The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

SR 'King Arthur' No. 30777 Sir Lamiel makes a fine sight approaching its destination, Basingstoke, on 11th December with the 'Cathedrals Express Carol Concert Special'. **Walter Stamper**

Rear Cover

Southern Class 377/3 No. 377306 passes Oving, between Chichester and Barnham, with the 08.53 Portsmouth and Southsea to Littlehampton service on 7th December. **Chris Wilson**

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

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.

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

FGW 'Pacers' get 'dynamic lines' treatment

Following the removal of several Class 158 DMUs from the Greater Western franchise by the Department for Transport, the replacement has arrived in the form of Class 142s.

Eleven members of the class, Nos. 142001 (Out of Use), 142004, 142009, 142028, 142029, 143030, 142062, 142063, 142064, 142068 and 142070, have been transferred to Exeter depot for use on the Barnstaple, Exmouth and Paignton branch services and FGW has applied new First Great Western branding to its newly acquired 'Pacer' fleet. As well as branding the outside, Class 142 No. 142064 has received new seat covers with FGW Dynamic Lines, as well as a deep clean of the flooring and new blue panels in the seating area.

▲ ***The new branding applied to the Devon-based Class 142 fleet. Nos. 142004 and 142064 await departure from Paignton on 14th December.***

▼ ***The interior refresh on No. 142064.***
Both: Nathan Williamson

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New corporate colours launched with National Express East Coast and East Anglia

▲ *For the launch of the National Express (NX) East Coast franchise, one HST Mk3 set, complete with power cars, was repainted into the new corporate brand, which is being adopted across all the UK transport divisions of NX, together with the uniformed rail division livery. Class 43 powercars Nos. 43300 Craigentinny and 43238 power through Huntingdon on 10th December with the 09.30 Edinburgh - London King's Cross service.* **Robert Tarling**

▼ *On 'one' Anglia, or National Express East Anglia as the franchise will be known from February 2008, Class 90 No. 90003 Raedwald of East Anglia became the first member of the class to be adorned with NX livery, together with Norwich Crown Point set No. 13, which carries the colour scheme, minus branding decals. With Mk3 DVT No. 82107 on rear, No. 90003 passes Brandon on 12th December with the 10.00 Norwich - Liverpool Street.* **John Day**

Serco celebrates driver's 50 years of service

Serco recently named Class 31/6 No 31601 at its Engineering Centre in Derby, to celebrate the career of one of the UK's longest serving driving instructors.

Now aged 66, Dave Green has completed 52 years of service in the driving grade and has trained over 250 drivers on HSTs and over 1,000 drivers on various other forms of traction. He began his career in the rail industry as an engine cleaner in 1956. In 2000, he joined Serco and is currently the company's most senior instructor. For Dave, the whole event was a complete surprise. His colleagues knew he wouldn't attend if they told him about it, as he is far too modest. It was probably the most eventful driver's brief Dave has ever attended!

▶ A £1.6 million project to strengthen the road-over-rail bridge at King Street, Dukinfield, was completed over the weekend of 8/9th December by Network Rail, and the road re-opened to traffic following a 12-week closure. Known as the White Bridge, work was carried out after the structure failed an assessment to bring it up to current standards. Two of the five spans had to be completely rebuilt, two had to be strengthened by filling them in and one had to be refurbished. Approximately 10,000 road-over-rail bridges nationwide are being assessed now that 40 and 44 tonne lorries are permitted on Britain's roads under EU regulations. Any bridges that do not meet the latest criteria will have to be strengthened or, if necessary, completely rebuilt.

▶ The fleet of 74 Class 357 Electrostars operated by c2c has scooped the prize for the best modern era electric multiple unit in the country for the third year in a row. The trains have averaged over 45,000 miles, over the last 12 months before developing any fault leading to a delay of more than five minutes, making them the most reliable main line electric units in the country. c2c received the accolade at the third annual 'Golden Spanners' awards ceremony held at the Modern Railways / Railway Forum 'Fourth Friday Club' lunch on 7th December. The award scheme, the brainchild of Modern Railways Industry & Technology Editor Roger Ford, is aimed at promoting excellence in train maintenance in the UK.

