



# LONDON BUS MUSEUM

*E-news*  
*June 2025*

## Route 418 Heritage Day



Buses from the last seven decades graced the streets between Kingston and Bookham on 8 June, with the second of this year's Heritage Days. Large crowds turned out to take a trip on these historic vehicles. Enormous thanks to the vehicle owners, volunteer crews and passengers. Thanks also to those who staffed the pop-up shop, which raised over £1000 for Museum funds. Particular thanks to **James Wake**, who organised and controlled the event.

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT):  
C/O LAURIE MOUNTJOY

# Route 418



ALL OTHER PHOTOS: DAVID BOWKER



# Route 418

More photos on p15

[View album >](#)

PHOTOS THIS PAGE: EDITOR



# Summer Festival

At the end of an early summer heatwave, on 22 June we gathered at Brooklands for the second of the year's Museum-based events. As well as the usual line-up, there was a special display of Dennis vehicles in celebration of 135 years of the Guildford-based firm.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): MIA HASTINGS; OTHERS: EDITOR

Huge thanks to Deryck Fill and the whole of the volunteer team for delivering a great event.

[View album >](#)



# Summer Festival

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



# Oxford Bus Museum

On 25 May Ian Barrett, Derek Hanlon and Rod Lucas took **G 351** and **738J** to the **Oxford Bus Museum** for an event specifically to showcase rare and unusual buses in preservation.

In addition to the Museum's own resident collection, 12 visiting vehicles attended and gave rides.

ALL PHOTOS: ADRIAN PALMER





*Oxford*



Thanks to Adrian Palmer for sharing his superb album of photos from the event.

[View album >](#)

# NS 174 in action

On Wednesday 28 May our 1923 NS 174 ran under its own power off the Museum site for the first time in many years. It ran past Mercedes-Benz World to the Wellington Way roundabout and back, driven by Derek Hanlon. Learn more about this venerable survivor [here](#).

PHOTOS: RIGHT AND BELOW: LAURIE MOUNTJOY

BELOW RIGHT: DAVID BOWKER

BOTTOM: EDITOR



# Buses and bikes

Horsepower of a rather different kind than usual was on display at Brooklands on 15 May, as part of a display of visting Chryslers, Dodges, Plymouths and other MOPAR Muscle cars. Here RT 4779 looks on as multiple Evel Knievels park up.

Meanwhile at Wembley, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Evel Knievel's attempted London bus jump was celebrated with a special gathering. The LT Museum sent MBA 582 to mark the occasion.



