

BRANCH LIAISON OFFICER

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Officers' Newsletter 211

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Dear All

This will be my first attempt at using Mailjet for the Officers' Newsletter so please be patient if it is not how you might expect it to be and remember that I have not done it this way before. There are some items that I hope will be of interest and some reminders about what we should be doing which are important even if they are not quite as interesting for some.

Regional Meetings

As you all know, these were last held in May and June 2019 because of the restrictions imposed by Covid and the very real concerns affecting many of us even last year in 2021. However, now that the final restrictions in England are due to be lifted and that constraints are also vastly reduced in Scotland and Wales, it is time to think about Regional Meetings for 2022.

I am asking whether or not you would be prepared to be involved with them this year because your support will be needed for them to be a success. I have copied a quote below from the Officers Handbook saying something of why we have them.

9.01 Why have Regional Meetings?

Regional Meetings provide the opportunity for representatives from the branches to get together once a year to exchange information on a more personal basis, to discuss issues of importance to each branch and to share best practice. There is also the opportunity to meet up with a representative of the Society's Board of Trustees (BoT) to exchange news and views from the grass roots of the Society at branch level and the management at the 'top' of the Society in person rather than at a distance. While there is an agenda, discussions can be more informal and franker than at formal Society meetings eg the Society AGM and the Officers' Conference. Branches can raise concerns with the BoT representative particularly if there are queries about the why and wherefore of the Society's decision making or other national activities.

I would greatly appreciate responses from as many branches as possible to find out what you think about this. If the majority are in favour of restarting what I think is a good opportunity to get together and share experience, good ideas, concerns, then we can go ahead. If most branches are not keen on holding these meeting in person again this year and would prefer to wait until next year, then I will respect that. The Society Treasurer has confirmed that he has set aside a budget for the

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meetings as he has done in the past so the same criteria as before would apply regarding expenditure.

Please let me know what you think about this as soon as possible as there will be preparation work to do if most or all would like to go ahead.

Permission to Share Contact Details

This is just a gentle reminder but it is quite important and I am sure that most, if not all, fully understand that we should not share speaker contact details without asking the speaker's permission first, no matter how good he or she is and how much we would like others to enjoy their presentations as much as we have ourselves. Most speakers are generally happy to say yes but it is also good manners as well as being compliant with GDPR regarding keeping personal details private. Obviously, if that information is already in the public domain, then there is no problem with sharing it.

Updating GDPR permissions

This follows on neatly from the last short item. Back in 2018 when GDPR was introduced, we were advised that we needed permission to keep in contact via email – eg for branch news within the branches, and to make sure that any such group email must include a facility to unsubscribe if someone wishes to withdraw from a circulation list. So it is important that we check periodically to make sure that anyone on the branch circulation list is happy to stay on it. Where members have provided their email address either with a recent renewal or recent signing up as a new member, it is in order to take this as permission unless they state otherwise. However, they must still be given the option to unsubscribe if they wish.

Minutes of the Officers' Conference held on 24 October 2021

These are now available and would normally be attached to the Newsletter as an Appendix. However, using Mailjet, there is a link to the minutes instead. All you need to do to have a look at them is click on the link:

<https://members.rcts.org.uk/#minutes>

If you have any comments or corrections, please let me know as soon as possible so that they can be amended accordingly if necessary.

Exhibitions Returns for 2020/2021

This is mostly self-explanatory and shows the details as provided by the Branches of the exhibitions that have been attended on behalf of the Society and includes information on how many exhibitions, how many days and the level of sales. It also shows the number of Society publications sold. It covers the period 1 November 2020 to 31 October 2021 with some comparisons with the previous year. The period covered matches the Society's financial year. It is quite difficult to make a proper comparison between the two years as much branch activity regarding exhibitions was curtailed by the Covid pandemic over both years on the table which is shown below.



**2020/2021 EXHIBITION RETURN
BASED ON BRANCH RETURNS**

BRANCH	Number of Exhibitions Attended		Total cost of stand £	Days	Total Sales £		Society Publications Sold £	
	2021	2020			2021	2020	2021	2020
Bristol	1	1	Nil	2	75	983	Nil	158
Cambridge*	Nil	2			Nil	46	Nil	Nil
Cheltenham*	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chichester *	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Croydon & S. London	Nil	3			Nil	465	Nil	41
East Midlands*	2	5	35	3	246	1049	44	78
Furness, L&L	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hitchin	Nil	3			Nil	437	Nil	74
Humberside	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ipswich	Nil	3			Nil	363	Nil	Nil
Lancs & N. West	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Merseyside, C & N.W.	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Milton Keynes	Nil	1			Nil	240	Nil	110
Northampton	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
North East	Nil	4			Nil	1047	Nil	72
Peterborough	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scottish	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sheffield	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
South East	Nil	4			Nil	500	Nil	44
South Essex*	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
South Wales	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Solent	Nil	1			Nil	397	Nil	92
Surrey	1	2	74	2	183	514	33	14

BRANCH	Number of Exhibitions Attended		Total cost of stand £	Days	Total Sales £		Society Publications Sold £	
	2021	2020			2021	2020	2021	2020
Thames Valley	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Watford	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
West of England	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
West Midlands	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Windsor & Maidenhead	Nil	1			Nil	145	Nil	Nil
West Riding	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	4	30	109	7	504	6186	77	683
			Average cost per day £16		Take per day £72			

Zoom Invitations

Virtual meetings have proved to be a valuable tool for the RCTS and the branches in particular over the last two years and we will continue to use Zoom into the future. It is too useful not to do so and a good way to keep in touch with our members who cannot attend physical meetings whatever the reason.

The instructions for carrying this out have now been updated to take into account the changes since they were first issued last Summer, not least the changes to the Society's website with its fresh new look. There are instructional videos on the website for those with editing rights and these are noted in the revised instructions. Once again, this paper would have been included as an appendix to this Newsletter but as I am trying Mailjet, there is a link to follow to access them as used above for the Minutes of the Officers' Conference. The link ("Zoom for Officers") here is:

<https://members.rcts.org.uk/#guidance>

Happy reading.

Take care and thank you for all the work that you do in keeping the Society going forward.

Kind regards

Irene