

## Spring Newsletter 2018

If you have any news or views for publication please contact  
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Welcome to new members:  
Kevin Carr, (who will be  
accompanied by his son  
Benjamin), Alan Sledmere,  
& David Hudson



### *Yorkshire Woollen PD2 our latest restoration project*



Left – before restoration commenced

Now in the capable hands of Colin Wood, this lovely Leyland decker is currently being worked on at Colin's home, alas it is not full size and will never carry passengers!

Having been safely stored for many years by one of the Trustees, it was decided to approach the master model maker Colin Wood to see if he could breathe some life back into the model. Apparently this model is known to many as it sat on a counter in the office at Dewsbury Bus Station for many years.

Colin is completing a very thorough overhaul, not that we would expect anything less from a man that restored his own Crossley EVD 406 (a full size version that is) Colin says this project is no less daunting so well done Colin!

### *Fred the Be-ro man visits the Museum!*



KHL 855 had a visit from Fred the Be-ro man recently as can be seen above! Well that's what Andrew Beever looked like having spent a full day rubbing down the upper deck ceiling. What a cracking job! The shot above shows Simon Turner looking on in admiration and deciding if he can make some pancakes!

## *Dual door delights*



West Riding were never really into dual door vehicles but they gave it a go in the early sixties with these beauties. Having had success with earlier batches of single door AEC Reliance buses and coaches Charles H Roe supplied a batch of ten dual door saloons as can be seen above. After 12 years of service the whole batch was exported to Montego Bay Jamaica for further use so who knows perhaps one is still lurking in a shed somewhere in the Caribbean? Anyone got any photographs of them in service on the sunshine island?

## *Stanley Gath come on down!*



Keeping the flavour very local, here are some shots supplied by our member Stephen Tolley showing various members of the Stanley Gath fleet. It would be fair to say a wide variety of rolling stock could always be found when these shots were taken and the middle shot above shows the flair applied after accident damage with a Plaxton Elite having a later front end grafted on. It would be good to publish some history on this local operator in these pages so if you would like to contribute something drop us a line.

## *A Doyen in distress, another failed acquisition!*

Following on from the aborted acquisition of AHL 694 in the last edition, Julie Aylward has updated us on another wasted journey! She could not resist the opportunity to acquire another Doyen when she noticed it for sale in B&CP Magazine. Having travelled to Great Bromley near Colchester here is what she found....



Doyen E53 TYG



Julie's view was that it wasn't quite worth the asking price and required a lot of work so she decided against another acquisition. Julie has said that there is an upside – she can now focus on getting her second coach, her former West Riding Plaxton Tiger back on the road in National Express/West Riding livery. In addition Julie has just advised the editorial team that she has acquired a third coach that is restored to its former glory – watch out for more details in the next issue!!

## *Out and about – a day out from the past*

Member Peter Calvert has written to us and his letter is below:



TWY 8 – 1970 Style

### **One day in 1970**

From 1966 to 1971 I was a curate at Brighouse Parish Church. My day off was Thursday, and I used to set off on various expeditions by public transport. I did not possess a car, but buses and trains were no hardship as I had always enjoyed and been interested in public transport. In the autumn of 1970 my great-uncle, who was my godfather, became ill, and I made several trips to visit him. He lived in Doncaster, which opened up a variety of transport possibilities.

The day which stands out in my memory was Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> November. I caught the YWD route 3 from Brighouse to Dewsbury, and West Riding 69 to Pontefract, my birthplace, where I had scheduled a break to photograph South Yorkshire buses before catching the SY Leeds-Doncaster bus. As things turned out I used more of my film than I should have done, as what happened next made the day really interesting.

The long trunk route from Leeds to Doncaster was usually operated by Atlanteans, and indeed an Atlantean limped into the bus station, not sounding at all well. After some muttered conversations it was taken out of service, and to my delight was replaced by no 81, TWY 8, which had been parked up peacefully minding its own business. There was much amusement from some of the SY staff – “Will it find its way to Doncaster – it hasn’t been there for years!”

It departed at 1305 [presumably the 1300 leaving late because of the changeover] and arrived in Doncaster two minutes early. Unfortunately I was unable to take a picture with Doncaster on the destination blind, as my film ran out. However, I had already taken two pictures, which I attach. Also, looking through my archives, I found a little bundle marked “Autumn 70”, in which was the actual ticket, for 2/7d, which I was issued that day. I wonder how many tickets still exist which can be identified as having been issued on no 81.

