

Trident

the monthly magazine of the

GB Bus Group

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Notice Board

Editors Bit

Welcome to the New Year, slight gremlins on page 2 last month, South West rep is now of course Geoff Moseley, and not Geoff Colclough apologies to you both there, an old version slipped in.

I do hope Santa brought you what you wished for, some bottles of Ruddles County came my way. Which leads me nicely in to a new venture recently set up by a couple of the chaps in Yorkshire which you can read about later in the magazine. Don't forget to make your new years resolution to get you reports and sighting in thanks very much.

Group News

Notice is hear by given that the Groups Annual General Meeting will be held at the Aston Manor Transport Museum in Aston , Birmingham on February 13th 2010 at 12 noon. The museum will be open again at 11am for those that wish to have a look around beforehand. Can you please advise the Secretary if you intend to attend, likewise any apologies for those who cannot thankyou.

Our first trip of 2010 will take place on Saturday March 6th. Ken advises that will are no longer able to call at Harding but will instead be visiting Dudleys of Radford and Eurolines, instead. Departing from Birmingham Smallbrook Queensway at 10am we will be visiting Johnsons of Henley, First Midland Red at Worcester and Redditch with Diamond Bus to be confirmed, we will also be calling at Wythall Transport Museum for it first opening of the year 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 February 2010 magazine will be January 28th.

Contributions

Thanks go to Stuart Martin, Alan Spencer, Tony Hunter, Mike Pinder, Arthur Moore, Steve Jenner, Marc Baker, Barry Harper, 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, 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.

A very warm welcome to the following; J Anderson (Sheffield), Keith Bailey (Stockton-on-Tees), David Croft (Stoke-on-Trent), Alan Duckworth (Tamworth), Alan Lillford (Pontefract), Donald McKinnell (Rugby), Roger Moore (Bristol), Graham Mottram (Stockton-on-Tees), Christopher Ness (Sheffield), Adrian Rhodes (Ilminster), Brian Russell (Saltburn-by-the-Sea), Stephen Silcock (Newcastle upon Tyne), Ian Singleton (Barrowford), Phil Southall (Gateshead), Raymond Taylor (Bournemouth), Rodney Tew (Towcester)

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 five 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 four 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
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News from the Industry

The Wellglade Group parent to trentbarton have announced that they are in the final stages of negotiation to purchase the 100 vehicle fleet of Halfway based TM Travel

National Express finally opened the newly reopened Digbeth Coach Station in Birmingham. The official opening was carried out by England manager Fabio Capello who sighed the first coach to depart the new facility MK Metros FJ09 DXK, which carries a special livery in support of the England football team in the forthcoming World Cup. The new station features 16 loading bays, arranged herringbone style with a completely segregated passenger area. Automatic gates allow entry and exit to the station allowing only one coach at a time to arrive or depart. Once loaded drivers have to wait for a green light behind to show them it is safe to reverse off. It will be interesting to see how well this works at 3 am when the overnight coaches descend en masse.

Alexander Dennis Ltd has avoided any job cuts at its Falkirk body building factory by reaching an agreement with the Unions to implement a three day working week until March.

Arriva has sold its Burtons Coaches operation to its managing Director Paul Cooper, through his Yellow Star Travel Services company. The fleet of coaches along with the current staff will transfer to the new owner, as will the leased depot at Duddery Hill.

The Go Ahead Group has completed its purchase of Plymouth CityBus for £20 million. Andrew Wickham take up the post of Managing Director, having previously been operations Director at Go South Coast. The current MD of PCB, John Ashton has taken on a Group role at Go Ahead in London.

The group is also currently in talks with Ipswich Borough Council about purchasing the council's 70 vehicle fleet.

The Government has announced grants worth £30m, for the purchase of 349 Green buses, specific manufacturers have not yet been disclosed but the recipients of grants with the names of the successful operators along with the amount of buses they will receive is detailed below in order of size of order
GMPTE [66], Transport for London [46], Stagecoach in Manchester [30], Stagecoach in Oxfordshire [26], Rotala Group [23], First West Yorkshire [22], Reading Transport Limited [20], National Express West Midlands [20], First Manchester [14], Cumfybus [13], Mike de Courcey Travel [13], Hatch Green Coaches [9], Beacon Coaches [9], Tyne and Wear PTE Nexus [8], On a Mission Coaches [6], Johnsons, Henley-in-Arden [4], Nottingham City Council [4], Bullocks Coaches [4], Durham County Council [3], Milton Keynes Council [3], Blueworks Taxis [2], Ipswich Buses [2], Bath and North East Somerset Council [1]. I will have more information on the types expected next month.

Fleet News

Arriva

Classic Coaches New is V1 SFC a Van Hool Altano, for use on Sunderland AFC duties. It replaces a Scania / Irizar PB previously used on the duty.

London: DW103-134 moved into Brixton as planned on November 27th, as planned. Also moving garages have been ENL1-14 which are now at Clapton from Ash Grove, they still operate route 393. Citaro bendis MA1-44 have been stood down, in store at Ash Grove. They have been replaced on routes 29, 73 and 149 by MA77-123 which have been freed from route 38. ADL9-23 are moving to Arriva Scotland via Pickering at Derby, where they are being refurbished and converted to single door layout. Route 242 has transferred from Stamford Hill (SF) to Clapton (CT) with the following buses moving with it DLA371-388 and VLW86-96. DLA228 is now back at Norwood (N), after a spell at Arriva Southern Counties. A couple of other movements have been ADL65 EC - CN: DLA142 AR - TH: DW201 WN - CT: DWL21 TH - EC: MA124, 125, 126 AE - EC: PDL115, 116 EC - CT: RMC1453, RML901 EC - SF: Arriving at Norwood garage around Christmas were the first of 34 ADL Trident 2 / Enviro 400s for use on route 133 from January 23rd

T84	LJ59 LZD	T93	LJ59 LZO	T102	LJ59 LZB	T110	LJ59 LYK
T85	LJ59 LZE	T94	LJ59 LYT	T103	LJ59 LZC	T111	LJ59 LYO
T86	LJ59 LZF	T95	LJ59 LYU	T104	LJ59 LYA	T112	LJ59 LYP
T87	LJ59 LZG	T96	LJ59 LYV	T105	LJ59 LYC	T113	LJ59 LYS
T88	LJ59 LZH	T97	LJ59 LYW	T106	LJ59 LYD	T114	LJ59 LXP
T89	LJ59 LZK	T98	LJ59 LYX	T107	LJ59 LYF	T115	LJ59 LXR
T90	LJ59 LZL	T99	LJ59 LYY	T108	LJ59 LYG	T116	LJ59 LXS
T91	LJ59 LZM	T100	LJ59 LYZ	T109	LJ59 LYH	T117	LJ59 LXT
T92	LJ59 LZN	T101	LJ59 LZA				

Midlands: New into service at Telford are a batch of VDL Bus DB200 / Wright Pulsar 2s, they replace a similar number of Wright Commanders on route 44

3742	YJ59 BVA	3746	YJ59 BVH	3750	YJ59 BVN	3753	YJ59 BUU
3743	YJ59 BVB	3747	YJ59 BVK	3751	YJ59 BUO	3754	YJ59 BUV
3744	YJ59 BVF	3748	YJ59 BVL	3752	YJ59 BUP	3755	YJ59 BUW
3745	YJ59 BVG	3749	YJ59 BVM				

North East: New at Blyth are VDL Bus DB300 / Wright double decks

7601	NK59 DLO	7605	NK59 DLY	7609	NK59 DMO	7613	NK59 DMY
7602	NK59 DLU	7606	NK59 DLZ	7610	NK59 DMU	7614	NK59 DMZ
7603	NK59 DLV	7607	NK59 DME	7611	NK59 DMV	7615	NK59 DND
7604	NK59 DLX	7608	NK59 DMF	7612	NK59 DMX		

Following the arrival of these Blyth's allocation Scania N113s have been withdrawn 7254, 7256, 7386, 7388, 7389, 7390, 7391, 7392 and 7393. DAF DB250 7442 has moved to Ashington with 7441 and 7265 transferring to Durham. Currently in store at Hexham are 7254, 7389, 7390 and 7392. Other movements have been 1537 Stockton - withdrawn: 1657 Darlington - Redcar: 1696 reserve - Redcar: 1697 Bishop Auckland - Redcar: 3016 Redcar - Stockton: 4015 Ashington - withdrawn: 4083, 4097 Redcar - withdrawn: 4108 withdrawn - Ashington: 7255 Peterlee - reserve: 7449 Bishop Auckland - Peterlee: 7506 Blyth - Ashington: 7514, 7515 Blyth - Bishop Auckland:

Two demonstrators in use at the moment are VDL SB200 / Wright YJ59 AZA and a Temsa Avenue YJ59 AZV, both in use Redcar pending arrival of more of the types.

It was announced at the beginning of December that the depots at Alnwick, Bishop Auckland and Peterlee will close from the end of February, but a new depot at Belmont will become operational.

North West: Withdrawn have been Dennis Darts 1198 and 1215

Southern Counties: Transferred in to Northfleet, from Maidstone are a pair of Plaxton Pointer bodied Darts 3408 (P328 HVX) and 3410 (O330 HVX).

The Shires: Optare Aleros 0443 (YS02 UBX) and 0444 (YS02 UBY) have been returned to Essex County Council. Sold to Hardwicks for scrap have been M-B Varios 2173 and 2196 along with Olympian 5118, with Scania 3160 and Volvo B10B 3845 being sold to Ensignbus. Movements recently have been

2177 HA - HH: 2373 HH - w: 3117 WB - WBU: 3160 HH - HHu: 3201 SV - WB: 3229 HH - HA: 3843 WB - w: 4365 HH - LD: 5134 WB - w

Wales: Now at Aberystwyth are three Optare Tempo X1200 B41Fs 2870 (YJ55 BJE), 2871 (YJ55 BJB) and 2872 (YJ55 BJK). These were previously operated by First Cymru as 64501-3. Arriva have taken them as a result of First withdrawing from the Taws Cambria service which is now operated entirely by Arriva. Also now at Aberystwyth are 694 and 695 with 7565 being at Llandudno Junction.

First Group

Bristol: National Express operations, based on Lawrence Hill will cease January as the 040 service currently operated has been lost to South Gloucestershire.

East Scotland: A new arrival at Galashiels, transferred up from Essex where it worked on the Aircoach service, is Mercedes-Benz O.814D /Plaxton Cheetah 56004 (EY54 BPX)

South Yorkshire: A large swap of vehicles between here and First Glasgow has been underway for the last few weeks, Departing to Glasgow have been these Volvo B7TL / B9TLs

31787 YN53 EFE	31796 YN53 EFP	31747 YN06 URA	37238 YN08 LCT
31788 YN53 EFF	31797 YN53 EFR	31748 YN06 URB	37239 YN08 LCU
31789 YN53 EFG	31798 YN53 EFT	31749 YN06 URC	37240 YN08 LCV
31790 YN53 EFH	31799 YN53 EFU	31750 YN06 URD	37241 YN08 LCW
31791 YN53 EFJ	31800 YN53 EFV	31751 YN06 URE	37242 YN08 LCY
31792 YN53 EFK	31801 YN53 EFW	31752 YN06 URF	37243 YN08 LCZ
31793 YN53 EFL	31802 YN53 EFX	31753 YN06 URG	37244 YN08 LDA
31794 YN53 EFM	31803 YN53 EFZ	31754 YN06 URH	37245 YN08 LDC
31795 YN53 EFO	31804 YN53 EGC	31755 YN06 URJ	37278 YN08 LDD

From Glasgow should be the following Volvo B7RLEs which will be allocated to Oliver Grove.

