

For immediate release

EAST LANCASHIRE RAILWAY'S 'LEGENDS OF STEAM' SPRINGS BACK FOR A SECOND YEAR.

East Lancashire Railway's celebration of Railway 200 will be extra special - thanks to legendary locomotives with film and royal connections.

The second such 'Legends of Steam' event will welcome locomotive icons, LNER A1 Peppercorn Class 60163 'Tornado', LMS Black 5 45407 'The Lancashire Fusilier' and a pair of Bulleid light pacifics, 34092 'City of Wells' and the recently arrived Battle of Britain Class, 34081 '92 Squadron'.

'Tornado' – the first 21st century steam locomotive built in the UK since 1960 - made the headlines as it steamed for the first time in 2008. In just over 15 years, the engine has continued to impress, hauling Royal Trains and appearing on the big screen in the film 'Paddington 2', as well as on numerous television programmes including Top Gear. Tornado is also the fastest steam engine to run since the 1960s, reaching 100mph on a test train in 2017.

Fans of the 'Jacobite' steam train, made famous by the Harry Potter films with scenes over the Glenfinnan Viaduct, have the opportunity to ride behind one of the regular locomotives from the Ian Riley fleet, 45407 - formerly of the London, Midland and Scottish Railway (LMS).

The line-up also features a pair of Southern Region light pacifics, which are instantly recognisable for their 'air-smoothed' flat sides, affectionately known as 'spam cans'.

An intensive timetable is planned for this extended weekend, with dining options featuring 'Tornado' on the Saturday night, whilst the Friday night features an authentic 'Golden Arrow' menu, hauled by one of the Southern locomotives.

Mike Kelly, Chairman of the East Lancashire Railway, said: "Following the outstanding success of this event in 2024, we wanted to bring another 'steam fest' in our second Legends of Steam event as we pay a huge tribute to our much-loved express steam locomotives that were the 'FI icons' that transformed long distance travel in the 1950s.

Over the years we have welcomed a great many iconic locomotives to the ELR and are very privileged, proud and excited to make these express steam engines available to the many thousands of enthusiasts and those first timers wishing to see, hear and ride behind them.

“These exciting additions to the ELR’s ‘Legends of Steam’ event promises to make the celebration even more special.

“I’d like to thank The AI Steam Locomotive Trust, Battle of Britain Locomotive Society and Riley & Son (E) Ltd, for allowing these icons to operate on our railway.”

Legends of Steam returns on 14-16 March, 2025 with day ticket and dining options available, with more information available on the [East Lancashire Railway website](#).

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About East Lancs Railway and Railway 200

ELR opened as a heritage railway in 1987, and hosts around 200,000 visitors annually, as one of the leading visitor attractions in the Northwest. Operating steam trains from Bolton Street Station in Bury, along a 12.5-mile line between Heywood, in Greater Manchester, and Rawtenstall in Lancashire, the railway was recently recognised with TripAdvisor Travellers Choice Award for 2024.

Railway 200 celebrates the bi-centennial anniversary of the modern railway. East Lancs Railway is celebrating this once-in-a-generation opportunity with numerous events planned in 2025-26. For further details visit www.eastlancsrailway.org.uk and www.railway200.co.uk/

AI Steam Locomotive Trust

Established in 1990, The AI Steam Locomotive Trust was formed to build a Peppercorn class AI Pacific, based on the 1940s design but fully equipped for operating on today’s railway. After 18 years of construction and fundraising, the £3million locomotive has delighted millions across the globe since 2008. Today the Trust has a vibrant and growing list of supporters. For further details visit www.aisteam.com.

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