

SOCIETY UPDATE

Following the recent AGM, Mike Boyd our Secretary has become a new Director/Trustee, and Lin Dalton and Richard Newcombe, have been re elected for a further three years. There are now six Directors who meet on a monthly basis to discuss the day to day running of the Society and to plan for the future. If you have any questions or suggestions, please let Mike Boyd know by emailing – theseecretary.bcr@gmail.com and they will be put forward at the next Directors meeting. The Society looks forward with optimism to another interesting and successful year.

Weighbridge Railway Museum

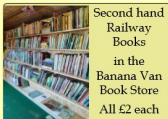
Station Street, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AQ
Open on

Easter Saturday 16th April

10am—4pm



Bishop's Castle Railway Station oo gauge layout
Work so far including kit built Rolling Stock



Second hand Railway Books in the Banana Van Book Store
All £2 each



Sale of OO gauge Locos & Coaches
Boxed as New Hornby Lima Airfix

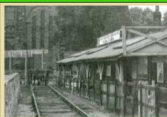
Hot Drinks & Home made Cake

On Sunday the 1st of May we are especially pleased to welcome our friends from the Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust, who will have an exhibition in the marquee.

Sunday 1st May

10am—4pm Free Entry

The Weighbridge Railway Museum, Station Street, Bishop's Castle.



Shrewsbury Railway Heritage Trust Exhibition

Preserving and promoting Shrewsbury's rich railway past



Bishop's Castle Station oo gauge layout circa 1932
A WORK IN PROGRESS



Quality Second hand Railway Books
All at £2.00 each
Many ex HMRS and James Hudson Books

Refreshments
Tea Coffee & Homemade Cake



FOR SALE
Boxed as New Hornby & Lima
OO Gauge LOCOS & COACHES



Charity Stall in aid of Round & About Walks 2022
Saturday 1st May 11:30
"Responsible walks with great maps and instructions"



Sunny Bank
Preserves and Produce
Grown and made at Sunny Bank Shrewsbury

Part of Bishop's Castle Yard Sale Event

There are several events being organised for the next few weeks, with Weighbridge Open Days on Easter Saturday and May Day Bank Holiday Sunday, and a Zoom presentation on Friday 29th April which can be seen on the big screen at the Church Barn or viewed from the comfort of your armchair at home.



Southern

Locomotives Ltd Past, Present and Future

Friday 29th April 2022

7pm for 7.30pm start

A Zoom presentation by Nick Thompson

shown simultaneously at The Church Barn, Bishop's Castle, SY9 5AY and available to log on at home.

Members ~ will be sent the free link in early April

Non Members ~ £3.00 for payment and link contact David O'Neil bcrscontact@gmail.com from 4th April

We look forward to welcoming existing members, visitors and potential new members to these events.

Further details of all the events can be found on these posters or by contacting David: bcrscontact@gmail.com or Lin: mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Regular Open Days continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month between 11am & 3pm. They are an ideal opportunity for members to meet up and have a chat over a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of home made cake. Forthcoming dates are the 12th & 26th of April and the 10th & 24th of May.

Volunteers including three or four of the Society's Director/ Trustees, are on site most Tuesdays and whenever the gates are open visitors usually wander in. There is always someone who will put down their tools to give a tour of the site, which usually results in purchases being made, a donation put in the box on the wall or a new member being signed up.



Work over the last month has focused mainly on the Banana Van. David, Malcolm, Mike, Roger and Richard have all been busy and the result can be seen in the photo below left. The traditional graphics have yet to be added, but it is definitely in a better condition than when it arrived (photo below right)



Installing mains water to the building has taken a step closer with an application for a quotation being sent to Severn Trent Water. As some of you probably know, STW charge £155 just to provide a quote. Fingers crossed we should have enough funds available to proceed.

The sink unit has been fitted, the tap is in place, even the drainage has been installed..... All we need now is the water!

