

VINTAGE TAXIS RALLY SEASON GETS OFF TO A FLYING START! *By Mark Cooper*

Held at Wisley Airfield, near Cobham in Surrey, the annual 'Spring Gathering' hosted by the London Bus Preservation Trust (www.lbpt.org) traditionally sees many vintage vehicles emerging into the bright spring sunshine for the first time, having spent the winter months in discreet hibernation. Often these vehicles have been undergone countless hours of meticulous restoration and this year was no exception.

The event saw around 300 preserved buses and coaches assembled for public admiration and enjoyment, accompanied by no less than 15 Taxis belonging to members of the London Vintage Taxi Association (www.lvta.co.uk) as well as an ever increasing number of vintage cars and commercial vehicles. Prominently positioned in the centre of the runway, alongside some of the rarest and most prized of the vintage buses, the Taxis provided a colourful and impressive display spanning 75 years of Taxi production, from Austin 'Low Loaders' dating from 1934 to modern TX4's which are still on their first set of tyres!



In between were a Nuffield Oxford, an Austin FL1, a Beardmore, two Austin FX4s, Metrocabs, Fairways, and even an Asquith.



Several new members exhibited their Taxis for the first time, prompting much interest both from other members and the viewing public alike, and one member even came to visit all the way from his home in Australia, although sadly he couldn't bring his Cab!



A new attraction staged for visitors this year, in addition to the many scheduled trips available on both vintage and modern buses, was the chance to take a ride aboard a genuine Victorian Horse Bus, dating from c.1890. This very rare opportunity proved to be extremely popular, with the bus carrying a full compliment of 14 passengers on the windswept open top deck on almost every trip, with a few less hardy souls opting for the relative comfort of the lower saloon.

The combination of kind weather, good company and a fine array of vintage vehicles all made for a most enjoyable day, and a very promising start to the 2010 rally season.

Details of future rallies and events can be found at www.lvta.co.uk

LONDON TAXIDRIVERS' FUND FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN



NOTICE TO ALL DRIVERS

We welcome drivers to join us on our
'TAXI SAFARI'
to



on **TUESDAY 25th MAY 2010**

We would love you to come and join us and help us to give 300 'special needs' and disadvantaged children a wonderful day out. In case you have any doubts, we welcome all drivers with liveried taxis, coloured taxis and those that have adverts on. (This applies to all our outings).

As well as giving a great deal of pleasure to so many children, we promise you will have a brilliant and fun-packed day out yourself.

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WITHOUT YOU THERE ARE NO OUTINGS  
SO PLEASE CONTACT OUR DRIVERS' LIAISON:

**Susan Angel on 07958 280881**

OR ENTER YOUR DETAILS ON THE VOLUNTEER PAGE OF OUR WEBSITE AT [www.ltfuc.org.uk](http://www.ltfuc.org.uk)

The Hon. President, Hon. Chairman and all the Committee look forward to you joining us for a fun day out 'On Safari'.