The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

LMS 'Black 5' No. 45407 approaches Bromley Cross station, near Bolton, on 14th June on the 'Cotton Mill Express'. **Mike Lynam**

Rear Cover

EWS Class 67 No. 67007 powers the Inverness sleeper past Forgandenny station, now a private house, on 21st June **John Bushell**

Publication

The Railway Herald is published every Monday 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

LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEW

'Royal Duchy' postponed until September

The Royal Duchy on 28th June, which was due to be hauled by GWR 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* and BR Standard 8P No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* from Penzance to Bristol Temple Meads has been postponed until 30th September, due to unavailability of 6024 and recent problems of 71000.

Proposed motive power for the 30th September is confirmed as 6024 *King Edward I*, which may yet, potentially, be joined by No 5029 *Nunney Castle*.

As *Railway Herald* closed for press the Railway Touring Company announced that its 'Welsh Mountaineer' from Manchester to Blaenau Ffestiniog booked for 12th July has had to be cancelled. The train was due to feature rare steam action along the Conwy Valley line with Nos. 45407 & 76079 from Manchester, but has been lost due, it is said, to EWS not submitting the paperwork to Network Rail within the specified time limit. The train is reported as being 'nearly full'.

Gresley 'Quad-Art' set paired with N7

▲ ***On 19th June, the North Norfolk Railway held a special event for contributors to the Quad Art restoration fund and ran the recently restored set behind the LNER N7 0-6-2T No. 69621. Here, the train, complete with the locomotive carrying a suitable destination board, approaches the end of the line at Holt.*** **Steve Allen**

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▲ *Freightliner Heavy Haul Class 66/5 No. 66564 hauls a ballast train past Blea Moor after leaving Ribblehead Viaduct on 16th June. Network Rail is to completely close the Settle & Carlisle line from 7th to 21st July, while old jointed track is replaced with continuously welded rail at Aisgill, Grisedale, Dent and Stainforth, and there will also be earthworks in the Blea Moor area. Train services will be replaced by buses, except at Dent where they are unable to call. While the line is closed, Network Rail will also press on with its £18 million project to install additional signals along the route. This is aimed at reducing the time interval between trains following each other over a section of track, which in turn will considerably improve the punctuality of both freight and passenger services and will also increase the capacity of the line, which is needed as an integral part of the new timetable on the West Coast Main Line that starts in December.* **Trevor Jones**

Plans announced for 4CIG to return to the mainline

▲ *One of the 4CIG units that will move to Eastleigh for assessment shortly, No. 1304, stands in the sidings as Class 450 No. 450013 passes on the approach to Weymouth from Waterloo on 11th January 2004.* **Brian Morrison**

Knights Rail Services Ltd has announced an agreement to purchase the remaining EMU vehicles in store at MOD Shoeburyness, with the express intention of returning a Southern Region slam-door EMU to the mainline.

The four-car CIG unit No.1881 is considered to be in excellent condition and will be reinstated for occasional mainline use by the technical teams at Eastleigh Works, which was re-opened by Knights Rail last year and has a growing rail business once again. The site retains its electrified third-rail system in active use and has the heavy engineering workshops necessary to maintain the trains.

The 4CIG is to be renovated as a commercial venture designed to showcase the capabilities and expertise of KRS and Eastleigh Works, and will also be used to provide training for engineers and technicians learning about electric traction systems. No. 1881, together with other purchased EMUs, Class 421/5 4CIG No. 1304, and a hybrid made up of Class 423 4VEP No. 3536 and another 4CIG No.1884, will be moved to Eastleigh in July for assessment.

The complete four-car CIG is to be recommissioned into mainline running status over the next six months, initially for use in multiple with Class 73s but later for use on its own. The issues concerning fitment of OTMR and secondary door locking are under investigation. It is hoped that some or all of the vehicles will feature in a celebration of the Eastleigh Works centenary in 2009.

Knights Rail Services is a £2 million turnover privately-owned railway services business formed in 2001. It operates its train decontamination and asbestos removal business from Shoeburyness, Essex, and leases Eastleigh Works for railway rolling stock activities.

❖ The Skipton-East Lancashire Rail Action Partnership (SELRAP) campaign to re-open the Skipton-Colne line continues apace, although the business of re-opening a railway has been likened to pushing a boulder uphill! It is nearly 40 years since Beeching closed the line, but following publication of the highly acclaimed JMP study into the business case for the route, the Partnership is pursuing an action plan aimed at all levels of Government, the rail industry, and more.

❖ National Express East Anglia has started an upgrade to Seven Kings station and to date has completed the refurbishment and re-decoration of the footbridge, including the fitment of new window panels, creating a brighter and more pleasant environment for passengers, and has new floral displays in hanging baskets in place to create a more welcoming station environment. In addition security personnel, on a trial basis, patrol the station seven days a week and there is now a more robust cleaning and litter collecting schedule.

❖ South West Trains is laying on extra trains and strengthening existing services for passengers to go to and from the Farnborough Airshow from Waterloo. The show takes place between 14th and 20th July and is open to the public on 19th and 20th July, and this year celebrates the 60th anniversary of Farnborough Airfield plus 100 years of powered flight in the UK. The Airshow is within easy reach of three train stations – Farnborough Main, North Camp and Aldershot – and there will be a free shuttle bus service from these stations direct to the Airfield. On 19th July, four extra morning services will call additionally at Farnborough, and there will also be extra carriages on 55 services. On 20th July, there will be 37 trains making additional stops at Farnborough and there will be additional carriages on 16 services.

