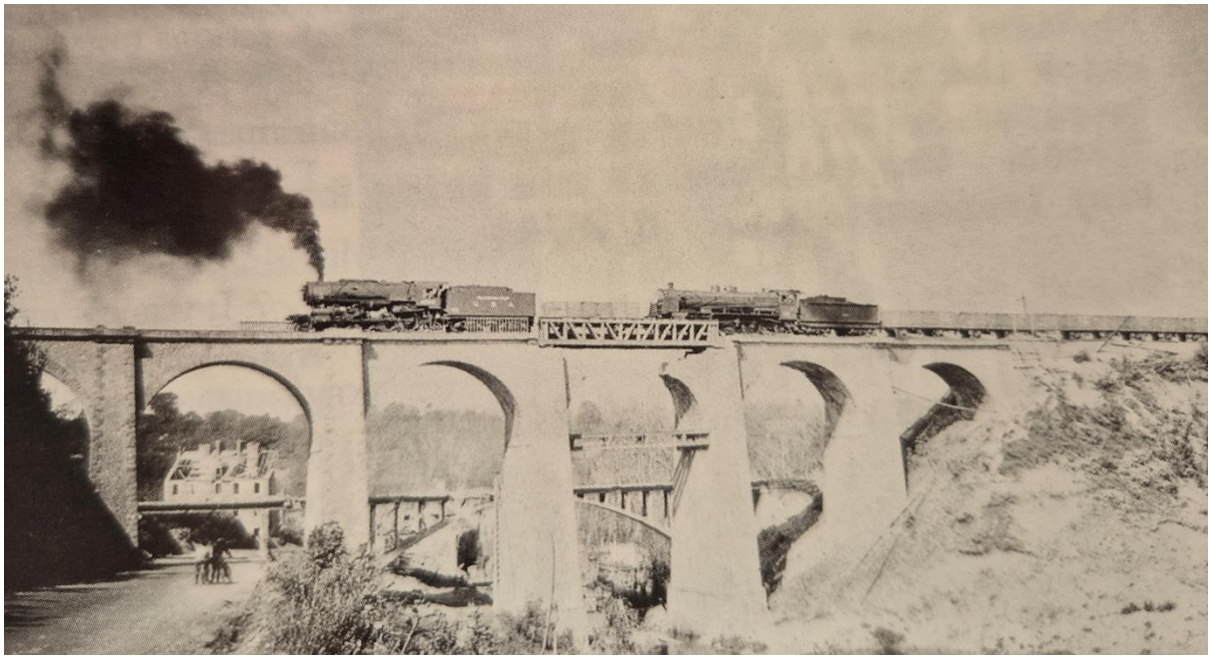
BUFFER STOP

9 NOVEMBER 2026



Christian Wolmar is visiting to talk about ***The Liberation Line – The Last Untold Story of the Normandy Landings***. *Here are Coutances Viaduct during the campaign and USATC 6046 at Princes Risborough last year.*



Last month Laurence Waters brought colourful images from the Great Western Trust collection of *Steam in the South West*, on both Southern and Western lines. Next month on **14 December**, Geoff Warren will be giving us *Steam in Pakistan*.

LOCAL RAIL NEWS



Unlikeliest sighting of October: a pair of RailAdventure HST power cars on shed at Didcot. They had come to collect Flying Scotsman *after its weekend of specials from Didcot and haul it to Swanage.*

Grand Central has announced an agreement to acquire four more class 180 units if the ORR grants its application for an open-access Newcastle–Brighton service, which would call at Banbury and Oxford. Presumably the announcement indicates a degree of optimism about the outcome, despite several other OA applications having been rejected recently.

68 021 and one Mark 5A set used on Chiltern's Main Line services are among the trains to carry Great British Railways livery (notwithstanding that GBR has as yet no legal existence). At the other extreme, ex-Chiltern 68 014 has been demoted to this season's GWML Railhead Treatment Train and carries the all-over gunk associated with this duty. It seems probable that a GWR 8XX will be adorned in GBR colours for the company's transfer to DfT Operator on Sunday 13 December. The new company's legal name, incidentally, will be Great*er* Western Railway Ltd.

Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet has approved funding to support delivery of the OxRail 2040 Plan for Rail, including confirmation of a contribution to the Cowley branch project. Other items include developing an outline business case for a new station at Begbroke (which would serve the west of Kidlington) and major development of passenger facilities at Oxford station, starting next spring with substantial work on the main concourse.

COMING EVENTS

Wednesday 11 November: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society, Wote Street Club: *The history of Foremark Hall & its restoration* (Jim Clarke)

Tuesday 15 November: 14:00 [*note time*]: RCTS, Didcot Civic Hall: *BR(WR) CM&EE Plant Office in Swindon Works* (Martin Telling & Andrew Jenkins)

Thursday 19 & 26 November: 14:28 arr Oxford Parkway: Belmond *British Pullman* ex London Victoria: DB class 67 [ecs via Bicester to Hinksey]

Wednesday 25 November: 19:45: Basingstoke & District Railway Society: *The Greatest Gathering in Derby* (Paul Gosling & Ryan Lamb)

Saturday–Sunday 27–28 November: Great Western Main Line blockaded at Slough. Some GWR South Wales/Bristol trains diverted after Swindon to run via Oxford & Milton Keynes to Euston. [SuO 08:08 ex Oxford is only train with advertised pick up at Oxford]

Saturday 5 December: 10:20 pu Didcot: Railway Touring Company *The Cotswold Christmas Venturer* Victoria–Cheltenham–Worcester: 35028

"Buffer Stop" is edited by ***Matthew Searle*** <matthew904@btinternet.com> *(who took the modern 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: 23 November***