

# The Trident

The Monthly Magazine of the GB Bus Group

## GB-BG



Basking in the early morning sun of Good Friday, with only delivery mileage on the clock, is Stagecoach in Lancaster Optare Versa PX08CRZ. (Gez)

Web Site – [www.gb-bg.co.uk](http://www.gb-bg.co.uk)

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## **Noticeboard**

### **Editors Bit**

Well this is the first “Trident” without David Sharpe at the helm, I’m sure you would join me in wishing him well in his new role with the PSV Circle. As for the magazine, we don’t intend to change its layout, although you may see the odd subtle change over the coming months as I get to grips with it, so you will have to pardon any gaffs over the next couple of editions.

A packed magazine, any sightings sent in this month will be placed onto the website, speaking of which we are looking for somebody to take on the role of looking after it any offers? *Gez*

### **Magazine**

The deadline for the magazine is 28<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Please can you send any contributions to the area editors a few days before to give them chance to deal with the information. Many thanks.

## Membership Details

Membership of the GB Bus Group is £13 per year. This gives you a monthly magazine and 20% discount on all HB Publication Bus Books. Please make all cheques and Postal Orders payable to GB Bus Group

A warm welcome to Ronald Ward (East Sussex)

## Contributions

Thanks go to contributors LOTS, Dave Stewart, Tony Hunter, Mark Haldon, James Stoker, John Nobbin, Danny Howard, John Heath, Ian Gordon, Mark Fitzgerald, Arthur Moore, Terry Spriggs, Barry Harper, Wootens Coaches, Tim Jennings, Keith Myatt, Anthony Walton, Andrew Williams, Geoff Lusher & the Staff of Aston Manor Road Transport Museum The Oxford & Chiltern Bus Page and apologies to anyone whom we have inadvertently missed.

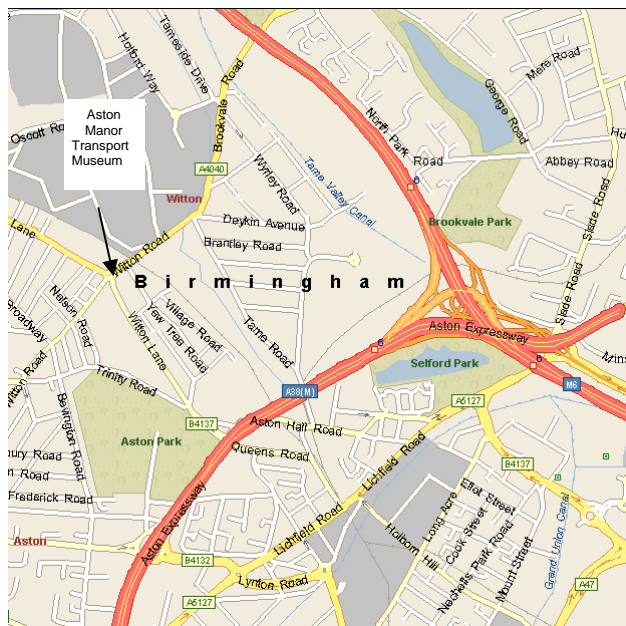
## AGM

Notice is hereby given of the first Annual General Meeting of the GB Bus Group. It will be held at 1200 on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2008 in the Cafeteria Room of the Aston Manor Transport Museum, Witton Lane, Birmingham.

All members are invited to attend and see how your club is run and your chance to have an input. Does the magazine live up to your expectations?, anything else you would like to see in it or things you don't think need to be in? then this is your chance to say so.

We intend to meet up and hour before hand at 11.00 to enable a look around the museum before the meeting commences.

The museum is easily reached from the M6 with car parking on site, Witton railway station with a half hourly service from New St is only 400 yards away and TWM service 7, which runs every ten minutes, passes the museum.



## Beith Transport Museum

The trustees of the Transport Preservation Trust, operators of the Beith Transport Museum regret to announce that the museum will be closed to members of the public with immediate effect due to planning regulations. We would also like to inform everyone that our open weekend on the 22nd and 23rd March will also be cancelled. The cancellation of the open weekend is not a decision the trustees have taken lightly, but with Easter weekend falling early this year and the requirement for any open weekend events to be staged outdoors, it is felt a summer weekend event may be more suitable. We would like to apologize for the short notice and understand many people will have made travel plans to visit us, but unfortunately this matter is out with our control.



**Bus Eireann** The inter City operator in Eire, has purchased 32 three axle 13m VDL Berkhof Axial double deck coaches for use on commuter routes. The coaches seat 78 and are wheelchair accessible. The majority are destined for the Dublin Navan route which is being upgraded to operate every 15 minutes.

**MR Travel** of Rochdale entered administration in mid March, the three school services operated have been taken over by Courtesy Coaches of Oldham.

**Roberts Coaches** of Wingate in County Durham suffered a suspected arson attack at its depot on March 17<sup>th</sup> causing an estimated £500,00 worth of damage to the fleet, including the first 13M Bova Futura (SN08RTS) in the country having only been delivered the previous Friday. Four other Bova Futuras were destroyed along with three 70 seat Palxton Paramounts and two Volvo B12s. Three vehicles of Wildings Coaches, who park some vehicles at the premises were also damaged

**First Group** have announced that it is launching its own low cost version of Stagecoach's Megabus. BOLTBUS is a new division of First owned Greyhound and is operated in association with Peter Pan Bus Lines. Operations commenced on March 27<sup>th</sup> with eight non stop services between New York and Washington D.C. Further services are to commence in April Linking New York with Philadelphia and Boston. US\$15 million is being spent on 33 new coaches

**Redby Coaches** of Sunderland went into liquidation in early March, the bus operations had previously been sold to Go Ahead.

**Go West Midlands** has sold its loss making West Midlands business, selling its entire operation to Rotala plc for £2 million. Go Ahead spent £4.5 million buying various businesses including Diamond Bus, so this represents quite a loss over the three years that the company has been in the West Midlands. Rotala, itself has been building up quite a portfolio in the area over recent times, buying up North Birmingham Busways, Zaks, and Ludlows. Go West Midlands add another 130 buses to the fold along with a further three depots at Tividale, Redditch and West Bromwich.

**University Bus** of Hadfield, which trades as Uno, took over the St Albans operation of Centrebus from 2<sup>nd</sup> March. The entire route network along with 26 buses have passed to Uno taking its fleet to over 80. A separate O Licence is used

## Fleet News

### Arriva

**Classic (Anfield Plain):** Quite a bit of activity to record here of late two new double deck Van Hools are 5579MW and 5887MW. Iveco Beulas Y51TGM has also been added.

**Durham County:** The town centre depot situated in the old United bus station was closed on Sunday March 9<sup>th</sup> when operations moved into the former Stagecoach depot at Faverdale, service revisions also took place resulting in some frequency cuts. Leyland Olympians 7224 (D146FYM) and 7285 (G762UYT) have been sold for scrap. Optare Delta 4011 (K411BHN) has lost its Pod at the back of the bus, it now looks rather strange. Spare Optare Metrorider 2764 (N885RTN) has left Bishop Auckland while Optare Vecta 1548 (L548GHN) is expected to leave soon. Ex Darlington Dennis Dart Alexander's 1658/63 (K709PCN/L737VNL) have moved to Redcar with another 3 expected to follow suite soon. Optare Metrorider 2621(P621FHN) is being used as a Staff Buggy at Darlington. Optare Delta 4020 (L420FHN) is under repair at Darlington. As expected Dennis Darts 1673/5 (N305AMC/P616PGP) & Plaxton Bodied Dart 1668 (L748VNL) are now at Redcar ex Darlington.

**London:** Despite being noted at ADI with TEF fleet numbers the new Enviro 400s are currently, being delivered, albeit slowly, into Palmers Green (AD) garage, for use on route 102, as Ts, with the following noted being delivered as we went to press, T1 (LJ08CVS), T2 (LJ08CVT), T4 (LJ08CVV) and T5 (LJ08CVW). They are making the odd appearance. DWLs 11 12 19 and 20 have moved from Edmonton to Wood Green allowing DWL 39, 40 and 41 to be converted to Trainers. PDLs 82, 84, 85, 86, 87 89, 93 and 94 are now at Enfield from Lea Valley.

**Midlands North:** Eight Volvo B9TL/Wright Geminis 's, 4200-4207 are due to enter service on April 28<sup>th</sup> on Service 110 Birmingham – Sutton Coldfield – Tamworth with an increased daytime frequency of 20 mins. Joining these will be ten Scania Omnilinks 3800-3809.

Just a couple of other fleet movements 2002 2008, 2123 into Burton ex HO with 2058 and 2109 Cannock – HO.

**New Enterprise:** New for use on new easybus route between Gatwick and Victoria is 0304 (YX57CAA) a Ferqui bodied Merc 515CDi. A total of fourteen are expected. A new depot near Gatwick is to be opened to house them. Four others noted have been 0311 (YX08AOD), 0312 (YX08AOE), 0313 (YX08AOF) and 0314 (YX08AOG)

**North West & Wales:** Dennis Dart 1282 (L2SLT) has joined its sister 1281 at Aintree Coachline. Neoplans 602 and 603 are now back in service from Bootle. Dart 1148 (J701NHA) has been scrapped .

