



ASTT Annual Conference 2025
to be held at Hopetown, Darlington over the weekend of 4th- 5th Oct 2025
Call for Bookings and Fee Payments

Plans are finalised for our 2025 conference to be held at Hopetown Museum, McNay St, Darlington DL3 6SW over the weekend of 4th-5th October. 2025.

This will be our 10th conference and will follow the successful format of earlier ones, with a series of presentations, a conference dinner and a chance to see locomotives close-up.

The conference will follow the general format of previous conferences with 1½ days of presentations, a conference dinner on the Saturday evening and two loco viewing sessions on the Sunday – viz: P2, No. 2007 *Prince of Wales* at the A1 Trust's Darlington Locomotive Works in the morning and the *Titans of Steam* exhibition in the afternoon (see below).

This year's focus is on the **"Continuing Operation of Steam"** into the 21st Century: - operations, maintenance and new-build steam.

This year is Rail 200, so our venue is the refurbished Hopetown Museum in Darlington and we have two North East-based speakers: -

- Paul Middleton (aka Piglet) of the North Yorkshire Moors Railway
- Daniela Filova, founder and owner of Daniela Works Ltd, provider of technical services to the railway heritage sector.

Plus

- 7 other speakers
- Private viewing of the A1 Trust P2 'Prince of Wales'
- 'Titans of Steam Gala' viewing - As part of this year's S&DR200 celebrations, Hopetown Darlington will be host to a gathering of iconic steam legends. For details see: <https://www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/whats-on/Titans-of-Steam-Gala>

2025 Conference Timetable

Saturday Programme		
0930	Registration and Coffee	
1000	Welcome	John Hind
1015	Why did BR give up on steam – lessons learnt?	Andrew Hartland
1115	Networking refreshment break	
1130	Modern methods in design and manufacture of steam locomotives	Daniela Filova
1230	Networking lunch	
1330	Running Steam on the NYMR	Paul Middleton
1430	Networking refreshment break	
1500	Practical Mainline Water Treatment in the 21 st Century	Alex Powell
1600	Revolution Update	Jamie Keyte
1700	Saturday close	
1830	Conference Dinner at Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington, DL3 7HZ,	
Sunday Programme		
0900	Registration and Coffee	
0915	A1 and P2 Update	Graham Langer
1015	P2 Visit	A1 Trust
1100	Networking refreshment break	
1115	Running Clan Line on the Mainline	Alex Powell
1215	Networking lunch	
1315	New build steam – the practicalities	John Hind
1415	Titans of Steam Viewing	Hopetown Museum
1515	Networking refreshment break	
15.45	Locomotive Boilers	Hendrik Kaptein
1645	Conference Close	

Conference venue:

2025 conference will be held at Hopetown Museum, McNay St, Darlington DL3 6SW

Admission Charge - to cover costs, there will be a charge of **£130** for 2 days' and **£90** for a single day.

This has been set to cover meeting room hire; morning and afternoon teas and coffees; lunches; speakers' attendance fees; and a £300 donation to the A1 Trust.

There will be an additional charge of **£28.00** for the conference dinner at the Bannatyne Hotel for those who would like to attend.

Booking applications should be sent to - asttconference2025@advanced-steam.org

Please write in the subject line 'ASTT Conference Booking'.

Payment can be by: -

- BACS transfer to ASTS's Barclays account – Account Name: Advanced Steam Traction Services Ltd., Sort Code 20-73-26, Account No. 53896625, quoting 'Conference' as the reference
- PayPal to info@advanced-steam.org (please ask if you would like us to send you a "payment request").
- Cheque made out to "Advanced Steam Traction Services Ltd" and posted to Chris Newman at Flat 4, 2 Kimmerghame View, Edinburgh EH4 2GP.

Seating space in the meeting room will be limited to around 40 attendees, so bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis.

