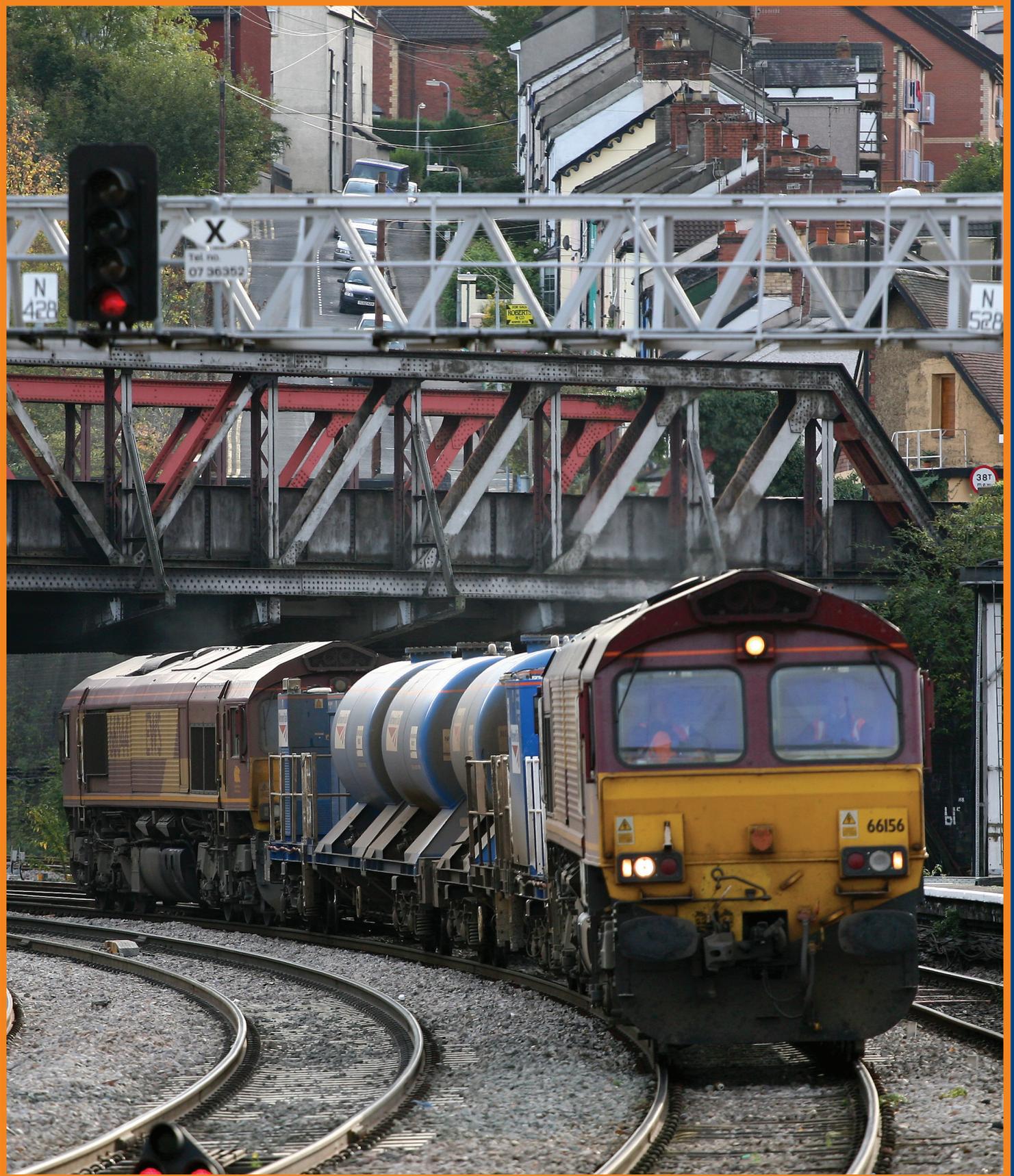


The Railway Herald



Regenerative braking tests bring Class 458s and Class 460 units to Weymouth **Page 3**

Underground and Metro News **Page 4**

What future for Leamside branch? Campaigners say reopen, but locals say abandon it **Page 5**

Electrification for Midland Mainline? **Page 6**

Railtour Listings **Page 8**
Preservation View **Page 16**
Events Diary **Page 18**

Front Cover

The Newport-based RHTT diagram works out from Newport and covers the Barry and Aberthaw branches plus the Valley line to Bargoed. On 17th October, the trip returns to East Usk, 'topped and tailed' by Class 66/0s Nos. 66156 and 66044. Brian Garrett

Rear Cover

Ex Somerset and Dorset '7F' 2-8-0 No. 53809 awaits the arrival of stock at Kingscote on the Bluebell Rail to form the 14.10 to Sheffield Park on 19th October. John Goss

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Submissions

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

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

Website

Our website contains all the back issues of the magazine. 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](#).

Merseyrail honours local DJ in Class 507 naming

Merseyside paid a fond tribute to local legend John Peel, the iconic longest-serving BBC Radio 1 DJ, on 22nd October when Merseytravel held a ceremony at Liverpool South Parkway to name one of its Class 507 EMU units after the DJ.

The ceremony was held two days before the anniversary of John's death on 25th October 2004 at the age of 65, and also marked the publication of his collected writings, which have been assembled by the family and edited by his wife Sheila Ravenscroft.

The station ceremony began with introductions by Cllr Mark Dowd, Chair of Merseytravel, and Cllr Chris Blakely, Chair of Merseytravel's Rail Services Committee, who noted that the DJ had been born John Robert Parker Ravenscroft in Heswall on the Wirral on 30th August 1939. Despite this he had always considered himself a Liverpoolian and throughout his varied career, including serving on Radio 1 from 1967 until his death in 2004, had always championed Liverpool and its extensive musical culture.

After these introductions, there was a musical tribute from Ian Prorowse, a member of local group Amsterdam, who played 'Does This Train Stop On Merseyside?', one of the late DJ's favourite songs.

Sheila Ravenscroft was then invited to unveil the nameplate but was subsequently surprised to be told that the plate was, in fact, the one to be retained by the family as the nameplate had already been inscribed on unit No. 507020 in the usual Merseyside style as approved by Angel Trains and

would be arriving at the platform on a Hunts Cross – Southport service for the family to join.

The party and invited guests then made their way to the platform to join the newly-named unit. An extended station stop and special introduction from the guard on behalf of Merseyrail took place before the unit continued its journey to Southport, while Sheila Ravenscroft, her family and invited guests detrained at Liverpool Central to continue the celebrations of John's life.