**Northumbria:** New vehicles are East Lancs bodied VDL DE02s 7453 (NK57BVD), 7454 (NK57BVE), 7455 (NK57BVF) and 7456 (NK57BVG) all H51/28F. Metrorider 2642 (P642FHN) is now being used at Ashington. Volvo Olympian 7376 (M376FTY) is now at Jesmond ex Alnwick. Leyland Olympian 7213 (D223FYM) is in use at Blyth to cover for some Scania Saloons that are off the road at the minute.

**Scotland West:** Metrobus 620 has been registered back to A954SUL from WLT954 and scrapped. Also scrapped have been Mercedes 2675 (N82PUS) and 2678 (P932YSB) along with Metroriders 2753 (P217SGB) and 2754 (P218SGB) and Citybus 7884 (H677GPF).

**The Shires:** The expected Enviro 400 has entered service from Garston, on TfL route 642, 5448 (SN08AAE). Two Optare Solos have arrived at High Wycombe 2496 (YK57FHH) and 2497 (YK57FHJ). Scrapped have been Dart 3103 (L300BUS), Olympian 5380 (TPD110X and Trident 5451 (W451XKX) the latter written off after a fire on December 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Tellings Golden Miller** A new arrival at the Wiltax operation is former Stagecoach Jonckherre T47BBW which has been re-registered to CSU908, joining similar T615DWL which is now CSU909.

**Wiltax:** The depot at Byfleet is expected to close by the end of April as the contracts operated from there are transferred to Atbus or moved to operate out of the OFJ connections depot at Heathrow.

**Yorkshire:** Dennis Dart 170 has moved to Selby.

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## First Group

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**Cymru:** New here are Volvo B7R / Plaxton C70FL 20321 (YN57BVU), 20322 (YN57BVV), 20323 (YN57BVW), 20324 (YN57BVX), 20325 (YN57BVY), 20326 (YN57BVZ) and 20327 (YN57BWU). Three Darts have been transferred down from Glasgow 42880, 42881 and 42882. These join 42877-879 and 42883/4 already here all at Llanelli

**Edinburgh:** Vehicles sold to Dunsmore (dealer) for scrap are Scania N113/Wright 62316 (L551MHS), 62319 (L554HMS), 62320 (L555HMS), 62327 (L561JLS) and 62333 (M567RMS). Mercedes 0405s 62313, 62336 and 62365 have been withdrawn. Scania 65712, 65714, 65715, 65716 and 65721 have moved from Linlithgow and Balfon. With 36028-36030 now at Livingston

**Glasgow:** Scania N113s 31102 (H625VNW), 31105 (H628VNW), 31109 (H632VNW), 31114 (H637VNW) and 36946 (H246LOM) have all been sold, at least two have appeared at Dunsmore (dealer) and will be scrapped. Also gone are Mercedes Minibuses 50396 (S831TCL), 52485 (R485EDW), 52487 (R487EDW), 52488 (R488EDW) and 52507 (R507CNP). Tiger trainers 61712 (A25VDS) and 61722 (D383OSU) have also departed.

Volvo B7TLs 32618-32622 and 32624 have been transferred to Cumbernauld Volvo B10BLE 61617-61620 and 61705-61710 have moved from Parkhead to Blantyre.

Dennis Dart SLF /ALX200 42880 (SF05KXB), 42881 (SF05KXC) and 42882 (SF06KXD) have transferred to First Cymru

**Hampshire & Dorset:** 34504 (JHU904X), 34533 (NTC133Y and 46210 (L210VHU) have been sold to Erith Commercials for scrap. Withdrawn have been 46210, 52092 and 52104.

**London:** The depot at Acton closed on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Operation of route 427 will transfer to Hayes along with work n the N207 which is run jointly with Uxbridge. The Willesden Junction buses that

outstation at Acton for use on the 226 move back into Willesden. Eleven Darts have formed an ibus float, DMS41257-41263 and DMS41350-41354 at Westbourne Park and will be loaned to other First depots as required. TNL33005 has been sold to Erith Commercials for scrap. TN32968-32966 are now back at Westbourne Park after loan to London United.

**Manchester:** Dennis Arrow allocations between Ince and Wigan seem to be very fluid so I don't intend to keep noting them as some are reallocated two or three times a month. Now oethr fleet movements 37302-37305 BY-BN, 69219, 69220, 69236-69238 BN-BY 38127, 38128 BN-(w), 60433-60438, 61149-61151 BY-QS, 40313-40317 OM-AN, 40360, 40361 BN-AN, 40370-40372, 40382, 40384 WN-AN, 40430-40436 AN-OM 31952, 31953 AN-WN, 40275, 40281, 40296 AN-(w) 60345, 60346, 60348 WN-IE, 60381-60383 QS-WN, 54097 WN-(w), 54098, 54099, 60301, 60321, 60324, 60339 QS-(w)

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## Go Ahead

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**Brighton & Hove:** Two Plaxton bodied Dennis Dart SLFs have been transferred from Metrobus 243 (W798VMV and 244 (W799VMV). A further six are expected to replace step entrance Darts.

**London:** The seventh Wrightbus Electrocitiy is WHY7 (LX57CLZ) Re-allocations to note are LDP77 Q-SW, LDP101 AL-SW, LDP150 AF-A, LDP240 SW-PL, PVL60 PM-NX, PVL65 SW-NX, PVL168 NX-AL and PVL278 SW-NX

**North East:** DAF Cadets 8274/5 (Y291HUA/Y292HUA) have moved from Deptford to Gateshead to cover for 2 Highwayman B10BLE's which are away at First for refurbishment. Volvo B10BLE 4911 (W411SCU) has left Stanley along with 4933 to return to Gateshead to help make the numbers up at the depot. Optare Solo 453 (S253KNL) is at Stanley while ex Percy Main Transbus SPD's 8234/5/6/7/8/9/40/1 (NK51MKF/G/J/L/M/N/O/P) have all moved to Deptford. Plaxton SPD 8233 (X233FBB) has also moved from Percy Main to Deptford. Dennis Tridents 3869 (W179SCU) has been repainted white and refurbished at Thornton's Ashington while sisters 3870/1/2 (W174SCU/W181SCU/W182SCU) have all been painted Cream & refurbished ready to go into the Coaster livery. Dennis Trident's 3879 (W189SCU) & 3880 (W176SCU) have moved from Gateshead to Chester Le Street while the 5 Angel Tridents are refurbished. Scania Omnicity's 5151/2/3 (NK56KHX/Y/Z) have all been repainted into the Cobalt Clipper livery ready for the North Tyneside service re-launch at the end of March. Dennis MPD's 507/8/9/10/11/12/13/14 (X507WRG/X508WRG/X509WRG/X551FBB/X511WRG/X512WRG/X513WRG/X514) have all been repainted green, gained LED blinds and now have Wallsend Links vinyl's on them. 8242/8252/3/4/5/6/7/8/9 – 8258 yet to be confirmed but likely.

(NA52BUU/NA52BVJ/NK04FOP/T/U/V/FPA/C/S have all been painted Red, gained LED blinds and now have Centurion vinyl's on them. All but 8256/7 (NK04FOV/FPA) are operating from Percy Main depot. Services 810/1/2/3 are being operated by Stanley depot using Venture Optare Solos. Mercedes Benz Citaro BX56VTP is again operating with Go North East and has so far been used on route learning drivers for the City Link 58. The 3 Optare Excels and Volvo Olympian obtained from Redby Travel have left the fleet and are now being housed at First Choice. This means only 617 (NK55RUV) & 618 (NK55RUW) (MPD) and 4782 (L482CFT) (Sigma) have been retained. Washington Red Arrow Citaro 5275 (NK07KPG) was used at Gateshead for Driver Training while the City Link Citaro's were pending delivery, 4970 (NK53UNW) was on loan from Gateshead to complement the swap, however since the 1<sup>st</sup> 4 Mercedes Benz Citaro's have now arrived and in the Citylink colours. The 2 that have been identified so far are NK08 CFX (5287) & NK08 CFZ (5289). By the time the next issue is out all of the Citaro's will be here. Mini Pointer Dart 516 (NK51MJV) is now white and will be the Wallsend Links spare at Percy Main depot. Dennis Dart 8290 (S726KNV) is working for Deptford ex Washington.

