

# QUAINTON TODAY

The new fortnightly email newsletter of Quainton Railway Society to help us stay in touch with you!



## WELCOME!

Welcome to the third issue of *Quainton Today*, our new fortnightly email newsletter.

We are hearing only good things about our new fortnightly newsletter, and we are also receiving updates from new groups now, so we hope you will continue to read our news and enjoy learning what we get up to on a day-to-day basis!

## GET IN TOUCH

If you know someone who hasn't received *Quainton Today*, please ask them to get in touch with their email address! Either call me, Louisa Richards, on 01296 655720 or email me at [marketing@bucksrailcentre.org](mailto:marketing@bucksrailcentre.org)

If you know someone who is not on email who would like to receive a paper copy, please ask them to call the office on 01296 655720.

Also, if you have a news story to share with the membership, let me know!

You can also find me in the office, usually on Tuesdays and Thursdays.



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

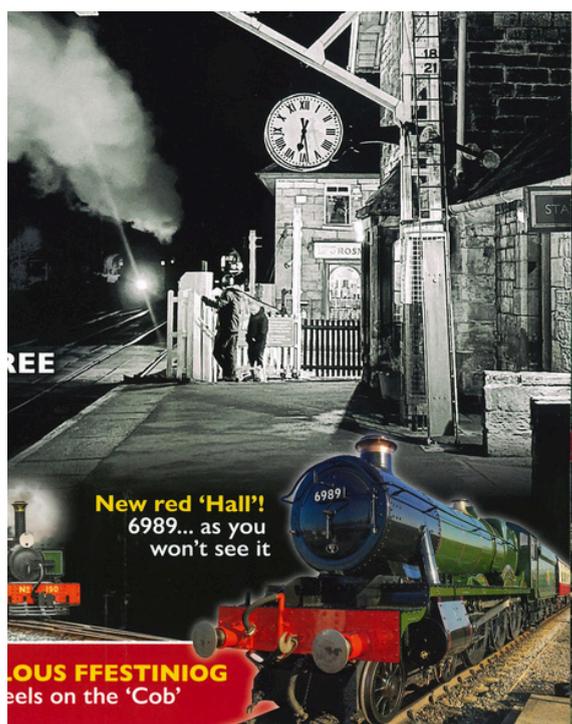
This issue, we have updates from the stove van, VAMES, TPO, Parks & Gardens, Engineering and lots more!

Enjoy the read!

Louisa  
[marketing@bucksrailcentre.org](mailto:marketing@bucksrailcentre.org)

# SITE NEWS FROM OUR GM

04-07-2025



Our Feature on the Front Cover of Trackside

We are all in the film business now! I cannot believe two weeks have passed since the last edition. Warner Bros gave us permission to tell people about Wightwick Hall being the engine on the front of the new Harry Potter train. We were restricted to the four lines that we put in the last edition. Since then, we have been contacted by all the magazines who have mostly said they will carry the story on the front cover. From there the press have got hold of it and we are now doing interviews with the BBC three counties radio and an in depth interview this Sunday with BBC radio 4. We have made the papers in the Daily Mirror, Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph.

The office has turned into a press room with Louisa and Amber fielding calls for editorial. As I do not have the face for radio Ian from engineering is giving interviews. If we were an Ealing comedy, we would be starring Peter Sellers in the Mouse that roared.

Reading this edition of Quainton Today it reminds me how much work is achieved on site by staff and volunteers which without this news paper would go unreported. The parks and garden team keep the site looking well presented for our visitors. Dave and Chris have worked the magic on the Stove van. Against the odds Engineering have fast tracked the Wightwick Hall tender, as well as keeping the site running! Small touches that make a big difference like the refurbished posters on the front of the building a joint effort between Louisa and Ryan.

Although Show bus had to be cancelled due to the road works in the area. It has had an unexpected silver lining. We met with EKFB and Hs2 this week and they are looking to help us with the great rotation we discussed in the last issue. This will be invaluable to making everything happen. They have also discussed bringing the legacy team to our site to look at how we can work together to create the right environment to train people in engineering alongside the Bucks college group. We can use the rebuilding of our locos and stock to help train people and introduce more engineers to the heritage world. Heritage skills retention is a big problem in our industry as the average age of our members increases. Unless we take training seriously, we will have no one to repair our engines and rolling stock in years to come.

