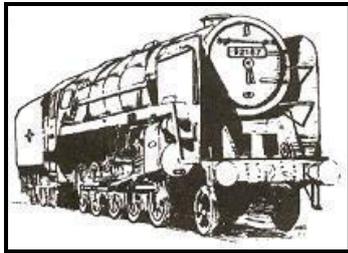
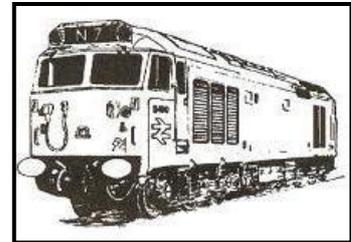


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
SEPTEMBER 2020

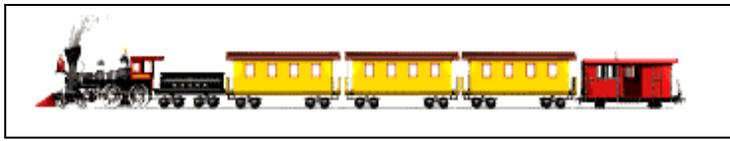


**Buffer
Stop**



As we marked the Severn Valley Railway's 50th anniversary in the last issue, it seems only proper now to celebrate the Bluebell Railway's 60th, which fell on 7 August; again, full celebrations are being deferred for a year. The editor's photographs were taken during the 50th (*above*) and 40th (*right*) events. It was an extraordinary achievement to reopen the line in less than eighteen months from establishing a preservation society and to persuade sufficient enthusiasts that it was worth doing so: after all, you could still at the time find Victorian locomotives hauling Edwardian coaches on Southern Region branches within an hour's journey from London; and in that same year of 1960 BR was building new 9Fs and rebuilding Bulleid light Pacifics, examples of both being now on the Bluebell.





OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Society updates

As your Committee feels it is still impracticable for us to meet in a way that is both sociable and socially distanced, this remains our sole means of communication for the time being, but we are considering ways in which we might get together remotely. Our 'Watlington Fryer' trip to Chinnor has been deferred until next summer. At present, we still intend to hold our annual photographic competition next year, but as your photographic opportunities may have been limited recently, we suggest you might use any enforced extra leisure to look out older pictures that haven't previously been entered in the competition; the special topic is *Signalling the Trains*.

Railway development updates

Local bids among the fifty made across England and Wales to the Department for Transport's Restoring Your Railway 'Ideas Fund' include the Chinnor Railway Aston Rowant extension; reopening the Stratford upon Avon to Honeybourne link; the Cirencester Community Railway Project (reopening to Kemble); and reopening Grove (né Wantage Road) station, the later belatedly added to the list after it was discovered that its omission was due to administrative errors. The proposals were to be considered by an expert panel over the summer to decide which can go forward for more planning.

In August it was announced that a new Master Plan for Oxford station was to be produced to tie in with the Oxfordshire Rail Corridor Study's investigation into quadrupling the line to Didcot. This would fit with the draft transport study published in July by England's Economic Heartland, a consortium of local government and business partners, setting out how the region can "Use delivery of East West Rail as the catalyst for the transformation of our strategic public transport networks, investing in those networks to connect our economic assets and communities in a shared endeavour that unlocks added value." Also in July, another local authority partnership, the North Cotswold Line Task Force, which is campaigning for a half-hourly Oxford–Worcester service, inaugurated a Hanborough Station Sub-Group which is pressing for an Oxford–Hanborough shuttle.

The A423 (Southern By-pass road) Kennington railway bridge replacement is expected in the autumn.

Oxfordshire-built locomotive preserved

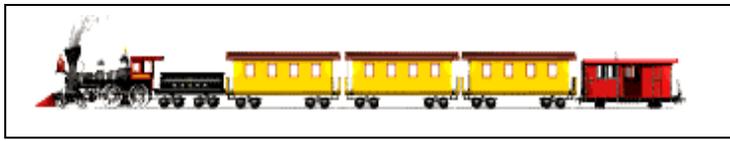
Moseley Railway Trust, which operates the Apedale Valley Light Railway in north Staffordshire, has been donated surviving two-foot gauge equipment from Wilmslow Peat Farm on Lindow Moss in Cheshire. This includes an Alan Keef diesel, works no. 4, the first complete locomotive built by Keef; this was in 1979 while he was operating from Cote Farm at Bampton.

