The Railway Herald

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Contents

National Express East Anglia completes rural fleet upgrade **Page 3**

East Midlands Trains invests £90 million in upgraded service **Page 4**

First Class 323 outshopped in London Midland livery **Page 5**

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK
Brian Morrison looks at Stafford **Page 14**

Railtour Listings **Page 8**
Preservation View **Page 13**
Events Diary **Page 18**

Front Cover

***South West Trains Class 121 'Bubblecar' No. 960012 powers a Salisbury to Yeovil Junction route learning special through Fairwood Junction on 13th March.* Brian Garrett**

Rear Cover

***EWS Class 60 No. 60022 heads towards Tees Yard on 5th March with the Redcar to Hardendale empty lime hoppers, near Newport Bridge, Middlesborough.* Dave Maloney**

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

▲ ***The National Railway Museum's LNER 'V2' 2-6-2 No. 4771 Green Arrow passes Darnholme as it climbs the bank between Grosmont and Goathland with a test run on 14th March.* Philip Benham**

First locomotive arrives for NYMR LNER Festival

As final preparations commence for the North Yorkshire Moors Railway's forthcoming LNER Festival (28th-30th March and 4th-6th April), the first star of the show has arrived on the line.

The National Railway Museum's LNER 'V2' No. 4771 *Green Arrow* will be appearing alongside Gresley 'A4s' Nos. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley*, 60009 *Union of South Africa* and 60019 *Bittern*, as one of the stars of the gala. It will also be the final gala appearance for the 'V2' as the locomotive's boiler certificate is due to expire at the end of April. Other locomotives scheduled to appear include 'B1' No. 61264 and 'J15' No. 65462, plus resident 'K1' No. 62005 and 'Q6' No. 63395.

To celebrate the occasion, the railway has produced a special A4-sized, 24-page souvenir programme, priced at £2.50, giving the background to the LNER, the history of the Gresley 'A4s' and the locomotives appearing over the weekend, together with locomotive allocations and the full timetables for all six days of the event. Available by mail order, call 01751 472508, or during the event.

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- The latest news and events from across Europe, the America's and the Asia Pacific region
- **Railroading USA** - *John Day* starts the first of a major new series examining photo locations and opportunities around the United States. Part 1 looks at the busy areas around Chicago.
- **China Steam Spectacular** - Cyril J. Lofthus looks at some of the remaining steam operations throughout China.

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▲ *Forming the 11.57 service from Norwich to Lowestoft, National Express-liveried Class 156 No 156419 departs from Brundall on 10th March, the first of the class in the corporate colours of National Express.* **Both: Brian Morrison**

National Express East Anglia completes rural fleet upgrade

National Express East Anglia has completed the £100,000 interior upgrade of its fleet of Class 156 units.

The nine Class 156s work the majority of services operating on the rural routes from Norwich to Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft and Sheringham, as well as other services that operate between Ipswich and Cambridge, Felixstowe and Lowestoft.

To mark the completion of the upgrade, which includes improved seats, tables and carpets, the final train in the fleet to receive the makeover was unveiled in the new National Express livery.

The train was officially welcomed by key stakeholders including representatives of Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils and Community Rail Partnerships (CRPs) on 10th March at Norwich.

National Express East Anglia, previously known as 'one' railway, has worked with partners including Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils, the Bittern, Wherry and East Suffolk Line CRPs and Chapelfield Shopping Centre in Norwich, in developing sponsorship packages with contributions from partners to help support the investment for the interior upgrade. These positive partnerships are reflected in some of the trains that feature designs and logos from Chapelfield and the CRPs

▶ ***The new look and refreshed interior to the final Class 156 to be upgraded - No. 156419.***

▶ National Express East Coast (NXEC) returned to running its regular timetable of services from 14th March following two days of disruption on the East Coast Main Line caused by overhead power lines at Temple Hurst, between Doncaster and York, becoming damaged during the high winds on 12th March.

▶ Some 3,500 megatrain.com seats, from just £1.50 including booking fee, are offered on the East Midlands Trains network each week. This week the 10,000th passenger to use a bargain priced .com ticket to travel to London received an upgraded First Class ride for the journey. The tickets are available for travel to London from Sheffield, Chesterfield, Derby, Nottingham, Loughborough and Leicester, and can be purchased from the megatrain.com website or through the telephone booking centre.

▶ First Great Western is to continue its popular '2for1' scheme, which offers discount entry at top tourist attractions and leisure venues for customers travelling by train to Bath and Bristol. The offer includes 'two for the price of one' entry to the Roman Baths, the Herschel Museum of Astronomy, the Jane Austen Centre, the British Empire & Commonwealth Museum, Bristol Ice Rink, At-Bristol, Bristol Zoo Gardens and Brunel's *ss Great Britain*. Discounts are also available at many restaurants and hotels. Readers can find a comprehensive list of participating attractions, restaurants and hotels by visiting www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/bathbristol2for1 As many vouchers as are needed can be downloaded, there being no limit to the number of '2for1' offers that can be claimed or the number of times visits can be made. Keep train tickets handy as one will be asked to present them by the participating organisation. Leaflets containing the vouchers are also available at FGW station ticket offices.

▶ At a photocall on 14th March at St Pancras International station with the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, and the Chief Executive of Eurostar, Richard Brown, it was announced that Oyster cards will now be sold in the buffet cars of London-bound Eurostars, enabling foreign passengers to travel onwards to their destinations by bus or tube from St Pancras without having to queue and buy a ticket. The facility to use the cards on surface railways, however, seemingly has still a long way to go as Ken Livingstone said that the TOCs are "dragging their feet".

