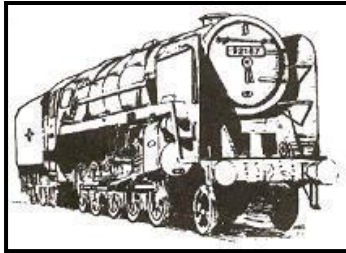
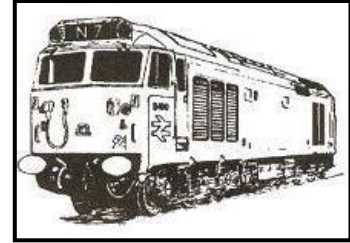


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY
13 MAY 2020 – LOCKDOWN EDITION



**Buffer
Stop**

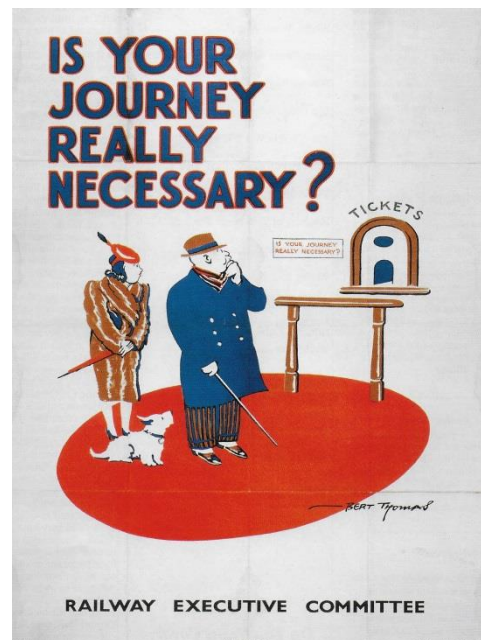


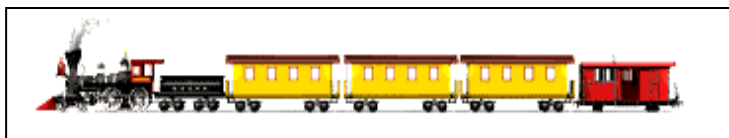
As we can't meet together today, we thought we'd keep in touch with a little light reading. We do hope you're all bearing up under present circumstances. We start with some happier occasions.



Our picture of unrebuilt 'Battle of Britain' 34051 *Winston Churchill* during its sojourn at Didcot marks a double anniversary, as the first Bulleid light Pacific, 21C101, was turned out of Brighton Works on 7 May 1945, the day before VE-Day. She was named *Exeter* in the editor's hometown on 9 July, a bit of colour in a bomb-devastated city on a glorious (double summer time) early evening with classmate *Salisbury* arriving alongside. *Winston Churchill*, built in 1946, was named after the – by then – leader of the Opposition by Lord Dowding at Waterloo on 11 September 1947 and, as you will not need reminding, hauled the great man's funeral train to Hanborough in 1965, being withdrawn at the end of that year. 12 May 1945 saw first publication of Rev. W. V. Awdry's *The Three Railway Engines*, beginning the series.

Right: The period poster has contemporary resonance!





OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

A FORGOTTEN OXFORD RAILWAY ENGINEER

May 24 is the 200th anniversary of the birth in Oxford of Benjamin Burleigh. He worked as a civil engineer on the Eastern Counties, Great Northern and Clifton & Avonmouth Railways and was resident engineer for construction of the East London line. At the beginning of 1873 he was appointed York divisional architect on the North Eastern Railway. As he died only just over three years later, he had little chance to make a mark, but he did lay out the new goods depot in York (*illustrated below*) which has achieved posthumous public prominence as part of the Railway Museum.



P.S. For York railway station's lockdown resident goose, see <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-york-north-yorkshire-52526589>.

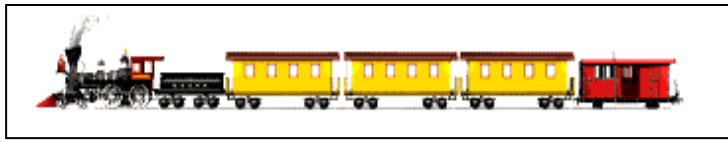
A YANK IN OXFORDSHIRE

Making use of spare time to sort through some old newspaper cuttings I was reminded that an Alco diesel switcher was resident in the county for a while. To the maker's class S1 and built to full US loading gauge, former Steel Company of Wales #803 from Port Talbot was stored on Tesco premises at Thame from 1993 for a proposed American Railroad Centre based around the BP depot near the station site. When this came to nothing, it was moved to Wallingford around 2003 but – despite carrying the apparently lucky works number 77777 – was cut up as recently as 2016/17. News of it was elusive and I never managed to see or photograph it: did anyone? There is at least one from the same series on the Nene Valley Railway.

SOCIETY NOTICES

There is a gentleman at Westcote Barton who would be happy to donate a 10-year run of *Rail* magazines to any member who is interested – contact via the editor.

A reminder, especially to those who can't regularly join us, that Buffer Stop can always be read on the Society website at <http://www.oxfordshirerailwaysociety.co.uk/>



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

QUIZ

Just for fun, we've put together a few questions to exercise your minds.

1. In or near which towns and cities are or were the following junctions?

- A. Basford Hall
- B. Bopeep
- C. Chaloner's Whin
- D. Cowley Bridge
- E. Dr Day's Bridge
- F. English Bridge
- G. Gavray
- H. Maindee
- I. Petteril Bridge
- J. Proof House
- K. Pyewipe
- L. Weekday Cross
- M. Welsh's Bridge

2. American railroad slang can be wonderfully expressive. See if you can interpret the following.

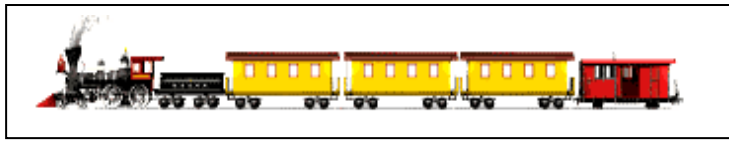
- A. Boomer
- B. Gandy dancer
- C. Highball
- D. Tower
- E. Yard goat

3. Some heritage railway questions.

- A. Which two British steam railways cross the Greenwich Meridian line?
- B. The Arlesdale Railway's *Bert*, *Mike* and *Rex* are the fictional alter egos of which Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway locomotives?
- C. On which heritage railways would you find the following stopping places
 - i Campbell's Platform
 - ii Causey Arch
 - iii Taw Valley Halt
 - iv Yarwell
- D. Where could you ride on the Pockerley Waggonway?
- E. The northern French heritage line incorporating a mixed metre/standard gauge section is the Chemin de fer de la...?

4. In or near which towns and cities are or were the following motive power depots?

- A. Ferryhill
- B. Inchicore
- C. Long Rock
- D. Neville Hill
- E. Rose Grove
- F. Upperby



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

5. Name the following stations



A



B



C



D



E



F

Answers whenever the next *Buffer Stop* appears; and of course we'll keep you posted on future Society arrangements when they can be made.

"Buffer Stop" is edited by **Matthew Searle** <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who also provided the photographs) and published by the *Oxfordshire Railway Society*; the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society. Society meetings are held at the *Seacourt Day Centre*, *Seacourt Road*, *Botley*, *Oxford* at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month from September to June under normal circumstances.