

SURREY BRANCH NEWSLETTER – September 2017

Dear Members and Friends,

Thank you for supporting RCTS Surrey branch over the last year. It has been good to see so many of you attending our meetings, an average attendance of 50 is excellent.

The contact details for your branch committee are on the programme card. You will note we are currently short of an Outdoor Fixtures Officer and we encourage any branch member to volunteer to help us on the committee and at meetings. Committee meetings are four times a year. What we can offer to our members depends to a large extent on the strength of the committee.

Our meetings at Woking only go smoothly if they are organised properly. To do this we need your help during the refreshment interval and at the end of the meeting, tidying up. We hope to be able to achieve this with individuals only helping at about every third meeting, so the load is spread and everyone has a chance to socialise at most meetings.

The 2017-2018 season of meetings of Surrey Branch, at Woking, commences on Tuesday 26 September.

Highlights!

We start our new season with a presentation by First MTR South Western Railway. Since it is very early in the franchise, we do not know the actual speaker as yet but expect a senior manager to attend.

Following the success of last season's afternoon meeting, we have agreed to hold two afternoon meetings (November and March) in the coming season. I enclose the Branch Programme card with full details of our coming season's indoor meetings.

Outdoor Visits

Details of outside visits will be announced at branch meetings, published in the events pages of the Railway Observer (RO), on the Surrey Branch page of the Society website (www.rcts.org.uk), and by e-mail. Where visits have limits on the numbers who can attend, priority will be given to members if the visit is oversubscribed.

Society Clothing

We sometimes have the Society Clothing range for sale at meetings. The range includes stylish fleeces (£30), polo shirts (£16) and rugby shirts (£28) in three sizes (M, L and XL). We also now have Beanie Hats, at just £8 you'll never get a cold head again! All are made from high quality material in navy blue with the society logo embroidered on the front.

You can ensure we have your requirements at a meeting by e-mailing clothing@rcts.org.uk or calling 0118 988 8581.

Exhibitions

The branch has a stand at various local model railway exhibitions during the year, where we promote the Society and sell RCTS Publications and donated books. Forthcoming exhibitions where we have booked a stand are:

Railway Enthusiasts Club at Woking Leisure Centre	9-10 September 2017
Farnham & District MRC at Aldershot Leisure Centre	14-15 October 2017
Tolworth Showtrain (Hampton Court MRC)	11-12 November 2017
Astolat Model Railway Circle at Surrey Sports Park, Guildford	21 January 2018

Thank you for the excellent response to my request for assistance at the REC exhibition at Woking.

If you are able to help on the stand at any of these exhibitions, even if only for a couple of hours, then please call Andy Davies, our Exhibitions Officer, on 01932 855015 or email him at surreyexhibitions@rcts.org.uk.

Membership

Please promote the RCTS to your friends and acquaintances who show some interest in railways, past, present and future. Many people with railway interests are not aware of the RCTS and publicising its existence, objectives and membership benefits promotes the Society as a conduit for better understanding of all railway matters.

The society will continue to have a reduced cost membership offer for non-members joining at a branch meeting or exhibition, and several of you have taken advantage of this offer in the past. I would encourage any non-members to join the society and get the full benefits that the RCTS can offer, such as the Railway Observer, discounts on Society Publications and in the Ian Allan Bookshop.

Society Archive

You will see my request in the September Railway Observer for volunteers to assist with the archive. All offers of assistance will be gratefully received!

Communications with members

As is now usual, this newsletter and the programme card are being sent by e-mail to those members and friends for whom we have e-mail addresses. A paper copy of the programme card will be available for you to collect at branch meetings or exhibitions.

E-mail newsletters, including reminders of our meetings, will continue to be sent before each meeting, and when there is news to distribute. If you wish to receive our e-mail newsletters, please contact me, or leave your e-mail address on the sheet that is available at branch meetings.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Davies

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