

Summer 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:
David Allen, Paul Mather, &
John Warren



Two more PD2's acquired by WROPS!

Before you get too excited calm down! Unfortunately said PD2's are not former West Riding or Yorkshire Woollen ones as the three shots below show.



Andrew Beever attended Mexborough armed with his cheque book and a desire to acquire two vehicles to yield valuable spares for our own Titan and Tiger. Ethel's starter motor was shot and the prospect of obtaining a spare from one of the two vehicles was an opportunity not to be missed.

A quick discussion with our friends at Keighley meant that a combined bid could be made and avoided any conflict. After a bit of bidding and baited breath Andrew secured the lots and in the days following parts were removed from both vehicles before they were towed off to Keighley to meet their fate. We have used the term vehicles not buses because as you can see they had been cut down to use as tow buses and were basically well beyond restoration of any kind. Sometimes the decision has to be made that they can best serve other survivors as a source of spares.

Tony Salmon did suggest that we could fit some open seating to the rear of one of the vehicles for open top summer spectacular tours! As can be seen above in the centre shot he did have a point, but our H & S expert Keith Shenton was having none of it!

There were plenty of interesting other lots up for grabs at the auction including a Bristol single decker, a couple of Duple bodied coaches and even a left hand drive Leyland Worldmaster. Unfortunately there were no ex-West Riding centre entrance AEC Regents to bid on nor were there any Wulfrunians lurking in the warehouse!

How did we manage?

It's amazing to think that just a couple of years ago we pushed ahead with the idea of re-introducing a Café at our Open Day events. The shots below show our first attempt after many years of catering absence!



2014, the 1st go



For those of you that embraced change we say thanks! The Café now provides a major revenue stream for us at events and enhances the visitor experience as the shot below shows we have come a very long way in a short space of time.



2016 a proper Café with new seating and tables

Given the success of the Cafe it would only be right and proper to thank those that help us at every event, particularly Jan Sycamore, Heather Goldthorpe, Jayne Wainwright, Katie Beever and Heather Baxter who man the Café (or should that be woman the Café!) For those of you who regularly support the Café by donating funds to purchase the tea, coffee and provisions we also say thank you. Regular contributors take a bow – Stuart Goldthorpe, Andrew Beever, Mark Byard, Tony Hanson, Richard Hall & Chris Ellum. No Café would be complete without its wonderful homemade cakes so a special thank you to Ann Byard, Jayne Wainwright, Keith Shenton, Caroline Hewison, Irene Day, Jan Sycamore, Susan Wood & Heather Goldthorpe and family who are our regular "bakers". We are always looking for support for the Café so if you can donate, bake or serve or know someone who can then let any Trustee know.

It goes without saying that lots of tasty treats will be on sale at our Summer Spectacular so don't bring your lunch with you – support the Museum by buying it from us! Catch a bus from Batley to the Museum for your fodder.

Regent odd-ball

Stuart Goldthorpe has submitted the photograph below of BHL 887 sporting what looks like Cave Brown style vents. Was this the only West Riding Regent with this style of cooling? Over to you!



Left; Regent one off?

A message from our longest serving member!

First of all can I say what a pleasure it was to finally be in Yorkshire on a date that coincided with a Society meeting. It was nice to catch up with members I have not seen for many years as well as those I had the pleasure of bumping in to with Ethel at Sheffield in 2014, and also those who until now have only been names in the newsletter.

In retrospect it is probable that I am now the longest serving Society member, having been at the first meeting in November 1971 and remained a member for the 44 intervening years. I believe Tony White will run me a close second joining I think around the second or third meeting but most of our early members will have now lapsed or are sadly no longer with us.

Thank you also for the conducted tour of the museum, my first visit since 2009 when I met Tony Salmon there for a chat about producing a book of photographs for fund raising. Believe me that project is still on the cards I just have to whittle down the 400 plus images I have selected to cover my years at West Riding in to something more manageable.

It was gratifying to see the amount of work that has gone in to Ravensthorpe, and one regret I have about living in Dorset is I'm no longer able to be a hands on member. I remember many extremely cold and dirty Sundays in Ravensthorpe in the days of the old building cleaning the chassis of the Dalesman, or working on the PD2. Also hours spent in my cellar at home stripping and staining wood for the PD2 and Dalesman, and almost passing out from adhesive fumes doing the moquette panels for 803 despite having every door and window open. Happy days!!

I hope to find myself back home on more occasions that coincide with meetings, but until then thanks to all of you that made me most welcome in September and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Yours... Ken Aveyard

Vehicle updates

We have had a busy few months on the restoration front and a busy few months just keeping our vehicles on the road!

WHL 970 is certainly looking the part – see page 6 of this newsletter for the up to date shots

The Crossley needed a full overhaul of its radiator. Colin Wood stepped in and assisted Andrew in making a first class job of the work. Colin clearly loves looking after his old baby and how fitting that the man who ensured the bus survives in preservation can still work on it every Monday with his apprentice Andrew Beever.

