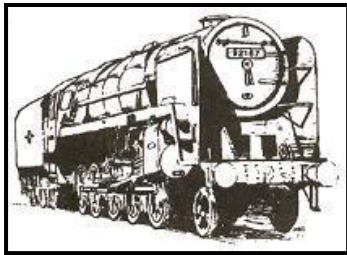


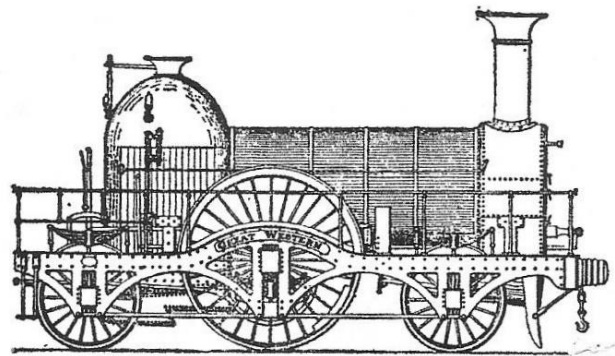
OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
APRIL 2021



**Buffer
Stop**

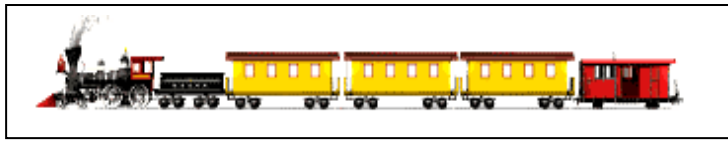


APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



Clockwise from top left: 250 years ago in 1771, Richard Trevithick was born in the mining parish of Illogan in Cornwall. 175 years ago in 1846, Great Western became the first locomotive fully built at Swindon works (she ran as a 2-2-2 only for a few months until an axle failure at Shrivenham led to an extra leading axle being added). 150 years ago in 1871, the first section of the Wotton Tramway opened from Quainton Road; actually steam locomotives were not ordered until the end of the year – they had to be lightweight like the survivor pictured since the line was built for horse traction. 125 years ago on Easter Monday 1896 the Snowdon Mountain Railway opened only to close again after a fatal accident in which locomotive L.A.D.A.S. was destroyed, but of course the line has survived with the remaining two locomotives of the original batch, including 3 Wyddfa, illustrated, available for service.

KEN BAMPTON



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Just too late to incorporate in the last issue came the sad news that our former member Ken Bampton died on 2 March aged 83 in hospital. Ken was long-time Chairman of the GWS Oxford branch. I understand he began his career as a 'box boy' at Oxford, serving as signalman at Morris Cowley, before working at Nuffield Press and being involved in supply of theatrical lighting. He was a huge supporter of voluntary organisations ranging from the British Legion to Wolvercote Commoners. He had suffered with Alzheimer's disease for the last few years but his physical health deteriorated quite quickly in the last few months. His funeral service on 17 March was necessarily private but a recording is available via the website of St Michael & All Angels Summertown at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E8W3QrtWPHw> and donations in Ken's memory to Alzheimer's Research UK can be made via <https://kenbampton.muchloved.com/>.

PHOTO COMPETITION

We hope members will be able to dust off their cameras (or smartphones) in the coming months ready for next year's photographic competition. The special topic selected by the Committee is 'Railway Architecture', alongside the usual Steam, Diesel/Electric and Railway Related categories.

RAIL NEWSBRIEFS

Network Rail has allocated £2.2M+ for renewal of 2.5 km of track between Marylebone and Bicester, intended to be completed during lockdown. Over Easter weekend Chiltern Birmingham services were diverted via a reversal at Oxford due to bridge work north of Bicester. ** A change in rules permits Great Western to purchase land jointly with other organisations and it has now linked with Moreton-in-Marsh Town Council to acquire a site next to the town's station for a transport hub, initially providing more car and cycle parking spaces. Newbury has also acquired substantial new bicycle storage. ** GWR is to restore all-year-round passenger services to Okehampton by the year's end. ** East West Rail has launched a consultation on five possible route alignments east of Bedford. ** Driving wheel patterns used for 'Saint' *Lady of Legend* have been loaned to the Churchward County Trust to cast the wheelsets for 4-4-0 *County of Montgomery* (the project for which may move to the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway). ** The *Betton Grange* project (together with unrestored *Cogan Hall*) is also likely to move from the troubled Llangollen Railway, in this case to Tyseley Locomotive Works. ** 4920 *Dumbleton Hall* has been sold by the South Devon Railway to help safeguard the line's financial future. 6412 is moving to Chinnor for the season.

