



# NEWSLETTER

No. 25

November 2022

## Chairman's Update ... A Grand Day Out!

It is pleasing to be able to update you on our remarkably successful Open Day, held on Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2022. The event went extremely well, albeit we had a smaller number of visiting vehicles, primarily due to the excessive cost of fuel.

We were once again fortunate to have lovely weather on the day, which was key to the best Open Day attendance we have ever had, with close to 800 visitors coming through the gates. It was all go on the day, with our visitor's enjoying trips around the Alford arena, as well as the trips around Alford itself. We received positive comments in the feedback from our visitors, who had clearly enjoyed their day with us. We certainly have a challenge on our hands to repeat this success in 2023!

We are grateful to Grampian Transport Museum for the use of the Bristol FS, arena and for their help with marshalling. My thanks go to my fellow Trustees who helped to make it all happen and to the helpers and supporters for all their demanding work on the day in a range of differing roles.

Unfortunately, our Chairman, Gordon Mills, missed the Open Day due to ill-health. I am pleased to be able to confirm that he has recently gone through a successful heart operation, and he is increasingly getting back into the swing of things, providing help and support to us all at The Bus Collection at Alford ... great to have you back Gordon!

*The Editor*

## An Invitation Received Once in a Lifetime...

First Group Heritage Trust and Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust received a once in a lifetime invitation to have a display of vintage buses at Balmoral Castle on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2022 to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of the then Monarch, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. This was our contribution to celebrate the outstanding reign of our Queen.

The chosen vehicles had to be befitting the occasion. First on the list was the 1930 Albion closely followed by the 1950 Leyland Tiger PA171 and 1975 Leyland Leopard HSO 61N.

On arriving at Balmoral Castle Estate main entrance all three buses were driven to and displayed in front of the world-famous castle, for visitors from far and near to admire and travel on. We provided free trips to 208 visitors on a carefully chosen route giving a classic view of the castle and gardens from a higher vantage point.



Sharing the honour of the visit were seventy corgi dogs which are synonymous with the late Queen. Most of the corgis were well behaved and one kindly posed for a photograph in front of the Albion.

A wonderful day to remember in honour of a wonderful Sovereign. We look forward to our visit in 2023.



When it comes to how to mark seventy years as your Queen, there is no guidebook to follow. It really is a first. But I have been humbled and deeply touched that so many people have taken to the streets to celebrate my Platinum Jubilee.

While I may not have attended every event in person, my heart has been with you all; and I remain committed to serving you to the best of my ability, supported by my family.

I have been inspired by the kindness, joy and kinship that has been so evident in recent days, and I hope this renewed sense of togetherness will be felt for many years to come.

I thank you most sincerely for your good wishes and for the part you have all played in these happy celebrations.



The Bus Collection at Alford is open again to visitors, please check our website for further visitor information:  
<http://thebuscollectionatalford.co.uk/>

## Special Prints on Offer for Christmas...

### Three Different Prints Available:

Divi Day (1992)

Sunlight & Granite (1996)

Tram Days & Wet Cassies (2002)

Individual prints £15.00 each, including postage and packaged in a tube for delivery.

Place your order via our website "Get in Touch Facility":

<http://thebuscollectionatalford.co.uk/>



## Armistice Day Arrangements...

From 1919 until 1938 the UK observed Armistice Day on the 11th of November, irrespective of the day of the week. Recently rediscovered Aberdeen Corporation papers gave some detail on how the Corporation's tramway employees were to observe the two-minute silence.

The instruction called for conductors of all (tram)cars on the day to turn on the lights on their car at 10:55am. At 11am the power would be switched off at the Power Station for two minutes. Immediately the lights went out, motormen had to bring their car to a standstill and apply the handbrake. Motormen and conductors then had to stand at attention until the lights went on again when the motorman was to restart his car and run as per timetable. Motormen were required to restart at slightly different times to other cars in the vicinity to avoid overloading the power supply.

To date, no detail has emerged on the arrangements to be observed by motorbus crews, but it can be presumed that drivers and conductors would stop for the two minutes using whatever timepieces were available.



## Looking for That Special Christmas Card?



We are delighted to offer packs of 6 cards showing Aberdeen Tram Cars 15 and 39 for £5.50, including postage. If you would like to purchase these cards, please get in touch using the 'Get In Touch Facility' on our Website at:

<http://thebuscollectionatalford.co.uk/>



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