

SURREY BRANCH NEWSLETTER – April 2020

Dear Members and Friends,

We thought you would like an additional Newsletter to give some information regarding the current situation in the Society and Branch during the pandemic.

Latest update on The Railway Observer from Mike Robinson

The Railway Observer 's printer is now closed for at least a month, and the May, probably June, and possibly July Railway Observers cannot be printed until the national emergency is over.

Publication of the digital Railway Observer will continue throughout the crisis to a slightly later timescale. The Railway Observer digital version will be available by the start of each relevant month, so please continue forwarding material and images to the Editorial team. As soon as printing is again possible the delayed printed versions will be produced and circulated to members.

Members should consult the Society website - specifically The Railway Observer topic on the Forum, for up to date information on Railway Observer progress.

All members can obtain the digital version, if you have internet access, logging on using their membership number. If you have never logged on to the RCTS website as a member (www.rcts.org.uk), the process is quite straight forward. Select Members from the menu bar at the top of the page which will show a 'drop down' menu. They should then select either the Railway Observer (eMag) or Railway Observer (.pdf). This will bring up the login page. Full instructions are included with Newsletter 188 which is on the Society News page of the website: <https://rcts.org.uk/society/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2020/03/Newsletter-188.pdf>

Non-members can join the Society online for £9.50 so as to be able to access the digital version of the Railway Observer.

If you have any difficulty, please contact me.

Branch Meetings etc

All branch meetings, Archive and Library opening, the 2020 Regional Meetings, Society AGM and Member's Weekend are cancelled or postponed.

It is hoped to be able to rearrange the Society AGM later in 2020. It is also hoped that the Member's Weekend will just be postponed until 2021. Further information will be provided as soon as it is available.

Tom, our Indoor Fixtures Officer, will continue to organise next season's Surrey Branch programme and will endeavour to include the cancelled meetings from this season.

However, whether the new season of meetings will commence in September will depend on the situation nearer the time. Again, we will inform you of our plans later in the summer.

Exhibitions

The Railway Enthusiasts Club Exhibition due to be held at Woking Leisure Centre has already been cancelled.

Book Sales

I have updated the Surrey branch book list on the website and also added a library book sales list. If any of you feel that those books would be worth reading while isolating yourselves at home, please contact me and we will see if we can arrange a delivery.

<https://rcts.org.uk/surrey/books-sale/>

<https://rcts.org.uk/archive/library-collections/> (sales lists are at the bottom of the page)

Similarly, Society Publications are still available for sale via the website.

I hope you all stay safe and well and I and the committee wish you all the best in these difficult times.

Yours sincerely,



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