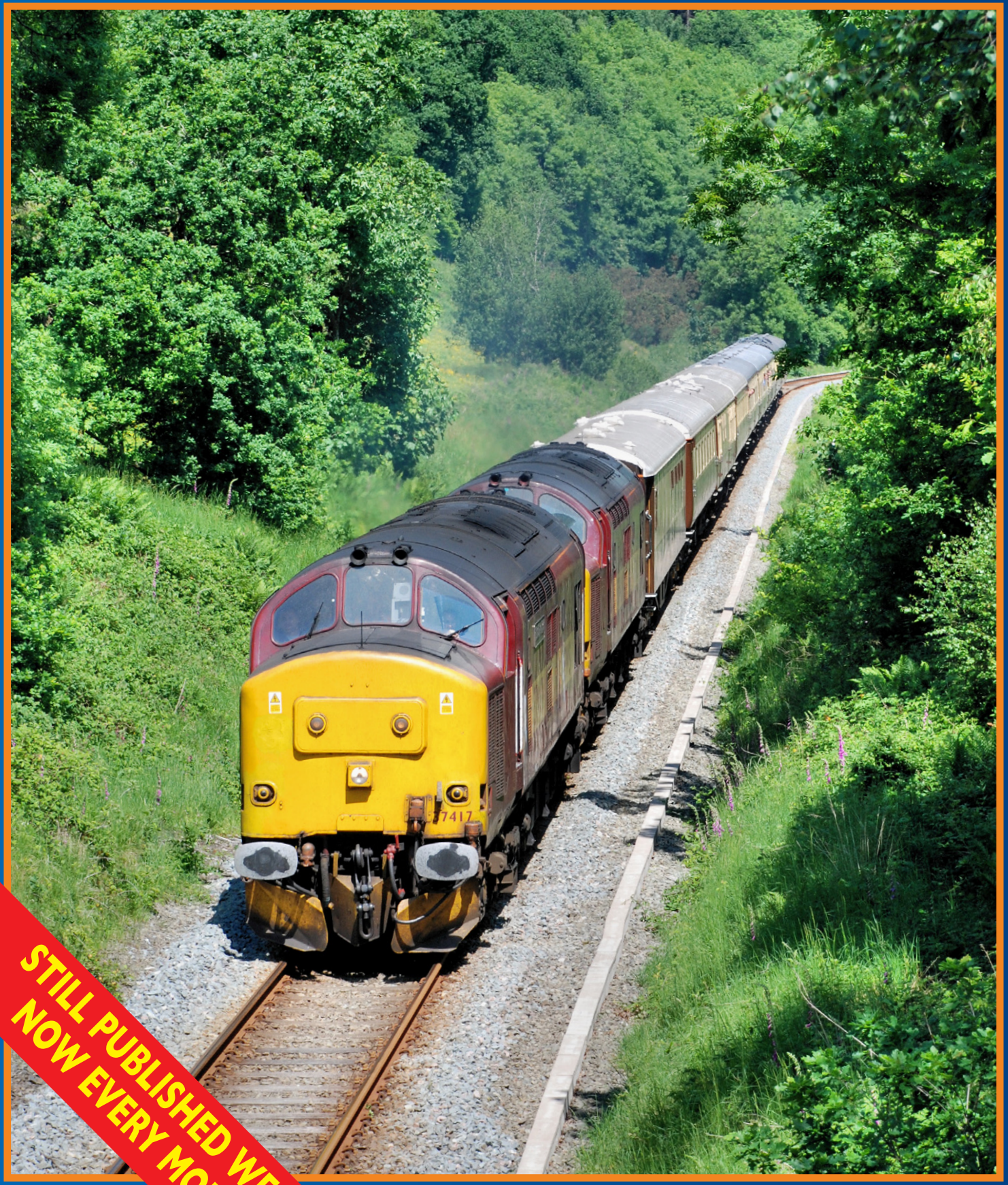
The Railway Herald



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Front Cover

EWS Class 37/4s Nos. 37417 and 37401 power the 'Welsh Mountaineer' railtour for Kingfisher from Peterborough to Blaenau Ffestiniog. The pair are captured approaching Betws-y-coed on 31st May. **Nigel Capelle**

Rear Cover

Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66536 heads east from the Nuneaton line at Water Orton on 14th May with a service to Birmingham Lawley Street. **David Pagett**

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

42 years of full maintenance operation come to a close at Bletchley Depot

Bletchley depot staff have been given a big 'thank you' by London Midland Managing Director Steve Banaghan on the last day of operation as a full maintenance site.

From December, London Midland is phasing in a fleet of 37 Class 350/2 Desiro trains, which are maintained by Siemens at Northampton. These will eventually replace the Class 321s currently serviced at Bletchley. Most of the Bletchley engineering staff will be seconded to the Siemens site, while the cleaning staff will move to London Midland's cleaning team. The depot land and buildings will revert to owner Network Rail when the lease ends later this year.

The depot was opened 42 years ago and is widely respected throughout the industry. Its staff won the HSBC Rail Awards Engineering Excellence title last year after making the Class 321s it maintained some six times more reliable than average for the class!

Duchess takes charge on Southern metals

LMS 'Princess Coronation' Pacific No. 6233* Duchess of Sutherland *visited Southern Railway metals on 1st June at the head of Steam Dream's London Waterloo - Exeter St. Davids charter commemorating the 60th anniversary of the locomotive exchanges of 1948. Due to gauging issues the train was diesel-hauled from Yeovil to Castle Cary, from where the train continued to Exeter behind the 'Duchess'. The train was then diesel-hauled to Yeovil Junction, where the tour returned to London behind LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019* Bittern. *Here the 'Duchess' powers through Buckhorn Weston on the outward journey. **Ken Brunt**

NOW PUBLISHED ON MONDAY EVERY WEEK!

