The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

A Central Trains-liveried Class 170, now operated by Arriva Cross-Country, departs from Cheltenham in mid-February. **Ken Brunt**

Rear Cover

During the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway's Steam Gala weekend on 16th/17th February, LNER 'K1' 2-6-0 No. 62005 storms up-grade out of Keighley with the 13.25 goods to Damens Junction. Providing banking assistance at the rear was BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80002. **Phil Sanderson**

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

170 ticket barriers for London Waterloo

New automatic ticket barriers are at last to be fitted at Waterloo station to aid security, make it quicker and easier to exit the platforms and to dispense with a number of the many ticket inspectors currently employed at the platform entrances most of every day.

The £20 million investment, which is scheduled for completion by the end of December, will see the introduction of 170 ticket gates at the entrance to all main line platforms and in the station subway connections with the Underground. Waterloo East station is not at present affected.

In order to minimise disruption to passengers, the project will take place in phases, with work starting between Platform 8 and Platform 13 with two further like phases to follow. Access to platforms will be maintained while the work is carried out.

To make way for the gating line, retail units between the platforms and the station concourse will have to close, with new facilities planned to open once work is complete.

Full steam ahead to Scarborough in 2008

The West Coast Railway Company (WCRC) has announced plans to operate the popular steam-hauled 'Scarborough Spa Express' service during both Spring and Summer this year.

Final confirmation of timings is awaited but the train is expected to leave York around 09.45 calling at Knaresborough, Harrogate, Leeds and York with an anticipated arrival at Scarborough at 13.15. The return is planned for 17.00, running back to York and then calling as outward with an anticipated 20.15 arrival back at York.

Details of the locomotive pool allocated to work these trains is currently not available and will be announced nearer the time.

The train is scheduled to run during the Spring Bank Holiday from 26th May through to 29th May inclusive, and then on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 22nd July until 28th August, including August Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August.

Additionally, WCRC plans to run steam specials over the Settle and Carlisle route on each Saturday in August. These trains will operate between York and Carlisle and return.

Further information will be available shortly by telephoning 01524 737751 or 01524 737753 or going to www.wcrc.co.uk

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▲ *Vandalism in the Greenford area resulted in considerable service disruption on 7th February. As a result of the problems, the Cricklewood-Calvert 'binliner' was diverted via Reading and Oxford. The 'down binliner' service is recorded passing Cholsey behind Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66518.* **Don Gatehouse**

London Overground EMU stock to be leased

A leasing contract for a new London Overground fleet of EMUs is set to release millions of pounds for investment by the operators Transport for London (TfL), as it will avoid some £250 million being spent on acquiring the fleet of 47 four-car units.

The trains for the London Overground network are to be leased from QW Rail Leasing Ltd, a joint venture between National Australia Bank and Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation. The contract will give TfL use of the trains until 2027 or longer if it wishes. This differs from the usual rolling stock lease in the UK, which lasts only as long as the train operator's franchise. In 2027, when the fleet is half way through its economic life, TfL will have the option of taking on a second lease or entering into a new agreement with another party for other more up-to-date trains. There is also an option for TfL to extend the fleet by seven trains to 54.

London Overground Rail Operations Ltd., the London Overground operator, has also confirmed that an order for a new generation of DMUs has been placed with Bombardier. The trains will be manufactured for Angel Trains who will lease them to London Overground. The eight Class 172 Turbostars will be delivered from the end of 2009.

Alstom pulls out of Intercity Express Programme

Alstom has announced its withdrawal from bidding for the Inter-city Express Programme (IEP).

The French-based company had been on a short list along with Hitachi and the Express Rail Alliance, made up of Angel Trains, Babcock & Brown, Bombardier and Siemens.

Alstom says that the decision to withdraw was taken after a complete analysis of the Invitation to Tender document and that it would now concentrate on other important opportunities in the UK relating to rolling stock, signalling and maintenance.

The high bidding costs for a unique train with no apparent sales potential outside the UK is thought to be the main reason behind the decision, coupled with a reluctance to divert engineering resources from the Automotrice a Grand Vitesse (AGV), the company's current flagship train.

The IEP contract is due to be awarded to the successful bidder in winter 2008/2009.

December start for Corby station construction

Plans for a new rail passenger service to Corby remain on track following the announcement on 22nd February by North Northants Development Company and English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency, that Kettering-based Mainland Contractors have been appointed to undertake the infrastructure works for the new station, with a contract valued at £1.8 million.

The company will now commence work with Network Rail to co-ordinate the delivery of the necessary civil engineering works before construction of the station and platform can begin. It will be responsible for construction of the road, transport interchange including a bus area, drop-off and pick-up areas and a taxi rank, a car park and co-ordination of services and drainage. A start on site is expected in mid-March, with completion scheduled for December.

Virgin Trains attacks WSMR with new service from Wrexham

In a surprise move that appears aimed directly at the Wrexham, Shropshire & Marylebone Railway Company, Virgin Trains has announced that a direct Wrexham-Euston service will start operating from December this year.

The service, which is subject to completion of the West Coast route modernisation work, is scheduled to run on Mondays to Fridays as an extension of one of the Chester trains, with a departure around 07.00 from Wrexham, the return journey leaving Euston at 18.10.

Journey time between Wrexham and London will be around two-and-a half-hours. The trains will be formed of Class 221 Super Voyagers and are said to be introduced on a trial basis, with more services on weekdays and weekends being likely if the inaugural trains are successful.

DRS holds Open Day at Crewe

DRS is organising an open day at Crewe Gresty Road Depot on Saturday 19th July from 10.00-16.00.

Like the events at Carlisle, entrance will be by ticket only, applications for which should be sent to gresty.openday@drsl.co.uk clearly stating your full name and postal address. Each application is valid for one applicant only, although family groups (maximum of two adults and two children) can be made by clearly indicating 'Family Group' on the email and stating the number of adults and children attending. Closing date for applications is 22nd June.

