

Betton Grange

# 6880

## Building the 81st Grange



Autumn Newsletter 2015



The boiler from former 'Barry Ten' Hall No. 7927 *Willington Hall* is lowered onto a well wagon at Pentre Felin on September 17. **QUENTIN McGUINNESS**

# BOILER WORK STARTS

**2**015 seems to have been something of a whirlwind, with so much happening in the build of the loco and away from it.

What is clear is that 2015 has been a real year of progress – visible progress. Often there is a great deal happening, both in terms of engineering and in terms of fund-raising and organisation, but that may not always be apparent to the outside world. This year though, there can be no mistake!

First we had the Members' Day in February where the newly delivered cylinders had been bolted into place by our keen engineering team only hours after they had been delivered by the supplier. Then it was headlong into Steel, Steam & Stars IV in March, when we launched the '225 Boiler

Club' appeal. This has been followed with completion of the locomotive's footplating and much else (I will leave Chris Moore to describe this in his report), then in September the boiler from No. 7927 *Willington Hall* was retrieved from its long-term storage at Pentre Felin so that a start can be made on cleaning it up and preparing it for detailed examination and quotations from boiler overhaul specialists.

The fundraising has also gone extremely well, and Lynn Moore will bring you up to date in her column on page 7. Meanwhile we have also had an extremely positive AGM in June at the Hand Hotel in Llangollen after which attendees were able to view first-hand the progress on No. 6880. We also enjoyed an excellent summer day out

at Sir William McAlpine's private railway at Fawley Hill. A second Members' Day is taking place at Llangollen on October 31. These really are good get-togethers and an opportunity not only to see for yourself the work being done on your loco and enjoy a scenic ride along the Llangollen Railway, but a chance to get answers to your questions from the engineering team and to perhaps buy some raffle tickets, 6880 merchandise or make a donation! We even feed you as well. If you haven't been to one of these events yet, make sure you join us in 2016. Members' Day dates will be announced in due course.

*Paul Appleton*  
Editor

## Quentin McGuinness

It is very pleasing to report that the momentum with building the 'Grange' seems to be increasing steadily.

There is nothing like getting your hands dirty and seeing the physical progress being made first hand. With a limit on people's available money and so many different projects out there calling for funding, we have been lucky to develop a team of keen and able volunteers in order to carry out some of the tasks. Only this weekend gone we have seen two new faces join the working party. Welcome to Barry from Newport and Dave from Mold. This will continue to be important and it is hoped that the winter is kind to us again allowing a good turnout

for the planned schedule of working weekends. Volunteering also of course means administration. The Board have welcomed the addition of Liz McGuinness and Lynn Moore as Directors and this was formalised at the Society AGM in June. Both ladies have fundraising roles.

The Sales Events we attend continue to vary in their success. The General public are cautious with their spending, but we have to accept that it is important to keep the 'flag flying' and letting people know how we are progressing. Regular attendance at certain locations has built up a loyalty from some customers who return to see us and find out where we are up to and if we have

new products on sale. We haven't made a big plea for goods to sell recently, but I'm aware that we really need an influx of good quality second hand books to sell. If you have the need to thin out your collection or can spare a few that you no longer look at very often, please let us know!

In conclusion I would like to thank all members for their support over the years. If you are keen to help us finish the job in a reasonable timescale and perhaps have been out of touch, please don't hesitate to contact us. We would obviously welcome anyone who can renew their monthly payments, join the working team at the shed or help spread the word at our Sales Events.



Alan Smalley has kindly sent us a selection of 'Grange' images from his own archive, two of which are reproduced here. The first shows a heavily work-stained No. 6818 *Hardwick Grange*, which at the time the picture was taken on May 16, 1964, had been withdrawn the previous month (April 8) from Newport, Ebbw Junction (86A), where it is seen. It was sold to Bird's for scrap on June 6 that year. **ALAN SMALLEY**

