

# SANDTOFT SCENE

ISSUE NO. 31

SUMMER

1995



THE JOURNAL OF SANDTOFT  
TRANSPORT CENTRE

**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.

Information Number :- (01724) 711391

Payphone Number :- (01724) 711846

**Directors**

:- M. F. BARRATT (CHAIRMAN &  
LEGAL SERVICES)  
J. SAMBROOKS (MANAGING)  
R. SHEPHERDSON (SECRETARY)  
D. M. J. BROWN (MARKETING)  
A. J. PIATT (FINANCE)  
C. N. PROCTOR (SITE)  
F. R. WHITEHEAD (DEVELOPMENT)  
J. R. WHITEHEAD (MEMBERSHIP &  
SOCIETY  
LIAISON)

Sandtoft Scene Editor :- M. F. BARRATT  
The Hawthorns,  
24, Tongdean Rise,  
BRIGHTON,  
East Sussex,  
BN1 5JG

Tel. (01273) 508013

COVER :- This edition's cover depicts Derby 172, (RC 8752) a Sunbeam W trolleybus with Park Royal Utility H30/26R bodywork delivered to Derby in 1945. In the ownership of Mike Dare, it is beautifully restored and is now to be seen at Sandtoft following its recent move from Westgate. It is expected to be quite a star at the Gathering '95.

SANDTOFT SCENE : NUMBER 31 : SUMMER 1995 : Editor: M. F. Barratt

Editorial Address : See Opposite Page

**EDITORIAL**

This edition is to be published just before the Gathering '95 and I hope as many as possible will support the event this year. It is particularly important that the 1995 Gathering is a success as it is a departure from the norm. This year it will be held on two sites - Sandtoft and Ealand. Details appear elsewhere together with a timetable for the special bus services (Nos. 18 and 126) which are being operated by South Yorkshire.

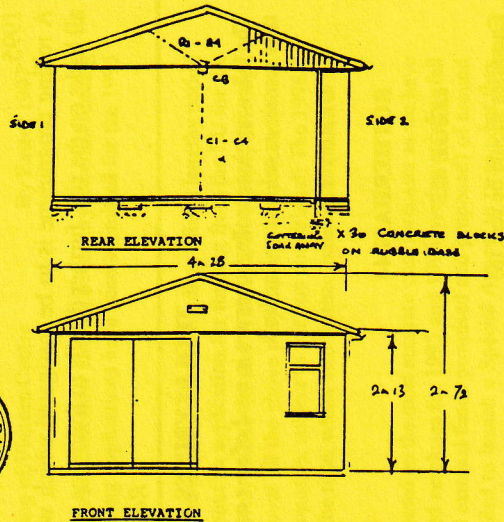
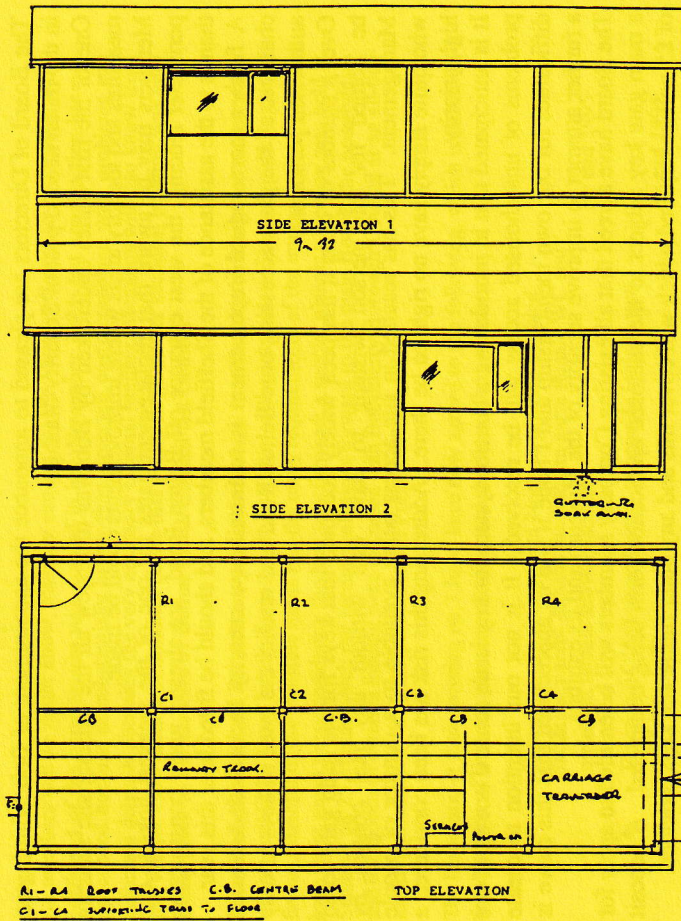
As we go to press we have been informed that grant aid is being made available through Boothferry Borough Council to proceed with four important projects - the disabled toilets, the childrens' play area, the Axholme Stores and the Visitors' Centre. You can read more about this in this edition.

