



Newsletter March 2020 Issue 59a

## **IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT**

To all our members and friends

In the light of the current virus outbreak and the Government's recent recommendations the Trustees have taken the decision to close the signal box to the general public for the foreseeable future. There will be no further Open Days for the time being and the Big Weekend on 4/5 April has been cancelled. All arranged visits have also been cancelled.

Monday evening social gatherings are also cancelled for the time being – biscuit manufacturers can divert their products to more needy customers!

For the time being we will continue to undertake our weekly maintenance sessions, mainly on Wednesdays – when the emphasis will primarily be looking after the garden and outside artefacts. Members are welcome to come along if they feel comfortable. Security checks will also be undertaken whenever possible.

The Trustees will keep these matters under review, follow appropriate guidelines and keep you advised of any changes to these arrangements.

Whatever happens we hope that all our members and friends are able to keep fit and well and we look forward to when we can bring you more positive news.

Best wishes to you all.

Tony Furse on behalf of the Trustees



To brighten up the mood slightly here is a shot of the recent steam special passing the box hauled by the A4 60009 *Union of South Africa* on what was probably its last main line appearance before full retirement.

*photo: courtesy of a friend of Jim Macdonald*

And finally a message from our Treasurer

2020 Subscriptions - A big thank you to all of you who have renewed your membership subscription - a remarkable response by this stage of the year, and much appreciated.

For the few remaining outstanding, it's £10, and you may pay to Metro Bank 23-05-80, account number 17746944, or send us a cheque. Many thanks, Rob Little



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