

The steelwork for No 61662's new smokebox saddle arrived at the end of May and Ian Rough quickly got to work on assembly. Good progress was made and by early June the outline structure of the saddle had been fabricated and a coat of red oxide paint applied.



In conjunction with this work, the support plinth has been reinforced to take the weight of the saddle and the smokebox itself – plus of course the door and the chimney. We had a very early start one morning to take delivery of some parts and this gave us a rare opportunity to photograph the left side of the cab and tender in bright sunshine. It's looking good !



Our next task is to position the saddle onto the plinth and then we can start work on the front footplate framing. Funds are still urgently needed to enable us to build the smokebox itself and any donations, no matter how small will be very welcome. Please visit : <http://www.engine61662appeal.co.uk/help.html>

'Likes' on our 61662 Facebook page have increased dramatically this month and had reached 1,741 by the middle of June. This means that they have gone up by more than 600 since the end of May so we seem to have latched onto a good new support stream somewhere ! Let's hope we can convert some of our new fans to Members as this will help us to increase the pace of our progress.