

# THE MIKADO MESSENGER



2007 PRINCE OF WALES  
Building Britain's Most Powerful Steam Locomotive

Welcome to edition No. 35 of *The Mikado Messenger*. The Messenger aims to provide a regular bulletin of news about the construction of No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*.

This edition of the *Messenger* has been kept deliberately light to save some surprises for those Founders, Covenantors and Club Members attending the Convention at the end of the month.

## TEES VALLEY MAYOR VISITS DARLINGTON LOCOMOTIVE WORKS

Tees Valley Mayor Ben Houchen recently visited Darlington Locomotive Works where No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* is currently under construction. During the visit Mr Houchen was given a briefing on The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust's progress to-date and its ambitious plans for expansion.

The Mayor heard first-hand the Trust's plans for a larger base in Darlington where it would build and maintain its growing fleet of locomotives and rolling stock. The Trust also has ambitions to create a state-of-the-art charter train, from a set of locomotive-hauled Mark 3 carriages, which will be extensively refurbished and overhauled for its new role. You can read more [here](#).



Ben Houchen and Mark Allatt at DLW - A1SLT

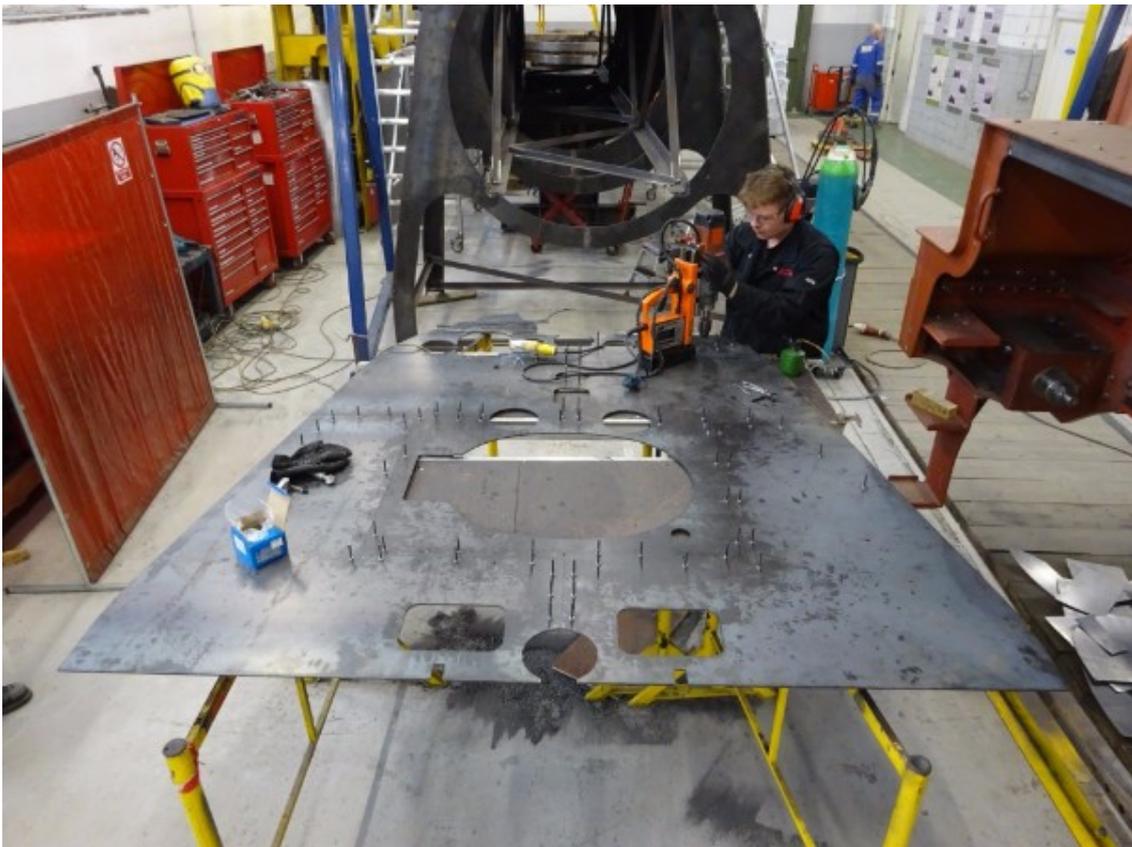
## VIRGIN APPRENTICES AT DARLINGTON

The third three apprentices, Ondre Brooks, James Henshaw and David Harrison from Virgin Trains' Bounds Green depot in London, have just completed a two-week-long stint with the Trust at DLW

working on No. 2007 *Prince of Wales*. Over this period, they have worked with A1SLT staff, helping with the shaping and fabrication of the locomotive's distinctive boiler cladding using the dinosaur-like former nick-named 'Craig the Cretaceous'. More apprentices are expected to follow in the coming months.



