



Newsletter 7th March 2006  
Issue 7

# Outside the Box

St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust  
[www.sigbox.co.uk](http://www.sigbox.co.uk)



## Good news:

- IT'S OURS!
- AGM arranged

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## IT'S ALL OURS!

Welcome to the seventh newsletter of the Trust! It's the very first one that we aren't going to say - 'We're still waiting for the lease'

### THE LEASE IS SIGNED AND THE SIGNAL BOX IS NOW OURS!

That makes a change doesn't it? Any other news will pale into insignificance now I'm afraid.

However, the other news is...

We have selected the most reasonable insurance quotation from the absurd to the astronomical submitted to us, and now have public liability insurance.

We can now ask the Heritage Lottery fund to send the first installment of their grant.

We can now ask Lafarge Aggregates for the first part of their grant to fund the landscaping and gardening.

In short, full steam ahead!

Talking of full steam ahead, there will be some opportunities to see and photograph steam trains as they pass the signal box on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> March, and 8<sup>th</sup> April. The trains will be stopping at St Albans City Station. You may even like to board one for a day trip to York? See over for more details.

## The Lease

A 25-year unbreakable lease has been granted to the Trust by Network Rail. After nearly 3 years of begging, phoning and promises we have finally signed on the dotted line. Our thanks go to Network Rail, and our property adviser, Tim Ayre.

## Signaling simulator

A prototype simulator using a PIC microcomputer has been built which proves it can be done. It can ring attention and ask if the line is clear, then check if the signals are set correctly. Nothing too tricky yet, but it does show what can be done.

## Annual General Meeting

All friends and members are invited to the AGM. This will be held on **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> March at 7:30pm** at the County Constitutional Club directly opposite the signal box at 29 Ridgmont Road. Please come if you can! The likely Agenda is...

1. Welcome from the Chairman.
2. Membership report
3. Treasurers report
4. What are we doing?
5. Where we are now?
6. Next steps
7. Volunteers needed!
8. Questions from the floor
9. AoB
10. Cup of tea and a sandwich!

St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust is a Company limited by guarantee registered in England No. 04653488.  
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*The signal box and grounds from the air*



*Garden design - subject to change!*



*Train departing 25<sup>th</sup> March 07:20 for York*



*Train arriving 8<sup>th</sup> April from Birmingham*

## The Gardens

The garden area is much larger than you might have imagined, as can be seen on the aerial photograph. We intend to landscape and plant the area and open it to the public.

This was mentioned in the last Newsletter, and we have had some outline plans for the gardens, which have now gone to the local planning department for approval.

These are for a low maintenance natural type garden with a path that gently descends to the front of the signal box. A number of trees will be planted along with a hawthorn hedge to keep out unwanted visitors.

We now need a volunteer Manager(s) who can use the budget allocated to the

garden (approx. £20,000) to organise the work of volunteers and contractors (for heavy work).

If you would like to put your stamp on the gardens and would enjoy watching a great space take shape please let us know. Don't worry if you don't have much (or any) experience, there will always be someone around to help if asked!

We are committed to having a green oasis around the signal box - so please don't be backward in coming forward if you can help at all!

## Fund Raising

Although we are in receipt of a number of very generous grants, we still need to raise 'matched' funds ourselves.

The first source of funds is our subscription. Please renew (or donate for the first time) as soon as possible.

The project cannot continue without your support and ideas so if you have ideas for other fund raising initiatives, they can be suggested and discussed at the AGM.

The Trustees can feel a 'garden party' coming along to raise funds - but we need a garden first!

## Become a 'friend' of the Signal Box

Please, please, renew your subscription as soon as possible as we really need your support. A minimum of £10 is all we are asking - and some letters of support would be good too!

In order to simplify our membership record keeping, the trustees have decided to have just one membership

## Steam Trains

Two steam trains will be passing the signal box in the next couple of weeks.

'LNER A4 60009 Union of South Africa' will pull the first train, leaving St Albans City station at 07:20 bound for York on 25<sup>th</sup> March. The train is operated by The Railway Touring Company who inform us that it is now fully booked.

The second is pulled by LMS Jubilee 5690 "Leander", arriving around lunchtime on 8<sup>th</sup> April from Tyseley - Warwick Road (Birmingham) - times are not currently known. It's been a while since an LMS loco steamed past the box!

See you there - with camera!

year coinciding with our Company accounting year. This will be from 31<sup>st</sup> January each year. If you have just renewed, and are feeling generous, you may renew again. If not, we won't hold it against you, and will regard 2006 subs as paid!

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