

6880 Betton Grange  
**6880**  
Building the 81st Grange for the 21st century

Find us at [www.6880.co.uk](http://www.6880.co.uk)  
Quarterly Newsletter No: 3

Welcome to our third quarterly newsletter.

Sorry that this newsletter is a little late, I'm in the early stages of setting up a new website and this is taking more of my time than was anticipated, still the results should be worth it and hopefully it will be online before the next quarterly newsletter. I have also held back on producing the newsletter so I could include a stop press news item.

We welcome the many new members that we have gained since January, and hope that some of the readers of this newsletter who have not yet signed up to the Society will be encouraged to do so after reading the update. We have now finalised our 'member benefits' to include:

- A signed print by up and coming artist Craig Tiley, featured in Railway Magazine Feb 2004.
- Exclusive Video/DVD by B & R Video featuring the 'Granges'.
- Attractive membership share certificate.
- Invitation to travel on inaugural train, both on preserved lines and the main line.
- Access to the footplate at Llangollen Railway.
- Access to 6880 during construction.
- Regular updates on progress, both via newsletter and website.

At a later date this list will be expanded to include a miniature cast replica nameplate and numberplate, and subject to negotiations and availability, a 4mm scale Hornby model of 6880. These will be subject to a tiered donation level. We also plan to offer various items with the 6880 company logo.

Full membership (£240.00 either in instalments or by donation) entitles you to these benefits and also enables you to vote at our AGM.

The launch of the project, and the associated advertisement run in the railway press has helped us make a four fold increase in our membership, and a similar increase in our monthly income. We now plan a more targeted advertisement campaign and we are aiming at getting leaflets, and project news, into various society newsletters and specialist steam publications. This is a longer term campaign and will be run alongside our stated aim of getting any project news into the Railway press as soon as it happens.

We launched another tried and tested method of bringing the message to the masses, our 'roadshow' made its trial appearance at the April Steam Gala at Llangollen where we raised £80.00 in donations. We have adopted our company theme for the display, and plan on doubling the display area in the near future. Some of our roadshow is a little trial and error at the moment, but we aim to project a professional image with the stand and hope to be making a regular appearance at railway events over the next few years. Thanks to Will Naylor for all his hard work in the design and construction of the display boards.



We



have also had our first 'commercial' sponsorship in this project, Barlow's Trailers of Wigan have kindly agreed to loan us a trailer to travel to any events we will attend this year. Initially this will enable us to evaluate whether purchasing a trailer will be of value to us, the movement of the display material to an event is less of a problem than storing it when it is not in use. Having permanent use of a trailer would enable safer storage, and give us the advantage of turning it into a mobile advertisement.

The 6880 Project has helped further cement the relations between the Llangollen Railway, the Vale of Glamorgan Steam Railway and the Vale of Glamorgan Council. Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> April saw the opening of the latest extension of the VOGR, this event was attended by Will and myself as representatives of 6880 and gave us the opportunity to meet some of the figures behind the decision by the Vale of Glamorgan Council to release the boiler from 7927 Willington Hall to our project. The occasion also saw the opening of a new IT resource centre, adjacent to both the new terminus of the line at Woodham Halt, and the already established Heritage Skills centre. The scale of the Council's vision for the area, including the VOGR, the 'Barry Ten' and the former EWS that houses them, is remarkable, but, they do appear to have the political will, and access to the resources, to make them happen. We are happy to be one small part of this vision, and I hope that this is just the first of many trips to the area representing 6880.

At present we are not able to give a firm date for the removal of Willington Hall from Barry, although we are one step closer to this day. June 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> will see the return to Barry of the first steaming locomotive to leave the famous scrapyards. It is planned that 5199 will attend the Transport Extravaganza to be held on the VOGR line at Barry, this will give us not only this important 'first', but the opportunity will be taken to 'shunt the shed' so that Willington Hall is ready to be moved by road. This gives us yet another photo opportunity that can bring the project to the front of the Railway news, and we will take every advantage of this and the fact that 5199 will be the first locomotive to return to the rails at Barry.



Other good news is that the first of the new numberplates was ready for display at Llangollen. This, and its twin, will form one of the centrepieces of our display stand, and is a major symbol of the project. We have also received a set of whistles from new member Alan Marshall, and a vacuum gage from Martin Perry. Thank you Alan for allowing us to use the handover of the whistles as publicity, this

again made its way into the Railway Press.

If anyone is a user of the website, I apologise for the loss of the forum



area. This was caused by an 'upgrade' of the hosting company server, and unfortunately corrupted the database in the process. While the forum area was little used it did give me the opportunity to publish photos of

news events as they happened. The new website will be able to publish these events as part of the main site, but I do plan on bringing a discussion area back

to the site as soon as possible, if you have any suggestions for inclusion on the website, let me know either by e-mail, [web@6880.co.uk](mailto:web@6880.co.uk), or drop me a line at 56 Central Avenue, Birkdale, Southport. PR8 3EQ.

Work has continued on the tender, we have taken out much of the corroded framework and will soon be ready to evaluate the extent of the new framework needed on the chassis. We will soon reach a point where the next major task will be to have the frame shotblasted and given a quick coat of protective primer.

Several of the next working weekends will be taken up with other events, 5199 is taking a trip to Toddington, we hope to attend the York Railfest event and we have the planned trip to the Vale of Glamorgan. It is hoped that by the time the tender frame reaches a point where it is ready to be painted that we will have Willington Hall onsite to keep the working team going. There is a lot of work to do in dismantling this loco for the boiler removal to take place followed by stripping it down for a full evaluation of the work needed, there will soon be no shortage of work for our working volunteers!



**A scene we hope to recreate,  
6825 outside Barry MPD on  
12/05/63.  
Thanks to David Down.**

That's the end of this newsletter, I hope to publish the next one around the middle of June to include the news and photos of the events at Barry. If you have anything you want to include in the newsletter, contact me on the address above.

Thanks for reading this issue.

Simon Holden