



West Riding Branch

September 2023 Newsletter

The summer season of outside activities has now been brought to a close and we can now look back on a couple of worthwhile gatherings. As was reported in my August newsletter the evening with the Bradford Model Engineers was a most successful affair and in furthering this report can tell of an interesting evening of observation at Doncaster for the August outing. Local Northern traffic was somewhat limited due to signalling issues earlier in the day. Fortunately, LNER ran to schedule thus providing a full quota of their Azumas and 91 locomotives on the Leeds/Kings Cross services. Hull trains and Grand Central traffic varied the degree of interest. Freight activities were most plentiful in the evening and a good variety of trains were observed mainly in the hands of class 66 motive power. Altogether there was much to be seen as is typical of Doncaster.

Details of the ongoing Branch programme were circulated along with the August communication and this can also be found on the Branch page of the RCTS website. To kick off the new season of meetings the September show is to be a talk given by Bob Gellatly, who will be telling of the work of photographer Keith Pirt. Keith was an early day exponent of colour slides whose favoured location happened to be alongside the East Coast Main Line at Retford. Hence we can all look forward to viewing a large collection of steam day action from both East Coast and the Great Central metals. The talk comes highly recommended and has been well reported in past editions of the RO. It is scheduled for 21st September at our traditional Methodist Church venue in Shipley starting at 7.30pm. I would hope that as many of you as possible will be able to come to the meeting as possible.

In looking, just, a little further forward Steve Batty is to be the presenter at October's meeting, which is scheduled for 19th October. However, on this occasion please note that this meeting is scheduled for a one-off afternoon affair commencing at 2.00pm.

Correspondence from Centre has been somewhat limited during these last couple of summer months and very little has emerged to be worthy of passing on. However, of some note is that the death of Maurice Boddy has been announced. Maurice was a passionate railway enthusiast and was the co author of the 10-part publication entitled "Locomotives of the LNER".

With little else to report, due probably to the summer months, my thanks to all who support the Branch – your support is most welcome, and I very much look forward to seeing you at the meeting in September.

With my kindest regards
Bob Green
Branch Secretary