▶ The official opening celebrating the reintroduction of passenger services to the Ebbw Vale branch in South Wales was cancelled just two days before the first train should have operated. The reintroduction of passenger services on the line is the result of a £30 million investment. Safety and engineering issues are said to have held up the project, which will now open in the New Year.

▶ First GBRf has increased commercial services by a third in the past month and exceeded prior train run records that were achieved in September. Latest performance figures show a total of 1,089 train journeys took place from 11th November to 8th December, an addition of 235 services on the previous record of 854, and a third more than the preceding month. During the past month the company has started running aggregate trains from the Midlands to East Anglia

Green Class 172 'Turbostar'

Bombardier Transportation has won a major order for its next generation 'Green Trains'.

The contract is for 12 two-car and 15 three-car Class 172 Turbostars worth £92.7 million and is from Porterbrook Leasing for Govia for services on the London Midland franchise to replace ageing Class 150s in the West Midlands. The units are scheduled for delivery in 2010.

The new units will be the lightest modern DMU in the class and will meet the latest standards in emissions. Using the modular platform of its Class 170 Turbostars, Bombardier is able to make step changes in technology and environmental attributes to the units, with production continuing to take place in Bombardier's Derby plant at Litchurch Lane, with the bogies being produced at Bombardier's Siegen site in Germany.

Colin Walton, Chairman of Bombardier in the UK stated: "This order will allow us to re-start our Turbostar production line again. The new Turbostar trains would also be an ideal replacement for the ageing 'Pacer' units in the UK."

This latest order is the 25th that Porterbrook has placed for Turbostars.

Class 185 No. 185130 stands at Glasgow Central following a VIP run from Edinburgh on 4th December. **Bill Wilson**

First TransPennine Class 185s to Glasgow

First TransPennine Express (FTPE) unveiled its new Manchester Airport - Edinburgh/Glasgow service on 4th December.

The company is providing four trains from Edinburgh to Manchester and three each day from Glasgow Central, as part of the changes to the cross country rail franchise.

The end-to-end journey time from Edinburgh or Glasgow will be four hours or less and the trains will make intermediate calls at Carlisle and Penrith, in addition to First TransPennine Express's usual calling points south of Oxenholme. An on-board catering trolley service will be provided throughout the journey on all services between Scotland and Manchester Airport every day, and a special complimentary light meal package will be offered to passengers travelling First Class.

Next year FTPE will introduce an additional service to Glasgow Central, which will depart from Carlisle at 06.20 with a 09.45 arrival in Glasgow.

Units will be fuelled and stabled as required at Corkerhill TMD in Glasgow.

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Time for a *different* kind of number?

Metronet collapses after PPP Arbiter refuses most of costs claim
It's business as usual at LUL, promises Mayor
RMT threatens action if Metronet jobs are lost
Tories call for probe by National Audit Office
Jim Laing to sell Chiltern Railways – and its stake in London Overground
Watchdog urges government to consider terminating First Great Western
Work on EARL to be suspended during review
Eurostar's full high speed timetable won't arrive until December
TfL gets new rail powers outside London area
Mutuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote
Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London 's newest tube station

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EERAILTOURS 2008

DIESEL TOURS

May - Ukraine Depots/Works Tour:

One week duration. We visit depots/works around Ukraine, using the Dzherelo private train. Interesting haulage, with runpasts where possible.

June - Brazil:
The definitive diesel enthusiast tour! From deepest Amazon to the Argentine border. Full tour 3 weeks. Also 2 week option. Lots of different companies and locos.

STEAM TOURS

October - New Zealand:
North Island Main Trunk. Celebrations plus second week visits to private steam lines/museums. Optional third week on South Island steam/scenic lines.

Bulgarian Steam Tour and Weekend Polish Steam Photo Tour coming soon!

