The Railway Herald

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Front Cover

A summers day on the Embsay & Bolton Abbey Railway, and Hunslet 0-6-0ST NCB Monkton No.1 heads a Bolton Abbey to Embsay service as it departs from Holywell Halt on 20th September. **Richard Tuplin**

Rear Cover

Having worked an SRPS railtour, Class 37/4s Nos. 37417 and 37401 approach Linlithgow on 15th September with a Bo'ness - Mossend 'light engine' move. **Alex Napier**

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

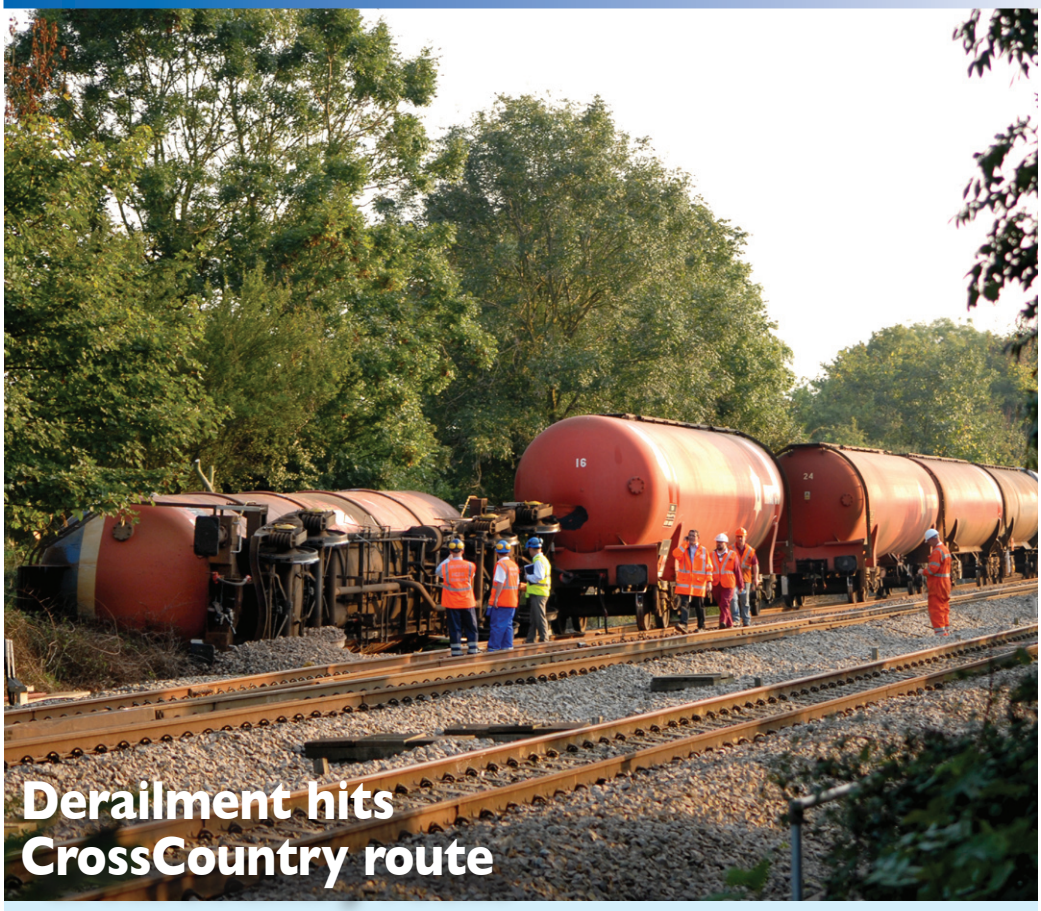
National Rail Timetable

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



Derailment hits CrossCountry route

▲ The CrossCountry route was closed for much of the afternoon on 19th September, after the rear vehicle of the Robeston-Westerleigh petroleum service, being worked by Class 60 No. 60093, became derailed at Haresfield Loop at 11.20. The vehicle, which was fully loaded, came to rest on its side, and engineers worked throughout the day to secure it, allowing the railway to re-open to traffic around 17.00, with a 20mph speed restriction in place. The fuel was drained from the wagon into another rail tank overnight and was removed from the site at 1.20am on 21st September and towed to Gloucester at 10mph. **Jack Boskett**

▼ This image featured in last weeks Railtour's section was incorrectly credited to Chris Wilson - it should have been Steve Andrews. Apologies to both photographers for the mix-up.

We want YOUR views and opinions!

The editorial team are now looking towards the next revision of the *Railway Herald* website, and would value your comments, suggestions and constructive criticism on what you would like to see.

Is there something you feel is missing, something that could work or be presented better?

Is there a particular item, section or any specific information you would like to see or read? Is there anyway in which we can provide you with a better service via the website?

All comments and suggestions should be sent to the editor, at the usual email address. However, for more information and to read some of the views already put forward, please visit our dedicated webpage at http://www.railwayherald.co.uk/upgrade/, or alternatively, click here!

The new system, due to launch in January 2009, will bring with it the long-awaited introduction of the Photo Website system. For those who make use of the numerous railway simulations, would you welcome a new online section dedicated to this part of the hobby? If so, which simulations and areas should it cover?

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Scotland's Railways officially launched at Glasgow Queen Street

A new era in the history of the railways of Scotland was introduced at Glasgow Queen Street on 22nd September, when the new look and new branding of Scotland's Railways was unveiled by Scottish Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson.

The event also marked the unveiling of the new livery for all ScotRail trains and stations with the introduction to service of the first rebranded train, Class 170/4 No. 170434.

As part of the event that marked the 25th anniversary of the 'ScotRail' identity for rail services in Scotland, the Minister also announced an extra 1,200 seats and a reduction in journey times between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The measures are to be introduced in December, with journey times between the two cities reduced by around 10 minutes, an additional Edinburgh-Dundee service stopping at the intermediate stations in Fife, an hourly fast Edinburgh-Perth service, a regular half hourly Dundee-Aberdeen service pattern and additional trains from Fife to Edinburgh in the early morning.

Also announced was the provision of additional seats on existing heavily-loaded trains from Fife and Stirling to Edinburgh, and on existing heavily-loaded trains into Glasgow from Cumbernauld and Stirling when the platform at Bishopbriggs is extended in spring of next year.

The introduction of an hourly Aberdeen-Inverurie service throughout the day also commences December, with more frequent services in the morning and evening peaks.

▲▲The first DMU to carry the new livery, Class 170/4 No. 170434 stands at Glasgow during the launch event.
▲ Scottish Transport Minister, Stewart Stevenson, unveils the commemorative plaque at Glasgow Queen Street.
▼ The new ScotRail, Scotland's Railway logo on the side of Class 170/4 No. 170434. **All: Bill Wilson**

❖ Royston, Huntingdon and St Neots station are to have 'state of the art' parking facilities, which in total will accommodate almost 600 vehicles. All three car parks will open by Easter 2009. Royston will accommodate 205 cars, Huntingdon will have 200 spaces and St Neots will have 186, all designed to Park Mark Accreditation, the highest security standard agreed by the British Transport Police (BTP) and the Department for Transport. The car parks will benefit from high quality lighting, CCTV cameras and help points, which will be connected to a central control centre that is manned 24 hours a day by First Capital Connect staff and the BTP.