❖ First GBRf has completed a five-year contract of moving desulphurised gypsum from a number of locations, including West Burton power station the company has signed a second five-year agreement with British Gypsum. Understanding the need for flexibility in sourcing raw materials from a number of different locations, GBRf has agreed a unique open book arrangement, that offers the capacity for three trains a day to be run on an emerging cost basis. This will give British Gypsum the ability to switch transportation from different sites, including mines, power stations and a number of ports quickly and means that 80% of all gypsum delivered is now made by rail.

Potential for more high-speed lines in the UK

The Birmingham Post has reported that Birmingham is leading the race to build Britain's second high-speed rail line, with an £11 billion plan to run 180mph services to St Pancras International.

The newspaper speculates that the new route would probably start from Moor Street station and would link to the Channel Tunnel, enabling passengers to travel from Birmingham to Paris, Brussels and Amsterdam in three hours, and would offer express services to London and Heathrow in less than 50 minutes. It goes on to say that the project depends entirely upon Government approval and is being championed by Birmingham City Council leaders, who believe that the economic benefit to Birmingham and the West Midlands could amount to billions of pounds.

Research by council officials suggests that it would be relatively easy to lay new track next to the Chiltern Line from Moor Street to London via Warwick Parkway. A separate spur line to Birmingham International Airport is also planned. The scheme apparently received enthusiastic backing at a seminar in Birmingham by the Railway Forum, attended by representatives from Eurostar, Network Rail, and Bechtel, one of the companies responsible for building High-speed 1 into St Pancras International.

City Council chief executive Stephen Hughes said: "The West Midlands Rail Capacity Study has shown the critically important West Coast Main Line runs out of capacity within 20 years. It is vital we start planning for high-speed rail services linking London and the continent with Birmingham International and the city centre".

The idea is reported to have received lukewarm support from business organisations, however, which questioned the economic benefits.

In addition to the high-speed line from Birmingham, Network Rail is also to study the feasibility of another four such routes to run alongside existing main lines on the East Coast and West Coast, the Midland and the Great Western. It is estimated that existing paths will become full to capacity in the not too distant future and that urgent forward planning is necessary. Should everything go ahead, it will be Britain's biggest track-building project since the 19h century. In 2007, the highest number of passengers travelled by train since 1946, and numbers are predicted to grow at 30% over the next decade.

EMT announces Class 158 fleet refurbishment

East Midlands Trains has announced plans for the full refurbishment of its Class 158 fleet starting in August, using local Derby-based company DeltaRail.

The multi million pound refurbishment programme, which will be carried out over the next 20 months, will have all 25 of the DMUs repainted into the new East Midlands Trains (EMT) livery with internal work involving improvements to seating design and capacity in addition to a new toilet area, as well as improved air conditioning, CCTV, and a passenger counting device – an innovative piece of technology that allows passenger flows to be monitored, a first for EMT.

This work is part of the £90 million investment commitment during the life of the EMT franchise for making improvements in areas that impact directly on performance, reliability and customer service, such as an upgrade to Derby train maintenance depot, investment in stations, additional customer help points, refurbished waiting areas, improved lighting and facilities and the introduction of a new joint control centre in Derby with Network Rail to better improve communications. Also the new East Midlands Parkway station, now under construction, will be opened.

First National Express Class 91 released

▲ *Class 91 No. 91111 heads north through Sandy in failing light on 18th June, displaying its new National Express grey and white colour scheme. The advantage for photographers is that the '91s' carry the last two digits of their vehicle number above the buffers on the secondman's side.* **Alastair Wood**

Lymington Pier branch celebrates 120 years of operation

The Lymington Pier branch is to have a birthday party on 12th July to celebrate its first 150 years.

A variety of entertainment is being planned for Brockenhurst and Lymington Town stations between 14.00 & 17.00 on the day, including a bouncy castle, Punch and Judy shows, stilt walkers, face painters, Morris dancers, balloon modellers and a magician! There will also be tea and cakes available at Brockenhurst station, and cream teas at Lymington.

Local schools are playing a role in the celebrations with pupils drawing pictures of the railway from the past and present. The drawings will be judged and two schools will each win £200 of art vouchers with each winning pupil receiving an art kit.

South West Trains' employees will be joining in the party spirit by donning old-fashioned costumes and displaying historical photographs and memorabilia of the line, which first opened on 12th July 1858. To encourage local people to try the railway for the first time, return tickets on the branch services will cost just 20p, a slight increase on the 1s 6d First Class fare when the line opened.

The proceeds of the commemorative 20p tickets sold that afternoon will go towards funding future events organised by the Lymington-Brockenhurst Community Rail Partnership.

200 sites of nature conservation identified on LUL network

Some 200 sites on the London Underground Ltd (LUL) network have been identified as 'Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation' by many of London's borough councils.

LUL has an Environment Manager, Marian Kelly, who says: "At London Underground we are aware of the valuable resource that our land offers to London and we take this responsibility very seriously. 'The rich diversity that our overground trackside land offers creates a haven for many of London's plants and animals, which is why by working closely with Metronet and Tube Lines, we are able to ensure that this important wildlife habitat is protected for the benefit of all Londoners".

