



## NS 174 rides again!



PHOTO CREDIT: ROGER STAGG

On the morning of Thursday 15 August, our 1923 NS 174 emerged from Cobham Hall under its own power for a trial of its running gear and brakes.



Following a series of adjustments, by mid-afternoon the engine, which had probably not been started since before World War II (but since rebuilt at Redhill Road), was started and run up. Following a short run back and forth, the bus was driven into the workshop for a full check-over.

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): SHARON BURTON

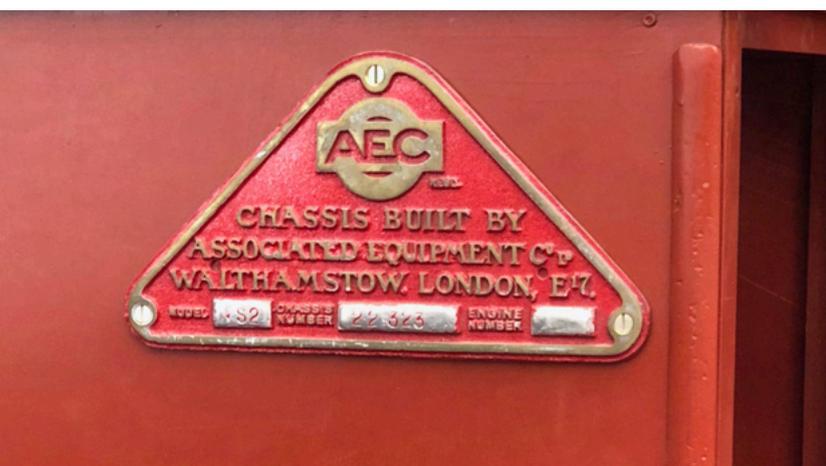
The team which made it all happen: l-r Roger Stagg, Derek Hanlon, Ian Reddick, Nigel Gower and Zolly Grolmusz

PHOTO CREDIT: ROGER STAGG



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

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# Windsor running day

**RT 3491** represented the Museum at the annual event, crewed by owner **Simon Douglas Lane** and **Graham Hayward**. This was Evadne's last public appearance before a repaint and some sprucing up at **London Bus Works** but fear not - she'll soon return to LBM looking as good as new. See page 7!

ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ALAN HARTE



# Windsor



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: DAVID BOWKER



# Low-ish floor running day

Graham Burnell and Simon Greatwood crewed our bus **WVL 1** for the Museum on 14 July for the event organised by the **North London Collection** and centred on Godstone Green. Our **T 23** was also running in service.

It's remarkable to think that some of these vehicles now in preservation are well over 30 years old!

ALL PHOTOS: NIGEL EADON-CLARKE



*Low-ish floor running day*



# Evadne returns!

72 years old this year, **RT 3491** looks as if she has just left Aldenham. **London Bus Works** carried out the repairs and repaint, ensuring this flagship bus will continue to be enjoyed by our visitors for years to come. Thanks to London Bus Works for pictures of the work in progress and the (almost!) finished result.



*Additional photos on page 14*

ALL PHOTOS: WESLEY TIERNEY



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): C/O COLIN FRADD



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): GRAHAM SMITH



PHOTO CREDIT: COLIN FRADD

## In conversation with Colin Fradd, LBM Driver and Steward

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

I first became involved with LBM in the mid-noughties through my friend **Graham Smith**, finally signing up in 2007. My involvement increased with the move to Brooklands, since when I've made many new friends both stewarding and driving Museum buses. It's very satisfying being able to answer visitors' questions (providing you know the answer, of course!) and driving bus rides, giving people the chance to relive childhood memories.

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

**RF 395** has a special place. Although I was automatically 'cross-qualified' from driving RTs, I requested a drive on the RF to see how different it might feel as it's longer, and you have to be aware of the front overhang. From that experience, I resolved that, if I was ever going to get involved in preserving a bus, it would have to be an RF and, hey presto, I've been a part-owner of **RF 600** ('Nellie') since 2010.

Tell us about your time with LT.

