Railway Herald

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The electronic journal for the railway enthusiast

Railway Herald

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13th July 2009

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Open doors at DRS Kingmoor

Direct Rail Services held its annual depot open day on 11th July, with Carlisle Kingmoor playing host. A wide variety of DRS traction, together with a visiting Class 50 and Colas Rail Class 47/7 were on show for visitors.

Full story on Page 9

In This Issue

Another '66/8' delivered
Advenza Freight has taken delivery of the third member of its Class 66/8 fleet, leaving just No. 66843 to be released from Springburn.
Click here to read the story on Page 3

Powerhaul *FIRST PICTURE*
The first two Class 70 'Powerhaul' locomotives for Freightliner, built by General Electric, are undergoing initial testing in Pennsylvania.
Click here to read the story on Page 4

TfL unveils new '378s'
Transport for London has unveiled the new three-car Class 378 EMUs for use on London Overground services around the capital.
Click here to read the story on Page 6

Britain's busiest station
New figures released by the Office of Rail Regulation show that the busiest station in the UK is London Waterloo
Click here for World News on Page 7

Elsewhere in this issue

20 East Lancashire Diesel Gala
A photographic look at the East Lancashire Railway's recent diesel gala, featuring visiting locomotives from the Severn Valley Railway and the Great Central Railway (Northern).

21 Through the Lens
A photographic look at various rail operations over the past few of weeks.

Essentials

11 Railtours & Excursions
News from the charter scene, with comprehensive tour listings.

24 Diary
The dates of slide shows and information presentations.

Front Cover Caption:

Class 66 No. 66091 rounds the curve into Par station with a china clay working to Burngullow on 8th July.
Craig Munday

Rail Vehicle Development Centre opens

Network Rail has opened a rail vehicle development centre on the 10-mile disused colliery line between High Marnham and Thoresby in Nottinghamshire that was closed in 2003.

The facility has been designed to help develop rail vehicles, technology and equipment, over £100 million being invested in new, more efficient machinery and engineering technologies to help minimise passenger disruption caused by renewals and maintenance work.

The newly restored track will be used to carry out development work as well as the acceptance trials that have to be completed when new equipment is introduced to the network. The new centre will also be used as a training facility, providing a safe and realistic environment for engineers to get to grips with new machinery and develop new, more efficient ways of working, the line being chosen for its strategic location, relatively good condition and the ease with which it could be re-connected to the National Network via the Robin Hood line. The facility includes many common characteristics found on the rail network, including a signalling system and calibrated curves, and it also has a line speed of 50mph. It is mainly single track but has three miles of double track, and has the potential to be upgraded to a higher line speed of up to 75mph. Network Rail's engineering director said: "We want the centre to be a facility for the whole of the rail industry, which means we can offer a service to help our industry partners reduce research and development costs, and we hope to improve the facility further if it proves popular with our industry partners".

▼ One of the GrantRail tamping machines undertakes trials of the signalling system and performance testing at Tuxford on the new facility. **Network Rail**

▲ On its delivery run from Glasgow Works to Longport, Class 66/8 No. 66844 (previously No. 66409) passes Whifflet station, to the north of Mossend Yard on 8th July. **Kenny Marrs**

Ashford refurbishment

The arrival of the new domestic high-speed rail services linking Ashford and London St Pancras has prompted a £2.4 million refurbishment of Ashford International station.

The six-month project has already started, with £1.2 million provided by the National Stations Improvement Programme (NSIP) and £1.2 million given by 'Ashford's Future' from central government growth area funding. The work is to be completed in time for the start of the full high speed 'Javelin' timetable being introduced in December.

The improvements include extension of the entrance booking hall to include more seating and a coffee bar, two new entrance/exits incorporating automatic doors to the station front, improved lighting on the station concourse, an enhanced access and heated waiting area on Platforms 5 and 6, and additional seating and refurbished toilets on Platforms 1, 2, 5 and 6.

Longer Thameslink

To accommodate 12-car Thameslink trains being introduced by 2012, work has begun to extend all four platforms at St Albans station, similar work at Luton Airport Parkway having been completed.

The work is part of a £5 million makeover of St Albans station by Network Rail and First Capital Connect, which is nearly complete. The project is providing a number of improvements, including a new, larger station entrance to reduce congestion and to make access easier, a new 813 space multi-storey car park with 13 spaces for blue badge holders, additional facilities for cycles and motorbikes, more Close-Circuit Television (CCTV) camera's and lighting, step-free access to all platforms with new lifts for the mobility impaired, a new low-level ticket counter for wheelchair users and two new large retail units providing convenience shopping for people on the move.

Freightliner's new 'Powerhaul' locomotives previewed

GE Transportation in Erie, Pennsylvania, is commencing testing the first two of the 30 Class 70 PowerHaul locomotives it is constructing for Freightliner.

Locomotives Nos. 70001 and 70002 will be subjected to over 170 tests, including ride quality, gauging and electromagnetic compatibility using the company's test track at the plant. The locomotives are required to achieve 800km of trouble-free running prior to delivery, and subsequent members of the fleet have to satisfactorily operate for 160km before acceptance by Freightliner.

Once any modifications and painting are completed, both locomotives are scheduled to be shipped to the Port of Newport in South Wales in November, with four more following in December. All six are to be fitted with monitoring equipment to provide an early warning of any problems that may arise.

GE Transportation is also offering the PowerHaul locos to the European, Middle Eastern and North African markets in competition with EMD's Class 66s. Future locomotives are to be assembled by Tülomsas in Turkey.

▲ **The first of the new Freightliner Class 70 Powerhaul locomotives is pictured at General Electric's works in Erie, Pennsylvania. Once initial testing has been completed, the locomotives will be painted before being shipped to the UK. GE**

New plan to link North, mid and South Wales

A Welsh community action group, Yn Ein Blaenau, wants to link North, Mid and South Wales together with a railway through Bangor, Rhyl, Ruthin, Llangollen, Welshpool, Newtown, Llanidloes and Brecon, saying that it sees the proposal as vital to the regeneration and employment prospects in Wales.

