Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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22nd June 2009

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John Whitehouse

Western Champion reaches Kyle of Lochalsh!

The Diesel Traction Group's Class 52 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* worked Pathfinder Tours 'Western Chieftain' charter from Bescot to Kyle of Lochalsh on 19th-21st June and performed magnificently throughout.

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Rubens Barricello and two 'Pit Stop' girls launched the new Virgin/Alstom advance notification maintenance programme on 17th June

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High Speed Commuters
Southeastern showed off the new high-speed commuter service, operated by Class 395 EMUs on 18th June, prior to public introduction.

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Light Rail & Metro
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Class 92 No. 92026 *Britten* approaches Ashford on 18th June, hauling the 11.55 Dollands Moor to Scunthorpe steel. Brian Morrison

Pendolino's take a pit-stop at Wembley

Formula 1 racing driver, Rubens Barrichello, exchanged his high-speed car for a hi-speed train on 17th June, when he arrived in a Pendolino cab to formally open Alstom's new Pit Stop maintenance programme in its much-refurbished Wembley Depot.

An onboard 'Traintracer' telemetry module fitted on all 52 Virgin Pendolinos sends real-time wireless communication on fault data direct from the train in service to Alstom's maintenance depot, enabling the 'pit crew' and all required parts needed for necessary work to be ready in the right part of the depot as soon as the train returns from its daily diagram, resulting in a downtime saving of some 30%.

Paul Robinson, Managing Director of Alstom Transport UK said: "As with Formula 1 cars, downtime of the Pendolino trains for maintenance is at a premium with the clock ticking until they are back on the track. In adopting a Pit Stop regime, Alstom continues to enhance the behind the scenes operations to help Virgin deliver a world-class inter-city service".

▲ ▶ **Pendolino No. 390052 *Virgin Knight* enters the refurbished Alstom Depot at Wembley on 17th June. 'Rubens' on the front end related to Formula 1 racing driver Rubens Barrichello who, with the two Pit Stop Girls, formally opened the proceedings. Both: Brian Morrison**

Could Britain see a revival in 'Piggyback' railfreight services?

DB Schenker Rail (UK) Ltd is to conduct a review of options for 'Piggyback' railfreight services in Britain, following renewed interest from a number of customers in the service.

'Piggyback' is the term used for placing heavy goods trailers onto specially designed rail freight wagons, enabling a quick modal integration of road and rail freight. In addition, the continuing development of the UK rail gauge is opening up more routes for such road/rail conversion.

With the impact of the economic downturn forcing users and providers of logistics services to focus on how costs can be reduced while enhancing service provision, DB Schenker is looking at the possible benefits of 'Piggyback' for the British logistics market. With railfreight also emitting five times less CO^2 per tonne km than road haulage, the system also delivers significant reductions in the emissions that cause climate change.

Campaign to save the SLL

A campaign is mounting to save the South London Line services between London Bridge and London Victoria, via Clapham Junction, Denmark Hill, Peckham and Bermondsey, which are due to stop running in 2012 because of lack of platform space when Thameslink trains begin using London Bridge.

A proposed replacement service, which would have travelled from Victoria to Bellingham through most of the same route, has also now been abandoned. Transport for London maintain that the £24 million saved from the replacement train service over 10 years will be better spent on the East London line extension, which will link Clapham Junction to New Cross and East London. MPs, councillors, residents' groups and the three hospitals near the line are now fighting to save the link, which is well patronised and already there is over 1,000 signatures on a petition.

▲ Class 395 'Javelins' Nos. 395002 & 395006 come off the Medway Bridge at speed on 18th June, forming a returning press run from Ashford International to St Pancras International to auger the commencement of Southeastern high-speed commuter services from 29th June. Hitachi has so far successfully delivered 18 sets. The remaining 11 were shipped from Hitachi's factory in Japan on 13th June, and are due to arrive in the UK this August, before being transferred to Hitachi's purpose-built Train Care Centre in Ashford.
Brian Morrison

Investment for South 'Sub' route

Network Rail is to undertake a £1 million modernisation of the Edinburgh South Suburban freight rail route this summer.

The work will take place on 10 consecutive Saturday nights between 28th June and 5th September, on a 4.5-mile section between Slateford and Niddrie.

The project involves the renewal of track circuit equipment, and will take place in 12 locations. The route is a key one for freight, avoiding the need for trains to disrupt passenger services through Edinburgh Waverley, Princes Street Gardens and Haymarket. It is also used as a diversionary route for passenger services at times of disruption.

Virgin pledges money for restoration of station building at Carlisle

Although Carlisle Citadel station is owned by Network Rail and only managed by Virgin Trains as a tenant, the train operating company has pledged to spend money restoring the historic building if it wins an extension to its West Coast franchise.

A station revamp could enable commercial tenants to move into refurbished office space in the building, which dates from 1847.

Virgin is also promising to cut the journey time from Carlisle to London to less than three hours, but is likely to face stiff competition for the renewal of the West Coast franchise, however, potentially one of the most profitable on the network.

Most rail franchises are awarded for around seven years, although Virgin argues that a much longer period of some 30 years is needed to give train operators time to earn a return on their investment.

The bidding process for the West Coast should start next year, with the winner announced in 2011.

Mobile phones for London Underground

The Government's Digital Britain Report has stated that it is to ensure that commuters will be able to use mobile phones without connection loss on both London Underground and all Network Rail trains.

The report outlines plans to make London's Underground mobile phone friendly in time for the 2012 Olympic, and states that it expects mobile network operators to provide and fund solutions to take the initiative to improve the broadband mobile access for mobile customers travelling by Tube. It adds that if regulatory or other similar constraints turn out to be a barrier that it is willing to address them.

A similar stipulation will be placed on rail network operators in order to maximise coverage. The report states that making sure high-speed broadband access will become part of the franchise agreements, or that making sure mobile broadband is improved along the rail lines is in the next Network Rail budget discussions.

The fight for Folkestone Harbour

Campaigners fighting to save the Folkestone Harbour branch line are going ahead with ideas for a new heritage-based tourist attraction.

