

THE OILY RAG

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH YORKSHIRE TRANSPORT MUSEUM

No. 132

Spring 2021

Museum remains closed until further notice

The Museum will remain closed to the public until further notice.

The trustees intend to review the situation in April with a view to moving the intended reopening of the museum to the public from June to September depending upon government restrictions and guidance for museums applicable at the time.

In readiness for a socially distanced reopening the necessary signage is to be procured and a one way system for visitors devised.

Further updates will appear in future issues of The Oily Rag.

Thank you for your continued support at this time.

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South Yorkshire Transport Museum Ltd

Unit 9, Waddington Way, Rotherham, S65 3SH
General enquiries telephone number: 07828 068484
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Website: sytm.co.uk

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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David Jordan, Colin Morton, Ian Saunders

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Buildings & Safety: David Dean

Bus Hire Coordinators: Colin & Julie Morton 07828 068484 / bushire@sytm.co.uk

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Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Andrew Nolan, admin@sytm.co.uk

Thanks to everyone who have contributed to this edition of the Oily Rag.
Please send articles, photographs and news to, email: museum@sytm.co.uk
Or by post to SYTM, Unit 9, Waddington Way, Rotherham, S65 3SH

The next edition is due to be published in June 2021

Information and documents for members are available on the museum website.

sytm.co.uk/members

Note: type this link into your browser's address bar.

The opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the Company.

DATA PROTECTION

Membership records and Oily Rag despatch information are held on computerised database and stored in accordance with the museum Data Protection Policy.

South Yorkshire Transport Museum is registered with the Information Commissioner's Office under registration reference ZA226320.

South Yorkshire Transport Museum Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity.

Registered Office: Unit 9, Waddington Way, Rotherham, S65 3SH

Registered Charity Number 1049895

Registered in England and Wales as a Company Number 3105760 - VAT Number 600 3000 34



**ACCREDITED
MUSEUM**

South Yorkshire Transport Museum - Accredited No. 2049

AGM 2021

The 2021 Annual General Meeting will be held at SYTM, Unit 8 & 9, Waddington Way, Rotherham, S65 3SH on Saturday 12th June 2021 at 2pm. The directors retiring by rotation are David Dean and Ian Saunders who are both eligible for election. There are three vacancies on the board and proposal forms for the post of director are available on request from the Company Secretary or by download from the museum website by typing the following link into your browser's address bar.

sytm.co.uk/members

Prospective directors should make themselves aware of the legal and other responsibilities of directors. Directors of SYTM are also directors of South Yorkshire Heritage Buses. All proposal forms should be delivered to the Registered Office no later than 5pm on Saturday 29th May 2021.

Museum News

Looking ahead to a time when the museum can return to business as usual the trustees are looking into the possibility of adding additional Open Days to the calendar making use of the maximum 15 per year permitted in accordance with VAT rules. It is likely that these additional Open Days would be for Bay 8 "display hall" only.

If there are any members wishing to assist with the preparation and running of Open Days once normal service has resumed please let the trustees know.

Banking Update

SYTM Ltd is delighted to announce the transfer of its banking facilities to the TSB as of 15th February 2021. There is no need for any member to take any action until given instructions by the treasurer. All monies sent to RBS will automatically be transferred to the TSB account for the foreseeable future.

Any changes required will be clearly defined by the treasurer.

The transfer is a result of 6 months hard work (due to the complexity of our existing arrangements) and will net the museum £4,000 from the RBS as part of its agreement with the banking regulator to reduce its clients.

Ian Saunders
Company Secretary

New Year New Hope For 2021

I hope the year 2020 has seen everyone kept as well as possible during the pandemic.

We hope 2021 will be better year for you all.

Unfortunately, we do have some bad news that one of our members and a well loved and respected member of staff has sadly passed away.

Beatrice Shaw known to regular visitors as Beatie who worked in the cafe.

When Beatie first walked into the museum some years ago along with her son Martin we weren't quite sure what to expect, but as we got to know her she became part of the family. Beatie also spoke her mind which was a good thing as people knew not to cross her, (ha-ha as if we would).

Her help in the cafe was a huge thing as she chatted with people and offered sweets to the kids. She made things to raffle off at Christmas time so she could send the money to one of her many charities she supported. She made lots of friends with members who came to the open days.