Contact Jim Colley for itineraries for all tours

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New St Pancras Thameslink platforms officially opened

The new £70 million domestic station at St Pancras International was opened on 10th December by Secretary of State for Transport, Ruth Kelly, the station replacing King's Cross Thameslink, which has now closed for First Capital Connect trains but remains open for the Underground.

The new facility connects directly with the above-ground Eurostar and East Midlands services and will also provide a direct connection for Southeastern 'Javelin' trains from Kent when they start running. The new platforms are some three minutes away from the main station building and offer much improved accessibility for people travelling with luggage on Eurostar or to and from Gatwick Airport.

The new station also enables passengers from places such as Croydon, Brighton, St Albans and Luton to connect directly with the other services.

Ruth Kelly MP, said: "This new station will improve the daily journey to work for thousands of passengers, providing extra capacity and better transport links. It means we can tackle overcrowding and deliver longer trains under the £5.5 billion Thameslink modernisation scheme. This is the latest instalment in the package of improvements for rail passengers in the area, after the recent opening of the new high-speed line to the Continent. And more will follow, as we are also spending £1 billion to improve the tube and mainline stations at King's Cross."

▲▲ The 09.25 Bedford-Brighton First Capital Connect Thameslink service arrives at the newly opened St Pancras International FCC station on 10th December, with Class 319/4 No 319428 leading.

▲ On a wet and dark 8th December, Class 319/0 No 319003 and Class 319/4 No 319444 arrive at King's Cross Thameslink on the station's final day of operation, forming the 14.43 First Capital Connect service from St Albans to Wimbledon and the 14.04 Brighton-Bedford 'Thameslink', respectively.
Both: Brian Morrison

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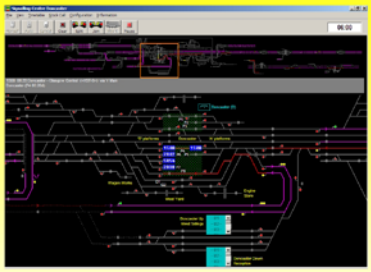

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Sir Nigel Gresley returns in February

Past Time has lost its 'Ewell Tide Express' on 15th December due to operational reasons, which are believed to be pathing issues.

The train has been re-dated to 2nd March and will now become a 'Mothering Sunday Ewell Tide Express'! Confirmation is awaited as to whether it will revert back to its original routing and traction.

Meanwhile, the company has also announced two February tours which hopefully will herald the return of 'A4' No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* to the mainline, commencing on 16th February with 'The Cumbrian Coast Express' from Birmingham International, which has steam operating both ways between Carnforth and Ravenglass. This is followed on 23rd February with a northbound assault on the Settle and Carlisle with steam-haulage from Hellifield to Carlisle, and on the return as far as Carnforth via Shap. This train originates at Hereford and picks up along the Welsh Marches route.

All change for Vintage Trains

Last week this column was talking of Vintage Trains' assaulting Old Hill Bank twice with its weekend Christmas Luncheon trains to and from Worcester.

Regrettably the trains will no longer be running as engineering work has resulted in the plans being dropped and a revised programme being issued.

On 15th December, No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* heads for Chester, from Tyseley Warwick Road and running via Sutton Park to Walsall, Stafford and Crewe, returning as outward. The next day, *Rood Ashton Hall* heads to Didcot via Dorridge. Reading between the lines, the communication channel between Tyseley and Network Rail was hectic, but positive, and congratulations are due to all concerned in providing a viable alternative at such short notice.

However, pathing problems are at the root of the cancellation of the company's traditional post Christmas outing this year, booked for 30th December, which was due to feature 9400 Class 0-6-0PT No. 9466 between Shirley, Stratford upon Avon and Stourbridge Junction. Looking ahead to the new year and on 1st March, Vintage Trains' own Class 47 No. 47773 will now join No. 86259 on the latter's maiden mainline outing from Birmingham New Street to Liverpool Lime Street. The locomotives are booked to operate in top and tail mode.

