



NEWSLETTER 3 - March 2008

Introduction

Dear Member,

This newsletter contains

- News of an extra day out in July
- Confirmation of the date for our visit to Castle Point
- Note of a change of venue for the Leighton Buzzard Bus Show
- Further details on the Sittingbourne Railway trip
- Information for those coming to Reading on 30 March - note revised departure point

So read on at your leisure, and remember that bookings for all trips are being taken now

Oh I do like to be beside the seaside . . . on an RTL

Pavilion Coaches in Brighton have recently restored red RTL1427, and we will be hiring it on Sunday 13 July. However, to have the opportunity to ride on it, instead of departing from London as is the norm, we will need to begin our day out from Brighton. Now I realise this will preclude some of you from being able to come, but opportunities to hire RTLs are few and far between, and with Brighton being only 50 minutes on the fast train from Victoria, I hope many of you will be able to make it.

The outline plan is to have two departure times from Brighton Station, ensuring we connect with a fast train from London. At c10:30 there will be a 45 minute bonus ride for the early birds amongst you, touring the local area. Then we will return to the station to pick up remaining members departing at c11:30. With the whole group together, we will then ride along the seafront and see the sites of the town, before travelling to the well known Shoreham Cement Works yard, where six or seven local operators keep their vehicles. The majority are coaches of one description or another, but we can also expect to see a variety of double deckers, including most likely a couple of RMs, an RT, some VRs, Titans and Olympians.

Leaving the yard, we will then travel along the seafront as far as Worthing, before heading inland to the Amberley Museum. The Southdown Bus Collection is housed at Amberley, and as well as being able to enjoy rides around the site on their regular vintage services, I'll try my best to arrange for us to experience further rides on vehicles not normally available to the general public. On that day there is also a steam gala being held, so there will be additional trains running.

Having spent the afternoon at Amberley, we will return to Brighton on RTL1427.

The cost, including bus ride, and taking into account varying admission prices on a group rate to Amberley is as follows:

Adults £18.50 **Over 60's** £17.50 **Under 15s** £14.50

If you would rather just enjoy the ride from Brighton as far as Worthing and return, and spend the day by the sea, the cost would be £10.

For some members, it may be easier for you to meet us in Worthing or at Amberley, or indeed catch the train back into London Victoria from Amberley. Just let me know what you wish to do - all things should be possible.

At this stage I do not need to know whether you will be in Brighton for the 10:30 or 11:30 departures, but please book the trip early, as numbers are limited to the seating capacity of 56.

Incidentally just in case you were wondering why trips like this have to be on a Sunday, when train travel is often slower and disrupted, it is because buses like RTL1427 are busy earning good keep on the Saturday wedding market, at a far higher cost than the heavily discounted enthusiasts rate we are paying.

A bus trip to a far away Island Canvey !

As previously advertised in our original programme, we will be visiting the Castle Point Transport Museum in May. The date has now been confirmed as Saturday 10 May, and this will be a Central London departure, around 10:30, for the one and a half hour journey to Canvey. The museum in the former Eastern National depot houses over 30 vehicles, including some fine former London examples. After a guided tour, we will enjoy some rides around the Island in vehicles from the collection, and if it is a nice day, we may even go into Southend on one, or possibly both, of their open toppers, 1944 Daimler FOP 429 / 1953 Bristol WNO 478.

The cost is £15 which includes a donation to the museum.

Leighton Buzzard Bus Show moves to Milton Keynes

Due to the success of previous events at Leighton Buzzard, the organisers, 'The Routemaster Owners Club', have decided to relocate the event this year to the bus station in Milton Keynes. However, we will still be running a service to the event, which should include a good selection of RMs, RTs, RFs, GSs and CR16 is promised too. There are likely to be some vehicles from local groups, and rides will be available on a selection of buses. The date remains the same, Sunday 17 August.

Sittingbourne and Kemsley Steam Railway

Our trip to the Sittingbourne and Kemsley Steam Railway on 12 April necessitates the use of a single decker to clear bridges on the access routes to the railway. Ensign's 1963 Tiger Cub coach will be our mode of transport for the day, so if you haven't ridden on this superbly restored vehicle before, now is a rare chance. You have had the full details from me before on this trip, which includes a cab ride in a steam train for all. The cost for members is £15 including entry to the railway, and as many have asked, a reduced rate is on offer for family groups.

Reading Transport - Sunday 30 March

If you are coming to Reading with us in a couple of weeks time, here is all the information you need to help you enjoy your day

On this occasion we will depart from opposite Victoria Coach Station, on Buckingham Palace Road, just past the junction with Elizabeth St and St Gorges Drive - we should be fairly easy for you to spot in RMA58. Hopefully we will be on the stand from about 10:00am and although our scheduled departure time is 10:30, if you could aim to be with us by 10:15, that would ensure we get away promptly, for what is a busy day. One very important thing to keep in mind is the clocks go forward on Saturday evening, so I'm afraid you will lose an hour in bed. If you were with us on the last trip, please bring the high visibility vest you were issued with - they will be provided for those we have not seen before. There is no organised lunch on this occasion, so you will need to bring food and drink with you, as opportunities to purchase will be limited.

If you have booked the trip, and now find for any reason you can't make it, please let me know. As last time, there is phone number for you to get hold of me on the day - 07505 423203. Please contact me on this if you are running late, so we can make alternative arrangements for you, but I would suggest the alternative plan would be to make your own way to Reading Railway Station where we are pulling in around 12:30 to pick up a couple of members.

In closing

No news yet on timings for the trip to the Cobham bus gathering in April, but hopefully you will hear something from me in the next week or so.

Thank you again for your letters and emails which I do my best to respond quickly to, and as ever, please feel free to get in touch with any questions and suggestions you may have.

I look forward to seeing many of you again on 30th March.

With my best regards to you all.

Trevor