

DECEMBER 2010

rcts.org.uk

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Telephone: 01244 520710 ----- e-mail: liaison@rcts.org.uk

Will all Branch Chairmen please ensure that their Branch Treasurer is informed of the important changes contained in paragraph 38.02 on page 2 of this Newsletter.

38.01 THE LIBRARY

YOUR SOCIETY NEEDS YOU

**DO YOU HAVE AN INTEREST IN BOOKS, MAGAZINES & DOCUMENTS
OR
HAVE YOU WORKED IN A LIBRARY ENVIRONMENT?**

**THE PRESENT LIBRARIAN, TERRY SILCOCK,
IS RETIRING AT THE END OF 2011 AFTER 43 YEARS SERVICE**

**THE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS SEEKING SOMEONE TO CARRY
FORWARD THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY
AND A TEAM OF LIBRARY ASSISTANTS**

**It is planned to take this opportunity to move the library to a more accessible location.
If you live within easy travelling distance of a main line railway station
and a motorway or trunk 'A' road then we would like to hear from you.**

**The Society plans to invest in a set of portable buildings similar to those used by
the book store and these will be fitted out to a standard which befits the Society's
reference library.**

**PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY SUB-COMMITTEE,
DAVID PICK: 01604 810613 or e-mail: northampton@rcts.org.uk**

PLEASE GIVE SOMETHING BACK TO YOUR SOCIETY

If you or anyone within your branch could 'fit the bill' please get him or her to contact David Pick. The above advertisement will also appear in the January RO.

If you require copies of the above advert to distribute or put on display at indoor meetings please contact the Society's Publicity Officer David Kelso at 'Al Mafrak', George Hill Road, Broadstairs CT10 3JT. Tel/Fax 01843 868124 or e-mail: publicity@rcts.org.uk

38.02 VALUE ADDED TAX

As no doubt everyone is aware, the standard rate of VAT will be increased to **20%** as from 4th January 2011. From this date, VAT will be calculated as **1/6th** of the total selling price instead of 7/47th as at present.

Will branch officers please ensure that all branch sales subject to VAT are at the new rate from 4th January onwards. This includes, for example, the sale of slides, postcards, videos, CDs and profits on branch dinners and from outside activities etc. When completing VAT returns and claims for reimbursement next year please identify clearly the VAT rate for each item and group the receipts and payments accordingly. This will help the processing of the returns.

38.03 BRANCH FINANCIAL RETURNS

Branch six-monthly returns for the period 1st May to 31st October 2010 should have been sent to Bob Ellison, the Assistant Treasurer, by the end of November. Many thanks to those treasurers that have already submitted their returns, but if there are any still to be submitted, please let Bob have them as soon as possible by First Class post so as not to delay the preparation of the Society's annual accounts. These should be sent to Bob Ellison, 5 Barrens Brae, Woking, GU22 7JP. Contact details for Bob are: - email: **branchfinance@rcts.org.uk** and his telephone number is 01483 715447.

38.04 RO MANAGING EDITOR

The Management Committee is delighted to announce that a successor to Callum MacLeod has been appointed. Mike Robinson who lives in Grantham will be taking the reins from Callum after the AGM in April.

Mike been fascinated by railways for as long as he can remember, spending much of his 50's schooldays loco-spotting in and around the North Eastern's stronghold of Darlington.

He joined BR in 1960, and his first job was at Darlington Works so at that stage he did not need the convenience of RCTS visits to cop the many 'foreign' V2's, L1's and 9F's that formed a large part of the works business! However calculating the piecework earnings of the machine shop workforce did not seem like 'proper' railway work so Mike quickly transferred to the traffic department to work at stations, booking offices, and marshalling yards in South Durham and North Yorks. He eventually joined the RCTS after moving to Middlesbrough Control, where he met members of the RCTS North Eastern branch, including the current NE Branch Chairman, David Tyreman.

Mike continued to be employed by BR until privatisation in 1995, and then he worked in a wide range of roles in almost all functional areas of the rail business. Having become involved in the BR's early use of computers – in the days when a 64k processor required the space of a decent two road engine shed - he was, amongst other things, responsible for the design of the still operational computer seat reservation system, the operation and development of the TOPS network, and management of the national train planning systems and publication of the BRTT.

On leaving BR Mike entered the consultancy world as a specialist in rail systems and rail operations and along with a wide range of rail franchising work spent considerable periods on projects in the USA, Australia, Scandinavia and Germany, all of which generated significant opportunities for his rail photographic interests.

