Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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New Siemens Class 380 'Desiro' on show

The Scottish Government's Minister for Transport officially opened the mock-up of the new Siemens Class 380 'Desiro' EMUs, scheduled to enter service from 2010 on Ayrshire services out of Glasgow, allowing existing stock to be cascaded to other routes.

Full story on Page 3

Production Issues

Our apologies go to all readers for the delay in publication of this issue, which has been as a result of technical and production issues.

As a result, this issue is slightly shorter than usual, but we expect everything to be back to normal for Issue 177, which will be published on Monday 11th May.

As a result of the delays, our in-depth photographic coverage of the 'Steam, Steel & Stars II' event on the Llangollen Railway has been held over until the next issue.

In This Issue

Royal Albert Bridge 150
A number of events have taken place to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, including a large firework display
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Voyager refurbishment
To celebrate completion of the West Coast Main Line Voyager refurbishment contract by Bombardier, a short ceremony was held at Euston on 21st April
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8 New look and new route for '180s'
First Hull Trains has begun work to transform the exterior look of its recently obtained Class 180 fleet, by undertaking a relivery programme, which has seen No. 180113 outshopped in Dynamic Lines livery, while Grand Central's No. 180105 has been undertaking test runs for its new operator.

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Front Cover Caption:

On a sunny 24th April, a First Great Western Class 165 DMU passes a narrowboat near Banbury.
Richard Penn

▲ The mock-up of the new Siemens Class 380 EMU for First ScotRail on display at Glasgow Central. **Bill Wilson**

New style 'Desiro' mock-up goes on public display

The Scottish Government's Minister for Transport Infrastructure and Climate Change, was at Glasgow Central station on 6th May, to introduce a full size mock-up of the new eco-friendly Class 380 EMU, the type that is due to enter service for ScotRail in September next year.

The train was shown on the same day that the Scottish Government brought in its Climate Change Bill before Parliament for its first full debate.

The 38 new trains, to be built by Siemens will provide additional seats on the network and are to be introduced in Ayrshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire from September 2010, the existing rolling stock on those routes being transferred elsewhere within Scotland, such as to the Airdrie to Bathgate route. The new 'Desiro' units will offer better accessibility and improved passenger comfort, as well as a number of environmentally friendly features.

The new Class 380 incorporates a number of energy-saving features including a new braking system that can return brake energy to source, and a new 'sleep' low-power mode. In addition, the air-conditioning system can sense if a carriage is empty, thus saving further energy. All of these new features will reduce overall electricity consumption, in turn reducing carbon emissions.

▶ **The interior to the new Siemens' Class 380 'Desiro' is mainly arranged in a 2+2 formation airline style, but with some table seats towards the centre of the vehicle. The overhead digital displays provide station stop information. Bill Wilson**

Ups & Downs

The latest locomotive and route changes, together with late-breaking news from the railtour industry by John Whitehouse

The Railway Touring Company has re-dated its Mill Hill Broadway to York charter scheduled for 6th June to now operate on 11th July with No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* **in charge, instead of the originally specified combination of No. 5690** *Leander* **and No. 45407.**

Also, RTC's 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' on 18th July will now have No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* in charge instead of No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley.*

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's Pacific No. 60163 *Tornado* has been passed for the North Kent line, and now heads Steam Dreams' re-routed evening Fathers Day excursion on 21st June from London Victoria and Bromley South on a circular tour via Faversham, Ramsgate, Deal, Dover, Folkestone, Ashford, Tonbridge and Sevenoaks.

Coal trains disturb lineside residents

Transport Scotland, Network Rail and the local authorities of Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and Stirling have received complaints from residents who live near the reopened rail link to Longannet Power Station about the noise and vibrations caused by DB Schenker in operating heavy coal trains at night.

It is said that there has been no indication from the freight operator about such traffic, and the situation has led to calls for speed restrictions along the line and a reduction in the number of freight trains running at night.

Transport Scotland and the local council are now analysing the results of 24-hour noise surveys commissioned to assess the impact of the trains along the line, and the results could lead to some properties qualifying for sound insulation or noise mitigation measures.

Directions to safeguard Crossrail extension west to Reading issued

Directions to safeguard and protect a potential extension of Crossrail from Maidenhead to Reading West Junction have been issued by the Department for Transport.

No funding has yet been allocated for the extension, but much of the work required affects other projects, such as the redevelopment of Reading station and plans to electrify the Great Western Main Line. Network Rail has set up an integrated team to deliver both the Crossrail On-Network works and the Reading station scheme. Transport Minister Andrew Adonis said: "Our current priority is to get on with the delivery of the Crossrail project as it is currently planned, but safeguarding would provide additional protection against developments impacting on future operational requirements. Safeguarding will also allow the line to be electrified in the future and for Crossrail to be extended if a case can be made to do so".

Maritime Line upgrade completed

The £7.8 million project to boost the number of trains on the Maritime Line to Falmouth has been completed in advance of the new timetable starting on 18th May, helping double the services on the branch line.

Peak services will run every half an hour between Truro, Penryn and Falmouth, increasing the number of trains from 13 to 29 a day. The scheme has been jointly funded by European Regional Development Fund Convergence Programme, Cornwall Council and Network Rail, and forms a key part of Cornwall Council's overall transport strategy to meet growing travel demands as the towns on the line continues to develop. This was the first ERDF Convergence investment to be announced in England, and it has helped in creating a passing loop at Penryn. Work was also carried out to modernise the signalling system to improve the reliability of the services. The Maritime Line is approximately 12-miles long with a running time of slightly more than 20 minutes.

