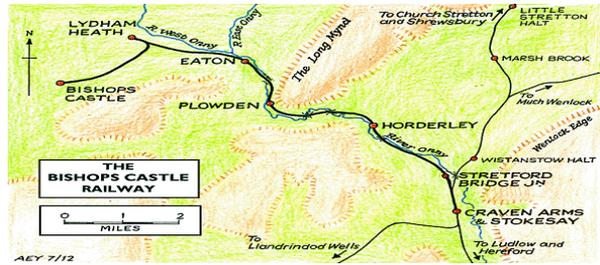




B.C.R.S NEWS



Monthly Newsletter of The Bishop's Castle Railway Society
News in brief for members and friends

JULY 2017

No 7

THE WEIGHBRIDGE PROJECT

We have taken some advice about the possible restoration of the Bishop's Castle Railway weighbridge. Ransfords have cleared some of the material which rather surrounded the building and it was possible to get to the back side of the building where there is a tree extremely adjacent to the building. We've included some photos of the building in this newsletter. It is interesting to note that the weighbridge bed has a degree of free movement after many years out of use. The weighbridge itself was manufactured by S Parsons & Co Ltd of Bradford. There is a lead seal, that is probably from a Weights and Measures check, with the number 66. This suggests that the weighbridge was not used after 1967. We've heard from someone who remembers going with his father to buy coal in about 1965 when it was in use.

To summarise the advice we've had: the building, although in a poor condition, is suitable for preservation. The cost, in broad terms, would be in the region of £50,000. We would need to seek funding for this,



though the Society might put some money into the project. For an application to the Heritage Lottery Fund to be successful, the project must show a

benefit to the community. It should feature volunteers to a significant degree and also involve the acquisition of skills and have a long term future. If this sounds a bit daunting (which it is) we have been given a few pointers as to how this might be achieved which might include: the involvement of local conservation volunteers, training of local tradesmen

in conservation techniques, and perhaps the on-site production of hand-made bricks.

Alastair Evans of Ransfords has been most helpful and supportive and has given us full access to the site. It is important to say, however, that it is a busy industrial site and so, of course, it is not acceptable for anyone to wander about at will. Someone trespassing had to be chased off last week; there's no suggestion that he was a Society member but we need be aware of this. We hope to arrange a visit for Society members in early September.



We are now finding out about The Heritage Lottery Fund and how to apply. We also need to get a detailed specification of what needs to be done and how much it will cost.

We are in the early stages of this potential project; we will, of course, keep you informed and seek approval before we go ahead. **Please let me know if you have any comments, ideas (or sources of money we haven't thought of yet!)**

John Rimmer Tel 01588 638998 email: john_rimmer@tiscali.co.uk

WHAT'S ON in August

12 & 13th August

Ellesmere Model Railway Exhibition at Ellesmere Town Hall during the Ellesmere Summer Festival

Ellesmere Town Hall, Willow Street, Ellesmere, Shropshire SY12 0AL

OPENING TIMES: SAT 10am - 5pm, SUN 10am - 4.30pm

ADMISSION: Adults £3.50 Concessions £2.00 Children £2.00

The Ellesmere Model Railway Club will be hosting their 19th Exhibition at the Town Hall. This exhibition has gone from strength to strength over the past years and now hosts some fascinating layouts of all popular gauges. There will also be a layout for the children to operate and experts will be on hand to give advice to prospective modellers with regards to their scenery and layout requirements. This together with a wide variety of trade stalls will make for a not to be missed exhibition. Again refreshments will be available in the hall.

CRAVEN ARMS AND DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY
CIRCLE



**MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION
AT
LUDLOW RACECOURSE
BROMFIELD
SY8 2BT
ON
SATURDAY 19th AUGUST 2017 FROM
10.00 AM TO 4.30 PM**

**WORKING LAYOUTS, CONTINUOUS, END-TO-END,
STATIC DISPLAYS AND TRADE STANDS
TOGETHER WITH MANY OTHER NONE RAILWAY ITEMS.**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ARE AVAILABLE ALL DAY
DISABLED ACCESS & FREE PARKING**

**Admission: - Adults £3.00
O.A.P. £2.50
Children £2.00**



The Society will be attending both of these shows. If you are there please come and say hello. It's always nice to put faces to the names on the members list.



Summer evening trip on the Montgomery Canal



*** Only a few places left ***

The trip has now been booked for the evening of Tuesday 8th August.

Anyone interested in the last few places should contact vicsmith4@btinternet.com or telephone 01691 831963



MODELLERS NEWS

Worsley Works have produced BCR ex LSWR Coach

Allen Doherty has kindly produced a coach etch for the BCR ex-LSWR six wheeler. Etch contains sides, ends, roof, floor, W irons, droplights and louvres for above the doors. You need to find ventilators, gas lamps, door handles and grab irons, buffers, wheels axleboxes etc, but it is a great help. My kit is 4mm but I think he could produce it in any scale if asked. £37-50 including postage. Cheques to Allen Doherty, Worsley Works, 19 Douglas Road, Worsley, M28 2SR



Model Railway Layouts

Albyn Austin's OO gauge model of Bishop's Castle Station

I have a OO gauge model of Bishop's Castle under construction. Track laid - but needs a point sorted out. 6 ft long plus a 4 ft fiddle yard. Progress glacial in recent times due to other things getting in the way. I have a SECR all third that is a pretty close replica of the ex H&B coach, in brown teak colour as it would have appeared if the overhaul had been completed. Also two old LNWR coaches that are nearly finished, a part built B&M coach, bits for an LSWR 6 wheeler, a nearly completed Carlisle, a No. 1 Tankie, a couple of vans, 4 cattle wagons that need lettering - transfers acquired, half built crane wagon and low sided wagon. A van body for the coal yard, plus some sheds that need painting. Lots of bits for other things. A kit for the Goods Shed, and plans and bits for station building. Lot more to do!

*Thanks to Albyn for both contributions to Modellers News.

To make this a regular monthly feature we need your model railway stories & photos. It doesn't have to be a Bishop's Castle Railway model, any model railway can be featured.

MUSEUM UPDATE

Peter Mills and I had a useful meeting with The House on Crutches trustees and it seems likely that the space available to us in the museum will be satisfactory. Formal approval should come after their trustee meeting on July 27th.

A reminder that, although the museum closes at the end of this season, we still need stewards to open on advertised days during the summer and autumn. We get a number of calls from prospective visitors wondering if it will be open on such or such a weekend. If you can do a turn in the museum, Vic Roberts will be happy to take your call on 01694 723164.

John Rimmer

Last month's Aston on Clun show was well attended and we had a steady stream of visitors to our display and sales table. Many knew of the old railway line or recalled someone with connections to the stations along the route.



We were made very welcome by the Borders Model Railway Club at The G.O.G. Gathering at Llandrinio on 1st July. It was surprising how many people on looking at our display boards referred to Barry Norman's model of Lydham Heath. Some knew the society now owned it, others were surprised and expressed an intention to visit the museum in the coming weeks to see it.

www.bcrailway.co.uk

Please revisit the website in the coming weeks to discover future projects and the programme of Autumn meetings and talks.

If you would prefer not to receive these updates you can opt out by contacting mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

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