The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

DRS have been providing the motive power for an RHTT test train in North Lincolnshire recently. Here Nos. 37038 and 37668 pass Kirton Lime Sidings on 16th January. **Richard Tuplin**

Rear Cover

An alternative view of Class 390 Pendolino No. 390046 Virgin Soldiers at Manchester Piccadilly shortly after arrival on 22nd January, taken with adept movement of the zoom lens. **Chris Dixon**

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

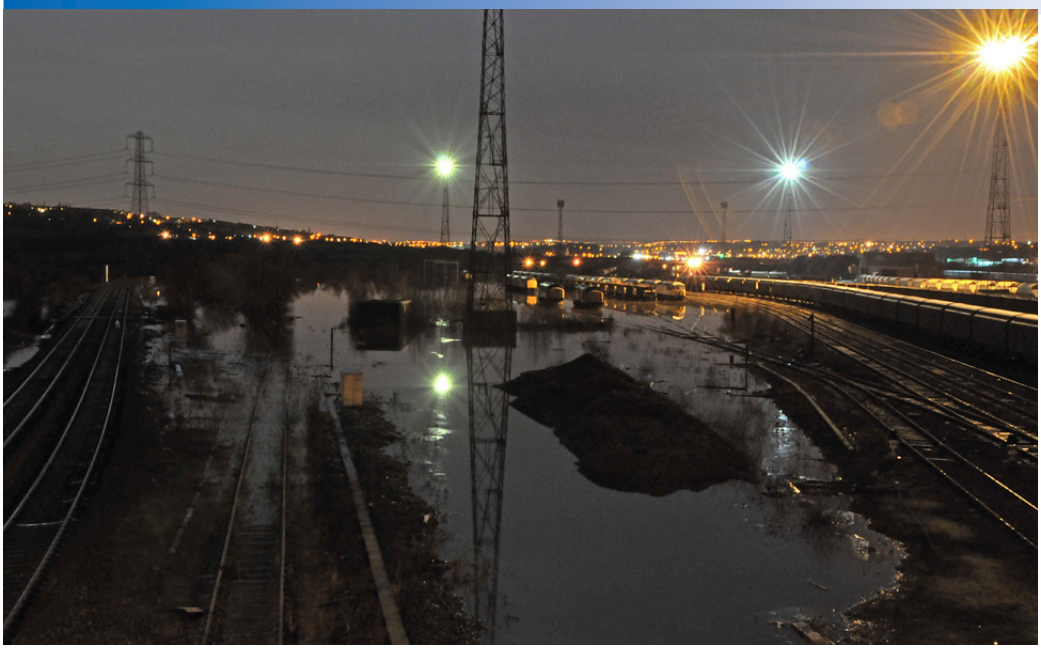
National Rail Timetable

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



▲ ***This was the scene at Healey Mills yard at 05.00 on 22nd January, as flood water from the River Calder and torrential rain brought operations in West Yorkshire to a stand.*** **Ian Tunstall**

Heavy rain once again causes problems for rail

Bad weather and heavy rain have once again brought chaos to parts of the UK's rail network.

Around 20.00 on 21st January, Network Rail took the decision to close and isolate the electric power supply for the signals and points operated by Healey Mills powerbox due to the rising water of the River Calder, which was beginning to enter the ground floor and relay rooms of the powerbox.

As a result of the distance covered by the powerbox, this not only brought a complete stop to the whole of Healey Mills yard, but also to all passenger and freight services in an area bounded by Horbury, Dewsbury and Huddersfield.

In Healey Mills yard itself, the stored Class 37 and Class 56 locomotives were left standing in flood water, as were freight services which were being staged in the yard.

In a separate incident, around 40 tonnes of mud and vegetation collapsed alongside the railway at Elland on the Hebden Bridge - Wakefield line on 21st January.

Engineers estimate it could cost around £4 million to permanently fix and rail services are likely to be disrupted for several months. Train planners are currently working with passenger and freight operators to obtain the best possible safe service.

Dyan Crowther, Route Director for Network Rail, said: "Although this site was not a problem for us during the floods last summer, engineers were already investigating what action was needed and a speed restriction had been placed on the lines to ensure safety."

Meanwhile, rail services between Halifax and Huddersfield remain suspended due to flooding near Brighouse, and a replacement bus service is in operation for this service. Trains from Selby to Wakefield via Bradford Interchange and Huddersfield are also affected by the same problem.

West Yorkshire's electrified network, serving Ilkley, Bradford Foster Square and Skipton, reopened after a closure caused by flooding, which means that services from Leeds to Carlisle, Lancaster and Morecambe are also back to normal, as is the National Express East Coast service between Bradford Foster Square and London King's Cross.

On the Western Region, trains are being disrupted because of a landslide near Chipping Sodbury, between Swindon and Bristol, with normal services not expected to resume before 26th January. Rail services on the usual flooding casualty - the Blaenau Ffestiniog branch in North Wales - are again suspended as a result of high water at Llanwrst.

Work to re-instate Olive Mount Chord to commence

The go-ahead has been given for contractors to start work on re-opening the Olive Mount Chord, a project to reinstate the freight link between the Port of Liverpool at Bootle and the WCML.

The scheme will remove the need for freight trains to reverse at Edge Hill, thus reducing rail times by cutting the need to cross lines into/out of Lime Street.

