The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

Visiting LMS 4F 0-6-0 No. 44422 approaches the camera with the GCR's 'Windcutter' mineral wagons during a photographic charter on 26th January. **David Gibson**

Rear Cover

BR Standard 4MT 2-6-0 No. 76079 awaits its next move at Bury Bolton Street station on the East Lancashire Railway, during a photographer's evening on 26th January.
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

EMT service collides with collapsed footbridge

A 31-year-old East Midlands Trains driver is in a stable condition at Leicester Royal Infirmary following an accident on 1st February.

Shortly after 06.30, the 06.13 Nottingham to Norwich service struck a footbridge (known as Barrow Old Station footbridge) at Barrow-upon-Soar, Loughborough. The train was derailed but remained upright.

The East Midlands Trains driver sustained serious injury and was taken by ambulance to Leicester Royal Infirmary hospital. He received deep lacerations to his legs, but fortunately his injuries are not believed to be life threatening.

The footbridge collapsed after a lorry collided with it. Despite an emergency stop message being sent to all trains in the area, the East Midlands Trains service with six passengers on board was unable to stop and struck the footbridge.

The lorry driver was released by the fire crew earlier in the morning and is currently helping police with enquiries. Of the six passengers on the train, one was reported to have suffered minor injuries.

The Rail Accident Investigation Branch (RAIB) attended the scene and has launched a full investigation.

Over one million page views on our new website in eight days

The demand on our new website has been unbelievable, with a huge number of people looking at pages and photographs 24 hours a day.

Within 10 minutes of the site launching at midnight on 25th January, 27 people were online with us! In the first 24 hours, over 3,400 people had visited the website and looked at over 100,000 pages!

The first week has seen the number of people registering as members on the website climbing steadily and within the initial seven days, over 800 photographs, some dating back to the mid-1960s, from 12 countries had been uploaded to our Imaging Centre by readers. Over 200GB of data has been downloaded from the servers with an amazing 1,010,245 hits being recorded in the first eight days.

To reach over a million hits within seven days has far exceeded our expectations and we believe shows how popular this facility is with readers.

Our 3rd Birthday!

Our next edition, Issue 120 will be published on our 3rd birthday, 15th February.

Please note, there will be **no** issue of *Railway Herald* published on 8th February

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▲ *Dame Kelly Holmes MBE unveils the commemorative plaque*

▼ *The Class 395 mock-up on display.*

Ebbsfleet International officially opened

Dame Kelly Holmes MBE, winner of two Olympic gold medals, officially opened Ebbsfleet International station on 29th January.

The new station provides easy access to Eurostar services from the Essex area and for those living in South London and North Kent, an alternative to Ashford International.

Eurostar offers seven services a day to Paris and five a day to Brussels from the station, with non-stop journey times of two hours five minutes and one hour 41 minutes, respectively.

▲ *Eurostar Nos. (37)3107 & (37)3108 arrive at Ebbsfleet International on the opening day to transport invited guests back to London St Pancras International after the ceremony. All:* **Brian Morrison**

Elland flood damage could cost £4 million to repair

Network Rail reports that around 100,000 tonnes of material has to be removed from a bankside at Elland in West Yorkshire, which has caused disruption to rail services on the Hebden Bridge to Wakefield line.

Already 40 tonnes of trees and earth have slipped down the bank after the heavy rain at the start of last week, and specialists have been on site removing it, with some freight services being able to run again on 25th January.

Passenger services, however, were still being diverted where possible and replaced with buses where no diversion was available. All services will return to normal as soon as it is safe and practical to do so.

The site is difficult to get to as it is a considerable distance from any access points, and down a steep 40-50 degree bank that is covered in vegetation. A layer of weathered mudstones, some four to five metres deep, is moving towards the railway. The rate of movement is dependent upon the presence and volume of water and if there is more heavy rainfall it may be necessary to fully re-close the line for safety reasons.

To permanently fix the banking could cost around £4 million and services would be likely to be disrupted for several months.

