

Trident

the monthly magazine of the

GB Bus Group

website: gb-bg.co.uk



GBBG

Volume 4
No.12 December 2009

Chairman: **Trevor Roots** - chairman@gb-bg.co.uk (01466 760724)
Mill of Botary, Cairnie, Huntly, Aberdeenshire AB54 4UD

Secretary: **Mark Richards** - secretary@gb-bg.co.uk (01908 520028)
7 Parkside, Furzton, Milton Keynes, Bucks. MK4 1BX

Treasurer: **Frank Gold** - treasurer@gb-bg.co.uk (0161 9803940)
1 Provident Way, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 6PR

Membership Secretary: **Trevor Roots** - membership@gb-bg.co.uk details as above

Publications Manager: **vacant**

Editorial Manager: **Gerald Nicholls** - editor@gb-bg.co.uk (0524 846476)
19 Aldrens Lane, Lancaster LA1 2DT

Website Manager: **Mark Richards** - website.manager@gb-bg.co.uk details as above

Magazine Distribution: **Eddie & Hazel Roberts** - trident.distribution@gb-bg.co.uk
33 Mary Street, Crewe, Cheshire CV1 4AJ (01270 255627)

Visits Co-ordinators: **Anthony Walton** - no email (0121 601 1351)
126 Whiteford Road, Smethwick B67 7PG
Ken Pitt - visits@gb-bg.co.uk (01527 591195)
52 Loxley Close, Church Hill South, Redditch B98 9JG

Editorial Team:

Sightings: **Arthur & Debbie Shelton** - sightings@gb-bg.co.uk
111 Rodney Close, Birmingham B16 8DP (0121 454 3147)

Non PSV: **Tony Allen** - nonpsv@gb-bg.co.uk

Fleet Listings: **Ken Pitt** - kenneth.pitt06@btinternet.com details as above

Area Representatives:

Scotland: **Arthur Morse** - no email (01506 438988)
66 Ryebank, Ladywell, Livingstone, West Lothian EH54 6HA

Northeast & Yorkshire: **Gary Hunter** – northeast.rep@gb-bg.co.uk

Wales: **Geoff Moseley** - wales.rep@gb-bg.co.uk (01452 301 107)
11 Harley Gardens, Gloucester, Gloucestershire GL4 4PJ

Southwest & European: **Geoff Colclough** - southwest.rep@gb-bg.co.uk (01392 251 127)
40 Chard Road, Heavitree, Exeter, Devon EX1 3AX

Northwest & London: **Gerald Nicholls** details as above

Publication Compilers:

Southwest, Scotland & Preserved: **Mike Pinder** - mike-pinder1@ntlworld.com (01633 244394)
5 Linton Street, Newport NP20 2DG

Eastern Counties: **Chris James** - splatthefat@aol.com (01493 700730)
13 Station Street, Reedham, Norfolk NR13 3TA

Central England: **Arthur & Debbie Shelton** - central.books@gb-bg.co.uk
details as above

National Express / National Coaches: **Dave Francis** - coach.books@gb-bg.co.uk (mob 07917 664723)
Flat 3, Block 4 Chaynes Grove, Tile Cross, Birmingham B33 0AZ

East Midlands, Northeast / Yorkshire
& Southeast: **Eddie Roberts** - northeast.books@gb-bg.co.uk details as above

Wales: **John Donner** - john.donner@btinternet.com (01529 309175)
28 Hawthorne Drive, Sleaford, Lincolnshire NG34 7GZ

£1.25 post free

Printed by Ords Group, Progress House, Usworth Road Industrial Estate, Hartlepool TS25 1PD

Notice Board

Editors Bit

I haven't had any moans about the experiment with the smaller typeface in last months magazine so from next time we shall runs with it, giving you even more news.

Not an overly large amount of fleet news this month, as can be expected around this time of year, so a couple of more readable bits to while away the dark nights.

It is nearly Christmas again, I really do not know where the months go, aside into History of course, It has been a rather hectic year for us here and 2010 is going to be much the same we think as your committee work tirelessly to make membership of the GB Bus Group the best possible value. So just remains to pass on to you all the compliments of the season and hope you have a pleasant and restful festive season.

Group News

A date for your diary, the Aston Manor Transport Museum has once again been provisionally booked for February 13th 2010 for the Annual General Meeting. I will be able to give full details next time, as at the present time the museum is unsure whether sufficient funding is available to keep it running.

Our first trip of 2010 will take place on Saturday March 6th. Departing from Birmingham Smallbrook Queensway at 10am we will be visiting Johnsons of Henley, Hardings of Redditch, First Midland Red at Worcester and Redditch with Diamond Bus to be confirmed, we will also be calling at Wythall Transport Museum and should be back to Birmingham by 1715.

To make sure of your place on the trip which will be operated by a 24 seater coach from Johnsons, so places are limited, then please send a cheque payable to the GB Bus Group for £15.00 to Ken Pitt at the address on page 2

Magazine

The closing date for the January 2010 magazine will be December 30th.

Contributions

Thanks go to Stuart Martin, Alan Spencer, Tony Hunter, Mike Pinder, Arthur Moore, Steve Jenner, Peter Hulse, Marc Baker, Barry Harper, Clive Green, Ian Rivett and the team, Mel Murphy, Tony Salmon, Andrew Churchill, John Martindale, Simon Wilson, Alan Hayward, Paul Hind, Steve White, Ross Newman at Ensignbus, Matthew Barker at the Derby Bus Depot, John Donner, Geoff Moseley, Geoff Siddons, Ian Swales, Paul Hollingsbee at Transdev, Nigel Diplock, Ensignbus and LOTS. Apologies if I have missed any one.

Membership Matters

Membership Rates: Annual: £13.00 Joint: (with ICRS saving £3.00): £26.00

Membership gives you:

- A high quality monthly magazine 'Trident' - covering all aspects of buses in the UK past and present: fleet news, preservation, non-psv. (the photos can be viewed in colour through the Members Area on the website). Joint membership also entitles you to the ICRS magazine, 'Tracks'
- An informative website, with access to previous editions of the magazine.
- A 10% discount on Ian Allan publications and first time magazine subscriptions on production of your membership card (not additional to discount for IA Subs Club members).
- Access to organized trips.

A 20% discount on all transport book titles published by HB Publications (direct orders only)

If paying by cheque / postal order, please make payable to GBBG for Single Membership and ICRS for Joint Membership. If you wish to renew or join using a credit card, please contact

Trevor Roots with your card details.

The following new members have joined this month: Peter Turner (Preston), Ian Harris (Plymouth), Alan Henshall (Milton Keynes) and Paul Twist (St Helens) - a warm welcome to you all.

It is with sadness that we must report the death of Ray Powell from Telford our condolences to his widow and family

On membership cards generally, please remember on renewal, your new card(s) will be sent out with the next issue of Trident. Now this may mean that you might wait up to 5 weeks if you've just missed the end of month cut off when Trevor sends cards out for distribution. So there is no need to send a separate sae for card. The way Trevor is sending out renewal forms and issuing cards now means that assuming you renew at first request, your existing card will always be valid until new one arrives. Unfortunately he can't speak for previous cards issued. But bear with him and in another seven months everyone should be on this new system. Also many of you will have already received the new look card, which I hope you approve of.

GB-BG PUBLICATIONS

All books are A5 spiral bound printed on 90gm paper with laminated covers
prices listed below are rrp (full details on www.hbpub.co.uk)

Members receive a 20% discount on all titles published by HB Publications (direct orders only)
HB Publications Ltd, 3 Ingham Grove, Hartlepool TS25 2LH

HB1	South West of England 2009	£11.00	HB10	Scotland 2009	£13.00
HB2	South East of England 2009	£11.00	HB11	Ireland 2009	£12.00
HB3	London 2009	£11.00	HB12	National Express 2009	£11.00
HB4	Central England 2009	£11.00	HB14	UK Regional Register 2009	£14.00
HB5	Eastern Counties 2009	£11.00	HB21	Stagecoach Budget 2009	£6.00
HB6	East Midlands 2009	£10.00	HB22	First Budget 2009	£6.00
HB7	North East & Yorkshire 2009	£13.00	HB23	Arriva Budget 2009	£6.00
HB8	North West of England 2009	£12.00	HB24	Other Major operators 2009	£6.00
HB9	Wales 2009	£10.00			

News from the Industry

First Potteries will close its depot in Crewe within the next few months, with operations transferring to the Newcastle Under Lyme depot.

Centrebus Subsidiary Huddersfield Bus Company has been chosen to run a network of tendered services around Sowerby Bridge and Ripponden, following the decision by First to withdraw several services form around the area. A fleet of Optare Solos have been ordered to operate the services which will commence in January

Francis Drake travel of Blaina (Gwent) ceased operations on November 15th, rising fuel prices and increasing unreliability of the fleet have been cited as factors in the company entering receivership. 35 drivers and four office staff have been put out of work and the modern purpose built depot which was built alongside the owners house is being sold to pay off debts. 24 single deck vehicles were operated which will also be sold off.

The Cambridge Guided Busway has once again had its opening put back, having its latest scheduled opening to be on November 28th it will not now open until February at the earliest, but no definite date has been given. More construction delays are being cited as the latest reason for not opening.

The Competition Commission have informed Stagecoach that it must sell Preston Bus Ltd to a competing company after concluding its enquiry in the purchase of the Preston operation. The CC has decided that a sale of the Preston Bus operation will be the best way of restoring competition in Preston. The sale will include the depot, buses and network of routes. As can be expected Stagecoach disagrees with the decision which will once again plunge Preston into a period of instability to its bus services.

Unvi, The Spanish bodybuilder is to set up a new UK operation to be based in Preston. It will provide full parts, and after sales service and well as having responsibility for preparing all new deliveries to UK operators.

Stagecoach have entered into a joint venture with hovercraft manufacturer Griffon Hoverwork, where the two companies will jointly fund a cross Forth hovercraft operation, which was trialed by Stagecoach during 2007. It is planned to operate two hovercraft between Kirkcaldy and Portobello running every 25 minutes in peak times and hourly off peak. Detailed plans are due to be submitted to Fife and Edinburgh councils by the end of the year with each company said to be investing £7 million into the venture

Go Ahead Group have been announced as the preferred bidder for the Plymouth CityBus operation that has been put on to the market by the City Council. "30 million has been offered for the large operation that contains 173 buses and 11 coaches and also includes the freehold to the large depot premises near to the city centre. First Group is currently launching several competing services operating directly against City Bus.

Jorge Cosmen has upped his personal stake holding in the National Express Group, taking his family's stake to 19.7%. This strengthens his position against the NEG groups proposed £360 million share issue, to which the Cosmen family have been against.