▼ **Sheila Ravenscroft takes time at Liverpool South Parkway to pose the family's presentation nameplate with the stencilled name now borne by No. 507020 in commemoration of the local DJ who was known for his support of Liverpool and its musical culture. Fred Kerr**



▼ **First GBRf Class 73/2s Nos. 73208 Kirsten and 73206 Lisa haul stoneblower No. DR80207 between Bromley South and Shortlands on 27th October, on an Ashford to Alton working. Brian Morrison**



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Regenerative braking tests bring Class 458s and Class 460 EMUs to Weymouth!

▲ As part of the regenerative braking test programme with 4JOP Class 458 units, Gatwick Express EMU Class 460 No. (4600)01 visited Weymouth overnight on 24th/25th October. The other units involved in the tests were Class 458 No. (45)8027 while classmate No. (45)8029 is also in the area, being used as a rescue unit in case of a failure of the main EMU Test set. No. (4600)01 is pictured at Weymouth, just after its arrival on 24th October. Alan Costello

Second stage of public consultation begins on Airtrack project to link Heathrow Airport with Reading, Staines and London Waterloo

Heathrow Airport owner BAA has begun a second stage of public consultation on Airtrack, the project to improve overground rail connections to the airport.

The latest Airtrack consultation, which runs from 20th October to 15th December, will update residents on how plans for the scheme in the Staines area have been modified in recent months and will give the local community a chance to have their say on the entire Heathrow Airtrack project, which now includes a proposed new depot at Feltham. If the necessary Transport and Works Act is approved by the Government, Heathrow Airtrack will allow trains to run in each direction from Heathrow Terminal 5 to London Waterloo, Guildford and Reading stations. These trains would be in addition to the services currently operating on these lines. At the same

time, some "Heathrow Express" services will be extended through Heathrow Terminal 5 to Staines.

In spring 2008 residents in the Staines area were consulted to find out their views on Heathrow Airtrack. Landowners, businesses, local authorities and local MPs along the route as well as environmental organisations and transport bodies were also consulted. This second stage of the consultation will focus on options for the bridleway across Staines Moor and Stanwell Moor, the effects of construction and operation of the rail link on local communities and the environment, and the works required on the existing railway and the new depot at Feltham. Local community feedback on the proposals will enable BAA to make any necessary changes to the scheme before a Transport and Works Act application is made to the Secretary of State for Transport early next year.

If Heathrow Airtrack goes ahead, approximately 72% of the airport's current passengers would be living in areas that are within one rail interchange of the airport. It is estimated that there will be a reduction in today's public transport journey times of up to 10 minutes, as Airtrack services will reduce the number of station interchanges or changes between rail and road travel that are necessary today. In some cases journey times will be greatly reduced - for example the journey from Wokingham to Heathrow Airport will be reduced from 1 hour 25 minutes to 35 minutes.

BAA says up to 10 million passengers a year could use Heathrow Airtrack services, with about a quarter of these travelling to or from Heathrow Airport. The government is expected to announce within weeks whether or not BAA will be allowed to build a third runway and a sixth terminal at Heathrow.

❖ Scotland's Transport Minister has given the go-ahead for an extra station at Blackridge on the Airdrie-Bathgate rail link, which is currently under construction. New stations at Armadale and Caldercruix have already secured funding as part of the Airdrie-Bathgate project, but plans for the third new station on the route have been developed outside the core railway upgrade with the support of West Lothian Council and housing developer Manorlane. Plans for another station on the line at Plains have been dropped because of concerns that it would increase journey times and undermine the business case for the entire project.

❖ The delay in opening the new Corby station has been met with anger both by people in the town and other train users. East Midlands Trains (EMT) has admitted that train services to London will not now run from the town until the end of January or beginning of February next year as the company does not yet have enough trains. Services were due to start on 14th December. Talks are going on between the Corby MP Phil Hope and the new Trains Minister, Lord Adonis.

❖ Improvements costing £8.5 million that will speed up journey times and reduce train congestion at Bradford Interchange are being carried out during the October half term week; the work involving track, station buffers and signals. Network Rail commented that: "The massive amount of work we are carrying out at Bradford is to get rid of an historic bottle neck. It will speed up journey times between Leeds and Bradford by up to a minute and a half and will also mean that we can bring trains from Halifax into Platform 1 at the same time as a service from Leeds comes into Platforms 2 or 4." No services operate from Bradford Interchange from 23.00 on 24th October to 05.00 on 3rd November. Bus replacement services will operate during this time.

❖ Construction work has begun on a £24 million contract to refurbish the roof at London Victoria Station, the project involving the renovation of the Grade-II listed barrel roof over eight platforms. The contractors will replace the existing roof coverings, paint the arched roof trusses and repair the steelwork at the Victorian station as part of Network Rail's wider £32 million renovation. The works are expected to be complete by mid-2010. The station, which was built 146 years ago and now sees some 350,000 people pass through every day, will remain open throughout the renovation.



▲ On 18th October, track replacement work takes place on LULs District Line at Dagenham East, with First GBRf/ Metronet Class 66/7 No. 66719 Metro-Land awaiting its next move with a trainload of spoil. **Kim Rennie**

DLR Dagenham extension delayed

London Mayor Boris Johnson has delayed a public inquiry into the £497 million Docklands Light Railway (DLR) extension to Dagenham.

The extension would provide new transport links for residents of Beckton, Barking Riverside and Dagenham Dock, and Barking and Dagenham Council say that the move has jeopardised 9,500 new homes being built. Backed by the previous London Mayor,

Ken Livingstone, £5 million has already been spent on development of the extension as part of the Barking Riverside project to regenerate the area and create thousands of jobs, but the extension cannot go ahead until the public inquiry takes place, and that has been postponed by Mr Johnson, "until the Government clarifies whether it will be able to provide the necessary financial support".

Could it be the end of the line for Oyster?

Transport for London (TfL) is examining options for replacing the current Oyster smartcard with new ticketing systems operated through mobile phones or bank card.

At a meeting of the London

Assembly's Budget and Performance Committee, TfL representatives said they were looking at various technologies and providers to take over from Oyster in 2010.

TfL announced in August

that it was terminating early its current contract with TranSys for managing and maintaining London's automated fare collection set-up, including the Oyster card system, which has experienced problems in recent months

Study looks at the future of rail services to Peterhead

A study looking at the future expansion of Peterhead has recommended that the former Formartine and Buchan Railway route in Scotland should be protected from development as it could be reopened in the future.

The Cruden Bay line could also be safeguarded under recommendations put forward in a study looking at the development of Peterhead over the next two to three decades.

