



**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, Colin Griffiths, Richard & Doris Gunning, Richard Hill, David Massey

LNERCF & LNERCG NEWSLETTER No.34

70759 HAS ITS NEW ROOF!



Pictures by Bob Sweet



30th January 2014, is a 'Red Letter Day' in this project to create an operational LNER teak Brake Third for the SVR's Teak Set. This was when the work of the last six months came to fruition with 70759's official 'roll-out' from Bewdley Carriage & Wagon Works. Among the guests witnessing the roll-out were Nick Paul, Chairman of Severn Valley Railway (Holdings) PLC and a trustee of the SVR Charitable Trust (*on the left of L/H picture*); Tim Godfrey (*centre*), a grandson of the great Sir Nigel Gresley and our Coach Fund's Vice President; and David McIntosh (*right of picture*), Chairman of the Gresley Society Trust. Tim Godfrey is holding Sir Nigel Gresley's hat, now well over a century old. Also present were several supporters of our projects, the workers who have built the new roof, and other representatives of the SVR Trust (which owns 70759).

Just to underline how far we have come, here are two earlier pictures – one showing the body move onto the refurbished underframe and one illustrating the badly rotted condition of a condemned cant rail section. 70759 is looking in rather better shape now. It is back in its usual position, in its 'open air' workshop, for work to continue on the interior.



On the next page are current pictures of the interior, with the Brake End well advanced but still lacking its pigeon basket shelving. The passenger end awaits the corridor screening and the four compartments, while the guard's compartment is gaining several of its fittings, including a steam heater (the upright black pipe).

Pictures by Richard Hill





Pictures left-to right: (1) The Brake-end (2) The passenger compartment end (3) Vacuum & hand-brake (4) Guard's heater

BUT WE STILL NEED YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

This effectively marks the mid-point of the major 70759 project. But this is tempered by the fact that, despite a generous £8.8k grant from the SVR members' Guarantee Company, the roof work has taken rather longer and has cost substantially more than we had hoped. There remains a £6k+ shortfall in its funding.

The good news is that we also now need your money to finish the interior by creating the four passenger compartments. Could sponsors for the many interior items now please form an orderly queue! These include the compartment seat benches (£200 each); corridor window handrails (4x £85); internal doors (3 remaining at £250); linoleum flooring (£750); light fittings (33 x £50); mirrors (£75), pictures (£35) and picture frames (£50). The new toilet compartment awaits sponsorship of £300. None of the 12 pigeon basket shelves yet has a sponsor (£40 a shelf).

Exterior items still looking for sponsorship are: 33 of the teak panels (ranging from £25 to £150 and including most of the vertical end panels); two external doors (£500 each); battery cells (12 x £125); the dynamo and regulator (refurbishment £100 each); roof destination board brackets (2 sets at £150).

A sponsorship form may be downloaded via: <http://svrtrust.org.uk/our-vehicles/lner/70759-2.html>

MORE NEWS OF GRESLEY TOURIST THIRD OPEN 43600



Here's a cheering sight – (left) 43600 minus its decrepit, worn and inappropriate seating and (right) the first test sections of the new seats! The third picture shows what you find behind the heating pipes' protector plates, an area largely untouched for many a year. Sadly no gold sovereigns among the detritus. Ain't carriage restoration fun!



Over the three decades since 43600's last major overhaul it has probably earned the SVR around £1.5m in fares and related revenues – quite a bit of that in tea bags, packets of crisps and 'Maltesers', if 'finds' behind the heater pipe protectors are anything to go by.

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY ON THE BBC

BBC's 'Escape to the Country' on 23rd January included a visit to SVR by the presenter, Jules Hudson who interviewed Nick Ralls, General Manager, about the plans for training new apprentices. They showed excellent taste and rode in the 'cream' of SVR rolling stock – our award-winning Great Northern carriage 2701. Pity 2701's antimacassars were out for laundry at the time. See the BBC iPlayer link at:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b03sgfvm/Escape_to_the_Country_Series_14_Worcestershire/

AND IN OUR SPARE TIME ...

As an added attraction to stimulate 'footfall' for the 2014 season, Bewdley Station Shop is gaining a coin-operated model train layout. The LNER group has constructed the baseboard on which Station folk are now constructing the layout.



OUR BRAKE THIRD AIMS TO GET THERE BY 2017!

LNER Carriage Group



January 2014



LNER (SVR) Coach Fund

