



FROM LEON DANIELS CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Volunteers

Your Trustees and Council of Management met separately on 21st January 2026. As usual this note is a summary of issues discussed.



We were delighted at the huge turnout of some 50 people earlier in the month for our Volunteers' Meeting and a wide range of issues were discussed. I gave a presentation, a version of which will be shown at our AGM in March.

We recorded with regret the death of David Stewart in November. We were delighted to provide T448 for the scattering of his ashes he having provided significant funding for the restoration of the vehicle over the years. Friends and family had a short



tour of Dave's haunts in North West London (in continuous rain!).

We also agreed to provide a bus for the funeral of long-standing Brooklands volunteer Tony Amos and RT3491 did the honours.

It was agreed our annual 'thank you' event for Volunteers which this time was held in the Brooklands Clubhouse was a great success. The venue was moved so that professional catering could be provided and so lifting the burden on the ladies (mostly volunteers' wives) who provided it. It was also much warmer!

We also recorded another successful January Sunday New Year lunch at Silvermere Golf Club.

Our 4-light Horse Bus is back from a beautiful repaint and is now undergoing signwriting. It will be launched at Spring Gathering in April but members attending the AGM might get a peek in March! The Horse Bus will be providing rides at Spring Gathering and the necessary steps are being put in place for its safe and efficient operation.

Arrangements for the AGM were agreed. It will follow the usual format with reports provided in advance and opportunities to raise questions and topics at the meeting. Three buses will provide bus rides in the afternoon, there will be access to the workshop and there will be refreshments.

We were sad to lose the volunteer help of John Owens who had been managing our HR function, sadly due to ill-health. We wish John well. We are advertising for a replacement – if you feel you could help please come forward. The position is assisted by Grahame Bath so is not without support! Meanwhile Tom Yun continues to piece together the daily staffing of the Museum as we need a Duty Manager and stewards every day. We are all grateful to him for this sterling work and to everyone who has come forward to help, without which, we would have to close.

Concerns continue to be raised about the behaviour of children in the Museum with inattentive parents or teachers. It is of course a core function of the Museum to encourage young people and hopefully generate a spark that will lead them into having a deeper interest in the future.



RT4779 has been away for rear springs attention and a replacement engine is being prepared for fitting at LBM. RT3491 is also awaiting engine repairs. Meanwhile work continues on the restoration of T357 and shortly the body will be separated to allow more work on the chassis. There is excellent progress on our AEC Militant wrecker 1456MR as well as with NS174. To have FOUR restorations running simultaneously remains a remarkable achievement for a volunteer museum like us.



Our planned bus operation for 2026 was discussed, including those external events we are able to support. As a reminder these dates are planned well in advance to allow for transfers, vehicle examination, cleaning and crewing to be arranged using only our volunteer workforce.

Our 'inside team' are also creating new Volunteers' toilets as the commercial quote was considered too high. Shortly we will commence refurbishment of the Visitors' facilities and a general interior repaint of the Museum itself.

We again discussed how important it is to maintain high Health & Safety standards – the regulations apply equally to large and small organisations. We remind everyone that working safely is crucial and the consequences for failing to do so are severe.

We are well progressed in transferring responsibility for our retail activities to Chris Taylor, taking over from Yvette Gower. We must give her a huge thanks – she has driven sales upwards amazingly, delivered a welcome increase in profit both from our shop and on-line. Fortunately, Yvette will still be with us although not as often as in the past. We are also grateful that Mark Yexley has taken on the Trustee responsibility for retail.

We are delighted that our Accredited status for the Museum has been renewed for another five years thanks to the work of David Mulvey supported by so many.

A reminder that *our* 2026 programme is:

- 7 March AGM and Members' vehicle experience
- 14 March Running Day route 38
- 19 April Spring Gathering with horse bus launch
- 13 June Running day routes 213 and 293
- 28 June On the Buses at Brooklands
- 3 October Running Day route 106
- 18 October TransportFest

Come and support us!

And finally here is as much of the Horse Bus as you can see without coming along to LBM for the AGM or Spring Gathering!!

With all good wishes


LEON DANIELS OBE



18 February 2026

The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd



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No. 1633