

Trident

the monthly magazine of the

GB Bus Group

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The closing date for the October magazine will be 1st October

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Group News

Editorial Notes

How many of you noted one of my larger howlers in the news section last month attributing the second portion of First Potteries moving to Arriva Midlands control, instead of the obvious FIRST Midlands. I do not seem to have a lot of luck, getting Arriva and First the right way round. Anyway despite a couple of areas missing we have lots of news once again, Geoff is making a call for any news in the southern part of England, as he has yet to get any reports from that area. The Stagecoach book, and East Midlands, being sorted by Eddie Roberts will hopefully be heading off to the printers at the end of September, we were hoping to get it ready in time for Showbus, but it just has not been possible, We will let you all have details on price and how to purchase them in next months Trident

Membership Rates: Annual: £15.00 Joint: (with ICRS saving £4.00): £27.00

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. (photos can be viewed in colour through the website Members Area).
- 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 book titles that are to be published by GBBG (first ones due September)

Joint membership also entitles you to the ICRS magazine Tracks & access to icrs.org.uk

New Members:

A very warm welcome to the following new members: John Baker (Birmingham), Barry Cooper (Redditch), Kevin Lindley (Shavington), Stephen Storer (Tamworth), Daniel Mears (Nuneaton), Timothy Onslow (Bristol), Alan Robinson (West Bromwich), Anthony Mocroft (Ebbw Vale), David Webb (Reading)

If paying by cheque / postal order, please make payable to GBBG for all types of Membership. Please note we cannot accept credit card payments over the telephone, however you can still pay online by credit card through our website PayPal facility. In a few clicks you can be signed up for another year, or take advantage of the joint membership with Inter City Railway Society, saving £4 on the normal combined annual membership subscription rate.

GBBG Website:

To access the members area of our website you need to email your chosen username and password to Mark Richards, website.manager@gb-bg.co.uk Each can be a maximum of ten characters with no spaces though you can use hyphens or full stops (each counts as a character). Please include your GBBG membership number, especially if you are a new member. Confirmation will follow asap by email that your chosen username and password have been set up.

Membership Renewal & Membership Cards:

Renewal forms are sent out in month prior to end of membership and it would be appreciated if renewal is prompt so saving the time and cost of sending reminders. Please remember on renewal, your new card (cards for joint members) will be sent out with the next issue of Trident so please check in envelope. Note you might wait up to 5 weeks if you renew in first days of the month when cards are sent out for distribution with Trident. If you renew before FINAL REMINDER, your existing card will always be valid until the new one arrives. So there is no need to send a separate sae for card.

News from the industry

National Express have awarded the contract for services running between Gloucester and Heathrow / Gatwick airports to Bennetts Coaches commencing November. The service is currently operated by First Somerset & Avon and its loss will bring to an end operation of National Express routes after the 403 service was awarded to South Gloucs in August.

Dawlish Coaches based in the town, has entered liquidation resulting in the job losses of 37 drivers and four managers. The Directors of the company put the causes on the rising cost of fuel and the decline in the coach holiday market. As well as its coach work, five school services were run along with the Dawlish town service using a Plaxton Primo. This service is being taken over by Country Bus.

Bluebird have launched a new express bus link connecting Aberdeen Airport with the bus and rail stations. The service operates every 30 minutes for eighteen hours a day using three ADL Enviro 300s and takes just 35 minutes. They carry 727 Jet branding in a similar style to those used on services linking Inverness airport

Wilts & Dorset have opened a new depot in Pewsey at Salisbury Road business Park, replacing a smaller garage in the town. The depot accommodates the allocation of twelve vehicles.

On a Mission Coaches of Leighton Buzzard went into liquidation in early August

Stagecoach announced its forthcoming new vehicle order in early August comprising 338 new buses and coaches worth around £50 million 100 Scania / ADL Enviro 400 double decks, 63 ADL Enviro 400 double decks, 70 ADL Enviro 300 single decks, 76 ADL Enviro 200 Midi buses, 16 Volvo B9R / Plaxton Elite National Express coaches 1 Volvo / Plaxton Panther coach, 9 Optare Solo minibuses and 3 Optare Versa midibuses

Centrebus has been on the acquisition trail again, this time with the purchase of Judges Mini Coaches of Corby, twelve vehicles are included in the deal including three Plaxton Pirmo Midi buses and County Council contracted services around Corby, Kettering and Northampton. Operations will continue from the depot on South Folds Road, Corby.

McColls Group of Argyll which includes hotels and a small coach operation of four vehicles entered administration in mid August, The administrators are trying to sell it as a going concern, but as yet no potential buyers have been found and operations are continuing for the present.

Ashok Leyland, the Indian bus and truck maker is to take a 26 per cent stake worth about £4,8million in Optare, as a part of long-term strategic co-operation between the two companies. The deal will help Ashok Leyland accelerate technology and new product development and give it access to new markets. Optare expects to improve its competitiveness in the UK and export markets through access to Ashok Leyland's lower-cost supply chain, co-operation in new product development and improved management of its working capital. Ashok Leyland will nominate two members to the board of Optare.

