



West Riding Branch

September 2022 Newsletter

I narrate this month's notes whilst away on holiday and very sadly I open them to tell of the passing of Malcolm Clark (16255) who was a stalwart member of the Society and West Riding Branch for over 40 years. Furthermore he assisted in the running of both the KWVR and Vintage Carriage Trust. His passing is a sad loss to the railway enthusiast movement and he will be fondly remembered by those of our members who frequent our RCTS Branch meetings. Details for his funeral can be obtained from either myself or our Caretaker Treasurer David Beeken

The summer season of outside Branch activities went very well indeed. Firstly, the visit in June to Shipley Glen Tramway proved to be a most delightful evening of entertainment. Trams galore traversed the incline throughout the duration of the event. Members and friends were invited to tour the museum at the foot of the line whilst the evening refreshments that were laid on at the summit generated a most convivial atmosphere. Our thanks were duly conveyed to the Tramway management for making the outing an undoubted success.

August's traditional evening of observation at Doncaster yielded a number of members with more than a passing interest in the modern railway scene. Luckily, despite the downturn in traffic arising as a consequence of prolonged strikes and Covid, freight activity was both plentiful and interesting.

Passenger action, although a trifle thinner happened to feature a Class 68 locomotive on crew training exercises ahead of their introduction on the Trans-Pennine Manchester/Cleethorpes route. Several Class 91's powering King's Cross-Leeds semi-fasts enhanced the interest. Myriads of LNER Azumas were, obviously, to be seen on LNER main line duties whilst local multiple unit traffic was a trifle subdued. None the less those who made it to Doncaster found the evening to be very worthwhile.

In looking forward to the programme of indoor meetings, which is due to resume this month, the first meeting is set for 15th September when the speaker is to be our own Branch Deputy Chairman John Holroyd who will be delivering a two-part show. Part 1 is programmed to describe a 1996 photographic tour to the Western side of what is now a war-torn Ukraine. At that time steam activity was plentiful and doubtless, due to John's photographic skills, will be a 'not to be missed' rendition. In total contrast the second half will concentrate on the final days of the trolley buses in and around Bradford. Most fittingly this presentation coincides with this - the 50th year - since they were withdrawn from service. Doubtless this will be a most worthwhile and fitting reminder from those long gone years of the past. As usual the meeting will be held at Saltaire Methodist Church commencing at 7.30pm.

For reasons beyond my sphere of control please note that despite correctly submitting a report covering the July meeting the September issue of the RO does not include anything covering our West Riding Branch trip to the Shipley Glen Tramway. However, this created the opportunity to put together an improved, and more lengthy, combined report covering the two summer outside

meetings, which will now be printed in the October issue. Should anyone wish to view what was formerly reported in respect of those summer outside meetings they can, together with a couple of photographs, be seen on the Branch website. All's well that ends well!!

Once again in concluding this newsletter my thanks to everyone who continues to support Branch meetings in such good numbers. May we see you all at the meeting on the 15th September.

Best Wishes and Kind Regards to All
Bob