

The Q Definitely Still Needs You!

By Steve Pilcher, Maunsell Locomotive Society treasurer [Photos courtesy of Leaky Finders](#)

Maunsell Q class No. 541 is undergoing a 'Priority Overhaul'. Can you help raise funds to complete the work?

As mentioned in July's issue of *The Bluebell Times*, the [Bluebell Railway Trust](#) is helping finance the overhaul of the locomotive, which arrived safely at Leaky Finders' premises in Devon on 6 July (see first photo below). The contractors have made a good start on stripping down the locomotive and, at the time of writing this report, the boiler was due to be lifted out of the frames to enable work to commence on its overhaul. *[Now lifted – see second photo. Ed.]*

The tender remains at Sheffield Park and will require a new tender tank. Contact has been made with a number of companies/organisations which are experienced in large-scale fabrication work of this nature, with a view to obtaining quotations. Some positive responses have been received.

In due course it is hoped that a start can be made on getting the old tender tank 'freed up' to enable it to be lifted off. Attention will then turn to working on cleaning the frames, etc. However space in the yard in front of the workshop is at a premium, and we may need to await for Flying Scotsman to have completed its visit before a serious start can be made with this work.

The Maunsell Locomotive Society has agreed to try and raise £40,000 towards the cost of

overhauling the tender and providing a new tender tank. Within six weeks of announcing this appeal close to 25% of our target has been raised – this is a great start, but of course more is needed.

The Q is an ideal size and economical loco for hauling any and all types of train operated on Bluebell. It fits in well with the 'Southern' image, and it did actually operate in the vicinity. So... if you would like to prevent Bluebell having to hire in locos to maintain services, please consider assisting with this worthwhile project.

Online payments to the appeal can be made by clicking the [DONATE button on the Bluebell website](#) and following the online payment instructions. Select "Q 541 Overhaul" in the drop-down box.

Otherwise, for those who prefer to use cheques, please send a cheque, made payable to the 'Bluebell Railway Trust' (and a Gift Aid Form – if appropriate – downloaded from the Bluebell Railway website) to the Bluebell Railway Trust, Sheffield Park Station, Uckfield TN22 3QL. Please add a note to say it is for the 541 Overhaul Appeal.

And finally, a warm 'thank you' to all concerned who have generously contributed thus far. We are particularly mindful of how people's budgets are stretched at this point in time.

