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The Railway Herald

3 August 2007 Issue 94

The complimentary UK railway journal for the railway enthusiast

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The Railway Herald
Issue 94

Front Cover

Playing its role in the 20th anniversary celebrations and carrying its newly applied large-logo livery, Class 40 No. 40145 *East Lancashire Railway* departs from Bury Bolton Street with the 13.50 service to Heywood on 29 July. *Tom McAtee*

Back Cover

Kingfisher Railtours' charter from Carnforth along the Cumbrian Coast to Sellafield departs from Grange-over-Sands on 28 July, on the outbound journey behind David Smith's LMS '8F' 2-8-0 No. 48151 *Gauge O Guild*. *Richard Tuplin*

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Submissions

We welcome submissions from all readers, especially digital photographs. Pictures should be sent to the editor at editor@railwayherald.co.uk

Good quality scans of colour slides and prints are also acceptable. Currently there is no financial payment made for photographs published in *Railway Herald*. Where possible we always try to use news photographs taken within the production week of the publication date.

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National Rail Timetable

The entire UK National Rail Timetable is now available as a PDF download from the Network Rail website.

Produced in the same fashion as the printed version and ordered by table number, the current timetable is available by clicking here.

The railway by-laws and information for enthusiasts are also available online from the Network Rail website, by clicking here.

WCRC Cambrian Coast steam commences operation

ABOVE: The 2007 season of steam on the Cambrian Coast line commenced this week, with motive power for the Monday to Friday operation between Machynlleth and Porthmadog being supplied by Ian Riley's BR Standard 4MT 2-6-0 No. 76079. The locomotive exchanges whistles with Talyllyn Railway 0-4-2T No. 1 *Dolgoch* as it approaches its booked pick-up stop at Tywyn on 1 August. *Wilf Smith*

BELOW: While working a London Victoria-Canterbury West charter, Battle of Britain Pacific No. 34067 *Tangmere* climbs upgrade towards Herne Bay from Birchington on 27 July, bound for a water stop at Whitstable. *David Heeney*

■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■ LATE NEWS ■

Security alert closes Birmingham International

A security alert closed Birmingham International station during the morning rush hour on 3 August.

A British Transport Police spokeswoman said bomb disposal experts carried out a controlled explosion on a suspicious package, which was found outside the station. All Central Trains, Silverlink and Virgin Trains services continued to pass through the station during the period of closure, although no services called.

The closure began around 07.30 and the station re-opened shortly after 10.00.

Birmingham Airport was not affected.

■ Hertfordshire Railtour's weekend excursion to Edinburgh for the Miltary Tattoo is confirmed as being hauled by a First GBRf Class 87 locomotive. The train is booked to run as follows:

King's Cross	dep. 08.34	arr. 18.25
Doncaster	pass. 10.31	pass. 16.16
York	dep. 11.00	dep. 15.51
Durham	pass 11.54	pass. 15.05
Alnmouth	pass. 12.41	pass. 14.23
Prestonpans	arr. 13.45	dep. 13.22

Please note that the train is a weekend, excursion travelling outward on 4 August and returning southbound on 5 August.

■ The Dean Forest Railway has advised that its advert in last weeks *Railway Herald* accidentally carried the wrong day - the gala event takes place on ***SATURDAY 4 AUGUST***, not Sunday.

Construction work underway at Dyce Raith's Park

ABOVE: Following on from the feature on Aberdeen in the last issue, it was mentioned that construction work is currently underway at Dyce Raith's Park. The current status of the work is seen on 26 July as Class 158 No. 158705 passes with the 18.21 Aberdeen-Inverness service. Much work remains, including connecting the yard to the national network and the extension of the headshunt. *Cyril Lofthus*

FCC starts Travelcheck system

Following feedback from customers, First Capital Connect (FCC) has launched a new telephone enquiry service called FCC Travelcheck.

The new service is designed for customers on the move and for anyone who may not have access to the Internet. It will provide current train running information on FCC services on both the Thameslink and Great Northern routes and a summary of planned engineering work over the following week.

Accessing Travelcheck simply involves a telephone call to 0845 330 3660, which is available seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

Callers are presented with four options for Thameslink (Option 1) or Great Northern (Option 2) route train running information and Thameslink (Option 3) or Great Northern (Option 4) planned engineering work

Train running information is updated every hour when trains are running normally and the company is aiming to update the system whenever new information becomes available at times of service disruption.

Piccadilly tops passengers' league table of best stations

The result of the latest survey conducted by Passenger Focus, the national rail consumer watchdog, shows that Manchester Piccadilly station has been rated the best in the UK by the travelling public.

