

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 189

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MCNW - it is all in the name

Please note the change of name of the MCNW Branch. The C now stands for Cheshire where previously it was Chester. The branch committee and members at their AGM on 20 January 2020 agreed that they would like to change the branch name to Merseyside, Cheshire and North Wales as they felt it better reflected the area covered by the branch. This was duly put before the Management Committee at their meeting on 1 February 2020 and agreed. This is a good example of feedback and working together between the branches and the management of the Society.

Members Weekend and Officers Conference

In view of the situation with regards to the Covid-19 pandemic, the 2020 Members Weekend including the Officers' Conference has been postponed to **22–24 October 2021**. The hotel at Taunton and the intended programme is expected to be the same as originally planned for October 2020. For your interest, an outline of the original programme is included below:

The 2020 Members Weekend will be based in the Holiday Inn Taunton M5 over the weekend of 23rd - 25th October. On the Friday afternoon there will be a visit to the workshops of the Diesel & Electric Group and The West Somerset Railway at Williton, members travelling by public transport or car. After the evening buffet well known photographer Terry Nicholls will be presenting 'From Saltash Auto to HST'.

On Saturday we will travel the scenic WSR from Bishops Lydeard to Minehead. Packed lunches will be served on the train and the loco shed at Minehead will be visited. For those not wishing to travel on the WSR a coach visit to the Levels Basket Centre, Clarks Village and Glastonbury will be available, subject to sufficient numbers. In the evening the after-dinner speaker will be Mark Smith, Vice Chair and Director of the Heritage Railway Association and the West Somerset Railway.

On Sunday after the Officers Conference we will be visiting the Lynton & Barnstable Railway where lunch will be served followed by a visit to the workshop and train rides. The coach will return to the hotel via Tiverton Parkway Station to connect with the 17.41 XC service to Leeds.

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

Exhibitions table from Newsletter 187 – correction

Unfortunately, there was an error in the table provided for circulation. The original showed the total cost of the stand for Solent Branch as £4. the correct figure here should be £120. This change in turn affects the total at the bottom of that column which should read £2846, making the average cost per day £26.60. I have a corrected version of the table that can be emailed on request if anyone would like it for the record.

Officers Handbook

The Officers Handbook is now on the Members' pages of the website rather than in the Officers section to make it more easily accessible. This might be an encouragement for any member who is thinking about volunteering to help as they can now get a better idea of what sort of tasks need to be done and what volunteering involves. If you have not already done so, please read it. It is easy to dip into, read what may be of particular interest, close it up and then go back to it again later as required. In these days of restrictions because of the pandemic, this could be the perfect opportunity to have a read.

Scam Emails – a warning

There is always someone eager to take advantage of any novel situation and the current uncertain times are no exception. It appears that someone has been going through the official email addresses on the RCTS website as a number of people have received scam emails addressed to them via their official RCTS email address. I received one myself to the Branch Liaison official address but the best one was to my Surrey Branch official email address asking me to contact Andy Davies (my husband) – an immediate alert of a problem. The perpetrator clearly was unaware that we are married and live in the same house although we have different surnames; but it is very easy to be caught out by these scams. The usual warnings apply for any unsolicited message, check where it has come from and be very sure before responding. If in any doubt, it is much better to be overly cautious – if the message is genuine and you do not respond, then the sender will find another way to contact you if it is really important.

Digital Projector

These are now widely used to the extent that some branches are looking to update their old model or to buy one if they have not already done so. While we cannot endorse any particular brand or model, and branches have different needs, with so many choices out there it is sometimes helpful to be able to share good experiences. With this in mind, West of England upgraded their projector earlier this year to an Epson EH-TW650 model and found the projection and image quality excellent. I have a pdf of the datasheet if required or you can look it up online yourself and compare it with other models to see what is most appropriate for your needs.

