



FROM LEON DANIELS CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Volunteers

Your Council of Management and Trustees met (separately) on 15th January. This note is an informal briefing of what was discussed and agreed.

I am delighted that Paul Sainthouse has accepted our offer for him to become President of the London Bus Preservation Trust, in succession to Peter, Lord Hendy, who resigned upon becoming a Government Minister.

Another of our Trustees Richard Telling has accepted the role of Vice President, alongside Chris Heaps.



The Trust has appointed an external Health & Safety adviser, having failed for more than a year to find a suitably qualified volunteer to carry out these duties. As you know Health & Safety bears down on voluntary organisations as much as on large corporate organisations and having expert help here is essential.

The Treasurer reported that 2024 was a very successful year with increases in visitor numbers, membership, shop sales and donations. As a result we remain on a solid financial footing which in turns allows us to progress our restorations and cover the increasing costs of insurance, fuel and materials, as well as more storage for vehicles and spares.

Our AGM and Members' Day is on Saturday 8th March. Unlike a few other enthusiast organisations our attendance is increasing and so we have had to move to the Brooklands Clubhouse this year. In the afternoon members will have the chance to have some bus rides – hopefully including T448, which was unveiled at TransportFest in October.

We are slowly but surely progressing onto a better IT platform thanks to the persistence and patience of David Harman. Out of this will come better services for members and some relief for volunteers on the admin side.

Also in the running for an award for patience and persistence is Glyn Matthews who finally secured DVSA's approval for our Driver CPC scheme and got our training underway. As a result all our volunteers are again now CPC qualified. Some opportunities arise – there is no reason why volunteers cannot do some more training and get their 35 hours in now and not wait four years before the next deadline. Glyn is ready to run some more classes. He would also welcome anyone who would like to train as a CPC Course Tutor. At present he runs them all. If you would like to be a tutor please contact him. (We are all firstname.secondname@londonbusmuseum.com).

In addition we are now preparing to welcome others to the course. Any **MEMBER** (as opposed to volunteer driver) who wants to start their CPC training is welcome to join. As a huge member benefit they are £20 per seven hour session. You won't get face to face CPC training cheaper anywhere! Please talk with Glyn.



On 11th December we had our annual volunteers' lunch in the workshop at LBM.

There was a tremendous turnout and our grateful thanks to the lady volunteers and partners who made it all work.



We were concerned to learn that a few members had reported troubles with their magazine delivery. Some reported not having received at all; others have received them with the wrong enclosures like others' membership cards. There are several factors driving this and you can trace it all back to the Royal Mail. We have worked hard to keep the magazine inside the lowest postage rate as the next rate above is substantially higher. This has included using thinner paper for all contents and that in turn has led to more difficult handling in production and distribution. Separately in many parts of the country the postal service is struggling and deliveries are late or missing.

Since the whole magazine cost including postage accounts for almost half of your subscription, we can't let things stay as they are. We will therefore start down a road that was debated at the 2024 AGM. A significant number of members at the AGM said they would be happy to opt for an on-line PDF version only and we will later this year ask you to opt for this if you wish. This will make a big reduction to the cost of postage. Those savings will be spent on improving the magazine and mailing separately the other materials – membership cards, AGM papers etc. All those enclosures make the present magazine very difficult to manage since there are multiple mailing lists – members, volunteers, renewals, etc.

Rest assured a printed magazine will remain available but it will still have to be in the second class post and suffer the trials and tribulations of our declining postal service. For those who are happy to receive it on-line you will get it immediately.

We are not able to offer a reduced subscription for non-mail members. We are obliged, under our original agreement with Brooklands Museum, to keep our membership subscriptions fairly aligned with theirs to prevent people opting for the cheaper of the two in large numbers. However the AGM overwhelmingly supported the idea of keeping the one-price membership and allowing the Museum to benefit from the postage and costs saved.

We have a plan for the whole of 2025's events – not just our own but others' as well. We plan this well in advance so we can plan our volunteer effort properly. There are events every weekend so we can only support a few and we do our best to spread them around.

Very shortly T357 will take up a long term position for its restoration by our amazing in-house team. At the same time our recently acquired AEC Militant breakdown lorry I456MR will go for repaint into LT red and on its return go on display in the Museum.

 BUS EVENTS 2025	
29 March	Heritage Day Route 19 Finsbury Park to Battersea Bridge
13 April	Spring Gathering BROOKLANDS MUSEUM
8 June	Heritage Day Route 418 Kingston to Epsom and Leatherhead
22 June	Summer Festival BROOKLANDS MUSEUM
13 September	Heritage Day Route 54 Woolwich to Elmers End
19 October	TransportFest BROOKLANDS MUSEUM
All our events 10:00 – 17:00 A free bus 462 runs to and from Weybridge station and High Street during all our events at Brooklands	
londonbusmuseum.com	

Following behind it for painting will be XF3 – the interior is very nearly finished and the work on the corrosion at the rear end will soon conclude as well. Despite thoughts it should be “XA53” in red or a Blue Arrow, it will be painted in its original green and cream livery. The XF is hoped to be ready for use at Spring Gathering and then at events during the year.

Following this SMS369 will go into the paintshop and after this summer’s season of events it will replace M6 on display.



Great progress is being made on the 4-light horse bus and NS174 is now progressing really well. We are looking forward to seeing it completed in 2026.

Your Trustees have been very concerned about the conditions at our outstation in Rusper and we are seeking to create more space at Northchapel. This will involve moving the engines, gearboxes and other units out. Members will appreciate that our collection can only get larger as time passes so adequate storage has to be provided.

We are as always looking for more volunteers. In 2025 we will need a Membership Manager as this job does require a dedicated person. The job involves processing renewals and new members; maintaining the membership database and dealing with general membership queries.

Meanwhile the Museum itself continues to improve – some less subtle than others. The demonstration blind display now can be wound without removing the skin from your knuckles; the audio-visual features have been improved and some have even better screens; more rare posters and signs are on display; captions have been updated and reprinted; we are cleaning to an even higher standard and an AI-generated song about London Bus Museum now plays before we play the newsreel footage of the Chiswick Skid Pan.

Coming soon – an innovative feature to the free-standing display boards for each of our vehicles.

I hope you have seen that our Museum Shop on-line is now selling excellent reproductions of RT, RF and RM interior adverts. There is a wide range to choose from and unlike the originals are self-adhesive for easy fixing. Our old buses look much better with period adverts and this is a real opportunity to equip yours!

Finally I do hope as many of you will come to the Annual General Meeting on 8th March. It is your chance to contribute to the direction and achievements of the Museum and you will all be very welcome.

If you can't come please use your proxy vote. Details will soon be on the website. As our membership grows it is important to have sufficient votes even if they are cast by proxy.



With all good wishes

Leon Daniels
LEON DANIELS OBE

19th January 2025



The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd

Museum registered office and postal address:
London Bus Museum, Brooklands Road, Weybridge KT13 0QS
Telephone 01932 837994 Website: www.londonbusmuseum.com
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