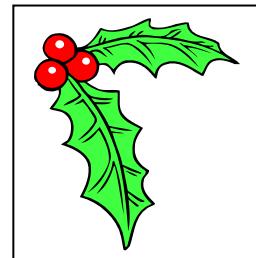
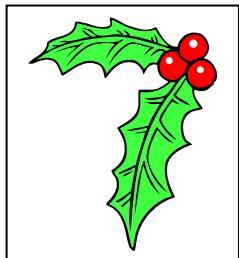


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY  
DECEMBER 2020



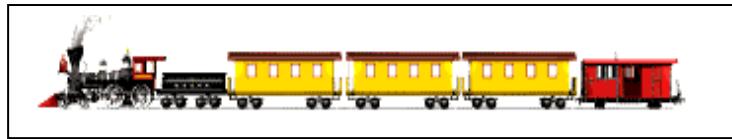
*Adelante arrives at Oxford December 2017 on down service during the units' comparatively short stay with First Great Western.*



Well, that was the year that was. Have a good Christmas, look after yourselves and we look forward to meeting in person at some point next year.

Laurence Waters' latest book *Railways of Oxford* has just been published by Pen & Sword Transport, so if you want a suggestion for your Christmas list information is at <https://www.pen-and-sword.co.uk/Railways-of-Oxford-Hardback/p/17852>. (And you might like to check out publisher Mainline & Maritime <mainlineandmaritime.co.uk> who have brought out a number of books which help to support various heritage railways' lockdown appeals.)

Funds have at last been found for the repair of the Rewley Road swing bridge. Council leaders forming the Oxfordshire Growth Board have given support to Network Rail's proposal to increase track capacity at Oxford station. Our other local railway news this month is just 175 years late. On 17 December 1845 as part of the locomotive trials for the Royal Commission on Railway Gauges, GWR broad gauge 'Fire Fly' class 2-2-2 *Ixion* attained 61 mph between Didcot and Paddington. An open footplate at that speed in December must have been quite an experience.



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### TRAM 75 : LIGHT RAIL 40

On 18 December 1945, 75 years ago, the Wantage Tramway's 0-4-0ST No. 7 worked the 4.30 pm freight from Wantage Road into the town. The following day, a GWR inspector declared it "not in a satisfactory condition for working" and two days later it ran the last trip out to the junction and was then locked into the Upper Yard shed with No. 5 (awaiting repairs that never happened) and the tramway was abruptly out of business. The following May, No. 7 hauled No. 5 on the first stage of her journey into preservation. We end the year by marking 40 years of Tyne & Wear Metro, generally seen as the progenitor of Light Rail Transit in the British Isles when its first section opened in August



1980, chiefly by conversion of heavy rail lines on north Tyneside. The leap across the Tyne by a new bridge came the following year. Amazingly the first-generation rolling-stock, built by Metro-Cammell, is not due to be replaced until next year. (*photos at Heworth, 1983, and Didcot, 2010*)

### Curiosity corner

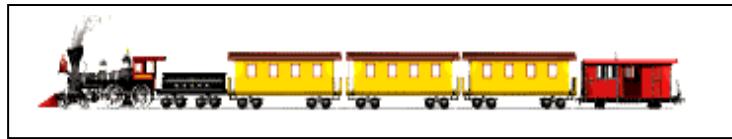
...and another chilly thought: A steam locomotive, probably London & Greenwich Railway no. 4 *Twells* of 1836, was modified to form an auxiliary engine on HMS *Erebus*, wrecked in 1848 in Queen

Maud Gulf in Arctic Canada. The ship was rediscovered in 2014 but more detailed exploration scheduled for this year has been postponed. If anyone fancies a really challenging preservation opportunity...

### November quiz answers

1. A – Dübs, Neilson Reid and Sharp Stewart. B – Faiveley. C – Hest Bank. D – Dublin (Luas is the tram/light rail system and Dublin Area Rapid Transit is the heavy rail suburban service). E – Horsted Keynes (Bluebell) and Bury Bolton Street (East Lancs).
2. A – Bradford and Paignton. B – Inverness and Kyle of Lochalsh. C – Glasgow St Enoch and Stranraer. D – Manchester and Bournemouth. E – Manchester/Liverpool and Brighton.
3. A – Baltimore & Ohio. B – Promontory Point. C – Cranberry growing. D – Nickel Plate Road. E – New York and Washington, D.C.
4. A – Carnforth. B – *Bhowani Junction*. C – Monet. D – Arley (Severn Valley). E – Arnold Ridley.
5. A – Prohibited from working under overhead wires south of Crewe. B – Water treatment equipped. C – Luggage compartment located at this end of unit. D – Permitted to haul loads in excess of power rating. E – Permitted on Weymouth Quay.
6. (*picture question*). A – Box (GWR). B – Gotthard (Switzerland). C – Sugar Loaf (Central Wales). D – Summit (Manchester & Leeds at Todmorden). E – Blea Moor (Settle & Carlisle). F – Grosmont (North Yorks Moors).