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

▼ *Heavy rain over the past two weeks has caused major problems in several parts of the country. On 24th January, an unidentified Class 91 leads a National Express East Coast (NXEC) service across Rather Viaduct, over the River Wharfe, south of York. As can be seen, the river at this time was in full flood, covering are area that is usually fields!* **Robin Patrick**

First GBRf wins East London contract

First GBRf has signed a new contract with the Balfour Beatty Carillion Joint Venture, working on behalf of Transport for London as part of the programme to upgrade the rail network in and around London.

The agreement runs from January to October and is to transport construction materials to convert London Underground's East London Line (ELL) between Whitechapel and New Cross into part of TfL's London Overground rail network.

The line closed to passengers just before Christmas last year to enable preparations for the conversion to begin.

With the East London Line not having a direct link to Network Rail metals, all First GBRf locomotives and freight wagons have had to be delivered to site by road and craned onto the ELL infrastructure. As part of the contract, the company will supply drivers, locomotives and wagons to help in upgrading the route.

The locomotives will be a fleet of Ruston LSSH 0-6-0s, hired from Knights Rail Services and formerly used by the Ministry of Defence. A mixed fleet of wagons will be used to deliver concrete sleepers, rail and other track components and to remove the old ballast and track panels from the railway.

▼ ***The two locomotives which will see use on the East London Line, are pictured undergoing overhaul by Knights Rail Services at Eastleigh Works on 10th January. Nearest the camera is No. 01507 (ex-MOD No. 425) which has been named* Venom *and No. 01509 (ex-MOD 433) named* Vulcan. *The latter locomotive left Eastleigh for East London on 15th January.*** **Carl Watson**

Work starts on demolition at Derby

Demolition work at Derby station finally commenced this month as part of an £18 million project to replace the ageing canopies.

It will take Network Rail some 18 months to finish the refurbishment, which will commence with Platforms 2 and 3. The first stage will be to clear these platforms of canopies, benches and information screens, the only items remaining being the existing footbridge and the buildings beneath, which were erected only three years ago.

The canopies were condemned in 2005 after engineers discovered faults in the concrete. The platforms will be resurfaced and new equipment and canopies brought in and lifts installed, the work being undertaken during weekends whenever possible to reduce disruption to passengers.

The total work will be carried out in four phases, each expected to take about four months.

▼ ***In a separate move, the old Derby Locomotive Works building, with its clock tower that has stood as a familiar landmark in the town for many years is currently undergoing conversion into a college campus. The footbridge which previously linked the station to the works was removed last Christmas.*** **Richard Buckby**

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Time for a *different* kind of number?

Metronet collapses after PPP Arbiter refuses most of costs claim
It's business as usual at LUL, promises Mayor
RMT threatens action if Metronet jobs are lost
Tories call for probe by National Audit Office
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
Punctuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote
Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London 's newest tube station

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DfT and Merseytravel to improve stations

Merseytravel and the Department for Transport (DfT) are investing more than £1.76 million to improve access for people with disabilities and mobility problems at seven of Merseyside's railway stations.

The stations included in the latest announcement include Bidston, New Brighton, Southport, Wallasey Grove Road and Wallasey Village on the Merseyrail Electrics network and Newton-le-Willows and St Helens Junction on Northern Rail's City Line. All of the projects are being part-financed by the DfT's 'Access for All, Small Schemes' fund and Merseytravel is match funding the costs.

The work will include customer information systems where needed at station entrances, waiting areas, booking halls and platforms. Fully accessible toilets, additional seating, automatic doors at some station entrances, new height adjustable ticket office counters and double handrails to stepped access points will also be installed.

▼ ***Metronet-liveried Class 66/7 No. 66720 is pictured on the Walton-on-the-Naze branch at Frinton-on-Sea, bringing up the rear of a rake of ballast wagons on 25th January. Leading the train is Class 66/7 No. 66708.*** **Colin Brooks**

▶ The first automatic ticket gates on Northern Rail's network have 'gone live' at Blackpool North. The six new gates will help reduce ticketless travel.