I received only four responses to the Questionnaire about the magazine which seems to indicate a general lack of interest by the members in the journal. Those who did respond seem to think that the "parish magazine" approach works best and so there are no plans to radically change its format or content although I am experimenting, in this edition, with a new clearer word-processing package which includes laser printing.

In view of the seeming lack of interest consideration will be given to reducing the number of issues per year as your overworked editor finds it increasingly difficult to meet deadlines when articles are not forthcoming or late despite publication dates being advertised. This is the twelfth SANDTOFT SCENE which I have produced (which means typing it, printing it, collating it, stapling it and more often than not writing it!) and it is my intention to step down after this year. So please note, a vacancy will arise as from the AGM in November for somebody to carry on with its production (if that is your wish).

Michael F. Barratt

PROPOSED REPLACEMENT SANDTOFT MINIATURE RAILWAY CARRIAGE SHED.



SANDTOFT MINIATURE RAILWAY based at the Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN8 5SX. Registered Charity No. 514382.

The proposed carriage shed is intended to replace an existing low height prefabricated structure. This building is now in need of re-roofing and other repairs. Its low height makes working on the carriages difficult. The proposed new building would make extensive use of materials that have been obtained from the former youth club at Belton, which are now being stored at the museum and will not be required for the proposed Ashole Stores project.

**MATERIALS to be used**  
**ROOF** Wooden panels covered with a green roofing felt. The roof would be supported by 4 trusses and the two end frames. A centre dividing wall/beam would be supported by 4 uprights C1-C4.  
**WALLS** These would be made from frames and joined with wooden pillars. The frames to be faced with Marine ply and painted with a Green or Grey fire retardant material / paint.  
**FLOOR** Wooden framework constructed on 30 concrete blocks concreted on to a rubble base.  
**SECURITY** Included with the alarm system would be a fire - smoke detection unit.  
**SERVICES** Electricity, Water, and internal telephones with connection to call box line for 999 emergency calls.

