

And the answer is

Many thanks to those members who responded to the questionnaire sent out with the last issue of *Outside The Box*. In total I received 25 replies and have now had a chance to analyse the results. The overwhelming view was that members are by and large satisfied with the contents of the Newsletter with 66% of the overall voting being for the 'Same' option. The one question that scored the lowest amongst these was, perhaps understandably, 'Archive photographs' where 68% wanted to see more. 'Enthusiast's observations' and 'Items from the collection' were fairly evenly divided between those wanting more and those happy with existing balance. Thankfully very few votes (4% overall) were cast for the 'Less' and 'Not at all' options. A full analysis will be available on the website including most of the additional comments submitted. Once again thank you for sharing your thoughts with me.

On the second page are details of the photographic display planned to be set up for this year's Heritage Open Weekend in September. By way of an appetiser and to please those asking for more archive pictures I have included the picture to the left. The original also has part of a second tank locomotive to the left.

Richard Kirk



Fowler 2-6-2T 40022 sits in the shed yard at St Albans on 14th June 1952 awaiting its next duty



Above: the lattice post now carries a distant signal arm worked from the ground frame.

Below: part of the newly paved area in front of the demonstration signals



Chairman's Words

By the time you read this we will have paid another visit to the Roy Burrows Collection in Derby and will I hope have signed the agreement for the transfer on loan of some thirty or so Midland Railway items. Some will need refurbishment before they can go on display, others like the Tyers No 6 single line working instruments will need us to prepare a display area, while some, the 1913 St Albans South Junction Signal Box diagram for example, will go straight on display.

Display space especially within the box is becoming more difficult and we may in the future have to be more careful about what we accept and concentrate on signalling, the Midland Railway, the LMS and BR(M) although it is still interesting to display items St Albans related perhaps from the Great Northern and LNWR days of London Road and Abbey Stations. Talking of stations we now have the lights to illuminate the running in board to let First Capital Connect passengers know that they are at St Albans CITY not just St Albans as it shows on the station.

The calendar for the summer is filling up with lots of groups wanting to visit and perhaps even an open garden event. Don't forget to come along for the BBQ (see over for details) and also on any of the open days where just having members on hand to talk to the visitors can make their visit special and yours very interesting.

We still meet on Monday nights in the box and if you want to talk railways, or learn to operate the simulator or just drink tea and eat copious quantities of biscuits please come along we will be delighted to see you.

Tony Furse

Stop Press 1—up date on Chairman's Words As Tony has indicated there has now been a further meeting with both Roy Burrows and the Principal Keeper of Derby Museums. This has resulted in agreement over the specific items to be loaned to the Trust and the terms of the loan. Subject to the final form of the agreements being drawn up and signed we hope that we will have some of the items in our possession later in the summer and in time for display at the Heritage Open Weekend in September. Hopefully more details will be in the next Newsletter.

Stop Press 2—Romsey Signal Box Our friends at Romsey have advised that their box is likely to be closed to the public for 18 months from September whilst building work takes place nearby. Private visits will still be possible.

Winners of the 2008
St Albans Civic
Society Award



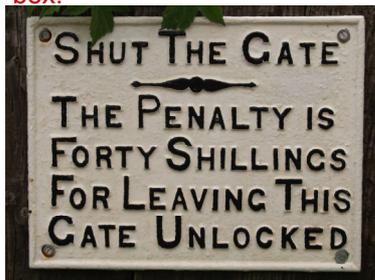
Winners of the 2010
Invensys Rail Signalling
Award (Structures)



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The Trust display at the recent St Albans Steam and Country Show at Oaklands College. Our attendance generated a lot of interest and many promises to visit the box.



Above and below; two of the restored signs that have been erected in the garden.



The recently acquired enamel advertising sign now attached to the side of the storage shed. The North British Rubber Company, an American concern, was based in Edinburgh and for a time produced cycle and car tyres. It was taken over in 1966. This sign possibly dates from the 1920s.

Photographs 1

As mentioned in the last Newsletter one of our members has made contact with Richard Casserley who is the son of H C Casserley. Both men were comprehensive railway photographers of their time and Richard is the custodian of the family collection. Pictures taken by both regularly appeared in the railway press and continue to be in numerous publications. Richard has kindly provided us with copies of some of his father's pictures taken in and around St Albans and these will form the third of our annual photographic displays and as before will be shown for the first time at the Heritage Open Weekend on 14th and 15th September.

Photographs 2

Many thanks to the following members who have recently kindly donated photographs or slides to the Trust from their collections; John Lewis for a couple of pictures including another superb shot of a Western diesel passing St Albans on the Acton stone train in the 1970s; Peter Hunt for more slides taken from passing trains during his commuting days and David Gaylard for his pictures taken whilst going to the station to travel into St Pancras in the '80s. David in his covering email recalls his commuting days and 'standing in unheated corridor stock on the way to St P. with card schools going on in all the compartments—oh the memories!' One of David's shots is shown on the right.

BBQ - Saturday 27th July 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!



'Peak' Class number 45 119 passing on a down express on a snowy day some time post 1982. The regular parcels van sits in the siding alongside the box and a temporary 55mph speed restriction board sits in between the fast and slow lines.



Not a trespasser but a track level shot taken for us recently by a Network Rail employee.

Progress at the 'box

At last the warmer weather has arrived and work parties at the 'Box have been well supported.

The techies have finished wiring up the Waterloo and City Line block shelf, along with a working track diagram. Rob Little, Jim and Keith have done a great job and the display was launched at the AGM. It will be showing at all openings in future.

With Spring bursting forth the need for gardening has rocketed. Doug, Percy and Howard have been hard at it and lawn and flowerbeds are beginning to look good. Les has again worked miracles in renovating the 'St. Albans South' in stones display at the end of the lawn.

Others have been laying many of the 200-odd paving slabs which we obtained FOC. The top (north) end is more or less complete, other than waiting to get hold of a paving slab cutter to cut some angled infills. The released small stones have enabled the trough behind the 'Box to be completed. The remaining slabs will be used to cover the area between the 'Box and the lamp hut, which will be partly a workbench area and partly a display area for more artefacts. The seating area on the lawn has also been re-slabbbed. The redundant crazy paving is available if anyone needs hardcore.

Work connecting the 4-lever ground frame to the triple ground signal progresses, although we still await some wheels which are part of the forthcoming Roy Burrows Collection loan. Signage is gradually being painted and will be progressively put on display. We have gratefully received an old 'North British Tyres' enamel advertisement, which will go up on the side of the shed.

Michael W has finished the trunking renewal in front of the 'Box which looks great, and we are receiving quotes for the re-painting of the rest of the 'Box, which should commence shortly.

So, if the above has enthused you and you have a passion to cut grass; polish brass; paint signs; or make tea and coffee, do come down on a Wednesday afternoon.

John Telford