



Festive fun on the 430!



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

The residents of Putney and Roehampton were treated once again to their annual Christmas Day visit from vintage buses running on the 430 route, which this year was operated by STL 2377 and RM 1005. Thanks to Graham Burnell, Peter Milner, Peter Osborn and Dan Sullivan for crewing the buses and to those who prepared them for service.

Festive fun on the 430!



PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT); GRAHAM BURNELL; (ABOVE) DAVID BOWKER



PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT AND BELOW LEFT): DAN SULLIVAN; (ABOVE): DAVID BOWKER; (BELOW): PETER OSBORN



Bromley Running Day

This popular annual event took place on 7 December and featured two LBM vehicles: **RF 226** and RFW 14, whose participation had been carefully kept under wraps until the day!

Thanks to Tom Drake, Peter Larkham, Peter Larking, Glyn Matthews, Peter Maynard, Peter Osborn and James Wake for crewing the buses.



PHOTO (ABOVE): PETER OSBORN

OTHER PHOTOS THIS PAGE: ADRIAN PALMER







Volunteers' lunch

100 LBM volunteers sat down together for our annual festive lunch on 10 December. In a change from previous years, this took place in the warmth and comfort of the Napier Suite in the Brooklands Clubhouse. All agreed that this was improvement on the slightly draughtier workshop!

Chairman **Leon Daniels** welcomed everybody and thanked them for their contributions over the last year. He also shared some exciting news about the Museum's future plans.

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR



Route 252 running day

On 17 January the London Bus Company held a mini running day over the 252 route between Colliers Wood and Hornchurch, to raise money for Macmillan. The vehicles in service were RTs 2150 and 3933 and RMs 298 and 1993.

ALL PHOTOS: NIGEL EADON-CLARKE



Labour of love

Derek Hanlon

In 2002, RML 2499 was chosen to receive a special livery to commemorate HM The Queen's Golden Jubilee. It spent its last years in service at Camberwell garage on route 12.

Long-term London Bus Museum member **Mark Dexter** bought RML 2499 as part of the Ensign raffle in December 2004. The bus had previously been modernised, including strip lighting, new moquette and a Cummins 'C' engine.

Mark wanted the bus to look exactly as it did when new in 1966. He spent the next 21 years gradually completing the restoration. This included removing all the strip lighting and fitting new coving to allow original tungsten bulbs to be fitted. All the seats have been re-covered in original moquette and include the exact seat edges from original leather – remarkably still available. All the modern floor covering was painstakingly scraped off and replaced with the original Treadmaster. Most of the fixed glass windows were replaced, as were many body side panels.

In 2023, a total repaint inside and out into original livery was completed. All the internal and external advertising has been replaced with original or exact copies of those from 1966.

On 9 December Mark invited a number of people who had helped with the restoration to the Museum to celebrate its completion and the 21st anniversary of his ownership. I had the pleasure of driving the bus to and from the event.

The pictures of the restored bus were taken by Mark during the celebrations.



London Northern

Thanks to Steve Ray for sending in these photos of his recent visit to the North West Museum of Road Transport. The Museum has a fascinating and varied collection of vehicles and looks well worth a visit.

The building itself is of interest, having started life as the depot for the town's horse-drawn trams. It has housed the collection since 1986.





New year's resolution?

Melvin Phillips

2025 was another successful year for Donated Items sales.

Thanks to all those who supported our fundraising efforts in 2025, either by donating items, picking up a bargain from our stall or staffing the stall. We were able to raise just under £15,000 for Museum funds and are now planning for the three Museum event days this year.

We welcome donations of any transport related items, from any area (except magazines), but our best sellers are always models. So, if your new year's resolution is to sort out or downsize your model collection, please think of us as our stock levels are low. If you are interested in donating items, please contact me at melvin.phillips@londonbusmuseum.com

PHOTO CREDIT: EDITOR

**SAVE THE DATE:
OUR AGM AND
MEMBERS'
VEHICLE
EXPERIENCE**

Saturday 7 March 2026

11am

Vickers Suite, Brooklands Museum

Refreshments will be provided

Further details to follow



Q&A with Paul Naylor, volunteer driver

What inspired you to volunteer as a bus driver at the Museum and what do you enjoy most about volunteering?

I'd volunteered at the old Cobham Bus Museum, but then life and work got in the way. I also spent three years as a driver at Stamford Brook garage in the 1980s, so I thought it was time to volunteer/drive again. I also volunteer at the London Transport Museum.

What's your favourite vehicle in the collection and why?

RML 3. I did a lot of work on the bus at the old museum. It's great to see it is still running well. I drove it last year on the route 19 running day.

What would you say is your favourite transport era?

It would be the 1980s, because that's when I was working as a driver. However, there's always something interesting to see in the present day as well.

Tell us about your professional background.

I joined London Transport in 1982 and worked in many different roles including driver, inspector and garage manager. Later I moved to London Underground as a senior manager on the team, upgrading signalling to the latest computerised systems. Finally, I had a spell as a transport consultant, advising the Elizabeth Line and Sydney Metro before moving into retirement.

What's your favourite book, film and TV show?

Book: *Contact* by Carl Sagan

Film: *Blade Runner*

TV show: *Slow Horses*.



Above: RML 3 on Rosebery Avenue on the Route 19 Heritage Day, March 2025

Can you help?

We're looking for a new Volunteer HR Manager at the LBM to manage the recruitment and subsequent training of volunteers working alongside a small group of Team Leaders and an assistant, with a robust internal communication system in place.

