



## Chairman's Update

In this edition of our newsletter, we have some exciting news!

We are about to launch our opening programme at Alford for 2026. Our intention is to have regular open days every Wednesday and Saturday through the season where the public can come to our workshop at Alford to experience first hand our fleet and to meet with our team of knowledgeable and experienced volunteers. There will be a charge for the visitor experience and tour of the facility but more on this later in the newsletter.

In addition, we are planning to launch a membership scheme for the Trust. For an annual fee, members will receive several exclusive benefits. Further details are provided overleaf and we would welcome your feedback on this initiative.

Work continues at a pace to vacate the storage facility at Whitecairns. The team have been hard at work organising and categorising the various items that have been stored there for years. We have cleared 3 full skips of surplus scrap and obsolete parts and equipment, and arrangements are in place to relocate and dispose of the vehicles that are stored at the facility so we can vacate the property by the end of May 2026.

*David Liston, Trust Chairman*

## Meanwhile, back in the Workshop...

**ACT 14 (AEC)** - During a routine inspection, we identified oil leaks from the engine (pushrod door covers) and gearbox (input and output shafts). The push rod door covers were removed, the engine block and covers cleaned, and new gaskets fitted. Having struggled to purchase replacement gearbox seals directly, a local specialist manufacturer was able to help. These replacements have been fitted and the leaks are no more.

**ACT 11** - The bodywork around the front of the entrance door has been refitted using the original body parts and the rear wheel rims have been completely refurbished and fitted. The front brake shoes have been refurbished and new brake linings fitted. No funding has yet been raised for replacement rear hub bearings.

**ACT 209** - The repeated air pressure problems on 209 have been solved. We are delighted to report that new seals were sourced from Swan Seals in Aberdeen, and 209 is now running beautifully!

**ACT 14 (Daimler) at SVBM, Lathalmond** - The hydraulic pipe runs to the brake cylinders are being installed. Further thought is being given to sourcing appropriate material for the valve box seals for the vacuum brake servo.

**Tramcar 15** - Agreement has been reached with Stanegate Restorations to rebuild the bodywork of the car. This major restoration project is planned to start in April and will take about two years.

**Other Activities:** A great deal of work went into preparing for the departure of ACT154. Getting it on to the low-loader went well, and despite a late change to the route 154 arrived in Glasgow safe and sound.



**The Gordon Mills MBE Bus Collection at Alford is holding an Open Day on  
SUNDAY, 5th July 2026 - 1100 TO 1600 HOURS.**

**Events will take place in the grounds of the GRAMPIAN TRANSPORT MUSEUM, Montgarrie Road,  
Alford AB33 8AE, please enter via the gate at the end of Watchmakers Lane.**

**Activities include, Vintage Bus Rides, Vehicle Displays, Stalls, Guided Tours, Talks and much more; admission  
charges will apply! If you would you like to help us please get in touch - see overleaf for contact details.**

**Come and join us for a fun day out!**

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## Keeping the Show on the Road

The Trust is not immune from the increases in costs of commodities and services that abound these days. To ensure the continued enjoyment and safeguarding of the bus collection for future generations, we have decided to introduce a number of changes in how the Trust is financially supported. Three new funding routes are being offered to our supporters:

### 1. Charging for Entry to the Collection Centre ...

This change will help us cover essential running costs and support further improvements in the Collection Centre.

Admission charges will be introduced as from 1st April 2026 as follows:

Adult (16-60)	£5.00
First two Accompanied Children (5-15)	Free
Children (5-15)	£2.00
Children Under Five	Free
Senior Citizen (60+)	£2.50

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### 2. A Proposed Membership Scheme ...

The Trust is currently developing a membership scheme that will give you the opportunity to play a part in the future of the Trust. Benefits of membership would include unlimited access to the collection on normal operating days, receipt of the Trust's electronic quarterly "Newsletter", invitations to exclusive events, transport to local rallies, invitations to an annual update meeting, and more. You will also be able to learn from others on matters mechanical, marketing, transport operations, local transport history and maybe, just maybe, experience driving an old bus. Annual membership rates proposed for 2026 are:

Adult	£18.00
Senior Citizen (60+)	£16.00
Child (5 to 15)	£12.00
*One Adult Family + 2 Children (5 to 15)	£37.00
*Two Adult Family + 2 Children (5 to 15)	£57.00
*Plus £6.00 for each additional family child added.	

We would welcome feedback as to whether you would be interested in joining a dedicated membership scheme with the benefits proposed at the cost levels quoted. Please see below for how to contact the Trust.

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### 3. Donations/Sponsorship/Legacies

The Gordon Mills MBE Bus Collection at Alford is a charitable trust (Aberdeen & District Transport Preservation Trust – Charity Number SC037877). The charity receives a top-up payment from HMRC of 25% on each donation. There is no need to notify HMRC, but it helps the Trust if a Gift Aid declaration is made out and lodged with the Trust. And if you pay higher rate taxes a partial tax refund will be due to you.

The Trust has several vehicle projects pending which would welcome the interest of a sponsor. These projects stand alongside the many strands of activity involved in the running of the Trust and its Collection Centre. Please get in touch if you would like help or to know more.

A legacy payment to a registered charity is exempt from Inheritance Tax. Making such a payment can then reduce any overall tax payable. A recent Budget proposal aims to bring more estates into Inheritance Tax. Again, please get in touch if you would like to help.

The Trust remains dedicated to ensuring that future generations can experience and learn from the rich transport and social heritage of the North East of Scotland. Together, our combined efforts will ensure that this legacy is not only remembered but cherished for years to come.

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