As we reported in last week's issue, the publication date for *Railway Herald* has been moved from Friday to Monday.

Changing demands mean that by moving the publication date to the start of the week, we can serve both our readers and our advertisers better and provide a more stable publication day.

In an attempt to ensure that we have the latest information available to readers, we will endeavour to update the Railtour pages on our website during the week, with any amendments, postponements or cancellations that may affect excursions due to operate before the next issue of the magazine is published.

So please remember that Railway Herald will now drop into your inbox every MONDAY!

Editorial Team:

Richard Tuplin	Editor	editor@railwayherald.co.uk
Brian Morrison	Contributing Editor	brian.morrison@railwayherald.co.uk
John Whitehouse	Railtour Editor	john.whitehouse@railwayherald.co.uk

Editorial Address:

The Railway Herald, PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. United Kingdom. DN17 2WY

Telephone: 0844 870 0735 **E-mail:** editor@railwayherald.co.uk

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ELL extension project moves forwards

▲ *Forming the 12.10 FCC Thameslink service from Bedford to Brighton, Class 319/4s Nos 319433 & 319438 approach New Cross Gate at speed on 31st May, and pass beneath the new East London Line (ELL) flyover viaduct with the new depot under construction on the right.*

▶ *The abandoned East London Line terminus platform at New Cross Gate on 31st May. From 2010, services will continue on to West Croydon, the old bay platform being redundant.*
Both: Brian Morrison (with permission)

Liverpool Street chaos

There was chaos for travellers at London's Liverpool Street station on the evening of 28th May, when two trains had to be evacuated outside the station and passengers were forced to walk along the tracks back to the terminus.

The occurrence took place at 19.15, when the 138-tonne bridge being constructed for the East London Line to enter Shoreditch collapsed from its hydraulic jacks onto its permanent supports some eight feet below, resulting in a concrete slab and debris falling onto the Great Eastern tracks below.

Train services were not restored into and out of the terminus until 09.30 the following day, trains having had to terminate at Stratford.

Because of concerns over handling and management of both the project and its contractors, Balfour Beatty, Network Rail has banned work on the bridge. This ban will remain in place until TfL has completed an investigation and reported back on the causes of the incident and what measures it will be putting in place to prevent a repetition.

£2.5 million for Burnley revamp

Run-down Burnley Manchester Road station is in line for a £2.5 million renovation, civic leaders in the town wanting to rebuild it and provide ample car parking to help attract workers and students to Burnley and improve links with Manchester.

They hope the work on the station will coincide with an estimated £8.3 million scheme to reinstate the Todmorden curve, which will mean Burnley has a direct rail connection to Manchester Victoria instead of having to change at Hebden Bridge as they do now.

Councillors are to ask for funding from the European Commission and the North West Development Agency for the renovation. The plans are backed by Network Rail and Northern Rail - but only if funding is secured.

Meanwhile, cash to rejuvenate Burnley Central station, which is on the Blackpool to Colne line, was earmarked in March this year after previous renovation bids failed. Both stations were criticised by MPs and transport experts in 2006 as being amongst the worst in the country.

October completion of Airdrie-Bathgate double-tracking project

Network Rail has announced that it will complete the first phase of the Airdrie-Bathgate Rail Link when double-tracking of the line between Bathgate and Edinburgh is commissioned in October.

The new section of line is part of the £300 million Transport Scotland-funded project, and will see an improved reliability of services on the busy commuter route. To enable the first phase to be completed on time, the project requires alteration to services on the main Edinburgh-Glasgow and Edinburgh to Dunblane routes via Linlithgow for a five-day period in October along with two further weekends that month. In addition, the Bathgate branch line will also require alterations to services on several weekends during this summer and autumn, along with a two-week closure in July and a 10-day closure in October.

Full contingency plans are to be put in place to provide revised transport arrangements for all passengers.

Regenerative braking for GoVia EMUs

To help alleviate climate change, Govia-operated Southern and Southeastern have become the first train operators in the country to introduce regenerative braking on the third rail DC network.

After almost two years of planning and testing, the first Class 375, 376 and 377 Electrostar EMUs are now returning electricity back into the rail system when braking, allowing other trains to draw on that energy for power. Until now, energy released by trains during braking has been wasted in heating the braking resistors on the train. Now any other train in close proximity will benefit from the electricity transferred back to the third rail.

Question mark hangs over Wrexham electrification

Welsh Assembly politicians are demanding answers as to whether a key railway upgrade to revamp and electrify the Wrexham to Bidston line might collapse because of a massive cost increase.

Estimates were originally put at £60 million and hopes for the project rose after it was granted £600,000 for a feasibility study, However, it has now emerged that there is another Network Rail report placing the scheme cost at £200 million, which would cast a huge question mark over the project taking place.

The line has a number of problems, including sub-standard infrastructure, track speed restrictions and tight turn-around times.

Passengers also have to change at Bidston from electric services which run from Liverpool to diesel trains to continue to Wrexham.

When the line between Rock Ferry and Chester was electrified some 15 years ago, passenger numbers rocketed with trains running every 15 minutes from Chester through to Liverpool. It was hoped that a similar upgrade of the Wrexham to Bidston line would yield similar benefits.

❖ After a meeting between Ashford Borough Council chiefs and Ashford MP Damian Green with Eurostar representatives, assurances were given that Eurostar services from Ashford International to Paris have a secure future. Ashford Borough Council chief executive David Hill said: "Eurostar confirmed it is conducting a six-month review of the new pattern of services as we had pressed them to do."

❖ East Midlands Trains (EMT) has received notice from the RMT union that it intends to instruct some of its members to take industrial action on 7th, 14th and 21st June. The Train Operator and the Union have been in talks to try and reach a resolution regarding local services using ACAS, and EMT is now contacting the RMT to ascertain why it has chosen to advise of strike dates while talks are still ongoing.

