



The Monthly Newsletter of The Bishop's Castle Railway Society



Left to Right: Mike Boyd, Roger Dalton, Malcolm Jones, Malcolm Reeves

Malcolm Jones has now retired as our Treasurer and is seen here receiving a Ludlow Brewery Gift Voucher on behalf of the Society.

Malcolm's response was :

'What an excellent choice of leaving present, one of my favourite places to be.'

Cheers Malcolm

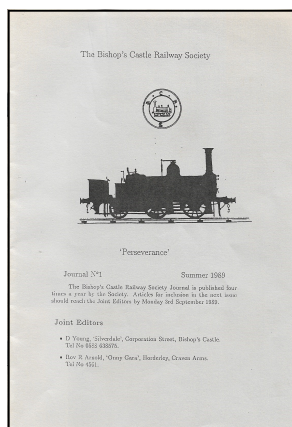
**Enjoy your Retirement
and Thank You**

**for all you have done to set the
Society finances on a firm footing.**

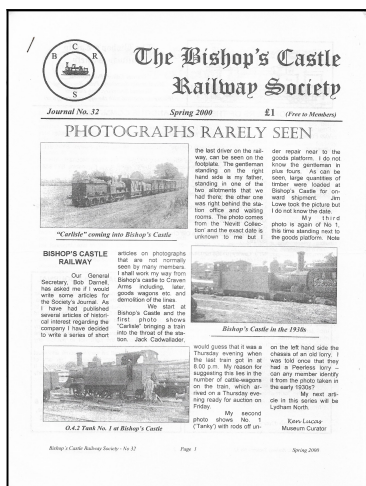
BACK COPIES OF JOURNALS

The Society has recently been given a large quantity of railway related items from the family of the late Chris Jackson, who was a BCRS member for many years. There are railway modelling items, lots of railway books and a considerable number of early BCRS Journals.

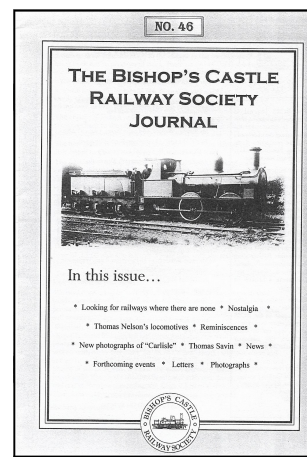
The Journals are in three different designs. If any member collects the Journals and has some missing issues or would like any of these back issues please let Lin know at mail@ludfordpark.plus.com All we ask is the cost of the postage.



A5 Nos. 8,9,19,20,
22 to 31



A4 sheets Nos.34,35,
39 -45



A5 Nos. 46-68
minus No. 48



Weighbridge Railway Museum

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

Next Open Days

Tuesdays 23rd May & 13th June

11am – 3pm

The recent Sunday open day for the Bishop`s Castle Yard Sale event was a big success despite the slightly damp start. Sales of refreshments and second hand railway books was buoyant and together with BCR mugs, pictures, books and donations a total of £356.50 was taken.

Among the many visitors was Steve Downes, who some of you will know from Eardington Halt on the Severn Valley Railway. We were pleased that he chose to spend quite a few hours of his birthday with us.

The BCR layout proved popular with both fellow modellers and visitors ,who found it really useful to help them understand where the station had been in relation to the weighbridge building.



Left to Right: Foreground Steve Downes, and Mike Boyd Working in the background Steve`s wife and Lin Dalton



Modeller Jonathan Moor second from the right in discussion with a group of visitors.

David Hemsley our book shop aficionado spent most of the day sorting through the large boxes of railway books donated from the late Chris Jackson`s collection.

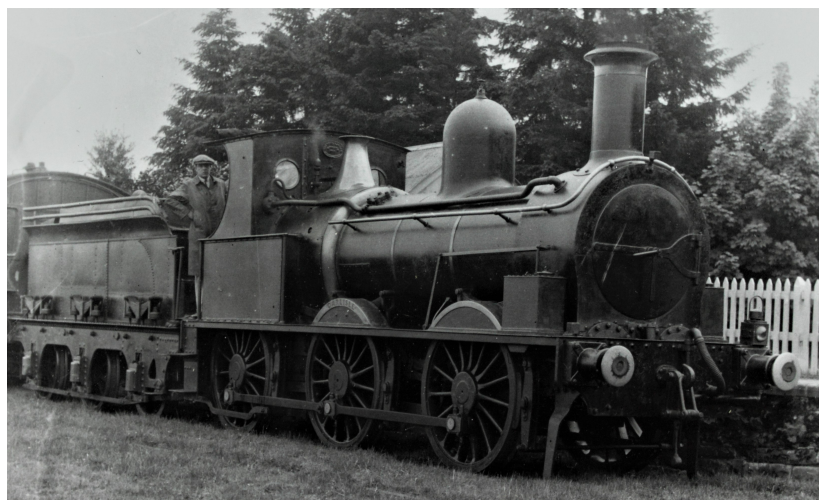


Malcolm Reeves on the right talking to a potential customer. David Hemsley is out of sight, probably on his knees surrounded by piles of books.