The agreement, together with the issue of additional share warrants, will provide Optare with around £5.5million in cash. Optare will use these funds to support investment in its global bus development programme, to further reduce both the whole life costs of its products, and to reduce term debt by an additional £2million. Following completion of the agreed sale of Optare's Rotherham site and this investment, the company's term debt will reduce to less than £1.6million from £7.5million just 12 months ago.

Fleet News

Arriva

London: To start with a bit of news on route swaps between garages from September 25th the 168 will be operated from Ash Grove The operation of the 149 when it converts to double deck operation on October 16th, this date being brought forward, will be covered by Tottenham, which will allow room at Lea Valley for the operation of the 341 taken over from First. The 78 will be run from Ash Grove, instead of Barking from October 16th to allow route 150 to be run from Barking.

Of the DWs noted last month up to DW308 have been registered and will retain the marks noted anything above the registrations will be voided and 60 plates added. They are currently in store at Stamford Hill, which is full to bursting, and Lea Valley.

The pvr on route 1509 increased from August 28th VLA122-128 have moved to Brixton from Norwood. In turn DLA136, 139, 142, 143, 156 and 157 move from Croydon to Norwood, Croydon receiving new Enviro 400s T118 (LJ10 HVO), T119 (LJ10 HVP), T120 (LJ10 HVR) and T121 (LJ10 HVA) along with DW37 moving from Beddington Farm for route 50. The rest of the new Enviro 400s T122-T144 are being delivered into Thornton Heath for route 250,

T122	LJ10 HVB	T128	LJ10 HVH	T134	LJ10 HUK	T140	LJ10 HUZ
T123	LJ10 HVC	T129	LJ10 HVK	T135	LJ10 HUO	T141	LJ10 HTT
T124	LJ10 HVD	T130	LJ10 HVL	T136	LJ10 HUP	T142	LJ10 HTU
T125	LJ10 HVE	T131	LJ10 HTZ	T137	LJ10 HUU	T143	LJ10 HTV

T126	LJ10 HVF	T132	LJ10 HUA	T138	LJ10 HUV	T144	LJ10 HTX
T127	LJ10 HVG	T133	LJ10 HUH	T139	LJ10 HUY		

MA70 is now registered back to BX04 NDE, with T70 now 70 CLT from LJ59 ADX. Eleven artics have been moved to ENZA Motors at Manchester, where they will be prepared for use on Ryder Cup services prior to being operated by Arriva North West. MA5, MA6, MA13, MA14, MA19, MA21, MA23, MA24, MA32, MA33 and MA41

North West: More buses taken by PVS (dealer) have been 1198 (M198 YKA), 1232 (M232 AKB), 1300 (P3 SLT) and 6601 (N601 CKA). Quite a few allocation changes to record now, with Bolton being successful in winning many school tenders requiring an allocation of double deckers, with ex Arriva London DAFs entering service at Manchester: 1212, 1216 Laird St - sold: 1251 Bolton - Winsford (res): 1258, 1259, 1264 Bolton - disposal: 1330, 1332 Laird St - sold: 2253, 2254 Wythenshawe - Manchester: 2269, 2271 Bootle - Wythenshawe: 2517-2519 Bootle - Speke: 2563, 2564 Manchester - Bolton: 2570-2572 Chester - Bootle: 2573, 2629 Chester - Laird St: 3291 Skelmersdale - Laird St: 3601-3603, 3605, 3607, 3610-3614 Manchester - Bolton: 3343 Winsford - Bolton: 3362 Southport - Bolton: 3363, 3364 Skelmersdale - Bolton: 3365 Southport - Bolton: 4000-4002 Speke - Laird St: 4012-4020, 4032 Arriva London - Manchester: 6595, 6608, 6609, 6616 Bootle - disposal: 7635 reserve - Laird St: 7642 St Helens - Laird St: 7676 Bolton – Southport.

The registrations for the ex London Buses are 4012 (S202 JUS), 4013 (S203 JUA), 4014 (S204 JUA), 4015 (S205 JUA), 4016 (S206 JUA), 4017 (S207 JUA), 4018 (S208 JUA), 4019 (S209 JUA) and 4020 (S210 JUA), all have been converted to single door layout, at Derby before arriving in the north west. Three more T299 FGN, T301 FGN and T304 FGN are currently in the workshops at Bootle, where single door conversion is being carried out.

The Shires: The operations at Harlow are reported being moved to TGM operation, but the situation is very clouded at the moment, so hopefully I will have more details for next time. Two Excel Scania N169 PUT and N176 PUT have been noted along with a pair of Darts from Network Colchester S31 JUA and S313 JUA. Elsewhere Olympians 5110 and d5128 have finally left Aylesbury for scrap. Also leaving for the scrap man have been Volvo B10B 3089 and B6 3132. 3854 and 4491 are being used for spares at Wycombe and will not see service again.

