

LBM News

The Newsletter of
London Bus Museum,
Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road,
Weybridge, Surrey

Issue No. 15 September 2013

I fancied a change, so here is LBM News with another new look. It's still the same old drivel of course, just laid out a little differently. Any complaints to AnybodyButUs, London NE1.

So, what's in the news this month? Lots of things! Summer is finished and we had another bumper take in donations in the Museum boxes during August, totalling just over £850. Again, a lot of that must be down to the stewards plucking at visitors' heartstrings. Well done people, you got 'em playing our tune! The total number of visitors for the month of August was 12782, making an average of over 400 a day, the majority of whom were families who thoroughly enjoyed their visit to us. The comments in the visitors' book bear that out too.

The bus rides did well again, taking not far short of £3750 over a five week period, netting almost £3100 for the Museum's bank account. Fuel costs came out of the takings, to make it self-financing, giving the Museum in excess of 80% profit on the activity. Many thanks to all the drivers and conductors who gave up their time to come and give the public a little bit of nostalgia. It obviously went down well again.

Buses have also been out and about again, see articles below, with many volunteers out there flying the Museum flag and putting smiles on people's faces at the same time. Inside the Museum, things are progressing on several fronts. Again, more details below.

A rare bird at Dunsfold



Snapped by Peter Zabek at Brooklands' annual Wings & Wheels event, held at Dunsfold airfield. Unfortunately, the Saturday was largely washed out by rain, so there was little flying, but the Sunday was a very different matter and the displays were spectacular. We fielded D142 (fun getting that there in the Saturday rain!), STL2377 and RML2760, with Peter Osborne supplying his RT4779 to make the four bus display. Many thanks from Steve Edmonds to the volunteers who braved the poor weather on the Saturday and the long journey home on the Sunday to promote LBM. We are made of stern stuff!

Film/TV Jobs

We are once again involved in filming for TV, D142 being involved in the next series of "Downton Abbey", watch for it between the adverts of whatever channel it's on. Sorry, I'm clueless about TV these days, I don't watch it anymore! But Tony Lewis and Graham Bartlett had a great time in London for the two days of filming that were involved and the old girl performed impeccably again.

Incidentally, visitors have been stunned by the news that D142 is the very bus featured in the "Downton Abbey" series, including a party of American teachers who became rather enthusiastic about it, as they were featuring the series for their next intake of children. One of the ladies in the group even managed to start the engine, under supervision of course.

RML2760 was involved in filming for a children's learning to read TV programme, although it was mainly just outside the Museum building, with a couple of forays around the Brooklands Museum site for the views, to provide a suitable background to the programme.

4-light Garden Seat Horsebus Returns from Beamish



Wednesday 4th September saw the arrival of our third horsebus from the North of England Museum and installation in its temporary position, pending Tony Drewitt's return.

Photos © Ian Jackson

A Special Visitor

By Steve Bigg

Earlier in the year, we had a special visitor to the Bus Museum. On a tour around the Museum, assisted by guide John Greenwood, I was approached at the trimming area by a couple, Mr and Mrs A Little. He spoke to me and said he was Alex and that he used to be a trimmer and machinist for LT all his working life, although now he is retired.

He told us that he was at Aldenham and mentioned that he had donated a sewing machine to the Museum some time ago. We have two machines and I took the cover off the one I thought it would be. Alex's face lit up with delight as he said "that's it" in the most enthusiastic way. He then pulled out the drawer underneath the work surface to find all the extras for the machine but, unfortunately, his scissors were gone, but there was a roll of name markers, which he put onto jobs he had done; name, title, etc...

I asked him if I could take a photo for old times' sake and he was pleased to assist. I sat him down by his old machine and he was back home again!

He now suffers from Parkinson's disease, so there were a few problems with his smile but it was a great day for me and I'm sure for him too. They had travelled down from Luton for the visit.



Type Training

The driver training team now has quite a long list of people wanting or needing training on various Museum vehicles. If you are waiting to be trained, please bear with us, we really will get around to you as quickly as we can. In the meantime, here is some music.

Photo Shoots

We are still delighting various people by sending buses out for photoshoots at special locations. One such shoot involved RTL139 and TD95, not too far away from the Museum! Some spectacular pictures were taken, including this snap by Peter Zabek:



Many more were taken in Downside village and the day was most enjoyable for everyone concerned. Thank you to the crews of the two buses for making it happen, as it is a good source of income for the Museum.

Famous People

Brian Johnson, lead singer with the band AC/DC, visited Brooklands recently, as part of the filming of a special series of programmes for the Discovery channel. We caught up with him in the paddock, so took the opportunity of getting his autograph and a few photos. Nice guy too, he wasn't bothered about us making nuisances of ourselves and humoured us suitably. He's on the left in the picture by the way, with our own old rocker, Alan Eggleton!



Models

The pictures below show specially designed models of 738J and UMP227 by our own Arun Sharma. Both are 1/43rd scale and available from Radley Models in kit form at www.radleymodels.co.uk. A 1/76th kit of UMP227 will be available from our own shop shortly too.



New Restoration Projects

With the restoration of UMP227 drawing to a close, the guys in the ever growing restoration team wanted another challenge. Or two, as it appears!

We all know that 702B, the tractor unit, was fully restored to working order some years ago. Well, the good news is that the trailer unit is now in the workshop being dismantled for restoration too. It will be a fairly big job, so don't expect it to be out and gleaming for a year or two, but grin with the rest of us, as this vehicle is rather special and creates a lot of interest from visitors.

