



Memories of Finchley garage



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: LEON DANIELS

Vintage vehicles were again in evidence on the streets of north London on Sunday 19 November, the second running day of that month. This time we recalled 30 years since the closure of Finchley garage. Vehicles operated on routes 13, 125, 134, 221 and 263 and donations collected on board were given to the [BBC Children in Need Appeal](#).



PHOTO CREDIT: NIGEL EADON-CLARKE



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): EDITOR

PHOTO CREDIT: LEON DANIELS



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): FRASER PATTERSON

[View album](#)



PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): ARIEL LEWIS

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (RIGHT): FRASER PATTERSON



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND RIGHT): FRASER PATTERSON



PHOTO CREDIT: ARIEL LEWIS



PHOTO CREDIT: FRASER PATTERSON

Ensignbus running day

There was much on offer for the London bus enthusiast on a rather chilly 2 December, the annual Ensignbus running day. The Museum sent RT 4779 for route X55, crewed by Peter Osborn, Robin Helliar-Symons, Dan Ivanovs and your editor, who must remember to order a winter uniform for next time!



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: EDITOR

Thanks to Nigel Eadon-Clarke for sharing his album of photos from the day.

[View album](#)

Ensignbus running day



PHOTOS (ABOVE AND ABOVE RIGHT: EDITOR

RT 4779 crosses the QEII Bridge



ALL OTHER PHOTOS: PHIL HAMBLING

Ensignbus

Right: **RT 1499**. Both surviving Craven-bodied RTs are in the care of Ensignbus. Have a look in the Museum shop, **Shillibeer Place**, for the newly-released Craven RT EFE Road models.



ALL PHOTOS: PHIL HAMBLING

LBM Volunteers' Christmas lunch

Sharon Burton

The Catering team laid on a feast for our wonderful volunteers on 13 December.

It all went well and we, the team, are so grateful to the rest of the volunteers who cleared the workshop, cleaned the floor, set up a long drinks 'bar' and the urns, put up tables, covered them, laid them up, fetched the chairs from all over the place, did everything the catering team asked, cheerfully and promptly, and generally made themselves useful. They worked hard and then did it all in reverse afterwards!

They certainly deserved to be well fed!

PHOTO CREDIT: LORRAINE GRAY



This year's Catering team consisted of Yvette Gower, Simon Douglas Lane, Sharon Burton, Margaret Thorn, Dawn Stagg, Lorraine Gray, Rachel DeWilde and Ruqia Ahmed. They planned, shopped, cooked, set up and cleared up with cheerfulness and great teamwork. Thanks to them all.

To help the event go with a swing, we had music and lights provided by Ian Jackson. At times the canteen resounded with the singing of Christmas hits!

Thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make it a great event.



PHOTO CREDIT: RACHEL DEWILDE

Q&A with Sue Pottle, Volunteer Steward

How did you start volunteering at the LBM and what do you enjoy most about it?

I began volunteering in March this year and try to do one or two Saturdays a month. I love the overall atmosphere of nostalgia, the peculiar smell of the old vehicles, and the infectious enthusiasm of all the volunteers I work with. I also really enjoy chatting with many of our older visitors as they are transported back in time by the exhibits.

What's your favourite bus and why?

The Guy Special – the front of it is just so cute! I love its lines, its indicator “ears” and the details on the bonnet, with its eye-catching Indian head. Best of all, it would make a fantastic camper (though I know some will frown at such a sacrilegious thought)!

Tell us about your hobbies.

My main hobbies are dancing (ballroom, Latin and jive), reading, walking and cycling, but since lockdown, making vintage-style crochet blankets has become something of an obsession – I pick up hook and yarn at every opportunity!

Your favourite film, TV show and book?

Gosh, it's hard to choose! Film: probably *Dirty Dancing* as it's the one I return to most often. TV show: I've never had a TV, but do enjoy a good box set, in particular the *Chicago Fire/PD/Med* franchise. Book: *The Five People You Meet in Heaven* by Mitch Albom.

If you could travel back in time, what time period would you travel back to and why?

If I had to spend time in a different era, it would have to be the 1950s. I love the rock and roll and country music of that time, as well as the elegant fashions – although I'd definitely have trouble with the domestic goddess side of things!

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



Free events for Museum members

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



Routes 62 & 145 Heritage Bus Day

Spring Gathering

Route 406 Heritage Bus Day

23 March 2024

14 April 2024

9 June 2024

Join us for a nostalgic ride along routes 62 and 145 with free vintage buses running throughout the day.

Our annual transport curtain-raiser kicks off the 2024 rally season with a range of vehicles, rides, stalls and fun.

Save the date for our second running day, with free vintage buses running between Kingston and Epsom.

[View more >](#)

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Summer Festival

Route 61 Heritage Bus Day

TransportFest

23 June 2024

14 September 2024

20 October 2024

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

On our final running day of the year, vintage vehicles will run between Bromley and Chislehurst via Orpington.

Save the date for next year's autumn extravaganza with a dazzling range of vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls and food.

[View more >](#)

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Christmas day and the enduring popularity of the London bus

Peter Osborn

London's unique Christmas Day bus service, the RT-operated 430 free service between Roehampton and Putney Bridge, has become a regular feature and is now drawing repeat passengers from the local area. Several told us that they now come out every year. The two buses, RT 2043 and RT 4779, struggled to meet demand, running full at the middle part of the day, as young and old came out to demonstrate the enduring popularity of the London bus.

One of our passengers was a former driver at Putney garage who trained at Chiswick in 1958 and worked at the garage until 1993. He still shakes his head at the ostracism shown by older drivers towards the West Indian recruits of the period, who initially worked only as conductors.



