

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

Find us at www.6880.co.uk
Quarterly Newsletter No: 1

Welcome to our first quarterly newsletter.

Now that the restoration of 5199 has been completed, the team involved have turned their attention to 6880 Betton Grange. A lot of activity has taken place over the first half of this year, moving the project along from little more than an idea that had taken a back seat to other activities, to the formation of a company which in the very near future should have charitable status and a full financial launch.

A meeting was held on April 23rd, and two new Officers were appointed to vacant posts within the group. The finalised posts are:

Quentin McGuinness, Chaiman.
Alan Naylor, Company Secretary.
Chris Arkwright, Treasurer.
William Naylor, Project Liaison Manager.
Simon Holden, Membership Secretary.

We will appoint other posts as they become necessary.

Company formation was completed on 29th May 2003, and we started the application for charitable status shortly after this date. This has been delayed for several reasons, not least because the Charity Commission managed to send out the wrong forms to us. This has now been rectified and we hope to receive charity status in the very near future.

We attended the Crewe Open Weekend at the beginning of June with 5199, and received a very good response to the project there. We distributed several hundred leaflets and were able to talk to many people about the project. We were also able to make some plans for a press launch of the appeal when the time comes. We also attended the Barrow Hill Steam Gala on the 12th-13th July and I can report that this was a most enjoyable weekend, the weather certainly smiled on this event. We received many offers of encouragement for the project, handed out many more leaflets and also raised a small sum in donations. The events we have attended at Crewe and Barrow Hill have both been very successful for us and we hope to be able to attend many more as we advance with the project. We are now putting together an exhibition display for future events as this is an important way to bring our proposals to the public

There has been a lot of behind the scenes activity during July and August, much of it is still to bear fruit, but events are now catching up and we are seeing the physical results of our efforts over the last few months.

The most important news in this update is that we have reached agreement with the management of 4936 Kinlet Hall for the purchase of a 4000 Gal tender for use with Betton Grange. This is ex Kinlet Hall and has been stored in unrestored condition at Llangollen for many years. This has now moved to a more suitable area where the chassis and tank will be separated so we can commence with a full evaluation of the work needed.

This is an important milestone in the creation of 6880 as it represent the first major investment in the project in the way of physical components, and this now moves us on from being just a proposal to being a full working project. Thanks go to Pete Weaver and Hugh Shipton of Kinlet Hall for their long standing faith and support for Betton Grange.

Our first working weekend took place over the weekend 9th - 10th of August at Llangollen Workshops, and the newly acquired tender was the object of attention. Work began on stripping the chassis and by the time you read this newsletter the tanks and chassis will be separated. A fuller examination of the work needed will then take place.

If you have access to the internet you can find details of our working weekend dates along with project news, photos and a full history of the project and 'Grange' class.

Our next newsletter is planned for the beginning of December 2003, and we hope to bring you some very important project news in that issue.

That's all for this update, thanks for reading.