The plan is being backed by Plaid Cymru and has been endorsed by a leading environmentalist and the Wales Trades Unions Congress. It is said that Wales is the only country in Europe that one cannot traverse by rail without spending most of the journey passing through another, the only rail link allowing travel from north to south crossing the border near Llangollen and not re-entering Wales until it approaches Abergavenny, 100 miles away. Yn Ein Blaenau says there is one route – from Rhyl through Denbigh, Rhuthun, Corwen, Newtown, Llanidloes, Rhayader and Builth Road to Dowlais – that would require only two miles of new formation to link Holyhead to Cardiff.

Also, it would knit the other railways of Wales into a coherent network, as it uses the north coast line and crosses the Cambrian and the Shrewsbury to Swansea lines. It is hoped that the Welsh Assembly Government will now commission a feasibility study and cost-benefit analysis of the plan.

New OTP machines for Network Rail

VolkerRail Plant has received a new contract to supply 11 On-Track Machines to Network Rail under the National Tamping scheme.

The contract covers both LNE and LNW regions and includes the deployment of nine mainline tampers and two ballast regulators, and also includes the deployment of the new Plasser and Theurer Euromat 08 04x4, which was introduced from the other group company, VolkerRail International, in September 2008.

The Euromat is the first European Tamper to have been specifically designed to operate both within the UK and European gauge, and took less than three months to attain full approval from the Vehicle Acceptance Body after arriving into Great Britain. The Euromat compliments the comprehensive VolkerRail Plant UK fleet, and is currently the most modern S&C tamper working on the UK infrastructure.

First GBRf celebrates 10 years of operations

First GBRf (originally GB Railfreight) celebrated its first decade of operation on 11th July.

The company operated a special train from London Paddington to Minehead, behind the Diesel Traction Group's Class 52 'Western' No. D1015 *Western Champion* before naming two locomotives at the West Somerset Railway's western terminus.

Class 66 No. 66732 becoming *GBRf The First Decade 1999-2009 John Smith - MD*, while recently purchased Class 73/1 No. 73141 became *Charlotte*, named by and after one of the company's employees.

▼ **Together with a birthday cake, the newly named Class 66/7 No. 66732 poses for photographs on the WSR turntable at Minehead. Stacey Thew**

▲ The reduction of Class 60 locomotives has seen Class 66s taking over many of their trains, including the Walsall to Tunstead limestone empties, seen drifting through Portway on 2nd July behind DB Schenker Class 66/0 No. 66221. **Fred Kerr**

St Albans Abbey gets the hump for passengers

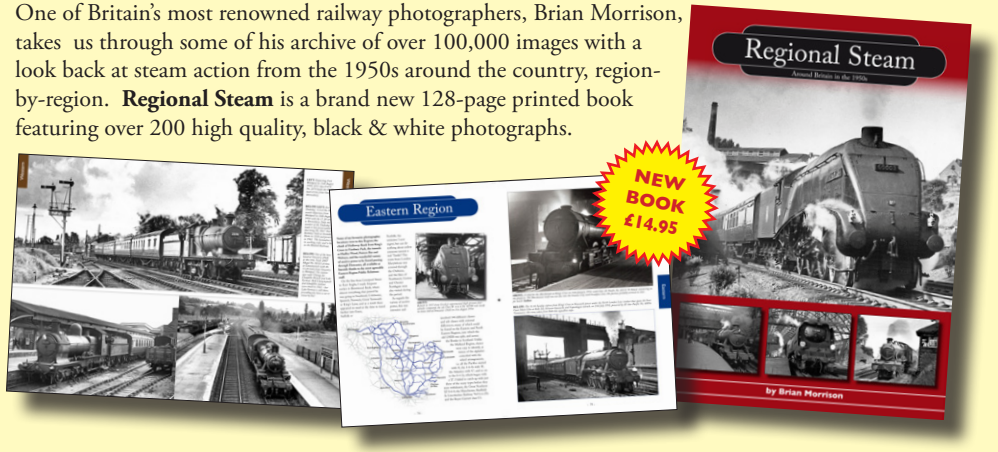
Another platform hump is to be installed, this time at St Albans Abbey station, enabling easier access and exit from trains for passengers with small children and pushchairs, the elderly or those with heavy luggage.

Working with Hertfordshire County Council, the Department for Transport and train operator London Midland, Network Rail has designed a variable height platform to help bridge the gap between the platform and trains.

The station becomes the second in the country to get a modular Easier Access Area, otherwise known as a 'Harrington Hump' after the station in Cumbria where a successful trial of the system took place earlier this year. Rebuilding the platform to bring it up to modern standards would cost some £250,000. Given the number of passengers who use the station, it would have been years before funding became available. A hump, however, can be designed, built and installed for around one tenth of the cost of raising an entire platform. It has already been built off-site and will be installed over 15th-17th July.

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 featuring over 200 high quality, black & white photographs.



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

Tram-Train's for Hampshire?

The Transport for South Hampshire joint committee has backed plans for a high-frequency tram-train service running between Southampton and Fareham, modern hybrid vehicles replacing standard trains on the existing line under an ambitious multi-million pound scheme.

The reintroduction of passenger services on the Waterside line between Totton and Hythe was also supported.

Northern Line extension

Transport for London, Wandsworth and Lambeth Councils and Mayor Boris Johnson have asked the Government for permission to raise funds for the planned extension of London Underground's Northern Line from Kennington to Battersea Power Station.

The funding would come through tax increment financing, a fund-raising method that has not been used in Great Britain before but is fairly common in the USA.

It is hoped to fund the £850 million scheme with money raised through the sale of council bonds, which are then repaid via an increase in business rates when the regeneration is completed.

TfL Class 378s unveiled

The latest stage of improvements to TfL's Overground services were unveiled on 13th July at Willesden Junction.

The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson, was joined by London's Transport Commissioner, Peter Hendy, at Willesden Junction station to unveil the first of 54 new trains. The Class 378s are three-coach EMUs, but by 2011, once platform lengthening work is completed, a fourth carriage will be added, allowing almost 700 people to be carried in each set, significantly more than the present Class 313 EMUs.

