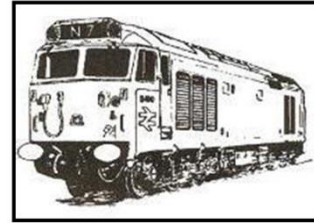
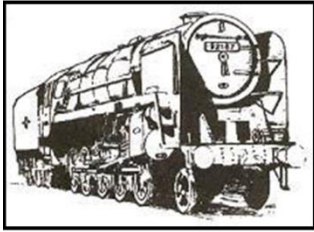


## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



11 MARCH 2024



*Kidlington Station*

Tonight we welcome back **Laurence Waters** who is going to take us from Oxford to Banbury (including the branches).

### ANNUAL PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The results as announced at the last meeting were:

Steam and overall winner: Brian Higgins, *Springtime nostalgia*

Diesel & Electric: Chris Brennan, *Dorset delights*

Railway Related: Chris Brennan, *School days*

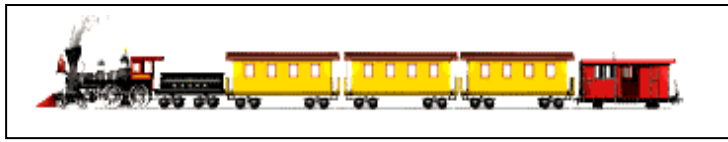
Railways at Night: Chris Brennan, *Standing on Platform 9*

In fact, between them Brian and Chris scooped all the “Highly Commendeds” as well, so congratulations to them both. Laurence Waters, our judge again urged more members to have a go – most of us are carrying a very serviceable camera on our mobiles all the time, after all. The special subject for next year will be “Trains at Speed”.

### ALSO FROM AGM NIGHT

We were entertained by videos from Alan Wiffen of Storming to the Brocken and Cuba, and from Peter Heath





## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

of a Severn Valley event and the construction and opening of the present-day Oxford station. Peter was presented by our Chairman with a replica 81F shedplate to mark his retirement from editing *81F* (photo by Simon Moppett).

### LOCAL RAIL NEWS

The heavy rain in January caused track subsidence south of Bicester North on Thursday 11th causing reduction of Chiltern services and complete withdrawal of those serving Oxford from midday. On the following days, Bicester Village was served only by a shuttle to and from Oxford. Network Rail carried out repairs on the following Sunday and Monday. Chiltern was again hit by an embankment slip on the Aylesbury line near Stoke Mandeville at the end of February, with the line closed completely for repairs for the first four days of March.

At Didcot, breakthrough from the station subway into the new ramp access for the Railway Centre happened at the end of January. To no-one's surprise, except perhaps the contractors', the brick wall at this point was something like eighteen inches thick. There are catering changes on Didcot station: the platform 2/3 buffet has become a Starbucks (with the same staff; a similar transition is proposed for Swindon) and the platform 4/5 buffet seems to be reopening under the Gourmet brand, who have also opened an outlet on the station concourse. Great Western are proposing to reintroduce an Oxford–Bristol through service: if this goes ahead, it will start as a 3-month experiment with two Saturday trains each way from September 14. It appears that most would run via Didcot West Curve, but one would call at all stations from Oxford to Didcot, which (if this is so) would give the curious spectacle of a class 802 stopping at Appleford.

From 19 February, full daily service on London Northwestern's Marston Vale line (Bedford–Bletchley) has at long last been reinstated using class 150 units, with £1 fares operating until May.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 13 March:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *Coast to Coast by Amtrak* (David Peel)

**Friday 15 March:** 10:30 pass Oxford: Northern Belle: *Cheltenham Gold Cup* Paddington–Evesham & GWSR: WCRC 47/57

**Saturday 16 March:** c.10:20? pass Oxford: Saphos: *Cotswolds Express* Northampton–Worcester: LSG steam

**Tuesday 19 March:** 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *Over the Mendips* (Mike Beale)

**Wednesday 27 March:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society: *Trip to Switzerland* (Ian Francis)

**Friday 29 March:** 08:05 pu Oxford: Pathfinder: *Easter Chieftain* Eastleigh–Aviemore: DB 67

**Thursday 4 April:** 07:00 pu Oxford: Pathfinder: *Cambrian Coast Express* Reading–Pwllheli: DB 67

### NEXT ORS MEETING

**Monday 8 April:** *Steam in India – metre gauge memories* (Jeff Warren)

P.S. The Society's attendance at the Abingdon Model Railway Club's 2024 exhibition benefitted our funds to the tune of around £350 – thanks to donors of items and helpers.

*"Buffer Stop"* is edited by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew904@btinternet.com)> 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 on the second Monday in the month. **Closing date for next issue: 2 April**