

# SIGNALLING RECORD SOCIETY

Founded in 1969 for the study of Railway Signalling and Operation in the British Isles and Overseas

## 50TH ANNIVERSARY YEAR

*Notice of Annual General Meeting  
to be held at 11.00 am on  
Saturday 18th May 2019  
in the  
Duchess of Hamilton Suite  
National Railway Museum, York  
also  
Officers' Reports  
&  
Accounts  
For 2018*

**LATE AMENDMENTS:**

*In the event of any late amendments to this report and accounts being received after the publication deadline of the Newsletter, an updated copy of this Notice and Annual Report will be posted on the Society's web site at [www.s-r-s.org.uk/agm2019](http://www.s-r-s.org.uk/agm2019)*

*Any member unable to access the web site may contact the Acting Secretary and request a printed copy. Requests must be received by the Acting Secretary no later than 4th May to allow time to print and post the document in advance of the meeting.*

*A limited number of printed copies will be available at the AGM.*

## *Programme of Events*

- 10:00 Doors open. Tables available for bring and buy and displays.  
10:30 Illustrated talk “50 years of the SRS North East Group” by Richard Pulleyn  
11:00 **Annual General Meeting and Members’ Forum**  
12:30 Break for lunch  
14:30 Opportunity to access pre-ordered items in the Search Engine  
15:30 Opportunity for ‘hands on’ at the L&Y Signalling School layout  
17:00 Close

## *AGM Agenda*

- 1 Signing of the Attendance Register
- 2 Welcome by the Chair
- 3 To remember our members who have died during the past year
- 4 To receive apologies for absence
- 5 To approve the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
- 6 To address any matters arising from the minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting
- 7 To approve the Office Holders reports for the year ended 31st December 2018
- 8 To approve the Treasurer’s report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2018
- 9 To elect the Trustees and Key Officers (12 allowed in total)  
Nominations Received:

Chair	Chris Hall	
Secretary		
Treasurer		
Trustees	Paul Armstrong	Graham Cloxton
	Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton	Richard Foster
	David Garland	Chris Hall
	Reg Instone	John Lacy
	Robert Mills	
- 10 To appoint the Society’s Independent Examiner for 2019  
Proposed: Baldwins Accountants (Oswestry) Limited
- 11 To approve proposals of awards of Honorary Life Membership of the Society
- 12 To announce the winner of the C H Betts Award
- 13 To announce the winner of the Logo competition
- 14 Any Other Business
- 15 Members’ Forum

David Garland, Acting Secretary, 1st February 2019

# *Minutes of 2018 AGM*

**Held at Kidderminster Railway Museum, 5th May 2018**

Present: Chris Hall (Chairman), Malcolm Atherton (Secretary), David Stirling (Treasurer), David Garland, John Lacy, Edward Dorricott and Reg Instone together with 50 members.

## **Welcome**

The meeting commenced at 11.00 hrs.

Chris Hall welcomed everybody to the meeting and remarked on the good attendance.

## **2. Apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from 28 members.

## **3. Approval of Minutes of the 2017 Annual General Meeting**

On the proposal of Graham Hardcastle, seconded by David Stirling, it was **AGREED** unanimously that the Minutes for the AGM of 13th May 2017, as circulated, be approved.

## **4. Matters arising**

There were no matters arising from the 2017 AGM minutes.

## **5. Approval of Committee Report for the year ended 31st December 2017**

The Chairman noted that the Committee Report had been issued with the March/April 2018 edition of *'The Signalling Record'*. He added that he didn't intend going through each report but would go through the headings, and members' were invited to comment accordingly.

The only comments made on the published reports were with regard to the following:

### FARSAP Project:

Richard Pulleyn said he wished to correct the final paragraph in his report, the use of the word "downloads" in the final sentence was erroneous. The final paragraph should read as follows:

*"The FARSAP page on the SRS web-site returned a total of 1,398 hits in the year 2016 (representing a daily average of 3.8), increasing to 1,708 in the nine months from January to September 2017 (a daily average of 6.26), and 2355 in the full year 2017 (being a further increase in the daily average to 6.45)."*

A member asked what the FARSAP Project was.

Richard explained that FARSAP was the Film Archive of Railway Signalling and People, and he gave a brief outline of the project and the reasoning behind it.

### The Signalling Record:

Reg Instone noted that, as stated in the report, Tony Higgs was standing down as Editor of *'The Signalling Record'* after some 18 years at the helm.

A vote of thanks was recorded to Tony for his sterling work as Editor of *'The Signalling Record'* over the past eighteen years.

There being no further comments, on the proposal of Roger Sawyer, seconded by Neil McKay, it was **AGREED** unanimously that the Committee Report for 2017 be approved.

## **6. Treasurer's Report & Accounts for the year ending 31st December 2017**

David Stirling went briefly through his report and the accompanying accounts, as issued with the March/April 2018 edition of *'The Signalling Record'*, and then invited comments from the floor.

Chris Hall noted a slight loss was recorded on SRS book sales for 2017.

David Stirling replied that large stocks were held of some books which sell only a few copies per annum. In some cases, going by the current levels of sales, stocks of some publications could last for up to ten years. This leads to stock being devalued/written down over time. He went on to say that prior to the full move to Kenilworth, the Society had been renting space there for book storage. However, due to an oversight it transpired that no rent had ever been paid. This resulted in some £600 being expended to cover the cost of rent arrears.

Reg Instone noted that sales would be impacted due to the lack of any new publication(s) during 2017. He suggested the 2016 figure may have been inflated by sales of the 'Dutton' publication. He added that the position of Bookstall Manager was still vacant and that John Lacy, who is currently covering the role, has been busy with other society business.

Derek Coe referred to the Balance Sheet, Current Liabilities, and commented that the figure for Creditors for 2016 (£3,414) was considerably higher than that of 2017 (£551).

