



Route 19 Heritage Day



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

On 29 March, 35 historic vehicles participated in our Route 19 Heritage Day, our first running day of the year. Delighted crowds of bus enthusiasts of all ages joined us along the route on a beautiful spring day with pristine blue skies and sunshine. Buses ran full between Finsbury Park and Battersea Bridge and brought the Museum directly into the vibrant heart of central London. Thanks to all our volunteer crews and to Peter Osborn for organising this memorable event.



ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR

[View album>](#)

AGM and Members' Day

We welcomed over 100 members to the Museum (plus a few virtually via Zoom!) on 8 March. During the meeting, Chairman **Leon Daniels** introduced the new Brooklands CEO **Alex Patterson**, who gave a presentation on future plans for BMT. Leon also welcomed incoming LBPT President **Paul Sainthouse**, who challenged those present to recruit at least one new member this year. Imagine if all members achieved this!

The attendees enjoyed lunch, followed by rides on **T 448**, **RML 3** and newly-repainted **XF 3**, which had only returned to the Museum the previous Wednesday!



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND BELOW): MIA HASTINGS



OTHER PHOTOS: EDITOR

Members' Day & AGM

Good weather, a good lunch and the meeting of good friends all combined to ensure a successful and enjoyable day!

More photos page 14



Ealing (Kingston and Kew) comedy

Volunteer bus crews raised nearly £2,000 for **Comic Relief** by operating historic buses on route 65 on Friday 21 March. There were familiar faces, including a few LBM trustees and members! The buses in service were RTW 467, RM 1005, RM 1400 and ER 880.

PHOTO CREDIT: ER 880 & RM 1005:
MIKE MCDERMOTT

OTHERS: C/O EDWARD ADOO





LBM in miniature

The number of vehicles on display in Cobham Hall has doubled in size this month, with the addition of a 1:76 scale model on show next to its full-size counterpart!



Thanks to Alan Gaskell for constructing a display case for each of them.

Be sure to visit the LBM to view them all.

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



LBM in miniature





Meet the President: In conversation with Paul Sainthouse

How did your interest in buses begin and what's your earliest bus memory?



My parents and grandparents lived in Queensbury from the 1930s. Buses were a feature thanks to my grandfather, Stanley Eperon. He was a ship's captain, sailing oil tankers from the Caribbean but upon return from abroad he found work with London Transport. He was first a conductor, then an inspector and worked from Edgware and Cricklewood garages. Some of my earliest memories are of being on buses in north London – a trip to the [RAF Museum](#) at Hendon was always a favourite. Here I am with my brother, John, in our grandparents' garden in the early 1970s – resplendent in our 'borrowed' LT caps!

Paul Sainthouse

How did you become associated with the LBPT/G?

That's a good question! Of course, like everyone I was a regular member to start with. Then one day I took a call from Leon [Daniels], as the Museum was looking to replace the workshop van. Our company has a vans business, so he hoped we could do a good deal. We did a good deal - and provided the Museum with a brand new Ford Transit van on permanent loan for free. I suppose that got me more involved and closer to the operation. I have a lot of experience in management and governance, so when the opportunity to join LBPT as a Trustee arose, I thought I could add some value so was put forward. As Lord Hendy had to retire his LBPT Presidency on taking up his ministerial role, I again thought I could deliver value to the Museum in that position. It's always about trying to add to what's already there – being part of a positive evolution.

Tell us about your professional life.

My 'day job' (since 2002) is Managing Director of Dawsongroup Bus and Coach Ltd. We lease and hire over 2,500 passenger vehicles to every possible type of application you could imagine. I'm also a member of the Dawsongroup PLC Advisory Board and have had a career in transport spanning almost 40 years. I started with operational background in distribution and logistics and joined Dawsongroup Truck and Trailer as a management trainee in 1987, was appointed Fleet Operations Director in 1997 and held a variety of leadership positions with the company, finally moving permanently into their passenger vehicles business in 1998.



