

## Spring Newsletter 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:  
Jim Speed (a former Trustee) Eric Sheard, Arthur Alexander, Fredrick Walker, Andrew Newsome (a former Member), Edward Sharp & Richard (Cleggy) Clegg.



### *Ducks get wind of plunge pool and move in!*

Following the article in the Autumn Newsletter, word has obviously got around the local bird community regarding a potential new habitat for the winter months. The shot below shows our new residents, clearly making the most of the facilities in the Museum building. Having been denied access to the pit they made a dash for something more accessible!



Word has it that a certain Simon Turner was seen manhandling the ducks into the building, meanwhile Jo, his partner, is currently seeking her missing bath time mates!

### *What is a bus... according to Colin Wood!*

**Colin has very kindly supplied the following for publication**

A bus is getting to work by nine,  
then home to watch the telly on time.  
A bus is a toothache on its way to the drill,  
A bus is taking the kids out for a thrill.  
A bus is your dinner on the way home,  
A bus is a visit so you're not alone.  
A bus will conduct you to the Albert Hall,  
or off to watch some foot kicking a ball.  
A bus is an evening out on the town,  
or out to a circus to laugh at a clown.  
So now you know folks why I feel  
that a bus is really a people mobile!

Editors note – many of our partners may disagree with this and just say that a bus is a very expensive hobby that takes up a lot of time – you decide!

## *Slide collection finally gets sorted out*

After a long period of time we have finally managed to sort the thousands of photographic slides donated by Tony White. What a collection.



**How**



**many?**



Unfortunately, when we recovered them they were not in any order so the task was set to file them by operator. So over the autumn months and with a slide viewer in hand Mark set about the task and managed to complete the sorting. At the last count over 5000 slides were sorted! Not only did Tony have an interest in buses... we found lots of shots of London Underground, Locomotives and Trams. We recently requested that anyone interested in acquiring the collection make a formal offer to the Trustees.

The Trustees took the decision that all slides with a local connection will be kept in the Museum Archive whilst the others have been sold for a very healthy donation and we are delighted that member Paul Goldthorpe is now the proud owner and custodian of the slides. Paul will be offering copies of this extensive collection in due course so please support him by buying some. He will also be printing copies of the local shots retained in the Archive too.

## *More on Illingworths!*

In our Autumn Newsletter we featured a shot of a coach operated by Illingworth of Wakefield. Darren Potter has raided his collection and sent us the following shots for publication:



Bedfords out and Bova's in!



With the end of PSV production at Bedford, Illingworth looked elsewhere and took delivery of Bova rolling stock, ending a long link with Plaxtons in the process. Still presented to a very high standard as shown in the photographs above, with different livery styles, Illingworth's continued to offer private hire for several more years before closing the business.

## *Crossword brain teaser*

If you love crosswords then take a look at the back of this edition. Julie Aylward kindly sent in this brain teaser with a "bus" flavour to it. Complete the crossword, add your name and address and send it to Northfield, Kirk Smeaton WF8 3LD by 30<sup>th</sup> April. First one out of the drivers cap wins a model!

## *When a Val was first acquired*

We have received a letter from one of our members, Paul Mather, with some wonderful memories of when West Riding Val EHL 472D was first acquired for preservation by one of our former members Ken Newbould.

"I have enclosed photographs of EHL 472D when Ken had her at the Museum. She is wearing Smiths of Blofield livery before repainting to West Riding livery. Ken took me to see her at the Museum (Editors note the shot below shows her parked half inside the old Ravensthorpe Museum building)



Resting at Ravensthorpe, what a lovely sight.

I was a conductor at Saville Street and would go with him to the museum. I also went to Norwich with him as he wanted to take her back to Smiths and I think Mr Smith came to a rally at the showground there to take a look. I thought you all may be interested in seeing these shots of her." Yours sincerely Paul."



What a rear end, typical 1960's styling.

And here is another shot of her after repainting back in to her former West Riding livery.



Wouldn't it be nice to have this running on the shuttle service one day?

