



B.C.R.S.
NEWS

July 2023
No. 79



The Monthly Newsletter of The Bishop's Castle Railway Society

WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

The French drain at the eastern end of the building has been completed and is to be topped off with 19mm gravel to make a better walking surface.

Thanks to Stephen Wallace for bringing his Kango breaker, Les Morris and his tractor for taking all the soil away, Rich Carpenter and Mike Boyd for supplying the muscle power.

Hopefully, the wall in Room 3, that is home to the BCR 00gauge layout, will dry out during the summer months ready for repainting with lime wash in the autumn.
(Photos right and below)



Sunday 16th July is a big day for Bishop's Castle. On that date in 1573 Queen Elizabeth I granted a Charter to the town and 450 years later big celebrations are planned.

Try as we might, we couldn't think of a railway connection to fit the Tudor theme! So we've done the next best thing and decided on a railway themed car boot sale in the yard. Railway clubs and individuals are invited to reserve a space to sell all things railway related. For more details call 07553 010196 or email: mail@ludfordpark.plus.com



Weighbridge Railway Museum ~ Bishop's Castle
Sunday 16th July 2023

10.30-3.30

Do you have items of model railway equipment or Railwayana to sell for yourself or your club?

Bring your car and sell from your boot in the Weighbridge yard

£5
per car

Booking essential

Call: 07553 010196 or email:

mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

Tea or Coffee

and Homemade Cake

In conjunction with the 450th Charter Celebrations

• 1573 • 2023 •

SAVE THE DATE

On 16th July 1573 Queen Elizabeth I

granted a charter to Bishop's Castle and

450 years later it's time to celebrate!

Join us on 16th July for a Tudor street

fair from 10am - ages with games,

music, food, drink and more...

Come in costume to join in the fun!

All will be well.... Or will it?

At the end of 2017 when the School Lane museum closed it looked likely that in due course the Society would cease to exist. However, along came an opportunity to save an original BCR building and with it a chance to reinvigorate the Society.

There was a huge amount of support from volunteer work parties of local members and the community, plus donations from those who lived further afield or were unable to help physically.

All was well, and then Covid struck. I won't dwell on that, we all know what happened. Small parties of volunteers continued to work on site, and by 2021 there was a building to be proud of and the Weighbridge Railway Museum, exclusively telling the story of the Bishop's Castle Railway was opened to the public.

Slowly life returned to normal, or did it? Like so many organisations, we found that, for various reasons many volunteers did not return. The future of the museum is now in a precarious situation. Whilst there is still a small band of dedicated volunteers, this is not sustainable. Without more volunteers to lessen the load of the few, the museum will eventually be unable to open to the public.

Lin Dalton

Here follows a blunt, but no less heartfelt message from a member.....

"This is a rather different piece to that which I am used to writing; be it to do with the Society's archives or the 4mm Finescale model of Bishop's Castle c.1932 and which has proved such an undoubted hit with visitors both to the Weighbridge and the Ludlow Model Railway Show. Some of you will be aware that I volunteer twice a week down at the Visitor Information Centre (VIC) in Ludlow and in the words, attributed to the late Max Bygraves, "I wanna tell you a story".

Last week, I was asked, in quick succession, by two pairs of visitors to the VIC why we did not open on Sundays - surely there were always people in town needing information - and why on Thursday when Judi Dench was in town to give a talk at the Ludlow Assembly Rooms (LAR), hadn't we opened up sooner so as to enable people like themselves to collect their pre-booked tickets earlier. Surely it would have made sense to do so. They had picked the wrong person. I asked politely if they were retired and local residents. Yes, to both questions. I went on to point out that 95% of us at the LAR are retired and volunteers. Would they like to come along and help as we are desperately short staffed? Too busy to do so was the reply in each case - grandchildren and other commitments. At which point my customary tact disappeared. This being so, then please don't make fatuous suggestions to me about Sunday opening or longer hours.

The point of telling all of you this is that we in the Bishop's Castle Railway Society are also desperately short of volunteers to help open the Weighbridge for visitors to enjoy. Lin Dalton has made repeated pleas for help in the past and by and large these have fallen on deaf ears.

