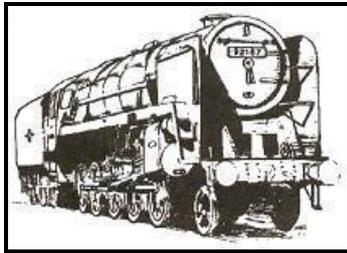
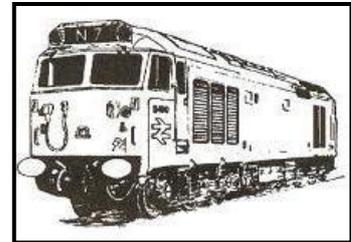


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NOVEMBER 2020



**Buffer
Stop**

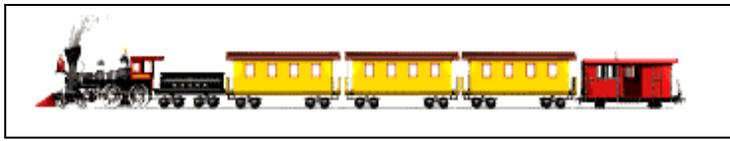


*Clockwise from top left:
Three-footer **Rio Grande Southern 20** at
Colorado Railroad Museum this August (photo by
Joe Weigman used under CC BY-SA 4.0);
10¼" gauge **Kerr's Miniature Railway 3007
Firefly** visiting Eastleigh Lakeside in 2018;
Stockton & Darlington Railway 25 Derwent at
Darlington as displayed in 1990s (photos by editor)*

69 After 69 years, Schenectady-built ten-wheeler (4-6-0 to us) Rio Grande Southern 20 of 1899 was restored to operation this summer on the three-foot gauge circuit at the Colorado Railroad Museum in Golden having been out of steam since 1951, the year before the RGS threw in the towel. It had been new to the Florence & Cripple Creek Railroad.

85 After 85 years of operation by the same family, Kerr's Miniature Railway, located alongside the main line on the West Links at Arbroath, ceased operation (at least in its present form and ownership) at the end of this year's season. For summer 1938 it was converted from 7¼" to 10¼" gauge. *Firefly* returned steam to the line in 1984 after nearly quarter of a century's absence; it had begun life in the 1930s as a Great Western-style pannier tank and ran briefly at the California-in-England theme park near Reading.

175 Celebrating its 175th birthday this month, Stockton & Darlington Railway 'Tory' Class coal engine 25 *Derwent* was delivered to a Hackworth design from Alfred Kitching's foundry in Darlington in November 1845. Already somewhat outdated when built, with its return-tube boiler requiring a double-tender configuration, it nonetheless had a near-fifty-year working life and was last steamed for the 1925 celebrations.



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P.S. You can find video of the Kerr's Miniature Railway closure at https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kerr%27s_Miniature_Railway_triple-headed_train_-_2020-10-10.webm .

Trains for planes, and other news snippets

The first of nineteen 4-car Class 769 trimodal Flex trains for Great Western Railway arrived from Brush at Reading for staff training and testing in August. The plan is for the fleet to be introduced between there and Gatwick next year. Class 387s for Heathrow Express moving between refurbishment at Ilford and Reading Train Care depot where they are to be maintained are sometimes stabled in Oxford carriage sidings (although the logic of this defeats me); they are dragged by Rail Operations Group class 37s.

60163 *Tornado* has been moved to Southall for railtour commitments from London, but a scheduled 24 November Railway Touring Company special to Gloucester and Cardiff has unsurprisingly been cancelled. On 30 October, Locomotive Services' HST set returned through Oxford to Crewe having been repainted at Eastleigh in the handsome 'Blue Pullman' style Nanking blue livery. Recreation of 2999 *Lady of Legend* at Didcot has been 'highly commended' in the national Museums + Heritage Awards. The Ian Allan Book & Model Shop at Waterloo closed at the end of last month, earning an obituary in *The Sunday Times*.