PHOTOS: GRAHAM BURNELL



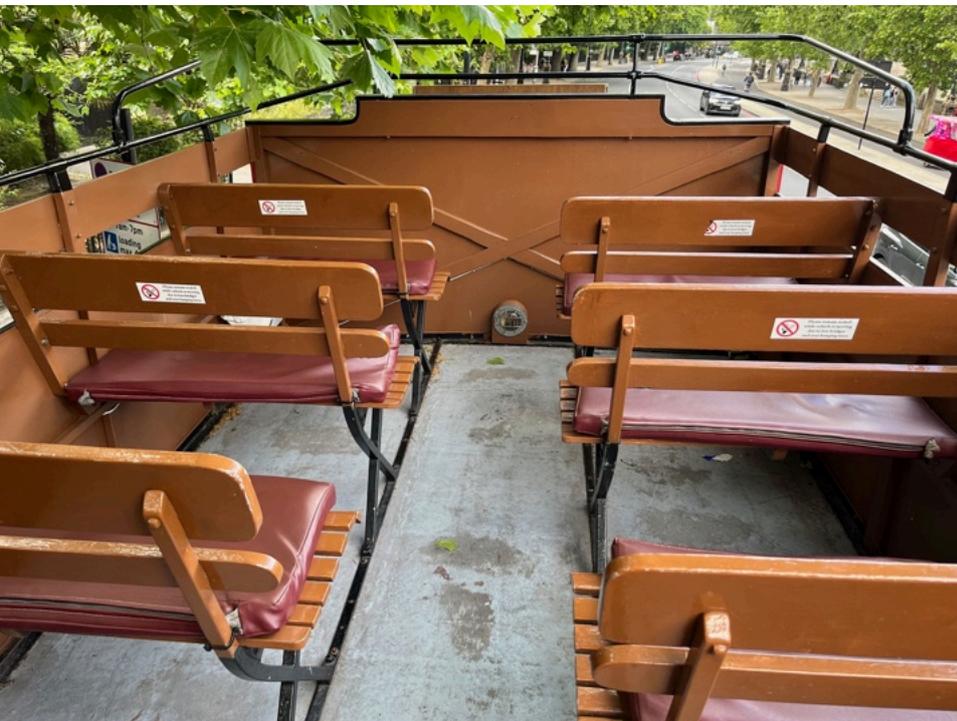
PHOTO CREDIT: C/O TERRY TORCH

## B-Type tour

Your editor recently took a tour on Ensignbus' **B-Type**, which is in fact a 1964-built Bedford chassis with a replica body.

The tour was courtesy of Londoner Buses and is running at weekends throughout July and August. Full details may be found on their [website](#).

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR





## Q&A with Andrew Collins, Bus Crews Manager

**How did you become interested in buses and what's your earliest bus memory?**

I can't really recall a time when I haven't been interested in buses or in transport in pretty much all its forms. I'm a born and bred north Londoner and living in Highbury right next to the bus stop for routes 4, 19 and 236 meant a continuous procession of RFs and RTs and eventually RMs right past my bedroom window. My earliest memory was trying to work out why some double-deck buses had three seats over the wheel arches (RTs) and others had four (RMs). Many a weekend in my earliest teenage years was spent with a couple of like-minded friends scouring London, first on the veritable Red Bus Rover and then much further afield with the London Country Golden Rover which took us all over the home counties!

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

I joined in 1990 and was a regular visitor to the annual events at Apps Court Farm, Twickenham Bus Garage etc, culminating in the late 1990s in taking a stall to sell some of my then extensive collection of bus models and books. I got to know the late **Bill Ackroyd** who had started offering PCV training on the former Green Line coach P3 (a 1973 AEC Reliance). As I was starting to acquire one or two classic vehicles, the opportunity to actually drive a London bus was too good to miss. By 2001, I had completed my PCV. Over the next 15 years I volunteered to drive LBM buses as and when my job and family commitments allowed. This culminated upon retirement in 2020 in taking over managing the bus crews from our very experienced bus type training lead **Peter Rodger**.

Volunteering gives you the opportunity to meet so many people from all walks of life whilst doing something you really enjoy. Most importantly, volunteering is not about fiscal reward but feeling valued for what you can do for others and to make something work well or better. Being part of a team that makes a difference is very satisfying.

LBM isn't my first foray into volunteering. In the mid-1980s I felt I had to give something back as my professional career had really taken off.

PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND BELOW): EDITOR



Above: Andrew at the wheel of STL 441, April 2025



Above: 1954 AEC/Maudslay Regent III (Short Chassis) Merryweather Emergency Tender

ALL OTHER PHOTOS: ANDREW COLLINS

I joined the Special Constabulary, spending over ten years working as a volunteer police officer culminating in a senior leadership role. It was extremely rewarding, but I eventually had to step away when the combination of work and family life meant something had to give.

### Tell us about your professional life.

It began in the London Fire Brigade. For many reasons I decided that the reality of one of my boyhood dreams wasn't quite what I expected, so I decided to move on after less than a year. Deciding that I needed to build a career that gave me long term financial security and job satisfaction, I joined the banking industry, particularly as it was a safer option than firefighting! Starting in the lending department of a major US bank, I spent my early days calculating and recalculating the debt mountain owed by numerous countries around the world, especially those in South America. As my career grew across many roles, it culminated in spending the last 20 years as the Chief Operating Officer and Deputy CEO at several banks. I have been very lucky to have worked in most countries in Europe and to have travelled widely in my role. My planned retirement in April 2020 gave me the free time to really enjoy my hobbies and make more time for LBM. The only challenge has been moving in retirement from living near the Museum to the countryside around Salisbury some 80 miles away!

### It's not all buses! Tell us about the fire engines.

Another passion of mine is the history and workings of the fire service, in particular the London Fire Brigade. Despite an extremely brief career there, I have always had a passion for its history. This interest took on a whole new twist in 2009 when the LBM was looking to put some variety into the vehicles that attended Spring Gathering. It was suggested that some classic emergency service vehicles attended. I offered to reach out via social media to see if anyone would be interested. I went to see a 1954 AEC/Maudslay Regent III Merryweather Emergency Tender fire appliance used by the LFB and was offered the opportunity to share 50/50 in its ownership. It's notable as it attended pretty much all the major fires and incidents in London from the 1950s until the mid 1970s.

