

NEWSLETTER

No. 24

July 2022

Chairman's Update ... Out and About Again!

Despite the increasing number of COVID cases, it has been almost back to normal with regards to attending events. In recent weeks we have travelled to Shetland with Bus 22, AEC Swift, and carried out several journeys and tours, which were all well supported by those attending the event. Alas, it was not without its challenges, with the vehicle breaking down near to the airport runway, because of a fuel problem. However, help was at hand, with a temporary replacement fuel pipe getting fuel from the tank direct to the fuel pump. Our thanks go to Jed Scott, Sandy Walker, and Thomas Robinson for their swift and very successful help. The fault was eventually traced to debris in the fuel tank.



More locally, we recently attended the Bon-Accord Steam Engine Fair, along with our colleagues from the First Group Heritage Trust. The event attracted an exceptionally good attendance and we had lots of interest in our three vehicles on display over the two-days of the event held in the grounds of Castle Fraser. We also marked the Queen's Platinum Jubilee - but more on this later.

The ALBUM Retired Section reunion held their annual get together in Aberdeen. This was originally set to take place in 2020 but had to be rescheduled twice, eventually taking place over the period 5th to 7th May 2022. The visit included a variety of events, one of which was a half day visit to The Bus Collection at Alford. It was great that this event eventually went ahead and afforded the opportunity of meeting up with old and new friends alike. Thanks go to John Owen and Joe Mackie for their hard work in arranging both the event and the visit to our collection. Haste Ye Back!



PS: At the time of producing this newsletter, COVID unfortunately caught up with Gordon, and he ended up in hospital. We wish Gordon a speedy recovery to full health.

Gordon Mills, Trust Chairman

***The Bus Collection at Alford are holding an Open Day on
SUNDAY 14TH AUGUST 2022—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 around the arena and Alford; Vehicle Displays, Stalls, Guided Tours around the garage hall, Talks and much, much more!

Come and join us for a fun day— It's FREE!!

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

Rosettes Under Restoration ...



Back in Newsletter 15, we carried a story outlining some of the background on the electrification of the tram network in Aberdeen and the role that these wall rosettes played in this transition. We also included photographs showing these rosettes at various locations in and around Aberdeen, with these photographs taken especially for this article by one of our Trustees on a cold day in February 2021.

One of our Trustees, Joe Mackie, had two of these rosettes in his shed, whilst we had a further ten in our store at Alford. The rosettes, which have enjoyed this recent attention, were originally located at King Street Depot (with an internal crossover also surviving post system closure in 1958) but with the demolition of the buildings in 2008/9 to make way for the First Group World Headquarters, many historical artefacts went into storage for the future – including some of the rosettes.



A chance meeting between Joe and a local transport enthusiast Bill Brown, resulted in an offer from Bill to restore the rosettes. Bill has done a splendid job of refurbishing them, and they are now on display to our visitors adjacent to Tram 15.

We would like to extend grateful thanks to Bill for all his hard work, the rosettes have not looked so good in over 100 years.



Albion, A Bit of History Part 2 ...

1930 saw more PMA28's delivered again with Walker 32 seat bodies, between February and May of that year. Numbered 69-73 RG 960-964 and 79/80 RG 1173/74. These were also handed to the A.R.P. in 1939 with the possibility of some being used by A.C.T.




Also in 1930, 8 PM28's with Cowieson 32 seat rear entrance bodies were bought from Glasgow Corporation. New in either 1927 or 1928, they were numbered 1-8 by Aberdeen with the registration numbers in order of A.C.T. fleet numbers, were GD 9721/19/18/16/7558/59/9720/17. Withdrawn in 1936, except for No.5 GD 7558, which could have lasted with A.C.T. until 1946. This could have been due to it having a major rebuild in April 1936, perhaps to see if it would be worthwhile keeping them all. It appeared in the Paint Shop records as being in there in June 1937 and again in July 1939.




The last Albion's to be acquired were No. 32-40 RG 5632-5640. Type PW69 with Walker 35 seat rear entrance bodies. New between October and December 1935. These had a more modern style of body. All were withdrawn in July 1940 and went direct to the Ministry of War Transport, who later disposed of them.


Back to earlier ones, No's 61,62,64,67,69,70,72,79 are known to have been disposed of during the War, sometime between 1939 and 1944, but in no specific order. As for the rest, they don't seem to have been disposed of until after the war, with at least No. 68,71,73 going through the Paint Shop during 1941/41. Therein lies a mystery.

Our thanks go to Peter McCutcheon for producing this article. Photo's from the A&DTPT collection.

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