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Front Cover

Regional Railways-liveried Class 31/1 No. 31270 departs from Darley Dale for Matlock during the Peak Rail Diesel Gala on 20th September. Full pictorial report next issue! **Chris Booth**

Rear Cover

EWS Class 60 No. 60065 passes Blackwell with a southbound train of loaded ballast tipplers, just about to descend the Lickey Incline. **David Pagett**

Publication

The Railway Herald is published every Monday 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!

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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.

Newsdesk

▲ ***Class 92 No 92022 Charles Dickens passes through the newly-built West London Line station of Shepherd's Bush on 29th September, powering an international service with Cargowaggons from Dollands Moor.*** **Brian Morrison**

Shepherd's Bush station opens for traffic

The new Shepherd's Bush station for London Overground opened for traffic on 28th September, the first new station on the line since London Overground started operating last year and one that will provide west Londoners with a new connection to the transport system.

Transport for London is investing £1.4 billion in the London Overground (LO) network, and Shepherd's Bush on the West London Line between Clapham Junction and Willesden Junction line is the first in a series of new and refurbished stations to be opened.

The station is fully accessible with low height ticket office windows and two lifts providing step-free access to both platforms, and also has CCTV. Its contemporary design offers passengers a light and airy environment, and they will also benefit from being able to use Oyster pay-as-you-go. As with all other Overground stations, Shepherd's Bush will be staffed at all times during train operating hours.

Ian Brown, Managing Director of London Rail, said: "This step-free station will provide passengers with easy access to the new Westfield London shopping centre and other local job and leisure opportunities. Brand-new and fully air-conditioned trains, with greater capacity than those now running will operate on the LO network from 2009. From 2011, station users can look forward to a more frequent service with four trains an hour all day. These improvements are part of a programme of works across parts of the Overground network to deliver a more reliable and efficient service to passengers".

Currently the station has two trains an hour in each direction between Willesden Junction and Clapham Junction and Southern Class 377/2s also stop there in peak hours and on Sundays.

Heart of Wessex plate presented to East Midlands Trains Managing Director

British American Railway Services (BARS) has presented the nameplate *Heart of Wessex* from Class 31/4 No. 31454 to East Midlands Trains Managing Director Tim Shoveller.

The nameplate was carried by No. 31454 when it was in use by Wessex Trains on locomotive-hauled services between Bristol and Weymouth in 2004. At that time Tim was Operations Director at Wessex. The locomotive is now owned by BARS, which has taken over the ECT Group's former rail holdings. These include RMS Locotec and its subsidiary Dartmoor Railway CIC. ECT has also transferred its 75% interest in Weardale Railway CIC to BARS.

Ed Ellis, president of BARS parent company, Iowa Pacific Holdings, said: "We believe in the community rail model and look forward to developing freight, tourist and passenger services on the two railways, and to sustained, profitable growth in the services RMS provides".

Iowa Pacific also owns and operates six short line railroads in the U.S.A., with BARS providing spot-hire, shunter and track maintenance services, as well as contracted infrastructure upgrade services.

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New LUL 'S' Stock shown at Euston Square

A mock-up of a new London Underground S Stock air-conditioned train that will serve the Metropolitan Line from 2010 and the other sub-surface Circle, District and Hammersmith & City lines from 2011, went on display to the public at Euston Square Gardens from 29th September to 2nd October.

The new trains are part of Transport for London's investment programme and are promised to have improved reliability, 17% more capacity (which means many less seats!), improved access, improved passenger information and better safety and security. The new stock, which is under construction at Bombardier's facility at Litchurch Lane, Derby, is scheduled to start arriving in 2010 and will be the first on the Tube network to have air-conditioning. The first complete eight-car unit for the Metropolitan Line will arrive in London for testing in 2009. New seven-car trains for the Circle and Hammersmith & City lines are due to arrive in 2011, for the District Line in 2013 (80 seven-car units) and all sub-surface units should have been replaced by 2015.

▲ *Exterior of the air-conditioned S Stock mock-up for London Underground sub-surface lines.*
▼ *Interior of the mock-up.* **Both: Brian Morrison**

Passenger retimings on Alloa route for freight traffic

First ScotRail is advising passengers travelling from Alloa station that some services will be retimed from today, 29th September.

This is to allow for changes that have been made to freight services following the opening of the Stirling–Alloa–Kincardine line, which includes track to Longannet Power Station. Some passenger services to and from Alloa between Mondays and Saturdays will depart up to five minutes earlier, with others departing a few minutes later. Service punctuality will be improved as a result of less congestion on the line from the freight workings.

▼ *EWS Class 66 No. 66054 powers a Longannet to Hunterston coal service, seen at Alloa loop on 25th September. The switch from the Forth Bridge to the Alloa line will allow EWS to make use of the larger HTA wagons, pictured here, which are prohibited from the Fort Bridge because of weight restrictions.* **Alex Napier**

❖ On 22nd September at Manchester Oxford Road station, Transport Secretary, Ruth Kelly MP, joined the family of Barbara Castle to name Northern Rail Class 158 No. 158784 after the late Labour MP and first woman Transport Minister. Sonya Hinton, niece of Barbara Castle, and other family members were the guests of honour among an audience of more than 100. This was probably Ruth Kelly's last duty as under-Secretary of State for Transport, as she resigned from the Cabinet two days later to spend more time with her four children.

❖ Rail services on three lines in the Scottish Highlands are to be temporarily suspended to allow for work to reduce the risk from rock falls. Work will be carried out on the Strathcarron to Kyle of Lochalsh line from 27th September to 12th October, between Fort William and Mallaig from 18th October to 2nd November and from Helmsdale to Wick and Thurso from 24th October to 2nd November. Buses will be provided during the closure periods, although an alternative route is being sought for the Strathcarron to Kyle of Lochalsh services on 4th//5th October because of road works on the A890 between Auchtertyre and Achnasheen.

❖ A former railway line that connected Bowhill Colliery to the Edinburgh & Northern Railway, and which closed in 1964, is to be auctioned. From the B981 road, the approximately seven-acre site runs east and south towards the main railway line. It is in a 20-metre cutting for 300 metres, and is currently overgrown with bushes and small trees. After the cutting, it is joined by another 200 metre long part of the site from Bowhill Colliery and then runs a further 620 metres to the edge of the East Coast Mail Line. The ex-railway line crosses the River Ore by an iron beam bridge.

