



RUSSELL Progress update February 2013

In June 2012 we appealed for £125,000 to complete RUSSELL's restoration. There was an encouraging response from WHHR and WHRS members, as well as readers of Heritage Railway and Narrow Gauge World magazines, which got us nearly halfway to the target. Thanks to you the restoration work is progressing at pace.

For the benefit of new members, the WHHR board decided in April 2012 to send RUSSELL's rolling frame, boiler and fabricated components to Alan Keef Ltd, Light Railway Engineers, Ross-on-Wye to continue the restoration work. Enclosed with this issue of The Journal is the December 2012, *Russell Newsletter* which describes the initial work done by Alan Keef's engineers up to mid-November.

Following a visit to Keef's by Martyn Owen in late January we can report that the valve gear assembly is now complete, and timing adjusted. Also, the pistons have been installed with new rings and the slide valves fitted into the steam chests. Completing this work is a major milestone towards turning a rolling frame into a powered one.

The next task is to assemble the brake mechanism and to do this the boiler will be positioned temporarily on the frame. This should be complete by mid-February. The boiler will then be removed so that the smoke box and ash pan can be fitted permanently.

However, to complete the restoration and see RUSSELL back in steam we still need to raise £65,000. There is a little money left in the fund, but, at the rapid progress being made by Keef's this will

soon run out. So to keep the ball rolling, we are again asking for your help.

If you, like us, want to see RUSSELL back in working order on the WHHR at the beginning of the 2014 season please make a contribution to the fund.

A donation form is appended to RUSSELL NEWSLETTER December 2012

Ken Farrance RUSSELL restoration fund manager



Left Nearside view of frame and cylinder - steam chest valve cover top left to fit.

Right Nearside view of valve mechanism - with settings adjusted.



Photographs courtesy of Martyn Owen
taken at Alan Keef Ltd 24 January 2013