

Betton Grange

6880

Building the 81st Grange



BOILER ALMOST FINISHED



The new smokebox in position on the smokebox saddle on *Betton Grange* at Tyseley on September 29th. BARRY HAYMAN

Building steam locomotives in the 21st century is a precarious and expensive business, let no-one persuade you otherwise!

Just as it is impossible to predict exactly how much it costs to build a main line tender locomotive, so it is impossible to

predict when the work will be completed. A year ago, the best guess was that we would have the boiler back from Tyseley in late spring of this year, then a number of months would be required to put everything together and perhaps get a fire in the grate by November or December. That was until it

Autumn Newsletter 2018

WELCOME...

was discovered we needed a new front taper section for the boiler and immediately this put us back three months.

In the event, instead of Tyseley sending the completed boiler to Llangollen, we decided to take the chassis to Tyseley, at the end of June, so that once the boiler was finished it could be trial fitted into the frames so that any snags could be sorted out at Tyseley. The smokebox was placed onto the frames in time for the recent Tyseley 50th Anniversary Open Weekend at the end of September.

The last few stays and rivets have gone into the firebox as I write this, with the taper section due to be fitted between the firebox section and smokebox to create a complete unit by the time you read this. While the locomotive is at Tyseley, advantage is being taken of the opportunity to complete a number of other jobs over the winter, so that when 'Betton' returns to Llangollen in

the spring, there will be comparatively little outstanding work before the locomotive can be steamed.

However, and this is a big HOWEVER, we still have a funding shortage. Our Final Push fundraising initiative, launched almost a year ago, is still open. As estimates for the cost of outstanding work have changed, the overall cost has gone up and we are still searching for around £40k to finish the loco. This autumn, an advertising campaign is being run across the railway press to focus on raising the funding shortfall. If you can help us to do that, you will be bringing the day ever closer that a 'Grange' will haul a train along the glorious Dee Valley. Let's make it happen!

Paul Appleton
Editor



Volunteers at Tyseley – left to right: Colin, Max, Chris, Paul, Bill and Paul - working parties are currently split between Tyseley (loco) and Llangollen (tender). COLIN HODGIN

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Another year is nearly over and I can say with confidence the end goal is definitely in sight, No. 6880 *Betton Grange* will steam in 2019!

I personally, would like to thank everyone who has donated their time and or money because without you all we would not be in this fabulous position, so thank you for helping to realise the dream of a 'Grange' in steam.

As I write this, we are coming to the end of the events season and we have just had two weekends in succession, the latter of these actually seeing us at two different locations, Tyseley and West Somerset. Building a locomotive and keeping up the profile, letting the enthusiasts and public know how we are progressing is definitely a labour of love, requiring long hours, standing outside (usually) and doing lots of talking, as well as (hopefully) raising plenty of much-needed funds!

The weekend of September 21-23 was the Severn Valley Railway Autumn Steam Gala. We regularly have a pitch on the island platform at Bewdley, alongside a number of other stands, mostly loco groups doing the same thing as us. Delivering the stand and the boxes of goods is always a tricky job at this location, as the parcels trolley needs to be taken across the bumpy barrow crossing and dragged up the platform ramp, before the trek down the platform. Overnight the station staff let us store the goods in a shed, but again it all has to be hand-balled down a ramp and across a foot crossing. I am part of that team and I am proud of the efforts that members make to promote the project. On Friday 21, the stand was manned initially by two members who are both rather elderly gentlemen, one being my father who is an octogenarian. I applaud their commitment and enthusiasm to help us get there!

The second weekend saw the stand split over the West Somerset Railway Gala and Tyseley Loco Works Open day. Sales goods

and equipment had to be split over three vehicles because the WSR only allow second hand books and DVDs to be sold at stations away from Minehead. We are grateful as always for the accommodation given to us by member Paul Johnson and the welcome from the staff at the WSR. The third stand attended Tyseley where the locomotive was in attendance as part of the contracted works taking place there. I understand this was similarly a successful event and attended by several members.

