

NEWS FROM QUAINTON



MEMBERS
NEWSLETTER

December 2023

GET IN TOUCH

Please contact the
committee with
any questions
and suggestions

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Christmas is coming!

And all of a sudden, Christmas is here! The centre is looking amazing and our Panto Express event is going well.

Thank you to everyone who has helped get the centre ready!

There has been such a huge amount of work and effort by so many volunteers...

THANK YOU!

Merry Christmas everyone!



LIVING THE ELF LIFE IN THE MUSEUM

This year we had an invasion of elves in the museum! And what a hit they have been with the visitors!

(And we had fun too thinking of elfish antics!)

Needless to say we are already planning next year's adventure so do get in touch if you have any suggestions!



We will be closed over the Christmas period and back in the office on Tuesday 2nd January 2024

December 2023

A SNAPSHOT OF 2023

It's hard to believe the year is nearly over! We have seen a huge range of projects started, some finished, some ongoing and some in the very early stages.

Enjoy a few snapshots of this year in pictures...



An autumn day - William Simpson

A frosty start - Mike Tayler

Rainbow over Janice - Alan Hogg





GALLERY

AMAZING ACHIEVEMENTS

The sleepers have been successfully replaced in the up-yard, just in time for Panto Express. The track gang worked tirelessly, in some very bad weather, to make sure we were ready to run at the end of November.

The re-upholstery of the MK1 coach has begun. This work will continue throughout early 2024.

EKFB gifted us with a brand new walkway for our 2024 season, along with a new entrance for VAMES members. Visitors can now come directly from the overflow carpark into our site.

Watch out for the new ticket office coming soon!

De-vegetation has been taking place over the last few weeks behind the underground cars and it's great to see such a difference!



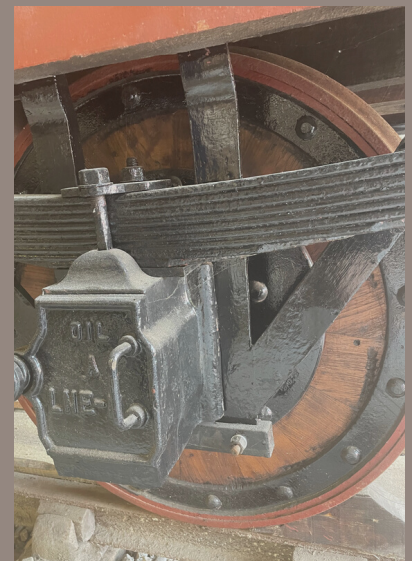
DIESEL WORK

04 DIESEL

Work continued on the 04, with the engine being removed, stripped down and rebuilt. And it now resides back in its frames inside the loco and in running order!
Well done to all the team!



GREAT NORTHERN COACH



The team has been progressing well on the Great Northern Coach. Work on the inside is continuing. New ceilings are being fitted and dividing panels have been built and clad. Metal components are all being refurbished and the chassis is complete.

The doors are being refurbished prior to fitting and we are currently looking at costings to cast missing items, such as luggage rack holders and door handles.

The team is always willing to show interested members their progress.



TREVOR THE TRACTION ENGINE

DOROTHY (AKA TREVOR)

Dorothy recently went off to Rushmere Engineering to have her boiler fixed. We are pleased to say she is now back, in full working order!

With the addition of the loan of a trailer, she will be offering visitor rides on our Day Out With Thomas events.



December 2023

INTRODUCING BEAR

We are now the new home for Peckett & Sons W4 class saddle tank of 1876 works No. 614.

Bear is the oldest surviving Peckett locomotive in England and has been on static display at SKLR's Kemsley Down station since 1971.

This is an unusual engine in that it was overhauled by Barclay & Sons in 1941 so is now classed as a hybrid as it carries works plates for Peckett on one side and Barclay on the other.

A cosmetic overhaul will be undertaken when she arrives.

We look forward to welcoming Bear in the New Year!



