



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

LNERCF & LNERCG NEWSLETTER No.35

SEVERN VALLEY RAILWAY IS A TV STAR - AGAIN!

Jules Hudson appeared in the 30th March edition of BBC1's 'Countryfile' to cover the second part of his earlier visit to the Severn Valley Railway – somewhat illogically included in an edition about County Durham. This arose from deferring the SVR item from its planned showing on 2nd February, when it was replaced by coverage of the West Country storms and flooding.



These pictures (© BBC), give a flavour of the SVR item, which started with archive pictures of Bewdley Station and moved to the £0.5m repairs to Falling Sands Viaduct between Bewdley and Kidderminster carried out in the Railway's post-Christmas 'closed' season.



Abseiling down the side of the viaduct



Removing the damaging vegetation



Close-up showing the pointing work needed



A magnificent 'Hornby-Dublo' view of Kidderminster Station from the air



LNER Buffet Car 643 in the Paintshop during its overhaul

Next was a visit to Kidderminster Carriage and Wagon Works, with views of Gresley Buffet Car 643 in the Paintshop currently undergoing its major overhaul. Jules Hudson was shown round by the Paintshop Manager, Hugh McQuade, who is also Chairman of the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust and of the LNER (SVR) Coach Fund. Among the interesting points covered was the 'bullet hole' that features in a number of teak panels in some of our 'Teak Train'



vehicles. These were the result of guerrilla action in Burma, where dissidents fired bullets into teak trees to deprive the government there of export taxes on the teak trade. Unfortunately one of the trees containing a bullet was purchased some years ago and sold for UK railway carriage panels – with the bullet only being discovered during the saw-milling process with some spectacular results, fortunately without personal injuries to the operators.



Hugh McQuade also took the opportunity to talk on camera about the new SVR apprentices' scheme. Coverage continued with (L-to-R below) ♦an enthusiastic young James working on a template for making 1950s-style 'bulls-eye' lamp fittings used in Mark I coaches; ♦Hugh McQuade fitting a re-upholstered seat in the *Severn Valley Venturer's* Open First dining car; and ♦Jules Hudson in GWR Brake saloon 9055 of 1912, the oldest operational coach on SVR.

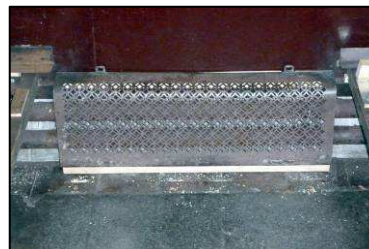


Jules Hudson 'bravely' described the SVR as 'the best heritage railway anywhere in the country' with its 28 locomotives and over 60 coaches. Some folk might dispute the word 'best' in that context; those 'in the know' wouldn't argue.

A QUICK GLIMPSE AT PROGRESS WITH 70759 & 43600



Work is progressing with the new floor for 70759's passenger compartments. In 43600 the heater pipe protectors are being refurbished and refitted, and the first sections of the fawn moquette are in place. New LNER tables also are being ordered.



At Kidderminster there is progress with 70759's bogies overhaul. We have had to

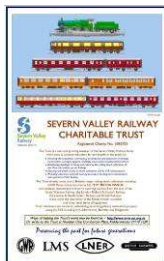
order 16 new bearing pads at £65 each, totalling just over £1000. Can we tempt anyone out there to sponsor some or all of these please? They are items suitable for gift aid to the Trust.

(Please contact the editor on gresley@gotadsl.co.uk if you can help here).

SVR CHARITABLE TRUST POSTER

The Trust now has a new advertising poster for display at all SVR stations and in the Engine House. It has some beautiful artwork by Philip Cheesewright though is too large to illustrate in detail here.

If you cannot find the poster on your next SVR visit do ask the local staff to show you.



LNER Carriage Group

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LNER (SVR) Coach Fund

Websites with information about the Teak Train and current developments can be found at:

<http://www.svrtrust.org.uk> <http://www.lnersvrcoachfund.org.uk/> <http://lner.svr-rollingstocktrust.org.uk/>

Either of the second or third addresses takes you to a shared website covering all aspects of the SVR teak train.

- Support the Severn Valley Railway Charitable Trust (Charity 1092723) for free when shopping online with over 500 popular retailers including Amazon, Next, M&S, John Lewis and many more that make donations to our Charity when you buy through this site:

<http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/svrct>

- For a similar free benefit to the SVR Charitable Trust use the 'easysearch' search engine earning a halfpenny for each search, now regularly producing more than £1 per week

<http://svrct.easysearch.org.uk/>