



West Riding Branch

November 2024 Newsletter

I am writing this as my final Newsletter since this is my last day (31st October) as Secretary of the RCTS West Riding Branch after fifteen years of tenureship and I leave it knowing that I have given of my best. It is my hope that you all have enjoyed the meetings and talks which over the years have been a pleasure to arrange for you. My thanks to all who have turned out to fully support the Branch over these years, which gives me a great deal of satisfaction. This I will never forget.

As things move onwards I hope that our new Secretary, Peter Mann, will also be given your full support as he sets out in his efforts to keep the show on the road.

Similarly Branch Treasurer, David Beeken, also formally retires from the position that he has undertaken for well over 50 years. His efforts on behalf of the Branch cannot be underestimated and which have been recognised by the Board of Trustees who awarded David with a well-deserved Certificate of Appreciation. Thanks also must be given to him from our Branch members for all of his prodigious efforts in helping to sustain the financial sustainability of the Branch over these very long number of years. Notably his time in office covers in excess of 75% of the years the Branch has been in existence. David Ellis is now to take up the reins and our best wishes must be given to him as he commences his efforts to look after the finances of our successful West Riding Branch.

At the commencement of the October meeting a short EGM was held at which the members formally elected both Peter Mann and David Ellis into the positions of Secretary and Treasurer of the Branch commencing from 1st November 2024. We wish them both well.

With the formalities finalised Chairman Bill Jagger treated the audience to another of his “Looking Back” talks which on this occasion focussed on a recent tour he made to New Zealand. This covered a very interesting tour of North Island, visiting the Transport Museum in Auckland where plenty was to be found relating to railroads and trams. This was followed with a southbound KiwiRail tourist diesel hauled train journey from Hamilton to Wellington, visiting engine sheds at Paekakariki and Ohakune before venturing onto South Island across Cook Strait via the Wellington to Picton ferry.

South Island ventures featured a riding of the Trans Alpine Express to Christchurch via Greymouth, Otira and across the National Park of Arthur’s Pass. Ferrymead Heritage Park yielded a fair number of preserved locomotives of all types, diesel, steam, electric, plus trams several of which were to be seen in action. This wide ranging and varied programme was very much enjoyed by the well-attended meeting.

November’s meeting will therefore be the first set up by our new Secretary which is to be a talk given by Austin Hughes covering the lines from Saltburn to Scarborough. Austin is a most

excellent speaker who has previously done a couple of superb talks for the Branch and I can fully recommend him. This will be an excellent show and a good start for Peter and I hope that a good number of members and friends will turn out to support him. The meeting is programmed for 21st November at the usual venue of Saltaire Methodist Church, commencing at 7.30pm. Peter's programme of meetings through to next summer was circulated along with October's Newsletter and can also be found on the Branch webpage.

One quick final note is that due to the September meeting being held later than usual the RO report could not be submitted by the specified date (the day after the meeting) and will therefore be held over for publication in the December RO alongside that covering the October meeting.

With my kindest regards for now and for the future – I wish you well.

Bob