

TROLLEYBUS

Vol. 62 No. 748

November 2023



The Magazine of the British Trolleybus Society



*Vancouver's 75 Years Celebration
90 Years of Dayton Trolleybuses
Memories of 1963*

TROLLEYBUS

The magazine of the
British Trolleybus Society

No. 748. November 2023

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Printed by Barden Print, Birkby
Huddersfield. Tel: 01484 422522

*Trolleybus should be regarded as
overdue to subscribers if not
received by the 20th of each
month.*

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BTS NOTICE BOARD

Reading Meetings

Held at the Reading District Oddfellows' Hall, 118b Oxford Road, Reading RG1 7NQ. Admission: Adults £3.00, Juniors £1.50. Non-members £4.00. Meetings commence at 19.30. Organised by the BTS. NTA members welcome (Please note that there has been a small increase in the admission charge but that there will now be no charge for tea and coffee).

Meetings Organiser Graham Bilbé, 12 Belle Avenue, Reading RG6 7BL. Email grahamebilbe@btinternet.com

Friday 1 December TBA

London Meetings

Held at The Model Railway Club, 4 Calshot Street, London N1 9DA (nearest Underground station: King's Cross). Organised by the NTA. BTS members welcome. Start 19.00 – doors open 18.30.

Meetings Organiser John Parkin, 59 Beechwood Court, West Street Lane, Carshalton SM5 2QA. Email trolleybus654@aol.com

Wednesday 15 November "Remembering Reading's Trolleybuses" Dave Hall presents pictures and digitised cine looking at the life of the system over the years.

Wednesday 13 December Michael Russell presents 'Trolleybuses in Romania - Then and Now'

Bradford Meetings

Saturday 11 November. A meeting is to be held at Keighley Bus Museum starting at 14.30. See how much has been achieved with Bradford 758. Look round the museum's extensive collection and enjoy tea/coffee and biscuits. There is no charge to attend, but a donations box will be available.

The Museum at Riverside, Keighley BD21 4JP, is a short walk from the town centre via Dalton Lane. Airline bus routes 60 and 60A go from Keighley Bus Station to Leeds or Shipley via Dalton Lane.

West Midlands Transport Circle

BTS members are invited to attend WMTC meetings, which are held on the second Wednesday of every month at Bradmore Community Centre (Main Hall) in Wolverhampton. Doors Open 19:05, Start presentation : 19:30 prompt!, Break (around) 20:30 - 20:45; Finish 21:45: Out of venue by 22:00 Visitor fee £3.00, just turn up and bring others with you. Organised by Mike Richardes. michael.richardes64@btinternet.com

Wednesday 11 October. Subject to be arranged.

MONTHLY PRIZE DRAW

The winners in the October Draw were:

£50 Anthony High, Worcester Park, Surrey
£35 Charles Bicheno, Harrow, Middlesex
£25 Anthony High, Worcester Park, Surrey

On Wednesday 16 August, the day the Vancouver system turned 75, 2040, built in 1947 by CCF-Brill/GE is seen on Richards Street, at the junction with West Hastings Street.

[Tom Douce]

Vancouver's 75th Anniversary

Words and photographs by Rob Chew

The trolleybus 75th anniversary took place on 16 August and while it experienced some hiccups, it was a very successful day. Fan trips for the months of August and September were cancelled due to complications involving insurance and certification, so TMS and TransLink could only provide free rides to the general public on 16 August.

Brill trolleybuses 2040 (1947 CCF-Brill T44) and 2416 (1954 CCF-Brill 48A) took passengers on rides around downtown Vancouver from 9 am till 4 pm. The routing consisted of Cordova, Richards, Pender, Burrard, Davie, Seymour, and back to Cordova. The Solaris Trollino 12 demonstrator made a surprise appearance at the anniversary event.



Upper: 2416 heads off from Cordova.

Above, left: Brill trolleybus 2416 is filmed loading at the departure point at Waterfront Station (Cordova & Richards).