On her heyday



Handover day - Liz Fuller (Chairman of Trustees) and Charles Firminger alongside Vickie Aylward, our museum curator on Friday 15th December 2024

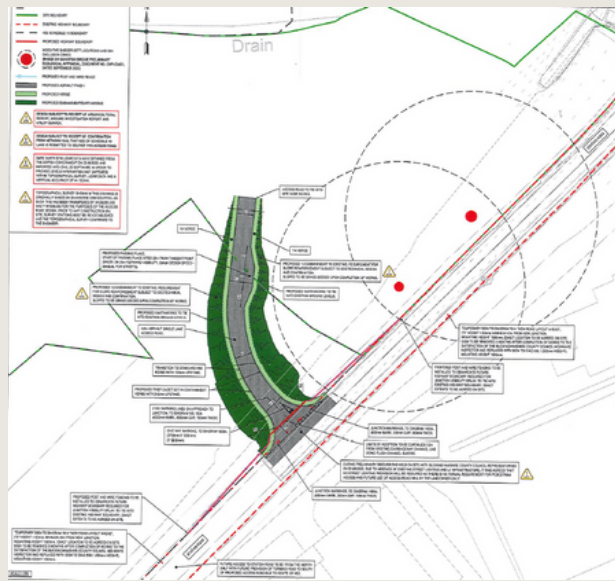
Station Road Bridge

Current progress



There has been a lot of progress over the last few months with the bridge.

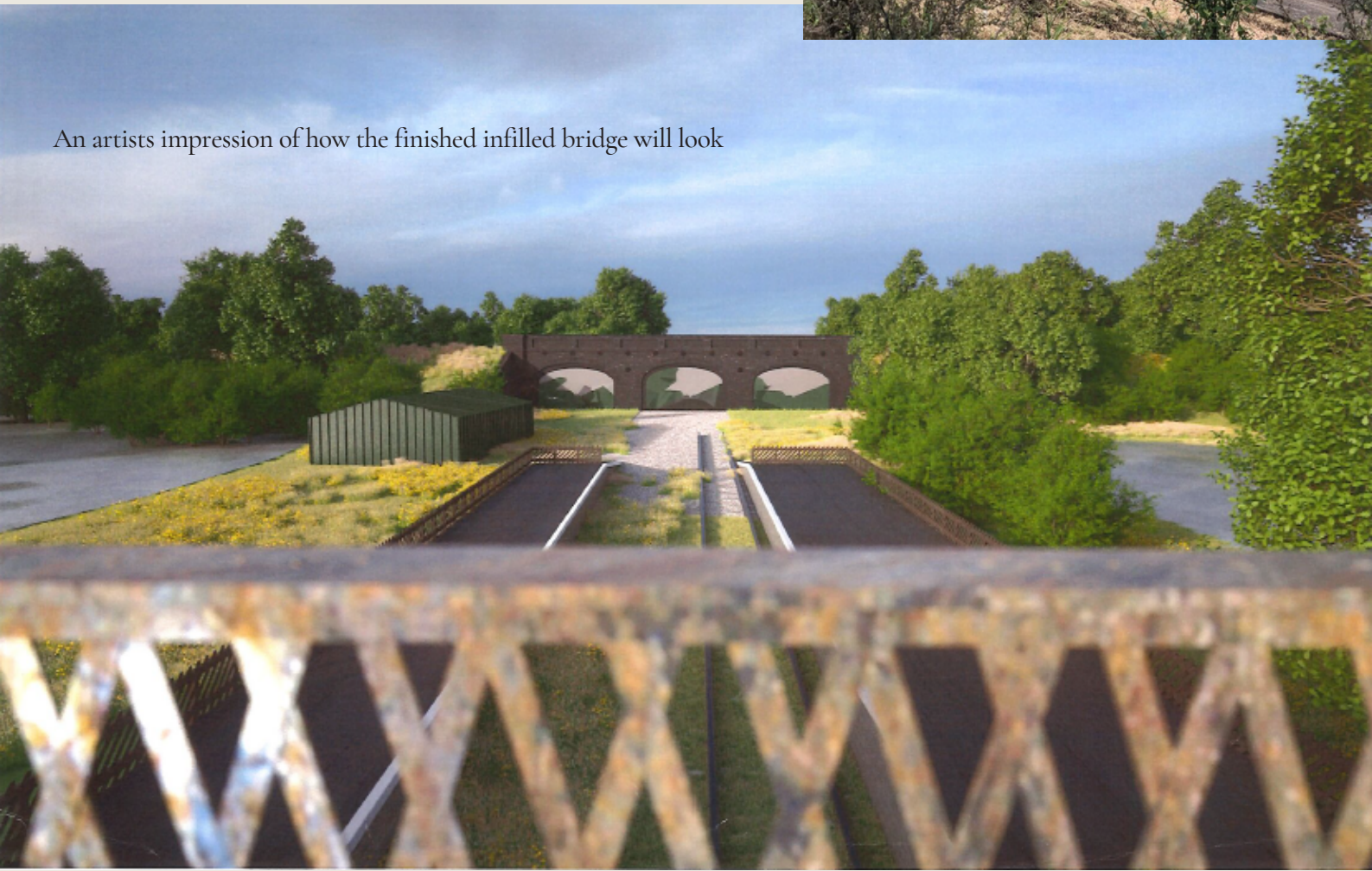
You may have noticed the sea of orange coats and the machinery going back and forth. Work is going well and the aim is for the bridge to be open to road traffic early 2024.



