

The Trident

The Monthly Magazine of the GB Bus Group

GB-BG



Our Scottish Area Reps Bus – ULS658T Leyland Fleetline ECW H43/30F at Beith

Photo TG

Web Site – www.gb-bg.co.uk



Volume 2



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President: Steve Swain – Southdown PSV

Chairman: Gerald Nicholls,
e-mail: Gez.Stagecoachnorthwest@btopenworld.com

Vice President: Jeff Hall, 3 Ingham Grove, Hartlepool, TS25 2LH
e-mail: jeff@gb-bg.co.uk

Vice President: Chris Morton, 14, Keble Grove, Sheldon, Birmingham, B26 3DD
e-mail: chris@gb-bg.co.uk

Secretary: Maurice Brown, 192 Alvechurch Road, West Heath, Birmingham B31 3PW
e-mail: maurice@gb-bg.co.uk Telephone : 0121 624 8641

Treasurer: Frank Gold

Membership: Maurice Brown, 192 Alvechurch Road, West Heath, Birmingham B31 3PW

Editor: David Sharpe, 25, Lynfield Road, Great Harwood, Blackburn, Lancs, BB6 7TS.
Telephone : Home: 01254 887127, Mobile: 07944 718429
e-mail : david@gb-bg.co.uk

Sub Editors

Preservation and Rallies: Maurice Brown – as above

Web Site: Jeff Hall, 3 Ingham Grove, Hartlepool, TS25 2LH

Area Representatives

Eastern Counties – Chris James, 13 Station Road, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3TA
e-mail: chrisj@gb-bg.co.uk

London – Gerald Nicholls,
e-mail: Gez.Stagecoachnorthwest@btopenworld.com

Midlands – Dave Francis,
e-mail: dave47549@hotmail.com

North East of England – Steven Hodgson, 26 Orwell Close, Biddick Hall Estate, South Shields
Tyne and Wear, NE34 9JT
e-mail: steven@gb-bg.co.uk

North West of England – Gerald Nicholls,
e-mail: Gez.Stagecoachnorthwest@btopenworld.com

Scotland – Thomas Graham, 80 Corrie Avenue, Stenhousemuir, Falkirk
e-mail: thomas@gb-bg.co.uk

South East of England – Ken Pitt, 52, Loxley Close, Church Hill South, Redditch, B98 9JG
e-mail: kenneth.pitt06@btinternet.com

South West of England – Geoff Colclough, Tim & Simon Jennings

Sightings - Arthur & Debbie Shelton, 111 Rodney Close, Ladywood, Birmingham, B16 8DP
e-mail: rovingart@aol.com

All reports and queries are most welcome by forwarding to the relevant person above. For further information please ring, write or e-mail Maurice Brown.

Noticeboard

Editors Bit

Gosh how time fly's. It hardly seems like it was summer (what summer I hear you ask), and now here we are with the Christmas issue. I would like to thank all the Area Editors for their hard work during the year, it has made my job easy, and a big thank you to Maurice for his efforts and keeping me on the straight and narrow. A full magazine as usual, but make it your New Years resolution, to send us some information, sightings, photographs or anything you feel might interest the readers out there. All that it leaves me to say is on behalf of everyone at GB-BG and the Trident Team, have a happy Christmas and all the best for the New Year. Good spotting...David



Membership Details

Membership of the GB Bus Group is £13.00 per year. This gives a monthly magazine and 20% discount on all HB Publications Bus Books. Please make cheques and Postal Orders to GB Bus Group

Welcome to new members – Bryn Evans (Loughborough), Brian Fair (High Wycombe), Mark Fitzgerald (Manchester), W.A. Garnett (West Yorkshire), Jason Moxey (Exeter), Keith Prosser (Worcester), B.A. Wheeler (Bedford) and Alan Rose (Barking)

Contributions

Thanks go to contributors : Mike Enstone, Stephen Evans, Arthur Mourse, Robert Moore, Chris Morton, Keith Myatt, Anthony Walton, Andrew Williams, Lee Wardle, Dave Stewart, LOTS, Ross Newman, Tony Allen, Vincent Lochhead and apologies to anyone whom we have inadvertently missed.

We look forward to receiving your valued contributions.

Christmas Idea

Have you thought about taking out a subscription to the GB-BG for a friend or relative as their Christmas present? Contact Maurice either by phone or e-mail and he will sort out all the logistics for you.

Magazine

The deadline for the magazine is Friday 28th December 2007, or earlier if possible! Please if you are sending anything to the Area Editors, can you get it to them in advance of this date so they have time to process it. Many thanks.

For those members interested our NE area editor Stephen Hodgson & regular correspondent Lee Wardle have created a number of websites devoted to the area. They are as below.

Arriva North East - <http://www.nebpane.fpic.co.uk>

Pre-Arriva North East - <http://www.nebppreane.fpic.co.uk/>

Go North East - <http://www.nebpgne.fpic.co.uk>

Pre- Go North East - <http://www.nebppregne.fpic.co.uk/>

Stagecoach North East - <http://www.nebpsne.fpic.co.uk>

Pre-Stagecoach North East - <http://www.nebppsne.fpic.co.uk/>

North East Independents - <http://www.nebpi.fpic.co.uk>

Fleet News

Arriva

London South: ADL63 has arrived at Beddington Farm from Enfield releasing DW54 to Brixton to aid a pvr increase on the 59

Midlands North (Cannock) – Allocation changes : 2010 Cannock – Burton, 2045 Burton – Swadlincote , 2098 Cannock – Wellington, 2107 Wellington – Cannock, 2192/3 Cannock – Wellington, 2221, 2321 Swadlincote – Burton.

New vehicles are 3727 (YJ57BUA), 3728 (YJ57BUE), 3729 (YJ57BPZ), 3730 (YJ57BRF) and 3731 (YJ57BRV) all carry route branding for routes 74/75 Cannock – Stafford.

North East

26/10/07 - Arriva Durham County Optare demonstrator YJ07VRU has gone back and that Sky-express MPD 1761 has, following the thinning of service 737, gone on loan to Loftus for a roadwork's shuttle at Fylingthorpe. Stuart Gray reports that DAF / Ikarus loan vehicles 0127/793 (P127RWR, T793TWX) are expected to leave Bishop Auckland tomorrow - destination as yet unknown. Also, he anticipates DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413CYL) being replaced at Bishop by Optare Vecta 1540 (L540FHN) which has recently been up at Alnwick for MOT test preparation.

01/11/07 - Arriva Durham County's Bishop Auckland depot. Optare Vecta 1540 (L540FHN) has been exchanged for DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413CYL) as planned. DAF SB220 / Ikarus 0127 (P127RWR) and DAF SB220GS / Ikarus 0793 (T793TWX) are now delicensed.

01/11/07 - Arriva Durham County's loaned DAF SB220 / Ikarus 0127 (P127RWR) and DAF SB220GS / Ikarus 0793 (T793TWX) were returned to Arriva Bus & Coach today and that Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4540 (L231TKA) was towed off to Arriva Scotland West's Inchinnan depot, and that Optare Solo demonstrator YJ07VRP has now departed

02/11/07 - Arriva Teesside now have MPD 1761 (NK05GVY) at Stockton and it is expected to replace a Metrorider. They also now have ex Alnwick Optare Metrorider 2627 (P627FHN) to see off sister 2614 (P614FHN). It would seem that 2627 has been released from Alnwick as a result of DAF 4086's arrival at Ashington (and presumably 1213 must have returned to Alnwick in the process). That said, anything is possible with Arriva!

05/11/07 - Arriva North East / Northumbria. Optare Delta 4015 (K415BHN), DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413NCP), Optare Vecta 1514 (K514BHN) and Optare Metrorider 2642 (P642FHN) are to form a special reserve fleet at Ashington, though at the current time 2642 remains in use at Redcar and 1514 similarly at Loftus (along with 1524 - pictured above - which has been officially in reserve for many months). With the end of summer timetables on the 93, DAF SB3000 / Plaxton 1208 (V208DJR) has returned to Loftus and Optare Vecta 1509 (K509BHN) is due to move to Bishop Auckland, displacing Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1686 (J220HGY) to Darlington and DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4084 (J927CYL) to disposal. A number of Metroriders have been swapped between the service fleet and the disposal list, while, more significantly, Optare Vectas 1510/2/3/25/48/50 (K510/2/3BHN, L525FHN, L548/50GHN) are all now listed for disposal.

13/11/07 - Arriva Durham County again have DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413NCP) at Bishop Auckland, following the failure of Optare Vecta 1535 (L535FHN). Reserve-fleet Leyland Olympian / ECW 7224 (D146FYM) has failed while in use at Bishop Auckland and a replacement is expected. Also, Vecta 1509 (K509BHN) now seems unlikely to reach Bishop Auckland, as it has suffered engine failure. Neil Wise reports that Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1670 (M770DRG) is now working for Darlington (Feethams) ex Faverdale

16/11/07 - Arriva Durham County DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4083 (J926CYL) is now back at Bishop Auckland with its new engine. He is also in the process of collating information, photos etc on **The Eden** with a view to writing a book on their history. Anyone who has anything to offer should contact edenbook@yahoo.co.uk.

20/11/07 - Arriva Durham County have had vehicles in Darlington Market Place on Saturday and Monday to ask the public for comments and ideas on bus services in Darlington. Jesmond's Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 4519 (W295PPT) was used on Saturday and Blyth's MPD 1773 (NK05GWU) was used on Monday. In Darlington, Feethams have had loan of Dennis Dart / Alexander 1671 (M301AMC) from Faverdale, briefly

26/11/07 - Arriva Durham County Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1686 (J220HGY) has now moved to Darlington. And reserve-fleet Leyland Olympian / ECW 7221 (D157FYM) working for Durham

Arriva North West and Wales – Dennis Dart 7632 has been transferred to Wythenshawe.

The Shires: Currently in the course of delivery, for use on Easybus services from Luton and Stansted airports, are a batch of Optare Sorocco bodied Mercedes-Benz 515CDi

0300	YX57CCO	0303	YX57CCY	0306	YX57CAO	0309	YX57CBF
0301	YX57CCU	0304	YX57CAA	0307	YX57CAU	0310	YX57CBO
0302	YX57CCV	0305	YX57CAE	0308	YX57CAV	0311	YX57CBU

First

Bristol: New Volvo B9TLs / Wright Gemini's are 37335 (WX57HKT) 37336 (WX57HKU), 37338 (WX57HKW), 37341 (WX57HLA), 37342 (WX57HLC), 37344 (WX57HLE), 37345 (WX57HLF), 37346 (WX57HLG), 37347 (WX57HLH), 37352 (WX57HLO), 37353 (WX57HLP), 37354 (WX57HLR), 37355 (WX57HLU), 37356 (WX57HLV), 37358 (WX57HLY), 37359 (WX57HLZ).

