

## Ground Frame Leaver System 'corner of a foreign field'

On the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021 an email was received regarding an old piece of railway operating equipment that, since at least 1968, had lain discarded and patently unused. The 'frames' location was 'generally' the south eastern corner of the ex-Feltham Marshalling Yard Site (Feltham Concentration Yard) 'corner of a foreign field'

The email came from the Train Care Depot team Feltham, via their Community Liaison Officer, Nicola Ford, who asked if we (history group) had any interest in the 'frame'.

I understand that the correct term is 'ground frame and shunters releases mechanism' and basically it enabled control of the area of the railway between a signaller and a ground frame operator, and railway undertaking personnel to allow internal movements throughout the yard.



It is a highly sophisticated and regulated piece of equipment and requires in depth knowledge and use, Annett keys and 'tokens' and the like.

It should be recognised that with the re-establishment of a fully functioning yard on this site everything not conducive to proper and efficient operation had to be removed.

With time being the limiter '5 days' the following bodies were contacted with a hope of possible housing of the frame, i.e. Gunnersbury Park Museum, Bedfont Lakes Country Park and various rail enthusiast societies and groups; one such group showing the keenest of interest was the Bluebell Railway Preservation Society.



And so it was that the frame was collected Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021 and will 'we understand' form part of their railway memorabilia.

Societies, organisations and initiatives of this kind should always be supported and I urge all to make the journey, once we are contagion free, to Sheffield Park Station Sussex