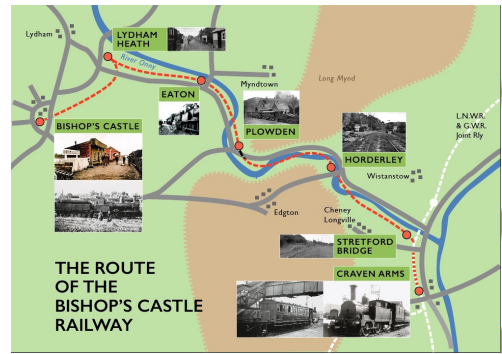


# B.C.R.S. NEWS

April 2021  
No. 52

The Monthly Newsletter of The  
Bishop`s Castle Railway Society



## A.G.M. REPORT

The Society AGM was held at 1900hrs on 9th April 2021. This was a virtual meeting held on the internet, under public gatherings restrictions in place due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

20 members were signed in via Zoom video conferencing software. Mr John Rimmer opened the meeting at 1906hrs.

Apologies were received from: Mr Vic Roberts, Mr David Thacker, Mrs Judy Freeman, Mr Ron Davies and Mr Jonathan David.

The meeting Agenda was circulated to members some weeks in advance of the date of the AGM, along with a request that any Matters Arising from the 2020 Minutes be forwarded to the Secretary by 1200hrs 09/04/2021. None were received.

There were six persons nominated for Directorships in advance of the meeting. All six nominations were properly submitted in accordance with the Society's Articles of Association. They were: Mrs Linda Dalton, Mr Roger Dalton, Mr David O'Neill, Mr Stuart Dickinson, Mr Richard Newcombe and Mr Stephen Wallace. The membership was balloted, with voting forms sent out in advance of the meeting. 22 members returned forms, with the above-named persons all voted as Directors.

Mr Mike Boyd, (Secretary) stated that the outgoing Directors, Mrs Judy Freeman, Mr Peter Broxholme and Mr John Rimmer had served the Society for many years and that the membership wish to record its thanks for their efforts.

Mr John Rimmer also wished to record his thanks for the work of the Secretary, and Mr Nick Downes (Membership Secretary) and Mr Malcolm Jones (Treasurer). These roles are vital for the function of the Society but are largely unseen by most members.

The meeting closed at 1916hrs.

Mike Boyd.

Company Secretary,

Bishops Castle Railway Society Co. Ltd.

9th April 2021



# FUNDRAISING

The Weighbridge site is now well on the way to becoming a Society Meeting Place, a Railway Museum and Visitor Attraction. However, there is still considerable work to be done to the outside area e.g. fencing, gates and landscaping. Also, a fresh water supply and waste system to enable refreshments to be served on Open Days. At present we intend to manage by bringing in fresh water in containers and connecting the sink waste into a caravan style aqua roll.

We are again facing another year of innovative thinking where fundraising is concerned. Two ways to help raise funds without it costing you a penny are :-

**Give as you Live online** It is FREE and easy to join, just use this link:

[How Give as you Live Online works](#) | [Give as you Live Online](#)



Feels good to be home

ADD TO BAG

Give as you Live Online

Make those changes you've been thinking about and raise FREE funds for us when you shop over 4,000+ online stores

Wickes | JOHN LEWIS | Dunelm | ebay | Argos | Littlewoods | M&S | wayfair | Debenhams | MATEMORE | very | go | THE WHITE COMPANY | B&Q

"I found the biggest problem was remembering to shop via the Give as you Live website. The trick is to add the site to your Homepage. It only takes an extra couple of minutes. You are taken to exactly the same website as if you had gone there directly, and the prices are exactly the same. The difference is you are raising free funds for the Weighbridge Project."

Lin Dalton

## Co-op Local Community Fund ~ Every 2p counts!

The funding round runs until 23 October 2021, so there is still time to join and make a difference to the share that the Weighbridge Project will receive.

Even though we're linked to the local Co-op in Bishop's Castle, money raised through Co-op Membership can be generated anywhere in the UK. You can select our cause by logging in to your Membership account. You will see three local causes in your immediate community; however there is an option to see more causes within a 15 mile radius, or to select us if you live more than 15 miles away, you will need to use our cause link <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/45367>

If you are not already a Co-op member you can join online at [coop.co.uk/membership](https://coop.co.uk/membership)

For every £1 spent on selected Co-op products and services, 2p will go into your membership account and the Co-op will give the same to The Weighbridge Project.