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## National Express Group

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**Travel London:** New route 350 commenced operation on March 22<sup>nd</sup>, operating every 12 minutes during the day and every 20 minutes evenings and Sundays, between Hayes and Harlington Station and Heathrow Terminal 5 using new 10.2m Enviro200Darts N29F from Hayes depot

8507 LJ08CZP 8510 LJ08CZT 8512 LJ08CZV 8514 LJ08CZY  
 8508 LJ08CZR 8511 LJ08CZU 8513 LJ08CZX 8515 LJ08CZZ  
 8509 LJ08CZS

Dennis Dart 8709 (R509SJM) has been sold to Pickford (Chippenham)

**Travel West Midlands:** The following movements took place during February :-

116,117,119 PE-(w) 262,264 sold 265,267,274 PE-(w) 1357,1358,1361 YW-PE  
 1368,1370 YW-PE 1412,1413,1416 AG-PE 1594,1680 PE-CV 1838-1842 new to PB 2531 LH-  
 withdrawn 2646 sold 2654,2674 YW-AG 2680 WB-(w) 2696 sold 2795 AG-(w)  
 2806 sold 2827 YW- (w) 2860 WB-(w) 2876 Sold 2933 WA-(w)  
 2977,3009 sold 4226,4230 PB-WB 4265,4271,4275 PB-WB 4511 PB-AG 4751-4762 new to YW  
 4777-4781 new to PB. Repaints into the new livery have been Volvo B7TLs 4654, 4655, 4674 at  
 Acocks Green, 4070, 4098 at Central Mercedes 0405s 1553, 1554 at Coventry and lastly B7RLE  
 1750 at Walsall.

## Stagecoach

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**Bluebird:** At Aberdeen Leyland Olympian 13176 (C176YBA) has been withdrawn, whilst Volvo Olympian 16202 (L102JSA) has returned to service. Mercedes 811D 41520 (K420ARW) has also been withdrawn with sister 41512 (J412PRW) rescued from the disposal list as a replacement Over in the Moray area, Dart 32105 (K105XHG) has been withdrawn, with 32809 (J509FPS) reinstated.

**East Scotland:** Volvo Olympians 16432 and 16737 have been allocated to Aberhill after transfer from North East at South Sheilds.

As noted in the news Rennies of Dunfermline have been bought the following are the new numbers for the acquired fleet. The Titans, Metrobuses and Olympians are not expected to stay for long.

Leyland Titan

10596	NUW596	10721	OHV721Y	10804	OHV804Y	10938	A938SYE
10600	NUW600Y	10744	OHV744Y	10805	OHV805Y	11028	A628THV
10697	OHV697Y	10771	OHV771Y	10812	OHV812Y	11121	B121WUV

Leyland Olympian

14902	E911KYR	14903	E919KYR	14904	E920KYR
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MCW Metrobus

15927	KYV756X	15928	B132WUL	15929	B209WUL
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Dennis Javelin

27091	D6BUS	27093	BHZ9545	27095	BHZ9542	27097	BHZ9548
27092	BHZ9543	27094	BHZ9549	27096	NXX451		

BMC Falcon

29717	SN05FCU	29718	SN05FCX
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Autosan Eagle

29861	BX06NZU	29862	BX06NZV	29863	BX56XAY	29864	BX56XAZ
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Volvo B10M

52012	IIL3504	52018	PIB9211	52129	A2XXW	52671	LSK478
52017	GDZ3363	52128	A2XXH	52670	LSK479	52672	CCZ5837

Volvo B12M

53028	FJ04ESU
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Dennis Javelin

59111	BHZ9546	59113	A16RNY	59114	C12RNY	59115	A19RNY
59112	A19RNY						

Mercedes-Benz Sprinter

59602	C13RNY	59603	PIJ601
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Mercedes-Benz Vario

59614 MX06ONV 59615 MX06ONW

Mercedes-Benz Touro

59642 BX04NCD 59643 438BUS

Mercedes-Benz Vito

60014 SF54CSU

Mercedes Recovery Truck

97020 C821ULO

**Manchester:** The first of what will be 87 new vehicles scheduled to be delivered by the end of April are Scania/Enviro 400s, 15444 (MX08GHH), 15445 (MX08GHJ), 15446 (MX08GHK), 15447 (MX08GHN). The new Enviro 400s will be Scania 15444-15455 and on Trident chassis 19220-19294. Delays are already being suffered so I'll list the registrations as they are delivered as like at Oxford changes from the original list are occurring. B10Ms 20916 and 20927 have moved up to Charles St from Daw Bank, with MAN 22092 moving on to Glossop.

The odd Trident was also making it down to Manchester late in March 19220 (MX08GJU) and 19221 (MX08GJV) being the first to arrive at Princess Rd on March 25th

**North East:** Volvo B10BLEs 21137 and 21146 have moved to South Shields from Walkergate.

**North West:**

**(in Cumbria)** A further Trident has received an all over wrap, minus most of the windows, this one for Wainwright is 18357.

**(in Lancaster)** The first two, of the expected three new, Optare Versas arrived at Morecambe depot on Friday March 20<sup>th</sup> (PX08CRZ) and (PX08CSF). The third had still not arrived as we went to press. They will enter service on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Oxfordshire:** The new Scania/Enviro 400 double decks, for use on routes 20/20A and 27, began entering service in mid March. Several have entered service with registrations different to that planned owing to the chassis' being bodied in a different order to that which they should have been, meaning paperwork didn't match up, with the easiest way of resolving it to switch registration plates between the buses affected. The following have now been confirmed 15431 (KX08KZK), 15432 (KX08KZL), 15433 (KX08KZF), 15434 (KX08KZG), 15435 (KX08KZM) 15436 (KX08KZD), 15437 (KX08KZE), 15439 (KX08KZJ) and 15442 (KX08KZN)

**South West:** Sold to Ensign have been Darts 32014 (L714JUD) and 32019 (L719JUD) along with Varios 42114 (R14NTA) and 42116 (R116NTA) They have also taken ex Lancaster Olympian 14181 (G181JHG). Dart 32015 (L715JUD) has been scrapped B10M 20419 (H619ACK) has been sold to Chepstow Classic Buses along with 28938 Olympians 13613, 13621, 13622, 13631 and 13635 are in store.

**Wales:** Dart 33292 is now at Porth with 33615 and 33627 de-licenced.

**West:** The company once again operated a shuttle service to the racecourse during this years Cheltenham Festival, with the usual drafting in of vehicles from around the country. The following were all noted 13601 13611 13620 13627 13629 13634 13640 13646 14273 14951 16205 16206 16278 16303 16444 16445 16448 16454 16458 16520 16521 16522 16523 16524 16583 16584 16586 16674 16675 16680 16681 17728 17729 18085 18086 19014 19016 19099 19953 33501. Ex Megabus 13611 then went on loan to Swindon.

**West Scotland:** More new Versas have arrived at Kilmarnock 25218 (SF08GOA), 25219 (SF08GOC), 25220 (SF08GOE) and 25221 (SF08GOJ). Some of the Neoplans have now taken registrations that adorned the artics 50127 is now (WLT720) off 51070, 50128 now (MSU466) off 51076, 50130 now carries (YSV730) and 50131 is now (VCS391) off 51062. Citybus 15246 is now back in service at Ayr seeing use on the shuttle between the Haven camp at Craig Tara and the town centre, however Olympian 13644 (G278YRJ) is being readied to take up duties on the service, for which it is receiving an all over livery, and may well be on it as this is read Scania's 28953 and 28954 have been sold to Ensign with B10Ms 20424 and 20425 being bought by McColls Coaches. B10Ms 20504 (R504KSA) and 20549 (P549ESA) are now operating out of Kilmarnock transferred from Ayr with 20145 (R645LSO) moving to Ardrossan. Olympian 16853 (N853VHH) has now moved to Cumnock to work on the 246 along with 16865. Interurban 52360 (P160ASA) has moved to Glasgow for use on the X25. Titans 10410 and 10999 have been placed in the reserve fleet and are reportedly parked at Blochairn. Olympian 13636 (G128WGX) is now at

Ardrossan allowing 13644 to move to Ayr (see above). The fleet card shows new Panther 54043 at Cumnock with the rest rather than Glasgow. Mercedes 709s sold comprise 40060, 40063, 40099 and 40622. Also noted as sold is B6 30312 (M712BCS). Interurban 52255 (M955TSX) is shown moving out or reserve to Glasgow. The artics from Cumnock 51061/2/4/70/1/6/98/9 are all moving to Bluebird. With 51063/4 into reserve and 51095 to Ardrossan. Vehicles on the disposal list are 38928, 32137, 32145, 40065, 40542 and 40612 so these may already have left. Solos 47506 and 47507 are now at Ayr on the enhanced service 24.

**Yorkshire:** PVS Carlton have taken Scania 28754 (K279EWA) and 28757 (K277EWA) with Wigleys taking 28762 (L268LHE) and 28961 (M291TWB) all for scrap.

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## Transdev

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**Accrington Transport:** The separate operation based on Accrington has been closed down with operations now operated by Lancashire United operating out of the former Blackburn Transport depot at Intack. B6s 101 (L101GHN) and 102 (L102GHN) have been sold to Ripleys (dealer) along with 106 (L252CCK) of Nothern Blue

**Keighley & District:** FJ08BZP, BZR, BZU Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse Urban

**Lancashire United:** The six Optare Versas on order are now in service 271 (YJ57XWK), 272 (YJ57XWV), 273 (YJ57XWW), 274 (YJ08PKX), 275 (PX08PKY) and 276 (PX08PKZ).