❖ The Oyster 'pay as you go' card is now accepted on First Great Western services into Paddington from West Drayton, Hayes & Harlington, Southall, Hanwell, West Ealing, Acton Main Line, South Greenford, Castle Bar Park and Drayton Green. The Mayor of London, Boris Johnson said: "This is excellent news for First Great Western customers, and takes us one step closer to making Oyster the only ticket you'll need to travel anywhere in London. TfL is investing £40 million in new Oyster equipment and I will shortly be meeting with the other Train Operating Companies to urge them to get on board and make Oyster available to all Londoners".

The future face of heavy haul freight power in the UK?

Freightliner Group Ltd and GE Transportation have published images of the new 'PowerHaul' locomotive being developed for Great Britain.

Thirty of the locomotives were ordered by Freightliner last year and the first are due to be delivered late next year. They are designed to provide increased hauling capacity and a significant improvement in fuel economy. The electric motors will use alternating rather than direct current, as is becoming increasingly common on both GE's and EMD's North American locomotives, AC motors being stated to be more reliable and transfer more of the engine's power to the track.

The GE locos will complement Freightliner's existing fleet of more than 160 locos and 3,000 wagons. They have not been assigned to a particular Freightliner business at this time, but will be used to increase tonnage hauled on specific routes where there are capacity constraints.

Until now, the Class 66 has been the only high-powered freight locomotive produced by one of the two large US diesel manufacturers able to fit within the restricted loading gauge of the UK rail system.

The first batch of six locos are due to arrive late 2009 through Newport Docks in two shipments of two and four locomotives.

▲ *An artist's impression of how the new General Electric Type 5 locomotives for Freightliner will look.* **Freightliner/GE**

Triple traction for 'Night Riveria' set ... at least as far as Plymouth!

▼ ***Due to 'on-going' issues with one of First Great Western's Class 57/6 locomotives, the company is presently employing the services of a Class 47. However, all was not well on the evening of 26th September, when Class 47/4 No. 47828 Joe Strumner was failed before departure from Penzance with a TPWS fault on the lead cab. FGW power cars Nos. 43042 and 43145 were commandeered and in 'back-to-back' mode, dragged the errant '47' from Penzance to Plymouth, where the '47' was turned on the Laira triangle, before proceeding to London with the sleeper. The ensemble is pictured shortly after arrival at Plymouth, just nine minutes down on schedule, prior to the powercars being detached.*** **Stacey Thew**

Oldham Loop conversion work starts in October 2009

Almost 130 years of railway history will come to an end when the Oldham loop line through Shaw, Derker, Mumps, Werneth, Hollinwood, Failsworth and Dean Lane is replaced by a Metrolink tram service.

Work is due to begin on 3rd October 2009 and, as a result, passengers will only be able to buy annual season tickets to and from train stations on the Oldham and Rochdale line up until 4th October this year.

Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Executive is to work closely with bus operators to look at how the existing bus network can be boosted while the line is upgraded, and intend to carry out passenger surveys to find out where people are travelling from as well as their final destinations. Trains will continue to run as normal through Mills Hill on the line between Manchester, Rochdale and Leeds while the work takes place.

The £575 million expansion of the Metrolink network to Oldham and Rochdale, Droylsden, and Chorlton in south Manchester will go ahead whatever the result of the congestion charge referendum in December. If the poll gets a 'yes' and the necessary funding is provided, the Metrolink line will also go through Oldham and Rochdale town centres as well as to Manchester Airport, Ashton-under-Lyne, and eventually, the Trafford Centre.

As well as replacing the existing train stations with Metrolink stops, there will be six new stops at Monsall, Central Park, South Chadderton, Freehold, Newbold and outside Rochdale railway station. Also, the track will be upgraded and new trams have already been ordered to run on the line.

The new service will be more than twice as frequent as the existing train service, and will provide a direct link into the heart of Manchester city centre and beyond. It will also make it much easier to reach other destinations across Greater Manchester using public transport.

The new Metrolink line is due to open to trams between Manchester and Central Park in spring 2011, to Oldham Mumps in autumn 2011, and to Rochdale in spring 2012. Services will run between Shaw and Crompton and Manchester every 6 minutes, and between Rochdale and Manchester every 12 minutes.

The changing face of Docklands Light Railway

▲ *With the new look DLR stock now entering traffic, two of the new build, led by unit No. 106, approach Pontoon Dock station eastbound with a Bank to King George V service, in their first week of operation.* **Kim Rennie**

▼ *With all the DLR units now in red livery, a start has been made on applying Serco 'Less Carbon' vinyls to some cars. One so far treated is No. 25, seen at Pudding Mill Lane with a Canary Wharf-Stratford service.* **Brian Morrison**

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'Access for All' work at Kidderminster

Passengers with disabilities will benefit from a £30,000 investment at Kidderminster station, with London Midland's first 'Access for All' project.

Work began on 28th September on a new step-free access ramp from the front of the station to the booking office and adding two more parking bays for people with disabilities, bringing the total to six.

The station is the first London Midland station to receive funding under the Department for Transport's 'Access for All' initiative, which is part of the 'Railways for All Strategy' that started in 2006 to address the issues faced by disabled passengers using railway stations in Great Britain.

The next LM station to receive treatment under the scheme will be Worcester Shrub Hill.

Short term relief at Waterloo?

There could be a part opening of the mothballed ex-Eurostar terminal at Waterloo by the end of the year.

London Assembly Transport spokesman, Richard Tracey, revealed the plans and said: "It's good news that part of the old Eurostar terminal is going to be re-opened for domestic use before the end of the year. But this is only a limited re-opening. Waterloo is desperately short of platforms, so it is imperative that the work is done as soon as possible to open the other ex-Eurostar platforms for use by South West Trains." London Mayor, Boris Johnson, was asked if he could exert pressure on the relevant parties to introduce an earlier transfer of the longer Eurostar platforms at Waterloo for commuter trains? He replied: "The future of Waterloo International is ultimately the responsibility of the DfT and therefore I do not have any direct control over the future use of these platforms.

However, TfL is closely involved with Network Rail's project to redevelop Waterloo, including the integration of the International platforms into the main station. In the short term, Network Rail and South West Trains have plans to allow a small number of trains to use one of the Eurostar platforms at peak times".

Class 73 repainted and renamed

In a short ceremony at Stewarts Lane Depot on 24th September, Class 73/2 No. 73210 was named *Selhurst*.

