

SIGNALLING RECORD SOCIETY

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

Notice of Annual General Meeting to be held On-line at 11.00 am on Saturday 15th May 2021

also Officers' Reports to Members

****** Pre-registration for the meeting is essential. ******

**Please check inside (on page 2, overleaf) for instructions
and what to do if you cannot get on-line.**

**The Treasurer's Report and Annual Accounts were still with the
Independent Examiner when we went to press.**

These will now be circulated to all members with the summer mailing in June or July 2021.

Updates to the Annual Report, including the Treasurer's report and Annual Accounts,
can be downloaded from
www.s-r-s.org.uk/AGM
when they become available.

If you cannot access the web site you may obtain a printed copy of the accounts and any
amendments to the report and agenda from the Acting Secretary by requesting them no later
than 30th April 2021.

Contact details are on the back page of *SRS News*.

SRS

The AGM will be On-line!

The continuing issues of Covid-19 have led your trustees to decide that an on-line meeting is the only realistic way to hold our AGM in 2021. This is explained in more detail in SRS News 9.

You need to pre-register

You will need to pre-register your intention to attend by sending an email to agm@s-r-s.org.uk no later than the 12th May.

The email should include your name and membership number which you will find on the address carrier above your name and address.

How do I attend?

You can attend the meeting from the comfort of your own home by simply logging on to the meeting shortly before the start time.

Please position yourself where you will not disturb any other members of your household and where you will not be disturbed by them.

A few days before the meeting, all pre-registered members will be sent an email containing full details of how to join the meeting..

Do I need any Apps on my device?

That's up to you. If you want to install an appropriate App for the meeting you can do so beforehand. Otherwise all you need is your normal web browser.

Will my Device be suitable?

Your computer, tablet or mobile phone should be suitable provided it can connect to the internet.

To speak to the meeting to will need a microphone. Phones, tablets and portable computers normally have these built in. External microphones can be obtained if your device doesn't have one. Don't forget to check that it is switched on and working and then muted until it is your turn to speak.

You will be able to see what is happening on your device display. If you turn the sound volume up you will be able to hear what is taking place as well.

Do I need a camera?

You do not need a camera in order to attend the on-line meeting.

If you have a camera, you may be invited to turn it on when speaking. Don't forget to check beforehand that it is working!

What time does the meeting start?

The meeting will start at 11.00 am (British Summer time). You will be able to log-on to the meeting before this and you should do so in order to avoid delaying the start.

How long does the meeting take?

That is up to the members taking part. The main business usually lasts about an hour and a half but can be longer if there are many questions and contributions from the floor.

Can I telephone in?

If you prefer, you can join the meeting using your house or mobile telephone. This could prove expensive, however, if you pay for your calls by the minute!

No internet access?

Members who don't have internet access can still take part in the elections and resolutions listed on the agenda.

A voting form is printed on the back of the address carrier sheet and detailed instructions for its return are also printed on that form.

Counting of votes.

Voting forms received by the closing date stated on the form will be counted and added to the votes cast during the meeting by the members attending on-line.

The combined voting figures will then be announced and the results declared.

Will the meeting be recorded?

The entire meeting will be recorded as a means of ensuring accurate minutes can be produced.

Access to the recording will be restricted to the Society officers.

Trustees 2019-2021

All Trustees will stand down at the AGM and are eligible for election:

Paul Armstrong

Graham Cloxton

Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton (Treasurer)

Richard Foster

David Garland (Acting Secretary)

Peter Gibbons

Chris Hall (Chair)

Reg Instone

John Lacy

Robert Mills

Steve Sharpe

AGM Agenda

- 1 Signing of the attendance register.
- 2 Welcome by the Chair.
- 3 To remember our members who have died during the past two years.
- 4 To receive apologies for absence.
- 5 To approve the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.
- 6 To address any matters arising from the minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting.
- 7 To receive the Trustees' reports to the Charity Commission for the years ended 31st December 2019 & 2020.
- 8 To approve the Officers' reports to members for the years ended 31st December 2019 & 2020.
- 9 To receive the Treasurer's report and accounts for the years ended 31st December 2019 & 2020.
- 10 To elect the Key Officers:
 - Chair: Nomination received: Chris Hall
 - Secretary: Nomination received:
 - Treasurer: Nomination received: Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton
- 11 To elect 9 Trustees: Nominations received: Paul Armstrong, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Richard Foster, Chris Hall, John Lacy, Steve Sharpe
- 12 To approve additional rules 3.3 and 3.4 proposed by the Trustees:

Proposed Rule 3.3
Members are expected to abide by the Constitution and rules of the Society, and to act with reasonable behaviour to each other, both verbally and in writing. Discrimination of any sort against any member of the Society is unacceptable.

Proposed Rule 3.4
Any member who has cause to complain about another member's conduct may contact the Secretary who will record the complaint and the matter will be dealt with in accord with the Society's complaints handling policy."
- 13 To approve amendments to Rules 7.4 and 7.5 proposed by the Trustees:

Existing Rule 7.4
Those appointed to audit or independently examine the society's accounts shall be elected annually by members present at the preceding annual general meeting and shall not be members of the society.

Proposed Rule 7.4
In accordance with all applicable statutory requirements, the committee shall appoint an independent examiner or auditor, who has the requisite ability and practical experience to carry out a competent examination or audit, as the case may be, of the annual report and accounts. The appointed person(s) shall not be members of the society. The committee's decision shall be notified to the Annual General Meeting each year.

Existing Rule 7.5
In the event that those appointed by an annual general meeting to audit or independently examine the society's accounts become unable or unwilling to carry out their task, the trustees may appoint substitute(s) to audit or independently examine the society's accounts. Those so appointed shall not be members of the society.

Proposed Rule 7.5
In the event that the appointed independent examiner or auditor becomes unable or unwilling to undertake the examination or audit, the committee shall appoint a new independent examiner or auditor as defined in rule 7.4.
- 14 To approve amendment to Rule 9.4 proposed by the Trustees:

Existing Rule 9.4
Nominations for trustees shall be submitted in writing and signed by the proposer, seconder and nominee.

Proposed Rule 9.4:
Nominations for trustees, including the "Officers" defined in Rule 5.2, shall be in a format laid down from time to time by the trustees. Nomination forms shall be submitted in writing and signed by the nominee, proposer and seconder. Where the signatories are unable to meet in person or it is impracticable for them to do so, individual electronic messages clearly identifiable as coming from each relevant signatory shall be accepted as an alternative to written forms.
15. To note the Trustees' choice of Independent Examiner for 2021:

Jonathan Innes FCCA of Innes & Partners Limited, Livingston EH54 5FD.
16. To approve proposals of award of Honorary Life Membership of the Society to:

Barry Bridges and David Stirling.
17. To announce the winner of the John Howard-Turner award for 2018 and 2020.
18. To announce the winner of the Colin H Betts award for 2019.
19. To discuss the new format of *The Signalling Record* and *SRS News*.
20. To announce date, time and location of the 2022 Annual General Meeting.
21. Any other Business.
22. Members' Forum.

