

QUAINTON TODAY

Quainton Railway Society's fortnightly member newsletter
to help us stay in touch with you!



WELCOME!

Welcome to *Quainton Today*, your
fortnightly member newsletter.

I will be away for ten days over the Easter
holidays, so the next issue of *Quainton Today* is
planned for Thursday 16 April. Don't forget to
send me your news! Thank you, Louisa

GET IN TOUCH

If you know someone who isn't receiving
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 and
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 email
me or find me in the office, usually on
Tuesdays and Thursdays. Come and see me!



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Enjoy the read!

Louisa

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NEWS FROM OUR GM

Where did the last two weeks go? Last weekend, we had the second Museum Day and the second wedding. The Driver Experience Courses on the Museum Days are currently sold out so when people come, they still see a steam engine working on site.

This weekend will see our third wedding of the year on Saturday, and the Gruffalo is coming on Sunday to entertain our visitors. Pre-booked tickets are going well; we already have nearly 900 tickets sold. If you can help on Sunday that would be great, we can never have enough car parkers or station staff.

In my last report, I said we had 90 school children in. Today, we have gone one better and we have 200 excited children on site! A massive thanks to everyone who makes this possible. The advancement of education is a big part of our mission statement, and we are doing that in bucket loads today. Below is a thank you we have received already from one of the teachers.

“A massive thank you from us at Drayton Park and our sister school at Brooksward. We all had a fantastic time and each and every volunteer guide was simply fantastic - please pass on our thanks to them. We look forward to coming back soon!”

On Monday morning this week, we took the difficult decision to cancel May's Steam, Classic & Country Fair and the Bus Rally in July. We do not take these decisions lightly and it was as a result of five meetings last week with HS2/EKFB/Network Rail and the main Bucks Council. Please find below our official release to exhibitors and customers alike.

“Unfortunately, due to delays in the HS2/EKFB construction programme caused by this year's exceptionally high rainfall, the new road and access alignments are behind schedule. As a result, access to our site and showground has become extremely restricted. To avoid causing severe congestion in the village of Quanton, we have had to make the difficult decision to cancel this year's Steam, Classic & Country Fair.

We truly regret any inconvenience this may cause to our exhibitors and visitors. This situation is beyond our control, and we appreciate your understanding. Please keep the date in your diary for next year. With the new roads expected to be completed, we look forward to welcoming you back for our show in 2027.”

It does seem some days that we are the epicentre of building and construction with HS2, EKFB and Network Rail. There are so many moving parts to what is going on in the area, it was inevitable something would slip and affect the running of the centre. We now belong to three different Stakeholder groups covering everything from road construction and traffic management, to the construction of two new railways. You only have to stand on the footbridge to see how we are being surrounded by construction. A lot of the work going on around the site is linked to this group and progress is governed by them.

Anyone rostered for the cancelled shows will be contacted by Colin to make arrangements for revised duties. We are busy working on what we can do in place of the events. If you have any questions, please feel free to pop in the office or call us.

Lastly, I would like to thank the team who laid the track from the pit to the Ivatt shed to enable the GNR coaches to be moved. It's been a great help and one of the last pieces of the puzzle to get everything in the right place before we lose the points on the main line in April. Thanks again for your help.

Stephen Green
General Manager

MUSEUM DAYS EXPLAINED

A new season has begun, and we're off to a confident start!

While our Peter Rabbit event eased us gently into 2026, The Gruffalo is already proving incredibly popular, with nearly 900 pre-bookings and more expected on the day.

We know many members have been curious — and sometimes concerned — about our new Museum Days, so we want to share some reassuring insight. Although these days attract fewer visitors than steaming days, they also have significantly lower operating costs, meaning they are still making a positive financial contribution.

The inclusion of our always-sold-out driving courses has been a major boost, helping ensure these days remain profitable while still building their audience.

In contrast, Steaming Days during 2025 saw mixed results, sometimes falling below the break-even point when attendance dipped. By reducing the number of Steaming Days in 2026, visitor attendance will be more concentrated rather than spread thinly across many dates, helping each Steaming Day perform more strongly and more profitably. This makes Museum Days an important and sustainable part of our programme, giving us both stability and flexibility.

