



Newsletter

ISSUE THREE

SUMMER 2017

DEAR MEMBERS, VOLUNTEERS & SUBSCRIBERS

Great News!

The Bus Collection at Alford will be holding a second Open Day on Sunday, 9th July 2017, from 1100 to 1600 hours, with entry to the Open Day being free.

The Open Day will once again be held in the grounds of the Grampian Transport Museum, with a wide range of vehicles on display, dating as far back as the 1930's. In addition, we will be operating rides around the track, as well as periodic rides around Alford. The Museum is also offering two for one entry on the day, tickets available from our Trustees.

On behalf of the Trustees, I'd like to extend an invitation to you to come along and join in the fun.

Gordon Mills, Trust Chairman

Tram On the Move

The Aberdeen Science Centre, formerly "Satrosphere", is in the former Beach tramway depot and wants to display a tramcar as part of an exhibition later this year. Following a site visit, it was agreed that the Aberdeen "de-electrified electrified" horse tram in the care of Grampian Transport Museum (GTM) would meet their needs. As their exhibition will not open until the summer, the Trust volunteered to store the car temporarily in order that GTM did not have to disturb their own display part way through their season.



The flit to the Trust's part of the Collection Centre was in February, the car being placed on steel channel sections as temporary rails. Transfer to the Science Centre is scheduled for 19th June and will be carried out by the same local haulage contractor who brought the car from GTM. That transfer was done using an articulated lorry with a long reach hydraulic lifting arm mounted on the back of the tractor unit. The complete car was lifted on and off using a spreader frame from which nylon slings were run underneath the truck

Our buses...

Chairman, Gordon Mills and Volunteer Doug Duthie by the re-engined Albion



Albion Transplant ...

You may have realised that FGHT star Albion number 79 has not been seen about recently. We have been having trouble with the engine. A fault that has occurred several times before has repeated – a valve has broken resulting in lost compression.

It was decided to take the bull by the horns and re-work the spare engine used for a short time at the start of the restoration. It required a full overhaul and the engine was duly despatched to Agra Engineering in Dundee and the full job was completed and returned at the end of 2016. The reconditioned engine had all of the work required dealt with and new valves fitted that can now allow the bus to run off unleaded petrol.

The engine change, carried out by our team of volunteers at The Bus Collection premises in Alford, with many parts needing to be switched from the old engine to the new. Final adjustments and refinements are now being carried out and we should be seeing 79 back in service with new reliability shortly.

Chairman, Gordon Mills and a team of Volunteers carefully manoeuvre the tram into the Collection Centre

to ensure a "straight lift" which was clear of the bodywork. In ye olde days, a separate crane would have been necessary at much expense.

The car was one of 13 horse cars later converted to electric traction by Aberdeen Corporation about 1902, and was returned to horse car condition as part of the 50 Years of Tramways celebrations in 1924. It was brought out again in 1937 for the Coronation, was repainted for the closure of the Rosemount route in 1954 and led the closure parade for the tramways in 1958. Its escape from the fiery fate of the rest of the tramcar fleet is another story.

A Trip to Buckie....

One of the coach firms in the North East which has developed successfully since deregulation of the bus and coach industry in the 1980s is Maynes of Buckie. The company, which is still in the control of the Mayne family, celebrated its 70th year in business this year with an Open Day on Sunday 7th May at its well appointed premises in their home town. Having a sense of history, the company invited the proprietors of historic buses and coaches to join the celebration and a goodly number accepted the invitation. The Trust sent two vehicles from Alford, ex Alexander PA 171 and ex GRT #74, First Group Heritage Trust sending ex GRT #61 from Aberdeen.

Other notable preservationists from the North East who came along included Gary Scott and his son from Elgin with the 1919 Vulcan charabanc and a Sentinel



steam wagon which was in steam when the day's events concluded.

Frank Paterson of Dufftown was there with his ex SMT, ex Alexander, Leyland which, was Scotland's last pre-war bus to be used in ordinary service. From further afield there were groups with vehicles from the Glasgow Vintage Vehicle Trust and from the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum at Lathalmond. Two of these vehicles called in to see us at Alford on their way south.

The event attracted over 2,000 visitors and raised around £5k for Alzheimer's Scotland.

Silver City Stories

It is many, many years since the Castlegate was full of buses but this is about to change well for at least two days!

On the 1st and 2nd of July, as part of Aberdeen City Council's Silver City Stories, First Group Heritage Trust and The Bus Collection at Alford will have a range of buses from the 1930 Albion and throughout the years to today's modern hydrogen powered bus on display at the Castlegate from 1000 to 1700 hours on both days.

This will for sure be a sight not likely to be repeated quickly, so do come along to view the buses and other displays, telling the story of Trams and Buses of the Silver City.



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.

Open to the Public

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

Continuity of Care & Knowledge

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:

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