Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

Issue 177
11th May 2009

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Seeing steam and steel under the stars

The 6880 Betton Grange Society held its second 'Steam, Steel & Stars' event at the Llangollen Railway between 18th and 26th April featuring a wide range of motive power including the star attractions - 'Dukedog' 9017 and 'Royal Scot' No. 6100.

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In This Issue

Contracts let in Scotland
Network Rail has awarded contracts worth £100 million for construction work to begin on the new Airdrie-Bathgate rail link.
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Virgin name Pendolino
Virgin honoured its chosen charity of the year on 8th May by naming a Pendolino *CLIC Sargant* in a short ceremony at London Euston.
Click here to read the story on Page 4

Light Rail & Metro
News on the new light rail vehicles for Blackpool and also a rare daylight appearance for one of the illuminations fleet on a scheduled service.
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Worldwide Report
News and pictorial events from around the globe with specific reference to North America and Europe.
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A look at Retro-Railtours the 'Retro Grid' charter from Huddersfield to Bath via Bristol, which also featured haulage from a Virgin Trains Class 57/3 'Thunderbird'.

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A pictorial look at the Kent & East Sussex gala weekend, held over the 2nd-4th May, entitled 'The Last Train's Gone', with visiting South Eastern & Chatham Railway 0-6-0 No. 65 from the Bluebell Railway

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Front Cover Caption:

Colas Rail Class 47/7's Nos. 47749 and 47739 power the 13.05 Burton on Trent to Dollands Moor working at Elford on 23rd April. Stuart Rogers

King's Cross roof to generate electricity

Part of the massive £450 million refurbishment of King's Cross station will be a new £27 million roof, made up of 15,000sq metres of new glazing for the main train shed, which will include 2,500sq metres of photo-voltaic glass, designed to generate 10% of the station's electricity needs.

The work also involves the repair, refurbishment and renewal of the main wrought-iron structure that dates from the 1850s. By means of an innovative roof access system, the work has been planned so that it can be carried out without causing disruption to the running of the station, the system providing a safe platform from which engineers can work while train services continue to operate below. Network Rail say that the new roof is a vital piece in the jigsaw of the entire redevelopment of the station and will make the station much brighter and more environmentally friendly.

Network Rail launches site for film work

Network Rail has introduced a new website www.networkrail.co.uk /filming promoting its portfolio of locations for filming.

The commercial filming manager, Rachel Whitburn, said: "Train stations and the railway have always played a supporting role in film and television and we plan to continue this longstanding partnership into the future. As a specialist department we have a professional service that offers competitive prices, loyalty rates and a single point of contact to make the process as straightforward as possible. Additionally, the filming service provides a great opportunity for Network Rail to raise extra funding and plough the profits back into the railway".

With 18 of the largest stations in the country, 40,000 bridges, 20,000 miles of track and over 8,000 commercial properties, Network Rail has already played its part in some of Hollywood's biggest blockbusters, such as The Bourne Ultimatum and some of Britain's favourite television dramas such as Spooks and The Bill.

More buffet cars for Great Western

Work on an £8 million upgrade of catering facilities on First Great Western (FGW) trains will be carried out at Plymouth Laira depot, with staff working to have 19 extra buffet cars in operation by next year.

FGW says the investment goes 'above and beyond' the commitment made to the Department for Transport when it took the franchise.

A spokesperson for FGW said: "We run a number of services a day not able to offer hot food and fresh hot drinks to our customers. This £8 million investment will make sure we can offer quality hot and cold food and fresh coffee through our Express Cafe to 52,000 more customers on board our trains every week. At the moment we offer a trolley service to customers on these trains with cold drinks and snacks, tea and instant coffee, and the Express Cafes, which will include new kitchen equipment and counters, will be installed between First and Standard Class. The first train is set to be in service within the next month with the rest due to be in operation by the end of the year. The trains will serve our customers throughout the whole of the FGW network".

▲ Birmingham New Street, arguably the busiest station outside London, witnesses a very rare sight nowadays, one of only three scheduled locomotive-hauled services booked to use the station. First Scotrail-liveried DBS Class 90 No. 90019 winds into Platform 5 on 1st May with the terminating 11.43 Virgin service from London Euston, one of three services on the route that have temporarily reverted to loco and Mk3 working due to a shortage of Pendolino's following a shunting accident at Willesden. **John Whitehouse**

£100 million construction contracts awarded in Scotland

Network Rail has awarded contracts worth £100 million for construction work to begin on the new Airdrie-Bathgate rail link.

New stations are to be constructed at Caldercruix, Armadale and Drumgelloch and at Bathgate itself, and there is also to be a new platform at Airdrie and a new light maintenance depot at Bathgate. Work starts this spring and is scheduled for completion by autumn 2010, ahead of the reopening of the railway in December 2010. Funded by Transport Scotland, the £300 million rail link will provide an additional passenger route through the Central Belt between Edinburgh and Glasgow, with four trains each hour in each direction. The line will be electrified and will connect communities not currently served by rail to Scotland's two main cities, and improve access to employment, education, health and leisure opportunities as well as promoting a sustainable alternative to the car.

▲ Former World feather-weight boxing champion and patron for CLIC Sargent, Barry McGuigan, together with young Dan Peach, who recovered from a brain tumor contracted at the age of six with specialist support from CLIC Sargent, renamed Virgin Trains's Pendolino No 390047 *CLIC Sargent* at Euston station on 8th May, the new plates replacing Heaven's Angels. The naming marked the start of a new charity partnership between Virgin Trains and the children's cancer charity, Virgin Trains' staff having voted for CLIC Sargent to win the year-long partnership and raise more than £200,000 through a variety of fundraising initiatives. A cheque for £100,000 raised by auctioning train nameplates was presented as a substantial beginning. **Brian Morrison**

▼ On 2nd/3rd May, Amey Colas took possession of the ex-GWR mainline just north of Weston-super-Mare. The main work concerned relaying the 'up' track at the site of the old Puxton station. On 2nd May, Class 66/0 No. 66059 waits in the warm spring sunshine with an engineer's train, while its rake of MTA, MHA and MFA wagons is loaded with spent ballast. **John Stretton**

Real Ale by rail in West Yorkshire

A new Yorkshire Real Ale has been launched to celebrate the Penistone Line, one of the country's most famous routes.

