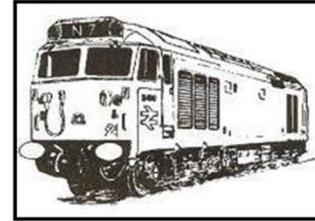
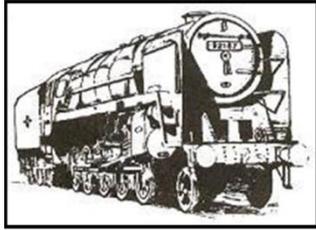


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY



9 MARCH 2026



Above is the Wycombe Railway terminus as recently restored and below left is Cookham station.

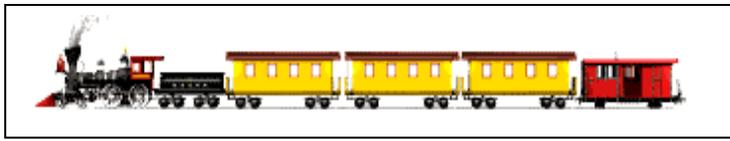


Tonight, **David Lane** is speaking to us about *The Wycombe Railway*.

Next month, on **13 April**, Nicolas Wheatley will be coming to talk on the topic *Final Journey: the untold story of funeral trains*.

SOCIETY NEWS

Following last month's AGM, the returning committee members (Ron Saunders, chair; Matthew Searle, secretary; Chris Brennan, treasurer; and



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

Malcolm Sturges, programme secretary) have been joined by Paul Harris, Colin Homans and Mark Stuart. We are grateful to everyone who offered assistance in helping to run the Society.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

The section winners in our annual photographic competition, judged by Laurence Waters, were:

Steam and winner of the Frank Blackwell cup: Brian Higgins, *1 in 13 exhaust*

Diesel & Electric: Matthew Searle *You're goin' home*

Railway Related: Brian Higgins *Refreshing the tanks*

Architecture: Matthew Searle *Across the bridge*

Laurence has set us an interesting challenge for next year's competition, so the Steam, Diesel & Electric and Railway Related categories will be joined by *Contre-jour*.

LOCAL RAIL NEWS

Replacement of the Botley Road bridge at Oxford station during the first week of February appears to have gone well, with trains back to normal at the start of the following working week. On Sunday 22 February Chiltern ran a special train to mark the end of its use of Mark 3 coaches. During the month, it recommenced test running of its new trains out of Eastleigh. East West Rail has announced its preferred train maintenance depot site as Bletchley West, but this has roused opposition from nearby Newton Longville. Last week, beginning on Monday 2 March, Locomotive Services' D400/50 050 *Fearless* was booked to run light daily from Crewe to perform a couple of light engine runs between Bletchley and Oxford, apparently for driver training (50 008 was the first of the class over the revived line last year).

Since the end of last year, the daily aggregates train into Oxford Parkway may well have been shunted at Whatley Quarry by one of Britain's 'newest' locomotives, 08 787, re-engineered as an '08e' battery-electric by Positive Traction on the chassis of the former BR D3955 (1960).

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 11 March: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *Railways of Hampshire* (Stephen Bigley)

Friday 13 March: 09:40 pass Oxford: Northern Belle, Paddington–Evesham (for Cheltenham Gold Cup): WCR class 57

Tuesday 17 March: 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *Britain's changing railway, from outside and in* (Phil Deaves)

Thursday 19 March: 17:24 pass Oxford: Belmont British Pullman, Bletchley–Victoria: DB class 67

Friday 20–Sunday 22 March: Chinnor & Prince Risborough Railway: Diesel gala: visiting classes 26, 31, 37, 66

Thursday 26 March: 13:29 arr Oxford Parkway: Belmont British Pullman, ex Victoria: DB class 67

Sunday 29 March: TBC pass Oxford: Belmont British Pullman, ex Victoria: DB class 67

WESTCOUNTRY MEMORIES

On February 14, FirstGroup last operated bus services in Cornwall. This ends 97 years in direct descent from the pioneering Great Western Railway service from Helston to the Lizard. This month marks the sixtieth anniversary of the closure of the much-loved and much-missed Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway. On Saturday 5 March 1966, specials and the last regular services – crowded, for once – ran, and the day ended with Evercreech Junction signal box going up in flames. Two more specials ran on the Sunday, notably one headed by two gleaming 'West Countries', and then it was all over. Gone but not forgotten.

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