

QUAINTON TODAY

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



WELCOME!

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

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

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. Come and see me!



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

This issue, we've got a report on the filming for ITV that has been here for nearly two weeks; photos from 6989's first steaming day; loads of engineering news and reports from around the site.

Enjoy the read,

Louisa

marketing@bucksrailcentre.org

01296 655720



NEWS FROM OUR GM

On Sunday the 5th October, Wightwick Hall steamed into platform 1 resplendent in her new red livery. What a sight she made. I watched so many reels of film taken by everyone of the engine. One of my favourites was taken from Mike Tayler's Wickham trolley as it kept up with the engine showing the powerful motion working away. It was a credit to all the people who saved her from Barry scrap yard.

She will be running again this Sunday before going back out to work down at the Bluebell. Winter maintenance will be carried out in The Bluebell's workshops in January and the first two weeks of February.

Isabel has just passed her steam tests today so she will be ready to pull the Christmas trains. Christmas is selling well - bronze and gold are gone already and silver is selling well. This bodes well for a successful Christmas for the centre, which is in complete contrast to the slow ticket sales this year across the board.

That said we have just had the best two days of Thomas this year with 1200 people each day. It's been a funny year of ups and downs.

Grantchester filmed here last week, and I have never seen so many cars and lorries. A big thank you to all the people who helped with the trains and shunting. They were very long days. Robson Green came into the office to say hello and the girls all had a photo with him. There is also a photo of Robson with the parks and garden team. He was a really nice down-to-earth guy. Hopefully this will lead to more filming work in the future.

Halloween is nearly upon us and when I was locking up the museum on Saturday night, I thought I would walk through the scare maze. Well, that was a mistake and not for the faint hearted!! All credit to the team working on it, it's scary!

The bridge progresses onward, and they are working on the pads that the concrete section will land on. I have a model and drawings in my office if anyone is interested in what they are doing. Up in the showground, Network Rail is laying our new storage area made from the stone mountain that came off the bridge. This will give us more room and possible revenue streams in the future with bus storage which we keep being asked for.

This Saturday is the AGM. Please remember: judge us on what has been achieved; don't use it to criticize. I look forward to the question-and-answer session after the formalities. We have achieved so much in the last 12 months.

Stephen Green
General Manager



ENGINEERING - LOCO UPDATE

WIGHTWICK HALL STEAMS AGAIN!



We had a really successful steaming day with 6989 on 5th October. Wightwick Hall ran beautifully, much to the delight of many visitors, including several of those who worked on her restoration in the early days, namely Jeff Jackson, Charlie Jones, Rod Wallis and Martin Hobbs.

The site was full of steam enthusiasts and Harry Potter fans alike, with many of the latter in full costume!

We can't wait to do it all again this Sunday, 19th October. See you there!



ENGINEERING - UPDATE CONT'D

04 DIESEL

Engineering volunteer Gareth has designed and manufactured the cow catcher which can be easily put on and taken off, so when it's a Thomas day the 04 will become Mavis from Thomas & Friends!

Photo below was when they fitted it to test it. Then it was removed and is currently drying after its first coat of black paint - right.



GNR COACH

The luggage rack brackets for the GNR coach have come back from manufacturing and Paul and Dave have been preparing the tooling in order to drill the holes in a reliable and consistent position.



ENGINEERING - UPDATE CONT'D

ISABEL

Isabel is on loan to us from Epping Ongar and two of their engineers, Tony & Joe pictured right, came to do some checks on her. They replaced the fusible plug, and then she was prepped for her annual steam test on Wednesday which she passed with flying colours!



DICK'S BAGNALL

Dave and Paul have been servicing the steam valves. The valve seats have been refurbished and the glands repacked. The glands prevent the steam from escaping up the spindle, which not only reduces efficiency but can also cause burns on the hands of the crew member using them.

They have also polished them up beautifully!



The Bagnall's mudhole doors were sent off to be machined and have come back. New ones have been made to replace the old ones, which were worn and corroded (see comparison photo right). Jerry then made the new studs to fit them. They sit at the bottom of the boiler to wash mud and sludge out easily.



Dave has also been using grinding paste to make two plates perfectly smooth for the lapping tool, which allows them to lap in the regulator valves. (Photo left).



ENGINEERING - UPDATE CONT'D

MAY

May's clack valves are cracked and need replacing. We have a couple on loan whilst we manufacture new ones, but the loaned ones are leaking! Steve is machining a lapping tool to use on the seat of the loaned clack valve to prevent it leaking.

Pictured (far right) is Steve working on the loaned one, and the new one...



