

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.

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!

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NEWS FROM OUR GM

Another two weeks have flown by at Quanton since our last update. Most of our time, as usual, is taken up with HS2 with the ongoing saga of access into the down yard. The water works at the down yard gate are still in place and this means that the final work of building the Hammerhead cannot take place. Although we have officially handed back the main line, we have an agreement from Network Rail that we can keep using the old level crossing until our access is resolved. We have lots of meetings and conversations taking place at the moment, but nothing concrete we can report.

On a brighter note, Wightwick Hall has had a great run at the Epping and Ongar Railway at their Wizards Week and Steam Gala. From Epping, the engine went straight back to the Harry Potter film set where it is currently filming. The filming schedule has changed, so we will take the opportunity to do much needed servicing work in June and July at the Bluebell ready for later hires running up to Christmas and beyond. We have been told that the first Harry Potter TV series will air on Christmas Day now, so we can expect to see the advertising ramping up the closer we get to Christmas.

This weekend would have been the Steam, Classic and Country Fair but unfortunately, as you have probably heard by now, we have had to cancel this event. Instead of the show, the Sunday will be a Steaming Day and we have a new event planned for Bank Holiday Monday. It's aimed at the younger children with activity sessions from Cha Cha Chimps and Tooting Tots throughout the day. Hopefully, this will fit well with our family market. In the meantime, we had a local farmer in trying to roll the land on the showground to level it while it is soft from flooding but had to stop as the tractor was causing more ruts than it levelled.

Yesterday was a school's steaming day with 165 children booked in. These days have been so popular this year with teachers and local schools. A big thanks in advance to all our guides and helpers who come in to show the children round the site. They really do enjoy the time with us. A thank you also has to go to Jo in the office who organises them with volunteer Peter Sawyer. Remember, these kids are the future of our organisation!

I have been having lots of conversations with our operations teams. We have reacted to the feedback from last year that we were doing too much and working the teams too hard. We made the changes and introduced the Museum Days with the Driver Experiences and now we have the opposite with too few turns for everyone. We hear what you are all saying and we are looking at training as a whole and how we can better structure it. We are also looking at turns and what we can do. We have to accept that with the cancellation of events due to HS2, we have added to the problem but, looking at the calendar, more Steaming Days are coming; let's see what we can achieve in the second half of the year.

Engineering work continues at a pace. The brake cylinders off the DMU centre car are now in engineering for overhaul. When they are complete, they will be used for the red suburban coach to complete the brakes and get it back into service. This will give the vintage coach set a break and enable servicing work to take place. The new build cab has returned from the B17 group, it can be found in Romney 3. It's worth a look as its very impressive.

Next week should see the final DMU power car disappear on the back of a lorry. The new owner hit a snag with taking it to the East Lancs railway and it will now go to the Llangollen Railway where it will be restored to running order. The good thing is both Power Cars will be restored now and, who knows, when it's completed, they may well be reunited.

Stephen Green, General Manager



ENGINEERING UPDATE

BAGNALL

This week, Dave and Paul have been reaming the horn guide attachment holes, which no longer give a positive tight fit due to wear and tear. New bolts will be made to an interference fit.



MET 1

William, Duncan and James needed to loosen the pipe for Met 1's steam heating system, which probably hasn't been undone for decades!

William is pictured heating the joint in an attempt to loosen the elbow joint, and then Duncan came in with the wrench to try and ease it undone. The aim is to remove the elbow joint in the pipework to break down all the components in order for it to be refitted in a small confined area.



ENGINEERING UPDATE CONT'D

ARTHUR

William is making a new bracket (pictured right) to hold the ejector exhaust pipe. This is the pipe that runs along the top of the right hand tank into the smoke box. Previously, the pipe didn't have a bracket, which meant it rattled and they were worried that it would damage the brake ejector casting that it was attached to. This would result in a very expensive repair.

Below:

Also this week, Frank and William have had Arthur on the pit to work on his undercarriage! The steam brake was blowing through, so they have machined the trunk guide to add more clearance to the brake piston rod, which will rectify the issue.



