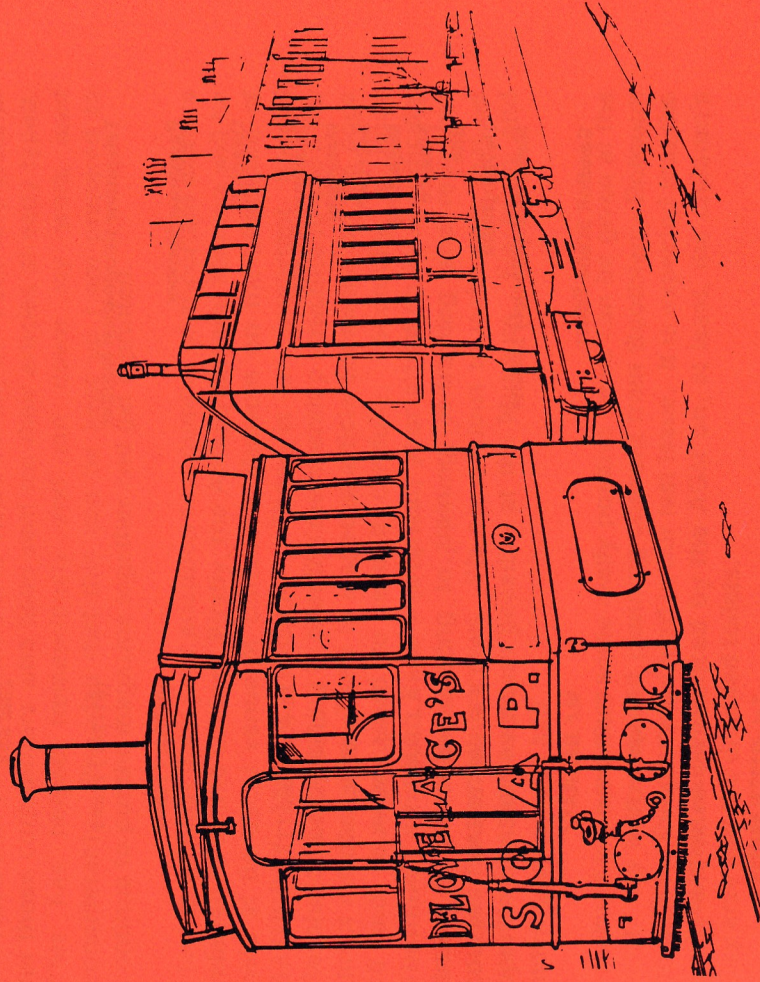


# SANDTOFT SCENE

ISSUE NO. 32

AUTUMN

1995



THE JOURNAL OF SANDTOFT  
TRANSPORT CENTRE



**SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LIMITED  
INFORMATION**

Registered Company Number	:	1747475
Registered Charity Number	:	514382
Registered Office	:	The Museum Premises, Belton Road, Sandtoft, South Humberside, DN8 5SX
Telephone Information Number	:	(01724) 711391
Payphone Number	:	(01734) 711846
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Managing	:	J. SAMBROOKS
Secretary	:	R. SHEPHERDSON
Marketing	:	D.M.J. BROWN
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Development	:	F.R. WHITEHEAD
Membership/Society Liaison	:	J.R. WHITEHEAD
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**EDITORIAL**

This is the first edition of SANDTOFT SCENE which has been produced by laser printing as opposed to the old dot matrix system used by my old word-processor. It is hoped that this new method will mean that we can produce clearer copies more quickly and add a certain professionalism to the journal without losing, entirely, its "parish magazine" image. I hope you like it. The new computer which I am using should certainly make my task much easier provided that you keep news and views rolling in. I am very grateful for those contributors who have sent me their articles already typed. This has helped tremendously and cut down my work load considerably. Provided that this can be kept up I am prepared to continue to put the magazine together and get it printed.

I feel that I must draw your attention to a number of important matters referred to in this edition. Firstly, the Annual General Meeting will be held at its usual venue at Doncaster Museum on the afternoon of SATURDAY 18th NOVEMBER. There is an important Special Resolution being tabled to alter the membership structure to allow for direct membership. There is a special article contained on the page 10 and you are asked to read it carefully. Secondly, in Andy Thornton's article on Page 4 (overleaf) your attention is specifically drawn to the rules relating to training, re-training and refresher courses for trolleybus crews. We are anxious to make sure that we operate the safest system possible at the Museum. Electricity and moving buses can kill!