DRAWING BY E. ADREN 26/4/95



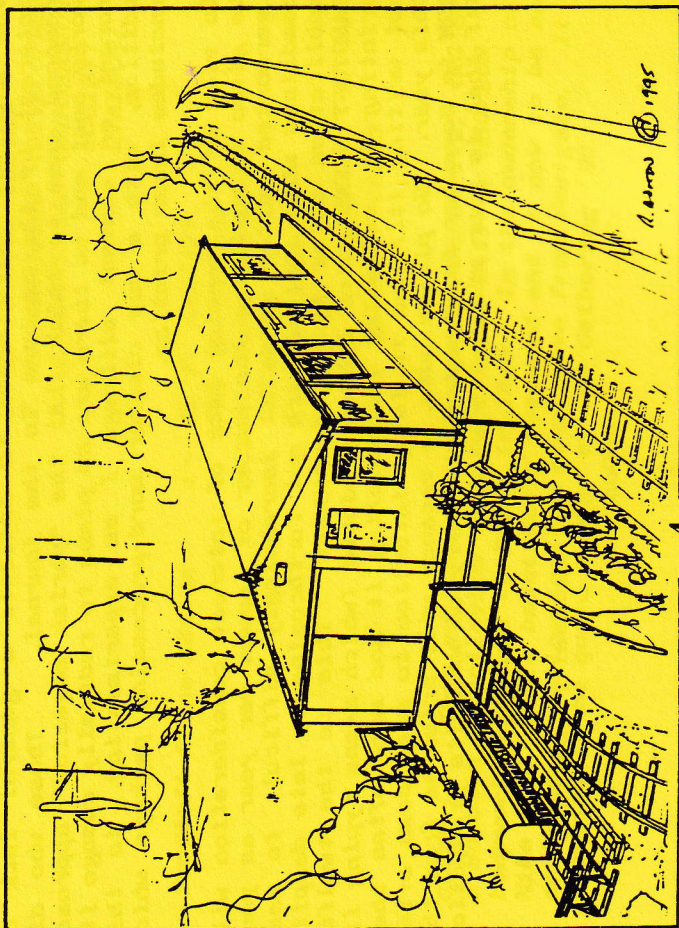
SANDTOFT MINIATURE RAILWAY NEWS

by Bob Ashton

Extensive repairs have been undertaken to the track. Almost all of the new ballast has now been used up. The railway has been in operation on all the open days so far this year. Our resident electric locomotive, MAJURA, having worked hard on most of these days. Two visiting electric locomotives have given service also. A steam engine was brought over for the VE Day events but, regrettably, although the engine could raise steam a problem with its motion gear prevented its operation.

At a special meeting of the Railway Group in May it was decided that (subject to funding) a start should be made on re-laying the track with a deeper heavier gauge rail. The first section to be so treated will be the re-aligned section around the front willow tree.

Plans have now been drawn up for a replacement carriage shed (drawings of which are included in this article). This will improve storage facilities both for the carriages and also the track/lineside equipment. It will be constructed from timber recovered from the dismantled ex-Belton Youth Club.



## Improvements in Site Security

The Board of Directors are pleased to announce the appointment of Bob Whittington in the much needed post of Security Manager.

One of the first duties undertaken by Bob was to review all the existing site security measures and identify areas where improvements could be made.

Members may be aware that replacement gates for one of the weakest links in our perimeter fencing, the west entrance off Belton Road, are already under construction thanks to the assistance of the Sheffield members, and should be fitted later this year.

A further more radical improvement is to install new security locks with hardened chains to all the gates accessing onto Belton Road and restrict the issue of keys to only authorised personnel.

Over a number of years it has been widely accepted that keys for the main gate could be copied for any person wishing to have one without any real control by Management. This has resulted in site access being available to a number of people who quite simply have no right to be there. Addressing this risk has been considered a high priority.

It is anticipated that in introducing a control system for key issue some if not all of the problems of unauthorised access will be resolved. It is not our intention to create difficulties for our own membership and I hope it will be appreciated that this move is a further attempt to improve security of the Museum and its exhibits.

The Board have agreed that all existing Company Members will be entitled to apply for a main gate key subject to the enclosed application form being completed. A deposit of £5 will be required which will cover this and any other future site keys provided.

Members requiring access through the west gate (box van and storage area) or the pedestrian gate, are requested to indicate this on the form also, it can then be included on their main site key. As access through these latter points is to be restricted only applications approved by the Board of Directors will be given this facility.

The new locks are to be fitted at the end of Yorkshire Day on Sunday 22nd October 1995.

A rolling programme is to be instigated which will eventually include the replacing of all locks on the site, further details to follow as work progresses.

*Robert Shepherdson, Company Secretary*

### TROLLEYBUSES FOR SALE

The following three trolleybuses are in need of new owners. It would be condition of sale that they remain as exhibits at Sandtoft.

**DERBY 175**

**ROTHERHAM 44**

**LIÈGE 425**

Enquiries should be sent to:

Francis Whitehead 8, Riding Lane, Hildenborough, Kent, TN11 9HX.

## Development Plans for the Museum

As members will no doubt know, planning consent for the Visitors Centre to be located at the north end of the museum site was granted in late November 1993, but construction has not proceeded because of substantially higher than expected costs combined with problems and unforeseen delays in obtaining the very necessary external funding. Members will also know from the Winter 1995 edition of *Sandtoft Scene* that a very large timber sectional building was very kindly given to the museum by Belton Parish Council last October.

Spearheaded by Bob and Pat Ashton, proposals for how to utilise this building - or rather, parts of this building - were hastily formulated. The idea of the "Axholme Stores" quickly gained favour. Mindful of the available funds and the many requirements of the museum, the Directors have spent much time considering the best way forward; a special planning meeting was held at Sandtoft on 25 March which put recommendations forward to the main Board; the possibilities and likelihoods of external funding were discussed with Boothferry Borough Council at an all-day meeting attended by Rob Shepherdson and Francis Whitehead.