London Underground's Bond Street station redevelopment moves forward

Transport for London has shortlisted four companies to tender for the redevelopment of Bond Street Tube station. By 2017, the station will be served by both London Underground and Crossrail.

Work will start next year to increase capacity by creating a new station entrance and ticket hall on the north side of Oxford Street and installing additional escalators and passageways below ground. In addition, the station will be made accessible with step-free access from the street to all platforms and interchanges. A separate contract will be let in due course for the construction of the new Crossrail stations at Davies Street and Hanover Square, which will connect to the Tube station. The overall cost of the London Underground project at Bond Street is in the region of £300 million.

East London Line Project to be divided into three parts

The ongoing East London Line Project to connect Surrey Quays with Clapham Junction is to be divided into three work phases to meet its deadline of May 2012, prior to the Olympic Games.

The first, the biggest of the three, involves building a 1.3km line to connect the East London Line route to the existing rail infrastructure. Phase 2 involves constructing a rail line to connect Old Kent Road Junction to the existing South London Line near South Bermondsey station, and Phase 3 involves removing the existing lineside equipment at Clapham Junction to reinstate a former platform. London Transport will complete the first phase, while Network Rail will complete the second and third.

The total work under the East London Line project will complete the London Overground network and create an orbital railway around the capital.

▶ Class 378 No. 378005 arrives at Willesden Junction on 13th July. **Brian Morrison**

▲ Class 66/0 No. 66138, with Class 67 No. 67025 'dead in tow', crosses the River Thames at Chelsea Harbour towards the end of its journey from Eastleigh to Wembley Yard with the daily 'Enterprise' service on 30th June. **Stuart Chapman**

UK News In Brief

■ The Office of Rail Regulation has issued what is probably the most complete data about rail travel ever published. The information shows exactly how many people use every railway station in Great Britain, and how the numbers have changed from the previous year. The 10 busiest stations are all in London and are topped by Waterloo with 100,306,690. Outside the Capital, Glasgow Central is the busiest with 21,741,672.

■ The Government announced in January last year that it would finance Northern Rail for 182 more carriages, mainly for routes between Leeds, Sheffield and Manchester, but officials at the Department of Transport are now willing to provide only up to 106 as the Government comes under pressure to cut public spending. Local MPs say that the South-East has benefited in recent years at the expense of infrastructure in the North, where routes in and around major cities are congested, it being maintained that investment in transport in the North has not been on the same scale as that enjoyed by London and the South-East. The Leeds Chamber of Commerce President said: "We've seen a 70% increase in the number of rail journeys made to, from and within West Yorkshire over the last dozen years, yet Northern Rail has had no new carriages in the last five years".

■ Eurostar reports a 22% rise in travellers between London and Amsterdam, via Brussels, a rise that is expected to increase when the Dutch and Belgian Railways start a new high-speed service that operates between Brussels and Amsterdam from next year. The Fyra high-speed trains will connect with Eurostar services at Brussels Midi and call at Antwerp, Rotterdam and Schiphol en route to Amsterdam. The Fyra high-speed train will travel at a speed of up to 250 km/h and will be in service on the routes between Amsterdam–Schiphol–Rotterdam–Antwerp–Brussels, and Amsterdam–Schiphol–Rotterdam–Breda. A test train started making test runs on the HSL-Zuid in the Netherlands and the L4 high-speed in Belgium on 7th July. Fourteen high-speed trains will eventually be on the routes.

RH Statistical Information

Every month, *Railway Herald* receives numerous queries for information on how many copies of the magazine are downloaded and how popular is the website, so we have decided to publish the figures here, every week, subject to space.

Covering the period 7th-13th July

Last weeks Issue 184 was downloaded **27,858** times (-4.4%) and a total of **3,606** copies of previous issues were also downloaded. The *RH* website has provided **129,060** (-5.7%) web pages to users, an average of **12.8** pages every minute, seven days a week! *Railway Herald* now has a monthly average download of **112,573**, the figures in brackets being the percentage change from last week.

Open house at DRS Kingmoor

Direct Rail Services held its annual open day event on 11th July, opening the doors of Carlisle Kingmoor depot to over 2,000 rail enthusiasts, the general public and staff families.

The event was highly successful with a wide variety of locomotives on show and superb weather across the day. Two namings took place with Class 47/7 No. 47790 regaining its old *Galloway Princess* nameplates and Class 37/4 No. 37423 becoming *Pride of the Lakes*.

The full list of what was present during the open day is: Class 20/3s Nos. 20301, 20302 and 20311, Class 37s Nos. 37069, 37087, 37229, 37423, 37510, 37603 and 37610, Class 47/7s Nos. 47739 and 47790, Class 50 No. 50049, Class 57/0s No. 57007, 57008, 57010, 57011 and 57012 and Class 66/4s Nos. 66411, 66412, 66413, 66414, 66420, 66423, 66428, 66431 and 66433.

▲ **Class 37s Nos. 37229 and 37087 stand with Class 20 No. 20311. John Hilmer**

▶ ***Railway Herald*** **contributor and Scottish photographer Bill Wilson unveils the** *Spirit of the Lakes* **nameplate on Class 37/4 No. 37423. David Hainsworth**

▲▲ The event gave the opportunity to contrast the slightly different liveries of Class 66/4s Nos. 66414 *James the Engine* **and 66411** *Eddie the Engine*. **Robert Jefferys**

▲ Colas Rail Class 47/7 No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe*. **Michael Dalgleish**

▶▲ Class 47/7 No. 47790 was renamed *Galloway Princess* **during the weekend and temporarily given its old number of 47593. Darren Armstrong/Bill Wilson (inset)**

▶ Forming a line-up are Class 57/0s Nos. 57012 and 57008, Class 37/4 No. 37423 *Pride of the Lakes*, **Class 47/7 No. 47790** *Galloway Princess* **and Class 37/6 No. 37610. Bill Wilson**

