



Dewsbury Bus Museum NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012

West Riding Omnibus Museum Trust (Charity No. 702232)

DO YOU LIKE IT?

You have probably noticed by now that the Newsletter is not its usual shape and are wondering why. Well, this design is much easier to produce - no matching of pages so they print in the right order, no stapling up and no need to make sure that the amount of pages is always divisible by four!

It is also easier to send this version out by e-mail; so if we don't have your e-mail address, please let us have it.

For those of us who like the feel of a paper Newsletter, it can still be distributed in the normal way.

Feedback would be appreciated - if you don't like it, please tell the editor to stop meddling with tradition and put it back to the old style. If you think it's good, please pat him on the back and buy him a drink.....

CONGRATULATIONS!



Earlier this month, two of our members "tied the knot". Peter Day and Julie Simpson were married, after he proposed to her during our monthly meeting.

It was actually recorded in the minutes - "proposed by Peter Day, seconded by Julie Simpson, and agreed unanimously."

We would like to extend our best wishes to Mr & Mrs Day for their future years together.

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PRIZE-WINNING PANTHER

The Yorkshire Thoroughbred Car Club Rally took place on the May Day bank holiday in Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury. Hundreds of cars were present, plus some commercial vehicles. So we entered TWY 8 and the Leyland Panther.



The Panther was placed second, beaten only by a small lorry from the 1950s.



In spite of a few showers, it was quite an enjoyable day - made even more so by the presence of a refreshments stall selling the most delicious bacon butties!

And, of course, we managed to distribute loads of flyers for the Heath Common event.....

More news items are on page 4.

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DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

(More details on our website)

Saturday 23rd June & Sunday 24th June:
MIDDLETON RAILWAY are holding a special weekend to celebrate 200 years of steam. The Leyland Panther will be taking part, operating some guided tours of railway landmarks in the Leeds area.

Sunday 1st July:
ECCLESBOURNE VALLEY RAILWAY are holding a Classic Bus Rally. A trip is being organised on the Leyland Panther, which will be operating a trip on their local service at 2.15 pm. If you would like to come along, please see Tony Salmon (01924 511458 or 07788 801395) as soon as possible to reserve your seat and find out pickup arrangements.

Friday 6th July:
FLEUR-DE-LYS evening rally at Thornes Park, Wakefield. It is planned to take a few of our buses to this event.

Sunday 8th July:
KEIGHLEY FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT. Again, a few of our buses will be going along and some will be running the local free service. If you want a lift, please see the bus custodians.

Monday 16th July: (6.30 pm)
WROPS MEETING in The Principal

Monday 16th July: (7.15 pm)
MEMBERS' MEETING in The Principal

Sunday 19th August:
MIRFIELD SHOW - the Leyland Panther will be operating on the free shuttle service between the Showground and Castle Hall School.

Monday 20th August: (7.15 pm)
MEMBERS' MEETING in The Principal

Sunday 9th September:
MERSEYSIDE TRANSPORT TRUST RUNNING DAY in Liverpool. We are hoping to arrange a trip to this event, where at least a dozen former Merseyside buses will be in action.

Monday 17th September: (7.15 pm)
MEMBERS' MEETING in The Principal

Sunday 28th October:
HEART OF THE PENNINES RALLY based at the Piece Hall in Halifax. We are planning to send some buses along.

Sunday 18th November: (10.30 am-4.30 pm)
AUTUMN OPEN DAY at Dewsbury Bus Museum. We will be operating a free shuttle service to Dewsbury Bus Station, as well as the "Charlotte's Special". A huge array of trade stands will also be present.

Sunday 10th March 2013:
SPRING OPEN DAY at Dewsbury Bus Museum.

Sunday 19th May 2013:
HEATH COMMON RALLY & RUNNING DAY.

The website is constantly being updated as events are publicised. If you know of anything that has been missed from this list, please let us know.

NO SMOKING!



In these days of carefully-regulated clean air and emissions tests, it is hard to remember the "good old days" when most motor vehicles looked like this!

Fortunately, although a cold diesel engine does emit a lot of "clag", it only takes a few minutes to warm up and the smoke to disappear.

Andrew Beever (or at least we think it might be!) removes TWY 8 from the building on a cold morning.....

SOUVENIR MUGS



We now have a series of four mugs, all retailing at £5.99:

1. "Ethel" - the Leyland Tiger
2. The Panther
3. TWY 8 - the Albion Valiant
4. The Wulf - UCX 275.