BCRSMG UPDATE

Bishop's Castle station - model update

As can be seen in the photographs, the first track has now been laid down on the model. After a great deal of deliberation, save for two points, made from kits, we decided to use PECO Code 75 rail and point work for the remainder, this on the grounds of cost, as to have bought a further six

points (there are eight in total) to make up would have proved prohibitively expensive.

Fortunately, by 1932, the date at which the model is set, save for the rails, the permanent way at the terminus was covered by a thick layer of ash, cinders, mud, and weeds, to the extent that no sleepers were visible. Once this is replicated, the end result will be track work that mirrors exactly how the line looked at this location towards the end of the railway's life. The webs (sides) of the rails will be painted rusty; the head of the rails will be left free of paint to ensure the locomotives (powered of course by electricity) run!

All of the main buildings have now been made, although detailing work needs to be done on several to complete them. The engine shed and carriage shed replicate faithfully the decrepit state of the originals - falling to pieces and propped up by heavy timber baulks to prevent them collapsing. Bear in mind that these two structures had been in existence since the 1860s so, by the early 1930s, had long since reached the end of their lives; there being no money available to replace them.

The station platform and loading wharf remain to be constructed, along with the cattle pens and timber derricks. There will also be a couple of huts on the wharf which we believe were used by the local coal merchants. Another, at the eastern end of the wharf was said, at some date, to have housed the town's fire engine but whether this tale is true... Anyway, photographs of these little buildings are as rare as hens' teeth. So far we have unearthed a couple but taken from a distance. If anybody can confirm further details of these small buildings, or have any other photographs, do please let us know.

Carlisle is under construction and Number 1 is on order, as is the ex L&SWR coach. We intend to purchase a model of one of the Hull and Barnsley coaches too. By the date of the model, the trains usually only had one passenger coach, so a couple of coaches will suffice for our purposes to show the railway as it was at this time. There will be a few more wagons and one of the railway's two brake vans.

We still need more volunteers to help with the construction of the model - so if anyone wants to come and join us, do, please, get in touch.

Jonathan Moor



Any one interested in joining the group can contact Stuart Taylor at: satalt17@gmail.com

Mike Boyd shares another interesting R.A.I.B. report with us

Derailment of a passenger train at Carmont, Aberdeenshire 12 August 2020

At around 09:37 hrs on Wednesday 12 August 2020, a passenger train collided with debris washed from a drain onto the track near Carmont, Aberdeenshire, following very heavy rainfall. There were nine people on board, six passengers and three railway employees (one of whom was travelling as a passenger). It was travelling at 73 mph (117 km/h), just below the normal speed for the line concerned. The collision caused the train to derail and deviate to the left, before striking a bridge parapet which caused the vehicles to scatter. Tragically, three people died as a result of the accident. The remaining six people on the train were injured.

The train derailed because it struck debris washed out from a 15 metre length of steeply sloping drainage trench. This is evidenced by CCTV images from the train, grooves cut through the debris, the absence of derailment marks on the track on the approach to the debris and marks indicating that the leading wheel set had derailed immediately after the debris field. The debris mainly comprised gravel with some cobbles and covered the down line for a length of about 10 metres. Estimates made by RAIB after the derailment indicate the maximum depth of debris on the left and right railheads was probably around 170 mm and 135 mm respectively before the train ran through it.

The source of the debris that caused the derailment was a 'french drain' and the ground immediately surrounding it. This drain had been installed during 2011 and 2012 as part of a wider scheme to address a known problem with the stability of the earthworks in this locality. This drain comprised a 450 millimetre (approximately 18 inch) diameter perforated pipe buried in a gravel-filled trench which ran for 306 metres along the edge of a field at the top of a slope that ran down to the railway. The drain then sloped down relatively steeply (at an inclination of 1 in 3) for 53 metres to track level. Catch pits (access chambers, sometimes called manholes) were provided at intervals along the pipe to allow inspection and maintenance of the pipe.

