

# Slam Door Trains and Lost Engines

There have been a lot of changes here on the Southern recently! The new 377 Electrostar trains have ousted the solid and reliable slam door stock from all booked trains.

Once masters of the rails they now have to be content with 'filling in' when one of the new trains feels a bit poorly.

Not only have the trains changed but so has the infrastructure in order to support them. To this end the sidings at Brighton Lovers Walk depot have been totally remodelled and now include facilities to clean and service the new fleet along with a automated toilet storage tank emptying and recharging.

Drivers have been sent to the new facilities to familiarise themselves with all the possible shunt moves today was my turn.



A view of the fresh new sidings at Brighton. This view is looking back towards the station with 377 106 in view.



A Virgin inter regional arrives at Brighton



4 CIG 1805 hopefully stands ready for a run up the main line, the blisteringly hot sun picking out its detail well!



Seen from the drivers window of 1805 a 377 rolls into Brighton.



A couple of cab views from 1805





Even some of the older units have received a new paint job! 319 435 looks very smart in its new Thames Link colours.



Above, 4 VEP 3514 shows off its Southern Green livery, I felt these units looked very well like this. Also seen at the far end of the sidings is another VEP 3530.



Guess what's next???

Lurking mostly unseen you can still find some of the old workhorses that have served faithfully for many years.



Brighton's resident 09 shunter still waits patiently for its next duty



# Talking of lurking unseen!

I thought I would investigate a rumour I had heard a number of times regarding the now derelict and extremely dangerous Pullman Shed at the far north end of the depot.

Since a big fire a few years ago the place has been made impregnable and is covered by security cameras 24 hours a day, so I was not that hopeful of seeing anything....



A tantalising glimpse through the very thorough security fencing that now surrounds the building on all sides!  
I recognise that shape, surely not?  
Small tank wagons and other vehicles surround a much neglected shunting loco.



Having discovered a hole in the metal doors I pushed my camera between the uprights of the fence to reveal the classic shape of a 03/04 0-6-0 shunter! Wow the rumours had been true after all!





So it just goes to show, even in this modernising time there are still little pockets of undiscovered history hidden away and probably forgotten just like this little engine. I wonder how it came to be there, was it part of Brighton's loco fleet at one time, was it brought to the sheds to be restored?  
The decline of the slam door stock continues, just eight units are being retained and their time will be up this coming November.  
But for now on this very hot sunny August day they are still to be found.....