



West Riding Branch

October 2024 Newsletter

The September Newsletter told members of the promising development relating to the induction of a new Branch Secretary and Branch Treasurer, both of whom are to be formally appointed as Branch Officers at next week's forthcoming meeting on Thursday 17th October. Meanwhile the new Secretary, Peter Mann, has been very busy formulating the programme of future meetings which now takes the Branch through to the mid-summer outside gatherings. The new programme has now been built into the Branch webpage where it can be viewed by our members and friends. Please feel free to spread the word. Our grateful thanks to Peter for keeping the ball rolling.

Financially our incoming Treasurer, David Ellis, is now picking up the reins from retiring Treasurer David Beeken, who has been 'acting Treasurer' for the last couple of years. David (Ellis), with the help of David Beeken, is steadily working his way into the understanding of the financial aspect of the Branch. Thanks of appreciation also needs to be given to David (Ellis) for stepping forward in the efforts to prolong the life of the West Riding Branch.

In recent months attendance to the meetings has been free of charge but this will no longer apply from the commencement of the new programme, which begins in November. Initially the charge will be set at £2 per meeting as was previously the case over the past number of years.

Matters therefore now move onto the subject of the up-and-coming October Branch meeting. It has been mentioned earlier that at the commencement of this there will be a very short Extraordinary General Meeting which will formally elect Peter and David as Officers of the Branch through to the next AGM, which is programmed for April 2025. Following these formalities the meeting presentation will then be given by Bill Jagger who is to narrate another of his "Looking Back" presentations which, on this occasion, will 'home in' on a visit to the far-off land of New Zealand. Doubtless this will, as ever, be a very detailed and most fascinating and interesting compilation as is always the case when the well-travelled Bill is the presenter. The meeting is scheduled for Thursday 17th October at our usual venue of Saltaire Methodist Church, commencing at 7.30pm.

Meanwhile the September meeting was specifically set up in order to recognise that this current year happens to be the 70th Anniversary of the inception of the West Riding Branch. To recognise this John Holroyd, as a very long serving Officer and member of the Branch, presented a most splendid compilation of slides describing many of the countrywide rail tours initiated by the Branch throughout the 50's and 60's, through to the dying days of steam and early diesel eras. This nostalgic and detailed show was a delightful summary of bygone West Riding Branch activities.

Furthermore, in order to recognise the anniversary a collection of suitably designed ceramic mugs were made and presented to the attending members who were at the meeting. Any remaining items will be available at October's session for those who may have missed out.

As you may well have gathered October is to be my final meeting as Branch Secretary. I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you, branch member or visitor, who has supported our meetings over the past 15 years. Attending numbers have always been a continued source of satisfaction. Also, my thanks to the members of the Committee who have greatly contributed to the running of the Branch and for their continued help throughout the years. Finally, a massive thank you to Lorraine who has been a permanent source of invaluable assistance particularly in the secretarial and IT areas.

With my kindest regards for now and for the future and my best wishes to both of our incoming Officers. I hope that your efforts will be fully rewarded and that the Branch continues well into the future.

Bob