First Engineering Ltd has been announced as construction contractors, and work could start within weeks. Merseytravel has contributed £2.1million to the £7.9million project, which is also being supported by Network Rail, the Northwest Regional Development Agency, Merseyside's District Councils and the European Regional Development Fund.

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▲ *The 12.22 service from Waterloo arrives in the bay platform at Weybridge on 24th January, formed of the first two converted Class 450/5 High Density units Nos 450555 & 450548.* **Brian Morrison**

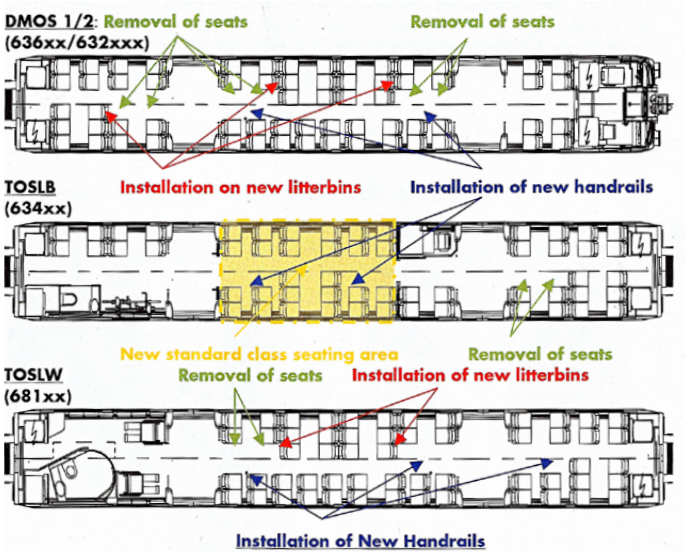
SWT unveils new-look High Density Class 450/5 Desiro

As part of the renewal of the South West Trains' franchise, 28 of the Siemens' built Class 450 Desiro EMU fleet were agreed to be converted into dedicated high density units.

The sets are to be utilised for the Waterloo services to and from Weybridge via Chertsey, the Hounslow Loop and Windsor & Eton Riverside by removing the First Class section in the trains and replacing them with Standard Class and also removing some 40 Second Class seats to enable the doorway areas to be opened up to encourage peak commuters to pass down the coach. The single-leaf and bi-parting First Class doors have also been removed, together with the vertical litter bins from the doorway areas, which have been replaced with seat-back bins. New handrails have also been fitted throughout the train in the positions where 3+3 seating has been reduced to 2+2, the revised lay-out being illustrated in the diagram opposite.

Apart from the removal of the First Class, no changes have been made to the exterior of the units except for the unit numbers that all have 500 added, Nos 450043 to 450070 becoming 450543 to 450570 with an added 'HC' for high density and re-designated as Class 450/5.

The changes are all being undertaken by Siemens at Bournemouth Depot and with the first two units in service from 21st January, all 28 are expected to be in traffic by May.



▼ **BEFORE:** *The Siemens Class 450/0 'Desiro' First Class interior that is being stripped out of 28 members of the fleet and replaced with Standard Class accommodation.*

▼ **AFTER:** *The First Class section in 28 Class 450s is being replaced with Standard Class seating for use on the heavily loaded Weybridge, Hounslow Loop and Windsor SWT services.*

Track and signalling work means 'all change' at Barnham

▲ *Southern Railway Class 377/4 No. 377411 pauses at Barnham on 20th January, with the 12.43 Portsmouth Harbour-London Victoria service, diverted via Littlehampton and Horsham due to engineering work on the Brighton main line. The signal box, will be removed once the resignalling work and platform alterations have been completed.*

▶ *On the approach to Barnham, the same train passes the new signal box that is yet to be commissioned.*

▼ *Southern Class 377/1 No. 377113 departs from Barnham with the 12.14 Portsmouth Harbour-Brighton service on 20th January. New track will be sighted where the blue netting on the left of the picture can be seen. Here, a new bridge span across the B2233 is to be located allowing the new track to connect into Platform 1, the platform itself will be lengthened and Platform 2 made bi-directional. The extended 'down' loop will continue on its alignment, through where the photographer is standing and will diverge from the 'down' line approximately where this photograph has been taken, a new crossover replacing the old is behind the photographer.* **All: Chris Wilson**

▲ ***Bridge replacement work is on-going at Heyford station on the Western Region. In this view, taken on 23rd January, the old metal bridge has been demolished and will be replaced shortly by a new pre-cast concrete structure.*** **Ken Brunt**

◀ ***Although Class 91s are a regular sight at Sandy, they are normally to be seen passing at speed! Class 91 No. 91120 stands in the refuge sidings on 20th January, having sustained a wheelset problem. It was placed on a wheelskate and recovered overnight on 21st January by Class 67 No. 67003.*** **Malcolm Atkins**

▶ Lafarge has opened a new £1 million rail, river and road hub distribution centre at West Thurrock in Essex. Well placed for road connection with both the M25 and the A13, the site is literally beneath the northern spans of the Queen Elizabeth II Dartford River Crossing bridge. Marine-sourced sand and gravel brought ashore for processing and forward movement are the first loads to be handled, with cement to follow, supplying the company's ready-mixed concrete plants around London..

▶ As a result of track replacement work taking place, Chiltern Railways services between Warwick Parkway and Birmingham Snow Hill will be suspended from 9th to 17th February. Replacement road transport will be in operation and Chiltern services are also disrupted to Stratford-upon-Avon and Leamington Spa. For further details, click here.

