

SHROPSHIRE RAILWAY SOCIETY

AN EARLY AUTUMN TRIP TO THE NORTH EAST OF ENGLAND

TO CELEBRATE THE STOCKTON & DARLINGTON 200 ANNIVERSARY

FRIDAY and SATURDAY 26 & 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

The Society is pleased to offer a two-day excursion to the north-east of England to visit the museum complex at Hopetown, Darlington and to see the replica of “Locomotion” and its train on one of its commemorative runs.

On the morning of Friday 26 September we will drive from Shropshire to the Darlington area to arrive around midday, and we intend to spend the afternoon at the Hopetown complex, which is based on the former Darlington North Road station, which includes various galleries showcasing the early history of steam powered railways, and also includes the viewing gallery for the A1 Steam Locomotive Trust, builders of “Tornado”, before we check in to our local hotel for one night, probably a Premier Inn.

The recently announced event “Titans of Steam”, where six main line locomotives including “Tornado” and “Sir Nigel Gresley” will be on display at Hopetown, will also be taking place on the day of our visit.

On Saturday 27 September, we will stay in the Darlington area for the early part of the day, to see at least one run by “Locomotion” and its train over one of the remaining portions of the former Stockton and Darlington route, commemorating two hundred years since the opening of the S & D in 1825.

Later in the day we will drive back to Shropshire to arrive in the evening, with the option to stop for an evening meal on the way.

Shropshire Railway Society is offering the outing on the basis that the group will travel by way of shared private cars, with each participant making a contribution to cover the driver’s fuel costs; accordingly it will be necessary for those who express interest to state whether they are able to offer seats in their car for other participants.

The accommodation for the overnight stop will be pre-booked by Shropshire Railway Society, with payment to individual members account on arrival, with the cost of bed and breakfast for single occupancy of a room being about £80.

Tickets for entry to Hopetown and to view the locomotives forming the “Titans of Steam” exhibition are free of charge, and SRS has already booked a number of such tickets accordingly; SRS has also booked a number of free tickets to view “Locomotion” at the iconic Skerne Bridge on 27 September, and these will be allocated to participating members on a “first come, first served” basis; it may be possible to obtain further tickets if demand from members exceeds those we have secured in advance (although the viewing area at Skerne Bridge has a finite capacity).

It may also be possible to see “Locomotion” and its train at other locations during our visit – further details are awaited from the organisers of the “S & D 200” celebrations.

Members interested in participating should advise Lionel Price, in the first instance by 31 August please, so that the accommodation and transport arrangements can be given further consideration.

Those doing so should also please indicate their address, so as to assist with planning of the transport to and from Darlington, and as mentioned above.

In addition anyone who wishes to take part who is also willing to use his/her private vehicle to transport other members of the group on the basis of shared petrol costs as referred to above should please so indicate.

Those interested should also give an indication of their rooming requirements, please.

Please contact Lionel Price via outings@saloprailsoc.org.uk or call on 07786 165101 (message may be left if necessary).

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JLDP/SRS31/07/25