



<http://www.lnersvrcoachfund.org.uk>



Caring for Gresley carriages on the Severn Valley Railway
The Railway Station, Bewdley, Worcestershire, DY12 1BG

Coach Fund President: David Williams **CF Vice Presidents:** Tim Godfrey FCIM, F Inst D, FFB and Mick Haynes
Trustees: Hugh McQuade (Ch), Stewart Clark, Mike Cranmore, Richard & Doris Gunning, Richard Hill, David Massey, Tom Root, Roger Stockman

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Michael Portillo's BBC2 "Great British Railway Journeys" covering the Severn Valley Railway was duly transmitted on 10th January. Some valuable publicity was earned for our work and for the SVR. Indeed Michael Portillo's obvious enthusiasm for the Railway's unique collection of historic carriages was most welcome – a subject where even the SVR itself falls short on publicity. Let's hope the programme encourages many more visitors to come and see us.



Coach Fund President, David Williams, gives some of the early SVR history



Michael extols the magnificent Gresley Teak and GWR trains at Kidderminster



Michael Portillo then travelled from Kidderminster to Bewdley in our national award winning Great Northern Railway 1st/3rd composite carriage No.2701



Newsletter editor, Richard Hill, greets our visitor and explains some of the background to the railways' involvement in carrying racing pigeons by special trains. Until the 1960s this was an important rail traffic, and in 1930 the LMS alone carried some seven million racing pigeons



We had a droplight window ready to be put into its door. These pictures show Richard Gunning explaining the droplight, which is then placed in its slot by Michael Portillo. In the background of the third picture is the overall coat ready for use but in the event not needed. Pity, as it just might have gained a sale value as a 'worn by' souvenir – even if not quite in the same league as one worn by royalty And just look at that glowing varnished teak.



Even 70759's corroded former underframe got a brief 'walk-on' part!



Archive shots like this showed pigeon rail traffic in former times.

The programme concluded with Mr Portillo making a Bewdley to Bridgnorth journey in the SVR's unique LMS set of restored coaches. The highlight was crossing the magnificent Victoria Bridge over the River Severn at Arley – in its day the longest cast iron span in the world.

There was an aerial shot of Bridgnorth Station before the programme moved on to the Bridgnorth Cliff Railway.