61631 SH51 MKF	69018 SF55 UAL	69030 SF55 UAY	69048 SF55 UBJ
61633 SH51 MKJ	69020 SF55 UAN	69031 SF55 UAZ	69049 SF55 UBK
61636 SJ51 DHD	69022 SF55 UAP	69032 SF55 UBA	69050 SF55 UBL
61638 SJ51 DHF	69023 SF55 UAR	69033 SF55 UBT	69051 SF55 UBM
61639 SJ51 DHG	69024 SF55 UAS	69043 SF55 UBC	69052 SF55 UBN
61662 SJ51 DKK	69025 SF55 UAT	69044 SF55 UBD	69053 SF55 UBO
69012 SF55 UAD	69026 SF55 UAU	69045 SF55 UBE	69054 SF55 UBP
69013 SF55 UAE	69028 SF55 UAW	69046 SF55 UBG	69055 SF55 UBR
69017 SF55 UAK	69029 SF55 UAX	69047 SF55 UBH	69056 SF55 UBS

37529 has moved from Olive Grove to Rotherham to replace 37147 which has moved to Glasgow. 37505-37508 are now at Doncaster to replace buses that have gone to Glasgow

Go Ahead

Bluestar: Acquired from Wilts & Dorset in October were 744 and 748 M744/48 HDL Volvo Olympian Northern Counties.

Metrobus: Five Scania Omnidekkas, that are now surplus are being transferred here, following conversion to single door and repaint into Vectis colours 1051 (YU52 XVL), 1052 (YU52 XVM), 1053 (YU52 XVN), 1054 (YN03 DFL) and 1055 (YN03 DFP).

North East: Recent movements within the fleet 518/20 Deptford-Percy Main: 521 Deptford - Washington: 534 Washington - Winlaton: 600, 601, 602, 614, 615, 3808 withdrawn: 3938 Deptford - Chester-le-Street: 8167, 8168, 8169 Deptford - Washington: 8174 Gateshead-Percy Main: 8293 De-licenced - Deptford. 3963-3965 at Gateshead for the X9

Livery changes over the last couple of months :- 3885/9 are now plain pink without Angel vinyls, - 3966/7/8/70/4/8/9/80-3 are all now in service (Angel), 4909 has revised Diamond branding following a full repaint, 4935/6/7/42/3/5201-10 are now in revised Fab Fifty Six livery, 5275-8 are now in revised Red Arrows livery and 5279 is now plain red

Southern Vectis: Service changes at the end of December render six Dennis Dart MPDs and seven M-B Citaro surplus to requirements, The MPDs 300 (HW52 EPX), 303 (HW54 BTX), 305 (HW54 BTZ), 306 (HW54 BUA), 307 (HW54 BUE) and 309 (HW54 BUH) will cascade to Wilts & Dorset at Salisbury and the Citaros 451 (HW07 CXS), 452 (HW07 CXR), 453 (HW07 CXT), 454 (HW07 CXU), 455 (HW07 CXV), 456 (HW07 CXX) AND 457 (HW07 CXY) will move to Bluestar.

Tourist Coaches: Acquired in October from Wilts & Dorset were 3 Optare Solo's, 2544/45 N544/45 NFX and 2688 X688 XJT. They are allocated to Figheldean, Fovant and Figheldean respectively.

Wilts & Dorset: In addition to the vehicles noted above being transferred in from Southern Vectis, the company has also acquired from the same source, 3 Volvo Olympian Northern Counties, namely 753-55 R753-55 GDL.

National Express Group

Operations: 8350, 8351 HO - CY: 8568, 8569 SC - AL: C060, C063, C076 CY - SR: C950 (Y301HUA) - CY: C951 (Y302HUA) - SH: C952 (Y303HUA) - SR: C953 (Y322HUA) - CY: C954 (Y324HUA) - CY: C955 (Y326HUA) - CY. Fiver more unregistered Cobus have been also been added 8641-8645

West Midlands: Latest fleet changes with my grateful thanks to Tony Hunter

313, 314 WA - res: 503 PE - res: 525 AG - res: 553 PE - res: 1340 WN - res: 1344 PB - res: 1404 WA - res: 1444 PE - PB: 1445 WA - res: 1455 YW - PB: 1461,1471 WA - res: 1520, 1521 LH - PE: 1523 LH - WB:1540, 1554 LH - PE: 1592 LH - WB: 1666, 1668, 1669, 1670, 1671, 1672 BY - LH: 2753 YW - LHw: 2760, 2790, 2819, 2865, 2887, 2903 WA - w: 3011, 3024, 3030, 3062 PB - w: 3100 WN - w: 4238, 4243, 4245, 4246, 4247 BC - PB: 4248 BC - WB: 4254, 4256, 4258 BC - PB: 4348, 4350, 4364, 4366, 4368, 4425, 4426 YW-BC: DN08TLJ numbered A873

Stagecoach

Bluebird: New arrivals at Peterhead are more Plaxton Panther bodied Volvo B12B(T) 54069 (SV59 CHJ), 54070 (SV59 CHK), 54071 (SV59 CHL), 54072 (SV59 CHN), 54073 (SV59 CHO), 54074 (SV59 CHX) and 54075 (SV59 CHY). These have freed up Volvo B7Rs 53203-53210 and 53212 to move up to Highland. Others have been 13512 MY - AB: 14726 MY - res: 16522 BU - MY: 19047 Fife - AB: 19377 AB - FW: 20118 MY - res:, 20875 MY - AB: 32306 MY - IS: 33430 AB - IS: 40079 res - West Scotland: 40640 MY - AB: 53220 MY - TO: 53221 MY - BU: 53214 MY - OY:

Cambridgeshire: Volvo B10Ms 20321, 20568, 20573 and 20574 have been placed into reserve being replaced at Ely by newer ones 20845, 20846 and 20847

East: Three vehicles have been sold during the last period Leyland Olympian 14068 to Wigleys (Barnsley), Volvo Olympian16222 to Ensignbus and Dennis Dart 32006 to RM Buses

East Kent & Hastings: A pair of Optare Versa are awaiting entry into service, owned by Kent CC 25242 (YJ59 GFK) and 25243 (YJ59 GFO). Leyland Olympians 14813, 14821, 14823, 14825, 14826, 14828, 14829 and 14830 have all been sold from the fleet. Other internal movements have been 15338 TH - res: 15364 HS - AD: 16381 HY - res: 16385 HY - res: 16385 HY - AD 16387, 16388, 16389 FO - AD: 16740 HY - HS: 18164-18168 res - FO: 18169-18171 res - HY: 18174 res - EB: 18331 res - HY: 20637 res - DO: 26081 EB - dis:

East Midlands: The MCW Metrobuses at Skegness 15394, 15952, 15958, 15972 and 15977 have gone into hibernation for the winter at Louth, A couple of months of information to get through :- 16905 GY - SK: 16906 GY - LI: 16918 SK - HL: 16920 LI - HL: 17710, 177711 HL - GY: 20277 dis - SP (res): 20278 dis - MD(res): 20413 dis - SP(res): 20414 dis - MD(res): 20491 dis - LO(res): 20492 dis - SP(res): 20493 dis - SP: 20494 dis - LO(res): 20495 dis - MD(res): 20498, 20499 res - SP: 20510, 20664 dis - LO(res): 20665 dis - SP(res): 20667 dis - LO(res): 20668 dis - NK(res): 20670 dis - SP(res): 20789 res - SP: 52310 SK - res: 52146 res - dis: 52310 res - LI: 52446 SK - LI(rr): 52617, 52618, 52619 SK(rr) - S/C South 52621 SK - LI 52622, 52623 SK(rr) - LI(rr): 52623 LI - S/C South: 52642 SK - S/C North East (on loan)

East Scotland: A lot to get through this month, following entry into service of new buses, a few weeks ago, further cascading of vehicles down through the fleet:- 16245 dis - P: 16409, 16415 S - R: 16421, 16423, 16424 res - R: 16428, 16429 A - S: 16430 A - R: 16673, 16678, 16679, 16682, 16890, 16891, 16893 dis - sold to Ensign: 16894, 16895 R - dis: 18129, 18130 S/C Oxford - G: 20148 C - res: 20304, 20307 A - res: 20325 res - P: 20341 D - res: 22266, 22267, 22268 G - res(for refurbishment): 22406 S - C: 22881 C - S: 27603-27605 new - A: 27606-27608 new - D: 27609 new - C: 27610 new - G: 27611 new - C: 27612, 27613 new - G (a slight change to the original plan with these last few): 32206, 32207 A - res: 32213 C - res: 32307 res - StrathTay: 42356 res - S: 47224 P - S: 47259 S - P: 52018 R - res: 52420 D - res (Chassis repair): 53275, 53276, 53297 S/C Western - res: 59671 res - R:

Highlands: Little to record here but some Volvo B7Rs transferred from Bluebird are 53203, 53206 and 53212 at Thurso with 53204, 53208 and 53211 on Orkney.

Manchester: The full batch of the MAN engined ADL Trident 2 / ADL Enviro 400s to be found on the 192

19621	MX59 KHO	19626	MX59 KHV	19631	MX59 KJE	19636	MX59 KJO
19622	MX59 KHP	19627	MX59 KHW	19632	MX59 KJF	19637	MX59 KJV
19623	MX59 KHR	19628	MX59 KHY	19633	MX59 KJJ	19638	MX59 KJY
19624	MX59 KHT	19629	MX59 KHZ	19634	MX59 KJK	19639	MX59 KJZ
19625	MX59 KHU	19630	MX59 KJA	19635	MX59 KJN	19640	MX59 KAA

Also new are these ADL Enviro200Darts which are being allocated to Ashton garage

36095	MX59 JAO	36100	MX59 JBV	36105	MX59 JCU	36110	MX59 JDJ
36096	MX59 JAU	36101	MX59 JBY	36106	MX59 JCV	36111	MX59 JDK
36097	MX59 JBE	36102	MX59 JBZ	36107	MX59 JCY	36112	MX59 JDO
36098	MX59 JBO	36103	MX59 JCJ	36108	MX59 JCZ	36113	MX59 JDU
36099	MX59 JBU	36104	MX59 JCO	36109	MX59 JDF		

ADL Enviro 400s 19478 and 19479 have had there registrations swapped so that 19478 is now MX58 UTT and 19479 is MX59 UTS, this is to tie up paperwork issues. Other re-allocations have been 16759, 16798 PS - HE: 17642, 17647 AZ - res: 17648 HE - PS: 17661, 17662, 17663, 17664 PS - res: 18284 ST - PS: 18285-18291 HE - PS: 19396, 19406, 19407, 19408, 19458 ST - HE: 19461, 19462, 19488 ST - PS: 22143 HE - AZ: 26128 ST - S/C Yorkshire:

Merseyside: The second batch of MAN 18.240 / ADL Enviro 300 B46Fs are now in service