▲ **As part of the events to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel, a fireworks display was held on 2nd May. Bruce Hunt**

Royal Albert Bridge celebrates 150 years

A special walk across the Royal Albert Bridge at Saltash on 3rd May, organised jointly by Network Rail and the Ashtorre Brunel Committee, drew thousands of people to celebrate the 150th anniversary of one of Brunel's masterpieces.

Since its construction, the bridge has carried more than 1 billion tonnes of rail traffic, and still remains the only rail link between Devon and Cornwall as well as being the only bridge of its kind still in existence.

It was the first time in 25 years that it had been opened to the public to cross by foot, and it is now planned for the bridge to be given a new lease of life. It will be blast-cleaned and strengthened in summer next year, and a total of 20,000 square metres is scheduled for painting over using a three-coat painting system that is also used on the Forth Bridge.

Work will also be carried out to repair and replace worn-out parts of the structure, including all the hangers and track girders.

▼ On 21st April at Euston, Chris Gibb of Virgin Trains presents Colin Walton of Bombardier with a bonus cheque for early completion of the refurbishment contract.

Bombardier gains £96,000 for early finish

Bombardier has received a £96,600 bonus for the early completion of the refreshment of 21 Class 221 units for Virgin Trains.

To recognise the achievement, a giant cheque was presented to Bombardier Transportation's UK Chairman, Colin Walton, by Virgin Trains Chief Operating Officer, Chris Gibb, at London Euston station on 21st April.

The work was undertaken by Bombardier at its Derby Litchurch Lane Works, and the contract was completed two weeks early. The 18 five-coach and three four-coach trains have had the Shop vehicle moved next to the First Class accommodation, creating a 'hybrid' coach. The seats in this are now in bays of four, with new laptop-friendly tables and revised seat cushions and backrests.

On busy peak time trains, this coach can be used to provide additional First Class accommodation. CCTV has been fitted throughout each train, including the vestibule areas, and forward facing cameras have been fitted to the driving cabs, recording the journeys the trains make. Also upgraded is the galley area, with a double sink, water boiler, convection oven and improved lighting being fitted.

There are 10 more seats on each five-coach train and more luggage space has also been created.

▼ The new look interior and tables to the Virgin Trains Class 221 fleet.
Both: Chris Dixon

Contracts awarded for London overground upgrade

Network Rail has awarded two contracts worth a combined £130 million to deliver vital elements of the London Overground upgrade, which will double capacity on sections of the network ahead of the 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games.

Carillion has been awarded a £90 million contract to carry out design and construction of the civil engineering, track, overhead line and power supply aspects of the project, and Atkins has been appointed to design and install a brand new signalling system on the line, with a contract worth over £40 million. Network Rail, Transport for London, the Olympic Delivery Authority and the Department for Transport fund the total £326 million upgrade, scheduled for completion in 2011.

When complete, passengers will have longer trains, more frequent services and benefit from connections to the main London 2012 Olympic Games Park in Stratford. London Overground will run up to eight trains an hour during peak times on parts of the network when the upgrade is complete, double the current number and with a more reliable timetable. New and longer platforms at some stations will also allow for longer trains to increase capacity and reduce overcrowding. The London Overground network consists of the lines between Stratford and Richmond, Gospel Oak and Barking, Willesden Junction and Clapham Junction and London Euston and Watford Junction.

Platform lengthening for Preston and Lancaster

Network Rail has announced plans for longer platforms at Preston and Lancaster, an hourly Preston to Ormskirk service, longer trains on some routes and better connections between Lancashire and Cumbria.

It also says that future plans beyond 2014 could see a return of trains between Southport and Preston, via Burscough. Much needed hourly connections between Lancaster and Cumbria are also being considerd, as well as the lengthening of trains between Clitheroe and Blackburn. Between 2011 and 2012, Virgin is to add 106 extra vehicles to the Pendolino fleet, which is why the platform extensions will be needed. The following year, Platforms 1 & 2 at Preston will be 'decluttered' to add extra capacity for passengers. The plans come amid predictions of soaring passenger numbers between now and 2014, more people now using train services than at any time in the past 60 years. On the West Coast Main Line alone it is estimated that over 900 million passenger kilometres will have to be accommodated. A statement from Network Rail said: "Our ambitious plans mean an even safer, more reliable railway, and one that is available when passengers, freight users and our train and freight operating customers need it. The plans also mean a bigger railway, with £8 billion being invested in enhancing the network to increase its capacity and capability".

Work on Newport station revamp to start this summer

Work to revamp Newport station in Gwent will begin this summer, following the appointment by Network Rail of contractors to undertake the refurbishment.

Jointly funded by Network Rail and the Welsh Assembly Government, the improvement scheme is set to modernise and upgrade the station facilities as part of a city-wide project to rejuvenate the town.

By 2010, passengers will benefit from improved passenger amenities, including disabled access, and more car park spaces. The £13 million contract will also include work to extend Platform 4 and construction of two brand new termini (using a special type of plastic also used by the Eden Project in Cornwall). Construction work will begin this summer once the detailed design and delivery plan is completed.

▲ **Class 73 'ED' No. 73136** *Perseverance*, **recently on short-term loan to the Bluebell Railway for use on works trains in connection with the extension to East Grinsted, returned to Eastleigh by road on 5th May, pictured near its destination. Dave Kirwin**

Transport consultancy commissioned for Lewes route

A transport consultancy has been commissioned to undertake a review of project to reinstate a 10-mile section of line between Uckfield and Lewes to recreate the secondary route from London to the East Sussex coast.