A Peterhead Capacity Study has proposed 4,500 new homes, five extra schools and a hospital in the town over the period and an area between the A950 Peterhead-Longside road and the A90 Peterhead-Fraserburgh route has been chosen as the direction for expansion.

On future transport arrangements in Peterhead, the report states: "In the medium to long term, rail is unlikely to be achievable. However, to avoid adversely affecting the potential for the future, the historical Formartine and Buchan Way and Cruden Bay routes should be preserved as transport corridors".

The Formartine and Buchan Railway line opened in 1861 and ran from Dyce to Fraserburgh. A line running from Maud Junction served Peterhead. The route was closed in 1979 and the former goods yard and passenger station at Peterhead is now occupied by Peterhead Academy.

▼ London Overground Class 378 No. 378001 is seen stabled in c2c's East Ham depot on 18th October. **Kim Rennie**



Merseyrail heads to Doncaster



▲ Class 67 No. 67011 passes Winwick Junction, working the 12.53 Birkenhead North EMU Depot to Doncaster Wabtec Works, conveying Merseyrail Electric Class 507 No. 507007. Ian Tunstall

New signalling solution for Three Bridges commissioned

Signalling Solutions, a 50-50 joint venture company formed by Alstom Transport Information Solutions and Balfour Beatty Rail Projects, commissioned Alstom's Smartlock 400T interlocking system at Three Bridges Area Signalling Centre on 18th October, controlling the Horsham area of main line railway between London and the south coast.

The new system replaces three existing Alstom Solid State Interlockings (SSI) with a single, high capacity central interlocking, new support system and trackside interface communications cubicle. Smartlock 400T is capable of controlling an area equivalent to eight SSIs, utilising a new concept of 'virtual' interlockings within the processor, significantly reducing the

time taken to set routes across interlocking boundaries.

The interlocking interfaces with a UK-specific support system, which provides an enhanced real-time view of operations at the site, along with an enhanced technician's diagnostic function.

In the run up to the commissioning, Signalling Solutions trained 30 of Network Rail's staff on Smartlock 400T and support systems, allowing them to identify and carry out any maintenance tasks. The pilot scheme will run for six months at Horsham, confirming conditional approval of the system with Network Rail. Signalling Solutions will be offering SML 400T systems for future projects and applications in the UK and Ireland.

Campaigners want Leamside reopened, but locals say abandon it

The disused 21-mile Leamside line that campaigners want to see reopened is said to be proving a nightmare for people living close to it, some 90% claiming that it should be abandoned and the land put to other use.

Apparently, the route is regularly targeted by vandals who set fire to the sleepers and thieves who take the metal for its scrap value. It is

also becoming a dumping ground. Network Rail says the line is not going to be pulled up and advised anybody concerned about trouble to contact the police.

Campaigners have called for the line to be reopened for freight and passenger travel around Wearside, although the estimated cost of more than £65 million could prove prohibitive. The Leamside

Virgin Trains slash prices of Advance tickets from December

Virgin Trains has announced that it is to slash the price of leisure travel from mid-December by as much as 50%.

The cheapest Advance fare from Birmingham to London will be cut from £10.50 to just £5 providing it is booked in advance. The company currently offers on average 25,000 Advance tickets across its network on weekdays. Purchase of these tickets has risen by 26% over the last year for Standard travel with a 19% increase for First Class travel. More Advance tickets have also been made available this summer.

Other fares will also be reduced on other routes with Advance tickets from Liverpool to London starting from £8 (currently £13); Manchester to London from £8 (currently £13); Carlisle to London from £11.50 (currently

£17.50); Lancaster to London from £10.50 (currently £16.50) and Glasgow-London from £12 (currently £18.50).

Advance tickets can be booked at www.virgintrains.com by calling Telesales on 0845 222 333 or at manned rail stations. From the end of this month tickets@home will be offered as an option for all Advance tickets for travel on the London-Manchester route, providing fast track access at stations without the need to queue at ticket offices to buy a ticket.

From December, travel on the West Coast Main Line should, in theory, become more convenient for passengers with the launch of the Virgin High Frequency (VHF) timetable, providing fast and more frequent services.

line was included in a 209-page document outlining future plans to meet growth on the East Coast Main, which stated that: "The reinstatement of the former Leamside Line would require major capital expenditure, and it is very unlikely that this could be justified with network flexibility benefits alone."

However, the report

recommended a study into the Ferryhill to Newcastle route, which would establish the level of benefits that could contribute to Leamside reinstatement costs. If anything comes of the plans, stations could open in Washington North, Washington South, Peshaw, Fence Houses and Gateshead East, on a route carrying up to 2,000 passengers a day.

Electrification on the cards for Midland Mainline?

In response to the Leicester South MP, Peter Soulsby, the new Transport Secretary, Geoff Hoon, has said he is enthusiastic about the prospect of electrifying the Midland main line.

Mr Hoon said: "I take a close and deep personal interest in the Midland main line as a regular user of that line and I certainly share my predecessor's enthusiasm for electrification. It is something that the Department will be looking at very closely."

Mr Hoon also faced questions from Shadow Transport Secretary, Theresa Villiers MP, who said congestion on the Midland main line and the rest of the network meant it was "wholly inadequate and painfully slow".

Mr Hoon replied that the Government was investing £15 billion in the railways, £10 billion of which would go towards reducing congestion.



▲ On the delivery run from Barrow Hill to Carlisle Kingmoor, Class 37/5 No. 37682 hauls DRS' other recent acquisition Class 47/4 No. 47841 through Carlisle on 24th October. Malcolm Brown

Protection granted for Salisbury facade extension

Salisbury station, with its stylish, elegant facade, complete with classical flourishes, was designed by railway architect Sir William Tite, who it is reported would be appalled by the increasingly tatty setting and general state of shabbiness of the once distinguished station.

There was concern that future alterations could seriously compromise the architectural heritage and integrity of the station, which has a 1902 Queen Anne revival style extension.

Now, however, the frontage of the Victorian-built structure has been designated a Grade II listed building following the intervention of the Salisbury Civic Society.

The status means any alterations to the building or plans to build others near it would have to pass rigorous procedures. Isambard Kingdom Brunel's original 1856 terminus is already a Grade II listed building, but Tite's esteemed larger structure, added a few years later, has not had such protection until now.

Passenger and signalling improvements at Montrose

Almost £300,000 is being spent to improve passenger services at Montrose station.

A CCTV system has been installed along with a ticket vending machine, shelters and a customer information system, and in the coming months a courtesy counter that can be lowered for wheelchair users will be installed, and the toilets will be refurbished. A faster Aberdeen-Edinburgh service, calling at Montrose, will be introduced with the start of the winter timetable in December.