Southern Counties

(Guildford & West Surrey): From Surrey CC comes one of the ex Ride Pegasus ADL Super Darts 3707 (LK55 ACY0. It is used for an increase of one bus on route 436 from the end of August. Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 3213 (P213 LKJ) has been transferred to Guildford from Southend

(Kent Thameside): Dennis Dart 3124 (N544 TPK) has been sold to Gibbons of Maidstone

(Southend): New 10.8m B32D ADL Enviro 200 Dart 4s have been delivered initially being stored at Dartford, but running in service from Grays from September 4th on TfL route 66 (Romford - Leytonstone)

4068	GN10 KWE	4071	GN10 KWH	4074	YX10 EBN	4077	YX10 EBU
4069	GN10 KWF	4072	GN10 KWJ	4075	YX10 EBO	4078	YX10 EBV
4070	GN10 KWG	4073	GN10 KWK	4076	YX10 EBP	4079	YX10 EBZ

TGM Group: Ford Transit EA05 XKF, is now here, formerly with Meteor Parking.

First Group

Aberdeen: Two Optare Solos transferred up from Glasgow have been 50460 (SJ03 DOH) and 50468 (SJ03 DPZ) in service on route 80

Berkshire: Operations at the outstation at Guildford ended on July 23rd when the Ride Pegasus services ceased and the fleet of 22 East Lancs bodied Dennis Darts returned to Surrey CC. DM41130 and DM41133 have been sold to Erith Commercials for scrap. Dart SLF DMP42644 is now at Slough.

Devon & Cornwall: Now in service are ex London Dennis Tridents 33173, 33174 and 33176 joining 33175 already in service from Dartmouth. Stored at St Austell are Leyland Olympians 34606, 34608, 34609, 34611, 34612, 34617, 34620, 34630, 34965 and 34970 along with Volvo Citybus 38007, 38009 and 38016. Dennis Dart SLF 40688 has moved from Plymouth to reserve at Barnstaple with 42432 now at Camborne from St Austell and 46440 moving to Plymouth, ex Barnstaple. No longer listed in the fleet are Dennis Dart SLFs 43436 and 42440, nor are Optare Solos 53001, 53003-53006. **Eastern Counties:** Withdrawn at Great Yarmouth are Dennis darts 40114, 47232 and 47233. Dennis Dart SLF 43450 has moved from Norwich to Great Yarmouth. Ex London Marshall bodied Dennis Dart SLFs 41730 (X503 JLO) and 41732 (X732 HLF) are now at Norwich. Volvo / Wright Gemini 37562 has gone to Somerset & Avon at Weston.

East Scotland: Operation of the 38 service linking Falkirk with Edinburgh was transferred to Larbert Road from August 2nd, along with drivers and a batch of Volvo B7RLEs. This leaves Linlithgow with only

the trunk 43 service and a handful of local routes

Glasgow: More Trident arrivals from London have been 32891 (V891 HLH), 32892 (V892 HLH), 32930 (W899 VLN) and 33010 (LK51 UZJ), along with Volvo B7TL 32304 (LK03 NHD) and 32305 (LK03 NHE)

Leicester: Dennis Lance 67117 (L817 HCY) has been sold to PVS (Barnsley) for scrapping

London: A vast number of changes to get through this time around VNP32313, 31316-31319, 31322, 31323 now at NP: VNZ32348 ON - DMu: TNL32891, 32892 UX - HSw: TNL32897 UX - HSw: TNL32929 DM - DMw: TNL32930 UX - HSw: TN32957 DM - DMw: TN32967-32983 NP - DMw: TN33072 DM - X: TNL33073, 33074 DM - UX: TNL33077 NP - LI: TNL33082 DM - DMw: TNL33093, 33098 NP - UX: TN33197, 33198 DM - NP: DN33543 NP - G: VN37943 new - ON: DMS41258, 41260, 41261 LI - WJw: DM41271 ON - HSw: DM41272 DM - DMw: DM41285 LI - HSw: DM41287 G - HSw: DM41289 NP - WJt: DM41299 SH - HSw: DML41323 ON - HSw: DML41328 LI - HSw: DMS41350, 41352, 41354 LI - WJw: DML44157-44164 UX - LI: ES64001-64004, 64006-64011 LI - DMw:

The first few of the next batch of 10.4m Volvo B9TL / Wright Gemini 2 double decks have been built and should be in London as you are reading this VN37890 (BF60 UUA), VN37891 (BF60 UUB), VN37892 (BF60 UTZ) and VN37893 (BF60 UUD).

Manchester: Quite a few movements of late with the schools going back and service changes 31938-31942 Bolton - Ashton: 31943-31945 Ashton - Wigan: 31948, 31950-31954 Wigan - reserve: 34019, 34023, 34028, 34029 Oldham - Bury: 34057, 34061 Oldham - reserve: 34251 Bury - reserve: 34252, 34253 Ashton - reserve: 34254, 34255 Ashton - Oldham: 34257, 34260, 34263 Bury - reserve: 34291, 34294 Ashton - Bury: 34295, 34296 Ashton - reserve: 37302 Bolton - Queens Rd: 37411 Oldham - Queens Rd: 40363 Bolton - Wigan: 40226, 40230 Queens Rd - reserve: 60314 Wigan - reserve: 60324, 60333, 60335, 60336, 60342, 60344, 60346 Bolton - reserve: 60347-60349 Wigan - reserve: 60434, 60441, 60442, 60444, 60446 Oldham - reserve: 61149-61151 Queens Rd - reserve: 61240 Wigan - Queens Rd: All the reserve buses have been parked at the former Thomas Hardie premises at Bryn.