Local councils in Crowborough, Lewes and Uckfield are jointly funding the work after a previous study commissioned by Network Rail was accused of failing to take into account many of the wider benefits promoters claim would result from the scheme. The earlier report for Network Rail said that there were no physical obstructions that would preclude the rebuilding of the rail link, and that the capital cost of the project would be £141 million to allow a half-hourly service in each direction along the route. Options for the construction of intermediate stations at Isfield and Barcombe Mills, and for the provision of double track throughout the reinstated route would add between £7.4 million and £38.8 million to the base capital cost. However, at the time the Central Rail Corridor Board concluded that there was no economic case for rebuilding the Lewes-Uckfield line.

The new study is intended to focus on the wider strategic benefits that the Wealden line would deliver to the south-east region. Promoters of the scheme expect it will form the basis for a new business case analysis that acknowledges the opportunities that would accrue from re-establishing the link to join major rail routes and conurbations. The Mayor of Lewes, Councillor Michael Chartier, said: "This project will give the central area of East Sussex the rail link it needs to Lewes and the coastal towns, and enable thousands of people to leave their cars at home and instead take the train. It would also free the county town from being entirely dependent on the overcrowded Brighton mainline, and will significantly strengthen our transport network in the busy south-east. This is why Lewes is wholeheartedly backing this new initiative".

A spokesman for Crowborough Town Council added: "Being the largest inland town in East Sussex with a population of over 22,000, Crowborough is acutely aware of not only being cut off from the coast, but also the nearby centre of Tunbridge Wells. Renewing these short rail links would put Crowborough on the network it deserves, which is why the council is financially and wholeheartedly committed towards playing its part along with other Sussex councils in supporting this new investigation"

UK News In Brief

■ As part of a £2.7 million investment by London Midland, automatic ticket gates have been installed at Birmingham Snow Hill, Five Ways and University stations. The work, which is part of London Midland's franchise commitment, will be completed when gates are installed at Birmingham New Street station later in the year. Gates have also been installed at Birmingham Moor Street and will be activated later this month.

■ First GBRf has signed two new contracts with Network Rail, providing six years of new business. The first is for the operation and management of Whitemoor, March, infrastructure terminal for a further two years, meaning that GBRf will continue to assume responsibility for running the depot, which it has been in charge of doing since winning the original contract in 2003. Duties will include loading and unloading trains and managing the ballast stockpiles. The second contract renewal relates to haulage of infrastructure maintenance trains from Hoo Junction, Kent, to Eastleigh and Whitemoor. The freight haulier will provide locomotives, drivers and staff.

■ The Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) has increased its targets for using the railway and barges to transport building materials to the construction site of the new Olympic Park. In 2007, its strategy set out that 50% of all construction materials should be transported by rail or water, but it now wants at least 57% to be carried by rail alone. Also, dredging of the local waterways, which will allow 350-tonne barges to access the site, is set to begin this month. The ODA has also established two off-site logistics centres in order to hold, screen and process lorries, allocating them a specific time to make their deliveries into the site, minimising congestion.

■ There are fresh fears about the future of Edinburgh's planned tram network following an announcement by Edinburgh City Council that the multi-million pound extension 1b, the route that would have transported passengers between the city and several new developments along the capital's waterfront, was not to be proceeded with due to funding problems caused by the economic downturn. Both Transport Initiatives Edinburgh and Edinburgh City Council are now being asked to make a full statement about how much money is available to complete the main line 1a, which is planned to run from the west of the city to Newhaven. The Scottish Government wanted to abandon the complete project, initially priced at some £500 million, soon after coming to power in May 2007, but gave it a reluctant go-ahead after losing a parliamentary vote on the proposals.

■ Network Rail has announced the creation of 75 new jobs as part of a new three-year £20 million contract to help restore the Tay Bridge, the longest bridge on Britain's rail network. The contract will see 70,000 metres of wrought iron, cast iron and steel stripped back to bare metal, and a new weather resistant glass epoxy-based paint applied to preserve the bridge for future generations. The complete project is not expected to be completed until 2016.

Corby gains an hourly service

The new £9 million station in Corby was officially opened on 27th April by Transport Secretary, Geoff Hoon.

Initial services connecting Corby with London and other regional stations began running earlier this year, but the town now has an hourly service to London.

The original station was closed in April 1966 under the Beeching cuts, although the line remained open for freight and as a diversionary route for passenger trains.

▼ **None for years, then three come along at once! On 27th April, a pair of five-car Class 222s led by No. 222010 with 222017 slow for the Corby stop with the late running 06.03 from Melton Mowbray to London St Pancras on the first day of the full hourly timetable of the services. The train to the right, formed of Class 222 No. 222013 waits in the run-round sidings to form the next departure from Corby.** **Robert Gray**

Metro and Light Rail News

Construction work commences on Metrolink extension

The final piece of the Greater Manchester legal jigsaw that will enable trams to run to a new multi-million pound development in Salford is now in place, and the Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive has officially been given powers to run trams to the heart of MediaCityUK in Salford Quays, as construction work gets under way on the new quarter-of-a-mile line.

MediaCityUK will be home to the BBC's new northern headquarters and is expected to create 15,500 jobs and bring £1 billion to the regional economy in its first five years. The new tramline will leave the existing Eccles Metrolink line just before the Broadway Metrolink stop and end at a new MediaCityUK stop. It is being funded by the North West Regional Development Agency, Salford City Council and Peel Media, the organisations behind the MediaCityUK development, and is due to open in summer next year.

