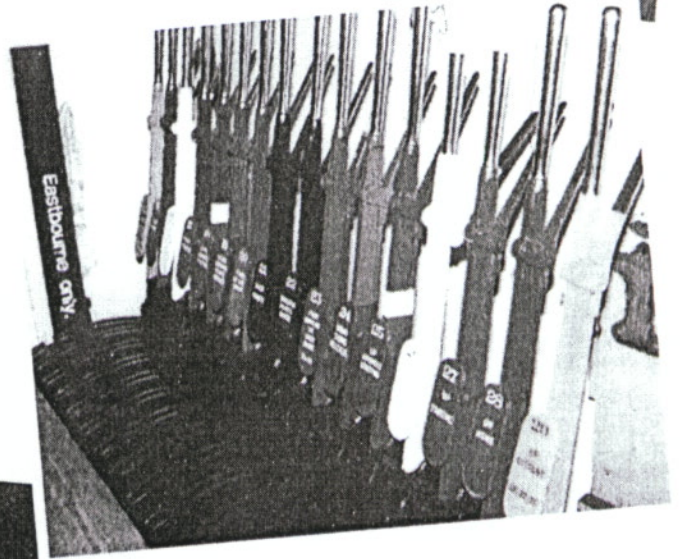
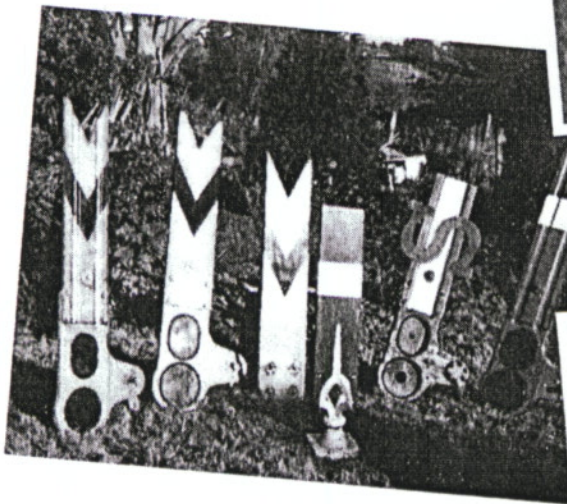


# Fascinating World of a ROCC Railwayana Enthusiast



A subject many of us would associate with the age of steam locomotives, tons of black iron thundering down the track leaving a veil of white smoke in their wake.

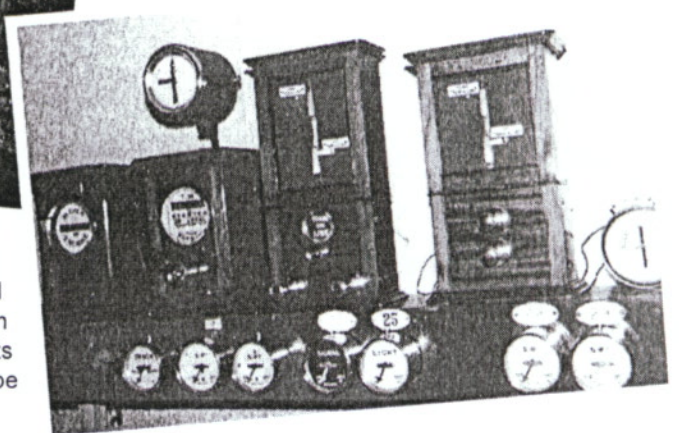
Support programmer **Richard Hibbs** is not a locomotive spotter but is primarily interested in signalling railwayana (the collection of relics and memorabilia). He first became interested some 13 years ago when he discovered some pieces of equipment that his father had acquired from the closed line at Hailsham.



Line up  
of signal  
arms

Block  
instruments

Lever frame from  
Lingfield signal box



He subsequently saw some old photographs of that particular line and these inspired him to explore and photograph the Tunbridge Wells and Eridge line just before it closed in 1985. From then was the beginning of a hobby which was to turn parts of his parents' home and garden into what can only be described as a fascinating museum of railwayana.

His first purchase was made via the Collectors Corner which was located near Euston Station in London. They quickly responded to his letter and shopping list by saying what was available for sale.

"With one of my first purchases, I certainly had to time my boarding and exit to the second when I travelled on the London Underground system with 7' long station names! However, I did just narrowly miss breaking the overhead strip lights," he told Newslines.

More purchases were made from collector's newsletters and auctions, with postal bids being made to the latter located in the north of England. Another good source for acquisition was when railway lines under the then control of Southern Region were undergoing refurbishment programmes.

