

DEWSBURY BUS MUSEUM

WEST RIDING OMNIBUS MUSEUM TRUST

Autumn 2017

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

Welcome to new members:
John Stringer & Doreen
Lowe



Wulfrunian, Doyen & Oly's in Magazines



Left; 970 Right; the Doyen



We seemed to have featured quite extensively in Buses magazine over the last few months with both WHL 970 and E50 TYG featuring as can be seen above.

It is nice to receive free public relations from magazines that are read extensively by those attending the rally scene, especially when we have an event coming up.

As if that wasn't enough, Steve Hurley's Olympian A577 NWX had the delight of being a front page star on B & CP Magazine, along with a full article on its restoration. The article also covered Paul Bennett's Olympian C612 CNW that is stored as part of our collection at Barnsdale Bar. Well done everyone!



R.I P Ron Stapleton



Ron's beloved TWY 8



As we reported in the last edition, TWY 8 attended the funeral of Ron Stapleton recently. For those not in the know, It was Ron that acquired TWY 8 straight out of service and garaged the bus at Yorkshire Traction's Doncaster depot. He famously appeared with TWY 8 in a newspaper advertisement for Williams & Glynns Bank, proudly proclaiming that the Bank would consider any project for a bank loan! Well Ron certainly got his monies worth and after a succession of owners the bus was eventually acquired by the Trust many years ago. TWY 8 slumbered in the shed for many years until Andrew Beever, a fledgling member at that point, offered to get her back on the road. With grit and determination Andrew, with the assistance of Mike Bennett eventually obtained a class 5 MOT on TWY 8 and the rest is history!

Thanks must certainly go to Ron for saving such a rare bus. It was our pleasure to invite Ron to one of our Open Day events four years ago and he thoroughly enjoyed his ride on the bus along with a carvery lunch at The Yorkshire Pudding with his daughter Val. We reminded him of the newspaper clipping of the bus parked on his driveway with him washing it down and he just chuckled! His daughter Val reminisced about the days out on the bus as a child, with what seemed like every spare weekend involving a trip somewhere on TWY 8 with all the family and friends aboard. What a lovely lasting memory for his family. Val also confirmed that Ron bought another South Yorkshire bus which unfortunately was eventually scrapped as it was too far gone, apparently his wife knowing nothing at all about the second purchase!

How low can you go?

Most of us know about low height and high bridge buses but how low can you go with a low bridge bus??

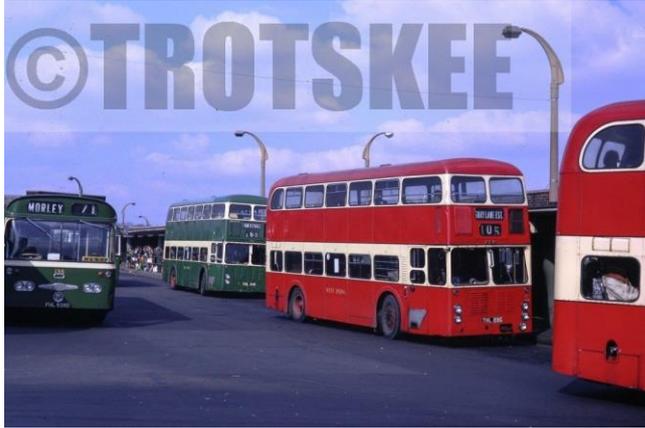


Left; HHL 996 a Guy ArabIV with open platform

West Riding had a problem on route 83/84 where the East Coast main railway line passed over Newstead Lane just outside Fitzwilliam. High capacity buses were needed so a solution was found when Charles H Roe supplied 5 ultra-low height deckers that measured only 13ft 1.1/2inches high. Here is one parked up in Wakefield ready for service via Newstead Lane. Is this batch of Arab IV the lowest known true low bridge decker or do you know different?

A personal memory of a red Wulfrunian

As a child Trustee Mark Byard attend St Austin's RC School in Wakefield City Centre. Mark says the highlight of his day was always the trip to and from school on a trusty West Riding bus. One memory that stuck in his mind was that on the journey home to his Grandparents house he would often find himself sat on a red Wulfrunian headed to Shay Lane Estate. But how come a red Wulfrunian was on a green service and was his mind playing tricks on him??



Left; definitely a red one on a 105 to Shay Lane Estate

As the photograph above proves (Copyright Trotskee) his mind wasn't playing tricks at all and here is the proof. Sat on stand one of Wakefield Bus Station is Wulfrunian THL 895 headed to Shay lane Estate. Mark says "what a treat" as the bus terminated at the "alighting only stop" at Thorntree Avenue just in front of his grandparents garden gate. If you have any personal memories of your trips on a Woollen or West Riding bus then let us know.....

May the force be with you



Left; TOD 9 with guest driver

Take a look at this! TOD 9 had a special driver for a recent wedding run with none other than Darth Vader taking the controls. As if that wasn't enough Princess Leia took up the role of conductress for an "out of this world" experience. Looking at the shot above any unruly passengers would have soon been on the receiving end of a lightsaber!! (Editor's note; Irene Day has asked to borrow the lightsaber for use at all future members meetings!)