Passengers travelling on LUL between Wembley Park and Kingsbury in recent months may have noticed some unusual looking boxes springing up on the trackside near Fryent Country Park. These provide homes for solitary bees, and are just one example of a wide variety of biodiversity protection projects that are being carried out beside the lines. Although the Tube is commonly associated with underground tunnels, more than half of the rail network is above ground. The 4,000 hectares of land that surround the tracks act as a safe haven for a huge variety of the Capital's wildlife, including bats,

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Ash Vale bridge replacement

◀ *A project at Ash Vale that commenced at the beginning of the year involves the replacement of the existing, very old steel girder bridge over the Basingstoke Canal with a large reinforced concrete box culvert containing both the canal and the towpath, the culvert is to be built beneath the existing bridge without impacting on train services. Under an agreed programme, the old railway bridge was to be lifted out and track reinstated on ballast over the new bridge during one weekend but Network Rail was not convinced that the contractors involved would achieve the planned programme dates, and the track possession has been 'given away' for some permanent way renewal work elsewhere on the Alton Line. It is now thought that the canal will be re-opened without the old bridge being removed until towards the end of the year or even the middle of 2009. This means that the contractors have to de-mobilise the site on completion of the canal works and will then have to re-mobilise site accommodation and staff facilities when new dates for the removal of the existing bridge are agreed! Here, work is underway on the bridge over Basinstoke Canal on 22nd June during a possession. The new culvert can be seen behind the temporary road bridge. The canal is dammed either side of the work but will be re-opened without the old bridge being removed.* **Chris Wilson**

First Gatwick Express service runs under Southern stewardship

Southern ran its first Gatwick Express service on 22nd June, leaving London Victoria at 03.30 and bound for Gatwick Airport. The service now comes under Southern's stewardship as part of the outcome of the Department for Transport's Brighton Main Line Route Utilisation Strategy.

Although this is a new chapter in the Gatwick Express story, it is very much 'business as usual' for the time being, although one change is new ticket machines for London Victoria and Gatwick stations to make it easier for passengers to buy tickets.

The first major step for the service will come in December, when Southern's commitment to deliver extended Gatwick Express services to Brighton in the morning and evening peaks will come into force. There will be newly re-fitted Class 442 EMUs to support the new extended services and these will help to provide 2,000 additional seats to and from London on what is one of the Network's most congested routes.

Needham Market makeover

National Express East Anglia has redecorated Needham Market station 'in-house' by using its own rural buildings team.

The work required careful attention to the architectural details on the decorative Victorian iron work of the canopy columns, in addition to work on the fencing, windows and doors, together with extensive redecoration of the passenger subway and steps to improve the lighting levels in the subway. The redecoration programme has rejuvenated the station and made it a brighter and more pleasant place.

Thunderbirds are go .... for Freightliner Intermodal

▼ *Virgin's Class 57/3 No. 57307* **Lady Penelope** *came to the rescue of Freightliner Class 90 No. 90047 when it failed while working a northbound intermodal service from Felixstowe. Here, the pairing passes Slindon, on the West Coast Main Line, on 6th June.* **Phillip Moore**

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.

		25th June
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Highland Tour-Day 3:** Dundee-Edinburgh
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 1:** Edinburgh-Dundee-Aberdeen-Keith
		26th June
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 2:** Keith- Inverness-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh
Stobart Rail Tours	2xDRS 47	London Finsbury Park-Cambridge-Ely-Thetford-Norwich-Great Yarmouth-Norwich-Diss-Ipswich & return
		27th June
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 3:** Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
		28th June
KWVR	30777/WC 37	Keighley-Skipton-Settle Junection (& return) (3 return trips)
KWVR	30777/WC 37	Keighley-Skipton-Settle Junection-Blea Moor (& return)
Compass Tours	2xRiviera 47	Hooton-Ellesmere Port-Helsby-Frodsham-Warrington Bank Quay-Wigan North Western- Preston-Shap-Carlisle-Beattock-Mossend-Pitlochry-Kingussie (break/rev) and return **Cancelled**
Kingfisher Railtours	6201	(Nottingham-Leicester-Birmingham New St-Shrewsbury (rev))-Hereford-Abergavenny-Bristol TM & return **Cancelled**
Past Time Rail	2xEWS 67	Ashford International-Kings Lynn & return **Cancelled**
Pathfinder Tours	55022	Birmingham International-Birmingham New St-Stourbridge Jct-Kidderminster-Worcester Shrub Hill-Cheltenham Spa-Cam & Dursley-Bristol Parkway-Bristol TM- Truro-Penzance and return
Railway Touring Company	71000	(London Paddington-Ealing Broadway-Slough-Reading-Newbury-Westbury-Exeter SD-Plymouth-Penzance-Plymouth-Westbury-(& return to London) **Postponed**
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 4:** Boat of Garten-Perth-Dundee
SRPS	EWS Class 67	Linlithgow-Edinburgh Waverley-Berwick upon Tweed-Alnmouth-Durham- York-Chester (break/rev) and return **Cancelled**
Stobart Rail Tours	2xDRS 47	London KX-Stevenage- Doncaster-Leeds-Shipley-Keighley & return
		29th June
KWVR	30777/WC 37	Keighley-Skipton-Settle Junection (& return) (3 return trips)
Kingfisher Railtours	45407	Stockport-Sheffield-Barnsley-Swinton-Keighley (break/rev) and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Classic Tour-Day 5:** Dundee-North Queensferry-Edinburgh
		1st July
Vintage Trains	9466	Shirley- Stratford upon Avon (break/rev)- Shirley
		2nd July
Kingfisher Railtours	WCRC	Skipton-Hellifield-Settle (pu)- Appleby-Carlisle (break/rev) & return
		3rd July
Steam Dreams	60007	London Victoria- Bath-Bristol and return
		4th July
Railway Touring Company	2xEWS 37	**The Summer Highlander:** Swindon-Inverness **Cancelled**
Royal Scotsman	2x WCRC 47	**Western Day 1:** Edinburgh- Spean Bridge
		5th July
Compass Tours	2xRiveria 47	Stafford-Wellington-Shrewsbury-Workington-Carlisle-S&C-Stafford
Kingfisher Railtours	6201	(Bedford-Loughborough-Chesterfield-)Carnforth-Shap-Carlisle (break/rev)-Carlisle-S&C-Hellifield-(Hellifield & return)
NENTA Traintours	2xCR Cl47	Norwich-Stowmarket-Ely-March-Peterborough-Preston-Oxenholme-Carlisle (break/rev) & return
Pathfinder Tours	EWS Class 66	West Ruislip-Carlisle **Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	2xEWS 37	**The Summer Highlander:** Inverness-Kyle **Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	71000	(Worcester Shrub Hill)-Crewe-Holyhead **Cancelled**
Royal Scotsman	2x WCRC 47	**Western Day 2:** Spean Bridge-Bridge of Orchy
Steam Dreams	60007 & 60009	**The Coronation:** Day 1 London King's Cross- via ECML - York (60007) York- via ECML - Edinburgh (60009)
		6th July
Past Time Rail	tbc	**The Torbay Express** : Bristol TM-Paignton-Kingswear and return
Railway Touring Company	2xEWS 37	**The Summer Highlander:** Inverness-Far North **Cancelled**
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	**Western Day 1:** Bridge of Orchy-Wemyss Bay