Transdev have concluded the purchase of the operations of NSL Services, the bus operating arm of National Car Parks the staff, buses and two depots at Park Royal and Twickenham are included with the TfL route that are operated. Details of the buses can be found in fleet news. The operation will come under the London Sovereign division.

Fleet News

Arriva

London: As promised here are the details for the two batches of new double decks that now make up the allocation of route 38 from Wrightbus are 62 VDL DB300 / Gemini 2 10.4m (6 spare)

DW201	LJ09 KRO	DW218	LJ09 STZ	DW233	LJ59 AEC	DW248	LJ59 AAO
DW202	LJ09 SUO	DW219	LJ09 SUA	DW234	LJ59 AED	DW249	LJ59 AAU
DW203	LJ09 SUU	DW220	LJ09 SUB	DW235	LJ59 AEE	DW250	LJ59 AAV
DW204	LJ09 SUV	DW221	LJ09 SUC	DW236	LJ59 AEF	DW251	LJ59 AAX
DW205	LJ09 SUX	DW222	LJ59 AEO	DW237	LJ59 AEG	DW252	LJ59 AAY
DW206	LJ09 SUY	DW223	LJ59 AEP	DW238	LJ59 AEK	DW253	LJ59 AAZ
DW207	LJ09 SVA	DW224	LJ59 AET	DW239	LJ59 AEL	DW254	LJ59 GVC
DW208	LJ09 SVC	DW225	LJ59 AEU	DW240	LJ59 AEM	DW255	LJ59 GVE
DW209	LJ09 SVD	DW226	LJ59 AEV	DW241	LJ59 AEN	DW256	LJ59 GVF
DW210	LJ09 SVE	DW227	LJ59 AEW	DW242	LJ59 ACU	DW257	LJ59 GVG
DW211	LJ09 SVF	DW228	LJ59 AEX	DW243	LJ59 ACV	DW258	LJ59 GVK
DW212	LJ09 SSO	DW229	LJ59 AEY	DW244	LJ59 ACX	DW259	LJ59 GTF
DW214	LJ09 SSV	DW230	LJ59 AEZ	DW245	LJ59 AAF	DW260	LJ59 GTU
DW215	LJ09 SSX	DW231	LJ59 AFA	DW246	LJ59 AAK	DW261	LJ59 GTZ
DW216	LJ09 SSZ	DW232	LJ59 AEB	DW247	LJ59 AAN	DW262	LJ59 GUA
DW217	LJ09 STX						

ADL make up the numbers with 18 9.9m Enviro 400s of which 2 will be spare on top of the pvr

T66	LJ59 ACY	T71	LJ59 ADZ	T76	LJ59 ABO	T80	LJ59 ABZ
-----	----------	-----	----------	-----	----------	-----	----------

T67	LJ59 ACZ	T72	LJ59 AEA	T77	LJ59 ABU	T81	LJ59 ACF
T68	LJ59 ADO	T73	LJ59 ABF	T78	LJ59 ABV	T82	LJ59 ACO
T69	LJ59 ADV	T74	LJ59 ABK	T79	LJ59 ABX	T83	LJ59 AAE
T70	LJ59 ADX	T75	LJ59 ABN				

Battersea garage was due to close on November 27th with the DWs operated on the 19 moving back to the parent shed at Brixton. An office will remain at Battersea where drivers will still sign on and off. Norwood depot will cease to operate any buses on the route from the same date.

North West: Following the arrival of the large batches of VDL SB200s several older vehicles have now left the fleet. The Stafford Bus Centre has taken 1065 (M105 RMS), 2052 (RDZ 1712), 2053 (RDZ1713), 3341 (L211 SBG), 6521 (M521 WHF) and 6531 (M531 WHF). Ensignbus have taken 6515 (M515 WHF), 6516 (M516 WHF), 6518 (M518 WHF), 6527 (M527 WHF) and 6528 (M528 WHF). Hardwicks have 1223 (M223 AKB), 1226 (M226 AKB), 1229 (M229 AKB) and 1230 (M230 AKB). Whilst PVS (Carlton) have taken 1196 (M196 YKA), 1202 (M202 YKA), 1204 (M204 YKA), 1208 (M208 YKA), 1209 (M209 YKA) and 1210 (M210 YKA).

Southern Counties: New at Maidstone, for routes 82 and 85 are eight 10.8m ADL Enviro 200s B38F

4060	GN59 FVB	4062	GN59 FVD	4064	GN59 FVF	4066	GN59 FVH
4061	GN59 FVC	4063	GN59 FVE	4065	GN59 FVG	4067	GN59 FVJ

First Group

Cymru: Moving here from Devon and Cornwall have been 20546 (WX53 WGG) and 20547 (WX53 WGF) as replacements for 20513 (WX51 AYY) and 20521 (WV52 FAM) which have been returned to the leasing company.

London: Now running out of Alperston (ON) garage are 31 Volvo B9TL / Wright Eclipse Gemini 2 double decks

VN37773	LK59 CWN	VN37784	LK59 CXA	VN37794	LK59 CXM
VN37774	LK59 CWO	VN37785	LK59 CXB	VN37795	LK59 CXN
VN37775	LK59 CWP	VN37786	LK59 CXC	VN37796	LK59 CXO
VN37776	LK59 CWR	VN37787	LK59 CXD	VN37797	LK59 CXP
VN37777	LK59 CWT	VN37788	LK59 CXE	VN37798	LK59 FCO
VN37778	LK59 CWU	VN37789	LK59 CXF	VN37799	LK59 FCP
VN37779	LK59 CWV	VN37790	LK59 CXG	VN37800	LK59 FCU
VN37780	LK59 CWW	VN37791	LK59 CXH	VN37801	LK59 FCV
VN37781	LK59 CWX	VN37792	LK59 CXJ	VN37802	LK59 FCX
VN37782	LK59 CWY	VN37793	LK59 CXL	VN37803	LK59 FCY
VN37783	LK59 CWZ				

Go Ahead

London: Now entering service are three batches of 10.4m H39/23D Volvo B9TL / Wrightbus Gemini 2 double deckers, at New Cross garage (NX) for use on route 21 are

WVL274	LX59 CYL	WVL282	LX59 CYY	WVL289	LX59 CZG	WVL296	LX59 CZO
WVL275	LX59 CYO	WVL283	LX59 CYZ	WVL290	LX59 CZH	WVL297	LX59 CZP
WVL276	LX59 CYP	WVL284	LX59 CZA	WVL291	LX59 CZJ	WVL298	LX59 CZR
WVL277	LX59 CYS	WVL285	LX59 CZB	WVL292	LX59 CZK	WVL299	LX59 CZS
WVL278	LX59 CYT	WVL286	LX59 CZC	WVL293	LX59 CZL	WVL300	LX59 CZT
WVL279	LX59 CYU	WVL287	LX59 CZD	WVL294	LX59 CZM	WVL301	LX59 CZU
WVL280	LX59 CYV	WVL288	LX59 CZF	WVL295	LX59 CZN	WVL302	LX59 CZV
WVL281	LX59 CYW						

At Peckham the next batch are for use of route 63 Honor Oak to Kings Cross

WVL303	LX59 CYA	WVL311	LX59 CZW	WVL319	LX59 DBV	WVL327	LX59 DCY
WVL304	LX59 CYC	WVL312	LX59 CZY	WVL320	LX59 DBY	WVL328	LX59 DCZ
WVL305	LX59 CYE	WVL313	LX59 CZZ	WVL321	LX59 DBZ	WVL329	LX59 DDA
WVL306	LX59 CYF	WVL314	LZ59 DAA	WVL322	LX59 DCE	WVL330	LX59 DDE
WVL307	LX59 CYG	WVL315	LX59 DAO	WVL323	LX59 DCF	WVL331	LX59 DDF
WVL308	LX59 CYH	WVL316	LX59 DAU	WVL324	LX59 DCO	WVL332	LX59 DDJ
WVL309	LX59 CYJ	WVL317	LX59 DBO	WVL325	LX59 DCU	WVL333	LX59 DDK
WVL310	LX59 CYK	WVL318	LX59 DBU	WVL326	LX59 DCV		

Metrobus: The last of the current batch of Scania N230UD Omnicity double deckers has now been delivered to Orpington garage 899 (PO59 KGE)

National Express Group

West Midlands: October changes to the fleet have been 1372, 1376 WA - withdrawn: 1412, 1418, 1462 PE - PB: 1516, 1517, 1518, 1519 LH - PE: 2721 YW - LH: 2744, 2782 WA - withdrawn: 2823 YW - withdrawn: 2824 YW - LH: 2830, 2879 2904, 3020 WA - withdrawn: 3078 WN - withdrawn: 3080 WN - LH: 3089, 3091 WN 3116 WN - withdrawn: 4015 BC - WN: 4167, 4168 WN - LH:

Wishart: Mercedes-Benz 7307 (P972 KTS) has been re-registered as 5414 PH. Now here from the Kings Ferry Fleet is 7350 (K5 KFC)

Stagecoach

East: Movements this time are 14000 BD - res: 14035 res - NO: 14055 CB - res(KT): 14056 CB - KT: 14493 KT - CB: 16209 res - BD: 16222 BD - dis: 16223 BD - res: 32006 res - dis: 32583 BD - res: 52331 sold:

East Kent & Hastings: More of the new Scania N230UD / Enviro 400s have arrived at Herne Bay 15555 (GN59 EXF), 15556 (GN59 EXG), 15557 (GN59 EXH), 15558 (GN59 EXJ) 15559 (GN59 EXK), 15560 (GN59 EXL), 15561 (GN59 EXM) and 15562 (GN59 EXO). With the these Scania and those mentioned last month a cascade of vehicles has occurred 15330, 15331 TH - res: 16270, 16271, 16272, 16356, 16361, 16363 HY - TH: 16372 AD - res(AD): 16376 HS - AD: 18164-18168 HY - res(AD): 18169, 18170, 18171 HY - res(TH): 18172, 18173 HY - res(AD): 18174 HY - res(TH): 18175, 18176 HY - res(AD): 18176 HY - res(TH): 26075, 33315 EB - res: 33374, 33377 res - TH: 33379 res - AD: Sold to Ensignbus have been Olympians 14812, 14813, 14821, 14823-14830. Wigleys of Barnsley have taken Scania 15311 and 15312.