## *Sheffield, Yorkshire Woollen, Tracky & West Riding line-up*

Sat in a breakers yard awaiting their fate, four YWD vehicles are kept company by a Tracky PD3 and several West Riding Plaxton bodied Daimler Roadliners.



Thankfully one of the batch of Regents featured in this shot is in the safe care of member Simon Turner but alas no one had the heart to take on one of the notoriously unreliable Roadliners that seemed to spend more time in the repair bays at Belle Isle than they spent out on the road. These buses did have a very unique feature in that over the rear wheel arches they had inward facing seats which made them stand out from the other single deckers of the time (along with incredibly noisy engines) As for a Tracky PD3, well who knows if one survives as we haven't seen one around in years! (Mr Beever knows which ones are ex Sheffield C Fleet)

## *Twins*



We couldn't resist this shot of two lovely West Riding coaches sat side by side at a recent rally. David Hudson is a regular attender at our open days with one of them and we do encourage the owner of the other, Roger Burdett, to make the trip north every so often. Hopefully we can have them on an excursion together at some point in the future.

## *Anyone for tea?*

Being northerners, we don't often sing the praises of the humble London Routemaster but we might make an exception in this case! One of our members recently had the opportunity to do some London sightseeing from the top deck of 204 CLT. The bus is kitted out with tables for four and two.



As he said, if you have to take a Routemaster rather than a PD2 or an Arab IV then this is the way to do it... with a nice butty, cakes and cup of tea in hand. The bus is operated by Bridgets Covent Garden Bakery and seats can be booked via their shop or website. Perhaps someone from Bridgets visited our Silver Jubilee Open Day and nicked our idea of a Café on a bus?

## *March Open Day*

With bad weather threatening we were slightly down on numbers from our previous March Open Days. In the end the sun was out most of the day and the rain never materialised. We had a cracking day in the building, despite the power cut for 30 minutes that was resolved by some quick handy work by John Flowers.

The Café had its best ever day and the Café team had lots of feedback on how tasty the bacon butties were so thanks to Heather Goldthorpe for manning the hotplate and cooking over 100 butties! We had a great turnout of volunteers and lots of visiting buses. Our timetable to and from South Street came under pressure due to roadworks by the retail park however we mainly kept to time.

Hats off to Susan Wood for her idea of the "Lucky Bags" stall which brought in more funds for the Museum and as can be seen below Pam Waites kept herself busy on the Tombola with her Apprentice Kes!!



Left: Pam and Kes "bonding"

All in all its was another excellent result with over £3500 raised for the building extension

## *R.I.P Stephen Harrison*

One of our members, Stephen Harrison, passed away suddenly on 31<sup>st</sup> December aged 44. Stephen did not attend our monthly meetings but was a regular attender at our open days. He was visited at home by one of our Trustees in early 2016 and was suffering some health challenges. However, his passing was a shock and he will be missed by all those who knew him.

## *Vehicle Updates*

The **PD2** has finally got its side destination gear and blind in place thanks to the handy work of Roger. The mechanism had to be constructed from scratch, the lighting rod had to be rewired and precise measurements and fitting have resulted in an excellent job. Richard now just needs to adjust the blind width.



Looking good and just needing final adjustment!

**855, the West Riding Arab IV**, has had some serious effort put in on it over the last three months as the shots below show;



From left to right – floor out and new bearers in, chasis scrape reveals number at last and a view you will never see again...looking from behind the offside rear wheel arch towards the platform (no side panel in place!)

New body bearers are in place with new flitch plates. All the woodwork has been either restored or replaced as can be seen above. Mick, Andrew and Mark have had a busy few months! The rear platform and lower stairs are also out and work has commenced to re-instate the bearers at the rear. Meanwhile at the front end, David has been sorting out the "Birmingham style" front end area and wheel arches. Mick & Andrew got the front axle off and new leaf springs are being made. Colin Wood has been busy renovating any "bits" he can take home and Stuart & Paul Goldthorpe and Tony Mowvley have continued with interior paint removal on the staircase area. A huge thank you from Mark to all those helping get the bus back to tip top condition.