You can follow the progress of how much you are helping to raise by visiting our profile page <https://membership.coop.co.uk/causes/45367>



We're part of the Co-op Local Community Fund

Select us as your cause

coop.co.uk/membership

## The People of the BCR .....

### Thomas and William Whittaker (photo right on Carlisle)



Thomas Whittaker was born in 1840 in Wavertree, now part of Liverpool. At the age of 21 yrs he was working as a steam engine maker in what is now Crewe. By 1870 he was living in Shrewsbury, where his third child William was born. Within a year the family had moved to Llandovery where Thomas was an engine fitter and by 1881 he had moved to Bishop`s Castle, where he was again an Engine Fitter. In 1886 his ninth child was born. All nine survived, something unusual for the time.

By 1891 Thomas and his son William were both working on the railway and living in New Street, Bishop`s Castle. Thomas was still an Engine Fitter and William now aged 22, was a Fireman. The 1901 census shows Thomas, aged 60, a Fitter & Engine Driver, still living in New St. His son William was now a Railway Engine Stoker.

Looking at 3 New Street where they lived, it`s a narrow terraced cottage on three floors. Quite how did the family of 2 adults and 9 children manage to squeeze into that?

An excerpt from the Ludlow Advertiser of 30/11/1901 reads "It was reported that Driver Whittaker, who`d been in charge of the engines on the BCR since 1875, had been given 14 days notice by the receiver and manager, Mr Cartwright, on 20<sup>th</sup> November." This was because of his age (60) and the state of his health. His son William, who assisted him, resigned his post on hearing about it. The news caused indignation in the town as (Thomas) Whittaker`s genial courtesy had endeared him to the public. It was to be hoped that Mr Cartwright could be persuaded to keep him on". This must have worked. Either that or he couldn`t find anybody else to replace them. The Ludlow Advertiser of Saturday 22 February 1902 reported that Thomas Whittaker had been reappointed engineer to the railway from the previous Saturday.

In 1904, it was reported that Carlisle had broken down with a burst cylinder at Eaton with Whittaker and his son in charge. However his successor, Robert Sinclair, was living in Bishop`s Castle before September 1907 according to a court case brought by his wife, as reported by the Shrewsbury Chronicle of 21 February 1908. The 1911 census shows that the Whittaker family had moved to Crewe by then, where Thomas was an invalid and William was on the railways.

A death for a Thomas Whittaker aged 83 was recorded in Shrewsbury during the fourth quarter of 1923. It`s logical to think that he returned to Shrewsbury to live. Indeed, the 1939 Register shows that a William Whittaker, of the right age for his son and a retired railway fitter`s mate was living at Betton Street, Shrewsbury, which was just a short walk away from where the locomotive sheds were.

Thanks to Jim Trenfield for his research which has enabled this article.

## BCRS Model Group update from Stuart Taylor

There is now a wide range of interests in the group - 3 people modelling in 00 finescale (2 LMS,1 SR), 3 in 0 gauge (1 LNER, 1 GWR, and 1 BCR and narrow gauge) and 1 in N gauge continental.

Currently the group only exists informally as a list of like-minded individuals who exchange emails amongst themselves but we are hoping to meet as soon as Covid restrictions allow in the BCRS weighbridge building.

In the meantime, we are using the BCRS newsletter as a forum to describe our individual modelling projects and aspirations. This month, friends and fellow members David Hemsley and Mark Cudworth share their projects with us.

*"I model currently in 00, with finescale aspirations. Currently house renovations are taking much of my time, but I've got the bare bones of a Sussex coast terminus station under construction, era approx 1948-1960.*

*At the moment I'm a bit bogged down in experiments with replacements for tension lock couplings - the baseboards are a bit too wide for my 3-link preference!"*

*David Hemsley - Bishops Castle*

### Lockdown Layouts by Mark Cudworth

Like everyone else I found I had a lot of time on my hands over this last year so to keep busy I got busy building layouts. Firstly, I started building an N gauge table top layout using scrap wood I had laying about in the shed. I haven't yet built the fiddle yard so running is pretty limited at present . I've tried fitting in as many elements as I could, so here goes. It has three independent circuits, a tram line at the rear with a bit of street running, a line adjacent to the harbour and finally a goods yard at the front . (Photos right)



As the house was pretty full with people it is located in the shed. So, I can work on it in comfort in the kitchen, scenery modules are made removable so I can work on them with the benefit of light and heating in the kitchen.

Next month we look forward to hearing about Mark`s bottom of the garden creation Klettendorf-Bahnhof built as a place to display all those railway bits and pieces, a platform and lean to shed. "With the help of my friend Matt, we created a locomotive from a water butt and scrap wood from an old climbing frame."

