

BRANCH LIAISON OFFICER

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Officers' Newsletter 206

12 July 2021

Dear All

Just a few things this time. The first is quite important as it involves an updated form. The second is about Active Volunteer Recognition or AVR with a deadline for submissions. Then we have some good news about Member Benefits followed by some interesting information on recruitment statistics over the last three years.

New Publications Order form

At last there is an 'end in sight' to the restrictions necessarily imposed because of the pandemic, and we can start planning for physical meetings and attending exhibitions again. This is the perfect time to let everyone concerned know about the new Publications Order Form so please share this with your branch committee members and other interested parties. The new form is attached as **Appendix 1**. Please discard any older versions and use the new one instead.

Active Volunteer Recognition

It is getting close to the time for everyone to be thinking about making branch nominations for AVR, so this is a reminder for all branch committees to complete and send in their branch AVR nomination forms to me at liaison@rcts.org.uk by 31 August 2021 at the latest. If you have any queries about making a branch nomination or if the deadline date may be a difficulty, please ask as we may be able to find a solution. The leaders of the various Governance Groups will be responsible for making nominations regarding the volunteers within their groups for presentation to the Trustees. The Managing Editor will be responsible for the nominations amongst the *Railway Observer* editorial team and regular contributors to the magazine. The nomination form for AVR for the branches is attached as **Appendix 2**.

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

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New and Recent Member Benefits

Trackside magazine – supporting our Society

Every Society Member that takes out a subscription to the all-new magazine *Trackside*, which is claimed to be the “*ultimate guide for all your railway needs*”, will benefit the Society financially - they will make a donation to the Society for every member who takes out a subscription. This new railway title is a journal aimed at the railway preservation scene and the new adventures for it.

To take out a subscription, please log onto tracksidemag.co.uk, then scroll down to subscriptions. At the top of the next page, click on “Have a Promo Code” and enter “**RCTS**”. When the page refreshes you will see a “Thank You” in red.

Subscription Offers!

You may already have read in your copy of the June RO but just in case you missed it, your Society has secured a Members’ benefit of 10% discount on the five railway magazines published by Morton’s – *Railway Magazine*, *Heritage Railway*, *Rail Express*, *Railways Illustrated* and *Steam Days*. To take advantage of this offer, please log into the Members’ Benefits page of our website (Home Page/Members’/Member Benefits).

And another benefit – PC-Rail Simulations

Encourage your branch members and colleagues to look out for this one in their copy of the August RO. Have you ever wondered what it was like to be a signaller? *PC-Rail* offers high quality railway signalling and operating simulations. The simulations are highly interactive and range from 1950s and 1960s nostalgia to complex modern-day situations with large control areas. For use with Windows-based systems up to Windows 10, each simulation puts the user in charge of a signal box or control centre. Train speeds and characteristics are authentically modelled, and the user can control the speed of the clock to match their ability!

Normally, you would need to spend over £100 to get a discount, but type “**RCTS21**” into the Special Discount Code in the Shopping Basket and Society Members will receive a 10% reduction. *PC-Rail*’s website can be found at <https://pcrail.co.uk>. Prepare to lose hours of your life!

