

National Railway Museum to feature in new television series

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The **National Railway Museum** is set to feature in a new TV series produced by Whitworth Media appearing on More4 this summer.

Called “Cleaning Britain’s Greatest Treasures”, the programme will follow the museum’s conservation team as they clean and maintain the NER / LNER Dynamometer Car and Queen Victoria’s famous LNWR saloon carriage.

Narrated by Sheridan Smith, this new series follows the work of some of Britain’s army of dedicated conservation cleaners who look after our national treasures. Other locations to feature in the series include stately homes, historic churches and museums.

- **Rail: a crown jewel in the Jubilee celebrations**
- **Royals on Rail exhibition at NRM to mark Jubilee**
- **National Railway Museum appoints industry figures to its Advisory Board**

The programme aims to demonstrate the techniques and tricks of the trade used to clean and preserve

historical artefacts, and each episode follows the cleaners at three locations around the UK.

Stories in this first series include the mystery behind a Constable masterpiece that may be solved by cleaning it; the restoration of a glorious mantelpiece at Beatrix Potter's Hilltop Farmhouse in the Lake District; the extremely delicate cleaning of Queen Victoria's silk-laden Royal Saloon railway carriage; and finding out how to clean the fragile Portland limestone carvings of a London church.

The **National Railway Museum** is featured in the first episode of the series expected to be broadcast in July. In this episode, the cleaners take on two of the museum's most important carriages: the 1906 Dynamometer Car, which was used to test steam locomotives and famously authenticated Mallard's world speed record run in 1938 and Queen Victoria's luxurious 1869 carriage.

The **National Railway Museum** has a dedicated conservation team which is supplemented by volunteers who work to ensure the collection looks its best for visitors.

In the first episode, retired conservation assistant Chris Binks returns to supervise trainee conservator, Shoun Obana as they clean the two carriages. First, they tackle the Dynamometer Car. Displayed next to Mallard and crammed with antique, analogue recording equipment, the episode provides a snapshot inside the space which can normally only be viewed through the windows.

The second assignment sees Chris and Shoun inside the Royal Saloon of Queen Victoria's LNWR private train. This time Chris must supervise from outside as Shoun cautiously cleans the silk fabrics and delicate gilded plasterwork, providing insights into how the royals used to travel by train.

Emma Hogarth, Conservation and Collection Care Manager, said: "Programmes such as this can be an important way to let people know about the conservation and cleaning work that goes on behind the scenes to help look after the national collection and I am looking forward to seeing the **National Railway Museum** episode later this summer."

The museum has appeared on several TV shows this year including BBC Bargain Hunt, The World's Most Scenic Railway Journeys on Channel Five and the replica Rocket even made a brief appearance in Gentleman Jack.

As well as displaying six royal carriages in Station Hall, the museum has launched a temporary exhibition in Great Hall called Royals on Rails which explores the British royals' love of railway travel. Visit <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/whats-on/royals-rails> for more information.