James Henshaw works with an angle-grinder on the backhead cladding - *David Elliott*



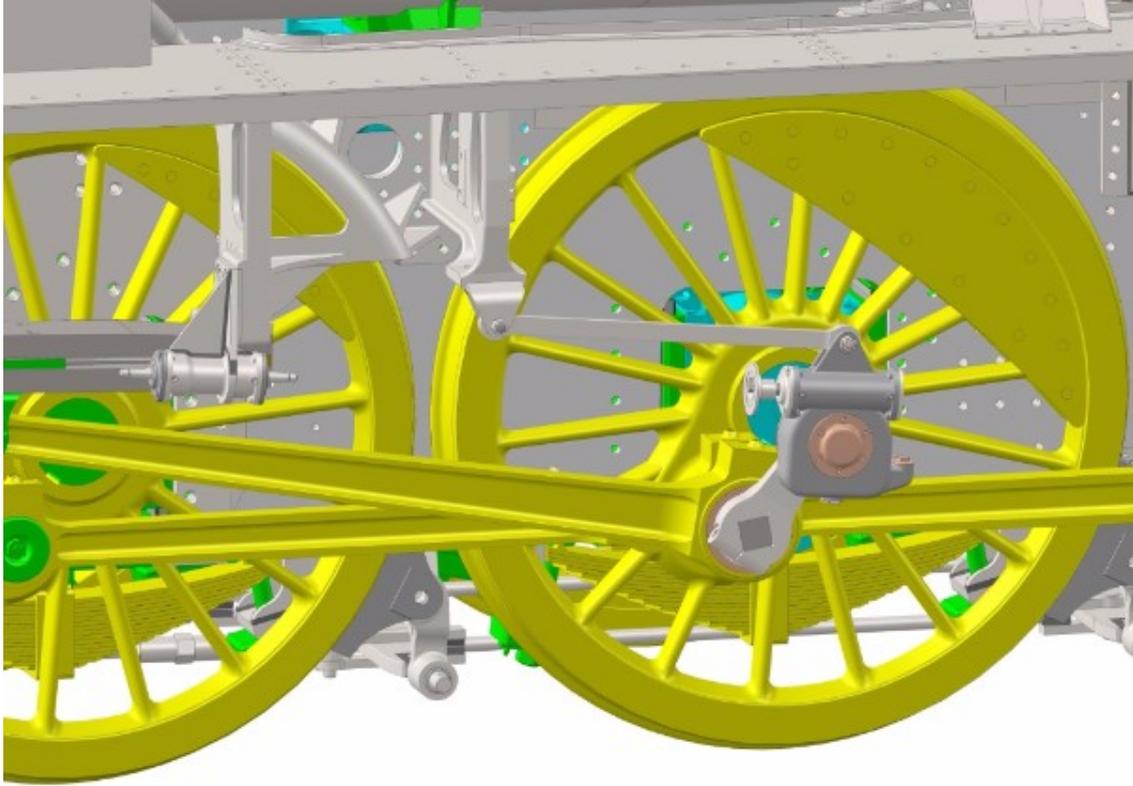
David Harrison uses a mag drill - *David Elliott*



Ondre Brooks tidies up some platework - *Gemma Braithwaite*

## CAD DESIGN CONTINUES

David Elliott is making progress on the finite CAD drawings of the Lentz/Franklin valve gear for No. 2007, one of the biggest design challenges facing the engineering team in the construction of *Prince of Wales*.



Elements of the valve gear are appearing on the CAD master drawing - *David Elliott*

In other news:

- Finish machining of the newly-assembled crank axle at Unilathe at Stoke-on-Trent is now complete
- Unilathe have finish machined the three-replacement plain coupled axles
- Progress has been made on the boiler cladding
- Ian Howitt is machining the brake hangers
- The sandboxes have been grit-blasted and primed.

## P2 FUNDRAISING

**Record-breaking donations mean £2.5m pledged of £5m target**

Our project to build Gresley class P2 No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* continues to make solid progress on all fronts with and we are still on target to complete the new locomotive by 2021 provided we can keep up the current pace of income growth. Pledges towards building No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* have passed £2.5m just over three years after the frames were rolled at British Steel's plant in Scunthorpe. Public interest in seeing a new Gresley class P2 become a reality sooner rather than later remains high and over 830 people have already signed up to the 'P2 for the price of a pint of beer per week' (£10 per month or more) covenant scheme since its launch in March 2014. The average monthly donation is now £17.51 per covenantor (including Gift Aid) and the projected monthly income for our P2 project from the monthly covenant scheme is now running at 104% of that of *Tornado* - a remarkable achievement in such a short period of time - thanks to the generosity of our supporters. What is even more striking is that only 27% of A1 covenantors (36% of P2 covenantors) are regular donors to both locomotives, meaning that the overwhelming majority of the funds are being given by new supporters of the Trust.

