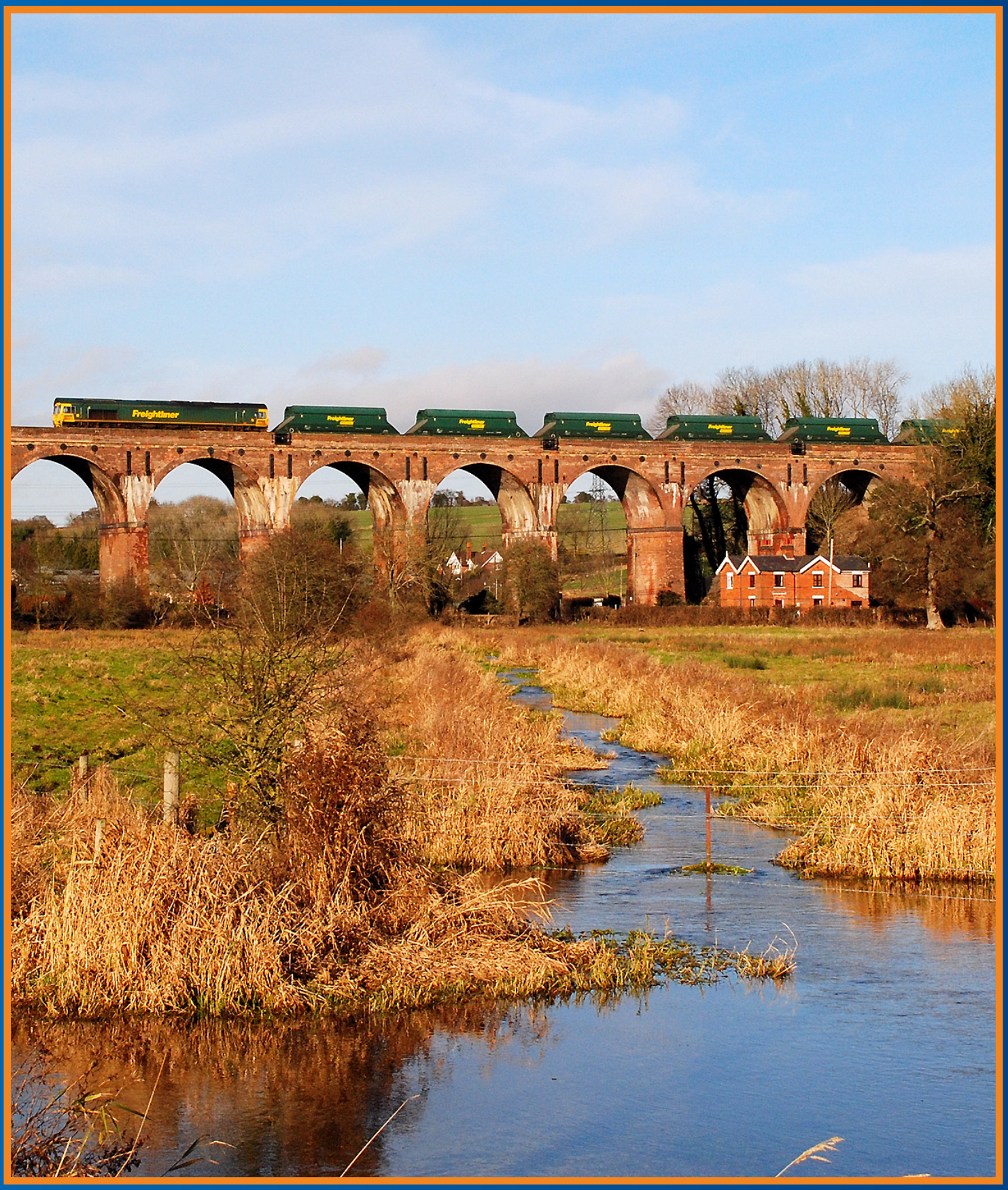
The Railway Herald



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Issue 117 - 18th January 2008
ISSN 1751-8091

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Front Cover

After heavy rain hit the UK, a number of area's suffered localised flooding. Class 66/6 No. 66602 crosses a flooded stream beneath Hurstbourne Viaduct on 12th January with a Neasden to Wool aggregate service. **David Warwick**

Rear Cover

The first refurbished Isle of Wight Class 483 EMU No 004 departs from Ryde St Johns Road Depot on 18th January 2008, prior to making a special run to Shanklin.
Brian Morrison

Publication

The Railway Herald is due to be published every Friday and is available on e-mail subscription or from our website at www.railwayherald.co.uk

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.

Website

Our website contains all the back issues of the magazine together with a host of new features which will be online soon!
www.railwayherald.co.uk

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.

Newsdesk

Another Class 73 for Network Rail

▼ ***Class 73/1 No. 73141, stored for many months inside the old York Works, was moved south to Eastleigh several weeks ago. The locomotive is being returned to mainline traffic as part of the Network Rail fleet and as such will gain the now standard Network Rail yellow colour scheme. The locomotive is pictured inside York Works on 22nd October 2007 during an authorised visit.*** **Richard Tuplin**

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Departs from Mill Hill Broadway (07.00), St Albans (07.20), Luton (07.32), Bedford (07.55), Kettering (08.20), Melton Mowbray (08.50), Leicester (09.30).
Adult Fares: Premier Class £169, First Class £106, Standard Class £74

CUMBRIAN COAST EXPRESS on Saturday 8th March
Departs from Liverpool Lime Street (08.00), St Helens (08.25), Wigan (09.15), Preston (09.15), Lancaster (09.35) Barrow-in-Furness (pick up only 11.15) and return.
Adult Fares: Premier Class £169, First Class £106, Standard Class £74

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Railway Herald is produced by Railway Herald Ltd (Registered as company number 05837609 in England)
Registered office: Hobarn House, 12 Brompton Road, Northallerton, North Yorkshire, DL6 1DY

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▲ *With stormy skies around, Grand Central's sole operational HST set powers through Hitchin after being signal checked while a Cambridge bound service crossed the junction. The train was the 11.27 King's Cross to York on 14th January, with Class 43s Nos. 43080 leading and 43067 on the rear.* **Andy Gibbs**

Investigation into New Year chaos continues

During last week, Network Rail completed a series of meetings with its contractors responsible for delivering work on the West Coast upgrade project and work affecting Liverpool Street station.

After the engineering over-runs in the New Year period, the company demanded answers as to why assurances given before Christmas proved to be so wrong.

Iain Coucher, Network Rail's Chief Executive said: "Far too many passengers were inconvenienced over the holiday period and we are taking that very seriously. We at Network Rail have taken responsibility and we reiterate our apology. Nonetheless, I wanted personally to hear explanations from the relevant contractors. What happened was totally unacceptable and we have to learn lessons so it does not happen again."

