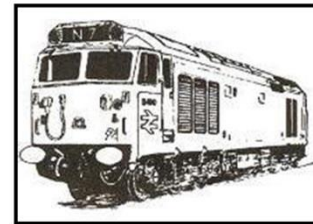
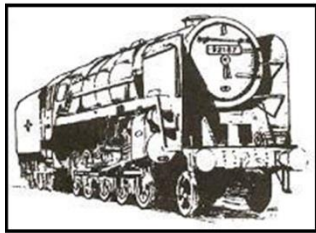


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



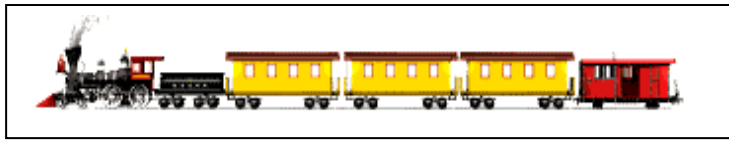
8 APRIL 2024



This evening, Geoff Warren is giving a presentation under the title *Steam in India – metre gauge memories*. He tells us that India's metre gauge railway network extended to over 25 thousand kilometres at its peak size. It was almost as extensive as the broad gauge system, but is now reduced to less than 800 km. The metre gauge was sometimes sidelined by visiting steam enthusiasts. It lacked the glamour of the big broad gauge locos or the remarkable diversity of the narrow gauge lines. However, up to the 1990s, steam was dominant in many metre gauge regions. The photos in this presentation were taken between 1980 and 1990, representing most of the existing steam loco classes in varied settings from north to south. The editor's photograph, from March 1987, shows 'YL' 2-6-2 5112 on a local at Jaipur.

Last month, Laurence Waters took us from Oxford to Banbury in historic photographs.

At next month's meeting on **May 13** Mike Walker will be marking the 150th anniversary of the **Great Marlow Railway**.

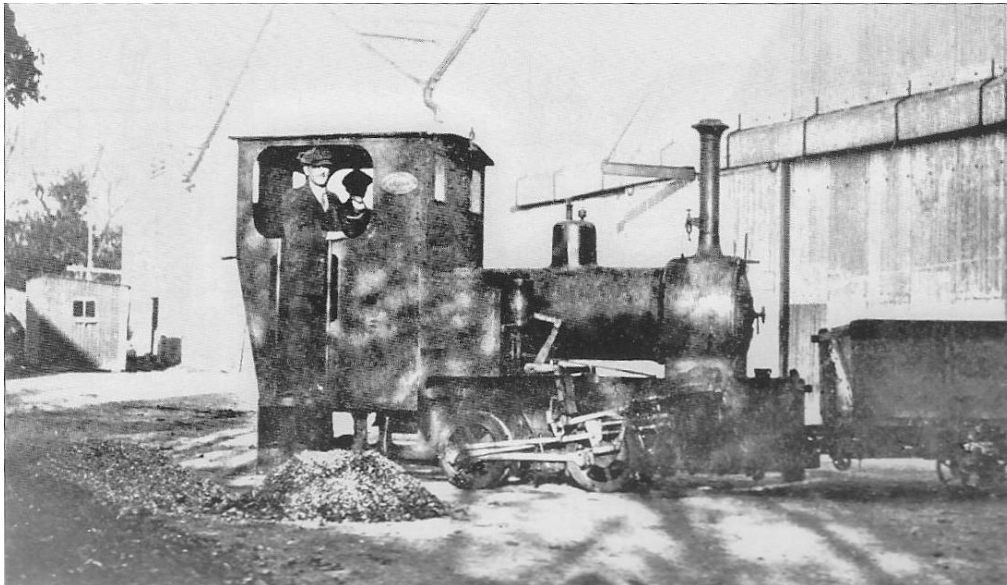


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

LOCAL RAIL NEWS PAST AND PRESENT

On March 7, East West Rail marked reinstatement of continuous track between Oxford and Bletchley with completion of a full relay east from Bicester. On March 21, working south to north, Tunnel Boring Machine *Cecilia* completed the down line bore of HS2's Chiltern Tunnel near Wendover; at 10 miles, this is the longest tunnel on the route.

Andrew Burchett writes: Colin Judge, known to many members for the authorship of numerous books of railway interest has had an article published in *Industrial Railway Record* 256 (the latest) titled 'William Morris and the Narrow Gauge Railway at Cowley'. An interesting piece of history unknown, I am sure, to most of us. It operated between the Morris factory at Hollow Way to the yard next to the then Garsington Road Halt during the latter part of the First World War for munitions.



*Hudswell,
Clarke
Eureka in
the Morris
works yard
at the old
Military
Academy*

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 10 April: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *The Arrival of Railways in Reading* (Richard Marks)

Sunday 14 April: pm pass Oxford: Pathfinder/UK Railtours: *The One Way Wizzo* Paddington–Bescot: D1015

Tuesday 16 April: 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *The LMS Patriot Project* (Colin Hale)

Wednesday 24 April: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society: *The LMS Patriot Project*

“Buffer Stop” is edited by Matthew Searle <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 Kidlington Baptist Church hall, High Street, Kidlington, Oxford at 7.00pm on the second Monday in the month. Closing date for next issue: 2 May