



# LONDON BUS MUSEUM

*E-news*  
*March 2023*

## Route 174/175 Running Day: a Triumph



PHOTO CREDIT: KEITH VALLA



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: ALICAN REILLY

Thanks to all who participated, including volunteer crews and passengers – and especially to Peter Osborn for arranging the day, which was a resounding success.

# Highlights from our Running Day



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER MAYNARD



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: ALICAN REILLY



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

*Thank you for a great day. Lots of memories came flooding back from my childhood. My mum and grandmother were conductors, and my grandfather was a bus driver. Thank you for allowing us to ride on these buses today.*



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



ALL PHOTOS: MARK GRAHAM





PHOTO CREDIT: MIA HASTINGS



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND RIGHT): EDITOR



*It was a great day - enjoyed by enthusiasts and the general public. Thanks to all at LBM for making it possible!*



PHOTO CREDIT: ALICAN REILLY

*My children and I had the best time. Thank you for such a wonderful day.*

Thank you to everyone who has contributed excellent photos from the event. We have compiled a Facebook album with photo credits.

[View album >](#)

Thanks also to Adrian Palmer, who has shared his Flickr album.

[View album >](#)

# What people are saying about our Running Day

*A huge THANK YOU to the LBM for running a heritage day and letting us ride a Routemaster. It was lovely to meet so many people and it created a real feel-good factor in the area.*

It was fantastic - a friendly atmosphere with loads of conversation and smiles on people's faces, thanks to all the volunteers at the LBM.

*I grew up with Routemasters and RTs, so seeing them in Romford again was good. Travelling on Saturday, I felt like a movie star with all the people waving, smiling and taking photos!*

My son loved the bus ride today. Thank you LBM for giving him this opportunity.

*A wonderful day with amazing variety - both vehicles and routes - and great to see this much engagement from the public. I particularly loved getting a ride on STL 2377! Thank you so much to all the organisers and crews.*

It certainly lifted everyone's spirits! Well done to all who made this a great day.

*Thank you so much for a fantastic day. It was also a delight to see non-enthusiasts and their reactions to such a wide selection of classic vehicles.*

Thank you to all involved in organising and running an excellent event. Amazing how the STL could still keep up with everything else - even at 86 years old!

*My children and I had a fantastic time!*

Fantastic memories - jumped on the 174 at Tees Drive up to Pentowan Farm. I used to catch this bus frequently in the 60s and 70s!

Available **APRIL 2023**

## IN & OUT OF SERVICE

the story of buses now in the London Bus Museum and other collections in service in the capital and in preservation

160 pages hardback large format, 240mm x 285mm price to be announced

Come on a journey through the incredible variety of buses in the collection of the London Bus Museum, and from other collections, showing them as they were in service and as they are now in preservation.

But there are other stories to be told - how route numbers were chosen, what Rover Tickets were, London's first female bus driver and so much more.

A rich variety of stunning images lovingly displayed make every page a joy to look at, and the story that unfolds is filled with insight, surprise, interest and sheer delight.

to be launched at the **London Bus Museum SPRING GATHERING** Sunday 16 April 2023

# LONDON BUS MUSEUM SPRING GATHERING SUNDAY 16 APRIL 2023



- Attractions include:**
- **Entry to most Brooklands Museum attractions**
  - **Free shuttle bus to and from Weybridge**
  - **Bus rides on classic and modern buses**
  - **Traders' market**
  - **Children's entertainment**
  - **and much more**

**Located at**  
BROOKLANDS MUSEUM  
Weybridge

**For admission prices including advance booking and other discounts, visit [brooklandsmuseum.com/tickets](http://brooklandsmuseum.com/tickets) or call 01932 857 381**

**LBM & BMT members FREE**  
**Join the Bus Museum on the day and we'll refund your entry fee**

**Parking on the day is FREE in The Heights car park KT13 0XP**



[Londonbusmuseum.com](http://Londonbusmuseum.com)





PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

# Looking back at our AGM & Members' Day

Almost 100 members joined us for our AGM and Members' Day on 12 March. Following the formal part of the day, Members enjoyed refreshments kindly provided by Sharon Burton and Dawn Stagg and were free to explore the Museum. The real treat came in the afternoon, when Members had the opportunity to ride on two unique vehicles from the Museum collection: newly-restored 1925 Dennis D 142 and the subject of a previous Museum restoration, 1945 Guy Arab G 351.



PHOTO CREDIT: GRAHAM SMITH

Peter Brown writes: "May I take this opportunity to thank all those members who were able to join us. The turnout took us all by surprise: 97 of you participated in the Meeting, way more than at any previous AGM. My apologies that we were somewhat overwhelmed and especially to those Members who had to stand. We will certainly ensure more chairs are available for next year!

