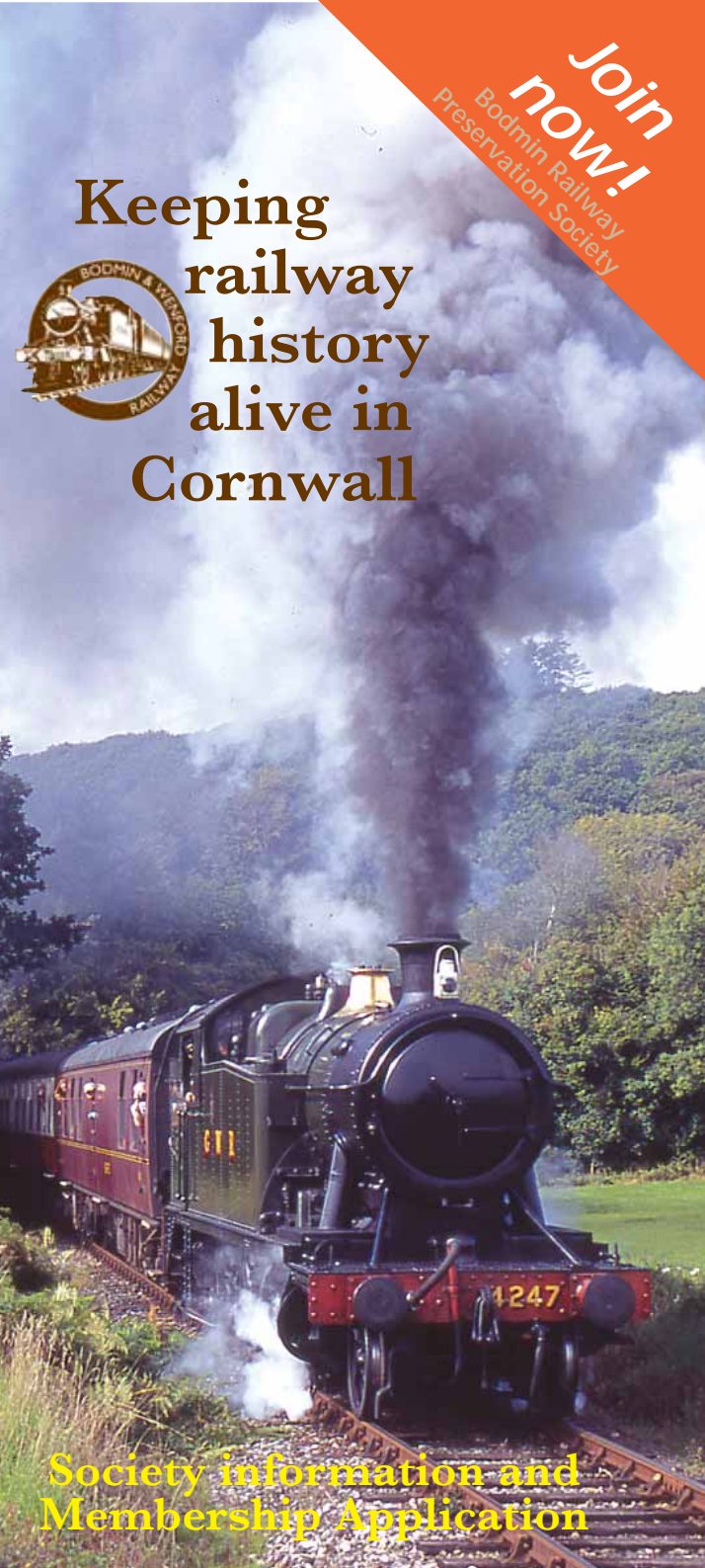


Keeping railway history alive in Cornwall

Join
now!
Bodmin Railway
Preservation Society



Society information and
Membership Application

How it all began

Following British Railway's decision to close the line, enthusiasts got together, intent on preserving Bodmin's railway. To do this they needed a preservation society.

