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No 375 February 2026

Fri 6 Feb 'The Lynton & Barnstaple Railway Trust, 1979 to Date' by Mark Bladwell.

Portbury Dock Branch line The GBRf import steel slab destined for milling at Tata Port Talbot Works has commenced 2026 as a near week-daily, daily operation with up to 22 KEA wagons in use with locos 66712/8. 66756/9., all being so far recorded in 2026. A notable visitor on 27th January was DMU 153385 (Visual Inspection Unit 3) on a 3Q33 07.50 Westbury-Kingsland Road working which had also taken in Salisbury and Swindon, the move booked for three runs over the line was delayed having not departed Ashton Junction until 13.19 with an arrival at 14.02 close to 50 minutes late, a tree having had to be cleared being the reason, as the line had seen no traffic for the past 3 days. As a result of the late running, a second run did take place (with a Bedminster reverse back at 14.48 instead of in Temple Meads) which arrived not long after 15.00, but the third was cancelled. This Colas operated test/driver route learning run was a first for this type of unit in departmental use here with three drivers being present on board over the Portbury branch section. Otherwise, GWR 153380 had also in fact appeared over the line back in September 2012 as part of a Bristol Community Rail Day Passenger event working with Class 150 sets which also during the day covered the Henbury loop.

Bristol Temple Meads On 22nd December 150234 5Z76 11.30 St Phillips Marsh-Exeter St Davids 12.04
On 30th 66712 6C92 07.26 Margam-Portbury at 10.48
On 8th January 43004/43042 5Q43 08.10 Laira-Ely Papworth Sidings at 10.35
(Stock: 48119 48120 48121 49109 49108 48122 48123 48124; 43004 carried a pale blue headboard "GWR Angel Trains HST Farewell")
On 9th 66712 6C92 07.41 Margam-Portbury at 10.54
On 19th 66718 6C92 07.41 Margam-Portbury at 13.00
On 27th 37425 3Z20 23.12 Derby RTC-Kingsland Road at 05.38 (Stock: 96604 6262 9803 999606 9703)

Lawrence Hill On 22nd December 66585+66545+66561+66506+66543+66594 6Z36 (0Z36) 12.16
Westbury Cement Works-Crewe Basford Hall at 13.16
On 29th 66755/66712 6M42 05.10 Avonmouth-Penyffordd via Bristol East Depot at 06.52 (66712 removed at Bristol East Depot)
On 10th January EMR liveried 158783 5M57 10.20 Bristol Barton Hill-Derby Etches Park at 10.21, 158785 5V81 14.41 Derby Etches Park-Bristol Barton Hill at 17.43
On 27th 60046 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 08.08

Severn Beach Branch line With the direct route from Avonmouth Dock to Filton/Bristol Parkway closed for a second period from 19.00 24th December 2025 - 19.00 4th January 2026 for further 'Metro-West 2' station work at Filton North /Brabazon (platform) and Henbury, freight diversions via Clifton Down again took place. The Northolt-Severnside SITA inward rubbish trains operated as a diversion during most non-Bank Holiday afternoons (the empty outward train to Brentford being still booked this way during the evening), whilst Hanson's Cement traffic used Bristol East Yard to attach/detach a second loco and run this way, but for this period no stone trains were scheduled to operate. Although there were only two different single daylight return paths for the whole period (which were not used), all Hanson's Cement arrival and departures were in the hours of darkness with 66755 + 66712 on 27th December, the same pair recorded Clifton Down at 21.40 with 6V84 loaded bogie PGAs from Penyffordd during the following day and 66752 + 66760 appearing at 23.06 on 29th with 6V84 loaded tanks from Clitheroe (including 6 4 wheel PCAs), all trains crossing local Turbo DMU passenger services. Their respective returns were early during the following mornings being routed north after the call in Bristol East Yard.