The naming was carried out by Tony Francis of Southern and the locomotive has been repainted into its previous Intercity colours, with Swallow branding.

▲ *A numerical line-up at Stewarts Lane depot of Class 73/2 No. 73210 Selhurst, No. 73202 (in new Gatwick Express colours) and Class 73/1 No. E6043 (73136) Perseverance.*

▲ *The newly repainted Class 73/2 No. 73210, shortly before its naming ceremony.* **All: James Bunch**

c2c honour Driver Manager, John Page

c2c Driver Manager, John Page, who retired this year with 40 years service, has been honoured by having Class 357 No. 357207 named after him at East Ham Depot on 16th September.

John was joined on the day by friends, colleagues, family and c2c managers to celebrate his 40 years of service and to commend his commitment to his colleagues and his job.

Chris Loader, Operations Manager, said: "John has always been a much liked and well respected member of the team and has been an excellent Driver Manager. Today has been a great success and I hope John is proud to know that his hard work over many years will continue to be recognised as the train takes passengers to and from work every day. We wish John all the best in his well earned retirement".

▼ c2c

Airdrie to Bathgate rail link work awarded

Network Rail has awarded a £60 million contract for the new Airdrie to Bathgate rail link to Balfour Beatty Rail Projects Limited.

The deal is to lay the new track between Airdrie and Bathgate, double track the existing stretch of line between Airdrie and Drumgelloch and electrify the entire route prior to commissioning in late 2010. The contract announcement comes in advance of the completion of the first phase of the £300 million Transport Scotland funded project in October. The double tracking of the line between Newbridge junction and Bathgate will be completed during nine days of intensive activity between 11th and 19th October.

Ron McAulay, Network Rail Director, Scotland, commented: "This contract with Balfour Beatty allows us to deliver some of the most significant parts of this complex engineering project. Awarding this contract at this stage allows them to get off to a flying start. Key elements of the work they will carry out will start during the nine-day blockade planned for later in October. This contract award represents another major milestone in the delivery of this very important project".

Work on the new section of line is scheduled to begin in 2009, although ground investigation work has already commenced. The link was closed some 50 years ago.

Negotiations agreed for 'Pendolino' carriages

Following a successful conclusion to commercial negotiations between the Department for Transport (DfT), Angel Trains and Alstom, a total of 106 extra Pendolino carriages are to be constructed from January 2009 at Savigliano, in Italy.

The £1.5 billion deal means that Alstom will produce four new 11-car Pendolino trains and lengthen 31 of the existing 52 Pendolinos each by two carriages. The contract also allows for the vehicles to be maintained by Alstom until 2022.

The extra coaching stock will provide a significant increase in capacity for passengers on the West Coast Main Line route, providing 7,420 extra seats the vehicles are set to come into full service by December 2012. Lengthening the existing trains will take place at Edge Hill, and investment will be made at this and four other depots at Wembley, Oxley, Longsight and Polmadie to accommodate the longer train sets.

The agreement also has an option to purchase a further 42 carriages in 2010 to be delivered and maintained from early 2013, to meet rising passenger demand. This would mean lengthening the remaining 21 nine-car trains from nine to 11 carriages.

The present West Coast contract held by Virgin Trains expires in March 2012, six months before the new vehicles are scheduled to enter service. Virgin attempted to gain an extension to its franchise in return for enlarging the Pendolino fleet, but this was refused by the DfT, which instead invited tenders from qualified operators to manage the procurement, a process independent of the current West Coast operator. However, as previously reported in RH, the procurement contract was duly won by Virgin, which is to use a specially formed subsidiary, Virgin Rail Projects, to handle the details and will support the Department throughout the delivery, testing and commissioning of the new rolling stock.

Class 317s at work on their original route

▼ ***Having been originally built for the Bedford - St Pancras route, Class 317/3s Nos. 317342 and 317338 call at Mill Hill Broadway with a Moorgate to Bedford service on 10th September. At present, the Class 317s operated by First Capital Connect see use on peak hour services' from Moorgate and will be supplemented by eight Class 319s transferred from Southern in December, together with additional dual-voltage new-build Class 377s next year, both of which are intended to provide extra capacity on the route.*** **Fred Kerr**

❖ First GBRf has secured a six-year contract with Railcare Limited in Scotland for the movement of EMUs in Glasgow for maintenance exams. The new contract, which started on 19th September with the first movement of Class 318 units, marks the first time that the freight haulier has won a contract of its kind in Scotland. Under the terms of the new deal, GBRf will provide an all-inclusive service to move Classes 318 and 320 three-car units from Shields Depot to Springburn and back. In connection with the contract, Glasgow Works had, what is thought to be its first visit by a Virgin Class 57/3, when No. 57301 visited on 18th September in order to test barrier vehicles, prior to the first Class 318 overhaul movement.

❖ Transport for London (TfL) is considering electrifying the Gospel Oak-Barking line for third rail 750V DC operation, having failing to persuade industry partners to agree to a 25kV system for the route. The line, which is also used frequently for freight, is the only section of London Overground that will not be available to the Class 378 Electrostar EMUs being constructed by Bombardier at Litchurch Lane, Derby (RH issue 148). An order for Turbostars to replace the Class 150s currently working the services has been made but it is reported that their lease with Angel Trains is 'flexible'.

❖ A multi-million pound proposal to transform Britain's busiest railway station, Clapham Junction, has been made. A planning application to revamp the station and the streets around it has been presented to Wandsworth council by developers Metro Shopping Fund, which includes two new entrances for the station, a pedestrian shopping street, roof gardens and a cinema. Two 42-storey towers with 556 new homes are also part of the plan.

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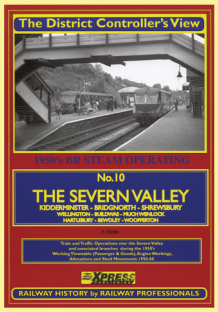

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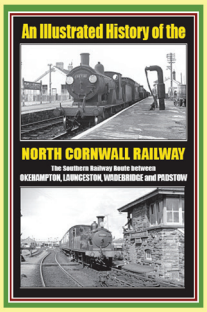

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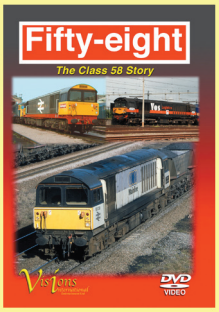

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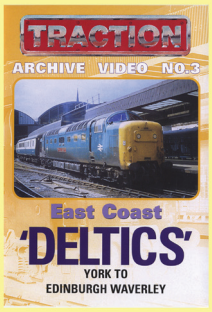

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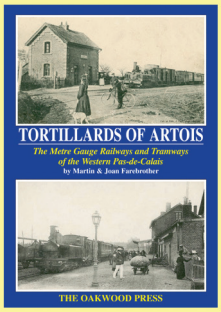

UK Steam & Modern Traction Railtour Listings

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.