Elsewhere, Gary (right) has been busy cleaning May's copper piping inside the cab which now looks fabulous!



PECKETT 1900

Here Tony is machining the tapered washers for the Pecket 1900.



WIGHTWICK HALL STEAMING DAY

Sunday 19th October - come and see her new red livery and have a ride!



If you didn't make the 5th, please do come along on 19th. After this, there's only one final steaming day before the end of the 2025 steaming season.

Please note, this is not a Harry Potter-themed event in any way, this is just *Wightwick Hall* offering steam train rides on a Steaming Day!

Please do come along!

YOU ARE INVITED TO THE 2025 AGM

Quanton Railway Society AGM

Saturday 18th October at 2pm

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre
Station Road, Quanton HP22 4BY

Paperwork has been sent out by email (by post to those for whom we don't have an email address). Please do come along if you can. It is always helpful to know if people are coming or not, so if you are able, please email us on:
secretary@bucksrailcentre.org

ITV FILMING

We had an exciting few days whilst ITV was here filming for the 11th series of Grantchester, due to air in 2027.

Rewley Road became Cambridge railway station - see below! Frank and William, who were driving the engine on Tuesday, were included in some of the shots, so they were asked to continue their roles on the Wednesday to allow these scenes to be filmed with the same people for continuity. They were asked visit the costume and make up departments - apparently Frank's outfit wasn't oily enough! Even loco 'May' was expected to wear a costume and became a British Rail engine for a few days - see photo below right!

They spent a few days filming beyond VAMES, showing the train 'out in the countryside'. They had a camera on the roof of the train to film the steam from the chimney, and then another camera on the cab steps to show the wheels going round. *Continued overleaf...*



ITV FILMING CONT'D

Filming then moved to platform 1 and they filmed people getting on and off the train and then the train leaving the station. Obviously, our trains normally leave going backwards, but the film crew wanted to film them leaving driving forwards! Frank said they had to head off going north and then stop abruptly before hitting the buffers! Sometimes they were shooting the same scene from up to four different angles.

John was arrested (!) see below by a Police Officer from the 1960s... And the girls in the office were treated to a celebrity visit from two of the series' main characters Robson Green and Rishi Nair, who play DI Geordie Keating and Alphy Kottaram.





ASH RECYCLING

We have resurrected the old method of disposal of loco ash and here are the first four bags of ash about to leave the Centre - probably a little under 4 tons.

They are being taken by the Canal & River Trust who use the ash in their repair work when erecting temporary dams and behind shuttering when repairing the banks.

As our fires are lit with old pallets there will be nails in it which, I was told, "gives the magnet fishers something to find"!!

In return, the C&RT bring us old, broken and whole pallets for us to turn into ash...

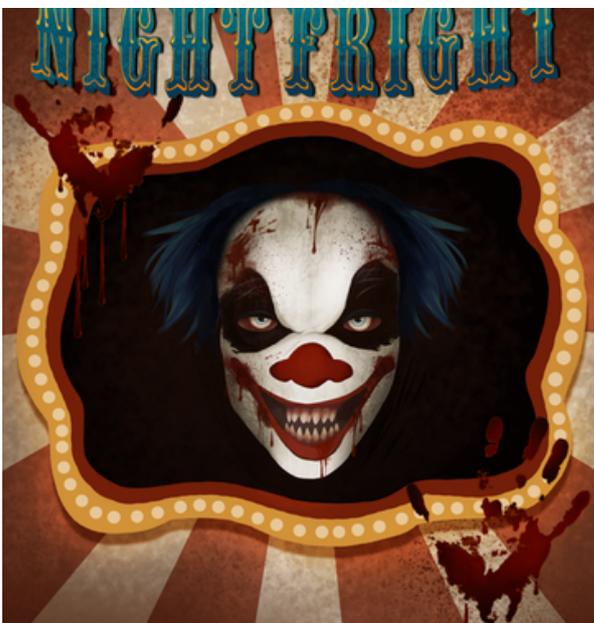
A fine partnership and great way to help minimise our waste!



GOODBYE AMBER

We said a sad farewell to Amber who has worked in the office with us for over a year since graduating from university. We always knew she would have to fly the Quinton nest at some point and move on to bigger and greater things. She has moved to Manchester with a friend and has a great new job and we wish her all the luck in the world! Amber we'll miss you but we know you'll be amazing in your new job xx

NIGHT FRIGHT - DISCOUNT FOR MEMBERS!