And how did I get back from Doncaster in the evening? That’s another story. These were the days when Halifax Passenger Transport ran a fleet of coaches to the villages of South Yorkshire, bringing in workers to Meredith & Drew’s in Halifax. They took the workers back at teatime, then returned empty to Halifax. Well, not always completely empty...

**Peter Calvert.**

Editors note – looking at the shots above has anything really changed on TWY 8 since she has been in preservation?? We also wonder how many other free trips home to Halifax Peter manged on his days out!

## *R. I P Denis Brace*

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of Denis Brace – our oldest member at 97 years young.



Left; Denis with Ethel on his 95<sup>th</sup> Birthday "special excursion"

Denis was a former worker at Charles H Roe and probably helped build several buses in our collection including Ethel, TWY 8, County Arab, Woods Crossley, Arab 855, Mike's Reliance, the Dalesman and the two Wulfs. He certainly got a big thrill when we turned up unannounced at his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday bash and thoroughly enjoyed the run out to the former Roe factory site at Crossgates. His family and neighbours were particularly grateful for the kindness of our gesture and Denis apparently never shut up about his day out with Ethel! Our condolences to his family and friends.

## *March Open Day*

Well what a cracking day we had! The weather was fine, the crowds turned out and the Museum building was busy until mid-afternoon. As you all know the former static site at Havelock Street is no longer available to us as Kirklees Council require it for their own staff on Sundays so it was down to some detective work to find the nearest available option for parking. Having travelled every side street in Ravensthorpe and approached the owners of the retail park for permission to use the loading bay area (only to be refused) Lock Way was found to be the nearest option.

Andrew took the opportunity to change the running routes to avoid using the stop next to the Royal because we hold up the traffic on Huddersfield Road and the bus stop has now become a gathering place for a large group of men drinking alcohol and socialising.

It is fair to say that with any change things take time to settle and there were some key learning points. For the autumn event a simplified circular service will operate to ensure that Lock Way is served by a bus every ten minutes. Overall we had a great attendance of visitors and for those of you that attended the March members meeting you know the excellent financial result we achieved. **-THIS MATCHED OUR NOVEMBER 2018 OPEN DAY** So a massive **thank you** to everyone that gives up time to help – after all we are all volunteers and do what we do for the love of it.

We are also aware that some factually inaccurate comments have been made on Facebook about the organisation of the spring event. Those of you that attend regular meetings are fully aware of the correct sequence of events relating to the change of static parking area and we would suggest that if you do not like reading negative comments you "de-friend" on Facebook those individuals that are not working towards our common goal of making Dewsbury Bus Museum even better. We do of course welcome constructive feedback on our own Facebook page which is monitored by Mark Byard and Steve Hurley.

## *Vehicle Updates*

### **JIL**

Simon and Joanne have been busy and the Leopard passed her MOT in the middle of February in time to be out and about again at the Museum Open Day.

### **The Magic Rider**

Not content with getting one bus back on the road and with a change in ownership recently concluded, Joanne Ellis is now the proud owner of this Optare beauty. A flourish of activity took place in the spring months and the Magic Rider passed her MOT on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018 just in time for the open day.

It is fair to say that Simon and Joanne have surely amassed the largest personal collection of vehicles of any of our members and should henceforth be known as "Mr & Mrs Preservation!!"

### **The Red Wulfrunian**

The callipers are back from specialist engineers that have fully overhauled them along with the massive bill! This means Colin and Stuart can now crack on with getting them back on bus. If you have time and expertise to help please contact Colin as many hands make light work.

### **The WR National**

73 gave us a little grief on the day before the Open Day when her brakes would not release! She was due out for photographs with B & CP Magazine and this had to be deferred until the Monday. Meanwhile back at Barnsdale Bar the team set about sorting the issue and as you all know she ran in service at the Open Day with no problems. This is another example of the excellent teamwork at Dewsbury when everyone pitches in to get things sorted.

### **Arab 855**

Isn't she looking well? All her glass has been removed so that painting can commence outside. The cab area is now almost rebuilt with David sorting the remaining wheel arch out and Mike sorting the cab area. The Monday crew continue to pitch in with rubbing down the interior paintwork and paint-pot Andy is working his usual miracle on the bodywork.

### **The Dalesman**

Andrew and David Parkin have continued with the re-wire in the hope we can use the Dalesman as our Rally Control Point at the Mill Outlet in August. Fingers crossed! With that completed and some road testing before November we may even have her back in service for November.