We still have a tender to construct and a whole new promotion when *Cogan Hall's* restoration commences, so the efforts of our team will continue to be needed. Thank you to everyone who gives their time so freely to the cause.

Sales and Promotion are not the only thing requiring our volunteer time. We are in the final stages of 6880's construction before she steams and there are lots of small jobs that take time, including the painting of many smaller fittings and brackets as they are attached.

I can only echo what Chris says, that we really need a big effort next Spring to see her ready for the Summer Season. I am sure we all want to see *Betton Grange* steaming into the new Corwen Station at the head of a packed eight-coach express (the platform can accommodate it) next summer; please help us make it happen.

I would like to take the opportunity to wish you all a very happy Christmas and prosperous New Year. I look forward to seeing all our members on the first trip behind 6880 *Betton Grange*.

Quentin McGuinness
Chairman

ENGINEERING REPORT



LEFT: Rear section of the boiler barrel with longitudinal stays, waiting to be married up with the new taper section on September 29th. BARRY HAYMAN

When the decision was taken to renew the front taper section of the boiler, we also accepted that there would be a delay in the original



The new front taper section of the boiler with the new tube plate in the process of being fitted on October 12th. This section goes between the smokebox and the main part of the boiler seen in the previous picture. LYNN MOORE

timescale for completion of some three months. It was anticipated that the boiler would go back together sometime in early July and arrangements were made to have the chassis delivered to Tyseley to have the final fitting of the boiler done there.

Unforeseen circumstances due to external suppliers of tooling and a problem with stays have delayed things further, but I am happy to report that all has been resolved; the boiler should now be completed to the new timescale and will be on budget! Meanwhile the smokebox has been completed, but the door has yet to be fitted, the ashpan kit has been obtained and is still to be assembled.

I had hoped to fully complete the front of the chassis this summer, but with the change in plan and sending the chassis to Tyseley, we put some of that work on hold. However, since the last report, Llangollen Engineering have installed the vacuum brake cylinder, the front end steam heat and vacuum pipe runs. All fitted bolts are now in the cylinders and the bogie has also been finally fully fitted. In the spring, work progressed on the cylinder cladding, I don't think anyone anticipated how



An interesting view of No. 6880 inside the workshop at Tyseley Locomotive Works on September 29th. LYNN MOORE

long this work would take and the problems that needed to be overcome. The last job before departure for Tyseley was the fitting of all of the draincocks into the cylinders.

However, while the chassis is at Tyseley, some work on the rivets catching on the wheels needs to be carried out and so far we have also had one working party at Tyseley to prepare for the wheel drop. I am very grateful to all the 'Betton' team and those that go the extra mile to move the project forward. Well done team!

Meanwhile at Llangollen, the rubbing down of the tender has commenced, and with many coats of paint and filler primer to contend with, it made the job much harder than we expected. The rub a dub team have excelled themselves and I am pleased to report that Mick and Lynn have managed to get a coat of red oxide on the tank (yes in places we had to get down to bare metal).



RIGHT: 'Bettons' cab with the screw reverser in situ. BARRY HAYMAN

ENGINEERING REPORT



A chance to see what the loco looks like underneath while over the outside inspection pit at Llangollen, prior to movement to Tyseley.. LYNN MOORE

Well done to all! We have even managed to recruit a couple of new volunteers to help, so welcome to Ben and John.

In the background, there continues much progress on smaller but significant items,

either being machined at Tyseley, LLangollen or locally in Blackpool. Recent completions are the blower ring, steam fountain, the safety valve and the cab draincock handle and operating assembly.



LEFT: Chris Moore fitting the collar to finally fix the bogie in place. LYNN MOORE

RIGHT: At Llangollen, the left side of the tender has received a coat of primer after sanding virtually to bare metal and filling any blemishes. MICK PRIOR



Newly manufactured draincock mechanism. LYNN MOORE



Newly machined safety valves.
LYNN MOORE

Lynn has reported about the Sponsor a Part scheme, and I urge you to consider supporting that as we have not yet got all our finances in place to finish the 'Grange'.

