



West Riding Branch

July 2024 Newsletter

The Branch welcomed Paul Chancellor of Colour-Rail to Saltaire who, as the proprietor of the business, put together a wide-ranging presentation from his vast material collection. Describing the railway scene from around the mid sixties it was to tell of the dying days of steam in combination with the early days of dieselisation and electrification. On a regional basis, images from across the entirety of the country were shown which thus provided for a very broad-based programme. From the Western region steam engines in the Welsh coal fields were seen intermingled with diesel hydraulic Warships, Westerns and Hymeks, whilst scenes from Southern territories illustrated the last days of the prolific slam door EMU's and the ex-LUL stock on the Isle of Wight. Visits to Eastleigh, Nine Elms shed and Tonbridge pictured the tail end of steam activity embracing the Bulleid Pacifics.

Nearer to home West Coast electrics were well to the fore seen along the length of the West coast Main Line as this was being developed. A truly vintage diesel photograph in the shape of 10001 was most significant and excellent views of the Pennine Woodhead DC electrics further added to the interest.

Eastern Region scenes encompassed a wide variety of the incoming diesel traction engines which were seen widely across the well-known localities along the entirety of the ECML. Additionally East Anglia's varying types of multiple units were pictured across the region. Significant steam engine activity was shown on York, Holbeck and Copley Hill sheds.

Scotland brought pictures of its developing stable of DMU's and class 26/27 diesels pictured in the major cities along with excellent photographs featuring the magnificent pacifics from both of the East and West main line companies.

Finally, in bringing this excellent show to a conclusion, pictures were shown of steam activities at heritage railways taken on visits to several preserved lines around the country.

Thanks were given to Paul for what was a most interesting and widely varying presentation.

So, now for the July meeting, for which our presenter is to be the very popular Steve Armitage who will be showing pictures of "Steam Rail Days in the South Pennines". Be there no doubt that as Steve is one of the best presenters around this will be a top quality show which comes highly recommended and as it is devoted to local regions should not be missed. It is programmed for Thursday 18th July at our regular meeting venue of Saltaire Methodist Church commencing at 7.30pm. Your support, as ever, would be greatly appreciated.

A gentle reminder that the August meeting, which will be held with Bradford Model Engineers at their Northcliff Woods venue in Shipley, is to take place on **Wednesday** 14th August commencing around 6.00-6.30pm.

Thank you to those of you who responded to last month's request from a non-member gentleman seeking information about the "North Yorkshireman Rail Tour". Our enquirer has expressed his grateful appreciative thanks.

Once more a reminder to Branch members that as things currently stand there have been no volunteers forthcoming to take up the roles of Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer. As a consequence the future of the Branch is now very uncertain and if it is to continue beyond the Autumn then it is crucial that someone comes forward in the very near future. Help will always be forthcoming in supporting any volunteer in moving the Branch into the future. Should you wish to consider taking up either position please make it known to either myself or our Chairman Bill Jagger. Your Chairman and myself are now in regular contact with the Society Trustees who are applying pressure. This though can only be effective if there are volunteers stepping forward.

Your help is urgently needed.

Finally, as ever, my continuing thanks to all for your support over these past number of years.

Bob Green
Caretaker Branch Secretary