Network Rail has invested around £100 million in Manchester Piccadilly station which is used for over 22 million passenger journeys each year. According to Passenger Focus more than nine in 10 passengers (92%) said they were satisfied with the overall environment of Manchester Piccadilly.

Results from the spring 2007 National Passenger Survey, which surveys over 25,000 people, show passengers' ratings of the top four stations after Manchester Piccadilly were, Glasgow Central (with 30,662,030 passengers during the 2005-2006 period) scored 92%, Leeds (17,658,755) scored 81%, while Brighton and Edinburgh Waverley scored 77% and 74% respectively.

Seven of London's major termini, Liverpool Street, Cannon Street, Euston, Paddington, Fenchurch Street, Victoria, Waterloo and Charing Cross all scored well above the national average of 60%, achieving between 70% and 74%, with King's Cross and London Bridge scoring 57% and 56% respectively.

Interestingly, after all the problems experienced in recent months, 72% of those questioned were satisified with First Great Western, a drop of just 5% in 12 months. Of the passenger operators, Heathrow Express, Gatwick Express, Chiltern Railways and Midland Mainline all achieved an overall satisfaction figure of equal to or over 90% from the travelling public questioned.

Department of Transport delivers more funding to support rail freight

The Department for Transport (DfT) has announced funding grants of more than £20 million to support freight transport in the UK.

The awards, from three separate funding programmes, combine to improve the freight infrastructure of the country and reduce the amount of freight transported by road.

£18.5 million of funding is being awarded to enhance the Gospel Oak to Barking line in London and a further £2.1 million in grants has been awarded to five freight infrastructure projects through the Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) scheme.

The funding, awarded to three different companies, will upgrade facilities at Tolworth goods yard, Brierley Hill, Southampton Docks, Barry Docks and the Port of Heysham. Collectively, the projects will remove 24 million lorry miles from Britain's roads over the next 10 years.

The Department has also provisionally awarded just over £350,000 for this financial year as part of the Rail Environmental benefits Procurement Scheme (REPS). This funding, for carrying freight by rail that would otherwise be carried by roads, will help remove almost 28,000 lorry journeys from the UK road network. This is in addition to £44 million of new REPS grants announced in June this year.

Day Group Ltd have been awarded a grant of £1,150,938 towards the cost of redeveloping the former rail goods yard at Tolworth. The grant will enable the company to move around 2.3 million tonnes of sand and aggregates by rail over a 10 year period. The scheme will remove over 220,000 lorry trips.

Dunn Bros (1995) Ltd has been awarded a grant of £705,090 from the Department - and a further £395,657 from the Welsh Assembly Government - towards the cost of rail handling facilities at Brierley Hill, Southampton and Barry Docks. The grant will enable Dunn Bros Ltd to move 140,000 tonnes of scrap steel per year from Brierley Hill in Birmingham for export from Southampton and Barry. This grant will remove over 105,000 lorry journeys over the 10 years and save almost 13 million lorry miles.

The new awards of REPS funding, which assists companies with the operating costs associated with running rail freight transport instead of road (i.e. where rail is more expensive than road), have been made to: Fastline Freight (£23,000) for various contracts, while Freightliner will receive £156,000 for various projects and EWS has been awarded £86,806 for various applications.

Two further awards, one to Amec Spie (£46,350 for Kronospan traffic) and the other to Fastline Freight (£40,560 for various traffics) are provisional and are subject to further detailed appraisal.

News in Brief

■ EWS Network has responded to customer demand on two key rail routes from the Port of Southampton by enhancing intermodal container services. Container trains previously ran five days a week, Mondays to Fridays from the Port of Southampton to Widnes and Manchester Trafford Park. As a result of customer demand for more capacity to these inland terminals at weekends, these services now operate on Saturdays as well.

■ First Capital Connect has advised that Finsbury Park, Welwyn Garden City, Cricklewood and Kentish Town have all been awarded 'Secure Station' status. This status recognises improvements that have been made to security at the stations and FCC's desire to reduce crime. Improvements include the £1 million initial investment in 24 Community Support Officers and five police officers patrolling the network, improvements to CCTV and lighting, and the introduction of automatic ticket gates at eight stations with seven more to follow.

LEFT: An unidentified Class 390 Pendolino passes through Milton Keynes on 30 July. The photograph shows the large amount of work which is taking place at the north end of the station in connection with the recently announced expansion plans. *Alistair Wood*

Industrial action on 'one' railway

'one' railway says it is disappointed that the RMT has chosen to call industrial action by its members who work at locations between Clacton/Manningtree and Chelmsford on 18 and 20 August.

