

# QUAINTON TODAY

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



## WELCOME!

Welcome to the first 2026 issue of *Quainton Today*, our 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](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. Come and see me!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Happy New Year everyone!

Obviously, it's been quite quiet here over the Christmas and New Year period as everyone has taken a well earned break, but there's always something going on here at Quainton Road!

Enjoy the read!

Louisa

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

Tel: 01296 655720



# NEWS FROM OUR GM

Welcome to the New Year. I hope everyone had a happy Christmas and a good new year. It's been straight to business already and the first quarter of the year is looking very busy.

Isabel has been picked up and returned to Epping ready for a small overhaul to sort out leaking tubes. By the time you read this, Wightwick Hall will have been picked up this weekend to return to the film set for a filming stint. It will then return to the Bluebell where it will start its winter maintenance schedule. Its first hire will be February half term, and it then has bookings up to November already and we have only been back 4 days in the office.

May will be off to Mid Suffolk in March for a season hire and should return August/September time. We even have a hire for Arthur as Thomas and the red Suburban coach for an event in 2027.

Today, we had a visit from Henley College who want to link up with us to train engineers for the future. We will start by giving them machining projects to do and work towards student placements later on in the year. We have the same link up happening hopefully this year with the Bucks college group which will help in the sourcing of new engineers for the future. Training and education are a big part of our mission statement, and it is vital to the preservation of our artifacts. Without young engineers and craftsmen coming forward our business will simply cease to exist.

I would like to give a big thank you to Dave and the Parks and Garden team, as well as Bob and Terry and the Monday gang, by Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> January, Christmas had disappeared and been packed away. Everyone else has been working in the Museum packing away all the decorations. Another week should see it back to normal. Once it's clear, the model railways of Vames and Risborough Model Railway will start to be built in the main hall until Easter. This will give people an undercover area to work in while the weather is cold and damp!

It seems a long time ago now, but I would like to thank everyone who helped over the Christmas. It was a great success. Apart from the first weekend it was a complete sell out and all the feed back was good, lots of very happy people. I think we were very lucky as online last night Nene Valley railway launched a £300k recovery fund as they said they had a very quiet Christmas run, which has put the railway at risk of closure.

We have a lot happening this year and if everything comes off, we will have a very exciting and successful year ahead of us.

Stephen Green  
General Manager



# ENGINEERING UPDATE

## DICK'S ENGINE

The wheels came back just a couple of days before Christmas and will be fitted shortly.



## ISABEL

After a hugely successful run at Christmas, Isabel went back to Epping Ongar last week.



## MAY

May did a few useful runs at Christmas and is now tucked back up in the sheds awaiting some winter maintenance.

The engineering team will carry out a piston and valve exam. They will re-metal the crossheads due to excessive play. Also, the bearings on the coupling rods need attention.



# ENGINEERING UPDATE - CONT'D

## ARTHUR

Arthur is also due some winter maintenance. The engineering team need to rectify the brake wayshaft and do some maintenance on the steam brake cylinder.



## 6989

Wightwick Hall has left The Bluebell Railway to go off for more filming for the new Harry Potter TV series.



## COACH - SK

The tyres were sent off to the workshop to be turned as they had worn out, and they have now returned and are ready for fitting.

# VAMES

Another fantastic 'Panto Express' experience at BRC; lots of positive comments about the whole event and VAMES' Christmas Winter Wonderland layout, which this year was a lot bigger with extra boards added plus more lights. Roger added a Mansion which was a focal point in the middle, to the left was the mountain range then to the right was a village square. This all helped to give the layout more height and depth.

For someone who's not really a fan of Panto I did enjoy Aladdin (oh yes I did). It was very funny, I ended up watching it 4 times; the dress rehearsal on the Friday before the show opened, twice with the guys from VAMES and once with my granddaughter who loved it, especially the smelly pants being thrown in the audience, this memory stayed with her throughout Christmas and New Year.

So well done all involved and we look forward to doing it all again next year.

Steve Cook (VAMES)



## REMINDER FOR VOLUNTEERS

May I remind everyone of the long standing rule at Quanton that, if you bring your property to the Centre, it must have your name on it. This applies whether it is a tool, a lamp or a vehicle as it avoids any issues of ownership should a dispute arise. Tony Lyster

# NEW FOR 2026

This year, we're trying something a bit different! Not every Sunday will be a Steaming Day or a Special Event - we are introducing a new day: a Museum Day.

On a Museum Day, the whole site will be accessible, but there'll be no full-size steam train rides. VAMES will be offering miniature train rides and the museum will be open and the whole site will be available to wander. Ticket prices will be reduced on these days to reflect the offering.

Ticket prices for Museum Days:

Adults: £8.50

Seniors: £7.50

Child: £5

Under 3: Free

One adult and up to four children: £16.50

Two adults and up to four children: £25

If you click the online calendar (link below), you will see when these days are planned:

<https://bucksrailcentre.org/whats-on/#>

On some of these days, we hope to add a little addition of something extra - this could be a museum tour, afternoon tea, or a car club visiting, for example.

This is what's on the new 2026 leaflet:

**Museum Days:** On these days, our Visitor Centre and Railway Museum are open, as well as 30 acres to explore. Only miniature railway rides will be on offer, with no full-size steam train rides. Please check our calendar, as some days may have additional activities.

**Steaming Days:** The whole site is open with the exciting addition of unlimited steam train rides behind a full-size steam engine, which will run up and down our track (approx ½ mile).

**Special Events:** The same as a Steaming Day but with something big as an added extra! This could be a visiting children's character, a vehicle rally or steam fair, for example. See inside for details of some of our special events, or visit our website!

# Events round up...

Next up...

## PETER RABBIT

We are open for three days in February half term. We start with a visit from Peter Rabbit on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> February. Then, we have a Wednesday Steaming Day on the 18<sup>th</sup> and a Museum Day on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



Next up...

## THE GRUFFALO

The Gruffalo will be visiting on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> March!



Photo Montage... Thank you to all our volunteers who came out in force to run our Panto Express event! Here are some of them:



# Panto Express Volunteers!

