



NEWSLETTER

No. 34

May 2025

Chairmans Update ...

Our dedicated team of volunteers have been working hard on a number of refurbishment projects and our Trustees have been focused on the administration side of the things so that our future is as secure as it can be.

Over the last few months, we have undertaken a detailed review of all aspects of our operation looking at areas such as - energy and utility costs, building and vehicle insurance, parts supply and housing and storage costs, to name only a few. What has become clear is that running and operating a Trust of this size is not cheap with one of our biggest costs coming from housing fleet off-site, away from our purpose-built workshop facility in Alford.

As a result of our review, we have taken the difficult decision to rationalise our fleet so that we can eventually house the majority of our fleet at Alford thereby significantly reducing our operating costs. We have provisionally identified a number of vehicles that, for one reason or another, we have determined are surplus to our requirements at ADTPT, and these will be offered for sale or donation to interested parties in the coming months. In parallel, we are in the process of sorting through the massive amount of parts, materials and equipment that have been built up over the years. We will look to provide updates in future Newletters as we progress this very important workstream. A list of the buses and other items for disposal will appear soon on the Trust's website.

David Liston, Trust Chairman

Looking After the Future of Our Local Transport Heritage ...

There are a wide range of subjects to be mastered in the running of the Trust. Bus restoration apart, the Trust is a small business. Could you help the Trust in what it does? Three suggestions are offered:

1. Financially: The Trust presently has two dedicated funds for the restoration of vehicles, and a general fund for all other Trust purposes. The dedicated funds are for Aberdeen Corporation tram 15 and Daimler bus 14. Sponsorship of any Trust project attracts Gift Aid which can enhance a donation from a UK tax payer by 25%.
2. As a Guide: Following the appeal in Newsletter 33 for volunteers to show visitors around the Trust's collection at Alford, the Trust now has a pool of five guides. The desire is to have a guide available each Wednesdays and Saturdays until October, and to share this coverage it would be good to have more folk on the roster.
3. As a Trustee: The present four Trustees would like to hear from anyone with a serious interest in the Trust's Aims and Objectives who would be interested in becoming a Trustee. The role could either be open ended or for an agreed term.

If you'd like to know more about any of these opportunities, please get in touch via email at:

thebuscollectionatalford@outlook.com

Workshop Update -

ACT 11 Daimler CVD6 – Excellent progress has been made by the team applying side panels to the vehicle. All hubs have been dismantled for inspection and rebuild. Wheel bearings and brake linings will be renewed, and the brake drums will be skimmed prior to refitment.

GRT 209 Leyland Atlantean AN68 – Refurbished cylinder heads have been refitted to the engine block and the engine tested to ensure that it is functioning correctly.



ACT 22 AEC Swift MP2R – Is being prepared for the summer 2025 activity programme. A full health check has been completed, and new batteries have been ordered.

ACT 14 Daimler CVD6 (Housed at SVBM, Lathalmond) – Replacement seals for the vacuum brake servo are being sought. Seat frames have been temporarily fitted but further thought is required on their spacing. Sourcing of seat cushions is being pursued.

A Royal Visit!

It was a sunny afternoon in March when a call from Joe Mackie, Chair of the First Group Heritage Trust, asked if a visit could be made to our joint bus collection at the Bus Collection at Alford. The guests would be HRH King Temple MacDonald Jamala II, king of the Odual Kingdom in Nigeria's Rivers State, Chief James Ewa Uyo, Graham Guyan DL, Pastor Joe Ochei, Joe Mackie OBE, George Mair Trustee and our Chairman, David Liston.

The guests arrived at the Bus Collection mid-morning on Saturday, 23rd March, with HRH and Chief James Ewa looking resplendent with their colourful robes, hats, and elaborate walking canes. A considerable amount of time was spent guiding the visitors around our fleet, where they showed considerable knowledge on a range of different issues, as well as asking many questions as we worked our way through the fleet.

The King was impressed with the work being undertaken by our volunteers Willie and Doug, who were refitting a pair of cylinder heads onto the engine of GRT 209, a Leyland Atlantean. On asking HRH if he had enjoyed the tour he replied, "very much so, and I will be back with a boiler suit next time!"

Our guests were next given a run around Alford where members of the public looking out the tea-room window received a very royal wave from the Royal Party. On returning to the Bus Collection both Trusts presented gifts to the King and the visitors headed off to their next location.



Open Day 2025 ...

Following our successful Open Day in 2024, we are already starting to plan for the 2025 Open Day. The Open Day this year will take place on Sunday 13th July from 1100 to 1600 hours. A slight change to the date this year, moving from early August to the date shown above. The slight change to the date this year is to avoid a clash of dates with other events in the area.

As in previous years, entry to the Open Day will be free ... yes free!!

To help us in our challenge of maintaining our fleet of buses, as well as rebuilding additional historic vehicles, we are asking all adult visitors for a minimum £5.00 donation. Your generosity will make a real difference to the Trust's work.

On Tour ...

The Trust's next planned outing is to the Annual Steam and Vintage Fair at Castle Fraser, Kemnay, on Saturday and Sunday 14th and 15th June, where we will be displaying Daimler CVG6, ACT 160.

Other tours on the programme, subject to driver availability, in and around Aberdeen City and Shire during 2025 are:

- * RW Thomson Stonehaven Rally, Sunday 25th June
- * Oldmeldrum Vintage & Veteran Rally, Sunday 3rd August
- * Portlethen Gala, Saturday 9th August

In previous years the Trust has partnered with First Group Heritage Trust and Grampian Transport Museum to support the following events but full details have yet to be confirmed:

- * Visit by Tall Ships to Aberdeen - 19th to 22nd July
- * Friends of Duthie Park, Aberdeen - 17th August
- * Grampian Transport Museum events in the course of the year
- * Alford Community and Christmas events in the course of the year.

"IZZATAFACT: An internal Aberdeen Corporation Transport report of 1954 revealed that the average electricity consumption of the Corporation's two motor tramcars was 2.4 kWh per mile. Electricity consumption of the four motored streamlined bogie cars was 3.1 kWh per mile."



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