Hampshire & Dorset: A spot of catching up here, from Devon & Cornwall is Volvo D10M / Alexander R 38015 (E215 BTA) which is being used at Weymouth. Four Optare Solos 53001, 53006, 53008 and 53013 have arrived from the same source and are in use at Hoeford. 51729 has been withdrawn and is in store at Hilsea. 41638 (R638 ULX) and 51722 (P722 KCR) have both been sold to Erith Commercials.

Northampton: More service cuts from September 19th see Firs cease to operate routes 5/5A to Southfields and 22 to St Giles Park. Both routes have been registered by stagecoach running half hourly

Somerset & Avon: Now the National Express 403 service has been lost coaches 20516, 20535, 20540, 20541 and 20548 have been withdrawn. Other allocation changes have been 32284 BH-HE: 32287 LH-HE: 37318 WM-HE: 40513, 40525, 40529 d/l-BH: 46204 YL-WM: 46905 BR-w: 46908 WM-HE: 48210, 48212, 48213 BH-HE: 51880, 60597 TN-w: Currently seeing use at Bath, on Park & Ride service is a DAF DB250 / Wright Gemini Hybrid Electric double deck LJ07 ECE. It has taken fleet number 39000 whilst here at least.

South Yorkshire: Dennis Dart / 40534 (S529 UAK) has been transferred to Bristol. Awaiting departure to the scrap man are Volvo B10Ms 60603, 60604, 60609, 60610, 60612-60617 Dennis Dart SLF 40844 and Volvo Olympian 30553

West Yorkshire: With grateful thanks to Stuart we have the latest changes affecting the fleet following the large loss of work and resultant service changes: Fifteen MyBus BMCs move to Keighley & District (see K & D for details): Currently withdrawn awaiting re deployment are at Bradford Volvo Olympians 31673, 31685, 31812-31816, 31818, 34045-34048: Optare Solos 50284-50286; Huddersfield just Dennis Dart 40869; Halifax Dennis Darts 40871, 40876, 40878, 40879, 42175 and 42178; Hunslet Prk Volvo Olympians 31674, 31676, 31683, 34145, 34234 and Optare Solo 50275 Finally Bramley Volvo Olympian 31811, Dart 42179 and Solos 53301-53303:

Allocation changes to record are 30241-30247, 30836-30839 Bramley - Hunslet Park: 31760-31767 Hunslet Park - Bradford: 31771-31775, 31805-31808, 32453-32460, 37043, 37044, 37047 Bramley - Hunslet Park: 37048-37050 Halifax - Hunslet Park: 40880, 40881 Halifax - Huddersfield: 41256, 41315, 41316 Hunslet Park - Halifax 53104-53106 Hunslet Park - Bradford: 61050 Halifax - Bramley: 62116, 62117 Halifax - Hunslet Park: 66707-66709 Bramley - Hunslet Park: 66743, 66744, 66757, 66758 Huddersfield - Halifax: 69416-69420 Bramley - Hunslet Park:

Wyvern: Sold to PVS for scrap have been Dennis Lances 67201 (L201 AAB) and 67207 (L207 AAB). Also scrapped has been Dennis Dart 46103 (K903 CVW). Another Dart 40245 has now been placed in reserve from Kidderminster

Go Ahead Group

Bluestar: Transferred here from London have been four Plaxton President bodied Volvos 1310 (W474 WGH) ex PVL74, 1311 (W477 WGH) ex PVL77, 1312 (W478 WGH) ex PVL78 and 1313 (W481 WGH)

London: Many double deckers have migrated to the South Coast company's, see below, over the summer PVL74, 77, 78, 81 and NVs 111, 114, 117, 127, 139, 162, 168, 173, 179, 182-185 and 187. The majority, if not all via Hants & Dorset Trim for refurbishment. Latest allocation changes have been EVL5, 15, 17 AF - SW: LDP52, 74 BX - NX: LDP104, 105, 108 NX - Q: PVL60 AL - Qt: PVL85, 100, 101, 109 AL - NX: PVL123, 134, 138 AL - Qt: PVL150, 151, 170 Q - BV: PVL217, 218 NXc - Qc: PVL274, 275 AF - BV: PVL367, 368 BX - BV: WV L87 MW - AL:

Metrobus: Just the one movement 217 C - CY:

North East: All the "Quaylink" Optare Versa 1110s are now in service having been launched on the Newcastle bank of the Tyne on August 10th. The full batch comprising

8310	NK10 GNY	8313	NK10 GOC	8315	NK10 GOH	8317	NK10 GOP
8311	NK10 GNZ	8314	NK10 GOE	8316	NK10 GOJ	8318	NK10 GOU
8312	NK10 GOA						

They all carry names of famous Newcastle people in order "Charles Avison" "William Wailes" "John Dobson" "Joseph Cowen" "Charles Earl Grey" "Harry Clasper" "Thomas Bewick" "Emily Davies" "Josphe Swan"

Another new batch of vehicles are nine Mercedes-Benz Citro rigid single decks, for Hexham depot and are being used and the newly extended Ten service, for which they carry a silver livery. It has replaced the current 602 route.

