

DEWSBURY BUS MUSEUM

WEST RIDING OMNIBUS MUSEUM TRUST

Autumn Newsletter 2019

If you have any news or views for publication please contact, hand or send them to mark.byard@live.co.uk or Andrew Beever 01924 265528

Welcome to new members:

Paul Cooper



When it all began —

A tribute to our two longest serving members

Way back when it all began, a group of Wulfrunian fanatics met in 1971 to discuss saving one of the last few serviceable examples. The rest is history so they say and today's Museum and its activities are due to the efforts of that band of enthusiasts. In our Archive we have a set of minutes from that initial meeting, and the following ones, where the awareness of the West Riding Wulfrunian Preservation Society had increased and more members joined up.

We are fortunate enough to still have two of the original pioneers with us as members, so take a bow Leo Pratt and Ken Aveyard.



To the right is a very young Ken, and to his left sporting a very dapper hat is Leo. Lurking in the background is Ethel, who in the next few months will have a fresh coat of paint applied. Finally, the "Wulfrunian Preservation Society" sign in the above shot is also still with us and is often seen in the front windscreen of one Julie's coaches at various events.

Batley Summer Spectacular review

The weather held good and we were blessed with a cracking result. Paid visitor numbers were up 17% on last year, we had another superb selection of buses attend (many of which had not booked in prior to the event) and KHL 855 finally made its public carrying debut after years of hard restoration work.



Pictures courtesy of our member Ian Nickson

As can be seen above, the Panther looked glowing with her new coat of paint. Ian McKnight's PD2 made a fine sight, with its return to the rally scene in 2019. Our friends at White Rose Bus Group provided several buses including this recently acquired Volvo Oly (that many observed looks like the former South Yorkshire Motors ones!). Meanwhile Ethel B (Bus) rubbed shoulders with Ethel A (Aire Valley) and other Yorkshire operators were represented with Pennine, WTPTE and Doncaster vehicles in attendance amongst many others.

The Café at the Museum was well supported so a massive thank you to all our cake and scone bakers that do us proud at every event and the ladies that give up their time to serve us with a smile!

David, Trevor and Martin manned the WROPS stall and had a very busy day with a great result achieved. If you are wanting to buy a book or model, then try our stall first as very penny you spend goes directly back into restoring the buses in the WROPS collection. (If you have any unwanted books or models please remember to donate them to us for re-sale on the stall)

We had a usual fantastic turnout of members to cover all the critical roles, which is particularly important in August as we are covering two separate sites. Lisa, John, Kelvyn and Andrew kept things moving at the Mill, but we did have some issues with cars randomly parked where our bus display area should have been! Lesley, Jack and Andrew manned the pay desk at the museum and our posse of Drivers and Conductors kept the buses running to time.

The Mill Outlet were delighted with the turnout and as a testament to our hard work have already confirmed their sponsorship of a 2020 event. So, let's all do it again!

A visit to Oxford

If you have never been to Oxford Bus Museum, here is a review of what you are missing. Situated right next to a local railway station only 10 minutes from Oxford is this lottery funded gem.

Without any doubt the Museum is focused on the local Oxford area but is well worth a visit to see not only the vehicles but also the memorabilia contained within its various display halls.

Two sheds are given over to the running vehicles, and a further shed is where the restoration work is done with a viewing platform to get you a better view of the buses being worked on. Another shed contains various vehicles and memorabilia and the final area contains a Café and small shop.

On the day of the visit (a Wednesday) the only disappointment was the fact that no buses were out on service, although it was obvious that this does happen on Sundays during the summer.



Having walked around the site for about 90 minutes and having enjoyed a freshly made sandwich and cup of tea, next stop was the Morris Motor Museum that is also housed on site and included in the admission price. Whilst very small it does give a history of the famous Cowley motor maker.

It was then back to the sheds for a second gander around and to have another look, where many things were spotted for the first time, before boarding the train back to Oxford.

Take a look on Oxford Bus Museum's website for opening times and further details and if you are in the area or passing by en-route to somewhere else why not pop in - £5 was well spent!