Parking nearby: Hopetown carpark - Address: 101 High Northgate, Darlington DL1 1UJ

Parking is available 24/7. Parking charges are £1 per hour or £4 for a day ticket. Charges apply daily between 8am-6pm.

Accommodation:

We have made arrangements with Bannatyne Hotels Ltd, Southend Ave, Darlington DL3 7HZ for the conference dinner on the Saturday evening and for accommodation.

Early booking is strongly recommended, as the A1 Trust is holding their convention and dinner on 4/10/25 at the Bannatyne.

The Conference Dinner; on Saturday 4th Oct starting at 18:30:

- "private room on Saturday 4th October for 20-30 people at £28 pp."
- "Final numbers and full payment will be required 3 weeks prior"
- "Menu choices will be required no later than 10 days prior" (menu options to be circulated later).

The accommodation offer: from Bannatyne Hotels Ltd Darlington is:

- "bed & breakfast £70 per single occupancy room and £80 per Double or Twin room."
- "We have a maximum 10 Twin rooms and we can offer up to 20 Double rooms which can also be for single occupancy."
- "Any rooms not reserved 2 weeks prior will be released."

Contact for room bookings: Linda Raine - Reception Manager, Bannatyne Hotels Ltd Darlington

Tel: +441325628460

DDI: +441325628460

Email: reception.darlingtonhotel@bannatyne.co.uk

Website: www.bannatyne.co.uk

Please mention that you are with the ASTT in any booking correspondence.

Parking: The Bannatyne Hotel offers free parking for guests, with limited spaces available.

Walking to Hopetown: The Bannatyne Hotel is approx. 1 mile/1.6 km from Hopetown

Ride Share: We hope to be able to arrange ride shares between the hotel and Hopetown with other delegates

Alternative accommodation options in Darlington:

- Mercure Darlington Kings Hotel - 4 star
Address: 9, 12 Priestgate, Darlington DL1 1NW, Phone: 01325 380222
- The Dalesman Hotel & Bar - economy
Address: 96-100 Victoria Rd, Darlington DL1 5JW, Phone: 01325 486254

Bookings for these hotels should be made directly with the hotels or through the Booking.com <https://www.booking.com/> website.

For international visitors:

Darlington is 350 km north of London and 120 km northeast of Manchester.

Rail journey times from main towns with airports are:

London King's Cross to Darlington – 2½ hours direct

Edinburgh Waverley to Darlington – 2 hours direct

Manchester Piccadilly to Darlington – 2½ hours direct

Newcastle to Darlington – ½ hour direct

Hopetown Museum

<https://tickets.hopetowndarlington.co.uk/#home>

For anyone travelling to Darlington on the Friday, how about arriving early and having a leisurely look round the refurbished museum? They will be hosting two special exhibitions both of which end on Sunday 5/10/25:

S&DR200 Presents: STEAM to the Future - Free

A family friendly exhibition, following Railway Pioneers: Celebrating the Railway Rockstars of the Past, transports you from the present and into the beyond. The exhibition takes a playful look at the near and BlueSky thinking showcasing the design and science behind the rail industry.

S&DR200 has commissioned an immersive installation by **A.A.Murakami** (AKA Studio Swine) inspired by steam as a source of power, and the chance to create a 22nd century inspired locomotive using virtual reality software.

All of our railway contributors are looking to the future and this is a glimpse into just some of the work that is underway to ensure the railways continue for another 200 years and how the rail industry is gearing up for a second revolution driven by the growing green technologies sector in the Tees Valley and County Durham.

Experiment! - £5

Is an extraordinarily vivid journey into passenger rail travel. Starting right here in Darlington in 1825 with Locomotion No. 1's first steam-powered passenger railway journey, take an exciting ride into the past to discover more about the history of the railways, and imagine where they will take us in the future! See the impact Darlington's railway heritage has had across societies and cultures across time and around the world.

This is a simulator-style ride for which there is a £5 charge.