The Railway Herald

www.railwayherald.co.uk

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Front Cover

***Visiting West Country Pacific No. 34007 Wadebridge is pictured hard at work on the Mid-Hants Railway working the 14.00 'Santa Special' departure from Alton on 19th December.* David Warwick**

Rear Cover

***On 12th December, the 13.24 First Great Western, Hereford - London Paddington service departs from Ledbury in the capable hands of two of FGWs re-engined Class 43 powercars.* Ken Brunt**

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.

Editorial

Another year draws to a close and with it the apparent end of a chapter in British Railways history with the final working of the Class 87s.

Having ceased use with Virgin Trains, occasional workings on passenger, parcels and stock movements have seen the last few locomotives find use with Cotswold Rail and more recently First GBRf. However, Spitfire Railtours' charter, hopefully with both Nos. 87022 *Cock o' the North* and 87028 *Lord President* on 29th December looks destined to mark the last working of the locomotives. Taking the pair over their old stamping ground of the West Coast Main Line, including the climbs of both Shap and Beattock, the tour will hopefully be an appropriate farewell to a well liked and much loved class.

Just what will 2008 bring? Well, continued uncertainty over the future of the EWS Class 37 fleet for sure and, if the rumour mill is to be believed, some uncertainty about the Class 20 fleet operated by DRS, especially given the recent influx of other traction. On the special trains front, the demise of Victa WestLink Rail, leaves some wondering where the charter scene will head, although the return of a pair of Great Western Railway 'Castle' class locomotives, Nos. 5029 *Nunney Castle* and 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe*, together with the long-awaited debut of Gresley-designed A4 No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* will provide a much needed boost to the mainline steam locomotive fleet as well as an immense amount of interest. There is also the prospect of a long-awaited LMS locomotive appearing over the next twelve months!

For *Railway Herald*, there are a number of exciting developments, of which we'll tell you more in our next issue. What we can say, however, is that following the large response to our Worldwide supplement a month ago, the decision has now been taken to launch a new free-of-charge eMagazine - *Railway Herald Worldwide* - from mid-January. The title will be produced monthly and will cover news, information and pictorial views from across the world. More information can be found by visiting http://www.railwayherald.co.uk/worldwide. You can also register your interest in the magazine on that webpage as well.

Several people have asked why we jumped from Issue 112 to 114! Following the large number of technical and network issues that we experienced after publishing Issue 13 (yes that really was back in July 2005!), it was decided that we would never use the number 13 as an issue number again, hence the jump!

Although the magazine will be taking a break over Christmas, do check our website and for those of you on subscription, your inbox, on 28th December for our 2008 eCalendar. Available in two different forms, which will enable it to be displayed on screen or printed!

All that remains for me to do is to offer thanks to all our contributors across the world for their help, support and submissions. On a personal note, my very grateful thanks go to my two colleagues who work alongside me on the magazine, our Contributing Editor, Brian Morrison, and Railtour Editor, John Whitehouse, without whose help and assistance, *Railway Herald* would certainly not be as in-depth as it is.

So, from the three of us here at *Railway Herald*, to all our readers and contributors, have a very happy, safe and enjoyable festive period. We wish you good health and plenty of sun for photo opportunities in 2008 - and have a very good New Year!

Richard Tuplin
Editor

▼ ***West Coast Railway Company Class 47/4 No. 47804 leads a Nottingham to Lincoln service past Swinderby signal box on 7th December. The loco-hauled additionals were run for the Lincoln Christmas Market.* John Whitehouse**

Merry Christmas to all our readers

As a result of editorial holiday over the Christmas period, this is our last issue of 2007. *Railway Herald* will return in the new year, with Issue 116 being published on 11TH JANUARY 2008.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our readers and contributors

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Grand Central finally starts passenger services

▲ *The first Grand Central passenger service ran on 19th December, the 06.46 from Sunderland to London King's Cross, entitled 'The Zephyr'. Powered by Class 43 HST powercars Nos 43067 & 43080 the train was the first direct service from Wearside to London for almost 20 years, and is seen passing through Harringay on the approaches to London King's Cross. Unfortunately the start did not go too well for the company. The following day's trains had to be cancelled when the set was failed before departure from Heaton Depot on 20th December.* **Brian Morrison**

The new 'iconic' St Helens Central

As previously reported, the new St Helens Central station was opened by Rosie Winterton MP on 4th December.

