# The Railway Herald

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## Front Cover

***Wrexham & Shropshire-liveried Class 67s Nos. 67014 and 67012 power the inaugural London Marylebone to Wrexham service on 28th April.*** **Gary S. Smith**

## Rear Cover

***Ivatt 2MT 2-6-2T No. 41312 is passes North Road with a demonstration freight train on the Mid-Hants Railway on 27th April.*** **David Warwick**

## 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

## Network Rail Class 97/3s for Pathfinder charter

***Railway Herald* understands that Pathfinder has secured the use of two Network Rail Class 37s, which have recently been refurbished, reliveried and renumbered into the Class 97/3 series for use on the Cambrian Coast Line resignalling project.**

The locomotives will be employed as motive power for Pathfinder's railtour from West Ruislip to Carlisle on 5th July. The train will also pick up at Gerrards Cross, High Wycombe, Saunderton, Princes Risborough, Haddenham & Thame Parkway, Bicester North, Banbury, Leamington Spa and Coventry.

The Class 37s will operate north from Crewe via the Settle & Carlisle, returning south to Crewe via Shap.

Watch the Pathfinder website at www.pathfindertours.co.uk for more information over the coming weeks. Bookings are now open, call 01453 835414.

## Last run for John Bretherton with *Brains* 'dragging' *Virgin Angel* over Ribblehead

▲ ***Resplendent in ex-works condition, Class 57/3 No. 57309* Brains *hauls Class 390 Pendolino No. 390002* Virgin Angel *over Ribblehead Viaduct and onwards towards Ribblehead station with the diverted 13.10 Glasgow Central to London Euston in pouring rain on 26th April. The Class 57 was in the capable hands of Liverpool driver John Bretherton, his last duty prior to retirement. Further details on the timings of the weekend diversions over the Settle & Carlisle line can be found on Page 6 of this issue.*** **Chris Dixon (with thanks to Virgin Trains)**

## *Oliver Cromwell* moves under its own steam!

**It was all smiles at Loughborough on the afternoon of 1st May when No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* moved for the first time in many years under it's own steam.**

Although bereft of several fittings all went well, and the push is now on to get the locomotive ready for its appearance at the '1968 and all that' event at the NRM between 24th May and 1st June.

The locomotive will then return to the Great Central Railway for running-in prior to mainline certification and it's mainline return, booked for 24th July (see Railtours News).

The Great Central Railway is hoping to operate *Oliver Cromwell* on its scheduled service trains this Bank Holiday weekend (3rd-5th May). Seats are expected to be in demand, but the 'Britannia' will operate on three round trips each day, subject to availability. Special fares apply and the usual £5 entry fee at Loughborough Central/ Quorn car park (refundable against travel) applies. Two other steam locomotives will also be in action on each of the three days.

Readers wishing to know further details, including the times of operation and confirmation that the locomotive is working should click here, to be transferred to the GCR website.


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▲ *The future of Class 87 No. 87002 looks to be secure as the locomotive has been purchased by the AC Locomotive Group from Porterbrook. Here the unique-liveried locomotive powers through Rugby on 13th July 2006, with the 16.51 Virgin Trains service from London Euston to Birmingham New Street.* **John Whitehouse**

# AC Locomotive Group secures 87002

**The news that many had hoped for came last weekend with the announcement from the AC Locomotive Group (ACLG) that Class 87 No. 87002 *The AC Locomotive Group* (previously *Royal Sovereign*) will not be making the long trek to Bulgaria with the remaining members of the Class, but has been secured by the group following negotiations with Porterbrook Leasing.**

The locomotive, which is currently in store at Long Marston, has received an E-exam, had on-board train monitoring equipment fitted, its pantograph serviced by Brecknell Willis and is currently being repainted from its distinctive but now faded Porterbrook-colours into the rail blue livery also carried by stablemate Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier*. It is expected that No. 87002, which will carry its original name of *Royal Sovereign,* will be moved from Long Marston in the near future for testing, probably at Crewe.

This means that the group now has the full range of West Coast AC traction in its stewardship, which in addition to Classes 81 to 87, also includes a Class 73 from the Southern Region and the unique Class 89, which saw revenue-earning service on the ECML and underwent testing on the WCML.

The news comes at a key time in the Group's development, with No. 86101 having just come off lease with Hull Trains following a highly successful term, which has no doubt, helped the Group's bank balance. With two 110mph locomotives available, the ACLG is now a potent force for any job that involves exclusive under-the-wires operations, such as Euston or Kings Cross to the north. *Railway Herald* understands that discussions are taking place for future charter work as well as potential regular 'non-charter' operations. Behind the euphoria of getting its '87', work continues on No. 86401 *Northampton Town*, which was the donor locomotive for *Royal Sovereign's* OTMR equipment, and a mainline certification for the Class 86/4 by the end of the year remains likely. Some extra work has been identified as well as the need to obtain the replacement OTMR kit. The ACLG's other Class 86/2 No. 86213 *Lancashire Witch* remains at Willesden where it is used to heat the Virgin loco-hauled rake of coaches, while back at Barrow Hill Class 83 No. 83012 is undergoing a repaint into early electric-blue livery. The situation with No. 89001 is that two of its six traction motors have failed, and in any event, all six would need to be overhauled if the locomotive was to be used again. A six-figure sum is considered the likely cost to get it running again, which would have to come from outside sponsorship.

Meanwhile, Electric Traction Limited, that looks after the mainline operations for the ACLG, and is a prime mover in preparing the Porterbrook Class 87s for export to Bulgaria, is still looking to acquire Class 86s from store for spot-hire work. The proposed work for First Capital Connect between King's Cross and Peterborough did not materialise, but negotiations continue for other work. It is likely that at least one of the ex-Anglia Class 86s will be back in traffic by the end of the year, and possibly two others may follow.

Plans for a tour involving Class 87s in Bulgaria are progressing, but remain dependant on having a sufficient number of locomotives available. With three currently under test at Crewe, and likely to be moved south next week, they will need at least another batch to be exported before resourcing such a tour becomes viable.

# MSP visits Waverley to see upgrade work

**Minister for Transport, Infrastructure and Climate Change Stewart Stevenson MSP, visited Edinburgh Waverley station on 23rd April to view the results of a £150 million overhaul of the station's platforms, tracks and signalling.**

The upgrade, funded by Transport Scotland, provides increased capacity for trains and longer, more easily accessible platforms. In preparation for the Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link, electrification apparatus was also installed in the west end of the station in early 2008 to allow electric services to run on the line in the near future.

