

# LONDON BUS MUSEUM

*E-news  
December 2024*



## Routemasters reunited



ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



# *Routemasters reunited*



The Routemaster Association held its annual gathering at the Ace Cafe on 14 December, commemorating 19 years since the withdrawal of the last Routemaster from ordinary service in the capital. After recreating the 159 route, some of the vehicles returned to town for a Christmas lights tour. The event was a fitting end to 2024, which marked 70 years since the unveiling of RM 1.



# Camden running day

The second of the north London November running days (on Sunday 17th) featured historic vehicles recreating parts of routes 24, 29, 68, 134 and 214, focusing on Camden. **RT 3491** flew the flag for the Museum.

A magnificent total of £2,202 was raised for the **BBC Children in Need** appeal.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & BELOW): EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & BELOW):NIGEL EADON-CLARKE





Camden running day



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT: STEVE IRELAND



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND RIGHT): EDITOR

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# Bromley running day

The residents of Bromley were treated to a taste of Green Line coach travel, 1950s style, on 15 December. **RF 226** represented the Museum at this annual event, centred around Bromley North Station and Penge, with a few trips to Bromley garage. Thanks to our dedicated crew for the day: **Andrew Collins, Ben Kingsley-Scott, Glyn Matthews, Peter Larkham, Peter Larking and Peter Osborn.**