❖ The £767,000 redevelopment and improvement of Leamington Spa station was officially opened on 23rd May by Adrian Shooter, Chairman of Chiltern Railways and Sir William McAlpine, Chairman of the Rail Heritage Trust, in the presence of Kailash Chander, Mayor of Royal Leamington Spa and Pete Waterman, Chairman of the Friends of Leamington Spa Station. The work restored the building to its 1930s Art Deco style and includes the installation of new ticket gates to improve security. Ian Baxter, General Manager North of Chiltern Railways said: "I'd like to thank the Rail Heritage Trust and Network Rail for their support but I'd especially like to thank the Friends of Leamington Spa Station. This dedicated band of volunteers give up their time to maintain the beautiful and award winning station gardens and their help has been invaluable during the renovation. And, of course, thanks go to Chiltern Railways' own staff who provide such a friendly and welcoming service at the station".

❖ Paid for by Bedfordshire County Council and managed by London Midland (LM), work starts on 2nd June on a £51,500 upgrade of Leighton Buzzard station, The project includes increasing the cycle parking spaces from 24 to 64, covered parking for motorcycles, more CCTV and new shelters. There are also plans for at least 100 new car parking places by adding a new deck to the station car park, this being funded by London Midland's £5.7 million investment in stations. At the start of May, LM introduced half-price parking for hybrid and low emission cars and free parking for electric cars, as well as more convenient ways to buy car park tickets for other drivers including converting the station car park to pay and display.

Draft strategy for Welsh railway network published

Extra platforms, new stations, longer trains and more tracks are among the list of options in a draft strategy to develop the passenger and freight railway in Wales.

Drawn up for consultation by Network Rail, along with the Wales Route Utilisation Strategy, the report compiles the industry's aspirations and examines 24 options to cater for an estimated 40 million passengers by 2018, passenger numbers in Wales being predicted to rise by 25% in the next 10 years. Among the options reviewed are:

■ Re-doubling of the single track between Wrexham and Chester and upgrading signalling at Abergavenny to improve frequency and journey time between north and south Wales.

■ Additional infrastructure, including new platforms at Cardiff Central, Pontypridd and Caerphilly to facilitate the long-term vision of 16 trains per hour through the South Wales Valley network.

■ New stations at Llanwern and Energlyn, to support residential development in these areas.

■ Reinstatement of a twin track layout between Llanelli and Carmarthen to improve performance and encourage more train usage at Gowerton.

■ A new freight terminal and connection at Blaenau Ffestiniog to improve trainload quantities of slate waste.

Network Rail, together with the Welsh Assembly, Arriva Trains Wales, First Great Western, the Association of Train Operating Companies and the freight operating companies, have been working for the past year to develop the draft route strategy.

Consultation closes on 22nd August, and the final strategy is to be published by end of the year.

▲ ***As reported last week, Riviera Class 47/4s are currently in use on the East Coast Main Line, operating shuttle services between York and Sunderland for Grand Central. On 29th May, Nos. 47815 Great Western and 47805 Talisman power through Overton with a York - Sunderland service. Unfortunately No. 47815 leaked coolant near Hartlepool on this trip, which resulted in the cancellation of the return working to York.*** **Fred Kerr**

Transport for London takes control of Metronet

Metronet Rail has now transferred to Transport for London (TfL) control, which has pledged an investment of £1.4 billion, focusing on new trains and signalling systems, as well as station renewals, to deliver greater reliability and capacity on the eight London Underground lines involved.

The first new trains and signalling systems to be delivered will be as part of the £900 million upgrade of the Victoria Line. The new trains are currently being tested and are due to enter passenger service for the first time next year.

They will have CCTV, wheelchair access, better ventilation and improved audio-visual customer information systems. The full upgrade is contractually due to be delivered by 2013, but with the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games only four years away, the work is currently on course for completion by late 2011.

Improvements continue, with 39 stations revamps already completed and a further 22 currently underway. Also, 14km of track has been renewed with a further 38km scheduled by April 2009.

The new Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, said: "Since Metronet went into administration there has been a protracted period of uncertainty, resulting in the millions who rely on the Tube not knowing when the needed improvements would be delivered. With Metronet now out of administration and under the control of TfL we can ensure that the crucial upgrade work is continued and delivered on time, while representing good value for the Capital".

As part of the upgrade of the Circle, District, Hammersmith & City and Metropolitan lines, the manufacture of 190 new air-conditioned trains to enter passenger service from 2010 is continuing at Bombardier's plant in Derby.

Volunteers help out at 'litter-strewn stations'

Described as "Torbay's litter-strewn railway stations" and complained about by residents for years, the stations of Paignton, Torquay and Torre are to receive a clean-up as one of the projects of the 'Torbay in Bloom' group and judged as part of its entry for 'South West in Bloom'.

At Torquay, Network Rail are said to be very pleased that the volunteers were taking an interest in helping maintain the station, where railings have been painted and discussions are taking place about cutting back trees and shrubs around the bridge.

At Paignton, First Great Western has given £50 towards the summer bedding plants that the volunteers have put in the station's flower tubs and work is also to take place in partnership with the local council to replace some old fencing .

At Torre, a litter pick-up is to be organised as well as the removal of buddleia growing up between the tracks.

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

High Level Bridge restored in Newcastle

Following an investment of £40 million over a seven-year period, Iain Coucher, Chief Executive Officer of Network Rail, officially marked the end of the current engineering works on the High Level Bridge between Newcastle and Gateshead on 30th May.

Speaking as a vintage bus became the first 'official' vehicle over the bridge since 2005, Mr Coucher said: "The High Level Bridge is a unique structure. Made of cast iron it needed some serious care and attention so that it can continue to serve the communities of Newcastle and Gateshead for many years to come. Our engineers have had to develop new techniques to protect the bridge, whilst respecting its Grade 1 Listing and making sure it can still be used. Solutions have included supporting existing beams with new ones that take the load off the roadway and undertaking groundbreaking testing and research into the strength of the cast iron. I'd like to congratulate everyone on a job well done under trying circumstances - and for keeping the trains running throughout".