▶ Bombardier Transportation has won a second order from Angel Trains for its next generation Class 172 'Green Trains', the contract being worth some 44 million euros. The 12 two-car units are being provided for use on the London Overground network and for Chiltern Railways. They are scheduled for delivery between 2009 and 2010. Production of the trains will take place at Bombardier's Derby plant.

▶ Key employees of Elec-Track Installations Ltd (ETI) have been invited by Network Rail to join the company. Around 50 employees of the Kent-based firm, which is in administration, are specialist supervisors for the installation of overhead electrical equipment. The move follows the announcement last week by Network Rail that is was seeking to bring more specialist engineering resource in-house to boost its ability to carry out such specialist areas of work rather than rely on agency personnel.

Deutsche Bahn AG acquires Chiltern Railways

Subject to regulatory approval, Deutsche Bahn AG will acquire Laing Rail Ltd. from John Laing plc, following the signing of contracts on 18th January.

As a result of the purchase, Deutsche Bahn AG has acquired a 100% shareholding in Chiltern Railways from Laing Rail and a 50% holding in each of the two joint venture companies - London Overground Rail Operations and Wrexham, Shropshire and Marylebone Railways, the latter being the recently formed company to commence passenger operations between London Marylebone, Shrewsbury and Wrexham later this spring.

London Overground Rail Operations Ltd is a 50/50 joint venture between Laing Rail and the MTR Corporation of Hong Kong. Launched in November 2007, it runs services on lines previously serviced by Silverlink Metro and from 2010 it will run the refurbished and extended East London Line which will be renamed the East London Railway.

As the current holders of the National Rail Awards 'Passenger Operator of the Year' award, Chiltern Railways is regarded as one of the most successful and customer orientated train operators in the UK.

DB has confirmed that the trusted Chiltern Railway's identity and name will remain unchanged and that Adrian Shooter and his management team will remain in control of the company. Once the deal has been finalised, all the acquired operations will be assigned to DB Regio AG, the division of Deutsche Bahn responsible for regional and local services.

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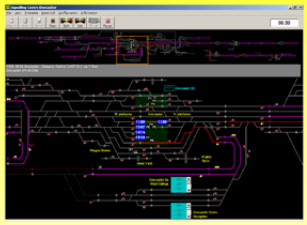

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▶ ECT Rail, through its subsidiary RMS Locotec, has commenced a service contract for the Corus Group's terminal in Shotton, North Wales. The contract involves moving up to 20,000 tonnes of steel each week on the 1.5 mile internal network between the exchange sidings with Network Rail at Dee Marsh and the Corus Colour works at Shotton. Two Class 08 locomotives will be used under the contract.

▶ First Great Western (FGW) has announced it is to give millions of pounds back to its passengers, doubling the amount of compensation. This move recognises travellers have not received the service they deserve, and means that most regular passengers will effectively pay the previous year's prices for their 2008 season tickets upon renewal. Season ticket holders will receive their compensation when they renew their current tickets. For example, a customer with a Standard Class annual season ticket between Bristol and Paddington will be entitled to £867 in compensation. Weekly season and day ticket holders will also be able to claim double compensation if their service is significantly delayed or cancelled. FGW chief operating officer, Andrew Haines said: "We've not given customers the service they deserve over the last 12 months, and we're sorry."

▲ *The new JSA coil carrier wagons at Corus' Margam works.* **VTG**

VTG introduces new wagons for Corus

The UK's largest private wagon hire company, VTG Rail, has commenced delivery of 40 new coil carrier wagons to Corus, increasing its fleet of this favoured wagon design to in excess of 100.

The wagons, which were delivered to Corus' steel works in Port Talbot, South Wales, have been produced by UK manufacturer WH Davis and provide maximum protection to the steel coils, which are high-value and sensitive to contamination from the elements. With timber lining inside, the wagons protect the coils from damage and the three, specially designed, telescopic hood sections keep products dry while maximising accessibility for loading and unloading.

In 2002, as part of a ground-breaking 'purchase, modify and leaseback' contract with Corus, VTG bought the privately-owned fleet, updating the wagons in the process, thereby relieving Corus of the responsibility of meeting stringent legal requirements involved in the modification of rolling stock. Modifications included replacing the difficult to handle heavy steel-clad sliding hoods with new lightweight aluminium versions, making them easier for operators to open and close without the help of machinery and therefore less prone to damage.

Network upgrade work continues in South Wales

The £18.5 million project by the Welsh Assembly Government to extend platforms, increase capacity and provide more frequent services on the Arriva Trains Wales-operated Cardiff Valley lines reaches a vital stage next month when Network Rail carries out more work on the Aberdare and Merthyr Tydfil branches.

From 2nd to 6th February, the programme of work will include replacement of the temporary platform at Abercynon South with a permanent structure, removal of the existing seats, waiting shelter, lighting and platform at Abercynon North and putting in place a temporary platform built to a new height. Removing and relaying track at Abercynon will also be undertaken, together with the installation of new cross-overs and switching units and installation of new signalling equipment at various locations on both routes. The work should lead to the possibility of improved frequency of trains at a later date.

A replacement bus service will be in operation between Pontypridd and Merthyr Tydfil and Pontypridd and Aberdare from 2nd to 6th February inclusive.

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Issue 1 available from 29th January

Recollecting the past ...

