

# Betton Grange 6880

## Building the 81st Grange



Spring Newsletter 2014



The newly refurbished bogie from No. 5952 Cogan Hall is situ under the frames of No. 6880 *Betton Grange*, but cannot be fitted permanently until the new cylinders are made and in position. CHRIS MOORE

## CHAIRMAN'S WELCOME

It has been a busy few months since our Autumn Newsletter and luckily we have had a mild winter which has allowed us to keep up the progress at the working weekends. The team has been strengthened by the addition of Bill Hall whom Peter Thomas introduced from the Nottingham Society of Model Engineers. Bill hasn't missed a working weekend and additionally has taken parts home to his own workshop and refurbished them ready for the following weekend; his

genial nature has fitted in well with the team.

I have pleasure in announcing on behalf of the Board, the appointment of Chris Moore as Engineering Manager. Chris has been working regularly along with his wife Lynn for the last year and before that helped with Steel, Steam and Stars III. He is an Aircraft Engineer by trade but has previously been involved with the restoration of an ex-Barry 'Black Five' and is currently building a 5 inch gauge Model of

*Poulton Grange*. He will report to Pete Thomas who remains as Engineering Director on the Board – you can read Chris's Engineering Report on progress with 6880 over the next two pages.

The main attention at present is on the funding and production of the cylinder block. We have launched an appeal to raise £20,000 to ensure we can achieve it this year. An appeal leaflet is enclosed and I would urge all members to help us by either joining the 200

Club or by making a donation. It really is important for us to gain maximum support for this initiative in order to allow the rest of the locomotive build to progress. We have reached the point where much of what needs to be done requires the cylinders to be in place first, so further progress really does depend on the success of this new fundraising initiative.

*Quentin McGuinness  
(Chairman)*

The newly restored front bogie before positioning under 6880's frames



# Chris Moore

**Engineering Manager**

**F**ollowing the successful wheeling of the 'Grange' by the Llangollen Railway workshop team, the 'Grange' volunteer workforce has refitted all the horn ties. All the final parts needed to attach the main springs have been made, painted and the new springs positioned under the loco for a trial fitting. They need final attention on some clearances to complete this area of work.

The front bogie has been returned from WSR and positioned under the frames with only minor work to complete this item; we look forward to having it finished. The bogie pintle removed from No. 5952 *Cogan Hall* has been repaired by the workshops and cleaned up, painted and made ready to fit; this will need final fitting when the cylinders are in place!

The vacuum brake cylinder has also been recovered from *Cogan Hall*; it has been stripped, cleaned and inspected and found to be in very good condition, it has been repainted and will now be stored pending cylinder fitment and new seals to be fitted when needed.

The pendulum link hanger brackets have now been fitted to the frames, complete with new bolts and holes reamed to suit and painted in situ. The first of our recovered original GWR motion parts have now been restored and added to the brackets and these are the pendulum links themselves.

We have also restored the lifting links and are now looking at restoring and fitting the weighshaft and its pivot plates. Work is under

way on restoring a pair of original buffers for the front of the loco, to replace those temporarily fitted.

A new front drawhook has been made, thanks to the generosity of one of our members and the parts to attach it are being made at present.

All available coupling rods owned by the 6880 Betton Grange Society and No. 5199 have been inspected and a final decision made on which ones are going where. The Llangollen Railway's workshops are now looking into making and fitting new bearings on both sets. Work has commenced on preparing the expansion links in order that they may be placed with a suitable engineering workshop for regrinding and new die blocks.

## Update to 2nd April 2014

Further to the previous notes, we are now removing the main loco springs in order to correct the fits and clearances on the links below the axle boxes. Once this is done we can re-assemble all the parts to have the locomotive truly and finally standing on its own wheels.

The parts to fit the new front drawhook are expected soon and that together with the buffers that are being restored will be fitted to the buffer beam and consequently painted red.

The expansion links have now been dismantled and they will be going for repair as soon as we can get prices and the Board has agreed to the costs.

