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# SANDTOFT SCENE

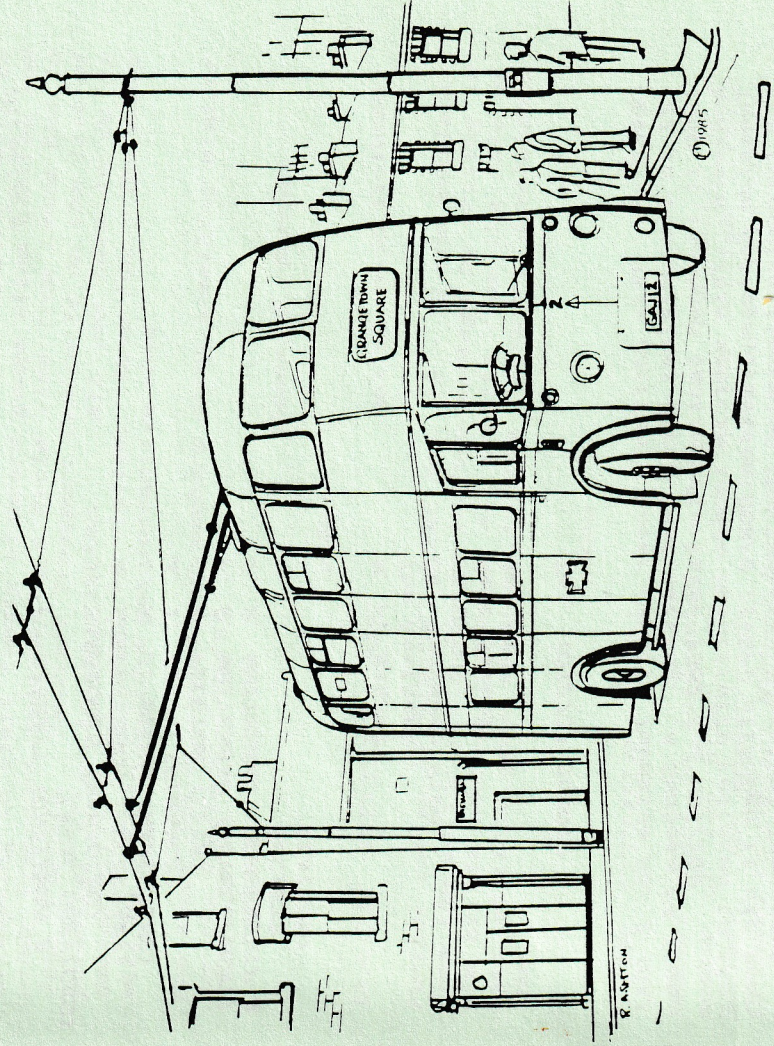
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NO: 30

SPRING

1995

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THE SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE  
MAGAZINE

SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LIMITED  
INFORMATION

Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited is a company limited by guarantee and is a registered educational charity.

Registered Company Number : - 1747475

Registered Charity Number : - 514382

Registered Office : - The Museum Premises,  
Belton Road,  
Sandtoft,  
South Humberside, DN8 5SX.

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COVER : - This edition's cover depicts Teesside No. 2 (GAL 12) in its original North East setting. A Sunbeam F4 from 1950 it is shown bearing its later 1962 Roe H35/26R bodywork. This vehicle is now beautifully restored to its Teesside Railless Traction Board livery although it did bear the turquoise livery of the Teesside Municipal Transport Undertaking for a short while. Happily this vehicle is now to be seen amongst Sandtoft's collection at the Museum.

SANDTOFT SCENE : NUMBER 30 : SPRING 1995 : Editor: M. F. Barratt

Editorial Address : See Opposite Page

EDITORIAL

Regrettably, the press dates for Sandtoft Scene have fallen a little behind since the delay to Winter's Edition and, although in an effort to get back on track I intended to make this edition somewhat shorter than usual I had sufficient material left over from last time to produce another 16-page edition - and this without photographs.

I have received a request from the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway to enclose a copy of their Great Ride North Competition. In June one of their members will be attempting to visit twenty standard gauge steam centres and other transport museums in a cycle ride from Lands End to John O'Groats. Sandtoft Transport Centre is on the list of potential sites to be visited. All you have to do is decide which twenty will be visited. Have fun. The money will be used to build a new locomotive shed.

How about one or two of our members doing something similar for the Visitors' Centre?