In addition to the track and platform works, Network Rail has prepared the west end of the station, the Mound tunnel and Waverley bridge for electrification.

Other station improvements have included the installation of modern passenger information boards for all platforms, new security cameras, improvements to the staircases at Calton Road, platforms 8 and 9, and Market Street as well as new bench seating at locations throughout the station.

❖ Scottish Power has awarded EWS Energy a new contract for the delivery of coal by rail to two major power stations in Scotland. The new contract will see the company deliver coal throughout the duration of the contract to Longannet Power Station, the UK's second largest coal-fired power station situated at Kincardine-on-Forth, and Cockenzie Power Station, situated at Prestonpans in East Lothian on the south side of the Forth Estuary.

❖ Network Rail plans to invest in March, Cambridgeshire, to create at least 25 permanent new jobs, as early talks on Phase Two in the expansion of Whitemoor Yard begin. These jobs are additional to other investments already announced, including an extra maintenance train at the depot, and are part of the depot's continuing success story. Plans for Phase Two include the creation of a world-class recycling facility, specifically designed to improve the railway's environmental performance and prevent materials such as ballast and concrete sleepers being sent to landfill sites. The investment in Whitemoor underlines Network Rail's commitment to the community of March, following the opening of the engineering depot in 2004 and the commissioning of a multi-million pound signalling project in November 2007. Plans will be announced shortly for community briefings in June.

❖ Virgin Trains' First Class ticket-holders using Birmingham International station now have exclusive use of a new state-of-the-art lounge. The First Class Lounge was opened on 30th April by Les Ross, BBC Radio WM presenter, and regular user of Birmingham International station. He was joined in unveiling a commemorative plaque by Virgin Trains station assistant Les Parsons. The lounge, which has seating for over 40 passengers provides a quiet and relaxing atmosphere for them to wait for trains, or to catch up on work after arriving back from the City. Wireless internet (WiFi) will be available shortly free of charge for users. A self-service facility for hot and cold drinks and light snacks is also provided. The lounge offers full access for the mobility impaired. The improvements to the station facilities mark the first stage of an investment package for Birmingham International. Work is due to start soon on increasing the number of car parking spaces. The scheme, which will take around 12 months to complete, will create an additional 835 spaces, taking the car park capacity up to 2,225. Alternative parking spaces will be made available next to the existing car park while the work takes place.

# First EMT liveried HST rolled out

**To mark the introduction of the first Stagecoach/East Midlands Trains-liveried HST, Class 43 powercar No. 43048 was named *T.C.B. Miller MBE* at Leeds Neville Hill Depot on 30th April. by his son John.**

Terry Miller led the design team at Derby RTC that produced the present-day HST, still running on main lines some 30 years later. He served as a premium apprentice under Sir Nigel Gresley at Doncaster with the LNER and BR Eastern Region, and culminated in becoming Chief Engineer for Traction & Rolling Stock for the British Railways Board in 1968.

Terry retired in 1973 and died in 1989.

▲ ***The attractive East Midlands Trains colour scheme on powercar No. 43058 at Neville Hill***
▼ ***The commemorative plaque.***
**Both: Ron Cover**

◀ ***John Miller, son of Terry Miller, unveils his father's name on powercar No 43048 at Neville Hill, accompanied by East Midlands Trains MD, Tim Shoveller.*** **Brian Morrison**

▲ *Class 67s Nos. 67014 and 67012 'top and tail' the inaugural Wrexham & Shropshire service, 06.45 train from Marylebone into Wrexham.* **Fred Kerr**

# Wrexham & Shropshire launches its new service

Wrexham & Shropshire's new direct train service to London started on 28th April, offering five trains a day in each direction between stations from Wrexham, through Shropshire and on to London Marylebone.

The service is using 'top and tail' Class 67 locomotives from EWS until its own DVT vehicles are outshopped and is making use of Mk3s from Cargo-D, again until its own passenger stock is ready. Work is underway on both projects at Marcroft Engineering at Stoke-on-Trent.

The W&S liveried Class 67s are Nos. 67012, 67013, 67014 and 67015.

▲ *On 28th April, Ieuan Wyn Jones, Deputy First Minister for the Economy & Transport on the Welsh Assembly Government, Andy Hamilton, Wrexham & Shropshire Managing Director, and John Gullow, Network Rail, read the newly unveiled bilingual plaques marking the start of the Wrexham & Shropshire service to London.* **Fred Kerr**

▼ *Operational problems with the leading Class 67 on the first train from Wrexham to London, resulted in an late arrival in the capital, after the rear locomotive was run-round at Cosford.* **Brian Morrison**

# Colas to increase timber traffic

**A £250,000 grant to develop a rail facility to improve freight handling between Rannoch and Irvine will remove 180,000 lorry miles per year from Scotland's roads, according to the Scottish Parliament.**

The Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) jointly awarded to UPM Tilhill and CSP Forestry will allow for the movement of 120,000 tonnes of timber by rail from Rannoch to Irvine over the next eight years, delivering real benefits for Scotland's environment.

Peter Whitfield, Timber Operations Director, UPM Tilhill, said: "The Freight Facilities Grant enables both UPM Tilhill and our partners to carry out harvesting operations in a timely and sensitive way. The timber will be delivered to Scotland's newest CHP (combined heat and power) Plant at Caledonian Paper."

The joint award of Freight Facilities Grant to UPM Tilhill and CSP Forestry is for £250,900. The award to CSP Forestry (76.6% of the total) is for mobile and handling equipment for the movement and loading of timber on to the train, and the grant to Tilhill is for the provision of a rail line-side loading facility.

UPM Tilhill has been contracted by the Forest Enterprise to manage the harvesting of the timber in the Barracks Block forest area at the western end of Loch Rannoch.

CSP Forestry Ltd will handle the work of loading the timber on to the trains, which will be transported to Irvine by Colas Rail.

