FRIENDS OF CHATHAM TRACTION
Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. 1174323 www.chathamtraction.org.uk

# Update 58

1 May 2022

Richard Bourne
Chair
richard@thebournes.me.uk 01904 766375

## Mayday! Mayday!

## Driveability

Given the decision that the next target milestone should be to make the bus driveable, leaving full restoration of all other details until later, the focus has been on the mechanical work still outstanding. Ian Marsh has been in the lead on this, and I've drawn on his updating emails to describe what's recently been achieved, and what remains.

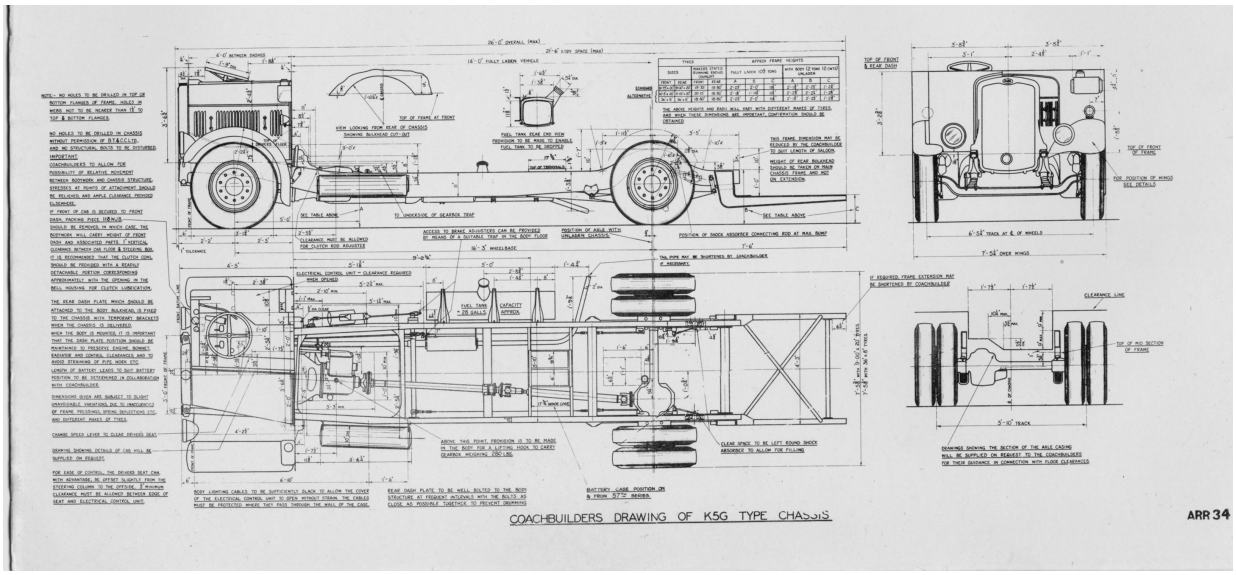
The work divides into six systems: brakes, fuel, cooling, transmission, exhaust and electrics.

- Brake and clutch pedals and brake rods are fitted; new springs and some fasteners needed. New vacuum hoses for the front brakes required (joint procurement with FKL 611). Pipe connection to vacuum reservoir to fit.
- Fuel system pipework to fit, connecting tank, autovac and engine.
- Engine cooling system pipework and hoses to obtain and fit.
- Drive shaft to re-install. Rear springs to change.
- New exhaust and pipework (quote awaited), or repaired original to fit.
- Dynamo and drive from engine to install.
- All chassis wiring to install – starter circuit, battery and charging circuits, distribution wiring. Running lights, windscreen wiper, to fit and connect. (It's a 12V system).

## Help!

It's been a long wait for all you good folk to see the bus actually move under power again*. As is evident there's still quite a bit to do. We have the technical input (available from Ian and Chris), all the major components, a clean, dry, accessible working space, no more big-ticket costs to meet and a number of dependable volunteers. So what's the problem? In a word, supervision. Whilst we have pairs of hands, we are very light on people with appropriate experience in automotive mechanics who can carry out work of the type listed above with minimal oversight. (For a flavour of what's been going on see James Hodgson's latest blog - https://forum.retro-rides.org/post/2729289/thread).

So, it's time, we feel, to cast the net more widely than we have done so far to search for volunteers who have experience in such work and who may be prepared to help speed the bus on its way to roadworthiness. If there's anyone out there with the time and inclination to contribute as a one-off opportunity we'd be very pleased to hear from you!



# FRIENDS OF CHATHAM TRACTION

**Update 58 May 2022**

## AGM

The Royal Engineers Museum at Brompton was a new venue, arranged somewhat in haste. The facilities were very good, however, and we'll retain it as an option. Thanks to Wendy for the arrangements.
The formal business saw reports received and approved and the Trustee board re-formed. A member asked if lists of donated items for fund raising (e.g. books, model buses….) could be circulated to members before being offered via Ebay. An entirely reasonable suggestion and we'll follow it henceforth.

## Trustee Change

Paul Baker has, since the AGM, confirmed a wish to withdraw from Trusteeship. Paul has been associated with the project from the earliest days in 2007. Co-opted to the committee in 2019, and a Trustee from the 2020 AGM, Paul has recently declared retirement! Well, we all try…. The mobile nature of his business provided many of the opportunities to move things around for FoCT, and it's been this logistical support as well as his contribution to the mechanical work on GKE 68 that we have benefitted from the most. Another factor is the opportunity for work on his own vehicles and other interests closer to home (in Cambridgeshire). Paul says: "*I am now working with other owners of similar vehicles and that is proving fruitful as they are at similar stages to FKL 611. I'm still happy to help as per my earlier days with FoCT as and when some specific need arises and I look forward to seeing GKE completed soon".*

## Moving On

FoCT's future is likely to consist increasingly of organisational, educational and local issues as we begin to embed the Medway Heritage Bus into the community. Jeremy Clarke, Education Officer at Medway Council has been contacted concerning the identification of a pilot school to help identify Medway Heritage Bus possibilities. He has suggested that we produce a short promotional video for YouTube, explaining the background to the restoration of the bus, and how it might offer a focus for local and social history in Medway. This sets us a challenge, as the result would need to look reasonably professional. We might therefore need some support for this, so if anyone can suggest a local promotional video producer…….?

## Seats

We've agreed with South West Upholstery in Bristol that work can begin on the seat cushions and backs. All material is available and the work will take just a few weeks. Current thinking is that we'll store the result on the bus – it'll all come wrapped and protected.
Whilst on seats, we're looking to dispose of the old cushions and backs. These have been in storage at a number of locations, and the next step is to collect them all into one place to assess their condition. We'd like to keep at least one cushion+back pair for potential display, but some members and others could be tempted into ownership? We'll let you know when they're available….

***Snippet** – the last time the bus moved under power was on 18th November 2008 on the occasion of filming for BBC South East Today. It was driven by Chris Jenkinson.

## Diary Date

Members' Visit to GKE 68 at N-V : Saturday 28th May 2022. 13.00 – 15.00.
Please register your interest if you wish to attend. Contact Mike – details below.



Secretary Mike Hodges:
8 Pier Avenue, Whitstable, Kent CT5 2HQ
michaelrhodges011@gmail.com

The AGM as a subscription reminder ran true to form, bringing in a welcome amount. Nevertheless if anyone's gone past their stop please contact Mike!

Thanks….