

THE *A1* STEAM LOCOMOTIVE TRUST

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50th BIRTHDAY PARTY FOR SCRAPPED SISTERS OF NEW STEAM LOCOMOTIVE Significant progress on wheeling new *Tornado*

The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, the registered charity that is building the first new mainline steam locomotive in Britain for almost 40 years, is celebrating the 50th anniversary of the completion of the first Darlington Works built example of the same type - Peppercorn class A1 60130 *Kestrel* - in September 1948 with a party for some of the railwaymen who built it. The first Peppercorn A1 was completed the previous month at Doncaster Works.

The party, to be hosted jointly with Darlington Council, is being held in the new Darlington Locomotive Works on Tuesday 8th September 1998 at 7.00pm, where a new Peppercorn class A1 60163 *Tornado* is currently being built. Present will be David Champion, Chairman of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust and Vice President Mrs Dorothy Mather, whose late husband Arthur Peppercorn was the A1's designer.

The party is being held at:

Darlington Locomotive Works
Hopetown Lane
Darlington

David Champion, Chairman of The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, commented:

“September 1998 marks the 50th anniversary of the completion of the first Darlington-built Peppercorn class A1. The Trust, which is aiming to complete the 50th member of this lost class of steam locomotive, is celebrating this anniversary with some of the class's original builders and the designer's widow. We are still actively seeking additional sponsors and covenantors to enable the locomotive to be completed by 2000.”

Work on the Wheelsets continues apace

Work to enable *Tornado* to be wheeled by Christmas continues as fast as funds will allow. It is the first time that this very specialist and expensive job has been done since the completion of British Railway's last steam locomotive in 1960:

- The steel tyres for the four 3'2" bogie, six 6'8" driving and two 3'8" cartazzi wheels have arrived at Riley & Son Ltd of Bury from Cockerill Forge & Ringmill of Belgium, one of the few organisations in the world still capable of rolling 6'8" tyres.

more follows...

- Firth Rixon Rings Ltd of Rotherham has started work on the two bogie axles, two plain driving axles and a single cartazzi axle. They are also supplying components for the crank axle for the leading driving wheels and the six outside crank pins. In addition, they are supplying scrap axle components to carry out pressing tests at Riley & Son Ltd. Ian Riley will be following guidelines produced by E S Cox (former assistant to Robert Riddles, Chief Mechanical Engineer of British Railways) as there is little documented evidence remaining on how to carry out this process.

Construction Update

Other recent construction activity includes:

- the patterns for the inside steam pipe extensions, blastpipe tops and chimney are expected to be delivered by Coxhills to Charles W. Taylor for casting in September 1998
- the recently acquired Stones turbo generator is being refurbished by Trust volunteer Ian Thompson after 20years in store
- the chimney liner pattern, loaned to the Trust by Flying Scotsman Railways who used it in the re-building of Gresley A3 No. 4472 *Flying Scotsman*, has also been sent to Charles W Taylor of South Shields for casting and is due to be completed in September 1998.

Countdown to Completion

On 1 January 1998, The A1 Steam Locomotive Trust committed itself to completing *Tornado* by 27 September 2000 - exactly one thousand days from that date. The new express passenger steam locomotive, the first to be built in Britain since 1954, is already half completed, with the mainframes, wheels, cylinders and cab all finished. The date 27 September 2000 will be the 175th anniversary of the opening of the Stockton & Darlington Railway in 1825, the world's first public railway. Completing *Tornado* in 1,000 days will involve raising around £750,000 through deeds of covenant and industrial sponsorship. This represents over £30 per hour or £750 per day being raised during this period. The countdown now stands at 760 days to go.

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