In addition to this core scheme, funds have been raised through The Founders Club (over 360 people have donated £1,000 each - target 100 people, now closed), The Boiler Club (over 125 people have pledged £2,000 each - target of 300 people - meaning half of £600,000 target now pledged), The Mikado Club (over 170 people have pledged £1,000 - initial target 160 people but extended to 200) and Dedicated Donations (over £200,000 from existing supporters sponsoring a variety of components). The Gresley Society Trust has also sponsored the locomotive's distinctive front-end for which we are most grateful. There are also a considerable number of wheeling-related Dedicated Donations still available for sponsorship, ranging from a driving wheel spoke at £600 (or from £25 per month for 24 months) to a

Cartazzi axlebox casting at £1,300 (or from £50 per month for 26 months) and leading coupled axle at £6,100 (or £100 per month for 61 months).

We are delighted with the level of support that the project to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive has received since its launch. This means over £1.3m (over a quarter of the total required) converted into metal, around £1.7m (one third) raised and over £2.5m (50%) pledged.

We are now hopeful that we will have completed the rolling chassis for No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* in winter 2017/18 and we remain on-track for completion of the new locomotive in 2021. However, to maintain this rate of progress we need to continue to raise more than £700,000 per year, which given the nature of the regular donation scheme becomes more challenging as each year passes.

We would encourage all our supporters who haven't yet contributed to this exciting project to help us to meet these deadlines by becoming a monthly covenantor, joining The Boiler Club, taking out a Dedicated Donation or subscribing to The Mikado Club. It's time to get on-board!

For more information on how you can help to build Britain's most powerful steam locomotive visit [www.p2steam.com](http://www.p2steam.com), email [enquiries@p2steam.com](mailto:enquiries@p2steam.com) or call 01325 460163.

## AN AUDIENCE WITH THE *PRINCE OF WALES* - NEXT STOP DUNDEE!

As you will be aware, we are holding a series of presentations at major towns and cities along the route of the East Coast Main Line from London to Edinburgh and all the way to Aberdeen during 2017 and had travelled from London via Peterborough and Doncaster to York by the time of the last TCC.

Darlington: 72 attendees, so far four P2 Covenants worth £40pm (£3,360 over seven years plus GAD), an existing supporter increased his A1 and P2 covenants by £5pm each (A1 worth £300 over five years and P2 worth £420 over seven years plus GAD), and Dedicated Donations of £225 plus GAD.

Newcastle: 30 attendees, so far Dedicated Donations worth £1,225 plus GAD.

Edinburgh: 24 attendees, nothing donated yet, but Nina Brittan (volunteer and Sir Nigel Gresley's great-grand-daughter) recruited a member for The Boiler Club who had attended The Gresley Society Trust's plaque unveiling a few days beforehand and was at this meeting.

In addition, the LTM Patrons were hosted in Darlington Locomotive Works on 20<sup>th</sup> May - 24 attendees, one Mikado Club (worth £1,000 plus GAD) and one £20pm P2 Covenant (worth £1,680 over seven year plus GAD).

The next roadshows will run from 11:00hrs to 13:00hrs on:

- Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> October 2017 - Dundee Heritage Trust Discovery Point, Dundee
- Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 - Aberdeen Jury's Inn, Aberdeen.

The presentations are given by David Elliott and Mark Allatt and are also attended by other volunteers and supporters. Please do come along to support the project, hear the latest news and ask any questions that you might have. Even better if you can bring a friend or two!

We are planning to continue our P2 roadshows in 2018 but replacing some of the lesser attended locations with others from around the country, possibly including Bristol, Birmingham, Leeds and Manchester.

For more information on the P2 roadshows visit [www.p2steam.com](http://www.p2steam.com), email [enquiries@p2steam.com](mailto:enquiries@p2steam.com) or call 01325 460163.

# TORNADO'S TOURS

For more information on *Tornado's* tours and where you can see her, click [here](#).

The Trust respectfully requests that anyone wanting to see *Tornado* follows the rules of the railway and only goes where permitted.

## PRESENTATIONS

If any railway society - or indeed other interested group - would like a presentation on the project they should contact us by email [enquiries@p2steam.com](mailto:enquiries@p2steam.com)

## OPEN DAYS AT DARLINGTON

We hold public open days at Darlington Locomotive Works on the third Saturday of every month. During April through to September we are open 10:00hrs to 16:00hrs, October through to March, we are open 11:00hrs - 15:30hrs.

## VOLUNTEER

As ever we are looking for more volunteers. It takes a lot of people to both keep *Tornado* on the main line and also to build *Prince of Wales*. There is always so much more that we can achieve with the right volunteers with the right skills and can-do attitude. Please email [enquiries@p2steam.com](mailto:enquiries@p2steam.com) if you think you can help.

For more information on the project to build Gresley class P2 No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* please visit [www.p2steam.com](http://www.p2steam.com), email [enquiries@p2steam.com](mailto:enquiries@p2steam.com) or follow us on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.



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