

Signalling Record Society

Founded in 1968 for the study of Railway Signalling and Operations in the
British Isles and Overseas

Annual General Meeting of the Signalling Record Society
11:00 am Saturday 29th June 2024.

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The Trustees' Report and Accounts will be circulated by email to all members and placed on the website. If you wish to receive a hard copy please contact the Secretary

Electronic copies of the Annual Report, including the Trustees' Report to the Charity Commission can also be downloaded from www.s-r-s.org.uk/agm

Trustees 2023-24

Elected in 2022 and retire this year

Richard Foster

Reg Instone

Elected in 2023 and remain in office until 2025

Charles Melton

Steve Sharpe

Elected in 2023 and retire this year:

Peter Davenport (Secretary)

Additional Trustees appointed by the elected Trustees until 29th June 2024

Lucy Anderson

Michael Brougham – resigned 30th November 2023

John Lacy – resigned 20th February 2024

Mike Wilks

(Note Mike Wilks and Lucy Anderson have jointly carried out the role of Treasurer)



Participation in the AGM

Members are able to participate in the AGM in the following ways;

- By voting in advance using the slip enclosed in the spring mailing
- By registering to participate in the online meeting.
- By registering to attend in person at the Archive in Kenilworth.

How 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 22nd June. The email should include your name and membership number, which you will find on the address carrier above your name and address. This will allow us to manage the facilities we have to ensure that you can participate in the AGM effectively.

Joining Instructions

We are currently reviewing our online meeting facilities. As a consequence, all registered participants will receive an email advising them of how to join the meeting complete with the relevant web link and passwords. This will also be published in the members' area on the Society's website.

If you intend to attend at Kenilworth, we will need to know any specific requirements that you have please.

On-line participation

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

Please locate 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. **Please ensure that the name you use on joining the meeting identifies you to help the Secretary.**

To speak at the meeting, you will need a suitable microphone. Phones, tablets, and laptops normally have these built in. External microphones may be necessary if your device doesn't have one built in. Don't forget to check that your microphone is switched on and working before the meeting and keep it muted until you are asked to speak to minimise interference.

You will be able to see what is happening on your device display. If you turn up your sound volume you will also be able to hear what is being said but remember to mute your microphone!

You do not need a camera to attend the online meeting. If you have a camera, you may be invited to turn it on when speaking. Don't forget to check beforehand that it's working.

The meeting

The meeting will start at 11:00 am (British Summer Time). You will be able to log on to the meeting from 10:30 to allow you to test your equipment and connection before the meeting commences, as well as joining the general discussion.

How long does the meeting take?

The meeting will take approximately an hour and a half dependent upon questions and contributions to the various discussions.

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 together with instructions for its completion and return. Alternatively you may also wish to attend in person at Kenilworth.

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.

The combined voting figures will then be 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 limited to Society Officers.

Meeting of: Annual General Meeting of the Signalling Record Society
Venue: Online and at Unit 6A, Princes Drive, Kenilworth CV8 2FD
Date & Time: Saturday 29th June 2024 @ 11.00

- 1 Welcome:
 - Introduction and opening remarks
 - Members who have passed away during the last year
- 2 Apologies for absence
- 3 Minutes:
 - Approval of the minutes of the AGM held on 13th May 2023
 - Matters arising from the minutes
- 4 Officers' reports for the year to 31st December 2023
- 5 Finance:
 - Adoption of the Trustees' Report & Accounts for the year to 31st December 2023
 - Trustees' recommendation for the appointment of an independent examiner for the year to 31st March 2025
- 6 Election of members of the Board of Trustees:
 - Peter Davenport (Secretary). Proposed R Walker, Seconded P Marshall
 - Lucy Anderson (Treasurer) Proposed P Armstrong, Seconded M Brougham
 - Richard Foster Proposed M Ellis, Seconded C Springett
 - Mike Wilks, Proposed D Garland, Seconded P Armstrong
 - Reg Instone, Proposed M Hollick, Seconded A Pym
- 7 Awards:
 - Colin Betts award for 2023
- 8 Date, time, and location of the 2025 AGM
- 9 Any other business
- 10 Closure of the meeting followed by Members' Forum.

The Members' Forum is YOUR opportunity to tell the Trustees and Officers about what you like or dislike in what we do and provide for you, and to bring forward for discussion things you would like the Society to do or to do differently. Please give thought to ideas and issues you would like to bring to our attention and use this Forum to talk to us about them. If you don't tell us, we won't know and things won't change.

Peter Davenport *Secretary February 2024*

Signalling Record Society

(founded 1969 for the study of railway signalling and operation in the British Isles and overseas)

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England & Wales

Registered Charity Number 1176506

Annual General Meeting Saturday 13th May 2023

Minutes

Attendance

The following members took part in the on-line meeting

Keith Benjamin, Michael Brougham, Mike Blake, David Collins, Neil Dickson, Ray Edwards, Andrew Gardiner, Nick Garnham, Stuart George, Peter Gibbons, John Godfrey, Chris Hall, Graham Hardcastle*, Eric Hayman, Andrew Jones, David Lowe, Simon Lowe, Del Lomas, Hessel Franssen, Ian Scott, John Mair, Robert Mills, Richard Pulleyn, John Roberts, Paul Thompson, Richard Tindale, John Tinkler*, Mike Wilks, Robert White, Roger Wilkins, John Lacy*

The following members joined the meeting from Kenilworth, Peter Davenport*, Richard Foster*, Reg Instone, Charles Melton*, and Steve Sharpe*

*had submitted voting papers and did not vote during the meeting

In addition the following 80 members (including 7 who took part in the meeting) submitted voting papers in advance. The totals were compiled by the Secretary and verified by Robin Walker.

D J Payne, R D Foster, M Elms, F Voisey, N Mackay, A Elliot, J Francis, R Calasca, A I Davies, R Clarke, D J Pearson, J Jenkins, J Mair, B Hillier, G Hardcastle, A Pym, A V Davis, N Harrison, P Armstrong, R J Caston, D R Davidson, R S E Wilson, C Melton, R D Welfare, J Tinkler, D J Moore, C Potts, G Floyd, K D Hooper, A Overton, C A Robey, M Shaw, I Browning, G G Stott, P Kemp, Thomas, J Wickens, J Sneider, J Swan, A T Wallis, S Sharpe, I D Smith, R M Young, L J Kelly, M G Hodgson, Chapman, P W Littler, I Pusey, I Hughes, A Cornell, P Grant, M Lloyd, R Sawyer, R W Haslett, C Allenby, J Lacy, D Clarke, N Cordery, S D Peplow, I Stemp, C Roffey, K Parkinson, T Moseley, I Blackburn, C Brown, J Summers, Thornber, P Davenport, A Thompson, R Macintyre, S Westwood, K Heath, Rev. M Howarth, E Hayman, M Beard, M Jackson, C Dymond, M C Yates, T Lansdell, and C Philips.