David Stirling explained that the 2016 figure had been higher on account of the costs for the Nov/Dec 2016 edition of *'The Signalling Record'* being paid before 31st December 2016.

Richard Pulleyn proposed a vote of thanks from the floor to David Stirling for all the work he has undertaken in his role as Treasurer.

On the proposal of Richard Pulleyn, seconded by Derek Coe, it was **AGREED** unanimously that the Treasurer's Report and Accounts for 2017 be approved.

## 7. Election of Committee for 2018

Nominations received were:

Secretary	-	Malcolm Atherton
Treasurer	-	David Stirling
Ordinary Elected Member-		Reg Instone
Ordinary Elected Member-		David Garland
Ordinary Elected Member-		Chris Hall

Since there was exactly one nomination for each vacancy, no election was necessary.

On the proposal of Martin Reynolds, seconded by John Penny, it was **AGREED** unanimously that the Committee be elected en bloc.

## 8. Appointment of the Society's Independent Examiner for 2018

On the proposal of Roger Sawyer, seconded by John Batts, it was **AGREED** unanimously that Baldwins Accountants (Oswestry) Limited be reappointed as the Society's independent examiner for 2018.

## 9. Announcement of the winner of the 2016 C. H. Betts Award

The winner is Francis Voisey for his three-part study on "*Ill Signalman Blamed for Accident*", which the judges considered diligently researched, carefully prepared and well expressed. Our knowledge and understanding of signalling and operation has been considerably enhanced by this extended paper.

The prize, a cheque for £100, will be forwarded to Francis as he is unable to attend today.

## 10. Resolution to transfer the Society to a Charity (CIO)

The Chairman outlined the work undertaken by the Charity Sub-Committee. A Constitution was developed and consulted on with members prior to the Charity Application. This Constitution forms part of the Charity Registration and so is now a legal document governing the operation of the Society. The set of Rules, developed and consulted on with members in parallel with the Constitution, was formally adopted by the Charity Trustees in February 2018 as the Rules of the Society to supplement the Constitution.

The Chairman said that the meeting was now being asked to consider, and vote on, the Resolution to transfer the Current Society, its members, assets, and activities, etc., completely into the new Charity. He noted that the wording of the Resolution had been formally agreed and approved by both the Trustees of the CIO and the Committee of the Existing SRS in February 2018 and reads as follows:

"This meeting agrees to transfer the members, assets, agreements and intellectual property rights enjoyed by the Signalling Record Society into the Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) known as "The Signalling Record Society", registered charity number 1176506, in the knowledge that The Signalling Record Society CIO has undertaken to carry on and supplement the work of the unincorporated Society so far as this is consistent with the CIO's constitution as a charity. The Committee is authorised and instructed to put all arrangements necessary, or in their opinion expedient, in place to effect and complete the transfer so that the CIO can continue the work of the Society."

Prior to the vote there was a discussion with a question and answer session in order to address any issues or concerns from the floor in respect of the advantages and/or constraints arising from the Society becoming a CIO.

Voting then took place by a show of hands, the result being as follows:

Those in favour of the Resolution (57)	Those against the Resolution (0)
Abstentions (0)	

With the Resolution having been carried unanimously, the Chairman said that the Committee will now work to progress the transfer of the Society to a Charity (CIO).

## 11. A. O. B.

Honorary Life Membership of the Society:

The Committee proposed to extend the offer of Honorary Life Membership of the Society to:

Michael Back – Mike has been a member from the very early days of the Society. Whilst health issues have affected his mobility of late, he has been a prolific researcher over the years, spending many hours in the National Archives at Kew. He has been involved with various Society roles over the years. He has written numerous articles for the Society journal, and is keen to help and encourage others with their research. He corresponds regularly with many signalling enthusiasts both inside and outside the Society, and it is not unknown for him to send out upwards of 100 letters or more over the course of a year.

Jerry Plane - Jerry has also been a member for many years. He took over as Editor of '*The Signalling Record*' from David Collins in July 1989 before finally handing over Editorial control to Tony Higgs in September 2001. From then on he took on a 'backroom' role in putting together items for publication in the Society News, a role he continued to undertake until January 2015. In addition to assisting the Membership team, Jerry is also responsible for maintaining the Society's Membership Database.

On the proposal of Reg Instone, seconded by Edward Dorricott it was **AGREED** unanimously to extend the offer of Honorary Life Membership of the Society to Michael Back and Jerry Plane.

Charity Sub-Committee:

Richard Pulleyn asked who the members of the sub-committee were.

They were Chris Hall, Richard Foster, John Lacy and David Stirling.

A vote of thanks was made from the floor to the Sub-Committee for all their work.

## 12. Member's Forum

Chris Hall commented that there were still numerous roles vacant within the Society and that there are tasks that need to be performed but we

are currently constrained by the number of people available to do them. Many Society Officers still undertake several roles. Any offers of help would be gratefully received, and support will be available. There is also the opportunity for anyone so interested to be co-opted onto the Committee, although this was not obligatory.

A member asked how often the SRS stand attended shows.

Chris Hall said we attend the Telford and Warley shows annually. We did attend the Bristol show one year but the sales returns did not justify the cost of attending. He said the Society presents an award each year at Warley, this is the 'Norman Cadge Award' presented for the best signalled layout. Chris noted that there had been a marked improvement in signalling on the model railway layouts at the show in recent times. Coverage of the award has appeared in the 'Railway Modeller'.

It was noted that attendance at the shows does bring in a few new members, but the website does more to raise the profile of the Society than anything else.

The new location of the Archive at the Kenilworth Study Centre was discussed. The archive is now open for business and is there to be used. Noted that now the Society is moving forward to become a Charity, it is important to promote the Archive accordingly.

