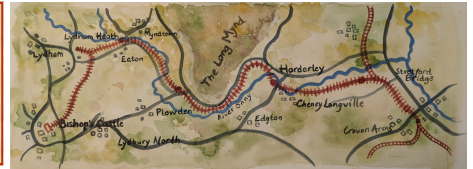


The Monthly Newsletter of The Bishop's Castle Railway Society

APRIL
2023
No. 76



The 2023 AGM.

The Annual General Meeting of the Bishop's Castle Railway Society was held on Friday 14th April 2023 at Enterprise House in Bishop's Castle. Thirteen members attended. This was the first time since the pandemic that the AGM was 'live' and not by video conference.

This meeting is a requirement under the terms of our Articles of Association as a Limited Company. It is an opportunity for the membership to question the Directors about decisions taken during the year, to study a certified copy of the Accounts and have these explained, and to express their views on any matter affecting the Society.

It is also the time for the appointment of new Directors and we were pleased to welcome Mr David Hemsley to the Board. David is a resident of Bishop's Castle and is a keen modeller. He will bring a fresh outlook and ideas and we look forward to working with him.

We were also happy to see Mr Roger Dalton re-elected to the Board. Roger was required to stand down (under the terms of the Articles) but was keen to stand for immediate re-election. Directors can only serve a maximum of three years before they must stand for election again. Roger has been involved in the restoration of the Weighbridge from the start and his technical input and skills as a project manager have been invaluable.

Our Treasurer Mr Malcolm Jones is also to stand down in a few weeks time. Malcolm has been an excellent Treasurer, frequently going far beyond the requirements of simply keeping financial records. He has ensured that Directors are always up to date and has drawn attention to any potential problems long before they arise. He has drawn up forecasts and made Directors consider various 'what-if' scenarios to test the effects of decisions on the financial future. He has ensured that money is always used to the best advantage, by watching interest rates and costs, and advising on how and when to move funds around. During the Covid pandemic, Malcolm had to keep up with the unpredictability of our income, as well as the various grants and support from Government. Not a job for the financially naïve, such as your Secretary!

For the future, we have availed ourselves of the services of Enterprise House, who offer book-keeping and accountancy to small business in the area. The service is not free, but Directors take the view that services such as money management should be in capable hands. A disaster with a paintbrush may be embarrassing, but a disaster with a cheque-book may not be recoverable.

There was also a discussion around the Journal. Directors canvassed the views of members about the costs and value of the publication. It was almost unanimous that it is an important part of the Society and that it is worth the cost. Several members stated that they would be willing to pay an even higher membership fee should that be required to keep the Journal. It was felt to be a quality publication and does not compete with the monthly Newsletter, which has a different role. The option of an on-line version was discussed, as this would be a simple way to cut the cost of postage. Members felt that a paper copy was by far the best option and were not in favour of an e-Journal. Most liked to read from a page rather than a screen: some said that even the envelope was a collectable, as it has pictures on it! The efforts of Craven Print were noted, as they assemble the articles and format the pages.

Do please, let us know your views on the Society; contact details are on the website and in the Journal.

Mike Boyd, Secretary.



Weighbridge Railway Museum

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

Next Open Days

Tuesdays 25th April, 9th May & 23rd May
11am – 3pm

The Museum will also be open on Sunday 30th April for the Annual Bishop`s Castle Yard Sale.

An event started during the periods of slight relaxation during the lockdown years and proved so popular it is now an annual event.

Sunday 30th April

The Weighbridge Railway Museum,

Station Street, Bishop`s Castle.

Open 11am—4pm Free Entry

All Railway Books in the Banana van, £2 each or "fill a bag" for £10.



Offer applies to a standard size shopping bag or equivalent

SALE OF SURPLUS RAILWAYANA & MODEL RAILWAY ITEMS



Bishop`s Castle Station oo gauge layout circa 1932 Carlisle plus a guest engine will be appearing on the line.



*Tea * Coffee & Homemade Cake*

The 3rd Annual BISHOP'S CASTLE TOWN YARD SALE SUNDAY 30 APRIL 2023 Bank Holiday Weekend



Framed Prints £15



Mounted Prints £7.50

New to the exclusive range of BCR Colourised Print Merchandise

Mugs £7.50

Mounted prints £7.50

Framed prints £15.00

Also

Blank Cards & Birthday Cards

£2.50 each

Also available by post

See the website <https://bcrailway.co.uk>



BCRSMG UPDATE

News from the layout. Terraforming continues at pace, with the Bishop's Castle landscape now recognisable from shed to Love Lane bridge. Almost all the landscape cover is now green and growing, with crops and livestock waiting to be discovered by visitors to the weighbridge. Most buildings are still to be bedded down and blended in, but this should be done by the start of June.