24154	PO59 MWG	24159	PO59 MWN	24163	PO59 MWW	24167	PO59 MXA
24155	PO59 MWJ	24160	PO59 MWP	24164	PO59 MWX	24168	PO59 MXB
24156	PO59 MWK	24161	PO59 MWU	24165	PO59 MWY	24169	PO59 MXC
24157	PO59 MWL	24162	PO59 MWV	24166	PO59 MWZ	24170	PO59 MXD
24158	PO59 MWM						

North East: (Busways) Movements to record this time around; 20255 d/l - WE: 22347 WE - d/l: 22467d/l - SU: 22728 SU - d/l: 32624 SS - d/l: 32769 res - dis: 32781 SU - res: 32785 SL - sold: 32789 d/l - SL: 32793 SS - sold: 33101 res - SS: 33121 d/l - SU: 33389, 33392, 33825 res - SS: 34613, 35187 SS - d/l:

(Transit): Leyland Olympian 14676 has been sold from the fleet, movements 20124, 20550, 22063, 22064 SC - d/l: 22202 22211 d/l - SC: 22456 SC - d/l: 22659, 22669, 22670 d/l - SC:

North West: Plenty to get through this time, now that the new Scania's have settled in at Chorley the Dennis Tridents that were used on the 125/126 service have moved to either Barrow for the 6 service linking Ulverston with Barrow 18138-18144 or Preston, for use on the 68 service to Blackpool 18145-18156. Preston also receive 18156-18159. Several buses have been drafted in to Lillyhall to help out with additional services needed owing to the recent floods in the area 16249, 16647, 16874, 20473, 20735, 20737, 20754, 20776, 20790, 20918, 20994, 42025, 42577, 47006 are all now there with the Volvo B10M / Jonckherre coaches, displaced from the X4 / X5 by the new B7Rs, remaining in service.

South: The first of a new batch of Scania N230UD / ADL Enviro 400s, that will replace Tridents on the 700 "Coastliner" service have arrived, but have yet to be allocated 15585 (GX59 JYS), 15586 (GX59 JYT) an d15587 (GX59 JYU). A couple of months of movements to record 33375, 33376, 33378 East Kent - res: 33380 East Kent - PM: 33381, 33382 East Kent - res: 52617, 52618, 52619, 52623 East Midlands - Rail replacement unit: 32467 d/l - res: 52197 res - AD: 52231 AD - dis: 52260 res - dis: Departures have been 14955 and 14973 to Ensignbus, 14956 to Nu-Venture and 14071 to Charlton-On-Otmoor Services.

South West: The new ADL Enviro's, noted last month, for the Exeter Park & Ride all entered service during December. Other movements consist 41994 WN - dis: 42108 WN - res: 47579, 47580, 47581 EX - WN: 49609, 49755 res - dis: Mercedes 814 59611 (TXI 8761) is no longer in the fleet

Strathay & Perth: 22252 is off the road with engine trouble at the moment its place at Dundee be taken by Volvo B10B 21051 (M151 FGB). Additional service at Perth has lead to the arrival of Volvo Olympian 16245 and Volvo B10M 20325 from Fife.

Wales: Just the one to note Volvo B10M 20357 has been scrapped.

Warwickshire: Enviro 27502 is now back in service at Rugby. Following repairs and Volvo B10M 20213 moves back into the reserve fleet, along with Leyland Olympian 14023 from Leamington and Volvo Olympian 16580 from Stratford. 47010 is now back in service at Leamington.

West: Just a single change this month 20812 CO - res

West Scotland: A quietish month this one mainly coach movements 13644 AY - d/l: 40079 donated to Charity: 50136 res - AY: 51097 AY - CK: 52262 AN - d/l: 52279 SR - DS(res): 52284, 52354 GW(jv) - GW: 52356 SR - DS(res): 52359, 52510 GW - GW(jv): 52602 SR - DS(res): 54076 GW - K:

Yorkshire: Not much this time around 20440, 20496 res - dis: 26128 (R990 FNW) Manchester - HK: 32933 CH - dis: 33232 HK - CH: Several Dennis Dart SLF's are due from Manchester.

Transdev

Harrogate & District: The X54 Yorkshire Express service linking Harrogate with York was withdrawn during December owing to a reduction in concessionary pass reimbursement, which has cost the company an estimated £300,000

Keighley & District: Transferred in from Burnley have been Dennis Darts 779 (X579 MBH) and 747 (V548 JBH)

Lancashire United: Transferred from Burnley & Pendle has been Optare Solo 1259 (W301 EYG) and is in use along with 1253 (W253 EYG) on the new "Whalley Ranger" service for which they carry a special orange and white livery.

London United: Yet more new Scania Omnicity double decks have entered service SP88-108 are at Fulwell, with the remainder at Shepherd's Bush usually on the 148.

SP94	YT59 SFY	SP105	YT59 DXY	SP116	YR59 FYX	SP126	YT59 PBF
SP95	YT59 SFZ	SP106	YT59 DXZ	SP117	YR59 FYY	SP127	YT59 PBO
SP96	YT59 SGO	SP107	YT59 DYX	SP118	YR59 FYZ	SP128	YT59 PBV
SP97	YT59 SGU	SP108	YT59 DYY	SP119	YR59 FZA	SP129	YT59 PBX
SP98	YT59 SGV	SP109	YR59 FYO	SP120	YR59 FZB	SP130	YT59 PBY
SP99	YT59 SGX	SP110	YR59 FYP	SP121	YR59 FZC	SP131	YT59 PBZ
SP100	YT59 SGY	SP111	YR59 FYS	SP122	YR59 FZD	SP132	YT59 PCF
SP101	YT59 SGZ	SP112	YR59 FYT	SP123	YR59 FZE	SP133	YT59 PCO
SP102	YT59 SHJ	SP113	YR59 FYU	SP124	YR59 FZF	SP134	YT59 PCU
SP103	YT59 SHV	SP114	YR59 FYV	SP125	YR59 FZG	SP135	YT59 PBU
SP104	YT59 SFF	SP115	YR59 FYW				

Quite a few changes in the last part of the year DE50-56 have appeared, but running out of Edgware. DPS504, 506, 508, 513, 514, 516, 526, 533, 534 and 551 have moved to store from Edgware. DP53, 61 AV - HH: DP89 HH - AV: DPS521, 522, 524 HH - SO: DPS547 SO - HH: DPS628 HH - TV: DPS657 SO - TV: TA229, 231, 235-238, 245 FW - TV: VA67, 69, 70 S - Sw: VA87, 89, 98, 103 S - AV:

Independent Operators

East Midlands

Gills Travel: A new operation based in Ashworth, Nottingham, with a initial fleet of three Dennis Darts, Northern Counties bodied L134 YVK and two Wright Handybus M146 VVS and M147 VVS all painted in an all over yellow livery.

Hulley's (Baslow): New here are two Dennis Dart SLFs / MCV Evolution's PL06 TFZ and PL06 TGF coming from Blue Bus (Lancashire). Dennis Dart / Plaxton P120 GSR has gone in part exchange.

Premiere Travel (Nottingham): Noted operating in late December has been ADL Enviro 200 KX59 GNY, in plain white, Alan Spencer notes that it is probably here on demonstration.

Trent Barton: Plenty of changes to record. The Optare Excels that have been the mainstay of the 199 "Skyline" Buxton - Manchester Airport service for the last few years have been replaced at Dove Holes by Scania L94UB / Wright Solars 640-648 although the arrival of 647 has been delayed whilst it has some work carried out on it. Excels 263 and 264 have moved to Derby and carry Derby College fleet names. A further arrival for the Derby Community bus network is 1014 (KX59 CYA)

Yourbus (Nottingham): More buses for the steadily expanding fleet come in the form of five Wright endurance bodied Volvo B10Bs 3001 (M517 WHF), 3002 (M549 MTJ), 3003 (M526 WHF), 3004 (M556 YEM) and 3005

Eastern Counties

Charter Travel (Bassingbourn): A recent arrival is Dennis Dart /UVG N811 PDL, from Southern Vectis, whose livery it currently retains.

Greys (Ely): Latest arrival here is Mercedes Tourismo G20 ELY. The Volvo B10B's recently arrived from City of Oxford have had the single door conversion carried out have gained new registrations P631 FFC is now ESU308 and P634 FFC now ESU 307. The Plaxton Cheetah mentioned a couple of months ago is registered ESU 394.

Kiddles (St Ives): A Pair of Volvo B10B / Northern Counties are new in the fleet K128 BUD and K130 BUD

Myalls (Bassingbourn): New here is YN09 KHH a Dennis Javelin / Plaxton Profile C70F

Simmonds (Diss): Several Enterprise Bus / Plaxton Primo B28F midibuses have joined the fleet recently 80 (KX57 FMK), 81 (KX57 FMM), 82 (KX07 KNZ) and 83 (YN57 BXM). Opatre Solo M920 B33F 67 (KX04 HRA) is also new here along with a couple of coaches Volvo B12B / Van Hool C49F 09 (GM06 GSM) and Volvo B10M / Van Hool C49F 02 (DSU116). Departures have been M-B Varios 80 (X182 BNH), 81 (X181BNH) and 82 (V378 SVV) along with Volvo B0M / Plaxton 20 (TCF 496). Mercedes-Benz /Plaxton Beaver 2 AO52 NXD is now registered as MSU 917

SunFun Coaches (Earith): More ex Stagecoach vehicles have arrived in the shape of three Volvo B10M / Alexander PS K700 DSAO, K726 DAO and K729 DAO. A further double deck arrival is an ex Arriva Volvo Citybus / East Lancs H663 GPF.

Whippet (Swavesey): Two ex London United Volvo B7TL / Alexander ALX400s have arrived here for service V183 OOE and V187 OOE, looking forward to seeing these painted up. I cannot recall if I have given the registrations for the Plaxton Centros for use on the Busway route C, so here they are AE59 EHO, AE59 EHP and AE59 HER.

London / Greater London

Anderson: Bova Futura YJ05 FXG is now with South Mimms Travel

Barnes (Barking): Noted here recently has been DAF / Plaxton 4000 NEZ 2363 one time J684 THN and latterly with Connections 4 You at Manston

Bees Travel (Winchmore Hill N14): A new operator to note using Ayats Bravo Y100 ATB

BM Coaches (Hayes): Five new coaches hit the road in early December in the shape of Van Hool T.916 Astrons YJ59 BBE, YJ59 BBF, YJ59 BBV, YJ59 BBX and YJ59 BBZ looking stunning in Black The company calls them "The VIP" and if you see one you will know why. Not sure if I've noted the four Volvo B12B 9700 integrals that have been with the company since July FJ09 XGO, YJ09 XGP, YJ09 XGR YJ09 XGT these carry silver livery. Tony Allen also reports they have YJ09 XGS as well

Carousel Buses: Three MCW Metrobuses have been acquired from Travel West Midlands A707UOE, A744 WVP and B865 DOM

Countryliner (Guildford): Four Dennis Dart SLFs, have been acquired, from Metrobus, which were part of Arrivas operation at Horsham and not required by Metrobus; P268 FPK, P269 FPK, P282 FPK and R303 CMV.

Fleet numbers have been allocated to the ex Arriva Derby Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties R627/631/642 MNU viz; NV627/631/642 respectively.

