



West Riding Branch

May 2022 Newsletter

My apologies to all for this later than usual issue of May's Newsletter. Wider Society matters have interrupted the normal sequence of events.

However, it can be reported that post-Covid meeting attendances continue to turn out very satisfactory numbers and the trend continued when another fine collection of members turned out for April's Annual General Meeting of the Branch. Political matters were rapidly dealt with as the reports by the Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer all conveyed positive messages. The current committee was re-elected for a further year, with one exception. Treasurer David Beeken opted to stand down from the committee after giving over 50 years of service to the Branch. There being no offers from the membership to take up his duties David has subsequently agreed to continue as "caretaker treasurer", although he will not be in attendance at each and every meeting and will not formally serve as a member of the Branch Committee. In recognising David's long-standing efforts on behalf of the membership he was, with the full agreement of all at the meeting, made an Honorary Vice President of the Branch. Your Secretary agreed to investigate the reintroduction of afternoon meetings for the 2023 programme.

Following the conclusion of the AGM the balance of the evening's entertainment comprised of presentations given by several members of the Branch. David Wilkinson was first out of the blocks when illustrating a recent visit to the Isle of Wight, showing images of the incoming ex-London Underground class 484 EMU's plus a tour of the museums. Vic Drake broadened the scope of the material by showing videos principally of steam and heavy freight activity over the Settle & Carlisle.

Chris Webster next showed innumerable modern day images, taken by himself and his photographic friends, of the varied traffic through the Calder Valley. Passing railtours with both steam and diesel traction, plus the many diesel hauled freight trains combined with the varied types of DMU's on local services described the totality of the picture.

Thanks have been accorded to all of the presenters for generating such a varied and interesting evening of internally derived entertainment.

Now the indoor meeting programme continues and unfortunately for the up and coming May meeting a substitute speaker has had to be called in. Gavin Morrison was to be the speaker but sadly for health reasons has given

backward. In his place Bill Jagger is to give a second version of his "Looking Back" series of photographs. Thankfully since the recommencement of the indoor meeting programme this is the first time that a substitute speaker has been needed. Thanks to Bill for standing in.

Finally note to record that I was commandeered by the Society, at short notice, to attend the KWVR this last weekend in order to formally pass over the Society owned "Falkland Island" nameplate to the Bahamas Locomotive Society. On a loan basis, they will be exhibiting the plate at their premises in Ingrow. A couple of copy plates are to be made which will be fitted on to Bahamas for one or two mainline tours in the non-too distant future. All of this in recognition of the 40th Anniversary of the conflict in the South Atlantic. A handing over 'ceremony' took place at Ingrow this weekend alongside Bahamas as it stopped there with the 13.35 Oxenhope to Keighley service. Veterans of the conflict, together with military representatives and the Lady Mayor of Keighley were all present to witness the occasion. Doubtless something will appear in a future edition of the RO.

Again, and as usual, my thanks to everyone who continues to support Branch meetings in such good numbers. I hope to see you all at Saltaire this coming Thursday (19th).

Bob