VCS Bus & Coach Running Day

Sunday 24th July 2022

Forward

Louise Cheeseman
Director of Buses
Transport for London

I would like to warmly welcome you to Victoria Coach Station and thank you for coming along today to celebrate our 90th anniversary running day.

I find it amazing that in 2022 you can ride on a vehicle from the 1950's, 60's, 70's and 80's that has been lovingly restored back to its former glory by its dedicated owners. Furthermore, you can take the opportunity to ride on former London Transport buses that operated from Victoria Coach Station in the 1960's, 70's 80's and 90's. This is a fantastic occasion for the younger generation to experience travel on vehicles of days gone by and the older generation to reminisce.

I would like to share with you a little bit about the history of Victoria Coach Station. The Station was opened in 1932 to serve as the headquarters of the London Coastal Coaches Limited, who ran services from the Capital to seaside resorts. It was designed by the architects Wallis, Gilbert & Partners, known for their work in industrial architecture, including factories and bus stations. When it opened, the station included a booking hall where customers could purchase tickets, as well as a restaurant, buffet, and lounge bar. Coach services were suspended from 1942 to 1946, due to the Second World War.

In the 1950s, the growth of the nation's road network resulted in an increased demand for coach travel. The station complex was expanded in the 1960s and is now a base for services to destinations around Great Britain and internationally. More than 20 million journeys start or end at Victoria Coach Station every year. The station was Grade II listed in 2014 and it is celebrated as a model of Art Deco architecture.

I hope you enjoy your day with us riding on the heritage bus and coach services. If you have the time, I would also recommend a visit to TfL's other Grade II listed building in Covent Garden, the London Transport Museum, by using the heritage Route 11 from outside the Coach Station.

Thank you

Louise Cheeseman

90 VICTORIA COACH STATION

London Bus Museum

Peter Osborn
London bus types – a potted history

I am delighted that the London Bus Museum have been asked to work in collaboration with the Transport for London team in Coaches regarding the heritage Route 11 Victoria Coach Station – Aldwych and the Airbus A1 service Victoria Coach Station - Hammersmith. I would like to give you a potted history of the London Transport vehicles that will be used on these services today.

Designed before the second world war, the first RT was delivered in 1939, and another 150 followed before the war put a stop to production. After the war, the first post-war bus was delivered in 1947 for the replacement of open-staircase buses. The early buses were delivered with a distinctive roof route-number box, but this was discontinued after the first few batches. Deliveries of the RT family continued until 1954, when, numbering nearly 7,000, they comprised the largest standardised bus fleet in the world.

For many, the RT family represents the London bus and it remained in service for 40 years until 1979. Its successor, the Routemaster has beaten even this. The next evolutionary step from the RT, London's Routemaster became the last in the line of London Transport's buses, designed and built in London especially for London. First operated in service in 1956 and in production from 1959 to 1968, the Routemaster achieved over 50 years' service to London, a truly staggering achievement.

Far ahead of its time and inspired by aircraft production techniques, the aluminium-bodied Route master was revolutionary in many ways, including its chassis-less construction, automatic transmission, and independent suspension, yet was considered by some to be already obsolete when introduced due to its open platform, front-engine design.

The present-day format of the London bus started in 1966, with London receiving bus types capable of driver-only operation, already in use elsewhere in Britain. The initial buses were not well-suited to London Transport, but the following types, the MCW Metrobus and Leyland Titan,

dominated the London scene in the 1980s, while Routemasters continued to operate on high-capacity routes. These in turn were superseded by low-floor double-deckers, which finally can accommodate wheelchairs and buggies, making bus transport in London truly accessible to all.

Have you ever wondered what happened to all those wonderful old buses that ran in London and which you only now see in old films and books? Well, the good news is, some of them live on! While thousands went to the scrap yard at the end of their working lives, some have found their way into preservation as living, moving museum pieces at London Bus Museum.

Here you will discover the largest collection of working historic London buses in the world, a priceless heritage representing more than 150 years of public transport evolution in the capital.

London Bus Museum is much, much more than simply a display of old buses for enthusiasts; its aim is to present the unique engineering heritage of the collection in its historical, social, technological and educational background. Here you can re-live the happy times of travelling on these knights of the road, experience the sights, sounds and smells of a past age, evocative of colourful liveries, elegant coachwork, fine leather and moquette upholstery.

A wonderful day out with a difference - indefinably nostalgic for those who rode on them, as well as a world of fascination and wonder for the younger generations, many of whom have never even been on a bus!

London Bus Museum displays the culmination of 50 years of preservation work and provides the opportunity to see our vehicles and artefacts in a light, airy and modern environment.

We hope to welcome you for a day out with us at London Bus Museum soon!

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www.londonbusmuseum.com

Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust

Helen Bolt
Keeping history alive.

As an educational charity, TV&GWOT aims to keep alive the rich history and memories of these companies, by restoring and preserving surviving vehicles, developing an archive and enabling the public to explore and enjoy the collection.

We have many historically important survivors in our care, spanning from the early 20th century to the present day. Most are restored to working order, others are undergoing restoration.

TV&GWOT organises and participates in vintage bus running days like this event celebrating the 90th anniversary of the grand opening of Victoria Coach Station (VCS). We also host educational visits to our premises in South Devon and Berkshire.

Supporters receive a high-quality magazine and are involved in vehicle preservation, the care of artefacts and research in our growing archive. Visit our stand near Gate 1 or take a look at our website to find out more and join us for just £26 to June 2023.

