The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

The sight that many people have waited years to see. An almost complete LMS 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 6115 Scots Guardsman stands at Carnforth on 23rd April. **Phil Marsh/ The Railway Magazine**

Rear Cover

Running three hours late, No. 60052 makes it's way towards Reading West with the Theale-Robeston empty tanks on 8th May. **Iain Brownston**

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

▲ ***With Network Rail due to test some of its Rail Head Treatment Train equipment at the East Lancashire Railway, the Class Forty Preservation Society's No. 40145 was used to work a York Works to Heywood freight service, conveying two RHTT sets. The train passes passing Tunnel End, Marsden on 9th May.*** **Steve Chapman**

◀ ***Class 52 No. D1015 Western Champion arrives at Edinburgh Waverley to work the return leg of Pathfinder Tours' 'Western Scot' railtour to Tame Bridge Parkway on 3rd May.*** **Jonathan Stevenson**

NELPG change

On 7th May NELPG was advised that its 'East Coast Explorer' could not run steam-hauled from Tyne Yard to Hartlepool via the Durham Coast.

This was because steam is not permitted to operate under the Metro wires between Pelaw Metro Junction and Ryhope Grange as they are non-standard and severe damage could be caused. Instead, the tour will now reverse at Tyne Yard and run diesel-hauled via Darlington to Hartlepool where it will then continue as advertised.

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Scots Guardsman to be star exhibit at one-off West Coast Railways and *The Railway Magazine* joint Carnforth open weekend

When steam on British Railways ended 40 years ago on 11th August 1968, the steam motive power depot at Carnforth played a key part in that historic day. Even now it still has a special place in the hearts of many railway enthusiasts.

Home at one time of legendary LNER 'A3' Pacific No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman* and other locomotives rescued from British Railways, Carnforth, at the time marketed as Steamtown, was an attraction to hundreds of thousands of visitors over the years, during which time the depot has serviced and stabled the numerous main line steam locos used on specials over the dramatic Settle & Carlisle line.

A change of ownership in 1990 when Sir William McAlpine sold the site to Yorkshire businessman and entrepreneur David Smith, the gradual development of Carnforth as a base for the West Coast Railway Company's rail operations led to the site being closed to the public from 1997 due to the volume of train movements – until now.

The West Coast Railway Company, in association with *The Railway Magazine*, is to throw open the gates of Carnforth for an open weekend on 26th/27th July.

The event marks the 40th anniversary of BR's 1968 steam finale and WCRC's own 10th anniversary and is expected to field an impressive display of up to 30 steam and diesel locomotives, including visiting locos.

Among those expected to be 'on shed', main line operations permitting, are the elusive 'Royal Scot' No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman*, one of the locos featured in the 1936 promotional film 'Night Mail', set to the words of poet, W. H. Auden, which will be making one of its first public appearances for years in a yet-to-be announced livery. No.46115 *Scots Guardsman* last ran on the BR main line in 1980, and was purchased in 2005 by David Smith, who has spent a six-figure sum restoring the loco to the exacting conditions demanded for operation on Network Rail lines. A main line test run is expected in the next eight weeks.

Also present during the weekend are expected to be LMS 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 45699 *Galatea*, LMS '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48151, GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 5972 *Olton Hall* and SR Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*. There is a possibility that a very special loco with links back to 1968 could also appear on the Sunday!

For the modern enthusiast, there will be representatives of traction Classes 08, 20, 25, 33, 37, 47, 57 and 66, including former Royal Train locomotive, now in the care of the National Railway Museum, No. 47798 *Prince William*. Requests have been made to a number of train operating companies for exhibits, and details of these will emerge over the coming weeks.

English, Welsh & Scottish Railway have already agreed to provide celebrity Teenage Cancer Trust-liveried Class 60 No. 60074 *Teenage Spirit* for display at the event. It is also expected that Direct Rail Services will be providing locomotives as well.

This event is highly unlikely to be repeated, so is a rare chance to come and see what you have been missing and to relive fond memories from the steam age. The depot still retains its two concrete 'cenotaph'-style towers that dominate the skyline of this small Lancashire town, one a mechanical coaling plant and the other an ash disposal plant. And in the past couple of years, a new five-road diesel depot has been built at the north end of the site, adjacent to the operational turntable.

While the event will attract many people interested in railways, for the more serious enthusiast a night photography session is planned for the 25th July from 20.00 until 23.00 for which special tickets are required (see below), and are limited in numbers. Similarly, for those wanting access ahead of the general public, an 'early bird' ticket is available on 26th July only, for admission from 08.00, again strictly quota controlled. The 'early bird' ticket also covers access to the site for the remainder of the day.

Admission prices on the day will be **cash only** and priced at £15 adult, with accompanied children under 16 at £5. Credit/debit cards **CANNOT** be accepted on the day. Payment can be made by cheque, credit or debit card in advance priced at £13 adult. There is no advance discount for children. Call 01524 732100, or apply by post to: WCRC Open Day, Jesson Way, Carnforth, Lancs LA5 9UR. Last date for advance bookings is 12th July.

Tickets for the Friday night photo session are only available in advance at £30. Equally, the 'early bird' tickets for Saturday morning are priced at £30, advance only, for admission from 08.00 to 10.00, then site admission for remainder of the day of issue. Public site opening times for both days will be 10.00-17.00, with last admission at 16.00. Due to safety requirements, there will be no admittance to unaccompanied children under 16 years of age.

For readers of *The Railway Magazine*, a special discounted admission is available at just £10, but only when accompanied with the original coupon which is being printed in the June, July and August issues of the magazine. Maximum of two adult tickets per coupon/application. Please note, photocopies of the coupon **cannot** be accepted.

