



## West Riding Branch

# February 2024 Newsletter

Due to the unavailability of Steve Armitage, who was the booked speaker for the January meeting, Roger Hepworth stood in to deputise and, to a well attended audience, delivered a most excellent talk which set the new year off to a most excellent start. The subject matter told of his railway adventures from some 50 years in the past. As a resident of the West Riding plenty was to be seen of dieselised traffic throughout the region where Bradford, Wakefield and Keighley were well to the fore.

Early day Worth Valley Railway pictures were most noteworthy showing both its infrastructure and motive power. Wider travels were to embrace scenes from the southern end of the Settle & Carlisle focussing on the days of West Coast main line diversions when multiple numbers of class 50's were often employed. Journeys over the Hull to Beverley lines described much of that was to be seen in East Yorkshire whilst cross Pennine activities were shown along the routes into Lancashire. Visits into Lancashire depicted action at Liverpool, Wigan and Blackburn along with the changing environments at both of the Blackpool stations were well covered. Most interestingly, and for comparative purposes, then and now pictures were frequently shown of several well-known locations.

In order to broaden the interest the presentation intermittently illustrated scenes from 60 years back which thus brought many pictures of steam activity into the programme, and plenty was therefore to be seen of Eastern Region Pacifics and other motive power operating chiefly through Doncaster. Finally, steam day photographs were shown illustrating all that was to be seen on the LNWR lines over the Pennines between Huddersfield and Manchester Victoria. This nostalgic presentation was greatly enjoyed by all and thanks to the speaker for deputising in such fine style.

Please note that the Steve Armitage talk has been rescheduled to be shown at the meeting in July and the revised programme of presentations through to the end of the summer was circulated with January's newsletter. The programme can also be found on the West Riding page of the Society website.

The next meeting is to take place on the evening of 15<sup>th</sup> February at our usual venue of Saltaire Methodist Church when Branch Chairman, Bill Jagger, will be presenting more from his railway adventures "Looking Back" over many years of travelling abroad. As is always normal the meeting will commence at 7.30pm and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the meeting.

No doubt many of you will have seen that the RCTS, in conjunction with Morton Media (Railway Magazines) have set up a photographic competition and for those who are interested please note that the closing date is 31<sup>st</sup> March. All of the entries must have been taken since January 2022. Details are to be found in both the RO and "The Railway Magazine".

Nothing of any significance this month has been forthcoming from Centre.

Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this communication – better late than never!

My thanks to all who continue to support the Branch.

Kind Regards  
Bob Green  
Branch Secretary