Separately, the Office of Rail Regulation is conducting its own investigation with Network Rail into the problems behind the unacceptable events.

The work at Rugby over Christmas included installing over 5km of overhead wires, bringing into use 5.3km of new track, 15 new sets of points and 18 new signals, the installation of two new sets of points, creating 16 new track connections and the demolition of a mini-signal box. In addition, 11 sections of overhead wiring and four signalling gantries were removed, a further 14 electrification masts were repositioned and nine signalling 'booster' cabinets were installed.

The work at Liverpool Street involved the demolition of a bridge, known as GE19. The bridge was 120 years old and has been out of use for decades. That meant that unlike many other Victorian engineering structures it was no longer safe to use. It was also in the wrong position for the new East London Line tracks.

A new bridge will be put into place this coming spring.

NMT makes its third visit to Aberdeen

▼ *Aberdeen had a visit from not one but two test trains on 11th January. DRS Class 37/6 No. 37605 and Class 37/0 No. 37218 worked an overnight test service from Derby, returning south the following night, while during the day, Network Rail's HST New Measurement Train (NMT) made only its third-ever visit to the city, formed of Class 43 powercars Nos. 43014 and 'hybrid'-powered No. 43089 and a five coach Mk3 set. The NMT is pictured passing Easthaven, near Carnoustie, with No. 43014 leading the Aberdeen to Heaton working.* **Jim Ramsey**

▶ Completion of the multi million pound revamp of Aberdeen station is a step closer, with the opening of the new car park. From 19th January, station users will benefit from five floors of dedicated station parking within the multi storey car park located in College Street. The move sees an increase in the number of spaces available from 130 to around 170.

▶ Readers may well be interested in a website partnership deal between Stagecoach/South West Trains and the late-availability hotel room specialist LateRooms.com to give passengers using budget coach and rail services direct access to discount accommodation. People booking low-cost travel through the megabus.com and megatrain.com websites in the UK can now search and book hotel rooms direct from the websites. The partnership will give customers access to over 6,500 hotels with reductions of up to 70% off standard prices. megabus.com and megatrain.com offer 500 daily departures to more than 50 locations across the UK from just £1 (plus 50p booking fee). South West Trains' passengers can travel to 13 different destinations using the megatrain.com service including Southampton, Portsmouth, Bournemouth, Salisbury and Bristol.

▶ National Express East Coast is adding an extra Friday evening train from King's Cross to Newcastle from 18th January, departing London at 19.27 and calling at York, Darlington and Durham. The train is designed to create more space on the often crowded preceding 19.00 service to Edinburgh. In addition, from day one of the operation of the ECML franchise by National Express, the on-board wifi service is now free of charge to all users in both First and Standard Class.

▶ 'one' railway has opened a new ticket office at Attleborough on the Norwich to Cambridge line. The new facility restores ticket office staffing at the station for the first time in decades. It is open from 07.00 to 11.00 Mondays to Fridays and also for Norwich City FC home matches at Carrow Road. This is the latest move by 'one' to restore ticket office services at previously unstaffed stations in response to growing passenger numbers. Part-time staff are already employed at Brundall (on the Norwich-Great Yarmouth/ Lowestoft line), North Walsham (on the Norwich-Sheringham line) and at Wymondham (on the Norwich-Cambridge line).

▶ Cotswold Rail has taken control of Class 57/0s Nos. 57004, 57005 and 57006. The latter two moved from Crewe to Gloucester earlier in the week. Class 47/0 No. 47200, previously named *The Fosse Way* has been sold to EMR at Kingsbury for scrapping. 57006 moved northwards on 16th January, arriving at Kilmarnock Works the following day for a repaint. No. 57004 is due to be moved from Southampton on 18th January.

▲ ***Following a stunt, which caught out several members of the railway media, Cotswold Rail's latest acquisition, No. 57006 has NOT been named* The Fosse Way, *despite the nameplate being held against the bodyside of Class 57/0 No. 57005 at Gloucester on 16th January!*** **Geoff Peters**

▶ Recent weeks have seen DRS place a number of locomotives into a new XHHP holding pool. The reallocations have included some long-stored locomotives, as well as several previously active ones, presumably not fitted with OTMR and hence, currently unable to operate on the National Network. The pool currently contains 20314, 37087, 37194, 37197, 37261, 37510, 37515, 37604, 47145, 47501, 47709, 47712, 47802, 47829, 47832, 57007, 57008, 57010, 57012 and 66404.

▶ Freightliner has announced its first nameplate auction for 2008. The batch includes the first seven nameplates from the now de-commissioned Class 57 locomotives *Freightliner Pioneer, Freightliner Phoenix, Freightliner Evolution, Freightliner Quality, Freightliner Excellence, Freightliner Reliance and Freightliner Bond*. Interested parties may table their offers in the form of a sealed bid on Freightliner's website. For more information, including photographs and a description of the plates if needed, click here. The closing date for bids is Leap Year day 29th February.

▶ *Railway Herald* understands that the Class 37/5 damaged in the level crossing accident in Scotland, No. 37515, has been assessed and is to be repaired and returned to traffic. Another member of the DRS Type 3 fleet has also been returned to works for attention. This time, ETS-fitted Class 37/4 No. 37423, which is rumoured to have traction motor problems.

▲ ***The first of the Island Line's six Class 483 ex-London Underground 1938 Stock to be refurbished and reliveried, No 004 emerges from Ryde St Johns Road Depot on 18th January, prior to operating a special working to Shanklin and then fast to Ryde Pier Head, stopping only at Lake station for a photocall.*** **Brian Morrison**

New look for Isle of Wight rolling stock

In parallel with the Island Line's current policy of keeping with tradition, the company unveiled the first of its trains to undergo remedial work and a repaint into heritage colours at Ryde St. Johns Road Depot, on the Isle of Wight, on 18th January to coincide with the 70th birthday of the fleet.

Although two of the ex-London Underground 1938-built trains have previously carried the heritage burgundy and cream livery, unit No. 004 is the first to undergo remedial attention and receive its repaint.

Within the last few years, HSBC Rail (UK) Ltd sold the rolling stock for just £1 to Stagecoach South Western Trains Ltd, which operates a 10-year Stagecoach franchise made up of the Island Line and South West Trains. At the time the rolling stock leasing company also promised the funding for the repaint, which is costing £80,000.

The company has not undertaken a large scale refurbishment of the interior of the Class 483s, as the inside of the 1938 Stock is deemed to be as much a part of the units heritage as the external livery. The interior has however been steam cleaned by external contractors and the seating on the set has recently been re-upholstered.

