

Preserve the Past, Secure the Future: Help Restore GWR Steam Locomotive 4566

Article for Choice Magazine September 2023

Introduction

In a world that's constantly evolving, there's something magical about preserving pieces of our history. The 4566 Preservation Group is on a mission to restore the iconic Great Western Railway (GWR) steam locomotive 4566 to its former glory, but we can't do it without your support. You understand the value of preserving the past for future generations. Today, we invite you to be a part of something truly remarkable by contributing to our cause.

The Legacy of 4566

The GWR steam locomotive 4566 is more than just a piece of machinery; it's a symbol of a bygone era, an era of craftsmanship, elegance, and innovation. This magnificent locomotive, built in 1924, once traversed the picturesque landscapes of the West Country, connecting communities, and creating memories. It's a testament to the remarkable engineering prowess of its time and a piece of our national heritage.

Why Restore 4566?

The restoration of locomotive 4566 isn't just about nostalgia; it's about preserving our heritage and providing a living history lesson for future generations. By bringing this locomotive back to life, we can recreate the past for everyone to experience and learn from. This project will also create jobs, stimulate tourism, and support the local economy.

Our Ambitious Goal

To breathe life back into 4566, we need to raise approximately half a million pounds. This ambitious goal may seem daunting, but it's achievable with your help. There are several ways you can contribute:

1. **One-Off Donations:** Your one-time contribution, no matter the amount, will bring us one step closer to our goal.
2. **Ongoing Support:** Consider becoming a regular donor, providing stable funding that will keep this project on track.
3. **Gift in Wills:** Leaving a gift to the 4566 Preservation Group in your will is a powerful way to ensure that future generations can enjoy the restored locomotive.

How Your Donation Will Be Used

Restoring a historic locomotive is a complex and costly endeavour. Your donations will be used for:

- Locomotive restoration, including repairing and replacing parts.
- Renovating an original wagon for a complete historical experience.
- Ensuring the safety and compliance of the locomotive for modern railway operation.
- Establishing educational programs and events to share the history and significance of 4566 with the public.

Conclusion

Preserving our heritage is a noble endeavour that requires the support of individuals who appreciate the value of history. The 4566 Preservation Group is dedicated to ensuring that the legacy of GWR steam locomotive 4566 lives on. By contributing to our cause, you are not only helping to restore a magnificent piece of history but also leaving a lasting legacy for future generations. Visit The Severn Valley Railway nestled in the beautiful countryside of Worcestershire and Shropshire, enjoy the ride and the scenery, stop by at The Engine House at Highley to see Locomotive 4566 on display as it approaches its 100th birthday.

Join us in this remarkable journey to preserve the past and secure the future. Your support, whether through one-off donations, ongoing contributions, or gifts in wills, will make a significant difference. Together, we can make the dream of seeing 4566 thunder down the tracks once again a reality.

Visit www.4566.org.uk to donate today and be a part of history in the making!



Credit: S Strevens – A volunteers paints on a protective layer of paint whilst the locomotive is on display in the Engine House at Highley (part of The Severn Valley Railway).



Credit: K Felstead – Locomotive in service on The Severn Valley Railway prior to withdrawal for overhaul