		28th September
Past Time Rail	34067	Bristol TM-Taunton-Exeter SD-Paignton-Kingswear and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 3)Bridge of Orchy Wemyss Bay
		29th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh- Dundee-Montrose-Aberdeen-Keith
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Western Tour (Day 4) Wemyss Bay Edinburgh
		30th September
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 2) Keith-Tain (rev)-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh
		1st October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 3) Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
		2nd October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 4) Boat of Garten-Blair Atholl-Perth-Dundee
		3rd October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 5) Dundee- North Queensferry-Edinburgh
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh- Dundee-Montrose-Aberdeen-Keith
		4th October
Past Time Rail	4965 & 4936	(Nottingham-Loughborough-Leicester-Nuneaton-Birmingham NS-Stourbridge Jct)-Stourbridge Jct-Worcester Foregate St-Hereford-Chepstow-Gloucester-Worcester Shrub Hill-(and return)
Pathfinder Tours	2xEWS 37	Wolverhampton-Grosmont-Whitby and return **Cancelled**
PMR Tours	6233	Stockport-Carlisle (and return) **Cancelled**
Railtourer	2xWCRC 47	Skegness-Boston-Sleaford-Ancaster-Nottingham-Long Eaton-Stoke on Trent-Crewe-Chester-Llandudno and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 2) Keith-Tain (rev)-Dingwall-Kyle of Lochalsh
SRPS	tbc	Dunbar-Edinburgh Waverley-Kirkcaldy-Markinch-Ladybank-Perth-Pitlochry- Plockton-Kyle of Lochlsh (break/rev) and return
UK Railtours	2xEWS 67	Stevenage-Finsbury Park-Bristol TM-Avonmouth-Filton W-S Curve-Bristol TM-Royal Portbury Dock-Bristol TM and return
		5th October
Branch Line Society	2xEWS 66	Alexandra Palace-Grantham-Lincoln-Worksop-Shirebrook-Langwith Jct (W.H. Davis' boundary)-Welbeck Colliery (NR Limit)-Kirkby in Ashfield- Loughborough-Oakham-Peterborough and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 3) Kyle of Lochalsh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
		6th October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 4) Boat of Garten-Blair Atholl-Perth-Dundee
		7th October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Classic Tour (Day 5) Dundee-North Queensferry-Edinburgh
		8th October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Highland Tour (Day 1) Edinburgh-Aviemore-Boat of Garten
		9th October
Railway Touring Company	6233	(London Euston-Rugby-Nuneaton-Lichfield TV-Crewe)-Preston-Carnforth-Shap-Carlisle (break/rev) and return
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Highland Tour (Day 2) Boat of Garten Inverness-Nairn-Dundee
UK Railtours	EWS 67 (pair)	London KX-Potters Bar-Stevenage-Peterborough-Northallerton(rev)-Bedale-Leyburn (break)-Redmire (rev) and return
		10th October
Royal Scotsman	2xWCRC 47	Highland Tour (Day 2) Dundee-Edinburgh
		11th October
Compass Tours	Riveria 47	Manchester Victoria-Bolton-Westhoughton-Wigan North Western-Euxton Belshaw Lane-Lancaster-Arnside-Grange over Sands-Dalton-Barrow in Furness-Carlisle(break)-Carlisle-S&C-Hellifield-Skipton-Healey Mills-Todmorden-Manchester Victoria & return
Steam Dreams	30777	London Waterloo- Swindon-Stroud-Gloucester and return

Regular Scheduled Steam Operations

Services detailed below, do not appear in the main listings above, being regular itinery operations.

Dates	Operator	Train	Route	Loco Pool
29 Sep-3 Oct	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	45407 or 76079
30 Sep-2 Oct	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
5 Oct	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool
6-10 Oct	WCRC	Jacobite	Fort William-Mallaig and return	45407 or 76079
7-9 Oct	NYMR	Whitby	Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips)	NYMR Pool

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

BLACK Charters expected to operate as booked.
GREEN Tours postponed to a future date by the operator
WCRC West Coast Railway Company
RED Tours cancelled by the operator
BLUE Provisional excursion
(Locations) in brackets on a steam tour listing indicates a diesel or electric-hauled section.

The Week Ahead

Railtours can sometimes mimic the old adage that you can wait ages for a bus, and then three come along together, except in the case of railtours it seems to be the other way round, in that there seems to be plenty of choice for weeks on end, and then suddenly, not a lot!

The coming week has not a lot! The tour of the weekend, however, stands out by a mile and is a rare chance to be steam-hauled over the Malvern's with Past Time Rail on 4th October, with Tyseley's 'Halls' Nos. 4965 *Rood Ashton Hall* and 4936 *Kinlet Hall*. The tour starts diesel-hauled, and picks up via Leicester and Birmingham New Street to Stourbridge Junction, where steam takes over. The route is then via Kidderminster and Worcester Foregate Street, which are both pick-up points, and Ledbury to Hereford for a short break. An assault on Llanvihangel bank follows, as the tour continues south through Abergavenney, and after taking the Maindee Curve to avoid Newport, it then follows the River Severn via Chepstow for a further break at Gloucester. Steam will continue as far as Worcester Shrub Hill, where diesel traction takes over for the return homewards.

Other than the North Yorkshire Moors' scheduled Whitby workings, incredibly the Malvern's trip with the 'Halls' is the only steam activity this weekend!

On the modern traction front, UK Railtours head the list with its 'Forgotten Tracks' excursion to Portbury Docks. The train originates at Stevenage, and travels to Bristol Temple Meads, where it will reverse and head for Avonmouth via Narroways Hill Junction, continuing back to Temple Meads via Hallam Marsh and Filton West and South Junctions. It will then continue along the old Portishead branch to Royal Portbury Dock, passing beneath the Clifton Suspension Bridge in both directions.

Railtourer has an east-to-west coast charter from Skegness, via Nottingham to Llandudno, and further north the SRPS plan a Dunbar to Kyle of Lochalsh charter, both tours using West Coast Class 47 traction.