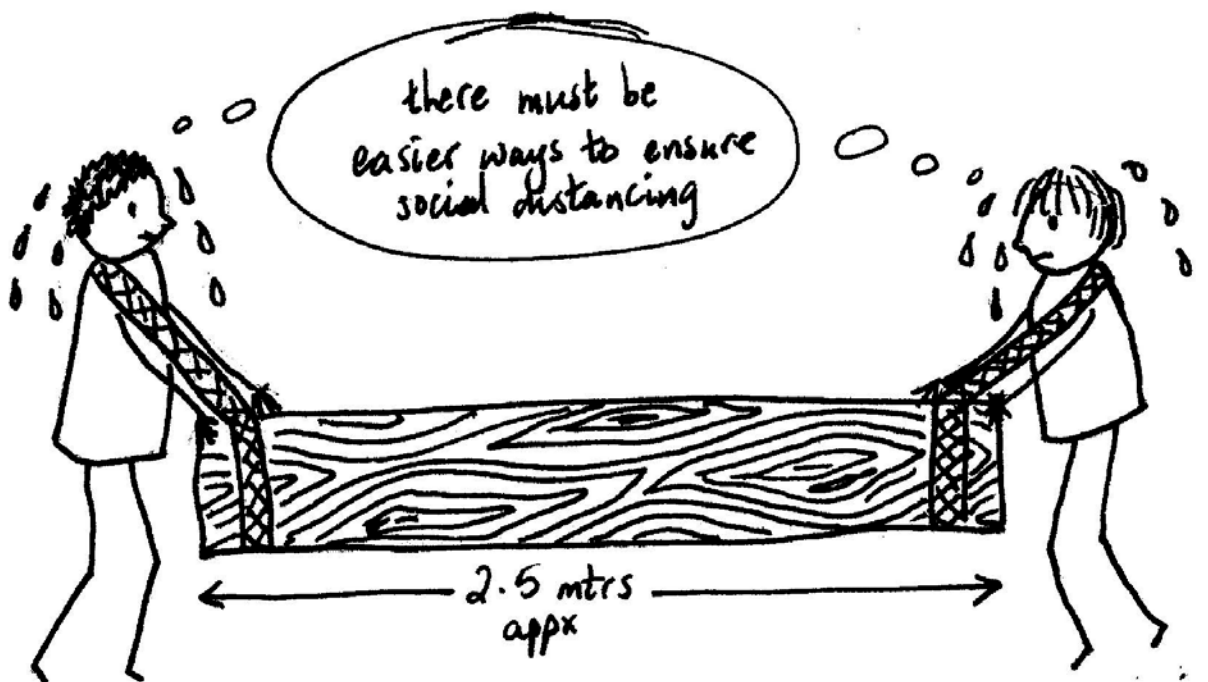
And Finally - something to raise a smile in these more difficult times

How about this for a train ticket?



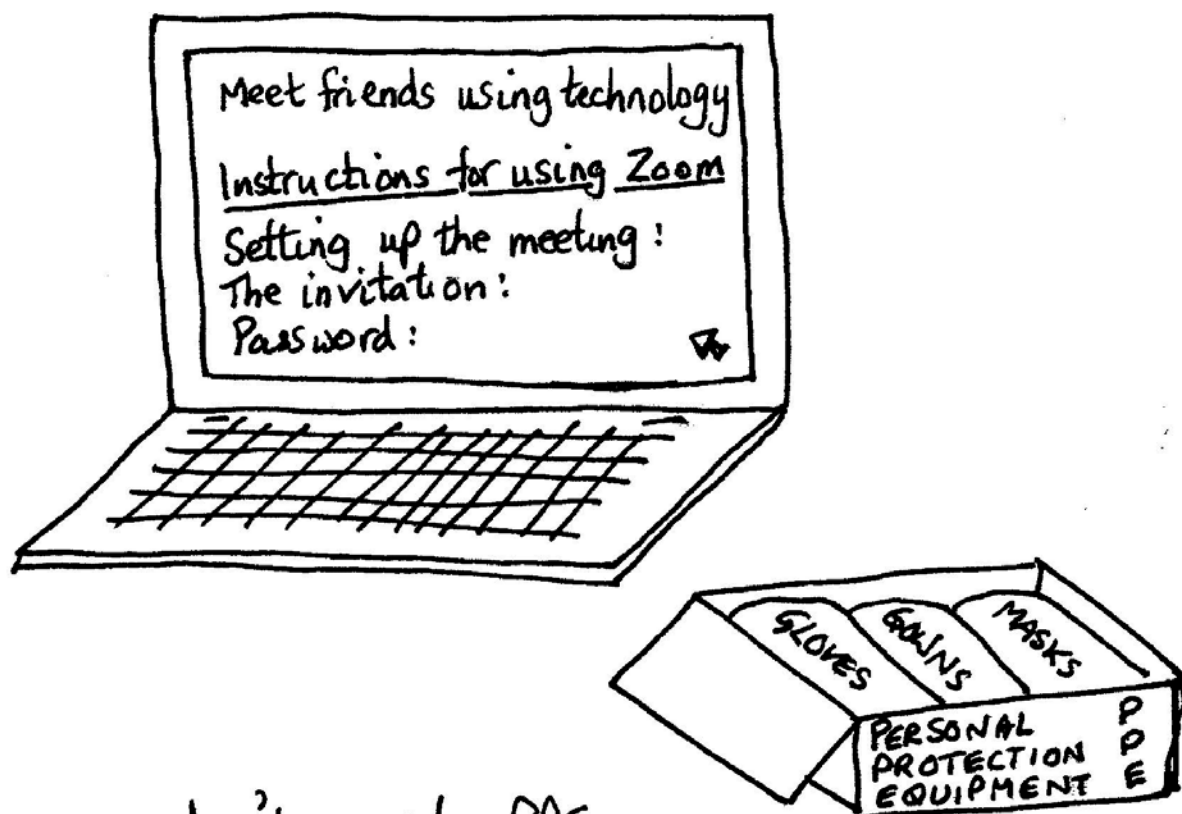
(permission has been given to share this within the RCTS)

And what about a topical cartoon or two?



one way to make sure the track maintenance gang stay far enough apart - get them to carry the sleepers!





no you don't need PPE
to meet friends and fellow
members using Zoom !

(other technology is available and Big Brother
is watching you any way)



Keep well, keep safe and take care.

Kind regards

Irene