Tickets will be picked at random after the closing date and all successful applicants will be then informed within the following two weeks.

On the day, a donation of £2 is requested for each ticket issued, which will go to the DRS Sponsorship and Donation Fund to be distributed to various charities and local communities.

RBS to sell Angel Trains

Royal Bank of Scotland-owned Angel Trains is up for sale.

Three bidders have indicated an interest in taking over the business, a Deutsche Bank, AIG, Babcock & Brown consortium, Macquarie of Australia and Terra Firma, a private equity house.

Merseytravel investment

Merseytravel is to support the redevelopment of Chester and Ormskirk stations with grants totalling more than £400,000 over the next two years.

Both stations are key links to the Merseyrail network, Chester being the 10th most used of Merseyside's 90-plus stations with Ormskirk being in 13th position.

The announcement of funding for Ormskirk station comes as Merseytravel begins a new study to look at demand for the potential reinstatement and possible electrification of the Burscough Curves.

This project would involve electrifying the link between the two stations in Burscough, which are currently on completely separate railway lines – Burscough Bridge (Southport to Manchester line) and Burscough Junction (Ormskirk to Preston line), and would allow for a direct link between Ormskirk and Southport.

▶ The £650,000 refurbishment of Runcorn station by Network Rail is complete and the new-look premises were formally opened on 22nd February by Derek Twigg, MP for Halton and a regular user of the station, and Virgin Trains' Station Manager Keith Millard. The work undertaken includes a new First Class lounge and Standard Class waiting area being provided and the booking office and retail area moved and upgraded, with access improved for wheelchairs. Station staff have also benefitted from the refurbishment with a much-improved ticket office. Externally, the appearance of the station has been enhanced with the provision of new cladding.

▶ The 'never-ending' painting of the Forth Bridge is set to come to a halt in 2012, when completion of the £18.5 million work currently being undertaken on the structure is scheduled to last untouched for between 20 to 30 years. Sections being worked upon are now screened off from the environment before old layers of paint applied over the last 120 years are removed using an abrasive blasting technique. Steelwork requiring maintenance is then repaired before new specialist glass flake epoxy paint is applied in three protective layers. Currently 200 people work on the bridge on a daily basis. It is not anticipated that the project will affect train services.

South West Trains commences refurbishment programme for Class 458 'Juniper sets

▲ *Class 458 No (45)8002 approaches Vauxhall, leading a Reading-Waterloo service. An eight-car refurbished Class 455 set can be seen in the background led by unit No 5715.* **Brian Morrison**

South West Trains' has begun to refurbish the First Class seating areas on its fleet of 30 Class 458 'Juniper' EMUs as part of a two-year improvement project.

The compartments will be upgraded with new seats, new tables and a new coat of paint and the train's toilet for the disabled will be improved to provide easier access to wheelchair users. A programme to install CCTV in every carriage is also underway for improved security. During the course of the work the units will have a 'C4' overhaul, which involves removing components such as the wheels, axles and suspension for inspection and renewal, as appropriate. In addition, lights have already been added near the base of the passenger doors to improve visibility in the footstep area at night. The work is taking place at Bournemouth Traincare Depot, where work on the first unit is underway. The work takes approximately two weeks, with one unit in the depot at a time.

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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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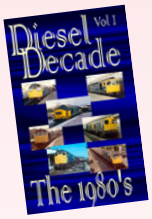
Looking back at decades of diesels

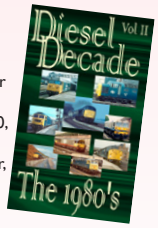
A collection of three programmes looking back at the traction variety of the 1980s and 1990s.

Diesel Decade - The 1990s (£17.95)
In retrospect, the 1990s proved to be a watershed period in the operation of Britain's railways and the diesel traction to be seen reflected this. No sooner had sectorisation become the norm that privatisation took over with it's myriad of associated corporate liveries. Features Class 20s, 26s, 31s, 33s, 37s, HSTs, 46s, 47s, 50s, 55s, 56s, 57s, 58s, 59s, 60s or 66s then this video will be for you. *Running time approx 93 minutes.*



Diesel Decade The 1980s - Part 1 (£19.95)
Featuring the type 1, 2 and 3 diesels from the 1980s that made the it such a magic period in railway history as BR blue finally succumbed to sector liveries. See and hear in action Class 20s, 25s, 26s, 27s, 31s, 33s & 37s. Highlights include steam-heat 26s on the Kyle of Lochalsh line, 25060 at Hereford, 33s on the Portsmouth service, 31s and 37 on passenger in East Anglia and 20s on Skegness services and a even a quadruple header. *Running time approx 72 minutes.*

Diesel Decade The 1980s - Part 2 (£19.95)
Featuring the Type 4 and 5 locomotive types from this decade of change as BR blue finally succumbed to sector liveries. See and hear in action class 40s, 45s, 46, 47, 50s, 55s, 56s, 58s & 59s.
Highlights include 40s on the S&C, 45022 on 'The Devonian' in 1980, 46009 on passenger, 47042 on MGR at Doncaster, 50025 in action on the day before it crashed, Deltics North and South of the border, early days of the 56,58 & 59s. *Running time approx 72 minutes.*



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▲ *EWS Class 67s Nos. 67017 and 67016 are pictured in 'top and tail' mode with three Cargo-D Mk3 vehicles working a Banbury - Oxford driver handling trip for the Wrexham, Shropshire & Marylebone Railway company. The pair are seen on the return at Kings Sutton with the training working on 21st February, this service being diverted away from Marylebone due to signalling problems. This was the first day of operation.* **Ken Brunt**

Railtour operator Steamy Affairs goes into voluntary liquidation

The news that railtour operator Steamy Affairs has gone into voluntary liquidation is bad enough, but to have the news headlined on BBCs regional news programme 'Look East' puts the proverbial boot into the rail charter movement as it casts a shadow over all operators and not just Steamy Affairs.

