



West Riding Branch

January 2023 Newsletter

First and foremost may 2023 be a good year for all of us who seek to enjoy the widespread delights of railway interests and activities. A full programme of presentations has already been organised by the Branch, taking the meetings through to the end of the summer whilst towards the year end several others have also been set up. All for your enjoyment!! In order to keep you all informed of these activities it remains my intention to distribute the monthly email Newsletter ahead of the up and coming meetings and to further more widely spread the word via the Branch website where meeting reports can also be viewed.

Before moving into 2023 it is my pleasure to report that the December 2022 presentation was an absolute delight which finished off the year in the best possible way. The speaker was David Fowler from West of the Pennines who told of "Steam's Last Redoubt" which, using photographs taken by himself, entirely in black and white, was specifically designed to portray the steam day atmosphere of those final years. Much was to be seen of the West Coast main line along its popular localities featuring Black Fives, 8F's, 9F's, WD's, Duchesses, Scots, Britannia's on varying types of traffic. However, top quality scenes from several of the surrounding sheds which, when intermingled with railway infrastructures, locomotives and working personnel superbly fulfilled the speaker's objectives of emotively describing the steam day atmosphere in those final years.

At our December meeting I correctly commented to all who were there that the report of the November meeting would not be in the January RO due to the fact that the date of our meeting was 2 days after the submission deadline. Worry not as this, along with the December report, will be fully covered in the February issue.

So now for the New Year and for the first showing of 2023 Vic Drake is presenting a selection of photographs by a number of photographers under the title of "Stream Day Memories – Past and Present". Be there no doubt that this will be a varied and interesting set of pictures that will be enjoyed by all who have an interest in steam day activities.

The meeting is to be held at Saltaire Methodist Church on Thursday 19th January, commencing at 7.30pm, and I hope that our usual good turn-out of members will be there to set the new season off to an excellent start.

A couple of passing notes from Centre now informs us that the full range of "Railway Observers" dating from 1928 can be viewed on-line and can be found in the RCTS Digital Archive <https://archive.rcts.org.uk>

Secondly I note that the Society's collection of Working Timetables from 1970 onwards are now available for loan and should anyone wish to make use of this facility they should contact custodian Kurt Sickelmore on wttpost1969@rcts.org.uk

The BoT has also determined that pre-1970 WTT issues will no longer be available for loan.

Lastly the current Chairman of the RCTS, for the past 3 years, Callum MacLeod is standing down at the AGM in April. Who his replacement might be is awaited with interest.

At the end of this first newsletter of 2023 my kindest regards and thanks go to all who support the Branch in such good numbers – may this continue throughout the year.

Bob Green
Branch Secretary