

RCTS**Railway Correspondence and Travel Society****Web Site: www.rcts.org.uk****Branch Liaison Secretary****John Day, 6 Sandpiper Road, Ipswich IP2 9HX****Telephone - 01473 404683 Mobile 07703 484904 Email - laison@rcts.org.uk****NEWSLETTER No 16****APRIL 2004**

1. INTRODUCTION

Welcome to our spring Newsletter that is an update on events and previously circulated information and about what has been happening during the last three months or so. We see ahead of us a busy late Spring and Summer with the AGM, Railfest 2004 and the Regional Meetings all taking place between now and the end of June. As far as the AGM Weekend in Coventry (23rd-25th April 2004) is concerned bookings should have been received from Derek Morris by now and the Agenda, Balance Sheet and Officers' reports appear in the April RO. Remember that the Minutes for the Folkestone AGM (2003) appeared in the July 2003 RO (Page 334).

2. REGIONAL MEETINGS

Gordon Davies will shortly be sending out Agendas for the Regional Meetings with action and discussion points contained therein. From the Branch Liaison side of things perhaps a Branch or group of Branches would consider volunteering to host the 2005 Members' Weekend. When considering this it might be prudent to note that we have been to Bristol and Cheltenham in 2002 and 2003 and will be in the east at Norwich this year.

3. PUBLICATIONS ADMINISTRATION

Will all branch secretaries and sales stand personnel please note that Publications Returns should be sent to Tony Skinner with immediate effect and until further notice. Your attention to this matter appreciated.

Any branch still in possession of **OUT OF PRINT SOCIETY PUBLICATIONS** should ensure that these are returned to David Cole immediately please. These can be bought to the AGM at Coventry, however, if your branch is not going to be in attendance at the AGM please discuss with David your plans to get them to him.

Please contact David on 01462 451184 or email to dfcrcts@hotmail.com

4. RAILFEST 2004 - YORK

As this prestigious event looms even closer volunteers organising the Society's appearance there have been hard at work sorting out manning rota's for the event. As part of the publicity at York the Society will have an ample supply of Membership Packs. It is proposed to insert listings of all Branches, where they meet and information about their first meeting(s) of the autumn season. If you have not already forwarded your fixture lists for 2004/2005 to John Day it would be appreciated if these could be submitted as soon as possible and preferably no later than at the AGM in Coventry.

5. MEMBERS' WEEKEND - NORWICH

The Annual Members' Weekend and Officers Conference will be held during the Weekend 15th - 17th October 2004 and based at the Swallow Nelson Hotel, Norwich. The hotel is conveniently located across the road from the station and as well as ease of access for rail travellers adequate car parking is provided at the rear of the hotel. Plans are well advanced for the weekend's activities and whilst some events have yet to be confirmed the programme will start on Friday evening with a presentation by Richard Adderson. Richard is a prominent member of the Norfolk Railway Society as well as being co-author of some the Middleton Press regional publications. Richard will give an illustrated talk based on a theme local to the area.

On Saturday morning we will leave by coach for Sheringham for a visit to the North Norfolk Railway, a train journey to Weybourne (via Holt) and a visit to the facilities at Weybourne. In order to save time it is proposed to provide a packed lunch with liquid refreshment at Weybourne. We then rejoin our coach for the journey to Aylsham for the Bure Valley Railway and after a visit to the facilities there we have a charter train for the journey to Wroxham. As we will have the line to ourselves we will be in a position to arrange limited photo stops at stations en route (Possibly allowing for false arrivals/departures depending on time and operational requirements on the day). On reaching Wroxham we will rejoin our coach for the journey to Norwich in time for a break before dinner.

It is hoped to invite a senior member of the National Express Franchise "ONE - ANGLIA" to be our guest for dinner. As is customary on Sunday morning the Officer's Conference will take place before the delegates disperse for lunch and departure.

The weekend is designed to give members and their families a number of options and for those wishing to visit the historic castled City of Norwich for cultural or shopping adventures then suitable publicity will be made available at the booking stage. Those members not attending the Officers Conference might wish to look at the Mid Norfolk Railway running between Wymondham - Dereham and North Elmham, to assist with this we will provide a brochure giving relevant train times with our pre weekend publicity.

