

# The Trident

The Monthly Magazine of the GB Bus Group  
Part of the UK Transport Family

## GB-BG



This month sees the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the appearance of the first production Routemaster RM8 at the Commercial Motor Show. An article on the bus appears inside. (Paul Tarrant)

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

# Volume 3

# No 10 October 2008

**President:** Steve Swain – Southdown PSV  
**Chairman & Editor** Gerald Nicholls, 19 Aldrens Lane, Lancaster LA1 2DT  
Telephone : Home: 01524 846476.  
e-mail: Gez.Stagecoachnorthwest@btinternet.com  
**Vice President:** Jeff Hall, 3 Ingham Grove, Hartlepool, TS25 2LH  
e-mail: jeff@gb-bg.co.uk  
**Secretary & Membership:** Maurice Brown, 192 Alvechurch Road, West Heath, Birmingham B31 3PW  
Telephone : 0121 624 8641  
e-mail: maurice@gb-bg.co.uk  
**Website:** Mark Richards  
e-mail: mark@icrs.co.uk  
**Treasurer:** Frank Gold  
**Sub Editors**  
**Preservation and Rallies:** Maurice Brown – as above

### **Area Representatives**

**Eastern Counties** - Chris James, 13 Station Road, Reedham, Norwich NR13 3TA  
e-mail: chrisj@gb-bg.co.uk  
**London** Gerald Nicholls, as above  
**The Midlands** - Dave Francis,  
e-mail: dave47549@hotmail.com  
**North East** - Lee Wardle  
e-mail: leepaulwardle@yahoo.co.uk  
**North West** - Gerald Nicholls, as above  
**Scotland** - Thomas Graham, 80 Corrie Avenue, Stenhousemuir, Falkirk  
e-mail: thomas@gb-bg.co.uk  
**South West** - Geoff Colclough, Tim & Simon Jennings  
**Ireland** Michael O'Reily  
**Sightings** - Arthur & Debbie Shelton, 111 Rodney Close, Birmingham, B16 8DP  
e-mail: rovingart@aol.com  
**Fleet Listings** - Ken Pitt, 52, Loxley Close, Church Hill South, Redditch, B98 9JG  
e-mail: Kenneth.pitt06@btinternet.com

## **Noticeboard**

### **Editors Bit**

The nights are certainly drawing in and temperature is dropping, so a few more readable articles will be appearing over the forthcoming issues to keep you all busy, whilst not out spotting. The first of a two parter from Alan Hayward is in this issue, his pictures from the trip will be on the website. It was very nice to catch up with some old acquaintances, and meet new ones at Showbus over the weekend, I do hope you all enjoyed, what really was a superb event, helped very much by the glorious weather.

We haven't had much information on independent operators this month, so if your local operator get a new coach, or you spot something different in the yard please drop us a line then we can let everyone else know, thanks.

I've had a request if we could separate out the news of coaches that operate on National Express services to make it easier to note, so we have. Also we have been notified of a lot of changes happening to services in the West Midlands, please let me know if you find it of use.

### **Group News**

The new West Midlands Pocket Book is now out costing £5.00 or £4.00 to members, available as usual from HB Publications or your local Ian Allan shop, It contains all the fleets to be found in the area and a really handy size to as the name suggests keep in your pocket.

A new member – Nigel Colugan, who comes from Cale Green, Stockport, would like to make contact with other members living in the area. If you are interested in meeting up with Nigel Please contact him on: 0161 477 3715

The latest news on Vice President Chris Morton in an email I received from him – is that he will be leaving the Bus Group and also giving up his role as a Vice President. This is purely on health grounds, as it has caused him to lose interest in buses.

I know a number of you who I have spoken to, have been very concerned about Chris's health and have asked for a contact address to write to him.

As a lot of the earlier members know, Chris ran the Midland Warwickshire Bus Society, which was the predecessor to The GB – Bus Group. In January 2006 MWBS went from a local group to a national one (GB-BG) Chris was very excited about the idea and put in a lot of work with us to get it off the ground, although his health was not good at the time. He did a lot of compiling of books for us; the main one being of course the West Midlands Bus Data File, which has now been taken over by Dave Francis.

So Chris - on behalf of all the GB – Bus Group Officials and members – thanks for all the hard work you have put in to the society, and we are sorry to see you leave us, but your health comes first.

When you are feeling better, perhaps you and I can have a meet up again, as we used to do.

So Chris, as you always signed off on your emails 'Take Care' Chris – well you '**Take Care**' of yourself !

**Maurice and all the GB – Bus Group Officials**

### **Magazine**

The deadline for the November magazine is Friday 31st October 2008. Please can you send any contributions to the area editors a few days before to give them chance to deal with the information.

### **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. A warm welcome to: D. Billing (Lincolnshire), S. Clark (Blackpool), Nigel Colugan (Cheshire), John Donner (Lincolnshire), Gerry Finch (Reading), Raymond Finch (High Wycombe), Derrick Kershaw (Lancashire) and Michael Morris (Birmingham)

### **Contributions**

Thanks go to contributors Steve White, Dave Stewart, John Nobbin, Tony Hunter, Mike Pinder, Steve Jenner, Mark Haldon, Malcolm H Crowe, Tony Allen, Arthur Morse, Barry Harper, John Nobbin, Cassandra Sweeting, Simon Blake, Geoff Siddons, Alan Spencer, Douglas King, Tim Jennings, John Holden, Nigel Diplock, Rod Whitaker, Michael O'Reily, The Ipswich Transport Society, Ensignbus, National Express and not forgetting our friends at LOTS and the PSV Circle. Apologies if I have missed any one.

## **News from the Industry**

**Optare** Have announced a restructuring which will involve the closure of it manufacturing plant at Hellaby near Rotherham. Operations there will be moved to the Leeds and Blackburn plants

**Transport for London** have announced that 61 new custom built "Dial-a-Ride" minibuses are to be introduced across London during the remainder of the year. The £3.9 million has been placed with Bluebird and have been purpose built for TfL based on the Tuscana model using a Volkswagen T5 chassis with a totally flat floor fitted with tip and fold seats to allow greater movement within the vehicles for wheelchair users.

**Centrebuss** took over operations of Arriva Midlands at Hinckley from August 26<sup>th</sup>, following a review by Arriva of its local business. All the Hinckley local services are involved, with the 158 Nuneaton-

Hinckley-Leicester moving to be operated from Southgates. At the same time the local operations of Woods Coaches were taken into the fold.

**Arriva The Shires** have announced an order for thirteen 14.1m tri axle Van Hool T917 Acrons for use on Green Line service 757 operating between London and Luton Airport. This is a fairly intensive service operating up to every twenty minutes.

**Stagecoach** open topper (every edition of Trident should have one methinks!) 14667 (H667BNL) - Olympian N/Counties Palatine O47/30F was used to laud the return of Mansfield's own double gold medal winning Olympian Rebecca Adlington. She had a well deserved tour of the town, an Olympian in an Olympian. Who says Stagecoach have no sense of humour

**Cardiff Bus Station** Work now well under way at the Bus Station site with all the buildings onto Wood Street knocked down. Buses from the West of Cardiff still use the Bus Station whilst those from the North and East mainly terminate in St. Mary Street. The best place for viewing the New Deckers and most of the Veolia and Stagecoach is at the Junction of St. Mary Street and Wood Street. The bendy's still passing the exit from the Bus Station, and First Bus and the National Express still use the Bus Station. *THE EGG ON RONNIE IS STILL OPENING AT THE EXIT OF THE BUS STATION!! Thank goodness.*

**Wardle Transport (Stoke)** , are running buses on behalf of Stoke City football fans, on home game days with a return fare of only £3 from any of the pick up points. Wardle have invested in two extra buses making a total of eight vehicles, enabling them to move 2400 supporters per hour. The buses are painted in red and white

## London Tender News

Starting April 2009

75 (Croydon – Lewisham)

Awarded to Metrobus with 13 new double deckers

Starting May 2009

35/N35 (Clapham Junction - Shoreditch)

awarded to Travel London with 19 new double deckers will be worked from Battersea.

40 (Dulwich - Aldgate)

awarded to Travel London with 16 new double deckers will be worked from Walworth.

54 (Woolwich – Elmers End)

Awarded to Metrobus with 13 new double deckers

345 (Peckham - South Kensington)

retained by Go Ahead London with 25 new double deckers.

Also the Bromley Park & Ride B99 has been awarded to Metrobus using 4 single decks

## West Midlands Service News

Quite a few service changes are occurring on October 26<sup>th</sup> below is a summary of the main ones.

Service 74 Diamond Bus will reduce the frequency to every 18 minutes (20 on Saturdays)

Service 87 Diamond Bus will reduce the frequency to operate every 20 minutes

Service 120 Diamond Bus will operate every 30 minutes Mon - Sat daytimes

Service 228 Hansons will curtail the service to operate between Kinver and Brierley Hill only

Service 250 Hansons will now operate the service between Stourbridge and Merry Hill only

Service 251 Hansons will withdraw this service

Service 294/5 TWM (under contract to Centro) will replace Hansons evenings & Sundays

Service 298/9 Choice Travel (under contract to Centro) will replace Diamond Bus

Service 311 Diamond Bus will extend the service to operate between Walsall and Stourbridge

Service 322 Travel A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace Choice Travel

Service 348 Diamond Bus (under contract to Centro) will replace Choice Travel

Service 375 A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace Choice Travel.

(A new timetable will be introduced and it will no longer serve Druids Heath)

Service 376 Travel A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace Central Connect

Service 419 Diamond Bus ((under contract to Centro) will replace TWM

Service 424 Choice Travel (under contract to Centro) will replace Central Connect

Service 425 Travel A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace Central Connect

Service 523 Choice Travel (under contract to Centro) will replace Diamond Bus

Service 530 TWM will withdraw this service

Service 560 Diamond Bus (under contract to Centro will operate between Wolverhampton and Bloxwich every hour evenings & Sundays

Service 562 Choice Travel will withdraw the service

Service 575 Travel A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace Choice Travel

Service 627 Central Buses (under contact to Centro) will replace Central Connect

Service 639 operated by Choice Travel is withdrawn

Service 680 Travel A2Z (under contract to Centro) will replace TWM

A couple of others to note

Service 110 Central Connect withdrew the service on September 7<sup>th</sup>

Service 901 Central Connect withdrew the service on September 7<sup>th</sup>

Service X73 Central Connect will withdraw the service on November 2<sup>nd</sup>

## Fleet News

### Arriva

**Burtons:** Olympian 249 (H49MJN) was de-roofed on September 14<sup>th</sup> when it collided with the 12"9' railway bridge at Little Saxham

**Classic** have repainted and re-registered recently acquired Leyland Tiger / Plaxton XHY256 (now E961NOU). One of the existing G-BRT Tigers (G324BRT, I believe) has been re-registered PIL2170 and fitted with a destination display. Optare Solo W442CWX is in stock from Burtons. It would seem that Tigers G324/5BRT have been re-registered PIL2160/70 in that order.