This is because the charter market is bank-rolled by the general public, and anything which puts doubt into their minds that there is a potential risk in booking a day out on a rail excursion has to be bad news.

On 18th February, the BBC 'Look East' programme took up the story after it alleged that a growing number of complaints had been made to the local radio station's consumer affairs programme, and featured two Steamy Affairs' passengers who claimed to have had trips cancelled and not received any refund. It also claimed that the company had been taking bookings for a period of seven months following its purchase by Adrian Parcell of Cotswold Rail, when it was alleged the company was not paying its bills. In fact, tours did operate during that period, and more would have run had it not been for operating issues, which were well known within the industry at the time.

Furthermore, those interviewed by the BBC claimed that efforts to contact Steamy Affairs had been unsuccessful. A supplier also spoke of difficulties in obtaining payment.

The programme additionally referred to a dispute with 'another railway operator' in October last year, which related to legal action being taken by the owners of No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* as a result of Steamy Affairs tours booked to be hauled by that locomotive in April last year being subject to either cancellation or diesel substitution. *Railway Herald* understands that the action was settled in October.

A BBC journalist attempted, without success, to speak to Mr. Parcell at his home in Gloucestershire, although *Railway Herald* believes that he was actually on holiday at the time, and returned immediately he became aware of the furore.

As a consequence, Steamy Affairs issued the following statement to the BBC; "In March 2007 Steamy Affairs was purchased knowing it had some difficulties. Despite injections of capital and time with the business the position of the company became untenable".

Railway Herald contacted Mr. Parcell on 19th February, who confirmed that Steamy Affairs, of which he is the principal shareholder, has gone into liquidation due to its financial position. He acquired Steamy Affairs on the back of purchasing the ex-FM Rail 'Blue Pullman' rake, thus creating what seemed to be a good merger, combining both the customers and rolling stock into one operation. However, the company was almost immediately plunged into a dispute with the owners of *Princess Elizabeth* concerning contractual issues which, as mentioned earlier, were resolved in favour of the steam locomotive owning group in October.

Mr. Parcell told us that upon acquiring the business, the financial position was much worse than he had been led to believe, accounts for the previous financial year had not been lodged with Companies House and were overdue, a fact that BBC Look East had also identified. As a consequence, he stated that he made a personal six-figure injection into the business.

He added that Steamy Affairs' problems were exacerbated by operating issues, which he acknowledges affected the business, such as the unfortunate termination of a returning tour at Rugby, necessitating conveying passengers back to their final destinations in the south of England by road, together with a period of poor locomotive and crew availability which caused disruption to not only Steamy Affairs but the entire Cotswold Rail/Advenza operations.

We understand from Mr. Parcell that there are outstanding issues dating back to before his acquisition of the company in addition to the late filing of accounts, concerning certain assets which, if realised, could be the source of funding to provide the creditors with a dividend. The firm, who will be dealing with the liquidation, Hazelwoods of Gloucester, advise that a creditors meeting was due on 22nd February and they claim to have written to every creditor on Steamy Affairs database. If you are a creditor, and have not heard from them, they can be contacted on 01452 634800.

It is not expected that the other operating companies, Cotswold Rail, Advenza and Heartland Rail will be affected directly by the Steamy Affairs situation.

▶ A new service from First Great Western has been introduced that is designed to help travellers adjust their journeys more efficiently when faced with service disruptions. The JourneyAlert system will text or email any cancellations, alterations or route disruptions to train services and will provide information about delay causing events such as flooding on the line and track infrastructure problems. The web-based system allows passengers to receive personalised text messages and emails that will alert them to any changes to their regular services, as well as provide further updates on request. The facility can be set up by the user to tell them about service changes before leaving the office or home. Subscribers need to register with the system and choose the number and type of alerts they wish to receive. Each part of a journey needs a separate alert setting up. Registration should be made via the First Great Western web site firstgreatwestern.co.uk where sign-up and route choice options and details are displayed. Although the service is free, it is possible that mobile providers may charge for receipt of texts: the delivery of emails to mobile devices can also incur charges from providers..

▶ The annual average punctuality of train services on routes operated by 'one' has reached 90% - the highest level of the franchise so far and one of the best figures for a large train operator running trains over many routes. Over the last year 90.1% of services arrived at destination 'on time' (within 5 minutes of the published arrival time for all services except Inter-city, where the national measure is within 10 minutes). 'one' becomes known as National Express East Anglia from 27th February.

▶ A new ticket has been introduced by South Yorkshire PTE offering those aged between 19 and 21 a 35% discount on public transport throughout South Yorkshire. Called the '19–21 TravelMaster', the ticket has been specially designed through the Travel South Yorkshire partnership, and is aimed to give school and college leavers starting out in work a helping hand. The cost of a weekly ticket is £13.50 (standard price £20.75) and a monthly ticket is £49.50 (standard price £77.25). It enables young people to travel on any bus, tram or train across South Yorkshire, regardless of the operator, for less than £2 per day. The '19-21 TravelMaster' can be purchased from any Travel South Yorkshire Information Centre across South Yorkshire, all customers need to take with them on the day for their first purchase is a passport photo and proof of age.

Please mention *Railway Herald*, **when responding to advertisers**

▲ *West Coast Railway Company operated a Valentines' trip from Doncaster to Portsmouth on 16th February. Powered by Class 47/4 No. 47826, with No. 47804 on the rear, the train departs from Woking on the outward journey.* **Chris Wilson**

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.