The Pilkington glass-fronted building has been designed to complement the neighbouring George Street conservation area and blend in with its surroundings.

It includes a new booking and ticket office, waiting areas on platforms, new lifts, a footbridge for improved access, cycle parking, digital CCTV and new customer information systems.

◀ *The new look station at St Helens on 19th December.* **John Hillmer**

Norwich joins the South West!

▼ *Looking very out of place in Norwich station, South West Trains-branded Class 158/0 No 158883 awaits departure on 20th December, forming the 17.00 East Midlands Trains' service to Liverpool Lime Street. Two of these SWT Class 158s are on loan to the new TOC.* **Brian Morrison**

▶ Following the report from Network Rail that the West Coast Main Line will be closed at Rugby for the period 27th-30th December, this period will now be extended to 31st December to enable vital work to be safely and properly completed. The alternative travel arrangements in place for the original closure will remain for the extra day. The scheme includes the installation of over 5,000 metres of overhead line and bringing into use 5,300 metres of new track.

▶ Eurostar has announced that ticket bookings for the St Pancras International-Avignon service will open on 27th December. The weekly Saturday service runs from 12th July – 6th December and fares start from £99 return. The company has also announced that travellers from 68 towns and cities across Britain can now buy through-fares to Paris, Disneyland Resort Paris, Brussels (as well as any station in Belgium), and 75 connecting destinations in France, over its website. The site is linked with the ticketing systems of seven UK train operators: Virgin Trains, First Capital Connect, National Express East Coast, East Midlands Trains, Chiltern Railways, Hull Trains and London Midland, making international rail journeys to mainland Europe easier and more seamless. Travellers in cities such as Leeds, Leicester, Cambridge, York and Birmingham can now simply go to eurostar.com and book one fare valid for the entire journey from their local mainline station to their continental destination. They then collect their tickets from the self-service ticket machines at the station just before starting the journey. Travellers can also start their bookings on First Capital Connect and East Midlands Trains websites, from where they will be directed to eurostar.com. Standard class, return fares to Paris, Brussels and Disneyland Resort Paris start from just £67. There are up to 17 connecting rail services a day to Paris and up to 10-a-day to Brussels. Through-fares also include travel on London Underground for those passengers needing to transfer from Euston and Marylebone stations to St Pancras International. Through-fares are available up to 84 days in advance in line with the standard booking horizon of UK train operators. Eurostar and UK train operators will extend the range of through-fares to the stations of more British cities in mid-to-late 2008, as well as extending sales to more websites. They will also launch through-fares from continental towns and cities for business travellers and holidaymakers heading inbound to destinations across Britain.

▶ Construction of the new £25.5 million East Midlands Parkway station has begun, the project being primarily funded by Network Rail with a contribution of almost £1 million from the East Midlands Development Agency, will provide a totally new station constructed near Junction 24 of the M1 at Ratcliffe-on-Soar and is due to open in December 2008. The building will provide choices for passengers and hopefully tempt motorists from the nearby M1 to try a 'greener 'form of travel; 850 car parking spaces are being provided. The station, which will provide easy access to the nearby East Midlands Airport, will have four platforms and step-free access.

▶ Network Rail completed construction of a new rail bridge at Ely on 20th December, enabling the resumption of services from Ipswich to Peterborough. The original bridge which spanned the River Ouse was damaged by the derailment of a freight train on 22nd June, and had to be demolished. The centre span of the new bridge was craned into place over the weekend of 15/16th December and track maintenance teams then completed laying the new track and signals. The new bridge is a single, steel decked river span structure. It is around 100 metres in total length and will continue to carry a single line across the river but has the capacity to carry two and be ready for the larger European sized W10 gauge freight.

Langdon Park opens

▲ ***The new Docklands station of Langdon Park opened for passengers on 10th December. Unit No 15 heads a Stratford-Canary Wharf service, while No 78 is destined for Stratford.***

▶ ***DLR's Stratford terminus now has two platforms in use. On 18th December, unit No 75 heads for Canary Wharf as No 15 arrives on the opposite side of the platform at the rear of a train from Lewisham*** **Both: Brian Morrison**

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Time for a *different* kind of number?

