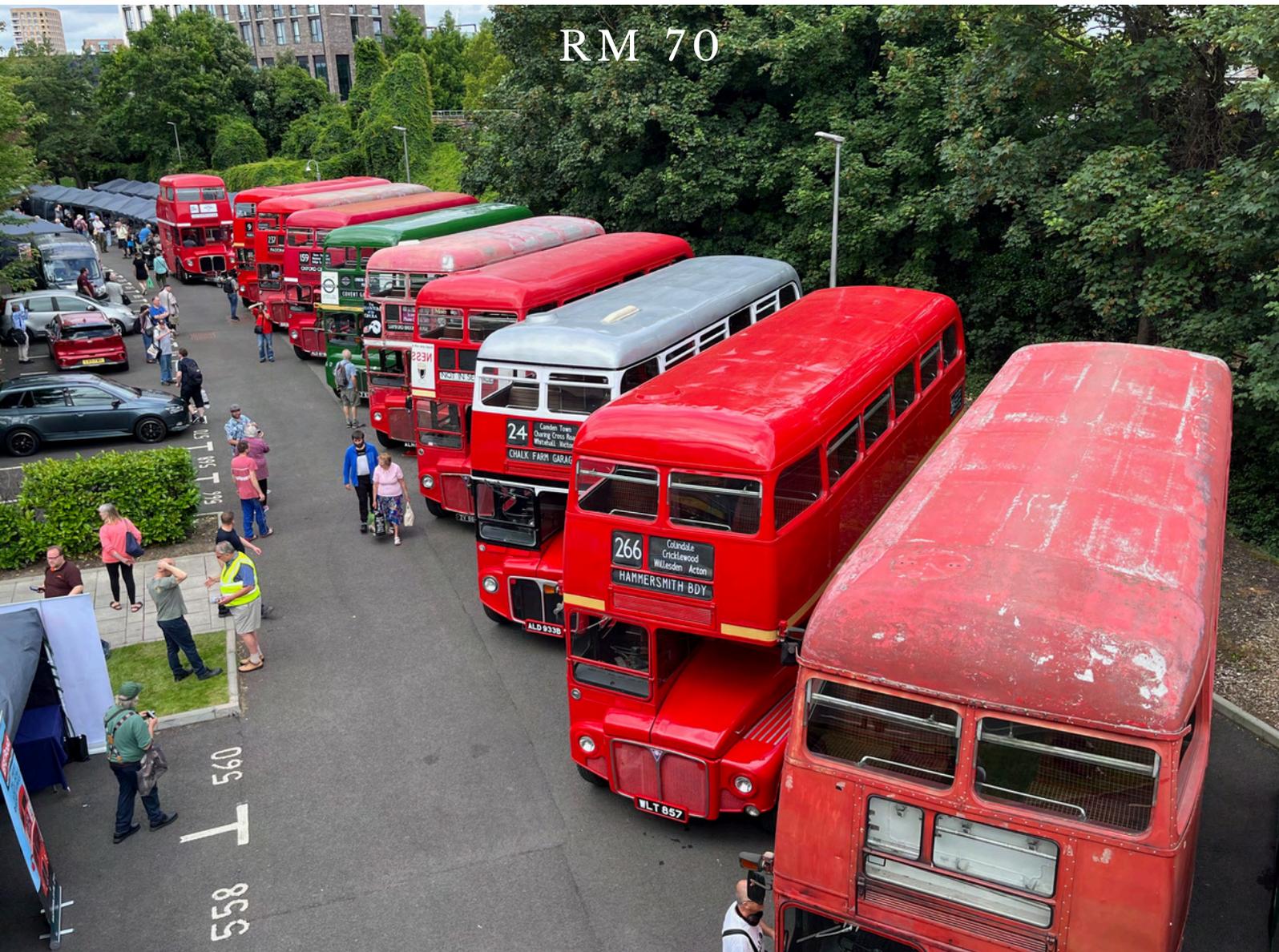




LONDON BUS MUSEUM

*E-news
July 2024*



RM 70

PHOTO CREDIT: MIA HASTINGS

On the historic site of Chiswick Works, crowds gathered on 20-21 July for RM 70, celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Routemaster. Vehicles travelled from near and far (including Sweden) for the gathering. We took RT 4779, RML 3 and RML 2760 to the event, as well as a pop-up shop.