There will be a number of trade stands selling railway merchandise and other related items, plus on-site refreshments and toilets. Telephone requests for application forms should be made to 020 3148 4683.

Parking on the site will be available at a cost of £6, and there will be limited public parking around Carnforth. It is strongly recommended public transport is used to get to the event, and both Northern Rail and TransPennine Express operate services that call at Carnforth. See www.nationalrail.co.uk or call National Rail Enquiries on 08457 484950 for train times.

It is also expected that the Carnforth station visitor centre, including the famous 'Brief Encounter' café will be open on both days.

▲ ***The locomotive that has been the subject of one of the UK's most secretive and closely-guarded restoration projects, LMS 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 46115* Scots Guardsman *is pictured at Carnforth in late-April. The locomotive which has been restored at the cost of a six-figure sum, is expected to undertake a mainline test run within the next eight weeks, before re-entering traffic on steam specials across the country.*** **Phil Marsh/The Railway Magazine**

ORR imposes £14 million fine for Network Rail

Rail regulators have accepted a revised plan for completing the £8.6 billion upgrade of the West Coast Mainline (WCML). Network Rail (NR) will now go ahead with weekend closures throughout the summer to modernise the London to Scotland route by December this year.

But the Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has warned NR that it must make every effort to minimise disruption to passengers. In January, the ORR fined NR £14 million after three New Year engineering projects overran. Earlier this year, NR said it would have to close parts of the WCML on regular weekends as well as Bank Holidays in order to get the work done by the end of the year. Passengers and campaigners agreed to this on the grounds that it would shorten the overall period of disruption, but the ORR said it would be "closely monitoring delivery of the plan".

The Office of Rail Regulation has also announced that it is confirming the penalty of £14 million on Network Rail. This penalty has been imposed because ORR has found systemic weaknesses in Network Rail's planning and execution of engineering work, which represent a serious continuing breach of its licence. These problems had been exposed in ORR's investigation into the overruns over the New Year.

The ORR says it has received a number of representations on the financial penalty. Network Rail considered the problems highlighted were not systemic and the proposed penalty was unnecessary and excessive. It also proposed a scheme for it to commit to spending £14 million on a series of improvements if ORR mitigated fully the proposed penalty. Passenger Focus, train operators and others, supported Network Rail's proposed alternative to a fine.

The company says it is disappointed that the penalty is being treated as a fine rather than improvements, which the company says would have benefitted the travelling public. Train operators and passenger groups put forward a programme of proposed improvements for new and better passenger information systems, especially in times of disruption and also improved customer information screens on parts of the West Coast Main Line, the East Anglian Main Line and in Scotland. Some improvements to upgrade station facilities were also proposed.

Iain Coucher, Chief Executive, said: "Network Rail has already accepted the ORR decision to fine the company £14 million. We had suggested that this sum be invested into the rail network to fund improvements which would benefit passengers, a suggestion supported by many in the industry. We are disappointed that this won't happen. However, we accept today's judgement and will be paying the fine shortly."

Michael Roberts, ATOC Chief Executive, said: " "It represents a missed opportunity to use the money to deliver some real additional improvements to passengers. Instead, we are left with a 'money go round' where money raised from the taxpayer to fund Network Rail is just being ploughed straight back to the Treasury."

▲ *Freightliner Heavy Haul's Class 66/6 No. 66610 stands at Wooton Rivers, on the Berks & Hants line, with the High Output Ballast Cleaner used sleeper train on 4th May. Clearly evident on the cabside is recently sustained collision damage.* **Richard Dunn**

Tommy ticket launches Real Ale Guide

A new Real Ale Guide promoting some of the best real ale pubs and breweries in the Lake District that can be reached by train has been produced by collaboration between First TransPennine Express, the Lakes Line Community Rail Partnership and the Westmorland Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA).

The booklet highlights nine drinking venues, all but one of which are no more than five minutes walk from a train station - and most offer a 10% discount on food and/or beer for passengers who show their First TransPennine Express rail ticket. The scheme has been devised to enable people to enjoy a pint of good ale safely and responsibly by catching the train home.

The Real Ale Trail Guide has clear codes to indicate useful pieces of information including whether the pubs have real fires, family rooms, camping and if there is a bus route nearby.

The pubs involved are also helping to highlight the benefits of sustainable travel by encouraging people to travel by rail. Venues involved in the scheme include the Station Inn, Oxenholme, The Riverside Hotel, Burgundy's Wine Bar and the Castle Inn in Kendal, The Lamplighter Bar and The Greys Inn in Windermere, the Watermill Inn in Ings and the Hawkshead Brewery in Staveley.

The Real Ale Trail Guides can be found at nearby railways stations, Cumbria Tourist Information Centre or downloaded from http://www.tpexpress.co.uk

New £40 million rail freight link chord planned for Nuneaton

Network Rail has announced plans to invest more than £40 million to build a new rail freight link in Nuneaton.

Known as the Nuneaton North Chord, the new line – approximately one mile long – will allow freight to cross from Peterborough to the West Coast Main Line without disrupting passenger services.

The investment to help increase the amount of freight carried by rail in Britain is funded from the Department for Transport's 'Transport Innovation Fund'. Building the chord could take as many as 225,000 lorries a year off the road and will also improve the performance and reliability of passenger services locally and as far away as London.

The new line is planned to go over the old Two Bridges allotment site and then run alongside the West Coast Main Line before joining it near to Caldecote Lane.

Network Rail is now waiting to hear from Nuneaton residents, before putting in an application for permission to build the line later this year.

If granted, work could start before summer 2009, with the line in use by December 2010.