Finally, it is hoped that some really positive news can be given at the AGM. We have received planning consent from Boothferry Borough Council for the plans outlined in our last issue. It is expected that the works will have commenced by the AGM on, at least, the children's play area and the disabled toilets.

**THANKS**

Our thanks are extended to the following for their assistance in putting this journal together : Bob Ashton; Chris Proctor; Jim Sambrooks; Rob Shepherdson; Andy Thornton; Francis Whitehead and Friends' Provident Life Office (for the printing).

COVER:- This month's edition depicts an unusual subject in that it shows a Burnley Steam Tram. It is not believed that any British examples of this mode of transport have survived although an Australian steam tram is preserved at Crich (New South Wales Government No. 2 of 1885). If you know different contact the editor who would be interested to know.



## TRAFFIC OFFICE NOTES

by Andy Thornton

After our initial problems at Easter with the mains electricity, all other running days have operated as planned.

Fathers' Day was a very enjoyable and successful event; one person even paid for a second driving session. A trolleybus service was operated for casual visitors on two Sundays in early July. The revenue more that covered the direct costs and these extra "running days" earned much goodwill for the Museum.

The Gathering was a great success with no less than ten trolleybuses in operation. This could have been exceeded; but, at the last minute, some didn't quite make the stringent tests including Maidstone 56. The vehicle voted best service trolley was, quite deservedly, Derby 172. Sadly Reading 181 suffered a major electrical failure and a number of other niggling faults were reported.

The mid-August days have been very enjoyable although hard work. Staffing has been adequate; but "tight". One encouraging feature was the number of party visits. Each Sunday we have entertained at least one coach load and also a group from a local Women's Institute one Monday evening. Several appreciative comments have been received from our visitors. Next year, advertised services will run every Sunday in July and August. A formal staff rostering scheme will be introduced next year for these.

Our congratulations must be extended to Sylvia Nicholls for passing out as a conductor and to Andy Fieldsend, Phil Godber and David Needham as drivers.

With any organisation like Sandtoft it is necessary to ensure that those involved in the traffic side are kept up to date with developments. To this end several members of the platform staff have received extra training. It is now a rule that if a driver has not driven for one year he or she must attend a refresher course and, likewise, conductors who have not undertaken duties for two years must likewise undergo a refresher course. Any person lapsing for more than five years must be retrained completely as though they never undertook duties before. This may seem draconian but it must be remembered that the platform staff have the health and safety of public in their hands and they carry a heavy responsibility.

## SITE NEWS by Bob Ashton

### THE LECTURE THEATRE

Following in line with many other museums the V.E. Day display in the Lecture Theatre is to be retained until the end of October. Therefore the 8' x 4' flag that was on display outside the Lecture Theatre is now on the large wall that used to have the line drawings displayed on it. The flag has a selection of photographs taken at the V.E. Day celebrations at Sandtoft. A 1995 copy of the Daily Mail V.E. Day souvenir edition has been added alongside the 1945 edition of the Daily Mirror. Could all these items be brought out for display in 2045? I am afraid that I will have to ask one of our now junior members if they could put the display together as I suspect I might be on an extended holiday in the year 2045.

The display panels illustrating Sandtoft's 600 volt power supply and the Developments in Doncaster have been brought up to date. Perhaps the most interesting display is the latter which includes the latest information on the proposed G.T. (Guided Transit) now being referred to as a "Tram on Tyres". Now that the work on "Supertram" nears to a conclusion things could start to be on the move in Doncaster again. Perhaps we shall once more see poles and wires on the streets of Doncaster and a return to a new form of electric public road transport.

### MINIATURE RAILWAY

There is a name correction for the resident electric locomotive which is, in fact, "MUFTA" and not "Majura" as stated in the last SANDTOFT SCENE. On the cab of the locomotive the number 208 is displayed and many readers will recall it as being the frequency of Radio Luxembourg. It is merely a coincidence as the locomotive design is based on one to be found on the Isle of Man Railway with the same number.

Further re-ballasting had reached the carriage shed by July. The scheme to rebuild the shed includes a installing a platform. This has now been done; but it is not yet open to passengers. On the last three open days various items such as lamps, laundry baskets and gardening equipment dating from the 50's have been displayed on the platform. A temporary name board and posters have been erected. The station is now named "Swinton" using materials from one of the glass showcases from Doncaster Museum. We are looking out for "Mexborough" although I do not think that "Mexborough & Swinton" would look right for a station.