The News In Pictures

◀ With Class 57/6 availability having dipped, Class 57/3 No. 57310 *Kyrano* was hired in from Virgin Trains to work the 23.45 London Paddington to Penzance 'Night Riveria' sleeper on 8th July. The consist is pictured shortly after midnight having arrived at Reading. **Ken Brunt**

◀▼ Class 73/1 No. 73141, along with Class 73/2s Nos. 73211 and 73212 recently purchased by First GBRf from Network Rail, has become the first of the 'EDs' to gain First Group livery. The locomotive is pictured in the workshops at St Leonards having had its new *Charlotte* nameplates attached, prior to dispatch to Tonbridge and then the West Somerset Railway for the naming ceremony. **Andy Armitage**

▼ Making a rare appearance for Colas Rail in the North West, Class 47/7 No. 47739 *Robin of Templecombe* powers through Greenholme on the WCML with the 11.50 Stoke Marcroft Engineering to Upperby EWS wagon move, conveying one bogie timber wagon, which had presumably undergone repairs at Marcroft Engineering. **Ron Cover**

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.

12th July			
Past Time Rail	45407&76079	Manchester Victoria- Peak Forest-Buxton & return	**Cancelled**
Torbay Express Ltd	60163	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear & return	
Vintage Trains	5043	B'ham SH-Henley-Stratford upon Avon-Dorridge-B'ham SH (twice)	
16th July			
Steam Dreams	70013	London-Cheltenham Spa-Worcester Shrub Hill & return	
17th July			
Compass Tours	2xRiveria 47	Crewe-Manchester Piccadilly-Bolton-Preston-Lancaster-Oxenholme-Pitlochry-Aviemore (break/rev) & return	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Class 37	*The West Highlander: Day 1:* Preston-Carlisle-Motherwell-Fort William-Mallaig-Fort William	
18th July			
Compass Tours	2x Riveria 47	Nuneaton-Atherstone-Tamworth Low Level-Lichfield TV-Stafford-Stoke on Trent-Kidsgrove-Alsager-Crewe- Preston-Shap-Carlisle (break)-Workington-Sellafield-Ulverston-Carnforth-Preston & return	
HP Fan Club	5972	Hogwarts Excursion: London Paddington to Oxford (and return)	
Past Time Rail	tbc	The Cotton Mill Express	**Cancelled**
Railway Touring Company	6233	(Worcester Shrub Hill-Kidderminster-Stourbridge Jct-Birmingham NS-Wolves-)Crewe-Warrington Bank Quay-Preston-Shap-Carlisle (break)-Carlisle-Shap-Preston-Crewe (& return)Now via Shap in both directions	
Spitfire Railtours	DRS Class 37	*The West Highlander: Day 2:* Fort William-Crianlarich (rev)-Oban (break)-Crianlarich-Motherwell & Carlisle-Preston	
Vintage Trains	4936	Tyseley Warwick Road-Coleshill Parkway-Burton Upon Trent-Willington- Nottingham-Newark-Lincoln (break/rev) & return	
19th July			
Branch Line Society	DBS 66 & Riviera 47	Crewe-Stafford-Birmingham New St-Nuneaton-East Midlands Pky-Barrow Hill-Stainforth & Hatfield (rev)-Doncaster-Welbeck Colliery (NR Limit)-Thoresby Colliery (NR limit)-Kirkby in Ashfield-East Midlands Pky & return	
Torbay Express Ltd	60163	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear & return	
Vintage Trains	5972	B'ham SH-Henley-Stratford upon Avon-Dorridge-B'ham SH (twice)	
21st July			
WCRC	tbc	York-Harrogate-Leeds-York Scarborough and return	
22nd July			
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Staines-Salisbury-Westbury(-Bristol TM) 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 or 62005
Mon-Thurs/Sat	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering - Whitby	75029, 76079, 828

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

Spitfire Railtours has the tour of the week with the 'West Highlander', which runs on 17th/18th July.

With a pairing of DRS Classes 20 & 37, the tour sets out from Preston and works via both Shap and Beattock to Fort William, where the locomotives revert to 'top and tail' mode for an evening return working to Mallaig. Next day, the pair will be re-harnessed at the helm for the southbound run via Rannock Moor to Crianlarich, where the train will reverse for a trip to Oban, double-headed it is understood. After a short break, the train will then return south, working through Glasgow Central Low Level and Rutherglen to Motherwell, and then back to Preston as outwards, again with the locomotives double-heading. It should be quite a tour.

Also heading for Scotland on 17th July will be Compass Railtours with the 'Highland Clansman' from Crewe, which picks up via Manchester Piccadilly and Preston before heading for Pitlochry and Aviemore via Shap and Beattock. Riviera Class 47s should feature. They are also in action the following day from Nuneaton and the Trent Valley via Crewe and Shap to Carlisle. The return will take in the scenic Cumbrian Coast line. Again, Riviera Class 47s will be in charge.

Steam activity starts on 16th July when 'Britannia' Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* is due to head a Steam Dreams 'Cathedral Express' to Cheltenham Spa and Worcester from London Victoria. The route both ways is via Swindon and Sapperton. On 18th July, there is a welcome mainline appearance of 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4936 *Kinlet Hall* at the head of Vintage Trains 'Lincolnshire Poacher' from Tyseley Warwick Road to Lincoln, via Coleshill Parkway, Burton-upon-Trent and Nottingham. This is a belated 80th birthday outing for the locomotive, as the Great Western Railway at Swindon released it into traffic in June 1929.

Meanwhile, the Northern Fells will again be echoing to the beat of a 'Duchess' with No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* working Railway Touring Company's 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from Crewe to Carlisle. Note that this tour was originally booked to run over the Settle & Carlisle, but the engineering blockade on that line now means that the 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' will operate via Shap in both directions.

Also, HP (Harry Potter) Fan Trips has organised a working with 'The Hogwarts Express' from London Paddington to Oxford, or to quote its website, Paddington Court Road, wherever that is! It is advertised as featuring the 'Hogwarts Express' coaching stock and is due be hauled by No. 5972 *Olton Hall* (aka *Hogwarts Castle*). Steam haulage is one-way only as the locomotive will continue 'light engine' to Tyseley where it will then cover the 'Shakespeare Express' on 19th July.