Cotswold Line services stopped after derailment

▲ ▶ ***Overnight on 29th/30th April Amey Tamper No. DR 73911 Puma derailed beside Malvern Wells signalbox on the Worcester to Hereford line. These photographs taken early on 30th April show the re-railing gang at work. The derailment caused cancellation of First Great Western and London Midland services for much of the day. A rail replacement coach service was provided The Tamper was later removed by road.*** **Tony Fielding**

SWT auctions Wessex nameplates for charity

South West Trains is to auction 17 train nameplates from the Class 442 Wessex Electrics to help raise funds for the Naomi House Children's Hospice, near Winchester.

The company named Class 444 No 444001 *Naomi House* last year and is continuing its support by pledging the proceeds of the auction to a new appeal to raise funds to build, equip and run jacksplace@naomihouse, a new hospice for young people.

The appeal is raising £12 million to provide a new hospice for young people. jacksplace will offer a range of facilities and support services to youngsters with life-limiting illnesses, and their families from across central southern England.

▲ ***Children and carers at naming of Class 444 No 444001 at Waterloo on 24 May 2007.*** **Brian Morrison**

The new 10-bedroom centre will include en-suite bathrooms, communal areas, gardens and sports pitches. Sheffield Railwayana Auctions Limited is hosting the auction in Derby on 14th June.

For those who cannot attend in person details of the lots are available on the website www.sheffieldrailwayana.co.uk

More Pendolino sets for Virgin West Coast

The Government has agreed with Alstom to provide 106 new Pendolino carriages for the West Coast Main Line.

The new stock will create four new 11-car trains and will also lengthen 31 of the existing sets from nine to 11-cars. These are scheduled to be in full service by December 2012. There is also an option to procure a further 42 carriages by early 2013 to meet any further rising passenger demand.

The shortlist of bidders for the contract for Service Provider for the Pendolino Lengthening Project is also to be announced by the Department for Transport.

The Service Provider will support the Department for Transport throughout the design finalisation, manufacture, delivery, testing and commissioning of the new 'Pendolino' rolling stock through to the end of the current West Coast franchise on 31st March 2012.

The bidders are Govia Transportation Projects Limited (Govia Ltd's parents are the Go-Ahead Group plc and Keolis SA) and Virgin Rail Projects Limited, owned 51% by Virgin Holdings Limited and 49% by Stagecoach Rail Holdings Limited.

❖ The newly re-furbished subway at Colchester station was opened 30th April by Graham Male, Chairman of the Colchester Rail Users Association. The work involved an investment by National Express East Anglia of approximately £250,000, the work including new walls, flooring, stairs and lighting to transform the look of the subway area to provide a much more pleasant environment. New visual displays and improvements to the CCTV in the subway are also a feature of the refurbishment project.

❖ The latest official punctuality figures for Southern show that the train operator has achieved a record 9 out of 10 trains arriving on time over the past year, the figure having been measured by all the trains running on every day of the week over the course of the year. At the same time, the figures released also show that the number of train delay minutes to services on the network caused by the company itself are at the lowest ever levels. The two achievements are the best punctuality figures since the start of the franchise.

❖ Paddington station has had another 24 automatic ticket gates installed, which went into operation on 28th April and all platform access and exits from the terminus will soon be covered in the same way. Jim Beckwith, Head of Revenue Protection for First Great Western said: "We have had 25 automatic ticket gates in place on platforms at London Paddington station since 2004 and they have made a tremendous difference. The gates make travelling without a ticket almost impossible. Customers need a ticket to get onto the platform, they need to show a ticket on the train and need one to leave the platform too. The message is simple. You need a ticket if you want to travel on First Great Western train services. The automated ticket barriers also reduce crime on stations by helping to ensure that people on platforms are there because they are getting on or off a train. We have found that graffiti, vandalism and station based crime in general is reduced by installing these barriers." The gates are simple for passengers to operate. They open automatically for a credit card sized valid rail ticket or Oyster Card. There will be a total of 58 automatic ticket gates at Paddington when the project is complete.

❖ Park & Pay by Phone was introduced at all First Capital Connect car parks on 1st May, following a successful trial at Harpenden and St Neots and provides customers with a fast and convenient way to pay.

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

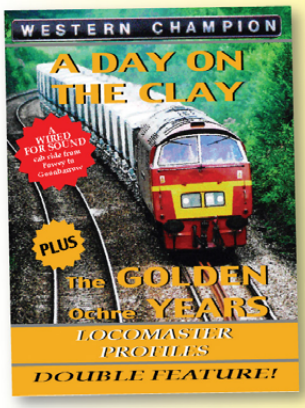
❖ Train services on routes through the Midlands on the WCML and into south and east London returned to normal on 6th May following extensive improvement works carried out by Network Rail over the bank holiday weekend. A series of other works across the country were also completed on time, avoiding previous over-run problems such as Rugby and Liverpool Street. During the three days over 5,000 people delivered work costed at £75 million aimed at improved journeys and improving reliability. The work on the West Coast Main Line is part of the £8.6 billion project to help reduce journey times (e.g. London to Manchester in less than two hours) and increase the frequency of services.

❖ NXEC is to run an extra late night train for football fans returning home after England's friendly match against the USA at Wembley Stadium on 28th May. Leaving King's Cross at 23.45, calling at Stevenage, Grantham, Newark North Gate and Doncaster the train will terminate at York at 02.21 next morning. Tickets are available now, with advance return fares from York to London, booked online, starting from £20 Standard Class. Information and bookings are available via the National Express website (click here) or by calling 08457 225225.

