

NEWS FROM QUANTON



NEW YORKER MOVED

After the exciting day we had moving the New Yorker into its new position in front of the visitor centre, we have begun its renovation. The rotten internal side panels, added in the 1980s, are being removed and much of the insides, including the floor, are being stripped out, with much care being taken to retain as many of the original features as possible. The electrics are due to be installed soon and work will continue in earnest throughout the winter to have it ready to provide an extra catering outlet next season. This should resolve the need to have external caterers here on our busy event days, and provide the centre with much-needed extra income. [You can read the full press release here.](#)

WELCOME!

Welcome to the October issue of 'News from Quainton'! There's been so much going on over the summer, so there's lots to catch up on. It may seem like the summer is our main operating season, but there is still lots left on the calendar this year! There are three Steaming Sundays in October, which are followed by a bumper half term week: three days of Thomas, then two days of Halloween! Then, in November we have the Wedding Fayre, followed by our Volunteer Recruitment Day, and two weeks later, it's Christmas...

Enjoy the read!

Louisa Richards, Marketing Manager

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAY

SUNDAY 14TH NOVEMBER 2021 - 11AM-2PM

Been a QRS Member for years but never been quite sure how to venture into the world of volunteering? Well, now's your chance! And we need you now more than ever! This special event has been planned to give you an excuse to come and meet our volunteers and find out how you might be able to lend a hand. You don't have to commit to anything! Volunteering is as much about you benefitting, as it is about us gaining from you giving your time and energy; we want you to enjoy it!

The list of available roles is plentiful, from 'Behind the Scenes' roles (painting/woodworking/mowing/engineering etc) to 'Customer Facing' roles, such as helping in the shop, being a guard or even driving an engine! You can give as much or as little time as you like. No booking required on the day, just come and meet the team. We look forward to meeting you! [Click here to read more](#)

If you are an active volunteer and would like to help on the day, please call us in the office on 01296 655720. Thank you!

CAFE NOW OPEN MON-FRI!

With work continuing in earnest by HS2, and Barwood Homes have started on the new housing development next door, our café is now open Monday to Friday 9.30am-1.30pm every week from now on. Initially, this was mainly to cater for these builders who enjoy coming in for a late breakfast, but we are now welcoming members of the public and cyclists. We have also started selling homemade cakes, cookies and brownies, made by Poppy, one of our new café staff members who bakes professionally! Feel free to drop in - and make sure you pop your head round the office door to say hello!





WEDDINGS ARE BACK!

We were so pleased when we were finally allowed to get weddings back up and running after the Covid restrictions began to be lifted. Some of our couples had rearranged two or three times and we finally held our first big wedding on 3rd July. Although dancing had to be outside for a few weeks, we were blessed with stunning weather and our couples and their guests had a fabulous time, and the centre looked stunning - see photo below! Since then, we have held 12 weddings with 3 more private functions to go until the end of the season. The income from weddings this year, as always, has been a huge help for us financially. Next year is getting booked up nicely, with 18 weddings/ functions already booked in, and only a handful of available dates left to book. We even have a couple booked in for 2023 and beyond!

We will be holding our **Wedding Fayre on Sunday 7th November**, 11am-2pm. If you know anyone who is getting married or planning a big celebration, please do share this date with them.

Emma Toth, Functions Manager: functions@bucksrailcentre.org



WE WANT TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH YOU!

We can't always send everything by post, but we'd like to be better connected with our members, so we are urging you all to give us your email addresses so we can contact you easier, quicker and more regularly. If you do not currently get emails from us it probably means we don't have your email address, so please, please, please email us with your email addresses! Email: office@bucksrailcentre.org... We also have an active, private Facebook group just for our members, where everyone can post updates and news, and ask questions etc. Search 'QRS Members Only' on Facebook, you must then answer the questions posed so we know you are a genuine member. Thank you!

ENGINEERING UPDATE

Boiler work on Arthur is continuing with cracking to the foundation ring having been welded; the ring is about to be refitted. The new lower side sheets and throat plate will then be fitted. Work on the frames and motion is also ongoing. The hope is to have the loco re-wheeled by Christmas and to be running as Thomas next year.

The 165 diesel has now been started for the first time since its engine has been re-assembled and should be back in service shortly. Some work is needed on the motion on 66 and we hope to do this in November.

The second TPO coach has now been moved into the up-yard shed and will be repainted over the next couple of months.