**London United:** More new Scania Omnicitys H41/22D have arrived for use on new route 482 linking Southall Town Hall and Heathrow Terminal 5 operating out of Hounslow Heath garage (HH)

SP16 YN08DEU SP19 YN08DHD SP21 YN08DHF SP23 YN08DHJ

SP17 YN08DHA SP20 YN08DHE SP22 YN08DHG SP24 YN08DHK

SP18 YN08DHC

**Yorkshire Coastliner:** New deliveries this year comprise ten Volvo B9TL/ Wright Eclipse Gemini's, around half should be in service by now.

411 FJ08BYH 414 FJ08BYM 417 FJ0BYV 419 FJ08BYX

412 FJ08BYK 415 FJ08BYN 418 FJ08BYW 420 FJ08BYZ

413 FJ08BYL 416 FJ08BYU

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## Veolia

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**North East** Optare Solo YJ55BHZ has been badly damaged and it remains unclear if it will be repaired.

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## Independents

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### Eastern Counties

**Brookline (Ryarsch):** A new arrival from Eire is WA04ZHD a Volvo B12B / Van Hook C53F ex 04-KY-2661 of Deros (Killarney)

**Galleon (Harlow):** Ex Hong Kong Volvo B10M / Van Hools LSK607 and PSU316 have been re-registered J894CEV and J895VEC and have passed to Ensign (dealer) and are now with Kent Coach Tours of Sheerness.

**Stephensons (Rochford):** A new arrival is Leyland Olympian G183JHG.

### London / Greater London

**Anderson:** New Bova Futuras noted have been B108 (WA08GPK), B111 (WA08GPJ) named "Bronwen Anne" and B112 (WA08GPF) "Francesca Kate"

**Atbus:** The company based in Staines are taking over three Surrey County Council contracts, 681, 862 and E303 form Wiltax commencing April 21<sup>st</sup>. A new addition is former Metroline Olympian AV30 (S130RLE)

**Crawley Luxury Coaches:** Three former Airlinks Volvo B10Ms are now here P2CAP, P3CAP and P566MLE. B10M CLC553T has been re-registered back to K285NHU and exported to Eire through Wealden PSV.

**East London Bus Group:** With the loss of route 453 in mid February the 26 Citaro Artics used 23005-23050 became surplus to requirements and earmarked for return to Dawson Rentals, although four 23027-030 moved to Rainham for use on route 25.

**Emsworth & District:** Two Van Hool bodied DAF DE33s have been bought from Eavesway W195CDN and Y297HUA. Van Hool T815 A405BHL has been sold to Wrigleys (dealer)

**Ensignbus:** Metrobus 149 has been sold to Halifax Joint Committee

**Epsom Coaches:** Not really in our scope but a Stretch Limo is now in use Limo 1 (A9HRR) the registration coming off Iveco now W813AAY

**Excalibur:** A new coach is YN08DFG a three axle Scania Irizar. Like others it is operated on behalf of Terravision in whose livery it operates.

**Metroline:** Dennis Darts EDR27 (P303MLD), EDR41 (P317MLD) and EDR43 (P319MLD) have been sold to Engisn, the three latterly serving as driver trainers at Willesden. Ensign have also taken Metrobus M1 (THX101S). Quite a few allocation changes to get through DLD22, 26, 47 NW-delicensed: DLD27, 34, 35 NW-PA: DLD49, 50 AH-NW: DLD57, 58, 59, 68 PA-NW: DLD71, 72 PA-AH: DLD74 PA-PV: DLD184, 185, 188 PA-PB: DLD196 PV-PB: DLD198, 200, 201, 204 NW-EW as trainers: DLF82, 86 NW-PA: DLM151 HT-NW: TA81-84, 86, 87, 92, 96 loan-PA: TA85, 88-95, 97, 98 d/l-PA: VPL205 HT-EW: VPL212 EW-(w): VPL221 EW-HT: TPL256, 257 W-PV. This shunt around has allowed more older Marshall Bodied Darts to be sold to Ensign Bus DML1, 2, 3, 18, 41, 43 and DMS11, 20, 26 and 28.

## Midlands

**A Line (Bedworth):** A fresh vehicle noted in Coventry on 26<sup>th</sup> March was Mercedes Minibus M410FTL.

**Khokar t/a Cityspeed (West Bromwich):** This operator has started operating on service 33 Birmingham – Kingstanding using Dennis Dart G502VYE which is now in a blue and white livery.

**The Green Transport Company (Oldbury):** The current fleet consists of the following vehicles :- Dennis Lance 11SDA/3108 : 206 L206YAG, 207 L207YAG, 209 L209YAG, Volvo Olympian : 361 R361LGH, 363 R363LGH, 364 R364LGH, 380 R380LGH, 381 R381LGH, Dennis Lance 11SDA/3113 : 452 P452BPH, MCW Metrobus DR102 : 458 E458SON, Daimler Fleetline CRL6 : 535 GOG535N, Leyland Atlantean AN68/1R : 705 A705LNC, 725 A725HNC, Volvo Olympian : 904 P904RYO, 907 P907RYO, 929 P929RYO. R381LGH is in an all black all over advert for Fort Dunlop.

## North East

**The Eden (West Auckland):** A new arrival is of Optare Solo SE MX57URA and used on route 83 “The Cookfield Connection”.

**John Bell (Sunderland):** A pair of Optare Solo SEs have been added MX57UPJ and MX57UPM, for use on the Cathedral Bus Service in Durham won on tender and previously operated by JSB.

**Phoenix (Blyth):** In use is a new Unvi bodied Mercedes Sprinter SN57EOF.

**Leven Valley** – Optare Solo MX54KXT is on loan from Mistral while fellow Solos get some warranty work done to them.

**Classic Coaches** – Scania Irizar YN08DGE/F/O/U have all been added to the fleet list.

**Alrite Travel** – Leyland Royal Tiger/Plaxton PIW4128 has been added to the fleet ex Jacks Coaches.

**William B Kerr** – Ex Classic Volvo B10M Plaxton T40TGM & Ex Classic Renaults NA52CNK/N have been added to the very smart fleet they have. All have been repainted cream.

**Stanley Coaches** – Volvo B7R/Plaxton MU57STX wears the new style logos and a fleet name, While Former Stanley Coaches, Leyland Tiger/Plaxton C34CWT is on loan from Garnett's. Martini Coaches Leyland Tiger/Jonkherre MIB3491 is also on loan.

**JSB Travel** – JSB have taken over the service work of Gardiners along with Marshall Minibus P501HEG. To compliment the work loan they have also taken delivery of Optare Solo MX08DFY.

### North West

**Battersby Silver Grey (Morecambe):** Volvo B12s PK02WVF and PK02WVG have left the fleet and are now with Alpine of Llandudno. Noted on March 29<sup>th</sup> was SF06WEA I'm not sure a yet whether this is a new acquisition or a re-registration.

**Bluebird (Middleton):** New Enviro 300 62 (MX57KXR) has been re-registered as 1 BLU. Marshall bodied MAN which previously carried the registration was changed back to N126XEG.

**Courtesy Coaches:** Volvo B12M / Plaxton Y688UOL has been re-registered as A15YEL

**Cumfybus:** Well travelled Enviro 200 demonstrator SN56AYB is currently in use here. The depot at Stephenson Way, Formby is no longer in use.

**Haytons (Manchester):** Mercedes 1836 BX55FVE has left the fleet and is now with Hatton (St Helens). A new arrival is former Whittle Mercedes-Benz/ PLaxton Beaver 2 minibus (R452PRH)

**HTL Buses (Huyton):** Two new arrivals are a former Courtney Coaches Optare Solos YE52KPP and YE52KPU, the latter complete with Metallic Pink paintwork, They aren't however expected to stay for long. Two Enviro200Darts with Enviro 300 body work are also operating here DK57 OPY and DK57OPZ. The former has taken fleet number 28 vacated by Dart DF03NTE which has left the fleet. Also in operation is a former Nottingham Solo S284NRB

**Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire:** Latest addition here is an ex MOD Wadham Stringer bodied Dennis Javelin L317ASU ex 75 KK 23, acquired for use on new school contracts won in North Yorkshire

**Mountain Goat:** LDV Convoy PG06FKF has gone to Holloway (dealer) and is now with Braddick (Wellington). A new Iveco mini is due supplied by Holloway but no details as yet.

**Ogdens (St Helens):** One slipping through the net is a Bova Magiq C49FT YJ07DWL

**Stainton (Kendal):** A recent second hand purchase is a Plaxton bodied Volvo B12B YN05UUY. DAFs YJ04BSU and YJ04BYF have been re-registered to B11FWS and B12FWS respectively. The last holder of B12FWS, Bova Futura has been registered back to YD02PWZ and is now at Evobus (dealer). Also departing for Evobus is B10M Y59CDS ex B11FWS

**The Travellers Choice:** This years touring coaches have now entered service Volvo B12B with C53FT Joncherre SHVs PN08KWU, PN08KWV, PN08KWW, PN08KWX, PN08LAE and PN08LAO along with a pair of Volvo B12BT 'Berkhof C65FT bodies PN08LBJ and PN08LBK.

