



LONDON BUS MUSEUM

E-news
September 2024

Routes 61 and 261 Heritage Day



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

On 14 September, a perfect early-autumn day, historic buses on routes 61 and 261 took to the streets of south-east London as part of the celebration of the centenary of Bromley bus garage. We sent RTs 1 and 4779, RML 2760 and M 6. The garage was open to the public and over £17,000 was raised for Macmillan. Thanks to all who made the day possible, especially our dedicated volunteers.



ALL PHOTOS THIS PAGE: DAVID BOWKER

[View album 1](#)

[View album 2](#)



C 4 arrives

Chiswick-bodied Leyland Cub C 4 arrived at the Museum on 4 September, on long-term loan from Ensignbus. [Read the history](#) of this little 1935 bus and [see pictures of its restoration](#).



PHOTOS:
RIGHT, LEFT
AND BELOW
RIGHT: EDITOR

ALL OTHERS:
DAVID BOWKER



Surrey Mayors' Day



ALL PHOTOS: ANTHONY MOORE

The Surrey borough mayors were treated to a memorable day out on 12 September, courtesy of RML 2760 crewed by Doug Hunt and Anthony Moore.

A tour of Brooklands was followed by a visit to the Chelsea FC training ground at Stoke D'Abernon. The day concluded with a trip to the historic D'Oyly Carte Island in Weybridge.



Association of Dunkirk Little Ships

Glyn Matthews

The 28th annual Veterans' cruise took place on Sunday 15 September. The flotilla departed at 10:00, heading downstream to Weybridge, Chertsey and Shepperton Lock, as well as Chertsey Meads, providing a fantastic opportunity to view the fleet. The Association of Dunkirk Little Ships was supported all along the designated routes. The participants were delighted to see the public greeting the nation's war heroes.

Apart from the usual cohorts from the South Atlantic Medal Association, the War Widows' Association, Korean War Veterans, the Not Forgotten Association, the Argyll and Sutherland Veterans and HMS Britannia Veterans, some of the very last veterans from Operation Dynamo, Normandy Veterans, Chelsea Pensioners, Far East Prisoners of War, ladies who served in the WRNS during WWII and Coastal Forces Veterans also attended.

After lunch the Museum provided RF 226 and UMP 227 to transport the 60+ veterans from Shepperton Lock back to their vehicles at Penton Hook Yacht Club, as we do every year.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): GLYN MATTHEWS



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): GRAHAM BURNELL



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): GLYN MATTHEWS

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): GRAHAM BURNELL





Epping Ongar Railway RM 70 event

The celebrations of **RM1**'s 70th anniversary continued at the **Epping Ongar Railway** on 25 August. Doug Hunt and Kevin Porter crewed **RML 3** for the Museum.

[View video >](#)

ALL PHOTOS: DOUG HUNT



Imberbus 2024

Saturday 17 August saw buses old and new on route 23A operating between Warminster and Imber, and other points on Salisbury Plain.

Thanks to **Nigel Eadon-Clarke** for the photos on this page and for sharing his album from the day.



[View album](#)



Congratulations, Alan!

Roger Stagg

On Wednesday 11 September LBM workshop volunteer **Alan Gaskell** was presented with the Honour of the “**Freedom of the City of London**” at the City Guildhall. He joins **Lord Hendy, Leon Daniels, Chris Heaps** and me as Freemen. We at the Museum look forward to them jointly driving sheep across Southwark Bridge (it’s not London Bridge, as frequently suggested!).

Alan became a volunteer at LBM following retirement as senior partner of a large architectural practice. During his time as an architect he worked closely with me in his civil and structural engineering practice jointly on major constructions. During our families’ afternoon tea, which followed sometime after a serious bike accident, Alan wondered whether his hobby as a very skilled joiner (not his words) could be of any use at the LBM. The rest is history, including **D 142** and the **horse bus**. His wife Jenny thanks us profusely for getting him out from under her feet!



PHOTO CREDIT: ROGER STAGG

Back to school

We took our first education trip of the new school year on 17 September, visiting Prior Heath Primary School, Camberley. **Bob Bailey** and **Simon Douglas Lane** introduced the amazed pupils to the comfort and style of 1950s Green Line coach travel with the help of **RF 226**.



PHOTO: C/O BOB BAILEY (WITH PERMISSION)



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

Q&A with Derek Hanlon, Workshop Volunteer

How did your interest in buses begin?

I was about ten when a classmate showed me his Ian Allan book. I bought my copy from Lens of Sutton and we would cycle to different places and garages to do our spotting. Our local bus route 151 was using D types, which were gradually being replaced by RTs. My grandmother would sometimes take me into London for a day's spotting via Morden station. She would wait patiently for the Ds to pass so that we could board a new RT. My wish was to be able to get in the cab of one.

How did you first become involved with the Museum?