▲ ***A view once almost obliterated by lineside trees and foliage has now been opened up again by Network Rail. On 6th May, a line-up of First GBRf locos descends from Polhill Tunnel, between Knockholt and Dunton Green, heading to Tonbridge Yard, following Bank Holiday weekend engineering work. Class 66/7s Nos 66707 Sir Sam Fay - Great Central Railway leads No 66701 Whitemoor and Class 73/2s Nos 73208 Kirsten, 73209 Alison & 73206 Lisa.***
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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▲ *With the photographer having been extremely lucky, in view of the rapidly disappearing Class 165 Turbo in the distance, SR Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028* **Clan Line** *passes Lower Basildon on 26th April, with the return leg of an Oxford to London Victoria VSOE excursion.* **Iain Brownston**

Tall Ships Race draw charter organisers from across the country to Liverpool!

The annual Tall Ships Race will this year start at Liverpool as part of the city's European Capital of Culture events, and there will be a number of railtours heading for Liverpool Lime Street as a consequence.

The event opens on 18th July and runs through to 21st July, when the ships slip their berths alongside Liverpool's harbour front and join a grand parade in front of the pier before making their way out to sea.

Past Time has three tours to the event, operating on 18th, 19th and 21st July from Exeter, London Euston and Colchester respectively, most probably Class 67 hauled.

On 19th July, the Railway Touring Company join in with a charter from Scarborough that travels via the Standedge route with 'A4' No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* throughout, while Stobart Rail head south from Stirling via Edinburgh. Pathfinder operates on 21st July with No. Class 52 No. D1015 *Western Champion* throughout from Salisbury, via Bristol Parkway. Additionally, the 'Northern Belle' will be operating two trains on 19th and 20th from London, via the Trent Valley and Birmingham International.

More DRS traction features as Spitfire heads to Carlisle with '20s' and Paignton with '37s'

A pair of DRS Class 20s again feature for Spitfire Railtours on its 2nd August working from Birmingham International to Carlisle, which is outwards via the S&C returning WCML over Shap.

Also, there is an added attraction to the 21st June 'Paignton Pudden' with DRS Class 37s from Crewe to Paignton.

Also on offer is a chance to ride behind the Paignton & Dartmouth Railways Class 25 No. D7535 on a return journey between Paignton (P&D) and Kingswear. The use of the locomotive on passenger workings being a very rare event.

▼ *Another outing for Ian Riley's 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407 and Standard 4MT Mogul No. 76079 saw the pair power the 'Heart of Wales' railtour from Manchester Victoria. The train is pictured at Howey, nearing journey's end at Llandrindod Wells.* **David Pagett**

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.

		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	2xEWS 37	**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 PMR Tours 6233	2x Riveria 47s	Barrow Hill-Cheltenham Spa- Paignton-Kingswear and return (Sheffield-Alfreton-Crewe)-Blackpool-Crewe (and return)	
SRPS	55022	North Berwick-Fort William-Mallaig	**Postponed**
UK Railtours	2xEWS 67	Ealing Broadway-Toton-Shirebrook-Doncaster-Scunthorpe-Barnetby-Immingham-Cleethorpes-Lincoln-Nottingham and return	
Vintage Trains	4777350049	The Purbeck & Weymouth ExplorerBirmingham Moor Street-Tyseley-Solihull-Dorridge-Warwick Parkway-Leamington Spa-Banbury- Bournemouth-Poole-Wareham-Weymouth (break/rev) and return	
		11th May	
VSOE	2x EWS 67	London Victoria- Folkestone-London Victoria	
		12th May	
Kingfisher Railtours	EWS 67	**Grand Scottish Railtour: Day 4:** Aviemore-Dalwhinnie-Perth-Forth Bridge-Edinburgh (break)-Beattock-Shap-Crewe and return	
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 1** : Edinburgh-Aberdeen-Keith	
		13th May	
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 2:** Keith-Tain (rev)-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh	
		14th May	
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 3:** Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten	
Steam Dreams	60019	London Waterloo- Oxford-Warwick-Stratford upon Avon and return	
VSOE	2xEWS 67	London Victoria- Bath Spa-London Victoria	
		15th May	
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 4:** Boat of Garten-Blair Atholl-Perth-Dundee	
SRPS	61994 & 55022	Alloa-Stirling (61994) (break) (Stirling-Alloa (55022)) (three trips)	
		16th May	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	**West Highland Weekend: Day 1**: Peterborough-Doncaster-Wakefield-Leeds-York AND Scarborough-Seamer-Malton-York (train combines) Newcastle upon Tyne-Edinburgh-Glasgow-Fort William	
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 5:** Dundee- North Queensferry-Edinburgh	
		17th May	
Compass Tours	2xRiveria 47	Preston-Bolton-Stockport-Torquay-Paignton (break/rev) and return	
Kingfisher Railtours	2xEWS 37	Bedford-Buxton (break/rev) and return	**Cancelled**
NYMR	NYMR Pool	Pickering - Whitby and return (three trips)	
Past Time Rail	2xEWS 67	Lichfield City-Birmingham New St-Kidderminster-Worcester Shrub Hill-Cheltenham Spa-Bristol TM- Par & return	
Pathfinder Tours	2xWCRC 33	Crewe-Westbury-Yeovil-Weymouth (break/rev)-Bournemouth-Southampton-Oxford-Evesham-Worcester Shrub Hill and return	
Railtourer	62005	**West Highland Weekend: Day 2:** Ft William-Mallaig & rtn	
Railway Touring Company	71000	Birmingham International-Plymouth and return	**Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	4953	Tyseley Warwick Road-Stafford--Chester-Llandudno Junction & rtn	
		18th May	
Past Time Rail	45407	**The Cotton Mill Express:** Manchester Victoria-Diggle-Huddersfield-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	**West Highland Weekend: Day 3:** Fort William- Glasgow-Edinburgh-York and return as outwards on Day 1)	
SRPS	61994	Edinburgh Waverley-Craigentinny-Edinburgh Haymarket-Forth Bridge-Thornton South & West Jcts-Cowdenbeath-North Queensferry-Edinburgh Waverley (Morning Trip)	
SRPS	61994	Edinburgh Waverley-Craigentinny-Edinburgh Haymarket-Forth Bridge-Thornton South & West Jcts-Cowdenbeath-North Queensferry-Edinburgh Waverley (Afternoon Trip)	

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
13-15 May	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
19-23 May	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	TBC
20-22 May	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool

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

Steam Dreams gets a busy few days of railtours up and running with its 'Cathedrals Express' from London Waterloo to Oxford, Warwick and Stratford-upon-Avon on 14th May, which will be hauled throughout by 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern*.

