

HELP US PUT MORAYSHIRE



‘BACK ON THE RAILS’

Scottish Railway Preservation Society

www.srpssteam.com

£100k FUNDRAISING APPEAL

THE LAST ONE STANDING

LNER 246 (BR 62712) 'Morayshire' is the last survivor of the 75 D49 ('Shire' and 'Hunt') class of tender locomotives designed by Sir Nigel Gresley for semi-fast and local passenger work. She entered service in 1928 and is now operated by the Scottish Railway Preservation Society (SRPS) on the Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway.

The D49s, one of the last classes of the 4-4-0 wheel arrangement to be built in Britain, operated across the LNER network, notably in Scotland and the North of England. With 6ft 8in driving wheels, and a power rating of 4P, they had a good turn of speed but like all 4-4-0s tended to be rough riding for the crew.

Always a Scottish engine, 246 was shedded at Dundee, Perth, Haymarket, St Margarets, Thornton Junction, and finally Hawick before withdrawal from service. Her luck held however; she was moved to Slateford Laundry in Edinburgh for use as a stationary boiler. Ian Fraser, who had worked on the class under construction in Darlington, purchased the locomotive, had it moved to Dawsholm Shed in Glasgow and then in 1964 to Inverurie works for overhaul.

'Morayshire' has enjoyed an active life in preservation that has included stints of running on the national network. More recently, 246 has become a firm favourite with crews and visitors at a number of heritage railways, with two memorable visits made to the 'double track' Great Central Railway where she was able to stretch her legs at speeds of up to 40mph. The locomotive last steamed in November 2015 when she was withdrawn for a well-earned overhaul.

A TROUBLED OVERHAUL

In 2016 we commissioned a major overhaul of the 'Morayshire'. Distressingly, this work was not completed by the contractor and the locomotive was evicted, without SRPS agreement, from their site on two weeks' notice. She remains in storage completely dismantled.



We must act now, with your contribution, to restore her to her former glory and return her to Bo'ness. Many of you will know the story but further information on the aborted overhaul can be found on www.srpssteam.com.

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There is a pressing need for funding to complete the overhaul of this unique locomotive. The SRPS's finances were fully committed before the demands of the Covid-19 closure and are under even greater strain now.

We need in excess of £100,000 to finish the locomotive. In her dismantled state 'Morayshire' could not be immediately returned to Bo'ness and is temporarily stored in the Midlands. The first step towards a return to steam is to engage a contractor to complete the locomotive to a rolling chassis to make it easier to transport her back to Bo'ness. This work is likely to focus on the significant repairs required to the engine's axle boxes and horn guides to allow the locomotive to be wheeled and then the hydraulic test of the boiler. Once home, we can reassemble the locomotive, repair the tender and return the engine to service

Morayshire will be returned to service in LNER lined green and will initially run at the award-winning Bo'ness & Kinneil Railway, near Edinburgh. Visitors there can enjoy a scenic ten-mile return journey to Manuel along the Forth Estuary, through woodlands, past waterfalls and over the spectacular Avon Viaduct. There is also the opportunity to explore Scotland's largest railway museum, the award-winning Museum of Scottish Railways which is adjacent to Bo'ness Station. We are keen that steam enthusiasts will be able to see 246 "Morayshire" on other heritage railways around Great Britain, when once again her approach will excite old and young as they soak up the atmosphere through the sights, sounds and smells of yesteryear.





Back on the Rails Appeal

You can make a single donation by bank transfer (please email donations@srps.org.uk), online through Virgin Money Giving or by completing this form and enclosing a cheque payable to the 'Scottish Railway Preservation Society'. Please send the form and cheque to:-

SRPS Morayshire Appeal
c/o Alastair George,
4 Baberton Mains Avenue,
EDINBURGH, EH14 3EQ

You can donate online at:
www.virginmoneygiving.co.uk/fund/246Morayshire



Please accept my donation of _____ to the 'Back on the Rails Appeal'.

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If you wish a standing order form* to make a regular donation, please tick this box.

*standing order form will be returned by email / post

☐

If you do **not** require an acknowledgement of your donation, please tick this box.

☐

In the event of insufficient funds being raised to make this project financially viable or the Society being otherwise unable to go ahead and complete the project, your donation will be put to a project most closely resembling this one. Conversely should the appeal become over subscribed, your donation will be held in the project fund for use in future developments.

Scottish Railway Preservation Society : Gift Aid Declaration (Optional)

If you are a U.K. taxpayer and have paid or will pay sufficient Income and/or Capital Gains Tax to cover all your Gift Aid payments to all Charities or CASCs in any given tax year, you can consider signing this form. Completion will allow the SRPS to reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 you donate. (Based on the current rate of Income Tax of 20%). **I understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in any given tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.**

I wish the Scottish Railway Preservation Society to treat this donation and all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise as Gift Aid donations.

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