

FRIENDS OF CHATHAM TRACTION

Update 21

23rd November 2012

New Rôles.

To support restoration work and to develop the “audience” for the restored bus we need people with specific responsibilities to progress these areas. We’ve developed job descriptions (JDs) for two posts and are offering first refusal to FoCT members and supporters (and their friends and family). These will need to be volunteer posts (a day a week, say) at least until the scope of the HLF bid is established. Click the links below. (JDs enclosed with this Update if by post.)

Restoration Co-ordinator: http://www.chathamtraction.org.uk/jobs/JD_Restoration_Co-ord.pdf
Audience Developer: http://www.chathamtraction.org.uk/jobs/JD_FoCT_Audience_Dev.pdf

Progress on the Bus.

Work on GKE is of course central to what we’re about, and Brian, Rob and Ian are still diligently progressing the work to stabilize the body structure. All the nearside pillars and the rear wheelarch have been replaced, and the focus has now moved to the stress panels and inner wing. The bus itself is looking a bit skeletal. The props are still in place whilst the structure is rebuilt. We’re now equipped to grit blast the cross-members, which will allow protective coatings to be applied.



FoCT Sales

A couple of sales lines are now on offer following recent agreements and developments:

Greeting Cards

Featuring one of Alan Page’s delightful original paintings.
(6 for £7 plus postage or personal delivery/collection).

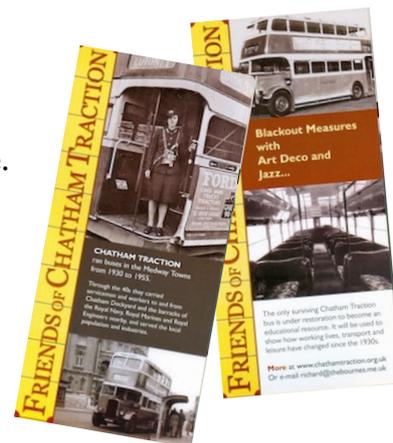


The Jack Turley photographs (held by Dinnages Transport Publishing). Taken during visits to Chatham Traction by the Southern Counties Touring Society between 1948 and 1955 (60p each plus postage or the complete set of 25 for £15 post free).

These items, and photo listings, are available via David Swan – details below.

40s Weekend

Wendy Mesher and I went along to this September event at Chatham Historic Dockyard, armed with our special new leaflet highlighting the buses' contribution to the war effort and 1940s life. We learned a lot about the possibilities of working with enactment and vintage societies. A lady member of one of these turned out to be researching the lives and dress of conductresses, and we should be able to build a mutually useful relationship there, probably involving the M&D Reunion Club. All good stuff in support of the HLF requirements for community involvement!



Website Updated

The FoCT website has been recently been improved, with blank pages completed, maps added, sales links enhanced and access provided to past Updates. www.chathamtraction.org.uk - Have a look!

What was your reason?

In the previous update we invited you to let us know the reason for your interest in the bus and whether there were any obstacles to your being involved further (acknowledging that not everyone wants to!). There's still plenty of time to do this. The most interesting response so far was from Rosemary Charles, who remembered seeing the bus when it was based at Grange Farm in the early 60s. Her mother knew farm owner Joan Stedman and her parents had lived at the farm for a short time immediately following the war. They kept in touch, and made occasional visits. Rosemary was delighted to find by chance a reference to the farm and the bus on-line. There must be lots more stories out there!

Dates:

- 27th December 2012 - Diamond Jubilee Bus Day, Rochester Coach Park. FoCT will be there and we need volunteers to assist please.
- 9th March 2013 - FoCT AGM, Rochester Visitor Centre.
- 30th March - 1st April 2013 - Dockyard Steam & Transport Event.
- 6th April 2013 - South East Bus Festival, Detling. An event built on M&D100 and Bus Club 60. We will aim for something special this time! Again, volunteers please.

In Closing...

Wendy Mesher has been invited to become a Trustee, recognising her already big contribution to the "softer" side of the project, i.e. selling the Friends' aims to the wider community.

And special thanks to Martin Macfarlan and his Portsmouth Leyland TD4 "Molly" for providing a platform, so to speak, for our promotional efforts at the HDC 40s weekend.

All the best...

Richard Bourne
Chairman
01904 766375
richard@thebournes.me.uk

Treasurer: **David Swan**, "Appledore", Charlton Lane, West Farleigh, MAIDSTONE ME15 0NL.
01622 814445 davidswans@hotmail.com
Membership: **Paul Kemsley** 33 Caxton End, Bourn, CAMBRIDGE CB23 2SS
01954 719694 paulkemsley@btinternet.com

www.chathamtraction.org.uk

The Friends of Chatham Traction was formed in March 2007 to restore, exhibit and operate as an educational resource the sole surviving Chatham Traction bus, GKE 68.

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