Manchester: The first of the batch of MAN engined ADL Enviro 400s have arrived, they will be allocated to Stockport garage rather than Hyde rd as originally panned 19622 (MX59 KHP). 16768, 16770, 16772, 16780, 16781, 16782 PS - HE: 17650 HE - res: 17669 AZ - PS: 18289, 18290, 18291 HE - res: 19425 d/l - PS: 20916, 20927 ST - res: 20964 PS - res: 22130, 22131 HE - ST:

North East: 16729 res - S/C Warwickshire: 20246 donated to Fire Brigade: 20253 res - WE: 20255 WE - d/l: 21136, 21152 res - SS: 22344 res - WE: 22467 SU - d/l: 32125 res - SLt: 32622, 32655 scrapped: 32723 sold to NE bus preservation group: 32746 scrapped: 32781 SU - res: 32783 SS - dis: 32789 SU - res: 32791, 32792 SS - dis: 33121 SU - d/l: 34611 res - SS: 40491 SLt - d/l:

Oxfordshire: Only thing to note this time, is that the two remaining spare Dennis Tridents 18129 (KN04 XJD) and 18130 (KN04 XJE) have transferred to East Scotland, where they will be allocated to Glenrothes.

South West: New buses have arrived for Park & Ride services MAN / ADL Enviro 300s in Blue livery we have 24140 (WA59 FWV) 24141 (WA59 FWW), 24142 (WA59 FWX), 24143 (WA59 FWY), 24144 (WA59 FWZ). In green are 24145 (WA59 FXB), 24146 (WA59 FXC), 24147 (WA59 FXD) and 24148 (WA59 FXE), 24149 (WA59 FXF) and 24150 (WZ59 FXG) are

incorporate livery with 24151 (WA59 FXH) being in red along with ADL Enviro 400s 19569 (WA59 FWR), 19570 (WA59 FWS), 19571 (WA59 FWT) and 19572 (WA59 FWU).

Wales: New at Blackwood are two Optare Solos 47696 (CN59 DWM) and 47697 (CN59 DWO). Arriving from Gillmoss at Porth are ADL Dart SLFs 34746-34757, 34760-34762. As a result movements around the fleet last month have been 20357, 20364, 20806, 20811, 20815 MR-d/l: 20871, 20874, 20889 CN-dis: 23950 BW-d/l: 25205 d/l-BW: 33275 PT-CN: 33292 PT-MR: 33602 d/l-BR: 33606, 33607 PT-MR: 34052, 34055, 34056 PT-CN: 34132, 34137 PT-MR: 34144, 34145 BW-BR: 41162 sold to Fleetlink: 41163 PT-dis: 41164 donated to Cardiff Preservation: 41165 PT-dis: 41169 scrapped: 41170 BR-dis: 41402 sold to Ensign: 41403 CB-dis: 41404 scrapped: 41405 BR-res: 41407 MR-dis: 41408 sold to Ensign: 41409 scrapped: 41412 CN-dis: 41415 sold to Ensign: 41417 scrapped: 41420 MR-dis: 41422 scrapped: 41424 MR-dis: 41425, 41426 scrapped: 41427 CN-dis: 41428, 41430 scrapped: 47196 MR-AE: 47304, 47305 AE-MR: 47382 MR-AE:

Warwickshire: Leamington seem to have a need for additional double deck vehicles as three have arrived from elsewhere in the group, Volvo Olympian 16729 (N729 LTN) from Hartlepool, with another pair arriving from Rawmarsh 16872 (R903 RYO) and 16873 (R905 RYO). Volvo B10Ms 20220 and 20224 have moved to reserve at Leamington. Optare Solo 47010 is away for repaint from Nuneaton with Dennis Dart SLF 33913 moving there from Leamington.

West: Just a handful of moves, 17722 SN-GR: 20684 GR-CO: 20694 CO-res: 20818 GR-res: 33809 res-SD: 33928 SD-SN: 33957 GR-SN: 42376 res-dis:

West Scotland: More new Volvo B12B coaches are 54076 (SF59 FYV) at Glasgow, 54077 (SF59 FYW), 54078 (SF59 FYX) and 54079 (SF59 FYY) at Kilmarnock. Also new are two more ADL Enviro 300s at Kilmarnock 27614 (SF59 FYT) and 27615 (SF59 FYU). Other moves have been 10469 CK-scrapped: 15299 SR-CK: 16720 res-SR: 20108, 20177 DS-dis: 20193, 20454 dis-sold: 20502 AY-res: 20504, 20579 res-DS: 20585 res-dis: 20593 AY-dis: 22389, 22390 K-AY: 52246 GW-res: 52348 K-GW: 52427 GW-GW(jv): 52669 GW(jv)-Fife: 53275, 53276, 53297 K-Fife:

Yorkshire: Quite a few more re-allocations this time around Enviro 300s 22551-22556 move from Barnsley to Rawmarsh, with East Lancs Spryte bodied Volvo B6LEs 31026-31028, 31933 and 31939 moving in the opposite direction. Wright bodied Volvo B10BLEs 21129-21135 and ALX200 bodied MANs 22811 and 22812 leave Barnsley for Shafton. More Volvo Olympians leaving the fleet have been 16872 (P903 RYO) and 16873 (P904 RYO) to Stagecoach Warwickshire and 16875 (P919 RYO) to Devon. Scrapped recently have been Volvo B10M 20237 (K237 MAP) and Dennis Dart 32932 (N108 CET).

Transdev

London Sovereign: Seven 10.2 ADL Enviro 200 B29Ds have been allocated to Harrow garage (SO) for use on routes 398 and H13. They were originally intended for route 324.

DE50	YX59 BYA	DE52	YX59 BYC	DE54	YX59 BYF	DE56	YX59 BYH
DE51	YX59 BYB	DE53	YX59 BYD	DE55	YX59 BYG		

The operations of NSL services have been taken over, details of the buses taken over are listed below ADL Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2 10.1m B28D based at Twickenham for routes 33 and 419

NCP01	SN55HKD	NCP08	SN55HKL	NCP15	SN55HKW	NCP22	SN55HLC
NCP02	SN55HKE	NCP09	SN55HKM	NCP16	SN55HKX	NCP23	SN55DVR
NCP03	SN55HKF	NCP10	SN55HKO	NCP17	SN55HKY	NCP24	SN55DVT
NCP04	SN55HKG	NCP11	SN55HKP	NCP18	SN55HSD	NCP25	SN55SVU
NCP05	SN55HKH	NCP12	SN55HKT	NCP19	SN55HSE	NCP26	SN55SVV
NCP06	SN55HKJ	NCP13	SN55HKU	NCP20	SN55HKZ	NCP27	SN55DVW
NCP07	SN55HKK	NCP14	SN55HKV	NCP21	SN55HLA		

Also at Twickenham for route 493 are 10.2m ADL Enviro 200 B29Ds

ADL01	SK07DXE	ADL06	SK07DXL	ADL11	SK07DXS	ADL15	SK07DXW
-------	---------	-------	---------	-------	---------	-------	---------

ADL02	SK07DXF	ADL07	SK07DXM	ADL12	SK07DXT	ADL16	SK07DXX
ADL03	SK07DXG	ADL08	SK07DXO	ADL13	SK07DXU	ADL17	SK07DXY
ADL04	SK07DXH	ADL09	SK07DXP	ADL14	SK07DXV	ADL18	SK07DXZ
ADL05	SK07DXJ	ADL10	SK07DXR				

At Park Royal are more ADL Envio 200s for routes 272 and 440

ADL19	SK07DYC	ADL24	SK07DYJ	ADL29	SK07DYS	ADL33	SK07DYW
ADL20	SK07DYD	ADL25	SK07DYM	ADL30	SK07DYT	ADL34	SK07DYX
ADL21	SK07DYF	ADL26	SK07DYN	ADL31	SK07DYU	ADL35	SK07DYY
ADL22	SK07DYG	ADL27	SK07DYO	ADL32	SK07DYV	ADL36	YX58 DXA
ADL23	SK07DYH	ADL28	SK07DYP				

For route E11, operating from Park Royal are 8.9m B26D ADL Enviro200Darts

ADS01	SK07HLM	ADS03	SK07HLO	ADS05	SK07HLR	ADS07	SK07HLV
ADS02	SK07HLN	ADS04	SK07HLP	ADS06	SK07HLU		

Lastly at Park Royal are 10.4m Optare Versa V1040 B27Ds

OVL50	YJ58 PHY	OVL55	YJ58 RZF	OVL59	YJ58 EYW	OVL63	YJ58 EZA
OVL51	YJ58 PHZ	OVL56	YJ58 YET	OVL60	YJ58 EYX	OVL64	YJ58 EZB
OVL52	YJ58 PJO	OVL57	YJ58 EYU	OVL61	YJ58 EYY	OVL65	YJ58 EZC
OVL53	YJ58 PJU	OVL58	YJ58 EYV	OVL62	YJ58 EYZ	OVL66	YJ58 EZD
OVL54	YJ58 EZE						

Independent Operators

East Midlands

Nottingham City Transport: Optare Solos 141-143, 268, 271 and 276 have been moved to Gotham, and so unlikely to be seen in the city centre. Alan Spencer says the LS3 Clifton Arnold service would be a good place to find them

Premiere Travel (Nottingham): Have re-registered former Nottingham CT 278 (V278 DRC) now LUI 7665. Other of the batch may also have been done

London / Greater London

Abellio: this is the new name for the Travel London and Travel Surrey operations recently purchased from National Express Group, although the legal company name remains as Travel London Ltd or Travel London (West) for the Surrey routes. The first new buses to carry the name are thirteen 10.2m B29D ADL Enviro200Darts for use on route 407 which was won from Arriva commencing on October 31st

8516	YX59 BYJ	8520	YX59 BYN	8523	YX59 BYR	8526	YX59 BYU
8517	YX59 BYK	8521	YX59 BYO	8524	YX59 BYS	8527	YX59 BYV
8518	YX59 BYL	8522	YX59 BYP	8525	YX59 BYT	8528	YX59 BYW
8519	YX59 BYM						

Also new are a batch of ADL Trident 2 / Enviro 400s for route 414, won from First, operating out of Battersea garage (QB)

9505	SN59 AVR	9510	SN59 AVX	9515	SN59 AWF	9520	SN59 AWO
9506	SN59 AVT	9511	SN59 AVY	9516	SN59 AWG	9521	SN59 AWP
9507	SN59 AVU	9512	SN59 AVZ	9517	SN59 AWH	9522	SN59 AWR

9508	SN59 AVV	9513	SN59 AWA	9518	SN59 AWJ	9523	SN59 AWU
9509	SN59 AVW	9514	SN59 AWC	9519	SN59 AWM		

Addison Lee: Noted in early November was Mercedes-Benz 515CDi FV09 BWO

Andrews (South Mimms): Tony Allen tell me that this operator is now at Edgware.

