

Betton Grange

6880

Building the 81st Grange



Summer Newsletter 2016



The end of steam at Cardiff Canton shed and two 'Grange' class 4-6-0s simmer in the empty gloom. Nos. 6853 *Morehampton Grange* (left) and 6860 *Aberporth Grange* were pictured by Alan Jarvis there on September 9th, 1962.
COURTESY STEPHENSON LOCOMOTIVE SOC

THE HOME STRAIGHT!

As we move into the final phase in the construction of No. 6880 *Betton Grange* we can allow our thoughts to drift and picture how the locomotive will look when it is steamed for the first time, hopefully in 2018.

The image below is one of many that have been lent to us by valued supporters of our project. I thought I would share it with you as it is quite an evocative scene. Although it can't be repeated – unless someone decides to build a second 'Grange' – it shows how good these neatly proportioned locomotives were.

No doubt once we have run it on the Llangollen Railway for a while and ironed out any gremlins, we will be looking to take the locomotive to other venues where such a scene might be recreated – hands up for Didcot or Barrow Hill! Of course, it is also planned to put No. 6880 onto the main line. We will keep an eye on the ever

increasing red tape and restrictions that are being applied to main line steam in the wake of the infamous Wootton Bassett SPAD. But on a modern railway system with trains travelling at greater speeds and to tighter schedules, the number of routes available to us may well diminish considerably and other restrictions may be introduced. No longer do steam operators enjoy the freedom of the network they had become accustomed to, but it remains our ambition to see No. 6880 on the main line.

Although we are edging ever closer to a steaming date, there is still a great deal of work to be done on *Betton Grange* and a considerable amount of funding is still needed if we are to achieve our objectives. Fundraising for the renovation of the GWR No. 1 boiler from 'Modified Hall' No. 7927 *Willington Hall* has been very positive and we have cleared the halfway mark, triggering the strip down of the boiler ready for

inspection and quotations for its repair to be issued. But we still need a further £90,000 to finish the boiler work, so this is no time to rest on our laurels.

Funds are also needed to finish work on the bottom half of the locomotive, and then there is the small matter of building a tender..... this may be the final phase, but it is an expensive phase and more than ever we need the support of our members to keep the pot boiling. Please support our Grange 80 event in September if you can (see page 7), or come to see the locomotive at the NEC in November – the dates are November 26th and 27th, so put these into your diary now. The NEC is very central and easy to reach, so if you haven't been able to travel up to North Wales to see your locomotive, here is your chance.

Paul Appleton
Editor

It is rather ironic that soon after receiving the invitation to attend Warley Model Railway Exhibition and announcing Grange 80 Day, we found an unfortunate anomaly in the chassis alignment. Chris will explain both the problem and the solution in more detail in his Engineering Report on page 4.

It is the nature of Engineering Projects to have unforeseen hiccups and it is testament to the commitment of our volunteers and Llangollen Railway staff, to overcome the problems and get back on track so to speak. We are pulling out all the stops to ensure we have a presentable locomotive, firstly for Grange 80 on September 24th and then later for the big Warley Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC in November. It is imperative that we have a good attendance of volunteers in our August and September working parties and then again during October and November when the frequency of these will be increased.

Our 'Grange 80' celebrations are drawing ever closer, Lynn Moore has arranged a great day on September 24th with some input and ideas from the rest of the team, I urge you to book a place if

you have not already done so, as there are some exciting things happening.

This year's raffle organised by Liz, my wife, is progressing well and with the great prizes on offer you don't want to miss out, so make sure you give yourself a chance of winning by buying some – all proceeds towards *your* locomotive.

I have to report that we had few responses to the member address survey. Richard Cadge sent out a confirmation of address and status forms with the last Newsletter. There were only about 50 replies out of 200 forms sent. I appreciate that sometimes we leave these things until later and, of course, later never comes. To this end I would really appreciate it if you could please send the information to us at your earliest convenience. It is important that we have your correct details on file so we can forward you all relevant information in the way you prefer to receive it. The locomotive will be nearing completion in the not too distant future and I expect you will all want an invitation to travel on the first train, so please keep us in the forefront of your minds and support us in every way you can and update your details so that

invitation doesn't go astray. We could also be wasting money on postage and print sending material to incorrect addresses, so this request is important for all sorts of reasons.