The Remembrance Line Association opposes plans for a new marina, university and 1,400 homes to be built on the existing site, which served millions of service personnel during both World Wars. While the proposed redevelopment of the harbour has stalled in recent months due to the recession, the campaigners are stepping up their efforts to secure funding so they can purchase the line and bring trains back to the town.

The Association maintains that if the line and station can be reopened, that train visits from around the country would revitalise that part of Folkestone. Traders have said that whenever trains visited, they noticed a big increase in business because people always come out to see them.

As well as reopening the line, the Association also wants to create a 'Leaving for War' museum at the Harbour as well as restore ferry links to France to allow visitors to travel to the battlefields.

The Remembrance Line Association currently has more than 300 members, but is appealing for more to join. A family membership costs £15 and a single £10, while pensioners pay only £5. People can help by joining the campaign and writing to Shepway Council, their MP, the Department for Transport and Network Rail, letting them know that the line and station should be preserved and kept open.

Fancy taking a walk on the windy side?

Rail enthusiasts and the general public, are being invited to walk over Ribblehead Viaduct on the Settle & Carlisle line on Sunday 26th July.

The viaduct will be open to the public for just the one day, the walk being made possible because Network Rail has closed the line to trains while it carries out vital improvement work. The 24-arch viaduct is a quarter of a mile long and 104 feet high.

New station for North Wales Coast line?

A top-level study by the North Wales Regional Transport Consortium recommends a railway station being built for Towyn and Kinmel Bay, the nearest stations to both towns at present being Rhyl and Pensarn.

Towyn and Kinmel Bay attract thousands of visitors each year to their many holiday parks and caravan sites, and would benefit with tourists being given the option to leave their car at home instead of having to use the heavily congested A458 coastal route during holiday periods.

▲ Seen from the cab of Class 37/4 No. 37423 working a press special along the newly reinstated third line, East Midlands Trains Class 222 'Meridian' No. 222018 heads south between Harpenden Junction and Kettering on 19th June. David Hunter

New bi-directional line opened on Midland Mainline

The official opening of the relaid third line between Kettering and Harrowden Junction, just north of Wellingborough on the Midland Mainline, took place on 19th June.

The £11.5 million project was completed during the May bank holiday weekend and is aimed at improving punctuality for the many trains that pass through the area on a daily basis. Almost seven kilometres of new track was laid to provide the third line, the project starting in January this year. The bottleneck on this part of the route had become an increasing problem as more trains are using the line and freight traffic is growing, especially quarry traffic taking aggregates to East London for the 2012 Olympics. The new bi-directional route reinstated one of the lines removed in the 1980s; the work including new signalling and enhanced power supplies.

Achievements of civil engineers commemorated in new plaque at Brighton

A plaque commemorating the achievements of civil engineers in creating the Southern Railway was unveiled at Brighton station on 18th June by Jean Venables, OBE, FREng, FICE, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), alongside guests from Southern Railway, Network Rail and the Railway Heritage Trust.

Funded by the ICE, the plaque illustrates the work of John Urpeth Rastrick, the engineer behind historic landmarks such as the Ouse Valley Viaduct, Clayton Tunnel and London Road Viaduct. Jean Venables said:" The arrival of the railway from London in 1841 brought great changes to Brighton. It is the role of engineers to deliver innovative solutions to the challenges we face today and this plaque reminds the public that we have been doing this for many years".

Gerry McFadden, Southern's Engineering Director, said: The Brighton main line is one of the busiest stretches of track in the UK. It has brought much prosperity to Brighton and made the journey between Brighton and London possible for millions of commuters and leisure travellers alike when the line was extended from Hassocks, with the construction of the Clayton tunnel. We are very pleased to be able to display this plaque at Brighton station in honour of these superb engineering achievements".

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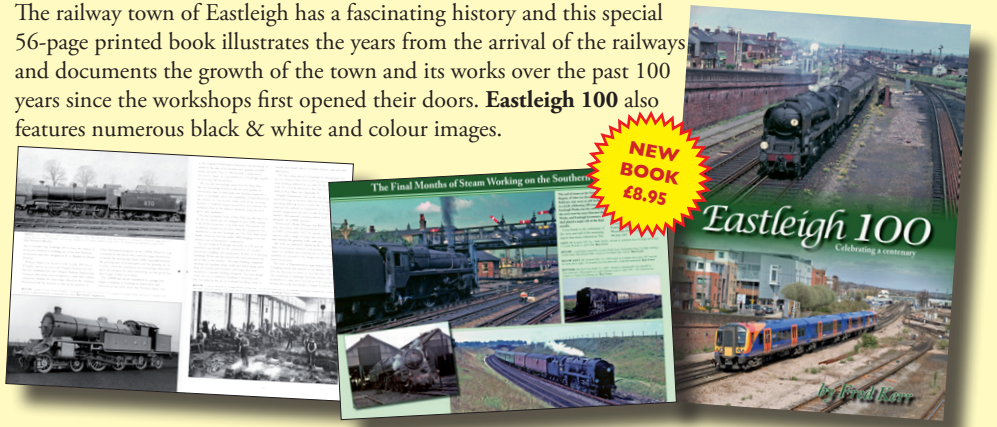
To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Eastleigh Works comes this limited print run book

The railway town of Eastleigh has a fascinating history and this special 56-page printed book illustrates the years from the arrival of the railways and documents the growth of the town and its works over the past 100 years since the workshops first opened their doors. **Eastleigh 100** also features numerous black & white and colour images.



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Metro and Light Rail News

£100 million upgrade for Blackpool Tramway

The new Transport Minister, Sadiq Khan, has announced that the Blackpool to Fleetwood Tramway is to have a £100 million upgrade.

The scheme, which has now been granted full Government approval, will include new trams, replacement track, extra stops and a new tram depot. The investment, £68.3 million from the Department for Transport and £33.4 million from Blackpool Council and Lancashire County Council, will build on the current regeneration of the town while improving access to the Fylde Coast.

The Tramway, which is owned by Blackpool Council, has been operating since 1885 and runs from the town along the Fylde Coast into Lancashire, serving Cleveleys and Fleetwood.

The scheme upgrade will include replacing 8km of track, rebuilding tram stops ensuring they are compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act, installing 14 priority signals at highway junctions to improve journey times, purchasing a fleet of 16 Bombardier trams, which will have low floors and be accessible to passengers with disabilities, and the construction of a tram depot.