Southeastern opens new building at Greenhithe

▲ *The 10.43 Gravesend-Woolwich Arsenal-Charing Cross service makes the scheduled Greenhithe stop on 9th March, formed of Class 465/0 Networker No 465038. The new station building that opened to the public on 14th March is on the opposite platform.* **Brian Morrison**

East Midlands to invest £90 million in improvements for customers and performance

East Midlands Trains is investing £90 million to make improvements in areas that impact directly on performance, reliability and customer service.

Derby train maintenance depot is to be upgraded; its train fleet is to be refurbished as required, including technical modification work to improve engine performance, interior décor, seats and CCTV technology; investment in stations; additional customer help points, refurbished waiting areas and improved lighting and facilities are to be provided; a brand new station opening at East Midlands Parkway, and improved journey times on the route to London.

A new joint control centre in Derby is also to be introduced with Network Rail to improve communications (currently operations for each company are in separate locations) and a new timetable is to be introduced from December, offering faster journey times and increased capacity.

Managing Director, Tim Shoveller added: "Although our punctuality is already good – in terms of the national measures that are in place – we want to achieve more. This programme of major investment is a key part of this and will no doubt improve our punctuality. But I believe there is also a place for a back to basics approach internally, ensuring all staff are acutely aware of the need for trains to depart on time, every time. And by on time, I mean exactly on time, not even a few seconds late. To do this staff need to sound their whistles in good time, encouraging passengers to hurry aboard and then lock the train doors so that at the booked time of departure the wheels on the train are already moving. It is quite surprising that just one minute's delay at a station can have a significant effect, causing the accumulation of 'knock on' delay further along the train's journey. We will be re-briefing all staff and issuing new whistles and wrist watches that are accurate to the second to everyone. I am confident that we will see improvements to our punctuality as a direct result of this renewed focus. It sounds simplistic and maybe it is – but the best ideas usually are. I am confident we'll see results."

East Midlands Trains will be issuing all 2,100 staff with an 'atomic watch' which is accurate to the second. In addition all staff responsible for train dispatch will receive a brand new Acme Thunderer whistle.

Class 60 to Brierley Hill

Class 60 No. 60039 was a welcome sight on 10th March on the gritstone working from Croft Quarry in Leicestershire to Brierley Hill, West Midlands.

Running approximately 80 minutes late by the time it reached Droitwich Spa, the train headed to Worcester Yard to run round before returning via Droitwich and Stourbridge Junction.

◀ *Class 60 No. 60039 heads its rake of 20 loaded MEA wagons through Droitwich Spa on 10th March.* **Don Gatehouse**

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◀ *The first reliveried Class 323 No. 323201 stands in the bay at Wolverhampton, following arrival from Birmingham New Street on 11th March.*

London Midland Class 323 EMUs
The formation of London Midland from Central Trains brought with it the Class 323 fleet in Centro's colour scheme. The fleet spans Nos. 323201-323222 and Nos. 323240-323243.

▼ *The new-look interior of Class 323 No. 323201. The seat upholstery has been completely renewed throughout the unit in the London Midland colour scheme.*
Both: Wilf Smith

First Class 323 outshopped in London Midland livery

The first Class 323 EMU to be repainted into the new house colours of London Midland, No. 323201 has been outshopped.

The repaint and internal work has been undertaken on the unit at Wolverton and has seen various technical modifications undertaken, along with the external relivery and internal re-upholstry being amended to feature the London Midland colour scheme. Technical modifications have been undertaken on No. 323201, aimed at improving reliability. The whole of the West Midlands-based fleet is expected to undergo the treatment over the coming months, with the next unit, No. 323202 currently present in Wolverton and due for release back to traffic this coming Wednesday.

Network Rail's £75 million Easter rail improvement programme

Network Rail's £75 million Easter rail improvement programme includes locations such as Clapham Junction, London Liverpool Street and the West Coast Main Line.

During the four-day Easter period, some 20 miles of track is to be laid, new signalling and points installed and a viaduct on the Cumbria coast replaced. Over 6,000 staff will be working on the projects, equating to nearly 300,000 man-hours.

To help inform passengers of the need to plan in advance, Network Rail has, this week, launched a media advertising campaign about the work programme, advertisements appearing on websites and in the national press.

With so much work being undertaken across the network, the hope within the industry and in the minds of all passengers is that Easter will not see a repeat of the disastrous over-run that occurred around Rugby and Glasgow following the Christmas and New Year engineering work.

A summary of the Easter period programme is as follows:

West Midlands

As part of the West Coast Main Line £350 million upgrade in the Trent Valley to help reduce journey times (e.g. London to Manchester in less than two hours) and increase the frequency of services, work includes upgrading the track, signalling and overhead power lines. A large quantity of work in and around Rugby and Nuneaton stations is also taking place.

East Anglia and South East

Track, power lines and platform works are being undertaken at Milton Keynes station and work continues on a £25 million project in Barnham, Sussex, linked to the introduction of a modern signalling system to increase train reliability.

As part of a £5 million scheme in Kent, the Rochester river bridge is being strengthened to reduce the long-term effects of the weather and maintain the life of the structure.

Track work around Shenfield is also being renewed, the new design being less noisy and helping to reduce the need for maintenance closures.

London

Large sections of the track at Clapham Junction are being renewed, the work designed to improve every day performance and make the line more reliable in the future. Some overhead line replacement work is also taking place on the approaches to Liverpool Street and at Bethnal Green.

North East, Yorkshire and Humberside

Work on routes from Leeds to Huddersfield, York to Doncaster and Newcastle to Carlisle is taking place over the period.

North West

Wistaston Road railway bridge in Crewe is being upgraded to bring it in line with EU regulations and to maintain vehicle access. Without this improvement, a permanent weight limit would be required, affecting access to the road. The deck on the 50 metre Calder Viaduct that carries a railway over the River Calder/River Ehen on the Cumbrian coast is being attended to in order to maintain passenger services in the future and enable the existing speed restriction for freight trains to be lifted.

