

Help!

On June 13th we will be having our AGM and I am again asking for volunteers to help with the activities of the Society.

At this AGM Maureen English will be standing down from the Committee, we would like to thank Maureen for her help. Also Reg Coleman a very long standing member of the Committee has had health problems over the past year and has been unable to help as much as he would like.

This leaves only five active members on a Committee that should according to our constitution have nine.

You can see that it is becoming increasingly difficult to support all the activities that the Society would like to do. We have already reduced our meetings to five for this year.

There may come a time in the near future when we will have to close Hatfield Local History Society.

Being on the Committee is not a very hard task; we only meet about six times a year and if you are interested in keeping the Society active please come forward to help. Another way to help the Society would be to volunteer to help when we attend events or produce displays etc. It would be great if we could have a list of members we could call upon when the need arises.

Please volunteer your Society needs you!

www.britainfromabove.org.uk

“Discover this great new and exciting website making the oldest and most valuable photographs of the Aerofilms collection available for free for everybody.

Find out about the website’s range of exciting features to explore stunning aerial photos, documenting Britain’s changing face between 1919-1953.

Britain from above is a four-year Heritage Lottery-funded project aimed at conserving 95,000 of the most endangered photographs in the Aerofilms collection.”

Registering is simple and easy, allowing you to use all the website functions.



Hatfield Aerodrome swimming pool
Hatfield 1933.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday, June 13th 7.15 for a 7.30 start. AGM followed by a talk from Brian Dummer, retired headmaster of Countess Anne School.

Thursday, July 11th 7.15 for a 7.30 start. An open meeting a chance to chat and socialise. Bring along items that you think people might be interested in.

Thursday, Sept 12th 7.15 for a 7.30 start. Anne Rowe. "The Lost Gardens of Hertfordshire"

Monday, December 9th 2.15 for a 2.30 start. Our Christmas open meeting.

Meetings are held at Friendship House, Wellfield Close Hatfield.

St Alban's Signal South Box Visit

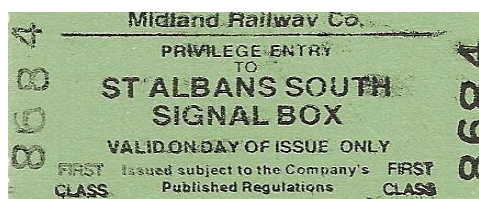
On Saturday 18th May, seventeen members of our Society met at the St Albans South Signal Box to hear about the history of the Box and its restoration.

In 1863 the Midland Railway Act was passed by Parliament authorising the building of a line from Bedford through Luton and St Albans to London St Pancras. The line was opened on 13th July 1886. The Signal Box helped control passenger traffic and the many freight trains that passed through St Albans. With modernisation the Box closed December 1979. It was listed by the Department for the Environment as an historical building but sadly was left to deteriorate until 2002 when the St Albans Signal Box Preservation Trust came into being. Over the next few years the Trust gradually restored the all timber construction to what you see today. The Box looks resplendent, painted in original Midland Railway colours. Inside only the lever frame had been retained but the Trust acquired other appropriate examples of equipment to enable a complete working environment to be created.



Waiting for the signalling demonstration

During our visit we were shown around the garden with its many railway artefacts and then after a break for tea or coffee were taken up to the top level where we were told about the history of the Box and given a signalling demonstration, after which we could all have a go. I am sure everyone who went on the visit would agree with me that it was thoroughly enjoyable. We all came away with a greater knowledge of how railways worked and a great respect for the signalmen who controlled the trains on this busy line. Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make the visit such an enjoyable experience.



C. Martindale
