

# GRAMPIAN TRANSPORT MUSEUM

ALFORD, ABERDEENSHIRE



## EDUCATION SERVICE INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS



*The Grampian Transport Museum is operated by the  
Grampian Transport Museum Trust,  
a private limited company, registered in Scotland No.130066,  
with full charitable status.  
Charity No. SC 017625*



# An Introduction to Grampian Transport Museum

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The Grampian Transport Museum is now in its 38th year of presenting the history of transport in an entertaining and imaginative manner. The exhibits not only show advances in science and technology but are also used to emphasise the impact these advances had on people and society, particularly in the Grampian area of Scotland.



We place a strong emphasis on interactive learning so a school visit is not only educational, helping children to learn about how transport has developed, but it is also fun.

The museum is a great place if you are carrying out an investigation, as it mirrors changes in transport, technology and society. Pupils are welcome to gather information from its extensive range of exhibits, photographs, archival material and videos. Taking photographs and using sketch books are both encouraged and, as always, museum staff will be on hand to help.

In 2017 we introduced an extra level of content via our 'tablet tour'. This proved to be very popular and the information available on the tablets is continually expanding. Teachers can use the tablets to show film clips and extra information to pupils during their visit. Resources are also available from the website. Tailored specifically to meet all levels of the curriculum, these can be downloaded free of charge.

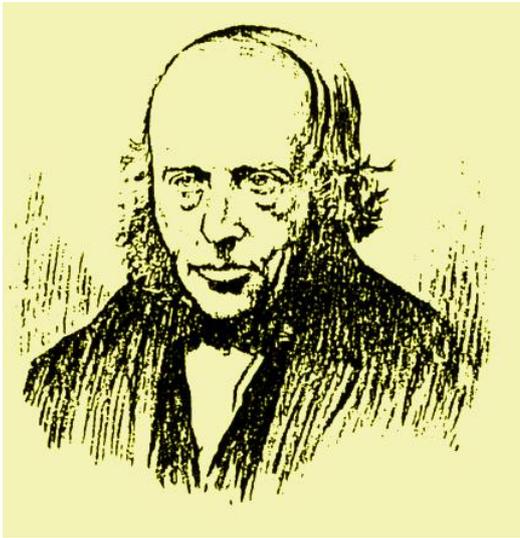
The museum also offers the Junior Driving School experience to small groups of primary school pupils to enhance their learning under the 'Health and Well Being' strand. It is a perfect example of learning through play and a great introduction to 'The Rules of the Road'.



The Young Engineers Club for secondary pupils has its own dedicated workshop. See the website for further details.

*Feedback is always welcome so please do feel free to send in any comments on your visit to the administrator at [info@gtm.org.uk](mailto:info@gtm.org.uk)*

## Probing the Future & It's Electric!



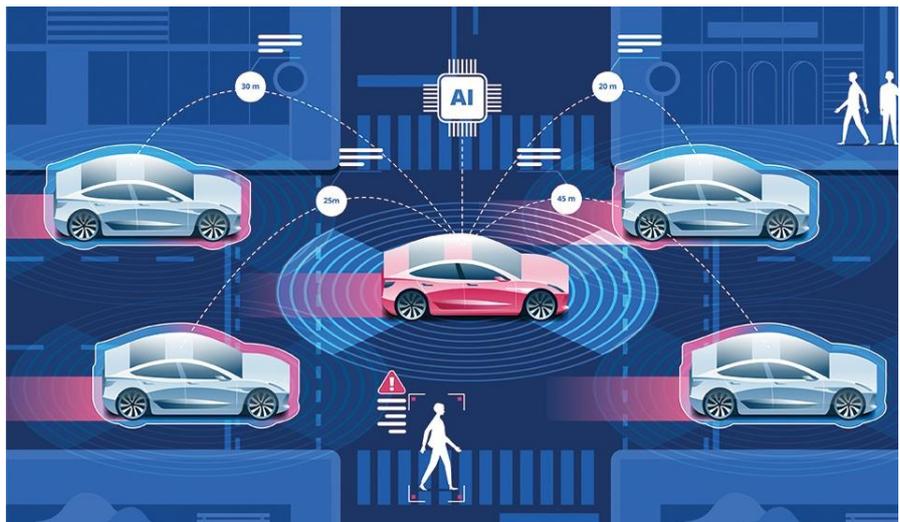
Electric cars are set to replace internal combustion engine cars within 15 years – or even less. In 5 years there could be 50% ownership of electric vehicles (EVs) in the UK.

This museum is following progress keenly and the huge social change that is inevitable as we move towards autonomous cars! We tell the stop start story of the EV which began in 1837 in Aberdeen when Robert Davidson (left) made his electric battery, motor and electric carriage that could carry two people.

Electric cars made a brief appearance from the 1890s to 1908 when the Model T Ford swept all aside. The oil crisis of 1970 saw a briefly revised interest and more recently green issues have seen at first gradual but now rapid advances.