Though still running a small rail consultancy business – Rail Systems Solutions – Mike retired from full time work at the end of 2009. In taking on the RO Editor's role Mike is looking forward to once again getting actively involved with the rail enthusiast community.

Contact details for Mike will appear in a future edition of the RO.

38.05 THE RAILWAY OBSERVER COVER

From January 2011 the banner colour on the cover of the RO changes from blue to green. This has absolutely nothing to do with Mr. MacLeod trying to save the planet or reduce carbon emissions but following the policy set out in 2009.

38.06 THE RAILWAY OBSERVER (Branch Profiles)

Issued with Newsletter **36** was a chart containing the dates for the submission of text and photographs for the 'Branch Profiles' feature which is currently running in the RO. This chart has been revised and updated. **APPENDIX A - Issue 3** which accompanies this Newsletter give the information for submission of photographs to David Kelso, RO Picture Editor and the dates for submission of text to Callum MacLeod, RO Managing Editor. Please ensure you get the text and photographs to the recipients by the days shown in the chart.

Guidelines on the submission of photographs to David Kelso were published in Newsletter 34 and the October RO on page 538.

38.07 CHANGES TO BRANCH MEETINGS LISTINGS IN THE RO

At the Editorial Conference on Saturday the 30th of October it was agreed that two small changes will take effect from the January RO.

(a) At the moment meetings are listed for the period from the 4th of the cover month to 15th of the following month. As the RO rarely arrives as early as the 4th these days, these dates will be set back by two days, i.e. 6th of the cover month to 17th of the following month.

(b) Addresses of Branch meeting locations will include postcodes to aid Sat-Nav users. Where Geoff Brockett has them he will also include postcodes for things like addresses of away quizzes and sales stands. To assist Geoff, please supply him with all relevant (correct!!) postcodes when sending in details of meetings, sales stand locations, etc etc. The incorrect postcode could mean someone with Sat-Nav ending up miles from where they should be or even half way up a mountain.

38.08 HIGH-VIZ VESTS

The Society was asked to participate in the open day at Wolverton earlier this year but as you all know the event was cancelled. We had been asked to provide stewards for the event so the development sub-committee obtained orange High-Viz vests which have a small version of the Society logo on the front and a large logo on the back. These vests are now surplus to requirements so any branch who takes part in outdoor fixtures requires ONE only; it can be obtained from Bob Ballard. This would be suitable for a team or event leader and then certainly makes 'The Person in Charge' stand out in a crowd. One vest per branch is available and it is strictly on the basis of first come, first served.

There are limited supplies and the following are available:-

4 Medium, 15 Large, 2 Extra Large

Bob's contact details are available in the Branch Officers' Handbook. Bob will also supply you with the details of the manufacturer if any branch wishes to purchase their own supplies but these will be funded from the branch's own account and not from central funds.

38.09 EXPANSION OF THE SOCIETY PHOTOGRAPHIC ARCHIVE

Does your Branch hold photographic archive material as a result of members' bequests or donations? If so, in the first instance please contact David Pick with details of what you hold e.g. slides, colour negatives, black and white negatives, glass plates and prints, with an estimate of the numbers of each type.

Subsequently David and his team would welcome the opportunity to view this material in order to assess its suitability to be digitally copied and catalogued for inclusion in the Society National Archive, which would preserve this important material for the future.

Contact David Pick – Tel. 01604 810613 or email: northampton@rcts.org.uk

38.10 BRANCH VACANCIES

There are a few branches that have vacancies on their committee's. Whilst these will be discussed at the branch AGM it is essential that any branch who has vacancies advertise them in the RO and on the Society website. You never know there maybe someone in your branch that could be looking for a little job to keep him or her occupied especially if they have retired or are about to retire. Use the power of the RO and the website to fill in those committee vacancies.

38.11 BRANCH SPEAKER

Dr Paul Salveson MBE has recently left the railway industry; his last job was External Relations Manager at Grand Central. To keep himself occupied he is going to be doing a mix of writing, lecturing and consultancy. Paul has presented talks to the RCTS in the past and is interested in doing some more.

Possible titles could be:

The Challenge of Open Access

Community Rail - putting new life into local railways

Railway Workers' Literature

Micro-franchising and Local Management of Local Railways

Last days of Steam in the North

Paul would have to charge a modest fee to cover travel and other expenses, but not a huge amount. If any branch is interested please contact:-

Dr Paul Salveson MBE
Little Northern Books - The Railway Doctor
Bank Top
90a Radcliffe Road
Golcar
Huddersfield. HD7 4EZ

Tel: 07795 00869. e-mail: paul@paulsalveson.com

38.12 ARMSTRONG WHITWORTH – PUBLICITY MATERIAL

With the launch of the Society's latest publication, 'Armstrong Whitworth – A Pioneer of World Diesel Traction', the publications sub-committee have produced an A5 leaflet which can be used as publicity material and accompany the 2010 Sales List which is used in the Membership Recruitment pack. To get your supplies please contact Bob Ballard whose contact details are available in the Branch Officers' Handbook.