Building update

During the last three months the building has finally had its phase electric supply connected up with cables now positioned along the roof to bring the power to the rear area of the building. This will allow more opportunity to use powered lifts when completing major restoration work. Our thanks must go to Phil Houghton for roping in his long-time friend Eric Sheard who undertook the work and managed to get much of the materials needed sponsored by several large suppliers of electrical equipment.

Archive update

Several Monday team members have been busy creating more display boards for the museum walls.

We have created some focused displays covering elements such as Coachbuilders (Duple) Chassis manufacturer Leyland and the likes of Huddersfield Corporation, which had been previously lacking on our walls!

Recent additions to the Archive include some former YWD uniform and some National Bus Company era uniforms, which we are sadly lacking in.

Well done to David Parkin, assisted by Mark Parr!! – Photographs in the next edition.

Out and about

We have had a busy few months with various vehicles representing the Museum. Kelvyn has been displaying PJX 35 at the NCM Museum throughout the summer holidays to give kids a taste of seaside bus travel from years gone by.

In September we sent three vehicles to the White Rose Bus Group's first event in Wakefield and the following week we went to Accrington to support Town & District's event with the Panther. Our WROPS stalls also attended both these events so thanks to our members that helped set it up and man it. (particularly Mark Parr, David Parkin, Colin Poole and Martin Cotton)



Promotion and sales in full swing!



We received a request from a local library group to support an afternoon tour of the Cleckheaton area on 10th September so we helped out, using the opportunity to promote our forthcoming open days to the group of 20 riders!

On 22nd September we sent PJX and BHL to the new Halifax running day.

Julie has continued to take her "fleet" far and wide with far too many destinations to mention. If you fancy attending any rally that is a significant distance away speak with Julie who is usually in attendance with either BJAB or E50!

Coming up in the next few weeks is the AVTG Skipton event and the DLORS Sandtoft event if you want to hitch a ride.

Your membership renewed!

Included with this Newsletter is your 2020 renewal form. Once all subs are received, your 2020 membership card will be sent out with the Winter Newsletter at the end of January.

It may seem a little early to be receiving your 2020 form, but the sooner you complete and return it, the sooner you can tick it off the list of things to do, especially before the mad rush of Christmas starts!!

Please remember that is a costly exercise sending out renewal forms and we would appreciate your assistance in not delaying your return as this takes valuable time and money if we have to chase things up!

It is also an opportunity to remind you that we will be having our usual Christmas Buffet at our December members meeting and all members are welcome to attend and enjoy a more "social" event, most of the normal meeting agenda being "parked up" for a month!



A Spectra or an AEC??

What will Santa leave under your tree? An Atlantean,

All change (again) monthly meeting venue changed!

We recently changed our meeting venue but have had to change it again due to unforeseen circumstances

The new venue is Soothill WMC, Batley where a clean, comfortable and well stocked bar awaits your arrival. Details are as follows:

151 Soothill Lane, Batley WF17 6HW Telephone 01924 477974

The Club normally opens at 730pm but will open at 645pm on our meeting evenings. See you there!!

First aid updated

Did you know that the official guidance contained in the Highway Code has been updated? (Thanks to Julie Aylward for the tip off on this)

If you want more information and a refresher, then follow this link:
www.gov.uk/guidance/the-highway-code/annex-7-firstaidontheroad

More on the model...

George Clegg – model maker. By Ken Aveyard

Who? I hear you ask.

George A Clegg was born on 7 July 1909 and after service in the Army in World War 2, joined Yorkshire Woollen District on 19 February 1946 as a cleaner at Frost Hill depot. On 6 January 1948 he became Chargehand Cleaner and remained with YWD until his retirement in 1974.

He never married and lived with one of his two sisters until she married, after which he moved to live with his other unmarried sister, who had the initial C but I don't know her full name, where he remained until his death in 1979 at the age of 69.

He was a prolific model maker and painter. As well as the Woollen Leyland PD2 we have in the museum, he made a single deck bus the fate of which is unknown. His sister who donated the PD2 had a large model of the sailing ship "Discovery" and he also made a very large model of the "Queen Mary" which went on an exhibition tour of local working men's clubs raising money for charity. His other sister had a collection of vintage car models George made over the years, and he also built a sizeable model railway.

Batley Art Gallery was home to four of his paintings at one exhibition including one of "Red Rum" which sold for £30, a sizeable sum in those days.