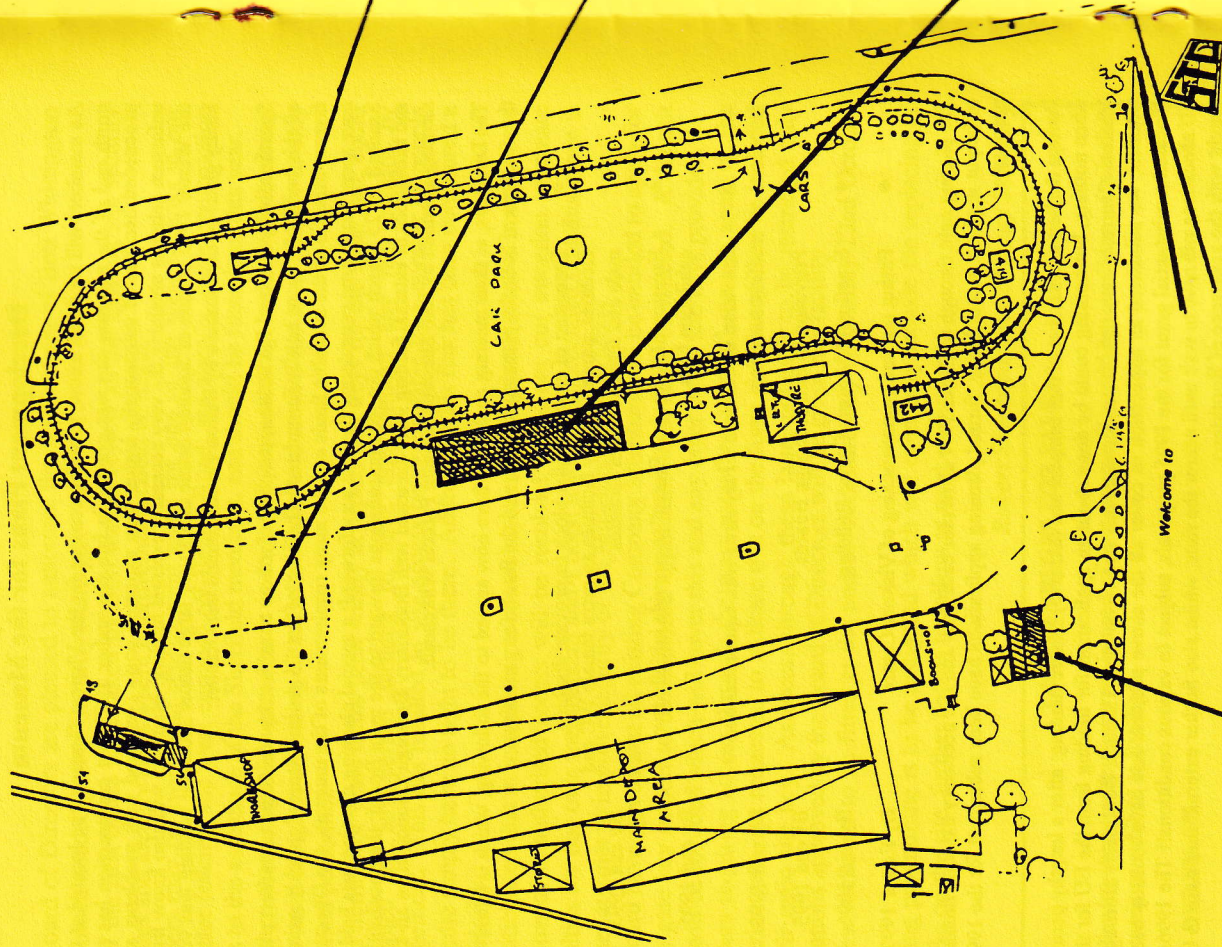
The Directors, at their meeting on 3 June, have now agreed to the following, which is based on the outcome of both the planning meeting and the Boothferry meeting:

- Extension of existing toilet block to provide disabled facilities, parent & baby facilities an extra female WC and male and female shower facilities. By end 1995
- Erection of "Axholme Stores" to provide initially two exhibition halls. By end 1995
- Provision of Children's Play Area with equipment and safety surfacing. By end 1995
- Provision of Entrance Sign Boards. By end 1995
- Erection of Visitors Centre Building. By end 1996
- Fitting out and commissioning of Visitors Centre. By Easter 1997

The phasing right through to Easter 1997 allows for cash flow and the necessary external funding to be put in place. Accordingly, formal planning applications have been submitted for the 1995 proposals.

