

Bristol Vintage Bus Group

Registered Charity number 1083056



ANNUAL REPORT

2023 / 24

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The Executive Committee is pleased to report on another very successful year for the Group and presents this report to members.

Outreach

Some school involvement was again possible this year, although they are generally not happy for us to provide rides owing to their safety concerns because our vehicles lack seat belts. Although these are available on hired coaches, they aren't fitted to service buses – so presumably the children are never taken on these either? We did manage to pay visits to three primary schools in the area during the year to show the pupils what public transport looked like years ago.

Under the auspices of the respective Parent Teacher Associations, we were able to provide free rides for the Year 6 (eleven-year-olds) pupils of two local schools as part of the children's Prom celebrations.

We have also been fostering a link with the Museum Service's working exhibits, based at L Shed on the harbourside. Our involvement with them is listed in the Events piece below and we hope to develop this further in 2024/5.

Getting Out and About

STALL

The stall made appearances at the bus rallies at Alton, Barry, Cotswold Barn, Stroud and Yatton. It was also in attendance at the two harbourside bus displays that we organized as well as, of course, our own mini running days in April and October. We also had a particularly profitable time at our big event at the Brislington Park & Ride site in July.

We have successfully introduced card payments to the list of skills acquired by the salesforce.

BUS RALLIES and EVENTS

Firstly, at the end of November 2023, there was a repeat of the previous year's Twilight Run through the city centre, finishing up at the Cribbs Causeway mall. There was some confusion about the route, which led to the small convoy breaking into two parts twice and originally terminating in two different parking places at Cribbs but, overall, a thoroughly enjoyable experience. We shall definitely be repeating it in 2025, hopefully minus any misunderstandings.

The 2024 rally season attendances were as follows:

On 1 April we held our season-opening event at Flowers Hill. One week later than usual because of the early Easter holiday. Another small, but successful event, in spite of the growing problem of other parked vehicles on the trading estate.

May saw us mount a Sunday display of buses outside the M Shed museum on the Bristol harbourside, the Ryde Bus Museum weekend event was attended by Lionel Tancock's Bristol L coach and the Group supported a bus rally at Yatton railway station.

June featured attendances at the Barry Festival of Transport, a display of buses at the Aerospace Museum at Filton, the Royal Blue Run entered by Lionel Tancock with his coach, and our stall and a bus at the Stroud Vintage Bus Show.

July had us at a Classic Coach Gathering in Cheltenham, with Lionel Tancock's and Richard Avery's coaches and a bus at the Alton Bus Rally. The 28th was the date of our Bus Show at the Brislington Park & Ride site. Once again there was a good turn-out of buses and coaches for the event, we managed to offer a good number of free rides, Julie Tancock's refreshments team did brisk business (thanks to them for all their hard work during the year) and both exhibitors and visitors seemed happy with the day. Thanks are also due to the marshals and others who made the whole thing possible. We were also once again extremely grateful to Alan Peters and Mike Walker for their sponsorships.

The first weekend in August was the Gloucestershire Vintage & Country Extravaganza at South Cerney. Another very enjoyable (and profitable) weekend. Congratulations to the crew who stay with the vehicles across the three days. The month also saw Richard Avery's MW bus attend the Victory Park Summer Picnic in Brislington and we attended the Cotswold Bus Rally with a bus and our stall.

September saw attending the Cricklade & Swindon Railway for the first running of a restored AC Railbus, travel there being by MW bus. There was a second buses display of the year outside M Shed, this time on a Saturday to judge any difference in footfall. Lionel Tancock's coach attended the Kingsbridge '76" event and we had a bus on display at Museum Square and some free shuttle runs along Cumberland Road to link Museum Square with Underfall Yard on Historic Harbour weekend at the end of the month.

Vehicles

Concerning the Group's own vehicles, at the start of our reporting year:

- the RE was finally back on the road.
- The Mercedes sat idle for a significant part of the year owing to issues with her rear brakes. Replacement cylinders were not easy to obtain but the work did eventually get done – only for her to need replacement cables for the parking brake by year end.
- The step Dart repeatedly reminds us of her presence. The fuel pump needed attention after leaking on a trip to get an MOT test – turned away - and the injector pipework was replaced. New front tyres were fitted and the windscreens and destination box glass removed and refitted with new rubbers. The fuel pump subsequently failed on the second trip to get an MOT test carried out! The lengthy job of replacing it was started in the current year.