The company says it is preparing contingency plans and training managers to cover roles if the industrial action goes ahead. As a result of which the company expects to operate a full timetabled service on the days in question.

Calstock Viaduct celebrates 100 years

The centenary of Calstock Viaduct is to be marked around the area from 8-12 August.

A variety of events will be taking place including fireworks, guided walks and talks and photographic and film displays. The Calstock Footpath Society will be leading a guided walk along the route of the old incline railway, which connected the mines and quarries around Gunnislake to the quayside at Calstock.

A number of souvenirs will be available including a limited edition bone china mug and the story of the viaduct will be told by John Newcome on 9 August, joined by John Snell who worked on the railways for over 40 years.

First train of new coal contract

Freightliner Heavy Haul (FHH) has begun operating coal trains from Hatfield Colliery in Stainforth, near Doncaster.

The colliery which closed nearly three years ago, has recently reopened and resumed mining, and the first train bound for Ratcliffe-on-Soar power station in Nottinghamshire departed on 24 July.

This traffic is part of a new long-term deal between Heavy Haul and e.on to move significant volumes of coal to Ratcliffe and Ironbridge power stations, and forms the first rail haulage contract between e.on and FHH.

To support this and other recent contract renewals within the Coal sector, Freightliner has ordered a further 110 HXA coal hoppers due for delivery this autumn, and another five low emission Class 66 locomotives, representing an investment of nearly £17 million in the coal industry and will take FHH's fleet of coal hoppers to over 650.

First opened in 1910, Hatfield Colliery has struggled to remain open in recent years and ceased production in 2004 for what most thought would be for the final time. However, Powerfuel plc led by the former head of RJB Mining, Richard Budge, embarked on a project to re-open the mine.

Full refurbishment of the mine is backed by Russian mining giant Kuzbassrazrezugal, and plans are that by 2008, when production is at full capacity, Hatfield could be producing around two million tonnes per year and requiring the operation of up to six trains a day.

BELOW: Examples of all of South West Trains mainline passed passenger EMUs are in evidence in this unplanned but well timed photograph taken at Woking on 27 July. From left to right are Class 455/8 No. 455862 awaiting departure with the 16.02 Woking-Waterloo, Class 444 No. 444003 on the 14.45 Portsmouth Harbour - Waterloo and Class 450 No. 450125 on the 15.15 Alton - Waterloo. *Patrick Seale*

Whitley Bay completed

Nexus has completed a £600,000 facelift at the Grade II listed Whitley Bay Tyne & Wear Metro station.

The centrepiece of the redevelopment was the canopy at the front of the station, which has been rebuilt using the original plans dating back to 1910, with other key aspects of the work including new paintwork and new lighting, a new portico at the rear entrance and new floor tiling, all respecting the historic fabric of the building.

The upgrade has taken six months to complete and was the third phase of a five-year programme of improvement work at the site.

Small stainless steel spikes have also been placed on the roof of the station to prevent sea birds and pigeons from persistently landing and leaving their droppings, which can cause structural corrosion and leave a nasty mess on the platform below.

ABOVE: The recently opened new entrance to the Docklands Light Railway system at Stratford. *Brian Morrison*

Multi-million pound expansion of Metrolink on its way

Transport management in Manchester have appointed a delivery partner to help oversee the multi-million pound expansion of the Metrolink network.

Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive (GMPTE) has awarded the contract to Parsons Brinckerhoff (PB) and has also begun the process of selecting a company to build the new Metrolink lines by publishing a notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). The OJEU notice gives construction companies details about the new lines.

GMPTE is investing over £600 million on expanding the Metrolink network with new lines to Oldham and Rochdale, Droylsden in Tameside, and Chorlton in South Manchester, and making major improvements to the existing system.

The 13.7 mile (22 km) Metrolink extension to Oldham and Rochdale will replace the existing railway line that links the two towns with Manchester; the 4 mile (6.4 km) extension to Droylsden will serve New East Manchester, the City of Manchester Stadium, and the Velodrome. Also the 1.8 mile (2.9 km) extension to Chorlton will replace a section of disused railway line between Trafford Bar and St Werburgh's Road.

Parsons Brinckerhoff is currently managing the £900 million extension of the East London Line and has advised on the design of the £600 million tram network in Edinburgh.

More funding for Finsbury Park

An additional £1 million of funding is to be spent on further improvements to Finsbury Park station.

The funding comes from First Capital Connect, Network Rail and TfL, and will enable major improvements to be made to the main entrance and a complete facelift of the subway leading to the platforms.

The works are in addition to those already carried out by FCC at the station, including refurbishment of the toilets, waiting rooms and staff areas.

