

Roy Hatfield with one of his miniature steam engines on show in the marquee

PHOTOS from the WEIGHBRIDGE JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS



Visitors browsing in the yard, watched over by Emmanuel Beddoes 4th from the left at the back



Inside the weighbridge building Left to Right Director/Trustee Roger Dalton, Mayor Josh Dicken, Volunteer Lyndsey Habgood Benbow



Roy Hatfield`s display of vintage fire fighting equipment. In the centre a photograph of the men who used some of the items on display



1936 Diamond T Truck on the weighbridge with owner Lewis Weaver standing on the right. Member David Etheridge enjoying a sit down and a snack.

WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Open days continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month 11am – 3pm.

Should you wish to visit on a different day, there is usually someone available to meet you. Arrangements can be made by contacting– bcrscontact@gmail.com

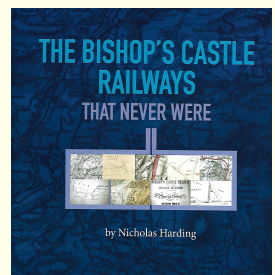
You can be sure of a warm welcome, a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of home made cake. Photo right enjoying a coffee break left to right – Secretary Mike Boyd, Project Manager Roger Dalton, David O'Neill (all Director/ Trustees), member Ian Cross on a visit from Derby and visitor Trevor Hughes.



It's always nice to see members who have travelled from further afield. Long standing member Bill Leighton recently called in to see the progress made over the past two years since his last visit. Some of you may remember Bill travelling from Wolverhampton to steward in the previous museums.

John Tennent who many of you will know from Tennents Trains in the West Midlands has kindly shared his expertise by pricing all the donated locos, carriages and model railway items. Whilst he was busy in the weighbridge with boxes everywhere, he managed to sell £163 worth of models to visitors, and it wasn't even a designated open day!

Another recent visitor was local member Nick Harding, who just happened to call in as a visitor was purchasing Nick's book 'THE BISHOP'S CASTLE RAILWAYS THAT NEVER WERE'. Nick was happy to talk to him and sign the book. Result a very happy customer. Available to buy for £13.50 incl. p&p from David O'Neill – bcrscontact@gmail.com



Another milestone reached.

On May 27th Project Manager Roger Dalton met Shropshire Council Building Control Officer Andy Jones at the Weighbridge and the project was finally signed off. Almost five years to the day that the building was first viewed tottering beneath vegetation and surrounded by heavy machinery.



BCRSMG UPDATE

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

The BCRSMG met as usual on Wed 8th June to carry out further work on the BC station layout.

The layout is now beginning to take shape to the extent that it was used on the Jubilee open day for its original intention to explain to visitors how the weighbridge sits within the original station complex and where the other station buildings were sited. This was made possible as Jonathan Moor's excellent buildings have been installed on the layout.

The Peco code 75 track work is now laid and a start has been made on 'ballasting' the track to represent the parlous state of the permanent way on the line in 1932!

The areas of land around the buildings have been transformed to represent the changes in levels on the approaches to the station building, goods shed, cattle and timber dock and the weighbridge.

At the next MG meeting on 22nd June a start will be made on wiring and testing the track.

The various controllers kindly donated to the BCRS will be PAT tested shortly for potential use on the BC station layout and the Thomas the Tank children's layout.

Stuart Taylor

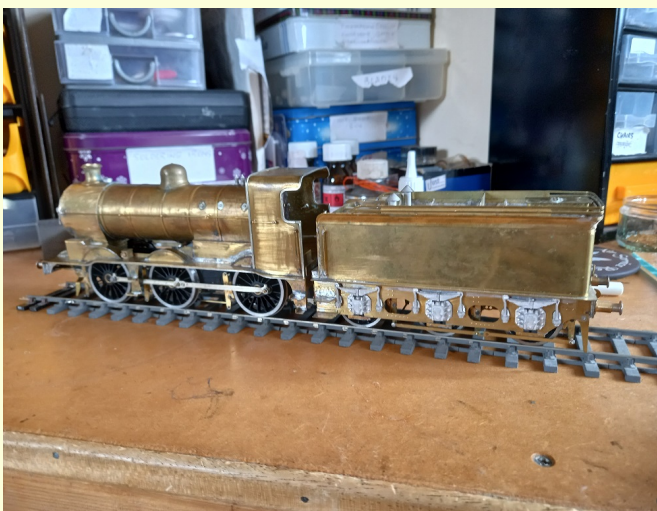
Member David Hemsley has donated a large quantity of boxed as new locos and carriages, also as new railway books, to sell for additional funds towards the layout. There has also been several large donations of model railway items from members and late members families.