# Station adoption proposals for Alloa

**First ScotRail (FSR) is asking local community groups and individuals in the Alloa area to put forward proposals on how they would like to enhance the environment at the new Alloa station, through a partnership for the provision and maintenance of floral displays.**

The call comes ahead of the line opening between Stirling and Alloa in mid May, which will see a new station open in the town. Through the increasingly successful 'Adopt a Station' scheme which was launched in 2005, FSR is looking for people to come on board and 'adopt' Alloa station. FSR hopes that the success of the scheme at other stations through partnerships with such groups as Gleneagles Hotel, Falkirk Rotary Club and the Helensburgh and Gareloch Horticultural Society, will encourage groups and individuals to also enhance the environment.



Please mention *Railway Herald*, when responding to advertisers

❖ Virgin Trains services are being diverted via the Settle & Carlisle line on weekends until 30th March. The affected trains are listed below, with the times in brackets being the passing time at Hellifield.
**Saturdays**: 07.50 Glasgow - Birmingham New Street (10.01), 09.03 Birmingham New Street - Glasgow (12.47), 09.03 London Euston - Glasgow (14.54), 09.18 Glasgow - London Euston (12.07), 11.48 Glasgow - Birmingham New Street (14.19), 13.03 Birmingham New Street - Glasgow (16.47), 13.03 Lonodn Euston - Glasgow (18.44), 13.10 Glasgow - Lonodn Euston (16.14) and the 16.10 Glasgow Central - Birmingham New Street (18.24).
**Sundays:** 09.03 Birmingham New Street - Glasgow (11.54), 10.31 London Euston - Glasgow (16.00), 11.03 Birmingham New Street - Glasgow (13.48), 11.25 Glasgow - London Euston (15.26), 14.05 Glasgow - Birmingham New Street (17.12), 14.50 London Euston - Glasgow (19.50), 15.03 Birmingham New Street - Glasgow (18.00) 15.05 Glasgow-London Euston (18.46) and the 15.05 Glasgow-Birmingham New Street (19.18) . On both days, a Class 57/3 Thunderbird locomotive is booked to run light from Preston to Kirkby Stephen, where it will stable, passing Hellifield at 09.03 SO/ 10.59 SuO and 20.09 SO/22.25 SuO respectively.

# Phoenix rising

**National Express East Anglia (NXEA) named a Class 321 EMU *Phoenix* during a special event at the company's Ilford maintenance depot on 29th April.**

The train was vandalised last July on a journey between Southend Victoria and London Liverpool Street and received considerable fire damage. Having been totally reconstructed and returned to service, the naming recognises the dedication and skill of the engineering team who have restored it at Colchester.

In order to return the set to service as soon as possible, NXEA utilised their in-house expertise to refurbish the train. The fire was so intense that it had melted the aluminium luggage racks and window frames. A small team of four, headed by Bob Buckley, began the painstaking task of restoring the coach so that it could return to passenger service. In addition the team was aided by contractors Transys Limited who undertook the specialist re-wiring work.

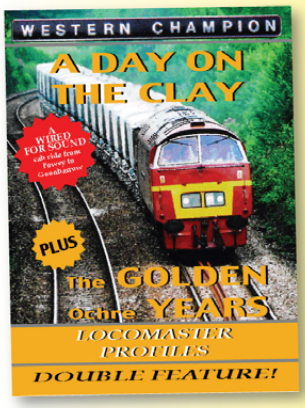
▲ ***Production Support Specialists Alan Reynolds and Bob Buckley responsible for the reinstatement of No. 321361, stand by the* Phoenix *nameplate unveiled on the unit at Ilford Depot on 29th April.***

▼ ***The devastating damage caused to Class 321/3 No. 321361 following the arson attack in 2007. The intensity of the fire melted window frames and all of the interior timber and laminate wall panels. Bulkheads, ceilings, doors and floors also needed replacing.***
**National Express East Anglia**

▼ ***The fully restored interior.* Both: Brian Morrison**

# GOLDEN OCHRE YEARS & A DAY ON THE CLAY

*A Double-Feature DVD featuring two programmes on D1015 Western Champion.*




**A DAY ON THE CLAY :** A move-by-move account of the day that D1015 spent working china clay trips off St Blazey depot in Cornwall in August 2002. The programme includes a Wired for Sound cab-ride on the 6G11 Fowey to Goonbarrow CDA's. The view from the cab features the scenic run along the Fowey estuary, the climb to Treverrin Tunnel and the spectacular assault through the Luxulyan Valley. Lineside views then capture the sight and sound of *Champion* as it works the 6G10 china clay back to Fowey Docks. Packed with Cornish nostalgia, this is a fascinating record of the day that time stood still.

**THE GOLDEN OCHRE YEARS:** The 'best of' Western *Champion's* four years on the main line during which it carried the unique golden ochre livery. After completing two successful test runs, D1015 subsequently worked 22 railtours and special charters, most of which are featured here. As well as re-visiting classic 'Thousand' haunts, the loco is also seen off the beaten track at locations such as Settle, Hest Bank, Euston, York and Llandovery. Also features D1015 blasting its way up the Luxulyan Valley en route to Newquay and on freight and mail trains...plus *Champion's* infamous passenger rescue in October 2002 when it assisted a failed FGW HST into Swindon!

***This Double-Feature DVD is available priced at £19.95 (post free) from the address below. Alternatively you can pay by credit or debit card by calling us on our CREDIT CARD HOTLINE on 01753 545888.***

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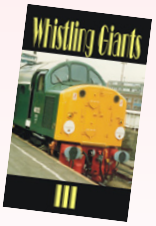
# Whistling around the Globe!

**A fantastic video record through the years of the popular Class 40s!**

***Whistling Giants - Part 1*** *(£19.95)*
Featuring the last part of the Class 40s mainline career from 1975 to 1987, the programme includes cine and VHS footage from the North West and North East of England, North Wales and Scotland.
Passenger and freight workings will appear including Summer Saturday trains to Skegness, Yarmouth, Scarborough and North Wales; railtours, freightliners, ballast workings and many more.
*Running time approx 62 minutes.*

***Whistling Giants - Part 2*** *(£19.95)*
Part two of the series takes the viewer back to the early days of the Class 40s and covers the 1960s to the mid-1980s.
A variety of Passenger and freight workings are featured including the final working of 40143 and footage of one of the early withdrawals, 40190, in action. 40s on Woodhead, double-headed workings and railtour action all feature.
*Running time approx 63 minutes.*