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RMT threatens action if Metronet jobs are lost
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John 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
Virtuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote
Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London 's newest tube station

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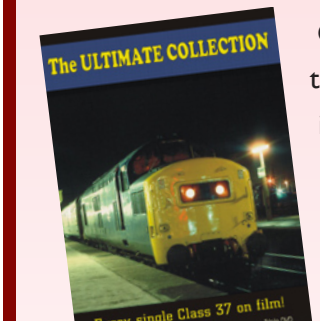

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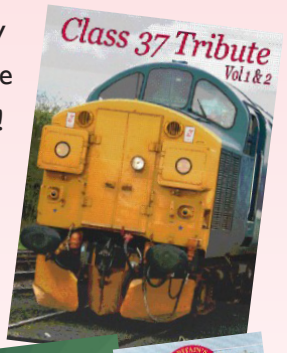

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Work starts on Aylesbury Vale station

Work has begun on preparing the site for the new Aylesbury Vale Parkway station.

The new station is situated to the north of the town and will be served by two trains an hour during the peak and by one an hour at all other times. Services will operate from Aylesbury with some trains from London being extended to service the new station when it opens in 2010.

▶ ***On 1st December, Fastline's Plasser & Theurer RM74 ballast cleaner spews out unwanted ballast alongside the existing Aylesbury-Quainton Road freight line. This was then due to be reballasted the following day. The new station will be served by a bay from this line and the area for this is seen to the right of the cleaner.*** **John Stretton**

Driver Training trips commence on delayed Ebbw Vale line

q On 18th December Class 143 No. 143607 passes through Risca Rogerstone station on the new Ebbw Vale passenger route. Due to recent problems, the line was not opened as planned last week, with driver training trips only starting on the 18th December. The train pictured, was only the second to run on the Ebbw Valley Line between Cardiff and Ebbw Vale and passenger services are due to commence in early 2008. **Capita Symonds, Cwmbran**

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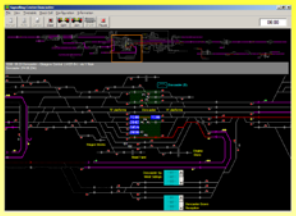

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The Irish Mail

Saturday 16 February

Ealing Broadway, Reading, Didcot, Oxford, Banbury, Leamington Spa, Coventry, Birmingham and Stafford to Chester and Holyhead, return via Warrington, Eccles, Manchester Victoria, Denton Junction, Stockport, Macclesfield and Stoke. D1015 *Western Champion* **throughout**. Standard Class, First Class Plus and Premier Dining. In association with the Irish Traction Group (ITG).

The Golden Slipper

Saturday 1 March

A St. David's Day 'Spinner' to South Wales, from Watford Junction, Milton Keynes, Northampton, Coventry, Birmingham, Barnt Green and Cheltenham. Features the *Golden Mile* onto the Machen branch, Penarth Curve South to North, Leckwith Loop, Tondu via Parc Slip to Margam, plus a break at Barry for an optional visit to the Barry Island Railway *Shunter Day*, featuring their Class 08 and Class 14, plus two others. Class 57/3, 66/5, 60 and 66/0. Standard and First Class.

The Buffer Puffer 6.1

Saturday 8 March

Kings Cross to Primrose Hill, Herne Hill, Tulse Hill, Gipsy Hill, Uckfield, East Grinstead, Leigham Curve, Charing Cross, Blackfriars, Crouch Hill and Gordon Hill. Standard and First Class.

The Choppington Changer

Saturday 15 March

London King's Cross, Potters Bar, Stevenage, Peterboro', Grantham, Newark and Retford to the *Blyth and Tyne*. Class 92, 56, 66/5 and 60. Standard and First Class.

The Edinburgh Excursion

Saturday 22 March

Worcester, Kidderminster, Stourbridge Junction, Birmingham, Coleshill, Tamworth to Edinburgh via Alnmouth and Berwick-upon-Tweed. Class 50 power throughout. Standard Class, First Class Plus and Premier Dining.

The Heart of Wales

Saturday 29 March

Cardiff, Severnside & West Mids, then south over the Heart of Wales line, with a break at Llandrindod. Standard Class, First Class Plus and Premier Dining. Deltic throughout, a first on the Central Wales line.

The East Anglian

Saturday 12 April

West Midlands, Cotswolds and Wiltshire to Lowestoft circular via the East Suffolk Line with 40145. Optional visit to Bressingham Steam and Gardens. Standard and First Class.

