Amberley Society - Stories of a Signalman

Ted Cook was signalman at Amberley Station from 1967 to 1970 and the youngest ever to work for British Rail. When visiting the Signal Box a few days before it closed, in March this year, he kindly offered to tell us of his times here andso travelled down on the train from his home in Leicester, to talk at the autumn meeting of the Amberley Society. Back then, signalman at Amberley also looked after the Booking Office, Post Office and the old Pullman carriages parked in the sidings, which were used for holiday accommodation. Along with some memorabilia, Ted brought a whole store of anecdotes to amuse. Some were like the script of a situation comedy and we could all imagine the inspector from Croydon shaking his head, in ‘McKay from Porridge’ like fashion, at the goings on at Amberley. The customer service went far beyond anything, which could be approved; all so different from the empty buildings, boarded up windows and frustrating ticket machine of today.

Grahame Joseph