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
22-28 Jun	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
23-26 Jun	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
28 Jun	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
29 Jun-5 Jul	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
30 Jun-5 Jul	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
6-12 Jul	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
7-12 Jul	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
14-19 Jul	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool

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

The Week Ahead

The mainline scene this coming weekend is, ironically, dominated by a heritage railway event. It is, of course, the 40th Anniversary gala of the Keighley & Worth Valley Railway, which is scheduled to take place between 27th-29th June.

In addition to the multiplicity of events happening on the line itself, there will mainline activity associated with the gala with three shuttle services operating on both 28th/29th June from Keighley and Skipton to Hellifield and Settle Junction, which will feature 'King Arthur' 4-6-0 No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel* 'topping and tailing' with a West Coast Railway Company diesel, hopefully a Class 37. Additionally, on Saturday evening there will be an additional working from Keighley to Blea Moor and return, again with Sir Lamiel and a WCRC diesel in 'top and tail' mode. For more details of these services go to http://www.kwvr.co.uk/events which has the full working timetable for all three days (including the mainline shuttles).

Also on 28th June, Stobart Rail will be arriving around mid-day with a Pullman working from London King's Cross hauled by a pair of DRS Class 47s, while next day Kingfisher will be operating a steam special to Keighley from Stockport with 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407, which is booked to run via the Hope Valley, Sheffield, Meadowhall, Barnsley, Wakefield Kirkgate and Shipley.

Maybe because of the Keighley Gala, steam on the mainline elsewhere is a bit thin on the ground, with the only other booked working being the Railway Touring Company's 'Royal Duchy', which was to bring Nos. 6024 *King Edward I* & 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* back from Penzance to Bristol. With the 'King' already out of the frame, and a big question mark over the availability of No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* the future of this train was probably in the balance. Railway Herald can now confirm that this train has been postponed until 13th September (see late news).

Also due into Penzance on 28th June is 'Deltic' No. 55022 *Royal Scots Grey* at the head of a Pathfinder excursion from Birmingham International, on which the loco is booked throughout.

Enhanced Railtours section online

Want the latest details and information on Railtour workings? Want to know when a specific locomotive is operating? Check out our improved online Railtour section, as part of our new website.

Also, our railtour pages now link into the popular *Railway Herald* Imaging Centre, which contains a dedicated link to pictures of the recent charter operations across the country, providing plenty of variety for photographers and readers alike! Click here to visit now!

Tour listing notes

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
BLUE Provisional excursion
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

Useful Weblinks

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

Scots Guardsman back on the main line

▲ *LMS 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 6115* **Scots Guardsman** *returned to the mainline on 20th June, working a 'light engine' test run from Carnforth to Hellifield. The locomotive, which has yet to be painted, is believed to have encountered an issue of some kind en-route, as it is reported to have been late on arrival at Hellifield and 145 minutes late back at Carnforth. A WCRC spokesman said that the locomotive ran well with no problems. Here, No. 6115 is pictured with support coach in tow near Borwick on its outward run.* **Don Burgess**

▼ *With unique-liveried Class 47/4 No. 47832 leading, the Stobart Pullman descends into Bracknell destined for the racing at Ascot on 19th June, complete with a lady driver for Ladies Day!* **Iain Brownston**

Oliver Cromwell update

Following its visit to the '1968 and all that' event at the NRM, 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is now back at the Great Central Railway for completion of a few outstanding tasks, including the final lining-out.

The process of running-in continues prior to its transfer to Carnforth for a light and loaded mainline test run ahead of the loco's first mainline outing from London Liverpool Street to Norwich and back for Steam Dreams on 24th July. This trip is fully booked, and Steam Dreams has now confirmed that its provisional 'reserve train' on 20th September, on the same route, is now confirmed and also filling fast.