We have a number of dedicated hard working members who work tirelessly at working weekends and at sales events who are anxious to see construction through to completion, and as we get nearer so the interest and excitement increases. Long may this continue because we have every intention of restoring our other Locomotive, No. 5952 *Cogan Hall*, once No. 6880 is steaming. My wife is also an organiser in the Llangollen Railway's Youth Group and it is heartening that the number of under 16 year olds has grown from four to eleven in just the last year. Without fresh blood and younger, more able-bodied persons, the concept of maintaining heritage railways and their locomotives will surely in time, fade out.

I look forward to seeing you all at one of our up and coming events

Quentin McGuinness

Membership Update

Firstly, I would like to thank all those members who took the trouble to return the forms to update their membership details and confirm preferences for email or printed newsletters. However, around three-quarters of you still haven't responded, so please, please return yours if you haven't already.

Meanwhile, it is encouraging to report that we continue to see a steady increase in membership. Recently we have welcomed the following new members;

Simon Carr
James Evans
Nigel Williams
Howard Fry
Jim Gosney
William Broadley

As always, members are encouraged to consider making regular monthly membership payments, if they do not already do so. This really helps us to plan and budget the work ahead. We have had a fantastic response to the boiler appeal and the other fund raising initiatives, but more money is needed to maintain the pace of construction.

If your payment period has been concluded, please consider renewing your monthly payment. Any amount that you can spare will help bring steaming day for *Betton Grange* even closer.

Richard Cadge



Leaving a legacy – A lasting Tribute

This is a very difficult subject to talk about because no one wants to think about the end of their life. Most of us will write a will because we want to cherish the things we care about and the people we love when we can no longer look after them or in the case of 6880 *Betton Grange* when we can no longer support the loco. I would like you to consider remembering 6880 *Betton Grange* in your will and leave us a legacy to help keep steam alive for years to come.

Please contact me if you wish to discuss this further, Liz McGuinness Tel: 07880 504519, or email lizzieanne1961@gmail.com

BETTON GRANGE: The Farmhouse

Very soon after commencing the idea of building a 'Grange' Class Locomotive, we were lucky to have the services of the late Bill Peto who for many years was the Great Western Society's archivist.

He researched the history behind the GWR's proposal to build a further twenty 'Granges' in 1939. The records show that the names had been chosen and 'Betton' was the earliest in alphabetical order; sadly the locomotives weren't completed due to the commencement of the Second World War.

Bill Peto informed us that Betton Grange was located in the hamlet of Betton Strange near Shrewsbury. An early visit by members of the Project revealed that there was indeed a property called Betton Grange still existing. This appeared to be an ancient farmhouse with obvious structural alterations over time. The origin of the word 'Grange' from medieval Latin *granica* (villa) 'grain house or farm', fits in with this and also the English definition 'A country house with farm buildings attached'.

The building has listed status and the various architectural changes that have occurred are documented and go back as far as the late 16th century. Known as Betton Strange Farmhouse for many years, previous owners have renamed it



Betton Grange farmhouse as it is today.

Betton Grange as it clearly appears to be the last remaining part of the original Grange settlement.

Liz and I were put in touch with the current owners, David and Maggie Williams, by a good friend of theirs, Ian Murray (member of Wrexham Model Engineering Society). We were recently invited to visit the property and it was with great pleasure that we received a guided tour of this fascinating building. The Farmhouse has three clearly obvious development periods. The most interesting detail from this was the way the height had increased and an original

Tudor style 'star shaped' chimney stack from a lower roof line could be seen hidden under the more recent and current roof.

David and Maggie admit to being interested in railways and are keen to visit the locomotive that is named after their property. We have cordially therefore invited them to attend our Grange 80 Day in September as special guests – see page 7 for your 'last chance' to take part in this special anniversary event.