Filton On 17th January 66150 6C03 09.33 Brentford-Severnside at 13.27
On 24th 66035 6C03 09.31 Northolt-Severnside at 13.57
On 28th 66594/66585 6Y40 07.00 Swansea East Loop-Westbury at 11.37, 66537/66565 6Y41 14.30
Swansea East Loop-Westbury at 18.24

Brentry On 22nd December 66098 6C03 09.57 Northolt-Sevenside at 14.04
On 5th January 66013 6C03 09.55 Northolt-Sevenside at 14.26, 66792 6V84 07.45 Clitheroe-Avonmouth at 17.07. On 6th 66065+66175 6C03 09.55 Northolt-Sevenside at 15.11 (66175 failed at Reading)
On 18th 66303 6V41 Penyffordd-Avonmouth at 20.18
On 19th 66303 6M42 Avonmouth-Penyffordd at 08.18, 66792 6V84 07.45 Clitheroe-Avonmouth at 17.01
On 20th 66175 6C03 09.55 Northolt-Sevenside at 14.06
On 21st 66792 6V84 07.45 Clitheroe-Avonmouth at 17.06
On 23rd 66613 6C79 Avonmouth-Whatley at 10.09
On 24th 66953 6C86 06.12 Stoke Gifford-Avonmouth at 07.19
On 26th 66792 6V84 07.54 Clitheroe-Avonmouth at 17.27

Pilning On 29th December 66507 4V53 03.27 Maritime-Wentloog at 06.03
On 8th January 66130 6B24 05.13 Cardiff Tidal-Swindon Cocklebury at 06.30
On 15th 66547/66538 6Y60 15.29 Westbury-Westbury at 17.54

Patchway On 9th January 66507 4L33 09:09 Wentloog-London Gateway at 11.00
On 12th 66756 6C92 07.41 Margam-Portbury at 10.17

Stoke Gifford Yard On 22nd December 66564 6Z12 08.28 Stoke Gifford-Appleford at 08.28, 66617 6Z67 10.52 Stoke Gifford-East Usk Yard at 11.12
On 15th January 66616 6C20 07.06 Stoke Gifford-Tytherington at 07.06
On 17th 66953 6Z21 08.28 Tytherington-Stoke Gifford at 09.49
On 22nd 66953 6Z57 07.30 Stoke Gifford-East Usk Yard at 08.25, 66555 6C81 09.55 Stoke Gifford-Avonmouth at 09.52

Bristol Parkway On 23rd December 66613 6C20 06:07 Bristol East Depot-Tytherington at 07.15, 66613 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 12.45
On 24th 66013 4Z21 08.20 Alexandra Dock Jct-Acton Yard at 09.17
On 29th 66525 4L33 09.59 Wentloog-London Gateway at 11.08, 66760 6V84 07.45 Clitheroe-Avonmouth via Bristol East Depot at 20.52. On 30th 66525 4L33 09.59 Wentloog-London Gateway at 11.10
On 7th January 60046/60028 6A02 08.05 Tytherington-Appleford at 09.40, 66013 6C03 09.57 Northolt-Sevenside at 14.05
On 9th 60028/60055 6A02 08.05 Tytherington-Appleford at 09.18, 66606/66616 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 12.45
On 15th 60029 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 07.18
On 19th 60029 6M02 07:04 Tytherington Quainton at 07.58, 66303 6M42 09.05 Avonmouth-Penyffordd at 08.26. On 22nd 60029 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 07.50
On 23rd 66605 6C20 07.06 Stoke Gifford-Tytherington at 07.44, 66303 6M42 09.36 Avonmouth-Penyffordd at 10.13, 66605 6Z42 10.43 Tytherington-Appleford at 11.49, 66015 6C03 09.57 Northolt-Sevenside 13.49
On 26th 60029 6M02 07:04 Tytherington Quainton at 07.52
On 27th 66605 6C20 07.06 Stoke Gifford-Tytherington at 07.34 then 6Z42 to Appleford at 13.17
On 28th 66605 6C20 07.06 Stoke Gifford-Tytherington at 07.06, 60055 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 08.00, 66303 6M42 09.36 Avonmouth-Penyffordd at 09.51
On 31st 66010 6C03 09.28 Northolt-Sevenside at 14.03

