

# Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Chris Hunford, Maunsell Locomotive Society project manager

In the run up to Christmas, the focus of work on 541's boiler has been the replacement of the copper door ring on the inner firebox. This area of the boiler had become life expired and in particular the areas around the rivet holes, where the rivets pass through this platework, the firehole door ring and the backhead. The decision was made to insert a new piece of platework and weld this in position, which is now complete and successfully passed its Non-Destructive Testing exam. See accompanying photos.

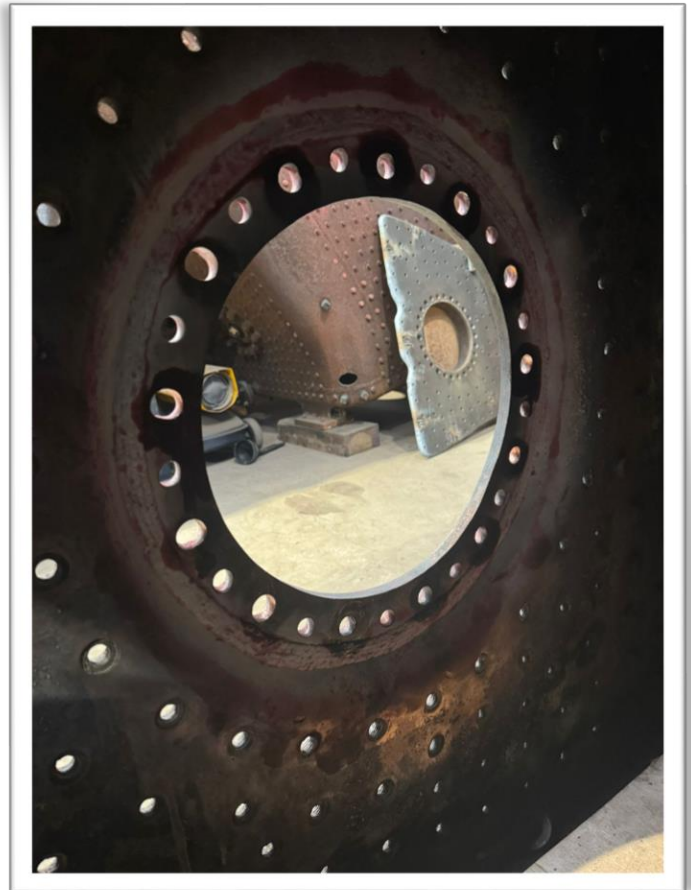
Other work on the boiler has included reaming the remaining stay holes and preparing these for the fitting of new stays.

Work on the chassis has seen the completion of the new dragbox and reassembly of the cab sides and cab floor and the on-going fitting of new steel plates to the horn faces and wedges.

A start has also been made on the replacing the driving horn sections of the main frames, which were life expired and requires new main frame steel platework to be inserted and welded in place.

At Rolvenden, the 4253 Group has pressed on with concluding work on the tender body and since the last report the rear section of the tank has been welded into place. In recent weeks the group has been painting the exterior of the tender tank.

At Sheffield Park repairs to the tender frames have continued to progress, including work to re-rivet the leading horn guides of the leading axle into place. Where necessary, worn areas of the journals of the brake beam have been built up with



weld and the journals are being machined back to the correct profile.

Before Christmas the Maunsell Locomotive Society volunteers had made a start on repairing corroded areas of the loco's cladding.

We would also appreciate extra help with the work on 541's tender. Please contact Steve Pilcher on: [jstevepilcher@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jstevepilcher@yahoo.co.uk) – if you are interested in joining our Tuesday working party.



***This page:*** The newly-painted front and rear of the tender tank.  
*Photos courtesy 4253 group*

***Previous page:*** Repaired copper firebox door ring, with new section of steel backhead in background

*Photo courtesy Leaky Finders*

