



LONDON BUS MUSEUM

A LIVING HERITAGE

FROM LEON DANIELS CHAIRMAN

I was very grateful to receive all your good wishes when I was awarded the OBE in HM Queen's New Years Honours list.

Your CoM met on 9th January and we were sad to learn that our long-serving Hon Secretary Peter Larkham is stepping down from his post for health reasons. Peter has worked extremely hard over many years and we will miss his expert and thorough work on governance and compliance issues.

It has to be said that organisations such as ours are subject to basically the same requirements for Health and Safety, General Data Protection, duty of care to visitors and volunteers etc as a large organisation and Peter has shouldered this increasing burden for a long time. He will be a difficult act to follow. We wish him a speedy recovery and will shortly announce the arrangements to take over his duties.



We are in serious need of more storage and display space and your CoM has been active with Brooklands Museum Trust to see what could be created on site. The site is restricted by English Heritage over what covered development is permitted and BMT is currently creating a site masterplan. Until this is completed no 'ad hoc' building plans can be made for this site.

We have well developed plans for both additional covered space and using the space in the current building to better effect.

I am arranging for LBPT to host a meeting of the major owners of historic London buses, including London Transport Museum, to discuss our overall strategy over vehicle collecting policies, restoration priorities, succession planning and fundraising opportunities. All owners are suffering the same challenges – old age, scarce funding and volunteer resources, space, and the effects of the passage of time. It is time for us to sit together and think about the future.

We will hold a Special CoM after this event to discuss the future more generally and how we organise ourselves for this.

RML2760 is now back at Stagecoach West Ham for mechanical work and annual test. Subject to the conclusion of negotiations the bus should then move to an outside company for interior refurbishment including retrim before returning to LBM on long-term loan.

We agreed to try and source proper destination blind units for our newly-donated VA9 which currently has LED units fitted.

We are in the final weeks of work on the Canteen Trailer and RF19. Both of these vehicles should be ready to be viewed on our Members' Day in March. T448, which is currently having structural work done off-site, will then return to Brooklands for its refurbishment to be completed. This restoration is supported by the generosity of a LBPT member.

LBPT is supporting this year's anniversaries – 80 years since RT1 was new and 40 years since the last one ran in service! This will include an event at Barking and a road run in London.

We discussed the impending arrival of the Ultra Low Emission Zone in London. Whilst I was at TfL I did ensure there were suitable exemptions – these are a general exemption from ULEZ for vehicles pre-1973 and one for vehicles over 40 years old which are not being used commercially. If you are in the business of supplying DMSs for weddings then you must pay!

Your CoM debated at length the issue regarding our Museum Shop and associated on-line sales. We have no proper volunteer cover for this rather onerous area. It had been hoped that a paid-employee who would significantly increase the volume of sales might be recruited but it seems that there is no prospect of this being viable. We do not have the footfall through the Museum to rival what LT Museum has at Covent Garden nor the product range to sell on-line.

We are therefore exploring other avenues to keep our shop active but without undue volunteer resource drain.

We also agreed to investigate some measures to alleviate the serious cold experienced in the visitor entrance area in winter which is being suffered by the volunteer staff.

We are going to make some changes to the mezzanine staircase area where we have identified a risk to unaccompanied children.

Simon Douglas Lane has enthusiastically driven onward with our overall Fundraising strategy. He is examining where funding opportunities sit and what we have that might qualify. We hope to secure external support for work on the 3-light horse bus and for the restoration of T357 which failed its Heritage Lottery Funding application last time. New guidelines for the latter are about to be issued and we await them with interest.

Your CoM reviewed our financial performance for 2018 and details will of course be available for the AGM. In general terms our Museum makes a small surplus on the revenue account mostly thanks to the increased share of Brooklands Museum entry fees successfully negotiated last year. However that surplus and more has been spent on capital expenditure this year – notably to recue CR14 and also, having received a substantial donation, to install some large ventilation fans to try and reduce the high temperatures in summer in Cobham Hall.

We currently have 877 members and your CoM discussed one or two measures to improve the service to members who are not regular Brooklands attendees We will announce more about this in due course.

Best wishes



Leon Daniels OBE

10 January 2019

The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd

Museum postal address: London Bus Museum, Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road, WEYBRIDGE KT13 0QS
Telephone 01932 837994 Website: www.londonbusmuseum.com

Registered Office: Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road, Weybridge KT13 0QS
Registered Charity No. 1053383 Registered Company No. 1061762 Accredited Museum No. 1633

