

NARTM Newslink

The magazine of the National Association of Road Transport Museums
Issue 108 – November 2020



South Wales classic...

NARTM Chairman's Corner

Dennis Talbot

As I write this piece we are just entering a new lockdown in England, except it isn't a lockdown like the previous one, because schools and colleges are still open and so are more workplaces than in the first lockdown. And it only affects England, while Wales has had a full lockdown for a couple of weeks and Northern Ireland one lasting four weeks. Scotland hasn't got to lockdown up to press, but has a multi-tier system of restrictions in place. That all makes it quite difficult to write for a national audience based across the United Kingdom, a country which with all these differences seems to me to be much less united than it was a year ago. Since I first drafted this column, the Chancellor has reinstated the furlough scheme through to the end of March 2021 – does that indicate how long they expect this to continue?

Anyway, let's move on to something more positive. Several NARTM museums have successfully reopened in the last three months, even if they have now been made to close again. In Manchester we were one of the more cautious ones and only opened in late September, deliberately after the Heritage Open Days in case we might be overwhelmed by eager visitors. We'd also heard that museums in general were seeing just 15% of their pre-Covid footfall, so we didn't know what to expect. With all precautions in place, I opened the museum door at 10am on the 26th September and was pleased to see a family waiting on the doorstep. They were the first of 110 visitors we welcomed that day and all were pleased with what they found, both in terms of the museum's contents and also the special measures we had put in place.

Over the next 6 weekends almost 1000 people visited which is not significantly lower than in a similar period last year. That is good when you consider that virtually all were local and there were very few of the usual national and international tourists we see. After two weeks we reviewed our operation and found very little to change, other than to reintroduce our quiz sheets and give away small packs of crayons and colouring sheets, replacing the colouring area we'd had to close. Without exception all visitors were well behaved and appreciated the restrictions we'd had to put in place.

Similar stories have reached me from other NARTM museums that have reopened, particularly Wythall, Isle of Wight and East Anglia. Please keep your updates coming once we are all able to reopen again and let us hope that next time we'll manage more than 6 weeks. Other museums have of course decided not to open at all in 2020 and we must respect that decision as I have said before; every individual and organisation must be comfortable with what they do and what they ask their members to do.

I wish I knew how long this was all going to continue, but I know no more than anyone else. All I can help with when the time comes is to share some of the risk assessments and equipment we put in place if that might help others to open. I'd also advise you to start in good time to get your museum ready to reopen – it is all too easy to let the premises get untidy and for a lot of projects to need finishing at the last minute! We last closed for any length of time in winter 1986-87 and it was a nightmare to clear everything up then. 33 years later we had forgotten that nightmare!

With regard to NARTM, many things are on hold, but Terry keeps NARTM Mart going, the website is still updated by Gerry, Ray will be sending out our annual survey and Mike and Dave keep the finances and secretarial matters up to date. Joyce continues to feed in useful extracts from AIM, the FBHVC, the Museums Association and Museums Development and we have another selection for you in this edition.

We held the AGM using Zoom, which seemed to work well. Not the same as a 'proper' meeting where we can all get together for the day and discuss various topics and have lots of good conversations. We will get back to that, but again, I can't promise just when. After the meeting Colin and I showed some pictures which I hope were of interest. Moving the slides on 200 miles away from where Colin was giving the commentary was interesting, but generally seamless. Ian talked about when we'll produce a new leaflet, but with the 2020 ones sitting uselessly in their boxes we don't plan to produce a traditional leaflet with lots of event and opening information next year – unless things improve a lot.

The lockdown period gives an opportunity to update information on your collection which can be incorporated into the NARTM database of preserved vehicles. The grading team (see past NewsLinks) are contacting all members to update their information before the survey gets underway but please don't wait for them to be in touch. Please support this effort.

In fact lockdown is a great time to do all those other admin jobs it is usually hard to get round to - filing (!), updating operating documents, safety processes, insurance requirements, membership documentation, driving licence records and so on. Check if your website and social media feeds are up to date – especially look at what Google shows as your opening times because that is often not taken from your up to date information. That should keep you going until it is time to write the Christmas Cards and to put the tree up!

In these difficult times we wish all members, colleagues and your families all the best for Christmas and the New Year; let us all hope that the situation improves as we get into 2021. Our special thoughts are with any of you who have been touched by Covid-19 in any way. Stay safe.



Llandudno Guy Wolf and Ribble 2057 at the start of the Trans Pennine Run in 1971.

NARTM Members Focus

THE TEESSIDE
500 GROUP
Preserving Teesside's Transport History

The Teesside 500 Group

The 500 Group (as it then was) was formed in 1988 to bring together people interested in the buses and operations of Cleveland Transit and its predecessors. This now includes its successors!