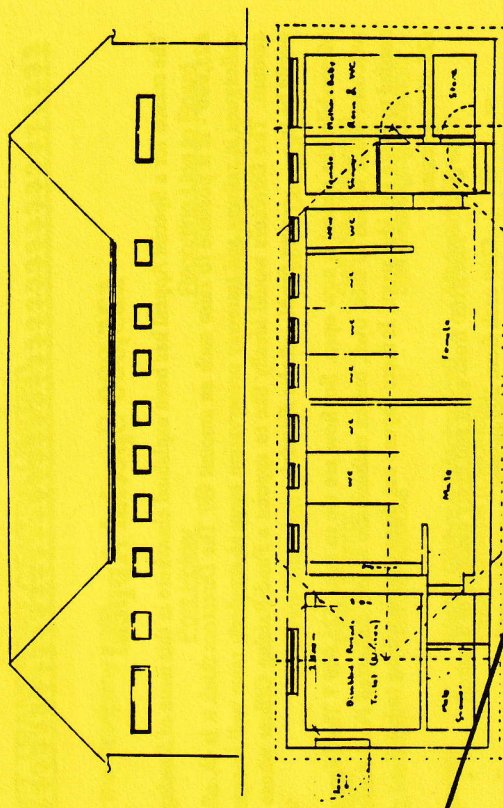
Perhaps the best news is that of that complex and (hitherto) elusive funding: after a lengthy period when nothing, but nothing could be done about an application for funding from the EU for the Visitors Centre, a very tight timetable suddenly had to be met. Through Boothferry Borough Council, we submitted an application to cover all the above projects and have recently been allocated a substantial grant for the 1995 proposals, subject to various conditions!! The 1996/7 EU allocations will have to wait until nearer the time, whilst also further external funds are to be sought with the assistance of Boothferry.

And the Bad News? The sums are such that, based on the most accurate cost forecasts as we have available, and projecting our annual budgeted surpluses for 1995 and 1996, we have a shortfall of our own funds (which have to match the external funds promised and proposed) of around £25,000. The Directors have therefore decided to launch a Special Appeal to raise what they believe to be an achievable target - £25,000.

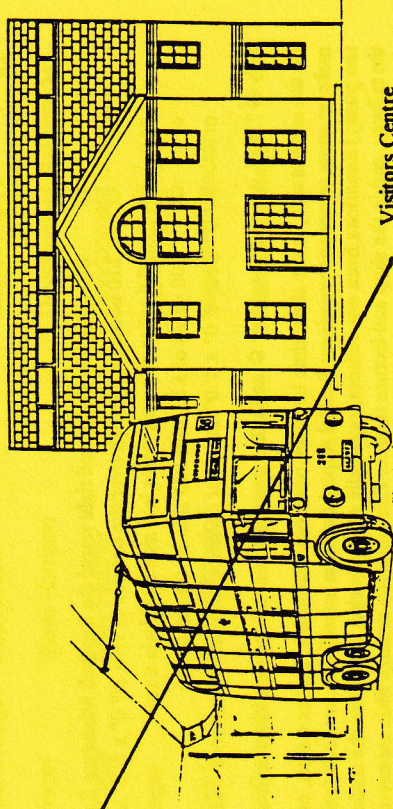


**Sandtoft  
Transport  
Centre**

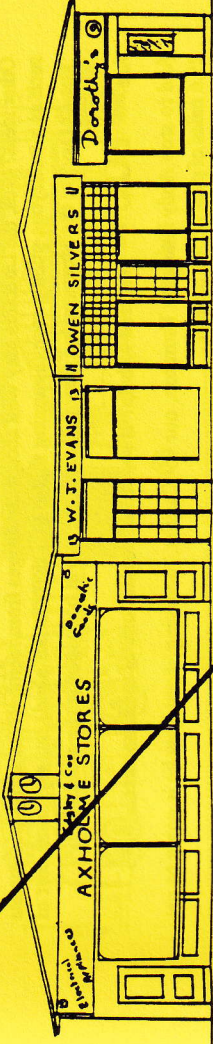
Children's Play Area



Extension to Toilet Block



Visitors Centre



"Axholme Stores"