A new arrival here is Volvo B10M/Alexander H621ACK ex Wiltax. It is understood that Volvo B10BLE / Alexander W901/2UJM have headed off down south.

**Derby:** A Major service revision is due at the end of October which should result in the arrival of quite a few new vehicles, the first of which arrived in mid September in the shape of three Optare Solos YJ58CCA, YJ58CCD and YJ58CCE. Volvo Citybus 4329 has been withdrawn

**London:** Now in service are the last two batches of 10.1m Enviro 400s on order T44-T50 at Palmers Green, with T58-T65 making 18 in total in to South Croydon for route 466

T44	LJ08CSX	T48	LJ08CTF	T59	LJ08CYP	T63	LJ08CXT
T45	LJ08CSY	T49	LJ08CTK	T60	LJ08CYS	T64	LJ08CXU
T46	LJ08TSZ	T50	LJ08CTO	T61	LJ08CXR	T65	LJ08CXV
T47	LJ08CTE	T58	LJ08CYO	T62	LJ08CXS		

Now that Palmers Green have their second batch the allocation of VLWs have moved back to Wood Green, leaving the depot without an allocation of them since they were new in 2001.

Now for tgis month allocation changes DLA133 TH-TC: DLA142-144 WN-AD: DLA145, 228 WN-N: DLP55-19, 61-63, 66, 71, 73 AD-WN: PDL23, 24 TH-DX: VLW2, 7-10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 20-22, 24, 25, 34, 35, 38, 42, 51, 55, 56, 59, 65 AD-WN, In addition a swap has seen DW43 move CN-TC with DWL6 move in the opposite direction although his is only temporary

**New Enterprise:** A pair of Volvo B7/Plaxton have moved here from OFJ Connections 2853 (YN54WDE) and 2854 (YN54DCY), also from the same source is Javelin 2855 (YN53VBX).

**North East:** A vast amount of news this month so straight on:- More new Solos have entered service in Darlington 2842 (YJ58CAA), 2843 (YJ58CAE), 2844 (YJ58CAO), 2846 (YJ58CAV) and 2849 (YJ58CBO). 2847 (YJ58CAX) is being used in Durham for a short while before reaching

Darlington. 2823 (YK08ETZ) is also now there.

A recast of the East Durham network from the start of September have resulted in numerous changes to services and quite a few vehicle movements

The first, of the nine, Optare Solos for Peterlee have entered service these being 2801 (YK08ERO), 2802 (YK08ERU), 2816 (YK08ETO), 2817 (YK08ETR) and 2821 (YK08ETX) is at Durham.

Scania L113/East Lancs 279 (P279VRG) from Blyth is now working for Stockton in the Interurban livery, it saw some use at Jesomd whilst it was repainted. Sister 278 (P278VRG) has temporarily moved to Bishop Auckland while accident repairs are undertaken to DAF SB220GS/Plaxton 4028 (R428RPY).

Mercedes Vario/Plaxton 2669 (S352PGA) has moved to Ashington ex Blyth. Scania Omnicities 4659/63 (NK05GWO, NK07FZF) are back at Redcar and Durham respectively, allowing DAF SB220GS/Plaxton 4080 (T81AUA) to return to Darlington and DAF SB220/Ikarus 4108 (J926CYL) to return to Bishop Auckland. Leyland Olympian/Alexander 7277/8 (J353/4BSH) have moved to Jesmond and sister 7272 (L272FVN) is at Peterlee. MPDs 1766/7 (NK05GWE/F) have moved from Durham to Stockton (1766 via maintenance and brief use at Jesmond) while 1763/4 (NK05GWA/C) are now at Bishop Auckland, displacing Optare Delta 4009 (K409BHN) to disposal and Dennis Dart/Plaxton 1688 (J468OKP) to reserve.

Mini Pointer Darts 1773/99 (NK05GWU, SF04RHA) are at Jesmond ex Blyth in exchange for older sisters 1730/1 (V730/1DNL). DAF DB250/East Lancs 7439 (Y689EBR) is another repaint into the Interurban livery. Versa demonstrator YJ57EHU had seen use at Bishop Auckland depot. Optare Solo 2847 (YJ58CAX) has been pressed into use at Durham before reaching Darlington. Dennis Dart/Plaxton 1696 (M186YKA) is expected on loan at Bishop Auckland from Loftus. Leyland Olympian/Alexander 7271 (L271FVN) has moved from Darlington to Peterlee to replace ECW bodied 7220 (D178FYM), while Optare Metrorider 2711 (R711MHN) has moved from Peterlee to Ashington.

Dennis Dart/Plaxton 1637 (S637KHN) now operating for Durham, MPD 1708 (V708DNL) and Optare Vecta 1544 (L544GHN) are now at Bishop Auckland, where DAF DB250/East Lancs 7443/4 (Y693/4EBR) and MPD 1764 are also expected, in turn displacing Volvo Olympian/East Lancs 7429 (M693HPF) to Durham, DAF SB220GS/Plaxton 4042 (S342KHN) to Darlington. Optare Metrorider 2712 (R712MHN) has come off.

MPDs 1765/9-71 (NK05GWD/J/M/N) have joined sisters 1766/7 at Stockton, with 1768 (NK05GWC) to follow. These have seen off Optare Metroriders 893/901/4, 2635/6 (P893XCU, P61XTN, P904DRG, P635/6FHN) so far.

Loftus depot is to close from 17th January 2009. It is currently planned that services X3/X4 will transfer to Redcar, service 65 will transfer to Stockton and service X56 will be shared between Stockton depot and Whitby outstation (who retain their current services also).

**North West & Wales:** New VSL SB200 / Wright Pulsars are entering service at Green Lane, they are to replace the Neoplans on the 18 service (Liverpool – Croxteth Park)

2663	CX58EUD	2667	CX58EUJ	2670	CX58EUM	2673	CX58EUP
2664	CX58EUE	2668	CX58EUK	2671	CX58EUN	2674	CX58EUR
2665	CX58EUF	2669	CX58EUL	2672	CX58EUO	2675	CX58EUT
2666	CX58EUH						

Dennis Darts are 1160 (M160WKA) and 1161 (M161WKA) are now at Green Lane

New Optare Solo M880 B28Fs are Chester are 671 (CX58ETY), 672 (CX58ETZ), 673 (CX58EUA) and 674 (CX58EUC) for route 12 (Chester - Connahs Quay).

As a result of school contract gains a large number of double deck buses have been allocated to Skelmersdale 1940-1948, 3343, 3344, 3361, 3363 and 3364. Dennis Darts 1149 (L618BNX) and 1344 (K1BLU) have been sold to Hardwicks.

**The Shires:** Newly ensconced at Garston are eight Mercedes-Benz Citaros B42F.

3911	BV58MLE	3913	BV58MLJ	3915	BV58MLO	3917	BV58MLN
3912	BV58MLF	3914	BV58MLK	3916	BV58MLL	3918	BV58MKP

After being "on loan" for over two years, at Garston, ex Arriva London DDL15 (S315JUA) has been taken into stock and is now 3218. Two other Dennis Dart SLFs have also joined it 3225 (V422DGT)

ex PDL2 and 3226 (V421DGT) ex PDL1, a few depot swaps 3117 SV-WB: 3174 SV-MK: 3190 HH-HA: 3519 AY-MK: 5141 AY-GR: 5145 GR-AY: 5149 GR-HH: Sold for scrap have been Vario 2189 and Dennis Javelin 4029.

## First Group

**Berkshire:** Three new Volvo B9TL/ Wright Eclipse Gemini are due for Green Line route 702 Windsor – London 37274 (LK58EDF), 37275 (LK58EDJ), 37376 (LK58EDL). The first one looking very resplendent at Showbus, check [www.gez.fotopic.net](http://www.gez.fotopic.net) for more pictures of the day.

**Eastern Counties:** Transferred to Gt Yarmouth is 20127 (P767XHS)

**Essex:** We now have the regs of the new Volvo B9R / Plaxton Panther C44FT coaches for the “X30 Stansted aircoach” service are 20801 (YN08OWO), 20802 (YN08OWP), 20803 (YN08OWR), 20804 (YN08OWU) and 20805 (YN08CWV). Three Scania /Wridgt B47Fs have been transferred from Berkshire 60755 (N420MWY), 60756 (N421MWY) and 60758 (N423MWY)

**Glasgow:** The rest of the batch of Volvo B9TLs at Larkfield are 37534 (SF08SNV), 37538 (SF08SNX), 37539 (SF08SNY), 37540 (SF08SNZ), 37541 (SF58ATY), 37542 (SF58ATZ), 37543 (SF58AUA) and 37544 (SF58AUC). The 901 and 901X services Glasgow - Largs started in competition against are to be scaled down to operated only at weekends and Bank Holidays from the end of September.

**Hampshire & Dorset:** Seven Volvo B9TL/Wright Gemini have been added to the fleet at Weymouth complete it very colourful “Jurassic Coast” livery

37580	HX08DHL	37582	HX08DHL	37584	HX08DHG	37586	HX08DHJ
37581	HX08HDF	37583	HX08DHE	37585	HX08DHY		

**London:** Seven DMS class Darts are now allocated to Lea Interchange (H) for use on the ELW service 41258, 41260, 41261, 41350-41354. Others have been moved in to be used on rail replacement service B between Gospel Oak- Walthamstow whilst the North London Line is closed. TN32809 HS-H: DML41242, 41244, 41246, 41253, 41254, 41256 UX-ON: 41266 DM-H: DM41288, ON-w: DM41302 G-H: DM41289, 41299, 41304, 41305, 41306 ON-H: DML41384 ON-G: DM41435, 41436 WJ-DM: DM41790 ON-H: DMC42518, 41520, 41521 DM-UX: Disposals include LDN34329, 34339 to Edinburgh, DM41288, 41300, 41301, 41303 to Glasgow, DM41229, 41230, 41232, 41233, 41265 to destination unknown at present

**Manchester:** The first of what will number 122 Volvo B9TL/Wright Geminis are now entering in numbers initially at Bolton on the 8 and a few at Oldham (37381-37389), noted delivered at present are these with more arriving daily. Those missing registrations have not yet been noted.

