



# West Riding Branch

## November 2023 Newsletter

In view of the uncertain state of the West Riding Branch this month's newsletter comprises of two sections.

### From the Branch Committee - The Future

In his October communication the Branch Secretary, Bob Green, mentioned that the future of the Branch was up for discussion and a Branch Committee meeting was therefore held on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November, in order to discuss the issue of retiring committee members and its subsequent impact. Given that Bob, the current Secretary, will not be putting himself forward as secretary at the next AGM it is important that someone is found to take up the secretarial responsibilities and furthermore that of the Treasurer. Should anyone be willing to stand for either of these positions please make it known to the Secretary Bob Green or Chairman Bill Jagger. All hand over assistance will be given to any volunteer. **If nobody comes forward the branch will close at the end of summer 2024.** At the committee meeting an orderly wind up "game plan" was agreed in order to see matters through to a conclusion.

The date of the AGM is set for Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March immediately after which a further committee meeting will be held when the future will be far more evident.

"Your Branch is in need of your help"!

Bill Jagger  
Branch Chairman

### From the Secretary

As the year end is just beginning to approach Steve Batty came to Saltaire as presenter for the October meeting. Using more material from the back of his cupboard he put up a most excellent show mainly in the Northern territories and switching between colour and black & white. Varying between steam and diesel motive power interesting scenes across West Yorkshire showed volumes of freight and passenger pictures across the Pennines and through the local towns, cities and the twist and between countryside. Industrial action was to be seen via a group of pictures illustrating steam and diesel locos taken at numerous collieries in the final days of coal mining. Plenty was to be seen south of York, telling of pre and post Selby diversion times whilst West Coast diversion days showed diesel piloted WCML passenger traffic over the Settle & Carlisle lines. Photographs of the Pennine electrics on the Woodhead route greatly varied and broadened the interest of this most excellent presentation which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

So now the interest shifts to the next meeting which is scheduled for Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November where, a new to the branch speaker, will be Ian Pilkington who is from the Western side of the Pennines. In recent times Ian has had many of his top-quality pictures printed in the RO and a group of his illustrations were shown as the centre spread in the November issue. His work varies between diesel and steam traction and something of interest will be there for everyone. The show which is entitled "Steam and Diesel in the Northern Fells 2010 - 2016" perfectly describes the style of the top-quality pictures which will be on offer. It is scheduled as an evening meeting commencing at 7.30pm at our usual Saltaire Methodist Church venue.

Meanwhile in concluding this report my thanks to all of our members who support the Branch in such numbers, and I hope to see you all at the November meeting.

With your help long may this continue.

With my kindest regards  
Bob Green  
Branch Secretary