▶ The derailment of a Freightliner coal service at Scunthorpe on 25th January has caused disruption to passenger and freight traffic across the North Lincolnshire region. The derailment occurred shortly before 11.00, when the leading bogie of the 10th wagon of the Immingham-Rugeley Freightliner Heavy Haul coal service, powered by Class 66/5 No. 66507, and consisting of 18 HHA wagons loaded with coal, derailed near Foreign Ore Branch Junction, three miles east of Scunthorpe station. The train ran derailed for over a kilometre and caused considerable damage to the track. The preliminary examination from Rail Accident Investigation Bureau indicates no issues with the condition of the locomotive or the signalling system that could have contributed to the derailment, and no evidence of obstructions on the line. Trans Pennine Express services between Cleethorpes and Manchester Airport were replaced by buses between Cleethorpes and Scunthorpe. Current estimate for the reopening of the railway is this weekend.

GVA Grimley

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A RETAINED CLIENT

SALE BY PRIVATE TREATY

Class 47 Locomotive Running Number 47355

47355 "Avocet" photographed in May 2004 courtesy of "The Siding"

47355 "Avocet" photographed in December 2006 at Fragonset, Derby

2140 hours, exam status B7 (26 June 2006)
fitted with TPWS

Following the success of our sales campaign on behalf of the administrators of Fragonset and various finance creditors, 47355 "Avocet" is now our remaining class 47 available for sale. She has not been used for 12 months and was held in storage prior to the appointment of Fragonset's administrators in December 2006.

Offers in the region of £65,000 are sought, and the sale of the vehicle will be subject to VAT

Viewing by appointment only

For further information or to arrange a viewing, please contact
Andrew Bibby on 0161 956 4323 or ayb@gvagrimley.co.uk

www.gvaplant.com

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Our new website has now been launched, bringing a fresh look to the online virtual home of *Railway Herald*

But it is not only the look that has changed! Easier access to the latest issues of *Railway Herald* and *Railway Herald Worldwide*, together with the ability to share images quickly and easily with friends and other enthusiasts are just two of the improvements.

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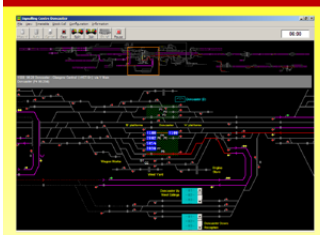

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Brush Traction wins Arriva refurbishment

The multi-million pound contract to refurbish 10 HST power cars for use on Arriva CrossCountry services has been awarded to Brush Traction, which will carry out the work at its workshops in Loughborough.

The 10 powercars, five of which are leased from Angel Trains and the remaining five from Porterbrook, will receive a complete overhaul including fitment of a new MTU power unit and will be outshopped in CrossCountry livery before being introduced into traffic.

CrossCountry has a franchise commitment to provide 35% extra seats and increased luggage space on services. The introduction of the HST sets will provide part of this increase, as well as increasing passenger satisfaction. The work is scheduled to be completed in time for the December 2008 timetable changes, when the powercars will be introduced on the Edinburgh to Plymouth route to provide extra capacity along the busy corridor through Leeds.

A further contract will be announced shortly for the overhaul and refurbishment of the coaching stock for the five trains, each to run in service with two power cars and eight carriages.

Arriva CrossCountry refurbishes first Class 170

Arriva CrossCountry has begun the refurbishment and relivery of its fleet of 29 Class 170 two and three-car Turbostars with the first two-car entering service on 30th January.

The new paintwork is being carried out by EWS at Toton Depot and by Marcroft Engineering at Stoke-on-Trent, and is scheduled for completion by December.

Interior refurbishment to provide more seats and luggage space will begin in April at the Transys Projects Ltd workshops at Clacton-on-Sea, where seats will be re-trimmed, new carpets fitted and at-seat power points installed in the two-plus-one seating of the First Class accommodation.

To avoid rolling stock shortages while they are being refurbished, the work is being phased to coincide with scheduled maintenance, so some coaches will be in service temporarily with reworked exteriors or interiors only until the programme is completed.

▼ *The first Class 170/1 Turbostar to be returned to traffic following refurbishment and repaint, No. 170116 passes Elford on its delivery run from Toton to Tyseley on 28th January.* **Richard Norris**

Departmental Class 97 numbering series reappears

The Class 97 numbering series was once the sole preserve of the Railway Technical Centre at Derby, being used as a way of identifying the various departmental and test locomotives.

With the appearance at Barrow Hill of the first Class 37 locomotive, which will be used as part of the ERTMS signalling system trials on the Cambrian Coast route, the number series has been reintroduced.

