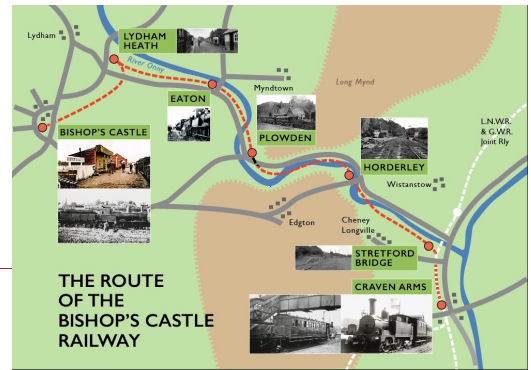


# B.C.R.S. NEWS

March  
2020

No 39

Monthly Newsletter of  
The Bishop's Castle Railway Society



## Events Update

### Bishop's Castle Model Railway Exhibition March 21<sup>st</sup>

I have decided that, because of the on-going Coronavirus pandemic, the model railway exhibition planned for next Saturday, 21<sup>st</sup>, will be postponed. It was not easy to make this decision; an awful lot of work has gone into organising the event and I know that many people will be disappointed.

Although government guidelines, at present, allow us to continue I believe that it is not desirable to do so with an event that would bring in to the district two or three hundred people when unnecessary travelling should be discouraged. We, as a local organisation, would wish to do what we can to protect the town.

It is our firm intention to hold this event when the situation has improved.

### Members Meetings

In line with Monday's advice from the government we will postpone the last two members' meetings of the season on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and May 1<sup>st</sup> so that we safeguard, as far as possible, members' health. We'll look forward to re-starting in the autumn when we hope things will have improved.

John Rimmer

Chairman, Bishop's Castle Railway Society

### Weighbridge Open Days

The decision has also been taken to suspend the Weighbridge Site Open Days over Bank Holidays for the time being.

With the reduction in personal contact over the next few months it is important for us all to keep in touch via other means and for no one to feel totally isolated.

I know a lot of people use Facebook and I will continue to post regular updates of the weighbridge progress, and, Society news in general.

The newsletter will also continue to be published monthly. I may be a bit short of news at times and would appreciate anyone sending in items that would interest other railway enthusiasts. Maybe this quiet period will encourage some of you to start (or finish) that model railway layout that you always intended to do, but never had time!

Lin Dalton

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

Unfortunately the Weighbridge site will not be open over the VE Day Commemoration weekend. However, mention of Railways in Wartime in my email last month, prompted member Robert Humphreys to send in the following email

“My grandfather, then based at Lancaster, was one of the many railway company employees called to help deal with the Great Gretna Green train crash incident during WW1, the worst British train crash ever I believe. So many young soldiers killed.”

An excerpt from the National Records of Scotland .....



Picture above—The freight traffic work horse built during the second world

## Quintinshill Disaster 22 May 1915

At 6.45 on the morning of 22 May 1915, a troop train carrying soldiers of the 1/7th Battalion Royal Scots crashed into a stationary local passenger train near Quintinshill Junction on the Glasgow to Carlisle railway line, near Gretna in Dumfriesshire. The initial collision was caused by mistakes made by the railway signalmen. The northbound local train had been stopped in the path of the southbound troop train, which was carrying the battalion from Larbert to Liverpool. The Royal Scots were due to embark for Gallipoli. Minutes after the collision a northbound express train ploughed into the wreckage.

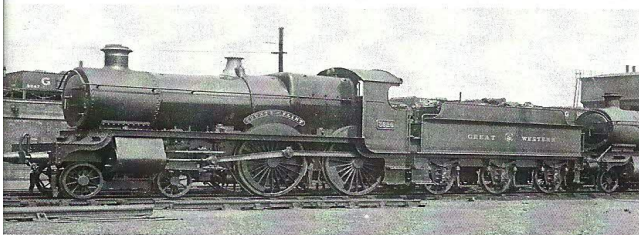
The full account can be found at:-

<https://www.nrscotland.gov.uk/research/learning/first-world-war/quintinshill-disaster>

### NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE HONOURS MONTGOMERYSHIRE

A brand-new steam locomotive is to be named County of Montgomery.

The Churchward County Trust (CCT) has begun constructing a full-size working replica of a GWR ‘County’ class 4-4-0 locomotive, 85 years after



One of the original GWR ‘County’ class locomotives No. 3826 County of Flint at Old Oak Common shed in 1922. Photo: W.V. Wiseman/Rail Archive Stephenson.

the last of these ran in service. Eleven of the locomotives were named after other Welsh counties. “I have always felt that it was pity that Montgomeryshire was not included in the original naming scheme,” said project leader Gary Boyd-Hope. “With our new loco we will put that right, and give Montgomeryshire the recognition it should have had a century ago.” Mayor Lionel Weaver said, “it is nice to see County of Montgomery being used as the name for the new steam locomotive, keeping the historic name of Montgomery alive and ‘steaming into the future!’”

