



NEWSLETTER 11 - February 2009

Dear Member,

At last, I here you cry, some news from TCLBS !

It's been a while since my last Newsletter for the simple reason that despite our best efforts, it has been very hard trying to pin people and organisations down to the specific dates we want to visit them on. However, with one prestigious event now confirmed for April, I can finally bring you up to date with what we have planned for the early part of 2009.

18 April - 'Routemaster Day'

We have celebrated RTLs and Craven RTs and now it is the turn of the Routemaster. Some of you will know, and many more have heard, of Colin Curtis. He spent 40 years in a variety of roles at London Transport, and his name is synonymous with the design of the Routemaster. Latterly he is President of The London Bus Preservation Trust (Cobham Bus Museum). Colin has kindly agreed to speak to us about the development and history of the Routemaster, and this will be supplemented with some archive film.

Of course there will be rides on Routemasters as well, so we will pick up as usual in Central London and transport you to our base for the day, the London Transport Museum and Depot at Acton Town, where there is a splendid collection of vehicles, including RMs 1 and 2 and FRM1. There will be guided tours of the depot, and after his presentation Colin will make his way to RM1 and happily answer any questions on board you may have, so you can point to a bit of the bus and ask him about it !

Now if this wasn't incentive enough to come, we will be bringing the Routemaster story up to date. You will know of Mayor Boris Johnson's recent competition to design a 21st Century Routemaster. Boris is yet to confirm his attendance (!) but the Chief Designer from one of the winners of the competition will be coming along to tell us all about the modern version - the design constraints, the challenges they faced, and what's needed now to get it built and on the road.

On top of all this, we are hoping to arrange a garage visit as well.

The cost of the day will be £20, and that includes a buffet lunch at Acton.

What else have we got planned ?

7/8 March

I'm really hoping to kick off our 2009 programme with a trip over this weekend. However, I still haven't got confirmation from the host, but I'll update you as soon as I can.

22 March

We anticipate running an RF feeder to the major RF day being organised at Sandown Park and Kingston by our friends at Red-RF. Return fare £10

5 April

Another feeder service from the Embankment to the Cobham Open Day. Return fare £10

25 May

The Two Museums Running Day at Aston Manor & Wythall - a trip to Birmingham to enjoy the many vehicles in service between the museum sites, and see the static exhibits housed. We will travel by coach if there are sufficient numbers, by train if there are less. Please let me know if you are interested in going.

To wind up

Finally a few of you have got in touch recently to find out if there is another membership fee due for 2009. The answer is 'no', as your original payment was a one-off joining fee. And talking of money, I fully understand how the recession/credit crunch is affecting us all. Consequently I will do my very best to keep our fares to a minimum again this year, and hope you feel we provide good value for what is usually a full day out. TCLBS is not a profit making organisation - my aim is to try and ensure I at least break-even on our trips, preferably with a little over to cover Society running costs. I set the fares in advance at a level I try to judge will achieve this. Sometimes it works . . . and sometimes it goes spectacularly wrong !

So that is where we are up to for now. Please email me your bookings so I know you are still out there, and I look forward to seeing you all again very soon.

With best regards,

Trevor