The Grays Church Elegy

Saturday 26 April

Crewe and stations via Stafford , Birmingham, Nuneaton, Leicester and Peterboro' to Fenchurch Street and Thames Haven branch. Standard and First Class.

The Western Scot

Saturday 3 May

Tame Bridge Parkway, Birmingham, Sandwell & Dudley, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe and Preston to Edinburgh. Out via Shap, the Tyne Valley, Newcastle and Berwick, return via Beattock. Class 52 throughout, a first ever visit to Scotland by Swindon's finest diesel class. Standard Class, First Class Plus and Premier Dining.

The Settle & Carlisle line

Saturdays 24 and 31 May

Pick-up points from Swindon, Bristol, Severnside, West Mids, Shropshire, Wrexham and Chester for 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* between Preston and Carlisle, northbound on 24 May, southbound 31 May. Standard Class, First Class Plus and Premier Dining.

Further dates for 2007 / 2008 (to be confirmed)

5 April – t.b.a.
19 April – Bristol to Holyhead – *Princess Elizabeth.*
18-20 April - Railtour in Germany with Mercia Charters.
10 May – Leicester to Cumbrian Coast – 37s.
17 May – t.b.a.
7-9 June – Weekend to Scotland.
28 June – 55022 to Penzance for Mazey Day.

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▲ *The Venice-Simplon Orient Express (VSOE) Surrey Christmas Luncheon Special starts out of London's Victoria station, just a few minutes late, and begins the climb of Grosvenor bank, during a rare few minutes of sunshine on 20th December. In charge for the circular route via Staines, Guildford and Reigate was Bulleid-designed Merchant Navy No. 35028 Clan Line, back in traffic following its problems last week.*
Tim Edmonds

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.

21st December			
Railway Touring Company	34067	London Victoria-East Croydon-Tonbridge-Ashford-Canterbury West - Folkestone-Ashford-Tonbridge and return	**Cancelled**
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-Wolverhampton-Hereford)-Newport-Chepstow-Lickey-Bescot (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	2xGBRf Cl87	Birmingham Int-Stafford-Preston-Glasgow Central and return	
Vintage Trains	tbc	Tyseley Warwick Road-tbc-Tyseley Warwick Road	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	9466	Shirley-Stratford upon Avon (rev)-Shirley-Tyseley (NR) (break)-Tyseley Warwick Road-Birmingham Snow Hill-Stourbridge Jct (rev)-Birmingham Snow Hill	**Cancelled**
30th December			
Vintage Trains	9466	Tyseley WR-Stratford upon Avon-Tyseley WR	**Cancelled**
12th January 2008			
Past Time Rail	76079	Manchester Victoria-Staleybridge-Diggle-Huddersfield-Hebdon Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (short break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria	

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

The Railtour Editor would like to start by taking this opportunity of wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and very Happy New Year.

But with Christmas out of the way, we do have a sad farewell to report. For more than 30 years the Class 87s have performed day-in and day-out on demanding diagrams the length and breadth of the West Coast Main Line, covering literally millions of miles in the process.

Since being displaced by the Pendolinos, the class has largely fallen by the wayside with just two examples finding regular mainline use. Known among the enthusiasts as 'Wembley's Finest', Nos. 87022 *Cock o' the North* and 87028 *Lord President* will signal the end of Class 87 activity on Britain's railways by powering Spitfire Railtour's inaugural tour 'The Electric Scot Farewell'. The plan is for the train to be 'topped and tailed' throughout from Birmingham International to Glasgow Central and return. The stock will work from Oxley in the morning and back again in the evening. The locomotives are expected to remain at Oxley until the New Year before eventually being transferred to Long Marston to await their eventual transfer abroad.

The railtour programme at the end of the year has been severely hit by engineering work, so the only other tour operating is for Kingfisher from Ealing Broadway diesel-hauled through to Dorridge, and then via Wolverhampton, Wellington and Craven Arms to Hereford where No. 6024 *King Edward I* will take over to run via Newport, Chepstow, Gloucester, the Lickey Incline and Sutton Park to Bescot, where diesel traction again takes over for the return to Ealing Broadway.

While the ascent of the 'Lickey' will be in the dark it is nevertheless expected to be a spectacular event.

Early 2008 programme announced by Pathfinder

Pathfinder has announced further new tours for 2008 with perhaps the first visit of a Deltic to the Central Wales Line being the highlight.

