



May 2022

Metropolitan No.1 Overhaul Update – Funding Appeal

Built in 1898, Metropolitan No.1 is the sole surviving example of the E-Class 0-4-4 designed by the Chief Mechanical Engineer of the Metropolitan Railway, Mr T. F. Clark, for use on the Baker Street to Verney Junction service. Thus, it is a truly unique locomotive and although currently stripped for overhaul it will be steaming again at Buckinghamshire Railway Centre in the not-too-distant future, funds permitting - this is where we need your help!

In 2019, with 18-months or so to run on its 10-year boiler ticket, Met 1, as she is colloquially known, was taken out of service early due to the condition of the Crown Stays. The cab, fittings and the boiler were all removed for assessment purposes at Quainton just prior to the national Covid-19 lockdown, which then prevented further works taking place. With the gradual return to a normal working situation, it has now been possible to undertake the remaining assessments, including the non-destructive testing, or NDT, that has flagged up that firebox repairs are required.

The intention of the Society is, as work is completed on other on-going projects, to have the locomotive enter the workshops at Quainton later this year or early 2023. Meanwhile, tube removal and other less weather-sensitive elements are continuing as and when skilled labour or financial resources permit.

To this end, Quainton Railway Society is looking to raise a total of £70,000 with the aim of getting the locomotive back on the rails for its 125th Birthday, sometime in 2023.

Any donation will be gratefully received to help get this graceful old lady back on her wheels for her next significant birthday. "Met-1 has been our flagship locomotive for the best part of 55-years," says Quainton Railway Society's Vice Chairman, Colin Ashman, "She is a firm favourite among the members of Quainton Railway Society and the visitors to Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. Our ambition is to see her steam again in her 125th year."

TO DONATE:

To donate to the Met 1 appeal please visit: www.bucksrailcentre.org or send a cheque made out to Quainton Railway Society Ltd to Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Station Road, Quainton HP22 4BY. Please enclose a note clearly stating that the cheque is to go towards the work on Met 1. All funds received will be held in a protected account and only used on returning this unique locomotive to working order.

For more about the locomotive visit <https://www.brc-stockbook.co.uk/met1.htm>

Thank you very much to everyone in advance for helping with this appeal.

Louisa Richards

Marketing Manager

On behalf of Quainton Railway Society