1. Welcome

Attendees were welcomed to the meeting by the Webmaster, John Lacy. John explained that as there wasn't a Chair present the constitution made provision for the meeting to appoint a Chair. The Trustees wished to nominate John Lacy to act as Chair for the meeting, but the meeting could propose another person if it wished. There were no other nominations and John was appointed as the chairman of the meeting.

Steve Sharpe took over as Zoom manager. Members were asked to mute their microphones and use the chat system to raise any points for discussion. They would need to un-mute themselves when invited to speak.

John explained that Chris Hall had some doubts about continuing as the Chair and had decided to resign and not seek re-election as Chair after the publication of the AGM notice. Chris would be continuing as a member and the Signal Box Register Coordinator. The Trustees wished to place on record their thanks for Chris's contribution to the running of the Society. The Secretary was dealing with any correspondence.

Secondly the Treasurer, Francis Dalrymple Hamilton resigned due to ill health in January and sadly subsequently passed away. This had resulted in vacancies for a Treasurer and an Editor. In the interim John Lacy and Richard Foster had picked up these roles. It was hoped that new volunteers would come forward to fill these roles.

Those members who had voted in advance were asked not to vote during the meeting on any items on the agenda.

The meeting paused to remember those members who had passed away in the last year, Rodney Agutter, Michael Blease, Alan Bullimore, Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Robert Dennis, David Harrison, George Huxley, Chris Littleworth, Ian Marsh and Brian Metcalfe.

2. Apologies for absence

Apologies had been received from the following members: M Beard, D Burton, R Chapman, J Cleever, P Grant, J Jenkins, R Maiden, N Mackay, T Moseley R Lemon, C Cock, C Turner, M Rhodes, J Summers, A Thompson, C Togwell, J Wickens, A Beck,

3. Minutes

The minutes of the AGM held on the 14th May 2022 were approved. Votes in favour 97 with 7 abstentions.

No matters arising were raised.

4. Officers Reports for the year to 31st December 2022

The Officers reports had been circulated in advance with the Spring mailing. The meeting expressed its thanks to all of the Officers for their work during the year. Members were invited to raise any queries that they might have. None were raised.

5. Finance

In his interim role as Treasurer John Lacy introduced the Accounts. He pointed out that the Trustees Annual Report and Accounts were a public document and would be publicly available. They had been included in the notice convening the meeting.

Members attention was drawn to the addition of a provision for the relocation of the Archive. The accommodation for the Archive is used on licence from the London and North Western Railway Society which in turn leases the premises from the owner. The LNWR lease can be terminated at six months' notice, so it is prudent to make provision for any change in circumstances. In addition, the volume of material continues to increase, and additional capacity is being provided off site.

Members were invited to raise any questions. There were none.

The Annual Report and Financial Statement for the year to the 31st December 2023 were adopted by the meeting. Votes in favour 102, with 2 abstentions.

The Trustees were responsible for the appointment of an Independent Examiner, and it is customary to inform the AGM of the proposed appointment. As a consequence of the need to recruit a Treasurer it was the Trustees view that the appointment should be delayed this year until a new Treasurer has been appointed.

6. Proposed amendment to Rule 8

To update the Rules to more explicitly reflect the arrangements that had been adopted since COVID the Trustees recommended that Rule 8 be amended to read.

8 CALLING OF MEETINGS and CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

8.1 The secretary shall be responsible for calling general and committee meetings, and shall keep proper and accurate minutes of all such meetings.

8.2 The secretary shall be responsible for ensuring that elections are conducted in a proper manner and in accordance with these procedures.

8.3 Members may be nominated for more than one position. Nominations must have the support of at least two other members who shall be designated proposer and seconder respectively.

8.4 The secretary will contact all nominees after the close of nominations set in accordance with Rule 9.2 advising them that there will be a ballot and of the procedure for the election.

8.5 The names of each person nominated shall be shown on the agenda for the meeting together with the names of the persons proposing and seconding their nomination.

8.6 Scrutineers will be appointed to count the votes and shall ensure that no member is able to vote more than once in each ballot. Scrutineers must be members but must not be seeking election to any of the positions at that meeting or be supporters any of the candidates.

8.7 A separate ballot will be held in turn for Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and each of the ordinary trustee positions that is vacant. In each ballot members will be given the option of casting a vote either 'For' or 'Against' or 'Abstain'.

8.8 At the meeting, each candidate may be allowed a one-minute speech in support of their candidacy or, if they are not themselves present, the speech may be delivered on their behalf by either their named proposer or seconder or they may provide a written hand-out comprising no more than 100 words. This may be followed by a short period for any questions from the floor.

8.9 On completion of each ballot, the scrutineers will advise the result to the Secretary who will announce the result of that ballot and the total numbers of votes 'For', and 'Against' and 'Abstain'.

8.10 A candidate can only be elected, even if they are the sole candidate for the position, if the number of votes cast 'For' exceeds the number of votes cast 'Against' them in that ballot. Abstentions are excluded for this purpose.

8.11 If the number of candidates for ordinary trustee posts exceeds the number of vacancies, the member(s) with the greatest number of votes cast 'For' shall be elected. In the event that there is a tie amongst the candidates with the lowest number of votes 'For', then the number of votes 'Against' shall be taken into account in determining which candidate(s) is elected. Abstentions are excluded for this purpose.

8.12 *Pending the announcement of the result of a ballot, the meeting may proceed to the next ballot or item of business unless it is appropriate to wait for the result before proceeding.*

8.13 *If all attendees at the meeting are physically present in the meeting room, the vote shall be taken on a show of hands unless the members present demand a secret ballot. If the meeting agrees to the ballot being 'secret' then either the provisions of Rule 8.16 shall apply or a secure electronic voting system, if available, may be used.*

8.14 *If all attendees at the meeting are attending on-line then the vote shall be taken using an appropriate on-line poll system.*

8.15 *If some attendees are present in person and others are attending on line (hybrid meeting) then the votes cast by those physically present shall be cast using the provisions of Rule 8.13 following which those attending on-line shall vote using an appropriate on-line poll system. The results shall not be announced until all votes have been counted.*

8.16 *When it is appropriate for voting in a ballot in the room to be secret and no secure electronic voting system is in use, the Scrutineers shall provide each member present with a ballot slip allowing them to cast their vote. Completed ballot slips shall be handed to the scrutineers who will proceed in accord with Rule 8.6.*

8.17 *The committee may, at its sole discretion, authorise ballot papers to be distributed in advance of the meeting and make such requirements as may be appropriate for their return in advance of the meeting. Distributed ballot papers returned after the time for their return has expired shall not be counted. Ballot papers returned shall be retained by the Secretary for at least six months after the date of the meeting.*

The changes were designed to allow for voting at general meetings in any of the following circumstances:

1. All members voting are present in the room,
2. All members voting are in attendance on-line,
3. Members voting include some present in the room and others who are on-line,
4. Provision is made for postal voting in advance.

