Sleeper services will be retimed and diverted after Edinburgh to run via Fife to Aberdeen.

▶ Starting next week, essential track maintenance and renewals will begin on West Country branch lines, resulting in several closures. Work begins on 8th October on the Gunnislake branch for a five-day period, involving the replacement of several stretches of trackwork. The line will be closed until 12th October, with replacement bus services operating. Further line closures scheduled include (Monday – Friday) the Looe Branch on 15th-19th October, the Paignton line on 22nd-26th October, the Falmouth route on 29th October-2nd November and 5th-9th November, the St. Ives branch from 12th until 16th November, the Barnstaple line on 19th - 23rd and 26th - 30th November and finally the Newquay route between 3rd-7th and 10th-14th December.

# The new home for Eurostars in the UK - Temple Mills

**The Under Secretary of State for Transport, Tom Harris MP, officially opened Eurostar's new £400 million Train Maintenance Depot at Temple Mills in East London on 2nd October.**

The facility is connected to the CTRL2 section of High Speed 1 and will replace the present Eurostar Depot at North Pole International when services transfer from Waterloo International to St Pancras International on 13th/14th November.

The eight-road main building contains 400-metre-long tracks to avoid the present need at North Pole to split a Eurostar in half for maintenance. The new depot is located within 19 minutes running time from St Pancras and has adjoining bogie drop, administration and stores buildings. The bogie drop design allows two trains to be worked on at the same time and has fully automatic wheel condition monitoring equipment. There are nine overhead cranes, six in the main depot and three in the bogie drop facility. In addition, a bi-directional carriage washer is located on-site to allow washing of trains moving in either direction. The complex has been fully funded by the Government as part of its £5.8 billion commitment to support High Speed 1 and was designed by architect, Anthony Leslie. The depot has been constructed by Union Railways, Rail Link Engineering and their contractors under the auspices of London & Continental Railways.

▲ ***Eurostar half-set No. 3308 is pictured in the new depot. Being able to hold a full-length 400 meter Eurostar, the depot is nearly a quarter-of-a-mile long, as this impressive view of half the shed shows.***

◀ ***The roof height walkways at the ends of the building provide easy and safe access to the pantagraph and roof area's of the driving vehicles.***

◣ ***Movements around the bogie drop facility are made by this modern Soulfort six-wheel remote controlled diesel shunter.***

▼ ***Under Secretary of State for Transport, Tom Harris MP, accompanied by the Mayor of Newham, unveils the plaque to officially open Eurostar's new depot at Temple Mills on 2nd October.*** **All: Brian Morrison**

# Hitachi officially open the new home of the Class 395 'Javelin'

**Hitachi Europe's new maintenance facility at Ashford, Kent, for the six-car Class 395 Javelin EMUs to operate the Southeastern High-Speed services was officially opened on 2nd October by the Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP, accompanied by His Excellency Mr Yoshiji Nogami, the Japanese Ambassador.**

The facility will create over 100 jobs and includes a five-track maintenance depot, incorporating a double-road bogie and equipment drop-pit and a heavy inspection road, as well as carriage washing plants, a bio-hazard pit for the safe removal of waste, a 25kV test track and a tandem wheel lathe.

Additionally, the depot includes stabling facilities for Class 375 rolling stock operating on Southeastern mainline services. The depot already houses the first Class 395 built in Kasado, Japan, and the second is scheduled to arrive within the next five weeks, with two further units due at Southampton over the coming months.

No 395001 is already testing between Ashford and Tonbridge at night and all of the initial four units will eventually complete a rigorous testing programme on the High Speed 1 line between Ashford and London St Pancras International and on the Kent network. The remaining 25 Class 395 'Javelin' trains will be delivered in 2009.

▲ *The impressive view of the first completed Class 395, as No. 395001 stands in the new depot at Ashford on 2 October.*

◥ *The standard class interior to the 'Javelin' as viewed from the passenger entrance foyer.*

▶ *The modern looking cab to the Japaneese built units.*

▶ *The Secretary of State for Transport, the Rt Hon Ruth Kelly MP, unveils the commemorative plaque to open the Hitachi Train Maintenance Centre at Ashford on 2 October, accompanied by the Japanese Ambassador, Mr Yoshiji Nogami.*

**All: Brian Morrison**

▶ Two locomotive namings have taken place in recent days. The first being Freightliner's Class 66/5 No. 66585 which has become *The Drax Flyer*. The naming took place at Freightliner's Midland Road Depot and celebrates a new contract for the movement of both coal and limestone to Drax Power Station.

Also named is the first of the Fastline Class 56/3 fleet - No. 56302 becoming *Wilson Walshe* at the NRM, York on 1st October

▶ Virgin Trains has renamed one of its fleet of West Coast Pendolinos, No. 390022 *Virgin Hope*, becomming *Penny the Pendolino*! The renaming is part of an educational initiative with Alstom, which will see the set feature in a series of factsheets for children. No. 390022 is also expected to be the first of the company's Pendolino sets to cover one million miles.

▶ In a move thought to be the result of a lack of available motive power, Freightliner's Class 66/6 No. 66617 was hired by EWS to work one of its Toton Yard - Bardon Hill Quarry workings on 1st October.

▶ On a visit by Transport Minister Rosie Winterton to Manchester Piccadilly station on 5th October, the Department for Transport agreed with proposals by the Northern Way steering group for engineering work to be undertaken to allow trains to run between Piccadilly and Victoria stations in Manchester, and for a flyover south of Piccadilly station to allow trains coming from the direction of Ardwick to use the station. The plans are intended to enable more and faster trains to operate across the North, particularly key services between Liverpool, Manchester, Leeds and Newcastle. The increased capacity could also potentially allow faster and more direct services to Manchester Airport, and more freight traffic to connect with ports across the North.

