

It doesn't seem possible that it's Easter again, although the bunnies outside Cobham Hall have been frisky for a while, so there were indicators that it was coming!

And so here is April's edition of the LBM Newsletter, packed with rubbish good things, as usual. I don't know where I get it all from!

Spring Gathering

As no doubt you have all seen, the number of promised vehicles for our event on April 21st is rising steadily. Michael Wickham tells me that promises are still coming in too, so it should be a magnificent display.

On the volunteer front, Steve Edmonds has many pledges of help but he could still do with a few more, so that nobody has to work a full day. The idea is that volunteers do half a day's work and can enjoy themselves for the other half of the day. Seems reasonable to me! If you haven't yet signed up for a stint, please do so as soon as you can, so that Steve knows how many people he has available to him to cover the day.

Special Visitor

Excitement levels rose on Saturday 30th March, when a former London Fire Brigade Dennis recovery vehicle arrived. It is now owned by our own Steve Gray, who is justifiably proud of the magnificent beast. Steve is a regular steward in the Museum, so the vehicle was welcomed on the patio as a marvellous display item. Thanks for bringing it with you, Steve.



Photo © Editor's own

Members' Trips

There is still plenty of room on various trips out, including the trip on RP90 to Detling on Saturday 6th April, although you will need to buy your own entrance ticket when you get there now, as the closing date for advanced ticket purchases has passed. East Grinstead on 14th April still has seats available on RMC1461 and there are also seats to be had on RP90 for the Harlow trip on 5th May.

Adrian Palmer, our Members' Trips Co-ordinator, tells me that he has other things in the pipeline for the future, so watch this space for details. The trip to Alexander Dennis in Guildford is almost full now, so if you are not already booked on it, you might miss the opportunity if you don't get your name down quickly.

Adrian's contact details are:

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Out and About

Our buses continue to go out, which maintains our presence in public, giving us more opportunities to spread the word that we are here, provides our running vehicles with the chance to stretch their legs and reinforces our "working museum" label.

So it was that RF395 had some fun on the 234^{A/B} recreation on 17th March, although it was a miserable day, which reduced numbers attending and restricted photography. However, Adrian Palmer managed to get a nice shot of the bus while laying over at one end of the 234^A:



Photo © Adrian Palmer

Spotted – Men at Work.

The new sign above the entrance to Cobham Hall was erected recently. Here is the team, led by Roger Stagg, in the process of putting it in place. Now nobody can be confused about where the main entrance is. I'm going to duck every time I go under it though!



Photo © Michael Wickham

Any Old Iron?

Following the recent Brooklands historic vehicle auction, these three old bangers were left unsold, but made a nice display on our patio for a couple of days, until the owner brought his skip to take them away. The other old banger at the back is our own RP90, of course, which is not for sale. Sorry, Mike, I couldn't resist it!



Photo © Editor's own

Stewarding

Steve Edmonds has had to put out an appeal for help on a few days in April and May, especially May 5th. If there is any way that you can help to steward the Museum on the days that Steve is short, it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Steve in the usual way, as any offers will be gratefully received.

Vehicle Repairs

The restoration and engineering departments are working at full tilt to prepare vehicles for the coming season. Some have been relatively easy, while others have been a pain in various parts of the anatomy. I won't tell you which vehicles come into which category, but here we have a few pictures of what has been going on behind the scenes:

Firstly, RF395's water leak from the header tank has been found and will be sorted very soon:



Photo © Editor's own

Second is RTLI 39's blind box, which finally failed in November as the result of wood rot, but is almost finished. It was deemed to be in a good enough condition to do the first three days of the Easter bus rides from the Paddock, which generate much needed cash for the Museum:



Photo © Editor's own

Next (I can't count beyond 2) is GS34's brakes. This picture was taken only minutes before they were reassembled and the bus was tested, gaining a clean bill of health and causing many smiles:



Photo © Editor's own

After that (I still can't count that far!), the TD's nearside wing's rear mount failed on the way back from Staines a few weeks ago, but that has now been repaired and will be welded back to the chassis in the next couple of days. Meanwhile, the wing has been painted and refixed to the bus, although it does need another coat. The tyres will also be changed at the same time, so it will be ready for its next outing at the beginning of May:



Photo © Editor's own

Lastly, T23's nearside window has at last been replaced, after some spanner went and drove another bus into it! {whistles innocently}



Photo © Editor's own

Visitor Numbers, etc.

Numbers are keeping up nicely, we had over 5000 in January, more than 8000 in February and almost 8400 up to 30th March, in spite of the appalling weather so far this year! Very good messages are still going in the comments book and donations are pouring into the boxes around the place. We have started bus rides from the Paddock again, coinciding with the school holidays, and the first day took almost £140. We can't run the bus on Saturday 30th March or on Monday 1st April, but we will be running it for the rest of the holiday.

Last Month's fun time.

As promised, the answer to last month's quiz is ST798, which is in the Clandestine Immigration and Naval Museum in Haifa, Israel. Those who receive the title "Smartypants of the Highest Order" are John Lines and Peter Wall for giving me far more information than required. Ordinary "Smartypants" awards go to Alan Fludgate, Michael Waterman and Peter Brown for at least getting it right. The "Booby Prize" goes to Wurzel Gumidge (aka Colin Terry) for spelling "Naval" incorrectly and David Williams is bottom of the class for even thinking that it might be a Routemaster! The very idea! ☺

LB Museum News

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