



Newsletter

Keeping Shareholders Informed



Issue 8

Autumn 2020

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‘Stay With Us’ appeal launched

WITH the boiler nearing completion in Liverpool, it now requires just 874 stays to hold the whole thing together! To help with the cost of these stays, we have launched a ‘Stay With Us’ appeal for shareholders to help sponsor the cost of one or multiple boiler stays. *Please see page 2 for more info. This is your chance to keep your sponsored boiler tubes company!*

Since the last newsletter, 4253 volunteers have been working hard on a range of projects - while the weather remains reasonable.

With the boiler still away, it has freed up our teams of volunteers to undertake and complete other projects, not only for ourselves, but for the K&ESR.

One project recently undertaken, is the restoration of a large working demonstration model of Walschaerts Valve Gear for the railway’s museum - *see page 4*.

We’ve also been asked to renovate a set of fire escape steps for the Camping Coach project that the railway is currently fitting out. This entailed cutting the whole thing up into its constituent pieces of railings, steps and supports, then renewing where necessary and welding it all back together again and painting it. Let’s hope it will never have to be used!

The last one or two major items for the loco are being finished. The ashpan has now been moved back inside after many months outside, ready for final work to begin. The slide bar crossheads and rocking shaft bearing cap are all being worked on, ready to be fitted. 2021 will be a steaming year for 4253!

Dave Farnham



Connecting rod and side rod ordered

HAVING searched the country high and low, and in vain, over the last few years, one connecting and one side rod still remain illusive. So, to complete a set of eight, the ‘not for the faint hearted’ decision has been made to have new ones remanufactured and the order has now been placed. These will soon be required, along with the other motion parts, which are all now ready to fit.

The machining work will be undertaken by SCISS, Staplehurst, using an ingot of EN14 metal, then cut and shaped using water jetting technology to achieve the final shape and finish. A very different method to the one originally used at Swindon Works, where red hot metal was literally beaten into submission!

Crossheads now ready to fit

YOU can see here the white metal bearings of both slide bar crossheads being finished by Henry on the milling machine. Both top and bottom new white metal bearings required machining. When ready, they can be fitted to the loco, along with the pistons and piston rods.



Stay With Us!



Boiler Stays Appeal



A COMPELLING OPPORTUNITY TO HELP BRING TO FRUITION THE NATION'S MOST EXCITING LOCOMOTIVE RESTORATION PROJECT - SPECIFICALLY TO COMPLETE OUR BOILER!

WE ARE PLEASED TO INVITE YOU TO SPONSOR

CROWN STAYS RIGID STEEL STAYS COPPER STAYS

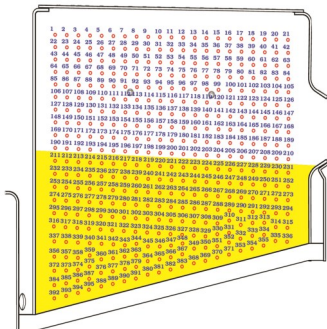
Your chance to help finish the boiler

2019 saw major inroads into our boiler restoration. However, as the year progressed we realised that we had an opportunity to accelerate the refurbishment work on our locomotive to an earlier conclusion than originally envisaged. So, with the blessing of our shareholders present at the January 2020 AGM, we immediately arranged for our boiler to be dispatched to Heritage Boiler Steam Services of Liverpool, where work has been progressing steadily ever since. We had the financial resilience, we had the confidence in our own decision making ability, we had projects in the pipeline and we knew our team could cope with and close the funding gap that existed at that time. Unfortunately, Covid-19 arrived almost immediately thereafter and, as a result, we have been unable to undertake any of our usual fundraising activities. Therefore, we now need as much financial help as possible to keep 4253 on schedule and, accordingly, have launched this sponsorship scheme.

