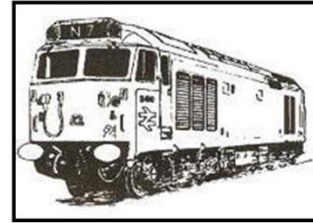
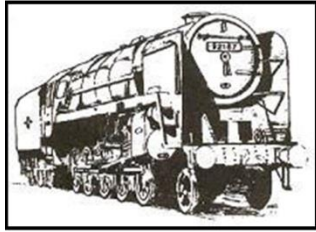


## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



13 MARCH 2023



*Sheffield trams of different generations.*

Tonight the editor of *Buffer Stop* is giving a presentation covering *Trams to LRT*.

The winners of our annual photographic competition announced last month were:

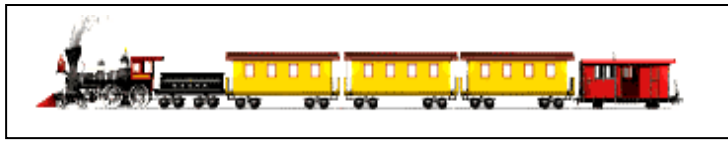
Brian Higgins: Steam and overall winner for *No. 4 at Abergynolwyn*

Peter Heath: Steam on Shed for *Simmering at Swanage*

Matthew Searle: Diesel & Electric for *Blue is the Colour* and Railway Related for *Crossrail cross-passage*

Laurence Waters, our judge, delivered some useful tips on improving composition, notably, putting the main subject in the upper two-thirds of the picture; and allowing space around the subject to give you the option of trimming and straightening later on the computer – or in the camera: even smartphones have this capability now. Next year's categories will be: Steam; Diesel & Electric; Railway Related; and Railways at Night.

Next month on **3 April (Note: first Monday)** Chris Youett will be delivering the second part of his presentation *We'll keep a welcome in the hillsides*, taking us to west Wales.



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### DISPERSALS

Next month, Great Western's fleet of class 769 trimodal units, some of which have been stored at Oxford, is intended for return to lessee Porterbrook without turning a wheel in scheduled passenger service.

For several years a group known as the Coulsdon Old Vehicle & Engineering Society built a private collection of rolling stock from Network SouthEast at Finmere station (the only Oxfordshire Great Central station). Forced from the site by HS2 work, it moved in 2019 to a shed at Graven Hill on the MoD site at Bicester. Although compensation was due from HS2 it was apparently not available in time to secure the site at Bicester and the collection is now being dispersed. Channel Tunnel rescue locomotive 73 130 has moved to the somewhat unlikely location of the Llanelli & Mynydd Mawr Railway, and agreement has been reached for a 2-car Oxted line diesel-electric multiple unit to go to the Bluebell Railway. The collection also included several ex-Oxford buses.

GWR has purchased assets of Vivarail in order to continue trials with battery trains. D1023 *Western Fusilier* has moved from York to Didcot on a 5-year loan.



### SCOTSMAN ANNIVERSARIES

As you will know, *Flying Scotsman* celebrates its centenary this year. The third Pacific ordered by the Great Northern Railway, she was turned out of the newly-formed London & North Eastern Railway's Doncaster works on 7 February 1923 and shown off at Marylebone on 22 February. At that time she was known as class A1 no. 1472 and shedded at Doncaster. During her 1950–53 sojourn on the Great Central she would have been seen at Finmere (*see above*) but 18 May is the 60th anniversary of her first recorded appearance at Oxford, on a 1963 special from Doncaster to Basingstoke

and Southampton. Her only tour so far scheduled to pass near us this year is a Paddington–Cardiff run on Wednesday 7 June. *The photograph shows her blinkered at Oxford in 2017.*

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 17 March:** *Northern Belle*: Paddington–Evesham (for Cheltenham Gold Cup): class 47/57

**Tuesday 21 March:** 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *Current GWR Scene* by Mark Hopwood

**Wednesday 22 March:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *Spa Valley Railway* by Brian Halford

**Wednesday 29 March:** *Belmond British Pullman*: Victoria–Oxford Parkway: class 67

**Easter:** Furness Railway no. 20 visiting Didcot

**Tuesday 11 April–end October:** Botley Road railway bridge closed to road traffic (29 July–6 August to rail traffic)

\*\*Look out for *British Railway Modelling* (BRM) magazine dated April which includes a feature on a certain model of Abingdon station.\*\*

*"Buffer Stop"* is edited by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew904@btinternet.com)> (who took the photographs) and published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editor; events may change. Society meetings are held at the Kidlington Baptist Church hall, High Street, Kidlington, Oxford at 7.00pm normally on the second Monday in the month. **Closing date for next issue: 27 March**