37367	MX58DVU	37382	MX58DWN	37397		37412	
37368	MX58DVV	37383	MX58DWO	37398	MX58DXJ	37413	
37369	MX58DVW	37384	MX58DWP	37399	MX58DXK	37414	
37370	MX58DVY	37385	MX58DWU	37400	MX58DXL	37415	MX58DYG
37371	MX58DVZ	37386	MX58DWV	37401	MX58DXM	37416	
37372	MX58DWA	37387	MX58DWW	37402	MX58DXM	37417	MX58DYJ
37373	MX58DWC	37388	MX58DWY	37403	MX58DXP	37418	MX58DYM
37374	MX58DWD	37389	MX58DWZ	37404	MX58DXR	37419	MX58DYN
37375	MX58DWE	37390	MX58DXA	37405	MX58DXS	37420	MX58DYO
37376	MX58DWF	37391	MX58DXB	37406	MX58DXT	37421	MX58DYP
37377	MX58DWG	37392	MX58DXC	37407	MX58DXU	37422	MX58DYS
37378	MX58DWJ	37393	MX58DXD	37408	MX58DXV	37423	MX58BYT
37379	MX58DWK	37394	MX58DXE	37409	MX58DXW	37424	MX58BYU
37380	MX58DWL	37395	MX58DXF	37410		37425	MX58DYV
37381	MX58DWM	37396	MX58DXG	37411	MX58DYA		

The batch up to 37379 are fitted with coach seats and are used on the 8 between Bolton and Manchester. The bendi buses previously used on that service are now to be found on the 582 between Bolton and Leigh. The first of the Volvo B7s withdrawn for movement elsewhere in the group are 66795, 66796, 66798, 66800, 66807, 66808, 69218, 69219, 69221 and 69222. Re

allocations with in Manchester see 60301 and 60302 withdrawn for conversion to driver trainers, 60315, 60321-60327, 60329 and 60339 now at Bolton, 60416-420 at Queens Rd along with 61149. 61150, 61250 and 61251. 66905 at Oldham, 68219 Ashton, 69204 Queens Rd, 69135-138, 69240 and 69241 at Bury

**Potteries:** Rock Ferry depot has taken over operation of Route 1 (Chester – Liverpool) with the following Scania L94/Wrights transferring from Chester 60172 (T919SSF), 65707 (YN04GMG), 65734 (YN05WKC), 65735 (YN05WKD), 65736 (YN05WKE), 65737 (YN05WKF), 65738 (YN05WKG), 65739 (YN05WKH), 65740 (YN05WKJ) and 65741 (YN05WKK). With space made at Liverpool Rd these have moved across from the Chester City Transport depot on Station Rd Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall 41068 (V368KLG), 41071 (V371KLG) and 41073 (V373KLG) along with Scania L113 / Wrights 61527 (R115GSF), 61538 (R129GSF), 61555 (R170GSF), 61556 (R161GSF), 61557 (R172GSX and 61578 (S691BFS) along with the workings on the Blacon Circulars.

**South Yorkshire:** New into service have been 36 Volvo B9TL / Wright Eclipse for use on Blue Line services 75/76 operating out of Olive Grove garage

37494	YN58ERX	37503	YN08PMV	37512	YN58ESO	37521	YN58ETK
37495	YN08PLO	37504	YN08PMY	37513	YN58ESU	37522	YN58ETL
37496	YN08PLU	37505	YN08PNE	37514	YN58ESV	37523	YN58ETO
37497	YN58ERY	37506	YN08PNF	37515	YN58ESY	37524	YN58ETR
37498	YN08PLX	37507	YN08PNJ	37516	YN58ETA	37525	YN58ETT
37499	YN08PLZ	37508	YN08PNK	37517	YN58ETD	37526	YN58ETU
37500	YN08PMO	37509	YN58ERZ	37518	YN58ETE	37527	YN58ETV
37501	YN08PMU	37510	YN58ESF	37519	YN58ETF	37528	YN58ETX
37502	YN08PMV	37511	YN58ESG	37520	YN58ETJ	37529	YN58ETY

With the arrival of these, several of which have been used recently on the Chorley –Preston rail replacement, I suspect we will have quite a lot of onward movements.

**Trurionian:** Transferred from D & C have been Volvo B12M/Plaxton 20531 (WV52HVE) and 20532 (WV52HVF). Whilst from Swans (Chadderton) two Volvo B12B/Caetano 20701 (FN06FLC) and 20702 (FN06FLD) all four in National Express colours

#### **West Yorkshire:**

**(Bradford)** Seven new Volvo B9TL /Wright Eclipse Gemini were delivered in early September 37360 (YJ58GNP), 37361 (YJ58GMO), 37362 (YJ58GNU), 37363 (YJ58GMU), 37364 (YJ58GNV), 37365 (YJ58GNW) and 37366 (YJ58GNX). From August 31<sup>st</sup> the City Circle routes 601 and 602 were withdrawn, due to very low passenger numbers. The 619 to Bingley and 670 to Leeds have been re routed out of Bradford to partially replace the withdrawn routes.

Three Optare Solos have just entered service on the “FreeCityBus” 53910 (YJ58CDV), 53911 (YJ58CDX) and 53912 (YJ57CDY) operating in Metro Connect red and white colours.

**(Halifax):** The following should by now be withdrawn, scheduled for scrapping 30667 (F171XYG), 30669 (F173XYG), 30671 (F175XYG), 60777 (K110HUM) and 60778 (K211HUM)

## **Go Ahead Group**

**London:** Three 10.4m Volvo B9TL / Enviro 400s have been delivered into Putney in mid September VE1 (LX58CWK), VE2 (LX58CWL) and VE3 (LX58CWM).

**Metrobus:** New 12m Scania N230UB OmniCity single decks B33D for use on TfL route 293 are now at Croydon 561 (YN08OAS), 562 (YN58BNA), 563 (YN08OAV), 564 (YN08OAW), 565 (YN08OAX), 566 (YN08OAY) and 567 (YN08OAZ

**North East:** Scania L94UB / Wright 4940 (NK51OLB) & 4965 (NL52WVW) are both now white at Washington. Volvo Olympian’s 3815 (S815FVK) & 3822 (S822OFT) were working for Ashington earlier in the month while 3817 (S817 FVK) was working for Gateshead. MPD 521 (NK51MKD) is now white, as are former DFDS-liveried Dennis Trident / Plaxton 3890/1 (NK51UCT/U). Scania L94UB / Wright 4944 (NK51OLH) is now refurbished and in purple. The latest batch of Mercedes Citaro’s on service 10 at Winlaton 5210-6/8/9 (NK08MXY/Z/YA-D/F/G/ZV/W). New members of the batch 5322-5327 (NK58DVY/Z/WA/C/D/E) are yet to enter service.

DAF SB120 / Wright 8250 (NA52BVG) is now back in service at Gateshead following accident damage. DAF SB220GS / Plaxton 4862 (S862ONL) into Bargain Bus livery, with sister 4863 (S863ONL) is also under repaint. These are likely to see off the current Bargain Bus Leyland Olympians. SPDs 8158/9/214/5 (S858/9ONL, V214/5ERG) are at Chester-le-Street.

SPDs 8213/6/7 (V213/6/7ERG) are at Gateshead, MPD 486 (V186ERG) is at Washington, Volvo B10M / Plaxton 7077/8/80/2-4 (S977/8ABR, Y808/782-4MFT) are in the driver training school. Bluebird LMB / Plaxton 612 (NK53TJV) is withdrawn from Ashington, while Optare Delta 4752 (G752UCU) and Volvo B10M / Plaxton 7059-62/75/6 (M59LBB, N760/1RCU, YSU875/6) are withdrawn from the driver training fleet.

**Oxford Bus Company:** Volvo B10B / Plaxton Verdes 635, 636 and 637 have been withdrawn.

**Unilink:** The first two buses for use on the Unilink services at Southampton have been Scania N270UD H45/23D OmniCitys HF58GZJ, HF58GZK and HF58GZL have been noted heading for Southampton which should be 1304-1306 I will confirm these next month

**Southern Vectis:** The first of the Polish built Scania N230UDs H45/31F have now arrived on the island 1101 (HW08AOP), 1102 (HW08AOR), 1103 (HW08AOS), 1104 (HW08AOT)

**Wilts & Dorset:** Newly delivered are Scania N270UD H45/29F HF58GYW-GYZ, GZA-GZC, no fleet numbers are to hand as yet

## National Express Group

**West Midlands:** 227/42/4 (P227/42/4AAP) in to reserve from National Express: 229 (P229AAP) National Express – WA: 526 PE-WB: 1563 PE-CV: 2529 sold to Keeber (Leicester) 2564, 2596 LH-withdrawn: 2634, 2699, 2764: sold to Sharpe (Scarrington): 2789 sold to Roberts (Hugglescote): 2833 sold to UK Coaches (Countesthorpe): 2836; 2837 sold to Sharpe (Scarrington) 2840 sold to Keeber (Leicester): 2862 sold to Roberts (Hugglescote): 2897 sold to Goodsir & Hughes (Holyhead): 2906 sold to Sharpe (Scarrington): 2933 sold to UK Coaches (Countesthorpe) 2980; 2983 sold to Akiens & Feeley (Leicester): 3001 sold 3060 sold to Dixon (Leicester): 3063 sold to Green Transport (Birmingham): 4175 WN-BC: 4186 BC-WN: 9240, 9266 London-trainer: 9928, 9942, 9948 London-withdrawn: 9951, 9955 London-trainer:

addition vehicles gone are 2685 to Dodd, Wolverhampton for preservation 2902 to Garratt, Groby 2931 gone 3001 to Buckbys, Rothwell

**Travel London:** With ibus fitment being carried out at Beddington Farm, several Tridents from Metroline have been hired in DT1 (KN52NCD), DT2 (KN52NCE), DT4 (KN52NDD) and DT5 (KN52DDE) you will notice that these are the ex Armchair batch and after use here are due to go be returned to the lessor.

