



West Riding Branch

October 2023 Newsletter

Following on from the summer season of outside activity September was the month where all reverted back to indoor meetings at our usual venue in Shipley. To set the new programme of presentations off to a good start Bob Gellatly, of the Great Central Railway Society, illustrated the photographic work of Keith Pirt who lived in Retford and where this was thus the base at which the entirety of the material was focussed. Being at the crossing of the Great Central and Great Northern lines motive power from each company was seen in equal measure. Plenty of Robinson's 2-8-0's on freight duties were to be seen as they journeyed easterly and westerly along with frequent appearances of numerous J11's and J6's. Local GN passenger duties featured D11 Directors on the Lincoln to Sheffield route. Photographs taken on the Great Northern lines featured many of their popular Gresley pacifics speeding their way from, or to, London. V2's were to be seen on high speed freight duties. All were superbly photographed and very typical of that which was to be seen in those halcyon days of steam.

In looking just a touch further into the programme Steve Batty is to be the speaker at our next meeting on Thursday 19th October. Importantly it needs to be stressed that this is to be an afternoon affair commencing at 2.00pm at Shipley Methodist Church. I emphasise this as "The Railway Magazine" incorrectly quotes a starting time of 7.30pm, although it is correctly announced as 2.00pm in the RO and on the website. Steve has given a number of presentations to the Branch over the years all of which have been excellent shows covering much of his work over many years. Both steam and modern traction always feature and there will be much to entertain all who are there. His top quality pictures will leave no-one feeling disappointed with the show.

Friend Arthur Jowett informs me that a new mini museum is to be opened at Wellington Place in Leeds, aimed at displaying memorabilia relating to Leeds Central station. MEPC, the developers, sited behind Wellington Place are encouraging people to get in touch to share their experiences and stories when visiting the station. Any tickets, souvenirs and old photographs would be very welcome. Should anyone feel that they have anything worthwhile to contribute please email sophie@wellington-place.co.uk. The doors to the new museum are scheduled to open in early 2024 and will be free to the public during the daytime.

Recent notifications from Centre have chiefly focussed on the Officers' Conference which is to be held in Doncaster on Saturday 28th October at the Danum Centre. Within the meeting format three workshops have been set up to help Officers understand their responsibilities. These will concentrate on – i) Branch Finances; ii) Web Updating; iii) New Officer Introductions. Branches are crucially important to the Society and doubtless, with the above, management are indicating the need to strengthen and secure their future.

With the on-going future of the West riding Branch in mind the Branch Committee is set to meet on Thursday 2nd November.

In concluding this report my ever grateful thanks to all who support the Branch and I very much look forward to seeing you at October's afternoon meeting.

With my kindest regards
Bob Green
Branch Secretary