The official opening was followed by an open day for the public. During the afternoon there were information stands and members of the engineering teams of May Gurney and Network Rail available to explain the extent of the work. More than 1,600 tonnes of scaffold were used in the project and at its peak, more than 160 engineers and operatives and 30 managers worked shifts 24 hours a day, 12 days in every 14. 75,000 litres of paint have restored the structure to its original colour and 610 tonnes of new steel and 252 tonnes of new timber have been used.

Arriva CrossCountry progresses with Class 170 relivery and refurbishment project

▲ *Forming a Cardiff Central - Nottingham service on 23rd May, Class 170/1 No. 170105 approaches Stenson Junction, between Burton-on-Trent and Derby, at speed. This unit has been re-liveried externally, but has yet to pass through the Transys depot at Clacton-on-Sea to be refurbished internally.* **Richard Tuplin**

Arriva CrossCountry's first 'refreshed' Class 170 Turbostar for services between Cardiff and Nottingham and Birmingham New Street and Stansted Airport has entered service, providing 35% more seats and additional luggage space and new First Class accommodation

The three-coach unit now has a total of 200 seats and can accommodate cycles in a strapped position and in vestibule areas. The work was carried out by at Transys Projects' depot in Clacton-on-Sea.

Seats have been re-upholstered, new carpets fitted and at-seat power points installed in the two-plus-one seating of the new First Class accommodation.

As well as receiving the interior makeover, all 13 two-coach and 16 three-coach DMUs are being repainted into CrossCountry's distinctive new livery carried out by EWS subsidiary Axiom Rail at the EWS Toton Depot and at Marcroft Engineering at Stoke-on-Trent.

Work on the entire fleet is scheduled for completion by early next year.

FirstGroup provides more facilities at Aberdeen

The work refurbishing Aberdeen station is still continuing and the installation of a new lounge has now started.

The £400,000 investment by First ScotRail is scheduled for completion in August, the work following the opening of the new travel centre earlier this month. The lounge, which will be located at the front of the station adjacent to the travel centre, will be open free of charge to First Class ticket holders. With a bright and modern feel, it will feature a range of top quality facilities and greater overall comfort, including free Wi-fi access, complimentary refreshments, a comfortable seating area, customer information screens providing updated service information, digital free-view television and complimentary newspapers and magazines. A receptionist will welcome passengers as they enter, provide information and assistance and will also issue tickets if required. In addition, showers and toilets will be installed.

The station redevelopment forms a key part of the £250 million Union Square development in the Granite City, due to open in autumn 2009.

❖ To assist the patrolling of the Tyne & Wear Metro system, British Transport Police (BTP) are being issued with Personal Digital Assistant handheld computers, which will allow officers to spend more time out and about. Nexus became the first train operator in Great Britain to use handheld computers to track fare evaders when the system went live in December 2006. There are 25 currently in use on Metro. The BTP is responsible for policing the Metro between Pelaw and South Hylton, and new technology that allows them to cut down on time spent back at the police station is an obvious advantage. Each computer can check a person's details, access the voters' register, the Force Intelligence System, issue Stop and Search forms using handheld printers, crime recording and the BTP's command and control system.

❖ National Express East Coast is offering First Class passengers the British traditional teatime treat, an array of sandwiches and scones with jam and cream, served at your seat for £5.95. The afternoon favourite is part of a new range of food and drink introduced on its trains , including healthy breakfast options, a new Bistro-style lunch selection and a new dinner menu.

❖ Network Rail completed £45 million of work over the spring Bank Holiday weekend. During the three days, more than 4,000 people worked to deliver various projects, the major ones being further work to upgrade the West Coast Main Line to enable a journey time reduction of 56 minutes from London to Glasgow, platform extensions at Luton Airport Parkway as part of the £5.5 billion Thameslink Programme, track and signalling works at Merthyr and Newport, and ongoing infrastructure improvement at Hull Docks enabling 20 extra freight trains to serve the docks daily.

❖ According to annual crime statistics released last week, British Transport Police London South Area has recorded a 53% reduction in robberies on the railways over the past year, it being the fourth year in succession that there has been a decrease in robbery offences on the rail network in the south, which are down by a remarkable 80% since 2004-05. London South Area Commander Chief Superintendent Steve Morgan said: "Our figures show a continuing downward trend in crime on the railway, with a 15% overall reduction in the past year. At the same time we have once again managed to increase the crime detection rate by two percentage points. "