Minutes of 2019 AGM

Held at National Railway Museum, York, 18th May 2019

1. Present

Stephen Courten (Deputy Chair), David Garland (Acting Secretary), David Stirling (Treasurer), Richard Foster, Reg Instone, John Lacy (Trustees) and the following 27 members: Bernard Archer, Paul Armstrong, Robert Ashmore, Andrew Barton, Tim Bourne, Graham Cloxton, John Creed, Roy Dandy, Ian Fraser, Chris Gibbard, Peter Hampson, Bruce MacDougall, Neil Mackay, Andrew Matheson, Darryl Meades, Robert Mills, Trevor Moseley, Richard Pulleyn, Michael Rising, Ian Scott, Steve Sharpe, Hugh Thomas, John Tinkler, Charles Weightman, John Wickens, Roger Wilkins, John Young

2. Welcome

The meeting commenced at 11.00. Stephen Courten welcomed members to the meeting and explained that he would be chairing the meeting in the absence of Chris Hall. He drew attention to the papers left on seats and urged members to agree to the Society contacting them by email and to sign Gift Aid forms. He appealed for volunteers to take on currently vacant roles (including that of Secretary) and so avoid the need for current Trustees to carry out multiple jobs.

3. Members who have died in the past year

The Deputy Chair noted the demise during 2018 of Michael Back, Trevor Sutcliffe and John Dixon. The meeting expressed its sympathy with their families and its appreciation for their contributions to the Society over many years.

4. Apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Chris Hall (Chair) and the following 14 members:

Malcolm Atherton, Allan Beck, Ken Booth, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Edward Dorricott, Martin Elms, John Foreman, George Huxley, David Lowe, Mick Nicholson, Ralph Potter, Chris Roffey, Kevin Smith, Chris Turner

5. Minutes of the 2018 Annual General Meeting

On the proposal of Richard Pulleyn, seconded by Robert Mills, it was AGREED unanimously that the minutes be approved. There were no matters arising.

6. Subscription rate

David Stirling set out his proposal to increase the standard subscription rate from £25 per year to £30. The last increase had been in 2012, and owing to inflation £30 was of very similar value to £25 then. The SRS had also delivered improvements: the *Signalling Record* had been increased to A4 size, and the archives had more space and were more accessible at Kenilworth. Non-standard rates would be £40 in Europe and £45 in the rest of the world; existing senior rate members would pay £25 (this scheme was no longer open to new applicants). In response to questions David estimated there were 50 overseas members [*Secretary's note: there are actually 21*], and that the date for the increase had been set as 1 September 2019 because members joining on or after that date became members for the whole of 2020 as well as the remainder of 2019. The Trustees agreed to investigate the possibility of overseas members receiving the *Record* electronically at less than the stated overseas rates. On the proposal of Neil Mackay, seconded by Tim Bourne, it was AGREED unanimously that subscriptions for 2020 should be set as proposed.

7. Office Holders' reports

On the proposal of Graham Cloxton, seconded by Steve Sharpe, it was AGREED unanimously that the Office Holders' reports for 2018 be approved.

8. Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts

The Deputy Chair explained that it was for the Trustees to approve the Report and Accounts. He was therefore asking that the meeting receive them. On the proposal of Paul Armstrong, seconded by Graham Cloxton, it was AGREED unanimously to do so.

9. Election of Chair and Trustees

The Deputy Chair announced that there had been no nominations for Secretary and Treasurer; David Garland was acting as Secretary for the time being, while after nominations had closed Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton had volunteered to be Treasurer, and would be so appointed by the Trustees and to hold office until the 2020 AGM. As a consequence of the SRS becoming a Charitable Incorporated Organisation all Trustees had to be re-elected this year; in future years only half would retire each year. Nominations received were:-

Chair: Chris Hall

Trustees: Paul Armstrong, Graham Cloxton, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Richard Foster, David Garland, Chris Hall, Reg Instone, John Lacy, Robert Mills

Since there were fewer nominations than the maximum of 12 allowed by the Constitution, no election was necessary. On

the proposal of Tim Bourne, seconded by Graham Cloxton, it was AGREED unanimously that Chris Hall be appointed Chair. On the proposal of Steve Sharpe, seconded by Eric Talbot, it was AGREED by 24 votes to nil that the remaining Trustees be appointed en bloc.

10. Independent Examiner

The Deputy Chair explained that it was for the Trustees to appoint an Independent Examiner, the meeting was therefore asked to note the appointment. He explained that Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, as Treasurer designate, had recommended Mr Innes. On the proposal of Graham Cloxton, seconded by Tim Bourne, the meeting AGREED the appointment unanimously.

11. Honorary Life Membership

The Trustees had agreed to recommend for honorary life membership of the SRS Malcolm Atherton and Tony Higgs, who had recently retired after very long service to the society as (respectively) secretary and editor of the *Signalling Record*. Steve Sharpe proposed and John Creed seconded Malcolm, while Tim Bourne proposed and Craham Cloxton seconded Tony; both awards were AGREED unanimously.

12. C H Betts Award.

Unfortunately it was not possible to announce the winner at the meeting. An announcement will be made as soon as possible.

13. Logo competition.

The Deputy Chair thanked all who had taken part, whether as entrants or as voters. He announced the winner as Entry No 2, from John Lacy. The meeting showed its appreciation for the effort Stephen Courten had put into running the competition.

14. Any other business.

None.

15. Members Forum.

Steve Sharpe announced that he was formally taking over as Membership Secretary on the day, though Jerry Plane would continue to provide support. The meeting offered thanks to Steve for taking on the job, and expressed its appreciation of the work put in by Barry Bridges over many years, and of the Jerry's efforts in maintaining the membership database.

Richard Pulleyn thanked Stephen Courten and David Stirling for their service as Deputy Chair and Treasurer respectively. The meeting expressed its appreciation.

John Young encouraged all members who have their own signalling collections not to delay putting into place contingency plans against their demise. Roger Wilkins reminded members of the importance of having in place a valid will, and in appropriate cases a Lasting Power of Attorney. Steve Sharpe asked whether advice could be given in the Newsletter; Reg Instone undertook to draft an article.

Robert Mills added that the Society itself needed a business continuity plan, and John Creed emphasised the need to secure continuing access to the Society's electronic data. The Trustees would need to consider how to achieve that.

Neil Mackay asked if the Society had a collections policy for its archive. David Garland gave a summary of the policy (which is available on the SRS website), but accepted that it had been drawn up some while ago and invited comments.