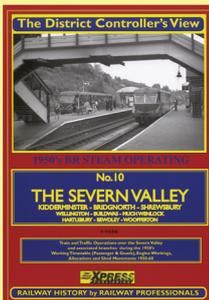
In addition, Network Rail

is nearing completion of a £3.5 million maintenance and improvement programme at Montrose, involving five new sets of railway switches and crossings north and south of the station, aimed at speeding up trains through the town. It has confirmed that the changes to the signalling system will allow northbound trains to switch tracks and stop on the town side of the station, enabling disabled passengers to board or disembark without having to cross the footbridge or traverse the line via an old boardwalk.

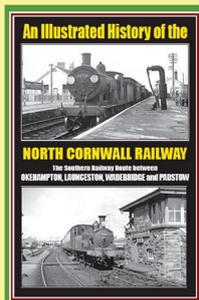
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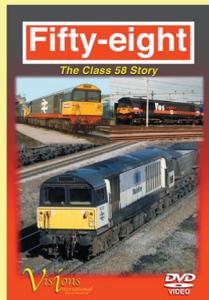
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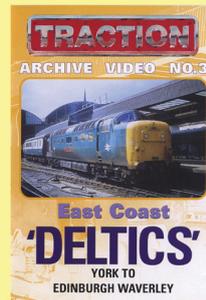
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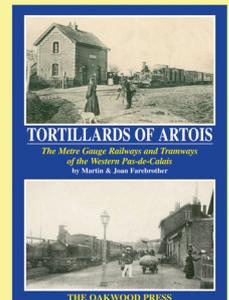
from Visions International



from Cine Rail



from Oakwood Press





▲ Speculation regarding the distribution of off-lease Class 180 units was heightened in October when Northern Rail took delivery of two units, Nos. 180103 and 180107 as previously reported. On 27th October, No. 180103 passes Leyland on a Newton Heath - Blackpool North working, part of a driver-training operation at Blackpool in preparation for the introduction to passenger service. The set is due to work a diagram of three return trips a day between Blackpool North Carriage Sidings and Wigan North Western between 28th-31st October. **Fred Kerr**

Changes for East Midlands with December timetable change

East Midlands Trains new December timetable introduces a number of changes, offering some of the biggest improvements since 1999, with more trains on key routes, faster journey times, better connections and a more regular service across the whole network.

Highlights of the service improvements are:

- Faster journey times to London with current timings being cut by between 10 and 15 minutes.
- More available seats to London. By better use of its fleet, the company will be able to offer more seats to London where they are most needed. Nottingham, Market Harborough, Kettering and Wellingborough will all see a rise in the number of seats provided by between 700 and 2,000 every weekday.
- Sunday services on the Robin Hood Line for the first time since the 1960s, offering a direct link between Mansfield, Nottingham and Worksop. This is a result of a partnership with local authorities, including Nottinghamshire County Council, who have long campaigned for this new service.
- New services linking Derby and Nottingham with Matlock and the Peak District, doubling the number run between Derby and Matlock, improving the service to hourly and also providing more trains between Nottingham and Derby.

In addition all services will run through to Nottingham.

- Later trains will be provided on routes from London, Nottingham and Leicester.
- The first direct service from Lincoln to London will provide a direct train on weekdays and Saturdays. It will leave Lincoln at 07.08, arriving into the capital at 10.00, and return at 18.30, arriving

back into Lincoln at 21.24. This service will also call at Collingham and Newark.

Commenting, Tim Shoveller, Managing Director of East Midlands Trains said: "In addition to the very visible changes we are making such as £90 million of investment in refurbished fleet, depots and stations, 14th December sees a completely new,

vastly improved timetable for our network. The number of passenger journeys by train has risen by over 75% since the last major timetable changes in the late 1990s. We believe December will see a better service for the majority of people who travel with East Midlands Trains, offering more choice, more seats and bringing even more passengers to rail".

▼ As previously reported, East Midlands Trains' Class 222 No. 222013 visited Ely, Norwich and Lincoln on 11th October. The class will be introduced on to EMT's new Lincoln to London service from the December timetable change. **East Midlands Trains**



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.

| | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| Royal Scotsman | 2xWCRC 47 | 28th October Classic Tour - (Day 5) Dundee- North Queensferry-Edinburgh |
| Vintage Trains | 4965 & 5043 | 8th November Solihull-Dorridge-Banbury- Gloucester (break/rev) & return |
| Spitfire Railtours | 40145 | 15th November The Capital Whistler Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria-Huddersfield-Leeds-Doncaster- London KX and return |
| Compass Tours | 2xRiviera 47 | 22th November Llandudno Jct-Colwyn Bay-Rhyl-Flint-Chester-Helsby-Frodsham-Preston-Shap-Carlisle-Carstairs-Edinburgh (break/rev) & return |
| Past Time rail | 45407/76079 | The Cotton Mill Express Manchester Victoria Stalybridge-Huddersfield-Hebden Bridge-Copy Pit-Blackburn (break)-Darwen-Bolton-Manchester Victoria |
| Vintage Trains | 4965 | Rood Ashton Hall Farewell Tyseley Warwick Road-Walsall-Wolverhampton-Stafford- Crewe Chester & return |
| Past Time Rail | tbc | 23rd November Manchester Victoria- Bolton-Entwhistle-Blackburn-Clitheroe-Hellifield-Wennington-Carnforth-Lancaster-Preston-Bolton-Manchester Victoria |
| UK Railtours | 2x EWS 67 | 27th November London Kings Cross-Potters Bar-Stevenage- Leicester-Nuneaton-Bromsgrove-Worcester Shrub Hill (break/rev) & 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 |
|-----------|----------|--------|---|-----------|
| 28-29 Oct | NYMR | Whitby | Pickering-Whitby and return (three trips) | NYMR Pool |
| 1-2 Nov | 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.

The Week Ahead

Only two railtours are in prospect for this week, with a Past Time 'Cumbrian Mountain Express' being the only booked tour to operate on 1st November.

Setting out diesel-hauled from Peterborough, the train is scheduled to pick up at Grantham, Newark North Gate, Retford and Doncaster, before proceeding via the Aire Valley to join the Settle & Carlisle route through to Carlisle. A4 class Pacific No. 60007 *Sir Nigel Gresley* is the booked motive power from the Doncaster area through to Carlisle, and then after a break, as far as Carnforth, via Shap, on the return.

The VSOE British Pullman operates on 31st October between London Victoria and Whitstable with Merchant Navy Pacific No. 35028 *Clan Line*.