ENGINEERING UPDATE CONT'D

BUFFERBEAM

When I visited the engineering sheds last Thursday, volunteer Adrian (pictured right) was fitting lagging around the cylinder of the bufferbeam.

The cylinders get hot as the pistons are reciprocating inside, plus there is hot steam from the boiler within. In order to help maintain this high temperature in the cylinder, which is needed to drive the piston and turn the wheels, insulative lagging is fitted around the cylinder and then enclosed using the cladding, which goes over the top.



ESSO TANKER

The Monday gang have been continuing work on the Esso Tanker. Max and Richard (pictured) have sanded down one end of the Esso tanker and are painting it with red oxide.

Peter and Mike have sanded the tank brackets, painted them in red oxide paint, and then top coated in black.



CARRIAGE RESTORATION

PILL BOX WAGON

Painting continues... This week, Dave has undercoated more of the outside. He has also added the top coat to the inside, and painted the brake valve.



GNR COACH 1470

Following an unexpected and unexplained incident, Tony is repairing damage to the bottom of the non-platform-side guard door on the GNR vintage coach.



UNDERGROUND CAR

By George Chmielewski

We wrote in issue 14 of Quainton Today how we replaced the glass in the four large windows on the VAMES side.

The next stage was to apply a heritage putty sealant on the outside between the glass and the newly welded steel. Once we had applied it, we cleaned off the surplus putty. Cleaning the surplus putty damages the coat of primer which was previously applied, and exposes the steel. So we had to mask the glass and paint over the putty to cover any exposed steel.

Anti-rust primer along where the steel comes into contact with the sealant

Close-up showing the primer along the edge of the steel and on the glass. About 1mm of paint goes on the glass to ensure further water tightness

View of the other end of the four windows towards Rewley Road. The putty of the furthest window is yet to be painted.



Once the primer has been re-applied to all four windows, an undercoat and a topcoat will be applied. Fully repairing all the windows will allow the rest of the yellow plastic to be removed.

As we all know, the weather has been wetter this year than in previous years. As the wet weather kicked in, we were unable to finish painting over the putty of the last of the four windows. We had to leave everything and move inside.

The close-up photo right shows the current state of the paintwork over the putty. The arrow shows where we left exposed putty as there was no time to paint it because the wet weather had set in.

When the weather improves and we can work outside, the primer will need a light rub as damp may have penetrated and reached the steel underneath, making it rust. Another coat of anti-rust primer will be applied followed by an undercoat and a red gloss topcoat. The remains of tape on the bodywork will be removed. The tape held plastic, which protected the windows before we put in the new glass.



During the wet winter season, we worked inside on three internal projects.

The first project involved working underneath the windows, and in the door pockets next to the windows (where the doors slide when they open) of Car 54233. We cleaned the surface, degreasing it and applied Fertan. Fertan is a rust converter. It was applied to rusty areas which cannot be reached easily with a wire brush. Fertan is washed off after 24 hours, and then the anti-rust primer is applied, followed by an undercoat and gloss paint. The photos below show the left hand side door pocket, some of the areas under the windows, and the right hand door pocket. These areas have not been worked on since this Car 54233 was withdrawn. The pink paint will not be visible once internal wood and cladding is reinstated.

Left hand side door pocket



Seating area under the window. Note the girders and hidden areas behind them



Right hand door pocket



At the same time, we have been identifying the internal wood cladding and working out what fits where. Here, the wood will be reinstated once the area inside and under the four windows of Car 54233 is painted. We have also been reinstating the wood in the equivalent windows on Car 53028 (the nearest car to Rewley Road). This is the second project. More will be said in a later article.

The third project is reinstating the destination box in Car 53028, after various welding was carried out. Similar work was carried out for the box of Car 54233 and that box is now in place.



The internals of the destination box for Car 53028 have been repainted in white, and will need reinstatement of the light bulbs fittings. Some of the sockets for the light bulbs can be seen with wires trailing out. The wires will have to be reconnected once the box is in place.



Similar work has been completed on the box of Car 54233, which has been put back into place. The photograph is taken inside the driving cab and shows the outside of the box, which is painted in 'cerulean blue'.