From the earliest days, the emphasis of the Group's activities has been towards the social. There have always been monthly meetings in convivial surroundings and trips out to rallies, events, visits to other groups and, before such things became difficult, visits to operators' premises. Initially, many of these trips were undertaken in Cleveland Transit's ex-Southdown Queen Mary PRX189B (originally 417DCD). Transit had bought this to run as an open-topper and had numbered it 500, hence the Group's name.

However, by 1990 the "500" had taken on additional significance when the Group made its first foray into preservation. This involved saving redundant Driver Trainer JDC544L from the scrapman. A Northern Counties-bodied, Transit/Southend style, two door, low-height, Leyland-engined Fleetline, this was one of 76 such buses bought between 1971 and 1973 and numbered 501 to 576, hence known as "500s". Since then, the story of the 500 Group is largely the story of our buses.

Teesside Municipal Transport L544 at Billingham on a photo tour for members in November 2014



Middlesbrough Corporation had opted for the Fleetline as the chassis layout allowed a normal seating layout in a bus low enough to negotiate the 13ft 6in headroom bridge under Middlesbrough Railway Station. 544 was an example of the final expression of this concept and, within a year, the Group was to acquire the very first bus built to achieve this aim. This was JDC599, a Northern Counties bodied Dennis Loline, exhibited at the 1958 Commercial Motor Show. She had had an extended life after withdrawal from service on Teesside, working in Scotland from where she was bought for preservation in 1979. In 1991 she was donated to the Group on condition that we continued restoration to her original condition. This was completed in time for her 40th anniversary in 1998.



Middlesbrough 99 at Thornaby on a free History Tour in October 2018

In 1995 the collection was expanded by the purchase of JVN40E, a former Teesside Railless Traction Board Roe-bodied PD2/37 and one of the last open-platform buses to enter service in the Northeast. Her future having been secured, JVN was then to stand for some 22 years before being reactivated in late 2017. Slow but steady progress continues on her restoration.

Some of the delay with JVN was occasioned by the Group acquiring one of Transit's Northern Counties bodied VRTs, fifteen of which had been bought in 1977 at a time of limited supply of new Fleetlines. In 2005 the Group became aware of a survivor with an operator on Anglesey and, after an inspection and an assessment that "Back to Teesside, a couple of years and a coat of paint and she'll be good", RDC106R became a major project taking 9 years of hard and extensive work to a very high standard despite being undertaken largely in the open air.

Recent purchases have added three Stagecoach-era buses to the Group's collection the first of which, Northern Counties Volvo Olympian M223SVN has already been externally restored to its as new appearance in the Transit privatisation livery, retention of which had been a stipulation of the sale to Stagecoach. Second is Alexander (Belfast) Volvo Olympian R833OVN which is to be restored in Stagecoach stripes. Despite apparently being a standard vehicle, it was actually a local celebrity with an eventful history, including a deroofting and after-disposal operation on her home patch by a Teesside independent operator. Finally, MAN A69/ALX300 NK54BFE is the Group's first single-decker.

All three have been bought in part so that their modern performance characteristics can allow a geographically expanded rally offering to our members. The MAN also gives us an in-house fully accessible vehicle. All three also reflect that nostalgia is a moving feast as the Covid-muted relaunch of M223SVN has amply demonstrated whilst the MAN will all too soon be a historical novelty.



*Tees-side Railless Traction Board 40
prepared for the April 2018 Stockton
Depot Open Day*

There are also four buses owned privately by Group members, independently of the Group collection.

As well as attending other peoples' events, the Group organises our own annual Historic Vehicle Running Day at the start of each rally season. Beginning modestly in 2001, we now attract up to 30 vehicles at the start of each rally season, to run "services" to predetermined times and routes, showing off the delights of Teesside (yes, there are some!) to local folk and visitors alike. A gratifying number of visitors are the public at large without any particular interest in the buses per se.

We maintain close and we hope, mutually supportive links with the local bus companies and the many Northeast preservation organisations. Perhaps inevitably, we have a particularly close

and valued relationship with the local Stagecoach opco. We were pleased to be able to work in partnership with Stagecoach and our preservation colleagues to organise charity Open Days at Stockton Depot in 2014 and again in 2018.

We have been incredibly lucky with the arrangements for the storage of our vehicle collection but Health and Safety and practicality considerations necessarily limit the work we can undertake. As a consequence, we do sometimes have to contract out some of our restoration effort. A priority is to find satellite premises to allow more extensive work to be undertaken in-house and perhaps to yield some admission revenue.