East London Bus Group: Just in case you were wondering all those Scania Omnicitys noted last month should of course have been in the 15xxx number range, my mistake was glaring when I got the magazine, not so on the computer screen, sorry, anyway on to this months allocation changes 17832, 18239-18256 T - WH: 18266-18277 BW - T: 34310, 34311 TB - res: 34366 res - TL: 34379 TL - res: 34387 res - BK:

Imperial Coaches (Southall): Courtesy of Andrew Webb we can provide a correction to previously published information and an update so over to Andrew "

Just discovered your excellent site on the Internet and have been browsing the sample magazine and came across the mention on Imperial Coaches taking two Volvo B9TL 6x2 / Optare Olympus. This has proved to be slightly inaccurate. I use Imperial for private hire bookings and know the owner well and also the owner of NPC. This is the position: In the event only PN09EOO was delivered and is in use with Imperial. NPC did not take delivery of their vehicle, partly because they failed to sell their existing double decker, an ex Nottingham B10M that is significant as the last step entrance decker delivered for use in the UK. It is registered RED448, but was delivered as FE02 AKX.

NPC (New Punjab Coaches) is a separate company to Imperial. They work closely together as the owners are cousins. Also closely associated are Highwayman Coaches, but all three are separate entities.

In the next few weeks Imperial will be taking delivery of two more Volvo B9TL 6x2 / Optare Olympus to cover school contracts at Chalfont School, which they have won from Chalfont Coaches (no link with the school). Imperial are also operating ex National Express Van Hool DAF T209AUA, this being rebuilt by

them after the previous owner crashed it into a bus station. NPC are sending RED448 for a repaint into white early next year and also taking delivery of a Volvo B9TL 6x2 / Optare Olympus to use on schools

Ensignbus: Ensign Fleet: All 6 Tridents now in service. Dart 722 sold to Brylaine Coaches, Boston.

London Dial a Ride: Latest pair of Tucanas are D7112 (YX59 ACO) and D7113 (YX59 ACU) both allocated to Palmer Green.

Redwing Coaches: Seven Neoplan Tourliners have been in service since September, but it taken until now to get the full batch of registrations 221 (MX59 BYK), this one being in Golden Tours livery, with the rest in Redwing 222 (MX59 BYM), 223 (MX59 BYN), 224 (MX59 BYO), 225 (MX59 BYP), 226 (MX59 BYR) and 227 (MX59 BYS)

Safeguard (Guildford): Associated fleet Farnham Coaches vehicles are now being repainted into Safeguard red and cream.

Southgate & Finchley (Frien Barnet): A batch of former Parks (Hamilton) Volvo B12M / Jonckherre SHV coaches have been bought SF07 XNS (ex LSK 498), SF07 XNX (ex LSK 832)

Uno: Three ex Go Ahead London Transbus President bodied Dennis Trident 2s arrived in early December 270 (PN02 ULM) ex PDL30, 271 (PN03 ULS) ex PDL33 and 272 (PN03 ULZ) ex PDL40. They were pressed into service rather quickly and still carry Go Ahead livery albeit with Uno fleet names.

North East & Yorkshire

Astro Coaches: New here is Mercedes-Benz Vario T313 JWA

Burrells (Barnard Castle): In use here since September has been Volvo B12B(T) / Van Hool AE06 AOC

Compass Royston: Brand new is Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse Urban2 NX59 BYC. Opatre Solo Y256 KNB has been re-registered as T14 CRT and carry's an orange livery for the new University of Teeside Park & Ride service.

Coopers (Anntisford): A new arrival is former Happy Days Scania K340EB / Irizar YJ07 EYG.

Coopers (Bedlington) Recent acquisitions have been Volvo B10M / Alexander PS K746 DAO and P255KSX, P275 KSX

Ingleby (York): Volvo B10M / Van Hool P76 OEW has been sold to Rigbys (Accrington)

M & D Travel: In stock is M310 KRY a Caetano bodied Toyota HZB50R C21F.

Pennine (Skipton): An additional Dennis Dart is D3 (P101 HNH) which was latterly with Stagecoach Warwickshire as its 32001. Older Wright bodied Dart J954 MFT is no longer operated

Thornes Independent (Hemingbrough): Two new coaches that have slipped through the net are a pair of Volvo B12Bs Plaxton bodied TH09 NES and Van Hool TH09 THO

Leven Valley Another ADL Enviro200Dart here is T18 GAJ

Low Fell Travel: A new arrival is Mercedes-Benz / Plaxton Beaver R816 WJA, new logos have been applied to the fleet

Stanley Travel (Oxhill): Mini Pointer Dart Y952 TGH is a new arrival and has been re-registered as Y40 STX also gaining a new coat of Red and White.

Tees Valley Coaches now have BMC Falcon BX55 NZS, along with a new MAN 18.240 / Plaxton Centro YX59 CAA

North West England

ACE Travel: Latest addition is Mini Pointer Dart 721 (V561 JBH)

Bakers (Biddulph): An ADL Enviro 200 has been here on demonstration YX59 BXW

BSS (Bolton): Acquired through Plaxtons at Anston recently has been Volvo B7R / Plaxton Profile YN05 XZB, now registered as C7 BSS and latterly with Cooper (Guisley). Dennis Javelin C7 BSS has changed to W645 MKY and has gone to Plaxton in part exchange

Carvers (Little Sutton): A new Scania / Irizar PB, to go with a similar coach PB08 LEE acquired last year is YT59 SFE

Cumfybus: More Optare Solos have joined the fleet M850 B18F V234 LWU,

Eazibus (Wirral): Optare Solo MX06 ACJ has been returned to Mistral

Finglands: New arrival from parent East Yorkshire are three Volvo B7TL / Plaxton President H47/28F 1797 (YX51 AYD), 1798 (YX51 AYE) and 1799 (YX51 AYP).

Haytons (Manchester): Operating on National Express services is Man R33 / Plaxton Panther MX59 BMV

Hodsons (Clitheroe): A pair of ex Shearings Volvo B12M / Van Hools are now here MV02 UT

registered 515 XRF and MV02 ULW now registered HIG 4437. A spate of other re-registrations consist Volvo B10Ms D572 MVR to PJZ 3171 and G811 BPG to SJI 2194, Neoplan N122/3 YN56 BGE is now BIG 9802. Volvo B10M 515 XRF has regained F214 NLE and has been sold, as has Neoplan YN55 NMK.

Holmeswood: Optare Solo M920 VA51 XFW has been re-registered to L4 HWD

Maghull Coaches: A recent addition is ex Dublin Bus Volvo Olympian K231 KNO ex 92-D-150. Also new here is former Stagecoach Scania N113DRB / Northern Counties K853 LMK, now converted to part open top and used on the Liverpool City Explorer Tour

JP Travel (Middleton): More new buses to record are three ADL Enviro 300s 453 (PT59 JPT), 454 (ST59 JPT) and 455 (RT59 JPT)

JST (Darwen): A recent arrival, from North West Travel is Optare Solo M850 KX51 UCT.

Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire: Two vehicles which are leased from Lancashire CC to operate these services, Optare Solo PJ52 LXL and Optare Alero PN03 UGC have been returned to the County Council. A new arrival, for operation on newly won tendered route 564 linking Kendal with Sedbergh is Optare Solo M920 B33F YK04 KWG, coming from Weardale

M Travel (Sale): A recent purchase is Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer 2 S308 MKH, until recently with Transdev London United as its DP8

Maynes (Warrington): Two new coaches are 61 (YT59 NSK) and 62 (YT59 NZJ) both Scania K310IB4 / Irizar C53F

Maytree Travel (Bolton): The first non Optare Solo operated is ADL Enviro200Dart MX59 AVU

Moving People (Clayton-Le-Moors): More vehicles for the growing fleet come in the shape of three Leyland Lion / East Lancs CH43/37F double decks, coming from Andrews of Tideswell, but originally with Nottingham CT F382 GVO now VIL3382, F383 GVO now VIL 2983 and F385 GVO now VIL 4685. Setras re-registered are EU03 OJG to W9 MOV and EK51 KZF to W7 MOV. Volvo B10M VIA 197 has left the fleet.

Rosendale Transport: Recent news, courtesy of the company, eight Volvo B7RLE/ Wright Eclipse 2 B45Fs are currently in the process of delivery. They have been arriving unpainted and un-registered. They will be numbered 211-218, and are expected to replace Dennis Dart / East Lancs 106-113 on the main 464 service. Also due to be withdrawn before too long are Leyland Olympians 34-36. Following a change in engineering requirements buses are no longer allocated to a particular depot, so some odd working are to be expected.

Shearings: 641 (GT04 AGT) has been transferred to the National Holidays fleet. A further order for another 45 Setra coaches has been placed, 10 for Grand Tourer operation 20 for the main fleet and 15 for National Holidays.

South Lancs Travel: The last of the ex Trent Tigers M54 PRA has been sold to Wealden PSV (dealer), whilst Dennis Dart / ALX200 V928 FMS has once again been withdrawn for disposal

Speedwellbus (Hyde): Noted recently on school services has been G501 SFT a former Arriva North West Northern Counties bodied Volvo Olympian.

F.W. Stainton (Kendal): The Berkhof Axial noted last month B10 AXL has been re-registered as CJZ4251. The reg was latterly on VDL Bus DE4000 / Marcopolo PN05 AOE which has been sold to Wilkins (Cymmer), from where the Berkhof came.

Sotts (Oldham): Two more Optare Solos entering service are M780SL MX07 JNK, new to the defunct Vale of Manchester and M950 MX07 JNV, which had been working with Cumfybus on the Fylde a few months ago.

Sawns (Chadderton): A new bus here is ADL Enviro200Dart MX59 AWA.

Tyrer (Chorley): Scania K114 / Van Hool YR02 ZZO has been re-registered as TYR 5R

Warrington Coachways: Two Enterprise Bus / Plaxton Primo midibuses have been noted in operation of late HIG7791 (ex SF57 JTO) and SF59 BXU. Also thought to be with this operator is Alexander PS bodied Volvo B10M M782 PRS from Arriva The Shires.

Wigan Buses: A third Mini Pointer Dart, not ALX200 as noted last month, from Coackley is SN56 AXA.

Scotland

C & M (Port Glasgow): Acquired from Tyrer (Nelson) has been Dennis Mini Pointer Dart W563 JVV.

Mitchells (Plean): Optare Solo M710 MX07 JNF, noted by Arthur has come from Elite (Carleton) along with Mercedes-Benz O.184 / Plaxton Cheetah YN56 KHH.

Stonehouse Coaches (Larkhall): A recent arrival, from Kirkby Lonsdale Coach Hire is Mercedes Minibus P215 KJL.

