RTIG INFORM

improving public transport through technology

Members Edition

August 2020 – Issue 132

What's on

The calendar below shows key events over the next few months, from RTIG and our associates. For further details of RTIG events please contact secretariat@rtig.org.uk

RTIG Webinars

19 August 2020, Virtual
Seat Booking for Buses

26 August 2020, Virtual
Introduction to Transport Data Standards (Transmodel)

More webinars will be announced as the month progresses. For booking details see the website.

RTIG Working Groups

24 August 2020, Virtual
Accuracy and quality of real time predictions Working Group

RTIG Committee Meetings
9 September 2020, Virtual

Conferences
21 – 25 September 2020, Online
Transport Innovation Summit

In this issue:

For all administrative matters and enquiries please contact:
RTIG Secretariat, c/o Tim Rivett Consulting Ltd, 36 Fields End, Sheffield, S36 8WH

Tel: +44 (0) 1226 762712
Email: secretariat@rtig.org.uk
Web: www.rtig.org.uk

N E W S & E V E N T S

Newsletter Frequency and Email Alerts

The newsletters are produced on a monthly cycle.

They will be posted on the RTIG website and emailed out to the newsletter contact list.

If you think a colleague or contact would benefit from receiving the RTIG newsletter then please ask them to fill out the form on the website or use the QR Code.

RTIG on Twitter

RTIG is now on twitter as @RtigInform

https://twitter.com/RtigInform

Photo Library

To help liven up RTIG printed and digital outputs we are interested in receiving any images of public transport information real time or otherwise that you would be happy for us to use.

We will of course credit the appropriate source if published.

If you have any material you would be able to let us have access to please contact Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

Working Groups

If anyone wants to become involved in any of the work packages in the business plan then please feel free to discuss or commit by getting in contact with Tim tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk .

Accuracy and quality of real time predictions Working Group

We are starting up a group to look at the accuracy and quality of real time predictions; how to measure and how to achieve them.

If you would like to become involved in the group, then please let Tim know as we are planning the initial exploration sessions.

Traffic Light Priority Trigger File Standard

The RTIG T031 centre to centre traffic light priority protocol has been widely adopted with resultant significant benefits; but missing from the RTIG standards set is a common format for the transfer of traffic light trigger locations.

There is interest in addressing the gap so we are going to hold a working group to agree a common trigger file format.
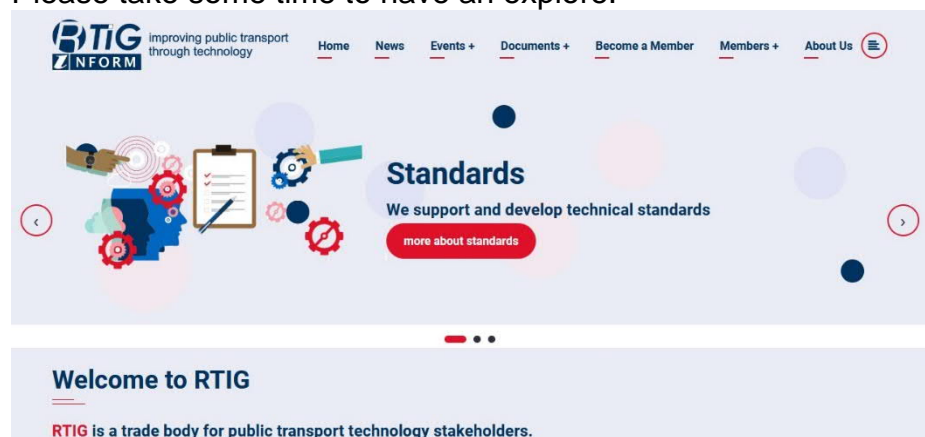
If you would like to become involved in the group, then please let Tim know.

New Website

After nearly 10 years the website was getting a bit tired and in need of a refresh.

We have now launched our new website, we hope you like it. Please take some time to have an explore.

**N
E
W
S

&

E
V
E
N
T
S**

If you are a member your old login details will not work with this new site.

Once logged in you can access the members only content:

- Members Newsletters (with added content),
- Workshop presentations
- Corporate & Administrative documents,
- Strategy documents,
- Project documents,
- Technical documents appropriate to your organisations membership level.