❖ National Express East Anglia has brightened up Southend Victoria station and made it more welcoming to passengers with a series of improvements in recent months. It has been redecorated and new station signage has been fitted, and earlier in the year new CCTV equipment was installed. In addition a new coffee outlet LA Golden Bean has opened. The station is also benefiting from the attentions of a new, additional cleaning team, which is visiting stations on the Southend line.

❖ A £5 million project to improve the railway lines between Blackburn and Clitheroe has been announced, and passengers are being warned that at as result no services will run between the two towns from 8th to 26th November. Northern will provide buses as an alternative. Some areas of the track are currently restricted to 20mph and Network Rail intends to improve such restrictions on sections of the line. Following completion of the work, trains will be able to travel at the normal line speed of up to 45mph. The new track, which has quieter ride properties, will be laid on 16,000 new concrete or steel sleepers and in total 11,661 yards of track will be completely revamped.

❖ National Rail use increased, with 1.2 billion passenger journeys made in 2007/08, a rise of 5.8 per cent on the previous year. The statistics have been published by the DfT, as part of a wider view on the use of public transport. Over the same period, passenger journeys on trams and light rail systems in England increased by 4.3 per cent.

❖ In the four weeks from 17th August to 13th September, 93.94% of First Capital Connect services arrived on time or within five minutes at their destination. This is the highest level achieved in the two-and-a-half years of the franchise.

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▲ *The pioneer member of the new fleet, Class 378 No. 378001 undertakes a test run on the short testing facility at Derby.* **All: Brian Morrison**

New London Overground Class 378s take shape at Derby

Being constructed by Bombardier at its Derby Litchurch Lane assembly plant, the first examples of the new fleet of 24 three-car EMUs ordered for London Overground by Transport for London were shown to the railway press on 16th September.

Scheduled to come into traffic from early 2009 on North London, West London and Euston-Watford Junction services, the units have been classified 378 and are modelled on the Class 376 Electrostars that work on Southeastern.

A further 20 four-car EMUs are due in 2010 for the extended East London Line from Dalston Junction to West Croydon and Crystal Palace, and in addition the trains on the North London Line (NLR) will be increased to four cars in 2011, at the same time as a further 10 four-car trains are introduced for the NLR and the East London Line, the latter currently closed down for conversion of the London Underground track and infrastructure to National Rail standards.

Funding of the new build is by QW Rail Leasing and there is a long-term maintenance contract with Bombardier at the new depot under construction for London Overground stock at New Cross Gate.

The latest Electrostars carry an attractive white, orange and blue livery with wrap-round yellow front ends, and from the outside do not look in any way unusual. Internally, however, the seating lines the bodysides of each coach, with passengers facing each other across very wide gangways; the style being akin to most of that on London Underground. This is stated to allow for much more capacity, but this will only be achieved because the majority of passengers will have to stand. Wider doors are provided together with CCTV, wheelchair ramps and dedicated wheelchair bays, on-board audio and visual announcements and air conditioning.

On the day of the visit, unit No. 378001 was working on the test track and No. 378004 was well underway to completion on the assembly line. Night testing is imminent and is due to take place on the Shoeburyness line, where Class 357 Electrostars operate for c2c.

▶ *Two driving cars are pictured within the erection shop at Bombardier on 16th September. As with previous construction tasks at Derby, the vehicles move down the shop as work progresses.*

▲ *The high-tech driving cab of a Class 378 London Overground Electrostar EMUs.*

▼ *The vehicles interiors bear a remarkable resemblance to London Underground stock, although passenger reaction to having to stand could be interesting!*

New design displayed for revamped Birmingham New Street

The awaited new design for Birmingham New Street station has been displayed.

The station is to be covered in reflective sheets of crafted and finished metal and will incorporate three high technology digital displays that will make the entrances to New Street clear and easy to find. Passengers will also have the benefits of a redesigned atrium area, which will be brightly lit.

The £600 million Gateway project, a joint scheme between Birmingham City Council, Network Rail, Advantage West Midlands and Centro, is designed to double passenger capacity and create a concourse area that is three-and–a-half times bigger than at present and enclosed by the giant light-filled atrium. It is stated that the station will be more accessible and brighter, with the platforms serviced by 42 new escalators and 14 new lifts. There will also be what is termed an iconic new station façade with eight new entrances.

Iain Coucher, Chief Executive of Network Rail, said: "Passengers have come to expect better, quicker and more reliable journeys, and stations fit for the 21st century. We listened to the people of Birmingham and made New Street a top priority – with this new design we can be sure of a top class station for the millions of people who use it every year."

Some regular users of the station, however, say that the detail says nothing about additional platform capacity or additional platforms to meet the demand for more trains.

Certainly more space is to be created above the platforms to shepherd passengers while they wait for their trains to gain access to the station, but they maintain that because of its constricted layout, it will still mean hoards of people dashing from one side of the station to the other as there will be more trains than platform capacity.

First GBRf to move Class 321s to Doncaster

First GBRf has won a three-year contract with Wabtec Rail for the provision of drivers to transport trains to and from Doncaster for refurbishment.

Under the terms of the new deal the company will be responsible for the movement of all 114 class 321 units, currently operated by London Midland and National Express East Anglia. The new contract will run from October this year until June 2011.

The '321s', which are leased from HSBC Rail, will be moved from depots in Ilford and Northampton to Wabtec's Doncaster Works, where they will undergo time base overhaul and repaint plus refurbishment work to be finalised in due course.

During the contract period it is expected that some of the units will be transferred to First Capital Connect, meaning the possibility of additional movements to and from its depot at Hornsey.

Class 143s reach Great Malvern on Brighton service!

▲ *Class 143 units are rare in Malvern and pairs doubly so. However, on 10th September, Nos. 143621 and 143603 arrive at Great Malvern with the 09.00 service from Brighton, prior to working the 14.51 to Westbury. All is not quite what it seems however, as the 09.00 service from Brighton had been re-started at Bristol using these sets which were spare, due to the lateness of the original working arriving at Bristol.* **David Guy**

Reopening on the cards for East Linton station in East Lothian?

Miller Homes Scotland East Region has lodged a planning application with East Lothian Council to build 50 properties, 46 houses and four flats, on farmland to the south-west of the village of Orchardfield.

The proposed development would be sited alongside the East Coast Main Line, with land set aside for a rail halt or, possibly, the re-opening of East Linton station. Dunpender Community Council has backed the plans.

East Linton station, closed in January 1965, has already been earmarked by Scottish ministers as one of around 20 railway sites that could be re-opened as part of a strategic transport review of train services across the country, and if the development goes ahead it will be an important step towards getting the railway station up and running again.

The proposals also include the upgrading of the village railway underpass, a public right of way that is frequently used by residents.

Phased reintroduction of North Running Tunnel brings benefits

Following the Channel Tunnel fire, Eurotunnel brought a 17km-long section of the north bore back into service on the morning of 22nd September, enabling an increase in the number of trains to almost 170 per day.

Operating the whole south bore and interval 2 of the north tunnel, together with the UK 'cross-over', gives an approximately 50% improvement in the service Eurotunnel currently offers, bringing it to 44 Eurostars, 90 truck shuttles, 29 passenger shuttles and a varying number of rail freights per day.