Probing the Future is an extension of the EV story, located in a first floor gallery (accessed by stairs and a new lift). This black box walk through explains the five levels of autonomous vehicles; driverless cars that are now undergoing trials in cities throughout the world.

This display is futuristic with extensive use of video and light boxes. It includes interactive displays that set out to explain how an autonomous car works and exactly how it 'sees' with LiDAR sensors and cameras using artificial intelligence. The huge



social change that the autonomous car will unleash as soon as 2025 is also described with information provided by industry experts and think tanks.

This exhibition sets out to raise awareness and change perceptions about autonomous cars!

# Exhibitions 2020

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**Our roads - who built them and why?** With so much interest in the new motor tours in Scotland (NC500, NE250, Snow Roads and Bridges Tour) we thought we would tell the story of our road network.

We start in AD83 with the Roman march north to subdue Scotland and the Battle of Mons Graupius thought to be close by Bennachie. Then followed Drovers' routes, the military roads to counter Jacobite

rebellions, the coaching era with toll roads, the arrival of railways and road decline and the cycling and motoring era that rescued our roads. The display includes road making techniques and a steam roller and other tools set the scene and we bring the story right up to date with the planning of the Aberdeen Western Peripheral Route

**Guy Martin** continues to lend the museum some of his prized possessions from his amazing life as a motorcycle racer, lorry mechanic, TV presenter and best selling author! New for 2020 are three of Guy's favourite motorcycles including a Royal Enfield Bullet that he rode across the Indian subcontinent during one of his TV programmes.



We continue to display his Saab 96, complete with 'flame' graphics on the wings, and his Gravity Racer from the Channel 4 'Speed' series when he attempts to break the world record for a gravity powered vehicle. The ensuing crash was spectacular but thankfully Guy was unhurt and the damaged kart is on display in the museum.

**New exhibits for 2020** include a massive **British Army Scammell 6 x 6** tank recovery vehicle that is climb aboard (with care!) and a very famous **Rover rally car** that was the 'test bed' for the new Rover V8 engine.

**The 3 'A's'** is a display featuring cars from Scotland's early motoring industry made by **Albion**, **Argyll** and **Arrol Johnston**.



*(above: 1907 Albion A3 Fire Engine, right: 1908 Argyll)*



**The Coaching Era in North East Scotland** is presented through an account of the lives of two of Scotland's greatest coach proprietors: Stonehaven's Captain Barclay of Ury, and Edinburgh's John Croall. The museum has three magnificent examples of horse drawn carriages: a private carriage from Raemoir, Banchory dated 1817 (pictured left), a stage coach circa 1847 and a superb example of the ubiquitous Brougham carriage circa 1880s.

The history of horse and carriage travel is fully explored, and small items on display include weapons carried by mail coach guards and the locked 'London Time' guard's timepiece. There is plenty to wet the imagination with scope for discussion as well as film footage from the past to enhance your visit.

**Climb aboard vehicle exhibits** include a penny farthing, the Cruden Bay Tramcar (pictured right), Aberdeen's last horse drawn tram and, of course, the old favourite Mack snowplough.

**The collection of vintage, classic and modern cars** is of special interest; some of the items being unique to Scotland. A **sectioned and motorised MGA sports car** rolling chassis showing the complete power train from spark/combustion to rear wheels shows how the car has been transformed over the years and continues to change.





**Our cycling exhibition** continues to trace how the cycle has developed through several transport eras – from the original running machine of 1817, to a Chopper circa 1970s, and to the latest state of the art racing bikes that have brought Team GB so much success in the Olympics.

Pupils will not only have the opportunity to **'climb aboard' the Penny Farthing** but also a **'running machine'** and a replica of an **1840s Scottish school bike**, revolutionary for its time as the pedals drove the back wheel.

Adults, i.e. teachers and helpers, will be able to demonstrate to pupils how to negotiate various tough pre-programmed cycle routes using two *smart* turbo trainers. If you have ever wondered how much energy you will need on a leg of the Tour De France, you can now find out. And you can race each other, which your pupils should find most enjoyable!

## Planning Your Visit

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We do advise that you carry out a pre-visit especially if you are bringing pupils to the



museum for the first time. A pre-visit will enable you to see what is on offer first hand, carry out a risk assessment and start to plan how you will organise your pupils. The museum changes every season so it's important that teachers are familiar with the current layout. No charge is made for such a visit and staff will be delighted to answer any questions you may have.

Your safety is paramount and an **advisory Risk Assessment** can be found on the website to assist with your planning. This is issued **AS A GUIDE ONLY** and can be considered and incorporated into your own risk assessment. Schools must follow their own Authority's Risk Assessment Procedures and the GTM can accept no liability for managing the risks identified within a school's risk assessment.

**For 2020 we continue to offer schools a choice of how they wish to structure their visit.** The following 2 options with different pricing levels are available:

**OPTION 1** is a teacher led visit which, as the title suggests, will be led by the teacher and his/her helpers using the museums downloadable worksheets that can be found on our website. The teacher must divide the group into smaller groups led by her helpers and the use of worksheets is encouraged. The worksheets are designed to give the exploration of the museum more structure and educational value.