In the early 1980s my brother was living in Cobham and invited me for a surprise day out to a Spring Gathering. During that day I was reunited with **Rod Lucas**, who I knew from our teens when we worked together at Decca Radio and TV in Battersea. When the Museum was moving to Brooklands, Rod invited me to look around the near empty Redhill Road site and then on to Brooklands. With my background in electrics, he asked if I would help install CCTV and PA systems in the new building. I became a member and now I'm involved in quite a few different jobs.

What do you enjoy most about volunteering?

The variety of things to do and the friendly people. Soon after I trained as a conductor, there were London Tube strikes. LBM supplied three or four buses and crews, for which I was a conductor. The first part of a childhood dream had come true - to be working on a bus in London! After this, I was told that my basic car licence allowed me to drive buses under certain conditions. The late **Bill Ackroyd** assessed me and passed me on to Rod Lucas for training, then Bill subsequently passed me. I have since been lucky enough to be approved to drive nearly all the buses in the Museum.



Derek Hanlon

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

I don't think I have a favourite, but I have some memorable moments in different buses. In no particular order, there is my first solo outing as a driver in **RF 226** to Northfleet; driving into Windsor Castle for a Royal Wedding also in RF 226; **STL 2377** was the first bus I drove in London; driving **RT 1** across Tower Bridge and being at the wheel of **NS 174** when starting it for probably the first time in the last 89 years.

Tell us about your career before you retired.

I was originally a TV engineer. Soon after marrying Shirley, in 1965, we moved to Pagham near Bognor, and I started with a company repairing dictation machines. Some years later, the owner retired and I bought the company from him.

Motto or words to live by.

Always leave yourself an escape route. This applies to driving and whenever having discussions with people.



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



T 357 restoration appeal update

Simon Douglas Lane

By the end of September, the amount generously donated so far is around £44,000. With the £30,000 from reserves that brings us within £6,000 of the £80,000 figure confirmed as the cost of bringing nearly all the restoration work in-house.

Please keep your donations coming to enable us to save this unique, locally-built survivor. Depending on the situation in the workshop, T 357 could soon begin her journey to loveliness!

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



LONDON BUS MUSEUM

TRANSPORTFEST

2024

Sunday 20 Oct 10am-5pm



prices & advanced booking

brooklandsmuseum.com/tickets

01932 857 381

LBM & BMT members free
join on the day & we'll refund
your entry fee

free parking in
The Heights car park KT13 0XP

**FREE BUS RIDES ON
CLASSIC & MODERN VEHICLES**

MARKET STALLS

CHILDREN'S ENTERTAINMENT

**FREE SHUTTLE BUS TO & FROM
WEYBRIDGE STN & WEYBRIDGE**

**ENTRY TO MOST BROOKLANDS
ATTRACTIONS**



BROOKLANDS MUSEUM

londonbusmuseum.com

01932 837 994

Events 2025



Spring Gathering 13 April

Our annual transport curtain-raiser kicks off the 2025 rally season with a range of vehicles, rides, stalls and fun.

[View details](#)

Summer Festival 22 June

Our annual summer show returns, with an array of vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls, food and more.

[View details](#)



TransportFest 19 October

Save the date for 2025's autumn extravaganza with a dazzling range of vehicles, bus rides and traders' stalls, plus fun for all ages.

[View details](#)



Save the dates for our 2025 heritage running days:
Saturday 29 March
Sunday 8 June
Saturday 13 September

Eight brand-new Bachman EFE RM models have arrived in Shillibeer Place! Buy them now - click on each picture.



At capacity



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

RML 2760's extra capacity came in useful on 7 September as she gave a ride to the many squadrons from Surrey Wing Air Cadets on their annual visit to Brooklands. Thanks to the organisers for their generous £100 donation to Museum funds.

French connection

Mark Rowell

Whilst cleaning RT 2657, I couldn't gain access to the used ticket box because it was jammed, so I used two pieces of wood (like chopsticks) to remove the paperwork. It turned out to be tickets and a leaflet - all from the Paris museum where the bus previously resided. Any help translating the text would be welcome!

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

PHOTO CREDIT: MARK ROWELL



From the Editor

As the autumn leaves fall and there's a chill in the air, we're looking forward to our final event of the season, **TransportFest**, on **20 October**. It's been a wonderful summer, including our recent **Routes 61 and 261 Heritage Day**.

Our Social Secretary **Simon Douglas Lane** has announced two festive dates for your diary: the **Volunteers' lunch** in the workshop on **11 December** and the **New Year's lunch at Silvermere** on **19 January**. Further details to follow; sign-up sheets for both events will appear in the LBM canteen.

Thanks to **Bob Bailey, David Bowker, Graham Burnell, Simon Douglas Lane, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Derek Hanlon, Mia Hastings, Doug Hunt, Glyn Matthews, Anthony Moore, Mark Rowell and Roger Stagg** 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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