Noted in Bristol - First Bus 60462 **G607 NWA** Volvo B10-55 Alexander B51F (ex South Yorkshire as a Training) vehicle. Noted in Weston super Mare and still working (Buses October has them as withdrawn) 51079 to 51081 and 51106 Mercedes Benz Plaxton B23F

Edinburgh – New vehicles here are Volvo B9's 37136 SN57HCU, 37137 SN57HCV, 37138 SN57HCX, 37140 SN57HCZ, 37142 and all are allocated to Livingston.

PMT: More Scania now at Rock Ferry are 60200 (X271USH), 61529 (R117GSF), 61531 (R119GSF) and 61563 (R343SUT).

York: Noted on delivery has been Volvo B7RLE/ Wright Eclipse Urban 69276

Go Ahead

Blue Triangle: New buses here for operation on newly awarded route 364 for 10.7M

Enviro200Darts

SE21	SN57DWG	SE25	SN57DWM	SE29	SN57DWV	SE33	SN57DWZ
SE22	SN57DWJ	SE26	SN57DWO	SE30	SN57DWW	SE34	SN57DXA
SE23	SN57DWK	SE27	SN57DWP	SE31	SN57DWX	SE35	SN57DXB
SE24	SN57DWL	SE28	SN57DWU	SE32	SN57DWY		

London General: The new Enviro 400s for use on route 24 are now in service from Stockwell.

E62	LX57CHV	E70	LX57CJV	E78	LX57CKG	E86	LX57CKV
E63	LX57CHY	E71	LX57CJY	E79	LX57CKJ	E87	LX57CKY
E64	LX57CHZ	E72	LX57CJZ	E80	LX57CKK	E88	LX57CLF
E65	LX57CJE	E73	LX57CKA	E81	LX57CKL	E89	LX57CLJ
E66	LX57CJF	E74	LX57CKC	E82	LX57CKN	E90	LX57CLN
E67	LX57CJJ	E75	LX57CKD	E83	LX57CKO	E91	LX57CLO
E68	LX57CJO	E76	LX57CKE	E84	LX57CKP	E92	LX57CLV
E69	LX57CJU	E77	LX57CKF	E85	LX57CKU	E93	LX57CLY

Metrobus: The company is to operate this years Bromley Park and Ride service, using four single decks, expected to be 371-374.

Go North East

17/10/07 - Steven Hodgson provides the above photo of **Go North East** ex Stanley Taxis Optare Solo 613 (ON02 STX) free of any branding. Lee Wardle has reported that Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4911 (W491 SCU) put in an appearance on the MC1 earlier in the week!

26/01/07 – **Go North East** has repainted 523 – 529 inclusive into silver and Scania 5218 – 5223, and 5226 are painted all over black for the 93 and 94's.

02/11/07 - **Go North East.** Mercedes Citaro demonstrator BX56VTP is on loan at Deptford as 9170 and working mainly on the 35. Gateshead now have ex Stanley Taxis Optare Solos 613/5/7 (NM02DNU, VU52UEE, MX53FEF) and also have Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3930 (R389LGH), displacing sister 3811 (S811FVK) to Washington. Scania L94UB / Wright 4943 (NK51OLG) has been painted orange - believed to be ahead of an increase in frequency on the "Fab 56".

13/11/07 - Seaham Harbour bus station closed after operation on Sunday 11th November. Its "facilities" will be missed by few!

13/11/07 - The **Go North East website** shows that they have an Optare Versa demonstrator on loan for two weeks at Gateshead for the 53 and 54. It also shows that the last step-entrance Darts have been sold. It is reported that Scania L94UB / Wright 5224 (NK54NVX) is now black and that MPD 530 (NA52AWP) is silver. Scania L94UB / Wright 4943 (NK51OLG) is now working for Deptford.

16/11/07 - Optare Versa demonstrator 9169 (YJ57EHU) on loan to **Go North East.** It would be nice to see some of these fine machines purchased! Steven Hodgson report that DAF SB120 / Wright 8243 (NA52BUV) has been repainted in a colour described variously as "plum" or "purple". It is not yet known what route this is for.

20/11/07 - **Go North East** 8243 in its new claret colour scheme. Lee Wardle has noted MPD 532 repainted white and Dennis Lance / Plaxton 4774 (L141YTY) now at Ashington

26/11/07 - **Go North East** DAF SB120 / Wright 8245 is the second one repainted claret. Steven Hodgson notes that Go North East services are now using the re-lined Metro Centre bus station exit as an entrance but some of the other operators are not as yet.

Go West Midlands

Hilltop has closed as an operational depot, with the service fleet transferring to Tividale. A number of step-entrance Darts are now used on a staff shuttle service between Birmingham & the aforementioned depots.

The following were up for sale by auction in late November:

Dennis Dart: 705/7/9, 710/2/3, 722-4

Dennis Lance: 301/4/6, 312,321/8, 332-4, 341/5/6

Volvo B10B: 604/5/7 (& Oxford 608-11/8/9)

Coaches: R257/8DWL, YP02AAV/X, Oxford 17/71

National Express

Have purchased the business of Kings Ferry, Kent, for a reported figure of 8 million pounds
Kings Ferry operate 75 coaches operated by 110 drivers, their coaches commute approximately 1,300 people in and out of London on office days to Kent and surrounding areas

Travel London - Has the following up for sale by auction at the beginning of December:

Dennis Dart: 8414 (V336MBV), 8701-11/5-7 (R501-10SJM, N305DHE, S515-7JJH), DH35/67 (M7TUB, M26XEH)

Mercedes Vario: 8897/8 (R705/6MJH), 8900/1 (S708TCF, S107HGX)

Five Wright Electrociti buses are now in use on route 129 entering service on November 23rd.
They are to a B28D layout.

8801 LJ57YAY 8802 LJ57YAX 8803 LJ57YBA 8804 LJ57YAW 8805 LJ57YBB

Travel West Midlands

New Vehicles

1813	BV57XGD	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1814	BV57XGE	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1815	BV57XGF	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1816	BV57XGG	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1817	BV57XGH	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1818	BV57XGJ	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1819	BV57XGK	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1820	BV57XGL	LH	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1821	BV57XGM	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1822	BV57XGN	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1823	BV57XGO	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1824	BV57XGP	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1825	BV57XGR	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1826	BV57XGS	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1827	BV57XGT	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1828	BV57XGU	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1829	BV57XGW	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1830	BV57XGX	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1831	BV57XGY	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1832	BV57XGZ	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1833	BV57XHA	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1834	BV57XHB	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1835	BV57XHC	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1836	BV57XHD	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1837	BV57XHE	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1838	BV57XHF	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1839	BV57XHG	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1840	BV57XHH	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1841	BV57XHJ	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1842	BV57XHK	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1843	BV57XHL	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1844	BV57XHM	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F
1845	BV57XHN	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnilink	N43F

1846	BV57XHO	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnalink	N43F
1847	BV57XHP	PB	Scania K230UB	Omnalink	N43F
4728	BV57XHR	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F
4729	BV57XHS	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F
4730	BV57XHT	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F
4731	BV57XHU	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F
4732	BV57XHW	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F
4733	BV57XHX	PB	ADL ALX 400	ADL	N45/32F

As a result, several Tridents have left LH for BC & YW & Mercedes O.405's have left for WT.

Acocks Green (AG) – Fresh here are refurbished Volvo B7TL's 4045, 4046 4112 for use on revamped service 1 Acocks Green – Moseley Village – Five Ways – Birmingham Town Hall.

Birmingham Central (BC) – The number of Dennis Tridents being transferred here from Lea Hall is ever increasing confirmed transferred are : 4180, 4182, 4183, 4186, 4189, 4190, 4196, 4201.

Perry Barr (PB) – Scania K230 1823 was noted working on service 65 on 28/11.

Walsall (WA) – Metrobus 3020 has been transferred here from Travel Coventry.

West Bromwich (WB) – Fresh refurbished Volvo B7TL's noted here are : 4055, 4083, 4085, 4086, 4087.

Wolverhampton (WN) – Metrobus 2792 which has Carlyle parts legal lettering is in use here at the moment. Metrobuses 2764, 2790, 2840, 2843, 2933, 2971 are operating from here at the moment, some may be only to cover for Christmas Park and Ride services.

Yardley Wood (YW) - Dennis Trident 4158 was involved in a major RTA on Pershore Road South on 27th Noevmber, from what was seen on the news the front nearside is serverly damaged.

Stagecoach

Bluebird: Neoplan 50148 caught fire on the M74, whilst operating an overnight Megabus service, on November 2nd resulting in substantial damage to the rear end, with the rest of the vehicle suffering extensive smoke damage.

Cambridgeshire: Arriving from East Scotland have been Plaxton Interurbans 52423 and 52440-52443. They are to replace the Lynx and Delta trainers, presently in use. Several B10Ms are due from Manchester at Peterborough with Volvo Olympians heading in the other direction.

Stagecoach Cooks – in from the Devon fleet are Vario's 42117/8 S117 JFJ & S118 JFJ.

Stagecoach Devon – ex Cambridge Dennis Trident 17053 has been repainted into traditional Devon General maroon and cream and looks very smart.

East Midlands: Another raft of fleet movements to record this month as we head into the winter season; 14085 GY - Res: 14088, 14090 GH - Res: 14089 Res - SP: 14344 MD - SP: 14348 MD - Res: 14359, 14363 SP - Res: 14677 SP – GH: 14998 LC – GH: 15944 Sold: 15952, 15956, 15958, 15971, 15977 SK – Res: 20455, 20789 in to GY: 20510 in to LH: 25805, 25806, 25808 LH – Res: 33155 NK – WP: 33215 Res – LC: 34194 SK – LC: 40799 WP – Res: 41345 to Dis: GH Gainsborough: GY Grimsby: LC Lincoln: LH Louth: MD Mansfield: NK Newark: SK Skegness: SP Scunthorpe: WP Worksop:

East – Allocation changes : 16682 Bedford to Stagecoach East Scotland, 20326 Reserve to Bedford, 32582 Bedford to Reserve, 52124 Reserve to Bedford, 52369 Reserve to Bedford.