## *Monthly meetings – all change again!*

As some of you know the March members meeting was a bit of an issue! After arriving at the Shepherds Boy it was discovered that the room we use had been double booked so it was a quick trip to the Museum and the meeting was concluded on the Panther!

Andrew, with the help of famous watering hole expert Jack Berry, has now found a new venue with immediate effect so all MEMBERS meetings will now take place at The Station Hotel, Crackenedge Lane, Dewsbury Town Centre. (Next to the Market)

**Be there or be square!!**

## *Museum Building Update*

With 970 repositioned in the building, the opportunity has been taken to place more display items of the Museum walls in the back left hand corner.

Especially for our Woollen fans we have two additional YWD displays featuring a selection of Colin Wood's artwork and a *HUGE* photograph of a line up Regent V's, not long after delivery. (thanks to Simon Turner for placing this on loan to us)



Some other existing boards have had a few more items added to them to fill them out as can also be seen above.

We still have lots more items to display but could do with some sponsorship to buy the display boards – even a £20 note will help to get even more memorabilia sorted out and displayed.

### **Health and Safety**

Colin Poole has recently re-assumed responsibility for this area and what a fantastic job he is doing. The Museum looked particularly tidy on the open day – well done Colin!

Everyone can do their bit to help by ensuring that rubbish is cleared away, the floor is swept up and any trip hazards removed. If you are a frequent visitor to the Museum then it is worth reminding you that Health and Safety is not someone else's responsibility it's yours too!

## *Vehicle collection policy and vehicle space licences*

In the last few months several members have asked how spaces are allocated for vehicle storage in the Museum building and how decisions are made on what should or should not be in the building.

As a consequence of this the Trustees have decided to complete a thorough review of our policy and criteria for selecting how spaces should be allocated. If you have any views on this we would be happy to hear from you by 10<sup>th</sup> May so that your views can be taken into account. Steve Hurley is collating views and he can be emailed on **stevehurley6@gmail.com** or phoned on **07738 835431**

It has been suggested that any garaged vehicle and/or its owners should be fully engaged with the activities of the Museum and its events otherwise the vehicle has little value to the overall objectives of the Trust. This is just one comment that we have recently received and gives some insight as to how a criteria might be drawn up to ensure we have the right vehicles in our premises.

The outcome of the review will be communicated during the summer months so if you have an opinion speak up now!

## *995 in all her glory*

With the restoration of our Wulfrunian's back in focus, Stuart Goldthorpe has kindly sent in some shots of her to give us a taste of things to come!

28<sup>th</sup> April 1963 – UCX 275 has her last day with County Motors, with UCX 276



- Two years with County and then off to West Riding

Look at the tilt on that



- Early days of WR service and a rear end shot

A fresh coat of paint and the new livery style applied in the mid 1960's



- Leeds and the long journey to South Elmsall

1972 - Yes, we've bought 995 for preservation! (& it's wearing its final livery style)



- Savile Street with WROPS members fettling her in 1972

2015 - We've got her roadworthy again, for a second time!



- Andrew, Colin and Mark got her sorted again and here she is at a rally at the South Yorkshire Transport Museum prior to an MOT failure in late 2016.

She now awaits some minor attention to a ball joint and WILL be back out on the road once again with 970 by her side!

## *A sad end!*

It is always a shame to see any bus going for scrap but here is a very sad shot of some West Riding Fleetlines at the end of an era



Left – one on its final journey with three more in the background

West Riding and Yorkshire Woollen amassed a huge number of Fleetlines and yet we don't have one in our collection. What a shame.

## *The final bit – the original Wakefield Bus Station on opening day*

What a cracking shot of the old Wakefield Bus Station has been sent in by Nigel Blair. Having seen the recent articles of the old Bus Station Nigel felt compelled to send this in for publication.

Turning into the Bus Station in 1952 is one of Ethel's stablemates. Perhaps the most interesting details on the bus are the original positioning of its rear number plate and its lack of directional indicators!

Check out Ethel's rear end for a comparison when you next see her.



Nigel has also asked the question "where is this shot taken from?" Looking at the angle his suggestion is that someone was perhaps hanging out of a window of the Griffin Hotel? Does anyone else have any other ideas?

Perhaps our YWD fans could send in some shots of the various Bus Stations featured in YWD territory – over to you.

## *Last minute announcement*

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Tony White. Tony was one of our Trustees and had been suffering with poor health for many years. A full tribute to him will appear in the next edition and funeral details will be communicated once they are known. Our thoughts are especially with his sister Edna.