



FROM LEON DANIELS CHAIRMAN

Dear Members and Volunteers

Your Trustees and Council of Management met (separately) on 6th May. This note summarises what was discussed at both meetings for your information.

We were delighted to welcome Mia Hastings as the new HR Manager. Mia (right) is well known to LBM regulars for her frequent visits to the Museum. She is a Director at Mastercard and we are delighted she has taken up this crucial volunteer role in our organisation.



We recorded an excellent Spring Gathering with over 2630 visitors, over 100 visiting buses, and a glorious day.

We were able to launch our newly-acquired AEC Militant Master Breakdown Tender and unveil for the first time our 1890s Horse Bus beautifully restored by Alan Gaskell.

Check out the launch at https://youtu.be/ew0d6YxbYh4?si=p0vvyuXikgGJ-W_wZ.

The meetings were briefed on the forthcoming celebration of the centenary of the British Grand Prix on 8th August. This huge event will be a sell-out at Brooklands. Members and volunteers are reminded the usual free admission is suspended and all members of both organisations need to buy – on-line – tickets at half price.

We were delighted to accept the donation of GLS443 – a Leyland National Greenway from LBM-supporter Andy Barr. We hope this vehicle, which last ran in 2002, will have a happy life at LBM representing an era not well represented in our collection.

We also accepted from a long-standing member John Stevenson a 1963 BSA Bantam motorcycle in GPO colours. Whilst not directly in our usual area of interest it adds some colour and context to the service vehicle display.

This year is the 40th anniversary of Roundabout, the ‘arms-length’ small bus operation in Orpington. Two former Roundabout vehicles – a Dennis Dart and OV2 from LT Museum will be on display during the year and for a six-week period they will be on display at LBM. This display is being created jointly with LT Museum.

The current geopolitical situation has given rise to a significant increase in fuel costs. We discussed this in the context of ensuring sufficient vehicles in service for our running days. It was agreed we would review the idea of a fuel allowance for privately owned vehicles attending our route 106 event in the autumn.

LBM was closed for five days in April for significant interior work – a thorough clean of the floor; the repainting of the roadway; interior painting of offices and the main walls; and other work more easily done without the public around! The new volunteer toilets are in use and have been much welcomed by both genders.

Work is now starting on a beautiful new display on the mezzanine floor to set out the development and progress of seat moquette. Volunteer Alan Gaskell is turning his carpentry skills to this having completed the Horse Bus. This will replace the time-expired rotating unit in the main hall.

Despite several very welcome new recruits our volunteer numbers remain very tight and there remain many days where we are at or below minimum requirements. This is mostly due to illness amongst some of our regular volunteers who – we must remember – are not getting any younger. Anyone who would like to help here is asked to connect to tom.yun@londonbusmuseum.com to discuss further.

The Treasurer reported that we remain in good financial health. There was some significant expenditure during the year on Museum facilities and on restorations. However, this is, of course, our core reason to exist. Cost control remains essential as we balance our expenditure with our income and we will continue to have to work hard with our retail sales, membership, bus rides, events and legacies to be able to continue to deliver our excellent Museum.



Not long after you receive this, we will be approaching our operation on route 213 from Sutton to Kingston on 13th June. Members sometimes ask how we choose the routes. There are of course 600+ choices!

Firstly we have one each year that operates across the ULEZ boundary in some way so vehicles not exempt from ULEZ can participate. This year we have tagged route 293 on to route 213 for that purpose.

Secondly we are looking for supporting anniversaries. This year Ash Grove Garage is 45 years old and is having an open day so that is our excuse to operate route 106.

Earlier this year we returned to route 38 as our Central London route. The proposed TfL route changes will take the regular 38 away from Victoria so was our last chance to do this.

Here we see STL2377 with RMI.



Thank you for supporting the Museum!

With all good wishes

Leon Daniels
LEON DANIELS OBE

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The London Bus Preservation Trust Ltd



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