The photo above shows that a signal post has sprouted at the nearly completed bridge, pointlessly guarding the exit from the station. Pointlessly, because as far as I know, it was never used for its proper purpose. Its even more puzzling twin, in front of the engine shed, is also in place.

In preparation for the forthcoming Craven Arms MRC/Ludlow Racecourse exhibition (on Saturday 3 June, 10am to 4pm, see www.facebook.com/CADMRC/), with hearts in mouth we are splitting the layout for transportation.

At the moment (photo right) I know it looks like we are modelling the San Andreas Fault, after it has revealed ancient catacombs left behind by some obsessively geometric alien civilisation, but all will be well once the track and connecting wires have been soldered in place and the scenery touched up and blended in.

David Hemsley



Work on completing the layout has stepped up a notch with the modelling group now meeting every Wednesday afternoon as well as visiting the weighbridge when possible to carry out specific tasks.

Jonathan is in the process of finishing the Love Lane bridge and embankment complete with passing farm vehicles. Many more intricate details have been added and the whole landscape surrounding the station is beginning to tell a very interesting story of the life of the BCR.



In order to save money on the cost of hiring a van to transport the layout to exhibitions it has been decided that it should be split in half. The photos (left and right) show how this has been achieved. This will enable the layout to be transported in MG members' vehicles.



It has been raised on temporary trestles to enable the MG members to get underneath the baseboards to continue making the wiring connections.

The control panel has also been made accessible and will be separated from the baseboards for transportation. It has been wired to enable two operators to control the layout via a twin controller allowing two engines in steam. Although this is not strictly prototypical, it will provide more interest to the visiting public at exhibitions and weighbridge open days.

The Metro Tank, which was kindly donated to the BCRS by Chris Jackson's widow, will be operational in time for the June 3rd exhibition and will be used in conjunction with 'Carlisle' until such time that the kit for the construction of 'Tankie' is available. **Stuart Taylor**

Following the appeal for help in last month`s Newsletter,

Member Simon Rice offered to help with the archiving of all the old BCR photographs. Although Simon lives in Spain and is our longest distance member, with support from Mike Boyd, Jonathan Moor and David Hemsley via emails and Zoom, he is well on the way to cataloguing all the photographs in a format that will make it easy to find a specific subject.

Now that all the known photographs from various sources have been brought together, it has become clear that there are many duplicates of varying quality and some which appear to have been cropped from the full version for specific purposes.

If you have any BCR photographs that you think may not have been previously seen, please consider sending them to Mike Boyd for inclusion in the archive.

This is a task that is long overdue and although it has been occasionally attempted in the past, it was never completed. It is a huge task, now being undertaken by a small group of enthusiastic members, who will be providing an historic railway photographic archive, available to be accessed in perpetuity.

The intention is for this photographic archive to be available on the website, but the big question is...should it be freely available to all visitors to the website, or free to members via a dedicated members section, and available for a small fee to non members?.

All options are being investigated and if you have any ideas or opinions please let Mike know - thesecretary.bcr@gmail.com

Introducing Alex of the Archive

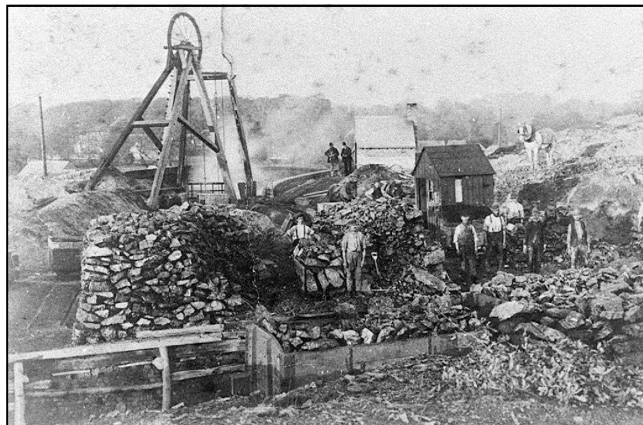
In contrast to his feminine counterpart Alex seeks answers to conundrums rather than providing them. As he ploughs his way through the BCRS archives in an attempt to catalogue the photograph archives he'll be seeking advice from his fellow BCRS members solving such riddle as: 'In which decade were knickerbocker trousers most popular in order to have at least a rough idea when a photo was taken?', or 'Why was there a 'main line' lattice signal adjacent to the Bishop's Castle engine shed in such a position that it would be all but invisible to the crew?'