# Rolling Stock Movements

▲ *Mk3 DVT No. 82101 arrives at Doncaster behind Class 57/3 No. 57309 Brains on 12th September. This vehicle is one of two being fitted with OTMR equipment by Wabtec Rail.* **Martin Peterson**

◀ *The latest First TransPennine Express Class 170/3 to be transferred to Clacton for internal refurbishment is No. 170305, pictured on its transit move on the slow lines at Claypole on the East Coast Main Line on 5th October.* **Steve Philpott**

▼ *Ex-SWT Class 442s Nos.(44)2410 and (44)2407 depart Barton Mill Sidings, Basingstoke, on 3rd October with a return Freightliner Heavy Haul crew training run to Eastleigh.* **Chris Wilson**

▲ *Early on 22nd September, 'The Welsh Mountain Explorer' arrives at Ashchurch, one of its pick-up points, before heading for Birmingham and Aberystwyth. Motive power for the train, which originated at Reading, was EWS Class 37/4 No. 37410 (complete with freshly painted silver buffers!) and classmate No. 37417.* **John Stretton**

## 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.

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| **6th October** | | | |
| Kingfisher Railtours | tbc | (Derby)--Folkestone Harbour-Canterbury and return | **Postponed** |
| NENTA Traintours | tbc | Norwich-Oxenholme-Carlisle and return | **Postponed** |
| NYMR | D7628 | Pickering-Whitby-Battersby-Grosmont-Goathland-Grosmont-Whitby-Grosmont-Pickering | |
| Past Time Rail | 76079 & 34067 | (Worcester SH-Wolves-)Shrewsbury-Craven Arms-Llandrindrod Wells-Newport(-Hereford-Shrewsbury & return) | |
| PMR Tours | 6233 | Derby-Nottingham-Grantham-London KX and return | |
| Railway Touring Company | 40145 & 50049 | Inverness-Kyle of Lochalsh-Inverness | |
| SRPS | tbc | Dundee-Kirkcaldy-Dalmeny-Linlithgow-Oban and return | |
| Vintage Trains | Tyseley Cl 47 | Tyseley Warwick Road-Nuneaton-Kettering-Southend Central-(Thames cruise)-West Hampstead TL--Tyseley WR | |
| **7th October** | | | |
| Railway Touring Company | 40145 & 50049 | Inverness-Wick-Thurso-Inverness | |
| Steam Dreams | 30777 | London-Woking-Salisbury (pu/sd)-Exeter and return | **Cancelled** |
| **8th October** | | | |
| Railway Touring Company | 40145, 50049 | Inverness-Perth (40145/50049) Perth-King's Cross (50049/55022) | |
| **12th October** | | | |
| Hertfordshire (Pullman) | tbc | 'The Autumn West Highlander': London Euston-Penrith-Dumbarton. | |
| **13th October** | | | |
| Compass Tours | tbc | Codsall-Shrewsbury-Crewe-Cumbrian Coast-Carlisle-Shap & rtn | |
| Green Express Railtours | 2xWCRC Cl47 | Ashton-under-Lyme-Huddersfield-Wakefield-Brighton and return | |
| Heartland Rail | 2xCR Cl47 | Bristol TM-Yate-Cam & Dursley-Wensleydale and return | |
| Hertfordshire (Pullman) | tbc | 'The Autumn West Highlander' Dumbarton-Oban-Dumbarton | |
| Kingfisher Railtours | 6201 | (Eastleigh-Salisbury-Warminster-Westbury-Bath Spa-Bristol TM )-Bristol TM-Hereford-Shrewsbury-Hereford-Bristol TM (and return) | |
| Vintage Trains | VT47 & 48151 | 'Lakes Explorer': (Tyseley Warwick Road-Birmingham NS-Crewe-Carnforth)-Ravenglass-Carnforth (and return) | |
| **14th October** | | | |
| Hertfordshire (Pullman) | tbc | 'The Autumn West Highlander' Dumbarton-Stranraer-Dumbarton | |
| Past Time Rail | 6024 | Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter-Paignton-Kingswear and return | |
| **15th October** | | | |
| Hertfordshire (Pullman) | tbc | 'The Autumn West Highlander' Dumbarton-Carstairs-London Euston | |
| **17th October** | | | |
| Past Time Rail | 6201 | (London Euston-Crewe )-Carlisle-(and return) | **Postponed** |

**Key to tour listings:**

**BLACK** Charters expected to operate as booked.
**GREEN** Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
**MM** Merrymaker from Hertfordshire Rail Tours
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
**WCRC** West Coast Railway Company

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

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

# The Week Ahead

**LMS steam action predominates on 13th October with LMS 7P Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* heading a Kingfisher charter from Bristol Temple Meads to Shrewsbury and back, via Hereford. The train starts diesel-hauled from Eastleigh.**

This train is the second of three outings on the North and West route for No. 6201, the next being due on 10th November also for Kingfisher. Steam charters have been few and far between in recent years on the 'Welsh Marches' route and this recent upturn in activity is very encouraging for the future.

Meanwhile, in the north west, LMS Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 is scheduled to operate between Carnforth and Ravenglass for Vintage Trains with a charter commencing at Tyseley Warwick Road.

Past Time has a final 'Torbay Express' of the year on 14th October. The booked traction throughout between Bristol Temple Meads and Kingswear is No. 6024 *King Edward I*, hopefully back in full health.

