

An aerial photograph of a railway yard and industrial site. The scene is dominated by a complex network of railway tracks that curve through the area. To the right, several large, green, cylindrical huts are arranged in a row. In the foreground, there are several large industrial buildings with dark roofs, some with skylights. The ground is a mix of paved areas, gravel, and grass. The background shows a green field and a road. The overall scene is one of active industrial and railway operations.

NEWS FROM QUAINTON

MEMBERS
NEWSLETTER

April 2024

GET IN TOUCH

Please contact the committee with any questions and suggestions

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April 2024

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN



I would like to start by extending my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of our amazing staff and volunteers. This past year has seen many changes to the centre, and I am so pleased to see that they are documented in this newsletter; none of these would have been possible without your help.

We really are moving forward and showing what commitment and teamwork produces and I am extremely proud of everyone.

Members often ask what is going on with particular projects or why something hasn't been completed. So much goes on behind the scenes on a daily basis; I can assure you that we are all doing what we can with projects, but sometimes things happen which means we have to re-prioritise; putting one job on hold in order to move another forward. With a limited number of staff and volunteers and a huge number of projects to be done, we can only tackle so much at any given time. If you know of anyone who would like to come and volunteer and be a member of an amazing team, please contact the office.

I would also like to highlight something that I believe is very important and that we all (yes, even me) seem to forget from time to time. Everybody has bad days. We don't always know what is going on in a particular person's life. Please be kind and understanding and give everyone the benefit of the doubt instead of taking something they say or do personally.

Let's look after each other and grow... together.

Again, thank you for being part of this amazing journey.

Barry Payne, Chairman

INTRODUCING OUR NEW SECRETARY

Hi, I'm Karen and I have lived in Quainton for over 10 years. During that time, I have enjoyed coming down to BRC as a visitor and then from Feb 2023 I started volunteering - helping out Jo in the shop as well as on the front gate when needed.



After thoroughly enjoying my year volunteering, I thought I could give more so am extremely pleased to have been appointed as Honorary Secretary for the Society.

I work full time in the Central Office Property team for the John Lewis Partnership and during the season often wander down to BRC for the character days or on a steaming Sunday for an ice cream!

In my spare time I am in the Bucks County Ten Pin Bowling team and also enjoy a fair-weather bike ride - sometimes taking part in organised events around England.

I look forward to meeting more of you during the 2024 season and beyond - if you see me then please say hello!

A MESSAGE FROM THE TRUSTEES



Over the last 6 months, one of our trustees, Steve Green, has been working tirelessly in building relationships with Network Rail, HS2, Buckinghamshire Council, local charities, and the community. This has enabled us to negotiate and move forward with all the exciting projects you will read about below.

Without this level of commitment, the Society would not be in the position that it is now. Unfortunately, due to the amount of time needed to progress all of these projects, Steve took the difficult decision to step away from his own business.

It was agreed by the Executive that the Society would contract Steve to oversee the various projects on a probationary period.

I'm sure you would all agree that the changes and the progress made over these last 6 months has been considerable, with historic steps for the Society being achieved.

