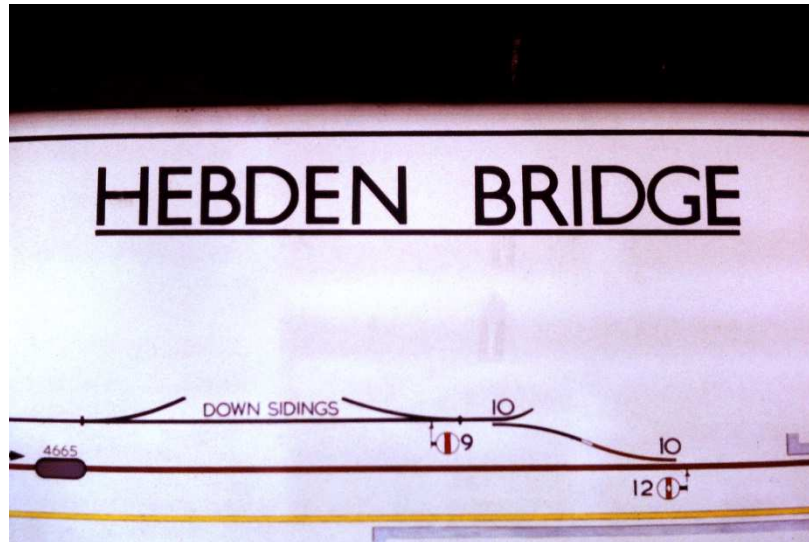


News from the Signal Box

After a very difficult year for everybody it is pleasing to report that thanks to Zoom, and the other wonders of modern communication, the project to rejuvenate our wonderful listed Hebden Bridge Signal Box is still on track.



The Calder Valley Community Land Trust has brought a level of expertise and experience essential for such a complex and expensive project, while a Signal Box Task Group has been charged with the detailed managing of the renovations.

So where are we in May 2021?

Detailed architect plans are complete to convert the ground floor into a simple, self-contained 2 person, short term holiday let, appealing to walkers, cyclists and other visitors, not forgetting railway enthusiasts. The upper storey will be reinstated to its former glory as a Victorian Signal Box complete with the existing frames, and other period details. The original register desk and cupboard



have been tracked down in Pickering thanks to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway. There has been much helpful input from organisations running similar schemes around the country, Friends of Hebden Bridge Station, Hebden Royd Council and individual railway enthusiasts.

The holiday lettings will ensure an essential revenue stream and contribute to the wider local economy, while the restored upper storey will be a valuable

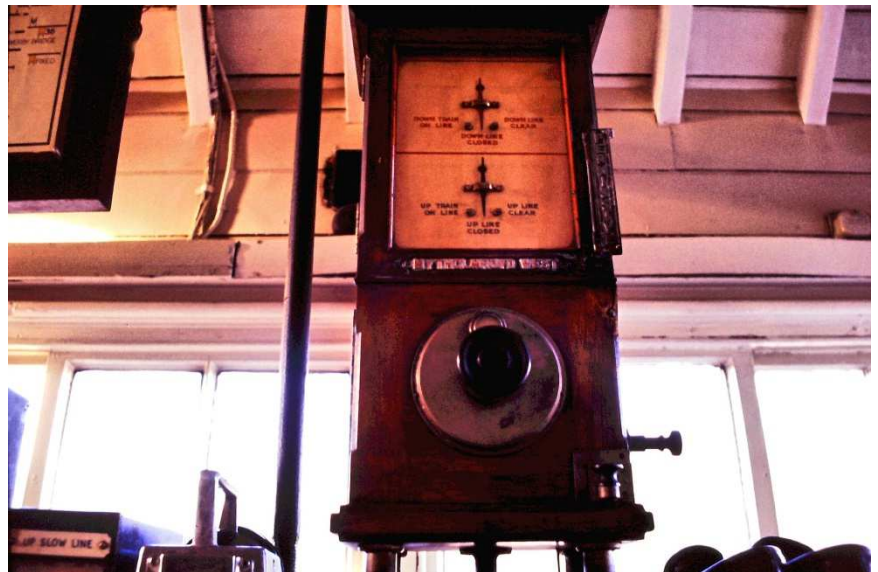
heritage and educational resource.

Negotiations with Network Rail for a 25 year lease are well underway, a planning/change of use application is to be submitted shortly, there is promised funding from the Railway Heritage Trust, and the last tweaks to a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant application are being finalised.

Once the lease, planning and funding are in place contractors can be engaged, and if all goes to plan the first paying overnight guests will be welcomed in the autumn of 2022.

The hope is that the heritage and educational work will be overseen by an experienced professional Project Officer, working with a Signal Box Heritage Group, and other interested parties. The signal box will open to the public on Hebden Bridge heritage and open days, and to schools and organisations at other times. Plans are to connect the existing levers to a virtual signalling system so visitors can experience what it was like to be a Victorian signaller. Equally exciting will be a

significant online presence looking at how transport links contributed to the rise and decline of industry in the valley, and the wider social consequences of developments in transport infrastructure. Such a resource will appeal to school and college students, other interest groups and individuals, further raising the profile of Hebden Bridge here in the UK and beyond; the signal box itself a physical bricks and mortar entity complementing the online resource. Thanks to Diana Monahan and others a start has been made on collecting physical, photographic and film artefacts from around the world, for future curation.



A very exciting, and hopefully more sociable, 18 months is in prospect. Anyone interested in this inspiring project is most welcome to help out whether they have specific expertise, or just wish to make a positive contribution to the beautiful valley we all enjoy. If you would like to be involved



please get in touch.

Thanks to David R Ball for the images of Hebden Bridge Signal Box in May 1972 – Signaller Keith Watson.

Interested in the work of the Calder Valley Community Land Trust? Why not become a member for the princely sum of £1.00 - membership is only a mouse click away by visiting the website –

<https://caldervalleyclt.org.uk/>