Also selling well is the re-positioning train booked for 26th July. Entitled 'The Palatine', from London Victoria to Manchester Victoria via the Midland mainline to Leicester, Derby and the Hope Valley. Rare steam mileage, and an even rarer opportunity to travel the route with a 'Britannia'.

Problems hit *Duke of Gloucester*

Problems for the Railway Touring Company's 'The Cornishman' from Birmingham International to Penzance on 21st June commenced two days prior to departure, when 'King' 4-6-0 No. 6024 *King Edward I* was withdrawn from the train due to a problem with a tender axle box, where a small part of the casting had broken away.

Whether this was connected to the problem encountered during the positioning move from Didcot to Kidderminster ahead of hauling the Royal Train awaits confirmation. Reported as currently only being safe to operate on a heritage line, it has been necessary to pull out of mainline work until the problem can be sorted out at Bridgnorth, which means missing the two Cornish runs for RTC. It is anticipated that the loco will be available for the first 'Torbay Express' of the season on 6th July.

The problem with No. 6024 left No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* to work the train single-handed on the day, only for it, too, to come to grief at Newton Abbot. A broken lever on the cam follower, which jammed the reverser, has been identified as the problem and the bits have been removed. No. 71000 was taken to the Paignton & Dartmouth Railway, where it will be turned and was scheduled to return to Bristol on 22nd June. Currently it is not known whether the loco will be available for the return run from Penzance on 28th June. The train itself continued some two hours late with Class 67 No. 67020 and is believed to have been terminated at Truro.

Rail-Blue Charters

Hope Valley Luncheon

August 9th and October 11th

The Hope Valley 'Executive' Circulars are a succinct number of lunchtime special trains that offer an easy meander through the Pennines, the idea being to take it thoroughly easy and let us tempt you with a wonderful four-course lunch.

The routes the trains take have also been chosen to allow you to sample not only the food in unique surroundings, but the contrasts that only a moving train can offer.

Each train departs Crewe (dep. 11.00) and calls at Warrington Bank Quay (dep. 11.30), Earlestown (dep. 11.45) and Manchester Victoria (dep. 12.30). The train then heads via the spectacular Hope Valley Southern Pennine route to Sheffield where we have a leg-stretch break. The train turns to head north towards the Leeds conurbation before heading west over the Northern Pennine route via Huddersfield back into Manchester Victoria to set down. We then retrace our steps back to Crewe (arr. 17.30).

£99 per person

All timings are provisional and will be confirmed 10 days prior to travel

Bruncheon Executive

September 20th and November 22nd

This charter offers a different experience altogether. What makes this a bit special is that we serve you an extremely novel brunch on the way to York. On the return, we serve you a very quintessential Afternoon Tea which will help you to round off yet another easy day.

York can offer a mixture of things to do. You might want to amble over to the National Railway Museum - just over the footbridge. You could wander into the city centre and stroll round the narrow streets known as the Shambles with its mix of interesting shops and cafes.

Leaving Crewe around 09.30, the train calls at Warrington Bank Quay, Earlestown and Manchester Victoria. Then the train turns north through Littleborough and Hebden Bridge before dropping down through Brighouse and Leeds to York for an approximate two-hour break. The train will then return via Sheffield and the beautiful Hope Valley route before heading back to Crewe, arrival around 19.00.

£99 per person

All timings are provisional and will be confirmed 10 days prior to travel

To book your seats call 0161 850 0559 now

Bristol, Minehead & West Somerset Railway

October 18th - Fare details to be confirmed

Join us for a jaunt down to Devon and a meander along the beautifully picturesque West Somerset Railway.

This picture postcard railway boasts immaculate stations, wonderful scenery and adds to the whole day out by emphasising what an easy day it will be.

Our train departs from Manchester Piccadilly and pick up at Stockport, Wilmslow, Crewe and Shrewsbury before heading down through the Welsh Borders along the Welsh Marches route via Ludlow and Hereford to Newport. Then the train passes under the Severn Estuary through the longest tunnel on the mainland rail network, the Severn Tunnel. Calling at Bristol Temple Meads for those who wish to alight here, we carry on to Taunton and onto the West Somerset Railway to our destination, Minehead.

Full details are still to be announced for this trip, including details of fares and proposed timings, however, the charter will offer Standard, First and Premier dining options.

Rail-Blue Charters

For further details please visit our website or for enquiries and to book, call **0161 850 0559** now

www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list

"We will never cancel a charter because of lack of bookings" says UK Railtours

John Farrow, who founded Hertfordshire Railtours in 1978 and now runs UK Railtours, has issued a statement promising that UK Railtours will never cancel a tour due to lack of bookings.

He says: "There is no doubt in my mind that the massive increase in the number of charter trains being cancelled at very late notice through shortage of bookings is having a devastating effect upon customer confidence. Some tour companies are much more to blame than others of course. But the effects of one tour company cancelling almost as many tours as it runs is having a hugely detrimental knock-on effect to us all. Something has to be done, and done now, before it is too late and there is no business left. Most of the enthusiast fraternity are well informed and have a pretty clear idea which tour companies they can depend upon and which they cannot, but the same cannot be said of the much wider general public sector. If somebody with no particular commitment to railways books their very first excursion train several months in advance, maybe for an anniversary or other special occasion, then gets told 10 days beforehand, "sorry, not enough passengers, we're cancelling", it is a fair chance they won't give charter trains a second look - and in a world where so many things compete for people's valuable time and money, who can blame them?

Somebody has got to take a deep breath and say, I'm going to be the first railtour operator to state, loud and clear, that I will never cancel a trip through lack of bookings. It is a big commercial risk, but I'm going for it, and that promise starts today!"