By special invitation – a Cub in captivity

Look at what several members found in a shed in Cheshire. We cannot reveal the exact location since the owner has requested this be kept confidential.



As we can see above, we have something from the 1930's that is very blue – we are not referring to Colin Wood as seen in the shot far right, we are referring to the West Riding Cub!!

Having served West Riding well, Leyland Cub HL 7538 spent most of the following years in Anglesey.

Thanks must go to Colin for arranging the visit through one of his many personal contacts to see this restored beauty that is in full running order.

Out and about

A busy summer was on the cards with several of our vehicles attending lots of events. Star performer must surely be Julie Aylward's Doyen having attended the most number of events throughout the whole year. – thank to Julie's efforts several of our members have had the opportunity to travel further afield in luxury touring coach style!

On the 23rd July the Doyen and Panther attended the new Rotherham Eastwood Museum along with our sales stalls.

On the 21st August we were out and about again. The Doyen visited Gaydon whilst seven members, the PD2 & TWY8 and our sales stalls supported the Classic Leeds Bus Running Day at Thwaites Mill. The weather kept fine and we had a very busy day on our sales stalls so thanks must go to members David Parkin and Steve Abrahams for serving on the stall all day and Tony Mowvley and Colin Poole who conducted on our buses. We raised a cracking sum of money for the WROPS restoration fund that far exceeded expectations so thanks to all that helped out.

Julie's Doyen had a busy month in September flying the flag for the Museum and visiting several events.

On 24th September a small group of members that had responded to our Barnsdale Bar & Penistone Tour notice in the last Newsletter had a day out on the road. They were give the treat of seeing several buses that have been hidden away for years.

Building Update

We have recently installed a new Rally Attendance Board. It is positioned on the wall just to the left of the front door signing in book.



Left; all the details you need to know

The Board displays all our known planned Rally attendance dates and venues – each one being detailed on a clipboard. The details on the clipboard are for everyone's information and allow you the members to add your details should you wish to help man the museum stalls, clean a bus before it goes out to a rally or even offer your services as a driver or conductor/guard!!

Alongside the Board are our vehicle lifts, safely stored out of the way. We are in the process of having the appropriate electrical supply installed and thanks must go to Eric Sheard & Phil Houghton who have managed to get all the cabling sponsored by Doncaster Cables, to whom we are very grateful. Eric has also managed to get the control board sponsored too – a cracking result!



Right; 4 Lifts tucked away in the corner near the sink

Hopefully the installation will be completed shortly and **only those individuals authorised by the Trustees may use the lifts.** The addition of the lifts will be a great help to some restoration projects within the building.

As a result of repositioning the racking from the front to the rear of the building, all the personal lockers are now positioned on the Mezz and what a fine sight they make. Anyone would think we were running a Gym!



Left; a small section of the lockers but no showers in sight!

Finally, two new rows of racking have also been added to the Mezz. Our building requires constant attention to keep it in decent shape and several members show up on Mondays and simply get on with general maintenance jobs like litter picking, dustbin emptying and cleaning, for which the Trustees are very grateful. For those of you who do this, usually using your own initiative, we say "thank you very much".

August Open Day

XUA 73X was due to debut on the day, having passed her MOT a couple of weeks before but alas it was not to be! On the way back to Barnsdale bar shed she developed an air leak on the footbrake valve that put her out of action.

That said, what a cracking day it turned out to be. For those of you that attend the monthly meetings you will have already had a copy of Tony Salmon's report on the exact details of how it all went. Here are a few of the points from Tony's report:

The crowds – we estimate more than 1000 attended the event and car parking spaces at the Mill were at a premium around noon as cars circled looking for a space.

The Venues – we had 13 volunteers at the Museum supporting the Café, Tombola, sales stalls and check in desks. Andy Wardman capably managed the bus layby in front of the Royal. At the Mill we had a slight set back when some cars had been left parked in our designated area despite clear signs warning the area would be in use from early Sunday morning. A quick adjustment was made to the stall layout area and traders reported brisk business. The Mill Outlet had laid on several attractions for the kids with the Cavebus, Donkey Rides and even Old Time Dancing was provided for our more mature visitors! We adopted a new parking layout for statics on the top car park under the direction of John Flowers and this seemed to work extremely well. At South Street buses met up and this provided an interchange point for those that did not wish to travel the full length of the route.

The Bus Services – seemed to have improved as we only ran two main services using clock face departure times. Loadings were very good with several buses leaving at full capacity. With XUA out of action and a steering fluid problem with our other National (Tracky 245) we only managed to have 9 of our own vehicles out on service supplemented by ten visitors in service. The oldest bus in service was 69 years old and the newest was 69 days old thanks to Burnley & Pendle Bus Company's support of our event. The PD2 threw a hose off during service, with Mick Bennett sorting it within a matter of minutes once the part had been located and one of the four Halifax buses had an issue with a wheel bearing, Simon Turner coming to the rescue at Cross Foundry Street. All in all it all went to plan.... except ...Tony had missed one journey off a running board that meant the 310pm departure to Birstall "knocked" – As Tony said anyone would think we were running a modern day bus company!!

