

Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher, Treasurer, Maunsell Locomotive Society [Photos by Leaky Finders](#)

Further to the report in August's issue of *The Bluebell Times*, Leaky Finders have been pressing on with the loco's overhaul at their premises in Devon.

The boiler was freed up and lifted out of the frames on Friday 4 August. It was quite an arduous task, removing the concrete 'base' that was in the smokebox to then access and burn out the bolts securing the smokebox to the frames. Once on the ground, the boiler cladding and lagging were removed, and a start made on needle gunning the boiler barrel to enable non-destructive testing of the boiler barrel thickness to take place in due course. All 21 large flue tubes have been 'freed up' and likewise all the smoke tubes. By the time this report appears they should all have been removed from the boiler barrel.

The tender remains at Sheffield Park and will require a new tender tank. Paul Loeber has kindly prepared some CAD drawings of the tender tank (with help from Barbara and Martin Jarvis who oversee the Railway's drawings collection). With the help of these CAD drawings, we will continue discussions with a number of companies/organisations which are experienced in large-scale fabrication work of this nature, with a view to obtaining quotations.

Space in the yard in front of the workshop is at a premium, and we will need to await *Flying Scotsman* to have completed its visit before a 'safe' site can be identified for locating the tender and starting to commence its overhaul.

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.

As ever, a warm 'thank you' to all concerned who have generously contributed thus far.



Left: The boiler out of the frames ready for needlegunning

Right: Firebox tubeplate, showing the tubes and flues released prior to removal.