		22nd February
VSOE (Northern Belle)	2xEWS Cl.67	Coventry-Northampton Circular
		23rd February
Heartland Rail	2xCR Cl47	Kensington Olympia-Reading-Swindon-Bath Spa-Bristol Parkway-Yate-Cam & Dursley-Birmingham NS-Liverpool Lime Street and return
Hertfordshire Railtours	tbc	London KX-Stevenage-Peterborough-Leeds-Skipton-Settle-Carlisle (break/rev)-Hexham-Durham-York and return
Past Time Rail	6201	(Hereford-Shrewsbury-)Hellifield-Carlisle-Shap-Carnforth (& return)
Past Time Rail	2xEWS Cl 37	London KX-via ECML-Settle-Carlisle-Hexham-Durham and return
Spitfire Railtours	55022	Liverpool LS-Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-York and return
Vintage Trains	2xClass 47	Birmingham Moor Street-Stourbridge Junction-Worcester FS-Hereford (break)-Ludlow-Shrewsbury-Birmingham NS
		28th February
Hertfordshire Railtours	tbc	London Paddington-Slough-Reading-Cardiff-Llandrindod Wells-Craven Arms-Wellington-Wolverhampton and return
		1st March
Hertfordshire Railtours	tbc	Northampton-Basingstoke-Southampton-Dorchester-Weymouth (break/rev)-Dorchester-Castle Cary-Westbury and return
Kingfisher Railtours	48151	Carnforth-Lancaster-Preston-Blackburn-Rose Grove-York and return
Past Time Rail	tbc	Swansea-Port Talbot Parkway-Bridgend-Cardiff Central-Newport-Chepstow-Lydney-Gloucester-York and return
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	Watford Jct-Coventry-Bham Int-Bham NS-Barnt Green-Cheltenham Spa-Gloucester (57/3)-Machen-Barry-Margam-Newport (66/5 tnt 60)-Bham NS (EWS 66)-Watford Jct (57/3)
Railway Touring Company	71000	(Mill Hill Broadway-Bedford-Kettering-Melton Mowbray-Leicester)-Leicester-Chester (break/rev)-Leicester (and return)
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Class 37	Birmingham New St-Tame Bridge Parkway-Wolves-Stafford-Crewe-Manchester Picc-Bolton-Preston-Workington-Carlisle (break/rev)-Shap-Preston and return
Vintage Trains	86259/47773	Birmingham NS-Sandwell & Dudley-Wolverhampton-Crewe-Runcorn-Liverpool Lime Street and return
Vintage Trains	47773/86259	Liverpool Lime St-Newton Le Willows-Wigan-Preston (47773)-Preston-Crewe (86259)-Crewe-Liverpool Lime Street (47773)

Key to tour listings:

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

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

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

Useful Weblinks

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

The Week Ahead

Saturday 1st March sees a number of special workings taking place across the country.

The highspot of this week's railtours must be the mainline return of another Class 86. The AC Locomotive Group's Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier* has now been joined on the mainline by Class 86/2 No. 86259 *Les Ross*, which is due to head a Vintage Trains' excursion from Birmingham New Street to Liverpool Lime Street. For added value, there is the option to join a positioning special from and to Liverpool Lime Street in the afternoon. Tyseley's Class 47 No. 47773, which will be positioned at the rear of the outward working, will haul the positioning special via Newton-le-Willows, Golbourne Junction and Wigan to Preston, whereupon No. 86259 will again take over for the run south along the WCML to Crewe. The train will return to Liverpool Lime Street Class 47-hauled via Earlestown, which will position No. 86259 at the helm for the return.

Steam holds sway on the ECML, when the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's 'The Talisman' finally turns a wheel. The train was subject to several postponements last year due to the unavailability of the chosen traction, LNER A4 Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern*. However, with No. 60019 now available and raring to go, the Trust's King's Cross to Newcastle-upon-Tyne charter is due to operate on 1st March, with *Bittern* booked to take over from a diesel at Peterborough West Yard, and run throughout to Newcastle-upon-Tyne, as well as heading the train back to York. Diesel traction will then return the tour to King's Cross.

The Railway Touring Company offer some rare steam mileage with its 'Cheshireman' this weekend. The steam section is from Leicester via Loughborough, Sheet Stores to Stenson Junctions, and then via North Staffordshire Junction to Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent and Crewe, onwards to Chester and return with No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* being the booked traction. The train originates at Mill Hill Broadway and runs via Kettering and Melton Mowbray.

Kingfisher celebrates Mother Day, albeit a day early, with a Carnforth to York excursion, running via Preston, Blackburn and Rose Grove. The feature, other than 'Mum' goes free, is that the train travels via Copy Pit both ways. West Coast Railway Company's Stanier Class 8F No. 48151 is the scheduled traction.

Stobart Rail has now taken over the Hertfordshire Railtours brand, including its early season programme. They will be operating a 'Thomas Hardy Circular' to Dorchester and Weymouth, outwards from Northampton via Wembley, Ealing Broadway and then Basingstoke, Southampton and Bournemouth. On the return, the tour is scheduled to run via Yeovil and Castle Cary. DRS Class 47's and the 'Stobart' Mk3s feature. Two days earlier, and the company has a circular from London Paddington, outwards via Reading and Didcot to the Central Wales line, which includes a break at Shrewsbury. The return travels via the West Midlands.

The Branch Line Society has its first tour of 2008, entitled 'The Port of Seaham Pioneer', which operates from Birmingham New Street to the Network Rail limit at Seaham Docks with an EWS Class 66. The route is diverse, running initially via Chesterfield to Stockport before joining the WCML at Hartford, onwards to Carlisle Upperby Bridge Junction and thence to Low Fell Royal Mail Terminal. Here a further EWS Class 66 will be attached and the train will continue in 'top and tail' mode around the Durham coast to Seaham. After a further reversal at Polka Sidings to detach the assisting Class 66, the train continues south via Hartlepool, Eaglescliffe, York and Sheffield to Leicester where the train terminates. It does not go through to Birmingham New Street because of a possession west of Hinckley, and therefore road coaches will be provided for New Street passengers.

