

The programme which we expect to run is:

FRIDAY 9th MAY

18.30 Informal get together in the bar for those staying at the Bannatyne Hotel (or any member wishing to look in)

SATURDAY 10th MAY

10.30 Meet at Hopetown reception building & welcome from our Chairman, Brian Dotson. (Leave Bannatyne Hotel at 10.10)

10.45 Guided visit to the A1 Trust's Darlington Locomotive Works to view progress with new build P2 Prince of Wales

11.30. Plenty of time to explore what the rest of Hopetown has to offer and to buy lunch in the Clock Tower café

15.00 Society AGM in the Wilbur Suite, Bannatyne Hotel, After a tea/coffee break there will be an illustrated presentation by Richard Barber entitled 'The route of the S&DR'

19.00 Society Annual Dinner in the Wilbur Suite (Must be prebooked – see booking form)

SUNDAY 11th MAY

10.35 Meet at Darlington Bank Top station ticket barrier for the 10.53 Northern train to Shildon for a visit to Locomotion. Please buy an off-peak day return to Bishop Auckland. (Transport will be arranged from the hotel as required)

11.30 Meet by the shop in Locomotion main building for a brief introduction; thereafter you are free to explore the museum with time to purchase lunch if desired.

13.50 Leave Locomotion and return to Shildon station for a return trip on the 14.13 train via Bishop Auckland to Darlington Bank Top (calling Shildon again at 14.30 & due to arrive 14.52) (Earlier return possible by 13.30 train from Shildon)

**SLS AGM WEEKEND, DARLINGTON
10th & 11th MAY 2025
BOOKING FORM**

Name _____

Membership No _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

e-mail _____

Name of guest (if taking part in any activity)

Please return this form promptly (and no later than 11th APRIL 2025) to Paul Whitaker, 15 The Green, Seaton Carew, Hartlepool TS25 1AT or send as a PDF by e-mail to kpaulwhitaker@outlook.com

See over

Number of places for visit to Hopetown,
Saturday morning

Number requiring transport from
Bannatyne Hotel to Hopetown

Number of places required at Saturday
evening dinner

Number of places for visit to
Locomotion Shildon, Sunday morning

Number requiring transport from the
hotel to Bank Top station, Sunday

Advance booking is needed for the dinner
which will cost £28 for 3 courses or £22 for
2 courses. A menu and payment advice will be
sent to those wishing to book.

Members should note:-

- 1) Luggage can be left at the hotel after
check-out on Sunday
- 2) Parking close to Bank Top station is
available for £1 on Sundays



2025 AGM WEEKEND IN DARLINGTON

The SLS 2025 Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 10th May 2025 in Darlington to coincide with the bicentenary year of the Stockton and Darlington Railway.

Members should book places with SLS Teesside Centre not later than **11th April 2025** by using the attached forms.

The AGM and evening Dinner will be held in the Bannatyne Hotel, Southend Avenue, Darlington, DL3 7HZ. Tel 01325 365858.

(www.bannatyne.co.uk). The hotel offers free parking for guests. It is

approximately 0.6 miles from Darlington Railway Station. For

members wishing to book overnight accommodation in the hotel, we

have negotiated a special SLS member rate of £85 per **room** (for 1 or

2 people) per night for bed and breakfast. Members will need to book

directly with the hotel. We have some rooms reserved only until

11th April 2025. Members are of course free to make their own

accommodation arrangements in other hotels or B & Bs.

We have arranged visits to two locations of particular importance in

the development of the railways – Hopetown Museum in Darlington

(www.hopetowndarlington.co.uk) and Locomotion in Shildon

(www.locomotion.org.uk). Entry to both is free.

Hopetown Darlington opened in 2024 as a major visitor attraction and

incorporates the North Road Station Museum, which explores the

development of rail transport in the early 19th century; and the former

Carriage Works, which has on display a collection of railway heritage

artifacts. It also includes the A1 Trust Darlington Locomotive Works.

Locomotion, part of the National Railway Museum, houses more than

70 locomotives, carriages and wagons in the Main Hall building whilst.

New Hall, opened last year, houses a further 47 vehicles, making the

museum home to the biggest undercover collection of historic rail

vehicles in Europe. It is a short walk from Shildon station.