

Fri 4 Sep Railways in a Cornish Landscape by Stephen Gay

Bristol Temple Meads - Railtours

On 1st August 57302 top & tailed 47805 1Z08 16:35 Kingswear to Shrewsbury "English Riviera Express"

Coaches: 3091 3140 1666 3107 3125 3148 3100 80044 3122 3045 17013

On 1st 47593 and 47712 with coaches 11091 11082 11066 10404 12171 12111 17159 worked 1Z49 17:35

Bristol Temple Meads - Crewe "Avon Goreous" railtour.

On 8th 1Z54 16:45 Paignton to Manchester Victoria "Summer Riviera" 43089 + 44000 42111 42120 42119 40730 41057 41067 + 43025.

On 13th 57601 top & tailed with 57314 on: 1Z69 17:52 Paignton to Birmingham International "Historic Torquay at Leisure" Coaches: 3174 3273 1953 3267 3247 3275 3313 325 17167 10729 10734.

On 19th 43049 and 43050 worked 1Z46 06:18 Wrexham General - Paignton "Midland Pullman".

Bristol On Sunday 23rd August no trains ran between Bristol and Birmingham as all XC trains were cancelled, due to a power cut in the Birmingham Control Centre.

On 25th 47749 with 99012 99013 worked 0Z48 14:44 Portbury to Leicester LIP passing Bristol TM 15:51

On 25th 165137 vice IET worked the 1N67 1504 Oxford - Bristol Temple Meads.

Berkeley On 26th 68003 7092290388 FNA 68004 worked 6M56 11:18 Berkeley to Crewe CLS

Westbury Present on 15th Down Yard 66551 inside Colas Facility 66020 T&T 66122 on short engineers 66004 69004 Up Yard 66566 Colas Sidings 66849 66544 on engineer's train 70803 short siding at top of Up Yard. 57003 T&T 47810 1Z07 05:45 Three Bridges - Kingswear (for Dartmouth) departed Plat 2 after reversal at 09:43 47805 still outside Westbury Panel Box in the Patney siding after failing on Sat 8th.

Avonmouth A major 10 day engineering blockade over the Severn Beach line saw passenger services cancelled with road bus substitutions from 16th August (morning only), through to 27th. Work in the area saw a complete rebuild of the King's Road level crossing next to St. Andrews Junction signal box and the part removal of the former Bulk Handling Terminal Silos at St. Andrews Road which having been brought into use during 1993 to rail load imported coal for Didcot PS via a conveyor belt connection (which passed under the River Avon) from Royal Portbury Dock. The facility last saw use in early 2019 loading for Fiddler's Ferry PS having rail served several other power stations over the years (and carried out biomass loading trials during 2010) prior to the downturn in fossil fuel use protecting the climate and the numerous power station closures which had taken place. Three road cranes (including a 'giant' heavy lift example) were used to undertake the work, the main works site area being on Port of Bristol Royal Edward Dock land where the 'giant' and one small crane were located. A work summary saw the two silo cover tops known as 'penthouse 1' and 'penthouse 2' removed during the afternoon of 18th August, with the red painted silos following over the next three days in two separate lift moves. The lower tower section (which contains intricate pipework and beams) and the control room were to remain in position for a completion set to take place during 2027. The two 'penthouse' cover sections were seen to have been control burnt prior to cutting up for scrap this removing all the coal dust and residue which had accumulated in this part of the structure over the years.

The Severnside refuse container service from Northolt started the blockade period using a top n' tail loco formation running each way via the North Bristol, Henbury line and was allowed to reverse on the Port of Bristol's Royal Edward Dock estate near Holesmouth Junction. On 19th August, 66004 + 66136 were noted passing Hallen Marsh junction at 14.30 and arriving in the dock area at 14.35, the same loco combination having seen use during the previous day, with 66205 replacing 66004 on 20th. The track limit on the Severn Beach branch towards St. Andrew's Road station was not far enough to allow the working to reverse on this line, due to the safety clearance distance for the giant crane jib in use for the former coal loading silos dismantling work.