Richard told us that some of his collection dates back to the 1870s. This now comprises approximately 200 items which includes working signals, single line train staff instruments, brake gauges from steam locomotives, gas lamps, block instruments used to communicate between signal boxes and old signal box telephones, which he has connected up - two are installed in the house and one in the large garden shed and are now used as an intercom system. A signal lever frame, comprising 16 levers and weighing about 1 1/2 tons, had formerly been housed in the signal box at Lingfield. Richard dismantled the levers and the main

## Railwayana...



*Richard is pictured holding a single line train staff which would have been issued to a driver as his authority to take a train over a section of single track, in this case the now closed Mayfield to Rotherfield section.*

structure was removed and loaded on to a HIAB. It took nearly four months of hard work to reassemble it to its former glory with help from neighbours who moved heavier pieces into position. The collection is amazing, as you can see from some of the photographs in Newsline.

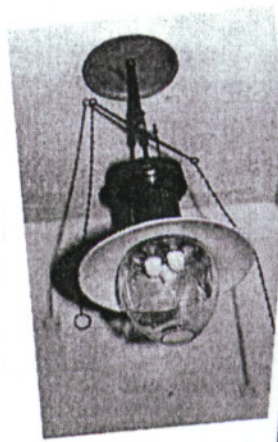
Once a year Richard's parents invite neighbours and local people to an open day and they marvel at what is on display.

Richard is a member of the Tunbridge Wells and Eridge Preservation Society and has spent most of the '96/'97 autumn and winter week-ends involved in a renovation programme to open up the old railway track. The operating company is now called

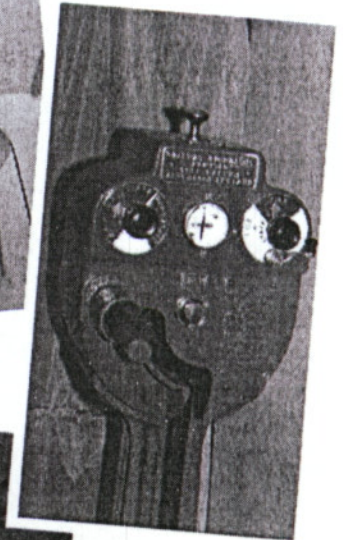
the Spa Valley Railway and it has already started to run a train on a short piece of track, with plans to extend the run to Groombridge later this year. But Richard's principal ambition is to be part of the team that hopefully starts erecting the first signal box on the line, later this year.



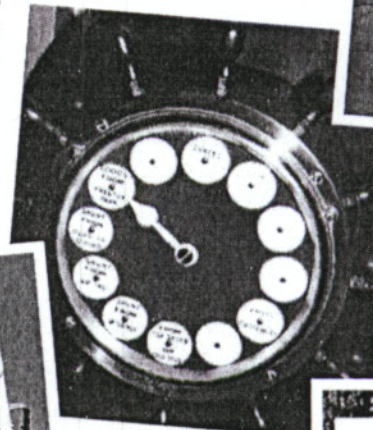
*Working signal from Crowborough station*



*Booking hall gas lamp*



*Large single line staff instrument*



*Train describer from a signal box in the Brighton area*

*Southern Region cast iron trespass sign*



## SportsNews

July - The return match against BFI was cancelled, as was the stoolball match. Customer services consultant Karl Buckingham is trying to arrange new fixture dates.

## Staff Info



This year's Christmas lunch will be held on Tuesday, December 23 at the Posthouse Hotel, Horley, Surrey.

## Wedding



Michelle Heys née Kay (sales administration assistant) was married to Phil on May 31 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Bolton and they honeymooned in the Dominican Republic.



## Long Service Award

Brighton - July 3 saw sales manager Henry Francis and senior account manager Andy Cush receiving their awards from chairman Michael Aldrich for serving 10 years with ROCC.

Also the editor received hers for 20 years - I can't believe I have been here this long.

# Obituary

Always a sensitive and emotional subject to cover in a publication, but on the editor's recent visit to the Manchester service centre, the recent death of former

customer engineer **Philip Brown** (1988-95) was brought to my attention by branch customer services manager **Ian MacCormack**.

Philip left the company in 1995 and, unsure what to do, Ian suggested to him 'see the world' and this he did.

He was a qualified diving instructor and made use of his expertise by obtaining employment during the course of his two-year globe-trotting. He kept in touch with Ian and the Manchester staff by sending them postcards from faraway places; the last was sent from Fiji. It was shortly after this that Ian learnt that Philip's body had been found in the sea off the coast of Malaysia and that he probably died in a surfing accident.

The funeral took place at Middleton Crematorium, Manchester on Friday, June 13 and Ian attended, representing the company. His parents plan to make a trip out to Malaysia to scatter Philip's ashes into the sea.

