

AC Railbus W79978 – restoration update January 2024



It was planned to use the Railbus on the weekend of 23/24 September, so the weeks leading up to this weekend were very busy with several late nights getting everything ready. Exterior and internal panels were refitted, flooring replaced, window refitted, lots of painting and cleaning, seats to fit and full safety and functional checks all completed just in time.



All the hard work paid off. After an initial problem with the doors was resolved, the Railbus ran faultlessly all weekend. A total of 13 round trips each day between Blunsdon and South Meadow Lane, clocking up a total of over 50 miles of running and 350 passenger journeys.





Running weekend over, back to the restoration work!



With the Railbus back in Hayes Knoll shed it was time to start work on the next section.

The outer panel refitted a couple of weeks ago was removed again to gain access to the next section to be repaired. Seats, windows, and interior panels also had to come out, along with the water damaged wooden floor.



A new replacement waist rail has been fabricated. On a long item such as this, great care is required during welding as it is very easy to distort the assembly. Thanks to the skill and patience of Martin Luffman, the new rail turned out perfectly.



The new waist rail has now been welded in position, along with a new vertical body pillar.

The channel running parallel to and below the waist rail at floor level is the heater ducting. This will be the next section to be replaced once the lower side frame is complete.

In April 2024 it will be sixty years since the closure of the Kemble to Tetbury and Cirencester branches. We are planning to have a small exhibition on the weekend of the 6th and 7th April with the Railbus on display and possibly running.

Tetbury goods shed arts centre are also planning to commemorate the event, on Saturday 30th March they are planning an exhibition during the day and a concert in the evening. See their website for further information.

New Railbus shop items!

In Addition to the current range of T shirts and Mugs, we now have new mugs with the Railbus builders plate Logo, and coasters of both designs.



Mugs £7.50 each, Coasters £3.00 each

Mug and coaster set, 1 of each any combination £10.00



T shirts all sizes £15.00 each

All items will be available at the event on April 6th and 7th or can be ordered direct from martin.rouse1966@gmx.com

Thanks for your support.