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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.52

24068's NEW ANTIMACASSARS - BUT...



Repeated thefts of antimacassars from our Brake Composite had depleted stocks to the point of needing action. So we've removed the remaining stock (an inappropriate style anyway). We have now installed some new plain linen squares that hopefully will be less attractive to 'collectors'.

These squares might still be used for other 'nefarious' purposes, which your editor leaves to your imagination. Rest assured, it does happen!!!

While your editor was fixing the new linen squares in 24068 he was greeted with the news that several 'GNR' embroidered antimacassars in our award-winning 2701 had also been stolen. We have only a limited stock – all provided with the labour and personal funds of LNER volunteers. So, to ensure stock for the *Flying Scotsman* and *Tornado* visits in September, we've had to withdraw the remaining 2701 antimacassars for the rest of the 2016 season.

PIGEON BRAKE THIRD 24506



Work still continues in Kidderminster Carriage Works to finish this carriage for operation as the main brake vehicle in our Gresley set. We still await a completion date and the final bill for the workshop costs – likely to be into five figures. Vital sponsorship money is slowly coming in. Items still awaiting sponsorship include luggage racks (3 @ £150 ea); mirrors (2 @ £75ea, now all fitted); pigeon basket

shelves (3 @ £40ea); picture frames (3 @ £50 ea); steam heat through pipe (£250); one heater control (£100); and the electrical regulator overhaul (£100). Every little helps!

The first picture above shows volunteers busy applying protective paint to the underside of 24506 while this is still accessible. The second picture shows 24506 and 52255 sharing the workshop floor – with 24506's overhauled bogies waiting ready between them.

43600 BACK IN SERVICE

After completion of 43600's new roof canvas and the bodywork's refresher varnish, the carriage has now retaken its proper place in the Teak Train for the public to enjoy again. And very smart it looks – see picture alongside.



52255 PROGRESS

Extensive work also progresses with Tourist Third Open 52255's major overhaul in readiness for its interior improvements. Some challenging pieces of carpentry are being done and, like 43600, the roof panels have needed re-securing to the roof steelwork (another 900 bolts). Similar roof work awaits our remaining SVR Gresley carriages. The following pictures give a glimpse of some of the comprehensive work being done on this venerable vehicle – now some 81 years old but never built with a life expectation much beyond 20-25 years. The fourth picture compares new and old steel brackets that reinforce the rigidity of the teak frame members. The picture illustrates the rust ravages of the carriage's long life in a harsh working environment. Teak and steel don't talk kindly to each other!



VARNISHED TEAK

The last newsletter reported the newsworthy appearance of our LNER Kitchen Composite 7960 in a London mainline station. Here is another picture of a more solemn but unfamiliar appearance of varnished teak back in 1952. This was the occasion of the late King George VI's funeral. The King had died at Sandringham, and his coffin was brought to London in the then LNER Royal Train. After the Lying-in-State this stock was also used for the funeral journey from Paddington to Windsor. The adjoining picture – from a recent film marking the Queen's 90th birthday – shows the LNER train at Paddington at that time. Though this was some four years after nationalisation, the stock was still proudly carrying its LNER varnished teak. The teak finish was lovingly kept in prime condition by specialist craftsmen who had done so for many decades. These same craftsmen sometime later openly wept when they were forced to apply claret paint to the stock in the new undertaking's febrile drive for an all-embracing 'corporate image'.



Briefly returning to the **5th April King's Cross ceremonies**, readers may like this (and other) *YouTube* videos of the Gresley statue event. An example is: <https://youtu.be/dl1LI0CWxOQ> This nicely covers the Trust's Kitchen Composite No.7960 along with some of the day's ceremonial. It also vividly shows that N2 1744 was very actively powering our 7960 and the two idling Class 20 diesels out of Platform 8 after the unveiling. **Gresley still rules OK!**

Another interesting *YouTube* snippet is at: <https://youtu.be/s0gpF7Lh-vQ>. This shows the 1936 naming of LNER Class B17/4 4-6-0 No.2848 locomotive 'ARSENAL' – in line with the chosen theme of football clubs for several members of that Class. The King's Cross naming was by Lord Lonsdale, who somehow manages to get the engine's name wrong in his short speech! This video clip is of particular interest because it includes film of Gresley himself both on and off the footplate around the time he received his knighthood.

SVR CHARITABLE TRUST RACE DAY AT WORCESTER – 22ND JUNE

Attached to this newsletter is a flyer about the SVR Trust's Day at Worcester Racecourse later this month. Help make this another successful fund-raising event for the Trust by buying tickets and attending – and maybe having a flutter...

OUR LNER WEBSITE has had an update to reflect recent changes. See the links below.

LNER Carriage Group

June 2016

LNER (SVR) Coach Fund

Earlier editions of this newsletter may be downloaded at: http://www.lnersvrcoachfund.org.uk/news_letters.html

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

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