South West

The final phase of an £8.8 million project in Swindon East to improve the condition of the railway and to increase line speeds will take place.

East Midlands

Work continues on the rebuild of canopies at Derby station.

Wales

Engineers will be working to remodel the track at Abercynon. This project is part of a wider enhancement scheme to increase the frequency of services on the Cardiff Valleys lines.

Scotland

Track renewals will be carried out between Lochwinnoch and Glengarnock on the Ayrshire line. The work is designed to improve the quality of the track and provide smoother journeys.

Track renewal is also being undertaken at Larbert.

▶ Chelsfield station is the latest on the Southeastern network to have been accredited with Secure Station status. The station has gained the award under the scheme that is managed by the Department for Transport in partnership with the British Transport Police. Requirements include good lighting, CCTV, fencing and boundaries, together with good use of corner mirrors and signage, a reduction in crime rates at the station and regular station maintenance audits including removal of graffiti within 24-hours.

▶ Beeston station announcer Dave Smith prides himself on making cheerful announcements for passengers using the station, and now his announcements have become so well known that BBC Radio Nottingham featured him on its morning breakfast show on 10th March! Dave says: "The people here at Beeston are great. Lots of the passengers are regulars now and I find that people respond very well to the happy announcements I make. It might be a wet miserable Monday morning at the start of another working week but I hope I can put a smile on their face as they pass through the station. We all spend a lot of time at work and sometimes I see more of the faces of these passengers than I do my own family. I have a job to do here, but if I can make people smile while I'm doing it, then that makes me happy too."

More contracts announced for First GBRf

First GBRf has announced an increase in services for Royal Mail from two to five trains a day, plus three new coal contracts and a multi million pound expansion to its fleet.

Under the new agreement with Royal Mail, First GBRf, which currently moves mail between Willesden and Glasgow, has been asked to provide additional train services. The move follows the three-year contract for moving post by rail, for which it was awarded the 'Best Vendor Going the Extra Mile' accolade for 'consistently delivering over and above the expected' by Royal Mail in 2007.

The new coal contracts are from British Energy, Alcan and Drax Power, which takes its share of rail coal haulage in GB to 12% and has caused the company to purchase 90 additional coal hoppers and five new EMD-built Class 66 locomotives.

The contract with British Energy is for the haulage of coal from Immingham to Eggborough power station and is announced as commencing in April, but in fact, the first two trains operated on the evenings of 10th/14th March, behind Class 66/7 No. 66716.

Trains will consist of Class 66s and 22 HYA coal hoppers that will be dedicated to the flow. The agreement with Alcan includes haulage of both imported coal from the Port of Tyne and indigenous coal from UK Coal's Widdrington railhead to Lynemouth power station. With additional contracts also secured from a number of other coal trading companies which import coal into the UK's four main east coast ports, Immingham, Hull, Redcar and Port of Tyne, the company will be operating out of all four ports to both Aire Valley and the Trent Valley power stations, in addition to Alcan's power station at Lynemouth.

▼ ***First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66713 awaits the road off the Long Marston branch at Honeybourne as a First Great Western HST passes on a London Paddington to Hereford service. The Mk2s are being moved in preparation for export to New Zealand.*** **Peter Tandy**

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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
Virtuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote
Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London's newest tube station

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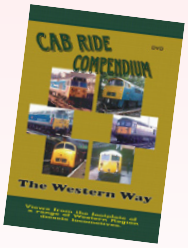
Looking back at decades of diesels

A collection of three programmes looking back at the West Country since the 1970s.

Diesel power in the West Country *(£15.95)*
Filmed between 1990 and 1998, the programme takes the viewer on a lineside journey from Bristol & Salisbury to Penzance via all the surviving intermediate branch lines. It comprises probably the most comprehensive tour of the region ever condensed into one programme and includes a staggering 23 different types of locomotive. *Running time approx 83 minutes.*

Four decades to Kingswear *(£19.95)*
A look at the variety of steam and diesel traction that has operated over the Paignton to Kingswear branch since 1973. As well as the beautiful scenery on the 7-mile stretch between Paignton and Kingswear, we see views of some of the specials en-route to their destination, thus high speed runs also feature. An amazing array of 80 different steam and diesel locomotives appear in this programme, some in several locations. *Running time approx 72 minutes.*

Cab Ride Compendium - The Western Way *(£19.95)*
Rather than concentrate on just one journey we have put together a compilation of six footplate trips spanning a period of 30 years. First is Exeter St. Davids to Salisbury with 50018 Resolution on 23 June 1991, then Class 47 No 47573 is our steed from Plymouth for Newton Abbot on 18 December 1988. Next we travel Bury to Rawtenstall on the East Lancs Railway in the cab of D832 Onslaught before boarding D1013 Western Ranger for the climb of Eardington bank on the Severn Valley Railway. Then its a ride in the cab of the Blue Pullman on the Bristol to Bath section in the 1970s and finally, double-headed Cromptons from Exeter Riverside with 33108 (paired with 33114) to Meldon Quarry on 14 September 1990. *Running time approx 105 minutes.*



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Blackpool's tram renovations

▼ *One of Blackpool Tramway's 1934-built English Electric Balloon railcars, No. 717, now the pride of the Blackpool fleet, stands fully restored (with the exception of the front fenders, which are a requirement of the Railway Inspectorate) to 1934 condition and livery in Rigby Road Depot on 11th March. The tram is expected to open the newly re-railed tramway from Stargate to Fleetwood later this year. Unfortunately, work on the reinstatement of the full tram service is currently running behind schedule and it is expected that the Promenade section will be the first to be operational, followed by the remainder as work progresses. Alongside is the 'Wild West Tram', also undergoing a rebuild (see below).* **Chris Dixon**

▼ *The restoration of one of Blackpool's popular Illuminated feature trams, No. 733, is now well underway. Built in 1962 using withdrawn English Electric rail coach No.209 as the basis, the vehicle is being totally rebuilt, thanks to funding from the a National Lottery grant. The vehicle, which is once again resembling the 'wild west' steam locomotive, is taking shape at the tramways Rigby Road Depot and is expected to be returned to traffic in May 2009, in preparation for the 2009 Illuminations season, and will provide seating for 35 passengers. The driver is located in what will be the smoke box. A feature of this popular tram is that the chimney will actually smoke when the tram is in motion!* **Chris Dixon**

Grand Central appoints EWS Network for control operations

To help ensure maximum robustness of its newly launched full timetable, Grand Central has appointed EWS Network to provide hour-by-hour operational control of train service running and resourcing.