PHOTO CREDIT: MIA HASTINGS



PHOTO CREDIT: ROD LUCAS

PHOTO CREDIT: LAURIE MOUNTJOY

Thanks to our volunteers **Andrew Emerson**, **Chris Taylor**, **Laurie Mountjoy** and **Tom Yun** who staffed our pop-up shop over the weekend, which raised over £1000.

[View album \(20 July\) >](#)



[View album \(21 July\) >](#)

RT 4779 at 70

A no less significant anniversary is that of RT 4779, delivered to Aldenham on 15 July 1954.

Bodied by Weymann's of Addlestone, the bus was one of the last green RT batches. It was surplus to requirements and placed in store until 1959, when it entered service at Windsor, moving after overhaul in 1963 to Leatherhead.

At its second and final overhaul in 1969, the bus was painted red, working in the Central Area until 1979. It was unused until rescued for restoration in a dilapidated state in 2008.

During the five year restoration, the skeleton was MoT'd and rallied. Initially restored as a green Country bus, it was repainted red again 50 years after its last overhaul, ready for the celebration of 80 years of the RT at Barking in 2019. The bus is now on loan to the London Bus Museum at Brooklands, where it regularly gives rides to visitors.



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER OSBORN

RT 4779 at 70



Left: in company with RT 3173 in 1968 in Leatherhead garage

PHOTO CREDIT:
MICHAEL WICKHAM
(C/O PETER OSBORN)



Left: visiting Hampton Court Palace in May 2023

Bottom left: at TransportFest, October 2018

Bottom right: rounding Sloane Square, August 2019

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



'New' arrivals

Two rarely-seen members of the LBM fleet have recently arrived at the Museum from offsite storage: RT 2657 and RMC 1469.



One little visitor was particularly keen to explore the RT!

LBM Memorial Garden

Simon Douglas Lane

I think we would all agree that the garden does not look its best for those whose ashes are contained there. With the Chairman's permission, I've been meeting with my old chum Colin Squire and we have the essence of a revamped garden, which will look wonderful and be a fitting memorial for Graham, Colin and Mike and for any future members who wish to have their ashes interred.

All things being considered, we would hope to have the work done (subject to approval) before the autumn.



ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



PHOTO: C/O BOB BAILEY

Education visits

As the school year drew to a close, the Education Department carried out two trips. On 26 June, Bob Bailey and Grahame Bath took RT 4779 to visit the pupils of Darley Dene School, Addlestone.

The teacher kindly agreed with a few parents that photos of some of the children could be taken.



Education visits



PHOTO: C/O SIMON DOUGLAS LANE
 On 4 July, **Bob Bailey** and **Simon Douglas Lane** delighted the pupils of **Beatrix Potter School, Earlsfield** with a visit from **RT 3491**.

Eastbourne Classic Bus Running Day

The London scene was well represented on 7 July at this **annual event**, which is based around Eastbourne Station and sees classic vehicles running out to scenic Beachy Head!

Thanks to Nigel Eadon-Clarke for the excellent photos.



In conversation: Ian Cormack, Stewarding Roster Manager

How did you get involved with the LBM and what do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I went several times in the mid to late noughties to open days at Redhill Road with fellow volunteer and long-term friend John Cope. The move to Brooklands was 18 months after my having taken early retirement from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. I thought getting involved with the new museum would be a great way of satisfying my interest in London buses, investing in a new hobby and making new friendships.

What's your favourite vehicle in the collection and why?

