

THE CLASSIC LONDON BUS SOCIETY
Memorable days out by bus for enthusiasts



NEWSLETTER 12 - March 2009

Dear Member,

A quick note with some further information on our forthcoming trips.

22 March - Feeder service to the RF event at Sandown Park

Our bus for Sunday's trip to Sandown Park is RF491. Due to the unavailability of our original vehicle, Ewen Pring at Timebus has kindly agreed to help us out at short notice, and if you are able to join us, it would be much appreciated and help start what I hope will be a good relationship with Timebus.

RF491 will pick us up from the south side of Oxford St, Marble Arch end just before the turn into Park Lane. It will stop close to bus stop 'P' (which must be outside Primark I should think) at 09:30 likely to be blinded as a 715 feeder. It is in service on the event during the day and leaves Sandown Park for the journey back to London at 17:00. The return fare is £10. No need to book, just turn up.

5 April - Feeder service to the Cobham Open Day

It looks as if familiar and recently repaired and repainted RT624 will be our vehicle for the day. We will pick up from outside Embankment Tube Station at 08:30 and Victoria Station, adjacent to Bus Stop 'L' in Vauxhall Bridge Road at 08:40. Again no need to book in advance and return time will be advised on the day. Fare £10 return open to members and non-members. Incidentally there is severe disruption on the trains out of Waterloo and Victoria on the day so regardless of whether you are travelling with us to the event, you might want to check out your connections.

12/13 April - Feeder service to the RT anniversary

As many of you may be aware, 12 April marks the 30th anniversary of the withdrawal of the RT by London Transport. To commemorate the occasion, Ensign Bus and London Bus Company are pulling together a running day, and propose using nine RTs in service over three routes. The routes will be linked to provide a triangle covering Brentwood, Romford and Ongar, a mix of central and country services, operated by red or green RTs accordingly. Services will run over two days, Easter Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday, 12 and 13 April.

TCLBS has agreed to run and organise the feeder service to the event on both days, linking Central London with Brentwood. Using a different ex Green Line vehicle on each day we depart Victoria Gillingham St at 08:30, call at Embankment Tube at 08:40, pause at Aldgate Bus Station for photographs and depart at 09:00. You can join at any of these three points. We then

proceed to Ongar Station in time for the first RT departures of the day. Our return journey is a bit up in the air at the moment due to vehicle and crew allocations for the event, but it looks as if we shall need to use one of the red RTs for the return, and will likely run as an N95 back from Romford to Aldgate and Victoria. Don't panic, we are not leaving that late, but it is the only red RT route I could find heading in the right direction !

The fare is £15 for one day and £25 for both, and this includes the RT rover ticket. The service is open to members and non-members and it would be really helpful to know if you intend to travel to ensure we have enough buses operating the service.

A timetable for the RT service can now be downloaded from The London Bus Company website at <http://www.thelondonbuscompany.co.uk/page6.asp>

18 April - 'Routemaster Day'

A little bit more information for you on the event, which is proving popular. I'm delighted to let you know we have secured the use of Aston Manor Transport Museum's Leyland engined RM506, along with London Heritage Travel's AEC RM1989 - both restored to original condition. We shall be at London Bridge Bus Station in the bus stand prior to stop 'D' at 10:00, ready for a 10:15 departure and follow route 7 (as was in the 60's) to Kew Green. We shall pass Paddington Station (Eastbourne Terrace bus stop 'D') approximately half an hour later, and you are welcome to join us there, but please let me know in advance if this is your intention.

Having paused at picturesque Kew Green for photographs we will proceed to the Acton Depot for the inclusive buffet lunch and the presentation by Colin Curtis. Of course Colin will be happy to answer any questions you may have on the RM but if you are a bit shy just let me know in advance and I'll ask them for you. Having said that though, I met Colin for the first time at the weekend, and he is a very friendly and approachable character. After Colin's presentation we will hear from Owen Evans, Senior Designer of Capoco about the 21st Century Routemaster. You will then have some time either on your own or to join one of the guided tours of the depot.

Having left the depot I'm really pleased to tell you that thanks to Peter Noyes at Metroline, who has given us great assistance and support on a number of our trips, we are then going to visit the new Central Engineering Logistics Facility (CELF) located close to Metroline's West Perivale Garage. It was opened about 18 months ago and is a "state-of-the-art engineering and logistics centre". It should be very interesting to see this modern integrated maintenance and engineering facility, and we are very fortunate to be allowed access.

Finally we return into London joining former route 207A at Hanwell. RM506 was a familiar sight on this route in the 60's, and to mark the occasion, Nigel Mitchell of LBRT is producing a limited edition Code 3 EFE model showing it as such to 'Chelsea Stanley Arms'. If anyone is interested in purchasing a model, they cost £35 plus £2 postage, and are available directly from Nigel, not me. I have some pictures of the specimen model if you want to see how it looks, just drop me an email and I will forward them to you. The models are made to order, not carried as stock, and will need to be paid for in advance. I suggest the best way to get hold of one is to print out the order and payment forms from his website <http://www.lbrt.me.uk/> and send a cheque in with the completed forms. You will need to allow some time for him make them up. The reference for the model is 'RM506 The Classic London Bus Society'. My thanks to Member and avid model collector Vic Gully for organising this for me.

So if you haven't booked a place yet on our 'Routemaster Day', this packed and fun filled day is yours for £20, and that includes entrance to the Acton Depot and lunch. What a bargain !

25 May (Bank Holiday Monday) - 'Two Museums Running Day'

I've had a really good response from you for this event, thank you. The intention is to travel by Virgin Pendolino train and be met by bus in Birmingham. Travelling by train on a group ticket will be a much cheaper and quicker option than travelling by road. I'm not able to book a group ticket for another week or so, but I'm told that the cost is likely to be in the order of £15 return, which is significantly cheaper than buying individual tickets even with a railcard discount.

There is only one fast train per hour on the 25th, and I propose to book seats on the 09:23 from Euston arriving at Birmingham New Street at 10:45, returning on the 16:50 arriving 18:14. If you have already expressed an interest in coming a seat will be purchased for you (let me know asap if you have changed your mind). If you have not told me you want to come yet, please tell me soon ! Although I'm sure tickets will be available after my initial purchase (and I shall get a couple of spares) I can't guarantee the price will be the same.

Well that is the plan anyway but somewhat annoyingly although ordinary tickets are now on sale, group tickets are not, so I can't confirm the above just yet. Good old Virgin.

The end

That's it for now. Although I've bumped into a few of you since our last trip, I look forward to seeing many more of you over the next few weeks.

With best regards,

Trevor