David Garland said a programme of Open Days has been arranged, some of which are being held jointly with the LNWRs. It was noted that the joint days tended to get rather crowded. Members were encouraged to let the Archivist have any feedback regarding the Open Days, was there a preference for them to be held on weekdays or Saturdays or a combination of both? Forthcoming Open Days being held in 2018 are; July 21st (Joint Open Day with LNWRs), September 18th (Research Day) and November 3rd (Research Day).

Members thought it would be helpful for a leaflet to be produced giving details of Archive location, and accessibility by bus, car or rail. A member suggested including the phone number(s) of local taxi firms in Kenilworth, as it was noted that the location of the recently opened Kenilworth station was not very convenient for the Study Centre.

Reg Instone gave details of the Didcot Signalling Gala taking place on June 23rd/24th. He said that the Society was attending and there are plans to have an extensive exhibition about the history of signalling at Didcot. A demonstration of Absolute Block signalling, with working block instruments is planned and the SRS sales stand will also be present. He added that volunteers were being sought to assist in manning the stand, and asked if anyone present could assist to please make themselves known to him.

### **13. Date & Venue for 2019 AGM**

The date and venue will be advised in due course.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting at 1220.

M. P. Atherton,  
Honorary Secretary,  
May 2018.

#### Post Meeting Note:

During the early part of the week following the AGM, the very sad news reached us that Michael Back had passed away on Monday, 7th May 2018.

# *Reports from Office Holders*

## *Chair, Chris Hall*

This is my third year as Chairman and I have to say that we are still facing some challenges. The principal difficulty is that we have an ageing membership and Committee and are finding it difficult to attract younger and more active members to assist with some of the tasks.

We have made the transition to charitable status as a Heritage and Educational charity so will see some benefits in the future as members elect to gift aid their subscriptions and some opportunities for raising money to further our charitable activities.

Despite few new members' details appearing in the Record, the rate of new members joining has roughly doubled since on-line applications became possible in July 2017. In 2018 there were 75 new or re-joining members of which 62 filled in forms on-line. For reasons not yet understood, many more members than usual have failed to renew (as at mid January) so despite the fact that the move to a quarterly Record means that they have a much longer period of 'grace' before the address labels are printed for the first issue of 2019. Non-renewed members receive a reminder on their address label with the first issue of the calendar year and the task of writing to those who haven't taken this prompt to renew by late March is a further

burden. I would therefore exhort members who are able to do so to consider using a standing order for their subscription which means a saving on postal costs and why not fill in the 'Gift Aid' section on the form or on-line at the same time.

We made a loss on operating expenses but this was offset by a trading profit from the Drawing Office and Research Notes. Book sales also made a profit but some of our activities which are part of our charitable aims are charged to this same account: things like attending exhibitions to publicise the society and promote our activities.

One area in which we must improve is reporting our expenditure (all of which is budgeted) in a timely manner so that any departure from the authorised expenditure can be identified well before the year end.

One or two Committee members are feeling the strain and we need to encourage new blood into the team. Therefore we will be looking to co-opt a couple of members and to persuade them to take over a few tasks to reduce the burden on the same small number of members that do the work!

## *Archive, David Garland*

2018 was the first full year in which the SRS Archive was located at the LNWR Society's Kenilworth Study Centre. During the year we held six Open Days for members and the public; the first four were joint with the LNWR, but in view of the substantial numbers attending we agreed that for the rest of the year the two societies would hold separate Open Days.

During 2018 we have taken delivery of two important collections. Firstly our long-standing member Michael Back, who regrettably died in May, left us the great majority of his extensive collection of signalling material, the results of a lifetime's research into signalling across Great Britain. This has now all reached Kenilworth and is available for visitors to consult; however cataloguing and (where appropriate) scanning will be major jobs, lasting well into the future. Secondly, thanks to patient negotiation by Richard Pulleyn, the National Railway Museum has transferred to us a large collection of signal box diagram negatives, mainly from BR(WR) and its predecessors, but also including some significant items from the Eastern and North Eastern regions. This material too has arrived at Kenilworth, but sorting and cataloguing is still at an early stage.

We have received several other donations during 2018, including:

- Some further material from John Swift's collection, donated by his niece Mary Bradley.
- A set of office copy diagrams for Leicester area boxes, formerly used by S&T technician Ron Cottam, and donated by Bill Randell.

- A signal box diagram for Towcester and a Train Register Book for Hellifield North Junction, both donated by David Miller through Malcolm Dickin.
- A collection of material from the late Nottingham S&T engineer Ian Thompson, donated by Brian Savage through the good offices of Trevor Moseley.
- Three boxes of paperwork donated by Neil Skipp.
- A selection of scheme plans for locations in Kent and East Sussex, also digital plans covering the East London line, donated by Roger Bunnnett.
- Several Somerset & Dorset and BR(WR) items donated by Chris Potts.
- Signal diagrams from the West Midlands donated by Steve Cowley.
- A 1905 Train Register Book from Forest Hall (near Newcastle) donated by Charles Hopper (from Halifax, Nova Scotia!).
- A signal box diagram for Midford from the collection of the late Ron Curtis, donated by Trevor Burlinson.
- Material from late Relief Signaller Jinks of Kettering, donated by Gareth Aggett.
- Various BR(SR) material donated by Martin Shaw.
- Instructions to Signallers at Wendover, donated by Tim Stevens.

The Society is most grateful to all donors listed, and to any I've missed – apologies to them.

Finally, very many thanks to all those members

and others who have given their time and effort to help the SRS Archive. Without you we would not be in the position we are.