Inevitably, this will increase costs and this and our ambition is driving a transition. We have always sought to provide a community benefit, offering free educational Local History tours and straightforward nostalgic bus rides in connection with Council events, and the Group achieved Charitable status in 2017 (requiring the addition of the "Teesside" to our name). With this and seven buses to maintain, the Trustees now seeking to balance maintaining the required professional approach whilst retaining the social emphasis which is a large part of the appeal of the Group to our members. Effective vehicle utilisation and the impact of the new tyre regulations are but two of the issues going forwards. All of our operational buses are MoT'd, whether exempt or not.

Members subscriptions fund only the bi-monthly Newsletter with our working capital coming from memorabilia sales and donations from Group members and the public. 2020 has obviously been very difficult in that regard and we are looking to diversify into on-line sales as well as establishing more sustainable, regular income streams.

New members are always welcome, of course. Please contact Membership Secretary, Michael Dowling, 9 Staindrop Drive, Middlesbrough, TS5 8NU (Tel: 01642 814799), visit www.teesside500group.co.uk or Facebook (The Teesside 500 Group).

NARTM News and Information

News and information, from the Federation of British Historic Vehicle Clubs and the Association of Independent Museums.

Thanks as ever to Joyce and Paul Jefford for supplying a regular news feed of useful items from the above organisations. Space precludes us from publishing all items they send in Newslink but many will be available on the relevant websites.

From the Association of Independent Museums



AIM survey on reopening and visitor profiles

AIM is interested to know how many members have reopened, and if so, whether the visitor profile is the same as before lockdown. The information will be used to understand the trends in any changes in visitors, and in turn, help those museums who are yet to reopen plan for the expected audience.

DCMS Coronavirus Impact Business Survey - Round 2

DCMS invites you to take part in a second round of a survey being conducted to understand the impact of the Coronavirus outbreak on organisations in the digital, culture, media, sport, gambling, telecoms, and tourism sectors.

We encourage AIM members to respond as your contributions are vital for the experience of museums to be understood by government. The survey should take around 10-20 minutes and the deadline for responses is 08 September. [Take the survey here](#)

Business Rates Success Guide - updated for 2020

Business rates are often seen to be slow moving, even glacial, but this year there have been constant changes. Colin Hunter of Lambert Smith Hampton takes us through the changes so far this year to introduce the updated Business Rates Success Guide. [Read Colin's article and access the new Success Guide here.](#)

New guidance for learning services

Space for Learning, Clore Duffield Foundation, GEM Heritage, Engage and the Theatre Education Forum have put together Covid secure guidance for museums, galleries, heritage and performing arts sites. They aim to provide a practical framework to think about what is needed to continue, or restart, learning services during the Covid-19 pandemic and to support the health and wellbeing of workers and audiences. [Read the guidance here.](#)

Space for Learning

More news from AIM and other organisations is available on our website under Preservation News

Print deadline for next issue: 12 January 2021

NHS Test and Trace scheme

Museums can download a range of posters to inform visitors about the NHS Test and Trace scheme. These might be useful to display at the point that contact information is collected, or on websites or social media alongside information about what visitors can expect when visiting your museum. [Download the posters here.](#)



Test and Trace

Reopening case study videos

AIM spoke to several members about their reopening experiences and you can hear what they've learnt and the advice they'd share with other members in these short videos. It seems that as well as adding significant additional safety measures for staff, volunteers and visitors, the ability to quickly adapt, identify shifting audiences and respond to their needs is key to beginning to recover and plan for the future.

[Watch the reopening case study videos here>>](#)

AIM and MA support to access the Kickstart Scheme

AIM and Museums Association are working together to support the sector in accessing the Kickstart Scheme, a new UK-wide initiative created by the UK government that offers fully-funded 6-month placements to young people. We can help you find partner museums if your museum is not able to offer the necessary 30 placements on your own.

[Find out more here>>](#)

Heritage Funding Directory

Managed by The Heritage Alliance and the Architectural Heritage Fund, the Heritage Funding Directory is a free guide to financial support for anyone undertaking UK related heritage projects. The Directory details sources of grants from trusts and foundations, as well as organisations offering loan finance, awards, scholarships and other 'in kind' resources.

[Access the Heritage Funding Directory here>>](#)



7 Principles to ensure an inclusive recovery

We Shall Not Be Removed has created a new guide for the arts and entertainment sectors to support disability inclusion. The Seven Inclusive Principles for Arts & Cultural Organisations working safely through COVID-19 is designed to complement the suite of guidance documents already issued by UK Governments and sector support organisations. The focus of this unique initiative, is to ensure deaf, neurodiverse and disabled people are not discriminated against as creative work begins again and as venues re-open. The Seven Principles offer practical guidance to arts and cultural organisations to support disabled artists, audiences, visitors, participants and employees.