‘AMAZONSMILE’ Charity Initiative

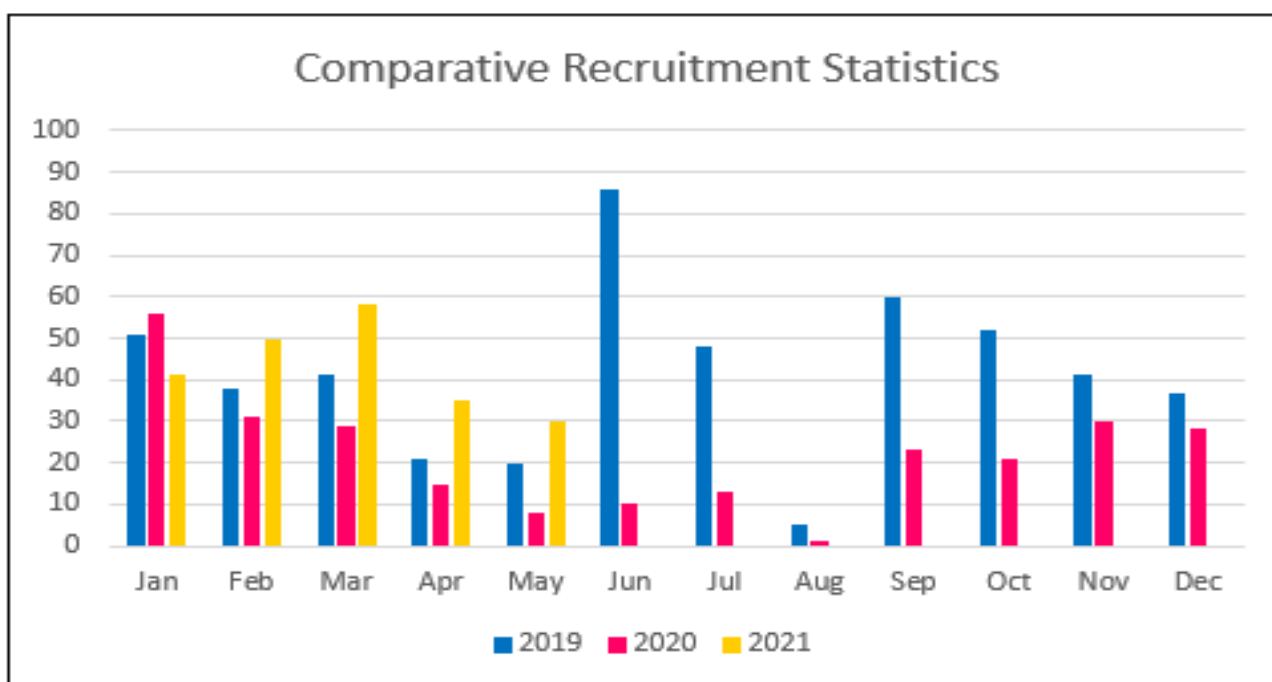
At short notice, the RCTS was given the opportunity to register (free of charge) as a charity which will benefit financially from all Amazon Prime purchases made by its ‘supporters’ at any time, but especially whenever a ‘Prime Event’ takes place, such as occurred on 21/22 June. Any registered Amazon Prime customer can nominate a charity which will receive 0.5% of the amount spent by that customer at any time – but during ‘Prime Events’ this will rise to 5%. To select the RCTS as your chosen charity, log-in to Amazon Prime and enter ‘Railway Correspondence’ – the system will then ‘find’ the Society and will indicate that it is based in Bognor Regis (where our Secretary resides); note that it does not recognise ‘RCTS’ on its own. Please tell your friends to register their chosen charity as the Railway Correspondence & Travel Society!