Under the terms of the new arrangements, a new Doncaster 'Control Office' will initiate actions to counter any effects of service disruption or emergencies in conjunction with Network Rail's Control and Northern Rail's Maintenance Control in York.

As is standard across all Train Operating Companies (TOCs) and Freight Operating Companies (FOCs) on the national network, a daily log will record performance details, incidents, resource information, items affecting performance and emergency/ supplementary notice items, passenger counts and the like. It will be reviewed on a daily basis by Grand Central management, who will deal with issues that require resolution.

Where Grand Central services have been delayed or in other circumstances where reports are considered necessary, the EWS Network Control Manager in conjunction with the Network Rail Control Manager will initiate investigations via the traincrew of the affected train, as all Grand Central staff are issued with some of the latest Blackberry communication handsets.

This will ensure accurate information is available to controllers when dealing with any queries to delays caused to, or by Grand Central services, which are handled across the country by the Trust Delay Attribution (TDA) system, to which each rail operator on the network has access.

Tom Clift, Managing Director of Grand Central Railway Company said: "Ensuring that our trains run smoothly and on time is very much a team effort between our own staff, Network Rail Control and our train maintenance team at Northern Rail. I am delighted that EWS Network has now become part of that team and am confident that this will deliver even greater levels of robustness to our operations."

With extra HST sets now available, the full Grand Central timetable came into effect from 10th March

Please mention *Railway Herald*, when responding to advertisers

On 14th March, Class 47/4 No. 47802 **Spirit of Cumbria** *is pictured as it arrives at Stratford-upon-Avon with the Stobart Pullman from Letchworth. On the rear was Class 47/7 No. 47712* **Pride of Carlisle.** **Peter Tandy**

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.

		15th March
Stobart Pullman	tbc	Letchworth-Finsbury Park-Stratford upon Avon (break/rev) and rtn
Past Time Rail	76079	Manchester Victoria-via the Carnforth Circle-Manchester Victoria
Pathfinder Tours	tbc	London KX-Grantham-Doncaster RMT (92)-Morpeth-Bedlington-Newcastle (56/3)-York (66/5)-Doncaster RMT (60)-London KX (92)
Railway Touring Company	60009	(Leeds-Edinburgh (break/rev))-Edinburgh-Leeds
Vintage Trains	4965	Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley-Banbury-Oxford-Didcot (break)-Oxford-Banbury-Leamington Spa-Tyseley-Birmingham Snow Hill
		21st March
Stobart Pullman	tbc	'Easter West Highlander' Day 1: London KX-Edinburgh-Dumbarton
Past Time Rail	tbc	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear and return
		22nd March
Stoabrt Pullman	tbc	'Easter West Highlander Day 2: Dumbarton-Oban-Dumbarton
Past Time Rail	tbc	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear and return
Past Time Rail	35028	London Victoria-Woking-Basingstoke-Salisbury (break/rev)-Southampton-Havant-Haslemere-Guildford-London Victoria
Pathfinder Tours	Cl.50	Worcester SH-Bham NS-Tamworth HL-Alnwick-Edinburgh & return
Railway Touring Company	6233	(Mill Hill Broadway-Leicester)-Leicester-York (break and reverse)-Leicester (and return)
Vintage Trains	5029	Birmingham Snow Hill-Stourbridge Jct-Kidderminster-Droitwich Spa-Worcester Shrub Hill (break)-Kidderminster-Henley in Arden-Stratford upon Avon (break/rev)-Dorridge-Birmingham Snow Hill
		23rd March
Stobart Pullman	tbc	Easter West Highlander Day 3: Dumbarton-Stranraer-Dumbarton
		24th March
Stobart Pullman	tbc	Easter West Highlander' Day 4: Dumbarton-Carstairs-London KX

Key to tour listings:

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
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

A Bank Holiday is usually guaranteed to produce a surfeit of charter trains, but not so for the forthcoming Easter holiday.

A combination of engineering possessions and locomotive unavailability has produced one of the quieter weekends for charter activity. On the steam front, in the south, Past Time has prized No. 35028 *Clan Line* from VSOE duties for a rare working without the British Pullmans on the 'Southern Sunset' on 22nd March. The train runs from London Victoria to Salisbury via Woking and Basingstoke on the south-west route, with the return operating via Southampton, Havant, Haslemere and Guildford back to Victoria.

Meanwhile, to the north, No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* is scheduled to operate for the first time this year with The Railway Touring Company's 'The Yorkshireman'. Not a strenuous trip for the 'Duchess', but an ideal running-in trip after winter maintenance, running from Leicester to York and back via Chesterfield. The train originates at Mill Hill Broadway, and takes in Harringworth Viaduct.

Stobart Rail heads north of the border on its first Scottish weekend, commencing on 21st March with a tour that was originally advertised under the Hertfordshire banner. DRS Class 47s should feature on day one from London King's Cross via Edinburgh to Dumbarton, for the first overnight stop. Oban is the destination on 22nd March, followed by Ayr on the next day. The traction for each leg is to be announced, although DRS Class 37s have to be favourites for Oban. The return to King's Cross on 24th March includes a break at Carstairs.

