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Bill's back garden railway is a labour of love

4

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Train buff Bill Barritt is so hooked on railways he decided to rekindle his love affair with the tracks by building his own line in his back garden.

Mr Barritt, aged 80, spent more than three years getting the miniature [railway \(#\)](#) pieced together and has spent thousands of pounds on his labour of love.

The train alone, which runs round Mr Barritt's two thirds of a mile of track behind his home near Bridgnorth, cost £12,000 and came from America.

The whole project got off the ground when Mr Barritt was talked into it by his 81-year-old wife Patricia.

He said: "Patricia told me I should build a railway because she knew I had always wanted to.

"I didn't work on it non-stop. Some times I would take a break of a week or two and I got a lot of help from my gardener with the physical work."

Ever since he was a child Mr Barritt has had a passion for railways, regularly travelling on trains around the Midlands as he was growing up.

Many of the lines he used to travel on with his family disappeared following Dr Beeching's cuts, victims of modern day progress.

Only the Severn Valley Railway between Bridgnorth and Kidderminster remains as a reminder of the glory days of the [steam \(#\)](#) era.

Mr Barritt, a retired accountant who moved into his home seven years ago, has now officially opened the Leasowes Light Railway Company.

Mr Barritt and his wife have four children and 12 grandchildren, all of whom have taken a trip round his track at one time or another.

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1. 1

wilf ellis

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well done Bill, you must have had a lot of enjoyment in your project, pity it was'nt steam.

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2. 2

Nikki

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Awww this is the nicest storey Ive read in ages. My dad would have loved do have done something like that!

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