

2014 - THE YEAR OF THE BUS

75 years of the RT bus – Saturday 12th April 2014

London's RT bus will be 75 years old in 2014. To commemorate this anniversary, a number of preserved RTs will be running along part of the old route 22 from Homerton to Piccadilly. RT buses were built between 1939 and 1954, so all are now at least 60 years old. They formed the largest standardised bus fleet ever in the world. They were the precursor to the Routemaster. In the mid-1950s, all double-deck London buses were RTs, nearly 7,000 of them!

It is expected that some fifteen RT buses will be operating in public service. The buses will run a frequent service from the old terminus in Homerton to Piccadilly.

No fares will be charged on these buses, apart from RT1, but a donation towards restoration and preservation would be appreciated.

- Special ticket for RT1 £10

Other events for Year of the Bus

Sunday 13th April – Spring Gathering at London Bus Museum Weybridge

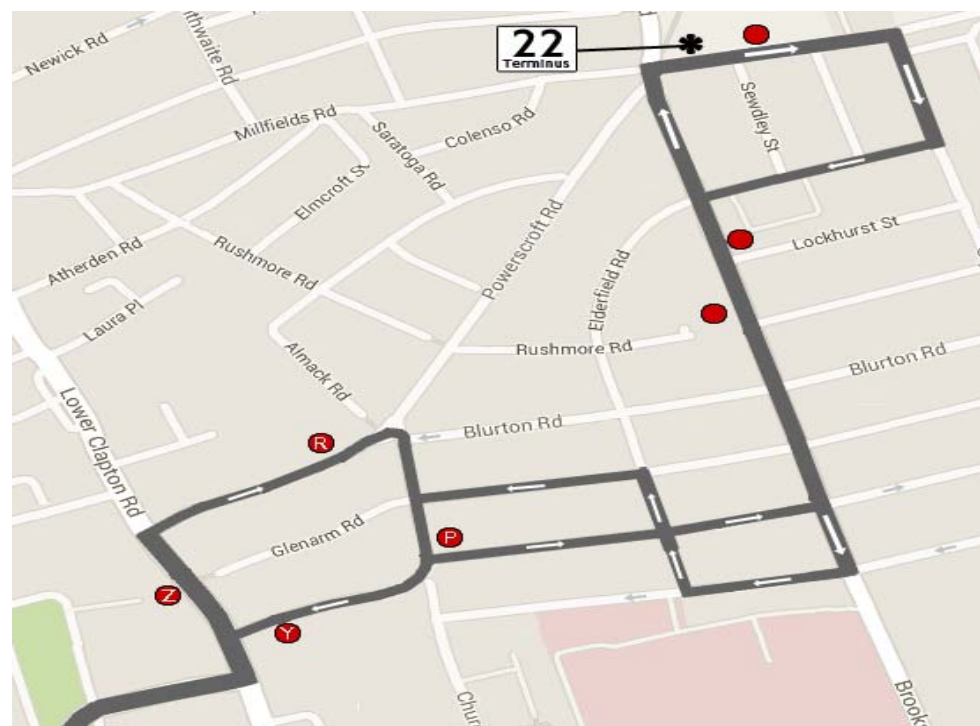
Sunday 22nd June – Bus Cavalcade to Regent Street

Saturday and Sunday 12th and 13th July – Routemaster 60 in Finsbury Park

Sunday 3rd August – WW1 commemoration at Brooklands Museum and London Bus Museum Weybridge

Saturday 9th August – Route 22 recreation to Putney

For even more events, watch the London Transport Museum website www.ltmuseum.co.uk or the London Bus Museum website www.londonbusmuseum.com



Planned service intervals

The service will run from 1100 to 1600, approximately every ten minutes between Piccadilly Circus and Shoreditch and every 20 minutes between Shoreditch and Homerton.
See www.LondonBusMuseum.com/RT75

RT 2775, which toured America in 1952, will act as an information stand by the terminus of route 22 in Millfields Road, Homerton between 1100 and 1400.

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The first bus ran in London in 1829 between Paddington and the Bank of England along what is now Euston Road.



By the time of the Great Exhibition in 1851, so many people wanted to travel that they climbed onto the roofs of the buses. The owners were not slow in realising that they could make extra money so they fitted seats upstairs and a ladder for people to climb up.

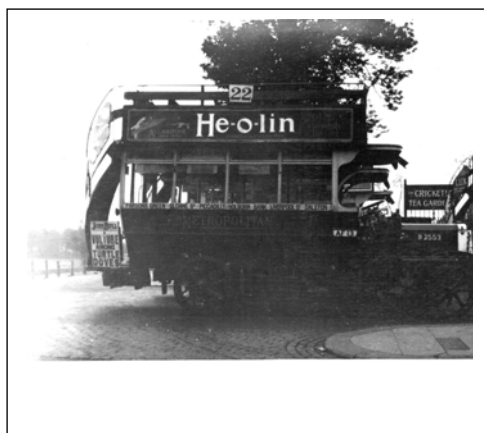


It took a long time for permission to be granted for buses to have roofs, drivers' windscreens and pneumatic tyres but during the 1920's and 1930's there were major developments and improvements.

RT1 went into service on 9th August 1939 on route 22 and will be returning to its original route on Saturday 12th April. RT1 is now preserved by the London Bus Museum based at Weybridge in Surrey



In the early part of the 20th century, motor buses were introduced, the most famous being the B type in 1910. Many of these buses went to the Front during the First World War. A B type bus is being restored in wartime livery for this year's commemoration of the First World War.



RT8 went into service on 1st May 1940 and worked on routes 28, 30, 37 & 72. It was brought back from the United States in 2006 and has been restored to its wartime condition by Ensign Bus