## NATURE COLUMN

by Bob Ashton

The summer at Sandtoft has been very interesting in spite of the extremely dry weather. Indeed, the rabbits are still with us, so hence more wire netting is being used to protect the new shrubs and flowers. Shortly after the Gathering '95 event there was a "Gathering" of young swallows and house martins on the trolleybus overhead wires as they prepared for their rather early migration southwards. There must have been at least 100 to 200. Our resident swallows are still with us still bringing up their young before their Autumn departure.

One bird that should remain with us (unless the white cat from across the road has other plans!) is a young robin which is extremely tame. He made his first appearance about a month ago. We have seen his brown speckled chest feathers change to red during the last few weeks. Another resident bird is an owl that can be heard hooting away in the middle of the night, so beware those staying on the site overnight and making a visit to the toilet block! No doubt the very dry weather has affected some different varieties of insects. Dragonflies have not been seen for some while, but since the rain (that always falls on the Bank Holiday!) several were seen next to the miniature railway track near the front of the site.

The dry weather has meant that the lawn mowers have had a long rest and the grass has turned a light shade of brown. Jim Sambrooks, helpfully suggested that some spare tins of green paint existed if we got desperate! The dry weather has also resulted in the nature reserve at Thorne Moors going up in flames. Photographs taken at Sandtoft on Bank Holiday Monday probably show smoke drifting across on the horizon.

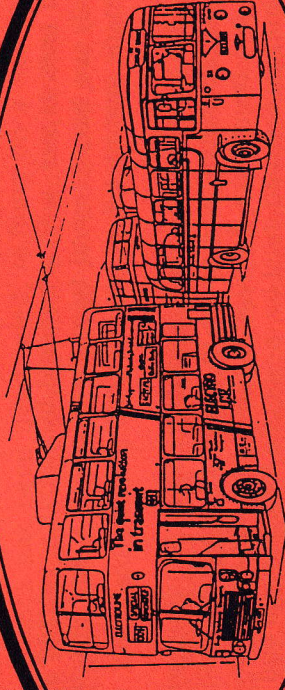
I hope this short piece gives readers an insight into some of the other aspects of life at Sandtoft and that wildlife (other than L.V.) takes up residence from time to time.

## BOXWAGON COOKERY

It has been suggested that this popular(?) feature should return to SANDTOFT SCENE. Anyone interested is asked to send their Recipes to the editor and we will try and publish them.

**SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LTD.,**  
Belton Road, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

## YORKSHIRE DAY



**SUNDAY 22nd OCTOBER 1995**

Trolleybus Rides      Vehicle Cavalcades      Souvenir Shop  
Miniature Railway      Refreshments      Small Display Exhibits  
Motorbus Tours      Slide Shows      Tourist Information  
Vehicle Displays      Children's Drawing      Picnic Areas

THE YORKSHIRE DAY EVENT IS NOW ONE OF THE MOST POPULAR TROLLEYDAY EVENTS WITH MANY VISITING MOTORBUSES, CARS ETC., YOU MUST BRING PLENTY OF FILM/VIDEO TAPE TO PHOTOGRAPH TRANSPORT OF YORKSHIRE'S PAST & PRESENT IN BOTH DAYLIGHT & TWIGLIGHT

**ADMISSION :- Adult £3.00 \* Concession £1.50**  
**Family in Car £7.00**  
ADMISSION INCLUDES FREE TROLLEYBUS RIDES  
\*INCLUDES CHILDREN UP TO THE AGE OF 16

**MUSEUM OPEN 12 NOON TO 6 P.M.**

**FREE bus service from Doncaster Southern Bus Station 1.30 p.m.**  
**Doncaster Railway Station 1.35 p.m.**  
**Returning from Sandtoft at 4.30 p.m.**

(Journey time approx. 30 minutes)  
**FREE CAR PARKING** (Take junction 2 off M180 follow "Transport Museum" signs).  
**IF YOU WISH TO EXHIBIT A BUS, CAR, LORRY, MOTORCYCLE, TRADE STAND, OR ANY OTHER ITEMS OF YORKSHIRE ORIGIN e.g. FARM EQUIPMENT, TEXTILES HOUSEHOLD ITEMS etc. THEN PLEASE WRITE TO :-**  
"Yorkshire Day Event", Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN8 5SX.. (Please include a S.A.E.).