Who fancies a great night out here at The Railway? There are spooky Halloween scare mazes for those who want to experience that, but for others, it'll just be a fab night out with a bar and live band inside Rewley Road. There's a huge amount of work going in to getting ready for this event, so we'd love you to come and support it!

Night Fright is on for two days - Friday 31st October and Saturday 1st November. If you call us to book your tickets (or pop in to see us), we'll give you a 20% member discount. If you definitely don't want to do the scare mazes, entry is only £12.

Give us a call on 01296 655720 - or come and see us - to book your tickets (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm).

QRS VOLUNTEER PROFILE

CHRIS ASHTON



After two years of being cooped up inside during Covid, Chris Ashton was looking for something to get him out of the house when he saw our Volunteer Recruitment Day advertised in his Parish Magazine. He came along, had a chat with another volunteer who suggested he had a wander round the site. He went to the upyard which was quite busy, so he went to the downyard, which was also quite busy, and then he found himself in the museum, where he found the Post Office van, and a pair of legs poking out from underneath! Ricky popped out, they got chatting and from that moment the Vehicle Restoration Team was formed!

Chris came in later that week for the first time to help Ricky with the restoration of the PO van. He started doing three days a week whilst he was semi-retired from his role as lorry driver for BOC; then, on his retirement, he started coming every day!



One day that first week, Ricky wasn't able to make it into the railway, and seeing as he had all the tools, Chris thought he better get on with something else, so he made a start on cleaning the red underground train in the museum. After he'd finished, it looked so much better, but it made the carriage next to it look worse, so Chris cleaned that one... and the next one... and before we knew it, Chris had washed every carriage and loco in the whole museum! "It took quite a while that first time," Chris says, "but now I do it twice a year, it's a much quicker job." On a Monday, Chris now cleans all the Mk1s and/or the vintage carriages after they've been used for passenger rides the day before. Chris also does a lot of painting and has helped on Mavis and the Kings Cross Suburban coach, and is painting the MK1s ready for Christmas, including varnishing the corridors inside. We also have a second Post Office van that Chris has started working on with team members Sean and Phil.



If five days a week wasn't already enough, Chris was also approached by Helen to see if he wanted to become a guard as we're always short for steaming days and special events. He agreed and did most of his training alongside Dave Bambrook and within a few months he was passed out!

Chris has also found a love of traction engines since he started volunteering here. 'Dorothy' arrived on site and Chris and Ricky worked on her. Chris was put in charge of looking after her and Terry showed him the mechanics and taught him to drive her, and now, together, they run trailer rides at our Thomas events, much to the delight of our visitors.



When I asked Chris what he got out of volunteering here, he said he has made some great friends and especially enjoys chatting with them over breakfast in the railway cafe.

He then added, "When I'm here, I can sit in a carriage where Winston Churchill sat, or where Queen Victoria's family sat; I can be the guard on an engine that steams out of a platform that was used 150 years ago! It's a real thrill. Plus, I never had a train set when I was a kid, and now I've got a full-size one."

Chris, you are a legend and an absolute asset to this place and we appreciate every single thing you do! Thank you so much!

We literally would not still be here if it wasn't for our amazing Volunteer Army. We have several hundred members and we've always got room for more volunteers, so if you're considering giving some of your time to us, please do get in touch - we'd love to meet you and welcome you to the team!

PARKS & GARDENS REPORT



The Parks & Gardens team has been busy as usual! They've seeded the new grassy area behind the traverser and raked it all in (pictured above are Nick, Dave Stuart and Roger), they've mowed (pictured right is Ray) and they've cut back the plants by the platform to make it all look neat and tidy,

Plus, they've made a new mate... Robson Green popped by for a selfie with Nick, Ray and Ray!



MIKE CLEMENCE



We are sorry to have to tell everyone that Mike Clemence passed away last week.

Mike was Honorary Secretary of VAMES for over 25 years only standing down from the position last year. However, in addition he was also known to many QRS members as the mainstay of our Garden Railway. They will remember him well, being on site running his G scale trains to entertain visitors week after week while they stood to watch them going round and asking questions.

He would have been 86 this week and was a good friend giving sound advice to new garden railway enthusiasts who valued his expertise.

DAY OUT WITH THOMAS

11/12 October

Our final weekend of Day Out With Thomas was the best attended of the year!

We are just finalising the dates for next year... the theme for 2026 is MUSIC!

Why not join the volunteering team for these weekends? There are always lots of roles to fill and everyone has a great time!



Next up...

STEAMING WITH 6989

19 October

Come and see our very own TV star, Wightwick Hall...



NIGHT FRIGHT!

**Friday 31 October and
Saturday 1 November**

Do you dare?!