The Penistone Line Rail Ale is brewed by the independent Summer Wine Brewery, based in Honley, Yorkshire, on behalf of the Penistone Line Partnership (PLP), one of 18 community rail partnerships that work closely with Northern Rail across its extensive network.

The beer will be enjoyed by passengers on the popular 'Music Trains' that Northern and PLP regularly organise on the Penistone Line, and will also be available in hostelries along the route.

The Rail Ale made its inaugural journey from the brewery to the launch event at The Head of Steam pub/restaurant at Huddersfield Station on 5th May, entirely by public transport. Metro's Connect Route 911 bus delivered the first barrels of the beer to Brockholes station, where they joined Northern Rail's 11.36 service to Huddersfield.

Arriving in Huddersfield, the train was met by representatives from Northern, local celebrity chef and Yorkshire's 'Professional Chef of the Year' Timothy Bilton, representatives from PLP and CAMRA, with music provided by local jazz band 'The Train Gang.' The new ale was then delivered to The Head of Steam for a celebration launch that, of course, included tasting sessions.

The Music Trains are held approximately once monthly, with the next event – 'Spring Jazz Train' – organised for 18th May at 19.18 from Huddersfield station. Further details can be found at www.penline.co.uk/music.

'Stations Champions' appointed

Following his six-day railtour of Britain, Transport Minister Lord Adonis has appointed two 'Stations Champions' to review passengers' requirements at stations across England and Wales and to suggest ways to improve facilities.

He said: "My tour gave me a real insight into the state of the network, which is good overall. It was clear however, that the quality of stations is extremely variable and at many major stations the service level is often downright poor. I experienced stations where toilet facilities were closed or uncleaned, where there was a lack of refreshments or adequate bicycle or car parking facilities. There was great variability in the quality of bus interchanges, together with the unavailability of local transport information and even basic local street maps".

Lord Adonis has asked Sir Peter Hall, President of the Town and Country Planning Association, and Chris Green, a non-executive director of Network Rail and the former chief executive of Virgin Trains, to advise the Government on improvements needed and on the minimum levels of service that should be set at stations, ensuring they are appropriate to the stations' passenger flows, so that passengers can be confident that stations will meet set standards. They will also provide advice on how other changes such as 'quick wins', better station management, future franchise agreements, Network Rail initiatives, and longer-term investment can be brought about in a way that that delivers better stations.

NORTHERN CHARTERS

PROUDLY PRESENT

THE AYR BRUSH. SAT 06 JUNE 2009

Join us on board this very special train from Crewe via the W C M L to Glasgow Central and Ayr.

We will be departing Crewe at approx 07.30 calling at Warrington Bank Quay, Wigan North Western, Preston, and Carlisle. We have requested free time in Glasgow of approx 3 – 4 hours for those not wishing to travel on to Ayr.

Traction will be 2x AC Locomotives throughout, provided by the AC Locomotive Group. Utilising the Rail Blue Charters MK11 stock, to provide, a high standard of comfort, and that, authentic "Rail Blue Era" experience.

Fares for this special train are First Class £74.00 Adult, £69.00 Child. Premier Dining £128.00 per person, sorry no reductions. A supplement for a private table for two in First Class £15.00 per table (limited basis). Std Class £59.00 Adult, £49.00 Child. Special Standard Class only fare for passengers Joining at Carlisle £49.00. Also 5% Discount for all Rail Staff on production of Valid Railway Staff ID.

PART OF ALL PROCEEDS FROM THIS TRAIN WILL BE DONATED TO RAILWAY CHARITIES

Buffet Car and Draft Real Ale Bar available on Train

To Book Please Contact Northern Charters on 01925813182 or send Chqs postal orders payable to Northern Charters to 56 Lincoln Close, Warrington, Cheshire WA1 4LU.

E Mail Enquiries to info@northerncharters.co.uk. Or http://www.northerncharters.co.uk

Metro and Light Rail News

More reliable service for Piccadilly Line

Passengers on the Piccadilly Line now have a more reliable service and fewer delays, thanks to the introduction of a series of timetable changes, according to Transport for London.

In recent years, rising passenger numbers have meant that trains have to stop at stations for longer while extra customers get on and off, leading to an increasing level of late running and delay - now over 650,000 people use the route every day. Changes were made to the timetable in 2008 to reflect this and services were also increased on some of the busiest parts of the line at certain times by extending the peak service.

Preferred bidder chosen for Blackpool

Blackpool Council has selected its preferred bidder to provide modern new trams to the historic tramway system.

Bombardier Transportation has been chosen to supply 16 low-floor trams to the seaside resort, where they will operate alongside the existing vintage vehicles. Track upgrades stops will provide a faster service with the aim of traffic growth. The vehicles suggested by Bombardier are from the Flexity 2 family, and the first would arrive in Blackpool in 2011, having been built in Germany.

A new £20 million depot is to be built at Starr Gate, for which Volker Fitzpatrick is the preferred bidder.

▼ **A shortage of single-deck trams on the Blackpool network in early May resulted in one of the illuminated vehicles, Frigate 736, being pressed into traffic to operate a rare scheduled service. Here, the tram stands at the Ferry Terminal in Fleetwood on 9th May with a Starr Gate bound service. Alan Robson**

Long Marston Open Weekend

Motorail Logistics

Saturday 6th & Sunday 7th June 2009 www.longmarstonopenday.co.uk

During the 2008 Open Day, Motorail Logistics Raised Over £30,000 for Local Charities,

This year, the chosen charity is "Help For Heroes"

Deadline For Bookings: Friday 15th May

Guest Locomotives
Chinook Flypast (Sat Only)
Steam & Diesel Shuttles
Vintage Vehicles
Railway Raffle
FREE Car Parking on Site

Photographic opportunities
to capture the largest collection
of stored locomotives in the UK

Vintage Bus Shuttles To & From
Stratford & Honeybourne Stations

30 + Trade Stands
Europhoenix & Bulgarian Electrics
Plus MUCH MORE!

To Book Tickets, Please Visit Our Website To Gain Access To A Form, Or Send An S.A.E To:

Long Marston Open Weekend
The Control Tower
Long Marston Storage Base
Campden Road
Stratford on Avon
Warwickshire
CV37 8QR

Guest Locomotives:

- Virgin 57/3 - 37906 -50044 - 50026 - J94 - 37308
- 73006 - GBRF 66 - 47580 - 50035 in Loadhaul Livery

Plus a Couple of Surprises !