***Whistling Giants - Part 3*** *(£19.95)*
The final installment of the Class 40 story from Globe Video. Highlights are too many to list in full but include historic clips of the Derby, Ashford & Brighton prototypes in action with scenes featuring 10001, 10202 & 10203. There are new EE type 4s at Stratford in 1958 and views of the Type 4s at Nottingham Victoria, Sheffield Victoria, Grantham, Doncaster, Crewe, Carlisle, Manchester and even Penzance! *Running time approx 77 minutes.*

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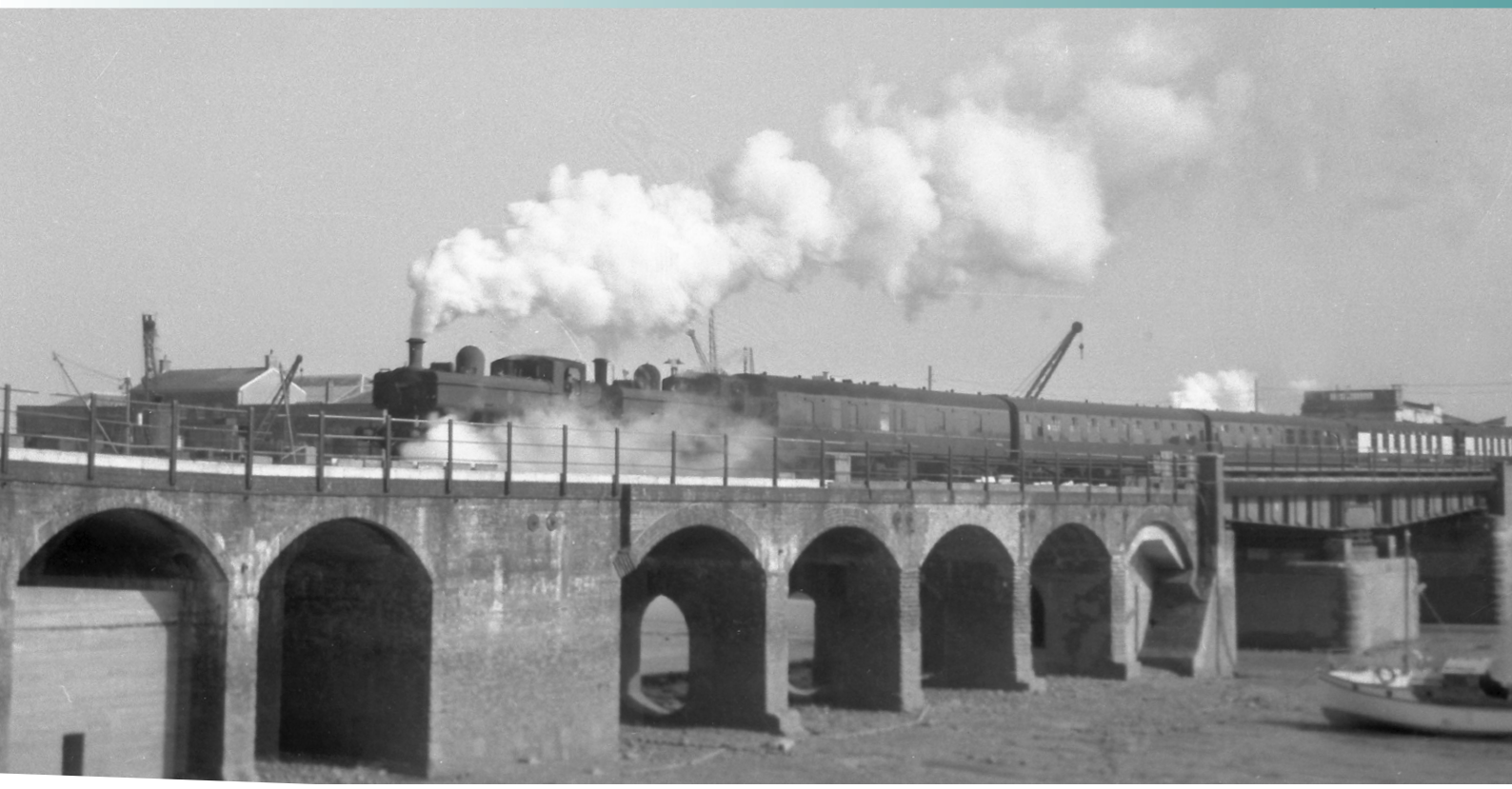

▲ *This image of ex-GWR 5700 Class Pannier tanks Nos. 4601 and 4610 double-heading the 'Golden Arrow' across the viaduct at Folkstone Harbour on 20th April 1960, is typical of some of the images which have been uploaded to the* Railway Herald *Imaging Centre.* Keith Long

# Readers make full use of *Railway Herald* website as over 7,000 images are uploaded

**If you have yet to visit or log onto the *Railway Herald* website, why not take the opportunity to have a look now?**

In the three months that our new website has been online, readers have uploaded over 7,300 images covering a wide range of subjects from steam, diesel and electric traction, across 43 different countries (although mainly from the UK) spanning no less than 69 years!

The *Railway Herald* team has been amazed at some of the images uploaded, which are not just those taken with digital cameras, but many that have been scanned from earlier prints, negatives or slides. To allow people to view the library in the easiest way, a number of albums or galleries have been created covering archive steam, archive modern traction, worldwide images and far more!

One popular feature of the site has been the UK Rail Diary section. This section presents all of the images uploaded of UK railways by the date that the picture was taken, and as a result is now building up into a respected and comprehensive photographic archive detailing the events of each day on the UK railway network. This includes heritage railways as well as the National Network.

The past week has seen *Railway Herald* launch two new sections of the Imaging Centre - Railtour Pictorial, which brings together images of the numerous railtours, indexed by date and by tour, and our long-awaited 'Class by Class' section, which allows readers to view the images by class and even by specific locomotive. Currently, the latter section extends to all diesel types between Class 01 and Class 67, plus the recently added Class 97/3s for Network Rail. 'Class by Class' will be extended over time to include the UK electric and multiple unit fleets, together with the steam classes.

To take a look now, a selection of our current albums are listed to the right, simply click on the link to visit the site, or click here to visit the Imaging Centre home page. You do not need to be a member of the website to simply view the images.

Any readers or users of our website can create an account, free of charge, and upload images. Simply log-in, click on My Account, Picture Management and from there you can upload as many images as you wish. There are no restrictions on the space you have to store pictures, or the number of images you can upload.