Heartland Railtours also head north with its 'Cumbrian Cruiser' from Bristol Temple Meads to Carlisle, outwards via the Settle & Carlisle, and returning over Shap. The train travels via Cheltenham Spa, Birmingham New Street, Crewe and Blackburn, with a pair of Cotswold Rail Class 47s for traction. Also heading north via Gloucester will be a scheduled 'Northern Belle' operation from Cardiff, which also calls at Worcester Shrub Hill en route to Chester.

▶ Vintage Trains has cancelled its planned 22nd March outing featuring 'Castle' No. 5029 *Nunney Castle*, which was due to visit both Worcester Shrub Hill and Stratford- upon-Avon. The trip was to be the 'Castle's' first mainline outing following repairs at Tyseley Locomotive Works, but the fracture of a newly overhauled bogie spring while No. 5029 was being moved has delayed its return to traffic. A new spring is being manufactured, but as the 9/16" thick plate required for this type of spring is no longer commercially available, a firm delivery date cannot be guaranteed. The consequence is that the availability of the locomotive for the tour could not be guaranteed and so Vintage Trains has taken the decision to cancel the tour. The impact on future tours is still being assessed.

▶ Past Time has added a little added spice to its re-routed 'Cotton Mill Express' on 15th March, with the addition of No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* to the consist from Preston to Manchester Victoria. The Stanier Pacific is currently at Carnforth following attention to its big-end bearing and smoke box door, and will use the 'Cotton Mill' to hitch a lift back to Manchester in tandem with train engine No. 76079, which will have sole charge of the train from Manchester Victoria to Preston via Blackburn, Hellifield and the 'Little North Western' route to Carnforth. The pair will then proceed to their mutual base at Bury.

▶ Plans by The Railway Touring Company to run a super-powered double-header over the South Devon banks between Bristol and Plymouth seem to have floundered, with No. 6024 *King Edward I* confirmed as being unavailable. The plan is now to run with No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* only, but with a reduced load.

▶ For the most comprehensive and up-to-date railtour listings on the internet, featuring steam, diesel and electric traction all in one place, visit the Railway Herald website and click on 'Railtours'. The listings, now fully revised and updated, provide a full run-down, by date or by locomotive/traction type of what is running, where and where! **Click here** to visit now!

▲ ***Class 37/5 No. 37667 leads classmate No. 37668 Kingmoor TMD through Leyland on the West Coast Main Line with Spitfire Railtours' excursion on 10th March, which operated outwards via Shap and returned via the Cumbrian Coast Line. The success of this trip has resulted in a further DRS Class 37 outing in June.*** **Fred Kerr**

More trains announced by Spitfire Railtours

With two excursion now firmly under the company belt, Spitfire Railtours has announced three further charters for later this year, commencing on 21st June with 'The Paignton Pudden' from Crewe via Birmingham to Paignton with a pair of DRS Class 37s.

Class 40 No. 40145 *East Lancashire Railway* features next on 12th July with 'The Jolly Fisherman', from Liverpool Lime Street to Skegness, outwards via Sheffield, Retford and Lincoln and returning via Nottingham and Chesterfield.

Later, on 15th November, there is 'The Capital Deltic' from Preston and the Standedge route, Leeds and Doncaster to London King's Cross with Deltic No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey*.

Of course, there is also 'The Wey-farer' on 19th April from Crewe to Weymouth with a pair of DRS Class 20s, outwards via Swindon, Westbury, Salisbury and Eastleigh, with the return being by the more direct route through Basingstoke.

Changes and postponements from Railtourer

Railtourer has had to postpone its planned 12th April 'Tyne Valley Steam Special' charter featuring Class 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 northbound over the Settle & Carlisle because of difficulties in securing a path for the steam locomotive from its Carnforth base to Hellifield, due to the WCML in the north-west being closed for planned engineering work.

The tour, which originates at Skegness and also features the Tyne Valley route on the return, will now operate on 31st May in place of the planned charter from Scarborough. Intending passengers from Scarborough and stations through to York have been accommodated by the insertion of an additional pick-up point at Doncaster.

The mode of operation of the weekend charter to the West Highlands between 16th-18th May has changed. The train initially runs in two portions, from Peterborough and Scarborough respectively with the original plan of combining each portion at York. This is now deemed operationally unacceptable, and therefore the main train will operate as normal from Peterborough to York, with the Scarborough portion running as a separate train with passengers changing at York.

It is hoped that on the return, the train will still split as planned at York, with each portion then continuing in different directions as originally proposed.

▶ ***During the latest Buffer Puffer excursion from Pathfinder, Class 37/4 No. 37405 powers the charter on 8th March, on the approach to Hounslow. On the rear of the train was classmate No. 37401.*** **Chris Holt**

Fairwood Junction

Fairwood Junction in Wiltshire is the point where the avoiding line joins the through line from Westbury station.

The location, overlooked by the famous 'white horse' sees a variety of both passenger and freight services, the latter concentrated on aggregate traffic from the two nearby quarries at Merehead and Whatley.