**Tyrer:** Two more Solos have been added to the growing number operated MX03YCK and MX03YCL are M850s and have come from Transdev.

**Vale of Manchester:** A recent arrival is Mercedes Vario S276LGA

**WA/Shearings:** The National Holidays fleet has been updated with Paxton Paragon bodied Volvo B10Ms transferred from the main fleet, as a result a large number of Volvo B10Ms are now with Plaxtons (Anston) or Volvo at Loughborough for onwards sale:- 901 (T101JBA), 902 (T102JBA), 904-908 (T104-108JBA), 913 (T113JBA), 942 (W286JBN), 943 (W223JBN), 944 (W224JBN), 945 (W287JBN), 946-949 (W226-229JBN), 950 (W288JBN) and 951 (W221JBN).

New		Old		New		Old		
No	Registration	No	New No	Registration	Old No	No	Registration	No
901	YJ03VMH	551	909	YJ03VMW	559	917	YJ03VNE	567
902	YJ03VMK	552	910	YJ03VMX	560	918	YJ03VNF	568
903	YJ03VML	553	911	YJ03VMY	561	919	YJ03VNG	569
904	YJ03VMM	554	912	YJ03VMZ	562	920	YJ03VNS	570
905	YJ03VMP	555	913	YJ03VNA	563	921	YJ03VNV	571
906	YJ03VMR	556	914	YJ03VNB	564	922	YJ03VOA	572
907	YJ03VMT	557	915	YJ03VNC	565	933	MX03AEF	529
908	YJ03VMU	558	916	YJ03VND	566	934	MX03AEG	530

### Scotland

**Allander (Milngavie):** New here is a Mercedes 616CDi C22F SK07FVE

**Crawford (Neilston):** A pair of Bova FHD.120.365s to note are OO07HCC and OO08HCC both C57F.

**Mackie (Alloa)** Vovo M10M / Caetano XSV270 has been registered back to R551MSS

**Maynes (Buckie):** A big ear out of older stock has seen Sitcars HM05GSM and RM05GSM sold to Plaxton (dealer), Volvo B7Rs CM03GSM and HM03GSM move to Davies (Ruaboan). Finally Mosley (dealer) has taken Volvo B10M FJ07GSM and Mercedes / Unvi RM07GSM.

**McGills (Barrhead):** Fresh vehicles in here are : Scania L94UB YR52VEX from Docherty (Auchterarder), Volvo B7RLE's : RX06WPP, RX06WPR, RX06WPT from Weaverway (Newbury).

**Parks (Hamilton):** New deliveries for this year comprise Jonckherre bodied Volvo B12Ms HSK641 – HSK 650, LSK483, LSK495-497 (14 Coaches). Along with some Plaxton Panther, C49FLT, bodied versions HSK651, HSK652 and HSK653. Quite a few of the older stock was re-registered in January as shown in the list below

HSK645	SF05XYP	KSK976	SF06WDL	KSK979	SF06WDK	LSK495	SF06WEA
HSK647	SF05XYX	KSK977	SF06WDX	KSK980	SF06WDZ	LSK496	SF06WEC
HSK648	SF05XZN	KSK978	SF06WDY	LSK483	SF06WCL	LSK497	SF06WEH
HSK649	SF05XZM						

**Prentice Westwood:** New vehicles here are KX08HMC, KX08HMF no types as yet. These are joined by some used examples Bova Futura C49FTs AT05LCT and BT05LCT from Leons (Stafford) A583XRP (ex IUI2129) a Jonckherre bodied DAF SB2300 and a Volvo B10M / Plaxton C57F F523UVW from Bakers (Biddulph). Ex Oxford Tube Jonckherre T60UBE is now IUI2129. Departures to note are Tigers FLZ7953 and JIL8208, Mercedes M609D M687KPD and Mercedes M1836 BX55FVE, the latter now with Haytons (Manchester).

**Southern (Barrhead):** Two new Volvo B12Bs are VU08SOU with a Van Hool C51FT body and WU08SOU a Plaxton C57F.

**West Coast Motors:** A couple of ADL Darts to note are SN57SXF and SN57DXG both N37F. Also added is an Optare Solo

### South East

**Brijan Tours:** A couple of Olympians have been re-registered 80 (A58 1HDB) is now TKZ9780 and 92 (D127FYM) is now TKZ9792

**D J Coahces (Longfield):** Transferred from Blanks is Caetano bodied MAN R194LBC

**Griffin Bus (Polhill):** Three Metrobuses have been acquired from Stephenson's (Rochford) A634BCN, A635BCN and A638BCN.

**Kent Coach Travel:** As well as the two B10Ms acquired (see above) two ex Stagecoach Devon Volvo Citybuses are in service F301MYJ and F305MYJ both CH43/33F. A couple of Volvo B10Ms re-registered are TSU638 to MEZ3898, G126NGN to XIL5577 and G133PGK to XIL4348

**Mann (Gravesend):** New in here from National Express is DAF DE33/Plaxton R500SPK . Also here is UJI2436 a Plaxton bodied Leyland Tiger ex C379PCD.

**Talisman (Great Bromley):** Two new Setra S416GT-HDs should now have been delivered EU08NUE and OK08ULM.

### South Midlands

**Centrebus (Dunstable):** Three Optare Solos have been delivered for use on route 231 Dunstable to Bushmead FJ08MBF which is a N29F M880 and N33F M950's FJ08MBO and FJ08MBU.

**RH Transport (Witney):** Three MAN engined Optare Solos have entered service 409 (MX57UPS), 410 (MX57UPT) and 411 (MX57UPW).

**Thames Travel (Wallingford):** A new MCV Evolution now in service is AE08DLD.

**Wootens (Chesham):** Three Leyland Tigers with East Lancs Millennium bodywork have been acquired from Stagecoach East Scotland W57 (D315SGB), W58 (A127ESG) and W59 (THL290Y). All had managed to retain Strathtay colours. Also bought, from Holmeswood Coaches is a Plaxton Paramount bodied 3500 Leyland Tiger W56 (F341XFR). The coach previously carried PBV779. Leyland Lynx W50 (C63HOM) has been sold whilst sister vehicles W33 (C64HOM) and W34 (C66HOM) have been withdrawn and are up for sale.

### South West

**Andybus (Easton Grey):** have bought ex Travel London SLF Dart Plaxtons R501/502/503SJM, and also ex Eastbourne Buses Optare Solo M850 Slimline YJ05WCC. Dart M30ARJ (ex

Castleways and will be re-registered) has been sold to Hatts, and Dart J129GMP has gone to Somerbus again.

**Carmel (Okehampton):** have ex Gemini, Ipswich Mercedes 0814 Plaxton Beaver 2 33 seat DPs VX53BKF and VX04KTT. Nouvelle 2's W233KDO and X89CNY, along with Optimo R43ADV have gone to Mid West Cheltenham in part-exchange.

**John Martin, (Midsomer Norton):** have Setra CT03LCT and are expecting a second. Bovas XIL5452/3 have reverted to W162/3RYB for sale.

**Somerbus:** Juts acquired is Optare Solo M880SL MX54KXZ formerly with Henderson (Hamilton) Ace, Hereford, have Tiger Plaxton Paramount C57F H458FLD ex Aldermaston Coaches.

## Wales

**Alpine (Llandudno):** Marcoplo W761AAY has been re-registered as JAZ9864 which was recently on DAF/Duple 320 which is now back as E663KCX. Former Crosville VR JMB406T has been sold for scrap.

**Newport Transport:** New here are three Optare Solo M880s 68 (YJ57YCG), 69 (YJ57YCH) and 70 (YJ57YCK). 68 and 69 are painted in "Rail Link" colours

<b>New Deliveries</b>
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Abacus Coaches	BX08EZP	BMC Karisma
Burtens (Haverhill)	GB08BCL	Volvo / Van Hool Astrobe
Edwards (Llantwit Fardre)	YN08DNV/X	Volvo B12B / Plaxton Panther C57F
Golden Buy	OO08BOY	Van Hool
Haytons (Manchester)	WA08APO	VDL Berkhof Synergy
London Mini Coaches	WA08GPY	Mercedes Atego / Sitcar Marlin
Reynolds (Caister)	PN08CLZ	Mercedes Atego / Beulas Stylo
Parrys	YJ08NTN	Van Hool T917
Premium (London)	PN08HWO/P	LDV Maxus
Westway (London)	WA08GRX	Van Hool double deck
Wright (Newark)	TW08FDM	Setra S415
Hutchinson (York)	VX08HZU	Mercedes-Benz 0816 / Mellor C29F
Gemini (Ipswich)	VX08HZZ	Mercedes-Benz 0816 / Mellor C29F
Leons (Stafford)	CT08LCT	Berkhof
Woodstones (Kidderminster)	FJ08BYG/T	Volvo B7R / Plaxton
Classic (Anfield Plain)	YN08DGO	Irizar
GHA Coaches	AA08GHA	
Plastow (Wheatley)	FJ08BYP	Volvo / Jonckheere SHV
W & H Motors	WH08AGH	Volvo / Sunsendeug
Parrys (Cheslyn Hay)	YJ08NTT	Volvo / Van Hool T917
Holmeswood	PN08OMU	MAN / Beulas
Barnes (Aldbourn)	WA08GRU	Bova Futura