## ***Digital Archive, John Lacy***

The Digital Archive continues to expand and additions to the archive have come from David Allen and John Creed, and via David Allen from Robert Dey, Phil Graham, Geoff Holme, Simon Lowe, Richard Maund, and Mike Norris. Amongst this are some 30 year's worth of the Railway Gazette. The efforts of all those named continue to be much appreciated, as is David Allen's role in co-ordinating and carrying out much of the scanning activity. In addition to those mentioned above I have also been scanning documents when time has permitted.

I also received donations of material from Steve Courten, Paul Gennoe, Richard Maund, Jeff Mew, Ian Pell, John Piper, Sean Robitaille and South Western Railway (Dave Morris). Thank you to them as well.

Material has been added from my own collection.

Adrian Crafer has scanned a number of Great Western and British Railways Western Region drawings, thank you Adrian.

Michael Back's collection of material falls into two camps. First a collection of weekly notice extracts

which were filed in chronological order. A start has been made on digitising these by David Allen and a few by myself. Secondly a collection of notes and sketches filed in alphabetical order of location and a start has been made in cataloguing and scanning these as well.

Looking back on what Michael himself wrote in January 2013, he estimated that the folders contain about 80,000 layout diagrams of varying degrees of detail and signalling notices. The latter will be extracted and merged into our main collection of signalling notices. The sheer quantity of material in these collections will keep us all well occupied for quite a while!

Arrangements are being made for us to use the London North Western Society's large format scanner to digitise plans and other documents that are larger than A3 size.

As the year was drawing to a close the National Railway Museum offered us the pre-1995 weekly notices collected by Chris Wolstenholmes for scanning and subsequent disposal.

## ***Bookstall, John Lacy***

The Bookstall has traded successfully during the year, generating a income stream of more than £16k in excess of direct costs and thereby contributing positively to the finances of the Society, finances that can be used, amongst other things, to pay for additions to the archive.

We continue to hold excessive stocks of some titles as some printed volumes were purchased in amounts of 500 copies in order to get volume discounts from the printer and similar situations have arisen with some CDs. As you might imagine, this ties up money in slow moving or 'near dead' stock that could be better used otherwise. It also ties up space at Kenilworth that might be better devoted to archive expansion and making it easier to store the exhibition stand equipment. Now that "print on demand" is our normal procurement route for paper, order quantities of 30 books at a time is becoming the usual practice and allows considerably tighter stock control and avoidance of premature restocking.

It should be possible to similarly reduce the stock holding and associated cost of CDs by producing these ourselves in small quantities. This is already done for many of the CD/DVD publications. CD/DVDs should only be produced in larger quantities where demand can realistically be expected to justify this for initial sales and

thereafter we should produce small numbers 'on demand' ourselves. Lost sales for the volumes of signal box diagrams that are currently out of stock do nothing for our reputation.

Reviewing the detail sales records of recent years for the annual accounts – earlier ones have not reached me – confirms the pattern that the best sales of any publication occur in the first year followed by a rapid decline. Ongoing sales are then sporadic and low in volume which reinforces the need to avoid reprinting in large quantities for the stock to then sit idly unsold on shelves at Kenilworth.

A new development in the latter part of the year was the printing of bookmarks which advertise the name of the Society and are given away free. Because bookmarks are often kept and used rather than being binned as just advertising material, they have the potential to keep the Society's name in people's minds for quite some time. If you want one either order a book from the Bookstall or come to a meeting or our exhibition stand and you'll get one entirely free!

A special 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary bookmark has been produced as well.

## ***Drawing Office, Ray Caston & Allan Pym***

We are pleased to report another year of progress. We are grateful to the Archivist for allowing us to access the Michael Back's records and to Mrs Back for donating this voluminous resource to the Society, representing a lifetime's work in research.

We thank John Creed, Chris Hall, John Lacy, Ken Page, David Stirling, and Garth Tilt for their help during the year, and our draughtsman Bernard Archer for his continuing input.

## ***Backnumbers and Non-commercial Publications, Steve Courten***

During 2018 the overall volume of sales was lower than in 2017 however it should be noted that there had been a significant increase in sales during 2017 resulting in the sales figures shown in the accounts. This was for the most part due to the issuing of the printed list rather than relying on sales via the website.

In order to further increase sales a number of the more popular publications from the Signalling Papers and Research Notes Series' have been made available for sale at exhibitions.

The overall income from the sale of Back Numbers and other Non-commercial Publications was £546.93. This can be broken down to £327.13 for direct sales via post and exhibitions and £219.80 for sales via the online bookstore.

Sales of Reprinted Company publications continue to be popular and this is an area I am very keen to expand on. There are several companies who are notable by their omission from, or under representation in this series. This is particularly true of the LNWR and early copies of the GWR pre-grouping era.

## ***Enquiries Officer, Ian Wannell***

Fifty enquiries were received and replied to which was a drop from 56 in 2017.

Again, a goodly number of these enquiries involved modelling with requests for architectural

In addition it is intended to make available some of the contractors' catalogues as part of this series during 2019.

The Research Notes now cover a wide range of topics, though the bestselling items in this series have been the ones covering John Swift's remaining notebooks. The decision to make these available in both printed and CD versions has proved interesting with sales of each being just about equal.

As in previous years sales of the Signalling Paper series of booklets remains strong to both members and non-members. Revision of a number of the existing items in this series is nearing completion while it is hoped to issue an additional one covering the Scottish Region Diagrams

While sales of the printed copies of the back numbers have again been very disappointing with only one order for printed copies having been received during the year this has been compensated for by sales of the combined CD's.

information about signal box structures. It would be helpful to have someone in the Society who could specifically help with these.

## ***Exhibitions, Natalie Jones & John Lacy***

There is an old saying that everything goes in threes. So it was in 2018 when we took the exhibition stand out thrice—to Didcot, Telford and Warley.

We have also made a start on revamping the stand itself and a sizable investment was made in a new set of display boards and head banner so as to improve the Society's public persona and image. These boards are expected to last several years and, as they are modular, it should be easy to replace any components that get damaged. Some leaflet display units have been replaced and additional ones bought.

