

Winter Newsletter 2016

If you have any news or views for publication please hand or send them to Mark Byard or Andrew Beever

Welcome to new members:
Owen Ryder, Andrew Pollard, Ron Rhodes, Duncan Laverty, Ian Wild & Donna Kloda



In a dark corner of the old Selby depot....

We often come across a shot that we think may interest readers....



Late 60's or early 70's – you decide!

From left to right: a wonderful Roe dual door bodied AEC Reliance, a Plaxton Derwent bodied Leopard (with coach seats), a Plaxton Derwent bodied bus from the earlier deliveries and just in shot the rear end of an AEC Swift (we think). We can only dream that this was actually a photograph taken inside the museum building last week but as we all know you can't save `em all!

The Panther gets a tart up!

We mentioned in the last edition that we had some pending news on the Panther. In recognition of her 50th Birthday on 22nd November 2017 we have decided to give her a tart up with a fresh coat of paint.

Paint-pot Andy already has plans in place and the intention is not to disable the bus during the painting process so we can continue to use her. Acquired by WROPS in 1985 she was originally rebuilt and restored during 1989/90 and received a full strip down and repaint at that time. What better time to spruce her up than for her fabulous 50th! Watch this space for progress to the celebration of her 50th at the November 2017 Museum Open Day. Cash donations to support the repaint gladly accepted!

Vehicle Updates

A new member of the collection makes its debut at the November Open Day – welcome E50 TYG owned by Julie Aylward.

The open day dawned and sat on the car park at Havelock Street was a fabulous addition to the collection in the form of a Ridings Travel Coach.



Left; new / Right; as acquired



All credit to Julie for the restoration. She still has a few more finishing touches to add, including some correct specification wheel trims, so if you can help locate some that look like the ones above then please shout up! Well done Julie on bringing this wonderful Leyland machine home.

We will feature a full article on E50 in our spring edition!



WHL 970 has had her paint job completed. Here she is peeping through a gap to whet your appetite. A massive well done to paint-pot Andy, Stuart and Colin for getting her looking this fine.



Left; a red garter adorns the rear of 970

THL 261H needs a sponsor! Our Bristol RE is looking for a sponsor that can contribute towards her storage costs, insurance and tax. If you would like to adopt the RE then this will need approval from WROPS members so if you think this is for you let Richard Hall know.

CWR Our Yorkshire Woollen Olympian will unfortunately have to go for scrap. Having suffered a serious structural problem owner John Folwell decided that the vehicle was beyond economic repair. John has very kindly donated the bus to the Museum so that she can give up valuable parts to keep others running in the future, including her engine and gearbox, before being towed away. RIP.

Huddersfield 472 Colin's Daimler is currently away at Reliance Bus Works for some restoration to its bodywork along with its annual MOT and health check. Progress on its bodywork has been posted on Facebook if you would like to see what's going on!

KHL 855 has had significant work undertaken in the last few months as the shot below shows. With all the floor out and the chassis having already been shot blast it has been primed and silvered. The body bearers were removed and new flitch plates manufactured.



Since this shot was taken considerable progress has been made with new bearers inserted and steels completed. Mick, Mark, Andrew and David continue to work on the Arab each week. Colin Wood is also pitching in and taking various bits home to work on much to the delight of his wife Sue who has banished him to the garage!

H630 UWR failed her MOT just a few days before the November Open Day. She had a rather large hole on the exhaust manifold and a couple of minor issues that needed sorting. The exhaust was repaired the next day and the more minor issues were completed in the following weeks meaning she is fit once more but did miss her scheduled run on 13th November.

TOD 9 had three attempts at getting in for an MOT before passing! On the first day she was due to go for the test the bus parked in front of her would not start and she was blocked in! On the second attempt she made the journey to Huddersfield only to find out that the tester was off site on a call out and would not be back for hours. Third time lucky!

NKU 245X passed her MOT just before the Open Day.

JHL 983 made her first run out on the public highway for over 10 years on the November Open Day. She wasn't quite ready for public service but she is road legal and ready for action in March providing all goes to plan over the winter months. Dave has got a few more checks to do on the brakes. Checks of the wiring have discovered a few issues so she will also be getting a re-wire.