Vehicles awaiting disposal : Leyland Olympian's 14479, 14482, 14483, Mercedes 709D's 40312, 40314, 40322, 40345.

East Scotland:

(Fife) A couple of changes to the re allocation mentioned last time 20325 ended up at Aberhill and 20337 at Glenrothes. Several Interurbans are leaving for pastures new 52363, 52365 and 52366 to Yorkshire, 52420, 52440-3 to Cambridgeshire and 52457, 52458 for East Midlands.

Lincolnshire – Man 22391 is now operating here it has come from Stagecoach Manchester.

Manchester: Regs for more Enviro 400s 19185 (MX57DZK), 19190 (MX57DZP), 19191 (MX57DZR) and 19192 (MX57DZS)

Merseyside: A couple of Darts have acquired new registrations PX-DWE is now S44ABC whilst PX06DWF has gained VKB708.

North West:

(In Cumbria) Ten ex Manchester Tridents are currently in the course of delivery to Kendal to displace Volvo Olympians on the 555/556 routes, the first 18355 entered service on November 13th. The rest of the batch due are 18354-360, 18366, 18372 and 18374

(In Lancashire) More Solos are arriving at Preston, this time ex Leamington ones, being replaced there by new ones.

(In Lancaster) Two ex Manchester Tridents 18375 and 18380 are due shortly, for use on the 40-42 routes to Preston / Blackpool

North East

26/10/07 - Steven Hodgson, report a number of movements at **Stagecoach North East**. Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 21158 (R258KRG) is the first of its type to be put to work at South Shields, while Volvo B10M / Alexander **Stagecoach South Yorkshire** – Optare Solo 47421 has been repainted into the new livery. Scania 28633, Volvo B6's 30190, 30191 have been taken away for scrap. Volvo B6LE 31947 is on loan to Holbrook from Rawmarsh. 20722/9 (K722/9DAO) are working for Walkergate ex Sunderland, where Lynx II 29629 (K629YVN) is reported to be still in use, but likely to be withdrawn soon.

01/11/07 - Firstly a correction - **Stagecoach North East** Volvo B10M / Alexander 20722 (K722DAO) is at South Shields rather than Walkergate. While I have not received any reports of any further Enviro 400s arriving, I did note 19196/9 in service on Saturday. A nice sighting in Hull on Sunday was of two North East Olympian exiles together - 16710 (recently arrived) and 16823 (long since transferred)!

02/11/07 - Stagecoach North East. Further Alexander Dennis Enviro 400s are 19193/203 (NK57DVW/WJ), the latter featuring an illuminated advert panel, with the remainder due in January and February of 2008. Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 21143 (R243KRG) are the second to go to South Shields, while MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22453/64-7 (S453OFT, T464-7BNL) have gone to Sunderland. In spite of this, Lynx II 29629 (K629YVN) was still in use today at Sunderland. South Shields Volvo Olympian / Alexander 16733-40 (N733-40LTN) are expected to go to Stagecoach North West at Preston for the X2 Liverpool - Preston as B10BLEs displace them from the Economic routes. Indeed, he passes on a report that one of them has already reached the SCNW paint shop!

05/11/07 - Stagecoach on Teesside now have Dennis Dart / Alexander 32655 (P455EEF) in service after many months out of use at Darlington.

05/11/07 - Stagecoach in Hartlepool Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14668 (H668BNL), which has been receiving mechanical attention for some time, is now delicensed and parked up.

13/11/07 - The 10th anniversary of the end of Bristol RE operation by **Hartlepool Transport** was commemorated on Sunday, with 93 (JAJ293N) recreating the final runs

13/11/07 - Stagecoach North East. MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22214/5/468/666 (T214/5TND, T468BNL, and V166OEF) have moved from Walkergate to Sunderland. Also, Volvo B10M / Alexander 20117 (N217LTN) now working for Slatyford

16/11/07 - Steven Hodgson reports that Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 21140 (R240KRG) have turned up at South Shields depot.

20/11/07 - Steven Hodgson provides a correction - it is Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 21150 (R250KRG) that **Stagecoach North East** has transferred to South Shields, rather than 21140. Neil Watson has noted Volvo B10M / Alexander 20726 (K726DAO) working for Walkergate.

23/11/07 – Stagecoach North East has provided a list of complete registration numbers for their forthcoming Enviro 400 to be based at **Walkergate Depot**:

19193	NK57 DVW	19202	NK57 DWG	19211	NK57 DWX
19194	NK57 DVX	19203	NK57 DWJ	19212	NK57 DWY
19195	NK57 DVY	19204	NK57 DWL	19213	NK57 DWZ
19196	NK57 DVZ	19205	NK57 DWM	19214	NK57 DXA
19197	NK57 DWA	19206	NK57 DWN	19215	NK57 DXB
19198	NK57 DWC	19207	NK57 DWO	19216	NK57 DXC
19199	NK57 DWD	19208	NK57 DWP	19217	NK57 DXD
19200	NK57 DWE	19209	NK57 DWV	19218	NK57 DXE
19201	NK57 DWF	19210	NK57 DWW	19219	NK57 DXF

Please note that delivery and last minute changes are still possible as advised by Stagecoach North East.

26/11/07 - Stagecoach North East Dennis Dart / Alexander 32721 (K721PCN) has been refurbished, including dot matrix destination. Steven Hodgson notes that sister 32761 (L761ARG) is also in receipt of a dot matrix display and his photo shows the new above-window lettering now applied to many SCNE vehicles.

Warwickshire: New Solos have entered service at Leamington on the new Gold Line service
47508 KX57KGA 47511 KX57KGG 47514 KX57KGN 47517 KX57KGU
47509 KX57KGE 47512 KX57KGJ 47515 KX57KGO 47518 KX57KFZ
47510 KX57KGF 47513 KX57K GK 47516 KX57KGP

West Scotland: MAN 22601 has been re-registered to B10 PSV. Quite a lot of fleet movements of late, 22389, 22390, 22606 Ardrossan - Kilmarnock, 20119, 20145 Kilmarnock - Ayr, 20521 Kilmarnock - Ardrossan, 20478 Kilmarnock - Glasgow, 20567 Kilmarnock -Ayr, 30322, 30674 Kilmarnock – Reserve, 40067 Kilmarnock – Ardrossan, 40098 Reserve - Ardrossan. More new Optare Solos have arrived 47505 (SF57DPN) at Ardrossan with 47506 (SF57DPO) and 47507 (SF57DPU) at Kilmarnock. 52407 has been moved south to Yorkshire. Sold out of the fleet have been 28910, 52069, 52076, 52086 and 52088. Two more Tri Axle Olympians transferred in are 13602 (WLT416) and 13624 (TSU368) now both at Ardrossan in yellow school bus livery. Titan 10252 is now back in service at Kilmarnock. Arriving at Kilmarnock from Perth is MAN 22713 and from Cowdenbeath 22258 both now in green Bio-Bus colours. Mercedes 709D 40101 (L301JSA) has been written off and its place on Arran taken by 40611 from Ardrossan. Citybuses 15247 and 15249 have moved to the reserve fleet along with Titan 10866.

Transdev

London United: A large swap around of Darts has seen these move from Shepherds Bush to Stamford Brook; DP92, 96 DPS1-4, 6-8 and 10-16 with DPS531, 543, 639, 640, 660, 666, 668-670, 673-680 move in the opposite direction

Lancashire (Lancashire United, Burnley & Pendle, Blackburn Transport & Travelspeed)

There appears to be an almost daily swap around of vehicles to meet service needs. The Travelspeed fleet is slowly being upgraded by replacement vehicles coming in from the Lancashire and Yorkshire areas, whilst the newer solos appear to have been grabbed for Blackburn and Clitheroe services.

Veolia

Veolia Group.

Have received an order to reduce the noise level at the Dunn Line Beechdale depot in Nottingham. Tony Goodman has joined the Veolia Cymru group. Tony was an associate member of staff in Powys County Council, his duties included issuing of tendered work to operators, from home to school and transport services. There was an internal inquiry to ensure previous contracts had been issued fairly. This was confirmed to be satisfactory.

Veolia Group has acquired the business of Astons of Kempsey Ltd also trading as Ultima Tours Ltd. The company employs 70 staff and operates 33 vehicles, which are being retained. The business, was formed in 1929

Independents

Eastern Counties

Grant Palmer (Bedfordshire) – Dennis Lance L205YAG has been noted here, it has come from Arriva North West.

Kimes (South Lincolnshire) – Former Petes Travel Dennis Trident P051WNN is now in use here.

Wrights of Newark

Frank Wright sadly recently passed away, at the age of 100 years old. He started in 1926. He was driving when 80 years old, he was able to work beside his father, brother, son and grandsons. The company became to trade as Travel Wright Limited, and still does.

London

Metroline: Enviro 400 TE715 collided with the railway bridge at Kentish Town West Station, on November 14th, resulting to severe damage to its roof. Others of this batch TE712 to TE722 have been re allocated to Edgware from Holloway following the loss of route 24.

Yet more new vehicles, this time 18 10.2m B26D MAN /MCV Evolutions for use on route 90

MM810	LK57AYD	MM815	LK57AYJ	MM820	LK57AYP	MM824	LK57AYV
MM811	LK57AYE	MM816	LK57AYL	MM821	LK57AYS	MM825	LK57AYW
MM812	LK57AYF	MM817	LK57AYM	MM822	LK57AYT	MM826	LK57AYX
MM813	LK57AYG	MM818	LK57AYN	MM823	LK57AYU	MM827	LK57AYY
MM814	LK57AYH	MM819	LK57AYO				

Midlands

Astons of Kempsey (Worcester) - This operator is now owned by Veolia.

Bakers Coaches Biddulph

Have acquired the business - Niddries of Middlewich and the coaches

Central Connect/ Flights Hallmark (Birmingham) - Fresh vehicles noted here are Optare Excel L1150's : R206DKG, R207DKG, R209DKG, R210DKG, R211DKG, R212DKG, R213DKG, R214DKG, R215DKG these were new to Cardiff Transport, they can found regularly operating on service 123 Perry Barr (One Stop) to Merry Hill Shopping Centre, other fresh vehicles are Dennis Darts SLF's S393HVV, S395HVV, S396HVV and Volvo B6LE S583VOB which was new to Seamarks, Luton. DAF double deckers : T127AUA, T135AUA are parked at Long Acre, Birmingham at the moment and mat be used here.