Previously there was a single account shared across an organisation. The new site uses individual accounts, but we do not know who was using the old site, so we need to know from you who needs an account.

To request your login details please send an email to website@rtig.org.uk(link sends email)

If you have any feedback on the site then please do let us know.

Webinars

With the inability to physically meet for the foreseeable future we have been running some webinars instead.

All these webinars are being recorded and available on our YouTube channel:

Our next webinars will be:

Seat Booking for Buses
19th August 2020
12:00

N E W S   &   E V E N T S

As buses become busier the need the confidence you can get on a bus means some passengers may want to book a seat, and a bus operators needs to understand the demand for journeys to know where to direct resources.

Could being able to book a journey or seat on a bus be one way of solving this double problem.

We are used to being able to book a seat when we make a long distance train or coach journey but not when we make a short bus journey.

What are the options and potential opportunities for the bus industry ?

In this session you will hear about the trials and plans for seat reservations from:

- Meera Nayyar, Department for Transport;
- Ben Hutchison, Transport for Wales;
- David Hall, TrawsCymru;
- Dave Skepper, Stagecoach East Midlands;
- Rob Pymm, First West of England.

Data Standards Webinar Series

We are starting a series of webinars at the end of August on data standards.

These sessions will run every couple of weeks and cover a different standard each time, the first will provide some background on Transmodel and UK applications.

N E W S & E V E N T S

They will only be short with content being 35-40 minutes to allow plenty of time for questions and discussion to take the overall time to an hour.

Following the first session we will have ones on:
- NaPTAN
- TransXChange
- SIRI
- NeTEX
- Traffic Light Priority
- IPxPT
- GTFS

The first of these will be on 26th August 2020 starting 13:00 and will run until November.

These sessions are free for members, there is a small charge for non-members to attend.

The first ones on Naptan, TransXChange and SIRI will run in that order because of the importance of those standards for the DfT Bus Open Data programme, after that we would like to know what order we should run them and if there are any other standards you would want to see covered.

There is a survey on the website to let us know:
https://www.rtig.org.uk/news/data-standards-webinar-series

The Public Service Vehicles (Open Data) (England) Regulations 2020

The Department for Transport has made the statutory instrument to provide the powers to enable the requirement for operators to provide open data and authorities to maintain NaPTAN.

This sets out the dates and data requirements for supplying data to the open data service.

With the formal publication of the SI we have updated our summary of the key dates and data formats that are contained in the statutory instrument:

N E W S   &   E V E N T S

Data	Supply From	Mandated Supply	Change Notice Period	Data Format	Note
Routes & Timetable	Jan 2020	31st Dec 2020	When supplied to Traffic Commissioner. > 28 days for Franchising Authority	Until 31 Dec 2020: TransXChange v2.1 - 2.5 General Profile After 1st Jan 2021: TransXChange v2.4 BODS Profile	Service cancellation: Immediately before cancellation DfT will host data for operators <40 services Profile Available
Fares – Simple		7th Jan 2021	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services Profile Available
Fares – Complex		7th Jan 2023	Before date of change	NeTeX BODS Fares Profile	DfT will host data for operators <40 services Profile Available
AVL		1st Jan 2021 for new services, 7th Jan 2021 for existing	Update frequency >= 30 seconds =< 10 seconds	SIRI VM BODS Profile	Profile in development
Punctuality		From 31st March 2021	Annual update by 31st March for preceding year	Current format will be accepted initially	For 31 March 2021 a 3 month update will be required. First full year due 31st March 2022
Bus Stop Data		31st December 2020	Not mentioned	NaPTAN v2.4	Schema available

The full document can be downloaded from the website:
https://www.rtig.org.uk/system/files/documents/RTIGT040-2.0%20BODS%20SI%20Dates%20and%20Formats.pdf

Location Data Profile

As you will have read previously we are working with the Department for Transport to develop a location data profile for the Bus Open Data Service (BODS).

Location data will be required to be provided to BODS as a SIRI–VM feed as well as being available from BODS in the same way. A profile is being developed to provide clarity on the data that is needed and will be provided.

There are a series of consultative discussions being held by the DfT / KPMG to identify the requirement for data and the ability of supplying systems to provide that data.

If you are not already involved in this work and have a view on what should be included in the SIRI-VM profile and what information will be helpful to support implementation, then please do get in touch.