Members discussed the proposal. Richard Pulleyn commented that the proposal was extremely sensible. John Tinkler and Eric Wilkins welcomed the proposals but felt that it was necessary to have physical meetings to allow people to socialise and share ideas in a more personal way.

Richard Foster advised that the Trustees were aware of the desire to have face to face meetings.

The meeting approved the changes to Rule 8. Votes in favour 100, against 1, abstentions 7.

7. Election of the Board of Trustees

For the reasons set out in the welcome the role of Chair had become vacant after the nominations had closed and there had been no other nomination for that role at the time of the AGM.

Secretary – Peter Davenport Votes in favour 103, 1 abstention

Treasurer: No nominations for the post of Treasurer had been received in time for consideration at the AGM, however after a request for assistance in the *News* five people had expressed an interest in the role and would be contacted to explore their experience and wishes.

Trustee - Steve Sharpe Votes in favour 106, 1 abstention

Trustee- Charles Melton Votes in favour 105, 1 abstention

The meeting thanked all of the Trustees for their work and their efforts on behalf of the Society.

The Trustees would be meeting after the AGM to further consider the volunteers who had come forward in response to the appeals for someone to take on the work of Society Treasurer.

8. Awards

The John Howard-Turner award is presented biennially for an article on the history, development, and current practice of railway signalling systems published in *The Signalling Record*. It commemorates a respected member of the Society who had worked to preserve examples of signalling equipment particularly with the National Railway Museum.

The judges had agreed that this year the award should be given jointly to Mike Christensen for his article in issue 208 of the *Record* on Tyers No1 Tablet Instruments, and John Young for his article on Walkers Block Instruments in issue 207.

It was hoped that further articles would follow.

9. Date, time, and location of the 2024 AGM

As a consequence of the need to accommodate time to finalise the accounts whilst avoiding an additional mailing the Trustees recommended to the meeting that the AGM be next held on the 21st September 2024. The Officers Reports for the year could continue to be published earlier.

10. Any Other Business

Richard Pulleyn queried as to whether the financial and reporting year of the Society was changed. He pointed out that the Officers Reports were needed earlier. John Lacy responded that the Officers Reports would be sent out in advance.

Peter Gibbons commented that the Society would be without a Chairperson and Treasurer for 18 months. John Lacy responded that the Trustees were confident that they could deal with the matters throughout the period concerned.

Richard Foster then gave a presentation which promoted some new publications including *Volume 7: North Eastern Railway including Hull and Barnsley Railway*, *Volume 1: Great Western (2022 Edition)*, a compilation DVD, and *Production and Design of Signal Box Diagrams – BR Scottish Region*. All of these publications had taken a lot of work by the people involved. It was hoped that the latter document would be the first in a series of monographs. He asked for volunteers who had potential publications to contact him.

He also mentioned an opportunity for the Society to purchase and sell copies of a book about London and South Western Railway signalling at a discount and asked participants to indicate their interest. The responses were sufficient to provide a basis for going forwards.

John Lacy followed by inviting members to consider becoming part of the production team. In addition, he highlighted the idea of holding more local gatherings of members organised by local groups to supplement the regional meetings. He also asked if any members were willing to assist in the organisation of regional meetings. Volunteers should contact the Secretary in the first instance.

This prompted a further discussion about the merits of “Zoom” versus physical meetings. A hybrid approach was also discussed, and a number of members expressed a desire to be able to view a meeting after it had occurred. They were advised that steps were being taken to see if this could be done. The overall conclusion was that both had their place, but they all needed organisers and speakers.

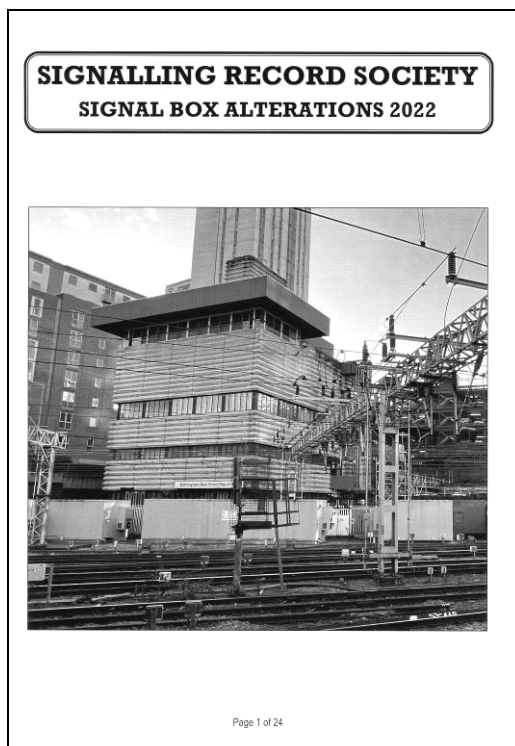
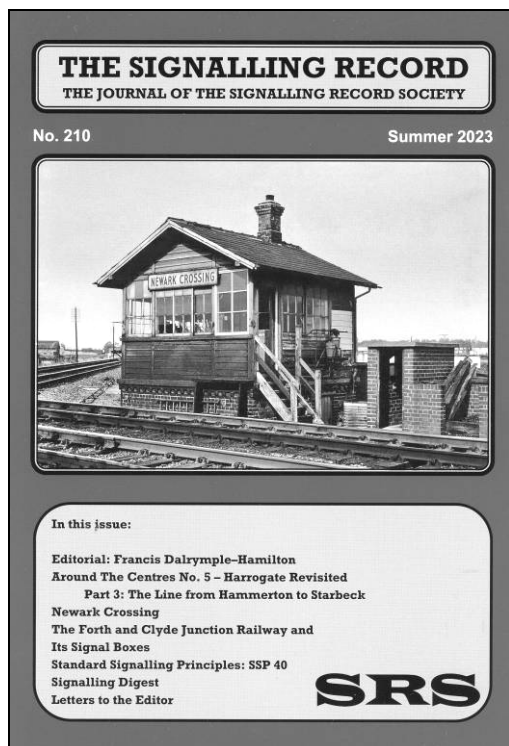
Various locations were suggested including the Model Railway Club Kings Cross, and Kidderminster Railway Museum.

The opportunity to utilise emails for communicating with members was raised. At the time of the meeting 700 email addresses were on record but it was noted that members needed to agree to receiving notifications by email first. However, there was more scope for using emails to keep members up to date.

A further suggestion that had been made was that subscriptions should move to Direct Debit. However, whilst this may simplify collection it would incur a fee and currently some members round up their subscriptions as a donation.

The discussion ended at 12:51.

Peter Davenport – Secretary



Publication achievements during 2023. Our Journal, 'The Signalling Record' reached its 210th edition in the summer, and in the same mailing we included the 2022 Edition of our annual 'Signal Box Alterations' listing, We have been producing this annual listing for over 40 years.