There is further steam action throughout the following weekend commencing on 17th May with a Vintage Trains working with No. 4953 *Pitchford Hall* from Tyseley Warwick Road to Llandudno Junction and return. One casualty is Railway Touring Company's Plymouth charter, due to feature No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester*, which has been cancelled.

The highlight of the week must be a series of trains in Scotland, which does not see too many steam specials. The SRPS operate both, commencing on 15th May, when it celebrates the re-opening of the Alloa to Stirling line with three return workings (note, due to demand an additional train has been arranged). All three trains commence at Alloa and will be steam-hauled to Stirling with Gresley 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess*, while the returns will be in the hands of 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* (locomotives operating in 'top and tail' mode). It is believed that prior to the three SRPS trains there will be a formal 're-opening' train, again hauled by the 'K4' and the 'Deltic'.

The Edinburgh Suburban Loop and Fife Circle are next in line, when on 18th May, *The Great Marquess* is due to haul two trains that feature steam haulage throughout. The route is from Edinburgh Waverley, clockwise around 'The Sub' to rejoin the mainline at Haymarket West Junction, and then across the Forth and the Fife Circle running via Burntisland, Thornton Junction, Cowdenbeath and Inverkeithing back to Waverley, again via 'The Sub'. Originally, the train was due to run directly back into Waverley via Haymarket and the Mound Tunnel, the middle bores of the latter having been passed for steam operations. However, as the middle bores of the tunnel are also now electrified, the west end of Waverley is effectively banned to steam. Meanwhile, on the West Highland 'K1' No. 62005 will be in action for Railtourer on a return working between Fort William and Mallaig as part of its 'West Highland Weekend' that operates from Peterborough and Scarborough from 16th-18th May. WCRC Class 47s should provide the traction to Fort William. Also running on 18th May is a further 'Cotton Mill Express' for Past Time Rail, hauled by 'Black 5' No. 45407.

Pathfinder has a pair of WCRC Class 33s on its 'Great Wey Round', which operates from Crewe and Birmingham via Worcester Shrub Hill, Bath Spa, Westbury and Yeovil to Dorchester or Weymouth. The return working heads initially east to Wareham, Bournemouth and Basingstoke before making a now rare visit, for a charter, to the Cotswold line between Oxford, Evesham and Worcester. Kingfisher's proposed Buxton working from Bedford with a pair of EWS Class 37s has been cancelled.

Compass Tours will be operating 'The Devonian' from Preston to Paignton with Riviera Class 47s, while Past Time head further west to Par from Lichfield City on a combined Eden Project and Lost Gardens of Heligan working with Class 67 traction.

Stobart Rail's programme continues with tours to Cardiff and Carmarthen on 15th May from London Paddington, followed by Durham and Morpeth on 17th May from Finsbury Park, the feature of which is a trip across the Blythe & Tyne on the outward leg. DRS Class 47s should feature.

Useful Weblinks

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

▶ ***Chiltern Railways-liveried Class 121 'Bubblecar' No. 55020 passes the site of Waddeson station, closed long ago in 1936, while working the 'Quaintonian' shuttle service from Quainton Road to Aylesbury on Bank Holiday Monday, 5th May.*** **Derek Elston**

❖ NELPG's K1 class Mogul No. 62005 is expected to move to Fort William on 13th May with its support coach and stock for this year's 'Jacobite' trains, which are due to commence running on 19th May. The ECS working will be single headed, as the other locomotive for the early season in the West Highlands, Ian Riley's 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407 will go north on 20th May due to 'Cotton Mill' commitments, and will stay at Fort William until Bert Hitchens 'Black 5' No. 45231 is available to take up its planned rota on 'The Jacobite'. The 'K1' is also booked for a Fort William to Mallaig and return charter on 17th May for Railtourer (see preview) as part of its 'West Highland Weekend'.

❖ Traction for the first tranche of 'Scarborough Spa Expresses' operating from 26th to 29th May will be Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*. The trains will be operated by the West Coast Railway Company, but bookings should be directed to Kingfisher Railtours. As last year, the trains will head from York, picking up at Knaresborough, Harrogate, Leeds and York (again), and then head to Scarborough.

❖ New from Past Time is a 1st August working from Bristol Temple Meads to Weymouth featuring King' 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* throughout, and on 30th August a visit to the Royal Regatta at Dartmouth, also featuring the Red Arrows, with 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* throughout between Bristol Temple Meads and Kingswear.

More dates for Past Time Cotton Mill success

Without doubt the most 'open' secret in the railtour world was that Past Time Rail would be running more 'Cotton Mill Expresses' following the outstanding success of its first batch of trains between January and July, with each posting 'sold out' notices well in advance of the operating date.

Indeed, the 14th June train is already sold out, and no doubt if you fancy travelling on 26th July you had better book soon.

A further six trains have been announced, running on 27th September, 25th October, 22nd November and for the Christmas market on 6th, 13th and 20th December.