Beatie came into the shop to have a break from the cafe when they went quiet, we would have such a laugh. She used to talk about working on the buses as a conductress and how she worked many a shift on bus 1156 and 216 when it was a Tea Wagon. Beatie finished working as a conductress in 1966 to have a family with whom she adored, and always spoke about them both and their families. Both Beatie and Martin would come in on a Saturday before an open day to clean the cafe ready for open day.

If I wanted help with anything Beatie would be there to help me, especially when we had to open the cafe for special occasions and made them very welcome.

When it came to Remembrance Day she would be asked to read something which at first Beatie was a bit apprehensive but she did enjoy it on the quiet. Beatie would be there to help when we went to Rotherham/Sheffield on rallies and have a good chat to people.

Both I and Colin used to have a big hug when we saw Beatie and then when my family came in they got their hugs too.

Before lockdown Beatie wasn't too well and kept coming into the shop to sit with me which definitely wasn't like her. During the lockdown we rang each other to have a long chat and she kept me up to date on her health. During this time Beatie was longing to get back to the museum to help with the cleaning and anything else that she could do, and also to check on the progress of 216. She said once she starts feeling better she will be there.

New Year New Hope For 2021

Unfortunately, Beatie's health deteriorated over the coming months from September and on December the 4th she sadly passed away. We would have liked to have taken 1156 to the funeral, but Martin had requested us not to go as there were a lot of friends that would like to have gone. So the family decided it was best that the family would be the only ones to go. So, we watched the virtual funeral at the museum along with other members and it was so her. When the last song came we all smiled as it was so Beatie. They left with the song "Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West)" by Benny Hill. As Beatie's husband was called Ernest this was so fitting her last farewell.

She was a character and won't be easy to replace.

Martin and the family have asked if later on in the year 2021 we could have a day at the museum to celebrate Beatie's life and of course we said yes. So watch out for the date in future magazines.

We have sent a donation from some members and from the SYTM to the Weston Park in memory of Beatie.

We send all our love and best wishes and love to all of Beatie's family from all at SYTM.

God bless you Beatrice Shaw we will all miss you.

Gone but won't be forgotten

Julie Morton

Memories of Beatie and Gordon

December 2020 saw the passing of two of our members, Beatrice Shaw and Gordon Brooke.

I will miss Beatie's friendly hugs and relaxed manner with volunteers and members of the public, a sentiment I am sure will be agreed with by anyone who knew her. Condolences to Martin and family from me and everyone at SYTM, we will miss Beatie.

During the approximately 13 years I knew Gordon I became aware of his interest in early radio and television. Over the years Gordon has donated various spares for reuse at the museum and bric-a-brac items for resale. Gordon was always mild mannered, soft spoken but with strong personal opinions. I am sure members will join me in sending condolences to Gordon's family.

Keith Bott

2020 AGM Minutes

South Yorkshire Transport Museum Limited
Minutes of the 2020 AGM
19th December 2020 at 14:05

The meeting was held in Bay 8 of the museum to ensure compliance to the current Covid rules and was attended by 12 members. The meeting was also available via the internet and this was utilised by a further 5 members.

The meeting was conducted by the Chairman, David Dean and visual evidence as to the meetings adherence to Covid rules was presented.

The minutes of the 2019 were read out and approved.

Chairman's Report. The company is on a firm financial footing and at no risk from financial problems. The trustees were in constant communication to ensure prudent use of existing funds and significant planning for the Café refit and the extra wiring required in bay 8 had been undertaken. Where possible volunteers are to be used and professionals used only where necessary to conform to current legislation. Through the Chair the trustees expressed their sadness at Douglas Miller's decision to stand down from the board and sincerely hope that he continues to enjoy a constructive relationship with the museum and its members. Martyn Benson was seconded on to the board on a temporary basis to continue his efforts to promote the museum within the local commercial community.

On behalf of the board the Chairman offered his thanks to the members for their support during a difficult year and looked forward to the coming year and a normal AGM!

Finance Report. During financial year ended 31st December 2019 the Museum held unrestricted funds of £317,081 (2018, £184,420) and restricted funds of £2,851 (2018, £3,562). The total reserves were £319,932 (2018, £187,982). Its free reserves were £270,101 (2018, £136,784).