The profile will have several mandatory fields, these were first discussed in May, and remain unchanged. The fields to be include in the profile are expected to be as follows:
• Producer Ref;
• Vehicle Ref;
• Vehicle Journey Ref;
• Operator Ref;

N E W S   &   E V E N T S

- Published Line Name;
- Line Ref;
- Direction Ref;
- Origin Ref;
- Origin Name;
- Origin Aimed Departure Time;
- Destination Ref;
- Destination Name;
- Destination Aimed Arrival Time;
- Vehicle Location and
- Recorded At (GPS timestamp).

BODS Issue List

RTIG is working with Traveline and the Bus Operator Digital Initiative to collate and coordinate the reporting and management of issues identified with the Bus Open Data Service be they technical, process or organisational based.

The document is being put together at KPMG / DfT request and will be updated weekly with contributions and input from the BODS team as it becomes available.

If you have anything to contribute, then please let Tim have the details. tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

COVID-19: How can RTIG Help?

As you face the challenges that COVID-19 are bringing you, what are the areas and things you would think RTIG could help you with?

Would some new guidance on a particular area help?

Would an online session of a particular topic be useful?

Please do get in touch with Tim with any ideas
tim.rivett@rtig.org.uk

D f T

N E W S

BODS Enhancements: Delivering Agent Mode

The team are currently developing Agent Mode functionality for the Bus Open Data Service to enable bus operators to delegate responsibility for publishing data to a local authority or a private agent. The team have delivered nine user research sessions with 7 Local Authorities and 2 private agents who are planning to run their own Bureau Service when Agent Mode is launched. In the sessions we explored processes such as: agent assignment/removal, agent publishing and agent communication with the BODS platform. The Agent Mode service on BODS is expecting to be launched during Autumn 2020.

Additionally, the team have started to research potential enhancements to the Data Quality Managed Service (timetables) that is already live and used by operators. We are looking for ideas on improvement for the webpage, types of data quality observations reported upon and ideas for any features that would improve the service overall. If anyone has any feedback and thoughts on the DQ reporting service, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us so we can have a short session with you.

Bus Open Data Service – Fares data update

The Bus Open Data Service (BODS) Fares Service is currently under development and expected to be launched later this year. The BODS fares service will accept the simple fares such as single, some zonal and period tickets transformed into NeTEX format. Early adopters would be able to publish data using the TfN Fares Data Build Tool from 27 July.

The Bus Open Data Service Team will support operators to publish fares data to provide the best user experience. The BODS team will send an email to selected operators to become early adopters of the service. We will provide you with direct support to publish fares data. An auto-invite from the system will be also sent to allow users access to the portal.

As part of the ongoing development, users of the Fares Data Service will be sent a questionnaire to let us understand your experience of using the new service.

D f T   N E W S

Bus Open Data Service: Business Change Update

July has been an important month for the BODS programme, with the West Midlands region and operators currently being targeted to invite and support operators on their journey to publish their timetable data. We've invited 81 operators across the West Midlands, and over 35 of these are now registered on the service which is a great achievement for the region. More operators are registering for the service every day, and the conversation has very much started across the industry about how we can help each other make the most of open data.

The process the DfT are following is based on communication and collaboration. With regional champions, and one on one conversations with each LTA, we are working together to help the industry level up and embrace open data.

A DfT Data Unit Update: Open NaPTAN

The DfT Data Unit are currently working to deliver a replacement NaPTAN Data Quality Checking Service, which is making really good progress.
The Data Unit have taken the step to open source the library (https://github.com/departmentfortransport/Open_NaPTAN) they've written to assess the data quality and visualize the stops in an area to research issues with NaPTAN data. This library performs a series of internal and geospatial consistency checks on the daily NaPTAN data release. Also, when queried for a named administrative area OpenNaPTAN will provide an interactive HTML document map with all the active NaPTAN entries within that administrative area. This release is version 0.0.1 of the library, which will be ongoing work, and feedback, comments, and pull requests are very welcome.

Please use the issues / comments on GitHub to get in touch with us at DevelopingDataUnit@dft.gov.uk

I N   O T H E R   N E W S

Basemap Founder Simon Court

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the death of Basemap's founder Simon Court. Simon died suddenly of a heart attack on Friday 3rd July.