Tour listing notes

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

Useful Weblinks

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

▼ SR Merchant Navy Pacific No 35028 *Clan Line* approaches Clapham Junction with a VSOE excursion to Southampton Eastern Docks on 25th October. On the rear of the train was EWS Class 67 No. 67025 *Western Star*. **Graham Lightfoot**





▲ On 25th October, the 'Northern Belle' ECS approaches Highworth Junction from Oxford en route to Swindon Cockleberry Sidings for stabling, powered by Class 67 No. 67017 Arrow. **Ken Mumford**

▼ Now complete with red smokebox numberplate, Ian Riley's 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407 powers through the rain on the outskirts of Blackburn on 25th October with Past Time Rail's 'Cotton Mill Express'. **Mark Ainsworth**

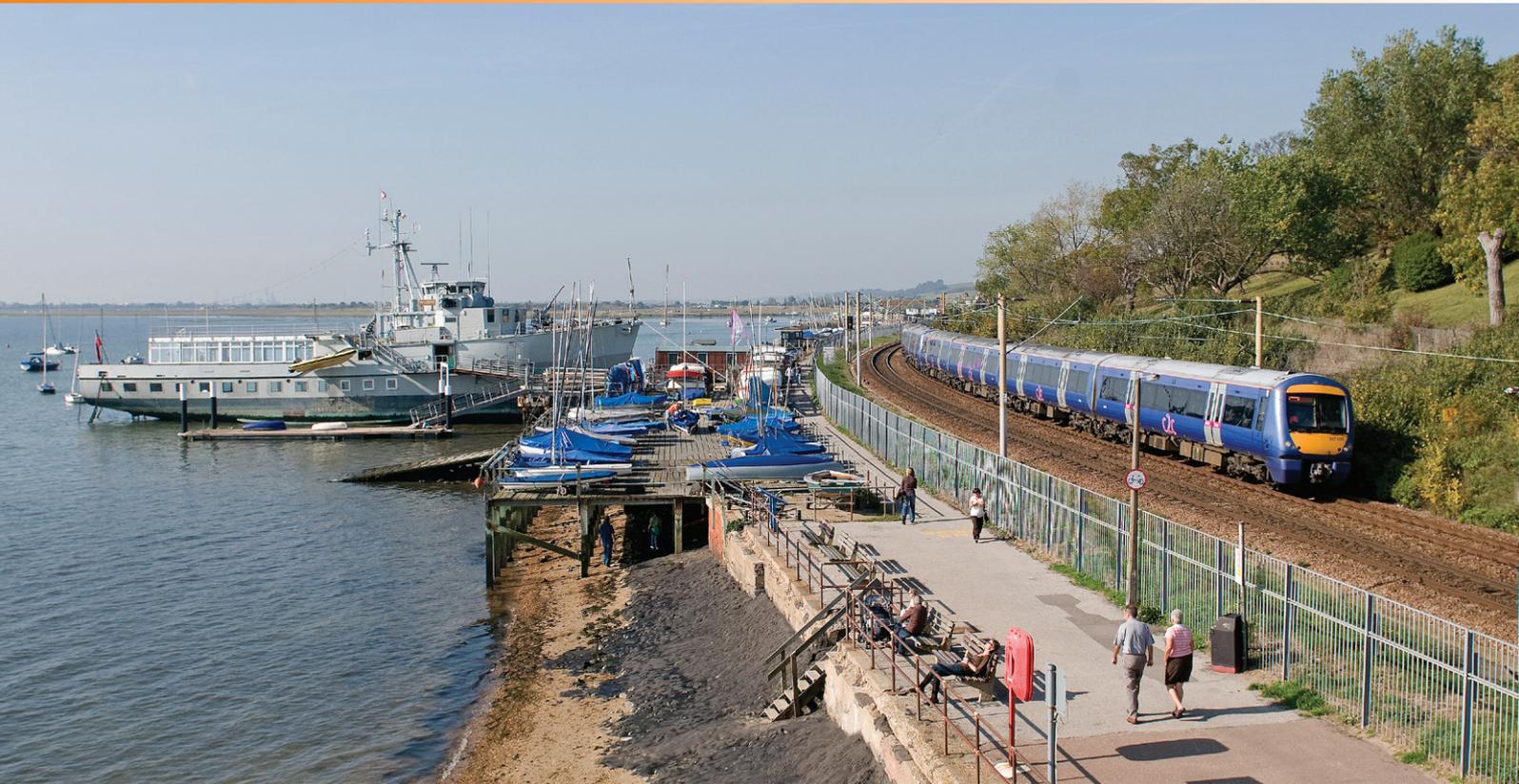
❖ Engineering work is cited as the cause of Past Time Rail losing its 30th November 'Pendle Witch' that was a circular working from Manchester Victoria, running via Bolton, Blackburn, Hellifield and the 'Little North Western' to Carnforth, and returning to Manchester Victoria, via Preston. However, Network Rail has come up with an effective substitute enabling Past Time to operate from Manchester to Buxton with 'Black 5' 4-6-0 No. 45407.

❖ Hot on the heels of Steam Dreams 'Coronation 2,' scheduled for 16th-18th May next year (see issue 152) comes the news that Nigel Dobbie at Railway Touring Company is looking to operate 'The Great Britain II' between 6th-13th April 2009. The outline itinerary is similar to the tour of 2007, except that the Far North is omitted. Confirmed routing and traction is to follow.

❖ Vintage Trains hopes to get its new 'Castle' 4-6-0 No. 5043 *Earl of Mount Edgcumbe* back into action soon. The locomotive's formal 'recommissioning' train on 25th October was postponed following the discovery of a hot-box on its first 'Shakespeare' working on 19th October. The plan is to change the specification for the planned 8th November working from Solihull to Gloucester, via Swindon, which was due to feature both No. 5043 and No. 4965 *Road Ashton Hall*, so that the pair now follow the route of the proposed 'recommissioning train' from Birmingham Snow Hill to Didcot and back.



Weekly Pictorial



c2c : The sunshine route!

▲ Class 357/0 Electrostar No. 357005 leads a classmate past Leigh Bay and approaches Chalkwell on a warm and sunny day in mid-October, leading the 11.30 c2c service from Fenchurch Street to Shoeburyness.