In addition to the regular steam operations of the Torbay & Shakespeare expresses, 19th July also has a Branch Line Society tour featuring a Riviera Class 47/8 and DBS Class 66 in 'top and tail' mode from Crewe, picking up via Birmingham New Street through to East Midlands Parkway. The 'South Yorks & Mid-Notts Railtour' then makes its way via the Erewash Valley and Masborough to Stainforth and Hatfield, where it reverses and is then booked to visit both the Welbeck and Thoresby Colliery branches, which it reaches via Doncaster and Shirebrook. The return is routed via Kirkby-in-Ashfield back to East Midlands Parkway, and then to Crewe as outwards. Full details are available at www.branchline.org.uk, and bookings should be directed to Mr. N.J. Hill at 73 Norfolk Park Avenue, Sheffield S2 2RB or telephone 0114 275 2303.

Please remember to mention *Railway Herald* when speaking to railtour companies

LNER A4 Pacific No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* **starts the attack of the climb away from Carrbridge on the Highland Main Line on 4th July with SRPS Railtour's Polmont to Inverness charter, which the A4 took forward from Perth. Richard Tuplin**

▲ **GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4936** *Kinlet Hall* **arrives at Tyseley on 12th July with the last 'Shakespeare Express' of the day from Stratford-upon-Avon. Graham Gifford**

All in a days work for *Tangmere*

There was an exceptional display of locomotive handling on 9th July, when Battle of Britain No. 34067 *Tangmere* took on the gruelling 1-in-50 climb from Weymouth to the summit of Upwey Bank alone with a trailing load of 11 vehicles.

The train was Steam Dreams 'Sunny South Special' returning to Waterloo and running around 100 minutes late due to the failure of the assisting Class 37/7 No. 37706 at Maiden Newton while undertaking the run from Weymouth to Yeovil Junction to service *Tangmere*. This resulted in a delay in servicing No. 34067, and there was still the issue of providing banking assistance to the charter for the climb of Upwey Bank on the departure.

South West Trains Class 73/2 No. 73235 had been summoned in the meantime to provide banking assistance, but it was found that the coupling was incompatible. Therefore, *Tangmere* had to go it alone, and to enjoy the experience a visit to www.youtube.com for a selection of videos of the event is well worth while. In fact, on the approach to the tunnels, just short of the summit, the locomotive slipped at a crucial point, but was expertly handled and momentum was regained for the final accolade of a toot of the whistle as *Tangmere* appeared to be accelerating over the top. A speed of 17mph at the summit has been mentioned, but is unconfirmed.

Steam Dreams MD, Graeme Bunker, described the driving of West Coast's (and ex-Nine Elms) Pete Roberts as 'sheer quality', and if you watch YouTube, spare a thought too for fireman John Shawe, whose work on the shovel was so essential to the job in hand. After Upwey, a storming run over Parkestone Bank followed, together with a fast run back to the Capital which allowed the train to pull back some of the lateness. Network Rail and South West Trains also played their part in making this a truly exceptional performance.

New tours from Residential Rail

Residential Rail is a name from the past, having run a few special trains in years gone by.

The company is actually part of a larger organisation called Budgie Transport, which is involved in canal and cycle activities primarily in the Lancaster area.

Two tours are in the pipeline, commencing with 'The Pines' on 22nd August from Stockport to Minehead, which also picks up at Manchester Piccadilly, Bolton, Lancaster, Preston and Crewe. DRS Class 47s should feature, and of interest, within the Cargo-D coaching rake will be the recently refurbished sleeping car that can be booked for 'rest and recuperation' en-route.

Provisionally, the company also has No. 60163 *Tornado* booked for 11th October, which if confirmed will take the locomotive to North Wales for the first time. Pick up points for this train are likely to be Stockport, Manchester Piccadilly, Bolton, Blackpool, Preston, Wigan, Warrington Bank Quay and Chester.

◀ **The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's A1 class Pacific No. 60163** *Tornado,* **passes Dawlish Warren at speed on 5th July with the 'Torbay Express', bound for Paignton and Kingswear. Graham Evison**

LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* **passes Askern Bar, near York, on the East Coast Main Line with the 06.39 Liverpool - Scarborough 'Coast-to-Coast' charter on 4th July.**
Phil Precious

Ups & Downs by John Whitehouse

Tyseley-based 'Hall' No. 4936 *Kinlet Hall* **is booked for 'Shakespeare Express' duty on 2nd August, following which it will move to the Severn Valley Railway for an extended visit that will include featuring in the Autumn Steam Gala booked for 25th – 27th September.**

A further Great Western 'Hall' locomotive will feature on the Shakespere Express on 19th July, in the form of West Coast Rail's Carnforth-based No. 5972 *Olton Hall*.

A new website has been launched for 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, which can be accessed at www.6201,co.uk. Although some pages are still under construction, the tours section gives advance notice of a Vintage Trains' trip featuring the locomotive on 31st October from Crewe to Carlisle and back, via Shap both ways.

The 'Tornado Effect' seems to be unstoppable; the first three 'Torbay Expresses' have sold out, and reports indicate that the following two, on 26th July and 2nd August are not far off.

Also, the much-anticipated 'Lickey Tornado' looks to have survived the demise of Past Time, although it is now scheduled to run one week earlier on 7th November with Pathfinder Tours being the operator.

▶ **Running late due to a points failure at York, BR 'Britannia' No. 70013** *Oliver Cromwell* **passes the cooling towers of Ratcliffe Power Station as it storms through East Midlands Parkway on 11th July with the York to Watford Junction charter. John Whitehouse**

▼ **An atmospheric shot as LMS Pacific No. 6201** *Princess Elizabeth* **leaves Marsden with the return leg of the 'Coast to Coast Express' on 4th July. Ralph Berry**

Something for everyone at Severn Valley's 2009 diesel gala weekend

Outline details of this year's SVR Diesel Gala are emerging, which promise to make it an event to remember.