* All Locomotives Subject To Availability

▲ The Sunday evening 'Caledonian Sleeper' departures were diverted via the East Coast Main Line over 2nd/3rd May. Shortly after 07.00 on 4th May, Class 90 No. 90039 powers south along the ECML, through Langford, south of Biggleswade, with the combined sleepers from Inverness, Aberdeen and Fort William. **Paul Townsend**

UK News In Brief

■ In a shocking incident at Micklefield station, near Leeds, on 5th May, two robbers armed with a two-foot-long curved sword pounced on a conductor. They physically assaulted him before stealing cash and a mobile phone, and escaping onto the railway line. Northern Rail has offered a £1,000 reward for information that leads to the successful conviction of the offenders. Both are said to have been about 6ft tall, of heavy build and wearing dark clothing. Crimestoppers can be contacted anonymously on 0800 555111.

■ Plans to extend the East Lancashire Railway (ELR) through to a dedicated platform at Castleton do not now seem to be readily achievable, due to heavy traffic on the line between Manchester and Rochdale and potentially high Network Rail charges. The ELR envisaged the line continuing under the Manchester Road bridge - the disused partial arch - to access the north face of the existing 'down' platform. This would mean acquiring a lot of industrial land not owned by the council or Network Rail, and another possibility was a station west of the bridge on the Heywood Road side. Until the prospect can be more definite one way or the other, Rochdale Council has been asked to keep a sufficient width of land west of the road bridge protected from development, not just the existing trackbed.

■ London Midland has made a number of changes to its West Midlands timetable from 17th May, many of which have been in consultation with Centro and other stakeholders. They include an extra through service to Great Malvern from Stratford-upon-Avon, via Birmingham and Worcester, the 06.45 Worcester Foregate Street–Dorridge service starting from Worcester Shrub Hill at 06.47, and southbound trains calling at Duddeston will be exactly 15 minutes apart at off-peak times, benefitting from a change in timings with the Cross City Line. Trains using the Walsall line will also stop at Duddeston, keeping the same stopping pattern, which makes the 15-minute frequency at Duddeston possible.

■ Work on the building of Metrolink's second tram depot on the triangle of land near Trafford Bar gets underway this month. MPact-Thales, the consortium appointed to design, build and maintain the new lines and depot, will create the foundations and install drainage at the site over the next few months.

■ *Railway Herald* has become the newest railway book publisher in the UK. Two titles have been released initially, the first written by RH Contributing Editor, Brian Morrison, looking at steam around the Regions between 1951 and 1959, follows on from the popular 'Turning the Clock Back' section in the magazine. The second book, written by regular RH contributor, Fred Kerr, looks at the life and times of Eastleigh over the past 100 years. A DVD on *Tornado*, with a donation being made to the owning trust for each DVD sold, is also available. All three products are released at the Eastleigh Works Open Weekend from 23rd May, but can be pre-ordered by calling 01904 500175 between 09.30 and 17.30, Monday to Friday. Visit www.rhpublishing.co.uk for details.

◀ A 10-car 'Wessex Electric' is reflected in the windows of the 12-car Class 375 rake on loan to Southern from Southeastern. These two types only stand together at London Bridge for a few minutes each day, as both only have one working into the station each morning. **Ian Docwra**

◀▼ Having recently returned to the operational pool, Class 37/4 No. 37401 waits to cross the dock road in Liverpool Docks on 1st May, with the 09.02 Stanton Grove (Gladstone Dock) to Warrington Arpley Enterprise working. **Philip Parker**

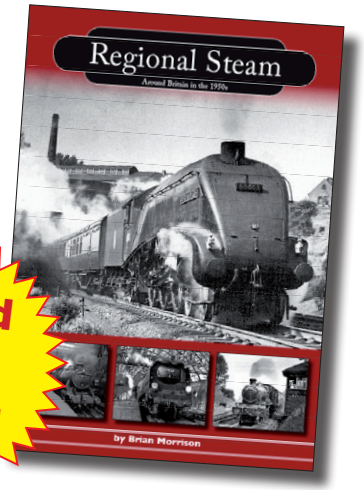
▼ DRS Class 37/4 No. 37423 propels ex-Southern Region General Manager's saloon No. 975025 *Caroline* through Nuneaton on 22nd April, having originated from Derby RTC and bound for Southampton. **Brad Joyce**

New products from RH Publishing

The following books are available now to pre-order and will all be released at Eastleigh Works Open Weekend on 23rd May

Regional Steam

By Brian Morrison



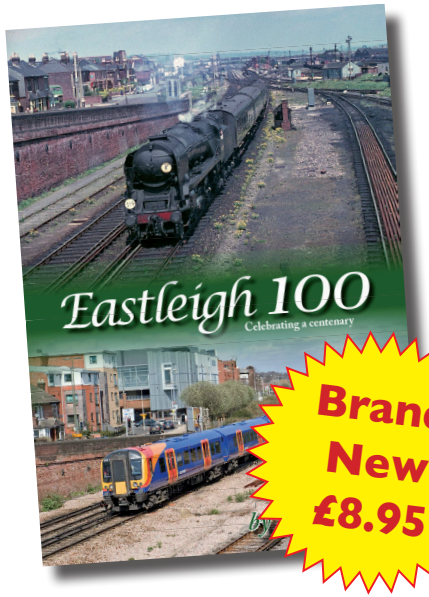
With over 200 quality black & white images from the archive of well known railway photographer Brian Morrison, this 128-page title is the first book fromRailway Herald Publishing and forms the authors fortieth title.

Covering all six regions of British Railways, all images are from the 1951-1959 period.

Brand New £14.95

Eastleigh 100

By Fred Kerr



Produced especially for Eastleigh Works Open Weekend, this special, limited print run publication, marks the centenary of the Works.

This 56-page book tells the story of how the town grew and explains how the railways brought prosperity to the town, right through to the present day activity at the works, in addition to providing an insight of a fitters' role at Eastleigh Shed

Includes a combination of over 70 black & white and colour images.

