



West Riding Branch

December 2023 Newsletter

As the current year nears to a conclusion the November meeting featured Ian Pilkington, a photographer from the western side of the Pennines, who has recently become well known to members as his photographs now regularly feature in the RO. Entitled "Steam and Diesels over the Northern Fells" the presentation yielded superb images of varied traffic over the Settle & Carlisle lines. A wide variation of steam power from each of the four regions were to be seen in very varied weather conditions, whilst hauling many of the steam tours that frequent the region. Freight activities were comprehensively covered illustrating all that was to be seen over the line, mainly in the hands of diesels from classes 66, 37 and 60.

Similar attention was also accorded to the West Coast main line as steam specials, plus diesel hauled passenger and freight traffic, negotiated the hills over Shap. The area of the presentation was broadened when pictures taken on the Cumbrian coastline, together with scenes from the Newcastle to Carlisle line, suitably described the action.

This most excellent photographic show was well received and thoroughly enjoyed by all at another well attended gathering.

With Christmas just around the corner the December meeting will, as usual, be held one week earlier on the second Thursday of the month, i.e. 14th December and on this occasion Deputy Chairman John Holroyd will be the guest presenter. For the first half of the meeting John will be testing the knowledge of all as he puts forward a most interesting set of photographs inviting members to identify the location of many photographs taken from here, there and everywhere within the UK. For the second half of the evening John will be showing a wide-ranging collection of his images taken from the distant past. No doubt that some Christmas treats will be served during the mid meeting interval.

As always the meeting will be at the Saltaire Methodist Church rooms commencing at 7.30pm and I hope to see as many of you as possible at this event.

At the November meeting I made mention that the meeting programme for 2024 is to be revamped from April onwards to the end of the summer. Consequently, the provisional 2024 programme that was issued a couple of months ago is now in need of a re-issue which will, hopefully, be circulated during January. Please note that the January and February meetings remain as previously scheduled.

On a rather sad note I have been informed of the passing of a Society friend, Robin Lush, at the end of November. Although Robin was not a member of the RCTS he was very well known to many within our Society and has also been a past speaker at the Branch. My understanding is that he passed away whilst out with his camera!!

So, at the end of yet another year my thanks to all who have supported the Branch and the meetings throughout the year. My best wishes to all with the hope that you have an excellent Christmas and may 2024 be a good year for all.

With my Kindest Regards
Bob Green
Branch Secretary