Trevor Moseley mentioned the Manchester Locomotive Society which had an amount of material relating to signalling on the CLC. Reg Instone, as Research Co-ordinator, said that he was aware of the MLS but did not realise they had any signalling material. He briefly referred to the difficulties of knowing the existence of all potential sources of information, and the now-defunct Railway Librarians' and Archivists' group. Trevor Moseley then went on to ask whether the SRS had reciprocal arrangements with other societies. Reg Instone said that was something the Society would like to do more of, but that the limitation was the number of volunteers and the time they had available.

John Young asked how younger members might be attracted to the SRS given the diminishing visibility of signalling on the national network. He suggested working more with heritage railways. Tim Bourne endorsed that thought from his experience on the Ravenglass & Eskdale Railway. John Lacy reminded members that a leaflet was available and offered to provide supplies to any members who know of an appropriate place to display them. Trevor Moseley suggested that a poster could be of value.

There being no further business, the Deputy Chair thanked members for attending and closed the meeting at 1230.

David Garland, Acting Secretary

Reports from Office Holders for 2020

Chair, Chris Hall

This is my fifth year as Chairman and I look back to 2020 with very mixed feelings. Throughout the last 12 months our activities have been disrupted by the Government Regulations to protect against the coronavirus from China.

We have not been able to hold Committee meetings (except through the rather unsatisfactory medium of e-mail) or the AGM and the regional meetings where we bring presentations of signalling matters to delight members and other guests have had to be cancelled. Attendance at model railway exhibitions, another conduit for sharing information on railway signalling is also currently closed off.

As our bookstall stock is held at Kenilworth there have been periods when it has been inaccessible and the periods when access has been possible have been unpredictable. The simplest response was to close the bookstall on the web site.

At various stages it has appeared that the regulations might be relaxed and regional meetings might resume. Now this looks unlikely in the near future and so we must look to technology to be able to offer our membership some sort of substitute.

In February 2020 another organisation with which I am connected had an exhibition in Bristol where a live video stream was transmitted on a YouTube channel which included interviews and views of the show arena. By October 2020 the virtual London show combined the theatre presentations (about half an hour on each topic) given remotely via Zoom with questions and answers via the same medium also transmitted live via a YouTube channel with individual presentations uploaded to YouTube in the days following.

This had taken some prior development during 2019 to make regional exhibitions accessible to more areas of the country and the exhibitors at a computer exhibition are already well versed in such technology. One should not, therefore, underestimate the challenge that such an approach would present to us.

The financial impact of coronavirus on the Society has been mixed: the costs of exhibitions and meetings have been avoided but the trading income is much reduced. So far as our 'ordinary activities' are concerned (i.e. excluding trading), the effect has been beneficial. Improvements to the Record have continued and have raised our costs a little but overall in 2020 we will show a surplus.

Secretary (Acting), David Garland

2020 has been a very different and challenging year in which to act a Secretary to our Society. That is not the only reason why I have decided not to seek re-election as Trustee at the 2021 AGM, but it certainly played a part in that decision.

Owing to coronavirus we have not been able to meet formally for the whole year. We had to cancel the AGM, which we had set for 16 May in London and, as I write, it is far from certain that it will be possible for the 2021 AGM to go ahead. Thankfully the Charity

Commission were quick to realise the difficulties faced by almost all charities, and raised no objections to the cancellation of our AGM. The trustees dealt with the routine business of the AGM at their next meeting; all other matters have been held over to 2021.

One unanticipated effect of coronavirus has been to make our interactions as trustees more awkward as they are currently being conducted almost entirely by e-mail – this is not a good medium for resolving the inevitable differences that arise. This manifests itself as an attrition as a few current and prospective trustees decide not to put themselves forward. As we were not able to hold an AGM in 2020, all trustees retire at the 2021 AGM thereby magnifying this effect.

We have made many pleas for new trustees to come forward with little success and in the Winter 2020 newsletter another plea was made and this time the call for volunteers was kept secret to see if this was any more successful than the various entreaties we have publicised in previous newsletters.

The 2018 accounts showed a small deficit on operating expenses of around £400, although well offset by trading profit in the accounts. Our aim is that our core operating costs should be covered by regular income and not rely on trading. The outcome indicated that subscriptions would have to rise for 2020. The figures for 2019 showed a larger deficit on our operating expenses as a result of the massive improvements in The Signalling Record and SRS News, increased archive costs and the inevitable effects of inflation.

The accounts for 2019 showed a better picture as they included some subscriptions paid in December 2019 at the higher rate. The accounts for 2020 are the first accounts where all the subscriptions will be at the higher rate and show a surplus, as expected, but they are, however, rather distorted by the effects of coronavirus.

Our efforts during 2020 to recruit a permanent Secretary have been unsuccessful and David Garland, who has been acting Secretary since February 2018, has decided to step down. If we have a physical AGM during 2021 look out for the King's shilling in any refreshments that are provided!

I will reiterate that we do need some more members to step forward to help reduce the workload that falls onto the shoulders of the small number of active volunteers running the society. In this respect I should stress that this involves doing some of the tasks that have to be done rather than just acting as a Trustee – less formality and less distraction from other activities of the Society. We also need to attract some younger and more active members to assist with some of the tasks.

Archive, David Garland

We managed to hold two Open Days and one Working Day at Kenilworth in the early part of the year, but had to cancel all subsequent planned events there owing to the pandemic. From March to the end of May the archive was entirely closed. Between June and August I was able to visit monthly to ensure all was well and to deliver new material, but no other access was possible.

From September to the end of the year the archive was open to members on a strictly pre-booked basis, with numbers limited and precautions agreed with the L&NWR Society in force; in view of the average age of our members it is perhaps not surprising that there have been few takers.

We have been able to make some progress on cataloguing in spite of the pandemic. Many thanks to Paul Waldron for listing the Jack Cooper LNWR Collection at home, to Peter Gibbons for typing up the handwritten lists of the Cullum Collection of BR(S) signalling diagrams (necessarily without access to the actual material), and to Bruce Bennett who has made a good start on reconciling the new lists with the diagrams themselves, at the same time removing them from their tattered and overstuffed boxes into new ones.

Despite the pandemic donations to the archive have continued during 2020, though we have inevitably encountered some problems with physically delivering material. In addition to the items listed below, some material has been promised to us but has not yet reached the archive; this will be covered in next year's report.

- A detailed notice with arrangements for the commissioning of Leeds panel box in 1967, donated by Mike Swift,
- A number of signalling notices donated by Richard Malins,
- Several LMS mechanical drawings donated by the LMS Society,

Digital Archive, John Lacy

The Digital Archive continues to expand and additions to the archive have come from David Allen, and via David Allen from Mike Andrews, Tony Cooke, Martin Elms (and anonymous friend), Richard Foster, Geoff Holme, Neil Mackay, Richard Maund, Mike Norris, Richard Pulleyn, Chris Turner and Chris Woolstenholmes.

