



I've put the last photo taken in this sequence up first as our most recent work on No.61662's Tender has not been for the faint hearted ! With the metal purchased and sufficient funding in hand to carry out the repairs, a start has been made on renewing the coal coping panels on the right hand side of the tender.

First of all, a section of scaffolding was erected running the full length of the tender. Ian Rough then cut away the worst parts of the wasted sections of the panels. For a short time this gave us the sort of feeling you get at the dentist after he has finished drilling your teeth ready for a filling - a couple of large gaps and lots of empty space ! However, it wasn't long before we had the new panels securely clamped into position ready for riveting and welding to begin.



There is much still to do though, as once the welding and riveting has been completed, the new panels will need to be cut to shape to match the original tender profile. If the current good weather holds out though, we should be in a position to apply a coat of red oxide primer to the new steel by the middle of June. Photos of the progress of our restoration work are being regularly uploaded onto our Facebook page, which incidentally has now reached 601 'Likes' : <https://www.facebook.com/Engine61662ManchesterUnited>

Just a final note to thank everyone who sent in donations to enable this work to go ahead, we couldn't make progress without you so thank you once again for all your support. Please keep the donations coming in no matter how small as every penny helps us move towards our objective of seeing No. 61662 'Manchester United' in steam again one day.

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OSWESTRY FOOTBALL SPECIAL

(photos KL Collection)



One of the highlights of our Publicity Stand's visit to the Oswestry 'Football Special' was the sight of the fabulous 'Red Arrows' streaking over the historic station building in perfect formation. We had a great day out and met many friends both old and new. Particular thanks are due to Vic Marchant, Ian & Esther Cook and George Smith for making long journeys to show their support.



The main aim of the event was to raise funds for the Hope House Children's Hospice and a good turnout on the day made this possible. Brakevan rides were provided in the station area by Vulcan 0-4-0 diesel shunter 'Telemon' and the local Woodside Choir sang on the platform adding to the holiday atmosphere.

The morning's Red Arrows flypast was followed later in the afternoon by Battle of Britain Spitfire and Hurricane aircraft making three passes over the station before returning to RAF Cosford. The 'finale', or should I say 'final', was a penalty shoot-out on the station platform complete with Football Club Mascots and a cheering crowd ! Our presence generated a great deal of interest and a number of donations so our thanks go to Event Organiser David Owen for inviting us, hopefully we'll be back again next year.