



NEWSLETTER 10 - December 2008

Dear Member,

As we approach the festive period, it gives me a good excuse to reflect on the first twelve months of TCLBS. This time last year I was busy handing out leaflets, desperately hoping some of you might join my humble little society. A year on, and with twelve trips under our belt, nearly every one of the 148 who have signed up has been on at least one of our days out, and I'm delighted to have had that opportunity to have met each and every one of you.

Of course it hasn't been a solo effort on my part, with Bob Stanger and Peter Brown working with me. They have stopped me making every trip a red RT with 87 on the front, heading in the general direction of Rainham, but rather together we have done our utmost to bring you some variety, and cater for all interests. From your comments directly to me, and in correspondence, the message I get is that we are doing ok, and could we do more of the same please? So that is what we shall try and do next year.

The best ideas don't always come from the three of us, and we are always happy to accept your suggestions. What seems to be widely thought of as the highlight of our year, the RTL Day, came out of a chat with member Barry Stewart in July, so please don't ever hesitate to mention something to us. 'Two Camera' Tony Ford came up with a cracker only the other day, and although we might not be able to act on it quite as quickly as the RTL Day, we know it would interest others, and it won't be forgotten.

Our year has not been without the odd hiccup, with RMA58 and RT1499 misbehaving themselves. However, with some of the buses we have used being 60 years old, this is the inevitable part of our hobby we have to live with from time to time, and I ask for your understanding.

So our challenge for 2009 is to build on the good work I think we have done this year, and bring you further days out that will appeal. I'm not in a position yet to announce a full programme, or any specific dates, but here are a few that we hope to do in 2009 to whet your appetite

- A visit to London Bus & Truck in Northfleet, to see Roger Wright, his extensive collection of heritage vehicles and his operations
- A pre-war day with rides on vehicles at Cobham
- A day with Colin Curtis of the Routemaster design team, rides on an RM, a depot tour at Acton, and a presentation and Q&A session with Colin on RM1 and FRM1

Rest assured there are many others being planned, and I hope to be in touch again in January with details of our first trip for 2009.

Those that came on our Lights Tour at the weekend will be aware of the cheque I handed over to John Hinson, organiser of the event, towards The Rainbow Trust charity. In fact, thanks to a very generous donation by a member, that cheque has been supplemented, and the final amount we raised was a fantastic £748. I'd like to thank all those who contributed by buying programmes, seats on the Lights Tour, raffle tickets, quiz tickets and by personal donations.

So that is it from me for this year. All that it remains for me to say is thank you for your support and trust in what we at TCLBS try to do, and I look forward to seeing you all again on a number 87 RT next year !

Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year.

Trevor