

NEWSLETTER 28



DECEMBER 2007

Website: www.rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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28.01 ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

Those of you who receive the Newsletters as an attachment to an e-mail may receive two copies of the message. The reason for this is that many Society Officers' and Branch committee members are registered to receive messages via the RCTS Branch Officers' List Server controlled by the Society Librarian, Terry Silcock. Branch Officials and Society Officers will get the initial e-mail with the Newsletter directly from me and the second from the Officer's List later.

28.02 SOCIETY TREASURER

At the Officers' Conference on 21st October, Tony Skinner announced that, due to a change in his personal circumstances, he may need to stand down from this post in 2008. As you will realise, this is a key role in the running of the Society and we must be in a position to fill this vacancy if and when Tony stands down. We are looking ideally for someone with a financial background and the position of Treasurer would suit a practising or a newly retired accountant. If anyone would like to find out more about this role, would they please contact the Society Chairman John Redgate at: chairman@rcts.org.uk or phone on 01628 476265.

Assistant Treasurer. The Society Treasurer Tony Skinner has identified the need to recruit an assistant to help with his duties. Ideally the candidate will have accountancy experience and be computer literate. If you are interested in finding out more about this role and how you can become involved in the running of the Society, please contact Tony in the first instance at: treasurer@rcts.org.uk or phone on 0191 297 1624.

To ensure that the Society can continue to operate its current range of activities, members are invited to respond to these requests for help as a matter of urgency.

28.03 BRANCH OFFICER' HANDBOOK

Amendments and updates have been made to certain pages of the Branch Officers' Handbook and these pages are included as 'Issue 2 - Dec 2007'.

Enclosed are copies of those pages for Branch Secretary's that receive paper copies of the Newsletter. Electronic copies will be sent out to those secretary's via e-mail.

It is imperative that the original pages, now amended and updated are **REMOVED** and **DESTROYED** so that the information in the Handbook is kept up to date.

28.04 CAR WINDOW STICKERS

The Development Sub-committee has obtained a quantity of car window stickers, which can be used to promote the Society. An envelope is enclosed for branch secretaries only with a small quantity for distribution to branch members. Secretary's who receive electronic Newsletters will receive their supply in the post. If these are popular then more will be ordered in the future. Please let me know if you require any more.

28.05 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION FORMS

By now all branch secretaries should have received a quantity of the revised Membership Application Forms for 2008 from Richard Morris. Branches are reminded to remove the old forms from the Membership Information Packs and replace them with the new forms, which indicate the revised fees for joining the Society. Also revised is the copy of the Publication Lists, which should be added to the membership packs. Additional membership application forms and copies of the new publication list can be obtained from Bob Ballard, contact details in page 9.01 of the Branch Officer's Handbook.

28.06 SURVEY OF OTHER RAILWAY SOCIETIES

In March this year the following item appeared in the Newsletter No 25 requesting information on Railway Societies in your area. It re-appeared again in Newsletter 26 in August.

As you have seen in the RO a considerable amount of work is going on to start new branches at various locations. The development sub-committee is collating information on potential new locations and details of which other societies may be functioning in towns where we feel the Society could set up a new branch. All branches are requested to enquire with their members and send details of other societies in your town or area using the attached form (**Appendix A**), which has been devised for you to collate the information required. Could you please send the information to Development Sub-Committee Secretary, Ken Wilson at 18, Pine Avenue, Poole, BH12 4AG or by e-mail to kenwilson@beeb.net by 23rd June 2007

To date there are **13** branches who have not responded to this request. The branches that have not replied are listed below.

Cheltenham	Sheffield	Windsor & Maidenhead
East Midlands	South Essex	
Hitchin	South Wales	
Ipswich	Surrey	
Lancs & North West	Sussex	
Peterborough	Watford	

The next development committee meeting is scheduled for the end of January and the information requested needs to be with Ken Wilson no later than the **26th January 2008**. If for some reason you cannot supply Ken with the information could you please let him know. **APPENDIX A** is again reproduced at the end of the newsletter for your completion but only for those branches listed above.

28.07 CAMBRIDGE BRANCH

It is reported that the branch has a new secretary. Jim Crane has agreed to take on this vital role within the branch. Jim's address and contact details are:-

Jim Crane.
28 Bramley Way
Hardwick
Cambridge CB23 7XE
Tel: 01954 210167 e-mail: jamesj.crane@gmail.com

28.08 LANCASHIRE & NORTH WEST BRANCH

Ian Derrick, the Branch Secretary has a new telephone number. The new number is 08453 970696

28.09 DEVELOPMENT SUB COMMITTEE

Richard Neale has stepped down as chairman of this sub-committee. Steve Hodge has taken on this role. Steve's address and contact details are:-

Steve Hodge
20 The Lorne,
Great Bookham,
Leatherhead KT23 4JZ. Tel: 01372 45615 e-mail: stevefhodge@yahoo.co.uk

28.10 BRANCH VACANCIES

At the 2007 round of Regional Meetings the groups were asked to find out which branches had vacancies for the key roles on their committees. Surprisingly there are quite a few branches that operate without either a chairman, secretary or treasurer as well as other posts. Could **ALL** branches please let me know by the **24th January 2008** what vacancies there are in your branch.

28.11 LOCOMOTIVE HEADBOARDS

The Society has purchased two new locomotive headboards, which incorporate the Society's initials. One is kept with myself and the other is kept with John Day, Society Secretary in Ipswich. These headboards will be used at the AGM and Members' Weekends as additional publicity for the Society. Branches are very welcome to use these headboards at any special events when visiting preserved railways. Please give John or myself sufficient notice if you require one for your branch use. Photographs of one of the headboards in use at a recent event at the East Lancashire Railway will appear in a future edition of the RO.

28.12 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2008	AGM	25 th – 27 th April	Northampton	Northampton	Park Inn
	MW	24 th to 26 th October	Humberside	Scarborough	Ambassador Hotel
2009	AGM	24 th to 26 th April	East Midlands	Derby	Midland Hotel
	MW	?			
2010	AGM	?			
	MW	?			

Work is now going ahead with planning the AGM & Members Weekends up to early 2009. Details will be available in the RO and on the website nearer the event. As you can see from the table above, no branches or regional group have as yet volunteered to host any events after the spring of 2009. If any branch or regional group is able to host an event please contact John Day for the AGM weekend and Gordon Davies for the Members Weekend.

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

And finally from myself and all my colleagues on the MC I would like to wish you all a Very Joyous Christmas and a Very Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Our thanks to you all for your hard work and effort throughout the year.

W. Gordon Davies
Branch Liaison Secretary

8th December 2007

APPENDIX A RCTS - Development sub-committee

Survey of Railway Societies and their meetings

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