

Preservation Update

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For the information reported here we are grateful to Dirk Budach, Peter Haseldine, Mike Russell, Contactor and Sandtoft Scene. The numbers in parentheses indicate the last issue in which news was published. Members attending events at UK museums are encouraged to send pictures (digital or prints) to the Editor for publication.

Cardiff and South Wales Trolleybus Project (339). On 262 work has continued on the front sliding door, body panels and upper deck widows.

The Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft (342). The museum has announced that it has completed the purchase of a 1½ acre plot of land adjoining the existing site which will increase the overall area of the museum to 7¾ acres. Bradford 746 has received attention to its brakes. The roof of Cleethorpes 54 has been repainted. Good progress is being made with Johannesburg 589 with work to both the body and mechanical components. Following an extensive clean up and attention to the bodywork, Reading 113 was returned to passenger service on 25th August. Reading 144 received a full repaint and was returned to operating condition in time for the Reading event at Sandtoft on 25th - 27th August; it was subsequently taken to its home town in connection with the exhibition held in Reading Museum to mark the 50th anniversary of the system's closure. Reading 174 has been passed fit for passenger service as has its sister, 181. Bournemouth 301 has been transferred to

the museum from its storage accommodation near Reading. Work continues on resolving the issue with the electrical components on South Yorkshire 2450.

CZECHIA, Škoda-Bus Klub Plzeň - Strašice (-). This group has acquired Plzeň 488, a Škoda 21Tr, for preservation. The group has a number of preserved buses in its collection including seven trolleybuses, of which five are operable: Plzeň 403 (14TrM), 432 (14Tr), 464 (15Tr), 488 (21Tr) and Ostrava 3901 (17Tr), and two put aside for eventual restoration, Mariánské Lázně 3 (7Tr) and Plzeň 315 (9Tr).

GERMANY, Solingen Obus Museum (331). Bern 55, a FBW 91GTL dating from 1974, which visited Arnhem in 1976, was featured in *TM* 326 and has been part of the museum's collection since 2003, is to be disposed of because there is no possibility of its restoration in the foreseeable future. It is thought likely that it will return to Switzerland.

ROMANIA, Compania de Transport Public Iași (-). Trolleybuses were operated in Iași from 1985 until March 2006 by the Compania de Transport Public Iași. Currently, the undertaking is establishing a collection of vehicles to represent the development of public transport in the town and, as an example of a trolleybus, has acquired Piatra Neamț 134, a ROCAR 212E dating from 1998 which was new to Piatra Neamț. Out of a total of 97 trolleybuses which operated in Iași, eleven were this model.



Bern 55 is seen inside the Solingen Obus museum premises on 22nd November 2018. D. Budach