

The very keen members of the BPT Group are already at the bus stop when I arrive, and I greet the rest as they turn up. Interesting to note the variety of clothes today, Jeff does not have his shorts even though it's a sunny day, has Pam anything to do with his choice I wonder but not aloud. Several look as if they think the weather may turn for the worst (how dare it) as the handles of umbrellas (Pam's is a designer one of course) can be seen poking out of the tops of the bags. Only Beryl is wearing a raincoat and I am in collar and tie, but that's no surprise. There are two other ties to be seen, Stan and Colin are also wearing them, never seen either of them without one, good 'Old School' gentlemen are we. Looking at the other men I decide I may make it a condition of acceptance for the next trip that all men have to wear ties. Might cut down on the numbers a little though. Perhaps I might extend the dress code to ladies glasses and ask Jacqui to draw it up for me? The bus arrives just before the designated leaving time, only five or six people get off. I thought that more people would have been glad to get out of Newport.

"Thank you everyone, this is our bus and please could you board it, making sure you have your passes ready PLEASE. By the way Jennie, have you received your new bus pass yet? Jennie's pass was confiscated by the bus driver on our trip to Llantrisant. You have..... well done".

We are on the bus and pulling away from the bus stop as Sally produces her bag of mints which she hands around. The designated 'mint providers' for the next trip will be two of our newer members, Kim and Stephen Bell, hope they make them Werthers Originals!

"Welcome aboard ladies". Whenever we use the X30 Pat and Lilian, as they live not very far away from the Heath Hospital bus stop join us there, and of course, they also get off there on the way back!

We join the motorway and then travel along it to Newport hoping that the roadworks we encountered last month do not delay us again. They didn't but the delay this time was on the M4



itself.

"You should have seen this section on my way up" intones our driver, but I think it will clear soon. When I joined the motorway coming from Newport it looked as if the roadworks were just packing up". And so it proved and the traffic started to move; gradually and then at a faster pace. Arriving at Newport bus station with only a little time to spare, originally we would have had a 20 minutes wait for the Usk bus; the No 30, which goes all the way to Monmouth. I hope that everyone will notice when we get off in Usk, otherwise it's quite a trip back for them.



"Been there, done this bus" I hear some of you say, as last month it was also the No 27 we caught to Caerleon". And away we go. But the bus is a bit different to last time!