Technical staff are working around the clock to bring a second 17km long section of the north tunnel back into service in the next few days. This will further improve the quality of service available. Since 13th September, Eurotunnel has given priority to customers who had already made reservations. The increase in the number of passenger shuttles will enable it to once more provide a regular service.

One of the biggest rail terminals in Europe to be built in Scotland?

Plans to build one of Europe's biggest rail freight terminals in Monklands have been submitted to North Lanarkshire Council for approval.

If the proposals go ahead the site of the old Kilgarth landfill tip between the Townhead area of Coatbridge and Glenboig will be changed beyond recognition. The Kilgarth Development Company wants to build five massive sheds covering an area of 1.8 million square feet, roughly the size of 24 football pitches, on a site spanning 91 hectares. It is claimed that 1,000 jobs will be created and a new road link to the M73 will control increased traffic levels.

However, residents are strongly opposed to the project and a group opposing the plans claim to have complete support from local people and wants the council to delay making a decision on the outline planning application which was lodged on 9th July.

Network Rail to split £644 million Reading revamp to ensure control over costs

The massive £644 million revamp of Reading station reported in issue No. 147 last week, is to be broken up into a number of packages, in a bid to remain as close to the project as possible.

The head of contracts for Reading and Crossrail, Andy Haynes, said a number of bigger contractors such as Balfour Beatty had expressed an interest in bidding for the project in its entirety, but Network Rail (NR) baulked at relinquishing too much control of such a public project. Mr Haynes continued: "On a project like this, where there is a lot of interface with the public, we want to be close to the front line and so will oversee the work ourselves".

The Reading project fits in with NR's strategy of taking a more hands-on role in project management, which was promised to the Rail Regulator following the West Coast main line delays over the New Year period. The biggest single package for bidding is expected to be the construction of the 2km elevated railway to the west of the station to allow passenger services to cross the lines without having to use the same lines as freight.

In addition, the rebuilding of Cow Lane bridge, over the tracks to the west of the station, is likely to be let as one package. The bridge is currently just one lane wide and will be extended to two lanes, plus pedestrian and cycle paths. In addition to the new and extended platforms, a further package is likely to include the extension of Caversham Road and Vastern Road bridges that run over the tracks to the east of the station. A grade separation, 25km of track, a footbridge spanning the station and a new depot facility make up the remainder of the construction jobs. Contractors interested in the jobs will be invited to a briefing next month, when finalised packages and timescales will be announced. Westinghouse is carrying out signalling and telecoms enabling work and C. Spencer is building the new signalling centre at Didcot, relocated from a site to the north of the existing tracks, and to be completed by 2010.

The Department for Transport is providing £425 million of funding with a further £15 million coming from Reading Borough Council. Network Rail is paying the remaining £204 million from its renewal works budget.

▼ ***Fastline Freight Class 66/3 No. 66301 rounds the curve from Hallen Marsh Junction, Avonmouth, with the inaugural Avonmouth Docks to Ratcliffe Power Station service on 20th September. The train was formed of the usual mix of Fastline and hired-in GBRf hoppers, as the remainder of the Fastline fleet are awaited from the builders.***
Gary S. Smith

❖ Billericay station has been given a much brighter look, thanks to the efforts of National Express East Anglia staff, volunteers from the local community, and industry partners such as Network Rail and Railscape. Staff and volunteers gave up their free time and worked throughout the day of 14th September, a broad range of work being undertaken, including clearing, cleaning and painting. The shelter, booking hall, fencing, seating, lift, stairs, poster frames and Perspex, car park and cycle rack area all received special attention.

❖ Balfour Beatty, Carillion, Colas Rail and Tube Lines have been short-listed for the seven-year £90 million rail maintenance contract for the East London Railway. The winning bidder is expected to be announced in February next year before the line opens again in 2010 under the auspices of London Overground. The contract involves maintenance, refurbishment, signalling and structures work on the six-mile track. Balfour Beatty and Carillion are carrying out current reconstruction of the route, which will extend the East London Line to Dalston Junction in the north and Crystal Palace and West Croydon in the south.

❖ The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has given Network Rail a commendation for better safety and punctuality in its 5th annual survey of operating, maintaining, renewing and developing the mainline rail network to March 2008. However, passengers are stated to have been less satisfied than in 2006, the company having breached obligations four times, with two fines imposed. ORR and Network Rail are now differing about the budget for the five-years to start in April 2009, the scale of efficiency being the main point at issue.

❖ On the 8th November, engineering work will close the ECML resulting in some services being diverted via Lincoln.

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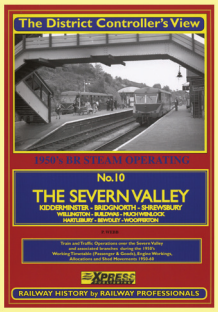

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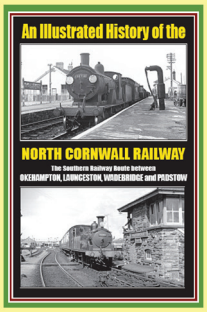

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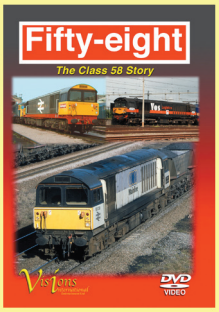

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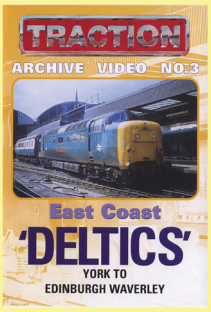

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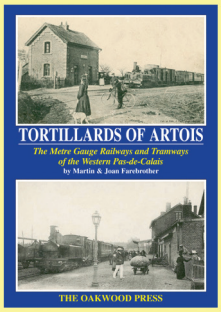

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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.

		23rd September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 2) Keith-Tain (rev)-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh
		24th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 3) Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
Steam Dreams	70013	London Victoria- Canterbury West and return
		25th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 4) Boat of Garten-Blair Atholl-Dunkeld-Dundee
UK Railtours	EWS 67 (pair)	London KX-ECML-Edinburgh Suburban-Polmont-Stirling-Alloa-Dunfirmline-Edinburgh Waverley (break)-& return
		26th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 5) Dundee- North Queensferry-Edinburgh
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh- Spean Bridge
		27th September
Past Time Rail	D1015	London Paddington-Reading-Swindon-Bristol Parkway-Plymouth-Par-Falmouth-Plymouth and return **Postponed**
Past Time Rail	5690	Manchester Victoria Stalybridge-Huddersfield-Hebden Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria
Pathfinder Tours	55022	Wolverhampton-Carlisle and return **Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	60019	London KX-Stevenage-Peterborough- York-Peterborough (& return)
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 2) Spean Bridge Arisaig-Bruidge of Orchy
SRPS	61994	Forth Bridge, Fife & Clackmannan Circle (AM) **Cancelled**
SRPS	61994	Forth Bridge, Fife & Clackmannan Circle (PM) **Cancelled**
UK Railtours	2xEWS 67	London KX-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough-Skipton-S&C-Carlisle (break/rev)-Hexham-Durham-York & return
Vintage Trains	47773 & 86259	Birmingham New St-Edinburgh Wavrley & return **Cancelled**
Vintage Trains	47773 & 5029	(Solihull-Warwick Parkway-Banbury-Alton (for Mid Hants Railway) Alton-Guildford)-Solihull.
		28th September
Past Time Rail	34067	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 3)Bridge of Orchy Wemyss Bay
		29th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh- Dundee-Montrose-Aberdeen-Keith
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 4) Wemyss Bay Edinburgh
		30th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 2) Keith-Tain (rev)-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh
		1st October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 3) Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
		2nd October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 4) Boat of Garten-Blair Atholl-Perth-Dundee
		3rd October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 5) Dundee- North Queensferry-Edinburgh
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh- Dundee-Montrose-Aberdeen-Keith
		4th October
Past Time Rail	4965 & 4936	(Nottingham-Loughborough-Leicester-Nuneaton-Birmingham NS-Stourbridge Jct)-Stourbridge Jct-Worcester Foregate St-Hereford-Chepstow-Gloucester-Worcester Shrub Hill-(and return)
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS 37	Wolverhampton-Grosmont-Whitby and return **Cancelled**
PMR Tours	6233	Stockport-Carlisle (and return) **Cancelled**
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Skegness-Boston-Sleaford-Ancaster-Nottingham-Long Eaton-Stoke on Trent-Crewe-Chester-Llandudno and return
SRPS	tbc	Dunbar-Edinburgh Waverley-Kirkcaldy-Markinch-Ladybank-Perth-Pitlochry- Plockton-Kyle of Lochlsh (break/rev) and return
UK Railtours	EWS 67 (pair)	Stevenage-Finsbury Park-Bristol TM-Avonmouth-Filton W-S Curve-Bristol TM-Royal Portbury Dock-Bristol TM and return