Back in 2000, the first of the Island Line units No. 007, was repainted into the LUL maroon and cream colour scheme, along with 009, while the remaining four units Nos. 002, 004, 006 and 008 received the 'dinosaur' livery.

The plan is to work through the fleet over the next four months, so that all the units carry the heritage colours. No. 002 is currently out of traffic undergoing a C4 heavy overhaul and will be the next unit to be outshopped, while No. 009 remains in traffic from its original repainting.

Set No. 002 has been out of traffic for over four years and is currently being used as a spares donor for the rest of the fleet, although plans do exist to return the set to passenger traffic, especially if passenger numbers rise and provide the financial case for having six operational sets. Presently, the passenger demand and maintenance requirements can be met with five operational sets. To keep with the railway's heritage theme, set No. 002 has also been repainted into the heritage LUL livery.

In keeping with the heritage theme, the Island Line's stations have also undergone a repainting programme into heritage colours.

Looking further ahead the viability of keeping the fleet running in the future is an active consideration. Currently, as the availability of spare parts becomes non-existent, companies are being asked to design a replacement part, to the original specification. This together with the current rectification work being undertaken at Ryde should see the life of the Isle of Wight 1938-built units extended for at least a further five years, but a feasibility study is presently being undertaken into the replacement of the stock.

Between them, the six Class 483 sets operate 68 trains a day, covering 70,000 miles a year on the 8.5-mile route between Ryde Pier Head and Shanklin.

Four locomotives required for Lickey climb!

On 16th January, the 05.00 Portbury Docks to Ironbridge Power Station coal working, comprising Class 66/0 No. 66164 and 21 loaded HTA wagons actually departed from Portbury at 07.30, but encountered a further massive delay en route, when the set stalled while climbing the Lickey Incline and came to rest with several wagons across a set of catch points.

The train had collected the banking engine, Class 66/0 No. 66056, on arrival at Bromsgrove, but the combined power of both locos was not enough to allow the train to climb the bank. Initially, Class 60 No. 60092 was removed from the following Margam-Corby steel working that had arrived at Bromsgrove, but despite the additional banking assistance, the train could not be moved for a variety of reasons.

Eventually, the catch point was secured and a further Class 66 locomotive arrived from Washwood Heath to be coupled to the front of the train to act as the pilot engine. Finally, shortly after 16.00, with Class 66/0s Nos. 66214 and 66162 at the front and Class 66/0 No. 66056 and Class 60 No. 60092 at the rear, the train was eased forward and set off to complete the climb, that had commenced over five hours earlier!

New Wrexham maintenance depot confirmed

The Welsh Assembly has announced that agreement has been reached with Network Rail regarding the delivery of rail depot facilities at Wrexham General station.

The depot project will provide many essential facilities for Wrexham & Shropshire's new direct rail service, scheduled to start in spring this year, including overnight accommodation for trains, storage for on-train catering supplies and secure office space.

The company has also had confirmation from Wrexham Council that Listed Building Consent for the proposed works has been granted and that the terms to lease the facilities are agreed with Arriva Trains Wales. This news means that Wrexham & Shropshire's plans to run rail services this year are on schedule.

Andy Hamilton, Managing Director of Wrexham & Shropshire, said: "We are delighted that plans for the depot have been given the green light. They not only form a key part of our proposals to run direct rail services to London, but also support the 45 new local jobs that we will be creating in Wrexham over the coming months."

Wrexham & Shropshire is to run passenger services between North Wales, Shropshire and London Marylebone from this spring. The company is undertaking the necessary work required to start the service, including the refurbishment of its trains.

New rover tickets introduced on FGW

A number of interesting new Rover Tickers have been announced as available by First Great Western.

All of the tickets are valid from 09.30 weekdays and all day at weekends (except where stated otherwise) and those passengers with any form of valid railcards are entitled to a 33% reduction.

The **Kennett Day Ranger** is valid from Reading to Bedwyn and Basingstoke. The ticket costs £12.00 for adult, £6.00 for children. The **Oxfordshire Day Ranger** is valid from Reading to Banbury and from Oxford to Bicester Town and Moreton-in-Marsh. The ticket costs £15 for adults and £7.50 for children.

Thames Branches Day Ranger from Paddington to Reading, Henley-on-Thames, Marlow, Windsor and Greenford also costs £15.00 for adults and £7.50 for children.

A new rover with three days in seven and seven day options is the **Thames Rover**, valid from Paddington to Banbury via Oxford, Oxford to Moreton-in-Marsh, Reading to Bedwyn, Basingstoke and Redhill and from Paddington to Henley-on-Thames, Marlow, Windsor and Greenford. The three day option costs £40 for adults and £20 for children, while the 7-day option costs £70 for adults and £35 for children.

Finally the **North Downs Day Ranger** is introduced covering First Great Western services from Reading to Redhill, costs £15 for adults and £7.50 for children.

Also added are two Ranger tickets, valid for travel after 18.30 and aimed at encouraging people within a smaller area to use rail travel for their nights out. The first is the **Oxford Evening Out Ranger**, valid after 18.25 every day from Oxford to Kingham, Bicester Town, Banbury and Didcot Parkway and costing £3.00 for adult and £1.50 for children. The **Devon Evening Ranger** is valid in the same area as a Devon Ranger but only valid for travel after 18.30. The ticket replaces the former Wessex Trains DEO (Devon Evening Out) that was withdrawn on 1st January, and costs £5.00 for adults and £2.50 for children.

Tyne & Wear Metro closes for bridge replacement

Tyne & Wear Metro services will be suspended between Gateshead Interchange and Heworth stations on three Sundays from 20th January, while a 113-year-old footbridge over the railway is replaced.

The Victorian iron and timber bridge at Felling Metro is to be replaced by a new structure in a £1.6 million investment by Nexus and Network Rail.

A replacement 900 bus will operate a frequent service between Gateshead, Heworth and South Shields on all three days, calling at all Metro stations.

Metro services are also suspended between Northumberland Park and Shiremoor throughout Saturday and Sunday, 19th & 20th January, while a reduced service will operate between Benton and Northumberland Park, and a replacement 902 bus will run, between all stations from Four Lane Ends to Shiremoor. The work is to complete engineering after trackside subsidence between Northumberland Park and Shiremoor in October last year.