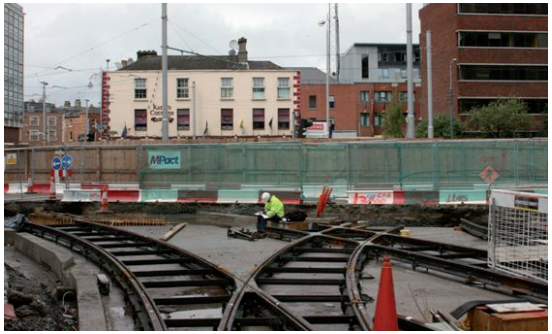
Work is due to start in June next year and is due for completion in April 2012.

New Oldham town centre line for Metrolink?

Work has begun on the scheme to convert the Oldham Loop line for use by Metrolink by autumn 2011, with tram stops at both Oldham Mumps and Werneth, but an announcement in May that a new Metrolink line is to be constructed into Oldham town centre itself has resulted in a rethink.

The Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE) is now looking at whether there is a future for both lines or whether to abandon the so-called 'outer' route when the town centre line is built. Discussions with local businesses are to take place in the next few weeks, followed by a public consultation once plans are submitted. Oldham Mumps station is the town's link with Manchester Victoria and Rochdale, but is the other side of a busy dual carriageway from the town centre. The new GMPTE plan includes a Metronet station closer to the town centre shopping area. A GMPTE councillor said: "The fact that we have now got £1.4 billion Government funding for the town centre line is fantastic. We now need to get an idea of when work is likely to start so we can see how that fits in with the conversion of the existing line".

Dublin Luas tram extension



▶ **Work is proceeding on the extension to Dublin's Luas light rail system. This view taken on 17th June, shows the trackwork being laid at the top of Mayor Street, just outside Connolly, for the Luas extension to The Point. Tony Sullivan**

ATOC report says reopening 40 stations could serve more than a million extra passengers

Some four decades after Dr Beeching cut the railway network by a third, closing nearly 2,000 stations and around 5,000 miles of track, train companies want to undo some of the resultant damage and inconvenience in a proposed expansion.

Around 14 lines and approximately 40 new stations have been identified, which if developed could serve more than a million extra passengers. The report by the Association of Train Operating Companies (ATOC) argues that demand for rail services has soared in the last decade and that there is a strong case for refurbishing and reopening old routes.

Any decision on whether any of the plans get the go-ahead would be taken by local and regional government, Network Rail and the Department for Transport, but if all the plans were authorised the costs would be unlikely to exceed £500 million as much of the old infrastructure is still in place in many areas. These could be refurbished to form part of the new network alongside freight lines, which could also be adapted to serve passenger routes once again.

The report also identifies seven new 'park-and-ride' stations that could be built on existing lines, the additional lines and stations taking between five to 10 years to become operational. The ATOC chief executive said: "Record passenger numbers and rising demand require us to plan for the long term, while climate change and population growth make it vital that in doing so, we adapt the rail network to meet tomorrow's needs. Providing attractive new services and easier access to the rail network will encourage passengers to switch to rail from other, less green, modes of transport. We have established that there is a strong business case for investment to bring a number of towns back onto the rail network. Now we need to safeguard these routes and develop the detailed case for investment."

The 14 possible new lines identified in the report are Cranleigh in Surrey, Borden, Hythe and Ringwood in Hampshire, Brixham in Devon, Aldridge and Brownhills in the West Midlands, Wisbech in Cambridgeshire, Leicester to Burton in the East Midlands, Fleetwood, Rawtenstall and Skelmersdale in Lancashire, Washington in Tyne and Wear, Ashington and Blyth in Northumberland

▲ **The progress of the transformation of West Ham platforms for DLR services is evident here on 12th June. Track laying was also in progress behind the screen.**
Robert Jefferys

UK News In Brief

■ It is claimed that thousands of commuters will be inconvenienced by a proposed station exit closure at Lewisham. The way out from Platform 4 allows passengers to leave the station without having to go through the main concourse, but Southeastern intends to close the station's second exit, which is on its north side, leaving Platform 4 users having to negotiate five flights of steps and a subway to leave the building. It is the most convenient exit for people living north of the station and people will have to take a long detour if the plan is implemented. Regular passengers maintain that the station is easily big enough and busy enough to have two exits. A consultation process with the train operator and passenger groups is ongoing, but Southeastern has not yet said what it would put in its place. The changes are designed to cut fare dodging and come ahead of new ticket gates being installed. The final decision on the plans will be made by the Department of Transport with recommendations from Southeastern.

■ It is reported in the City that National Express, which is struggling with the downturn in its East Coast Main Line services to and from King's Cross due to the recession, has obtained a six-month 'breather' from its banks on its stated £1.2 billion debt. The company has been under pressure to restructure its finances, and many sources in the City believe that it will need to introduce a shares rights issue or renegotiate its borrowing.

■ Balfour Beatty is planning to restructure its rail operations to create a £500 million-turnover business. The contractor has three rail businesses: Balfour Beatty Rail Projects, Balfour Beatty Rail Services and Balfour Beatty Rail Systems and Solutions. These will be brought under a single Balfour Beatty Rail UK brand. The £9.5 billion-turnover firm said the change, which will come into effect on 1st July, was designed to simplify its relationship with clients and help it win more work in the UK and overseas.

■ Thanks to the former South Eastern Controller and Control Manager of the time, Brian Garvin, and several other readers who have pointed out that the 1974 image of 'Peak' No. 45107 on page 21 of the last issue of Railway Herald showed the wagons full of coal and not empty as captioned. We were of course, just testing! Brian Garvin says this loaded train would have emanated from Toton or Brent and would have been going to the then Southfleet Coal Concentration Depot. Only after bringing the empties out of Southfleet to Hither Green would it then have then gone to Betteshanger or another of the Kent pits, from where it would then take a loaded coal train from Kent to Cricklewood and onwards to the north.

