

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



NEWSLETTER 5 - July 2008

Introduction

Dear Member,

Although I have not been in touch for a while, you will be pleased to hear that I have been busy working away planning new trips and tying up loose ends on others. Some of this is being revealed today, and this newsletter contains

- An announcement of a major day out in September with the Cravens RTs
- Details of an additional rally special to the Castle Point Running Day in October
- All the information you need to enjoy the RTL trip in Brighton – places still available

So have a read, and I look forward to taking your bookings !

Cravens Day - Sunday 21 September

This is the first 'route recreation' that we have organised, and I hope that you will find it interesting.

Using the only two remaining Cravens RTs in preservation, the trip will recreate some of the journeys carried out by these and similar vehicles during their brief period of service with London Transport in Watford, Harrow and Ruislip.

With RT1431 in LT red livery and RT1499 in LT green livery, the day will begin with a departure at 10:15 from within Victoria Coach Station, courtesy of the Operations Manager.

Leaving the coach station suitably blinded, and routing via Eccleston Bridge, the first stage of the journey is to follow former Green Line route 708 to Watford via Kilburn, Edgware, Stanmore and Bushey.

Then we will recreate route 385 from North Watford to Croxley Green, home to the Cravens RTs, where RT1499 ran both in Red and Green livery on this local service from Watford High Street Garage.

The final leg will be a rerun of Route 158 from Watford Junction to Ruislip Lido via Harrow Weald Garage (also a former home to Red Cravens RTs) where the vehicles will be posed in the garage for a nostalgic photo opportunity.

The return journey back to Central London will, subject to timings, include a final photo opportunity in Uxbridge Bus station followed by a run back along the Uxbridge Road through Ealing and Shepherds Bush. For convenience, stops at all mainline stations within in Central London will be shared between the two buses.

Throughout the day there will be plenty of further opportunities for location photographs, including at Stanmore Station, Watford High Street close to the site of the former LT Garage and Watford Leavesden Road, outside the former garage that still stands there today.

To ensure we have enough people travelling to make hiring two buses viable, I intend to advertise this trip more widely than is usual, and make it open to non-members. However, you as members are hearing about this first, and are being given the opportunity to book before others begin to learn about the event later this month. You will also pay a discounted fare of £17 against the £20 non-members fare. So I encourage you to book sooner rather than later, as I anticipate the trip will prove popular.

Castle Point Open Day Show - Sunday 12 October

After the success of our trip earlier this year, and the many requests and comments I received afterwards, I've decided to run a rally special bus to the Open Day at Castle Point, Canvey Island. The day includes rides around the Island on a large number of vehicles, plus static displays of buses and coaches, classic cars and car clubs, military, commercials, emergency services and motor cycles. We all enjoyed a long RT ride when we visited in May, so although no firm details yet on our vehicle, expect it to be an RT, possibly 3232 if it is available. The return fare will be £10, and we will depart from Embankment at 10:00.

Brighton and the Amberley Museum on RTL 1427 - Sunday 13 July

Firstly, there are still places available for this trip, so please get in touch if you want to come along.

A slight change over the original publicised schedule is that due to operational reasons, there will now only be the one pick up time, not two as planned. We will depart from Brighton Station at 11:10. There are two fast trains from London getting in just before this; the 09:41 from London Bridge arriving at 10:52 and the 10:02 from Victoria (10:07 Clapham Junction) arriving at 11:05. Should either of these trains be running late we will wait a reasonable length of time for them, but you might want to consider catching a slightly earlier train just to be safe.

As advised before, we will travel to the Shoreham Cement Yard, where there is a large selection of buses and coaches run by local operators to photograph, before carrying on to The Amberley Museum, arriving around 12:30 - 12:45. We have been given permission to drive into the Museum itself, and park up next to the Southdown Garage. Then it's time at leisure until 16:00. There is plenty going on that day, including a steam gala, and I have arranged with Alan Lambert from the Southdown Bus Garage Project for rides on three of their vehicles, including recently fit again 1929 vintage TD1, UF 4813. He tells me it is difficult to keep the public off, so you will need to share with them, but with three departures per hour, you should be able to ride on all the vehicles. RTL 1427 is also going to do a couple of circuits (at least) piloted by a gleeful Peter Brown and Bob Stanger, our usual drivers.

Now onto some important information about prices and entry procedures. The overall fare is made up of two separate parts:

PART 1 - Bus fare - due to the recent increase in the price of fuel, there will I'm afraid be a slight increase in the price of the RTL ride to cover the higher rate being charged for the hire of the bus. I had originally budgeted it to be at £10 per passenger, but unless I get a late surge in bookings, I'm afraid I will need to increase this to £11.50. I hope you will be understanding of this, and still feel it is good value. If you are able to pay me the bus fare portion of the overall fare in advance, either by cheque or internet banking (see membership page on website for details www.tclbs.org/membership.htm) that would be helpful, and save me carrying large amounts of heavy cash around all day.

PART 2 - Amberley Museum entry - group admission rates at Amberley are as follows:

Adult - £8.30

Over 60s - £7.30

Under 18s - £4.50

I need to pay this part on arrival at the Museum, so if you could please have the exact fare ready in cash, that would speed us through, and be much appreciated.

And now a couple of tips on train tickets from member, Andrew Webb

Southern offer a Daysave ticket for £10 that gives unlimited travel on their services for a day. As it is a weekend there are no time restrictions. It would also allow people to join at Brighton and leave at Amberley for the train back to London without having to pay excess fares or get singles. Has to be bought a minimum of 7 days in advance and is only available online. See http://www.southernrailway.com/main.php?page_id=189 for full details or Google "Southern Daysave"

First Capital Connect offer a Daysave on their Thameslink route for £12.50, again offering unlimited travel on FCC's Thameslink services to Brighton from as far away as Bedford. Again there are no time restrictions at weekends. It can only be bought at selected outlets, listed with details at <http://www.firstcapitalconnect.co.uk/Main.php?iCmsPageId=104>. Both tickets can only be used on services run by the issuing company, but do offer significant savings over day returns, which from Victoria to Brighton shows as £19.80.

To close

There are no firm details yet on the service to the Routemaster Owners Club's Milton Keynes rally, or for our visit to Carlton Colville, but hopefully I will have something for you soon.

Finally it's been nice chatting to so many of you at recent rallies and running days, and hearing what you have been up to, and I look forward to seeing those of you coming to Brighton in a couple of weeks time.

With my best regards to you all.

Trevor