Above, right: Page 204, lower: Happy passengers wait to depart on the 1947 Brill, 2040.

Vancouver's 75th Anniversary

Words and photographs by Tom Douce

Vancouver's first trolleybus services commenced on 16 August 1948, although the formal opening ceremony had been held three days earlier.

Trolleybuses steadily replaced tram services, with the last tram running in 1955. The system has continued to expand since

then and the fleet has regularly been updated.

The present fleet was built by New Flyer, with 188 40 foot trolleybuses supplied between 2005 and 2007 and 74 articulated which arrived from 2006 to 2009.



Left:

Former trolleybus driver Angus McIntyre took a group of visitors to the Vancouver Transit Centre, from where this view was taken on Saturday 19 August.

Note the plane about to land at Vancouver International Airport.

Right:

We later visited a rooftop bar; from there I took this view from McDonald Street looking towards W. 4th Street, showing 2221 and 2239. Route 14 operates between Hastings (Kootenay Loop) and the Blanca Loop temporarily until construction work on the western section past Blanca to UBC is completed. Saturday, August 19th.



Page 205, upper: Seen on W. Cordova Street is 2526 (2233 and 2210 can be seen behind) on 20 August, one of a batch of 74 (2501-40 and 2541-74) built in 2007 and 2009 by New Flyer/Kiepe. Route 8 operates between Downtown-Main St-Marine Drive Station.

Page 205, lower: There are many complex overhead junctions in Vancouver. 2235 is seen on route 41 (Crown-41st Ave-Joyce Collingwood) on W. 41st Ave, crossing Victoria Drive. Some of the wiring is of the non-revenue type, ie journeys to and from the depot. Thursday 17 August.







Page 206, upper: I was informed that a Solaris Trollino 12 was on trial in the city, having arrived on 30 July. I kept a lookout for it. Luckily the junction of W. 41st Ave and Dunbar Street was clear of other traffic as it headed westbound on the former on Friday 18 August. I counted 15 items of "special work" at this location.

Page 206, lower: 2529 is seen at Marpole Loop, once a terminus prior to the eastern extension towards Marine Drive Station. Note the rewiring pans placed to show the automatic repoling facility of the Solaris Trollino. Tuesday 22 August.

Page 207, upper: 2168 stretches its booms as it passes roadworks on Renfrew Street, at the junction with E. Broadway. Route 16 operates between Arbutus-Downtown-29th Avenue Station. The other sets of wires are those of route 9, Alma-Boundary. This is temporarily diesel operated due to the building of the Millennium Line Broadway Sky Train extension. Tuesday 15 August.

Page 207, lower. 2203, seen on Main Street has had to depole and use the battery mode and continue west on that thoroughfare as the usual route along E. Pender Street is closed due to road works. As this is in Chinatown, note that the traction poles are painted red, not the usual green, as the former is a lucky colour in Chinese culture. Sunday 20 August.

LibroDuct: Automatic Wire Contact Project

The German Federal Ministry of Digital Affairs and Transport (BMDV) has awarded funding of approximately €2.5 million (around £2.16 million) to research the feasibility of trolleybuses automatically connecting and disconnecting their trolley booms to and from the overhead lines while in motion.

Known as the LibroDuct technique, the location of the overhead wires and current collectors is detected via stereo-optic pattern recognition by means of digital cameras. Their results guide the actuators of the current collectors (elevation and

rotation) for precise contact with and disconnection from the overhead wires.

If successful the technique would remove the requirement to have funnels on the overhead at specific points for rewiring. It would also remove the need for complex overhead junctions, which would reduce installation and maintenance costs.

The consortium conducting the trials comprises three partners: LibroDuct GmbH & Co. KG (consortium leader), DiaLOGiKa GmbH (both Saarbrücken) and Bergische Universität Wuppertal.



Left:

One of the digital cameras, protected by a shield, is directed towards the trolleyhead.

