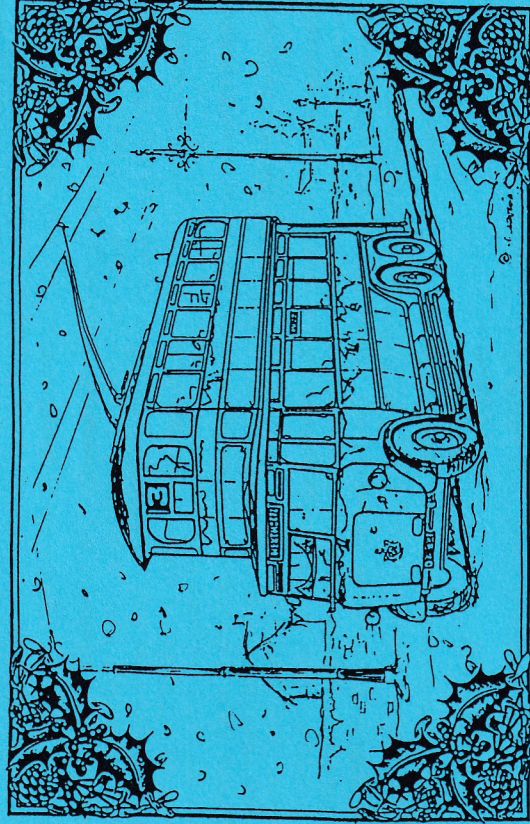


# SANDTOFT SCENE



ISSUE NO. 33    WINTER    1995/6



THE JOURNAL OF SANDTOFT  
TRANSPORT CENTRE



# Sandtoft Transport Centre Limited

Registered Company Number 1747475 Registered Charity Number 514382

Registered Office:  
The Trolleybus Museum,  
Belton Road,  
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South Yorkshire,  
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## Directors:

Chairman & Legal	M.F. Barratt
Managing	J. Sambrooks
Secretary	R.P. Shepherdson
Finance	A.J. Platt
Operations	C.N. Proctor
Facilities & Infrastructure	R.N. Ashton
Development	F.R. Whitehead

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Sandtoft Doncaster South Yorkshire DN8 5SX.

## Sandtoft Scene Editor:

M.F. Barratt,  
Sweetlands  
Pixham End,  
Dorking,  
Surrey,  
RH14 1TP.

COVER: A seasonal (if this edition had been on time!) drawing from Bob Ashton - a Doncaster Corporation Karrier E6 of 1928 with very handsome Roe bodywork depicted on the Hexthorpe route: what would we give to have one of these fine beasts amongst our exhibits??

Contributions and comments (for publication or otherwise) are always welcomed by the Editor. Please write to him at the above address.

## EDITORIAL

### BUILDING WORK AT LAST !!

The big news is that the orders for the work comprising the first phase of the museum development described in the Summer 1995 edition of *Sandtoft Scene* have now been placed.

Planning consent was obtained during August 1995 for the four elements of phase one -

- (i) Extension of existing toilet block to provide disabled facilities, parent & baby facilities an extra female WC and male and female showers
- (ii) Erection of "Axholme Stores" to provide initially two exhibition halls
- (iii) Provision of Children's Play Area with equipment and safety surfacing
- (iv) Provision of Entrance Sign Boards

Negotiations took place with contractors during the late summer and through into the new year to establish what could be built for the money available whilst at the same time achieving a quality end product in terms of both the buildings (and the play equipment and signs) themselves, and flexibility for the future use and possible extension in years to come of the "Axholme Stores" and the Children's Play Area. The board believe that a good end result has now been reached.

Meanwhile, the wheels of the EU machine continued to grind slowly on: the Summer *Sandtoft Scene* (published just before the 'Gathering) reported that a substantial grant had been allocated to us; those of you who were at the AGM in November will be aware that we were expecting at that time confirmation of the grant and hence the green light to go ahead with the projects, but in actual fact, following some "I dotting and T-crossing" recently, the official letter of offer of funding was only received from the Department of National Heritage in London on 6 March 1996. This, in its turn allows a grant from Boothferry Borough Council to be released - only just in time as Boothferry Borough Council, along with Humberside County Council, is disbanded into new unitary authorities at the end of March!