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RMT threatens action if Metronet jobs are lost

Tories call for probe by National Audit Office

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Watchdog urges government to consider terminating First Great Western

Work on EARL to be suspended during review

Eurostar's full high speed timetable won't arrive until December

TfL gets new rail powers outside London area

Virtuality: ATOC loses Network Rail vote

Milestone reached at Heathrow Terminal 5: first look at London 's newest tube station

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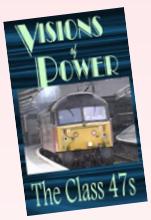
Memories of the Class 47s

A three-part video collection looking back at the life and times of the Brush Type 4s

A tough act to follow *(£14.95)*

Filmed between 1989 and 1999, the programme follows the class when a large number of the fleet were still employed across the country on both freight and passenger action. The range of duties undertaken is amazing as our camera's follow the final part of the class' best years as part of the mainline railway scene in the UK. *Running time approx 68 minutes.*



Visions of Power *(£14.95)*

Originally released back in October 2000, the Class 47s - Vision of Power programme is the second in the series and features a total of 87 different Class 47s, including the class at work around London in the early 1990s, the West Midlands and East Coast drags, Scottish Sleeper duties, Welsh Valley rugby extra's, Royal Train duties and more! Over 18 different liveries are also included! *Running time approx 69 minutes.*

Track Record - The Class 47s *(£17.95)*

A tribute to the fast disappearing class. The emphasis is on the Cross-Country services, including historic scenes at Penzance in 2002. Much more is included however ... Edinburgh-Glasgow push-pull services, NSE workings on the Waterloo route and from enthusiasts railtours to passenger drags off electrified lines plus much more! There's also historic cine film of the class from the 1970s! Action packed indeed! *Running time approx 83 minutes.*

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▶ Northern Rail is to install automatic ticket gates at Manchester Oxford Road station. The six new gates will help reduce congestion at peak times, improving customers' journeys through the station. The gates will also help reduce the number of people travelling without a ticket, estimated to cost the rail industry £210 million every year. Work is underway to install the ticket gates near to the booking office and the system should be operational from early March.

▶ The RMT has called off the proposed industrial action with FGW traincrew, in order to allow negotiations with the company to continue after the company agreed not to use managers to drive or work trains as guards. RMT members at FGW had previously voted overwhelmingly for action following a breakdown in industrial relations.

▶ The London Underground Victoria line will close early between Mondays and Thursdays from 4th February until late November. Passengers using the line after 21.45 will be asked to use alternative routes while overnight work takes place on a major upgrade of the line. Upgrading the Victoria line is one of London Underground's largest investment projects and part of a £10 billion investment programme by Transport for London (TfL). The current Victoria line trains have been running for 40 years and carry 165 million passengers per annum. By 2025 it is estimated that passenger numbers will rise to 213 million per year.

▶ 2007 was the third year of growth for Eurotunnel. Revenues reached €775 million, an increase of almost €50 million. The company's cross-channel shuttle services transported 1,414,709 lorries and 2,141,573 cars, camper vans and motorcycles between Folkestone and Calais-Coquelles, up 9% and 6% respectively on the previous year.

Glasgow passenger services return to normal

Services between Glasgow Central and Inverclyde, Ayrshire and Paisley returned to normal on 14th January following the completion of major engineering and resignalling works at Shields Junction.

The end of the works at Shields will allow First ScotRail to operate its full timetable of services to all destinations via Paisley Gilmour Street and also on the Paisley Canal line.

David Simpson, Route Director for Network Rail in Scotland, said: "Network Rail undertook a massive programme of engineering works in Scotland over the Christmas and New Year period as part of our continued programme of investment in Scotland's railways. The vast majority of these works were completed to time, but we will make no excuses for the overrun at Shields and apologise once again for the disruption last week."

The project at Shields Junction was a significant investment in Scotland's rail network, involving the installation of new track, signals and overhead power lines, which will allow for faster journeys through the junction and more capacity for future growth in rail services.

The overrun of the works was caused by difficulties encountered by engineers when integrating new signalling equipment with the existing infrastructure and the need to make design modifications on-site.

A full investigation into the cause of the overrun at Shields Junction has been instigated to help prevent a recurrence of these issues in the future.

Hull Trains Class 86 diagram commences

Hull Trains' finally commenced using its hired five-coach Mk3, plus DVT set, powered by Class 86/1 No. 86101 *Sir William A Stanier FRS* on 11th January.

The train is available for cover throughout the week if required and is booked into service on Fridays (ECS 13.34 Bounds Green-Doncaster then 20.21 Doncaster - London King's Cross), Saturdays (09.34 King's Cross - Doncaster and 19.11 return service from Doncaster) and Sundays (10.42 King's Cross-Doncaster then ECS 12.33 Doncaster-Bounds Green).

Although the electric traction is environmentally friendly and allows the best possible timings with the current available rolling stock, the section of the journey between Doncaster and Hull is completed by DMU traction, meaning a change for passengers.

The diagram is expected to last until March, when Hull Trains will receive replacement traction. Current industry rumours suggest this will be one or possibly two Alstom-built Class 180 DMUs displaced from the fellow First Group Greater Western franchise.

▼ ***On 13th January, Mk3 DVT No. 82115 leads the 10.42 London King's Cross - Doncaster service through Brookmans Park, with the ACLGs Class 86/1 No. 86101 Sir William A Stanier FRS on the rear.*** **Ken Brunt**

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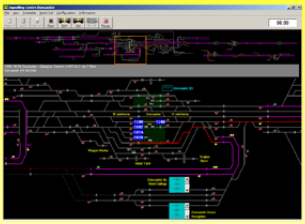

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DRS Traction heads to unusual locations!

▲ *Although the operational season for Network Rail's Rail Head Treatment Trains (RHTTs) finished in December, work to prepare the fleet for the 2008 season will begin in early summer. However research and development of the RHTT wagon fleet and the processes involved continue. To this end, Network Rail has been undertaking testing work on the Barnetby - Gainsborough line in Lincolnshire, during the week commencing 13th January. The trials have involved the use of water jetting and laying of sandite using one of the RHTT wagon sets, powered by a pair of DRS Class 37 locomotives. The two Type 3s involved in the trial, Class 37/0 No. 37038 and Class 37/5 No. 37688* **Kingmoor TMD** *have been outbased at Wrawby Junction during the week with training trips being undertaken between Kirton Lime Sidings and Northorpe Loop. Here, Class 37/5 No. 37688* **Kingmoor TMD** *powers through Kirton-in-Lindsey station during one of the test runs. Because no run-round facilities exist, when the train arrives at Northorpe Loop, the other locomotive runs light-engine from Kirton to Northorpe to 'drag' the ensomble back to Kirton Lime Sidings, ready for the next test.* **Richard Tuplin**

▶ *DRS Class 20/3s Nos. 20312 and 20306 worked a crew training trip from Crewe to Llanelli via Newport on 16th January. The pair are seen in the unusual setting of Newport on the outward journey to Llanelli.*
Gareth Lovering