**RUA 455W the Woollen VR** is now in the Museum building so that work can continue on its outriggers. John, Steve and Andrew are making steady progress on this bus and it is nice to have it back on home ground. Steve has been very busy removing paint from the roof whilst John got the bus mobile again in early February so that it can be moved under its own power.

The much awaited completion of our **Leyland National2 XUA 73X** is upon us at last. Having failed her MOT last year on three points WROPS decided to have some professional work completed on her steering ram, Mick having already sorted the gear selector issue. Colin Poole will be using her for rally attendances whilst Ethel is laid up for clutch work once she is MOTd.

The **West Riding VR OWW 905P** continues to have work completed on her at Barnsdale Bar. Colin Poole and Steve Hurley are leading some work parties on this bus so if you want to help then speak with either of them for more details.



Left – about to enter the shed at Barnsdale Bar

## *E50 TYG - all you need to know by Julie Aylward*

Leyland Royal Tiger Doyen E50 TYG was one of a batch of eight similar vehicles delivered to the West Riding Automobile Company of Wakefield in 1988 for their Ridings Travel operation. They were allocated to the Dewsbury, Castleford, Sheffield and Savile Street depots. Numbers 46 and 47 were in National Express Rapide livery and used on the 564 service between Halifax and London. The rest were all in the Ridings Travel livery as seen on number 50.

The registration numbers of the batch were not allocated to sequential chassis numbers:

Chassis No.	Reg No.	Format	Fleet No.	Livery	Depot
RTC87.06	E53TYG	C49Ft	53	RT	Sheffield
RTC87.18	E46TYG	C53F*	46	NatEx	Dewsbury
RTC87.21	E49TYG	C53F	49	RT	Sheffield
RTC87.22	E47TYG	C53F*	47	NatEx	Dewsbury
RTC87.23	E48TYG	C53F	48	RT	Castleford
RTC87.28	E50TYG	C53F	50	RT	Savile Street
RTC87.29	E51TYG	C53F	51	RT	Sheffield
RTC87.30	E52TYG	C53F	52	RT	Dewsbury

\* Modified to C48Ft before delivery

I am told by a reliable source that West Riding were not particularly looking to buy any Doyens but the management team saw eight of them standing in the yard at the Workington Leyland Bus factory whilst they were there complaining about the build quality of the Leyland Lynxes that were currently being delivered. Leyland offered them the eight so long as West Riding didn't cancel the order for the rest of the Lynxes. No. 50 was based at Savile Street but was frequently used by Castleford Depot as they did more coach work there. In fact, the Savile Street Depot disc was still in the coach when I bought her.

After disposal by West Riding in 1989, 50 went to Wilkins Travel of Port Talbot. They scraped off the letters R I D I N G from the sides and replaced them with W I L K I N in the same style to provide them with an inexpensive livery change. There are photographs of it on Flickr showing it like that.

In later years, number 50 passed to Ashley Wakelin who had acquired the rights to use the name Midland Red Coaches and he painted it red and black in the style of the BMMO motorway coach fleet and numbered it 6150.No. 50 then passed to Dave Rogers who also owned E48TYG. He sold both earlier this year to concentrate on other projects. The interior of no. 50 is original and in reasonable condition considering her age. The bodywork was in good condition but the luggage compartment floor and several bracing cross members have been replaced. This work and the re-painting has been done by South East Coachworks of Faversham.

I must thank Leo Pratt for sourcing a new badge for the front and ex-Castleford driver Jon Lawton for providing me with the many detailed photographs that he took when the Doyens were new in 1988.

**STOP PRESS – Julie is taking this coach to the Isle of Man Transport Festival on 26 -30 July and has offered all members (plus family or friends) free transport to the event. If you would like to reserve seats contact Julie on -; Ridings.Travel@hotmail.com. Please note you will need to make your own accommodation arrangements.**

## *On the move*

Following a change of ownership at the Oakenshaw Farm at Crofton, a decision was made to exit the site in autumn last year. As you know Andrew Beever had taken personal responsibility for the site and found himself on the end of a huge rent increase. After discussion with the owners of the vehicles stationed in the building a decision was made to seek alternative premises at a lower rent.