One of my earliest memories was as a young boy at the front window above my dad's fresh fish shop in East Sheen, watching the bright red RTs and RTLs on routes 37 and 73 wending their way between Hounslow Garage and Peckham and Stoke Newington respectively. Those buses were soon replaced by RMs and, in due course (on the 37s), RMLs. So for me, our collection of RT and RM family vehicles are my favourites, particularly **RTL 139** and **RML 2760**. Incidentally, three and seven have always been my favourite numbers, which I put down to the bus routes that ran along the Upper Richmond Road past my home as a kid. Others have argued it's unsurprising that such an odd bloke would prefer odd numbers!

Tell us a little about your career and how many countries you've lived in.

I am lucky to have had a fantastic career in the Diplomatic Service, spanning 35 years. After retiring, I spent a further eight years (2012-2019) doing visa evaluation work overseas for a few months over the spring/summer. I spent two-thirds of my working life overseas, visited 121 countries and lived and worked in 33 countries in all continents except Antarctica.

Left: RTL 139 prepares for our Route 37 running day, October 2022



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

Ian Cormack

We've heard that you had a full-length bus blind on display in your house. Can you tell us about that?

When my local garage, **Mortlake**, closed in 1983, I was given a bus destination blind for routes 9, 33 and 73. The only place I have lived where it could be displayed in full was in Lima, Peru. I had a very long wall, over two storeys, where I hung it. The photo [right] shows most of the blind, with me and Daniel, my 10 year old godson, visiting from Stockholm. He's now 26!

What's your favourite bus-related story/anecdote?

As a kid, one of my favourite pastimes was to take Red (occasionally Green, Golden or Twin) Rovers to various corners of London and the Home Counties. By then we had moved a mile or so away to Barnes. One day, my friend Gareth and I decided to go to Ongar, which was as far away as we could go on a red bus. We were probably nine or ten at the time. The route involved taking a 10A to Abridge. We intended to take a 250 to Passingford Bridge to connect with a 175 to Chipping Ongar. The 250 was an hourly service, and we had just missed one. With our Central London bus map to guide us, we decided to walk to Passingford Bridge. It really wasn't far but seemed like it to us! We stopped for a while at Stapleford Aerodrome to look at the aircraft. At Passingford Bridge, we found the bus stop for the 175, just across the bridge over the River Roding. There was a small shop nearby, and we bought chocolate bars and Cokes to sustain us. There was no timetable so we had no idea how long we would have to wait, and certainly didn't know it was a two-hourly service. After a wait of at least 90 minutes and with the sun starting to sink in the sky, we decided to give up on Ongar and head back to south west London. We had to run for a 250, which stopped on the other side of the road 200 metres away.



We were only on the bus for 30 seconds when a 175 to Chipping Ongar passed us in the other direction. Grrrrrr! When you're young, it takes a long long time to get to Barnes from Romford by bus (should have got a Twin Rover!). Our parents were not best pleased when we strolled in shortly before 10pm, having promised to be home by 7.30pm. No mobile phones in those days, of course, only occasional public phone boxes - which we should have used!

What's your favourite book, film and TV show?

Book: Most things by George Orwell, Stephen King and James Herbert.

Film: Psychological thrillers, Nordic Noir, quirky comedies.

TV show: *Minder*, still the best comedy drama, although a bit dated these days. More recently, *Inside No 9*, brilliantly conceived and written, creepy and clever. *The Chase*. I love quizzes and that's my favourite. The individual personalities of the six chasers make it what it is.



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

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 >](#)

Caption corner



Left: 'Yes, we know it's an RM', Sharon rubs shoulders with the stars

PHOTO CREDIT:
LEON DANIELS

Right: 'I look down on him...' Deryck recruits a new conductor at Summer Festival

