



RPSI

Locomotive Appeal "Back on the Mainline"



Please help us complete the works required to return steam
Locomotive No.131 to the mainline



Steam locomotive No.131 is a Q-class, mixed traffic locomotive, built in February 1901 by Neilson Reid of Glasgow for the Great Northern Railway (Ireland). She is the last survivor of a class of 13 built for hauling passenger trains from Belfast to Clones, Banbridge, Newry and Warrenpoint, Omagh and Enniskillen, Portrush and Londonderry. The class were highly thought of by those who worked them. In 62 years of work, thousands of commuters, holiday makers and shoppers would have travelled in carriages hauled by her. Withdrawn in 1963, No.131 suffered the humiliation of heating one of the workshops at Inchicore – an indignity which nevertheless led to her eventual preservation. In 1972 she was put on a plinth at Dundalk railway station. In 2003 the locomotive moved to the ownership of not-for-profit charity, the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (RPSI). In 2014, a project sponsored by GROW South Antrim was tendered to Heritage Engineering Ireland Ltd (the engineering subsidiary of the RPSI) and No.131 was returned to steam, able to move under its own power on 31st Jan 2015 (the first time in 53 years)!

The funding for No.131 did not extend to the building of a tender to carry coal and water or the provision of electrically operated safety equipment required for a steam locomotive to operate on a modern mainline railway. We have the skills and some of the parts to build these items.

What work will be undertaken in this project?

The tender carries the coal and water the locomotive needs. It is connected to the engine, together forming the complete locomotive. Progress is already advanced (pictured below) building from a 1948-built tender frame we already owned. The following work is underway to make it fit for mainline operation:

- Re-profile wheels, overhaul bearings, axleboxes and horn guides.
- Descale main frame, repair corrosion damage.
- Build a completely new steel body (i.e. tank, well tank, coal rails).
- Overhaul brake gear. Overhaul suspension with new springs if required.
- Overhaul buffers and draw-gear. Painting and lettering.



A significant proportion of the cost are the electrical fittings, valves, pipework, batteries, data loggers, components and associated manufacture of and fitting of the equipment for No.131's on-train monitoring and signalling.

What can you do?

- You can sponsor parts or items, by providing the item itself or by funding the item. We are particularly interested in sheet steel suppliers, welders or electrical engineers that could offer parts or services as part of their community partnership programmes.
- You can set up regular-giving to donate regularly to our appeal. This allows us to gather the funds required and because it is regular and planned, hopefully allows you peace of mind that you are supporting a worthy cause within your own means.
- You can donate to this appeal or join the RPSI. We would welcome your help in volunteering at Whitehead to overhaul the locomotive. Parents of younger members (over 16 years old) are also welcome too!

Why should you support this appeal?

- **No tender & electrics = No.131 not able to operate on the mainline!**
- **It encourages young volunteers.** The fitting of the electrical equipment and the overseeing of the tender re-construction are being overseen by our next generation of heritage engineers. These volunteers are the second generation and this project will allow the handover of skills from knowledgeable older members.
- **They learn heritage skills.** The re-construction of the tender will equip our second generation members with scarce heritage skills, preparing the team for managing mainline locomotive overhauls in the future.
- **We have better public engagement.** To bring a locomotive built in 1901 back to life and operation is nothing short of an engineering miracle. We want to share this locomotive with as many members of the public as we can over the locomotive's operational life.
- **It celebrates history and our heritage.** We will take the locomotive all over Ireland, when complete. When locomotive No 171 returns to traffic, if No 131 is also in traffic, we shall be able to demonstrate, in working order, steam locomotive design development represented from the Q class in 1901, the S class in 1913, through to the Compound No 85 built in 1932!

How to help.

Note: you can download more copies of this form from our website: steamtrainsireland.com/appeals

To encourage donations, we have an incentive package to offer donors.

1. Significant corporate sponsorship can attract individual incentives. Please contact us to discuss.
2. All those who donate more than £10 per month by Standing Order will be invited to a "131" donors event at Whitehead to have a guided tour of the workshops and to see and hear progress of the overhaul from our Locomotive Officer.
3. Anyone who donates £500 or more will be offered the chance to join the crew for a day on the footplate of "131" at Whitehead, once her overhaul is complete. The footplate is a hazardous place involving climbing and standing for long periods, so this incentive is limited to those aged 18-75 and in suitable health.

Your name: _____

Your address: _____

Your postcode: _____

I am a United Kingdom taxpayer and wish to Gift Aid my donation – please tick :

Signed: _____

Option 1 – Regularly donate via Standing Order

An effective way to help with minimal impact to you. Does your employer operate a give-as-you-earn service from which you could donate to the RPSI (remember to email us at rpsitrains@hotmail.com and tell us if you set this up, so we can link your donation to the 131 Appeal)?

Name of your bank: _____

Branch address: _____

Sort Code: _____ Account: _____

Please pay €/£ on the (date) _____ of each month to the account of the Railway Preservation Society of Ireland (please delete as appropriate):

Sterling payments to Bank of Ireland, Antrim (Account 90-23-89 / 49087661)

Euro payments only to Bank of Ireland, Ranelagh (Account 90-01-72 / 17529453)

From: ___/___/20__ (date of first payment) to: ___/___/20__ (date of last payment)

I confirm that my account will contain adequate funds to cover payments on due dates.

Signed: _____

To receiving bank: Please quote reference "131 Appeal" on all payments.

Option 2 - a one-off donation by cash, cheque or credit card:

I wish to donate the sum of €/£ _____ to the restoration of locomotive No.131.

I enclose a Cheque/Bank Draft/Postal order made out to "The RPSI". (Please note, this must be "The RPSI", rather than "No.131", "Tender Appeal", etc.) or

Please debit my credit card as appropriate:

_____/_____/_____/_____ Expiry date ___/___ C.V.V. ___

(Note: All credit card payments must be expressed in sterling)

Thank you. Please send your completed form and donation to:

RPSI "131 Appeal", 103 Wynchurch Road, Belfast, BT6 0JJ, N. Ireland.

Keep up to date with the progress of the restoration at: facebook.com/steamtrainsireland