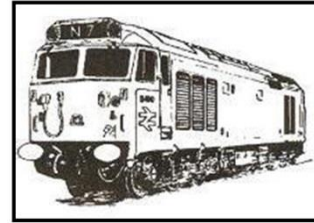
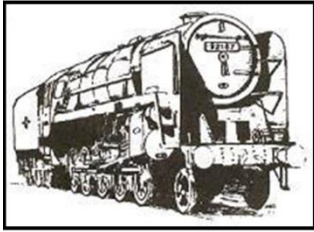


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



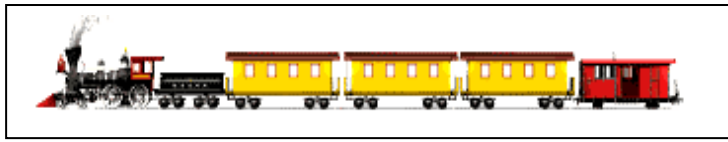
8 JANUARY 2024



Elizabeth Line class 345 arrives at Custom House on the former North Woolwich branch

For our first meeting of the New Year, **Richard Storer** (who worked on the project) will be giving a presentation on *Delivering Crossrail*. Reminder: Subscriptions due tonight.

Next month on **12 February** will be our annual photographic competition (entries should be received by me by 10 January), our Annual General Meeting and members' presentations – please speak to a member of the committee if you have something you'd like to show. There won't be a *Buffer Stop* at this meeting.



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Last month, Michael Clemens' film show took us from Oxford to Basingstoke in the last days of steam and to the North Eastern Region in 1963; other destinations included the Great Lakes and the Wye Valley. We expect to see Michael back next Christmas

FORTY YEARS ON

February will be this newsletter's 40th anniversary – it was first published in 1984. The masthead illustrations were as at present and there were several other mentions of the class 50s – members were advised that the 23.05 Oxford–Paddington stopper was usually double-headed by two members of the class, and there was a forthcoming 50-hauled railtour from Paddington via Oxford to the Settle & Carlisle. The following article reads interestingly in the light of more recent events and is reproduced verbatim:

THE BRIDGE BUILDERS.

British Rail are averaging a new bridge a year in this area with three having been rebuilt already. The first was the overbridge at Oxford station, followed by the one over the river Thames near the site of the old Oxford gasworks. Then, in November 1983 the road bridge at Radley was demolished and replaced by a very unattractive pre-cast concrete structure, most of the work being completed in one weekend. This bridge was originally built in the nineteenth century and was the only link between the village and Lower Radley. With vastly increased traffic from Tuckwell's gravel pits over the years it had started to subside and was becoming unsafe.

At present a brand new one (the Fourth Bridge!) is being constructed at Didcot at a cost of over one million pounds over the South Wales main line.

Whilst on the subject of building, B.R. have announced proposals for a new Parkway station south of Hinksey yard. This would of course take a lot of road traffic away from the city centre, being next to the ring road and the park & ride. This site is incidentally where a previous station, "Abingdon Rd. Halt", was situated, but this closed about 60 years ago.

EVENTS 2024

Wednesday 10 January: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *An Evening of Cine Films* (Ian Clare)

Tuesday 16 January: 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *Rail Reminiscences* (Phil Darlston)

"Buffer Stop" is edited by Matthew Searle <matthew904@btinternet.com> (who took the photograph) with thanks to David Heath for providing the 1984 information 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 on the second Monday in the month. Closing date for next issue: 4 March