On 5th October, the Branch Line Society head for Shirebrook from Alexandra Palace, with a selection of ECML pick-up points. The route is via Lincoln, Retford and Worksop and includes visiting Langwith Junction (to W. H. Davis' boundary) and Welbeck Colliery (Network Rail boundary) together with probably the last opportunity for a daylight loco-hauled ride over the Robin Hood Line according to the BLS.

For more details telephone 0114-275-2303 or go to www.branchline.org.uk.

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Spitfire Railtours

in association with

The Electric Scot Tribute

Rail-Blue Charters

Wednesday, October 15th

This charter, run in conjunction with Spitfire Railtours, sees the return to the main line of the AC Locomotive Group's Class 87, 87002. Beautifully restored to its original livery of British Rail Blue livery, this locomotive along with its classmates covered the length of the West Coast Main Line from the mid 1970s until 2005, putting in 30 years of outstanding service.

Rail-Blue Charters and Spitfire Railtours are pleased to offer the first charter that sees the locomotive return to its original stamping ground, complete with period British Rail Blue and Grey liveried MkII and MkIII carriages.

Departures are from Birmingham International, Wolverhampton, Stafford, Crewe, Warrington Bank Quay, Wigan North Western and Preston. Our destination is Glasgow where there is a 4 hour break to do as you please. Glasgow is an interesting city with many attractions. It boasts a variety of museums & art galleries, an excellent array of shops, and a wide range of pubs and eateries. This vibrant, cosmopolitan city will satisfy the appetite of most. We then retrace our steps back to Birmingham International and set-down as outward.

We have Standard, First and First Premier Dining seats available. There will also be a buffet for first and standard class passengers serving hot and cold meals and snacks. We also have a bar selling a range of alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks.

Expected Timings:

Birmingham International	d. 07:30	a. 21:50
Wolverhampton	d. 08:10	a. 21:10
Stafford	d. 08:30	a. 20:50
Crewe	d. 09:00	a. 20:20
Warrington Bank Quay	d. 09:25	a. 19:55
Wigan North Western	d. 09:35	a. 19:45
Preston	d. 09:50	a. 19:30
Glasgow	d. 12:30	a. 16:30

Timings, which are presently provisional, will be confirmed when travel tickets are dispatched, approximately two weeks prior to travel.

Visit http://www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list for details of any of our future charter trains.

All bookings for travel on our charter trains are subject to the standard terms and conditions of booking and travel with Rail-Blue Charters. A copy of these can be obtained through our website on http://www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list/terms_and_conditions.

Should you wish to be added to our mailing list, please send an email with your contact details to bookings@rail-bluecharters.co.uk.

Fares:

First Dining:	Adult £109	
First Class:	Adult £69	Child £45
Standard Class:	Adult £49	Child £25

A group booking for 4 adults can take advantage of a 10% discount.

For booking information or reservation of your seats, please **CLICK HERE** to book online or call 0161 850 0559.

Our phone lines are open from Monday to Fridays between 09:30 and 17:00. Outside these times, you can leave a message with your name and contact details and your call will be returned as soon as possible.

For details or to book online, please visit our website or for enquiries and to book, call **0161 850 0559** now

Rail-Blue Charters, PO Box 246, Sidcup, DA15 0DX

www.rail-bluecharters.co.uk/tour_list

by John Whitehouse

Motive power questions over RTC autumn programme

Three locomotives form the core of the Railway Touring Company autumn programme, namely 'A4s' Nos. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* and 60019 *Bittern*, together with Southern 4-6-0 No. 850 *Lord Nelson*.

As mentioned in last week's issue, there is a big question mark over *Lord Nelson*, as the NRM has not agreed any dates for the locomotive, pending mainline trials in November, and the appointment of future custodians. Where all this leaves the RTC is not clear, although it is understood that *Bittern* will deputise for No. 850 on the 25th October working from Paddington to Yeovil and Salisbury.

Even if *Lord Nelson* is given the green light, getting it into position for the two Bath Christmas Market charters booked for 27th November from Haywards Heath and 29th November from London Victoria may be tight and on the latter date, RTC has *Bittern* on a 'Christmas White Rose' from King's Cross to York.

No. 850 is also cited for a Weymouth to Waterloo 'Christmas Royal Wessex' return working on 6th December, with *Bittern* in action next day between King's Cross and Lincoln. Earlier, *Sir Nigel Gresley* has two booked trains, on 8th November on 'The Cheshireman' from Scarborough to Chester, via Standedge, with steam terminating at Crewe on the return, and the following week on a 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' from Worcester Shrub Hill with steam coming on at Crewe through to Carlisle, outwards via the S&C and returning via Shap.

▲ *With the autumn rapidly approaching, Vintage Trains-operated Class 47/7 No. 47773 passes Wanborough on 27th September with a charter from Tyseley Warwick Road to Alton.* **Chris Holt**

▼ *The return leg of the trip was hauled by the '47' as far as Guildford, from where GWR 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5029* **Nunney Castle** *returned the train to the West Midlands. The loco which had been on loan to the Mid-Hants Railway and is shown passing Cholsey Manor Farm.* **Ken Brunt**

Pathfinder 'spin and win' Autumn programme line-up

Three 'Spin and Wins' charters are the feature of Pathfinder's autumn programme commencing on 25th October with 'The Andover Fist' from Clapham Junction, the feature of which is a visit (subject to final confirmation) to Waterloo International with GBRf Class 73s leading.

The exit will be with an EWS Class 66 hauling the train back to Clapham Junction, via Balham. Earlier the train visits Merehead Rail Terminal and Whites Crossing Siding, before proceeding to Andover and the Ludgershall branch. Also appearing should be a GBRf Class 66/7 and an EWS Class 60.

A further 'Spin and Win' is booked for 13th December from Ealing Broadway through to Southport, commencing with an EWS Class 59/2 via Oxford to Birmingham International, where electric traction in the form of an EWS Class 92 is then booked to whisk the tour via Bescot to Crewe Basford Hall Yard. The tour continues via Warrington Bank Quay and Wigan Wallgate for a rare opportunity of locomotive haulage through to Southport with a Freightliner Class 66. The return runs via Wigan Wallgate, Bolton and Manchester Victoria, before taking the freight-only line from Northwich via Middlewich to Sandbach, and then onwards to Crewe Basford Hall, where the EWS Class 60, which is booked to head the leg from Southport, hands over to a Freightliner Class 86/6 or 90 for the return to Birmingham International, via Bescot. It is then back home with a Class 59/2.