He founded Basemap in 2000 and leaves behind a wife and 2 children. He was 51. He will be greatly missed.

Our condolences go to his family and the staff at Basemap.

DATA4PT project

The DATA4PT EU project aims to advance data-sharing practices in the public transport sector by supporting the development of data exchange standards and models, to fulfil the needs of multimodal travel information service providers.

DATA4PT aims to advance how data in Europe is treated and shared, to further improve the mobility services. The main objectives of DATA4PT consist of technical and organisational activities to facilitate the development and

deployment of the European public transport data standards Transmodel, NeTEx and SIRI. These standards will provide Union-wide multimodal travel information services which apply to the TEN-T network, including urban nodes.

These standards will make it easier for public transport providers to deploy services and meet the ever-changing mobility demand and behaviour of travellers.

I N O T H E R N E W S

DATA4PT is coordinated by UITP (International Association of Public Transport) and ITxPT is the Technical Manager. Within the project, they work together with nine different EU-member states.

More info on the official web site.

https://data4pt-project.eu/

The State of the Connected Nation

The latest Transport Technology Forum report into the value of connected vehicles is highlighting how technology boosts productivity, increases safety, helps revitalise high streets and reduces real-world costs.

The State of the Connected Nation report summarises a range of Department for Transport funded C-ITS Pilot Projects which have already delivered benefits. These include smarter parking, using new data to address road maintenance, better ways to set traffic signals to reduce emissions and congestion and providing better information and intelligence.

https://www.ttf.uk.net/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TTF_State_of_the_Nation_2020_Ed-1.pdf

Transport for the North – Fares Data Build Tool development update

Development of TfN's Fares Data Build Tool – which will support operators to publish fares – is continuing at pace.

The tool is now able to support the creation of fares files for single, return and flat fares for a range of user types, as well zonal fares and single operator period passes. Test files have been shared with electronic ticketing machine suppliers, which is a big step forward in implementing the NeTEx data standard across the industry.

The development team has also built functionality that allows users to download their own NeTEx files, as well as additional user security features.

RTIG INFORM

improving
public transport
through technology

User research remains a key focus and activity has been completed with operators, local authorities and data consumers from across the North of England and beyond – a big thank you to all involved! TfN remains on the lookout for additional test users, particularly outside of their region. If you want to get involved and make sure the service works for you, please get in touch with steven.penn@transportforthenorth.com

TfN are currently testing the service with operators ahead of the Autumn launch date for the tool, supporting publication of 'simple fares' data, before the end of the year. TfN continues to work closely with the BODS team and has begun discussions about possible novation of the tool to DfT ownership so it can be adopted as national solution.

Local bus service changes included in latest COVID-19 advice update from Traffic Commissioners

The traffic commissioners (TCs) have announced that the temporary local bus service processes will apply until 4 January 2021. This is covered in the latest updated to their advice for operators during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

The commissioners have introduced this change to allow bus operators opportunity to consider any permanent changes that may be required.

Another change included in the update is an increase in the notice period for service variations for Local Authorities from 24 hours to 72 hours in England and Scotland. This change took effect in Scotland on 29 June 2020 and will take effect from 3 August 2020 in England.
The update issued on 30 July 2020 also covers:
• amending a registered local bus service to become a school or works bus service
• the use of additional vehicles on services
• an end to PMI interval relaxations from 1 September 2020

Read more about the latest updated to the traffic commissioners' COVID-19 advice for operators https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/advice-heavy-goods-and-public-service-vehicle-operators-covid-19

IN OTHER NEWS

Crowdsourcing the Informal Bus System in Mexico City

A serious game this month, not a toy.

Each day, at least under normal circumstances, residents of Mexico City take 17 million rides in peseros—a fleet of green-and-white vans or microbuses that are part of the city's informal transportation system. The peseros—30,000 strong—are a world of their own. They can be crowded. Some blast music. They serve areas of the city underserved by other forms of public transportation. They serve more riders than all the city's forms of public transportation. But there's one major problem. There was no map whatsoever.