The VR on extended loan from the Aerospace Museum had a leaking radiator, which the volunteers at Aerospace were happy to mend. This turned out to be a protracted business and in the meantime the Group acquired another second-hand to get her back on the road. The original is now back with us. Some attention was paid to the indicator wiring so that she could be (successfully) presented for an MOT test.

There was a bus added to the collection when Culina advised that they were disposing of a Bristol-engined Bristol Omnibus FLF. She was open topped when disposed of by BOC and had subsequently been converted into an event hospitality vehicle, with catering facilities in the

lower saloon and the top deck used as an open viewing platform, with raisable plastic cover. Work was commenced on stripping her out and removing the awning fixed to her nearside. The intention is to re-equip her with seats on both decks and to return her to the road as an open-top bus. She definitely needs a replacement clutch and some refurbishment of other parts of her running gear is going to be necessary.

A photograph of the bus in 'as delivered' state is shown on the front cover of this report.

Work on members' vehicles continued apace:

- a full oil change on the 'J' type seems to have cured the strange noise that the engine was making.
- GHT 154, the Bristol Tramways K5G, needed repairs to her radiator. This ultimately got sent away for professional attention, including fitting a modern core.
- the Western National K6A is another bus in need of a new clutch.
- bodywork repairs were virtually completed on the Leyland PD1. This has left a lot of filling and sanding to be done before a repaint. Her rear springs were sent away for refurbishment and subsequently refitted, as were a new set of tyres.

Towards the end of the year, it was decided that we needed to move on the LS coach formerly owned by the late John Grigg. Mechanical work had been carried out on her by John and body panels replaced before a repaint. She had been completely stripped out internally, however, and with all the other work involved with the fleet there was no way we saw her being restored under our ownership in a reasonable timescale. Having advertised her for sale we were very pleased that she was bought by a well-known preservationist, Roger Burdett, who is in the process of completing her restoration.

Premises

Various work has been carried out on the Flowers Hill buildings including the regular chore of cleaning out the valley gutters. We were contacted by Avon Fire & Rescue as they needed to carry out an inspection of our premises. This threw up a number of issues, most of which we were aware of, but some of which need attention sooner rather than later! This has meant that major work on the electrical installation in Unit H has been put on hold whilst the more pressing issues are addressed.

Media

Josh Hughes has done a sterling job enhancing our social media presence, monitoring the situation for any problematic material. We have a presence on X, Facebook and Instagram.

Finance

Members will note from the Annual Accounts that we had another satisfactory year.

Governance

At the Annual General meeting in March 2024 Richard Avery stepped down as Secretary and this role was subsequently taken up by Aled Rees. Nick Sommer was co-opted by the committee to fill the vacancy and subsequently took on responsibility for the minutes.

Bristol Vintage Bus Group
Income and Expenditure Account
Year ended 31 October 2024

	2024	2023
INCOME		
Rally sales	5,238	3,860
Stock sales	862	404
(1) Other sales	10,040	1,437
(2) Storage charges	5,900	7,616
Donations	2,165	3,453
Miscellaneous income	2,575	1,260
(3) Membership subscriptions	1,190	1,576
Total income	<u>27,970</u>	<u>19,606</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Stock	240	1,092
Rally expenses	930	857
(4) Vehicle expenses	7,717	12,844
(5) Property expenses	7,463	12,650
Sundry expenses	412	814
Administration expenses	418	386
Total expenditure	<u>17,180</u>	<u>28,643</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for the year	<u>10,790</u>	<u>-9,037</u>
Balances at end of year:		
Current account	52,766	41,897
PayPal account	589	331
Total	53,355	42,228

Notes:

- (1) The late John Grigg left the Group his Bristol LS coach. As there was no prospect of our having the time to restore her, she was sold on to a well-known preservationist for £10k.
- (2) John's death meant that the Group lost £100/month of storage income, so despite charges rising a year ago, less money was raised. The space is now being paid for again.
- (3) The proportion of Life memberships grows as the total membership decreases. There may be a need for a recruitment campaign.
- (4) The previous year's exceptional items have not been repeated.
- (5) An overcharge of £2.5k for electricity in the previous reporting year was refunded in this and we continue to find ways to reduce utility cost, eg: fitting LED lighting.

Dayley Lawrence
Treasurer
9 March 2025

Bristol Vintage Bus Group

Annual Accounts 2023/24

Independent Examiner's Report

I confirm that, with the information provided to me by the Bristol Vintage Bus Group, these Accounts are a true and fair representation of the financial situation of the Group.

A Manning

Anita Manning (Mrs)
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24 August 2025