5328	BJ10 VUN	5331	BJ10 VUR	5333	BJ10 VUT	5335	BJ10 VUV
5329	BJ10 VUO	5332	BJ10 VUS	5334	BJ10 VUU	5336	BJ10 VUW
5330	BJ10 VUP						

Former Oxford Volvo B10BLE 5152, 5154 and 5157 join the two noted last month in service at Winlaton. With the ex Metrobus Olympians arriving, Stanley allocated Volvo Olympians 3806, 3950, 3951, 3953, 3955 and 3958 have been withdrawn. 3806 being significant as it was the last former OK Motor Services bus still in use.

Hants & Dorset: Transferred from Wilts & Dorset in July was 2643 T643 AJT Optare Solo Optare B31F.

Marchwood Motorways: Several single deck vehicles have been transferred across to Southern Vectis over the summer 504 L509 EHD), 505 (L510 EHD), 507 (T165 AUA) DAF SB220 / Ikarus, 509 (M846 RCP) DAF SB220 / Northern Counties B49F and 622 (K122 BUD), 625 K125 BUD Volvo B10B-58 / Northern Counties B47F

Solent Blue Line: Leyland Olympian 729 (H729 DDL) is now with Southern Vectis

Southern Vectis: A large batch of ex Metrobus Olympian double decks have arrived on the Island, for school work, they will retain their Metrobus blue colours and be branded as Moss, an old coach operator on the island.

4830	R830 MFR	4834	R834 MFR	4837	R837 MFR	4841	R841 MFR
4831	R831 MFR	4835	R835 MFR	4838	R838 MFR	4843	R843 MFR
4832	R832 MFR	4836	R836 MFR	4839	R839MFR	4835	R845 MFR
4833	R833 MFR						

Also now on the Island are six ex London General Northern Counties bodied Volvos 4862 (362 LGH), 4873 (R373 LGH), 4879 (R379 LGH), 4882 (R382 LGH), 4883 (R383 LGH) and 4885 (R385LGH). These will initially operate in London red, receiving the blue livery as time permits.

Wilts & Dorset: There has been a swap around of vehicles with Southern Vectis, basically putting older vehicles onto the Island: 733 (H733 DDL) Leyland Olympian H47/31F: 3148 (M17 WAL), 3149 (M18 WAL), 3150 (M19 WAL), 3151 (M20 WAL), 3152 (M13 WAL) 3157 (M645 RCP) DAF DB250 / Northern Counties CO47/30F: 4923 (A175 VFM) Leyland Olympian / ECW H45/32F and 9216 (T216 REL) a DAF SB3000 / Plaxton C49FT. In return have come 401 (HF54 KXT), 403 (HF54 KXU) and 404 (HF54 KXW) Volvo B7TL / East Lancs CO49/29F and 756-759 R756-759 GDL Volvo Olympians/ Northern Counties H48/29F. Volvo B7RLE / Wright Eclipse Urban 100 (BG59 FYB) is now here after a spell at Go North East

Oxford Bus Company: Dennis Tridents 902, 903, 908 and 909 have been repainted into Green Park & Ride livery.

Plymouth Citybus: A Mercedes-Benz Citaro artic, from Go Ahead London has been trialled in late August on route 21 City Centre - Chaddlewood and 26 City Centre - Barne, to see if they can be successfully operated.

National Express Group

Dundee: 7064 res (Dundee - WM): 7065, 7066 Dundee - res(WM): 7127-7129 Dundee - res(WM): Similar 7122, 7124 and 7130 had been placed into reserve over the holidays, but are back in service

Operations: 8351 CY-SR: 8568/9 AL-SC: C053 SH-SR: C090 CY-SR:

