

# Full steam ahead for restoration of Victorian Martello locomotive

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A Victorian locomotive will be steaming into action again at its south Norfolk home as part of a first-of-its-kind restoration project.

The 140-year-old Martello is the subject of a major restoration at Bressingham Steam and Gardens, near Diss.

It is hoped the engine will be returned to steam action for the museum's 2016 season as a working exhibit.

The work has been initiated by volunteers at the Bressingham Steam Society with support from the museum.

It will be the first major overhaul the society has undertaken.

The society is fundraising for the project and will also provide the

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Mark Goddard, Bressingham Steam Society

restoration's workforce and oversee the running of the Martello once the work is complete.

The society needs £15,000 to complete the project and so far it has raised £1,800.

As part of the fundraising the society has launched a donation scheme in which people will be encouraged to donate either £100, £250 or £500 as part of an incentive scheme, which involves footplates rides and driver experiences as perks.

As well as the Martello, the society's ex LMS brake van will also be restored so it can carry visitors behind the locomotive.

Mark Goddard, Bressingham Steam Society press officer, said;

## History of popular attraction

The attraction was created by Alan Bloom (pictured right) who bought Bressingham Hall in 1946 and created his nursery business.

In 1961, he turned his attention to his other passion, steam.

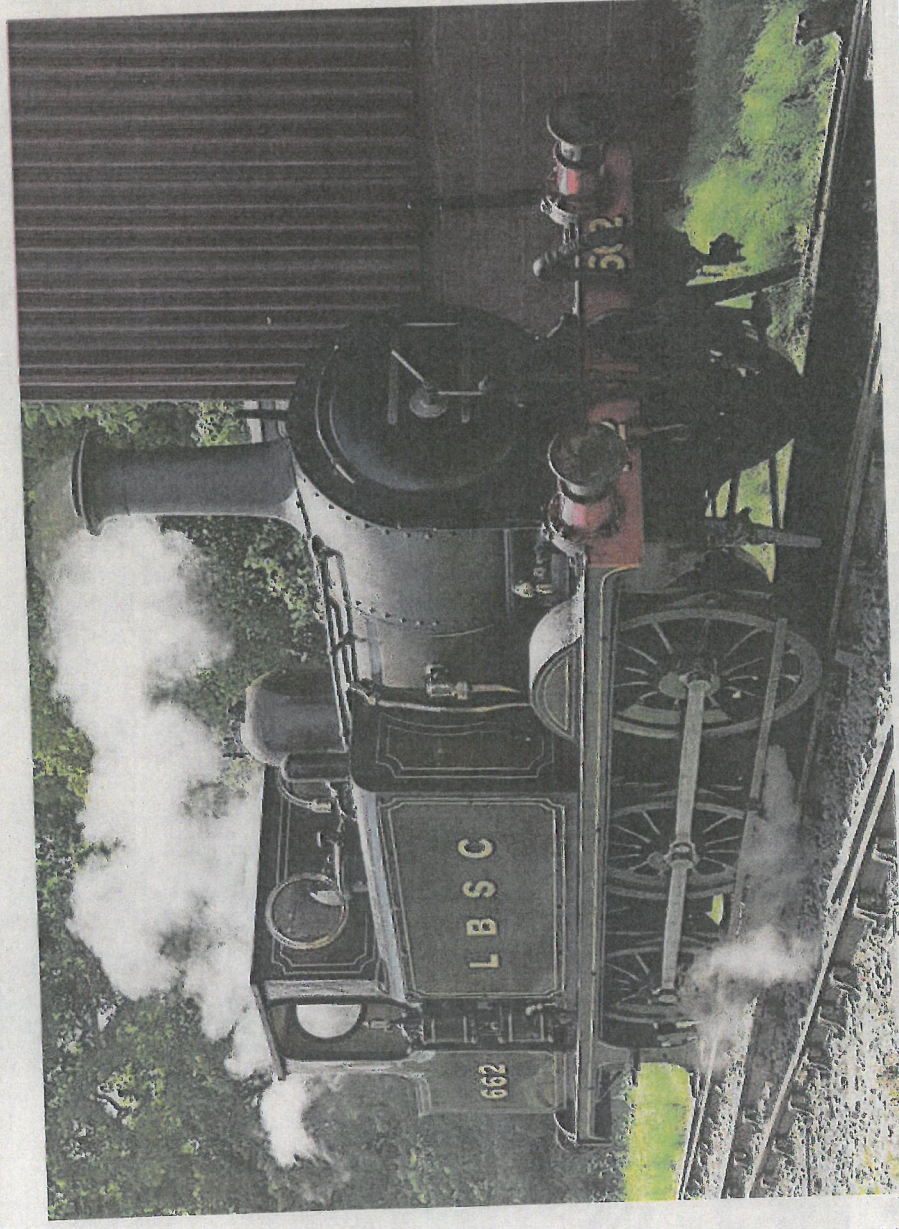
By the end of 1962, he had collected 14 engines, representing all types of road steam engines. In 1965, the first of the narrow-gauge railways was laid. In 1972, the Royal Scot and three other locomotives arrived at Bressingham. Shortly afterwards, Bressingham Steam Preservation was formed as a charitable trust.