[LibroDuct]

BTS Calendar 2024

"On the Move" is a selection of photographs of preserved vehicles being moved around the country in the early days of preservation. Tony Belton has picked out a wonderful selection of images (one for each month plus the cover) from his extensive collection and he tells the fascinating story of each one in his inimitable style. There is plenty of space to write in your appointments.

Tony has again kindly donated the cost of printing and so every penny from the sale is profit which goes towards trolleybus preservation.

They make great Christmas presents, so buy lots! £14 including postage and packing by post from BTS Sales 1 Mentmore Road, Leighton Buzzard LU7 2NY (please make cheques payable to British Trolleybus Society) or from the Trolleyshop at Sandtoft. Order online at [British Trolleybus Society](https://www.britishtrolleybusociety.co.uk/).



90 Years of Dayton Trolleybuses

Tom Douce was there for the anniversary

I visited Dayton between 20 and 25 April, except the 22nd, when I did not see any trolleybus operation. Only route 4 was in operation during my visit.

The first trolleybus service opened on 23 April 1933, when the Salem Avenue-Lorain Avenue tram line was converted. From about October 1940, five independently-owned trolleybus systems operated in Dayton, the largest number of independent trolleybus systems to operate concurrently anywhere in the world.

In 1988 the Greater Dayton Regional Transit Authority's board of trustees voted to phase out

trolleybus operation, but a consultant's study reported that in the long-term the retention of trolleybus services was the most cost-effective option as well as providing environmental benefits.

Between 1996 and 1999 Dayton's Flyer E800s were replaced by a new fleet of 57 vehicles built by ETI, a joint venture owned 65% by Škoda and 35% by the U.S. AAI Corporation, and based on the 14 Tr model.

These have now been replaced by a new fleet of 45 battery-equipped Gillig/Kiepe Electric trolleybuses, the last of which entered service in December 2020





Page 209, upper: Seen at the Eastown Hub on 20 April is 2068. The first two digits of the fleet number indicate the year of manufacture.

Page 209, lower: A view of 2053 on Xenia Avenue, seen at the Pritz Avenue stop, also on 20 April. Although on board screens display/state names of upcoming stops (the one shown is displayed as Xenia+Pritz), the stop plates show only the route number and the phone number of the local operator RTA. I did not see any timetables.

This page, above: On 23 April, the actual 90th birthday of the system, I did not see a trolleybus until 1630, when 2057 entered the Wright Plaza stop. I encountered just two trolleybuses that day, the other being 1961, which I boarded for the ride to the Westtown Hub, located off Elmhurst Road. The flexibility offered by on board batteries was shown to good effect on the outbound journey. An incident involving the police and fire departments resulted in a section of West Third Street being closed to through traffic; 1961 depoled and detoured around this via three unwired streets. The inbound journey was unaffected.



Page 210, lower: The western section of route 4 is more rural and less densely populated than is the eastern section-1967 is seen on Hoover Avenue on 24 April.

Upper: Some of the route 4 wiring is located one way along two-way streets. 2057 is seen outbound on Hoover Avenue, approaching the Hoover+Walton stop on 25 April.

Lower: 2057 having just departed from the Oakridge+Westwood stop, is shown turning from Oakridge Avenue into Westwood Avenue Avenue, inbound on 25 April.

Memories of 1963 : Bournemouth 212

Article and photographs by Tony Belton

Great news in this issue with Bournemouth 212 arriving in Reading at the start of its many years of preservation. The date is 17 November 1963 and 212 is being towed by Bournemouth's Guy breakdown wagon FRU 180 from Bournemouth to Smith's Coaches of Reading for storage. Sunbeam MS2 number 212 with Park

Royal body was originally numbered 99 when delivered in 1935. The vehicle gave a remarkable twenty-eight years' service in Bournemouth.

