

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: 5

Welcome to our fifth quarterly newsletter, and the beginning of the second year of the 6880 project. We start this update, and the year, with our thoughts from the Chairman, Quentin Macguinness;

*"Firstly may I take this opportunity to wish all our members, supporters, website visitors and well wishers a happy and prosperous New Year. Without you we could not have come this far in such a short space of time, and we look forward with you to the year ahead.*

*Twelve months ago we had just been given the green light. The company fully was registered, we had gained charitable status, and from the Vale of Glamorgan we had just received the news that the Council had given its approval for the boiler from Willington Hall to be used for the project. We were off the starting blocks.*

*A distinctive leaflet was produced, and our website manager Simon Holden used his computer skills to good effect. Until this point we had relied upon the regular contributions of just the committee and a keen supporter; but now we could approach the enthusiast properly. A 'roadshow' display was developed, and we have continued to gather members and support through the whole of this past year.*

*There were many highlights during 2004; the cutting of the mainframes in October will be seen as the major triumph, and the biggest step forward since the news of the boiler donation. However, for me the most important hurdle was reaching our target of £500 per month from monthly subscription income before the end of 2004. Can you help to at least double this target for the end of 2005?*

*The committee has little information at present to allow comparison with other projects. We do know that after approximately 14 years of campaigning the A1 trust building "Tornado" is receiving a staggering £12,000 per month. What we also know is they have many more people willing to take on various jobs.*

*Presently, we have just four active committee members. This is limiting progress, particularly with our fund raising capacity. There is no shortage of fresh ideas for fundraising, but every one of them requires someone to run with it. The plea from all of us is for some help in promoting 6880 in your local area.*

*There are plenty of challenges in store for this coming year. We eagerly await the completion of 3802 in the Llangollen Railway workshops and the vacation of the space reserved for assembling our mainframes. Then there is the signing of the final agreement for the boiler. Later in the year we are attending the Crewe Works Extravaganza. This time we hope to have a more impressive 6880 presence – so watch this space.*

*Finally, thank you to everyone who has joined us. Your faith in our belief that a 'Grange' will exist again makes an important statement to the rest of the heritage railway movement."*

**Looking for books, DVD's, CD's, software or items for your home and garden? Consider buying at [Amazon.co.uk](http://Amazon.co.uk), and by clicking the links on our homepage at [www.6880.co.uk](http://www.6880.co.uk) your money will now go a little further by helping us. Yet another reason to visit our website, we have all the latest news and photos, with much more to come.**

## News Updates.



Just missing the last newsletter was the news that following the AGM of the Great Western (SVR) Association another component of 6880 has been secured. The three 5'8" wheelsets from 4156, cut up at Barry in 1980, which were secured as spares for the Association, have been made available to us on 'indefinite loan'. Although 'spare' the wheels currently reside under 7325, the Collett 'Mogul' on display at Steam, Swindon, but it is likely that 7325's own wheels will be re-tyred and returned to the frames before we would need the wheelset for 6880.

Conditions attached to the loan mean that the Association could recall the wheels with 12 months notice, in the event of a major failure involving 7325 or another Severn Valley locomotive.

The tyres are usable, but thin, and re-tyring is planned, but we will also have modifications, notably the crankpins on the leading set will need replacing with the correct type, and balance weights will also have to be modified to the correct weights, those fitted are lighter than those needed on a 'Grange'.

Quentin and the wheels under 7325 at Steam

We're immensely grateful to the Association, and in particular to Pete Simpson and Mick Haynes for their enthusiastic support of the Grange Project. Mick remembers some good trips behind the class and the Association will welcome the finished engine to the SVR.

Finally we have just received the news from the Heritage Lottery Fund that they have given the green light to the plans for the Barry Ten. This is important news, not just for us, but also the other projects that depend on remaining members of the Barry Ten. In the immediate future this will see the announcement of the Great Western Society backed County 1014 Project, who share our interest in Willington Hall.

This decision, although much delayed, will now allow a formal signing over of Willington Hall, although we have no date for this yet, and it is planned that this will be a well-publicised event enabling us to keep 6880 in the public eye. We will be advertising this event on the website as soon as we have any dates.

### Working weekends.



As previously mentioned we are awaiting space to become available in the Llangollen workshops, and until we have an area available we cannot start the assembly of the mainframes. However there is plenty of work still to be done on fabricating various critical components of the frames that will be needed during the assembly. The necessary steel has been purchased, and drawings have been prepared to enable a start to be made on these items. Alongside these critical components we are also in the position of starting some of the sheet metalwork, preparation for the production of the wheel splashers has now been started.

The next working weekends are the 12-13<sup>th</sup> Feb, and 12-13<sup>th</sup> March. Anyone who would like to lend a hand is welcome, or, if you prefer to just call in to see progress or have a chat we would be very pleased to welcome you.

The next newsletter is due in March, but to keep uptodate please visit the website at:

[www.6880.co.uk](http://www.6880.co.uk)

Thank you for reading this issue.