

## BBC Learning English – Ask About Britain

### About this script

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### 关于台词的备注:

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### Trolley Buses 英国的无轨电车

John: It's John and Jean here, and Ask About Britain today is all about trolleybuses.

Jean: 无轨电车, trolleybuses. 来自青岛的 Li Chao 同学给我们来信, 询问英国的无轨电车是什么时候开始就停止使用了, 停止使用的原因, 以及英国政府是否有计划重新开动无轨电车, 还有问到英国有没有这样记载无轨电车历史和信息的博物馆。

John: First there is a museum with trolleybuses in it, the London Transport Museum in the Covent Garden area, newly refurbished in November 2007. Oliver Green is the Head Curator there.

Jean: He's the Head Curator, 他是博物馆的馆长。我们首先问到为什么当初英国的交通规划师, the transport planners, 会决定开通使用无轨电车, 而后来又决定停止使用了呢。博物馆的馆长给我们介绍了英国电车轨道的电力分布系统, the tramway electrical distribution system 就是无轨电车当时使用的这个系统。还有柴油发电 diesel power. 他还给我们讲到了当时的“石油危机” the oil crisis, 就是在 70 年代由于石油价格的骤涨而造成的。

### Insert

*The trolley buses were seen as a cheaper way of running electric public transport services because they were cheaper to run than trams. They were used as an alternative to trams from the 1930s basically, and in London for example virtually the whole of the London tramway service was converted to trolleybus operation during the 1930s. That conversion programme ended at the war, and then after the war they actually found that it was no longer that advantageous to go with*

*trolleybuses rather than conventional diesel buses because there was a need to modernise quite a lot of the old tramway electrical distribution system. And, at that time the cost of providing electrical power was not actually any cheaper than diesel power, and this is before we got into the oil crisis, and that sort of thing. So ironically, they decided to replace trolleybuses from the 1950s and in London they got rid of them all by 1962 at the very time just before the cost of providing oil based bus services was beginning to go up.*

John: So Li Chao, the London trolleybuses lasted for about 30 years from the 1930's until 1962. But there were some other reasons why they were removed from London's streets.

Jean: Ashley Bruce 来自 the Electric T-Bus Group, 这是一家向国会等政府组织施加影响的所谓压力集团 the T-Bus Group is a pressure group. 这家集团想把英国的无轨电车重新开通使用。那就让 Ashley 给我们讲讲英国的无轨电车为什么寿命如此之短呢?

### Insert

*In the mid-fifties, you have to remember that the cars were seen as the future and there was really no environmental agenda at the time. And really oil and cars and diesel buses were seen as the future, and it has to be said there was an oil company executive on the committee that made the decision in 1954.*

John: So will there be new trolleybus systems in UK cities? Ashley Bruce is convinced there will be.

### Insert

*The really good news is that Leeds, a large northern English town, is going to build a three route system. It's got a hundred and fifty million pounds so far towards the scheme, and that's going to replace a tram scheme, because trams are now seen as being too expensive to build in most places. So Leeds has straightforwardly replaced a tram scheme with a trolleybus scheme which has all the advantages of the tram. And also in Sheffield they are thinking of doing the same thing, because they've got a scrapped tram scheme that's going to be replaced by trolleybuses.*

Jean: 英国北部的两座城市，利兹和谢菲尔德，都计划重新开通使用无轨电车。因为无轨电车拥有有轨电车的环保优势 the environmental advantages of trams.

John: So, what trolleybuses can you see in Britain today? Well, there are two museums where you can see them.

Jean: 大家不妨去拜访一下英国东北部城镇当卡斯特当地的 Sandtoft 交通运输中心，在这里有一家无轨电车博物馆，或者也可以到伦敦的新交通运输博物馆来看看。 Oliver Green 给我们介绍了一下伦敦这家博物馆的情况。

John: Are there trams and trolleybuses on display?

### Insert

*Well there'll be one of each, a typical London tram and a typical London trolleybus on display in the new museum.*

Jean: 听起来实在不错。这家博物馆就坐落在伦敦市中心的 Covent Garden 地区，在这里我们可以了解到英国过去的交通运输工具 the transport of the past, 还有未来的交通工具 the transport of the future.

John: Exciting! Email your Ask About Britain questions to:

Jean: [chinaelt@bbc.co.uk](mailto:chinaelt@bbc.co.uk) 大家发邮件过来就能和我们 BBC Learning English 直接取得联络，所以希望大家能够多多投稿！ Bye for now.

### Glossary

trolleybus 无轨电车	environmental agenda 环保议程
curator 馆长	trams 有轨电车
pressure group 压力集团	committee 委员会
electrical distribution 电力分布	diesel 柴油
vested interests 既有利益	transport of the future 未来的交通运输

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