

6695 Locomotive Group - Boiler Fund Appeal

The heavy overhaul of ex GWR 0-6-2T no.6695 is proceeding well at Williton, such that we anticipate the mechanical work to be largely complete later this year. Focus must now turn to the boiler and, following further recent assessments, we now have a clearer idea of the work required to put this back into steampable condition for (hopefully) a further 10 year stint. Briefly the work will encompass some replacement platerwork on the lower sides and front of the firebox outer wrapper, removal, assessment and repair of the foundation ring, replacement of wasted rivets/patch screws in various areas, replacement stays as necessary, retubing, new superheater elements, fettling/replacement of mudhole doors & washout plugs & threads, attention to mounting pads & replacing studs etc. amongst the myriad of other 'standard' items. We would hope to begin working on the boiler/firebox later this year.

Following the recent announcement of a long term agreement for 6695 to operate on the West Somerset Railway we have agreed a possible timescale for completion of the overhaul in readiness for the main 2019 season. However, this largely depends upon how things progress with the boiler and there can be no guarantee on such date. A Boiler Fund Appeal was launched earlier this year by the 6695 Locomotive Group to raise £100,000 to assist in funding the work required. New members are always welcome and with the long term commitment to the WSR we have already seen some of the railway's volunteers purchasing shares in the loco. Anyone purchasing a share (£250 each), either fully paid or on easy payment options, will receive a 6695 Loco Group polo shirt; someone purchasing multiple shares will, additionally, receive a framed print of 6695 working a freight train ("6695's Autumn Freight") in the Welsh valleys. Those purchasing 'new' shares and/or sponsoring parts will be invited to ride on a special inaugural train on WSR upon her return to service, and further incentives linked to size of contribution are being considered with WSR. We are seeking sponsorship of parts required for the boiler overhaul, currently small smoke tubes (218 required) and large flue tubes (6 required) which are already being taken up, and will shortly be adding items such as stays, rivets etc. once quantities are known. All enquiries, whether general or regarding shares, sponsorship or donations, by e mail please to locomotive6695@btinternet.com. Keep up to date with the progress of the overhaul and the appeal by visiting our Facebook/Twitter page @6695LocoGroup. Group members also receive a regular newsletter.

Please consider helping us to complete the overhaul of 6695 and provide another ex Great Western locomotive for services on the West Somerset Railway. Your support will be very much appreciated.