

JOIN US

BECOME A MEMBER

Membership is open to anyone wanting to be a part of supporting this project.

As a Member you will be fully supporting the 'return to glory' of one of the most iconic third rail EMUs in existence. Annual Membership Fees are £15 Adults / £10 Juniors (17 and under).

As a member you will receive:

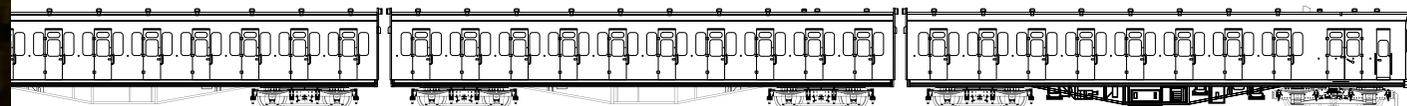
- > Regular newsletters reporting on developments and progress with the project, as well as articles about the classic working years of the 4-SUB units
- > Your own individually numbered membership card
- > The chance to purchase official 4-SUB merchandise before it goes on sale and with a members' discount
- > Opportunities to join-in/attend group events

Visit www.4sub4732.co.uk to download a Membership Form



HELLO

4-SUB association



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Introducing the 4-SUB Association

ABOUT THE 4SA

The 4-SUB Association (4SA) was formed in 2017 following the announced closure of Coventry's Electric Railway Museum where the last 4-SUB unit No. 4732 has been stored and displayed since 2007.

It was apparent that the future success of any plans to restore the unit would require both a new high level charitable trust and a supporting group to promote the project. The 4SA was formed to fulfil that second role.

In conjunction with the Heritage Electric Trains Trust, the owners and project managers of 4732, the 4SA's role is to provide support in fundraising, promotion and 'hands on' assistance.

The train that brought you home

From the 1950s through to the early years of the 1980s the 4-SUB unit was the face of suburban rail travel in south and south-west London. If you were returning from work, school, shopping, a football match or a family day out back to your suburban home, then this was the train that got you there.

The first 4-SUB units were built by the Southern Railway in 1941, but due to the demands of WWII work did not start on the construction of the bulk of the fleet until 1946. Between then and 1951, a total of 175 new 4-car units were built.

The SUBs differed from previous EMU builds in having all steel bodies of welded construction. Internally their layout was still very traditional with a mix of closed compartments and semi saloons with high density 2+3 seating in an effort to provide as many passengers as possible with a chance of getting a seat during the frenzy of the morning and evening rush hours in and out of the South London terminal stations of Victoria, London Bridge and Waterloo.

Trains of SUB units, working either alone or in multiple with class mates were the backbone of these services for over 30 years until they were phased out in the early 1980s. During their working life each unit covered hundreds of thousands of miles and was responsible for millions of individual passenger journeys without ever having been substantially modified from the original design.

Just one complete unit survived the withdrawal of the class and that is why the 4-SUB Association exists.

THE PRESERVED UNIT



The preserved 4-SUB No. 4732 (pictured) was built at BR's Eastleigh Carriage Works in 1951 and was one of the last batch of SUBs to be constructed. Throughout its working life it was just another unit in the fleet but that changed in 1982 when British Rail recognised the sterling service and iconic status of the units as part of the fabric of suburban life when they retained one complete set and stopped it from going the way of the rest of the class to the breakers yard.

This solitary last survivor was repainted green and kept in retirement by British Rail for the next 13 years where it was used on charters, special events and open days as a celebrity of travel from that bygone age.

In 1998 with British Rail now fragmented and privatised, there was no longer any protection for 4732 and a group of enthusiasts bought her at scrap value and stored her at the Electric Railway Museum site near Baginton on the outskirts at Coventry. The closure of the museum in October 2017 prompted a need to develop a long term plan to secure the future of 4732 to ensure she has a retirement plan that allows her to be both seen and operated in the future. The Heritage Electric Trains Trust has been formed with the aim of planning this major project and the 4-SUB Association is the group to join for those who are supporting this exciting and historic project.