Plus Mark Cudworth and David Hemsley`s idea, as something to look forward to, to build an OO layout in a shoebox over Christmas, with the idea after lock down to meet up and join the shoeboxes together and run trains through them.



**Anyone wishing to join the group can contact Stuart Taylor  
by emailing: [satalt17@gmail.com](mailto:satalt17@gmail.com)**

## Jim`s monthly selection of videos.....

Here`s an impressive amateur cine film of a journey to Bath in 1963 on the Somerset & Dorset Joint Railway, long gone now. Running time 7:00.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tz0mNHWRf98>

An update on what`s been happening on the Talylyn Railway recently. Running time 17:56

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TrWJ8LnE3pg>

The North Norfolk Railway runs between Sheringham and Holt, a distance of some 5.25 miles. Here`s a footplate ride on 8562, a 4-6-0, built in 1928 and withdrawn in 1961. Running time 16:14

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2jFjDuzDejo>

Here`s footage of a recent running session using Hornby Dublo with some nice shots. Running time 8:42

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vA2p6N8T0Rc>

**Plus** On eBay recently, some BCR postcards/prints fetched good prices, the most being £38.77 and £41 respectively for these two .



**Also...** Andrew Wood sent in this link to an awesome Lego train set

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5PYzslc2-WdHf7fGh\\_TdBQ/featured](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5PYzslc2-WdHf7fGh_TdBQ/featured)

## And for anyone interested in engineering....

Mike Boyd sent these links, which are not about trains, but about a bloke who builds his own motorcycles.....and things. His skills are remarkable, and the way it`s explained is so understated. Not only is he very capable, but the bikes themselves, and his standard of finish is unbelievable. A 5 litre bike? Home-made? From parts of a radial aircraft engine???

These are just two of many videos that he has, but you may find them interesting.

There`s part one: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-Xr1bmbZ\\_s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I-Xr1bmbZ_s)

And part two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XUYC0zWhNio>

## SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY NEWS

via Stuart Dickinson

At the time of writing, these plans are based on the current proposals for easing travel restrictions in England on 12 April. So, if in doubt, please phone or check the SVR website before making any plans.



Volunteers are now returning to work in the same socially distanced way as last year. A calendar of the service patterns and events for 2021 will be soon available to download, with the usual caveats. These will be using, mostly, pre-booked Covid secure trains for the foreseeable future.

The SVR now has its own YouTube channel with, so far, four short videos about various activities.

12 - 18 April:- Daily pre-booked Services, then weekends only until early May.

**Spring Steam Up:- 15 - 18 April.** The line up of locos confirmed: 6960 Raveningham Hall, 2857, 7714 + 813, 34027 Taw Valley, 43106, and the visitor; 2999 Lady of Legend (arrived by road on 31 March; looks stunning, even to a LNWR man!) Each leg of the three round trips will be hauled by different power. Details of the allocation for each service on the day is on the website.

**Spring Diesel Bash:- 13 - 16 May.** Three trains per day from Kidderminster, and one from Bridgnorth. Each train will do three round trips with a specific type of motive power :-

- Train 1, Class 50s - 50007, 50035 and 50049
- Train 2, Hydraulics (details to be announced soon!)
- Train 3, Sulzers - Class 33 33108 and visiting locomotive
- Train 4, English Electrics - Class 40 40106 Atlantic Conveyor and visiting locomotive
- There is also the opportunity to ride behind new liveried class 17 on a shuttle to Bewdley.

Usual pre-booking arrangements for travel on one train for the 96 miles will apply, details of the train departure times on the website. No intermediate stops.

Takeaway Food & Refreshments will be available at Bridgnorth and Kidderminster

The Engine House at Highley will have to stay closed until 17 May

Booking essential for service trains and the events [www.svr.co.uk](http://www.svr.co.uk) tel: 01562 757900

### **Stop Press....Mike Boyd has brought this issue to our attention**

There is a plan by Highways England to in-fill or demolish (so far, but options for more) 134 railway bridges, tunnels and other structures across the UK.

Clearly, this will lead to the loss of heritage on an industrial scale, (pun intended!)

This link explains it well: <https://www.newcivilengineer.com/latest/plan-to-demolish-and-infill-hundreds-of-unused-rail-bridges-and-tunnels-must-be-stopped-dft-told-06-01-2021/>

Please consider signing this petition: <https://www.change.org/p/highways-england-protect-our-railway-heritage-from-highways-england-s-wrecking-ball/u/28560815>

If you have an item for  
the Newsletter  
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[socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk)  
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