It is now anticipated that the locomotive will return in the New Year to Llangollen, when we will start in earnest the task of 'finishing' the build. I keep getting asked when that will be, but the honest answer is I cannot give a completion date, unlike a restoration there are so many bit and pieces

to add that even I may not yet know about!

All I can say is that I hope that with the full support of all the dedicated volunteers and our supporters we will give that FINAL PUSH to steam in 2019. May I take this early opportunity to wish you a Merry Christmas (sorry) and a STEAMING NEW YEAR for 2019.

Chris Moore
Chief Engineer



SALES & EVENTS REPORT

2018 has been a great sales year so far for the 6880 Betton Grange project, we are on the final stretch and it is important we make that final push to raise the money we need to finish the job. The sales events are a good way to meet with lots of you and keep you up-to-date with all the news and a fabulous way to make more people aware of the project.

I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has helped with the sales events throughout 2018. Sales events are sometimes difficult in the cold, windy weather and carrying heavy boxes to and from platforms. There are many of you that come along and help but we always need more help. The events can bring in new members and additional donations so are an extremely important part of the jigsaw.

The raffle is well under way and this year's first prize is £200, so well worth the investment of a £1.00 coin.

Sales events for this year have gone very well and, already I am planning next year's event programme and will contact everyone as soon as this has been finalised. It would be great if any of you could help at one or more of these events, even if is just for an hour to allow someone to have a break for lunch. We are hoping to do a few more events next year to help bridge the funding gap and finish the job of getting

No. 6880 *Betton Grange* steaming.

'Betton' branded goods is a great way to support the build and we have a few 'very special' offers to tempt you or maybe buy something for someone for Christmas or a birthday.

- Black Hoodies – great for the winter £14.00 plus £3.50 postage and packing
- Black and Green Polos £13.00 each plus £3.00 post and packing
- Fleece in Green or Black £19.00 each plus £4.00 post and packing

Why not buy the set of Steel Steam and Stars DVDs for a great offer price of £55.00 plus £6.00 postage and packing. This offer has been extended from first five months of 2018, but can't continue for much longer, so don't miss out. There are hours of entertainment to be had from these multi-DVD volumes which give comprehensive coverage of all four events that have so far taken place.

We have lots of other items too, so please give me a call and I will be happy to go through things with you. May I take the chance to thank everyone for their continued support. I look forward to seeing many of you in the coming months.

Liz McGuinness
Fund Raising Director



Hoodies - were £20.00, now only **£14.00**

Fleeces, now only **£19.00**



Green/black polo shirts.
Were £18.00, now only **£13.00**



Two views of Cardiff East Dock-allocated 'Grange' class 4-6-0 No. 6820 *Kingstone Grange* seen at Ruabon with a service from Birkenhead on April 25th, 1964.
ANDREW DYKE



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Building on the success of our appeals, firstly for the cylinders ('Speeding us to Success') and the boiler ('Steaming to Success'). The Parts Sponsorship too has been successful and now we are on the home straight. You will have read elsewhere in this Newsletter about the Final Push which we started talking about over 12 months ago. Without the finances and resources in place the reality of a 'Grange' in steam during 2019 will not happen. There has been great efforts made by many of the 'Betton' team and there have been many extremely generous contributions from some of our supporters.

The 'Adopt a Grange' scheme has been an overwhelming success, but I do feel sorry for these last four 'Granges', all forlorn without a home, unwanted, unloved... 'Adopt a Grange' for £1000, and besides a framed photograph of your adopted 'Grange' you will receive an invitation to the 'Special Day in Steam' with No. 6880 and your name on a plaque fixed to the locomotive. Will someone please give a home to Nos. 6837 *Forthampton Grange*, 6840 *Hazeley Grange*, 6850 *Cleeve Grange* and 6852 *Headbourne Grange*?

