



## West Riding Branch

# March 2022 Newsletter

Yet another very well attended meeting in February opened with a special presentation to David Beeken who, after undertaking the position as Treasurer of the Branch for 50 years, was awarded the "Certificate of Appreciation" by the Board of Trustees in recognition of this most outstanding effort on behalf of both the Branch and the Society at large. It should be noted that David is the first recipient of this newly created award. His efforts were also recognised by the Branch membership who further presented David with an artistically created drawing, by Branch Deputy Chairman John Holroyd, depicting a North Eastern Atlantic passing through David's home town of Ripon.

The on-going meeting was a presentation given by Stewart Lises who narrated Part II of his fascinating rendition of the industrial railway scene in the magnificent scenery of the Yorkshire Dales. This thoroughly researched piece of work superbly extended the detail beyond his Part I, further telling of an industry centred largely around the quarrying of limestone. Within the quarries the supporting internal railway systems were shown to be very varied, embracing narrow and standard gauge systems often operating in conjunction with necessary overhead ropeways for the transportation of material over steeply inclined gradients down to their interface with the National Railway network. Details of the quarries visited described both their internal layouts and their differing range of motive power via innumerable relevant photographic images. Particular attention was accorded to the quarries around Skipton and Wensleydale.

Beyond limestone, slate, lead and stone quarrying operations were also to be found, along with coal and metallic elements all of which were much smaller operations and nevertheless extended the depth of the presentation.

Thanks to Stewart for both creating and presenting this excellent and enjoyable two-part record of the industrial railway scene in the Dales of North Yorkshire.

Now we all can look forward to the next meeting, scheduled for Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> March, which is to be a talk/presentation given by Steve Batty who regularly contributes photographic images seen in the "Railway Observer". He is a most excellent and notable photographer who illustrates much of the modern-day railway scene. However, Steve has been around for many a long year and in order to demonstrate this he has delved into "The Back of his Cupboard" where much has been found of steam railway activities from the late sixties, seventies and beyond. Undoubtedly this will be an excellent and varied show. As usual the meeting will be held at the Methodist Church rooms in Saltaire, commencing at 7.30pm.

In recent weeks efforts by Lorraine on the website have resulted in both newsletters and meeting reports now regularly downloaded for both members and, importantly, visitors to read and learn of our activities. In addition to this a West Riding Branch signatory photograph and notes of welcome have been added. The photograph has been provided by Gavin Morrison which is of an un-named Deltic in the Leeds area bearing a headboard "The West Riding"!!

The on-going work to improve the presentation of the website will, in the short term, be directed towards the inclusion of photographs to accompany the newsletters and reports. A photographic gallery to specifically cover activities/scenes in the West Riding is under discussion at Committee level and is currently in the early stages of development.

As most of you will now be aware the indoor meeting programme has recently been extended to the end of 2022, the details of which have been emailed to those with the facility. Hard copies will be available at the up-and-coming meeting in March. The information can also be found on the website.

A final reminder that the meeting in April is to be an AGM covering the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> October 2021. February's newsletter asked for members who, following the AGM, might be prepared to give short presentations. One or two are already known of but if anyone else is interested please let me know at the next meeting which will thus enable me to gauge the need for any additional material.

In closing, my usual thanks to all who continue to support Branch meetings in such good numbers. It is greatly appreciated and is very rewarding.

Best wishes and kind regards to all.

Bob