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 June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour-Edinburgh-Keith	**Cancelled**
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Western Day 4:** Wemyss Bay- Edinburgh	
3rd June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Keith-Kyle of Lochalsh	**Cancelled**
4th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Kyle of Lochalsh-Boat of Garten	**Cancelled**
Steam Dreams	34067	London Victoria -Canterbury West and return	
5th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Boat of Garten-Dundee	**Cancelled**
6th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Dundee-Edinburgh	**Cancelled**
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Edinburgh-Keith	**Cancelled**
Railtourer	2xWCRC Cl47	Stevenage-S&C-Carlisle-Edinburgh and return via ECML	
7th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Keith-Kyle of Lochalsh	**Cancelled**
Compass Tours	2xRiveria 47	Workington-Carlisle-Perth Aviemore-Inverness and return	
Kingfisher Railtours	6201	(High Wycombe-Bicester North-Banbury-Coventry-Crewe)-Crewe-Standedge-York-Manchester-(and return)	
Past Time Rail	2xEWS 67	Milton Keynes Central-Crewe- Edinburgh	**Cancelled**
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Stevenage-Grantham-S&C-Carlisle-Edinburgh	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	70013	Cleethorpes-London KX (and return)	**Postponed**
Railway Touring Company	71000	Cleethorpes-London KX (and return)	**Postponed**
Stobart Rail Tours	2xDRS 47	London KX-Stevenage- Berwick on Tweed (break/rev) & return	
UK Railtours	2x EWS 67	London Euston-Kemble-Long Marston(break)- and return	
8th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Kyle of Lochalsh-Boat of Garten	**Cancelled**
UK Railtours	London Euston-Long Marston & return		**Cancelled**
9th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Boat of Garten-Dundee	**Cancelled**
10th June			
The Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour: Dundee-Edinburgh	**Cancelled**
11th June			
Steam Dreams	70013	London Liverpool Street-Norwich and return	**Postponed**
13th June			
Steam Dreams	70013	London Liverpool Street-Norwich and return	**Postponed**
14th June			
Compass Tours	2xRiveria 47	Runcorn-Liverpool Lime Street--Wigan NW-S&C-Carlisle-Carstairs-Edinburgh (break rev)-Carstairs-Carlisle-Shap-Wigan NW & return	
Heartland Rail	2xCR 47	Gloucester-Penzance and return	**Cancelled**
Kingfisher Railtours	6201	(Bedford-)Carnforth-Shap-Carlisle and return	**Postponed**
Mark Elderkin/PTR	40145	Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Copy Pit-Manchester Victoria	
Past Time Rail	45407	Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Copy Pit-Manchester Victoria	
Past Time Rail	2xEWS 67	Cleethorpes-Scunthorpe-Oxenholme	
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS 37	Cardiff-Barnt Green-Crewe (pu outwards only)- Preston-Carnforth-Ulverston-Barrow on Furness-Ravenglass (break) and return via Chester and Shrewsbury	
PMR Tours	6233	(Lancaster-Manchester Victoria-Crewe)-Crewe-Chester-Llandudno Junction-Holyhead (break/rev) and return	
Stobart Rail Tours	2xDRS 47	London King's Cross- Durham-Hexham-Carlisle-S&C-London	
Vintage Trains	5029	Tyseley Warwick Road-Leicester-Newark-Lincoln (break) & return	
15th June			
Stobart Rail Tours	2xDRS 47	London KX-Cambridge-Ely-Thetford-Norwich (rev) & 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
2-5 Jun	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
2-6 Jun	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
9-12 Jun	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
9-13 Jun	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
16-19 Jun	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
16-20 Jun	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407

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

Regular weekday steam operations are now well in evidence with 'The Jacobite' in action between Fort William and Mallaig on each weekday and the North Yorkshire Moors workings between Pickering and Whitby now operating daily.

Adding to the list this week is Steam Dreams, which has No. 34067 *Tangmere* out of London Victoria to Canterbury West with a 'Cathedrals Express' on 4th June.

Two steam-hauled tours are booked for Saturday 7th June, the highlight being 'The Yorkshireman', a Trans-Pennine operation with No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* for Kingfisher from High Wycombe. The steam section is from Crewe via Manchester Victoria and the Standedge route to York and back. Meanwhile, the scheduled excursion of No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* on the Railway Touring Company's 'The Londoner', excursion from Cleethorpes via Grimsby, Scunthorpe and Doncaster to London King's Cross has been postponed until 13th September.

UK Railtours provide the opportunity to travel by rail to the Long Marston Charity Open Weekend on 7th June, with a train from London Euston, which due to WCML engineering work will now pick up at Slough and Reading. The route outwards is via Swindon, Kemble, Worcester (reverse) and Evesham, while the return is back to Worcester and then to Bromsgrove, Birmingham New Street, Tyseley, Banbury and Oxford. Traction should be a pair of EWS Class 67s. The planned Sunday train to Long Marston has been cancelled.

Compass Tours 'Solway Highlander' is the replacement train for the planned 3rd May working to Aberdeen, and as the title suggests, heads for Aviemore and Inverness rather than the east coast. The pick-up points remain the same, commencing at Workington and picking up at stations to Carlisle and then Lockerbie and Motherwell, before heading north via Stirling and Perth. Traction this time should be a pair of Class 47s.

Also heading towards the border is Stobart Rail with a working to Berwick on Tweed from King's Cross, no doubt with DRS Class 47s in charge. Railtourers' charter from Stevenage to Edinburgh, outwards via the S&C and Beattock, returning along the ECML has been brought forward and will now run a day earlier on 6th June. West Coast 47s are expected to feature.

Hot box problems hit A4

On 29th May) No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* was still at Berwick-on-Tweed following its failure and removal from The Railway Touring Company's 'Heart of Midlothian' on 24th May, with what is believed to be a hot box on the locomotive's trailing truck.

Reports since, indicate the 'A4' being supported by wooden blocks and jacks while repairs were being undertaken, and that on 27th May it was in light steam, indicating a possible movement.

The loco ran into difficulties north of Alnmouth and was propelled into the loop at Beal by the following EWS Class 67. The 'A4' was removed from the train, which continued north with the '67', while No. 60009 returned to the loop awaiting a path north. Eventually, it was allowed to proceed to Berwick-upon-Tweed at a severely restricted speed of 5mph where it was put inside for attention. The main train arrived in Edinburgh around two hours late, but was allocated a later path on the return.

Useful Weblinks

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

Summer steam ban due to fire-risk raises its head after lineside problems

▲ *Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 48151 pulls across the throat of Carlisle Citadel station on 24th May with Railtourer's charter from Hull, which it had hauled from Hellifield without incident, unlike its next working two days later when the locomotive was removed from Kingfisher's 'Cumbrian Coast Fellsman' at Ravenglass following a number of lineside fires on the outward journey.* John Whitehouse

Kingfisher's 'Cumbrian Coast Fellsman' ran into problems on 26th May when a series of lineside fires along its route, as well as a more serious fire on Eskmeals Viaduct near Ravenglass, resulted in train operator West Coast Railway Company removing the train engine, Stanier Class 8F No. 48151, and providing a diesel for the return working.

