



# Romsey Signal Box Project

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## "THE SIGNAL"

Dear Reader

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### 150th ANNIVERSARY TARGET

On 1 March 1847, the railway from Bishopstoke (now Eastleigh) through Romsey to Salisbury (Milford) was first opened to passengers. It was the first line to reach Salisbury.

Saturday 1 March 1997 sees the 150th anniversary of this important event in Romsey's history, and the Friends have decided to recognise the date in suitable style. *The weekend of 1/2 March 1997 will feature another operating marathon (duration to be confirmed), together with a number of other activities.* A number of other organisations have been contacted to see if they want to share in the celebrations, but in any case our own activities will need the help of a significant number of members.

Meanwhile, progress at the site continues but not to a sufficient state to warrant celebrations this October. *We have therefore decided to postpone the barbecue and operating marathon until March. The October Open Day will instead be a day for tidying up the site (more details inside).*

Members who visit the box within the coming months will see a transformation as various projects near completion. Special thanks must go to Craig Phillips, Richard Read and Ben Penny for many hours dedicated effort throughout the summer. The results of their labours are impressive. The outside of the box has been repainted and looks as good as it ever did. The first container van is all but finished. The level crossing gates and signs around the site enhance the scene. It now needs a good weed!

Major projects for the period up to March include making further progress on the inside of the box, with particular attention being paid to the simulator and wiring, and to the addition of the controllers and locking bars. A list of tasks, and those responsible for each, is enclosed.

Advance notice is therefore given to members for two important dates for the diaries: firstly, the March celebrations; and secondly, prior to that, the *Annual General Meeting which will be held, as usual, in the box, at 14.30 (until 16.30 latest) on Sunday 5 January 1997.* We have had a good attendance in the past couple of years: please come and give the committee your support.

We are continuing to "Get It Fixed in '96" and will doubtless continue well into 1997. Then hopefully we'll be able to "Celebrate in '98"!

Dick Hewett

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#### MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The committee met on 30 June: discussions centred around the summer work programme. A further meeting on 7 September included a

review of progress and a complete strategic review of the project. Ben Penny and Richard Read were unable to attend, but Craig Philips was invited as observer.

We were also delighted to welcome Peter Cattermole to our meeting in September. Peter has maintained an interest in the signal box project from very early days but until now has felt unable to get actively involved due to his many other commitments and interests, including running the Somerset & Dorset Trust project at Washford on the West Somerset railway. Peter's experience and practical skills will be extremely valuable to us, and his input to our strategic review was very welcome.

The committee agreed on a number of major items, including the cancellation of celebrations in October and outline plans for those in March. An important issue was the reducing availability of key volunteers as study, work or domestic interests continue to impinge upon people's time. The realistic use of available resources, and potential means of recruitment, were considered.

Responsibility for achieving certain targets was allocated to specific members of the team, with deadlines. The programme is repeated below. The committee will meet again in mid-November.

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#### WORK PROGRAMME ON THE SIGNAL BOX SITE

The following work was agreed at the recent committee meeting. Those identified are now responsible for seeing the actions completed. I have suggested dates where these were not specifically agreed at the meeting. The committee will be monitoring progress against this programme.

Task	Responsible	Deadline
Signal box structure:		
Repainting outside of box	Craig P	31-12-96
Assess need for replacement windows	Peter C	31-12-96
Replace/remove railing at foot of steps	Richard R	3-11-96
Repair guttering, install new downpipe	Craig P	30-11-96
Replace stairtreads on steps to box	Richard R	30-11-96
Interior of signal box:		
Complete painting of ceiling/woodwork	Richard R	31-12-96
Obtain and fit first controller rod	Chris Hack	31-10-96
Fit remaining controller rods	Chris Hack	30-9-97
Complete other equipment fitments	Chris Hack	30-9-97
Clear downstairs of box	Dick H	6-10-96
Rewire 12 volt supply	Chris Hack	31-12-96
Supply box surround for electrics	Craig P	31-12-96
Box around relays on side shelf	Craig P	31-12-96
Produce new circuit diagrams	Chris Hack	28-2-97
Around signal box:		
Organise for mains water supply	Dick H/Richard R	30-9-96
Plumb in cold water tap	Peter C	31-12-96
Organise drain from sink	Peter C/Craig P	31-12-96
Plumb in hot water boiler	Peter C	28-2-97
Tidy area generally	Richard R	31-12-96