▲ ***With 43 empty JHA bogie hopper wagons in tow, Hanson-liveried Class 59/1 No. 59101 Village of Whatley powers the 09.45 Theale - Merehead service through Fairwood Junction on 13th March.***

◀ ***Class 43 powercar No. 43169 powers through Fairwood Junction, with a southbound service from London Paddington, on the same day. The HST has avoided Westbury station and is on the avoiding line at this point.*** **All: Brian Garrett**

▲ *The Brush-built Class 60s have been regular in the area since their introduction, picking up work for which there were no Class 59s available. The Type 5s were British Rail's answer to the Class 59s at the time, following the purchase by Foster Yeoman of the first four (the fleet later being increased by one) during the 1980s. Here Class 60 No. 60031* **ABP Connect** *powers the 10.15 Whatley-St Pancras on 13th March. The wagons used on this flow are ex-RMC Roadstone PHA and JGA hoppers, which previously found work in the Peak District.*

▼ *Today, the Class 59/0 and 59/1 fleets are, for operational purposes, merged and operated by EWS crews and control. When originally purchased, Foster Yeoman Class 59/0s (Nos. 59001-59005) always worked with Foster Yeoman branded wagons working out of Merehead, while the ARC fleet (Nos. 59101-59104) always powered ARC wagons out of Whatley Quarry. With ARC having been taken over by Hanson Aggregates, it is not uncommon for Hanson locos to work Yeoman wagons out of either quarry or, as pictured here, a Yeoman-branded locomotive, No. 59001* **Yeoman Endeavour** *powering loaded Hanson-liveried JHA hoppers on the 13.24 Whatley Quarry-Acton Yard service, seen passing a wet Fairwood Junction.* **All: Brian Garrett**

North Yorkshire Moors Railway

LNER FESTIVAL WEEKENDS

28th-30th March & 4th-6th April

FEATURING

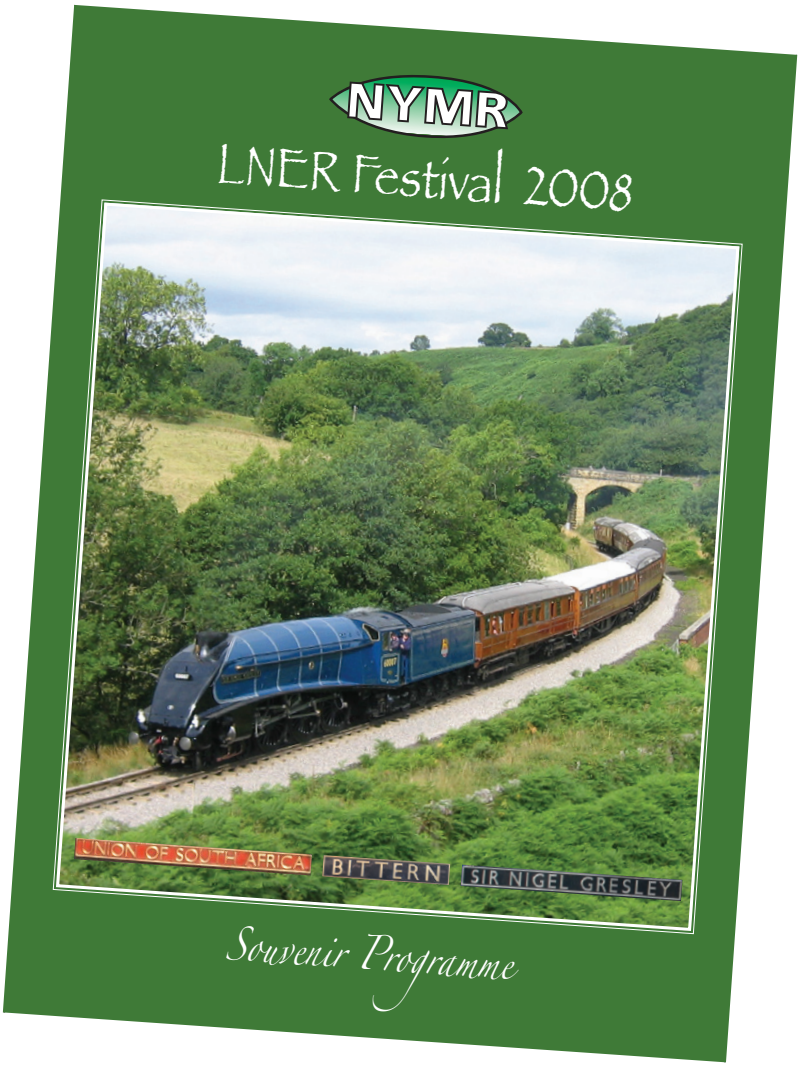
The first line up of three working LNER 'A4' Pacifics since the end of steam in 1968

Up to Eight ex-LNER steam locomotives working services between Pickering and Grosmont, plus Esk Valley Line services between Battersby and Whitby

Last gala appearance of the National Railway Museum's popular *Green Arrow*

The 'MUST-VISIT' railway event of 2008!

Call 01751 472508 for further details and fares



To commemorate this unique gala event the railway has produced a special Souvenir Programme

This special 24-page, A4-sized programme covers:

The history of the LNER ■ Background to the 'A4' locomotives
History of the NYMR ■ Locomotive Information
Full timetables and locomotive allocations for the weekend

ON SALE FROM 20th MARCH PRICED £2.50

Advance orders can be accepted via post or phone. Please add £1 for p&p

To order call 01751 472508 using your credit or debit card, or send a cheque or postal order to Festival Programme, North Yorkshire Moors Railway, Park Street, Pickering. North Yorkshire. YO18 7AJ

Success for Barry Island

The Barry Island Railway's 'Shunter Day' on 1st March was a success with all the railway's shunter fleet in action.

Class 14 No. D9521 and *Bill Caddick* hauled the first passenger trains to use the new extension to Gladstone Bridge Halt. The new station, situated off the car park of Morrisons' supermarket at Barry waterfront, provides the railway with a new 'shop window' for its services, and is adjacent to the main Bridgend - Cardiff line. The extension adds a quarter of a mile to the existing network. Hunslet No. 6688 *Salty* worked the busy brakevan shuttle between Woodham Halt and Barry Shed and Class 08 No. 08511 was in service on the Gatwick Express set.

The Barry and Penarth Model Railway Club provided two layouts, which were displayed within the shed itself proving a growing relationship between the well-established club and the railway.

