

3rd March 2013
NEWS RELEASE



BEDWAS & MACHEN U.D. COUNCIL

45 year old Bedwas & Machen bus Launched in Caerphilly.

On Saturday 2nd March, the centre of Caerphilly took on a colourful spectacle as the Mayor of Caerphilly County Borough Council, Cllr Gaynor Oliver, officially re-launched a 1968 heritage double deck Bedwas & Machen bus just returned to its original Oxford Blue and Royal Ivory livery. At the morning event, Stagecoach brought along one of their latest buses to join four restored heritage vehicles all originally owned by long gone Councils: a chocolate, cream and yellow bus representing Rhymney Valley and two mid Brunswick Green double deckers originally operated by Caerphilly Council.

All these councils no longer exist; the Urban Districts of Caerphilly and Bedwas & Machen (along with Gelligaer UDC) were merged in 1974 to form Rhymney Valley D.C. and RVDC itself ceased in 1996 with the formation of Caerphilly CBC. On Saturday the star of the day was the blue Bedwas & Machen bus. The municipal transport undertaking was one of the smallest in the UK and this was their last double decker bus and was unique, being the last traditional lowbridge bus built in the UK to the old half cab design with a sunken gangway and bench seats on the top deck.

The Mayor of Caerphilly, Cllr Gaynor Oliver, thanked everyone for coming along and paid special thanks to Julian Peddle, an English visitor to Caerphilly, for allowing the bus to come back to Wales to be cared for by Cardiff Transport Preservation Group at their restoration centre in Barry. The 45 year old bus looked resplendent in its newly re-painted Bedwas & Machen colours, not seen locally for 30 years.

Cllr Ray Davies, Chairman of the Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council, also spoke on behalf of local residents and expressed his pleasure at seeing the Bedwas & Machen name again on the side of a bus. He related some tales of his younger days when he was Chairman of the Transport Committee. When they ran their own buses all those years ago, a report of a bus running two minutes late was taken so seriously that the Transport Manager was told that heads would roll if it happened again. A number of former employees of the bus undertakings came along and three of the heritage buses did a run through the community council area.

Mike Taylor, the heritage bus group's chairman said;

"Judging by comments from guests and the public, we have rekindled some memories for some of the older residents and a reminder of that civic pride that existed for former council employees, all those years ago."

The Cardiff Transport Preservation Group holds their next public event at their 1930's bus depot in Barry on Sunday 5th of May. Free public bus rides will be available along a local bus route using former municipal buses. Later in the year there is the bigger Festival of Transport on 9th June on Barry Island, followed by gatherings in Ebbw Vale and Merthyr Tydfil.

Ends –

Photograph (see separate JPG files)

STAR OF THE DAY



Heritage Bedwas & Machen UDC bus launch in Caerphilly on Saturday 2nd March

(Left to Right):- Mike Taylor Chairman of the Cardiff Transport Preservation Group, Julian Peddle owner of the bus, The Mayor of Caerphilly Cllr Gaynor Oliver, Cllr Ray Davies Chair of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council and Cllr Elizabeth Aldworth Vice-Chair Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



(Left to Right):- Cllr Elizabeth Aldworth Vice-Chair Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council, Wendy Williams of the Caerphilly Ladies Choir in traditional Welsh costume, Cllr Ray Davies Chair of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council and Cllr June Gale Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



Wendy Williams of the Caerphilly Ladies Choir in traditional Welsh costume points out that the name of Bedwas & Machen will now be remembered on a restored heritage bus.

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



Three heritage buses outside the Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council offices, originally the home of the former Bedwas & Machen Urban District Council and home for the blue bus back again after 30 years. These buses had taken The Mayor of Caerphilly and guests to a trip through to Machen and back from Caerphilly.

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



The 1968 Bedwas & Machen bus

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)

BEDWAS & MACHEN U.D. COUNCIL

Above: Recreated period Council Logo

(Supplied by BulletDesign.com)



At home again, since restoration last year from derelict condition, a 48 year old Caerphilly UDC bus passes Caerphilly Castle. *(Photo by Tudor Thomas)*



Caerphilly is a picturesque town with a large 11th century castle with a significant moat. Here Caerphilly UDC 32 returns to Barry after the morning event, bathed in early spring sunshine. *(Photo by Stephen Wren)*



This 34 year old single decker in the colours of Rhymney Valley District Council displays its bilingual credentials with its offside name in Welsh: Cyngor Ardal Cwm Rhymni.

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



Invited guests, included the private owner of this 47 year old Caerphilly Council bus, wearing the last 1970's livery with a cream roof, seen at The Twyn in Caerphilly.

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)

Other photos



This photo shows the proximity of the bus launch to Caerphilly Castle. *(Photo by Tudor Thomas)*



(Left to Right:-
Wendy Williams of the Caerphilly Ladies Choir in traditional Welsh costume, Cllr Ray Davies Chair of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council and Cllr June Gale of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council.
(Photo by Tudor Thomas)



Heritage Bedwas & Machen UDC bus launch in Caerphilly on Saturday 2nd March

Far Left :

Front of Leyland bus.

Left:

(Left to Right:-

The Mayor of Caerphilly Cllr Gaynor Oliver, Cllr Ray Davies Chair of Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council and Cllr Elizabeth Aldworth Vice-Chair Bedwas, Trethomas and Machen Community Council

(Photo by Tudor Thomas)

Note to editor:

The Cardiff Transport Preservation Group was founded in 1992 by a small group of bus enthusiasts; today it can claim a membership of over 120. Vehicle restoration occurs at the Bus Depot in Broad Street, Barry. (Registered Charity No. 1063157).

For more information please see our website: www.ctpg.co.uk

For further details

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