Michael F. Barratt

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BACK EDITIONS

Further copies of SANDTOFT SCENE Nos. 19 - 30 are available from the editor price 75p to include postage by writing to him at his address opposite. All profits from the sale of back editions goes straight to the Company's development fund.

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THE OTHER BTS

Members might be interested to know that the Editor is a member of two BTSs! The other is the British Titanic Society. Any member/reader also interested in this subject is asked to contact Michael Barratt (address above). As the ocean liners had their heyday during the trolleybus era how about a small display of liner memorabilia at the Gathering?

**SANDTOFT GATHERING ON THE MOVE**

AFTER many years of struggle to find enough space to display all the exhibits on site at the Sandtoft Museum, near Doncaster, the organisers have taken the bull by the horns and moved the 1995 Gathering to a new site. All their "get up and go" has got up and gone - to Ealand, a village six miles away, with first-class communications, a trouble-free approach, and the spacious "Seven Lakes" Leisure Park.

The event on Sunday July 30 1995 is to be held on two sites with a bus service linking them. Service X18 will be fast, frequent, and free - a circular tour out of Sandtoft via Belton village returning from Ealand via Dirtness. The free bus service from Doncaster railway station will still operate every half hour from 10.30 am.

Ealand must be one of the country's most favoured villages for travel purposes. It has the Crowle railway station, on the Manchester to Cleethorpes line, to the south of the village giving a rail service from Sheffield, Doncaster and Scunthorpe. Excellent connections can be made all across middle England and, via Doncaster, with London.

The Stagecoach 909 bus service also passes south of Ealand along the A18 on its Doncaster-Scunthorpe-Cleethorpes route. The M180 motorway runs East-West one-and-a-half miles South of Ealand connecting, at Junction 2, with the A161.

Also adding to the possibilities for easy travel the Keadby - Stainforth inland waterway passes through Ealand!

M O R E

It is hoped that the "new look" Gathering will attract more than the seven score exhibiting vehicles that usually attend. The organisers chose Ealand as being almost perfect from the point of view of vehicle approach for this very reason.

Due to the change of venue the St Leger Rally will not run in 1995, instead entrants will be invited to take part in service X18.

The trolleybuses and miniature railway will, for obvious reasons, stay at Sandtoft, as will the transport bazaar, CAMRA beer tent, and Morris dancers - to keep them near the beer tent! Some children's entertainment will also stay. The visiting vehicle display along with the judging and prizes will move to Ealand, as will the Brass Band. The free car parking will also be at the new site where there will be more room and convenient access.

It should be noted that the "Seven Lakes" venue has separate facilities. The complex comprises a modern licensed clubhouse and restaurant open to non-residents, with its own children's play area attached. There is a modern motel, and a first-class caravan site with toilet blocks, electric hook-up, and room for 210 units. The site welcomes tents so long as it is family camping and not young single campers. All the above facilities are available to Gathering entrants and visitors.

Water sports take place on the large main lake which adds to the attractions of the venue and fishing is available from the proprietors. The landscaping and open country on the edge of Crowle make for a pleasant weekend stay but booking will be essential for those wishing to use the motel or caravan site.

M O R E

# MUSEUM SITE NEWS

by Bob Ashton

The usual Saturday night barbecue and beer tent will be at Sandtoft with a free bus service to Ealand.

To emphasise the enlarged event in 1995 it will be renamed Sandtoft Gathering and Isle of Axholme Festival of Transport. The familiar Isle of Axholme motorbus tours and the usual car park service will be replaced by the X18. There will be toilet facilities for the disabled and a wheelchair accessible bus available.

Further details and entry forms can be obtained (enclosing an SAE please) from

Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited  
Belton Road, Sandtoft,  
Nr Doncaster,  
Yorkshire DN8 5SX.

Entries are invited from vintage cars, commercials, buses of any age, or any interesting vehicles.

For the record: The statistics from the 1994 Gathering show

Vehicles entries . . . . . 140  
Visitors . . . . . 3,000  
Trolleybuses in service . . . . . 8

Number of "resident" vehicles 1928 - 1985 at Sandtoft in various stages of restoration . . . . . 70.

E N D S

Information supplied on behalf of Sandtoft Transport Centre by Jim Sambrooks, Managing Director.