All images uploaded are forwarded to our moderating team, who evaluate each one on its individual merit. Please ensure that as much information is included in the caption as possible, including the motive power number, location and date. Once approved, the image will be added to the system automatically. When we moderate images (which is done to ensure a high standard remains), our moderating team are not aware of the photographer's name or identity; that way, your image is judged purely on its own merits.

If you have an image rejected, please do read the accompanying notes in the email you will be sent - in many cases, simple editing in a photographic package like Adobe Photoshop, Paint Shop Pro or the like can correct most issues.

Images will also be rejected during the moderating stage if no caption details are supplied, so please ensure they are as comprehensive as possible.

**Images Uploaded this week**

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**UK Rail Diary**

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**Class by Class Collection**

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**Steam Archive Collection**

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**Modern Traction Archive Gallery**

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by John Whitehouse

## UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on steam, diesel and electric railtours for the forthcoming weeks from the date of publication. Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2nd May** | | |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl.47s | **Classic Tour-Day 5:** Dundee-North Queensferry-Edinburgh |
| VSOE | EWS 2xCl 67 | VSOE Brighton Murder Mystery : London Victoria-Brighton & return |
| **3rd May** | | |
| Compass Tours | 40145 | Workington-Aberdeen and return **Postponed** |
| NYMR | 60007 | Pickering- Whitby and return (three trip) |
| Pathfinder Tours | D1015 | Tame Bridge Parkway-Birmingham New Street-Wolverhampton-Shap-Carlisle-Newcastle-Berwick upon Tweed-Edinburgh (break)-Carstairs-Beattock-Carlisle and return |
| Railway Touring Company | 71000 | (Birmingham International-Newport)-Newport-Fishguard Harbour-Newport-(and return) |
| Vintage Trains | 86259 | Birmingham NS-Preston-Shap-Carlisle (break/rev) and return |
| VSOE | EWS 2xCl 67 | VSOE British Pullman: London Victoria- Deal-London Victoria |
| VSOE (Northern Belle) | EWS 2xCl 67 | VSOE Northern Belle: Manchester-Preston-Helenburgh Upper & rtn |
| **4th May** | | |
| MCRUA | 45407 | Crewe- Sandbach-Middlewich-Altrincham (outwards am, return pm) |
| MCRUA | 45407 | Altrincham-Knutsford-Northwich-Chester (two return workings) |
| NYMR | NYMR Pool | Pickering- Whitby and return (three trips) |
| Railway Touring Company | 71000 | (London Paddington-Swindon-Chippenham-Bristol TM)-Bristol TM-Exeter SD-Plymouth (break/rev) & return |
| Steam Dreams | 60019 | **The Cathedrals Express:** London Liv. St-Ely-Norwich & rtn |
| **5th May** | | |
| Compass Tours | 40145 | Barrow in Furness-Grange over Sands-Lancaster-Preston-Wigan North Western-Warrington Bank Quay- Chester-Wrexham-Shrewsbury-Welshpool-Machynlleth-Aberystwyth and return |
| Kingfisher Railtours | EWS 2xCl 37 | Swindon-Kemble-Stroud-Stonehouse-Cheltenham Spa-Ashchurch-Birmingham NS-Hellifield-Carlisle (break/rev)-Shap and return |
| Kingfisher Railtours | tbc | Carnforth-Ravenglass (break/rev) and return **Postponed** |
| NYMR | 60007 | Pickering- Whitby and return (three trips) |
| Railway Touring Company | 71000 | Bristol TM- Carmarthen-(Carmarthen-Milford Haven)- Milford Haven-Cardiff-Bristol TM |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl.47s | **Classic Tour-Day 1** : Edinburgh-Dundee-Aberdeen-Keith |
| North East Railtours | 55022 | Newcastle upon Tyne-Cramlington-Morpeth-Alnmouth-Berwick upon Tweed- Oban (break/rev) & return |
| **6th May** | | |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl. 47s | **Classic Tour-Day 2** : Keith- Inverness-Tain (rev)-Kyle of Lochalsh |
| **7th May** | | |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl. 47s | **Classic Tour-Day 3** : Kyle of Lochalsh-Inverness-Boat of Garten |
| VSOE (Northern Belle) | EWS 2xCl 67 | VSOE Northern Belle: Peterborough-Oxenholme & return |
| **8th May** | | |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl.47s | **Classic Tour-Day 4** : Boat of Garten-Dunkeld-Perth-Dundee |
| **9th May** | | |
| Kingfisher Railtours | EWS Class 67 | **The Grand Scottish Railtour: Day 1:** Poole-Southampton Parkway-Winchester-Oxford-Birmingham International-Crewe-Blackburn-S&C-Carlisle-Beattock-Stirling-Perth-Aviemore |
| Royal Scotsman | WCRC Cl.47s | **Classic Tour-Day 5** : Dundee-North Queensferry-Edinburgh |
| **10th May** | | |
| Heartland Rail | 2xCR Cl47 | Bristol TM-Tenby and return **Cancelled** |
| Kingfisher Railtours | tbc | Carnforth-Grange over Sands- Ravenglass (break/rev) and return |
| Kingfisher Railtours | EWS 2xCl 37 | **The Grand Scottish Railtour: Day 2:** Aviemore- Inverness-Kyle of Lochalsh and return |
| NELPG | 62005/WCR37 | (Newcastle upon Tyne-Darlington-Middlesborough)-Stockton-Stillington-Ferryhill-Durham-Newcastle upon Tyne-Sunderland-Hartlepool (break)-Billingham-Seal Sands (rev)-Eaglescliffe (-Saltburn-Boulby)-Middlesborough-(and return) |
| Past Time Rail | tbc | London KX-Peterborough-Newark NG-York-Edinburgh & return |
| Pathfinder Tours | 2x Riveria 47s | Barrow Hill-Cheltenham Spa- Paignton-Kingswear and return |
| PMR Tours 6233 | | (Sheffield-Alfreton-Crewe )-Blackpool-Crewe (and return) |
| SRPS | 55022 | North Berwick-Fort William-Mallaig **Postponed** |
| UK Railtours | EWS 2x Cl67 | Ealing Broadway-Toton-Shirebrook-Doncaster-Scunthorpe-Barnetby-Immingham-Cleethorpes-Lincoln-Nottingham and return |

### Regular Scheduled Steam Operations

Services detailed below, do not appear in the main listings above, being regular itinery operations.

