

BRANCH LIAISON OFFICER

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Officers' Newsletter 237

24 February 2025

Dear All

Firstly, my apology for the late completion and distribution of this Officers' Newsletter.

There are a number of items included some of which are more pressing than others as you will see when you read them.

IMPORTANT – RCTS AGM

Please note that the Society's Annual General Meeting (AGM) will take place on Saturday 5 April 2025 at the Grand Station, Sun Street, Wolverhampton between 10.00 and 17.00. The notice has already appeared in the January 2025 *Railway Observer (RO)* but please take note and publicise this to all your Branch members as well as at all Branch meetings between now and the AGM. It is also a great opportunity to meet up with friends from around the country, to enjoy some excellent railway themed presentations, as well as taking part in the business part of the day.

This is an important date in the RCTS diary and we would like as many members as possible to attend. Bookings for lunch at a cost of £10.00 per person are also open at <https://rcts.org.uk/product/agm-2025-lunch/>.

In addition to the three speakers highlighted on page 146 of the March *RO*, we are also pleased to announce the addition of Steve Oates, Chief Executive of the Heritage Railway Association. We now have a truly star-studded line-up for Members' Day, and should you wish any question to be put to any of the guests, even if you cannot attend in person, please e-mail your question to James Milne at chairman@rcts.org.uk.

Photographic Copyright

Most, if not all, Branches produce publicity materials using photographs both on their webpages as well as locally to publicise meetings. Please make sure that you know the origins of any photograph used, and who owns the copyright. You must have permission to use a copyright photograph from the person or organisation that owns the copyright, so please make sure that you keep a record of that permission. This is to ensure that we do not use such a photograph without being able to show that we have any necessary permission. You can, of course, continue to use your own photographs and if your speaker provides a suitable photograph, then please ask them, politely of course, if they themselves have the copyright and you have permission to use it.

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

There has been a recent query about photographs and what can or cannot be used, hence raising the subject now.

It could be a costly mistake if we do not comply with copyright law so please check before using any photographs on any publicity materials.

Society Insurance Cover

If any Branch or national initiative needs to show that the Society has proper insurance cover, the documents for 2025 are now available. The one you are most likely to need is the "To Whom It May Concern" letter. It is included as Appendix 1 to this Newsletter. Please ask me if you would like a copy of the other insurance documents liaison@rcts.org.uk and please make sure that you spell liaison correctly or I will not receive the request.

Free printed ROs – some dos and don'ts

This is a request to all Society Officers who receive stocks of 'spare' printed ROs. These are intended to be used for publicising the Society, for including in information packs for potential new members, and to replace a missing copy that a current Member may not have received for any reason and where it is easier for them to pick a replacement up at a Branch meeting for example.

They are NOT for handing out regularly to non-members as soon as they are received. It has come to light that some non-members have not joined the RCTS because they have been receiving regular up to date copies – a membership benefit that they have not contributed towards so have little incentive to join. All Members are paying for this with their subscription. It costs quite a lot to produce, print and send out printed ROs. Branches should not be enabling visitors who regularly attend to get the benefits of Membership by only paying a (slightly higher) door donation and receiving the latest printed edition of the RO free-of-charge. I appreciate that those who have inadvertently done this have only been trying to help perhaps one or two of their regular attending non-members.

By all means give away out of date ROs but hold back the current editions. This may help encourage your regular non-member to join after all.

New books

Please see below some details of the latest RCTS publication. The information is already on the website so please have a look and encourage your Members and non-members to have a look and, better still, to buy a copy. The usual member discount applies. If your Branch buys their Society publications for resale outright, then please contact Publications Officer David Bird publications@rcts.org.uk

A RAILWAY JOURNEY AROUND the COTSWOLD and MALVERN HILLS in the 1950s and 1960s By MICHAEL CLEMENS

RCTS Publications is delighted to offer its latest publication. This is the first of a new collaboration with respected author Michael Clemens and it features a further set of images taken from the photographic archive of Ellis James-Robertson. Further books will follow, all produced in the author's distinctive style.

