

RCTS

Railway Correspondence and Travel Society

Web Site: www.rcts.org.uk

Branch Liaison Secretary

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NEWSLETTER No 6

January 2002

May I take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy and prosperous year during 2002.

Next, I must apologise for the delay in getting this newsletter to you, I had hoped that this would have been with you before the festive season. Unfortunately family illness and an enforced visit by my family from America saw Society matters put to one side for a while.

At this time I have to prioritise my time and family has to come first, so for a while I will only be dealing with the most urgent of Society matters. If you contact me and I do not respond immediately there is a good reason for it. If you call please leave a detailed message on my answerphone, I can then deal with any issues before responding.

ENCLOSURES

Branch fixture programmes received or updated since the last Newsletter.
Officers Conference Minutes, including, where appropriate, those for members of your Branch who attended the OC at Altrincham. If I have missed anyone please let me know, I can then either mail or Email a copy in due course.

OFFICERS CONFERENCE 2002

The Annual Members' Weekend and Officers Conference will be hosted by Bristol Branch during the weekend Friday 25th October to Sunday 27th October. We will be based at the Holiday Inn, Bristol, which is just a short distance from Bristol Temple Meads station. Further details will be announced as arrangements for the weekend progress.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2002

This year's AGM weekend will be hosted by East Midlands Branch and will be based in Mansfield (See Notice of AGM in January RO) from Friday 19th April to Monday 22nd April. The AGM will take place at 16.00 on Saturday 20th April 2002 and any items for the agenda and nominations for the Management Committee should be sent to the Secretary, Alan Cooke, to arrive no later than 20th January 2002. Nominations to serve on the MC must be proposed, seconded and carry the consent of the nominee.

BRANCH RECORDS HELD ON PC

A situation has recently arisen whereby a Branch's records have been "lost" after being held on a recently deceased member's personal computer system. All efforts to retrieve the information, which includes speaker details, have failed. This would be an appropriate time to review the way Branches, and of course any administrator, who uses their personal computer to store Society and Branch information. The obvious solution is to back-up everything to disc before shutting your PC down, then, dependent on how important and sensitive the information is it may also be prudent from time to time to have a second back up disc with another member of your Branch committee.

Any comments from branches on this subject would be appreciated.

BRANCHES

We extend a warm welcome to our newest branch at Hitchin who had a very successful first meeting in November. We wish David Cole and his team every success as they progress into the future.

Sadly we will see London Branch being wound up in the next few months, support has been very limited and the low attendance record by members has left the London Branch Committee no option but to call it a day. This means that existing London Branch members will be reallocated to surrounding Branches. This should also give us the impetus to get the proposed branch at Croydon moved a stage further. Fortunately there are some volunteers willing to help with this and we will advise through this medium any progress that is made.

I have been fortunate enough to visit several branches in various capacities during the last few months and would like to thank each for the warm welcome and hospitality received. I have certainly learnt much about how you function and can compare how each branch operates taking a number of focal points into consideration. I have other branches to visit before the AGM next year so have a busy schedule ahead of me. I may even be able to fit an Ipswich Branch meeting in sometime during the season!

FREE TO A GOOD HOME

David Elsdon at Hertfordshire branch has a spare "old" 35mm projector and a screen that the branch is prepared to dispose of. Any branch wishing to avail themselves of this offer should contact David Elsdon on 01438 714277 or EMail - dandjelsdon@witrose.com; to agree arrangements to collect these.

SOCIETY BADGES/PINS/BOOKMARKS

Most branches received the badges at the Officers Conference. Those not in attendance will receive a small number of these with this Newsletter, to be sold through the Branch at £2.00 each. Administration of the receipts will be advised at a later date.

New bookmarks featuring 60001 should be available from Geoff Baylis to who orders should be forwarded.

LIBRARY

Branch Loans Boxes

Will any branches that wish to exchange their Library loans box at the April AGM, or collect a box for the first time at that event, please contact Terry Silcock to discuss the matter as early as possible? Please give Terry as much notice as possible as it is just not practical to arrange the delivery of several selections of boxes to the event at only a weeks notice.

Contacts: e-mail: Librarian@rcts.org.uk

Phone: 020-8866-3432

Fax: 0870-131-8711

Address: 17 Raisins Hill, Pinner, Middlesex, HA5 2BU

Library Surplus Sales Stock

At present the Library is expecting a further large delivery of sales stock, so if any branches need items for exhibitions, please contact Terry as above.

Terms are 25% of sale price to the selling branch.

Library - E-mail List-server

Officers are reminded that there is a Library e-mail list-server, on which additions to the Library's loans and sales lists are published by e-mail. Member's queries and answers are also published there. This facility may also be useful as a means of disseminating information to the over 80 members who currently belong. If you have an e-mail connections why not join this FREE service. Send an e-mail to rctslibrary-subscribe@yahoogroups.com with a copy to Librarian@rcts.org.uk the subject should be Subscribe; the contents of the message should include your name, membership number and postcode. You will then receive an explanatory e-mail about the services, including how to download copies of the library catalogues. If you do NOT join but wish to send out any messages, send the information to Terry Silcock, preferably in digital format.

60001 THE RAILWAY OBSERVER

Reported sightings of "our" loco have been very few and far between of late. Please take time Out to report any sightings and also to remind your members, to do the same.

Sightings should be reported to;

Bob Wallen, 3 Rothbury Avenue, Trowell, Nottingham NG9 3RQ or by Email to:
Bob@rwallen.freemove.co.uk

John Day

10th January 2002