Four new trams have been ordered to run on the line, which will double the frequency of daytime services into Salford Quays. The project forms part of a wider £600 million expansion of the Metrolink network, which will have new lines built to Oldham and Rochdale, Droylsden in Tameside and Chorlton in South Manchester

Over one billion people use the Underground

London Underground Ltd (LUL) has carried more than a billion passengers for the third year running; 1,089 million people travelled on the Tube in 2008/9, the highest in its 146-year history.

The latest performance figures follow LUL's success at this year's prestigious Metro Awards, where the Tube was named 'Best Metro in Europe', beating off competition from Berlin, Copenhagen, Madrid and Paris, the award being judged on several criteria including customer service levels, geographical coverage, technological innovations, safety and security and the condition of the network.

Improvements delivered over the year include the completion of three new stations, the complete refurbishment of the District Line train fleet and the installation of the Airwave radio system, which also allows police and emergency services radios to work underground.

London Underground is the oldest Metro system in the world, the first part running from Farringdon to Paddington being built in 1863. Its network now covers 249 miles, 45% of which is in tunnels.

High Barnet & Golders Green upgrades underway

High Barnet station on the London Underground Northern Line is currently being upgraded by Tube Lines.

The work includes provisions to make the station step-free with a new entrance, additional gate line, and a covered walkway being constructed to enable everyone to travel to all station platforms with ease. The work started last month and is scheduled for completion by no later than May 2010. With an average of just four hours each night between the track current being switched off and the first passenger train running in morning service, the engineers are under time pressure to deliver the improvement as scheduled, so the station will also be closed for 11 weekends to help speed things up.

Meanwhile, the step-free access project at Golders Green station on the Northern Line has been completed with the installation of two lifts on the island platforms, the project being a huge undertaking that has taken nearly two-and-a-half years to complete, as one of the platforms is very narrow. The station has five underground platforms, but only four were open to passengers. The fifth has been upgraded and opened to the public, meaning that the station did not need to be closed to passengers to allow the work to take place.

▲ The Class 180 DMUs now in use with First Hull Trains are being reliveried. No. 180113 in the new First Hull Trains colours passes Peterborough on 2nd May, with the 11:48 King's Cross - Hull. Keith Partlow

▼ Class 180 No. 180105, now leased to Grand Central, was 'on-test' between Heaton and York via the Durham coast on 7th May. The unit approaches Hartlepool with a York-bound working. Michael J Alderdice

Network Rail targets cable thefts with new style identifiable cable

Thieves stealing or damaging railway cables are reported to be responsible for delays to trains and for costs of £3.5 million in compensation for train operators in the North East and Yorkshire in the past financial year – up £1.7million on the previous 12 months.

So far this year there have been 367 cases of cable theft, recent incidents including 100 metres of cable stolen at Seaton Carew, near Hartlepool, on 9th April, another 34 metres stolen at Seaton Carew on 13th April, and 250 metres taken at Ashington on 16th April.

The route director for Network Rail, said: "Many thousands of passengers in the North East and Yorkshire were unnecessarily delayed after thieves brought trains to a halt. This is not good enough and I am determined that we will not allow thieves to continue to bring misery to passengers. We are working on a number of ideas to tackle the thieves and I would ask the community for their support by reporting anyone seen acting suspiciously or any information about the people committing these crimes."

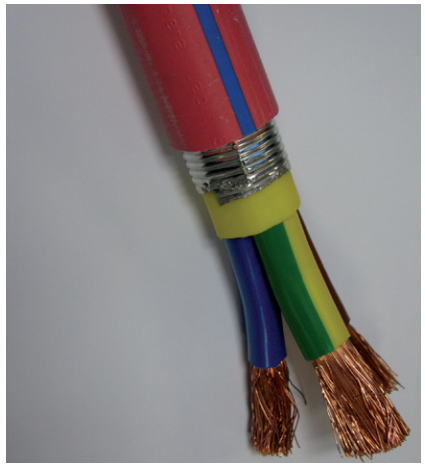
The Detective Inspector who is leading the British Transport Police team charged with tackling metal theft in Yorkshire and the North East, said: "We are dedicated to doing all we can to tackle metal theft but we can't do it alone. The public has an important part to play. Crimestoppers can be contacted free on 0800 555 111. You can leave information anonymously and could be eligible for a reward of up to £1,000".

One of the major issues with the thefts is that, once the cable is removed from site, it is virtually impossible to prove that it was stolen from the railway. Now Network Rail has approved a new type of cable to be used - one that is harder to cut in the first place and, should it be stolen, is much easier to trace.

The new cable is easily identifiable by having a distinctive and unique colour, and the outer sheath is embossed with the name Network Rail and the engineers' line reference to show where it is installed. A tracer thread has also been added, which means that the cable can be identified even if it is stripped back to the copper cores. Also, the inner and outer sheaths are flame retardant, a corrugated steel sheath protects against fire and water, and it is easily identifiable to the BTP and scrap dealers.

The cost increase of the cable is said to be minimal despite the new features.