External view of Car 54233. The destination box sits in the area behind the six lights underneath the left hand side cab window. This window had the glass removed some years ago and extensive welding was carried out. The same has now been done to the equivalent window in Car 53028.

If the reader is wondering about the purpose of these destination boxes, there will be a description in a future article, which will also mention the link of the destination boxes to computers.

BEN JACKSON

Former Trustee and QRS Chairman, Ben Jackson, who died recently, was a real and genuine people person. As a communicator with strong business connections in his locality, he was a past host of the Business Lunch Radio Show and ran well-attended training sessions on a variety of subjects in the Bicester Business Forum. As a result, Ben 'knew' people and I recall one occasion when I was duty Station Master and was at VAMES when Ben called me over the radio to let me know I had a visitor in the picnic saloon that I was restoring in the Down Yard shed. I arrived, breathless, to find it was none other than a friend and business acquaintance of his, Adrian Shooter of Chiltern Railways, who took great interest in what I was doing.



Married to Samantha and father to Jennifer and Daniel, Ben had a wonderful sense of humour, often posting his thoughts online about his wife's cooking, frequently with a photograph! Known for his colourful jumpers, particularly at Christmas, he suffered lately with ongoing medical problems.

Ben had visited Quanton over many years but only became an active member in recent times, initially taking on the editorship of our former house journal *Quanton News*, which he reformed with larger pages and a bigger font to make it easier to read. He used more photographs and increased the amount of colour. The new and improved magazine won two awards in 2015! One for 'Most Improved Members' Publication'; and the second was for 'Visual Awareness' which was awarded in collaboration with the HRA and RNIB in recognition for the larger font and big bright photographs.



Pictured right, Ben holds both the plaques we received due to his hard work on the magazine.

As one of our pool of duty Station Masters, Ben joined our Executive Committee where he took on the role of Hon Chairman, a role he only relinquished in January 2021 due to increasing medical issues. He then finally stepped down as a Trustee at the AGM the following May as he embarked upon a course of chemotherapy for his Cardiac AL Amyloidosis.

His open, upbeat reports and friendly explanations of his issues and the medical procedures from his hospital bed at the Churchill Hospital, Oxford were inspiring. Around this time, I was also attending the same establishment for different reasons so we never crossed paths but their food offering is legendary for leaving something to be desired and Ben once told me that he took his own range of condiments with him to improve the taste! An idea I now follow. As his treatments progressed, he had to be careful where he went and who he met but, occasionally, he would pop in for a brief walk around usually avoiding closed spaces.

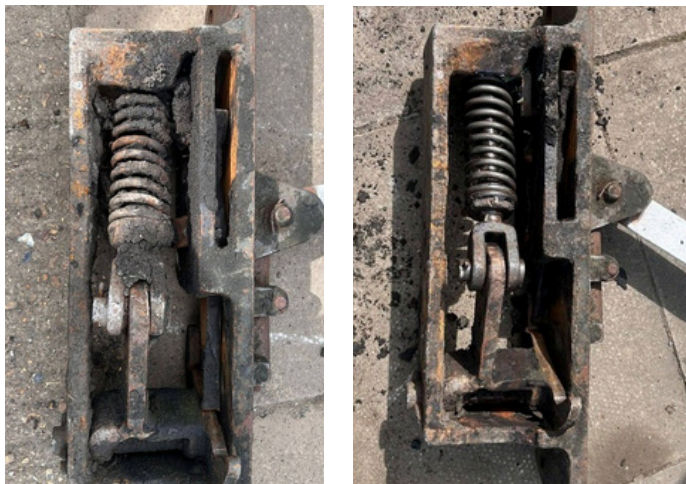
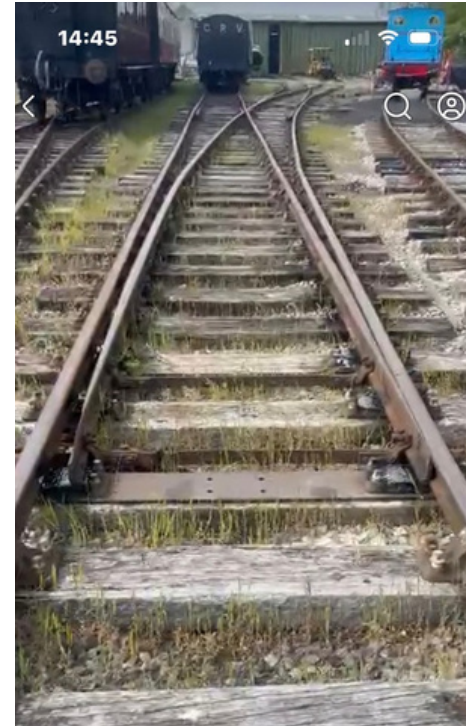
On our special event days, Ben would play a full part joining in with his sense of humour from just having a joke to finger writing in the dirt on Sarah's car! He was always interested in what individuals were doing at the Centre and, as others have said, he was a good boss and friend who was always welcoming; a nice person who brought happiness, he was a lovely guy who will be sadly missed. Our condolences go to his family.

