



<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.64

**It's that time of year to wish all our readers and supporters  
a very happy Christmas and a successful 2018!**



It is also perhaps a good moment to pause and look back at some of the LNER group's achievements. Nearly half a century of determined work culminated in 2016 in reaching the goal of a complete operational nine carriage Gresley teak train (fortuitously being first hauled by *Flying Scotsman*). We hope future generations will appreciate this wonderful legacy and continue to lavish care and affection on these wonderful but irreplaceable steam age vehicles.

None of this would have been possible without two essential ingredients. First the sheer drive, determination and skills applied by individual volunteers to achieve these objectives, often working with materials well past their prime and in a run-down and decaying condition. Those involved know who they are,

and we and the wider SVR are forever in their debt. The equally essential other element has been the loyal and generous support of the many folk who have dug deeply into their pockets to provide the finance to achieve all this.

May we take this opportunity to say a huge **THANK YOU** to every one of our volunteers, supporters and friends. Without you, SVR's wonderful Gresley Teak Train would never come to fruition!

But, at the same time, one is reminded of Winston Churchill's 1942 wartime dictum *"Now this is not the end. It is not even the beginning of the end. But it is, perhaps, the end of the beginning."* The Teak Train project will never actually be 'completed'. Inevitably there is an essential ongoing maintenance obligation to keep these now priceless assets in good order for current and future generations. And we can already see a longish list of further refining improvements – and for which we shall undoubtedly be asking for yet more generosity from you all!

Just to emphasise what a wonderful asset has been created, this Newsletter illustrates the Teak Train's vehicles, many of which have seen major facelifts in recent years. They are in good hands now with their ownership being soundly vested in the SVR Charitable Trust. But the Trust is itself dependent on continuing public support.



**GNR Corridor Composite 2701**

This £185k project was launched in 2008 by Sir Nigel Gresley's grandson, Tim Godfrey. The carriage was also winner of the Heritage Railway Association's 2009 'best restoration' award.



**Kitchen Diner 7960**

Forever associated with the late Phil James who devoted so much of his time and resources to this major restoration, 7960 starred at King's Cross station in 2016 for the unveiling of the Gresley statue.



**Brake Composite 24068**

SVR's very first Gresley carriage, arriving on the Railway in 1972. It now awaits a much needed overhaul, when we plan some improvements to its comfort.







### Tourist Third Open 24105

The Teak Set's wheelchair-friendly carriage, this was a modified 'Cold War control train carriage' with a fitted double door that inspired the concept of a vehicle accessible to our less able visitors.



### Brake Third 24506

This is our most recent project as a modified Brake Pigeon Van to provide a revenue-earning capacity on the SVR. The pigeon van end has been correctly restored to its original layout.



### Tourist Third Open 43600

Another high capacity 64-seater, again from the 'Control Train' era



### Tourist Third Open 43612

A third high capacity TTO, which still awaits its major overhaul. When that happens, we expect to be looking for some sponsorship moneys, especially to provide some better tables. Watch this space!



### Tourist Third Open 52255

Our fourth TTO, which has already had its current major overhaul and interior improvements.



### Buffet Car 643

Ever a stalwart vehicle in the Teak Train, this was one of the last Gresley wooden-bodied stock to operate in the BR era, finishing its main line days in the 'blue and grey' livery.

See our LNER Newsletter 29.



And finally, there remains one further 'honorary member' of the SVR Teak Train, which is BR Doncaster-built luxurious experimental open first E3083, with a number of features reflecting Doncaster's traditional carriage building practices.

Famed for its original swivel seats and panoramic windows, E3083 ran in the Gresley set for a number of years in a fictitious scumbled teak livery, which might at one time have been adopted by BR's Eastern Region management for their named express services. Sadly this time-consuming SVR-applied livery was not maintained, and E3083 now runs as a declassified third class coach in a humdrum BR maroon livery. In other circumstances we might now be able to run ten 'teaks'....

How the mighty have fallen!

## SVR CHARITABLE TRUST - NEW PROMOTIONAL FILM

The link below takes you to the Trust's new five minute film. This is well worth a viewing to see how much is being achieved. Of added interest is the inclusion of the Trust's Gresley wheelchair-friendly carriage 24105 during its recent overhaul at Kidderminster – see the 'still' alongside.

[https://vimeo.com/239837567?utm\\_source=email&utm\\_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm\\_campaign=28749%20](https://vimeo.com/239837567?utm_source=email&utm_medium=vimeo-cliptranscode-201504&utm_campaign=28749%20)

## SVR SANTA SPECIALS - NEW LOCO HEADBOARDS

Another short film worth a view is at the link below. The interest for us here is not so much the new loco headboards but our eight carriage public service teak set doing the job for which it is so well suited. Its high seating capacity admirably fits the SVR's traffic needs at this busy time of the year. See two stills from the film on the next page...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ltw3Yj021UY>







## SVR's FESTIVE AFTERNOON TEAS

In a new initiative this Christmas, the Trust's 7960 Kitchen Diner has been attached to the popular *Christmas Cracker Expresses* to provide a new feature – Festive Afternoon Teas.

These have been an immediate success, with 7960 being fully booked for every working and providing some useful new revenue for the Railway.



## OUR GRESLEY TEAKS HAVE ANOTHER (BRIEF) TV APPEARANCE

The 14<sup>th</sup> November edition of the BBC series *Escape to the Country* visited Worcestershire. Towards its end was a piece on the SVR's gem at Arley. This covered scenes at the station on a very wet late autumn day and an interview between the programme's presenter, Nicki Campbell, and Nick Ralls, SVR's General Manager. In this he extolled the SVR's history and Arley's place in this.

Other features of the piece were an interview with Keith Brown about track maintenance and with Graham Faulkner, who for many years has been the SVR's master upholsterer. This latter part showed Graham and Nicki working on the new moquette for our Gresley wheelchair carriage 24105.

The programme is available on BBC iPlayer until mid-December at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/b09g02gn/escape-to-the-country-series-18-13-worcestershire>



## FOOTNOTES

### PETER SMITH RIP

Peter's recent death marked the passing of a stalwart and characterful long-serving SVR volunteer. He worked for many years as an on-train buffet steward, famed in this rôle for wearing a somewhat battered straw hat. He was also very knowledgeable about Sir Nigel's locomotives and is memorable to our LNER group as the artist who painted four of the carriage prints that adorn the end first class compartment in our award winning GNR 2701. His funeral on 24<sup>th</sup> November at Sutton Coldfield Crematorium was well attended.

### GWR 'TOAD' 17410

The Toad's restoration work at Bewdley is now substantially complete, and decisions are awaited on its mechanical overhaul at Kidderminster to put it back into service as an operational vehicle.



## LNER Carriage Group

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## LNER (SVR) Coach Fund

Earlier editions of this newsletter may be downloaded at: [http://www.lnersvrcoachfund.org.uk/news\\_letters.html](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