Southern England

Altonian Coaches (Alton): The following vehicles have all been acquired from Wheelers Travel, North Baddesley:- YIL 5883 (T492 RCE) LDV Convoy M6L, A1 YET (R49 GWO) M/Benz 0814D Acl C29F, M681 KVV Volvo B10M-62 Van Hool C46FT, P271 CAJ M/Benz 814D Acl C33F, S3 WTL (S360 SET) Scania K94IB Irizar C51FT, Y668 BKS M/Benz 0814D Acl C33F, HN02 EPP Renault Master Me M16, RD03 ZDT Volvo B7R Plaxton C53F, PN06 TVU Irisbus 397E.12.35 Marcopolo C70F and PN06 ZCL Renault Trafic M8

Apple (Slough): Re-registrations to note are: R157 RMW Dennis Javelin UVG to P70 APL, SA02 LHC Volvo B12M / Van Hool to S90 APL, BC54 NBC M/Benz 0814D Acl to M33 APL, YN 54DDV M/Benz 0814D Plaxton to T33 APL

Bluebird (Weymouth): Acquired in September from Weavawy (Newbury) was WA06 GSU a Bova XHD122.340. J50 BBC, a Neoplan N316SHD has been reverted to its original registration, Y157 HWE; whilst WA03 HRG a Bova FHD10.340 has received registration UCT 838.

Brijan Tours (Curdrige): Two Leyland Olympian's with ECW bodywork have recently joined the fleet. The first 102 C964 XVC and now registered SUI 2102 came from Holder (Charlton) with the second, 103 C81 CHM and now registered SUI 2103 coming from Stephenson, Rochford.

Chalkwell (Sittingbourne): Another Volvo Olympian Alexander acquired from Dublin Bus is P604 SWC (97 D 338).

Charlton-On-Otmoor Services: A recent arrival, purchased from Stagecoach South is of Leyland Olympian / Alexander RH DPH51/31F G721 GAP. The red and orange portion of the Stagecoach has been repainted light blue, whilst just acquired from Aldermaston Coaches is H459 FLD a Leyland Tiger Plaxton Paramount C53F.

Compass (Worthing): In October came SN56 AXC AD Dart SFD AD B29F which came from Coakley Bus, Motherwell.

Eastonways (Ramsgate): In partnership with Kent County Council Two new Optare Solo SRs arrived in November and are registered YJ59 GGF and YJ59 G GK. They both carry branding for service 38/38A "The Island Hopper"

Ham (Flimwell): Two vehicles acquired from Roadliner of Poole are a Volvo B9TL with East Lancs CH63/39F bodywork and registered TO05 ELF, and a Scania K124EB Irizar C53FT and registered WH05 ELF. Both have now been re-registered to RY05 HAM and DW55 HAM respectively. Dennis Dart Plaxton Pointer H124 THE was sold back in May.

Heyfordian: New Optare Solos have been acquired for recently won tendered services B29F YJ59 NNG, YJ59 NNH, YJ59 NNL. YJ59 NNM, YJ59 NNO and YJ59 NNP along with a single B23F example YJ59 GFV.

Marshall (Bexhill-on-Sea): Two recent additions to the fleet are C312BUV and C326 BUV MCW Metrobus H43/28D, previously with The Party Bus, Eastbourne.

Pearce (Berinsfield): This company which operates a small but very tidy fleet from this rural village in Oxfordshire has just taken delivery of two Irisbus 397E.12.35 Plaxton C60F in the shape of OU59 BVO and OU59 BVP

Renown (Bexhill-on-Sea): The new ADL Enviro 200's have duly arrived. 17-20 are in blue Rider livery for use on County Council tendered service from Newhaven, while 16 KX59 CXO is in green and cream and operates Essex County Council service 11 Chrishall to Saffron Walden. This vehicle is based at Dawes of Kneesworth.

Seaview (Sandown IOW): Acquired from Tedd, Old Sarum is Y875 KDP Volvo B10M-62 Berkhof C51FT.

Shoreline (Bournemouth): Former Stagecoach West Scotland Dennis Dart Alexander DP40F, P396 BRS has recently been acquired. Also, former Lothian Buses Leyland Olympian Alexander F370 WSC has been repainted in two-tone rd fleet livery and carries the name Spirit of Wessex.

Trueman (Ash Vale): The following Neoplan vehicles were re-registered back in July: RX58 FNK is now J200 TRU; YN58 HYR is now J500 TRU; YN58 KSF is now J400 TRU and YN58 KSJ is now J300 TRU

Victoria Coaches (Wadhurst): Acquired recently are H171 E JF and J464 NJU, two MAN 10.180's with Caetano bodywork, ex Festival Travel, Kirkliston and Wild, Bootle respectively.

Walters Limousines (Oxford): Having taken on service X88 running between Oxford and Silverstone an ex Reading Buses Optare Excel has been purchased R215 DKG

Weavaway (Newbury): More acquisitions to note are the arrival of three Leyland Olympians with ECW bodywork which have come from Jeffs Coaches (Helmdon), and are registered SCK 226X, WWL 211X and DBV 137Y. Vehicles that have left the fleet include Scania's YN07 LKJ (ex CW54 TOP), YN07 LKK

(ex CW55 TOP) and Bova's WA56 ENV, WA56 ENW (ex CW56 TOP), all of which have gone to Volvo, Loughborough. Two of the impressive East Lancs Nordic's, OU05 KKB and OU05 KLA, have now found a new home with Sanders, Holt. The Volvo B12B's KX08 OME-G have received Abingdon Coaches branding. Vehicles reported in last months issue, namely W11 WAY and MAC 96P have received 'Weavaway' branding, while OO02 TEN and 329 RFC have not received 'Haywards' branding. By now, the company should have received its three Optare Solo's, viz: YJ59 GHN, YJ59 GHO and YJ59 GHU. According to the trade press, the following vehicles are for sale: YN56 EZW, a Scania Berkhof, NE06 LAN and NE07 LAN, both Neoplan N122/3's, and C3 OXF, C4 OXF and C5 OXF, all Bova's. Curiously though, NE06 LAN has received 'Countywide' branding.

Wheelers Travel (North Baddesley): BX59 KWR a King Long XMQ6127 King Long C49FT arrived in October. An acquisition to note is YA54 WBM BMC 1100FE which has come from First West Yorkshire. It would appear that this company has been having somewhat of a clearout of vehicles. All of the following have now gone to Altonian Coaches, Alton: YIL 5883 (T492 RCE) LDV Convoy M6L, A1 YET (R49 GWO) M/Benz 0814D Acl C29F, M681 KVV Volvo B10M-62 Van Hool C46FT, P271 CAJ M/Benz 814D Acl C33F, S3 WTL (S360 SET) Scania K94IB Irizar C51FT, Y668 BKS M/Benz 0814D Acl C33F, HN02 EPP Renault Master Me M16, RD03 ZDT Volvo B7R Plaxton C53F, PN06 TVU Irisbus 397E.12.35 Marcopolo C70F, PN06 ZCL Renault Trafic M8, Y747 NAY MAN 18.310 Caetano was re-registered to K6 WTL in September.

White (Culham): Acquired from Reading Buses in November was X962 BPA an Optare Excel Optare B39F

South West England

Alexcars (Cirencester): Acquired from Guideline, Battersea in September was YN05 GYY a Scania L94IB Irizar C49FT, and in October BX54 EBL a M/Benz 1836RL C40FT arrived from Talisman, Great Bromley.

Baker (Moreton-in-Marsh): YJ58 LUF a M/Benz 1022L Sitcar Beluga C33F has been taken into stock.

Bakers Dolphin (Weston-Super-Mare): Now operating here is T414 OUB a Optare Solo Optare B25F which has come from Meteor.

Coachstyle (Nettleton): One re-registration to note is N402 SPA a Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Plaxton Pointer which is now C509 BUS

Countybus (Heathfield): Acquired from Cornwall Council is WK05 FJE a M/Benz 413CDi, whilst M878 DDS a M/Benz 709D Wadham Stringer is now with Ward, Undy.

Dartline (Clyst St Mary): A further acquisition is KE 03 JXK a M/Benz 413CDi which was originally with Luton Borough Council.

Dawlish Coaches (Dawlish): KX07 HDH, the Volvo B12B reported as being acquired from Stansted Transit is now in 'Grand UK Holidays' livery.

Hatch Green Coaches (Hatch Beauchamp): Not sure if we have noted these but two new arrivals purchased from Mistral is Optare Solo M880SL B28F MX59 AWF, which can be found on Somerset CC tendered service 113 Highbridge to Berriow. Also new is a short version YJ59 GEK B23F

Acquired from Chalkwell, Sittingbourne back in September were P848/850 YGB M/Benz 0810D Plaxton Beaver B31F.

Kinch Coaches (Minety): Some very interesting acquisitions to note here are the arrival of no less than seven Leyland Olympian Alexander H57/54F from China Light & Power, Hong Kong. They arrived with CLP fleet numbers and their Hong Kong registrations, namely: 300 (FC 3781), 302 (FC 736), 303 (FC 712), 305 (FC 7535), 307 (FC 7752), 309 (FC 8342) and 313 (FC 8248).

Laurence (Weston-Super-Mere): New here is Volvo B10M / Plaxton L579 HSG, purchased from Springfield (Warrington) via E-Bay

Mid Devon Coaches (Bow): Not previously reported is the arrival of V319 ESM (ex V9 DOT) a Scania K124IB Irizar C51F, which has come from Dodds, Ayr; and similar vehicle WD02 LNP (ex 02-LH-2705), which was latterly Finlay, Ardee.

Pulham (Bourton-on-the-Water): Recently acquired from Logan, Dunloy is YN07 OPJ a Volvo B12M Plaxton C50FT which now carries registration WDF 946.

Roselyn Coaches (Par): Further vehicles re-registered are B186 BLG to HIG 2032, B191 BLG to MHZ 1473, D198 FYM to SUI 1478, D223 FYM to YEZ 6670, and G305 UYK to SUI 3159. All are Leyland Olympian's.

South Gloucestershire Bus & Coach (Patchway): From January, the company will be taking over the operation of National Express service 040 between Bristol and London, and will be taking delivery of 3 more tri-axle Levante's. The six currently operating the 200 service will move across to operate this

service as well. DAF Van Hool's YXI 235 and L444 SGB have received National Express livery.

Summercourt Travel (Summercourt): A recent acquisition from St Ives Bus Company was S372 DFC a M/Benz 0814D Alexander B29F which is now registered OUI 8929.

Tally Ho Coaches (Kingsbridge): N3 ARJ is a Bova FLC12.280 which has arrived from Andybus, Dauntsey.

Thamesdown Transport: A further pair of Mini Pointer Darts have arrived 103 (NK04 UTJ) and 104 (NK04 UTL) both previously having served with Slaemuir Coaches.

101 carries the name Pelican, 102 is named Penguin, 103 is Seagull and 104 is Skylark. The following Dart's have all left the fleet: 128-132 N128 LMW, XBZ 7729, XBZ 7730, XBZ 7731 XBZ 7732. Meanwhile Dart's 207/08 WU 52 YWL/YWM have been re-branded for service 16 (Fleming Way-Great Western Hospital).

Webberbus (Bridgwater): From London Mini, Isleworth have come WA05 JWJ and WA05 JWK M/Benz 0815D / Sitcar Beluga C25F.

Western Greyhound: More new Solos are M710SE models WK59 CXB, WK59 CXC and WK59 CXD

Wales

Chepstow Classic Bus (Chepstow): Acquired from S&A, Marden is F705 BAT a Scania N112CRB East Lancs B50F. Other acquisitions are D571 NRL (D104 GHY) Volvo B10M-56 Alexander DP53F which also came from S&A, and FDV 818V Bristol VRT ECW H43/31F which was with Appleford, Shepperton.

