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Officers' Newsletter 213

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Members' Weekend 2022

This year's Members' Weekend has been jointly organised by Surrey, Thames Valley and Windsor & Maidenhead Branches and, by the time you receive this newsletter, you should have received notification of the details for this year's Members' Weekend together with the booking form. Please note that there are limited places for the Friday visits which will be prioritised for those staying in the hotel for the weekend and strictly in the order that bookings are received. So if you are interested in either of those visits in particular, please get your booking in early.

Members' Weekend 2023

Which brings me to next year's Members' Weekend. A branch, group of branches or group of RCTS members is sought to organise the event for next year so please come forward if you are interested in taking part in setting up what can be the social highlight of the Society's calendar to include railway themed visits and talks, a formal dinner and a setting for the annual Officers Conference. Planning has to start early to ensure being able to find a hotel that will meet our needs for the dates that we want and at a reasonable price, hence raising this now. For any branch or group that has not done this before, there will be help and support, so please come forward if you have ideas and would like to bring them to life. There is work involved but a lot of satisfaction too in setting this up for the membership to enjoy.

Certificate of Appreciation

The Board of Trustees (BoT) has agreed to introduce a new 'Certificate of Appreciation' to come from the BoT to any member who has undertaken something memorable and worthwhile on behalf of the Society, but would not be 'Honorary Life Membership' which is generally (but not always) only awarded upon retirement from a national office after effectively serving in that post for several years. Instead, the Certificate could go to someone who has not indicated any desire to stop, but just keeps on performing the same useful job on our behalf.

The suitably worded (and framed) certificate will be signed by the Chairman and President plus, when appropriate, the head of the Governance Group to which the member 'belonged'. It would not be awarded to active BoT members because it is supposed to come from the BoT.

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside of the Society

Branch Ownership of Branch web pages

With the new Society website now running for some time, a pleasing number of branches are updating their branch pages themselves. However, there are still some that are not doing so or where the updates appear to be limited. There may be a number of reasons for this whether you are having difficulties with the diary pages, uploading photographs and reports or any other aspect of your branch website pages. There are currently six training videos on the website for those who have editorial access but you will need to be registered as a website editor to access these. They cover the following:

- Getting started as an editor;
- Essential tasks – an overview;
- Upload images and documents;
- Create an event;
- Add a meeting report;
- Manage the branch home pages.

So if you do not already have editorial access to update your branch pages, please ask our Digital Officer (formerly titled Webmaster) Matthew Shaw on webmaster@rcts.org.uk. The website is our window to the wider public and keeping things up to date with information and photographs helps to make it more interesting to both members and the wider public. If it proves attractive enough, we can encourage new members to join and more volunteers to come forward to take an active role.

Email scams – caution before responding!

Now and again, we seem to suffer from scam emails from people who trawl through the website for contact details for example. The advice remains unchanged – be wary of anything that you are not expecting or that comes from an unknown source or a weird looking email address. Make sure too, that you have good internet security. We cannot stop everything from getting through so please be careful.

On the other hand, do not forget to check your 'spam' folder occasionally for missing messages, and delete any unwanted or suspicious messages at the same time.

South East Branch equipment

Sadly, the final administration to formally close South East Branch has been completed with nearly all branch assets already rehomed to other branches and remaining funds returned to the centre. However, there are a few items of equipment still available to any branch that is interested and you can see photographs of what is still available on the next three pages.

If you would like any of these items please get in touch as soon as possible or they will be otherwise disposed of.

Several RCTS branded fireproofed black table coverings approximately 3m x 2m.



Two wooden, foldable, book cases.



Two display boards each 600mm wide x 900mm tall, can be fitted to the sides of the folding wooden book cases.



Two metal display stands which will take a slightly less than A4 size poster.



One Sack Truck.



And finally...

There are still some branch AGM minutes missing for 2021 so if you have not yet sent them through please do so as soon as possible as chasing them up is fast moving up my 'to do' list. I already have a number for 2022 which is great as it saves me the task of having to ask. I appreciate that it has been a difficult two years in 2020 and 2021 and that some branches have had to postpone some activities but AGM minutes are still an important part of branch records. If any branch has difficulty with providing this information please get in touch so that we can discuss how to resolve any problems and find a solution.

Thank you for reading and taking note of this Officers Newsletter and for continuing to work to keep the RCTS as 'Britain's Leading Railway Society'.

Kind regards

Irene