6. PENS AND CAR STICKERS

A supply of Pens and Car Stickers will be available to Branches at the AGM. Branches should Email John Redgate with their requirements in good time so stock can be prepared for distribution.

7. MEMBERSHIP PACKS

Bob Ballard has supplies of revised Publication Lists and Membership Forms as well as your general stationery requirements. It is the responsibility of each branch to place their order directly to Bob Ballard.

8. SLIDE COLLECTIONS

David Cole has over 2000 colour transparencies available for disposal that have come from deceased members' estates. The quality is mixed and includes UK steam, diesel and electric's as well as some overseas material (i.e. India/Indonesia). These can be offered for sale at 10p or 20p each - or at branch discretion with proceeds going to the branch and the Society. Any branch interested should contact David Cole immediately in order that these can be brought to the Coventry AGM for distribution. These are generally contained in the original processor's box. Transfer of these from DFC to Branches is urgently required due to space constraints at David's home.

Please contact David on 01462 451184 or email to dfcrcts@hotmail.com

9. SOCIETY LIABILITY INSURANCE

You are advised that if your Branch requires a copy of the Society Liability Insurance Certificate that this is available from John Redgate or Alan Cooke. To obtain a copy send your request to either of the above with an addressed and stamped envelope for its return.

10. BRANCH OFFICERS EMAIL LIST SERVER

As mentioned in the last Newsletter there is an opportunity for Society and Branch Officers to join this group that will allow them to receive Newsletters via the server list.

So far over 30 Society Officers have joined this E-mail list, and will have received digital copies of this Newsletter. However, we are sure there must be a total of about 200 Society Officers - Branch Committee Members, Publications Officers, RO Editors and Ed Reps, all of whom are eligible to be added to this list if they have an Internet connection. Please encourage all members of your branch committee and other eligible officers to join, the aim is to improve communications between ALL Society Officers. If you have received a printed copy by Royal Mail, you will continue to do so. The free service is EXCLUSIVELY for Society Officers.

To join send an e-mail to

RCTSOfficers-Subscribe@yahoogroups.com with a copy to

LIBRARIAN@RCTS.ORG.UK Subject of the e-mail to be SUBSCRIBE

Contents of the e-mail to include your name and Society Office held.

You will receive a confirmatory message when you have been added to the list.

Any Officer may send E-mails to the list, which will be received by all the others.

11. MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In order to bring some standardisation to communications it has been decided to set up MC Members' and some other officers eMail addresses into an @hmrs listing.

Officer's e-mail Addresses

John Redgate	chairman@rcts.org.uk	Alan Cooke	secretary@rcts.org.uk
Tony Skinner	treasurer@rcts.org.uk	Reg Wood	publications@rcts.org.uk
David Bird	roeditor@rcts.org.uk	Richard Morris	membership@rcts.org.uk
Terry Silcock	librarian@rcts.org.uk	John Lewis	publicity@rcts.org.uk
John Day	liaison@rcts.org.uk	David Kelso	webmaster@rcts.org.uk
Gordon Davies	branches@rcts.org.uk		

Other addresses:

Andrew Lait	60001@rcts.org.uk	Alan Cooke	ropostbox@rcts.org.uk
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12. NETWORK RAIL

A Public Open Event has been arranged at Whitemoor Yard on Sunday 23rd May 2004 from 13.00 to 17.00 hrs. During the event 66701 is expected to be named "WHITEMOOR" and a visit is also expected by J15 65462. Apart from some sales stands no other exhibit information is available.

13. ALTON OBSERVER

Due to the ongoing saga with the joint proposals for this tour, carried over from last year, the Society has effectively withdrawn its interest in being involved. Whilst the tour is expected to run, all details will be handled by Pathfinder Tours.

AND FINALLY

Under extreme pressure I will be taking my annual visit to the USA from 26th May until 16th July so will not be available to deal with any phone/email or written communication from immediately prior to, during, and immediately after the event. (The pressure of families!! - and of course the appeal of some "proper trains")

John Day
Ipswich

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11th April 2004