



# Newsletter

ISSUE TWO

AUTUMN 2016

## DEAR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS AND SUBSCRIBERS ....

The inauguration of 'The Bus Collection at Alford' took place on Sunday 29 May 2016 with close to 500 people visiting throughout the Trust's first ever 'Open Day'. Sir Moir Lockhead OBE presented Gordon Mills (Chairman) with a plaque inaugurating the collection.



## The Open Day

A great day was had by all with some of the bus collection taking people around the Grampian Transport Museum track, as well as a tour around Alford upstairs on the "Open Topper". Vehicles on display included the recently restored Leyland National, KSO 74P, which Gordon Mills and the team at Alford had spent many years of hard work completing.

Of the visiting restored vehicles, Gary Scott of Elgin's 1919 Vulcan was the oldest on show, with some lucky people enjoying a run around the track. Neil Scullion's 1964 Routemaster, was another recently restored vehicle. This has gone through a complete restoration; it looked and sounded great!! The weather was sunny and warm with many of the visitors having a picnic overlooking the track event's and enjoying Alexander Souter's piping in the background throughout the afternoon.

## Our buses...



### Leyland National KSO 74P on the road again ..... at 40 years old!

The former Grampian Transport, Leyland National, was acquired in August 2000, long before the present trust was set up. It gave a relatively trouble free journey back up to Aberdeen from Angelsey where it was last operated on Holyhead docks. In the preceding years, major reconstruction work was undertaken on the main body structure, wheel arch panels and replacement of many of the steel pressed body panels, including the whole of the front of the vehicle. The unconventional "huck-bolted" construction meant all of the seating and interior panels had to be removed to complete the job. We were fortunate to obtain redundant stock of many of the panels, a few had to be repaired and we had to compromise on the use of non-standard engine panels to complete this work. A full external repaint followed, as well as new flooring and a re-trim of the seating, with professional help being brought in to help with these two areas. Throughout the restoration programme many of the mechanical units have been overhauled, with the final part of the project to test and license the bus, which was completed during June 2016.



## Trip to Shetland ....

During the Bon-Accord Steam Fair at Castle Fraser in 2015, a group from Shetland, who had brought a vintage Austin to the Fair, asked us to consider attending an event in Shetland in June 2016. Both trusts, Aberdeen & District and FirstGroup Heritage, agreed it was something that they would support. We set sail from Aberdeen on the "North Boat" with our precious cargo of Leyland National KSO 74P and Daimler CRG 325C and were faced with some choppy seas on the journey to Shetland.



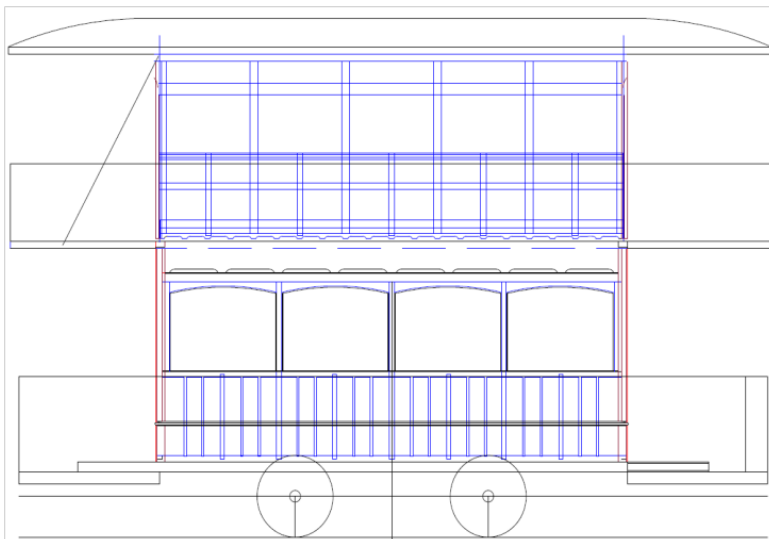
*Leyland National KSO 74P with the Sullom Voe Terminal in the background.*



*Daimler 325 leaving the Esplanade and is about to start the climb up Church Road.*

The show was held at Clickimin Leisure Centre where there was an impressive collection of all sorts of vehicles, with a total of 821 displays over the two-day gathering. The interest in our buses was rewarding, as people clearly appreciated the work that had gone in to restoring the vehicles. The Daimler was used to the joy of its passengers on a Park & Ride, with the National being used on drive's to various locations on the island. Thankfully, the journey home was more pleasant, with calmer seas and a wonderful views of a sunset on Shetland.

## Our Tram ...



The tram drawing team, Messrs Florence and Heywood, have kindly supplied a pdf drawing of Car 15, prepared from their Dundee visits. Above is an elevation of the car as a sample.



## 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 email [gordon1.mills@btinternet.com](mailto:gordon1.mills@btinternet.com)**