

RCTS ***The Railway Correspondence and Travel Society***

Website www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

John Day, 6 Sandpiper Road, Ipswich IP2 9HX

Telephone: 01473 404683 Mobile: 07703 484904 Email: liaison@rcts.org.uk

NEWSLETTER 20

AUGUST 2005

20.01 INTRODUCTION

Welcome to Newsletter 20, it has been a while since the last edition but rest assured Society matters have been in the forefront of all our minds. We are approaching an important time in the history of the Society as our new look is about to be launched. We also are at the time of year when evening meetings start in earnest for the autumn and winter and the announcement of details for the Members' Weekend to be held in Wrexham at the end of October. This will also be the last Newsletter in this style as use of our new stationery and logo will form, an integral part of all future communications.

20.02 MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

There has recently been an addition to the MC, in August, with the co-option of David Pick to our ranks. David is the Northampton Branch secretary who has recently been involved with the Publicity and Marketing sub committee dealing with development and documentation of new Exhibition procedures. David's thoroughness and wealth of administrative experience will be a valuable asset to the Society and he represents the tenth branch to be represented on the Management Committee.

20.03 EDITORIAL REPRESENTATIVES

There is an important change that all branches should be aware of regarding Branch Fixtures and Members' Advertisements. Geoff Brockett has taken over from John Richards and will therefore be responsible for dealing with fixtures and ads that appear in the RO. John has to be thanked for his work in ensuring branch meetings and fixtures have appeared in the RO in recent years. Geoff is no stranger to many of us as he was involved with the now defunct London Branch and we welcome Geoff back in his new role. Geoff's details are below and it is to him all your branch fixture lists and advertisements should be sent in future.

**G. Brockett
155 Onslow Gardens
South Woodford
London
E18 1NA**

Telephone 02089 894386.

20.04 60001 LOG – ANDREW LAIT

As you should be aware Andrew has relocated to Canada and becomes our most distant Society Officer by many a mile. We send our good wishes for the future to Andrew and his family. Andrew will continue to administer the log and history of the "Society's adopted locomotive 60001" so any movements, sightings, photographs, reports should be sent to Andrew at "andrew.lait@shaw.ca"

20.05 BRANCH MEETINGS, PROGRAMMES AND GENERAL MATTERS

Branch secretaries will receive, with this Newsletter (unless you have already received them separately), branch fixture lists to hand at the time of despatch.

Despite reminders in past Newsletters some branches still are unable to produce a fixture list that is available for distribution around the Society and Branches. That is why 30 copies are required by John Day.

It is also essential that copies are sent to Ronnie McAdam (for the National Railway Press), **Geoff Brockett (for the Railway Observer)**, and David Kelso (for the Web Site). Also we are now going to include **Terry Silcock (Society Librarian)** so would you please note this for all future notification of branch fixtures.

The above procedures will remain in place until further notice.

There is also a requirement that branches **MUST** include and advertise their Branch Annual General Meeting to members as it forms an important and integral aspect of the Society's and Branch activities.

Location of your meeting place: There is a very useful mapping opportunity to give members visitors and guests an exact location of where you meet. Via the society web site there is a link on the branch fixtures page that allows you to insert the meeting place postcode. This will immediately produce a map pinpointing your venue. Alternatively the same process can be applied by entering the "Google" search engine, again inserting the postcode of your meeting location. Try this, it really does work and is a valuable asset.

20.06 PUBLICITY AND MARKETING

The fruits from the hard and extensive work of the P & M sub committee will be borne at Crewe Works "Great Gathering" weekend on Saturday 10th and Sunday 11th September when the Society will launch it's new image. Our new logo, stationery, presentation packs, leaflets and publicity material will all form part of the visual and virtual presentation and can be seen by visiting the Merseyside, Chester and North Wales Branch sales stand at the event.

Following the launch a gradual changeover will take place with the distribution of supplies to officers' and each branch secretary for use within their branch. The changeover date, Guidelines and a CD-ROM (for those who will use a PC) will all be issued at the same time and once the change over takes effect, use of any old style stationery will be prohibited. This should either be destroyed or used as scrap paper. The guidelines will include details of how use of the logo has to be administered and will cover aspects such as copying and bulk production of material. The names of contact persons will also be advised to answer any questions and queries you may have about usage. For further updates and announcements after this

Newsletter please check the Society's Web Site and look out for information published on the Officers' Yahoo Page.

20.07 MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FOR 2006

We now have a large number of members who have paid for three years. We also have a new approach to the Society's promotion. Consequently, the Management Committee has considered what to do about the renewal process. We will no longer send out a standard renewal notice with the November RO. We will be separating the renewal process from the RO. Consequently, each member of the Society will receive a letter commensurate with their membership status. This will not necessarily be in one go and the main renewal process may start in October rather than in November as has been in previous years.

20.08 BRANCH AGM RETURNS

There are still some Branches who have yet to submit back years of their Branch AGM Minutes. These are urgently required in order to collate and archive them for the Society's Library. Those branches listed below are urged to action this at their earliest possible opportunity and send them to **Gordon Davies, 13 Blackthorne Close, Broughton, Chester CH4 0PY.**

Branch Secretaries are also advised that ALL AGM minutes should be sent in future to Gordon and no other Society Officer. Your attention to this appreciated.