The information in this article comes from a letter written to me by his sister, who I only know as Mrs E Burrows, who lived in the same housing complex as my great aunt, and the story of how we acquired the Leyland PD2 has been recounted in a previous newsletter. Mrs Burrows also included a note gifting the model to me, thankfully as the family had no future generations to pass the models to.

Mrs Burrows also kindly gave me a picture of George in his army uniform which hopefully accompanies this article and which could be put on public display with the model in future years.



As a tribute George this photo is now displayed with said model along with the correspondence from his sister.

A>G>M Update

Our October Meeting includes our Annual General Meeting where we discuss the general direction of the Museum and elect our management Committee. If you would like to stand for election to any of the posts then please speak to Andrew Beever on 01924 265528 by 15th October.

The order of business usually includes an overview of the annual accounts, a summary of the previous year's achievements and it is an opportunity for those present to express any views or concerns.

The Museum has a lot to be proud of and seems to be very consistent in delivering events that the public and bus enthusiasts like, but we cannot rest on our laurels. Change is always good and we must keep things moving otherwise we could become stale and predictable! So, if you have any ideas then use this opportunity to share them.

Christmas Raffle and Tombola appeal



As we approach the November Open Day, we are making plans to generate funds for the Museum. As usual, we have volunteers available to man our Tombola and to organise our Christmas Raffle that always goes down a treat. However, we do have one problem... we need more donations to make this happen.

To make the point of how important this is, we thought we should share how much is raised over the year from these activities – over £1500!!

So please dig deep, raid those cupboards and search out anything that we can use from a tin of peas to that unwanted Christmas or birthday gift from Auntie Mo! Please bring them along to the Museum, a meeting or contact Mark on 07956 579684 and he will happily collect anything. Sue Wood will be grateful for any donations she can use on the "Booze & Biscuits" Christmas raffle and Di Forbes is already gearing up for another cracking Tombola result so anything suitable will be gladly accepted. If you have no gifts to donate but have some spare cash to give, we will of course relieve you of it and buy the appropriate stock for these two causes. If you would like to sponsor a particular meeting's raffle prizes then please speak with Mark.

November Open Day

Plans are well advanced and Andrew is assuming that everyone that normally volunteers is available as usual. If you would like a change of duty or cannot attend, then please let him know so alternative arrangements can be made. We already have a building full of stalls and some new routes for our services. More information at the October members meeting!

STOP PRESS – New SOUTH YORKSHIRE feeder to the event; Rotherham Rail Station 830. Sheffield Bus Station (Stand E5) 900. Barnsley Rail Station 930. Provided by George Green with N715 TPK.

Vehicle Updates

LHL 164F has finally had its repaint completed and very smart she looks too with her new coach lines, garter and fleet names added.

Paint-pot Andy has now started the repaint of Ethel, so any help to start the rubbing down of her current top coat would be most appreciated.

Ex Wallace Arnold Volvo Plaxton Paramount has been sold by Mark Byard to the White Rose bus group. Also on the move are two of Julie's Tigers to the same destination!

Arab 855 is having a few finishing touches applied in the next month including some correct specification pedal rubbers, a new emergency door strap, a new hand brake floor cover and its famous Stardrops interior advertisement applied.

WHL 970 continues to receive some focus with its front lights being re-instated and interior upper deck lino being tidied up.

The final bit, woolly bus stop conundrum sorted and a bogus Disney character!

Archivist Paul Goldthorpe thinks he has solved the puzzle of where the bus stop featured in the last edition was sited.

Paul says;

"I have been told that it is most likely that it was positioned outside Dewsbury technical college and if the building still exists on Halifax Road then this would be correct because the road descends at this point. The issue of passengers assuming that a bus stop on one side of the road also meant that an unofficial one existed on the opposite side was overcome by the notation of the bus stop. The gradient of the road would have meant a very difficult hill start for buses going up the road and thus this was made clear by the bus stop sign"

Finally, who is inside the Minnie Mouse costume? One of our members has sent this shot in for publication and has a stated desire to Conduct on our buses at the next open day... but who is it and would you allow a mouse to shake a tin and sell booklets?



Left – please can I conduct a bus service in November please?