[Read the 7 principles here>>](#)

AIM supplier directory

Don't forget the list of AIM Associate Suppliers can be found on the website, giving you access to a host of specialists who work with other independent museums and specialise in this sector.

[Access the AIM supplier directory here>>](#)

Welsh government Culture Recovery Fund now open for applications

The Welsh Government's Cultural Recovery Fund for independent museums, archives and libraries is now open for applications. The focus of this fund is to assist cultural organisations to remain afloat and to open / remain open/ restart where appropriate, in line with Welsh Government advice on Covid-19. [Information on what is eligible for funding is available here>>](#)

Funding for digital development in heritage organisations

The National Lottery Heritage Fund has opened applications for an additional £1 million of funding for its Digital Skills for Heritage campaign thanks to funding from DCMS. This funding is part of the wider £92m Culture Recovery Fund for Heritage. [Further information on the funding opportunities and details on how to apply can be found here>>](#)

Tier 3 restrictions

For any AIM members in or entering Tier 3 regulations who are experiencing worsening trading conditions, we advise you to talk to your local council, they may have support / relief packages available for businesses in your position. Do let us know what support you need too so we can advocate for you; you can email us on info@aim-museums.co.uk

Furlough scheme extended to March 2021

Following news that the UK Government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme, also known as the furlough scheme, has been extended to March, we've updated our Coronavirus resources page to give a summary of what this means for employers. [This page also has links to a useful summary from CFG and an FAQ factsheet from The HR Dept>>](#)



Book now for Hallmarks at Home

Book your free place for the last Hallmarks at Home webinars of 2020, with support from Art Fund:

- 10am Tuesday 1 December – Practical governance for museum trustees - The workshop will explore the basics of good governance practice as well as issues of compliance with charity, company and other law and regulation
- 11am Wednesday 9 December – Marketing planning in times of change - This session will help you with your strategic marketing planning for 2021, after a turbulent and unpredictable year
- 11am Tuesday 15 December – Tackling inequalities - This workshop will look at why AIM's Tackling Inequalities Hallmark is important and how museums can take actions in their own organisation to become one that is inclusive and challenges prejudice, discrimination and racism. It will look at practical examples and case studies and is also an opportunity to discuss potential Hallmarks grants applications and will be led by Dr Errol Francis, CEO of Culture&

11am Wednesday 16 December – Applying to Trusts – a practical webinar exploring how funding from trusts and foundations can help your organisation survive these Covid months and thrive in the future. [AIM members can book their free place for any of these sessions here>>](#)

Free HR support for AIM members

We're delighted to share details of our latest benefit for AIM members. You can now access free HR support from The HR Dept, including a 15 minute consultation to help with urgent HR queries, plus a review of your contracts and handbook to check everything is up to date. [Click here to access this member benefit>>](#)

The CFG / AIM guide to gift aid

As part of our partnership with them, CFG have put together this guide to Gift Aid for AIM members, packed with advice and top tips from a range of experts. Gift Aid has always been of vital importance to AIM members and we recognise that this year, more than ever, every penny counts. This guide is intended to help museums make the most of every donation and support your financial resilience. [Read the guide to Gift Aid here>>](#)



Reopening of National Lottery Grants for Heritage

National Lottery Heritage Fund have announced a phased reopening of project funding through their National Lottery Grants for Heritage. In the first phase, beginning 25 November, they will resume accepting applications for grants from £3,000-£10,000 and £10,000-£100,000, looking for projects with a particular emphasis on organisational resilience and inclusion. In the second phase, beginning 8 February 2021, they will resume accepting applications for grants from £100,000-£250,000 and £250,000-£5m. Through the funding, National Lottery Heritage Fund want to grasp the possibilities that this trying period offers for positive change across the heritage sector. [You can read more on this announcement here>>](#)

Rebuilding Heritage webinars

The first series of webinars from the Rebuilding Heritage programme are now open for booking. The webinars respond to the theme Ways Out of Crisis and will provide advice and tips for organisations on the most effective ways to approach leadership, business planning, and communications and marketing in challenging and uncertain times. [Full details are available here>>](#)

Emergency Planning and Covid from Museum Development East Midlands

MDEM alongside members of the Emergency and Risk Network have been working hard to develop a new Emergency Plan template which encompasses pandemics and is able to respond to the current Covid 19 situation.

The plan will be officially launched in January 2021 alongside a suite of training and resources, but we have made it available to download early due to the new lockdown restrictions.

