



# Newsletter

ISSUE EIGHT

AUTUMN 2019

## Chairman's Update ...

I am pleased to say our open day on July 7th, went pretty much without any hitches and a record number attended. My thanks go to my fellow trustees who helped to make it all happen and to the group of volunteers who helped on the day as marshals. We are also grateful to Grampian Transport Museum for the use of the arena and for help with marshalling.



We had several visiting vehicles including two, new into preservation, buses from Dundee, a brand new VDL coach and the Taybus open topper Ailsa. The Leyland Tiger PS2/East Lancs ex Burnley and Pendle also came up from Dundee. Perhaps one of the best indoor attractions on display was the newly restored model tramway track with the model ex Nottingham tram running around. This kept running for the whole of the day without incident. Doug Duthie and Neil Murray have been working on the track restoration and have done a

splendid job, hopefully they will have the Aberdeen Streamliner ready to run soon.

We were very honoured to have the Lord Provost of Aberdeen along to see some of the buses that used to run in the City. It is very rewarding to have our efforts acknowledged by his presence.

In the main garage, we now have the 1901 Tramcar on display albeit in "as found" condition. Some work has been done to expose the original signwriting and gold leaf lining still surviving below the dirt! Our followers will be pleased to know that we now have a group of interested folk who are willing to give restoration of the car their attention and expertise.

**Gordon Mills, Trust Chairman**

## Back on Castlegate 1...



Following the success of buses on the Castlegate as part of Silver City Stories in 2017 the two bus trusts approached Aber-

deen City Council with a view delivering a similar display, so in June we staged our display of buses ranging from 1930 to the present time.

It was encouraging to talk to the many visitors who came along, recollecting their journeys on the buses, those who were fascinated with the vintage buses which "were before their time" and many drawing a comparison of the developments in technology over the years.

An unexpected, but most welcome visitor, was the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, Councillor Barney Crocket who spent close on two hours viewing the display and talking to visitors.



## Back on Castlegate 2 ... See over

## ***“Gone But Not Forgotten” ...***

Our AEC Swift, fleet No. 26, is one of the hidden buses in the Trust’s collection. When we bought it in 2003, there was no space to store it in Aberdeen, so it was driven to Glasgow and is housed on site at the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust’s premises in Bridgeton. Here, its restoration has progressed spasmodically, but more solid progress is now being made.

As with our Swift 22, the body interior had been stripped of all seats, but worse still, most of it had been covered in grey paint, even rubbers and Formica panels didn’t escape! Much has been removed, but more remains to be done. Now the exterior is finally being progressed.

During 2018, the front of the bus was repaired and painted so that an informative display about the Trust’s collection of buses could be mounted for the benefit of the many summer visitors who call in by Bridgeton. Our coachbuilder is now engaged in body frame repair and re-panelling.



Underneath, most of the work needed is mechanical in nature, involving replacing the wiring and pipework. The Trust has three AEC Swifts in its care, one from each batch delivered to Aberdeen Corporation. It is an uncommon model in preservation. With its lower step entry, it was one of the more passenger friendly buses used in the 1960-70s period.

**IZZATAFACT:** Aberdeen Corporation’s streamlined tramcar of the 1940s were built to a high specification, including a public address system which was operated by drivers. The system was activated by a switch on the cab floor and herein lay the system’s downfall. Drivers would forget the system was switched on and passengers would hear sounds of the car’s controls, or, worse, the driver’s frank opinions on the integrity of other road users.



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## **THE Bus COLLECTION AT ALFORD**



### ***Open to the Public***

The Collection Centre at Alford is open to visitors at the Grampian Transport Museum at certain times, with Trust personnel available to explain the significance of the items on view. Trust vehicles are also displayed to the public at events away from Alford. Some vehicles are also used to provide free bus services for the public at special occasions such as major events at the Grampian Transport Museum. The Trust gives presentations to interested groups and works to mutual benefit with other museum organisations .

### ***Continuity of Care & Knowledge***

The Trust has care of a variety of vehicles of local interest and has premises within which they are looked after.

For the Trust's services to the public to be kept going in the long term, the Trust seeks to encourage the support of people who could develop the various skills to maintain and operate the various assets in future years, and to understand and explain to the public the significance to society of the items they are looking at.

### ***We need help***

For the Trust to continue to be successful and maintain the collection for future generations it needs both practical and financial help. We need volunteers to help care for our vehicles, to administer the running of the Trust, and we need on-going financial support through, for example, bequests, donations, and Standing Orders which can be Gift-Aided. If you have particular skills to offer, are interested in developing new skills, or can help in any way, please contact: **Gordon Mills on email at:** [thebuscollectionatalford@outlook.com](mailto:thebuscollectionatalford@outlook.com)  
**Tel: 07889 159 822**