The Dalesman is making excellent progress under the custodianship of Dave Sayer. Having sorted out the clutch hydraulics and done some initial checks Dave surprised everyone and fired up the Dalesman one Monday afternoon. Given the coach hadn't run for almost 15 years a massive congratulations is due to Dave as he meticulously works through the mechanical overhaul to get the coach back on the road. Thanks also to Chris Ellum and Darren Potter for making cash donations to fund the restoration of this coach since every penny helps.

KHL 855 made its way to the Museum building under its own power on 24th May. A full article on the move will appear in the next edition. Andrew & Mike had undertaken a rewire of all the external lighting system, the horn and wipers to make it road legal. Now the bodywork repairs can commence!



Indicator flasher unit – anyone know where the red one goes?

XUA failed her MOT and awaits attention before she is launch back into service. The steering has an oil leak and a minor air leak also needs sorting. She is now positioned at Crofton so that she can be raised on the lifts to access the areas needing attention.

RUA the Yorkshire VR is getting serious TLC from the Flowers family and Steve Hurley. The underside of the bus is being tackled with much rust and crud removed from the chassis.

H630 the ex-WA Volvo has had two new batteries fitted.

The Ribble/Greenaway Mk1 Leyland National has had its gearbox and compressor removed for refurbishment. This vehicle is often called the "Battlebus" as it is currently in all over grey livery!

Paul Goldthorpe's Atlantean has had the front end paintwork touched up by paint pot Andy and also passed her MOT in early June.

The Blackpool PD2 continues to have bodywork repairs completed with John dedicated to getting this completed with his regular visits to Oakenshaw.

The West Riding coach seated Oly continues to have work completed on the radiator.

A note to vehicle owners – If you would like us to feature your vehicle in these updates with a full page of detail please let Mark or Andrew know.

R.I.P Kath McKnight – a real character

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Kath aged 68. Known to many of us and loved by all, Kath was one of our regular stall providers at our Open Days and was a very familiar face at most bus related events.

With a wicked sense of humour, a cheery smile and an eye for a deal, Kath graced our events with her husband Alan for many years.

Having shared many jokes with her many of the Trustees had built a strong relationship with Kath and she will be sadly missed by us. Somehow our events will not be the same without her. Despite her health challenges she always gave a cheery welcome to all her customers and retained her positive outlook on life. She was a down to earth stalwart of the bus memorabilia movement and in recognition of her contribution Tony Hanson & Mark Byard attended her funeral in Manchester on 18th May 2016 to pay their respects on behalf of all her friends at Dewsbury.

Our thoughts are extended to her husband Alan at the loss of such a special lady.

Yorkshire Woollen Red..... In black & white!

Here are a few shots for Woolly fans from John Sandom to stimulate some memories;



CHD 605 with a proud member of staff



Unknown bus in a known location!



Another Regent in full flow

Far flung Fleetlines

The recent article on Fleetlines has prompted this shot of another ex-West Riding Fleetline that ended up somewhat further than East Anglia.



Mind the kangaroo Sir – this one ended up in Australia!

Now for the real exciting bit. Take a look at this one, WHL 278J, it is still in Australia and was up for sale last year.....



Left; In pretty original condition despite its years of service

Wulfrunian paintwork alternatives!

Here is a shot of the scheme Andy is working towards on WHL 970....



Left; Sister bus WHL 968 with original livery style complete with a Steakhouse advert (as currently carried by UCX 275)

As the paint continues to go on 970 let's have a look at the other liveries we could have used for 970.

Other Wulfrunians show off the second and third livery styles:



Left; 2nd livery. Right; final livery



(Thanks to member John Sandom for the two shots above)

The original scheme was later changed to a more simple layout as can be seen above left on the example parked in Wakefield Bus Station. Clearly at the time of the first repaints the idea of axing the red scheme on former tram routes was far from mind. However, just a few years later and all trace of red was gone and a somewhat drab mainly green livery presided as can be seen above right. Somehow the all over green livery did nothing for the Wulfs so thank goodness we have our two specimens presented in the original style. Well almost, for those in the real know the prototype OHL 863 carried a unique paint layout style that can be seen below! This style was changed to the one at the top of this page for all further deliveries.



Left; OHL 863 as delivered – note the unique paint scheme to the upper deck windows and roof area

As the paint goes on 970 take a look at this!



RED!





Out and about (& visitors from Hong Kong!)

We have had a busy few months with several buses out and about.

A school visit to St Johns kept Andrew, Richard & Peter busy in Late March.

In April we were visited by a group of Guy enthusiasts from Hong Kong. A tour around the Oakenshaw shed, including a ride in the yard on Wulfrunian 995, was followed by a trip to Ravensthorpe to inspect 970 and the County Arab. A return trip may be on the cards when the two Wulfrunians are back on the road together!



Left; Colin, David Chow, Gary Yu, Yonie Sung, Stuart and David having admired 970's progress towards completion.