This book covers the area of Worcestershire plus extensions to encompass the Kington and Presteign branch, the Forest of Dean, and the Oxford to Fairford branch. The pictures include colour photographs although they are mainly black and white. Included is a full-page coloured route availability map of the area covered. The author presents the journey as a set of commentaries for each area with supporting images to the text. The time period covered is largely 1957 to 1965.

There are 118 pages, 178 images, hardback priced at £25.00 plus £4.00 p/p.

Size is 215mm x 255mm.

ISBN is 978-1-7391324-5-3

Members Price is £20.00 plus £4.00 p/p.

Fire Safety Certificates

It has become clear that not all venues require Fire Safety Certificates. So if you are worried about not being able to see or obtain a copy for your venue as part of the Branch meeting venue Risk Assessment, this is likely to be because it is not applicable. You can, and should, ask your venue for a copy of their own relevant risk assessment and fire/emergency evacuation instructions. You can use this when reviewing or drawing up your own risk assessment.

Regional Meetings

Last but not least, we are rapidly approaching the period of Regional Meetings (RMs). This means that the agenda is already under consideration so I would be grateful for any suggestions of subjects that you would like to see included for discussion. Some ideas have already been put forward including from the Branches, not forgetting that the final agenda can be amended to suit local circumstances. I would like the final agenda to be relevant to all Branches which means that your input and ideas are important.

The second part on RMs is a request for confirmation regarding dates, venues, and who is serving as Chairman and Secretary for each Regional Group. The latest update on Regional Groupings is included as Appendix 2 to this newsletter. If you have further updates please let me know. If you have any queries or ideas about RMs, please contact me as soon as possible.

Thank you for your time and support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Irene'.

Appendix One



15th January 2025

To Whom It May Concern

RE: Trustees, Officers, Committee and Members fttb of The Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

We are the insurance and risk management advisers to the above and we can confirm that the following insurance arrangements are in place:

Employers' Liability

Insurer: QBE UK Limited via Salus Risk Solutions
Policy Number: Y128661QBE0124A/3629383
Expiry Date: 31st December 2025
Limit of Indemnity: £10,000,000 any one occurrence

Public and Products Liability

Insurer: QBE UK Limited via Salus Risk Solutions
Policy Number: Y128661QBE0124A/3629383
Expiry Date: 31st December 2025
Limit of Indemnity: £5,000,000 any one claim and in the aggregate in respect to Products liability
Excess: £250 each and every claim in respect of Third-Party Property Damage

The above is a résumé of cover in force which will be subject to the terms, conditions and exceptions of the policy. If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours faithfully,
Chris Sullivan, MA, Cert CII
Client Advisor

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Power
through
Partnership.

Appendix Two

 RCTS	GREAT WESTERN	LONDON & SOUTH	NORTHERN HOME COUNTIES	MIDLAND & NORTH WESTERN	WREMNESSH
LOCATION	59 Kenmore Crescent Filton Park BRISTOL BS7 0TP	Maybury Centre 27 Board School Road WOKING GU21 5HD	Digswell Village Church Warren Way DIGSWELL AL6 0DH	Waverley Hotel 9 Pedley Street CREWE CW2 7AA	Bonnie Moorman Room National Railway Museum, YORK
DATE	Saturday 14 June 2025	Saturday	Saturday 07 June 2024	Thursday	Wednesday 21 May 2025
TIME			11am	11am	11am
TRUSTEE	Irene Rabbitts				
CHAIRMAN	Brian Arman (secretary Paul Udey or Stuart Jolly)	John Godfrey (secretary tbc SRY Branch)	Michael Smyth (secretary David Elsdon)	Nigel Bowker (secretary Alan Sattenstall)	Derek Stuckey (secretary Robin Gibbons)
	Great Western:	Bristol; Cheltenham; Thames Valley; South Wales; West of England			
	London & South:	Chichester; Croydon & South London; Solent; Surrey; Windsor & Maidenhead			
	Northern Home Counties:	Cambridge; Hitchin; Ipswich; Milton Keynes; Northampton; Peterborough; South Essex; Watford			
	Midland & North Western:	Furness, Lakes & Lune; Lancashire & North West; Merseyside, Cheshire & North Wales; West Midlands			
	WREMNESSH:	East Midlands; Humberside; North East; Scottish; Sheffield; West Riding			