



HOLD TIGHT: Aboard their vintage London bus are, from left, Martyn Burr ridge, Geoff Williamson, Kevin Gostling and Graham Huckle with Evie, 3, and Daniel Gostling, 5

London bus on new route for charity

SHE may be nearly 60 and have more than two million miles on the clock, but a group of enthusiasts from Wareside have still hopped aboard to become the proud owners of a vintage London bus.

The men behind the venture are hoping to restore the 56-seater to its former glory, travel to rallies, school fairs, carnivals and village fêtes and use the vehicle to promote local businesses and charities.

The consortium includes Martyn Burr ridge, of Babbs Green, whose 17-year-old daughter Chantelle died after a car crash on the B1502 between Rush Green and Great Amwell last August.

He wants to use the bus to promote a monkey-shaped maize maze he is planning to grow in fields

By ABIGAYLE BARBER

barbera@hertsessexnews.co.uk

around the village in Chantelle's memory.

"It was my idea to buy the bus and it turned out that Geoff Williamson, one of the other guys, was a closet bus fan!" said Martyn.

"We looked at buying a Routemaster but there was a huge waiting list. Then we were offered RT1206."

The bus, which cost the consortium £7,000, was operated by London Transport from 1949 until 1976 and was used as staff transport by the makers of Matchbox toys for six years.

Mr Williamson said: "It's a dream come true for me. I've always been into vintage vehicles, but buses more than anything.

"It's a new hobby for us

and we don't want to keep her tucked away in a shed."

The other members of the group are Martyn's brother Nick Burr ridge, Kevin Gostling and Graham Huckle.

Work on the maize maze is already under way and the land is due to be ploughed this month.

All proceeds from the maze will go to Chantelle's memorial fund, which has so far raised £7,000.

A portable ventilator has been bought for Princess Alexandra Hospital in Harlow, where Chantelle fought for her life for four days. The Burr ridges hope to buy another piece of equipment for the intensive care unit.

● *The bus is available for hire. Call Geoff Williamson on (01279) 771272 or go to www.RT1206.com for more information.*