

# Q Class 541 Overhaul Update

By Steve Pilcher, Maunsell Locomotive Society

During March there was good progress on the overhaul of 541's tender.

Thanks to all the work by Melvyn Frohnsdorff to free up the tender tank, it was possible for it to be lifted from the chassis and sent on a lorry to Rolvenden for the 4253 Group to commence work on fabricating a new one. Undercover shelter has been constructed, which will enable the group to progress the project, regardless of the weather.

Back at the Park, Melvyn has continued to remove corroded sections of angle iron that require replacement and also free up the front drag box. Both the front and rear boxes will need to be replaced, and this will result in a robust chassis fit for many years' further work. Meanwhile other

members of the working party have set about removing a great deal of accumulated gunge and rust from what were previously concealed and quite inaccessible areas between the frames, and a start made on repainting.

Hopefully the frames will be able to go into the workshop in April to enable the wheelsets to be removed on the wheeldrop and then sent away for tyre turning.

As can be seen on [Leaky Finders' Facebook page](#), they were working flat out in March to successfully conclude the overhaul of "Clan Line". Now this has been completed, work can restart on replacing the corroded areas of 541's outer firebox wrapper. More on this next time.





**Above:** Progress with cleaning and painting 541's inner tender frames. Photo: Steve Pilcher

**Previous page:** 541's tender tank being loaded on a lorry to travel to Rolvenden on 27th February 2024. Photo: Melvyn Frohnsdorff

## THE Q NEEDS YOU!

The [Maunsell Locomotive Society](#) has agreed to try and raise £40,000 towards the cost of overhauling the tender and providing a new tender tank. The Q is an ideal size and economical loco for Bluebell operations. It fits in well with the 'Southern' image, and it did actually operate in the vicinity.

Online payments to the appeal can be made by clicking the [DONATE](#) button on the Bluebell website and following the online payment instructions. Select Q Class 541 Overhaul in the drop-down box.

For those who prefer to use cheques, please send a cheque, made payable to the 'Bluebell Railway Trust' (and a [Gift Aid Form](#) – if appropriate) to the Bluebell Railway Trust, Sheffield Park Station, Uckfield TN22 3QL. Please add a note to say it is for the 541 Overhaul Appeal.

At the time of writing, over £35,000 has been put in place towards the target of providing £40,000 towards this project. As ever, a very warm 'thank you' to all concerned who have generously contributed thus far. Please consider assisting reaching the target of £40,000 – and thus play a part in getting this very useful loco, back in action at Bluebell.