Quentin McGuinness



Above: Current owners, David and Maggie Williams

Left: An original Tudor period chimney hidden beneath a more recent roof



The opportunity has been taken to give the driving wheels a fresh coat of paint. LYNN MOORE

GET IT STEAMING

A slight setback!! Or two...

I had a feeling I should not have said 'Simples' in my last Engineering Report. After getting the right hand cylinder into near its optimum

position, I started to look into the left hand side cylinder and to my surprise found it was impossible to locate it relative to the driving axle and the right

hand cylinder. I further determined that unfortunately, the error lay in the positioning of the wheel-sets.

This was looked into by myself and staff of the Llangollen Railway Workshops (LRW) and we sadly accepted that 6880 *Betton Grange* had to come off its wheels again, in order for the situation to be corrected. So, all the spacers, horn stays, the bogie and the cylinders were removed and in early June and 'Betton' once again took to the air. Fortunately, she is due to fly again in the near future following the remedial work completed by LRW and an order has also been placed with LRW for the cylinders to be located, joined, fitted and secured, in order to get us back on schedule.

This work is due to be completed by August 26th (so should be done by the time you read this Newsletter). This will enable us to re-instate the front footplating, etc. and to pressure test the cylinders at the earliest opportunity.

In addition, a serious delay occurred on the production of our valve extension

rod. I am pleased to say that delivery of the completed rod is now imminent.

Also, on a positive note, we have received 6880's pistons and rods, piston rings, brake shaft, brake cross beams and cylinder drain cocks, while the cylinder relief valves are due this month and various other parts for use on 'Betton' and *Cogan Hall*. Yes, we are finding parts for our *Hall* too!

As some of you may already be aware, we have now removed all of the tubes from No. 7927 *Willington Hall's* boiler. I decided that although there may have been a little life left in the front tube-plate, it was going to be very limited and not in line with the major overhaul we require, so in order to gain easy access for all, a big hole was cut out of it and I am investigating obtaining a replacement item. I should also give particular thanks

to Barry and Colin for giving me a break on the cutting torch during de-tubing of the boiler!

The boiler is now being cleaned of all 51 years of scale, debris and wasps nests and is being prepared for Non-Destructive Testing (NDT) examination by LRW in order to determine the condition of its plate-work. Once this is done we can invite interested parties to examine it in order to quote for its repair and overhaul.

As ever, my grateful thanks to all those volunteers who give their time to building the 'Grange', especially to Robin for all his extra support in all areas and to everyone else (in no particular order) Lynn, Quentin, Liz, Richard P, Mick P, Paul N, Max, David B, Bill, Steve R, Desi, David D, Colin and Barry. Since the last Newsletter over 100 'man' days have

been given freely to the project by myself and the team. That's a lot of hours!

Working parties resume on August Bank Holiday weekend (all three days) and there is much to do in preparing No. 6880 *Betton Grange* for her first public appearance away from the Llangollen Railway. I am running working parties most weekends after that (please check the website for dates) and we shall need all the help you can give.

The 'On the Shelf' and 'On the Grange' sponsorship of parts has continued to be successful and your support is very much appreciated. The forms and parts still requiring sponsorship are available on our website at www.6880.co.uk/shelf-list/

Chris Moore

Engineering Director



Working members prepare the cylinders prior to them being fixed (permanently) to the frames. LYNN MOORE



Work is at an advanced stage in the yard at Llangollen on stripping the boiler from No. 7927 ready for overhaul. LYNN MOORE