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.

A particularly fortuitous find was a L&YR Block Regulations from 1919 which was heading for the dustbin of Dr. John C Morris when it was diverted to David Allen who has digitally cleaned it. John has added a note to the book about its origins. Our thanks to both of them.

Donations have also come from Peter Matthews (Gloucester Road diagram), Robert Mills and Mark White (various briefing documents arising from resignalling). Thank you all.

In SRS News 7 I asked for copies of telephone circuit cards. Once common, these are often overlooked when researching signalling. Richard Binns, John Francis, Robert Mills, Tim Stevens, Hugh Thomas, and Roger Whitehouse kindly supplied copies from their collection, thank you.

- A number of BRB letters and reports relating to signalling, and several Westinghouse signalling catalogues, donated by Tony Cornell,
- A detailed plan of the railway between St Annes Park and North Somerset Junction, Bristol, donated by the estate of the late David Pollard through Doug Roseaman,
- A large collection of Weekly Operating Notices and Supplementary Operating Instructions donated by Martin Elms,
- Some books of diagrams from Chris Stokes,
- A collection of Scottish signalling diagrams from drawn by the late J P R Bennett, donated to the SRS by the L&NWR Society, and
- Three DVDs containing a wide variety of signalling photographs and other material, donated by John Ingham

A variety of material from Roy Chapman, including several diagrams for the MVAIR (Manchester Victoria Area Infrastructure Renewal) project of 1998, a number of LMS and BR(LM) mechanical drawings, a booklet relating to resignalling at Motherwell, and a copy of a video "Doomed to be Closed" about boxes in the Stockport area

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

We look forward to being able to resume normal business at the archive during 2021. As I write this the timescale for that is still very uncertain. The latest situation can always be found on the SRS website and will be announced in successive issues of *SRS News*. You are also welcome to contact me at any time by email or by post if you have any queries. I have no plans to cease working as the Society's Archivist in the foreseeable future!

Tony Cooke has sent over some press cuttings which relate to signalling covering a wide range of dates and locations. Thank you Tony.

I also received donations of current and some older material from Richard Maund. Thank you.

Material has been added from my own collection and ebay purchases.

Other donations are omitted from the list for diplomatic and copyright reasons but thank you to the donors nevertheless.

If I have missed you off from the role of donors just put it down to a senior moment. Thank you nevertheless.

Advantage has been taken of the arrangements made for us to use the London North Western Society's large format scanner to digitise plans and other documents that are bigger than A3 size. However, this has been a lot less than planned due to the movement and other restrictions imposed from time to time by the Government and the LNWR's decision to close down the premises for a period of time.

The digital archive catalogue forms part of the web site and is being overhauled as part of the revamp of the web site. This may well result in the locations of some items within the catalogue changing.

Photographic Archive, Paul Armstrong

Prior to the lockdown and cessation of auctions and collectors fairs I managed to purchase a few photographs for the Society's collection but since March no further purchases have been made.

The following people, in no particular order have donated photographs to the Society's collection:-

Chris Bellett, via Andrew Overton, John Midcalf and Richard Pulleyn, Martin Elms, John Lacy and Roger Maili, and the Society is grateful for their donations.

A number of images have been donated by a person who wishes to remain anonymous.

In late December 2020 I managed to complete

Bookstall, John Lacy

The Bookstall managed to trade successfully during the year although closing it down from late March until mid June because of travel and other restrictions relating to volunteer's health risks didn't help. Nevertheless a positive contribution to the Society's funds resulted with all expenses and printing costs met from revenue.

The 'closed' period gave an opportunity to put in an upgraded copy of the shop software with more flexibility than the old version. The software is an open source system which means the core system comes 'free'. Some low cost additions have been installed to meet our needs with the costs being met out of revenue during the year.

Lock-down has restricted our access to the reserve stock of books held at the archive and, at year end, this caused some items to be unavailable despite boxes of them sitting in store.

A departure from past practices has been the sale of items by direct download. This has resulted in sales of drawings in particular where we had run out of CDs and where some customers only wanted individual drawings rather than sets.

The availability of downloadable products will expand to fill the gap being left by computers, tablets and mobile phones that lack optical drives that can handle CDs. Tablets and phones don't have USB ports either so I

Drawing Office, Ray Caston & Allan Pym

2020 was a challenging year for the Drawing Office in common with most of us. Movement restrictions and also some technical issues limited the number of diagrams processed during the year.

We apologise for the premature release of some diagrams to the web site. As this is being written some 80 new diagrams have finally become available to be

Backnumbers and Non-commercial Publications, Steve Courten

Despite the lockdown I was able to supply all of the direct orders received.

The offers in the Newsletter were variable in the orders they generated. The lowest uptake was for the backnumbers special offer with only one member taking advantage of it.

The decision to rebuild the bookstall resulted in no indirect orders for publications other than those listed (last time I looked this was only the Signalling Papers). I have

scanning the John Morris collection of negatives. The spreadsheet that the details of all of the Society's images on now requires some further work to reflect the new additions, before I start work on the next collection in early 2021.

I have tried to keep members in touch with happenings with the Photographic Collection with short pieces in SRS News, and I have written some short pieces to be published in the Journal on some of the more interesting images I have found. Two are with the Editorial team and several more are awaiting completion, or dispatch to the editorial team.

envisage more customers needing direct downloads over the internet in the future.

Appeals for a new Bookstall Manager produced one possible offer which the two of us were going to discuss so that the new volunteer would be able to decide on whether to remain a volunteer in this direction or not. Covid then got in the way with the result that the discussion has yet to take place.

In the meantime Steve Sharpe offered to handle the despatch of orders that require sending via Royal Mail as he regularly goes to the post office to post out new member packs. This reduced my covid risk levels. Thank you Steve, much appreciated.

John Creed continues to handle matters of ISBN registration and seeking out suitable printers when we publish something new. Thank you John.

There were no new books in 2020. In part due to covid and in part due to pressure of other tasks.

In the middle of November, in discussion with Steve I asked him if he knew what the next Friday was. He soon learnt and we had about three weeks of utter madness testing the water with a "Black Friday" discount sales event. This was two-pronged as we had special offers on the Bookstall and on the Society's eBay account all at the same time. Chaotic it was, but it brought in some useful income to make up for the closure earlier in the year.

advertised on the web site and in *SRS News*.

As always, we are most grateful to Bernard Archer, Chris Hall, John Lacy for their continuing support. We also thank David Collins, John Hinson, Garth Tilt and Terry Weston for their help and David Garland for access to the archives, particularly the Mike Back collection.

no idea why this decision was taken or why rebuilding took so long.

