LNER COACH ASSOCIATION

LNER-designed CCT No. E1308

1950

The LNER Coach Association has three non-passenger vehicles, all of which earn the necessary and so vital role of being used as a store for parts. CCT No. E1308 is one of these.

Built by British Railways at York Works in 1950, this Covered Carriage Truck (CCT) has its design dating from 1939 and there were two batches manufactured. The LNER built 60 of these vans (37'6") and BR built a further 57 in 1950. E1308 is from the later build and would have emerged from York Works in maroon livery.

After a mundane, uneventful life of some 27 years, travelling all over the country in parcels trains, E1308 was condemned at Doncaster Works on January 12, 1977.

A rare photograph taken on September 18, 1994 depicting E1308 when it was supposed to be carrying Internal User number 041344 – at this stage, it was in use by the Works' Horticultural Society and had lost its identity. It is parked next to the Works' car park – the famous Plant paint shop is to the left out of sight. Photo: Hugh Parkin.

Since its movement to Pickering, E1308 has been a long-term resident of Pickering yard and more than earns its keep as one of the LNERCA's stores vehicles. It is on the list for renovation. This picture is dated July 23, 2014.

Along with three other condemned CCT vehicles, E1308 was earmarked for use as an Internal User vehicle, still at Doncaster Works, where it received its IU number of 041344 on May 20, 1977. (04 was the Eastern Region prefix)
When it ceased to be used for storage purposes, a group of Doncaster Works staff unofficially purloined the vehicle where it was used by the BREL (Later BRML) Horticultural Society. It was used to store gardening materials, such as fertiliser etc, bought in bulk then sold to staff who were keen on allotments etc.

It was tucked round the side of the Crimpsall alongside the car park (near the Paint Shop, so beloved of the trainspotting fraternity). This undoubtedly aided its longevity and subsequent preservation. This latter status took place in 1996 when the Garden Club was disbanded and, in a much appreciated gesture, it was offered free of charge to the LNERCA provided the Association paid for its transport to Pickering. E1308 arrived in July of that year. By then it was an anonymous vehicle, all numbers having been obliterated.

It has certainly earned its keep in the ensuing years and has been packed to the carlines with spares. It resided for many years outside the LNERCA's High Mill workshop until 2015 when it was moved, along with the LNER former Restaurant Car (now Upholstery carriage 42969) into the Beck Siding at Pickering station. With the removal of the life-expired points leading into this siding in February 2017, E1308 was moved into the Long Siding but it may well end up residing in New Bridge Quarry.The CCT is now in need of body attention and a plan of action is being drawn up to implement this in the near future.

Murray Brown Founder and Vice Chairman, LNER Coach Association.

If you have enjoyed reading about this historical vehicle, you might like to find out more about the LNER Coach Association, formed in 1979 and affiliated tothe NYMR. We welcome new members and provide a regularly updated website and a quarterly newsletter. For more information please call me – Murray Brown on 01733 578000 or email murray@lnerca.org

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