



## CROYDON & SOUTH LONDON BRANCH NEWSLETTER APRIL 2022

Dear Member

Welcome to the latest Croydon & South London Branch Newsletter.

A particularly warm welcome to those members who, following the closure of South East Branch last year, have now been transferred to the CSL Branch membership list. During the past few years, some of you will have been to one or more of our indoor meetings at our Croydon or Redhill venue; and we have enjoyed excellent presentations, both before and during these Zoom dominated times, by speakers from SE Branch. We do hope that will continue and that we can attract you to our meetings in future as we try to get back to near normal following the lifting of restrictions placed on all of us during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The main purpose of this Newsletter is to inform you that - after a two year hiatus, during which we have had a successful programme of virtual meetings via Zoom - we are now resuming physical, in person, evening meetings at the East Croydon URC (also, in time, our usual afternoon meetings at Redhill Methodist Church). Changes at East Croydon URC mean that our meetings there will in future be on the **Second Tuesday** (in place of Monday) of each month, but other things will be unchanged: our meetings will continue to be held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP, starting at 19:30.

We restart physical meetings on **Tuesday 12 April 2022**, when members are invited to the Croydon & South London Branch Annual General Meeting which has been arranged to take place in the Small Hall, East Croydon URC, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP. A copy of the Agenda for the Meeting is enclosed. Branch annual reports will be available at the Meeting. The Minutes of last year's online AGM were circulated to members with the December 2021 Branch Newsletter, and further copies will be available at this year's Meeting. All members of the Branch Committee - Chris Meredith (Chairman), Jeremy Harrison (Treasurer), Peter Wilson (Secretary), Andrew Jones and Rob Burridge (Committee members) - have indicated that they are willing to stand for re-election for a further year at this year's AGM.

After the business part of the meeting has been concluded, at about 20:00, the evening will continue with members' slides and digital images (both digital and conventional 35mm slide projectors will be available). Here is an opportunity for you to demonstrate what you have been doing with your camera; so, if you have a small selection of images on railway subjects that you would like to bring along to show please do so.

We regret that the Branch Photographic Competition, which usually follows the AGM, will not take place this year.

We are very much aware that Covid-19 is still around and a concern for many people, so we are planning to arrange things a little differently from our usual meetings at East Croydon URC.

1. If you can take a rapid flow test before you come, please do so and don't come if you test positive or are feeling unwell. If you do come, you may wish to wear a face covering although they are not now, of course, mandatory.
2. In the meeting room, we will try to maintain an element of social distancing, and the seating will be a little further apart than is usual at our meetings.
3. There will be the usual Admissions Table, but it will be unmanned. We invite you to make a donation: we suggest £3 for RCTS members, £4 for non members. Cash only and the right money please - no change given. Please put your donation in the box on the Admissions Table.
4. Although the signing in book will not be on the Admissions Table, we will still need to record your name and contact details. These will be collected from you during the course of the meeting.
5. On this occasion, there will be no Branch sales stand - so no book sales.
6. Nor will we be providing any refreshments. You may, however, if you wish, bring a flask of tea or coffee or a bottle of water or soft drink with you.
7. And no raffle.
8. We will provide some sanitiser, but do bring your own hand sanitiser if you want to.

These arrangements may all seem a bit unnecessary now that the pandemic is apparently waning and we are being encouraged by the Government to get used to living with the virus; but we do want everyone who can come to the AGM evening to feel comfortable, especially if they are attending one of our meetings for the first time and perhaps don't know other attendees there. We hope to see you there.

The current season of Branch indoor meetings will conclude on Tuesday 10 May, starting as usual at 19:30, with another face to face meeting. This will be a film show featuring *Southern Steam 1897-1967: Videos from Screen Archive South East and West Sussex Record Office*. This was originally in our programme to be shown in September 2020 as the first indoor meeting in the 2020-21 Branch meetings season, but the Covid-19 pandemic caused us to cancel the 'real' meeting in favour of one on Zoom, for which the videos were not suited. We do hope that the showing on 10 May will entice some of our members and supporters back to our Croydon venue.

To follow our usual Summer break, we are now planning a programme of meetings for the new season, starting in September, which will be face to face at the East Croydon URC, on the second Tuesday of each month with, in addition, our usual afternoon meeting at Redhill Methodist Church.

In the meantime, we wish you well.

Keep safe.

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