Regular Scheduled Steam Operations

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

Dates	Operator	Train	Route	Loco Pool
22-25 Sep	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
22-26 Sep	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
29 Sep-3 Oct	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	62005 or 45407
15-18 Sep	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.

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.

The Week Ahead

Steam Dreams 'Cathedrals Express' on 24th September will bring to a conclusion the short season of trains operated by recently restored 'Britannia' No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* in the south-east, with Canterbury being its final destination.

Following a quite intensive programme, including two return trips between London Liverpool Street and Norwich, the locomotive has acquitted itself well and can now look forward to a more leisurely period back at the Great Central.

Past Time has a busy weekend, featuring the first of its autumn season of 'Cotton Mill Expresses' on 27th September, which operate on a circular itinerary from Manchester Victoria, across the Pennines via Standedge to Huddersfield, and then back along the Calder Valley and Copy Pit to Blackburn, before returning to Manchester through Darwen and Bolton. 'Jubilee' No. 5690 *Leander* is the scheduled power.

Next day is the last 'Torbay Express' of the summer season, with No. 34067 *Tangmere* the likely deputy for No. 6024, following its hotbox problem at Taunton while working the same train on 14th September. There will be a season of 'Yuletide Torbay Expresses' operating in December.

Meanwhile, Vintage Trains has organised a working to Guildford to enable No. 5029 *Nunney Castle* to work its ticket back to Tyseley after a short visit to the Mid-Hants Railway. 'The Mid-Hants Explorer' commences at Solihull with Class 47/7 No. 47773 in charge throughout to Alton for a visit to the Mid-Hants, and then on the return as far as Guildford where *Nunney Castle* will take over for the return north.

LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern* returns to the mainline after a spell of heritage line activity at the Mid-Hants with the Railway Touring Company's 'White Rose', which is steam-hauled from London King's Cross to York, and back as far as Peterborough, where diesel traction will take over for the remainder of the journey back to King's Cross.

Classic heritage diesel traction should have dominated the non-steam tours next weekend with No. D1015 *Western Champion* on Past Time Rail's 'Western Hind' from London Paddington to Plymouth. Unfortunately due to pathing issues around Truro, the Falmouth branch wasn't available and the tour has been postponed to a future date, see separate story.

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Rail-Blue Charters

Wednesday, October 15th

This charter, run in conjunction with Spitfire Railtours, sees the return to the main line of the AC Locomotive Group's Class 87, 87002. Beautifully restored to its original livery of British Rail Blue livery, this locomotive along with its classmates covered the length of the West Coast Main Line from the mid 1970s until 2005, putting in 30 years of outstanding service.

Rail-Blue Charters and Spitfire Railtours are pleased to offer the first charter that sees the locomotive return to its original stamping ground, complete with period British Rail Blue and Grey liveried MkII and MkIII carriages.

Departures are from Birmingham International, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay, Wigan North Western and Preston. Our destination is Glasgow where there is a 4 hour break to do as you please. Glasgow is an interesting city with many attractions. It boasts a variety of museums & art galleries, an excellent array of shops, and a wide range of pubs and eateries. This vibrant, cosmopolitan city will satisfy the appetite of most. We then retrace our steps back to Birmingham International and set-down as outward.

We have Standard, First and First Premier Dining seats available. There will also be a buffet for first and standard class passengers serving hot and cold meals and snacks. We also have a bar selling a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Expected Timings:

Birmingham International	d. 07:30	a. 21:50
Wolverhampton	d. 08:10	a. 21:10
Stafford	d. 08:30	a. 20:50
Crewe	d. 09:00	a. 20:20
Warrington Bank Quay	d. 09:25	a. 19:55
Wigan North Western	d. 09:35	a. 19:45
Preston	d. 09:50	a. 19:30
Glasgow	d. 12:30	a. 16:30

Timings, which are presently provisional, will be confirmed when travel tickets are dispatched, approximately two weeks prior to travel.

Visit http://www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list for details of any of our future charter trains.

All bookings for travel on our charter trains are subject to the standard terms and conditions of booking and travel with Rail-Blue Charters. A copy of these can be obtained through our website on http://www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list/terms_and_conditions.

Should you wish to be added to our mailing list, please send an email with your contact details to bookings@rail-bluecharters.co.uk.

Fares:

First Dining:	Adult £109	
First Class:	Adult £69	Child £45
Standard Class:	Adult £49	Child £25

A group booking for 4 adults can take advantage of a 10% discount.

For booking information or reservation of your seats, please **CLICK HERE** to book online or call 0161 850 0559.

Our phone lines are open from Monday to Fridays between 09:30 and 17:00. Outside these times, you can leave a message with your name and contact details and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

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

Rail-Blue Charters, PO Box 246, Sidcup, DA15 0DX

www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list

Lord Nelson back on the main line in November?

Preparations are in hand for the mainline return of the National Railway Museum's 4-6-0 No. 850 *Lord Nelson*, which was withdrawn last year from mainline operations with ongoing boiler problems.

The repairs have now been completed and the locomotive has been based at the Great Central Railway for some weeks accumulating miles on scheduled services and driver training turns, and is also scheduled to take part in the GCR's Autumn Gala on 11th/12th October. It is understood that one 60mph test run has been undertaken that revealed further work to be carried out, and another such run is due to take place soon. The NRM has advised *RH* that after the gala, *Lord Nelson* is to move to Carnforth, where it is due to arrive by 25th October, and under the NRM's engineering team's care will then undertake a series of mainline test runs operated by WCRC in order to satisfy the museum that the engine is robust enough for the mainline.