Other works to be carried out over the next year include the installation of additional CCTV cameras, three additional Help Points and new ticket vending machines. New platform canopies will also be installed as part of a later phase.

Virgin Class 57/3s temporarily lose Dellner couplings

ABOVE: Class 57/3 No. 57311 heads past Beck House, on the northern stretches of the West Coast Main Line, on 30 July at the helm of a Carlisle - Chirk timber service operated by AMEC Rail, which hire the Class 57/3s on a day-by-day basis. Of note is the loss of the Dellner coupling from this locomotive following the incident at Holyhead two weeks ago. After a fleet wide exam, four of the Class 57/3s, Nos. 57301, 57304, 57311 and 57313 have all had their couplings removed for overhaul. Two of the four were expected to have been refitted by this coming weekend. While the Dellners are removed, the locomotives are limited to use on the timber traffic, driver route familiarisation trips and emergency rescue duties using the emergency coupling devices. *Ian Hardy*

Railtour Listings ■ Railtour Listings ■ Railtour Listings ■ Railtour Listings ■ Railtour Listings

The following table details the latest information available on steam, diesel and electric railtours for the forthcoming two weeks from the date of publication. News from railtour operators is always welcome. Please contact editor@railwayherald.co.uk. **Information is understood to be correct at the time of going to press.**

REGULAR SCHEDULED STEAM OPERATION

Date	Service	Operator	Route	Traction Pool
3-31 Aug	Jacobite	West Coast Rly Company	Fort William - Mallaig & rtn.	62005 or 45407
6-10 Aug	Cambrian Coast	West Coast Rly Company	Machynlleth - Porthmadog & rtn	76079
6-10 Aug	Whitby Steam	North Yorkshire Moors Rly	Pickering & Goathland - Whitby & rtn	61264 or 75029
7-9 Aug	Scarborough Spa	Railway Touring Company	York - Knaresborough - Scarborough & rtn	60009
13-17 Aug	Cambrian Coast	West Coast Rly Company	Machynlleth - Porthmadog & rtn	76079
13-17 Aug	Whitby Steam	North Yorkshire Moors Rly	Pickering & Goathland - Whitby & rtn	61264 or 75029
14-16 Aug	Scarborough Spa	Railway Touring Company	York - Knaresborough - Scarborough & rtn	6233
20-24 Aug	Cambrian Coast	West Coast Rly Company	Machynlleth - Porthmadog & rtn	76079
20-24 Aug	Whitby Steam	North Yorkshire Moors Rly	Pickering & Goathland - Whitby & rtn	61264 or 75029
21-23 Aug	Scarborough Spa	Railway Touring Company	York - Knaresborough - Scarborough & rtn	6233