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

The sparkling new van, September 2021



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

RM 597 prepares for Cartmarking: 16 July 2022



PHOTO CREDIT: C/O LEON DANIELS

Leon, Paul and BEA 2 at the Guildhall for Leon's appointment as Master of the Carmens Company, October 2024

Paul Sainthouse

Outside of the office, I'm quite busy within the wider profession. I was made an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CILT) in 2024 and am a member of the Institute of Directors. I have recently concluded my term as Global President of the CILT, am a past-President and still a Vice-President of the CILT (UK) - where Leon currently holds the President's title! I'm also a Board member of the Confederation of Passenger Transport, Chair of their Suppliers Commission and member of their Governance Committee. I'm both Secretary and Advisory Board member of the All-Party Parliamentary Group for Bus and Coach, a Board Director of the Institute of Couriers and a founding Director of Women in Bus and Coach. I was also the judge of the Transport and Infrastructure section of the 'We are the City - Rising Stars' Awards, which promotes the female talent pipeline.

In support of charities, I am a Patron of the London Transport Museum, a Freeman of the City of London and a Liveryman and Court Member of the Worshipful Company of Carmen, where I sit on the Education, Membership, Cart Marking and Awards Panels, as well as being a Trustee of the Carmen Benevolent Trust. Oh, and I'm a member of the Omnibus Society and in my spare time a Parish Councillor!

We're told you have a passion for Routemasters! Tell us about that.

To me Routemasters are London. They are my youth. They connected me with the things I wanted to do, the people I wanted to see, and whatever I was doing, a Routemaster was never far away. I remember the smell firstly – all LT buses had a very special smell. The last time I smelt it was in the 1990s in Ash Grove garage – it wasn't just exhaust fumes – it must also have been the cleaning fluid, I guess! Of course there was the sound of the Gibson A14 – and the ticket I was handed by the conductor. Like everyone, I had a favourite seat – mine was right behind the driver looking through into the cab.



PHOTO CREDIT: PAUL SAINTHOUSE

Paul's Routemasters: RM 597 and RM 1400

Paul Sainthouse

There was a lot happening to watch and my absolute fascination was the red CAV trafficator control. I remember watching and wondering what it did (I knew nothing about driving), but it looked really important to single-digit me. For some reason, that memory very firmly stuck! Now I'm able to enjoy the driver's cab any time I want to – I have two Routemasters of my own (597 and 1400), custody of RML 2714 and shares in RM 5 and BEA 2. I'm very fortunate.

What/who have been your main influences?

I'd like to think I have my own unique style, but you draw things from everywhere as you travel through life. The bus industry is full to the brim with inspirational people, but I can't not mention my predecessor, Lord Hendy, for his endless encouragement and support – as well as his ability to connect with people at all levels. And Leon Daniels, of course, whose endless energy, acumen and ability to communicate in every way is a wonder to behold.

What do you hope to bring to the Presidency?

In a world where charities, and particularly museums, are often struggling to maintain their position and relevance, it's fantastic that the London Bus Museum is in rude health, growing its membership every year and continuing to deliver both for members and for a wider audience, many of whom will be the bus users of the future. I plan to raise our profile and take the Museum's work to a wider audience, use my professional network to inform others about the benefits of connecting with the Museum and engage with other sector bodies with whom we can have a complementary relationship.

What's your motto or words to live by?

There are few new ideas. Our bus industry predecessors tried most things, but the museums and archives are a great way to find out what happened to all those innovations and find true inspiration. *If you want to drive your business forward, first take a long, hard look backwards!*



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

Paul's RM 1400 at Cartmarking at the Guildhall, July 2019



PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

RM 5 at LBM Summer Festival, June 2023

Paul gave a talk on his Routemaster Passion to the Friends of the London Transport Museum in January 2021.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): EDITOR



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): TERRY TORCH



Farewell route 118

Bob Hughes

It was announced recently that route 118 is to be withdrawn after 90 years of operation. It brings back memories for me, as I lived on the route in Clapham and my bedroom overlooked the bus stop.

When I began secondary school I became friends with a schoolmate who showed me the *ABC London Buses and Coaches* pocket book. I ended up buying one and have been an LT fan ever since. Even though quite young, I remember once waiting at the bus stop, and a green bus came along; it was a D-class Daimler, ex-Green Line now at Merton (AL). On another occasion, I remember getting on a bus and sitting on wooden seats!