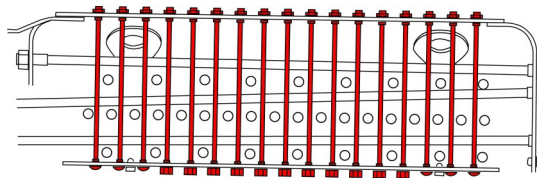
The Layman's Guide to Boiler Stays

Of all the components found in the construct of a locomotive boiler, the humble stay is probably the most important. The thrust of our 'Stay With Us!' campaign is aimed at those encompassing the burning heart of any steam locomotive - the firebox. A seemingly innocuous piece of engineering, boiler stays are generally composed of a steel or copper rod, threaded at each end and depending on location, vary approximately between 6" & 16" in length. In keeping with Swindon practice 4253's firebox area has a copper inner and steel outer wrapper, with a water space between them - in front of, behind, above (the crown) and on the sides. The stays are braced between the two in all these areas, strategically providing rigidity and flexibility to what is essentially a massive pressure vessel. The material used is in accordance with the relevant stress design criteria. They are basically screwed into position and riveted over to finish and seal. Outwardly they have a neat and innocent looking domed appearance - inwardly they present a structural forest. About 70% of the 4253 firebox stays are to be renewed and installed by our contractors at HBSS, Liverpool - all we have to do is supply them!

That's where you come in!



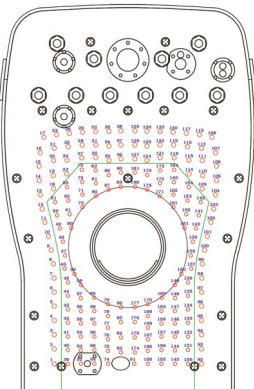
Firebox wrappers
A combination of copper and rigid steel stays. We are renewing all throatplate stays, backhead stays, crown stays and a percentage of the side wrapper plate stays. The stays within the yellow shaded area require replacing.



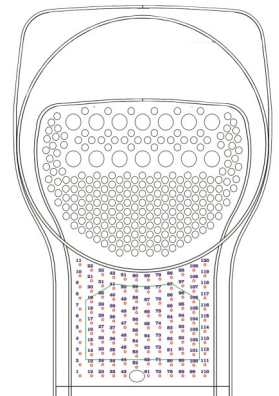
Cross section of firebox
Side view showing crown stays and nuts (in red). 174 stays are required to complete the task.

How You Can Help

You can sponsor a set of 3 stays for £99. Each set comprises 1 crown stay and 2 nuts, 1 copper stay and 1 rigid steel stay. Two or more sets can be sponsored by Standing Order, spread over 6 months. Alternatively, you can sponsor individual stays.



	Per Stay	Per Set of Stays	Total No. of Stays
Rigid Steel Stay	£17.50	£99.00	412
Copper Stay	£35.00		288
Crown Stay & Nuts	£50.00		174



By sponsoring any of the above you will receive a personalised certificate and be entered into a draw for a footplate ride on GWR 4253 on the earliest available date after launch into service.

Please visit www.4253.co.uk for further information and online payment details.

If you wish to set up a bankers Standing Order, please print the form and post to the address shown.

Please help get YOUR boiler back into steam!

Application to set up a Bankers Standing Order for 'Stay With Us' appeal (minimum 2 sets).
Please print, complete the form and post to the address shown below.



GWR 2-8-0T Locomotive No. 4253 'Stay With Us' Application Form

Please complete the form below in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to:

The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited, Old Chilmington Oast, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent TN23 3DP

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

I hereby make an application for ____ Rigid Steel Stay(s) ____ Copper Stay(s) ____ Crown & Nuts Stay(s)
and / or ____ Complete set(s) of Stays.

I enclose a cheque made payable to The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited / a completed Bankers Standing Order
(please delete as appropriate).

STANDING ORDER OPTION ONLY AVAILABLE IF SPONSORING COMPLETE SETS OF STAYS - MINIMUM 2 SETS.

I am a member of The Kent and East Sussex Railway: Yes / No (please delete as appropriate).

☐ I consent to being contacted by 4253 Locomotive Co. via email/post
for information updates about 4253 progress and activities.