West Midlands: Main news this time around concerns the closure of Lea Hall garage on July 25th, and the subsequent dispersal of the allocated fleet., so a lot to get through this month:- 276 CV - res: 289, 317 PB - res: 501, 506, 509, 511-513 PE - res: 517,518 AG - res: 520 PE - res: 528, 529, 535-537 AG - res: 538 PE - res: 539 AG - res: 543 PE - res: 554 res - PE: 575 WA - res: 583 CV - res: 585, 587-589, 592, 602, 603, 605, 607-610, 613 PE - res: 628 AG - res: 652 WA - res: 1329, 1333, 1335, 1337, 1339, 1341 WN - res: 1345-7, 1349, 1350, 1354, 1355 PB - res: 1357, 1360,1361, 1363, 1364, 1367, 1369, 1370 WN - res: 1375 PB - res: 1379, 1380, 1382 WN - res: 1384-1386 PB - res: 1387, 1389-1393 WN - res: 1401 PB - res: 1402 reinstated to AG: 1408, 1411, 1413 PE - YW: 1415 reinstated to AG: 1416 PE - YW: 1430 reinstated to AG: 1436, 1443, 1446, 1447 PE - YW: 1449 PB - WN: 1450 PE - YW: 1451 PE - WN: 1455, 1468, 1473 PB - WN: 1502-1504, 1506, 1507, 1510, 1511, 1513 reinstated to YW: 1543-1547, 1549 CV - WN: 1577, 1599-1601, 1607, 1628 LH - WB: 1629-1631 LH - PE: 1632-1639 LH - BC: 1641, 1643-1651, 1653-1655, 1661, 1662 LH - WN: 1666-1674, 1666-1668 LH - BY: 1787 AG - WA: 1788-1795 YW - BC: 1796 LH - BC: 1797-1800 YW - BC: 1801, 1802 LH - BC: 1803, 1804 YW - BC: 1805-1815 LH - BC: 1816-1820 PB - BC: 1898-1907 WA - PB: 2832, 2903, 2988 AG - res: 3238 reinstated to PB: 3606-3614 WB - BY: 4023, 4024, 4026, 4027, 4035-4037, 4039, 4052, 4060, 4062, 4064, 4066, 4068, 4071, 4072 BC - AG: 4142, 4144, 4145, 4148-4153, 4157, 4165, 4167, 4168, 4175-4178, 4184, 4185, 4187, 4188, 4193-4195, 4197-4200, 4202 LH - BC: 4225 WB - res: 4233, 4235-4237, 4239, 4241, 4242, 4244, 4249-4253, 4255, 4257, 4259-4263 BC - PB: 4269 BC - res: 4272, 4300-4304 BC - PB: 4313 LH - BC: 4317, 4326 WA - BC: 4336, 4338, 4340-4343, 4347, 4349, 4358, 4359 LH - BC: 4365 LH - WA: 4366 WA - BC: 4370, 4371, 4374 LH - WA: 4375 LH - YW: 4384, 4385 LH - WN: 4390, 4434-4438, 4455-4474 LH - BC: 4488-4490 PB - WA: 4800-4829 BC - PE:

Stagecoach

Bluebird: A whole raft of changes have occurred over the last couple of months as a result of school contract changes, and the associated service revisions. It will be easier if I just list the current fleet disposition

ABERDEEN

Volvo Olympian: 16112 16116 16117 16121 16522 16526

Enviro 400: 19374-19376 19378 19558

Volvo B10M: 20932 20935 20937 20941 20948 20951 20953 20954 20988-20993

MAN: 22109 22110 22112 22254 22255 22261 22265 22272 22273 22351-22364 22701- 22711 22802 22803

Enviro 300: 27532-27541

Dennis Dart SLF: 33431 33432 33437 33438 33469 34069

Optare Solo: 47078 47080 47111 47162 47257 47281 47428 47603-47605

Taxi buses: 49753 49754 49756

Neoplan: 50129

Van Hool: 50227-50232

Volvo B10M Artic: 51070 51071 51076 51098

Volvo B10M Interurban: 52141 52240

Volvo B7R: 53216 53218 53219 53226 53234 53306-53317

Volvo B12B: 54008-54011 54046

BUCHAN

Volvo Olympian: 16111 16153 16190

Dennis Dart SLF: 33908 33909 34029

Optare Solo: 47079 47156 47157 47159 47160 47213 47214 47216 47426 47427

Neoplan: 50135 50137 50142 50144

Volvo B7R: 53221-53223 53225 53232 53233

Volvo B12B: 54062-54070 54072-54075

MORAY

Enviro 300: 27601 27602

Dennis Dart SLF: 33139 33141 33263 33478 33479 34040 34061 34062 34069 34070 34076 34740

Enviro 200: 36031-36035 36046-36050

Mercedes-Benz 709D: 40735

Optare Solo: 47425 47601 47602

Volvo B10M Interurban: 52137 52235 52237 52294 52312 52313 52352 52356 52422 52463

Volvo B7R: 53235-53247 53262-53270 53321 53334 53335

RESERVE

Volvo Olympian: 16200 16712 16713

Volvo B10M: 20118 20141 20143 20144 20153 20860 20862-20865 20875 20878 20879 20881 20893 20951 20996

Dennis Dart: 32360 32361 Dennis Dart SLF: 34028 34036

Mercedes-Benz 709D: 40170

Optare Solo: 47606

Taxibus: 49752 49802

Neoplan: 50147

Volvo B10M Artic: 51063 51099

Volvo B10M Interurban: 52236 52243

AWAITING DISPOSAL

Leyland Olympian: 13502 13506 13513 13514 13518 13645 13648

Volvo Olympian: 16202 16715 16716

Volvo B10M: 20861 20866

Dennis Dart: 32208 32365 32366 32368

Dennis Dart SLF: 33906

Mercedes-Benz 709D: 40041-40043 40046 40135 40136 40138 40158 40165-40169 40171 40229 40636 40637 40640 40752 40755 40928 40929