◀ On what could be one of its last journeys, Class 47/0 No. 47145 waits at Darlington on 13th June, having been deposited there by Class 66/8 No. 66841 after a few days stay at Doncaster West Yard. **Stephen Marsh**

◀▼ First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66716 *Willesden Traincare Centre* heads through Norton Junction working the 11.23 Wellingborough to Long Marston wagon move with a consist of vehicles for storage on 17th June. **Stephen Tucker**

▼ The following day and EWS Executive-liveried Class 67 No. 67029 *Royal Diamond* is once again seconded to Wrexham & Shropshire service. Here the '67' awaits departure from Tame Bridge Parkway. **Jamie Course**

◀ Class 20/3 Nos. 20304, 20315 and 20307 in convoy form the 09.30 Crewe Gresty Bridge to Eastleigh loco movement, seen here coming off the Reading line at Basingstoke on 18th June. The trio are passing Basingstoke's obsolescent signal box, where the relatively recent bi-directional signalling allowed the convoy to cross to the north track to pass through Platform 4, before returning to the 'down' lines to head for Worting Junction and Eastleigh. **Walter Stamper**

▼ In ETF yellow and green and TSO yellow and blue liveries, Class 58s Nos 58005 & 58026 await a journey through the Channel Tunnel to their new operators on 18th June, fronted by Class 92 No 92042 *Honegger*. The pair moved through the tunnel later that day, being noted in France on 19th June. **Brian Morrison**

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.

23rd June			
Kirkless Green Party	2xWCRC 47	Sheffield-Dronfield-Chesterfield-Alfreton-Langley Mill-East Midlands Pky-Leicester- Midland mainline-Salisbury (break/rev) & return	
UK Railtours	tbc	London Euston-Watford Junction-Milton Keynes Central-Wolverhampton-Shrewsbury-Aberystwyth (break/rev) & return	
24th June			
UK Railtours	tbc	London KX-Potters Bat-Stevenage-Durham (break/rev) & return	
25th June			
Kirklees Green Party	2xWCRC 47	Leeds-Dewsbury-Huddersfield- Aberystwyth (break/rev) & return	
27th June			
KWVR	5690	Keighley- Skipton-Hellifield-Settle Jct (rev) (& return) 3 return trips	
KWVR	5690	Keighley- Skipton-Helliefield-Settle-Ribblehead (rev) (& return)	
Pathfinder Tours	2xDBS 37	Portsmouth Hbr-Portsmouth & Southsea-Fratton-Cosham-Fareham-Southampton Central-Romsey-Salisbury-Warminster-Westbury-(rev) Castle Cary-Taunton-Exeter SD-Plymouth-Par-Truro-Penzance (break/rev) & return	
Railway Touring Company	60009	(Peterborough-Grantham-Newark Northgate-Retford-Doncaster-York)-York-Newcastle upon Tyne-Edinburgh Waverley (& return)	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Class 37	Birmingham International-Birmingham New St-Cheltenham Spa-Cam & Dursley-Bristol Pky-Bristol TM- Exeter SD-Plymouth-Bodmin Pky-Par-Truro-Penzance (break/rev) & return	
Steam Dreams	34067	London KX-Spalding-Lincoln-Newark Northgate-London KX	
Vintage Trains	4936	Solihull-Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley Warwick Road	**Cancelled**
28th June			
KWVR	5690	Keighley-Skipton-Hellifield-Settle Junction (& return) (Three trips)	
Railway Touring Company	70013	Bristol TM-Newport-Cardiff Central-(Carmarthen-Whitland-Tenby-Pembroke Dock (break/rev)-Tenby (break)-Whitland-Llanelli-Port Talbot-Cardiff Central & return	
3rd July			
Past Time Rail	60163	Tyseley- Bristol	**Cancelled**
4th July			
Flamboyant Trains	2xDRS 37s	Barrow Hill-Doncaster-Leeds-York-Grosmont-Whitby (break) & return	
Hastings Diesels Limited	Hastings DEMU	Hastings-Tunbridge Wells-Tonbridge-Bromley South-Clapham Jct-Kettering-Corby-Loughborough-Nottingham (break/rev)-Loughborough-Stamford-Peterborough-Clapham Jct & return	
Railway Touring Company	60019	London KX-Stevenage-Peterborough- Doncaster-York and return	
Railway Touring Company	6201	Liverpool Lime Street-Huddersfield- York-Scarborough and return	

The following are classed as scheduled steam services, operating several times each week.

Daily	WCRC	The Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig-Fort William	45231
Mon-Thurs/Sat	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering - Whitby	NYMR Fleet

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 commencement of Wimbledon fortnight may be a harbinger of summer, but another indicator is a busier than usual week of railtours ahead.

UK Railtours is the first off the mark with tours on consecutive days commencing with a trip to Aberystwyth on 23rd June from London Euston, followed by Durham from London King's Cross on 24th June.

Aberystwyth is a popular destination this week, as the resort is due to be visited by a charter for the Kirklees Green Party on 25th June, which originates at Leeds and picks up at Dewsbury, Huddersfield and Stalybridge. This is Kirklees Green Party's second charter of the week, as it also has a trip to Salisbury on 23rd June from Sheffield, travelling via the Erewash Valley and the Midland Mainline. West Coast traction will feature on both.

Pairs of Class 37s dominate Saturday's tours, heading charters for Pathfinder and Spitfire both of which are heading for 'Mazey Day' at Penzance. Pathfinder has a pair of DBS Class 37s up front from Portsmouth Harbour on the 'Cornish Explorer', which runs via Fratton, Cosham, Fareham, Southampton Central, Romsey, Salisbury and Warminster, and offers Truro as an alternative set-down point. Meanwhile, Spitfire will be heading south from Birmingham International with the 'Kernow Growler', which is booked for two DRS Class 37s. The tour is reported to be fully booked, and travels via Birmingham New Street and Cheltenham Spa, with set-down options at Bodmin Parkway, Par and Truro, as well as Penzance.

The big event of the weekend is the Keighley & Worth Valley Gala, which on both Saturday and Sunday will feature a mainline steam shuttle service from Keighley to Settle Junction featuring 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander*. Trains will leave Keighley at 09.05, 12.05 and 15.44 on 27th June, and 09.40, 12.15 and 15.26 on 28th June, with both pay-on-the-day and pre-booked tickets understood to be available. The return working from Settle Junction will be in the hands of a WCRC diesel. There will also be a trip to Ribblehead on Saturday evening, departing Keighley at 18.40, which is reported as full.