The four locomotives involved in the trials are being overhauled at Barrow Hill and given a full 'G' Exam, together with the fitting of TPWS and OTMR equipment and high impact windscreens. The locomotives are also having a diesel pre-heater installed, together with additional soundproofing to provide a better environment for the drivers.

The first locomotive to be overhauled, Class 37 No. 37100, has been renumbered as Class 97/3 No. 97301 and was released to Network Rail on 31st January.

Renumbering Plan

All of the Class 37 locomotives involved in the Cambrian Early Deployment scheme are being renumbered into the 97/3 series.

This renumbering is taking place as the locos pass through Barrow Hill for overhaul.

97301 (ex-37100)
97302 (ex-37170)
97303 (ex-37178)
97304 (ex-37217)

▶ *Class 97/3 No. 97301 stands in the yard at Barrow Hill on 26th January.* **Graham Wilson**

▲ *One of Blackpools 'Balloon' trams makes its way along the promenade, bound for Starr Gate.* **Chris Dixon**

£85 million upgrade for Blackpool Tramway

Transport Minister Tom Harris has announced plans for an £85.3 million refurbishment of the 120-year-old Blackpool and Fleetwood tram system, the Government to contribute £60.3million to the scheme.

The upgrade is scheduled to bring the network up to 21st Century standards and is the centrepiece of the Government's forthcoming response to the Blackpool Task Force report that recommended ways to regenerate the area. Improvements will include refurbishment of the track and tram stops out to Fleetwood, as well as 16 new fully-accessible trams. The historic trams will continue to serve Blackpool's seafront promenade.

Blackpool Council can now begin detailed planning for the work, which, subject to successful procurement of the materials required, could start in late 2009. The Tramway currently carries nearly four million passenger journeys a year, around 75% of which are visitors to Blackpool.

Government commits more finance for Metrolink

Plans to upgrade Manchester's Metrolink trams for the 21st century have been given the seal of approval by the Transport Minister as he signed off the last part of a £102million improvements package.

Tom Harris confirmed that a further £25.7million is to be invested in the project, which completes the £58m Central Government contribution.

The money will pay for renovation works along the existing Metrolink system, including the upgrading of bridges, cabling and overhead lines as well as junction improvements on the Eccles line.

The conditional Government approval granted in July 2006 for a scheme to extend the Metrolink system to Oldham, Rochdale and Chorlton with a Central Government contribution of £244 million will now be the subject for full approval and Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive is expected to approach the Department to go ahead by May this year.

Approval should be automatic provided that the costs and risks remain as approved in 2006. GMPTE is also funding a separate extension to Droylsden in the east of the city.

Community study

The Association of Community Rail Partnerships (ACoRP) has announced the launch of the biggest study into the real value of community rail lines since the Beeching closures of the early 1960s.

The study is to be undertaken by Transport Regeneration of Bury St Edmunds, and will look at the added benefits that community rail brings to train operators, local authorities, Central government, Regional Development Agencies and the communities that the lines serve.

It will look in detail at how the Partnerships can drive economic regeneration, environmental sustainability, modal shift and social inclusion, and will investigate the economic, regeneration, social and environmental benefits contributed to by the lines.

Train operators Northern Rail and 'one' Railway, DfT Rail, the Association of Transport Co-ordinating Officers, the Association of Train Operating Companies and Passenger Focus are funding the study. It will be presented at the forthcoming ACoRP conference in London during July.

ACoRP represents the interests of over 60 Community Rail Partnerships and Station Adoption Groups across the UK, and those lines with partnerships are seeing higher growth than others.

More stations to have step-free access

The Rail Minister, Tom Harris has announced additional funding for upgrades to 40 railway stations across England and Wales, to make rail travel more accessible for disabled and older people and parents with pushchairs; a new selection of stations in Scotland will also be announced by the Department for Transport (DfT) in due course.

The DfT's £370 million 'Access for All' programme funds the redevelopment of station infrastructure to provide step-free access from station entrances to platforms, in addition to a range of more accessible facilities, such as improved lighting, hearing induction loops and passenger information screens.

Network Rail is to carry out feasibility studies at each station over the next 18 months to determine what changes are needed, before it begins the design and construction of the enhanced facilities. The upgrades are planned for completion between 2012 and 2015.