Meanwhile, the NRM has not accepted any bookings for mainline work, and will not do so until satisfied with the locomotive's condition and an agreement with the Eastleigh Railway Preservation Society (or another custodian if they cannot agree terms) is in place. *RH* further understands that the Railway Touring Company charter advertised for *Lord Nelson* from Paddington to Yeovil on 25th October is now likely to be in the hands of A4 Pacific No. 60019 *Bittern*, while the traction for the two charters to Bath on 27th & 29th November remains to be confirmed due to the uncertainty of the availability of No. 850.

▲ ***LMS 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690* Leander *climbs past Blea Moor with 06.03 Hereford - Carlisle 'The Pennine Limited' on 20th September.*** **Mick Langton**

▼ ***LMS 'Duchess' Pacific No. 6233* Duchess of Sutherland *on the last stage of the climb to Ais Gill at the head of 'The Citadel Express' from Peterborough to Carlisle the same day.*** **Rod Smith**

■ Advance information of a positioning special involving No.60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* on 28th February 2009 from York to Bescot, via Leicester and Nuneaton, has been released by Vintage Trains. It is reported as being in connection with a 'special event' on the Severn Valley Railway, which is likely to be the spring 'Festival of Steam' event scheduled in 2009 for three days from 6th-8th March. The outward leg is from Birmingham New Street, via Leicester, and is scheduled to be diesel-hauled by Tyseley's Class 47/7 No. 47773.

■ The NELPG's K1 Mogul No. 62005 has been forced to return to Carnforth prior to completing its roster on West Coast's 'Jacobite' services, with a reported slipped tyre. The 'K1' and its support coach worked south under its own steam on 18th September. The Fort William pool had already been strengthened with the arrival of No. 76079 on 5th September, and the remainder of the 'Jacobite' season is set to be in the hands of the '4MT' and 'Black 5' No. 45407. The season ends on 10th October. The knock-on effect of all this is that Past Times' 'Cotton Mill Express' on 27th September will have 'Jubilee' No. 5690 *Leander* in charge. It also looks certain that Past Times' last two 'Torbay Express' workings of the summer season will be hauled by No. 34067 *Tangmere* in place of No. 6024 *King Edward I*, which is unavailable after incurring a tender hot-box on the previous week's train.

■ Pathfinder has cancelled its next two trains, 'The Deltic Settler' on 27th September and 'The Whitby Whaler' son 4th October.

'Western Hind' postponed

Past Time Rail has confirmed to *Railway Herald* that this coming weekend's 'Western Hind' charter with *Western Champion* to Falmouth has been postponed.

The tour was due to work to Plymouth, where a Class 66 locomotive would be attached, before proceeding to Falmouth and later returning to London. Unfortunately, although a path was available on the Falmouth branch, issues were encountered on the return run, coming off the branch at Truro.

Thanks to co-operation within the industry, First Great Western had agreed to slightly re-time one of its services to allow access to a platform at Truro, but while this would have allowed the train to operate, it would have been restricted to eight coaches on the Falmouth branch, resulting in four-coaches having to be detached at Plymouth and the passengers from those vehicles reseated for the final leg of the journey. Unfortunately, as the train was almost full, that option was simply not possible and, therefore, operational restrictions resulted in the train not operating to Falmouth.

Past Time has approached Network Rail with regard to visiting any of the other Cornish branch lines, but its has not proved possible to accommodate the train. The only option was to operate through to Penzance, and as Past Time Rail has operated into the Cornish terminal already this year, the decision was taken to postpone the working to a future date. Past Time Rail is writing to all passengers booked on the charter to explain the situation and discussions are on-going between EWS, Diesel Traction Group, Network Rail and the charter company to agree a replacement date, which will again be a Saturday.

SRPS trips via Clackmannan Circle cancelled

The SRPS has had to cancel its two steam-hauled specials on 27th September, which were due to go around both the Fife and Clackmannan Circles with No. 61996 *The Great Marquess*.

The Society was advised on 19th September that due to an increase in freight traffic on the line between Dunfermline and Longannet, it is now impossible to accommodate these excursions. All payments are being returned to the customers.

▲ *The EWS Management Train operated as the 14.12 from Liverpool Street to Euston on 10th September and here passes Bow Goods, heading in the direction of Stratford and the Noth London Line. DVT No 82146 leads with the power provided by Class 67 No 67029 Royal Diamond. Engaged in shunting its four-wheel hoppers in Bow Goods is EWS Class 66/0 No 66065 with the 15.00 empties to Acton Yard.*

▼ *With the exception of one grafittied unit receiving attention at Ilford Depot, all the Class 321 fleet have now been given the National Express East Anglia 'interim' white stripe. Earlier the same day, Class 321/3 No 321306 passes Bow Goods and approaches Stratford, forming the 13.15 service from Liverpool Street to Southend Victoria. Great Eastern branding remains to the left of the cab door.* **Both: Brian Morrison**

▲ *On 17th September, DRS Class 57/0s Nos. 57011 and 57008 lead Class 47/4 No. 47501* Craftsman *through Welwyn Garden City on a Wembley to Derby Chaddesden Sidings working, routed via the East Coast Main Line and conveying newly delivered Fastline coal hoppers from Europe.* **Craig Leaper**

▼ *Diverted from Marylebone to Paddington because of engineering work in the Northolt Park area, the 14.09 Chiltern Railways service to Birmingham Snow Hill departs from London Paddington on 21st September, formed of Class 168/1 'Clubman' No. 168109 & Class 165/0 'Turbo' No. 165013.* **Brian Morrison**

▲ *On Sunday 21st September, the Wrexham & Shropshire service was diverted from London Marylebone to Paddington, as well as via the Shrewsbury to Crewe line. That morning, the train started from Ruabon and was formed as usual with two Class 67s Nos. 67013* Dyfrbont Pontcysyllte *and 67025* Western Star, *but also had Class 67 No. 67026 plus empty stock and classmate No. 67019 as far as Crewe! Here Wrexham & Shropshire-liveried Class 67 No. 67013 leads the extended formation into Shrewsbury.* **Gary S. Smith**

▼ *Later the same day, the train, now with just Class 67s Nos. 67013 and 67025 in charge, arrives at London Paddington.* **Brian Morrison**

▲ *Privately-owned Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022* **Royal Scots Grey** *leads DPS-owned classmate No. 55019* **Royal Highland Fusilier** *through Swinton, South Yorkshire, on 16th September en-route to Barrow Hill, having appeared at the Heaton Open Day.* **Maurice Caswell**

▼ *WCRC Class 33 No. 33025* **Glen Falloch** *leads Class 47/0 No. 47245 through Finsbury Park on 17th September with a Southall - March Down Yard working. The locomotives were used to move failed Class 47/7 No. 47760 from March to Ely Papworths at 06.00 the following day. No. 47760 has been stabled at March since early July, when it apparently suffered a seized traction motor bearing near Ely, while working a NENTA charter..* **Stuart Chapham**

▲ *Making its first public appearance at the Statfold Barn Railway Enthusiasts Day was 2ft 6ins gauge 0-4-2T* **Sragi No 1** *(Krauss works number 4045. built in 1899), one of four locos in steam that had formerly worked at Indonesian sugar mills. It is seen here in the balloon loop with a goods train, waiting to be passed before returning to the terminus station on 20th September.* **Graham Lightfoot**

▼ *The Derwent Valley Railway, part of the Yorkshire Museum of Farming near York, is unusual in that it was never nationalised. The line rarely features in the railway press, but on 14th September Andrew Barclay No. 8, built in 1955, hauls a late afternoon train on the short running line.* **Stuart Chapman**

S&D 7F announced as star attraction at Bluebell gala

Ex-Somerset & Dorset Class 7F 2-8-0 No. 53809 will be the star attraction of the Bluebell Railway's Autumn Steam Gala scheduled for 17th/19th October.