38.13 EXHIBITION RETURNS.

Bob Ballard is still awaiting Exhibition Returns from some branches. Even if you have not held any Exhibitions or Sales Stands a NIL return is required. Please get the relevant information to Bob as soon as possible.

38.14 NORTHAMPTON BRANCH

The Northampton branch is seeking a speaker on (a) Steam in India and (b) Steam operation in South Africa for presentation at Northampton. If anyone knows a speaker who could give a talk on these subjects please contact David Pick, 6 Harrowick Lane, Earls Barton, Northampton NN6 0HD. Tel. 01604 810613

e-mail: northampton@rcts.org.uk

38.15 POSTAL SCAM

I have received numerous e-mails from members and it was reported in my local paper of an ongoing postal scam. The Royal Mail and local Trading Standards Offices are making people aware of the following scam:

A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on **0906 6611911** (a Premium rate number). **DO NOT** call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize. If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.

For more information, visit the Crime Stoppers website:

www.crimestoppers-uk.org/crime-prevention/helping-prevent-crime/scams/postal-delivery-scam

38.16 FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS WEEKENDS

		DATE	BRANCH	VENUE	HOTEL
2011	AGM	15 th to 17 th April	North East	Newcastle upon Tyne	Caledonian Hotel
	MW	tba	One Day Officers' Conference Organised by the MC	tba	tba
2012	AGM	tba	One Day Event Organised by the MC	Derby or other Midlands Town	tba
	MW	tba	????		
2013	AGM	tba	One Day Event Organised by the MC		
	MW	tba	????		

Further details will be published in the RO, Newsletters and on the website nearer the event. The MC is looking for branches or regional groups to volunteer to host future Members Weekend's. If any branch or group is able to host a Members Weekend please contact myself or any member of the Management Committee.

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 Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year.

Our thanks to you all within the Society for your hard work, dedication and efforts throughout the year in keeping all aspects of the Society and the branches vibrant and maintaining the high profile of the Society.

W. Gordon Davies
Branch Liaison Secretary

5th December 2010

APPENDIX A

BRANCH PROFILES PROGRAMME

Branch	Issue	Photographs to David Kelso by:	Text to Managing Editor by:
<i>East Midlands</i>	February 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (28-12-10)
<i>Furness, Lakes & Lune</i>	March 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (01-02-11)
<i>Hitchin</i>	April 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (01-03-11)
<i>Humberside</i>	May 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (29-03-11)
CHANGE OF MANAGING EDITOR (following dates will be confirmed at a later date)			
<i>Ipswich & District</i>	June 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (26-04-11)
<i>Lancashire & North West</i>	July 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (31-05-11)
<i>Merseyside, Chester & North Wales</i>	August 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (28-06-11)
<i>Milton Keynes</i>	September 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (26-07-11)
<i>Northampton</i>	October 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (30-08-11)
<i>North East</i>	November 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (27-09-11)
<i>Peterborough</i>	December 2011	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (01-11-11)
<i>Scottish</i>	January 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (22-11-11)
<i>Sheffield</i>	February 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day (27-12-11)
<i>Solent</i>	March 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>South East</i>	April 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>South Essex</i>	May 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>South Wales / De Cymru</i>	June 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>Surrey</i>	July 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>Sussex</i>	August 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>Thames Valley</i>	September 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>Watford</i>	October 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>West of England</i>	November 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>West Midlands</i>	December 2012	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>West Riding</i>	January 2013	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day
<i>Windsor & Maidenhead</i>	February 2013	2 weeks before Press Day	Press Day

The Press Days (which are published in the *RO*) for each year are determined at the Editorial Conference, normally held towards the end of October in the previous year. At present, the Press Day is always on a Tuesday, eleven days ahead of the Editorial Date which is the Friday closest to the 8th of each month. David Kelso, however, requires any photographs two weeks earlier. The above dates are the latest by which the material should arrive – earlier submissions would be appreciated (but not two years in advance as has happened with two ‘later’ branches already!). Incidentally, the Press Day and Editorial Day will always be one week earlier than ‘normal’ for the January edition in each year.

Note that these arrangements are confirmed up to the May 2011 issue but the submission dates may be revised when Mike Robinson takes over as Managing Editor.