In addition, the Department will contribute £6.5 million from the 'Small Schemes Fund' towards a £16.7 million total investment, match-funded by train companies and local authorities, to upgrade facilities at a further 223 stations during 2008/09. This funding is set to provide a wide range of infrastructure, including more ramps and lifts, blue badge parking spaces and improved passenger information systems. The Small Schemes programme is forecast to continue every year until 2015.

The 40 stations under the Main Scheme funding are: Alnmouth, Berkhamsted, Bingley, Brockley, Bromley South, Camden Road, Canterbury West, Carlisle, Chippenham, Elstree & Borehamwood, Gospel Oak, Hassocks, Hatfield, Hemel Hempstead, Henley in Arden, Hereford, Hitchin, Honor Oak Park, Ilford, Laindon, Leighton Buzzard, Leominster, Limehouse, Morpeth, Neath, New Eltham, New Malden, Orrell Park, Peterborough, Rotherham, Severn Tunnel Junction, Shirley, St Erth, Stalybridge, Tilbury Town, Tottenham Hale, Walthamstow Central, West Hampstead Thameslink, Winchester and Worcester Park.

Access for All is split into two sections, the Main Scheme funding the construction of obstacle free, accessible routes to meet modern accessible standards under the accessibility regulations in the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. The Small Schemes fund is around £7 million a year and funds locally focused and innovative access solutions at stations. The funding is available to train operators, local authorities and other third parties on a match funded basis, the scheme contributing up to 50% of capital costs, to a maximum of £250,000.

Railtours & Excursions

▲ *The Venice-Simplon Orient Express powers through Mortimer on 26th January behind Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028* **Clan Line.** *The train was a London Victoria to Southampton charter which was delayed after a broken rail was discovered at Southcote junction.* **Ken Brunt**

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.

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-Tonbridge-Canterbury-Dover-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)
WCRC	2xWCRC Cl47	Manchester Vic-Bolton-Leyland-Blackburn-S&C-Carlisle and return
14th February		
Past Time Rail	60007 or 6201	(Birmingham International-Birmingham NS-Wolves-Stafford-Crewe-Preston-Carnforth-Ravenglass (break/rev) and return

Key to tour listings:

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

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

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

The Week Ahead

The railtours and excursion train industry gets back into its stride this weekend following a lack of specials in January. First on the agenda is Pathfinder Tours with its redated 'Buffer Puffer' trip around London.

The train will be worked by a pair of EWS Class 37/4 locomotives starting and ending at London King's Cross, but visiting London Bridge, Charing Cross, Cannon Street and London Victoria termini during the day! VSOE have a luncheon train around Kent on the 8th, followed by an array of tours on the 9th February. Heartland Rail head to Carlisle from Bristol behind a pair of Cotswold Rail Class 47s and Hertfordshire has a Merrymaker trip with a pair of First GBRf Class 73s, from London Victoria to Alresford on the Mid-Hants Railway.

Steam is at the helm for three workings, the second of Past Time Rail's 'Cotton Mill Express' trips has BR Standard 4MT No. 76079 in charge, while *Tangmere* is employed by Past Time Rail for the day from Haywards Heath to Bristol via Chichester. Finally No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* should make its return to the National Network after an absence of several months working a Preston to Carlisle trip via the Cumbrain Coast for the Railway Touring Company. The train originates at Leeds.

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

Changing face of 47237

▲ *Cotswold Rail's Class 47/0 No. 47237, recently purchased from Direct Rail Services, passes Three Arch Bridge at Follaton, near Totnes, on 26th January with a Plymouth Laira to Old Oak Common stock move. The locomotive is still carrying its DRS livery, simply minus DRS decals.* **Phil Bellamy**

▼ *Four days later and the same locomotive passes Natton, near Ashchurch, with a Gloucester to Stockton convoy, moving ex-Cotswold Rail Class 47/0s Nos. 47316 and 47033 for scrapping. Class 31/4 No. 31454 was attached to the rear for brake-force. The large white DRS numbers have been removed and repositioned in a smaller font next to the rear cab door, while a large 'Advenza Freight' logo has been added to the bodyside.* **Jack Boskett**

Thunderbirds are go!

