

LONDON BUS MUSEUM

E-news
April 2026

Spring Gathering: Horse Bus restored!



PHOTO CREDIT: DAVID BOWKER

The Museum's latest restoration project was unveiled at Spring Gathering on 19 April: the four-light horse bus. Planned and carried out by volunteer Alan Gaskell, the project took 30 months to complete. The bus ran in service with the assistance of magnificent shire horses Duke and Cosmo, to the delight of visitors.

Horse Bus restored

Following an offsite repaint, the horse bus returned to the Museum on a cold February day and was kept carefully under wraps. The signwriting was completed in situ in the LBM workshop.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE):
LAURIE MOUNTJOY

OTHERS: CHRIS TAYLOR

Above: one of our oldest vehicles passes one of our newest, WVL1 - itself almost 25 years old! Above left: the horse bus under wraps



Left: Alan and Jenny Gaskell, in appropriate period finery, pose by the bus shortly before its inaugural trip at Spring Gathering.

Next month Alan will tell us more about the painstaking restoration process, resulting in the vehicle's beautiful appearance.

PHOTO CREDIT (LEFT):
EDITOR



Spring Gathering

Grateful thanks are due to Events Manager **Deryck Fill** and his dedicated team of volunteers for ensuring the success of Spring Gathering.

Deryck must one day share his secret for ensuring perfect weather for this event!



On public show for the first time following a full repaint into London Transport colours was our AEC Militant service vehicle, appearing as she did when operating out of Camberwell garage.



Spring Gathering



[View album 1 >](#)

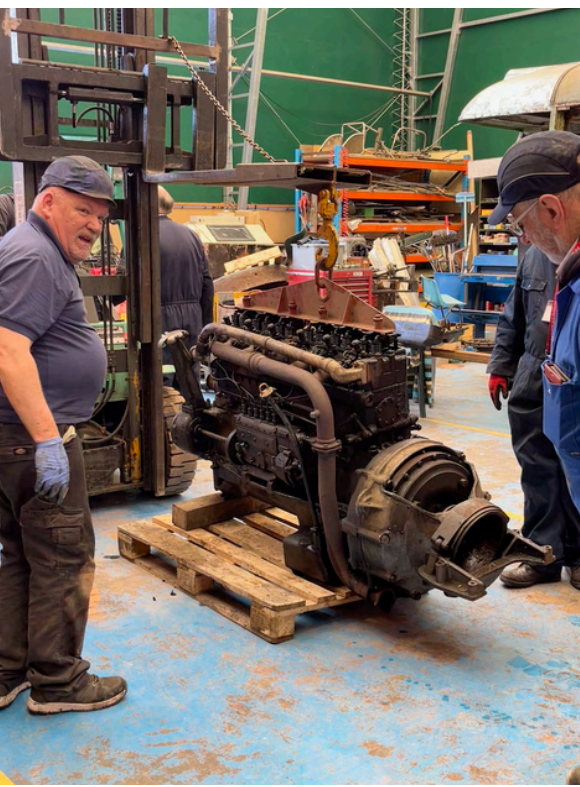
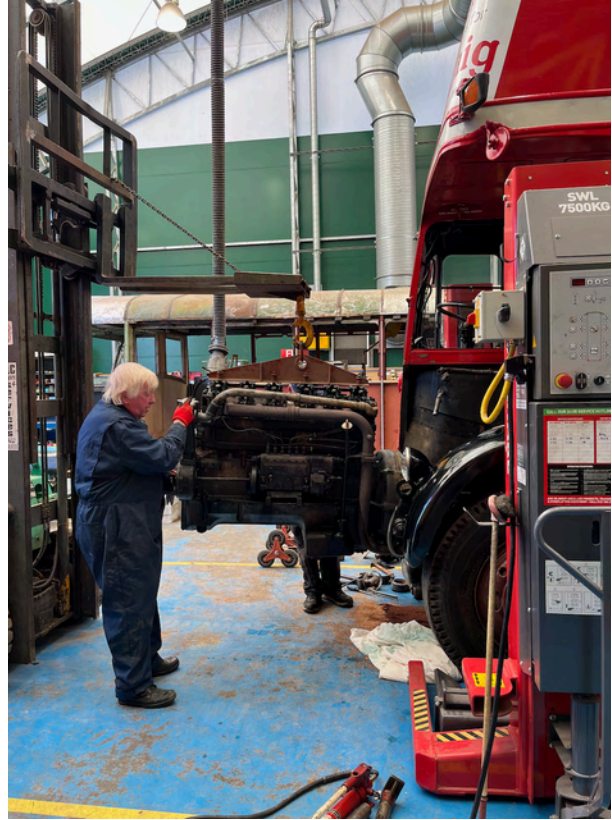
[View album 2 >](#)

All change

Just another day in the workshop, with an engine change for RT 4779 on 18 March (following work on the rear springs). Volunteers **Simon Greatwood** (operating the forklift), **Andy Kaufmann**, **John Patch** and **Roger Stagg** were on duty.

