



## **West Riding Branch**

### **January 2024 Newsletter**

In opening this first newsletter of 2024 may I wish all of our Society members and friends that 2024 is a good year for all who enjoy the delights of railway activities and interests. At long last a full programme of presentations has been finalised through to the end of the summer, the details of which are in the Appendix. Handouts will also be available at the next meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January. In order to keep everyone informed the monthly newsletter will continue to be circulated by email and will also be published on the Branch webpage along with reports from each and every meeting.

The pre-Christmas entertainment came via Deputy Branch Chairman John Holroyd who entertained the well attended meeting with a slide presentation comprising of two distinct elements. Those being his railway adventures in 1963/4 intermingled with a memory testing quiz. First off the presentation opened with his photographic recordings of railway adventures in 1963. Much was seen of trolley buses around West Yorkshire and industrial steam activities in the Lancashire coalfields and its neighbouring glass industry. A tour of Northern Scotland featured visits over lines and sheds that are now long closed. Travelling abroad a European tour to Austria specifically focussed on trips over both their narrow and standard gauge systems yielding volumes of varied steam activities. Along the way the journey through Germany brought plenty of similar action.

Either side of the break for Christmas fare, using interesting and scenic pictures taken over many years in the United Kingdom, members were invited to identify the illustrated locations some of which were taken in very remote settings. However, a goodly number, but not all, were correctly identified.

The final section concentrated on John's activities in 1964, largely spent travelling in the U.K. This consequently brought some splendid, picturesque scenes around his home territory alongside the Cromford and High Peak Railway in Derbyshire. More noteworthy scenes encompassed trips into North Wales and the South of England whilst in addition to steam activities plenty was also to be seen of any trolley buses that happened to cross his path. Northern images were taken on tours around Manchester Docks, the plant at Doncaster and Woodhead, but not forgetting scenes from around the West Riding.

All together this was a most excellent presentation which finished the year in fine style.

Now for the new year and specifically the January meeting. This presentation has been changed as the programmed speaker, Steve Armitage, sadly cannot now take up the appointment and this has therefore been deferred to the month of July (see attached programme). His place this January will be taken up by Roger Hepworth who has very kindly agreed to step into the breach. He has previously presented one or two programmes to meetings in the past, all of which have been well received by those in attendance. His programme will be illustrating his railway

experiences over the past 50 years and comes as a well recommended piece of work. The meeting will, as usual, be held at Saltaire Methodist Church on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> January commencing at 7.30pm.

Headline news from HQ tells that overall membership numbers at the year end have remained stable and that National Zoom meetings are now being held on a twice monthly basis. A new photo archive shop with free on-line access will be going public in the first quarter of 2024.

So, as we now move into the new year my thanks to all who continue to support the Branch and hope that 2024 will be a good one for both the Branch and the Society. My best wishes to all for the new year in the hope that you continue with your support throughout the interesting forthcoming season of talks which embodies some well-known railway speakers and photographers.

With my kindest regards  
Bob Green  
Branch Secretary



## **West Riding Branch Programme for 2024**

### **2024**

18 <sup>th</sup> January	"Fifty Years Ago"	Roger Hepworth
15 <sup>th</sup> February	"Looking Back"	Bill Jagger
21 <sup>st</sup> March	AGM/Members' Presentations	
18 <sup>th</sup> April	"Along the ECML – Kings Cross to York"	Stephen Gay
16 <sup>th</sup> May	"The Big 4 in Colour"	David Peel
20 <sup>th</sup> June	"Northern Memories"	Gavin Morrison
18 <sup>th</sup> July	"Steam Day Rails in the South Pennines"	Steve Armitage
14 <sup>th</sup> August	Visit to Bradford Model Engineers	

All other meetings commencing at 7.30pm  
Venue - Saltaire Methodist Church, Shipley

All Members and Visitors Welcome  
Donation on the door - £2