For the autumn trains there will a limited 'Silver Service Dining Class' offering a three-course brunch outwards and a cream tea on the return. The route remains the same, from Manchester Victoria to Blackburn via Diggle, Huddersfield, the Calder Valley and Copy Pit, and then through Darwen and Bolton back to Manchester Victoria. As with the earlier trains, the timings are very user friendly, departing from Manchester Victoria at 10.10, returning at 16.05, with a layover of around 90 minutes at Blackburn.

▶ ***The Diesel Traction Group's Class 52 'Western' No. D1015* Western Champion *departs from Birmingham International on 2nd May with a Old Oak Common - Bescot stock move, ahead of its charter from the Midlands to Edinburgh, via the West Coast Main Line, the Tyne Valley route and the East Coast Main Line the following day. The locomotive performed superbly as usual, with no problems being encountered on the journey.*** **John Whitehouse**

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!

Duke of Gloucester stretches its wings

***Duke of Gloucester* has seen active use over the recent Bank Holiday weekend, reaching Fishguard Harbour and Plymouth. The trains for Railway Touring Company made use of a number of the recently repainted 'crimson and cream'-liveried coaches.**

▲ *BR Standard 8P No. 71000* Duke of Gloucester *is pictured crossing the River Loughor, appropriately at Loughor, with the 15.45 Fishguard Harbour-Birmingham International Railway Touring Company 'The Southern Irishman' railtour on 3rd May.* **Mark Thomas**

◀ *No. 71000* Duke of Gloucester *climbs to Dainton Summit at Coombe Fishacre with the return leg of the 'Devonian Duke' on 4th May.* **Darren Hill**

▼ *No. 71000 is seen on Dainton Bank at the moment of stalling. Backup should have come from 'Royal' Class 67 No. 67006, but unfortunately the locomotive failed and it took 16 minutes for the crew to solve the issue and restart the diesel to allow it to assist* Duke of Gloucester *up the last half-mile of the climb.* **Nigel Curtis**

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▲ *Class 59/2 No. 59204* **Vale of Glamorgan** *leads Yeoman-liveried Class 59/0 No. 59004* **Paul A Hammond** *on the 12.43 Hither Green-Whatley aggregate empties, near Woodborough on 22nd April.* **Glen Batten**

▼ *Class 59/0 No. 59004* **Paul A Hammond** *passes Standish Junction, south of Gloucester, on the 14.10 Machen-Westbury empty aggregate hoppers on 26th April, diverted due to closure of the Severn Tunnel and providing a very rare sighting of the class in the area.* **Richard Davies**

EMT makes its presence known

Just six months after taking over the combined Midland Mainline and Central Trains (East) franchise, East Midlands Trains is now applying its house colours to rolling stock.

▲ *At present the only HST set to carry the new East Midlands Trains/Stagecoach colour scheme. Powercar No. 43058 leads the set through Cossington, near Sileby, while working the delayed 11.25 London St Pancras - Sheffield service with classmate No. 43048 T. C. B. Miller MBE on the rear of the train on 2nd May.* **Carl Westwood**

▶ *Class 153 No. 153335 is pictured at Barnetby, during a booked station call with a Newark Northgate to Grimsby Town service.*
Kevin Walsham

▲ *Class 60 No. 60068* Charles Darwin *approaches Water Orton with the Walsall to Tunstead empty cement tanks on 8th May.* **Andy Middleton**

▼ *The re-timed 22.54 Calvert to Northolt RTS West Waste 'Binliner' approaches West Ruislip on the 28th April, hauled by triple grey-liveried EWS Class 60 No 60063* James Murray. **Brian Morrison**

▲ *Still carrying its LoadHaul livery, albeit with a half-removed EWS yellow 'beasties' sticker on the site, Class 60 No. 60007 heads south at Abbotswood Junction, on the cross-country route, with the afternoon Round Oak to Margam working on 6th May.* **David Pagett**

◀ *A number of the petroleum workings from the North East Lincolnshire refineries still feature Class 60 haulage, due to the weight of the train. With a rake of EWS branded discharged tanks in tow, No. 60042* **The Hundred Of Hoo** *passes Tilehurst on the Theale to Lindsey empty tanks on 28th April.* **Iain Brownston**

▲ *Carrying the remains of its 'one' Railway livery, Cotswold Rail Class 47/4 No. 47818, recently named* Emily, *leads Class 57/0 No. 57006 past Water Orton with a Stockton to Cardiff Advenza Freight, loaded scrap metal working.* **Andy Middleton**

▼ *Pink-liveried Class 31/6 No. 31601 leads test coach No. 977869 and Class 31/1 No. 31106 through Tilehurst, with a Derby - Eastleigh test train in glorious sunshine on 6th May 2008.* **Iain Brownston**

▲ *Class 180 units are still being used for staff familiarisation duties with Hull Trains, as well as weekend fill-in service turns to release a Class 222 'Pioneer' for maintenance. Class 180 No. 180111 approaches Selby en route to Doncaster on 8th May.* **Fred Kerr**

▼ *One of only a handful of Alstom-constructed 'Adelante' units still in service with First Great Western, Class 180 No. 180109 leaves the Cotswold Line at Norton Junction, forming the 11.51 London Paddington to Hereford service on 7th May.* **David Pagett**

▲ *With the recent powercar problems that Grand Central has suffered, Midland Mainline-liveried Class 43 No. 43166 remains on hire to the company and leads the 11.27 London King's Cross-Sunderland service on 8th May, on the approach to Colton Junction, south of York. Two of the Grand Central powercars, Nos. 43067 and 43068 have been transferred to Brush Traction for further analysis.* **Fred Kerr**