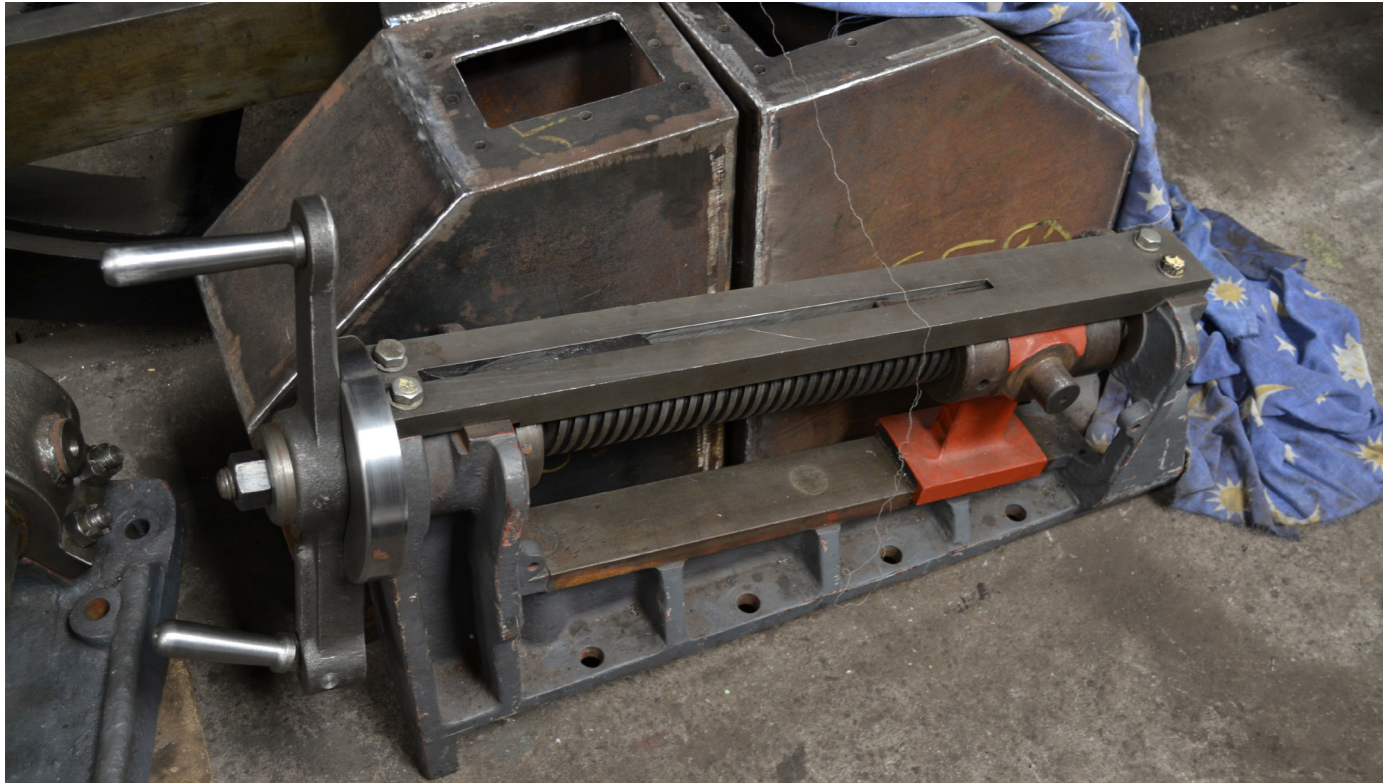


Alan was up at the crack of dawn to capture this one and gets first prize for most accurate date and timing of a railway photograph! Taken at 05.23 on July 9, 1963, this is No. 6843 *Poulton Grange* passing through Newport on an Up freight. Another South Wales engine, this one lasted until February 26, 1964 and went to Cohen's for scrap on April 24.