Candidate Biographies

Peter Davenport (2224)

I joined the Society in 2016 and have had a lifelong interest in railways and signalling, spending many hours diverting journeys to visit boxes. My hope is that the SRS acts as a font of knowledge on signalling practice. In particular, I'd like to see the SRS make more of the material that it holds more accessible: I would like to see more digitisation which members can access. I'm also a volunteer on the Severn Valley Railway as well as actively working with other Heritage Railway colleagues. I became the Secretary and a Trustee at the 2022 AGM. I'm now retired and am a Chartered Engineer Civil Engineer and live in Staffordshire.

Lucy Anderson (2589)

Joining the Society in 2022, my interest in signalling is a rather new one. I have a broad interest in all signalling topics, and hope to develop a career in it.

Alongside supporting the Society's activities as a whole, my focus has been twofold: enhancing volunteer resources & care, and improving the Society's offerings across all demographics, and good progress has started to be made in both areas.

Fully taking over as Treasurer in January, I have worked alongside Mike Wilks in a joint arrangement to manage the Society's finances, an arrangement we are wishing to continue. We have started to look at ways to reclaim more money for the Society and make our processes more efficient, with me recently having started the process of converting our PayPal accounts to charity ones to reduce processing fees.

I am excited to see what we can achieve as a Society in the next year, and look forward to contributing in whatever way I can.

Richard Foster (14)

I have been a member of the SRS since its inception, being member No. 14.

When I was elected as a Committee Member/Trustee I set myself three objectives.

The first was to convert the Society into a Charity. Working with John Lacy we produced all the documentation needed and our application was approved by the Charity Commission with the Society becoming a Charity in April 2018.

The second aim was to upgrade and improve *The Signalling Record*. This had been introduced in 1987, but had become outdated. In association with the Journal Production Officer, we developed proposals for a change to A4 format and introduction of colour. The result was the new style A4 colour *Signalling Record* and a new Publication, *SRS News*. These were introduced with the spring 2019 issues. Society Membership has since increased by about 25%. Work on these publications took up the next few years.

My third ambition was to see the SRS return to publishing books on signalling. The first of these appeared in the summer of 2023. This shows what we can do. I hope this will be the first of a series of books produced by the SRS.

"Can do" is the watchword.

Mike Wilks (2020)

A retired 73 year-old former IT Director with 47 years in IT behind me, a lot of which was in Fashion Retail! However, I did spend an interesting couple of years in S&T in the early 70s where I discovered the joys and challenges of Lock and Block, Westinghouse A2 and L frames, and the Southern's early NX panels. Signalling, and particularly operation, is one of my major interests but this sits alongside train performance, O gauge modelling and a deep fondness for all things Bulleid and Maunsell. I joined the SRS a few years ago and believe that the Archive and journal are our two crown jewels that we need to sustain and develop. I also believe that the Photographic Archive should be accessible and usable by all. I have been a treasurer of a large church in South London with a £1/2m budget and am a Churchwarden in the village where I live. I am also a Samaritan listener, administer the DBS programme for them and try to sing in the village choir.

Reports from Office Holders for 2023

Secretary, Peter Davenport

As members will remember at the last Annual General Meeting, we were struggling to secure volunteers for two of the leadership roles in the Society – Chair and Treasurer. At the time of the AGM plans were in place to encourage volunteers for the Treasurer role but they had not come to fruition. In addition, to strengthen the Trustees we were pleased to appoint John Lacy and Michael Brougham. John many of you will know. He had intended to stand down but had his arm twisted to continue for another year. Michael has a wealth of expertise in the management of charity finances and the relevant procedures, so he has brought us the benefit of his expertise and sharpened up our processes.

A little later, as announced in *SRS News*, Trustees were pleased to appoint Lucy Anderson and Mike Wilks as joint Treasurers. Whilst this arrangement may seem a little unusual it's built in more capacity and Lucy and Mike have brought a lot of new ideas to this critical role.

This has left 'Chair' as the only major vacancy. The Constitution, Rules and Standing Orders all allow a meeting to appoint a Chair. Whilst this has added an item to the agenda it has worked reasonably well and Richard Foster, Charles Melton and Mike Wilks have all taken the Chair on various occasions. For the Society to work well the Chair needs to work collaboratively with Trustees and Officer, encourage and support our volunteers, and represent our Society. If anyone would like to volunteer please do get in touch with one of your Trustees.

Moving away from 'The Committee' the Society continues to thrive. We have continued to publish the quarterly *Signalling Record and News*. Both contain a broad range of articles and involve contributions from an extensive team of volunteers as you will see in the specific reports. In addition, this year after a hiatus we have published our first monograph on *Scottish Region Signal Box Diagrams*. We hope that this will prompt a few more.

The Bookstall and Drawing Office remains popular, and we have a range of publications available to keep you occupied.

Our educational purpose is perhaps best illustrated by the Archive and the *Signal Box Registers*. The coverage of *Signal Box Registers* continues to expand with the latest volume covering the North Eastern Railway in conjunction with NERA. Members can now access volumes 1 and 7 on line as well as a range of material in the Digital Archive. Our 'Corresponding Members' continue to provide us with the benefit of their knowledge, but we do need new volunteers to come forward.

We have also seen the recommencement of visits over the last year, which have added to the various informative meetings as attractions for new members.

However, we do face challenges in a number of areas. Time is catching up with some of our senior volunteers and we need some new volunteers. Examples include helping to arrange visits and meetings, digitising the archive, writing articles, and sub-editing articles. Please do get in touch.

In conclusion as your Secretary I never cease to learn new esoteric facts and stories about the development and operation of signalling systems which I continue to share with anyone who will listen! Best wishes for 2024 and please continue to support the work of the SRS.

Treasurers, Lucy Anderson, John Lacy, and Mike Wilks

This year the Treasurer post was the responsibility of three people – John Lacy, Lucy Anderson and Mike Wilks. Taking over from Francis on a temporary basis, John Lacy was responsible for the Society's finances for much of the year, whilst helping to train the new joint-treasurers to take over later in the year.

In December, the formal handover to Lucy and Mike began, and the budget for 2024 was completed, as well as beginning work on applying for PayPal's charity rates in order to allow the Society to recover more money from each PayPal transaction (they charge a small fee).

The Society's finances have remained healthy throughout the year, and we are confident in our ability to maintain current subscription rates for next year. Furthermore, we are all looking forward to seeing what the Society can achieve in 2024.

Membership, Steve Sharpe

Steve has been busily managing the membership desk on our behalf. This involves collecting and processing subscriptions as well as keeping track of new members, resignations and sadly deceased members.

He reports that we had 790 members at the end of 2023.

Please read his reports in the *SRS News* to keep yourselves updated.

Gift Aid Administration, Paul Waldron

Many thanks indeed to all of you who continue to enable the Society to claim Gift Aid by completing a Gift Aid declaration, and equally to those of you who have confirmed that you are not eligible to sign such a declaration. If any member still has not advised us either way, we would appreciate it if they could do so.