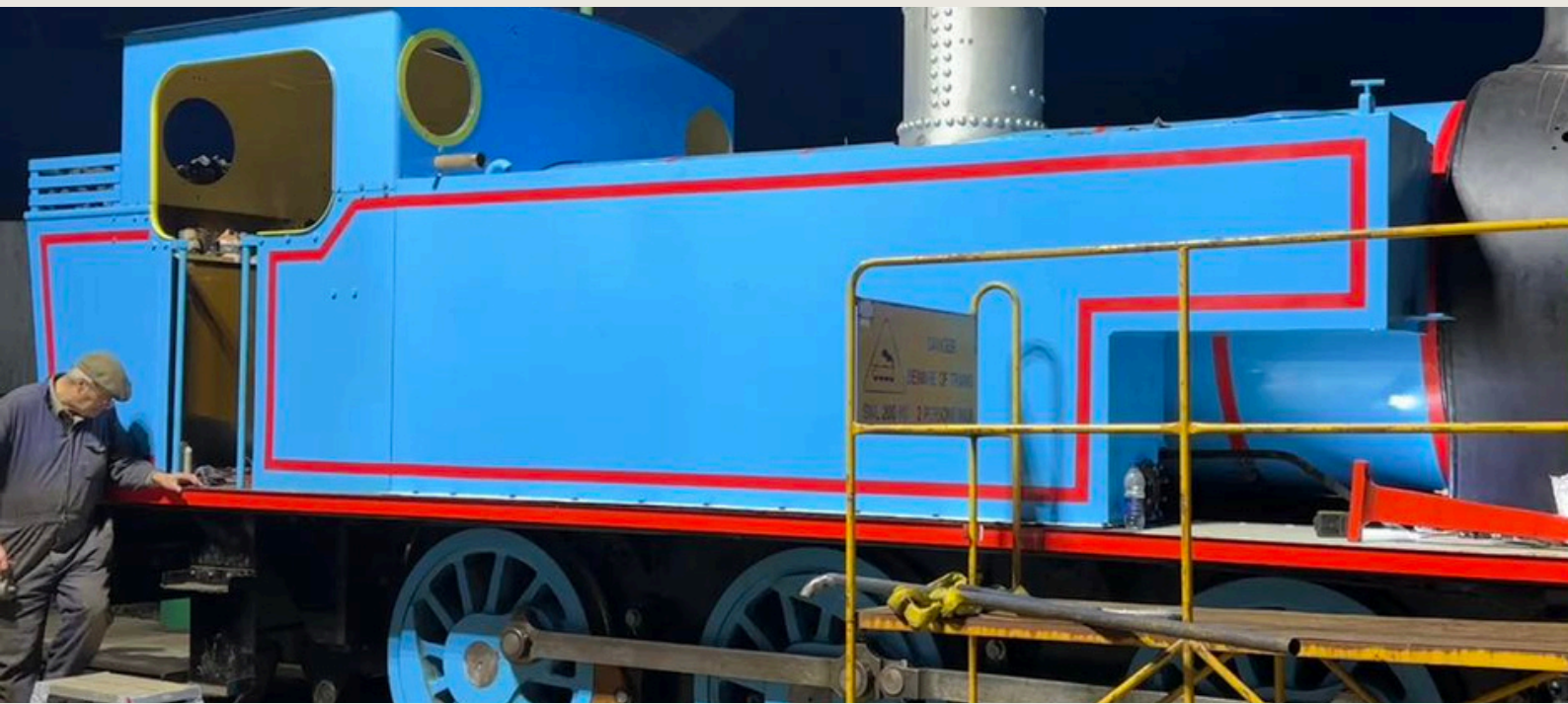
As a result, the Executive Committee are pleased to announce that Steve will leave his position as a trustee to be employed in a permanent position as General Manager.

Please join us in welcoming Steve to his new position within the Society.

April 2024

WHAT A BUSY FEW MONTHS!

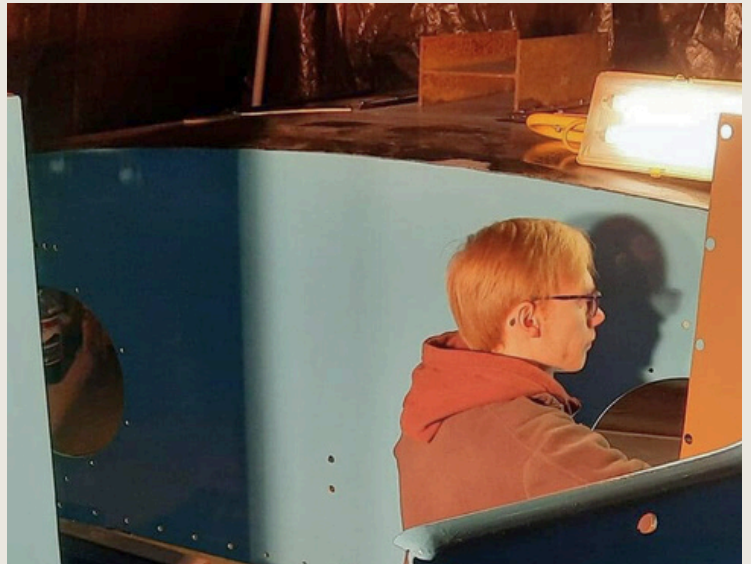
Here's a recap of what has been happening these last few months! It's been a hive of activity and some huge milestones have been reached!