On hire here is Plaxton Primo MX55WDS

Claribels / Birmingham International Coaches

The Futura's with prefix registrations have been re-registered: T792FWR to B2BHX, W601GUG to B3BHX, X132NWU to B4BHX, Y663/7HWY to B5/6BHX.

Phil Clowes - Phil has one bus - Mercedes 709D **N466VOD** Alexander DP25F (Ex Stagecoach North West 40446) Written off in Carlisle floods and resurrected

Ring & Ride (WMSNT)

0709 is FJ07UNK

Calthorpe School, on Leopold Street, has been advised as a good place to observe WMSNT operations. As an example, 36 vehicles were noted between 15:15 & 15:30 on 20th November: 0238, 0529-31, 0539-45/7/9-58, 0561-7/9, 0570/2.

Wardle Additional **T20CCH** Volvo coach & **DG52WJU** Mercedes 413

North East

Abbey Coaches Teesside

29/10/07 - **Abbey Coaches** Bristol RE / ECW GHB146N is now on [eBay](#), should any one fancy a punt.

NMC Ashington

20/11/07 - **NMC, Ashington** have taken Neoplan Skyliner WIW4748 ex Pygalls, Peterlee for re-sale.

Travelsure, Seahouses

13/11/07 - **Travelsure, Seahouses** have won the contract for service 34 Berwick - Duns.

26/11/07 - An update on goings on in the borders. **First** are operating Ferrymill Motors B7RLE / Wright FJ07AAZ into the area, on loan to cover for a vehicle under repair, while **Travelsure** have MPD MX56HYN.

Weardale, Stanhope

02/11/07 - **Weardale, Stanhope** have Optare Tempo demonstrator YJ07EGD on loan.

05/11/07 - Optare Tempo demonstrator YJ07EGD on loan to **Weardale, Stanhope**. The autumnal trees really set off the smart lines of the Tempo well. It is expected to stay until Thursday.

North West

Ace Travel (Liverpool): Optare Versa demonstrator YJ57HHE has seen use here in mid November. Two more new vehicles are Solo M950s B33F 711 (MX57CCU) and 712 (MX57CAA)

Blackpool Transport: The ex Blackburn Tridents are now in service as 333-337 on Line 1

Ellisons (St Helens): New here having been displayed at Coach & Bus live is Bova Magiq YJ57YET

J Fishwick & Sons: A new arrival here is a B42F DAF SB200 / Plaxton Centro 27 (YJ57BLF)

Halton Transport: Four new ADL 10.9m Darts with B40 MCV Evolution bodies have arrive 1 (AE57FAJ), 2 (AE57FAK), 3 AE57FAM) and 4 (AE57FAO). The arrival of these has led Marshall Darts 8-11 (T757-760) being advertised for sale.

Preston Bus: In use here in mid November was Optare Tempo demonstrator YJ57EGU allocated fleet number 239 whilst here. The contract for the two Park and Ride service in the town is being renewed in the new year with eight new Solos fitted with leather seats expected.

Speedwell (Glossop) – Mercedes 0814D's R501YWC, R511YWC, R514YWC are now in use here they have come from Stagecoach Manchester, but were new to Selkent in 1997.

Travellers Choice (Carnforth): A new arrival here is a C33F Mercedes-Benz /Plaxton Cheetah PN57RVT.

Tyrer Bus: A new Solo is MX57CCA, now being used on newly won tendered service 544 in Bolton.

Warrington Borough Transport: Enviro 200 demonstrator SN56AYA has seen use here during November being trailed on route 48 to Dudlows Green.

Scotland

Blue Bus (Shotts) – A fresh vehicle noted here is SM54ORO.

South East

Weavaway Reading

Has acquired the coach side of Countrywide Basingstoke, the coaches have been taken in to stock.

South West

A B C Coaches Totnes A Duple 425 coach of theirs caught fire on the A 38 at Kennford near Exeter. The coach was carrying students from Totnes to Okehampton. This was a major incident the A 38 was closed for some time as there was extensive smoke in the area. The students were taken of safely and transferred into other coaches travelling to the same location to a safe area.

Axe Valley Travel, Seaton – a new arrival here is M870 SKP, an MCW Metrorider MR15 B31F ex Bannister, Owston Ferry

Discover Dorset Ltd, Bournemouth – YJ57 EHY Optare Versa. This company now operates the Bournemouth Airport service which has been increased to hourly. The Versa may have a brother but I await a confirmed sighting.

Filer, Ilfracombe – this operator is back into bus operation having taken on the 301 route running hourly from Ilfracombe to Barnstaple. Marshall Midibuses are the chosen vehicles for this operation.

North Somerset Coaches, Nailsea – a new owner here as the business has been transferred from Graham Clements to David Fricker.

Vehicles transferred are VHY 437 (Dennis Javelin/Berkhof formerly J98 UBL) and 307 WHT (Volvo/Plaxton Paramount ex F43 LRA).

Roselyn, Par – some new registrations here rather than vehicles. F973 HE is now PUI 8031, T519 EUB is YAF 872 and Y877 GDV is now W8 EDE

South Gloucester Bus & Coach, Patchway – The Former Go-West Midlands DAF/Van Hool T9's have been re-registered. YJ03PGX is now L222SGB, YJ03PGY is L333SGB, YJ03PGZ is L444SGB, YJ03PKK is L66SGB & YJ03PNN is L555SGB.

Turners, Bristol – second hand arrivals are YN06 NZF and YN06 NZG from Swan of Chadderton. Both are Scania Irizar low height C53F Intercentury bodied and have been re-registered XT06 CJT and YT06 CJT.

Wessex Connect (Rotalia Group) – Incoming here are Plaxton Beavers S547 BNV and V394 SVV and Dennis Dart/Plaxton's KV51 KZH, KP02 PVA, KX03 HZK & KX03 JBU.

Wales

Berwyn (Trefor): A new arrival here is Northern Counties bodied Olympian N543LHG.

Bryn Melyn: Optare Delta K758SBB has been transferred from GHA and is in full colours.

Eagles & Crawford: New here is an Autosan Eagle BV57MMX in a yellow school bus livery. Duple 300 bodied Dennis Javelin, G911RPN, has been sold to Owens of Rhiwlas.

E Jones (Rhos): A recent addition is Plaxton Cheetah YN06OPO

Express Motors: New here is a MCV Evolution bodied MAN EM07ORS

GHA Coaches (Wrexham): A new Optare Solo M880 B28F is AA57GHA, it carries Flintshire CC Linxx colour scheme and is used on the 41 service between Chester and Rthin. Two Plaxton Profile coaches are expected soon.

Owens (Oswestry) - A fresh vehicle here is YN07EBA.

Owens (Rhiwlas): Volvo B57 XSA57V and Seddon Pennine XSD602T have been withdrawn and are parked up at the depot.

P & O Lloyd: A recent acquisition , in "conexxions" colours is Scania N113/Alexander Strider 5373PO formerly with Newport Transport as its No 9 (K109YTX)

Padarn Bus (Llanberis): An ADL/ Enviro 200 is new here CX57FGU

Townlynx (Holywell): A pair of ex Dublin Bus Olympians have joined the fleet, J860CEV and J861JEV ex 91-D-10110. Both have been converted to single door and are now H47/31F. A new Enviro200Dart, DK57SPZ has also arrived, painted in Flintshire CC Linxx colour scheme and seeing use on the X14 Chester - Denbigh.

Unicorn Travel (Brymbo): A new operator using a former Dartline Mercedes / Vario W259WBV re-registered to RLZ1647.

Williams (Porthmadog) An ex Arriva NW B27F Mercedes Vario / Plaxton R814YJC has been acquired.

Ireland Michael O'Reily

When last in Dublin 2 weeks ago there was a much increased prevalence of Volvo Enviro 400s on North city routes- Howth, Portmarnock ,Malahide (Clontarf garage), and on Sandymount (S.E city-Ringsend Garage) Routes 2 and 3.

I believe Wright Volvo Eclipses are assigned to Cork also, I hope to get to Cork in the next couple of weeks and will confirm this then

Ensign (dealer): A quiet month

VEHICLES IN.

From Stagecoach South: Merc N661VSS

From Stagecoach Manchester: Olympians J167UNH H604LNA

From ChesterBus: Darts P341/2/3/4OEW L160PDM K59LLG

From Travelmasters: Bristol VR's AIG6623/4.

From Metroline: AV30/1, Darts R864/5/6/7/8/9MCE R692MEW

From Flights: Olympians P338/40/2/4/6/9/50ROO.

VEHICLES OUT.

Dart K58LLG: Galleon Travel, Hertford.

Dublin Olympians 91-D-10107/110 now J860/1CEV with Town Lynx, Holywell.

Scania N754OAP: Irvines Coaches, Law.

Dorchester VIW8496: Aintree Coaches.

Olympian G648EEV: Charlton Services, Charlton, Ox.

Darts T63/4/5KLD: Renown Coaches, Bexhill.

Olympian J836TSC: Weardale MS, Stanhope.

Metrorider P422VRG: Erith Commercials.

Olympians G515/7VBB: Imperial, Rainham.

Olympian F259YTJ: Stansted Transit.

Dart L160PDM: Eastonways, Ramsgate.

Volvo D10M's F303/9MYJ: Black Velvet Travel, Southampton.

RT2911: London Bus Co (Roger Wright) , Dagenham.

DMS25 (Fleetline) : PVS for scrap.

Company News

National Express (Bus Datafile no. 12)

General

New route 319 Birmingham – Bristol starts on 30 November, with four return journeys. Duties are shared between Hills, Wolverhampton & South Gloucestershire. Additional Christmas duties on routes 352 & 542 are to be operated by Parks.

Arriva Shires (MK Metro)

FJ07TKA/C/E/F have been allocated fleet numbers 4100-3.

Bebb (Veolia Birmingham)

NXL32 is believed to be on loan with fellow Veolia company, Dunn-Line.

Bruces, Salsburgh

FJ57KHP/R are two Volvo B12B / Caetano Levante C49FTL arrivals for route 539. WX07OVJ, the MAN R33 demonstrator, has arrived from Parks.

National Express owned Operations.