Steve Green

# ENGINEERING - LOCO UPDATE



## WIGHTWICK HALL 6989

We are sure you will have seen Wightwick Hall in the news at some point over the past couple of weeks, as news of her starring role in the new Harry Potter TV series filters out through the national press. Please do cut out any pieces you see in the newspaper and leave them in the office marked for my attention (Louisa) if you are coming to Quanton Road, as we would love to keep the press cuttings.

Wightwick Hall was collected today from the Bluebell Railway for her visit to the paint shop...



## 6989 TENDER

Work on the tender is very nearly finished. I visited the downyard when volunteer Paul was preparing it for the toolboxes to be fitted (photo left) and then a few days later when the tender had been moved to the upyard for testing.

Huge credit to the engineering team for the hard work they have put into getting the tender ready!



## ARTHUR

Arthur has enjoyed another weekend as his alter ego Thomas. It was nice to receive a couple of reports from the crew to say that they enjoyed driving and that the engine was running really well. It's always good to receive positive feedback!



# ENGINEERING UPDATE CONT'D

## MAY

We are thrilled to let you know that May passed her latest boiler test.



## CROMWELL

Cromwell's starter motor has been fixed and the engine has since been used to test the brakes on the tender.



## SWORDFISH

It has been nice to welcome back Swordfish loco no.2138 for her 10 year overhaul by her owner, Ricky Plummer. Currently residing in the upyard, she has been away for three years generating funds for this overhaul. In this time away, she has done over 2,000 miles, mainly at Colne Valley in Essex for two seasons and then three months at the Mid Suffolk Railway. Ricky has said he is happy to give us updates on the overhaul for *Quinton Today*, and I look forward to watching it all taking place.



# LMS STOVE VAN

The stove van is looking resplendent now in its new coat of paint complete with lines, numbers and LMS and several coats of varnish!

Huge thanks to Dave Gomersall who has completed the lion's share of the work so far, but also to his wife Sally and Chris Ashton too.





# PARKS & GARDENS

With the hot and dry weather continuing P&G have had a respite from grass cutting although there are still areas on the site which need strimming to keep them clear of brambles and weeds.

Watering the flower beds regularly is not possible so we have concentrated on areas such as the planters on platform 4 to keep them colourful as long as possible.

The team have recently been busy trimming the hedges at the main entrance to the site to keep them neat and tidy for visitors so they have a good first impression of Quanton.

Stuart Gee was busy a couple of weeks ago giving the willow tree by the P&G grey van its annual 'haircut'. I'm sure you will agree that it now looks much better.

Another job to be carried out is cutting back lineside vegetation down the far end of our main running line. This is causing trouble by scrapping the sides of coaches and engines on steaming days.

Our painting duo of Brian Laws and Roger Slade have been continuing their good work by sanding down and repainting some of the wooden benches on the Showground.

Finally, you would not associate Quanton with 'carpet bedding' but bird's-foot trefoil (I think) has taken over the old trackbed between platforms 1 and 2. Hopefully, the weedkilling contractors did not treat this area last week when they were on site!

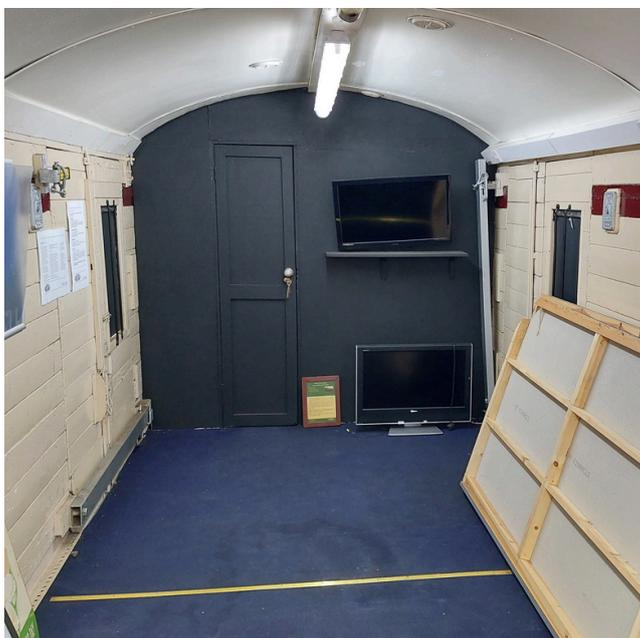
Huge thanks to the P&G Team!