Countryliner (Guildford): Newly acquired here are former Warwickshire County Council Mercedes-Benz Citaros, X432/33/39 KON

East London Bus Group: Dennis Tridents 17108, 17110, 17121-17123, 17125 17133, 17135 and 17147 have been sold to Ensignbus along with Scania trainers 28615, 28616, 28618, 28625 and 28630 and more Dennis Dart SLFs 34165-34168, 34172, 34205, 34207-34211. Back from loan to Metrobus we have 17481 now at Rainham, 17571, 17582 and 17585 now at Plumstead and 17574 at Barking. Other movements have been 17109 TBt-WHt: 17115 BK-dis: 17117 TL-NS: 17114, 17124, 17132, 17136, 17139 NS-refurb: 17130 PD-refurb: 17140, 17152 PD-TB: 17189 TB-dis: 17353 TB-PD: 17503 WH-PD: 17579 U-WH: 17855 BK-WH: 17934 U-WH: 34161 WH-PD: 34203, 34254 U-res: 52214 WHt-PDt: 52248, 52296 RMt-PDt:

Arriving throughout November have been yet more Scania N230UD OmniCity double decks destined fro routes 48 and 56

18125	LX59 CLU	18134	LX59 CMV	18143	LX59 CNN	18152	LX59 COU
18126	LX59 CLV	18135	LX59 CMY	18144	LX59 CNO	18153	LX59 CPE
18127	LX59 CLY	18136	LX59 CMZ	18145	LX59 CNU	18154	LX59 CPF
18128	LX59 CLZ	18137	LX59 CNA	18146	LX59 CNV	18155	LX59 CPK
18129	LX59 CME	18138	LX59 CNC	18147	LX59 CNY	18156	LX59 CPN
18130	LX59 CMF	18139	LX59 CNE	18148	LX59 CNZ	18157	LX59 CPO
18131	LX59 CMK	18140	LX59 CNF	18149	LX59 COA	18158	LX59 CPU
18132	LX59 CMO	18141	LX59 CNJ	18150	LX59 COH	18159	LX59 CPV
18133	LX59 CMU	18142	LX59 CNK	18151	LX59 COJ		

Ensignbus: Former East London Dennis Tridents have been added to the service fleet to allow route 22 to be converted to double deck operation, all will be single doored before use 101 (V147 MEV), 102 (V478 KJN), 103 (V479 KJN), 104 (V122 MEV), 105 (V115 MEV) and 106 (V476 KJN).

104 will be re-registered as 864 DYE

Freeway (Chessington): Now here form Mayo (Kent) is Neoplan N122/3 YN03 AVX

London Dial a Ride: More new Bluebird Tucana's noted having recently been delivered to Palmers Green garage are D7105 (YX59 AAO), D7106 (YX59 ABN), D7107 (YX59 ABV), D7108 (YX59 ABU), D7109 (YX59 ABZ), D7110 (YX59 ACF) and D7111 (YX59 ACJ)

Metroline: New at Cricklewood (W) garage are a batch of 19 10.2m ADL Enviro200Darts B29D for use on route 316

DE1015	LK59 AUW	DE1020	LK59 AVF	DE1025	LK59 AVN	DE1030	LK59 AVU
DE1016	LK59 AUY	DE1021	LK59 AVG	DE1026	LK59 AVO	DE1031	LK59 AVV
DE1017	LK59 AVB	DE1022	LK59 AVJ	DE1027	LK59 AVP	DE1032	LK59 AVW
DE1018	LK59 AVC	DE1023	LK59 AVL	DE1028	LK59 AVR	DE1033	LK59 AVX
DE1019	LK59 AVD	DE1024	LK59 AVM	DE1029	LK59 AVT		

Various movements

Plan-It Travel (Chelsfield): Now with this operator is for Classic Coaches operated Scania K340EB / Irizar YN08 DGF

Safeguard (Guildford): Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton Paragon's Y748HWT and Y758 HWT have been re-registered to 196 FCG and 531 FCG respectively.

Seaward (Shepherds Bush): Now operated is Volvo B12M / Jonckherre PA02 SEA latterly with the defunct Goode of West Bromwich. The coach has had several incarnations but began life as SG02 OYW before swiftly becoming LSK827, and I think you can all guess who operated it.

Westbus: A pair of former Lothian Volvo Olympian / Alexander Royale have been bought 134 (P424 KSX) and 135 (P428 KSX)

North West England

Blackpool Transport: The Metro Coastlines name is being discontinued, it remains to be seen whether the livery is continued. More Metroriders withdrawn have been 503, 509, 510 and 593.

Brookfield (Stockport): Noted with this firm of late has been former Le Route M-B Tourino A9 XLA

Finglands: Volvo Olympians 1787 (N596 BRH), 1789 (N601 BRH) and 1790 (N602 BRH) re entered service when the new University term commenced, after a period of store at Hull.

Haytons (Manchester): Two former Shearings Volvo B10Ms have been added to the fleet over the summer GT02 WAG and GT02 WAM.

Mayne (Warrington): A new addition is 61 (YT59 NZK) a Scania / Irizar

JP Travel (Middleton): A third Enviro 400 is now here 552 (WT59 JPT). Mercedes-Minibuses 001 (P6 JPT), 002 (R277 CBU) and 003 (R277 CBU) have been sold via BCA auctions at Belle Vue. Scania 503 (M178 GRY) which was deroofed last month is to remain in the fleet as an open top vehicle.

Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire: The sale to Bubble travel had still not taken place as we went to press

Princess Coaches (Kendal): The company ceased trading at 1200 on November 27th. Kirkby Lonsdale Coaches took over operation of the Kendal and Windermere town services, with The TRavllers Choice assuming operation of two school services.

Ken Routledge: A new arrival is Mercedes-Benz O.816D YN09 KHA

Robinsons (Great Harwood): Volvo B10M-62 P255 YFR and P257 YFR have been sold to Jones of Macclefield, the former now registered as DIG 3719.

Strawberry: The opening fleet consists of DAF SB120 / Wright Cadets 1 (YJ53 VDM), 2 (YJ03 PMZ) 3 (YJ51 ENE), 4 (YJ51 ENC) all coming from Johnsons (Henley) and 8 (N754 OYR) a Dennis Dart / East Lancs EL2000 ex D & G Adderley Green.

Staceys (Carlisle): Bova Futura YJ05 FXA has been re registered as K888 SCL. Mercedes 413CDi SN04 HUZ is no longer in the fleet

Staintons (Kendal): Noted operating during November is B10 AXL a Berkhof Axial bodied Leyland Tiger

Wigan Buses: Two recent arrivals have been Dennis Drat SLF / Alexander ALX200s SF55 GXL and SN56 AXD both coming from Coakley of Motherwell. Alexander Dash bodied Volvo B6 L418 JBD is now longer in the fleet

Scotland

A.A.A Coaches (Kirknewton): A new arrival is FJ58 LSK a Volvo B12B / Jonckherre HV. Also te record we have Volvo B12B / Van Hool C49FTs SN09 JUV, SN09 JUW and SN09 JUX.

Austin (Earleston): Delivered earlier this year was VDL / Bova Futura YJ09 FHW operating in "Scotline Tours" livery

Blue Bus (Shotts): the 700 Livingston to Oban service ceased to be operated form September 24th

Bryans (Denny): Recent arrivals are Plaxton Pointer bodied Dennis Darts S461 LGN and X439 JHS. Two Plaxton Primos KX57 FNK and KX57 FNL have been returned to Mistral at the end of their leases. Also no where is and Optare Solo MX07 JNK

Davidson Buses (Bathgate): Noted on the 474 service to South Queensferry in mid November was ADL Enviro 200 KX59 GKV, this may be a loan or given the registration likely to be on lease from Mistral.

E. M Horsborough (Pumperston): Currently on loan and seen working route 557 Queensferry - Bathgate service in late November is Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse FJ57 CYX. Purchased from Trent Barton have been Dennis Dart SLFs S940UAL, S943 UAL and S944 UAL.

Jenkins (Loanhead): Noted in late October was Mercedes-Benz / Paxton Cheetah SF09 LZW

Mitchells (Plean): A recent purchase is of Optare Solo MX07 JNF noted in Stirling on the 15, along with a Mercedes-Benz / Palxton YN56 NHH

Moffat & Williamson: New vehicles to record we have Optare Solo SP59 DCE and Optare Versa SP59 BSX. A VDL Bus / Plaxton Centro has arrived from John Brae (Shetland) YO06 TXF with who it was registered J600 JFJ

Passenger Transport (Bathgate): The company has gained the tenders to operate routes 501 and 502 taking over from Davidson Buses. Additional vehicles acquired to use, have been two Optare Solos SH51 MHO (40723) and SA02 BZP (40845) these pair having previously been run by First Glasgow. Also now here are a pair of Northern Counties bodied Dennis Darts L132 VYK and L154 VYK.

Pegasus: A new arrival is Dennis Dart /Plaxton Pointer K712 KGU latterly noted with Central Buses in Birmingham.

Waverley Travel (Edinburgh): Dennis Dart SLFs SN54 FCE and SN54 FCF have both been sold to West Coast Motors

Southern England

Amberleaf (Iver): New here from Volvo at Loughborough is Volvo B10M / Plaxton V92 LYS previously KSK 954

Chalkwell (Sittingbourne): Acquired from Dublin Bus via Ensign is N732 JNO (96-D-303) a Volvo Olympian Alexander. The following vehicles have now left the fleet: R109 AKP a Dennis Javelin Plaxton, now with Stables (Newmill), R110 AKP a Dennis Javelin Plaxton, now with Upwell & District (Wisbech), P848/850 YGB M/Benz Plaxton, now with Hatch Green (Taunton) and XIL 9300 M/Benz Wadham Stringer, now with Payne (Little Paxton).

Compass (Worthing): Acquired from Holmes, Clay Cross in September was YJ55 YGZ an Optare Solo B31F.

Brooks (Ryarsh): Acquired of late has been impressive VDL DR40XSSBR4000 / Berkhof CH63/20D latterly with TAJ Tours of Wembley

Buzzlines (Hythe): Recent acquisitions include N623 RAP (96-D-271) a Volvo Olympian Alexander H47/31F which has come from Dublin Bus and YC02 DJD a Volvo B12M Jonckheere C48FT which was originally with National Holidays.

Excelsior Coaches (Bournemouth): Currently on loan from Volvo, Loughborough is FN09 AOJ a Volvo B12B(T) Volvo C53FT.