INDIVIDUAL CHARTER SERVICES

Date	Operator	Traction	Route
04 Aug	Compass Tours	2x Riveria Cl47	Layton-Preston-Blackburn(pu)-Hellifield-Carlisle-Stirling-Dunblane and return
04 Aug	Hertfordshire	GBRf 87	London KX-Srevenage-Peterborough-Edinburgh and return
04 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Hellifield-Appleby-Carlisle and return
04 Aug	Pathfinder Tours	6201	(Swindon-Cheltenham Spa-Preston-Carlisle (rev))-Carlisle-S&C-Preston ((rev) & rtn
04 Aug	RTC	60019	London KX-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough-York-Scarborough and return
04 Aug	RTC	60009	York-Leeds-Shipley-Keighley-Skipton-Appleby-Carlisle and return
04 Aug	Steamy Affairs	2x CR Cl47	Peterborough-Leicester-Birmingham NS-Wolvedrhampton-Aberystwyth and rtn
05 Aug	Kingfisher	48151	Hellifield-Appleby (sd/pu)-Carlisle (break/rev) and return
05 Aug	Past Time Rail	6024	**The Torbay Express** Bristol TM-Kingswear-Bristol TM
05 Aug	Vintage Trains	4965	Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley-Stratford-Upon-Avon and return (two trips)
07 Aug	Kingfisher	EWS Cl37/4	Ealing Broadway-Reading-Newbury-Hungerford-Taunton-Minehead and return
11 Aug	ICMM	tbc	Reading-Staines-Clapham Junction-Finsbury Park-Potters Bar-Skegness and return
11 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Hellifield-Appleby-Carlisle and return
11 Aug	NENTA Traintours	tbc	Dereham-Ely-Cambridge-Royston-Hitchin-Bournemouth-Wareham-Weymouth and rtn
11 Aug	Past Time Rail	6024	**The Torbay Express** Bristol TM-Kingswear-Bristol TM
11 Aug	RTC	60009	(Hull-York)-York-Leeds-Shipley-Keighley-Skipton-Appleby-Carlisle and return
12 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Hellifield-Appleby (sd/pu)-Carlisle (break/rev) and return
12 Aug	Past Time Rail	6024	**The Torbay Express** Bristol TM-Kingswear-Bristol TM
12 Aug	Vintage Trains	4965	Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley-Stratford-Upon-Avon and return (two trips)
15 Aug	Steam Dreams	850	London (tba)-Clapham Junction-Wimbledon-Woking-Weymouth and return
16 Aug	Kingfisher	EWS Cl 37/4	Derby-Leicester-Kettering-Wellingborough-Bedford-Eastbourne and return
16 Aug	Past Time Rail	34067	(Bristol TM-Bath Spa-Reading-Maidenhead)-Willesden-Eastbourne-Willesden (and rtn)
18 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	'The Dalesman': Hellifield-Appleby-Carlisle and return
18 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Birmingham Intl.-Coventry-Princes Risborough-High Wycombe-Eastbourne and rtn
18 Aug	RTC	6233	York-Leeds-Shipley-Keighley-Skipton-Appleby-Carlisle and return
18 Aug	SRPS	61994	(Polmont-Falkirk Grahamston-Larbert-Stirling-Dunblane-Perth)-Perth-Aviemore-Broomhill (Strathspey Railway) and return
18 Aug	Steam Dreams	tbc	London (tba)-Chester and return (route to be advised)
18 Aug	Steam Dreams	4965&4953	(London Victoria-Clapham Junction-Staines-Richmond-Oxford-Banbury)-Banbury-Leamington Spa-Crewe-Chester-Crewe-Birmingham International-(and return)
18 Aug	UK Railtours	EWS Cl 67	London KX-Peterborough-York-Leeds-Carlisle (rev)-Tyne Valley-Durham-York and rtn
18 Aug	Vintage Trains	50049	Tyseley Warwick Road-Kettering-Bedford-East Croydon-Lewes-Eastbourne and rtn
19 Aug	Kingfisher	48151	'The Dalesman': Hellifield-Appleby (sd/pu)-Carlisle (break/rev) and return
19 Aug	Past Time Rail	34067	The Torbay Express Bristol TM-Kingswear-Bristol TM
19 Aug	Vintage Trains	4965	Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley-Stratford-Upon-Avon and return (two trips)
22 Aug	Totesport	86101	London KX-York-London KX
24 Aug	Past Time Rail	6024 &34067	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Plymouth (pu/sd)-Par and return
25 Aug	Compass Tours	2xRiveria Cl47	Holyhead-Llandudno Jct-Colwyn Bay-Rhyl-Flint-Chester-Carlisle and return
25 Aug	Hertfordshire	2xRiveria Cl47	Ashford-Orpington-Ealing Broadway-Bath Spa-Bristol TM and return
25 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Hellifield-Appleby-Carlisle and return
25 Aug	Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS Cl37	Eastleigh-Salisbury-Bath Spa-Newport-Llandrindrod Wells and return
25 Aug	RTC	6233	York-Leeds-Shipley-Keighley-Skipton-Appleby-Carlisle and return
25 Aug	SRPS	40145	Carlisle-Gretna Green-Annan-Dumfries-Kilmarnock-Fort William and return
26 Aug	Intercity	2 x Cl31	Minehead-Bishops Lydeard-Taunton-Weymouth and return
26 Aug	Kingfisher	tbc	Hellifield-Appleby (sd/pu)-Carlisle (break/rev) and return
26 Aug	Past Time Rail	34067	The Torbay Express Bristol TM-Kingswear-Bristol TM
26 Aug	Vintage Trains	4965	Birmingham Snow Hill-Tyseley-Stratford-Upon-Avon and return (two trips)
27 Aug	Compass Tours	2xRiveria Cl47	Preston-Lancester-Oxenholme-Penrith-Carlisle-Perth-Pitlochry-Aviemore and return

Key to tour listings:

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
P Hertfordshire Pullman service
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
WCRC Operated by West Coast Railway Company Traction
ICMM Intercity Merrymaker from Hertfordshire Rail Tours

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.
PLEASE NOTE: Not all pick up/set down points are shown. Please check with the operator before travelling any distance.

Enjoy discounted travel on the Scarborough steam

SPECIAL READER OFFER!
£5 off a day rover ticket on the Railway Touring Company's SCARBOROUGH SPA EXPRESS steam specials ... click here now!