However, the present situation which sees the same handful of people coming along to steward, run the model, provide tea and cakes, open up the book van, and undertake other projects around the site, is no longer tenable. Future projects, including the provision of a proper wooden level crossing gate as our entrance, the re-erection of the original signal from Horderley station (which the National Railway Museum has intimated will be lent to us on long term loan) will not be able to be undertaken. So too the acquisition of a further van body - which has had to be shelved - in which to house Bishop's Castle c.1932 and the extension of the layout down the line to Lydham Heath - because we do not have the volunteers to undertake this and other projects.

So please stop ignoring pleas for help, blithely assuming that all will be well, and someone else will do what is required. They haven't so far. Mark my words without more of you coming forward to volunteer your time, the Weighbridge will shut its doors for good and all that we have achieved to date will have been wasted. I make no apologies for what I say to those of you who live locally and who don't come down, get yourselves organised, stop making excuses, and come down and help.

Jonathan Moor

To find out how you can help contact Lin 07553 010196 or mail@ludfordpark.plus.com

We have waited almost 90 years for Carlisle to run again, and like buses, two have come along at once.



Peter`s 0 gauge Carlisle on it`s test run on a garden railway

First there was the OO gauge model built by member Andy Jones in Lewes and shown recently at the Ludlow Exhibition and then member Peter Featherstone sent this short video of a test run for his 0 gauge Carlisle on a friend`s layout.

<https://bcrailway.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/VID-20230601-WA0006.mp4>

Peter says "The 'Brake van special' seemed the most appropriate train and we might imagine the RCTS organising such a train if the BCR had survived a few more years!" (Photo below)



Member Simon Dunkley reminded me about a third Carlisle, Barry Norman`s S scale model from 1990. This was part of the Lydham Heath layout sold to the BCRS and subsequently sold to Simon when the School Lane Museum closed in 2017.

A few of us saw it again at an exhibition at the Ludlow Mascall Centre last September, before Simon sold it on again. I wonder where it will appear next? Lin Dalton



The final station comparison
LYDHAM HEATH
Current photos taken in April
2023 by Network Rail worker
John Williams



Google earth photo of Lydham Heath station and the junction.



Lydham Heath station looking back towards the junction for Craven Arms and Bishop`s Castle.



Site of Lydham Heath station looking towards the junction.



Lydham Heath station yard as it is today.

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

Here`s a brief history of GWR`s iconic class 5700 pannier tank engines. Running time 5:10

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

Britain`s newest railway station was officially opened recently. The Llangollen Railway has been extended from Carrog to Corwen after many years of hard work and now runs for some ten miles through the beautiful Dee Valley. This video shows the presenter getting his hands, and more, dirty helping to prepare the locomotive for the big day as well as the event itself. Some great drone footage. Running time 30:48

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p4IKCV4CuPQ>

An incredibly detailed model railway layout set in Knaresborough, North Yorkshire. It took seven years to build it. Running time 4:49

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=33qUoeFICUw>

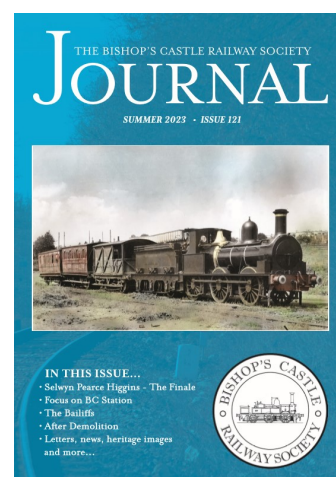
SOCIETY WEBSITE

Members will by now have received their copy of the Summer journal, which contains many photographs and prints of documents. I know from comments received, that some of you find the print rather small and would like to see these items in greater detail.

I am pleased to say that the Members Only page on the website is now available and the password accompanies this newsletter. You will be able to access all the journals and enlarge anything you wish, to make viewing easier. I would like to thank James and Lucy at Craven Print for making this possible, at no additional charge to the Society.

Also on the Members Only page you will be able to view all the BCR documents recently deposited at the Shrewsbury Archives, plus links to other websites where BCR documents and artefacts are known to be listed. If you know of any other websites, please let me know and I will add to the information to enable all members to share in this knowledge.

You will see that there is a third page awaiting the BCR photographic collection. It is hoped to complete that section soon. We know there are other photographs out there and if anyone wishes to share their collection with the rest of the membership, I will gladly add them to the collection. **Lin Dalton**



<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

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