I am grateful to Steve Sharpe (Membership Secretary) who collects the declarations and supplies me with the basic details and amounts, and to John Lacy for his assistance and patience! I should also like to thank those members who kindly made donations during the year including those who add them to their membership subscriptions.

After a few technical (HMRC) problems I was able to submit the latest claim in December, and this generated over £4800 of valuable funds for the Society.

If any member has queries about Gift Aid or the amounts we claim on their behalf, please feel free to email me at giftaid@s-r-s.org.uk, or you can write to our Membership Secretary, Steve Sharpe, whose details are on the back of *SRS News*.

Website, John Lacy

The website continues to prove useful to members and the public at large with large numbers of visitors and page views.

A total of 133,641 files were downloaded by visitors to the website. A modest increase compared with 2022 despite no additions to the number of files available to download. The passwords for accessing member-only facilities and downloads are now published in *SRS News* rather than in the Forum.

We continue to host access to the FARSAP series of videos, and these were viewed no less than 7,890 times during the year.

If you find it difficult to find your way around the website, please contact me and I'll see what I can do to make it easier for you. The same applies to broken links. It is inevitable that changes to the website sometimes breaks links. If you find a dead one, please tell me so that I can fix it. Don't complain on a social media group – things don't get fixed that way.

Archives and Research

Archive, David Garland

We maintained a regular programme of monthly open days at Kenilworth throughout 2023. Exceptionally, because of the concentration of bank holidays in April and May, the open days in both of these months were held jointly with the L&NW Society. In all the Archive was opened

on twenty-four occasions (not including four Committee meetings), with a total of 64 visitors – a heartening increase on 2022.

The steady flow of new material into the Archive has continued during 2023, including the following:

- A Train Register Book from Scrooby, a diagram for Maltby South, and some other items, donated by John Hudson;
- A collection of material relating to the Cambrian lines, donated by Mike Christensen having been given to him by the late Shrewsbury area signal engineer Len Davies after the commissioning of RETB there;
- Six LMS-era signal box diagrams from the LT&S area, donated by Trevor Hurdle;
- A quantity of Signalling Notices etc donated by David Collins, who received them from Dick Spencer, signalling project engineer at Swindon;
- A large number of BR(LM) Weekly Operating Notices donated by Niel Wilson on behalf of the Manchester Locomotive Society;
- A large quantity of GWR Sectional Appendices and Signal Box Hours of Opening booklets, as well as many SRS publications, bequeathed by the late Rodney Agutter;
- A diagram for West Holmes signal box (Lincoln) donated by John Tinkler;
- A 2014 scheme plan covering the Manchester Victoria area, and an earlier diagram for Thornton Cleveleys, donated by Robby Bentham from the collection of his late father Peter Bentham;
- A selection of GWR architectural signal box plans, donated by John Hobden on behalf of the Gauge O Guild;
- A diagram for Cowley Bridge Junction (Exeter), a Train register Book for Wadebridge East, and several other items, donated by Nigel Stevens;
- A collection of marks sheets covering the Bristol area of the GWR 1933 – 1951;
- Several Weekly Operating Notices and other items, donated by Joanne Briggs from the collection of her late father Alan Briggs.

The Society is as always most grateful to all donors; also, to those who have let potential donors know of the existence of the Archive, and have helped them make contact and get their material to us.

I have continued scanning the originals from Michael Back's collection of signal box diagrams, and storing them in boxes, so occupying much less space at Kenilworth than Michael's original ring binders. One such binder (covering Norwich – Nuneaton) has never been found since the binders were moved to Kenilworth. However, David Collins kindly agreed to lend me copies of Michael's drawings that he had received when they were drawn, and these I have scanned. This will go some way to filling the gap, though no doubt the binder would have contained drawings from other sources, which we do not have. Many thanks to David for agreeing to lend the diagrams.

Research Coordinator, Reg Instone

The first thing to realise is that I'm not a full-time servant of the SRS. I am an independent railway historical researcher and writer. I give a small amount of my time to the SRS, as I do to numerous other railway historical societies (and some non-railway ones).

The essence of the post is discovering as many sources of information as possible, whether they be Archives, Libraries, Museums, Societies, Trusts, other organisations or individuals, and establishing good working relationships with each of them. I have continued to do this as far as I possibly can, and visited several such locations during the year. For example, the LNWR Society has an aspiration to engage with as many County Archives as possible, and I will look out for signalling related material at the same time. I concentrate on documentary sources, rather than collections of physical objects. On some occasions I can assist with specialist cataloguing. *One major resource which should be more widely known is the Westinghouse drawings catalogue, and I have spent some time investigating the possibilities of this; further negotiations will be needed.*

In order to enable members and others to have easy access to these sources, for many years I have been compiling lists of some of the more common types of documents, especially those spread across

numerous locations, to show what can be found where and how to gain access to them. These lists are constantly updated as new information appears, and 2023 has been no exception. Some are SRS Research Notes, and others could be made so. I am also keen to encourage transfer of documents to collections where they are more at home.

On a wider scale, I am always happy to assist new and established researchers, especially by pointing them to sources of information of which they might not previously be aware, and material held in unlikely places. I can often provide introductions if necessary. For more specialist subjects, our CMs can often assist.

Digital Archive, John Lacy

More material has been added and the Digital Archive continues to expand. Principal additions are reported to you in *SRS News* currently. My grateful thanks to everyone who has donated material.

I have had little time in which to catalogue all the contents. You are welcome to ask if we have something and you can't find it listed.

If you have digitised material available, I am always glad to receive copies. Whilst one doesn't want to dwell on matters of mortality, please ensure that arrangements have been made to let us have your collected material on your demise. As the proverb goes: there are only two certainties in life – taxes and death.

Drawing Office, Ray Caston and Allan Pym

We are pleased to report a good trading year for the Drawing Office, helped substantially by John Lacy's sales of electronically produced diagrams, for which our thanks to John. No new diagrams were produced this year due to domestic relocation and the consequent upheaval. We fully intend to resume production in 2024; there is no shortage of diagrams to draw. As usual we were helped by many friends during the year, particularly Garth Tilt, and Richard Foster, not forgetting our patiently waiting draughtsman, Bernard Archer.

FARSAP, Richard Pulleyn

Following a fallow period due to Covid and then industrial action, both of which prevented official visits, we were pleased to recommence filming during 2023.

The highlight was a tour of the Leicester to Peterborough line by Neil Mackay and myself; including visits to Langham Junction, reputedly the oldest Midland Railway signal box still operational on Network Rail, and to Ketton where a Midland Railway lower quadrant semaphore signal is still in daily use. The films have been edited and can be seen using these links:

<https://vimeo.com/farsap/LeicesterPeterboroughP1>

<https://vimeo.com/farsap/LeicesterPeterboroughP2>

Shortly afterwards, Neil and I also visited Peterborough PSB, Helpston, Woodcroft and Eastfield.

