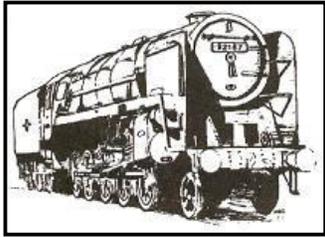
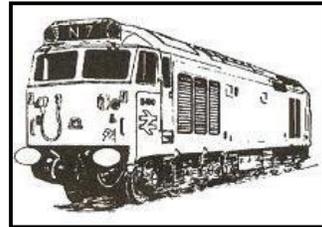


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
14 MARCH 2018



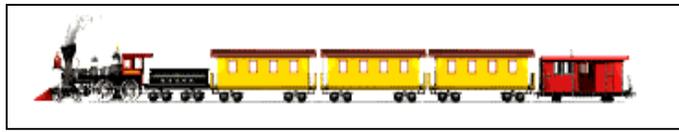
**Buffer
Stop**



This evening **Chris Youett** is giving part three of his Great Central presentation, *New Holland to Wrexham*. The photos above and below right record the Woodhead route and New Holland Pier in their last days.

Last month's Annual General Meeting was uneventful; the existing committee was re-elected. Peter Heath gave a presentation on 'Buses to Birkenhead', with Llangollen standing in for the destination, and Ron Saunders an explanation of the Train Protection Warning System. In the photographic competition, there were 65 entries in 5 classes. This was the first year where short videos were invited, but only one member, Chris Brennan, took up the challenge and gave us two easily identified locations, both with some considerable interest. For the still classes, the entries were roughly equal for each, with some interesting pictures all round. This year's special class was 'Small World' which attracted some ingenious interpretations. Peter Heath won the 'Best in Competition' with a shot titled "All Together Now" of luggage being loaded into a guards van, also taking first prize in the Steam category. Andrew Suckling was winner of the Diesel & Electric category and Matthew Searle for 'Small World'. We are very grateful to Laurence Waters who judged the pictures again, and commented on some when they were shown and special thanks are due to Mark Horseman for making all the administrative arrangements. Frank Blackwell who had judged the competition for a number of years sadly died earlier in the year, and our condolences were sent to his widow Joan. The Society's committee has decided to adopt Laurence's suggestion of 'Black and White' for next year's special category.





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FAREWELL, SIR BILL

Sir William McAlpine died on Sunday 4 March aged 82 after a serious illness. Many of us have enjoyed the hospitality of his Fawley Hill Railway near Henley, and his numerous contributions to conservation of our railway heritage included returning *Flying Scotsman* from the United States, backing the creation of the railway at Whipsnade Zoo and helping to inaugurate and lead the Railway Heritage Trust for many years. *The photo shows him in his extensive private library at Fawley.*



HERITAGE ROUNDUP

The **Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway** opens to its fully rebuilt station at Broadway on 30 March. At the **Buckinghamshire Railway Centre** (Quainton Road), L&NWR *Cornwall* has gone on display in the relocated Oxford Rewley Road station. The chunky ex-Courtaulds 1948 Peckett (works 2087), resident here since 1983, has moved on to Mangapps Railway Museum in Essex, but nearly-restored Hawthorn, Leslie 3718, originally from Swanscombe cement works in north Kent, has moved from Barrow Hill to join sister 3717 at Quainton. Contractors for the **Cholsey & Wallingford Railway** are restoring the former Marlow branch platform overall roof displaced from Maidenhead by electrification work for re-erection at Wallingford with the aid of a large grant from the Railway Heritage Trust. Further afield, a note from our esteemed hon. member Charles Parker in January's *Heritage Railway* drew attention to the museum in a railway carriage at **Rayne** on the Braintree–Bishop's Stortford branch – one for anyone tempted to walk or cycle what is now the Flich Way.

NEWS SNIPPETS

The first test of a **Crossrail** Class 345 Aventra unit between Paddington and Reading was on the night of 19 February. --- Hitachi and Bombardier have submitted plans for a rail test track at **Long Marston**. --- *And finally*, on 5 March, Monday-morning passengers on Chiltern's Oxford–Marylebone service were issued with virtual reality headsets to enjoy the delights of Western Australia as part of a tourism promotion.

SOCIETY NOTICES

To see all the photographic competition finalists' entries, the latest issue of *8IF*, the Society magazine is available tonight, so don't forget to pick up a copy! The editor, Peter Heath, thanks all those who contributed and looks forward to receiving articles on any rail-related subject for inclusion in next year's issue.

Your committee has various **outings** under consideration. Look out tonight for expressions of interest in a visit to Pete Waterman's O-Gauge model of Leamington ("just like the real thing") on Sunday 3 June; and a fish and chip supper on the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway later in the summer.

Despite a lull since Christmas, the total raised through **Easyfundraising** as at the end of February stood at just over £459.

****NEXT ORS MEETING Wednesday 11 April Ken Livermore – Great Eastern Lines 1954–1962****

COMING EVENTS

Saturday–Sunday 17–18 March: Didcot Railway Centre: *Day Out with Thomas*

Saturday 17 March: UK Railtours: *The Missing Link* returns via Claydon L&NE Jcn–Oxford: 2 x Class 60

Monday 19 March: 19:30: RCTS Thames Valley, Didcot Civic Hall: John Steeves – *Heritage Railway Infrastructure*

Friday 23 March [note date]: 19:30: GWS Oxford, 58 Banbury Rd: Richard Crane – *Saturdays Only*

Tuesday 27 March: 13.30 passing Didcot: Steam Dreams: *Cathedrals Express* Southend–Bath return: 45212

Wednesday 28 March: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: Richard Green – *Mulhouse Meanderings*

"Buffer Stop" is edited with photographs by Matthew Searle <matthew904@btinternet.com> (with thanks to Mark Horseman and Peter Heath) 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 April.