



Newsletter 1st July 2006
Issue 8

Outside the Box

St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust
www.sigbox.co.uk



Good news:

- Progress
- Faber Maunsell appointed
- We have power

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EXCELLENT PROGRESS SO FAR

Welcome to the eighth newsletter of the Trust. Things are certainly moving forward especially in clearing the grounds around the signal box, which is almost complete.

So far, a huge amount of clearing work has been undertaken with two skips and a four ton lorry taking the debris away. All of the ivy, and other woody shrubs have been reduced to chippings.

On the building side, the tender document for the work is completed, and the structural engineer has passed the designs for the new stairs and the concrete underpinning.

The box itself is being vacuumed and debris cleared up so that we can see the floor! The lever frame has had bits of glass removed that were making the levers stick and we can now see them function.

WORKING DAYS

Our grateful thanks go to all the willing helpers who have attended working days. These are usually planned for the second Sunday of the month, and the next dates are 9th July and 13th August. Please come along if you can.

During the clean up we found an intact LMS mug, and many old train registers that will be of great interest once we get a chance to read them.

Check the website at www.sigbox.co.uk

The Power

We now have an electricity supply to the site. Many thanks to Les for fighting through the bureaucracy to get it sorted.

Planning Supervisor

All building projects over a certain size require a planning supervisor to be responsible for the implementation of Health and Safety plans. We are fortunate in being able to enlist the expertise of one of the leading Planning Supervisor Consultancies in the UK. Many thanks to Faber Maunsell for their support.

FABER MAUNSELL | AECOM

Items donated

We have had a number of items donated to the trust for which we are very grateful. Notable are the original signal box name boards. One in a poor state of repair, the other not too bad.

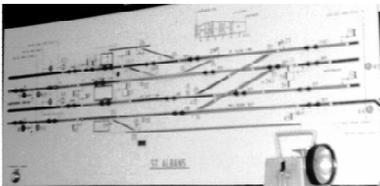


If you have any items that you can sell or donate to the trust, including midland railway block bells and instruments that would look good on the block shelf or adorning the walls, please let us know. All items will be well cared for and put to a very good use.

St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust is a Company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 04653488.
Regd. address - 5 Ridgmont Rd.
St Albans, Herts, AL1 3AG
Regd. Charity no. 1104535



Some instruments to demonstrate



Old photo of the panel



Don't see many of those thundering past!



Robin and Emma help us on a working day

Volunteers needed for 9th & 10th September

This year, National Heritage open days fall on the weekend of 9th / 10th September. We have decided to open the signal box and gardens to the public in a 'work in progress' state. This will give us a chance to explain to the public what is happening on the site and tell them some of the history of the signal box.

We intend to put up a marquee to house a fairly rudimentary signal box simulator which will demonstrate communications from one box to the next. We would also like interpretation boards and photos etc.

However, we need your help! Can you make some interesting boards that will explain the basics of mechanical signaling - perhaps with diagrams etc?

Or perhaps make a model that would show how levers used to work signals? Or anything you think would be interesting?

We will also need people to be on-site during the two days - even if you can only spare an hour or two it would be a great help.

Also, due to health and safety restrictions **we need some stairs** with a hand rail that we can put up to the first floor to allow public access (perhaps like those used for first floor portacabins). Do you know of any that we could borrow / hire for the weekend?

Please get in touch and let us know if you can help in any way. Many thanks.

Site Changes

Due to problems of access to the site through the station car park, we have had to submit an application for planning permission to change the access to the opposite end of the site. It should not materially affect the project, but has meant the redrawing of site plans etc. A decision is expected in August but we do not expect any problems with it.

Website

The website is regularly updated with news, open day information, and items wanted. Please check it out.
www.sigbox.co.uk

News from 1977

At about 18:49 in fine weather with clear visibility the 17:50 Bedford to St Pancras 4-car diesel multiple-unit passenger train, having been irregularly admitted to the section, collided at about 40 mph with the rear of the 18:30 St Albans to St Pancras empty coaching stock train, which was standing at the Napsbury Up Slow Starting Signal awaiting admittance into the Up Slow

Volunteer skills

We have been blessed with a large number of volunteers and members with many very useful skills.

We are busy putting together a skills database so we know who we can call on when required!

To help us, please complete the enclosed form or send us an email with any skills you are prepared to offer. Even if you have told us already, please complete the form to make sure we know. Many thanks.

email : info@sigbox.co.uk

Intermediate Block Section.

The Driver said 'As I passed signal 22, I noticed a red light and the dark outline of a train. I made an emergency application of the brake and then ran into the passenger compartment'

Fortunately there were no serious injuries from this signaling error from the St Albans South signal box.