## Visitor van:

Complete woodwork/sealing gaps	Richard R/Ben P	31-10-96
Lav conduits from signal box to van	Dick H/Peter C	30-11-96
Obtain mains electric armoured cable	Dick H/Peter C	30-11-96
Add lights/sockets in van	Peter C	31-12-96
Wire in simulator into visitor van	Chris Hack	30-9-97
New internal display boards	Dick H	31-12-96

## Remainder of site:

Weedkiller/weed clearance	Dick H	31-10-96
Complete level crossing gates	Dick H	6-10-96
Demolish 2nd container van	Richard R	5-10-96
Remove debris from 2nd and 3rd vans	Dick H/Peter C	6-10-96
Mount canalside sign	Dick H	31-10-96
Mount two other signs	Dick H	28-2-97

## Cowley Bridge:

Complete re-wiring	Bill T	12-10-96
Complete other restoration	Bill T	12-10-96
New display boards	Dick H	12-10-96

## Events:

Coordinate Crewe visit. 19 Oct	Bill T	12-10-96
Arrange visit to Washford box	Dick H/Peter C	31-12-96
Organise March celebrations	Dick H	31-12-96

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## NEWS OF "FRIENDS OF ROMSEY SIGNAL BOX"

Virtually all last year's members have now renewed - those with a guilty conscience may as well renew for 1997 as well now!

All members are invited to the AGM on 5 January, at the box, 2.30 to 4.30pm.

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## VISIT TO "HILLSIDE RAILWAY"

Several members will be aware of Derrick Palengat's miniature railway which runs from his garden in Emerv Down near Lyndhurst. Unfortunately Derrick is being forced to dismantle much of the line during the winter, but he has invited the Friends (who have helped operate the line on several recent open days) to stage a final operating session on Saturday 23 November, starting at 2.30pm.

Numbers are limited to a maximum of 10 people. Names please to Dick as soon as possible (first come, first served).

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## COWLEY BRIDGE JUNCTION MINIATURE SIGNAL BOX

## Signalling gala, Crewe, October 1996

We shall be exhibiting the rebuilt Cowley Bridge at Crewe during the Signalling Gala over the weekend of 19/20 October. Bill Tyndall is organising the roster. Anyone who wants to volunteer as an operator but who hasn't liaised with Bill should do so soonest,

via 01794-512410, especially if needing accommodation.

The Exeter West Group will be operating their box during the two days. Operation by anyone else will be strictly controlled. Peter Jordan hopes we will have an opportunity to operate under supervision some time during the weekend, but gives no guarantee.

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#### SHOPPING LIST!!

All members are asked to see whether they have direct access to any of the following currently required items, or to a man who can (collection can be arranged from anywhere in the country):

- Concrete troughing and concrete supporting blocks.
- Floorboards (ordinary household 5"-7" boards would be fine).
- A small fan heater.
- Plastic exterior waterpipes for drainage.
- A quantity of lino, together with underlay.
- Up to 50 metres of external mains electric cable.
- Any historic railway photographs/cine film of the Romsey area.

Any offers: Dick Hewett. 01794-522979.

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#### DIARY DATES

- 6 October (Sunday): Open Day. 10am-5pm. Clearing site.
- 19-20 October (Saturday-Sunday): Cowley Bridge at Crewe Gala.
- 3 November (Sunday): Open Day, 10am-5pm.
- 9-10 November (Saturday-Sunday): Cowley Bridge at Lordshill.
- 17 November (Sunday): Committee meeting, 8pm, 42 Botley Road.
- 23 November (Saturday): Visit to Hillside (miniature) Railway. Emery Down, Lyndhurst, 2.30-7pm.
- 1 December (Sunday): Open Day, 10am-5pm.
- 5 December (Thursday): Transport Heritage Committee. Romsey Infants School, 8-8.45am.
- 5 January 1997 (Sunday): Annual General Meeting, Signal Box. 2.30-4.30pm.
- 26 January 1997 (Sunday): Cowley Bridge at Leamington Spa.
- 27 January 1997 (Monday): 150th anniversary of first goods train to Romsey.
- 2 February 1997 (Sunday): Open Day, 10am-5pm.
- 1 March 1997 (Saturday): 150th anniversary of opening of Bishopstoke-Romsey-Salisbury line to passengers. Special events.
- 2 March 1997 (Sunday): Open Day, 10am-5pm. Special events.

So - *Let's get it fixed in '96!*

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The next Issue of "The Signal" will be in January, after the AGM.

*Contributions from members would be most welcome!*