So, the coming weeks will see a transformation at Sandtoft. Once started, the work is scheduled to be completed within ten weeks.

### VISITORS CHARTER

We are pleased to announce that 1996 sees Sandtoft Transport Centre joining the English Tourist Board's Visitors Charter scheme whereby standards for visitors are established and maintained. It is fortuitous that the introduction of the scheme by the English Tourist Board coincides with the museum developments described above and to oversee our new responsibilities under the Charter, a new sub-committee - the Charter Group - has been set up under the chairmanship of Chris Proctor. More information will be given in the next edition of *Sandtoft Scene*.

## THANKS

Due to pressure of work, Michael Barratt has been unable to put this edition of *Sandtoft Scene* together: the board regrets the late publication and is grateful to Dave Shepherd for stepping in to make sure that it does appear - very many thanks Dave! Thanks also to all the contributors and distributors whoever they are!

### Annual General Meeting

The 12th Annual General Meeting was held on 18th November 1995 at what has become our regular venue, the Doncaster Museum. After the opening formalities, the Meeting, attended by 29 members, commenced with the Annual Report to the Company by Chairman, Michael Barratt.

Following the Chairman, Director of Finance Alan Platt laid before the Meeting the 1995 Annual Accounts and answered a number of questions on the Company's finances before finally asking the members to approve the Accounts, this received the full approval of those present.

Next on the agenda were the election of five Directors to the Board. Alan Platt was re-elected unopposed as the Director of Finance and joining him after a paper ballot were 4 Ordinary Directors; Michael Barratt and Francis Whitehead for a three year term of office, Mike Dare and Bob Ashton for a two year term.

The penultimate item concerned the formal re-appointment of the Company's Auditor, David Watson FCA, which received the usual unanimous support.

Finally the official business concluded with the Special Resolution to alter the Company's Articles of Association which, if accepted, would allow the Company to offer direct membership for the first time. In advance of the vote, a discussion was invited by the Chairman, some interesting thoughts and questions were raised by those present, particularly in relation to the future position of the Contributing Societies. On the vote that followed members displayed their universal support for the resolution and the motion was successfully carried.

As is now customary after the end of normal business there followed an open forum, in which members from the floor had the opportunity to question or discuss any issues with the Board of Directors. A long debate ensued on the progress of the current site development projects, Toilet Block Extension, Axholme Stores, Children's Playground and Visitors Centre, together with other site maintenance issues these were the main topics of discussion.

The Directors would like to take this opportunity of thanking David Brown and John Whitehead, who both stood down after the AGM, for their contributions made to the Company during their respective periods in office.

### New Responsibilities for the Board of Directors

At the first meeting of the new Board on 3rd December the roles and responsibilities to be undertaken by each Director were agreed and are as listed below:

Bob Ashton Facilities (Site Infrastructure).

Michael Barratt Chairman and Legal.

Mike Dare Vice Chairman, Marketing & Publicity. RESIGNED IN FEBRUARY

Alan Platt Financial Services and Insurance.

Chris Proctor Operations (Including Chaiting the Charter Group).

Jim Sambrooks Managing Director, Vehicles and Health & Safety.

Robert Shepherdson Company Secretary and Membership.

Francis Whitehead Development Projects.

### Resignation of Director

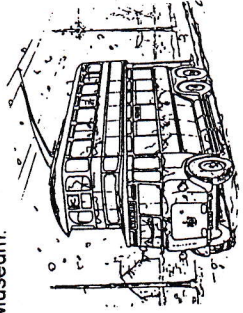
The Board of Directors have regretfully accepted the resignation of Mike Dare, following his recent retirement and the difficulty Mike would have in continuing with his Board commitments. On behalf of the Company, we would like to offer Mike and Beryl our best wishes for the future and look forward to their continued support at the museum.

