

# “The Signal”

*The Newsletter of  
The Friends of Romsey Signal Box*

*No 24, November 2000*

*Editor: Dick Hewett, tel 01794 500523, email: [dhewett@excite.co.uk](mailto:dhewett@excite.co.uk),  
42 Botley Road, Romsey, SO51 5AP*

---

## **Annual General Meeting**

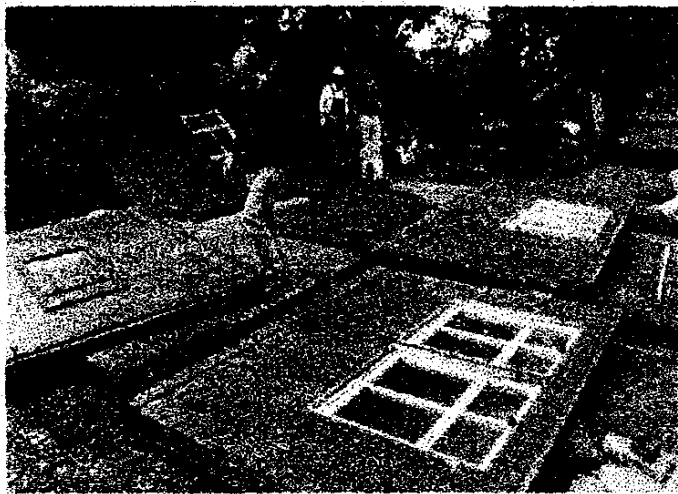
This will be held on **Sunday 4 February 2001**, in the signal box, at **4pm**, after that month's open day. **Please let the Chairman know if you plan to attend.** Agenda:

1. *Report from Chairman (Dick Hewett)*
2. *Report from Project Manager (Colin Meheux)*
3. *Report on Cowley Bridge Junction (Bill Tyndall)*
4. *Report from Treasurer (Dick Hewett)*
5. *Officers of “Friends”*
  - **Current officers (all presumed to be available for re-election):**  
Dick Hewett: Chairman, Treasurer, Membership Secretary, Archivist, Newsletter editor, Marketing/publicity.  
Colin Meheux: Project Manager (including operations and mechanics at box)  
Bill Tyndall: Cowley Bridge Junction.  
Simon Cooper: electrical fittings at box.  
Paul Allwood: youth development.  
Ted Mason: ex-officio member of committee with special responsibility for the link with the Romsey & District Buildings Preservation Trust (our “parent” body).
  - **Any other nominations would be extremely welcome!**
6. *Actions from last meeting*
7. *Plans for 2001-02*
8. *Any Other Business*
9. *Date of 2002 AGM*

The meeting should finish by 1715 hours.

---

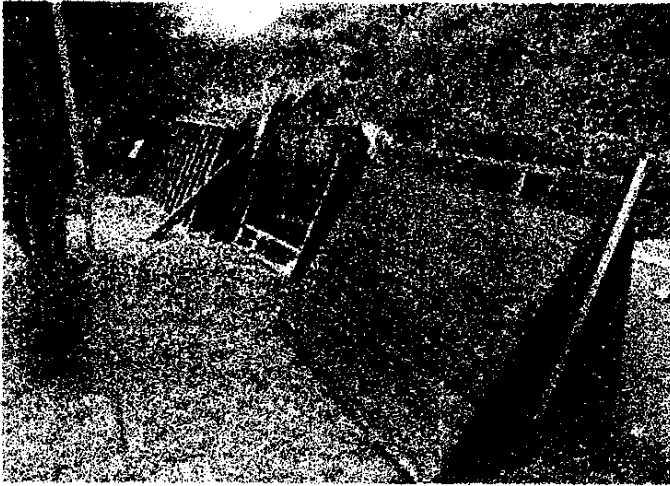
# Progress on the pavilion!



**Dismantling of the pavilion** we have been donated took place on the Open Day in April, with assistance from Ted Mason (above left), Clive Collier (in whose garden it resided, closest to the camera below left) and members of the Community Service.



As we reported in the last issue, the Buildings Preservation Trust agreed to fund all the dismantling, transport, rebuilding, and re-roofing. There won't be any immediate cost to the Friends.



So the "shed" has arrived on site. It may be in bits – but it's here, and waiting for the re-construction to start. We have offered to help with some labour for the rebuilding, and are happy to undertake basic maintenance once it is finished (such as painting windows and occasionally treating the woodwork).

Planning permission has now been obtained, and Test Valley Borough Council have very kindly agreed to a £1,500 equipment grant. Quotes for the work are being obtained, to include the provision of a water supply and mains drainage, and it is hoped work can commence in the Spring. Target date for completion must be next summer.

---

### ***Membership subscriptions:***

Although it is not yet the end of the year, Membership Subscriptions for 2001 would be very welcome any time from now on! I think you can assume the rates will stay as £5 for adults, £2.50 for juniors and senior citizens. A couple of renewals have already been received.

---

### ***Work at Signal box site***

The Community Service volunteers have been with us virtually every Open Day since March and they have been a real benefit to the project. Their work to date has been concentrated upon site clearance. With regular strimming and mowing, and much vegetation clearance, they have been instrumental in making the site look better than it has for several years. The regular attendance should enable us to keep it in this state.

Meanwhile, the paths between the signal box and the visitor van have been relaid with plastic sheet and pea gravel. The effect is very pronounced and not only has the infestation of weeds been arrested, but the whole site looks much smarter.

In contrast, apart from marking out the site for the new pavilion, no work has been undertaken beyond the level crossing, pending the necessary groundwork for the pavilion.

Unfortunately we have been the victims of vandals on several occasions during the year, with the most significant damage being the destruction of two of the level crossing gates and one of the post by vandals who pushed the trolley into them. Colin Meheux's son has been helping rebuild the gates, and the Community Service have applied the necessary paint.

The problem still remains in doing anything inside the signal box, and whilst work continues on the rebuild of Cowley Bridge, neither Simon Cooper nor Bill Tyndall have been able to address the problems with wiring. Hopefully 2001 will see more progress on that front.

---

### ***Cowley Bridge:***

Meanwhile work continues slowly on Cowley Bridge. The lever frame has long since been finished: it is all the mechanical and electrical locking which is now needed. Bill Tyndall and Simon Cooper have nearly finished their work and hope to pass the new frame to Alan Johnston before Christmas. New target for completion is Spring 2001.

---

### ***Open Days:***

Remember: we need volunteers to help us on Open Days. Any assistance for even an hour or two any time between 10am and 4pm would be extremely welcome. Dates:

**2000:** 3 December

<b>2001:</b> 4 February (+AGM)	6 May	5 August	4 November
4 March	3 June	2 September	2 December
1 April	1 July	7 October	

---

**Important note:** Please note the editor's new telephone number (01794 500523), and apologies to any member who has tried to contact him since December on the old number. He was too miserly to pay the transfer charges!