Meeting closed 14:20

Gordon Brooke PhD

22nd July 1938 - 29th December 2020

Gordon was born and brought up in Dewsbury. He attended the Wheelwright Grammar School where his excellent performance at "O", "A" and "S" Level earned him a place at Durham University. Buses were already a passion and he took on a summer job with Yorkshire Woollen District Transport in Dewsbury, compiling timetables and frequently conducting when the firm was short staffed. He returned to school, telling the Headmaster that he would not be going to university as he had been offered a full time job with YWDT. The Headmaster's response was, "Brooke, you will not bring shame on this school; you are going to university". You did not argue in those days. At sixteen he took German "O" Level, followed by evening classes thus beginning a love affair with Germany which lasted throughout his life. He became fluent, as I witnessed years later when he showed his friend, Helmut, round Sheffield Bus Museum at Tinsley.

In 1959 he graduated with a First Class Honours degree at Durham and stayed on to do research in cosmic rays for which he was awarded a PhD. While there he met Pat who was secretary to the Professor of Physics.

They married in 1964 and had three children. He was a devoted family man, familiar with children's literature, and supportive of Michael, Judy and Catherine in whatever paths they took.

His first and only job was as a Lecturer at Leeds University where he remained until retiring through ill health. He became Admissions Tutor and Departmental Museum Keeper. He organised departmental children's parties and walking trips with colleagues, always believing in the importance of the social aspect of work. Work took him to the top of the Emley Moor transmission tower, an experience of which he was quite proud. His broad appreciation of music led him to become an agent for Naxos, enabling him to source classical records and tapes at reduced price for university personnel. For a while he owned a Daimler Fleetline bus which he used to take friends on social trips. Unfortunately he once became stranded without back-up and so abandoned the enterprise and sold the bus.

The outdoors, especially the North York Moors, were their favourite haunt. He was fascinated by the local iron mining industry and spent hours tracing the paths of the old railway lines. Over the years he and Pat owned six dogs which kept both of them fit and active.

Gordon's other main interest was in electronics. He constructed a radiogram that took up half the lounge at his university digs. Later he became more ambitious and built his own colour television just in time to see the first moon landing in 1969. The children remember him tuning it from behind the TV, looking through a mirror positioned on a chair in front of the set. The test card was always on. In 1972 he gave it to the National Museum of Film and Television in Bradford after making six more for friends.

Gordon Brooke

He was green years before the concept became seriously accepted. Clothing and electrical goods were always repaired. The throwaway society was anathema to him. Pat says he would be delighted that his last journey was in a coffin made from recyclable material.

From the ages of seven to eighty two Gordon was a keen model maker, producing scale models of buses from cardboard. He always had extremely sharp eyesight thus enabling him to achieve very fine, detailed work. This would prove to be of great advantage when in 1990 he and a group of enthusiasts found a derelict Leyland tiger PS1 bus on some farmland. He recognised the registration number, HD 7905, as that of the bus he went to school on. They bought it and eventually rented space at the Sheffield Bus Museum, intending to restore it. Within a short time most of the group dropped out, probably realising the enormity of the task. One member, Tom Gibson, kept the faith and soldiered on; Tom taking on the mechanical side while Gordon did the bodywork. They made good progress until Tom died in the late nineties, leaving Gordon on his own. However, with support from Museum members Gordon exercised great determination, making the return journey from North Leeds and doing an eight hour stint every Saturday except for annual holidays, for thirteen years until the restoration was completed. Although he had driven his Daimler he was unfamiliar with the workings of crash gears and vacuum brakes. It was with a mixture of trepidation, pride and pure joy that he drove his bus for the first time back from the MOT test centre. He enjoyed working at Tinsley and was always willing to help with other projects. He made the destination blind for my own coach as perfectly as any commercial workshop could have done and he was the obvious choice for help with electrical wiring and bus radios.

Quite quickly he became a regular exhibitor on the rally circuit, winning prizes and always happy to chat with enthusiasts. He became a founding member of the Leyland Society and for many years was a proof reader and compiler of the "Odd Bodies" section of the "Leyland Journal" and "Leyland Torque".

Gordon didn't like going to rallies alone. We usually travelled in convoy and he always worried about finding his way in and out of Sheffield and Rotherham. How could he find his way to holiday destinations anywhere in Germany without sat-nav and yet have problems in South Yorkshire!

His health deteriorated over the last two years and I was very pleased that he managed to drive the whole family on his last bus trip to Crow Nest Park, Dewsbury in 2019. Although he did not feel fit enough to drive the bus after that, he continued to drive his Skoda until summer 2020; and even then he still completed some rather challenging tasks in the garden. As a boy Gordon took piano lessons and achieved Grade Eight, but this clashed with "A" levels and he did not play again until about two years ago and the magic was still there.