Steam Dreams will be heading north on 27th June with a 'Cathedrals Express' from King's Cross to Lincoln, outwards via Spalding and returning via Newark with Bulleid Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere*. Railway Touring Company is also heading north, initially diesel-hauled from Peterborough to York, at which point Gresley 'A4' No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* will take over for the onward run to Edinburgh Waverley, via Newcastle-upon-Tyne and Berwick-on-Tweed. The return is diesel-hauled throughout.

It will be a busy weekend for RTC, which also has 'The Pembroke Coast Express' on 28th June from Bristol Temple Meads with 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* heading the train to Carmarthen, where a diesel will take over for the remainder of the outward journey to Pembroke Dock, via Whitland and Tenby. The train is steam-hauled throughout on the return.

The Tornado Story - £10.95 plus p&p

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 *Tornado*'s appearances at Barrow Hill & NYMR Steam Galas.

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

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Putting in a sterling performance that would (almost!) match an LMS Pacific on Shap! GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcombe* **heads south past Great Strickland with the 'Castle Over Shap' railtour on 20th June. George Woods**

Ups & Downs by John Whitehouse

The winding up of Past Time Rail is being undertaken by Griffins, licensed insolvency practitioners, of Tavistock House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9LG. The company can be contacted by telephone on 0207 554 9600.

Advance details of the next Retro Railways tour include a trip on the Oldham Loop en-route from Huddersfield to Carlisle, via the Cumbrian Coast. Type 1 traction is also requested for the 'Retro Oldham Looper and Cumbrian Coaster' on 29th August.

Spitfire Railtours will be heading to the Swanage Railway on 26th September. Its 'Purbeck Growler' is scheduled for haulage by two WCRC Class 37s from Crewe, Stafford, Wolverhampton, Birmingham New Street, Leamington Spa and Banbury, setting down at Winchester, Bournemouth and Swanage.

King Edward I to return to the mainline in August on the 'Torbay Express' trips

After a frustrating year, there is some positive news that 'King' No. 6024 *King Edward I* should be back in action soon.

At the end of last year the locomotive was moved to Williton, on the West Somerset Railway (WSR), for winter maintenance to be completed, and indeed its cold mechanical examination went without a hitch. However, during the hydraulic examination to check repairs to the tube plate laps, leakage around the tube ends and on the tube plate ligaments was found after routine beading of the tube ends.

Non-destructive testing of the copper tube plate proved inconclusive, so it was decided to remove 20 tubes for further thorough examination, which revealed some small defects on the tube plate surface. The good news is that the tubes themselves were still in excellent condition, proving that the water treatment used was working well. A specialist welder will undertake the necessary repairs to the tube plate later this month, following which new tubes will be installed ahead of the necessary 'hot' examination in the presence of the boiler inspector. Once re-certified, there will be a period of running in on the WSR and a mainline return on 'Torbay Express' duties in mid-August.

Are the DB Schenker Class 37s reliable enough for railtour duty?

What a weekend! A 'Western' to Kyle of Lochalsh, a 'Castle' on Shap and a pair of Class 37s going nowhere fast!

Maybe that is a little unfair on the Class 37s, but the exploits of No. D1015 *Western Champion* and No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* require special mention, as they represent all that is best about mainline heritage traction. Their respective custodians, the Diesel Traction Group and Tyseley Locomotive Works are both renowned for their professionalism and engineering excellence, combined with exercising rigorous maintenance regimes - and this all shone through with the performance of their locomotives during the last few days.

Western Champion opened the weekend's activity at the head of Pathfinders' 'Western Chieftain' on Friday 19th June, which it worked throughout from Bescot to Inverness, then on to Kyle of Lochalsh before returning the train to Birmingham New Street on Sunday night, 21st June, covering just over 1,100 miles in the process. The Class 52 handled the train with ease, and without problem. Timekeeping was excellent throughout, and despite the reported protestations of First ScotRail, it was actually they that delayed the 'Western' and not the other way round! And now a 'Western' has visited one of the remotest outposts of the railway system! It turned a few Celtic heads en route, too!

Meanwhile on Shap, the reputation of Swindon was being firmly re-established when *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe*, the pride of Tyseley, set about emulating the performance of No. 46115 *Scots Guardsman* a few weeks earlier - and reports indicate that it came very close to so doing. Again, the performance is based first of all on having a locomotive that is in tip-top condition, which reflects on the engineers, and then particularly with steam, that the footplate crew knows how to handle the engine - and in West Coast's Bill Andrews they probably had the best, ably assisted by both Meanley Junior and Senior on the shovel!

Unfortunately, there is a flip side, following the failure of both DBS Class 37s on the Compass Railtours' charter on 20th June. No. 37401 had a reported traction motor failure, and then the train finally came to a halt at Penrith when No. 37670 succumbed, brake problems being cited as the problem. Fortunately it was on the last leg of the charter, which previously had been to York and returned via the Settle & Carlisle, and the delay was little more than one hour. The issue is that No. 37401 had failed on its previous outing, and now the reliability of the available fleet of Class 37s must raise concerns as to their suitability for railtour duties. The continued poor performance of the Class 37s reflects adversely on DB Schenker and the tour operator (the latter due to no fault of its own), and must eventually mean that potential tour participants will in future not book onto tours advertised for DBS Class 37s because of doubts that either the advertised traction will not be available on the day, or will fail en route. There is also the matter of potential delays to other services. It has to be said also that DBS depot staff have made a Herculean attempt to get and keep these machines fit for use, but it must now be obvious that either serious money has to be spent to overhaul two or three locomotives for long-term use, or for the benefit of everyone, they should be turned-off for good. Surely, no other solution can really be entertained.

◀ On 13th June, UK Railtours' 'The Thames Towy' charter from London Paddington to Carmarthen, heads for Llanelli having just crossed the Lougher Viaduct, 'topped and tailed' by Class 59/2 No. 59206 *John F Yeoman Rail Pioneer* **and No. 59205** *L Keith McNair*. **Stuart Warr**

Western Champion takes the 'Western Chieftain' to Kyle of Lochalsh in fine style

'Western's' were once a common sight at the Great Western's most westerly point, Penzance. Now, 30 years after their withdrawal from BR service, a 'Western' has turned up at Scotland's most north-westerly rail terminus, Kyle of Lochalsh!

