



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



<http://svrtrust.org.uk/>



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

Group President: David Williams **Vice Presidents:** Tim Godfrey FCIM, F Inst D, FFB and Mick Haynes
Group members: Hugh McQuade (Ch), Stewart Clark, Mike Cranmore, Colin Griffiths, Richard & Doris Gunning, Richard Hill, David Massey

LNERCF & LNERCG NEWSLETTER No.51



KING'S CROSS STAR RÔLE FOR TRUST'S 7960

On Tuesday 5th April the statue of Sir Nigel Gresley, commissioned by the Gresley Society, was unveiled in the station's new Western Concourse near to Gresley's former office. The unveiling was by Network Rail's chairman, Sir Peter Hendry CBE before a large crowd of Gresley supporters. The SVR was well represented – principally by the nearby presence in Platform 8 of our Charitable Trust's restored Gresley Kitchen Composite No.7960. On board, acting as stewards, were our Chairman, Hugh McQuade, and SVRCT's new trustee, David Mead. An historic occasion with a number of 'firsts' including the first LNER passenger teak carriage in the Cross since the last Buffet Cars in the 1970s; the first Gresley tank loco since withdrawal of the N2s in the early 1960s; the first GNR liveried vehicle for many a decade. Much interest was shown in the carriage, and a number of donations were made towards the Trust's work.



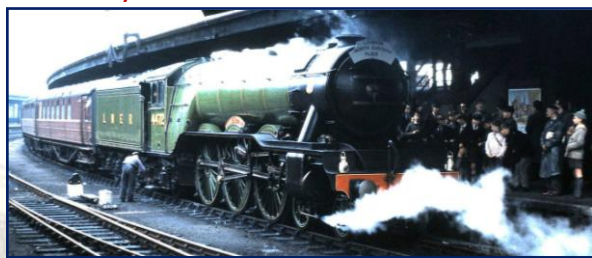
Among the guests present were Tim Godfrey, Gresley's grandson and our Carriage Group's Vice President (here shown giving his address) and Nick Paul, Chairman of SVR Holdings & a CT trustee (seen just by the statue). A hitch with the attractive display panel designed to accompany the statue meant this was absent, but this will be erected soon. The statue itself, by Hazel Reeves FRSA, is an excellent and characterful representation of the great engineer. The rolling stock display made an interesting contrast with the modern motive power – as illustrated by these two pictures by © Nigel Cripps (thank you, Nigel). It was one of those special 'not to be missed' moments of railway history.



VEHICLE OWNERSHIP CHANGES

There have been important changes in the ownership of some of the SVR's ex-GNR and ex-LNER carriages. The LNER (SVR) Coach Fund has donated its remaining two carriages – GNR 2701 & TTO/Wheelchair carriage 24105 – to the SVR Trust. And the SVR Holdings Company has agreed to transfer its two Gresleys – Buffet Car 643 & TTO 43612 – to the Trust on mutually acceptable terms. In consequence the Charitable Trust now owns all nine of the Gresley teak carriages on the SVR. This secures their ownership for the long term and is a very welcome outcome.

When *FLYING SCOTSMAN* comes to the SVR in September, it will be able to re-enact its 1964 run with nine Gresley teaks for the Gresley Society special train on 2nd May that year. Then it was an apple green A3 '4472' hauling, for the last time in the LNER/BR era, a set of nine BR maroon teaks. This time it will be t'other way round with a BR-liveried A3 '60103' in 'cowpat green' with nine varnished teak carriages. One day we'll get the livery combination right...



HONORARY APPOINTMENTS

Consequent on the ownership changes, the honorary appointments attaching to the LNER Coach Fund have by agreement been transferred to the Trust's LNER Carriage Group. The Coach Fund continues to function chiefly as owner of a large number of spares and a facilitator of the Trust's continuing work on the Railway. The LNERCF and LNERCG share the same volunteer personnel.

BRAKE THIRD 24506 SPONSORSHIP

Work continues in Kidderminster Carriage Works to ready this carriage for operation as the main brake vehicle in our Gresley set. We don't yet know what the final bill will be for the workshop costs. We are still receiving some vital sponsorship moneys. One result is that all 600 feet of 24506's teak beading is now fully sponsored. Thank you to the many good souls who have steadily ticked this item off foot by foot – and thank you, Roland, for rounding off the task.

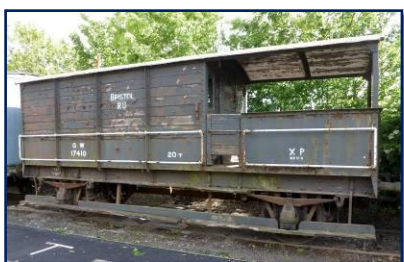
The latest position on the LED bulbs appeal is that donations of £740 have been received which, with gift aid, becomes £900. A big 'thank you' to all concerned – you know who you are. As a result the conversion of our Gresley carriages to LEDs is substantially advanced bringing significant savings in the power demands on the batteries.

RENEWING 43600's ROOF CANVAS

This long task that fought us all the way is at last nearing its end. The new canvass is on and secured; all the roof vents and other vital fittings have been re-instated; the canvass has been painted with its pristine but highly impractical white finish; and the body is now receiving a clean-up and a 'refresher' re-varnish. Hopefully it will be back in service soon.

Work also progresses with Tourist Third Open 52255's overhaul in readiness for its interior improvements.

GREAT WESTERN 'TOAD' BRAKE VAN No.17410



Our group is not known for 'taking life easy'. So, just to keep the pot boiling so to speak, the task of restoring this now somewhat woebegone GWR vehicle has been started 'to keep us all busy'. It needs considerable love and attention after a hard SVR life exposed to the elements and working in SVR permanent way trains. Much of the steelwork needs replacement, and there are some challenging pieces of carpentry to be done – a start has been made rebuilding the veranda doors (see picture).

TOAD 17410 is also now owned by the SVR Charitable Trust following agreement of those of its former owners who could be traced.And inevitably it will need funds to pay for the work.



LNER Carriage Group

April 2016

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/>