Westerleigh Jct On 7th January 66606/66616 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 13.55
On 10th 66606 6Z21 08.28 Tytherington-Stoke Gifford at 09.28
On 12th 60046 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 07.45, 66616 6Z12 08.28 Stoke Gifford-Appleford at 09.39. On 15th 66053 6B24 05.13 Cardiff Tidal-Swindon Cocklebury at 07.09
On 16th 66616 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 12.13, 66616 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 13.08. On 22nd 66015 6C03 09.57 Northolt-Sevenside at 13.58
On 23rd 60055 6M02 07.04 Tytherington-Quainton at 07.40
On 24th 66605 6Z21 08.28 Tytherington-Stoke Gifford at 08.22
On 27th 66532 4L33 09.59 Wentloog-London Gateway at 11.08, 66605 6Z42 11.27 Tytherington-Appleford at 13.44. On 28th 66605 6Z42 11.42 Tytherington-Appleford at 13.36

Yate On 22nd December 66659 6B13 05.00 Robeston-Westerleigh at 12.45
On 29th 66659 6B13 04.50 Robeston-Westerleigh at 12.46
On 16th January 66303 6M42 09.36 Avonmouth-Penyffordd at 09.53
On 19th 66107+66116 6B13 05.00 Robeston-Westerleigh at 13.14

Tytherington Quarry Branch line Between Christmas and New Year, 37425 (on hire to Colas) was Kingsland Road out-based having arrived on 27th December from Derby RTC, the loco visiting both the Tytherington Quarry and Westerleigh (for Colas OTP depot) branch lines during the following day as 0Z37 08.00 ex. Kingsland Road and return, the loco reaching the Grovesend head-shunt end (A38 tunnel) at the Quarry arriving 09.03 and departing 09.05, then following a Westerleigh visit (from 10.05-10.13) only covered part of the Tytherington line being recorded out and back near Iron Acton before and after 11.00 having not reached the Quarry. A second run to Westerleigh was then believed to have taken place prior to a just over 90 minutes early at 11.50 departure from Yate back to Kingsland Road, a third Quarry run having been cancelled.

Bristol Kingsland Road On 2nd January 153385 2Q64 13.05 Kingsland Road-Plymouth at 13.05 then 2Q13 16.35 Plymouth-Kingsland Road at 20.00
On 5th January 153385 2Q23 09.09 Kingsland Road-Derby RTC at 17.24
On 12th 43301/43303 3Q20 08.48 Derby RTC-Kingsland Road at 12.53
(Stock: 5971 977974 999605 9801 6117) then 3Q21 23.00 Kingsland Road-Derby RTC via Swindon at 22.56. On 23rd 37254 3Q21 22.44 Kingsland Road-Derby RTC via Bristol Parkway / Oxford / Tyseley at 22.34 (Stock: 96609 977986 977985 999602 9701)
On 27th 37425 3Z22 23.48 Kingsland Road-Canton Taff Vale via Exeter St Davids at 23.04
(Stock: 96604 6262 9803 999606 9703)
On 28th 153385 2Q43 11.15 Kingsland Road-Yeovil Junction via Exeter at 11.15.
On 30th 37425 3Q33 00.02 Canton Taff Vale-Kingsland Road via Port Talbot Parkway at 04.51
(For stock see 27th) then 3Q21 22.37 Kingsland Road-Derby RTC via Birmingham New Street at 22.37

Bristol East Depot On 7th January 60028/60046 6B01 05.33 Bristol East Depot-Tytherington at 05.38, (also 6A02 return to Appleford instead of Quainton due to reported points failure at the quarry) 6A02 reported departing Bristol Parkway at 09.40
On 10th 60046 6V24 14.40 Willesden-Bristol East Yard at 18.23
On 16th 60029 6V37 09.53 Quainton-Bristol East Yard at 18.21