The DTG's Class 52 performed faultlessly over the three days of Pathfinder's mammoth 'Western Chieftain' charter, which also included firsts for Stirling, Perth and Inverness. Firsts meaning that the cities concerned have now joined the extending list of places now visited by a Class 52!

No. D1015 powered the train from Bescot to Inverness via Carlisle, Coatbridge, Stirling, Perth and the Highland Main Line to Inverness on 19th June. The next day, it worked out and back to Kyle of Lochalsh, before becoming the first Class 52 to cross the Forth Bridge on 21st June, which was routed via Edinburgh Waverley and the suburban lines to Carstairs, and then back to Birmingham New Street.

Fuel capacity precluded the 'Western' working the tour throughout from Bristol Temple Meads, but it did mean that participants had Class 66 No. 66206 back to Bristol on 21st June, which was the locomotive's inaugural passenger turn.

▼ **Class 52 'Western' No. D1015** *Western Champion* **stands at Kyle of Lochalsh on 20th June with the Isle of Skye in the background. John Whitehouse**

▼▼ **A lone piper joined the train voluntarily after being invited onboard by DTG and Pathfinder at Aviemore, and following a photo stop at Perth, proceeded to pipe the charter out of the station on its departure to the tune of Scotland the Brave! Brian Garrett**

LMS 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45231 *Sherwood Forester* skirts the shores of Loch Eil with the Jacobite service to Mallaig on 9th June. **Stuart Chapman**

Eastleigh undertakes first running repair to Bulleid Pacific since steam days

In a kind gesture following the highly successful Eastleigh 100 centenary open weekend, Arlington Fleet Services allowed the Swanage-based Battle of Britain No. 34070 *Manston* to undergo a running repair at the works.

The locomotive was missing from the convoy returning to Swanage, due to a problem on the leading bogie, which resulted in it being lifted at Eastleigh in the Main Erecting Shop - the first Bulleid Pacific to undergo such a lift since steam days.

▶ **No. 34070 *Manston* stands attached to the crane in the Main Erecting Shop of Eastleigh Works, with its leading bogie out for repair. Carl Watson**

▼ **With everything reassembled, the locomotive was steamed for a day for works staff and invited guests as a thank you. Ron Cover**

Thunderbirds are go!

▲ **On 20th June, Class 50 No. D444 *Exeter* failed at Hampton Loade on the Severn Valley Railway on the 11.45 Bridgnorth-Kidderminster service. Unable to release the vacuum brake, despite the best efforts of the crew, 'Thunderbird' Class 20 No. D8188 was summoned from Kidderminster. Nearly an hour late, the train was finally rescued and is seen here leaving Hampton Loade, with the Class 20 at the head of the train and the Class 50 inside. Fortunately this happened at lunchtime, when there is an element of slack in the timetable, but this still led to some juggling of the remaining services during the afternoon. John Stretton**

Traction variety for Chinnor diesel gala

The Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway is operating a Diesel Gala Weekend on 27th/28th June, with a free CPRR vintage bus service from Princes Risborough to Chinnor.

Subject to availability, the motive power will include Class 37s Nos. 37116 *Sister Dora* & 37219, Class 31 No. D5581 (31163), Class 121 'Bubblecar' No W55023, Ruston 0-6-0DH (ex MoD 420) *Iris*, and Class 09 and 08 shunters Nos. 13018 & 08011.

Trains depart Chinnor for Thame Junction from 09.00 until 18.45 on Saturday and from 09.15 until 16.45 on Sunday.

KWVR's first Summer Steam Gala approaches

The Keighley & Worth Valley Railway's Summer Steam Gala will see its Oxenhope-Keighley services supplemented by Skipton to Hellifield 'specials' over 26th-28th June.

LMS 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander*, normally based at Tyseley, will operate the main line trains from Keighley to Skipton and Hellifield on 27th/28th June, with one train on the Saturday evening continuing to Blea Moor over Ribblehead Viaduct on the Settle & Carlisle Railway. The Gala is being supported by local train operating company Northern Rail, which will accept KWVR 'All Lines' Day tickets on its services to allow a break of journey at Skipton, Hellifield and Ribblehead.

In addition, the National Railway Museum's ex-GCR '04' 2-8-0 No. 63601, will be starring alongside the resident fleet and behind the scenes tours of Haworth Locomotive Depot and Oxenhope Carriage Shed, both normally closed to the public, will take place.

Tickets will allow unlimited travel on both the preserved branch line and the main line steam services from Keighley to Skipton and Hellifield, and will be valid on connecting Northern Rail timetabled services between Hellifield, Ribblehead, Skipton and all stations from Keighley to Haworth and Oxenhope. This will make connections between the regular services and the gala trains easier but will also help to diminish local road congestion from visitors who can now park their cars away from the Worth Valley.

Gresley 'N2' back in steam

▲ The Gresley-designed 'N2' 0-6-2T No. 4744 has emerged from overhaul at the Great Central Railway, carrying GNR green livery. The loco is pictured shunting at Loughborough Central on 20th June. **Rick Eborall**

Plus: • Double headed trains • Express trains • Vintage trains • Demonstration goods train • Saturday evening excursion to Blea Moor over the famous Ribblehead viaduct on the Settle & Carlisle line (advance booking essential) • Bargain day and weekend tickets available • Main Line day tickets valid on Northern Rail Services Hellifield - Skipton - Keighley • CAMRA award-winning real ale buffet car • Hot food available over the weekend

