

61662 NEWS UPDATE No. 28 (April 2014) - WEST SOMERSET GALA. (photos KL Collection)



Our Engine 61662 Appeal Publicity Stand was well received at the West Somerset Railway Gala at the end of March. We recruited several new Members and picked up a number of valuable donations. Fortunately for us we discovered that the line's Marketing Manager is a keen Manchester United supporter so our Stand was positioned in one of the prime sites on Minehead Station - right opposite the engine shed !

Two of the Stars of the Gala were Great Western 4-6-0's 'Raveningham Hall' and 'Odney Manor'. They are seen being serviced at the shed as a Peckett 0-4-0 Saddle Tank runs past with a driver training special. Hopefully our own 4-6-0 No. 61662 'Manchester United' can be added to the gala line up one day !

Back at our Mizens Railway base, steps are now being taken to replace the coping plates on the right hand side of No. 61662's Tender. These are the coal retaining panels at the top of the bunker and the right side panels have become seriously corroded over time. Drawings for the coping plates have been obtained and the metalwork is now on order. The whole job is expected to cost around £400 and, as long as the present rate of funding can be maintained, we hope that they can be made and fitted during the next few weeks.

Interest in our Appeal continues to grow with 15,357 'hits' now recorded on our website from more than 20 countries - plus 585 'likes' on our Facebook page. We are running a trial blog on the website to determine the level of interest and participation. There is an additional option at the bottom of the menu on the left of the home page entitled 'Have Your Say', so please take a moment to look at this new feature. Whilst this is primarily aimed at our 'Manchester United' B17 project, we welcome comments and feedback regarding all aspects of the heritage railway and steam scene on : http://www.engine61662appeal.co.uk/wp_blog/

A big **thank-you** to everyone who has sent in donations during the past few months, they are greatly appreciated and we can't move the project forward without your support - so please keep them coming in.