David has manned a stall in the marquee at all of this year's open day events and has raised a significant amount of money, which is enabling the group to build a layout far exceeding initial expectations. It has been said that they are on a mission to represent every piece of rolling stock that ever ran on the BCR, in addition to locos 'Carlisle' and 'No.1 Tankie'.

Lin Dalton



Richard Newcombe on the right showing member John Tennent the latest developments on the layout.



Carlisle under construction



Lin Dalton showing the layout to a Shropshire Star photographer during the Jubilee open day.

Bishop's Castle Heritage Forum meetings resume after Covid.

The B.C Heritage Forum has held its first meeting since January 2020 and the Society were invited to attend the Heritage Centre on the 31st May 2022 for the first of what are planned to be quarterly meetings. B.C.R.S. Secretary Mike Boyd was sent along.

The Forum grew out of the steering group for the renovation of the Town Hall in 2013, and is intended to allow several of the Bishop's Castle area's heritage organisations to meet to exchange ideas and compare notes.

Member groups include the Albert Howard Society, B.C. Civic Society, Museum of Clun, the Heritage Resource Centre, House on Crutches Museum Trust, Mainstone History Group, B.C.Railway Society, South-west Shropshire Historical and Archaeological Society, the Town Hall Trust and the Town Tour Guides.

As the last meeting was some time ago, there was little of news to report, but various matters of interest to the wider group were discussed. All representatives agreed that the numbers of visitors to the various activities have been slow to pick-up following the pandemic. Meetings (virtual and 'live') have been generally poorly attended and numbers are generally down at talks and functions.

Mike Boyd was able to inform the forum however, that there has been a constant stream of visitors to the Weighbridge Museum ever since the gates were first opened in October 2021. People seem to have an interest in the Railway and its story, and are keen to listen to how that heritage is being made accessible.

Discussion included the use of cashless payments, as visitors frequently have no cash with them and need a means of instant payment. There are of course charges for these services and various degrees of complexity. Groups need to be sure they get value for money and understand the system before committing.

The Railway Society hopes to continue its contribution to the development of the Forum, and to assist in making the heritage and history of the Town interesting and involving.



The Village Shows are coming back...

Every year, on the last Sunday in June, Aston on Clun holds a Steam & Vintage Show on the Village Green. This year the event will take place on June 26th

The show includes a wide variety of vehicles and working equipment. These include cars, vans, lorries, buses, tractors and motor bikes. There are full size steam engines as well as working models.