▼ The new style cable now being used. Network Rail



UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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

9th May			
MCRUA	DBS 67	Chester-Northwich-Knutsford-Altrincham-Chinley Peterborough-Ely-Cambridge (break/rev) & return	
PMR Tours	6233	(Gloucester-Cheltenham Spa-Kidderminster-Wolves-Stafford-Crewe)-Crewe-Holyhead (break/rev)-Crewe (& return)	
Railway Touring Company	6201	(London KX-)-Doncaster-Leeds-S&C-Carlisle(-Hexham-York-London	
Spitfire Railtours	50044 NR 97/3	Bristol TM-Swindon-Oxford-Wolves-Shrewsbury-Welshpool-Machynlleth-Aberystwyth-Abwerystwyth-Shrewsbury (rev)-Wolves-Coventry-Banbury-Oxford-Swindon & return	
SRPS	2xDRS 37	Glenrothes-Kirkcaldy-Dalgety Bay-Dalmeny-Linlithgow-Falkirk High-Croy-Westerton- Crianlarich-Rannock-Fort William-Mallaig & return	
Steam Dreams	70013	London Victoria-Kettering-Alfreton-Chesterfield-Hope Valley-Chinley-Manchester (and return)	
Vintage Trains	46115/86259	(Birmingham NS-Preston)-Preston-Lancaster-Penrith-Carlisle & return	
16th May			
Past Time Rail	45407 & 76079	Manchester Victoria Stalybridge-Standedge-Huddersfield-Hebden Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria	
Pathfinder Tours	2xDBS 37	Crewe-Stafford-Penkridge-Wolves-Birmingham New St-Barnt Green-Cheltenham Spa-Cam & Dursley-Bristol Pky-Bristol TM- Exeter SD-Plymouth-Liskeard-Bodmin Pky-Par-St.Austell-Parkandillack-Par & return	
Railway Touring Company	70013	Norwich-Reedham-Hadiscoe-Lowestoft (pu/rev)-Beccles-Saxmundham-Ipswich-Colchester-London Liverpool Street-London Liverpool St-Colchester-Diss-Norwich-Reedham-Hadiscoe-Lowestoft-Beecles	
Steam Dreams	60019/60007	**The Coronation 2: Day 1:** London KX-York-Newcastle-Edinburgh	
Vintage Trains	5029/5043	(Tyseley-Walsall-Wolves)-Shrewsbury-Abergavenny-Chepstow-Gloucester-Worcester SH-Old Hill-Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley	
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Richmond-Staines-Virginia Water-Woking-Dorking Deepdene-East Croydon-Clapham Jct-London Victoria	
17th May			
Steam Dreams	6000760009	**The Coronation 2: Day 2:** Edinburgh-Dundee & return	
Vintage Trains	9600	Tyseley Warwick Road-Walsall	Cancelled
Vintage Trains	9600	Walsall-Cannock-Hednesford-Ruguley & return	Cancelled
Vintage Trains	9600	Walsall-Sutton Park-Tyseley Warwick Road	Cancelled
18th May			
Steam Dreams	60009/60163	**The Coronation 2: Day 3:** Edinburgh-Newcastle-York-London KX	
23th May			
Compass Tours	40145	Shrewsbury-Wem-Whitchurch-Crewe-Wilmslow-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-Leyland-Blackburn-Hellifield-S&C-Carlisle-Carstairs-Edinburgh-Carstairs-Carlisle-Penrith-Shap-Leyland & return	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Retford-Newark Northgate-Grantham-Peterborough-Huntingdon-Finsbury Park-North London Line-Canterbury (break) & return	
Railway Touring Company	70013	Norwich-Ely-Cambridge--Staines-Eastleigh-Bournemouth-Poole (& rtn)	

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

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

The Week Ahead

The pride of the LMS is on display this coming weekend with the 'Big Three', that is LMS Nos. 6233, 6201 and 46115 all in action.

Add *Oliver Cromwell* into the mix, and it becomes a truly vintage 'big-engine' weekend for steam. *Duchess of Sutherland* is booked to head PMR Tours 'The Welsh Dragon' from Crewe to Holyhead and back, which originates at Gloucester. Passing through Crewe at around the same time should be Class 86/2 No. 86259 *Les Ross* in the process of whisking Vintage Trains passengers from Birmingham New Street to Preston, where Rebuilt Royal Scot No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* is booked to take over for a return working to Carlisle, via Shap in each direction. At Carlisle, the 'Scot' should meet up with No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, which is booked to work in from Doncaster, via the Settle & Carlisle, with the Railway Touring Company's 'Cumbrian Mountain Express', which starts it's day at London King's Cross. This tour returns diesel-hauled via the Tyne Valley and the East Coast Main Line.

Steam Dreams, meanwhile, have 'The Palatine' from London Victoria, which after wending its way around West London, heads for the Midland Mainline and onwards to Manchester Piccadilly with No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* travelling via Leicester, Toton, Alfreton, Chesterfield and the Hope Valley route. The return is diesel-hauled, retracing its outward route with a WCRC Class 47 for traction.

A tour most worthy of support is 'The Cambrian Mountaineer', which is being organised by a group of Network Rail signalling staff at Bristol and Swindon, the proceeds of which will go to The Railway Children Charity. It is due to feature the first outing of a Network Rail Class 97/3 on a passenger train. The ex-Class 37, converted to a Class 97 as part of the Cambrian Coast line European Rail Travel Management System (ERTMS) implementation, is due to haul the train from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth. The inbound working from Bristol Temple Meads also picks up at Chippenham, Swindon, Oxford, Banbury, Tame Bridge Parkway, Wolverhampton and Shrewsbury, and is booked for Class 50 haulage, probably No. D444 *Exeter*. The Class 50 will stay with the train in 'top and tail' mode to Aberystwyth, to be in position to return the charter to Bristol Temple Meads, which it will head throughout. Spitfire Railtours is handling the bookings.