This is scheduled to occur on 29th March and feature No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* throughout from Cardiff and travelling via the West Midlands to Llandrindod Wells for a short break before continuing to Cardiff and setting down as outwards before terminating at Crewe.

Two weeks later, and classic English Electric traction again features, this time by returning to old haunts in East Anglia. Class 40 No. 40145 provides the traction from Birmingham New Street via Cheltenham, Swindon to Stratford and the East Anglian mainline to Ipswich. Here the train diverges onto the East Suffolk line to Lowestoft. The return to Birmingham is via Thetford, March and Peterborough.

English Electric traction is also planned for Pathfinder's trip to Edinburgh from Worcester on 22nd March. The route is via Birmingham, Chesterfield, Sheffield, York and Newcastle, and which hopefully will bring sight and sound of a pair of Class 50s to the Royal Border Bridge at Berwick-upon-Tweed.

On 15th March the company also head for the north-east with a 'spin and win' featuring Classes 92, 56, 66/5 and 60 from London King's Cross to Newcastle, Morpeth and Bedington. On 1st March, Pathfinder has a 'spin and win' into South Wales from Watford Junction via Birmingham, and visits Machen, Barry (for optional visit to the Barry Island Railway) and the Maesteg branch. Classes 57/3, 60 & 66/5 should feature.

It should be noted that the company's 'Buffer Puffer 6.0', originally scheduled for 26th January has now been re-scheduled for 2nd February and will operate with 'topped and tailed' Class 37s instead of Class 31s as originally advertised.

Past Time secures *Clan Line* for 2008 trip

Pick of the Past Time early season dates has to be Past Time's acquisition of 'Merchant Navy' No. 35028 *Clan Line* for its 'Southern Sunset' tour on 22nd March.

As *Clan Line* is virtually exclusively tied up with VSOE work, this has to be a rare coup for Past Time to obtain the locomotive for the working from London Victoria through to Salisbury. The return is via Southampton, Havant, Haselmere and Guildford.

Earlier, on 23rd February, the company employs a pair of EWS Class 37s from Doncaster, via Leeds and Appleby to Carlisle, which returns via Hexham and Durham to York. Electric traction is employed from King's Cross on the outward run, and from York back to London on the return. Sandwiched between these tours is a 'York Flyer' from Swansea and principal stations to Gloucester on St.David's Day, 1st March.

Duchess dates for 2008

After undergoing winter maintenance and overhaul at the West Shed at Swanwick Junction, the diary for No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* is beginning to fill up.

In addition to dates announced with the Railway Touring Company (see separate article) PMR Tours has provided its own programme of trains commencing on 12th April on a return working from Leicester to Scarborough. This is followed by the first of two trains to Holyhead, from Lincoln on 26th April and Lancaster on 14th June, both with No. 6233 from Crewe.

A bracing trip to Blackpool is scheduled for 10th May from Sheffield. Finally, there is the obligatory return trip over Shap on 24th May, from Gloucester. Both of these trips are steam-hauled from Crewe.

▲ ***Providing the power for the 'York Yuletide Express' on 16th December from Liverpool Lime Street to York, was Ian Riley's pairing of LMS Black 5 4-6-0 No. 45407 and BR Standard 4MT No. 76079. The duo depart from Brighouse, running 10 minutes late after taking water.*** **Phil Sanderson**

Railway Touring Company announces programme for start of 2008.

The Railway Touring Company has announced its UK programme until May 2008, with No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* featuring on the company's first trains.

The inaugural 2008 working is to Newcastle from Manchester Victoria, followed a week later with a trip around the Cumbrian Coast from Preston. Chester is the destination on 1st March, with steam from Leicester with No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*, followed by a Liverpool Lime Street to Carlisle working on 8th March with *Duke of Gloucester*. Then No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* joins the fray working the return leg of a Leeds-Edinburgh charter on 15th March.

Seven days later, and RTC have *Duchess of Sutherland* from Leicester to York followed on the 29th with No. 6024 *King Edward I* to Kingswear from Bristol Temple Meads on a train which originates at Birmingham International.

The programme has two Central Wales Line excursions in April featuring Riley's pairing of Nos. 76079 and 45407 double-heading, southbound on 19th April and northbound on 26th April. The steam section each way is between Crewe and Newport with Leicester and Manchester Victoria respectively being the start points of each tour.

