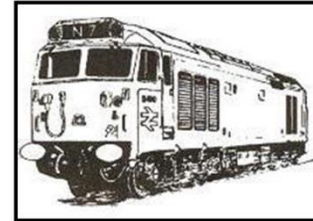
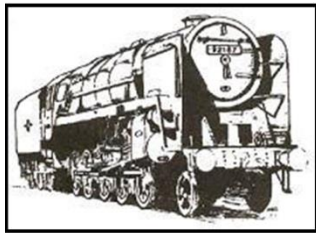


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



12 JUNE 2023



Class 08 ex Guinness LION at Cholsey.

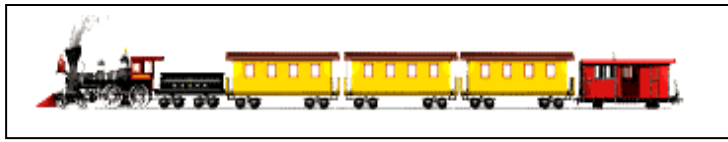
Tonight, **Tony Stead** is giving a presentation on the **Cholsey & Wallingford Railway**.

Last month on 15 May, Stanley Hart, Chair of the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway Association, gave a presentation on his line..

The Society (and *Buffer Stop*) now takes its summer break. We're back on **Monday 11 September** when David Mather will be giving us *A Railway Family History*.

NUNEHAM VIADUCT OPEN

Network Rail completed work on Nuneham Viaduct a day ahead of schedule, on Friday.



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We can now give a bit more detail of the Nuneham Viaduct reconstruction process: Firstly, temporary piles were driven into the river (using a piling rig on a floating platform) from which the bridge deck could be supported on jacks – this was done early in May. Part of the southern embankment was then removed to provide access for another piling rig – borrowed from Old Oak Common station works – to drive permanent piles to support the replacement abutment. The embankment was then reinstated and the deck jacked back down into position.

NEW TIMETABLES

The summer timetables introduced on 21–22 May have brought in some significant changes. The Elizabeth Line is ramped up to full capacity, with consequent adjustments to Reading–Paddington services. On resumption, Oxford–Paddington fast trains are adding calls at Didcot Parkway but off-peak services from the Cotswold Line to Paddington will cease to call at Slough. Chiltern Railways have also announced a retiming of practically all their trains, with Oxford getting “much more consistent departure times to and from London throughout the day”, and Banbury a regular half-hourly service to Marylebone via Bicester North; however Chiltern is ceasing to serve Kidderminster.

OTHER LOCAL RAIL NEWS

18–19 May were unfortunate days on Oxfordshire’s railways, with persons killed on the track at Kidlington and at Didcot station. In an unrelated incident near Kidlington on 18 May, a car was hit by a train on Sandy Lane level crossing, fortunately without serious injuries; the crossing is intended to be replaced by a bridge in conjunction with Oxford station reconstruction. ** Reading Green Park station opened officially on 27 May (with a ceremony two days earlier), served by GWR’s Basingstoke services. ** Oxfordshire County Council has published a feasibility study for reinstating a Carterton–Witney–Eynsham–Oxford rail connection. It is described as “workable” and “justified” but would cost up to £900M. ** The Transport Secretary has confirmed the agreed route for the final section of East West Rail, the southern approach to Cambridge, and work on Cambridge South station has started. ** This month’s *Railway Modeller* has a feature marking completion (actually last September) of Pendon Museum’s Midland & South Western Junction line within its Vale of White Horse scene – a good reason to revisit. ** A second phase of restoration for the Rewley Road swing bridge and its environs is starting. ** Refurbishment of the ‘Brunel Engine Shed’ – actually the Wycombe Railway trainshed – at High Wycombe being now complete, Buckinghamshire New University is now expected to lease it as a café and display space.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 24 June: 06:40 dep Banbury: Vintage Trains: *The Whistling Ghost*: to Minehead via Birmingham SH: 7029 from Tyseley

Thursday 17 July: 07:00 pu Oxford: Saphos Trains: *Welsh Marches Express*: steam Bristol–Shrewsbury

“Buffer Stop” is edited by **Matthew Searle** <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who took the photograph) and published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society; 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: 4 September**