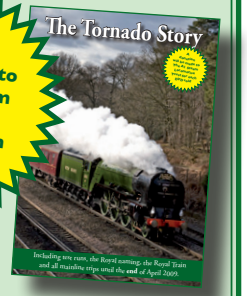
The Fens is the destination of the Mid Cheshire Rail Users Association's 'The Great Eastern Express' from Chester, which offers Peterborough, Ely or Cambridge as destinations. The train, which is booked for Class 67 haulage, also picks up at most stations on the line to Altrincham, as well as Chinley.

DBS Class 37s are the booked traction for the SRPS charter to Fort William and Mallaig, which originates at Glenrothes, and picks up along the Fife coast before crossing the Forth to reach the West Highland Line via Falkirk High, Croy and Westerton.

The Tornado Story

This 60-minute DVD tells the story of the project and the construction of 'Tornado'. Produced in co-operation with The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the DVD shows the construction, testing (both GCR & mainline) all of the mainline runs until the end of April 2009, the Royal naming and No. 60163's appearances at Barrow Hill & NYMR Steam Galas.

A donation will be made to The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust for each DVD sold



Available now to pre-order - Call 01904 500175 - or **click here** for more details

Still carrying its Scarborough Spa Express advertising branding on one-side only, Class 47/4 No. 47826 heads south through Lancaster with 10.45 Carnforth- Worcester ECS working on 1st May. **Mick Langton**

Testing times at Buckfastleigh

▲ **Class 33/0 No. 33002** *Sea King* **undertook it's first test runs after four years of restoration at the South Devon Railway on 26th April. The 'Crompton' passes alongside the banks of the River Dart at Hood Bridge, hauling Class 25 No. D7612 as 'insurance'. Robert Sherwood**

Local County Council supports NYMR bridge fund with £300,000 injection

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has been given a £300,000 injection to its appeal' to restore a vital bridge between Grosmont and Goathland. The money was approved by North Yorkshire County Council's executive, which has agreed to spend £18 million on 18 priority transport proposals across the county, including the bridge, over the next three years.

Around £650,000 is urgently needed to replace Bridge 30, below Beck Hole and safeguard the future of the railway, which brings in £30 million annually to the area's economy. If the 80ft 140-year-old bridge, which has reached the end of its life, is not replaced in the next 12 months, the railway would be faced with running a skeleton service and could close eventually, as a weight restriction would have to be placed on trains using the track.

The donation from the council means that the railway is now halfway towards raising the total needed to repair the bridge as £70,000 has also been received in donations from the public.

Thieves strike Northampton & Lamport Railway crippling extension plans

The Northampton and Lamport Railway (NLR) has reported that thieves once again seem to be targeting preserved railways.

The NLR has been the victim of a major theft of permanent way equipment and materials with an estimated value in the region of £75,000. The theft does not appear be by opportunist scrap metal thieves, as particular items have been targeted and metals that would have a high scrap value were not taken.

A full inventory of what was stolen is still being made, but items known to be missing relate mainly to point-work, including chairs, slide-bars, fishplates and point rodding. The NLR asks other preserved railways to check their security arrangements and to also report any unusual offers/donations of equipment, particularly relating to pointwork.

The matter is under investigation by the Northamptonshire Police, and the railway's General Manager, Mick Hooper, would be grateful to hear from any railway or individual who may have recently received unusual offers of permanent way materials. Mick can be contacted at mick.hooper@tesco.net or via the railway on 01604 820327.

The theft has crippled the NLR's southern extension towards Boughton Crossing, work on which was to resume shortly, and could set the railway back a number of years.

▼ **Class 31/1 No. 31101 and Class 56/0 No. 56098 stand at Shackerstone, prior to forming the 15.00 service to Shenton, during the Shackerstone Railway's diesel gala on 26th April. Jamie Course**

With the Welsh Highland Railway now open from Rhyd-Ddu through to Beddgelert (and the next stage to Hafon-y-Llyn, allowing trains to traverse the scenic Aberglaslyn Pass opening on 22nd May) a number of new photo locations, previously only available on photo-charters, have been opened up. (▲◀) The FR's rebuilt 'Funkey' diesel *Vale of Festiniog* powers the 08.50 Rhyd-Ddu to Beddgelert train, having just left Rhyd- Ddu with Mynydd Mawr mountain in the background. Also a new observation coach (▲▶) pictured at Boston Lodge Works, has been built for the line. **Andrew Wood/Roger Dimmock**

SWANAGE RAILWAY

Diesel Gala

8th-10th May 2009

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THE PURBECK LINE

Photograph courtesy of Andrew P.M.Wright

▲ 5700 Class 0-6-0PT No. 5786, recently painted in BR black, heads through the woods on the South Devon Railway, with a short pick-up freight during a Don Bishop Photo Charter on 21st April. **Paul Maycock**

The Betton Grange Society held its highly successful 'Steam, Steel & Stars II' event on the Llangollen Railway from 18th-26th April. The event featured a wide variety of locomotives, including visiting ex-GWR 5600 class 0-6-2T No 5643 from the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway, seen here on a goods service passing Ty Newydd on 25th April. Full photographic coverage of the event will appear in Issue 177. **Mick Rogers**

On 28th April, Class 66/5 No. 66556 passes Berkley Marsh, near Frome, with a High Output Ballast Cleaner rake from Fairwater Yard, Taunton, to the Virtual Quarry at Westbury. **Glen Batten**

Convoy!

