



WHAT WE DO FOR THE STEAM MUSEUM

One of the objectives of The Friends of Swindon Railway Museum is to support and promote STEAM: Museum of the Great Western Railway. Here are some of the ways that we do this.

- **Financial support to purchase artefacts, books, furniture and equipment.**

Recently this has included a set of Brunel's drawing instruments and his paper knife, a new glass display case for a model of one of the Severn Tunnel pumping machines to allow it to be displayed, and a collection of academic railway and transport books for the Museum Library to allow staff and researchers to carry out more in-depth studies. Over £6,000 has been provided in the last 18 months allowing the Museum to do things they otherwise would not be able to afford.



The late President of the Friends, Alan Wild, and Secretary/Trustee Steve Gregory with Brunel's drawing instruments and paper knife, purchased for the Museum with financial help from the Friends.

- **Fundraising for special projects.**

As an independent charity we can make applications for funding to organisations that a local authority museum cannot approach directly, or for which the Museum does not have the resources to progress applications. We are currently working on fundraising to meet the cost of preservation and display of some important nineteenth century trades union banners which have to be kept in storage due to their fragile condition.



Trustee Iain Steel selling pre-owned books to raise funds at the Swindon Railway Festival, not far from some of the many famous nameplates to be found around the STEAM Museum.

- **Maintaining the model railway in the Museum.**

Always a highlight towards the end of young people's visit to the Museum is pressing the buttons to operate the model railway. This layout needs just as much maintenance as the real thing and our model railway experts give many hours of time, and indeed locomotives and rolling stock, to make sure it runs on time!

- **Marketing and Promotion to encourage visitors to the Museum.**

Through our programme of talks and by publicity at other events or through our Facebook page we promote both the Museum itself and the many exciting special events that they put on throughout the year, as well as the opportunities to volunteer in the Museum.

- **Advice and Information.**

The Trustees provide free advice and information to the Museum managers and staff drawing on their wide range of professional skills and experience in matters to do with railways and works matters; management and leadership; cultural and heritage strategy; sales and marketing; retail operations; customer service; presentation skills; and more.



The late President of the Friends, Alan Wild, and the then Mayor of Swindon on the footplate of 2818, just up the platform from this atmospheric shot of 6000 King George V at the STEAM Museum.