## SITE EQUIPMENT

By 16th January the repainting of the larger wooden gantry was nearing completion which should help it to withstand the water from the washing of buses or when it rains. The Sheffield luggage trolley has also been treated (the upper part and the woodwork) and has received a coat of paint and wood preservative. The blue luggage trolleys are now in a very poor condition; but it is hoped that it might be possible to make one good one from the two. The Sheffield Victoria Station sack trolley has also undergone some restoration work. There is still plenty of site equipment which could do with de-rusting treatment and a coat of paint. I am sure Jim would be only too pleased to point any helper in the right (or left) direction with the wire brush, pot of paint etc.

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## GARDENS

The gardening team has been extremely busy during the last few months with bushes and shrubs going in at a steady rate. The area next to the Trolleyshop, Huddersfield tram shelter and the box wagon is being transformed slowly. A rose garden has been created next to the patio area and a row of five shrubs has been placed to the rear of the former cafeteria. Work has gathered speed to develop and improve the area next to and to the side of the box wagon.

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## THE MERCURY ARC RECTIFIER

Two weeks before Easter Weekend this vital piece of equipment "blew" throwing matters into confusion. Steve Harrison is "currently" looking at alternative equipment to ensure that running days are not "static" ones. We will report further next time.

Two steam locomotives have just received their boiler certificates for 1995. A third should have been tested during the first week in April. Members visiting the museum site will have seen a new battery electric locomotive on test during the last few months. The bodywork is now nearing completion, all that remains is a final coat of paint and the legend "208" applied to the cab sides. The engine will remain at Sandtoft so it can be used for track/lineside maintenance trains and passenger service during 1995. The two station signals are now operated by controls in the ticket office.

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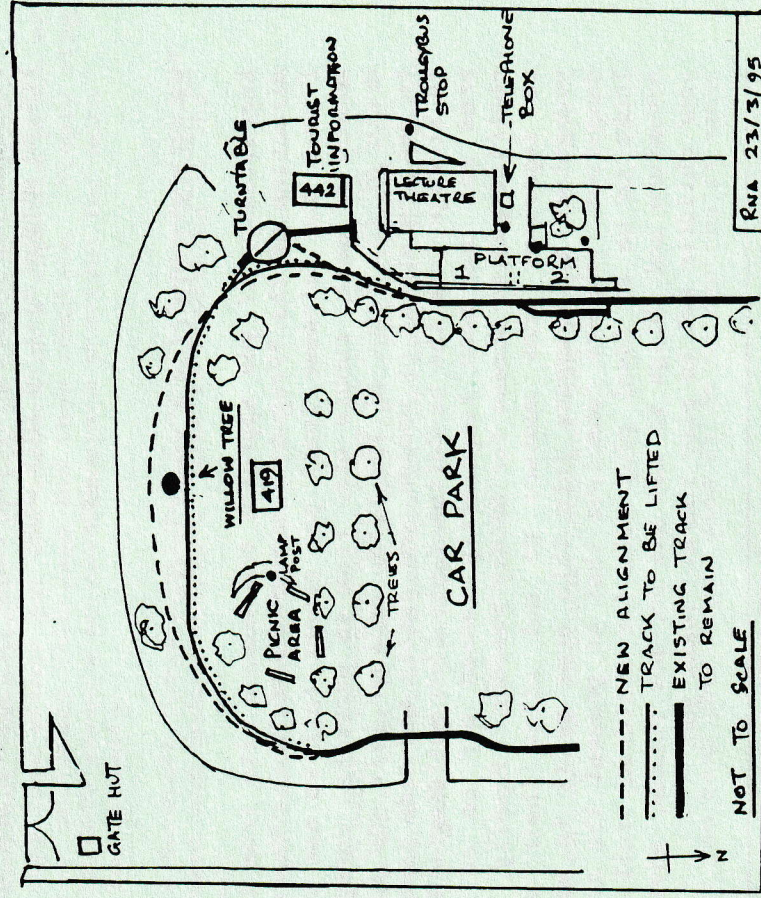
**STREET LAMPS**

For about twenty years there have been thirteen or so electric street lamp standards standing rusting away without lamp tops, no doubt spoiling many of your photographs and video footage. Three tops have now been fitted using the ex-Brighton parts recovered from a long forgotten store on the seaford there. With a new coat of paint and the lamp tops fitted these now make an attractive addition to the museum rather than the eyesores they previously were. The one in the picnic area and the one next to the public telephone box are working and are controlled by light sensors. Energy saving bulbs have been fitted which are, perhaps, not visually ideal but instead of 200 watts of mains power being consumed only 22 watts are drawn according to our electricity meter. The lights can be independently switched off if required. We are hopeful that we might be able to salvage enough ex-Brighton fittings to fit one more lamp, but to continue the programme enabling the lamp standards to be visually improved we could do with about another ten lamp tops (There is the possibility of more fittings from Brighton if I can twist a few arms. The programme of re-newing lamp standards in Brighton to conform with EU Regulations is continuing in all but the conservation areas. - Ed.)