Adrian Aylward, Engineering Manager

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

Christmas organisation is well under way and the plan is to run another year of Panto Express. The pantomime is booked - Goldilocks and the Three Bears - and tickets will go live very soon. The event will run on December 4/5th, 11/12th and 18/19/20/21st. If you are able to come and lend a hand on any of these dates, it'll be much appreciated. This could be anything from helping visitors find their seats at the Panto, manning the gift shop or helping the platform staff, to simply covering the gate staff for an hour so they can have a break at lunchtime. If you would like to help, please call the office on 01296 655720 or email: office@bucksrailcentre.org



DECK THE HALLS!

Would you like to help the team decorate the centre for Halloween and Christmas. These jobs happen midweek: Halloween during the week after Thomas, from 26th October, and Christmas in the two last weeks of November. Please email the office if you would like to come and help! Thank you! office@bucksrailcentre.org



A FINAL DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

Our third and final Day Out With Thomas for 2021 will be held in the October half term, from Saturday 23rd until Monday 25th October. We literally could not run these events (or any event, to be honest!) without our volunteers. Everyone pulls together and our great teamwork means the day runs smoothly, with lots of happy families going home at the end of the day. You just need to read a few reviews on our Facebook page to see what a good job we all do! If you would like to be a part of this team (you don't have to do all three days!) please just get in touch with the office. It can be a long day, but so rewarding!

EMERGENCY SERVICES & COMMUNITY DAY

This is the day when we give a little something back. The Emergency Services take over the site and we offer local charities a free stand to come and promote their work and do some fundraising. Tickets are just £5 per head to give others a chance to come and spend a day out with us and learn about our all-important emergency services. Emergency services personnel and NHS/fire/police workers were all entitled to free entry - just a small token of our thanks for the amazing work they do. As you can imagine, tickets sold out quickly and we had a super day with lots of happy families having a really fun day out.



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are now back and open. It has been a very difficult 18 months and I would like to thank all of the staff and volunteers who have made re-opening possible. There are too many to name here but thank you all. You will have noticed many changes when visiting the centre, especially the new layout in the café and the movement of the New Yorker.

This newsletter is the first of what will be a bi-monthly newsletter to keep you all informed of what is happening at the centre, so if you have any articles/news/queries, please contact Louisa at the office (her email address is marketing@bucksrailcentre.org)

We have now completed the AGM and have a new Executive Member, Barry Payne, who you will have seen acting as Station Master. Also, Ricky Sutcliffe has volunteered to edit Quainton News. I am not sure how many issues there will be but we are making progress. At the next meeting of the Executive, the society's officers will be appointed. Details will follow, together with email addresses so that you can make contact with us. The date for the next AGM will be announced asap.

Peter Lovegrove, Vice Chairman



NEXT ISSUE OF QUANTON NEWS

Huge thanks to volunteer Ricky Sutcliffe who is taking over the reins of our membership magazine Quainton News. He will shortly start looking at creating the next issue and would like to ask if any members have anything they'd like to include like features/photos/ideas/suggestions/feedback. If you are working on a project across the site, please do send photos and an update on the work you are doing so we can share it with the membership.

Contact Ricky on: sutclifferick@gmail.com or call him on 07884 006519. Thank you!



AN AMAZING SUMMER OF EVENTS

With everything that has been thrown at us this year, we are thrilled to report that we still managed to run a fabulous selection of Special Events this season. Visitor figures have been capped since we re-opened in April, but the cap has been slowly raised throughout the summer.

After re-opening on April 18th, we started off the Special Events with Teddy's Train Ride on the early May Bank Holiday, which was whilst our indoor areas still had to remain closed. We then held our Bus Rally at the end of May, which was a real hit! Tickets sold out and we had the most buses here that I have ever seen before! We had our first Day Out With Thomas event at the end of July - three days, all sold out; and a visit from Peppa Pig in August which also sold out! The pre-1978 Rally followed at the end of August which was also a huge success.

The ticket sales cap was raised a bit more in September, so two more days of Thomas and our ever-popular Emergency Services & Community Day, which all sold out at an even higher figure. As we go to print, we have a very full October half term ahead of us, with three days of Thomas, currently selling well, but not yet sold out, and a two-day Halloween event, which has just been launched. Plus, tickets for The Panto Express with Father Christmas have just gone on sale - please spread the word! [Click here to see all the information about the event!](#)



NEW STAFF MEMBERS JOIN THE TEAM

New members of staff have joined over the summer, including Phil, our new caretaker, Annabel who has started as our cleaner, and Belinda who is doing ad hoc cleaning and helping with weddings.

At the end of the summer, we said goodbye and good luck to Laura, and several of our younger casual staff who have left to go to university. We have taken on a handful of new students, all from the local Quainton community, who will fill these roles on our busy days.

THANK YOU!

Last but not least, we want to say a big thank you to all our volunteers who have helped us get through the past 18 months - we quite honestly couldn't have done it without you!