

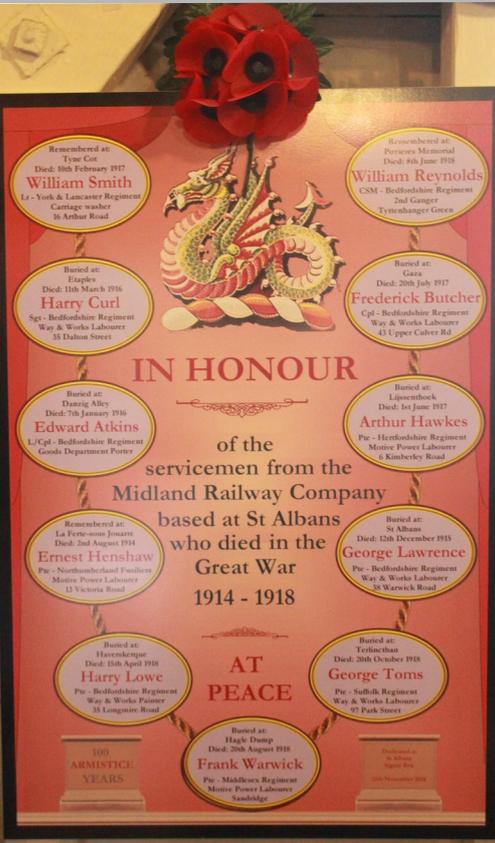
## We will remember them!

As this month marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the end of the First World War and our November open day falls on the 11<sup>th</sup> it seemed appropriate to mark the event. The result was some research carried out by members to identify Midland Railway employees who were based at St Albans at the time of joining the armed forces and who sadly lost their lives whilst away. Eleven men were found that met the criteria and although they are remembered in other places – the Midland Railway memorial at Derby, St Albans war memorial – it was felt that the Trust should also pay tribute to them. The result is the memorial board shown on the left. Names, last known addresses, regiments served and places where buried or remembered have been obtained and noted. The board is now on display in the 'box museum area and will be given extra prominence on the 11<sup>th</sup> of November. Have a look at it on your next visit.

Shortly after the 11<sup>th</sup> we will be welcoming our new refreshment hut on site and looking forward to serving our visitors from a more sheltered and inviting location.

Richard Kirk

## Chairman's Words



Earlier in the year Mary Webster decided to resign her position as Company Secretary and Trustee of the Signal Box Preservation Trust. I would like to express my grateful thanks to Mary, a founder member of the Trust, for all that she has done for us over the last fifteen years or more. The Trust would not have been in the happy position it is now without her. I am pleased to tell you that John Webb has agreed to become our Company Secretary.

Four weeks ago we had the pleasure of meeting Andy Buckley the newly appointed Community Rail Partnership Officer for the line between Bedford and St Albans. His role is to bring the community and the rail companies closer together. We have engaged with two projects with Andy, the first is to reproduce a copy of our World War One memorial dedicated to the eleven men of the Midland Railway based at St Albans who did not return at the end of the hostilities, this is to be erected in the station booking hall. The second is to take over the planting and maintenance of a flower bed on platform four. The bed contains the words 'St ALBANS' constructed many years ago in concrete and recently refurbished. The idea for this has come from member David Smith who hopefully will lead the planting. This will be at no cost to the trust as money will come from the CRP and or sponsorship if we can find a local company willing to help.

There are major changes going on at the box over the next few weeks as John will tell you later in his column, we do need to keep these changes rolling in so that visitors are happy to come to the box on a regular basis to see something new.

Talking of visitors, the number of people coming to the box on our regular Sunday openings has gone from an average of 50 to almost 100 we must be doing something right.

If I don't have the opportunity to see you before Christmas I hope you all have a good Christmas and a happy New Year.

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

## Dates for your Diary

**Christmas Party !!** There will be a Christmas Party in the Signal Box on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> December from 7.00pm. Drinks and nibbles will be served, please do come along and bring the family. Please let Richard Kirk know if you are coming - contact details below.

**Open Days** coming up are November 11<sup>th</sup>, January 13<sup>th</sup> and February 10<sup>th</sup>. Please contact Tony Furse or any of the other Trustees if you can help on any of these occasions.