◀ *Ian Riley's BR Standard 4MT 2-6-0 No. 76079 works the return leg of Past Time Rail's inaugural 'Cotton Mill Express' on 12th January on the Blackburn to Bolton line. The train commenced at Manchester Victoria and ran eastwards over the Pennines, via Huddersfield and Halifax, before heading back to Blackburn via Copy Pit. Despite having to stop on the climb to the summit of the latter grade to regain steam pressure, observers report that despite the unscheduled stop, the locomotive was sure-footed in getting the train back underway.* **Mark Ainsworth**

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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

	18th January	
VSOE	EWS Class 67	London Victoria-London Victoria Luncheon Circular
	19th January	
Hertfordshire (MM)	tbc	London Euston-Watford Jct-Milton Keynes Cen-Northampton-Coventry-Stafford-Crewe-Preston Docks (rev)-lancaster-Morecambe-Heysham Harbour and return
Kingfisher Railtours	34067	'The Golden Arrow': Coventry-Folkestone Harbour **Cancelled**
	26th January	
Pathfinder Tours	2 x Cl31	The Buffer Puffer 6.0: London Terminals Tour **Postponed**
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Southampton Eastern Dock-London Victoria
	2nd February	
Pathfinder Tours	2x EWS Cl. 37	London KX-Clapham Jct-Uckfield-East Grinstead-London Bridge-Victoria-Charing Cross-Cannon Street-Blackfriars-Finsbury Park-Gordon Hill Bay Platform-Kings Cross
Railway Touring Company	71000	Manchester Victoria-Wakefield-York-Newcastle upon Tyne and return
Spitfire Railtours	55022	London Kings Cross-Edinburgh and return **Cancelled**
	8th February	
VSOE	EWS Class 67	London Victoria-London Victoria Luncheon Circular
	9th February	
Heartland Rail	2xCR Cl47	Bristol TM-Bristol Parkway-Yate-Cam & Dursley-Cheltenham Spa-Birmingham NS-Carlisle and return
Hertfordshire (MM)	2xGBRf Cl 73	London Victoria-- Wimbledon-Clapham Jct-Crystal Palace-East Croydon-Redhill-Reigate-Guildford-Alresford (rev)-Ascot-Hounslow-Kensington Olympia-Waterloo
Past Time Rail	76079	**The Cotton Mill Express:** Manchester Victoria-Staleybridge-Diggle-Huddersfield-Hebdon Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria
Past Time Rail	34067	Haywards Heath-Hove-Chichester-Bristol TM (break/rev) and return
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS Cl 37	Crewe-Stafford-London Fenchurch St-Thames Haven **Postponed**
Railway Touring Company	71000	(Leeds-Huddersfield-Manchester Victoria-Bolton-Preston)-Preston-Lancaster-Barrow in Furnace- Workington-Carlisle (break/rev)-Shap-Preston-(Leeds)
	13th February	
VSOE	35028	London Victoria-Bath Spa-London Victoria

Key to tour listings:

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
MM Merrymaker from Hertfordshire Rail Tours
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
BLUE Provisional excursion

(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

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

Hertfordshire Rail Tours to be rebranded

The Stobart Group, who took over the operations of Victa Westlink Rail, have confirmed that the Hertfordshire Rail Tours operation is to be rebranded to Stobart Pullman.

A press spokesperson for the company told Railway Herald that the existing advertised Hertfordshire Rail Tours programme would be fulfilled and that bookings are open as normal. However the new 'Stobart Pullman' brand would be the new name for Hertfordshire Rail Tours and a "new and varied programme of destinations would be announced for the April to July period shortly."

Direct Rail Services Limited has confirmed that the company is to operate a Pullman-style charter train operation for the Stobart Group. It appears that the company is to be refocused on providing a luxury dining experience with First Class Pullman coaches offering a choice of scenic routes for relaxing day trips and journeys to major sporting and cultural events in the country. Stobart Group's Rail Director Guy Myddelton commented: "The February 2008 launch of the Stobart Pullman train will be an exciting development within the UK charter passenger market".

DRS has confirmed that its own Mk3 coaching stock set will be used to provide the passenger accommodation. The set is currently undergoing a minor refurbishment and will emerge in a new livery, ready for the Pullman operation.

The Week Ahead

Hertfordshire's first outing of the year heads to the north-west of England with its 'Preston Docker' tour. The tour, which originates at London Euston on 19th January and picks up along the WCML and West Midlands, visits Morecambe, Heysham Harbour and the steeply graded branch to Preston Docks, where participants will be welcomed by the Ribble Steam Railway.

Further ahead, on 26th January is the last steam hauled charter of the month, with the Merchant Navy Locomotive Preservation Society's Bulleid Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line* heading an 'out and back' VSOE Pullman from London Victoria to Southampton Docks. The same day should have found Pathfinder taking a pair of Class 31s on a London 'Buffer Puffer' trip, but the withdrawal of the Victa WestLink Rail safety case has seen this train postponed to 2nd February and motive power changed to a pair of EWS Class 37s.

Railway Touring Company Reader Offer

Check our our special reader offer for tours behind No. 71000 *Duke of Gloucester* from Railway Touring Company. Click here for details.

Useful Weblinks

- Online railtour listings
- Tour operators contact details
- Current fire-risk status info
- Email the railtours editor

Freight Focus
The Mayflower Line

The Mayflower Line is an 11.75 mile long route from Manningtree to Harwich Town in Essex.

Although the main traffic on the branch is the hourly service from Harwich Town to London Liverpool Street during the off-peak, the route does see a small amount of freight traffic heading to and from Harwich Parkeston Quay, located close by Harwich International station.

Local enthusiast, ***James Welham***, takes a look at the variety of EWS freight services that, on the right day, can be found on the line.

Report and photography on 16th January by the author.