The event takes place on 8th –10th October, with the first two days offering a diesel-only timetable. Reports indicate that the visiting locomotives will be Fastline Class 56 No. 56303, Class 26 No. 26007 and Class 37 No. 37275 from Barrow Hill, Class 47 No. 47580 *County of Essex* from Tyseley and a Virgin Class 57/3.

Mk2 coaches are also reported as being hired in for use with the Class 56 and 57 locomotives. In addition to which, the home fleet will be operational and would normally be sufficient to put on a gala in their own right! Class 20 No. D8188, Class 37/9 No. 37906, Class 42 No. D821 *Onslaught*, Class 50's No. D444 *Exeter* and No. 50135 *Ark Royal*, together with Class 52s Nos. D1013 *Western Ranger* and D1062 *Western Courier*. Additionally there will be DMU diagrams and the popular trains featuring the SVR's diesel-shunter fleet between Kidderminster and Bewdley. Also, Class 50 No. 50026 *Indomitable* is reported to be undertaking running-in workings on the SVR and could be in line for a public return during the gala. Full details will follow.

The North British look at Bo'ness

▼ North British Railway (NBR) Y9 class 0-4-0ST No.42 (68095) stands outside the shed at Bo'ness station on a beautifully sunny 10th July. It was built by the NBR at its Cowlairs Works in Glasgow in 1887, and was one of a class of 35 small engines for shunting duties in dockyards and for short industrial sidings. **Mark Wright**

Great Central Railway develops industry services portfolio with diesel testing to 75mph

The Great Central Railway (GCR) has commenced its first testing work to allow running at a top speed of 75mph.

Following an approach from a client, the railway gained HMRI/ ORR permission to raise its maximum speed from 60mph to 75mph under certain strictly controlled testing conditions.

The railway has carried out a number of high profile testing and training contracts in the last few years, and in 2007 the 'Hybrid HST' spent several weeks there proving itself before further trials on Network Rail.

While it continues to run a diverse range of heritage services, the GCR is now also marketing itself as a 'private main line test track' to the rail industry. The work on this occasion involves brake-tests at speed with a new design of wagon. Meanwhile, noise testing to a new international standard is ongoing for another customer.

The 75 mph top speed applies over a stretch of the GCR's 'down' line, and is applicable to diesel traction only. Steam traction testing is still limited to 60 mph, and the line's passenger trains remain limited to 25mph. The railway currently has no plans to increase the speed of these services.

▼ **Thomas Hill 0-6-0 *Tommy*, ex-BP Llandarcy No. 8, in company with *Hydra*, ex-BP Llandarcy No. 6, stand in the platform at Wirksworth. They have been purchased by the Railway to assist with the reconstruction of the line through to Duffield. Behind is Trans Plant Battery Locomotive No. L49 which is present for trials on the Transmission Based Train Control system. Martin Miller**

More arrivals at Pontypool and Blaenavon as extension progresses

The Pontypool and Blaenavon Railway took delivery of Class 37/4 No. 37421 on 1st July. Since purchase from EWS, the locomotive has been at Allelys yard in Studley, where remedial work has resulted in the locomotive taking power, although there is still work to do before it can be returned to service.

As such it will only be on display at the railway's diesel gala on 25th/26th July. Currently in EWS red and gold, it is to be repainted into another livery, but with the owner focussing his current attention on Class 37/0 No. 37023, the repaint and attendant body work will not be done until sometime next year.

The previous week, the railway took delivery of a Shark brakevan, which is going to be extensively used on the Blaenavon extension, in conjunction with the railway's Dogfish, ballast laying starting soon. Work on the extension to Blaenavon High Level passed a major milestone on 25th June, when work on the 'rail over rail' bridge 12 was complete enough to allow the supporting scaffolding to be removed, enabling the railway to get rail access back to the extension.

With work on the other bridges completed, the process of getting the rails back can now begin with replacement of the remaining sleepers. The return of rail access means the work trains can once again run to Blaenavon High Level station, where large amounts of spoil and recovered bricks are awaiting removal and a lack of more storage space was beginning to hamper progress.

Also at Blaenavon, work on rebuilding the platform building continues apace, using the footings of the original and some of the brickwork recovered from the cellars. The building will contain a ticket office, waiting room and toilet facilities and is on target to open in April next year, along with the extension. LNWR style diagonal fencing is projected to be in place in the near future, and with station name-boards already on order, the station is becoming a reality in very quick time.

▲ **Class 09 No. 09004 (ex-D3668) has been rescued from relative obscurity by a member of the Swindon & Cricklade Railway. Having arrived at the railway several days earlier from the Spa Valley Railway, it is here seen at Hayes Knoll on 1st July, receiving attention after it had been restarted. It is likely that this will now take priority, in the short-term, over the restoration of No. D3261 from a rotting hulk that was earlier rescued from Brighton. John Stretton**

Cotswold 2800 Class 2-8-0 on target for September steaming

The Cotswold Steam Preservation's Class 2800 2-8-0 No. 2807 has had its front tubeplate fitted to the boiler at Llangollen, which has allowed the boiler to be turned right side up ready for tubing.

The tubes are due to arrive there imminently, and re-tubing should take a few weeks. This will allow for the hydraulic test before the end of the month, followed by fitting further parts and a steam test. At the same time, volunteers will complete the boiler cladding. The boiler will then be mounted into the frames and piped up.

The steam test in the frames is scheduled for the end of August. Meanwhile progress on the chassis at its home base at Toddington has been good and it will be transported to Llangollen around 21st July. This gives ample time to prepare for the boiler to be fitted, meaning that everything is still on schedule for a first movement in preservation under its own steam during September.