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Bankers Standing Order Form ('Stay With Us')

(if you wish to pay by monthly Standing Order over 6 months)

To the Manager: _____ (Your) Bank

Your Bank Address: _____

Please make 6 payments of £ ____ on the ____ day of every month commencing on ____ / ____ / ____ to:
The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited, Account Number 47817011 National Westminster Bank Plc.
20 High Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8SH. Sort Code 60-01-21.

Account Name: _____

Your Address: _____

Sort Code: _____ Account Number: _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*Please quote Reference Number in all payments ____ * to be entered by 4253 Project Staff.

The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited, 25 Winsor Road, Rolvenden Layne, Tenterden, Kent TN17 4NL - Stays

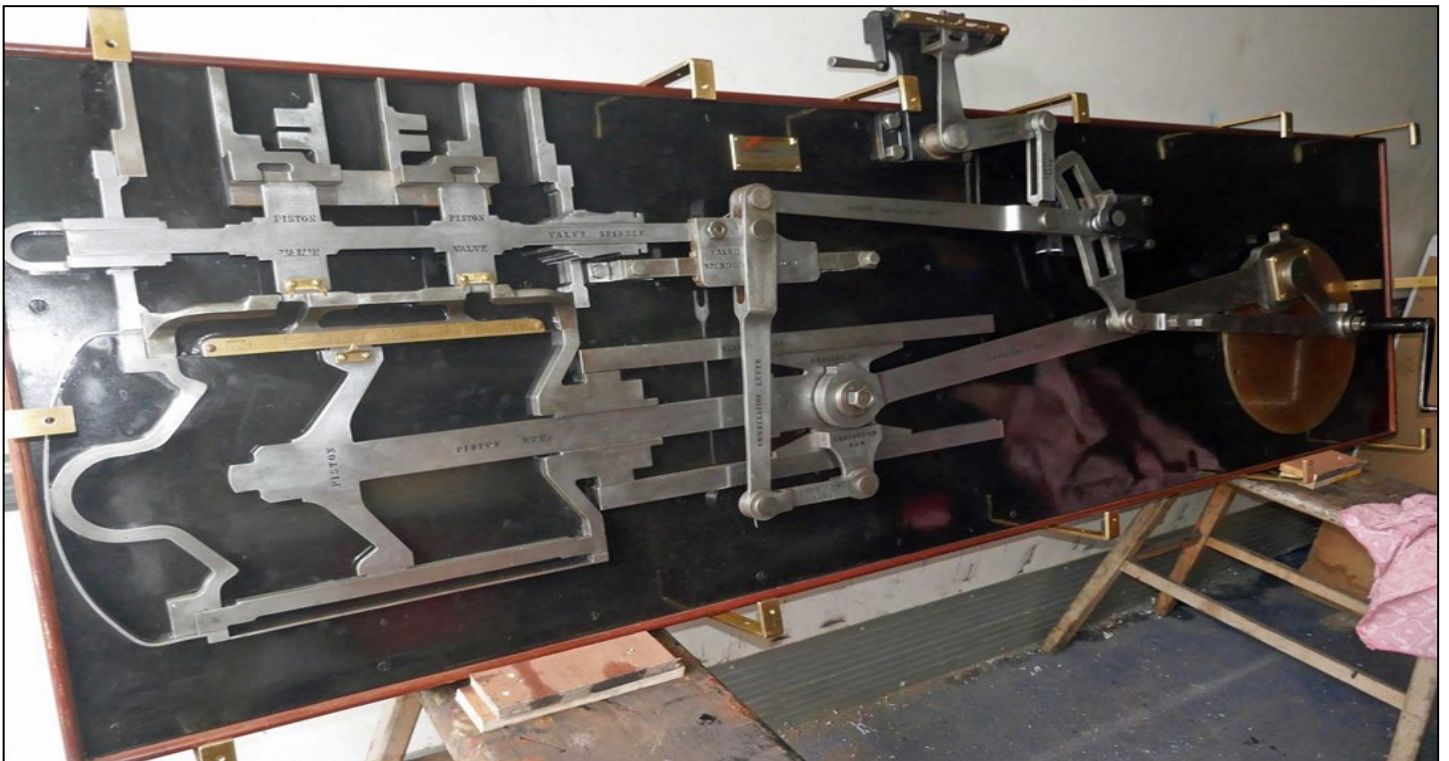
4253 Walschaerts Valve Gear *by Kelvin Williams*

ANOTHER project recently undertaken by our volunteers for the K&ESR, was the refurbishment of a large working 'Walschaerts Valve Gear' model, that has been stored at Rolvenden for quite a few years.