▶ ***EWS Class 66/0 No. 66138 passes Bradfield with the 13.41 service from Ipswich Griffin Wharf to Harwich Parkeston Quay, which operates 'as-required'. The consist for the service is a total of 14 MBA wagons containing sea-dredged aggregate. This was the first train of the year to visit Griffin Wharf.***

▲ ***With the Stour Estuary as the back-drop, Class 66/0 No. 66060 passes Bradfield between Mistley and Wrabness with an early running 12.48 Harwich Parkeston Quay - Acton Yard service. The 14 wagon train is formed of two different types of JNA box wagons.***

▶ ***The once-stored EWS Class 66/0 No. 66047 heads through Wrabness station around lunchtime with a well-loaded 04.49 Manchester Trafford Park - Harwich Parkeston Quay EWS Intermodal service.***

Flooding around Bath

▶ *The 11th January saw services disrupted by torrential rain and heavy snow in many parts of the country and the next day dawned to reveal a waterlogged landscape. In the Bath area, Twerton Meadows was heavily flooded as seen in these images. Heading a local service to Bristol Temple Meads, one of the ex-Wessex Trains-liveried, now First Great Western-operated, Class 150/2 DMUs, Nos. 150238, passes a marooned trailer on 12th January.* **John Rawlings**

▶ *Refurbished Class 158 No. 158762, proudly carrying FGWs new 'Local Lines' livery, passes flooded fields at Bathampton, near Bath, with a northbound working on 12th January.*
Glen Batten

▼ *An almost fully refurbished First Great Western HST set, only the buffet car remaining to be overhauled, heads for London Paddington on 12th January. The extent of the flooding in the area is clearly visible n this photograph.*
John Rawlings

▲ *First GBRf coal workings are now a regular sight in the Maltby area as the services work to and from Cottam Power Station. What is not a common sight is the DRS traction! On 16th January however, DRS Class 66/4 No. 66423, on loan to First GBRf, was used to power the morning Tyne Dock to Cottam working, pictured passing Maltby Signal Box. This was the first visit of a DRS locomotive on a First GBRf coal service to the area.* **Chris Booth (with permission)**

▼ *On 13th January, freight services were diverted from Worting Junction through Andover and Salisbury to reach Southampton, instead of the usual route via Eastleigh, as a result of engineering work at St Denys. EWS Class 66/0 No. 66163 crosses Hurstbourne Viaduct, between Worting Junction and Andover, with a Washwood Heath-Southampton intermodal service.* **Adam Hiscock**

Shunter day at Barry

The Barry Island Railway is holding a Shunter Day on 1st March.

The motive power for passenger services comprises Class 08 No. 08511, Class 14 No. D9521 and industrial diesels, Hunslet No. 6688 and Hudswell No. 8526.

On static display during the event will be Class 08 No. 08481, Class 20 No. 20228, Class 47/7 No. 47768, Class 57/0 No. 57002 and hopefully Class 73/1 No. 73118. The Class 57 is presently in secure storage at Barry Depot, having been removed from traffic with its previous operator, Freightliner.

The day coincides with the visit of Pathfinder Tours 'Golden Slipper' railtour to Barry.

Both Rover tickets and Standard returns will be available and the working timetable will be on the railway's website shortly.

Sole mainline-certified 'Peak' leaves Dartmoor

The only Class 45 'Peak' locomotive certified for operation on the National Network departed from Meldon on the Dartmoor Railway on 17th January, bound for Derby. The locomotive was hauled throughout its journey north by mainline-liveried Class 31/4 No. 31454. The two locomotives are pictured passing through Crediton on the Barnstaple branch at the start of the journey. **Richard Sulzmann**

Western Champion to Whitby could be highlight of NYMR diesel gala

The team behind the 2008 diesel gala being held on the North Yorkshire Moors Railway on 9th-11th May, has announced what may yet prove to be the highlight of the year in terms of rare locomotive workings.

The gala is expected to see the NYMR's resident diesel fleet of Class 25 No. D7628, Class 50 No. 50027 *Lion* and Class 101 DMU No. 101680 in action alongside a minimum of three visiting locomotives. The visitors being the NRM's Class 37 No. D6700, the Diesel Traction Group's Class 52 No. D1015 *Western Champion* and the Deltic Preservation Society's Class 55 No. 55019 *Royal Highland Fusilier*.

The railway will be running the usual Whitby to Battersby gala service, hopefully featuring *Western Champion* on the Sunday of the event. Further details of the event and other visiting locomotives are expected to be announced shortly.

One, two and three day Rover tickets covering NYMR services (as far as Grosmont), Pickering to Whitby inclusive or all line (including Battersby) will be available and qualify for a discount if purchased in advance.

Contact the railway on 01751 472508 for more information.

GCR postpones Somerset & Dorset theme as *Pitchford Hall* steps in

Following the failure of *Wadebridge* after its cab fire, the Great Central has postponed the Somerset & Dorset theme of its forthcoming event and the weekend of 26th/27th January will now be the usual 'Winter Gala'

Standing in for *Wadebridge* is Tyseley-based ex-GWR 'Hall' 4-6-0 No. 4953 *Pitchford Hall*, which will be making its first visit to the Great Central Railway.

The other five locomotives that should be in steam, subject to availability on the day, are GW 2-6-2T No. 4141, SR 'King Arthur' No. 30777 *Sir Lamiel*, LMS '4F' No. 44422, LMS '8F' No. 48305 and BR Standard '2MT' No. 78019.

An intensive passenger and freight timetable will be in use throughout the gala weekend, making the most of the double-track railway. Demonstration TPO trains are also planned to operate.

There will be all-day breakfasts on some trains and an inspection saloon on others. First Class breakfast (strictly limited numbers) will be available on the first train of the day, which departs Loughborough at 09.15.

Repairs underway on No. 6695 at Williton

The Swanage Railway-based GWR 5600 Class 0-6-2T No. 6695 is currently receiving attention to its axle-boxes at Williton on the West Somerset Railway.

During 2007, it became evident that there were problems with the axle-boxes on the loco. Despite this, however, the locomotive completed its second year of intensive use on the Swanage Railway completing 106 days in traffic before being withdrawn in late September for further investigation.

The decision to send No. 6695 to Williton was based on the proven expertise of the West Somerset Railway Association (WSRA) with Great Western locomotives and the availability to undertake the work in the required timescale during this winter period.

Examination of the loco by the WSRA team has highlighted various problems with the axle-boxes and horns, while some white metal bearings had overheated and the metal had started to run. Work is now underway to completely overhaul all the coupled-wheel axle-boxes to bring them up to as-new condition/specification including the manufacture of new crown bearings.

Once the work is complete No. 6695 will be 'run-in' on the West Somerset Railway to ensure that there are no further problems, before returning to the Swanage Railway during the spring.

▼ ***One of the white metal bearings from No. 6695. The damage can be clearly seen on the inside of the bearing, where it should be a smooth surface.*** **Nigel Clark**

THEN & NOW

As many enthusiasts will be aware the demolition of the former Royal Mail terminal at Bristol Parkway has been taking place in recent months. The site has seen the removal of the former platforms and canopy and work is now progressing on the stripping of the terminal building.

It's crazy to think that with today's societies concerned about carbon emissions and running efficient services that Mail will never come back to the UK rail network like it once was.

