

# 4253

# News

Locomotive Company

Issue 32 Winter 2026



## IN THIS ISSUE:

The future of  
GWR 4270

AGM Report:

Accounts

Work Completed  
in 2025

The newsletter of the  
4253 Locomotive Company Ltd  
based in Rolvenden, Kent

*Our mailing address is:*  
34 Henley Meadows, St. Michaels  
Tenterden, Kent TN30 6EN

*Reproduction of photos by permission of  
the 4253 Locomotive Company.*

**Editors:**

**David Farnham and Kelvin Williams**  
email us at: [gwr4253news@gmail.com](mailto:gwr4253news@gmail.com)

**At the AGM held recently, a major new development was announced by Mike Hart, who is a trustee of the Rother Valley Railway Heritage Trust (RVRHT) and a 4253 shareholder.**

RVRHT have entered into an agreement with the owner of GWR 4270 (a sister loco to 4253) for the engine to run on the K&ESR for a 10-year period. This will be on the basis that 4253 Ltd volunteers undertake its overhaul, obtain a new 10-year boiler certificate and oversee its ongoing maintenance. An agreement to this effect is currently being drawn up between RVRHT and 4253.

The addition of 4270 to the K&ESR fleet alongside 4253 will provide two powerful locomotives more than capable of hauling trains over the extended line to Robertsbridge.

This is an exciting new development in the history of 4253 and shows just how our engineering experience, fund raising abilities and management skills gained over many years, have been recognised. The following article, *by Kelvin Williams*, outlines what has been agreed and how things will basically work.

As for timings of the project and the fine print in the agreement, these items will be highlighted in future issues of the newsletter as things develop over the coming months.

We will of course, keep shareholders fully informed as the finer points of the agreement are sorted out during the coming months and we'll have a dedicated 4270 article in each of this year's newsletters so that shareholders can keep abreast of further developments.

***Please also follow our weekly 4253 Facebook update for all the latest.***

## Keeping shareholders informed

## *The future of GWR 4270*



4270 at the One:One Collection in Margate

*Photo courtesy of John Samson-Snell.*

At the recent AGM a vote was taken (passed unanimously), to agree a proposal between 4253 and the RVRHT whereby locomotive GWR 4270 will be transported to Rolvenden for any pre 10-year ticket work to be undertaken by 4253 volunteers, and then loaned for subsequent use by the Kent & East Sussex Railway (K&ESR).

This newsletter will hopefully give shareholders the basic facts about this exciting new venture. But first . . . let's look at the history of the locomotive in question.

*Built in 1919, No. '4270' spent most of her career based close to Cardiff. As you may be aware, the heavy design of the 4200 Class with eight driving wheels and only two leading wheels gave these locomotives the superb traction required to haul coal trains weighing in excess of 1,000 tons over the steep gradients of the Welsh valleys. These locomotives almost never saw passenger service, instead running from the Valleys to the ports on the South Wales coast, day after day. Because they could only carry 1,800 gallons of water, the class became known as 'water carts' as they would have to stop frequently to pick up water at stations.*

*4270 was retired in 1962 and made a final short journey from Cardiff to Barry scrapyard where she was to languish until 1985.*

*It was not however until 2014 that she returned to steam after a four year overhaul.*

# GWR 4270 *continued*

*At the end of normal AGM business, Mike Hart outlined to the meeting the new proposed agreements between the RVRHT, 4253 and the K&ESR. A vote was subsequently taken after questions and then passed by the assembled 4253 shareholders.*

## **The new agreement . . . *what does it mean to us?***

4270 has recently been removed from operations due to it requiring its next 10-year boiler inspection, which entails a full inspection of the loco and, at minimum, a retubing of the boiler, followed by a pressure test to obtain its next 'ticket'.

It is currently awaiting this work at the One:One Collection in Margate.

The loco will be delivered to Rolvenden, where its boiler will be removed and inspected to ascertain any work needed. 4253 will have overall control of how the work is achieved.

On completion of all the work required, 4253 will oversee the use and maintenance requirements of 4270 while on the K&ESR.

Subsequent 'steaming fees' for 4270 will be managed under a hire agreement between RVRHT and the K&ESR.

4270 is seen here currently at the One:One Collection (Locomotive Storage Ltd), based on the Hornby site in Margate. This collection of historic locomotives have all been restored to museum quality and it is planned to open the collection to the public in the future.