Roll forward 15 years and I am now part of a small syndicate that owns over a dozen appliances between us, including several pre-war 100-foot turntable ladders and a 1916 Dennis.

### Motto or words to live by?

My father taught me from a very young age: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you".



Above: At Westminster Cathedral for the annual carol service



Above: Some of the appliances in our syndicate last December attending the 50th Anniversary Memorial Service for the death in 1974 of a serving London firefighter and six members of the public in Maida Vale



Above: On the skid pan at Chiswick!



Above: 1976 ERF Firefighter Pump Escape

# LBM Events 2025



## 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 >](#)

## Receiving your LBM Magazine

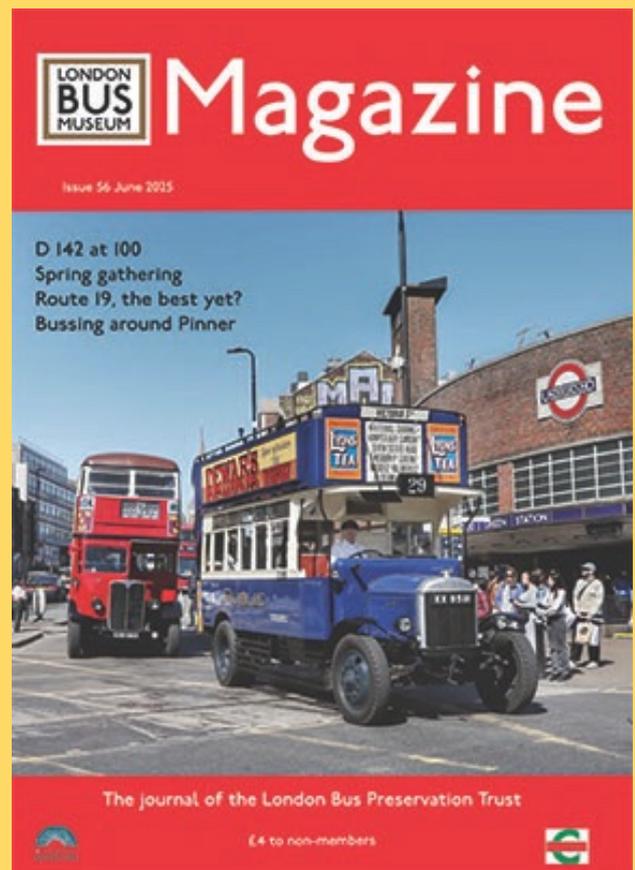
At our 2024 AGM, members overwhelmingly agreed that they can help the Museum save considerable postage and printing costs by receiving their magazines electronically.

Your online magazine will be just the same as the printed one, will take up no physical storage space and will be available anywhere! There will be no postal delays or damage to it.

The money we save on postage and printing will be used to fund the work of the LBM!

Printed copies of the magazine will continue to be available to those who would like them.

If you wish to receive the electronic magazine only, please notify us by email: [membership@londonbusmuseum.com](mailto:membership@londonbusmuseum.com). This will take effect from September.



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

Buy in store or online



Start planning for next year with  
our 2026 London bus calendar.  
Buy now while stocks last!

[Buy online >](#)



Organise your desk with  
our bus-shaped desk tidy -  
for all your LBM pens and pencils

[Buy online >](#)

# Route 418 Heritage Day



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE AND BELOW): JIM EADES



PHOTO CREDIT (BELOW): DAVID BOWKER



## From the Editor

Summer has got off to a flying start at the LBM! Our invaluable volunteers have led two major events this month, and the Museum continues to operate seven days a week, thanks to our dedicated stewards. In the workshop, three vehicle restorations continue.

There's never been a better time to volunteer and join our friendly community. New faces are very welcome and there's always plenty to be done. [Find out more.](#)

Thanks to David Bowker, Graham Burnell, Andrew Collins, Jim Eades, Mia Hastings, Laurie Mountjoy, Adrian Palmer and Terry Torch for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

Please email me any content for our next edition.

*Richard*

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PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

Come and see our 1938 [CR 16](#), which has recently returned to the Museum

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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