Several readers have kindly responded to the query relating to this illustration from 1985, taken by Brian Morrison and published in our 'Blue & Grey Years' feature in issue 117.

The large-logo liveried Class 56 was not taking the slam-door EMU stock to Chart Leacon for attention as was stated but was being used for Class 56 driver-training, prior to the type being introduced on South Eastern metals when working the new service out of Chatham Dockyard carrying asbestos away from the old dockyard complex.

Sincere thanks go to Driver John Horton, Southern Control Manager Dave Mulpeter and to David Staines, the latter also providing the date that the photo was taken, 6th September 1985, which he took from the caption on page 38 of the Ian Allan album 'BR Traction in Colour', the author of which was Brian Morrison!

As Brian says: "As regards memory, the older I get, the better it used to be!".

▲ *The picture that memory forgot! Class 56 No. 56047 powers a pair of withdrawn 4EPBs through Swanley. Thanks to readers for their help in providing the background information.*
Brian Morrison

Next phase of work for Airdire-Bathgate begins

Network Rail has started the process of Compulsory Purchase by publishing a list of land which it intends to acquire to allow the construction and operation of the new Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link.

The 1,100 plots of land, in locations along the proposed route through North Lanarkshire, West Lothian, and the City of Edinburgh include a combination of permanent and temporary land possessions.

All of the most significantly affected landowners have previously been contacted by Network Rail, however, the company has now written to all land and property owners to present formal notices of the intention to purchase.

The serving of pre-General Vesting Declaration notices marks the start of the formal process seeking to transfer land ownership and rights in land along the route to Network Rail. Some properties have already been acquired through an Advance Purchase Scheme.

It is anticipated that all the necessary land will be transferred to Network Rail by summer 2008 and construction work on the main section of the new line between Bathgate and Airdrie will begin in the autumn.

Extensive surveying work along the route of the line's formation, essential for providing the detailed design for the railway, is already underway.

Four community meetings have been arranged by Network Rail to help explain the compulsory purchase scheme and help answer related questions. The first two of these took place this week, with the remaining two being held on 29th January, from 16.00 until 20.00 at the Fairway Hotel, Edinburgh Road, Bathgate and on 31st January, from 18.30 until 20.30 at St Mary's Primary School, Elswick Drive, Caldercruix

Advanced work for the new £300 million rail link began in June last year with work taking place along the Bathgate branch, including extensive track replacement, soil excavation and the removal and replacement of five bridges.

First ScotRail and RNIB 'React' for passengers

Blind and partially sighted passengers travelling to and from Brunstane station in Scotland are now benefiting from the introduction of a new electronic system on the platforms designed to make rail travel easier.

First ScotRail has installed a £36,000 RNIB React system, which provides spoken messages to travellers, helping them to find their way around the station to improve accessibility and increase confidence for those wanting to travel by train. The messages are triggered by a sensor device carried by the passengers, the introduction of the system follows the success of the facility at Camelon and Lenzie stations, which came into operation in May 2007.

Following the introduction of the first system, First ScotRail invited blind and partially sighted members of RNIB Scotland to test out the facility at Camelon station and received both positive feedback on how it would provide welcome support as well as suggestions on how the system could be further improved.

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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
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
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▲ *Hertfordshire Rail Tour's 'Preston Docker' charter on 19th January took EWS Executive-liveried Class 67 No. 67029* **Royal Diamond** *to Heysham and the steeply graded Preston Docks branch, including a visit to the Ribble Steam Railway. With recently reinstated Class 37/4 No. 37401 on the opposite end, No. 67029 brings up the rear as the train stands in the steam railway platform at Preston.* **Fred Kerr**

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.

26th January		
Pathfinder Tours	2 x Cl31	The Buffer Puffer 6.0: London Terminals Tour **Postponed**
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Southampton Eastern Dock-London Victoria
2nd February		
Pathfinder Tours	2x EWS Cl. 37	London KX-Clapham Jct-Uckfield-East Grinstead-London Bridge-Victoria-Charing Cross-Cannon Street-Blackfriars-Finsbury Park-Gordon Hill Bay Platform-Kings Cross
Railway Touring Company	71000	Manchester Victoria-Wakefield-York-Newcastle upon Tyne and return
Spitfire Railtours	55022	London Kings Cross-Edinburgh and return **Cancelled**
8th February		
VSOE	EWS Class 67	London Victoria-London Victoria Luncheon Circular
9th February		
Heartland Rail	2xCR Cl47	Bristol TM-Bristol Parkway-Yate-Cam & Dursley-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham NS-Carlisle and return
Hertfordshire (MM)	2xGBRf Cl 73	London Victoria-- Wimbledon-Clapham Jct-Crystal Palace-East Croydon-Redhill-Reigate-Guildford-Alresford (rev)-Ascot-Hounslow-Kensington Olympia-Waterloo
Past Time Rail	76079	**The Cotton Mill Express:** Manchester Victoria-Staleybridge-Diggle-Huddersfield-Hebdon Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria
Past Time Rail	34067	Haywards Heath-Hove-Chichester-Bristol TM (break/rev) and return
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS Cl 37	Crewe-Stafford-London Fenchurch St-Thames Haven **Postponed**
Railway Touring Company	71000	(Leeds-Huddersfield-Manchester Victoria-Bolton-Preston)-Preston-Lancaster-Barrow in Furnace- Workington-Carlisle (break/rev)-Shap-Preston-(Leeds)
13th February		
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Bath Spa-London Victoria
14th February		
Hertfordshire Railtours	tbc	Finsbury Park-Potters Bar--Stevenage-Bournville and return
Steam Dreams	34067	London Victoria-Bromley South-Tonbridge-Ashford-Canterbury-Dover-Ashford-Tonbridge-London Victoria
VSOE	2xEWS Cl. 67	London Victoria-London Victoria (Luncheon Circular)
VSOE	2xEWS Cl. 67	London Victoria-London Victoria (Evening Dinner Circular)
VSOE (Northern Belle)	2xEWS Cl. 67	Harrogate Leeds (Luncheon Circular)
VSOE (Northern Belle)	2xEWS Cl. 67	Manchester-Chester (Evening Dinner Circular)