Also featuring will be 'Large Prairie' No. 5199, which has been based on the Bluebell for most of 2008, plus BR Standard 2-6-4T No 80151, Southern Railway 'U' Class Mogul No. 1638 and South Eastern & Chatham Railway Class 01 0-6-0 No. 65, together with C class 0-6-0 No. 592, all from the home fleet.

On 17th October, Nos. 53809 and 80151 will be in action, followed by an intensive timetable on 18th & 19th October, with all the locomotives mentioned in action. The Gala will also feature the use of the Bluebell's 1920 Pullman Cars, the Great Western Directors Saloon and the London & North Western Railway's Observation Car. Locomotives awaiting overhaul will also be positioned for photography in the yard at Sheffield Park.

For more information telephone 01825 720800 or visit the website at http://www.bluebell-railway.co.uk

Do you fancy driving a Duchess?

Well, now you can! It may not be 12-coaches over Shap, but the Princess Royal Class Locomotive Trust (PRCLT) is offering a unique experience to spend a day driving and firing No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* on the Midland Railway-Butterley.

Dates available are Monday 3rd November through to Friday 7th November. There is a maximum of six people per day that can be accommodated, and each is guaranteed a minimum of two full round trips driving and firing this iconic locomotive.

The cost is £500 per day per driver, which includes guided tours of both Midland Railway and PRLCT facilities, a light breakfast, hot dinner and afternoon tea and biscuits. This is the first time No. 6233 has been made available for footplate experience days.

For more information telephone Kate on 01773 743986 or go to www.prclt.co.uk.

◀ *The Ribble Steam Railway held a successful gala weekend on 13th/14th September, with over 600 people attending. Barclay No.1147* **John Howe,** *RSH No. 7485* **Agecroft No.2** *and Hunslet No. 3155* **Walkden** *are pictured during the afternoon change over of locos on the first day.* **Chris Mills**

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Morayshire heads south for Harvest of Steam

▲ *LNER apple-green-liveried 'D49' 4-4-0 No. 246* **Morayshire** *visited the Embsay and Bolton Abbey Railway from its home on the Bo'ness & Kinneil line in mid-September, working passenger services at the railway over 20th/21st September. Here, the 'Shire' heads a Bolton Abbey to Embsay working, comprising the line's vintage coaches, shortly after departure from Holywell Halt on 20th September.* **Richard Tuplin**

Lord Nelson is additional star at GCR Autumn Steam Gala

Southern Railway LN Class 4-6-0 No. 850 *Lord Nelson* has been added to the locomotive roster at the Great Central Railway's Steam Railway gala on 10th-12th October.

The addition came after the NRM confirmed to the GCR that the engine could stay in Leicestershire for another few weeks, on which basis it is now already at the GCR for testing and trials. It lines up alongside LMS 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690, *Leander*, BR Standard 7MT Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* and the brand new A1 class Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado*.

The Gala has been extended to three days for the first time. On 10th October, *Oliver Cromwell, Leander* and *Tornado* will share passenger duties and *Lord Nelson* will join the action on the following two days, working an intensive timetable on the double track, with at least two other members of the GCR 'home' fleet.

NYMR wins Heritage Lottery funding for 'Train of Thought'

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has received a major boost to its development plans, with a grant of almost £1million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF).

The grant of £998,000 is to be given to the 'Train of Thought' project, which aims to create a visitor and education centre at Pickering station, including reinstating the station roof. Over 300,000 visitors visit the Railway every year, with the majority coming via Pickering station, and they will now have the chance to learn much more about the historic site.

Fiona Spiers, Head of the Heritage Lottery Fund in Yorkshire and the Humber, said: "Railways are an iconic part of our local heritage and today's news is a green light for the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust to transform the experience for the thousands of people who come to this historic site. The scheme will also safeguard the future of the station, ensuring future generations can enjoy it too. It services a railway, which is nationally significant, being one of the earliest, and with connections to some of the leading engineers of the day."

Murray Brown, Chairman of the North York Moors Historical Railway Trust, commented he was very pleased by the news, and said it was to the credit of a small group of volunteers and staff that the project had won support from the HLF. He said: "It has been several years in the making and all along, we have felt that the 'Train of Thought' project will enable us to widen the appeal of the Railway, by giving visitors more information and opportunities to understand and interpret the Railway and its environment."

Pickering Station is a Grade II Listed building and is a fine example of early railway architecture situated within a Conservation Area. The programme of conservation works will return the station to its former glory, and will involve restoring the roof to its original appearance as it was from 1845 to 1952. The roof will be built to the original design of its architect, G.T. Andrews, and when completed will be the only example that the public can see of a G.T. Andrews roof over a steam railway.

British Rail removed the overall station roof, and putting it back will not only return it to its original state, but will also provide weather protection to some of the historical coaches, as well as conserving the fabric of the station. The project also includes the creation of a visitor centre and learning centre, to be situated behind Platform 2. This will include a classroom and an archive facility, and in addition a heritage signal box at the southern end of Platform 2 will be constructed based on original drawings, giving visitors the chance to try out heritage signalling apparatus.

The site's team of volunteers will be expanded with new volunteering opportunities, including those of 'meet and greet' hosts and explainers. Training opportunities will be developed for young people to help learn craft based vocational skills.

◀ ***BR Standard Class 9F 2-10-0 No. 92203* Black Prince *has returned to the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway following its stay at the East Somerset Railway earlier this summer. Here, the locomotive powers through Dixton cutting on the 11.20 Cheltenham Racecourse to Toddington service on 18th September.*** **Jack Boskett**

BR blue Class 05 at Preston gala

Ribble Steam Railway is to run a Diesel Weekend special event on 4th/5th October, where available diesel shunters will operate the passenger trains.

Locomotives to be used include the newly BR blue-liveried Class 05 No. D2595, Class 03 No. D2148 and the trusty Thomas Hill Workhorse *Stanlow No.4*. There will be the opportunity to photograph the 'Ribble Rail' fleet of Sentinel diesels Nos. 10165, 10282 & 10283, along with Barclay No. 615, as they will be taken out of the shed and put on display.

There will also be the chance to see No. DR98404, the Permaquip maintenance unit, the only one of its type. Weather permitting, ex-NSR 601 (BR Class 11 No.E2098) will be positioned outside to enable improved photographic opportunities and static exhibits on site will include Fowler No. 4160001 Persil, Hudswell Clarke Nos. D628 & D629, and Yorkshire Engine Company No. 2677.

▲ ***BR Class 05 No. D2595 is presently being repainted into BR blue livery, pictured here in undercoat on 14th September.*** **Chris Mills**

News in Brief

■ In a previous issue of *Railway Herald* we reported the arrival of '9F' No. 92220 *Evening Star* to the museum at Swindon and the departure of 'King' No. 6000 *King George V*. We can now confirm that due to logistical issues with the transportation, No. 6000 remains at Swindon, but is expected to move to York during October.

