



West Riding Branch

May 2024 Newsletter

The monthly meeting for April brought Stephen Gay back to Saltaire to present a modern-day rendition of a journey along the East Coast main line from King's Cross to York. Once away from King's Cross all of the main stations were visited in sequence illustrating all of significant interest. At the southern end Biggleswade, Stevenage and Peterborough were the focal points beyond which much was seen of countryside lines between Peterborough and Grantham along the route of Mallard's steam world record breaking journey.

Newark yielded several scenic pictures where the railway crosses the river Trent whilst the approaches into Yorkshire at Retford homed in on main line traffic along with the recently engineered lower-level platforms at the crossing of the Great Central and Great Northern lines. The last leg detailed plenty of the freight yards around Doncaster before ending the journey at York's most impressive station.

An added feature were the poetic sequences that the speaker composed and narrated relating to a number of the locations visited along the routes.

For the up-and-coming meeting in May the speaker will be David Peel who is set to present a programme of colour slides entitled "The Big Four in Colour" which will be covering material from all of the four main post-war railway companies dating from their very early late forties formative years and onwards. David, who is known to a few of our members and from way down south, has a wide selection of railway presentations and this will be the first that he has given to the West Riding Branch. The title looks very promising for steam locomotive enthusiasts, and I am sure that it will be one to remember. It is programmed for Thursday 16th May at our regular Saltaire Methodist Church, commencing at 7.30pm. Your support for this meeting would be greatly appreciated.

A couple of points emanating from Centre tells me that the Society is about to discuss in some detail a link up with the SLS in the near future, although the detail has not yet been clarified. Secondly, I hear that steps have been made at Centre to put in place some visitations to locations of railway interest!! We await to hear what these might be.

As I write these notes no-one has yet volunteered to take up the role as Secretary of the Branch which, since the AGM, is now in "winding down mode". Irene Rabbits, Branch Liaison Officer from the Board of Trustees, is now also involved in the matter to help our committee in its efforts to keep the show on the road. She was at the last meeting of the Branch committee.

Please help if you can and let either our Chairman Bill Jagger or myself know if you are interested in keeping the Branch alive. I offer my help to anyone who might come forward.

Finally, a note that a further Branch meeting has been added to the meeting programme. However, due to holidays etc, it will be held on Thursday 26th September which is one week later than normal.

My continued thanks to you all for your support over the years.

My Kindest Regards
Bob Green
Caretaker Branch Secretary