

THE QUEEN OF STEAM

Mallard set the world steam speed record 70 years ago this month, and no other locomotive has ever bettered it. Here, some famous fans celebrate the anniversary. By **Caroline Brannigan**

EIGHT-YEAR-OLD ALAN TITCHMARSH was sitting on the train from Leeds to London, fretting that he hadn't caught a glimpse of *Mallard*, the fastest steam locomotive ever.

As they got off at King's Cross, his Dad said: "Never mind, maybe we'll see it another day." But as they hauled their luggage along the platform towards the front of the train, an unmistakably sleek and shiny blue shape slowly became visible through the steam and smoke. *Mallard* had been pulling them.

Today you can still hear the little boy's excitement as Titchmarsh, 59, recalls the thrilling moment. "There ▶