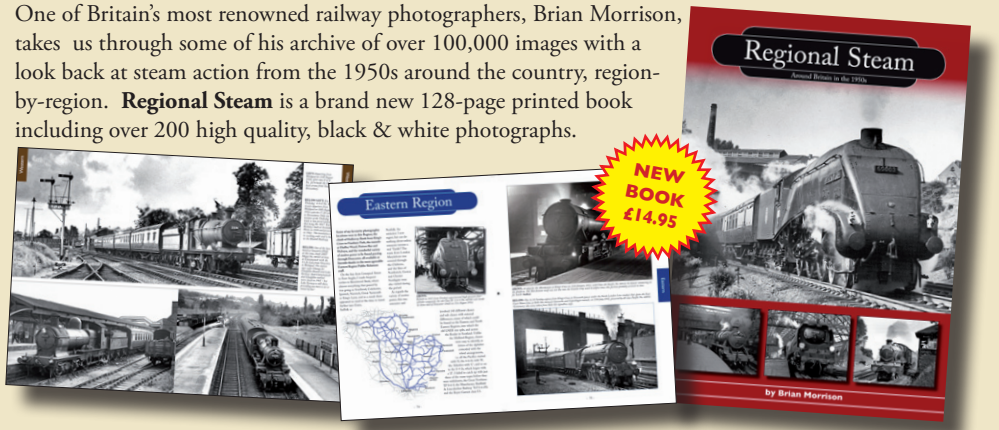
THE KEIGHLEY & WORTH VALLEY RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY

The Railway Station, Haworth, Keighley, West Yorkshire BD22 8NJ
Telephone 01535 645214 Fax 01535 647317 www.kwvr.co.uk

Keep up to date with the KWVR 24hr Info 01535 647777 All locomotives subject to availability Members concessions not valid on this weekend

From the days when steam was king and diesels were just a thought on the horizon...

One of Britain's most renowned railway photographers, Brian Morrison, takes us through some of his archive of over 100,000 images with a look back at steam action from the 1950s around the country, region-by-region. **Regional Steam** is a brand new 128-page printed book including over 200 high quality, black & white photographs.



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With the dome-shaped mountain known as 'The Sow of Atholl' dominating the background, DBS Class 67 No. 67004 approaches Druimuachdar summit as the moon sets on 12th June with 21.15 London Euston - Inverness 'Caledonian Sleeper'. **Paul Armitage**

▲ The Welsh Assembly sponsored service from Holyhead to Cardiff uses dedicated Arriva Trains Wales-liveried Class 57/3s and matching coaching stock. On 16th June, one of the two Class 57/3s in this livery hauls the 05.33 Holyhead to Cardiff through Pontrilas, between Hereford and Abergavenny.

◀ Having just passed through Pyle station on 13 June, Class 175/0 No. 175001 heads towards its next scheduled stop at Bridgend with the 13.10 Milford Haven to Manchester Piccadilly service.

▼ The late afternoon sun bathes the late running 15.30 Manchester Piccadilly to Pembroke Dock service as it passes the signal box at Pontrilas on 16th June. The formation of the train was made up of representatives of Classes 150, 153 and 158, led by No. 150257. **All: Stuart Warr**

◀ On 19th June, Network Rail-liveried Class 31/4 No. 31465 leads the 10.08 Selhurst to Derby via Kent lines through Denmark Hill. **Craig Leaper**

▼ In the bright morning sun, Mk2 DBSO No. 9701 and test vehicles Nos. 977869 and 977868, with motive power provided by Class 31/4 No. 31465 on the rear, head away from Eastleigh on 16th June with the 09.33 Eastleigh RC to Eastleigh RC test working via Weymouth, Hamworthy and Basingstoke. **David Kirwin**

15th June 2009
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'From Somewhere to Nowhere' by Fred Coupland. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
Line-side Observation at Bedford Station from 17.00. Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 for further details.

RCTS (Shenfield Branch)
Shenfield Parish Hall, 80 Hutton Road, Shenfield. 'Photocharters UK' by Adrian Palmer. Starts 19.30.

16th June 2009
Monmouthshire Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave, Newport, South Wales. 'Railways Around E.Devon and the Exe Valley' by Peter Gray. Meeting starts at 19.30. Admission: non-members £3. .

17th June 2009
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent Natter Night 'A Practical Guide & Demonstration of Constructing Buildings for Model Railways' by David Wright. Starts 19.30. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 or for further details.

18th June 2009
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Barrow Hill Roundhouse. 'Around the World by Motorcycle - The Pan American Highway' by Paul Pratt. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start. Admission: members £1.50, non members £2.00

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon '6000 'The King' at Bulmers, Hereford' by Len Roberts. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Marlow and District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'A Beginner's Guide to British Railway Signalling - part 1' by Mike Walker. Starts 20.00. Non-members admission £2

RCTS (Bristol Branch)
Visit to the Avon Valley Country Park 5" Minature Railway. Contact the branch secretary, Paul Udey, on 01225 427779 or by e-mail at paul.udey@talktalk.net for further details.

RCTS (Thames Valley Branch)
Observation & Photography at Reading Station (for Ascot Trains). Contact the branch secretary Murray Lewis on 0118 942 6681 or by e-mail at murraylewis@hotmail.co.uk.

RCTS (West Riding)
Visit to Shipley Glen Tramway and Evening Meal. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile on 07887 908501 for further details.

Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)
The Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, Nr. Taunton. 'Railways of the Exe and Culm Valleys' by Mike Pym. Meeting commences at 19.30.

19th June 2009
Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)
Village Hall, Stoke St.Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Railways of the Exe and Culm Valleys' by Mike Pym. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Slough & Windsor Railway Society
The Manor, Slough West Car Park, Slough Railway Station, Brunel Way, Slough. 'More Trams & Trolleys' by Graham Bilbe. Starts 19.30. Contact John Coke on 01753 860567 for details.

20th June 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Day out to Liverpool & visit Merseyside Tramway Preservation Centre. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

21st June 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Crewe Basford Hall at 12.00hrs. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

24th June 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. '1000 Eggs on a Bicycle' by Colin Boocock. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01256 326096 for further details.

25th June 2009
Mid Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Branch)
The Church House, Church Street, Caversham. 'History of Wokingham Station' by Jack Meatcher. Doors open 19.30 for 19.45 start.

RCTS (Bristol Branch)
Afternoon & Evening Observation at Westbury Station. Contact Paul Udey on 01225 427779 or by e-mail at paul.udey@talktalk.net for details.

26th June 2009
Slough & Windsor Railway Society
The Manor, Slough West Car Park, Slough Railway Station, Brunel Way. 'Memorabilia of Windsor Railways'. Starts 19.30. Contact John Coke on 01753 860567 for further details.