## £25,000 Special Appeal

The reason for a Special Appeal has been explained elsewhere in this issue of *Sandtoft Scene* £25,000 - is it possible to raise such an amount ☺? The Directors think it is ☺, after all, our colleagues in railway and tramway preservation seem to regularly raise well in excess of that amount. The Directors would ideally like to appoint a Fund-Raising Officer whose sole brief would be to ..... - wait for it! - *Raise Funds!*

Meanwhile, the appeal is now open. So, how are we to raise £25,000? The Directors would welcome ideas to add to their own, but an enthusiastic ☺ and dedicated Fund Raiser is really needed to make any idea work. Is there anyone out there who is willing to help?

£25,000 represents

- ☺ Just £100 from each and every member of Sandtoft
- ☺ £250 each from 100 people
- ☺ £250 "Gift Aid" donations from 75 people
- ☺ £1,000 "Gift Aid" donations from 19 people
- ☺ One "Gift Aid" donation of £18,750

All quite possible?

£25,000 looks like

- ☺ £10 notes laid end to end right round the Sandtoft Miniature Railway track
- ☺ £10 notes papered all over the outside of two 30' 0" x 8' 0" trolleybuses
- ☺ 29.6 miles of penny coins laid side by side in a row
- ☺ 600 yards of £1 Coins laid side by side in a row
- ☺ Four 8' 0" x 4' 0" sheets of plywood completely covered with £1 coins

Silly ☺? Well, it is ☺mid-summer ☼ and it has been said that all the best ideas start as a joke ☺.

On the serious side, in the short time between now and 'Gathering, and as a start, can someone make up some secure and prominent Special Appeal donation boxes? Can we seek (without being too pushy) donations from our visitors, especially at 'Gathering maybe on the trolleybuses and the railway, and in the shop and lecture theatre. Can someone arrange little money-raising side-show type entertainments or competitions or challenges etc. for 'Gathering (or four 8' 0" x 4' 0" sheets of plywood). It is hoped to prepare a modest Special Appeal display, but help would be appreciated with that.

Other ideas? Well, the Directors may well accept challenges from members for sponsored events such as a trolleybus-pulling race (assuming that is that there is fair play!) on, say, some sort of "Fun ☺ Day" at the Museum, but they will draw the line at being put in the stocks ☺!

Are **YOU** ☺ prepared to help? If so, please contact one of the Directors.

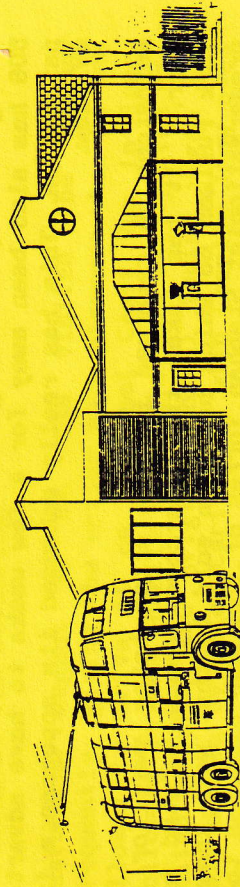
And to stop Andy Nutssee Thornton, our ☺ Cashier, worrying about how he is going to get 29.6 miles of penny coins banked .....



## SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LIMITED

### Officers of the Company 1995

Position	Post Holder	Reporting Line to Board
Traffic Manager	Andy Thornton	Managing Director
Site Cashier	Andy Thornton	Finance Director
Shop Manager	Chris Proctor	Self (Site Director)
Engineering Manager	Jim Sambrooks	Self (Managing Director)
Vehicle Inspector	Martin Gibbons (Mechanical)	Marketing Director
" "	Geoff Griffiths (Electrical)	" "
" "	Steve Harrison (Electrical)	" "
Vehicle & Exhibits Manager	Ian Wilson	Development Director
Lecture Theatre Manager	Bob Ashton	Site Director
Electrical Manager	Steve Harrison	Development Director
Overhead Manager	Andy Feather	Development Director
Publicity Manager	VACANT	Marketing Director
Security Manager	Bob Whittington	Managing Director
Gathering Sub Committee		Managing Director



## SCENE AT SANDTOFT

by Jim Sambrooks

Compared to my last report there is much vehicle news this time.