Hertfordshire Rail Tours operates its 'Autumn West Highlander' between 12th and 15th October, which unusually will head north along the West Coast Main Line instead of the more normal East Coast routing. It features EWS traction throughout, with a Class 90 from Euston to the outskirts of Motherwell, where a pair of Class 37/4's will take over for the remainder of the trip north of the border. Oban and Stranraer are the two focal points of the trip.

Other diesel-hauled charters on 13th October include a Compass Railtours Codsall to Carlisle excursion, which travels outwards via the Cumbrian Coast route and returns south via Shap. Heartland also heads north, with the Wensleydale Railway its destination, for a tour which originates at Bristol Parkway. Green Express, on behalf of the Kirklees Green Party, head for Brighton from Ashton-under-Lyme, Huddersfield, Mirfield and Wakefield. Class 47's should predominate on all tours.

# Regular Steam Workings

**Regular steam operations are a familiar part of the Railtour Listings.**

In Scotland, the **Jacobite** season is now back to its Mondays to Fridays operation until 12th October. Motive power is supplied by either LMS 'Black 5' No. 45407 or LNER 'K1' No. 62005. Further south, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway's through operation to **Whitby** continues on Sundays 7th and 21st October. The final steam-hauled dates for Whitby being Tuesday-Thursday 23rd to 25th October, as part of the railway's LNER Festival.

▶ A tour scheduled for August 2008 has a very different flavour, but none-the-less, well worth keeping in touch with. Details at this point remain fluid, but the team from Doncaster Power Signal Box are looking to tour their 'patch' on 2nd August next year in style. Pick-up points will likely be London King's Cross, Potters Bar, Peterborough and Doncaster, and the tour is likely to pass locations such as Goole, Retford, Worksop, Sheffield, Chesterfield, Barrow Hill, Rotherham Central, Barnsley, Wakefield Kirkgate, Castleford, Selby, Hull during the day, before returning to London King's Cross via Doncaster to set down. Motive power looks set to be a pair of Class 50s in 'top and tail' mode. All proceeds will go to the Bluebell Wood Hospice. It must be emphasised that this tour is still in the planning stage, but if all goes well, it will be one of the highlights of 2008. To keep track on developments, including the finalised route, traction and pricing, visit the website at http://www.donnypsb.co.uk

▶ Gauging issues with No. 34067 *Tangmere* in Sugar Loaf Tunnel have thwarted Past Time's second attempt to run its 'Welsh Dragon' excursion over the Central Wales line this coming Saturday. The train has been postponed, probably until 2008, and as a result of these issues is now most likely to operate double-headed with a Black 5 and No. 76079.

▶ NENTA Traintours charter from Norwich to Carlisle booked to operate on 6th October was postponed until next June. The problem is due to the line closure at Ely, following the recent derailment, which does not allow the tour sufficient time in the north-west to complete the off-train excursions.

▶ The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's postponed 'Talisman' charter has now been re-dated to 1st March 2008.

▶ With the overhaul of the NRM's flagship locomotive No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* looking to be on course for completion in spring 2009, plans have been announced for its future mainline operations with the Railway Touring Company and Steam Dreams. This means that No. 4472 will be assured a full programme of trains in the north, with obviously the Settle and Carlisle and Scarborough-York-Harrogate circle being prime candidates, while in the south with Steam Dreams, the engine should receive full exposure on the company's 'Cathedral Expresses'.

▲ ***After months out of traffic as a result of major engine problems, Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022 Royal Scots Grey is firmly back in action. The locomotive is pictured powering through Langford, on the East Coast Main Line, on 5th October with the northbound 'Autumn Highlander' tour run by the Railway Touring Company and bound for Perth and Inverness. On the rear of the train was Class 50 No. 50049 Defiance, which will be joined in Scotland by Class 40 No. 40145 East Lancashire Railway.*** **Alisdair Anderson**

## 'The end of BR Steam' - a re-run of 1968

**On 11th August 1968, British Railways formally said goodbye to steam forever, when it operated the 'Fifteen Guinea Special'!**

The train was so named because of the cost of the ticket - fifteen guineas in 1968 was a lot of money. It was fifteen pounds and fifteen shillings, some three years before decimalisation was introduced. The equivalent today would be £15.75.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the end of BR Steam on 10th August 2008, passengers can enjoy a re-creation of that fateful day with surviving steam locomotives used on the train. West Coast Railways, together with the National Railway Museum, Riley Engineering and the 5305 Locomotive Association are collaborating to re-create this event, the fare for which will be £157.50 (and no discounts).

The day commences at Liverpool Lime Street with LMS 'Black 5' No. 45305 heading the train via Earlestown to Manchester Victoria, where 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is scheduled to take over for the run to Carlisle via Bolton, Blackburn, Hellifield and the Settle and Carlisle. At Carlisle, the train reverses and returns southbound over the Settle & Carlisle double-headed with 'Black Fives' Nos. 44871 and No. 45407, the latter running as No. 44781, retracing the route to Manchester Victoria, where No. 45305 again takes over for the run back to Liverpool Lime Street.

11th August 1968 was an iconic day when the lineside along the entire route was packed with people paying their respects to steam traction, for, as it was understood on the day, the last time. Pictures of the time show the train halted at Ais Gill Signal Box with crowds spilling across the running lines to record both the scene and obtain a closer look at the locomotives; it is safe to say, that aspect of the day will not be recreated in 2008!