Problems for VSOE as *Clan Line* is failed ...

As this issue closed for press it has been reported that Merchant Navy No. 35028 *Clan Line* has been failed with a steam pipe problem.

It isn't believed to be a serious issue, although attending to the problem is reported to be inconvenient due to the number of components that will need to be removed to access the offending part. *Clan Line* was due to work a VSOE British Pullman luncheon train between Victoria and Guildford on 15th December and again on 20th December. Conveniently, John Cameron's 'A4' No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* is still at Southall, following the postponement of Past Time's 'Ewell Tide Express', which was also due to operate on 15th December, and so will deputise for *Clan Line*.

Although the British Pullman is an EWS operation, the West Coast Railway Company, which operates all of Steam Dreams' workings, has agreed to work No. 60009 to Stewarts Lane in the early hours of Saturday morning along with *Tangmere* in order that both locos are positioned for their booked workings. It is unclear whether *Clan Line* will be available for the 20 December 'British Pullman', but the 'A4' is booked to return to Crewe on 17th December, and then continue later in the week in tandem with Class K4 No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* to their base at Thornton Junction. No. 60019 *Bittern* is the only locomotive then available to cover on 20 December, and an indication that it is a possible cover will be if the loco remains in London after working for the Railway Touring Company on 15th December, instead of returning to it's base at Alton as booked.

... and *Tangmere's* return has inauspicious start

The mainline return of No. 34067 *Tangmere* following a full re-tube at Carnforth got off to an inauspicious start on 13 December when the locomotive was failed before departure on Steam Dreams 'White Cliffs Christmas Luncheon Special' from London Victoria.

The locomotive had travelled from Carnforth under its own power the previous day without incident, and the good news is that the problem is not connected to its recent overhaul but is firebox related, specifically to a thermic syphon that was quickly repaired the following day, as soon as the firebox cooled down to allow safe access. *Tangmere* is now available to take up its rostered turns commencing on 15th December, again for Steam Dreams, to Chichester.

With four other turns booked for next week this news will be received with relief at Steam Dreams and The Railway Touring Company. Steam Dreams plan to reschedule its Valentine's Day special along the route of the cancelled 'White Cliffs' charter, which will now have No. 34067 in charge in place of No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*.

Steam Dreams is also in talks with the 5305 Locomotive Group, which is the custodian of *Sir Lamiel* concerning future operations. The locomotive has been beset with gauging problems recently, with perhaps the most notable being that it can depart from London Victoria but not arrive, due to platform clearances! As Victoria is the starting point of most Steam Dreams workings this obviously causes problems. What is likely to happen is that a programme of trains will be organised for the autumn period when hopefully the gauging issues have been addressed. Meanwhile, *Tangmere* will cover the other early season train to Canterbury on 26th March as well as the Valentines Day working. In another development, the bridge near Sherbourne that *Tangmere* clipped recently, has resulted in the Yeovil to Westbury leg of the 20th December working to Sherbourne being hauled by Class 50 No. 50049 *Defiance*.

▼ ***Ian Riley's classic pairing of BR Standard 4MT No. 76079 and LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407 depart from a gloomy and wet Loughborough on 8th December with the Railway Touring Company's, Mill Hill Broadway to York excursion, the two locomotives taking over the train at Humberstone Road, Leicester.*** **John Whitehouse**

▲ *Class 92 No 92029* **Dante** *heads Pathfinder Tours 'Moor and More' charter from Gloucester to Dollands Moor through Shortlands on 15th December. The train was worked by Class 66 No. 66170 from Gloucester to Birmingham International, where First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66703 took over as far as Wembley Yard, where the Class 92 took charge. Class 73s Nos. 73205 and 73209 then powered the train from Dollands Moor to London Euston where, after a short break, Freightliner Class 90 No. 90016 took over for the run to Birmingham New Street, to be replaced there by No. 66158 for the return to Gloucester!* **Brian Morrison**

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.

