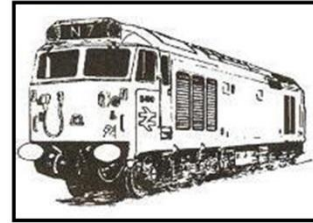
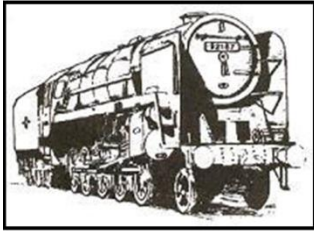


## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



8 SEPTEMBER 2025

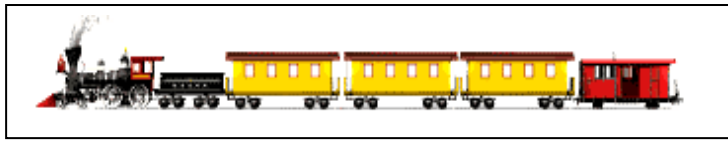


*The WLA's D1013 WESTERN RANGER departs Kidderminster Town a few days after its opening in 1984.*

Tonight, Paul Finch is coming from the Western Locomotive Association to tell us about their fifty years of preserving, maintaining and operating three Western Class 52 diesel hydraulic locomotives. Next month on **13 October** Laurence Waters is giving us a presentation on the work of photographer J.D. Edwards.

### 50 YEARS ON

**1975** changes to production processes at the British Steel Corporation's Shelton and Bilston works required increased supplies of ore from the Oxfordshire Ironstone Company at Wroxton, with 700-ton trains running from Banbury. **September 27** The National Railway Museum was officially opened in the converted York MPD by the Duke of Edinburgh as the first national museum outside London. **September 28** Sealink *Maid of Orleans* was withdrawn from the Dover-Boulogne service, the last steam turbine-powered Channel packet built for foot passengers only. **September 30** The Manx Electric Railway closed for the winter for the first time in its history, turning it from a transport operation to a leisure attraction.



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

### A BUSY SUMMER

\*\* On 16 June, the first commercial freight ran over East West Rail, with an intermodal service from Didcot inaugurating Maritime Transport's Northampton Gateway terminal, returning in the evening to Southampton. DB 66 090 in blue Maritime livery did the honours for the first few days. The same week saw the start of regular late-night driver training moves for the second freight operation over the route, which began in the last week of August as a dedicated DRS-operated Tesco container service from their Daventry depot, the first serving Wentloog in south Wales. \*\* On 17 June, South Western Railway Class 701 Arterio EMUs stored at MOD Bicester began to be moved to Wimbledon for service. Their operator has, of course, become publicly owned since they went into store. GBRf provided 69 009 *Western Courier* in maroon livery to perform haulage on the first day. \*\* During August, former TransPennine Express train sets for the Chiltern Mainline service have been worked by Class 68s through Oxford headed to Eastleigh for refurbishment and are also running test circuits between Eastleigh, Didcot, Banbury and Leamington. It will be interesting to see if any enter service prior to Chiltern's projected nationalisation in March 2026. \*\* On 26 June, the day preceding the public launch of the Railway 200 'Inspiration' exhibition train at Kidderminster, it was worked through Oxford by dedicated GBRf locomotives 66 719/10 en route from the press launch at Paddington. \*\* On the weekend of 5/6 July, the Chinnor & Princes Risborough Railway's long-desired 'Chinnor Independent Line' was officially opened to give regular access to Princes Risborough station. The line will entertain 4079 *Pendennis Castle* during its Autumn Gala (31 October/2 November). \*\* 1466 returned to Didcot in the first week of July and was officially relaunched into traffic on 23 August. \*\* On 20 August, Great Western claimed a record 200 miles on a single charge for its battery-electric multiple unit 230001; it reached the half-way mark at a reversal in Oxford at 03:00. \*\* As promised, a new walkway under the Botley Road bridge at Oxford station opened on 31 August.

### COMING EVENTS

**Wednesday 10 September:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *A history of DMUs* (Colin Boocock)

**Friday 12 September:** 05:45 dep Oxford: Pathfinder Railtours: *The Cambrian Coast Express* Oxford–Pwllheli: WCR diesels

**Sunday 14 September:** 10:30–16:00: Oxford & District Model Railway Club, Edward Feild School, Kidlington: *Oxrail 2025* exhibition

**Tuesday 16 September:** 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *Recent and future projects at Didcot Railway Centre* (Richard Antliff)

**Saturday 20 September:** 11:23 pu Oxford: Hastings Diesels Ltd: *HDL 100 Not Out* railtour Hastings–Birmingham Moor Street: 'Hastings' DEMU 1001

**Wednesday 24 September:** 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society: *The Hampshire Community Rail Partnership* (Mark Miller)

**Saturday 4 October:** 10:30–17:00: Abingdon & District Model Railway Club, Didcot Civic Hall: Didcot Model Railway Show

**Wednesday 8 October:** arr Oxford Parkway: *Belmond British Pullman*: DB Class 67

"Buffer Stop" is edited by **Matthew Searle** <[matthew904@btinternet.com](mailto:matthew904@btinternet.com)> (who took the photograph) 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:** 6 October