



## Route 406 Heritage Day



PHOTO CREDIT: JOHN BATH

Vast numbers turned out to support our Route 406 Heritage Day on 9 June and witness the stirring sight of vintage buses crossing Epsom Downs. **RF 19** acted as the Museum's static hub at Epsom Clock Tower, where our pop-up shop raised over £800. Huge thanks to our volunteer organisers and crews for bringing the Museum to the people. See p. 13 for **Graham Smith's** memories of **RM 2**.

[View album 1 >](#)

[View album 2 >](#)

# Route 406



ALL OTHER PHOTOS: EDITOR



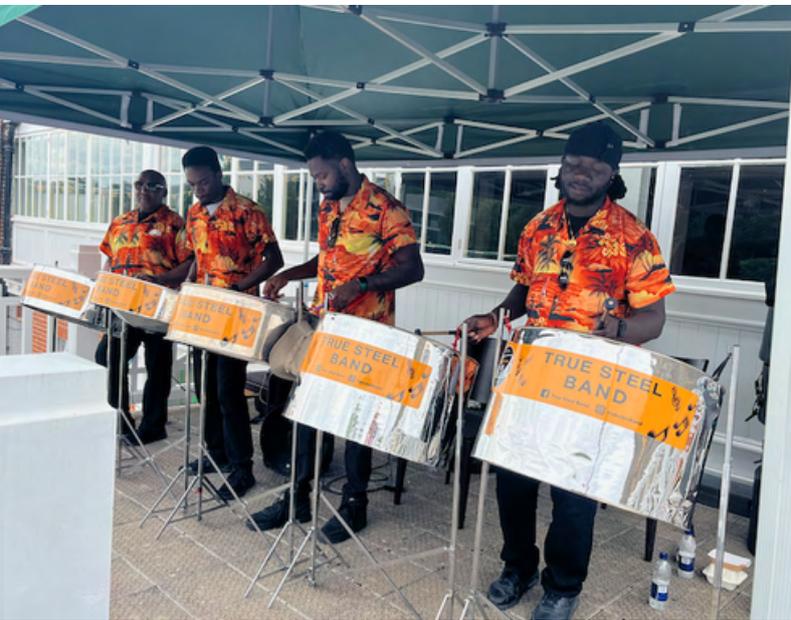
# Summer Festival

The sun shone down on our spectacular Windrush-themed Summer Festival on 23 June. Enormous thanks to Deryck Fill and all our volunteers for another hugely enjoyable day.

[View album >](#)

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT, BELOW LEFT AND BELOW RIGHT): EDITOR

PHOTO CREDIT (BOTTOM): IAN JACKSON



# Summer Festival

Leon Daniels

In Redhill Road days STL 2692 was a resident. Every weekend her owner **Colin Wickens** brought his family to help. His wife **Wyn** actually served refreshments from the mobile canteen, as well as looking after us all, while their daughter **Melanie** loved being around the buses when she was a little girl.

Colin sadly died last year but at Summer Festival Wyn and Mel (now a wife and mother) came to Brooklands for the first time. Here they are (right) reunited with **Simon Douglas Lane** after 33 years (and me!).



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND RIGHT): EDITOR



The Vintage Mobile Cinema was a huge hit with visitors to Summer Festival. Lovingly restored, it is the only survivor of seven vehicles custom built for the Ministry of Technology in the late 1960s, to promote British industry. During the day, visitors on board were treated to a film about her restoration, plus some historic Pathé footage of the arrival of the Windrush Generation.

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): EDITOR



## Introducing XF 3

As reported in May's LBM Magazine, XF 3 has been donated to the Museum by **Gary Wood**. She has just arrived at the Museum and will soon go on display.

XF 3 was first registered to LT on 3 September 1965 and entered service from East Grinstead garage. She was finally withdrawn in December 1981 and was the last former LT vehicle to operate with London Country.

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



# High Wycombe running day

RT 3491 represented the Museum on 2 June, crewed by Simon Douglas Lane and Graham Hayward.



ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR

# High Wycombe



# Air Cadets visit

The Cadets of the 862 Sunbury Squadron visited the Museum on 6 June, hosted by their Chaplain, the Reverend **Simon Douglas Lane**. Following a tour of the Museum, the Cadets heard a presentation from Concorde pilot and Brooklands Trustee **Mike Bannister** and enjoyed a ride on **Simon's bus, RT 3491**.

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



## Behind the scenes at the BYD bus launch

In this new video, our Chairman **Leon Daniels** takes us behind the scenes at last month's exciting launch of the brand new all-electric BYD BD11 bus, which was held at the Museum.



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

## LBM buses out and about

Bob Bailey and Grahame Bath took RT 4779 to visit the pupils at Hampton Wick Nursery and Infant School on 19 April.



RML 2760 joined in the fun at [Celebrate Chessington](#) during half term week on 30 May.

# Horse Bus restoration

*Alan Gaskell*

Progress of the work on the four-light horse bus has not been as rapid as I would have liked. Moving on from my last report in June 2023, I have now applied the new waterproofing liquid rubber layer over the ceiling boarding and fixed the upper deck flooring and new slats using Douglas Fir. Work then came to a temporary halt whilst I manufactured and installed the new display cabinets etc on the mezzanine floor.

Cabinets completed, I have now continued with the restoration, dismantling the stair as this needed repair, and completely rebuilding the part-rotted platform which had received piecemeal repairs in the past. The stair strings have been replaced as they were too dented to panel beat flat, and in the process a tread and riser were replaced, all the joints tightened and additional fixings added. The construction of the stair was then so rigid that it took some time to refit it in its original position! The stair handrails have been fitted, needing slight realignment to follow the curve of the stair and meet the top handrails correctly.



The start of fitting upper deck sides



Platform rebuilt and ready for stairs



Stair under repair with one new string fitted



New floor and slats

## *Horse Bus (continued)*

The side panels for the upper deck have all been replaced in oak, as the previous ones were a complete visual and construction mismatch and did not align, I think due to some accident damage over the last 135 years! New advertising signs will be made, held in place with oak beading. By the time you read this, the panels and (hopefully) the handrails should be in place. The driver has a new seat with leather cushion, courtesy of an excellent leatherworker, Rose Knutton, all the upper deck seats have been stripped of paint and repairs have begun to ensure that all seat slats match in profile and are splinter free.

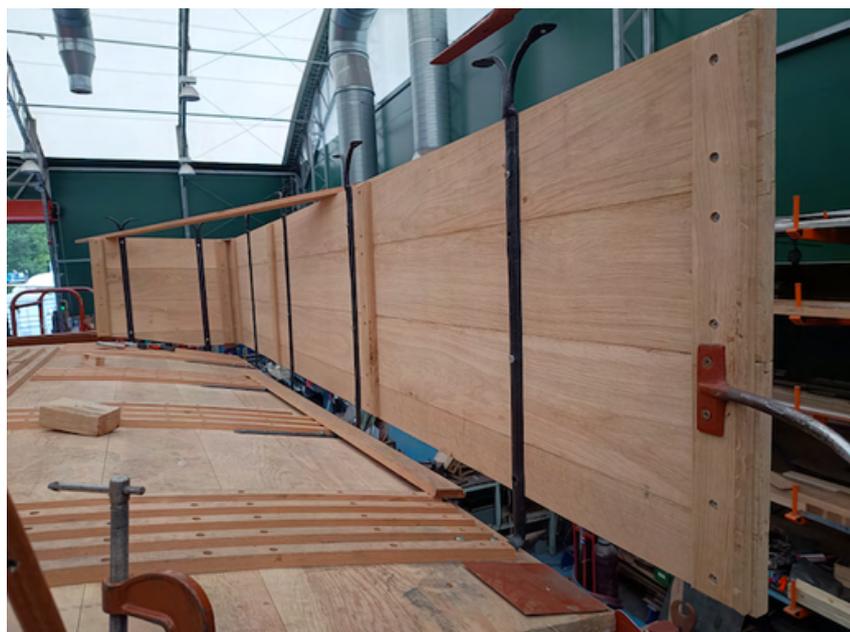
The front wheels have completely different cambers. We will be having the nearside axle realigned so they match. Also, the nearside front wheel does not align with the rear wheel, which is a bit of a conundrum. Amazingly, the two front wheels are also different in diameter and detail, and the leaf springs need retempering to stiffen the ride, which might allow us to resolve the level of the body which tips forward by several inches. So, a lot of undercarriage to sort out in due course! It seems clear that previous undercarriage repairs made use of what was to hand as long as the horse bus could be kept on the road!