"People have commented that the AGM should not be held on a Sunday, as this conflicts with those members wishing to attend church. The comparable weekend in 2024 would be Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th March. However, the Sunday is also Mothering Sunday.

"What would be your preference? Or would you prefer a different weekend? Please email me with your thoughts: [peter.brown@londonbusmuseum.com](mailto:peter.brown@londonbusmuseum.com)."



PHOTO CREDIT: GRAHAM SMITH



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

Reverse must be here somewhere!

# Nicholas Owen visits the LBM

Celebrity broadcaster, transport enthusiast and Surrey resident Nicholas Owen visited the Museum on 11 March and joined us for the morning bus rides on RT 4779.

He enjoyed his visit, meeting volunteers and our Chairman Leon Daniels, and reminiscing about the last day of regular Routemaster service, 9 December 2005, when he turned out with countless others to witness the end of an era.



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & BELOW): LEON DANIELS

# Comic Relief in Richmond

On 17 March, locals were surprised to see Honorary President Lord Hendy, Chairman Leon Daniels OBE and broadcaster, DJ and BBC Radio presenter Edward Adoo take to the streets of Richmond with Routemasters to raise funds for Comic Relief.

Everyone was delighted to enjoy a free service on vintage vehicles. Over £650 in donations was raised.

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): JOHN PARKIN



# T 357 Restoration appeal

Following a vote by Members at our Summer 2019 event, our 1931 T 357 has been chosen for restoration. Our talented team of volunteers and external specialist restorers will work together on this project. We are hoping to fund this ambitious £350k restoration with an equal combination of donations and grant funding.

We also hope to re-create a replica gas trailer for the bus. This originally burned anthracite to produce gas during the wartime petrol shortage.

Why is this project unique? T 357 is the only survivor of a class of just 12 built. It has been described as the bus rescue of the century, having been recovered from France where it had been in covered storage since 1958. When the bus was threatened with being scrapped, we purchased it and brought it back to the UK. It appeared in its unrestored state at the Trust's Open Day at its old site in Redhill Road in April 2003. It has been in covered storage ever since.

Our aim is to restore this vehicle to full running and passenger carrying status. Appropriately, it has local connections, the body having been built in the Weymann factory at Addlestone.

Read the full and fascinating [history on our website](#), and see it at our [Spring Gathering!](#)

## Help bring T 357 back to life

- Donate via the [LBM website T 357 campaign page](#)
- Send a cheque payable to 'LBPT Ltd' to:  
The T 357 Appeal, London Bus Museum, Cobham Hall, Brooklands Road, Weybridge KT13 0QS
- Donate via our contactless donation point by the bus in the Museum (from 17 April)





# Free events for Museum members

Register in advance if you'd like to bring a vehicle



## Spring Gathering

16 April

Our annual spring event returns, with an array of vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls, food and more.

[View more >](#)

## Route 65 & 71 Event

11 June

Travel along Routes 65 and 71 from Kingston to Ealing and Chessington with a free vintage bus service operating all day.

[View more >](#)



## Summer Festival

25 June

Our annual summer event returns, with 100+ vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls, food and more.

[View more >](#)

## TransportFest

22 October

Our annual autumn extravaganza boasts an array of vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls, food and more.

[View more >](#)



# Q&A with Mark Rowell, Volunteer Steward

**When did your interest in buses begin?**

I was a bus spotter when I was 10 years old. When I retired around 2019, I was looking for some sort of interesting activity. The Bus Museum seemed the logical thing to do.

**What's your favourite bus?**

A difficult one! RML 2440 – a Garston bus. I rode on it many times on route 306 to Elstree when I was in the ATC (age 15-16 years).

**How did you get involved with Acton Works LTE?**

I began my apprenticeship in 1972 at Acton Works, learning electrical fitting. In my second year we were allowed work experience at the depots: first Ealing Common, working on CO and R stock carriages, later Neasden depot. I received the honour of going to Ruislip Central Line depot, working on 1960s stock. Unfortunately, I was electrocuted and spent my Christmas in Mount Vernon Hospital burns unit! I eventually passed my apprenticeship four years later and became an electrician at Baker Street lighting department - but I knew nothing!

Now I am retired but I do know a little bit more... luckily! It is a wonder that I got a position as an apprentice because a friend and I had been chewing Juicy Fruit gum prior to a medical, and we both failed!

**What would you take to a desert island?**

My AVRO Lancaster Dambuster model kit. It is 1:32 scale with hundreds of parts, which would definitely help to pass the time until I was rescued!

**What's your motto or words to live by?**

"Do unto others before they do you." (A joke but apt!)

**Fun fact?**

I have a bus stop in my front garden! The concrete post was discovered abandoned under a hedge nearby. I asked the householder if he wanted it and the reply was, "It's yours if you take it away." So I did! I bought the flag from the LBM TransportFest market, scratch built the shelter and added the timetables later.

