

NEWS FROM QUAIN TON



WELCOME AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!

As I write this, our Christmas event is coming to a close and the new year will soon be upon us. Welcome to all our new members and thank you to everyone else for renewing their membership - it's more important now than ever before!

We have been busy behind the scenes since the last newsletter, in the office and in the engine sheds! All of next year's events have been planned and tickets should be on sale before Christmas! Please help us spread the word by following our main public page on Facebook, and share our events with your friends and families! From all of us here, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Louisa Richards, Marketing Manager

PANTO EXPRESS

Our Christmas event - The Panto Express - went down a storm with December tickets selling out completely. We have had lots of happy families come through our doors, receiving several really positive reviews. One of our favourites is included below:



A lovely review from Chris in Aylesbury:

"I wanted to write a short note to thank you for your service today. My wife, children (age 1, 3, 5), dad and I were fortunate enough to book the santa train today. Parking was easy, as was access (quick to get in), staff were really friendly. The cup and saucer ride (free) was a great additional treat for the young kids whilst we waited.

The whole building looked amazing (it must have taken ages to deck the hall...), the train was wonderful and felt very special/magical. Santa was first rate - straight out of Hollywood, and his elves were top notch as well (costumes, but also playing the role - you can't beat that personal commitment to selling it, and I wanted to thank them especially - our children were/are over the moon). Then there was more - a little balance beam practise before going in for a well timed panto which we all enjoyed, before a nice meal in the cafe. From start to finish everything was just easy (which is tough with three kids five/under), and fabulous. Email comms was great as well (as I would have got caught by the road works).

My only wish is that you can run the county's rail network - everything would be smoother, more pleasant, and perhaps a little magical. THANK YOU!"

NEW POINT CONNECTION

The new point connection from the yard has been completed. This allows us to keep the mark 1 coaches in the yard (rather than 1/4 mile away at the end of the track) which is easier for maintenance and also means the guard can easily check the coaches in the morning before an open day.



Photos by Adrian Aylward

Left: The new groundframe and levers for the new point connection.

Right: The first train over the connection.

ARTHUR UPDATE

Our engineering department has been busy working on 'Arthur' this month. Our boiler contractor Alex Beasley has fitted the new washout plugs. The mounting bosses have been blanked off and the overhauled pressure gauge has been fitted ready for the hydraulic testing in December. The studs for the boiler fittings have been fitted. New gauge frames, safety valves and whistle valves have been ordered. The regulator and main steam pipe assembly is being overhauled by an external contractor. Alex has also been annealing the ends of the tubes ready to be fitted before Christmas. A few of the fire box tube holes have been bushed back to their original size reading for tubing. The studs for the brick arch have all been fitted.

The original axleboxes have had new bronze horn liners with bronze shear screws fitted. The axlebox crowns have all been whitemetalled and are ready to be fitted into the axleboxes. New eccentric sheaves have been cast in iron as the old ones were worn out (photo top right). Running boards have been rivetted onto the frames and the welds have been ground off (photo bottom right: volunteer Max Walshe).



NEW CHILDREN'S RIDE IN THE MUSEUM!

Do you use the rides outside Supermarkets to entertain your kids? Well, now you can in the Museum as well! There is a new children's ride installed in our Museum. It was donated to one of our Executive Committee members who brought it in and it has now been overhauled by a couple of our volunteers. On open days, for a bargain of 50p, a child can have a ride whilst being taught their ABC!

It is already proving very popular despite the lack of change that people are experiencing. It is the latest installation aimed at entertaining children whilst earning some badly needed revenue for the Museum.

Why not pay a visit to our child-friendly Railway Museum with your children and grandchildren and see for yourself!

Vickie Aylward, Curator



TPO UPDATE:

After the reopening of the newly repainted Travelling Post Office (TPO) coaches earlier in the year, we have had further good fortune in the form of a generous donation from the Winchcombe Railway Museum. This comprises a set of TPO lineside exchange apparatus. This equipment was used until 1971 to deliver pouches containing mail bags to passing TPO trains without the need for the train to stop, while at the same time collecting pouches of sorted mail from the train. With help from others within the QRS community, we collected the apparatus from Winchcombe. After a lifetime spent outside, it now needs some restoration work. Parks & Gardens have kindly made space for the equipment in their Romney, which will enable us to work on it under cover, before it is set up as an addition to our TPO display.