Fernhill (Bracknell): Acquired from Suffolk County Council in August was PN09 CXL a MAN A91 Marcopolo B72FL. Re-registrations to note are FN02 GUK Irisbus 391E.12.29 Beulas to SPR 124, and similar vehicle, SPR 124 to X641 XUJ and subsequently sold to BASE dealers, probably in part exchange

Hodge (Sandhurst): New in September was 9489 PH a MAN A91 Fast C57D

Kent Coach Tours (Ashford): Acquired in August from National Holidays was YJ03 VMU a Volvo B12M TransBus C48FT.

Luckett (Fareham): FJ56 PFE and FJ56 KHO Scania K340EB / Caetano Levante C49FLT have been acquired from National Express for use on additional National Express services between London and Portsmouth / Southampton.

Mortons (Chineham): A rather fine new arrival is Volvo B9TL / Optare Olympus 100 seater PO59 KGF named "Jayne Ann"

Nu-Venture (Aylesford): Several acquisitions to record are M81 WBW and M87 WBW Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Plaxton Pointer B43F which have come from Stagecoach North East; S5 BLU a Dennis Dart SLF Wrightbus B39F which has come from Ing (Pemberton) J350 XET a Leyland Olympian Alexander H47/27F which has come from Stagecoach East Midlands; C64 HOM a Leyland Lynx which has come from Bzee Bus, Whitstable and J268 UDW, also a Leyland Lynx which was originally with Brunditt, Cotes Heath. Acquired in October from Stagecoach South East was L624 TDY a Volvo B10M-55 Alexander DP48F and from Bzee Bus, Whitstable is M939 FTN, a Optare Metrorider. Also noted here is R974 FNW DAF SB220 Northern Counties, ex Carousel, High Wycombe.

Rambler (St Leonards): Former First Eastern Counties Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton Premiere, VDY 468 (N617 APU) and TDY 946 (P330 RVG) have been acquired.

Renown Coaches (Bexhill): No less than 5 ADL Enviro 200's are due here, numbered 16-20, KX 59 CXO, CXP, CXR, CXS and CXT respectively. Acquired in September were F45 GTO Volvo B10M-61 Plaxton Paramount, ex Gilkes, West Kingsdown, and M53 PRA Volvo B10M-60 Alexander, ex Arriva The Shires. Acquired in October was T130 AUA DAF DB250 Plaxton President H45/19D, ex Courtney (Bracknell):

Stewarts (Grazeley Green): YN59 BMY and YN 59BMZ are two Mercedes-Benz 0.8016D Plaxton Cheetahs delivered in September. YN 59 BMY is named *Peter William* and YN 59 BMZ is named *Tracy Amelia*.

Weavaway (Newbury): Several acquisitions to report this month are: V11 OOL (YJ 57 EZG) Van Hool Astron T917, ex Parry (Cheslyn Hay) and from Trathens (Plymouth) we have Neoplan N122/3's W11 WAY (SF56 TXM), MAC 96P (SF56 TXN), OO02 TEN (SF56 TYA) and 327 RFC (SF56 TYT) In exchange have gone Scania / Berkhof YN07 LKJ/LKL and Bova Magiqs WA56 ENV/ENW

Reliance (Gravesend): The coach operator, previously associated with Redwing of London, is now independent, it remains to be seen whether a new livery is adopted. The fleet consists of Irisbus 397E.12.45 Beulas C53FL YN08 AVF, YN08 AVG, YN08 AVU, YN08 AVV, YN08 AVW, YN08 AVX, YN08 AVY, YN08 AVZ, YN08 AWA, YN08AWC, YN08 AWF and YN08 AWG, Volvo B12 /Berkhof C51FT FJ06ZMO and FJ06 ZMV and Mercedes-Benz 1836RL Turismo BX06 UMK and BX06 UML

South West England

Andybus (Dauntsey): New in August was AJ09 BUS an Optare Solo B23F

APL (Crudwell): P235 EJW a M/Benz 811D Marshall DP29F which was only acquired in February of this year went to Pickford, Chippenham in September.

Berry (Taunton): A pair of Volvo B12B(T) / Van Hools appear to have escaped my notice WA09 ATT and WA09 AYY.

Blakes Coaches (East Anstey): Acquired back in May was SK03 AXG a Scania K124IB Van Hool C49FT, ex Edinburgh Coachlines.

Bugler (Bath): A recent acquisition from Ensign is ex Arriva North West Volvo B10B Wright Endurance, M535 WHF, while R814 LFV a M/Benz 0810D Plaxton Beaver has been sold to OTT, Faversham.

Countybus (Heathfield): Acquired in October was FJ55 BXL ADL Dart SLF / Caetano.

DAC Coaches (St Ann's Chapel): Acquired from Holmeswood is FG03 JAU Iveco397E.12.35 Beulas C49FT.

Dartline (Clyst St Mary): YJ59 NMV is a new Optare Solo Optare B19F. Acquired are two M/Benz Sprinters, R912 WLG which has come from Dodsworth, Bourougbridge, and BU04 EYP which has come from dot2dot.

Dawlish Coaches (Dawlish): The third vehicle acquired from the now defunct ACL Travel of Weston-Super-Mare is K59 LLG. It is a Dennis Dart 9SDL Plaxton Pointer B35F and joins similar Dart's L 719 JUD and N52 KBW.

Eurotaxi (Siston Common): Two coaches acquired in September are J28 SNY and J46 SNY. Both are Leyland Tiger's with Plaxton bodywork and came from Coachstyle, Nettleton.

Hookways (Meeth): A new Volvo B12B(T) arrived in September, registered WA59 EAP. It has Van Hool bodywork and is C34FT. J42 VWO Volvo B10M-60 Plaxton C49FT has been acquired from Irving, Greenock. Some re-registrations to note are SJ04 JZX Volvo B12M Jonckheere which is now 4846 HP; SJ04 KFA Volvo B12M Jonckheere which is now 5981 HP and FJ05 AOU Volvo B12M Berkhof which is now 3315 HP.

Kingdom (Tiverton): Acquired from Brown, Durham is T841 SBB M/Benz 412D Crest.

Pickford Faresaver (Chippenham): Two vehicles acquired from Andybus, Dauntsey are R57 JSG a M/Benz 0810D Plaxton and VU03 ZPS a M/Benz 0814D Plaxton.

Redwoods (Hemyock): Several acquisitions to note are P131 VYG M/Benz 412D Onyx, which has come from Evans, Milford Haven; SC52 AHC Iveco 391E.12.35 Beulas C49FT, which has

come from Head, Lutton and BX55 NYB BMC 850, which has come from Hythe & Waterside, Hythe.

Roselyn Coaches (Par): Two vehicles recently re-registered are TIL 6878 a Volvo B10M-61 Plaxton Paramount, which is now TMD 292Y and G509 SFT a Leyland Olympian Northern Counties which is now TIL 6878. Two former Stagecoach vehicles in the shape of L347 KCK and L623 TDY Volvo B10M-55 Alexander have been acquired.

South Gloucestershire (Patchway): The Volvo B10M Northern Counties vehicle C146 NRR, came from Arriva Derby.

Swanbrook (Staverton): Two vehicles acquired from Westbus are BIG 2114 (W14 APT) and BIG 2115 (W15 APT), Volvo B10M-62 Van Hool C53F.

Webberbus (Bridgwater): Two new Optare Solo's arrived in September and are registered YJ59 GGA and YJ59 GGE

Western Greyhound (Summercourt): More Optare Solo's have now arrived in the shape of 957 (WK59 CWU), 958 (WK59 CWV), 959 (WK59 CWW), 960 (WK59 CWX) 961 (WK59 CWY) and WK59CWZ.

Wales

Alpine (Llandudno): S100 ALP Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer has been re-registered to CX 04 HYN and has also been painted into white and appears to be for sale. A Leyland Olympian ECW, registered CWR 507Y has been acquired from Express Motors, Penygroes. Acquired from Holmeswood Coaches is M/Benz Plaxton Beaver PN 05 BUA.

Anslow (Garndiffaith): Acquired from National Holidays back in August was T128 JBA a Volvo B10M-62 Jonckheere C50F

Bluebird (Neath): R637 EYS a M/Benz 711D Mellor C29F has been acquired from Pickford, Chippenham. Vehicles gone are XIL 8545 (P170 PWR) a DAF SB3000 Plaxton is now with Carmel, Northlew, and P300 GTA Volvo B10M Plaxton is now with Wheal Briton, Cornwall.

Bysiau Cwm Taf (Whitland): Acquired back in August from Keeber, Leicester was AE54 WDN a LDV Convoy Cpt M16.

Cardiff Bus: The new Scania Omnicity's numbered 740-744 are in actual fact registered CN59 CKU, CKV, CKX, CKY, CLF respectively.

Chapman's (Tonyrefail): SIL 4712 (M625 FNS) a Volvo B10M Jonckheere has been sold to Classic, Runcorn.

Clarkes (Tredegar): OIL 2732 (D809 SGB) and TJI 6311 (D876 EEH), both Volvo B10M Plaxton have gone to Georgia Trucks, Pontypridd. Meanwhile, M105 WKA M/Benz 709D Alexander has been scrapped.

Creigiau Travel: FN03 DXS a Volvo B12B(T) Berkhof was acquired from Ferris, Nantgarw in October.

Davies (Llanelli): Re-registrations to note are NJI 1256 Dennis Javelin Duple, to F481 KFM and M649 KVV Volvo B10M Van Hool to NJI 1256.

EST (Cowbridge): Further to the news in last month's issue, there are three vehicles that have been acquired from Arriva North West and Wales. They are BMC 1100FE BU53 PNE, BU53 PNF and BU53PNO.

Eagles & Crawford (Gwernymynydd): A recent acquisition is PF52 SZN a MAN 13.220 Marcopolo C37FT.

Edwards (Llantwit Fardre): Acquired from London Mini Coaches is WA08 GRZ a M/Benz 1022L Sitcar C30F.

Express Motors (Penygroes): Bova FHD B4 OVA has been registered to R59 BJC and sold to APT Travel, Rayleigh. CWR 507Y a Leyland Olympian has gone to Alpine, Llandudno.

Ferris (Nantgarw): YJ55 KZV and YJ55 KZW Temsa Safari's have been acquired from United States Army. FJ03 ABV a Volvo B7R Plaxton, is now with Four Girls, Pontybodkin. News of previous sold vehicles are FN03 DXS a Volvo B12B(T) Berkhof, which is now with Creigiau Travel, and similar vehicle, FN03 DXV which is now with Westway, Raynes Park.