▼ *National Express East Coast's 14.50 Aberdeen to London King's Cross approaches Stonehaven on 24th April, led by Class 43 powercar No. 43056. The one common advantage to all of the new HST liveries has been the return of the powercar number to the front end.* **Bill Reid**

▲ *Newly-formed three-car Class 158/0 No 158759 departs from Leeds on 30th April, forming the 09.09 Northern service from York to Blackpool North. The centre car has been specially liveried in all-blue, leaving the only driving cars with leading lilac and white.* **Brian Morrison**

▼ *Class 456 No 456001 arrives at Mitcham Junction on 9th May, forming the 13.48 Southern service from Epsom to London Victoria. The lines on the right belong to the Croydon Tramlink.* **Brian Morrison**

British diesel group opens for members

The British Diesel Locomotive Preservation Group (BDLPG) was set up in the spring of 2007, to fight for the preservation of British diesel locomotives and despite being only a small group, it is one with big ambitions, which are slowly being turned into reality.

The BDLPG is made up entirely of volunteers, giving their free time and devotion to achieve the group's goals. Recently the group website (http://www.bdlpg.co.uk) has undergone a revamp, with more information and content being featured. In the future, the site will be updated daily with progress and latest news from the group. The group is always open to new members joining and adding their expertise. Contact membership@bdlpg.co.uk.

The long-term plan for the group is to preserve as many aspects of diesel operation as possible, not just the locomotives. The skills for both operating and maintenance are vitally important and it is the long-term aim of the group to pass these skills and the mechnical and technical knowledge on to future generations. As a group, the BDLPG is not aimed towards a specific building or class of locomotive or multiple unit. Its aim is to be able to provide a wide ranging portfolio, again from both a skills and assets viewpoint, that has the ability to cover from the humble Class 03 to the popular 'Heavy Freight' Type 5s and first generation multiple units. Indeed, discussions are currently underway with a variety of parties, concerning future plans and operations.

Another first for NYMR as A4 visits Whitby

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway scored yet another first over the Bank Holiday weekend, when it operated what is believed to be the first 'A4', if not the first LNER Pacific, into Whitby.

Special permission was granted by Network Rail for the two 'one-off' runs, both of which originated at Pickering and ran over NYMR metals to Grosmont, where the train joined the National Network. The curvature of the line between Grosmont and Whitby is such that a severe speed restriction was placed on the locomotive on certain sections of the route. As a result, it is unlikely that an 'A4' will visit Whitby again for the foreseeable future.

▲ ***LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60007 Sir Nigel Gresley accelerates out of Whitby and under Larpool Viaduct on 3rd May with the 14.00 Whitby to Pickering service.*** **Rowan Jackson**

Quad-Art set returns

The M&GN Society's LNER Quad Art set was reformed in late-April after the final two coaches were returned from Carnforth.

West Coast Railway Company staff carried out fine tuning of the set, including brake testing and spring adjustment, before a test run was undertaken behind Class 25 No. 25057 on 22nd April.

The set then underwent a loaded test run on 23rd April, following which it was paired with WD 2-10-0 No. 90775 the next day and used to work the 12.00 service from Sheringham.

The set still needs some work completing, including lettering, picture frames andnotices, before it enters public service later in the summer. **Both: Steve Allen**

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New signalbox in place for Northampton and Lamport Railway

Progress on the Northampton & Lamport Railway's (NLR) southern extension moved forward on 19th April when the operating floor for the extension's new signal box was craned into place.

The signal box is an original LNWR Type 3 structure dating from 1875 and was originally located at Betley Road, four miles from Crewe on the West Coast Mainline. The box was made redundant in 2004 during the re-signalling of the mainline and was donated to the NLR by Network Rail & Carillion (the Norton Bridge Alliance) during the Norton Bridge re-signalling scheme. The signalbox ceased to operate on 30th October 2004, when it was lifted off and the brick base demolished, but not before the original Saxby & Farmer cast iron windows were salvaged.

The signal box operating floor was taken to the NLR's headquarters at Pitsford & Brampton station, where it has undergone a painstaking restoration, which included completely removing the modern windows installed by BR and hand crafting new LNWR pattern replicas. Work started on the base (which is built with imperial engineering bricks) earlier this year and was completed in March, the base incorporating the original salvaged cast iron windows.

With both the base and signal box operating floor completed, all that remained was for the two to be united. This involved transporting the signal box on a low-loader through the lanes of Northamptonshire and along the Brampton Valley Way, which occupies part of the railway track bed width, to its new home. The signalbox commenced operating at 14.15 on 19th April.

With the box now in place, attention can be turned to laying the points on the next phase of the push south towards the proposed southern terminus of Boughton Crossing. This is where the former Northampton to Market Harborough Line crossed what is now the A5199 road and where the original Boughton box once stood. The 12-lever frame, which NLR volunteers stripped out from Betley Road, is currently in store, but it has been decided instead to install a 30-lever frame donated by Network Rail in 2006 as part of the Leicester to Nuneaton re-signalling.

▲ *The Northampton and Lamport Railway's new signal box at Boughton Crossing. The box, which signalled its last train on 30th October 2004, was donated to the railway by Network Rail following a re-signalling project around Norton Bridge, south of Crewe.* **Phillip Stothart/NLR**

The lever frame was recovered by volunteers overnight during July 2006 from Croft Sidings signal box and comprised 23 levers with spaces in the frame for another seven, which are being provided from spares already held in stock. It is hoped to complete the final 310 yard push to Boughton Crossing by the end of this year.

The long term aim is to construct a small station, run-round loop and sidings as part of the extension, as well a ramp to aid the loading and unloading of both locomotives and stock.