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**MINIATURE RAILWAY**

The re-ballasting of the track continued in February. Due to the continued growth of a large willow tree at the front of the site a programme has been started to re-align the miniature railway track-bed to take it the other side of the tree (see plan reproduced below) -



**THE NEW STYLE GATHERING**

There will be a new two-centre Gathering from this year. Unfortunately, last time we ran out of space to publicise the Official Press Release about this but we are now pleased to be able to reproduce it in this edition.

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## TROLLEYSHOP

The right-hand window sill has had some restoration to remove flaking paint and rotten wood. However, very recently it was found that the left-hand window next to the entrance had been broken. Whilst this glass was replaced the opportunity was taken to replace the very rotten window sill on this side.

oo0oo

## EX-BELTON YOUTH CLUB & FRONT DRAIN

Regrettably, if you approach the museum site from the direction of the "Frog & Crossing" Public House (sorry, I mean the Reindeer Inn!) you cannot fail to see the mounds of soil, rubble etc. from an excavated damaged drain at the front of the site; neither will you fail to see the stacks of wooden roof panels and side panels in storage from the ex-Belton Youth Club building. The area has now been temporarily fenced off so as to restrict public access for safety reasons. Equally, it is important that members do not allow their own youngsters to trespass into this area as it is very dangerous. We are conscious that at present the area looks to be an ideal play site for children, full of adventure and things to see and do, but PLEASE, advise your children not to play there! Thank you.

## NOW FANCY THAT!

A Highgate man set a record for tram riding in 1930. He travelled 175 miles on the London County Council tramways with a shilling-all-day ride-at-will ticket. Starting at 5.22 a.m., he journeyed on 31 trams, finishing at 2.05 a.m. the next day. At the ordinary single fares his journeys would have cost him 9s 2d. His ticket expired at 3 a.m.

## SANDTOFT SCENE - READER SURVEY

The Editor is very anxious to gauge opinion from the readers as to whether your Journal is fulfilling your expectations. In particular we are anxious to know whether the present format and content is what you really want. We should be grateful, therefore, if you would take a little time out to complete the questionnaire below and return to the editor at your earliest convenience. If you do not wish to destroy your copy then either put the answers on a separate piece of paper or photocopy this page and then complete. Simply ring the YES/KNOW answers or use the space provided for more detailed comments.

1. Is Sandtoft Scene published frequently enough for your enjoyment and understanding of what is happening at the museum?

YES NO. If NO, how often then? .....

2. At present the membership fees do not allow us to produce more than a "parish magazine" type publication. Would you be willing to accept an increase in subscription for a better quality magazine?

YES NO. If YES, how much? .....

3. Which regular features interest you most? .....

4. Do you keep your copy, pass it on or destroy it once read?

KEEP PASS ON DESTROY

5. What type of articles would you most like to see incorporated?

HISTORICAL MODERN MUSEUM GOSSIP VEHICLES

OTHER (Please Specify).....

## SCENE AT SANDTOFT

by Jim Sambrooks with Bob Ashton

The annual testing of trolleybuses has just been completed as I write. All of last year's runners with one exception have, after minor adjustments, been passed for a further year's service. The exception is "Vera" or Limoges 5. This was not passed simply because the only tester who understands how Vera works was not available. hopefully, it will be made available later in the season.

oo0oo

The hire of a mini digger over the testing weekend enabled the dyke to be cleaned out behind the workshop and generator house. Richard Bilbe spent a lot of time on this machine - once again christened a BGC. Richard earned himself the nick-name "Digger". Other "rammel" was removed from the workshop road and behind "Fort Knox" (the overhead store) filling two skips. Again, thanks must go to Richard.

oo0oo

Following the report last time on the pole lifting exercise in Bradford (also see Andy Feather's letter in this edition - Ed.) I can confirm that nineteen poles were removed from Thornton Road on 29th January with Watkinsons of Keighley providing the transport - an artic with a monster Hiab (hope this is right - I couldn't read your writing Jim! - Ed.) which lifted the poles out of the ground without any seeming effort and delivered them to the Museum site the following day.

oo0oo

A steam cleaner has been donated by Dave Shepherd which will prove useful once it is plumbed in to the electricity supply. Just one question - how do you clean steam?!

