



West Riding Branch

August 2024 Newsletter

The July meeting was a splendid affair delivered by Steve Armitage when he covered steam day traction in the southern Pennines. Sheffield was to be the centre point, where in depth coverage described all that was to be found around the Victoria and Midland stations, plus the engine sheds spread around the city. The travels then moved in all directions visiting nearby locations around Barnsley, Rotherham and Chesterfield where trips around the localities and associated engine sheds suitably described the wide variety of motive power that was to be seen in and around the industrial areas of South Yorkshire. Pictures from the west of the region featured steam day engines photographed over the pre-electrified stations on the Woodhead route which focussed on both Penistone and Dunford Bridge stations. Glimpses of the DC electrics were also to be seen.

This widely varying and interesting presentation was greatly enjoyed by a well-attended audience.

As is usual the summer months always involve some kind of outside activity and in this vein the August meeting is once again set to take place with the Bradford Model Engineers at their Northcliff Woods venue in Shipley for another evening of “playing with trains”. This visitation is one that over the years has always proved to be very popular. Several locomotives, mainly steam of differing gauges, will be available for rides around the park. The detail and quality of engineering in building these locomotives is very noteworthy. A most pleasant evening of entertainment is sure to be had which commences around 6.30pm. Please note that the day of the meeting will be **Wednesday** 14th August in order to coincide with the usual meeting day of the Engineers.

Doubtless you will all be aware of the pending retirement of both myself as Secretary of the Branch and Branch Treasurer, David Beeken, which leaves the future of the Branch as being somewhat uncertain. This, despite the many calls for volunteer replacements, particularly over the past few months, no-one stepped forward. However, more recently a couple of potential candidates have made it known that they have an interest in the vacancies and in order to move things forward a special meeting of the Branch Committee has been set up which will be taking place later this week and it is very much hoped that this will result in a successful outcome. As soon as, and if, something positive is forthcoming I will circulate the details to all.

None-the-less at this stage a further Branch meeting has already been set up for the month of September when John Holroyd will be the speaker as he delves into the past history of the Branch. Note that the date on this occasion has been set for the **4th** Thursday (i.e. September 26th) at our usual venue at Saltaire Methodist Church. Furthermore, it is very likely that an October meeting will also be put in place which will be confirmed after the pending up and coming Committee meeting.

Meanwhile my thanks to all for your continued support and I can only hope and wish that matters move in the positive direction.

With my Kind Regards
Bob Green