



Newsletter

Keeping Shareholders Informed



Issue 12

Summer 2021

The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited, based in Rolvenden, Kent, is a non-profit, non-political organisation. Reproduction of photos by permission of The 4253 Locomotive Company.

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10th Anniversary!

It is 10 years today that 4253 arrived at Rolvenden works to begin its new lease of life.

*Over the previous 10 years, the restoration has been supported unfailingly by all of you: the volunteers, shareholders and donors
... THANK YOU ALL, FOR MAKING THIS PROJECT POSSIBLE!*



Welcome to your 10th Anniversary Newsletter celebrating the arrival, on the 14th June 2011, of Locomotive GWR 2-8-0T 4253 on the back of a low-loader, ready to begin her transformation from an 80-odd ton rust bucket, into a fully restored working locomotive, which hopefully will run on the Kent & East Sussex Railway.

The expectation was for a 10-year timeline for the project and progress was well on course until, as everyone knows, Covid-19 threw a spanner in the works and shut everything down for a lot of the last 14 months.

So, after ten years' hard work, where are we with the restoration project in June 2021?

To illustrate the progress, Kelvin Williams has made up an album of memorable photos over the years.

Here are the milestones . . .



MAIN LOCOMOTIVE FRAME

Cleaning, welding repairs, buffer beam refurbishment, new cladding for the cylinders and painting — done.



FRONT 'PONY TRUCK' AND MAIN WHEELS

Wheels testing/refurbishment, axle boxes refurbished, bearings white metallised and replacement/refurbishment of springs, painting and relocating into the frame — done.



MAIN WATER TANKS

Both main water tanks rebuilt using a combination of refurbished angle and new plate, hot riveted, painted and test filling with water — done.

4253 10th Anniversary *June 2011 - June 2021*



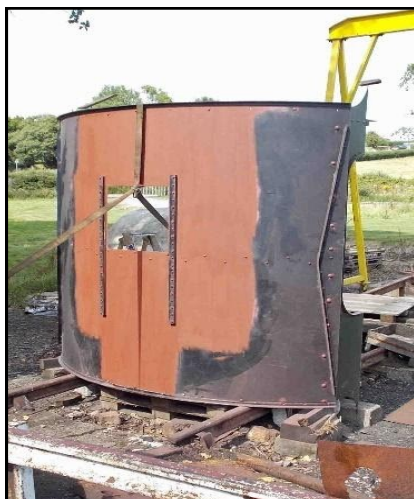
SMOKE BOX

Rebuild using some refurbished components and new platework, hot riveting and painting — done.



COAL/WATER BUNKER

Rebuild using a combination of refurbished angle and new plate, hot riveting, painting and test — done.



CAB ROOF

Rebuild, using a combination of refurbished angle and new plate, hot riveting and painting — done.



INTERNAL MOTION AND ECCENTRICS

All components refurbished and fitted — done.

4253 10th Anniversary *June 2011 - June 2021*



BOILER ASHPAN

Build a completely new one from scratch.
Just the doors and control levers to fit.



CROSSHEADS AND SLIDE BARS

Slide bars and crossheads refurbished, white
metalled and fitted — done.

BOILER

Our boiler being loaded up last year
at Rolvenden, ready for its journey
to Liverpool.

The boiler has been called the 'elephant in
the room' of the whole project
— very difficult, very time consuming and
above all, very expensive!

*(See the 'Boiler Report' on page 6 for the
latest news and progress).*



When you add it all up, that basically only leaves the boiler, pistons and connecting rods to go.
As far as the boiler is concerned, it is with the experts at HBSS in Liverpool doing the things that we,
as a group, would have taken far longer to achieve. It is hoped it will be back with us sometime this year
for retubing, all of which we have in storage.

Apart from the
big hole in the
middle, where the
'kettle' goes, it's
all looking
pretty good.

All the brilliant
progress over the
last 10 years was
only possible
because of the
generosity and
fantastic support
of shareholders,
volunteers and
donors.



HERITAGE BOILER STEAM SERVICES LTD

are looking to recruit
BOILERSMITHS

to join our rapidly expanding team,
based in Huyton, Liverpool. The ideal
candidate would have Boilersmith or
heritage railway experience.

Salary is dependant upon experience.

*If you think that you could contribute to
our team please forward a copy of your
CV and covering letter to*

stacey.boilersmiths@gmail.com



**Heritage Boiler Steam
Services Ltd,
20 Stretton Way, Huyton,
Liverpool, L36 6JF.**

4253 Boiler Report

All pictures in our Boiler Reports are kindly supplied by Heritage Boiler Steam Services, Liverpool.