Due to the introduction of the “LEZ” the driver training fleet of Lynxes and Metrobuses can no longer be used and so the fleet now comprise ex National Express DAF/Van Hool Y301, 303, 307-309, 311, 313, 315HUA.

## Rotala

**Diamond Bus:** Now repainted into Red Diamond colours is Dennis Dart 454 (Y211HWJ). In Red Diamond 55A/56A livery is former Redby MX07OYT.

## Stagecoach

**Bluebird:** Just the one movement this month 52385 arriving at Aberdeen from StrathTay

**Devon & Somerset:** Note the new title for the combined operations of Devon and Cooks 47313 Exeter – Barnstaple, 20482, 32636 Exeter – Wellington: 31701-31706 Exeter – Exmouth: 17050-17052, 17055, 17057 Exmouth – Exeter. Mercedes-Benz Vitos 60001 and 60002 have arrived from South allocated to Torquay for use as shuttles. Also for use as staff shuttles, transferred from Cooks Coaches, are 49608 at Torquay, and 19609, 49610 at Barnstaple. Stored Dennis Dart 32017 has been towed away for scrap. Late news just squeezing in 18302, 18329 move Exeter to Torquay with 18383, 18384 moving in the opposite direction.

**East Midlands:** As usual quite a number of allocation changes:- 14677, 14679 GH - SP: 14992, 14995 LH - LI: 14999 res - LI: 15223 LI - res: 15227, 15228 NK - res: 15952, 15977 SK - res: 16431, 16436, 16437 YK - res: 16472 res - SP: 16498 res - SK: 16732 res - pool: 16801, 16802 LH - GH: 16867 res - SK: 16900 LI - GY: 16901, 16902, 16904-906 LH - GY: 30157 LH - dis: 20785 HL - GY: 32089 HL - dis: 52145 GY - res: 52378, 52379 LH - res

**East Scotland:**

**(Fife)** Fleet movements this period have been 11093 (NIB5233) S - res: 16046 (P646SEV) A - res: 20307 (L307PSC) res - A: 20318 (N318VMS) res - C: 22276 (X276MTS) G - A: 22277 (X277ATS) G - A: 31494 (P494BRS) A - res: 32206 (P606CMS), 32207 (P607CMS) G - A: 32307 (N307AMC), 32308 (N308AMC) res - G: 40793 (N343KKH) A - res: 42233 (R91EOL) Strathtay - res: 52288 (N148XSA) D - C

**(Perth)** Three new arrival here are Enviro 400s 19366 (SP58CXV), 19367 (SP58CXW) and 19368 (SP58CXX). No matter what you may read elsewhere these numbers are the correct ones.

**(Rennies)** Scania 15307 (H427BNL), 15308 (H428BNL), 15309 (H429BNL) and 15310 (H430BNL) have joined others of the batch parked at Kirkcaldy awaiting disposal. Olympians 14718 (K718ASC), 14719 (K719ASC), 14722 (K722ASC) and 14723 (K723ASC) are also now here. Two recent transfers from Rapsons have been Setra 59671 (LIJ595) and DAF / Van Hool 59793 (YBZ818)

**Manchester:** The school buses at Glossop 29801 (MX53VHO), 29802 (MX53VHP), 29803 (FJ55KMO) and 29804 (FJ55KMU) have been returned to GMPTTE following the loss of the school contracts that they were used on. 28904 is now with First at Ashton.

Re-allocations are 14853 ST-w: 15365 ST-HE: 15375, 15376 HE-w: 15378, 15381, 15383 HE-ST (Bullocks): 16184 St-w: 16760, 16761 ST-HE: 17638 ST-HE: 20877 ST-HE: 20906, 20907 PS-res: 20941 HE-CS: 22055, 22056, 22232 CS-HE: 22233, 22239 CS-ST: 28506, 28507 HE-CS: 32286 HE-w: 32938 HE-w: 33345, 33349 HE-CS: 42552, 556 CS-w: 42573 CS-a: 52248, 296 t-w:

Mercedes-Benz Varios 42537 and 42546 have been transferred to Wales.

Did you spot last months mistake, Tony Allen did, 18360 and 18362 should of course have read 19 Three more are 19363 (MX08UDO), 19364 (MX08UDT) and 19365 (MX08UDU).

An interesting tale is to be told of these, as you may remember 19361, a dual door version was destined for Cambridge, but rather than leave it as an odd one in the middle of the batch it would take spare number 19316 tagged on the end of the last batch. So the later Manchester ones would move down one fleet number, 19361-19364 to fill the gap. Perth received a few 19365-19367. However it appears Manchester didn't get the message and the buses arrived were put into service with the original numbers so for a week or so we had two 19365s. In the end Perth moved there fleet numbers up one. Confused? I'm glad because I have been for the last two weeks.

Late news just as I put the magazine to bed is the arrival, at Stockport of the first of the next batch 19390 (MX58FSD) and 19392 (MX58FSF)

**Merseyside:** A bit of news to report for a change is the arrival of several Volvo B10Ms for a new Magicbus service, which commenced on September 15th 14C Broadway to Great Charlotte St. 20207 (N207TDU), 20208 (N208TDU), 20210 (M210LHP), 20211 (N211TDU) and 20212 (N212TDU) from Warwickshire, along with 20731 (K731DAO) and 20744 (K744DAO) from North West.

**North East:** The next batch of Enviro 400s have entered service at Newcastle Walkergate:

19379	NK58AET	19382	NK58AEW	19385	NK58AEZ	19388	NK58AFF
19380	NK58AEU	19383	NK58AEX	19386	NK58AFA	19389	NK58AJV
19381	NK58AEV	19384	NK58AEY	19387	NK58AFE		

19378 visited South Shields so with another small batch due they could be heading there. You will note that 19378 doesn't appear above, this is due to the on fleet numbering problems. Which shifted the numbers up one.

Dennis Dart / Plaxton 32112 (K112SRH) and 32134 (K134SRH) are now in use as back up buses for the Quaylink and very nice they look to in the yellow livery. ADL Dart SLF 35188 (NK56FFH)

Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14672 (H672BNL) has finally made its anticipated move from Sunderland to Hartlepool, leaving Sunderland devoid of double deck stock.

MAN 18.220 / Alexander 22202/6/465 (T202/6TND, T465BNL) are currently de-licenced.

**North West:** The open top service at Kendal has been scaled down for the Autumn so Titans head for the cover of Kendal Depot for the winter 10254 and 10281 have been de-licenced whilst 11100 has suffered an engine failure and is unlikely to see further use. Recent transfers are 16650 PR-CY 16733 PR-LL: 17013, 17014 res-CY: 20107 LL-CE: 20175 res-CE: 20219 NN-CE: 20435 res-CE: 20731 CE-GM: 20738, 20743, 20752 res-CE, 20793, 20794 ME-CY: 20898, 20899 res-CY: 30270, 30461, 30846 dis-sold: 32921, 32924 PR-res: 40015, 40029, 40328 LL-res: 40031 dis-sold: 40397 CE-res: 40441, 40443 KE-res: 40641 ME-res: 42545 CE-res: 47021, 47022 res-ME: 47023, 47024 res-LL.

**West:** A few fleet movements are 14275 (G105AAD) SN - GR: 20204 (M204LHP) res - CO: 32320 (N320AMC) res - dis 42376 (S376DFC) dis - SN: Sold to Wrigleys (Carlton) for scrap have been 14961 (G211SSL), 26019 (J719CYG), 32970 (M625KKG).

**West Scotland:** Period 5 movements are as follows 11083, 16863 AY-d/l (Seasonal): 20323 AS-AN: 25476 GW-scrap: 28955 res-GW: 40056 GW-AY(a): 40062 res-K(a): 51096 AS-AY: 52348 GW-K: 52475 GW(jv)-AS: 52667 Fife-GW(jv): 52669 res-GW(jv). The two Mercs 40056 and 40062 are used on staff shuttles and have been repainted all over red. Titan 10410 (KYV410X) is due to be scrapped shortly.

**Yorkshire:** More new vehicles at Chesterfield are MAN / Enviro 300s.

22640	YN58CEA	22644	YN58CEO	22648	YN58CFA	22652	YN58CFG
22641	YN58CEF	22645	YN58CEV	22649	YN58CFD	22653	YN58CFJ
22642	YN58CEJ	22646	YN58CEX	22650	YN58CFE	22654	YN58CFK
22643	YN58CEK	22647	YN58CEY	22651	YN58CFF		

These are expected to replace the last of the step entrance Dennis Darts and several Olympians, however entry into service has been slow due to the need for several of them to be returned to MAN for further work to be carried out on them.

Ecclesfield depot took on responsibility of route 25 Woodhouse - Sheffield City Centre – Bradway. Seven vehicles are required with three Volvo B6BLEs 31935, 31937 and 31938 transferring from Holbrook and 31934, 31936 and 31945 moving out of the reserve fleet. SYPTE owned Optare Solos 47421 and 47422 which should have moved to Sheffield Community Transport, along with the Bradfield Rural Bus Network, at the end of July have moved to Holbrook for further store.

## Transdev

**Lancashire United:** Volvo B6s are still finding new homes 221 (L642OWY) and 222 (L643OWY) have been sold to Warrington Coachways.

**London United:** Twenty one new 10.2m Enviro200Dart B29D have now entered service at Hounslow Heath (HH) on the 285 between Kingston and Heathrow

DE1	YX58DVA	DE7	YX58DVJ	DE12	YX58DVO	DE17	YX58DVV
DE2	YX58DVB	DE8	YX58DVK	DE13	YX58DVP	DE18	YX58DVW
DE3	YX58DVC	DE9	YX58DVL	DE14	YX58DVR	DE19	YX58DUV
DE4	YX58DVF	DE10	YX58DVM	DE15	YX58DVT	DE20	YX58DUY
DE5	YX58DVG	DE11	YX58DVN	DE16	YX58DVU	DE21	YX58DVK
DE6	YX58DVH						

Scania SO1-SO4 have moved to S with SP30-Sp33 moving to V in return

## Veolia

**North East:** Four more Optare Solos have arrived in the fleet from their Lincolnshire operation. YN04LWU and YN04LWP/R are some of these and has been operating un repainted in "Village Lynx" livery thus far.

