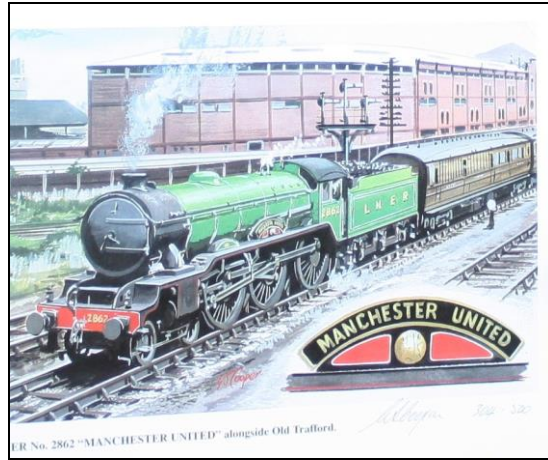


# Engine 61662 News Update

NEWS UPDATE No. 24 (DECEMBER 2013) MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL OUR SUPPORTERS!



We recently took a break from our usual Thursday work party at the Mizens Railway to visit the Churnet Valley Railway in Staffordshire and present a Hornby 00 Gauge model of 'Manchester United' to Peter Hall - the winner of our prize draw. Peter brought along one of his proudest possessions, a painting of the original 'Manchester United' locomotive, whilst running as LNER No. 2862, passing the 'old' Old Trafford in what must have been the 1930's. Peter purchased this from the Manchester United shop many years ago and it still has pride of place in his home.

N7 0-6-2 tank No. 69621 was in steam for the occasion of our visit and this formed a perfect backdrop for our picture. 69621 was shed mate of No. 61662 during it's time at Stratford depot and they must have rubbed shoulders many times. Peter Hall is a lifelong railway enthusiast and secretary of the Manchester United Staffordshire area supporters club. He was one of the very first people to join us when we started the 61662 Appeal so we are absolutely delighted that he won the prize. Many thanks also to the Churnet Valley Railway for their hospitality. **(Photos courtesy Dave Gibson)**



In the last few weeks, work has concentrated on patching and filling some of the rust marks on the back and left hand side of the tender and painting the frames. Our progress can best be measured by comparing how the tender looked at Doncaster in April this year, when Andrew Goodman & Co were getting it ready for collection, and the latest photo taken a few days ago showing how it looks now. A few short months ago it was just a kit of parts dumped off the track with no wheels and a rusty tank – we've now got it back together again and almost ready for a coat of Brunswick Green ! There is plenty of work to be done but the weather is against us painting at the moment so the right hand side has been sheeted over to give it some basic protection from the elements. In the short term, our next tasks will be to re-fit the tender springs and continue with a number of smaller jobs that are still outstanding on the cab roof and windows.



Like other new-build groups, we'd originally planned to start by having the locomotive mainframes cut and then work from there but the availability of a suitable LNER tender was too good an opportunity to miss and I believe we made the right choice to save it and move it down to the Mizens. Next year we will focus our fundraising efforts on the mainframes and begin construction of the smokebox and front buffer beam. We already have a set of buffers and a smokebox door so, subject to the rate of funds coming in, we should be able to build the 'face' of the new loco in a reasonably short period of time.

In the meantime, you might hopefully enjoy the following YouTube video from Hornby Magazine featuring their special edition Model of No. 61662 working a BR parcels train with full sound effects. This is just the type of scene that my friends and I were able to regularly enjoy with the full sized LNER 'Footballers' on the GE lines in the late 1950's. How wonderful it will be to see the real thing again one day. Click on 'full screen' and turn the sound up – it will get you into the Christmas Spirit, Merry Christmas to All, thank you so much for your support in 2013.

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk\\_LAizlONs&feature=share&list=UUtUq0RYSUe21LxIri6HUTQ](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Uk_LAizlONs&feature=share&list=UUtUq0RYSUe21LxIri6HUTQ)