Then, in 1995, the garden railway was re-laid and the Alan Bloom locomotive was built by Bressingham Steam

Museum engineering staff. Mr Bloom's achievements were recognised with the Victoria Medal of Honour and the Veitch Memorial Medal by the Royal Horticultural Society, and he

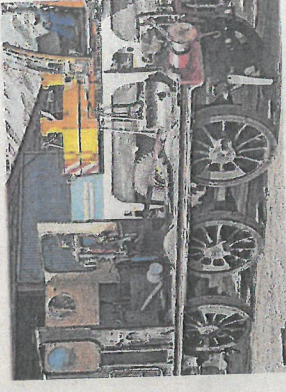
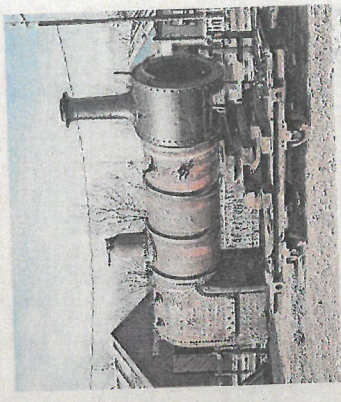
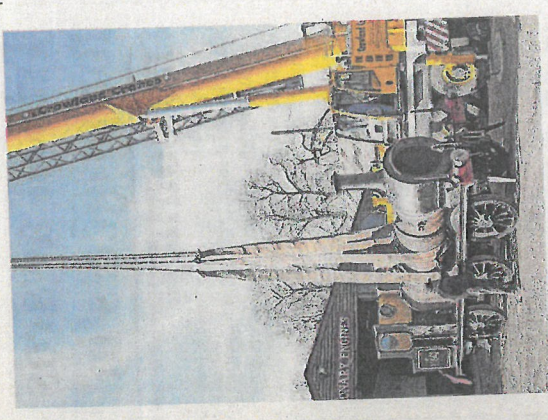
was made an MBE. He died in 2005 aged 98 at Bressingham Hall.

■ For more of Bressingham's history, visit [bressingham.co.uk](http://bressingham.co.uk).



■ The Martello is undergoing major restoration at Bressingham Steam and Gardens, near Diss.

Pictures: JAMES HOYE



“The objective is to have the Martello return to steam by the 2016 season. “The locomotive will remain predominantly at Bressingham and make use of the museum's standard-gauge demonstration track.

“This is a very exciting venture for the society, being the first major overhaul it has undertaken.

“The choice of locomotive is also fitting of an ambassador for Bressingham in addition to being an interesting machine in its own right.

“The choice of livery has been decided: it will appear in Southern Railway green.

“Once in steam again, it will be one of the oldest running locomotives in the world.”

The Martello, serial number LBSC A1X no 662, was built in Brighton by William Stroudley in 1875.

■ Anyone interested in donating to the restoration project should visit [www.bressingham.co.uk/martello](http://www.bressingham.co.uk/martello) or call 01379 686900 for more information.

■ Are you involved in a heritage restoration project and appealing for funds? Email [anthony.carroll@archant.co.uk](mailto:anthony.carroll@archant.co.uk)

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