-12-

It was very gratifying to hear members of the testing team pass comment on their arrival about the cleanliness and tidyness of the site. This reflects well on the Museum as a whole.

oo0oo

Thirty-one scrap tyres were finally removed in March at a cost to the Company. Their destination is a power station in Wolverhampton where they will be burned to produce electricity.

oo0oo

New gates are currently being made on site to replace the rotten metal ones at the western end of the new fence on Belton Road.

oo0oo

A further trip to Sheffield's Leadmill Depot resulted in Fleetline 754 returning with three battery chargers and plenty of other "rammel". The pump mentioned last time has worked wonders in the workshop; not a drop of water has entered the pit since.

oo0oo

Not much vehicle news this time. Cleethorpes 54 has had wiring installed to its upper deck interior lights and its upper deck ceiling painted cream. A start has been made on the restoration of Bradford 845. Doncaster 206 is currently being prepared for MOT and York Pullman 64 will follow shortly. Nottingham 506 has had its hubcaps and wheel nut guards re-chromed and some interior polished woodwork renewed.

oo0oo

Arrangements are now well in hand for the new-style Gathering. Sponsorship has been agreed with "BUSES" and "CLASSIC BUS" magazines. Extra attractions are being sought for the Ealand site. There is even a possibility of extra trains stopping at Crowle Station (which is in Ealand) on the day. Don't forget to put the date in your diary NOW - SUNDAY 30TH JULY 1995.

S'thee, JIM

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

FROM ANDY FEATHER, Shipley, West Yorkshire.

Dear Michael,

Having just received the latest (Winter 1995) edition of "Sandtoft Scene" I thought that I would write a short note as a follow up to Jim Sambrook's piece about pole lifting in Bradford.

Jim makes light of the fact that the "secret" to extracting the poles cleanly, without ripping up half the pavement together with gas, water and electric services etc., is the sledge-hammering of each pole for up to an hour before the collar goes on. This work is gruelling in the extreme and is difficult to sustain especially for those not used to heavy manual work.

It is no exaggeration to say that we would not have achieved a third of the poles actually lifted without the stirring efforts of the lads from the Sheffield Transport Group. Barry, Bob, Dave and John travelled to Bradford on several Sundays and did a first-class job backed up by Jim and Bob Ashton who we are grateful to for acting as the "catering manager" as well.

Local help has been received in a smaller way, and we must thank Mick Leake and Dennis, David Huson and especially Norman Hinchcliffe who, long established Sandtoft members will recall, was my partner in constructing the overhead system way back in the early 1970's. Norman is recovering from a slipped disc; but not as a result of the pole-lifting!

Thanks to the foregoing team we successfully removed 19 poles including 4 heavy types on Sunday 22nd January. These will join our stock at Sandtoft and enable us to consider future extensions as and when land and funds permit.

oo0oo

FROM OUR FRIENDS IN GERMANY

The full text of a letter from our friends in Aachen is reproduced overleaf. Anyone interested in going to Germany in September is asked to contact the editor.



## FÖRDERKREIS FÜR HISTORISCHE AACHENER TECHNIK

ROLF LYNEN,  
SECRETARY  
HAALER STRASSE 20  
52148 WÄLFBELLEN, GERMANY

21 MARCH 1996

Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd  
Dear Members and Friends.

It has been some time since we last were in touch with you, and things have been things have been moving to our advantage here.

We are very pleased to report that we have been able to contract out the first part of the work involved in completely restoring our Tram, and that on completion of the work, a permanent home has been found for it in the Tramways Museum in Liege, Belgium. Therewith, we are well on the way to realising our objectives.

In autumn of last year, we sent to you, two of our publications, and hope that you received them, and were able to understand at least some of the contents. As soon as further articles are produced, we shall of course send them to you.

We would like to ask for your assistance with our next offering, wherein we are hoping to do an article on the Aachen Trolley Nr 22. If it were possible for you to give us further technical details, info as to usage and condition, and possibly let us have a sight of the manuals for a short time, of which we have already stated our willingness to translate the relevant parts, this would be a big help.

We would also like to do an article about Sandtoft, and any information and pictures would also be most welcome.

To finish, we would like to inform you of an event which we hope will take place in Aachen in September. This will be the centenary of the electric tram in Aachen, and if the Aseag (The City Transport Undertaking), give the green light, we shall be involved in the organisation. It is intended to show not only the modern fleet of buses, but also some old-timers, amongst which number trams from 1926, 1956 and 1958. Working at the present time, on the assumption that this jubilee will take place, we would like to invite you to come to Aachen to participate. If any of you were able to come, we would be pleased to welcome you here, and if it were possible to bring one or more of your vehicles to take part in the display, we would be over the moon.

