



THE Living *M*emory *A*ssociation **NEWSLETTER**

THELMA says... **When did the last tram run?**



The last trams of the former tram system ran on 16th November 1956, with a procession making the final journey south to the depot at Shrubhill. They carried local dignitaries and members of the public. Many people turned out on the streets to watch the procession. Courtesy of **Capital Collections**.

‘Climbing up the stairs as a six year old was frightening as the tram rumbled away from the stop.’
Says
Zander Archibald.



Tram at the east end of Princes Street, 1956.



Trams were equipped with a sandbox in case the steel rails became icy or greasy from spillages and this was used when travelling up or down the Mound, long before the electric blanket was buried under the road surface. Tickets were issued by the conductor or conductress using a dial the fare TIM. There was also an honesty box into which passengers could drop any uncollected fares. The conductor had to manually detach the overhead trolley at one terminus, swing it round the tram to the other end and re-attach. Cowcatchers were fixed to both ends, to be lowered if there was an obstruction ahead.

Photo shows conductress A. McGuire.
Courtesy of **Edinburgh Transport Dept.**

‘When I was a boy in the late 1940’s early 1950’s I rode the trams all the time. I used to go from Leith to Portobello outdoor pool, then into the arcade on the front to try and win cigarettes to smoke/cough upstairs at the cab at the front of the tram. Rather daring for 10-year-olds. Never smoked again, now 80!’
Says Ian McKenzie.

Edinburgh Corporation Tramways used four-wheeled, double-decked trams painted maroon (madder) and white.



The last tram to run from Portobello to the GPO at Waterloo Place in 1956. It is looking VERY crowded, so it is just as well there was no need for social distancing that year! Do you recognise anyone in the photo?



Trams trundling along Elm Row in 1956. This one is headed for Churchill.

We were told that the tram posts with 'Leith bases' stood originally in Great Junction Street.

'I loved to sit upstairs in the wee cubicle at each end, you could shut the door.'
*Says, **Andrena Crawford.***



Trams on Dundas Street, 1956.

'My mother put the pram on the tram at the foot of The Mound and it took off before she could get on. She had to chase it up The Mound. She managed to get to the next stop in time to rescue my wee sister!'
*Says **Win Veitch.***



A tram with the driver and conductress from 1916.



Tramworks at Ocean Terminal.



The Wee Museum of Memory
 10am – 3pm Mon – Fri
 11am – 3pm Sat/Sun
 Ocean Terminal next to
 Royal Yacht Britannia

We are currently closed due to Covid
 restrictions.
www.livingmemory.org.uk

Do you have memories, stories,
 or photos you'd like to share?
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