Locomotive movement convoys can occur across the Network for a variety of reasons, three of which are illustrated here.

◀ Cotswold Rail's Class 47/4 No. 47818 *Emily* heads south through Spetchley with First Great Western's Class 43 powercar No. 43056, forming the 12.55 Brush Loughborough to Swansea Landore TMD on 25th April.

▼◀ Five days later, and another member of the Cotswold Rail/Advenza Freight locomotive pool, Class 47/0 No. 47237, enters the loop at Spetchley, Worcestershire, while working from Gloucester to Barrow Hill with stored Class 31/4 No. 31415 and Class 47/7 No. 47716 on 30th April. **Both: Stephen Tucker**

▼ Class 37/5 No. 37670 hauls Class 66/0s Nos. 66250 and 66124 thorugh Water Orton, bound for Toton TMD on 23rd April. The working was the daily Bescot-Toton service, which on this occasion had no traffic to convey. **David Thomas**

27th April 2009

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Brighton Branch)
Brighton Model Railway Club Room, BR London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Southern Preservation Scene from the 1960s to the Present Day' by John Scrace. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Ashford Branch)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. '52 Years in the PWI' by Mike Chorley. Starts 18.30. Contact Ted Hamer on 01227 711897 for details.

RCTS (Maidenhead Branch)
Cox Green Community Centre, Highfield Lane, Cox Green. Branch AGM. Meeting commences at 19.30.

28th April 2009

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City Branch)
Methodist Church at the Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Wolverton and Stony Stratford Tramway' by Bob Ayres. Meeting commences at 14.15.

RCTS (Woking Branch)
Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Town Square, Woking. 'Crossrail' by Simon Bennett. Meeting starts at 19.15.

Tewkesbury Rly Society
YMCA, Church Street, Tewkesbury. 'Travels in Argentina and Chile' by Trevor Radway. Starts 20.00. Contact Mike Dodd on 01242 576907.

29th April 2009

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'More Branch Lines mainly Southern' by David Soggee. Starts 19.30. Contact 01256 326096.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon Branch)
United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'Either Side of the Leitha' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting starts at 19.15.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
South Bank University. Half Days Technical Seminar - 'Practical Inspection and Maintenance of S&C'. Contact the Secretary, Alison Stansfield on 0770 332 6080 for further details.

1st May 2009

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Area Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham. AGM followed by Members' Slides. Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30 start

RCTS (Bristol Branch)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'The Story of the TGV' by Michael Bunn. Meeting starts 19.30.

Scarborough Railway Society
The Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Picture Postcard Railway Rambles' by Stephen Gay with his dog, Wrawby. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Adrian Scales at email@scarboroughrailwaysociety.org.uk.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough. 'Reedy's Railway Rambles' by Gordon Reed. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact 01642 321205 for details

5th May 2009

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Isle of Man Railways etc' by David J.Mitchell, Railway Photographer/ Enthusiast. Starts 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution
London Underground Limited HQ. Broadway, St James Park Station, London. 'East Midlands Trains' by Tim Shoveller, Director. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Stuart smithstuart@btinternet.com

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford Branch)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. '50 Years of the Bluebell Railway' by Dr Gerry Siviour. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London Branch)
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22 5NJ. 'Roade to York' by Robin Patrick. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington and North East Branch)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkbury Road, Darlington. 'Spot Resleepering' by Alan Leyland. Starts 19.00. Contact Dave Lugsden on 01904 389838.

RCTS (Watford Branch)
St Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'Colour Rail' by Ron White. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Tram Travels including Crich, Austria and the Rittnerbahn' by Ken Middleton. Meeting starts at 19.30. Admission charge of £2. Contact John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

Weston super Mare Railway Society
The Function Room, The Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. 'Blue, Grey and Other Colours' by Paul Chancellor. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or e-mail fotophile69@talktalk.net for details.

6th May 2009

Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent. 'Woodhead - The Lost Railway' by Stephen Gay. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50 non members, 50p members. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Davidson House, Reading. 'Western Route Utilisation Strategy' by Chris Aldridge. Meeting starts 17.45. Contact Peter Simmons peter181102@yahoo.co.uk for details.

RCTS (Ipswich Branch)
St Thomas Church, Bramford Lane, Ipswich. 'Rhapsody in Blue' by John Yelverton. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
'Observation at Barnetby'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. 'The Development of the London Underground 1900-1960' by Dr John Manners. Starts 19.30. Contact 0208 289 9935 .

Stephenson Locomotive Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. 'Chasing The Denver & Rio Grande Western' by Phil Kirkland. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the Secretary on 01434 68889466 for further details

7th May 2009

Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'On Cheshire Lines' by Ken Grainger. Meeting starts 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details

RCTS (Milton Keynes Branch)
The Crown Public House, Market Square, Stony Stratford. 'Network Rail Enhancing Capacity for the 21st Century' by Richard Dugdale. Meeting commences at 19.30.

8th May 2009

Great Western Society (Swindon Branch)
Lawn Community Centre, Guildford Avenue, off Windsor Road, Lawn, Swindon. '2008 View' Slides by Joe Turner & Jon Screeves. Starts 19.00. Contact 01793 495970 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon and Brighton Branch)
Matt MacDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 2EE. 'Imperial Wharf Station'. Starts 19.45. Contact, Martin Creswell on 020 8663 5427.

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Modernisation of Irish Rail' by Oliver Doyle. Starts 18.00. Contact,Nicola Topping on 07919 12 7995 or by e-mail at nicola.topping@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

Should your society information be listed on this page?