Mercedes-Benz 811D: 41369 41801

East: The new Volvo B9R / Plaxton Elites at Peterborough for National Express duties are 53706 (AE10 JSZ), 53707 (AE10 JTO), 53708 (AE10 JTO), 53709 (AE10 JTV), 53710 (AE10 JTX) and 53711 (AE10 JTY). Leyland Olympians 14035, 14038, 14042 have been sold to Ensignbus, whilst Hardwicks at Barnsley have 14067, 14070 14493 and 14495. Volvo Olympian 16162 has replaced Leyland 14070 at Corby, leaving 14029 and 14043 there along with 14054 and 14494 at Kettering as the sole survivors

East Kent & Hastings: Again not a lot happening with just Volvo B10M 20542 (P542 ESA) arriving at Folkestone from Yorkshire, where it replaces 20637 which has suffered a gear box failure. Also now here, from east Scotland are two Volvo Olympians 16847 and 16848.

East Midlands: After the mass of movements last time, a very quiet spell this month with just these to note MCW Metrobus 15934 withdrawn being replaced at Skeggy by newly open topped Dennis Trident 17676 (PIW 4456). 16465 is now at Scunthorpe from Lincoln, replacing 16486 there which is now in reserve following engine failure.

East Scotland: There was not much happening throughout July with just a couple of alterations to the fleet card 20916 and 20927 entering service at Perth allowing 20172 and 32805 moving onto the disposal list. 20172 along with 20173, 20176 and 20196 have all been sold. Arriving from West Scotland have been MANs 22603 and d22604, one takes the place of 20196 (above) with the other acting as a float vehicle whilst the Goldline Enviros are repainted/ rebranded. More activity occurred mid August with the closure of Montrose garage with the allocation being split as follows to Arbroath went 16718, 16724, 16811, 16812, 16884, 20315, 20325, 42238, 47215, 47256, Blairgowrie received 16809 with 21021, 52361, 52474 and 52476 moving into reserve, 52361 is destined to become a trained whilst 52474 and 52476 are being up seated to 70 and will be transferred to Rennie's once it has been completed. Other movements during late August 16009 D - R: 16403 R - dis: 16422, 16429 res - A: 16432 G - R: 16813, 16815, 16816 BL - DE: 16814 AH - DE: 16881, 16882 AH - BL: 18016 res - D: 20148, 20149, 20318 A - res: 20964 DE - AH 21020 BL - res: 21051 DE - res: 21128 DE - BL: 22262 D - res: 22581 D - A: 27551 DE - AH: 27603-27605 A - D: 31499 A - res: 32907 DE - scrap: 33415 D - DE: 33436, 33439 G - A 42034, 42228 AH - res: 47227 AH - P: 52386 R - P : 52553 D - R: 53254 A - D:

Highland: Latest notes from the northern outpost 20594 FW - res: 32200 CT - scrap: 34739 CT - IS: 41361 sold to Ensign: 41362 CT - scrap: 42021 S/C Western - CT: 42046 OY - scrap: 52227 AB - res: 52679 Wales - res:

Manchester: The ADL Enviro 400 Hybrids began arriving at Hyde Rd in mid August 12027 (MX10 MVR), 12028 (MX10 MVS), 12029 (MX10 MVT), 12030 (MX10 MVU), 12031 (MX10 MVV), 12032 (MX10 MVW), 12033 (MX10 MVY) AND 12034 (MX10 MVZ). The rest of the batch up to 12056 will arrive with 60 registrations, the first of which were noted in build by Arthur at ADL on the 24th. Just a couple of changes 22138 AZ-PS: 22159 PS-AZ: Quite a few other buses, mainly Magic bus liveried vehicles had been moved to store at Trafford Park, during late July and throughout August, but will be back at their respective garages as you read these. The numbers of vehicles involved were changed as buses were moved in and out of store, as a couple of Metrolink replacement jobs were running I will not give a list as it would take far too much space up In addition Hyde Rd and Stockport loaned 22 Enviro 400s to Princess Rd in the first week of August for Metrolink work.

Merseyside: Mercedes-Benz Vito minibuses 60006, 60009 and 60011 have moved down from Aberdeen to act as staff shuttles

Midlands: The new combined Warwickshire and the Bedford depot of East, have 24 ADL Enviro 200 Dart 4s on order for delivery into Nuneaton. Leyland Olympians 14023 and 14027 have been sold, leaving 14025, 14026, 14028, 14032 and 14034 still chugging away at Rugby, but for not much longer. Stratford depots Dennis Tridents 17054, 17059, 17076, 18189 and 18190 have been placed into reserve, for repainting, following the arrival of the new Scania's. Solo 47517 is back at Leamington after its refurbishment

North East: With the loss of the Quaylink contract Designline HEV single decks 61001-61010 have been

parked up at Walkergate garage. Dennis Darts 32112, 32121 and 32134 join them with sister 32117 being scrapped.