GHA (Ruabon): YJ59 GFX is a new Optare Solo Optare B28F which arrived in September. On loan in October from Optare, Crossgates was Optare Versa Optare YJ08 VRT.

Globe (Cwmaman): W482 ASB a Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton C53F has been acquired from Stott, Milnsbridge.

Gwynne Price (Trimsaran): Two new vehicles to report here are DX59 FHD an Autosan A1012T ASN S70F and PO59 CPV a MAN A91 Marcopolo C55F.

Hayward (Carmarthen): Vehicles acquired in October included LIL 9969 (E969 NMK) a Leyland Tiger Plaxton Paramount which came from G&A, Trethomas, E759 AAW (E646 LRF), a Dennis Javelin Duple which came from DR, Pontyates, and GDE148X (NKG 98X) a Volvo B58 Plaxton which came from Laugharne Travel, St Clears.

Jenson (Pontypool): S487 DSS a Dennis Javelin Plaxton has been re-registered to S847 SUH.

Ken Hopkins (Tonna): Acquired from Clarke's of London is Y585 TOV a Setra S315GTHD now registered 99 KMH. Volvo B10M Plaxton 99 KMH has reverted to its original registration R754 VRM and has gone to Redline, Aylesbury along with KM 55 KMH a Dennis Enviro 300.

Nelson (Glyn Neath): Vehicles re-registered include PJI 3546 (M611 RCP) a DAF SB3000 Van Hool to M611 RCP, M459 DDE a Dennis Javelin Plaxton to PJI 3546, and R258 JEJ a Dennis Javelin to VPN 164.

New Adventure (Gabalfa): Vehicles acquired recently include S925/27/28/29/31 LBL Optare Excel's from Reading Buses, and YN 54 AAU Irisbus 397E.12.35 Beulas which has come from Redwing, Herne Hill.

Newport Transport: Currently in the workshops are two further ex Lothian Buses' Volvo Olympians, 268 and 272, P268, 272 PSX.

Rhodri Evans Ffoshelig (Carmarthen): WD03 WVV a Volvo B7R Jonckheere C53F has been acquired from Hilton, Newton-le-Willows.

St Davids Travel (Cardiff): A further Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer in the shape of W226 DNO has arrived from Selkent.

Silver Star (Caernarfon): Optare Solo CX55 DWK has been sold and is now with Travellers Choice, (Carnforth).

South Wales Transport (Neath): M246 MWM a Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Plaxton Pointer B40F has been acquired from Warrington Buses and has been re-registered M100 SWT, and carries Tesco Marina free bus livery.

Tanat Valley (Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant): Acquired from Stagecoach is Leyland Olympian Northern Counties H47/30F, H150 GGS.

Watts (Bonvilston): Acquired in September from Summercourt Travel was F243 YTJ a Leyland Olympian Alexander H45/30F.

West Midlands

AM PM Travel: The other ex Dublin Bus Olympians mentioned last time are N729 JNO (96-D-282), N731 JNO (96-D-301), N737 JNO (96-D-262) and N761 JNO (96-D-283). As well as the school service mentioned operations have also commenced on the Birmingham outer circle route. A further double deck purchase is L557 YCU a Northern Counties Palatine 1 bodied Volvo Olympian.

Joos Travel (Walsall): A recent purchase from the Stafford Bus Centre is ex Arriva North West Dennis Dart M171 YKA

Lakeside (Ellesmere): New is JD09 LAK a Volvo B12B / Plaxton Panther C49F given a personalised number plate to celebrate the company's 30th anniversary.

New Deliveries

Clarkes (Lower Sydenham) YP09 NPY
London Minicoaches WA09 DZT

Scania K340EB / Lahden
Mercedes-Benz O.816D / Sitcar

Mainline (Gilfach Goch)	YP59 ODY	Scania / Irizar
MCH (Uxbridge)	YN09 EZA	Mercedes-Benz O.816D / Indicar C31F
Yeomans (Hereford)	YT09 FLM	Scania K340 / Irizar

ADL Falkirk

November 3rd

Abellio	<i>Enviro 400</i> 9519, 9521 (SN59 AWP), (SN59 AWM)
Heddingham Omnibus	<i>Enviro 200</i> L380 (EU59 AFF), L381 (EU59 AFJ)
Stagecoach North West	<i>Enviro 400</i> 15575 (PX59 CSZ), 15580 (PX59 CTU)

November 17th

Stagecoach East	<i>Enviro 400</i> KX59 GNU
Stagecoach South West	<i>Enviro 300</i> WA59 FXE (red / yellow), WA59 XFX (fleet colours), WA59 FXH (two shades of green)
Stagecoach East Kent	<i>Enviro 400</i> GX59 JYT
Stagecoach Manchester	<i>Enviro 400</i> MX59 KJJ
JP Travel (Middleton)	<i>Enviro 400</i> 552 (WT59 JPT)

November 24th

Stagecoach Manchester	<i>Enviro 400</i> MX59 KHY, MX59 KJV
Stagecoach Merseyside	<i>Enviro 300</i> PO59 MWK, PO59 MWL, PO59 MWM, PO59 MWN, PO59 MWP

Around the Dealers

Ensignbus

With our usual thanks to Ross Newman here are the latest ins and outs down at Ensign. Don't forget if you pass your local dealer drop me a line of what is there

Vehicles In

From Arriva NW: Volvo B10B's: M515 / 6 / 8 / 24 / 25 / 28 / 33 / 34 / 35 / 37WHF M551 / 2 / 3WTJ M564YEM.

From East London Bus Group: Darts V159 / 64 / 65 / 66 / 67 / 68 / 69 / 70 / 71 / 72MVX W204 / 07 / 08 / 11 / 28 / 29 / 32DNO

Tridents V108 / 115 / 120 / 122 / 125 / 135 / 137 / 147 MEV V476 / 478 / 479KJN

Scania's RDZ6115 / 6 / 7 / 8 Delta's J401LKO J729CYG.

From Stagecoach Western: Dart P392LPS Volvo D10M's B181 / 2FFS.

From Stagecoach Yorkshire: Volvo B10M's L341 / 2CCK.

From Stagecoach East Midlands: Volvo B10M R639RSE.

From Lothian Buses: Olympians P251 / 63 / 4 / 5 / 7 / 9 / 70 / 73 / 4 / 82 / 84PSX.

From Wilts and Dorset: Spectra's K103 / 4 / 5 / 10VLJ L113 / 26 / 28ALJ M134HPR M145KRU

Bristol VR's GEL682V KRU848 / 51 / 55W.

From Bugler Coaches: Merc R814LFV.

Vehicles Out

Metrobus A895 SUL: Erith Commercials for scrap.

Scania's RDZ 6115 / 6 / 7 / 8 Delta's J401LKO J729CYG: Geoff Ripley, Barnsley.

Spectra L113 ALJ: Beaver Bus, Leicester.

Olympian H139 GGS: AM/PM Travel , Birmingham.
 Olympians P251 / 64 / 70 / 73KSX: Golden West Holdings, Sydney , Australia.
 Olympian P269 PSX: Totally Transport CIC , Blackpool.
 Olympian P284 PSX: Rodgers Coaches, Corby , Northants.
 Olympian S851 DGX: Harpurs Coaches, Derby.
 Volvo D10M B182 FFS: A and P Travel , Barway , Cambs.
 Volvo B10M CJZ 6782: L and R Transport Services, Basildon.
 Volvo B10B's M516 /25 / 28WHF: Beestons Coaches, Hadleigh , Suffolk.
 Volvo B10B M564 YEM: Balfour Beatty Civil Engineering, Edinburgh.
 Volvo B10B M535 WHF: Buglers Coaches, Bristol.
 Volvo B10M K716 DAO: Excel Passenger Logistics, Stansted.
 Volvo B10M's K726 / 9DAO: Sun Fun Coaches, Earith , Cambs.
 Volvo B10M's M709KRH M551SPY M715KRH: E Ndlovu Transport, Harare , Zimbabwe.
 Volvo B10M R639 RSE: Travelmasters, Sheerness.
 Delta P191 SGV : Home Counties Travel , Bury St Edmunds.
 Mercedes R814 LFV: OTT, Faversham, Kent.
 Dart N413 MBW: Halifax Joint Committee.
 Dart P391 LPS: Florida Coaches, Halstead.
 Dart R467 LGH: Tates Travel, Barnsley.
 Dart S308 MKH: M Travel, Manchester.
 Dart V560 JBH; Star Travel , Aylesbury.
 Darts SLF E53 VDP / Y : Thamesdown Transport.
 Trident T690 KPU: Amber Coaches, Rayleigh.
 Volvo B7TL's PL51LGD / G: Sullivan Buses, South Mimms.
 Dublin Olympian 96-D-262 now N737 JNO with AMPM, Birmingham
 Dublin Olympian 96-D-303 now N732 JNO with Chalkwell, Sittingbourne.
 Dublin Olympian 98-D-20413 now R63 LHK with Littles Travel , Ilkeston, Derbyshire.
 Dublin Olympian 98-D-20399 now R98 LHK with Littles Travel , Ilkeston, Derbyshire.

Rally News

Forthcoming events

January

- 1st Castle Point Museum (Canvey Island) Open Day
- Oxford Bus Museum (Long Harborough) Open Day
- Southend On Sea 23rd Southend Heritage Running Day
- Winchester Friends of King Alfred annual Running Day and Transport Bazaar
- 9/10th St Albans Classic Bus Running Day, (Limited runs on the 9th)
- 23rd Paddington Ticket Auction, Royal National Hotel, Woburn Place

February

- 13th Staines Transport Collectors Fair with vintage bus service running from Rail Station

Museum Report

MUSEUM of TRANSPORT (Manchester)

Mike Pinder broke one of his News Year Resolution's, "not going back to Museums that did not

do Bacon Butties” ! I love this museum, the exhibits, and the workers who give their time for us to enjoy the scene. So I relented and went, the Cafe was open, the Tea still strong enough to bend a metal spoon, NO bacon butties BUT Oh Boy, HOT MEAT & TATTIE PIES. I will return.

Trams 173 Manchester Corporation 65 South Lancashire Tramways
1000 Metrolink (Mock-up)

L2 (1890) Manchester Horse Drawn Bus.

