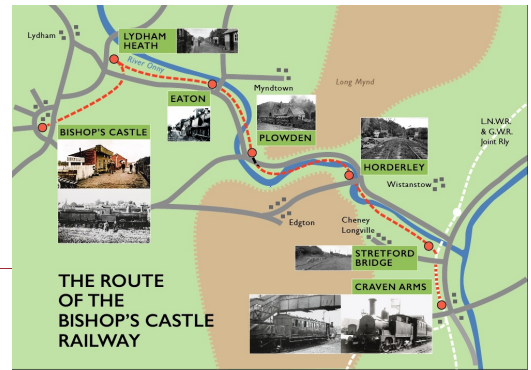


# B.C.R.S. NEWS

January  
2020

No 37

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Bishop's Castle Railway Society



## WEIGHBRIDGE PROJECT UPDATE

### Planning Application

Officially Shropshire Council had delayed the planning decision until the 10th January, however we are still waiting for a final decision.

Last week we were told by the planning officer that whether or not the site requires a toilet, wouldn't be their judgment to make and it would be the Public Protection team who could tell us whether or not the site requires a toilet. In terms of keeping things rolling from a planning perspective foul drainage wise, the planning team proposed a condition; worded along the lines of "Prior to its installation, full details of the toilet..." etc. The trigger of the condition would only be met should we go ahead and install a toilet. We readily agreed to this suggestion, thinking a successful decision was imminent. However, earlier this week we received news that we still don't seem to be quite there on the surface water perspective. The drainage team requires sizing calculations for the proposed soakaway. So, Roger Dalton is now wading his way through BRE Digest Document 365 to provide the necessary calculations. We are very grateful to our architect Geraint Roberts, who has certainly gone over and above his initial brief in helping us to navigate what was initially thought to be a simple planning application. Oh the wonders of hindsight!!

### Some good news

Local joiner Anthony Jones will be starting work on the new windows next week. It is expected that they will be delivered to site mid February. Five of the six windows have so far been sponsored, so there is still an opportunity for someone to sponsor the remaining window for £400. You can pledge a sponsorship by contacting John Rimmer Tel 01588 638998 email: [john.bcr@outlook.com](mailto:john.bcr@outlook.com)

### Volunteering

Forthcoming dates for working parties, all Tuesdays.  
21st January, 4th and 18th February, 3rd and 17th March

Now we have temporary doors and windows and a source of heat, work can continue inside even during the winter months.

There is an assortment of jobs to suit all capabilities. Everyone welcome.  
For more details please contact Peter Broxholme : [pjb.bcr@btinternet.com](mailto:pjb.bcr@btinternet.com)



# Weighbridge Project Fundraising

## Crowd Funding

As an experiment, we decided to try crowd funding to see if it would generate some cash for the weighbridge project. There are several different options but one of the best known (and as it turned out) easiest to use was "Just Giving". Setting up the account was very easy and we had regular messages when a donation was made so we were able to acknowledge and thank all those who donated.

It was decided to run the appeal until the end of 2019 and we raised a useful sum of £565. To anyone who donated - many were anonymous - a big thank you. All in all this was a worthwhile exercise and it is quite possible we may do this again for a specific part of the project.

Janet & Peter Broxholme

## The Lady Moore Charitable Trust

Towards the end of last year Peter Broxholme received an email from Justin Coldwell, a past President of the Bishop`s Castle Railway Society and a trustee of the Lady Moore Charitable Trust. He was enquiring about the progress of the project and whether further funds were needed (the trust had previously donated £1,000). Peter duly replied and within a few weeks £1,000 appeared in the society`s bank account.

## Members donations

Several donations have been included with members annual subscription renewal payment. Also, some members continue to make a monthly donation. This support is very much appreciated and is helping the project team to plan the next stage of the restoration.