For Warley we produced some new badges so that visitors to the stand could be assured that the person they were talking to is indeed a representative of this Society.

Additional pictures have been produced so that we can 'ring the changes' rather than just showing what we showed last time. In this way we can 'refresh' the display more frequently than hitherto.

One feature we took to each of the shows was a portable computer which we used to showcase FARSAP videos. Must remember to ring the changes on which ones for 2019.

We went to the Signalling Gala at Didcot Railway Centre in June, organised by the Swindon Panel Society. This, as might be expected, was 'right up our street' and we met up with quite a few new friends and plenty of old ones, sold quite a few books and DVDs and some copies of signalling publications which, despite being published a long time ago, had never been taken to an exhibition or event before.

In addition to the sales stand we mounted a

substantial exhibition depicting the history of signalling around the Didcot triangle before the advent of Reading PSB. We also had two block instruments linked up, albeit not until the Saturday afternoon, which allowed visitors to the stand to have a play and test one another's knowledge of block bell codes. Our thanks to Reg Instone for preparing and arranging these.

Sales were buoyant and greater than at our usual exhibitions. We also recruited six members although some of these had been long-lapsed ones. We went equipped to accept credit card payments via PayPal but the available internet connection did not allow access for banking. Something the Centre needs to address if they want support from stands that sell goods or publications.

Every silver lining has its clouds. It is a long trek from the entrance to the carriage shed where all the stalls were located, made all the more so by having to carry or wheel everything using manual labour. We would not describe the Centre as disabled friendly or, in all probability, as disability access compliant. There is no road vehicle access for delivery / collection or parking; indeed there is no level access at all unless you are a train. We were assisted by Kelly Harding, (thank you Kelly), who provided transport for the display stand from and to Kenilworth. Kelly needs the use of a disabled scooter and this posed her considerable problems and inconvenience. It is true we did get a lift from the shed to the entrance (Wickham Trolley) with our gear when dismantling on Sunday, just as well as we were all well tired by then.

Would we go again? Needs some thinking about and some better and reliable arrangements for access.

Early September we made our annual visit to the Gauge 'O' Guild's show at Telford. Income was better than 2017 but less than 2016. We recruited two new members as well. The show's organisers introduced a charge for the table space from this year whereas one table space had previously been free for societies. A noticeable elevation of our costs.

As always it was a good opportunity to make new friends and renew old ones.

The show's venue at the Telford Centre has easy access for delivery / removal of the stand and parking is alongside. Quite a trek from the station however although there is a bus link if you wait long enough. Likewise disabled access is good as one would expect from a purpose built exhibition centre.

What is not good is the charge for internet access which is under the control of the premises owner. Charges of £5 per half hour are just not economic at the levels of turnover we can achieve so card and PayPal payments were out of the frame on economic grounds. There was no practicable way round this as the PayPal app requires an internet connection and does not work using mobile data. Perhaps we should investigate the possibility of purchasing a PDQ (pretty damn quick) point of sale terminal for 2019 onward.

Our finale was, as ever, the largest model railway exhibition in the country. It still remains the Warley Show in name despite not having been held at Warley itself for a good few years. The venue was Hall 5 at the National Exhibition Centre with the rest of that section of the centre being devoted to motor cycling. This year another

exhibition caught our eye—ComiCon. This is a strange event attended by people in all sorts of fancy dress trying and sometimes succeeding in looking like characters out of comic books.

Sales were again buoyant and takings exceeded our direct costs. Here the internet was free (Telford, are you listening!) as was the table space for societies. A power supply problem for the stand and the one next door was soon resolved by a work round and we were able to continue the video show. Another three new members joined us, including two in the last half hour of the show on Sunday. That brought the total to eleven this year!

Warley is an important event in our calendar as we award a prize and plaque for the 'best signalled layout'. This entails a lot of work on the Saturday morning so we tend to be 'mob handed'. When evaluating matters we not only look to see that the layout features signals but that they are in the appropriate places and then worked in accord with real railway practices. This year the award went to one of Warley Model Railway club's own displays *Broom Junction* on its last outing ever.

The plaque, definitely not a trophy, was presented by Pete Waterman on the Sunday morning before the public were admitted. We didn't get a picture of this but one taken by Railway Modeller is in the February 2019 issue. There is a report in *The Signalling Record* complete with pictures of the winning layout and the runners up which were mostly taken while it was quiet—at the same time as the presentations were going on!

We will be 'doing a triple' again in 2019. See you at the Crewe Gala, Telford and Warley.

## ***Area Organiser North East, Richard Pulleyn***

The SRS York meeting was held on Saturday 20 October 2018, once again in the Duchess of Hamilton Suite at the National Railway Museum, York, with an attendance of over 30 members present.

Our speakers included Richard Pulleyn who gave the second instalment in his illustrated talk describing signalling on the NER Leeds Northern line, covering Horsforth and through to Arthington.

This was followed by the welcome return of Paul

Hepworth, retired S&T Engineer, who gave a fascinating description of his experiences during "*The GN Suburban Resignalling and Electrification*".

After lunch, Mick Nicholson shared an excellent illustrated talk about signalling along the line from Hull towards Selby and Goole, taking a particularly close look at signal boxes between Melton Lane and Gilberdyke which were then scheduled to close within a matter of weeks.

## ***Area Organiser North West, Ken Booth***

In November 2017 I took over the role of Organiser from Malcolm Dickin who had served the post well for over twenty years.

In my working life I have been a Civil Servant, Seafarer and Academic. Although not from a railway background have enjoyed a life-long interest in railways in general and signalling in particular. Some may know of me by virtue of the Booth Collection of drawings at SRS Kenilworth and the Booth colour slide collection held by the SRS at Kidderminster Railway Museum.