K&ESR employee and shareholder Liam Head, has done a bit of digging and he says it was originally built at the North British Locomotive Company in Glasgow (probably an apprentices' project) and eventually ended up in Ashford locomotive works. It was possibly gifted or sent down with some locomotives when the NBLC were building locomotives for the South Eastern & Chatham Railway.

It has been completely stripped down, the base plate repainted, all parts cleaned with new wood sides fitted. A bit more work to be done, including a Perspex safety screen, before it is taken to Tenterden Station.

Once we have finished the refurbishment, it will go on display in the model room at Tenterden Station. Liam's researched history will be provided as part of the finished display.



This is a superb working model of 'Walschaerts' Locomotive Valve Gear. Named after Belgian engineer Egide Walschaerts in 1844, this type of valve gear is used to regulate the steam to the pistons and was used from the late 19th century to the end of steam. It can be seen and operated when it returns to Tenterden Station.

4253 There's Money in Muck!

AS part of our fundraising, as well as good management practice, we have 'scrap bins' in our workshop for all the offcuts and swarf etc. When we have a big enough pile of scrap, we order in a skip.

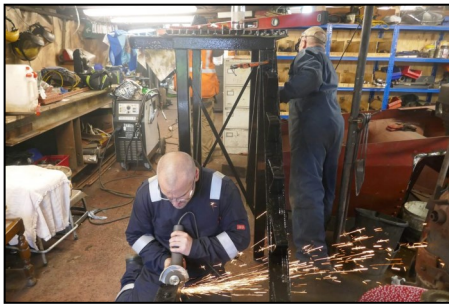
This latest one weighed in at over £400!



4253 Volunteers in 'Action'!

To prove that our regular volunteers actually do some work on a Sunday, Tuesday and Friday each week, we thought we'd put in some 'action' shots of them at work.

Here are a few to be going on with . . .



Scott and Neil working on the fire escape project.



Graham working on the fire escape project.



Bob working on, yes, you've guessed it . . . the fire escape project!



On the left, Colin wonders why his brush has dried long ago and stuck to the pot - ZZZZZ.

On the right, Andy takes it one step at a time finishing the fire escape treads.



Ah, it's Dave Stubbs . . . again!



Chris and Colin with 300 years of experience between them, trying to remember what they were going to do next.



The latest 4253 PPE equipment. Some of our older volunteers can remember wearing these in the trenches.



Volunteers are always encouraged to try their hand at new skills.

The picture on the left shows Scott teaching young Travis how to weld.

The picture on the right shows Paul teaching young Travis how to weld, properly.



Let us know, with pictures if possible, what you have been doing during the latest lockdown! It doesn't necessarily have to be railway related, but anything interesting that has kept you busy for the second time this year.

Christmas is coming!



4253 Face Masks

We are pleased to announce the availability of our 4253 specially commissioned Face Masks.



These can be used as general face coverings for dust/allergies and also to aid in complying with current Government social distancing measures.

Made to last from triple layered cotton for easy care and hand-made in Kent.

Available in: **4253 Red**, **4253 Black**, **4253 Blue** and **4253 Green**

All individually packed. Availability subject to stock.

Priced at £5.25 + 75p postage each.

