



West Riding Branch

June 2024 Newsletter

The monthly meeting held in May was presented by Roger Hepworth who was kindly substituting for the booked speaker David Peel who, due to a recent fall, was unable to come to the meeting. Nonetheless Roger put together a splendid show telling of and illustrating action across the Calder Valley dating back over some 60 years in the past which consequently featured steam activities aplenty.

Working west to east from Manchester the direction taken into Yorkshire was over the L&Y lines via Rochdale. Plentiful, very interesting, steam day scenes were shown on the uphill route through Lancashire whilst the downgrade journey through Yorkshire journeyed through Mytholmroyd, Sowerby Bridge, Halifax and Bradford Exchange where numerous pictures described the scene at this interesting multi-company West Riding location.

However, the easterly approaches into Leeds were to take the LNWR metals beginning at Milner Royd thereby travelling via Elland and Brighouse. Detailed photographs superbly told of activities in and around both Mirfield shed and the very important freight yards at Healey Mills where much was to be seen from the days of steam. The final phase of the journey into Leeds was taken via Midland Railway metals travelling via Wakefield Kirkgate and Normanton.

Our thanks go to Roger for putting together this excellent programme at such short notice. Also, our best wishes are extended to David Peel in the hope that he makes a speedy recovery.

We now look forward to the June meeting which is to comprise of a "Colour Rail Journey" given by the owner of Colour-Rail, Paul Chancellor, who has been guest speaker at our meetings on three previous occasions. His presentations are very varied as he has a vast collection of material from which he is able to generate a wide variety of fascinating photographs spread across many places and types of locomotives from the entirety of the railway scene. Pictures from his massive collection are frequently to be seen across the totality of the railway press. This, therefore, comes as a highly recommended showing and is one that should not be missed. It is programmed for Thursday 20th June at our regular meeting venue of Saltaire Methodist Church commencing at 7.30pm. Your support, as ever, would be greatly appreciated.

I need to emphasise that the August meeting, which is to be held outdoors with Bradford Model Engineers at their Northcliff Woods venue in Shipley, is to take place on Wednesday 14th August in order to coincide with the dates of their 'open days'. Action will commence somewhere between 6.00 and 6.30pm.

As I remarked in my last newsletter I note that the Society is about to embark on the re-introduction of outside visits and in the June edition of the RO an initial visitation has been arranged to the

LSL premises at Crewe on Tuesday 10th September. Should anyone be interested in this visit please refer to page 330 of the June RO.

A plea for help from a railway interested enquirer has been received in respect of a rail tour organised by our West Riding Branch titled "North Yorkshireman Rail Tour" which ran on 25th April 1964. He seeks information on the locomotives that were used on the day. Please let me know if you are able to help in any way.

A reminder to all of our members seeks to establish whether or not we have any members who might be interested in taking up the roles of Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer. Time is moving on and in the absence of any volunteers the future of the branch, therefore, remains uncertain. Your help is desperately needed if it is to continue beyond the autumn. Should you wish to consider taking up either position please let it be known to either myself or our Charman Bill Jagger.

Finally, my apologies for this somewhat late circulation all of which is entirely as a consequence of taking a couple of weeks holiday.

As ever my continued thanks to you all for your full support over the years.
With my kindest regards

Bob Green
Caretaker Branch Secretary