We ended our season with a new venture for us, a Christmas lunch in the Oxford Room, which was attended by the whole group, in some cases together with significant others. The meal, provided by Jilly, proved to be an absolute feast, and we are very grateful to her for this, and to the two colleagues who served the meal to us. Roland Gillott



AGM 2023 NOMINATIONS

Quinton Railway Society is run by a group of volunteer Trustees who make up our Executive Committee. If you are interested in learning more about what a Trustee does, please get in touch. Nominations for election to the Executive Committee must be in by 31st January 2023. Please email: accounts@bucksrailcentre.org for a nomination form. Thank you!

ADRIAN SHOOTER 1948-2022

Written by our previous Chairman, Ben Jackson:

"I first met Adrian Shooter at the monthly Bicester Business Networking meeting, roughly 20-years ago. He had an imposing physical presence which as I came to know him I realised contained a kind hearted, positive thinking and genuinely supportive personality. I subsequently worked with Adrian on the creation of Bicester Vision which he proactively supported bring Chiltern Railways on board as a founding member. He also served as a highly respected Chairman of the partnership delivering much of benefit for the members and wider town.



As the then chairman of the Quinton Railway Society, I invited Adrian to take up an honorary position as one of the Vice Presidents. He freely agreed and I always found him to be a source of wise advice and guidance. We have more recently been meeting for the occasional pub lunch where we compared notes on our respective health challenges. As would be expected he was always pragmatic and honest about his own prognosis.

There is so much more I could write, but I will conclude by saying I shall miss the lunches, the support, the conversation as will the wider railway community. My thoughts are with his family at this sad time."
Ben Jackson

NEW YORKER PROGRESS

Work on the New Yorker has stepped up a gear with contractors working on panelling the walls and welding brackets on the floor to connect the walls to the floor. Work on the electrics will be starting soon. More updates in the next newsletter!



ENGINEERING CHRISTMAS LUNCH!

We had 28 volunteers, staff and contractors for the Engineering Department Christmas lunch here in the Oxford Room on 13th December! A fabulous three-course Christmas lunch provided by Jilly, Hannah, Alice, Max and Natalya!



2023 SPECIAL EVENTS

Here are our events for 2023! A fabulous programme - please do come along either as a volunteer or a visitor - or both!

February 19th: Paddington!
April 7-9th: Day Out With Thomas
April 22/23rd: Spring Transport Festival
May 14th: Emergency Services Day
May 29th: Bus Rally
June 3/4th: Day Out With Thomas
June 18th: Ridgeway Run - Father's Day
June 25th: Dino Day
July 2nd: Leyland Society Gathering
July 22/23rd: Day Out With Thomas
August 13th: Peppa Pig
August 27th: Rover Car Club
August 28th: Classic Vehicle Show - pre-1988
Sept 10th: PAW Patrol
Sept 23/24th: Steam and Agricultural Show
Oct 7/8th: Day Out With Thomas
Nov 25/26th, Dec 2/3rd, 9/10th and 16/17th: Panto Express

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!

Have you contacted us with your email address yet?

We would like to be able to contact all our members by email as it is so much easier and quicker!

Please email us on:
membership@bucksrailcentre.org
or call us on 01296 655720.

Thank you!

THANK YOU FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear all,

As we approach the last weekend of the 2022 season, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the staff, volunteers and my fellow trustees of QRS/Buckinghamshire Railway Centre.

Wow, what a year! So many fantastic events we've played host to, including my wedding! We have welcomed thousands of visitors. Many of whom I'm sure were first timers. It makes me so very proud to read the glowing reviews about the great experiences people have had and it should you too. Without all the hard work and time each of our volunteers has given up to our centre both behind the scenes and customer facing, those treasured memories would have never taken place.

We have welcomed new members and volunteers this year who have settled in well, and I very much hope we are able to recruit many more next year. We have also seen our Railway Café thrive and welcome daily visitors as we strive to be at the heart of our local community.

We do of course remember those members we have sadly lost this past year, and I would like you all to take a moment to think about them. And to all those recovering from illness/injury, I want to wish you a speedy recovery.

We have so much to look forward to in 2023. Bigger and more exciting events where we celebrate and showcase all the hard work that goes into making our centre the heritage destination it truly deserves to be. I'd like to ask you all to continue on this journey we're on and support each other with the challenges we face. I sincerely hope that you are able to enjoy some much needed time with friends, family and loved ones this Christmas.

Thank you for your trust and support in my roles as Station Master and Chairman.
Barry Payne

