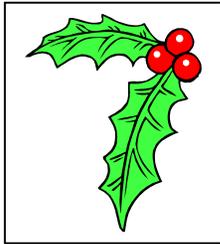
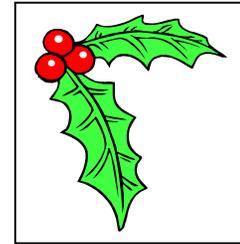


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

13 DECEMBER 2017



Buffer Stop

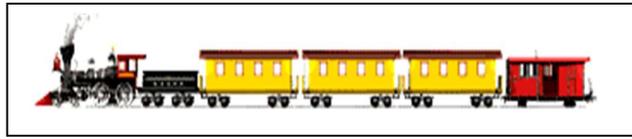


Season's greetings from the editor and the ORS Committee and welcome to our **31st Annual Bumper Film Show**, presented by **Frank Banfield**. The snow scene featuring 5164 above was taken exactly 36 years ago today by the editor on the Severn Valley Railway.

Last month, Laurence Waters gave us a new talk on Great Western Railway publicity (*further example right*) with a dessert of Southern steam.

At next month's meeting on **10 January** the editor will attempt to entertain you with a discursive journey from *Yarmouth to Barmouth* over the past forty years.





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LOCAL RAIL NEWS

In *Partnering for Prosperity: a new deal for the Cambridge–Milton Keynes–Oxford Arc* published by the National Infrastructure Commission on 17 November (endorsed by an allocation of priming money from the National Productivity Investment Fund in the Autumn Budget) completion of the East–West Rail Link throughout from Oxford to Cambridge by the mid-2020s is considered a central aim. Passenger services extended from Bicester to Bedford in 2023 are envisaged, with an independent East West Rail Company being set up to deliver the Bedford–Cambridge section (on which new construction will be needed) soon afterwards. 30 December 2017 marks the fiftieth anniversary of the last through Oxford–Cambridge passenger service.

In the short term, reinstatement of rail services to Cowley by 2019 is proposed, a timescale which the managing director of Chiltern Railways (the presumed operator) described as “ambitious”. In connection with this, the Budget announced that “the government will also make available £300,000 to co-fund a study of opportunities for new stations, services and routes across the Oxfordshire rail corridor”, a statement that local campaigners see as hopeful for reinstatement of a station at Grove (“Wantage Parkway”?). Local authorities are already discussing a through Oxford–Swindon passenger service.

On the heritage front, the class 121 “bubble cars” from the Aylesbury–Princes Risborough service have left Chiltern Railways for their new owners: 55020 to the Bodmin & Wenford Railway and 55034 to Locomotive Services at Crewe (perhaps for use as a route learning saloon now the company has its own operating licence). The boiler for the Great Western Society’s recreated ‘Saint’ successfully concluded its steam tests at Didcot at the end of November. Now it ‘just’ has to be put back into the frames. And finally, on the 7¼ in. gauge, the first few yards of the Cutteslowe Park Miniature Railway’s extension have been laid.

SOCIETY NOTICES

Easy Fundraising: Total before Christmas spending stood at £442.53.

Wednesday 14 February: Members’ evening, Annual General Meeting and photographic competition results. If you’re thinking of offering a presentation, please sign up tonight or speak to a committee member.

COMING EVENTS

Monday 18 December: 19:30: RCTS Thames Valley, Didcot Civic Hall: Branch AGM, members’ slides & buffet

Wednesday 20 December: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *The Great St Trinian’s Train Robbery* (film) & buffet

“*Buffer Stop*” is edited by **Matthew Searle** <matthew904@btinternet.com> and published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editor. Society meetings are held at the Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month. **Closing date for next issue: 3 January.**