

## WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

The first "Christmas at the Weighbridge" event was very successful. Model group members exhibited a few small layouts and also provided a scratch built model demonstration. Our newest member brought along his Hornby O gauge tin plate model collection, which proved a hit with young and old alike. Visitors were plentiful and the hot drinks and home made cakes were very popular, as was the mistletoe donated to sell for Society funds. A total of £345 was taken on the day.



Renovations to the GWR Banana Van were completed just in time to fit book shelves along the back wall and move all the 2nd hand books from the marquee into their new display area. Following a busy open day, when many books were sold, member Ian Cross delivered another batch of quality second hand books donated by HMRS and James Hudson Books and once sorted and put out, the shelves will be full once again. (Photos below)



This year has seen a big leap forward for the weighbridge project, entirely due to the hard work and dedication of the project team and the continuing support of members and friends. It just goes to show what can be achieved when people pull together with a common aim.

**OPEN DAYS** The weighbridge will be open for hot drinks, homemade cakes, a tour of the museum or just a chat, on Tuesdays 14th and 28th of December and 11th and 25th January between 11am & 3pm.



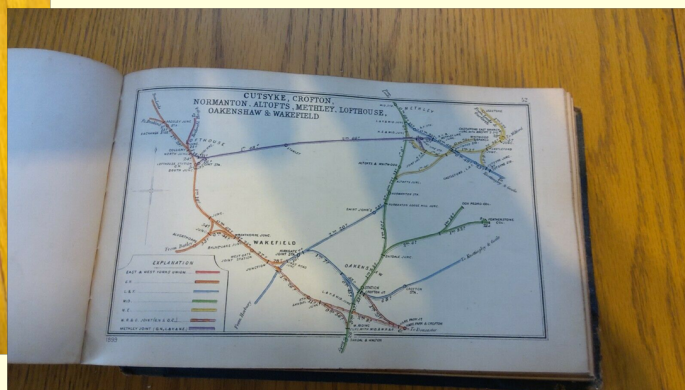
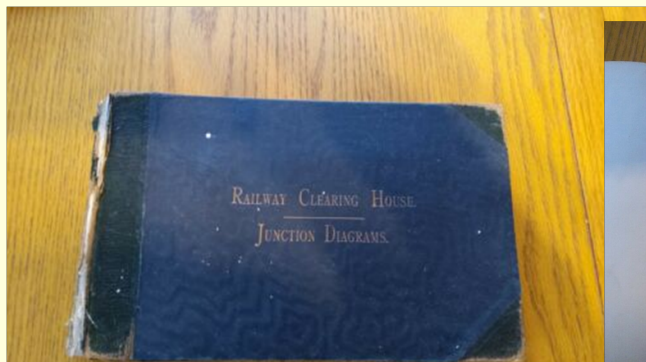
## An early Christmas Present .....

When Richard Newcombe recently gave David O'Neill two old railway books to sell on Ebay, little did anyone know the windfall that would result!

Richard has generously donated the money towards the GWR Banana Van renovations.

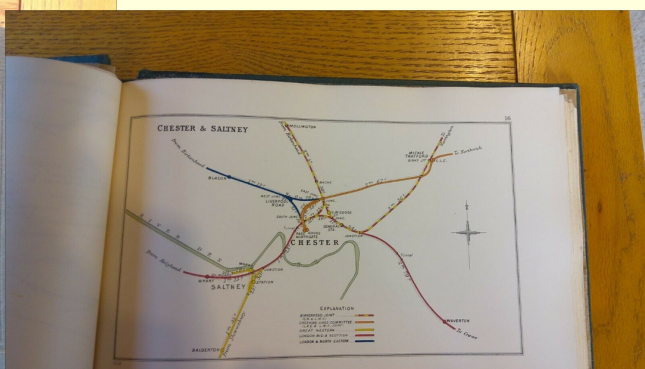
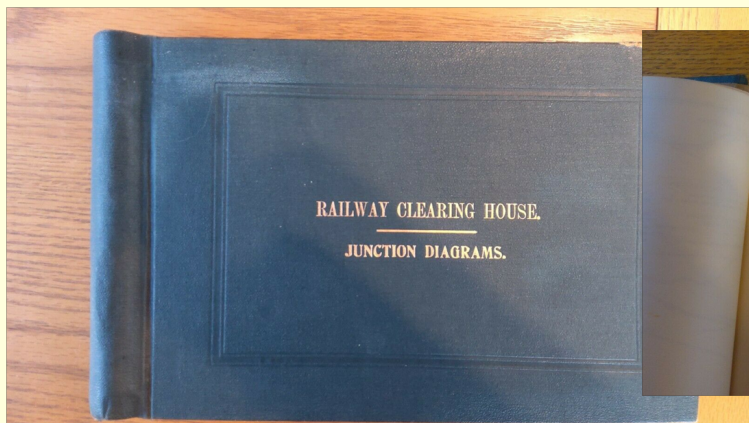
The first book was **Railway Clearing House Junction Diagrams 1903** (Photos below)

