

MINIATURE COACH STARS AT DORCHESTER BUS RALLY

A miniature coach for many years displayed outside the offices of a local coach company was the star attraction at a rally of vintage and modern buses in Dorchester on 16th August. The rally celebrated the launch of a new book on Bere Regis & District Motor Services, and was based at Top O' Town car park which was formerly their headquarters and main depot. The miniature coach was built in 1951 and following the closure of the bus depot was rescued and restored by Geoff Price of Walsall. The author of the book Stuart Shelton also displayed his full size coach, the last Bere Regis vehicle still in existence.

Chairman of organisers West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust (WHOTT), Robert Crawley, said "We were pleased to welcome the Mayor of Dorchester and many of its citizens, together with members of the former Bere Regis company and its successor Damory. Enthusiasts travelled from all over the UK to be present at this unique event, and in perfect weather we carried nearly 2000 passenger journeys on 60 tours of the area with 30 buses. However, given the amount of positive feedback we received, we will consider staging similar events again in future years."

NOTES TO EDITORS

WHOTT was formed in 1998 to establish a museum devoted to the history and development of public and commercial road transport in the West Country. It became a charitable trust in 2000 and now has sixteen vehicles in its care, covering the period from 1929 to 1998, including traditional half-cab single and double-deck buses, luxury coaches, minibuses and commercial vehicles. It also has a growing archive facility that can be visited by appointment.

From 2003 to 2014 the Trust organised an annual transport rally in Exeter but this is the first time it has hosted a major event outside Devon.

Anyone who shares the aims of WHOTT is invited to become a member. Further details can be found at www.busmuseum.org.uk or from Robert Crawley on 01395-567795.