27th June 2009
RCTS (West Riding)
Visit Falsgrave Signal Box and North Bay Railway. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

29th June 2009
RCTS (Northampton)
West Midland Day Ranger and visit to the RAF Museum, Cosford. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 .

1st July 2009
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent. 'Preserved Locomotives of the LMS and The North Briton Rail Tour' by Alan Price. Starts 19.30. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537.

6th July 2009
RCTS (Ashford Branch)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'Cairnryan Military Port and Diesel Locos of WW2' by Mike Walshaw. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Swanage Railway (Bath Area)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Road, Bathwick, Bath. 'Isle of Wight Transport Roundup' by Malcolm Tong. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1. Contact John Lakey on 01225 315918 for further details.

7th July 2009
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'The Art of Railway Photography' by Alan Crotty. Starts 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320.

8th July 2009
RCTS (Hitchin Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Park. 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. Starts 19.30

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross Station). 'Countries Bordering Switzerland. Members Slides. Starts 19.00. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for details.

9th July 2009
Continental Railway Circle
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London nW1 6NJ. 'White Pass and Yukon Railway' by Philip Wormald. Starts 19.15. Admission £2.00. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for further details.

10th July 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Peterborough, Nene Valley Railway - March by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

11th July 2009
Bournemouth Rly Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, junction of Alma Road and Heron Court Road, Bournemouth. 'Colour-Rail in Person' by Ron White. Meeting commences at 14.30. Admission charge £2.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
Visit to the Battlefield Line by Mini Bus. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org 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 47/7 No. 47786** *Roy Castle OBE* **passes Silverdale Moss with the 15.55 Carlisle - Birmingham International charter, with DRS Class 37/6 No. 37610 out of sight on the rear. Linda Langton**

11th July 2009 (cont..)
RCTS (West Riding)
Colne Valley Railway, Ipswich by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 for further details.

12th July 2009
RCTS (West Riding)
Norwich Crown Point and Mid Norfolk Railway by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail on at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

13th July 2009
RCTS (Northampton)
Line-side Observation at Kings Sutton Station from 17.00hours. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 for further details.

Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)
The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'Southern Steam in the 60s' by Terry Cole. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Branch Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

14th July 2009
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny 'More Travels of a Ferroequinologist' by Terry McCarthy. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

RCTS (Merseyside Branch)
Observation at Chesterfield (optional visit to Barrow Hill). Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

15th July 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Railways of Czechoslovakia' by Jeremy Harrison. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for details.

16th July 2009
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Barrow Hill Roundhouse. 'Grand Central - The Story So Far' by Giles Fearnley. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start. Admission: Non members £2.

Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon AGM. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the Secretary, Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

17th July 2009
Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)
The Village Hall, Stoke ST. Mary, Nr Taunton. 'An Audience with our Chairman' by Richard Croucher. Meeting commences at 19.30.

20th July 2009
RCTS (South Essex Branch)
Annual visit to the Mangapps Farm Railway Museum. Contact John Stone on 01245 464756 for further details.

RCTS (Thames Valley Branch)
Observation & Photography at Didcot Station. Contact Murray Lewis on 01189 426681 or by e-mail at murraylewis@hotmail.co.uk for further details.

22nd July 2009
RCTS (Bristol Branch)
Afternoon Observation at Oxford and Evening at Didcot Stations. Contact Paul Udey on 01225 427779 or by e-mail at paul.udey@talktalk.net for further details.

24th - 27 July 2009
Locomotive Club of Great Britain
UK Tour, Dawlish. Train Watch.

25th July 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Visit Rhyl Miniature Railway by Rail. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk.21.com for further details.

26 July 2009
RCTS (Merseyside Branch)
Car Trip to Ribble Steam and Lakeside and Haverthwaite Railways. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

27th July 2009
RCTS (Northampton Branch)
Canal Trip - 2 Boats from Blisworth Wharf. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for further details.

28th July 2009
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City Branch)
The Methodist Church, Junction of Ludwick Way and Colegreen Lane. '38 Years a Railwayman - North London and Herefordshire' by Dave Cockle. Meeting commences at 14.15.

29th July 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Lickey Incline' by Dave Besley. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Day out to Bletchley for Observation. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

4th August 2009
Weston super Mare Railway Society
The Function Room, The Conservative Club, Alexandra Parade, Weston super Mare. Members' slides. Meeting commences 20.00. Contact Lionel Jones on 01934 628289 or e-mail fotophile69@talktalk.net for details.

5th August 2009
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton upon Trent. 'Lost Railways of Derbyshire' by Geoffrey Kingscott. Meeting commences at 19.30. Admission £1.50 non members, 50p members. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for further details.

10th August 2009
Southern Electric Group (Sussex Branch)
The Deall Room, Southwick Community Centre. 'CTR: Section 2' by Phil Bassett. Meeting commences at 19.30. Donation of £2 requested. Contact the Branch Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 for further details.

11th August 2009
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny 'The Mumbles Railway' by Royston Kneath. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for further details.

12th August 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The West Somerset Railway' by Keith Smith. Meeting commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross Station). 'Switzerland 1977-2007' by Alan Pike. Meeting commences at 19.00. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for details.

20th August 2009
Breconshire Railway Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon 'The Daffodil Line' by David Postle. 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. Bring a Thing. Starts 19.45. Call Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for details.

21st August 2009
Great Western Society (Taunton Branch)
Village Hall, Stoke St. Mary, Nr Taunton. 'Then Till Now' by Philip Kelly. Meeting commences at 19.30.

26th August 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'F.W.Webb of the London and North Western Railway' by Martin Bloxom. Meeting starts 20.00. Contact 01256 326096.

1st September 2009
Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. 'Transport options at Walt Disney World' by Dekota Dibben. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Varied Railway Interest - both old and new' by Martyn Davies. Starts 19.30. Contact the Secretary, John Goodrich on 023 8067 0028 for further details.

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 52 No. D1062 *Western Courier* **passes Leigh Bridge with the 09.05 Minehead to Bishops Lydeard service on 14th June, having just completed a 10-year overhaul on the SVR. Glen Batten**

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