Motive power and lack of interest cause cancellations of charter services

In the wake of John Farrow's remarks about cancellations (see above), we do have to report a growing number of such happenings across the whole spectrum of tours and tour operators.

On the weekend just gone, Compass Rail and the SRPS have cancelled trips to Kingussie and Chester respectively quoting 'engineering' and 'operational' reasons. Also Kingfisher's 'Welsh Marches Express' with No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* is understood to have been postponed, again due to operational issues. Pathfinder has encountered a few difficulties with traction problems seeing off two tours, its Settle & Carlisle on 5th July (Network rail Class 97/3s not available) and 9th August to Edinburgh (cannot guarantee a pair of Class 50s) while the 'Trains, Boats & Planes' to Eastleigh on 19th July is an acknowledged poor seller. Meanwhile, the Railway Touring Company has also pulled the plug on its 'North Wales Coast Express' from Crewe to Holyhead with No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* on 5th July, again for lack of interest. This is, perhaps, of concern in view of the RTC's programme of weekly trains between Liverpool and Holyhead in August. The company's 'Summer Highlander' weekend land cruise to Scotland was also pulled some weeks ago, again presumably for lack of interest, which is unusual as these trains tend to book quite well. It will be interesting to see how Stobart Rail fares with its 'Highland Waverley' in July.

A quick look at any railtour listing will reveal that there are a lot of tours being promoted, especially in the forthcoming two months when many 'regular itinerary' workings commence aimed at the peak holiday season. It also has to be said that in the main these have a reasonable geographical spread and are aimed at the local tourist market and so, in the main, do not reeally compete for the same potential customers.

However, it must also be remembered that we are passing from a period of economic prosperity to one of possible recession, where family budgets are going to be put under pressure to make ends meet. Some operators have already informally hinted that they believe this process is already beginning to bite, which does raise concerns for the future. The next few months could well be interesting.

In the meantime we must congratulate John Farrow in taking his bold step, because the railtour market is mainly populated by the general public, not enthusiasts, and any loss of confidence could well have profound consequences on the industry.

Summer of Compass

Compass Tours has announced several new trains booked to operate between early July and early September.

The Cumbrian Coast features strongly with tours on 5th July from Stafford and Shrewsbury, 2nd August from Stafford and Stoke-on-Trent (with No. 40145 *East Lancashire Railway*) both of which return via the S&C, and on 9th August from Crewe and Warrington Bank Quay, which continues via the Tyne Valley and the Durham Coast. Edinburgh is the destination on 19th July from Lichfield City and Sutton Coldfield, which operates via the WCML, while on 6th September the tour from Congleton takes the S&C route.

Also operating is a Holyhead to Carlisle via the S&C on 23rd August, and to Kidderminster (for the Severn Valley Railway) on 25th August from Carlisle. There is an option to stay aboard after Kidderminster for an additional tour via Worcester, Gloucester, Stoke Gifford and the Avonmouth branch to Bristol Temple Meads. Check our railtour listings for full details of the pick-up points. Unless otherwise stated, traction will be a pair of Class 47s.

One casualty is the 28th June working from Hooton to Kingussie.

▼ LMS Stanier 'Black 5' No. 45407 powers through Mossley on 14th June, with 'The Cotton Mills Express' railtour from Manchester Victoria to Blackburn. **Jonathan Stevenson**

▲ *The 14.34 Eurostar from St Pancras International to Brussels Midi passes under the A13 Dagenham by-pass viaduct at Dagenham Dock on 14th June, led by powercar No 3207. The c2c station platforms alongside can just be seen behind the bushes. The lines in the foreground are used for the Dagenham freight terminal where Ford cars are transported away on Cartics by Freightliner, the Ford 'Blue Train' for components emanates, and sand in box wagons is taken to Bow and Acton yard by EWS.*

▼ *The 15.13 Eurostar from Paris Midi to St Pancras International has emerged from the Thames Tunnel at West Thurrock and has passed beneath the M25 near the Queen Elizabeth Bridge. The train, led by powercar No 3005, now traverses the short stretch of overground line through Essex before entering the London Tunnel at Dagenham to the St Pancras terminus.* **Both: Brian Morrison**

▲ *The pairing of Class 37/4 No. 37401 and 37417* **Richard Trevithick** *was in evidence on 14th June when they were used on Pathfinder Tours' trip from Cardiff to Ravenglass. No. 37401 leads classmate No. 37417 on the Cardiff - Ravenglass leg passed the soon to be demolished, iconic Goodyear tyre factory chimney at Bushbury Junction, Wolverhampton, on 14th June.* **Gary Sparks**

▼ *The pair were also caught at Euxton, near their home base of Warrington Arpley, on the return journey as they made steady progress up the slow lines to allow a southbound Pendelino service to overtake the train.* **Fred Kerr**

▲ *Specially diagrammed to position the locomotive at Westbury, in preparation for a move to Merehead for the Cranmore 150 celebrations, DB Schenker/ Army-liveried Class 60 No. 60040* The Territorial Army Centenary *departs from Newport Alexandra Dock Junction on 19th June with a ballast working to Westbury.*

▼ *The other special liveried Class 60 No. 60074* Teenage Spirit *approaches Severn Tunnel Junction working on 23rd June while working the Robeston-Westerleigh petroleum tanks.* **Both: Gary Sparks**

▲ *Looking respendent in the new Compass livery Class 37/4 No. 37423 passes Euxton where it makes a delightful contrast with the red of the WCRC stock it has collected from Carnforth to take to Crewe on 20th June ready for the following day's railtour to Paignton behind a pair of DRS Class 37s.* **Fred Kerr**

▼ *Class 37/6 No. 37606 and Class 37/4 No. 37423 thrashes through Cloddymoore on 21st June departing Cheltenham, with many people hanging out of the windows destined for Paignton!* **Jack Boskett**

East Somerset Railway 150 ANNIVERSARY

To commemorate 150 years since the opening in 1858 of the East Somerset Railway between Witham and Shepton Mallet, the current East Somerset Railway joined with MendipRail and Aggregate Industries at nearby Merehead, with assistance from Pathfinder Tours, to present a celebration of railways in Mendip.