Only once or twice has it been mistaken for a real bus stop - including by Amazon!

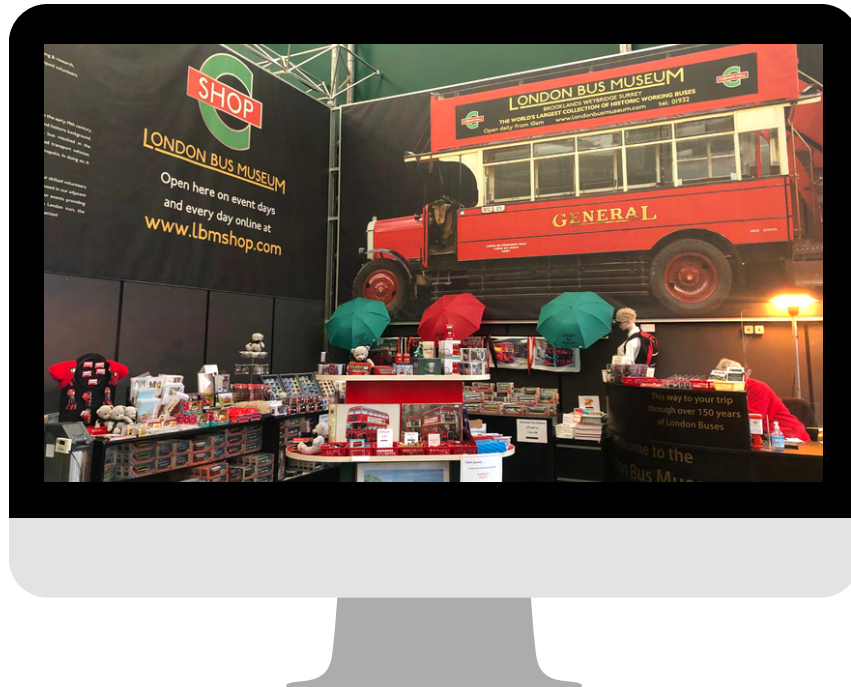
PHOTO CREDIT: MARK ROWELL

PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & BELOW): EDITOR



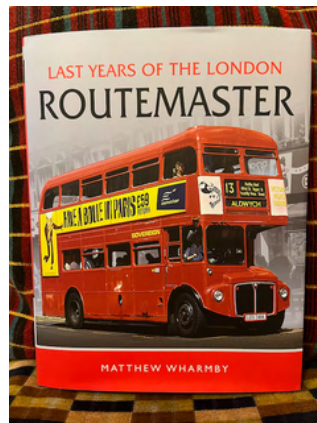
# What's in the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



## 25 Years of London Transport 1949-1974

This is a must-have book by LBM volunteer and distinguished writer Kevin McCormack.



## Last Years of the London Routemaster

This new book by Matthew Wharmby covers the last decade of this London icon.



## RF 19 limited edition model

This limited edition Jotus model depicts our RF coach on display in the Museum.

[Buy online >](#)

[In store only](#)

[Buy online >](#)

# Southgate Station

12 March witnessed the 90th anniversary of Charles Holden's Grade II\* listed Southgate Station.

RT 3933 of the London Bus Company joined in the celebrations, giving visitors free rides around the Palmers Green and Southgate areas.



PHOTO CREDIT: ALICAN REILLY

## Bargains galore

Our Spring Gathering on 16 April will showcase a sale of our latest collection of donated items. Visit our usual stall inside the Museum for bargain-price books and models and our massive stock of bus, tram and trolleybus photos (almost all London-related).

All photos are of buses in service, not at rallies. Most are high-quality prints and will be offered at rock-bottom clearance prices for bundled packs. Our uniform stock will also be making a rare appearance, with low prices on most items to clear. Arrive early to avoid disappointment!

PHOTO CREDIT: MIA HASTINGS



## From the Editor

The overwhelming public reaction to our 174/175 Running Day - from the number of photographers out on the streets to the gratitude flooding in via social media - is testament to the effect that taking the Museum to the people has. Estimates based on information collected suggest we carried between 8,000 and 10,000 passengers. Thanks to all our volunteer crews and vehicle owners who ensured an unforgettable day. Particular thanks to all those who have kindly sent me their photos from the day!

Thanks to David Bowker, Peter Brown, Leon Daniels, Simon Douglas Lane, Colin Fradd, Mark Graham, Mia Hastings, Doug Hunt, Peter Maynard, Peter Osborn, Adrian Palmer, John Parkin, Melvin Phillips, Alican Reilly, Mark Rowell and Keith Valla for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

Please email me any content for the next edition.

Like and follow our [official London Bus Museum Facebook page](#) for our latest news, events and photos.

*Richard*

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