| Dates | Operator | Train | Route | Loco Pool |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 6-8 May | NYMR | Whitby | Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips) | NYMR Pool |
| 19-23 May | WCRC | Jacobite | Fort William-Mallaig and return | TBC |

**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.**

## The Week Ahead

**A busy weekend of railtour action looms, with No. 35028 *Clan Line* getting proceedings underway on 9th May with a VSOE British Pullman Luncheon Special from London Victoria via Staines, Woking, Guildford and East Croydon.**

Saturday 10th May boasts three further steam-hauled tours, the highlight of which has to be NELPG's 'East Coast Explorer' that features the group's LNER K1 Class 2-6-0 No. 62005 together with a heritage diesel (WCRC Class 37 hopefully) in 'top and tail' mode. The diesel leads from Newcastle upon Tyne to Middlesbrough, where steam takes over working back to Newcastle via Stockton, Stillington, Ferryhill and Durham. It then continues around the Durham coast to Hartlepool and onwards to Seal Sands (after reversal at Billingham), which was once the home of Phillips Oil Refinery where No. 62005 was based as a stationery boiler, which may well have been instrumental in saving the locomotive from the cutter's torch.

Boulby is the final destination, which will include a steam-hauled return via the spectacular cliffs back to Middlesbrough via Skinningrove. The diesel then takes over back to Newcastle, while No. 62005 is scheduled to continue with its support coach to York, en-route to Carnforth and another season on 'The Jacobite'.

Meanwhile, in the north-west, Kingfisher has its inaugural 'Cumbrian Coast Express' from Carnforth to Ravenglass and return. Motive power is likely to be Stanier Class 8F No. 48151. Finally, No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* is off to the seaside on a train that originates at Sheffield, and is steam-hauled from Crewe to Blackpool and return.

There is also a wide choice of diesel tours on 10th May, commencing with Vintage Trains, which heads for Weymouth from Birmingham Moor Street with a 'top and tail' pairing of Nos. 47773 and 50049 *Defiance*. Looking east is UK Railtours which visits Cleethorpes from Ealing Broadway, outwards via Loughborough and Shirebrook, returning through Lincoln and Nottingham with EWS Class 67 traction.

The Mid-Cheshire Rail Users Association, flush from its steam shuttles between Altrincham and Chester on 4th May, now employs an EWS Class 67 for its trip to Minehead from Altrincham. EWS traction will also feature on Past Times' 'Edinburgh Flyer' from London King's Cross, which as it runs under the wires all the way may feature electric traction instead of Class 67s.

By way of a change, Stobart Rail will introduce a hint of blue with its Pullman working from King's Cross to Chesterfield with a pair of DRS Class 47s.

## Summer trains on Blyth & Tyne route

**The South East Northumberland Rail Users Group has secured funding to assist with the operation of two or three passenger trains utilising the existing freight-only Ashington, Blyth & Tyne route.**

The trains would run from Morpeth, via Newcastle, Ashington and Choppington back to Morpeth. The purpose of which is to promote the re-opening of Blyth and Tyne route to passenger services.

More work needs to be done, but it is expected that the operation will take place sometime during the summer.

### Useful Weblinks

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

# 'Bubblecar' trips to Aylesbury on Bank Holiday Monday

**Chiltern Railways, in conjunction with the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, will be operating a shuttle service between Aylesbury and Quainton Road on 5th May, utilising Chiltern's blue-liveried Class 121 'Bubblecar'.**

The Buckinghamshire Railway Centre will be holding a 'miniature gala' on both 4th/5th May.

For more information see http://www.bucksrailcentre.org.

The shuttle services will leave Aylesbury at 10.10 and every hour thereafter until 17.10, returning from Quainton Road at 10.40 and then every hour until 17.40. Fares from Aylesbury are £14 for adults and £11 for children and senior citizens, which includes admission to the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre.

For those already at Quainton Road, a return to Aylesbury can be purchased for £5 (adults) and £4 (children and senior citizens). Log on, to http://www.chilternrailways.co.uk for more information.

# Doncaster PSB charter plans progress

**Staff at Doncaster Power Signal Box are arranging their first charter with all proceeds going to the Bluebell Wood Hospice.**

It will operate on 2nd August on a circuitous route from Peterborough to Peterborough with top and tail Class 47 traction. The complex, but ingenious, route still has to have some final tweaking, but essentially the train will run north to Doncaster (pick-up/set-down), before taking in Goole, Castleford, Normanton, Hatfield & Stainforth, Retford, Chesterfield and Barrow Hill Roundhouse. The return to Peterborough is again via Doncaster.

There are a range of ticketing options, more details of which can be found together with booking instructions at the group website at www.donnypsb.myby.co.uk

**railwayherald.co.uk Railtour Pages**

Our online railtour listings provide the latest information on steam, diesel and electric railtours across the country, including VSOE and Royal Scotsman Classic trains. To find out the latest alterations, click on the 'Whats New' tab for the very . Click here to visit now!

# Class 59 shuttles for '150 Gala' weekend

**Two-days of special shuttle services between Westbury and Cranmore are just one of many highlights of the East Somerset Railway's '150 Gala' weekend.**

The event celebrates the opening of the line from Witham to Shepton Mallet in 1858, which will take place over the weekend of 21st/22nd June.

The shuttles will be operated by Pathfinder and be 'topped and tailed' with EWS Class 59 & 66 locomotives and consist of two rakes that will provide seven return journeys on each day of the gala, which will involve running along the freight-only branch to Merehead before proceeding onto the heritage line to Cranmore. Additionally, on 21st June there will be a mainline charter, also operated by Pathfinder, running from Crewe via Chester, Shrewsbury and Birmingham to Bath Spa, Westbury and Cranmore hauled by a pair of Riviera Class 47s.

The gala will also feature a frequent steam service on the East Somerset Railway, displays of both diesel and steam locomotives, demonstration steam and diesel freight trains, including a Class 9F on a 1,000ton stone train, driver experience opportunities and classic bus tours.

The weekend is being organised by the East Somerset Railway, Mendip Rail and Pathfinder Tours. For more information log on to www.eastsomersetrailway.co.uk.

