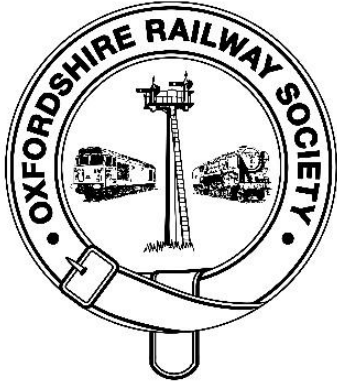




BUFFER STOP

12 OCTOBER 2026



Westcountry junctions in the 1960s: Halwill (above) and Yatton (below)

Tonight, **Laurence Waters** is giving us a presentation on *Steam in the South West*.

Last month, Richard Crane gave us a topical presentation on the Bedford to Bletchley line. Next month on **9 November**, Christian Wolmar is visiting to talk about *The Liberation Line – The Last Untold Story of the Normandy Landings*.



OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

LOCAL RAIL NEWS

The Botley Road bridge did actually reopen to road traffic on 20 September. Drivers can now approach the station via Botley Road without passing through a traffic filter. The project got a mention in Radio 4's *Today* programme as an example of British inability to manage infrastructure projects, and other reports from the BBC and *Rail* magazine indicate that, as was to be expected, the budget and timetable for the next stages are being reworked. Indications at the moment are that from next year project work will start for the first time on the Sheepwash Channel bridge at the north end of Oxford station. The impasse over operation of Oxford–Milton Keynes passenger services continues, with the RMT having called a strike on Chiltern Rail over the issue for last and next Saturday. Meanwhile, the line's use for other services increases: there is now a midday timetabled path for a GBRf Portbury Auto Terminal–Northampton Gateway service (although the editor has not noted the slot being used up to the time of writing) and at least one pair of class 175 DMUs have passed this way en route to Plymouth after repainting in GWR green at Wolverton. On 23 September all traffic on the Great Western Main Line was stopped when contractors breached a gas main just east of Didcot station.

Thanks to Ron Saunders and John Maine who raised over £250 for the Society from book sales at the recent Didcot model railway show.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 14 October: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *The Good, the Bad & the Infamous Sandwich* (Richard Marks)

Saturday–Sunday 17–18 October: daily 11:00 & 15:25 dep Didcot Parkway: Fox & Edwards: *Legendary Journeys* circulars via Newbury Racecourse: 60103 [*Morning trips fully booked*]

Tuesday 20 October: 19:00: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *The Langford Collection, Part 1, Western Region, 1965–1969*

Saturday–Sunday 24–25 October: 09:30: British Motor Museum, Gaydon: Great British Model Railway Show [*Saturday courtesy bus from Leamington Spa station*]

Tuesday 27 October: 19:30: Kidlington & District Historical Society, Kidlington Baptist Church: *Tom Rolt & the Heritage of Industry* (Matthew Searle)

Wednesday 28 October: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society: *European Roundabout & a trip to the dentist* (John Godfrey)

Thursday 29 October: 13:04 arr Oxford Parkway: Belmond *British Pullman* ex London Victoria: DB class 67

Saturday 31 October: arr Oxford: *Northern Belle* ex Liverpool: WCR class 47/57

Saturday 7 November: 10:00: High Wycombe & District MRS, The Brunel Train Shed, Station Approach, High Wycombe: Wycrail Model Railway Exhibition [*Note venue!*]

Photographs by Alan Murray-Rust (upper) and Richard Green (lower). "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: 2 November