Gordon Brooke

And finally, here are some quotations from Gordon's funeral order of service:

From Cath

Dad made me very unpopular with the scariest physics teacher in school when he insisted on coming into school to let him know that his physics wasn't correct. On my report the teacher made the comment "lack of classroom inattention." Dad wrote back, "an unusual complaint". GB.

Dad used to let us sit on his lap and drive his car when on holiday, along private lanes, of course. - I loved it.

From Judy

Dad used to show us the constellations in the night sky. He told us he stayed up all night to watch the first man walking on the moon. On the night Dad passed away, the moon appeared bigger and shone brighter than I'd ever seen it shine.

On his 82nd birthday Dad told me he had done the right thing in marrying Mum.

From Michael

Dad showed me a picture of his bus with Route number 1 and destination "Babes in the Wood". I asked how he knew that was the Route number and he said he just did. I must have given him a sceptical look and he said "You don't believe me?" He disappeared, returning with a pristine copy of the Yorkshire Woollen District Transport bus timetable from the 1940's and said, "Test me". He knew every route and number.

Gordon will be greatly missed at the Transport Museum and we give our condolences to his family and especially to Pat, who has kindly supplied much of this information.

Terry Ellin



Improving the Museum – ‘Brain Power’ needed please

Unless a member has a crystal ball, paisley headscarf and mystic powers – to advise the Board – we do not know when the Museum will re-open to visitors (although we obviously hope it will be in 2021).

Because of Covid19, there may be pent-up demand for ‘staycation’ type activities – including visiting museums – but in any case, when we re-open, we should present the best possible ‘face’ to visitors. Previously it has been difficult, if not impossible, to have enough volunteers available to explain the major exhibits to visitors. Some of the exhibits do have display sheets, with some information but this situation needs to be significantly expanded – especially for the benefit of the younger visitors. Technical information may be of interest to hardened transport enthusiasts but for others the local and social history elements relating to an exhibit will be at least as important, if not more important, than the technical spec.!

How we communicate that additional information to visitors is currently under review. It may be a case of expanding the current displayed ‘fact-sheets’ or we may even be able to secure grant funding towards having ‘tablet’ type displays at the major exhibits. The use of such technology should especially appeal to younger visitors and if they were to spread information about the Museum to their friends that could only be good for it. It would also be possible to add/up-date information without generating ‘paperwork’ that needed to be printed off.

In either case, in order to make progress, we need much more information – especially the social history aspects (e.g. typical usage, reasons for that usage, genuinely funny or interesting stories etc.) – about the major exhibits. That additional information will hopefully be known by some of the members – which is why this appeal is being made.

Getting to the point:

It is logical to begin with the buses listed on the Museum’s website and for submissions to initially be limited to maximum of 250 words please.

Can members who have information that should be of genuine interest to the public about exhibits, please put it into a document (preferably as an electronic document – e.g. Word file or in body of an email) and email it to: martyn.benson@sytm.co.uk. Alternatively ‘hard copy’ items could be sent to Martyn at the Museum but in view of Covid he only visits infrequently. It would be helpful if the ‘histories’ could be supplied by the end of March – so that the amount of detail can be assessed and the way forward considered.

Thanking members in anticipation of their support.

Martyn Benson

Photos of ongoing progress of the museum shop refresh



Photos of ongoing progress of the museum shop refresh



Members' Lottery Results

25/11/20 - 48 - NO WINNER
02/12/20 - 48 - NO WINNER
09/12/20 - 26 - NO WINNER
16/12/20 - 33 - NO WINNER
23/12/20 - 21 - B Jones £120
30/12/20 - 45 - NO WINNER

06/01/21 - 10 - N A Hayward £40
13/01/21 - 04 - G Forster £20
20/01/21 - 37 - P Attwood £20
27/01/21 - 50 - NO WINNER
03/02/21 - 12 - P Attwood £40
10/02/21 - 54 - NO WINNER

If you are normally a regular visitor to the museum but have been unable to due to the prolonged closure, why not help the museum and join our weekly lottery and maybe win some money.

The winning number is based on the "bonus ball" on the National Lottery Wednesday draw. Surplus subscription monies go to museum funds.

If you would like to participate ring me on 0114 234 9371 and I will send you a membership form, the following numbers are available at the moment.

31 36 47 51 52 54 58

Stuart Cooke, Lottery Administrator