

Is it February already? It only seems like yesterday that it was Christmas. Wait a minute, the lunch was at the end of January! That's why my internal clock is all out! Did you go to the lunch? I did and I felt like a Christmas turkey afterwards – well stuffed! The star turn from Peter Duplock was good too, he kept us all laughing, mainly at our own expense though! Well, here we go with February's newsletter. Better late than never. . . . .

A few words from the Trustees:

### Roger Stagg

Roger has been in hospital, having his head seen to, so he can't operate his fingers this month. Give him a little time and he will make up for it! Get well soon, mate.

### David Kinnear

Again, David has been out of circulation for a while with health issues, so we also wish him a speedy recovery. See you bright eyed and bushy tailed soon, David!

### Steve Edmonds

**Constant change is here to stay – 2**  
It is an accepted fact of life that change is inevitable and whilst some of us welcome the challenge of continuous progress, others can find the process unnecessarily stressful. So how can we learn to cope with, welcome and perhaps even relish change? I shall be taking a look at some of the causes and antidotes to stress so we can learn to avoid the pitfalls and overcome any negative effects of change.

The three main drivers of change are People, Technology and Information. People have ideas and create things, they compete for scarce resources and the resulting changes are rapidly increasing. 80% of the world's technological change has occurred since 1900 and it is accelerating. There was more information produced between 1965 and 1995

than was produced in the 5000 years between 3000BC and 1965. All that new knowledge is available to more people than ever it reached before.

Change and stress are connected and life is not going to get any easier! The many changes we are working our way through in our organisation, both at present and in our future plans, require the same kind of response to change which we have to deal with in our daily lives.

Our rapidly changing world requires us to operate at a higher level of adaptability. There is no ready escape route; no back door. Inevitably there is the temptation to fight change and retain what is familiar to us. However, "stop the world I want to get off" is not a viable option. The only way to win the struggle with change is to "surrender" to it and go with the flow. As someone once said "ride the horse in the direction it is going".

Surrender creates the opportunity for "breakthrough" rather than "breakdown". It is possible for us to harness the power of change to our advantage so its strength becomes ours. Instead of seeing change as an

adversary we accommodate it, align with it and use it. It then becomes an ally rather than an enemy.

A lot of pressure that people experience is self-induced; they make life difficult for themselves and others. Usually our personal choices and decisions determine our levels of stress. The solution is to keep in step with the organisation's intended rate of change. For our Museum, that is the pace that we can go at with the modest core of volunteer resources we possess. There is little chance that a lull will come along as the forward momentum is already in train; thankfully it is not a runaway train. We have a senior leadership which is ambitious for success but realistic about what can be achieved and is measured and thoughtful in its decision making. Fortunately we are pursuing a worthy cause and the successful implementation of our plans and the focus on our objectives is what keeps us motivated to do more. Long may it continue!

"Sometimes I get the feeling that whole world is against me, but deep down I know that is not true. Some of the smaller countries are neutral"  
– Robert Orben

**Seen outside the Museum:** What lovely vehicles we have! An impressive line-up on the Museum patio in January, all in wonderful condition.



And not a lamp post in sight!

## Spring Gathering

Many thanks to those 54 members who have responded so far to our appeal to help at this event. We have sufficient resources to prepare the site on the Saturday but we shall need many more to ensure we have adequate cover on the Sunday. A good number of those who have volunteered in the past have yet to throw their hats into the ring so please let Steve Edmonds have your volunteer cards, if possible, by the end of February. If you have mislaid your card you can download it from the Members' area of the web site. Steve will then be able to allocate volunteers to the various roles required and prepare the guidance notes to inform the briefing sessions at Members' Day.

"If people don't want to come to the park, no one is going to stop them" – Yogi Bear

## Membership and Volunteering Survey

Sixty three forms have been received so far and the results are as follows:

1. Not able to volunteer (location, disabled or advanced years) – 18 (28.5%)
2. Already volunteering and not wanting to do any different - 15 (24%)
3. Already volunteering and wanting to do more – 19 (30%)
4. New volunteers offering help at Open Days only – 5 (8%)
5. New volunteer offering to work from home – 1 (1.5%)
6. New volunteers offering once or twice a month at the Museum – 4 (6.5%)
7. New volunteer offering once or twice a year at the Museum – 1 (1.5%)

You may draw your own conclusions from the figures. Clearly those who are already committed form the majority of respondents who are willing to do something for the Museum. Just two people have expressed an interest in some kind of

specific management function. If you intend to complete your form but haven't got round to it yet please let us hear from you. If you have mislaid the form please get in touch with Steve Edmonds and he will email you an electronic version.

## Membership subscriptions

Brooklands Museum has increased its rate for Families (two adults and up to three children under 16) from £50 to £55. As we have agreed with them to align our rates with theirs within three years of opening our Museum the few members who hold this level of membership can expect their subs to increase to £47.50 this year and to £55 from January 2013; not as stated in the summer 2011 issue of the magazine.

## Photo & Film Shoots at the Museum

The growing profile of the Museum, particularly through our website, means that we are increasingly in demand for film and photoshoots. Both *Autocar* and *What Car* magazines came to the Museum in January, coincidentally both working on features of people-carriers, and photographed the cars amongst our buses. The results of the first were in *Autocar's* edition dated 1 February and we should also be featuring in the forthcoming issue of *What Car*. Next up is *Now TV* from Hong Kong who filmed part of a travel documentary at the Museum in the second week of February, encouraging their viewers to come to England and see the famous sights, including those historic London buses!

