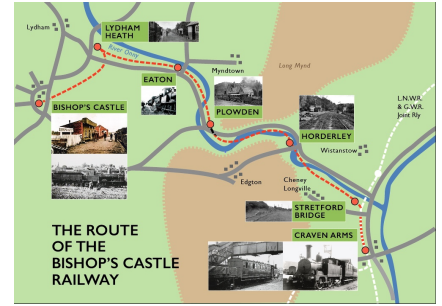


**B.C.R.S. NEWS**

**May 2022**

**No. 65**

**The Monthly Newsletter of  
The Bishop`s Castle Railway Society**



**Saturday 4th June 10am – 4pm**



**A DISPLAY OF VINTAGE FIRE  
FIGHTING EQUIPMENT**

*SOME FROM THE OLD BISHOP'S CASTLE  
HORSE DRAWN FIRE ENGINE*



**1937  
GENERAL MOTORS  
CORPORATION  
FIRE ENGINE**



**Plus Miniature Steam Models & lots more**



**Join us to celebrate  
Refreshments      Free Entry**



**The Weighbridge Railway Museum**

**Station Street, Bishop`s Castle, SY9 5AQ**

# WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Another successful open day was held on Sunday May 1st. Bishop`s Castle was buzzing with people looking for bargains at the many yard sales around the town. Volunteers were kept busy talking to visitors and the kettle was hardly off the boil!



Obtaining a mains water supply to the building is proving to be slow progress. Although it could have been worse, when it was discovered that an archaeological watching brief had been recommended for the Ransfords site development. To connect our building to the mains in Station Street we need to dig a trench across part of this land, albeit along the boundary line. Luckily the Shropshire Council archaeological adviser has given us the go ahead as long as we keep a watch when digging and stop if we find anything of interest.... Carlisle`s funnel maybe!

We are now waiting for a quote from a Severn Trent Water approved contractor, after which we need to obtain an easement from Ransfords and then finally we can make a start.



The signs are looking good for the return of the Horderley signal currently in the care of the National Railway Museum and being stored at Wroughton, near Swindon. Anthony Coulls, Senior Curator of Rail Transport and Technology at the National Railway Museum, has indicated that we have a very good chance of being permitted to have it back, but not for a while, as NRM are busy with plans for the 2025 celebrations.

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 24th of May and the 14th and 28th of June.

# SOCIETY UPDATE

**We welcome Jonathan Moor as the Society's Archivist. In his own words.....**

## A Cautionary Tale

I expect most of you will have heard of the ghost story penned by Charles Dickens entitled "The Signalman" and may have seen the BBC version of it, filmed on the Severn Valley Railway, as a ghost story for Christmas, back in 1976.

However, it was Montague Rhodes James (1862-1936), a Cambridge academic and ultimately Provost of Eton College, who penned the finest ghost stories in the English language. The title of one of them - "A Warning to the Curious" - (also filmed by the BBC this time in 1972) would have done very well for this short piece, the moral of which is never, never, visit Bishop's Castle on a Tuesday. Of course, I jest.

Having lived in Shropshire for some forty years, being a lifelong railway enthusiast and a modeller in 4mm finescale, I had heard of the Bishop's Castle Railway and eventually walked quite a bit of the track bed, no doubt trespassing in the course of doing so. I can equally remember, from annual visits to what I still think of as the Bishop's Castle Traction Engine Rally, seeing the goods shed which by then (the early 1980s) was beginning to fall to pieces, leading to its regrettable demolition in 1988. I seem to recall a report in The Shropshire Star recording its demise.

Anyway, thereafter I followed the ongoing restoration of the weighbridge with great interest. Last year, having recently retired, one Tuesday, knowing the newly restored building would be open, I suggested to my wife that we should go and see it, which led to meeting several stalwarts of the Society; a link fostered by the excellent cakes and shortbread produced by Nicky and Lin. Further discussions ensued and, having joined the Society, the idea of building a working model of the station as it was in the 1930s, was born. As you will know, this is an ongoing project.

However, the Society is the custodian of a small but highly important collection of relics of the old line. Having spent a considerable part of my life in and out of archivists' offices up and down the country - this in connection with my other main hobby of brass rubbing, something which I have been doing for over fifty years - I was honoured to be asked if I would undertake a review of the collection and produce a definitive list of what we hold. To this end I have been appointed as the Society's Honorary Archivist.

Now, it may well be that some of you have items relating to the railway in your possession. If so, please get in touch. It's surprising what turns up. Bearing in mind that Lew, the last surviving engine from the Lynton and Barnstaple Railway, may yet be found somewhere in South America, maybe Carlisle was not scrapped in 1937 but is presently languishing under a tarpaulin in someone's barn...

Jonathan Moor

You can contact Jonathan by emailing – [bcrscontact@gmail.com](mailto:bcrscontact@gmail.com)  
and marking your message FAO Jonathan Moor

## BCRSMG UPDATE

Any one interested in joining the group can contact Stuart Taylor at: [satalt17@gmail.com](mailto:satalt17@gmail.com)

The Model Group members are making steady progress with the construction of the Bishop's Castle station layout which attracted a lot of interest from visitors at the last open days.

The Bishop's Castle station complex of buildings is apparent now to visitors due to Jonathan Moor's sterling efforts with card, paint and weathering powders.

The temporary placement of the buildings on the baseboards has enabled the Peco Finescale track work to be positioned correctly on the boards as a fairly accurate representation of the station complex as it was in 1932.

