

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 164

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Dear All

Welcome to Newsletter 164 with a selection of shorter items for consideration.

Special 90th Anniversary Free Membership Offer

As you are aware there is currently a special offer of free membership as part of a celebration of the Society's 90th Anniversary and also as part of a campaign to introduce new people to the Society with the idea that a good number will find that membership has been worthwhile and renew accordingly. To boost the recruitment through this offer now that the new season of branch indoor meetings is starting, a press release is being sent to local papers tailored for each branch area. A sample of the press release is attached as an appendix to this newsletter. This is partly to let branch officers know what is happening in their area and partly so that you are not too surprised if you receive enquiries based on an article in your local paper. Of course, the press may decide to edit the press release or make contact with a local branch for further information.

As of Friday 7 September, recruitment under the Special 90th Anniversary Offer stood at 701 and I know that new membership applications continue to be received.

For further information about the publicity campaign please contact Roger Sandford on publicity@rcts.org.uk

GDPR compliance

I know many people will have had quite enough of hearing about the General Data Protection Regulation that came into force in May this year, and some have their doubts that it will affect them at branch level. However, the legislation applies to the Society at both Management Committee, Trustee and Branch level and it is up to all of us to do our best to abide by the Regulation. All we are asking for is that branches check that those they are in touch with for things over and above what might be described as their 'membership contract', or who are friends rather than members, are happy to continue to hear from us, and have an opt out from this if they change their mind. The GDPR Guidance for Branches is on the RCTS website if anyone is not sure and would like to read it through again.

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

I am pleased to say that nearly half of the branches have already confirmed that they either comply with the Regulation or are making any changes necessary to ensure compliance since we first asked for this in Newsletter 162 in June 2018. I would greatly appreciate it if those branches who have not yet been in touch would let me know as soon as possible as I am expected to keep a record to show that we are doing what is required. Thank you.

RCTS Stationery

Bob Ballard will be at the Members' Weekend at Bournemouth so anyone requiring Society stationery who is attending or can visit during the weekend, please contact Bob with your order so that he can bring it with him and hand it over in Bournemouth. You can contact Bob at the usual email address of wrb.rcts@btinternet.com

RCTS Publicity at the Severn Valley Railway – Class 50 Diesel Gala

The Society's Exhibitions Officer – David Elsdon, is looking for some active volunteers to man (or woman) an advertising stand at the Severn Valley Railway Diesel Gala on Saturday 6 October 2018. If you can contribute a day, half day or just a couple of hours, he would be delighted to hear from you. The stand is to advertise the Society, hand out RCTS leaflets, and sign up new members on the day under the Special 90th Anniversary Free Membership Offer. You will not be required to deal with any sales but will be expected to engage with visitors to the event to promote the RCTS.

I appreciate that not everyone is too sure about the current 90th Anniversary recruitment drive but it appears already to have introduced the Society to a wider group of people who may previously have been unaware of who we are and what we do. You can help promote the Society and enjoy some time at the Severn Valley Railway as well.

If you think you may be able to help please contact David Elsdon on 01438 714277 or email hitchin@rcts.org.uk

In Brief

1 The full Summary document for the Regional Meetings and the promised shorter précis version are ready and awaiting approval and further Action Point comments before circulation. Thank you to all the contributors.

2 Officers' Conference (OC) – As already advised, this will be taking place from 09.00 to 12.30 on Sunday 14 October 2018 at the Marsham Court Hotel in Bournemouth as part of this year's annual Members' Weekend. You do not need to be booked into the Members' Weekend to attend but it would be helpful to know if you intend to turn up for the Conference on the morning. More information will be coming out shortly eg agenda in advance of the event. Apologies for non-attendance also appreciated.

If you have any burning topics for discussion that you would like to see included on the agenda at the OC, please contact me now before the agenda is fully finalised. This is your conference and your ideas matter.

Kind regards

Irene

XXXX Branch of RCTS celebrates 90th Anniversary

This year marks the 90th anniversary of the founding of the Railway Correspondence and Travel Society, a Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with the Charity Commission. In 1928 a small group of railway enthusiasts set up the Society in Cheltenham Spa. It quickly became a national organisation with local branches spread throughout the country.

XXXX Branch is still thriving, one of thirty spread throughout the country, attracting people with an interest in railways from all walks of life and of all ages, enhancing the enjoyment of a common interest. One of the highlights of xxxx Branch is the regular indoor meetings, normally held at xxxxxxx, where guest speaker presentations, including from railway professionals, cover a wide range of railway subjects, often of specific local interest. meetings are open to everybody, a warm welcome awaiting new attendees.

The Society produces a highly acclaimed monthly magazine for members both in hard copy and digital format. *The Railway Observer*, widely known as simply the 'RO', contains a wealth of railway interest, including branch news from around the country, current railway news and observations, members' travels, publication reviews and an excellent selection of top quality photographs.

Outdoor visits to places of railway interest are always popular and are organised whenever possible.

2018 is also the 80th anniversary of the first RCTS rail tour on 11th September 1938. The already then preserved, Stirling 'Single' No 1, was briefly restored to service to haul the train, and is today housed at the National Railway Museum in York.

As part of the 90th year celebrations, until 31st October, the Society is offering free membership for 2018. Full details about this and the RCTS in general are available at www.rcts.org.uk

The local xxxxx Branch contact is xxxxxxx