The WAYBILL

The E-Newsletter for COBHAM BUS MUSEUM Members

The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd Reg'd Charity 1053383 Reg'd Company 1061762

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New Dawn, New World, New Building

As you can see our new building is progressing well and perhaps ahead of schedule; A few days later the special PVC covering was on and the concrete flooring was not far away. These pictures were taken in mid January, but don't expect our buses to arrive immediately as there will be much fitting out to be done, i.e. running the electrical supplies throughout the building , plumbing etc, then all the spares and display items will have to be transported from Redhill Road, unpacked and placed in position.

RF 60 Spring Gathering, Sunday 10th April, Dunsfold Aerodrome

Celebrating the 60th anniversary of the introduction into service of the iconic RF family.

Volunteers to help at this event are needed; you'll get free entry, plus a refreshment voucher, so if you can spare some time, please contact John Shirley, the event manager, at john@shir.fsnet.co.uk

ACQUISITION FUND GETS OFF TO A FLYING START

The new Acquisition Fund has started well. Launched in the latest Cobham Magazine, contributions have already started to roll in.

Fundraising Trustee, Michael Wickham told *Waybill,* "There's been an excellent initial response but this is just the start. We need as many Cobham members as possible to support the Fund if the museum is to be able to build up sufficient reserves to acquire those superb London buses, which are the missing links in our Collection, but are expected to become available in the coming years."

Michael told us that by making monthly payments, Fund supporters can spread their contributions and, hopefully, this will be less painful in these tough economic times. That's not to say that lump sums are not welcome as well!

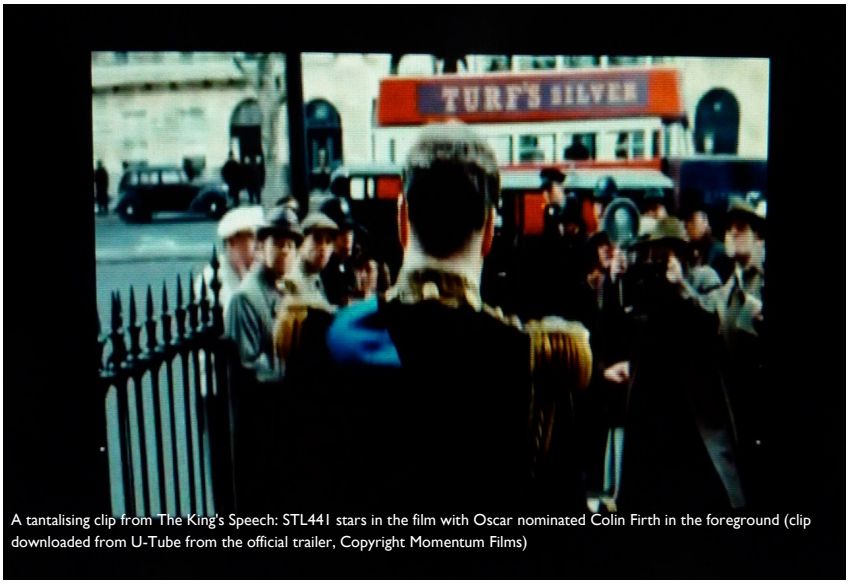
So come on, let's all support the Fund.

An Acquisition Fund form was sent out with the latest magazine, but if you need another copy one can be sent, just email:

mpf.wickham@btinternet.com

or write to him, c/o Cobham Bus Museum, Redhill Road, Cobham, Surrey KT11 1EF.

THE MOST SEEN LONDON BUS…..AND IT'S OURS!!!



A tantalising clip from The King's Speech: STL441 stars in the film with Oscar nominated Colin Firth in the foreground (clip downloaded from U-Tube from the official trailer, Copyright Momentum Films)

The King's Speech ruled at the Baftas, winning seven awards including best film and best actor for Colin Firth.

.....but in our view, Cobham's STL441 is the *REAL* star of the film

Members are probably aware of the current uproar over this amazing new film, the moving true story of King George VI's struggle to overcome his problems with public speaking, aided by unorthodox Australian speech therapist, Lionel Logue, played by Geoffrey Rush.

What you may not know is that you'll see STL441 appearing alongside celebrated actor Colin Firth, who plays the king, in Momentum Film's award-winning new blockbuster.

This makes STL441 probably the most publicized historic London bus ever (perhaps any London bus), with every major television channel around the world - and the social media, Facebook, You-Tube and Twitter - endlessly repeating the clip showing King George VI leaving his house, (actual film location, 33 Portland Place, with Cobham London Bus Museum's wonderful 77 year-old warrior, STL441, pulled up just outside.

