



Cardiff trams 2 and 60 outside the castle in 1947, three years before the system closed. Ian L Wright/Online Transport Archive (ILW-583)

NARTM

OTA has been a member of the National Association of Road Transport Museums (NARTM) since the autumn. The association has about 100 member organisations and acts an umbrella body supporting road transport heritage in Britain. Although this description is not an exact match with OTA – we are not a museum, and our perspective is more than just road transport, and is international as well as British – we share many of the same aims, and are affected by many of the same issues. OTA Chairman Charles Roberts was in attendance at NARTM’s spring conference in Nantwich in early March. Hopefully this will be the start of a beneficial relationship.

In memoriam

We were saddened to have received news that two long standing friends of OTA have recently died. **Tom Turner** was the acknowledged expert on buses in Wallasey and his native Birkenhead. Tom passed over some slides and negatives to OTA some years ago and we are now working with his family to ensure that his comprehensive albums of those fleets are preserved. Tom died in late December at the age of 93. **Mike Jackson** had been a member of OTA for many years. His main passion was shipping and he was an active member of the World Ship Society, also having an interest in industrial railways. Our condolences go out Mike and Tom’s families and friends.

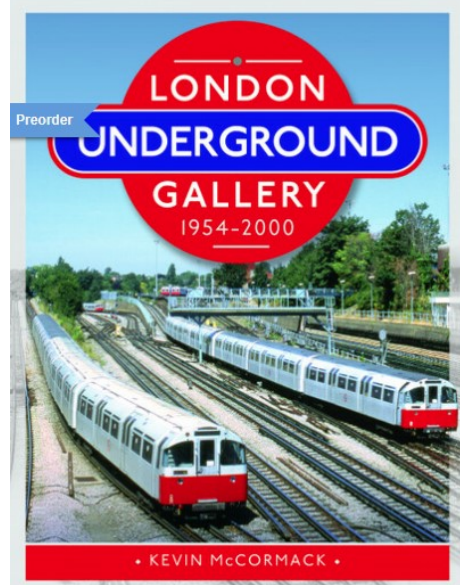
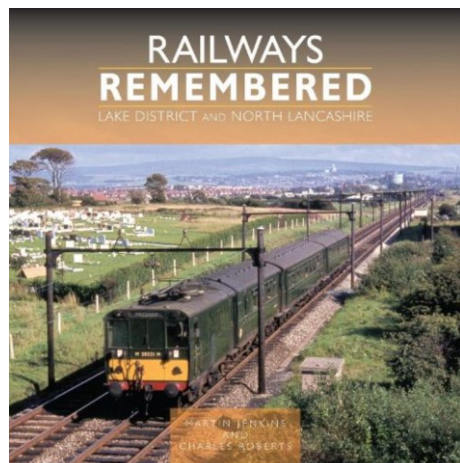


Top: **Tom Turner**; above: **Mike Jackson**; left: **Delegates at the NARTM spring conference in March in Nantwich.**

All images: **Charles Roberts/Online Transport Archive**

Publications

Probably out by the time you read this newsletter is OTA fundraising volume *Railways Remembered: Lake District and North Lancashire* by Martin Jenkins and Charles Roberts (Crécy). Due shortly afterwards is *London Underground Gallery (1954-2000)* by Kevin McCormack (Pen and Sword). Buying these volumes supports the work of OTA and ensures that images are brought to a wide audience.



A reminder of other recent titles which are still available:

- *Railways Remembered: Southern England 1962-1972* (Martin Jenkins and Kevin McCormack, Crécy)
- *'Baby Grands': Liverpool's Last Trams* (Martin Jenkins, Unique Publications)

Other titles are in preparation for publication later in 2026 and early 2027. We'll keep you posted.

Profile: Jim Jordan



Jim at Carlton Colville in 2016, alongside the AEC lorry referred to in the text. Charles Roberts/Online Transport Archive (CCR070771)

Jim Jordan was born in North London in 1937 and has been interested in transport for as long as he can remember. His main interest is in urban transport but he professes to have more than a passing interest in railways and aviation. He is a long standing member of the Light Rail Transit Association and the Tramway Museum Society. As a member of the East Anglia Transport Museum Society, he now volunteers at Carlton Colville. "I worked on the mechanical aspects of trams at Crich and later on trolleybuses at Carlton Colville but in retirement I now work on an AEC Monarch brewery lorry."

