



Dewsbury Bus Museum

# NEWSLETTER

Summer edition - 17th June 2013

West Riding Omnibus Museum Trust (Charity No. 702232)

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## HEATH COMMON 2013



WEST RIDING  
BUS GROUP

## Sunday 21st July



**This is the big one!** Slightly later than last year's event, the third annual Heath Common Rally & Running Day takes place in less than five weeks' time. At the moment we have around 17 buses planned to run in service. Arriva are once again lending us two buses, one to use as a Control Centre and rest room, the other as a back-up to be used in the unlikely event of a breakdown.

Many vehicle owners and custodians are already working hard to ensure that their buses are in pristine condition, and we hope that all other members will be able to turn up to support this event. We are in particular need of volunteers to act as marshals at Heath Common, directing buses and private cars to the right places. There are also a few conducting duties that need covering. The more volunteers that come forward, the easier it will be. Please contact Tony Salmon (01924 511458) to offer your services on the day.

**Free services** will be operating on three main routes, all radiating from Heath Common. Interchange between vehicles (along with some good photographic opportunities) will be possible at places like Wakefield City Centre, Normanton Town Centre, Kettlethorpe terminus and Newmillerdam Country Park. Feeder journeys to the event (and home again afterwards) will run from places like Dewsbury, Ossett, Horbury, Castleford and Pontefract.

**The Yorkshire Thoroughbred Car Club** will be holding a vintage vehicle rally on Heath Common from 10.00 am onwards and there will be a wide variety of **trade stands** selling bus-related memorabilia, books, DVDs etc.

**A full-colour souvenir programme**, containing all the routes and timetables, with information about buses taking part, is being produced. This can be ordered in advance by post or online, or by seeing Tony Salmon. The cost of the programme is only £3 (+50p if ordered online). They will also be available on the day at Heath Common or from any bus conductor.

**Full details** of the event are posted on the West Riding Bus Group website: [www.wrbg.co.uk](http://www.wrbg.co.uk)

If you can distribute or display our fliers advertising the event, please see Tony Salmon or Graham Dowson for a supply. A huge box of fliers has been placed in the Museum building, near the signing-in book. If you are taking a bus to any outside event, please take a pile of fliers with you to distribute and display on your vehicle. Now, all we need is the weather.....

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## NEW MEETING VENUE

We have just been given the bad news that our regular meeting venue, The Principal in Dewsbury, will be closing its doors forever on Friday 21st June, apparently due to the building's landlords deciding to increase the rent by a phenomenal amount, meaning the brewery would find it no longer financially viable. Our sympathy goes to the staff who have served us so well over the past three years and will now be losing their jobs.

The July meeting has been booked to take place in the Eastborough Working Men's Club on Battye Street, Dewsbury, where we have exclusive use of our own meeting room. A buffet will be provided after the meeting.

For those who are not familiar with the area, Battye Street meets Crackenedge Lane under the ring road bridge, behind Dewsbury Market. It is a short walk up the hill. Car parking is available nearby.

We have not made a long-term commitment to the new venue at this stage - it's a case of "let's see how it goes".

Our thanks and best wishes go to all the staff at The Principal.

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## WHO'S IN THE CHAIR?

In the last newsletter we mentioned the election for the position of Chair of the Trust. At the following meeting, John Flowers was duly elected to this position.



This post should not be confused with that of Meeting Chairman, a position held by Richard Hall. Good luck, John!

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## THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

The Autumn Edition will appear on Monday 16th September. If you have any material to submit, please get it to Tony Salmon by the end of August.

## MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

Page 5 of this newsletter is our latest schedule of outings and events. Updated copies of this will be circulated at our monthly meetings, along with agendas and minutes.

In particular, members are welcome to travel on our buses to outside public events.

Please contact the drivers in advance for details of departure times and pickup points.

If you do not have a particular driver's contact details, please see Tony Salmon (01924 511458 or email [lateturnrota@aol.com](mailto:lateturnrota@aol.com)) and he will put you in touch.

Our monthly business meetings take place at 7.15 pm on the third Monday of each month - the dates are listed below:

17th June at The Principal, Dewsbury  
15th July at Eastborough WMC  
19th August  
16th September  
21st October (includes AGM)  
18th November  
16th December

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## 2014 - A BIG YEAR!

Next year is noteworthy for two reasons.

Firstly, Dewsbury Bus Museum will be celebrating 25 years of operating in its present form and, secondly, Arriva service 110 from Kettlethorpe/Hall Green via Wakefield to Leeds will be 110 years old (although it was originally known as service 10).

Ideas are being sought for a memorable way to celebrate these events, so please start thinking. As our Events Co-ordinator, it will fall upon Graham Dowson to oversee this, so please pass on any suggestions to him.



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## BUS OF THE SEASON - LEYLAND NATIONAL XUA 73X

By Mark Byard

*In each newsletter, we plan to run a special feature on one of our buses. The past couple of years have seen great strides being made on the PD2 (BHL 682), the Wulfrunian (UCX 275) and several other high-profile projects, but this particular bus seems to prefer hiding in the shadows. And, although the Leyland National is seen as a relatively modern bus, the fact remains that it was first launched more than 40 years ago, and our particular model is over 30 years old. It is a vital part of the history of bus travel, especially in our local area where more than one of our members drove them in service when they were regarded as "state of the art"*

**XUA 73X** was one of five Leyland National 2 buses delivered to West Riding in 1982 numbered 72-76 and given registration numbers XUA 72-76X. They followed over 100 Leyland National 1 buses that had entered service from 1972, the first batch being JHL 856-860L with dual door bodies. The Mark 2 version differed from the original examples in that the Leyland 510 engine had been replaced by a choice of either a Leyland L11 or a Gardner 6LXB - number 73 being powered by the Gardner option.