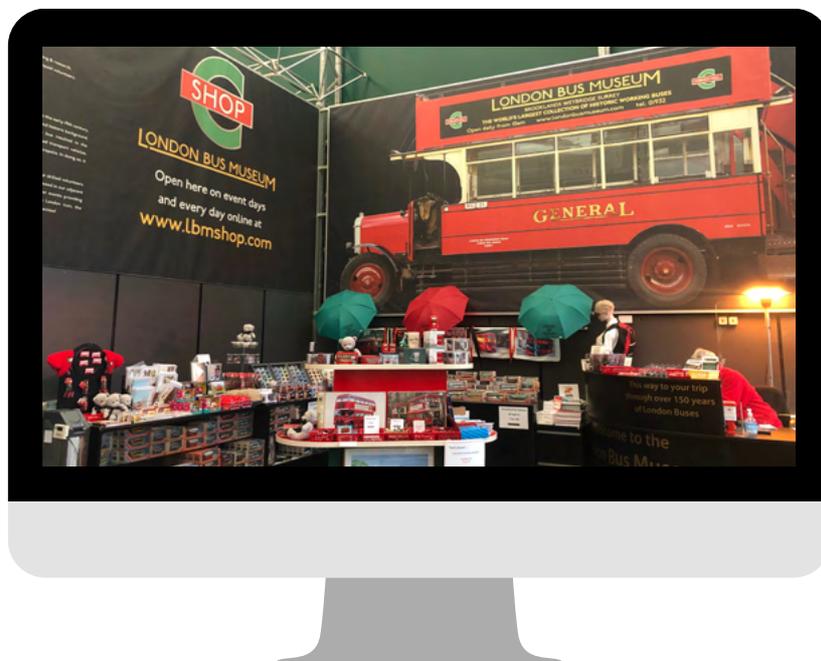
PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE, LEFT AND BELOW: TIM EVANS



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER OSBORN

Spend all your Christmas money at Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



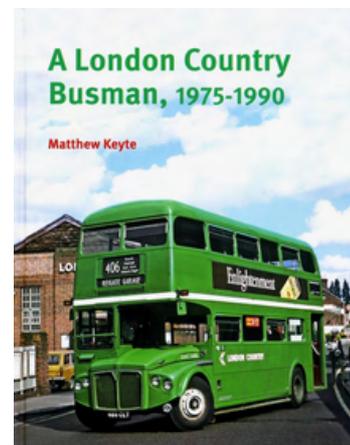
RT 3062 model

This 1:43 scale model will look great on any bus enthusiast's shelf.



EFE Craven RT model

The much-anticipated Craven RT has finally arrived!



A London Country Busman

Read a [review](#) of this new book in the Winter 2023 LBM Magazine

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

In store only

The Craven RTs retail at £44.95, but we are selling them at the discounted rate of £39.95!
Please note there is no additional Members' discount for these items.

SAVE THE DATE: OUR MEMBERS' DAY & AGM

Saturday 9 March
11am

Vickers Suite,
Brooklands Museum

Lunch will be
provided.

Further details on
the [LBM website](#).



New drivers always welcome

Mark Rowell gave a special guest a lift to the Museum as part of our preparations for Christmas, much to the surprise of the man on duty at the Campbell Gate. We're waiting to hear back from the driver training team as to whether Santa has passed his test and is now qualified as an approved LBM driver. Yes, North Pole Road is a real destination!

ALL PHOTOS: MARK ROWELL



The festive look of the Museum is thanks to the Monday Stewarding and Cleaning teams: Lesley Branch, Sharon Burton, Jim Eades, Deryck Fill, Andy Gray, Lorraine Gray, Graham Hayward, Ian Reddick, Mark Rowell, Danny Stephen and Martin Watkins.

Restoration comedy



PHOTO CREDIT: YVETTE GOWER

John Hutchinson (inside bus) was clearly enjoying working on the restoration of **NS 174**, ably assisted by Roger Shaw (in cap) and Nigel Gower.

From the Editor

The closing months of the year have provided much of interest for the London bus enthusiast! I've been notified that November's two north London running days raised an impressive total of over £3000 for the nominated charities.

To view past editions, please visit the members' section of the website and log in on [this page](#). Then visit www.londonbusmuseum.com/members/e-news/ to view all editions.

Thanks to Peter Brown, Sharon Burton, Leon Daniels, Rachel DeWilde, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Tim Evans, Yvette Gower, Lorraine Gray, Phil Hambling, Ariel Lewis, Trevor Muir, Peter Osborn, Fraser Patterson, Sue Pottle and Mark Rowell for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition; and to all who have contributed to E-news over the past year. All contributions are gratefully received and much appreciated.

Please email me any content for inclusion in the next edition.

May I wish all Members and Volunteers a very happy new year.

Richard

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Keep up-to-date with all forthcoming events by checking our [website](#).

Left: a vintage LBM event poster from our archives

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

THE LONDON BUS PRESERVATION GROUP PRESENTS

THE THIRD BUS OF YESTERYEAR RALLY

SUNDAY 21st MAY
AT PHEONIX ROAD PARK, SOMERS TOWN
(NEXT TO ST. PANCRAS STATION)
FIVE MINUTES WALK FROM KINGS CROSS STATION. BUSES 14.30, 46.73, 214
OPEN 11am-5pm ADMISSION: 30p (CHILDREN 10p)
FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT, LBP.G 17 AIR ST. LONDON W1 01-437 8225 OR 01-997 9173

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