Newsline sends its condolences to Philip's parents, Brian and Dorothy.



# Retirement

July 4 - Crawley Personnel officer **Janet Fox** officially retired from the company. The money ROCC gave to her went towards the purchase of a dot matrix printer and from her friends and colleagues she received a gold necklace with ruby stone.

He is married to Teresa and they have three girls, Maria six years, Elaine who is 4 years and Tabitha aged 2½ years old.

Stephen's interest lie in collecting and restoring old English pocket watches, family life and socialising.

**Paul Howard** has joined having formerly been employed by Bolton MBC as an IT assistant from October 1995 through to April 1997.

Academic qualifications: HND in computing - University of Central Lancashire - Preston.

A supporter of Bolton Wanderers, who have, he proudly informed Newsline, moved up to the Premier Division and will start the '97/'98 season in a new £40m purpose-built stadium, Paul also plays football and badminton. Furthermore, he plays the guitar, particularly rock and blues music.

### Surbiton Service Centre

**Mark Davies** (pictured over the page) comes to us as a customer engineer having worked for Schindler Lifts for 8½ years as a lift engineer. He served a four-year apprenticeship with the company, which also installs escalators.

Academic qualifications: City & Guilds in electrical and electronics -Woolwich College and two certificates from the Engineering Industry Training Board.



# Appointments

**TECHNICAL SERVICES DIVISION**  
**Manchester Service Centre**



Two new customer engineers have joined the centre with **Stephen Dudley** coming on board from Real Time Control International where he spent four years working in a similar position.

Prior to this appointment he worked for a while running his own computer repair business.

Academic qualifications: Higher technical certificate in computer technology from Luton University - Stephen was sponsored by ICL. He is a member of MENSA.

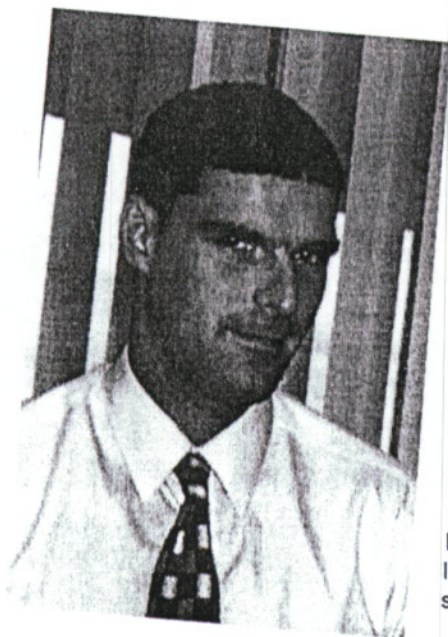


Mark Davies

**Third Party Maintenance**

He left Schindler last August to travel around the US, visiting New York, Connecticut, Memphis, Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Mexico. On his return at the end of '96, he took a PC maintenance and repair course at RS Consultants Industrial Training base at Wembley.

As well as travelling, Mark also enjoys eating out, socialising, go-karting, watching Formula 1 motor racing and listening to music.



Jason Robinson has been appointed as a commercial manager having previously been employed by Manchester solutions company ICM Computer Group Plc as a sales executive for two years.

Academic qualifications: B Tech national diploma in business studies - Rawtenstall College.

Recreation time sees Jason working out at the gym, playing football (he is also a follower of Blackburn Rovers FC), listening to music and socialising.



Michelle Heys has joined as sales administration assistant to the commercial managers based at the Manchester service centre, coming to us from Norweb Retail where she was a buying assistant from June 1995 to March 1997.

Academic qualifications: HND in business and IT from Bolton Institute.

Michelle was married on May 31, see the wedding

column on page two. Her leisure pursuits include swimming, keep fit and socialising

# Health & Safety



## European Health & Safety Week

Last October ROCC produced a health and safety Newsline supplement to mark the European Week of Health and Safety. The Health and Safety Executive has awarded certificates to participating companies acknowledging their efforts and a copy of ROCC's certificate, signed by Frank Davies the chairman of the Health and Safety Commission, is reproduced below. The rather more colourful original is displayed in the reception area at Crawley.



The Health and Safety Executive wants companies to participate in the next campaign they are planning for the European Health and Safety Week in 1998, so if you have any ideas on how ROCC could mark the week, please let me know. For the "Lighten the Load Campaign" in 1994 we staged a Health and Safety Exhibition in the training school at the old Kelvin Way site.

### First aider

Repair engineer Philippa Wassell has just obtained her First Aid at Work Certificate. Philippa attended four days of intensive study and was certificated on June 27.

Keep working safely.

Phil Carr  
occupational health and safety consultant

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