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.

The Week Ahead

On 26th January, the last steam-hauled charter of the month operates with the Merchant Navy Locomotive Preservation Society's Bulleid Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* heading a return VSOE Pullman from London Victoria to Southampton Docks.

The same day should have seen Pathfinder taking a pair of Class 31s on a London 'Buffer Puffer' trip, but the withdrawal of the Victa WestLink Rail safety case has seen this train postponed to 2nd February and motive power changed to a pair of ETS-fitted EWS Class 37s.

The steam tour brings January to a close from the railtours point of view. The month is traditionally a quieter one, with shorter days and a shortage of spendable finance following the Christmas outlay.

However, operations in February pick up almost immediately with steam tours featuring No. 34067 *Tangmere* and No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* across the month, plus the launch of Past Time Rail's new 'Cotton Mill Express' monthly workings around West Yorkshire and Lancashire. The diesel locomotives don't miss out either, with EWS Class 37s having booked work and a charter around southern region have a pair of First GBRf Class 73s at the helm.

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Want the latest details and information on Railtour workings? Want to know when a specific locomotive is working? Check out our improved online Railtour section, as part of our new website. Click here to visit now!

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- Online railtour listings
- Tour operators contact details
- Current fire-risk status info
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New Railway Herald website launches

As most people will be aware, the new *Railway Herald* website was officially launched at 00.01 on 25th January, bringing a new look and new features to our online home.

Until now, the *Railway Herald* website has literally been the place to visit to download the magazine. However, with the launch of our new magazine on 29th January, it was felt that the website was well overdue a refresh.

Accessible 24 hours a day through www.railwayherald.co.uk or via our alternative address www.railwayherald.com, the site now provides users with a whole host of features, with more planned to reach fruition over the coming months.

So, just what is new to the site and how do people find their way around? Well, the feedback we've had from our system testers is that the site is easy to use and self-explanatory. For the first time, you can now quickly see if a new issue has been published, as the front covers of both magazines are now featured on the homepage of the site. The latest issue of each title can also be downloaded from here.

Navigation around the website is all controlled from the blue menu bar down the left hand side of the screen and present on all pages.

Clicking on 'Magazines' takes you to the magazines section, providing details on the content of the latest version of both *Railway Herald* and *Railway Herald Worldwide*. Links down the right hand side of the page also allow you to select back issues and the previous supplements that we've published (this feature will be available shortly.)

The popular 'Railtours' section remains, now with a latest news box, which will show when late news breaks. The listings are now more user-friendly and clicking on any locomotive number will allow the user to quickly search for tours featuring that particular locomotive or type, irrespective of origin, destination and operator.

A new addition to the website is the Imaging Centre, which we hope will build up into a truly unique photo archive, because you, the reader, can quickly and easily contribute. More information on uploading images to this section can be found in the story below.

Also, there is the ability to manage your account, which for the first time allows you, the reader, to turn your magazine notifications or PDF delivery e-mails on and off as you wish, at anytime of the day or night.

If you are already a subscriber to *Railway Herald*, the system should pick your existing settings up and show them when you log in. In addition, this section also handles your account information and passwords etc.

If you encounter problems, our online help section will hopefully provide you with the guidance and instruction you need, but if not you can also contact us via the Feedback section.

Welcome to the new online world of* Railway Herald, *your new world of railways 24 hours a day!

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Account Information

Why do I need to create an account?

Creating an account allows you to subscribe, free-of-charge, to receive *Railway Herald* magazines via email (or to receive a notification that the new issue is available) each week.

It will also allow you to post and share your own digital images with others and to submit images to either of our railway titles online.

It should be stressed, if you do not wish to do any of the above and are happy to visit the website in your own time to download the magazine, you do not have to create an account

How do I create an account?

Creating an account is easy, simply click here or open a web browser and visit http://www.railwayherald.co.uk/register.

Registration is a quick and simple four-step process, which is completed in just a couple of minutes, following which you can start uploading pictures and exploring the site as you wish.

Now you can share and submit images for publication, quickly and easily online

As part of the new website, we have introduced the Imaging Centre, a place where enthusiasts and photographers alike can log onto, anytime of the day or night, and look at high quality images from across the UK and the world.

But the best part of the Imaging Centre is that it open to everyone. Anyone, whether a reader of the magazine or not, can sign up to create a free account, then start uploading images immediately.

There's no charge and no limit on the number of pictures you can upload. Your space is totally unlimited, so all thoughts of filesize and having to keep deleting older images to upload new ones are forgotten.