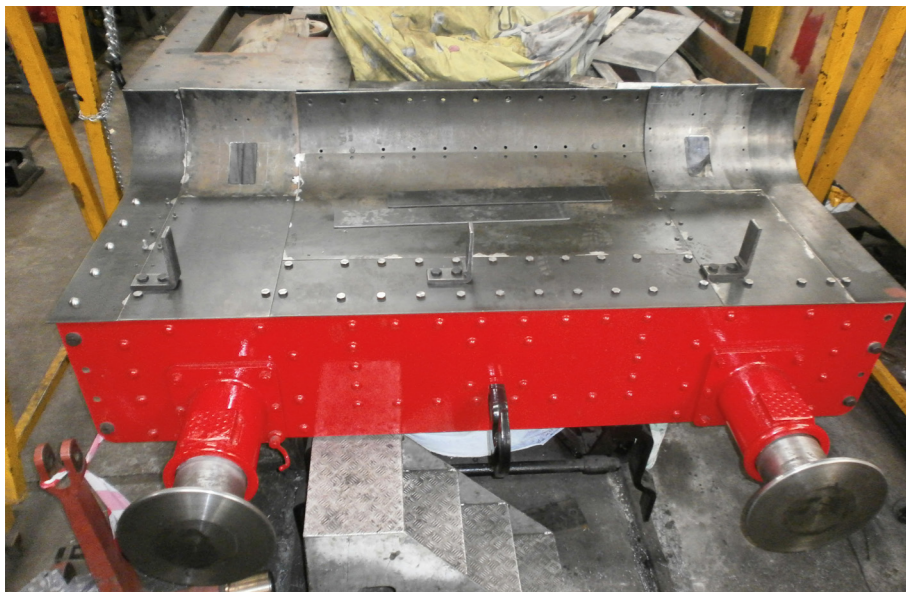
**ALAN SMALLEY**



A wagonload (well almost) of 6880 Betton Grange Society members on June 7, 2015, during an 'invitation open day' at Bill McAlpine's Fawley Hill Railway. Hudswell Clarke 0-6-OST No. 31 ((1026 of 1913) was a former Robert McAlpine & Sons contractors' locomotive, bought by son William in the 1950s for £100. Thanks for the cakes Liz! **PAUL APPLETON**



Above: The newly refurbished screw reverser stands alongside the locomotive in June, awaiting its turn for fitting. **MICK PRIOR**



Left: The front-end footplating was fitted during the summer months, seen here in August, complete with lamp brackets. **MICK PRIOR**



Above: Bill Hall with the new handle for the screw reverser. **MICK PRIOR**

Left: The boiler resting on the well wagon at Pentre Felin after completion of the operation to move it from the ground on September 17. **CHRIS MOORE**



The new slide bars for No. 6880 *Betton Grange* arrived late September. **CHRIS MOORE**

Construction of *Betton Grange* continues steadily in the Llangollen Railway's workshops with the remaining footplating made and fitted around the front end and over the cylinders, giving it a pleasing 'Grange-like' appearance.

Machined motion brackets have been received from Harco Engineering and these will be permanently fitted when final alignment, pressure testing and securing of the cylinder assembly takes place. This work is scheduled to get underway at the beginning of November.

A complete set of sand boxes have been made for the locomotive and will be fitted shortly. Meanwhile Llangollen Railway Engineering have machined a set of bearing caps for the rocker arm supports using steel castings supplied by Johnson Porter from a pattern made by working member Bill Hall. Bearings and rocker arms have also been fitted to the supports and the completed assemblies will be fitted to the chassis in the very near future.

The Cylinder relief valves, drain-cocks, and their operating mechanism are currently under construction and will be completed shortly. Harco Engineering have also manufactured a new set of slide bars, which were delivered at the end of September.

Away from home, Tyseley Locomotive Works are overhauling a brake cylinder and will also be supplying new piston castings and piston valve assemblies. We now have a full set of cylinder end and valve end covers and it is intended to place the order for the overhaul of the

piston rods and crossheads soon.

The refurbished screw reverser is now sat next to the locomotive awaiting its turn for fitting, along with a new handle manufactured by the group with Bill Hall chiefly responsible for its completion.

No. 7927 *Willington Hall's* boiler has been lifted from its storage place at Pentre Felin yard onto a suitable well wagon, in order that it may be shunted into a convenient position for work to commence on stripping and cleaning prior to inviting quotations from suitable qualified companies for its full overhaul and return to steampable condition.

It is planned to place the work for the overhaul of the boiler once the fund reaches the halfway mark, from which point the work will take at least a year and will depend upon our ability to raise the remaining funds. Until detailed inspections are carried out and estimates received, it isn't known exactly how much money needs to be raised, but we have estimated it will not be far off £225,000 based on overhaul costs of similar boilers to main line operating standards in recent years.

