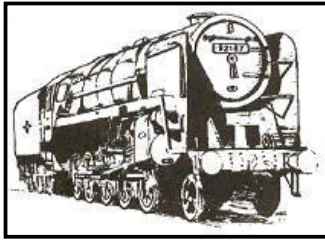


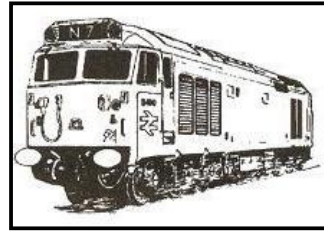
OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

APRIL 2017

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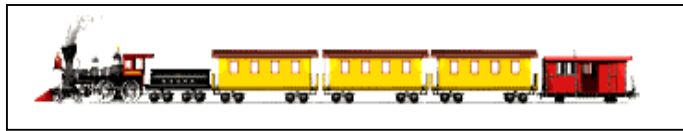
**Buffer  
Stop**



This evening we welcome **Steve Beamon** of the British Transport Police History Group to speak on *Policing for Railways, Docks and Canals 1824 to 1948*. The Great Western Railway's 1923 Newport Docks Police Tug-o-War team pictured above look like formidable opponents to anyone on the wrong end of the rope or the law. The editor's photo *right* from the other end of the Principality shows a Festiniog Railway policeman between other members of staff at Minffordd during a time warp in 1988.

Last month, Chris Caddy gave a brief but informative presentation on the history of the London Underground and our chairman, Ron Saunders, entertained with some slides of his past travels in eastern Europe. *Next month* (on May 10) David Pinder, station manager for the Oxford area, will be giving a presentation on the (new) Great Western Railway.





## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### END OF A MODERN ERA

At the end of last month it was announced that from 20 August for an initial seven years South Western Railway, the operating name of First MTR South Western Trains Ltd, owned by FirstGroup (70%) and MTR Group of Hong Kong (30%), will take over operation of the South Western rail passenger service franchise from Stagecoach South West, the only other shortlisted company, which has run the franchise since it became the first privatised passenger train operator in 1996. This brings both routes from London to Exeter (where South West Trains 159 016 was seen by the editor last month) and further west under First's control. Bizarrely, the Class 707 'Desiro City' EMUs being delivered from Siemens to enter service in the next few months (and to cascade 458s onto Reading services) will be abandoned by the new operator after two years because brand new stock is apparently cheaper for them. Decisions still need to be made on what will replace the ex-Underground 1938 stock on the Isle of Wight (which is also in the franchise).



to be a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Oxford. \*\*\*

### LOCAL RAIL HEADLINES

\*\*\* Banbury North Signal Box demolished 26 March. \*\*\* Proposals to build an EMU stabling facility at Didcot Yard abandoned in favour of Swindon Cocklebury Sidings. \*\*\* Dr David Prout, Director General of the Government's High Speed 2 rail programme, appointed to be a Pro-Vice-Chancellor at the University of Oxford. \*\*\*

### SUMMER OUTINGS

Look out for details and sign up for the following outings arranged by the Society, with steam laid on:

**Saturday 10 June:** Statfold Barn Railway, Tamworth (two foot gauge plus).

**Saturday 9 July:** Garden & Woodland Railway, Thame (7¼ inch gauge).

**Saturday 6 August:** Fawley Hill, Henley (standard gauge plus Sir Bill McAlpine's museum).

### OTHER COMING EVENTS

**Saturday 22 April:** 12:30 at Oxford: Steam Dreams: *Cathedrals Express* railtour Paddington–Stratford & return, 34046 running as 34052 *Lord Dowding* scheduled

**Wednesday 26 April:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: Robin Ralston – *Railways of Glasgow and West Central Scotland in the 1980s and 1990s*

**Friday 28 April:** 19:30: GWS Oxford Group, 58 Banbury Road: Dave Penney – *Chiltern Railways*

**REMINDER** While out and about, don't forget the annual photographic competition categories for this year are: Steam, Diesel/Electric, Railway Related and Small World, and for video clips, Speed.



# Happy Easter!

*Closing date for next issue: 30 April.*  
*Editor: Matthew Searle.* Buffer Stop is published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editor. Meetings are held at the Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month.