We've made the upload procedure as easy as possible. Simply log on, go into 'My Account' select 'Picture Management', then on 'Upload Images'. Accept the terms and conditions and you can upload multiple images in one go!

Once uploaded, simply caption them and they are submitted for approval by our moderators. Why do we moderate images? Because the latest uploads are featured on the front page of the website and also on the Imaging Centre and its related galleries, we need to ensure that no inappropriate imagery is uploaded, either as a joke or otherwise. Also, through the Imaging Centre we are aiming to create a selection of high quality photographs. This way, we can provide unbiased and constructive feedback to photographers, at the same time helping people to realise their achievements.

When uploading images, there is no maximum file size limit either. So you if wanted to, you could upload the high resolution file direct from your camera. Once uploaded, our system will resize your image and create the appropriate thumbnail and then discard the high resolution image. In that way, the picture that appears to the public is not high resolution, but allows you, the photographer, to upload images with the minimum amount of fuss.

Plus you can submit one or more of the uploaded images to either of the Railway Herald magazines by clicking a simple tick box! It makes submitting and sharing images quick, simple and easy. No matter what your knowledge or your age is or whether you are a beginner or an advanced digital photographer. Railway Herald's Imaging Centre is here to help.

Photo Website

But, what if simply uploading your images to be displayed in our automatic galleries isn't enough for your needs?

Have you ever wanted to produce your own website to show off your photographic collection but do not possess the knowledge of web programming languages to do it? Or, perhaps, you are not sure of your server from your domain?

Well again, the Imaging Centre can help you. Very shortly, we will be launching a brand new facility that will allow you to create your own photographic website with no internet knowledge and all by uploading pictures to the Imaging Centre. You can choose the website style, you can organise the albums and galleries that are displayed there. You can even obtain a domain name and direct it to your RH website quickly and easily.

It is expected that we will introduce this feature by early February, but click on the 'Your own photo website' link below for further details and keep checking back.

Click here now, to find out more and get started!

Imaging Centre

I have a digital camera but I have never had a website.

Then *Railway Herald*'s new Imaging Centre provides you with perhaps the best of both worlds. It can be used in two ways; firstly as a means of quickly, easily and simply sharing photographs between users (this is done through our automated galleries) or by using our new Photo Website option. Both are free-of-charge and neither has any limit on space or the number of pictures that can uploaded.

What are automated galleries?

To enable people to share pictures quickly and easily, we have developed several automated galleries, which allow you to view all images uploaded today, yesterday and within the past seven days, by photographers name, by locomotive or unit class type or through our Rail Diary.

Rail Diary becomes a visual journal, documenting the railway scene both in the UK and across the world. It displays images by the date they were taken.

To use the automated galleries, you simply upload your pictures and caption them. That's it!

▲ *Having been made redundant by Freightliner Intermodal, Class 57/0s Nos. 57005 and 57006 were quickly put into traffic by Cotswold Rail, following arrival at Gloucester. On 16th January, both locomotives moved to Edinburgh Craigentinny, from where No. 57006 was dispatched to Kilmarnock for repaint. No. 57005, however, worked back south the following day, pictured here during a crew change at York. The locomotive was hauling National Express East Coast (NXEC) Class 43 powercar No. 43290 from Edinburgh to Brush at Loughborough.* **Gary Pinkney**

▼*Five days later and the locomotive, still complete with Advenza Freight headboard, departs from the exchange sidings at Long Marston with a rake of TEA wagons from store bound for Bescot Yard.* **Peter Tandy**

Eastleigh Works ... repairs continue

▲ *At the end of the last millennium, who would have thought that Railtrack (or its successor Network Rail) would still be overhauling Class 73s for work on the National Network in 2008? Following our image of Class 73/1 No. 73141 taken in October 2007 at York Works, a reader sent these three images in. Arlington Fleet Services is well underway with the overhaul of No. 73141 at Eastleigh on 10th January as this picture testifies.*

◀ *Also being overhauled (by Knights Rail Services) is resident Class 07 shunter, No. 07007, itself a locomotive forgotten by many enthusiasts.*

▼ *The next Class 47/7 for Colas Rail, No. 47737, is receiving attention by Arlington Fleet Services, prior to being outshopped in the Colas colours.* **All: Carl Watson**

▲ *A pair of Class 73/2 'Electro-Diesels' Nos. 73208* **Kirsten** *(in BR rail-blue livery) and classmate No. 73206* **Lisa** *head a mixed engineers service through Mortlake, bound for a worksite between Twickenham Junction and Strawberry Hill on 19th January. The train had originated at Hoo Junction yard.* **Chris Holt**

◀ *Three ex-Gatwick Express driving trailers have been converted by Network Rail to allow them to be used by the company on a wide range of duties. During early January, three trailers (Nos. 68508, 68505 and 68504) were used in 'push and pull' formation, with Class 73/2 No. 73204* **Janice** *providing the power in the middle for driver training. The ensemble is pictured in action near Folkestone on 12th January.* **Patrick Seale**

▲ *On 16th January, Class 92 No. 92011* **Handel** *powers north through Leyland, near Preston, on the West Coast Main Line with a rake of NACCO china clay slurry tanks. This was one of the first workings of a new china clay contract. For many years, this style of tanks has been moved from Cornwall to Irvine in Scotland, conveying cornish china clay slurry. However, the cessation of that flow has resulted in a new operation of the produce from Antwerp in Belgium. The traffic is moved in four stages, Antwerp to Frethan, through the Channel Tunnel to Dollands Moor and onto Wembley, from there to Mossend and finally 'tripped' into Irvine. As a result, the train is now Class 92-hauled from Frethan in France to Mossend in Scotland.* **Fred Kerr**