We can look back now with nostalgia on the events of that day, in the knowledge that mainline steam did not die but has actually prospered on the national network, and continues to do so. But, also let us not forget that the continuance of mainline steam now faces more challenges than it has done in the intervening years since 1968, and so we need to be both grateful and vigilant.

For booking forms please write to West Coast Railway Company Ltd. Jesson Way, Carnforth LA5 9UR enclosing a self-addressed stamped envelope.

▲ ***LMS Princess Coronation Pacific No. 6233 Duchess of Sutherland powers through Brookmans Park with the outbound working of the 'London Explorer' charter from Derby on 6th October.*** **Charlie Robbins**

▲ *Hertfordshire Rail Tours 'Merrymaker' excursion from Minehead to Canterbury West ran on 29th September, bringing the unusual sight of a pair of Class 31s to the Great Western mainline. Here Mainline Rail's Class 31/4s Nos. 31454 and 31452 approach Slough.* **Ken Brunt**

▲ *Class 31/4s Nos. 31454* **Heart of Wessex** *and 31452* **Minotaur** *are seen again, passing Charing in Kent, en route to Canterbury. The train returned to Somerset via a circular route which took the train down to the South Coast and gave the unusual sight of a pair of Class 31s through Dover!* **Dennis Heeley**

▲ *Due to overnight problems with Class 37/5 No. 37667 on 2nd October, the loco was exchanged for No. 37515 and ran in a rescheduled path on 3rd October for a Carlisle-Carlisle working via WCML, Blackburn and Skipton. The train departs from Skipton with No. 37688 on the rear.* **Ian Tunstall**

▼ *On 27th September, a positioning move was made in preparation for the DRS-operated Inverness-based RHTT. Class 66/4 No. 66402 led throughout with classmate No. 66408 on the rear. Here, the train passes Magiscroft, just west of Cumbernauld, on its way north.* **Peter Kellett**

▲ *The Great Northern RHTT trains were last year in the hands of First GBRf Class 66/7s. This year, however, has seen EWS take over as the motive power provider. Class 67 No. 67016 leads classmate No. 67015 through Hitchin on 1st October.* **Alisdair Anderson**

▶ *Replicating last year's Rail Head Treatment Train (RHTT) workings, four DRS Class 20/3 locomotives are based at York Works for operating around Yorkshire, Derbyshire and North Lincolnshire. Here Nos. 20304 and 20305 power through Bolton Percy with a York - Worksop operation on 4th October.* **Steve Philpott**

▼ *The first operational run of the Colas Rail RHTT in the south west took place on 30th September. With Class 47/7 No. 47749* **Rebecca** *leading and No. 47727* **Demelza** *on the rear, the Par - Hackney Yard service passes Plympton on the outskirts of Plymouth.* **Paul Maycock**

▲ *Following the failure of Cotswold Rail's Class 47/4 No. 47818 on the return leg of a 'Blue Pullman' charter, the train was recovered by Nos. 47813 and 47828. The pair drag the errant '47' and stock through Huntingdon bound for East Ham Depot on 2nd October.* **Robert Tarling**

▼ *Direct Rail Services ran the 'Stobart Express' on 29th September from Crewe to London Euston. Motive power for the DRS corporate-branded train was provided by Class 47/4s Nos. 47802 (leading) and 47501 (on the rear). The train powers south on the WCML near Berkswell.* **Peter Tandy**

# Where rails can't take you!

▲▲ *Now owned by Colas Rail, Class 47/7 No. 47739 is pictured on the A303 near Bullington, Hampshire, on 2nd October after the clutch broke on the rig!* **David Kirwin**

▲ *GWR Prairie No. 5542 is seen moving swiftly along the A38 bound for Buckfastleigh.* **Nathan Williamson**

◥ *Still in its Wessex Trains' colour scheme, Class 153 No. 153305 is manoeuvred out of the road exit from Exeter St. Davids Depot heading for refurbishment.* **Roger Austin**

▶ *First Great Western powercar No. 43181 travels north on the A38 having been released from Plymouth Devonport.* **Nathan Williamson**

# Cumbrian Coast Delights

▲ *On 26th September, EWS heritage traction visited the Cumbrian Coast route, this time with the well-travelled pairing of Class 37/4s Nos. 37410 and 37417. The pair pass Lowca on the northern stretch of the route, bound for Carlisle, with Pathfinder Tours 'Lakeland Express'.* **Steve Philpott**

▼ *Three days earlier and Hertfordshire Rail Tours 'Cumbrian Coast Circular Tour' crosses Eskmeals Viaduct. The short consist is mostly Riviera Trains 'The Great Briton' Mk2 stock, but EWS Class 67 No. 67012 has substituted for the planned Riviera Trains Class 47s. The locomotive is approaching the closed Eskmeals station platform.* **Terry O'Connor**

▲ *For the first time since the end of steam, the Esk Valley Line saw two steam-hauled services working out of Whitby on 30th September, with 'B1' 4-6-0 No. 61264 and 'K4' Mogul No. 61994* **The Great Marquess** *providing the motive power. The latter is pictured working the 11.00 Whitby - Battersby service east of Danby. The crossing of trains took place at Glaisdale.* **Nick Wise**

▼ *The gala also saw the return to public service of North Eastern Railway 0-8-0 Class Q6 No. 63395. Here the 'Q6' pilots LNWR 'Super D' 0-8-0 No. 49395 on the 16.00 Grosmont - Pickering service as the pair approach their destination.* **Richard Tuplin**

# Winston Churchill's funeral van returns to British soil

**Winston Churchill's historic railway funeral van has been returned from the USA for preservation by the Swanage Railway.**

Built in 1931 at Ashford in Kent on the chassis of a turn-of-the-century London and South Western Railway passenger coach, the 26-ton, 58-foot Southern Railway parcels and luggage van No. S2464S is bound for a new working life on the Swanage Railway.