The West Midlands is the destination of Pathfinder's 'Industrious Trader' on 15th November, which features EWS Class 37s throughout. The tour originates at Reading and picks up via Oxford to Birmingham International, and the highlight is the first passenger train over the new alignment of the old Keresley Colliery branch at Coventry to the new Prologis Park. The tour then heads west to visit the branch to Round Oak, then via Bescot to Salop Branch Sidings in Stafford, before reaching the Ironbridge branch, and then via the Oxley Chord. The tour then heads back to Birmingham via Sutton Park, before reaching the route home via the Lifford Curve. Note that this will be a limited load train, so early booking is essential. The Class 37s will operate in 'top and tail' mode around the West Midlands.

Pathfinder close the year with a traditional working over the Settle & Carlisle on 29th December, featuring EWS Class 37s throughout from Derby, picking up at principal stations via Coleshill Parkway, Birmingham New Street and Shrewsbury to Crewe. It then follows the traditional route via Warrington Bank Quay, Blackburn and Hellifield for an assault on 'The Drag' to Carlisle for a break. The return is via Shap and Preston.

Earlier, on 29th November the operator heads for York and Durham with a variety of festive offerings available from Weston-super-Mare and selected stations, via Worcester Shrub Hill to Birmingham New Street with EWS Class 67 traction.

Of course, the highlight of December will be the planned first visit of a Class 52 to Norwich and Great Yarmouth on 13th December, with D1015 *Western Champion* throughout from London Liverpool Street. The connecting leg from Swindon will be Class 67 hauled.

'Jubilee' takes on Copy Pit with the 'Cotton Mill Express'

▼ ***With the two Riley engines employed on 'Jacobite' duties in the West Highlands, motive power for Past-Time Rail's 'Cotton Mill Express' on 27th September, fell to LMS 'Jubilee' 4-6-0 No. 5690 Leander. Here the locomotive storms up-grade crossing Lydgate Viaduct on the Copy Pit line.***
Stuart Chapman

▲ *First GBRf Class 66/7 No. 66731 undertook a tour of Kent, on 27th September when it hauled a ballast working from Hither Green, bound for a possession site near Headcorn. The train ran via Maidstone East, Ashford, Canterbury West, Deal and Dover. It is pictured here, along the base of Shakespeare Cliff.* **Andrew Wood**

▼ *Diverted via Oxford because of engineering works on the CrossCountry route, Fastline Freight Class 66/3 No. 66305 passes Hatton North Junction with the 11.31 Avonmouth - Ratcliffe Power Station on 27th September. The train had been held in the goods loop at Hatton and the locomotive was very competently lifting over 2,000 tonnes up the last few yards of Hatton Bank.* **Peter Tandy**

▲ *Still carrying the remains of its 'one Anglia' livery, Class 47/4 No. 47818* Emily *departs from Great Yarmouth on 27th September with the last 'drag' of the year, having arrived as the 12.00 London Liverpool Street - Great Yarmouth.* **Stacey Thew**

▼ *WCRC Class 47/4 No. 47854 heads away from Barnham, leading Rail Tourer's 'The Channel Coast Express', which originated from Doncaster shortly after 06.00 on 13th September!* **Chris Wilson**

▲ *The Wrexham and Shropshire Railway Company is finally in possession of the first DVT in the company's own livery, after a protracted period of refurbishment. Testing of the vehicle No. 82301 commenced on 22nd September, working a circuitous route from Crewe to Crewe, via Wrexham, Shrewsbury and Stafford, a route designed to keep the DVT orientated in the same direction of travel at the end of the circuit as it began. On 26th September, it pauses at a murky Wrexham General, with three Cargo-D Mk3s and Class 67 No. 67015 on the rear. It is understood that the second DVT No. 82302 will be on test during the week commencing 28th September.* **Mark Riley**

▼ *With the appearance of the Mk3 DVTs, the sight of 'topped and tailed' Class 67s will gradually deminish. Here No. 67026 leads a very late running 07.25 Wrexham - Marylebone through High Wycombe, with classmate No. 67019 on the rear.* **Paul Townsend**

▲ *Just four days after making its first runs of 2008, Class 37/0 No. 37194 powers south through Donacster on 26th September, with a rake of Rail Head Treatment tanks from York. The vehicles were bound for Stowmarket in preparation for the forthcoming RHTT season, which commences in early October.* **Mark AInsworth**

▼ *The 10.03 Inspection Saloon special from Liverpool Street to Thorpe-le-Soken, Colchester Town, Shenfield and Southend Victoria passes near Bow Junction on 25th September, formed of DRS-liveried Class 37/4 No. 37423 propelling saloon No. 975025* Caroline. **Brian Morrison**

▲ *The latest Grand Central powercar to be released from Brush Works, Class 43 No. 43067, has been undergoing mileage accumulation prior to acceptance by GC. As part of this, the powercar was paired with Network Rail's NMT on 28th September to undertake a Heaton - Doncaster - Newcastle - Doncaster - Heaton mileage accumulation run. With classmate No. 43062 on the rear, No. 43067 powers through Burn on its first run.* **Ron Cover**

▼ *The following day resembled the start of a Grand Central UK Tour, when the powercar departed from Heaton bound for the south-west! In the event, the set, comprising No. 43067, two Grand Central Mk3s, two Great Western-liveried Mk2s and Advenza Class 47 No. 47375 on the rear, was turned on the triangle at Gloucester, before heading back north.* **Jack Boskett**

▲ *Star attraction at the North Yorkshire Moors Railway 'Autumn Steam Gala' was BR Standard 8P Pacific No. 71000* **Duke of Gloucester.** *With a complete rake of matching Mk1s, the 'Duke' starts the 1-in-49 climb to Goathland.* **Robin Patrick**

2807 to return in early 2009

Cotswold Steam Preservation Ltd (CSPL), owners of GWR 2800 class 2-8-0 No. 2807, has announce that the restoration of the locomotive from scrapyard condition is nearing completion.

It was saved from Woodham Brothers scrapyard at Barry in 1981 and moved to Toddington on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. The restoration project started immediately, and 27 years later is soon to end.

There is chassis work still continuing on the vacuum system, the second injector, top feed pipes, steam heat system, pistons, and valves, but all of these things are close to completion. The boiler is currently being restored at Llangollen, wasted plate around the firebox has been replaced and new stays have been fitted. Work has also started inside the boiler barrel to prepare for front tubeplate fitting, which will enable re-tubing followed by a hydraulic test. The remaining parts will then be fitted, and this will be followed by a steam test.