*Photos courtesy of John Samson-Snell.*

# AGM Report

## Finance

At the AGM, Finance Director Jerry Preston-Ladd, outlined the 4253 accounts to July 2025, including a breakdown of the actual cashflow for the year.

### INCOME - 12m to Jul 2025

• Sales	£21,341
• Partly paid shares	£21,085
• Donations	£12,500
• Fully paid shares	<u>£11,000</u>
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£65,926</b>

### INCOME - 12m to Jul 2025

	<b>B/Fwd</b>	<b>£65,926</b>
• Debtors	£	750
• Fundraising	£	<u>85</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>£66,761</u></b>

### EXPENDITURE - 12m to Jul 2025

• Creditors	£14,250
• Services	£10,056
• Materials	£ 7,006
• Consumables	£ 3,983
• Tools & Equipment	<u>£ 2,420</u>
<b>SUB TOTAL</b>	<b>£ 37,715</b>

### EXPENDITURE - 12m to Jul 2025

	<b>B/Fwd</b>	<b>£ 37,715</b>
• Administration	£	2,307
• Accountancy & Bank charges	£	1,427
• Carriage	£	<u>665</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b><u>£ 42,114</u></b>
<b>INCREASE IN CASH HELD</b>		<b>£ 24,648</b>

## Engineering

Henry Mowforth gave a rundown of the considerable amount of work completed on 4253, together with contract work, since the last AGM:

### Smokebox

- Superheater spark/cover plate and brackets made and fitted
- Superheater header support brackets fitted
- Spark arrester bar made and fitted
- Superheater elements trial fitted
- Main steam pipes started

# AGM Report *continued*

## **Smokebox (*continued*)**

Main steam pipe glands started  
Chimney aligned with blast pipe and bolted down  
Oil valves fitted and partly piped  
Oil valve cover has arrived ready to be fitted  
Smokebox has been painted

## **Boiler**

Water delivery trays fitted  
Safety valve base bolted down  
Clacks trial fitted to check the fit and allow pipework to be made  
Safety valve bonnet has been test fitted  
Crinolines have been finished and fitted  
Barrel cladding made and fitted  
Firebox cladding made and fitted  
Shoulder corners, 'elephant's ears', have arrived ready to fit once the tanks are removed  
Backhead cladding made and fitted  
Backhead cladding filing plates have been made  
Centre barrel handrail has been test fitted  
Delivery pipes have been finished off up to the clacks

## **Footplate**

Vacuum train pipe has been finished  
Most of the copper spaghetti has been bent to shape and installed  
Various pipe clips have been made, no two being the same  
Jockey valve linkage has been made to fit  
Tank strap has been finished off to fit inside the cladding  
Tea tray has been finished off and fitted  
Pressure and vacuum gauge brackets fitted to the backhead cladding  
Various bosses have been made and welded to the backhead to support the tea tray, cladding and lubricator etc

## **General**

Tanks and cab have been fitted to the loco to test everything fits  
Fireman's tank had to be removed to allow some rivets to be ground down then re-fitted  
Cab front had the aperture cut into it to allow it to fit over the firebox  
We then cut the hole for the whistle valves  
Whistle valve cover has been made and delivered  
Various painting jobs continue as and when

## **Extra curricular jobs**

Q Class tender tank was completed and delivered . . . it even fitted on the frames!

### ***'Gervase' has received work to re-enter traffic***

Footplate area and steel pipework cleaned and painted  
External panels have been repainted  
Engine unit has been inspected and found mostly ok  
Replacement engine parts sourced ready for reassembly  
Most loose parts have been cleaned, checked and painted  
Boiler has been returned and installed in the frames  
Gauges have been stripped, cleaned and recalibrated

### ***5164 bunker build has started and continues apace:***

The old bunker has been stripped of usable parts which have then been cleaned and re-used  
New IKEA style kit arrived and assembled only to find most of the design needed changing to make it work  
Fully built up with temporary bolts — now stripped down so final assembly can begin from the floor up



## GWR 2-8-0T Locomotive No. 4253 Share Application Form

Please complete the form below in BLOCK CAPITALS and return to:  
The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited, 28 Archer Road, Folkestone, Kent CT19 5RZ

Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby make an application for \_\_\_\_\_ share(s) in The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited.  
I enclose a cheque made payable to The 4253 Locomotive Company Limited (£250 per share) / a completed Bankers Standing Order (*please delete as appropriate*).

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 (if you wish to pay by monthly Standing Order)

To the Manager: \_\_\_\_\_ (Your) Bank

Your Bank Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Please pay £ \_\_\_\_\_ 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.

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