Photo right... We have also had the long hedge trimmed right down so that visitors can see into the showground from the Brill Platform. We found that visitors sometimes couldn't find their way to the trailer rides in the showground - so now they can easily see where they are!

# POSTER BOARDS

We have finally got round to taking down the old and tatty LMS poster boards. They have been repainted and put back up with a couple of vintage Metroland posters inside. A real improvement for this area of the building exterior, we are sure you will agree!



# GENERAL UTILITY VAN

Recent work has taken place in the General Utility Van (GUV). The disused cinema area which has been used as a storage space has been cleared and the partitions removed. The black paint has been removed from the windows using a liberal coat of paint stripper and the walls in that area repainted where necessary. Two panels of rotten wood, under the large window need to be replaced before painting can be completed. The GUV and the Stowage Van have both had a deep clean. Progress on the display of donated artefacts in the GUV has stalled due to the bridge between the Stowage Van and the GUV being removed limiting access to the GUV to only one member of the group who is able to step across the gap. Bob Frise, TPO Group

# VAMES NEWS

VAMES Wednesday Gang are having to build a new fence. When we built the tunnel, over 20 years ago, we had to cart a lot of soil from beyond the Station Road bridge where it had been piled up. It was used to infill around and over the tunnel where these days the public can have a picnic. Meanwhile their children can watch a train enter the tunnel mouth underneath them and then race to the other end to see if they can beat it to watch the train come out.

Over the years the soil bank closest to what is now the QRS grass field carpark has steadily sunk so that the fence posts started to lean into the adjacent hedge. Not good. Late last year the area was fenced off for safety reasons. The old posts have been abandoned and new ones were cast in concrete during the spring. At the same time the ends of the fence panels were renewed so that as much of the old fence could be used as is possible.

Now that the weather is better, a new fence is being rebuilt further way from the hedge. As you can see, Ian Allen, Mike Morris and Rob Elloway have started at the end closest to Roy's Corner. Some way to go but it will look much smarter and will certainly be safer.



# REWLEY ROAD

It's been a long time coming, but this year we have engaged the fabulous Ryan and Terry to prepare and paint the exterior of Rewley Road.

They are busy sanding down at the moment and preparing replacement boards for the ones that are rotten...

They have also started work on an old table that has been donated to us to turn it into a children's activity table for the museum.



# HONEY FOR SALE

A report from our resident beekeeper Jason is that the bees are in full swing and he has just spun and jarred our first harvest of 2025. You can find it for sale in the gift shop!

# DOWT CLEAR UP

Huge thanks to Terry, Bob, Robert, Brendan, Tim and Fred who helped put up all the bunting and other paraphernalia that comes with a Day Out With Thomas event!

They then come along like mice in the night and take it all down again afterwards!

Thank you guys!



## DAY OUT WITH THOMAS



### 5/6<sup>th</sup> July

Our third Thomas weekend of the year was a relatively quiet one - a real treat for the visitors who were here. Once again, Arthur and Millom played their starring roles beautifully. Dorothy was on display as Trevor, and our volunteers Terry and Chris ran the trailer rides behind Terry's traction engine Emma, with the help of Laura and Trishia.

Thank you to volunteers and staff who team together to make this event so great every single time!

## SHOWBUS

### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July

I am sure you will have heard by now that we have very sadly had to cancel this year's SHOWBUS event due to HS2 not opening the road in time. We simply could not run an event that was expecting around 200 buses and 2,000 visitors arriving over the railway bridge which is only wide enough to fit one bus at a time, and with temporary traffic lights currently at the junction with Station Road and the A41 - it would have caused total mayhem!



NEXT UP...

## STEAMING DAYS



### Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup> July

The next two Sundays are Steaming Days, with Emergency Services Day following closely on 27<sup>th</sup> July and then the Summer Holiday Wednesday Steaming Days will start, and kids go for £1!

# Photo page... Some of the faces of Quanton Road!