▲ Class N7 0-6-2T No. 69621 on long-term loan from the East Anglian Railway Museum at Weybourne on a service from Sheringham to Holt on 5th July, hauling the recently restored Gresley-designed Quad-Articulated set No. 74 on the annual North Norfolk Railway Vintage Transport Day. **Bill Turvill**

New engines event added to GCR calendar

The Great Central Railway is adding another event to its 2009 calendar, as on 15th/16th August, two freshly overhauled tank engines will steam together for the first time, Gresley N2 class 0-6-2T No. 1744 and Fairburn 4MT 2-6-4T No. 42085.

The two tanks will be joined by a third engine, resident BR Standard 2MT Mogul No. 78019. It is planned to double head the 'N2' and the Fairburn on the final departure from Loughborough at 16.45. The Fairburn tank is on an extended visit from the Lakeside & Haverthwaite Railway, and is not scheduled to return to its home base until November. The Gresley Society's 'N2' has been a long-term resident at the GCR, and was returned to steam in June.

▲ **Stanier 4MT No. 42085 is lit-up for the first time on 9th July, following its extensive restoration at Loughborough. The locomotive is to feature with recently restored 'N2' No. 1744 prior to returning to Cumbria later in the year. Alastair Wood**

Current climate forces Talyllyn back to 100% volunteers

The Talyllyn Railway has announced that it has been forced to cut back on staff to save money, and has abolished the post of General Manager and gone back to using volunteers.

In a statement the Railway blamed a poor 2008 and 'static revenue' for the changes. Gareth Jones, chairman of the Talyllyn Railway Company, said the Board had decided that "further expense reduction was vital" because of the company's financial situation.

He praised Larry Bridges for his work in the General Manager post, which will now be taken over by a volunteer part-time acting chief executive. The day-to-day running of the railway will be taken over by Dave Scotson, the Engineering Manager.

KWVR enjoys 'healthy' passenger figures

The Keighley and Worth Valley Railway's Summer Steam Gala on 26th–28th June was a great success, with visiting 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 *Leander* bringing the roar of a three-cylinder locomotive back to the Aire Valley and on to Ribblehead.

Following the well-publicised problems with the planned mainline runs encountered by the line during its 40th anniversary gala last year, all hopes were pinned on a trouble-free event this time - and the main line runs with *Leander* this year went without a hitch.

The three 'out and backs' to Settle Junction on Saturday and Sunday from Keighley ran to time and were well loaded. The highlight for many, however, was the Saturday evening run to Ribblehead, which was sold out before the event. Following a temporary speed restriction at Settle Junction, the locomotive mounted a furious attack on the 'Long Drag' with the three-cylinder roar of the 'Jubilee' echoing round the upper reaches of Ribblesdale.

Meanwhile, on the Worth Valley branch itself, visiting Class 04 2-8-0 No. 63601 from the Great Central Railway brought further crowds to the event. Despite being in the 10th year of its boiler ticket, the GCR was happy to lend the locomotive to the KWVR at short notice as a return favour for the KWVR's help in loaning Ivatt No. 41241 to Loughborough for its Tank Engine Weekend.

The '04' 'was able to operate on the Friday and Saturday of the event, although a superheater problem meant that it had to be confined to static display on the Sunday. The Railway enjoyed 'very healthy' passenger figures and the event is reported to have made a handsome profit.

▼ **Class 31 No. D5581 is pictured shortly after departure from Thame Junction with the 12.15 to Chinnor on 28th June, during the Chinnor and Princes Risborough Railway's Diesel Gala. David Ives**

▼ The East Lancashire Railway recently reaffirmed its expertise by transplanting a Maybach MD655 engine into Hymek No. D7076 while its own Maybach MD870 engine is being repaired. The hybrid was in use on 4th July at the ELR Diesel Gala, where it worked the Bury - Ramsbottom shuttles. Seen here, running ECS into Ramsbottom in preparation for working a return service to Bury Bolton Street. **Fred Kerr**

▲ The final train on the Saturday of the gala ran as a 'Beerex' and passes Burrs Country Park, with motive power provided by visiting Class 52 No. D1062 *Western Courier*, with Class 40 No. 40145 'dead in tow', bound for Rawtenstall. On the rear was Class 25 No. D7629. **Maarten Otto**

▼ The gala attracted visiting locos from the GCR(N) at Ruddington, including Class 47/0 No. 47292 which is now in large logo livery. The visitor departs Ramsbottom on 4th July. **Fred Kerr**

▲▶ After several months in store at Midland Road, and more recently Wembley PRDC, Class 66/4s Nos. 66401-66405 have been leased to First GBRf. The first two members of the sub-class to move being Nos. 66401 and 66402. The latter is seen here, now debranded, on an engineers train for Hoo Junction at London Bridge on 12th July. **Bill Turvill**

▶ Classmate No. 66401 is pictured in the consist of a Ferme Park to Tonbridge ballast service, powered by Class 66/7 No. 66708, as it passes Stoats Nest Junction, Coulsdon, on 10th July. **Tony Sullivan**

For the second consecutive day Class 60 No. 60087 *Barry Needham* powers a heavily loaded Carlisle-Crewe Basford Hall ballast trip towards Wilpshire tunnel on the Hellifield-Blackburn line. Ian Tunstall

◀ With Class 86/6 Nos. 86628 and 86609 under power, and classmate No. 86607 'dead in tow', the 14.03 Ditton to Felixstowe Intermodal service passes Hanch, on the outskirts of Lichfield on 6th July. The train is usually booked for a pair of Class 86s, and the inclusion of the third locomotive, No. 86607, in the consist is most likely a positioning move. **John Whitehouse**

▼◀ The sight of a Class 60 in London is becoming increasingly rare. Here, No. 60091 *An Tellach* powers the 11.09 Crawley to Peak Forest empty aggregate hoppers through New Kew Junction on 11th July. **Ken Brunt**

▼ With the news that National Express is to hand the East Coast Main Line franchise back to the Department for Transport later this year, this sight may not be seen for much longer, and Class 91/1 No. 91111 looks likely to be the only member of the fleet to carry National Express livery. Here, it stands alongside Class 43 powercar No. 43239 at London King's Cross on 6th July. **Robert Jefferys**

29th June 2009

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Brighton Branch)
Brighton Model Railway Club Room, BR London Road Station, Shaftesbury Place, Brighton. 'Kemp Town Junction Memories' by Derek Osborne. Meeting starts 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
West Midland Day Ranger. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or email northampton@rcts.org for details.