Any reader interested in helping with the extension works or any other aspect of the railway should contact the Northampton and Lamport Railway at Pitsford and Brampton Station, Pitsford Road, Chapel Brampton, Northampton, NN6 8BA or enquiries@nlr.org.uk

NRM announce Grand Reunion of FOUR LNER 'A4s'

On 5th and 6th July, the National Railway Museum (NRM) is to celebrate the 70th anniversary of the world steam record set by A4 Pacific *Mallard* in 1938, by playing host to one of the most spectacular sights in the history of steam locomotive preservation - *Bittern, Sir Nigel Gresley* and *Union of South Africa*, the three operational 'A4s', are to stand side by side with *Mallard*.

The four Gresley locomotives will be together for the first time since their heyday, creating a fascinating photo opportunity as there are only six 'A4s' remaining in the world, the other two being in the USA. Readers interested in visiting should call 0870 701 0208. Tickets to this unique and exclusive event are now on sale but are expected to sell out quickly. They are priced at £32.50 per person (excluding postage) and include a souvenir brochure. There will not be any ticket sales on the day. The NRM's 'Great Reunion' celebration is part of a weekend long celebration that will see three of the 'A4s' together throughout both days and joined by the fourth in the afternoons.

▲ *The North Norfolk Railway's ex-LNER 'N7' 0-6-2T No. 69621 is currently visiting the Kent & East Sussex Railway. The locomotive is pictured working up-grade toward Tenterden Town during the line's May Bank Holiday Gala on 4th May.* **Derek Elston**

Cromwell returns to service

The National Railway Museum's BR 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* made its first revenue-earning runs on the Great Central Railway on 3-5th May.

The locomotive has been the subject of a major overhaul programme, which will culminate with its appearance on mainline charters later this summer. Video footage of the locomotive's first revenue earning passenger working since returning to steam, can be viewed by **clicking here**.

▲ 'Britannia' No. 70013 stands at Rothley on 2nd May, having arrived on its first test run outside the station limits of Loughborough since restoration. It was run for the benefit of the boiler inspector who was on board the inspection saloon. **Natalie Jones**

▶ Oliver Cromwell approaches the A6 road bridge while working the 12.15 Loughborough - Leicester North on 5th May. **John Whitehouse**

▼ The locomotive heads for Leicester North on 5th May, between Woodthorpe and Quorn. **Steve Bottrill**

Tornado Project nearly there as deadline approaches

Progress with the construction of Peppercorn Class A1 Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*, the first mainline express passenger steam locomotive to be built in the UK for over 50 years, continues at a pace and these illustrations show the evocative scene of the locomotive and tender coupled together for the first time.

The team working on the locomotive have the deadline of the Trusts Covenanters Weekend at the Great Central Railway on 28th/29th June to aim for, and with the big jobs now completed it is just the final fitting of springs, brake components and rigging and the 'plumbing', which mainly relates to the air-brake connection to the tender, that need to be completed.

The aim is to get *Tornado* on to the mainline during the autumn, and an appeal was launched to raise an additional £50,000 to meet a funding shortfall, in the main generated by increased costs of components.

To-date £20,000 has been raised towards the total, and for more details of how to make this dream come true, go http://www.a1steam.com

▶ ***The familiar Gresley front end of an 'A1' stands in the workshop at Darlington, with the leading bogie having been removed.***

▼ ***The fittings for the electric light system are clearly visible on the bodywork of the 'A1' tender, as this view of tender and engine together for the first time, clearly shows. It may have been a long time in progressing, but this view of a nearly complete 'A1' Pacific shows just what the preservation world can achieve, given the skills and the finances.***

Both: David Elliott/A1 Locomotive Project

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.

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 19.00. Show commences 19.30. 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 starts 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 details. Meeting starts 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 starts 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for 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. Meeting commences at 18.15.

16th June 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill 'Grimsby & Cleethorpes - created by the GCR' by Bryan Longbone. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for further details.

19th June 2007
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society, Barrow Hill Roundhouse.
'Colour Rail - 30 Years of Service' by David Aldis. Ron White is unable to present the show personally but has given permission for the show from the presenter's personal collection. Something for everyone, from pre nationalisation to B.R. steam and diesel, from express passenger to freight and even humble shunting locos. Doors open 7.00pm. Show commences 7.30pm. Admission £1.50 members, £2.00 non members.

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.

Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. Members photographic and video evening. Meeting commences at 19.30 for 19.45. A donation is requested

2nd July 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. 'Is the Master Cutler a South Yorkshireman?' by Martin Bromley. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

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.

9th July 2008
Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) To be confirmed. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

10th July 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Section)
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham. Afternoon visit to the Severn Valley Railway, followed by an evening presentation. Contact Ian Wardle on 0121 345 3931 for further details. Doors open 17.45 for an 18.15 start.

14th July 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'Annual Quiz Night'. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

18th July 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Memories of Steam' by David Butcher. Meeting commences at 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for further details.

6th August 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. 'Steaming through Britain' by Graham Briggs. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

11th August 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'Canklow to Cape Town' by Mike Eggenton. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

12th August 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. LNER and SR varieties by Colin Jacks. Starts 20.00.

13th August 2008
Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) 'A-Z of Switzerland' - Members Slides. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

15th August 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Britannias & Broads' by Max Wilkinson. Starts 19.30, Contact 01823 334188 for details

2nd September 2008
Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'London and its environs' by Bruce Oliver. Starts 19.30. Entrance £2

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.

▼ *At Glasgow Queen Street on 15th April, Class 170/4s Nos. 170434 and 170429 with unidentified Class 158 and Class 170/4 No. 170427 await their next duties.* **Bill Reid**

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