As soon as we receive a definite commitment from the Aseag, we shall of course contact you with full details. Best wishes to you all.

R. Lynen



# SANDTOFT '95 HOME OF THE TROLLEYBUS

## Trolleydays

EASTER Sunday & Monday  
APRIL 16th and 17th.

MAY DAY HOLIDAY V.E. CELEBRATIONS  
MAY 7th and 8th.  
Special Trolley Event with visiting Wartime  
Vehicles.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY Sunday and Monday.  
MAY 28th and 29th.

JUNE 18th Sunday, "FATHERS DAY"  
(Watch for Father's Day Offer).

GATHERING '95 / ISLE OF AXHOLME  
TRANSPORT FESTIVAL July 30th.

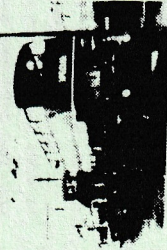
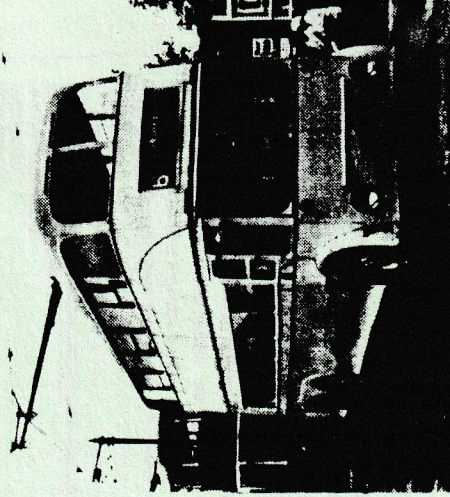
AUGUST SUNDAYS

August 6th\*, 13th, and 20th\*.  
\* Trolleybus Only Days

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY Sunday and Monday.  
August 27th and 28th.

SEPTEMBER 24th Sunday.

OCTOBER 22nd Sunday "YORKSHIRE DAY".



OPEN 12 noon to 6 p.m.

TROLLEYBUS RIDES . . . MUSEUM SOUVENIR SHOP  
MINIATURE 7" GAUGE RAILWAY · REFRESHMENTS  
SMALL DISPLAYS & EXHIBITS . . . . . SLIDE SHOWS  
PICNIC AREAS . . . . . TOURIST INFORMATION

## SANDTOFT GATHERING '95 Sunday 30th July

now includes the **new** ISLE OF AXHOLME FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT.  
ADMISSION FOR THIS EVENT :- ADULT £4.00 CHILD UP TO 16/OAP £2.00 OPEN 10 A.M. TO 6 P.M.

**ADMISSION ON TROLLEYDAYS :- Adults £3.00 Concession £1.50 Family Car £7.00**

\*August 6th & 20th :- Adult £2.00 Concession £1.00 Family Car £5.00

Admission includes FREE Trolleybus Rides, FREE Car Parking at the Museum.

**FREE** bus service from Doncaster Railway Station on Trolleydays \*(except Aug 6th & 20th)  
1.30 p.m. Returns to Doncaster from Sandtoft at 4.30 p.m. (30 min. journey time).

For further information on Trolleydays and other events  
please telephone the **MUSEUM 24hr. INFORMATION LINE :- 01724 711391.**

Information updated prior to each event. (Standard telephone charge rate)  
We are always pleased to accommodate coach tours and party visits by prior appointment. Resident motorbuses frequently attend displays and rallies locally and nationally. Further details can be obtained from :- S.T.C. Publicity, 1 Church Walk, Stanton, Scarborough, North Yorkshire, YO12 4SG. (Please include S.A.E.)  
Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 5SX. For the museum address is :- Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN9 5SX. For the trolleybus depot, please use the above address (S.A.E.)  
Additional Open Days for Trolleybuses of the Miniature Railway may be added to the above dates. These will be advertised in the 24hr Information Line prior to each additional event. Train Ride: 30p adult 20p child (Adult 40p on Gathering Event).

## SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE

Belton Road Sandtoft Near Doncaster South Yorkshire



24 Hour Information Line

Tel: (01724) 711391

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S.T.C. reserves the right to alter or cancel any event without notice.

AV PRINTING & ART SERVICES, DONCASTER, (0302) 842349.