Three trains feature over the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, commencing with No. 71000 to Fishguard Harbour on 3rd May, followed by No. 6024 to Pembroke Dock on 4th May and finally No. 71000 again on 5th May to Plymouth on a train which originates at Paddington.

▼ ***After setting down passengers at its destination, Hertfordshire Rail Tours 'Pullman' service from London King's Cross to Skipton on 15th December worked ECS to Preston for servicing. The train passes Otterburn en route to Preston, powered by DRS Class 47/7 No. 47790 with Victa Westlink Rail-liveried Class 47/4 No. 47832 on the rear.*** **Wayne Taylor**

▲ *Class 87 No. 87028 Lord President, was used on the Shieldmuir-Willesden daytime mail working on 18th December. The service is pictured passing Winwick Junction on the approach to Warrington RMT.*
Andrew Appleton

▶ *The previous day, and the same locomotive was in use on the same working, noted passing Stonebridge Park on the outskirts of London with a rare glimpse of winter sunshine.*
John Whitehouse

▼ *What is believed will be the final Class 87 locomotive to reach Norwich, No. 87022, works through Ingatestone with a Willesden - Norwich Crown Point coaching stock move on 13th December.*
Stuart Chapman

▲ *A firm fixture at the helm of the EWS operated mail service, which has been running northbound during daylight hours and southbound overnight, has been Class 90 No. 90028, the locomotive working the train for eight days solid, before handing the duty over to classmate No. 90026. Here No. 90028 heads north through Tamworth on 14th December.* **Steve Phillpott**

▼ *A livery and branding that will slowly vanish over the next couple of years, as 'one' Railway becomes National Express East Anglia. Leading the 08.30 Norwich to London Liverpool Street, Class 90 No. 90009 enjoys the winter sunlight as it powers past the Docklands Light Railway's Pudding Mill Lane station on 1st December.* **Antony Guppy**

▲ *Riviera Trains Class 47/4 No. 47839* **Pegasus** *heads southwards through Croome Perry Wood, just south of Abbotswood Junction in Worcestershire, with a Derby Litchurch Lane to Plymouth Laira stock move, conveying newly refurbished HST Mk3 trailer vehicles on 13th December.* **Peter Tandy**

▼ *A working that may yet be one of the highlights of the year! Riviera Trains' 1960s green-liveried Class 47/4 No. D1916 (alias 47812) drags a trio of Class 325 EMUs, Nos. 325006, 325004 and 325017, south through Acton Bridge on 19th December with a Sheildmuir - Willesden working. The Class 47 took over the train and piloted the units forward from Warrington RMT.* **Andrew Appleton**

▲*Because of planned engineering work between Chippenham and Swindon on 15th December, First Great Western hired two sets of Mk2 coaches to operate an hourly shuttle service between Bristol Temple Meads and Chippenham, each being 'topped and tailed' by a pair of EWS Class 67s. No. 67027 passes Thingley with the 11.45 Bristol TM - Chippenham working. Classmate No. 67003 was on the other end of the train.*

▼ *The other set featured Class 67s Nos. 67024 and 67030, the latter of which is pictured after arrival at Bristol Temple Meads with the 15.41 shuttle from Chippenham.* **Both: Glen Batten**

▲ *Although Class 185s have been a regular sight for 12 months at Oxenholme, since their introduction by First TransPennine onto the Manchester - Windermere services, they have been a very rare sight using the mainline platforms. Since the expansion of the Class 185 operating area to include the Manchester to Glasgow and Edinburgh service with the start of the December timetable, the class is now a regular feature. No. 185123 stands at Oxenholme with the Sundays only 11.27 Manchester Airport - Edinburgh service on 9th December.* **Ron Radley**

▶ *The first Class 150/1 DMU to visit Exeter St Davids for many years is pictured at the station on 9th December. Ex-Silverlink-operated Class 150/1 No. 150121 is one of two sets transferred to First Great Western and based at Bristol. The '150' was the rear unit of the 18.10 Bristol Temple Meads - Exeter St Davids service, being led by Class 150/2 No. 150243.* **Phil Bellamy**

▶ *Full Class 142 operation commenced in the Exeter area on 10th December. As reported last week, 11 sets have been transferred south. Here, Class 142 Nos. 142063 and 142067 arrive at Lympstone Village with the 14.45 Exeter - Exmouth service on 15th December.* **Brian Garrett**

▲ *The two-car 'Thumper' DEMU No. 1125 based on the Mid-Hants Railway has recently undergone major work on its wheelsets in order to return it to service. After two-years out of traffic, No. 1125 (previously TOPS No. 205025) departs from Alresford on 19th December with a test run.* **David Warwick**

NYMR reveals three working A4s for Spring gala!

