

THE CLASSIC LONDON BUS SOCIETY

Memorable days out by bus for enthusiasts



NEWSLETTER 9 - November 2008

Introduction

Next weekend sees the running of our RTL Day and details of that are below, together with a little bit more information on the Lights Tour which takes place on Saturday 13th December. There are just a few places left on each, so get in touch if you would like to join us.

RTL Day - Sunday 30th November

Our plans with regards to garage stops are still being fine tuned so I can't give you a full programme at this stage. The important information you need to know though is that we start from Gillingham St, Victoria at 10:15am. For those of you not familiar with Gillingham St, take the road to the left of Victoria Railway Station as you face it (Wilton Road) and it is about 300 - 400 yards along on the right hand side. It is where the old Victoria (GM) Garage used to be, now a Sainsbury's depot, and is easy for us to park there on a Sunday. Should you find you have run late and missed our departure, then you could meet us at Golders Green (Northern Line, Edgware Branch) where we anticipate arriving around 12:00. We will either be in the main bus station in front of the tube station or in the 'sidecourt', a small bus lay-by to the side, just before the railway bridge.

Our day will consist of rides along several former RTL routes. We shall commence as the 52 to Willesden, then become 226 for a rounder to Golders Green, followed by the 176 (the last RTL route). We will take a view on the day as to how far we run as the 176 and our return route into Central London, taking into account traffic conditions, timings and the weather, but if at all possible we will run the full route to Lewisham, come back as a 21 (the first RTL route) and finish as an 11 to take you back to Victoria.

We will of course be stopping to give you the opportunity to take photographs, and there will be chances to grab something to eat at Golders Green where we will layover for about 20 minutes, and again at Waterloo where we intend to stop for half an hour or so near the station.

A few final important points to note. Firstly please bring your high viz jacket for garage stops (if you haven't received one yet I will issue you with one on the day).

Secondly, there will hopefully be a souvenir programme available to purchase for a modest £1. As per our Cravens Day all proceeds from this will be donated to charity.

Finally, many of you I'm sure will have heard of buses being either a Class V or Class VI vehicle. There is a very important distinction which relates to our day, and I need to make you fully aware of it for legal reasons. Your £15 fare is based on you travelling on Cobham's RTL139, the only confirmed Class VI vehicle attending at this stage, and thus the only one available for 'hire and reward'. There will be at least one other RTL joining us, but that is a Class V vehicle and any ride on that is at the owner's / conductor's discretion, at your own risk, and is offered to you as a free ride. As a Class V vehicle the owner is not allowed to accept any money from TCLBS which could be construed as a 'hire or reward' payment. Legal speak over.

Incidentally, I often get asked if we could use such and such a vehicle for our trips. The whole Class V and VI issue is what limits the buses we can use. The majority of preserved buses and coaches are Class V and so we can't travel on them unless the owner offers them to us for free (I live in hope!). It is only the operators with heritage vehicles for hire, who must therefore hold a Class VI licence, that we can legally use.

This may lead you to wonder why there are so many buses to enjoy at days such as Country Bus Rallies. The fact is most of them are Class V vehicles but there is no fare to pay to ride on them. There is a programme you are encouraged to buy which contributes towards costs, but it is not a condition of riding that you must purchase one. Indeed we have all seen those enthusiasts who are too mean to buy a programme but still enjoy riding all day. None of them would ever be allowed in this Society !

Christmas Lights Tour - Saturday 13 December

I only have a few places left on our bus for the evening, but can find seats on other buses if needs be. The convoy will depart from Hyde Park, North Carriage Drive by Marble Arch at 16:00 (not 17:00 as I advised previously). There are currently 13 buses booked to take part plus ours; a GS, four RFs, 6 RM family, and two RTs. We will likely have an RT as well, and I shall contact those of you coming nearer the time with full details. As a reminder all the fares collected on the night will go to the charity that the evening is in support of, The Rainbow Trust, and I have suggested a donation of £10 will secure you a seat.

X80 heritage running days

You may have picked up from my previous Newsletters that Ensign were proposing to hold their popular X80 heritage running days on Saturday 29th November and Saturday 6th December. They have now changed these to 6th and 13th December, and have extended it this year to include an X55 Upminster to Lakeside service (see http://ticketslondon-online.biz/Combo_Site/Index.htm for full details). The 13th now clashes with our Lights Tour, but if it helps you attend both, and if there is a demand, we will run a feeder service from either Grays or Lakeside to Hyde Park. Please get in touch with me if you want to take advantage of this.

That's all for now. I look forward to seeing many of you next weekend.

With my best regards,

Trevor