

ABOUT THIS BUS

New: October 1952

Number plate: MXX 244

Height: 13 feet 6 inches (4.12m)



This vehicle was built as a standard RLH ("Regent Low Height") bus. The height, 13'4", enabled passing under lower bridges than normal. The reduction was achieved by creating a sunken upstairs gangway along the offside. The seating capacity was 53.

The first 20 RLHs were originally intended for Midland General. However **London Transport** bought these, and then a further batch of 56. They were used in the Central and Country areas for twenty years.



Mechanically, the **AEC** Regent III chassis is similar to the mass produced RT model, with a 9.6 litre engine. The body is a provincial style **Weymann** design, built at Addlestone, Surrey.

RLH 44 began its career in **Country area** green colours, at East Grinstead garage. It also worked from Addlestone, Godstone and Reigate garages before overhaul in 1956, one of three during its service career. It remained in the Country area, based at either Amersham or Addlestone, until the end of its passenger carrying career in 1970.

RLH 44 was transferred to the new **London Country Bus Services** organization on the day of its formation on 1/1/70, but only lasted until 31st July, on which day it worked the last green RLH service; a late night run on route 461A.

By May 1971, RLH 44 had been converted into uniform distribution vehicle **581 J**, by Brewster's Coachworks of Wrotham. Work involved removal of all seats, panelling over the rear platform and most of the windows. Fluorescent lights were provided, using electricity from a shore supply, and translucent skylights were fitted in the roof. Livery was olive green.

581 J was then driven to various London Country garages, where crews would be handed new uniforms over a small counter, which they could then try for size in the fitting room, left of the hinged entrance door. Upstairs, hanger rails stored the new uniforms. 581 J visited Garston and St. Albans garages often.

Declared surplus in April 1982, the vehicle was used as an office for a while at Stevenage garage, until it was acquired for **preservation** by a Mr. Tippetts of Swindon in 1983. The vehicle was painted in the current Lincoln Green livery.

Timebus purchased the vehicle in December 1990. During the next decade, the front upstairs windows were uncovered, and it was used as a crew & storage bus.

In 2008, a major refurbishment included re-panelling most of the exterior, re-instating 2 windows downstairs and the front blindbox, and re-configuring the interior.

The vehicle is now available for static use under the 'Timebus Space' brand, known as the 'Control Bus', particularly for outdoor events. To hire this bus, call 01727 866248, or visit:

www.timebus.co.uk/space