The main job of the Organiser is to plan and present a successful Crewe Meeting in November each year. The last meeting was held on Saturday 17 November 2018 in the former Crewe North Junction Signal box. It was a happy and successful meeting and a full report, prepared by Mike Blease, can be found in the Spring issue of *The Signalling Record*.

My personal thanks, previously sent in writing, go to:

Mike Blease for writing up the meeting report - for his doing so leaves me free to Chair the meeting, deal with issues and mix with the speakers & audience without hindrance.

Our speakers - John Hinson & Andrew Overton for two impressive presentations.

The Exeter West Group for their excellent assistance in opening Exeter West SB specially for our meeting.

Crewe Heritage Centre for being helpful and friendly hosts.

The other main area for 2018/19 has been helping with the preparation for the 50th celebrations. In particular I shall be assisting over the weekend of the SRS presence at The Exeter West Group's "Signalling Gala" to be held at Crewe Heritage Centre on the 15/16 June 2019 and I look forward to meeting some of you then.

A warm welcome also awaits you at the regular Crewe meeting to be held on Saturday

16 November 2019 The meeting will take place as normal in the Crewe North Junction SB of Crewe Heritage Centre.

Three speakers are booked and they will bring along a diverse range of subjects to bring our 50th celebrations to a close. Full details will be promulgated on the Web Site and in the Summer/June & Autumn/

## ***FARSAP Project, Richard Pulleyn***

During 2018 good progress has been made adding a number of route compilations, locations in Scotland, aerial footage of two swing bridges in operation, and signalling primers dealing with specific topics. A "core team" of film-makers has worked tirelessly throughout the past year delivering good quality material which meets the objectives of the project.

Excellent support has been experienced in dealings with Network Rail due in part to awareness generated by the Network Rail Archivist and the fact that

September editions of The Signalling Record.

I am always interested to hear from prospective speakers. If you have a signalling related subject that you may wish to present please make an initial, no obligation, contact via my e-mail.

the Network Rail website now includes a link to the FARSAP web-page regarding "Heritage Signalling".

The vast majority of the FARSAP films on the website are now in full High Definition form. Particular thanks are due to John Lacy for his work in posting material on the SRS website and for making material available on Vimeo.

Statistics show incremental growth in visits to the FARSAP web-page.

## ***Visits Network Rail & Transport for London, Peter Adds***

Three visits to Network Rail installations took place during 2018. The first, on 18<sup>th</sup> June, enabled 10 members to visit the two panels in Crewe PSB; Salop Goods Junction and Crewe Shunting North signal boxes under the guidance of Colin Cooper. After the last signal box visit an impromptu visit was arranged around the privately owned Crewe Diesel Depot where the restoration and maintenance of heritage rolling stock, including main line steam locomotives, is undertaken.

The second visit occurred on 4<sup>th</sup> August enabling 12 members to visit the signal boxes at Lewes, Newhaven Harbour and Newhaven Town (all scheduled to close on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2019) and the third visit involving 10 members

took place on 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2018 to Robertsbridge, Bo-Peep Junction and Hastings. These two visits were kindly facilitated, and escorted, by SRS member and NR signaller Matt Saunders.

In recognition of the facilities granted by Network Rail, and the welcome given by signallers on duty, charitable donations totalling several hundred pounds have been made to The Railway Children charity which is supported by Network Rail.

No visits were arranged during the year to either London Underground or other metro installations.

## ***Visits Heritage North, Richard Pulleyn***

As already reported, the AGM for the SRS which was held at the Kidderminster Railway Museum on Saturday 5 May 2018, Chris Hall, our Chairman, had kindly arranged for all those interested to visit Kidderminster SB, Wrangaton demonstration SB, as well as tour the site including the superb Carriage Sheds and the new Diesel Workshop, kitted out with the latest equipment.

Some 60 members took advantage of this opportunity so were split into a series of smaller groups,

accompanied by Chris himself and four members of the S&T team.

On the following day, Sunday 6 May, 9 members, working in two groups accompanied by SVR S&T volunteers John Smith, Tony Neath and Chris, were treated to visits to each of the six SVR signal boxes beyond Kidderminster so included Bewdley South, Bewdley North, Arley, Highley, Hampton Loade and Bridgnorth.

## ***Visits Heritage South, Edward Dorricott***

On Wednesday 1st August a group of twenty members enjoyed a visit to all five signal boxes on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Steam Railway. With the recent extension to Broadway, this major preserved railway now has an impressive length of 14 miles. As befits the line's heritage, the signalling is of GWR/BR(WR) provenance, with a wealth of equipment both inside the boxes and along the trackside. Neil Carr, Operations Manager, conducted us throughout the visit, and his friendly manner in large measure made the day such a worthwhile and instructive experience.

Travelling between locations by service trains, we were able to see inside the working boxes at Toddington, Winchcombe, Cheltenham Race Course and Gotherington. At the north end of the line we visited Broadway box, as

yet to be commissioned.

Our layover at Gotherington also afforded us the privilege of visiting the private museum site adjacent to the operating railway, where we were warmly received by the owners, Bryan and Savita Nicholls. Signalling items were among the many preserved features at this delightful location.

As a memorable finale to our fascinating day, we were guests of the Toddington Narrow Gauge Railway. A special train driven by Stephen Mourtou, through whom the arrangements had been made, was waiting to take us to the focal point of the 2' gauge line at 'California Crossing'. Here is the signal box of that name, relocated from the MR's southern exit from Gloucester. A working exhibit, it

now controls the narrow gauge crossing loop. SRS member Paul Trickett was inside to explain its background. Further signalling artefacts were also made available for our interest.