▲ *On 19th January, National Express East Coast (NXEC) sustained a spate of traction failures, which resulted in three out of the four East Coast 'Thunderbird' Class 67s being called into service. No. 67001 speeds through Biggleswade, heading for Bounds Green, with the stock off the 07.10 service from King's Cross, which was declared a failure at Darlington.*

▼ *The second 'Thunderbird' working was Class 67 No. 67003, pictured approaching Biggleswade just two hours later with the stock off the 09.44 King's Cross to Leeds service, which was terminated at Grantham.* **Both: Alisdair Anderson**

EWS Class 37s at work

▲ *Not a member of the EWS fleet, but on 1st February Class 37/6 No. 37611 was hired by EWS to work the Didcot - MoD Ashchurch, EWS Network service. With a rake of army vehicles on lowflat wagons, No. 37611 passes Ashchurch station with the outbound working.* **Jack Boskett**

▼ *Recently returned to traffic from store, Class 37/4 No. 37401 has undergone a quick repaint while at Wigan Springs Branch. The locomotive has been returned to service in the basic EWS livery, but minus branding. A lack of number transfers has resulted in the stencilled locomotive number under the driver's window! The ETS-fitted machine is pictured at Warrington on 30th January.* **Ian Tunstall**

Unique GM liveries

▲ *Towards the end of January, the unique-Bardon liveried Class 66/6 No. 66623 was working off Taunton Fairwater yard for several days, On 24th January, the locomotive worked the 08.15 Fairwater Yard-Westbury Virtual Quarry service, seen here at Fairwood Junction.* **Mark Few**

▼ *The only Class 67 locomotive to presently carry the silver EWS colour scheme (although the '67s' allocated to the Wrexham and Shropshire services will apparently carry a silver livery too) approaching Great Chesterford on 29th January with the 13.00 Ely-Wembley Yard service .* **John Pink**

▲ *Two photographic evening events were held during the East Lancashire Railway's 'Winter Steam Spectacular' gala on 25th-27th January. The first on the 25th comprised staged locomotive line-ups around Buckley Wells Shed. Here BR 8P Pacific No. 71000* Duke of Gloucester, *BR Standard 4MT No. 76069 and LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201* Princess Elizabeth *pose for photographs.* **Alisdair Anderson**

▼ *The evening of 26th January, found the second of the photographers events, this time staged around Bolton Street station. In evidence are BR 8P Pacific No. 71000* Duke of Gloucester *and LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201* Princess Elizabeth. **Chris Dixon**

▲ *Two daylight views of the ELR 'Winter Steam Spectacular' event, with the two star attractions at work. First, visiting ex-GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4936* **Kinlet Hall** *storms away from Ramsbottom on 26th January with a Heywood to Rawtenstall service.*

▼ *Rapidly approaching the end of its current boiler certificate, the National Railway Museum's LNER 'V2' No. 4771* **Green Arrow**, *complete with appropriate headboard, coasts on the approach to the northern end of the East Lancashire Railway at Rawtenstall on 26th January.* **Both: Fred Kerr**

Lord Nelson repairs in progress

After careful assessment at the National Railway Museum (NRM) in York, a programme of work and testing has been agreed for Southern Railway 4-6-0 No. 850 *Lord Nelson*

No major structural damage to the boiler has been found and there are no broken stays. Boilersmith John Glaze has therefore agreed an eight-stage programme for the locomotive with the NRM.

Helen Ashby, Head of Knowledge and Collections at the NRM, said: "Naturally we can only proceed from one stage to the next once it has proved successful with no further major leakages in the boiler.

Until all of these actions are complete we will not be in a position to agree a future operating programme for the locomotive since we will not know what conditions are to be attached to its main line operation. We will be meeting with the Eastleigh Rail Preservation Society later this year to review an operating and maintenance regime for this national icon which will not allow the same problem to occur. This will be based on our findings during the testing programme."

Over 300,000 passengers for NYMR

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway is celebrating after a record number of visitors attended the Railway during the 2007 season.

The NYMR, which is largely volunteer-led, has proved to be one of the UK's most popular heritage attractions in 2007, drawing some 321,986 visitors in the year, up from 278,000 in 2006.

