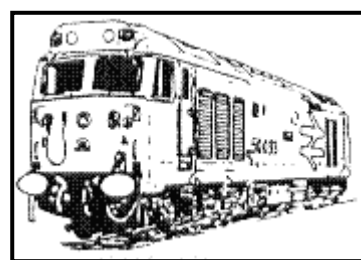
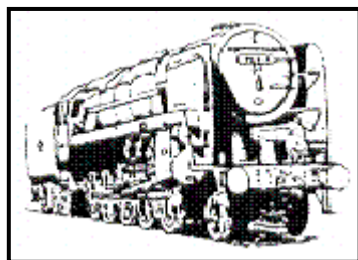


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2011

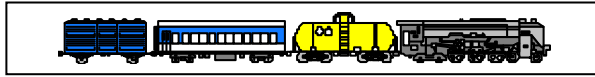
[bufferstop@hotmail.com](mailto:bufferstop@hotmail.com)



The above locos will all probably feature in tonight's members' presentations. 0-4-2T "Trankil No. 4" (top left) is stabled at the Statfold Barn Railway which was visited by members of the Society in 2010 and 2-10-2T No. 99 7239 (bottom right) is seen at Alexisbad on the metre-gauge Harz Mountain Railway. Completing the quartet are Beyer Garratt NGG Class 16 No. 138 and sister loco, No. 143 (bottom left), approaching Rhyd-Ddu and Waunfawr respectively on the Welsh Highland Railway.

This evening's meeting commences with the AGM, followed by the Annual Photographic Competition when we welcome back Frank Blackwell FRPS who has kindly agreed to be the judge again. It will be interesting to hear his comments, especially for those who have submitted entries! The remainder of the meeting will be devoted to member's short talks and at the time of writing the programme includes: Matthew Searle's "The Missing Link"; Chris Brennan's video of the Statfold Barn trip; Andrew Suckling's "Slow Train To Cosia", and yours truly with "Sun, Snow & Steam", a look back at some of the places visited in 2010.

Last month Brian Newey (ex General Manager B.R. Western Region) delivered a talk entitled "From Beeching To... Where?" 22 members and 4 visitors listened intently as he spoke for an hour without any visual aids or props. Brian actually began by mentioning the run-down condition of the railways at the end of World War II, followed by nationalisation in 1948 and the Modernisation Plan. Radical changes had to be made and if the 'unpopular' Dr. Beeching hadn't been appointed someone else would have been brought in to 'wield the axe'.



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

The talk incorporated an overview of the changes and challenges of the ensuing 40-odd years, in particular signalling, track renewal, concrete sleepers, new rolling stock and lightweight trains. In one of the few lighter moments Brian recalled the occasion that he gave a personal off the record view on the future of the Settle & Carlisle line to a journalist which was later splashed all over the newspapers (*sounds familiar!*). As a result he was castigated by the then BR Chairman, Sir Bob Reid, who sent him on a public-speaking course to learn how to keep his mouth shut!

After the interval there was a lively 'question and answer' session. All in all a 'different' but nevertheless interesting and informative meeting.

### **Dates For your Diary:**

Saturday Feb. 12<sup>th</sup>: Toy & Train Collectors' Fair, Exeter Hall, Kidlington. 11am – 4pm.

Monday Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>: RCTS., West Oxford Democrats Club, 1 North St., Osney. Quiz v. Reading Transport Group and a Railway Talk by member of RTG. 7.30pm.

Friday Feb. 25<sup>th</sup>: GWS, 58 Banbury Rd., Oxford. AGM and "The Shrivenham Derailment" by David Castle. 7.30pm.

Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup>: Abingdon & District MRC's annual Model Railway Exhibition, White Horse Leisure Centre, Audlett Drive, Abingdon OX14 3PJ. 10am-5pm.

As you are aware the Society is always pleased to welcome new faces onto the committee. This year sees the retirement of Charles Parker after 20 years of sterling service 'wearing many different hats', including editor of '81F' and ex-editor of 'Buffer Stop'. The following poem, provided by Mark Horseman, is included purely as a bit of fun and hopefully won't deter any new committee members!!

*Oh, give me pity, I'm on a committee  
Which means that from morning to  
night  
We attend and amend and contend  
and defend,  
Without a conclusion in sight.  
We confer and concur, we elect and  
demur  
And reiterate all of our thoughts,  
We revise the agenda with frequent  
addenda  
And consider a load of reports.*

*We compose and propose, we support and  
oppose  
And the points of procedure are fun!  
But though various notions are brought  
up as motions  
There's terribly little gets done.  
We dissolve and absolve but never resolve  
Since it's out of the question for us  
What a shattering pity if we end our  
committee  
Where else could we make such a fuss?  
Anon.*

The Great Western Society's present lease at Didcot expires in 2019, but they have at long last agreed a new 50 year one with Network Rail at a cost of £125,000 with half due this May and the rest 12 months later. They hope the majority of its members, and regular visitors, raise the money (*as a well-known supermarket chain says "every little helps"*) to secure the future of this important local site.

Regretfully, Max Wilkinson, our booked speaker for October, is seriously ill and will be unable to appear. Members will no doubt recall that on a previous visit he gave a fascinating and very humorous talk entitled "Harwich for the Continent".

### **DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: WEDNESDAY 23<sup>rd</sup> FEBRUARY**

Contributions for "Buffer Stop" are always welcome and can be sent to the Editor at 11 Ferny Close, Radley, Oxon, OX14 3AN, or via e-mail to [bufferstop@hotmail.com](mailto:bufferstop@hotmail.com)

**Editor-in-Chief: Peter Heath. Features Editor: David Heath.** "Buffer Stop" is published by the Oxfordshire Railway Society: the views therein are not necessarily those of the Society or the Editors. Meetings are held at the Seacourt Day Centre, Seacourt Road, Botley, Oxford at 7.30pm on the second Wednesday in the month.