He went to Grammar School in

Birmingham, and later studied at Birmingham College of Advanced Technology (later Aston University), Nottingham University and Imperial College. In his working life, he was employed by Handley Page, London Transport (Bus and Coach Development), Lockheed Brakes and Kingston Polytechnic.

He began photography in the early 1950s. "My first photographs were of the last two years of Birmingham Corporation Trams. They were taken with a Kodak camera using 116 film, black and white of course!" He can't recall all the cameras he used, but they include Kodak Retina, Contax, Pentax and a Leica M3, before moving onto single lens reflex with Minolta, Pentax and Canon. In the digital age, he has used various pocket cameras as well as a larger Ricoh.

Jim passed his photographic material to OTA in 2016 and most of it has been scanned. His subject matter is interesting and varied, with him being most active in the 1960s. When pressed on the places he found most fascinating to visit, he came up with "Russia in 1971 with Piatigorsk, and also Karachi in 1969." A couple of his images are featured here, and we are running others on our Facebook page over the next few weeks.

Liège-Seraing bogie car 301. Jim Jordan/ Online Transport Archive (Jjor_01-131)



Profile: Ian L Wright (1926-2022)



The earliest of Ian's black and white negatives date back to the Second World War and his views of tramway systems which disappeared in the very early post-war period are some of the most historically valuable pictures we have in the Archive. We are grateful to his daughter Alison for providing the following biography of her father.

“My father grew up in South Wales and was educated at Cathay's High School, Cardiff before joining the navy towards the end of the war, aged 17, and being trained in

years at Cardiff School of Art studying painting, design and graphic art and trained as a secondary school teacher.

“Dad was appointed to his first job as an art teacher at Raunds High School in Northamptonshire and it was there that he first met our mother, Pat. She completed her teacher training and they married in