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER LARKHAM

ALL PHOTOS BELOW: GLYN MATTHEWS





PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

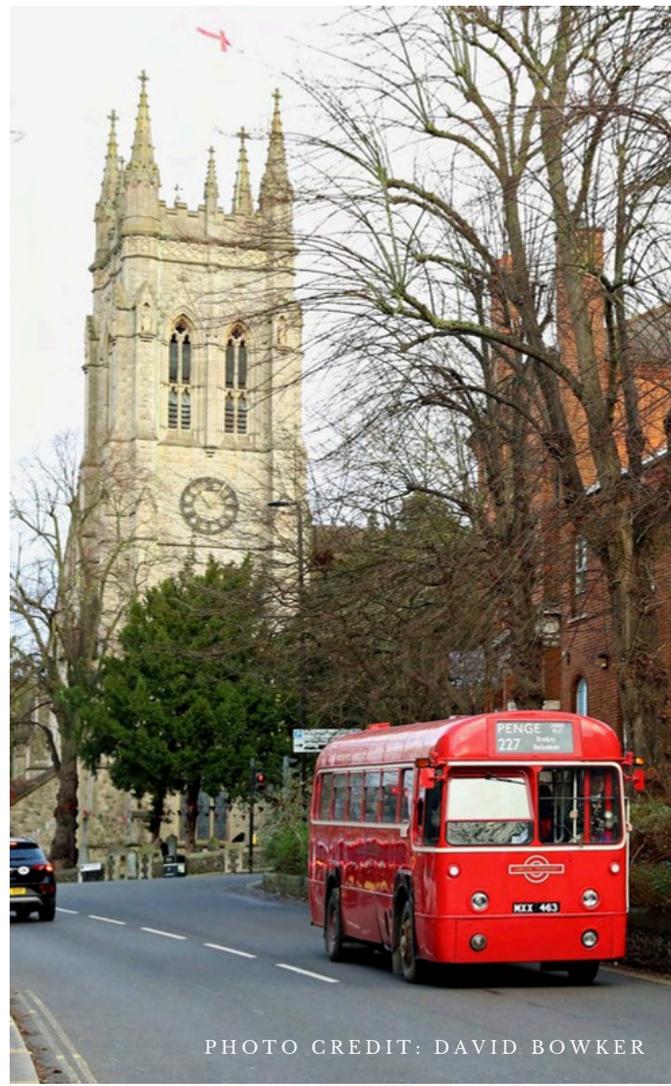


PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

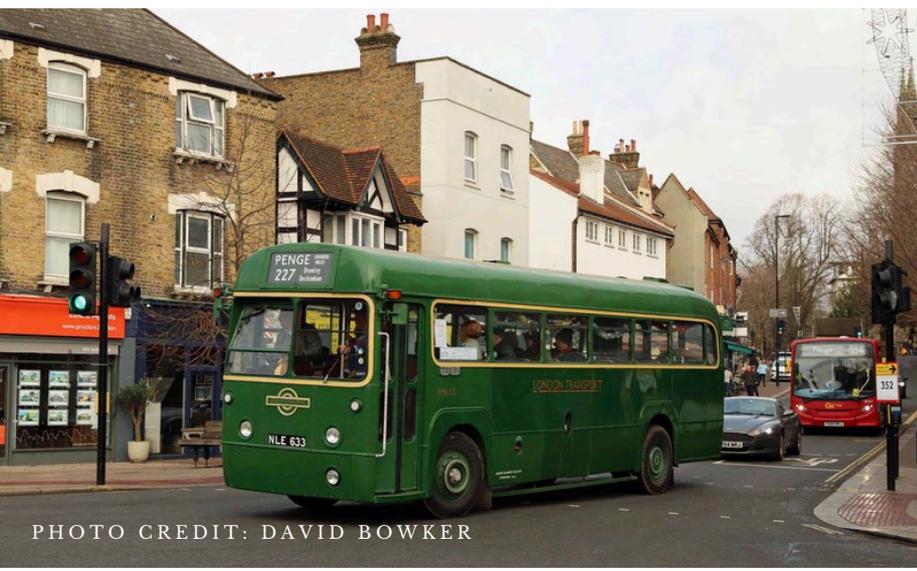


PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER LARKHAM



PHOTO CREDIT: PETER LARKHAM

## Milly joins the LBM...

*Following November's announcement of the Museum's new addition, David Bowker picks up the story.*

The vehicle was built in 1954 as a British Army truck with the military registration number 36 BM 73. Having spent much of its time with the armed forces in storage compounds, it had recorded very little mileage by the time London Transport purchased it in 1966.

London Transport had the lifting-gear fitted and the vehicle rebodied as a Master Breakdown Tender, with the fleet number 1456MR. It was allocated to Camberwell bus garage (an almost identical vehicle was sent to Cricklewood) and often worked alongside a breakdown tender, similar to **783J** in the Museum's collection. It had no registration number at this time, running instead on trade plates throughout its LT ownership.

With ten gears (plus two reverse gears) it was a slow and cumbersome vehicle for London's streets and, following a chassis fracture, the Militant was withdrawn by LT in 1981. In 1983 it was purchased by National Rescue Group, based at the Brooklands Depot, where it was placed on-call to attend some of the worst road accidents on the A3 and M25, its ten-ton lift capacity more than ample for most jobs on these busy roads.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & BELOW): DAVID BOWKER



When Brooklands Museum opened in 1991, 'Milly', as the vehicle became known, was often loaned to move some of the larger museum exhibits, aided by the 'Brooklands Recovery Engineering and Salvage Team'. These volunteers have looked after Milly since 2000 and she has become a familiar sight at Brooklands.

LT's service vehicles were rarely photographed and it was only a couple of months ago I remembered I had just once done so myself. Retrieving the photo, I was astounded to discover it was the very vehicle we have just acquired. It was only because it was towing an RT (848) that I hurriedly snapped as it was crossing Chelsea Bridge in 1979. I was extremely lucky there was a rare gap in traffic in the opposite direction – note the tender vehicle behind.



... and starts work!

### *Laurie Mountjoy*

There was no rest for Milly, as on Wednesday 4 December LBM's latest acquisition was put to use helping to install the bracket for the Hounslow LT bus station sign.

The sign will be mounted above the main entrance to welcome our visitors.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): MARK ROWELL



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): EDITOR

PHOTO CREDIT (TOP, MIDDLE & ABOVE): LAURIE MOUNTJOY

# Feeling festive

On 2 December the Monday Stewarding and Cleaning teams ensured the Museum was looking its best for the festive period. Thanks to **Andy Gray** for illuminating **RM 140** and to **Jim Eades** for the photos.



ALL PHOTOS: JIM EADES



# Volunteers' Christmas lunch

On 11 December the volunteers were treated to their annual lunch in the workshop. Chairman Leon Daniels expressed his thanks to everyone for their invaluable contribution to another remarkable year in the life of the Museum.

Particular thanks were given to the catering team for delivering an amazing feast!





## Q&A with Andrew Emerson, Volunteer Steward

**How did you become involved with the Museum and what do you like most about volunteering?**

I was invited to the Museum in about 2001 by a colleague who was a member. I knew about it before that but had never visited. I made a number of visits after that, eventually becoming a member on Members' Day in 2008.

After the Museum moved to Brooklands, the call went out for volunteers to act as stewards. I started early in 2012 and soon became a regular on Tuesdays, which suited my diary as I was involved in other charities. I have been a Trustee and Chair of the East Surrey Rural Transport Partnership, which operates Community Transport in East Surrey and East Sussex, operating 50 vehicles and employing 100 staff. I have had close connections to transport and vehicles throughout my working life.