The steam locomotive was returned to Carnforth where West Coast is undertaking a thorough inspection to identify any specific problem with the loco. As a further precaution, Kingfisher's 'Dalesman' on 28th May was diesel-hauled throughout despite an appalling weather forecast for the area.

Earlier in the month, lineside fires had occurred on the West Highland Line when No. 48151 had double-headed a private charter between Crianlarich and Fort William with 'K4' Mogul No. 61994 *The Great Marquess* on 6th May. However, it is easy to attribute guilt by association, as it must also be remembered that No. 48151 had charge of an 11-coach charter between Hellifield and Carlisle on 24th May, it operated entirely without incident, as did the following loco and support vehicle move between Carlisle and Carnforth via Shap later the same day.

Equally, although the year so far has not been significantly hot and sunny, it has until the last few days, not been wet either, and the combination of dry lineside vegetation plus the strong wind that was prevalent over the Bank Holiday weekend are also considered to be significant factors along with, obviously, the locomotive.

West Coast's investigation is ongoing and No. 34067 *Tangmere*, fresh from Scarborough Spa duties, was the replacement traction on Railtourer's Settle & Carlisle excursion on 31st May. Meanwhile, No. 48151 does not have booked work for a few weeks, which should be ample to resolve any issues. Meanwhile, Network Rail has imposed a 5mph speed restriction over Eskmeals Viaduct until the extent of the damage can be ascertained and repaired.

West Coast's flagship operation 'The Jacobite' was also subject to a fire-risk diesel substitution for one day only over the Bank Holiday, following some minor fires. More generally, following an unusual holiday period with a distinct north-south divide with weather, the British summer has since resolved any issues by giving the entire country a good soaking, which hopefully will mean the spectre of fire risk cancellations has eased for the time being.

❖ Two ex-stable mates are in the news this week, with Tyseley confirming that its ever-reliable 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* has received a limited extension to its mainline ticket for a defined number of trips until 30th November. The extension is based on an extensive risk assessment, which was carried out and approved by the Vehicle Acceptance Board and which takes account of the work carried out on the loco in recent times. Meanwhile, ex-Tyseley resident, 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* has moved from its current base on the East Lancashire Railway to Carnforth for fitting OTMR equipment and other works to bring it up to mainline standards.

❖ There is good news from St. Leonards Depot and Hastings Diesel Limited as its DEMU No. 1001 has been scheduled for a private charter with an as yet un-named Train Operating Company on 28th June. Full details are expected soon, but it is anticipated that the 'Hastings' unit will operate as a five-car formation, including a buffet car. As part of their ongoing upgrade, Motor Coaches Nos. 60116 *Mountfield* and 60118 *Tunbridge Wells* have received both Central Door Locking (CDL) and On-board Train Monitoring & Recording (OTMR) equipment and they are again certified for mainline use. Trailer Second No. 60529 and Trailer No. 60501 have had CDL installed and await certification while ex-4BIG Buffet No. 69337 is nearing completion. Work on Motor Coach No. 60019 and Trailer No. 60528 is underway.

▼ ***Battle of Britain No. 34067 Tangmere stands in York on 29th May, the last day of its four-day session on the Scarborough Spa Express, awaiting the road to the coast.*** Fred Kerr

CRANMORE 150 - QUARRY GALA WEEKEND

SATURDAY 21ST AND SUNDAY 22ND JUNE 2008

To commemorate 150 years since the opening of the East Somerset Railway between Witham and Shepton Mallet in 1858, the current Cranmore based East Somerset Railway have got together with MendipRail and Aggregate Industries at nearby Merehead, with assistance from Pathfinder Tours, to present a celebration of railways in Mendip. On each day the format will be the same, so come and join in the fun on either day, **open at Merehead Rail Terminal from 0930 - 1730**.

ATTRACTIONS INCLUDE *(SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY ON THE DAY)*

*** Special passenger branch line shuttle trains between Westbury and Cranmore, hauled by Class 66s of various 'flavours' (hopefully four colours!) operating in 'top-and-tail' mode. One or more MendipRail Class 59s may also feature. * Frequent steam train service on the East Somerset Railway. * Continuous classic bus shuttles Cranmore - Merehead - Cranmore. * Locomotive displays - MendipRail Class 59 – Class 66s and many other diesels. * Steam locomotives, including BR Class 9F 2-10-0, Beattie Well Tank, Pannier Tank and more. * Demonstration Steam and Diesel Freight Trains, including 9F on 1,000 ton stone train! * * Driver experience on both steam and diesel power *(additional charge applies)* * Traction Engines * Model railway exhibitions * Fun rides for children * Miniature railways * Trade Stands * Steam launches and radio controlled boats at the quarry area lake * Coach Tours of Torr Quarry (Merehead) * Steam and diesel brake van rides ***

Between five and seven trains will run in each direction between Westbury and Cranmore ESR, starting around 0830 - 0900 from Westbury, and a last train from Cranmore at 1830 – 1900. There may be variations between the Saturday and Sunday operations. The journey each way will be around 45 minutes, and will give a rare opportunity to travel along the branch line from Witham (East Somerset Junction) to Cranmore.

Day ticket advance fares :

Adult £13 (£15 on the day), Junior £4 (£5 on the day)

Family (2 adult + 2 junior) £30 (£35 on the day)

advance tickets are available up to close of business on Friday 13th June, 2008

A Day ticket is valid for one return journey on the Westbury to Cranmore branch line shuttle train, plus one return journey on the East Somerset Railway, and provides complimentary entry to the attractions at Merehead Rail Terminal, including the Torr Quarry coach tours.