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. Admission £1.50 non members. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details.

2nd July 2009

GCR Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Classic Film Night' with Mick Hayes. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for further information.

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. Meeting starts 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. 'Robert Stephenson (Part3)' by Dr Michael Bailey. Meeting commences at 19.30.

8th July 2009

RCTS (Hitchin Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Park. 'Rebuilding the Welsh Highland Railway' by Andy Savage. 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). 'Countries Bordering Switzerland. Members Slides. Meeting commences at 19.00. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes on 020 8660 3532 for further 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. Meeting commences at 19.15. Admission £2.00. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for 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.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Colne Valley Railway, Ipswich by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 or bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for details.

12th July 2009

RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Norwich Crown Point and Mid Norfolk Railway by Mini Bus. Contact Malcolm Riley as above for details.

13th July 2009

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
Line-side Observation at Kings Sutton Station from 17.00 hours. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org 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 Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094 or by e-mail at b.cakebread@ntlworld.com for 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. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact the Secretary, Ken Mumford at ken.mumford@ntlworld.com for 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. Starts 20.00. Contact the Secretary on 01256 326096 for further 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: members £1.50, non members £2.00

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

Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow. 'London Tramways - the story to 1952' by David Buerger. Doors open 19.45 for 20.00. Non-members £2.

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.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Central London Branch)
Keen House, Calshot Street, London N1. 'Industrial Steam' by Geoff King. Meeting commences at 19.00.

20th July 2009

Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'Old and New Doncaster' by Bryan Longbone. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

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

RCTS (Thames Valley Branch)
Observation & Photography at Didcot Station. Contact Murray Lewis on 01189 426681 for further details.

22nd July 2009

RCTS (Bristol Branch)
Afternoon Observation at Oxford and Evening at Didcot Stations. Contact Paul Udey on 01225 427779 for further details.

24th - 27 July 2009

Locomotive Club of Great Britain - UK Tour, Dawlish.
Train Watch.

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.

▼ **Arriving at Farringdon station beneath the two new footbridges on 9th July, the 10.40 First Capital Connect Thameslink service from Bedford to Brighton is led by Class 319/2 No. 319219. Brian Morrison**

25th July 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
Visit Rhyl Miniature Railway by Rail. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589488 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 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 starts at 14.15.

29th July 2009
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'The Lickey Incline' by Dave Besley. Starts 20.00. Contact 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.

3rd August 2009
RCTS (Ashford Branch)
The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford. 'South Eastern Railways and the Class 395's' by Mike Gibson. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
'Southern Day Ranger'. Contact D. Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for 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 for details.

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

6th August 2009
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Reedie's Railway Rambles' by Gordon Reed. Starts 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
'Visit to the Kent and East Sussex Railway by Mini Bus'. Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for 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. For details contact the Secretary, Bruce Cakebread on 01273 462094.

11th August 2009
Abergavenny and District Steam Society
Upper Room, The Hen & Chickens, Flannel Street, Abergavenny 'The Mumbles Railway' by Royston Kneath. Starts 20.00. For details email ken.mumford@ntlworld.com.

RCTS (Merseyside & N. Wales Branch)
'Observation at Rugby (Joint with MRS) &/or Nuneaton'. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 375808 for details.

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

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group,
Royal Air Force Club, 5 Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes DN35 8LQ. 'Isle of Man Vintage Transport' by Howard Turner. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact Mike Hartley on 01724 341358 for further information.

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 further details.

13th August 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
'3 Day Observation in South Wales including Newport, Cardiff & Bristol Temple Meads'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

17th August 2009
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, 26 College Road, Spinkhill, Sheffield S21 3YB. 'The Buses of Booth & Fisher' by Andy Firth. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Frank Greaves on 01909 473927 for further details.

RCTS (Northampton Branch)
'Visit to the SVR'. Contact D.Pick on 01604 810613 or by e-mail at northampton@rcts.org for details.

RCTS (Thames Valley Branch)
'Observation & Photography at Didcot Station'. Contact Murray Lewis on 01189 426681 for details.

19th August 2009
RCTS (Humberside Branch)
'Evening at Barnetby'. Contact R. Hall on 01482 501058 or by e-mail at richardh@djbraody.co.uk for details.

20th August 2009
Breconshire Rly Society
R.A.F.A.Club, The Struet, Brecon 'The Daffodil Line' by David Postle. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Arthur Robinson on 01982 560219 for further details

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society
Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend, DA12 1BB. Bring a Thing. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact the secretary Roger Hart on 01474 833320 for further details.

20th - 25th August 2009
LCGB Overseas Tours.
Germany ' Chemnitz Rail Fest' LCGB Membership is compulsory for these tours.

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.

23rd August 2009
RCTS (West Riding Branch)
'Crewe Basford Hall at 12.00 hrs'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 07887 908501 or by e-mail at bigmal.w.b.r.rcts@talk21.com for further details.

25th August 2009
RCTS (Mersey & N.Wales Branch)
'Lancashire Day Ranger'. Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or by e-mail at geoffreymorris@tiscali.com for further details.

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 commences at 20.00. Visitors welcome. Contact the branch secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

27th August 2009
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley, Rotherham S66 2BW. 'Coming up with the Goods' by Steward Donohoe. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Mick Hayes on 01709 820544 for details.

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.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Bedford Branch)
St John's Church Hall, St John's Streeet, Bedford MK42 0DL 'The Dick Schaeffer and Ian Hall Collection' by Ken Dickens. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact the Secretary on 01525 750149 for details.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'Varied Railway Interest - both old and new' by Martyn Davies. Meeting starts at 19.30. Admission charge £2. 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

Freightliner Class 66/5 No. 66515 passes Colton South Junction on 11th February, with an empty coal service from one of the Aire Valley power stations to Redcar Coal Terminal. Will Jagger

Magazine Information

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