No. 1 in the charts was "You'll never walk alone" by Gerry and the Pacemakers



Above: The photograph is taken as 212 on route 31 arrives at the Columbia Road terminus in Bournemouth on a beautiful summer's evening, 25 July 1963. Note the excellent condition of the vehicle, the overhead and the traction standards. Who could have thought at the time that within six years Bournemouth trolleybuses would be no more?

Page 213, upper: The coupled vehicles are in Southampton Street and about to turn right into Mill Lane. Fellow enthusiasts and myself met the vehicle when it arrived in Reading and the towing crew were more than happy to do a couple of circuits of the town for photographic purposes.

Page 213, lower: The duo are turning left from Mill Lane into Duke Street. Pity it was such miserable day; shortly after these photos were taken and upon its arrival at Smith's it absolutely poured with rain for the rest of the day.

Page 214, upper: This rear view of 212 is taken on High Bridge (also known as Duke Street Bridge), which opened in 1788. It is the oldest surviving bridge across the Kennet and is a grade II listed building.

Page 214, lower: The location is St Mary's Butts where we find 212 parked in front of Reading Sunbeam S7 number 176 at its terminus waiting to depart for Whitley Wood.

Page 215: The final view is of 212 passing under the Simonds Brewery overbridge in Bridge Street







MUSEUM & PRESERVATION NEWS

Edited by Jody White



East Anglia Transport Museum Ride the Lights 2023

Weekends of 2/3, 9/10 and 16/17
December 14.00 to 18.00.

No pre-booking needed. All rides included in the admission price* Museum Shop & Cafe open for gifts and light refreshments* Fascinating displays of vehicles and artefacts around the museum site* *all rides, facilities and attractions subject to availability

Happy New Year 2024

1 January 2024 12.00 to 16.30. Come along for a last chance this winter to ride on our vintage vehicle fleet. We will be running a free bus service to Lowestoft as well as the museum's attractions; what a great end to the year's festivities.

Ipswich Transport Museum The Christmas Cracker

Date: Sunday 3 December 11.00 – 16.00

A festive family themed event. Decorations, lights and entertainment in the museum help get you in the Christmas mood. Ride on Museum vehicles then meet Santa in his grotto. (Entry to the grotto is £1 extra, which includes a gift).

Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft Twilight Trolleyday

Saturday 18 November 11.30 – 18.00

Experience riding on trolleybuses after dark, with the saloon lights flickering as they run through the frogs! This will be the last public opening of the year.

The Museum will open at Easter 2024 for the first Trolleydays of the new season.

Saturday 30 March Trolleydays with demonstrations by the Supersniffers

Sunday 31 March and Monday 1 April 1940s event (also with Supersniffers)

New Appointment.

James Race has been appointed to the new position of Events Manager at the Museum.

Burntwood News

Gateway upgrade

Work commenced on 11 October and by the time you read this the bridge across the ditch should have been widened. Our contractors GNE Construction started with site clearance and the installation of a large pipe in the ditch.

The next phase of the project will be to lay out the new car park and build a new reception. The Burntwood gateway will



Above: Work on the Burntwood Gateway in progress
[DG Chick]

then become the main entrance to the Trolleybus Museum

Plumbing

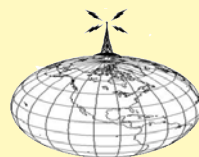
Following the problems with the plumbing earlier this year a new unvented cylinder has been installed, the pipework in the roof space has been replaced and simplified, the old radiators removed and replacement shower unit installed in the main shower room.

The associated electrical work has also been completed.

Page 215, lower: The 1940s event which was held at Sandtoft in September was a great success. Huddersfield 541 is seen lined up with some of the military vehicles that were on display and many of the performers and re-enactors who were there for the weekend.
[DG Chick]

World News

Edited by Bruce Lake



ARGENTINA Mendoza

Trolleybus operation will not be resumed. All of the modern low-floor cars, which have only been procured since 2013, are parked outside, possibly awaiting scrap. Dismantling of the overhead began in September and on some lines had been completely removed by mid-October. The provincial government had repeatedly stated that it was giving priority to battery buses. There has been some public protest against the closure.

