



The big event of the year was completion of the rebuilding of GKE 68's structural bodywork, thereby producing a framework for the future, as one might say.... The extent of work was such as to satisfy the objectives which were a condition of the HLF award, and was completed within the budget. Some additional costs for necessary enabling work which was outside the strict HLF scope were met from our own funds. On Saturday 31st October members and supporters had a chance to see the result, courtesy of Norman Kemp and Nu-Venture.

The Other Side - Museums and Classrooms

Our HLF award was also conditional on achieving completion of "approved purposes" relating to audience development. Despite the difficulties over the last months of work on GKE, we fulfilled this too, through the events we held and the contacts we made in relation to the eventual use of the bus supported by related memories, artefacts, ephemera and photographs.

Wendy set up a number of meetings with key people. The object in each case was to find out how attractive as a learning topic the bus and the Chatham Traction operation might be, and what we needed to do next. Here's a summary of who we've met and what we learnt:

Simon Lace, Heritage Services Manager (museums, archive, etc) Medway Council

- schools outreach is a growing area, bringing students into contact with the outside world
- we can gain access to an established teacher network
- bringing lesson source to school would be a big plus (no transport requirement)
- gave idea of level of charges we might make for providing learning information.

Jeremy Clark, Education Officer Medway Council

- our range of resources is a plus (contemporary items, stories, map-based content, even some real people! Not to mention an actual bus.)
- primary schools are the likely main focus
- being a local subject is a BIG advantage
- we should provide lesson plans and/or possible learning outcomes as a next step.

FRIENDS OF CHATHAM TRACTION

Sarah Corn, Museums Development Officer Kent & Medway, South East Museums

- guidance on achieving museum status (Association of Independent Museums sign-up), giving both credibility and access to funding.
- help with early setting up of a local display to demonstrate potential to education folk, and perhaps provide public viewing for a limited period.

Sarah also helped us to reach a clearer focus for our Business Case, which boils down to the four areas of activity below.

- completing the bus restoration
- museum/heritage
- education & outreach
- operations/"back office"

How are we doing?

This dialogue with our prospective customer base helped with a recent review of our performance as a Trustee Group which we imposed on ourselves at our "Awayday" a year ago. This was a self-review against a standard template of questions and served to highlight where we might improve things. Emerging from this were the needs to:

- schedule reviews of our governance policies and documents
- tighten the process of electing (and re-electing) Trustees
- formulate an operational budget and funding plan.

More on these things for the AGM.

Memory corner...

I've long had a recollection that there was once a bus crews' canteen in the Brook, somewhere off to the right of this 1959 photo. A meeting back in October with Medway historian Brian Joyce brought the following information from past issues of Kelly's directory:

1951: 25 Brook - Chatham and District Bus Workers' Canteen (G Bradley Sec)

1953: Same but JH Crispin Sec

1959: Chatham and District Social and Sports Club

Gone by time of 1961 directory.

Does anyone remember this? Love to know more...



What's next?

- AGM Saturday 5th March 2016
- More details in the new year

From all the Trustees and me, thanks once again for all the support. Our very best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

Richard B.

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