

Betton Grange

6880

Building the 81st Grange



Spring Newsletter **2015**

GWR 2-8-0T No. 4270 heads along the Dee Valley in glorious sunshine on the freight train during the first weekend of SSSIV. INSPIRING IMAGES



WHAT A YEAR!

AND THAT'S JUST FOR STARTERS...

So far, 2015 has proved to be an exciting year for 6880 Betton Grange with the promise of more excitement to come.

First we had the delivery of the newly cast and machined cylinders, which Chris Moore and his engineering team managed to fit to the locomotive within a matter of days in order to be ready for our Members' Day on Sunday, February 15th. Not only that, but there were many other components fitted for the first time and I think it's fair to say that those who turned out were mightily impressed by what they saw!

This was soon followed by our big Steel, Steam & Stars IV event, which, despite what you may have read in a certain railway publication, was a great success. True, not as much money was raised as in previous years, but the weather was kind and everything went to plan – well almost (see Quentin's report on page 3).

It should be remembered that this fourth event was held a month earlier than normal, and the weather in North Wales can be a bit unpredictable at the best of times, but March can be a problem and no doubt the cold will have put some people off. Also, this event was over six days rather than the previous nine. However, a good time was had by all and the event was a great opportunity to meet old acquaintances within the Betton Grange Society and on the Llangollen Railway. A truly great job was done by all and the feedback has been very positive, helping to keep our project, and the railway, in the public eye through some great pre- and post-event publicity.

Also, related to SSSIV, we successfully launched the '225 Club' boiler appeal, a clear indication that we are entering the final - and most expensive - part of our locomotive's construction. This has got off to a flying start – see Lynn Moore's report on page 7. Once sufficient funds are in the pot, the work to overhaul

Willington Hall's boiler can be placed, hopefully later this year.

Next up we have a day out at Sir Bill McAlpine's private railway at Fawley to look forward to. Thank you to David Huntbach for organising this. A second Members' Day is also planned, date to be confirmed, but likely to be early autumn. Do try to come along and check out progress on No. 6880 for yourself.

As always, fundraising is a major priority for us, as without money in the bank we can't build the locomotive. One way of supporting our fundraising efforts is by purchasing the excellent Steel, Steam & Stars IV DVD, professionally produced for us by Bellhurst Productions. See page 8 for details – all proceeds go towards 6880.

There has never been a better time to support this exciting project – are you doing your bit?

Paul Appleton, Editor

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

So the team are settling down in the vacuum that is left from the aftermath of SSSIV. The size of the event has a habit of taking over your life and Liz and I are glad we have returned to some kind of normality again. Thank you to everyone who has helped out in whatever capacity and I hope you enjoyed it. By all accounts it was well received by the Railway and the door should be left open for a future SSS event should we choose to hold one (or more!).

The boiler overhaul funding is the next focus of attention and Lynn Moore has kindly taken on the role of administrator for this. We will all be looking hard to find ways of raising extra funds to keep the

appeal growing and raising the pressure on our boiler gauge, so please feel free to suggest fundraising ideas.

Please take a look at our Boiler Appeal leaflet enclosed with this issue and see if you can help us get this moving along fast. We are very grateful to *Heritage Railway* magazine for taking out the first membership and also for their donation of a year's worth of quarter page advertisements in the magazine.

With the locomotive now rapidly taking shape and the recent Gala creating closer ties with the Railway, it helps to have a voice in the organisation. I have in the past served on the Board of the Llangollen Railway Trust. After a long gap I have decided to

apply for positions on both Trust and Plc Boards and help maintain support for our largely steam operated services and the heritage interests of the Infrastructure. If you are a member of the Trust or shareholder in the Plc (shares can be purchased on application), then may I say that your votes would be most welcome at the AGM on Saturday, June 13th at Llangollen Eisteddfod Pavilion.

In the meantime we have a busy schedule of working weekends and sales events ahead. I look forward to seeing as many helping hands as possible this year and hopefully some new faces too!

