

6880 Betton Grange

6880

Building the 81st Grange for the 21st Century

## Quarterly Newsletter

Issue 8 - Winter 2006

**Welcome to this issue**

Sorry for the delay/ missed issue from the autumn, but other pressures have meant things had to be put on the back burner. Please enjoy reading this newsletter, and remember the website carries the news as soon as it happens.

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

**Treasurer resigns**

Chris Arkwright notified us that due to personal pressures of family life, he wished to resign the post of



treasurer at the end of 2005. We would all like to thank him for his contribution to date and hope he will continue to support us when he has time. Hugh Shipton's accountancy practice has kindly offered to look after the bookkeeping duties hereon.

**6880 shopping**

Thank-you to everyone who has helped contribute to 6880 via the affiliates schemes on the web-site. The schemes are available all year round. Visit the web-site to find out more.

[buy.at/](http://buy.at/)

**Working weekends**

Dates for your diary:

Jan 28th-29th

Feb 25th-26th

Mar 25th-26th

April 22nd-23rd

Everyone is welcome, and if you can't make them, look out for a progress report on the website.

**Membership**

Membership at the end of 2005 stands at 80, with an income of £800 per month. Thank you everyone.

We have plans to introduce some new sponsorship/ membership schemes soon, see the back page for more information.

## Chairman's report

A year has passed and the last working weekend of 2005 has drawn to a close. We all started to reflect on the achievements of the past twelve months, so here is summary of that list:

- Frames brought into the shed, stretchers drilled, angle irons drilled and all riveted and welded. With the drawing reworked, all of 6880s main-frames and stretchers are now ready for machining in 2006.

- All splashers made and brass beading collected ready for fitting.

- Store set up at Llangollen for all sales and promotional items.

- We manned stands at the WSR Gala at Williton, the Dorset Steam Fair, Crewe works open day, and Barrow Hill; the last two with 5199 in attendance.

- The long running saga of the tender chassis drew to a close and 6880 now has the beginnings of a 4000 gallon tender. Shot blasting and a coat of paint to follow in 2006

- The biggest news by far is the arrival of the boiler, the result of negotiations that have been going on since 2000. A combined team effort of Didcot and ourselves with the Vale of Glamorgan Council, saw 7927 depart from Barry S.Wales on the 3rd November and unloaded at Llangollen the



**Top, the team riveting the stretchers.**

**Lower, the finished items (both W Naylor).**

next day. The boiler has been removed and placed at Pentrefelin in the boiler park. Preliminary work such as removal of tubes and a washout will take place next year followed by an inspection by the necessary bodies

- Second place to the boiler and a very close run thing, consisting of burning the midnight oil and much cursing, was the building of the cab in time for Crewe Works open days. This one item alone is still paying dividends in the attraction of further sponsorship and new working members. It ranks as one of the best decisions we have made so far. It now resides in Llangollen shed for all to see waiting for the day it sits on a set frames stamped with 6880

- On the promotions side Craig Tiley's Drawing, "The Vision" still draws admiring looks and the range of 6880 clothing continues to sell.

This year 6880 has attracted new blood into the team with Ian Massey, and more recently Steve Denton, both putting in some fastrack commitment to 6880 and the Llangollen Railway.

Financially, 6880 is doing ok. We have reached the £800 a month mark from regular subscriptions and received our first gift aid cheque. We have also finished paying Paul Johnson for a short term loan to buy the frames. There is only the Vat left to reckon up with.

Moving forward to next year, we see the assembly of the frames as being the main priority with some remedial work on the boiler and tender.

As you all know to keep 6880 moving at this pace it takes money, in early 2006 we will be turning our attention to increasing the current income. Some of you will be coming to the end of your specified standing order and I aim to contact you all personally regarding this matter, with the intention of asking you to keep it going. It is only down to people like you that 6880 has progressed at such a rapid rate. Although they are currently at the planning stage, new fund-raising proposals looking to take 6880s income to the next level have been drawn up. We will report on this when details are finalised.