Steam workings via Altrincham in May

The Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association is once again sponsoring a series of steam-hauled shuttles between Chester and Altrincham via Northwich and Knutsford on 4th May, under the heading of 'The Cheshire Gardens Express'.

The trains will be hauled by Stanier 'Black 5' No. 45407, which will consist of two return workings between Chester and Altrincham, and also, to celebrate the 40 years since the last steam-hauled passenger train on the Middlewich branch, there will be an additional train from Crewe to Northwich via Sandbach.

This is followed on 10th May with an outing to Bristol and Minehead from Altrincham and all local stations to Chester, and then picking up at Wrexham, Gobowen and Shrewsbury. The train, which is booked to be Class 67 hauled, is routed via Wolverhampton, Birmingham and Cheltenham.

For more details of these trains go to http://www.mcrua.org.uk/specialtrains

Western Champion takes the coast route

▲ ***Class 52 No. D1015* Western Champion *powers along the North Wales coast at Penmanmawr on 16th February, with the Irish Traction Group's 'Irish Mail' charter, which featured the 'Western' throughout from Ealing Broadway to Holyhead and back. Previously Penmanmawr was the most westerly point that a 'Western' had ventured along the North Wales coast, when a few years back No. D1015 featured on a trip for Yeoman Aggregates employees to Llandudno Junction, which involved an ECS move to the aggregate sidings at Penmanmawr.* John Whitehouse**

Busy times ahead for *Princess Elizabeth*

There are a busy few months ahead for No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* commencing on 29th March on the Railway Touring Company's 'Dartmouth Express' when it deputises for No. 6024 *King Edward I*.

Trips for Pathfinder take place on 19th April to Holyhead, followed by north and southbound Settle & Carlisle charters on 24th and 31st May. Kingfisher then steps in with three trips, first on 7th June across the Pennines on the Diggle route from Crewe to York and return, followed by a Carnforth-Shap-Carlisle-Hellifield working on 14th June. Finally on 30th June, the 'Princess' is set for a Shrewsbury-Hereford-Bristol Temple Meads return working.

Railway Herald also understands that improvements to the turntable at Churston may result in No. 6201 having some 'Torbay Express' turns along with No. 6024 *King Edward I*.

Compass Tours head to Scotland and Wales

English Electric traction is a feature of Compass Tours spring programme which gets under way on 5th April with a pair of EWS Class 37s from Wolverhampton and stations via Shrewsbury and Crewe to York.

The route outwards is via Diggle, and returns along the Hope Valley. While at York there is an option to stay aboard for a trip around the Harrogate Circle. EWS Class 37s remain in charge for a tour the following week to Cardiff from Blackburn, which picks up at selected stations via Wigan North Western, Warrington Bank Quay, Chester and Wrexham. The outward routing takes the train across the Central Wales Line while the return runs via Chepstow, the Lickey Incline and Shrewsbury.

Because EWS, which is the train operating company for the Compass Tours 2008 season, could not provide Class 37s for a pair of inter-linked workings over the May-Day bank holiday, the Class Forty Preservation Society has stepped in to provide No. 40145. Saturday 3rd May has the Class 40 heading north from Workington via Carlisle and Motherwell to Stonehaven and Aberdeen via Perth, Dundee and Montrose. Both Tay and Forth Bridges feature on the return. The intensive use of both locomotive and stock then continues on 5th May when the company heads for Aberystwyth from Barrow-in-Furness and selected stations to Carnforth, Lancaster, Preston, Wigan North Western and Warrington Bank Quay.

Later Compass has three tours heading for Scotland, commencing on 31st May to Edinburgh from Holyhead and North Wales Coast stations, followed on 14th June, also to Edinburgh, from Runcorn, Liverpool Lime Street and Wigan North Western. The final outing, on 28th June heads for Pitlochry and Kingussie from Hooton and stations to Warrington Bank Quay and Wigan North Western. Each of these tours should feature Riviera Trans Class 47's.

▶ The task of bringing the online Railtour Listings back up-to-date has begun and should be completed shortly. There is a development underway in this area which, when announced in a few weeks, should prove popular and useful to passengers and photographers of the charter trains alike. Stay tuned!

▶ GWR 'King' No. 6024 *King Edward I* moved to the Great Western Society at Didcot to undergo winter maintenance ahead of a programme of work due to commence in March with two 'Torbay Expresses' over the Easter holidays. However, some unexpected jobs were identified including a small crack at the bottom of the right-hand outside cylinder back-end. This necessitated removal of the covers, piston, slide bars and connecting rods, and an outside contractor employed to undertake the repair, which has now been completed. Also the blast pipes have been removed to cure a small leak, and an expansion strap, removed for re-metalling, has been found to be cracked raising the question of whether to repair it or replace. As a consequence, a number of trips up to early May have been cancelled, including the two Easter 'Torbays'. Railway Touring Company has substituted No. 6201 on the 'Dartmouth Express' on 29th March, but its 'Pembroke Coast Express' on 5th May has been postponed.

▶ A 'Route and Branches Tour' on 24th August is a feature of the SRPS's recently announced programme, featuring No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* and 40145 in 'top and tail' mode around Strathclyde. Originating at Bo'ness and picking up at Polmont and Glasgow Queen Street, the tour will travel over lines surrounding Glasgow, including (provisionally) Anniesland, Drumgelloch, Larkhill, Paisley Canal, Ayr and Ardrossen Harbour.

▶ Past Time Rail has announced four new tours featuring 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion*, commencing on 5th April with 'The Royal Duchy', which is a straight forward London Paddington to Penzance and return operation with a 'Western'. On 26th May, in association with Mark Elderkin, Past-Time has 'The Great Western' which visits Weymouth, travelling via Swindon, Bristol Parkway, Bath Spa, Westbury and Yeovil. 'The Red Dragon' to Swansea is next on 9th August, which returns via Hereford, Ledbury, Worcester and Stroud. Finally, on 27th September the company returns to Cornwall with 'The Western Hind' which offers a rare opportunity for locomotive haulage, let alone 'Western' haulage, to Falmouth. All these tours originate at Paddington.