[www.churchwardcounty.org.uk](http://www.churchwardcounty.org.uk)



The model railway layout "Lydham Heath" previously owned by the Society and now owned by Chairman of the S gauge Society, Simon Dunkley, was due to return to Bishop`s Castle for the exhibition. Here are a few photos Simon has taken of the refurbished layout.



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

**It's likely that some of these events will be postponed. Please check the website <https://www.svr.co.uk/> before making a special journey**

**Falling Sands Viaduct Refurbishment.** The works are progressing well; track formation is now being replaced, including new ballast. The planned opening date should be met, with the first public train on Saturday 4 April at 9.45 from Kidderminster (or 10.55 ex Bridgnorth)

### **April Events**

4th to 15th - Easter Activity packs for the children, with prizes.

4th, 8th to 11th - Afternoon Teas with Prosecco on selected trains from either end of the line.

10th to 13th - Tasty Treats to take on the train.

### **16th - 19th Spring Steam Gala**

Highlights:

- Evening services from both ends of the line on Friday and Saturday.
- Goods trains and Auto Train local services.
- Double-headed full line services with Pannier Tanks.
- Brake van rides at Kidderminster Station between 12.45pm and 3pm.
- Mini beer festival at Kidderminster Station.
- Trade stands.

### **Visiting locomotives:**

GWR No. 2999 Lady of Legend (new build Saint class) - Didcot Railway Centre

LMS 8F No. 48305 - Great Central Railway





## Albyn Austin sent in an update on his Bishop`s Castle Station OO Gauge layout....

The latest building is the carriage/loco shed. The layout is much shortened to fit on a six foot baseboard so the carriage shed should be about 1/3rd longer or maybe a bit more, but it looks the part I think. Needs a bit more work and also the coaling stage added.

The corrugated iron roof was just plastic corrugated iron and some similar aluminium imitation corrugated iron painted grey and streaked with dark brick colour and a few other browns and dark grey colours added. The carriage shed has laser cut roof trusses underneath connected with balsa rod. Sides are plasticard with wooden veneer strips as planking. The engine shed is similar but the unequal roof trusses were cut out of card, again with balsa stringers to strengthen it. The outriggers are to prop the thing up I think but they prevented the adjacent track being used, mind the shed encroached on the loading gauge for that track so wouldn't have been any use for standard rolling stock.

It was the big job for the BC layout, I`m so pleased to finish it and quite pleased with the result.

I'm afraid I've cheated with these two (below) - the goods shed and the weighbridge/stables. These are both Townstreet plaster cast kits. The Goods Shed is similar to, but not exactly as per the BC station shed and the office block is a bit of poor representation of the actual weighbridge/stable block. However when I bought the kit in 2004 there was no access to the weighbridge building and I thought it was near enough for a back view which is what the usual viewing point will be.



Have now counted and there are 14 more sheds/ shacks/oil stores/ old coach and van bodies dotted round the station site plus the signal and the two derricks which I need to do! I'm afraid near enough will be good enough for many as there aren't any really good views of the goods yard/timber dock buildings.

A Facebook follower recently posted this comment in response to a post on the BCRS Facebook page -  
THE TENBURY WELLS LINE - Another little lost local branch line near by

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/656045037934245/>

A Group for discussion of any and all information relating to the Wooferton to Kidderminster branch line, more commonly known as the Tenbury Branch.



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

This short film from 1941 is set in a marshalling-yard and shows how wagons were sorted by hand to form trains. During an air raid, one wagon is set alight and the fire spreads to another containing explosives. Shunter Black saves the day! Running time is about 7 minutes.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx6aL8QB\\_aQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gx6aL8QB_aQ)

A link to a film of the lines from Stafford and then Crewe to Wellington next. There are shots of stations long gone such as Market Drayton, Newport, Hodnet etc. The running time is 7:29.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdZgAco2hmk>

Here's a recent video of a family's day out on the SVR after Storm Dennis. It runs for 18:53 and is very well done. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ww7wIHKjZhY>

Record producer, songwriter, DJ, presenter and railway enthusiast Pete Waterman built up a large model railway collection. He sold most of it to fund the training of apprentices to work on steam locomotives. Here's a link to his layout based on Leamington Spa station. The running time is just over 10 minutes.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2\\_1ut6bqC8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=P2_1ut6bqC8)

## **And finally lets finish on a positive note from the Chairman .....**

We had an encouraging AGM the other night. Encouraging, because of the numbers who turned up, because of the good, positive discussion we had, and encouraging because we were able to fill two crucial positions amongst the officers of the Society. We are in a good financial position, able to support the Weighbridge project and the regular aims of the Society. So we welcome Malcolm Jones as Treasurer and Mike Boyd as Secretary and look forward to their contribution to the success of our organisation. (I realise this sounds a bit corporate: sorry!)

But our thanks go out to Peter Mills, who has filled these two posts for some time and, in the museum days, worked tirelessly to achieve accreditation for us.

The immediate future, for us all, is a little uncertain at present, but we look forward to another interesting and successful year.

John Rimmer

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

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

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