We are pleased to report that major progress has been made by HBBS over the past few weeks since the last newsletter. Much work has been completed and things are really beginning to come together with our boiler.



An earlier picture of the boiler side wrappers which have been cut, positioned and made ready for welding. The patch screw/rivet holes are still to be drilled on the vertical edges at either end.



The boiler with holes now drilled, ready for the patch screws, rivets, and final welding.

Both side wrappers have been trimmed and fitted, with throat plate and backhead plate holes drilled and made ready to join the plates at either end. So called 'patch screws' will be necessary in some of these holes, combined with rivets, as there is limited access in the gap between the outer sheet and the inner firebox to use all rivets. Both plates have now been welded along their horizontal joining edge.

Not only have the side plates been completed ready for stay hole drilling, but the backhead has also had all the stay holes drilled, ready for threading and stay fitting.

As you can imagine, drilling all the (hundreds of!) holes takes a lot of time and skill to make sure everything is perfectly in line with the existing inner firebox stay holes.

This picture shows stay holes drilled in the backhead. These will now have a thread tapped into them to align with the existing inner firebox threads, ready for the many stays to be screwed in. All of these boiler stays ensure the strength and integrity of the firebox and surrounding area when subjected to intense heat and pressure.

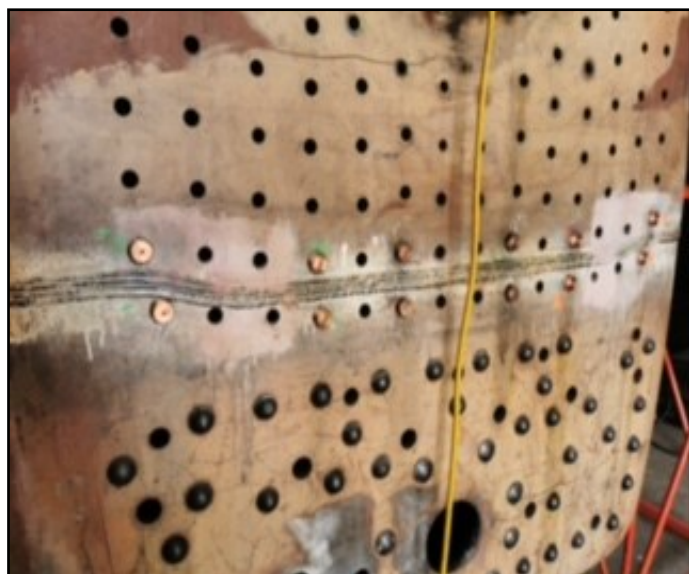


4253 Boiler Report *Continued*

Latest pictures just arrived from HBSS . . .

We have just received these pictures of our boiler from the guys at Liverpool, which show an exciting development.

Hole drilling has now begun on the side wrappers, which can be seen in the picture below. This shows how much progress is now being made towards the mammoth task of fitting the hundreds of boiler stays.



This is a small start with the task of the hole drilling, but an important milestone for 4253.

The first copper stays can clearly be seen in place, in the picture above. Each stay has a thread at either end and is screwed simultaneously into the inner firebox and outer boiler plate. The ends of each stay will then be shaped to finish each one off.

We hope to give you more progress on the stays in the next newsletter. Let's hope this progress continues and we can soon see the work in Liverpool nearing completion.

Left: The backhead section now welded, together with a number of copper stays which have been fitted in the last couple of days.

(Progress on converting the boiler to electricity can be seen with the first of many yellow cables already installed!)

NOW THAT THE HOLES ARE BEING DRILLED IN THE BOILER, ALL WE NEED NOW IS A COMPLETE SET OF BOILER STAYS TO SCREW INTO THEM! TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN HELP WITH THE COST OF BUYING THE HUNDREDS OF STAYS FOR THE BOILER PLEASE SEE THE 'STAY WITH US' APPEAL ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE!

4253
Locomotive Company Limited

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

A 4253 mask is for life - *not just for lockdown!*

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 Covid-19 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.

4253 Pen and Torch Set



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**

Covid-19 arrangements at Rolvenden and future post-lockdown 4253 visits to Rolvenden

Rolvenden Station and Rolvenden Works are currently closed to the public under current lockdown Covid-19 government rules.

Unfortunately there is no public access at the moment.

If you wish to visit us in the future, it is essential you please make prior arrangements by emailing: gwr4253@gmail.com