



# B1 NEWS *flash*

**Newsflash of the Thompson B1 Locomotive Trust**

[www.thompsonb1.org](http://www.thompsonb1.org)

August 2018

David John Fowler 30<sup>th</sup> December 1943 – 4<sup>th</sup> August 2018



It is with great regret that we have to announce the sudden death of our erstwhile Trust Secretary and Secretary of the Thompson B1 Locomotive Ltd. Dave had been undergoing chemotherapy for his terminal stomach cancer but suffered a series of strokes and was admitted to hospital in York, where he died on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> August. His wife Margaret and his daughters Gillian and Julia were all with him at the end and we extend our condolences to them all at this sad and difficult time.

Dave had joined the original Rolling Stock Society in the early days and joined forces with Jim Gurnett in fund raising, as their daughters were at school together. At the time he was

an electrical control engineer with the CEGB, having qualified from his apprenticeship with GEC at Stafford. He took on the role as Secretary of the Trust and the Limited Company and was one of the longest serving members of the Committee.

His time management was legendary – when the B1 was invited to Steam on the Met in 1998, Dave went on holiday and the main line certification paperwork had to be collected by Jim on the Friday, 24hours before the loco was due to run.

Since his retirement he devoted many hours helping with the overhaul of the loco, first at Barrow Hill, then, following the move to the North Yorkshire Moors Railway, supporting the engineering team on winter maintenance. With his training, this was usually on much of the electrical work and refurbishment

When the B1 was in Scotland with the Jacobite seasons, Dave regularly was part of the support crew. Recently when we were reminiscing, although it was hard work, we probably had the best of times operating the loco at full stretch. Even so he always found time to socialize with West Coast Railways loco crew and always enjoyed the occasional pint!

R.I.P dear Friend

Mike Cobley - Chairman

We had a lot in common. Apart from the obvious railway interest, we each had a Staffordshire link, a connection with South Africa, an appreciation of good wine and a pie, and we could talk politics, sport, travel and all things manly.

We each had grown up in the Midlands, made our fortunes in the Home Counties, and had relocated to Yorkshire on retirement. We each had two daughters, and wives that got on. We were chums.

Dave liked to listen to other people – a rare quality. He enjoyed a laugh, and we had plenty of those. He was never too serious but liked to be busy and do things, whilst admiring people who were similarly pro-active. He carried the B1 Trust and cemented the committee and membership. He led by example and remembered people.

He himself will be remembered; with admiration and affection – and with massive shoes to fill....

Dave Wellington - Publicity Officer

Dave's funeral will take place at the East Riding Crematorium, Octon Cross Rd, Driffield YO25 3BL on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> August at 1.30pm, followed by a buffet afterwards.

To get an indication of numbers could you please let Mike Cobley know if you are attending the funeral. Email- [mikecobley@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecobley@hotmail.com) or telephone- 01582 767782

Family flowers only please, but donations to Marie Curie are welcomed