On 3rd October, the vehicle was loaded onto a road transporter at Southampton Eastern Docks for the final leg of its 8,000 mile and six week journey via the Panama Canal on board the Wallenius Wilhelmsen Logistics' vessel *Tamerlane*.

The final leg of the journey saw the funeral van taken to Cranmore station on the preserved East Somerset steam railway near Shepton Mallet. Here, it will be restored before being taken by road to its new home at Swanage.

This is not the end of the story however, while No. S2464S may now be back on British soil, the Swanage Railway still has to raise an estimated £20,000 to pay for its full restoration to 1965 condition.

The van was painted in Pullman livery in 1962 and stored in anticipation of its eventual requirement to bear Winston Churchill's coffin on its final journey to Bladon, near Blenheim Palace, in Oxfordshire after his state funeral and it gained a place in the history books in 1965. With the world watching, it was on 30th January that the van, suitably decorated, formed part of the Sir Winston Churchill's funeral train from London Waterloo to Oxfordshire.

Later that year, the historic vehicle was saved from being scrapped and was exported to California thanks to the late Darius Johnson of the City of Industry. It was subsequently placed on display at a resort hotel near Los Angeles on the west coast of America.

The Swanage Railway Trust is still appealing for donations and offers of sponsorship, which can be sent to the Swanage Railway Trust, marked Churchill Project, at Station House, Swanage, Dorset BH19 1HB or via the Trust's website at www.swanagerailwaytrust.co.uk.

▶ ***Southern Railway Parcels Van No. S2464S is seen at Southampton Eastern Docks shortly before being reunited with its bogies.*** **Swanage Railway**


## NORTHAMPTON & LAMPORT DIESEL GALA 20th&21st OCTOBER 2007

The Northampton & Lamport Railway are proud to present their 2007 Diesel Gala, featuring the line's home diesel fleet comprising: D5401 (Class 27) , 31 289, 47 205 and 45 118 on regular passenger services, plus special guest 33 053 (subject to availability). 37 679 and 56 098 will also be on display along with the resident shunters.

Please note all locomotives are subject to availability on the day.

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*The Royal Train, complete with the correct headlamp code, stands at Bewdley.* **Jason Houlders**

# Excellent gala for SVR and a Royal visit!

**The Severn Valley Railway is delighted with the response to its recent mini-gala with over 2,500 visitors attending over the two-day event. Moreover, the hastily arranged mainline shuttles between Bewdley and Birmingham Snow Hill featuring Tyseley-based 'Halls' sold 75% of potential capacity in less than 15 days, a truly remarkable achievement.**

Next weekend is a two-day diesel gala which will operate as diesel-only on Friday 12th October, and with just one steam diagram, worked by No. 4771 *Green Arrow*, on 13th October. An intensive service will operate on both days, featuring Class 20's Nos 20227 and D8188, Pullman-liveried Class 73/1 No. 73101, Class 50 No. 50049 *Defiance* and Class 37/9 No. 37906. Also, shunters Nos. D3937 and 12099 will operate in 'top and tail' mode as far north of Bewdley as the civil engineer will permit. For more details contact the SVR on (01299) 403816 or visit the railway's website at www.svr.co.uk.

Sunday 14th October will feature the line's annual classic car and bike day, which will see both No. 4771 *Green Arrow* and the line's DMU in traffic.

The SVR's Patron, HRH The Duke of Gloucester, paid a visit to the railway earlier this week to see a presentation on the damage to the railway caused by the storms. He was conveyed from Bewdley to Kidderminster in the 'Royal Train' hauled by 4500 Class Prairie No. 4566 carrying the royal headcode and Saloon No. 80972.

▼ ***Michael York (far right), Chairman of SVR (Holdings) plc and HRH The Duke of Gloucester talk to (l to r) Loco Inspector Bernard Rainbow, Fireman Terry Fitzsimmons and Driver Don Shadwell.*** **Bob Sweet**

▼ ***The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway's WD 2-8-0 No. 90733 climbs towards Oakworth with the 13.30 Keighley to Oxenhope train on 22nd September. The wreath on the locomotive smokebox was to commemorate a society member who sadly died during the previous week.*** **Richard Whiteley**

▶ Two of the National Collection's Midland Railway locomotives have been recalled by the National Railway Museum (NRM). LMS Class 4F 0-6-0 No 4027 and Midland Railway 2-4-0 No 158A have been on loan to the Midland Railway Trust since 1975, where they have been displayed at the Midland Railway Centre in Butterley. The NRM had hoped that the Trust would complete a long-standing plan to restore the '4F' for operation at the centre, but this has not been possible. On arrival back at York, the locomotive will be reassembled for the first time since the early 1990s, in preparation for display at the Museum's sites in York or Shildon. Meanwhile, the Kirtley locomotive, No. 158A, which was built in 1866, is only one of five original Midland Railway locomotives to survive. It will initially be displayed at Locomotion, the National Railway Museum at Shildon, where it will undergo conservation. The aim is to then transfer it to York, where it will form an important part of the museum's planned Great Hall redevelopment.

