

4253 Supporter

News

The 4253 Company is a
non-Profit, non-Political organisation

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Boiler makes good progress at HBSS Liverpool

by Dave Farnham

HBSS in Liverpool have now resumed work on our boiler, which continues to make excellent progress. Some good news for once!

They have drilled and riveted the doubling plate to the top part of the backhead, which you can see from the pictures below, and is now really taking shape.

The backhead steam manifold mounting pad, which was shown in the last newsletter has now been riveted to the backhead top section. The steam manifold bolts to this pad and gives a steam feed to the gauges and other controls in the cab.

As an aside to the excellent rate of progress on the boiler, I think it's fair to say that 4253 Company has always paid its bills on time and without any delay. This policy has stood us in good stead with many engineering companies we deal with and not least HBSS. Jerry has just recently sent another large stage payment to Liverpool for work done which will enable them to continue with our boiler at maximum speed. By the way, this newsletter is sent to Rob and Andrew (the bosses of HBSS) - they now have no excuses!! *Are you listening Rob and Andrew?* 😊

Hopefully by the time of the next newsletter, we will be able to show further progress, providing things remain steady with the work restriction easing.



Funding

Given the on-going Covid-19 situation we are currently in the process of reviewing the boiler funding plan.

Much of our fundraising is achieved by our hard working sales team attending many fairs and rallies throughout the year and, as these are currently being cancelled one after the other, we need to recognise that, for this year, our income from this source is likely to be nil. This will obviously impact upon our completion timescale if not addressed; thus a review of the financial position.

Once it has been completed and, if necessary, a Plan B formulated, we will communicate further with shareholders.

Jerry Preston-Ladd

Return to Work Plans for 4253 by Charlie Masterson

ALONG with all other organisations and businesses in the country, a return to work for 4253 is now not an easy operation to undertake.

We know that among our regular volunteers there is a large percentage who are keen to get working again and back to a normal routine. They miss the work, the banter and the camaraderie, but we ask that you bear with us and reserve some of the little patience you have left until everything is in place and the details finalised. You will need no reminding from us that it is of the utmost importance that an organisation such as ours makes the safety of its volunteers the number one priority and reduces any risks to the absolute bare minimum. This we will strive to do.

The final go-ahead for us to resume work will be with the K&ESR. To this end, 4253 are currently putting together all the necessary risk assessments, information, new methods of working etc, that are required under the Government guidance: (www.gov.uk) 'Working Safely During

Coronavirus (COVID-19)'. The full guidance can be found on this site and we would urge volunteers to familiarise themselves with this guidance for their own safety and that of others, ready for an eventual return to work when hopefully agreed with the railway.

If approval is given by K&ESR, all volunteers that would like to return to work will be given all the necessary information, including the new ways of working, entry and exit system, a dedicated roster plan for an individual's day(s) of working, social distancing rules, hygiene etc., all of which will remain in place inside and around the Bunko Booth for the foreseeable future. Because the Bunko Booth is physically separated from other buildings at Rolvenden, it will hopefully aid the new measures and working practices. So, in the none-too-distant future, we will have in place a controlled and safe environment for volunteers to return to, enabling them to work once again on the project and continue to move it forward.

So, what have you been doing for the last 65+ days?

As we have all been coming to terms with not being able to spend our time working on 4253, or sitting in the sun raising money at 'shows', many of us have not been idle!

by Kelvin Williams

Take **Charlie Masterson** for instance.

Never one to sit back and relax, he has been busy in the garden, planting marrows etc., including, would you believe £1 coins, in the hope they will grow into trees! Alas, I think the old saying holds

true – money does not grow on trees

Charlie! 😊



Charlie is seen here talking to his £1 coin plants patiently waiting for a good crop.



Jerry Preston-Ladd has not stopped either.

Rebuilding a Jaguar E-Type, no less! It has not been on the road since 1999, *but that is all about to change.*



Graham Williams has been doing a bit of flat pack building. I am not sure where from? The last time I did that, the pack came from MFI - and you all know what those initials stand for!!



Dave Farnham has not been idle either. Looking after (and being Grandad to) three children, aged 3, 5 and 8, while their Mother is a key worker at Maidstone Hospital – and for the last 8 weeks! Aggh!! He did say that he has become very adept at climbing walls . . . without a ladder!

I, on the other hand, have been gardening, doing DIY and keeping my baking skills up to par - ready for the first Sunday we are back in the Bunko Booth!



Charlie, myself and **Dick Dickson** have also been doing turns in patrolling Rolvenden Workshop, checking all is secure.

So what have you been doing? Send to: gwr4253news@gmail.com

GWR 5668 Tank Plates Arrive

AS you may have read in the last issue of the Newsletter, a start has been made on 5668 tanks.

It was decided at the AGM back in January, that because the boiler will be away for probably 12 months or so, and with an excess of skilled labour with limited things to occupy their idle hands, a start should be made on both tanks of the next project, which waits patiently for our restoration expertise in a siding at Wittersham Road Station. Whilst the main thrust will always be to get 4253 back into steam, it was thought a logical step to take.

Although the old tanks from 5668 had at some stage been cut into about three pieces each, the main frame parts were still valuable for patterns and reuse in the new tanks. This method of using the original Swindon angle iron framework was also successfully employed on 4253 tanks. It not only makes things very economical, easier and eco-friendly, but also gives us an accurate template on which to rebuild the new ones.

Before the lockdown, the old rusted tank sections had already been stripped of rivets and rusted metal, then cleaned, repaired and red oxide applied ready for reuse.

As you can see from the photos, the new tank panels have been delivered from our engineering supplier and they certainly look a bit better than the old ones, or what was left of them.

All that remains to be done now is drill about a million holes in the new plate and put it all together. Sounds simple! At least it will keep idle hands busy when we eventually return to work.



The Final Push Appeal

**Regardless of Covid-19 our aim remains the same . . .
to get YOUR loco boiler finished by the end of the year!**

We still need your help.

**Please buy another share - either a one-off payment of £250 per share or
by standing order of £25 per month.**

Your help will make all the difference!

Please go to this address for more information and how to pay:

www.4253.co.uk/Become_A_Shareholder

or contact Charlie: 07747 545720 email: fog49@live.co.uk