Regular open days continue on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month. The next big open day event is on Sunday 16th July when the whole of Bishop`s Castle will be celebrating the 450th Anniversary of the signing of the royal charter by Queen Elizabeth the first. We haven't yet decided on a theme for the day as railways hadn't been invented in 1573. Any suggestions?

Alex of the Archive:

May 2023



Lately Alex has been trying to solve the vexing problem of identifying the true colour of Carlisle's livery. So far he's made good progress on the mechanical or physical aspects thanks to the archive, However the colour of the paintwork has been more problematical as the images are all in black and white of course!

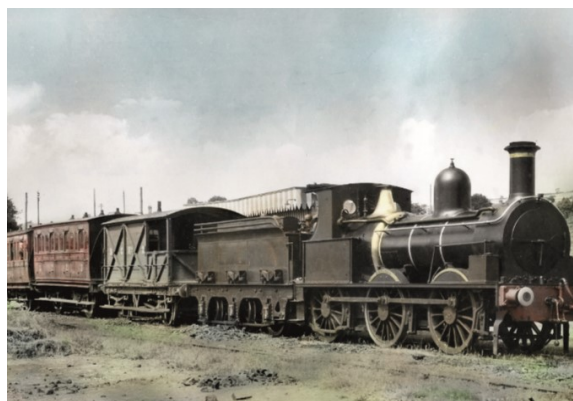
There are some 'meta' clues or reasonable assumptions, i.e. from eye witness accounts and the fact that the 'modern' six wheeled tender, pictured here, came second hand from the GWR's Wolverhampton works where Carlisle was also overhauled while the tender was fitted, so it's seems likely that the tender was in GWR green and Carlisle repainted to match using standard livery paint from the work's store.

But there are other interpretations and caveats: it may be just as likely that Carlisle was repainted to order by BCR and the new tender painted to match this livery. Secondly even if it was GWR livery used what was the exact tone at that time?

In this very clear photo from the Archive in which Carlisle is polished up to the nines - almost ex-works, note the neat splodges of grease on the buffers - apparently for a special occasion as the gent on the footplate doesn't look like a regular driver, begging a secondary question of his identity! - and the boiler, splashers, etc. are definitely appear to be a different colour to the black of the smokebox and its door. But that only takes us thus far ...

We've been told that there is specialist software to identify colours from old photographs. No doubt sophisticated algorithms are in use and if these use known reference colours to aid the process. in this picture there are several: the 'new' steel on the buffers, the copper band of the chimney, the polished brass of the safety valve cover and above all the foliage in the background which looks to like common silver birch trees (*Abies alba*) which although not native to Britain were popular plantation trees. The great advantage of these being that the colour never varies despite the season, and as this image has no date, other than '1930's', the colour may still be a reliable reference.

Meanwhile in the editing process Lin Dalton has come up with a second image that has been 'colourised'. Like many others this seems rather pallid although such features as the brass safety valve cover and the elegant surround of the firebox - hard to credit that Carlisle was originally a humble contractor's work-horse rather than a prestigious crack express engine! - come out well but that 'copper' band on the chimney? And what of the green? If the boiler is any colour at all, rather than a gloss black, it would seem that dark purple is the option - and what about the cab and tender?



Colourisation by Colin Balls FRPS

So, any thoughts folks? Replies to Alex c/o - mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

BCRSMG UPDATE

With the Ludlow Model Railway Show now less than a month away, work on Bishop's Castle c.1932 is almost complete, the modelling group having stepped up their activities so as to complete various outstanding tasks. That said, there always remains something to do, and no model railway layout can ever be said to be finished.

As you will have been seen from the previous Newsletter, the layout has been split into its two main parts along Shropshire's very own San Andreas Fault. At this location David Hemsley has done a superb job of completing, at speed, all of the necessary electrical work to enable the layout to function, and which also means that the layout is so much easier to transport. He is presently hard at work laying the track on the traverser and wiring that up too.