Vera (Limoges 5) had not been tested then, but has since been passed for service along with, surprisingly, Aachen 22 after repairs to its electrical components. Aachen 22 had not previously operated under our mains power. I am sure that our German colleagues who read this journal will be delighted.

A welcome visitor for the season, making its appearance appropriately for VE Day was Mike Dare's utility Derby trolleybus 172 (as depicted on our front cover). It is fully restored to wartime condition complete with wooden slatted seats. 172 was also passed for service and performed very well over the VE Day weekend.

My comments in the last issue about vehicles being passed after minor adjustments were somewhat incorrect as Peter Swift had previously put in many hours preparing the vehicles for their inspection - my apologies to Pete who is currently overhauling trolleyheads for the running fleet.

172 has taken the depot space left by Douglas 63 which has gone away for long-term restoration. Nottingham 506 has also been away for a few weeks to have adverts painted on. This has really enhanced its appearance in my view.

Maidstone 56 returned in June after being away for a year. It has taken the undercover space vacated by York Pullman 66 which has been sold to that well known preservationist Stephan Torres of York who also has the ex-Blue Line Guy LUF that once languished at Sandtoft. Restoration of 66 has already started and it is hoped to make an appearance at the Gathering.

Another vehicle to return, although after a much longer stay away, is Bradford 746, a Roe-bodied BUT built in 1949 and fully restored some twenty years ago. It has been stored under cover ever since and remains a splendid vehicle which, it is hoped, will return to service at the Gathering.

At long last the AEC Mammoth Major chassis cab has left the site. It had festered in "rammel corner" for longer than was really good for it. This too has gone to an excellent home - John Ward of Leicester who is well known for his collection of restored eight-wheelers. Driving it on to a low loader tested John's skills to the full as the MM had no brakes or clutch! He did get it home safely and hopes to start work on it as soon as he has finished his current project - a Leyland Octopus. Nobby Clark's Reading tower wagon 33 has been towed south to Reading Area Group's shed at Fifield. Its place in the depot has been taken by the electric GPO van ER2 creating a space in the workshop which has already been filled.

The two Atlanteans have both seen much progress recently, Hull 217 is now gloss painted in the streamlined style of trolleybus days - it should go much faster in that livery! Sheffield 1357 is having its upper deck seats prepared for fitting. It will be remembered that this vehicle was acquired as a learner bus minus seats, staircase and cab panelling. The cab and stairs were rebuilt some years ago followed by lower deck seats. 1357 has been run for a few years without top deck seats. Having now been fitted they should allow the vehicle to operate on the free bus services at the Gathering.

Eastbourne Regent V, 69, has visited the museum frequently, giving the writer much pleasure when he was allowed to drive it on the East Coast Run in June. Following it was Charlie Bullock's "old beauty" the ex-United Bristol K5G (rigid mounted) towing wagon 61, ably driven by Miles Cartwright with Charlie (now aged 80) providing entertainment on the back as the vehicle travelled from Beverely to Bridlington. Charlie has decreed that 61 is to be used to transport him on his last journey when he is "withdrawn from service".

The depot clearance team has been at it again; this time at Charlotte Road, Sheffield once the home of SUT which provided much workshop equipment and also the shed of the late Albert Smith at Wroot on the Isle of Axholme which gave up its custody of vehicle spares and museum pieces.

As reported last time, just before Easter it was discovered that the mercury arc rectifier was not working properly. Two relays had burned out and it was suspected that the "flask" had lost its vacuum. A replacement motorbus service had to operate over the Easter weekend with buses provided by DOLERS - Doncaster Tiger Cub 33; Sheffield Transport Group - Fleetline 754; and Yorkshire Terrier - a brand new Volvo B6 which worked the Doncaster service whilst 206 was used on the extra Isle Tours. A trolleybus did operate, however - South Yorkshire 2450! It ran on its diesel engine after a check by our mechanical department. It proved most popular with our visitors. At the same time it was discovered that the engine of the generator retained for such emergencies was full of water that had got through a hole in the exhaust stack. Despite much effort by the STG the old unit couldn't be coaxed into life; its future is still in doubt.