Key responsibilities:

- Determine volunteer requirements with team leaders;
- Encourage recruitment via local events and organisations;
- Process applications – interviews, documentation, ID and uniforms;
- Ensure adequate documentation and training is provided;
- Monitor progress during a probationary period;
- Mediate in cases of difficulty and discipline - if necessary;
- Report to the Council of Management (in person or by Zoom);
- Update E-news and LBM Magazine Editors, as required;
- Arrange “thank you” events for volunteers (with Social Secretary and Trips Organiser).

The ideal candidate will:

- Be able to attend the Museum on a regular basis (minimum once per month);
- Have an approachable and personable manner;
- Be competent with Office 365 elements such as Outlook, Excel and Word;
- Have some knowledge of HR/ Volunteer processes;
- NOT need an in-depth knowledge of London's buses!

If you think you could help, please **contact Peter Brown** for an informal conversation.



LBM Events 2026



Route 38 Heritage Day

14 March 2026

Enjoy free rides on historic vehicles all day between Victoria and Clapton Pond on our first Heritage Day of 2026.

[View more >](#)



Spring Gathering

19 April 2026

Join us for our annual transport curtain-raiser to kick off the 2026 rally season with a range of vehicles, rides, stalls and fun.

[View more >](#)



Route 213/293 Heritage Day

13 June 2026

Historic vehicles will offer free rides all day between Kingston and Sutton and North Cheam to Epsom.

[View more >](#)



Summer Festival

28 June 2026

Our annual summer event returns, with visiting vehicles, bus rides, traders' stalls, food and more for all ages.

[View more >](#)



Route 106 Heritage Day

3 October 2026

Our third Heritage Day will feature historic vehicles running a free service between Finsbury Park and Ash Grove.

[View more >](#)



TransportFest

18 October 2026

Round off the rally season with our autumn event, including an array of vehicles, bus rides and traders' stalls.

[View more >](#)



Route 2 road run

On Sunday 8 February the **Routemaster Association** will be holding a 70th anniversary road run over route 2 to commemorate the first day of **RM1** in public service on 9 February 1956. Vehicles will assemble at the **Ace Cafe** and then head for Golders Green for the start of the route. Details [here](#).

PHOTO CREDIT (BOTH): EDITOR

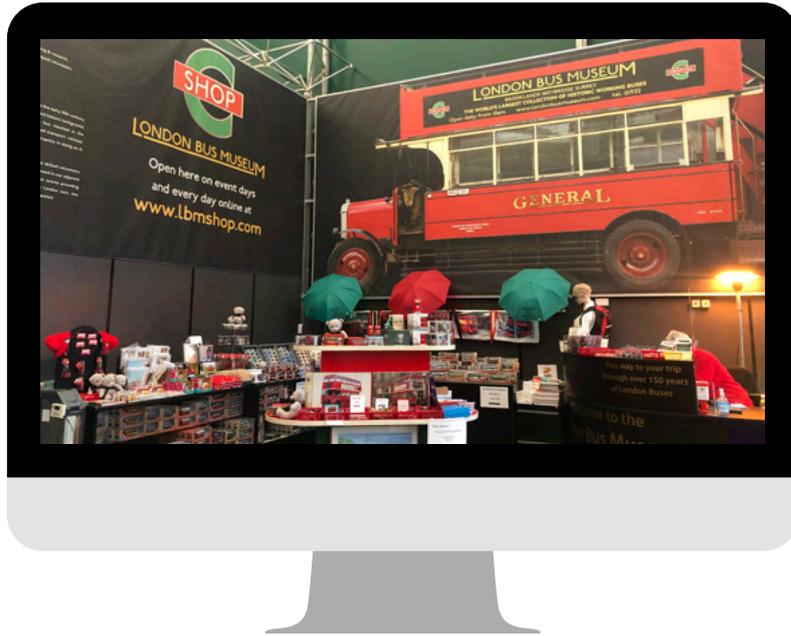
Epping Ongar Railway

There's winter fun at the Railway on 15 February with the return of the annual Winter Bus Event. Find out more [here](#).



What's in Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



Complement your model of RML 2760 with these two new releases from EFE Road!



RML 2270 is running a special railway service
from its home garage of New Cross

RML 2738 is travelling into the centre of London
on route 15, operated by Upton Park

[Buy online >](#)

[Buy online >](#)

January's mystery object



Robin Helliar-Symons writes: When I bought a Gibson ticket machine some years ago, it came with a rack of emergency tickets, a rule book and the device in the photo.

It is a cigarette lighter, but has a Griffin badge on both sides and has clearly never been used. Can anyone identify it? I think it may be for lighting fog flares, which were once used in the 50s/60s. It only measures 1" across.



From the Editor

I hope you have enjoyed the first E-news of 2026. This year marks 15 years since the Museum's move to Brooklands and thoughts are now turning to what the next Museum refresh might look like. Watch this space for further updates and come to our AGM on 7 March to find out more.

Thanks to **David Bowker, Graham Burnell, Sharon Burton, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Leon Daniels, Derek Hanlon, Robin Helliar-Symons, Paul Naylor, Peter Osborn, Adrian Palmer, Melvin Phillips, Steve Ray and Dan Sullivan** for generously contributing stories and photos for this edition.

Please **email me** any content for inclusion in the next edition.

Richard

See and be seen



The box of XL hi-viz jackets in the LBM canteen is empty!

If you have one squirrelled away and you are planning to use it at one of our events, that's fine.

If you have simply forgotten to return it, then please do so others can use it. Thank you!

PHOTO CREDIT: SHARON BURTON

Another satisfied customer!

Left: This gentleman, who visited the Museum on 17 December, was a conductor in the west country 40 years ago. He was desperate to handle a Setright ticket machine again, and we were only too happy to oblige!

PHOTO CREDIT: LEON DANIELS

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