Far below: before and after installation

ALL PHOTOS: EDITOR





(Comic) Relief Crew

On 20 March some familiar faces crewed RM 1400 and RML 2735 as part of the annual fundraiser for Comic Relief. The buses ran the full 65 route (Ealing - Kingston) throughout the day and raised a grand total of £1,657.61 for the charity!

PHOTO CREDIT (BELOW RIGHT): MIA HASTINGS; OTHERS: EDITOR



South East Bus Festival



There was a great turn-out from London vehicles at this year's spectacular festival on 11 April, held at the Kent Showground in Detling. XF 3 represented the Museum and gave rides around the site. Thanks to **Adrian Palmer** for organising the trip, to **Simon Greatwood** and **Martin Watkins** for driving the bus and to **David Harman**, **Laurie Mountjoy** and **Chris Taylor** for staffing the LBM pop-up shop, which had a very successful day.







Q&A with Jason Humphries, Volunteer Steward

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

I've always had an interest in public transport. After becoming a member of the LBM and finding that I now had time on my hands, it seemed to me that the most logical thing to do was combine the two and volunteer to help in a subject that interests me: transport. The good thing about volunteering is meeting all types of people who have different skills but all share the same passion for ensuring that London's bus history is kept alive for the years ahead.

What's your favourite class of London bus and why?

My favourite class of London bus was also one which had a short (if not the shortest) service life: the **MD-class Metropolitan** double decker. Living in south-east London where they were based, I thought they were of a style that looked ahead of its time when first introduced. They did not just stand out design-wise, they were also quiet when compared to other buses and could go at speeds and climb hills that no other bus could do at the time.

Tell us about your time with London Transport.

I joined LT in 1984 when I was 18 and began as a conductor based at Peckham garage (PM) on the 36 road (the plains, As and Bs). However, due to the conversion of more routes to OPO and the tendering of routes by LRT which led to a continued decline in terms and conditions, I decided to 'jump ship' and transferred to the Underground in 1986. I worked on the East London Line, eventually being rostered at Shadwell for twenty years, where I was a leading railman, a station foreman and a station supervisor. However, following the privatisation of the ELL, I was transferred to Bermondsey. I was a station supervisor and then a customer service manager until another reorganisation, where I was transferred again to the Mansion House area, covering both Mansion House and Cannon Street. In 2023, after 39 years' service, I decided to take early retirement.



PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE): JON BATCHELOR



Left and below: Jason aged 18 as a conductor at Peckham garage

Jason Humphries

If you could travel back to a particular transport era, what would it be and why?

It would have to be the 1970s, as this was the time when you saw so much variety, with RTs, RMs, DMSs, MDs, Ts and Ms, along with RFs. SMs, MSs and LSs. There was also the mixture of both crew and OPO, as well as numerous different types of stock on the both the Underground and the main line, which at the time was nearly all crew operated.

What's your favourite film/TV show?

I suppose one of my favourite films would be *The Long Good Friday*, which has great acting and shows London as it was back in the day. As for TV shows, there is nothing that jumps out to me as a favourite, but I do enjoy spending my Saturdays (when not volunteering) supporting the best team in London – Millwall.

Motto or words to live by.

I am always reminded of the lyrics of The Specials (among others) of *Enjoy Yourself*:

*Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think,
Enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink,
The years go by, as quickly as you wink,
Enjoy yourself, enjoy yourself,
it's later than you think.*



Above and right: RML 2304 combines two of Jason's passions

PHOTO CREDIT (ABOVE & RIGHT): KEITH SAUNDERS



Thanks to **Simon Douglas Lane** and **Graham Hayward** for taking **RT 3491** on her annual visit to the Elmsleigh Shopping Centre in Staines on 11 April to promote Spring Gathering (left); and for providing a tour for members of the **Allsorts Car Club** during their visit to Brooklands on 15 April.

