



Many thanks to everyone who has sent in £10 donations to qualify for our Great Central book draw which will take place at the end of January. The response has been so good that we have added two extra book prizes as per the photos above. The winner will receive Vols. 1 & 2 of 'The Late Great Central' and the two runners up will have a choice of either of the other two. It's not too late to enter so please make a donation – or join us by January 31st to qualify.

We received dozens of Christmas Cards from our Members and Supporters this year thank you but our favourite had to be the one from Peter Hall of Leek in Staffordshire. Shown below it was simply addressed 'To the Workers' ! Peter is of course the Secretary of the North Staffs branch of the Manchester United FC Supporters Club. A big thank you in return to Peter from all of us who have worked on No. 61662's Tender during the last year, your kind thoughts were greatly appreciated !



Getting back to the task in hand, we are now urgently raising funds for the locomotive's mainframes and our small team of volunteers will soon be back on the road. Provisional dates for 2015 so far are as follows :

- Thursday 26th March – Sales & Publicity Stand at West Somerset Gala (Minehead Station)
- Friday 27th March – Sales & Publicity stand at West Somerset Gala (Minehead Station)
- Tuesday 12th May – Colour Slide Show at Enfield Transport Circle (Enfield Town)
- Sunday 28th June – Sales & Publicity Stand at Cambrian Football Special (Oswestry Station)

Volunteers are needed for these and other events to be arranged so please contact Ken if you would like to help with Sales or Publicity. Your old books, DVD's, and items of Railwayana are also needed for the Stand so please let us know if you have anything you can spare.



Our Preservation Group lost one of its keenest supporters on 15th December when long term Member Malcolm Ricketts sadly passed away. Malcolm was one of the first people to join us when our original appeal to save South Africa's Blue Train steam locomotive No. 3405 was launched and when the engine returned to the UK in 1991 he helped to raise funds and organise work parties.

Born in Silvertown, east London in 1945, Malcom was a special friend who shared exactly the same interests as myself, namely Railways, Cycle Racing and Football. In his early days he spent many hours at Liverpool Street Station where he developed a great love of LNER steam locomotives, especially the B17 Class 4-6-0's. Coming from the East End, his particular favourite was No. 61672, pictured above, which was named after his local team 'West Ham United'.

Despite his leanings towards West Ham (well no one is totally perfect) Malcolm was a keen supporter of our Engine 61662 Appeal and was looking forward to seeing an LNER 'Footballer' back on the rails someday soon. After moving to Kings Lynn in the 1970's he began collecting Railwayana and soon became a noted authority on the subject, attending numerous Auctions and writing a regular series of articles.



Malcom is pictured above left at Kidlington Railwayana Auctions with our Chairman, Nick Newport and on a railtour in the Scottish Highlands in 2006. Farewell old friend, you'll be sorely missed. **KL**