The Railway Touring Company has generously provided an exclusive discount to *Railway Herald* readers.

By quoting a special offer code, when you book online or through the RTC telesales team, you can receive a £5 discount on the full price Day Rover ticket for the Scarborough Spa Express trains.

To book online now, click here or to read the full details, together with the terms and conditions, click here to view RH Issue 93. Please note the revised timings, listed on page 2 of that issue.

'Duchess' catches bridge on Harrogate loop

The Railway Touring Company's 'Scarborough Spa Express' programme has been disrupted due to an incident involving 'Princess Coronation' No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* and a bridge to the south of Harrogate.

While working the morning York- Scarborough service, anti-clockwise around the Harrogate circle on 31 July, No. 6233 came into contact with the bridge which caused 'minimal damage' to a small section of cladding around the upper edge of the firebox.

The damage was such that the locomotive continued with its booked working to Leeds for water and then back to York and onwards to Scarborough.

However, in view of the gauging issue it was decided that the 'Duchess' would work the train back from Scarborough to York only, with West Coast's recently repainted Class 47/4 No. 47826 then taking over for the evening clockwise run around the 'Harrogate Circle'.

Additionally, it was also decided that *Duchess of Sutherland* would only work the York – Scarborough – York sections of the trains booked for the following two days (1/2 August) with both 'Harrogate Circle' sections of the trains being operated by the Class 47.

A Network Rail spokesperson confirmed that No. 6233 had been barred from operating on the York – Harrogate – Leeds line until such time as the gauging engineers had inspected the bridge, which hopefully could be as early as the end of this week.

However, all this is likely to be of little assistance to the Railway Touring Company which has been well pleased with loadings on the first two weeks of operation of the trains.

Next week, the 'Scarborough Spa Express' is booked for haulage by No. 60009 *Union of South Africa*, which did not have a problem at the bridge in question when hauling the train last week, the first week of 'SSE' operations. However, the following two weeks of operation is booked for *Duchess of Sutherland* and in the absence of a timely resolution to the problem by Network Rail means that RTC, who remain committed to maintaining steam haulage of the trains throughout, will be looking for alternative traction.

ABOVE: Battle of Britain No. 34067 *Tangmere* climbs Bincombe bank during its Weymouth - London excursion on 1 August. *Nathan Rogers*

Two autumn tours from PMR announced

PMR Tours has announced two new autumn tours featuring No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland*.

The trains commence on 6 October with an incursion into 'opposition territory', namely London King's Cross. The train is steam hauled throughout, starting from Derby and picking up at Nottingham, Grantham and Peterborough. Ravenglass is the destination two weeks later, running diesel-hauled from Leicester and picking up at Loughborough, Uttoxeter, Stoke-on-Trent, Crewe and Wigan, with steam haulage from Crewe through to Ravenglass outwards, and as far as Preston on the return.

Western Champion for Pathfinder

Pathfinder has confirmed that it will be using Class 52 No. D1015 *Western Champion* to haul its 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from Preston back to Swindon on 4 August.

The loco will take over from No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, which will have charge of the train from Carlisle to Preston via the S&C. The 'Western' was stranded in the north following the late cancellation of Pathfinder's 'Western Fellsman' tour on 28 July due to flooding in the Oxford-Didcot area. A path back to London was planned for 31 July, but subsequently cancelled.

RIGHT: Having headed the 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' over Shap on 28 July, 'A4' No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* is pictured on the rear of its coaching stock at Carlisle, waiting to head to Upperby for servicing, while No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth* arrives with the 'Fenwick Centenarian' off the Settle & Carlisle Line. *Brian Irwin*

The Week Ahead

With the main holiday season now well under way, the railtour scene also takes on a feeling of familiarity as the regular operations to Scarborough, the Cambrian Coast, Whitby, Kingswear, Stratford-upon-Avon and the S&C predominate.

On 11 August, No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* is employed on a 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' for the Railway Touring Company from York to Carlisle and back, which starts diesel-hauled from Hull, while Past Time has a 'Torbay Express' operating on both 11 and 12 August from Bristol Temple Meads to Kingswear and back with No. 6024 *King Edward I*.

There are two diesel-hauled tours of note, one for Hertfordshire's InterCity Merrymaker brand from Reading to Wainfleet and Skegness, while NENTA start from Dereham for a trip to Weymouth. Class 47s should predominate, although look out for the unique No. 47832 as a possible on the Skegness working.

Being holiday time, mid-week excursions often provide some interesting workings, such as two trains heading for Eastbourne, and that resort's airshow. Both Kingfisher and Past Time have trains operating on 16 August, the former from Derby and Midland Mainline stations with an EWS Class 37 booked for traction, while the latter employ No. 34067 *Tangmere* from Willesden on a train which originates at Bristol Temple Meads.

