



CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

Dear Member

In the light of the fast moving situation arising from the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, it is appropriate to sent out this newsletter to you all. The following message was sent, on 18 March, to those on the Branch e-mail list on behalf of the Branch Committee:

“Fellow Members

Following my e-mails on Monday, and the Advice issued by the Government, the Society Trustees have advised that all Society events should be cancelled until further notice. Your committee has accepted this advice, and consequently and regrettably our meetings for the rest of this season, on April 20th and May 11th are CANCELLED. We will be inviting our speakers for these meetings to come and address us at future meetings, and hope we will be able to enjoy their presentations next year. As to our meetings in the Autumn, while we hope that they can be held, this will depend on how the Corona Virus/COVID-19 situation develops: a decision will be made nearer the time. It is unlikely that we will have any outdoor meetings this summer: I will advise if any are organised.

The Society AGM, due to be held on 25th April has been POSTPONED until further notice: there will be an announcement to this effect in the April Railway Observer, and a revised date will be set and announced when this becomes possible.

I will be in touch again as and when the situation develops. In the meantime I can only, both personally and on behalf of the committee, apologise for this inconvenience, due to circumstances beyond our control, and wish you all the best, and good health, in these dark and uncertain times.

Keep well,

With best wishes and regards,

Jeremy Harrison
Committee Member,
RCTS Croydon & South London Branch”

This follows our decision to cancel our Spring afternoon meeting in Redhill on 17 March.

If you are not on the Branch e-mail list and - in the light of this - wish to join, send a request including your Society membership number to our Web Co-ordinator, Jeremy Harrison, on croydon.web@rcts.org.uk

Our grateful thanks go to those of you who attended the Branch AGM on 9 March. The attendance was one up on last year's equivalent meeting, a good result at a time when people were already beginning to stay away from events. The Minutes of the Meeting and papers presented will be circulated with the next Newsletter. Reports presented covered a generally successful year, and - little did we know - looked forward to another. The only thing needing to be reported now is that of officers and committee. In the absence of anyone else offering to stand as Branch Chairman, Chris Meredith, with great reluctance, agreed to offer himself for re-election for a further year. He was duly re-elected as Chairman. Jeremy Harrison, Peter Wilson and Andrew Jones were all duly

re-elected as, respectively, Treasurer, Secretary and Committee member for a further year; and we were delighted when, following exhortations from the Chairman, relatively new Society member, Rob Burrige, offered to stand and was elected to the Committee.

The Branch Photographic Competition once again attracted some excellent entries, though rather fewer than in previous years. Jeremy Harrison once again had the winning entry, with his picture of "our locomotive" ex-Southern Railway 'Schools' class 30925 *Cheltenham* working hard up the grade through Chawton Woods, between Alton and Medstead on the Mid Hants Railway while working a Time Line Events photo charter on 2 February. We hope it will be published in a forthcoming RO. Jeremy received a £10 voucher to spend on the Branch sales stand. To conclude the evening, we had intended to begin with some members' slides, but a temporary problem with the slide projector meant that we had to go straight to the digital projector on which Alan Walters then proceeded to show some excellent shots of German engines, followed by the railway on Majorca and British steam on the mainline. Thanks to everyone who contributed to an enjoyable evening.

We look forward to seeing you, hopefully, in the Autumn and, meanwhile, keep safe and well.

Peter Wilson
Branch Secretary and Exhibitions Officer
Tel.: 01737 355150
e-mail: croydon@rcts.org.uk

Chris Meredith
Branch Chairman
Tel: 020 8660 9237
e-mail: croydonchairman@rcts.org.uk

please visit the RCTS web site at www.rcts.org.uk