April 2024



GALLERY



April 2024

NEWS JUST IN!

SHOWGROUND

We are very pleased to confirm that we have now secured the lease on our brand-new showground! The land is owned by The Windwood Trust and after many negotiations we are now able to start work developing this new venture.

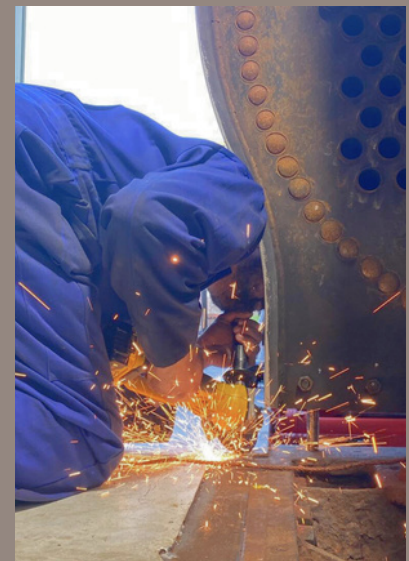
We will be using the area as part of the SHOWBUS event in September, which is the largest Bus Rally in the country.

We have been able to start laying roadways, in part due to a very generous donation of stone from EKFB.



Our long-term plan will be to hire out the showground for outside events as well as growing and moving our events that would currently have to take place in the main car park. This will give us new revenue streams as well as the opportunity to reach our full potential with our events in the future.

ARTHUR, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THOMAS'



And the good news is...

Thomas has now moved under his own steam!
He arrived on our site as Arthur in 1979 and has been patiently waiting for his time to shine!

It has taken a dedicated, long suffering and hardworking team of engineers to achieve this, with many bumps along the way!

Once Thomas has been put through his paces, he will join our expanding hire fleet.

Percy has also been given a new paint job and will join Thomas and Trevor as hireable Day Out With Thomas characters.

Enjoy a few snapshots of just some of the team...

ARTHUR, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS 'THOMAS'



ALL ABOARD!

THE NEXT TRAIN LEAVING FROM PLATFORM 1



We are thrilled to announce that we have signed the lease to use the Network Rail running line off Platform 1. This has never been achieved before and is a huge milestone for the Society. We will be able to run 1/2 mile from our platform and have been granted the lease for a minimum of 5 years. This means that for the first time ever we can link the two sides of the site together!



Work has already begun on installing the points in the upyard running line and we hope to run our new Christmas Experience from the Old Station Building on Platform 1.

If you are interested in joining the Permanent Way team, please contact Adrian on engineering@bucksrailcentre.org



Our gift shop has had a refit!

The layout has been revised to help visitors move more freely around the shop. The centrepiece is a vibrant train filled with pocket money toys! It's been a huge hit already! As has the model train running across the top of the display stands!

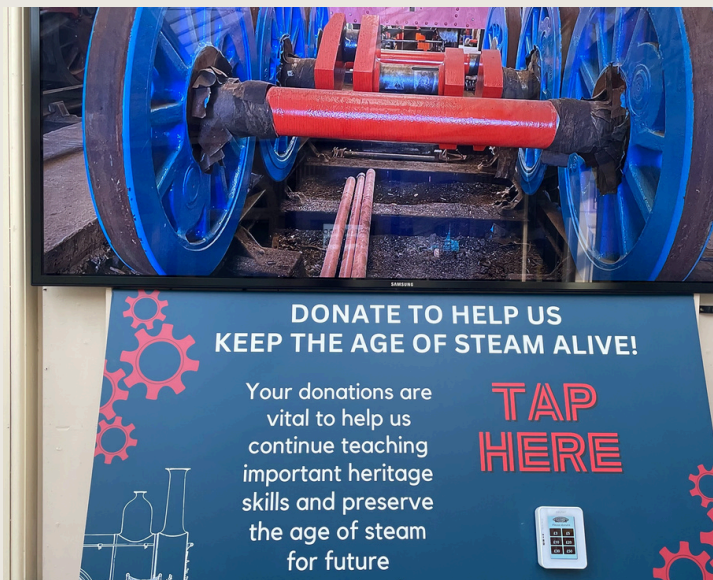
REWLEY ROAD

Vames now have a display of a 5" King to help promote their Society. The locomotive was donated by one of their members and now takes pride of place on our refurbished bookcase.