## Independents

## Eastern Counties

**Anglian (Beccles):** Quite a bit of activity to note this month purchased from Helms of Eastham have been two ex Chesterbus Scania L113/Wright to join three of the batch already operated, 416 (R81EMB) and 415 (R82EMB). Optare Spectra 501 (YJ56ASZ) has been exported to New Zealand, it is to be replaced by a new Scania due by the end of September. Also new are a another pair of Optare Solos 319 (AU58AKK) and 320 (AU58AKN). Mercedes-Benz Vario /Plaxton Beavers 216 (V451NGA), 224 (AU04BZV) and 225 (AU04BZT) have been sold to JJ Travel (Coatbridge)

**Delaine (Bourne):** Now in service is Volvo B9TL/Olympus H47/31F 144 (AD58DBL)

## London / Greater London

**Apcoa Parking (Hetahrow):** New Citaros are now in use on the car park shuttles 33 (BD08DZN), 34 (BD08DZO), 35 (BD08DZP), 36 (BD08DZR), 37 (BD08DZS), 38 (BD08DZT), 39 (BD08DZU)

**Big Bus:** more of the new Visionaries are DA208 (PF08URZ)

**East London Bus Group:** The Selkent division has just taken delivery of three batches of single deck vehicles first at Bromley for route 246 have been five 10.7m Enviro 200Darts B32D 36009 (LX58BZW), 36010 (LX58BZY), 36011 (LX58CAA), 36012 (LX58CAE) and 36013 (LX58CAO). Along with 8.9m B26F versions for route 354 36014 (LX58CAU), 36015 (LX58CAV), 36016 (LX58CBF), 36017 (LX58CBO), 36018 (LX58CBU) and 36019 (LX58CBV). Over at Catford for route 365 are more of the 8.9m version 36020 (LX58CBY), 36021 (LX58CCA), 36022 (LX58CCD), 36023 (LX58CCE), 36024 (LX58CCF), 36025 (LX58CCJ) and 36026 (LX58CCK).

**Metroline:** More new Enviro 400s making their way into service at Cricklewood (W) have been

TE894	LK08NVJ	TE899	LK08NVP	TE904	LK58CNU	TE908	LK58CNZ
TE895	LK08NVL	TE900	LK58CNE	TE905	LK58CNV	TE909	LK58COA
TE896	LK08NVM	TE901	LK08CNF	TE906	LK58CNX	TE910	LK58COH
TE897	LK08NVN	TE902	LK08CNN	TE907	LK58CNY	TE911	LK58COJ
TE898	LK08NVO	TE903	LK58CNO				

The batch will finish at TE914. They will then be followed by the hybrid versions which will take fleet numbers TEH915-919

The remaining DE Class Enviro200s at Perivale (PA) for the E6 are

DE869	LK58DXC	DE872	LK58CPY	DE874	LK58CMY	DE876	LK58CNA
DE870	LK58CPW	DE873	LK58CPZ	DE875	LK58CMZ	DE877	LK58CNC
DE871	LK58CPX						

As usual of late a myriad of depot transfers to record DLD22, 27, 34, 35, 55-57, 71, 74 PA-AH: DLD24, 25, 59-61, 66-68 NW-HT: DLD44-46, 49, 65, 70 NW-AH: DLD54 PA-w: DLD72 AH-HT: DLD73 W-NW: DLF9 PA-w: DLS101, 102 PA-w: DMS16, 25, 29 PB-Ensignbus (sold): DP1001, 1002, 1004 PA-AH: DP1008-1017, 1019 AH-NW: DP1021 HT-AH: TP1-65 are all now back at HT: TA99 W-PA: VPL207-209 HT-HD: VPL210, 211 AC-HT: TPL237, 238 PV-CT Plus: TPL243-245, 261, 262, 265 Go Ahead-PV: TPL256, 263, 267, 268, 270, 271 W-PV: TPL264, 278 W-HT: TPL279 W-PB: TP353, 356 PV-AH: TP363-366, 370-373 W-AH: TP382 W-HD: VP483, 485-489 HD-AC: ET765-770 HD-w

## The Midlands

**Centrebus (Leicester):** It is believed that the vehicles obtained from Arriva Midlands have been given the following fleet number:- (1149) is 433, (1151) is 434, (1152) is 435, (1157) is 437, (1161) is 438, (1162) is 439 (1164) is 440, (1166) is 441, (1169) is 442, (1171) is 443

**Central Buses (Birmingham):** A pair of former Metroline Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall B28F have just been acquired, S515KFL and S527KFL. They will be subject to a full refurbishment before they enter service.

**Claribels (Birmingham):**The latest addition to the fleet is a Volvo B6RLE / Wright T290ROF, originally a demonstrator, but latterly with Whitelaws.

**The Green Transport Co (Oldbury):** Added in early September was ex Travel Coventry MCW Metrobus 3063 (F63XOF)

**Little's (Ilkeston):** Three Optare Sigmas have been bought from Trent N366VRC, N369VRC and N370VRC.

**Lugg Valley (Leominster):** New into service here is Optare Solo YJ58CCZ, whilst former Optare Versa demonstrator YJ57EHE now carries full fleet livery.

### **North East**

**Dreadnought, (Alnwick):** have begun a new Alnwick - Newcastle commuter service alongside a special service for the Alnwick Gardens. Two Neoplan Skyliners have been added to stock for this, these being H297GKN and RIB4313. The latter vehicle has previously operated in the region for ASP Travel and 1-2 Travel.

**Leven Valley:** fleet now has a tenth Optare Solo in the shape of MAN-engined 23 "St Aidan" (S123RDC). It will enter service once it has received CCTV and fleetnames. Mercedes 709 / LCB 76 (P776BJU) has been renovated over the summer months.

**JSB (Coundon):** have leased new Optare Versa MX08MYS.

**Low Fell (Gateshead):** have ex Classic DAF SB3000 / Van Hool WOJ802.

**Ted Wilford (Peterlee):** have Mercedes Vario mini-coach YJ57EYW.

**First Choice (Stanley):** have Volvo B10M / Plaxton LUI9295.

**Weardale, Stanhope** have added a further Leyland Olympian / Alexander to stock for an additional school contract. G344CSG is under single door conversion at Gardiners, Spennymoor

**Tyne Valley (Acomb)** have added some further modernity to their fleet with DAF SB220GS / East Lancs X906RHG, new to Lakeland, Hurst Green, but more recently with Countryliner, Guildford.

**Craiggs (Amble)** have DAF SB3000 / Van Hool F258RJX in stock ex Adamsons, Cramlington.

**Coatham Coaches (Redcar)** have new Iveco Turbo Daily minicoach MX58GZF.

**Tees Valley (Eaglescliffe)** have acquired MCW Metrobuses POG592Y and B800AOP from Kingsleys, Birtley. Dennis Condor / Duple Metsec G863FVX is now for sale on ebay.

### **North West**

**A1A (Birkenhead):** An Optare Solo acquired from HTL Buses is MX06BPV

**Aintree Coachline:** Ex London Dart R445LGH has been re registered as L1SLT, the previous holder of this registration is now L141VDM.

**Bluebird (Middleton):** September 1<sup>st</sup> provided the chance to get yet two more Enviro200Dart / MCV Evolutions into service JJ58BLU and WW58BLU. Enviro 63 (MX57OEL) has been re-registered to 284BLU

**Coastal Coaches:** The first new full size coaches for the operator are a pair of Setra S415GT-HD C49FT BV58MKE and BV58MKF

**Finches (Wigan):** Noted in the yard in early September was all white Volvo Olympian R367DJN

**Fraser Eagle:** A pair of Volvo B12M/Jonckherre C51Ft are FN52HRW and HRX purchased from Andermanet of Langley)

**Halton Transport:** Four VDL SB200 / Plaxton Centros have been hired in, for extra schools work, pending delivery of new buses 92 (YJ57BCU), 93 (YJ58FFC), 94 (YJ58FFE) and 95 (YJ58FFN). Pictures are on [www.gb-bg.fotopic.net](http://www.gb-bg.fotopic.net).

**Hayton (Burnage):** Two more new vehicles for new services 195 and 196 from Withington Hospital are Enviro200Darts MX08ZDZ and MX08ZFA.

**M Travel (Manchester):** A pair of M-B Vario / Plaxton Beaver 2s have been acquired of late R815WJA and R839WOH

**Manchester Grammar School:** Although not really an operator as such if you have been to Manchester you will have probably noted blue and white Volvo Citybus YCZ4810 running around. Two more vehicles have now bought Olympian / Alexander F240YTJ from Bullocks and an ex West Midlands Metrobus F309XOF.

**Robinsons Holidays:** Three new 12.8m Volvo B12M / Plaxton Paragons are now here two are 276 (YN58FYE) and 277 (YN58FYF)

**Rosie's Travel (Maryport):** Now here, having been bought from the Stafford Bus Centre, is ex Stagecoach West Scotland Mercedes 709D M650FYS used on tendered service 222 between Whitehaven and Workington via Pica

**Silver Fern Coaches (Arkholme):** It appears that the owners have now retired with operations being taken over by Staintons of Kendal, A VDL DE400/Marcopolo PN05BNB has been noted in Silver Fern colours. Certainly the two Mercedes/Sitcars have been noted carrying new registrations of late.

**Speedwellbus (Hyde):** A couple of acquisitions for use on newly won school contracts are Leyland Olympian /Northern Counties G501SFT from Arriva and an East Lancs bodied Dennis Dominator F603RPG, latterly with Thamesdown as 375

**Springfield (Warrington):** A recent arrival here is Volvo B10M/Jonckherre M323KRY

**Staintons (Kendal):** DAF /Van Hool LIB3766 along with Volvo B10M/Plaxtons CJZ6076 (ex T6MDC) and CJZ4251 (ex P2TYR) have been sold to Holmeswood in part exchange for two VDL DE4000 Marcopolos PN05AOE and PN05BNB (see Silver Fern)

**Jim Stones (Leigh):** Two Dennis Dart SLFs have been re registered BUS 1T is now MC52OOD and M1 BUS is now MP03CYF, so they are probably due to leave the fleet presently.

**Supertravel:** A couple of recent additions are a Mercedes Vario / Olympus MX53SXO and an Onyx bodied example MX53ZWC.

**Warrington Borough Transport:** Metroriders 113 and 114 have reportedly been placed into store

**Warrington Coachways:** Volvo B10m/Van Hool H172DVM is now A13JJN.

### Scotland

No details have arrived this month I'm afraid

### Southern England

**Excelsior (Bournemouth):** It has been pointed out that I haven't listed this years arrivals so here they are, no doubt you will already have seen them, 620 (YN08NKK), 621 (YN08NKL), 622 (YN08NKM) Volvo B12M/Plaxton C52FT and 400 (FJ08FYGH), 401 (FJ08FYG) and 402 (FJ08FYF) Volvo B12b/Sunsundeugi C49FT.