I will leave Lynn to give you the news on where we are with the boiler appeal, but please, if you have been thinking of making a donation to the '225 Boiler Appeal' but haven't got round to it, please do so now, so that we can keep the momentum going and get No. 6880 steaming in 2018.

We are often asked about what we are going to do for a tender to pair with *Betton Grange*. Initial investigations are being carried out into the production of

a new 3500 gallon Collett tender tank, along with consideration as to which of the various chassis parts available to us are to be used. Although it is initially intended to run the 'Grange' with a loaned tender, we would prefer to have our own tender sooner rather than later. Projected timescale and funding opportunities are currently being looked into.

The No. 6880 *Betton Grange* 'On the Shelf' list of parts sponsorship has proved to be a great success and this is kept up to date on the website. Part sponsorship starts from as little as £80 making it reasonably affordable for most people to 'own' their very own little bit of *Betton Grange*. Details of how to get involved and how to contribute to the boiler appeal can be found at [www.6880.co.uk/shelf-list](http://www.6880.co.uk/shelf-list).

Get it Steaming!

**Chris Moore**  
Engineering Director

Working Party Weekend dates for 2016 are planned as follows;

January	9/10
January	23/24
February	6/7
February	20/21
March	5/6

# Raising Steam – The Boiler Appeal

**W**hat a fantastic start to the Boiler Appeal we had in the spring! That success continues, with donations continuing to come in at a steady stream. We have now reached the grand total of £63,000 (including pledges and gift aid). That is over 25% of our target in just over six months – brilliant!

If we continue at this rate we will reach our target within the two-year target. However we cannot afford to become complacent, it is going to become increasingly difficult to find new donors as time goes on. In order to encourage more donations and, in answer to a number of enquiries about pledges, we are to launch our 'Pledge for the Grange' as part of a review of the various '225 Boiler Club' membership schemes.

Thinking about those 80 'Granges' from A to O (Arlington to Overton) that met the cutters' torch, wouldn't it be a great idea if we could honour those 80 by finding just 80 donors who would each pledge £50 per month for 20 months? That way we could raise £80,000 towards the cost of refurbishing the boiler. Each of those donors would then 'adopt' one of those 80 'Granges'. As well as receiving



the benefits of Premium Boiler Club membership they will also receive a framed photograph of their own adopted 'Grange'.

Already five 'Granges' have been adopted; Nos. 6808 *Beenham Grange*, 6843 *Poulton Grange*, 6853

*Morehampton Grange*, 6862 *Derwent Grange* and 6868 *Penrhos Grange*. So what was your favourite? Get in quick to 'Adopt your Grange' and please ask for standing order forms or download them from the web – please ensure the Ref: BAPP is used.

Meanwhile all donations however small are most welcome and continue to be gratefully received. I have some lovely small donations from Ex-GWR boiler men and former Crewe Works men. The 'Save your Change for the Grange' tins are still available and I know of one or two that are almost full! When out and about we have our collection buckets labelled 'Change for the Grange' which attracts some attention (and money!).

So we are well off the mark and we are all delighted by the generosity of the enthusiastic public and 6880 Members alike. A big, big thank you to all of you who have supported the appeal so far. If you have not already joined the Boiler Club, please support us and help to get 6880 *Betton Grange* steaming during 2018.

**Lynn Moore**  
Fund Raising Director

## 80 'Granges' – 76 left to adopt

Those in red are already adopted

6800 Arlington Grange  
6801 Aylburton Grange  
6802 Bampton Grange  
6803 Bucklebury Grange  
6804 Brockington Grange  
6805 Broughton Grange  
6806 Blackwell Grange  
6807 Birchwood Grange  
6808 *Beenham Grange*  
6809 Burghclere Grange  
6810 Blakemere Grange  
6811 Cranbourne Grange  
6812 Chesford Grange  
6813 Eastbury Grange  
6814 Enborne Grange  
6815 Frilford Grange  
6816 Frankton Grange  
6817 Gwenddwr Grange  
6818 Hardwick Grange

