

Compound interest

Last month we were delighted to take delivery of a very generous donation from member Terry Worrall (see over). As you will see below it is a Gauge 1 model of a Midland Compound design 4-4-0 in LMS Crimson Lake livery. It has been given by Terry as his way of recognising the efforts of the Trust and its members in restoring the Signal Box to its former glory. The model was made for Terry in 2002 by Ian Cherry and comes complete with its own display case and piece of track. It will be placed in a prominent position in the display area (and not run on the new garden railway pulling Clarabel as someone has suggested!) but out of reach of sticky fingers. Terry, thank you very much!

LMS No 936 was one of the final batch of 5 Compounds built under Henry Fowler by the LMS at Derby in 1932. In 1933 the engine was coupled to an early version of the high sided Stanier tender and retained this until 1954. The engine was withdrawn from Monument Lane shed in Birmingham in 1961.

Richard Kirk



Chairman's Words

Two great railways to report on this month, firstly the signal box visit to the Great Central Railway in Leicestershire. Organised by Richard and with the co-operation of the management and staff of the GCR, we had a terrific day visiting this working heritage railway and seeing behind the scenes especially the signalling operation. We had the opportunity to visit all four signal boxes, Swithland Sidings, Quorn, Rothley and Loughborough and had a guided tour of the locomotive works. We were well fed at Quorn and enjoyed the beer at Loughborough Station prior to visiting the museum and standing on the footplate of the 9F before it took us back to our cars and home. We were made welcome where ever we went, a truly 'Great Railway' manned by great staff. **Right: Signal Box visitors await the next train at Quorn.**

The other railway I have to report on is quite different in scale and can be found lurking in the flower beds of the signal box. Brian and John have installed in the garden a G gauge model railway on which we have running James the red tender engine and Percy the green tank engine all friends of Thomas the Tank Engine of the Reverend Awdry books. The look of wonder from the children as the little trains come out of the undergrowth with their trucks and coaches is great to see and has become already a popular addition to the attractions in the garden.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank Gordon Hayward for his kind gift of five telegraph poles which after we had loaded them onto his lorry he then delivered to the box. They will be very useful in providing posts for yard lamps to illuminate our darker corners and to start our telegraph display.

I hope to see you at the BBQ in July (see over)

Tony Furse



Above: Another shot from John Callow's glass negatives; Midland Railway 4-4-0 715 stands in the Down Fast platform around 1919.



Winners of the 2008 St Albans Civic Society Award



Winners of the 2010 Invensys Rail Signalling Award (Structures)

Newsletter produced by Richard Kirk. Please send items for inclusion to richardnkirk@hotmail.co.uk or contact me on 01727 860047

Membership Matters

BBQ—Saturday 30th 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!

Subscription renewals

Thank you to all those members who have renewed their subs for this year. If you haven't yet done so please let me have your £10 payment as soon as possible. Payment can be made directly to the Trust account with Metro Bank at 23-05-80 account 17746944 quoting your name as the reference or by cheque directly to me. Your support is important to the Trust and your subscriptions plus the accompanying Gift Aid help to maintain the momentum of developments at the 'box.

Dates for your Diary

Forthcoming Open Days:

June 12th and 26th
July 10th and 24th
August 14th and 28th

Heritage Open Weekend: September 10th and 11th

In addition the Trust stand will be at the St Albans Steam Fair on the 4th and 5th June at Oaklands College, Hatfield Road and the country fair at Highfield Park on 16th and 17th of July.

If you can help on any of these occasions please contact Tony Furse or any of the other Trustees.

Signal Box cards

Once again apologies to Members who were expecting a selection of Trust blank cards and envelopes with the November newsletter. Unfortunately we were unable to carry out the mailing exercise as promised. If any members want a selection of cards please contact me through the website.

Mary Webster



Terry Worrall

Terry was born in Luton and after joining BR in 1961 worked at St Albans station from 1963 to 1965 - he was the Station Master's Clerk. 'I visited the South box frequently and the signalmen allowed me to work the box under their supervision on many occasions often after my normal office hours. This experience stood me in good stead for my eventual career in British Railways which led me through a number of management positions to being the BR Board Director of Operations in the early 1990s and later as BR Director Safety leading up to privatisation. From 1997 I entered the world of consultancy working in Australia, Hong Kong, Canada, South Africa and latterly running the new Metro in Dubai. My final appointment before retirement last year, after 53 years in the industry, was as Project Director within Qatar Rail seeking to assist preparation for the eventual Operations & Maintenance of the new Metro and Light Rail systems currently being built in Doha.'

The photograph shows Terry during his recent visit to St Albans to present the locomotive model to the Trust.

Right: Michael relaxes after doing more work on the new bench.

Far right: James and Percy await their next shift around the newly installed model railway in the garden. This has proved to be a hit with our younger visitors many of whom will stand and watch the train going round for ages. Some of the older ones do too!



Progress at the 'box

At last, after the mild Winter and wet start to the year, we are experiencing warmer days, and outside work becomes more of a pleasure. The burgeoning garden is being tickled, and pruning around our now up-and-running model railway becomes more of a priority - to prevent derailments, or wrong leaves on the line. Howard has de-weeded the steep embankment, resulting in his left leg now being shorter than the other! Peter and others have fed our garden furniture with a coat of teak oil.

Tony has finished putting up all the on-loan advertising signage – emulating that which used to be displayed on the outer prison wall opposite. We even have a Lyons tea sign on the tea shelter. Work on mounting and lighting up the ex-Alfreton signals progresses, using an RSJ and other sturdy mounts. Our Midland bench restoration by Michael W, is just awaiting the sand-blasted and painted legs, and our other Michael is making a new figure '5' for a speed limit sign. Also, the recently acquired milk churn (remember them?) sits proudly with a new coat of silver spray paint!

Having waited a long time to obtain telegraph poles, we have just collected five and will need to work on them. The redecorating of the Operating Floor is complete – but the potential live TV programme which prompted it, has not yet materialised.

The signalling console we received from the NRM was the wrong one – and was eventually replaced. Jim and John W sorted the messy wiring and replaced a bulb and it is now fully working for demonstrations.

So, good progress in readiness for our Summer visitors. Keep up-to-date on our Website, Facebook and Trip Adviser pages.

John Telford