### Alexander Dennis (Falkirk)

February 6 <sup>th</sup>		
Arriva London	Enviro 400	T5 (LJ08CVS)
Dublin Bus	ALX500	07-D-70065
Stagecoach Oxford	Enviro 400	KX08KZD, KZF, KZK, KZL
March 4 <sup>th</sup>		
Arriva London	Enviro 400	LJ08CVO, CVZ
Stagecoach Oxford	Enviro 400	KX08KZN

March 11<sup>th</sup>

Arriva	Enviro 400	LJ08CUU, CUV
Stagecoach Scotland	Enviro 300	SP08DCX, DCZ, DDA

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Arriva London	Enviro 400	T16 (LJ08CVM), LJ08CUY
Go Ahead London	Enviro 400	LX08EBZ
ADL Demonstrator	Enviro 300	RX57COE

March 25<sup>th</sup>

S C Manchester	Enviro 400	MX08GJG, GKN
Stagecoach Scotland		SF08GOK, GPE
???	Enviro 400	LK08FMO,
Go Ahead London	Enviro 400	LX08EBU, ECC

## Dealers

## Ensign

### Vehicles In

From Metroline: DMS 11/20/26/28 DML 1/2/3/18/41/43. EDR 27/32/34/35/38/43

From Metroline: Darts P307/13/6/7MLD.

From Dublin Bus: Olympians 96-D-307/8/11/12/13.

From Stagecoach Manchester: Olympians 331HWD/J702HMY/JSK492/H607LNA/  
J688TNF/F283DRJ: Scania N632XBU.

From Stagecoach Devon: Varios R114/6NTA Darts L714/9JUD.

From Stagecoach Bluebird: Olympian B356LSO.

From Stagecoach Western: Scania's M951/3/4DRG.

From Nottingham C.T: Dart P514CVO

From Reading Buses: Spectra's K702BBL J257NLU

From Chambers, Bures: DAF P318KTW.

From Hedingham: Bristol VR's RAH260/8W CJH141V GGM108W

### Vehicles Out

RM1361: TFC Leisure, London.

RML2361: Andyspain SL, Tarragona , Spain.

M1040: A S Bone, Hook, Hants.

Bristol VR RAH268W: Private owner in E Anglia for preservation.

Tiger TPC102X: Thomas Maschler, Zambia.

Spectra's J287NLU K702BBL: MASS, Sheffield.

Dart K57LLG: Bankfoot Buses, Perth.

Dart K580NHC: ACL Travel, Hewish, Somerset.

Dart L754VNL: Bankfoot Buses, Perth.

Darts P286/308/15MLD: A2Z Travel, Walsall.

Dart P319MLD: Red Route Buses, Northfleet.

Darts R711MEW S528KFL: Galleon Travel, Stansted.

Darts R682/3/96/8MEW: Servisair, Dublin.

Merc 709 N977NAP: Freedom Travel, Ely, Cambs.

Merc Vario R112NTA: Chambers , Bures, Suffolk.

Merc Vario R113NTA: Swanbrook Coaches, Cheltenham.

DAF P318KTW: Crown Coaches, Benfleet.

DAF W177CDN: Furtherwick Park School, Canvey, Essex.

Olympian 331HWD: Heritage Travel, Brighton.

Olympian B356LSO: Fowlers Coaches, Holbeach Drove.

Olympians C615/26/58LFT: Bubble Holdings, Burnley.  
Olympians C814BYY D158/235/8FYM: Chester City Sightseeing, all part open top except 235 which is full open top.  
Olympian F41XCS: Z and S Coaches, Aylesbury.  
Olympian F283DRJ: PVS for scrap.  
Olympians J846/9TSC: P and M Coaches, Wickford, Essex.  
Olympians K107JWJ L109LHL: Hedingham Omnibuses.  
Olympians P342/9R00: Herberts Coaches, Shefford, Beds.  
Olympian S131RLE: Chambers , Bures, Suffolk.  
Scania M954DRG: Harrogate Coach Travel.  
Volvo D10M E865RCS: WJC Buses, Airdrie.  
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1080 now H794PVW with Swanbrook, Cheltenham.  
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1082 now H792PVW with Holloway Coaches, Scunthorpe.  
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1089 now H784PVW with TM Travel, Chesterfield.  
Dublin Olympian 91-D-10116: AMC Online Ltd, Dublin.

## Holloway (Willenhall)

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### Vehicles in

W596 VLR (lo 49-10/? M4L) from ??  
W499 VLW (lo 49-10/? M16l) from ??  
W507 VLW (lo 49-10/? M16l) from ??  
Y 4 LBA (MB O814D/Pn C29F) from ??  
Y997 JLG from Corvus, Swindon  
Y746 NAY from Williamson, Stockport  
AP 03 ZRD from Heels, Cromer ex R 1 SBH (lo 45C13 no 50C13)  
BP 51 LOD from Cockram, Gosberton Clough  
BU 02 WVS from, Cockram, Gosberton Clough  
VN 02 ZCO from Turner, Wall Heath  
WX 02 ELW from Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
YR 02 YRW from Springhall, Kempsey  
WX 03 DYN from Collins, Barlby  
YM 53 YZF from Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
BU 04 ZWM, ZXG, ZYN (LDV Cy/LDV M16) from ??  
KF 54 UEM (MB 311CDI) from ??  
YN 54 EYO (Rt Mtr/? M16) from ??  
YX 54 HNE from Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
KN 05 XRS (MB 311CDI/? M16) from ??  
FJ 06 LKY, LLC from Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
GN 07 EFB from Feeley, Milton Keynes

### Vehicles out

H149 NOJ to Woodside, Sheffield  
N167 HGV sold for non-PSV,  
R939 CMB to Wilkinson, Bridlington  
V766 FAN sold for Non-PSV, ex ??  
X766 HVL to "Go-Direct, Brentwood  
Y 4 LBA (MB WDB9061552N330572/Fer E9-66R-002884) to Alba, Great Salkend (CA)  
BJ 02 AWY to Holsworthy, Dolton  
BN 02 LLZ to Holsworthy, Dolton  
CU 05 GKY to a school,  
GN 07 EFB to Collins, Barlby  
NX 57 FWZ to Shaw, Horsehay

## Preservation News

### Events

**Welsh Heartlands Transport Festival:** 19/20<sup>th</sup> April – Civic Centre, Blackwood  
**UK Coach Rally:** 19/20<sup>th</sup> April – Brighton  
**Greater Manchester Museum of Transport:** 20<sup>th</sup> April – London buses  
**Irish Transport Trust:** 26<sup>th</sup> April – Bus & Coach Rally at Ulster Folk & Transport Museum  
**West Country Historic Omnibus & Transport Trust:** 27<sup>th</sup> April – Penzance VR Revival & Mousehole Running Day (in conjunction with First Devon & Cornwall)  
**Teeside Vintage Bus Running Day:** 27<sup>th</sup> April – Middlesbrough's Transport Bridge  
**Llandudno Transport Festival:** 3/5<sup>th</sup> May – Bodafon Fields  
**North East Bus Preservation Trust:** 4<sup>th</sup> May - Gateshead Metrocentre Rally  
**Oxford Bus Museum:** 4<sup>th</sup> May - Open Day  
**BaMMoT:** 4/5<sup>th</sup> May - Holiday Operating Days  
**Truckfest:** 4/5<sup>th</sup> May – East of England Showground. Peterborough  
**Isle of Wight Bus Museum:** 11<sup>th</sup> May – Local Bus Running Day  
**Amersham & District Motorbus Society:** 11<sup>th</sup> May - Slough & Windsor Running Day  
**South Yorkshire Transport Museum:** 11<sup>th</sup> May - Open day  
**Bus Driver of the Year Area Final & Arriva Fun Day:** 11<sup>th</sup> May – Kent Showground, Detling  
**Potteries Rally & Running Day:** 11<sup>th</sup> May – Stoke – on –Trent  
**Sandwell Historic Vehicle Show:** 11<sup>th</sup> May – West Bromwich  
**Bus Rally:** 11<sup>th</sup> May – Deer Hunt Public House, Liphook, Hants  
**The Routemaster Owners Club:** 11th May – Rally & Running Day Beith Transport Museum, Ayrshire  
**Bristol Vintage Bus Group:** 12<sup>th</sup> May – Re-enactment of first Bristol bus in service 100 years ago  
**Chasewater Railway Bus Rally:** 15<sup>th</sup> June - Featuring free hourly bus services and an hourly service on the railway with steam and diesel traction.

