



## West Riding Branch

### May 2023 Newsletter

Another apology for this tardy newsletter which, on this occasion, is merely down to the workload associated with the interim afternoon meeting. Besides adding a second meeting into the monthly programme this brought some tedious changes from the norm as the meeting coincided with local elections thus necessitating a change from our normal meeting room to the church upstairs. None the less all worked out quite well in the end despite the fact that the room shading could have been a touch denser.

The April meeting was a two-part affair initially commencing with the Annual General Meeting within which the current committee were all re-elected for a further year in office. Importantly though your secretary made it known of his intention to retire from office at next April's AGM. Branch members then provided the evening's entertainment and presentations were forthcoming firstly from David Wilkinson who described a visit to the Talylyn Railway and secondly from Roger Hepworth showing steam day activities around York and West Yorkshire. Tom Ickringill broadened the scope illustrating industrial logging steam on the Cass Scenic Railway in the USA and of main line preserved steam along the Settle & Carlisle and in areas within Yorkshire. John Holroyd provided some further variation by showing pictures of local trams and trolley buses in conjunction with some industrial illustrations around the glassworks at St Helens and several northern collieries. I myself offered a collection of modern-day scenes taken across East Anglia.

Thanks go to those who helped the evening pass so smoothly along.

Since the recommencement of Branch meetings all have been evening affairs and in order to establish the interest in afternoon gatherings an experimental meeting was set up in the first week of May. The presenter was Ted Parker who produces numerous video productions, most of which focus entirely on steam. To the title of "Lost Locomotives and Lost Locations" plenty was seen of locomotives on main line routes particularly in the North of England and the Settle & Carlisle plus occasional activities in Scotland. All of the locomotives on view are not to be seen in main line action at this current time, whilst the chosen locations were those that are no longer accessible to the general public. "Mallard", "City of Wells", "Evening Star" and "Green Arrow" were notable inclusions. This fine presentation attracted an audience almost equal to those of evening sessions and their continuation will therefore be the subject of the next meeting of the Branch committee.

Now, looking forward to the next meeting where David Birtle is to be the speaker. He will be telling of, and illustrating, the history of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, stretching from pre-preservation days through to present times. This is a most appropriate time for such a presentation as this year happens to be the 50<sup>th</sup> since the line was re-opened as a preserved railway. There can be no better speaker to tell the story as David has been a member of the

railway from the very first day. He is an excellent photographer and narrator who comes highly recommended.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May at our usual venue of Saltaire Methodist Church, commencing at 7.30pm.

Finally, I once again trust and hope that as many of you will yet again turn out in support of this meeting as your attendances are greatly appreciated. I look forward to seeing you there.

With my kindest regards  
Bob Green  
Branch Secretary