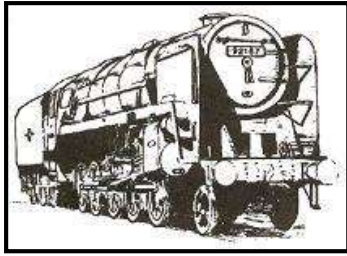


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
13 MARCH 2019



**Buffer
Stop**

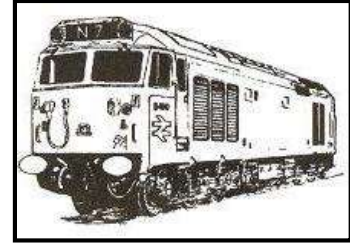


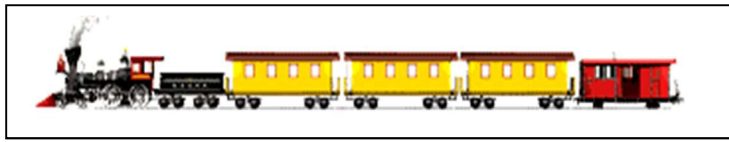
Photo: **Ben Brooksbank**, used via Creative Commons Licence

Tonight we welcome back **Chris Youett**, with a presentation on the *Midland & Great Northern Joint* – 60 years since closure. The photograph above shows the hub of the system, Melton Constable, with a B12/3 heading for Yarmouth Beach in November 1958, four months before the end, and a glimpse of one of William Marriott's precast concrete signal posts.

Last month's AGM proceeded without sensation. The overall winner of the annual photographic competition, judged by Laurence Waters, was Chris Brennan with 'End of the day' in the black and white category. Other category winners were Peter Heath, for 'Departing for Leicester' in the Diesel & Electric category, and Matthew Searle for 'Two foot freight' and 'Men and machines' in the Steam and Railway Related categories respectively. Thanks to Mark Horseman for the organisation.

Members' presentations were given by Matthew Searle and Keith Gower on a miscellany of matters ranging from canals and the Eastleigh Lakeside Railway to London's railways viewed from on high and Doncaster Grammar School Railway Society's museum; Sid Redford delivered some local railway reminiscences; and Alan Wiffen presented his own video of the spectacle of the last days of Chinese main line steam in the snow, on and off the footplate.

Next month, on April 10, Michael Bunn will be back to give a presentation on the Baie de Somme Railway.



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PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Laurence Waters, judging the competition, encouraged more members to have a go: most of us now have a camera with us all the time on our mobile phone. The Committee have decided that for next year the categories for what will now be called the Frank Blackwell Cup will be: Steam, Diesel/Electric, Railway Related and Railway Personnel, and there will also be a video category. Meanwhile, for all this year's winners, look out for copies of *81F* tonight.

LOCAL RAIL NEWS ROUNDUP

Since the turn of the year, GWR IETs have been running on electric power to Bristol Parkway and partially down the Berks & Hants line, although they are prevented from working Newbury–Bedwyn services until a problem with the onboard door monitoring video system is resolved. However, local services as far as Newbury are worked by Class 387s (*photo*). EMUs of this class are now stabled at



Swindon Cocklebury sidings and worked empty daily to Didcot to take up service; the new stabling sidings at Maidenhead have been given over to Crossrail. Talks are now proceeding on the takeover of Paddington–Reading locals by Transport for London from this December, as would have been the case if the Elizabeth Line were to have opened at this time. And finally... news of an Oxfordshire rail closure: Adrian Shooter has announced that his private Beeches Light Railway will be closing after 15 years in May this year at his Steeple Aston home to move to a new location.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 16 March: 10:00–17:00: Abingdon & District Model Railway Club, Abingdon & Witney College, Wootton Road, Abingdon: *Abrail* exhibition

Monday 18 March: 19:30: RCTS Thames Valley, Didcot Civic Hall: John Shreeves – *Heritage Railway Infrastructure, part 2*

Saturday 23 March: 07:45 pu Reading: Pathfinder Tours: *Class 50 Terminator Phoenixed*, Paddington–Penzance, out via Berks & Hants line: 50 007/49

Wednesday 27 March: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: Richard Green – *Dresden Delights*

Friday 29 March: 19:30: GWS Oxford, 58 Banbury Rd: Ralph Ward – *The Final Years of Western Region Steam*

Thursday 4 April: 09:30 pu Oxford Parkway: Steam Dreams, Chinnor–Weymouth: 61306

Friday–Sunday 5–7 April: GWS Didcot Railway Centre: *Saint* weekend: 2999 *Lady of Legend* debut

Saturday 6 April: 12:27 arr Oxford: Vintage Trains: *Cotswold Explorer*, Birmingham–Oxford circular, out via Sapperton, return via Cotswold Line: 7029 *Clun Castle* debut (*tour repeats 1 June, 6 July, 12 October*)

“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; events may change. 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:** 1 April