

Princes Risborough North Signal Box

Newsletter



February 2018

Dear Supporter,

Welcome to another PRNB newsletter. Again work continues alongside the line extension project but we've still managed to move forward in a number of areas. That said with the winter months with us the work will no doubt be concentrated inside the building. As always there is much to be done so why not lend a hand. With the fires lit it really is not a bad place to work during the chilly period.

RHT Grant Awarded

We are most grateful to the Railway Heritage Trust who have recently awarded us a grant for just over £6,000. The trust members had visited the signal box on a number of occasions over the years and were well aware of the work that we have been doing to restore this iconic railway structure. On each occasion discussions had taken place regarding the possible help and support available.



The trust was set up in 1985 with the objective of assisting in the preservation and upkeep of listed railway buildings and structures so PRNB was an ideal candidate for financial support. The grant is of course conditional to a set or specific works to be carried out and completed within the current financial year so if you've been considering coming along to help now is a good time to step forward.

For more information on the trust and the work it carries out please visit their website at www.railwayheritagetrust.co.uk

Fabricating our own timber

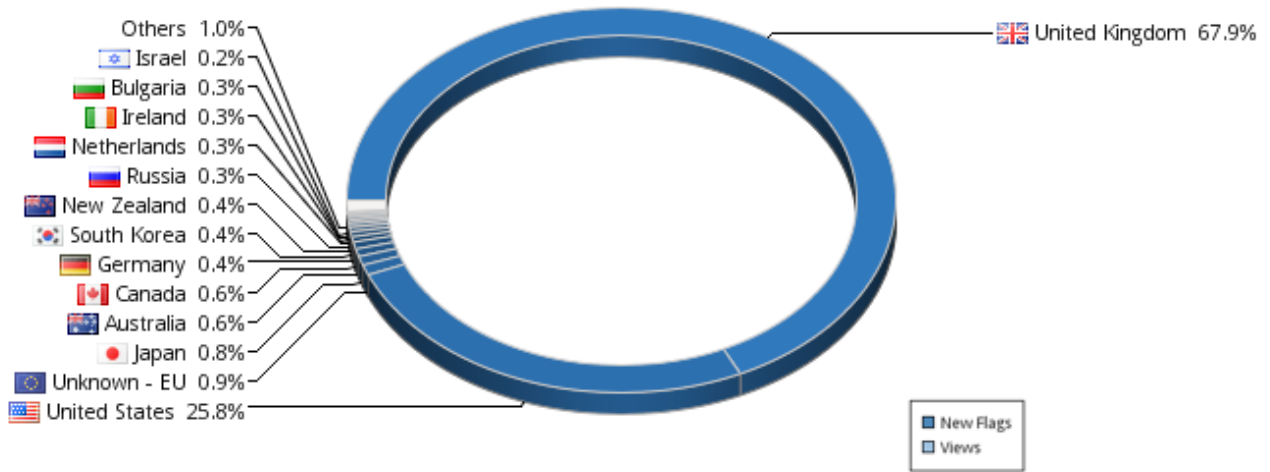
I've mentioned before how we fabricate our own timber for window sills which helps preserve our vital funds. We do the same now for other items such as the glazing bars and beading when we repair the sash windows. Jeff and Nick are able to craft the shapes we need with a number of passes with a routing tool. See image to the left which gives a good illustration of this ornate piece of timber. Again this saves on the expense of having to have them made for us.



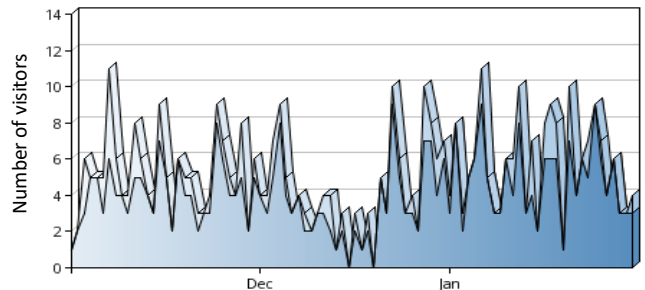
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PRNB Website

The PRNB website now has a visitor counter attached courtesy of Nick D'Arcy (our webmaster). It provides us with an insight as to how often the site is visited and when and where in the world the visitor is from. Needless to say the UK is the highest count but it is interesting to see where others come from. Below is a geographical illustration.



