

OFFICERS' NEWSLETTER 130

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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WEB4 – BRANCH ACTION REQUIRED

In the days preceding the AGM a letter was sent out on behalf of David Kelso regarding the next stage in the implementation of WEB4. This required a response from the branches. Unfortunately, to date only three have done so.

This is an important project for future wellbeing of the Society so if you have not replied can you please do so ASAP.

A copy of the letter is appended below.

The information contained in this newsletter is for use of RCTS Officers and Members only and should not be communicated outside of the society
13th June 2017



THE RAILWAY CORRESPONDENCE
AND TRAVEL SOCIETY

Al Mafrak
George Hill Road
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WEB4 PROJECT

23rd. April 2017

All RCTS Branch Secretaries

Dear Secretary,

Web Coordinators – The Web4 Project

As you will be aware from various reports published by the Web4 Project Team this is an ongoing project to replace our existing RCTS website with a new site that will be accessible with all of the present day hand held devices in addition to traditional Laptop and Desktop computers. Good progress has been made with the project although delays have occurred due to other Society activities having to take precedence in the last 12/18 months.

We are now approaching the time when we again need to involve people again at branch level. Many of you will recall that for the existing and earlier websites we asked branches to establish a member of their committee who was able to gather together data about the branch and submit it to the webmaster for inclusion on the site and keep the information up to date. A number of branches were able to upload their own information and photographs. To do this required some computer skills. This has very much fallen by the wayside due to the limited resources available to keep the existing website updated provided by David Jackman and Jack Knights.

It is planned that the new site will be managed by a Web Editor who will oversee the material submitted by branch contributors and release it into the public domain. It is likely that the technical development and maintenance of the site will be outsourced until such time as we find a Web Developer from within the membership who is willing to take on these duties.

This approach is possible because web software has developed to the point where it is easy for anybody who has relatively basic computer skills to produce web pages just as easily as a Word document with embedded images. It must be somebody who has had sufficient experience/training to use a computer keyboard as a computer keyboard and not as a typewriter keyboard or is willing to go on a local college course, paid for by the RCTS, to obtain these skills. It is not necessary to be able to write HTML code to build website pages as was the case 10 years ago.

As a first step we are asking you at your next branch committee meeting to consider this letter and to search among your branch membership for somebody who is willing to consider taking on this task for your branch. The second step will be to bring the interested persons together in small groups around the country, introduce to them the new site and explain what is involved in a hands on manner.

If you are attending the forthcoming AGM I shall be only too pleased to answer any questions individually at some time during the day. Alternatively please email me or give me a call.

Yours sincerely,

David Kelso
Web4 Project Leader.

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