



SWINDON PANEL SOCIETY

Press Release: PLEASE RELEASE IMMEDIATELY
Contact: pressoffice@swindonpanel.org.uk
Images: <http://www.swindonpanel.org.uk/media/>

Swindon Gathering for Retired and Current Signalling Staff and Friends

Monday 16/03/2015

The Swindon Panel Society is delighted to be hosting a "Past, Present and Future" gathering for railway workers and friends associated with signalling in the Swindon area.

This will be a fantastic opportunity for everyone who designed, worked, managed, installed or had an interest in keeping trains moving safely through the Swindon area to catch up, renew old friendships and find out about how their signal box is being preserved for future generations. Current and retired staff and anyone interested in the future of the signal box are welcome.

We would love to be joined by anyone who has been involved in Swindon Panel over the years at the gathering will be held in the Great Western Hotel, Swindon, opposite the station, between 4 and 7pm on Saturday 25th April.

There will be a display of Swindon Panel photos and artefacts along with our future plans as well as light refreshments. More information can be obtained from the Society website here: <http://www.swindonpanel.org.uk/past-present-and-future/>

NOTES TO EDITORS:

1. Swindon Panel Signal Box was opened in 1968 and took over an area controlled by no less than 32 mechanical lever-frame signal boxes, representing the contemporary modernisation of the signalling system.
2. It will close later this year with all signalling functions and staff transferred to Network Rail's new Thames Valley Signalling Centre (TVSC) in Didcot in the latest modernisation. All similar signal boxes will close in the same process, eliminating this now historic method of control.
3. The Swindon Panel Society has purchased the control panel and will take ownership once Network Rail no longer requires it for operational use. They will then reconstruct the panel in a dedicated building at the Didcot Railway Centre and demonstrate it to the public with a computer simulator to represent train movements.
4. Aside from this main function the society is also interested in preserving the understanding, documentation and human side of signalling in Swindon.
5. For general enquiries please visit the society's website (www.swindonpanel.org.uk).
6. Press enquiries are welcome and should be directed to the press officer via pressoffice@swindonpanel.org.uk.

#####