



Newsletter

ISSUE FOUR

AUTUMN 2017

ANNUAL OPEN DAY 2017..... A success despite the weather!



Over two hundred people visited The Bus Collection at Alford on our second annual Open Day on July 9th 2017 . Our buses and FirstGroup Heritage Trust's buses were put on display at various points round the large site here at the Grampian Transport Museum.

Many people braved the elements on the top of Open-Top Leyland Atlantean 318, which travelled around the village on our "Alford Bridges" route capably driven by Gary and conducted by Roger.



For those wanting to try out some of the other buses, rides around the track were available and many chose to go on each vehicle throughout the afternoon. Inside the garage there was a large display of photographs of transport in the North East courtesy of the Aberdeen Transport Society. There was a display of model buses and also the venerable collection of large-scale buses and trams now in the care of FirstGroup Heritage Trust. Donald's Uniform Store was a hit with many, the collection of Aberdeen bus crew clothing has been sorted and you can now buy items from your memories. We would have liked the sun to shine but, there was a warm welcome for those that did manage to brave the elements.

Grampian Transport Museum Children's Fun Day

The Fun Day held each year towards the end of the school holidays, provided the opportunity to use the Albion on our "home ground" and test it with a full load of passengers, an opportunity too good to avoid. I am pleased to say that the event was a great success with 197 passengers carried during the afternoon. It is always amazing to hear the reaction of children who have never ridden on a bus before (some parents too!) let alone going on a 1930 half cab with open rear platform. The conductor pulling the cord to sound the bell to start and stop the bus was just totally outside the experience of most of the passengers. The bus performed well and gave us confidence to venture further afield in the future.



Silver City Stories

Aberdeen City Council promoted a Scottish Government initiative bringing Aberdeen's history and heritage to life by telling stories of the Silver City, either in word, photograph, verse, acting, singing or whatever means preferred. First Group Heritage Trust submitted a proposal to tell the story of trams and buses in the Silver City by having a display of buses at the Castlegate on 1st and 2nd July.



FGHT along with The Bus Collection at Alford set about planning this event with the objective of having up to 15 buses on display including the Albion 79 and, from Lathalmond, wartime Daimler 155. The line-up of historic buses over the weekend to visually tell the story was Albion 79, Daimler 325, Daimler 155, National 74, Olympian 131, Leopard 61, Swift 22, PA171 and Iain Andrew's Atlantean 270. Present day buses on display, courtesy of First, were from Thistle Line and Platinum fleets, and of course, Hydrogen fuelled bus. In addition, an open top bus tour by Atlantean 318 of the inner city was operated which carried just short of 1000 passengers over the two days. The proceedings concluded on the Sunday with a vehicle parade along Union Street.

Other displays included the very popular model trams and buses, a range of ticket machines, banners and also photographs presented in conjunction with Aberdeen Transport Society. There was strong public interest in the event which succeeded in raising some rare Silver City Stories.

FGHT Facebook: First Group Heritage Trust has created a Facebook page giving details of it's vehicles and that of The Bus Collection. Visit on [First Group Heritage Trust](#).

Visit to Balmoral Castle

It is not often one is invited to take a vintage bus to the Royal Deeside home of Her Majesty the Queen but we were, and on Saturday 22nd July 2017 we set off along the back roads of Donside and Deeside from Alford to visit Balmoral Castle with the 1930 Albion. On arrival, the bus was regally admired by all, befitting the graceful presence of RG 1173 at such a royal residence.



So popular was this visitor there was a request from staff that the bus be used to transport the visitors from the gate at the roadside up to the castle. Some 200 visitors were carried to and from the castle.

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. Some vehicles are also used to provide free bus services for the public at special occasions such as major events at the Grampian Transport Museum. The Trust gives presentations to interested groups and works to mutual benefit with other museum organisations.

Continuity of Care & Knowledge

The Trust has care of a variety of vehicles of local interest and has premises within which they are looked after.

For the Trust's services to the public to be kept going in the long term the Trust seeks to encourage the support of people who could develop 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!

For the Trust to continue to be successful and maintain the collection for future generations 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: thebuscollectionatalford@outlook.com**