Above: Stair and handrail fitted



Upper deck seats paint-stripped and prepared for replacement timber



New upper deck sides fitted ready for top handrails

# Congratulations, Alan Gaskell

Alan Gaskell was granted freedom of the Worshipful Company of Carmen on 29 May.

Alan trained and practised as an architect and ran a successful long-standing firm of up to 50 people in London for 30 years, designing a large variety of commercial developments nationwide.

Alan was keen to join the Carmen, adding to his post-retirement involvement in transport, which was his father's life-blood. Alan's active role at the Museum (see above!) enables him to support the charitable activities of the Company.



PHOTO CREDIT  
(LEFT AND RIGHT);  
LEON DANIELS



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND  
LEFT): EDITOR



LBM vehicles receive their 'branding' at the annual Cartmarking ceremony organised by the Carmen: RT1 (left) in 2019 and RLH 48 (above) in 2021.

# Free events for Museum members

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



## Route 61 Heritage Bus Day

14 September

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

[View more >](#)

## TransportFest

20 October

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

[View more >](#)

## The elusive RM 2 *Graham Smith*

In its real days on the 406, RM 2 was quite elusive for us bus spotters and, of course, it was only on the route in 1957 from 20 May to 7 August. It was not a reliable performer, so the chances of seeing it running in service were not great. There was only word of mouth - no smart phones with instant data showing the whereabouts of buses to routes. One took the chance.

With the start of the school summer holidays, I took the chance and ventured to Kingston via a 607 trolleybus to Ealing Broadway and an RT on the 65. I couldn't believe my eyes on arriving at the destination to see a gleaming green Routemaster blinded for the 406 and laying over next to the railway station.



PHOTO CREDIT: GRAHAM SMITH

I hurried across to see it at close quarters and noticed the bus was empty, with its crew probably having a cuppa in the station café. Very bravely, or so I thought, I went and stood briefly on the platform, never dreaming for a moment that, some 67 years later, I would not only be aboard the same bus, but also would be its conductor. Magic!

# What's in Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



Coming soon!



These four new models produced by Bachmann UK in celebration of RM 70 will soon be available for purchase from Shillibeer Place, while stocks last!

# RM 70 celebrations



BOTH PHOTOS: EDITOR

Come and see us at Chiswick from 21 to 22 July when we hope to bring **RML 3** and **RML 2760** to the celebrations. Full details are on the [Routemaster Association](http://www.routemasterassociation.co.uk) website.



# From the Editor

As if there was ever any doubt, this past month proved that the public love vintage (and not so vintage) buses! As reported, our route 406 Heritage Day attracted record numbers of passengers. Almost 1,500 people came to see us at Summer Festival, made possible by the efforts of over 80 volunteers, during the months of planning and on the day itself. Both events were truly impressive for a Museum run completely by volunteers!

Incredibly, half the year is already over but there's plenty to look forward to over the next six months. Keep checking our [events](#) page or, even better, come and see us in person!

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/](http://www.londonbusmuseum.com/members/e-news/) to view all editions.

Thanks to Bob Bailey, John Bath, David Bowker, Leon Daniels, Ian Jackson, Simon Douglas Lane, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Alan Gaskell, Gerry Job, Kevin McCormack and Graham Smith for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

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

*Richard*

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