After much searching Andrew found a new site at Penistone however it was not quite as big as Oakenshaw. This resulted in a further search and Steve Hurley and Mark Byard found a second site near Barnsdale Bar, just off the A1 near Pontefract. Steve Hurley is now personally responsible for the Barnsdale Bar shed and Andrew Beever for the Penistone shed.

**In the next edition we will provide a full report on how we moved 24 buses in a short timescale and an overview of where our collection of vehicles are now stored.**

In the meantime, a huge thank you must go to Andrew Beever for managing the process to relocate all the vehicles despite suffering a very heavy cold. Thanks must also go to member Kiran Tolson for use of his trusty tow truck.

## *Newsletter distribution dates*

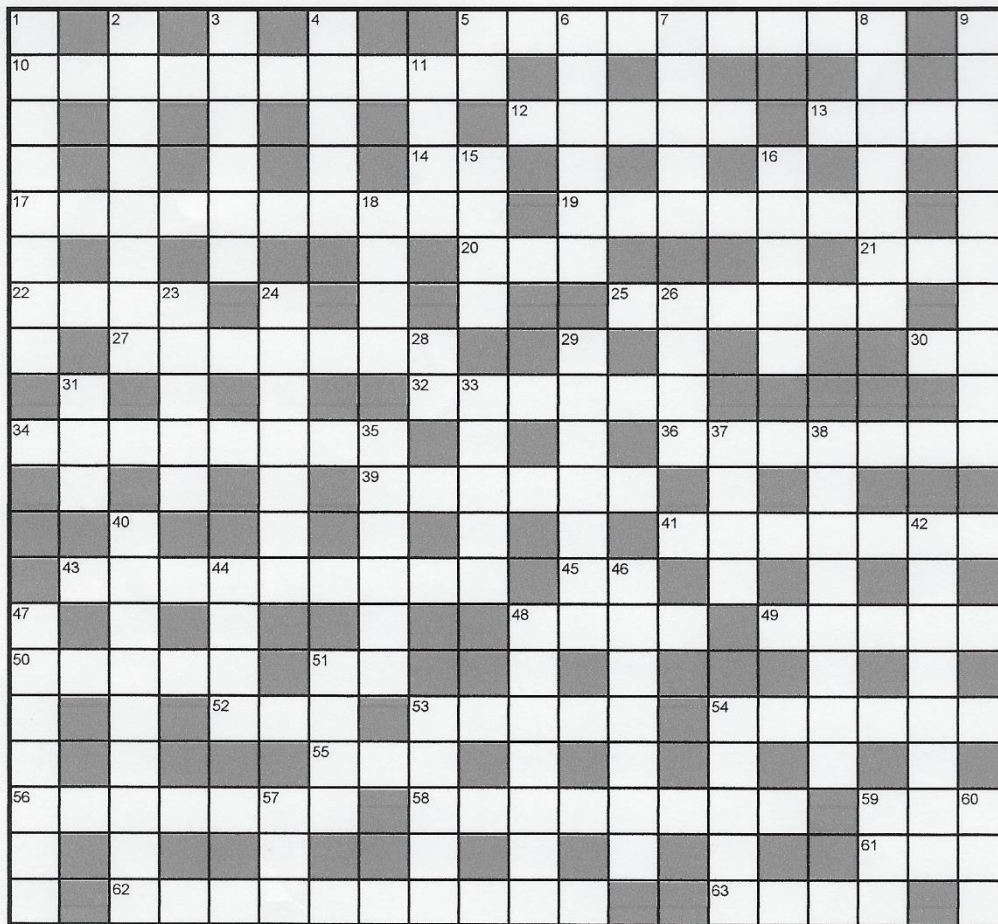
Going forward we have decided to slightly change the dates to coincide with distribution of membership badges. This means that the edition normally distributed in December 2017 will now be sent out on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2018 along with your membership badge. This avoids extra postal costs as every penny counts! Therefore, from 2018 onwards the newsletters will be published in January, April, July and October.