Cause

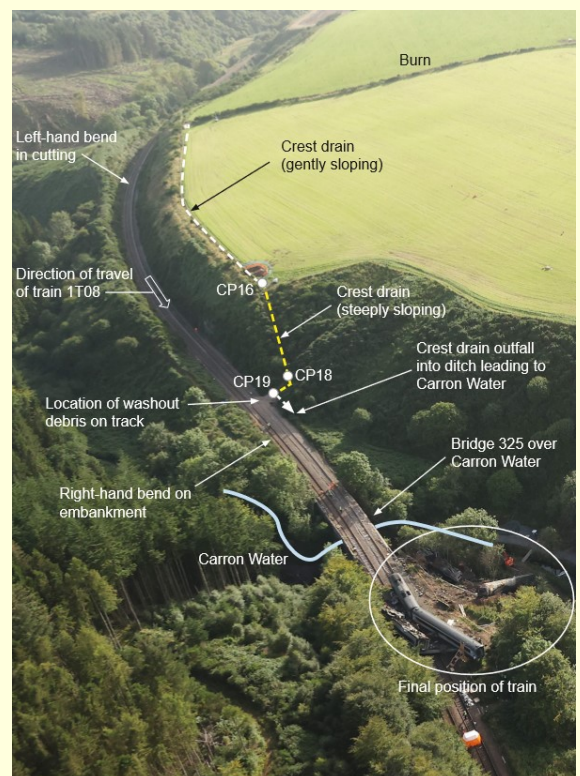
Badly installed and un-inspected drainage system overflowed onto the track.

Read the full account at:-

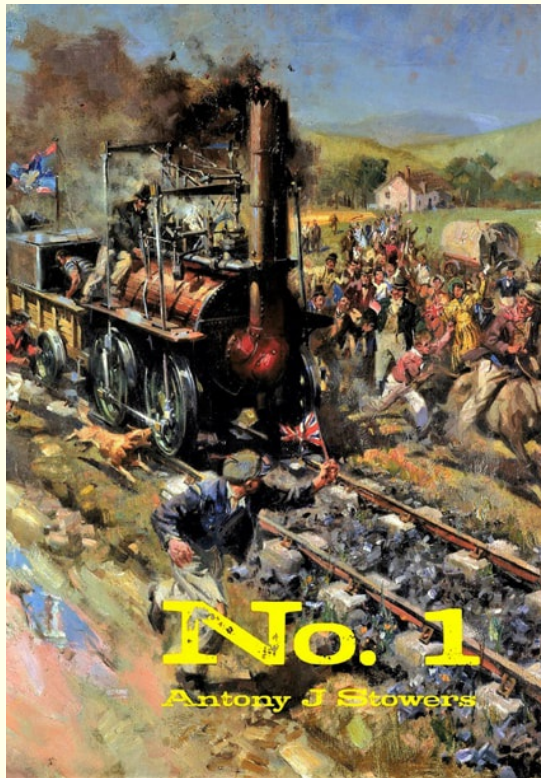
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1059410/R022022_220310_Carmont_Synopsis.pdf



The aftermath of the accident (image taken on 13 August 2020)



Overview of the drainage system (locations marked 'CP' are catchpits)



The 200th anniversary of the Stockton and Darlington railway is happening in 2025 and so the build up has begun.

Tony Stowers is Darlington-born and wrote his book starting in 2010 and finished it 2013. When Tony was 13 years old he witnessed the 1975 150th anniversary cavalcade in Darlington and vowed he would one day write an epic about the entire story and this is the result.