 "The only way of actually figuring out how to get from one point to another might be asking five people and then averaging out the answers,"

To create a centralized microbus map and timetable by traditional means would have taken years and a lot of money, and would never have stayed current as the unregulated pesero world continued to evolve to meet people's needs (and make money). So the lab had an idea. "The superpower of Mexico City is its community," says Gomez-Mont. "We put out a call to Mexico City citizens and said, 'Help us map this.'" The lab came up with an app, Mapatón, and turned it into a citywide, real-world game. Every time riders mapped a route from point A to point B they earned points. The longer the route, the more points, which could be exchanged for rewards, such as cash and electronics. In just a few weeks, 4,000 public transport users—the tiniest fraction of the overall ridership—covered 30,000 miles, and gave the

IN OTHER NEWS

government valuable information on the bus routes, length of journeys, passage frequency, duration, and fares.

https://www.atlasobscura.com/articles/ted-mexico-city-crowdsourcing

RTiG INFORM

improving
public transport
through technology

M E M B E R S   N E W S

Keeping in touch with you

As well as keeping you up to date with all the latest news from RTIG, this newsletter aims to provide a community forum for members. We therefore offer RTIG members the opportunity to submit a short article here on any issue or innovation that might be of interest to the community.

There are two ways of becoming involved in this:

▶ Email pieces to us when you have them – press release format is fine, and pictures are welcome.

▶ Nominate a marketing contact who will be included in the editor's monthly process of
  'chivvying'.

Buchanan Bus Station have unveiled their new 75" TFT passenger information displays manufactured and installed by the Trueform.

MEMBERS NEWS

New Displays for Nottingham & Derby

As the use of public transport begins to rise with the easing of lockdown restrictions, Nottingham & Derby passengers will start to see the major upgrades being made to their bus stop information displays.

21st Century are excited to be part of the project and are currently installing around 200 bus stop displays across both cities, all managed by our advanced transport Content Management System, EPI4. Passengers will have access to much clearer real-time information and disruption information, to help them travel confidently between both cities.

Billion Journey Project

GoAhead Group are proud to announce that Swiftly, Inc. are the winners of this year's Billion Journey Project. The proof-of-concept programme gives companies the opportunity to test their technology in Go-Ahead's bus and rail companies over 12 weeks.

More about the Swiftly Billion Journey Project:
https://vimeo.com/439294955

M
E
M
B
E
R
S

N
E
W
S

.

On Street Occupancy Information from VIX

In June, Vix began working with customers to quickly develop a solution to display real-time bus passenger occupancy information on existing on-street displays and online, allowing travellers to make informed decisions on whether they wish to travel on a particular service.

Following rapid development, we are currently rolling out the solution for West Yorkshire CA, with more local authorities to follow, beginning with Hampshire CC & West Sussex CC.

This will enable transit authorities to easily analyse occupancy levels across all services operating in their area, quickly highlighting potential risk points, helping them to operate safer transit services for their passengers.

VIX retain Hi-Trans Contract

We're pleased to be able to share news of our Real Time Passenger Information System services contract win with the Highlands and Islands Transport Partnership (HITRANS).

The project will include both upgrading existing and installing new displays, including our latest battery powered solution, as well as the development of a regional transport API.

Neil MacRae, HITRANS Partnership Manager commented, "Vix provided a comprehensive account of both their short and long term plans for the continued involvement with the HITRANS system. The proposed enhancements will provide an improved customer experience and up to date information for passengers across the whole region. It should also help support innovation

**M
E
M
B
E
R
S

N
E
W
S**

across wider public transport initiatives in the Highlands and Islands."

Innovating in Transport Data in a time of COVID-19

TransportAPI has worked closely with First Group for a number of years as its Managed Service provider of choice for transport data. We are continuously iterating our software and had rolled out our new Buses on a Map functionality before the onset of COVID-19. This feature was widely welcomed by First Group App users. And then, just like that, the world changed.

Clearly the imperative was going to be for First Group to manage their bus services in a way that could respond to the crisis, keeping key workers safe who still needed to use public transport. Driver safety, was of course also paramount. So TransportAPI needed to get a social distancing solution out the door rapidly, and had the occupancy feature in production within 4 weeks. On the 2nd of June, First Group launched the new feature, to enable commuters to track not only the location of their next bus but also available capacity. This allowed commuters to calculate social distancing on board their fleet. First Bus was the first major bus operator to roll out live capacity tracking, reducing uncertainty for customers and allowing them to make informed decisions about their essential journeys.

