



FROM LEON DANIELS CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Volunteers

Your Council of Management and Trustees met, separately, on 17th September. This note is an informal briefing of what was discussed and agreed.

We were sad to announce the death of Michael Dryhurst – pioneer bus enthusiast and preservationist. He was 87, living in USA, where he had spent most of his career as a Producer and Director in Hollywood. In 1965 he purchased FUF63, a Brighton & Hove AEC Regent and much more recently he was instrumental in repatriating RTI back to UK where it now lives in our care.

S454 has left the Museum having been on long term loan until recently being sold. It remains, however, in good hands.

The Treasurer reported another successful year with our income boosted by shop sales, bus ride income and legacies. All this activity supports on-going preservation work, building maintenance, display improvements and meeting the requirements of the Charity Commission with regard to reserves.



We will shortly take further steps to improve the arrangements at our off-site storage facilities in order to house our growing fleet.



A few days previously we had mounted another highly successful running day – this time on route 54. Our own RT1, RT4779, G351 and RMCI469 performed together with other vehicles from private owners. The operation coincided with the open day at Catford Garage celebrating its 111th birthday.

We will shortly announce the programme for 2026 when again we will run three routes shortly before our own three Brooklands events.

As you know all our activities are delivered by volunteers and for that reason we will this November be setting out our operating plan for 2026 – our own running and event days,

our own bus rides operations, and those external events we want to support and attend. We do this well in advance to allow the inspections and repair to vehicles to be programmed. Of course, there is some flexibility and it remains inevitably that last-minute vehicle failures may affect our plans.

Our 4-light horse bus is away being repainted and we are hoping to see it returned in October.





Meanwhile the first stage of repainting I456MR, our AEC Militant breakdown truck is complete and the front of the vehicle is again red after so long.

Whilst now mechanically fit some of the newly fitted rexine areas on XF3 are coming adrift. Efforts are being made to attend to this so it can be used in service. T357 is making great progress in our own workshops whilst the defective brake units from CR16 are now removed and away being overhauled.

Lastly work on NS174 is really getting into the final stages and the bus will shortly be back in the workshop for this next stage.

Thanks to the hard work of David Mulvey, supported by others, our application for Arts Council re-accreditation is submitted and the outcome awaited. This is an important step.

We are delighted of the take-up from members opting out of a printed and posted copy of the quarterly Magazine thus saving us the ever-higher postage costs. Whilst we have undertaken to keep a printed magazine available for existing members, it has now been decided only to offer on-line copies for new members.

Our Volunteers' lunch will be on Wednesday 10th December. This year it is taking place in the Napier Suite in the Brooklands Club House, rather than in the workshop. The change is for a number of reasons, including increasing numbers, the disruption to the workshop and the discomfort of eating in sub-zero temperatures.

Our annual Members' Lunch will be held on 11th January 2026 at Silvermere Golf Club and tickets will shortly be offered to all.



And finally just to say a few days after our meetings it was Emergency Services Day at Brooklands: over 6000 people on site and a super busy day for us with the Car Park shuttle, two buses doing bus rides and a very busy shop!

Once again thank you for your continued support and as we survey the preservation scene and the health of transport museums nationally, we should be very proud of our work.

With all good wishes


LEON DANIELS OBE

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The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd



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