I combined my academic background in physics with my interest in buses and public transport generally by joining the physics section in London Transport's erstwhile Research Laboratory at Chiswick in 1969. However, I was never a dedicated scientist. My desk overlooked the world famous skid pan, which was a major distraction from what I was being paid to do! RTW 10 was the regular Skid Bus at that time. After a little over a year, I moved on to pastures new, but I was back at LT's Broadway HQ in 1972 for a further 15 years in the fields of Finance and Planning.

## Colin Fradd

What's been your best experience to date as part of the RF 600 group?

After 12 years working towards full restoration, collecting the bus after its exterior repaint on a sunny morning in March 2022. Just two days later, with the paintwork dry but far from fully hardened and hence highly vulnerable to damage, we took her to Dorking Running Day where my colleagues elected me to drive the first trip of the day – a 412 to Holmbury St Mary and back, the rural sections of which are littered with opportunities for scratching the paintwork. Thankfully, with very careful driving, Nellie (and I) survived.

What has been your most memorable bus driving experience?

Just days after being 'passed out' to drive selected bus types in early 2008, I was asked at zero notice to drive **RTL 139** on a 462 'rounder' from Redhill Road to Weybridge Station in the freak snow that hit us at Spring Gathering that year, the rostered driver having been delayed. Driving a bus in falling snow, my first ever experience of driving in public service, was something of a baptism of fire but again, thankfully, both the bus and I survived.

My proudest moment was sharing with **Graham Burnell** in 2019 the honour of driving RF 395 on guest transport services (along with Ensign's **T 448** and our own **RF 226**) within the grounds of Windsor Castle at the wedding of Lady Gabriella Windsor, daughter of Prince Michael of Kent, Patron of Brooklands Museum.

What would you take with you to a desert island?

I'd take a scanner and PC to digitise my collection of bus colour slides and negatives from the 1970s through to the digital era in the early noughties.



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: COLIN FRADD

# A summer miscellany



PHOTO CREDIT: ANDY GRAY

Getting stuck in: Ian Reddick explores the mysteries of RML 3's engine on 22 July.