Assisted by David Etheridge, Stuart is continuing making live the electrical connections at the terminus end of the layout. Jonathan has been finishing off various scenic items, including the second part of the back scene (the countryside), the Love Lane bridge, and the station approach, while at long last all of the buildings, including the station, platform, and goods shed, have been bedded in. Roger Dalton has continued employing his excellent woodworking skills and produced two posts on which the layout name board will be mounted.

What we now require from all of you is to come along to the Ludlow Model Railway Show, bringing with you your family and friends in order to see Bishop's Castle c.1932 in action on its first trip away from the Weighbridge, resplendent beneath the superb name board painted for us by Malcolm Reeves.

So, after some two years of hard work, the 4mm model of Bishop's Castle station is now nearing completion, but, in all likelihood, that is not to be the end of the story. Serious consideration is being given to an extension that will take the model down the line to Lydham Heath. This being so, more volunteers are very welcome to come and join the modelling group in order to help bring this to pass. Then there is Eaton, Plowden ... Malcolm, I think you'll need to paint us another sign!

My sincere thanks to the Directors of the Society for voting the modelling group the necessary funds to bring the model into being - I hope we have done justice to your vision - to all who have helped on the model to date, and to David Hemsley for the latest photographs.

Jonathan Moor



**Craven Arms & District
MODEL RAILWAY CIRCLE**

**MODEL RAILWAY EXHIBITION
LUDLOW RACECOURSE
BROMFIELD, LUDLOW, SY8 2BT
SATURDAY 3rd JUNE 2023
10am to 4pm**



**WE PLAN TO PRESENT UP TO 19 LAYOUTS AND DISPLAYS
TOGETHER WITH TRADE STANDS
FREE PARKING & DISABLED ACCESS
LIGHT REFRESHMENTS ALSO AVAILABLE**

Featured layout: Blakecaster, by Arline Wilson
Is scheduled to appear at Ludlow Racecourse on 3rd June 2023

Then and Now in April 2023

Comparing before and after photographs of the BCR stations has probably been done several times before, however, until now, the Society did not hold a full set of all the stations, then and now, in it's archive, .

Recently, John Williams a Network Rail worker, embarked on a project to produce a full set and post them on the Disused Stations Facebook page. Some of you may have already seen them shared to the Society Facebook page, but for those who don't do Facebook, here are the first two stations. Next month Plowden and Eaton.

STRETFORD BRIDGE HALT



The site of Stretford bridge junction seen off Cheney Longville road bridge



Stretford bridge junction , the halt can be seen centre of the photo to the left of the telegraph pole between the two bushes

HORDERLEY



Horderley station building, compare with the new photo to see how much has been extended.



Horderley station looking towards Bishop`s castle.

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

A rather dated, but topical, film made by the LMS in 1937. It blends footage of the Coronation of King George VI with the building of the Coronation locomotive which would haul the Coronation Scot. Running time 8:48

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

Some stunning footage of the Ffestiniog and Welsh Highland Railway seen from the air. Running time 6:26

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ap-sCY8KzFk>

Greg Brookes' superb industrial layout "Shenston Road" is set somewhere between Wolverhampton and Birmingham in the late 1960s and early 1970s . Running time 20:03

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vThOdgPE03I>

Bishop`s Castle Small Grants Scheme.

Members will be aware that efforts are in hand to obtain 'professional' copies of the paper artefacts that the Society holds, and to have these documents and the Society's photograph collection properly catalogued in a database.

The intention is that the paper items will be stored in controlled conditions with the Shropshire County Archives, and the copies will be available for display or research purposes as required.

They will therefore be much better protected in the longer term and more easily available for members to view if they so wish.

The Trustees are pleased to report that the Society has been awarded a Grant of £750 towards the costs of this project, by the Bishop's Castle Town Council Small Grants Committee.

Your Secretary, Mike Boyd, and Director David Hemsley were invited to attend the recent public meeting at the Town Hall, to receive a cheque for this amount. Other groups were also represented, including various sporting, arts and social organisations, with grants awarded to projects for the benefit of the local community.

A short presentation was made to the meeting, where Trustees described the aims of the project. At next year's meeting, a report must be given about the progress being made.

Any suggestions or ideas from members around the best way forward with this project, or how best to make the material available, would be very welcome.

Mike Boyd,
Secretary.

<https://bcrailway.co.uk>



[Bishop's Castle Railway Society | Facebook](#)

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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