▶ The completion of work at Battersby on the Esk Valley line has enabled the movement of steam locomotives to and from the North Yorkshire Moors Railway (NYMR) to resume. Earlier this year it became apparent that a bridge over the railway on Network Rail's Esk Valley line had insufficient height clearance for most steam locomotives, although adequate for DMUs using the route. It was agreed with Network Rail that work to lower the track and increase clearance beneath Bridge 31 could be commissioned by the NYMR to designs and standards approved by Network Rail.

The design work was carried out by Wakefield-based Tasque Consultancy Ltd and permanent way contractors, Clough-Smith Rail Ltd, were engaged to carry out the track work, which was completed over two weekends in September. Both companies most generously agreed to carry out the work at cost price or less, thus achieving a big saving to the NYMR. The actual track lowering was completed over the weekend of 22nd-24th September. Final track tamping and other tidying up work took place the following weekend. The work has cost the railway around £58,000 and contributions will be welcomed! These can be made to NYMR's office, 12 Park Stret, Pickering, YO18 7AJ (marked Battersby bridge).

## Euro Cargo Rail makes its mark

▲ *Class 66/0 No. 66218 is pictured at Toulouse on 28th September having lost its EWS branding and gaining ECR logos.*

◀ *Class 66/0 No. 66244 stands at L'Estaque-Marseille on 29th September. Of note is the white cab-side panel displaying the locos UIC No. 92-70-0-066244-9.* **Both: Brian Watson**

## European work for Bombardier

**The Austrian Federal Railways Passenger Service AG is to expand its fleet, following the purchase of 17 additional Bombardier Talent multiple-units.**

The four-car units are being built in a consortium with Elin EBG Traction/ Siemens in an order worth around 76 million euros. The new trains are scheduled for delivery from December 2008 and will be used in cross-border traffic between Austria and Hungary.

Bombardier has also been commissioned by the Norwegian State Railway to refurbish 56 Class 5 coaches. As part of the scope of work, exteriors will be repainted, and windows and external doors replaced. All existing bogies will be replaced by Bombardier's BT5000 bogies. There will be a complete redesign of the interior, with a new Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning system, new lighting and seats and a brand new bistro coach.

The first vehicle will enter the works in November 2008, with first deliveries scheduled for January 2009.


## THE LAST STEAM TOUR IN UKRAINE!

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# Budapest Steam Challenge 2007

▲ *On 16th September, local engine No. 22.034 is pictured in contest with Bill Parker's 4500 Class 'Prairie' tank No. 5521 at Budapest Vasuttorteneti Park, Hungary, during the annual Steam Challenge.* **Fred Kerr**

**Bill Parker's wandering GWR 4500 Class 2-6-2T No. 5521 added to its growing reputation during week ending 16th September, when a visit to Budapest to take part in the annual Steam Challenge saw it work the Venice–Simplon Orient Express (VSOE) out of Budapest and five days later come second in its class of engine during the steam locomotive trials.**

The 'Prairie' is currently based at the National Railway Museum in Budapest, where it has recently arrived following a brief interlude at Wolsztyn in Poland during April, where it was used on some private runs with the intention of taking part in this year's annual Steam Challenge.

The locomotive had just returned from a visit to the Zvolen 'Grand Prix' event held in Slovakia on 8th September, when on 10th September the VSOE arrived in Budapest on one of its four annual visits to Hungary. This led to Bill Parker asking about the possibility of it being used on the next morning's departure - and to his great surprise, official approval was given by all the responsible authorities, including MAV Nostalgia and the VSOE train manager!

So the next morning, as the 15-coach train was being prepared for departure with the provision of one of MAV's latest Class V63 5000hp electric locomotives at the head, No. 5521 was gently eased onto the front and coupled up to the 600ton load, before the 'Prairie' slowly eased the train away from Budapest's Nyugati station and through the suburbs until it reached Kelenfold, some 20km from Budapest, where it was detached and the VSOE then continued on its lengthy itinerary.

After No. 5521 had returned to the Museum, Bill Parker credited his loco team of Geoff Phelps and Ed Freeman, normally based at his Flour Mill workshops in the Forest of Dean, and their local driver Vilmos Sipos, who is the regular Hungarian driver of the locomotive in Hungary, for a creditable piece of locomotive handling. Reports from both Polish and Hungarian crews suggest that they were amazed at the power of such a small engine and Bill modestly credits that growing reputation to the footplate crew who, having rebuilt the locomotive in the Flour Mill, are aware of every aspect of the locomotive and its potential capability. That capability was tested only five days later, when the locomotive was tested in the Annual Steam Locomotive Challenge held at the 34-road roundhouse site at Vasuttorteneti, the base of the National Rail Museum in Budapest, and was part of the 'small engine' group that were tested on Sunday, the second day of the event. The ex-GWR engine was paired with 2-4-2T No. 22.034, a locomotive built in 1929 to work lightly-loaded branch lines similar to those operated by the 'Prairie' in its Cornish days, and performed some specific tests as part of the challenge.

The net result of these trials was the prize of coming runner-up from a field of six and taking the prize as the 'most beautiful engine of the day's competitors. Local favourite, 0-6-0 dock shunter No 27 being declared the overall winner. The following day No. 5521 was returned to Wolsztyn following agreement to base the locomotive there for a season of 'Footplate Experiences' operated by the Wolsztyn Experience.