The admission charge for option 1 will be **£2 per child** and includes a welcome on arrival and use of our lunch space and/or outdoor picnic and play area.

**OPTION 2** is a visit led by our educational team and will include a guided tour which can be linked with particular project work that's being studied in class. The tour will be followed by pupils exploring the museum in small groups. A member of GTM staff will be available throughout the visit to help supervise and answer questions.

The admission charge for this option will be **£4 per child** and includes use of our lunch space and/or outdoor picnic and play area. **This option is not suitable for more than 50 pupils in the group.**

The finale for both options is a not to be missed – a demonstration of the 1923 Mortier Dance Organ (pictured right).

Our Activities Room can be available for use as a base throughout your visit.



## The Booking Procedure

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1. Make a provisional booking by 'phoning the Museum Office or Reception Desk on 019755 62292 or contact us via our website or email [info@gtm.org.uk](mailto:info@gtm.org.uk)  
**Please do book well in advance as the museum is very popular with schools, especially in May and June.**
2. Please give the following details:
  - Proposed date and time of visit
  - Name of school, teacher in charge of visit and contact telephone number
  - Number of pupils and staff/adult helpers
  - Number and details of pupils with special needs and requirements
  - Age/year group(s) of pupils
  - Proposed structure of visit ie. option 1 or 2
  - Approximate departure time
3. **To confirm the visit** the booking form, that can be found on the website, must be completed and returned to the Museum Office as soon as possible.

# 2020 Prices

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## *Pre-visit by Teaching Staff is Complimentary*

School Visit Admission Charges:

- Option 1 Pupil £2.00
- Option 2 Pupil £4.00
- Teaching Staff & Helpers Complimentary
- Junior Driving School £5.00 per pupil (*Max. 16 pupils per session*)

*(Please book Junior Driving School well in advance.)*

- Extra activities will incur a charge to cover costs. Please discuss at the time of booking.



## GTM Booklets:

- 'The Craigievar Express' (The Story of Postie Lawson) £3.00
- 'Snapshots in Time' £5.00
- The Great War – Transport During the Conflict £5.00
- Robert Davidson – Pioneer of Electric Locomotion £9.99

Schools are welcome to copy any educational resource material from our website.

## How to Find the Museum

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The museum is located on the A944 in the village of Alford 25 miles west of Aberdeen.

It is well signposted with ample free parking for coaches directly in front of the museum. For ease of access large vehicles should enter the car park from the western entrance.



# Arrival

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Please try to keep to the timings that you have confirmed at the booking stage. This helps with staffing arrangements and other booked visits. If you arrive early then pupils are **welcome to 'let off steam' in the play area or have a snack on the lawn in front of the museum.**

The teacher in charge should report to the main reception desk a few minutes in advance of the party to complete the booking formalities and confirm timings.

## Museum Gift Shop

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The Museum Shop is located in the reception area and has lots of low cost items that make super souvenirs of a great day out.

This is best visited towards the end of your visit. To avoid congestion and overcrowding please send pupils in small groups supervised by an adult.



## Safety Information

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Please make sure you have enough adult helpers as **children must be supervised by an adult at all times whilst visiting the museum.** It's a good idea to divide your party up into small groups, with an adult helper responsible for each group of children whilst they are at the museum. Please make sure adult supervisors are aware of their responsibilities.

To make the visit a success, please also stress the following to pupils:



- Climb aboard exhibits must be respected. Pupils must not clamber onto other parts of vehicles or jump up and down inside the vehicles. We recommend only one group at a time at each climb aboard exhibit to prevent crowding. Extra care must be taken when accessing these exhibits.
- Hands on items, or exhibits with open access must be treated with care. They should not be moved or handled roughly. Again small groups supervised by an adult are recommended.
- Pupils must stay behind ropes and keep to the walkways.
- **Pupils should walk at all times** not only for safety reasons but also out of consideration for any other visitors present.

- We also ask that noise levels be kept down for the same reason.
- Please ensure that pupils have warm clothing as the museum is kept cool to preserve the exhibits.

## Pupils/Staff with Special Needs

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The museum aims to offer an enjoyable experience for everyone. The main building has full access for wheelchair users. The visually impaired or deaf can be satisfactorily accommodated but please ask in advance for details of any assistance that may be required.

## Toilet Facilities

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Inside the museum there are well equipped toilets including unisex disabled facilities. (Please note there are only 2 female cubicles so girls' toilet visits may need to be staggered!) Toilets can be used on arrival or throughout the visit. Remember (especially if you have a large group) that mass use of the toilets can be time consuming and it is not always advisable for everyone to use the facilities on arrival.

## Picnic Lunches

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In fine weather the frontage lawn provides a good 'picnic' area. However, if the weather is poor, lunches can be accommodated in the activities room by arrangement but we would appreciate the room being left as you found it. No food or drink can be consumed within any part of the exhibition area. The Traveller's Rest tea room will be open for teas and coffees for adults. Ice cream can also be purchased if ordered in advance. There is a self-service coffee machine in the reception area.