The Volunteers – 33 of our members were on duty wearing their Green Hi Viz vests. Even with this number of volunteers we were stretched. We have two sites to control at the Mill, departures & arrivals at South Street and the operation of the Museum building and bus stop at the Royal. We could really do with a few more volunteers so if you are an Associate Member that could spare a few hours please contact Tony Salmon as we already have a date confirmed for next year.

The Financials – the result was amazing with more than £3500 clear profit made due to everyone's hard work. So all that remains to be said is WELL DONE TONY for organising and managing the event and pulling together a fantastic day. Now all that remains to be said is get your diary out for 2018 and put Sunday 12th August 2018 in it and let's do it all again!!

Vehicle Updates

XUA 73X - with her MOT finally passed and a re-launch into service on the cards another issue came to light on the way back from the test station. A footbreak valve on the air system was playing up so a replacement part was sourced, amazingly being advertised as the only one on ebay but located in Dewsbury! Colin collected the part and with Andrew's help 73 is roadworthy at last and being used on private road runs to check her overall health. Look out for her at the Open Day.

BHL 682 – the hose issue is resolved and she is currently in fine fettle.

JHL 983 – the Dalesman's brakes are now all overhauled and a fault with the electrical system is now being worked on thanks to a donation from Chris Ellum to pay for some materials. Further adjustment to the new clutch is required.

KHL 855 – has come on in leaps and bounds over the last three months. The new rear wheel arches are in, the platform and lower stairs area is rebuilt and the floor boards are back in. The front end area is rebuilt and a new Birmingham style front end adorns the bus.

WHL 970 – Colin has had a trip to the Midlands to drop off the Callipers at a specialist supplier for refurbishment whilst he and Stuart continue with checking all the pipe work to the engine. STOP PRESS – 970 received a very special visitor in September – more of that in the next issue.

EVD 406 – Colin Wood has applied some paint to the front dome interior however the "banging" noise at the rear end has still not been identified so the Crossley needs further investigation.

NKU 245X – Andrew is investigating the loss of steering fluid.

LHL 164F – Paint-pot Andy and Andrew Beever have commenced the preparation and full repaint. Following a trip out to a rally recently, the Panther suffered panel damage when travelling down Dewsbury Cutting. Large rocks were launched at her by children sat on the Cutting and thus several panels were renewed before the full repaint was started. It is hoped that the repaint will be completed in time for her Golden Jubilee at the November Open Day.

HVH 472D – Colin Sidaway's wonderful Huddersfield Daimler has returned back to the rally scene following extensive restoration of its bodywork, interior and engine. Well done Colin on a fantastic job – she looked great at the Batley event.

Christmas Hamper Donations – can you help??



Sue Wood says.. "dig deep and donate some goodies!"

At our November Open day we will be raffling a cracking Hamper of Christmas treats and are looking for members to help raise some cash by donating a couple of items. Some of the things we still need include, tinned fruit, soup, biscuits, coffee, custard, tinned ham and a Christmas Pudding. Anything gladly accepted so please bring it along to the AGM or Museum.

AGM, Subs Renewals & Christmas Buffet

It is that time of year again when our AGM takes place and the date is set for **16th October**. Please try and attend the meeting at the Royal Public House to find out what is planned for the coming year. Annual subs will also be due for payment in December so why not attend the Christmas Buffet on 18th December for a social catch up and to pay your subs? This year we will be distributing the Winter Newsletter during the first week of February and this will also include your 2018 membership badge. Therefore, if we haven't received your payment your membership will expire and you will not receive the Newsletter. **PLEASE COMPLETE THE ENCLOSED RENEWAL FORM TODAY AND RETURN IT VIA THE POST, HAND IT IN AT THE NEXT MEMBERS MEETING OR BRING IT TO THE ENTRY DESK AT THE NOVEMBER OPEN DAY!**

So as this is the last Newsletter for 2017, a big thank you to all of you that help keep things moving along at the Museum this year and may we wish you all a Happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

The final bit – Wakefield bus station – as was!



How many of us can remember Wakefield bus station when it looked like this? We guess this shot was taken in the late 1960's with the following vehicles in view – 2 PD2s, 2 Wulfrunians, a Fleetline or Atlantean and a Panther or Swift (we are not sure which) For those with a magnifying glass and the relevant knowledge please let us know.

Taking pride of place to the far left is an advertisement for the Carousel Restaurant on Brook Street. The advertisement is quite interesting given that West Riding buses often carried advertisements for the Steakhouse, also on Brook Street and an arch rival of the Carousel. Clearly money talked and West Riding sold advertising space to anyone, despite the fact that rumours abounded that the design for the Wulfrunian was done over several lunches at the Steakhouse, and as some observers have stated, on the back of a napkin or fag packet!!