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Chris Moore

Engineering Director



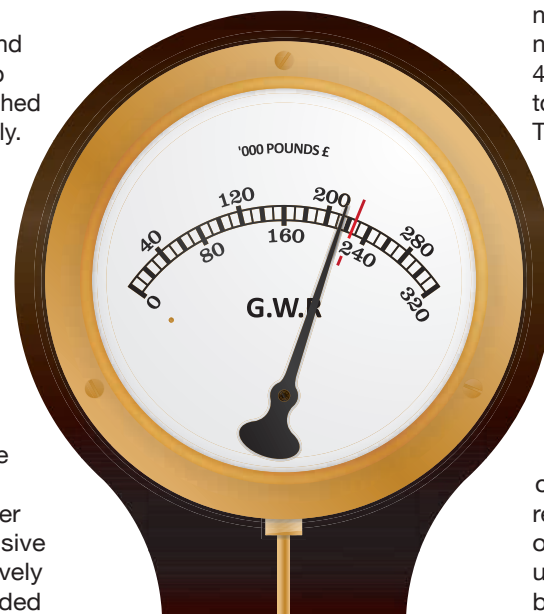
Two views showing the inside of No. 7927's boiler after the tubes had all been removed. LYNN MOORE

RAISING STEAM – BOILER APPEAL

By Lynn Moore, Fund Raising Director

The Appeal continues to go from strength to strength and I am more than delighted to announce that we had reached just over £132,500 by the end of July. We truly are Steaming to Success! However, we mustn't forget that the target is £225,000 and that means we are still working very hard to raise the remaining £92,500. So save your Change for the Grange or if you haven't already done so, join our 225 Boiler Appeal Club. As a reminder we accept any level of donation and we will acknowledge each one; the three levels of the Boiler Club available are: 225 Boiler Club, Premier 225 Club and Exclusive 225 Club with donations respectively of £225, £1,000 and £2,250. Included with this newsletter are both Boiler Club and Adopt a Grange leaflets, please feel free to pass them on to family, friends or neighbours.

The Adopt a Grange initiative has



A reminder of our target
- £225,000, one pound for
each lb of boiler pressure!

now seen 34 out of the 80 available names claimed, so there are only 46 left. Don't let your favourite go to someone else, get in there now! The first of the framed prints of the adopted 'Granges' have been produced and will be distributed after the summer holidays. Meanwhile, other donations continue to arrive and boost the fund, chipping away at that £92,500.

It has been great to watch our working members over the past few weeks prepare the boiler by stripping it of its tubes ahead of inviting tenders to carry out the required work. It brings the reality of No. 7927 *Willington Hall's* boiler undergoing the transformation and becoming 6880 *Betton Grange's* boiler that bit closer. I am the eternal optimist so watch this space for further exciting news about the Boiler Appeal and fundraising in general!



The inspiration – ex-GWR 'Grange' Class 4-6-0 No. 6841 *Marlas Grange* has been well and truly burnished so that its Brunswick green livery looks almost black in the subdued lighting under Brunel's magnificent roof at London's Paddington station. It is in charge of the RCTS special 'The Gloucestershire Railtour' which it worked as far as Avonmouth Docks on Sunday July 21st, 1963. COURTESY GEOFF M PLUMB



No 6860 *Aberporth Grange*
in miniature.
DAVID HUNTbatch.

Last Call for Grange 80!

By Lynn Moore

The date of Saturday September 24th is approaching fast, and bookings are steady but there are a few places still left. We are pleased that some special guests and the press have agreed to attend for what should be a really special day to mark the 80th anniversary of the introduction of the first 'Grange' into traffic by the GWR.

The Anniversary headboard has been manufactured along with No. 6800 *Arlington Grange* plates, which have been sponsored, as for one day only we honour that very first 'Grange' by displaying the nameplate on one side

of No. 6880 *Betton Grange*. As well as celebrating 80 years since the first 'Grange' rolled out of Swindon Works, it also gives us a great opportunity to highlight our project as it heads towards the final stages of construction.

As a reminder, the day starts at 10.30am with bacon baps, drinks. There will be displays and information about the 'Grange' class as well as our own locomotive, along with a number of 'Grange' name and numberplates, and scale working models of the class. This will be followed by a tour of the locomotive shed to see the latest on 'Betton' and to view No. 6800 *Arlington Grange*. You will also be able to spy the

latest progress on other locomotives, including new-build 'Night Owl' No. 4709. There will then be a cake and champagne reception on the platform at Llangollen station with live music, followed by a return trip to Corwen in our own exclusive carriage where you will be served Afternoon Tea.