▼ The c2c 'green train', Class 357/0 Electrostar No. 357010, departs from Shoeburyness, forming the rear unit of the 11.05 service to Fenchurch Street, led by No 357016. Both: **Brian Morrison**





Rail Head Treatment Train Type 3s

▲ DRS Class 37/0s Nos. 37261 and 37087 Keighley & Worth Valley Railway 40th Anniversary, in 'top and tail' formation, head for Lowestoft, north of Saxmundham, on the East Suffolk Line with an Ipswich to Lowestoft RHTT service on 24th October. [Brian Morrison](#)

▼ One of the more difficult RHTT trains to photograph is the nocturnal DRS-operated Carlisle Kingmoor- Settle & Carlisle-Blackburn-Preston-Barrow-Windermere-Carlisle-Preston-Blackburn-Hellifield-Skipton-Carlisle Kingmoor service which covers over 550 miles per night. Here, Class 37/6s Nos. 37612 and 37611 are seen ready to depart Skipton for Carlisle, running some two hours early. [Ian Tunstall](#)





The heritage RHTT operation

▲ Two of the Chiltern Railways Class 960 'Bubblecar' DMUs Nos. 960010 and 960014, previously Class 121 Nos. 55024 and 55022, head away from Amersham as part of the Chiltern Railway RHTT programme on 25th October. **Colin Cooke**

▼ The 11.13 Rail Head Treatment Train from West Ruislip to Aylesbury climbs Saunderton Bank on 23rd October, formed of ex-Class 117 Pressed Steel DMU set No 960301. **Brian Morrison**





Alternative traction for the RHTTs

▲ Not all of the National Network RHTT workings are loco-hauled, a number employing the German-built Windhoff MPV vehicles. Here, Nos. DB98912 and DB98962 are stabled in the long siding at Worcester Shrub Hill, prior to working an RHTT service to Ledbury. **David Pagett**

▼ It is not just the National Rail network that has a need to operate Sandite trains - RHTTs being a combination of water-jetting and sandite application - London Underground also has a dedicated vehicle for such workings. Here, the 1962 Tube stock used for Central Line east end 'Sandite' train rail-adhesion duties during leaf-fall season works through Theydon Bois on 23rd October. **Kim Rennie**





Brush Type 5s

▲ EWS Class 60 No. 60035 heads across the Fens at Manea with an eastbound LaFarge stone working on 24th October. **Paul Townsend**

▼ Celebrity Class 60 No. 60007, still carrying its LoadHaul colours and half of a yellow 'EWS beasts' transfer passes Rounton on the Saturdays-only 'as required' Redcar-Rylstone stone working on 18th October. **Mick Atkin**



Full steam ahead for Welsh Highland opening

The Welsh Highland Railway (C) timetable proposed for 2009 will build up throughout the season, reflecting the need to consolidate the new railway and the time required to train the many staff involved.

The WHR line will be complete and approved for passenger operation by Easter. The first trains over the whole line for supporters, sponsors, staff and volunteers will run during the weekend of 16th/17th May. Some public trains will run from Caernarfon to Beddgelert between Easter and May and, after the opening weekend, special workings for charters will also run the full length of the line. In early July, a full daily service will begin to operate and will continue until the end of the season. A formal celebration of the opening is expected at a later date. Details of special opening trains are being worked on at present and will be added to the timetable in due course.

The Ffestiniog Railway timetable will remain very similar to the present one but will utilise two sets of

coaching stock for a much greater part of the year and can also be enhanced by the use of the Vintage train at peak times.

The train sets for the WHR will be designated E and F, and will be based at Dinas, supported by a modified FR B set, or vintage sets, working from Porthmadog. Planned locomotive allocations are for all WHR locos to remain at Dinas until May, when K1 will move to Boston Lodge to work the steam-hauled services from Porthmadog.

No.87 will join the operational fleet as soon as practicably possible, and No.138 will displace No.143 later in the year. Castell Caernarfon will receive a new diesel engine during the course of the winter.

On the Festiniog, Earl of Merioneth is currently undergoing a full overhaul and David Lloyd-George will be overhauled once Earl of Merioneth is complete. In total, the railway expects to run some 56,000 passenger train miles in 2009 compared with 54,000 in 2008 (FR & WHR combined).

Special event at Apedale as Moseley Railway Trust commemorates the First World War

November this year marks the 90th anniversary of the end of the 1914-1918 First World War.

This will probably be the last major anniversary where that conflict remains within living memory. To mark this, the Moseley Railway Trust will be holding a special event at its base at Apedale on Remembrance Sunday, 9th

November to commemorate not only the end of the Great War, but also the part narrow gauge railways have played with the British Military for more than 90 years. The event will see the return to the collection of the 'Tin Turtle', a protected (armoured) Motor Rail locomotive built in 191 that was featured in the Channel 4

'Salvage Squad' series in 2003.

The event will be open from 10.30 to 17.00, with the two-minute silence observed at 11.00. It is planned to operate a number of demonstration goods and military trains during the day.

Full directions and further information can be found on the web at www.mrt.org.uk

■ A replica one-ton Glyn Valley Tramway (GVT) slate wagon built by the GVT Group's members in Essex has been delivered to Wales. More than 1,000 hours were spent building the wagon, the first vehicle for the group.

■ The Welsh Highland Railway (C) has secured 17 extremely rare single line token instruments from Iarnród Éireann, the state-owned railway network of the Irish Republic. The essential equipment, which will be installed ready for the grand opening in 2009, was ceremonially handed over at the Harbour station in Porthmadog on 1st September.

■ Reconstruction work on the end of the world's longest pier, which was badly damaged in a major fire in October 2004, will include a new south station for the 3ft gauge Southend Pier Railway, which is due to be completed next April.

■ Kew Steam Railway Museum has confirmed that the boiler work for Wren, a replica Kerr Stuart 0-4-0ST, will be undertaken by Hunslet Engine Company at Statfold Farm. The chassis will be moved to Statfold to be fitted to the boiler.

■ The Ffestiniog Railway is expected to cut several jobs from its full time staff of 65 after a difficult summer. Nine positions are under threat with a cutback of hours for another three. In mid-Wales, the Talylyn Railway is also seeking redundancies among its full-time staff following a 12% drop in passenger traffic numbers compared with last year.

■ The Leighton Buzzard Railway recently played host to Sheila Edwards and Alan Rosser, a couple from Wimbledon, who were taking part in the BBC TV series 'Escape to the Country'. They are looking to move out to the area, and were filmed visiting the railway, as one of the unique features of the town. The programme is expected to be broadcast in late November.

■ The Ravenglass and Eskdale Railway will be hosting this year's Narrow Gauge Staffs' Gathering on 7th-9th November. The guest of honour will be the recently overhauled Bassett-Lowke 4-4-2 *Count Louis*, for long a favourite at Fairbourne. It will be running double-headed with the Ratty's own Bassett-Lowke Atlantic *Synolda*.

■ The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway's end of September steam weekend went well. The railway achieved its target of carrying over 1,000 passengers over the two days. The Sunday saw 687 return journeys between the two stations.

