

BRANCH LIAISON SECRETARY

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Officers' Newsletter 203

25 April 2021

Dear All

Welcome to Newsletter 203 which contains some updates and, I hope, some useful information to keep you informed about what is going on.

Branch Publications Order Form

David Bird – Publications Officer, has asked me to let you know that the Branch Order Form for Publications has been updated to include the two recent new books. Now that the pandemic restrictions are easing somewhat, hopefully, we will be able to go back to holding physical meetings and attending exhibitions in the not too distant future hence providing this update now. A copy of the new form is attached as Appendix 1.

Railway Auction of Experiences

We have been asked to share this with you by Maggie Simpson OBE, Director General of the Rail Freight Group. Maggie has been kind enough to give presentations to a number of RCTS branches either in person or virtually, or has provided someone else when she was unable to do it herself. She is also Trustee for the Railway Benefit Fund that has been helping railway workers through tough times for over 160 years and the Auction is to raise funds for that charity. Although it does not have exactly the same charitable objectives as the RCTS, the auction includes experiences that are likely to be of interest to some of our members. By sharing the information more widely within the Society we not only potentially benefit our members, but cooperating in this way also helps to maintain the goodwill that we have with potential speakers within the industry. Click on the link below to find out more:

[AUCTION OF EXPERIENCES](#)

The auction closes on Friday 7 May 2021 so there is not a great deal of time to take part. Please share this information and the link with your members. If you try the link, you will be able to have a look at the list of experiences up for auction and the current state of the bidding. All are interesting, and the money raised goes to a good cause.

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

Regional Meetings – update

This is just a quick note to keep you updated as I have been quite rightly reminded that I have not yet shared any decisions regarding Regional Meetings (RMs) for this year. I apologise for not doing so sooner. This has been discussed at the most recent Trustee meeting earlier this month when the decision was made that they would be suspended for another year. This is partly because it is still very uncertain that restrictions will be lifted sufficiently to allow meetings in person especially for the slightly larger groups; and partly because some branches are still not confident about either holding or attending virtual meetings using Zoom so may not attend for that reason. As we do not wish anyone to take any unnecessary risks and do not want to exclude any branches who may not be comfortable using Zoom, we have decided to postpone Regional Meetings again for this year.

Officers Conference – Sunday 24 October 2021

Although the RMs have been postponed until next year, it is planned that the Officers Conference will go ahead as part of this year's Members' Weekend as we hope by then that restrictions will have been lifted. There are proposals to change the format this time to try and make it more relevant and interesting for all involved especially as we will have missed the Regional Meetings again. There will be more information about what is planned in a later newsletter.

Updated Guidance for Branch Activities

There are a number of subjects for Officers Newsletters coming soon but one of the most important is likely to be the updated guidance on holding branch meetings into the future as the current restrictions continue to ease – both virtual and meetings in person. This will also include any other branch activities such as outside visits and attending exhibitions. It is planned to have a newsletter dedicated specifically to this subject as we did last year with Newsletter 193.

And Finally.....

In the meantime, anyone who would like help with virtual meetings, please do not hesitate to ask – from one to one sessions to experimental small group meetings. The first step is always the most daunting! Take care and see you soon.

Kind regards

Irene

Appendix 1



BRANCH ORDER FORM - PUBLICATIONS

To order additional publications for branch and exhibition sales, send your order either by post or e-mail to,

David Bird, 16 Welby Close, Maidenhead SL6 3PY
Or e-mail to sales@rcts.org.uk.

Any queries please contact **07748 590556**

BRANCH
ORDERED BY
DELIVERY ADDRESS
POST CODE
TELEPHONE NUMBER

TITLE	QUANTITY	TITLE	QUANTITY
BR Standards Vol. 2		Plymouth's Railways in the 1930s	
BR Standards Vol. 4		Shildon - Newport in Retrospect	
BR Standards Vol. 5		Locos of the LNER Part 11	
Stanier Class 5 Vol. 1		Great Northern Loco History Vol. 2	
Stanier Class 5 Vol.2		Great Northern Loco History Vol. 3A	
LMS Pacifics			
The Patriot 4-6-0s		The Journey	
Raising Steam on the LMS		Brush Traction	
L&NWR Locomotive Names			
Locos of the L&NWR Southern Div.			
Hughes & Stanier 2-6-0s			
LMS Jubilee 4-6-0 (second edition)			
		Railway Observer Easibinder	
		Society Tie	