Having knowledge of LT buses and getting the number every time I saw a bus on route 118 stop helped me learn more about London buses. Even in later life when catching the bus to go to Streatham, I could always know I'd get a bus home if I was out late.

I moved out of London in 1966 and the 118 was later withdrawn between Raynes Park and Morden.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): MIKE MCDERMOTT

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): KEVIN SMITH

There is a superb historic record of the operation of the route with many accompanying photos [here](#) – Ed.

LBM Events 2025



Spring Gathering

13 April

Our annual transport curtainraiser 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

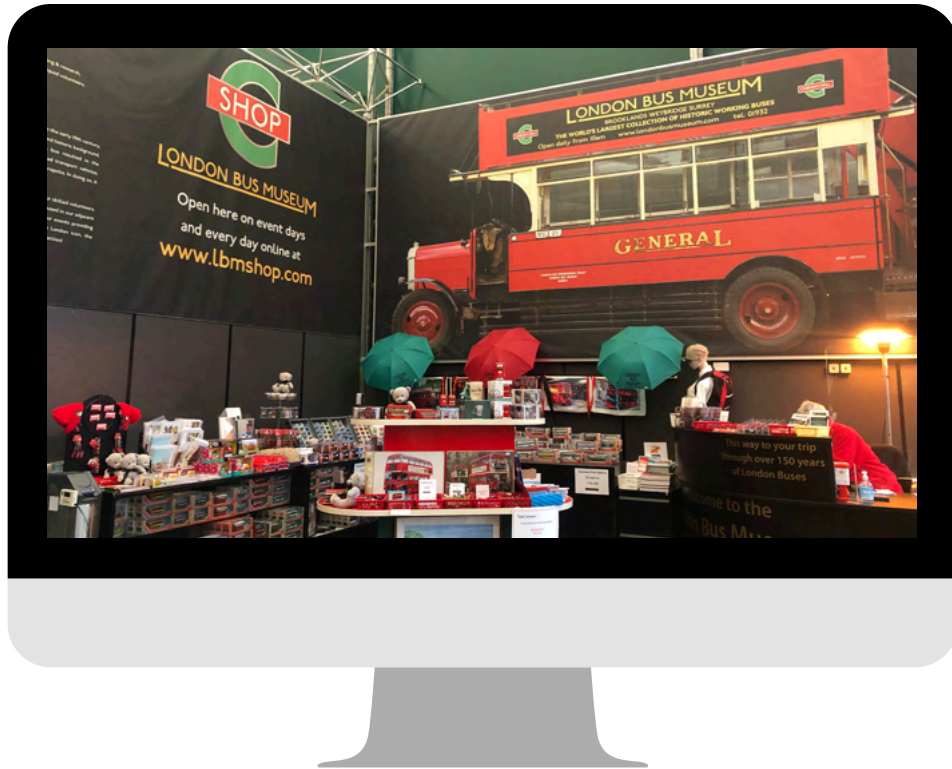
19 October

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

[View more >](#)

What's in Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



Time for T(ea)

Celebrate the restoration of our T 448 with this new mug

[Buy online >](#)



London's Classic Red Buses

This new book from Micky Webber covers all our favourite classes!

In-store only



LBM Teddy Bear

This new teddy bear is the perfect gift for bus fans of all ages

[Buy online >](#)

AGM & Members' Day



PHOTO CREDIT: ADRIAN PALMER



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From the Editor

March was a record-breaking month for the LBM. We had over 100 LBM members attend our AGM and Members' Day in person (despite M25 junction closures!), plus additional observers via Zoom, and the highest ever total of vintage vehicles running a free bus service in London for our Route 19 Heritage Day.

These events got the year off to a flying start! We're building positive momentum toward our annual Spring Gathering on 18 April, which we're all looking forward to with great anticipation.

The feedback from our members, volunteers and the wider public has been overwhelmingly positive. The enthusiasm and delight on the faces of Londoners along Route 19 were encouraging, and people were even more impressed when they heard that the LBM is run entirely by volunteers. This is all possible thanks to all of you members – and volunteers – for your support.

Thanks to Edward Adoo, Colin Fradd, Mia Hastings, Bob Hughes, Mike McDermott, Adrian Palmer, Paul Sainthouse, Kevin Smith and Terry Torch 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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PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT): EDITOR