■ Supporters of the under-threat Sittingbourne & Kemsley Light Railway (SKLR) have been boosted by a decision taken by Swale Council to help secure the line's future. The proposal to work with the SKLR trustees and paper manufacturer M-real, which is to sell the land over which the railway runs, was unanimously agreed. Councillors had voted on a hastily prepared amendment to a motion put forward asking that the council take action to safeguard the railway, either at its present site or elsewhere. In response, council leader, Andrew Bowles, who revealed he is a steam train enthusiast, said the council recognised how important the railway was in terms of the town's heritage. Senior councillors and officers will now be involved in talks with the railway.

■ A webcam looking at the South Devon Railway's Buckfastleigh station is at http://www.south devonrailway.org/WebCams.html

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▲ *The Tanfield Railway's 'Legends of Industry' gala on the 13th/14th September brought with it two visiting locomotives in the form of Haydock Foundry 0-6-0WT* Bellerophon *and Furness 0-4-0 No. 20. On 14th September, No. 20 leads Hudswell Clarke 0-6-0ST* Renishaw Ironworks No. 6 *on the 15.17 East Tanfield to Andrews House service in Causey Woods, between East Tanfield and Causey Arch stations.* **Nick Wise**

▼*Recently overhauled at the Foxfield Railway, 0-6-0WT* Bellerophen *approaches East Tanfield on the same day.* **Stuart Chapman**

▲ *Visiting DRS Class 20/3s Nos. 20307 and 20315 are pictured along with resident Class 20 No. D8069 at Dereham on 19th September, during the Mid Norfolk Railway's Diesel Gala on 19th September.*

▼ *Weather-beaten Class 31/4 No. 31438 approaches Crownthorpe Bridge on the Mid Norfolk Railway during the Diesel Gala later that afternoon.*
Both: Stuart Chapman

Keighley hires USATC 'S160' for Autumn Steam Gala

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway (K&WVR) is rounding off its successful series of 40th Anniversary special events with a 'look back to the future' – operating wartime freight locomotives from America and Britain for its Autumn Steam Gala from 10th to 12th October.

The Railway has hired the United States Army Corps of Transportation 1944-built Class S160 2-8-0 freight engine No. 5197 from the Churnet Valley Railway. The loco was shipped to Europe for the war effort as the Allied forces needed to move men and munitions in the battle against the Nazis. The war over, it was sent to China, from where it was repatriated some 15 years ago, put back into working order and now attracts large numbers of admirers wherever it works. No. 5197 will be with the K&WVR's own WD Austerity 2-8-0 No. 90733.

A full timetable will be available on the Railway's website at http://www.kwvr.co.uk

▲ *The Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway held its Silver Jubilee Gala over the weekend of 13th/14th September featuring GWR 5600 class No. 5619. Part of this event was a two-day photo charter, held on 15th/16th September. On 15th September No. 5619 storms up the valley with a demonstration goods train.* **Stuart Chapman**

Best ever enthusiasts event for Pontypool & Blaenavon Railway's 25th anniversary

Other than 'Thomas Weekends', the Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway's 25th Anniversary Gala on the 13th/14th September was the best ever attended, with over 1,350 passengers carried during the two days. The high number was helped by the warm and sunny weather and also by the BBC and S4C, who were filming at the railway on the day prior to the event with reports that went out that night during prime time TV viewing hours.

Star of the weekend was GWR 5600 class 0-6-2T No. 5619 (courtesy of the Telford Steam Railway and the Flour Mill), which performed faultlessly on the 1 in 37 gradient with the equivalent of load six in tow. Traffic Manager Alex Hinshelwood said: "The weekend has exceeded our expectations and the site and sound of No. 5619 storming the hill is fantastic. The weather and the TV coverage have certainly combined to make this an event to remember". Also in operation was Class 73 'Electro-Diesel' No. 73128, which had arrived at the start of the year and was on the downhill end of the trains, and newly arrived Class 31 No. D5627, which was on display with the freshly painted BR freight rake.

A members special on Saturday evening stood on the tracks just north of Blaenavon High Level station overlooking Blaenavon, and many visitors commented on how magical it looked at night and how they can't wait to see the trains running to Blaenavon on a permanent basis. The railway is now preparing for the steam-hauled Santa Specials; while at the same time work goes on to reopen the line to Blaenavon for passengers for 2010.

▼ *The North Yorkshire Moors Railway's 'Schools' 4-4-0 No. 30926* **Repton** *has enjoyed a successful but very brief visit to the Nene Valley Railway. During its visit, the locomotive was used on passenger services at the NVR's steam gala weekend. On 14th September, the locomotive stands on the turntable at Wansford awaiting turning prior to its next working.* **Karl Skerstins**

▲ *Visiting Class 116/118 DMUs Nos. M51131 and W51321 departs from Consall on the Churnet Valley Railway on a test run back to Cheddleton. The hybrid unit is visiting the railway for the forthcoming Scenic Railcar Weekend being held on 27th/28th September.*

▼ *The Churnet Valley Railway's Permanent Way department has acquired the ex-Serco Class 101 DMU No. 901001, following its retirement from test duties on the National Network. Here the two-car unit undertakes a test run through Consall station on 18th September.* **Both: David Gibson**

▲ *The Wensleydale Railway, operating between Leeming Bar and Redmire, held its first-ever diesel gala on the 20th/21st September. Here Railfreight grey-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31108 makes its presence felt and heard as it powers towards Leyburn with the 12.05 Leeming Bar-Redmire service on 20th September.*

▼ *The unique EWS/DB Schenker Army liveried Class 60 No. 60040* **The Territorial Army Centenary** *runs through the countryside of Newton le Willows (North Yorkshire) with the 13.05 Redmire-Leeming Bar service on the same day.* **Both: Ian Tunstall**

▲ *Large logo blue-liveried Class 47/4 No. 47640* University of Strathclyde *approaches Shenton on the Battlefield Line during the railway's diesel gala weekend on 13th/14th September.* **Chris Holt**

▼ *Railfreight Metals-liveried Class 37/0 No. 37227 awaits its next duty at Shackerstone on 13th September. The headboards were carried in relation to the event's sponsors and the release of the sponsors new video programme!* **Michael Baker**

Sun shines on Severn Valley gala weekend

The Severn Valley Railway held its Autumn Steam Gala over the weekend of 20th/21st September, with a pair of visiting Great Western 4-4-0s being the highlight.

Star guests were the NRM's 'City' 4-4-0 N. 3440 *City of Truro*, visiting from its usual base on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway, and 'Dukedog' No. 9017 *Earl of Berkeley* from the Bluebell Railway.

Other members of the resident fleet were also in traffic, including Ivatt 2MT No. 46443, which had been renumbered for the weekend as Cambrian classmate No. 46446.

▲ ***Visiting locos GWR 'City' 4-4-0 No. 3440 City of Truro and No. 'Dukedog' No. 9017 Earl of Berkeley double-head a service to Kidderminster and coast around the curve approaching Foley Park Tunnel.***

▶ ***A view through the trees near to Hampton Loade as Ivatt 2MT Mogul No. 46446 (alias No. 46443) heads a two-coach shuttle service during the gala weekend on 20th September.***
Both: Jack Boskett

▲ *A scene that some would consider to be a typical Great Western country branch. Neatly trimmed grass edges, a 'Dukedog' at the head of authentic GWR coaching stock and a Pagoda waiting room on the platform! No. 9017* Earl of Berkeley *departs from Northwood Halt on 20th September with the 14.10 Bridgnorth-Kidderminster service.* **John Whitehouse**

▼ *Resident Manor Class 4-6-0s Nos. 7812* Erlestoke Manor *and 7802* Bradley Manor *double-head a rake of LNER coaches in the early morning sunshine of 20th September, with the 'Cambrian Coast Express' headboard. Photographed between Bewdley and Kidderminster.* **Jack Boskett**

Diary

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

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

24th September 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Working the ballast trains' by Brian Denton. Meeting commences 20.00 Contact 01256 326096 for further details.