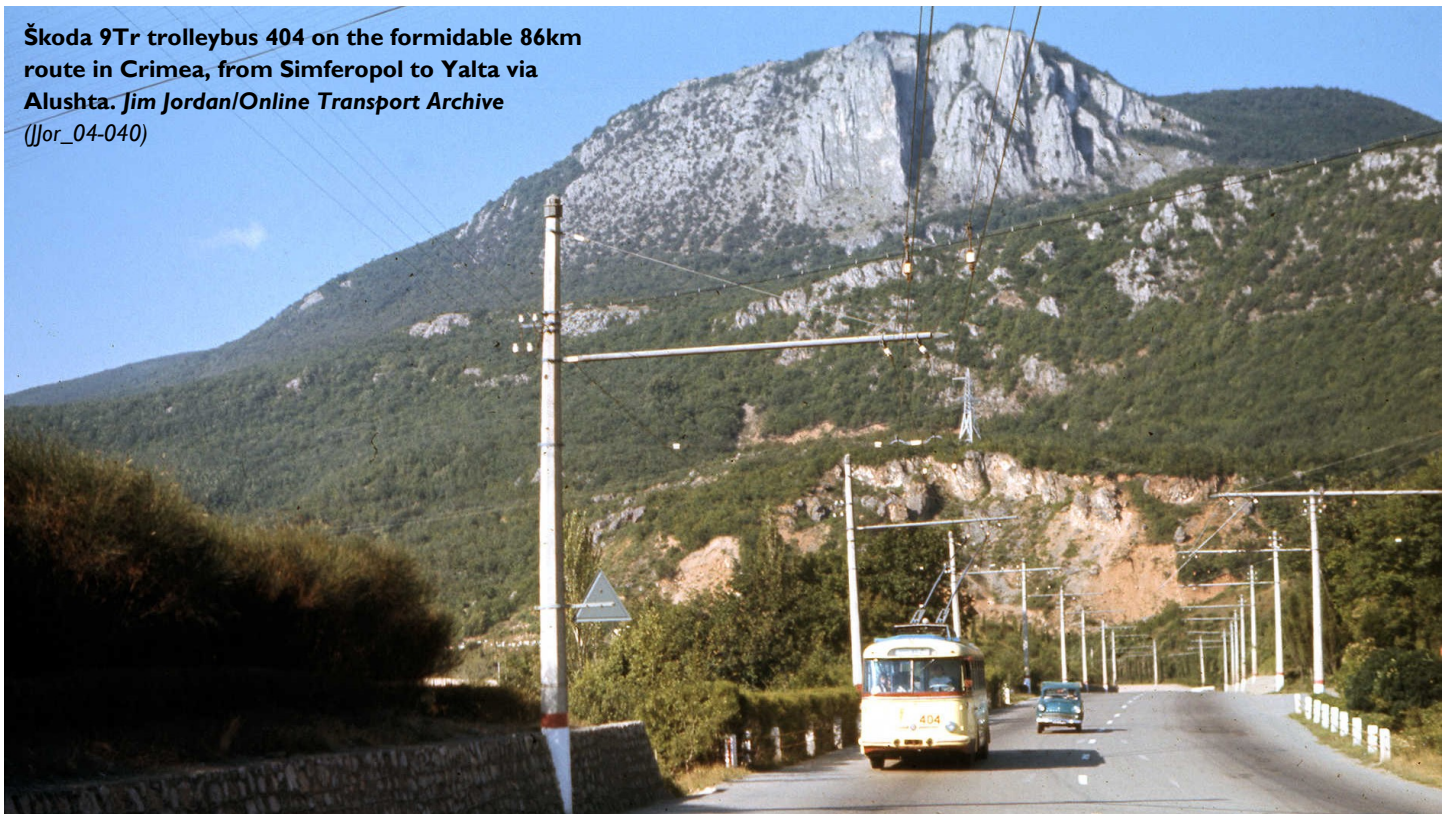


Above: Ian L Wright.
Wright family archive

1960. My brother Andrew was born in 1961 and I arrived in 1965.

“I believe the very earliest photographs were of locomotives in Barry (where he was born) and Cardiff in 1939. His main work was with black and white camera film but there are also colour slides, mainly of rail and canal subjects and their related industrial landscapes and buildings. My father always had a camera with him on journeys so, beyond the UK, he photographed in Ireland, where he travelled with a friend shortly after WWII, and latterly, though less intensively, in Switzerland, France and Italy.”

Škoda 9Tr trolleybus 404 on the formidable 86km route in Crimea, from Simferopol to Yalta via Alushta. Jim Jordan/Online Transport Archive (Jor_04-040)



The Derek Norman film collection

Crosville Bristol LD MG814 (XFM226) in Llandudno. Derek Norman/Online Transport Archive (DN-B010)



Derek's film collection was one of the earliest to reach OTA. In the earliest days of the Archive, the emphasis was on accessioning and curating the material and we were not as thorough at such things as getting biographical information. With the passage of time, some memories have faded but we have initiated a project of trying to fill in some of the information gaps. Mike Skeggs has kindly shared his memories of Derek (who died in January 2004) on which the following profile is based, whilst Martin Jenkins describes the features of his film collection.



Derek Norman (1928-2004), photographed at the Kent and East Sussex Railway, Tenterden in 2001. Charles Roberts/Online Transport Archive (CCR020059)

Mike writes that Derek was born in Croydon in 1928. He received his early education locally, but this was interrupted early in WW2 by his father's job being evacuated to Llandudno. He travelled to and from school by tram so that system became his favourite. Sadly, after about two years in North Wales his father died and his mother brought the family back to Croydon.

On leaving school, he became an apprentice electrician for a local firm before moving in the late 1950s to work for British Railways, initially on station lighting, then in later years transferring to substation work. In his teens, he joined the Air Training Corps and gained proficiency on glider aircraft. He also had a few flights in some interesting propeller driven aircraft. He was a member of various tramway societies and an early member of the Tallylyn Railway, where he did a lot of electrical work for them until shortly before he died. Derek was

also part of the team which restored LCC 106 and the lower section of 1622 at Bonwell Street for operation at Crich. Another activity Derek pursued was model making in both 4mm and 7mm scales, modelling railway and tramway subjects. He also enjoyed travel and participated in many of the tours organised by the late Jack Wise and Frank Hunt.

In the mid-1950s, Derek bought a ciné camera to film transport subjects. His films were also shown at the old O Gauge Tram Group show which ran from 1960 to 1989.

Martin adds: "Derek was a prolific photographer and film-maker covering many of the LRTL overseas tours as well as early preservation activity on the Welsh narrow gauge railways of which he was especially fond. He was one of the first people to make his films available to Online Video and his footage appeared in several Online productions. He was particularly interested in covering the run-down of the London trolleybus system and his film of the 654 (West Croydon-Sutton) is one of the finest examples of trolleybus film-making and always draws rapturous reactions when shown. Above all, Derek was helpful, encouraging and knowledgeable and always keen to share his material."



Leeds 158. Derek Norman/Online Transport Archive (DN-37)