We have negotiated for a slip road to be built in our old overflow car park field so that we will still have access once the bridge is infilled



An artists impression of how the finished infilled bridge will look





Q BRANCH

The members of Q-Branch have participated in a couple of work days in 2023. During these days they put great effort into cleaning carriages and the Rewley Road building. Being allowed to clean Cornwall at the end of a busy day is a reward they seem to enthusiastically enjoy!

Throughout the year, Q-Branchers can regularly be found working on the platform in any weather. They are doing well at working their way through the clear progression scheme that has been developed to evidence their competency. The Q-Branchers themselves have been actively involved in developing the scheme by offering constructive feedback and engaging with it. It's rewarding to see them gain high marks on their written tests and see their confidence and ability grow while they work on the platform.

On event days, Q-Branchers have been helping in a variety of roles which includes ticket gate, car park marshalling and table clearing. Feedback from those working alongside them has been really encouraging to hear. The steam and agricultural event had 6 of the young people covering a variety of roles with some of them helping on both days.

And if that isn't enough to keep them busy, they have also started to help the 7200 team and are justly proud of their painting of the loco while also increasing their knowledge of the railway as they work alongside the adult members of the 7200 team.

Q-Branch is currently a small but dedicated and eager group and the hope is that we will continue to expand both in numbers within the group and the variety of roles that can be offered to them.

If anyone is interested in joining the Q-Branch leadership team, having Q-Branch members work alongside them in their department or know of any 14 to 18 year olds who might enjoy becoming members of Q-Branch, please contact Helen Smith via qbranch@bucksrailcentre.org

7200 TRUST



The work on the restoration of GWR 2-8-2t, 7200, though paused due to COVID restrictions, is continuing in the up-yard restoration shed where the sales stand will be located in 2024. The team consists of Keith Beattie, Mike Gibbs, Alan Hogg, Nigel Jopson and Shane Barry.

Recently, the long-standing problem with the leak, caused by a badly fitting bolt near the base of the boiler, seems to have been resolved, possibly due to the fact that filling the tank with water has allowed the rust to take hold. The steel pipes required for the fitting of steam heating have, after much delay, finally arrived and as the loco has been repositioned over the pit, work can start on the task of fitting them.

Keith has already made the necessary flanges, whilst Mike is machining the steam valves. Alan and Nigel are in the process of making the various hanging brackets. A special thanks to members of Q-Branch: Sam, Aaron, Emily, Dan and William who have, at various times, contributed by painting the Pony Truck wheels and the front plate work.

Aside from 7200, the Wednesday team has continued with the restoration of our Siphon G despite the weather and years of neglect. Much progress has been made and it is looking good; one side at least.

The boiler continues to be worked on at HBSS; a new doorplate has been shaped and fitted, shaped to the existing platework; the old backhead has been cut away where badly worn and a new one fitted.

Please visit our regularly updated website for the latest information

www.7200trust.org.uk

HONORARY SECRETARY ROLE

We currently have an opening for the position of Honorary Secretary on the Executive Committee.

Job Description

Purpose

To provide an efficient administration service to the Society, ensuring the Society functions smoothly and effectively, offering support and assistance to the Executive Committee.

Key aspects of the role

- **Manage and maintain record keeping**

Manage all inward and outward Society correspondence; manage all legal matters, in conjunction with other relevant members. Ensuring all outside bodies are kept up to date with Society details.
- **Organise meetings**

Organise the AGM and any EGMs; preparing agendas and paperwork; taking minutes and ensuring distribution of all paperwork in a timely manner. Checking that a quorum is present and the meeting can proceed to business.
Making arrangements for Executive meetings and co-ordinating agenda items from other members and staff. Preparing agendas in consultation with the Chair. Minuting all meetings and distributing to relevant parties.
- **Distribution and Communication**

Be the main point of contact for all members and outside bodies; distributing all information and being responsible for correspondence, such as emails and letters as agreed at Executive Committee meetings.