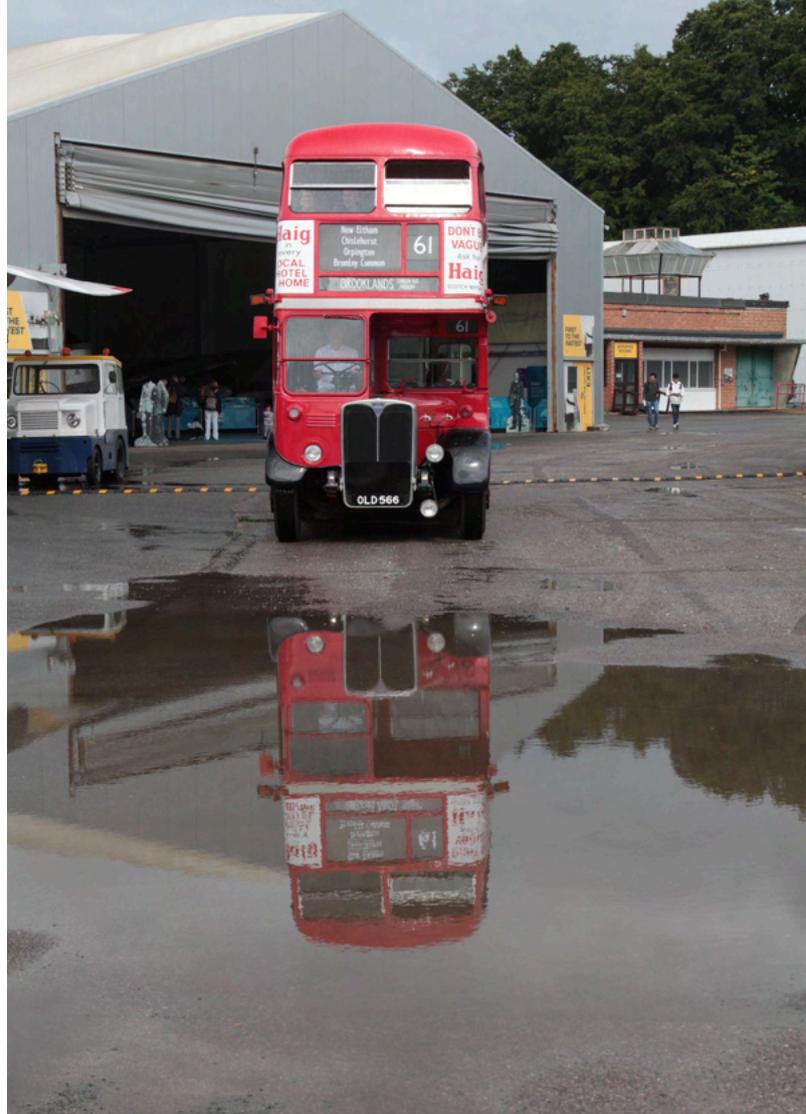


PHOTO CREDIT: COLIN FRADD

In a reflective mood: RT 4779 is spotted on a bus ride on 6 August.



Seeing double: RFs 354 and 453 meet at this year's Summer Festival on 23 June. The challenge now is to photograph these two with RF 534, also in preservation!

PHOTO CREDIT: RICHARD KIRWIN



## Summer miscellany

The Museum has recently received a former military trailer, which will form the basis of a replica producer gas trailer. This will be towed by T 357, once restored.

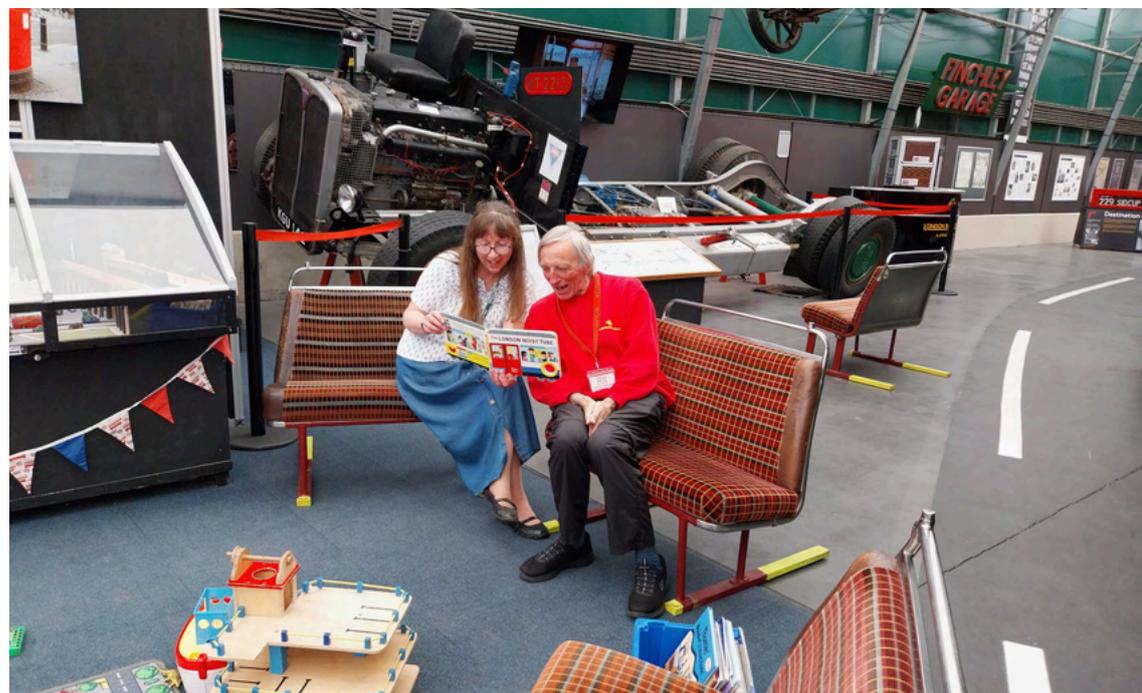
Watch this space for updates on our latest restoration project, for which donations continue to be greatly appreciated!