16th December			
Railway Touring Company	76079 & 45407	Liverpool Lime Street-St. Helens Jct-Manchester Victoria-Rochdale-Hebdon Bridge-Wakefield-York (break/rev) and return	
Vintage Trains	4965	Solihull-Dorridge-Oxford-Didcot (break/rev) and return (revised route due to engineering work)	
18th December			
Steam Dreams	34067	London-Winchester and return	
20th December			
Steam Dreams	34067	London-Sherborne and return	
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Guildford-Redhill-Victoria	
21st December			
Railway Touring Company	34067	London Victoria-East Croydon-Tonbridge-Ashford-Canterbury West - Folkestone-Ashford-Tonbridge and return	
22nd December			
Hertfordshire (Pullman)	2xClass 47	London Euston-Bletchley-Bedford-Melton Mowbray-Leicester and rtn	
Kingfisher Railtours	Diesel tbc	Hellifield-Appleby-Carlisle-Appleby-Hellifield	
Past Time Rail	6024	(Taunton-Bristol TM-Bham NS-)Bham Int-Stafford-Crewe-Chester-Crewe-- Shrewsbury-Birmingham International-(& return)	
Pathfinder Tours	D1015	London Paddington-Whatley Quarry-Avonmouth	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	76079 & 45407	St. Albans-Luton-Bedford-Kettering-(Market Harborough-Leicester)-Melton Mowbray-Loughborough-Chesterfield-York-(and return)	
Steam Dreams	34067	London-Norwich and return	
22nd December			
Railway Touring Company	71000	London KX-York-London KX	**Cancelled**
29th December			
Kingfisher Railtours	6024	(Ealing B/way-Banbury-Dorridge)-Saltley-Worcester-Hereford-Newport-Chepstow-Lickey-Saltley (and return)	
Pathfinder Tours	2xClass 47	Birmingham NS-Settle-Appleby-Carlisle and return	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	Steam	East Croydon-Preston Park-Hove-Bath-Bristol TM	**Cancelled**
Spitfire Railtours	GBRf Class 87	Birmingham Int-Stafford-Preston-Glasgow Central and return	

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
BLUE Provisional excursion

(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.

Useful Weblinks

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

The Week Ahead

There will be relief all round that problems with *Tangmere* have been fixed, as with four excursions, three for Steam Dreams and one for the Railway Touring Company, booked for the next week, things could have become somewhat difficult.

Steam Dreams will be going to Winchester on 18th December, Sherbourne on 20th December and finishing with a trip to Norwich on 22nd December. Sandwiched in between is a London Victoria to Canterbury excursion for the Railway Touring Company on 21st December. After this activity, the support crew of *Tangmere* will be in need of much festive cheer!

Past Time's traditional 'Christmas Chester Chuffer' is scheduled for 22nd December, which this year originates at Taunton and is steam-hauled from Bescot via Crewe to Chester and back by No. 6024 *King Edward I*, itself making a mainline return after being sidelined with a piston problem since September.

To the east, Ian Riley's go-anywhere machines, Nos. 76079 and 45407, head the Railway Touring Company's 'York Yuletide Express' from Leicester via Sheffield, returning via Barrow Hill to Derby where the steam section terminates. The train originates at Mill Hill Broadway.

Hertfordshire have a relaxing Christmas Luncheon trip from London Euston, also on 22nd December, running via the West Coast Main Line to Bletchley then across to Bedford and Kettering before taking the Corby route back to Leicester and home via Harringworth Viaduct, Oakham and Melton Mowbray. Also operating is Kingfishers 'Dalesman' from Hellifield to Carlisle and back, which due to the absence of available steam traction, is now booked for West Coast diesel traction.