You can download the plan template and appendices below:

[MDEM Emergency Plan Template](#)

[Appendix 1 - useful forms](#)

[Appendix 2 - Building Maintenance Checklist](#)

[Template Risk Assessment of Threats](#)

You can find all of our [Emergency Planning Resources on our website.](#)



Legislation Lindsay Irvine

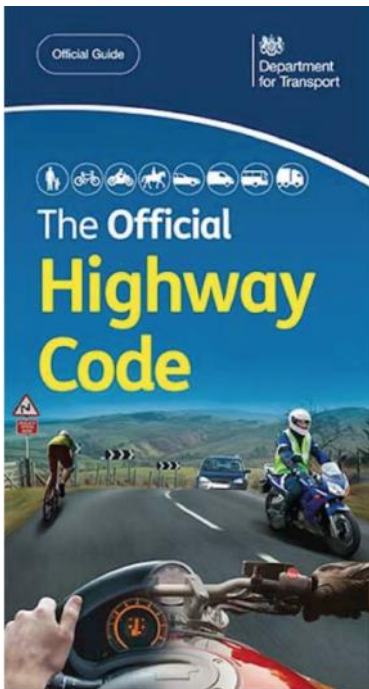
Department for Transport Consultations

In relation to a DfT initiative, the FBHVC is seeking to be a stakeholder on a review directed at the provision of large vehicle testing and also to obtain a longer exemption period from testing based on an acknowledged lack of capacity in the system due to the COVID shutdown of the testing centres.



Other consultations currently under scrutiny by the Federation are:

- a. Proposed changes in guidance in the Highway Code principally concerned with pedestrian, cycling and equestrian safety and:
- b. The use of Automated Lane Keeping System technology (ALKS) on motorways which will almost certainly involve legislation.



Whilst the Highway Code changes appear on the whole innocuous and coherent with a reprioritisation of safety emphasis, the ALKS proposals are more ‘ambitious’. Based on the introduction to the document they are clearly intended to be:

“[T]he UK has a unique opportunity to exploit the regulatory flexibilities that come with our position as an independent nation and we will explore how to use these flexibilities to build on our world class research base and open regulatory environment for automated vehicle technology.”

There are obvious concerns about how such technology which is intended to allow extended periods of ‘hands off driving’ will work and identified concerns will be applicable to all vehicles. The Committee will be alert and respond to issues which may be of particular significance to those driving historic vehicles on the major highways. One might immediately think that as a minimum automated vehicle sensors need to be able to sense, analyse and take action when faced with historic vehicles whose speed, lighting and even shape may differ from modern vehicles. Again, there are some lessons from the commercial air transport world which may bear rereading on man (woman) versus computer.

Isle of Wight Bus Museum

Here on the Island, we re-opened on Sunday August 9th, but with a very different feel. The museum has been reconfigured to give a one way system, sanitisation points installed, copious amounts of safety signage now adorn all areas and a safety screen placed at the shop/tea bar transaction area. Access to exhibits and buses has been severely restricted to avoid contact points. In addition, many of our front line volunteers are in the vulnerable or shielding category, fortunately new recruits came forward at the eleventh hour. Despite losing our two main running weekends and our monthly local Esplanade shuttles, visitor numbers for non event days of 3,603 for the 12 weeks, equated to a constant 70% of previous years totals. Above all, it has given us valuable experience of how to operate successfully in a Covid secure environment, whilst at the same time bringing in some welcome revenue. Let's hope we can actually start running buses again next year !



Member profiles

Member profiles are a feature of NewsLink and they provide an opportunity to let your fellow NARTM members know more about your activities. We need some more profiles for future editions so if you would like to do a profile please contact me. You can email me at bignell2057@gmail.com. The guidelines are about 7-800 words and a couple of relevant photos

Ray Bignell

NARTM Survey 2020

In the last edition of NewsLink I gave a report on the results of the survey into members activities in 2019. Those who participated will know that it is an on-line survey which only takes a few minutes to complete. Having said that you may need to have some information to hand before you start to respond e.g. we ask about the number of passengers carried on your free bus services, how many visitors you had.

Clearly the data for 2020 will reveal a dramatically different picture from earlier surveys with much lower levels of activity or indeed none at all. However, please do not think that it is therefore not necessary to complete the survey. We do need to understand and quantify just how much our activities have been curtailed by the virus and this survey gives us hard evidence to back up our perceptions. I have explained previously that NARTM is able to use the data in discussions with government bodies, the Charity Commission and insurance companies among others. It will be helpful to try and assess the economic impact of the virus on us in 2020. We will also try to include a section to identify any innovative ideas which member organisations have introduced to counteract the impact of the near shutdown.

For those who are interested in the mechanics of the survey it is set up and managed using Google Drive. The survey form is created within Google Drive and is easily linked to an email distribution list. It is also linked to a spreadsheet which is automatically populated by the responses. This avoids the tedium of typing in all the individual entries and it automatically sums the responses. A useful tool.