Brand New £8.95

Pre-order these titles by calling 01904 500175

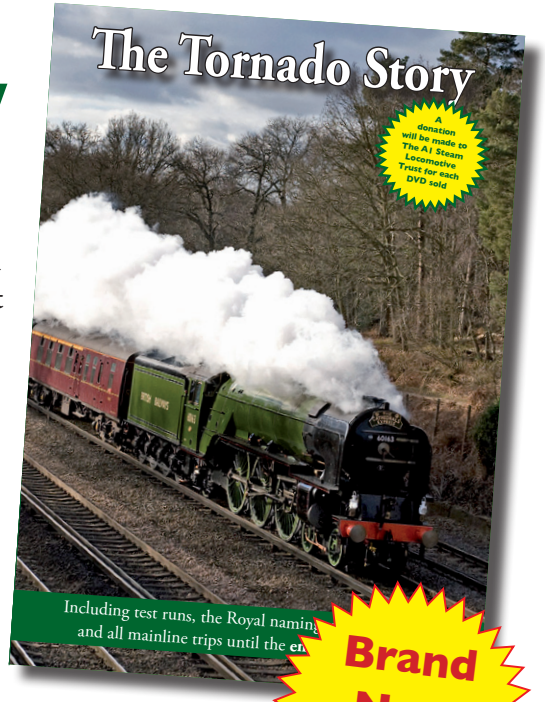
Railway Herald *Publishing*

PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. DN17 2WY Tel: 01904 500175

Visit our website for further details : www.rhpublishing.co.uk

E&OE.

The Tornado Story



One of the most popular railway events of 2009 has been the launch and inaugural mainline operations of the first steam locomotive to be built in Britain for over 40 years - No. 60163 *Tornado*.

RH Publishing presents this special DVD, filmed over recent months in co-operation with the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust

Brand New £10.95

Included on this 60-minute special DVD is:-

- Archive film of the 'A1s' in the 1960s
- 60163 on its Great Central and mainline test runs.
- All mainline operations up to the end of April 2009.
- Tornado crossing the Royal Border Bridge and the Forth Bridge
- The Royal naming by TRH The Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall
- Working the Royal Train
- *Tornado's* visit to the Barrow Hill LNER weekend and the North Yorkshire Moors Railway Steam Gala in May.

A donation from each DVD goes to the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust to support the continued operation of the locomotive.

DVD

Running time is approximately 60 minutes **Credit Cards Accepted**

To be released on 23rd May 2009

Pre-order this DVD now, by calling 01904 500175

Railway Herald *Publishing*

PO Box 252, Scunthorpe, North Lincolnshire. DN17 2WY Tel: 01904 500175

Visit our website at www.rhpublishing.co.uk for further details

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.

16th May

Past Time Rail	45407/76079	Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Victoria	Cancelled
Pathfinder Tours	2xDBS 37	Crewe-Barnt Green-Cheltenham Spa-Bristol TM-Plymouth-Liskeard-Bodmin Pky-Par-St.Austell-Parkandillack-Par-& return	
Railway Touring Company	70013	Norwich-Lowestoft-Saxmundham-Ipswich-Colchester-London Liverpool Street-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-) Shrewsbury-Abergavenny-Chepstow-Gloucester-Worcester Shrub Hill-Old Hill-Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley	
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Clapham Jct-Richmond-Staines-Virginia Water-Woking-Guildford-Dorking Deepdene-Reigate-Redhill-East Croydon-Clapham Jct-London Victoria	

17th May

HF Railtours	5690	Hellifield- S&C-Carlisle & return	
Steam Dreams	60007+60009	**The Coronation 2: Day 2:**Edinburgh-Forth & Tay Bridge-Dundee & rn	
Vintage Trains	9600	Tyseley Warwick Road-Walsall	Cancelled
Vintage Trains	9600	Walsall- Bloxwich-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-YorkLondon KX

23rd May

Compass Tours	40145	Shrewsbury-Crewe-Stockport-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-Leyland-Blackburn-S&C-Edinburgh. Return is via Shap.
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Retford-Huntingdon-North London Line-Canterbury (break) & return
Railway Touring Company	70013	Norwich-Thetford-Harringay-Eastleigh-Bournemouth-Poole (& return)
Spitfire Railtours	2xDRS 37	Crewe-Leamington Spa-Eastleigh-Southampton-Weymouth & return
Steam Dreams	60163+60007	London KX-Doncaster-York & return
UK Railtours	35028	London Waterloo-Romsey-Southampton-Eastleigh-Fareham-Havant-Guildford-Leatherhead-London Victoria

25th May

Compass Tours	40145	Holyhead-Bangor-Manchester Vic-Rochdale-Hebden Bridge-York & rtn
Compass Tours	40145	York-Knaresborough-Harrogate-Leeds-York (Mini tour)

30th May

NENTA Traintours	2xWCRC 47	Norwich-Diss-Bury St. Edmonds-Ely-March-Peterborough- York-Durham-Newcastle upon Tyne (break/rev) & return	
Past Time Rail	6024	Minehead-London Paddington	Cancelled
Pathfinder Tours	60163	The Severn Coast Express I (Bristol TM-)Gloucester-Chepstow-Newport-Cardiff Central-Severn Tunnel-Bristol TM-(Gloucester)	
Pathfinder Tours	60163	The Severn Coast Express II (Gloucester-)Bristol TM-Minehead (& rtn)	
PMR Tours	6233	(Milton Keynes Central-Stafford-) Crewe-Preston-Shap-Carlisle & return	
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Skegness-Boston-Nottingham-Worcester Shrub Hill-Cardiff & return	

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

On a weekend packed with interesting tours, one of them stands head and shoulders above the rest, Steam Dreams 'Coronation 2', which again brings classic LNER traction to the entire length of the East Coast Main Line -and a bit further for good measure.

Departing from King's Cross on 16th May, the train heads for York with the first of three A4s in charge, namely No. 60019 *Bittern*, which will be making its maiden mainline outing on a charter train this year. The tour has a two-hour break at York before continuing to Edinburgh Waverley with No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* to conclude the first day's activity.