73 was originally allocated to Wakefield Saville Street Depot next to the old Bus Station and was transferred to Belle Isle Depot Wakefield after the closure of Saville Street in May 1992. During November she was renumbered 202 and in 1991 was renumbered again to 102.



*After many years in store at Arriva's Belle Isle depot, XUA 73X finally left in July 2011 on suspended tow to Ravensthorpe, where she now awaits the time and resources to be put back on the road.*



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## **BUS OF THE SEASON (continued)**

Number 73 has had a very “colourful” life having been delivered in NBC red wearing “Metrobus West Riding” Fleetnames. At some point between 1983 and 1985 she then received the PTE’s Verona Green and Buttermilk livery along with most of the West Riding fleet. Such was change in the bus industry at the time, that before all the West Riding fleet received the PTE livery West Riding was privatised and repaints began into the Caldaire West Riding Buses green and cream livery. Thus 73 was repainted again into the Caldaire livery and continued in active service around Wakefield. 1989 brought another change when it was decided to repaint her again into an advertisement for the Wilton Ballroom and this livery lasted until 1995, before she was eventually painted again into West Riding Caldaire livery for a second time.

Withdrawal came in June 1997 and she was amongst the last batch of Leyland National 2 to be withdrawn by the West Riding Group. She was sold on for further service to the North East Bus Group and became United Automobiles number 3763, eventually being renamed Arriva Durham County in April 1998. She was finally withdrawn from service in June 2000 and was sold for scrap to North East Bus Breakers.

In December 2002 West Riding Omnibus Preservation Society (WROPS) found 73 still languishing at the breaker's yard and after an initial inspection she was acquired for preservation. She was moved to Belle Isle Depot Wakefield due to a lack of space in the Museum building and spent several years garaged at the back of the sheds. She briefly had TV stardom when a “Touch of Frost” episode was filmed at the Depot and she can clearly be seen in several shots. Unfortunately initial activity on restoration ceased and she has sat patiently waiting for further attention for several years.

In July 2011 an opportunity arose to re-home her and she was placed on tow and brought to Ravensthorpe. Initial work began again and a partial strip down revealed some welding was required along with work on the brakes, this halting progress again. On the positive side she starts on the button and is shunted around the Museum frequently. Hopefully she can be brought back into the restoration programme again but with limited resources available she has had only minor tasks completed on her. If you would like to be involved in her restoration please speak to Richard Hall.

Technical details;

Chassis - Leyland National 2 NL116AL11/1R 07629

Body - Integral Leyland

Power - Gardner 6LXB with Leyland 5 speed Hydracyclic gearbox

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## **RECEIVE YOUR NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!**



Since we started producing the newsletter electronically, it has saved a lot of money in printing and postage. It also helps to protect the environment by reducing the amount of trees we have to chop down! However, many of our members are still reading this on old-fashioned paper!

If you are reading this on paper, but have an email address, please let the secretary, Tony Salmon, have your details.

The newsletter is published quarterly. Paper copies are distributed at the meetings in March, June, September and December, or posted out shortly afterwards to those who are not present at the meeting. Email copies are usually issued a few days early, and you can always print out your own copy if you wish.

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## DEWSBURY BUS MUSEUM EVENTS & OUTINGS CALENDAR 2013

This list was updated on 12th June 2013, but may be subject to more changes.....

If you are interested in going along to any of these events, please contact the driver listed as soon as possible to reserve a seat and arrange pick-up times and locations. If you don't have their contact details, please contact Tony Salmon on 01924 511458.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Event</u>	<u>Bus attending</u>	<u>Driver</u>
30 June	Red House, Gomersal, band concert	EHL 344	Tony Salmon
1 July	Ash Green School, Mixenden	PJX 35	Kelvyn Waites
5 July	Fleur-de-lys evening - Thornes Park,	GHD 215 LHL 164F	Simon Turner Tony Salmon
6 July	Private outing	PJX 35	Kelvyn Waites
6 & 7 July	Ecclesbourne Railway bus & coach rally	NONE	
7 July	Keighley Bus Museum Open Day	EHL 344 LHL 164F TWY 8	Colin Poole Tony Salmon Andrew Beever
9 July	Ravenshall School	TWY 8	Tony Salmon
20 July	Static display at Bullring(to be confirmed)	<i>To be arranged</i>	
<b>21 July</b>	<b><i>Heath Common Rally</i></b>	<b><i>All available buses and drivers</i></b>	
18 August	Mirfield Show	PJX 35	Kelvyn Waites
24/25/26 Aug	Leeds Transport Festival - Middleton R'way	NKU 245X A577 NWX	Steve Hurley Steve Hurley
			<i>Steve is looking for additional drivers &amp; vehicles to assist at this event.</i>
1 September	Trans-Lancs Rally, Heaton Park	NWW 89E	John Flowers
8 September	Merseyside Transport Trust Running Day	Private car	Tony Salmon
15 September	Aldwarke (formerly Meadowhall)	NWW 89E EHL 344	John Flowers Colin Poole
13 October	Dalesman - Skipton	TWY 8 EHL 344	Andrew Beever Colin Poole
27 October	Heart of the Pennines - Halifax	PJX 35 LHL 164F	Kelvyn Waites Tony Salmon
<b>17 November</b>	<b><i>Dewsbury Bus Museum Open Day</i></b>	<b><i>All available buses and drivers</i></b>	
2 December	Unofficial Christmas Dinner	None	All welcome!