**Reading Transport:** Dennis Darts 310 (S516JJH) and 311 (S517JJH) have been made into driver trainers.

**Shamrock (Holton Heath):** here is an ex Metroline Dart R689MEW0 carries fleet number 211

### South West

**Bakers (W-S-M):** Our usual monthly report from Mr Jenner sees; Volvo No.9 (SIL6715) re registered to XLH570: Volvo No.8 (SIL6716) now 7740KO: Volvo No.11 (7740KO) now SIL6716 and Volvo No.102 (XLH570) now SIL6715

**Darley Ford Coaches:** Volvo B10M/Berkhof T75JKG has been re registered as B12DFT

**Hookways (Meath):** A couple of second hand coaches have been noted of late are Volvo B10m/Jonckherre K826HUM and Volvo M10M/Berkhof R222WDY. A pair of Alexander bodied Scania N113DRB double decks have arrived from Scotland H223LOM and J814HMC. Volvo /Plaxton RJI5702 has been sold to Moseley

**Mid Devon Caches:** In from New Bharat Coaches is Volvo /Plaxton C49FT N98WVC

**Target Travel (Plymouth):** A Dennis Dart / Wright K570PDY has been bought from Probus

**Trathens:** Transferred from Parks is Volvo B12B/Berkhof CH65/18CT KSK983 ex SF07OSB.

### Wales

**Alpine Travel (Llandudno):** A Leyland Tiger HAZ3540 has been acquired. The body is a Wadham Stringer DP70F

**South Wales Transport:** has acquired the following new vehicles - AJ58 PZN, AJ58 PZO, AJ58 PZR and AJ58 PZR

## National Express Service News

Veolia Birmingham are to operate two round trips on the 444 (Worcester-London), one run will be interworked with a run on the 420 (London-Aberystwyth), New tri axle Levantes are due and they

are to be operated from the depot of Astons (Kempsey).

Nine new tri axle Scania K340EB/Caetano Levantes are now in service

7094	FJ08KLF	7097	FJ08KLX	7099	FJ08KMU	7101	FJ08KNV
7095	FJ08KLS	7098	FJ08KLZ	7100	FJ08KMV	7102	FJ08KNW
7096	FJ08KLU						

They are used on route 304 (Liverpool-Weymouth), 380 (Newcastle-Liverpool), 530 (Newcastle-Paignton) and 531 (Newcastle-Plymouth), The 304 and 380 is interworked with two vehicles parked over night at Norton Street Coach Station in Liverpool

Stagecoach in Caithness (Rapsons) ceased operating National Express work, the 588 (Inverness – London) being taken over by Stuarts of Salsburgh, using two new Caetano Levantes, whilst the 509 (London – Swansea) is now being run by Coach Miles of Hemel Hempstead with ex Oxford Volvo B10M/Plaxton Excalibur Y27OXF being the usual coach.

Volvo B10M T870RGA having been used by Stagecoach in Peterborough, for the last couple of months, should have returned to Yorkshire Bus & Coach (Hull) as this is read.

Two Caetano Levantes have been noted operating for South Gloucs in recent weeks FJ58AKP and FJ58AKX.

## New Deliveries

A Line	YJ58CFA	Optare Solo B23F (in County Links colour)
Aintree Coachline	SN58CDK	Enviro 400
Andrews (Tideswell)	YN58CHC	Volvo B12B / Plaxton Panther
Cooper (Killamarsh)	BX58GFV	Autosan
Craig Y Don (Llandudno)	BV58MKZ	Mercedes-Benz Tournio
Davian Coaches (London)	BX58GCP	King Long
D J Thomas (Beith)	DJ58GJT	Volvo 9700
Ensignbus	PO58NPJ (112)	Volvo B9 / Optare Olympus
Hunters (Leeds)	KL58HCL	King Long 6127
Konnectbus	MX58ABV (411)	Optare Tempo B43F
Provence Private Hire	PO58KPL	Volvo B9TL / Optare Olympus 3 axle
Lugg Valley (Leominster)	YJ58EHE	Optare Solo
Richmonds	438XYA	Van Hool T916 C53F
Richmonds	648EAU	Volvo B12T / Van Hool C53F
Safeguard Coaches	WA58EEO	Volvo / Van Hool
Southern Vectis	HW58ASX (1111)	Scania N230UD
Suffolk County Council	PO58HRC	Marcopolo

## Alexander Dennis (Falkirk)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

#### Go Ahead

Enviro 400 LX08HME (VE1), LX08HMF (VE2), LX08HMG (VE3)

#### Metroline

Enviro 400 LK58CNO (TE903), LK58CNX (TE906), LK58CNV (TE905)

Enviro 200 LK58CMZ (DE875)

### 9<sup>th</sup> September 2008

#### Metroline

Enviro 200 LK58CNC (DE877)

### 16<sup>th</sup> September 2008

#### Stagecoach

Enviro 400 NK58AFF (19387), SV58BMO  
Enviro 200 YN58CEY (22647)

## 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008

### Stagecoach

Enviro 400 MX58FSF  
Enviro 200 YN58CFG (22652), YN58CFJ (22653)

## Preservation News

### Vehicles

The Chesterfield 123 Preservation Group are the new owners of Blackpool Transport Leyland Atlantean 353 (UHG353Y). This makes a total of six vehicles under the group's care. Former Go Ahead North East MCW Metrobus 3771 (C771OCN) is now in the ownership of Mark Westgarth ex Shoreline Suncoasters.

### Events

#### Events:

<b>Ipswich Transport Museum:</b>	18 <sup>th</sup> October - "Wheels by Lamplight"
<b>Manchester Museum of Transport:</b>	18/19 <sup>th</sup> October - Anniversary of the Leyland Atlantean
<b>Nottingham Transport Heritage Centre:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> October - End of Season Rally
<b>Isle of Wight Bus Museum:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> October - Running Day
<b>Aston Manor Road Transport:</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> October - Running Day - Midland Red Theme
<b>Crich Tramway Village:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October - Starlight Halloween
<b>Oxford Bus Museum:</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> October - Open Day
<b>Lancastrian Transport Trust:</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> October - Depot Open Day
<b>Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> November - Open day
<b>North West Museum of Road Transport:</b>	2 <sup>nd</sup> November - Nocturnal Running Event
<b>South Yorkshire Transport Museum:</b>	9 <sup>th</sup> November - Open Day

Sometimes the above events can be cancelled at short notice – so please check before hand, as you do not want a wasted journey

### Event Reports

#### Bristol Vintage Bus Group Rally, Brislington, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2008 - Mike Pinder, Steve Jenner, Barry Harper

**236 LNO** Bristol Bristol 2510  
**363 CLT** AEC London RM 1363  
**675 COD** Bristol Western National 603  
**924 AHY** Bristol Bristol 2914  
**969 EHW** Bristol Bath 8525  
**A954 SAE** Leyland Bristol 9554  
**AFJ 740T** Grey Cars  
**AFM 103G** Bristol Bristol Greyhound  
**BHU 92C** Bristol Bristol 2138  
**BOU 6V** Leyland Cheltenham & Dist:3531  
**CUV 344C** AEC London RML 2344  
**D101 GHY** ??? Badgerline

**338 EDV** Bristol Southern National 624  
**536 JHU** Bristol Bristol 2514  
**889 AAX** Leyland Jones 98  
**960 HTT** AEC Grey Cars TCR 960  
**A952 SAE** Leyland Bristol Tramways 238  
**AFB 592V** Bristol Bristol 461  
**AFJ 766T** Bristol Southern National 1159  
**AHU 803** Bristol Bristol Tramways 2355  
**BMR 204V** Leyland (Thamesdown)  
**CLJ 413Y** Bristol Bere Regis  
**CYD 724C** AEC Hutchings & Cornelius  
**DAE 511K** Bristol Bristol 1257

**DNY 534V** Leyland IBT 34  
**EDV 505D** Bristol Royal Blue 1423  
**FHU 59D** Bristol Bristol 7246b  
**FTT 704** Bristol Western National 353  
**GHT 127** Bristol Brighton & Hove 992  
**GHY 135K** Bristol Bristol 2073  
**HOD 30** Bristol Royal Blue 1228  
**JMA 413L** Bristol North Western 413  
**JOV 714P** Bristol WMPTE 4714  
**KGK 529** Leyland London RTW 29  
**KHY 383** Bristol Bristol 2382  
**KLJ 749** Bristol Hants & Dorset 779  
**LAE 13** Leyland Bristol 4044  
**LHY 976** Bristol Bristol 2736  
**LTA 729** Bristol Royal Blue 1250  
**MHU 193** Bedford Bristol Tramways 219  
**NHU 2** Bristol Bristol 2800  
**OFV 621X** Leyland Fishwick 26  
**OTA 632G** Bristol Royal Blue 1460  
**PRW 137M** Leyland Bristol 2094  
**REU 326S** Bristol Bristol 413  
**SWO 986** Bristol Red & White UC758  
**UFX 858S** Bristol Hants & Dorset 3377  
**UHY 384** Bristol Bristol 8336  
**VAE 499T** Leyland Gloucester City  
**VHK 177L** Bristol Eastern National  
**WTG 348T** Bristol Cardiff 348  
**YHY 80** Bristol Bristol 3004

**Others Attending But Still In Fleets as Working**

**CWR 512Y** Marchants  
**MX 54 KXZ** Somerbus  
**OAE 954M** A Bus (in preserved book)  
**SN 04 CPE** A Bus  
**XHK 221X** A Bus

**DOD 518** Bristol Western National 333  
**EMW 284** Bristol Wilts & Dorset 279  
**FRP 692** Bristol United counties 692  
**GCK 428W** Leyland Fishwick 7  
**GHT 154** Bristol Bristol 3336  
**GOH 357N** Leyland Midland Red 357  
**JHW 107P** Bristol Gloucester City 5033  
**JMW 168P** Bristol Thamesdown 1`68.  
**KED 546F** Leyland Warrington 92  
**KHW 309E** Bristol Cheltenham & Dist:1003  
**KLB 721** AEC London RT 1595  
**KPM 91E** Bristol Brighton & Hove 91  
**LHT 911** Bristol Bristol 2388  
**LNJ 536D** Leyland Caerphilly 36  
**LTA 772** Bristol Southern National 1613  
**NCY 626** AEC South Wales 1032  
**NXL 847** AEC Eastern Belle Coaches  
**OHY 938** Bristol Bath Tramways 8089  
**OTT 98** Bristol Royal Blue 1299  
**PWS 492S** Leyland Badgerline 2098  
**RLJ 341H** Bristol Hants & Dorset 3015  
**TPN 103S** Bristol Southdown 603  
**UHY 360** Bristol Bristol 8320  
**UOU 419H** Leyland King Alfred Buses  
**VDV 137S** Bristol Western National 937  
**WHW 374H** Bristol Bristol 2062  
**YHT 802J** Bristol Bristol 516

**M204 DRG** North Somerset Coaches  
**N585 EKR** Henlys  
**RNE 962W** Vista  
**W100 TEN** Woottens

This year there were preserved cars in attendance to add to the rally for the first time, real corkers. An added trip by preserved bus to A Bus Yards produced the following .(Steve Jenner & Mike Pinder)

**A Bus in Fleet**

AP 03 BUS AP 03 BUZ AP 04 BUS AP 53 BUS AVK 142V B360 LSO B892 UAS  
B893 UAS B895 UAS B896 UAS B899 UAS BU 54 AJP EWS 739W J814 NKK  
K159 PGO P811 RCK R222 AJP RBO 508Y S111 AJP S333 AJP  
V444 AJP XHK 222X (Parts?)