Curiosity corner

Researching for the quiz has turned up some railway byways just too esoteric to pose as questions, but which might entertain fellow trivia collectors. So... If your Llangollen Railway train is working hard (or whistles) as it heads west from Berwyn, the sound should carry to the churchyard of Llantysilio, a little to the north. Here lies buried German-born engineer Charles Beyer, best remembered to us as a partner in the Beyer, Peacock company. He settled at Llantysilio as a country gentleman. I wonder if the Great Western ever sent a "Beyer Goods" engine down the line to disturb his slumbers.

July quiz answers

1. A – *Dunrobin*. B – Gauge corner cracking. C – Wessex Trains. D – Tralee. E – 10¼".
2. A – Caterpillar. B – Stourbridge Town. C – Electrostar. D – Newton Aycliffe. E – Trenitalia.
3. A – 30. B – 842. C – 35. D – 2. E – 22.
4. A – John A.F. Aspinall. B – Thomas Bouch. C – Sam Fay. D – Chris Green. E – O.S. Nock.
5. A – Shipton-on-Cherwell. B – WR-pattern upper quadrant. C – Thames Valley Signalling Centre (Didcot). D – 70026 *Polar Star*. E – 1960.
6. A – Wallingford (ABM maltings). B – Meldon Viaduct. C – Folkestone Harbour branch. D – Hythe Pier Railway. E – Amsterdam (Centraal). F – Liège(-Guillemins).



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

September quiz

1. Some general questions.
 - A. The Midland & Great Northern Joint line closed almost entirely at the end of February in which year?
 - B. What is the name of the principal express service between Belfast and Dublin?
 - C. There is a statue of a seated commuter on the island platform at Maidenhead. He was associated with trains of a very different sort. Who is he?
 - D. The 'Big Four' railways collectively purchased a travel company in 1942. Which? (it was recently in the news again)
 - E. At what voltage do London Underground trains operate?

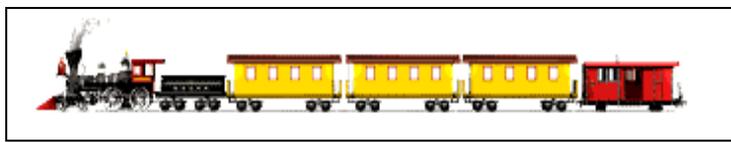
2. What are or were the gauges of the following lines?
 - A. Campbeltown & Machrihanish Railway
 - B. Snowdon Mountain Railway
 - C. Nilgiri Mountain Railway
 - D. Lee Moor Tramway
 - E. Victorian Railways (Australia; main network)

3. For spotters: here are four traditional and one modern shedcodes. Which sheds?
 - A. 1E
 - B. 30A
 - C. 71B
 - D. 81C
 - E. TO

4. In the pregrouping era:
 - A. Name the seven companies using Carlisle Citadel station
 - B. Which two railways were partners in owning the Norfolk & Suffolk Joint Railway?
 - C. Which four companies used Cambridge station?
 - D. Which company could carry goods in its own ships and trains from Copenhagen to Drogheda?
 - E. At which two stations could you have changed between Great Western and North Staffordshire trains?

5. There is a long tradition of clergymen interested in railways. Can you identify the following reverend gentlemen?
 - A. 'Thin clergyman', graduate of St Peter's, Oxford
 - B. 'Fat clergyman', built the Cadeby Light Railway
 - C. Built the Buckingham branch line in EM gauge
 - D. Bishop of Wakefield and railway photographer
 - E. Canon, rector of Blewbury and creator of Thorpe Hazell, railway detective

6. Picture question (*overleaf*): The standard industrials of locomotive manufacturers could be quite distinctive: who built each of these?



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

A



B



C



D



E



F



Answers next month.

"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. Closing date for next issue: 29 September