Bath On 22nd December 60055 6A02 07.04 Tytherington-Appleford at 08.02, 60055 6B03 16.38 Appleford-Bristol East Yard at 18.33
On 12th January 57301/57604 5Z50 10.00 Penzance T&RSMD-Reading Depot at 16.31
(Stock: 17174 12161 10225 10601 10532 10584 10590)

Chippenham On 7th January 70809 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 12.03
On 8th 66537 0B12 11.43 Merehead-Wootton Bassett at 13.01
On 19th 66555 6A16 08.06 Westbury Cement Works-Oxford Banbury Road at 08.36
On 28th 66559 6A16 07.43 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road at 09.05, 66561 6C52 09.48 West Drayton-Whatley at 13.11

Swindon On 7th January 66614 6A16 07.43 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road at 09.29
On 8th 66654 6M53 14.16 Swindon Stores-Toton Up Sidings at 14.12, 57303 5Q70 16.02 Worcester Yard-Wimbledon Park at 17.24 (Stock: 701007)
On 9th 66614 6A16 07.43 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road at 09.24
On 12th 66125 6B51 04.48 Llanwern-Swindon Stores at 06.43, 70803 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 12.30. On 22nd 66656 6V15 18.58 Boston Sleaford Sidings-Swindon Stores at 06.33, 66066 6B24 05.13 Cardiff Tidal-Swindon Cocklebury at 08.16
On 23rd 70802 6Z47 09.01 Swindon Transfer-Westbury at 10.01, 66605 6Z42 10.43 Tytherington-Appleford at 14.02
On 26th 66067 6B51 04.48 Llanwern-Swindon Stores at 06.37, 20901/20905 6J09 08.40 Swindon Transfer to Woking Up Yard Sidings at 08.40, 66561 6A16 07.43 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road at 09.28, 66605 6Z12 11.26 Stoke Gifford-Appleford at 14.05
On 28th 57306 5Q70 14.40 Long Marston-Wimbledon Park at 17.31 (Stock: 701023), 37425 3Q28 21.55 Canton Taff Vale-Canton Taff Vale via Gloucester / Swindon / Gloucester at 02.58 (Stock: 96604 6262 9803 999606 9703)

Westbury On 22nd December 70811 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 11.20

On 24th 70802 6F04 20.28 Westbury-Slough at 20.17, 70811 6F02 19.35 Westbury-Slough at 19.29

On 27th 66192 6F08 13.40 Westbury-Slough at 13.44, 66067/66151 6F09 18.36 Westbury-Slough at 18.32

On 29th 66603 6F11 09.48 Westbury-Slough West at 09.16

On 30th 66620/66621 6F12 15.22 Westbury-Slough West at 15.06

On 31st 70809 6F15 11.47 Westbury-Slough West at 11.30, 70811 6F16 13.49 Westbury-Slough West at 13.44, 66151 6F17 17.27 Westbury-Slough West at 17.25

On 1st January 66192 6F18 10.24 Westbury-Slough West at 10.16, 66067/66001 6F19 15.32 Westbury-Slough West at 15.41

On 8th 70811 6M50 07.13 Westbury-Bescot at 07.21

On 9th 59004 6B12 11.43 Merehead-Wootton Bassett at 12.27

On 12th 70811 6M50 07.13 Westbury-Bescot at 07.23

On 15th 70811+70805+70802 6M50 07.13 Westbury-Bescot at 07.19

On 16th 66001 6V73 14.27 Stoke Cliffe Vale-Westbury at 20.50

On 18th 70806/70803 6C20 07.30 Maidenhead-Westbury at 08.09

On 19th 66756/66734 6G70 01.00 Southall-Westbury at 04.18, 66416 6Z14 11.09 Whatley-Appleford via Swindon at 11.32, 59204 6B12 11.43 Merehead-Wootton Bassett at 12.28