The Fastaway West Riding Oly has now finally got a full set of correct specification coach seats thanks to Mick and Andy being given the opportunity to clear some remote stores areas in Belle Isle Depot.

Our Winter edition page three girl!



The gorgeous Rebecca donning matching red overcoat with bottle green Hi-Viz persuades the punters to part with a few quid for the Tombola. In the background Pam Waites (out of shot) keeps a close eye on her. Thanks to the ladies for keeping the Tombola rocking and to June Hare for manning the Christmas Hamper stall. They raised over £200 for Museum funds!

Photographs galore

If you ever wondered what thousands of unsorted photographs look like speak to David Parkin and Paul Goldthorpe who have kindly sorted this lot out!



We had been given the photographs to sell on and they are now sat on the WROPS stall for sale with all our models, books and other memorabilia!

Out and about & Rovers Return!

On 6th September the Yorkshire Rover Club paid us a return visit. About 20 members toured our building, had light refreshments and had a trip out on the PD2. We were reliably informed this had been a great turnout for the Club and all the visitors expressed appreciation by donating funds to the Museum.



Several fine British motors rubbed shoulders with some fine old British buses

On 11th September a visit to Aldwarke was on the cards. We took the Panther, the sun was out and we had a great day out selling from the WROPS stall. Meanwhile a couple of members made the trip to the Liverpool event – if only event dates didn't clash, we could have done both!

9th October saw the Aire Valley Group event take place at Skipton and we took a group of members on TWY 8 for a fantastic day out. The weather was great and the selection of vehicles certainly made it worth the trip. The Albion made two return trips out on service and here she is posed next to a former stablemate whilst sat in Skipton bus station. The second shot shows how popular she was with a full load for the trip to Gargrave.



Thanks to all those members who came along and supported the event.

We had a busy weekend at the end of October with a trip to Pudsey to the Transport Fair and the following day saw us operating our stall at Keighley.

Another one that got away

We completed our Autumn Newsletter with a shot of EHL 472D – the Val that got away. One of our regular contributors, Stuart Goldthorpe, has sent in a shot of another late lamented bus, West Riding Daimler Fleetline PHL 235G.



Sat on the Museum forecourt with 995. The very last in service West Riding Fleetline, this one was refurbished by the apprentices at Belle Isle before re-entering service in West Riding green livery prior to final withdrawal. It certainly stood out in a mass of NBC red and was loaned to the Museum and Transperience before being returned to West Riding. WROPS did make an attempt to secure it but it had already been promised to a contact in the USA and off it went on a one way transatlantic journey. Perhaps it still exists – who knows?

Museum Building Update

We have installed more racking at the Museum during the autumn months.



New additional heavy duty racking is now in place at the rear centre of the building



More Mezzanine racking in place!

We now need more help with sorting all the spare parts and sundries so if you can spare any time on Mondays please come and help. Meanwhile, Colin Poole has been very busy clearing the racking at the front right hand side of the building to give us an additional space for another bus or more workspace. The racking being emptied is being moved to the rear of the building to give us a double depth rack over the spare engines. We have also been busy smartening up our Open Day bus stop signage with a fresh lick of paint.

Christmas Buffet Reminder

Just in case you didn't make a note of the date from our last newsletter then make it now! We will be having a more "social" than business focussed meeting on 19th December so please come along for some free sandwiches, savouries and some of Keith Shenton's excellent Christmas cake.



Left; get stuck in!!

Bristol VR's in focus

With the year coming to a close we thought we would share a few photographs of the wonderful VR's that graced the streets of Yorkshire. Firstly, our own WROPS bus OWW 905P.



Can I go home to Wakefield?



Colin Poole has been quietly working away on OWW 905P when time permits and the first shot above shows her being towed from Escrick to Sykehouse several years ago. The other shot shows her sat waiting to be hooked up. She was then towed again from Sykehouse to Crofton.

Colin is not sure what colours she will be put back into but here are a few shots of other VR's to stimulate some thoughts.....



For those in the "know" OWW 905P carried a special livery to commemorate her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Silver Jubilee and the rather drab National Bus Company red scheme when brand new. Sister bus OWW 906P had the honour of carrying the special West Riding Automobile Company commemorative livery so with some artistic licence Colin could even try that one!