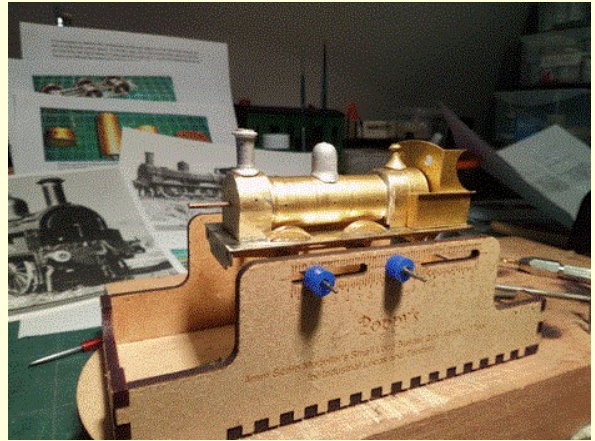
Now that the additional points and plain track have been received, it is envisaged that the track work will be completed at the next MG session.

It will then be possible to install the wire-in-tube point control and commence the (analogue) wiring of the track work.

Regarding the rolling stock, Carlisle is under construction at the moment (see photo above), a number of wagons have been completed and work on the construction of two of the coaches which were used on the line will commence shortly.

A kit of No.1 (Tanky) has been ordered from South Eastern Finecast (now Squires) and is expected to be delivered shortly.

*Stuart Taylor*



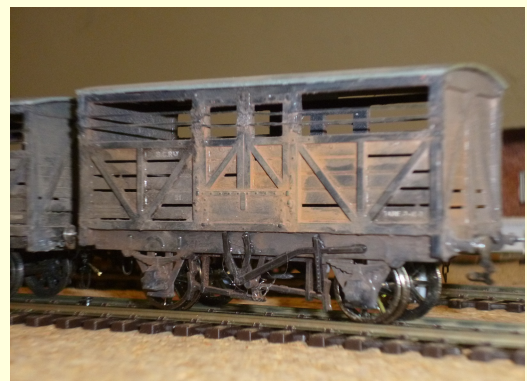
BC Railway open wagon 59 unfinished

The three BCR cattle wagons are now fully painted and weathered, complete with screw link couplings, full transfers, these giving not only the company name and number but also the tareage and the instruction to Return to Bishop's Castle via Craven Arms. The group are grateful to Albyn Austin who kindly supplied gratis a good number of spare transfers which he had commissioned.

*Jonathan Moor*



Ex Midland  
Railway  
cattle wagons



# The 2022 Movement for Good Awards

The Movement for Good Awards is an annual platform for giving, set up by all the businesses that make up the Benefact Group. It's an opportunity to make a tangible difference to the lives of people and communities by supporting the charities, not-for-profit organisations, and community interest projects that mean something to you.

This year they are donating more than £1 million, and they can't do it without you!

You can make a difference. They are not asking for money, or any real time, just your nomination of a registered charity, not-for-profit organisation, or community interest company in the UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands or Isle of Man. Anyone can nominate and that one act could potentially mean an extra £1,000 to those trying to make a difference. The more nominations a charity receives, the greater their chance of winning, so once you've done your part, spread the word and make it a movement!

**Please Nominate the Bishop`s Castle Railway Society today.**

Go to [movementforgood.com](https://movementforgood.com)

Enter our CHARITY NUMBER which is 1111918

Enter your Name and Email address.

Complete a couple of tick box questions and that`s it.....Done!

Once you`ve entered we will be in for all three draws, so all you need to do is keep spreading the word to build up the number of nominations. Anyone can nominate us, family or friends, they just need to enter from a different email address.

**The more nominations we have the more chance of winning £1,000 !**

**We were lucky once before in the Summer of 2020.  
With your help we could do it again!**

GRAVEN ARMS & DISTRICT MODEL RAILWAY CIRCLE



## MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION

AT  
LUDLOW RACECOURSE  
BROMFIELD, LUDLOW, SY8 2BT

SATURDAY 14<sup>th</sup> MAY 2022  
10am to 4pm

MANY 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

A GREAT DAY OUT FOR ALL THE FAMILY



Ashburton, a classic GWR terminus in Devon. Built by John Woodhall, owned and operated by Craven Arms & District Model Railway Circle. Appearing at Ludlow Racecourse on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**This Saturday  
Support them if you can**

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

The railways in the UK were, and still are, obliged to transport dangerous goods. This video explains the history using plenty of archive footage. Running time 18:37

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zth4RyGJne8>

Here's the narrow gauge Bala Lake Railway which opened in 1972. It runs for 4.5 miles from the village of Llanuwcllyn to the outskirts of Bala. Running time 12:20

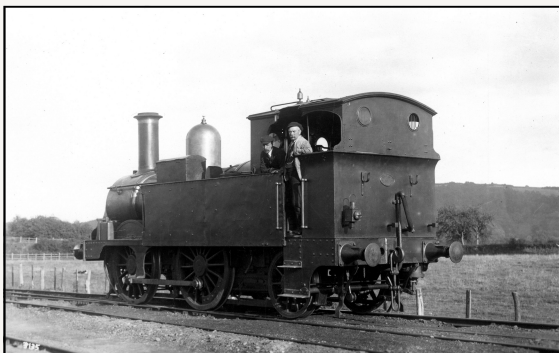
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PHZhTbxXpOY>

Seven impressive OO layouts at Model Railway Scotland 2022. Running time 12:12

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6bqzrA21O68>



## Bishop`s Castle Railway 2023 Calendar 13 Nostalgic photographs



£7.50 to collect  
or £9.00 incl. p&p  
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by the 1st of each month

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