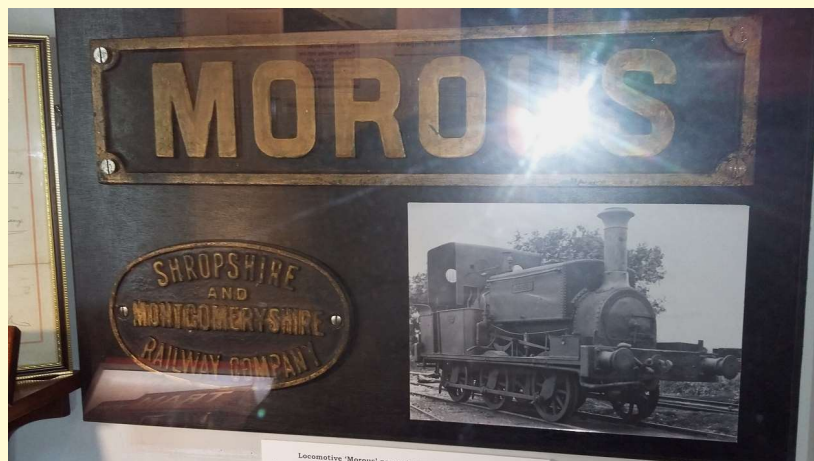
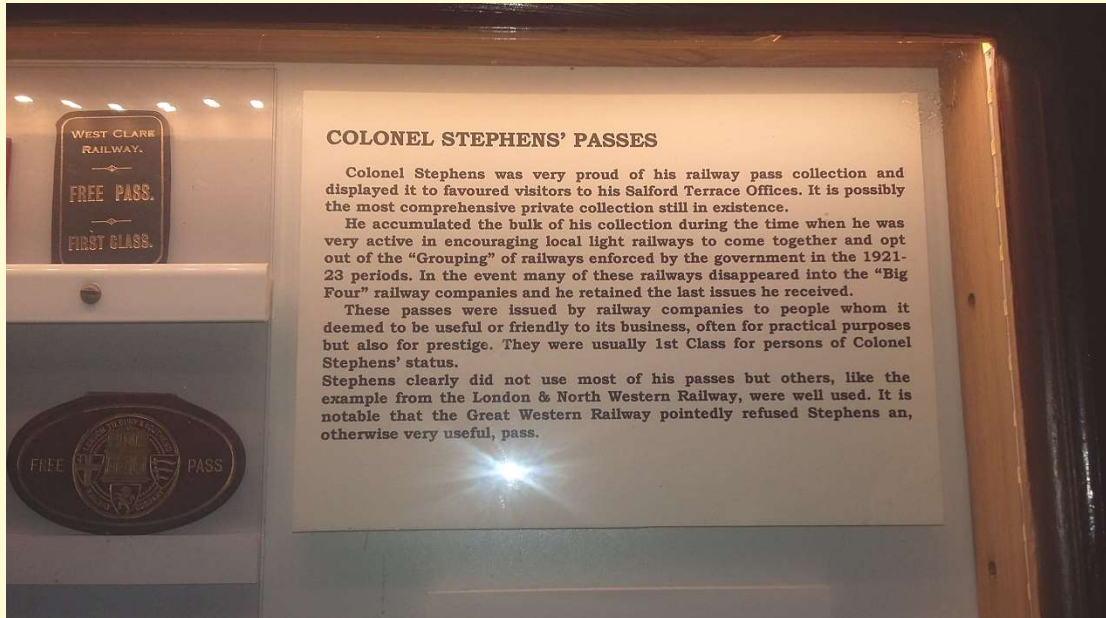
There are plenty of refreshments on offer.

Set among the beautiful countryside of the South Shropshire Hills its a great day out for all the family.

If you own a vintage vehicle, and you would like to show it, please contact John James on 01588 660568.

Member Derek Spooner sent in a few photographs from his holiday visit to the Colonel Stephens Museum at the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

On display are many of his Passes including one for the Bishop`s Castle Railway.



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

I thought it appropriate to start with an item with a royal theme

From the National Railway Museum, here's the story of the carriages used by the Royals on their trains over the years. Running time 14:17

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

A BBC documentary from 1989 when Mallard left the National Railway Museum at York to run on the Settle and Carlisle line. Running time 28:30

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IXPSSM00e-E>

A link to "Kirtley Bridge", an impressive O gauge layout, described by its builder. Running time 6:35

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AGcxBKFNb1I>

Finally a video shot last year. The presenter visits externally the stations on the BCR as well as the church at Myndtown for some reason. At Stretford Bridge, he finds timber from the platform as well as the remains of a brick structure. (The poor man`s Fred Dibnah!)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cKHm2Jkdj1g>

Bishop`s Castle Station Clock maybe..... Or maybe not...Who knows!

A recent email received from a gentleman who visited the museum earlier this year.

Lin

We popped in some time ago and had a great time at the weighbridge with you and the crowd.

We mentioned that our family folklore rumoured that my Grandfather (George Jones, Wooton House Farm, Colebatch) had obtained the clock from the station during decommissioning.

I attach a photo of the clock which we are very fond of.

Of course the story may be wrong but if ever you found any old photos from inside the station or office then who knows.

When up your way again I hope we can see you all again.

Kind regards - Richard Preece`



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