It is expected that all this will take until early February to complete, but it is hoped that it will be displayed, along with the tender, at the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway Christmas Cracker steam gala on 29th/30th December.

It is the intention of CSPL to achieve public train operating early in the 2009 running season at the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway. Meanwhile the project's finances have received a welcome boost with the news that CSPL's fellow organisation, the 2807 Freight Locomotive Association has achieved charitable status. This has significant fund-raising implications, and a generous offer of a significant donation has already been received. This will help ease cash flow concerns during the final stages of the boiler restoration.

Strathspey Railway sees Grantown on the horizon with just two miles to go!

A squad of Strathspey Railway Company volunteers has foot-by-foot extended the track from Aviemore, and now 'only' the River Dulnain and two miles overland separate restoration of the link with Grantown, which was closed in 1966.

Network Rail has provided tremendous support by providing, not only a substantial amount of track, but also the disused Merry Street Bridge, which served the former steelworks at Ravenscraig in Motherwell, and will carry the railway over the river.

However, negotiations with Muckrach and Craggan Estates have to reach a resolution before the railway achieves its objective. The Strathspey Railway is also in correspondence with the Scottish Government's roads agency, Transport Scotland, to ensure that the Gaich road/rail crossing stays on its trunk road programme.

The project has strong support from a broad range of agencies and local and national politicians, but the railway has to raise substantial funding itself as a contribution to the crossing.

Recently, nearly a mile of new track was laid to milepost 93, which is the current limit of the railway's approved operations.

Merry Street Bridge has now been dismantled and placed in store for transport to Strathspey early next month. Although the bridge was donated, the cost of dismantling, storage, transport and installation, of around £100,000, will have to be borne by the railway company.

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▲ *During the Churnet Valley Railway's 'Scenic Railcar Gala' on 27th/28th September, Class 104 DMU, formed of vehicles Nos. M50455 and 50517, arrives at Consall with the 13.20 Leekbrook Junction to Oakamoor service, on the first weekend of public services to Oakamoor.* **Iain C. Scotchman**

▼ *Approximately half-a-mile south of Kingsley & Froghall station, the Class 116/118 hybrid DMU heads for Oakamore on 27th September.* **David Gibson**

▲ *An idyllic scene at Consall during the Churnet Valley Railway's 'Scenic Railcar Gala' as the Class 104 and Class 116/118 hybrid DMUs pass, heading for Leekbrook Junction and Oakamore respectively.*

▼ *While each train featured a DMU, not all were DMU-powered! Resident Class 37/0 No. 37075 provides the motve power Class 104 Sandite Car No. ADB977554 as the pair head towards Kingsley & Froghall.* **Both: David Gibson**

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.

29th September 2008
RCTS (Welwyn Garden City)
The Methodist Church, Cole Green Lane, Ludwick Green. 'Memories of Ipswich Loco and its men' by J. Humphrey. Meeting starts at 14.15.

1st October 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. '20 years of mainline steam', a slide show by Malcolm Ranieri. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537 for details. Starts 19.30.

2nd October 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley. 'Railways Across the Pond' by Ken Horan. Starts 19.30. Contact 0114 254 0275 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
IET Teacher's Building, St. Enoch Square, Glasgow. 'Airdrie to Bathgate and Edinburgh' Hugh Wark, Project Manager, Network Rail and Clair Keggie, rail Policy, Transport Scotland, Glasgow. Meeting commences 17.30.

Scottish Rly Preservation Society (Edinburgh Area)
Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh.
'The Northern Belle - Cruising in style with the LNER' by P (Sam) Woods. Meeting commences at 19.30 and a donation is requested from attendees. Contact Fred Landery, on 01698 457777 for further details.

3rd October 2008
Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Area)
Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'Nostalgia of Steam on 16mm Cine' by Chris Pratt. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start.

3rd-5th October 2008
Manchester Model Railway Society
New Century Hall, Corporation Street, Manchester. Open from 5pm-9pm (3rd October), 10am-6pm (4th October) and 10am-5pm (4th October) Adult £6, Pensioners £5, Junior (5-16) £3 and Family (2+2) £15. Advanced tickets available.
Discounts available on advance purchases. Exhibition guide available.

4th-12th October 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to Industrial Steam in Serbia. Further details are available on www.lcgb.org.com. Note: LCGB membership is compulsory due to insurance reasons.

7th October 2008
Locomotive & Carriage Institution
London Underground Ltd HQ, St. James Park Station, London. Presentation by Doug Lindsay on 'Pullman Coaches Pt 2'. Meeting commences at 18.00

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)
Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington. 'Rail/Wheel Interface Issues' by Mark Burstow, Network Rail. Meeting opens at 18.30 for an 19.00 start.

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)
The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh. 'The Upper Forth Crossing' by John Osborne, MVJV. Meeting commences 18.00.

Southern Electric Group (South Hampshire Branch)
Eastleigh Railway Institute in Romsey Road, Eastleigh. 'The tramways of Bournemouth and Poole' by Richard Pennell. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex)
The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Blackfriars, London.
'Reading Remodelling' by Nick Millington, Network Rail. Meeting commences 18.30.

Yeovil & District Rly Society
Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil. 'Castleman's Corkscrew: The First Railway in Dorset' by Brian Jackson. Starts 19.30. Contact Roger Marsh on 01935 814367 for details.

West Lancashire Light Railway
Narrow gauge gala weekend with all locomotives in steam, - see the website http://www.westlancs.org for further details.

8th October 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Kent & East Sussex Railway' by Graham Baldwin. Starts 20.00 Contact the secretary on 01256 326096 for further details.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group
RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes. 'Trainspotters' Memories' by Geoff Beacroft and David Cowell. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the group secretary on 01724 341358 for further details.

Swiss Railways Society (London Branch)
The Model Railway Club, Keen House, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9AT (near Kings Cross station) Show title to be confirmed. Presented by Martin Fisher. Meetings commence at 19.00, Refreshments available. A £2 donation is requested. Contact Ron Dawes (0208 660 3532) for further details.

9th October 2008
Continental Railway Circle
St.Paul's Church Centre, Rossmore Road, Marylebone, London NW1 6NJ. A talk on 'Germany - the changin scene' by Brian Garvin. Admission £2, Meeting starts at 19.15. Contact Adrian Palmer on 01932 850624 for details.