▶ ***Following the report on the Hungarian Steam Challenge in* Railway Herald *last year, interest from the UK resulted in Railtrail Tours organising a trip this year for the event. The group was photographed around Bill Parker's 'Prairie' during the weekend.***

# Diary

**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*** 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.

**5th October 2007**
**Scarborough Railway Society**
Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Out and About in the 1960s' from the Norman Skinner Collection by David Tyreman. Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome

**5th-7th October 2007**
**Manchester Model Rly Society**
New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester. Model Railway Exhibition. Over 20 layouts and around 26 trade stands. Friday 17.00-21.00, Saturday 10.00-18.00 and Sunday 10.00-17.00, Adults £6, Children £3, Concessions £5, Family (2 Adults+2 Children) £15.

**Nene Valley Railway**
Autumn Diesel Gala

**West Somerset Railway**
Autumn Steam Gala.

**6th October 2007**
**North Yorkshire Moors Railway**
Class 25 No. D7628 operating between Whitby and Battersby Junction. Pickering (0845) - Whitby (1020-1030), Battersby (1206-1224), Whitby (1340-1405), Goathland (1445-1630), Whitby (1710-1740) - Pickering (1910). Fare £30 - book through Rail Express magazine via phone on 01780 470086.

**Great Central Railway**
Class 31 Golden Jubilee event - D5830 in action.

**Leighton Buzzard Railway**
Steam Gala - Night Photography

**Ribble Steam Railway**
Diesel running day.

**Romney, Hythe & Dymchurch Railway**
Double header day.

**6th-7th October 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Thomas the Tank Engine : Diesel Running Day - Class 47 No. 47402

**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway**
Final running days of No. 37219 at the railway.

**Kent & East Sussex Railway**
Folk Festival.

**7th October 2007**
**D. J. Fairs Ltd**
Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

**East Anglia Railway Museum**
Steam Running Day.

**West Lancashire Light Rly**
Autumn Steam Gala

**8th October 2007**
**York Railway Circle**
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'NRM Support Crew Memories, 1970-1990' by Rob Tibbits. Starts 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

**10th October 2007**
**Bromsgrove Railway Club**
St. Godwalds Church Hall, Aston Fields, Bromsgrove. 'Steam in the 1960s' by Michael Clements Arrive 19.15 for 19.45 start. New members welcome

**11th October 2007**
**The Model Railway Club**
Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London. N1 9DA.
"The Development of the APT" an illustrated talk by Kit Spackman, the Development Engineer of the gas-turbine APT.

**12th October 2007**
**Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society**
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Preservation in South of England' by John Owen Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

**12th-13th October 2007**
**Severn Valley Railway**
Diesel Gala - visiting engines between Kidderminster and Bewdley. Proposed shuttle service to Northwood Lane using shunters - special fares apply.

**12th-14th October 2007**
**Keighley & Worth Valley Rly**
Autumn Steam Gala. 3802 visiting the line.

**North Yorkshire Moors Rly**
Wartime Weekend. Special Fares Apply - Adults £18, Children £9

**13th October 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Diesel Running Day - Class 40 No. D335 in operation

**13th-14th October 2007**
**Bodmin & Wenford Railway**
Branch Line Weekend

**Boness & Kinneil Railway**
Caledonian Railway Celebration.

**Foxfield Railway**
Harvest of Steam event.

**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway**
Autumn Steam and Vintage Rally weekend

**Great Central Railway**
Steam Gala Weekend - 5643 and 45110 visiting.

**14th October 2007**
**Severn Valley Railway**
Classic car and bike day.

**15th October 2007**
**Stafford Railway Society**
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford.
"The Percy Mosley Collection" part 1 (Digital images from the WWII period) by Robin Mathems. Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

**16th October 2007**
**Monmouthshire Railway Society**
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, Gwenty. 'Severn Tunnel Junction' a reflection in video, audio and slide of 20 years by Bryn Thomas. Starts 19.30, Non-members £3

**North Wales Railway Circle**
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office. "More Historic Rail Colour Slides." by Norman Foster (Chairman of RPS Ireland) Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

**Peak Rail Association (Chesterfield Branch)**
Upstairs function room, New Inn, 229 Mansfield Road, Hasland. "British Transport Films on a theme of infrastructure" by Nick Wheat. Start 7.30pm. Admission free, although a small donation is encouraged.

**18th October 2007**
**Marlow & District Railway Society**
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'A railway tour of Northern France' by Michael Bunn. Starts 7.45pm for 8pm, Non-members £2.

**19th October 2007**
**Scarborough Railway Society**
Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'A passion for steam - journey from Abergavenny to Merthyr Tydfil' by David Edge Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome

**19th-21st October 2007**
**Bluebell Railway**
Giants of Steam Gala Weekend - last steaming for *Stepney*

**21st October 2007**
**Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch**
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street.
"AGM plus themed Members slides - Railways by the sea and Trains in the Mountains".
Starts 19.15 - *LCGB Members only BEFORE 20.00.*
Donation of £2 is requested.

**D. J. Fairs Ltd**
National Exhibition Cente, Birmingham. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-16.00. Adults £5, Children £2.

**20th October 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Diesel Running Day - Class 45 No. 45135 in operation

**Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs**
The International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Brentwood.

**20th-21st October 2007**
**Spa Valley Railway**
Autumn Diesel Gala

**21st October 2007**
**Avon Valley Railway**
Steam Operating Day - S&DJR 7F No. 53809 in operation

**23rd October 2007**
**Avon Valley Railway**
Steam Operating Day - S&DJR 7F No. 53809 in operation

**24th October 2007**
**Avon Valley Railway**
Steam Operating Day - S&DJR 7F No. 53809 in operation

**Didcot Railway Centre**
Didcot Half-Term Steamday.

**25th October 2007**
**Avon Valley Railway**
Steam Operating Day - S&DJR 7F No. 53809 in operation

**RCTS (Sussex Branch)**
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton.
"BR in the 1960s" slideshow by Hugh Gould.
Start 7.30pm. Small donation requested.

**Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Perth)**
Museum & Art Gallery, George Street, Perth.
'Mainly Scottish Steam' by Ken Falconer. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alex R. Forsyth on 01738 622187 for further details.

**26th October 2007**
**Cambridge University Railway Club**
Andrew Room, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. 'The role of BRT systems in tomorrow's Britain' a debate involving Christian Hoskins and Tim Philips. Starts 8.30pm for 9pm, non-members welcome.

**26th-28th October 2007**
**Keighley & Worth Valley Railway**
Beer & Music Festival

**27th October 2007**
**Bodmin & Wenford Railway**
Diesel Running Day - 37142.

**Churnet Valley Railway**
Ghost Train.

**27th-28th October 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Autumn Steam weekend and Nightrider event featuring steam services through the night.

**Seaton Tramway**
End of season gala weekend

**West Somerset Railway**
Diesel and Steam weekend.

**28th October 2007**
**Avon Valley Railway**
Steam Operating Day - S&DJR 7F No. 53809 in operation

**D. J. Fairs Ltd**
Exeter Westpoint Exhibition Centre. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

**East Anglia Railway Museum**
Steam Running Day.

**Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs**
The Charter Hall (part of Colchester Leisure World), Cowdray Avenue, Colchester

**29th October 2007**
**Stafford Railway Society**
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. "Long ago and far away" (steam from the Basil Roberts collection), presented by Richard Pelham. Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

**1st November 2007**
**RCTS (Milton Keynes)**
CIU Workingmen's Club, London Road, Stoney Stratford. "My Life and Times on the Railway" by Julian Worth. Start 7.30pm.

**Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)**
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'Switzerland by Rail and Steamer by Dr. Ann Glen. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

**2nd November 2007**
**RCTS (Bristol)**
St. Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. "Rails to Infinity" by Terry Nicholls. Start 7.30pm.

**Scarborough Railway Society**
Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Does S&T sometimes mean Signal & Telepathy' by David Mclean Starts 19.30. Visitors welcome

**3rd November 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Diesel Running Day - Class 55 No. 55022 in operation on the diesel diagram.

**South Devon Railway**
Autumn Diesel Gala.

**Railfuture (East Anglian Branch)**
National Rail Users Conference, The Maltings, Ely. 10.45-17.00 Members £10, Non-members £12.50. Speakers include Bob Breakwell Director, First Great Western, Dave Wetzel Vice Chairman, Transport for London and Guy Dangerfield, Passenger Focus. Booking forms available from http://www.railfuture.org.uk

**3rd-4th November 2007**
**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway**
Diesel Gala Weekend

**4th November 2007**
**D. J. Fairs Ltd**
Donnington Park Exhibition Centre.. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

**RCTS (West Riding Branch)**
Minibus excursion to Crewe Basford Hall. Non-members welcome if seats are available - contact Mr. M. Riley (01274) 589488 for details - £5 charge for charity

**5th November 2007**
**Stafford Railway Society**
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. "30 Years of BR Steam 1938-1968" PLUS pre-preservation days on the SVR by Clive Smith. Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

**RCTS (Port Sunlight)**
The Lever Club, Greendale Road, Port Sunlight. "Online Transport Archives" by Charles Robert. Start 7.45pm.

**6th November 2007**
**North Wales Railway Circle**
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office.) "Video show" by Brian Bollington Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

**RCTS (Watford)**
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road. "Railway Archive Films" by Frank Banfield. Start 7.30pm.

**7th November 2007**
**RCTS (Ipswich)**
Castle Hill Community Centre (Room 3), Highfield Road, Ipswich. "Longmoor Military Railway and Shoeburyness Military Tramway" by Mike Walshaw. Start 7.30pm.

**Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)**
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'SRPS Grand Challenge Quiz'. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 for further details.

**8th November 2007**
**RCTS (Newcastle)**
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. "Peregrinations with a Pentax" by Steve Batty. Start 7.30pm.

**9th November 2007**
**Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society**
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. '40 Years of Steam in Yugoslavia' by John Sloane. Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

**Cambridge University Railway Club**
Andrew Room, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge. "High Level Output Strategy" by Chistian Wolmar. Starts 8.30pm for 9pm, non-members welcome.

**10th November 2007**
**East Lancashire Railway**
Sulzer Diesel Theme Day

**RCTS (Exeter)**
Conference Room, Richmond House, YMCA, 39-41 St. Davids Hill. "The Magnificent Hydraulics" by Bernard Mills. Start 7.00pm.

**Toy & Train Collectors' Fair**
Exeter Hall, Oxford Road, Kidlinton, Oxford. Toy & Train Fair. 11.00-16.00.

**10th-11th November 2007**
**Barrow Hill Roundhouse**
Steam Gala - LNER Theme

**Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway**
Diesel Gala Weekend.

**Internet Links**
Click on the name of the group or society to visit their website.
- Bassetlaw (Nth Notts) Rly Society
- Great Western Society (Bristol)
- Locomotive Club of Great Britain
- Manchester Model Railway Society
- North Wales Railway Circle
- RCTS
- Stafford Railway Society

▼ ***An unusual GM combination. Hanson liveried Class 59/1 59104 leads EWS-liveried Class 66/0 No. 66077 out of Westbury with the Whatley Quarry-St Pancras aggregate working on 28th September. Of note is that the train is composed of recently introduced EWS Aggregate hoppers.*** **Nathan Williamson**