▼ *Class 92 No. 92029* **Dante** *departs from Carlisle with the same train, this time on 23rd January, again heading for Mossend.* **Michael J. Alderdice**

Recently reinstated Class 37/4 No. 37401 heads Hertfordshire Rail Tours 'Preston Docker' charter across the swing bridge within Preston Docks. See Railtours & Excursions for further details.
Mark Bearton

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK

The 750v DC Class 71s

Brian Morrison looks back to the 1970s and the Southern Region's dual voltage electrics that were the Class 71s

Constructed at Doncaster Works between December 1958 and November 1960, the 24 Class 71 electric locomotives were relatively short lived.

No less than 10 of the fleet, were withdrawn between 1966/67 and rebuilt as Class 74 electro-diesels, while the remainder soldiered on for another ten years, being removed from service by November 1977 as the number of both Class 33s and 73s in service were then sufficient for requirements.

The fleet drew power from either third-rail or from overhead catenary, the latter being used in yards where third-rail was not acceptable for safety reasons.

The '71s' were also fitted with electric train heating and this facility was used when they were diagrammed to work the 'Golden Arrow' and 'Night Ferry' passenger services, although most of the duties for the class involved freight operations, particularly that of cross-London workings where a change between third-rail and overhead power was required.

No 71001 has been preserved by the National Railway Museum and is on display at Locomotion, Shildon.

▲ ***On 17th September 1974, No. 71002 awaits departure from London Victoria heading the 02.55 Newspaper train to Maidstone.***

◀ ***Just under a month earlier and the same loco passes passes near Chislehurst hauling scrap metal from the Eastern Region to Sheerness steelworks on 28th August 1974.***

Turning the clock back

▲ *A lesser-quality shot from the author, but included because of its rarity value. The London Victoria-bound 'Night Ferry' approaches Bickley Junction on 5th September 1973, shortly after sunrise, powered by Class 71 No. E5006. This locomotive would go on to become Class 71 No. 71006 under the TOPS renumbering scheme.*

▼ *Class 71 No. 71005 purrs to itself at London Victoria in the small hours of 17th September 1974, awaiting departure with the 03.00 Newspaper working to Dover Western Docks. Just over 30 years later, and most of the third-rail electric locomotives have been withdrawn, Newspaper trains are but a distant memory and at 03.00 in the morning, the farthest passengers can travel is Gatwick Airport and Three Bridges!*

▲ *Having checked the couplings, the second-man climbs into the cab of No. 71011 in Hither Green yards on 25th February 1976, prior to the loco hauling its load to Chatham. The pantograph will be lowered as soon as the locomotive transfers to third-rail.*

▼ *The end in sight. Despite having been withdrawn two years earlier, Class 71s Nos. 71010, 71004, 71013, 71011, 71014 and 71009 still await disposal at BREL Doncaster on 19th August 1979. All 10 Class 71s converted to Class 74s were also withdrawn at the end of 1977.*

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.

29th January 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
West Coker Club, West Coker, near Yeovil. ***AMENDED***
'Maurice Deane Remembered Again' by Ian Bennett. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for more information.

1st-7th 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.

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
Locomotive Club of Great Britain - Bedford Branch
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford
'50th anniversary. 1959-1968' a joint presentation by branch members.. Meeting starts 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain - North London
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London. N22 5NJ.
'South African Slides' by Peter Watson. Meeting starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East Branch)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington. 'Bringing the trains back to Wensleydale' by Phil Kirkland, Nexus. Starts 19.00

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh Branch)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Modular S&C' by Tim Fenemore, Network Rail. Meeting starts 18.00

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
The Freemantle Club, Waterloo Road, Southampton.
'Copyright BR - The work of BR's Photographic Unit' by John Goss. Starts 18.00. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558.

RCTS (Watford Branch)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road.
'The Midland Railway Trust' by Peter Featherstone. Starts 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
Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Sussex House, Reading.
'Why manage Rail?' by David Baskett, Network Rail. Starts 17.30. Contact Rodney Pinchen at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk.

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
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley.
'Through the Hope Valley and back over Woodhead' by Ted Hancock. Starts 19.30.

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 Member £1.50.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St. James Park tube.
'Introduction of S Stock - The Permanent Way Issues' by Andrew Brice. Starts 17.30

RCTS (Sheffield Branch)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street.
'Platform 5' by Peter Fox. Meeting start 7.30pm.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York.
'My 1960s and steam operation in Serbia & Bosnia in 2007 after the Jugoslavian War' slide show by Robin Patrick. Meeting Starts 19.30. Non-Members £2

12th February 2007
8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich.
'Cine Film from the 1950s and 1960s' by Colin White. Meeting starts 19.45.

Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny.
The Right Kind of Snow' by Terry Nicholls. Meeting starts 20.00.