Quentin McGuinness, Chairman

2015 AGM DATE

The 2015 AGM of the 6880 Betton Grange Society Ltd will be held on Saturday, June 13 at the Hand Hotel, Llangollen. All members are welcome to attend, with the opportunity to view progress on the construction of No. 6880 in the workshops afterwards.

OBITUARY

We recently received the sad news that South Wales Express Member, Jeff Jones, passed away on Sunday, May 5. He had been in hospital recently after three years of gradual decline with various medical conditions. He will be

greatly missed by the members of our team who appreciated his great sense of humour and willingness to help out with any task at our events. Our condolences go to his family and friends. *Quentin McGuinness*

Bert Hitchen's 'Black Five' No. 45231 'The Sherwood Forester' double-heads Bulleid light 'Pacific' No. 34092 Wells on 'The Pines' at Llangollen. The 'Black Five' was to fail on the Saturday evening of the first weekend with a fractured main steam pipe. QUENTIN MCGUINNESS



GWR 0-4-2T No. 1450 enters 'Midford' with the freight. Station staff at Berwyn entered into the Somerset & Dorset railway theme by renaming their station for the gala and putting on a fine display of S&D photographs. INSPIRING IMAGES



STEEL, STEAM & STARS IV - A REVIEW

TOUGH CONDITIONS:

The decision was taken to not let our regular event slip to a four year gap. Dedicated followers of our 'brand' had been badgering us with requests for it at many of the sales events attended in the last couple of years. Negotiations started in earnest during May last year when Liz and I attended a meeting with various Heads of Departments to establish if there was enough co-operation to run another event of this magnitude. We were pleasantly surprised that there was a general willingness to work with us. However, it took until the September 6 to get agreement from the LR Board to hold the event. The loss of three full months preparation was then further compounded by an underhand attempt from a minority to scupper the whole plan at a Heads of Department meeting in October.

Undeterred we battled on and gained full support from the Board to go ahead and start publicising the agreed dates in March. Unfortunately due to the closeness of a planned 150 years celebration event at the Railway in late May, our usual late April slot was unavailable to us.

6880 member Martin Fuller had offered to write the Timetable and was tasked by the Railway to have it ready for consideration by November 1. This was a tough call but he managed to have the whole thing thrashed out between the relevant departments in time to suit the various deadlines. I can personally say from knowing what was involved that Martin had a very difficult job and for this we are extremely grateful.



Emphasising the tightness of the entrance into Llangollen yard, No. 34092 is carefully eased round the 90 degree corner off Abbey Road on one of Andrew Goodman's Moveright International low loaders, who generously sponsored movement of engines for the gala. QUENTIN MCGUINNESS

PUBLICITY:

During the early part of the year our renowned publicity machine swung into action. Paul Appleton negotiated a sponsorship deal with Mortons Media who publish *Heritage Railway* and *The Railway Magazine*.

Regular news items and large adverts ensured that enthusiasts knew what was on offer. Our traditional leaflet was placed in the hands of dedicated volunteers. I would like to give a special mention to Mick Prior and friends, my father Terry McGuinness and Phil Macey who

all made big efforts at their own expense to get them widely distributed by hand.

LAST MINUTE HEADACHES:

Two locomotive failures at the eleventh hour caused some consternation on my part as Loco Procurement Officer!! LR resident 'Black Five' No. 45337 unexpectedly failed with piston-valve problems and after a good few phone calls I was able to secure No. 45231 'The Sherwood Forester' as a straight replacement through Bert Hitchen, the owner. Even closer to the event,



ABOVE: Somewhat fanciful perhaps in North Wales, but No. 34092 Wells was adorned with this 'Night Ferry' headboard during part of the gala. [INSPIRING IMAGES](#)

Collett Goods No. 3205 looked especially fine on the three coach suburban set, seen here at Carrog. [INSPIRING IMAGES](#)



'9F' No. 92212 also failed to materialise due to a boiler problem. I was extremely pleased when Richard Patching at the GCR confirmed they could help us out with classmate No. 92214.