The next enthusiast-focused events will be on 29th March when the railway holds a Recruitment Day and on 17th May, when another DMU Day will be held. Trains again will be using the new extension to Gladstone Bridge.

Its complete again - The SVR IS BACK!

It may not appear significant, but to the staff and volunteers of the Severn Valley Railway the sight of the Class 73 arriving at Bewdley on 10th March marked a major milestone in the history of the line, as the train was the first through service from Bridgenorth to Kidderminster since the line was devastated by flooding last year.

Electro-Diesel No. E6006 headed a ballast train throughout from Bridgnorth to Bewdley, which also contained 'Jinty' No. 47383 in the consist, the latter being en route to Kidderminster for turning before being installed as an exhibit at the Engine House at Highley, which along with the railway, will be formally opened to the public on Good Friday.

▲ ***The historic first through working is seen at Bewdley, having just detached from the ballast wagons.*** **Dewi Jones**

▶ ***Class 73/1 No. 73101 is pictured with a clear-up trains.*** **David Pagett**

47306 "The Sapper" shunting at Bodmin General

Day Rover Ticket Only £10

very steep 1 in 40 ruling gradient!

47749 'Demelza' & 47727 at Truro on RHTT duties in November 2007.

Bodmin & Wenford Railway, Cornwall, present the

Bodmin Diesel Weekend

5 & 6 April 2008

A feast of classic locomotives in the Duchy!

Also working will be English Electric, rail blue duo Class 37/0, **37142** & Class 50 - **50042** "Triumph"
Special evening Class 47 hauled 'engineers' trains where passengers ride in brake vans - Please book in advance, small additional charge for holders of £10 Rover tickets.
Real Ale - Cafe - Shop - lineside permits

Featuring guest Class 47/7 courtesy of Colas Rail Ltd.
47749 "Demelza" ex D1660 "City Of Truro" *requested*!
Starring alongside resident 47, **47306** "The Sapper"
(All locomotives subject to availability)

Class 08 Shunter on cab rides or driver experience at Bodmin General - www.bodmindiesels.co.uk

Please **'click' this advertisement** *to visit group website for further information and how to book via the B&W online booking.*

TURNING THE CLOCK BACK

Stafford in the 1950s

Brian Morrison looks back to the 1950s and the West Coast Main Line at Stafford

▲ *Jubilee 4-6-0 No. 45617 Mauritius and 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44902 double-head a Birmingham-Manchester express away from Stafford on 7th August 1956.*

▼ *Willesden (1A)-allocated 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44916 blasts away from Stafford on 11th August 1958, hauling the 11.35 express from Blackpool to Birmingham, consisting of only three coaches. The impressive exhaust was more for the camera than for the load!* **All: Brian Morrison**

Always a very busy station, Stafford today would seem to have just as many trains as it did over 40 years ago – and possibly even a few more.

It is still a major station on the London-Crewe-Carlisle-Glasgow main line, and cross-country and local services still abound and freight remains plentiful. Motive power diversity remains good, although obviously not in the same numbers as in steam days. I paid just two visits to the station with a

▲ Burton-on-Trent (17B)-allocated Class 3F 0-6-0 No. 43709 passes through Stafford on 7th August 1956, hauling a northbound freight consisting mainly of concrete slabs.

▼ Johnson Midland Railway 3F 0-6-0 No. 43361 on shed at Stafford (5C) on the same day. A design of 1885, the type was rebuilt by Fowler with a Belpaire boiler in 1916.

camera in the 1950s, the first in August 1956 and the second in August 1958.

Even in that short two-year space, a number of changes were evident, particularly the beginnings of dieselisation with both the prototype Deltic and DMUs making appearances.

Overhead catenary now restricts a number of steam era vantage points and both the extensive yards and the engine shed no longer exist.

However, enthusiasts are still welcomed at the venue by the staff, making it one of the most pleasant for photography, or just train watching, anywhere in the country. Long may it continue!

▶ ***Passing through Stafford, ex-LNWR G2a 'Super D' 7F 0-8-0 No. 49119 hauls a long mixed freight for Warrington on 7th August 1956.***

▼ ***Class 3F 'Jinty' 0-6-0 No. 47649 shunts the once extensive yards at Stafford on 11th August 1958.***

▲ *The prototype Deltic passes through Stafford at speed on 11th August 1958, powering the southbound 'Manxman' express from Liverpool Lime St to Euston.*

▼ *Having been in traffic for a few months only, a Birmingham RC&W Company three-car DMU (later Class 104) pulls away from the Stafford stop, forming the 14.35 service to Birmingham New Street. The vehicles are in original green livery before 'speed whiskers' were added.*

Diary

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

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

14th 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 starts 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

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 start 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

18th March 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)
The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station. 'Nottingham Express Transit - Line 2'. Joint meeting with the Institution of Highway and Transportation. Starts 18.30. Contact Colin Dowey on 01949 837067.

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

19th March 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Caledonian University, Cowcaddens Road, Glasgow. 'Sheilds Junction Renewal', joint meeting with the Institution of Signal Engineers. Meeting commences at 17.30

20th March 2008
Thursday, 20th. March Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society, Barrow Hill Roundhouse.
'Mainline 2007' by PSOV. A DVD presentation of mainline steam during 2007. Doors open 7.00pm, show commences 7.30pm.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North Wst Branch)
The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside. "1968 - The End and Beyond !" by Robin Lush. Meeting commences 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow. 'The Rail Accident Investigation Branch' by Andy Savage. Meeting commences at 19.45 Non-members £2.

