

# Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher, Treasurer, Maunsell Locomotive Society Photos by Leaky Finders

Since the last report in the September edition of *The Bluebell Times*, the boiler had its NDT (non-destructive testing) examination at the end of September, and nothing unexpected/untoward was found, which is a relief. A discussion with the Railway's boiler inspector is due to take place in mid-October to review the findings and agree the scope of works to overhaul the boiler and work required on the chassis.

Prior to this, all the flues and smoke tubes had been removed and some needle gunning of the boiler barrel undertaken to allow for the NDT examination.

As regard the chassis, the frames were lifted on 4 October to allow the wheelsets to be removed. They will be sent to the South Devon Railway soon, for assessment and decision taken as to whether to try and undertake one more turn of the tyres – or to replace the tyres.

Some parts of the motion will return to Sheffield Park for attention, along with the boiler cladding, to free up space in Leaky Finders works.

As regards the tender, one reputable large scale metal fabricator has visited to view the existing tender tank and another contractor is working up costings in order to provide a quote for fabricating a new tender tank.

The tender is currently positioned behind 31618, near the Bulleid Society shop, whilst we await space to enable the existing tank to be freed from the chassis.



## THE Q NEEDS YOU!

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. The Q is an ideal size and economical loco for Bluebell operations. It fits in well with the 'Southern' image, and it did actually operate in the vicinity.

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 Class 541 Overhaul in the drop-down box.

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) to the Bluebell Railway Trust, Sheffield Park Station, Uckfield TN22 3QL. Please add a note to say it is for the 541 Overhaul Appeal.

At the time of writing, there is approximately £25,000 in place towards the target of providing £40,000 towards this project. As ever, a very warm 'thank you' to all concerned who have generously contributed thus far. Please consider assisting reaching the target of £40,000 – and thus play a part in getting this very useful loco, back in action at Bluebell.