▲ *Working its first railtour on the mainline since overhaul, Tyseley-based GWR 'Castle' No. 5029* **Nunney Castle** *climbs up the grade at Bordersley Junction, Birmingham, with a Tyseley-Chester charter.* **John Whitehouse**

# Steam and heritage diesel for Pathfinder

**Pathfinder has a varied programme during late-Spring, commencing with some hectic activity at the end of May.**

Settle and Carlisle steam is the major attraction with No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* starring heading northbound from Preston to Carlisle on 24th May, and returning south as far as Preston seven days later. The tours originate at Birmingham International and Swindon respectively.

Sandwiched between is another Swindon departure on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May, working via the Midlands with a pair of EWS Class 37s to Barmouth, Porthmadog and Pwllheli. English Electric traction continues to predominate, when on 14th June the company also has a pair of EWS Class 37s from Cardiff to Barrow-in-Furness, which includes a trip to Barrow's Ramsden Dock. On this tour, the locomotives will operate in both multiple and 'top and tail' mode.

Next, it is the turn of Class 55 No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey*, which will be invading Class 50 territory on 28th June with a through working from Birmingham International to Penzance. The 'Hoovers' retaliate on 9th August when a pair are booked onto 'Deltic' metals between York and Edinburgh with a tour from Worcester Shrub Hill which also threads its way through the Midlands.

# London to Manchester via Leicester for 70013!

**The 5305 Locomotive Association, in conjunction with Steam Dreams, has a tour up their sleeves in order to re-position No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* following its maiden mainline outing on 24 July.**

Having worked for Steam Dreams between London Liverpool Street and Norwich, and with booked work in the north-west in conjunction with the 40th Anniversary of the official end of British Railways steam operations, the 5305 Locomotive Association will be operating a trip from London Victoria to Manchester Victoria on 26th July running via Kew to the Midland mainline and then north, hopefully through Leicester (subject to a gauging issue) to Loughborough, Derby, Chesterfield and the Hope Valley. The day doesn't end there either, as the return is booked for Class 50 haulage throughout.

There is a strong likelihood that this will not be the first meeting between No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* and a Class 50 as, while both were in BR ownership, the latter, then known as 'D400s', were introduced from August 1967, some 12 months prior to the end of steam and as they were initially based on the then London Midland Region, their career began in the same area as the last days of steam operations.

All bookings for the trip are being handled by Steam Dreams.

▲ *Pathfinder Tours 'Greys Church Elergy' charter on 26th April, operated from Crewe to Fenchurch Street and Thameshaven via Birmingham, Leicester and Peterborough. The train approaches North Staffordshire Junction with Class 37/4s Nos. 37417* Richard Trevithick *and 37401 in charge.* **Steve Madden**

◀ *The pair are pictured in Thameshaven Yard shortly after arrival.* **Nigel Hunt (with permission)**

▼ *The pair power through Whittlesea on the outward journey, bound for Fenchurch Street, where the train reversed before heading down to Thameshaven.* **Adam Putland**

**The variety of motive power, together with the varying types of coaching stock used on Network Rail's test and line inspection trains, continues to attract the photographers.**

▲ ***Network Rail's experimental HST hybrid power car No. 43089 is expected to be returned to the leasing company later this year, following completion of its trials with the Hitachi hybrid power system. Here the powercar is paired with classmate No. 43082 as the train leaves the north end of Birkett Tunnel on the Settle & Carlisle line, en route to Glasgow on 19th April.*** **George Woods**

▼ ***Network Rail-liveried Class 31s Nos. 31233 and 31105 are pictured powering a Derby RTC to Ipswich one coach test train through Hurn Road, north of Peterborough, on 28th April.*** **David O'Rourke**

▲ *The Severn Valley Railway's Diesel Gala at the end of April brought enthusiasts to the line to see and ride behind a variety of traction. Still carrying its base Waterman Railway's black livery, Class 20 No. D8188 (ex-TOPS No. 20188) arrives at Bewdley with the 12.54 local service from Arley to Kidderminster on 26th April.* **David Pagett**

▼ *'Western' No. D1013* **Western Ranger** *approaches Hampton Loade with a Bridgnorth to Kidderminster working on 24th April during the Severn Valley Railway's Diesel Gala. The loco was due to be withdrawn from traffic after the event for a major overhaul, being replaced by classmate No. D1062* **Western Courier**, *on completion of its repaint into maroon.* **Glen Batten**

▼ *The Fifty Fund's Class 50 No. D444* **Exeter** *approaches the Engine House at Highley, deputising for classmate No. 50049* **Defiance** *on the 15.52 Kidderminster to Bridgnorth service, on 26th April.* **Stephen Tucker**

▲ *Class 20 No. 20110 passes alongside the River Dart, near Hood Bridge, with the 11.30 Buckfastleigh - Totnes Riverside service during the South Devon Railway's Diesel Gala weekend on 26th April.*

▼ *Visiting Class 31 No. 31108 is seen near Staverton on the same day with the SDR's auto-coach set.* **Both: Liam Yates**

# 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.

**24th April 2008**
**Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon)**
United Reform Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove,East Croydon. 'Half a Century Ago' by John Cramp. Meeting starts at 19.15.

**Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)**
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading.
Joint meeting with Reading Transport Group - Railway Quiz and slide/video presentation. Doors open at 19.30, meeting starts 19.45. Donations requested

**RCTS (Sussex Branch)**
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Lineside Greetings" by Douglas d'Enno. Meeting commences at 19.30. £1.50 donation is requested

**26th April 2008**
**Bournemouth Railway Club**
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre. The judging of this years slide competition by Russell Burridge will be followed by his talk on the 'Festiniog Railway in 1970 and 1980s'. Meeting starts at 19.30.

**Locomotive Club of Great Britain**
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford. Annual General Meeting. Meeting starts at 14.30.

**30th April 2008**
**Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)**
South Bank University.
Half Days Technical Seminar on 'Practical Inspection and Maintenance of Switches and Crossings'. Contact Paul Gammage by email pjgammage@aol.com for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

**1st May 2008**
**Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)**
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley.
'A journey down the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway' by Mick Hayes. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for details.

**2nd May 2008**
**Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)**
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
Group AGM followed by Members Slides. Meeting starts 19.30.

**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 an adult.

**3rd-5th May 2008**
**Ffestiniog Railway**
Bank holiday steam weekend

**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**
**The Locomotive & Carriage Institution**
LUL HQ St James Park (Room 727 The District Room).
Presentation by Mr. A. Savage from Rail Accident Investigation Bureau. Contact Alan Spencer on 07933 509987 for further details.