So, my plea is that when the survey is launched in January please do spend a few minutes to fill it in and help us collect quality data. Thank you.

Ray Bignell



A reminder of what we're missing - Lytham Hall 2018

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT MUSEUMS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Saturday 24th October 2020
Held by zoom as permitted under the Covid-19 regulations
commencing at 1300 hrs.

Members present:

In person:

MEMBER ORGANISATION

Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust
Aldershot & District Bus Interest Group
Cardiff & South Wales Trolleybus Project
City of Portsmouth Preserved Transport Depot
Colin Billington Collection
Friends of King Alfred Buses
Greater Manchester Transport Society

Leicester Transport Heritage Trust
Medstead Depot Omnibus Group
Midland Road Transport Group
National Tramway Museum
Ribble Vehicle Preservation Trust
Scottish Vintage Bus Museum Lathalmond
Southampton & Dist. Transport Heritage Trust
Stedham Garage Group
Swansea Bus Museum
Thames Valley & G.W. Omnibus Trust
The 500 Group
The Provincial Society
The Transport Museum Wythall
Working Omnibus Museum Project
Workington Transport Heritage Trust

DELEGATES

Ian Souter
Laurie Powell
Brian Maguire
(Laurie Powell – as above)
Colin Billington
James Freeman
Dennis Talbot
Dave Stubbins
Simon Gill
(Laurie Powell – as above)
John Peck
Malcolm Wright
Ray Bignell
(Ian Souter- see above)
(Laurie Powell – as above)
(Laurie Powell – as above)
John Adams
(Colin Billington – as above)
Bill Woodward
Gerry Tormey
(Simon Gill – as above)
(Laurie Powell – as above)
Alistair Grey

By Proxy:

MEMBER ORGANISATION

Aston Manor Road Transport Museum
Aycliffe & District Bus Preservation Society
Bounty Country Buses
British Trolleybus Society
Carmel Coaches Limited
Dennis Society
Devon General Omnibus Trust

Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust
Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum
Leyland Society
Mike Sutcliffe Collection
North West Museum of Road Transport
Oxford Bus Museum
Paul & Joyce Jefford Collection
Plymouth City Transport Preservation Group
Roger Burdett Collection

Apologies for absence:

Friends of Chatham Traction	Richard Bourne
West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust	Robert Crawley

1 Welcome and introductions

The Chairman welcomed 15 Delegates representing 22 Member Organisations to the zoom meeting. The Secretary had received proxies from a further 16 Member Organisations.

2 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from 2 Member Organisations

3 To accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th October 2019

It was proposed by Colin Billington, seconded by Simon Gill and resolved nem con that the minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 26th October 2019 be and they are hereby accepted.

4 Matters arising therefrom

There were no matters arising.

5 To receive and accept the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020

The Chairman made a statement to the meeting which is appended to these Minutes. It was proposed by Laurie Powell, seconded by Alistair Grey and resolved nem con to accept the Annual Accounts for the year ended 31st July 2020.

8 Election of Directors

It was proposed by James Freeman, seconded by Brian Maguire and resolved nem con that retiring directors Joyce Jefford, David Stubbins and Dennis Talbot be and they are hereby re-elected to the Board of Directors.

9 To consider any other competent business

None was raised.

There being no other business, the Annual General Meeting was closed at 1316 hrs.

Following the meeting, Ray Bignell gave an update on the Scoring and Grading Project, and reported that the emphasis was on the collection and maintenance of data as site visits were clearly out of the question at the moment.

Colin Billington reported on the current situation in relation to 10 year old tyres. Whilst the Regulations are yet to be published, it is expected that the exemption from the requirement to have tyres less than 10 years old on the steered axles of large vehicles will be aligned to the status of VHI and exemption from MOT testing.

NARTM Leaflet- whilst there were no plans to have a leaflet in 2021 in the current situation, discussions had been ongoing and it was likely that a future leaflet would be undated and would not contain details of members' events as these were available on web sites.

Ray Bignell pointed out that the recording of activities (and non-activity) was important in recording for the future the effect of the pandemic and he would be doing the survey again in January.

Clean Air Zones –Dennis Talbot reported that Greater Manchester had launched a new Clean Air Zone Consultation reconsulting and new submissions were being requested. The Transport Museum at Wythall had given up on the idea of operating into the Birmingham CAZ on a commercial basis as the Council there were refusing an exemption to their elderly vehicles. They were however considering whether to operate free bus services.

Dennis and Colin then showed a selection of photographs





Grading Survey: Database update

Although Covid-19 has derailed our plan to carry out the survey this year we are pressing ahead with the first stage which is to get up to date information on all vehicles in the collections of NARTM members. The database which is managed by Gerry Tormey contains over 9500 entries and is a vital source of information about preserved buses, trolleybuses and trams in the UK. It is important to keep it up to date and we all know that collections change over time with new buses entering preservation and others dropping out for various reasons.