### Direct Membership

Following the support of the AGM to this proposal, arrangements have been taking place to allow the enrolment of 'Direct Members' from 1st April 1996. This is presently being handled by the Company Secretary, Robert Shepherdson, details can be obtained directly from Robert or the Museum.

### Sandtoft Juniors

For a number of years, the Directors have been considering ways by which the younger enthusiasts, can be encouraged to help in the running of the Museum. Legal constraints prevent anyone under 18 becoming a full member of the Company, however Sandtoft can now offer youngsters the chance to be part of the Museum by joining 'Sandtoft Juniors'. For an annual fee of £3 members will receive their own copy of Sandtoft Scene, free admission to all events, a current fleetlist of exhibits and a number of other benefits currently under consideration. Details can be obtained from the Contributing Societies or directly from the Museum.



### Scene at Sandtoft, December 1995, By Jim Sambrooks

The 1995 operating season is now behind us, the final event of the season being the ever popular Yorkshire Day organised by DOLRS, this years event was better than ever with a record number of vehicles entered including two former Sandtoft Residents. York Pullman 66 now fully restored to original condition with cream wings and West Yorkshire Road Car SMA5, the little Bristol once known as "Sandtoft Bad". Isle tours were operated by a number of visiting vehicles including Yorkshire Tractor's 1935 Tiger and the ex Grimsby Cleethorpes open top Bridgemaster. A Green Goddess fire engine was parked in the Square with a Bedford CA van nearby broadcasting period music from a vintage wireless in an attempt to promote the campaign to save Doncaster's Grand Theatre. Bradford members put in much hard work to make 746 fit to run on demonstration including overhaul of the traction motor at considerable expense. 2450, the Dennis/Alexander trolleybus also made it's first demonstration runs under our wires thanks to the efforts of the Sheffield members, Steve Harrison and it's original designer John Markham. Hull Atlantean 217 also performed it's first Sandtoft duty after a successful MOT when it operated an Isle tour. Four Yorkshire trolleybuses operated, Bradford 706, 735, 834 and Huddersfield 631, Derby utility 172 joined them at dusk but unfortunately derailed and was taken out of service. The Traditional Car Club again supported the event with some two dozen vehicles on display on the centre grass. It was nice to again see steam on the miniature railway, Bob will no doubt tell you more about it in his report. Altogether another enjoyable and well organised event, congratulations to DOLRS in General, MFI in particular, thanks to the Co-sponsors the 118/220 group and Swifts Happy Days Travel.

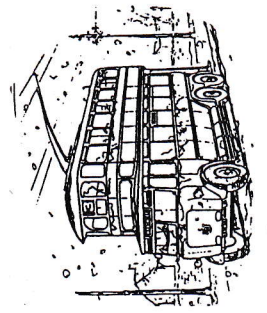
The depot clearance team have been at it again, this time former bus operator CAMPEJOHN'S of DARFIELD, returning with a bus full of garage equipment including a device for turning old oil into new. Attempts to operate the machine so far have only resulted in turning black oil blacker, but I've never known this team to be beaten yet. Late November saw our men on a different mission, dismantling show cases at Doncaster Museum for re use in our Visitors Centre. These were held together with some concealed nuts and bolts, similar in appearance to the old "Clicker Wheel" type of brake adjusters, I don't know what the museum staff thought of us referring to them as brake adjusters though. This is of course the same gang that was involved in lifting traction poles in Bradford earlier in the year.

Older members will remember the ex Sheffield ornamental lamp bracket that once supported the "Moon" outside the trolleyshop, it was one of the first pieces of street furniture on site. This one was removed when a new traction pole was installed, it has been overhauled and awaits re-fitting but a similar, larger one has recently been acquired from Sheffield, this has been hung on a pole near the entrance gate and now illuminates that area.

Vehicles in the news include Nottingham Regent 111 137, changing hands from Andy Newsands to Dave & Bernice Needham. The new owners, who are also owners of Nottingham 506, have already started work on their acquisition. Another Nottingham receiving attention is tower wagon 802, the 1938 AEC Regent, part restored for the 1986 Nottingham Trolleybus Anniversary. Restoration work has been re-started by Ken Hullis and his two sons Neil and Martin. A set of jump leads and the engine started after many years standing, it was a pleasant reminder of times past to hear the once familiar coarse tick over of the 7.7 accompanied of course by the whooping and gulping of the fluid flywheel.