***Sometime the above rallies are cancelled at short notice – so please check before hand, as you do not want a wasted journey***

### Vehicles

Former Ribble ECW bodied Bristol RESL OCK366K has been acquired by the Lancastrian Transport Trust from Lockhart & Gainsbury (Hastings)

### Museum Reports

Mike Pinder has been out and about again braving the weather. Time for the promised holiday with friends in York, to break up the journey I visited The **COORS VISITOR CENTRE** in Burton upon Trent, Well signposted so easily found (and that's a change for me). Everything beautifully clean, and included in the admission charge either half pint of beer or a cup of tea, There was a Teabag in the cup, so four dissolved metal spoons and all was well. The exhibits were all outside and available for photography, 2 x industrial locos, 1 carriage 4w centre doors and side seats 5 x Fire Engines, also AW 3407, Sentinel (1488) Steam lorry of 1917 vintage. Buses were represented by MFA 703G Daimler Fleetline (Burton 103), FA 9716 Guy Arab (Burton 16) and TFA 987 Daimler (Burton 87). After plodding up the A38 and onto the M1 thoughts were where to next? then on a sign Delays, Queues ahead, so very quickly decided to visit Greys buses at Hoyland Common, on passing I decided to call in at **ELSECAR HERITAGE CENTRE** it was mostly closed, but I did see 6 x Industrial locos, 1 x ex BR loco, 4 x carriages, Steam crane, Wickham trolley and 3 x wagons. NO BUSES but 12 preserved Fire Engines went into the book. Just another quarter of a mile to Greys, all 9 vehicles visible from the road, and WOW! VSS 158M

Ford R1014 Plaxton Elite Express C45F (1974) ex Wiles Motor Services of Port Seton, a preserved specimen so well worth the side trip. On to York via Wath on Dearne, Doncaster and A19 Quite a good trip up, now what mischief can I get into?

### **ELVINGTON AIR MUSEUM 17<sup>th</sup> February 2008**

A cracking Museum, well worth a visit, really good cafe and shop, meals terrific and tea as made in the treacle mines of Yorkshire. Exhibits all available for photography include 40 Aircraft, 3 Fire Engines, 1 Ambulance and XAT 368 Commer Commando/Park Royal ex RAF crew bus in hanger 1

### **STREETLIFE MUSEUM, KINGSTON UPON HULL 21<sup>st</sup> February 2008**

Another nice museum where everything is available for photography, Exhibits include 1 x Aircraft, 1 x Fire Engine, Various Horse and Dog Carts, Pedal cycles, 1 x lorry, 2 x Rail Wagons 7 x cars including a White Stanhope Steam car (1901) Not Registered, AEC Regal bus KKH 650 (Hull 5) and Trams, Hull 132 4w D/D totally enclosed (1909), Ryde Pier 3,4w S/D trailer Unvestibuled (1871), Portskewet 1, Kitson 4w Steam Tram(T 56

### **KEIGHLEY BUS MUSEUM 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2008**

Not signposted, come out of the railway station, turn right, take first right and go until you come to a shop on the right hand side, take the small road and the Museum is at the end of it on the right. Reminds me of Sandtoft where all vehicles are under cover. It was difficult to walk between and only the front row really available for photographing. However I was made really welcome with all workers willing to talk about their project even offering me a job there and then to help for the day on one of the vehicles being restored.

Apart from 5 buses I could not identify, and these 3 which were so close together I do not know if the numbers are correct RNO 919M (Waiting Restoration), TRB 576F (Restored), MHV 388 (Waiting) the rest of the Exhibits are.

### **TROLLEYBUSES**

FWX 914 Sunbeam Mexborough & Swinton 844 (Restored)  
WT 7101 Straker Clough Keighley 5 (Awaiting Re-restoration)

### **BUSES**

6203 KW	AEC Regent	Bradford 203 (Waiting)
6204 KW	AEC Regent	Bradford 204 (Waiting)
6220 KW	AEC Regent	Bradford 220 (Waiting)
7514 UA	Daimler	Leeds 514 (Waiting)
A677 NWX	Leyland	Arriva Yorkshire 537 (as withdrawn, Runner)
ANW 682	AEC Regent	Leeds 139 (Under)
CUB 331C	Leyland	Leeds 331 (Under)
D275 OOJ	F.R.Sherpa	Demonstrator (Waiting)
DNW 840T	Leyland	West Yorkshire Rd.C.C.1002 (Waiting)
GJX 331	Daimler	Halifax 119 (Restored)
GWY 690N	Leyland	West Yorkshire P.T.E. 64 (Waiting)
HNW 131D	Daimler	Leeds 131 (Restored)
JUM 505V	MCW Metrobus	West Yorkshire P.T.E.7506 (Waiting)
JWU 886	Bristol	West Yorkshire Rd C.C. SLG 16 (Restored)
KVH 473E	Daimler	Huddersfield 973 (Restored)
KW 2260	Leyland	Bradford 325 (Waiting)
LAK 309G	Leyland	Bradford 309 (Restored)
LAK 313G	Leyland	Bradford 313 (Waiting)
LFM 767	Bristol	Crosville SLB 186 (Waiting)
LYR 533	AEC Regent	London RT 3314 (Waiting)
MNW 86	Leyland	Leeds City 28 (restored)
NKU 245X	Leyland	Yorkshire Traction 245 (Under)

NNW 492	AEC Regent	Leeds City 492 (Waiting)
OJD 192R	Leyland	London DMS 2192 (Waiting)
PJX 232	Leyland	Halifax Joint O.C. 232 (Waiting)
PWY 582W	Leyland	West Yorkshire Rd.C.C.1015 (Restored)
TF 6860	Leyland	Rawtenstall 61 (Waiting)
TKU 467K	Leyland	Bradford 467 (Waiting)
TWW 766F	Bristol	West Yorkshire Rd.C.C. CRG6 (Restored)
VTU 76	Daimler	S.H.M.D. Board 76 (Waiting)
WFM 801K	Leyland	Crosville SNL801 (Restored)
WJY 758	Leyland	Plymouth 59 (Restored)
XLG 477	Atkinson	S.H.M.D.Board 77 (Waiting)
NWU 265D	Bristol	York West Yorkshire YDX 221(Under)

This vehicle was one that I would gladly have seen scrapped, it was the "Rogue" at York and on at least 2 occasions the selectors went when I was driving, and on another occasion the drive shaft parted company. AND HERE IT IS! Good luck to the proud owner, I really do hope he has better luck than the rest of us drivers at York at the time.

Also here and not hidden away 5 Preserved Fire Engines.

### **ASTON MANOR ROAD TRANSPORT MUSEUM**

Address: 208/16 Witton Lane, Phone: 0121 322 2298  
 Birmingham  
 Web: [www.amrtm.org](http://www.amrtm.org)

The site for our AGM on May 17<sup>th</sup> – here's a list of buses and coaches likely to be seen:

EA4181	Dennis E	1929	West Bromwich Corp
F685YOG	MCW Metrider	1987	Travel WM
GUJ608	Sentinel		
JF2378	AEX Regal	1931	Provincial, Leicester
JOV714P	Bristol VRT	1976	WMPTE
LJW336	Guy Arab	1953	Demonstrator
LOG302	Daimler CLG5	1954	Birmingham City
RC7927	SOS		Trent
WLT506	AEC RM	1960	LTE
XDH72	Sunbeam F4	1956	Walsall Corporation
XNX136H	Leyland Leopard	1970	Stratford Blue
XON41J	Fleetline	1971	WMPTE
264ERY	Leyland PD3	1963	Guide Friday
6479HA	BMMO S17	1963	Midland Red

The following are on maintenance/restoration, and not necessarily on site or viewable:

AOG679	Daimler COG5	1935	Converted to van
A110WVP	MCW Metrobus	1984	Coventry
JOJ222	Leyland PD2	1950	Birmingham City
JOJ548	Guy Arab	1950	Birmingham City
LHA870F	BMMO S21	1987	Midland Red
OJ9347	Morris	1933	BCT
6370HA	BMMO D9	1964	Midland Red

The following are currently stored at other locations:

ARC515	Sunbeam F4	Derby Corporation
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OOX825R Leyland National  
WDA700T Fleetline  
3035HA BMMO D9  
334CRW Daimler CVG6

1977 WMPTE  
1979 Travel WM  
1963 Midland Red  
1963 Coventry

## Observations

### Bus Spots 5

#### **Adam – Martin Coaches, Wharf Road, Biddulph**

Leaving Bakers on the A527, after 2 miles take the Biddulph By –pass sign posted Longleton. After around a mile, turn left into Wharf Road (just before the Mini Island, Follow the track, take first left up short hill, the buses are on your right and visible from public land. Wharf Road is opposite to Hollinshead's

#### **Hollinshead - Wharf Road, Biddulph**

Sited opposite to Somerfield, off the by – pass and is visible from public land. The town centre is close by along Wharf Road.