We're continuing to develop and enrich what Museum Days offer. Plans include:

- Guided museum tours on Sunday 19th April with Chris Ashton
- A visit from the TR Triumph Car Club on Sunday 26th April
- A Cream Tea & Tour ticket with Geoff Lumley as the guide.
- Future themed events, talks and a Young Engineer's Day

These activities not only help grow visitor numbers but also showcase the depth of what we offer beyond steamings.

Most importantly, we want our members to be part of shaping the future.

If you have an idea, a skill to share, or would like to help with events, tours or planning — your enthusiasm would be very welcome. Museum Days are evolving, and your input could make a real difference.

Please get in touch by calling us in the office on 01296 655720. We look forward to hearing from you.

Thank you

Sarah Neale



ENGINEERING UPDATE

SHED SHUFFLE!

As part of the ongoing 'Shed Shuffle', this week has seen Chislet move from the downward shed to the upyard shed and the GNR full brake coach move from the Wembley Shed to the downward shed ready for restoration work. Next, the L99 pannier loco no.7715 will shortly move to the Wembley shed.



Also, the Permanent Way team (Adrian, Nick, David, Mark, Richard, Colin, John, Tony and Mike) has laid a new section of track behind the Ivatt shed to allow it to connect with our main running line.

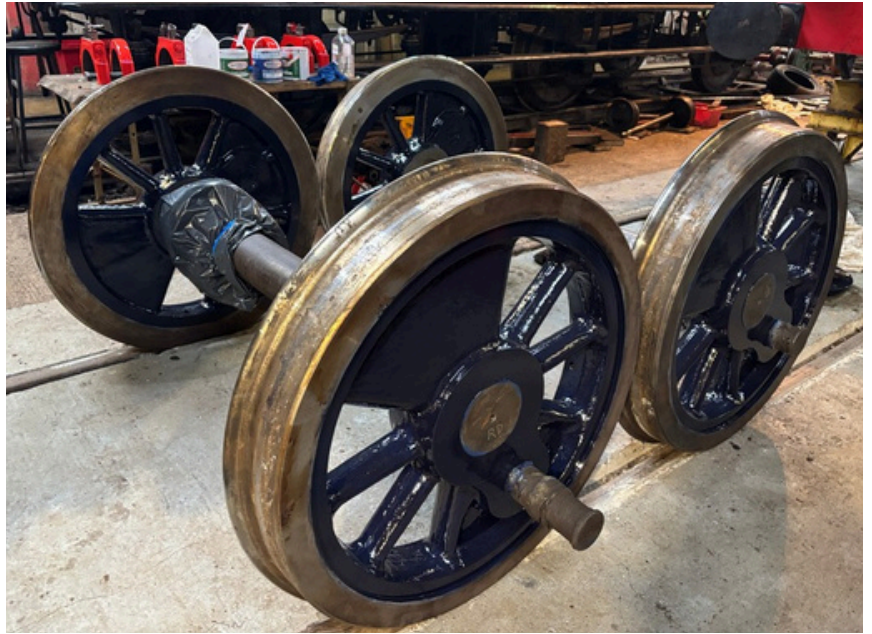
ENGINEERING UPDATE CONT'D

BAGNALL

Painting continues on Dick Scott's Bagnall, with top coat going on the wheels (right) and valve gear, which is now bright red.

They are manufacturing a steam pipe to complete the boiler.

It also passed its hydraulic test - this is when they fill the boiler with water and pressurise it to see if it leaks anywhere.



Paul has been machining the axle box crowns to fit the axel boxes - photos right. He told me that they are actually a rare version of the axle box as they are usually circular, but these ones are hexagonal, as you can see from the photo. No one from the engineering dept has seen them this shape before.

You can compare it to the Flying Bufferbeam axle box below right, which is circular.



FLYING BUFFERBEAM

Steve has been machining the axle box crowns for the Flying Bufferbeam. What you can't see from these photos is the size difference of the Bagnall crown above compared to the small bufferbeam crown!



