

## What colour this time?

Following Privatisation we became used to the teal green livery with orange and white stripes of Midland Mainline trains flashing past the box. This later morphed into a blue, dark grey and white layout. Then in November 2007 National Express lost the franchise to Stagecoach and the present orange/red, white and blue stripes started to be seen. We now know that from this August the services are to be taken over by the Dutch railway company Abellio and will trade under the name East Midlands Railway. No livery details have yet been seen but there will certainly be changes yet again as well as possible rolling stock changes as the trusty HSTs will soon be non-compliant and will need to be replaced. However rest assured that there are no plans afoot to change the livery of St Albans South Signal Box, this will continue to reflect the old Midland Railway and British Railways London Midland Region corporate maroon and yellow!

**Summer BBQ date Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August – see details on page 2**

**Richard Kirk**



**Members and Thameslink staff in the rain filling the new planters on St Albans City Station. At least there was no problem with watering them in!**

## Chairman's Words

Well the 'Bid Weekend' certainly lived up to its name! We had 550 visitors on the Saturday and 650 on the Sunday making a new record total of 1200 visitors over the weekend. Why so many? We think it was all down to the recent purchase of Thomas the Tank Engine for the garden railway advertised by Richard in an article in the local paper and a glowing report on the St Albans Mums Facebook page. The pull exerted by the Rev Awdry's little engine after 74 years is amazing and as a railway enthusiast its great to see so many children still keen for a glimpse of little Thomas and his coaches Annie and Clarabell. It was a hard weekend with a queue outside the gate before ten in the morning and visitors in the box after 5 o'clock. My thanks to all who helped especially those who stayed on when their shift had finished and those who survived the whole weekend. Jim's railway in the road was so busy on Saturday he didn't have time to get steam up and had to rely on the electric engine all day while Peter's 00 Thomas railway in the tent seemed to be going for a speed or crash record much to the delight of the children who could be heard urging on the engines to go faster and then cheering loudly when they came off on the bend!

By the time you read this we should have worked with Govia Thameslink Railways to enhance the visual aspect of the platforms on St Albans City Station by filling and planting numerous containers with flowers, if they survive, as there doesn't seem to be a plan for watering them yet, I hope the commuters will appreciate the effort put in, but I doubt it.

If you have time over the summer why not come along on our open days and help show the visitors what we have achieved, its great fun, I'm sure you will enjoy the day.

**Tony Furse**



Winners of the 2008 St Albans Civic Society Award



Winners of the 2010 Invensys Rail Signalling Award (Structures)



Winners of the 2017 Mayor of St Alban's Recognition Award

# Membership Matters

## Reminder - 2019 Subscriptions are now overdue

Many thanks to the majority of members who have renewed your subscription – this is much appreciated. For those of you yet to renew, we do hope that you will continue to support the work of the Trust.

You can pay to our account at Metro Bank:

Sort code: 23-05-80

Account: 17746944

Reference: your name

Or alternatively you can pay by cheque or cash.

Rob Little

## BBQ—Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August

from 2.00pm onwards. Food will be provided but please bring your own drinks. A donation will be sought on the day to cover the cost of the food. Friends and family are invited but please let us know via email or phone (to Richard Kirk) how many are coming so we know how many to cater for. See you there!



On the left is the 30 milepost now erected in the garden. This was originally located on the Harpenden to Hemel (Nikey Line) branch between Redbourn and Hemel. In the centre is the view of the 'box steps taken from an unusual angle and showing the repainted step plates. The right hand picture shows the London Underground depot sign now positioned on the embankment beside the north end of the box, it indicated to staff whether or not the track was live.

## Progress at the 'box

The main Winter clear down was completed, and David's bulbs put on a fine Spring show, but our large garden needs continuous attention by David, Peter and others. Much additional work has also been going on, and is in progress in the garden: track adjustment on the model railway in readiness for the launch of Thomas and some new freight wagons at the Big Weekend; adjustment and re-painting of the ground frames plus linked signalling/points; re-wiring and new bases for the 4-Aspects; the gradual fitting out of our Buffet – including exhibition boards with pictures, along with floor lino; and Rodney's donated 30-milepost erected. Martin has re-painted our Switch sign ready for erection near the points, and Rodney has been re-painting the tread plates on the stairs and added the two he had kindly donated – only two more needed to complete the whole stairs!

Inside we've been giving the Museum and lobby its annual dust down and our Eurostar horns were hung. Upstairs a large LMS Noticeboard (ex-Radlett), also kindly donated by Rodney, was erected and is now also full of photos. The recent Big Weekend (along with Heritage Open Weekend in the Autumn), always requires a lot of preparation and set-up, and thanks to all those who gave assistance. As an additional offering, our recently acquired London Underground Track Power Indicator Signal was wired up and on display – and is now permanently set up on the embankment between the 'box and the lamp hut.

The Duchess of Sutherland (6233) was through on 9th March, and Flying Scotsman (60103) is due again on 29th June. The Sutton Circular Drivers' Accommodation building in the car park is now open, and the first meeting of the new Bedford to St. Albans Community Rail Partnership Steering Group took place on 29th March – we look forward to hearing of progress.

John Telford