



West Riding Branch

October 2022 Newsletter

Following the conclusion of a most successful summer season of outside activities the ongoing indoor 2022/23 programme of meetings recommenced when Branch Vice President John Holroyd put together a two-part presentation. The first element told of a rail tour to Western Ukraine taken by himself in 1996 comprising of a rail tour around the countryside for a whole week aboard a luxury train which was to be their home throughout the duration of the tour. Many were the programmed stops at both narrow and broad gauge railways where a wide variation of Eastern Bloc steam and diesel traction was to be seen. Photographic run pasts and cab rides were frequently on the itinerary.

In total contrast the second half was dedicated to the passing of trolley buses in the UK and loads of pictures were shown of them around the country. Appropriately the subject coincided with the 50th year since their activities ceased in Bradford and was therefore, for a number of the audience, a nostalgic trip around the local system.

Thanks to John for the excellent show thus getting off the new season to a great start.

Most of our Branch members will recall the recent Society happenings at Barrow Hill Open Day where the 69003 was named "The Railway Observer" – the fourth locomotive so adorned with the name. Along with the action the RCTS also ran a photographic competition which was won by non-member Robert Batty from Queensbury. As a resident from within the West Riding he was invited to the September meeting where our Branch Secretary duly presented him with his winnings.

My apologies to Branch members as, due to health issues, I have formerly failed to mention that the recently published book covering the life and times of the Royal Scots can be purchased through the Society, via the Branch, for £25. Should anyone wish to take up this offer please let me know on or before the next meeting which I will then progress with an order to Centre. I really should have done this a couple of weeks or so ago but sadly have not been well enough to absorb the responsibility.

Whilst on the theme of publications I note that the "Locomotives of the LNER" is to be re-issued with the original 19 book series consolidated down to 8. It is also to be made available in digital format. More details can be found in the October RO.

Subscription renewal rates for 2023 are to remain as those for 2022.

The Annual Members Weekend is being held in Reading 21st – 23rd October, to which the Branch usually has 2-3 attendees but this year who knows. Apologies from non-attending Officers have been tendered.

At Branch level I have over the past couple of days been putting together the on-going meetings programme taking the Branch through to the end of 2023. It will be put to the Branch Committee before the end of this month for their agreement and approval and once cleared the details will be circulated to all via email and at Branch meetings.

Finally, please note that the next Branch meeting at Saltaire will be a presentation given by David Tillotson entitled “Adventures in Search of Steam”, although David defines it more simply as “Steam, Steam and more Steam”. It extensively covers steam activities in the UK but then ventures out into Europe, South Africa, New Zealand and the USA. David is well known to many of the Branch members as an organiser of tours and trips to many railway establishments and this show represents much of his railway interests and travels.

The meeting is set for Thursday 20th October at Saltaire Methodist Church, commencing at 7.30pm.

This is worth the wait!!

Thanks for your continued support
Bob