



## West Riding Branch

### April 2022 Newsletter

The excellent turn out of members/friends to this year's programme of indoor meetings continued when in excess of 30 attended the March presentation to witness a show put together by Steve Batty, a prolific contributor to the annals of "The Railway Observer". Delving into "The Back of the Cupboard" he unearthed a multitude of varied steam-based shots centring around early main line steam day action in the preservation era. Those were the days when many were the opportunities to photograph steam engines that have rarely since been seen on BR metals. In a similar vein, visits to preserved railways unveiled impressive action images taken on the North York Moors and Worth Valley Railways when 'special' motive power was scheduled to appear. Travels abroad provided for rarely pictured everyday steam life in South Africa and Botswana, plus a well off the beam journey to the Middle East Countries of Jordan and Syria. Much closer to home modern day activities described a cluster of images illustrating scenes from the closure of the collieries in the Yorkshire and East Midlands coalfields alongside industrial activities around the adjacent power stations of Cottam, Drax and West Burton. In concluding the presentation several small groupings of photographs focussed on Northern based activities on the Settle & Carlisle, the LNWR Trans-Pennine route, Lincolnshire, Teeside, Leeds and the "plant" at Doncaster. Altogether this was a most interesting and varied collection of pictures exclusively illustrated in black and white.

Thoughts now move to the up-and-coming meeting in April, which is to be the AGM, covering the year 1<sup>st</sup> November 2020 to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021, and will therefore be the last to cover the years through Covid. The AGM Agenda is set to follow the usual pattern which, on this occasion, must seek the re-election of the current committee members who have looked after the Branch throughout the last couple of Covid restricted years. However, at this meeting our long-standing Treasurer, David Beeken, is standing down after 50+ years of tending to the finances of the Branch and the meeting therefore seeks for his replacement. Additionally there is a further vacancy for one other member of the Committee.

The Agenda also contains reports from the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer. Views from the members regarding the re-introduction of afternoon meetings will be sought.

It is not thought that the meeting will take up much time and therefore, following the conclusion of the Agenda, short presentations from the members are requested and already three have offered to do their bit, with a fourth on standby should this be necessary. Space is however still available and should anyone be prepared to help out please let me know asap. The meeting is set for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> April and will be held at the Methodist Church in Saltaire, commencing at 7.30pm

A brief note in relation to the development of the West Riding Branch section of the RCTS website tells that meeting reports and Newsletters continue to be added and where possible accompanied with any relevant photograph. Not all reports etc. have, as yet, had pictures added but they will however be inserted in the near future as the site is developed.

As the National AGM of the Society is to take place this coming weekend I opt to refrain from any comment regarding National issues but will do so if, and when, anything arises of which you need to be made aware.

Again, in concluding the Newsletter my thanks to everyone who continues to support Branch meetings in such good numbers.

Best wishes and kind regards to all.  
Bob