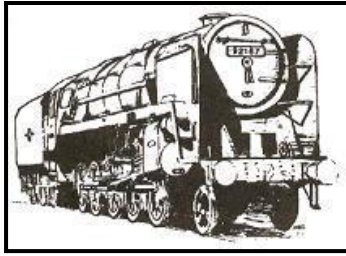
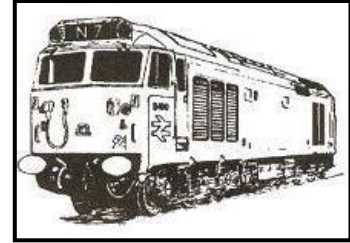


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
11 MARCH 2020



**Buffer
Stop**



Tonight, *Not Only... But Also* our member **Keith Gower** with a presentation based on visits to unusual railway installations with the Derby Railway Engineering Society, like the sliding bridge at Keadby illustrated above. **Next month** on April 8, John Hubbard of the RCTS will be presenting a show from his extensive collection of slides covering *Railways of Oxfordshire 1965–1989*.

At last month's AGM the committee (Chris Brennan, John Maine, Simon Moppett, Ron Saunders, Matthew Searle and Malcolm Sturges) were re-elected and have adopted the same roles. Videos were presented by Alan Wills (Weymouth Steam Specials 2009) and Alan Wiffin (Hand and Foot Signalling – Burma 2018) with a professional documentary on the Tetbury Branch provided by Simon Moppett. The class winners in the annual photographic competition, judged by Laurence Waters were as given below, with Peter Heath taking the Frank Blackwell Cup as overall winner.

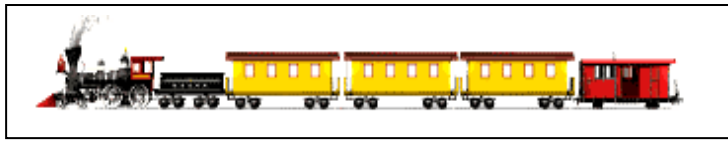
Steam: Peter Heath – *You've been framed!*

Diesel/Electric: Brian Higgins – *Western Region Finale*

Railway Related: Matthew Searle – *Period Passenger*

Railway Staff: Chris Brennan – *Bure Valley Driver*

GET SNAPPING



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

In judging the photographic competition, Laurence remarked on the relatively small proportion of the membership who entered, and reminded us that many of us are carrying a camera in our phone most of the time, encouraging everyone to have a go. The ORS Committee has decided that, as well as the regular Steam, Diesel & Electric and Railway Related categories for the 2021 competition, the special topic will be *Signalling the Trains*.

LAST POST FOR BICESTER VETERAN

Another ex-Bicester MOD locomotive entered preservation at the end of 2019. 0-4-0 diesel no. 236, built in Scotland as Barclay works no. 372 in 1945, was at Bicester at various times between 1958 and 1973 (perhaps earlier) as well as other military depots before ending its life as Britain's oldest locomotive in industrial service with Babcock at Rosyth dockyard. It has been preserved at the Lathalmond Railway Museum, which occupies Shed 47 within the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum in Fife, aptly a former Royal Navy stores depot serving Rosyth. It is expected to be working at Easter.

EAST-WEST PROGRESS

The Network Rail (East West Rail) (Bicester to Bedford Improvements) Order 2020 came into effect on 25 February to allow work to commence on Phase 2 of the East-West Rail Link, whilst at the end of January the preferred (northern) route for the largely new-build Bedford–Cambridge section was announced. Rumour has it that the parallel Expressway road might not survive today's Budget. Meanwhile use of the Aylesbury–Calvert connecting line, to be returned to passenger use under Phase 2, has been resumed by weekday GBRf trains of construction waste from Cricklewood. This includes spoil from early stage works for HS2 (which will parallel the existing track through Calvert).



ABOVE: Worcestershire Parkway station opened 23 February

COMING EVENTS

Saturday 14 March: 10:00–16:30: Swindon Model Railway Club, STEAM Museum: *Modelrail*

Monday 16 March: 19:30: RCTS Thames Valley, Didcot Civic Hall: John Sreeves – *Swindon to Saigon and beyond*

Saturday 21 March: 07:40 pu Didcot: Pathfinder Railtours: *Blue Boys Merrymixer* Eastleigh–Midlands (DRS 68 etc); UK Railtours: *Cotswold Lion* Peterborough–Worcester out via Cotswold line; 10:00–17:00 Abingdon & District Model Railway Club, Abingdon & Witney College, Abingdon: *Abrail 2020*

Wednesday 25 March: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: Richard Green – *Pulsating Poznań*

Friday–Sunday 27–29 March: Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway: Diesel Gala (visitors include 55 019)

Friday 27 March: 19:30: GWS Oxford, 58 Banbury Rd: Colin Brading – *Confessions of a Narrow Minded Enthusiast*

“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; events may change. Society meetings are held at the Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month. Closing date for next issue: 30 March