



Friday 4th May 2007.

To:

Chris Gibbons
Rob Gibbons
Tony Broyden
Ian Marsh
Paul Baker
Malcolm Spalding

Roland Graves
John Champion
Phil Evans
Alan Watkins
Paul Winter
Matthew Arnold

Brian Catchpole
Mike Hodges
Wendy Mesher
Geoff Walters
Roger Davies
Gerry Hopkins

Chris Newman
John Grubb
Geoff Abdee

Frank Wright
Brian Smith
Keith Abdee

Colin Durham
Ashley Davis (Rochester VIC)

Martin Pettie

Colin Evans

Committee:
David Swan

Norman Kemp

Bob Ratcliffe

1. Dockyard Easter Event

A useful flag-waving exercise which helped to maintain an appropriate relationship with the Dockyard, which might be handy one day.

Whilst we were a small presence in a large event I think we learnt a bit, and confirmed that there is still an underlying desire to get the bus back home. Some very interesting people stopped by, including a young Stagecoach bus driver keen to get involved practically. Old Medway folk of a certain age who remembered the "brahn buses" were a delight to listen to - strange how many were convinced the buses used to be all brown!

See Alan Watkins' photos at <http://mudlark.fotopic.net/c1250222.html>.

2. Membership & Funding Progress

A modest start, but eight people have signed up for the £20 membership. At the Dockyard, we handed out a fair number of fliers, and sold some copies of ECvBBD plus some donated books. Total funds are now just in excess of £1000, including a much-appreciated individual donation of £200.

Remembering all those hands that went up at the earlier meeting, anyone who wishes to take up the annual membership might send their details to David Swan using the form below. We're aware that some might instead (or as well!) wish to contribute a monthly payment when storage can be arranged. It would be most useful to know the extent of this, and I'd be grateful if anyone so disposed could indicate.

3. Publicity

A press release is proposed when the local elections are over, together with a distribution of fliers to libraries and other community outlets.

A piece by Nick Larkin has appeared in the latest Bus & Coach Preservation. Whilst it contains some factual inaccuracies (Norman Venture??) it does convey the key messages, and we await reaction.

4. Storage!

This is the priority, as to have the bus back in the area would provide a major boost. The press release will include a plea for anyone to identify possible locations, including the availability of any sectional structure that we might acquire for re-erection.

We will shortly contact the REs to see if they have anything to offer, both for storage and practical assistance.

The Dockyard remains the best option. However we will need to respect the official HDC position and perhaps seek to introduce the subject sympathetically.

5. Organisation

Bob Ratcliffe has been asked to join the Committee, in recognition of his many contacts and other involvements in the area.

6. Next General Meeting

An open meeting to follow local publicity of the project.
At the Visitor Centre, Rochester, 11.30 Saturday 9th June 2007.
To be confirmed

The Friends of Chatham Traction

HOW YOU CAN HELP!

1. BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FRIENDS

The annual subscription to 30th April 2008 is a minimum donation of £20. For this you can help with this important new project and see the bus come back to life. We urgently need to bring GKE back to Medway and pay for secure storage.

2. MAKE A ONE-OFF DONATION

This can be as much or as little as you like. You can be sure it will be put to good direct use on the project.

ALL DONATIONS OF £10 OR MORE WILL BE RECEIPTED

I wish to become a Member of the Friends or make a donation

Your name and address:-

.....
.....
.....

.....*Telephone*.....

Email

We hope before not too long that the Friends will apply for Charity Registration and benefit from Gift Aid.

Please return this form to
Richard Bourne at 31 Usher Park Road, Haxby, York YO32 3RX or
David Swan at Appledore, Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, Maidstone ME15 0NL

Please make cheques payable to “The Friends of Chatham Traction”.