26th March 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Filisur and Bodensee by Richard Green. Wote St. Club, New Road. Contact 01256 326096 for further details. Visitors welcome. Meeting commences at 20.00

27th March 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britian (Croydon Branch)
United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon AGM & Members Slides. Meeting commences 19.30

28th March 2008
Great Central Railway Society (London Group)
The Exmouth Arms, Starcross Street, Euston, NW1. 'I remember the 1960s' Slide show reviewing the decade and the end of steam by Richard Crane. Meeting commences 19.30. Donation £3

1st April 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
The Freemantle Club, Waterloo Road, Southampton. 'The use of Ground Penetrating Radar in the Railway Arena' by Ben Venables, Zetica UK. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Illustrating Railway Insignia' talk by Steve Bingley. Meeting commences at 19.30. Entrance fee payable of £2

2nd April 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Sussex House, Reading. 'OHLE History and Developments' by Steve Limbert, Network Rail. Starts 17.30. Contact Rodney Pinchen by email at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk.

3rd April 2008
Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. '50 Years of Railway Photography' by Keith Sanders. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

4th April 2007
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Rly (Birmingham Area Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield. 'Railway Wanderings' by Mike Dodd. Meeting commences at 19.30.

8th April 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. '1000 eggs in a basket' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences 20.00.

Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. Contact: 0117 987 3244. "Military Port No. 1 and the Faslane Military Railway and Wartime Posters, Military Permanent Way and Signalling" talk by Mike Walshaw. Doors open at 19.30, Meeting commences 19.45. Non-members welcome.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Room B110, Croydon College. 'DfT Rail Strategy' by Tim Kendell, Department for Transport, London. Meeting commences 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle Branch)
Carnforth Station Visitors Centre. 'Nexus - The Tyne & Wear Metro System' by Phil Kirkland, Track Engineer for Nexus. Meeting commences 17.30

8th-9th April 2008
National Tramway Museum
1940s Weekend.

9th April 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Steam in the landscape by Mick Tyack. Wote St. Club, New Road, Meeting commences at 20.000. Contact: 01256 326096. Visitors welcome.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Hotel, Chester. 'OHLE History and Developments' by Steve Limbert, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.30.

11th April 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Slides of Steam' by Cliff Parr. Meeting commences at 19.30, Non-members £3.00

14th April 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'Coming up with the goods' by Stuart Donoho. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube. 'Heathrow Express - Wheel/Rail Management' by Mark Chestney. Meeting commences at 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)
Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester. TBC. 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. 'Modular S&C' by Geoff South, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Steam & Diesel 1960s to 1980s' slide shot by Barry Plues. Meeting commences at 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

15th April 2007
Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)
The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds.
'The Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage, PWI President. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949 for further details and information.

16th April 2007
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow.
'Scotlands Railways - A 20 year vision for rail in Scotland' by Clair Keggie and David Prescott, Rail Policy, Transport Scotland. Meeting commences 17.30

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)
Holiday Inn Hotel, Castle Marine, Nottingham.
Welding Developments by 'The Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage, PWI President. Contact Colin Cowey on 01949 837067.

17th-26th April 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'Fedecrail Tour' in Austria. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at http://www.lcgb.org.com

18th April 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton.
'Bespoke Buildings' by Martin Prior. Meeting commences 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

23rd April 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Miniature railways by Colin Brading.
Wote St. Club, New Road, Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact: 01256 326096. Visitors welcome.

24th April 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Lineside Greetings" by Douglas d'Enno. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £1.50 is requested

30th April 2008
Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
South Bank University.
Half Days Technical Seminar on 'Practical Inspection and Maintenance of Switches and Crossings'.

2nd May 2008
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
Group AGM followed by Members Slides. Start 19.30, Refreshments available.

3rd-4th May 2008
Porthmadog Railway Exhibition
Glaslyn Leisure Centre, Porthmadog. Standard and Narrow Gauge layouts featuring mainline, industrial and light railways. 10.00-16.00 Entrance £4 incl. free guide, children under 14 free if accompanied by a responsible adult.

3rd-7th May 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'Champagne Express' in Luxumbourg. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at http://www.lcgb.org.com

6th May 2008
Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh.
'From bulb fields to gum trees', Doug Cross and Peter Hall share a variety of tramway destinations. Starts 19.30. Entrance fee £2

12th May 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'When the wall came down' by Graham Lightfoot. Meeting starts 8pm. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York.
'AGM followed by a 'Steam Spectacular 1960s tot he present day' in DVD format by Ian Wolstencroft. Starts 19.30. Membership available. Non-Members £2

13th May 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. Barry Foster Films and AGM. Starts 20.00.

Great Western Society (Bristol Group)
Room 7, BAWA. 589 Southmead Road, Filton, BRISTOL, BS34 7RG. "The Railways of Scotland" talk by Les Nixon. Starts 19.30 for 19.45. Non-members welcome. Contact: 0117 987 3244

16th May 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'My Lifetime Hobby' by Amyas Crump. Starts 19.30, Contact 01823 334188.

22nd May 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "50 Years of Taffys Travels - Part 1 Western & Southern" by Peter Jones. Start 7.30pm. Donation of £1.50 is requested

9th June 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'Members slide show' Starts 8pm. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

10th June 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'West and North Devon' by Peter Gray. Starts 20.00.

20th June 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton.
'Sixty years of Railway Photography' by Philip Kelley. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

8th July 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'The County Project' by Terry McCarthy. Starts 20.00.

14th July 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'Annual Quiz Night'. Meeting starts 8pm. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

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.

A MAJOR UPDATE OF THE INFORMATION PROVIDED BY THIS COLUMN WILL TAKE PLACE OVER THE NEXT WEEK

▼ *Class 66/5 No. 66522 eastlondonexpress passes Heck on East Coast Main Line with southbound coal empties from Drax. On the right is the 0-4-0DH shunter of Plasmor Ltd, Concrete Block Manufacturers which is standing on the shunt neck from their private sidings.* **Robin Patrick**