Our second VR, Yorkshire Woollen number 905 RUA 455W, has been receiving a lot of attention in 2016 from the Flowers clan and Steve Hurley. Hopefully in the next edition we can show some progress shots. Obviously 905 was a lucky number with both our examples carrying 905 as either a registration or fleet number!

Its annual subs time!

It, always amazing how quick a year goes by and how quickly the annual subs come around for payment. Enclosed with this newsletter is the annual renewal form for all members to complete. The annual subs cost £15 for Full Members and £10 for Associate Members. Please pay promptly as this saves administration time and cost and remember that if you do not pay by 31st January your membership automatically expires. Remember that your membership gives your four Newsletters a year and free admission to all events at the Museum building, along with the chance to be fully active in everything going on at the Museum. If you would like to pay at the December members meeting Andrew and Mark will be collecting the dosh!

We have not increased our subs for some time and believe that we offer a great value membership so please support us by returning your subs promptly.

AGM Update

We completed the AGM in November and here are the key points for those of you who were not present. All current post holders remain in place with the addition of a deputy Archivist in the form of Keith Shenton.

The annual report showed that the Museum had been very productive over the 2015/16 and is in a very sound financial position thanks to everyone's hard work. On a separate point, WROPS recently held two meetings and decided to allow the current Museum governing committee to manage all the affairs of WROPS. This will avoid the need for different meetings and will speed up the governance of the Society.

November Open Day makes it mark with girl power

The 13th of November arrived, the weather was fine and we were set for a busy day at our autumn event. With all our planning well advanced things were sure to go well and they certainly did! Over £4000 was raised thanks to record numbers of visiting buses and a healthy crowd of enthusiasts. WELL DONE EVERYONE.

We were invaded by the "ladies" who donned their aprons and Hi Viz jackets and got stuck in.....



The Café spice girls from left to right: Wednesdaywilco spice, Woody spice, Baxter spice, Tia spice and Abi spice.

The Café did a storm serving hot bacon butties for the first time and thanks to quick thinking by the girls more provisions were bought to keep our hungry visitors fed. Thanks to everyone that donated cakes or funds to buy the provisions. The girls raised £750 clear profit – well done spiceys!

Meanwhile the building as rammed with traders doing brisk business.



David and Trevor on books and models



Darren on Photos and rail books

Things to come.....



We can't wait to see Mick's Roe bodied Reliance restored but give him a break – he's helping Mark restore the Arab!

Many of our members have never see the Reliance "dressed up" with its panels attached so take a look at the shot above for how JHL 708 will look when Mick has finished with it. We all know it is a long term project and as we all also know if anyone is capable of bringing it back to life then Mick is the man to do it. It is on the back burner for now but if you want to see the standard that it will be restored to take a look at the progress on KHL 855 when you are next at Ravensthorpe.

The final bit

Well what a year! 2016 has been perhaps the busiest of recent years at the Museum with three amazing open days under our belts thanks to Tony Salmon's excellent organisational skills and our team work with three more planned for 2017.

We have had plans approved to extend the building and have had initial Lottery Fund approval to progress to the next stage with the potential to receive a Heritage Lottery Award. We have had major success on the restoration front with our National almost ready to put back on the road, our red Wulfrunian sporting new paintwork and in the final throws of being put back on the road, our Dalesman coach leaping forward with a mechanical overhaul completed. RUA 455W the Yorkshire VR has seen significant work carried out on it and the Blackpool PD2 restoration continues. Finally, a bus that everyone thought would never see the light of day again, KHL 855, being mechanically fit to drive on the highway in the summer, is currently in the middle of major bodywork refurbishment. Add into all that the task of keeping our ever growing fleet of vehicles in running order then it is fair to say we have a lot to be proud of and a great team spirit!

So if you come to the Museum to help on any day of the week, no matter whether you sweep up the rubbish, make the tea, rebuild a radiator, service a bus, donate cash, perform duties on the open days or simply pay your subs each year we say a big **THANK YOU!** We have a fantastic team approach at the Museum with everyone pitching in irrespective of whether or not the vehicle is privately owned or a society bus. **LONG MAY IT CONTINUE INTO 2017 AND BEYOND!**