**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. Meeting commences at 19.30. Entrance fee £2

**Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)**
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington, Underbridge Reconstruction - Slitting Mill. Contact Phil Dooner on 01325 390318. Meeting commences at 19.00.

**7th May 2008**
**Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley section)**
Sussex House, Reading.
'Maintaining the Isle of Wight Steam Railway' by Denis Rapley. Contact Rodney Pinchen by email at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

**Burton Railway Society**
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent.
'The four regions 'namers' show' by David Webb. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

**8th May 2008**
**Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Section)**
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham. Shugborough Viaduct Reconstruction by S. Turner. Contact Ian Wardle on 0121 345 3931 for further details. Doors open 17.45 for an 18.15 start.

**Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales)**
Dolphin Hotel, Whitewalls, Swansea. Geotextiles and Geosand by Paul Sharley, TWB Group. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664 for further details. Meeting commences at 18.00

**10th May 2008**
**Bournemouth Railway Club**
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre. 'The Leslie Hyde Collection' by Michael Harvey. Meeting commences at 14.30.

**12th May 2008**
**Lincoln Railway Society**
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'When the wall came down' by Graham Lightfoot. Meeting commences at 20.00. 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 to the present day' on DVD by Ian Wolstencroft. Meeting commences at 19.30. 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. Meeting commences at 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. Meeting commences at 19.30 for 19.45. Non-members welcome.

**The 8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)**
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich 'Settle & Carlisle Perspectives' by Tony Icke. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact 01606 44959.

**14th May 2008**
**Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group**
RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes 'Diesels' by Mike Eggenton. Commences 19.30. Contact 01724 341358 for details.

**Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)**
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube. 'Work of the Railway Industry Association' by Jenny Candfield. Contact Paul Gammage by email pjgammage@aol.com for details. Meeting starts at 17.30

**Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)**
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) 'Isle of Mann Railways' by Nick Freezer. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

**15th May 2007**
**Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society, Barrow Hill Roundhouse.**
'Diesels on the Western Region' by Jeff Lane. A slide presentation looking back as far as the days of the hydraulics. Doors open 7.00pm. Show commences 7.30pm. Admission £1.50 members, £2.00 non members

**Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)**
The Victoria Hotel, Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside 'Freedom of Scotland in 1961' by John Sloane. Meeting starts 19.30.

**Marlow & District Railway Society**
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'Ideals above one's station' by Mark Evans. Meeting starts at 20.00. Non-members £2

**Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)**
Park Inn, North Street, York. 'Maintaining jointed track' by Simon Pumphrey, Network Rail. Meeting starts at 18.00. Contact Martin Fairbrother on 01904 611922 for details.

**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.

**Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)**
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. Sitrling to Alloa and Kincardine by Scott Prentice, Network Rail. Contact Nicola Topping on 0131 550 4273 for details. Meeting commences at 18.00.

**16th-18th May 2008**
**ACORP Community Rail Weekend**
Events across the country, including a station gala at Blaenau Ffestiniog in conjunction with the Ffestiniog Railway.

**17th May 2008**
**Friends of the West Highland Lines AGM**.
Regent Hotel, Esplanade, Oban. Meeting commences at 12.00. Visitors are welcome but are reminded that they may act as observers and are not permitted to take part in the business of the meeting.

**17th-18th May 2008**
**Dumfries Model Railway Exhibition**
Ice Bowl, King Street, Dumfries, DG2 9AN. Opening hours 10.00-17.00 both days. Further details from the official website, click here. Approximately 20 layouts, comprehensive trade support, free parking and programme. Easy to find: just follow temporary yellow signs from the A75/A76 roundabout, or "Brown" tourist signs for Ice Bowl. Admission Adults: £3.50, Child/Seniors £2.50, Family (2+2) £9.50

**19th May 2008**
**Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)**
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill 'Post-War Modernisation of the Sheffield Railway Scene' by Nick Wheat. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for details.

**20th May 2007**
**Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)**
The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds. Energy Efficiency, Recyling and the reuse of resources on the railway by Martin Woofe. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949 for further details and information.

**21st May 2008**
**Permanent Way Institution (Bristol & West of England)**
Arup Auditorium, 63 St. Thomas Street, Bristol.
Chairman's address followed by four short papers. Contact Alex Simpson on 01242 519828 for further details. Doors open 17.30 for an 18.00 start.

**Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)**
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. Sheilds Junction Renewal. Joint Meeting with Railway Civil Engineers Association. Contact Jack Scott on 0141 952 2562 for further details. Meeting commences 17.30

**22nd May 2008**
**Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)**
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading.
'End of BR Steam in the North West, Past and Present'. Meeting starts 19.30. Donation requested

**Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)**
The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby station..
Steam worked railways - A photographic tour by John Birkenshaw PWMM. Contact Colin Cowey on 01949 837067 for further details. Meeting commences at 18.30

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

**4th June 2008**
**Burton Railway Society**
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent.
'The popular annual railway quiz' by Dave Hook. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

**Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley section)**
Sussex House, Reading.
Reading Remodelling. Contact Rodney Pinchen by email at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk for further details. Meeting commences at 17.30

**5th June 2008**
**Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)**
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'Nottingham Victoria station' by Ken Grainger. Commences 19.30.

**9th June 2008**
**Lincoln Railway Society**
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'Members slide show' Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the secretary on 01522 705365 for further details.

**Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)**
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube. Modular S&C by Geoff South, Network Rail Contact Paul Gammage (pjgammage@aol.com) for details. Meeting commences at 17.30

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

**The 8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)**
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich. Evening visit to Chester by rail. Contact 01606 44959 for further details.

**11th June 2008**
**Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group**
RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes
'The Stanier Jubilees of the LMS' by Mick Hayes. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01724 341358 for further details.

**Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)**
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) Show title to be confirmed, presented by George Howe. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

**12th June 2008**
**Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Section)**
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham. Merseyrail Track Slabs by N. Reynolds. Contact Ian Wardle on 0121 345 3931 for further details. Doors open 17.45 for 18.15 start.

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

**Should your club or society event be listed here? If so then please email the editor with the appropriate details.**

▼ ***Displaying the latest CrossCountry livery, Class 220 Voyager No. 220026 climbs up-grade at Bordersley Junction with a service from the south-east on 26th April.*** **John Whitehouse**

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