On 28th June 1984, at a public meeting in Bodmin, a society was formally established to re-open the Railway and run preserved steam engines: the Bodmin Railway Preservation Society. To raise share capital and run the business side, the Bodmin & Wenford Railway plc was registered on the 19th February 1985.

The big decision

The line BR closed ran from Parkway, via General and Boscarne, to Wenford Bridge. North Cornwall District Council bought the land; but we had to buy the track!

The whole line was not affordable, so after much debate at a meeting on August 9th 1985, the proposal was passed (by 1 vote!) to purchase the track from Parkway to Boscarne. The investment was a huge risk but one we had to take. Time seems to have proved us right.

Moving in

We had access to the station yard and track bed from January 1986, and NCDC completed the purchase from BR on 31st March 1986. This allowed us to start on track work and gave us room for our impending collection of rolling stock. We could also start opening to the public. The station buildings were a different matter: the area under the canopy had been shuttered in and was leased by a furniture company. NCDC had to agree termination of the tenancy and lease it to us. The lease was agreed and signed, giving us complete occupancy, from June 7th 1989.

The Bugle Boys

The Cornish Steam Locomotive Preservation Society (CSLPS) was formed in 1973 and operated the Bugle Steam Railway from 1977. They gathered an impressive list of rolling stock and started running in 1979. Discussions held between the CSLPS and the BRPS/B&W culminated in agreement being reached for the CSLPS to move to Bodmin in 1987, bringing with them much needed steam motive power, rolling stock and considerable expertise.

To call Bodmin General station at local rates:

0845 125 9678

Onwards and upwards...

Now the fun started

We had the site and the track, so what to do next? In August 1985, Major Olver, the Railway Inspector, made an unofficial visit to the line and gave important advice and opinions on track, structures, operating, officialdom, and our future plans. A lot of re-sleeping was required – an ongoing need as sleepers rot and split with age.

Rolling stock started to arrive from early 1986, the first being an AC Rail-bus (since departed) and two BR Mk1 coaches. The CSLPS stock arrived in 1987 and stock is still being bought to this day.

Open for business

Our first open day was on 1st June 1986. Locomotives and crews were provided by the CSLPS, performing a pickup goods routine at intervals during the day. The weather was dry and the day a great success.

Steam-hauled brake van rides were offered for our open days in 1988. The rides were limited to the station confines as the Light Railway Order (LRO) still had to be granted. 1989 followed in similar style while the LRO was awaited to let us extend our operations.

The Big Time at last

The Order was finally granted on 31st August 1989. The following day passenger services were extended to one mile from Bodmin General. No19 worked the first trains.

A service to be proud of

On the 17th June 1990, the Bodmin & Wenford Railway came of age with the commencement of scheduled, timetabled daily running from Bodmin General to Bodmin Parkway. Colesloggett Halt was built and opened in 1992 and in 1996 the line to Boscarne Junction (on the Camel Trail) was fully reopened.

Our service has grown over the years to include Murder Mystery specials, Footplate Experience Courses, Pasty/Bistro Specials, Santa Specials and a Luxury Dining Train – which is available for hire.

Scheduled running days have increased from 100 days in 1990 to over 200 days in 2008.

Visit our extensive and informative website:

www.bodminandwenfordrailway.co.uk

Bodmin & Wenford News

The Society's newsletter keeps members up-to-date on the Railway's progress, plans and other items of interest in the railway world. The magazine took on its booklet format in winter 1985, albeit only 8 pages long. This included pictures, and replaced the typed news sheets of issues 1 to 4. The picture on the cover started in winter 1988, and in 1989 the magazine increased to 3 issues a year, with more pages. In 1990 the B&W News won the ARPS Annual Magazine Newsletter Section. A colour picture appeared on the winter 1992 cover, with a view of *City of Truro* on our line. The magazine has grown in content and is now regularly produced in full colour over 32 A4 pages.