▲ ***On 27th July 2000, Class 67 No. 67024 prepares to depart from the Bristol Parkway RMT with a Swansea bound train.***
▼ ***Nearly seven years later and this was the scene on 6th January 2007.*** **Both: Brian Garrett**

The Blue & Grey Years

The Blue & Grey Years

We continue our 'occasional' photographic feature looking at the Blue & Grey years as Brian Morrison undertakes a brief review of the popular Class 56 locomotives in action on a variety of traffic.

Reader's colour contributions for this section, either as scanned digital images, prints or colour slides are welcomed, via the editorial address. A SAE should be included for their return.

▲ Approaching Westbury on 17th April 1986, Class 56 No 56047 is at the helm of empty ARC hoppers bound for Wooton Bassett.

▶ Class 56 No 5600 heads a loaded MGR for Oxcroft near Staveley on 8th October 1992. The Merry-Go-Round circuits of Yorkshire and the Midlands were the 'bread and butter' traffic of the class for many years.

The Blue & Grey Years

▲ *Carrying its original all-over BR blue livery, Class 56 No. 56043 passes through Kensington Olympia on 9th May 1986, hauling empty bogie box wagons from Grain to Acton Yard. In the background can be seen Class 47/4 No. 47487 with the first Intercity service to use Kensington Olympia. This train (the 15.35 to Manchester Piccadilly) broke the 'Thames Barrier' as Intercity's PR team called it, and inaugurated the new Brighton to Manchester service, that eventually became part of the Cross-Country network.*

▶ *Large logo-liveried Class 56 No. 56047 powers through Swanley on the Southern Region with a pair of 4EPB slam-door EMUs. These were presumably bound for works attention at Chart Leacon. Can any reader confirm this or add any further information to the picture?*

Both: Brian Morrison

Diary

The editor welcomes details of forthcoming events, talks, slide shows, conferences, model railway exhibitions and club meetings for inclusion within this section.

Details should be sent via email to ***editor@railwayherald.co.uk*** and should include a brief outline of the event, including the speakers name if appropriate, date, time and location, together with contact details (either telephone, web or email). *Railway Herald* cannot accept any responsibility for any inaccuracies or events which are amended, cancelled or postponed. Information, such as advance programmes and club meeting line-ups can also be sent through the post to the editorial address.

18th January 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'Have I got views for you' by Michael Pollard. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "Just in front of the good Doctor, Operation 8" by Blake Paterson. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

Stephenson Loco Society
The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road. Newcastle Upon Tyne. 'The Embsay & Bolton Abbey Steam Railway' by Steven Walker. Meeting Starts 19.00. Contact 01434 688946 for further details.

19th January 2008
Churnet Valley Railway
'Burns Night' event.

21st January 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill.
Members evening (slides or digital). Starts 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain - Dorking Branch
Pethick-Lawrence House, 85 South Street, Dorking, Surrey.
'BR Branch Lines' by Dave Soggee. Meeting starts 19.30.

Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock.
'Film Show - North from Carlisle by Steam' plus 'The Holiday Line' on the Atlantic Coast Express. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Member £1.50.

24th January 2008
RCTS (Sussex Branch)
Brighthelm Church & Community Centre, North Road, Brighton. "Tales of an International Railway Journalist" by Chris Jackson. Meeting starts 7.30pm. Entrance fee £1.50

29th January 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
West Coker Club, West Coker, near Yeovil. ***AMENDED***
'Maurice Deane Remembered Again' by Ian Bennett. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for more information.

1st-7th February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'IGE Winter Steam' in Slovenia. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the website at http://www.lcgb.org.com

1st February 2008
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Group)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'Rambling around the regions' by Richard Icke. Start 19.30, Refreshments available.

RCTS (Bristol Branch)
St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton.
'Central Switzerland's Railway Wonderland' by Arthur Turner. Start 7.30pm.

4th February 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Film Show - Pure Steam in Oz'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

RCTS (Merseyside Branch)
The Lever Club, Greendale Road.
'Civil Engineer Part 3' by John Ryan Start 7.45pm.

5th February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain - Bedford Branch
St Johns Church Hall, St Johns Street, Bedford
'50th anniversary. 1959-1968' a joint presentation by branch members.. Meeting starts 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain - North London
Wood Green Labour Club, 3 Stuart Crescent, Wood Green, London. N22 5NJ.
'South African Slides' by Peter Watson. Meeting starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East Branch)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington.
'Bringing the trains back to Wensleydale' by Phil Kirkland, Nexus. Starts 19.00

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh Branch)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'Modular S&C' by Tim Fenemore, Network Rail. Meeting starts 18.00

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Branch)
The Freemantle Club, Waterloo Road, Southampton.
'Copyright BR - The work of BR's Photographic Unit' by John Goss. Starts 18.00. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558.

RCTS (Watford Branch)
St. Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road.
'The Midland Railway Trust' by Peter Featherstone. Starts 7.30pm.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh.
'Miscellany of steam railway and tram slides' talk by Martyn Davies. Starts 19.30. Entrance fee £2

6th February 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley Branch)
Sussex House, Reading.
'Why manage Rail?' by David Baskett, Network Rail. Starts 17.30. Contact Rodney Pinchen at rodneyp@tinyworld.co.uk.

RCTS (Ipswich Branch)
St Thomas Church, Back Room Bramford Lane. Ipswich.
'Transport in the Philippines' by Dave Carson. Start 7.30pm.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Motherwell)
Conference Room, St. Mary's Church, Avon Street. Motherwell.
'An abc of BR Steam' colour slideshow by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 7.30pm, contact Alistair Maclean on 01698 263814.

7th February 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham Branch)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley.
'Through the Hope Valley and back over Woodhead' by Ted Hancock. Starts 19.30.

RCTS (Milton Keynes Branch)
CIU Workingmen's Club, London Road, Stony Stratford, Milton Keynes. 'The Waverley Route' by Dave Lovell. Start 7.30pm.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh. 'From Wick to Penzance in the last 30 years' by Bob Cleary. Starts 7.30pm, contact Dr. Peter Howell on 0131 334 5232 for further details.

8th February 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham. 'Welsh Highland Revival' by George Jones Start 19.30, Non-members £3.00

RCTS (Edinburgh Branch)
Quakers Meeting House, 7 Victoria Street, Edinburgh. 'Scottish Industrial Steam' by Hamish Stevenson. Starts 19.30

11th February 2008
Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock. 'Tramways - A tour-de-force'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Member £1.50.

Permanent Way Institution (London Branch)
10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London St. James Park tube. 'Introduction of S Stock - The Permanent Way Issues' by Andrew Brice. Starts 17.30

RCTS (Sheffield Branch)
St Mathews Church Rooms, Carver Street. 'Platform 5' by Peter Fox. Start 7.30pm.