6819 Highnam Grange  
6820 Kingstone Grange  
6821 Leaton Grange  
6822 Manton Grange  
6823 Oakley Grange  
6824 Ashley Grange  
6825 Llanvair Grange  
6826 Nannerth Grange  
6827 Llanfrechfa Grange  
6828 Trellech Grange  
6829 Burmington Grange  
6830 Buckenhill Grange  
6831 Bearley Grange  
6832 Brockton Grange  
6833 Calcot Grange  
6834 Dummer Grange  
6835 Eastham Grange  
6836 Estevarney Grange  
6837 Forthampton Grange

6838 Goodmoor Grange  
6839 Hewell Grange  
6840 Hazeley Grange  
6841 Marlas Grange  
6842 Ninhold Grange  
6843 *Poulton Grange*  
6844 Penhydd Grange  
6845 Paviland Grange  
6846 Ruckley Grange  
6847 Tidmarsh Grange  
6848 Toddington Grange  
6849 Walton Grange  
6850 Cleeve Grange  
6851 Hurst Grange  
6852 Headbourne Grange  
6853 *Morehampton Grange*  
6854 Roundhill Grange  
6855 Saighton Grange  
6856 Stowe Grange  
6857 Tudor Grange  
6858 Woolston Grange

6859 Yiewsley Grange  
6860 Aberporth Grange  
6861 Crynant Grange  
6862 *Derwent Grange*  
6863 Dolhywel Grange  
6864 Dymock Grange  
6865 Hopton Grange  
6866 Morfa Grange  
6867 Peterston Grange  
6868 *Penrhos Grange*  
6869 Resolven Grange  
6870 Bodicote Grange  
6871 Bourton Grange  
6872 Crawley Grange  
6873 Caradoc Grange  
6874 Haughton Grange  
6875 Hindford Grange  
6876 Kingsland Grange  
6877 Llanfair Grange  
6878 Longford Grange  
6879 Overton Grange

**A**s 2015 comes to a close there are a number of exciting things still happening and some great ways you can help with our fund raising. I also wanted to keep you up to date with our sales and event activities.

The 6880 *Betton Grange* Prize Draw is in full swing and due to be drawn on December 5, 2015. The First prize is two return Euro Star tickets from London to Paris, Lille or Brussels, with a further six prizes also to be won. The tickets are £1.00 each, so come on everybody, have a go as you never know it might be you!

All the Galas are now finished until 2016 and I would like to thank everyone who has helped out and manned the stands. We have attended fewer Galas this year because of our commitments to SSSIV, but we still managed to cover quite a few including; Bristol SMEE, STEAM at Swindon, Llangollen Galas, SVR, WSR and Tyseley open day. We did very well at these events and got some great feedback.

The new SSSIV DVD is available now from our website at the cost of £24.95 plus p&p; as usual the DVD is excellent with some great footage of the event; we still have the other three SSS DVDs in stock, so why not treat yourself for Christmas?

Christmas (in case you hadn't noticed) is just around the corner, so here is your opportunity to buy a loved one a great 6880 Polo shirt or fleece. If you mention the Newsletter when you order you will get a 10% discount. On sale up until December 19 are our white Polo shirts, usually retailing at £16.00, they are just

£10.00. A bargain not to be missed!

We still have all our usual branded items for sale including, fridge magnets, teddy bears, mugs, hats and caps (see back page for more details). One of our new items is the Jonathan Clay book, which was launched earlier this year. It is a great book and available from the 6880 *Betton Grange* Sales Dept.

Apart for buying some of our branded goods or having a go at our Prize Draw there are two other ways in which you can donate and 'Help Us Finish The Job';

### Text Donate

All you have to do is text MAKE16 and either £2/£5 or £10 to 70070 and this will automatically come to us, so please consider doing this even if it's just once, because every little helps and we need every penny to get our 'Grange' finished.

### Easy Fund Raising

Easy fund raising costs you absolutely nothing to do, it is completely free. All you need to do is go to [www.easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and create an account. This only takes a few minutes. Then choose 6880 *Betton Grange* as your charity (click the link on our website - it will take you straight there). Once you have done this when you shop on line go to the Easy Fund Raising website and see if the retailer you want to buy from is listed. 99.9% are and if you go to their webpage via Easy Fund Raising, the company will donate a percentage of your purchase to 6880 *Betton Grange*, but you only pay the price you would have paid anyway. So far we have raised

£130.29 via Easy Fund Raising. I am sure that between all of our membership we could raise a lot more if everyone registered.