122 JDT Lancashire United 23	414 CLT London Transport RM1414
4632 VM Manchester City 4632	8860 VR Mayne Coaches
A706 LNC Greater Manchester PTE 8706	AJA 152 North Western 432
AJX 857 Manchester Corp. 526 (Chassis)	ANB 851 Manchester Corp 436
B65 PJA Stagecoach Magic Bus 3065	BBA 560 Salford Corp 235
BEN 177 Bury Corp 177	BJA 425 North Western 270
BND 874C Manchester Corp 74	C208 FVU G.M.Transport 5208
CDB 224 North Western 224	CK 3825 Ribble 295
CWG 206 Alexander PA 164	CWH 717 Bolton 2
D676 NNC G.M.Buses 1676	DBU 246 Oldham 246
DDB 174C North Western 174	DJP 754 Wigan Corp 115
EDB 562 Stockport 308	EDB 575 Stockport 321
FRJ 254D Salford 254	GNC 276N G.M.Buses EX62
HEK 705 Wigan Corp 57	HTF 586 Warburtons
HVM 901F Manchester City 1001	JBN 153 Bolton 77
JNA 476 Manchester Corp 3102	JND 771 Manchester Corp 2150
JVU 755 Manchester Corp 1250	KDB 408F Stockport 408
KJA 871F G.M.Transport 5871	LMA 284 Bullocks Coaches
LSU 282 Lancashire Utd. R/V	LTC 774 Ashton Under Lyne 80
MJA 897G Stockport 97	NDK 980 Rochdale 280
NNB 125 Manchester Corp 25	ORJ 83W G.M.Transport 5083
PND 460 Manchester City 3460	PTC 114C Leigh 15
PTE 944C Ashton under Lyne 44	REN 116 Bury 116
SRJ 328H SELNEC 1205	TNA 496 Manchester City 3496
TNA 520 Manchester Corp 3520	TRJ 112 Salford 112
TTD 386H Ramsbottom 11	TXJ 507K SELNEC EX30
UBA 214C Salford 214	UMA 370 SHMD Board 70
UNB 629 Manchester Corp 3629	VNB 101L SELNEC 7001
VR 5742 Manchester Corp 28	VY 957 Ribble (York 2)
XVU 352M GMPTE 1722	YDK 590 Yelloway
YM 9410 Stockport 106 (Tow)	

Out & About

This month Rod Whitaker has been on various trips around taking in Barnsley and Rotherham, Edinburgh and the Manchester area

12th November 2009
By Rod Whitaker

Barnsley

Arriva Yorkshire
1405
Redlines Barnsley
K602 ESH
Stagecoach Yorkshire
15414 16868 19559 19561

19562 19563 19564 20083
20496 20662 20877 22421
22446 22447 22449 22535
22539 22540 22541 22542
22544 22549 22618 22629
22632 22811 31031 31032
31492 31936 31939 31947
36921 39622 39623 39624
39625 39626 39627 39629
47271 47272 47281 47282

47287 47288 47289 47293
47295 47296 47297 47300

Tates Travel Barnsley
P332 NHJ P443 SWX
P454 LWL R143 RLY
R148 RLY R654 VBM

TM Travel Halfway
YN03 ZXE

Veolia
YX09 HZJ

Doncaster
Arriva Yorkshire
1407

East Yorkshire
61

First South Yorkshire
30873 30881 30882 30884
30885 30904 30905 30906
30907 31780 31781 31784
31785 31786 34090 34096
37147 37228 37229 37231
37232 37233 37234 37236
37237 37238 37239 37240
37242 37248 37249 37250
37251 37252 37254 37255
37261 37262 37278 40494
40496 40515 40519 40522
40524 40525 40526 40542
40595 50235 50236 50237
50239 53034 53035 60613
60616 61207 61208 61209
61210 61211

Powells Hellaby
R560 UOT V208 ENU

Stagecoach Lincolnshire
18052 20283 20789 22414
22415 22416 28801 28802
33252

Stagecoach Yorkshire
15412 15417 16876 16937
16938 22084 22087 22088
22366 22546 22554 22556
22631 22632 31347 31937
35227 39612 39615 39617

Wifreda Adwick
V320 EAK Y334 HWT
Y337 HWT YJ54 UBW
YJ54 UBW YJ05 XO
YJ07 UOG

Rotherham
First South Yorkshire
34247 37251 37253 37254
40534 40844 60634 60637
60674

Powells Hellaby
WIL 9201 F772 EKM
MX59 AVM MX59 AVN

Stagecoach Lincolnshire
35013

Stagecoach Yorkshire
31347 31358 31942 33230
35235 39615

Veolia

YJ06 YPV YX09 HZC
YX09 HZG YX09 HZH
YX09 HYZ

14th November 2009
Edinburgh
Ayrways Ayr
K800 AYR

Bruce Coaches Salsburgh
JXI 317

Edinburgh Coach Lines
SN09 FUW

First Edinburgh
30744 30832 31639 31651
31657 31665 31670 32673
32676 36015 36024 37136
37140 37142 37143 37145
37267 37268 37270 40912
40916 40924 40926 40937
61221 61231 61232 62393
69254 69287

Floss Haul Greenock
WIL 6502

Forth Travel
UCD 528

Gordons Rotherham
B10 WGS

Lothian
10 54 58 63 88 90 95 97
102 104 106 107 110 120
122 123 124 135 136 138
140 141 146 148 149 152
153 233 248 293 301 305
307 309 310 319 320 323
324 326 327 328 329 331
332 335 336 338 339 340
502 506 507 521 527 534
547 552 579 587 595 599
600 601 603 608 609 616
624 643 648 650 656 658
667 671 687 688 689 691
697 703 706 709 710 716
717 721 723 724 728 732
734 737 741 746 749 750
755 756 760 764 765 766
768 770 772 773 778 779
782 783 786 792 793 794
796 801 806 808 809 815
818 822 823 826 827 829
836 837 839 845 849 853
861 862 864 865 871 876
877 879 880 881 883 884
891 895 901 914 916 918
923 925 928 929 930 932
933 934 989 991 992 994
995 996 998

MacEwans Ammisfield
SA03 YDB

MacLeods Coaches Sutherland

RO06 ART

Mairs Dyce
SV04 GZN

Milligans Mauchline
SN09 FFD

Parks Hamilton
LSK 877

Parnhan Ludgershall
WA08 GRK

Roberts Tours Leicester
SJ04 HYB

Shearings
411 502

Snaihs Otterburn
S494 ABR

Stagecoach East Scotland
24001 24003 24005 24006
24007 52285 52432 53279
53283 53287 53290 53293

Stanley Coaches Stanley
OO05 STX

Travel Dundee
USU 661

Wishart
K5 KFC

19th November 2009
By Rod Whitaker
Manchester
Arriva North West
664 2244 2248 2421 2569 3601

Bluebird Middleton
1 BLU 196 BLU
360 BLU P158 SMW
MA02 BLU AJ54 AMJ
MV54 BLU TT57 BLU
UU08 BLU VV08 BLU
JJ58 BLU MK59 BLU

Bu-Val Smithy Bridge
T79 JBA

Finglands
1705 1742 1761 1777 1779
1784 1790

First Manchester
12004 12010 12011 12015
12016 34038 37279 37285
37287 37291 37302 37306
37313 37369 37376 37378
37381 37389 37404 37406
37416 37418 37424 37426
37428 37437 37438 37442
37451 37455 37457 37466
37545 37549 37550 37554

40326 40333 40343 40350
40408 40412 40439 40564
40569 53143 53145 53149
60229 60235 60248 60270
60282 60370 60377 60387
60447 61151 62143 66193
66195 66835 66870 66871
66878 66919 69177 69178
69179 69186 69203 69207

Haytons
KX08 OLE

JP Travel Middleton
M171 GRY P3 JPT
S3 JPT KX57 OVY
SN57 DXC MX07 PZH
SN08 AAF RT09 JPT
SN59 AWV VT59 JBT

Rossendale
T86 JBA

Stagecoach Manchester
15184 15192 16190 16744
16766 16770 16776 16794
17623 17643 17650 17659
17662 17669 19009 19013
19015 19016 19021 19022
19059 19060 19063 19071
19078 19091 19096 19114
19166 19224 19242 19248
19276 19327 19353 19358
19390 19402 19412 19415
19417 19422 19451 19469
19472 19480 19483 19512

19515 19521 22127 22163

Route 37 Manchester - Bolton

First Manchester
37372 37378 37395 37397
37398 37399 37400 37403
37404 37406 37408 37410
37417 37425 37427 37429
37431 40442 62146 69149
69206

Bolton

Arriva North West
1264 2565 2588 2629 2677
2733 2829 2995 7552

Bluebird Middleton
MX58 SGU MX58 SGV

First Manchester
12018 34253 37367 37369
37371 37374 37378 37379
37401 37405 37418 37424
37426 40339 60213 60230
60343 64029 66898 66901
66903 69145 69152 69164
69196

Maytree Bolton
MX55 WCW MX06 BSY MX08
MFZ MX08 MYT
MX09 AOD

South Lancashire Transport
Atherton
M54 PRA

Stagecoach North West
15567 15568 1575

Transdev Lancashire
1080

Route 471 Bolton - Rochdale

First Manchester
12003 12009 37308 37464
40344 40363 60218 60235
60242 60245 60247 60256
60262 60267 60270 60279
66877 66930 69134 69167
69178 69185 69203
Rossendale
3 21 47 49 51 56 59
112 120 132 143 159

Rochdale

Bu-Val Smithy Bridge
T580 JTD MH02 NGG
MH03 NGN MP03 CYF

First Manchester
10017 34029 34037 34058
34080 34082 34292 37293
37300 37436 37449 37460
37553 60255 60266 60283
60440 66833 69136 69196

Rossendale
44 58 63 133 141 168 171

Back in the summer, remember that, if you live up our way it was a week in May, but anyway Alan Hayward and his partner Valerie Bromley headed north to Hadrians Wall country so I'll let the take up the tale, pictures can be found on the back page gallery, although black and white does not do them justice.

A while ago we went for a long weekend break to visit the area of the North Pennines, which was to include a couple of days "doing" Hadrians Wall

We had travelled in the area a year or so ago and when we were having a short stop at Chesters Fort we had come across the Hadrians Wall AD122 bus.

This is a very useful service which runs all the way from Carlisle to Hexham with quite a good frequency of runs.

We stayed at Once Brewed so we could "do" what is said to be one of the best sections of wall running along the Whin Sill ridge as far as Housteads.

The bus runs along the Military Road for a good part of the way and provides an excellent vantage point and link to a number of the Roman sites for those who are not walkers and do not have the use of a car.

Once you have mastered the intricacies of the route from the Once Brewed National Park Centre down the spur road to Vindolanda and back in both directions it is then simplicity itself to work out a sightseeing journey.

Our first ride on the AD122 was when we joined Stagecoach M-M Vario 42190 (S190 RAO) at the Roman Museum at Carvoran from where we travelled down to Haltwhistle and back on the Military Road, it did help that the weather was glorious.