**In Derelict Condition or otherwise**

B106 UAT B108 WUB F854 YJX G181 JHG K872 NBW N646 FKK P705 PWC  
PPH 462F R646 YCR RMO 74Y SMK 698E S183 SLL S192 SLL S197 SLL

**Stagecoach 40912 46610**

First Bus 21064 34555 34563 50350 50356 50360 50361 50362 50368 62565 62611  
62623 62730

N2 ECT P88 ECT *Ealing Community Transport LDV's also present.*

**Should any of the organisers or Owners of the vehicles that attended the rally read this, THANKYOU, once again a really good and well run show? Roll on next year.**

## Museum Reports

### Bristol Collection, Kemble, 03/08/2008 – Mike Pinder & Steve Jenner

Noted - 7 x Air connected items, 2x Fire, and only the one bus TWS 910T Bristol VRT D/D Bristol 5129

A tram body S/D is under restoration with no markings whatsoever to identify it.

A nice little museum, in less the size of half an aircraft hanger, photographically OK but everything close together. Toilets and small shop - could be moving again soon as building permission granted for another museum on Filton Airfield, Would this include the buses owned by the group? We wait to see.

## Out and About

### Rail Replacement

#### Milton Keynes

#### (Virgin West Coast)

#### 23<sup>rd</sup> August

Andrews	
EUA366	Volvo
PIL6648	Volvo
Bowens	
KFF917	Marcopolo
OUI3916	Scania
PUI6629	Scania
XJT802	Marcopolo
Elcock	
A2EXC	Volvo
YN06MXE	Volvo
HL Travel	
LX03KPJ	Mercedes
N83FWU	EOS
Motts	
R50MTT	Volvo
S5MTT	Volvo
Weaveaway	
KX08OMG	Volvo
Wootens	
HSV673	Volvo
YN06MXR/T	Volvo
Acclaim	
M616RCP	DAF
Redline	
K576NHC	Dennis

YIL4388	Volvo
APT Travel	
YR02ZZL	Scania
Carbel	
W3/7FTG	Volvo
Elcock	
YN55KME	Volvo
YN57BUS	Volvo
HL Travel	
LX03KPJ	Mercedes
N83FWU	EOS
Hills	
AT03LCT	Setra
FJ57CZK	Volvo
YN08OCS	Scania
Jeffs	
NUI4181	Volvo
Motts	
W200MTT	Volvo
Oxford Int	
WA05DFG	Bova
Paragon	
Y118CDS	Volvo
Redwing/Reliance	
YN08AVF/Y/Z	Irisbus
YN08AWA	Irisbus
Souls of Olney	
M50ULS	Volvo
Weaveaway	
KX08OMD/E	Volvo
Z & S	
J454HDS	Volvo
Y814AJF	Volvo
SA52JLV	Mercedes

Bowens	
KFF917	Caetano
OUI4659	Scania
YN08OWH	Marcopolo
Countrywide	
WA06GSV	Bova
Derwent	
NIJ6900	Setra
NIJ7571	Setra
Dews	
DEW1V	Volvo
HL Travel	
N83FWU	EOS
Jeffs	
NUI1481	Volvo
W706FUM	Volvo
112AXN	Volvo
VXT571	Volvo
YIL7713	Volvo
On A Mission	
YN06RVE	Volvo
Oxford Int	
WA05DFG	Bova
Premier	
H903AHS	Volvo
K19PCT	Volvo
X919VWX	Volvo
Redwing/Reliance	
FJ06ZLZ	Irisbus
YN05AUH	Irisbus
YN08AVF/Y/Z	Irisbus
YN08AWA/F/G	Irisbus
Sania	
BX57BBO	Bova
Tates	
EIB502	Scania
YN07LEF	Scania
Veolia	
ECZ9139	Volvo
T39CNN	Volvo

#### Milton Keynes

#### (Virgin West Coast)

#### 24th August

A2Z Travel	
AEZ121	Scania
AEZ9155	Scania
Amber	
YO52CJF	Bova
YV03YDY	Bova
Acclaim	

#### Milton Keynes

#### (Virgin West Coast)

#### 25th August

A.P.T Travel	
YR02ZZM	Scania

W381/2/9PRC Volvo  
YJ03GXW Volvo  
Weaveaway  
KX08OMD/F/G Volvo

Woodstones  
FJ07ADU Volvo  
Wootens  
YN06MXR Volvo

Z & S Int  
E261OMT Volvo  
J454HDS Volvo

## A Scottish Sojourn (Part 1) – Alan Hayward

Once again we have had a short "foray" into the Highlands and Islands and once again we had a bit of an adventure!

Our aim of the holiday was to travel on the Jacobite Steam Train from Fort William to Mallaig which is a superb journey but, yes sadly there is now a BUT. This started on the train journey from Glasgow to Oban, our first port of call and the 'but' consists of the fact that since we were last on that line and the Mallaig line some 20 odd or more years ago, trees have grown and thus what was once a journey of superb views is now not quite so magnificent as it once was.

Anyway to get back to our "bus" experiences we arrived in Oban at approx 3.30pm and collected some timetables from the West Coast Motors office, on our way from station to B & B. I had long wanted to see the "Bridge over the Atlantic" at Clachan Seil and was delighted to see there was a convenient departure around tea time. We had not realised that Seil island could be visited by a bus at all, and more to the point had we been earlier in the afternoon we discovered there was an open top bus that actually goes over the bridge. However we had to be content with a Mercedes minibus driven at a cracking pace and somewhat erratically by a mad polish driver. We didn't quite know where we wanted to get off and finally decided to "go all the way" to a stop called North Cuan where the ferry can be boarded for Luing island and or Easedale. The bridge is very very interesting, if only for the fact it is a "hump" of massive proportions and to cross it on an open top bus must be VERY interesting indeed.

The following morning we boarded beautiful Cal Mac ferry, "Isle of Mull" for the departure at 9.50 am to Craignure. This is known locally as cattle boat as it is very popular with the mass of tourists who wish to travel across Mull to visit Iona and Staff.

We however were going in the opposite direction and boarded one of Bowmans service buses for Tobermory. This also filled up very quickly and we were accompanied by another Bowmans coach and two 14 metre tri-axle coaches from "Lochs and Glens" tours along what is a somewhat windy single track road in places. Neither of the journeys can therefore be accomplished very quickly. We were late departing due to late arrival of ferry and therefore had simply just time to get out, take photos and get back on as our main aim was to visit the little railway on Mull. Whilst we were in Tobermore I took a picture of a Mercedes Benz Vario minibus operated by Morrisons, the destination showing "Calgary", thankfully a village on Mull and not Canada! That would have been some trip.

The railway which runs from Craignure to Torosay Castle is delightful and runs one steam and one diesel engine. We then had to catch the 15.00 ferry back to Oban for our bus departure at 4.40 to Fort William. We had watched the ferries going through Mull sound whilst on our journeys and had noticed that Isle of Mull was heading out West, we were therefore surprised and pleased to find that when our ferry arrived it was

## Depot Watch

Whilst we are in Scotland Anthony Walton paid an official visit to several garages and noted these.

### **Sunday 29th June 2008**

#### **Stagecoach, Kirriemure Garage**

59082 52054 42230 42034 25773 40496 40176 41982  
42239 41951 40175

#### **National Express - Travel Dundee, Friockhein Garage**

7001	7271	7348	7310	7309	7306	7268	7344
7305	7241	7308	7242	7243	7345		

**National Express - Travel Dundee - Dundee Garage**

7346	7204	7205	7206	7087	7203	7061	7207
7085	7212	7211	7084	7274	7301	7257	7260
7259	7246	7272	7273	7266	7267	7419	7270
7253	7089	7154	7166	7155	7114	7012	7127
7132	7178	7064	7169	7146	7126	7060	7140
7129	7134	7005	7172	7173	7149	7156	7004
7153	7160	7133	7167	7066	7143	7209	7208
7124	7136	7168	7115	7158	7150	7003	7088
7157	7147	7059	7131	7067	7130	7151	7145
7008	7123	7016	7170				

**Stagecoach - Dundee**

16881	22570	22573	22576	21128	32907	22568	33262
22575	33264	52348	18389	18507	22567	16932	42222
16930	47259	466691	42229	18390	33263	54035	40083
15801	52173	21020	33267	32906	16931	47260	21051
33261	42233	42223	47939	46690	42234	42238	21049
52655	33265	54010					

**Saturday 5th July 2008**

**Stagecoach - Cummock, Ayrshire**

31379	10976	13609	54042	13623	32061	10469	16853
40064	54041	54039	22592	22593			

**Stagecoach - Arbroath**

18352	16927	16936	16933	22574	22579	16921	16882
16811	32904	32479	16928	52187	42231	41189	26022
41180	32095	14486	14338	14686	14683	52052	59070
20403	32477	32478	32104	25796	16814	16926	16935
169883	16923	16922	16924	16925	16929		

**Stagecoach - Ayr**

16863	47358	22515	47361	20581	20572	47041	20582
33447	22509	47356	33443	32396	50127	22531	34026
31367	47359	34151	20585	50128	50130	22512	20593
11083	33777	32057	32054	31380	22532	50143	20131
50143	20131	50132	20119	32067	22533	22534	50133
22385	50133	22385	32397	32381	31366	20514	51097
34025	34021	20569	33778	34027	31368	20581	33780
34063	20502	20548	20518	34146	33776	47507	22521
33799	20586	47359	34151	20503			

Please remember under no circumstances must you enter any garage with express permission

**Bus spots**

**Shrewsbury (Meadows) Bus Station**

A Relativity Modern Bus Station off Smithfield Road

Information – Plenty of info panels on each stand, digital displays list the next three services, large illuminated boards listing services/operators

Toilets – Yes, disabled loo's are up Stairs!