Several operators joined the celebration, including Mendip Rail, EWS, First GBRf and Freightliner, the latter company providing Aggregate Industries-liveried Class 66/6 No. 66623. Also present was the recently unveiled Army-liveried Class 60 No. 60040 *The Territorial Army Centenary.*

The event centered around Merehead Quarry and the heritage East Somerset Railway at Cranmore, which provided a steam-hauled passenger service. One of the highlights being the double-heading of BR 9F 2-10-0 No. 92203 *Black Prince* and USATC 'S160' 2-8-0 No. 5197 on a fully loaded 1,000 ton stone train!

▲ ***An almost total GM-design line-up! From left to right, are First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66731, Hanson Aggregates-liveried Class 59/1s Nos. 59104* Village of Great Elm *and 59103* Village of Mells, *EWS Class 59/2 No. 59203* Vale of Pickering *and Class 60 No. 60040* The Territorial Army Centenary.**

◀▲ ***First GBRf's Class 73/2 No. 73209* Alison *joines Class 59/1 No. 59102* Village of Chantry, *Freightliner Class 66/6 No. 66623 and First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66731.* Both: Brian Garrett**

◀ ***EWS Class 59/2 No. 59203* Vale of Pickering *stands at Merehead depot on 22nd June in company with Class 60 No. 60040* The Territorial Army Centenary. Stuart Chapman**

▲ *EWS Class 66/0 No. 66200* **Railway Heritage Commitee** *with Class 59/1 No. 59102* **Village of Chantry** *on the rear climbs up to Wanstrow on the Merehead Branch with 15.25 Westbury-Cranmore shuttle serving the open day at Merehead Quarry on 23rd June.* **Tom Curtis**

▼ *BR Standard 9F 2-10-0 No. 92203* **Black Prince** *and USATC 'S160' 2-8-0 No. 5197 double-head a loaded stone train at Merehead Rail Terminal during the Cranmore 150 Gala celebrations on 22nd June.* **Stuart Chapman**

▲ *Both carrying Railfreight Grey colour scheme, Class 37/9s Nos. 37901* Mirrlees Pioneer *and 37906 were both on display at Merehead.* **Mike Bullock**

▼ *The smaller steam locomotives were also well represented, as seen in this view of GWR 0-6-0ST No. 813, Southern Railway 'Beattie' 2-4-0WT 30587 and industrial 0-4-0ST No. 1719* Lady Nan *at Merehead Rail Terminal.* **Stuart Chapman**

Timetable and loco roster **now** *available from the GWR website*

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway

Summer Diesel Gala

Friday 4th to Sunday 6th July

Featuring D8137, 24081, 37215, 37324, 47105, 73129 ***PLUS VISITING*** Class 31 5580 AND 47701! *(All locos subject to availability!)*

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Locomaster Profiles in association with First GBRf *present...*

NEW

HARBOUR LIGHTS

73 204 + 73 205 + 73 209 Hoo Junction-Folkestone Harbour

£19.95 (Post free)

On Saturday 12th April 2008, GB Railfreight sent three of their Class 73 locomotives on a light engine run across Kent from Hoo Junction to Folkestone Harbour. Their novel, eye-catching outing was to help raise money for the Railway Benefit Fund charity through the production of this exclusive cab-ride DVD of the trip to the little-used branch on the Kent coast. You can now re-live this fascinating trip around Kent as seen from the footplate of the Class 73s from the comfort of your favourite armchair.

The journey begins on the Thames estuary at Hoo Junction as the ED's set off on the outward route via Higham, Rochester, Chatham and Sittingbourne to Faversham. From there they continue past the surviving semaphore signals at Canterbury East and Shepherd's Well before passing non-stop through Dover Priory station. After a scenic run along the coast under the famous white cliffs of Dover, the Class 73s enter Folkestone East sidings where they access the Folkestone Harbour branch. A large crowd greets the arrival of the very first GBRf locomotives to reach the terminus. To mark the occasion, the ED's depart in suitable style, horns blaring as they set off a series of detonators as they climb the steeply-graded branch on their diesel engines. The Class 73s return back to Faversham via a different route. From Dover, the locos are back on diesel power again from Buckland Junction for the stiff climb up Guston Bank to Martin Mill. From there the journey continues past the semaphore signals at Deal and Betteshanger before passing through Ramsgate, Margate and Whitstable. At Faversham the locos re-trace the outward leg of their journey for the remainder of the run back to Hoo Junction.

Superb views of the Kent countryside from the driving cabs are accompanied by the unique mechanical and electrical sounds of the Class 73. The programme also features a selection of locomotives and special trains that have visited Folkestone Harbour since the early 1990s.

