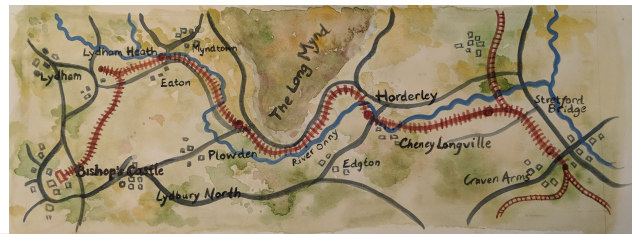


B.C.R.S. October 2023 NEWS No. 82



The Monthly Newsletter of The Bishop's Castle Railway Society

WEIGHBRIDGE RAILWAY MUSEUM

Malcolm Reeves has once again been busy working on the restoration of the donated railway bench. Whilst we realised it was not a BCR bench, it was decided that the fact that it was a railway bench, and extra large, meant it would be a very useful addition for visitors to use on open days.

Following a recent visit to the weighbridge, Malcolm Jones did some research into the original location of this "East Didsbury and Parrs Wood" railway bench. He found out that East Didsbury and Parrs Wood station, now re-named East Didsbury, was on the line, south of Manchester from Wilmslow to Longsight and into Manchester London Road. This line has seen openings and closures over the years and now has a through route addition to Manchester Airport and arrives at the re-named Manchester Piccadilly.

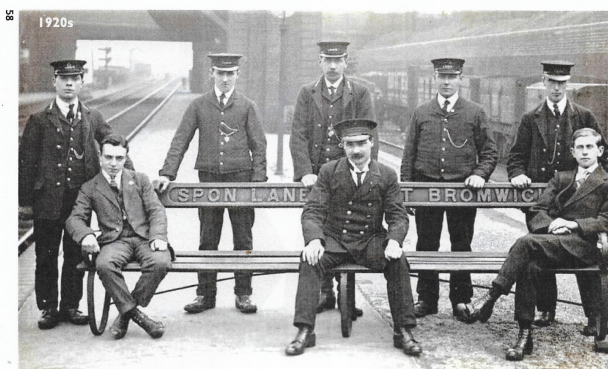
Quite how this bench found its way to Bishop's Castle we may never know!



Roger Dalton and Malcolm Jones admiring expert sign writer Malcolm Reeves at work.



The dilapidated bench outside the weighbridge before restoration began



Managers and Workers at Spon Lane Railway Station.

Managers and workers at Spon Lane Railway Station in the 1920's

Looking through a Smethwick Heritage Society publication Roger Dalton came across the photograph on the left of an identical style bench on Spon Lane Railway Station in the 1920's. Pre grouping this was a London and North Western Railway becoming London, Midland and Scottish Railway following post grouping.

Weighbridge News continued

Scaffolding was once again erected on the Weighbridge building for a few days at the beginning of this month.

Since the weighbridge was rebuilt in the summer of 2019, the uppermost lime mortar brickwork joints for the chimney were noticeably rapidly failing, due, it is thought to a combination of too weak a mortar mix and drying out too quickly during the rebuild. Consequently, the top most courses have been rebuilt using a very strong mortar mix suitable for the exposed position and rapid drying out avoided.



Donations of 2nd HAND RAILWAY BOOKS ALWAYS WELCOME

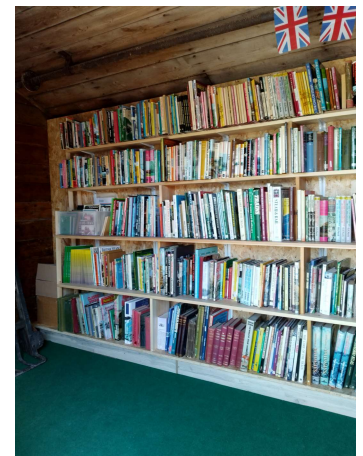
The sale of donated 2nd hand railway books is one of our biggest sources of income. Whilst we still have a large stock of books covering a wide selection of railways and topics, we always need more.