A new arrival is Scania K340EB4/Caetano Levante C49FTL SC24 FJ57KHL. Withdrawals account for D28/302, S359/928 V213. D302 finds further use as a trainer.

Allocations, as of October 2007:

	CRAWLEY	SIPSON RD.	START HILL
DAF SB3000/ Plaxton Premiere	D21	D22/4/5/7	D23/6
DAF SB3000/ Van Hool T9	D312- 5/7/9/29/31	D5- 8/10/1,309/27	D301/3/4/7/8/11
Scania K340EB4/ Caetano Levante			SC1/2,22-4
Scania K340EB6/ Caetano Levante			SC3-21*
Scania K340EB6/ Caetano Levante			SC3-21*
Volvo B12B/ Caetano Levante	NXVC5-17		
Volvo B12B/ Plaxton Panther	V29-35/9	V26-8/37/42/3	V36/8/41
Volvo B12M/ Plaxton Paragon			NXVP1-4
Volvo B10M-62/ Plaxton Panther			V208/823-5
Hotel Hoppa		226-36/8-51, 512/3, 1095	
Railair LHR-Watford Jn		NXVC1-4	
Railair LHR-Woking		V320/2-5	

* SC18 is on loan at Sipson Rd for training purposes.

Parrys of Cheslyn Hay are to hold an open day at their depot on Sunday 9th January. The first of the new Van Hool T917 Astons will be on show.

Gibsons of Moffat ceased trading on November 15th, no further details were available as we went to press, but the firm had only just returned to Stage Carriage work running a Moffat Dumfries route twice a day.

Focus Coaches of Much Hoole near Preston ceased trading on November 23rd. Bushop, the dealership side of Reays of Wigton has taken 26 vehicles, with other leased coaches being re-possessed. The future of several heritage vehicles including Ribble PD3 1841, the bus I passed my PSV on!!, is at present unknown. The Travellers Choice has been filling in on several of the company's schools contracts.

Hutchinson Coaches of Overtown is to close after Christmas, its owner, Stewart Anderson has decided to retire, and has no family with which to pass it on to. The bus side of the business was

sold to First Group earlier in the year, but had no interest in the coaching side which up until now has carried on trading with twelve vehicles, which have been sold to the Mossley Group for onward sale.

Eavesway Coaches, based at Ashton-in-Makerfield have ordered nine 14.4m Van Hool TD921 Altano coaches, fitted with Euro 5 engines, for delivery in time for the 2008/9 season, being supplied by Arriva Bus & Coach.

National Express Group PLC announced on November 12th, the acquisition of The Kings Ferry Travel Group. £8 million has been paid for the 75 vehicle fleet based near Gillingham (Kent). The purchase gives National Express access to the lucrative Kent Coast commuter runs into London.

Stanley Gath Coaches of Dewsbury went into administration and ceased trading at the beginning of November. The name will live on as Tates Travel have bought the name and premises are being sought in Dewsbury for the operation.

Reading Transport has ordered 14 ethanol-powered Scania Omni bodied double decks, due for delivery in March 2008, they will be used on Readings Flagship route 17 which will become a 24 hour operation.

Stagecoach Bluebird has opened a new depot at Inch. Located at the Inch Business Park and covering 6000sqm, it is home to a fleet of 30 vehicles with more planned in the coming twelve months.

Veolia Transport UK have announced the purchase of Astons of Kempsey. Situated on the outskirts of Worcester 33 vehicles and 70 employees are involved.

Stagecoach West Scotland have introduced the first buses to run on bio fuel, manufactured using food industry by-products. A reduction in carbon dioxide emissions as high as 80% is expected. The trial will last for six months centred on route 1 linking Stewarton and Darvel via Kilmarnock. Eight MANs have been adapted to use the new fuel.

Trentbarton group, has just taken delivery of seven 9.5m 29 seat Optare Solo slimline buses fitted with Mercedes Euro 4 engines. They will be operated by the Kinchbus subsidiary.

TM Travel has begun operating a free service around Sheffield, using three Optare Solos, on behalf of SYPT. The service runs every seven minutes from 0700-1900 weekdays and commencing an hour later on Saturday.

London tender news:

106 retained by East London with new double decks, pvr 18, start April:

135 (new route Old St Station – East Ferry Rd) awarded to Arriva London North, with new double decks, pvr 13, to start May:

177 retained by Selkent with new double decks, pvr 17, to start May:

191 retained by First, with new double decks, pvr 15, to start May:

231 awarded to First with new double decks, pvr 6, to start June:

327 retained by Arriva The Shires, using existing single deck, pvr 1, to start June:

386 retained by Selkent, with new single decks, pvr 10, to start May:

491 retained by Arriva London North with new single decks, pvr 10, to start May:

In addition the following routes operated by ELBG have had two year contract extensions; 99, 178, 247, 269, 291 and 294

Drugbusters

A coach driver operator from Widnes was jailed for 11 years for smuggling drugs into this country. The coach was stopped and checked at Hull Humberside. The coach had a compartment cut out in the body for concealment of drugs. Apparently there was another coach in the fleet adapted the same way

Neoplan Euroliner.

The last new one at Mentor Hellaby dealer has been sold to K & B Travel Cumbria. Two hundred and fifty of these coaches have been sold in the UK. A new model replaces it.

Welsh Report 19th November 2007 – Mike Pinder

Called in at the new Blackwood bus station, brilliant, can see everything from inside a cafe. (IF Cassandra makes it to here she will need a heavy overcoat, hot water bottle and ear plugs). It's

colder inside than out and there is an old fashioned jukebox belting out music. However the food is great but not greasy and the tea can nearly melt the spoon. Plenty of buses to see IBT, Harris and Stagecoach of which from the new series 25201-25210 of Optare Omni Deltas I Managed to see 25203/4/5/6/8, 25209 /10, **CN 57 BYO /P/R/S/U/V/ W** Also to note - although I have not got the registrations yet, are 6 more Omni city for Newport Transport Numbered 1 to 6 already at work.

I had one and a half hours at the bus station, Wood Street exit, (Should Cassandra make it to here) sat at a table outside enjoying a bacon and egg sandwich and a cup of Tetleys from the local Egg on Ronnie (Egon Ronay!) and saw 25 Stagecoach, 7Veolia, 1 Arriva, 7 First, 1 IBT,1 EST,1 Birmingham Coach co (National), 4 Bebb's and all the usual Cardiff bus with the new ones running. All are **CN 57. 721 BHV, 722 BHY, 723 BHW, 724 BHX, 725 BHZ, 726 was not seen, 727 BJF, 728 BJJ, 729 BJK, 730 BJO, 731 BJU, 732 BJX, 733 BJV, 734 BJY,735 BJZ**. Just as I was about to leave the area **SURPRISE 463 BKF, 466 BKK** new deckers on driver familiarisation runs, so there are at least 4 here. The singles are Scania Omni City the deckers were definitely Eastern Coachworks body but had no other visible markings. Cardiff now has 3 liveries on the bendy buses,2 liveries on the single decks,1 livery on the new doubles and I still saw 7 deckers and 3 singles in the old Cardiff colours running around, so what with the other companies also, quite a colourful scene for the photographers.

New Deliveries

Alexander Dennis Factory, Falkirk - Arthur Moore

2nd October 2007

Dublin Bus	07-D-30049		
Metroline	TE837	LK57AXS	TE838 LK57AXT
Stagecoach Manchester	19183	MX57DZH	19184 MX57DZJ
Stagecoach Busways	19195	NK57DVY	
ALX 300		MX57COO	

27th November 2007

East Yorkshire Motor Services (Enviro 400)		YX57BWF	
First Capital (Enviro 400)		DN33501 LK57EJN	DN33502 LK57EJO
(ALX200)		DN44003 LK57EJF	DN44004 LK57EJG
Travel West Midlands (Enviro 400)	4735	4736	BV57XJA
London Red Liveried (ALX 200)		GN57BOU	
Plain White Liveried (Enviro 400)		BV57XKJ	
Plaxton Primo Body Number		7515	

Preservation News

Preservation News & Events

Events:

Manchester Museum of Transport, Cheetham Hill, Manchester 2008 programme (Supplied by Mike Pinder)

MARCH 2008 Spring Transport Festival Saturday 15 and Sunday 16.

APRIL 2008 London bus day Sunday 20

MAY 2008 North Western & Stockport event Saturday 17 and Sunday 18

JUNE 2008 Retired Employee Day Saturday 28

JULY 2008 Festival of modern tramways Saturday 19 and Sunday 20
SEPTEMBER 2008 Trans Lancashire Rally Sunday 7 (over 200 vehicles and takes place in Heaton Park, Prestwich)
OCTOBER 2008 Atlantean 50 Saturday 17 and Sunday 18
DECEMBER 2008 Christmas cracker Saturday 6 and Sunday 7
Free heritage bus service on all events except September Rally. (I would presume that there would still be a service to the Museum on the day) but not advertised.

HB Publications – Bus Data Files will be on sale at these Rallies

(Look out for the Harold Peers Sales Stand)

Sometimes the above Rallies can be cancelled at short notice – so please check before hand, as you don't want a wasted journey.