01453 835414 / 834477

www.pathfindertours.co.uk

Pathfinder Tours, Stag House, Gydynap Lane, Inchbrook, Woodchester, Gloucestershire, GL5 5EZ

All details subject to confirmation - all bookings subject to terms and conditions, available on request.

◀ *In the hearts and minds of enthusiasts the word 'Duchess' and 'Shap' are inexorably linked, and so it was on 24th May that once again the distinctive but urgent hollow beat of No. 6233* Duchess of Sutherland *reverberated around Shap Fell. Here it approaches the summit at speed with PMR Tours' 'Citadel Express'.*

▼ *On 31st May, Railtourer took unrebuilt 'Battle of Britain' No. 34067* Tangmere *northbound over the Settle & Carlisle line on its Skegness to Carlisle charter. The locomotive approaches Birkett Common. This is believed to be the first unrebuilt Bullied to work solo over the Settle & Carlisle since No. 34092* City of Wells.
Both: John Whitehouse

▲ *With 2,510 tons of Yorkshire Dales limestone in tow, Class 60 No. 60083* **Mountsorrel** *is seen powering a Rylstone Quarry-Leeds Hunslet service, together with its uniform rake of Tarmac-liveried JGA hoppers through the reverse curves of Cracoe, on the single-track branch between Rylstone Quarry and Skipton. The train was running 120 minutes early at this point!* **Ian Tunstall**

▼ *EWS Class 66/0 No. 66144 passes Bedlinog on the Taff Bargoed Joint Line, with the 12.50 Cwmbargoed Opencast Colliery to Aberthaw Power Station loaded coal service on 24th May.* **Phil Trotter**

▲ *An unusual sight at Fulscot, east of Didcot, as Intercity Mainline-liveried Class 31/4 No. 31454 leads a Didcot Yard - Exeter St. Davids test train in 'top and tail' mode, with BR green-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31190 on the rear.* **Geoffrey Arnold**

▼ *DRS-operated Class 37/6 No. 37605 is seen at the head of a Network Rail test train, approaching Clapham Junction, returning from London Victoria following an earlier northbound run to the capital on 29th May.* **Iain Brownston**

◀ *First Scotrail-liveried Class 156 No. 156474 stands beneath the rotunder at Oban on 25th May, as the set awaits departure time as the 12.11 service to Glasgow Queen Street.* **Jeremy Griffiths**

▼ *With it's famous crooked-spire as backdrop. East Midlands Trains' Class 158 No. 158777 departs from Chesterfield with the 19.18 to Liverpool Lime Street. This unit is a particularly good example of how privatisation and the almost constant change of franchise operators affects the railway. The basic livery (the remains of the gold 'N' are still visible above the windows) is that of Arriva Trains Northern, from which the unit passed to First TransPennine (which added a blue band under the windows) until displaced by the Class 185s. Central Trains took the unit over, replaced the blue band with solid maroon and added the while waves to the cab ends. With the end of the Central Trains' franchise and its replacement by East Midlands Trains, the set has gained EMT branding on the bodyside! Literally a life in liveries!* **Mick Glaves**

▲ *While propelling recently converted Mk2 DBSO No. 9714, Network Rail-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31105 waits for the road at Finedon Road, just north of Wellingborough station, while adjacent, Class 66/7 No. 66712* **Peterborough Power Signalbox** *is engaged on shunting duties at First GBRf's Wellingborough Up Sidings on 29th May.*

▼ *DRS Class 37/4 No. 37423 passes the rather overgrown site of the former Wellingborough Diesel Depot with Inspection Saloon No. 975025* **Caroline** *in tow, working a Wellingborough to Derby officers special on 29th May 2008.* **Both: Steve Madden**

▲ *A visitor for the Churnet Valley Railway's Diesel Gala was Class 55 'Deltic' No. D9016* **Gordon Highlander**, *seen here approaching Cheddleton on 30th May with a service from Kingsley & Froghall.* **Stuart Chapman**

▼ *Class 33/1 No. 33102 waits to depart from its origin station, with the 10.00 Kingsley & Froghall to Leekbrook Junction service during the gala weekend on 30th May.* **Richard Dunn**

▲ *GWR 5101 class Prairie No. 5164 casts a pall of smoke over Bewdley station as it departs with the 13.15 Bridgnorth to Kidderminster train on 24th May.* **David Pagett**

Prince to see reconstruction work, as Severn Valley Railway hosts Royal visit

There is further good news from the Severn Valley Railway this week as it has emerged that there is a Royal event to look forward to on 10th June with the scheduled visit of the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

The visit to the SVR is part of a day of engagements in Worcestershire, and the Royal couple will arrive at Kidderminster SVR station by car, where they will be introduced to local dignitaries and SVR staff. They will then join the Royal Train for an afternoon run along the entire length of the SVR to Bridgnorth, stopping off at Bewdley, Arley and Hampton Loade, where at each station they will be introduced to civic leaders, SVR staff and volunteers, as well as members of both the 6024 Preservation Society and Princess Elizabeth Locomotive Society whose locomotives will be in attendance for both the day of the visit, and will be operating service trains over the following weekend.

The honour of hauling the Royal Train will fall to No. 6024 *King Edward I*, which will be moving to the SVR shortly for running-in workings following its recent intermediate overhaul. As mentioned earlier, No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* will also be at Kidderminster, the need to have the visiting engines being due to the SVR not currently having an air-braked steam locomotive in its fleet.

The Royal Train itself will run ECS from Worcester to Kidderminster with two Class 67s in 'top and tail' mode. One will be detached at Kidderminster to be replaced by No. 6024 for the onward journey to Bridgnorth. At Bridgnorth it is believed that No. 6024 will give way to Class 67 traction, as the Royal Train is then booked non-stop from Bridgnorth to London.

This visit will be the icing on the cake for the SVR, which has experienced a successful resumption of services following the devastating flood damage incurred last year.