The next day we donned hiking boots and strode up the lane to join the wall near Winshields Gorge, and to conquer the switch back path in the Halsteads direction. This section has some superb views and also in one of the dips is a Sycamore tree made famous in the 1991 film Robin Hood Prince of Thieves. We then waited in the car park for the next AD122 service which rolled up in the shape of Classic Coaches Optare Solo YL02 FKY. As we drove along the driver gave a commentary to tell the passengers some of the history and slowed down at certain points to enable pictures to be taken. On various days of the year guides dressed as Roman Soldiers accompany the bus. We decided to visit Vindolanda next and changed buses at the National Park Centre for the short run again on Stagecoach 42190. The return was again on the Classic Solo which displayed Central Station, odd as the route ends at Hexham, but this particular journey continues through to Newcastle.

En route to the wall we had called at Barnard Castle and saw Arriva Dart 1746 and Metrorider 2631, whilst in Haltwhistle Arriva 1201 and 1203 were passing through on the 685 route. It was pleasing to see that the AD122 service is well used and the commitment of the drivers on the run to answer the 1001 various questions being put to them.

Spotting Guide

A new section that will appear from time to time giving you a guide to various places around the country. We start with Gatwick Airport which Tony Allen called at in October

Taking time out from a blue Metrobus bash, I has business at Gatwick airport and decided to take the opportunity to check out what the place has to offer the bus fan.

I started off at the North Terminal and the Ground level bus station. The whole airport is private property accessible legitimately only by those with proper cause to visit. Once there though, sitting waiting at the (very end) Metrobus stop here, you will be quietly out of the way bothering no-one - and (hopefully) no-one bothering you. An hour should be more than enough before all the parking, staff and hotel shuttles repeat.

NatEx, Easybus, City of Oxford and Metrobus are all here in good numbers. So too coaches for drop off/pick up. This was late morning on an October Tuesday and a summer Saturday would be so much busier all round. But, in addition to all these, I still managed to log this fascinating mix of the specialist 'airport' vehicles:

NSL Services: H15/6NCP, BU53AYA, KX05KDZ - all Citaros

Southdown PSV: Plaxton Dart W569JVV - branded hotel shuttle

Flights Hallmark: AE06OPG, AE56MBV - MAN/Evolution

Airlinks: AE55MVF/H/J - MAN/Evolution; X839/42/45NWX DAF SB220 (should be about 10 more of these about somewhere, possibly airside)

APCOA: YN56FEO/P Sca N94UB

APH: CA/CH53APH, GX04BEU - Volvo B7R; W223CDN EOS E180Z

National Express: A15GJT MB O814D

Airparks: AE57FBN/V, KX58BHO/JE - MAN/Plaxton

?: YJ58FFN VDL SB200 - an Arriva/Volvo hire vehicle this one, branded for hotel shuttles

The monorail connecting Gatwick's two terminals is currently out of service, a bus shuttle running between the top level of each. Wearing National Express legals and a specially branded blue and white livery, the following Darts were noted on this service:

CY002	KU02YTX	CY003	KU02YTY	CY004	KU02YTZ	CY006	KX53SFJ
CY008	KX53SFN	CY009	KX53SFO	CY010	T360PNV	CY012	T438PNV
CY013	T539PNVplus T377PNV					

The T-plates are all ex-Dublin. Being trained in investigative techniques, I would say that they also have CY001, 5, 7 and 11 - and that T377PNV is CY011!

Approaching South Terminal by this shuttle bus, a coach parking areas is visible just past the main

entrance roundabout. This is immediately adjacent to the Hilton Hotel and the walkway from South Terminal to the well signposted Schlumberger/North Point area.

The South Terminal (where the train station is) also has a ground level bus station. The airport website says that most of the coaches that call here also call at North Terminal. It is a fair bet that this applies to the 'airport' buses too. So I did not hang around here, as time was short and I had a train to catch.

One major variation from the North Terminal here though. APCOA work the long-term parking from the top level near the inter-terminal shuttle bus stop. Noted in 5 minutes were Citaros BP08WNE/H/J/M (and they also have C/D/F/G/L). Their OC appears to be right next to the coach park I have just mentioned.

A vastly rewarding hour or so this - and our buses are so much quieter than all those gaudily painted tubes flying about. I know that member Ian Sant has a special affinity with both though - and, if he reads this, would he please contact me on wirefantony@yahoo.co.uk

Tony's Back bit!

First, a few updates. Another with NSL Services (formerly NCP) at Heathrow is Enterprise Plasma KX58 LJA. Meanwhile, Keith Buckley - who is clearly an expert on Tyne & Wear buses - has confirmed SVK 607G as the i/d for the Red Bus Cafe on the A64 Leeds - York road. You can google the registration for some shots of this ex Newcastle/TWPTE Leyland Atlantean, new in 1969.

Last month I asked about Volvo / Van Hool bandbus / caravan JNZ 6005. This one is formerly ADV 141Y and WSV 506. It was once with Trathens down in Devon, and a string of other bandbus operators. Recently reregistered, in later years it has worked in motorsport and seems to have connections with Yorkshire.

Reported from London are Iveco CC95 P388 ARY and Autosan BV57 MOA, both working for Vitalise. This is a national charity operating from several centres but maybe based in Essex, providing short respite breaks for disabled and visually impaired people and carers. The Iveco was formerly with Rennie of Dunfermline and the Autosan exhibited at the 2007 Coach and Bus Live at the NEC.

Two more in London. Leyland Tiger G329 SVV is with St James the Great RC junior and primary school in Thornton Heath. Formerly with Viceroy in Essex and Newton in Surrey. Still south of the river, Sutton Grammar School has 70 seat 16 year-old Javelin L479 XOU. Never a PSV this one, previously being 75 KK 13 with the RAF.

Thirty-two seat MB 811D P332 TGS has been seen in Romford still with the Borough of Redbridge. This council has some smart looking new Mercedes-Benz in a modern paint scheme - and this one looks decidedly dated by comparison in their old cream and light blue colours. I am told it has a twin sister, P331 TGS, in a fleet that has quite a few 'bigger' buses that I hope to be able to say more on in a later mag.

Down on the edge of the New Forest, Ringwood has a lovely little Wilts & Dorset depot next to a stream and a smart old pub. It also has Metrobus B98 WUL parked in a yard near the town centre on the B road to Christchurch. Formerly M1098 with London Transport and later Sullivan, this is now owned by the local WOTS project. 'Word on the Street' this stands for, their website having a picture of the pink and blue bus which is used as an entertainment centre for local youth.

Another driving school, this time in West Yorkshire. L&T Transport Training Services of Fitzwilliam have Javelin K942 OPX, once with Lewisham Council in London. Click on 'Category D' on their website homepage for a picture.

Arthur Shelton has been out and about in Birmingham again. Catching the 50 to Highgate from the city centre and getting off at the Joseph Chamberlain College, he visited the Oliver U Tallett minibus dealers on Moseley Rd, which is about 100 yards past the bus stop on the right hand

side. Asking at the desk, he found the owner - Mr Don Thomas - nice to talk to. Allowed a look around, 24 non-PSV minibuses were noted.

A tip from Arthur. Taking the bus three stops back towards town from here and getting off at Leopold St, turning left up here and then first right brings you to Calthorpe Special Needs School. Between 15.25 - 15.40 here you will log 30 to 40 West Midlands ring and ride minis.

Now for a report from Mike Pinder in South Wales. At the Pillgwenlly church in Newport is Alexander bodied Scania N113DRB decker F154DET titled 'Sky Bus' and painted with a brightly coloured hot air balloon with children in the basket. New with BTS Borehamwood, Herts in 1989 and later 4154 of MidlandFox / Arriva Midlands this one, before being traded to Ensign.

Seen by me at the Leven Stagecoach depot has been MB 711D N133 LAG. Once 41188 with Strathtay, this was donated by Stagecoach to the Kingdom Off Road Motorcycle Club in Methill. Photo in the 'gallery' on their website.

Another bandbus. Volvo B12(T) R3 BNM was once with Bromwich of Southam in Warwickshire. It is now with Langson VIP from the Bristol area, the company run by the owners of NiteFlite before this sold to Silvergrey of Sussex a couple of years back. The website has some stunning photographic insights into how the other half travel!

Laid up for a while near Piccadilly station and only recently revitalised is former West Midlands and Stockport County Football Club Metrobus LOA 360X. This runs now for the Gio-Goi clothing company. Seen recently at the Westfields shopping centre in West London looks to be a caravan/mobile storeroom - a windscreen sticker shows it was at the Glastonbury Festival in 2005. If you want some clues on self confidence and how to promote yourself take a look at these guys' website!

That's it then for this month - and for 2009. A million thanks to those who have contributed this year. Let's be hearing from more of you please. Best wishes from me to you all for a great Christmas, and some truly memorable spotting in 2010. Tony

The Christmas Quiz

Our visits co-ordinator thought we ought to have a bit of a festive quiz, a good idea the rest of use thought so having expanded it a little bit here we go. The first prize will be a twelve month membership to the GB-Bus Group with runner up prizes of a 2010 Stagecoach Book, a CT Plus Corgi model and a Johnsons of Henley bag. Send in your answers to Ken Pitt at the address on page 2, the closing date will be January 16th and the winners will be notified the following week. Should two people have the same number of correct answers a draw will take place, so get your thinking caps on.

- 1) On what date did the infamous bus de-regulation take place?
- 2) What is the connection between Johnsons and "The Blues"?
- 3) Between which two points does the longest route operated by National Express operate and who is the contracted operator?
- 4) The Optare factory in Leeds was originally home to another famous bus builder who?
- 5) In which town or City are the following Bus Stations located?

Bretonside
Marlborough Street
Gloucester Green
The Hard
Pool Meadow

Queensgate
Buchanan Street
Shudehill
Broadmarsh
Eldon Square

The Gallery



Photos Credits

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-------------------|
| Front Cover: | Stagecoach Lancaster Dennis Trident caught in the snow exiting Lancaster Bus Station | (Stuart Harrison) |
| Rear Cover: | Classic Coaches Optare Solo YL02 FKY in AD122 livery | |
| | Arriva 1201 heading through Haltwhistle on its way to Newcastle from Carlisle | |
| | Stagecoach Northwest 42190 (S190 RAO) showing off the Hadrian Wall livery | |
| | Chambers of Moneymore Mercedes-Benz at rest whilst a party visits Vindolanda | |
| | Hodgsons of Barnard Castle Plaxton Cheetah MH52 BUS on a service to Richmond | (Alan Hayward) |