

THE CLASSIC LONDON BUS SOCIETY

Memorable days out by bus for enthusiasts

Castle Point Bus Museum, Canvey Island - 10 May 2008

Just a few short weeks after the sub zero temperatures at Cobham, the south of the country was blessed with hot, sunny weather for just over a week. Carefully planned (naturally) this appropriately coincided with our visit to the tropical island that is Canvey !

35 or so members eagerly boarded RT624, a late sub for the expected RT3232, for our trip to the seaside on a glorious sunny morning. Driven by Peter Brown, we made short work of the 40 mile journey, and arrived excitedly bang on 12:00 at the former Eastern National depot, now the home of a large collection of vehicles.

Met by Paul Moss, who kindly hosted and organised our visit, there was a chance to look around the garage, which houses some 30 vehicles, as well as a highly informative and interesting museum display - oh, and a jolly good model railway too.

With plenty of pictures safely stored in cameras, it was time to take advantage of the weather, and board open top 1944 ex Southend Corporation Transport Daimler, FOP 429, for a trip into Southend. With the sun beating down, it really was the perfect day for such a ride, and the journey into South Benfleet, along the old 68 route into Chalkwell, Westcliff and Southend was very picturesque, and hugely enjoyable.



RT624, suitably blinded, collects passengers at Embankment © Richard Daniell



Just one of the many splendid vehicles inside the depot © Richard Daniell



And some London treats too © Richard Daniell



Inside and out, plenty of buses and coaches to see © Richard Daniell

Some members disembarked at Southend Pier, whilst others carried on to Shoeburyness, and found themselves a fish and chip lunch, before returning to Southend for a short layover. Then back to Canvey, to be reunited with RT624, and home to a hot, sticky and extremely busy London. The seaside had been the place to be, and we went there in the best way possible !

Sincere thanks to Paul and his co-hosts for giving us one of the best days out many of us have had in ages (well since the last Society trip probably!). We could not have picked a better day for an open top bus ride, and the Daimler was a real gem to ride on. We all raved about it on the way home, and felt lucky to have taken part in this trip it's all in the planning you know

Trevor

PS a big thanks to Richard Daniell for allowing me to use his splendid photographs of the day



The view from up top

© Trevor



Members enjoy the ride

© Trevor



Laying over at Shoeburyness

© Richard Daniell



Younger members particularly enjoyed their day !

© Trevor



RT624 and Daimler 244 pose before we head home

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