

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

Irene Rabbitts, 34 Victory Park Road, Addlestone, Surrey KT15 2AZ

Telephone: 01932 855015

e-mail: liaison@rcts.org.uk

Officers' Newsletter 198

15 December 2020

Attendances at Virtual Meetings – record numbers?

Whilst we may be unable to hold face to face meetings at present, some branches are surging ahead with attendances at virtual meetings held using Zoom – for example Windsor & Maidenhead who enjoyed an attendance of 85 at a recent meeting. Interestingly, this is more than the number of members allocated to the branch which just shows how easy it is to attend virtual meetings if you have an internet connection, wherever you are located. It is also of interest to note that this is nearly as many as the numbers attending the Society AGM which was also held using Zoom in October 2020.

Virtual meetings can work very well even if they are not the same as physical meetings and we should make the most of the opportunities that they offer while we cannot meet in person. We can still keep in touch and enjoy sharing and learning more about railways.

Face coverings

For those who would like something a little more exclusive than the general run of face coverings while we are obliged to use them, you might like to buy one sporting the RCTS logo. RCTS branded face coverings are now available to order through the Society Website, at £8 each (plus £1 postage).



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

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered with The Charity Commission. Registered number 1169995

1 of 2

Specification:

The double layer fabric face coverings are suitable for general (non-medical) use to keep you safe while out and about. Made from 95% Cotton, 5% Elastane with an antimicrobial and water-repellent finish, they are fully washable and one size fits all. I have tried one of the experimental models and can confirm that they are comfortable to wear.

Face coverings are supplied to order so please allow up to four weeks for delivery. Further information is available from David Goddard (membership@rcts.org.uk) or you can visit the RCTS website <https://rcts.org.uk/clothing/> to place an order online.

Holding a Joint Virtual Meeting

For those branches who may not be in a good position to set up their own virtual meetings, you might like to get in touch with a neighbouring branch (or any branch as distance is no object) to look at the possibility of holding a joint meeting to pool your resources. As long as you can contact each other and agree the arrangements, there are possibilities. This is all about working for our members.

Advertising Branch Activities in the *Railway Observer*

I know these are difficult times with all branches having to make changes to their original plans for 2020/2021 and while programme dates have stayed as they were, details of the presentations have sometimes had to change with less notice than usual. Branches are now updating meeting details on the website promptly which is really good to see but please do not forget to send up to date details of your branch programmes in to the *Railway Observer* (RO). If you still have outstanding meetings to advertise, please contact Geoff Brockett on roadverts&fixtures@rcts.org.uk to make sure that these are included in future editions of the magazine. There are deadlines for submission for publication and if you are not sure of the date please ask. It is really important to make sure that this is submitted in good time as the RO goes to **every member** of the Society whether in hard copy format or electronically via the website. The RO team has been working hard to ensure that the magazine has been published throughout the year so our thanks go to them.

And Finally

A particular thank you to everyone who has helped and provided support over what has been a difficult year, and to all those who have worked hard to keep the Society active and moving forward. It is not all 'doom and gloom' and there have been some good outcomes, like the increased use of electronic communications where physical meetings have not been possible – something that we can continue to use once we return to some sort of 'normal' to keep in touch with those who cannot attend meetings in person. This newsletter is sent only to officers but please share it with your branch members as appropriate.

As we approach Christmas, I would like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year for 2021.

Take care, keep well, keep safe.

Irene