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has announced details of its Spring LNER Festival, to be held on 28th-30th March and 4th-6th April 2008.

It is expected that at least seven engines from the former London & North Eastern Railway will be in operation during the two weekends of the Festival. These include all three working Gresley A4 Pacifics Nos. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, 60009 *Union of South Africa* and 60019 *Bittern*. The locos will be joined by a fourth icon, 'V2' No. 4771 *Green Arrow*, on the NYMR for its final weeks of operation before the engine's boiler certificate expires.

Thompson 'B1' No 61264, 'K1' No 62005, and recently restored North Eastern Railway 'Q6' No 63395 will also be in traffic. It is hoped that an eighth 'mystery loco' will complete the line-up

York announces '1968' event line-up

The National Railway Museum has announced the line-up for its '1968 and all that' event, a nine day special to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the official end of British Rail mainline steam in the UK.

The programme is scheduled to run from 24th May to 1st June next year and is subtitled 'railways in a changing world', focusing on the wave of social change that swept through 1960's Britain.

Stars of the show will be a number of the locomotives that were involved in steam's swansong, including Britannia Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* that hauled the last-ever steam-hauled mainline passenger service, the '15 Guinea Special', on 11th August 1968. The loco is fresh from restoration at Loughborough.

Also featuring in the event (subject to any necessary change) will be: LMS 'Black Five' No. 45305, LNWR 'Super D' No. 49395, BR '9F' No. 92220 *Evening Star*, BR Class 52 No. D1023 *Western Fusilier*, NER 'Q6' 0-8-0 No. 63395, Robinson '04' 2-8-0 No. 63601, J94 class 0-6-0ST No. 49 and Beattie 0298 class 2-4-0 Well Tank No. 30587.

Restoration progress as *Manston* boiler is reunited with frames

▼ *Visible progress is being made in the Swanage Railway's Herston workshops, situated away from the line within the Purbeck Business Centre in the town, on the restoration and overhaul to full working order of unrebuilt West Country Pacific No. 34070* **Manston**. *The boiler was reunited with the frames during the morning of 13th December, and work will now continue behind-the-scenes to complete the overhaul.* **Andrew. P. M. Wright**

Warmth for Santa!

The first of four steam-heat vans, purchased by the Great Central Railway from Irish Rail earlier in the year, entered traffic in a static mode in early December.

The vehicle, which requires further attention before being able to be included within train consists was used to steam heat coaches for the railway's Santa Special trains, allowing the allocated steam locomotive to be off-shed later than was previously possible.

The GCR still has two of the ex-Irish Rail vehicles for sale.

In other news, the tender bodywork of No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* was returned to the chassis on 16th December.

Back to their roots!

When problems arose with the Diesel and Electric Preservation Group's Class 25 No. D7523, the West Somerset turned to steam power.

The railway is using the winter period to re-ballast sections of track using aggregate recovered from the West of England main line during the current renewals programme and delivered on a daily basis to Norton Fitzwarren.

On 12th December, GW 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 3850 powered a short rake of hopper wagons to the current work site near Minehead station. The following day, Class 47 No. D1661 was made available by the DEPG.

▶ ***GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 3850 stands at Washford on 12th December with a short ballast train.*** **Peter Vile**

NRM's Gresley 'V2' *Green Arrow* visits Churnet Valley Railway

The Churnet Valley Railway will be operating a selection of services in the last two weeks of February, both as a celebration of the end of steam on British Railways and an introduction to its Steam Gala on 23/24th February.

Two guest locomotives will join the current residents of S160 class USA 2-8-0 No. 5197 and BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80098. Class 4F 0-6-0 No. 44422 will be returning after an absence of five years, before which it was the line's resident engine. It is planned to be on the railway for seven weeks with duties including extensive running during the Steam Gala, two photographic charters and at least four other outings during its stay. It is hoped to have a '4F Day' in early March.