FINAL EFFORTS:

Leading up to the first weekend, the individuals closely involved with the organising, pulled out the stops to get everything into place. It was pleasing to start the first day with almost all the planned attractions ready. The Sales Stands performed well with Mick Prior reporting record takings after the first weekend, only to be beaten by an even better result the following one. The Beerfest ran very smoothly in the capable hands of Richard Pumphrey and team as did the railway operations which were noticeably better than SSSIII. We had an early failure with No. 45231, which was very disappointing, but it was covered and the complications caused for travellers were handled professionally by our staff, with replacement bus services from Matt Davies' team at the St Helens Transport Museum. The Loco crews all enjoyed their turns on the visiting locos and operationally it was felt by all to be successful.

RESULTS:

SSSIV proved to be a great platform for publicity of No. 6880. We successfully launched the '225



Paul Massam braved the cold and ran short rides along a section of miniature railway track, as well as putting on a fine display of model engineering at the marquee in Carrog yard. QUENTIN MCGUINNESS

Boiler Club' Appeal and impressed many visitors with how much had been achieved since their last visit. It was also the first time an SSS event had reached the town of Corwen. The Business Partnership in Corwen rallied their troops to make sure there was plenty to show off at their

end of the Railway. The final figures have still to be analysed. However, it appears to have been reasonable considering the difficult circumstances and cold weather. It certainly kicked off the Boiler Overhaul fund in style.

HOW YOU CAN HELP:

Please purchase the official DVD via our website, flyer or sales stand. If you missed out on our superb Gala brochure, then send us £6.50 (£5 plus postage and packing) made payable to 6880 Betton Grange Society Limited, to SSS4 c/o 'Talerddig', 4 Bryntirion Terrace, Llangollen. Denbs. LL20 8LP.

**ENJOY THE PHOTOGRAPHS...
THAT'S ALL FOR NOW UNTIL SSSV!**

Quentin McGuinness, Chairman



Richard Pumphrey prepares for the arrival of the first customers to the beer festival at Llangollen station. QUENTIN MCGUINNESS



The new museum at Corwen was a popular attraction during the gala and featured displays about railways in the locality as well as a set of boards showcasing No. 6880. QUENTIN MCGUINNESS



Chris Moore

Engineering Director



Seen during Members' Day in February, No. 6880 with its cylinders and new buffers in place. The footplating over the cylinders has since been completed. PAUL APPLETON

The build of the locomotive continues at a rapid pace. The cylinders were finished, being machined at Harco Engineering and delivered to Llangollen Railway Workshops on Thursday, February 12. We trial fitted them on February 14 in time for Members' Day the following day.

Our attention then turned to preparing No. 6880 for Steel, Steam and Stars IV. Much work was completed by then; the new buffer heads were machined at LR Workshops and the whole buffer assembly fitted to the buffer beam and painted a nice bright red. The brake hanger brackets have been fitted along with the step stays.

I am very grateful to Pete Simpson for providing some very much needed drawings for fitting the bogies and the front platework. This led to the front frame extension being drilled and the bogie being attached and fitted to the locomotive. Work has also continued on the front platework and the locomotive now sports the distinctive side profile of a 'Grange'!

In the meantime work has continued on the reverser stand, which is now in place and painted on the locomotive, as well as the splashers and fire iron

Seen during the gala, complete with footplating giving the distinctive 'Grange' profile over the cylinders. The casing for the reverser stand can also just be glimpsed in front of the cab. INSPIRING IMAGES



tunnel having their first top coat of green paint. The locomotive will be eventually finished in BR green livery.

One of our members, Bill Hall, has continued to work on the reverser assembly, providing patterns for the reverser handle, which was cast and is now being machined and fitted. Bill is totally refurbishing the reverser and we are looking forward to it being completed and finished in the near future.

The motion brackets that were cast and received in December have now been sent to Harco Engineering for machining. It is now my intention to concentrate on the front end of the locomotive over the next few months and see that through to completion. The cylinders will need to be finally aligned and adjusted, plans are in motion for the slide bars and crossheads and I am currently looking at the various options for the pistons and valves as well as other parts of the motion.

