

Cumbria Classic Coaches NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

From All at Bowber Head & Cumbria Classic Coaches

FLEET NEWS

Most of the exciting fleet news has happened this Autumn. But I'll give you all a run down of the year. Rosie and Lawrence were painted in the spring, Paul Harrison at Chesterfield did a fabulous job on both of them, then they got the obligatory re sign and were ready for the Easter Rally. No drastic changes on either of them but Rosie has a much more noticeable 'Cumbria Classic Coaches'. From Easter we were busy with our usual season, the regular routes did well although we are going to cut down the season of route 570. Lots of weddings this year and we also managed to attend the Llandudno rally in the Double Decker with the roof off!

However as I said this Autumn has been the time for changes. Firstly the rest of the fleet has been repainted, thanks once again to Paul Harrison. No change in the colours for Florence but the Decker and The Klipper have been returned to their original colours and as I write this they are all awaiting signwriting (lucky Steve). When all has been done we'll take some pics and post them on the website. Of course when a repaint is in order the opportunity is taken for some light bodywork, you know, sorting out the dints where someone has reversed into something, mentioning no names Dad! Or taking off all the panels and replacing the rotten timber (see Ants article on the Klipper rebuild) so some serious body work has been happening since September.

The biggest news however is the aquisition of a new toy for Dad, a 1935 Rover 14 saloon car, mainly for weddings or the odd shopping trip to the Co-op. Read all about the Rover in Dads article.

ROVING IN THE CLOVER

BY WILL

One of the biggest downsides of buying via the Internet is that all your friends, family and colleagues think you are balmy for buying unseen. The next downsides are your own doubts followed by the obvious – that you are balmy!

All this is fairly low risk if you are only buying a 1978 copy of the Michelin Calendar in "unstained pristine condition" from Walsall but imagine the pressure that builds up if you decide to try for a 1936 Rover 14 Saloon car from Ashburton, South Island, New Zealand for advance payment of umpteen thousand of N.Z. Dollars, plus post and packing and only a photograph to go on.

This is what we did between September and December and much communication with owner "Albie" Irvine of New Zealand resulted in the Rover being landed at Felixstowe after about 5 weeks' voyage via Singapore and Zeebrugge. All the jokes about opening the ISO container to find a Dinky toy sellotaped to the floor were unfounded. After a week of delay, due mainly to storms in the English Channel, whilst staying at progressively cheaper hotels around the Suffolk coast, Claire and I collected the most beautiful example

of a 1930's classic car from the container base and loaded it onto a transporter trailer under its own power.

We broke the trip up North with a very welcoming stay with our friends Peter and Margaret in Needingworth who also thought that we had bought a "belter".

All who have now seen, driven and worked on the car agree that it is superb and worth all the loss of hair, bankruptcy and psychiatric NHS support.



As expected unstained pristine condition!

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KLIPPER RE-BUILD

BY ANTHONY

For some time now the woodwork on the Klipper has been a concern as in some places rot has set in and the screws have been jumping out "lemming style" from the body panels so as the coach was going for a re paint it would be the best time to take the panels off and put new wood in. The Alexander body has a steel frame with white ash used to screw the body panels to and give the frame some depth without too much weight.

I did one side then the other so as not to end up with too much going on all at once the panels were off I used the opportunity to clean and paint the chassis then the old wood was taken out and the metal work painted with special paint then new white ash wood was treated with preservative and screwed into place.

Every piece of wood is different and a huge amount of time is taken in fitting and re fitting and then bashing the pieces into place!! The timber round the wheel arches is a work of art curving in two directions at once and this took a lot of copying. Once all the new timber was in place the aluminium body panels were cleaned and re fitted then the trim pieces, which cover the joins and keep the water out (yeh sure). Five tubes of mastic were used to help with the water repellent properties of the trim pieces! After some extensive fibreglass and filling on the wings and other body panels the vehicle was ready to go to the painters, which is where it is as I write this.

A big thank you must go to Gordon Harris whose was invaluable during this project and my father Will who also helped a bit.



Cumbria Classic Coaches

EVERY TUESDAY
VINTAGE COACH TOURS

569 - EASTER ~ OCTOBER

570 - JULY ~ OCTOBER



Tel: 015396 23254

www.cumbriaclassiccoaches.co.uk

ROUTE 569 to HAWES

Outward

Ravenstonedale Kings Head	1007
Kirkby Stephen Station	1040
Kirkby Stephen Square	1050
Hawes Station Yard	1150

Return

Hawes Station Yard	1510
Kirkby Stephen Square	1615
Kirkby Stephen Station	1610
Ravenstonedale Kings Head	1625

ROUTE 570 to Ribbleshead

Outward

Hawes Station Yard	12.40
Ribbleshead Viaduct	13.10

Return

Ribbleshead Viaduct	14.15
Hawes Station Yard	14.45

CHANGES AROUND BOWBER HEAD

In our efforts to retire, we have passed the management of High Sprintgill and Sally End on to our good friends Jim and Julie so have reduced our workload a little. We are still running the bed and breakfast and have installed an Ikea mini kitchen-cum-lounge in what used to be the small double room. Guests can choose to have a self-service continental breakfast or still have the full English in the dining room. You can even cook yourself a mini meal or heat up a pot noodle if you don't want to try the local hostelries!

Alison and Steve moved into the new workshop in January and the signwriting business continues to grow, there is barely a shop or vehicle in Kirkby Stephen that hasn't been signwritten by him whether they wanted it or not, and the proliferation of 'A' boards is becoming a traffic hazard along the A685 corridor. Steve continues to buy any bits of modern technology he can lay his hands on. At this rate they will have outgrown the new premises by the next newsletter.

Will was the big 60 this year so he has got his bus pass. Will and Claire had a mega holiday in India to celebrate. However this coming August we will be celebrating a whopping 100 birthday with Claire turning 60 and Stephen turning 40 within 3 days of each other, so the thinking caps will have to be put on againto see what we can come up with to celebrate this time.

And speaking of raising the roof...we are planning to raise the roof of the centre bay of the bus shed to accommodate the double decker. Unfortunately this means the poor old Commer Commando will have to go out into the open again, the proposed renovation not having been started ... yet again.

Don't forget us if you want an enjoyable break away. You can join us B & B style and experience the buses. You might even get to choose which bus you want us to take to Hawes! You could plan to have a chauffeur driven day out in the Rover – like the good old days with a picnic in a basket! Will and Anthony are refusing to allow us to buy them leather boots and 3/4 length trousers....

Will still has problems with modern technology.

