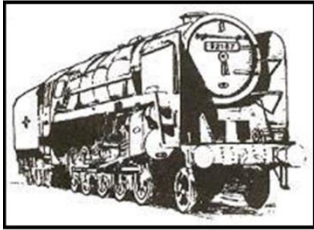


## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



# ***Buffer Stop***



*14 APRIL 2025*



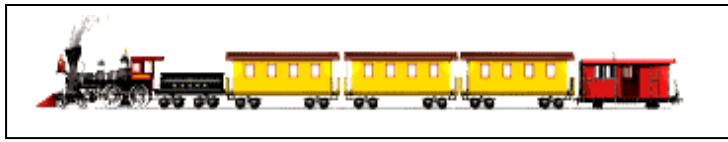
*Above: 50 031 Hood with a down train at Oxford on a wet August day in 1985. Below: 50 007 Hercules and 50 049 Defiance approach Roundham Crossing at Kidlington last July on what was probably their last run in GBRf livery. All three of these locomotives now operate under the Fifty Fund/Class 50 Alliance banner.*

Tonight, David Keogh and Joe Burr from the Fifty Fund will be giving a presentation on the life of the Class 50s from origins through to preservation with a particular focus on their operation in the Thames Valley.

Last month, we enjoyed a selection from Phil Darlaston's railway photographic reminiscences.

Next month on **12 May**, we shall have *The Mid-Hants Line from its origins to closure in 1973* by Keith Brown.





## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### COMING EVENTS

**Tuesday 15 April:** 19:00: RCTS Didcot Civic Hall: *Roaming around London with a camera* (Geoff Brockett)

**Thursday 17 April:** 11:30 arr Oxford Parkway: Belmond British Pullman ex Victoria: 2 x DB class 67 (ecs to/from Hinksey)

**Wednesday 23 April:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *Trip to York* (Tony Wright)

**Sunday 18 May:** 11:30 arr: Fawley Hill Museum & Railway: ORS visit

**Sunday 22 June:** 10:30 arr: Watercress Line: ORS visit *Payment to Ivan Cadge tonight*

### FIFTY YEARS ON – news from the ORS's founding year of 1975

**May 3** Last day of service on the Bridport branch, leaving Dorset (and Somerset) without any BR branch passenger services. **May 5** The prototype HST (with Mk 3 trailers) entered revenue service on the Bristol to Paddington route.

### LOCAL RAIL NEWS

It's big engine time on the **Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway**: after hosting a class 50 during its April diesel gala, the line will have USATC S160 class 2-8-0 no. 6046 (from the Churnet Valley Railway) available for service from later this month to the end of the season.

**Didcot Railway Centre** is staging a **Rivals Reunited** event between 14 May and 1 June with *Flying Scotsman* visiting to mark the 50th anniversary of being joined by *Pendennis Castle* on display at the British Empire Exhibition. There will be static displays as well as steamings, but check the DRC website for just what's scheduled when and to make bookings. The GWS has been awarded preliminary funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to develop a detailed programme for restoration of the engine shed roof.



*57 305 pauses at Oxford on the first of several light engine runs over East West Rail to Bletchley scheduled at the start of this month. Despite the remnants of Rail Operations Group livery, the loco now belongs to GB Railfreight.*

"Buffer Stop" is edited by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew904@btinternet.com)> (who took the photographs) 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 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**