The still frame you see above, one of the two takes in the film itself, was shot over a year ago, back on 21st November 2009, indicating just how long it takes to put together a historical epic like this. We provided STL441 for the one day location shoot in central London outside 33 Portland Place, which meant leaving Redhill Road at 0515 in the morning, to be on the film set at 0645 sharp.

Curatorial trustee David Kinnear, with regular member Derek Upson our ex-LT Chiswick driving instructor, drove STL441 for the film company, with both listening to instructions of when to stop, pick up passengers and go, being given throughout the day via two way radio; actually quite a demanding task.

As well as for historic authenticity (it was 1936), the film director also had the idea to use STL441 to mask off any modern traffic and street furniture not around in 1936, like CCTV cameras and parking meters.

David said, 'It was a dismal day, pouring with rain most of the time, a feature of the weather that Sunday. In spite of this, the film crew did not stop so that we had to do many 'takes' reversing up and down Portland Place in quite heavy traffic. All this resulted in just four seconds showing in the actual film. Some time later, after the shoot, I was disappointed to be told that we would probably 'end up on the cutting room floor', so it was an exciting surprise to see that our hard work had actually got STL441 into the film!'

If you haven't yet seen the Kings Speech, it's a fantastic, very moving film and you'll see why it and Colin Firth have been nominated for so many awards.

This film is highly recommended, so give yourself a treat on the next wet afternoon with a visit to the cinema, you won't be disappointed.

A limited offer, with limited stocks, for a limited time

Model shown here depicts route 83a, but other versions are available

Here's your opportunity to purchase STD 64, code 3 model, in wartime livery, while limited stocks are available, in alternative routes of 13, 83a (as illustrated) and 183.

Priced at £30, plus £3:50 post and packing, (£2:50 Subsequent models), stocks are extremely limited, so to buy the model of your choice please email: richardjones290@btinernet.com or call, 01784 242669.

HELP, please do you know where we can obtain ?

The UMP 227 team is short of a pair of budget locks for one battery compartment door. We need the small size (82mm long x 22mm wide, with operating spindle centred 27mm from one end); one of each hand. We have searched all of the stock in our stores (currently being sorted) and find that they're all the larger type. If anyone can help, please contact the UMP team leader, Peter Smith, on 0118 934 0604.

Farewell Redhill Road

Visitors to our last ever event at Redhill Road will have seen member, Peter Zabek, taking specially staged professional shots of vehicles in the yard at the back of the building, and many of these are available for purchase.
Peter's work is well known for it's quality, as he has photographed many of the vehicles in our collection over the years, and subsequently these have been published in our magazine and website, plus this e-newsletter (see below) and in the enthusiast's press, so if you would like to purchase any copies of his shots, please email him at, Zabfox@tiscali.co.uk

Text and Cobham photos: David Kinnear: *Chancery Lane location photos: Peter Zabek*

STL441 stars again! The Deep Blue Sea

More pictures from a film location - STL441 stars with glamorous 1971 actress Rachel Weisz, Tom Hiddleston and Olivier Award-winning actor Simon Russell Beale.

Based on the Terence Rattigan play of the same name screenwriter Terence Davies' film, "The Deep Blue Sea" is a story of a privileged housewife in 1950s London society who leaves her unexciting lawyer husband for a young ex-RAF pilot. The shoot was conducted outside legal outfitters Ede & Ravenscroft just behind Fleet street - it has been many a year since buses went that way down Chancery Lane! After the shoot, having been "wrapped" at about 1445hrs we did our own "unofficial" Xmas lights tour, trundling along the Aldwych and The Strand, weaving in and out between the service buses, some drivers acknowledging the old warrior as we went by with a cheery thumbs up and a smile. Brilliant. The historic 77-year old bus knew seemed to know where she was going as we rounded Trafalgar Square then up Regent Street, with that distinctive soprano sing-song from the preselector gearbox, accompanied by endless flashing cameras as we went by, some snappers stepping in front of us to acquire a good picture as this time-warp ancient vehicle trundled past. Whenever we stopped, Graham Bartlett and Roger Shaw gave out Cobham leaflets to interested members of the public, an encouraging sign for our new museum.

He's well upholstered

Member Steve Bigg, is well known for his upholstery skills and recently he has helped the London Transport Museum with repairs to the soft furnishings of two vehicles in their collection. Their LT and TF had suffered some damage to their seats, so Steve's skills were brought into action and five hours later repairs had been completed to these venerable old buses. The next time you're looking at these fine specimens of LT history, remember that Cobham, through Steve, has helped keep them in fine fettle.

Bus events in 2011.

