

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 200

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Exhibitions Returns

Although exhibitions seem to be something of a distant memory at the moment, we did manage some for the year 2019/2020 before the first lockdown in March last year. You can see the difference between figures for that year when compared with the previous year and what a difference that has made to income and expenditure and numbers of exhibitions attended – which is not unexpected. It will be interesting to see what the comparisons will be like next time given that we do not have any idea yet exactly when exhibitions will be permitted again so it is likely to be some time before we are again comparing like with like. Never mind, we did manage to attend some exhibitions and as a Society, we have kept going and quite strongly overall learning how to manage as we go along. You will find the table of exhibitions attached to this newsletter as Appendix 1.

What are the Branches doing?

Answer: quite a variety of things as well as virtual meetings. Something interesting that I picked up from a recent Furness, Lakes and Lune Branch newsletter gives a flavour of what the branches are doing to keep in touch with their membership while we are unable to get together for physical meetings. I know there is plenty more going on out there and that some branches are creating some incredibly impressive newsletters, so good that items have been selected for inclusion in the **RO** from time to time. The variety is remarkable and testifies to the work that branch officers put in for their members. If you would like to be part of that, please contact your branch chair or secretary as active new committee members are always welcome and will be supported by current committee members as well as from the centre. It is not just about having virtual meetings, we can share other things of railway interest too. If you have not already done so, try the links below with the information copied exactly as received, and enjoy.

The following 2 videos feature the Gotthard line in Switzerland. They were filmed by our friend, Colin Kennington in 2016 and feature the North and South ramps. Quite a varied amount of traffic. Hope you enjoy. Here are the links (you may need to copy and paste them into your browser).

North Ramp - <https://vimeo.com/177200292>

South Ramp - <https://vimeo.com/176372158>

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

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Spoof emails and telephone calls – a warning

Just a quick reminder about spoof emails and telephone calls from individuals or groups who appear to have been going through the list of official RCTS emails addresses and contacts again recently.

Someone purporting to be from the Microsoft accounts department seems to be one of the latest suspicious telephone calls. Other callers and emails may try to engage you long enough to steal data, trick you into providing information that should not be shared or that could lead to a breach of the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) – for example if they ask for information about someone else, or try and persuade you to make a payment. Everyone knows not to do this but it is easy to get caught out if you are distracted with something else, so please take care.

If you receive such a telephone call, end the call, if it is an email, delete it immediately and make sure that your computer security is kept up to date.

New Record Attendance at a Branch Virtual Meeting

On a brighter note.....

There seems to be quite a competition brewing to gain the record for attendance at a virtual branch meeting and currently in the lead is Croydon & South London Branch for their meeting on Monday 8 February 2021 when Günter Oczko presented “Steam around the World”. Recorded attendance was 146 about half of whom were non-members, with participants coming from as far away as Australia. Congratulations to Croydon & South London Branch. Even better, there were two brand new members attending.

It just shows that distance is no object either for giving a virtual presentation - Günter gave the presentation from Germany, or for attending a virtual meeting and provides excellent opportunities that we can use to our advantage. We do not need to aspire to having such a high attendance to enjoy a successful meeting, but it highlights an open-ended possibility.

Branch AGM returns

Thank you to those who have already provided their branch AGM returns or equivalent for 2020. I will shortly be in touch with those branches that have not yet done so. Especial thanks to those who have already sent in their 2021 branch AGM minutes (or equivalent) and information. It makes my life much easier if I do not have to keep asking so I really appreciate your help with this. Any problems, please ask.

And finally....

I have already started on the next Officers Newsletter as the information requires a little more preparation before it is ready for publication. I have also started work on updating the Officers Handbook so look out for some news on that in the next few weeks.

Kind regards

Irene

Appendix 1

**2019 / 2020 EXHIBITION RETURN
BASED ON BRANCH RETURNS**

BRANCH	Number of Exhibitions Attended		Total cost of stand £	Days	Total Sales		Society Publications Sold	
	2020	2019			£		£	
					2020	2019	2020	2019
Bristol	1	2	112	1	983	1124	158	Nil
Cambridge	2	6	0	2	46	188	Nil	Nil
Cheltenham*	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Chichester	Nil	1			Nil	55	Nil	Nil
Croydon & S. London	3	4	168	4	465	576	41	122
East Midlands	5	20	125	7	1049	3333	78	262
Furness, L&L	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Hitchin	3	5	239	4	437	1171	74	156
Humberside	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Ipswich	3	5	45	3	363	1133	Nil	181
Lancs & N. West	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Merseyside, C & N.W.	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Milton Keynes	1	1	30	2	240	328	110	67
Northampton	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
North East	4	15	187	8	1047	4924	72	664
Peterborough	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Scottish	Nil	1			Nil	405	Nil	54
Sheffield	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
South East	4	4	154	4	500	662	44	95
South Essex	Nil	1			Nil	437	Nil	45
South Wales	Nil	2			Nil	346	Nil	Nil
Solent	1	3	36	2	397	935	92	227

BRANCH	Number of Exhibitions Attended		Total cost of stand £	Days	Total Sales		Society Publications Sold	
	2020	2019			£		£	
					2020	2019	2020	2019
Surrey	2	4	61	3	514	1078	14	72
Thames Valley		Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Watford	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
West of England	Nil	1			Nil	439	Nil	Nil
West Midlands	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Windsor & Maidenhead	1	1	45	1	145	166	Nil	13
West Riding	Nil	Nil			Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	30	76	1202	41	6186	17300	683	1958
			Average cost per day £29		Take per day £151			

Dave Elsdon