AROUND THE SITE THIS WEEK

Volunteer Ian Miller has been painting the bufferbeam of the Bogie electric car 803 - the Post Office mail bag car - located in the museum. He has been painting it back to its original colour.



Mike Tayler says there hasn't been much progress on his new Wickham Trolley this week as he has been busy on the Ivatt Shed track laying, but he has fitted the dashboard with the dials.



The arm of the water tower had seized up and the team had to take it down to mend it. Today, the crane arrived to put the arm back up.

THE RAILWAY CAFE

Did you know that you don't have to wait for an event day to come and visit us? The Railway Cafe, which is located inside our stunning glass-roofed Visitor Centre, is open Monday to Friday 9.30am-2pm, and cafe users are welcome to wander this side of our site at their leisure. Our hot breakfasts are legendary and we also offer delicious sandwiches, paninis, jacket potatoes, hot and cold drinks, snacks and ice creams.

We'd love to see you and it's a great way for you to support our work here.

There is no entry fee for visitors to come in on these days, we simply ask you not to go over to the museum side, as there are often vehicles moving around during the week. If there is something specific you would like to see, please come into the gift shop and ask, if we can help, we will!

For those members with children or grandchildren, we have train tables and a small outdoor wooden play area for them to enjoy whilst you enjoy a cup of coffee or treat from the cafe.

We hope to see you soon!



EMERGENCY SERVICES GALORE!

This week, for the second year running, we hosted Bucks College, along with Thames Valley Police, Bucks Fire Service and South Central Ambulance Service for a major-incident training exercise for their Public Services students. Lots of flashing lights, sirens, simulated exercises, gruesome (fake) injuries and people everywhere!

It was also a successful day for the gift shop and cafe, and a few of our regular cafe visitors had a real treat! I witnessed one family struggling to tear their toddler away! We even had a worried message from someone in the village asking if everything was OK down at the railway centre after hearing the sirens and seeing all the emergency vehicles!



WAKES & ASH SCATTERING

We have been externally promoting our wakes and ash scattering service this year. We feel we can offer a really special and meaningful location for those choosing us as the venue for the wake/reception after their loved one's funeral.

We have held several wakes in the past but mainly for past members and volunteers, so this is the first time we have offered the venue officially to the general public. Please do spread the word if you feel you are able.

WAKES & ASH SCATTERING AT BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RAILWAY CENTRE



Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in Quainton near Aylesbury is the perfect place to celebrate the life of a loved one. Bright, peaceful and nestled between historic carriages. Perfect for small, intimate groups, or gatherings of up to 200 guests. Buffet prices from £18pp. We can also scatter a loved one's ashes from a steam loco firebox.

To come and have a look around, call Belinda on 01296 655720 or email events@bucksrailcentre.org

WILDLIFE GARDEN WELCOMES NEW VOLUNTEERS

We are really pleased to welcome five new volunteers to the wildlife garden team. Induction day was on 19th March and they got stuck in straight away!

Fallen branches were tidied and used to create visual markers to define the different areas of the mini woodland. Donated plants are now in the ground and growing.

One of the volunteers found a fallen bird egg, unfortunately no longer viable. Are you a keen bird watcher? Can you help us identify our inhabitants and help us create a better space for them?

A special thank you goes to Steve Cook who is our link to the Aylesbury Wombles. When they found a bird table during a litter pick, they donated it to our project. We look forward to an ongoing partnership with Aylesbury Wombles, putting discarded items into good use instead of landfill.

If you would like to join the wildlife garden team, or have you got any supplies you would like to donate (such as plants or gardening tools). If so, please contact Vickie Aylward on museum@bucksrailcentre.org or Helen Smith on qbranch@bucksrailcentre.org. We would love to hear from you.



OUR FAVOURITE REVIEWS SHARED WITH YOU!

We get reviews all the time on Trip Advisor and Google etc. I thought it would be nice to share one in the newsletter every now and again - most of the time our dedicated volunteers are given a mention!