The 'Silver Ghost' at work

▲ *Class 67 No. 67029* **Royal Diamond** *is seen passing Crofton Locks on the Berks & Hants on 10th February, with a London Paddington to Cardiff Central Rugby Special, diverted from the more direct route due to engineering work near Swindon. Classmate No. 67024 is on the rear.* **Tom Curtis**

▼ *The past few days have seen the silver-liveried Class 67 employed on crew training duties over the northern end of the Wrexham, Shropshire & Marylebone Railway's planned operating route. The locomotive is pictured arriving at Wellington with a Wolverhampton to Crewe training trip.* **Pete Slagel**

Arriva Cross Country at work

▲ *The first three-car unit to carry the new AXC house colours is Class 170/1 No. 170102. The unit was taken to Marcroft Engineering, Stoke on 11th January, where the full external make-over was completed. For the time being, it retains the former MML interior décor. Having returned to revenue service the previous Wednesday, it is seen approaching Stoke Works Junction on a cold and frosty 18th February with the 07.46 Gloucester-Nottingham service.*
Don Gatehouse

▼ *Class 170/1 No. 170108, still wearing its Midland Mainline green colours, with CrossCountry branding approaches Ashchurch with a Nottingham-Cardiff CrossCountry service on 9th February. As the repaints of vehicles continue, this livery is slowly being phased out.*
Jack Boskett

The changing face of Cotswold Rail

▲ *With the Cotswold Rail branding having all but been removed from the railway scene, the latest purchases have been outshopped in Advenza Freight blue livery. Here Class 47/0 No. 47237 (nearest to the camera) is joined by Class 47/3 No. 47375 and Class 57/0 No. 57006 at Gloucester Horton Road on 19th February. Advenza Freight has also taken over Class 57/0 No. 57005, which is currently at Kilmarnock for repainting.* **Jack Boskett**

▼ *Class 43 No. 43175 was returned to the Brush, Loughborough on 18th February, to have its cab removed and sound-proofing fitted between the frame and cab floor. This aspect of the refurbishment work had been deferred during the original rebuild at the start of the MTU contract as this particular powercar was required for publicity purposes. The ensemble is headed by Class 47/0 No. 47237, with barrier coach No. 6336, seen passing Defford.* **Don Gatehouse**

Keighley & Worth Valley Spring Steam Gala

▲ *On 17th February, WD 2-8-0 No.90733 heads the 09.40 goods from Keighley to Oxenhope at Mytholmes Viaduct between Oakworth and Haworth.*

▼ *Ivatt 2MT tanks Nos. 41312 and 41241 power past Top Field, between Haworth and Oxenhope, with the 10.25 from Keighley to Oxenhope on 17th February, the first day of the K&WVR Gala Weekend.* **Both Nick Wise**

▲ *The Bluebell Railway is currently playing host to visiting GWR 1400 Class 0-4-2T No. 1450. Here, the locomotive propels an auto-coach towards Horsted Keynes in early February. The pairing will be in operation during this weekend's Branch Line event. This locomotive will be one of the attractions at the West Somerset Railway gala in March.* **Peter Starks**

West Somerset Spring Gala line up headed by LMS and GWR designs

The West Somerset Railway has been forced to remove three of its previously advertised star attractions for the line's Spring Steam Gala being held on 8th/9th and 13th-16th March

The WSR has learnt in the last few days that running repairs to LMS Jubilee No. 5690 *Leander* would not be completed in time and as such will not now be able to attend the gala. Added to this Llangollen-based GWR 'Manor' No. 7822 *Foxcote Manor* has been removed due to ongoing maintenance work and Mid Hants-based Bullied West Country No. 34007 *Wadebridge* remains under repair following the cab fire in late December.

However, the news is not all doom and gloom! The Severn Valley Railway has offered either Stanier Mogul No. 42968 or 'Black 5' No. 45110 as a replacement for the Jubilee and the Llangollen Railway will be providing its GW 2-8-0 No. 3802 instead of the 'Manor'. Continuing the line's GWR history, 0-6-2T No. 5619 will be attending, fresh from completion of its overhaul at the Flour Mill Workshops in the Forest of Dean, as will GWR 2-8-0 No. 5224 from the North Yorkshire Moors Railway.

As a result, the full line up of locomotives now features the previously mentioned locomotives plus GWR 'Autotank' No. 1450, GWR 'Prairies' Nos. 5542, 5553 and 4160, WSR '9351' No. 9351, GWR 0-6-2T No. 5619, GWR 2-8-0s No. 3802 and 3850, LNWR 'Super D' 0-8-0 No. 49395 and LMS Stanier 5MT No. 42968 or 'Black 5' No. 45110. In addition, S&D 7F No. 88 will be the spare loco at Williton.

The original proposal of a BR 1948-1968 theme has somewhat gone 'out of the window' due to the general shortage of suitable locos. However, the railway hope that the line-up will provide something for everyone and the gala certainly gives a line-up that is likely to attract the paying public.

Three 'slugs' and a Dukedog for SVR galas!

The Severn Valley Railway is looking beyond its planned date for the recommencement of through running in order to make 2008 a bumper year, and help in the recovery from last years flood disaster.

Part of the plan is to have two major galas, with the first being its 2008 Diesel Gala, scheduled for 24th April through to Saturday 26th April. The feature will be a 'Slug Fest', with the SVR's own Class 37/9 No. 37906 being joined by Llangollen's No. 37901 and No. 37905, which is stopping off on route to the Battlefield Line.