Such had been the generosity of our members that

## ***Membership, Barry Bridges***

During 2018 sixty-three new members joined the Society and four former members rejoined. I regret to report that during the year I was advised of the passing away of three members. At the close of 2018 the membership stood at six hundred and sixty-five (665).

Late renewals remain a problem, and it has been notably worse this time round. The rules state that subscriptions are due on or before 1st December, yet by

## ***Publications Co-ordinator, John Lacy***

Two new publications were published in the latter part of the year.

First was a reprint of volume 3 of George Pryer's series of Signal Box Diagrams. This volume covers the Somerset & Dorset Joint line and the reprint – or should I say substantially expanded – edition contains six diagrams that George was unable to find before he initially published. We are grateful to Chris Osment for the substantial amount of additional information adding to our knowledge of the area and correcting some minor blips that slipped in originally.

Second was a delightful commentary on the day to day life and activity of a signal and telegraph lineman. The 'story' had been written some 80 – yes eighty! – years

## ***Research Co-ordinator, Reg Instone***

I have to say that in writing these reports I always have difficulty in distinguishing what I do on behalf of the SRS from my regular contacts with other CMs and researchers, and my activities as a researcher and CM myself.

Subjects on which I have helped previously-unknown enquirers included Hall type searchlight signals, GWR standard drawings for signal fittings, and Wiring of NX panel.

I don't recall having a single enquiry in 2018 about how to make best use of sources, or to make research effort more effective. It might be said, though, that none of us knows everything already, and we all continue to learn about newly available sources and new ways to use them. We could do more to share this knowledge, perhaps.

I attended the Warley show again and was able to answer some enquiries and give some guidance as to where to find further information on signalling matters. Occasionally I have enquiries referred to me by the Enquiry Officer, if he does not have access to a definitive answer. I monitor the posts in the "Signalboxes and Signalling" group on Facebook, and am frequently able to point out where to find further information. Sometimes that means public archives, and sometimes I refer to SRS publications.

In the near future I hope to publish series of articles on Rules and Regulations, which will draw on the knowledge and expertise of the CMs for most of the large

we were able to hand over significant donations on behalf of the SRS to each of the three organisations who had hosted our visit. We were grateful for the sincere cordiality we had been shown throughout our day.

that date there were still well over one hundred members who had failed to renew. By the deadline for filing this report (late January) the figure had fallen to 73.

I must thank the other people who are now part and parcel of the administration of membership matters - David Stirling our Treasurer, Jerry Plane, Database Manager, and Chris Turner who sends out the new member packs.

earlier. If you have bought a copy then you know the identity of the author, Semmer Fore. If you haven't then buy a copy to reveal the answer – it is only available from this Society and not from bookshops.

Publications in the pipeline include some items from Graham Warburton and the life and times of Dick Clarke, erstwhile railway signalman and rock musician. I really do need some pictures to go with this so if you can possibly help please contact me to find out what I am looking for.

There is a saying that everyone has at least one book in them. So how about it? Start writing now, before it's too late.

companies in England & Wales, as well as the specific CM for R&R, and hopefully also share and extend that knowledge.

I am able to combine my responsibilities as Research Co-ordinator and an assistant to the Archivist, when talking to other archive bodies about how to make the best use of resources and technology, and how to improve facilities for researchers. I can also advise the Archivist about possible purchases, and whether copies might already exist. When appropriate, I am able to advise the Committee on aspects of research, and the requirements of researchers.

I also spent very many hours on compiling the "Mechanical Signalling at Didcot" display for the June signalling gala, but whether I did that in my capacity as RC, I am not sure!

The network of Corresponding Members is useful in providing contacts for our existing researchers, and to some extent by SRS Officers, but use by the membership at large seems to be very variable. Some CMs report a very healthy level of contacts and enquiries, while others apparently have almost no demand on their services at all. There does seem to be some indication that those who make themselves known by publishing, volunteering and personal contact are those with a higher level of engagement. In turn, this suggests that the "List of Officers" is not widely used. When time permits, I will compile a report about how the CM system might be "revamped" and made more accessible using modern technology.

## ***Signalling Record, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Michael Ellis & Richard Foster***

2018 has been a very busy and active year for the people who put together the Signalling Record and the other material that comes through member's letter boxes during the year, with a great deal of work being done behind the scenes to prepare material for printing and distribution.

Tony Higgs, our long-serving editor, had announced his wish to stand down as editor a couple of years ago, but it took a long time to find anyone to take on the work. Eventually two volunteers bravely came forward to take on the very important work of editing material and producing the Signalling Record and the associated publications. Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton offered to take on the role of Editor and Michael Ellis came forward to offer to take on the production work of turning the edited material into page layouts and material ready for the printer to work from. With the March-April 2018 issue (No 188), Tony was therefore able to produce his last issue of *The Signalling Record* and was then able to begin his somewhat overdue and well-earned rest from the editing and production work.

Tony Higgs took up the role of Editor way back in 2000 with *The Signalling Record* No. 80 for March-April of that year. He was initially responsible for content and layout, with Jerry Plane, the previous Editor, helping out with pre-production work. This partnership continued until No. 88 for July-August 2001. From issue 89 Tony was solely responsible for the tasks of both editing and producing each issue of *The Signalling Record*, and for preparing the various inserts which appear from time to time in the postings and to get them ready for the printers. Tony was thus Editor for 18 years, covering over a third of the life of the Society, during which time he produced an amazing total of 109 issues of the *Record*. This has been quite some achievement. We pass on to Tony our sincere and very grateful thanks for all his work over this long period and give him our very best wishes for a long and productive 'Retirement'.

Our new Journal team of Francis and Michael were then faced with a very steep learning curve to find out all the things that needed doing and how to do them, as well as finding, editing and producing material to make up the next issue of the *Record*, and in ensuring the printers would be happy with the final version that was submitted to them for printing. The two-monthly production programme does not give much time between issues to learn things, deal with problems and get everything in place. Fortunately Francis and Michael proved well up to the challenge and were able to get the May-June issue of the *Record* produced and sent out to members without any significant problems, and on time as well! This was quite a remarkable achievement.