Sat 9th April: M&D Centenary Event at Kent Showground, Detling
Sun17th April: East Grinstead Running Day (CBR)

Sun 1st May 2011 HCVS London > Brighton Run

Sun 15th May: Sevenoaks Running Day (CBR)

Sun 22nd May: Slough Running Day* (A&D) [* date to be confirmed with Slough Borough Council]

Sun 5th June: Hertford & Stevenage Running Day (CBR)

Sun 26th June Uxbridge Running Day (A&D)

Sat 2nd July Potters Bar Garage Running Day (Metroline)

Sunday 3rd July North Weald Bus Rally

Sunday 17th July Alton Bus Rally & Running Day

Sunday 7th August Eastbourne Running Day (CBR)

Sunday 21st August Hemel Hempstead Running Day (A&D)

Sunday 4th September: Oxted Running Day (CBR)
Sunday 18th September: Showbus at Duxford

Sunday 2nd October: Amersham Running Day (A&D)

CBR = Country Bus Rallies,

A&D = Amersham & District Motorbus Society

Please note, that the forgoing list has been collated from published information and you should always check with the respective organiser for the latest information.

The LBPT does not accept responsibility for any errors, or omissions.

OUR BUSES ON THE ROAD

The Museum's trustees are aware that the operation of our buses has been somewhat uncoordinated of late and that Members have not been kept regularly informed of where our vehicles will be making appearances. At the same time, there has been concern that some of the buses have been simply used too often, which has led to overwhelming pressure on our engineering team, expensive repairs and vehicles off the road for long periods of time.

Your trustees are very mindful of their legal and moral obligations as custodians of these precious historical artefacts and in an effort to strike the right balance (never an easy thing) between maintaining Cobham's reputation as a working museum on the one hand and preventing over use of the buses on the other, the trustees have unanimously agreed a policy that will come into effect immediately.

An Operations team has been created, led by John Shirley, which will be the central (and only) point to which all requests for vehicle usage are directed, for the necessary approvals and completion of all administrative matters relating to each operation. The Team will also be responsible for keeping members informed of vehicle appearances.

Briefly, the permitted uses for Cobham vehicles are:

Attending shows, rallies and running days where it is judged that the museum will receive favourable publicity and/or where the organisers are in turn supporters of Cobham's own events and/or where our members can have the opportunity to see and ride on their buses.

Supporting local community and educational events in furtherance of the museum's charitable objectives .

For fundraising purposes such as, of course, our own events together with use for the making of period films and TV programmes and a small number of revenue-earning trips for members, e.g. the popular Isle of Wight excursion. For the avoidance of doubt, we will no longer provide buses for private hire (e.g. weddings) as this is not felt to be an appropriate activity for museum artefacts. (If suitable arrangements can be made in the future, including the acquisition of a suitable bus, this activity could be considered by the museum's trading company, CBML, in due course.)

The Operations Team will report directly to Chairman, Peter Duplock, who told *Waybills*,"We really do hope that the new arrangements will be beneficial for all and will ensure a balance between protecting our priceless artefacts and maintaining our reputation for being much more than just a static museum." He added "I also need to appeal for members' understanding in the coming months until the new building has opened in the Summer, as it's all hands to the pump in support of the move and there are going to be very few opportunities for our buses to go out on the road. Spring Gathering in April excepted, of course."

Above: **ACTION DAY at BROOKLANDS:** A keen future Cobham recruit is enthusiastically photographed by a yummy mummy; loads of visitors, mostly kids, mums, dads and grandparents, were fascinated to ride on this 53 years-old jewel of Cobham's collection. A great day out for all the family, hosted by Brooklands with our help. (Photo: David Kinnear)

Your Museum needs you

We are behind with preparing for the move from Redhill Road to Brooklands. If you can please come any Wednesday from 08:00ish onwards, the regular Wednesday helpers need your help. Not only packing artifacts; but vehicles have to be prepared for the journey to Brooklands. Just turn up (in old clothing as you will get dirty) and help.
Contact Gerry Job or Roger Stagg for more information, thank you for any assistance.

GS34 Back on the Road.

Alas the clutch went, plus the Starter motor ring chewed the flywheel teeth creating major problems. but thanks to Graham Bartlett and Roger Shaw, GS 34 is now back on the road.
Having dropped the prop shaft, removed the gearbox and clutch linkage, then replaced all parts as required (some from our own stores), it works and is back on the road.
So chaps can we suggest your first job when we get to Brooklands is TD95, which needs a new clutch. We wonder what their response might be!

News in Brief

RML3 and RTL 139 both had head gaskets leaks in the summer, which gave Paul Morris Engineering / Maintenance Trustee a few headaches, as in the case of the RTL, he was having to deal with a repair carried out by a previous owner.
Many hours and a few weekends have got both vehicles back on the road, so well done Paul and thanks to Debbie, his wife, for her patience.

Nearly there

Now it's really beginning to take shape, with the Cobham logo and glazing yet to be added.

This shot was taken by Peter Zabek, just five weeks after the picture on page one

The WAYBILL

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