On 22nd 37254 3Q36 23.52 Westbury-Kingsland Road via Southampton at 23.52

(Stock: 96609 977986 977985 999602 9701)

On 24th 66544/66850 6C20 19.02 Westbury-Westbury via Onllwyn at 18.54

On 26th 70802 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 11.20, 153385 2Z10 13.11 Derby RTC-Westbury at 17.11. On 27th 70802 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 11.35

On 28th 66616/66419 6Y42 05.09 Westbury-Swansea East Loop at 04.40, 70802 6M40 11.34 Westbury-Stud Farm at 11.18, 56045+56103 6M18 16.49 Merehead-Willesden at 17.32

Fairwood Jct On 21st December 70802/70811 6C97 07.40 Cowley Bridge-Westbury at 08.48, 59101 6B12 11.43 Merehead-Wootton Bassett at 12.24

On 7th January 66952 6V53 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 13.34

On 8th 66594 6A18 09.18 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road via Newbury at 09.37, 59205 6C48 12.50

Appleford-Whatley at 15.21, 59203 6T53 15.28 Westbury Cement Works-Whatley at 15.34, 66952 6V18 13.30 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 15.39

On 9th 59101 6A40 08.40 Merehead-Hanwell Bridge Loops at 09.22

On 12th 66563/59203 6V98 03.27 Eastleigh Aggregates-Merehead at 06.32, 66563/66952 6Y43 11.24 Westbury-St Erth via Penzance at 11.18

On 14th 66182 6V76 22.45 Westbury-Lostwithiel Down Goods Loop at 22.49, 66563/66952 6Y44 23.43 Westbury-St Erth at 23.40

On 15th 59206 6V98 04.42 Eastleigh Aggregates-Merehead at 06.55, 66603 6C95 05.03 West Drayton-Whatley at 07.25

On 16th 66534 6A18 09.18 Whatley-Oxford Banbury Road via Newbury at 09.21, 59005 6C68 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 13.15

On 17th 59204 6V98 05.13 Eastleigh Aggregates-Merehead at 06.08, 59101 6C31 09.20 Theale-Whatley at 11.11, 66098 6V76 10.35 Westbury-Goonbarrow Jct at 10.52

On 19th 66848/66850 6C06 04.45 Axminster-Westbury via Yeovil Jct at 01.57, 59206 6V97 02.57 Botley Aggregates-Merehead at 05.29, 66613 6C68 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 12.59, 56045+56103 6M16 16.06 Merehead-Willesden at 17.22

On 22nd 37254 3Q14 11.02 Westbury-Westbury via Weymouth at 11.25

(Stock: 96609 977986 977985 999602 9701)

On 24th 59202 6V98 05.13 Eastleigh Aggregates-Merehead at 07.23, 59005 6C31 09.20 Theale-Whatley at 10.57

On 26th 59206 6C68 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 13.17, 56045+56103 6M16 16.06 Merehead-Willesden DCR at 17.04

On 27th 59103 6B12 11.43 Merehead-Wootton Bassett at 12.21, 59004 6C68 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 13.20, 59205 6A77 12.26 Merehead-Theale at 13.30, 59101 6A39 13.05 Merehead-Langley Sidings at 14.41

On 28th 59205 6T02 06.38 Merehead-Westbury Cement Works at 07.17, 66534 6C68 10.35 Oxford Banbury Road-Whatley at 13.18

On 31st 59103 6V98 05.13 Eastleigh Aggregates-Merehead at 07.11

Taunton On 21st December 57312/57604 5Z46 07.43 Fairwater Yard-Reading Traincare Depot via Hackney Yard at 12.50 (Stock: 17173 12142 10217 10616 10594 10534 10596) (Note: 57312 failed at Exeter St Thomas)

