



West Riding Branch

July 2023 Newsletter

As the summer months pass pleasantly by members can look to the first of the season's outside activities which once again takes us, on Wednesday 19th July, to the home of Bradford Model Engineers at Northcliffe Woods, Shipley for an evening of "playing with trains". This visitation is one that, over the years, has frequently been organised and which, without fail, has always proved to be very popular as commented by all who have attended. Several locomotives, mainly steam of differing gauges, will all be available for innumerable rides around the park. The detail and quality of engineering in building the locomotives is worthy of recognition and admiration. A most pleasant evening of entertainment is sure to be had which commences around 6.30pm. Please specifically note that the day of the meeting will be on the Wednesday evening in order to coincide with usual meeting day of the Engineers.

Looking forward to the second of the Branch outdoor events, scheduled to take place on the regular third Thursday of August (17th), will as usual be an evening of observation at Doncaster which has now taken place for well over 25 years. Much has changed over these past years but it is always interesting to note the differences between the advancing years. From the days of the Deltics to the Azumas of today much has taken place and recorded by the attending members.

Before moving on a few words to recall the meeting of last month when Roger Hepworth, a local photographer and rail enthusiast, spoke to another very well attended gathering about steam journeys between Leeds and Carlisle, principally over S&C metals. The main presentation was preceded by an early dieselisation period journey from London to Leeds taken in 1968. The forward journey from Leeds featured jubilee "Kolhapur" hauling the Thames Clyde Express. Being a steam hauled ride at each passing location of interest interludes of steam day photographs from the locality were presented. As to be expected from Roger this was a very detailed and excellent presentation. However, due to holidays taken by the Editorial team at Centre the meeting report in the RO will not appear until the September issue.

Branch meetings from September through to the summer of 2024 are now being put together and as these notes are being written only a couple of speakers have to be appointed and I now expect the details to be finalised within the next week. As soon as this is completed the programme will be circulated both by email and put onto the website. Hard copies will be available at our next indoor meeting in September which Bob Gellatly will be showing "The Keith Pirt Collection". Keith was an early day colour-slide photographer who spent many happy hours on the ECML and GCR lines around Retford. Steam photographs by the dozen!! It comes as a highly recommended presentation.

Finally, I hope to see as many of you as possible at our forthcoming meeting as it is always very rewarding to have good numbers at any event. For the moment at least the show goes on.

With my kindest regards
Bob Green
Branch Secretary