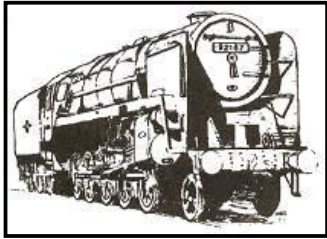
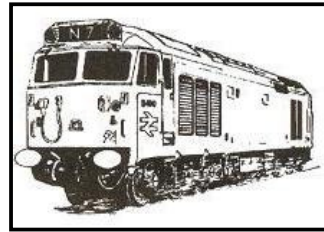


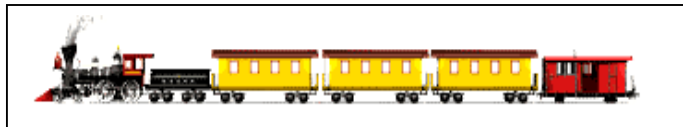
OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
9 MAY 2018



**Buffer  
Stop**



This evening, **Peter Harrison** is giving a presentation on *The Construction of the Channel Tunnel* (reconstructed section at National Railway Museum seen above). Last month Ken Livermore showed slides of the Great Eastern Line 1954–1962. Next month on June 13 Howard Quayle will be speaking on *The Oxford to Worcester Line in the 1960's and 1970's* (photo right shows picture).



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### FAREWELL, GEORGE

Members of the committee represented the Society at the service of thanksgiving for the life of our colleague and teamaker extraordinary George Williams at St Mary's, Cogges, on 20 April. He was described in the address as "Reliable, diligent and faithful", sentiments with which we can all concur.

### MULTI-MODES TO OXFORD

Today's *Rail* magazine is reporting that nineteen tri-mode (overhead wire, third rail and diesel) four-car Class 769 Flex units, converted from Class 319 EMUs, are scheduled to enter service with Great Western from Spring next year. Fitted with extra luggage space, they are primarily intended for airport services, initially supporting refurbished 387/1s on Heathrow Express (which GWR is operating from August this year) and then predominantly on the Reading–Gatwick North Downs line service, but Reading–Oxford is given as another intended sphere of operation, which will further weaken the case for stringing wires north of Didcot. Meanwhile, from 16 July this year, a new bi-mode Class 802 is rostered for a fill-in Paddington–Oxford return amongst its westcountry diagrams.

### BANBURY TO DIDCOT

The nameplates from both Banbury North and South Signal Boxes have been donated by Network Rail to the Great Western Society and are expected to be displayed at Didcot Railway Centre in the new Signalling Centre, due to open on Saturday–Sunday 23–24 June with the former Swindon Panel as the centrepiece.

### EXTRA COACHING

The 16.22 Paddington–Great Malvern, the only down train with timetabled calls at Combe, Finstock and Ascott-under-Wychwood on the Cotswold line and previously a DMU working, is now diagrammed for an HST. From 20 May, Chiltern is adding an extra carriage to some evening peak Marylebone–Oxford services.

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY 08410

On June 20, Great Western's Derby-built shunter 08 410 (former D3525) at Penzance, Long Rock, marks its 60th anniversary in service. The oldest locomotive still working for an English passenger train operating company, it has always been allocated to the westcountry, having been new to Newton Abbot in 1958.

### COMING EVENTS

**Saturday 12 May:** UK Railtours: *Worcester Sorcerer* Letchworth–Worcester via Cotswold line: diesel-hauled

**Tuesday 15 May:** Steam Dreams: *Cathedrals Express* Victoria–Worcester out via Cotswold line: 45212

**Monday 21 May:** 19:30: RCTS Thames Valley, Didcot Civic Hall: Alan Norris – *The L&SWR in 1914*

**Wednesday 23 May:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: Ian Foot – *29 years on the North York Moors Railway*

**Friday 25 May:** 19:30: GWS Oxford, 58 Banbury Rd: Neil Kearns – *Restoration and Operation of 850 Lord Nelson*

**Saturday–Monday 26–28 May:** GWS Didcot Railway Centre: *Rails on the Western Front*

**Thursdays 31 May & 5 June:** Steam Dreams: *Cathedrals Express* Paddington–Victoria via Bicester & Oxford: 60103 *Flying Scotsman*

**Saturday 9 June:** UK Railtours: *Last Invader* Paddington–Fishguard via GWML: diesel-hauled

**Thursday 14 June:** Steam Dreams: *Cathedrals Express* Paddington–Cardiff: 60009 *Union of South Africa*

**Saturday 16 June:** Railway Touring Co: *Cotswold Venturer* Paddington–Worcester out via Cotswold line: 60009 *Union of South Africa*

**No Buffer Stop next month – back for September 12, so please send any contributions by the end of August**

"Buffer Stop" is edited with photographs by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto: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 from September to June.