Old cobblers

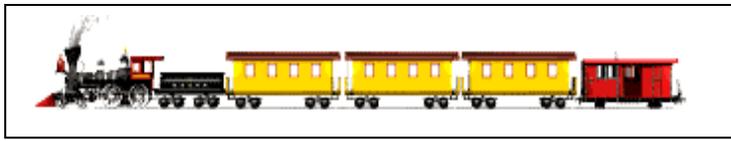
Having excavated among my papers down to the early 1970s strata, I was surprised to notice in period guides to attractions for railway enthusiasts there was listed a scenic model railway at F.S. Bradshaw Footwear Stores in Middle Barton. A search online found a mention of this in *Bygone Bartons* no. 3 revealing that Fred Bradshaw, who ran the family cobblers, saddlery and shoe shop which operated in the village from 1920 to 1982, having bought a train set for his son, apparently let his enthusiasm get the better of him and let it spread to the entire room over the shop, opening it to visitors. Night-time illumination was a particular feature. Does anyone remember it? It must have made a visit for a new pair of school shoes more exciting than usual for some small boys. Needless to say, the shop is now closed and is now a private residence, Saddler's Cottage.

Curiosity corner

You probably know about Brookwood Cemetery and how it once had its own train service. You probably don't know that the site of its South Station is now occupied by an Orthodox community caring for the bones of 10th century English King Edward the Martyr – perhaps the least likely reuse of a station site.

October quiz answers

1. A – The raised section of an otherwise low platform. B – Bulgaria and Hungary. C – Isetta bubble cars. D – Ivor the Engine. E – Drove *Mallard* on its record run.
2. A – 1906. B – 1921. C – 1952. D – 1988. E – 2000.
3. A – *King Charles I*. B – *Sir Archibald Sinclair*. C – *Princess Margaret Rose*. D – *Silver Fox*. E – *Pinza*.
4. A – Eighteen millimetres. B – Binns Road. C – Gorre & Daphetid. D – Madder Valley. E – *Princess Elizabeth*.
5. A – Brake Third Corridor. B – Channel Tunnel Rail Link, now HS1 (and Cross Town Rail Link). C – Global System for Mobile Communications - Railways. D – Signal Passed at Danger. E – Train Protection Warning System.
- 6 (*picture question*). A – Ashburton. B – Highley. C – Crofton Pumping Station. D – Achenseebahn. E – Festiniog Railway at Blaenau Ffestiniog. F – Bowes Railway.



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NOVEMBER QUIZ

1. More general questions.

- A. Which three companies were the constituents of the North British Locomotive Company?
- B. Name the French firm which gave its name to the 'bent-elbow' type of electric locomotive pantograph.
- C. The only point on the West Coast Main Line from which you can see the sea is while passing through which – now closed – station?
- D. Around which city can you travel by Luas or DART?
- E. Alton station is shared by Mid-Hants and 3rd-rail electric trains. Two other heritage railway stations formerly accommodated such trains: which?

2. Between which places did the following named trains run?

- A. 'The Devonian'.
- B. 'Hebridean'.
- C. 'The Irishman'.
- D. 'Pines Express'.
- E. 'Sunny South Express'.

3. Some American questions.

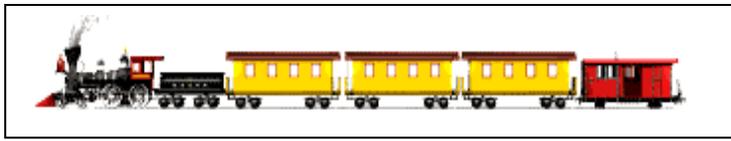
- A. Which was the first U.S. railroad to introduce electric locomotives?
- B. What is the location in Utah at which the 'Golden Spike' ceremony for the Transcontinental Railroad took place?
- C. The Edaville Railroad is one of the world's oldest heritage operations. What business was it originally laid to serve?
- D. The New York, Chicago & St Louis Railroad was normally known by what nickname?
- E. Between what cities does the Acela Express operate?

4. Railways in culture.

- A. Where were the platform location scenes for *Brief Encounter* filmed 75 years ago?
- B. What book (later filmed) is dedicated "to Number 1 Down Mail"?
- C. Who painted a series of pictures of the Gare St-Lazare in Paris?
- D. Which station was used for location scenes in *Oh, Doctor Beeching*?
- E. Who, better remembered in later years as a television actor, wrote the 1920s plays (later filmed) *The Ghost Train* and *The Wrecker*?

5. What did the following symbols indicate?

- A. Yellow diagonal stripe on cabside of LMR steam locomotives.
- B. Yellow triangle below cabside number on BR steam locomotives.
- C. Large inverted black triangle on end of Southern Region (D)EMUs.
- D. White cross below classification disc on cabside of (G)WR locomotives.
- E. Plate reading WXQ on end of GWR coaches.



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6. Name these tunnels

A



B



C



D

E



F



*“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: 30 November***