10th October 2008
Altrincham Electric Railway Preservation Society
The Gateway, Chester Road, Shrewsbury. 'Steam on shed' and illustrated presentation by Alan Ashurst. Admission £3 for non-members Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Colin Hatch on colin.hatch531@btinternet.com for further details.

Shropshire Railway Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. 'Moseley Collection 1937-1946 and Railways arond World War II by Robin Mathams Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for details.

11th October 2008
Bournemouth Railway Club
All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Bournmouth. 'Members' colour slides. Starts 14.30. Entrance £2 to all. Contact Martyn Tresh on 01202 742099 for further details.

Cornwall Railway Society
The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Steam in South West Wales 1958-2002' by Martin Davies. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact the club secretary Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 for further details.

13th October 2008
Lincoln Railway Society
St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln
'Steaming around in 2006/2007' by Alex Hurd. Meeting commences at 20.00. Please contact the secretary on 01522 705365 for details.

York Railway Society
Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York
' Sir Vincent Raven', last Chief Mechanical Engineer of the North Eastern Railway an illustrated talk by Andrew Everett. Meeting commences 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for details. Visitors £2 entrance fee.

14th October 2008
Abergavenny & District Steam Society
Upper Room at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street, Abergavenny. 'Men of the Mechanicals' (Lickey Incline Memories) by Neville Billington. Meeting commences at 20.00.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton Branch)
Croydon College, Room B110.
'The Gautrain Project - South Africa's New Railway' by Michael Grounsell and Mark Driscoll, Atkins Rail. Meeting opens at 17.30.

RCTS Humberside Branch
The Star Public House, Rochdale Road, Ashby, Scunthorpe.
'Railways of the Peak District' by Les Nixon. Meeting starts at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Lanarkshire Area)
Vestry Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell.
'Steam in Switzerland and Eastern Europe' by Alistair Maclean. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Fred Landery, 01698 457777.

14th-22nd October 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to participate in steam charters in Etriea. Further details are available on www.lcgb.org.com. Please note that LCGB membership is compulsory on oversea's trips due to insurance requirements.

15th October 2008
Permanent Way Institution (Glasgow)
Upstairs Lounge, The Iron Horse, West Nile Street, Glasgow.
'Destressing at RT60 S&C' by Mike McCormack, Network Rail, Bristol. Meeting commences 17.30.

▲ *Although Class 57/3s at Preston are not an unusual sight, a Thunderbird on the Caledonian Sleeper certainly is! Believed to be the first booked working for the class, brought about by the necessity to divert the train via Manchester due to engineering works, No. 57313 is picture after arriving with the northbound service on 29th September.* Fred Kerr

16th October 2008
Barrow Hill Engine Shed Society
Barrow Hill Roundhouse. Sheffield Victoria and the G.C. War Memorial. A presentation by Ken Grainger. A look back to the days of Sheffield Victoria in its heyday and the restoration and re-siting of the G.C. War Memorial.

RCTS (West Riding) Branch
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. 'Steam & Steel' by John Foreman. Meeting commences 19.30.

Locomotive Club of Great Britain (North West)
The Kirkfield Hotel, Church Street Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside. 'Robert Stephenson - the early years (including the Warrington and Newton Railway)' by Dr. Michael Bailey. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Marlow & District Railway Society
British Red Cross Society, Victoria Road, Marlow.
'The Severn Valley Railway' by Dave Baker. Starts 19.45 for 20.00 Non-members entry £2.

17th October 2008
Great Western Society (Taunton Group)
Stoke St. Mary Village Hall, near Taunton. 'India by Rail - a Family Evening' by Peter Tickner. Starts 19.30, Contact Peter Triggs on 01823 334188 for details.

20th October 2008
The Great Central Railway Society (Spinkhill branch)
The Angel Hotel, College Road, Spinkhill. 'William Stanier's Jubilees' by Mick Hayes. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01909 473927 for details.

21st October 2008
RCTS (Cheltenham Area)
Victory Club, Burlington House, Lypiatt Road, Cheltenham GL50 2SY. 'Rails to Infinity' by Terry Nichols. Starts 19.30.

22nd October 2008
Basingstoke & District Railway Society
Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Members photo competition'. Commences 20.00 Contact 01256 326096 for details.

23rd October 2008
Mid-Hants Railway Preservation Society (Thames Valley Group)
Church House, Church Street, Caversham, Reading. 'Mid-Hants Railway signalling' by Mike Ball. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Tayside Area)
Museum and Art Gallery, George Street, Perth. 'Memories of the 1948 Locomotive Exchanges, Perth - Aviemore' by Dr. Ann Glen. Meeting starts at 19.30. Contact Fred Landery, 01698 457777, for details.

24th October 2008
Shropshire Railway Society
Altrincham Methodist Church Hall, Barrington Road, Altrincham, Cheshire. 'A tp Z of Railways in 49 countries' by Les Nixon. Starts 19.30. Contact Andrew Macfarlane on 0161 928 9394 for details.

28th October 2008
RCTS (West Riding) Branch
Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. '30 years back' by John Holroyd. Commences 19.30.

30th October-16th November 2008
LCGB Overseas Tours
Tour to Broad and Narrow Gauge railways in Argentina. Further details on www.lcgb.org.com.

4th November 2008
Locomotive & Carriage Institution
London Underground Limited HQ, St. James Park Station, London. To be advised. Starts 18.00.

Yeovil & Disctrict Railway Society
Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil 'BR Rail: 1980's & 1990's' by Quentin Hawkes. Starts19.30. Contact Roger Marsh on 01935 814367 for details.

5th November 2008
Burton Railway Society
Marston's Social Club, Shobnall Road, Burton-upon-Trent. 'Railways in the Peak District' by Les Nixon. Contact Mark Ratcliffe on 01283 221537. Starts 19.30

Internet Links
Further contact details for the clubs and societies list in this column can be obtained from our website by clicking here.

Should your club or society event be listed here? If so then please e-mail the Editor with the appropriate details, which should include the name of the society or group, postal address of the location that the event is being held, starting or opening times, speaker and talk title or attractions and publishable contact details.

6th November 2008
Great Central Railway Society (Rotherham)
The Three Horseshoes, Bawtry Road, Wickersley.
'The GCR class 2 / LNER class D7 New Build Project' by Mike Fairburn. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the society secretary on 0114 254 0275 for further details.

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