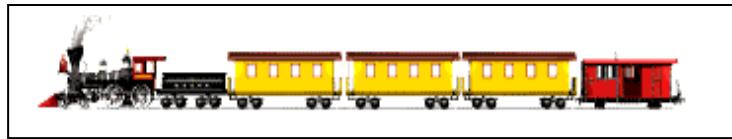
P.S. on the topic of tunnels: 22 December sees the 175th anniversary of the three-mile Woodhead Tunnel, opened officially by the Sheffield, Ashton-under-Lyne & Manchester Railway in 1845.



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### DECEMBER QUIZ

1. Contractors reconstructing the Waterloo & City line in 2006 used four locomotives with an appropriate sequence of names. What were they?
2. How did BR TOPS class 98/1 differ from the rest of class 98? And what did BR use TOPS class 99 for?
3. Which British station has platform signage in Latin? (*There's a slight hint elsewhere in this issue*)
4. On which section of the national rail network might you just be able to travel in franchised train operating company passenger stock previously owned by the LNER?
5. The gauge questions.
  - A. At which station on the national network in Great Britain outside Wales can passengers change from standard to narrow gauge?
  - B. Which section of Network Rail was originally to 3ft 6in gauge?
6. From most mainline London termini, the mileposts start from zero. Which is the exception?
7. If in the 1960s you had seen the following cars at the lineside, which railway photographers might have been in action nearby?
  - A. A black Bentley in Somerset
  - B. A white Sunbeam Alpine in Ayrshire
  - C. A 1935 Morris 12/4 within a radius of Berkhamstead
8. Maria von Trapp and Rudolf Nureyev had early railway connections: explain.
9. Charlie retired from BR at Newmarket in 1967. Why was this significant?
10. One for crossword enthusiasts perhaps. The following are anagrams of London Underground stations. Name them.
  - A. NOT NOW CAT
  - B. A NURSE QUOTES
  - C. NO INK GENTS
  - D. HELP WITH ACE
11. Picture questions (*overleaf*)
  - A. A colour light signal in Oxford. What does the prefix GL to the number mean?
  - B. On which railway did this vehicle operate (and in recreated form still can)?
  - C. HST and Eurostar alongside: where was this?
  - D. "By water and fire" it says – but not in English. On which former British railway company headquarters would you find this?



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

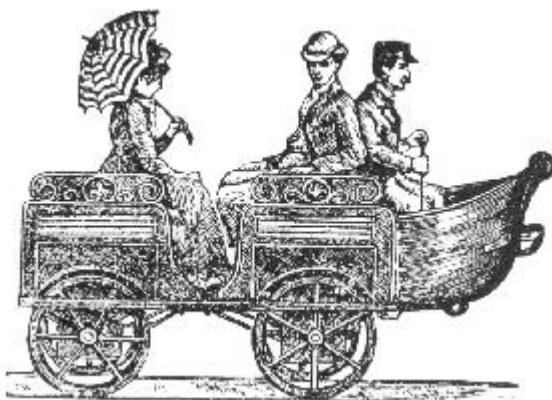


A

C



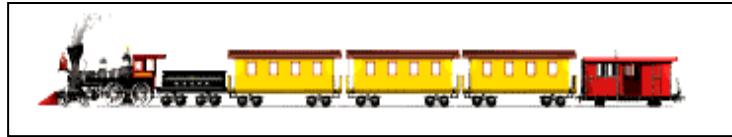
B



D

*This month's answers are appended on a separate page, as a special Christmas bonus.*

"Buffer Stop" is edited by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto: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. **Closing date for next issue:** December 31



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### THIS MONTH'S QUIZ ANSWERS

1. *Walter, Lou, Ann, Kitty*
2. 98/1 was the Vale of Rheidol diesel; the rest of class 98 is allocated to steam locos; 99 was allocated to Sealink train ferries
3. Wallsend (Tyne & Wear Metro), at the end of Hadrian's Wall
4. The Isle of Wight (South Western Railway): some of the 1938 Tube stock was originally in the legal ownership of the LNER
5.  
A. Partick (ScotRail to Glasgow Subway)  
B. The last stretch of the Gunnislake branch, originally part of the East Cornwall Mineral Railway
6. Marylebone: 205 miles 77 chains measured from Manchester London Road
7.  
A. Ivo Peters  
B. Derek Cross  
C. H.C. Casserley
8. They were both born on trains
9. He was their last shunting horse
10.  
A. Acton Town  
B. Euston Square  
C. Kensington  
D. Whitechapel
11. (*picture questions*)  
A. Ground Level (Cutteslowe Park Miniature Railway)  
B. Festiniog  
C. York (The Eurostar was one of those on lease to GNER)  
D. Cardiff (Pierhead building, now part of the Welsh Senedd)

STOP PRESS: Have just been sent link to a new video of a very impressive Sn3 model railroad featuring the Rio Grande: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FkrWygWjxzw&t=2s>