If you are interested in the position or would like more information, please contact Barry, our Chairman
- barry@bucksrailcentre.org

2024

We have so many new events coming for 2024 and here are just a few to look forward to...

And don't forget all of our favourite events will still be taking place as well!



Bringing the world of steam to life

Character days will include Bluey, Paddington, Peppa and Zog. We will be visited again by the amazing dinosaurs and will also be hosting a Knights & Princess day with a brand new smoke breathing dragon!

Our Spring Transport Festival will be making a comeback, along with our Pre-88 Rally & Emergency Services Day.

And brand new for 2024 is SHOWBUS! This is our biggest event yet!

All dates are listed on the Events page.



SHOWBUS 2024
NOW AT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RAILWAY CENTRE!



December 2023

OUR EVENTS TEAM



NEW for 2024!

As you may have seen, 2024 will now have more hireable spaces than ever before! The New Yorker is in it's final stages of work and we will be hiring it out for private events, meetings, parties and lots more!

And watch this space for the launch of the Picnic Saloon!
Afternoon teas and special celebrations go hand in hand with this first class restoration. It's also a unique setting for those all important weddings photos or high level business meetings!



Our Events Team, Emma and Belinda, will be showcasing these unique spaces, as well as continuing to promote weddings and parties in Rewley Road. They will be attending the Milton Keynes Wedding Fair on 2nd to 4th February 2024 if you would like to pop along and say hello!

OUR NEW DRIVING COURSES

Taster Sessions

Our brand new taster sessions have now gone on sale and are selling fast! The participant can try their hand at firing and driving for an hour, and these will take place before our steaming day starts. The session will run from 10.15 until 11.15, so on these days we will begin passenger rides slightly later for our visitors. Dates so far are 14th & 18th February, and 3rd, 7th, 10th & 14th April. We may add some more later in the year!



We are hoping to also offer a fuller, half day experience soon... more details to follow!

Thank you to all of the crew who help to pass on the skill and love of steam!



If you are interested in helping with our driving experiences, please contact us for more information.

MEMBERSHIP

At the AGM it was voted on and agreed that the membership rates will change, taking effect from 1st January 2024.

All memberships will be renewable in January of each year and the new fee structure will be as follows:

Adult membership £35

Senior membership £30

Junior membership £17.50

Life membership Adult £350
(plus spouse £450)

Life membership Senior £200
(plus spouse £250)

Family memberships will no longer be available.

If you would like to vote at the AGMs & any EGMs you must hold a minimum of 4 shares. You can purchase shares at any time at a cost of £5 per share. Please contact Zoe on 01296 655720 or email membership@bucksrailcentre.org for more information.

To bring all memberships into sync with the new annual renewal date, we will be contacting you in the New Year with details regarding payments.

Fees will be based on the existing renewal date of each membership, so any membership that expires in 2024 will pay a pro-rata amount until the next renewal in January 2025.

For example:

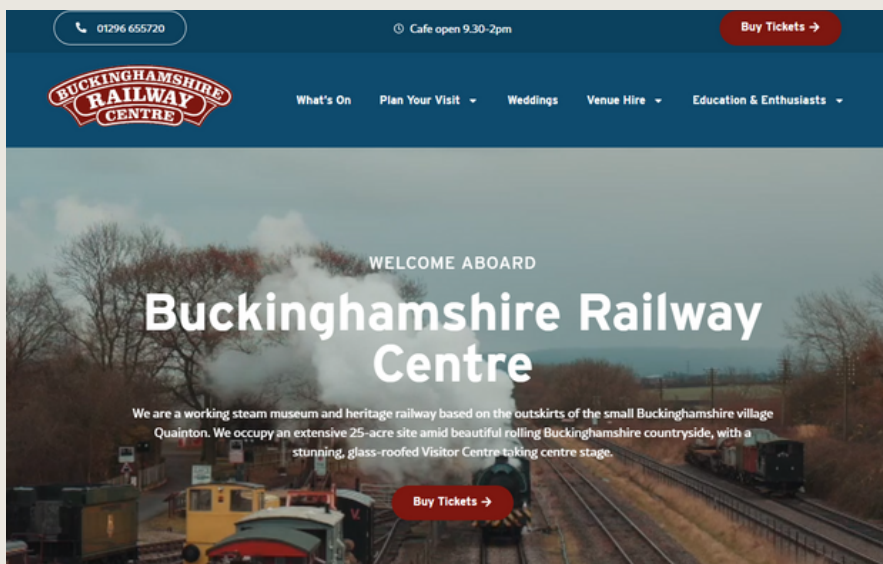
If your senior membership was paid in July 2023, your renewal payment in January 2024 will be £15, and then £30 in January 2025.