Country Bus (Undy): M878 DDS, M/Benz 709D Wadham Stringer B29F has arrived from Countrybus, Heathfield, while Optare Metrorider B31F R94 HUA has come from A1, Methill.

Creigiau Travel (Capel Llanilltern): Several vehicles were re-registered in October: MUI 5465 (ex T73 JKG) Volvo B10M-62 Berkhof to J18 CTL, P808 WWO (ex DJI 8003) Volvo B10M-62 Berkhof to L19 CTL, W913 UGM Volvo B10M-62 Berkhof to H18 CTL and WA51 JYF Volvo B10M-62 Van Hool to H19 CTL

Davies (Llanidloes): An unusual acquisition here is TRN 662A (ex LST 873, TRN 662A, CEO 952) a Leyland PD2 Park Royal O27/28R which has come from Mac Tours, Edinburgh. A further acquisition is G105 AAD Leyland Olympian Alexander H51/36F which has come from Stagecoach Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Edwards (Llantwit Fardre): The new MAN A.91 with Marcopolo schoolbus, CN59 BVM is B73F.

Emmas Coaches (Dolgellau): Noted here is N5 YET (N181OUT) an Iveco 391E.12.35 Beulas C49FT.

Ferris (Nantgarw): Two Temsa Safari's have been acquired. YJ 55 KZV has come from Berkeley, Paulton, while YJ 55 KZW has come from BM Coaches, Hayes.

Francis Drake (Blaina): As reported last month and in the trade press, this company ceased operating on the 15th November. Various operators have come to the rescue to cover some of the firm's services. Chepstow Classic has taken over three Monmouth town routes as well as service 63 Chepstow-Cwmbran. Two Abergavenny routes are covered by Veolia Cymru while Newport Transport has stepped in to cover the 51 from Rhiwerdin and the number 5 from Foxgloves.

GHA (Ruabon): Acquired in October were T112/115 KGP Dennis Dart SLF Marshall B28F which have come from Go Northern. T115 KGP is in service in all over red livery. Four new Optare Solo's in Cheshire East Council livery have been delivered and are registered YJ59 GHA, YJ59 GHB, YJ59 GHD, YJ59 GHG. Solo's YJ59 GFX and YJ59 GFY are in Dee Bee livery.

Griffiths (Y Felinhell): Acquired from Arriva The Shires is M783 PRS a Volvo B10M-55 Alexander DP48F originally with Ribble. Vehicles sold recently include TIL 1182 (F282 HOD) a Leyland Tiger Plaxton B54F and G176 RBD a Volvo B10M-61 Jonckheere C51FT.

Jervis (Port Talbot): T6 MDC is a Volvo B10m-62 Plaxton C57F which was acquired from Holmeswood back in July.

Jones (Login): The new Volvo B9R Plaxton Elite C49FT should have arrived by the time you read this, but don't expect it to be on the road. It is expected to be stored until spring when it will receive a 60 registration. A new Optare Solo M710SE should also have arrived here now and is to replace the Plaxton Cheetah on the Wednesday/Saturday 221 Login-Carmarthen service.

Laser Minicoach (Llanharry): K2 BCC a DAF MB230 Plaxton C53F and P103 CCK (P5 HWD) a MAN 11.220 Berkhof C33FT were acquired from New Adventure Travel, Cardiff in September. Also acquired in September was PG02 YWB (HSK 645) a Volvo B12M Jonckheere C53F which came from Bharet, Cranford. However, K2 BCC went to Pencoed Travel, Pencoed in October.

Lloyd (Machynlleth): More acquired vehicles here are S825 MCC M/Benz 0814D Plaxton B29F, ex Owen, Nefyn; YH53 GHO Ford Transit and MX07 BAU Enterprise Plasma Plaxton B28F and is now

registered LL07 WYN. The Plasma came from Bankfoot Buses, Perth. S825 MCC was originally with this operator and went to Owen, Nefyn back in May of this year.

Movereturn (Pontycymer): From Thomas, Porth has come A958 THW a Leyland Olympian Roe H47/29F.

New Adventure Travel (Cardiff): YIL 5927 (E413 DMA) a Leyland Tiger Plaxton Derwent B56F was acquired from Huggins & Simmons back in September. Ex MOD Dennis Javelin UVG JT 31 AA, now registered H8 KFJ has been converted to a B70F school bus. A further acquisition to note is FJ03 ZZX Iveco Eurorider Beulas C49FT which has come from Wrose, Cleckheaton. One new vehicle to report here is YT59 NZC a Scania K340EB Berkhof C65FT.

Padarn Bus (Llanberis): Volvo B10M Plaxton N736 FJC has been painted into a new red and gold coach livery.

Peakes Coaches (Pontypool): Two Dennis Lance's arrived in July from Payne, Didcot, and are registered N402/04 MPN.

Pencoed Travel (Pencoed): As noted above, K2 BCC a DAF MB230 Plaxton C53F has been acquired from Laser Minicoach, Llanharry. This corrects the information given in the November issue.

Peyton Travel (Brynnal): F372 MUT a Dennis Javelin Duple C57F was acquired from Burton, Alfreton back in July and is now registered WEZ 5825. Further re-registrations include M13 PEY which has reverted to its original registration of LV04 FVK; CK03 XOP which is now M13 PEY, and VN55 VYU to M77 PEY, all of which are Ford Transit's.

Rhodri Evans Ffoshelig (Carmarthen): A new Optare Versa, YJ59 NMZ is now operating service 222 Carmarthen-Pendine. This service was taken over by Rhodri Evans from First Cymru.

Ridgway (Port Talbot): Ex MacEwan, Amisfield MAN 11.220 Marshall B36F, S49 RGA has been acquired. It was originally new to Dart Buses, Paisley.

Warren (Neath): Acquired back in August from Stainton, Kendal was Y226 CDS a Volvo B10M-62 Jonckheere C51F.

Wilkins (Cymmer): Two Leyland Lynx's here are H336 TYG and H757 WWW which have come from Collier, Earith. Another acquisition to report is M204 DRG a Dennis Lance Optare B47F, latterly with North Somerset, Weston-Super-Mare.

West Midlands

Claribels: Left the fleet has been Volvo B6BLE T290 ROF, With a new arrival is VDL SB200 YJ59 BCU

Grosvenor: Fleet numbers have begun to be applied to the fleet 3 (N403 NPN), 4 (N509 KCD) and 5 (N611 LGC).

Group Travel (Audham): A pair of Scania K340EB / Irizar PB C42Fs here are YT09 FLG and YT09 FLH both C42F

Midland Classic: Fleet investment sees the arrival of Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse 81 (MX08 NNU) looking particularly attractive in the red and yellow livery. Further additions of the type will be AE57 FXW and KX57 MTE. Dennis Drat 15 (J315 XVX) has been withdrawn

Midland Rider: Two additions have been P153 SMW and BU05 EKO

Harry Shaw (Coventry): Volvo B12B(T) FJ05 AOR has been reregistered to F5 RST.

Sargeant Brothers (Kington): New here is Optare Solo M950 YJ59 GFZ

Travel Express: Recent additions to the fleet have been Dennis Dart / Alexander Dash B41F J517 GCD ex ACL Travel, Dennis Dart 9.8SDL K118 SRH, previously with Canavan (Coaches and a Dennis Dart 9.8SDL K565 NHC.

New Deliveries

Baileys (Newbury)
Class Travel (Wandsworth)
Hopleys (Truro)
Lawmans (Kettering)
New Adventure
Stewarts (Berkshire)
??

PN09 CWX
YN09 EZB
WK59 DAA
FN09 AOL
YT59 NZC
YN09 AOL
FX59 ZWY

VDL Bus SB4000 / Beulas Cygnus C57F
Mercedes-Benz O.816D / Unvi

Volvo B9R / Plaxton C57F
Scania / Berkhof
Volvo B9R / Plaxton
Mercedes-Benz 515CDi / Optare Soroco

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 Lothian Buses: Olympians P252 / 8 / 60 / 71PSX.
From London General: Darts LDP1 / 8 / 9 / 49 / 55 / 152.
From Stagecoach E Scotland: Olympians L673 / 8 / 9 / 82HNV L960 / 1 / 3MSC.
From Slaemuir Coaches: Darts NK04UTL / J.
From Arriva the Shires: Volvo B10B M102UKX Scania N710EUR.
From Stagecoach East Kent: Olympians J812NKK K821/5TKP L826 / 7 / 9 / 30BKK.
From Rotala Group: Plaxton Primo's BU08ACY / DX / EA.

Vehicles Out

Volvo D10M's H649/64GPF: Cavendish Liner , Poole.
Dart S309MKH: Wardle Transport, Stoke.
Darts P390/2LPS: Regal Busways, Chelmsford.
Olympian K660UNH: Enterprise Boats, Falmouth.
Volvo B6 L69UNG: Simon Gard, Bournemouth.
Bristol VR KRU855W: Dorset Travel Services, Bristol.
Dart P396BRS: Shoreline Travel, Bournemouth.
Optare Spectra K105VLJ: M Travel, Castleford.
Olympians P260/7PSX: Trent Buses.
Merc 709 N472XRC: Central Buses, Birmingham.
Olympians M81MYM N952KBJ: Freeway Coaches, Derbyshire.
Tridents T683/4KPU: Travelmasters, Sheerness.
Dart Y852TGH: Stanley Travel, County Durham.
Olympians L960/3MSC: Fowlers Coaches, Holbeach Drove.
Darts NK04UTL/J: Thamesdown Transport.
Darts EJ52WXC / E: City Direct, Galway, Eire.
Dart EJ52WXD: Tates Travel, Barnsley.
Dublin Olympian 98-D-20428 now S301YOO with Redbridge Transport.
Dublin Olympian 98-D-20429 now S290YOO with Redbridge Transport.
Dublin Olympian 98-D-20430 now S303YOO with Redbridge Transport.
Dublin Volvo B6BLE 99-D-60018 now V649PHJ with Wilsons Coaches, Glasgow.
Dublin Volvo B6BLE 99-D-60020 now V655PHJ with Wilsons Coaches, Glasgow.
Dublin Volvo B6BLE 99-D-60019: Aintree Coaches, Liverpool.
Darts V152 / 6 / 9 / 64 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 9 / 70 / 1 / 2MVX W204 / 7 / 8 / 9 / 11 / 28 / 9 32DNO: Rotala Group, Birmingham.

Rally News

Forthcoming events

March

7th Bournemouth Aviation Museum, Vintage Transport Day
13-14th London Transport Museum Acton Open Day
14th Dewsbury Bus Museum Open Day
27th Pevensey Bay (East Sussex) Vehicles of Yesteryear

27th Malvern Showground Classic & Vintage Commercials
27th-28th Manchester Museum of Transport, Spring Transport Festival

Now a bit of advance information concerning events happening at Blackpool in late September

A week of events will take place between Thursday 23 and Wednesday 29 September. Ten visiting trams are coming from museums around England, plus examples from the Blackpool Transport and the Lancastrian Transport Trusts vintage collections. About 20 vintage trams will be in use during the week – as well as 'normal' fleet – most of which are in their 70s!

The celebrations are launched on the Thursday with a "Welcome Evening" in the conference room at Uncle Tom's Cabin featuring presentations, a quiz and a Hot Pot Supper with time to socialise at the bar.