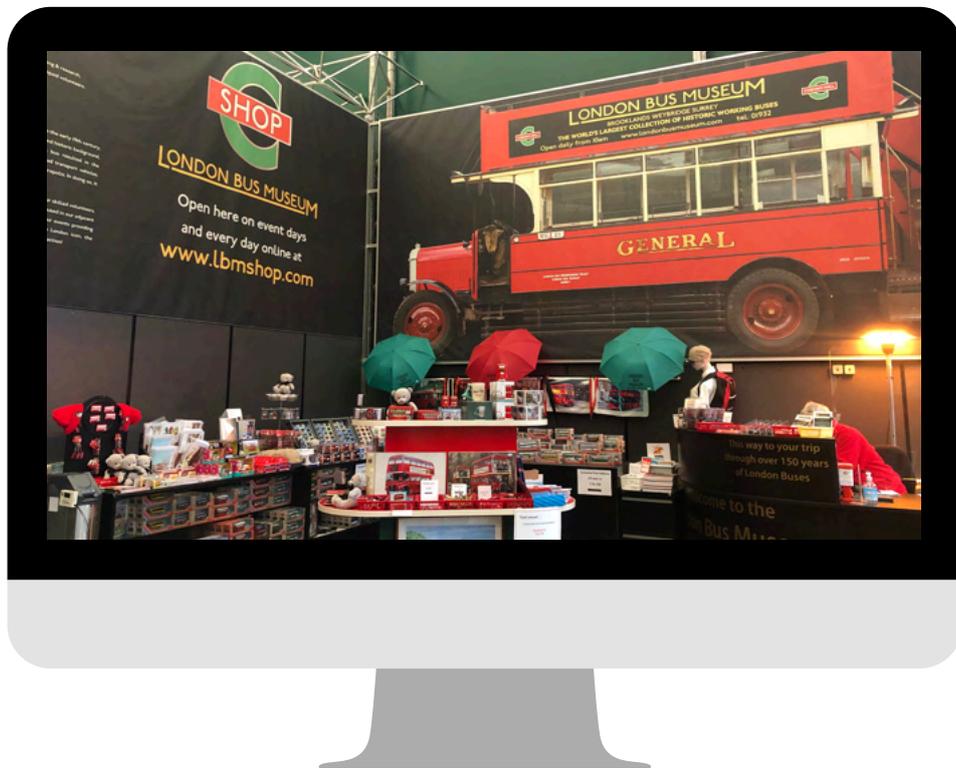
PHOTO CREDIT:
GRAHAM SMITH

Any better suggestions to the Editor please!



What's in Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



2025 calendar



2025 Calendar

Twelve stunning photos of new and historic buses in London for you to enjoy throughout 2025. While stocks last!



Double-deck desk tidy

Keep all your LBM-branded stationery handy. Easy self-assembly and no tools required!



Double-deck night light

Illuminate your home with this beautiful new product, which plugs into a USB port.

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

Friends reunited



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

RM 70 attendee **John Krawiecki** was astonished to encounter RT 4779 at Chiswick. John, a former Plumstead conductor, crewed the bus on route 53 in the 1960s. He said: "I conducted this very bus! I felt very emotional seeing it again after so long."



PHOTO: MIKE RUSSELL (C/O ROBIN HELLIAR-SYMONS)

Duck! **RLH 48** is on her way to storage near Streatley. The bridge sign shows 13'3". The cab placard is 13'6" but the clearance to the road surface is 14' across most of the arch! The bus must be positioned centrally whilst going through it!

From the Editor

The much-anticipated RM 70 celebrations at Chiswick did not disappoint, with enthusiastic crowds flocking on both days to admire this most famous of London buses. It was wonderful to see so many vehicles on a historic site and to hear the fond recollections of both those who remember the Routemaster in service and those who worked on them, including John (left), who was delighted to be reunited with an old friend and to meet its current owner.

Now that the summer holidays have arrived, we're running bus rides every day at the LBM. Join us for a scenic trip around Weybridge on a vintage bus crewed by our dedicated volunteers!

Thanks to Bob Bailey, David Bowker, Ian Cormack, Leon Daniels, Simon Douglas Lane, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Mia Hastings, Robin Helliar-Symons, Rod Lucas, Laurie Mountjoy, Peter Osborn, Mike Russell 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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E-news is produced for the members of the London Bus Preservation Trust and sent to those who have supplied an email address.

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