I had hoped to have a new Signalling Paper advertised in the winter issue however this was overtaken by events.

Copies of publications from the Digital Archive have been produced for a member who has no internet access along with extracts covering bell codes from the appendices.

Enquiries Officer, Ian Wannell

The Society Enquiries line receives a steady input, 47 in 2020, 58 in 2019. I try whenever possible in replies to invite non-members enquirers to join the Society.

With such a comprehensive web site now, some of

the enquiries I get are not truly signalling specific and require the sort of input that we are not really set up for: family history and ancient staff records and such.

Exhibitions, Natalie Jones

Unfortunately there have been no Exhibitions for the Society to attend as these were also cancelled after the bookings had been accepted. This was unfortunate as the Shows that we attend represent a major opportunity to promote our Society and highlight what membership can offer.

An invitation has been received to attend the Warley Show at the NEC in November which hopefully will be able to go ahead.

I shall take this opportunity to thank all those who have given up time to help me with the stand over the past few years. Quite simply without them I would be unable to manage on my own. I'd best not list anyone in case I forget someone but rest assured your help is vital.

A big mention must go to John Lacy for his unending support and assistance in helping me undertake

the role. It was John who sorted out the stock to take, I merely picked it up from Kenilworth. The new appearance of the Stand was mainly down to John who sourced the boards and prepared the items for photos for display on it.

He would attend everyday and remain enthusiastic throughout the day. Additionally John would prepare notices for special show book deals and assisted me (and all of us) in the implementing and utilising the payment he uses for the Bookstall. John has decided that it is time now to take a rest from exhibiting but I do hope that he feels able to return again at some point in the future, either as a show visitor or on he stand. Please accept my very many thanks John as without you I would not have managed.

I am hopeful that we should be able to return to live exhibiting at some point during the year and would urge anyone who wishes to help promote the Society in an interesting and enjoyable way to seriously consider it.

Area Organiser North East, Richard Pulleyn

Arrangements were made for the SRS York meeting to take place again in the Duchess of Hamilton Suite at the NRM on Saturday 25 April 2020; however, as a consequence of the COVID pandemic this was postponed until 7 November. It was disappointing when we had to postpone the meeting for a second time. The next meeting is now

planned for Saturday 8 May 2021. The speakers who would have attended this year have all confirmed that they hope to be available in 2021.

Having completed over 50 years in this and associated roles, the Organiser has given due notice that he will be looking for younger members to assist then to takeover in due course.

Area Organiser North West, Ken Booth

The November 2020 meeting fell victim to the covid-19 restrictions and, indeed, the entire Crewe Heritage (CHC) site was closed to visitors throughout the year.

The Centre Manager, Mike Lenz, has informed me that the projector in the meeting room is now ceiling mounted and works with a Mac Book Pro Laptop. This raises possible compatibility issues as our speakers use PowerPoint. I shall endeavour to resolve this issue once communications with CHC can be established.

My plan for 2021 is to run the November 2020 program 12 months late so please keep an eye on *SRS News* for updates.

My personal thanks are due to our 2020 team for the work done last year and for their willingness to try again in 2021.

Provided some normality has resumed in time I hope to meet you all again on 20th November 2021.

FARSAP Project, Richard Pulleyn

During 2020 no further visits have been made, although editing has continued and the following have been added to the web-site:

The York - Scarborough line - visiting all the manned crossings and signal boxes.

East of Nottingham - to both Grantham and Newark before the manual boxes were closed

Barnetby to Grimsby Docks

Selby to Doncaster - manual crossings before conversion to MCB-OD operation

Two interviews with signalmen have also been added.

Initially the year started with an average of 19 videos being viewed each day, the same level that had been evident in 2019. Then lock-down hit and in April and May the daily average was 36. A further small spike in November was triggered by another lock-down.

The impact is also visible in the annual totals of videos viewed: 7,316 in 2019 and 11,268 in 2020.

Visits Heritage North, Richard Pulleyn

No visits have taken place in 2020.

Visits Heritage South, Edward Dorricott

As with so many activities, no visits have been possible in 2020. At the start of the year, negotiations were in progress to go and view the signalling installations on

the Epping Ongar Railway. However, with regret these plans had to be put on hold. It is hoped to re-arrange a visit when conditions are favourable.

Visits Network Rail, Transport for London & Metro, Peter Addis

As the dire effects of the covid-19 pandemic were becoming evident, Network Rail rightly introduced a strict prohibition on any non essential personnel gaining access to operational facilities so hoped for Society visits in the course of preparation to installations in Kent, East Anglia and the North-west came to an abrupt halt.

Unfortunately with no end to the pandemic in sight

it is not possible to advance any negotiations regarding future visits in respect of 2021 at present.

With resignalling preparatory works continuing in the meantime, regrettably one of the locations intended to be visited in 2020, Clacton-on-Sea, is scheduled to be abolished soon, probably before any visit can be rearranged..

Membership, Steve Sharpe

Whilst we started the year on a membership high we have managed to surpass this at the end of the year and by some considerable amount which would suggest that we are getting something right!

Referring back to last year's report we ended 2019 with 701 members, although during the year we had 704 members but sadly recorded the passing of 3 members.

Moving to 2020 we managed to reach a level which is the highest number of members the Society has ever had with 752 members at the 31st December 2020. That gives us an aggregate of 757 members during the year as we sadly recorded the passing of 5 during the year.

We had 73 new members join us this year and 16 lapsed members re-join. The bulk of these joined through the website or used the website to create the form and then post to me. Whilst normally we would gain some members at the events that we attend this obviously has not been the case this year.

I would ask that if possible members share their email address with us to aid in this process for the day to day operation of the society. This is separate from the process in place for the use of the societies e-mailing list which members need to specifically opt in to and is used for more general announcements and urgent broad based notices. Through this membership acknowledgements and queries are dealt with relatively quickly and without cost to you or the society.

For the 2020 membership year the renewal season commenced on the 1st of September 2019. After this date all new members join until the end of 2020. From that period the breakdown of how people are paying for their membership is:

Cheque / Cash	- 30 %
PayPal	- 18 %
Standing Order / Bank Transfer	- 52 %

A lot of the members who pay by PayPal could possibly pay by Bank Transfer instead and this would save the society money as we incur a cost for every transaction that goes through PayPal. The real benefit of using systems like PayPal is for our overseas members as bank transfer options are extremely expensive in comparison and for initial entry to the society for new members as it is easy and immediate.

Renewals for 2021 have been going very well, but unfortunately the Winter mailing of our publications was delayed meaning the membership renewal reminder did not arrive until the first week of January. The impact of this has pushed the renewal season further into the new year than normal as some members wait for the reminder to pay. These are currently coming steadily and at the time of writing at the end of January we have had 11 members advise that they will not be renewing their membership for this coming year and 36 members who had yet to renew or notify that they will not be renewing.

