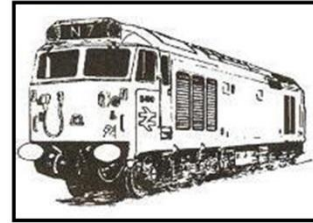
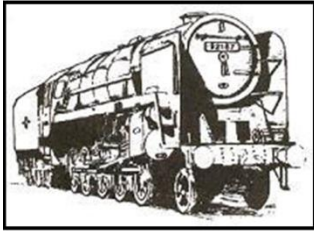


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

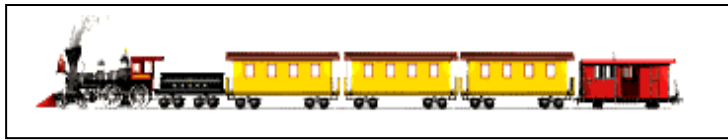


8 DECEMBER 2025



It had been hoped that passengers could return between Bicester and Bletchley this month. Although this now seems impossible the editor found a Chiltern class 196 (refurbished from West Midlands Trains use for East West Rail service) having arrived at Oxford on a test run from Milton Keynes on 2 December.

Season's Greetings to All! Tonight we welcome back **Michael Clemens** to deliver our Grand Annual Film Show. We hope to be visiting the south west, the north east, Wales, and a bit more besides. Last month, Colin Brading was 'Keeping Track' for us. We start the New Year on **12 January** with John Hubbard giving a slide show covering 'Deltics on the East Coast Main Line and branches'. Annual subscriptions will be due at this meeting. 12 January is also the deadline for our annual **Photographic Competition**: entries to the editor with up to three images in each of four categories: Steam; Diesel/Electric; Railway Related; Railway Architecture. Please provide a title for each picture.



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

COMING EVENTS

Tuesday 16 December: 14:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *My time inside the Walls: Memories of Swindon Works* (Martin B. Telling)

Wednesday 17 December: 13:00 sd Oxford: Steam Dreams: Southend–Bicester Village: 71000?

50 YEARS AGO

Concluding global rail events from the ORS's founding year of 1975, on 14 December Japan National Railways ran its last official steam passenger train, on Hokkaido, with C 57-135. The State Railways of Finland had also withdrawn their last steam locomotives during the year and the National Railway Company of Peru laid up MV *Yavari* (1862) on Lake Titicaca.



QUIZ OF THE YEAR (*Answers below*)

1. South Western Railway passed to public ownership on 25 May, but another rail operation transferred from one private operator to another on the same date – which?
2. Which was the second railway operation to transfer to DfT Operator?
3. Name the Southern Region General Manager, 1985–90, who died in March.
4. A West Midlands Metro tram was present at the funeral procession of its namesake – who?
5. Recent research has shown that *Locomotion* did not carry that name 200 years ago – what was it known as?
6. In which city did a Very Light Rail street-running trial take place during 2025?
7. What is now the longest railway viaduct in the UK?
8. Where was B23 stock introduced in September?
9. National Rail launched a new design of what at London Bridge in October?
10. Who was the first operator of class 93?

EAST WEST RAIL

Plans announced during November by EWR included the reduction of stops on the Marston Vale line from ten to four – Woburn Sands, Ridgmont, Lidlington and Stewartby (for Universal Studios) – and not necessarily on the original sites. It has also proposed replacing the notorious London Road level crossing in Bicester by an underbridge serving pedestrians, cyclists and a single-lane roadway.

Answers: (1) Elizabeth Line (passed to GTS); (2) c2c; (3) Gordon Pettit; (4) Ozzy Osbourne; (5) Active; (6) Coventry; (7) Colne Valley (HS2); (8) Docklands Light Railway; (9) Station clock; (10) Rail Operations Group

“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:** 5 Jan