We feel, and we hope you do as well, that 6880 has over the last two years proven itself as a viable project, and gained the credibility it needed.

Quentin McGuinness December 2005

# Progress

## Crewe:

The weeks leading up to the Crewe Works Open Days 10th/11th September 2005, were to say the least somewhat tense, as we realised it would be a tough task to complete the cab and get it painted and lined out. I would like to extend a big thank you to everyone who helped finish it in time, but particularly to member Paul Johnson from Minehead, Somerset. Paul put in a considerable amount of time as an unpaid volunteer on two occasions, much of it working alone, aided by myself in the evenings which extended the working day by as much as 6hrs!!

The finished cab was finally ready for transporting on the 9th and Phil Morrey's vehicle took it to Crewe, where it was unloaded and placed inside the erecting shops using a forklift. Richard Pumphrey supplied a ready made temporary cab floor which was fitted in on arrival. We were able to set up an impressive sales stand next to it and with the addition of Craig Tiley's canvasses & artwork, it created a big attraction. We took £500 in sales and donations and signed up three new members. The completion of the cab also inspired visitor John Buxton to make the offer of sponsoring the nameplates.

The whole event was extremely successful for all concerned. The team certainly felt we had made the right decision to press ahead with the cab construction, after looking at the weekend's result.

## Future:

The immediate future will be spent on further work constructing frame stretchers and preparing the frames for drilling/machining prior to the actual assembly of all the items.



## Boiler:

Since arriving at Llangollen on November 4th 2005, the boiler has been lifted out of the frames and parked on the storage area in Pentrefelin Yard. 6880 member Bob Gordon who volunteers at the Carriage shed there, has spent some time cleaning out the ash/rust from the smokebox and removing the remains of the brick arch from the fire-box. Further cleaning up work and removal of the old tubes is likely to take place in the Spring/Summer.

*Photo top left, Willington Hall leaving Barry (G Drew). Lower left, the boiler at Pentrefelin (Q McGuinness).*

## Cash Squeeze/Finances:

Thank you to everyone who sent us donations following my appeal in the last newsletter. I was pleasantly surprised by the number of cheques that quickly came through the post. It certainly helped and we were then able to pay off all the outstanding invoices. We have subsequently received the Gift Aid payments from the Inland Revenue, strengthening our position further. We are now progressing VAT registration and that will allow a claim for a further substantial chunk of money. Quentin McGuinness

## Sponsorship scheme

A drawing of the mainframes showing the 430 holes that need to be drilled is to be mounted inside 6880's cab. Shown the below is a photo of the cab at Crewe (C Tiley) in a similar promotional role. We are asking both members, and the public, to sponsor the drilling at £5 per hole and we will add their name to the drawing to encourage further sponsors. (There is no limit to the number of holes an individual can sponsor!!)

In recognition of all the individual sponsorship of items, we are planning a brass plaque listing their names.

As with all sponsorships, please send cheques made payable to:

The 6880 Betton Grange (Society) Ltd

Q.McGuinness,  
4 Bryntirion Terrace,  
Llangollen,  
Denbs.  
LL20 8LP.



## New fund raising schemes on the way

In the next newsletter we hope to bring you news about two new ideas. The first on the suggestion of member Richard Cadge, is based on £68.80 per month, with some valuable incentives for the 50 required contributors. The second is two major Galas at Llangollen, to be run by us, kicking off in April 2007. The focus is to raise funds for the extension frames and cylinder block.

## Board of Trustees

**Quentin McGuinness — Chairman**  
**Alan Naylor — Secretary**  
**Will Naylor — Engineering Liaison**  
**Simon Holden — Membership, newsletter and web-site.**

## Newsletter and Web

Comments, ideas or contribution to either the newsletter or web-site, use either the address below, or e-mail;

**info@6880.co.uk**

The newsletter is published quarterly and is available free of charge to members and donators. If you want a copy for your club, society or could help us to promote the project, let us know.

## Membership Enquiries

**6880 Betton Grange Society**  
**C/o 56 Central Avenue,**  
**Birkdale,**  
**Southport.**  
**PR8 3EQ**