The introduction of services to Whitby has contributed to this success.

NYMR was also voted 'Large Railway of the Year' by members of the Heritage Railway Association.

▲ ***Complete with fully working steam-heat boiler, the Class 40 Preservation Society's No. D335 stands at Ramsbottom on the East Lancashire Railway with the 09.50 Bury Bolton Street - Rawtenstall service on 5th January. The day also saw the society hold its AGM, in which Martin Walker stood down from the position of Chairman, John Stephens being unanimously elected as the new society Chairman.*** **Steve Jones (CFPS)**

£500,000 for Pontypool & Blaenavon extension

After months of uncertainty, the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway has announced that the local authority, Torfaen County Borough Council (TCBC) has secured £526,000 from the Heads of the Valleys programme to underpin a southward expansion from its current operational base at Furnace Sidings.

The extension will cover a distance of 1.25 miles to Blaenavon (High Level) station. Currently passenger operations run for just under a mile north of Furnace Sidings to Whistle Inn, giving the extended route a length of two miles.

The project will be managed by TCBC and its term contractors Capita Symonds, who will serve as consultants. The cost of the extension is high as a result of seven bridges along the route needing extensive repairs. Operations will be undertaken by the railways fleet of 1960s Diesel Multiple Units, until further investment capital can be raised to finance the construction of a run-round loop which will permit loco-hauled trains.

The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway Company has worked closely with other stakeholders in the World Heritage Site town of Blaenavon over the last five years or so, particularly with the Tourism and Economic Development sections of the local authority

PBR's Development Director Dr. John Down, said "This investment will fund the first real step in our ambitious plans to develop a comprehensive tourism and community railway. We very much hope we will be able to deliver a railway with vitality and a future to our partners in Torfaen. There are many agencies and individuals who have helped make this happen, but above all, we'd like to thank the people of Blaenavon town who have extensively supported us throughout the last twenty five years".

The Railway Company has ambitious plans for the future involving substantial infrastructure improvements, and a short branch to a halt at Big Pit which will be operated by short 'Collier's Trains'. At present the Railway Company is in early but regular discussions with members and officers of both TCBC and neighbouring Blaenau Gwent CBC, together with officers of the Heads of the Valleys programme with a view to re-opening the railway back to Brynmawr, via Waunafon (which, at 1,400ft, is the highest main-line station in the UK). Although this would extend the tourist railway by a further 2.75 miles, the emphasis would be to operate it as a community railway.

Passenger trains to Blaenavon (High Level) are planned to start from 3rd April 2010, 69 years after they were withdrawn on 5th May 1941.

Toddington's '2800' to steam by late summer

Cotswold Steam Preservation Limited, the owners and restorers of ex-GWR 2800 Class 2-8-0 No. 2807 have announced that the chassis should be mechanically and cosmetically complete by the end of April.

This will allow the boiler to be placed into the frames during June and July, following a hydraulic test in early May The latter item is currently being overhaul at the Llangollen Railway. If all goes to plan, the locomotive should be test running at Toddington on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway during September, and will hopefully be fully operationally around the end of the year.

There are a few technical issues to be overcome before the chassis is completed, including manufacturing new vacuum pump internals and the remainder of the vacuum system, together with a new steam-heat system. None of these are expected to delay the proposed dates.

The completed chassis will be on public display at Toddington for the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway steam gala at the end of May, followed by transport to Llangollen to be reunited with the boiler.

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.

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. 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. Starts 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. Starts 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. Starts 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 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 commences 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 (Saturday) and 10.00 - 16.30 (Sunday)

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. Meeting 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

RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "40 Years of the Bluebell Railway" by Roger Price. Start 7.30pm. Donation of £1.50 is requested

4th March 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East Branch)
Railway Athletic Cliub, Brinkburn Road, Darlington. 'The 2030 Railway' by Professor Andrew McNaughton, Chief Engineer, Network Rail. Starts 19.00

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.

▼ ***Ex-Silverlink operated Class 150/1 No. 150127 passes Northam, near Southampton, with a First Great Western Portsmouth - Cardiff service on 25th January. This is one of two ex-Silverlink Class 150 two car DMUs now working on the Greater Western franchise.*** **Brad Joyce**

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