**Model Railway Exhibition** once again the Trust will be taking the information stand to the Chiltern Model Railway Exhibition in Stevenage Leisure Centre on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> of January. Please contact John Webb if you are able to help.



**No apologies for taking up so much space with this photograph, but to print it smaller would not do justice to the detail. It was taken by the late Derek Trevilion who was for many years Secretary of the Leighton Buzzard Narrow Gauge Railway. He was in the 'box on the evening of Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> June 1967 on a visit with members of Hemel Hempstead Model Railway Society. The absence of rail traffic apart from the parcels train in Platform 1 (now 4) only helps to draw attention to all the other items of interest in and around the station.** Courtesy of William Shelford, Archivist, LBNRS

ST ALBANS SOUTH SIGNAL BOX

**OUR TEA HUT**  
**IT'S TIME TO UPGRADE**



**CALL FOR DONATIONS**

Our visitors need the service, our volunteers deserve better facilities, we can improve the look of the garden, we can gain more space in the museum, our local supplier of garden rooms can supply just what we need - let's get on and do it!

- Clear and move the old tea shelter
- Lay concrete base
- Erect garden room with awning
- Fit security, lights and power



**DONATIONS PLEASE**

By bank transfer to:  
Barclays Bank, Sort Code 23-05-80  
Account number: 1774 6944



By Cheque to:  
St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust,  
Mail to: 5 Ridgmont Road, St Albans, AL1 3AG

Let us know if you are a UK tax payer so that we can claim gift aid on your donation. Contact us at [www.sigbox.co.uk](http://www.sigbox.co.uk)

### The new tea hut

A new leaflet (see left) has been produced to help raise funds towards the cost of the new tea hut to be erected shortly where the old shelter used to be. The reverse of the leaflet gives some more detail and states that 'the old shelter was constructed in 2014 and the time has come to do something better' the new shelter will be 'wind and waterproof and provides indoor seating, a service hatch and storage space needed for the catering supplies. A decorative canopy is to be added later to this garden room'

On a typical open day we serve 40 to 50 teas and coffees, rising to 150 on heritage days and the new building will provide the volunteer refreshment crew with a better place to do this. With permanent storage the new arrangement will release valuable space in the far corner of the museum area for more artefact to be displayed. The hut itself will also provide us with additional display space for photographs and other items of interest.

The push is on to raise as much of the cost as possible to avoid the Trust's funds becoming too depleted. Copies of the leaflet can be obtained at the 'box and all donations will be gratefully received.

### Progress at the 'box

Two major projects to report this time. Our ex-Talylyn points, referred to last time, are now in position, affixed to sleepers, and with a geo-tec base to stop weeds growing through. Ballast has been spread between the sleepers and the points are now ready to be linked to the adjacent Midland groundframe. The frame has been stripped down and the base moved through 90 degrees to face north. It will shortly be reassembled and will continue to operate the top ground and upper quadrant distant signals as well as the points, and possibly the Southern Railway ground signal - which has been cleaned by the two Michaels and others. When completed the public will have a much better view of these items being operated.

Secondly, our new Buffet building is due to arrive on 26 November. We are clearing the old shelter and paving slabs in readiness for the concrete base to be laid on 15/16 November. Our tea Executives will view the new building to recommend on layout, heating and lighting, which will be installed temporarily for the 9 December opening, and then made permanent.

Garden clearance and bulb planting continue by David and Peter, and Rodney has finished retreating the garden furniture. Following its new lighting, the toilet has been redecorated.

Finally, we have just witnessed the lowering into position of the new two-storey, pre-fabricated Drivers' Messroom in the car park next to our site, opening onto Platform 4.

**John Telford**

*St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust is a company limited by guarantee registered in England No.4653488.*

*Regd. Address: 5 Ridgmont Road, St Albans, Herts., AL1 3AG Regd Charity No.1104535 Email: [info@sigbox.co.uk](mailto:info@sigbox.co.uk) Phone: 01727 836131*

*Newsletter produced by Richard Kirk. Please send items for inclusion to [richardnkirk@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:richardnkirk@hotmail.co.uk) or contact me on 01727 860047*