❖ A locomotive firing shovel taken from Darlington station and used for self-defence purposes 50 years ago is being returned to its rightful home, the Head of Steam, Darlington Railway Museum. An incident in the 1950s involving a number of threatening soldiers from the nearby barracks resulted in the shovel being removed from Locomotion No.1 by a young man at Bank Top Station and used for defence. The shovel was not returned after the young man got home safely and was given to a railway enthusiast friend from Devon in 1988. who is now returning it.

❖ The disused 102-year-old Victorian signal box at North Wootton was moved 160 miles from its home to Leeming Bar in North Yorkshire in September last year. The Wensleydale Railway Trust took on the transport task for its £50,000 renovation project, backed with a £22,700 Heritage Lottery grant. The project is scheduled for completion by 31st August.

❖ Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust is holding a 160th Anniversary of Shrewsbury station exhibition at the station from 17th to 30th July, open from 10.00 to 16.00 daily, admission £1. The station opened in 1848 when the Mayor and Corporation along with invited guests left for Chester at 10.50 in a huge train comprising three locomotives and 39 carriages, described by one engineer at the time as "stretching one third of a mile"! A Joint Station Committee drew up the plans for the station on a site between the Castle and the County Gaol in 1847. The Committee accepted the tender for the works from Thomas Brassey of £30,963 11s 2d. The total cost of buying the land, raising the earthworks and building was around £100,000. Robert Stephenson and Henry Robertson designed the track layout and signalling and Thomas K. Penson, an architect from Oswestry, designed the station. The resulting building was recognised as one of England's very finest examples of Victorian railway architecture. During the exhibition there will be local Railway Heritage walks, talks and film shows.

◀ ***The National Railway Museum hosted its '1968 and all that' event between 24th May - 1st June. The event had a number of visiting locomotives on show, including 'Jubilee' No. 45593* Kolhapur *and 'Castle' No. 7029* Clun Castle. *Also starring were the recently overhauled BR 'Britannia' No. 70013* Oliver Cromwell, *seen here alongside static exhibit BR 2-10-0 '9F' No. 92220* Evening Star, *in the museum's south yard on 29th May.*** **Stuart Chapman**

A Festival of Steam in the Cotswolds

▲ *During the Cotswold Festival of Steam event on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway, suitably dirtied and painted into the condition it carried in the last days of steam, BR 2-10-0 '9F' No. 92203 (minus* Black Prince *nameplates) stands at Cheltenham Racecourse on 25th May, awaiting departure with the 14.45 to Toddington.* **Jack Boskett**

▼ *GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 7903* Foremarke Hall *arrives at Winchcombe on 24th May with the 15.10 Cheltenham Racecourse to Toddington service, proudly displaying the 'Cheltenham Spa Express' headboard.* **Steve Chapman**

▲ *GWR Prairie Tank No. 5542 stands at Winchcombe staton on 24th May with the 12.00 Winchcombe - Toddington auto train service.*

▼ *Visiting 5600 Class 0-6-2T No. 5619 approaches Toddington with a demonstration freight service on 24th May. The scene will be recreated regularly in the future, when the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway succeeds in its aims of extending the railway back to the tourist haven of Broadway. For now, the freight is arriving over what is essentially an extended headshunt.* **Both: Steve Chapman**

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.

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 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 01522 705365 for furhter details.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway, London St. James Park tube station.
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 starts 19.00. £2 donation. Contact 0208 660 3532 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 details. Doors open 17.45. Meeting starts 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.

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. Doors open 7.00pm. 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 starts 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 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. Meeting commences at 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. Meeting commences at 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. Meeting commence at 19.00, Refreshments available during the evening.
A £2 donation is requested from attendees. 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. Meeting commences at 19.30, Call 01823 334188 for further details

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

3rd September 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent.
'The Southern in the South & West' by Peter Gray.
Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details.
Meeting commences at 19.30

8th September 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'NYK' by David Cross. Meeting commences 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

9th September 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny.
'An evening with Malcolm Ranieri'. Meeting commences 20.00.

▲ *Riviera Trains Class 47/4s No. 47805 Talisman and 47815 Great Western double-head a Compass Tours charter from Preston to Paignton along the sea wall at Dawlish on 17th May.* **Glen Batten**

10th September 2008
Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) 'Bernese Oberland Revisited' by Paul Russenberger. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

19th September 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton.
'Steam in the 1960s' by Alan Reeve. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

25th September 2008
Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading.
'Zimbabewe Railways' by Simon Bowden. Meeting commences at 19.30 for 19.45. A donation is requested

1st October 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent.
'20 years of mainline steam', a large format slide show by Malcolm Ranieri. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details. Meeting commences at 19.30

7th October 2008
Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh.
'The tramways of Bournemouth and Poole' by Richard Pennell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Entrance fee £2

8th October 2008
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 Martin Fisher. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

13th October 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln 'Steaming around in 2006/2007' by Alex Hurd. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

14th October 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny.
'Men of the Mechanicals' (Lickey Incline Memories) by Neville Billington. Meeting commences at 20.00.

17th October 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'India by Rail - a Family Evening' by Peter Tickner. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

23rd October 2008
Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. 'Mid-Hants Railway signalling' by Mike Ball. Meeting commences at 19.30.

5th November 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent.
'Railways in the Peak District' by Les Nixon. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details. Meeting commences at 19.30

7th November 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Rockwell Green School, Brooklands Road, Rockwell Green, Wellington. Somerset. TA21 9DJ.
'Trains in the Countryside' by Peter Triggs. Starts 19.30, Contact 01823 334188 for details.

10th November 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln AGM & Photo Competition. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365.

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.

11th November 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'European Steam' by Colin Bradling. Meeting commences at 20.00.

12th November 2008
Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) Light Rail Transit Association archive slides of Switzerland by Roger Jones, LRTA. Meeting commence at 19.00, Refreshments available during the evening. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

Freightliner
66536