For the month of January data showed we had 151 visitors to the site in total. That's almost 5 a day. Why not take a look at www.risboroughbox.org.uk for yourself. Please inform friends, colleagues and relatives to help spread the word. It's also a place to find past copies of this newsletter should you need them.



Anne's Sponsored Walk

Congratulations to Anne Saunders and her boyfriend Gareth for completing another sponsored walk in aid of the PRNB fund. Their walk started at the signal box and proceeded to the buffer stops at the end of the south sidings. Then back again past the box to Horsenden Crossing and then onto the Phoenix Trail. The trackbed of the old line from Risborough to Oxford. The whole route then being reversed. Anne and Gareth raised a total of £500 for the restoration project so we all owe them a huge thank for their gallant efforts.

Plans for the next walk are already under way. Anne is looking to develop a route in 2018 which covers all the public crossing points of the line. Total distance is yet to be determined. **Would any of you out there like to join her and try to raise some extra funds yourself?** Get in touch if this is of interest and I'll keep you posted on developments. Contact details at end of newsletter.



Photo – Anne and Gareth at the end of their 12 mile sponsored walk. Tea and cakes awaiting inside the signal box.



South West Corner Wood Rot

Attention has returned to the structural timber decay in this area. Previously, we've had to replace rotten timber at the base of pillars and window sills but what's different about this piece of work is the rot has occurred higher up the pillar where the horizontal beam crosses. The two photos illustrate the problem, so careful consideration has had to be made into how best to deal with its repair.



The left picture shows plywood pinned over to keep the worst of the weather off. Some new wood has gone on the inside of that pillar, but the outside awaits drier weather in the Spring.

Ceiling and Roof

Slowly but surely our large ceiling is getting cleaned, rubbed down and coated with undercoat paint. It's a long job but one that suits any kind of weather outside and volunteer availability. Some of the rail industry corporate volunteers have been working on this and we are most grateful to them. The roof above on the whole has been watertight since minor repairs were carried out. Current thinking is that we'll continue to do minor repairs as required rather than the very expensive option of have the tiles removed for a full refit.



Photo - Tony Gambles at work on the ceiling

Relay Room Ceiling

The relay room on the ground floor has had its roof repaired with boarding placed on top of its rafters. Previously there was hardboard fitted to the underside but this all perished during the water leak that occurred before we got back into the box in 2013. The added advantage is that we now have extra storage space on top of it thus clear space on the ground floor. New lighting and conduits have also been fitted above and below the roof. Again, to repair damage caused by the water leak. The cost of this part of the restoration was aided by a grant from the Railway Heritage Trust as mentioned previously.



Operating Floor Partition

The partition that divides the operating floor has almost been restored. Although covered in sheeting and awaiting final top coat of paint the photo right gives you an idea of what the finished product will look like. This separates the operational side of the signal box from the public area which will be developed at a later stage. We still have an open fireplace on either side so both sections will benefit from a real fire during the winter months.



Risex 2018

Once again PRNB will be attending this model railway exhibition with our display boards and information leaflets. This gives us the chance to chat to others interested in railways and thus promote the restoration of the Signal Box. It also provides an opportunity to raise funds, meet potential sponsors and recruit new volunteers.

The event is organised by the Risborough & District Model Railway Clubs and we are grateful to them for our invitation. The exhibition allows modellers to display their layouts and modelling skills. Ample car parking adjacent to the exhibition. Trains every 30 minutes from London Marylebone and hourly from Birmingham and Banbury. Light refreshments will be available. Disabled access available. Why not make a note of the date and come along? See adjacent poster or visit www.rdmrc.org.uk for details of the event.

Presented by Risborough & District Model Railway Club

RISEX 2018
MODEL RAILWAY
EXHIBITION
Community Centre
PRINCES RISBOROUGH
Saturday 17th February 2018
10am to 5pm



Featuring some of the very best local layouts, trade support & demonstrations.
Light refreshments will be available.
Princes Risborough Community Centre, Wades Park,
Stratton Road, Princes Risborough, Bucks, HP27 9AX
See our website for full details rdmrc.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1173659



The Extension Project



And finally, I could not resist a couple of photos showing the progress made on our restored platform and new ticket office. Both in need of a little more work as you can see but we are getting there. The next major phase will see the track reinstated alongside the platform.



Stop Press. Risborough Festival week begins Monday 2nd July. The box will likely open to the public on Friday 6th or Saturday 7th July. Check website for details or myself closer to the date

Any comments/feedback to myself at alanj27@hotmail.com (Alan Jeffries)

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