A great team of volunteer working members have come together for which I am really grateful, without them this build could not be done, so thank you everyone. If anyone else wants to volunteer, just let me know. Whatever your skills we certainly can use extra pairs of hands.

STEAMING TO SUCCESS - 2015 BOILER APPEAL

The Boiler Appeal to raise £225,000 to overhaul No. 7927 Willington Hall's boiler was successfully launched at Steel, Steam and Stars IV. The generosity of Gala goers raised over £1,100 in loose change donations alone! Since the Gala and following letters to Cylinder Appeal donors a steady stream of donations have continued to come in meaning we have so far raised over £20,000 (incl Gift Aid).

There are many ways that people can help with the Appeal:

Contributing Money: Any donation will receive a letter of thanks from our Engineering Director.

Join the 225 Club: Donate £225 and your benefits will include a special Certificate of Appreciation, inclusion on the 6880 'Roll of Honour', a mounted Jonathan Clay print of 6880 Betton Grange as well as regular updates.

Join the Premier 225 Boiler Club: Donate £1000 and your benefits will include all of the above, plus your name on a plaque that will be placed on the Locomotive plus a 'Special Day with 6880 in Steam'. Additionally you will be given priority booking opportunity for travel on 6880 Betton Grange's first Main Line Train.

Join the Exclusive 225 Club: Donate £2250 and your benefits will include all of the above, plus a

personal invitation to an Exclusive Luncheon Boiler Club Day Celebration with the 6880 project's Directors.

Heritage Railway magazine, our Number 1 Certificate contributor, has kindly sponsored the Appeal and will be running a series of adverts for us, free of charge, over the next 12 months.

It is hoped that there will be some events organised for the sole purpose of raising funds for the appeal so watch this space! – do you fancy a 'Day Out with Betton'?

In addition we are keen to involve our members and we totally appreciate the donations you make and your continued support by your membership, we are aware that many of you have expressed the desire to help more. We know that circumstances and distance mean that you may be unable to give your time as a working member, but have you considered just taking one day this year to do that something a little bit different and use it as a fundraiser in your own locality for our Boiler Appeal? I can provide details and/or a fundraising pack.

Or you can 'Save your Change for the Grange' an initiative that I will be launching at our forthcoming AGM on Saturday, June 13.

See you there!
Lynn Moore

I am delighted by the initial response to the boiler appeal and it is hoped that work can start this summer on the preparation of the boiler for overhaul.

I am also very pleased with the response to the 'On the Shelf' list and really appreciate those who have already sponsored parts, all names are noted on our Roll of Honour on the website.

The 'On the Shelf' list has been revised and more components are still required as follows;

If you are a UK Taxpayer and are able to Gift Aid the contribution, please download the form from the website or contact me for a copy.

Once you have completed and signed the form please send it along with your cheque indicating which part you are sponsoring and made payable to '6880 Betton Grange (Society) Ltd' to: 6880 Parts Appeal, 224 Staining Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 0DL.



The left hand cylinder shortly after fitting in March. PAUL APPLETON

ON THE SHELF LIST

| ITEM | COST |
|---|---------|
| Injector Steam Valve Casting x2 | £85.00 |
| Smoke box lubrication feed casting x2 | £80.00 |
| Smoke box regulator oil feed | £50.00 |
| Elbow for regulator oil feed | £30.00 |
| Boiler top whistle mounting steel bracket | £35.00 |
| 5 feed lubricator castings | £900.00 |
| Brake Block x6 | £85.00 |
| Valve Extension Bar | TBA |
| Locomotive Front Coupling | £940.00 |
| Locomotive Rear Coupling | £940.00 |
| Front Foot-plating plus supports | £500.00 |
| Reverser Handle Casting | £100.00 |

THE MAKING OF STEEL, STEAM & STARS IV - (THE DVD THAT IS)

This has been the fourth SSS gala and having filmed and produced the previous three, a certain pattern and style has emerged which I've followed once more. Presenting the event in chronological order gives viewers the chance to look at each day as it unfolds and perhaps recognise which train they were travelling on as it passes the camera. Using chapter buttons on your remote control gives access to the section you want to follow, or you can just let the film play.