York Railway Circle
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York.
'My 1960s and steam operation in Serbia & Bosnia in 2007 after the Jugoslavian War' slide show by Robin Patrick. Starts 19.30. Non-Members £2

12th February 2007
8E Railway Association (Northwich Branch)
The Gladstone Club, Station Road, Northwich. 'Cine Film from the 1950s and 1960s' by Colin White. Meeting starts 19.45.

Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. The Right Kind of Snow' by Terry Nicholls. Meeting starts 20.00.

Monmouth Railway Society
Room LL1, UWCN, Allt-Yr-Yn Ave., Newport , Gwent.
'1960s Steam on Cine' by Mike Clemmens. Starts: 19.30. Non-members £3.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Room B110, Croydon College.
'Whats the problem? Solutions for this century.' by Peter Shrubsall, Vortok International. Starts 17.30

RCTS (Nottingham Branch)
Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street.
'Steam in the North Staffs area' by Matlock Railway Club. Meeting starts 19.30

13th February 2007
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
'Branch lines in steam days' by David Soggee. Wote St. Club, New Road, 7.30 pm. Contact: 01256 326096. Visitors welcome.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group
Royal Air Force Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes.
'Steam in Cuba' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales Branch)
The Town Crier Hotel, Chester. 'Why manage Rail?' by David Baskett, Network Rail. Starts 18.30. Contact Carl Barker on 01782 717472.

RCTS (Hatfield Branch)
Hitchin Christian Centre, Bedford Road. Hatfield.
'East Coast Memories' by Tom Gladwin. Starts 19.30

14th February 2007
Locomotive Club of Great Britain - St. Albans Branch
United Reform Church, Watford Road, Chiswell Green
'Robert Stephenson; The Mania Years' by Dr. Michael Bailey.. Meeting starts 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Manchester & Liverpool Branch)
Ove Arup Offices, St. James Building, Oxford Street, Manchester. Meeting details to be confirmed closer to the date. Starts 17.00. Contact Rob Cummings on 0161 228 5321.

Permanent Way Institution (South & West Wales Branch)
Kings Hotel, High Street, Newport. 'Britannia Bridge and the Porthmadog Cross Town Link' by David Bateman, Consultant Engineer. Meeting starts 18.00. Contact Andy Franklin on 0207 557 8664.

RCTS (Newcastle Branch)
The Brunswick Methodist Hall, Newcastle. 'A Chinese Takeaway' by Raymond Rouke. Starts 18.30

15th February 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. Group AGM followed by 'Some more Goldern Oldies' by Neville Smale. Starts 19.30, Call Peter Triggs on 01823 334188.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain, Central London Branch
Main Hall, Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street. "More treasures from the Dave Mills collection" by Roger Whitehead. Starts 19.15, Donation of £2.

18th-23rd February 2008
Locomotive Club of Great Britain (Oversea's Tour)
'Sachsen Winter Steam' in Germany. Participants must be members of LCGB for insurance purposes. Further details visit the societies website online at www.lcgb.org.com

18th February 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill Branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'Trains in the desert' by Richard Paget. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Matlock Railway Club
The Duke William, 81 Church Street, Matlock.
'Film Show - Looking back at the Midland'. Starts 20.00. Members £1, Day Membership £1.50.

RCTS (Chester Branch)
The Town Crier, City Road/Station Road, (opposite station entrance). 'Signal Boxes of the Aire Valley' by Malcolm Riley. Meeting commences at 19.45.

RCTS (Coventry)
Maudslay Hotel 190 Allesley Old Road, Coventry. 'The Latter Years of Chinese Steam' by Roger Johnson. Starts 19.30

RCTS (Oxford)
West Oxford Democrats Club 1 North Street, Osney. 'First GBRf in the UK Railfreight Market' by Ashley Stower. Starts 19.30

19th February 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Lancaster, Barrow & Carlisle Branch)
Carnforth Station Visitors Centre. 'Developments on the Welsh Highland Railway' by David Bateman, Consultant Engineer. Attendance requested for 17.30 for an 18.00 start.

Permanent Way Institution (Nottingham & Derby Branch)
Holiday Inn Hotel, Castle Marine, Nottingham. Welding Developments by Bill Moseley. Starts 18.30. For further information and details contact Colin Dowey on 01949 837067.

Permanent Way Institution (West Yorkshire Branch)
The Pullman Room, The Goldern Lion Hotel, 2 Lower Briggate, Leeds. TBC. Starts 18.30. For further details, please contact Martin Woofe on 07747 160949

20th February 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow Branch)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow.
'Side Wear' by Ian Barber and Shaun McCue, Network Rail. Starts 17.30

RCTS (Eastleigh Branch), Mid-Hants Railway and S&D Trust
Eastleigh Railway Institute, Romsey Road,
Eastleigh. 'Mid Hants Railway, Past, Present and Future' by David Yeldon. Starts 19.45

RCTS (Hull)
Upstairs, Highway Public House, Willerby Road, Hull. 'My years with British Railways' by David Barraclough. Starts 19.30

21st February 2008
Marlow & District Railway Society
Garden Room, Liston Hall, Marlow. 'Railtour of Japan and Java' by Adrian Palmer, follows the AGM. Meeting starts: 19.45.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Perth)
Museum & Art Gallery, George Street, Perth. 'Changing face of Railways in the UK Post Privatisation by the Two Ronnies (Ashton). Starts 7.30pm, contact Alex R. Forsyth on 01738 622187.

RCTS (West Yorkshire)
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Gateway to the North' by David Lowe, starts 19.30

23rd February 2008
RCTS (Darlington Branch)
The Arts Centre, Vane Terrace, Darlington. 'On Narrow Gauge Tracks' by Tom Heavyside. Meeting starts at 19.00

Milton Keynes Model Railway Society
2008 Model Railway Exhibition, Courtside Sports Hall, Milton Keynes College (Bletchley Campus), Sherwood Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes. Featuring 18 layouts (N Gauge - Gauge 1) and 12 traders. Open 10.30-17.00. Adults £3.50, Children & Seniors £2 and Family £8.

23rd-24th February 2008
Carshalton & Sutton Model Railway Club
LEATHERHEAD 2008 Model Railway Exhibition, Leatherhead Leisure Centre.
Featuring layouts and trade stands. Adults £6, All Concessions £5, Under 15s free when accompanies by a paying adult. Open 10.00-17.00 (Sat) and 10.00 - 16.30 (Sun)

▼ ***The two Harry Needle Railroad Company-owned Class 20/9 locomotives, Nos. 20901 and 20905 are both currently on hire to Cotswold Rail. The two Type 1s are pictured on 11th January, while stabled at Bristol Temple Meads, awaiting their next duty.*** **Phil Bellamy**

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Not in service
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