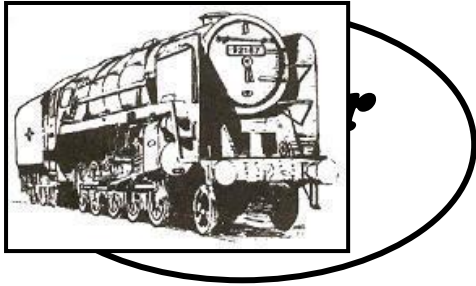


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MAY 2021

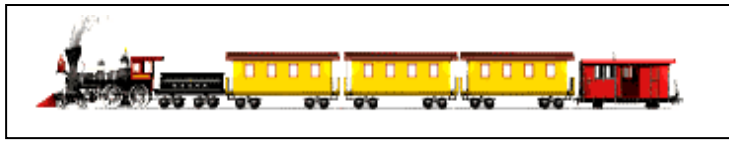


The editor cannot let pass the opportunity to celebrate the 175th anniversary of the line that passes his birthplace. On 30 May 1846, the South Devon Railway opened from Exeter St David's to Teignmouth; this was with steam traction – the 'atmospheric caper' started a little later – and of course broad gauge. *The photograph above shows the up special behind 4930 Hagley Hall and 7819 Hinton Manor*

approaching Dawlish Warren on the day at Easter 1985 when they triumphantly returned steam to the line.



A very different anniversary marked this month was fifty years since 1 May 1971 when most long-distance passenger services in the United States passed to Amtrak. You may muse on the US having had its inter-city passenger trains operated by a public corporation for longer than the UK did. *The 2012 photograph shows a GE Genesis unit with bi-level Superliner cars on the eastbound 'California Zephyr' pausing at Salt Lake City.*



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The Uffington signalman is speaking: ‘I was having my egg and bread, about seven, when the door opens and who should walk in but the Duke of Edinburgh! ...they stabled him on the [Faringdon] branch the following year... Well, I sat down to my egg and tea about seven and I’d not taken the top off the eggs when the door opens and in he comes again... But he said “Not still eating that egg?” and grinned’.

– Quoted in Adrian Vaughan, *Signalman’s Morning*

EAST WEST RAIL

Chris Brennan has provided this photograph of work in progress on East West Rail in Bicester where a



new bridge is being built to take Charbridge Lane over the route replacing the previous rarely-used level crossing. eWR’s consultation document *Making Meaningful Connections* has interesting things to say about the necessary alterations to accommodate its four trains per hour over the Oxford–Bicester section: this will require unspecified improvements at Bicester Village and Oxford Parkway plus one or more additional platforms and track capacity improvements at Oxford. An alternative to the notorious London Road level crossing at Bicester is also needed. Work has started on the

bridge at Calvert taking East West Rail over HS2.

Great Western have unveiled another cycle hub, this time at Didcot Parkway.

VIDEO CHOICE

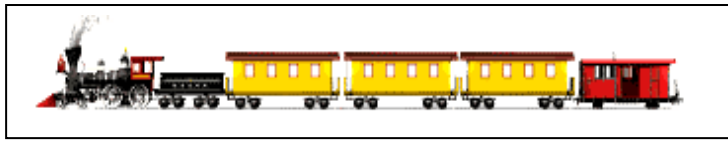
<https://www.swrfernsehen.de/eisenbahn-romantik/folgen/broadcastcontrib-swr-36530.html>

Narration in German but a nice view of heritage railways in north Wales (including Llangollen).

APRIL QUIZ ANSWERS

1. A. Penrith, 1971 (4 Oct). B. 2+2 seating. C. Cork. D. i. No name ii. Giesl fitted. E. The Railway Children.
2. A. Liskeard & Caradon. B. Shropshire & Montgomeryshire. C. Tanat Valley. D. Nidd Valley. E. North Sunderland.
3. A. Barnes. B. David Cameron, then Prime Minister and local MP. C. St Johns. D. *Shannon*. E. Through platform.
4. A. Class 08. B. Class 50. C. Class 66. D. Class 442 Wessex Electric. E. Class 460 Gatwick Express.
5. A. Stratford & Midland Junction. B. North Staffordshire. C. Great Central. D. Great North of Scotland. E. Midland Railway, Northern Counties Committee.
6. (*picture question*) A. Harringworth (Welland) Viaduct. B. Boyne Viaduct at Drogheda. C. Hohenzollern Bridge over Rhine at Cologne. D. Maria Pia Bridge over Douro at Porto, engineered by Gustave Eiffel.

“Buffer Stop” is edited by **Matthew Searle** <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who took the uncredited 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 May**



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CURIOSITY CORNER

Network Rail has a 'signal box' for training inside its York Railway Operations Centre. It is called Hornby Junction Crossing.

MAY QUIZ

1. Some general questions

- A. Name the light railway engineer who was the godson of Pre-Raphaelite painter Holman Hunt.
- B. What is unusual in French railway terms about the classic double-track railway lines in Alsace?
- C. Which BR chairman once played King Lear to Shirley Williams' Cordelia on the Oxford stage?
- D. BR acquired a locomotive from Ystalyfera Tinplate Works in 1948. What number was it allocated?
- E. English signalling engineer and photographer Kenneth H. Leech and Italian designer of the Pendolino Francesco di Majo both passed a significant personal milestone: which?

2. At which railway works did the following begin their apprenticeships?

- A. Bulleid.
- B. Churchward.
- C. Gresley.
- D. Maunsell.
- E. Stanier.

3. Which depots were indicated by the following symbols on Railfreight locomotives?

- A. Cheshire cat.
- B. Cockney sparrow.
- C. Oast houses.
- D. Spitfire (plane).
- E. West Highland terrier.

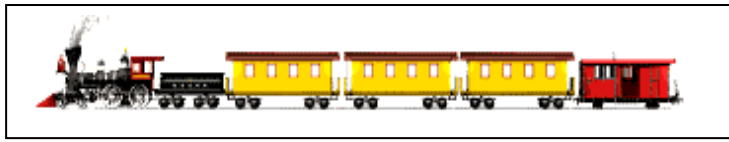
4. Name the stations which lie between the following junctions:

- A. Dr Day's Bridge and Pylle Hill.
- B. Skelton and Holgate.
- C. Maindee and Gaer.
- D. Farington Curve and Fylde.
- E. Buckland and Archcliffe.

5. Football specials.

- A. What did the team that began life as Newton Heath Lancashire & Yorkshire Railway F.C. become?
- B. For what team's home games was Ramsline Halt provided?
- C. Which railway trade union leader played football professionally for Sunderland?
- D. What was the LNER class of the 'Footballers'?
- E. Which football league club is known as 'The Railwaymen'?

6. (*picture question – overleaf*) What is the type of articulation system used by each locomotive?



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A



B



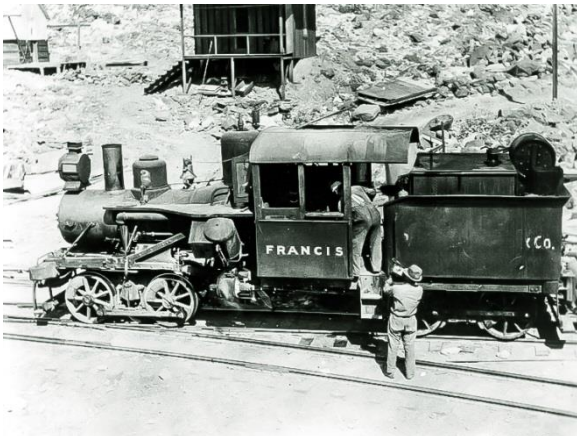
C



D



E



F