For Steel, Steam & Stars IV, four cameramen worked together to produce the footage. Not all were filming at the same time, but by pre-arrangement a large proportion of the trains that ran were covered. Never did two of us turn up at the same spot! My main thanks go to David Roberts,

who living in North Wales was able to attend every day and provide his usual excellent material. This time around some additional footage was provided by Clive Town from High Wycombe, who filmed during the first weekend. Finally John Collins, who specialises in talking to people and recording the human side. My thanks too to our own Richard Cadge who took my hand held camera to film the brake van ride.

In planning this, certain key events needed covering. At the beginning, the arrival by road of the Stars themselves, the locomotives. Many people are fascinated by the logistics of moving large steam locomotives from one place to another by road. Next, the event with many locomotive combinations rostered into the timetable by Martin Fuller. With freight, passenger and auto trains running there was a good variety of workings. This required our

cameramen to be along the railway at many different places to record a train. Sometimes the film shows up to five different shots of the same train between Llangollen and Corwen.

With such a wide variety of possibilities we added sections filmed from the driving cab of the Autotrain, also from the brakevan of the freight train, there are two sessions inside signalboxes and finally from the footplate of No. 92214 double headed with No. 34092 Wells. Overall, as wide a variety of material as possible make for a most interesting film. The end result is four hours of carefully edited video with captions, narration and some music on three discs.

I hope you will buy it and enjoy it. Proceeds go towards the building of No. 6880.

David Huntbatch

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Membership of the Society continues to increase. We were delighted to welcome five new members at the recent Steel Steam & Stars event.

In addition we received some substantial donations from three existing members in particular at the event. As detailed elsewhere in this Newsletter, significant progress is being made with the construction of *Betton Grange* and we really are spending the money as fast as it can be raised. A number of members have taken out new direct debits for monthly payments or increased their existing payment. We would like to appeal to all members to consider making regular monthly payments if they do not currently do this or maybe increasing their existing payment. This will really make a difference to the progress we can make.

Thank you all for your continued support!

Richard Cadge

SALES REPORT

The start of 2015 has been great for 6880 sales; Steel Steam and Stars IV in March proved to be a very successful event for our sales teams at Llangollen and Corwen.

The team at Llangollen consisted of Mick Prior Barry, Julie Ann Jones and Paul Roland. They all worked extremely hard and sold lots of goods including some of our lovely new green fleeces. Dave Phillips and Cheri Brien along with Ian Frank, manned Corwen sales stand. Corwen was a new venture for us and proved to be fantastic. Thank you to everyone that helped at the gala, but special thanks go to the sales teams who sold approximately £3,500 worth of 6880 goods to help move the loco a step further towards being completed.

Two weeks after SSSIV we attended the West Somerset Gala, this is a regular event for 6880 and we always have a great time and meet some old friends as well as making some new ones and this March was no exception.

We have introduced a smart new Green Fleece to the range so now we have a choice of black, green and red available in all sizes. The summer is on its way so what about one of our great polo shirts, white is a good summer colour! Fridge magnets, pens, mugs and Big Teds are all still available.

Forthcoming events are listed below and I am always looking to add to our events and welcome any suggestions. We are always looking for help and support at these events too, so please drop me a line or give me a call if you feel you can help in any way.

Liz McGuinness

Tel: 07880 504519 **Email:** lizzieanne1961@gmail.com

| | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|
| Llangollen Railway Gala | May 30th & 31st |
| Welshpool Air Show | June 14th |
| Llangollen '60s Gala | July 25th & 26th |
| Bristol SMEE | August 14th, 15th & 16th |

WATCH THE WEBSITE FOR ADDITIONAL EVENTS - GO TO WWW.6880.CO.UK

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