All known 2007 and 2008 railtours are listed on our website together with tour operator contact details

▲ *Two perfect silhouette shots showing the high speed trains of yesterday and today. Gresley-designed 'A4' Pacific No. 60019* **Bittern** *heads along the East Coast Main Line at Biggleswade at sunrise on 1st December, with the outward working of Railway Touring Company's 'White Rose' excursion from London King's Cross to York. This was the locomotive's first revenue-earning railtour on the National Network.* **Alisdair Anderson**

▼ *One of First Great Western's refurbished MTU-fitted power cars leads a service from London Paddington towards Swindon on 12th December, the reflection of the sunset being visible in the flooded fields.* **Ken Brunt**

Class 60 Workings

▶ *A highly unusual working occurred on 11th December when Class 60 No 60010 deputised for the normal Class 59 on a Whatley to Oxford stone working. The train is seen during the unloading process at Banbury Road teminal, Oxford.* **Ian Francis**

▼ *EWS grey-liveried Class 60 No. 60014* **Alexander Fleming** *powers through Natton on the 10th December with an empty steel working.*
Jack Boskett

East Coast HST Variety

▲ *Network Rail's New Measurment Train passes Colton Junction on the East Coast Main Line on 10th December with Class 43 powercar No. 43013 leading and No. 43014 on the rear, with the 10.29 Heaton to Doncaster West Yard test working.*

▼ *Portraying the interim National Express East Coast livery, Class 43 powercar No. 43316 brings up the rear of 12.00 Kings Cross to Inverness service as the set approaches Colton Junction on the same day. Powercar No. 43314 was leading.* **Both: Chris Booth**

▲ *Also on 10th December, Grand Central's HST set was undergoing trial operations between Sunderland, York and King's Cross. Here, Nos. 43067 and 43080 form the 14.10 York to Kings Cross Grand Central test service in the vicinity of Colton Junction.*

▼ *The first HST set to carry the new National Express corporate livery passes Colton Junction, near York, with the 09.30 Edinburgh - London King's Cross service - the inaugural working for the train - formed of powercars Nos. 43300 Craigentinny and 43238.* **Both: Chris Booth**

▲ *On 12th December, DRS-operated Class 37/6 No. 37601 and Class 20s Nos. 20313 and 20307 were booked to move to Willesden. With no paths available from Stowmarket, the trio were attached to the front of the 09.20 Stowmarket - Shenfield RHTT service, powered by Class 57/0 No. 57009 and Class 37/5 No. 37667 in 'top and tail' mode as far as Shenfield. The ensemble passes Brantham in glorious winter sunlight.* **John Day**

▼ *Despite initial appearances, this is not a photograph from several years ago! With the run-up to Christmas and the vast increases in the volume of mail, EWS has been running a single return mail service between Willesden PRDC and Sheildmuir, via Warrington RMT. On 11th December, Class 90 No. 90028 heads northwards at Farington Curve Junction, just south of Preston.* **Ian Tunstall**

▲ *Most, if not all, of the heritage railways are well into their Santa Special season, and on the Great Central Railway on 8th December, the resident Class 20 No. D8098 leaves Loughborough with LMS '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48305 on the rear, providing steam heat for the train.* **John Whitehouse**

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Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

GWR Diesel Day
Thursday 27 December 2007

Blow those Christmas cobwebs away with a trip to the GWR diesel day!

Locos in action will be: D8137, 24081, 37215, 37324, 47105 and 73129 (47376 under repair).
(all locos subject to availability)

Passenger trains from Toddington to Cheltenham Racecourse as well as brake van rides to Winchcombe!

Dates for diesel events in 2008

4th-6th April; 4th-6th July; 25th-26th October and 27th December.

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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.

14th December 2007
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Manchester and the Llandudno & Colwyn Bay Tramway Then and Now' by Keith Chadbourne. Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road. Newcastle Upon Tyne. 'Yuletide Festivities'. Starts 19.00 Contact 01434 688946.

16th December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-16.00. Adults £5, Children £2.

17th December 2007
The Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill branch)
Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay. Starts 7.30pm

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Brighton)
Model Railway Club, BR London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Member's Memories of 2007' presentation. Starts 19.45.

Stafford Railway Society
St. Leonard's Sport & Social Club, St. Leonard's Avenue, Stafford. "Member's Christmas Special", Starts 19.30, Adults £2, Concessions £1.

