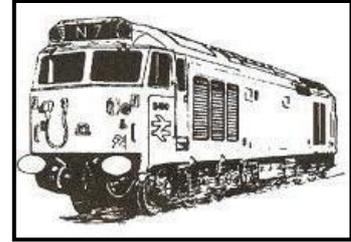
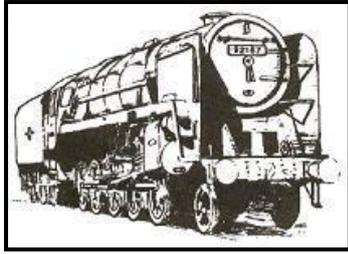


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10 JUNE 2020 – LOCKDOWN EDITION

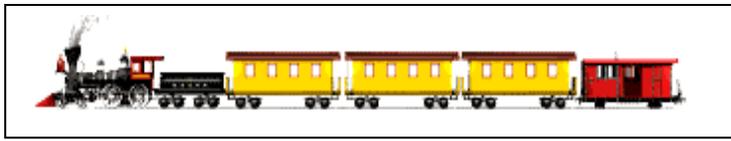


Loughborough, 1982

A bicentenary justifies this locomotive classic appearing here: its designer, Patrick Stirling, was born on 29 June 1820 in Kilmarnock into a clan of engineers and apprenticed in both marine and locomotive engineering. In 1866, he succeeded his cousin, Archibald Sturrock, as locomotive superintendent of the Great Northern Railway. No. 1, with its 8ft driving wheels, was turned out of Doncaster Works in 1870. Stirling died ten days after leaving office, on 11 November 1895, so the 125th anniversary of his death will also be marked this year; his ‘singles’ were still putting up excellent performances in that summer’s ‘Race to the North’.

EXCEPTIONAL LOADS

Another document to emerge from the editorial files is a photocopy of BR(WR) Notice No. 99/T5 dated 11 April 1949 headed ‘Exceptional Loads’. Observers at Oxford the following day would have seen some interesting sights. First, three coaches “accompanied by caretaker throughout” worked through on a morning freight en route from Handsworth to Eastleigh. These were among the last of a batch of new hauled stock contracted by the Southern to the Birmingham Railway Carriage & Wagon Company. In the evening, the 7.25 Reading (Scours Lane)–Banbury freight conveyed “One S.R. Loco – No. 81 – dead, own wheels, from Eastleigh S.R. to Loftus N.E.R.” Given that this was the first of the little class B4 0-4-0 Southampton dock tanks, *Jersey*, it is not surprising that this was restricted to a maximum speed of 25 m.p.h. It had been sold to the Skinningrove Iron Company at Carlin How



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where it worked until 1961. Finally, the Pressed Steel Company's Fowler diesel, loaded onto a Lorient well wagon, was tripped from Morris Cowley to Hinksey ready to depart early the following morning for repairs at its makers in Leeds.

FLYAWAY FLYOVER



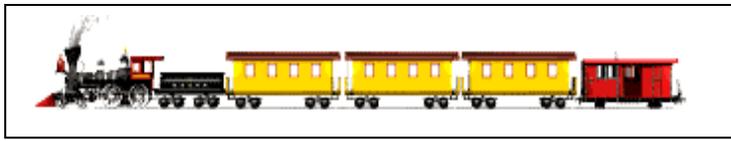
Some Network Rail work has continued – indeed, been assisted – by the coronavirus lockdown. As part of the East-West Rail project, the spans of the 1960s concrete Bletchley flyover, which carried the Oxford–Cambridge tracks over the West Coast Main Line, have been lifted out for replacement. The first came out on 22 April, and the WCML was closed on the first three weekends of May for removal of the remaining spans. The aptly-named Tim Shoveller, managing director for Network Rail Central, described this as a major milestone. Span 17, the first to be removed, is just visible in the background of this picture from last year; the EWR high-level platforms are to be located here. The interior murals of the new Class 230 units depict the flyover in its original form.

October's Oxford & District Model Railway Club exhibition has been cancelled but we expect to have details of its virtual replacement when available.

ANSWERS

Now, the moment you've all been waiting for: here are the answers to last month's quiz:

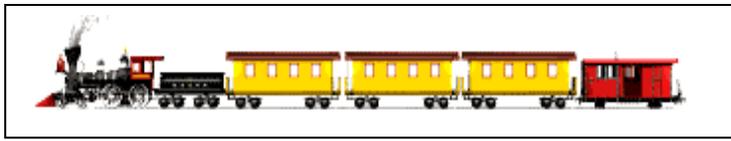
1. A Crewe; B Hastings; C York; D Exeter; E Bristol; F Shrewsbury; G Bicester (junction for the new chord); H Newport; I Carlisle; J Birmingham; K Lincoln; L Nottingham; M Inverness
 2. A Railroader who moves around from road to road; B Platelayer; C Clear signal, or a train given such a signal; D Signal box; E Small switcher (shunting engine)
 3. A Bluebell Railway and Cleethorpes Coast Light Railway; B *River Irt*, *River Mite* and *River Esk*; C *Festiniog*, ii *Tanfield*, iii *Swindon & Cricklade*, iv *Nene Valley*; D *Beamish*; E *Baie de Somme*
 4. A Aberdeen; B Dublin; C Penzance; D Leeds; E Burnley; F Carlisle
 5. (picture question) A Bristol Temple Meads; B York; C Kingswear; D Paris Gare (now Musée d'Orsay); E Manchester Central; F Budapest Keleti
- Next, how about this month's offering...?



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QUIZ

- Some general questions.
 - What is the signal box bellcode for “Obstruction Danger”?
 - Who was Bulleid’s father-in-law?
 - What does the Southern Railway electric multiple unit classification 2-NOL signify?
 - How many British Railways standard steam locomotives were built?
 - Which railway company took over the Lancashire, Derbyshire & East Coast Railway in 1907?
- Some questions on the Great Western Railway and its constituents.
 - What was the name of the CME’s official residence at Swindon?
 - GWR 0-6-0 no. 57 was completed at Swindon Works in May 1855. Why was it significant in the works’ history?
 - The Alexandra (Newport & South Wales) Docks & Railway acquired some secondhand coaches from an unusual source in 1909. What was it?
 - How did *Caynham Court* differ from its ‘Saint’ classmates in later years?
 - The GWR introduced its first road motor buses in 1903 between where?
- What are the wheel arrangements of the following locomotive classes?
 - LNER Y7
 - Prussian P38
 - Great Central “Wath Daisy”
 - South African Railways GMA
 - BR WR 52 (‘Western’) diesel
- What are the names of the inclines that lie or lay between the following pairs of stations?
 - Bromsgrove and Barnt Green
 - Totnes and Brent
 - Newcastleton and Shankend
 - Weymouth and Upwey Wishing Well Halt
 - Sheffield Park and Horsted Keynes
- Which European countries’ railways are designated by the following initials?
 - CP
 - MÁV
 - ÖBB
 - SŽ
 - VR
- The picture questions (pictures overleaf)
 - At which station was this regal lamp originally erected?
 - Railway offices above and a mural at platform level: which station was this?
 - What is this VR?
 - A Swedish train, but at the most northerly station in another country. Where?
 - E & F. Two goods facilities, accurately restored to their Midland and Great Western Railway identities respectively. Where? (*Hint: not all goods stations were reached over home metals*)



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A



B



C



D



E



F

Answers in the next issue. Suggestions for future pieces or for quiz topics welcomed!

*“Buffer Stop” is edited by **Matthew Searle** <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who also took the photographs) and published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society.*