



## West Riding Branch

# January 2022 Newsletter

Best Wishes to all of our members for 2022 in the hope that it will be an improvement over 2021 which thus gives plenty of scope.

In closing 2021, a most difficult year, the final meeting was presented by John Holroyd, who described tours of India, Scotland and the UK intermixed with sessions designed to test the knowledge of members around the world of railways. This excellent show was very well attended and greatly enjoyed by all who turned out. This once again indicated that despite Covid the interest from the membership continues to hold up very nicely indeed. My thanks to all who are attending the meetings.

Given that the Government has chosen not to meddle with the Covid induced restrictions the next up and coming meeting, which will be the first of the new year, is scheduled for Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January. On this occasion Austin Hughes, of our own branch, is to be the speaker and will present a programme entitled "Extreme Gricing". Broadly the presentation will take the audience to far flung "extremes" of the U.K. in the quest to "spot" and photograph rarely seen locomotives. As usual the meeting will be at the Methodist Church in Saltaire, commencing at 7.30pm and, as was the case at the last gathering, the use of facemasks is recommended.

In December's rendition of the Newsletter to the members I made note of the launch of a new and improved Society website within which is a section devoted to the West Riding Branch. To date reports from our last two meetings have been posted and most recently the programme of speakers for meetings up to the end of August has also now been added. As yet no monthly newsletters have been included but it is hoped that this latest rendition will quickly find its way onto the site. Please bear with us as the changes are all down to our understanding of a rather large learning curve!

I note that the November branch meeting report which should have been in the January RO failed to be published and will now appear in the February issue. This, I would like to let you know, is not due to any delay on my part but is a consequence of the publication closing date preceding that of the meeting. No doubt the Christmas holiday season had some impact.

Some rather sad news from Centre tells of the passing of past President Hugh Gould who, in his working days, was a very senior manager on British Rail. I have fond memories of Hugh who I

found to be a real gentleman. He spent much of his retirement days travelling around the U.K. by rail and on one occasion attended a West Riding Branch meeting (January 2009) to give a talk describing some of his latest travels.

In closing this somewhat brief communication I would very much like to thank all who continue to support our branch meetings. It is greatly appreciated and very encouraging. I hope to see you all at Saltaire for the January (20<sup>th</sup>) meeting.