If so, then please email the details to the editor, remembering to include the date, starting time and location, together with details of the event, speaker and entrance charges if applicable.

It is not necessary, but helpful to people, if you can also include a contact name and phone number/ email address for the organisation that can be published.

Railway Herald reserves the right to edit details entered in this section, which may also be displayed on our online events diary. The information is believed to be correct at the time of publication.

Internet Links

Links to the various society websites can be found on the website, or by clicking here.

▼ Class 25 No. D5217 and Class 33/0 No. 33019 approach King's Bridge with the 14.00 service from Shackerstone to Shenton, during the Battlefield Line diesel gala weekend on 26th April. **Steve Madden**

RCTS (Edinburgh Branch)
Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh.
'Austrian Railways' by Kenny Williamson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

9th May 2009
Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, junction of Alma Road and Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'A History of Eastleigh Railway Works' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 14.30. Admission charge £2.

Cornwall Railway Society
The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Southern Region' by Jon Honeysett. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the club secretary Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 or derekbuttivant@onetel.com

11th May 2009
RCTS (Ashford Branch)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'The Railway Magazine' by Chris Milner. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Croydon Branch)
Small Hall, Croydon Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon. 'Westward from Brighton, Looking for Steam in 1960' by Peter Groom. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Severn Valley Railway (Wolverhampton Branch)
Old Wulfrunians Club, 253A Castlecroft Road, Castlecroft, Wolverhampton. 'Guy Motors, their history and products' by Robin Hannay. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact (Evenings) Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)
The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre.
'Blitz on the Southern' by Roger Brasier. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2. Contact the Branch Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for details.

York Railway Society
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York.
AGM followed by 'York to York via Thurso & Penzance through 1980s' by Geof Dickson. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for further details. Visitors £2 entrance fee.

12th May 2009
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny
AGM plus Barry Foster Films. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

Great Western Society (Bristol Branch)
BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol.
'Central Switzerland's Railway Wonderland' by Arthur Turner. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01454 324230 for further details.

13th May 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke.
'The Current UK Scene' by Bob Sweet. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, junction of Alma Road and Heron Court Road, Bournemouth.
'Slides from the John Bailey Collection' by Bert Moody. Meeting commences at 14.30. Admission charge £2.

Grimsby and Cleethorpes Railway Group
Royal Air Force Club, 5 Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes DN35 8LQ.
'More Memories on Slide' by Geoff Beacroft. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mike Hartley on 01724 341358 for further details.

Oxfordshire Railway Society
Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford OX2 9LN.
'150 Years of Railways in New Zealand' by Gerald Siviour. Meeting commences at 19.30. Visitors welcome £3.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St James Park tube.
'Brunel's Tunnel' by Robert Hulse. Doors open at 17.30 for 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Alison Stansfield on 07703 326080 or by e-mail at alison.stansfield@btinternet.com for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Diva Show Bar, Station Road, Chester.
'The Life and Times of Robert Stepheson' by Vicky Howarth. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Carl Baker on 07920 857603 or by e-mail at carl.baker@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Hitchin Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road, Hitchin.
'A Growing Railfreight Business' by Ashley Stower. 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).
'Swiss Freight' Members Slides. Meeting commences at 19.00. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further details.

14th May 2009
Continental Railway Circle
St Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW 6NJ
'The Baie de Somme Railway' by Mike Bunn. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 or e-mail akpalmer@talktalk.net for further details

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (St Albans Branch)
United Reform Church Hall, Watford Road, Chiswell Green.
Branch AGM followed by 'British Mainline Steam 1900-60' by Graham Stacey. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room A28, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales.
'Railways Around Ross on Wye and Monmouth' by Ian Pope.
Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission: non-members £3. See www.mrsoc.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Birmingham Branch)
The 11th Floor Boardroom, Network Rail Offices, The Mailbox, 100 Wharfside Street, Birmingham B1 1RT. 'Cambrian Line Enhancements' by Nick Reynolds. Meeting commences at 17.45. Contact the Secretary Ian Wardle on 01384 869247 or by e-mail at ian.wardle@networkrail.co.uk for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (South and West Wales Branch)
Dolphin Hote, Whitewalls, Swansea.
'Rail Stressing - Theory and Practice' by Adrian Browne. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact the Secretary, Andy Franklin on 07824 410762 or by e-mail at andy.franklin@network rail.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Newcastle Branch)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'Out and About in the Past Year' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 18.30.

15th May 2009
Scarborough Railway Society
The Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Tempus Fugit' by Dave Mclean. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact, Adrian Scales at email@scarboroughrailwaysociety.org.uk for further details

Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)
Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, nr Taunton.
'Medium Format Transport' by Malcolm Ranieri. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the Secretary on 01823 334188 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Central London Branch)
Keen House, Calshot Street, London N1.
'The Gauges, the Ghan and over Arthur's Pass to Cloncurry' by Ray Schofield. Meeting commences at 19.00.

18th May 2009
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB.
'The Sandringhams' by Bob Goodman. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Brighton Branch)
Brighton Model Rail Club Room, BR London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton.
'UK Steam's Last Stand - the NIR Stone Trains' by John Burling. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Back Issues

Back issues of the magazine are available, on our website **www.railwayherald.com**

Rear Cover Caption

One station that does not see much media attention is Middlesborough. Here, First TransPennine Express Class 185 No. 185135, covers the last few yards of its journey, to arrive at its destination from Manchester Airport on 22nd April. Stephen Marsh

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Middlesbrough
Way out
First
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