The team who are working on the grading survey will have contacted you already (or soon will do) with a request to update the information on your collection. We're taking a flexible approach to obtaining the updates and it can be done with a pre-arranged phone call if this is more convenient. Please do respond to our request and help the team do the updates.

So, whether a bus looks like this



or like this

we still want to know about it.

Ray Bignell

Transport Museum Wythall – AEC Regent 486 Update

Following the publication of several articles over recent months, many including errors and misinformed comment, we thought it prudent to provide a formal update on the restoration of AEC Regent 486.

As has been well documented, 486 returned to Wythall following its extensive restoration back in late 2018. Our intent was to launch the vehicle in spring 2019 but a number of mechanical issues called a halt to our plans, so here we are over 18 months on. This is the latest picture..

Considering the derelict state of the whole vehicle when Ian Barrett's team took on the restoration, its return to Wythall was nothing short of a wondrous sight! It was immaculate, looking like it had just been delivered from Metro-Cammell in 1931. The superb craftsmanship of Ian's team and the finishing skills of Rob Handford, applied over hundreds of man hours, was a joy to behold. Every detail was returned to its original state. Along with the enviable abilities of signwriter Steve Evans and the efforts of a dedicated band of Wythall volunteers we saw the return of an icon in all its glory.

But the story didn't quite end there. The rebuild of the major mechanical units was contracted out to a third party with results that have disappointed all involved. Unfortunately, significant rectification work has been required since 486's return, to correct a number of major mistakes and frankly, very poor workmanship, the polar opposite of the work on the body, interior and trim. Most of this work is now coming to an end. It has cost us time and money, with the intrusion of Covid-19 putting a halt to the work for much of 2020.



BUT – we are nearly there! The plan is to rerun our launch programme for 486 in the second quarter of 2021. The demand for rides and visits to various events will no doubt provide plenty of opportunity to run-in this magnificent vehicle and allow many fans to take a ride and listen to the melodic sounds of its AEC petrol engine, a most pleasant alternative to our staple diet of diesels!

Denis Chick
28/09/2020

NARTM Around the Museums

Compiled by Dennis Talbot

A few items of interest gleaned from the newsletters and magazines of the NARTM members. Please keep sending them and if yours isn't quoted here, maybe that's because we don't receive a copy?

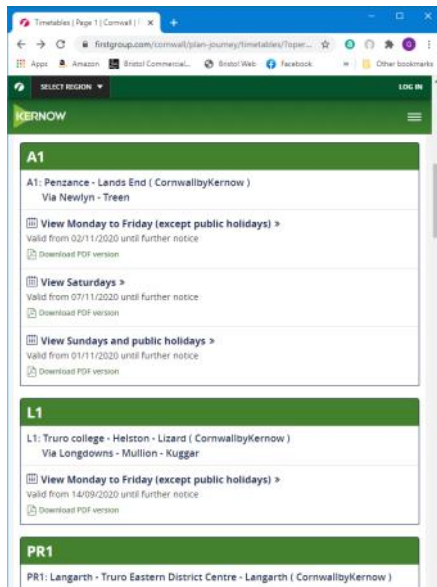


From the East Anglian Transport Museum Newsletter

Earlier in the year the magazine told us how many days trolley buses were operated in 2019. The latest edition notes that in 2020, Carlton Colville was the only place in the UK where you could ride on a trolleybus. The Museum has been open on two days a week since August 9th and has had some very busy days which is excellent news, even having to close temporarily when the site reached its agreed capacity under Covid secure restrictions. All the now familiar sanitisation stations, one way systems, Perspex barriers and extra signage were added to the site to make it compliant.

From 'To and Fro', the magazine of the Thames Valley and Great Western Omnibus Trust.

In the absence of the usual range of running days and events, vehicle restoration continues and also digital archiving of recent timetable changes which have been very frequent during the pandemic. Often these changes are not issued in printed form any longer, which makes digital archiving all the more important. In lieu of the very busy Kingsbridge Running Day, a return trip to Dartmouth, without passengers, was operated and can be viewed on Facebook.



From ‘Priory Press’, the magazine of the Friends of Ipswich Transport Museum

The Museum has obtained a grant to install 98 solar panels (PV) on the roof and now enjoys free electricity and can sell the surplus. After allowing volunteers back on site in August it was agreed to open to the public on 2 days a week from 20th September. There is also a request for members to take pictures of the work they have been doing each day so that more topical information can be posted on social media.