The main attraction however, is likely to be Gresley 'V2' class 2-6-2 No. 4771 *Green Arrow*, the locomotive being part of the National Collection and currently in the last months of its boiler ticket. No 80098 will also be 'out of ticket' in April and No. 5197 in December.

On the weekend of 16th/17th February, *Green Arrow* will be operating all of the single train running timetable. This is the only opportunity to guarantee travel behind the locomotive. Ticket prices to be announced.

On 18th/19th February, Green Arrow Footplate Experience Days will be held and places are limited to only eight people over the two days. The footplate course will differ from those normally offered, participants being able to join the footplate crew from early morning to light up the engine and prepare it for service. A cooked breakfast will be provided, although not cooked 'on the shovel'. A full day will follow with lunch provided and the chance to assist in the disposal at the end of the day. Cost of this unique chance to drive No. 4771 is £500 per person.

Finally, on 23rd/24th February the line will hold a steam gala weekend with two train operation on both days. It is planned that all four locomotives will be hauling trains at various times. The Saturday evening will be a single train timetable featuring each of the engines in steam and offering a full bar service on board.

To make use of the locomotives available and the recently installed yard lighting, the engine shed and yards will be opened up for a night time 'Photo shoot'. Normally this would be restricted to private bookings only, but on this evening it will be possible to 'pay on the door' and 'shoot' as you wish.

▼ ***Southern Region unrebuilt West Country Pacific, No. 34007 Wadebridge, currently visiting the Mid-Hants Railway, is pictured passing Wanders Curve on 19th December while working one of the line's 'Santa Special' services.*** **David Warwick**

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.

21st December 2007
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Down the Main' (Paddington to Penzance) by Terry Nichols. Starts 19.45

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

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ALL AT RAILWAY HERALD

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 Locomotive 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 Locomotive 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

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Room B110, Croydon College.
'The Footprint Project' by Peter Doran, ORR. Starts 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle Branch)
The Railway Hotel, adjacent to Preston station..
'Relaying Manchester Metrolink - Altringham and Bury Lines' by Tony Slater, Carillion Rail. Starts 17.30 for 18.00

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Blackfriars, London.
'Waterloo & City Line Upgrade' by Peter Barker, LUL Engineering Directorate. Starts 18.30. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558.

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
Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Hotel, Chester.
'Design and Construction of the La Farge Cement Railway' by Philip Bull, Parsons Brinkerhoff. Starts 18.30. Contact Carl Barker on 01782 717472.

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Sussex House, Reading.
'The Redesign of Rugby on the WCML' by R. Lees, Scott Wilson Railways. Starts 17.30. Contact Rodney Pinchen at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk.

Scottish Railway 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.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool)
Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester.
'Design and Construction of the La Farge Cement Railway' by Philip Bull, Parsons Brinkerhoff. Starts 12.30. Contact Rob Cummings on 0161 228 5321.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales)
Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport.
'Rolling Contact Fatigue - Prediction and Prevention' by Mark Burstow, Network Rail. Starts 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664.

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

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'Members Miscellany' Start 19.30, Refreshments available.

12th January 2008
Stephenson Loco 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
Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby)
The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station. 'Signalling in a P'Way World' by Andy Cokayne. Starts 18.30. Contact Colin Dowey on 01949 837067.

Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)
The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds.
'Keighley & Worth Valley Railway' by Bruce MacDougall, K&WVR. Starts 18.30.
Contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949.

RCTS (Cheltenham Branch)
The Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham.
"Twelve Countries Trains" by Ian Wilson. Includes Belgium, Croatia, Hungary and Lithuania!
Start 7.30pm.

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

16th January 2007
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow.
'The interface between structure and track' by Andy Stokes, Carillion. Starts 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St. James Park tube.
'Trent Valley Four Tracking' by Nigel Jacques. Starts 17.30

17th January 2007
Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow.
'Up the Devil's Nose - A visit to the Guayaquil & Quito, Ecuador' by Mike Hyde. Meeting starts 19.45
Non-members £2.

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
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Have I got views for you' by Michael Pollard. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

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

29th January 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton.
'Maurice Deane Remembered Again' by Ian Bennett. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

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
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'Rambling around the regions' by Richard Icke. Start 19.30, Refreshments available.

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

▼ ***SR Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 Clan Line storms through Shere Heath on the Surrey Hills VSOE luncheon train on 11th December. The winter sun providing an excellent backlight for the photography.*** **Don Benn**