MISSING REPORTS up to 2004

FURNESS, LAKES & LUNE	2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004
LANCS & NORTH WEST	2004
NORTH EAST	2000, 2002,
NORTHAMPTON	2000; 2002
SOUTH EAST	2004
SOUTH ESSEX	2000, 2001, 2002
WEST OF ENGLAND	2003
WEST RIDING	2001, 2002

20.09 OUTDOOR VISITS AND SPEAKERS

Visits can be arranged to view the reserve collection of the **London Transport Museum** at The Depot, Acton with much more to see than at Covent Garden. Allow three to four hours for a guided tour and costs are (*at the time of publication*) £8.50 and £7.25 for concessions. There are restrictions on photography in some areas and strictly no tripods are allowed. The Depot is situated close to Acton Town station. For further information about party sizes and times available for visits in the first instance to Dawn Ross, Telephone 02075 657265 or by post to London Transport Museum's, 39 Wellington Street, London WC2E 7BB. Alternatively Dawn can be emailed at dawn.ross@ltmuseum.co.uk

Peter and Heather Foster travel the country giving slide presentations on the **Swanage Railway** and more general presentations covering railways throughout **Dorset and Southern England**. If you are interested in booking a presentation please contact Peter on 01305 262121.

20.10 SOCIETY LIBRARY

Society Historic Working Timetable Collection

We are pleased to report the addition of two new Society Officers: Francis Terry (Northampton Branch) and Kurt Sicklemore (East Midlands Branch) who will be taking over this collection from Bill Woolhouse who has asked to relinquish his role. We are indeed grateful to Bill for his stewardship of the collection for over fifteen years.

In order to make the collection more manageable the collection will now be divided into two parts: The steam era up to around 1968 and the modern era – post 1968. It is hoped that the collection will be moved into it's respective homes during October and any offer of help to pack and prepare the collection for moving would be gratefully received by Terry Silcock.

Surplus WTT's

There are still quite a large number of duplicate WTT's for the periods 1980 – 1995, if any branch would like these for re-sale and preferably would be able to collect them from Lincolnshire then please contact Terry Silcock at 17 Raisins Hill, Pinner HA5 2BU: Email; librarian@rcts.org.uk or use fax/voice mail 08701 318711 (national call rate).

Email Groups

Officers are reminded of the two free Email groups available exclusively for RCTS members.

(a).....rctsofficers@yahoogroups.com

For society officers only, you will receive Newsletters electronically, these can then be reproduced for distribution amongst other branch committee members. Other items for communication amongst officers may also be sent using this format. To join send an Email to rctsofficers-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with a copy to librarian@rcts.org.uk include in the subject line your name and the society office that you hold.

(b).....rctslibrary@yahoogroups.com

For all members, this provides information on additions to the library loans list and sales stock, queries and other information that might be of interest. It also provides access to digital catalogues of the libraries book, magazine, accident report and railtour collections, working timetables and some bibliographical databases

To join send an Email to rctslibrary-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with a copy to librarian@rcts.org.uk including in the subject line your membership number and postcode.

In both cases you will receive an Email asking you to confirm your wish to join these groups, you MUST follow the instructions therein to complete the registration procedure.

Please note this procedure will now be in place until any changes are advised.

20.11 MEMBERS' WEEKEND AND OFFICERS' CONFERENCE

The 2005 event will locate at the **Wynnstay Arms Hotel, Yorke Street, Wrexham, Flintshire, North Wales**, and hosted by Merseyside, Chester and North Wales Branch. Dates for your diary are Friday 28th October to Sunday 30th October and booking forms will accompany the September RO as well as being available prior to that in printable format on the web site.

Bar snacks and dining facilities will be available for guests prior to our Friday evening entertainment when our guest will be Larry Davies from Llandudno who will present "Fond Memories" reflecting on the changing scene in North Wales during the last 45 years.

Our entertainment for Saturday starts at 09.00 as we drive by coach through the North Wales countryside to the coast at Caernarfon for the 11.00 departure on the Welsh Highland Railway to Rhyd Ddu. We then transfer by road to Porthmadoc for a journey on the Ffestiniog Railway to eventually rejoin our coach at Blaenau Ffestiniog for an estimated return arrival at Wrexham about 17.30. A packed lunch will be available as times are constrained during the day in order to make connections and the best available itinerary for our patrons.

For those not wishing to partake of the railway visits an alternative cultural visit is offered with a guided tour of Chester's fine sites. The coach leaving our hotel at 10.00.

Dinner will be at the Yorke Restaurant at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel and our guest speaker will be announced prior to the evening.

As is customary the Officers' Conference will take place on the Sunday morning, however for those not involved visits by car will be made to the Welshpool & Llanfair Light Railway at Welshpool. Alternatively for those with Thomas the Tank Engine fantasies there is a "Thomas Weekend" at the Llangollen Railway.

Check the booking form for a more detailed expression of the weekend.

20.12 REGIONAL MEETINGS

The 2006 Regional Meetings took place during spring and early summer and branches will receive details from Gordon Davies regarding the action points and some of the early responses to these by the Management Committee. The meetings themselves were very successful and provided the platform to discuss matters at greater length than would normally be available at Officers' Conference. Branch Secretaries will receive full minutes from all of the Regional Meetings for copying and distribution amongst their branch officers.

20.13 GUIDE TO RAILWAY ENTHUSIASTS

The recent activities that have threatened the country's security have once again highlighted issues regarding photography and general observation of our nation's rail network. The Web Site carries a printable version of some of the official guidelines which enthusiasts might find useful. Feel free to print a copy and carry around with you. This might help you if security or police officers confront you but it is by no means an authorisation to take photographs or be present at any railway location and in all cases the law must be observed.

John Day/Ipswich 25.08.05