CANADA Vancouver

Local press reports about the demonstration of the Solaris Trollino 12 state that the existing fleet of New Flyer trolleybuses delivered in 2006 – 2009 are to be replaced on a one-for-one basis between 2026 and 2029. Translink CEO Kevin Quinn was quoted as saying that the operator was looking at the flexibility provided by In-Motion Charging but it was not guaranteed that it would be introduced in Vancouver.

CZECH REPUBLIC Brno

With the withdrawal of Škoda 21 Trs 3003, 3024, 3035 and 3056 in the summer the number of this type in use fell to 37. With the delivery of further 27 Trs the fleet now includes 70 articulated trolleybuses and in addition to the 21 Trs there are another 22 rigid trolleybuses, giving a fleet total of 129 trolleybuses. In addition to lines 25/26 and 27, lines 36 and 37 are now also served by artics.

CZECH REPUBLIC Jihlava

Following last month's report that there is to be a significant expansion of the trolleybus network, operator DPMJ has announced a tender for the delivery of a total of 12 trolleybuses of 12m length, six of which will have auxiliary batteries. The closing date for bids was 12 October. Delivery must be made no later than 14 months from the signing of the contract. The only evaluation criterion is the price.

For the battery-equipped vehicles, it is expected that operation of 15 km without connection to the overhead will be possible under defined conditions (eg, heating may be limited, but there may also be a defined period of shutdown at the terminus, etc. No. 69 is the first Škoda 26 Tr to be withdrawn. It departed for the scrapyard on 17 October, have seen service from September 2009 until November 2022. Jihlava maintains a modern fleet with a low average age, but it is surprising that 69 is not being sold for further service.

CZECH REPUBLIC Opava

The three new Temsa/Škoda 36 Tr trolleybuses were ceremonially presented at the depot on 20 September. They have been given names by pupils from three local primary schools. Nos. 329 – 331 were named respectively "TURBOUN", "DINOPARK" and "GALAXÍK".

CZECH REPUBLIC Plzeň

On 23, 25 and 30 October a "trolleybus full of music" operated between the main railway station and the bus

station between 13.00 and 17.00 as a fundraiser for the repair and conservation of an historic 1856 Guth organ in St. Adalbert Church in Štáhavy, close to the city. This follows a successful "tram full of music" event in 2018.

CZECH REPUBLIC Praha

The road-testing of the first of the double-articulated Škoda 38 Trs started in Plzeň during the evening of 2 October. As it is a new type, it requires approval from the Railway Authority. Structural and driving tests will take place here and in November the first example will be transported to Prague, where it will have to travel 20,000 kilometers with passengers.

The trials should be completed in February 2024 and at the same time all 20 members of the batch are to be delivered to the DPP workshops. In the first quarter of 2024, bus line No. 119 (Nádraží Veleslavín – Václav Havel Airport) will become trolleybus line 59. The double-track wiring as far as the Terminal 3 stop is currently being installed and is expected to be completed before the end of this year. Operation at Terminals 1 and 2 will be operated in battery mode.

The 24.7 m long trolleybus is powered by electric motors on the 2nd and 3rd axles. The vehicle has five double doors and can carry up to 179 passengers including 52 seated. The entire standing area is 100% low-floor. Platforms and steps under the seats are limited as much as

possible to ensure maximum accessibility. Testing of the first of the SOR trolleybuses continues in Prague. All 15 should have been handed over by 16 April and so far the contractor is liable for almost Kc40 million in contractual penalties for late delivery, out of a total price for the batch of Kc 220 million. The penalties will continue to mount until all 15 vehicles have been handed over.

CZECH REPUBLIC Ústí nad Labem

The first of 33 bodysells arrived at Škoda Electric in Plzeň from Solaris in the first half of September. After having the electrical equipment and traction batteries fitted the trolleybuses will be tested on the local network and then delivered to the operator over the next few months.