Now that the books have been divided into categories it is much easier to find one when a visitor says have you got....?, resulting in a happy customer and more money going into society funds.

All the books in the Banana Van are sold for £2 each or fill an average size carrier bag for £10. Books that are considered to be worth a bit more are for sale in the weighbridge individually priced.

If you have any unwanted railway books and would like to donate them you can drop them off at the weighbridge on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month between 11am and 3pm.

Alternatively contact David: david@davidhemsley.co.uk to arrange an alternative date.



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

Some ghostly railway stories to send shivers down your back ready for Halloween. Running time 18:57

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

A footplate experience on The Flying Scotsman. The tender has a corridor linking the coaches to the cab just 18" wide so that crews could be changed during the journey without stopping. Running time 9:52

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

Pendon Museum at Abingdon features models and layouts depicting English rural life in the 1920s and 1930. Here's a huge model railway layout set in the Vale of White Horse. Running time 12:00

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

Society Archives

The Society are very grateful to Albyn Austin who has generously shared with our archivists his entire personal collection of documents and photographs which he has gathered over many years.

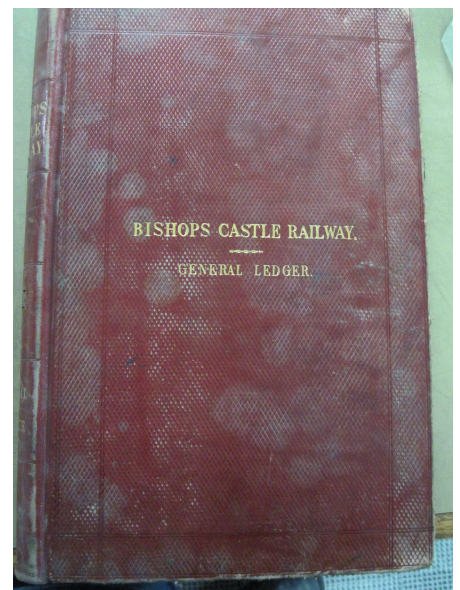
All of the documents and photographs will eventually be put in the members section of the website to provide members with easy access to research BCR history.

Jonathan Moor has taken on the task of reading and collating the extensive collection of documents many acquired by Albyn on his visits to the Kew Archives.

Simon Rice is still busy working on the vast collection of photographs, adding information, and arranging into a format that will make it easy to find a particular image.

As Albyn wrote in a recent email -

"There is a lot more to find out about the BCR and no point in other people going over the same ground that I've gone over. Delighted we may one day have an archive of information that some one might use to produce a more comprehensive book on the railway."



Is there another Edward Griffiths or John Scott Morgan out there?

Shopping online this festive period?

Raise free donations for The Bishop's Castle Railway Society when you shop 6,000+ stores online using Give as you Live Online! >

https://www.giveasyoulive.com/join/bishops-castle-weighbridge-railway-museum?utm_source=charitytoolkit&utm_content=154854&utm_medium=post&utm_campaign=CTChristmasShoppingCampaign2023

All it costs YOU is a couple of extra minutes of your time!



Over 6,000 stores will donate to us when you shop, including:

M&S | John Lewis | Sainsbury's | Entertainment Weekly | Boots | ASOS | Argos | Debenhams | moonpig | ebay | Booking.com | JUST EAT | 6,000+ more



THE BISHOP'S CASTLE RAILWAY SOCIETY
JOURNAL

IN THIS ISSUE...

- The Highley Mining Company
- The Sale - Part 2
- The Bishop's Castle Transport Co.
- Letters, heritage images and more...

AUTUMN 2023 • ISSUE 122

The Autumn Journal No.122 is now available to read online. Just log in to the Members page on the website.

You now have a choice of how you read and save your copies. Many of you like to receive a paper copy and store for future reference. Others prefer to read it online and store in a folder on their computer. One of the benefits of that is that you can enlarge the photographs and the text.

You will of course still receive your paper copy unless you specifically notify the membership secretary otherwise.

<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

Registered Company
No. 05520291
Registered Charity
No. 1111918