

Eric the Viking – a restoration in many parts – June 2017

Spend since last report: £49.10. Total hours labour since last report: 36.75

Warmer weather, progress and confidence fill the latest report.

The offside chassis rail almost underneath the back of the driver's seat used to be joined to the front top hat and the support section between the rails.



All bad metal was cut out.

The two main chassis rails had enough metal to merit adding top hats across them, if only that last piece got finished to add the middle support below the back of the seats. Getting close to putting bits in, I need to paint some parts!



Then.... Drum roll please. Time to weld in a purchased part not cut up bits to patch chassis rails. Keep me covered, I'm going in. Front top hat positioned and welded, done it, my bete noir, 138 hours of learning, false starts, working on the sliding door instead of a non visible part, I did it.



Then the painted support under that new piece welded in.



Wow, looking great. Next come the jacking points and I actually don't like that flat plate instead of the bulge behind the passenger seat. A weekend to fit, 90 seconds to chop out.

Near side jacking point in.



Offside needed the bulge tidying. Progress and pleasure in equal quantities. Now the fourth top hat almost at the back of the sliding door, both of them new and silver from Just Kampers then the third, old but unused, heavy and black that came with the bus, chosen as the middle one for strength under the floor when you step in. Four big supports fitted then welding the brake lines, gear selector and other tubes to these new pieces and tidying up, more sanding of surrounding areas still rusty but not rotten.



The fifth floor support, its middle support beam under and the offside jacking point also came out ready for replacement. OS rear jacking point had a lot of filler and underseal and you know that from the smell and the speed that the cutting disk moves through it.



If there are 4 completed, let's get this spraying on the road. My first go at spraying from the spray gun not a rattle can.



As we prepare for our first non UK trip in Poppy, I have had a go at welding some security devices, stripping and spray gun painting all five original steel wheels, stripping and spray can painting the cab floor and fitting a split charge system. Making our bus better and prettier. Because we can. Bon voyage, see you when we get back.