Geoff Welburn has re-commenced restoration of his Bradford PD2 558. It is pleasing to report that Doncaster 112, the 1949 Daimler CVD6 lowbridge "TARBURNER" has received some attention recently. Aiden Proctor, age 11 has been working on the cab interior. Bradford 743 has received a quick coat of paint that has tidied it up considerably. Peter Swift and Dave Shepherd have developed a system of trolleyhead overhaul that has already proved its worth in the reduction of dewirements.

Doncaster 206 was de-licensed after Yorkshire day, it will be replaced next season by Tiger Cub 33. 206 has worked hard for the museum over the last few years and is now in need of a lot of attention. It was seen out in fine style with a trip to a couple of local hostellers conveying not only DOLRS members but those of Doncaster CAMRA and Green Oak Morris as well. Musical entertainment was provided on the way back, one member joining in the occasional "Ya Hoo". I think he meant "Ye Ha" really but even that was inappropriate. A very enjoyable evening out, thanks to our driver Chris Proctor.



### Traffic Report Jan 96, By Andy Thornton

There have only been two running days since the last Report, September was fairly typical of recent events and October (Yorkshire Day). Vehicle wise it was pleasing to see Bradford 746 and South Yorkshire 2450 running on demonstration. For me however the highlight of the event was the tremendous goodwill and team spirit shown by all the volunteers. It would be impossible to list all those who contributed to the success of the event, but I would like to mention and thank Graham and Rob, two newcomers who spent most of the day working as car park attendants, then spent the evening cheerfully helping to put vehicles away. Making a good job of both.

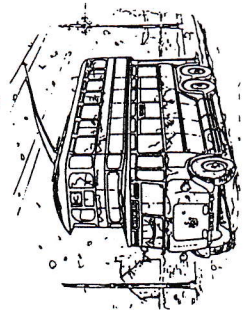
The trainers have been busy again, congratulations to Roz Ford for passing out as a Conductor and Rob Shepherdson who is now a driver.

Again we entertained several visiting parties, one group of elderly visitors from a local care home asked me to convey their heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the event, especially those who assisted with their (Rather Special) needs. A letter of thanks was also received from another party, this time Scouts from Armthorpe.

### Museum Staffing (an appeal), written by Dave Shepherd

The increased number of open days in the 1995 season revealed some weakness in the present informal staffing arrangements for the open days. With the increased popularity of our museum and extra opening days again planned for the 1996 season, unfortunately it has become necessary to ensure a minimum level of staff cover available for each event, it would be a great help to the organisers if we knew in advance who would be available to work on each occasion. For instance, if we knew that 6 trolleybus drivers offered to attend one particular event and none the next, we could ask if some were able to change their plans. With this in mind a roster needs to be drawn up for all events, volunteers for the following duties at each event will be appreciated, Cashier, Rectifier Operator/Leakage Tester, Trolleybus Driver, Trolleybus Conductor, Motorbus Driver, Motorbus Guard, Gatekeeper, Shopkeeper and Cinema Operator. Please advise the traffic office, at the museum address of dates you are available to cover. **YOU SHOULD BE TRAINED IN ANY JOB THAT YOU ARE VOLUNTEERING FOR.**

Similarly if you own a trolleybus and wish it to work or not work on any event please let us know so that we can arrange our schedule.