Next day Steam Dreams operates its first 'Cathedrals Express' in Scotland when No. 60007 heads north over both Forth and Tay Bridges to Dundee. After a break, the train will retrace its steps back to Edinburgh Waverley, now with No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* at the helm. This nicely positions No. 60009 in Edinburgh to head the southbound 'Coronation' on 18th May as far as York, where No. 60163 *Tornado* is scheduled to take over for the dash back to King's Cross. For anyone 'chasing' the train in either direction, watch out because the timings are fast! Needless to say, it is a sell-out.

Saturday 16th May should be interesting for No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell*, with a lengthy day out for Railway Touring Company from Norwich to London Liverpool Street. The train initially heads to Lowestoft diesel-hauled with the 'Britannia' at the rear, positioned then to head for Ipswich and London via the East Suffolk Line. The return is a straightforward blast north along the Great Eastern via Colchester, Ipswich, Diss and Norwich. The return to Lowestoft is diesel-hauled.

A pair of 'Castles' should enliven the Welsh Marches on 16 May, with Nos. 5029 *Nunney Castle* and 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* heading Vintage Trains 'Welsh Marches Express' from Shrewsbury, via Hereford, Abergavenny, Chepstow, Gloucester, Worcester and Old Hill Bank, back to Tyseley. The tour sets out from Tyseley Warwick Road platform diesel-hauled. To round-up steam matters, on 16th May, there is also a VSOE British Pullman working from London Victoria around the Surrey Hills circuit with No. 35028 *Clan Line*.

The following day, 17th May heralds the dawn of a new steam operator, H F Railtours of Hellifield, whose inaugural working features 'Jubilee' No. 5690 *Leander* from Hellifield to Carlisle and back, operating via the Settle & Carlisle both ways.

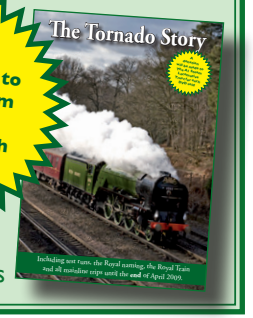
Pathfinder breach the prospect of an all steam weekend with the 'Cornish Parker', postponed from last year. With DBS Class 37 traction on offer, the tour should certainly attract attention en route from Crewe, via the West Midlands and Bristol, to Plymouth and Par. The main object is a visit to the freight-only Parkandillack branch before returning to Par and then home.

And that is not all, as on Monday 18th May, West Coast's 'Jacobite' season opens for 2009. 'Black 5' No. 45231 *Sherwood Forester* and 'K1' Mogul No. 62005 should be in place to open the season, a sure sign that summer is on the way!

The Tornado Story - £10.95

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 - **Click here** for more details

Rebuilt Royal Scot No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* **stands at Carlisle during the layover period, having arrived from Preston, while Class 47/4 No. 47804 awaits departure on 9 May with the return 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' to Doncaster and London King's Cross.**
John Whitehouse

Steaming back to Swanage

◀ **Two Battle of Britain locomotives at Swanage. No. 34070** *Manston* **heads a service train for Norden away from Swanage on 4th May, while the support crew prepare classmate No. 34067** *Tangmere* **for a later departure to London. Peter Milford**

▼ **Unrebuilt Battle of Britain class No. 34067** *Tangmere* **heads the return leg of 'The Royal Wessex' railtour from Swanage to London Victoria later that afternoon - the first steam-hauled service to depart Swanage for London in 42 years. Roger Marsh**

LNER 'K1' 2-6-0 No. 62005 climbs past Salt Lake cottages on the Settle & Carlisle line, in typical S&C weather, driving rain, with the 06.30 Newcastle to Carlisle charter on 4th May. This was the first section of a positioning run to move the 'K1' to Scotland, in preparation for working 'The Jacobite' season. **Mick Langton**

Hoovering the Cambrian with a '97/3'

'The Cambrian Mountaineer' charter on 9th May brought with it the first operation of one of the recently obtained Class 97/3 locomotives on railtour duties.

The train originated at Bristol Temple Meads and operated via Bath Spa, Chippenham, Swindon and Oxford to Birmingham and Shrewsbury, before proceeding to Aberystwyth.

The train was worked from Bath to Shrewsbury by the Fifty Fund's Class 50 No. D444 *Exeter*, where Class 97/3 No. 97301 and Class 37/5 No. 37676 *Loch Rannoch* took over for the run over the Cambrian route to Aberystwyth, from where the Class 50 should have worked the train back to Bristol. Coolant issues en route resulted in the 'Hoover' working as far as Shrewsbury, with Class 37/5 No. 37676 returning the charter to Swindon. However, a unit failure near Wellington, resulted in the train continuing to Crewe with the '50' leading, then after reversal, the '37' headed back to Bristol and Swindon.

Organised by Network Rail signalling employees from Bristol and Swindon, the proceeds of the train were donated to the Railway Children charity.

◀ **Class 50 No. D444 *Exeter* heads the 'Cambrian Mountaineer' from Bristol to Shrewsbury through Bescot on 9th May. John Edkins**

▼ **The first appearance of a Class 97/3 is made as No. 97301 pilots WCRC Class 37/5 No. 37676 through Newtown on 9th May. The '37s' worked the train from Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth. Dylan Williams**

Retro 'Grids' over the North & West route

◀ Retro Railtours took Hanson Traction Class 56/3s Nos. 56312 and 56311 from Huddersfield to Bath on 4th May, utilising the Mk3 set, normally used on the Virgin Trains Class 90 loco-hauled diagram, the train took in Shrewsbury and Bristol on its way to Bath. Here the two 'Grids' power through Sutton Bridge Junction at Shrewsbury, passing the recently built Network Rail maintenance shed for the Class 97/3s. **John Whitehouse**

▼◀ To save a run-round in Bristol Temple Meads, the train was 'topped and tailed' throughout by Class 57/3 No. 57311 *Parker*, which hauled the train from Bristol to Bath, then onwards ECS to Swindon, where the formation was reversed, to allow the '57' to lead back to Bristol, from where the '56s' took over for the home run. Here, the '57' powers the ECS through Thingley Junction bound for Swindon. **Brian Garrett**

▼ Having departed from Bristol Temple Meads, the return run to Shrewsbury and Huddersfield was via the Severn Tunnel. Here, Nos. 56311 and 56312 lead the 15.51 Bath Spa - Huddersfield through Ponthir (just north of Newport). **Brian Garrett**

Peak Rail '8F' enters service in late May

Locomotive restoration is not for the faint hearted, and a dedicated group of volunteers from Peak Rail were rewarded on 25th April, when LMS Stanier 8F 2-8-0 No. 8624 moved under its own power for the first time in almost 44 years - the culmination of a 28 year restoration of the locomotive from scrap condition!