Portbury Dock Branch Line What is thought to be the first public rail-tour to cover the line since 2017, a 1Z47 08.20 Crewe - Bristol Temple Meads 'Avon Gorgeous' outing on 1st August with a 'mini' 1Z48 14.18 extension onwards to Portbury Dock (outward one way via the St. Phillips Marsh Depot loop) and return being top n' tailed by main tour locos 47712 + 47593 top n'tailing the coaching stock 11091. 11082. 11066. 10404. 12171. 12111. 17159., this also being believed a first for Mk III carriages (excluding HST stock) over the line. The return having departed the dock stop board at 15.50 was later recorded Ashton Gate at 16.20 close to 45 minutes late, having suffered a further 10 minute delay here caused by a crossing barrier issue. Spanish built Class 99 locos, following two 'solo' separate deliveries 99010 and 99011 to Avonmouth for onward rail movement, resumed with the latest 99012 and 99013 arriving in the Dock together during the morning of 13th August from loading 5 days earlier at Barcelona on the vessel 'Odin Highway'. Having been moved to the Auto-terminal, the pair were observed on their internal road trailers side by side outside the Cruise Terminal building on 16th August and by 20th were on track nearby and appeared to be couple together. A forward move was planned for 26th. On the freight side, steel slab imports recommenced from 3rd August on most subsequent weekdays with locos 66727/734/771 being recorded. Steel coil has also recently been seen stored in the auto-terminal, but no rail movements have so far taken place regarding this commodity.

Bath On 22nd 67005 1Z82 09:47 Victoria to Bath "British Pullman" arrived 12.57
Stock 99593 99537 99530 99546 99539 99532 99535 99531 99534 99543 99536 99545.

Castle Cary station has been transformed by a restoration celebrating the history of the Great Western Railway and its early 20th-century heritage. The station building was officially opened on 17th August by DFTO Chair, Sir Andrew Haines. Funded by the Department for Transport and the Railway Heritage Trust, the project has restored many of the station's original features, while making it more accessible and welcoming for customers. The transformation has resulted in the station's original entrance being reopened, and a new accessible ramp giving step-free access being provided. The ticket office has been relocated to improve customer flow and provide a more welcoming space, while historic features including fireplaces, skirting, dado rails and cornices have been uncovered, and new timber furniture and joinery complement the station's early 20th-century character.

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

Date	Tour	Destination	Haulage	Pick-up	Fare	Operator
Sun 30 Aug	Royal Duchy	Par	Steam	TM 08.50	£149	RYTC
Sat 12 Sep	Lord of the Isles	Inverness 3 Day	HST	TM 07.25	£510	LSL
Sat `12 Sep	Mayflower	Plymouth	5043, 7029	TM 09.50	£190	Vintage
Thu 17 Sep	Cornish Lunch	Circular	47/57	TM11.30	£445	WCRC
Sat 19 Sep	Cornish Branch	Fowey	47/57	TM 09.30	£115	RYTC
Sat 27 Sep	Royal Duchy	Par	Steam	TM 08.50	£149	RYTC
Sat 3 Oct	Journey Shrinker	Swansea	HST	TM 10.52	£159	125 Group

Wed 2 Sep	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond
Thu 17 Sep	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond
Sat 19 Sep	Legendry Journey	New Street-TM	60163	Fox & Edwards
Sat 3 Oct	British Pullman	Victoria-Salisbury-Bath 13.03/15.56	67	Belmond

Dates for your Diary

Gartell Light Railway final open days – Sun 27 Sep, Sun 25 Oct.

Fri 2 Oct 'An Evening of John Spencer Gilks Photographs', presented by Nigel Wassell

Fri 6 Nov 'That Was The Year That Was 1967', by Geoff Plumb

Fri 4 Dec 'John Uncles – Bristol Photographs from 1957' presented by Gerry Nicholls

Fri 18 Dec Christmas Buffet and Members Evening.