Publications Co-ordinator, John Lacy

Other commitments during the year has precluded activity under this heading.

Research Co-ordinator, Reg Instone

I love lists! Almost as much as I love maps. That may seem an unusual way to start a report, but it is something that takes up a very large amount of my time. Producing lists of things in a specific order (date, geographical or whatever), or sorting them, can reveal patterns and connections, or trends, which would otherwise be very hard to spot.

Some of them relate to a single company, others have wider relevance. Some are complete, others are "work in progress". Some are lists of actual signalling installations, equipment, or related matters. Just as useful, but in a slightly different way, are lists of documents and

resources, and where to find them:

Some of these lists are intended to form part of books in the near future. Others may be published in some form or other (if they have not already). It may come as no surprise that I also have many non-signalling-related lists as well.

Nowadays I spend a lot of time and effort on Facebook, where there is a group called Signalboxes and Signalling with 8,600 members. Some are our members, many others are (or were) signalmen and S&T technicians, while others are interested amateurs. A great deal of otherwise-unknown information is posted on this site, and trying to

capture it all would be a full-time job. I do try to download the rarest photos, drawings and historical details, especially for my own Corresponding Member subjects.

Together with other members, I draw attention to the Society and what we can offer at any reasonable opportunity without being so intrusive as to put off potential members. Many contributors are already aware of the Society, although it is hard to know whether or not they are already members. One chance post on a railway photography group led to a team effort to identify the subject as Redbrook GF (former SB) on the Wye Valley line; hopefully this will become an article for the "*Record*". Three posts this year on the group were of sufficient interest that Richard Foster and I suggested that they be made into articles for the SRS Journal. Time will tell but I will give assistance and make reasonable efforts to ensure this happens. One will be on the Liversedge and Rogers' patent "reversible" metal staff and ticket system, for the LNER. Another will be on the "terminal station" method of signalling at Nottingham (Midland).

There are several similar groups on Facebook, but with far fewer members. They still turn up otherwise-unknown information, though.

This interaction has a lot of potential benefit for the Society, but there is much more than I alone can do – or indeed with the assistance of the others. These are benefits both in terms of capturing information, and recruiting additional members. I suggest the Society needs to carefully consider how best to take this forward, and how many other members need to be involved, and in what ways.

It is clear that an established Society like ours should not seek to replicate what is done by a Facebook group but it should make us think very clearly about our Unique Selling Point. That is what can we offer that no-one else can? The two forms of media need to co-exist alongside each other with plenty of give-and-take in each direction, to our mutual benefit. Do you have any practical ideas for how this could be achieved?

I also spend a lot of time engaging with people in Argentina on the history of signalling in that country, many of whom I have now met and are friends. We have much to share with each other; they supply many details of signalling installations over there, which I can swap for historical background on the development of firms, systems, equipment and practices. I can also guide them as to what to look for, and how to establish dates of lever frames, ETS and other equipment, and which items must be second-hand. As a result, all of us have a much better understanding; a fine example of international collaboration. The "big four" Argentine broad gauge companies had huge numbers of British-built signal boxes, as did, to a lesser extent the metre gauge Cordoba Central Railway, also British owned. Each one of them was thousands of miles long.

Most of the signalling outside the city of Buenos Aires is now abandoned and derelict, but still a rich source of information on British-made equipment. As an aside, the Buenos Aires terminus of the CGBA Railway (metre gauge) had the only Aster route-setting miniature lever frame outside France. I hope to write articles on the above-mentioned railways signalling. My thanks to Pablo, Gustavo, Jorge, Eduardo, Alejandro, Alejandro, Carlos Alberto, Carlos, Samuel, Ariel and many others, many of whom have extended to me first-rate Argentine hospitality. My Spanish has improved no end!

Egypt is another country where much investigation could be done into the history of British signalling overseas, especially S&F I think, but conditions for visitors are less favourable there. When I retire I hope to be able to investigate British signalling in Sri Lanka (also S&F /

Westinghouse), and possibly also parts of India. Combined with a good holiday, of course! Regrettably, there is little of historical interest left in Australia or New Zealand, but I intend to visit those places anyway.

Another way in which I spend my time is railway staff history (that is people, not Webb-Thompson). When writing about the history of any signalling installation, especially GWR, LNWR or MR, I try to include details of the people that operated it, their hours of work and conditions. There is a very large amount of material available, much of it by subscription on *Ancestry* or *FindMyPast*, but it needs a certain amount of background knowledge to make the most of it.

The Ancestry website is based around searching for names, rather than staff at any one station, so some considerable ingenuity is needed. I am also Staff History Officer of the LNWRs and pretty much de facto of the GWSG also.

I am a member of LNWRs, MRS, LMSS, GCRS and GWSG and try to keep alive interest in, and knowledge of, signalling, operating practices and safety on each of those companies. I write letters and articles for each of them. Most of them have a tendency to revert to locos and modelling unless we continually remind them of the importance of other aspects of railway history. I also have connections with the IRRS, GERS, GNRS and NE-RA. Occasionally those organisations turn up something of direct interest to SRS members, which I am happy to share.

A lot of what I do is quite routine and fairly uninteresting such as telling people where to find documents, sharing addresses, who is the best person to advise on specific topic, how to get the best from online resources etc.

I do whatever I can to encourage and assist CMs and others to publish on their various subjects. The new format of *The Signalling Record* is so much more appealing in this respect, and I hope many members will make the most of it to publish what they know. Garth Tilt's excellent pair of articles on the Llanely area shows what can be done. Prompted by me, Richard Lemon has produced a new version of his article on token configurations, this time with photographs, which should appear shortly. I myself have a number of articles almost complete, just needing the illustrations to be finalised and prepared, whenever I can find time to do that.

As well as all that I occasionally get asked to do things that don't fit into any of these categories. Late in 2020 I consulted with others and advised on the status of copyright in documents produced by the pre-1948 railway companies. I also led a consultation exercise on agreeing a convention for recording the number of levers in a frame (often not as simple as you might think).

I am also an Assistant to the Archivist (with special responsibility for printed paper) and Corresponding Member for various subjects. All done in my so-called "free" time in addition to the full-time job that pays the bills (and often leaves me very tired when I get home).

I will not be taking on any additional posts or responsibilities. Indeed I would be happy to hand over some of my present ones to anyone who wants a new challenge, and thinks they are up to it! Any volunteers to be my personal Secretary or PA? In all seriousness, anyone wishing to take on responsibility for any of the functions above would be most welcome.

Two new Research Notes were completed in late 2020 and await publication.

Members' comments on any of the activities or matters mentioned above are warmly invited.