25th September 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon)
United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'Branch Photo Competition and Members Slides'. Starts 19.15.

Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. 'Zimbabewe Railways' by Simon Bowden. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS (West Riding)
Two day oberservation at Eastleigh station with two nights B&B at Eastleigh. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 for details.

27th September 2008
Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Bournmouth. '50 years of Railway Photography' by Hugh Ballantyne. Meeting starts at 19.30. Entrance £2 to all. Contact Martyn Thresh on 01202 742099 for details.

28th September 2008
RCTS (Northampton)
Weston Favell Parish Hall, Booth Lane South, Weston Favell. 'View from the Footplate' by Brian Bell. Meeting commences at 14.00.

West Lancashire Light Railway
'Railways on the Air'. The WLLR will be participating in this event with the Bolton Wireless Club, who will set up a radio station on site - see http://www.westlancs.org.

29th September 2008
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Cole Green Lane, Ludwick Green. 'Memories of Ipswich Loco and its men' by J. Humphrey. Meeting starts at 14.15.

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

2nd October 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'Railways Across the Pond' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
IET Teacher's Building, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow. 'Airdrie to Bathgate and Edinburgh' Hugh Wark, Project Manager, Network Rail and Clair Keggie, rail Policy, Transport Scotland, Glasgow. Meeting commences 17.30.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh Area)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.
'The Northern Belle - Cruising in style with the LNER' by P (Sam) Woods. Meeting commences at 19.30 and a donation is requested from attendees. Contact Fred Landery, on 01698 457777 for further details.

3rd October 2008
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Area)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'Nostalgia of Steam on 16mm Cine' by Chris Pratt. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start.

3rd-5th October 2008
Manchester Model Railway Society
New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester. Open from 5pm-9pm (3rd October), 10am-6pm (4th October) and 10am-5pm (4th October) Adult £6, Pensioners £5, Junior (5-16) £3 and Family (2+2) £15. Advanced tickets available.
Discounts available on advance purchases. Exhibition guide available.

4th-12th October 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to Industrial Steam in Serbia. Further details are available on www.lcgb.org.com. Note: LCGB membership is compulsory due to insurance reasons.

5th October 2008
West Lancashire Light Railway
Narrow gauge gala weekend with all locomotives in steam, - see the website http://www.westlancs.org for further details.

7th October 2008
Locomotive & Carriage Institution
London Underground Ltd HQ, St. James Park Station, London. Presentation by Doug Lindsay on 'Pullman Coaches Pt 2'. Meeting commences at 18.00

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington.
'Rail/Wheel Interface Issues' by Mark Burstow, Network Rail. Meeting opens at 18.30 for an 19.00 start.

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'The Upper Forth Crossing' by John Osborne, MVJV. Meeting commences 18.00.

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.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex)
The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Blackfriars, London.
'Reading Remodelling' by Nick Millington, Network Rail. Meeting commences 18.30.

Yeovil & District Rly Society
Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil.
'Castleman's Corkscrew: The First Railway in Dorset' by Brian Jackson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the secretary Roger Marsh on 01935 814367 or www.ydrs.org.uk for further details.

8th October 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Kent & East Sussex Railway' by Graham Baldwin. Commences 20.00 Contact the society secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group
RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes. 'Trainspotters' Memories' by Geoff Beacroft and David Cowell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the group secretary on 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 Martin Fisher. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

9th October 2008
Continental Railway Circle
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. A talk on 'Germany - the changin scene' by Brian Garvin. Admission £2, Meeting starts at 19.15. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

10th October 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. 'Steam on shed' and illustrated presentation by Alan Ashurst. Admission £3 for non-members Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for details.

11th October 2008
Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Bournmouth. 'Members' colour slides. Starts 14.30. Entrance £2 to all. Contact Martyn Tresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

Cornwall Railway Society
The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Steam in South West Wales 1958-2002' by Martin Davies. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the club secretary Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 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. Please contact the secretary on 01522 705365 for details.

York Railway Society
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York
' Sir Vincent Raven', last Chief Mechanical Engineer of the North Eastern Railway an illustrated talk by Andrew Everett. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for details. Visitors £2 entrance fee.

▲ *Still carrying its Virgin Trains applied NSE-livery, the classic lines of the Class 87 are clearly visible, despite the bodyside branding and front-end modifications including roof horns and headlights! No. 87012-1 is pictured stabled at Pirdop, Bulgaria, after working a mixed freight from Varna on 2nd September.* Steve Madden

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.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Croydon College, Room B110. 'The Gautrain Project - South Africa's New Railway' by Michael Grounsell and Mark Driscoll, Atkins Rail. Meeting opens at 17.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Lanarkshire Area)
Vestry Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'Steam in Switzerland and Eastern Europe' by Alistair Maclean. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Fred Landery, 01698 457777.

14th-22nd October 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to participate in steam charters in Etriea. Further details are available on www.lcgb.org.com. LCGB membership is compulsory.

15th October 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Destressing at RT60 S&C' by Mike McCormack, Network Rail, Bristol. Meeting commences 17.30.

16th October 2008
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Sheffield Victoria and the G.C. War Memorial. A presentation by Ken Grainger. A look back to the days of Sheffield Victoria in its heyday and the restoration and re-siting of the G.C. War Memorial.

RCTS (West Riding) Branch
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Steam & Steel' by John Foreman. Meeting commences 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
The Kirkfield Hotel, Church Street Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside. 'Robert Stephenson - the early years (including the Warrington and Newton Railway)' by Dr. Michael Bailey. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'The Severn Valley Railway' by Dave Baker. Starts 19.45 for 20.00 Non-members entry £2.

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 for details.

20th October 2008
The Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'William Stanier's Jubilees' by Mick Hayes. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for details.

21st October 2008
RCTS (Cheltenham Area)
Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SY. 'Rails to Infinity' by Terry Nichols. Starts 19.30.

22nd October 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Members photo competition'. Commences 20.00 Contact 01256 326096 for details.

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.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Tayside Area)
Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, Perth. 'Memories of the 1948 Locomotive Exchanges, Perth - Aviemore' by Dr. Ann Glen. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Fred Landery, 01698 457777, for details.

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

28th October 2008
RCTS (West Riding) Branch
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. '30 years back' by John Holroyd. Commences 19.30.

30th October-16th November 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to Broad and Narrow Gauge railways in Argentina. Further details on www.lcgb.org.com.

4th November 2008
Locomotive & Carriage Institution
London Underground Limited HQ, St. James Park Station, London. To be advised. Starts 18.00.

Yeovil & Disctrict Railway Society
Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil 'BR Rail: 1980's & 1990's' by Quentin Hawkes. Starts19.30. Contact Roger Marsh on 01935 814367 for details.

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