Nick Jones has also been busy filming in Cornwall and Devon, and I have had an opportunity to visit several locations in West Yorkshire.

We are most grateful to Network Rail managers for their assistance and to Derek Young our film editor for his excellent work.

Photographic Collection, Paul Armstrong

The time I have been able to devote to the Society's Photographic collection was limited during 2023 as I needed to spend dealing with the estate for my late father, although I have managed to spend some time working on the Society's collection, it has not been as much as in previous years.

However during the year we received donations from Bruce Bennett, Chris Booth, Mike Christensen, Ross Clavel, Richard Foster, Mike Marr, Tim Stevens and any other people I may have inadvertently missed.

The Society has also purchased quite a few batches of slides in auction, and whilst not cheap they have filled in numerous gaps in the Society's coverage. It would be nice to have to be able to have exterior photographs of most of the cabins still in use in 1970 or even 1960 but I'm not sure it will ever be possible. I have continued to sell photographs that are not relevant to the Society's aims in auction. Unfortunately, it is not possible to sell them in any other way given the amount of time it would take to do so.

In addition to the people mentioned above I wish to thank Bruce Bennett for miscellaneous jobs along with David Garland, John Lacy, Andrew Proctor and Steve Sharpe for their continued support, especially in moving the collections around the country along with the Treasurer for his support in ensuring that the Society can continue to fill in those gaps in the Society's Collection.

Signal Box Alterations, John Sneider

I am continuing the task of producing the 2023 SBA, with the format including photos, and am hoping it will be ready for the summer 2024 mailing.

The sections, based on the *Signalling Atlas and Signal Box Directory* by Peter Kay, remain the same, but with the added section 8, which allows for any updates/corrections/amendments to previous SBAs. So, if anyone has additional information or updates from previous SBAs these can be easily included.

I collate the information provided from various sources e.g., Andrew Overton's Signalling Digest, weekly operating notices and any additional information provided by members. My thanks 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 at sbalts@s-r-s.org.uk, and 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.

If you provide any photos, it is helpful if you can include the date and location taken, a short comment about the subject and who is to be credited.

Publications

Signalling Record & Member Publications, Richard Foster

The year 2023 has been very busy and somewhat traumatic at times. Francis Dalrymple-Hamilton, Editor of the *Signalling Record* since 2017, had underlying health problems and unfortunately his health deteriorated over the winter, and despite hopes of recovery he sadly died in March 2023. While Francis was able to provide advice and encouragement, the majority of the editorial work together with preparing articles for publication and working with Michael Ellis, our Production Officer, fell on my shoulders. Work during 2022 indicated that the Society had quite a number of part-completed articles all in various stages of preparation. Therefore, alongside undertaking the editorial work, I was spending a lot of time working with John Lacy and in association with the authors, with the aim of bringing the most important of these articles to a publishable condition.

As the year progressed it became clear that my workload for the SRS was too great to be sustainable and a priority for the Trustees was to find ways of spreading the workload of preparing the *Record* and our other material for publication. A first priority was to find people who could act as Sub-Editors to work on articles and help with the preparation and editing work, in order to share the workload. Fortunately, several members came forward to help with this work, further developing and enlarging the publications team. With the additional help, it was possible for me to prepare outline plans for the main content of the four issues of the *Record* to be published in 2024.

While I had played a significant part in the editorial work for the *Signalling Record* since the inception of the A4 size *Record* (and editing *SRS News* until mid 2022) it had never been my intention to take on the role of Editor for the *Record*. With the appointment of Stuart Johnson as Editor of *SRS News* in mid 2022 and the Sub-Editor arrangements mentioned above, which were put in place in

the summer and autumn, it was now time to consider how to take forward plans for the long-term editorship of the *Record* with the aim of putting in place permanent arrangements for the future.

After extensive discussions of options, Stuart Johnson very helpfully offered to step up from Editor of *SRS News* to become Editor of *The Signalling Record* with effect from the spring 2024 issue.

Alongside this, Charles Melton, who was elected at Trustee at the AGM in May, offered to take on the role of Editor for *SRS News*, also commencing with the spring issue. To gain experience in what was involved, Charles shadowed Stuart in his work on the winter 2023 issue. As a result, we have started 2024 with new Editors for the *Record* and *News*, and with our member publications in safe hands.

Despite all the behind-the-scenes work needed to ensure the continuity of our all-important publications, it was possible to maintain the quality and content of both the *Record* and *News* with the *Record* containing the same number of pages as were produced in 2022, including two enlarged editions. As in previous years, the quality of the articles published was very high with much new ground covered. Overall, we published over 300 pages of material for the information, education and enjoyment of our members.

The year 2022 had been characterised by significant and seemingly never-ending increases in both printing and postage and carriage costs, leading to concerns over whether the same trends would be followed in 2023, with detrimental effects on Society finances and affordability of what we produce. Fortunately, in the event, things settled down and the printers were able to maintain their prices at the same level throughout the year, while carriage costs increased at a much more modest rate. Let us hope that this continues in 2024.

The significant volume of material we produced in 2024, and maintaining its quality and range was only possible with a lot of largely unseen help behind the scenes, and we are very grateful for the assistance we receive from the many volunteers that have come forward and given time and effort, even in small ways, to help with our publications and so help to ensure this continues. Our very grateful thanks go to the following who have contributed in some way during the year from major help through to small but important contributions:

Lucy Anderson, Paul Armstrong, Tim Bourne, Geoff Brown, Graham Bowring, John Creed, Peter Davenport, Michael Ellis, Martin Elms, John Hinson, Stuart Johnson, John Lacy, Thor Lawrence, Richard Lemon, Neil Mackay, Charles Melton, Robert Mills, Mick Nicholson, Andy Overton, Richard Pulleyn, Allan Pym, Roger Sawyer, Ian Scott, John Sneider, Chris Springett, Chris Togwell.

We express our heartfelt and sincere thanks to you all and with apologies to anyone I have missed.

The more help we have the more things we can do. If you think you could contribute, even in a small way, please get in touch and we can discuss how you might be able to help.

Finally, but no less important, our grateful thanks to all those who contributed material for publication, whether articles, letters, answers to questions, or help with the supply of information and illustrations. Without them there would be no publications and soon be no Society.

SRS News, Stuart Johnson

The sheer quantity of Society news during 2023 has made sure that *SRS News* has continued to be a substantial publication. Three 24-page issues (including inserts) appeared, covering the spring, summer and winter editions, while in the autumn a bumper 32-page number covered the search for assistance in producing the Society's publications, especially *The Signalling Record*. Happily, this produced results, with Stuart Johnson moving to the editor's chair of the *Record* and Charles Melton stepping forward to edit the *News* from Spring 2024, as well as some potential names to help with sub-editing. Members have continued to contribute interesting material about current developments, particularly at preserved signal boxes and heritage railways. During the year these have included St Albans South signal box, the Coleford railway museum, and the Dean Forest Railway.

