

October Automotive Group Report

U3A Automotive Group gets all steamed up at Hopetown as part of the 200th anniversary of railways.

A number of our train/plane/car/boat/plane enthusiasts visited Hopetown in Darlington where, as part of the celebrations, the famous engine, 'Sir Nigel Gresley', named after its designer, was steamed up and moved noisily away from the engine sheds in clouds of steam and smoke.

This engine holds the post war steam speed record of 112mph in 1959.

It's sister engine, 'Mallard' no. 60022, still holds the world steam speed record of 126mph achieved in July 1938. Any schoolboy from the 1950s will tell you this - well, I could!

The engine driver of the 'Sir Nigel Gresley' knew every nut and bolt on his magnificent 165 ton behemoth - question, 'Have you been a train driver all of your working life?' 'No, I ran a model train shop in York!'

David Yeadon, not to be confused with Peter Colley.

Photos - Engine driver with a continuous big smile on his face.



Sir Nigel Gresley all steamed up: Photos by Peter Colley