From ‘MTT News’, the magazine of the Merseyside Transport Trust

The restoration shed at Burscough reopened to volunteers in early July with all the familiar precautions in place and good progress is being made on vehicle restoration, hopefully we will see the results at their events in 2021.

From ‘Fare Stage’, the magazine of the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust

Having completed the purchase of Bridgeton Garage, the Trust is looking at how to develop and make best use of the premises. First steps are the installation of a new CCTV system and the replacement of 60 damaged glass roof panels. The Trust has a new website and is actively looking at fundraising opportunities.



Map of Transport Museums

The Dundee Museum of Transport, a NARTM member, has produced a map which shows the location of many transport museums in the UK and Ireland. The list includes road, rail and air museums but not preserved railways. Worth a look:- [Google Link](#)

From ‘Duplicate’, the magazine of the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum

The magazine celebrates its 100th edition, which is always a milestone. After months of confinement, the Museum staged a ‘Breakout’ in September and took 4 buses on a trip around the local Dunfermline area which the (socially distanced) members on board enjoyed. It is reported that many pictures were taken by the public along the route, despite little or no advanced publicity.

From the magazine of the Ribble Vehicle Preservation Group

The Ribble Group had also planned a ‘breakout’, in early October, and this time billed as a Cavalcade, with 15 vehicles and with some advance publicity. But before the day of the event it was called off in case the cavalcade attracted the attention of the public, which might have been seen as a gathering; sadly something to be avoided at present. A great idea, and let us hope it can take place before too long in 2021.

From the Albion Magazine

The Albion Club did succeed in holding ‘low key’ road run, with 24 vehicles – possibly the largest historic commercial vehicle event of the year? The magazine also looks back at previous Biggar Rallies, including several pictures of superbly restored Albions that are no longer with us. One that is still around is a very early ‘dog cart’, sold at auction in 2015 for £147,100!

From ‘Leicester Wheels’, the magazine of Leicester Transport Heritage Trust

In common with many other magazines, ‘Wheels’ reports good progress behind the scenes on restoration, whilst access was permitted to their restoration site. The Trust has also replaced its regular social meetings with Zoom calls which have proved very popular.

From the Newsletter of the Southampton and District Transport Heritage Trust

A year ago we were looking back at our enjoyable visit to the Trust’s headquarters at Bursledon Brickworks, which seems a world away now. In the meantime they too have been working on several vehicles and also on drainage and other ground works to their part of the site.

From ‘Wheels and Tracks’, the magazine of the Workington Transport Heritage Trust

With the help of Cumbria Community Fund, the Trust has received a £1,000 grant from Winscales Moor Windfarm Fund towards fitting solar panels on the education bus so that it has its own independent power supply when it is out at shows. They are costing the use of adhesive roof panels for the bus linked to a controller which will keep the main bus batteries charged as well as the separate “leisure” batteries for running lights and displays on the bus. This has now given them ideas to fit panels to the container for an independent supply for the office and yard– and possibly smaller ones to other buses to keep batteries topped up!

From ‘The Omnibus’, the magazine of the Transport Museum, Wythall

Another museum to open in early August, Wythall has also seen good visitor numbers and have also run free bus trips, with face coverings in place and hand sanitiser in use. This continued as planned until the end of October when as it happened, the second lockdown was announced.



Neath & Cardiff No.56 AEC Reliance at Swansea Bus Museum in October 2012 © Gerry Tormey

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF ROAD TRANSPORT MUSEUMS

- Chairman and Newslink Editor:** Dennis Talbot
9 Holmbrook, Tyldesley, Manchester M29 8XJ
Tel: 07395 574750 | Email: dennistalbot25@gmail.com
- Deputy Chairman:** Colin Billington
Ledger Farm, Forest Green Road, Fifield, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2NR
Tel: 01628 624111 | Email: colinbillington@helacol.com
- Secretary:** Dave Stubbins
'Brome', Green Lane, Flookburgh, Grange-over-Sands LA11 7JT
Tel: 07807 836591 | Email: stubbins.dr@btinternet.com
- Treasurer:** Mike Sutcliffe
213 Castle Hill Road, Totternhoe, Dunstable, Bedfordshire LU6 2DA
Tel: 01525 221676 | Email: sutcliffes@leylandman.co.uk
- Membership Secretary:** Ray Bignell
37 Hall Park, Lancaster LA1 4SH
Tel: 01524 61856 | Email: bignell2057@gmail.com
- Webmaster and Database Secretary:** Gerry Tormey
30 Wises Court, Mumby Road, Gosport, Hampshire PO12 1DD
Tel: 023 9236 3287 | Email: bristolsu@ntlworld.com
- NARTM Website:** www.nartm.org.uk



South Wales Transport No's 590 and 38 © John Adams