## Next fundraising event will be Saturday 21st March



**BISHOP`S CASTLE  
MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION**

THE PUBLIC HALL  
STATION STREET, BISHOP`S CASTLE, SY9 5AQ



**SATURDAY 21st MARCH 2020**  
**10am to 5pm**

Layouts & Traders  
Plenty of free parking    Disabled access  
Light refreshments available throughout the day  
Live steam outside weather permitting  
Admission Adults £4.00  
Children under 16 FREE with an accompanying adult  
Enquiries: 07553 010 196

Profits to Bishop`s Castle Rly Weighbridge Project

There has been excellent support for the Society`s first venture into Model Railway Exhibitions. We are very pleased that the new owner of "Lydham Heath", Society member Simon Dunkley, will be exhibiting the layout at this show. A second chance for all those who have never seen it in operation.



The full list of exhibitors, demonstrations and trade support will be in next month`s newsletter. If you are interested in being involved, a few more stewards would be welcome, as would additional help with refreshments, (despite rumours, this is not a female only occupation).

If you would like more details please contact Lin—

Tel: 01584 877852 / 07553010196

Email: [mail@ludfordpark.plus.com](mailto:mail@ludfordpark.plus.com)

## **SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY NEWS via Stuart Dickinson**

**until 14 February** ~ Annual line close-down.

**15 - 23 February** ~ Daily half-term services, between Bridgnorth & Bewdley (details next month)

### **Falling Sands Viaduct restoration ~**



Work started at the beginning of January, as soon as the Christmas and New Year services were over, and will make the most of the annual six week shutdown period. The line between Kidderminster and Bewdley will remain closed until Easter, although services will run between Bridgnorth and Bewdley.

Contractors, Walsh Construction are removing the track, ballast and sandstone rubble from the viaduct. They'll install efficient drainage channels and add a modern, waterproof membrane before putting everything back together. Once the structure has properly dried out, damaged bricks will be replaced and the mortar re-pointed without further interruption to services. The entire restoration will be completed by autumn 2020.

This extensive repair is urgently needed as water has seeped into the structure of the 142-year-old viaduct causing it to crack and erode. If the SVR did not act promptly, they may have been forced to reduce the length of trains, or even face temporary or permanent closure of the line. There is already a speed restriction in place across the viaduct.

**Friday February 7th 2020**

**@ 7.30pm**

**Rails Through Bulgaria**

Judy and Rob Freeman take us on a tour of this once Eastern-Bloc country and we experience mainline and narrow gauge steam together with a startling collection of steam locomotives quietly rotting away.

METHODIST HALL, STATION STREET, BISHOP'S CASTLE, SY9 5AQ

New for 2020

# “THE BISHOP’S CASTLE RAILWAYS THAT NEVER WERE”

The society’s latest publication will be available soon “THE BISHOP’S CASTLE RAILWAYS THAT NEVER WERE“ by Nicholas Harding.

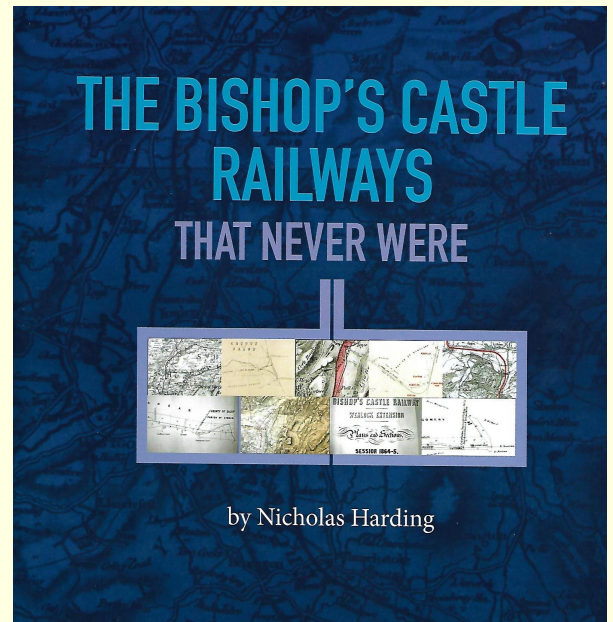
Nick Harding has researched long forgotten railway proposals situated in the Bishop’s Castle area of South Shropshire.