Friday 24th is turned over to the enthusiast groups who are putting together a package of tram tours. The Friday also sees the World Fireworks Championships and museum trams are expected to join the famous Illuminated Trams on tours of the World Famous Illuminations. Local preservationists, the Lancastrian Transport Trust will be organising one of its popular 'Beer and Buses' events out into the Fylde countryside.

Saturday 25th will see the biggest vintage tram operation ever attempted in the town with up to 10 vintage cars rostered on a special service operating up to every ten minutes during the day.

Sunday 26th will provide a rare opportunity to see behind the scenes at Rigby Road Depot – including the 75 year old tram depot, the workshops and the bus garage. A selection of trams will be on display at the front of the tram depot; while the bus yard will showcase the vintage bus collection of the Lancastrian Transport Trust and other preservations – plus of course the modern fleet of Blackpool Transport. Inside the bus depot will be entertainment, tram models and transport memorabilia stalls.

Sunday will also see a repeat of the vintage tram service and a shuttle service to/from the tram depot will also be in operation.

Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th will see further events organised by the enthusiast groups. Wednesday 29th marks the anniversary of the official opening and will feature a short parade of Blackpool trams, further tram tours and the week will conclude with an Anniversary Dinner at the Chequers Plaza Hotel.

The vintage trams expected to feature in the event – subject to availability – include the following Blackpool cars:

Marton Box Car 31 of 1901 from Beamish Museum
Fleetwood Box Car 40 of 1914 owned by Crich Tramway Village
Standard 143 from LTT
Standard 147 from Blackpool Transport
Open Boat car 600 of 1934 from Blackpool Transport
English Electric Open Top Balloon 706 of 1934 from Blackpool Transport
English Electric Balloon 717 of 1935 from Blackpool Transport
English Electric Railcoach 279 of 1939 from Lancastrian Transport Trust
English Electric 'Marton VAMBAC' 11 from East Anglia Transport Museum
Two Coronation Cars 304 of 1952 from Lancastrian Transport Trust and 660 of 1953 from Blackpool Transport
Blackpool OMO car 8 from Lancastrian Transport Trust

And the following cars from other systems:

Stockport 5 of 1901 c/o Stockport 5 Tramcar Trust and a Blackpool resident
Bolton 66 of 1901 c/o Bolton 66 Tramcar Trust and another Blackpool resident
Manchester 765 of 1914 from the Manchester Transport Museum Society (Heaton Park Tramway)
Liverpool 'Priestley Bogie' 762 of 1930 from Merseyside Tramway Preservation Society (Birkenhead Tramway)
Sheffield 513 of 1950 also a Blackpool resident on long term loan from Beamish

Up to six visiting trams from the Crich Tramway Village (home of the National Tramway Museum) will also take part – full details of these have not yet been finalised.

Shortly www.blackpooltramevents.co.uk will go live with details of the events and other bits and pieces through the year.

Museum Report

LINCOLNSHIRE BUS MUSEUM OPEN & RALLY DAY. 1-11-2009.

Another Summers day, High Winds, Torrential rain (which Thankfully near enough stopped for the enthusiasts to enjoy the day) but very cold also.

357 MHN Bristol 2522
780 GHA Midland Red 4780
952 JUB Leeds City 952
APW 829B Eastern Counties LS829
BCH 156B Derby 156
BFE 383 Lincoln 2
BFE 419 Lincoln 64
CCX 777 London D130
CFN 121 East Kent
CUV 313C London RML2213
DFE 936D Lincolnshire 2357
DNU 20C Midland General 296
EED 5 Warrington 327
ENU 93H Chesterfield 93
EVL 549E Lincoln 41
FDO 573 Camplin, Doncaster
FFU 860 Enterprise, Scunthorpe
FFW 830 Lincolnshire 749
FHN 833 United BG147
FW 5698 Lincolnshire 1411
GAT 180D Kingston upon Hull 180
GAU 728L Nottingham Heritage Vehicle
HD 7905 Yorkshire 622
HDV 638E Royal Blue 1433
JDN 668 York Pullman 64
JHA 227L Midland Red 227
JJD 518D London RML2518
KHA 301 Midland Red 3301
KVF 658E Eastern Counties RS658
KW 474 Lincoln Corp 1
KW 7604 Bradford 023

LFW 326 Lincolnshire 2318
LJF 16F Leicester 16
MDT 222 Doncaster 22
NFW 36V Lincoln City 36
OHK 432 Colchester 4
OLD 714 London RT4494
ONO 59 Eastern National 4038
OOR 320G Gale, Haslemere (Cavern City
Tours, Liverpool)
OVL 473 Lincolnshire 2378
OWT 776M West Yorkshire 1403
RC 2721 Trent 21
RFE 416 Lincoln 89
RFE 482 Lincolnshire 2494
VHK 177L Eastern National 1404
VL 1262 Lincoln Corp 5
VUB 396H Wallace Arnold
WAT 652 East Yorkshire 652
WH 1553 Bolton 54
WNL 259A Economic 5
YRT 898M Lowestoft 4
YTF 818 Lancashire United 202

The following were also present. Preserved ?
OJO 570M Confidence 22
OXI 1250 Ulsterbus 1250

Not Preserved
BX 04CKV Delaine 146
LVL 804V Redfern
UIL 2090 Young (Cambridge)
YRC 125M Enterprise Boats (Truro-Falmouth)

Out & About

15th October 2009
By John Nobbins
Milton Keynes Coach Park
Fenn Holidays
MR53 FEN

23rd October 2009
By John Nobbins
Milton Keynes
Grant & Palmer
L205 YAG

(ex Arriva North West & Wales -
1900)

Mk Metro
T93 JBA (2301)
(seen 06/11/09 not scrapped)
KX59 ACJ (3640)
KX59 ACO (3641)

08th December 2009
By Rod Whitaker

Leeds
First West Yorkshire
69328
Bradford
Arriva Yorkshire
637 1057 1900 1901 1906
1907 1908
First West Yorkshire
30787 30797 30814 30896
30914 30915 32503 32507
32540 37059 37064 37066
37070 37077 37079 37080

37081 37084 37086 37098
37099 37100 37361 37688
37709 37723 50282 50289
53302 53910 60830 60835
60840 60843 60852 60885
60903 60906 60923 60925
61060 66709 66712 66792
69274 69276 69370 69466
69469 69470 69471 69473
69476 69479 69484
Halifax Joint Committee
KYO 624X
Transdev Keighley & District
1807 1813

Route 268 Bradford – Dewsbury

Arriva Yorkshire
464 472 716 1052 1059 1102
1103 1104 1903 1909
1912
First West Yorkshire
66652
Safeway Coaches Batley
SF56 WAY

Dewsbury

Arriva Yorkshire
53 57 58 186 189 191 196
197 1050 1053 1055 1057 1058
1059 1061 1065 1066
1100 1103 1105 1414 1450
1453 1602 1603 1607 1611
1900 1901 1906 1907
Halifax Joint Committee
K414 MGN
Huddersfield Bus Company
V502 EFR

Wakefield

Arriva Yorkshire
207 209 210 211 213 217 220
221 459 489 631 640
652 1401 1412 1450 1811 1813
CT Plus
YK55 GRT YJ57 NHZ
Huddersfield Bus Company
K3 YCL
Stagecoach Yorkshire
22628

Route 110 Wakefield – Leeds

Arriva Yorkshire
1803 1808 1809 1812

Leeds

Arriva Yorkshire
57 103 462 608 630 716 1303
1306 1613
First West Yorkshire
30935 37104 37109 37115
37700 37712 41247 53908
61062 69311 69317 69332
69340 69442
Stagecoach Megabus
52648
Shearings
622

10th December 2009
By Rod Whitaker

Leeds

First West Yorkshire
32538 37658

Halifax

Arriva Yorkshire
1112
Courtesy Group Oldham
M13 YEL

First West Yorkshire
30794 30795 30798 30808
30812 32521 32524 32527
32530 32532 32536 32537
32538 32539 34238 37049
37063 40372 40661 40666
40675 40678 40846 40869
40873 40877 40878 40881
41282 41283 41284 41317
41320 41321 42175 50261
50266 60935 61050 62117
62118 66740 66743 66755
66756 66761 66763 66768
66778 66789 66999 68665
69466

Halifax Joint Committee
BYX 249V KYO 624X
B217 WUL J829 CEV
K995 CBO K414 MGN
T J Walsh Halifax
TJI 9417 B15 TJW
P939 HVX R603 HKN
S494 RVM

Rochdale

Bu Val Smithy Bridge
T73 JBA
First Manchester
37282 37290 37299 37433
37452 37462 37468 27559
40321 40424 40431 40432
40433 40436 60432 60435
60446 66862 66870 69178
66928 69202
First West Yorkshire
66780
Rossendale
24 31 46 61 62 118 170
Selwyns Runcorn
YJ04 BYH

Route 17 Rochdale – Manchester

First Manchester
37279 37280 37281 37293
37296 37297 37393 40420
40438 40444 60302 69203
JPT Middleton
L507 TKA M173 GRY
KX07 OVY

14th December 2009

By Gareth

Burtonwood Services (Warrington)

Alfa

PJ02 UNH PN03 PFX
PN03 POA PN04 NMY
PN05 AMV PN06 KKA
PN07 LLF PN07 LLG
PN07 LLJ PN08 KXH
PN08 KXK PN08 KXM
PN08 KXO PO59 FHX
Springfield Bus & Coach
N12 SBC
Vision Corporate Travel Widnes
Y174 RVY YC02 DJE

15th December 2009

By Gareth

Chester Services

Hampton Warrington
WIL 3641
National Holidays
YJ03 VOP
Selwyn Runcorn
352 STG
Springfield Bus & Coach
Warrington
N12 SBC
Williams Bala
UIL 9042

Derby

I had to go over to Derby on business. The bus station is not finish it looks nearly finish so hopeful it will open January 2010.