MORE SITE NEWS

P WAY TEAM

This week, the P Way team has cleaned, greased and adjusted another set of point levers. All upyard point levers are now free and able to be used one handed; they just need a little repair on the ground frame. As someone who has struggled with the points levers in the past, Helen has already expressed her huge gratitude to the team for their hard work!

If anyone would like to help John and William with these jobs, please get in touch and let us know what dates you are available. Call the office on 01296 655720 and we can pass your details on.



Before and after photos of the point levers

BBC NEWS

Who saw us on BBC SOUTH TODAY News on 16th April? Ian was talking about our links with local colleges.



Q-BRANCH

Welcoming new Q-Branchers

We have already welcomed four new Q-Branchers this year and there are four more on the waiting list!

As well as being visible on event days, they are also volunteering behind the scenes either helping Keith with the restoration of 7200 or being kept busy by William in engineering.

For the Easter Day Out With Thomas event, Aayush (pictured right) chose to arrive as the 'Thin Controller' and looked the part on platform while he assisted loading passengers on Percy's train. Unfortunately, the wind was very playful and took his hat, but he still looked superb without it!



NEWS FROM VAMES

Denham Green Signal Box gets a new base

A very quiet Sunday for rides enabled the track and signals team at VAMES to have time to lay the new concrete base for Denham Green Signal Box. Six barrow loads of concrete were mixed and then taken down to Denham Green station. After the concrete was laid, other members of the team encouraged Ian Allen to demonstrate his artistic finishing skills. Refurbishment of the box has been undertaken by Jeff Denty at the steaming bays over the winter and it will soon be ready for reinstallation.



SAFEGUARDING INFORMATION

Safeguarding information for staff and volunteers:

As the season is now underway and we are seeing more visitors attend as the events progress, please could you take a moment to read through the safeguarding information handout.

Safeguarding is something that applies to volunteers, staff and visitors alike! It's not long, but it gives you the basics on what to do if a vulnerable visitor, volunteer, or staff member ever approaches you with a concern.

None of us expects to be put on the spot, but every now and then someone might share something worrying or ask for help. Knowing the essentials means you'll feel more confident and know the right steps to take. Even a little knowledge can make a big difference for someone who needs support.

If you need to contact the Safeguarding Officer, please contact either:

Sarah Neale on accounts@bucksrailcentre.org.

Tony Hallas on tony@bucksrailcentre.org.

The designated Safety Officer will, in the first instance, be the Station Master, who you can contact by radio. If there is no Station Master on the day (such as a café-only day) please contact Ben Pepper, our caretaker, on caretaker@bucksrailcentre.org or Stephen Green, our General Manager on stephen@bucksrailcentre.org.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Buckinghamshire Railway Centre Safeguarding Children & Vulnerable Adults Guidance for Staff Members and Volunteers

This guidance sits alongside the 'Buckinghamshire Railway Centre Safeguarding Children and Vulnerable Adults Policy'. Which should be read by all staff, volunteers and contractors.