Also appearing will be Nos. 50049 *Defiance*, D1013 *Western Ranger*, fresh from overhaul D821 *Greyhound*, and Class 20 No. D8188. Shunters Nos. D3022 and 12099 will be operating in 'top and tail' mode on shuttle services, the details of which remain to be confirmed. The gala will operate over three days, with the first two having an exclusive diesel-operated timetable, while on Saturday 26th April there will be two steam-hauled diagrams. In a departure from previous events, and in order to provide two whole days of exclusively diesel-operated services, this gala will commence on a Thursday. It will be interesting to see the response to this change, particularly as the SVR has not staged an extensive diesel gala for two years.

Details for the autumn steam gala are still in the planning stage, except that it will have a 'Cambrian' theme and feature some classic Great Western locomotives. Normally, getting No. 3440 *City of Truro* and No. 6024 *King Edward I* on the same bill would be considered to be the ultimate attraction, but this year there is an additional, arguably magical, ingredient. Top of the bill must be the guest appearance of the Bluebell Railway's GWR 'Dukedog' 4-4-0 No. 9014 *Earl of Berkeley*, which will fulfil the long-held dream of many to see the locomotive working with a set of Great Western 'Toplight' coaches on the Severn Valley. The 19th-21st September has to be a must for all enthusiast diaries!

New 'Patriot' locomotive to be called *The Unknown Warrier*

The group behind the plan to build a brand-new LMS-designed 'Patriot' locomotive has announced the outcome of a competition to name the new loco, which will take the next number in the series No. 45551.

'The Patriot Project', has announced that following a vote from steam enthusiasts who voted for their favourite name from a shortlist of five names that were drawn up from all the names suggested, the name *The Unknown Warrior* received the most votes in the subsequent competition.

"I'm delighted that the new name for the Patriot has been chosen by the public", said David Bradshaw, Patriot Project leader. "*The Unknown Warrior* is entirely appropriate in keeping with our project aims, as well as commemorating all those who fought and died in the First World War and other wars".

Three brass nameplates are being cast by Newton Replicas to the original LMS design and the competition winner will receive one of these with the other two being fitted to the locomotive. A '45551' smokebox number plate is also being cast. This has been kindly donated to the Patriot Project by project supporter, Neil Kinsey.

The Patriot Project is seeking donations and regular contributions for the project and the public launch is to be held at the Llangollen Railway where the 'LMS Patriot Gala' is being held on the 18th – 20th April.

Mixed Traction 'Swinging Sixties' event for GCR

The Great Central Railway is to be home to the Class 40 Appeal's No. D212 *Aureol* for the year, with one of its first appearances being at the railway's 1960s event.

Three steam and three diesel locomotives, together with the line's DMU set, will be in action during the 'Swinging Sixties' gala over the weekend of 14th-16th March.

Unfortunately, Class 47 No. D1705 is not available for this event and the 'Drive a Locomotive Experience' over the double-track main line, will now be covered by Class 45 No. D123.

The first day is diesel-only and is likely to feature Class 31 No. D5830, Peak No. D123 and the star guest Class 40 No. D212 *Aureol*, hauling passenger services, together with two real-ale trains departing Loughborough at 19.00 and 20.30.

The last two days will feature steam and diesel haulage plus the lines resident class 101 DMU. The Class 40 will feature on a variety of trains during the day. Steam traction is likely to include SR King Arthur No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*.

▲ *Class 33 No. 33109 leads Class 24 No. D5054 on the 13.50 train from Bury Bolton St to Rawtenstall on 2nd February as it awaits departure from Ramsbottom. Also recently arrived on the railway is Class 37/0 No. 37109 which is now owned by a private group.* **Adrian Bradshaw**

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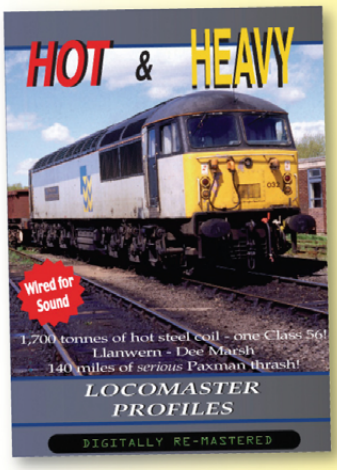

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This DVD, which contains an extra 25 minutes of previously unseen footage, will be released in mid-February, priced at £19.95 (post free). To order your copy, either call our Credit Card Hotline on 01753 545888 or send a cheque or postal order to the address below:

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Diary

The editor welcomes details of forthcoming events, talks, slide shows, conferences, model railway exhibitions and club meetings for inclusion within this section.

Details should be sent via email to ***editor@railwayherald.co.uk*** and should include a brief outline of the event, including the speakers name if appropriate, date, time and location, together with contact details (either telephone, web or email). *Railway Herald* cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or events which are amended, cancelled or postponed. Information, such as advance programmes and club meeting line-ups can also be sent through the post to the editorial address.

21st February 2008

Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society, Barrow Hill Roundhouse.
'Now and Then' by Ken Horan. Black and white images of B.R. steam, mainly on shed in the sixties. Doors open 7.00pm, show commences 7.30pm.

Irish Railway Record Society (London Area)
The Exmouth Arms, 1 Starcross Street, London, NW1 2HR, 'Golden Days in Ireland: 1959 - 69' by David Soggee, Meeting starts 19.00 Minimum Donation of £2.00; New and non-members are both welcome.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Nth West Branch)
The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside. "Miscellany of steam in Europe & Asia Minor." by Geoff Monks Meeting commences at 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow. 'Railtour of Japan and Java' by Adrian Palmer, follows the Society Annual General Meeting. Meeting commences at 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). Meeting commences at 7.30pm, contact Alex R. Forsyth on 01738 622187 for further details.