## *The final bit – KHL 855 in service*



With the restoration of the Arab IV progressing nicely we thought we would take a look at the different liveries she carried in service. On the left, museum resident KHL 855 on service in Pontefract Bus Station in the early 70's wearing the second livery. On the right in Wakefield Bus Station early 60's (left in the shot) with original livery of two additional cream bands. Mark firmly argues that the second one with one white band was not as graceful as the three cream bands worn when she was new. He also says... somehow the grey wheel rims don't look quite as good as the original red ones. So there is no doubt – she is going back to the "as delivered" paint scheme! (Despite the last few Arab IV running until 1976, none of them ever carried NBC livery so red is not an option!)





**DEWSBURY BUS MUSEUM CROSSWORD PUZZLE - FEBRUARY 2017**

CLUES ACROSS		CLUES DOWN	
5	Not really an island nor is it beautiful (5, 4)	1	803 and 808 but not 801 since 1989 (8)
10	See 2 down	2	(and 10 across) Should it be the next one up from YR's Magic Rider (8, 10)
12	Babes, Wood, Flash, Pan, Drop, Ocean etc. (2, 3)	3	Black one used to operate from Morley (6)
13	See 50 across	4	Short-lived Plaxton coach should be used by First (5)
14	Detective Inspector (2)	5	To, or not to, that is the question (2)
17	(And 40 down) Predecessor to 58 across centred on Cheltenham (10, 9)	6	Capital (8)
19	Ronaldo got mixed up at Walt Disney World (7)	7	She made a low of things at Selby before retiring (5)
20	This Guy from Bury has lost his body (3)	8	People who compile newsletters (7)
21	The wheel on the RATP bus (goes round and round) (3)	9	Awful ruin gains half of NBC emblem (10)
22	Nice with fish but not good in your windscreen (4)	11	Allows cue ball to take unexpected direction (4)
25	See 54 across	15	Inert part of Bradford (4)
27	Best bodies in Scarborough (7)	16	Ledgard's Foden/Plaxton coach looking down from on high at Ravensthorpe (5)
30	Blow a raspberry to this tiny computer (2)	18	Bus, train and ferry ticket available in Merseyside (4)
32	Symbol of 27 across (6)	23	Museum Café sandwiches served on this (5)
34	(And 54 down, 36 across) From London Coastal Coaches to TFL in 85 years (8, 5, 7)	24	See 58 across
36	See 34 across	26	Metallic minerals (4)
39	River flows west from Yorkshire (6)	28	WYPTE 7250 is a Foden (2)
41	Coach station in Birmingham (7)	29	Sportsman from Wigan? (7)
43	(And 42 down) Retreated from Waterloo (and Barnsley) in 2005 (9, 8)	31	Colliery Special went here (3)
45	WR's last Alexander Tigers (2)	33	Go to the bus stop in a steady, relaxed pace (5)
48	Usually three or five in a match at Wimbledon (4)	34	Reach destination but with 50 short at the end (6)
49	Coach driver must take one after 4.5 hours driving (5)	37	Stumble over journey to the seaside (4)
50	(And 13 across) Former YWD then NTE depot (5, 4)	38	Middle name of captain of 2 down (9)
51	Wigan Airways, RIP (2)	40	See 17 across
52	An age (3)	42	See 43 across
53	Constructed (5)	44	Flying toy (4)
54	(And 25 across) Their 99 is saved but has had 896 added (6, 6)	46	See 34 across
55	Not a Speed Wagon, seen at Fowler's of Holbeach (3)	47	Police one can travel free on the bus (7)
56	(And 63 across) Crossgates Carriage Works (7,1,3)	48	Where 39 across and WYRRCo had depots (7)
58	(And 24 down) No crisps and teas any more but all human life is still here (8, 7)	51	Unfortunate result of de-regulation in Darlington and Redditch for example (4)
59	Believed to be Mr Shire's own specification at BMMO (3)	53	Latin is good (5)
61	Industrious insect (3)	54	See 34 across
62	When going to 34 across, you get here first (10)	57	Bird with a long neck - not Naomi Campbell (3)
63	See 58 across	59	Defines viscosity of oil (3)
		60	London AEC Regent 1 (3)

Please send the completed crossword to Mark Byard, Northfield, Kirk Smeaton  
North Yorkshire. WF8 3LD

Your Name

Your Phone number