**Winning bid £343.33**



The second book was **1928 Railway Clearing House Junction Diagrams** (Photos below)

**Winning bid £311.75**



And talking of  
Christmas presents...  
the ideal last minute  
gift for the  
railway enthusiast

**The Bishop's Castle  
Railway Society  
2022 Calendar**

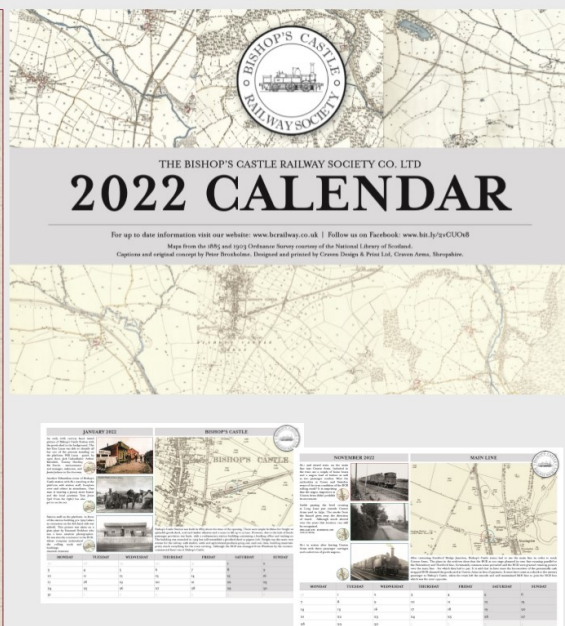
To order your copy  
Email:  
David O'Neill at  
bcrscontact@gmail.com

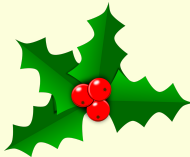
£8.50 collection  
from the Weighbridge  
on 2nd & 4th Tuesdays  
in each month  
between 11am and 3pm

Or £10.00  
including postage

Payment by BACS to  
HSBC: A/C 01229877  
Sort Code: 40-12-02

Ref: Calendar/your name  
Or send a cheque payable to  
Bishop's Castle Railway Society Co. Ltd  
to David O'Neill  
26 Brockton, Lydbury North  
Shropshire, SY7 8BA





## *A Christmas message from your Director/Trustees*

It was earlier this year (prior to the AGM) that the decision had to be taken to bring the governance of the Society into line with current requirements. The situation had arisen due to the Society being a Charity, and a Limited Company. The Society had three Directors/Trustees and a committee. This resulted in confusion regarding responsibilities and how they accounted (in law) for their actions. There are requirements in law about how Directors are nominated and appointed, how long they can be in post without being re-appointed and various submissions that they have to make under the Charities' Acts and Company Law. With these requirements in mind, nominations were taken from the membership; the previous three Directors chose not to stand for re-election and so the current five Directors /Trustees were appointed at the April 2021 AGM. They are now the sole governing body of the Society and are accountable to the membership, as well as legally accountable for their actions.

Monthly Directors` meetings began immediately and one of the first tasks was to gather together the Society`s artefacts which had been placed in various locations when the School Lane Museum closed. A decision was taken to focus on retaining the BCR items for display in the BCR weighbridge building. The non BCR items were, if on loan, returned to their owners, or responsibly sold to raise funds for the Society. A small display will be maintained in the House on Crutches museum , when they reopen after a two year closure.

It was felt that now the weighbridge site had become a meeting place, home for the Society`s artefacts, registered address under the Companies Act, and more of a `base`, then the signage should be changed from `Weighbridge Project` to `Weighbridge Railway Museum` and signs were duly erected.

We are still very keen to hold members` meetings in Bishop`s Castle, but this has been difficult to arrange mainly due to Covid restrictions. Speakers are not always happy to travel and be indoors with others. Meetings have finally resumed, albeit bi-monthly at present, with some Zoom based, enabling participation for those who prefer not to meet in person, and distant members, of which there are many.

Open Days at the Weighbridge have become a regular feature. They are well attended and generate a large portion of the Society`s income. Together with members` subscriptions and a small amount of grant funding, the Society`s finances are healthy.