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

26th February 2008

RCTS (Nottingham Branch)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street.
'Mainline and Preservation' by Graham Briggs. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

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

Locomotive Club of Great Britian (Croydon Branch)
United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon 'Chris Gamwell Memorial Slideshow.' by Terry Bagworth. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Blackpool Branch)
Claremont Hotel, Blackpool Road, Preston. 'My railway career as a signalman' by Malcolm Riley. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

29th February 2008

Great Central Railway Society (London Group)
The Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, Euston, NW1
'40 Years of London Buses and Trolleys' Slide show reflecting the changing London bus scene by John Parkin. Meeting commences at 7.30 p.m. Donation £3.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle Upon Tyne
'More thoughts along the line, Part 7' by Alan Clothier
Meeting commences at 19.00, contact 01434 688946 for details.

4th March 2008

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford Branch)
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford 'Annual Quiz vs RCTS Northampton'. Commences at 19.30

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London Branch)
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London. N22 5NJ
"Archive Slides from the UK." by Brian Manktelow. Meeting commences at 19.30

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

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Blackfriars, London.
'Railway Surveying - Which way now?' by Chris Preston, Network Rail Survey System Engineer.. Starts 18.30. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh.
'Tramway Cine Film' talk by John Laker. Starts 19.30. Entrance fee £2

5th March 2008

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Sussex House, Reading.
'Rail mounted rail milling' by Malcolm Hitt, DTK GmbH. Starts 17.30. Contact Rodney Pinchen at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell.
'A Railtour of Great Britain over the last 35 years' by Bob Cleary. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814 .

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley
'The railways of Eastern Europe' by Richard Biddick
Meeting commences at 19.30, contact 0208 289 9935 for details

6th March 2008

Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'The Derek Cross Collection' by David Cross. Meeting commences 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Ireland Branch)
Royal Hotel, Dublin.
TBA. Starts 14.30

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.
Signalling for the 21st Century' by Robin Nelson. Meeting commences at 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue. Kendal
'The drags last roar (Part 1) – Final years of steam in china' by Tony Harrison
Meeting commences at 19.15, contact 01539 729659 for details.

7th March 2008

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
TBA by Phil Darlaston
Meeting commences at 19.30, Refreshments available.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough
'A railway holiday in Eritrea' by Kay Seymout-Walker
Meeting commences at 19.00, please contact 01642 321205 for details

8th March 2008
Stephenson Locomotive Society
Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster
'Electric Forum (jointly with ERS and LRTA) – Pioneer Electrics by Douglas Morgan and John Rosser. Meeting commences at 14.15, contact 01242 582152 for details.

10th March 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'To Scotland for Steam' by Peter H Groom. Meeting commences at 20.00 Contact the society organisers on 01522 705365 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.
'Harzer Schmalspurbahnen, a Trip up the Brocken by John Black Meeting commences at 19.30, contact 01294 822303 for details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Normanton Shed 55E 1962-1968' by Allan Dawson, Steam Fireman Meeting commences at 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

10th-18th March 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'Copper Canyon Railway', Mexico. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at http://www.lcgb.org.com

11th March 2008
8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich.
'American Adventure' by Bob Casselden. Meeting commences at 19.45.

Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny.
'Rails in the Colorado' by Nigel Lewis. Meeting commences at 20.00.

Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. 'Something Old, Something New' talk by Mike Dodd. Meeting commences at 19.30 for 19.45. Non-members welcome. Contact 0117 987 3244 for further details and information

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Room B110, Croydon College. 'SERSA Second Life System' by Chris Woods, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle Branch)
The Railway Hotel, adjacent to Preston station.
'Trackwork on the Great Orme Tramway' by Iain Ellis. Meeting commences at 17.30 for 18.00

12th March 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
U.K. and overseas by Ian Clare. Wote St. Club, New Road, Starts 20.00. Contact 01256 326096.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group
Royal Air Force Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes. 'The M&GN Part 2 : South Lynn to the Coast' by David Bodicoat. Starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St. James Park tube. 'East London Line' by Mark Eaden. Meeting commences at 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Hotel, Chester. 'Rail mounted rail milling' by Malcolm Hitt, DTK GmbH. Starts 18.30. Contact 01782 717472.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
YMCA, Bridge Street, Guildford
'Preserved Steam in Australia and Sweden by Brian Lewis
Meeting commences at 19.30, contact 01372 379216 for details

13th March 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans Branch)
United Reform Church,
Watford Road, Chiswell Green
"Signalboxes in the Aire Valley." by Malcolm Riley. Meeting commences at 19.30

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)
Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester.
'Forth Bridge Refurbishment' by Duncan Sooman, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 12.30. Contact Rob Cummings on 0161 228 5321 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales Branch)
Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport. 'The 2030 Railway' by Professor Andrew McNaughton, Chief Engineer, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664 for further details.

Friends of the West Highland Lines
Room 10, Partick Burgh Hall, Burgh Hall Street, Glasgow (round the corner from Partick Station). Slides from the Collection of The Late Roy Hamilton-Mr Charles McCrossan.
Meeting commences at 19.30.

14th March 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Steam on the Woodhead line from 1932 to Electrification' by Neville Fields. Meeting commences at 19.30, Non-members £3.00

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Central London Branch)
Keen House, Calshot Street, London. N1. "Allied Military Steam Locomotives of WW2" by Mike Hudson. Meeting commences at 19.15

Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton.
'The Isle of Man and other Islands of Steam' by John Gulliver. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for further information.

17th March 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'The County Donegal Railways Joint Committee' by Ken Grainger. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Dorking Branch)
Pethick-Lawrence House, 85 South Street, Dorking, Surrey
"Ken Nunn Supplemental" by Graham Stacey. Meeting commences at 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.

Should this column be carrying details of your society? Listings for meetings, slideshows, model railway exhibitions and conferences can be sent to the editor.

▼ *One of the two Class 86/9 locomotives which are primarily used for ice-breaking duties during the early part of the year, is pictured in Platform 1 at York.* **Gary Pinkney**

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