The 'Mystery Photograph' feature has been popular, and regularly produces much interest and new information about the locations featured, with this year including the discovery of a previously unrecorded design of SECR signal box. Nevertheless, the 'mystery' nature of the feature has been

emphasised in that two or three images have remained unidentified. We welcome all contributions, including book reviews, requests for information, details of meetings and visits, and appreciations of people who have passed away- everything, in fact, that constitutes News about signalling and the SRS.

Stand-Alone Publications, Richard Foster

During the 1980s and early 1990s the SRS was quite a prolific publisher of books and papers on signalling subjects, notably books of signalling diagrams and material on particular topics and areas. This brought the Society's name and signalling information to a much wider audience than the Society membership. However, for many years this has been a rather neglected area of the Society activities.

The change to Charity status has brought into focus the question of spreading benefits much more widely, and the Society's Charitable objective states 'to advance the education of the public in all aspects of railway signalling'. In more detail a principal objective is:

Publishing and disseminating for the public benefit the useful results of research undertaken in furtherance of the object and publishing other materials likely to advance the object of the CIO in the form of a journal, books or in other formats.

While we publish a lot of material in the *Signalling Record* this is largely only seen by members. The Trustees are keen to publish more material that can be made available for sale to members and the public to increase and spread knowledge and awareness of signalling as widely as possible. As the result of a great deal of hard work by the author and the editorial and production team, May 2023 saw the publication of our first book for many years, in the form of our first Signalling Monograph: *Production and Design of Signal Box Diagrams: B.R. Scottish Region* by Simon Lowe. This set a new standard for publications of this sort, with extensive use of colour and inclusion of a large number of quality illustrations.

As a result, we now have arrangements in place to produce similar publications. What we can publish depends on authors coming forward with anything from ideas through part-complete work to complete manuscripts. If you have ideas for a publication, are working on a research project, or are in the process of writing or completing a manuscript, please get in touch.

We are here to help, and can advise, help with finding and preparing illustrations, and help with sources and contacts and with reviewing work.

Signal Box Registers, Chris Hall

Work on the *Registers* continues and Volume 7 covering the North Eastern Railway was published in hardback and paperback versions in cooperation with NERA. In addition, an online version was published to SRS members on the website.

Signalling Digest Compilers Report 2023, Andrew Overton

The digest has been completed and circulated.

Bookstall, John Lacy

I record my thanks here to Chris Springett for his running the Bookstall for much of the year, especially when new books were published, and a flood of orders came in.

Currently we are without a Bookstall Manager and aspects of the role are currently split between Steve Sharpe and me.

Pending a new Bookstall Manager, some items are currently not available for sale.

Meetings and Promotional Activity

Exhibitions, Natalie Jones

Once again, the Society has had a presence at a number of model railway shows with our Sales Stand during 2023. The aim in attending these shows is to present and promote the Society and signalling in a positive light. We aim to be able to answer any questions and queries from the public about any

aspect of signals, often in regard to model railways, if we are unable to help initially, we can often point the questioner to other sources. It is also an opportunity to be able to sell some of our products which brings in a small income for the Society which helps to offset the costs of attending. We are also able to welcome new members into the Society as well as deal with renewals.

We were invited to attend three shows, ExpoEM North in Wakefield, Gauge O Guild Guildex at Stafford Showground and finally the Warley National Exhibition at the NEC, near to Birmingham.

Unfortunately, illness prevented our attendance at ExpoEM but we look forward to returning there next year. Sales at both of these events were modest but we fielded a lot of enquiries for which people were appreciative. The Warley NEC show also saw us introduce card payments via a SumUp machine which was a feature a lot of customers appreciated.

Another role at Warley was our involvement in judging the 'Best Signalled Layout' at the show with the presentation of the Norman Cadge Award. It was slightly different in 2023 in that we actually made two awards. One was for the best portrayal of mechanical signalling, which was won by the EM-Gauge version of South Pelaw Junction and the other was for diesel & electric era signalling, which was awarded to Newhaven Harbour, built by the late Colin Parks and now in the stewardship of Wigan Finescale Railway Modellers. There is a story behind having two plaques, but I won't elaborate on that here.... Further publicity for the society came in the form of yours truly being photographed twice for the Railway Modeller presenting the plaques. If you really want to see the pictures, they are in the February 2024 issue.

Unfortunately, early this year came the news that the Warley show was not going to continue so we need to try and find new avenues and shows to attend. There are a lot of 'big shows' organised by the Model Railway Media Companies but do not appear to be keen on having Societies attend. My feeling is that the 'scale' shows such as RailEx, Scaleforum etc offer the best opportunity for us if we can get an invite.

Additionally, Steve Sharpe has also represented the Society and taken a sales stand to meetings of the Institution of Railway Signal Engineers.

Attendance at shows of course requires personnel. I have had a lot of help and support from a small group of members (and one non-member) but without whom we could not provide a presence at shows. So I offer my grateful thanks to those people, although I shall not name them in case I forget someone, but they know who they are.

As we head through 2024, I would like to urge those members who have never been on the stand to consider it and give it a go. It is a good way of getting to know other members. Any support required will be provided. Please contact me if interested, even if just for a chat. You will be made most welcome.

Forum, Andy Boal

I came on board as Forum Moderator during 2023.

The Forum continues to enjoy a wide range of subjects, which are mentioned during the course of the year in SRS News. We always welcome more members to the forum to see what is being discussed and to learn from each other, sharing their expertise and knowledge.

Area Organiser North East/Corresponding Member, Richard Pulleyn

Area Organiser NE

Arranged at short notice, a group of ten members were fortunate to have an opportunity to visit John Young's magnificent collection of signalling instruments at his home near Richmond before they were packed up and moved to a museum in Scotland where it is hoped they will eventually be on display again.

Corresponding Member –

Over 80 email enquiries have been replied to over the last 12 months.

Having undertaken the above roles almost continuously since 1968, I would be grateful if another member could now take over; plenty of advice and encouragement will be available.

Visits Heritage North -

Over the years, visits have been arranged to all of the heritage railways north of Birmingham, in some cases several times.

Again, I would be grateful if another member could now take over; plenty of advice and encouragement will be available.

Area Organiser North West, Ken Booth

Through the year Ken has organised a number of very interesting online meetings, which have proven very interesting. A detailed write up has appeared in the *SRS News* following each meeting. We are deeply grateful for his efforts over the years and wish him well for the future.

London Meeting, Paul Armstrong

On the 21st October 2023 twenty-five members met at Keen House in London for the Society's annual London meeting. We had three very interesting speakers, Steve Gwinnett, Russell Maiden and Peter Adds, who spoke about Kings Cross, and other sections of the GN main line, LT Signalling and the March area along with the March to Spalding line. Donations on the day to cover the cost of the room made £100.35.