Here is what I logged

Arriva Derby
2217 2221 2222 2223 2226
2231 2232 2234 2235 2237
2238 2252 2907 2910 2914
2916 2921 2922 3552 3553
3555 3556 3557 3559 3560
3561 3562 3563 3564 3566
3568 3569 3572 3573 3575
3577 4208 4209 4210 4211
4212 4213 4214 4216 4217
4218 4221 4223
Trent Barton
66 70 111 117 119 126 137
138 158 236 297 311 312
403 456 462 471 478 502
503 504 506 633 634 665
672 680 681 703 705 711
712 714 751 910 914 935
936

By Simon Wilson

Edinburgh Scotland

Bruces
JXI 317
Diamond Holidays Swansea
BK09 RLY
Lothian
Route 1: 91 93 98 107 125 27
Route 3: 702 715
Route 5: 548 553 603 638
Route 7: 723 922
Route 8: 798 846
Route 10: 785 786

Route 12: 599 600 628 659 672
Route 14: 607 774
Route 19: 547 601 614 615
Route 22: 328 333 335 336
337 344 346 348 350 901 919
Route 25: 579 648 651 652 671
675
Route 26: 302 307 309 311 324
669
Stagecoach Glasgow /
Western
54030 54031 SJ57 AAN
WJC Buses
SC03 WJC

24th December 2009
By Simon Wilson
Edinburgh Scotland
Barkers Dolphin
UKZ 2926
Bruces
KNI 244 SJ54 CCN
Carefree Holiday Wakefield
BIG 7661
Globe Holidays
2522 VU
Lothian
Route 1: 59 86 96 98 127
130 138 779
Route 2: 65 163 164 169
Route 3 / A: 701 702 705 706
709 710 711 717
Route 4: 291 294 295 296
553 670
Route 5: 542 599

Route 11: 838 865 867 885
886 894
Route 16: 787 857 871 882
887
Route 18: 551
Route 20: 91
Route 21: 66 71 83 84 85
Route 26: 301 303 304 305
306 307 311 315 316 317
319 325 390 858
Route 35: 559 561 568 633
660 663 664 666
Route 36: 54 63 134 188
Route 44 / A: 737 728 732
743 734 744 731 750 746
738 740
MacPhails
VSS 713
Stagecoach
22349 24007 52348 53103
53105
Turners Bristol
BT55 CJF
Veolia Transport
BX55 FYU
BX55 FYU

25th December 2009
By Simon Wilson
Edinburgh Scotland
First
Route 10: 36021
Route 27 / 28: 36016 36020
Route 38: 69289
Route 43: 37268

Route 126: 40929
Route 212: 36009 36019 SN05
HWL
Lothian
Route 3: 827 869 892
Route 8: 829 839
Route 16: 871 891
Route 22: 827 869 882
Route 26: 840 854
Route 37: 829 839 892
Route 44: 829 830 859

26th December 2009
By Simon Wilson
Edinburgh Scotland
First Edinburgh (Note No
Dalkeith due to Midlothian
Council being broke)
26012 26017 31662 31663
31668 31669 32669 35007
36015 37140 37141 37144
37267 37272 61227 69254
69280 69295
Jonhsons Coaches
YJ03 GYB
LA Travel
SN09 JUW
Ogdens Travel
W204 CDN
Perrys North Yorkshire
YR02 ZLU
Ulsterbus
RO 134

Beer n' Buses

Those that know me, will know of my fondness for Real Ale, and I try and get the two together whilst I am out and about, Two Yorkshire chaps have the same idea, as I am sure many of you do, to this end they have come up with a unique look on it read below for their idea

Two friends have come up with a novel business idea combining their two interests – beer and buses. Paul Kirby of Wetherby and Brian Thackray of Wakefield, were chatting one night (down the pub, where else?) and realised there was a gap in the market for holidays specifically catering for fans of real ale and traditional pubs who enjoy travelling on public transport. “And where better than in Yorkshire with the stunning scenery of the Dales, Moors and Coast and its highly regarded transport system, particularly in Summer. We are incredibly lucky to have all this on our doorstep and we thought we should let others into the secret” enthused Paul. “We believe there are many people out there who share our passions and don’t want the stress of driving everywhere whilst on holiday. They can give the car a holiday and enjoy a pint or two in a nice pub without the worry of being over the limit”.

Paul added “I am surprised that there is not a single holiday company in the UK offering this type of package. Coach holidays are all well and good but you can’t just get off when you feel like it, and you don’t get the chance to mix with the locals as much. You can meet some real characters on rural buses and the views from double-deckers are far better than those from a coach. For example, the Coastliner service to Whitby is now completely double-deckered, giving fantastic views as you sit back and enjoy the scenery of the North York Moors. And we have the first ever coach-standard service double-deckers on the Ripon to Leeds route – the famous 36 - on which you can relax in leathered-seated luxury and watch the red kites and deer in the grounds of Harewood House”.

Beer n Buses holiday-makers are provided with travel tickets and all the information they need for the day out, including maps and a detailed timetable. They are not accompanied on every day of the holiday but CAMRA member Brian says "We will be with them for the brewery visits, like the one to the Black Sheep Brewery at Masham. People don't want to be shepherded around and told what to do all the time so our timetables provide different options for them. Travellers can stay longer in a particular place they like, or move on and explore somewhere else. This flexibility is a major selling point, we believe, as well as the variety of trips during the eight-day holiday".

Brian, a Data Analyst, admitted that the holiday will, at first glance, probably attract more men than women but he promises there is no need to leave the wives and girlfriends at home. "On the *Beer n Buses* itinerary there are plenty of interesting places for the partners who aren't necessarily into pubs and real ale. Included are the TV locations in the West and North Ridings of Yorkshire that are known to millions around the world. We couldn't miss out on the charms of 'Last of the Summer Wine' country around Holmfirth, or the Dales countryside in the much loved 'All Creatures Great and Small'. Perhaps the most well-known TV location is the village of Goathland of 'Heartbeat' fame and the hospital featured in 'The Royal' on Scarborough's south shore", said Brian. "The picturesque town of Knaresborough will have a market on the day we visit, and the ladies can always have a day on their own in the excellent shopping centres of Leeds and York", he added.

It's not just buses that *Beer n Buses* holiday-makers will travel on, it's trains as well – namely the historic Settle-Carlisle line and the scenic North East Coast mainline. The journey to Berwick is the beginning of a day out travelling down the dramatic Northumbrian coast with its castles, islands and white beaches. The day ends in Newcastle where there's the option to enjoy a bit of Geordie hospitality until the last train back at 22.45.

The travellers stay in the modern city of Leeds and historic city of York. Prices start at £370 per person but as Paul explains, "The numbers we can cater for is limited because of the restrictions of some of the buses. It is a shame that we cannot offer more customer places to reduce costs further, but it does give us the chance to get to know our customers better and give their experience a more personal touch" Because of the limited numbers Paul recommends early booking for the holidays, which begin on 8 May 2010. All details are on their website www.BeerAndBuses.co.uk.

The two entrepreneurs have been assisted by the generosity of the breweries, pub chains, bus companies and local pubs and cafes who have offered customer discounts. Hopefully this unique venture will attract many more visitors to Yorkshire and help boost the tourist trade in the White Rose county for 2010 and beyond.

Tony's Back bit!

Another year and yet more bus oddity ramblings from me. Number one, spotted in London, is Van Hool bodied Volvo B10M Y618NYD run by the Buckswood private school of Guestling in Sussex. This one was formerly with Chalfont of Southall when new in 2001 and has been with the school two years.

On Brewer Street in Soho, in use as the Vegan Routes restaurant is former East London Routemaster SMK688F. Downstairs is the kitchen and upstairs the eatery, although this is said to be still in full working order as a bus. A sign outside asks you to send in your photos. There are some already on the Vegan Routes website.

Also in London and seen rattling through Shepherd's Bush, was East Lancs Dart N752OYR of the Met Police. London's Plod apparently still have six of the nine 31 seaters originally delivered from new in 1996, the others current being N746/49/50/51/55OYR. Various pictures can be found on the net by googling registrations. These suggest that individual buses are sponsored and/or maintained by commercial operators whose titles they also carry, 752 wearing Arriva brands. Whilst I know nothing else at all about either, I have also seen a report that the Met have/had a couple of deckers - Leyland Olympian C65CHM and East Lancashire Volvo LX55FFE. Anyone know more?

Of the East Lancs Darts no longer in police service I know that N753OYR went to Anderson of Lochgilphead. Both 748 and 755 ended up with D&G in Staffordshire as FJY4196 and LUI9649 respectively.

Still in London and proving quite a shock when blundered upon in Park Lane was ex Arriva Original London Metrobus open-topper GYE555W. This was branded for Erotica 2009 at Olympia, marketed as the world's largest erotic show and exhibition for adults. Slated to appear were the tastefully named Satanic Sluts dance troupe who, thankfully for the blood pressure, were not on board when this bus was spotted. It has apparently been owned for a few years now by Erotica Ltd of Romford.

Just as startling in appearance - google the registration - is former West Midlands Metrobus OAV682W. This belongs to the Peckham branch of the XLP urban youth charity that I guess aims to add meaning and value to the lives of a lot of inner city kids who do not have a lot.

Finally heading away from London up the M6, Mercedes Cheetah T634JWB has been reported as being with the Lancashire Fire Service at Chorley - although this might have moved on now. As well as a passenger carrier, this is/was used as a spare Control Unit according to their website (have to say I haven't seen it in a while - ed)

I would now like to commend and thank member John Martindale of Renfrewshire, who is an example to us all. John has sent me a wonderful collection of his photos, as the Gallery in this month's magazine shows. I have been able to use these as the launch point for some fascinating research, with still more to come next month.

First up from John is Optare Excel YJ54BTU. As his picture shows, this is used as a mobile test centre by Inverness based Pearson VUE who describe themselves as 'the world's leading computer based testing and assessment business'. The sort of thing Pearsons do range from such as an electric admissions test for aspiring law students to the driving theory test. As far as I know the Excel is one of two, the other being YJ54BTO - which the web suggests is usually to be found parked up doing driver theories in Elgin. Both have been with Pearsons from new.

A847 MAC is a Caetano Algarve bodied DAF that worked with a string of small coach operators around the UK before being converted to a dining bus in 2007. It is owned now by film and TV support company Skymore of Paisley. Their website - complete with bus picture - says they operate 16 vehicles in all. But I can trace just Dennis Dorchester F434OFG as the only other of interest to us.

The anonymous Leyland Titan TX13757 began life as London Transport's WYV 49T (fleet no T49) and did the rounds with various LT successor companies post-deregulation before passing to Stagecoach's Western and then McColl of Balloch. When seen by me a while back it was colourfully painted for Edinburgh's Rock Elim Pentecostal Church. The new 'colour' scheme suggests that it has now moved on, although the Rock Elim website has a big feature on its use as their mobile church.

Thirty two year old Bedford Duple LTJ730R is another to have done the rounds of smallish operators, before leaving PSV service almost 20 years ago. Clearly derelict now, I have seen a report suggesting it might have been last with a motor racing group. I have also been told it was once a workshop for a disabled skiing team. From the look of John's picture it might have been running most recently for Baghdad Buses! That's a joke by the way - as this one is white and everyone knows Baghdad buses are red.

Who knows who now owns Roe bodied Leyland Olympian LTJ730R? Maybe someone learning how to use paint by the looks of it in John's picture. It was last with First Bristol as f/n 34542, apparently wearing the old Bristol Cityline yellow, red and blue colours until it left them 4 years ago. The 'garagecat' ftopic site has a shot of this one out and about in Edinburgh as recently in 2008 (in its scheme as seen by John). I would love to know more about this one as it's unusual for First to retire a bus other than for scrap, I believe.

Finishing off for me this month is a second ex LT Titan EYE236V (f/n T266). Another to go the Stagecoach route, this was last (briefly) with Fife Scottish as 10236 on withdrawal in 2005. I am struggling with the 'Ignite' titles it carries now. Maybe these relate to the SW Scotland church group reported to own this one a while back. Help anyone?

That's it then for January. If you enjoyed the read - or if you didn't, and would like to see this section drastically improved - then please, please send me your reports. I see plenty of you out there with your pens, notebooks and cameras. Don't just depend on the same dedicated few. Address on page 2 or via Gez.

The Gallery



Photos Credits

Front Cover: Our Chairman managed to venture out of his home, although not too far, just before Christmas, taking what is one of his first coach photographs. Caught in festive weather is Smiths of Keith is Van Hool N93 HSJ (Trevor)

Rear Cover: To go with Tony's back bit this month we have a selection of buses and coaches that have progressed to the after life and are now being used for a variety of uses which are explained in Tony's bit (John Martindale)

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