Meanwhile, Steam Dreams has a 'Sunny South Special' to Weymouth on 15 August and the Railway Touring Company's 'Scarborough Spa Express' roster should see No. 6233 *Duchess of Sutherland* at the helm from 14-16 August, but as a result of the gauging issues this week (see separate story) this allocation is likely to change.

Remember you can always 'click' on an advert to go straight to the advertisers website!

ABOVE: To celebrate the centenary of travel operator John Fishwick & Sons, a special charter was operated from Manchester Victoria to Preston behind large-logo liveried Class 40 No. 40145. At Preston, the journey along the Settle & Carlisle was undertaken behind LMS 'Princess Royal' Pacific No. 6201 *Princess Elizabeth*, before the Class 40 took over for the return run, via the Tyne Valley and the East Coast Main Line. Here No. 6201 storms out of Blea Moor Tunnel on 28 July.

BELOW: John Cameron's LNER 'A4' Pacific No. 60009 *Union of South Africa* was employed by the Railway Touring Company on 28 July to work a 'Cumbrian Mountain Express', out and back from York. The train is seen in fine form, passing through Birkett Common. *Both: Steve Philpott*

On 31 July, having worked the 10.07 Crewe Basford Hall - Scunthorpe rail train, Class 37/4 No. 37410 should have returned to Warrington 'light engine'. Instead, the opportunity was taken to save a path and the loco piloted Class 66 No. 66034 on the late-running Roxby Gullet - Northenden 'Binliner', forward from Scunthorpe. The pair power through Grindleford in the Hope Valley. *Steve Phillpott*

Class 67s at work

Following the loss of Royal Mail services from EWS, the key work for which the Class 67s were designed, the fleet of 30 locomotives found itself relegated to lighter freight working and charter operations.

Today, the Class has settled down, providing an ideal locomotive for short-term hire to TOCs for loco-hauled services as well as stock movements around the country.

ABOVE: A number of loco-hauled extra trains were operated by EWS for First ScotRail in connection with the Golf Open at Carnoustie. On 20 July, all five Class 67s involved in the services (from left to right Nos. 67027, 67014, 67028, 67003 and 67007) are pictured at Aberdeen Clayhills, awaiting departure time for the return workings. *Lindsay Paterson*

LEFT: Class 67 No. 67019 'drags' Class 507 No. 507021 through Chester on 1 August, en route to Crewe Works from Birkenhead North. The unit, is due to be repainted into 'Capital of Culture' livery. *Bob Cragg*

BELOW: Executive-liveried No. 67029 passes Shawford with the 10.21 Eastleigh T&RSMD – Old Oak Common ECS working on 29 July. *Andrew Cameron*

ABOVE: To celebrate the 20th anniversary of the East Lancashire Railway, the Class Forty Preservation Society repainted its mainline-certified locomotive, No. 40145 into large logo livery, as reported in the last issue. Here, the newly named *East Lancashire Railway* powers through Gilsland on the Tyne Valley route with the 13.45 Carlisle - Preston via York 'Fishwick Centenarian' charter. *Mike Ford*

BELOW: Later in the trip, the train passes Durham, bound for Preston, via the East Coast Main Line and Manchester. *Tim Bird*

USATC 'S160' returns to Cheddleton as another waits in the wings

On the Churnet Valley Railway, ex-USATC 'S160' 2-8-0 No. 5197 has returned from its visit to the Nene Valley Railway.

Meanwhile, the owner is currently in the process of restoring another of the 'S160' type, No. 6046, previously in use by the Polish Railways (PKP) and Hungarian Railways (MAV) as number 411.144

Both the boiler and inner firebox have been separated and stripped down, and having undergone non-destructive testing by Royal Sun Alliance, no major flaws were discernable and a comprehensive repair procedure is now being agreed with the company.

Other work has progressed on the tender, with the wheelsets already having been returned following journal profiling and the bearings being ready for machining and re-assembly. The locomotive's frames have now been inverted and a new front buffer beam and gussets, manufactured 'in house' fitted.

Both locomotives are to be fitted with an all-welded tank. The first of these should be delivered from a local Staffordshire company in October for No. 6046, while a second will follow for No. 5197.

Also underway is a major overhaul on Mk2 BSO No. 9390, which has been removed from long-term storage at Oakamore. It is thought that this will be the first major overhaul of a Mk2 on a heritage line.

To date, the 'B' end has been rebuilt with new support pillars, floor support plate and steel door pillars. The glass fibre roof panel has also been professionally restored.