**24 Hour**  
**Information Line ☎ Tel: (01724) 711391**

Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd. is a Company limited by guarantee  
(Registered in England No. 1747475 and is a Registered Charity (No. 514383).  
S.I.C. reserves the right to alter or cancel an event or service without notice.



## SCENE AT SANDTOFT

by Jim Sambrooks

The main thing that has happened since I last penned this column is, of course, the Gathering. This year it was held on two sites and we were blessed with glorious sunshine.

The two sites layout, with a frequent bus service, worked very well. Obviously we have learned from the experience and improvements will be made next time if we use the same layout.

We were worried that the road from Dirtness to Sandtoft, which was closed for rebuilding, was going to cause us problems with the bus service; but Boothferry Borough Council had already instructed the contractor that the road must be re-opened for our event and it was.

Vehicles used on the service included an ex-Alexander's 1937 lowbridge Leyland TD7 and Yorkshire Traction's 1935 Tiger. A Leon Fleetline/ECW ran all day amidst a number of Mainline buses including their last Roe-bodied Atlantean. Full loads were noted.

Derby 172 was judged to be the best trolleybus in service and the Dare Progress Cup went to Andy Fieldsend from "Lincoln" for his efforts with Cleethorpes 54. He has taken this award twice before in the dozen or so years in which he has been restoring this vehicle. The best preserved vehicle on the Isle of Axholme was Sheffield Atlantean 1357 which is now fully seated and used on the shuttle service. Other award winners were:- a superb Leyland Comet lorry; the Silver Service Tiger Cub; the Florence Regal; Roy Law's Oxford Renown; Sheffield PD2 1156 and the Hants and Dorset Bristol MW which, with an unbeatable score of 100 points, carried off a number of awards including the overall concourse trophy.

One vehicle that didn't make it to the judging, unfortunately, was East Yorkshire AEC Renown 777, which knocked out a big end on its way to the Saturday night party and had to be towed onto the site where it remains at the time of writing whilst repairs are undertaken.

A lot of people put a lot of effort into the Gathering, in particularly hot weather, and I would like to thank you all.

When will our depot clearance team cease their toil? This time we report that they've cleared out the former SYT apprentice training school at Meadowhall, Sheffield bringing with them in their haul a much needed safe for the Sandtoft Traffic Office.

After twenty motionless years on the workshop wall, the Doncaster Transport clock has been overhauled, re-hung on a nearby traction pole and connected to the master clock. It ticked its first "tock" on the Saturday evening of the Gathering weekend and was illuminated as well! Congratulations go to Bob Whittington for this.

The traction motor has been removed from Bradford 746 and has gone for repair following the discovery of very noisy bearings. 704, from the same city, having been previously stripped of spares, has been sold to the Cardiff Trolleybus Project for restoration! Good luck to them! It has been prepared for its tow to Wales.

Please don't forget YORKSHIRE DAY. There is a big advert on the inside back cover. This event is now the Museum's second biggest event. Remember, also, that the Museum does not hibernate in the Winter. There are always plenty of jobs to be found and done. Age is certainly no bar either as Alex and Kieran Proctor have proved. Aged 5 and 7 respectively, they recently helped to remove the engine from 777 albeit getting pretty black in the process! And then there's Charlie Bullock. Now aged 80 years young he continues to provide his unique commentary in the Isle Tours and on the Yorkshire Day vehicle parades.

That seems to be about the lot for this time.

Si' thee

*Jim*

## DERBY 172 - A CORRECTION

by the Editor

We wish to apologise to Mike Dare and the purists amongst our readers for having described Derby 172 as having a Park Royal Utility body. Its Utility body is, in fact, a Weymann one. Thanks to all who spotted it. 175's is by Park Royal.



## SPECIAL COMPANY NEWS

### PROPOSED CHANGE TO THE ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION OF SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LIMITED

At the forthcoming Annual General Meeting of the Company, to be held on Saturday 18th November 1995, it is proposed to make amendments to the Company's Articles of Association by way of a Special Resolution.