Withdrawn from Willesden Depot in July 1965 as No. 48624, it was bought by the 48624 Society and moved to Peak Rail's former base at Buxton for work to begin. Now that it has made its first powered-moves, it is intended that a period of testing of the locomotive will take place before it enters passenger traffic at the end of this month. No. 8624 has been painted into LMS lined maroon colours, a livery that it has never carried, Stanier 8F's working in the UK only ever being painted black during their working lives.

Throughout its restoration, No. 8624 has been based on Peak Rail, with work being carried out at the former base at Buxton, before moving to Darley Dale and finally to Rowsley South, and it is the only locomotive to be rescued from Barry Scrapyard to have been entirely restored on the railway.

To mark the '8F's' return to steam, a special weekend of celebrations is planned for Bank Holiday weekend 23rd – 25th May. On 23rd May, after working a special service for members of the owning group, No. 8624 will work along with Peak Rail's other operational steam locomotive, WD150 *Royal Pioneer* to haul services throughout the day, with a variety of single-headed, double-headed, and 'top and tail' workings, using both locomotives. On the Sunday and Monday, the loco will haul all of the passenger services, with WD150 being used to haul demonstration freights along Peak Rail's route from Matlock Riverside to Rowsley South.

▲ **The Kent & East Sussex Railway's Class 108 DMU enters Wittersham Road with the 14.20 service from Tenterden on 25th April. Gary Packer**

▼ **Class 20s Nos. 20227 and 20189 stand at Harrow-on-the-Hill during a driver training trip on the Metropolitan Line on 8th May. On the rear was Metropolitain Electric No. 12** *Sarah Siddons*. **David Brabham**

▼ **Three-car Class 115 unit, comprising vehicle Nos. 51347, 59508 and 51401, stands at Bronwydd Arms, on 4th May, while industrial 0-6-0ST** *Haulwen* **runs-round, out-of-sight, on the Gwili Railway on 4th May. Robert Jefferys**

Seeing steam and steel under the stars at Llangollen Gala

The 6880 Betton Grange Society held its hugely successful 'Steam, Steel & Stars II' gala at the Llangollen Railway over 18th-26th April.

Utilising a wide array of locomotives, the nine-day event featured various theme days during the mid-week running, as well as 'all in steam' running days at the weekend. Those locomotives taking part were resident GWR Prairie No. 5199 and Pannier No. 6430, together with LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44806. In addition, the railway played host to GWR 'Dukedog' 4-4-0 No. 9017 from the Bluebell Railway, GWR 'City' 4-4-0 No. 3440 *City of Truro* from the National Railway Museum, GWR 0-6-2T No. 5643 from the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway and GWR Prairie No. 5526 from the South Devon Railway, which were joined by LNER 'D49' 4-4-0 No. 246 *Morayshire* from the Bo'ness and Kinneil Railway and LNER 'B1' 4-6-0 No. 1306 *Mayflower* from the Nene Valley Railway.

Star of the show, and a late addition to the line-up, was rebuilt 'Royal Scot' 4-6-0 No. 6100 *Royal Scot*, which operated without smoke deflectors for the first weekend and with them for the second.

The only casualties of the event were the Llangollen Railway's resident GWR 2-8-0 3800 Class No. 3802, which was withdrawn from service and BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80072, the restoration of which was not completed in time, despite the best efforts of all involved.

▲ A scene reminiscent of the original promotional picture taken for the first 'Steam, Steel & Stars' gala, the three working 4-4-0s in the country are pictured lined-up at Llangollen Goods Junction. They are from left to right, GWR 'City' No. 3440 *City of Truro*, GWR 'Dukedog' No. 9017 and LNER D49 No. 246 *Morayshire*. Fred Kerr

On 25th April, visiting LMS 4-6-0 No. 6100 *Royal Scot* heads an afternoon service to Carrog, shortly after leaving Glyndyfrdwy. **Mick Rogers**

◀ LNER D49 class 4-4-0 No. 246 *Morayshire* and LNER B1 class 4-6-0 No. 1306 *Mayflower* double-head the midday service from Llangollen to Carrog past the Glyndyfrdwy distant signal at Ty Newydd during the gala on the penultimate day, 25th April. The motive power for this rake of crimson and cream-liveried Mk1s being highly appropriate given the presence of a Gresley-designed buffet car in the consist! Also of note are the different shades of LNER apple green livery carried by the locomotives. **Mick Rogers**

▼ GWR Large Prairie 2-6-2T No. 5199 makes light work of its Llangollen to Carrog train on 24th April, as it leaves Glyndyfrdwy to follow the River Dee. On the rear of the set is the visiting Beavertail observation car from the Great Central Railway. **Fred Kerr**

◀ The Gala ended on 26th April in the traditional way of coupling all 10 locomotives that operated during the event into one convoy to create a cavalcade from Deeside, where the convoy was assembled, to Carrog. Here, the line-up approaches Carrog with the 'star' engine 'Dukedog' 4-4-0 No. 9017 leading, and last-minute guest engine, Rebuilt Royal Scot No. 6100 *Royal Scot* at the rear.

▼◀ Stanier 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 44806 (running in the guise of long-lost classmate No. 44801) evokes memories of a Scottish scene on 18th April, as it leaves Glyndyfrdwy with a Llangollen to Carrog service.

▼ GWR City class 4-4-0 No. 3440 *City of Truro* accelerates away from Glyndyfrdwy on 24th April with a service to Carrog. **All: Fred Kerr**

Diesel Gala time at Swanage

◀ **Class 45 No. 45060** *Sherwood Forester* **passes BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80078 on the turntable, as it arrives at Swanage. Also visiting were Class 31 No. 31108 and Class 20 No. 20107.**

▼◀ **Visiting Class 55 'Deltic' No. 55022** *Royal Scots Grey* **departs from Swanage passing Battle of Britain No. 34070** *Manston* **and Rebuilt West Country No. 34028** *Eddystone*, **which were being prepared for an appearance at the Eastleigh Works Open Days.**

▼ **Class 26 No. 26007 arrives in the shadow of Corfe Castle with a service to Swanage. All: Neil Walkling**

The Kent & East Sussex Railway held its 'The Last Train's Gone' gala over the weekend of 2nd-4th May. The star attractions were visiting ex-South Eastern & Chatham Railway (SE&CR) O1 class 0-6-0 No. 65 from the Bluebell Railway, and newly restored SE&CR 'birdcage' brake Third No. S3368S.