Monmouth Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave., Newport , Gwent.
'1960s Steam on Cine' by Mike Clemmens. Meeting starts: 19.30. Non-members £3.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Room B110, Croydon College.
'Whats the problem? Solutions for this century.' by Peter Shrubsall, Vortok International.
Meeting Starts 17.30

RCTS (Nottingham Branch)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street.
'Steam in the North Staffs area' by Matlock Railway Club.
Meeting starts 19.30

13th February 2007
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
'Branch lines in steam days' by David Soggee. Wote St. Club, New Road, 7.30 pm. Contact: 01256 326096. Visitors welcome.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group
Royal Air Force Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes.
'Steam in Cuba' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Hotel, Chester.
'Why manage Rail?' by David Baskett, Network Rail. Meeting commences 18.30.
Contact Carl Barker on 01782 717472.

RCTS (Hatfield Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road. Hatfield.
'East Coast Memories' by Tom Gladwin. Meeting commences at 19.30

14th February 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain - St. Albans Branch
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green
'Robert Stephenson; The Mania Years' by Dr. Michael Bailey.. Meeting starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)
Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester.
Meeting details to be confirmed closer to the date. Meeting commences at 17.00. Contact Rob Cummings on 0161 228 5321.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales Branch)
Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport. 'Britannia Bridge and the Porthmadog Cross Town Link' by David Bateman, Consultant Engineer. Meeting starts 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664.

RCTS (Newcastle Branch)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'A Chinese Takeaway' by Raymond Rouke. Starts 18.30

15th February 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. Group AGM followed by 'Some more Goldern Oldies' by Neville Smale. Starts 19.30, Call Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "More treasures from the Dave Mills collection" by Roger Whitehead. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

18th-23rd February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'Sachsen Winter Steam' in Germany. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the societies website online at www.lcgb.org.com

18th February 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'Trains in the desert' by Richard Paget. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock.
'Film Show - Looking back at the Midland'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

RCTS (Chester Branch)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, (opposite station entrance). 'Signal Boxes of the Aire Valley' by Malcolm Riley. Meeting commences at 19.45.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry.
'The Latter Years of Chinese Steam' by Roger Johnson. Starts 19.30

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club 1 North Street, Osney.
'First GBRf in the UK Railfreight Market' by Ashley Stower. Meeting starts at 19.30

19th February 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle Branch)
Carnforth Station Visitors Centre. 'Developments on the Welsh Highland Railway' by David Bateman, Consultant Engineer. Attendance requested for 17.30 for an 18.00 start.

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)
Holiday Inn Hotel, Castle Marine, Nottingham. Welding Developments by Bill Moseley. Starts 18.30. For further information and details contact Colin Dowey on 01949 837067.

Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)
The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds. TBC. Starts 18.30. For further details, please contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949

20th February 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Side Wear' by Ian Barber and Shaun McCue, Network Rail. Starts 17.30

RCTS (Eastleigh Branch), Mid-Hants Railway and S&D Trust
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road,
Eastleigh. 'Mid Hants Railway, Past, Present and Future' by David Yeldon. Starts 19.45

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'My years with British Railways' by David Barraclough. Starts 19.30

21st February 2008
Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow. 'Railtour of Japan and Java' by Adrian Palmer, follows the AGM. Meeting starts: 19.45.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Perth)
Museum & Art Gallery, George Street, Perth. 'Changing face of Railways in the UK Post Privatisation by the Two Ronnies (Ashton). Starts 7.30pm, contact Alex R. Forsyth on 01738 622187.

RCTS (West Yorkshire)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Gateway to the North' by David Lowe, starts 19.30

23rd February 2008
RCTS (Darlington Branch)
The Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington. 'On Narrow Gauge Tracks' by Tom Heavyside. Meeting starts at 19.00

Milton Keynes Model Railway Society
2008 Model Railway Exhibition, Courtside Sports Hall, Milton Keynes College (Bletchley Campus), Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Featuring 18 layouts (N Gauge - Gauge 1) and 12 traders. Open 10.30-17.00. Adults £3.50, Children & Seniors £2 and Family £8.

23rd-24th February 2008
Carshalton & Sutton Model Railway Club
LEATHERHEAD 2008 Model Railway Exhibition, Leatherhead Leisure Centre.
Featuring layouts and trade stands. Adults £6, All Concessions £5, Under 15s free when accompanies by a paying adult. Open 10.00-17.00 (Sat) and 10.00 - 16.30 (Sun)

25th February 2008
RCTS (Sheffield Branch)
St Mathews Church Rooms Carver Street. 'On Narrow Gauge Tracks' by Tom Heavyside. Starts 19.30

26th February 2008
RCTS (Nottingham Branch)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street. 'Mainline and Preservation' by Graham Briggs. Starts 19.30

RCTS (Welwyn Branch)
The Methodist Church, Cole Green Lane, Ludwick Green. 'An Introduction to French Railways' by Michael Bann. Starts 14.15

RCTS (Woking Branch)
Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Town Square. 'The RAIB - Two years of experience' by Andy Savage. Starts 19.30

27th February 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Cable's railway year by David Cable. Wote St. Club, New Road, 8.00 pm. Contact: 01256 326096. Visitors welcome.

28th February 2008
RCTS (Blackpool Branch)
Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'My railway career as a signalman' by Malcolm Riley. Meeting starts 19.30

Internet Links
Further contact details for the clubs and socities list in this column can be obtained from our new-look website by clicking here.

To have your club or society's website listed please contact the editor.

▼ *Freightliner Heavy Haul's Class 66/5 No. 66514 climbs between Abergavenny and Pontrilas on the Marches route on 23rd January with a Portbury to Ironbridge Power Station coal working.* **Kevin Dancer (with permission)**