Visits Heritage South, Edward Dorricott

On Saturday 5th August a group of 13 members met at Epping station to take part in a day of signal box visits. We were welcomed to the Epping Ongar Railway by John Appleton, a representative of the line's S&T staff, and were shown into the ex-GER signal box at North Weald, which retains its original Saxby & Farmer 'Duplex' frame. The locking room downstairs and the adjacent relay room were also open for our viewing. Riding on a service train we then visited Ongar station, where the former box has been recreated, using an ex-GER superstructure from elsewhere. The original S&F 'Duplex' frame had survived off-site and was kindly offered back to the EOR. Here again the locking room was open for us.

The day ended with a visit to the Epping Signal Cabin Museum where our guide, society member Graham Floyd, received us. The 1949 LTE building had suffered deterioration since closure and had been stripped out internally. Now a restored Westinghouse Style 'N' power frame takes pride of place on the operating floor. It was recovered from Hainault cabin and recreates Epping's original and very similar 'N2M' of 47 miniature levers. It is linked to the replicated diagram and connected to a computer programme so that train movements can be simulated. Downstairs in the relay room we were able to enjoy a fascinating display of LT artefacts.

Thanks to the generosity of our participating members, donations were made to our hosting organisations, and appreciation voiced for our rewarding visits.

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

With the Covid pandemic embargo on signalbox visits now becoming but a distant memory, it is pleasing to report that during 2023 a total of nine distinct visits were facilitated by our Network Rail hosts enabling SRS members to visit a total of 28 mechanical 'boxes and six power 'boxes during the year.

On 29th March all six of the mechanical boxes between Manea and Whittlesea were visited (Kings Dyke was on the itinerary too but we were unexpectedly denied access by the signaller on duty!) and on 27th April a visit was made to Bury St Edmunds Yard, Chippenham Jn and Dullingham signalboxes (the last mentioned now with a small panel in place of a lever frame).

On 22nd June Colchester ASC (IECC and NX panels), Parkeston Quay and Stowmarket (both supervising CCTV level crossings with NX panels) were visited.

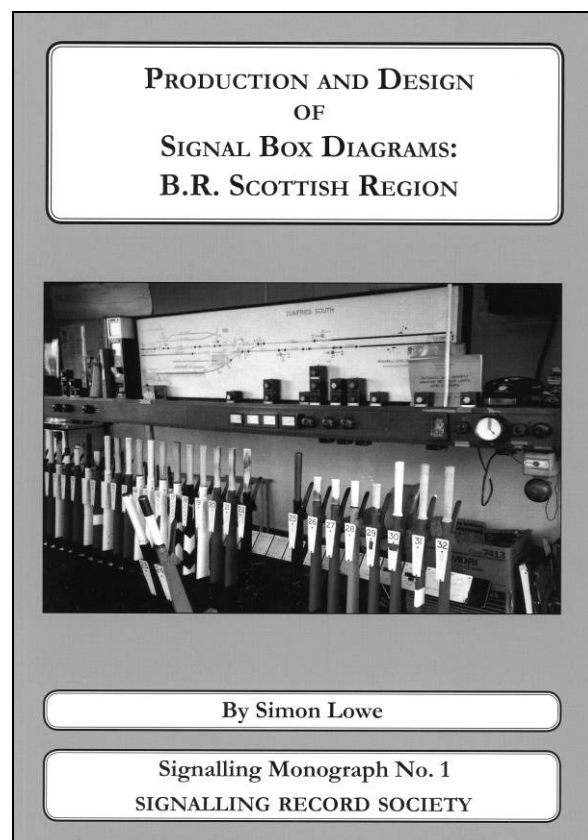
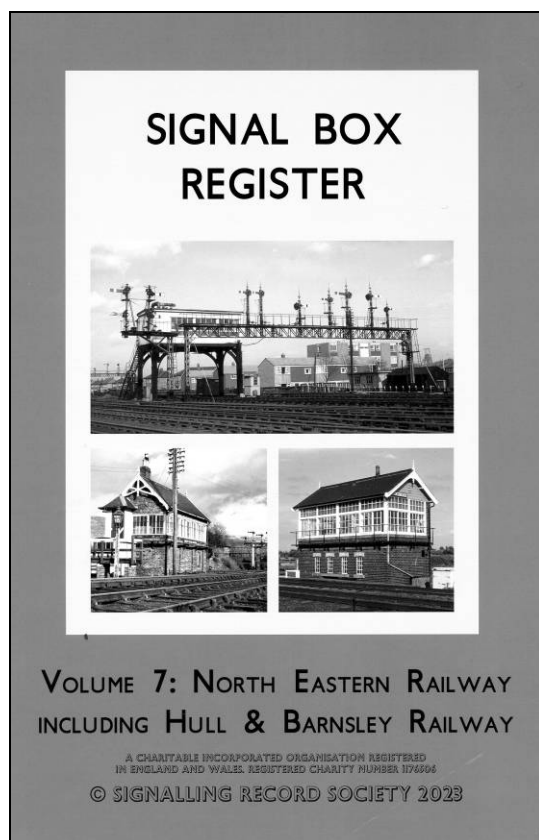
On 1st July a visit arranged by, and under the guidance of, SRS member Matt Saunders enabled participants to visit the SBs at Robertsbridge, Bo Peep Jn, Hastings and Rye whilst on the 4th six members visited Lostwithiel, Par and Truro SBs – all scheduled for closure in late February 2024 when control is assumed by Exeter PSB – plus St Blazey whilst on 28th July a larger group visited the six mechanical ‘box structures at Frisby, Melton Mowbray, Whissenden, Langham Jn, Ashwell and Oakham.

On 15th August, thanks to SRS member Steve Gwinnett, an impromptu visit to Peterborough PSB was possible within a fortnight of it being closed with control then passing to York ROC and on the 18th another visit embraced Littleport, Downham Market, Magdalen Road (the adjacent station has been renamed Watlington) and Kings Lynn Jn ‘boxes.

On 12th December a visit was made to Doncaster PSB (now with the UK’s largest surviving NX panel installation?) and then to York ROC where it was possible to visit the Kings Cross to Stoke tunnel suite.

It is now customary for a charity collection to be made on each visit in recognition of the unique facilities granted by Network Rail and thanks to the generosity of SRS members participating in these visits the total charity dividend this year amounted to a magnificent total of £1,715 duly donated to various charities nominated by our hosts.

Unfortunately, no visits were possible to London Underground or other Metro systems installations during 2023.



2023 was a landmark year for Society publications, with the production of two significant volumes. An important development in our Signal Box Register project took place with the publication of Volume 7, covering the North Eastern and Hull & Barnsley Railways which runs to a substantial 408 pages. We also published the first in a new Signalling Monograph series ‘Production and Design of Signal Box Diagrams: B.R. Scottish Region’.

Have you obtained your copies?