Parts Sponsorship

Many of you have been so generous over the years since the project started and we appreciate every donation received, and as ever we are looking to our members and supporters for their continued generous help. There are many ways to help, hands on if you so desire, or by donating money towards the cost of building the 'Grange'.

One great and rewarding way to do this is to have that part of the engine you can call your own, by sponsoring one of the remaining components. The biggest and most expensive item yet to be sponsored (but which we have had to buy already) is the smokebox door ring at a cost of £3,850.

15 of the 21 Superheater Elements have now been sponsored (or money pledged), at

a cost of £1000 each, so six more of these going begging. The other major outstanding part in need of finance is the locomotive rear coupling (£940) needed to attach the locomotive's tender to the carriages.

For smaller donations, the plumb fund at a cost of £25 per share continues. There is an ever growing number of finishing jobs including cab fitments, plumbing, sheeting, cladding, nuts, bolts, levers, assemblies, lubricator points, holes to drill, minor parts to make, professional engineering to pay for, etc., the cost of which is a 'best estimate' so any donations towards these would be gratefully received. The Parts Sponsor List enclosed with this edition of the Newsletter includes an open donation of between £50 and £500 towards this Finish List if there isn't something specific that you can sponsor, but would still like to be one of our valued part sponsors.

All donations will receive a personal letter of thanks, have their name added to our 'Roll of Honour' on the website, and all donors' names will be enshrined on our final 'Roll of Honour' banner which will be displayed on the inaugural train hauled by No. 6880 Betton Grange and then displayed in a suitable place and at all future events afterwards.

FINALLY, that FINAL PUSH again; we are ever closer, just think if every member donated just £100 that would bring in over £20,000 which would put us in sight of having the funds to complete the engine and have it in steam in 2019 for sure!

Thanks to ALL of you for your continuing support, we have a great team and we can't do it without you.

Get It Funded!

Lynn Moore

Fund Raising Director



Don't forget No. 5952

While we are busy trying to get 'Betton' finished and up and running, it is easy to forget all about poor old No. 5952 *Cogan Hall*, patiently waiting her turn parked up in the 'back road' at Llangollen, but her turn will come soon enough, once No. 6880 has steamed and we have ironed out any snags and built a new tender to run with it.

Of course, we have borrowed many parts from old 'Cogan' and these will need to be replaced or made from scratch, so there will be much to do and as always, funds to raise, but there are some who can't wait to get stuck into her!

These pictures were taken by John Rutter and show No. 5952 during preparations for boiler removal, so it could be cosmetically restored for display on No. 6880 at the Warley Model Railway Exhibition at the NEC in November 2016.



NOTICE BOARD

Members' Day

With the locomotive nearing completion in Spring 2019, the next Member's Day has been scheduled for Saturday 13th April in Llangollen. It is planned that by this stage the locomotive will be back from Tyseley and at an advanced enough stage for members to see an almost complete 'Grange'. Put the date in your diary - full details will be announced nearer the time.

PUT THE DATE IN YOUR DIARY -
IT COULD BE A VERY
INTERESTING DAY!

2018 Working Party Dates

Remaining dates for 2018 are;

27/28 October
10/11 November
24/25 November

2019 dates at Llangollen to be arranged, along with working parties at Tyseley over the winter months.

HELP GET No 6880 BETTON GRANGE STEAMING

Text a Donation
Text MAKE 18 £5 to 70070
to donate now!
(or any amount in place of the £5)

New Club Draw

First draw 1st November.
Win 50% of the pot!!!
Reserve your number(s) now and make
sure you have a chance to win.
Tel: 07487 778946
Email: Lizzieanne1961@gmail.com

Raise money for 6880

by doing your shopping on-line with
hundreds of retailers using [www.
easyfundraising.org.uk](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk)
Each time you buy, a donation is made
by the retailer, at no extra cost to you!