Sandtoft Scene



### SITE NEWS, By Bob Ashton

#### FROM THE GARDENS

The warm dry days of autumn have given way to the darkness of winter as we enter the second week of December. The first snow fell on the afternoon on the 17th November, but only lasted about 10-15 minutes and thawed soon afterwards. Several days later the mild weather was back again. The carpet of golden brown leaves has now been raked up in the picnic area next to the ex-Sheffield Tram body No. 419, these leaves have been bagged and will make good mulch in about two to three years time. The tame Robin described in the Autumn issue seems to be no more, (could the white cat from across the road be responsible? I am sure it has a certain well fed look). However there are several other Robins on site which give a very tuneful chorus at dusk. Several Wrens continue to use the underneath of ex-Sheffield tram body 442 and the Lecture Theatre for their bad weather and nightfall refuge. As the weather worsens many other species of birds and wildlife will readily take up shelter at the museum. The other species to be seen in the garden areas are the museums hard working gardening team who's task it is now to prepare the gardens for the 1996 season. With the re-alignment of the miniature railway track taking place and spare soil available from the footings of the new miniature railway carriage shed, the front part of the Picnic Area is being levelled and landscaped. 100 new daffodil bulbs have also been planted, some young trees will be re-located during the early part of 1996. The apple trees produced a reasonable crop despite the very dry summer and autumn, these having provided many members with apples for wine making and a quick instant snack, Apple Pie and Custard may also have been on the menu at "Barry's Diner" (however I can confirm a brief sighting of Barry's most excellent Yorkshire Puddings in Dinky Villa).

#### MINIATURE RAILWAY

The Sandtoft miniature railway ended the 1995 running season with steam operation upon the very welcome return of the "Romulus" locomotive for the Yorkshire Day Event. Oil lamps and candles in jars were placed around the quarter mile circuit for the Twilight Cavalcade. It was quite magical travelling on the train with plenty of steam and smoke and the lights twinkling alongside the track as darkness fell. Perhaps next year we can use some special lighting effects to illuminate some outside display panels very similar to those at Blackpool for next years Yorkshire Day. I wonder if Blackpool will be using their Thomas the Tank Engine tabloid for the 1996 illuminations?

A week after the 1995 Yorkshire Day event, one third of the railway track was lifted to prepare the new trackbed and the re-alignment planned earlier this year. The new trackbed is now in place and the new pointwork is under construction, plus a new siding. The original access ramp to the steaming bay was demolished, also the old carriage shed which due to its small doorway and low roof beams has done its best to decapitate the railway members as they entered, if you did not bang your head on the way in, then it would get you on the way out even if you were wearing a hard hat. The footings for the new shed have now been dug ready for inspection by Boothferry Borough Council Building Inspector. 5000 bricks have been kindly donated by Ibstock Building Products Ltd., perhaps better known to many as Belton Brick Works. Tiles for the roof have been kindly donated by Ian Allport of Sandtoft Services with further donation from the owner of a bungalow being rebuilt in Hatfield/Woodhouse. Windows, doors and door frames have been obtained from a supplier at a very reasonable cost. We had to obtain further bricks as the building height and width have been modified to comply with some very recent EU regulations. If all goes to plan some vast improvements should have taken place in time for the Easter Weekend opening of the 1996 season at Sandtoft.

#### STREETLAMPS

Not only was the railway circuit illuminated for the Yorkshire Day Event but the three Great Western Railway lamps along the trolleybus back straight were brought into use using some temporary electric cabling and light fittings, as was the street lamp on the corner near to the main gate. These lamp standards have stood unused since they were put in place in the mid-1970's. It is planned that during 1996 these will be restored and painted in Great Western colours, not the Midland Railway colours as used on the other lamp standards that have been restored so far. We would have preferred to have restored them back to gas operation but regrettably the gas fittings will require major refurbishing, however the gas fittings are retained for use sometime in the future. The street lamp standard opposite the main gate is to receive a restored Brighton top and is to be connected to the lamp in the picnic area which is controlled by a light sensor, so the area by the gate will be illuminated for the members arriving in the hours of darkness. We are about to use the last Brighton fitting that can be restored so we would welcome further donations of light fittings for the street lamps, or even complete with the standard, please let us know as we still have plenty more lighting standards that require tops and other different bases would be useful.

For too long many photographs have been spoilt by the 'topless' street lighting standards that have graced the museum's skyline since they were erected in the 1970's. A good example of these can be seen on the postcard view of Bradford Trolleybus 834, however the offending street lamp has now been fitted with one of the Brighton tops. Perhaps the 'Keep Left' bollards and the Crossing Beacon could be made to work when the master clock circuit is extended from the depot to the Lecture Theatre and the Axholme Stores.

