



NEWSLETTER

No. 28

July 2023

Chairman's Update ... July 2023.

As you will read further in this Newsletter, we have been quite active over the past few weeks, with our vehicles participating at rallies and events in locations including Alford, Castle Fraser, and Stonehaven with more events to cover later in both July and August. In addition, we spent two days at Balmoral Castle, providing free trips around the estate, see article on page 2 for further details.



PA 171 and Daimler 325 on display at the Bon Accord Steam Fair at Castle Fraser.

Whilst attending these events is great fun, we must also keep in mind the important work required for our FREE to enter Open Day, which is getting ever closer. All the team are working hard to make it a special day for all our visitors on the day. We are all hoping that the weather will be kind to us, and we can once again enjoy a warm and sunny summer day, as was the case in 2022.

Our Chair, Gordon Mills, is still convalescing following his recent illness, but we are all hoping that he will have recovered sufficiently to be able to join us at the Open Day, even for a brief period.

The Editor

"Mony a Mickle"

As with many self-funding charities, **The Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust** in general - and its annual Open Day in particular - is not run by a cast of thousands. With the exception of the outside caterer and the crews of visiting buses, last year's Open Day was successfully delivered with some two dozen Trust supporters, all volunteers. During the day, with the exception of the grand finale, only two of these at any one time were driving buses. All the others were playing their part in presenting the Trust to the public and looking after them.

Our volunteers last year were from a wide range of ages and backgrounds. Not all volunteers have a specialist knowledge of public transport history – it is not an essential - but they enjoy the good company and are aware that they are doing their bit to safeguard our public transport heritage and the knowledge of how it has evolved.

The running of the Trust, with its Open Day, is little different from running a small business. The core skills are the same, so if you would like to help the Trust to flourish and to enjoy yourself at the same time please get in touch. Not all tasks involve being on site at Alford or getting your hands dirty, and your skills could be invaluable to us.

Another method of supporting the Trust is contributing to the costs of its running and development. The Trust has three funds to which the public can subscribe:

- The **General Fund** for running the Trust
- The fund to support the **restoration of Aberdeen Corporation tramcar 15**
- The fund to support the **restoration of Aberdeen Corporation bus 14**

Because the trust is a registered charity, if you are a UK taxpayer your donation, whether it be once a month, once a year or once in a lifetime, can also attract an additional '**Gift Aid**' contribution from the UK government.

There is truth to the belief in parts of Caledonia that "**Mony a Mickle Mays a Muckle**", or, as a well-known UK retail company puts it - "**Every Little Helps**" and any help you can give us, no matter how little you think it is, will be greatly appreciated!

If you want to know more, please see the bottom of the following page for ways to contact us.

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

A Fine Day Out ... Stonehaven Rally!

"The National," they said. "Number 74. Can you take it to the Stonehaven rally?" Despite many years of bus driving, I've never driven a Leyland National, so jumped at the chance. "Oh, wait, actually it's the Swift we're sending," they said, "not the National." And so it was that a friend and I found ourselves heading to Alford bright and early one Sunday morning, to drive another type neither of us had driven before. Unlike the National, no power steering, but otherwise relatively uncomplicated with its semi-automatic gearbox. Off the throttle, a flick of the wrist, back on again. Easy enough.

With the 30 or so miles to Stonehaven, the lunch-time road run, then a short photographic diversion through Aberdeen on our way back, we shared the driving, and on the warm day opted for the traditional 'air-conditioning' method of keeping the front door open, the lack of opening windows making the 1968 AEC somewhat warm in the sunshine.



After a lap of Stonehaven town centre to allow us to make the turn into Stonehaven's Mineralwell Park - somewhere I'd never been before, and much bigger than I expected - we parked alongside a pair of very differently-bodied Leyland Leopards in the much more modern-looking yellow livery of the Scottish Bus Group era, making our bus look somewhat dated alongside.

Parked with the doors open, the most common comment amongst those who stepped on board was that it was the smell which they remembered most, and which took them back to their younger days. I took the wheel for the road run around Stonehaven, bringing up the rear of a long procession of cars, trucks and assorted other vehicles from across the age spectrum. After a few more hours and more excited visitors aboard, we set off for Aberdeen.



I dropped off my co-driver in town, then headed back to Alford as the rain started to fall on what was still a warm evening. With no passengers, the bus, old as it might be, had no problem reaching the speed limit, though it proved a good work-out for my arms at anything over around 35mph! All in all, a fine day out, and good to be able to take one of the fleet out for the public to enjoy, we certainly attracted a lot of attention, at the show and on the road.

Article and photos kindly provided by Jonathan Welch

Out and About - Balmoral Castle ...

On 6th May 2023 King Charles was crowned our King at Westminster Abbey and the UK celebrated in style. On the following two days First Group Heritage Trust and Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust again visited the King's Royal Deeside home, Balmoral Castle, to continue the local celebrations taking with them four buses for display and for short trips on the Balmoral Estate.



The chosen vehicles had to be befitting of the occasion. First on the list was the 1930 Albi-on closely followed by the 1950 Leyland Tiger PA171, AEC Swift JRS 22F and Leyland National KSO 74P. PA 171, (CWG 273) was used for the estate trips which afforded a stunning view of Balmoral Castle from a high vantage point.

The team on both days was, Joe Mackie, Willie Benzie, George Mair, Doug Duthie, Jason Grant, Gordon Mills, Graham Davidson, and Donald Ballance. Missing from the line up is Ian Souter, who was present on the Sunday.



Open Day is taking place on Sun, 30th July 2023, from 1100 to 1600 hours in the grounds of the Grampian Transport Museum, Montgarrie Road, Alford, AB33 8AE ... FREE ENTRY!



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