Shop on site

Nearest railway station: Shrewsbury (walking time 5 minutes)

Taxi's available at station

Food – Hot food can be found at a nearby Greasy spoon 'The Castle Café! Leave the stabling point heading towards the Alberey pub, take wide alley towards the castle, the café is on your right

There is a bus stabling area, which is visible

Operators: Arriva, Tanet Valley, Minsterly Motors, Elcock Reisen and Boultons

A difficult place to observe buses as the bus station is in two halves, better to observe buses as they exit, the station is very busy so spotting is difficult inside

Car parking: The bus station is opposite extensive Riverside Car Parks

Conclusion: Arriva bus, soon become repetitive. Friendly approachable staff

Other attractions: Kings Shropshire Light Infantry (KSLI) Regimental Museum in the castle.

Castle has panoramic view of railway station

*There is a wall at the entrance but you miss buses going onto side stands.*

*Caveat- this wall is an area frequented by reprobates and women offering the kind of business nor covered by your subs*

Arriva (Ditherington) Bus Garage, Shrewsbury by Michael Street A49/A53

An architectural gem dating back to the earliest days of its former builder - Midland Red Its existence is threatened by the renovation of an adjacent mill the first metal framed building they compliment each other, they both deserve grade 1 listing. The garage is well worth a visit in its own right

When the roadside doors are open everything is visible from public land. A polite request to enter will be rewarded by friendly, approachable staff.

## Back Loader

### The RM8 Club

**(Dedicated to the preservation of the first production Routemaster)**

RM8 was the first production Routemaster, assembled several months before full production commenced, to feature on the Park Royal stand at the Commercial Motor Exhibition at Earl's Court in 1958. It followed on from four prototypes (RM1&2, RML3 & CRL4). RMs 5-7 had been reserved for test units and had yet to be built at that time. The bus was not officially taken into London Transport stock until March 1961, remaining the property of Park Royal.

The Routemaster was designed at London Transport's Chiswick Works (now a housing estate) and was required to be "an attractive piece of street furniture", a feature which has endeared the bus to many generations of Londoners and visitors to the city up to the present day.

RM8 was employed at Chiswick works as a test vehicle, experimenting with a whole host of

mechanical modifications, many of which were adopted as standard within the production run, a run that was to see 2760 vehicles built for London Transport, culminating in the final vehicle taking to the city streets in May 1968.

RM8, however, was to prove to be the "youngest" of all the service buses, leaving Chiswick in March 1976 to take up its passenger carrying duties at Sidcup (SP) garage. She was also the last open platform bus to enter service in the UK.

She remained in service, until withdrawal coinciding with full conversion to one-person operation at Sidcup garage in 1985, during which time she served on the garage's crew operated routes. The bus was "adopted" by the RM8 Group (a band of staff & supporters later to become the RM8 Club) as a showbus, attending rallies and events on LT's behalf. In March 1983 she was treated to a splendid London General livery of red and white with black lining and a silver roof, only to revert to standard all red livery in February 1984 after an LT management change of heart.

The RM8 Club purchased the vehicle from London Transport in 1985 and continue to maintain it as close as possible to its original condition - she is currently displayed in her 1958 Commercial Motor Exhibition livery, complete with replica posters & blinds as carried at the event. The vehicle is fortunate in that it evaded the London Transport overhaul programme, where bodies & running units were treated separately and interchanged many times during a vehicle's life. RM8 is still the complete vehicle, exactly as she was when she appeared at the 1958 Commercial Motor Exhibition.

The RM8 Club is proud to own such a unique Routemaster and to present it at numerous rallies and events each year. Of course, preserving a vehicle of this vintage takes a considerable amount of time and effort in addition to financial expense in both maintenance and general running costs.

The RM8 Club is keen to attract other like minded people who feel they would like to assist in the continued preservation of our bus and if you feel you would like to find out more about the Club then please contact one of the officers listed on the back page.

If you like N gauge then Oxford diecast have produced a model of RM8 at a price of £4.95

RM8 Club website: [www.rm8.org.uk](http://www.rm8.org.uk)

e-mail: [routemaster8@hotmail.com](mailto:routemaster8@hotmail.com)

RM8 Club Secretary: Little Boughton, Bickley Park Road, Bickley, BR1 2AY

---

Now a request from Cassandra: - Vanguard Commercials just off South of Tittensor A34 is packed out with scrap buses. I am unable to get there without a car/unable to walk. **Would Anthony Walton make a visit?** The owners are willing to allow access to enthusiasts at your own risk

Milton Keynes Council are putting on free Red Bus Tours of Milton Keynes using two Routemasters, JJD544D and NML616E forthcoming trips will operate on Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10am, 2pm and 6pm, Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> at 2pm and Tuesday December 2<sup>ns</sup> at 10am and 2pm. All the tours start and finish at the Council Offices (next to the Library on Silbuty Boulevard. For booking please call Liz on 01908 253535

Z & S International of Aylesbury's double decker Optare YJ 06 YPY is now in Buck's County Council's Country rider livery.

## The Gallery

Our sightings editors Arthur and Debbie Shelton have been out with the camera in Coventry and bring us these shots of the various operators that are to be found working into the City.



Veolia Scania / Irizar C002 (YN55NDX) working a London – Birmingham service



Volvo B6BLEs are used on the 86 to Rugby with branding is 31323 (P323JND)



De Courcey operate this MAN / MCV Evolution AE06OPK on the South Park & Ride



Stagecoach use Dart SLFs on the X17 to Warwick complete with route branding



New Enviro 300s were introduced for the Nuneaton services 55 / 56 Here is 39693 (KX08LVO)



In Travel Coventry version of the new National Express corporate look is Mercedes-Benz 1572 (S572VUK)

# GB-BG & ICRS PUBLICATIONS

All books are printed on 90gm paper, A5 laminated spiral bound full details on [www.hbpub.co.uk](http://www.hbpub.co.uk)  
 ICRS or GB-BG Members receive a 20% discount on Rail & Bus Titles (direct orders only)  
 UK Transport Group Members receive a 20% discount on all Titles (direct orders only)

## GB Bus Group

HB1	South West of England 2008	£10.00
HB2	South East of England 2008	£10.00
HB3	London 2008	£12.00
HB4	West Midlands 2008	£10.00
HB5	Eastern Counties 2008	£10.00
HB6	East Midlands & Yorkshire 2008	£11.00
HB7	North East of Yorkshire 2008	£9.00
HB8	North West of England 2008	£11.00
HB9	Wales 2008	£10.00
HB10	Scotland 2008	£11.00
HB11	Ireland 2008	£11.00
HB12	National Express 2008	£10.00
HB13	Preserved Buses 2008	£14.00
HB14	UK Regional Registration List 2008	£14.00
HB21	Budget Stagecoach Fleet 2008	£6.00
HB22	Budget First Fleet 2008	£6.00
HB23	Budget Arriva Fleet 2008	£6.00
HB24	Budget Other Major Operators 2008	£6.00
HB31	North of England Bus Garages	£5.00
WM01	West Midlands Pocket Book	£5.00

## UK Sighting Files ICRS

IU1	Loco Datafile July 2008	£7.99
IU2	EMU Datafile July 2008	£8.99
IU3	DMU Datafile July 2008	£6.99
IU4	Combined Volume July 2008	£13.99
IU5	Irish Railways 2008	£6.99
IU7	Railway Stock Names	£9.99

## Wagon Datafiles ICRS

IW1	Air Braked 2008	£5.99
IW2	Private Owner 2008	£5.99
IW3	RIV 2008	£5.99
IW4	Engineers 2008	£5.99
IW5	Combined 2008	£10.99

## Ultimate Sighting Files ICRS

USF1	Shunters	£7.99
USF2	Mainline Diesel	£9.99
USF3	Electric, HST & Pre TOPS	£6.99

## European Datafiles ICRS

IE1	Germany 2008	£9.99
IE2	German Private owner 2008	£9.99
IE3	France 2008	£8.99
IE4	Benelux 2008	£8.99
IE5	Switzerland 2008	£8.99
IE6	Austria 2008	£5.99
IE7	Iberia 2008	£7.99
IE8	Italy 2008	£7.99
IE9	Scandinavia 2008	£8.99
IE10	Czech & Slovakia 2008	£8.99
IE11	Hungary 2008	£7.99
IE12	Poland 2008	£6.99
IE14	The Balkans 2008	£9.99
IE15	Russia	£12.99

## Tram & Light Rail Systems ICRS

IT1	Western European 2009	£9.99
IT2	Eastern European 2009	£11.99
IT3	Metro Systems 2009	£8.99
IT4	Preserved Trams 2008	£4.99

## Non European Datafiles ICRS

NE1	Australia & New Zealand	£7.99
NE2	North African Railways	£4.99

## HB Publications / LorrySpotting.com

RH01	Road Haulage datafile (A - C)	£10.00
RH02	Road Haulage datafile (D - G)	£10.00
RH03	Road Haulage datafile (H - L)	£10.00
RH04	Road Haulage datafile (M - O)	£10.00
RH05	Road Haulage datafile (P-STI)	£10.00
RH06	Road Haulage datafile (ST -Y)	£10.00
RH07	Road Haulage register 2008	£10.00

## Preserved Datafiles ICRS

IP1	Steam Locomotives 2008	£6.99
IP2	Wagons 2008	£10.99
IP3	Coaching Stock 2008	£10.99
IP4	Industrial Diesels	£7.99

all orders are post free please contact

**HB Publications Ltd, 3 Ingham Grove, Hartlepool TS25 2LH**  
**24 Hour Sales Line on 01429 293611**  
 On line at <http://www.hbpub.co.uk>