Among the Victorian entrepreneurs who promoted the railways in this book were charlatans, conmen, the deluded, fantasists and the genuine. None of these proposals made it further than a set of plans or a basic idea; none ever saw a spade used or turf turned over. Some cost the promoters a fortune. Some lost everything. The unscrupulous few made a fortune.

A few of these schemes may be familiar, but some have never been examined before and the documents have probably not seen the light of day and seriously studied since the 1860s. Collected together for the first time and generously illustrated with maps diagrams and images, this publication will appeal to all enthusiasts of the BCR and others interested in local railway history.

Nick has been a member of the Bishop’s Castle Railway Society for many years and is also a member of South West Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society (SWSHAS) for whom he has researched and written several important articles.

The book will be launched via the winter journal where a special order form will be included to enable members to purchase this book at a discount. Alternatively, following the official launch books may be ordered via our website [www.bcrailway.co.uk](http://www.bcrailway.co.uk). A downloadable order form will be found in the books section.



## Modellers News

Albyn Austin has sent in a photo of the progress being made on his latest project “Bishop`s Castle Station” It would be nice to have this layout at a future Bishop`s Castle Model Railway Exhibition.

No pressure Albyn!



## *Jim Trenfield Titbits.....*

Here are some links to start the new year off.

From the BFI, this is a link to a silent, amateur film of trains on the Wrexham Central to Ellesmere line, including the last passenger train in 1962. The running time is 12 minutes. Click on the "Watch for free" icon to see it. <https://player.bfi.org.uk/free/film/watch-wrexham-central-to-ellesmere-line-1962-1962-online>

A link to a visit to the Cambrian Heritage Railway at Oswestry last year with a tour of their museum at the end. Running time is 12:45. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b57EZB-u02s&t=12s>

I read that a baseboard for a model railway layout should be at least 6' x 4' and of plywood supported on a framework of 2" x 1" battens. Apart from the cost, it would need two people to lift it. This chap found a cheaper and much lighter solution. The running time is 19:15.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F8TwLzkh64&t=3s>

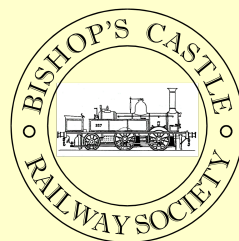
I read that a regular fare-paying passenger railway service started in 1807, running between Swansea and Oystermouth but horses were used for most of the nineteenth century. On the second day after the Stockton and Darlington Railway opened in 1825, hundreds of people were allowed to travel for free in coal wagons hauled by a steam locomotive. A regular fare-paying passenger service started later that year using a coach and horses on the rails. Steam wasn't used for passenger services until 1833. The opening of the Liverpool and Manchester Railway in 1830 seems to have introduced the first regular passenger train service hauled by steam locomotives. Sadly, on the first day, the MP for Liverpool, a great advocate for railways, got down from his carriage and crossed the line to speak to the Duke of Wellington. He was knocked down by the Rocket and fatally injured.

## *And finally.....*

A gentle reminder from our membership secretary, Nick Downes, that membership renewal was due on 2nd January 2020. Anyone who has joined since 1st August 2019 does not have to renew until 2nd January 2021.

Nick has now moved and cheques should be posted to  
53 Pledwick Crescent, Sandal, Wakefield, WF2 6DG. Unfortunately due to the new banking rules he can not accept cash. Direct payments can be made either by Direct Debit, Standing Order or BACS to HSBC Bank plc Bishop's Castle Branch 40 - 12 - 02 for the credit of Bishop's Castle Railway Society Co. Limited. Account No. 01229877

Membership Single: £15.00 Joint: £22.50



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

Follow us on Facebook <http://bit.ly/2vCUOt8>

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email: [socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk)

**If you would prefer not to receive these updates you can opt out by contacting**  
[socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk](mailto:socialmedia@bcrailway.co.uk)

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