Corresponding Member (CM) Network, Reg Instone

Over the last 34 years I have tried to encourage the CMs to co-operate with each other to exchange ideas, tips and sources, also find and work on items of common interest, rather than each simply acting in a stand-alone capacity. I think I have been reasonably successful in this respect, and CMs from the NE and SW of England (for example) know each other well enough to point out items of mutual interest.

As in previous years, CMs have been asked to report on the year. I wish to thank the 23 CMs who reported on 2020. It will be no surprise that visiting Record Offices and Archives for study has been almost totally curtailed this year. To some extent, the time has been used instead for at-home activities such as scanning photos and paper documents, sorting, re-arranging, listing and conserving collections, maintaining and updating websites and Facebook groups. Some new material has been acquired and filed, but mainly from donations and bequests rather than active research. Various long-term research projects have been continued or started.

Some CMs have published in the "Record" and others hope to. External publication includes Mike

Christensen's work on military railways, including signalling, and I myself have made a start on contributing signalling material to the GWR Study Group. Some ebooks have been added to the NERA website shop. No doubt others contribute signalling material to the other societies with which they are involved. A number of us also contribute regularly to the Facebook group. This should serve as the best kind of advertisement for the Society. A small number of enquiries has been dealt with.

We have started to look at how the CM network is used, and what changes might be made to make it more effective. In particular, could more use be made of it to deal with basic enquiries from non-specialists and people new to signalling history? How can we make better use of Information Technology?

We also looked at the systems in place for making updates, additions, corrections and amendments to our Signal box Registers, and for identifying errors in diagrams. It is important that these are more widely known and used.

Signalling Record & Member Publications, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Michael Ellis & Richard Foster

2019 and 2020 have been very busy years for the new member publications team. At the beginning of 2019 we introduced the new look and very much enhanced *The Signalling Record*, and the new *SRS News*. These took a huge amount of behind the scenes work, extending over a period of over nine months, to create. Sustaining them now requires a considerable amount of ongoing work. By the end of 2020, we had produced eight issues of each.

The combination of changing *The Signalling Record* to A4 and introducing colour has brought a lot of very complimentary remarks over the quality of the Journal and it has even been suggested (by a non-member!) that it is now the best of those produced by the various railway societies. The changes to the *Record* and the introduction of *SRS News* have had a dramatic effect on the Society and its membership. The Society's Membership was in gradual decline from the early 2000's through to 2016, when numbers had fallen to 614. With the improvements to the *Record* which started in 2018 and the launch of the new style *Record* and the introduction of *SRS News* in 2019 there has been a turn round in fortunes of the Society and membership has grown steadily to reach just over 750 (the highest ever) at the end of 2020, a remarkable achievement. We have come a very long way in a quite short time.

As if all this was not enough, these years brought two substantial landmarks in the life of the Society.

The Society was formed at the end of 1969 and so the 2019-20 period marked the Society's 50th Anniversary. To celebrate this, we produced four special issues of *The Signalling Record* to record the development and achievements of the Society and to remember the contributions of some of the founder members. Two of these issues contained a significant number of extra pages.

The Signalling Record was introduced at the beginning of 1987 and issue 200 was reached at the end of 2020. To mark this substantial landmark, we made number 200 a special one with a selection of articles with a '200' theme. Even though we included 16 extra pages in this special issue, it was not possible to include all the articles that were prepared as part of the theme. These will appear

in future issues of the *Record*.

The workload of preparing the special and enlarged issues of *The Signalling Record* has been quite considerable and has placed significant strain on the team, as is evidenced by the late appearance of the winter mailing. There are also cost implications. However, we are determined to deliver the best quality and quantity of material we can for all our members within the resources we have available. We are currently looking at plans for the remainder of 2021.

The *SRS News* has developed considerably over the two year period. It provides two separate roles; first to publish essential information on what the Society is doing, the work of the trustees and officers, details of meetings and events, and details of publications and other material we have for sale. Secondly it provides a medium for publishing signalling news items on much shorter lead times than are possible with the *Record*, together with items of information and interest that would otherwise take up space in the *Record*. With *SRS News* no 8 we made this division clearer, by giving the second part of the *News* the overall title of 'Signalling Focus'. We hope you will like the change and particularly that you will contribute material to the Focus.

Where original illustrations – photographs and diagrams – are in colour, being able to reproduce them in colour considerably enhances the value and appearance of articles, and particularly for diagrams and plans that are coloured. Although the cost of colour printing has decreased in recent years, the additional cost of colour printing, compared to black and white, is still quite substantial and a significant issue for small societies like ours with limited resources. Currently the cost of printing all issues of the *Record* completely in colour is unaffordable within our subscription income, without a reduction in the number of pages we can include in each issue.

For some, especially historical, articles, the content tends to be black and white, although there can often be some colour. Given a choice between more colour or more pages it is generally best value for members to print each

issue of the *Record* partly in colour and partly in black and white. While this gives best value for money for members, it creates a significant amount of extra work for the publications production team as a lot of time has to be spent in arranging the pages to ensure that as many of the colour illustrations as possible appear on the colour pages. Without more volunteers to help with production, we may not be able to continue this practice in future.

The member publications do not just appear, they require a large amount of behind the scenes activity, and the workload stretches the capacity of our current team. We are very much in need of additional help. Would you be able to help, even in a small way? Particular needs are help with producing page layouts to get the publications ready for the printers, and help in preparing articles for publication, including finding additional material and illustrations. The 'Volunteers Needed' section of each issue

Signalling Digest, Andy Overton

The full complement of *Signalling Digest* editions have been produced during the year and I hope have been of interest to members. Following the move of *The Signalling Record* to A4 colour format the editorial team have encouraged much greater use of photographs to accompany the column. Previously, B&W reproduction of colour photos was invariably disappointing and space limitations often resulted in poor cropping of the images, whereas with the new format the effort involved in sourcing images is invariably rewarded by the high production standards. I have tried to pursue a policy of showing slightly older images when boxes close, rather than recent photos which can be readily seen on the internet, as a lot of modernisation of interior and exterior equipment has taken place since privatisation and much of what can be seen today is of fairly recent vintage or significantly altered.

In conjunction with the team responsible for the NR Manned Level Crossings List an updated version of that publication was also issued during the year. Again, encouragement was given to include a range of colour photos to illustrate and resulted in a much improved product. For the first time a significant amount of feedback,

Annual Alterations, John Sneider

In 2016 John McCrickard handed over the task of collation the Signal Box Alterations to me and, although the format has changed with the introduction of photographs, the layout and section titles have been retained.

The sections are based on the *Signalling Atlas and Signal Box Directory* by Peter Kay This not only allows for main line Network Rail alterations, but also Northern Ireland, the Republic of Ireland, London Underground Metro and Tram systems and heritage railways to be included.

