

## £40,000 to finish the job



### Recovery

This very tired old bus came into our possession in 2009. It was then 70 years old. We brought it back home to Medway with a plan for it to come alive again and help tell the story of both the area and life generally over its lifetime.

A Business Plan to support future operation and provide financial sustainability has been produced. It proposes a gradual increase in use for educational and social activities over a 5 year period to run from whenever the bus becomes operationally available.

The project has provided a learning experience for apprentices, and has helped to maintain craft skills.

### Reconstruction

The bus has since been completely rebuilt “from the tarmac upwards”. The original chassis and most of the main body members are retained. Coachwork, trim and flooring replacement are now almost complete. What remains – glazing, electrics, upholstery and finishing – are amongst the most expensive areas.



Photos from August 2020



### Recognition

- Chatham Historic Dockyard, Medway Council, Arriva and Nu-Venture support the project.
- The Friends received a Transport Trust Restoration Award in 2018.
- The Rochester Bridge Trust and the City of Rochester Society have made grants.
- The National Association of Road Transport Museums rank the bus in the top 10% nationally of those “which should be saved, restored and made available for the public benefit”.

## Final Funding Appeal Oct 2020

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### Income and Expenditure 2009 to Date

#### Where the money's come from....

	£
Donations from supporters (Includes £80,000 from the late Len Randall.)	150,125
National Lottery Funds	109,800
Local Historical Societies and Trusts	10,000
Gift Aid tax repayments	20,356
Bank interest, sundry sales & other items	<u>14,037</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>304,318</b>

#### ...and where it's been spent:

	£
GKE 68 Restoration work and Materials	<b>270,272</b>
Running costs (Admin, Insurance, Publicity, etc.)	34,046

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### But there is still more to do...

We estimate that up to £40,000 is still required to complete the restoration. "Big ticket" items still to pay for are chroming (drop window frames and various other items), leather hides for seat trimming and a new clutch cover casting. There are several mechanical items where the repair or renewal cost is in £100s. The target sum provides for remaining Coachworks charges.

- We have aimed for an accurate, high-quality restoration to the bus's post-war condition c1950.

- Original pattern seat moquette will be finished with real leather trim, the cost being included in our earlier £250 per seat place invite.

- Some items are available for nominated sponsorship, e.g. headlights (2@£250 ea), drop-window frames (14@£500 ea). Please ask.

### Donations of any amount towards this final push to complete GKE 68's restoration would be most welcome.

Please Pay To: "The Friends of Chatham Traction" or "FoCT"

#### On-line

Bank sort code 40-52-40 Account number 00032126

(Please also email [michaelrhodges011@gmail.com](mailto:michaelrhodges011@gmail.com) with "GKE 68 Final Appeal" as the subject to so we can acknowledge your participation.)

#### By Cheque

Send to: Mike Hodges, 8 Pier Avenue, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2HQ

#### **Gift Aid** increases the value of your donation by 25%.

If you are not already registered with us for Gift Aid please consider doing so. A form of declaration is available from our Secretary Mike Hodges by email or post.