



BUFFER STOP

8 JUNE 2026



SNCF multiple unit lineup at Paris Gare de l'Est, Summer 2004

Tonight, life member **Howard Quayle** returns to present *Diesel & Electric Traction in Mainland Europe*, part 3.

Last month, 28 members enjoyed Chris Youett giving us *a welcome in the hillside*, part 4, taking us through the lonely uplands from Newport to Moat Lane Junction.

We now take our summer break, returning on **14 September** with a talk from Richard Crane on the Bedford–Bletchley line. During the summer don't forget our annual photographic competition with the usual Steam, Diesel & Electric and Railway Related categories and the special category *Contre jour*. If you're coming to the September meeting and have some spare model railway equipment, books or other saleable items you can donate to the Society, please bring them along so we can stock up our stall at Oxrail for the following week.

Ivan Cadge's entry for a new logo to take the Society forward into its next half-century was the choice of members voting at the last meeting and here appears in a new masthead for *Buffer Stop*.

Correction to last issue: Paul Harris is editing *81F*. Apologies for the error.

OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

RAIL NEWS

Just too late for the last issue, the date for GWR to be taken into public ownership has been announced: 13 December. From 18 May, GWR have reinstated daily through Oxford–Bristol services via Didcot West Curve, but ORR will not agree to this continuing beyond the end of the year until Network Rail have given assurances regarding safety improvements at level crossings on the route. The first Oxford arrival of the day from Bristol in fact starts from Exeter St Davids. From the same date, a few CrossCountry services omit a stop at Banbury.

Chiltern Class 196s are running Oxford–Milton Keynes test trains, and both Oxford stations are even equipped with wheelchair ramps for the class. Cambridge South station opens on 28 June. Although on the Liverpool Street–Kings Lynn line, it will eventually be served by East West Rail. The city's third station, it is located at a large biomedical research park.

From 12 June until Spring 2027 the up platform at Tackley will be closed to allow Network Rail to replace the current temporary scaffolding footbridge with a permanent one which will incorporate lifts. NR has deferred closure of the Sandy and Yarnton Lane level crossings near Kidlington due, it says, to freight growth not being as high as predicted.

The electrified circular test track at Porterbrook's Long Marston Rail Innovation Centre is now operable.

FORTY YEARS ON

10 June 1986 saw the official launch (at Waterloo) of Network SouthEast, Chris Green's bold new vision for BR's London & South Eastern business, into which much of Oxfordshire fell. Apart from the red lamp-posts, the first three years of the sector saw commuting up 15%, off-peak travel up 23% and subsidy down 34%.

50 044 Exeter in NSE livery at Oxford in 1987



COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 10 June: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *Rhätische Bahn revisited* (John Fissler)

Saturday 27 June: 10:00: Steventon Village Hall: Oxfordshire Narrow Gauge Modellers Open Day

Saturday 11 July: 06:45 pu Oxford: Saphos Trains: *English Riviera Express*, High Wycombe–Kingswear: LSL steam from Taunton <fully booked>

Saturday 18 July: 10:10 pu Oxford: Branch Line Society: *Cotswold & Exmoor Explorer*, St Leonards–Minehead via Worcester: Hastings DEMU

Saturday 15 August: 07:15 dep Oxford: Railway Touring Co: *The Slate Miner*, to Blaenau Ffestiniog: class 37

Saturday 5 September: 13:40 sd Oxford: Railway Touring Co: *Wensum & Thames Explorer*, Norwich–Reading: 34028

“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: 7 September