



NEWTOWN e-NEWS Spring 2004

The e-newsletter of the Bournemouth Passenger Transport Association

Notes from Newton

Answers to some recent correspondence.

Q: Are there any trolleys left in Bournemouth. I believe 301 has gone up to Leyland, and if there are any left behind, what is their state of preservation?

A: There are still several trolleys here, Sunbeam MF2B 297 (Sister to 301), BUT six-wheeler 212(246), Notts & Derby BUT 353 and Bradford Karriers 711 and 712. 711 is about to be dismantled to provide the trolley gear for 297 which was badly damaged two years ago in a horrendous low-bridge incident in Luxembourg .

You may be aware she was on her way to a potentially very exciting event in the Czech Republic, where she was going to re-enter public service for a trial period on the trolleybus system in Usti nad Labem. The roof etc. has been fully restored and she now awaits a pair of booms and mounting gantry courtesy of 711. (711 came via a scrapyard and is incomplete and in poor condition.) 301 remains in Leyland for the time being.



212 (246), 297 & 154 at Mallard Road depot ©Mark Maidment

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Q: I would like to know whom I contact regarding the state of 246, somebody told me that it was looking rather shabby.

A: 246 (aka 212) was last restored in 1975 (by yours truly). She is therefore looking a little tired by now.

A start was made upon a repaint about two years ago to enable her to attend a Dudley 'Trolleys Galore' event. Unfortunately I found a paint problem in that the varnish put on in 1975 was failing in a way that means it has to be removed as against simply flattened off. Failure to carry out this rather extensive stripping process would leave 212 with an unintentional (but perhaps quite fashionable!) distressed finish.

As 212 has been kept undercover for over thirty years she remains structurally as good as new. The time scale available for the repaint in 2001 meant suspending the work and concentrating on the big move to better premises at Newtown.

In the meantime the Dudley 'gang' came down to test 212 and found her electrical integrity first-class, she is still very much a runner.

Currently tucked inside Newtown and just outside my Office 212 awaits some spring/ summer weather and some of my, rather short in supply, spare time. All offers to help financially and or practically will be gratefully received, the wires at Dudley are available to 212 as soon as we like.

Thanks to Keith Baynton for the answers.