I collate the information provided from various sources e.g., Andrew Overton's *Signalling Digest*, weekly operating notices, input from John McCrickard and any additional information provided by members. My thanks

Signal Box Registers, Chris Hall

Last year I reported that all eleven volumes in the original series of eight planned in 2006 have now been started in some form. Volumes 1, 3, 4, 6, 8 and 9 have been published and volumes 2, 5A, 5B, 5C and 7 have been started.

Only volume 5A (LNWR South of Crewe and

of *SRS News* contains more details of the help we need. Please contact Richard Foster if you think you can help even if it is in a small way, *every little helps* – as they say! We are a very friendly team!

We do hope that members find our publications interesting and a very good read. We very much welcome comments and suggestions from members on what we produce. If you have any suggestions on what we could do better, or things you would like to see in the *Record* and *News*, please let us know.

The economies of printing mean that the more copies we print the lower the costs of printing each copy are. If you would like us to sustain the current quality of what we produce, or to produce more, the most effective best way to do this is to go out and recruit some more members!

with some useful corrections, followed the distribution to members so it seems that the upgraded list encouraged members to study it in depth.

I manage to source most of the information I need for NR alterations from my access to publications and my excellent personal sources - to whom many thanks. However, sources come and go and I would particularly welcome contact from railway professionals either within NR or the signalling contractors - confidentiality is always maintained. With heritage railways the situation of many years standing has changed little and I have far too few contacts and informants and consequently manage to include details of only a small proportion of the signalling work which clearly does go on. I would particularly ask those members who volunteer on heritage railways, and who therefore have access to the level of detail required by way of dates etc, to please keep me informed. In the difficult times ahead the heritage sector is going to need publicity and support more than ever and we have hundreds of members keen to come and see your work - if you let them know about it.

go to all these providers.

The SBA can only cover items of information received, so if anyone has items of interest that they think could be added please e-mail them to me, I can edit to fit as required. It is helpful if the location, date and railway association are included, even better if a TRACKmaps reference is available.

For photographs it is helpful if you can include the date and where taken, a short comment about the subject and who is to be credited.

I have added a new section 8 allowing me to provide any updates/corrections/amendments to previous SBAs, therefore even pre 2020 information can be included.

North Staffs) has made progress in 2020 and about 40% of its content has been drafted so far. The area from Rugby to Stafford as well as Wales remain without data at present and electronic data for North Staffs has only been available since July and has not yet been incorporated – earlier data from a register with manuscript annotations is gradu-

ally being displaced. This will take longer than if the electronic version had been available in the first instance.

Volume 5C (Lancashire & Yorkshire) – an electronic version of this register does exist and so the whole of the data will not need to be retyped (as was done for North Staffs) from scratch as this introduces a whole new opportunity for typing errors.

Webmaster, John Lacy

Since I took on the role of your Webmaster in 2009 the web site has steadily grown larger following a specific style that has now become a little dated. The design was much influenced by slower internet connections which could struggle with graphics. To avoid slow page loading times the site was kept text based.

Technology has moved on during the 11 years that have elapsed with the drift away from desk top and portable computers to tablets and mobile phones. It was time to change!

In the autumn I embarked on a complete overhaul of the web site to better fit to the needs of the third decade of the century. Key targets were flexibility of the pages so they were equally readable on all sizes of device and some flexibility within the web site to change the print size and the colours of text and background to provide choice for users for whom the standard offering is difficult to read.

Of course, modern internet browsers also provide means of changing these sort of settings and it may well be that some of you have had fun (or nightmares) getting the best combination to suit your needs.

Another change is the introduction of more pictures with some appearing on the home page and others on some other pages. When you revisit the page or refresh it you will usually get a different picture, the result of random selection. I aim to increase the visual content further as time goes by so as to split the sea of text into

Gift Aid Administration, John Lacy

2020 saw us catch up with claiming gift aid from HMRC with the result that the income from that source is around double what we expect annually going forward.

Steve Sharpe took a number of opportunities to push the point that we want to hear from all members even if they cannot, for any reason, sign a declaration. This stops us pestering you to sign up when you have told us you can't.

As I write this in January I have 520 declarations on record and a note of 123 members who are unable to make a declaration and have either told us so or live outside the UK. That is good going but there are a few

Treasurer, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton

At the time this report went to press the Annual report to the Charity Commission and the Annual Accounts for 2021 were still with the Independent Examiner.

As you will, I'm sure, appreciate the restrictions arising from the Covid pandemic have contributed to this delay.

Unfortunately, my computer suffered a serious failure at the start of this year (2021) which impacted on

There is a principal contact for each published register to follow up any further corrections which may be identified - keep these coming! Online data from the published registers (those that have been in publication for more than two years) are kept up to date so only up-to-date corrected entries will be shown for individual signal box register entries (these are the same data as provided on the combined edition DVD).

more bitesize chunks

For those of you who explore the site in greater depth there is another innovation inspired by another web site that was recently overhauled at considerable expense. You'll be please to know this innovation hasn't cost you a penny let alone pounds. The innovation is the presentation of a random Signal Fact drawn from a bank of facts.

Both the number of pictures and the Facts will increase as I get time to add more, so keep visiting to see if you can spot a new one.

Part of the process of change means that the site navigation structure has been reorganised into logical groups. I believe these groups provide a more consistent approach with the internet generally. You will find more about these groupings by reading *SRS News* as I will be writing a series of short articles in 2021 and 2022 explaining the rationale of the groups and where to find the different varieties of information available.

It is a fact at the end of the year that this process of change is only partially complete so the website will remain a mix of old and new well into 2021 and possibly beyond.

My thanks to the small cadre of members who responded to my call for views on the new design and changes.

Let me know what you think. I promise not to bite.

members we still need to hear from please.

Even if you are unable to sign a declaration we can still claim Gift Aid on small donations that are made at meetings or on visits to the archive.

Web addresses for donations are printed on the back page of *SRS News*—look don the bottom of the page to find them.

Thank you to all our members who either signed a declaration or otherwise said they cannot do so.




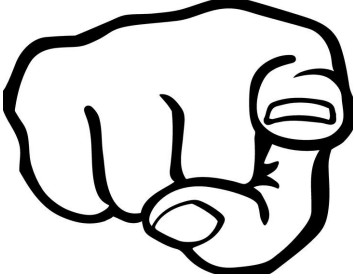






Thank you also to Steve Sharpe for the efforts he has put in on this subject.

my ability to get the records to the Examiner as promptly as I would have wished.

The computer has since been restored to health.

As indicated on the front cover, the accounts will be downloadable from the web site as soon as they are available, and also on request in printed form for members without access to the internet.

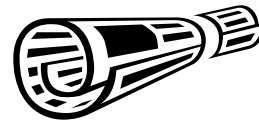
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	<p>See the Sits Vac! page on the web site</p>			
				

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