During the month of January 2024 we will contact you with your payment amount, and there will be a note of this in the office if you want to pay over the phone.

After the huge success of last year's Volunteer Day, we will be holding another on Sunday 4th February 2024 11am until 2pm. If you would like to help show prospective volunteers around and chat about your area of volunteering please contact Zoe on 01296 655720 or email membership@bucksrailcentre.org

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INTRODUCING OUR NEW WEBSITE

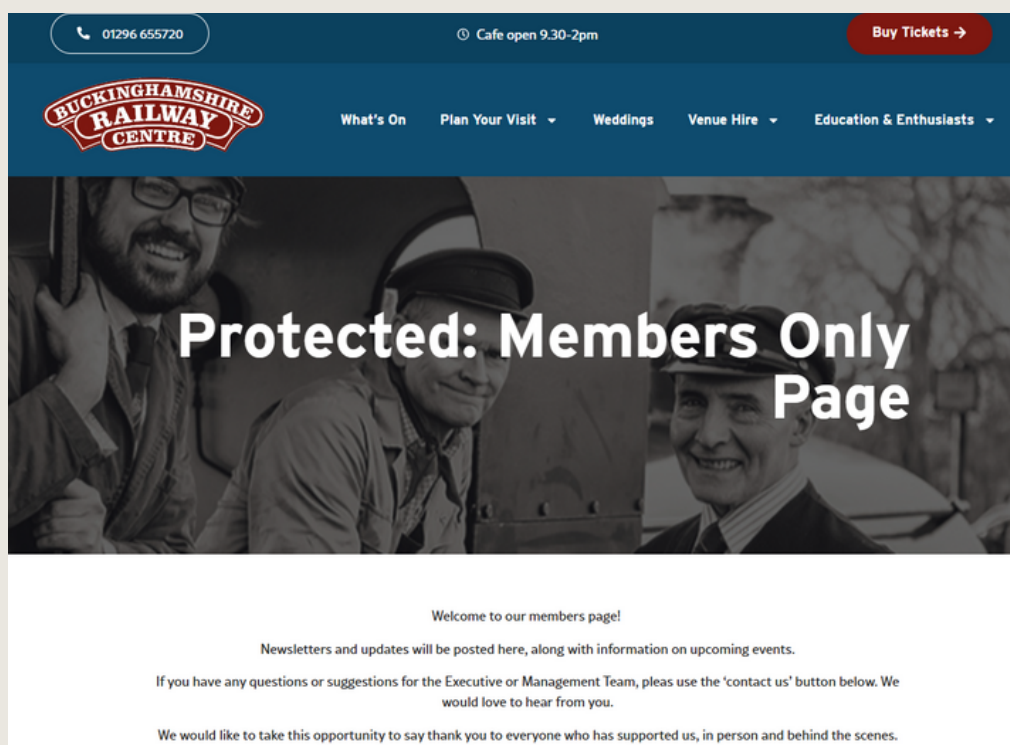


We are so pleased to be able to tell you that our new website is finally ready to be launched! It has been a long time in the making and our aim was to modernise and simplify the customer's journey when looking for information and buying tickets. It's a lot more visual and interactive.

And the best news is... we've added a private members only page! This will be used to pass on news and information to you all, and you will be able to view the latest News from Quainton. There is a direct contact form and we encourage you to email us with any questions or suggestions. On your first log in you will be required to enter the password, which is exactly as typed below:

QrsMembersOnly

Please let us know what you think!



Please help us to stay in touch with you. Do you receive our regular emails?
If not, please contact us with your email address.

Special Events -

- 11th February Paddington
- 3rd March Peppa
- 20th 21st April Spring Transport
- 27th May Dragon Quest
- 9th June Bluey
- 16th June Ridgeway Run

Special Events -

- 30th June Zog
- 11th August Emergency Services
- 26th August Pre88 Rally
- 15th September Dino Day
- 29th September SHOWBUS
- 26th 27th October Halloween

2024

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Thomas Days - 29th - 31st March, 5th 6th May, 13th 14th July, 5th 6th October
 Schools Day - 20th March, 17th April, 15th May, 19th June, 18th Sept, 16th October