M E M B E R S   N E W S
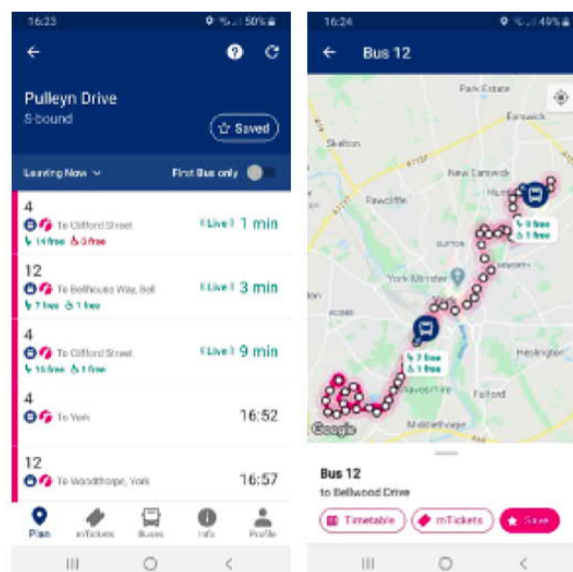
As well as general capacity, the App also provides specific information on the availability of wheel chair access. This functionality has been recognised by the Scottish Parliament where a motion congratulating First Bus on its innovative approach went before parliament on July 1st. The motion notes that First Bus is the first bus operator in the UK to allow customers to live track the location of their next bus, and applauds the operator for the measures they have put in place for the safety of all passengers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://medium.com/transportapi-managed-services-for-transport-data/innovating-in-transport-data-in-a-time-of-covid-19-c149c4d0f2be

Ito World is working with Department for Transport to deliver second phase of successful BODS project

Following our work, alongside KPMG, to help launch the Department for Transport's Bus Open Data Service (BODS) in January 2020, the DfT announced in June/July 2020 that reporting and analytical services will be added to the Service. Once again, the team at Ito World is excited to be the delivery partner on the second phase of this transformative project.

The service extensions will be rolled out from Autumn 2020, continuing throughout 2021, and will deliver better data to passengers, and enable national and local governments, regulators, and operators to monitor bus network performance across the whole of England.

Bus networks are critical transport lifelines to millions across the UK. Accurate, timely and accountable data will help operators improve their service provision and enable local authorities to enhance transport in their regions directly and through partners and, ultimately, ensure passengers can make the most from their bus services.

The addition of an Integrated Transit Model will match real-time data to timetables, archive historical data, and deliver easier to use GTFS and GTFS-RT data feeds to app developers, helping to drive innovation. A reporting and analytics suite will also enable a constant, real-time view of the national bus network at any point in time and provide valuable metrics to track and monitor performance of services across England.

M E M B E R S   N E W S

The latest BODS announcements build on the Secretary of State's aim to digitally transform the delivery of bus services across England. Legal requirements for bus service providers to publish their data openly come into force later this year, with timetables needing to be published by 31 December 2020, followed by fares and vehicle location data from 7 January 2021. These requirements will ensure greater transparency to passengers to help them use the UK's bus network.

> "These extensions significantly further the ability of BODS to digitally transform the delivery of bus services and, ultimately, the passenger experience. They will help revolutionise the way in which the DfT, and other stakeholders, collect and analyse bus data, enabling us to identify network optimisations more easily and help us support operators in reporting their on-time performance statistics."
>
> Meera Nayyar, Head of Passenger Experience (Buses and Taxis) DfT

https://www.itoworld.com/ito-world-working-department-transport-deliver-second-phase-successful-bods-project/

Management Committee Members

The Management Committee for the year 2020-2021 was appointed at the AGM on 30 April 2020. Membership is currently as follows:

Chair:

Members: Andrew Wilson (Hants), Graham Davies (WYCA), Russell Gard (React Accessibility), Darren Maher (21st Century), Tony Brown (Atkins), George Connell (Stagecoach), Simon Gold (Reading Buses), Meera Nayyar (DfT)

Contact us

Best by email: secretariat@rtig.org.uk.

https://www.linkedin.com/groups/8557065

Next issue

Issue 133 – Tuesday 1st September 2020.

Please send all contributions to secretariat@rtig.org.uk at any time up to Thursday 27th July 2020.