FRANCE Nancy

The first two double-articulated trolleybuses were under construction at the Hess factory in early October. The first is expected to be delivered in December for initial testing.

ITALY Parma

TEP presented its eight new battery-equipped Solaris Trollino 12 trolleybuses (5065 – 5072) on 21 September and they entered service on lines 3 and 4 from the next day. They replace the MAN/Autodromo/Kiepe trolleybuses dating from 1997/2000.

They have a passenger capacity of 85, of which 21 can be seated. The three doors have a maximum entry height difference of 32 cm from the ground, which is reduced to 25 cm at the stop

by tilting the bus. LED lighting provides better energy saving.

MEXICO Mexico City

Claudia Sheinbaum's time as mayor ended in June and she is now campaigning to be president. Her promise to put a total of 500 new trolleybuses into service by 2024 should be achieved. To date, 425 new trolleybuses have been delivered to STE, of which 273 are rigid and 152 articulated. All older vehicles have been withdrawn from regular service since January and most have already been scrapped. Only 20 of the slightly modernised cars of the 9700/9800 series from 1998-99 are stored in the northern depot in Aragón and are still available as a reserve. However, this is currently unlikely.

A further 70-75 new cars are to be ordered by private concessionaires.

Among the current expansion plans of the STE is the extension of the elevated route of line 10 (Trolebús Elevado) to Santa Marta, which is expected by the end of the year. It currently ends one stop earlier in Acahualtepec. From Santa Marta, the future 18.5km interurban line 11 to Chalco is also under construction, with opening scheduled in the first half of 2024.

Also planned is an extension of line 10 at street level rather than as an elevated route, from Constitución de 1917 to the Mixcoac metro station. As far as Insurgentes, the overhead of the former line E along the so-called Eje 8 Sur will be rebuilt, where most of the traction poles are still

standing, some of which can be reused. On the stretch from Insurgentes to Mixcoac, the trolleybuses will operate in battery mode.

RUSSIA Yekaterinburg

The Mayor, Aleksei Orlov, announced in October that the city plans to acquire 80 trams, 50 trolleybuses and 60 gas buses. It is hoped that a second batch of 50 trolleybuses will be ordered next year.

SWITZERLAND Neuchâtel

TransN lighTram 18 No. 175 was exhibited at this year's BUSWORLD trade fair in Brussels. It is the 15th of the battery-equipped trolleybuses currently being delivered for the two networks in Neuchâtel and La Chaux-de-Fonds and following the show was delivered to TransN. The lighTram front end has been restyled.

SWITZERLAND Winterthur

Heavy poles have been planted and additional hangers placed in the span wires for a new turning circle (status 9 October) at the junction of Wülflingerstrasse with Hauptstrasse at Schloss Wülflinger to enable peak hour service 2E (a short working of service 2) to turn-back under the wiring at this point. This will avoid additional non-revenue mileage and/or de-polling.

With thanks to: Busportal, David Bowler, Dave Chick, Československý Dopravák, Plzenské Trolejbusy, sustainable-bus.com, Škoda Group, Jan Spousta, Trolleybus Trollino, Urban Transport Magazine, zdopravy.cz

Page 219 upper: Winterthur has joined the ranks of Swiss operators with double-articulated trolleybuses. LighTram 411 has just left the bus station on 21 August. [Jürgen Lehmann]

Page 219, lower: St.Gallen has added to its double-articulated fleet. LighTram 140 is seen on the station forecourt on 26 August. [Jürgen Lehmann]



Rear Cover

Upper: Zurich has also been building its fleet of double-articulated trolleybuses. One of the more recent deliveries is No. 93. [Jordan Gondeau]

Lower: Not every Swiss trolleybus is a Swisstrolley! Genève 1655 is a member of the second batch of Van Hool Exqui.City trolleybuses. Jordan Gondeau]