News

For Preservation News please contact Maurice Brown

The Potteries Running Day, held at the Gladstone Potteries Museum, Stoke – on – Trent, 30th September 2007 – Ray Wilson

LTA813 KS5G, **OTT43** LS6G, **WWY115G** Val 70, **FRB208H** RELL6G, **766EVT** Atlantean, **GRF709V** VRT, **SOA674S** Leopard, **OEH604M** VRT, **URF677S** VRT, **N206VRC** Metrorider, **NEH466** PD2, **BVP811V** National, **LFJ16F** PD3A, **NDV537G** Atlantean, **805EVT** Reliance, **JEH198K**, **RESL6L** **BIG2578** Olympian, **NSG869** Nimbus, **PVT207L** RESL6L, **RNA236J** Fleetline, **TVT128G** Leopard,

On display at Foxfield Railway **URE281** Regal 3

The following were seen on a visit to the Isle of Wight Bus Museum Autumn

Running Day on the 14th October 2007 – Peter Weller

DL 5084 Daimler CK, **JT 8077** Bedford WTB, **BAS 563** Bristol LD6G, **CDL 899** Bristol K5G, **DDL 50** Bristol K5G, **DSL 540** AEC Routemaster, **FDL 676** Bedford OB, **GDL 764** Leyland PD2/I, **HDL 279** Bristol LL5G, **KYY 529** AEC Regent 111, **KYY 877** AEC Regent 111, **JXN 325** AEC Regent 111, **LRV 996** Leyland PD2/12, **MOR 581** AEC Reliance, **MXX 384** Guy Special, **ODL 400** Bedford SBG, **PDL 519** Bristol LD6G, **SDL 268** Bristol LD6G, **VJW 882** Commer Avenger, **WLT 613** AEC Routemaster, **WLT 912** AEC Routemaster, **934 BDL** Bristol VRT, **63 CLT** AEC Routemaster, **363 CLT** AEC Routemaster, **461 CLT** AEC Routemaster, **469 CLT** AEC Routemaster, **972 CUF** Leyland PD3/4, **138 NOU** Renault TN4F, **ADL 459B** AEC Routemaster, **ALD 955B** AEC Routemaster, **CCG 704C** Bedford Val 14, **CDL 479C** Bristol FLF 6G, **CUV 233C** AEC Routemaster, **JAH 553D** Bristol FLF6G, **JJD 508D** AEC Routemaster, **KGJ 62ID** AEC Routemaster, **HDL 25E** Bristol RESL 6G, **KDL 885F** Bristol RESH6G, **KOW 91** OF AEC Regent V, **OSF 307G** Bristol SL6G, **SDL 638J** Bristol SL6G, **TDL 563K** Bristol RELL6G, **TDL 564K** Bristol RELL6G, **XDL 122L** Bristol RELH6G, **NDL 63** 7M Bristol SL6G, **AFJ 740T** Bristol LH6L, **FDL 681V** Bristol VRT, **KDL 202W** Bristol LHS, **VVV 952W** VRT SL3/6LXB **WDD 17X** Bedford YNT, **A811** CCD Leyland TRCTL11/3R, **A630** THV AEC Routemaster,

Visiting Vehicles and Other buses & Coaches seen around the Island – Peter Weller

Andrews Somerset YN51 MHK, **Burton Northamptonshire YJ04** GYV, **Crawley Luxury W608** FUM, **Daish Isle of Wight R951** YNF, **Elcock Shropshire YJ06** GNP, **Kardan Travel 114** UPH, **Southern Vectis 300 HW52** EPX, **307 HW54** BUE, **313 HW54** BUU, **314 HW54** BUY, **452 HW07** CXS, **715 TIL 6715**, **718 TIL 6718**, **724 TIL6724**, **740 K740** ODL, **744 M744** HDL, **757 R757** GDL, **758 R758** CDL, **814 N814** PDL, **HW07** CXV, **Brijan Coaches 86** EIG 9486, **Fountain Coaches K728** JWJ, **Marchwood Motors 817** G526 VYE, **Nottingham City YN55** KWX, **Paxton Waterlooville UPG 498**, **Ralph Cole Wolverhampton A9** TRC, **Paul Winson N3** PSW, **Stagecoach 13640 G283** VRG, **Stephensons York SG03** ZJG, **Watts Dorchester R174** UMR

Wirral Bus and Tram Show 2007 – Alan Hayward

The show exhibited buses, trams, commercial vehicles and cars. There were vintage bus rides to local places of interest, buses picked up from the various display areas. Sales stands were at Wirral Transport Museum and Pacific Road Theatre and all locations were linked by the Birkenhead Heritage Tramway, which operated a four car service

Exhibits – Buses:

LED71P Bristol RESL 6G, **4227FM** Bristol Lodekka, **VBA151S** Leyland Atlantean, **A697HNB** Leyland Atlantean, **321CLT** AEC Routemaster, **BIG8385** Leyland Olympian, **FHF451** Leyland Atlantean, **FBG910** Leyland PD2/40, **B926KWM** Leyland Atlantean, **CHF565** Leyland PD2/1, **AHF850** Leyland PD2/1, **101CLT** AEC Routemaster, **RCM493** Leyland Leopard, **GCM152E** Leyland PD2/37, **THM692M** Daimler Fleetline, **CWU146T** Daimler Fleetline, **HKF820** AEC Regent III, **BG9225** Leyland PD1/1A, **BG8557** Guy Arab, **WLT531** AEC Routemaster, **MCA620P** Bristol LH, **UCT768D** Leyland Leopard, **GRF709V** Bristol VR, **OEH604M** Bristol VR, **BFM144** Leyland Tiger TS7, **286HFM** Bristol LD6G, **CHA460K** Leyland Leopard, **NKU214X** Dennis Dominator, **GJW43N** Leyland Leopard, **MXX326** Guy GS, **HHY186D** Bristol Lodekka, **CUV180C** AEC Routemaster, **VKB711** Leyland PD2, **FKF835E** Leyland Atlantean, **VKB900** AEC Regent, **EDG250L** Leyland Leopard, **DBV531W** Leyland National 2, **A9105YE** Leyland Titan, **MNC487W** Leyland Fleetline, **FM990** Bedford Beadle, **6BB516K** Leyland Atlantean, **NSG869** Albion Nimbus, **A323GLV** Leyland Atlantean, **MDJSS4E** Leyland PD2, **562RTF** Leyland PD2, **JDJ260K** AEC Swift, **RMA435V** Bristol VR, **NEK9K** Leyland Atlantean, **AFM402A** Bristol Lodekka, **GOH357N** Leyland Leopard, **UFM52F** Bristol RELH, **HEF303** Leyland Tiger, **SDA8225** MCW Metrobus, **JOV738P** Volvo Ailsa

Plus a Volvo B7TL Alexander ALX400 built 2006 Arriva Northwest

- Trams:

43 Liverpool Horse Tram, **20** Birkenhead Electric Tramcar, **78** Wallasey Electric Tramcar, **762** Liverpool Electric Tramcar, **245** Liverpool Electric Tramcar (Baby Grand), **69** Hong Kong Electric Tramcar, **70** Hong Kong Electric Tramcar, **730** Lisbon Electric Tramcar, **2** Warrington Electric Tramcar

- Commercial:

FMA53F Scammell Articulated Lorry, **GKD317** Guy Vixen Tower Wagon, **NHF16** Land Rover 109 Recovery, **F389CEG** AWD TL Recovery, **KBO622** Leyland Steer Brewers Dray, **? Leyland PD3/4** Recovery, **PAJ726R** Bedford Fire Engine, **Q33VDE** Scammell Crusader Recovery
Plus Fordson STD Model 'N' Tractor

- Cars:

OSS843H Morris 1000 Estate, **RDM189** Ford Anglia, **245CFM** Ford Zephyr, **PFO359** Chrysler, **TRG291K** Triumph Stag, **FCM250D** Wolsley, **KDJ1** Sunbeam Rapier, **TTD812H** Triumph Herald, **235ETE** Rover, **679UXE** Ford Edsel, **LVS180** GM Chevrolet, **PFO351** Chrysler, **SRN701X** Ford Cortina, **PEJ246** Austin A40, **MUT855F** Triumph 2000, **140YTB** Austin A55, **JTG512D** Ford Cortina, **PSK321** Vauxhall Cresta, **46HTJ** Hillman Minx, **EBR86** Morris Minor, **KHF311K** Morris Traveller, **VVR1** Austin 1800, **JP5583** Wolsley, **EP5987** Austin 7, **VDM575R** Triumph, **ATC864J** Morris 1000, **KBL457D** Sunbeam Alpine, **ATE899J** Wolsley, **F898VAJ** Jaguar XJS, **CHC936D** Austin Cambridge, **VW4816** Austin 7, **BMB773L** Triumph 2000, **M45BLA** Morgan, **A817NUR** Ford Escort, **BLV393A** Ford Anglia, **4708U** Bubble Car, **VJW654** Morris Minor Traveller, **BVH567K** Land Rover, **M109CDM** MG Sports **BHF605D** Morris Traveller, **OBG773J** Vauxhall Victor ? Ford Popular

West Somerset Railway - End of Season Gala Sunday 28th October 2007, Barry Harper

- Vintage Buses spotted

JG9938 Leyland Tiger (East Kent R.C) **GNU750** Daimler (Blue Bus Services)
Also observed two Stagecoach Cooks **YJ06YSR** & **YJ06YSS** plus **66173** (FG STA).
Spotted in Bridgewater **42834** and **51688** (FG STA)

Manchester Museum of Transport, Cheetham Hill, Manchester visited 31st October, 2007. By Mike Pinder, Steve Jenner and Marc Baker

A cracking museum - Adults £4 and OAP's £2 what a difference a year makes, this visit saw a lot of work had been done on various vehicles under restoration, and best of all each vehicle had a board in front giving a history of it, even those under restoration. Cafe needs sorting out though, NO BACON BUTTIES, However the Tea is well up to standard, dissolving the metal spoons in seconds. Well laid out exhibits in the space provided, however photography is a bit difficult as exhibits are close together and the lighting is a bit tricky. A nice gift shop in the entrance and the staff give a real Lancastrian welcome.

