



FROM LEON DANIELS
CHAIRMAN

Dear Member

Your Council of Management met on 8 November and the Trustees met later that day. This note is a compilation of both meetings.

We were pleased to hear a positive update on the health of Trustee Owen Wright, who runs our workshop. We all look forward to his early return.

We celebrated the success of TransportFest 2023 with better than expected visitor numbers, a good vehicle turnout and amazing weather. We thanked Deryck Fill and his team for all their hard work. We also especially thanked Graham Lunn for his final year organising the traders – the culmination of over 40 years helping us.



We discussed plans for 2024. We agreed that it

is important that our three main events are distinctive and not repetitious. This year what set TransportFest apart was that our main traders' area was inside the Museum. This is financially attractive (no marquee to hire) but requires exceptional volunteer effort to extract and replace the vehicle exhibits.

We were all very keen to consider a 'Windrush' event in 2024. For the past two years we have welcomed a small number of retired London busmen from that era to the Museum and heard their stories. We asked our Events Committee to consider seriously a Windrush-themed event for summer 2024 to attract a much wider audience.

Your CoM was asked to consider the relevance of the immersive War Hall exhibit and its relevance in the modern day, especially considering current geopolitics. Advice from our Education professionals is that World War 2 remains a key element of history teaching within STEM and it was unanimously agreed it should continue.

Following the success of last year's pre-season Members' Day, it was agreed to combine it again with the AGM in 2024. Last year this delivered a very high AGM attendance and an enjoyable day. It will therefore take place on Saturday 9 March 2024, with bus rides in the afternoon.

D142 was the star guest at a major Alexander Dennis event at Farnborough International Conference Centre. The top UK bus industry people were there to hear about the future; we presented the past!

NS174 progresses well. It already has its bonnet and also upper deck seats. Amazing!



Meanwhile there is excellent progress on T448. The interior is ready to receive the seat frames and the engine overhaul is progressing well.

Your Museum remains in good financial health. As is best practice for charities we aim to spend only what we earn and maintain our reserves. This past year we have continued to finance the materials for the three restorations in hand (Horse Bus, T448 and NS174) although of course the labour is by volunteers with occasional external help. Insurance remains our largest major external expenditure.

T31 was repainted this year and we will continue to make sure our exhibits look good. A few new volunteers have made themselves available, including a few new young people, and we welcome you all.

Phil Palmer is the new manager of the Curatorial department He has succeeded Ray Thorn, who is stepping down for health reasons. Phil is already working on delivering the wonderful new display units built by Alan Gaskell on the mezzanine floor.

One of these display cabinets is reserved for members. If you have material hidden away that could be displayed please let us know!



Our Education team continues to do sterling work. Not only do we send buses to schools, but we also host school groups at the Museum. In conjunction with Brooklands Museum, as a new opportunity, we have run an occasional 'quiet hour' before our general 1000 opening. This is for those whose special needs mean they should avoid noise and unnecessary external stimulus. At the other end of the day, we have also now hosted a 'twilight event'.

Back in the terrible days of the pandemic and when the Museum was closed we took our collection out to the people. This has morphed into three Heritage Bus operation days a year. These remain hugely popular and are supported by TfL. In 2024 we plan to support the 100th anniversary of Barking Garage by running on routes 62 and 145 on 23 March and route 406 on 9 June. There is one more to come but the date is not yet confirmed.

Members would want to know that our official Facebook site is down. Believe it or not, Facebook removed it as they thought it was an imposter. There are other LBM sites, all of which have kindly ensured they are branded as 'unofficial'. We hope to restore our official one soon.

We were delighted to welcome Aaliah Haq as our new Trustee from September 2023. She was Head of IT at the London Transport Museum but now works at KPMG. We had identified that our whole IT arrangements were very poor and her skills will be of enormous help supporting David Harman, our volunteer who leads in this area.



It was decided that we must move forward in our IT area to ensure compliance with the law. Good IT arrangements also mean that our volunteers can work more efficiently. That being said, we are determined that anyone without an interest in or access to IT is not disadvantaged or excluded from what we do.

We were delighted to note that Elizabeth McKay had been appointed Curator and CEO of the London Transport Museum, succeeding Sam Mullins after 34 years. We have close working relationships with LTM and look forward to working with Elizabeth in the future.

At the same time we were sad to see the departure of Tamalie Newbery as CEO of Brooklands Museum. She arrived in 2018, successfully steered the Museum through the COVID troubles and made significant progress in making Brooklands an attractive destination. We look forward to a continued good relationship with her successor, Alex Patterson.

The Charity Commission recently wrote to us encouraging us to review and update our Museum policies. Your Trustees commissioned Anna Whitty MBE, the former CEO of Ealing Community Transport, to undertake an independent review. As the retired CEO of a transport charity, she was well placed to bring forward recommendations which are now being implemented.

As you will be aware compliance across a whole range of issues applies whether organisations are large or small, commercial or voluntary; your Trustees must ensure we remain totally compliant.

As you can see a very busy year for the Museum and an even busier one for 2024. My personal thanks for your support. We now have over 1000 members!

Very soon we enter the Christmas period. Our volunteers have their Christmas lunch soon and then we also have our Members' New Year event at Silvermere on 14 January. You are welcome to join us then for an excellent Sunday roast buffet. Simon Douglas Lane as ever is the organiser and he will welcome your booking at the amazing price of £31.

With best wishes



LEON DANIELS OBE

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