



NEWSLETTER 8 - October 2008

Introduction

Dear Member,

Castle Point Open Day Show - Sunday 12 October

Firstly a quick update on the trip to the Castle Point Open Day Show next Sunday, 12 October. Our bus will be Cobham's prototype Routemaster, RML3, Leyland engined, and Weyman bodied. This is a rare chance to ride on this superbly restored vehicle, and I for one am very much looking forward to it. We will leave slightly earlier than originally planned at 09:30 from outside Embankment Tube Station. The return fare is just £10 and the trip is open to members and non-members. Entry to the show itself is £4, and includes a display of over 50 buses and coaches as well as classic cars, military and commercial vehicles and motorcycles. With a large number of stalls under cover, trips around the Island plus the open day of the local miniature steam railway it promises to be an eventful day. There is plenty of space left on our bus, so please get in touch if you want to join us.

RTL Day

Plans for our RTL Day continue to come together. One key change to my previous notification though is the date. Those of you who had already booked should have received an email from me last week, but to make others aware, Ensign are now proposing to hold one of their popular X80 heritage days on our original date of Saturday 29th November. So in order to avoid a clash, I have taken the decision to move our event back 24 hours to Sunday 30th November.

The plan as it stands so far, is to depart from Victoria at 10:00 following the 52 route as far as Willesden. We then do a rounder on the 226 to Golders Green and return. After a break for lunch we will run as 176 to East Dulwich (Goose Green) and then head back to Charing Cross, before finally running a short working of the number 11 route returning to Victoria. There will of course be plenty of opportunities for photographs, and we hope one or two of these will be in former RTL garages.

Vehicles scheduled to attend are RTLs 139 and 1050. The fare has now been set at £15, and as The Cobham Bus Museum are joining us with a vehicle on this occasion (as well as assisting with the planning of the event), the £15 fare applies to anyone who is either a member of TCLBS or Cobham. The non-members fare is £20. As ever there will be fuller details nearer the time, but I hope this gives you a flavour of what we intend to undertake.

Isle of Wight Bus Museum

This isn't one of my trips, but I'm happy to give it a plug ! If anyone is interested in going to the Isle of Wight Bus & Coach Museum for their running day on Sunday 19 October, Cobham Bus Museum have offered us some places for the trip they are running. The bus scheduled to be used is RML3. It leaves the Museum at 08:00, and you are welcome to park your car there if it helps. It is anticipated the return time at Cobham will be between 20:00 and 21:00. The fare is £25, and let me know if you would like to go, and I'll book you in.

European Bus Show - June 2009 !

I'd be interested to hear member's comments on this. We have been approached by the organisers to see whether we would be interested in attending the 'European Classic Bus Show' in Prague and Litomerice next June, organised by the Bohemia Transport Museum <http://www.bohemia-transport-museum.com/> They expect over 100 buses to attend from all over Europe.

There are two options open to us. One is we take a bus (and mechanic!) across Europe to Prague, a journey of 800 miles. When Bob and I sat down to work out the route, we reckoned that at an average speed of 30mph it would take us four days to Prague, with stops along the way at a couple of transport related sites. Then of course another three or four days home, or there is the option for passengers to fly home. The alternative would be to fly there and back as a group for a long weekend.

The event starts in Prague on Thursday 25th June with a cavalcade through the city, and a visit to the Transport Museum with Historic tram rides, and then on the Friday night the vehicles travel approximately 30 miles north to Litomerice.

It's hard to judge how much this would cost, but IF we could find a heritage bus someone was willing to let us have (and that is a very big 'if'), it would be the best part of £1,200 in fuel alone ! So I guess by bus the trip would be in the region of £500-£600 depending on numbers (with accommodation), to fly for the weekend if booked well enough in advance a little cheaper.

Let me know if this is something you might be interested in us pursuing. I have a fuller programme if anyone is interested but before you ask NO I am not taking bookings just yet !

That's all for now.

With my best regards,

Trevor