I enjoy volunteering at the Museum, as it is good fun working with my fellow stewards and meeting all sorts of visitors. When I became a steward, I also met up with three members who were former school colleagues after a lapse of 50 years, including someone who had been in the same class as me for four years!

**When and how did your interest in buses begin?**

My interest began from a very early age. I was fortunate to spend my childhood living in Kew, very close to Kew Gardens Station and the terminus of routes 90 and 90B. My earliest recollections of buses was looking at the upper rear window of a STL at Kew Gardens Station. I must have been about three years old. I lived not only with buses at the end of my road, but also the railway at the end of my garden. We lived on the flight path to Heathrow and I could read the aircraft registrations on the underside of the wings! The River Thames was a short walk away. I was really spoiled for choice.

The Richmond branch of the District line and the then London Midland Region North London Line (now London Overground) always had my attention, as well as buses and trolleybuses which, as well as being near home, also passed my school.

PHOTO CREDIT: C/O ANDREW EMERSON



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

RT 4779 ran on route 83 during a running day in November 2022, marking 35 years since the closure of Hendon garage

## Andrew Emerson

I commuted to school by train from the age of nine. I had an elder brother who spent a lot of time in Great Ormond Street Hospital and my treat after visiting him was a tram ride through the Kingsway Tunnel. I have always been an all-round London Transport enthusiast!

**Which is your favourite vehicle in the collection and why?**

It has to be **RT 1**. I recall going to an open day at Wisley Airfield and seeing her for the first time, shortly before the Museum acquired the vehicle. Having spent countless hours as an RT passenger, RT 1 is a really special bus to me.

**If you could travel back in time to any transport era, what would it be and why?**

My school days, when I frequently used routes 90, 90B, 27 and 65 and saw the weekend buses from Kew Green: routes 7, 15 and 83 among others. I travelled weekly on trolleybuses to get to school sports, commuted to school on the District Line Q and R stock and grabbed a ride on the antiquated North London Line when possible. Transport had much more character in those days.

**What is your favourite TV show and book?**

*Monty Python; The Bible and Cobb's Historical Railway Atlas of Great Britain.*

Two of our STLs, [441](#) and [2377](#) at Members' Day, March 2023

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR



# Members' New Year Lunch at Silvermere

Sunday 19 January,  
from 12.30pm

The list has now closed. This is just a reminder to anyone who has not yet paid to do so prior to the event.

The cost for couples is £35 per person, singles £36.50 (subsidised by the Trust).

Pay by BACS only:

CAF Bank Account: LBPT 00018504

Sort Code: 40-52-40

Reference: 'NYL' + your full name



## The launch of T 448

Our Chairman, Leon Daniels, has made [this video](#) about the unveiling of our unique 9T9, **T 448** at TransportFest in October, following its extensive restoration over many years.

Listen to the roar of the AEC engine!

## SAVE THE DATE: OUR MEMBERS' DAY & AGM

11am, Saturday 8 March 2025  
Vickers Suite, Brooklands Museum

Refreshments will be provided.  
Further details on the [LBM website](#)



# LBM Events 2025



## Route 19 Heritage Bus Day

29 March

Take a ride along route 19 with free vintage buses running all day between Finsbury Park and Battersea Bridge.

[View more >](#)



## 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 more >](#)



## Route 418 Heritage Bus Day

8 June

Join us for a nostalgic ride along route 418 with free vintage buses running all day between Kingston and Epsom.

[View more >](#)



## Summer Festival

22 June

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

[View more >](#)



## Route 54 Heritage Bus Day

13 September

Join us for a ride along route 54 with free vintage buses running all day between Woolwich and Elmers End.

[View more >](#)



## TransportFest

19 October

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

[View more >](#)

# Camden running day

Thanks to Steve Ireland for these atmospheric photos taken on 17 November.



# From the Editor

A very happy new year to all our Members and Volunteers!

We are extremely grateful to our volunteer workshop team and crews for enabling bus rides to take place every day of the Christmas holidays, to the delight of our visitors.

Watch this space and [our Facebook page](#) for exciting news of events to come in 2025.

Thanks to David Bowker, Leon Daniels, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Jim Eades, Andrew Emerson, Steve Ireland, Peter Larkham, Glyn Matthews, Laurie Mountjoy and Mark Rowell for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

Please email me any content for our next edition.

*Richard*

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