All of these 'shoots' generate significant publicity for the Museum as well as, in some cases, useful donations to our general funds.

## New 'LT' Bus and a Bendy at the Spring Gathering

Bendy-buses may have gone from the streets of London but there will be one in service at Wisley on 29 April, courtesy of London General who have retained one in their 'heritage' fleet. Also in service, and then on display, will be one of the new LT-class double-deckers shortly to enter

service on route 38. No longer the New Bus for London, nor the *Borismaster*, nor the new Routemaster, these superb new buses have been given the type-code LT, despite only having two axles.

Make sure you have the 29 April date in your diary - there's a veritable feast of goodies on offer. All the details are now on the website on a dedicated page for the event.

## Away Events

For those of you who like to see our buses on display and in service outside the Museum, there is now an 'Away Events' page on the website where details are published of the events which we are attending. Already there are details of the Brighton Run, Trolleybus 50 at Fulwell and the AEC centenary at Walthamstow.

"If you are losing a tug of war with a tiger, give him the rope before he gets to your arm. You can always buy a new rope" – Max Gunther

## Annual Lunch

Ninety members enjoyed the Post Christmas lunch at Silvermere on Sunday 29th January. The food was of excellent quality and beautifully presented; their recently appointed Head Chef did a great job for us. Nothing was too much trouble for the attentive catering managers and they looked after us very well throughout. We had a large number of raffle prizes donated and we raised £420 for LBPT funds.

Peter Duplock entertained us with an after lunch speech which competed well with the efforts of the best of after dinner speakers and stand up comics. The general consensus was that it had been one of the best ever. The later date in January seemed to please people as they had recovered from the excesses of Christmas and New Year and were ready for a celebration. Unless there are strong objections from members we think we are on to a winner and a repeat performance next year is very much on the cards.

"The reason lightning doesn't strike twice in the same place is because the same place isn't there a second time"  
– Willie Tyler

### News from the CoM

At the CoM meeting on 7th January, Guy Marriott was formally co-opted as Fundraising Trustee, and Michael Wickham as Marketing Trustee.

Ever more imaginative schemes are afoot to repatriate the RLHs, currently mired in US bureaucracy. In the meantime, progress continues on RT2775, with about one saloon's-worth of seats already reupholstered, and the rest underway. A secondhand scissorlift suitable for exterior and interior use would arrive soon, initially to help with storage of heavy items at Northchapel. Ken Wheeler had advised on safety matters, and training in its use was essential. The availability of a Special Vehicle was being considered for the Open Day Shuttle.

Speaking of events, there would be no bus service from the Spring Gathering at Wisley to Brooklands, and, as Wisley was a separate event, there would be no free entry to Brooklands on that day. Replies were being received about the Skills Audit, and from volunteers to staff the Spring Gathering. If you haven't replied to Steve Edmonds on either of these, he would be delighted to hear from you. Initial planning was taking place for the Official Opening of the Museum.

Various site matters were discussed. Telephone contractors were to test a mobile option while the landline wayleave is sorted out. For now, curatorial uploads to MODES should be made via Tim Sargeant at home. CCTV for external and internal security has been costed, and is at an advanced planning stage. A final decision is awaited on parking for the disabled, those of limited mobility and people working in the workshop from cars or vans. Fire Exits have been clearly marked to remind everyone not to use them for general access.

A review of the first few months' operation concluded that except in the slackest periods, 5-6 stewards were needed, and at busy times as many as 10, in order to fulfil the twin roles of guiding the public and safeguarding the vehicles.

The next CoM meeting is on Saturday 3rd March at 10.00 am.

**Peter Larkham**  
Minuting Secretary

"I started out with nothing. I still have most of it". – Michael Davis

### Bus Trips for Members

As we settle down in our new home after more than 12 months of upheaval, things are now rapidly getting back to normal. One of the signs of this is the resumption of Members' Trips - excursions on Museum buses exclusively available to Members and their guests. Alan Heasman, stalwart arranger of trips in the past, has kindly agreed to put together a programme for 2012 which will include rides to the Bluebell Railway, to the Alton Running Day on the Watercress Line, to Showbus at Duxford and to the Isle of Wight Running Day. Vehicles are expected to be RTLI39, RT3491, RP90 and RMCI461. Full details and the application form for tickets will be published in the Members' Area of the website shortly.



*You'll have a long wait, mate!*

## STOP PRESS

It is with much sadness that LBM News has to report the death of member Derek Upson last Friday 10th February 2012. He worked for London Transport for some years at Chiswick and was a mine of amusing anecdotes, as well as a good friend and colleague. He and the banter that passed between him and many of us at the Museum will be very sadly missed.

Drive carefully, with no crossing of arms, wherever you are now, Derek!

"Half this game is 90% mental" – Danny Ozark

### Three British Icons:



An RT type bus (ok, it's an RTL), Concorde and a lamp post (sorry, bus stop - Ed)

"The other day I got out my can opener and was opening a can of worms when I thought, "What am I doing?" – Jack Handey

### LB Museum News

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