▼ SRAGI No. 1 and Statfold simmer on shed at the Statfold Barn Railway Friends Event on 18th October. Graham Lightfoot



Driver Experience packages available on Oliver Cromwell

The Great Central Railway (GCR) is offering a limited number of 'Drive A Train Experience' slots with Britannia Pacific No. 70013 *Oliver Cromwell* in December and January 2009.

The locomotive is available on 'Express Silver' (drive two return trips with stock) and 'Express Gold' packages (drive up to four return trips including stock), costing £650 and £1,950 respectively. The ticket will include GCR vouchers to spend at the railway and also complimentary tickets to visit again. If anyone wants to have a friend with them, there is a special 'Shared Silver' package (drive two round trips each) at a cost of £1,150. For available slots email ses@gcrailway.co.uk or telephone 01509 632328.

Anyone going to the GCR TA remembrance / Royal renaming of *Oliver Cromwell* on 8th November needs to confirm now with the TA directly. Call Alison Cobb at 49 (East) Brigade on 01159572845 by 7th November.

NYMR offers five-day driver experience course

The North Yorkshire Moors Railway has added an extra five-day driver experience course to its programme for this year.

The late-notice addition, which commences on 3rd November and features unspecified traction consists of five-days on the railway and includes classroom tuition, light engine loco handling training and two return trips between Grosmont and Pickering on day four with empty coaching stock, concluding on day five with a further two round trips over the entire 18-mile railway with a fitted freight train. The cost of the course, which is limited to four people is £1,185. Any readers interested, should contact the NYMR main offices on 01751 473799 for further details.

Anything goes gala

The Avon Valley Railway's end of season gala on 2nd November will have an 'anything goes' theme.

In action will be two industrial steam locomotives, Nos. 4015 *Karel* and 7151, together with four diesel locomotives, Class 07 No. D2994, Class 73/1 No. 73101 *The Royal Alex*, a Ruston Hornsby 0-6-0DH and Barclay 0-4-0DM. The line's DMU set will also be working its first services.



▲ North British-built 'Jinty' No. 47324 pilots L&Y 0-6-0No. 1300 past Burrs Country Park on 26th October, with the 14.00 service to Heywood during the East Lancashire Railway's Autumn Steam Gala. **Jonathan Stevenson**



▲ The East Lancs Railway held another of its popular diesel events on 18th/19th October. Here, Class 20 No. 20087 arrives at Ramsbottom, passing over the manually-operated level crossing on 19th October. **Mark Ainsworth**

▼ On 21st October, GWR 6400 Class 0-6-0PT No. 6430 departs from Carrog station with the 11.45 service to Llangollen, sandwiched between two auto-trailers. **Chris Horton**





Tyseley Night Photo Shoot

▲ One of the star attractions at a night photo-shoot at the Birmingham Railway Museum, Tyseley, was recently-restored 'Castle' No. 5043 Earl of Mount Edgcumbe, complete with 'Shakespeare Express' headboard.

▼ Visiting following the Severn Valley Railway gala was GWR 'Dukedog' 4-4-0 No. 9017 Earl of Berkeley. Both: Jack Boskett



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.

27th October 2008

Permanent Way Institution (Ashford)

The Elwick Club, Church Road, Ashford (10mins from Ashford Station) 'Surveying and Tamping on the Isle of Wight Steam Railway' by Dave Walker and Dennis Rapley. Starts 18.30. Contact the society secretary Ted Hamer on e-mail Teditorial@aol.com or 01227 711897 for details.

28th October 2008

RCTS (West Riding) Branch

Saltaire Methodist Chapel, Saltaire Road, Shipley. '30 years back' by John Holroyd. Meeting commences at 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.

30th October 2008

LCGB (Croydon Branch)

United Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove, East Croydon. 'A Personal Selection' by Dave Soggee.

31st October 2008

Stephenson Locomotive Society

The Mining Institute Lecture Theatre, Neville Hall, Westgate Road, Newcastle upon Tyne. Members' Evening. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact the local secretary on 01434 6888946 for details.

1st November 2008

Stephenson Locomotive Society

The Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester. 'Over the High Alps - the Rhaetian Railway's World Heritage Line' by Dr Michael Bailey. Meeting commences at 14.00. Contact the local secretary on 0161 928 2461 for further details.

3rd November 2008

RCTS (East Croydon)

Small Hall, Croydon Reformed Church Hall, Addiscombe Grove. 'Brunel's Timber Trestle Bridges' by Brian Lewis. Meeting commences at 19.30.

RCTS (Port Sunlight)

The Lever Club, Greendale Road. 'The Railways of Saltney' by Geoff Pickard. Meeting commences at 19.45.

4th November 2008

Gravesend Railway Enthusiasts Society

Emmanuel Baptist Church, Windmill Street, Gravesend DA12 1BB
Quiz Night by Brian Heyes, Terrier Trust. Meeting commences at 19.45. Contact Roger Hart on 01474 833320 or by e-mail www.gres.org.uk for further details.

Locomotive & Carriage Institution

London Underground Limited HQ, St. James Park Station, London. 'British Railways Board Residuary' by Gregory Beecroft, Director. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Stuart Smith, by Secretary email smithstuart@btinternet.com for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (Croydon & Brighton)

Matt MacDonald House, Sydenham Road, Croydon CR0 2EE
'East London Line Extension' by Mark Eaden and Matt MacDonald. 17.30 for 17.45 start. Contact Martin Creswell on 020 8663 5427 for further details or e-mail martin.creswell@atkinglobal.com.

Permanent Way Institution (Darlington & North East)

Railway Athletic Club, Brinkburn Road, Darlington.
'Haltwhistle Embankment Works' by Paul Fairburn, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact Dave Lugsden on 01904 389838 for details or e-mail David.Lugsden@networkrail.co.uk.

Permanent Way Institution (Edinburgh)

The Scots Guards Club, 2 Clifton Terrace, Opposite Haymarket Station, Edinburgh.
'Gretna to Annan Redoubling' by Kevin Clough, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.00. Contact Nicola Topping on 0141 555 4290 for details or e-mail nicola.topping@networkrail.co.uk.

Permanent Way Institution (Wessex Section)

The Rose and Crown, Columbo Street, Waterloo, London.
'Basingstoke Resignalling' by Mark Somers, Network Rail. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Eddie Gosling on 01252 614558 or e-mail e.gosling@ntlworld.com.