It's pleasing to report, though, that thanks to the efforts of Steve Harrison and Dave Shepherd a new modern type rectifier was obtained and installed under the existing equipment in time to operate over the VE Day weekend which saw the display of a number of Austin cars and a Bedford O Type lorry. Public service vehicles included Mike Dare's utility Daimler motor bus, Douglas 52 and the other utility Derby trolleybus 175. The Little Vixen fairground organ entertained visitors and staff on the Spring Bank Holiday Monday.

The "new look" Gathering is taking shape nicely. Don't forget that we need all the help we can get. Contact the staffing officer "LV" Philip Jenkinson at 32, College Street, Crosland Moor, Huddersfield, West Yorkshire. Advance notice would be appreciated if you can help but you won't be turned away if you offer your services on the day. "LV" will be at Sandtoft as usual.

The first bus to leave for Sandtoft from Doncaster on Gathering Day departs from South Bus Station at 10 am. then half-hourly thereafter (for full details see the complimentary timetable enclosed with this edition). There are also trains to Crowle (for Ealand) Station from Sheffield, Doncaster, Grimsby, Cleethorpes and Scunthorpe. Please make every effort to get there to lend a hand.

Finally, the answer to my poser about "how do you clean steam?" in the last issue was answered by our resident plumber, Barry Marshall who knows about such things. "Why, you put it through a filter" he responded. Obvious really, isn't it!

SI'THEE

JIM.

#### GATHERING NOTES

This year members will be given free admission to the Gathering provided that they are in possession of and show a Company membership card at the gate.

The Sandtoft Caravan is now available for all members to use when working on site. It is bookable on a first come first served basis. Geoff Warnes has the keys and can be contacted on Doncaster 321569

#### RAGS AND BAGS

We are short of conductors cash bags. If you know of any that are available Andy Thornton would love to hear from you.

Likewise, we are short of old rags for general cleaning purposes. Donations will be gratefully received and faithfully applied!

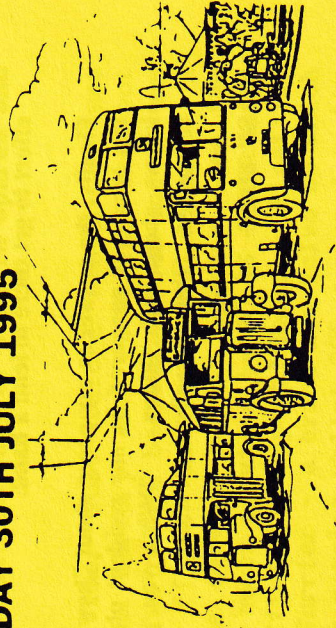
oo0oo



# SANDTOFT GATHERING 95

AND ISLE OF AXHOLME FESTIVAL OF TRANSPORT

SUNDAY 30TH JULY 1995



A TRANSPORT MISCELLANY FOR  
ALL THE FAMILY

AT

THE SANDTOFT TRANSPORT  
CENTRE

and

SEVEN LAKES LEISURE PARK,  
EALAND

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## Events include:

Vehicle Display & Judging  
Trolleybus Rides  
Transport Bazaar  
Miniature Steam Railway

Motorbus Tours  
CAMRA Beer Tent  
Brass Band  
Fairground Stalls

Morris Dancers  
Fair Organ  
Light Refreshments

Plus fast, frequent and FREE bus service running between the two sites and including tours of the area

The Seven Lakes Leisure Complex also comprises a modern licensed clubhouse, restaurant and children's play area. There is a hotel and caravan site. These facilities will be available to visitors to the Gathering.

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## Admission:

Open 10am to 6pm

Adults £4.00    Child / Senior Citizen £2.00  
*(no increase from last year)*

This includes admission to both sites.

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## How to get there:

**FREE REGULAR BUS SERVICE** from 10am to Sandtoft Transport Centre.

Running on the hour and half past from Doncaster South Bus Station and 5 mins later from Doncaster Railway Station. Last bus leaves Sandtoft Transport Centre at 6.15pm.

See timetable available from Transport Executive Travelshops for more details.

**LIMITED TRAIN SERVICE** to Crowle Station. Telephone Doncaster Station (01302) 340222 for details

**BY CAR** use M18 and M180 motorway. Exit Junction 2 for Ealand (1½ miles on the A161).  
**AMPLE FREE PARKING AVAILABLE.**

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## Further information from:

Sandtoft Transport Centre, Belton Road, Sandtoft, Near Doncaster, Yorkshire, DN8 5SX.  
(SAE PLEASE)