◀ Visiting SE&CR O1 class No. 65 is pictured at Rovenden on 3rd May with newly restored 'birdcage' brake Third coach No. S3368S in tow. **Neil Walkling**

▼◀ Terrier 0-6-0T No. 32678 approaches Haystacks Crossing on Tenterden Bank with the 11.00 demonstration goods from Rolvendon.

▼ Terrier 0-6-0Ts Nos. 32678 and 3, GWR Pannier No. 1638, SE&CR 0-6-0T No. 753, SE&CR 0-6-0 No. 65, Hunslet 0-6-0 No. 23 and finally USA 0-6-0T No. 65, climb Tenterden Bank for the Cavalcade at Tenterden during the gala on 2nd May. **Both: Garry Packer**

▲ Wearing all-over black livery with 'Southern' branding, USA 0-6-0T No. 65 arrives at Tenterden on 2nd May hauling a demonstration breakdown crane. **Bill Turvill**

The new 'A1' No. 60163 *Tornado* waits at Goathland station for the arrival of the northbound service on 2nd May. The loco's next heritage line visit will be the West Somerset Railway from 1st to 14th June. Don Brundell

◀ Carrying the latest version of East Midlands Trains livery, Class 158 No. 158785 departs from Peterborough in late April, working the 07.42 Liverpool Lime Street to Norwich via Ely service. **Keith Partlow**

◀▼ The 11.14 from Hull to Scarborough, formed of a class 158 unit, passes Sewerby shortly after departing from Bridlington on 21st April. **Paul Braybrook**

▼ Class 153 No. 153334 and Class 170/5 No. 170508 pass Burcott, near Hereford, while working 10.40 Hereford to Birmingham New Street service on 22nd April. **Robert Lewis**

◀ **The unique blue-liveried Class 60 No. 60074** *Teenage Spirit* **passes Cholsey Manor Farm, south of Didcot, with an early running 13.35 Theale-Robeston discharged MURCO bogie oil tanks on 28th April. David Kirwin**

▼ **Loadhaul-liveried Class 60 No. 60059** *Swinden Dalesman* **passes through Redhill with the Crawley New Yard to Peak Forest empties on 25th April. Keith Hemsley**

An immaculate DRS Class 66 No. 66411 heads the diverted Daventry - Grangemouth 'Tesco Express' along the Scottish Border coastal strip of the ECML at Lamberton on 2nd May. **Paul Armitage**

Bombardier Alstom consortium win DB Regio contract for Stuttgart

Germany: Bombardier Transportation and Alstom Transport have won an order from Deutsche Bahn Regio for 83 electric multiple units of the ET 430 series.

The value of the order amounts to approximately □452 million, and the contract includes an option for up to 83 additional trains. The new vehicles will be up to 40% more energy efficient than the currently used ET 420 series in Stuttgart's S-Bahn system. They will be equipped with environmentally-friendly electrical brakes, which are able to feed back surplus energy to the power grid when braking, and heat released by components, such as transformers and power converters, is used to warm the vehicles, which in turn generate significant cost and energy savings.

The design of the units was developed in co-operation with the operator S-Bahn Stuttgart. The four-car vehicles are fitted with 24 electrical swivel-sliding doors, each with bridge plates for more safety during boarding and alighting, and the wide centre aisles of the vehicle and the accessible gangways allow for efficient passenger flow within and between cars.

Good visibility of the complete interior length of the train is achieved due to the clearance above the seat backrests. Onboard monitors display information on live rail traffic in real time. The trains are designed to achieve speeds of up to 140 km/h and have excellent accelerating power.

The vehicles will be built by Bombardier in Hennigsdorf and by Alstom in Salzgitter, both in Germany. They are scheduled for delivery between February and December 2012.

New 3,300km railway network linking Queensland and North Western Australia moves to next stage

Australia: An ambitious 3,300km railway line linking North Queensland and North Western Australia with six massive steel smelters at each end is ready to proceed to the next phase, the new rail line to connect iron ore mines in Pilbara, Western Australia, with the Bowen Basin coal mines in Queensland, via Ti Tree.

The project includes the building of industrial smelter park precincts at each end of the route, to manufacture first-stage iron/steel slabs etc, for export to second-stage rolling mills located within geographical mass market consuming countries. The railway will take iron ore from Western Australia to Queensland and coal from Queensland in the reverse direction to both smelter parks. The railway will shuttle a combined total of 53 million tonnes of iron ore from west to east, and coking coal between the various points of the system.

There is also a possibility to run a rail spur to Galilee, where there is reportedly mining potential worth $10 billion.

▲ Class 218 No. 218.412 stands at Emmelhausen on 17th April with the 17.24 service from Boppard in the Rhein Valley. The Class 218s will be replaced by private DMUs from the timetable change in December. The line has recently re-opened after extensive track relaying. **Ian Thurman**

Seville to Barcelona in five hours 39 minutes

Spain: The 666 miles between Seville and Barcelona can now be covered in five hours 39mins, an average speed of 117.88mph.

This follows the opening of a three-mile section of high-speed railway connecting the Madrid-Seville and Madrid-Barcelona lines. It eliminates the need to run in and out of Madrid's Atocha terminus, and increases the Spanish high-speed network to just over 1,000 miles.

New Siemens high-speed set in Russia for testing

Russia: The tests of a new high-speed train built in Germany by Siemens were due to take place on 9th May on the St Petersburg-Moscow line.

The train is expected to set a Russian speed record by reaching 170mph (10% more than the maximum operating speed). From the end of this year, the journey between St Petersburg and Moscow will be reduced to 3hrs 45mins.

How many locomotives can you count in this photo taken in Altoona, Pennsylvania, on 16th April? The facility on the right of the picture is the Norfolk Southern workshops, and it is estimated that there are over 100 locomotives on view, not to mention the line-up on the left! **Nigel Capelle**

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 commences at 19.30. Contact (Evenings) Alan Davies on 01902 758882 for 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 requested. Contact the Branch Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or by e-mail at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com.

