

No longer a New Year, but still a challenge to get out of bed each morning, in spite of the temperature rising gently as the weeks pass. We have such a lot to look forward to, though! Bus trips at the weekends, when there is no other event on at Brooklands; Spring Gathering at Brooklands in its entirety for the first time, that's going to be fun; lots of outside events to go to, many of which are members' trips too. Will we stand the pace? Of course we will, we are made of stern stuff! Get your boots on and join us. {grins foolishly}

Members' Bus Trips

The trip to Alexander Dennis in Guildford on Friday 7th June is filling up nicely, so if you haven't already booked, please do so quickly, or you risk being disappointed. Two buses are now scheduled to go, RTL139, which is full, and RT3491, which has just a few seats left. Contact Adrian Palmer to book, details in the last issue of the LBM News.

Spring Gathering 2013 – Sunday 21st April

As the nominated person with responsibility for staffing this most auspicious event, this is my update on progress so far.

Instead of issuing volunteer cards with the spring issue of the magazine again this year, I have made an early start by emailing and sending invitation letters to over 120 members who have volunteered in the past at Wisley. I have had an encouraging response so far from them but have not contacted new members and longer standing members who have not volunteered before. If that is you and you would like to help I should please like to hear from you as we shall have plenty to do, particularly on event day itself when about 80+ volunteers are required. We can get by with about 20 or so on the Saturday to put up fencing, signage and complete site preparations.

Providing I have sufficient resource available I intend that volunteers shall work half day stints to permit their participation in the event as visitors. The security and stewarding tasks that we need to cover on the Sunday include:

- The Heights Car Parking stewards and directions to Brooklands main entrance
- Directing cars and display vehicles from the public highway to their destination
- Marshalling visiting vehicles in the display areas on site and in the Heights
- Supporting Brooklands revenue collection staff at the various entrances
- Supervising the entry and direction of stall holders
- Museum duty manager and stewards
- Main entrance direction for free entry members and paying public
- The Membership recruitment stall in the marketplace
- The shop and donated items stall
- Visitor supervision on the mezzanine for the model tram layout
- Bus stop marshals for Weybridge station service and special fare paying services
- Preparing the marketplace area for stall holders
- Drivers and Conductors for bus services
- Erecting barriers and placing signage on the public highway and on site as required
- Communications management (two way radios and tannoy system)

This year sees us at a very different site from Wisley airfield, providing a superior visitor experience and services plus access to all the Brooklands Museum displays and facilities. We are hoping for some better weather conditions this year but if it should rain there is plenty of shelter on site. Refreshments for volunteers will be available in the staff canteen at Cobham Hall throughout the day. Volunteers will also be offered priority advanced booking for the special EFE model of RLH 53. Staff allocation rosters and full guidance notes will be issued to all volunteers well in advance of the event. Do join us on the team if you can; it is an enjoyable and rewarding experience.

Steve Edmonds Volunteer coordinator

Half-Term Bus Rides/Donations

The rides were very successful last month, grossing £1157.35 in fares and donations, from which was taken £121.50 for fuel, making a profit for the Museum of £1035.85. Not bad considering it was more like fun than work! If you are a trained conductor and you want to get involved in this activity, please contact Peter Rodger on lbmcrews@btinternet.com and he will try to fit you in. The donations given to the Museum in the boxes during February totalled £385.33 too!

Below: RMC1461 returning to Brooklands from a trip during half term week.



Photo (c) Michael Wickham

Publicity Distribution

With the printing of the new events flyer, distribution of Museum publicity material has stepped up a gear and I could do with one or two more helpers to come forward and join my merry team. I am normally at the museum on Wednesdays if you are interested. Many thanks to those who are already helping.

Colin Read

Publicity Distribution Officer
(colinread_86@hotmail.com)

Steve Edmonds HR Director

It is now nineteen months since the Museum opened to the public for the first time and I have been taking stock of our progress. There has been much success to celebrate so far but, as ever, there is much more to be done over the next few years.

A glance at the web site to view new vehicle acquisitions, restoration projects, fundraising activities through members' trips, social activities, running vehicles both at our own and external events etc reveals an encouraging and vibrant story. We are succeeding in preserving the best of the past from Redhill Road days while embracing the challenges of the brave new world of running an important national Museum that we now inhabit.

In the first issue of this newsletter I looked forward to the appointment of new blood to management and officer positions in the organisation. I issued the second Skills Survey so that potential volunteers could tell what they could do and how they could contribute to this new adventure. The results of that survey did not produce a great deal, sad to say. I dare say it is the same in all voluntary organisations. And of course, I understand the natural hesitation to commit to a significant responsibility; after all we all have our daily lives to lead and enjoy other interests apart from the Museum.

Having said that I am encouraged that a few new volunteers are coming on board in a steady trickle and some have taken on important roles, for example our IT consultant who is

working on the new Customer Relations Management (CRM) database. However as you can see from the staffing page on the web site a number of Trustees and senior managers find themselves hard pressed to cover a number of jobs just to keep things ticking over on as many fronts as possible.

The Council of Management has some wonderful plans to enhance the benefits for the Museum's supporters and visitors. And we could bring these plans to fruition more quickly and effectively if we were able to maximise the potential of our members. But the bottom line remains that we can only make progress at the pace that staff resources allow. So whether you have attended one of the recent Strategy and new blood sessions at the Museum or not, please get in touch with me if you feel you can contribute of your time and skills.

Ok, Fun Time!

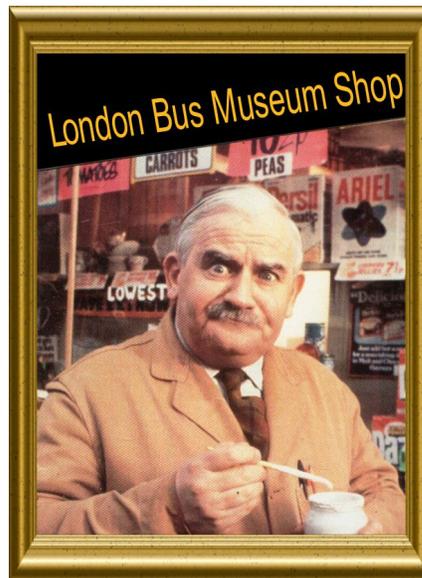


A submarine, you might think? The bridge of the replica Titanic, possibly? No, in both cases! However, there is a maritime connection here with a former London bus, but do you know which bus it is? And do you know what it has been doing since it left our shores? For bonus points, do you know where it is now?

Answers by email to me, at kp.hibbs@btinternet.com, for the prized accolade of being called a smarty pants. All will be revealed in

the next issue, if I remember, along with the names of those who got it wrong. Sorry, I mean right! Thanks to Guy Marriott for the picture, obtained at great personal risk, who is, of course, excluded from the competition because he may have a vague idea of the correct answer!

Arkwright has nothing to fear!



The Museum shop can open on event days at Brooklands and wants to do so more often.

Internet shopping will be launched soon, and the shop wants to attend more enthusiast & community away events.

Richard Jones, Shop Manager, needs to expand his Shop and Mail Order team.

Can YOU help with any of these?

- **LBM reception shop**
- **At away events**
- **Internet orders, packing & posting**

No experience needed and training will be given.

Contact Richard on Wednesdays at the Museum or by email on richard.jones290@btinternet.com

LB Museum News

Edited by: Kevin Hibbs

Published by:

London Bus Museum,
Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road,
Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QN