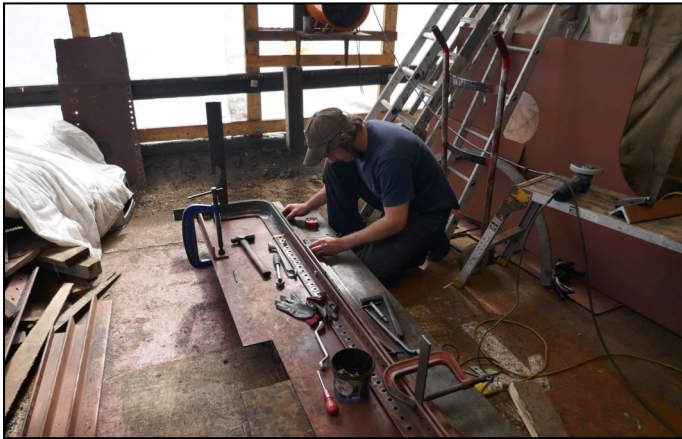
**Order yours today from our online shop at
www.4253.co.uk**

Colours may appear slightly different from images above, due to photographic limitations.

5668 Water Tanks Progress

To keep the many volunteers busy while awaiting the return of 4253's boiler, they have been working on the construction of the water tanks for 5668.

Over the last month or so, they have drilled all the plate work and angles for the base and rear ends of both the driver's and fireman's side tanks. Right now, we have what can only be described as a giant Meccano set. Soon, we expect to receive all the plate for the front ends of the tanks ready for drilling etc.



Henry measuring the position of the internal angle bar.



Mike and 'Orange' Dick reaming the holes on the base ready for riveting.

In the meantime, the fireman's side tank base section has been welded together and the base's internal angle bar has had special mastic applied and bolted down to the base plate ready for riveting. With the new 4-week lockdown impacting on our work, we are unsure when we will be able to finish these tanks.

4253 Boiler Progress

The boiler continues its steady transformation in Liverpool with both side wrappers cut to size and clamped to the boiler for final measuring.

The latest from HBSS is that they will continue to work through the current lockdown with measures in place for safe working, so hopefully progress should not suffer too much.

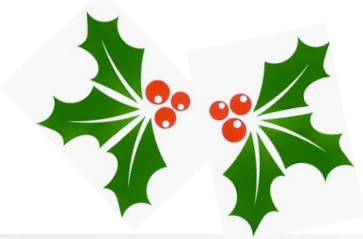


The internal steam pipe, blower pipe and vacuum exhaust pipe have all recently been sent up to Liverpool to be fitted inside the boiler.

Also, all the internal brackets and main boiler expansion brackets will soon be winging their way northwards to HBSS.

With all these internal ancillary components being requested by HBSS, just shows how far on they are with the boiler rebuild. All these boiler bits and pieces need to be in place before the end tube plate is rivetted into its final position. Once that is in place all the many tubes can be fitted.





Just in time for Christmas!

*This superb gift set comes in
a presentation box and
includes a 4253 pen and
LED torch with key ring.*

***Priced at just £6.00
including FREE p&p***



***Order yours today from our online shop at
www.4253.co.uk***



As a little Christmas present and a big 'thank you' to all shareholders,
you will soon be receiving a free copy of

The Life and Times of Great Western Locomotive 2-8-0T Locomotive No. 4253

Published by the 4253 Locomotive Company Limited

Written by Phil Edwards

Phil's superb book follows our locomotive through its history, starting in 1917 and finishing right up to date in 2020. It combines huge amounts of technical information and many interesting photographs. The restoration is not forgotten either, with a large section dedicated to 4253's rise back to its former glory.

The directors would like to thank all shareholders for their continued support in getting YOUR locomotive back into steam.

Watch this space - 2021 is the year of 4253!

Further copies, priced at £9.50 each (including *FREE* p&p), can be purchased from our website www.4253.co.uk
or by sending your address and a cheque made payable to:
'4253 Supporters', Old Chilmington Oast, Chilmington Green, Ashford, Kent TN23 3DP.

Covid-19 arrangements at Rolvenden and 4253 Visits

Rolvenden Station and Rolvenden Works are currently closed to the General Public under COVID-19 rules.

There is no public access at the moment.

If you wish to visit us at 4253, it is essential you please make prior arrangements with us by emailing: gwr4253@gmail.com