Some members have formed a fledgling Model Railway Group and are working to create a portable model layout of Bishop`s Castle Station, to be displayed in the museum , or taken to model railway shows.

The GWR Banana Van is being renovated and the opportunity to sell surplus books donated by the Historical Model Railway Society and James Hudson Books led to it becoming a home for the 2<sup>nd</sup> hand book sales that provide a significant addition to funds.

The support and dedication provided by Mike Boyd, Co. Secretary, and Malcolm Jones, Society Treasurer, has been invaluable in advising and guiding us during the past nine months.

Feedback and comments from members is always welcome, as the Society exists for them. Please let us know if you have any suggestions or comments about what you feel the Society should be doing.

**All that remains is for us to wish you all a Very Happy Christmas and a Healthy New Year.**

Lin Dalton mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

Roger Dalton mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

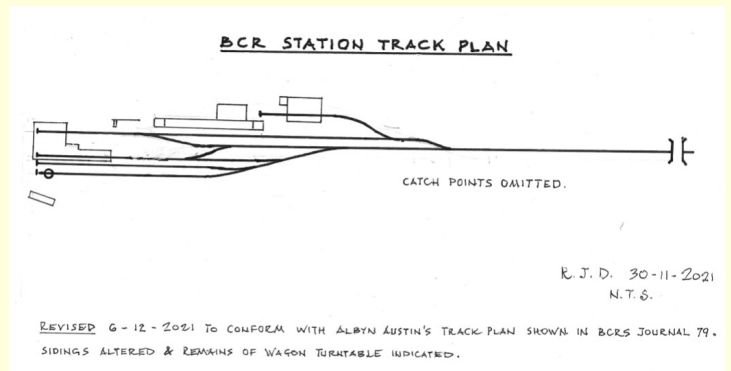
David O`Neill bcrscontact@gmail.com

Richard Newcombe richard.newcombe767@btinternet.com

Stephen Wallace stephen@shwallace.plus.com

## BCRSMG UPDATE

The Model Group is making rapid progress towards the construction of an OO gauge model railway of Bishop's Castle station for display in the weighbridge building.



It is intended that this layout will complement the BCRS museum collection in the building and provide more visual information to visitors in terms of the role of the weighbridge in the wider station complex.



By reference to the 1926 OS map, the many photos of the Bishop's Castle railway which exist and Albyn Austin's earlier work on the station plan, the group has determined that a compressed model of the station complex will fit into the available space (3m x 0.75m).

It has also been decided to make the layout portable so that it can be shown at model railway exhibitions.

With the help of Jonathan Moor's excellent model buildings of the weighbridge, the station building and the goods shed and David Hemsley's turnout templates, the group has started to sketch out the track plan on lining paper.



By the time this newsletter is published, it is hoped that the track plan drawing will be laid out on the baseboard top so that the design of the baseboard construction can be finalised.

The BCRS has purchased a Mercian Models 4mm kit of 'Carlisle' and is in the process of obtaining a SE Finecast kit of a GWR 517 0-4-2 to enable a model of BCR No.1 ('Tanky') to be constructed.

**Stuart Taylor would be pleased to hear from anyone who would like to join the group. He can be contacted at: [satalt17@gmail.com](mailto:satalt17@gmail.com)**

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

Here are some links with some seasonal flavour for you.

A classic film from the BFI about a train stuck in a snowdrift in the Pennines in 1955 and how it was dug out. It's a reminder of what a harsh winter can be like. Here's hoping we don't have one. Running time 9:34

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ugIoMD495E>

In 1942, a German fighter plane, attacking targets over Kent, was brought down by a steam locomotive. Hard to believe? Here's how. Running time 2:39

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

A link to some nice footage of Clun Castle leading "The Cotswold Express" in 2019. Running time 6:53

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3MqaM7KZle0&t=137s>

This one could be handy if you're giving any "Thomas the Tank Engine and his Friends" model trains as presents this Christmas. In this link, to a video made in 2016, they are compared with the locomotives that they were likely based on. Running time 17:12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f86vBqZkkF8>

I don't think you'd get this into the weighbridge building!