18th December 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford. 'Christmas Special'. Starts 19.30.

North Wales Railway Circle
Railway Institute, Euston Road, Bangor (above the Post Office, Sorting Office. "Members slides, digital and video pictures." Starts 19.30, Entrance fee £1.50.

Peak Rail Association (Chesterfield Branch)
Upstairs function room, New Inn, 229 Mansfield Road, Hasland. "Pre-grouping railtour of Britain in Colour" by Ken Grainger. Start 7.30pm. Administion free.

RCTS Cheltenham
The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham. "Garratt K1 - The story of an articulated Locomotive" by Paul Inman. Start 7.30pm

20th December 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon)
United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon Branch meeting. Starts 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
NOTE AMENDED DATE
The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside'. 'Steam in the UK and South Africa' by Ian Fisher. Starts 19.30.

21st December 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain, (Central London Branch)
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "Mainly narrow gauge in East Germany", memories of former DDR, plus wine and mince pies. Donation of £2.
Starts 19.15

Boxing Day
26th December 2007
Tanfield Railway
'Mince Pie Specials' Enjoy a steam hauled ride through the wintry landscape of the Causey Woods, and each passenger will receive a complimentary mince pie. Train services start at 11.30 and no pre-booking is required.
For further details call 0191 3887545.

27th December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
Donnington Park Exhibition Centre. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
Diesel Running Day.

28th December 2007
Peak Rail (Sheffield Branch)
The Library Theatre (by The Crucible) Tudor Place, Sheffield. "Railways Remembered - light-hearted end-of-year special selections from the archives" Filmshow by Rob Foxon Starts 19.30, £5.50 (concessions £5) non-members welcome. Contact Dave Sharp on 0114 274 5478.

29th December 2007
Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
The International Hall, Brentwood Centre, Brentwood.

29th-30th December 2007
Churnet Valley Railway
'Winter Warmer' steam running event.

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway
'Christmas Cracker' event.
All available engines, incl. GW 'City No. 3440 City of Truro, will run an intensive timetable. First train dep. 09.45 non-stop to Cheltenham (double headed by City of Truro and Foremarke Hall). First departure from Cheltenham Race Course 10.30 £12 ticket provides unlimited travel on day of purchase.

30th December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
East of England Showground, Peterborough. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

Halifax Model Railway Club
Halifax MRC Clubrooms, 5 Deal Street, Halifax Open Day from 10.00-16.00, featuring five working layouts. Admission free, although Donations will be gratefully accepted. Geoff Bridge on 01422 371489 for more details

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

31st December 2007
D. J. Fairs Ltd
Doncaster Racecourse, Doncaster.. Toy & Train Fair. 10.30-15.30. Adults £3, Children £1.

1st January 2008
Didcot Railway Centre
Didcot New Year Steamday.

Julie & John Webb Toy Fairs
George Stephenson Exhibition Hall, The Showground, Newark (A1/A6 Junction)

2nd January 2008
Stephenson Loco Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'The Spa Valley Railway since 1985' by Brian Halford. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 289 9935.

4th January 2008
Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road. Newcastle Upon Tyne. 'By Train and Tram Through New Zealand' by Howard Burchell. Starts 19.00. Call 01434 688946.

Stephenson Loco Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teeside. ' The Glorious Years – Scottish Region' by Martin Green. Starts 19.30.

5th January 2008
Kidderminster Railway Museum
Railway Photograph Fair

50th anniversary of last train from Abergavenny to Merthyr Exhibition.
The Welsh Railways Research Circle and Abergavenny & District Steam Society. St. Michael's Church Centre, Penypound in Abergavenny on 12.00-17.00. Admission £2. Various displays on show. Call 01873 855000 for further details.

7th January 2008
Stephenson Loco Society
New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. 'Glasgow Central: Central to Glasgow' by Bill Ure. Starts 19.30. Contact 01294 822303.

Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock.
'Film Show - By Special Request' Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

8th January 2008
Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. "A Broad Gauge Journey - Part 1" talk by Brian Arman.
Starts 19.30 for 19.45. Non-members welcome. Contact: 0117 987 3244 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford)
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford. 'An Evening with Colin Gifford'. Starts 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London)
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London. N22 5NJ.
'Film Miscellany' by Dave Baker. Starts: 19.30

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh.
'The Tramways of Siberia' talk by Mike Russell. Starts 19.30. Entrance £2

9th January 2008
Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'Railway Travels in Retirement' by Fred Landery. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford. 'Japanese Railways' by Edward Talbot. Contact 01372 379216 for further details of this meeting. Start 19.30

10th January 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St. Albans)
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green. 'West Coast Mainline Upgrade - 2008 and beyond' by Stuart Baker. Starts 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'Pulling & Pushing' by Jim Summers. Illustrated talk on railway freight operations during the 1960s. Starts 7.30pm, Contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

11th January 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Wester & Wessex Wanderings' by Tony Icke Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

12th January 2008
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Kidderminster Railway Museum. 'Members Slides'. Starts 14.15. Contact 01242 582152.

14th January 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Steam in the UK' by R. Falconer Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Midland & Great Northern Railway & North Norfolk Railway' by David Harris. Starts 19.30. Membership available.

15th January 2008
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Fox Covert Inn, High Leven, Nr Yarm, Teeside. 'The Railways of Cornwall' by John Irving. Starts 19.30. Contact 01642 321205.

17th January 2007
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave., Newport , Gwent. '16mm Archive Railway Films' by Chris Plaister. Meeting starts: 19.30 Non-members £3.

Stephenson Loco Society
United Reform Church Hall, Mowbray Road, New Barnet. 'Patagonia Narrow Gauge in 1996' by Alan Pearce. Starts 19.30 Contact 0208 368 6200.

18th January 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "Just in front of the good Doctor, Operation 8" by Blake Paterson. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road. Newcastle Upon Tyne. 'The Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway' by Steven Walker. Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946.

19th January 2008
Churnet Valley Railway
'Burns Night' event.

21st January 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Film Show - North from Carlisle by Steam' plus 'The Holiday Line' on the Atlantic Coast Express. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Member £1.50.

24th January 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Tales of an International Railway Journalist" by Chris Jackson. Start 7.30pm. Entrance £1.50

1st-6th February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'IGE Winter Steam' in Slovenia. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at http://www.lcgb.org.com

1st February 2008
RCTS (Bristol Branch)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'Central Switzerland's Railway Wonderland' by Arthur Turner. Start 7.30pm.

4th February 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Film Show - Pure Steam in Oz'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

RCTS (Merseyside Branch)
The Lever Club, Greendale Road. 'Civil Engineer Part 3' by John Ryan Start 7.45pm.

5th February 2008
RCTS (Watford Branch)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road. 'The Midland Railway Trust' by Peter Featherstone. Start 7.30pm.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Miscellany of steam railway and tram slides' talk by Martyn Davies. Starts 19.30. Entrance fee £2

6th February 2008
RCTS (Ipswich Branch)
St Thomas Church, Back Room Bramford Lane. Ipswich. 'Transport in the Philippines' by Dave Carson. Start 7.30pm.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell. 'An abc of BR Steam' colour slideshow by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814.

7th February 2008
RCTS (Milton Keynes Branch)
CIU Workingmen's Club, London Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. 'The Waverley Route' by Dave Lovell. Start 7.30pm.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'From Wick to Penzance in the last 30 years' by Bob Cleary. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

8th February 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Welsh Highland Revival' by George Jones Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

RCTS (Edinburgh Branch)
Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'Scottish Industrial Steam' by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 19.30

11th February 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Tramways - A tour-de-force'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

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

▼ ***With the statue to Sir John Betjamin in the foreground, the colourful Christmas surround to the clock, displays an advent calendar while retaining the superb clock as its focal point.*** **Brian Morrison**

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