

# QUAINTON TODAY

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



## WELCOME!

Welcome to *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

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Enjoy the read!

Louisa

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

Tel: 01296 655720



# NEWS FROM OUR GM

We are already in the second week of February, and this weekend sees our first event of the year. Peter Rabbit will be making an appearance at the station to entertain all the youngsters who will be attending. Event days like this, weddings and other functions are what brings the money into the business to pay the bills to keep the centre open. If you can help at any of our events, you will be most welcome.

Last year was a tough year, with visitor numbers down across the board for everyone. Our Autumn HRA conference was based nearly entirely on the fact that if we do not change the way we run and change to a more business model we will all go the way of the dinosaurs. Our heritage centres need to be relevant to our new customer base, which is families with children. This has actually been the case - and why we have been instigating change - over the last two years.

What are we expecting this year? Well, it looks like we will be having another year of uncertainty. Visit England has already forecast a downturn of people wanting to visit the UK, which has an effect on the economy. The management team is constantly looking at ways of increasing our visibility to a wider audience with targeted marketing. The more people know we are here offering value for money for the family the more ability we have to sell tickets.

Why is this important? We are still working on the budgets for the year and everyone on site wants money for their projects. We now focus on delivering a return for the money invested, which is why we have asked for properly thought-out costings and also a explanation of the benefit to the centre.

Our core mission has not changed: preservation, education and skills retention. What has changed is that it is now a more focused business approach to delivering it. This is a much-needed change as costs increase and the economy shows signs of uncertainty and stagnation.

We all want to see the site continue to expand and survive, which is why we are here. Without change we will end up being added to one of the lists of railways putting out survival appeals wondering what went wrong.

Thank you so much to all our volunteers who came out in force for our Volunteer Recruitment Day! We have signed up a few more new volunteers already - thank you to you and a big warm welcome to our new volunteers!

Stephen Green  
General Manager



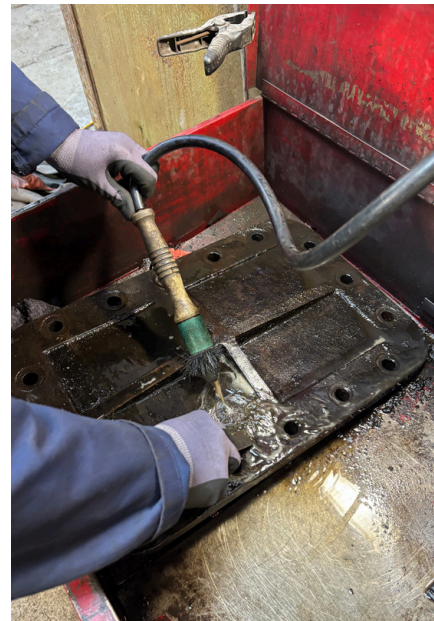
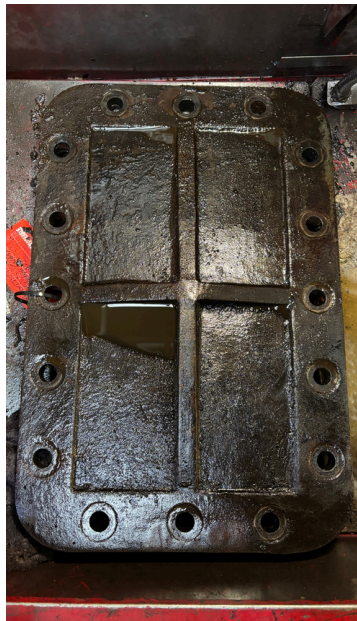
# ENGINEERING UPDATE

## DICK'S ENGINE

I spoke to Dave who was in the process of cleaning one of the valve chest covers. They have removed the covers to inspect the valve chests and slides and the respective seats. Everything looked good - so Dave is now giving it all a good clean before reassembling it all.

Also on the Bagnall, new gaskets have been made and fitted, and the wheels that returned recently have had a good clean.

Plus, the sandbox cover was removed and sent off to be colour-matched so they can get paint to match exactly.



## MAY & ARTHUR

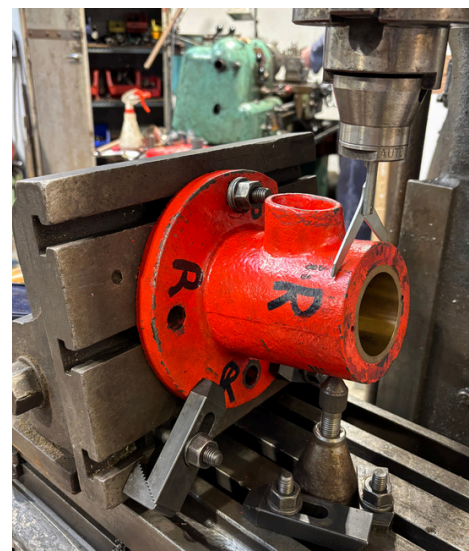
This week, May and Arthur both passed part 1 (the cold part) of their annual boiler inspections.



## FLYING BUFFERBEAM

During my visit to the engineering shed this week, work continued on the Flying Bufferbeam. Clive was making a cover for the oil well for one of the motion bearings. (right).

Steve is shown here (left) radiusing the end of the motion shaft to fit in the bearing.



# CHUFFLEPOP JUNCTION

Ric and Ken are nearing completion of their fun layout in the small artefacts room of the museum. They plan to open it at Easter. It is now complete with castle, dinosaur enclosure and fairground!

Pictured right are Chris and Ernie who are helping to build a fence to go around the layout.



# VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAY

What a great turn out we had on Sunday for our volunteer recruitment day! Thank you so much to all of you who came to help on the day! And a big welcome to our new volunteers who joined up!

## GREAT MISSENDEN SIGNAL BOX

The signal box has now been placed in its final position in the museum. The team had to remove one of the fixed signal posts to get it in place, and have now put it back. You can see the signal box in its original location in the photo below, provided by curator Vickie Aylward.

If there are any volunteers who would like to come forward and join the team to help bring this piece of history back to its former glory, they are asked to please call the office on 01296 655720.



## ROAD BRIDGE UPDATE

I happened to come across the foreman of the road bridge project and I asked if I was allowed a preview! He allowed me through the barrier to get the photo below left to show you how it looks. Basically, it looks exactly as it did before! (Which was the whole point, after all!)

The tarmac road has now been laid (and I was told they gave us a few extra metres to cover the worst bit of pot holing!) The coping bricks have all be re-used; the other bricks were matched and the big pillar stones were saved and re-used.

They have completed sticking the brick slips on the back of the arch and are just doing the front. There's a bit of fencing to complete as well. Next time I write, it should all be finished!

They have also taken up all the concrete from the ground underneath the bridge.



# POST OFFICE VAN

Chris, Shaun, Phil and Adrian, who make up the team working on The Post Office van, have now stripped it down to the bare chassis - photos right. All the parts have been labelled and logged.

Next, they will shot blast the chassis. Any welding required will be done and then the big reassembly will begin!



# QRS CONTACTS:

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Or email the office at [office@bucksrailcentre.org](mailto:office@bucksrailcentre.org) or call 01296 655720.

# Events round up...

THIS SUNDAY!

## 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 February 18<sup>th</sup> and our first Museum Day on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> February.



Next up...

## STEAMING DAY

Our first Steaming Day of the season will be held on Wednesday 18th February - for half term. As we go to print, we have not yet been told which engine will be in steam.



Next up...

## MUSEUM DAY

Our first Museum Day will be held on Sunday 22nd February during half term.

We will then be closed until Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March, when the season starts!

