

ALAN SCOTT

Alan Scott died in Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, on the afternoon of November 21st. He had been taken ill overnight the day before but he was in good spirits and due to be discharged on the 22nd. Sadly he was the victim of a major heart attack.

Alan was a Yorkshireman and before coming to Somerset he had been employed as a sheet metal worker (discovery of which fact led Andy Forster to try to persuade Alan to work in the shed at Minehead. Alan decided that that was a part of life which was behind him). He also worked at Tetley's Brewery in Leeds, where after enjoying his free beer allowance for a while he drank cider and wine for the rest of his life. Free time was partially spent as a Loiner, a follower of Leeds Rugby League Club.

It was after an earlier heart problem and by-pass surgery that Alan moved to Minehead where his sister and brother in law were running Minehead Toys and Models. He joined the Friends of Minehead Station and initially worked on Saturdays in the office with Ken Smallridge, whilst being employed at Snazaroo. He became Stationmaster at MD when Roy Dungleison resigned from the post.

As Stationmaster Alan led from the front. He organised a number of recruitment days for people who specifically wanted to work at the stations and put in a lot of long hours, especially during Gala events and on days when there were problems and delays. He took no nonsense and expected jobs to be done by everyone on duty, including junior members of staff but would be present when extra hours and work were needed.

After retiring from Minehead station Alan continued as a member of station staff at Blue Anchor including manning the Steam Trust Museum at the station on Sundays in 2017.

Although proud of his origins Alan was never inclined to become a professional Yorkshireman and he was always a generous supporter of appeals and good causes and happy to buy his round when out and about socially. He made a major contribution to the story of the West Somerset Railway and will be missed by those of us who knew and worked with him.

John Simms.