*Railway – Stoke – on – Trent*

*First Potteries 6 from Maney, 99 from Newcastle –under- Lyme*

*Bakers Hanley to Congleton*

Aimee's 424 M-F Leek – Mow Cop (4 trips) serve the High Street, Wharf Road, is opposite the Town Hall 5 minutes walk to Hollinshead, c 20 -25 minutes to Adam martin

*High Street contains a number of cafes & Pubs*

#### **Pauls Coaches, Darrol's Coaches also Julie Tankard, Sands Road, Harrishead**

Close to the village, on the main street

Some are visible from public land, the rear yard is not visible from public land and permission must be sought before entering the premises. Enthusiast friendly

*Rail – Stoke –on – Trent*

*Bus - First Potteries 99A Newcastle to Mow Cop*

*Aimee's 424 Leek – Mow Cop (4trips)*

*(Both pass the site M – F)*

Situated under the Brooding Folly 'Mow Cop Castle' with an outstanding view of the countryside

#### **Stanway (Elliot, Finney & Richman) Hardingswood Road, Kidsgrove**

Sited off the A50 (Liverpool Road, East) turn left after passing under a large Railway Bridge and opposite the Canal Tavern, turn right into Stanway public access to other business's

In yard most are visible

*Bus – First Potteries 20 Hanley to Crewe ,to Kidsgrove Post Office*

*Rail – Kidsgrove*

*Canal Tavern is renowned for real ale*

*Food – Close to town centre*

*First day available*

#### Overspill Yard

Continue over Canal Bridge, a winter quarters for a fun fair, buses are parked near access gate. The company operate under Stanway and also Bus dealers

Some numbers are visible from public land

*Rail: Kidsgrove – Leave station into Station Road, left at the Harecastle Hotel into Liverpool Road, get off at Post office, return to the main road (Liverpool Road) Turn left into Liverpool Road and proceed towards the Harecastle Hotel and follow directions from the Railway Station, under Railway Bridge, left into Hardingswood Road*

First Potteries 20 (Hanley to Crewe) 20A (Hanley to Kidsgrove) – get off at the Post Office, left at traffic lights, pass Harecastle Hotel

*Close to Town Centre and large Tesco*

*The Canal Tavern's real ale is renowned*

### **Clowes Coaches, Barrowmoor, nr Longnor**

Sited on minor road linking A53 – Longnor

All visible from public land

*Rail – Buxton*

*Bus – First Potteries 118 Hanley to Buxton pass the A53 – then long walk*

*Aimee's 458 Leek to Longnor – Warrington – Hanley*

*Pass site one trip Tue/Sat only*

*Some Clowes services start/terminate at Barrowmoor*

*Phil Clowes parks his bus here*

### **Aimees**

Sited in Sunnyhills Road, Leek off A53 Leek

*Rail – Stoke –on – Trent*

*Bus – D& G 106 Newcastle – under – Lyme – Leek, (direct to Leek bus station)*

*First Potteries 18 Hanley - Leek (pass close by)*

Alight at bottom of steep hill after passing Golf Club and Crossing River. Cross road enter Sunny Hills Road Aimee's is on the right. Public Access to Ladderedge Country Park runs past the garage. Buses are also parked on Sunny Hills Road and are visible from public land

### **Kelcoat (stored buses)**

Continue along Sunnyhills Road left into Barnfield Road (Hot food caravan Mon – Fri)

Right into Barnfields Close (Note: Coach parked on Barfields Close, outside Tyrefit)

The numbers are accessible from public land).

### **Simpson's - Overflow parking:**

Sited in Station Road, from Kelcoats, pass through Morrison's car park, under Railway Bridge, turn right. Left at Junction with Burton Street, right at electricity sub station and into Station Street, Simpson's yard is on the right. (By road – return to Barnfields Road, right onto A53 over bridge, left into Burton Street, right Station Road)

Much is visible from public land

### **Leek Bus Station, behind the Smithfield Centre, Heywood Street (A53)**

*Users: 108 Arriva (1 trip 0725 M-F)*

*16 Proctors Hanley - Leek*

*16 First Potteries Hanley – Leek (Some Journeys)*

*18 “ “ Hanley – Leek (Haregate)*

*118 “ “ Hanley – Buxton*

*108 Clowes Macclesfield – Ashbourne (Mon – Sat)*

*106 D& G Leek to Newcastle –under – Lyme*

*Aimees Biddulph, Post Bus, Hanley (Tue/Sat only)*

*Clowes Local services*

*Sunday 108 operated by D & G to Stockport, TM Travel to Derby*

*Alton Towers Transport*

*Warrington of Ilam (Wed only)*

*Train; Stoke – on – Trent 106 D & G runs direct to Leek*

*Toilets: Yes*

*Some information available, on an unofficial basis, at the newsagents - Good timetables listed near to newsagents*

*Food: close to town centre, pubs & cafes Monty's Chippie in market place is highly recommended  
First Day ticket available*

*Market/Mystery trips park on the bus station*

*Some coaches to Alton Towers pass going up to Ashbourne Road by the monument.*

*Other Sites: Alton Towers, Britannia Building Society on A520 Cheadle Road. Attracts many coaches bringing in employees – 0830 – 0900, 16.00 -1700*

*Photography is allowed but sun is directly in lens. Better results can be obtained from Cromwell Terrace alongside bus station*

**Bakers – Tel: 01782 522 101**

A state of the art (2007) bus garage sited off A527 Tunstall – Biddulph Road at Knydersley  
Rail – Stoke – on –Trent

Bus First Service 6 passes c 150 yards away

Bakerbus “ “

From Chell climb hill past derelict pub (The Matador), turn left by traffic lights into unnamed road,  
Bakers are visible from A527 and many buses are visible from public land across swampy field



A brand new Citaro of Go North East 5285 (NK08CFU) which entered service on March 30<sup>th</sup>  
complete with its new Citylink branding (Lee Wardle, North East Bus Photos)

## Back Loader

This is the place where I intend to stick things that don't really fit in other parts of the mag, and if you have anything you need to know or questions that need answering then send them in and I'll put them here and hopefully someone can help. Also any corrections.

A few corrections to the London Bus Datafile have been noted by Alan Langhelt, page 121 DLD701-711 have registrations KL55xxx when they should read LK55xxx, whilst on page 128 TE687 should read LK06FLA not LX. Many thanks Alan and if any else notes any errors then please let us know.

### Books for Gricers, Anoraks or Enthusiasts – Mike Pinder

I became interested in anything with wheels on it at the early age of 5 when I was able to persuade my father to take the Burlingham body off a pram (purloined from a gang a bit older than myself) and fit a board over the springs, he then towed me around collecting wood and the odd unexploded bomb to take home and put on the fire, things were quite hard to come by in the latter stages of the last war. At the age of 18 I became a "duck", Conducting for York West Yorkshire until the age of 21 when I became a driver, and oh boy did we have some crap to drive!, Gardner, Bristol and anything else that would move people about. When the One Man Operations began I was asked to go back to conducting as well as driving, not for me, after a time without the public sarcasm etc I knew that I would soon be sacked for telling them what I thought of them, so I left and became a long distance gypsy driving continental as well as the UK, this was for about 4 years and then I was approached and asked if I would fancy coach driving, still continental and UK. Having had enough of catchweight sacks and sheeting and roping in all weathers I thought "my load will get on and off by itself, go for it", I didn't have a thought about having to get to a cert them hopefully in the same order next morning to go to another town. From this start in life came the interest I still have today and to why I'm writing this in the first place.

Books for enthusiasts (however they are called) are a very important part of the hobby enabling us to record our sightings, and there are quite a few publishers to choose from. One particular phone chat with Maurice Brown and I inadvertently gave the game away by saying that my real interest was with the preservation scene and that apart from the Ian Allan buses restored book, I hadn't found any book on the subject, having over 1500 buses not in their book as preserved by individuals and nowhere to mark them as being seen, The answer came back, "put them into order send them to me and we will see what can be done" this I did and the first book was very hurriedly produced, it wasn't up to a good standard as I hadn't really though how to go about things "Bull in a china shop comes to mind". However lurking way up North, even further up than the Yorkshire Treacle Mines came a saviour, Jeff Hall, as well as a Printer he was also an enthusiast himself, my notes as well as his own and his expertise in putting things together and in order, some more information gained and - here was the Preserved Bus book 2007. The paper is of the best quality and does not smudge, everything that is needed information wise is at hand, being biased I would give this book 11 out of 10. I was so impressed by what had been produced that I immediately sought a copy of all the other bus books available from HB publications. I find that they go more for buses than coaches, and are updated every year which is quite a bonus as we all know that books are out of date as soon as they are published, my only "complaint" being that in today's age every coach operator seems to want a cherished registration for their vehicles, Maybe sometime Jeff??, just a thought.

So in a World of competition where the enthusiast has to look to 3 different publishers to get all needed for their hobby, wouldn't it be nice for all of them to get together, share all the information and .print one book with all the information needed to keep the enthusiasts happy, saving money which could go towards other trips, shows etc, Well I can dream can't I. In the meantime I will stick to the **GB – Bus Group books**, Cheaper, Better paper, and nearly everything I need to enjoy my hobby.

If anyone would like to help with my latest project, I would be grateful for any information on preserved fire engines, ambulances and police vehicles, already I have over 1500. Registration, Make of vehicle, Date of vehicle, Make of body, Type of body (pump, ladder etc for Fire) which County it worked for, Area of preservation. Email [mike.pinder1@ntlworld.com](mailto:mike.pinder1@ntlworld.com).

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