TRAMS:

173 Manchester (1901) 4w open top unvestibuled
1000 Manchester Metrolink (1990) Mock up
63 Manchester Corporation "Stonetram" Body only (For eventual restoration)
L 2 Manchester Carriage & Tramway (Horse Drawn)

TROLLEY BUSES:

JVU 755 Crossley Dominion (Manchester Corporation) 1260, **LTC 774** Crossley (Empire Ashton 80)

BUSES:

122 JTD Guy Arab 1V (*Lancashire Utd*) 27, **414 CLT** AEC Routemaster (*London*) RM 1414
4632 VM Daimler CVG6 (*Manchester City*) 4632, **8860 VR** AEC Regent V (*Mayne Manchester*),
A706 LNC Leyland Atlantean (*GMPTE*) 8706, **AJA 152** Bristol K5G (*North Western*), 432,
ANB851 Crossley Mancunian (Manchester Corporation) 436, **AXJ 857** Leyland Titan (*Manchester*)
526 (*Chassis only*), **B 65 PJA** Leyland Olympian (*GMPTE*) 3065, **BBA 560** AEC Regent (*Salford*)
235, **BEN 177** AEC Regent 3 (*Bury Corporation*) 177, **BND 874C** Leyland Panther Cub
(*Manchester City*) 74 **C 208FVU** MCW Metrobus (*GMPTE*) 5208, **C 2367** Leyland
G2 (*Todmorden*) 14 **CDB 224** Leyland Titan (*North Western*) 224, **CK 3825** Leyland Lion, (*Ribble*)
295 **CWG 206** Leyland Tiger (*Alexander*) P164, **CWH 717** Leyland Titan (*Bolton*) 367, **D 63NOF**
FR Sherpa (*Manchester Minibuses*) 63, **D 676NNC** MCW Metrorider (*Greater Manchester*) 1676,
DB 5170 Tilling Stevens (*North Western*) 170, **DBA 214C** Leyland Atlantean (*Salford*) 214, **DBO**
246 Leyland Titan (*Oldham*) 246, **DDB 174C** Daimler Fleetline, *North Western* 174, **DJP**
754 Leyland Titan (*Wigan*)115, **EDB 575** Crossley (*Stockport*) 321, **EFJ 92** Bedford WTB (*Taylor*
Exeter), **FBU 827** Crossley (*Oldham*) 368, FRJ 254D Leyland Titan (*Salford*) 254, GNC
276N Seddon Lucas (*GMPTE*) EX2, **HEK 705** Leyland Titan (*Wigan*) 57, **HTF 586** Bedford OB
(*Warburton Bury*), **HVM 901F** Leyland Atlantean (*Manchester City*) 1001, **JBN 153** Leyland
Titan (*Bolton*) 77, **JNA 467** Leyland Titan (*Manchester Corporation*)3166, **JND646** Leyland
Titan (*Manchester Corporation*) 4127, **JND 791**Crossley (*Manchester Corporation*) 2150, **KDB**
408F Leyland Leopard (*Stockport*) 408, **LMA 284** Foden (*R.Bullock & Son*), **MJA 891G** Leyland
Titan (*Stockport*) 91, **MJA 897G** Leyland Titan (*Stockport*) 97, **NBU 494** Leyland Titan (*Oldham*)
394, **NDK 980** AEC Regent 5 (*Rochdale*) 280, **NNB 125** Leyland Royal Tiger (*Manchester*
Corporation) 25, **ORJ 83W** MCW Metrobus (*GMPTE*) 5083, **PND 460** Leyland Titan (*Manchester*
City) 346, **PTC 114C** AEC Renown (*Leigh*) 15, **PTE 944C** Leyland Titan (*Ashton*) 44, **RN 7824**
Leyland Cheetah (*Ribble*) C1568, **SRJ 328H** Leyland Atlantean (*SELNEC PTE*) 1205, **TNA**
496 Leyland Titan (*Manchester City*) 3496, **TNA 520** Leyland Titan (*Manchester City*)3520, **TRJ**
112 Daimler CVG6 (*Salford*) 112, **TTD 386H** Leyland Titan (*Ramsbottom*) 11, **UMA**
370 Atkinson (*SHMD Board*) 70, **UNB 629** Leyland Atlantean (*Manchester Corporation*) 3629, **UTC**
672 AEC Regent 3 (*Bamber Bridge*) 4, **VNB 101L** Leyland Atlantean (*SELNEC PTE*) 7001, **VR**
5742 Leyland Tiger (*Manchester Corporation*) 28, **VY 957** Leyland Lion (*York*) 2 also (*Ribble*) 296,
XVU 352M Seddon Pennine (*SELNEC PTE*) 1711, **YDK 590** AEC Reliance (*Yelloway*)

Scottish Preserved Bus ULS658T Update – Thomas Graham

The bus was put through a pre-MOT inspection during October. The result of this is that I will require to spend between £400 and £500 in getting repairs done. The main repairs will be welding below the platform and the rear floor on the lower deck. I was pleasantly surprised that other than the welding almost all of the repairs are cosmetic. The whole cost is well within the budget.

Now that the exhaust has been repaired and the inspection has taken place, the welding should be done in December and the bus will then be sanded down and painted in the short lived two tone blue livery of Kelvin Scottish for the 2008 rally season.

In June 2009 the bus will be 30 years old and I am in the early stages of planning a round Britain tour. The tour will last 12 days and the bus will be in Midland Scottish livery for the 2009 season. The bus will therefore be in two tone blue for 2008 and it will bear the fleet name of Kelvin Scottish and Fleet number 'F133'.

When the bus is not in use, it will be displayed in the museum at Beith. While on display, visitors will be permitted to board the bus to view it.

As we all must know the preservation movement is not just about preserving buses and coaches, but all the memories and artefacts that go with the company. One such group attempting to do this is the Ribble Enthusiasts Club which has been going for over 50 years. This very friendly group has one common theme to keep alive the memories of the Ribble Bus Company. Meetings tend to revolve around days out usually in the heritage liveried Stagecoach bus, to operators garages etc. Membership is £13.00 and details can be found at <http://homepages.manx.net/jhl/rec/> or by contacting Mr R Downham, 203 Brindle Road, Bamber Bridge, PRESTON, Lancs, PR5 6YL

Observations

Garage Visits Anthony Walton

PLEASE REMEMBER PERMISSION MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE ENTERING ANY BUS GARAGE

Sunday 19th August

Stagecoach Fife - Glenrothes Depot

15302/6
16008/92, 16100/4/60/70/8, 16404/7/10/2/7/40, 16690, 16851/55-7, 16860
20318/32/4
22266-70, 22276, 22368, 22374-6, 22378
31498
32208/11
33436
40049/97, 40472, 40931
47183
52230/1, 52380, 52446, 52474-7, 52479/81
53286, 53305

Stagecoach Fife - Dunfermline Depot (Permit needed to go round)

14274
16045/54/65/73, 16107/8/40/52/4/6/8/9/63/6/72/7, 16658, 16840
18097/9
20325/6/30, 20336-8, 20341
22352/8/8/71
26030
33415-9
34082/4, 34104, 34726/7/9/30
35101/2
47178/9, 47228, 47230-4, 47364/6/8
52184, 52243, 52422/3/60
53249/51/3-5, 53304

Lurking in the UNDERGROWTH; an occasional series - Cassandra Sweeting

16th October 2007

FAT917L Heavily converted coach, in a car repair yard behind the Railway Public House off the A52 at Froghall, overlooking Froghall Station (Churnet Valley Railway)

1st November 2007

C18JPR Marked funcup.co.uk - parked in Bells HGV repairs yard, Hawkshead Quarry, Oakgrove

(Oakgrove is on A520 Leek – Macclesfield Road, from Macclesfield turn left by Fool's Nook Pub, into Hawkshead Lane, the quarry is on the right)

G.H. Jones, Gaw End Lane **H8HJC, GUP647H, P624NSF** Iveco

In a separate location in Macclesfield (The owner requests no publicity)

WDK563T - ex Boyden, Winkhill, last seen at Finn –Tel Engineering, Bradnop Also present **GIL2195** ex Boyden's, plus **BGY592T, OTL71Y, 666SHU, NBR665T, TYJ424, DBV287B**

Observations

Arriva **R608MHN** (2108), **M220AKB** (1220), **M921PKN** (3340), **R233AEY** (3343), **R234AEY** (3344)
*(Parked within garage perimeter **SCS365M**) (Parked in yard **BCA126W, LUR510L**)*

Ladyline **95D224** ex Dublin Olympian, **LIL8971, J381GKH, B532SAJ, B701AKM,**

Royal Stafford China, Burslem S-O-T Factory Tour 3rd November 2007

FM02LHR Silverdale, Nottingham **TYR8R, COA6H** Tyrer, Addlington **P522NMA** Kenmore, Standish

7th November 2007

Leek – **YX04CVG** Warringtons, Ilam **W602 GUG** Allan Walton Travel, Liverpool

N880AVV Mercedes 709? Clowes Coaches Longnor *(in all white not fleet colours)*

News Item (3.11.07)

Stoke's 'The Sentinel' reported Bakers Coaches of Biddulph have bought out Niddrie's Coaches of Middlewich. A fire at their garage means the coaches and admin will move to Baker's 'State of the Art' garage from a somewhat inconvenient site on a narrow major route which made reversing into the garage a nightmare. Ideally sited in the days of the horse, was an anachronism in the 21st century

Observations (30.10.07)

Hollinshead, Biddulph - **J10BUS, RIL1016, RIL1017, P219YGG, NIL8317**

Stanway, Kidsgrove **DKZ6252, SIB6741**

Dealer Stock **F62EET, KBZ3628, P816JRA, NJI3025**

Overflow yard (Further up the hill) **D703NWG** (MCW Metrobus ex Stagecoach 15873) still in Tracky Livery, last seen at Ladyline, Key Green, nr Congleton on 12th August. In need of TLC or a preserver **P625SNO, R862BAY, OUI2343, F305RMH, PIL9276, P481KFM**

Sighted 30.10.07 **CN05FVV** Megabus Well off route A50 Talke

Challinor, Talke **421CKH, A536YHE, P124GHE**

Leek Market Day **LUI9640** Tansey of Warrington, **W214UGX** Hawkes of Derby
(Note Tansey T/A Kwick Hire, Warrington)

Observations (1.11.07)

Golden Green, Longnor – additional **YJ07DVM**

Ladyline, Key Green Parked **95D224** ex Dublin Olympian

Reliance Bus Works, Newcastle – under – Lyme (1.11.07) are refurbishing ex Dublin Olympians eg **95, 202 and 204**

Also on site was **JBF169N** Fleetline formally Turners of Brown Edge recently imported from Germany, for preservation, Turners sold it to Potteries, worked Brown Edge – Hanley route, much missed. This is the second Turners Fleetline to make it into preservation **LVT699V** being first

Observations (6.11.07)

Lomas, HGV Depot, Chapel En Le Frith **B7WER** Bowers, (additional to fleet) **P242WWX** Smith, Marple

Smith, Cross Lane, Marple **BUI2649**, **C120CHM**, **B745GCN**

Retired in splendour, an occasional series no. 54 **NML636E** (yes! The compulsory RM!! Every issue should have one Dontcherknow!) And yet more proof that GB-BG girls get to places the boys can only dream of- unless you know differently

Sited in a private house 'Fletcher Towers' on top of a large hill and easy to see from two railway lines, for a bus in such a dominating position it is easily missed

Fleet Profile

Turners of Essex

Turners of Essex are a family run firm and commenced operations in 1985 and are based at: Sudbury Road, Little Maplestead, Halstead in Essex. This gives the company easy access to London and east & south coast ferry ports.