These amendments, which are set out in the Notice Convening the Annual General Meeting enclosed with this edition of *SANDTOFT SCENE*, are designed to change the way in which the Company's membership is structured. The main alteration is the removal of the restriction that to be a member of the Company you have to be a member of one of the Contributing Societies first. These Contributing Societies are currently the British Trolleybus Society; Doncaster Omnibus and Light Railway Society; Sandtoft Miniature Railway Society and the Bradford Trolleybus Association. Each Society has been consulted about the changes and, with one exception, is in agreement.

If this Resolution is passed it will mean that a person can become a direct member of the Company. The Directors have decided upon this course of action as it has become realised that many members of the public have expressed interest in membership of the Museum. However, they do not wish to become members of any particular society as well. The Company produces a quarterly magazine and feels that it will be able to service members of this type adequately.

There is no plan to increase Company membership subscriptions although this may be considered in the future. The Directors acknowledge the loyalty of the Contributing Societies over a number of years and ways are being looked at for making sure that members of the Contributing Societies will be able to gain some financial advantage over direct members if they join through a Contributing Society. The Directors heartily recommend the proposed changes.

## COMPANY NOTICE BOARD

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are requested to note that the 12th Annual General Meeting of SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LIMITED will be held on Saturday 18th November 1995 at Doncaster Museum, Chequer Road, Doncaster, South Yorkshire at 2.30 pm. prompt.

Members should receive, with this edition of *SANDTOFT SCENE*, formal Notice from the Company Secretary. If you have not then please contact Francis Whitehead at 8, Riding Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9HX immediately. He will be pleased to send one to you.

### OCTOBER (YORKSHIRE) DAY

Members are asked not to forget the October Trolleyday which has been organised by DOLRS as a YORKSHIRE TROLLEYDAY. There will be many Yorkshire trolleybuses in service and on display and many visiting Yorkshire motorbuses are expected to attend. There will be the usual cavalcades, sales stands and Isle tours. So make sure YOU are there TOO! Put the date in YOUR diary NOW! - SUNDAY 22ND OCTOBER 1995.



# SANDTOFT '96

HOME OF THE TROLLEYBUS  
SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LTD.,  
Belton Road, Sandtoft, Nr. Doncaster, South Yorkshire.

1996

## Trolleydays

EASTER Sunday & Monday  
APRIL 7th/8th.  
MAY DAY HOLIDAY  
MAY 5th/6th Sunday & Monday.  
SPRING BANK HOLIDAY  
MAY 26th/27th Sunday & Monday.  
JUNE 16th Sunday. 'FATHER'S DAY'.  
JUNE 30th Sunday.  
JULY Sundays 7th\*/14th\*/21st\*.

SANDTOFT GATHERING '96 and  
ISLE of AXHOLME FESTIVAL of  
TRANSPORT, Sunday 28th July.

AUGUST Sundays 4th\*/11th\*/18th\*.  
AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY  
AUGUST 25th/26th Sunday. & Monday.  
SEPTEMBER Sunday 29th  
OCTOBER Sunday 20th "YORKSHIRE DAY".

\* Trolleybus only days reduced admission charge and no Doncaster Bus service.

**TROLLEYBUS RIDES, SOUVENIR SHOP, MINIATURE RAILWAY,  
REFRESHMENTS, SMALL EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS, PICNIC AREAS,  
SLIDE SHOWS, CHILDREN'S DRAWING AREA, TOURIST INFORMATION,  
PLUS OTHER ATTRACTIONS. FREE CAR PARKING AT ALL EVENTS**

**ADMISSION CHARGES for 1996.**

**TROLLEYDAYS : Adults £3.00, Concession £2.00.**

**GATHERING '96 : Adults £4.00, Concession £2.00.**

**TROLLEYBUS ONLY DAYS (\*) : Adults £2.00, Concession £1.00, Family Car £5.00**

FREE bus service from Doncaster : (except Trolleybus Only Days)  
Squthern Bus Station 1.30 p.m., Doncaster Railway Station 1.36 p.m.. Returns to Doncaster from Sandtoft  
at 4.30 p.m.. Journey time approx. 30minutes.

For the Gathering '96 & Isle of Axholme Festival of Transport event details and  
bus services please see separate leaflets published

May 1996. For this and other Publicity information please write to (enclosing a S.A.E.) :-

S.T.C. Publicity, Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN8 5SX.  
We are always pleased to accommodate coach tours and party visits at other times by appointment.



24 Hour Information Line

Tel: (01724) 711391

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10P