

NEWSLETTER

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In Memory of our Good Friend and Past Chairman Gordon Mills (1949-2023)

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Gordon, our founder, chairman and very generous funder. His recalls to hospital had become more frequent from last summer and he passed away on the 29th of December.

Gordon's origins were in Romiley, then in Cheshire, where his interest in transport was stimulated by the sights and sounds of North Western Road Car Bristol K5Gs tackling the local hills. Along with a friend, he bought his first bus for preservation at the age of 18.

Gordon became a career bus man who joined the vehicle engineering side of the bus industry after graduation from Liverpool University. His earliest appointments were in South Wales at Newport and then Cardiff, transferring later to Eastbourne. He came to Aberdeen in 1986 to take charge of the engineering activities of Grampian Regional Transport (GRT); he was then part of the successful team that took GRT into the private sector. GRT Ltd subsequently expanded greatly to become a world player in public transport provision, ultimately as First Group. Gordon held roles at Engineering Director level for various companies within the group and played a major part in developing GRT Ltd and First's specifications for new vehicles. After retirement he was a consultant for the group on assignments in such diverse locations as USA and Hong Kong.

In his earlier years in Aberdeen Gordon was a trustee of the Grampian Transport Museum and was a key player in the recovery and restoration of the 1930 Aberdeen Corporation Albion bus number 79. He also supported other local vehicle restoration schemes and served as a trustee of the First Group Heritage Trust. His great passion in later years was in establishing this Trust and its home base, the Bus Collection at Alford. In recognition of his service to public transport and to transport preservation he was awarded an MBE in 2021.

Gordon is survived by his two daughters and a son; he was predeceased by his wife, Gill. His funeral on the 17th of January was attended by very many friends and colleagues and by an appearance by bus 79. He is sadly missed.

The Editor



Gordon in his boilersuit ready to get to work on the Trusts Buses

***The Bus Collection at Alford are holding an Open Day on
SUNDAY, 4TH AUGUST 2024—1100 TO 1600 HOURS.***

***Events will take place in the grounds of the GRAMPIAN TRANSPORT MUSEUM, Montgarrie Road,
Alford AB33 8AE.***

***Activities include, Vintage Bus Rides, Vehicle Displays, Stalls, Guided Tours, Talks and much more,
and its free admission! If you would you like to help us on the day, please get in touch - see over.***

Come and join us for a free fun day!

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

Introducing Our New Chairman

Having taken over the Chairman role for ADTPT from our dear friend Gordon late last year, I have spent the last few months getting up to speed with all trust related matters. From getting to know our valued volunteers, understanding our fleet of vehicles and the various restoration projects we have underway. Meeting with the folks at the Grampian Transport Museum and working with our new Board of Trustees as we begin the journey to reshape ADTPT - more on the new team shortly.

Firstly and most importantly, I would like to take the opportunity to recognise and thank the Trustees that have stepped down from the Board of ADTPT. Joe Mackie, Donald Balance, and Jason Grant have been Trustees on the board of ADTPT for a combined total of 31 years and, along with Gordon, have been instrumental in growing, developing, and managing the Trust.



They have been involved in the many restoration projects that the Trust has undertaken and have given up their valuable time to attend and support various events and open days across Aberdeenshire and beyond to promote the Trust and make it what it is today. Without their combined efforts, ADTPT would not be in the strong position that it is and on behalf of the new board of Trustees I would like to thank Joe, Donald, and Jason for all their hard work, dedication and professionalism and wish them all the best for the future. They will always be welcome at ADTPT.

Towards the end of 2023, and in line with Gordon's wishes for ADTPT, a new Board of Trustees was established to secure the ongoing future of the Trust. Alongside myself, we have appointed Michael Milne as our Treasurer and, together with existing Trustees George Mair and Ian Souter, we have overall responsibility for supporting and managing ADTPT. Both Michael and I have longstanding bus industry careers with FirstGroup and predecessor Companies and alongside George and Ian, we have approximately 185 years of bus knowledge and passenger transport preservation behind us, so we are well placed to maintain the values of ADTPT that Gordon first established.

As a new Board of Trustees we have 4 main objectives:

- I. Working closely with our valued Trust volunteers to ensure that they have everything required to continue with our current restoration projects.
- II. Maintaining and enhancing the relationships we have with The Grampian Transport Museum and other heritage Trusts to promote ADTPT.
- III. Reviewing our fleet of vehicles to ensure that it meets with the Trusts objectives as well as developing future restoration projects.
- IV. Investigating new avenues for funding to secure the long-term future of ADTPT.

This is just a short insight into some of the work we will be undertaking, and we look forward to providing updates on our progress over the coming months.

David Liston, Trust Chairman

Meanwhile Back at the Workshops...

We continue to make substantial progress on our main rebuilding projects, update as follows:


- ◆ ACT Bus 11: Daimler CVD6 single deck bus new 1947 - A thorough rebuild is well under way. The interior has been retrimmed, new seat frames made and installed, and the seats re-upholstered by an outside supplier. In addition all the main windows having been replaced, the interior light fittings have been installed. The original Daimler engine has been sent to a specialist firm in Dundee for overhaul.
- ◆ ACT Bus 14: Daimler CVD6 single deck bus new 1948 - A rebuild of this bus to its original condition with bodywork by an Aberdeen coachbuilder is being carried out by Trust volunteers at a site in Central Scotland.
- ◆ ACT Bus 160: Daimler CVG6 double deck bus new 1951- The restoration of this bus is completed. The main work to complete the restoration is repainting, where we are having significant challenges on obtaining the correct paint colours from suppliers.
- ◆ GRT Coach 55: Leyland Tiger single deck coach new 1986 - Preliminary work carried out in preparation for full restoration.
- ◆ ACT Tramcar 15: Brush double decker tramcar new 1901 - Fund raising and acquisition of specialist materials continues.



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 thebuscollectionatalford@outlook.com

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