Dover

Folkestone Viaduct

Folkestone Harbour

HARBOUR LIGHTS will have a running time of approximately 110 minutes and will be available on DVD from mid-June priced at £19.95 (post free). You can order your copy by either calling us on our Credit Card Hotline on 01753 545888 or by sending a cheque or postal order to the address below:

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Diary

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

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

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.

RCTS Northampton Branch
Visit to Coventry Transport Museum and Observation at Nuneaton. Contact David Pick 01604-810613 for further details.

RCTS Shenfield Branch
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Brentwood. 'European Steam in the 21st Century' by Adrian Palmer.

18th June 2008
RCTS Thames Valley Branch
Observation at Reading. Contact Phil Darlaston on 01235 223363 for further details.

RCTS West Riding Branch
Observation at Warrington Bank Quay. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488

19th June 2008
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.

Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Liston Road, Marlow. 'Italian Railways' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 19.45 for 20.00. Non-members £2

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.

27th June 2008
Somerset & Dorset Railway Trust
The Colliton Club, County Hall, Dorchester. ' Programme 208: Bob Bunyar - Southern Steam in Preservation'. Meeting commences at 19.30 prompt, doors open at 19.00. Contact Peter Foster on 01305 252121 for further details.

28th June-8th July 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to Czech & Slovak Republics. Further details are available on www.lcgb.org.com. Note: LCGB membership is compulsory for tour participants due to insurance reasons

RCTS West Riding Branch
Seven day visit to the Isle of Man. Trip returns on 6th July. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details..

29th June 2008
Purbeck Railway Circle
Summer Outing – 'An S&D Coach Tour' – from Swanage, taking in the Shillingstone Station Project, the Gartell Light Railway at Templecombe and the Somerset & Dorset Railway Heritage Trust at Midsomer Norton Station. Booking essential. Contact Mike Walshaw on 01929-421913.

30th June 2008
RCTS Northampton Branch
Visit to Severn Valley Railway at Kidderminster. Contact David Pick on 01604 810613.

1st July 2008
RCTS Watford Branch
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road. "The Midland and South Western Junction Railway" by Bernie Holland. Meeting commences at 19.30.

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

5th July 2008
Railfuture
Rail Passengers and Campaigners National Conference. Banqueting Hall, The Guildhall Market Square, Salisbury. SP1 1JH. Doors open 10.00 for 10.45 start. Adminssion payable. Contact Graham Ellis on 01225 708255 for booking details.

7th July 2008
Swanage Railway - Bath Area Group
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath.
A return visit by Simon Foote, with more sights and sounds from the steam era. Meeting commences at 19.30, entrance £1. Contact John Lakey on 01225 315918 for further details.

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.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
Institution members social day at the Swanage Railway, Members to meet at Wareham Station at 11.00.

9th July 2008
RCTS Hitchin Branch
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road. 'The Railways of Kent' by Bob Ratcliffe . Meeting commences at 19.30.

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.

11th July 2008
Purbeck Railway Circle
Harmans Cross Village Hall, Harmans Cross.
'The Salisbury Accident of 1906 – Still an Enigma?' – an illustrated talk by Gerald Jacobs. Meeting commences at 19.30 prompt, doors open at 19.00. Contact Mike Walshaw on 01929 421913 for further details.

12th July 2008
Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre Bournemouth. '120 Years of the Direct Line'. Club Members using their own material will look at the development of main line services between London and Bournemouth and in particular at the Lymington Junction to Christchurch section that really finally put Bournemouth on the railway map. Meeting commences at 14.30. Entrance £2. Contact 01202 742099 for further details.

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 details.

RCTS Northampton Branch
Visit to the Great Central Railway Loughborough. Contact David Pick 01604 810613 for further details.

15th July 2008
RCTS Merseyside, Chester & North Wales Branch
Observation at Doncaster from 11.00-16.45. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 for details.

23rd July 2008
RCTS West Riding Branch
Observation at Water Orton Station Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

17th July 2008
Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. "The pre-1923 GWR lines in the west of Wales" by Martin Connop Price. Meeting starts at 19.45. Non-members £2

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.

19th July 2008
RCTS Northampton Branch
Canal trip from Bilsworth Wharf. Contact David Pick 01604 810613 for further details.

21st July 2008
RCTS Thames Valley Branch
Observation at Didcot Station Contact Phil Darlaston on 01235 223363 for further details.

▲ *Class 59/2 No. 59203* **Vale of Pickering** *is pictured at Bow (Midland) Goods with Freightliner Heavy Haul HIA wagons from Acton Yard on 19th June. The train was unusually worked by EWS on behalf of Freightliner.* **Iain Scotchman**

21st July 2008 continued
RCTS Shenfield Branch
Visit to Mangapps Farm Railway Museum Contact John Stone on 01245 464756 for further details.

23rd July 2008
RCTS West Riding Branch
Observation at Nuneaton Station Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

27th July 2008
RCTS Merseyside, Chester & North Wales Branch
Visit to Bala Lake Railway and DMU trip on Llangollen Railway Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 for further details.

28th July 2008
RCTS Northampton Branch
Visit to the Foxfield Railway. Contact David Pick 01604 810613 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 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.

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.

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 September 2008
Continental Railway Circle
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. A talk on 'Northern Spain 1960-1961' by Peter Grey. Admission £2, Meeting commences at 19.15. contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624.

12th-14th September 2008
Swanage Railway
Steam Gala and Vintage Transport Rally: A weekend of steam with a Vintage Transport Rally at Harmans Cross Station.

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.

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