All this for only £35 per head, which represents incredibly good value. Please send cheques to '6880 *Betton Grange* Society Ltd', c/o Lynn Moore, 224 Staining Road, Blackpool, Lancashire FY3 0DL. All proceeds go towards the locomotive's construction.

So do join us if you can for what will be a day not to be missed!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Warley Model Railway Exhibition

National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th November 2016

Doors open 9.45am (9.15am for advanced ticket holders)

- At least 90 model railway layouts from Z Gauge to Gauge 1
- Featuring our very own No. 6880 *Betton Grange* (note, the loco will be temporarily fitted with the boiler from No. 5952 *Cogan Hall* – the first time a 'complete' Grange class locomotive will have been seen since the 1960s)
- Vale of Rheidol steam locomotives
- Over 150 specialist trade stands (including many preserved railways and railway societies) and modelling demonstrations

More details available at www.thewarleyshow.co.uk

SALES & FUNDRAISING REPORT

I cannot believe we are nearly at the end of summer and another Christmas is fast approaching! Before going any further, I would like to bring you all up to date on how sales have been going and remind you about those sales events we still have left for 2016.

The galas we have attended so far this year have all been great successes, we have chatted to lots of members and non-members, talking about the progress with the 'Grange' and selling some great branded items. The new back packs and wallets are selling like hot cakes, if you haven't bought any of these you better let me know and I will be happy to post one out.

We still have our lovely tea towels that are also selling well; our white polo shirts are on sale at the moment for just £10, once they are gone we will no longer be stocking the white polo shirts so get them why you can.

Now onto other things; the raffle is doing really well, we have raised over £1,000 so far. If any of you have any tickets left I would appreciate it if you could please try and sell them. The raffle is all profit – the prizes have all been donated by kind sponsors – towards building the 'Grange', so your money and that from those people you have sold tickets to, is going to a very good cause.

The Warley Model Railway show is nearly upon us and we will have an extensive sales stand where you will be able to view our full range of products. There are a few new items in the GWR China range, including the one shown here, which would make a superb Christmas or birthday present. Options



include a GWR wine glass with a bottle of red (see picture above) or white wine for £29.95, or there is a two-glass set without wine for £24.95.

We will be taking the opportunity to sell any remaining raffle tickets at the Warley show, with the draw taking place on Sunday afternoon during the final day, so if you come along to see us you will have a last chance to be in with a chance of winning one of the superb prizes.

The remaining sales events are as follows:

September 2nd-4th Llangollen Railway Autumn Gala

September 10th & 11th STEAM Museum of the GWR at Swindon

I would be grateful if you could let me know if you can help at either of these events.

We have decided not to have a stand at the West Somerset Railway this Autumn due to having to get things ready for Warley, and of course the Severn Valley Railway are not having their usual Autumn Gala in September as they have a 'Pacific Power' weekend with *Flying Scotsman* and *Tornado* instead, which is all-ticket.

I look forward to seeing some of you at our Grange 80 celebrations on September 24th, we will have a sales stand so you can pick up some early Christmas presents or just spoil yourself!

Warm regards

Liz McGuinness,
Fundraising Director.

WORKING PARTY DATES

Please check website for updates

September 17/18, 24/25

October 1/2, 15/16, 22/23, 29/30

November 5/6, 12/13, 19/20

December 3/4

Another Date for Your Diary

It is planned to have the next Members' Day on Saturday 12th November. A separate notice will be issued to members with further details in due course.

Easy Fund Raising

Effortless fundraising that doesn't cost you a penny but helps us finish the job.

A quick reminder that you can raise money for the 'Grange' without actually donating a penny yourself. When you shop on line please go

through easyfundraising.org.uk.

Search for the 6880 Betton Grange page and register, it takes two minutes then you can shop as much as you like. The majority of retailers donate a small percentage to our cause, so far we have raised £153 from only 5 people so imagine if everyone did their shopping on-line through easy fundraising. Please give it a try and help us finish the job!

