

## THAMES VALLEY 100 EVENT DETAILS



### CENTENARY OF THAMES VALLEY BUS SERVICES – 2 AUGUST 2015

The Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust (TV&GWOT) is organising a major event to celebrate the Centenary of the commencement of motor bus services in the Thames Valley by British Automobile Traction, the forerunner of the Thames Valley Traction Co.

The first service (No. 1) ran Maidenhead – Reading – Streatley and commenced on 31 July 1915. The service was inaugurated using five Brush bodied Leyland S3.30.T type single deck buses transferred from BAT subsidiary Barnsley & District and operating under the 'British' fleetname.

Remarkably one of the vehicles which started this service 100 years ago, registered HE12, still exists and has been restored to original Barnsley & District livery by the renowned restorer and Leyland expert, Mike Sutcliffe MBE. The BAT original office buildings and the depot building in Caversham Road, Reading, also still exist and appear largely unchanged since 1915. In the photograph on Page 2, HE12 and sister vehicle HE11 are seen outside the BAT offices. Mike Sutcliffe will be bringing HE12 to our Thames Valley centenary event.

TV100 will be held on Sunday 2 August 2015 and will feature:

- A cavalcade of former Thames Valley Traction and associated companies vehicles from Maidenhead to Reading leaving Maidenhead (Bridge Avenue) at 09.10 (the time of the first departure in 1915) and arriving at Reading Station at about 10.30
- A display of the older vehicles on the forecourt of the new Reading Station by kind permission of First Great Western, Network Rail and Reading Borough Council:
  - HE12
  - Thames Valley 1927 Tilling Stevens MO9324 which is on loan from the Southdown Omnibus Trust to TV&GWOT and is currently being refurbished in our workshops
  - TV&GWOT's 1927 GWR Guy FBB which was originally delivered to the GWR Road Motors main works at Slough
  - The London Transport Museum's 1914 AEC B Type 'Battlebus'
- Free bus services on Route 1 (Maidenhead – Twyford – Reading – Streatley) from 10:15 to 16:00
- Photographic opportunities at the former BAT premises and at Reading's Rivermead Leisure Centre

Some 20 preserved former Thames Valley Traction Co vehicles and vehicles from successor and other companies which ran into Reading will take part in TVT100. Lavishly illustrated programmes giving full details of the event including the vehicles taking part, bus services timetables and allocation of vehicles to specific departures together with an illustrated history of Thames Valley Traction are available now for £8 including P&P from TV&GWOT, Ledger Farm, Forest Green Road, Fifield, Maidenhead SL6 2NR.

The event is sponsored by First Berkshire and Reading Buses with the support of First Great Western.

Further information from Colin Billington at TV&GWOT as below, the website or Facebook.

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#### THE THAMES VALLEY & GREAT WESTERN OMNIBUS TRUST

Registered office: Ledger Farm, Forest Green Road, Fifield, Maidenhead, Berkshire SL6 2NR

Website: [www.tvagwot.org.uk](http://www.tvagwot.org.uk)

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Company Registered in England No. 5035702

Registered Charity No. 1125980

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## START OF SERVICES BY BAT – 31 JULY 1915



1913 Leyland S type HE12 seen outside the BAT office in Caversham Road in 1915 and, below, as now restored to original Barnsley & District livery.



THAMES VALLEY CENTENARY - VEHICLES EXPECTED TO BE ON SHOW OR IN SERVICE



The oldest preserved Thames Valley Traction Co bus, 1927 Tilling Stevens B9 Express.



THAMES VALLEY CENTENARY - VEHICLES EXPECTED TO BE ON SHOW OR IN SERVICE



1927 Great Western Railway Road Motors Guy FBB bus outside Slough station and as restored by TV&GWOT Chairman Colin Billington and on long term loan to the Trust.



THAMES VALLEY CENTENARY - VEHICLES EXPECTED TO BE ON SHOW OR IN SERVICE



London Transport Museum's, 1914 AEC B type bus as restored to original condition (above) and as converted for carrying troops on the Western Front in WW1 (below).