They specialise in coach & minibus hire and operate excursions to Europe and the UK plus weekend trips. The company moved to the new premises in 2004 which has a fully equipped workshop and offices.

Fleet

Reg.	Make	Body	Seating
Coaches			
VBZ1450	Man	Jonckheere Deauville	C51F
S148FVE	Dennis	Berkhof	C57F
T630JWB	Mercedes Benz	Plaxton Cheetah	C29F
W269MKY	Scania	Van Hool T9	C49FT
YN03DDL	Scania	Van Hool T9 - Tri axle	C49FT
YN53CHY	Scania	Irizar Century	C49FT
YN04GGZ	Scania	Irizar Century	C49FT
YN54WWT	Volvo B12B	Plaxton Panther	C49F
YN06CKX	Scania	Irizar PB	C49F
G802RNC	Leyland Tiger	Duple	C57F
G800RNC	Leyland Tiger	Duple	C57F
VJI9415	Leyland Tiger	Duple	C57F
Bus D/D			
G293UYK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	B77F
Minibuses			
G148GOL	Iveco	Carlyle	B29F
M711YJC	Mercedes Benz	Mellor	B29F
M714YJC	Mercedes Benz	Mellor	B29F
L515BBJ	Leyland/DAF 400	DAF	C16F
L931TGT	Leyland/DAF 400	DAF	C16F
L932 TGT	Leyland/DAF 400	DAF	C16F

L991CRY	Toyota	Caetano	C16F
Y507CCY	Renault	Master	C18F

Our thanks go to member Barry Harper and Tristan Noble - who supplied the fleet list for Barry. Also thanks to Turners for allowing us to download the photographs from their web site



Museum Listing

Beith Museum

Registration	Vehicle	Body	Seating	Date	Fleet No.
70 JZL	Bombardier	Bombardier	B45/27D	1981	KD70
81 D 1477	Volvo B57	New Zealand Bus	BxxD	19xx	?
82 D 2550	Volvo B57	New Zealand Bus	BxxD	19xx	?
A733 PSU	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1983	A107
B105 PKS	MCW Metrobus	Alexander RL	B45/33F	1985	RM805
B21 YYS	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1984	A120
B33 YYS	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1984	A132
B949 YHS	Dodge Commando	Marshall bus unit,	B20F	1984	-
B999 YUS	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1984	A119
C233 ENE	Leyland Olympian	Northern Counties	O43/30F	1986	3233
CAG 440C	Leyland Leopard	Alexander Y	converted	1965	L2025
CAS520W	Leyland Leopard	Alexander AY	DP49F	1981	L26
CUS 302X	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/33F	1981	LA1448
CUV 271C	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	B40/32R	1965	RML2271
D310 DSR	MCW Metrobus	Alexander RL	DP45/33F	1986	SM10
DWK 412T	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Supreme	C55F	1979?	-
ECK 865E	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Supreme	?	?	?
FYS 996	BUT RETB/1	Burlingham	B50F	1958	TBS21
G700 PNS	Volvo Citybus	Alexander RV	B47/35F	1989	AH72
GCS 50V	Leyland Leopard	Alexander AY	B53F	1980	JL50
GGE 156T	Leyland National	Leyland National	B41F	1979	LN1
GGG 300N	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1975	AV1
GSU 866T	Leyland Leopard	Alexander Belfast	B53F	1979	T384
GSV 580	Leyland Titan	Alexander	Tow bus	1959	L266/R14
HDB355V	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Supreme	C53F	1980	-
HGD 903L	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/30D	1973	LA697
HRS 265W	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	O45/29D	1980	265
HRS 271V	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	O45/29D	1981	271

HUS 675	Albion Victor	was Bennet	Chassis only	1950	-
IF 14 62	AEC Regent 3	Weymann-CCFL	B15D	1948	104
J512 WSX	Optare Metrorider	Optare	B31F	1992	1512
JGA 199N	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B46/31F	1975	LA917
JHE 161W	MCW Metrobus	MCW	B46/31F	1981	1861
JJD 486D	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	B40/32R	1966	RML2486
JJD 553D	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	B40/32R	1966	RML2553
LHS 747V	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1979	AH23
LMS 169W	Leyland Fleetline	Alexander AD	B44/34F	1980	1537
LSU 381V	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/33F	1979	LA1324
MGE 183P	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1975	AV8
MRO 343H	Albion Venturer	Clyde Engineering	B61R	1948	2004
NMS 372	AEC Reliance	Alexander	C41F	1960	AC161
OKM 317	AEC Regent 3	Saunders Roe	B30/26R	1951	
OMS 244	Albion Nimbus	Alexander	C29F	1960	N11
OSC 62V	Volvo Ailsa B55	Alexander AV	B44/35F	1979	FRA62
OSD 720H	Ford R192	Plaxton	C45F	1970	-
RDS 597W	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/33F	1980	LA1408
RDS 605W	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/33F	1980	LA1416
SGD 239	Daimler CVG6	Alexander	B33/28R	1959	D256
SGD 241	Daimler CVG6	Alexander	B33/28R	1959	D258
SGD 271	Leyland Titan PD2	Alexander	B33/28R	1959	L269 then
SGD 491	AEC Regent 5	Alexander	was B41/31F	1960	A341
SMK 677F	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	B40/32R	1967	RML2677
SRS 112	Albion Lowlander	Alexander	B40/31F	1963	NPE2
TJI 4036	Volvo B58	Plaxton Supreme	C49F?	?	-
TMS403X	Leyland Leopard	Alexander AYS	B53F	1981	MPE403
UGB 193W	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	B45/33F	1981	LA1440
ULS 640X	MCW Metrobus	Alexander RL	B45/33F	1982	MRM40
ULS658T	Leyland Fleetline	ECW	B43/32F	1979	MRF133
UOI 2386	Bristol RELL6G	Alexander (Belfast)	B52F	1980	2386
URS 321X	Leyland Atlantean	Alexander AL	O45/29D	1982	321
VNB 108L	Leyland Atlantean	Park Royal	O43/32F	1972	7008
WCW 318R	Leyland Leopard	Alexander	DP49F	1977?	318
WFS 145W	Leyland Leopard	Alexander AYS	B53F	1980	PE453
WLT 546	Leyland Leopard	Plaxton Supreme	DP53F	1981	628 / 25728
WLT 759	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	B36/28R	1961	RM759
WUS 248	AEC Reliance	Plaxton Panorama	C37F	1959	-
XOI 2258	Leyland Leopard	Wright	B53F	1981	2258
Z 23 44	Leyland W/master	Den Oudsten	B43D	?	2426

Recovery Vehicles

BGM 39	AEC Matador	?		?	
CJU 156T	Scania 111	?		?	
FYS 7	AEC Matador	Glasgow Corp'n		1947	
FYS 8	AEC Matador	Glasgow Corp'n		1947	
FYS 10	AEC Matador	Glasgow Corp'n		1947	R2
not known	AEC Matador	?		?	
XSJ 753	MACK NM 6 x 6	?		1943	Dumbo

All Change at Digbeth

The 12th of November marked the closure for redevelopment (as an operational station) of the original Coach Station at Digbeth, Birmingham.

Opened in 1929 as a Bus depot & serving as a Coach Station since the fifties, the Rea Street site had been slated for either development or replacement for over 20 years. Strangely, an aborted attempt to move the station to the north side of the City to a site near Snow Hill, was the catalyst for final closure. After the Snow Hill location been abandoned, plans were drawn up for redevelopment of the Digbeth site & temporary accommodation was sought, so the premises could be completely vacated during the two-year reconstruction of the old station.

The site of the temporary station is almost across the road from the original station. The entrance is at the junction of Coventry Street & Oxford Street & is on the site of a former Car dealership. The site was known over two years ago, various snags having held up the transfer until now. Work began this autumn on over £1 million of building work at the temporary site & an announcement was made by National Express that the changeover would occur on the morning of the 12th.

So, the scene on the morning of closure, was one of journalists mingling amongst passengers & 'commemorative' announcements over the p.a. Final services from the old station were to be the 07:30 departures, 420 to London VCS & the 777 to Stansted Airport, in the hands of Bebb (Veolia) Birmingham Scania PB's NXL21 (YN05WJJ) & NXL6 (YN04GKX) respectively. Both services were slightly delayed on their departure to fulfil the needs of the journalists! So it was almost 07:40 that NXL21, followed by NXL6, emerged in a barrage of flash-photography & responded to by horn-blasting from the Coaches. Shortly after, journalists left & a convoy of staff made their way to the temporary station. This part of Digbeth was left to fall silent. First arrival at the temporary station was 3252 (FJ56PCZ) a Scania/Levante from Arriva Midlands, which was to later work the 08:40 320 Bradford service.

Once again, Bebb, Birmingham had the honour of providing the stock for the first departure. This time, the responsibility fell to fellow 'PB, NXL3 (YN04GKU), which worked the 08:00 420 to London VCS. Considerably less fuss was made of this working by the press. The only hitch to occur here was courtesy of the exit gate (both entry & exit gates were to prove troublesome on this first day). To complete the story, the first arrival with passengers, was Selwyns 111 (YJ05PWE) the 06:30 420 Stafford – London VCS.

The changeover went ahead without any major problems. Indeed, apart from the gates, the only other notable event was that the local free 'Stationlink' Bus service ignored the temporary station & continued to serve the former station until the afternoon – apparently this was due to the service provider being 'unaware' of the new location....

As a final farewell, NX held an 'open day' at the old station on Saturday 17th November. A number of vehicles associated with the Station were exhibited, along with various stalls, bands & NX giveaways. Vehicles in attendance were:

3301	KHA301	BMMO C1, BMMO C30C	1948	(BMMO)
3311	KHA311	BMMO C1, BMMO C30C	1948	(BMMO)
5073	5073HA	BMMO S15, BMMO DP40F	1962	(BMMO)
5963	UHA963H	BMMO S23, Plaxton B51F	1969	(BMMO)
146	SDD146R	Leyland Leopard, Plaxton C53F	1977	(National Travel SW)
1337	EAP937V	Leyland Leopard, Duple C53F	1979	(Southdown)
359	KAD359V	Leyland Leopard, Plaxton C57F	1980	(Black & White)
SC18	FJ57KHX	Scania K340EB6, Caetano C61FTL	2007	(National Express)

Further pictures, along with more information on the current Coaches, routes & operations of National Express, can be found on the following website: <http://nationalexpresscoaches.fotopic.net>