Recruitment Statistics

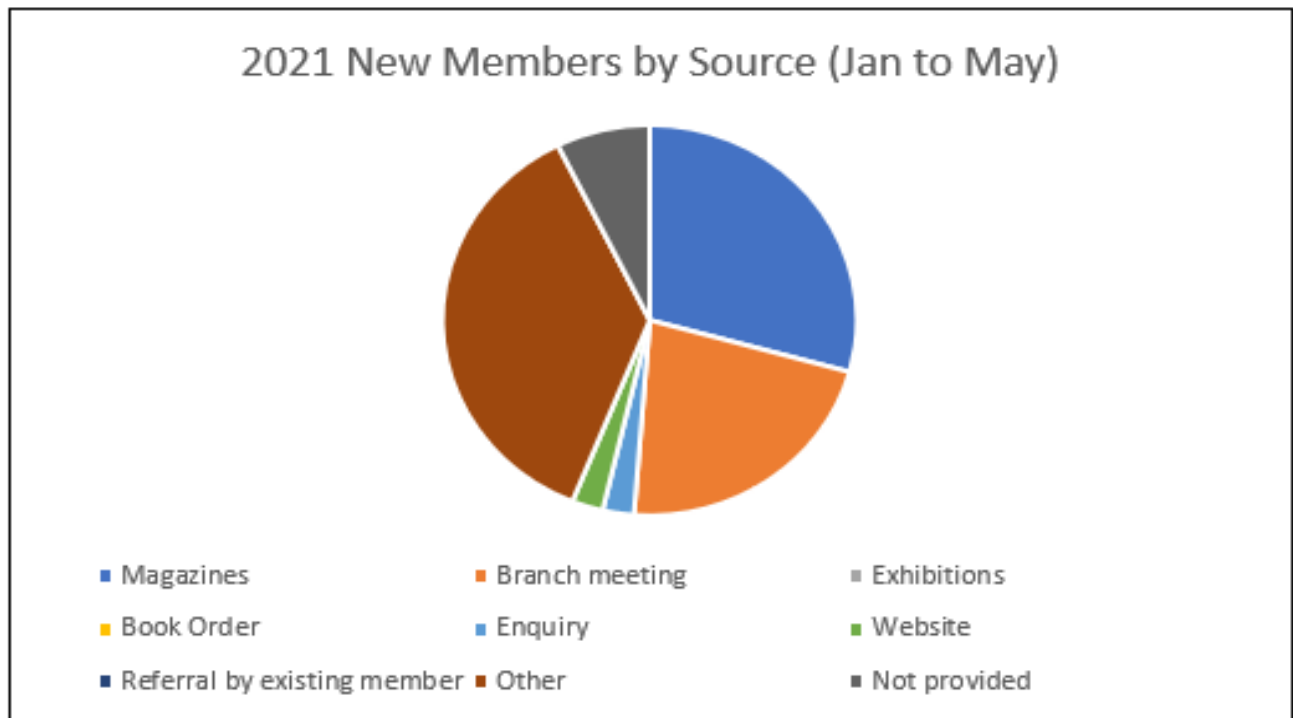
I have not shared these for a while and would usually include these in a newsletter closer to the start of the calendar year, but they are interesting so here goes. 2018 was an exceptional year for recruitment with free membership on offer to celebrate the Society's 90th anniversary and, now that we can look back, we can see that a pleasing number of our new members have stayed with us. 2019 shows the value of the targeted advertising campaign and efforts at exhibitions.

Even in 2020 we continued to recruit, albeit at a reduced level, through the restrictions of the pandemic, when we have not been able to hold physical meetings or attend exhibitions and most activities had to stop. The change from physical to virtual meetings has helped gain interest from those who are unable to attend meetings in person – so that is one 'silver lining', and advertising helped to improve numbers again later in the year.

So far for 2021, numbers of new recruits are again on the increase when compared with the previous two years. It will be interesting to see what the final figures will be for the whole of 2021. I hope you find the graphic representations an easy way to compare the numbers.



The vertical axis shows numbers of recruits, the horizontal axis shows the months, and the vertical bars are colour coded for the different years for easy comparison.



The pie chart above highlights the current way of trying to better record the source of new members and is different enough from how it was done before that it cannot be directly compared with previous years. This is why it only covers the period from January to May 2021.

Please share this information with your branch members and colleagues as appropriate and please ask if you have queries about any of the items in this newsletter. In the meantime, stay safe and stay well.

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			
		The Journey	
Stanier Class 5 Vol. 1		BRUSH Traction	
Stanier Class 5 Vol.2			
Raising Steam on the LMS			
Hughes & Stanier 2-6-0s			
The Jubilee 4-6-0s			
L&NWR Locomotive Names			
Locos of the L&NWR Southern Div.			
The Stanier Pacifics			
The Patriot 4-6-0s			
Locos of the LNER Part 11		RO Easibinder (B5 size)	
Great Northern Loco History Vol. 2		RO Easibinder (A5 size)	
Great Northern Loco History Vol. 3A		Society Tie	

Appendix 2

AVR Nomination Form



ACTIVE VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION (AVR) NOMINATIONS

Branch/National Designated Budget

Name	Membership Number	Position or Activity

Approved By Branch Chairman or Relevant Society Budget Holder

NameSignature

Membership Number.....

Date.....

Please return the completed form to Irene Rabbitts, Branch Liaison Officer by 31 August 2021.