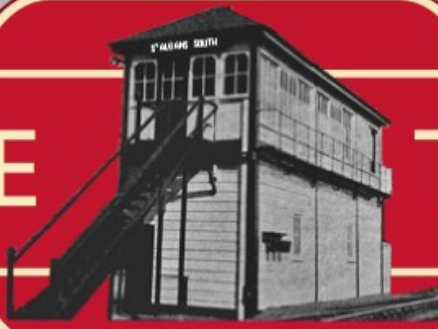


133 Years old

1892 to 2025

OUTSIDE



THE BOX

Newsletter August 2025 Issue 81

## It's up and running!



The extension to the garden railway is now fully operational and giving even more enjoyment to our visitors young and old. Thomas wends his way through the tunnel, down the back straight and round the telegraph pole!

**Richard Kirk**

## Chairman's Words

St. Albans South defies the odds in that the very hot weather we've experienced this Summer hasn't slowed or stopped our plant life growing. Consequently, the endless trimming of grass, hedges and plants has had to continue unabated. New volunteer, Matthew, and others have soldiered on and combatted the greenery stoically.

We're progressing with our Railway 200 special offerings, and Tony and Adrian have finished extending our model railway to new parts of the site. We are now working on the Great Northern Railway (Ireland) Signal, and hope to have it up, if not operational, by Heritage Open Weekend (HOD). The post has been painted the metalwork trial-fitted and a hole dug. Robert and Paul and others are doing a superb job of stripping paint from the metalwork, and new Volunteer, Brian, has then been most helpful in painting these items. We hope to have several other offerings available, but these will remain a surprise - so do come along to HOD on Saturday, 13th or Sunday, 14th September, 10am, to 5pm. to see them, and offer to help out as a Steward if possible.

Our new volunteers have made a big difference to the work we've been getting through, notwithstanding the contribution of our faithful regulars. So, if you can spare a few hours on a Wednesday or at Public Openings, or know someone who might be interested, let us know.

We've now been open for 16 years and the Trustees thought it would be good to invite our original financial supporters to come along to HOD and see what's happened over that time. These comprise: The National Lottery through The Heritage Lottery Fund; the Railway Heritage Trust; Lafarge Aggregates – now Holcim; the Esmee Fairburn Foundation; The Architectural Heritage Fund; and National Instruments.

If you can arrange to visit we keep a file in the Museum of all our Newsletters, and looking through them demonstrates just how much has been achieved over 1,000's of hours of voluntary slog. Let's hope the next 16 years are just as progressive!

**John Telford**



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

## HERITAGE OPEN WEEKEND

As John mentions above, our HOD opening this year will be on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> of September. The opening will be from 10am to 5pm both days. The success of the weekend, as always, relies on members volunteering to help with the organisation and operation of the event. Setting up starts from 9am and the days will be divided into roughly 2 hourly slots. If you are able and would like to help please let Richard know as soon as possible. Please indicate which day(s) and for what hours you are available. This will enable him to establish a rota. Contact him on 07855282664 or email richardnkirk@hotmail.co.uk

### Summer BBQ

30 members and guests enjoyed a convivial afternoon at the beginning of this month at the annual summer feast. This year, to celebrate the Railway 200 event, outside caterers were employed. In keeping with the occasion Christine Wootton prepared a special cake decorated with the Railway 200 logo.



### Progress at the Box

After what seems to have been many months of hard work (certainly too many wheelbarrow loads of concrete to count), we are pleased to announce that the extension to the garden railway, complete with viaduct and tunnel, has been completed. This already appears to be a great hit with visitors – both young and not so young.

Focus has now switched to restoration of the former Great Northern Railway (Ireland) lower quadrant signal, as detailed in the Chairman's notes.

The double arm signal associated with the miniature lever frame failed during one of our last open days. Repairs were undertaken and the signal was back in use for the next open day.

Time stands still in the museum: The clock hanging from the ceiling in the museum also failed recently. Again repairs were undertaken and the opportunity was taken to replace the old light fitting with an LED one.

The signal box is scheduled to have a full re-paint next year but will require some remedial work to the south facing paintwork to get it through the winter months. Work will start on this soon.

As always gardening continues apace, even with dry and hot weather the garden and especially the hedges keep on growing. Thanks to all who keep on top of this.

Many thanks to all our volunteers for all their hard work, without who we would not have such a fantastic museum. If any of our members would like to help or know someone who wishes to help, please get in touch or come along on Wednesday's from 11am.

**Adrian Wootton**