**Look out for the next Conundrum
in the May newsletter**



The Curious Case of the Minsterley Miner

Following Jim's illuminating update about a Mr George Young of Minsterley breaking the coal embargo to Bishops castle during the 1877 seizure of the line by bailiffs (BCRS News N° 75, March 2023), Simon Rice recalls his family moving to that area, buying a cottage from the neighbouring farm, run by two generations of Youngs with a third still youngsters, although too young for him to play with, coming up behind them.



The Shropshire Coalfields Picture: Vera Evans

Simon remembers one of his chores being to collect fresh milk from the Young's parlour in the last few years when it was still collected in churns by the Minsterley Creamery and listened, somewhat bemused, 'Old Man' Young (about seventy years old), telling endless yarns about his life, the farm and the area in a strong Salop dialect almost entirely unintelligible to the 11-year-old who had arrived fresh from the Wirral ...

But from that miasma one recollection of the Young family history remains clear all these years later, namely that the family used to be colliers until the mines were worked out in the late Nineteenth Century when they bought the farm cheap during a slump in agriculture, with the Old Man having been born in the impressive farmhouse.

On leaving school Simon left the area never to return and has no connections at all locally to verify any of this but it's a charming speculation that the George Young that Jim referred to was Young the Elder, the founder of the farming dynasty and that maybe inflated embargo busting prices for his coal gave the family economy enough of a boost to make the move into a new life!

Mike Boyd thought this urgent safety advice from the RAIB might be of interest to any of our members involved with Heritage Railways.

Urgent Safety Advice: Passenger doors not centrally controlled and/or locked by train crew

Safety issue Suitable arrangements may not be in place to mitigate the risks arising from the operation of passenger trains formed of rolling stock with doors that are not centrally controlled and/or locked by train crew (principally slam door rolling stock) where these trains are close to, or longer than, the length of station platforms.

Background At around 11:49 hrs on 14 January 2023, a passenger lost their footing and sustained a serious injury while alighting from a train at Loughborough Central station on the Great Central Railway. The Great Central Railway is a heritage railway and the passenger train involved was formed of historic slam door rolling stock. The accident occurred just after the train had stopped and as the passenger was alighting from the leading door of the train's leading coach. The train stopped in a position which meant that this door was adjacent to the ramped part of the platform, which is not intended for public use. The passenger lost their footing and sustained their injuries while they were stepping down from the coach and onto the platform ramp.

Jim`s monthly selection of videos & discoveries

A documentary about the Cambrian Railway made for HTV in 1995 with mentions of Thomas Savin. the original contractor for the BCR. Running time 24:27

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vnD8PS-uCZ4>

A film from some years ago showing a restored Beyer Garratt locomotive on India`s South Eastern Railway. What a beast! Running time 9:42

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SpE4P2eX-8

This is an amazing Hornby Dublo layout with a huge amount of stock and accessories. There are trains, vehicles and even bicycles all running seemingly automatically. Running time 8:18

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0PGZXRkKrk>

Here`s an odd one. The Ludlow Advertiser of 13/01/1906 reported on a meeting of Bishop`s Castle Town Council. A committee advised the council to call the attention of the BCR`s manager to the bad state of the approach road to Love Lane bridge and asking him to do the necessary repairs. Surely Salop County Council would have been responsible for the maintenance of the road as it was a public highway? I can imagine the manager`s response!

Peter Broxholme answered my question about the bridges. It seems that the Inspector`s report was incorrect in that there was only one over bridge with a brick arch that being Glenburrell Bridge. The other three were wrought iron ones at Love Lane, Lydham Heath and near Cheney Longville (the one shown in the photo in the March Newsletter).

Jim



Please take one minute
to nominate us
for £1,000!



If you haven`t yet
nominated
The Bishop`s Castle
Railway Society

Click on the link below
to nominate us
for all the 2023 draws

https://movementforgood.com/index.php?cn=1111918&ct=heritage_arts&i=1681143383-50499.jpg&utm_source=holiday+card&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=M4G2023card&utm_id=M4G2023card

<https://bcrailway.co.uk>



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If you have an item for the Newsletter please send to Lin Dalton at mail@ludfordpark.plus.com by the 1st of each month

You can opt out of receiving this newsletter at any time by emailing:- mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

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