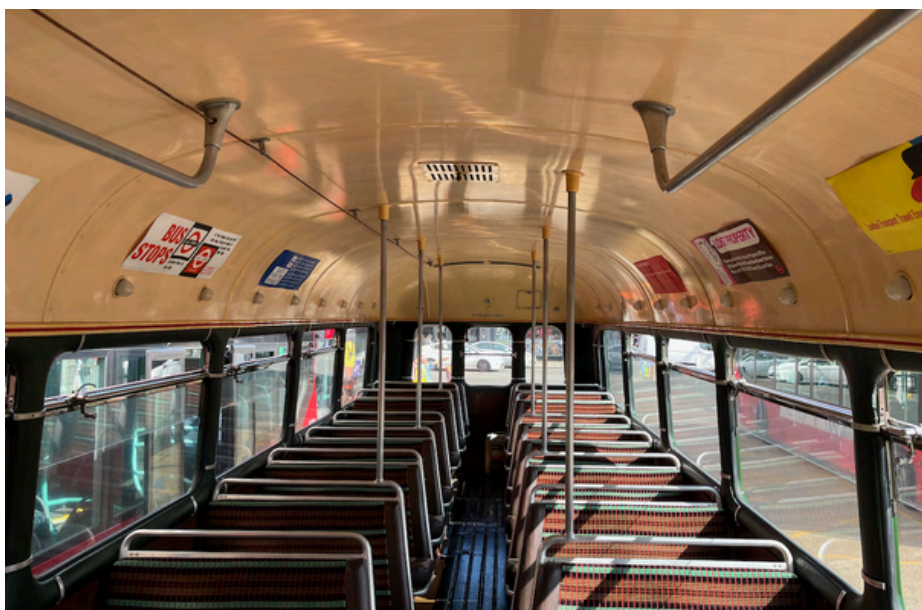
Own a share in an RF

Offered for sale is a one-fifth (20%) share in the ownership of **RF 600**, a 1953 ex-London Transport Country bus.

During the 15 years of the current group's ownership, the bus has regularly attended rallies and running days and has been restored to a very high standard, including a full engine overhaul, interior retrim and full exterior repaint in 2022. It is currently based in the Reigate area, with easy access to the M25.

We are a very happy and active group, and any new member would need to be a team player, prepared to participate actively in group activities. Possession of a full PCV driving licence is highly desirable and would be an advantage.

To arrange an initial discussion, please contact **Colin Fradd** at colin.fradd@btinternet.com.





Praise for our Route 38 Heritage Day

A fantastic day - well done to everyone for making it possible. We enjoyed our rides on the buses, and it brought so many smiles to those on and off the buses to see these beautiful vehicles again.

Well done all of you for cheering up London.

What a fantastic day, thank you all so much for your hard work! We had the honour of riding one of these beauties all the way back to Epping Forest at the end of the day. Such an incredible experience and so much fun.

Fantastic day. Thank you for everyone involved in organising and running it. Excellent.

Absolutely fab day seeing and being on the buses. Well done everyone - it's so lovely to see passengers smiling and chatting to each other.

A fantastic day - well done to everyone for making it possible.

Classic day. Great fun. Great work. Thank you to all the volunteers.



Thanks to everyone involved in the planning and running of such an amazing day, especially the person who booked a full day of sunshine!

Great day out. I rode on RTW 467, RTL 554 and RT 2799. Very well presented vehicles, clearly a lot of work has gone into them. I wish I could have gone on more of them.

Well done and thank you, it was a very enjoyable day. The planning and effort from the volunteers was very much appreciated!

Just wonderful to see these graceful beauties travelling up and down the streets.



LBM Events 2026



Route 213/293 Heritage Day

13 June 2026

Historic vehicles will offer free rides all day between Kingston and Sutton and North Cheam and 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 see historic vehicles in service free of charge, between Finsbury Park and Ash Grove

[View more >](#)



TransportFest

18 October 2026

Round off the rally calendar at our vibrant autumn event with a wide range of vehicles, bus rides and traders' stalls

[View more >](#)

What's in Shillibeer Place, the LBM gift shop

Buy in store or online



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DAVID BEDDALL



David Beddall documents the Titan in London through a diverse selection of high-quality images

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DAVID BEDDALL



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EAST LONDON BUSES
1970s-1980s
MALCOLM BATTEN



This book describes the huge changes in East London, both socially and within the bus industry

[Buy online >](#)

Spring Gathering highlights

ALL PHOTOS: ADRIAN PALMER



From the Editor

Over 2,500 people joined in the Spring Gathering fun! Thanks to all our volunteers, vehicle owners and bus crews for making it happen. There's still plenty to look forward to this year - if you haven't experienced one of our events in recent years, why not try one in 2026?

Thanks to Jon Batchelor, David Bowker, Simon Douglas Lane, Nigel Eadon-Clarke, Mia Hastings, Jason Humphries, Laurie Mountjoy, Peter Larkham, Adrian Palmer, Keith Saunders and Chris Taylor for contributing stories and photos for this edition.

Please [email me](#) any content for our next edition.

Richard



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