To celebrate the 90th anniversary of VCS a new book has been researched and published by TV&GWOT. It contains historic images from the London Coastal Coaches collection held by the Bus Archive, who will receive a contribution from the proceeds.

It also includes newly researched articles relevant to TV&GWOT's areas of interest: the express services between the Thames Valley and VCS, and Wheels to the West, coaches plying from VCS to the West Country over the decades. Photographs, many previously unseen, show coaches from fleets across the country over the decades. Copies will be on sale on the stand at VCS90 events or via the website.

www.tvagwot.org.uk

London Transport Museum

Discover the history of London's transport

Discover the history of London's transport at London Transport Museum. Explore the heritage of London and its transport system, and the stories of the people who have travelled and worked in the city over the last 200 years, before taking a peek into how future technologies might impact London as we know it.

We explore the powerful link between transport and the growth of London, its culture and society since 1800. By sharing this story of innovation, ingenuity, creativity and design, we ignite curiosity about the world around us and how to shape its future.

Our collection is Designated Outstanding by Arts Council England. It includes more than 500,000 objects, from locomotives which powered the world's first underground railway, to one of the most important collections of 20th century poster art.

You can travel to the LT Museum by using the heritage Route 11 which runs every 10 – 15 minutes outside of the Coach Station. The Museum is just a short walk away from the Aldwych.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

www.ltmuseum.co.uk

FlixBus

Sarah Bartlett
Senior PR Manager UK
FlixBus

FlixBus is proud to be part of Victoria Coach Station's 90th year celebrations. You will find one of our high specification, technologically advanced coaches in service on the 090 between Victoria Coach Station and Hammersmith today.

FlixBus is a green coach provider, driving the future of travel and transport. Beginning life as a tech start-up in 2013, FlixBus is now the world's leading long-distance coach brand, with services covering over 2,400 destinations in 40 countries across Europe, America, Canada and Brazil.

Thanks to a user-friendly booking system and an extensive route network, FlixBus offers travellers affordable, reliable and eco-friendly journeys to over 30 locations around the UK. Its green buses operate to the highest safety and environmental standards, providing comfortable, sustainable and convenient transportation options.

Aiming to be the leading coach provider in the UK, FlixBus' global success can be attributed to the digitisation of traditional bus travel. With technological advancements such as e-ticketing systems, the FlixBus-App, free onboard Wi-Fi and GPS Live Tracking, FlixBus has revolutionised the bus travel industry.

Through smart network planning and dynamic price management, FlixBus offers great value and accessible travel for everyone. FlixBus develops partnerships with established, high quality coach operators – often family-owned companies with decades of experience – which are responsible for running the network.

Today's bus is proudly operated by Harrow-based Hearn's Coaches.

www.flixbus.co.uk

Victoria Coach Station

Kyesha Sinclair
TfL Event Co-ordinator

Limited edition merchandise

Hello everyone, I want to say an enormous thank you for visiting Victoria Coach Station (VCS) today and helping us celebrate our 90th birthday.

On this 90th anniversary we are celebrating this wonderful building and the people working here. The building was designed by the architects Wallis, Gilbert & Partners and is in the classic Art Deco style.

To celebrate the eye-catching halcyon style, Transport for London has commissioned two limited edition items to commemorate the buildings Art Deco elegance.

You will find us by Gate 1

Limited edition
Tote Bag £3

Limited edition
Pin Badge £3

VICTORIA
9 0
COACH STATION

Special offer, buy both for £5

www.tfl.gov.uk

Route 11

Sunday 24th July 2022

Route 11 heritage operation
Serves all route 11 stops between Victoria and Aldwych

Victoria Coach Station, Buckingham Palace Road, Bus Stop W	09:58	then	11:38	then	14:08	then	17:08
Victoria Station, Buckingham Palace Road, bus stop S	10:03	every	11:43	every	14:13	every	17:13
Westminster Station, Parliament Street, bus stop A	10:14	10 mins	11:54	10-15 mins	14:24	10 mins	17:24
Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, Bus Stop F	10:19	until	11:59	until	14:29	until	17:29
Aldwych, Bus Stop D for the London Transport Museum	10:23		12:03		14:33		17:33

Aldwych, Drury Lane, Bus Stop R	09:51	then	12:11	then	14:41	then	16:51
Trafalgar Square, Charing Cross, Bus Stop K	09:56	every	12:16	every	14:46	every	16:56
Westminster Station, Cenotaph	10:01	10 mins	12:21	10-15 mins	14:51	10 mins	17:01
Victoria Station, Victoria Street, Bus stop G	10:09	until	12:29	until	14:59	until	17:09
Victoria Coach Station, Buckingham Palace Road, Bus Stop V	10:13		12:33		15:03		17:13

Route 090

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Route 090 (non-stop)

Victoria Coach Station, Gate 1	09:30	then every 30 mins	17:00
Hammersmith, Lower Bus Station	10:00	until	17:30

Hammersmith, Lower Bus Station	09:35	then every 30 mins	15:35
Victoria Coach Station, Arrival Terminal, Eccleston Place	10:05	until	16:05

Route A1

Sunday 24th July 2022

A1 Limited Stop via Hyde Park Corner, Knightsbridge & Cromwell Road

Victoria Coach Station, Gate 1	10:00	10:30	then every 30 mins	16:00	16:30
Hammersmith, Lower Bus Station	10:35	11:05	until	16:35	17:05

Hammersmith, Lower Bus Station	10:37	11:07	then Every 30 mins	16:07	16:37
Victoria, Buckingham Palace Road (V)	11:20	11:50	until	16:50	17:20