## ***Signal Box Registers, Chris Hall***

Volumes 2 (Midland), 7 (North Eastern) and 8 (London Transport) are still 'in preparation'.

Volume 8 is now pretty much complete with only a few small areas where further research is needed. We are now in the detailed checking phase and discussions about copyright permission for photographs are in hand. Publication is expected in mid 2019.

Work continues in earnest on both Volume 2

With their first issue of the *Record* successfully under their belts the team have concentrated on getting the regular processes in place and each issue produced and sent to the printers on time. At the same time they have managed to find time to look at making improvements as opportunity, time, resources and finance are available. On this front, the Trustees approved a proposal to introduce partial colour printing into the *Record* at their meeting in June, and some very deft work by the team enabled colour photographs to be included in the July-August issue, with colour photographs on the front and back covers. This has given a step change in the appearance of the *Record*. Feedback on the change has been very positive.

Smaller scale improvements have continued to be made, with the September-October issue increased from the normal 36 pages to 40 pages, and the size of the November-December issue further increased to 44 pages. With this issue the team were able to introduce some photographs into the signalling digest section to illustrate some of the installations affected by the signalling changes covered in the report.

The huge amount of work which has been undertaken by our new Journal team since they started cannot be over-estimated, and at the same time they have had to climb steep learning curves, and not least, learn to work together. The Society owes them a large debt of gratitude for what they have achieved.

For 2019 significant changes are planned. It is intended to take the news material out of *The Signalling Record* and produce a separate Newsletter. This will allow more space for articles in the *Record*, avoiding it being cluttered with news items, which are often transient in interest. The separate newsletter will also allow the inclusion of more news material which can all be kept together for reference. Having a separate Newsletter will also be more flexible in being able to accommodate late and topical news items much more easily. This has been a considerable problem with the inclusion of news in the *Record*, often needing quite a lot of work to rearrange content to accommodate late news items.

To allow detailed and complex diagrams and photographs with a lot of interesting detail, to be produced larger to make them much easier to read and study, and to allow more content, it has been decided to increase the page size of the *Record* and Newsletter to A4 size. The inclusion of colour will continue. In order to keep the *Record* at 36 pages (but A4 instead of A5) and to contain postage costs, the frequency of publication will change to four per year. However this will give 144 pages of Journal in the year compared with 108 A4 equivalent pages with the A5 size *Record*. As well as this, the news will be in a separate newsletter.

(by Stephen Courten) and Volume 7 (by NERA).

Corrections to the published registers now extend to a 54 page corrigenda sheet last updated in 2015.

There is a principal contact for each published register to follow up any further corrections which may be identified - keep these coming!

As a matter of policy, each of the published registers will remain in print (although not necessarily in both paperback and hardback versions).

Remaining stocks of the combined edition (Volumes 1, 3, 4 and 6) DVD have been discounted as

they will be superseded when Volume 8 is published. The on-line data from the published registers is kept up to date so only up-to-date corrected entries will be shown for individual signal box register entries (this is the same data as is provided on the combined edition DVD).

## ***Webmaster, John Lacy***

In reality there is little of great note or new to report in respect of the web site itself. It is kept as up to date as I can and early advice of events and news helps to keep the site current and of interest.

In July 2017 it became possible for new members to join us and pay their subscriptions on line. This has now become the principle method by which new members join us with 42 out of 47 in 2017 and 62 web site generated applications out of 75 choosing this route in 2018. Of the other 13, 11 were recruited at the exhibitions we attended leaving just two via traditional means. More than one third told us that they found the Society through internet searches of one sort or another which is a vindication of the decision to make the facility available.

If you haven't looked lately take a look round the various sections of the web site and see what you can spot.

Overall usage of the web site has increased this year. Members' only downloads have been less, probably reflecting that less new material has been made available during the course of the year.

The figures in more detail:

	<b>2018</b>	<b>2017</b>
Number of users	29,481	28,937
Page views	161,049	159,512
Members' Downloads	1,932	2,418
Archive Index Downloads	28,135	20,358
Archive Policy Document	53	48
Photo Catalogue Downloads	2,506	2,467
Signal Box Register Corrections	607	776
Society Constitution	29	
Society Rules	130	140
Free Signalling Notices	111,342	79,739
Free WON & PON	20,812	8,752

At the end of the year the Forum had 297 registered members, not all of whom were active.

Please keep sending your notifications of events, meetings, items and news for inclusion. Details can be sent to me through the web site or by post to 66a Lower Wyche Road, Malvern, Worcestershire WR14 4ET or by email to [webmaster@s-r-s.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@s-r-s.org.uk).

## ***Treasurer, David Stirling***

Financially 2018 has been a good year for the Society, with a little less than a 10% increase in subscription income, reflecting a larger number of new members than usual. The result has been a healthy annual surplus, which needs to be considered in the light of our decision to improve the size of The Signalling Record, and print it in colour.

As the colour printing affected only part of 2018, future years will see another increase in the cost of the Record, which the 2018 surplus suggests we will manage without stress, particularly as there will be benefits from becoming a charity which have not had time to feature in 2018.

The accounts set out on pages 14 to 16 are **draft** accounts and, at the time of going to press, have yet to be approved by the independent examiner.



### Why not visit our archive at Kenilworth?

Check the calendar page on the web site for  
**Open Days**  
And directions.

Can't make on those days?  
No internet access?  
Contact the Archivist and enquire  
about alternatives.  
The Archivist's contact details are  
on the back page of SRS News.

**[www.s-r-s.org.uk](http://www.s-r-s.org.uk)**