

Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Chris Hunford and Steve Pilcher, Maunsell Locomotive Society

The new tender tank for 541 was due to arrive at Sheffield Park in the week ending Friday 4 April, but at the time of writing this report, it had been delayed due to an issue with the gearbox on the lorry that it was planned to use. Hopefully it will not take too long to rectify and the new tender tank will appear at Sheffield Park.

Meanwhile the Sheffield Park workshop staff have completed fabricating the new front dragbox for the tender chassis and riveting it into place. They have also welded in two short lengths to the inner frames, to replace corroded sections.

The Maunsell Locomotive Society working party have continued cleaning and painting various parts of 541's cladding.

Down at Leaky Finders, virtually all the new copper stays are in place on the sides of the firebox. New patch screws have been machined on site and the majority have been fitted to secure both the lower outer firebox wrapper sides to the backhead and throat plate. New Monel^{*} stays are being machined in house ready for fitting in due course. New tubes have arrived on site and a start will be made soon on brazing the copper bottle ends onto the flue tubes.

Optical alignment of the left-hand side of the loco chassis has been completed.

The next edition of the Maunsell Locomotive Society's Newsletter has been held back to await the arrival of the new tender tank. More details of the overhaul of 541 and Stowe will be contained in the Newsletter. We would appreciate the support of more members, so if you are not already a Member and would like to join, please download a [membership form](#) from the [Society's website](#).

** Monel is a nickel-copper alloy with high corrosion resistance, sometimes used for firebox stays and other applications where strength and corrosion resistance are desirable – Ed.*



Above: Patch screws being fitted.

Photo courtesy Leaky Finders

Below: Lower half of backhead cladding in grey undercoat.

Photo Steve Pilcher