What a lovely addition!



Have you seen the new set up for our contactless donation point? You may see yourself on the big screen! A montage of volunteers is on a constant loop to show our visitors how much work goes into our amazing heritage restoration projects.



April 2024

OUR MUSEUM



Come and have a look at the changes taking place and some of the new acquisitions.

We have received a donation of signs from Albin Reed's estate which have been placed on display. His book, *Snapshots of the Met*, is a well-known source of local railway line history.



We are always looking for stewards to join the team in the museum. This entails being on hand for visitors on steaming days, to answer any questions and help maintain the interactive exhibits.

If you would like more information, please contact Vickie on museum@bucksrailcentre.org

CHRISTMAS!

After a visit to Spring Fair to keep ourselves up to date with current trends in the entertainment sector, we have a brand-new adventure for Christmas 2024!



Jack & The Beanstalk

Our in-house pantomime will be the first stop on the visitor adventure this year instead of the train ride. Our visitors will then make their way to the booking hall, where they will board the train from Platform 1 and meet Father Christmas. The children will be given a very special coin which they can exchange for their present with the elves and Mrs Claus, in the brand-new workshop in the museum!

There is lots to think about and design so please let us know if you are a secret 'Christmas all year' sort of person and want to lend a hand!

As always, if you have any Christmas trees that you no longer need, please let Belinda know. She will happily take them off your hands!

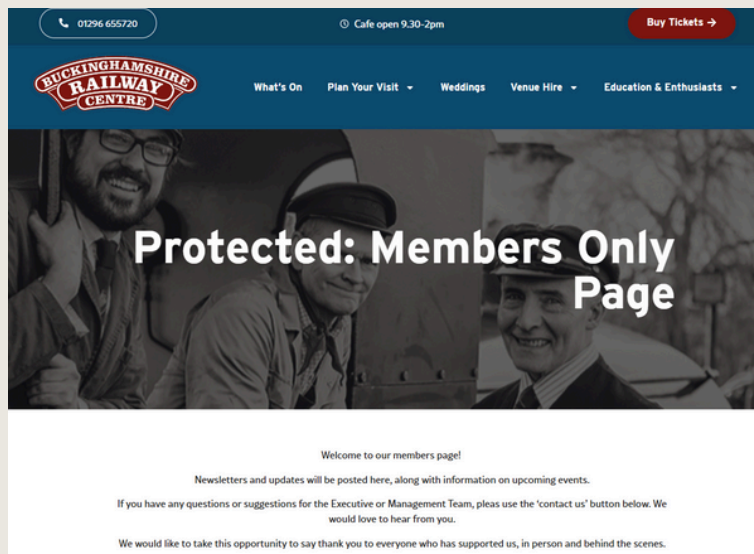
events@bucksrailcentre.org



The naughty elves will be making an appearance in the museum again... we can't wait for you to see what they are getting up to this year! Here's a small teaser!



MEMBERSHIP



Have you logged on to our new members page on the website yet? There is a comment section as well as links to past issues of News from Quainton. This is a protected page which requires the following password:
QrsMembersOnly

Don't forget that we have regular updates on both our Facebook QRS Members page as well as the email updates from News@bucksrailcentre.org.

If you would like to know more about any of these, please get in touch!

All members will be issued with one of our new scannable membership cards! If you haven't received your January renewal reminder, please do let me know.

Are you a member who doesn't know what volunteering opportunities are available? Are you looking for something to keep you busy but not sure what?

We would love to hear from you and see if we can introduce you to one of our departments and for you to meet the team. There are lots of different ways to volunteer and help out around the site.

We are working on a new volunteer handbook for all members, new and old! I would love to learn more about each department so that when we engage with new volunteers, we can help find the right fit!

If you have any questions or just want to find out more, please email me or give me a ring on Mondays & Wednesdays. I look forward to chatting with you.



membership@bucksrailcentre.org

01296 655720

Zoe Dann

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