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 details.

12th May 2009

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

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 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 starts 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 for 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, 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 details

Great Western Soceity (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 starts at 19.00.

18th May 2009

GCR Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Sandringhams' by Bob Goodman. Starts 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927.

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 starts at 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Dorking Branch)
Pethick-Lawrence House,85 South Street, Dorking, Surrey. 'Penzance to Thurso' by Dr Gerry Siviour. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Oxford Branch)
WestOxford Democrats Club, 1 North Street, Osney. Branch AGM and Members' Slides. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Shenfield Branch)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Black and White London Midland Region Miscellany' by David Cross. Starts at 19.30.

19th May 2009

RCTS (Woking Branch)
Woodham Hall, Christ Church, Town Square, Woking. 'South African Steam' by Lewis Orchard and 'LSWR 1914' by Alan Norris. Starts at 19.15.

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.

▼ **Presenting a very uniformed look, HST powercar No. 43303 leads an southbound Cross Country working through Elford on 23rd April. Stuart Rogers**

20th May 2009

Kent and East Sussex Railway (Ashford Group)
The Railway Staff Club, Beaver Road, Ashford, Kent. TN23 7RR. Members Slide and Digital Evening. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Secretary, Keith Mapley on 01303 269138 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Bristol and West of England Branch)
Scott Wilson, The Tri Centre Three, New Bridge Square, Swindon. Graduate and Young Members Presentations. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact, Phil Harrison on 0117 9765432 for details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow. 'Gretna to Annan Doubling' by Richard Dugdale. Doors open at 17.15 for 17.30 start. Contact the Secretary, Jack Scott on 0141 952 2562 for further details.

RCTS (Eastleigh Branch)
Mid Hants Railway/S&D Trust Joint Meeting. Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Glasgow in the 1950's' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 19.45.

21st May 2009

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon. 'Post War Years Part 2 - In the St Pancras District' by Arthur Turner. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'The Bredgar & Wormshill Light Railway' by Bill Best. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the society secretary Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West Branch)
St David's Social Centre, 249 Wargrave Road, Newton-le-Willows. 'The GWR Broad Gauge' by Ken Grainger. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Marlow and District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'From the Atlantic to the Adriatic - European Steam in the 1960s' by John Gulliver. Doors open 19.45 for 20.00 start. Non-members admission £2

RCTS (Darlington Branch)
The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street, Darlington. 'Light Rail in France - The Current Scene' by Graham Jellett. Meeting commences at 19.00.

RCTS (Hull Branch)
Upstairs, The Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'Steam & Diesel Home and Abroad' by John Dixon. Meeting starts at 19.30.

RCTS (Pudsey Branch)
The Fulneck Room, Pudsey Civic Hall, Pudsey. 'Hull Trains' by David Townend. Meeting starts 19.30.

20th-25th May 2009

LCGB Overseas Tours
DENMARK; 'Randers Open Days' LCGB membership is compulsory for participants on these tours due to insurance reasons.

23rd May 2009

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Eastleigh Works Open Day by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

24th May 2009

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Isle of Wight Railway and Southampton FLT. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

25th May 2009

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway, Cholsey & Wallingford Railway. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589477 or mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

26th May 2009

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham and Derby Branch)
The Midland Hotel, adjacent to Derby Station, Derby. 'Railways in the Canadian Rockies' by Trevor Horner. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the Secretary, Colin Cowey on 07946 482343 or by e-mail at colin.cowey@talk21.com for further details.

RCTS (Welwyn Garden City Branch)
Methodist Church, at the Junction of Ludwick Way & Colegreen Lane, Welwyn Garden City. 'Glasgow Steam in the Fifties' by Hugh Gould. Meeting commences at 14.15.

27th May 2009

Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Local Scene 20 Odd Years Ago' by Brian Perryman. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

28th May - 4th June 2009

LCGB Overseas Tours
FRANCE; 'Burgundy Express' LCGB membership is compulsory for participants on these tours due to insurance reasons.

RCTS (Brighton Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. 'The Man & His Railways' by John Blackwell. Meeting commences at 19.30.

29th May 2009

Scarborough Railway Society
The Public Library, Vernon Road, Scarborough. 'Missed Loco's and Lost Locations' by Ted Parker. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Adrian Scales at email@scarboroughrailwaysociety.org.uk for further details

Great Western Society (Oxford Branch)
Pauling Human Sciences Centre, 58 Banbury Road, Oxford. TBA. Meeting commences at 19.30.

30th May 2009

N Gauge Society (North Lincolnshire Area Group)
The Pelham Suite, Masonic Hall, Cambridge Road, Grimsby DN34 5EZ Public Exhibition - Over 14 N Gauge Model Railway Layouts. Open 10.00-17.00.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
8 Day RCTS Visit to Belgium. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile on 07887 908501 for further details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society
Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster. SLS Centenary Event, buffet and SVR trip. Contact the Secretary on 0242 582152 for further details

1st June 2009

RCTS (Ashford Branch)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'A Digital Extravaganza' Branch Members. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
East Midland Day Ranger. (depart 1st northbound train after 09.30 from Wellingborough). Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 for further details.

2nd June 2009

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Kent & East Sussex Railway' by Graham Baldwin. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford Branch)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Street, Bedford. 'Abandoned Stations of the London Underground' by Jim Connor. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Croydon Branch)
United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'Half a Century Ago' by Charles Firminger. Meeting starts 19.15.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North London Branch)
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London N22 5NJ. Members Slides Evening. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
Technical Visit to the Bluebell Railway. Contact the Secretary, Richard Workman on 01428 645771 or by e-mail at richardworkman5@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Watford Branch)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road, Watford. 'French Railways - The Advent of the TGV' by Michael Burn. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Back Issues

All of the back issues of the magazine are available 24 hours a day, on our website **www.railwayherald.com**

Rear Cover Caption

Class 97/3 No. 97301 leads WCRC Class 37/5 No. 37676 on the Shrewsbury to Aberystwyth leg of the 'Cambrian Mountaineer' charter at Buttington Junction on the outskirts of Welshpool on 9th May. Andrew Bannister

Magazine Information

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