



DEAR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUBSCRIBERS...

The Trustees are very conscious that communication with its supporters has been lacking for some time and I hope this Newsletter will help you to know what the Trust is doing. I start with some of the basics as you may not be aware of how we originated and what we are about. In future I will try and put more meat on the bones and report progress with restorations and more. I hope you all enjoy your contact with the Trust in whatever ways you wish to participate.



INTRODUCING THE TRUST

The Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust was created in 2007 by a group of public transport professionals in order to ensure that representative examples of local public transport vehicles which served the North East are available for future generations to appreciate. The Trustees are: Gordon Mills (Chairman), George Mair, Joe Mackie, Ian Souter and Lawrence Macduff. Trustees meet at roughly monthly intervals. Having taken advice on marketing, it was recommended that a more usable name for the public than 'Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust' be adopted. The brand name 'The Bus Collection at Alford' has been adopted, along with the logo above. An equivalent title is sought for the tram restoration project – any ideas? The Trust's original name will be kept for legal purposes.



OUR BUSES...

The Trust has ownership of 25 buses which are all housed under cover, primarily at the Collection Centre at Alford or in storage at Whitecairns, Aberdeenshire.

Both locations are funded wholly or partly by the Trust. The Trust also cares for a number of buses owned by the First Group Heritage Trust plus one owned by Grampian Transport Museum.

Of the Trust's own vehicles, about half are in a presentable condition, others being held for restoration at a future date or for spares. Restoration work is well advanced on two Trust vehicles, ex Aberdeen Corporation Daimler CVG6 (160) and ex Aberdeen Corporation Leyland National (74). A fleet list of the vehicles in the Trust's care is appended.

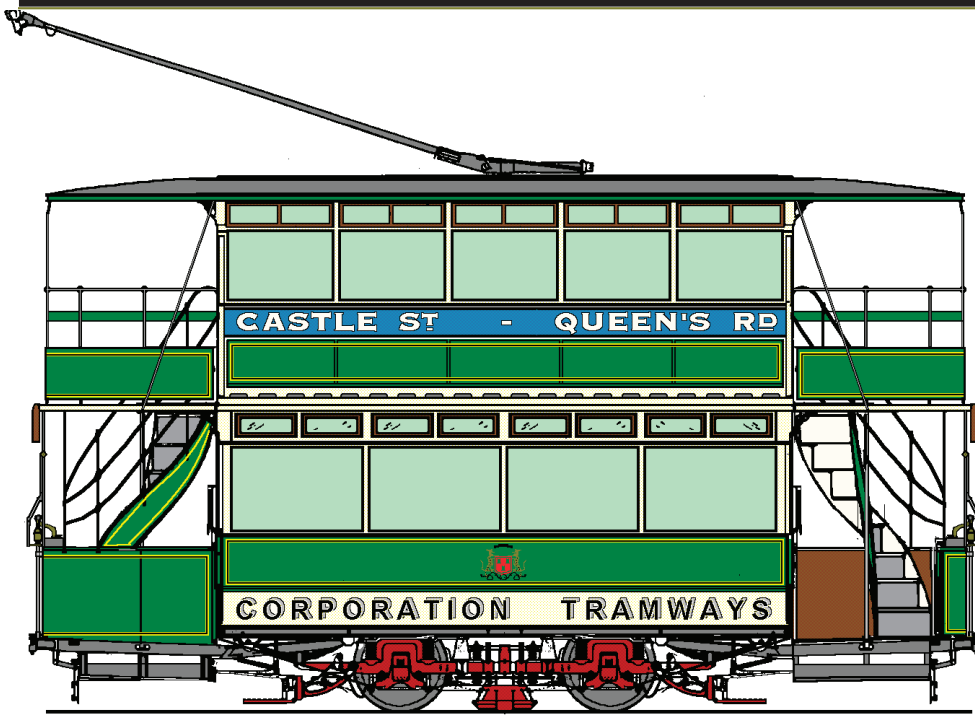
IZZATAFACT!

ONE:

"To those who study it, transport is an unjustly neglected branch of history. It is a key social driver - it has such a decisive effect on the entire pattern of our lives, our society and our culture - and yet it is frequently overlooked when the story of lives, societies and cultures is told." (John McCrystal, "On the Buses in New Zealand")

TWO:

More than in any other European country, the UK has lost interest in local public transport. In the case of Aberdeen's city transport, 124 million passengers were carried by tram and bus in Aberdeen Corporation Transport's peak year which was in 1948/9. Over half that peak number had been lost by the time of formation of Grampian Regional Transport in 1975, over 2/3rds by the time of bus deregulation in 1986.



OUR TRAMCAR...

Aberdeen Corporation tramcar 15 which was recovered from Loirston some two years ago is on display in an as-recovered state at the Dundee Museum of Transport. The car has been examined by a firm specialising in the restoration of historic vehicles artefacts who have submitted estimates for the restoration of the bodywork. Work is being progressed by a small team of supporters on the preparation of detailed drawings of the car bodywork.

Artists impression of a tramcar very similar to that of Tramcar 15, recovered from Loirston in 2013

A suitable (but unrestored) Brill truck plus traction motors have been purchased and arrangements are presently being made for their transfer to storage at Whitecairns. Discussions have also taken place with the "Satosphere" exhibition centre management in Aberdeen about the possibility of the car being on public display at the Satosphere premises in the former Aberdeen Corporation Beach Depot when restoration is completed.



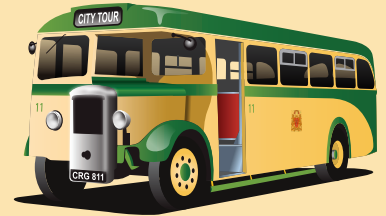
MODEL TRAMWAY

The Trust is interested in the large scale model tramway formerly owned by Aberdeen Corporation and now in the care of the First Group Heritage Trust. The track for the models is stored by the Trust and moves are now being made to make the tramway fit for public

An historic leather bound pictorial album, thought to be the only one in existence, which depicts the end of the tramways in Aberdeen in 1958 was handed over today to the First Group Heritage Trust by Sheila Biggs.

display. The collection includes a model of one of the ex-Nottingham trams bought in the 1930s and a manufacturer's model of a prototype for the city's streamlined bogie cars built in the 1940s.

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, and some vehicles are also used to provide free bus services for the public at special events such as the Speedfest and the Grampian Motorcycle Convention at the Grampian Transport Museum. The Trust has given presentations to specific interest groups and have arranged visits for groups to the Collection Centre.

CONTINUITY OF CARE

The Trust has guardianship of a variety of vehicles of local interest and premises within which they can be cared for. This is only possible in the long term if there are sufficient numbers of people available with 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!

If the Trust is to succeed 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, 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 07889 159 822 or e-mail gordon1.mills@btinternet.com