The full overhaul and restoration of the brake vehicle is expected to take a further 18 months.

TOP: Greg Wilson's US Army Transportation Corps 2-8-0 No. 5197, the same type that worked in the UK for several years, is pictured as it crosses Bridge 34 over the River Churnet, just north of Froghall station.

RIGHT: Work has started on repairs to the boiler of 'S160' No. 6046.

BELOW: What is thought the be the first restoration and full overhaul of a Mk2 vehicle on a heritage line has commenced, with BSO No. 9390 at Cheddleton. All: *David Gibson*

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Manchester commuter services on the horizon for East Lancs?

The issue of the East Lancashire Railway operating, or allowing, a mainline operator onto its metals to run schedule weekday commuter services along the Irwell Valley from Rawtenstall has once again raised its head.

Several local politicians have proposed that a morning and evening peak hour commuter service could operate from Manchester via Castleton, Heywood and Bury to Ramsbottom and Rawtenstall.

When the route was still open under British Railways, a commuter service operated between Bacup (north of Rawtenstall) and Manchester Victoria via Bury and Heywood. That option is no longer available as Rawtenstall is now a terminal station and the trackbed to Bacup is now a main road!

While suggestions for the future commuter operation have been made and a feasibility study completed, many obstacles and financial issues remain. Firstly, the maximum speed of the route is 25mph, in line with the Light Railway Order under which the ELR runs. Any raising of the speed limit would require major work both administratively and in terms of the railway's operation. The existing line between Rawtenstall and Heywood would need to make a significant investment in the track, signalling and level crossings to be able to run a commuter service on the line.

Whether such a commuter service would be operated using existing National Network-passed DMU stock by the East Lancashire Railway or a mainline TOC, such as Northern Rail, remains to be seen.

The proposals are in the very early stages and much finance needs to be sought and obtained before the scheme can progress much further.

GMPTE's Strategy Director, Keith Howcroft, said: "The proposals to introduce a commuter train service between Rawtenstall and Manchester on the East Lancashire Railway are still at a very early stage. We are currently working with Bury Council to decide whether the project would be value for money for local taxpayers."

Mr Howcroft added "We would also need to consider whether upgrading the line to modern-day standards could damage the value of the East Lancashire Railway as a tourist attraction."

ABOVE: The East Lancashire Railway's Class 101 DMU, on long-term loan from the National Railway Museum, is pictured at Ramsbottom on 26 July, alongside the new station canopy, the £100,000 cost of erecting it being funded by a member of the railway. Work on the canopy is due to be completed by early September and is now 90% finished with only guttering, flashing and other minor jobs required. The canopy has been built using parts from the redundant canopies at Blackburn & Miles Platting stations. It is highly unlikely that first generation DMU sets such as this could be used to operate a commuter service into Manchester, over National Network metals. *Richard Tuplin*

Daily steam service starts at Wensleydale Railway

Although the Wensleydale Railway has seen two steam specials from the National Network in the past 12 months, Yorkshire Day, 1 August, marked a key point in the railway's history.

For the first time since April 1954, daily steam-hauled passenger trains are now operating on the line using BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80105, from the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway.

The service, which will run until 2 September, excluding 18-20 August, will mainly operate over the Redmire to Leyburn section, with the train continuing eastwards to Constable Burton (no boarding or alighting) for the locomotive to run-round. A DMU 'feeder' will operate each day between Leeming Bar and Leyburn and the first service from Leeming Bar to Redmire in the morning and the last train of the day from Redmire to Leeming Bar will be steam hauled.

BELOW: On Yorkshire Day, 1 August, the inaugural daily steam-hauled service arrives at Leyburn station behind BR Standard 4MT 2-6-4T No. 80105, on loan from the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway. *Ian Britton*

SVR steam gala to go ahead

The lack of rainfall over the past week is helping the Severn Valley Railway and the surrounding area to dry out.

The railway's Flood Appeal, has now topped £260,000 which is a fantastic achievement in such a short time. Don't forget you can donate directly by clicking onto this news story.

The railway has confirmed that its 'Autumn Steam Gala' scheduled for 21-23 September will go ahead with the NRM's No. 4771 *Green Arrow* as the star attraction.

Tyseley's Hall No. 4953 *Pitchford Hall* could well be joined by stablemates Nos. 4936 *Kinlet Hall* and 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall*, following an offer of support from Tyseley Locomotive Works.

The scheduled diesel gala has however been cancelled, but the resident diesel loco owners are looking to promote a 'diesel day' in the autumn with the proceeds being donated to the Flood Appeal.

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