

LAND'S END TO JOHN O'GROATS CYCLING MARATHON



**Ken setting off from Land's End in the rain !**



**Dave Fox with Mark Wylie at Old Trafford**

Much of July was taken up with our sponsored cycling Marathon from Land's End to John O'Groats. This ended successfully on 31st July. A total of 856 miles were covered and more than £3,000 has been raised so far, most of this money will be donated to Marie Curie Cancer Care. The route was planned to include a number of preserved railways to maintain interest and focus throughout the journey. There is a full album of photos of the ride on Ken's Facebook page.

Our locomotive projects were well supported and one of the highlights of the ride occurred on Tuesday 17th July when NBLPG Members arrived at Old Trafford to meet Mark Wylie, Curator of the Manchester United Football Club Museum. Our 61662 webmaster, Dave Fox, presented Mark with a Jonathan Clay print of Number 61662 for his office. The presentation was followed by Man United TV carrying out a live interview about the 61662 project with several of our Members including Dave, Vic Marchant and Peter Hall before filming Ken setting off on the next stage of his ride to Bury on the East Lancs Railway. Hopefully this will generate some good publicity for No. 61662 with Manchester United football fans.

After conquering (??) the summits at Shap and Beattock, the next major destination was Glasgow where the former NBL HQ in Flemington Street and the Marie Curie Hospice in Springburn were visited. As with the visit to Manchester, both these events provided good local publicity. Britain's two highest railway summits at Druimuachdar and Slochd were then tackled en route to Inverness. After mainly poor weather on the southern part of the ride, the final 120 miles to John O'Groats were covered in beautiful Highland sunshine and several stations on the Far North line were visited including The Mound, Golspie, Brora and Helmsdale.

Although a little outside our normal preservation activities, the event proved to be a very worthwhile and interesting exercise which raised valuable funds for an excellent charity and provided NBLPG with a great deal of positive exposure. Many thanks are due to our support drivers and helpers along the way and to everyone who made a donation or provided sponsorship. The nurses and staff at Marie Curie have been delighted with our fund raising efforts in memory of Geraldine Airlie and there are some wonderful messages of thanks and support on the Just Giving website : <http://www.justgiving.com/geraldine-airlie>

We are sincerely grateful to everyone who provided sponsorship for this event and made it such a great success. There is still time to make a donation and full details and a sponsor form can be found elsewhere on this website.