We sent Ethel and the RE to the Keighley Atlantean event in April and provided feeder services for the general public from Wakefield, Dewsbury and Bradford. Mark & Keith took the WROPS book stall and had a brisk day of trading. Thanks also to Paul and Stuart Goldthorpe for helping set the stall up in the morning and to Colin and Andrew for helping pack it all up at the end of the day!

On the first weekend in May we were out in force. Huddersfield 472 and the Pennine Leopard attended Llandudno and Ethel, TOD 9 and the Tracky National attended the Crow Nest Park event in Dewsbury to promote our Summer Spectacular. Ethel even transported are celebrity on 29th May, more in the next issue!

The Brighouse 40's event was supported by three of our buses and on the same Sunday we took ex Wallace Arnold Volvo H630 to the NWVRT Kirkby event. Remember to check the Museum website for up and coming event dates and details including the MTT event on 10th July 2016 where THL will attend.

Attending events on one of our buses – what do you think?

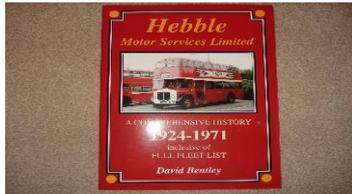
At the recent Trustee meeting we discussed many things that we are proud of and what a fantastic group of enthusiasts we have at Dewsbury. However, we were left wondering why we seem to have so few passengers join us when we take buses to other events around the country? Never being the sort to rest on our laurels we thought we should find out what we are getting wrong about external event attendance!

Mike suggested a questionnaire should be sent out to all members to try and seek out all of your opinions on what you think of our external event attendance plans and what you would like to see change. Please be totally honest.

Please find enclosed a questionnaire for you to complete and return anonymously to WROMT, Northfield, Water Lane, Kirk Smeaton, North Yorkshire WF8 3LD or simply hand it to any Trustee at the Museum or a members meeting. Please respond by 30th June 2016.

New book bargains!

We have a reasonable stock of "Hebble Motor Services Ltd a comprehensive history 1924-1971" with a recommended price of £12.50. Members may purchase a copy for £3.50 plus £1.50 post & packing. We also have "KBMT and its forerunners" with a recommended price of £12.95. Members may purchase a copy for £4 plus £1.50 post & packing. Please send your cheque payable to West Riding Omnibus Preservation Society to WROPS, Northfield, Water Lane, Kirk Smeaton North Yorkshire WF8 3LD. (Include your name and address!)



Take your pick or buy both!



The summer spectacular takes shape

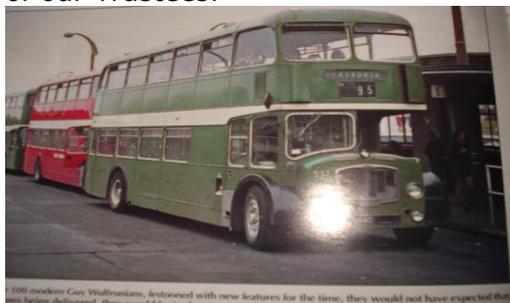
With only a few weeks to go the Summer Spectacular is coming together nicely. **Please hand out or display the enclosed leaflets wherever you can. More are available if you need them - just ask.**

Tony has done his usual sterling job pulling together a superb running day and this year we have help from our fellow preservationists at Black Prince Buses to give us something new for the day. We have feeder services running in from Keighley, Bradford, Leeds, Morley, Rothwell and Wakefield.

Like last year we will have a host of extra activities at the Mill Outlet such as the Cavebus, Donkey Rides, face painting to make this a truly family focussed event. If all goes to plan we will also have both Wulfs on display at the museum building along with both the County Arab and our West Riding Arab that has been hidden from public view for over 30 years. A regular service will run from the Mill Outlet to the Museum where we will operate our Café as usual so don't bring your lunch buy one from us! We plan to send a sandwich delivery down to the stall holders at the event and those on duty can also pick up a sandwich for a very fair price!

The final bit

Take a look at this shot from the book Yorkshire Bus Memories as it features one of our Trustees!



Left; Bristol FLF, EHU 584C on service 95

Sat on the front seat upper deck far left is none other than Mark Byard (complete with long blond hair and a centre parting!). Mark says he thinks the shot was taken in 1972 or 73 just before he reached his teenage years and distinctly remembers it was a Saturday afternoon. He even remembers that en-route back to

Wakefield Bus Station he had called at Thorntons Chocolate Cabin on Little Westgate for a bag of his favourite brazil nut toffee. If you look very closely said bag of toffee is resting just above the off side Cave Brown vents! He also remembers the photographer stood on the small island between the "in" and "out" sections of Wakefield Bus Station. Mark's only regret is that he wasn't sat

on one of the remaining Guy Arabs still in service – now that would have been a real treat. So now over to you –if you’ve been captured in any publication let us know and we can feature the shot in a future edition. (bus related books only please!)