VIDEO CHOICES: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XsVJ8PCV-0M> presents a 2-hour cabride from St Moritz to Tirano in the snow. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KeD_2-PVVKg gives you *A curator's guide to Inter-City 125*, taking you inside an icon.

CURIOSITY CORNER...

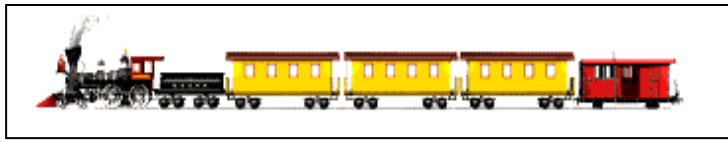
Thinking of the Snowdon Mountain Railway, in the early postwar years its locomotives were kept steaming by burning one of the few commodities in surplus in those austere times – old army boots.

... AND CURIOSITY NEARLY KILLED THE CAT CORNER

On the evening of 2 March last, passengers arriving at Euston for an Avanti West Coast departure to Manchester had to be directed to another train when a cat was observed to be sitting on the roof of their scheduled departure. It took two and a half hours before the feline decided to remove itself; station staff described it as "swaggering off".

MARCH QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A. Acton; B. "Hush-Hush"; C. Engine pistons in delta arrangement; D. Lost Boys; E. It was caught on a sculpture of a whale's tail. # 2. A. Settle & Carlisle; B. Welshpool & Llanfair; C. Banbury & Cheltenham; D. Dingwall & Skye (Kyle line); E. Central Wales. # 3. A. Abt; B. Fell; C. Locher; D. Riegenbach; E. Marsh. # 4. A. *Waverley*; B. *The Mew*; C. Richborough; D. Heysham; E. Sea Containers. # 5. (picture questions) A. Britannia (Menai) Bridge. B. Hawarden Bridge; C. Maespoeth (Corris Railway); D. Machynlleth; E. Burry Port & Gwendraeth Valley; F. David Davies and Barry Railway.



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

“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. Closing date for next issue: 30 April.

APRIL QUIZ

1. General questions:

- A. Where and in what year did the last mail exchange using lineside apparatus take place in Britain?
- B. What does ‘Tourist’ indicate in the description of a coach? (e.g. Tourist Second Open).
- C. Which city has or had stations called Kent, Albert Quay and Albert Street?
- D. How did the following BR Standards differ from the rest of their respective classes?
 - i. Britannia 70047. ii. 9F 92250.
- E. Who were Bobbie, Peter and Phyllis?

2. Name the minor railways that ran between the following points:

- A. Moorswater and Cheesewring.
- B. Shrewsbury and Llanymynech.
- C. Blodwell Junction and Llangynog.
- D. Pateley Bridge and Lofthouse.
- E. Chathill and Seahouses.

3. Some Oxford and Cambridge questions:

- A. Under which railway bridge does the Boat Race course pass (in normal times)?
- B. Who officially opened Oxford Parkway station?
- C. What is the name of the original Bedford station on the Oxford–Cambridge line?
- D. Capt. William Peel owned the Sandy & Potton Railway. What was the name of the frigate he commanded which was passed on to the line’s locomotive?
- E. What did Cambridge station have only one of for most of the period from opening to 2011?

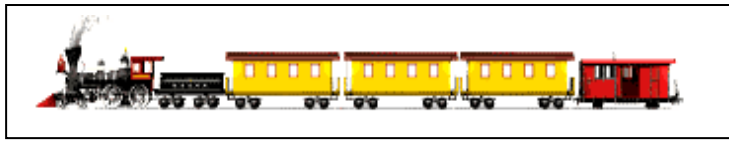
4. What classes of modern traction have been given the following enthusiast nicknames?

- A. Gronk.
- B. Hoover.
- C. Shed.
- D. Plastic Pig.
- E. Darth Vader.

5. Sidelines – Which pregrouping railways operated the following ancillaries?

- A. Welcombe Hotel, Stratford-upon-Avon.
- B. Trent & Mersey Canal.
- C. Licencing donkey-rides on Cleethorpes beach.
- D. Cruden Bay Hotel and Tramway.
- E. The Gobbins cliff path.

6. A–D. Picture question (*overleaf*): Name this pan-European selection of bridges and viaducts. (D may be particularly difficult, but see if you can name the engineer, better known for a vertical structure.)



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