

RCTS

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

Web Site: www.rcts.org.uk

Branch Liaison Secretary

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NEWSLETTER No 14

DECEMBER 2003

On behalf of the Management Committee all Society and Branch Officers, as well as our Members, are wished a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous and Happy New Year.

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our final Newsletter for the year, one that has some important information in the text as well as a separate sheet relating to the Society Web Site and in particular the need for more branches, indeed every branch, to appoint a Branch Web-Correspondent. Also included is information about events next year. Following the AGM in April, The Great Railway Bazaar 2004 will be held at York in the late spring with the Members Weekend and Officers Conference in October. Also available is some computer equipment available from Society Secretary Alan Cooke.

2. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Branches should by now be encouraging all existing members to renew for 2004, use the option of collecting subscriptions at branch meetings and forwarding bulk renewals. Note that these must go to Steve Ollive – as per the renewal form. Also please note that to eliminate past difficulties the Bank Transfer system is no longer an option. Please pay by cheque or by Giro Transfer, in either case these MUST go to Steve Ollive and no other MC member.

3. 2004 AGM WEEKEND – COVENTRY 23-25 APRIL

As you should all be aware by now the 2004 AGM will be hosted by West Midlands Branch. Based at the Best Western Hyland Hotel, Coventry (close to the station), you are asked to book as early as possible for this as the hotel require information at a very early date. Look out for a booking form on the Web Site and then in the R.O. (Hopefully in the February issue). If you need more information in advance of publication of a booking form then please contact Derek Morris, West Midlands Branch for details. (Phone 01926 855069)

AGM WEEKEND PROVISIONAL PROGRAMME

The provisional programme so far, most of which is confirmed is as follows:

Friday Evening 23 April - Slide Show by Derek Smith which looks at 45 years of photography around the Rugby Area (Mostly steam but some modern traction).

Saturday 24 April - In the morning there will be a visit to the Great Central at Loughborough, Attempts are being made to arrange a visit to either/or both of the Loco Shed and Signal Box. Dependent on this is whether we have a one-way or return trip on the GC.

PM - The AGM will be held at the Hotel commencing at 16.00 hrs.

If there is time after the AGM a presentation by Malcolm Riley, Steve Ollive and Richard Morris on their travels in the Benelux Countries is being considered (This has yet to be confirmed)

Evening - Our principal guest and After Dinner Speaker is Adrian Shooter, Chairman of Chiltern Railways.

Sunday 25 April - A morning visit to the Battlefield Line at Shackerstone (This is a line hosting Heritage and Industrial Diesels and whilst yet to be confirmed this may be a Diesel Gala Day!)

4. 2004 MEMBERS WEEKEND & OFFICERS CONFERENCE 15-17 OCTOBER

Being organised by the Northern Home Counties Regional Group the event will be based at the Swallow Nelson Hotel, Norwich. The hotel is just across the road from the station at Norwich and planning for events during the weekend is currently in progress. More information will be circulated as and when details emerge from the organisers.

5. SOCIETY WEB SITE

On a separate document accompanying this Newsletter you will find information about Branch Web-Cordinators. This is an attempt by David Kelso to encourage ALL branches to appoint a suitable person to take up these duties. The objective is to get members in post and review the process through Regional Meetings next spring/summer. Branches are urged to act where necessary on this at the earliest possible time and not leave this until the last minute.

6. BRANCH FIXTURE LISTS

Whilst it should not be necessary, sadly it is, to remind branches that 30 copies of branch fixtures should be sent to John Day for distribution. These are procedures that apply to ALL branches.

On the subject of fixture lists only a few branches advertise the web-site, reasonably all fixture lists whether distributed through the branch or to the public should carry FULL details of the web-site, meetings venue, how to get there and as much information as is possible.

7. THE GREAT RAILWAY BAZAAR 2004

This is a nine-day event being held at York from 29th May until 6th June 2004. The Society has been able to secure the last available pitch for the sales stand (Thanks to David Tyreman – NorthEast Branch for pulling out the stops and getting this organised at very short notice). The stand will be manned throughout the event and this is an important opportunity to publicise the Society in front of a vast public arena at a very high profile event. Branches in the surrounding area would appreciate support from anyone who may be able to offer help during this event. More details will emerge in the New Year so watch out for information.

8. TYNE & WEAR METRO

It was intended, during this, our 75th Anniversary to run a tour over part of the Tyne & Wear Metro. Organising Branch North East now advise a provisional date of Sunday 28th March 2004. Somewhat appropriate, as it was on 29th March 1904 that the first section between New Bridge Street and Benton was opened. More details will be related as they become available – don't forget to check the web site for updates.

9. PUBLICATIONS RELATED MATTERS

Branches will recall that at the AGM last year Society Logo table covers were available for sales stands. If your branch has yet to take delivery of your entitlement (up to three) then these are now available from Geoff Baylis or Derek Morris (West Midlands Branch). Please order them through your normal publications supply channels.

Branches, and especially those members dealing with sales, should be aware of a discrepancy in the price of BR Standards Part Three – these should be charged at £19.95 (as printed in the book) and not at £18.95 (as printed on the Pubs Order Form).

10. SURPLUS SOCIETY EQUIPMENT

Society Secretary Alan Cooke has some surplus computer equipment available and any interested branch should communicate with Alan in order to secure the equipment. Arrangements for transporting the kit will be by arrangement between Alan and the branch wishing to take possession.

It is a Daewoo Micro Tower System. It has a Pentium II microprocessor and uses Windows 98 as the operating system.

Microsoft Office 2000 has been installed so that Word and Excel are available as well as all the rest of the package. A CD Rewriter has been installed [by Alan and it works!]

The printer is an Epson EPL-5500 a laser printer that gives excellent results and comes complete with a spare toner cartridge.

The scanner mentioned in Newsletter 12 is still available and is installed on this machine.

As a refresher, details are;

A PRIMAX COLORADO DIRECT 9600 Flatbed Scanner which is a simple flatbed scanner that does a reasonable job on both text and photographs.

10. THE ALTON OBSERVER

This railtour, postponed from 11th October 2003 is now advertised as running on Saturday 13th March 2004. Details will be advised, as they become available. Don't forget that you can check the web site for immediate updates.

11. OTHER NEWS

The Leighton Buzzard Railway in Bedfordshire has published its 2004 timetable and announces a season from 14th March 2004 until 31st October 2004. The line offers group travel, even a special train if you wish to book one, and allows a picturesque journey on the 2' narrow gauge system.

Branches are reminded that supplies of stock for membership packs and updated Publications lists for the packs are available from Bob Ballard.

John Day/Ipswich/ December 2003