RCTS (Watford)

St Thomas's United Reformed Church, Langley Road. 'London Steam on Shed' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Yeovil & District Railway Society

Yeovil Sports & Social Club, Johnson Park, Yeovil 'BR Rail: 1980's & 1990's' by Quentin Hawkes. Meeting commences at 19.30. 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. Meeting commences at 19.30

Permanent Way Institution (Thames Valley)

Sussex House, Reading.
'Reopening of the Ebbw Vale Branch' by David Quintin, Amey and Simon Wheat, Arup. Meeting commences at 17.45. Contact Peter Simmons, e-mail peter181102@yahoo.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Ipswich)

St Thomas Church, Back Room, Bramford Lane. 'The B17 Footballers' by Colin Briggs. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Hayes Village Hall, Hayes Street, Hayes, Bromley. Members night. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the local secretary on 0208 289 9935 for further 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 0114 254 0275 for further details.

North West Film Archive

Lycium Theatre, Crewe.
'South Cheshire on Film' by Geoff Senior, the Archive's Collections Assistant. Commences at 19.30. Contact Geoff Senior on 0161 247 3097 for further information.

Permanent Way Institution (York)

Park Inn, North Street, York.
'Modular S&C on Network Rail' by Geoff South and Kevin Percival, Network Rail. Doors open at 17.30 for 18.00 start. Contact Martin Fairbrother on 01904 611922. mobile 07802 657839 or e-mail m.fairbrother@btinternet.com for further details.

RCTS (North East Branch)

The Scout Building, Widdowfield Street. 'Pre-War LNER Steam from the W.B.Greenfield Collection' by David Whitfield. Meeting commences at 14.00.

RCTS (Milton Keynes)

CIU Workingmen's Club, London Road, Stony Stratford. 'A Silk Purse for a Sow's Ear' by Lers Nixon. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

St John Ambulance Centre, Sandes Avenue, Kendal.
'Fortieth Anniversary of the End of Steam' by Peter Fitton. Meeting commences at 19.15. Contact the local secretary on 01539 720706 or further details.

7th November 2008

Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway (Birmingham Area)

Northfield Library, Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham.
'More Steam in the 1960s' by Steve Bach. Doors open 19.00 for 19.30 start.

Great Western Society (Taunton Group)

Rockwell Green School, Brooklands Road, Rockwell Green, Wellington, Somerset. TA21 9DJ.
'Trains in the Countryside' by Peter Triggs. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01823 334188 for details.

RCTS (Bristol)

St Peters Church Hall, Church Road, Filton. 'London Steam on Shed in the 1960s' by Peter Groom. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Settlement Centre, Union Street, Middlesbrough. 'Memories of the Consett Line' by Steve Shields and John Metcalf. Meeting commences at 19.00. Contact local secretary on 01642 321205 for details.

8th November 2008

Bournemouth Railway Club

All Purpose Room, Winton Methodist Community Centre, Bournemouth. 'The Metre Gauge Railways of Northern Spain' by David Soggee. Meeting commences at 14.30. Entrance £2 to members and non-members. Contact the club secretary Martyn Tresh on 01202 742099 for further details.



Cornwall Railway Society

The Community Centre, Foundry Row, Redruth. 'Northern Electrics - the development of variety' by John Glover. Meeting commences at 18.30. Contact Derek Buttivant on 01637 860627 for further details.

RCTS (West Riding Branch)

'Day out to London by Rail'. Contact Malcolm Riley on 01274 589499 or mobile 0788 7908501 for details.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

Kidderminster Railway Museum, Kidderminster. 'A Walk Past the Brickworks' by John New. Meeting commences at 14.15. Contact the local secretary on 01242 582152 for further details.

9th November 2008

RCTS (West Riding Branch)

'Visit to Crewe LNWR 10.00 hrs & Basford Hall 12.00 hrs'. Contact Malcolm Riley on mobile 07887 908501 for further details.

10th November 2008

Lincoln Railway Society

St Hugh's Church Hall, North Hykeham, Lincoln. AGM & Photo Competition. Meeting commences at 20.00. Contact 01522 705365 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution

(London)

10th Floor Restaurant, 55 Broadway (LUL HQ), London. 'European High Speed Switch Reliability' by Tony Fifield. Doors open at 17.30 for 18.00 start. Contact Paul Gammage by e-mail on pjgammage@aol.com for further details.

RCTS (Northampton)

St Crispin Social Club, Berrywood Road, Duston. 'Quiz v LCGB Bedford for the Ashes Trophy' Meeting commences at 19.30.

Stephenson Locomotive Society

New Trinity Parish Hall, Saltcoats, Ayrshire. 'The Remarkably Consistent Ardrossan MPD (67D) Locomotive Allocation' by Hamish Stevenson. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact local secretary on 01294 822303 for further details.

York Railway Society

Archbishop Holgate's School, Drama Studio, Hull Road, York. 'Favourite preserved steam around the UK in the last 20 years' by Robert Falcolner. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact Robin Patrick on 01904 412232 for details. Visitors £2.

11th November 2008

Abergavenny & District Steam Society

Upper Room' at 'The Hen and Chickens', Flannel Street,

Abergavenny. 'European Steam'

by Colin Bradling. Meeting commences at 20.00.

Permanent Way Institution (Solent)

HMS Sultan, Gosport. '21st Century Tamping' by Martyn Tilford, Colas Rail. Meeting commences at 17.30.

RCTS (North West Branch)

'Observation at Chesterfield 08.30 - 19.30.' Contact Geoff Morris on 01244 376808 or e-mail geoffreymorris@tiscali.co.uk for further details.

RCTS (Nottingham)

Nottingham Mechanics, 3 North Sherwood Street, Nottingham. 'Around Nottingham in the 1950's and 60's' by Bill Chapman. Meeting commences at 19.30.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society (Lanarkshire Area)

Vestry Hall, Holy Trinity Church, Avon Street, Motherwell. 'From the Algarve to the Arctic Circle - 25 Years of European Rail Travel' by Robin Ralston. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact 01698 457777 for details.

12th November 2008 Basingstoke & District Railway Society

Wote St. Club, New Road, Basingstoke. 'Basingstoke etc.. in the 1960's' by Simon Foote. Meeting commences at 20.00

▲ **Class 57/0 No. 57005 with Class 47/4 No. 47810 'dead in tow' after failing the night before with a damaged air-pipe passes Eaglescliffe on a Stockton-Cardiff Tidal working on 18th October. Mick Atkin**

Internet Links

Further contact details for the clubs and societies listed 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.

Contact 01256 326096 for details. Visitors welcome.

Grimsby & Cleethorpes Railway Group

RAF Association Club, Alexandra Road, Cleethorpes. 'The GN(I):A Rhapsody in Blue' by Ken Grainger. Meeting commences at 19.30. Contact the society secretary on 01724 341358 for further details.

Permanent Way Institution (North Wales)

The Town Crier Hotel, Chester. 'Signalling for Non Signalling