If you haven't bought yours yet, they are on sale at events that we visit, and at the Wakeymodels stall, every Saturday on Wakefield Market.

THE NEWSLETTER

The next edition will be available on 17th September 2012. If you want anything including, (or would like to express your opinion on the format), please contact Tony Salmon before Friday 31st August.

THE MONTHLY RAFFLE

We are grateful to June Hare for running this venture at our monthly meetings. Tickets are £1 per strip, or three strips for £2.



There have been some great prizes recently. If you have any items (not necessarily bus-related) that you would like to donate as a prize, please bring it to the next meeting.

On average around £30 per month is raised - more than enough to insure a bus for a year!

RESTORATION REPORTS

Mark Byard is quietly working away at a secret location on his Guy Arab, KHL 855. He seems to have found most of the original pieces, and sourced replacements for the missing bits. The radiator is now overhauled, repainted and ready to fit. Watch this space.....

"Ethel" (Leyland Tiger EHL 344) had all her seat cushions professionally deep-cleaned recently. The water that was drained from the cleaning equipment looked like a mixture of used engine oil and Guinness! The seats now look absolutely splendid, but an oil leak is being investigated.

Steve Hurley has begun painting his Olympian (A577 NWX) and is hoping (fingers crossed!) to have her out and about during the summer.

The City Pacer (D901 MWR) departed earlier this month on a flat-back lorry, Andrew Tindall is hoping that it will return in full working order.

TWY 8 passed the MOT with flying colours in April, but has developed an electrical problem. Hopefully, by the time you read this, Andrew Beever will have worked his magic on it.

BHL 682 (the PD2) is getting ever closer to the day when it will carry passengers again. The seats and most of the internal trim are in place. Painting continues both inside and out, and the bus will move under its own power. Our chairman spends many hours giving guided tours to members, in between checking the alignment of all the screw heads! Hopefully, this bus will make its debut this year.....

In an effort to improve his "street-cred" and appear to be a competent engineer, the Hon Sec has installed in the Panther (LHL 164F) a new fire extinguisher, hook to hang his coat on, and a secure locker for a certain conductress to keep her handbag in!

All the "runners" worked hard at Heath Common, and the growing fleet is a credit to the hardworking volunteers who freely give of their time and resources, often leaving their own projects to lend a hand when others encounter problems.

LATEST NEWS

NWVRT RUNNING DAY - On Sunday 20th May, the North West Vehicle Restoration Trust held their first Running Day. This is a new group with premises in Kirkby, on the north side of Liverpool. We took the Leyland Panther and operated a few journeys on services 90 and 96. The West Riding shade of green is very similar to the old Liverpool Corporation Transport livery, so the bus looked at home. This was the Panther's first long-distance run for several years, and she performed well - even on the long climb up the M62 from Manchester towards Huddersfield.

The NWVRT returned the favour by letting one of their buses make its preservation debut the following week at the Heath Common rally. Recently acquired from Arriva, this Volvo B10B, new in 1995, was originally 6592 in the MTL fleet.



And this leads us on nicely to the **HEATH COMMON RALLY**, which took place in record-breaking sunshine. A total of 16 buses ran in service on routes stretching to Ossett, Healey, Dewsbury, Newmillerdam Country Park, Normanton and Pontefract.

A total of £334.17 was raised on our street collection - the rest of the profits were divided between the buses that ran in service. Estimates on the size of the crowd are in the region of two or three thousand. Buses were leaving Heath Common with sizeable loads every ten minutes. We operated 109 timetabled journeys. Unfortunately, on the last trip, PJX 35 broke down in Wakefield. But, "Plan B" was put into operation, which saw our treasurer picking up the passengers in Arriva's 1109 after a delay of only ten minutes!

The organisers would like to thank everyone who played a part in this most enjoyable event.

MORRIS DANCING - On Saturday 9th June, the Lord Mayor of Kirklees, Councillor David Pinder, organised a Morris Dancing Festival in several locations around the Mirfield and Hopton area. Groups of dancers were conveyed at 45-minute intervals between Mirfield Library and several local pubs on TWY 8 and the Panther, during which time we sold a few of our souvenir mugs.

SCHOOL VISITS - Since the last Newsletter, we have done a couple more school visits - to Grange Moor Primary and Ash Lane Primary in Mixenden.

GOODBYE!



It was a sad day for Malcolm King last week as he watched one of his London Routemasters drive off into the sunset.

Malcolm has invested much time (and money) over the years on RML 2524, but due to health problems, which have curtailed his activity recently, he has reluctantly decided to let this bus go.

However, he still has another.....