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At long last!





It's starting to look like a real loco

This was the situation at close of play tonight! it's smiles all round as Martyn puts the final bolts in the tank base

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But not without effort



John Padget and Stewart Watmuff arrived early to get the cladding painted before the second tank went on

And here's john showing his best side to the camera

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First job for the rest of us was to get the cab up to the top shop - My trusty little van and trailer were pressed into action again

This prompted the comment "Oooh look, Mike's new camper-van"

Martyn looks pleased, you may be happy to know he had a stress-free day For a change !!!

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It was a struggle to get the second tank back on



But if you get enough bodies and an overhead crane it can be done

Mind the paint!

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Eventually it was in place, here's Richard pretending he did it all by himself

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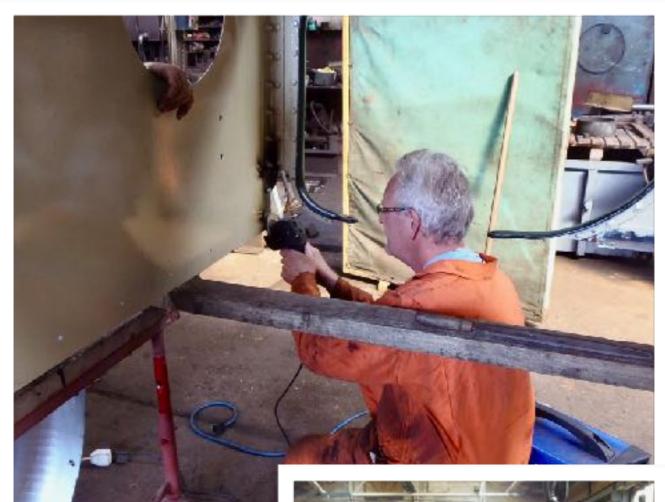
Meanwhile, Stuart Fletcher was getting the rods back on, all is now ready for the final valve setting

T'other side

Just in case you are wondering, that is the water tank balance pipe getting into the picture

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It needed an odd tweak on the cab before fitting

It's hug-a-cab day, well the loco is 102 years old today

8th May 1916

Happy birthday to you !!!



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Here you are, a last chance to see the superb job done on the cladding before we hide it behind a tank

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Then came the fitting of the cab, it's still only a trial fit till Stuart gets the measurements sorted, then it will go on permanently (we hope).

A big welcome to Joey Evans who visited us today (see page one, that's Joey in the red shirt) Joey came as a visitor, then he put his overalls on and got stuck in, although he still has a lot to learn, he nearly missed the chips at lunchtime.

It was a good day for the team, they got a lot done and Richard got his mug in shot on at least two pictures

More next week, Happy birthday 1215, Mike