Joining the trailer is RF19, once Colin Curtis' bus, for restoration to bring it back to its original private hire condition. The seats are already out, as are the sun blinds, and various panels are off, revealing rather a lot of rot underneath, although not a serious problem to the team of restorers tackling it under Roger Stagg's direction. LBM News will follow the restoration of these two significant vehicles as time progresses.

Schools and the Museum

Bob Bailey (including photos)

“What are we doing with schools?” This is a question I am occasionally asked. The answer is “quite a lot” but the work tends to be based in the museum itself.

Our main activity is with school visits and these are controlled by Brooklands. Visits to the museum are arranged through their group bookings service and the Brooklands fees for school groups are £4 per child with one free adult for every 6 children. A guided tour can be arranged throughout Brooklands for an additional £1 per child and they use the Education centre at Brooklands as their base.

School visits are normally tight on time and so we normally find that schools arrive with their Brooklands guide between 10am and 12 noon although some will come back between 1pm and 2:30pm with their teachers and we will guide them around the museum ourselves.

Tours are geared to the needs of the pupils and they particularly like to go on a bus and hear about conductors. To this end, there are some of us who give out bus tickets (which are enjoyed by adults as well) and we plan to arrange for this facility to be available every day. The museum does have a Bell Punch machine available and so I will now arrange with a printing company for a supply of tickets to be available. Schools also enjoy using the Driver Trainer seat and I am delighted that there are now plans to enclose this within a cab. Thank you to all those who are arranging this.

There are also two jackets and a cap (there were 2 caps!) under the shop desk near reception which anyone can use. There is little time for wider activities but the model trams and the RT chassis demonstrations have been very helpful, particularly during special Brooklands Education weeks. In the longer term it would be good to have a Bells, Hooters, Window Winders and Destination Blind corner for children to play with

although I am aware that some might find the ongoing noise unhelpful. It would also be good to have a corner where we can show DVDs on an ongoing basis as this would be enjoyed by children and adults alike. The bus rides to Byfleet during school holidays and at weekends are much enjoyed by everyone.

There is no Education Committee but I am the Schools Liaison Officer and my name appears on the museum website. Thank you to several members are able to support education activities when they arise.

There is an Education Plan for the museum but there is no budget for education and time is limited as we all have other commitments both inside and outside the museum. However, we do go out and visit schools as you can see from the pictures of St George's School in Weybridge taken last year.



However, it is clear that although schools like the idea of having a bus come to the school, they are reluctant to pay for this service with the result that we rarely go out.

There is one school, however, that is very supportive of us, and St James' School in Weybridge has come to visit us in November each year for several years. I have put together a PowerPoint display about the museum and I am always happy to go out and speak to schools or children and youth groups. Ideas and help to implement these ideas are always welcome. Please contact me if you would like further information.

Bob Bailey
Schools Liaison Officer
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Yulia Vymorozko

It is with great sadness that LBM News has to report the passing of the above lady volunteer.

No, she's not dead!

Unfortunately, she has had to return to Russia, so can no longer be with us. Yulia was a familiar sight on Saturdays in the Museum and a very welcome member of the team. She took great delight in separating our visitors from their money and loved the horse buses greatly. Yulia also did much work behind the scenes on the new CRM computer system.

All the best of luck in whatever you do in the future, Yulia, from everyone at LBM. Here are two pictures of Yulia with her mother, who accompanied her on her last day at the Museum.



Photos © Peter Larkham

New Product

London Bus Museum has commissioned a calendar for the year 2014 (shown right). Fully illustrated, it features authentic views of many of the Trust vehicles out on the road, ranging from the 1890 3-Light Garden Seat Horse Bus to one of the latest Museum exhibits, Routemaster RML2760 which is on long term loan from Stagecoach London.

Retailing at £5.49, plus £1.50 post and packing, the calendar can be ordered direct by mail order. Please send a cheque for £6.99 made payable to **LBPT Ltd** to the Shop Manager, London Bus Museum, Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road, Weybridge, Surrey KT13 0QN.

Alternatively, if you wish to pay by credit or debit card please call the Museum number 01932 837994 (preferably on a Wednesday) and ask for a member of the shop team who will process your order.

An Optical Illusion?

Just to prove that British engineering was appreciated abroad, here is a shot of a Lisbon AEC Regent III with locally (to us) built Weymann body parked in the Museum next to RT3491. It is only in the modern hall temporarily, for expediency over the weekend, and will go in the workshop for the majority of its time here.

If you have never seen it before, then come to the Museum very soon or to Transportfest on the Brooklands site on October 20th and feast your eyes. She is rather special, although strange to drive, with everything being the other way around, including the preselector. I think it would take a while to get used to her! Don't ask for training on her though!



London Bus Museum



© Richard Jones

ST922 followed by TD95 heading for Brighton on the 2013 Historic Commercial Vehicle Society Run

2014 Calendar

Trust vehicles out and about

London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd. Weybridge, Surrey. Registered Charity 1053383

Colin Curtis

A special service was held at the Museum on Saturday 21st September to scatter Colin's ashes. It was taken by Simon Douglas Lane and attended by members of Colin's family, Museum people and, of course, a Routemaster, RML2760. A rose bush has been planted to mark the spot.



Epsom Day

Alan Eggleton and your editor took RTL139 to the Hook Road Arena on Sunday 22nd September, to fly the

Museum flag once again, joining RF146, RT4779 and GS2, all dressed for local routes. It looked like there were about 4-5000 people on site and a good many of them came to talk to us. I even met the Mayor of Epsom & Ewell and his good lady. The weather was kind too, remaining dry all day.



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