On 7th January 43186/43187 5Q40 08.10 Laira-Ely Papworth Sidings at 09.44

43186 carried a pale blue headboard "GWR Angel Trains HST Farewell"

(Stock: 49106 48126 48117 48118), 150247 5V83 13.46 Wolverton Centre Sidings-Exeter TMD at 18.46

On 9th 43014/43062 1Z18 15.39 Paignton-Taunton via Bristol East Depot at 16.30 (Service started at Exeter St Davids at 16.09) then 1Q19 18.38 Taunton-Paddington at 18.33

(Stock: 975984 977993 975814 977984)

On 12th 66547/66561 6Y42 04.55 Westbury-St Erth via Penzance at 05.51 then 6Y42 18.16 St Erth-Westbury at 23.54, 66001 0C53 19.13 Westbury-Exeter Riverside at 20.06 then 6M53 22.03 Exeter Riverside-Cliffe Vale at 22.55

On 13th 66538/66547 6Z20 09.54 Fairwater Yard-Hinksey Yard at 09.57, 66563/66952 6Y43 04.48 St Erth-Westbury at 11.02, 37501/37512 (Formerly 37608) 7Q86 01.30 Ely Papworth Sidings-Penzance TMD at 13.04 (Stock: 6344 175010 6393), 66182 6V76 22.45 Westbury-Lostwithiel at 23.46

On 14th 37501/37512 5M57 09:25 Penzance T.& R.S.M.D-Derby RTC at 12.58 (Stock: 6344 6393)

On 20th 66561 6Z17 07.51 Westbury-Fairwater at 08.48, 66561 6Z20 09.54 Fairwater Yard-Hinksey Sidings at 09.57, 37407 0E43 09.00 Laira TMD-Ely Papworth at 11.27 (Stock: 43188 43189)

On 21st 70805 0Z70 12.19 Westbury-Tavistock Jct Yard at 13.26 then 6Z70 16.03 Tavistock Jct Yard at 18.28 (with DR75406), 43198+43098+43097 0Z48 Totnes-Carnforth Steamtown at 13.32

On 23rd **Storm Ingrid**: All lines between Exeter St Davids and Newton Abbot were closed from 20.30 Friday until 14.00 Saturday at the earliest with CrossCountry suspending services from 17.00 and IETS suspended after 18.30. On 26th 69016 0V69 04.30 Eastleigh Yard-Fairwater Yard at 07.00

On 28th 47832 0Z47 05.08 Southall-Totnes Riverside at 08.44 then 5Z47 12.10 Totnes Riverside-Carnforth at 12.22 (Stock: 5032 4940 4960 4905), 800311 1A90 15.15 Plymouth-Paddington arriving at 16.19 (Service was formed of 150221+150234+150261 from Plymouth to Exeter St Davids)

Whatley Quarry has taken delivery of the first production 08e battery shunting loco 08787 which has three times the battery capacity of the prototype 08e, 08308 which had outperformed its diesel counterparts during trials at the quarry in 2024.

Bristol Area Railtours and Visiting Excursions (Provided in good faith but not guaranteed accurate!)

Thu 12 Feb	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond
Fri 27 Feb	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond
Thu 12 Mar	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond
Sat 14 Mar	Industrial Explorer	Derby-Gloucester-Newport-Landore-Parkway	50X2	UKR
Fri 27 Mar	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond

Dates for your Diary

Sat 21 Feb Day out at Salisbury to view the Railway 200 Inspiration Train
There will be a RCTS stand in the Partner Coach promoting the Society
An easy day out from Bristol, Bath, and the Bradford-on-Avon area.

Fri 6 Mar AGM followed by, 'Midland Blue – Midland Railway Lines in the 1980s'
Presented by Stewart Jolly.

14-16 Mar East Somerset Railway Spring Gala
Locos booked to work are: 4110, 4555, 7754 and GWR Railcar W22