Reviews from our Google listing this week:

FIVE STARS:

"Recently got married here! Was the most magical day imaginable! Belinda was an absolute superstar in helping with the planning process and making sure everything ran smoothly on the day. We have also attended the centre's Day Out With Thomas and Dino Day. Both fantastic family days out! A true Gem!"

FIVE STARS:

"Always love a trip to Bucks Railway Centre! Husband did the steam train experience and loved it. All staff were so friendly and welcoming, and only too happy to impart knowledge on the trains. The museum is great and the book shop is always worth your time."

We currently average 4.6 stars with over 1,500 reviews on Google!



QRS CONTACTS:

Steve Green, General Manager: Email: stephen@bucksrailcentre.org

Sarah Neale: Email: accounts@bucksrailcentre.org

Chairman of the Executive Committee, Barry Payne: Email: barry@bucksrailcentre.org

Membership, Zoe Dann: Email: membership@bucksrailcentre.org

Marketing/Quinton Today, Louisa Richards. Email: marketing@bucksrailcentre.org

Caretaker, Ben Pepper: Email: caretaker@bucksrailcentre.org

Footplate, Guard & PTS Training, Alison Wilkins. Email: training@bucksrailcentre.org

Museum Curator, Vickie Aylward: Email: museum@bucksrailcentre.org

Or email the office at office@bucksrailcentre.org or call 01296 655720.

2026 CALENDAR

Sunday 22nd March:	Museum Day
Sunday 29th March:	The Gruffalo is coming!
Good Fri 3rd & Sat 4th April:	Day Out With Thomas
Wednesday 8th April:	Easter Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sunday 12th April:	Steaming Day
Sunday 19th April:	Museum Day
Sunday 26th April:	Museum Day
Weds 29th April:	Schools Day
Sun 3rd & Mon 4th May:	TBC
Sunday 10th May:	Museum Day
Sunday 17th May:	Museum Day
Sun 24th & Mon 25th May:	Day Out With Thomas
Sunday 31st May:	Steaming Day
Sunday 7th June:	DINO DAY!
Weds 10th June:	Schools Day
Sunday 14th June:	Museum Day
Sunday 21st June:	Father's Day Ridgeway Run
sunday 28th June:	TBC
Sunday 5th July:	Moving The Mail
Sunday 12th July:	TBC
Sunday 19th July:	Museum Day
Sunday 26th July:	Emergency Services Day
Weds 29th July:	Summer Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sunday 2nd August:	Steaming Day
Wednesday 5th August:	Summer Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sunday 9th August:	Museum Day
Wednesday 12th August:	Summer Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sat 15th & Sun 16th August:	Day Out With Thomas
Wednesday 19th August:	Summer Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sunday 23rd August:	Museum Day
Wednesday 26th August:	Summer Holiday Weds Steaming Day
Sunday 30th August:	Steaming Day
BH Monday 31st August:	AUTO FEST
Sunday 6th September:	Museum Day
Sunday 13th September:	Steaming Day
Sunday 20th September:	Museum Day
Sunday 27th September:	Steaming Day
Sunday 4th October:	TrackPlay Day
Wednesday 7th October:	Schools Day
Sunday 11th October:	Museum Day
Sat 17th & Sun 18th October:	Day Out With Thomas
Sunday 25th October:	Steaming Day
Fri 30th & Sat 31st October:	Halloween evening event: Night Fright
28/29th Nov and 5/6th, 12/13th & 19-22nd Dec:	Panto Express with Father Christmas



Next up...

THE GRUFFALO

On Sunday 29th March, the Gruffalo will be here!



DAY OUT WITH THOMAS



Day Out With Thomas will be here on Good Friday 3rd & Easter Saturday 4th April...

All hands on deck! If you'd like to volunteer, please call us in the office asap! 01296 655720.

EASTER HOLIDAYS



After the Day Out With Thomas days over the Easter weekend, we have Steaming Days on Wednesday 8th and Sunday 12th April and the plan is to steam Arthur.

Photo Montage: Site Shunting!

Last week, we undertook some shunting of T Stock and Underground Wagons into the siding formally occupied by the DMU... Brian Ammann took these photos!



Photo Montage: Site Shunting!