#### LECTURE THEATRE

The junior members helped to operate the slide shows for the Yorkshire Day Event, Charlie from Scarborough gave his usual first class commentary over the P.A. system as the various buses paraded in front of the building. Charlie's Yorkshire style and humour is surely one of the main attractions for this event, I have noticed that many of the members and visitors with video camera's locate themselves so that they can get Charlie's commentary on the sound track. The Yorkshire Day Event being the last event of the year, sees the Lecture Theatre once again take on its wintertime role as a workshop and for storing tables. Most of the V.E. day displays are still in place, the large Union Jack painted on the 8'x4' board will have to be removed shortly, I am going to add 2045 to the years that are painted on the flag before it is put into store, in the meantime new displays will have to be planned and constructed, one possibility, since we have had a front grill of a coach once operated by Hatfield High School Doncaster donated, could be entitled "Gone but not Forgotten", this could also include photographs, registration plates and other 'bits and pieces' from trolleybuses, motorbuses, railway engines or cars that have been broken up. If you have the odd item that can be loaned for display then please let me know, let's see this name plate "Flying Scotsman" is slightly on the heavy side, but I think we could just about manage to fit it on the display panel in the bottom right hand corner.

#### And Finally

The Cardiff Trolleybus Project and the GTF Groupe Trolleybus in Liège (Belgium) extend New Year Greeting to all our members.

Jim Sambrooks has also advised me that, the AEC Mammoth Major once resident at Sandtoft is reported to have re-gained it's original registration and attended it's first rally.

I am sure that I speak for us all in wishing the present owner's of this vehicle our best wishes and every success in the future.

# SANDTOFT '96

## EVENTS FOR 1996

### Trolleydays

EASTER Sunday & Monday

APRIL 7th and 8th.

MAY DAY HOLIDAY

MAY 5th & 6th. Sunday & Monday.

SPRING BANK HOLIDAY

MAY 26th & 27th Sunday & Monday.

FATHER'S DAY Sunday 16th June.

SUNDAY 30th June.

SUNDAY 7th, \* 14th, \* 21st \* JULY.

GATHERING '96 Sunday 28th JULY

SUNDAY 4th, \* 11th,\* 18th \* AUGUST

AUGUST BANK HOLIDAY

AUGUST 25th & 26th Sunday & Monday.

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 29th.

YORKSHIRE DAY SUNDAY 20th October

\* Trolleybus only day reduced admission and no Doncaster service.

**MUSEUM OPEN 12noon to 6p.m.**

**TROLLEYBUS RIDES, SOUVENIR SHOP, MINIATURE RAILWAY,  
REFRESHMENTS, SMALL EXHIBITS & DISPLAYS, PICNIC AREAS,  
SLIDE SHOWS, CHILDREN'S DRAWING AREA, TOURIST INFORMATION.**

### ADMISSION

TROLLEYDAYS Adults £3.00, Concession £1.50 , Family £7.00.

GATHERING Adults £4.00, Concession £2.00

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

At all events, except Gathering, admission ticket entitles holder to 1 FREE trolleybus ride.

#### FREE Car parking,

FREE bus service from Doncaster. \* (except Trolleybus Only Days)  
Southern Bus Station 1.30 p.m., Railway Station 1.35 p.m. Returns to Doncaster from Sandtoft  
at 4.30 p.m.. Journey time approx. 30 minutes.

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 information can be obtained from :- STC Publicity, Sandtoft Transport Centre Ltd., Belton Road, Sandtoft, Doncaster, South Yorkshire, DN8 5SX. (Please include S.A.E.)  
Additional Open Days for the Trolleybuses or the Miniature Railway may be added to the dates above, these will be announced on the 24hr Information Line prior to each additional event.

**SANDTOFT TRANSPORT CENTRE LTD.:-  
Belton Road, Sandtoft, Nr. 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.