Thanks again for another great year and I look forward to seeing lots of you in front of and behind the sales stands in 2016.

Happy Christmas and best wishes to you and your families.

**Liz McGuinness**  
Fund Raising Director

● There are two books of Prize Draw tickets included with your Newsletter. I am hoping that you will be able to encourage friends and family to buy a ticket to two. I would appreciate it if all completed stubs and monies be forwarded directly to me as follows;

Liz McGuinness,  
Talerddig,  
4 Bryntirion Terrace,  
Llangollen LL20 8LP.

As new Directors on the board responsible for fund raising, Lynn and I are planning to get a group together to help come up with more innovate fund raising ideas. We would also like to ask Members to commit some time to doing something specific for fundraising. If you are interested in finding out more, please drop me a line or give me a call to discuss further.



# CHRISTMAS SHOPPING MADE EASY!

6880 Betton Grange Society DVDs and branded merchandise available from the 6880 web site or by using the order form enclosed with this issue of the Newsletter.  
Sales enquiries/telephone orders to Liz McGuinness. Tel No. 07880 504519, or (evenings only) 01978 861365.  
Credit/Debit card orders through web site only [www.6880.co.uk](http://www.6880.co.uk)



White Mug £3.95  
+ £3.75 p&p



Big Ted £5.00 + £2.25 p&p



Limited edition Malcolm Root Print, unframed  
£68.80 + £5.00 p&p



Craig Tyley Print, unframed  
£25.00 + £5.00 p&p



Fridge Magnet £2.00  
+ 75p p&p



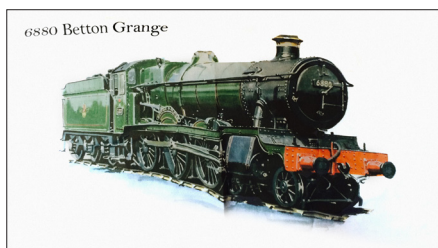
Cap £9.00 + £3.00 p&p



Fleece £24.00 + £5.00 p&p



Polo Shirts £16.00  
+ £3.50 p&p



Tea Towel £5.00 + £2.00 p&p



Pen £1.50 +  
50p p&p



Beanie Hat  
£10.00  
+ £3.00 p&p

White Polo  
Shirts £10.00  
+ £3.50 p&p



GWR Mug £9.95



GWR Cup & Saucer  
£15.95



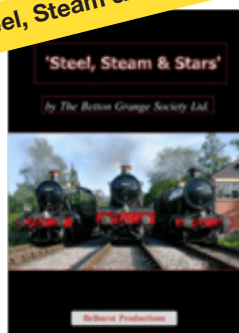
GWR Salt & Pepper  
£18.95



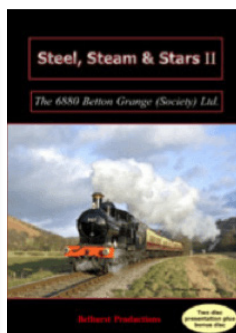
GWR Tea Bag Rest  
£4.95

GWR China: contact for post and packing prices, or to arrange collection/delivery

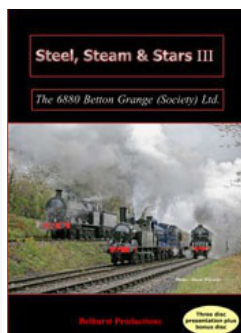
Steel, Steam & Stars DVDs



SSS1 £10.00  
plus £3.00 p&p



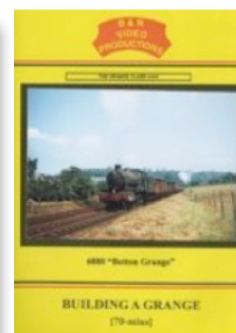
SSS2 £15.00  
plus £3.00 p&p



SSS3 £20.00  
plus £3.00 p&p



SSS4 £24.95  
plus £3.00 p&p



Building The Grange  
£10.00 plus £3.00 p&p