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-leeds-59531846>

You might find this link to a 6" map (1888-1913) interesting. You can move around the map by holding down the left hand mouse button and even trace the line to Craven Arms

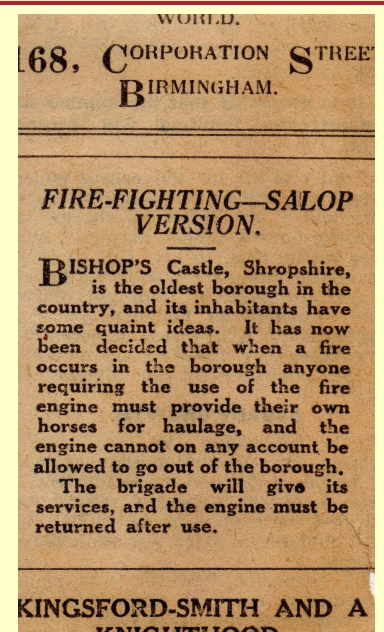
[https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build\\_nls\\_historic\\_map.pl?map\\_location=%20Bishop%27s%20Castle%20Shropshire&search\\_location=Bishop%27s%20Castle,%20Shropshire,%20SO3288,%20SO%2032%2088&os\\_series=1&is\\_sub=&pwd=&latitude=52.485661&longitude=-3.002809&postcode=](https://www.archiuk.com/cgi-bin/build_nls_historic_map.pl?map_location=%20Bishop%27s%20Castle%20Shropshire&search_location=Bishop%27s%20Castle,%20Shropshire,%20SO3288,%20SO%2032%2088&os_series=1&is_sub=&pwd=&latitude=52.485661&longitude=-3.002809&postcode=)

## The water tank from the old horse drawn fire engine...

At the November Director's meeting it was felt that the link between the BCR and the old horse drawn fire engine was rather tenuous and so it was decided to decline the offer and pass it on to the Bishop's Castle Civic Society, who may be able to find a suitable place for it in the town.

For those of you who were sceptical about the report in last month's newsletter about anyone who called out the fire brigade having to provide their own horse- On the right is the press cutting, which contains even more "quaint ideas".

Thanks to Jim Trenfield for finding this gem from the past and for all the video links he provides throughout the year.



## A letter from Ron Davies ~ Founder Member No. 9

I read with interest the article in the November Newsletter (No.59) relating to the old Bishop`s Castle horse drawn fire engine and in particular the reference to “the chap with the chain of office”. This in fact was my Grandfather Edward Charles Davies. He was born in 1878 at The Home, Myndtown, a farm a stones throw away from Eaton Station.

At the age of 28 he purchased the property of 36, High Street in Bishop`s Castle, an ironmongers shop and premises, then owned by Robert Norton & Son. In 1948, on his death, he was succeeded by his son (my father) Charles William Davies who subsequently passed the business onto his elder son John Alan Davies in 1970. In 1976 this moved to me and I ran it until it closed in 2009.

At the time of the building of the Bishop`s Castle Railway my family invested heavily in it, as did many other people all to little avail as was eventually proved. My grandfather was very actively involved in Bishop`s Castle affairs and was largely instrumental in bringing the County High School to the town (now the Community College). He also saw the Clun Rural District Council Offices moved here, apparently much to the chagrin of Clun people. Perhaps the possession of a railway line swung it. Clun never realising their plans for one.

I trust that the above is of interest to the Society and would be agreeable to its inclusion in a future B.C.R.S. News.

Yours sincerely

Ron Davies

### Finally it`s that time of year again....

Membership renewal is due on the 2nd January 2022.

Anyone who has joined since 1st August 2021 does not have to renew until 2nd January 2023.

Membership is £15.00 Single or £22.50 Joint

You can renew either by Direct Debit or Standing Order. Alternatively if you do internet banking a BACS payment can be made to:- Bishop`s Castle Railway Society Co Ltd  
Account No: 01229877 Sort Code:- 40-12-02 Ref: membership number

All of these methods are free to us, however from November 2021 HSBC has introduced charges for branch transactions including a 0.4 per cent fee to pay in and withdraw cash, and a fee of 40p to deposit a cheque. Charities will also be charged a 1.5 per cent fee when withdrawing change over the counter for fundraising events. In addition we will be charged a fee of £5 per month or £60 a year just to keep the accounts open. If a cheque is your only option, please post to :-  
Mr N Downes, 53 Pledwick Crescent, Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 6DG.

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[www.bcraileway.co.uk](http://www.bcraileway.co.uk)

Registered Company No. 05520291  
Registered Charity No. 1111918

If you have an item for the Newsletter  
please send to Lin Dalton at  
[mail@ludfordpark.plus.com](mailto:mail@ludfordpark.plus.com)  
by the 1st of each month

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this newsletter at any time by  
emailing:-  
[mail@ludfordpark.plus.com](mailto:mail@ludfordpark.plus.com)

For general enquiries  
please contact  
David O`Neill at  
[bcrscontact@gmail.com](mailto:bcrscontact@gmail.com)