Code of Behaviour

- Do remember that you are a role model at all times, inside and outside of BRC.
- Do treat everyone with dignity and respect.
- Do treat all young people and vulnerable adults equally - do not show favouritism.
- Do remember that you have been placed in a position of trust - do not abuse this.
- Do report all allegations, suspicions and concerns immediately as per instructions in this guidance and the full policy. Maintaining respect and confidentiality of all information.
- Do remember that someone may misinterpret your actions.
- Do respect that children and vulnerable adults have a right to personal privacy.
- Do always act within appropriate boundaries.
- Do create an environment where young people and vulnerable adults feel safe to voice their concerns.
- Do plan activities involving young people so that more than one other person is present or within sight and hearing of others. Do not plan to be alone with a young person.
- Do not trivialise abuse or let it go unreported.

Continued overleaf...

SAFEGUARDING INFO CONT'D

Code of Behaviour cont'd:

- Do not join in physical contact activities with young people.
- Do not overstep the boundaries between yourself and young people by engaging in friendships or inappropriate relationships.
- Do not allow activities that encourage bullying.
- Do not use inappropriate, suggestive, or threatening language.
- Do not rely on your reputation or position to protect you.

What Do I Do If...?

Annex 'C' of the policy contains a flow chart and further information - see overleaf.

If a young person or vulnerable adult tells you they are being abused, you must:

- Allow them to speak without interruption, and accept what they say.
- Be understanding and reassuring - but do not give your opinion.
- Tell them you will try to help but must pass the information on.
- Only share information with others as directed in the policy. Retain respect and confidentiality wherever possible.
- Tell your Head of Department or (if Head of Department is not available) the Station Master or Designated Safeguarding Officer immediately.
- Write careful notes of what was said, using the actual words.
- Complete a Safeguarding Incident Report Form (available from the Centre's office).

If you are concerned about the welfare of a young person or vulnerable adult, or there is a concern, complaint or allegation made, you must:

- Tell your Head of Department or the Station Master or the Designated Safeguarding Officer.
- Only share information with others as directed in the policy. Retain respect and confidentiality wherever possible.
- Write careful notes about what you witnessed, heard or were told.
- Complete a Safeguarding Incident Report Form.

See overleaf for the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre Safeguarding Policy Flowchart

Thank you for reading!

Sarah Neale
Safeguarding Officer
Buckinghamshire Railway Centre

ANNEX C: SAFEGUARDING REPORTING FLOW CHART

Volunteer or staff member reports issue to Head of Department or Station Master or Designated Safety Officer and completes Safeguarding Incident Report Form. All information to be treated as confidential.

Head of Department reports issue to Station Master or Designated Safety Officer and forwards completed Safeguarding Incident Report Form as soon as possible.

If incident requires immediate action, Station Master, or Designated Safety Officer to call the Police.

Station Master or Designated Safety Officer informs Safeguarding Officer who will provide advice and support. The Safeguarding Officer will also inform the Chairman or Designated Safety Officer if the incident involves a member of staff, volunteer, or contractor.

Safeguarding Officer, Chairman or Designated Safety Officer consults external authorities for advice if appropriate.

Safeguarding Officer liaises with Chairman or Designated Safety Officer and completes referral documentation if appropriate. Chairman retains a copy of the Safeguarding Incident Report.

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!

Two fabulous reviews from our most recent Thomas event from our Google listing this week:

FIVE STARS:

"Absolutely lovely this place. Been a couple of times; first with four adults and second with family and children. Both times it was great fun. It's so interactive. The Thomas day was fab for the kids; we spent literally all day there and only just managed to do everything. Traction engine rides, steam engine rides, miniature train ride 🏠 so much to see and in the museum all the quirky little brain teaser games and model railways are brilliant. Definitely worth going for a day out with the kids."

"What a brilliant place to take the kids. My son and his friend both loved it (ages 3.5 years old). So much to do there! Trains, a park, cafe, shops, kids can do drawing, get temporary tattoos, ride on the train. We got to ride on Thomas and saw Percy and Mavis. You could easily spend the whole day there, especially when the weather is nice. Staff were very friendly, parking was great with staff there to direct us where to park (makes life easier when you have kids). Would highly recommend and I'll definitely be going again!"



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

Sun 3rd May:	Steaming Day
Mon 4th May:	Monday Fun Day!
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:	Steaming Day
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

