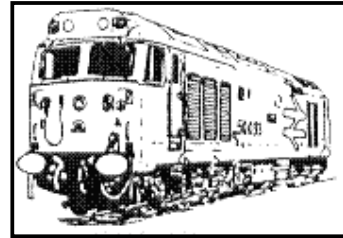
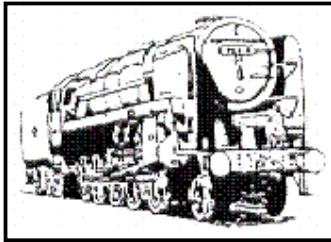


OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 2012

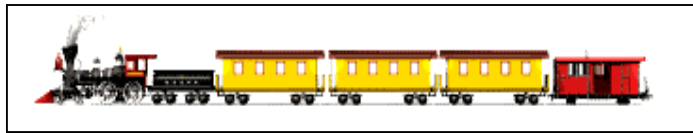
[bufferstop@hotmail.com](mailto:bufferstop@hotmail.com)



*Bulleid Light Pacific No.34070 "Manston" approaches Corfe Station on October 14<sup>th</sup> 2010. Originally numbered 21C170, one of a batch of 110 locos built between 1945 and 1950, it was withdrawn in 1964 and was first steamed since that date on the Swanage Railway in September 2008. On October 14<sup>th</sup> last year (exactly a year to the day after the above photograph was taken) it failed near the same location with damage to its enclosed valve gear and is now awaiting major maintenance at Herston Works. (Photo: Peter Heath)*

**W**elcome to this evening's meeting which incorporates the AGM, the Annual Photographic Competition results and Members' Short Presentations. It is unlikely that the judge, Frank Blackwell FRPS, will be with us due to ill health; if so his comments regarding our efforts will be read out. The Cup will once again be voted for by the members, as last year. Suggestions for the title of the 'Special Category' for the next Competition will be welcome.

Last month, 20 members and 7 visitors heard transport journalist Christian Wolmar give a fascinating and informative talk on his latest book, 'Engines of War: How Wars were Won and Lost on the Railways.' His presentation embraced almost a hundred years of conflict, from the Crimean Campaign of 1855 through to the Korean War of the early 1950s. Unfortunately, Christian had to leave early to catch his train back to London, and there was no opportunity for questions and answers



## OXFORDSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

–or to quiz him on his opposition to HS2! (Some members may have seen him engage in a particularly lively debate with pop mogul and HS2 proponent, Pete Waterman, on BBC News the previous day!). Once again, our thanks go to Christian for stepping-in at short notice after the booked speaker, Lord Berkeley, was unavailable.

Readers may be interested in the following letter recently received from Alan Willmott:

*“I was pleased to present my film show in December and trust that members enjoyed the programme. However, I just wanted to apologise for not being able to include all the films advertised in ‘Buffer Stop’. Unfortunately the print of the “Flying Scotsman 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Run” I had borrowed was of rather poor quality and I didn’t think it was good enough to include. Also, the North Yorkshire Moors Railway filmed in 1955 I had loaned out for a DVD transfer. Sorry about this but I trust my alternative programme was acceptable. I will include the NYMR one in next December’s programme together with another rare vintage film recently discovered.....With best wishes to your Society”.*

**Help needed, writes Terry Walden.** Does any ORS Member have sufficient knowledge of PowerPoint to help me to create a presentation of sound accompanied by visuals at the right point, please? This would then be something like the old tape/slide talk where silent pulses on the tape automatically changed the slide. If you can you help, please get in touch with me on 01865 376467. Thank you!

### Dates For Your Diary:

20th February. RCTS 1 North St., Osney at 7.30pm. ‘ERTMS on the Cambrian Line and future UK developments’ – Tony Crabtree (ATOC ERTMS Team Leader).

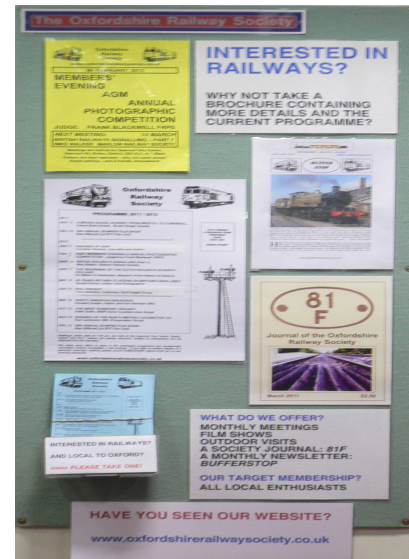
25<sup>th</sup> February. Toy & Train Collectors’ Fair, Exeter Hall, Kidlington. 11am-4pm.

**14<sup>th</sup> March. ORS next meeting. ‘British Railways Signalling’. Mike Walker (Marlow Rly Soc).**

*The display (right) by the Chairman in Kidlington Library from 8<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> January, courtesy of the OCC staff. The programmes and Handbills were corrected versions for the change of programme and correcting the March typo. (photo: Terry Walden).*

At the Oxford to Bicester Rail Action Group AGM on 12 January, Richard Harper, the Network Development Manager at Chiltern Railways, gave an update on the Oxford to Marylebone proposals *writes Chris Brennan*. He seemed confident of a quick resolution to the issue of bats in Wolvercote tunnel but said that the design work would now take up to 12 months plus 12 months construction work, so opening of the route would likely be May 2014. Bicester Town station would then offer a service to Oxford cut from 26 mins to 14 mins, and a service to Marylebone, albeit not as fast as the Bicester North to Marylebone "Mainline" service.

Speaking about the Government’s approval of the East-West scheme and its 3 new passenger routes: Oxford to Milton Keynes, Oxford to Bedford and Aylesbury to MK, Richard said Chiltern Railways would be keen to operate all 3 of these routes.



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. Consulting 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.