Written in diary format from the points of view of both real and fictitious characters, it brings to life the creation, building and opening of the Stockton to Darlington railway from 1810 up to 1825 and how it impacted the lives of ordinary people as seen through real historical figures such as George Stephenson, Edward Pease and Timothy Hackworth, as well as miner George Lovatt and his son Lewis born on the same day as the great Felling

Mining Disaster of 1812. With almost one hundred diary entries over 373 pages and 117,000 words, it tells the story of Lewis who grows up near Shildon. Losing his mother suddenly to TB, George Lovatt struggles to keep his family together but is then framed for a crime he did not commit by a crooked landowner and transported as a convict to Australia. It is also the story of his son Lewis who, in a world where children grew up quickly, is intent on following his father while escaping the murderous clutches of an ex-Waterloo veteran intent on silencing Lewis as a witness to the set-up. It also features a re-imagined account of the opening day as young Lewis brushes shoulders with the real and the fictitious as he 'escapes' on Locomotion Number One to Stockton on 27th September 1825.

Tony Fox of Durham Historical Society calls it 'The best piece of historical fiction he has ever read' and the legendary British poet John Baine (AKA Attila the Stockbroker) calls it simply 'beautifully portrayed and incredibly well-researched'. It has been in the public libraries of Darlington, Stockton and Shildon for about 7 years now.

The cover was especially commissioned for use by the Science Museum Group in London who owns the rights to the painting by Terence Cuneo MBE 1907-1996 who was also portraitist to HM the Queen.

It is a book for all of Darlington, Stockton, Shildon and the north east and all those who love railways to be proud of.

Available through his website [No. 1 Limited Edition - Tony Stowers](#) for £13.92 or as a special offer for newsletter readers by sending a cheque for £12.50 inc UK postage, payable to S A Heale at 36 Carlton Road, Long Eaton NG10 2LF.

Footnote: *"Having bought this book as a present for Roger, I can highly recommend it to anyone who is interested in early railways and associated social history. Either as a present to yourself or as a gift to a friend or relative, you won't be disappointed."*

Lin Dalton

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

Heritage railways face a headache over coal supplies. The Talylyn took delivery of the last load of Welsh coal recently. The first 4 minutes of this link describe one alternative "eco coal" which is being tried out <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jn9TEzXSAyo>

The long-gone Cheddington to Aylesbury line is said to have been the oldest branch line in the world but it's remembered for a very different reason! Running time 9:42

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wF8jHQAOR1U>

A spectacular display from 70013 "Oliver Cromwell" at the KWVR Gala 2018. Running time 18:33 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mw-Yrsk2DA>

This is "Copenhagen Fields", a very impressive 2mm finescale layout (1:152) measuring some 22' by 6'. Construction started in 1983 and it's not finished yet. Running time 11:21

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

Don't try this at home. Running time 10:00 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XhutgXcCglQ>



**CRAVEN ARMS & DISTRICT
MODEL RAILWAY CIRCLE**

**MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION
LUDLOW RACECOURSE
BROMFIELD, LUDLOW, SY8 2BT
SATURDAY 14th MAY 2022
10am to 4pm**



**UP TO 18 LAYOUTS AND DISPLAYS
TOGETHER WITH TRADE STANDS
FREE PARKING & DISABLED ACCESS
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE**

Admission Charges:

Adults: £5.00
Children under 16 accompanied by an adult: FREE

*Featured Layout: Heybridge Wharf by Mike Corp
Scheduled to appear at Ludlow Racecourse on 14th May 2022*

It's really good news to see Model Railway Exhibitions taking place once again. They have been sorely missed over the last two years. Some larger organisations have been holding virtual exhibitions, which are better than nothing, but cannot achieve the atmosphere and buzz of an exhibition hall filled with railway enthusiasts.

The refreshment area filled with modellers meeting up with old friends, discussing their layouts and showing off their new purchases. Not forgetting the sneaky piece of cake that they are not allowed at home!

If you are within travelling distance of Ludlow Racecourse, this looks like a good day out and an exhibition well worth supporting.

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

www.bcrailway.co.uk

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mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

For general enquiries please contact David O`Neill at bcrscontact@gmail.com