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT):  
ROBIN HELLIAR-SYMONS

### Story time:

In a rare moment of peace in the ever-popular children's area, LBM volunteers **Sharon Burton** and **Graham Hayward** review the latest reading material on offer.

PHOTO CREDIT (RIGHT):  
LORRAINE GRAY



**Routemaster romance:** Sam and Lottie celebrated their wedding at Brooklands on 27 July, assisted by RML 2389 from Timebus and a pair of classic Minis.

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

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

Buy in store or online

New in stock this month: we have a Bedford OB/Duple Vista model in 1:76 scale from Rapido in a choice of three liveries - buy yours while stocks last!



Royal Blue Coach Services  
Destination: Weymouth

East Kent  
Excursion

Southern Vectis  
Route 30 to Ventnor

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

RH&DR  
**BUS RALLY DAY**  
SUNDAY 8TH SEPTEMBER

Take a nostalgic journey by steam train to visit our annual vintage Bus Rally.  
Head to New Romney to admire over 30 vintage buses, coaches and taxis in the car park area.  
(Please note, car parking at New Romney is unavailable on this day)

**Tickets**  
**EVENT ENTRY ONLY - £8**  
Includes access to New Romney platforms, Café, Model Exhibition, sales stands and the bus rally area  
**ROMNEY ROVER - £28**  
Includes all day travel, access to the Model Exhibition as well as entry to the bus rally.

QR code:

SCAN FOR DETAILS

www.rhdr.org.uk

@rhdr @rhanddr @rhdr1927

**KING ALFRED GRAND DISPLAY & RUNNING DAY**  
WINCHESTER

0900-1030  
display of King Alfred buses at St Catherine's park & ride

1100 onwards  
regular departures from the Broadway to several destinations around Winchester

bus rides are free  
but please buy a programme on the day

kingalfredbuses.org.uk

Sunday 15 Sep

Here are a few events which may be of interest, organised by the Romney, Hythe and Dymchurch Railway, the Friends of King Alfred Buses and London Public Transport Events.

# Free events for Museum members



## Routes 61 & 261 Heritage Bus Day

14 September

On our final running day of the year, vintage vehicles will run a free service 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 >](#)



## London Public Transport Events

### Gravesend & Dartford Heritage Bus Running Day

**Sunday 13 October 2024, 1000 - 1700**

Former London Transport and Maidstone & District buses will be providing free rides on many routes across north west Kent, based (subject to confirmation) on Ebbsfleet International Station

Ride the red Routemasters on the 480 Express running between Dartford, Ebbsfleet and Gravesend!

Visit Dartford, Gravesend and the surrounding countryside with its villages and welcoming pubs.

Check the [Classic Bus Events website](#) later for how to acquire programmes. The details are subject to change.

RT 3491 shows off her new 'just left Aldenham' look at London Bus Works



# From the Editor

Throughout the school holidays, our daily bus rides carried almost 3,000 passengers. Enormous thanks to our volunteer crews and workshop staff for ensuring continuity of this important part of the life of the Museum, which brings pleasure to so many.

Thanks to London Bus Works, Mark Balaam, David Bowker, Sharon Burton, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Colin Fradd, Andy Gray, Lorraine Gray, Alan Harte, Robin Helliar-Symons, Richard Kirwin, Ian Reddick, Roger Staggs and Wesley Tierney for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

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

*Richard*

[richard.hastings@londonbusmuseum.com](mailto:richard.hastings@londonbusmuseum.com)



Here are the new badges which are now being handed out to our younger visitors. Thanks to Deryck Fill for the idea and to Doug Rose of [FWT London](#) for the design work.

These are not randomly-selected numbers. On 1 September, it will be 4,780 days since we first opened our doors at Brooklands and 19,054 days since we admitted our first visitors at Redhill Road!

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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Company No. 01061762

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PHOTOS: COURTESY LONDON BUS WORKS