The volunteers

The Railway is operated and maintained by a volunteer workforce who give up their free time to work for us. The staff in the shop and buffet, selling tickets, the train crews, those working in the engine shed restoring coaches, engines and wagons, and maintaining the track etc. are all volunteers and members of the Preservation Society.

Without the volunteers the Railway could not operate. Any member of the society is welcome to lend a hand, here being a niche to suit just about anyone.

Current projects

Re-signalling the line began with the rebuilding of the signal box and frame. Installing signals, point rodding, signal wires and track circuits is ongoing. Restoration projects completed include GWR "Prairie" No 5552 and "West Country" class *Wadebridge*. Currently under way in 2008, projects include a Mk1 coach, an 0-6-0ST "Austerity" a "Toad" brake van, and the Port of Par locomotive *Judy* which, with its partner locomotive *Alfred* (which also runs on our railway), were the inspiration for *Bill* and *Ben* in the *Thomas the Tank Engine* books.



Photo: LSWR "T9" Np 30120 is one of two historic locomotives belonging to the National Railway Museum and stabled on our Railway. Rachael Wilson

The future

The return of trains from Bodmin to Wadebridge? This would benefit both towns, as well as the Railway, and would have to be a boost to tourism in the area. Surveys have been carried out and consultations with relevant bodies are under way.

As traffic increases at Boscarne, additional facilities and a shelter for passengers are planned to be built during 2008. A new carriage shed was completed in 2008 and the future includes plans for a station museum.

What's in it for me?

- Members receive 3 issues a year of the *Bodmin & Wenford News*, keeping them up to date with progress, events, activities and offering a lively *Mailbag* exchange.
- Travel concessions for members currently stand at two free rides a year, plus 25% discount on all other fares.
- Pride and enjoyment: firstly, by being part of the Railway; and secondly, the opportunity to help preserve Cornish railway heritage.
- As a volunteer assisting on the Railway (this is not a prerequisite of membership!) you will meet a great bunch of people.



We have 6 running steam locos and a steam crane. 0-4-0 Judy and 0-6-0 "Austerity" are still in restoration. We also have a splendid collection of classic diesel locos. The photo includes visiting loco City of Truro getting ready for the day's work at Bodmin General - Steam Gala 2004.

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORM
BODMIN RAILWAY PRESERVATION SOCIETY**

Please enrol me as:	Please tick appropriate box	Subscription (prices for 08/09)
Individual	<input type="checkbox"/>	£14.00
Joint (Partner)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£20.00
Family (2 adults + 2 children)	<input type="checkbox"/>	£23.00
Senior 65+	<input type="checkbox"/>	£10.00
Junior under 18	<input type="checkbox"/>	£7.00
Joint Senior	<input type="checkbox"/>	£15.00
Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	£200.00
Joint Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	£275.00
Senior Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	£100.00
Joint Senior Life	<input type="checkbox"/>	£145.00

Membership Year: 1st June – 31st May
Those joining on or before 30th November will be required to renew in the following June. Those joining on or after 1st December will renew in the June following 12 months' membership.

BLOCK CAPITALS PLEASE

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Phone _____

I agree to abide by the rules of the BRPS and understand that membership of the BRPS does not allow me to trespass on any other railway or private property. Only members of the BRPS are allowed to carry out work on its behalf and will be subject to its supervisor's control and rules whilst on Company premises.

Signed _____

(Parent/Guardian if under 18. Minor's d.o.b: _____)

My method of payment is (*tick as appropriate*)

Cash Cheque Postal Order

Cheques/PO payable to: Bodmin Railway Preservation Society

Please return this form to: The Membership Secretary, BRPS, General Station, Bodmin, Cornwall, PL31 1AQ
Membership records are kept on computer. (The BRPS is registered under the Data Protection Act.)

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY	
Membership No	Date Sent

August 2008. Produced by Chris Hooper Services