Work has started on dismantling the screw



One of the buffers, cleaned and ready for painting



One of the new buffer faces prior to reassembly and fitting to No. 6880



No. 6880's crew reverser prior to refurbishment



A view inside the frames showing components for the inside motion



New brake cylinder brackets for 6880



John Sandiford with the new drawhook that he has sponsored for the project



Some of the newly refurbished motion parts

reverser that will be fitted in the cab. This is in ex-Barry condition and will need repair and restoration. It will be mounted on parts of an original reverser tower that is due to arrive from Didcot this month. Work will then commence on creating this part of *Betton Grange*, which at the moment is an empty space, a reverser handle is still needed should anyone be aware of one.

The bogie pressure pads that fit below the cylinders have been cleaned up and painted, they are originally from No. 6821 *Leaton Grange*, so it is very pleasing to re-use them.

We have been busy assisting our sister locomotive No. 5199, which is on its ten year overhaul, and upon restoring the crankpin nuts that are to be used with the wheel sets that No. 5199 is now using, we were pleasantly surprised to find one from No. 6843 *Poultton Grange*! Note: No. 6843 is the true identity of the 5" gauge 'Grange' that I am currently building (which has an alternative identity as No. 6880 *Betton Grange*!)

That's all for now, Chris.

The sales stand at Williton, during the recent West Somerset Railway gala. MICK PRIOR



# Liz McGuinness

**Sales Manager**

**W**e have had a great start to the year with our sales events and raised approximately £1,300 so far.

We have some new items this year including a red 6880 fleece and a 6880 tea towel with a colour illustration of No. 6880 Betton Grange. We also now stock Recreations Great Western China, please have a look at the website as it's a 'must have' for any Great Western fan!

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to everyone that has helped so far. I would also like to thank Barry Jones, a 6880 member who owns ST Publications. Barry puts a full-page advertisement free of charge in every book he produces and also donates money from every book he sells. This is a great effort and very much appreciated, so thank you Barry.

We are still looking for volunteers for the events we are attending later on this year;

- Gloucester Warwickshire Gala - 24th-26th May
- Epping Ongar - 6th-8th June
- Bristol Engineering event - 15th-17th August
- Llangollen Gala - 29th-31st August

- Nene Valley - 13th & 14th September
- Seven Valley Gala - 18th-21st September
- West Somerset Gala - 2nd-5th October
- Keighley & Worth Valley Gala - 10th-12th October
- Mid Hants Gala - 24th-26th October (GWR theme)

## Fund Raising

We have been looking at other ways to raise much-needed funds, so far we have two new ventures;

## Ebay

No. 6880 Betton Grange now has an ebay page where we are selling items to raise some extra funds. If anyone has anything that we can sell that they would like to donate, please contact our sales team (details below). Please have a look at our ebay page. If you sell an item personally on ebay you can always donate some of it to 6880 if you so wish. I would like to thank Lynn Moore for spearheading the new ebay initiative and working hard to get this sorted.

## Easyfundraising

There is a new way to donate to 6880 without it costing you a penny. If you log on to easyfundraising.



Liz and Lynn show off the new Betton Grange banner at Llangollen

org.uk and set up an account and choose 6880 as your chosen charity, and then go through easyfundraising either when you buy goods on line or when you are just browsing the internet, 6880 will get a percentage donated to its funds. By surfing the net through easyfundraising instead of google or other search engines, we benefit because every time you surf we get a donation. Give it a go – it's easy!

**easyfundraising**  
.org.uk

**Sales team contact;**  
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## 2014 AGM

The 2014 Annual General Meeting of the 6880 Betton Grange Society Ltd will be held at the Hand Hotel, Llangollen, on Saturday 14th June, at midday, followed by an opportunity to inspect progress on the locomotive in the Llangollen Railway workshops.

## Forthcoming working weekends at Llangollen

- April: 19th & 20th
- May: 17th & 18th
- June: 28th & 29th
- July: 12th & 13th
- Aug: 30th & 31st
- Sept: 27th & 28th