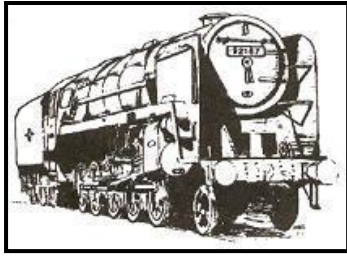
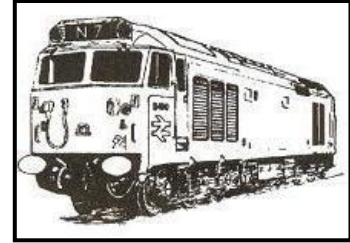


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JANUARY 2021



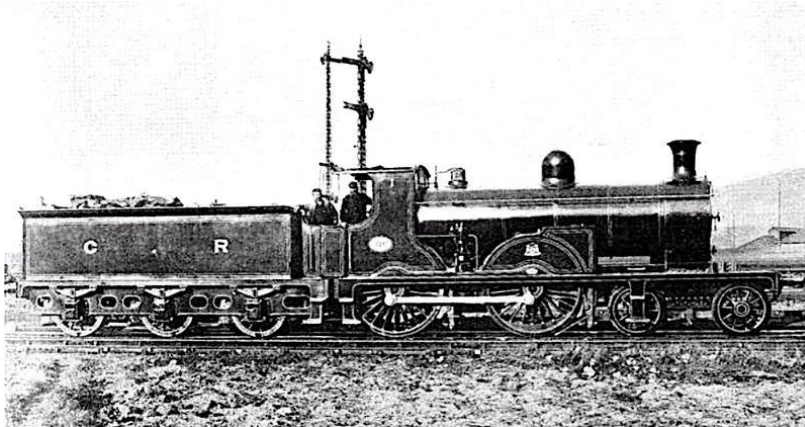
**Buffer
Stop**



To mark the season of Hogmanay and Burns Night, glimpses of Scottish railways.



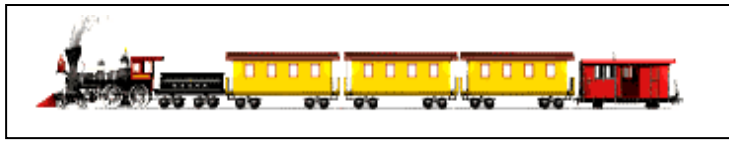
When class 26 ruled the Highland rails: 26 038 stands at Wick with the evening train to Inverness in September 1981.



Caledonian Railway 721 ("Dunalastair") class designed by J.F. McIntosh. The first was turned out of St Rollox works in Springburn 125 years ago in January 1896 and they were influential in locomotive design in both Britain and Belgium.



The section of Edinburgh Trams route to the city's airport (opened in 2014) is surprisingly rural: here two trams pass near Gogarburn in 2018.



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REMEMBER ABERMULE

A sad centenary marked on 26 January is the Cambrian Railways' head-on collision on the single line between Abermule and Newtown in which nineteen people were killed. At Abermule, the signal box (*right*) lay at the east end of the station but points at the Newtown end were worked from a ground frame and the tablet apparatus was in the station building. A casual attitude to the regulations and lack of communication among the station staff, which included a

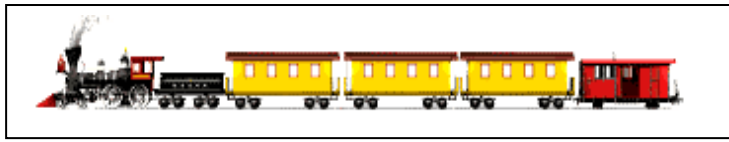


relief station master and two youths, led to them managing to despatch an up local towards Newtown with the tablet from the preceding section. The down express had already left Newtown, and the staff there and at Abermule could only wait for the inevitable conclusion. Among the dead were CR director Sir Herbert Vane-Tempest and the crew of the local, paying the penalty for not checking that they had the correct tablet. The CR's very last weekly notice to staff, issued a year later, carried boldly on the cover "Examine the Tablet" and in some Indian railway locomotive cabs could be seen the inscription "Remember Abermule". With two of its 4-4-0s destroyed, the Cambrian acquired a couple of ex-Great Western 2-4-0s to tide it over until it entered the GW fold in 1922. It was a sad end for a plucky railway company. Barely a week before the Abermule disaster, services had been suspended for two days by a derailment caused by a landslide in Talerddig cutting and its officers must have thought that was the worst the year could bring. Abermule station closed to passengers in 1965. *Personal footnote: shortly after I photographed Abermule signal box (in 1985) the vintage coach in which I was travelling expired on the road right alongside the crash site.*

CURIOSITY CORNER

37 017, which is still in existence on the Wensleydale Railway, could claim to be British Rail's most northerly travelled locomotive, as on 16 June 1984 it overshot the buffers at Thurso.

"Buffer Stop" is edited by Matthew Searle <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who also took the colour photographs) and published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society. Closing date for next issue: 31 January



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JANUARY QUIZ

1. More general questions.

- A. What major Indian station is commonly known by the abbreviation 'VT'?
- B. After London, what were the world's next two cities to open underground railways?
- C. In addition to those in Birmingham,
 - i. Where is the other Snow Hill tunnel in Britain?
 - ii. Where were the other Snow Hill stations in the British Isles?
- D. What line's southernmost point was Red Post Junction?
- E. For which city did ABB build trams at York and Derby?

2. More railway people to identify from very brief biographies.

- A. Worked on design of GWR Moguls, later on the Southern.
- B. BR regional manager sacked for writing a book about how he tried to run the railway.
- C. Major in Royal Engineers and Chief Inspecting Officer of Railways who played in and refereed FA Cup finals.
- D. Argentinian working on modern development of the steam locomotive.
- E. Scottish promoter of the Canadian Pacific.

3. More local questions.

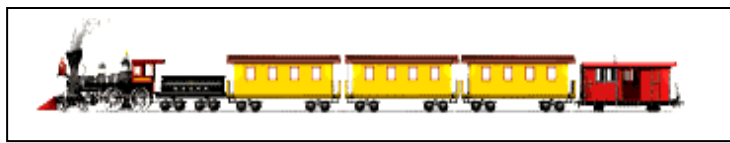
- A. Which film featured a locomotive running down the street at Woodstock?
- B. Bridges and other structures on the ex-Great Western line through Oxford are numbered in a sequence prefixed by the line code 'DCL'. What does this stand for?
- C. On what day of 1874 did the Shipton-on-Cherwell accident occur?
- D. When Oxford Parkway was opened, it was said to be the first new station in Oxfordshire since 1944. What was the 1944 opening?
- E. Who was the builder of Wantage Tramway locomotive No. 5 – and where would you find most of the other surviving engines by this builder?

4. London Underground questions.

- A. Who originally designed the London Underground diagram?
- B. The two East London line extension tunnel boring machines were named after which sitcom characters?
- C. What was the Jubilee Line known as during its planning phase?
- D. An escalator installed at Holloway Road Tube station but never brought into use was unique – how?
- E. Which station currently served by the Underground is furthest from central London?

5. Our picture questions (*overleaf*) resume the Scottish theme.

- A. Which terminus?
- B. Which station?
- C. Which station? (There's a literally big clue in the background)
- D. On which line did this vehicle operate?
- E. On which isle was this?
- F. Which viaduct?



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A.



B.

C.



D.

E.



F.



Answers next time