North West: Scania 15682 is registered PX10 ETT and not as shown last month. More new arrivals are further Scania N230UD / ADL Enviro 400 double decks four at Lillyhall 15683 (PX60 BDZ), 15684 (PX60 BEJ), 15685 (PX60 BEO) and 15686 (PX60 BEU) all have DP47/29F seating layout. Wigleys (Barnsley) have taken more Volvo B10Ms 20750, 20756, 20758, 20760 and 20774, It is likely these will be scrapped rather than see further service elsewhere. Fleetlink (NW) have taken Volvo B10M 20779. Mercedes Vario minibuses 42534, 42565 and 42566 have been sold to Dochertys in Scotland with 709D 4022 being sold to Hardwicks Other movements during July were 14243, 14246 BA - res: 16184 KL - PR: 17017ME - LL: 17018 ME - CYr: 17021 ME - PR: 18364 ME - KL: 20134 LL - res: 20761 LL - dis: 20786, 20787 BA - dis: 20790 LL - res: 20921, 20931, 20934, 20945 res - LL: 20952 LL - res: 33174 CY - Manchester: 47474 LL - res: 52189 CY - dis: 20604 arrived from Manchester to take up training duties at Chorley, but TK reported it back in the yard Hyde Rd on August 22nd.

Preston Bus: A reductions in school work has seen the following ex Lothian double deckers sold to Ensignbus, some not moving very far, 14534, 14535, 14536, 14537, 14538 and 14539. Ensign have also taken Leyland Lynxes 29212, 29218 and 29228.

Oxfordshire: With the new Hybrid ADL 400s now delivered and in service several buses have been withdrawn, for movement elsewhere in the group MAN / ALX300s 22205, 22207, 22209, 22913, 22916, 22917, 22922, 22930, 22937 and 22938, some of which had arrived in Yorkshire by mid August. Optare Solos 47315 and 47316 have been placed in reserve as have Dennis Dart SLFs 33821 and 22822. Volvo B6LE 31320 has been moved to Banbury, awaiting disposal. The Caetano Levantes 59212 - 59215 were parked on August 3rd awaiting movement. MAN 22054 now has a rear advert for the Coltswood Wild Animal Park.

South: Lots happening, fleet movement wise as buses are cascade down the fleet, a quick correction to last months report that I have just noticed 27644 is confirmed at PM whilst CR has 27645-27648, along with 27649-27651. Worthing has received 27652-27661. 32321 WI - dis: 32457 CR - WI: 33036-33040 BE - dis: 34011 CR - dis: 34014, 34015 AD - dis: 34018, 34020 dis - res: 34107 WG - CR: 34514-34516, 34518 CR - AD: 34528 CR - PM: 34531 CR - res: 35254-35258, 35260 WG - BE: 40906, 40912 AD - dis: 47542 CR - AD: Volvo B10Ms 20460, 20461 and 20615 have all been sold to Edward Thomas & Son

South West: Again a quiet spell with just a couple of buses moving around 15324 TQ - res: 15329, 16058 res - TQ: 16357 BS - dis: 59612, 59613 WN - dis:

Wales: As part of the Stagecoach 2010/2011 vehicle order ADL Enviro 300s 27687-27700 are due at Cwmbran for upgrading the busy X24 service linking Newport with Cwmbran and Blaenavon. On its way to Stagecoach South Enviro 300 GX10 KZR stopped off at Cwmbran, for evaluation on the route. Stagecoach West Dennis Tridents 18018 and 18019 have been in the area during August for driver training ahead of the forthcoming Ryder Cup Park & Ride services .

Latest movements around the area have been 33209, 33211 res-BR: 33278 res-IB: 33285 res-MR: 33556, 33557 BR-res: 33563 res-IB: 33618, 33619 res-IB: 34195 d/I-PT: 39824 IB-dis: 41165 dis-IB: 41370 IB-dis: 47197, 47343, 47383, 47385, 47717 d/I-AE:

West: From West Scotland have come Dennis Trident / ALX400s 18017-18020. Leyland Olympian. Volvo B10M 20820 has been sold to Wigleys whilst Fleetlink have taken Mercedes-Benz Varios 42376, 42586 and 42588 along with Volvo B10M 52396.

West Scotland: A long list of alterations to get through 10762 donated to Transport Preservation Trust: 10843, 11032 scrapped: 11083 d/I - AY: 14392 scrapped: 14964 DS - dis: 15249 CK - d/I: 16290 K - CK: 16720 SR - res: 16854 DS - CK: 16863 d/I - AY: 16865 CK - res: 18000 res - DS: 18001 K - DS: 18002 res - DS: 20152 AD - scrapped: 20323 AR - AD: 20504 DS - SR: 20505 SR - res: 20516 DS - res: 20518 res - GW: 20536 DS - res: 20567 res - SR: 20579 DS - res: 20590 GW - res: 20591 res - Highlands: 31370 res - scrapped: 31378 dis - CK: 31379 res - scrapped: 31383 CK - d/I: 34142 AY - res: 42020 DS - res: 42021 res - Highlands: 42023 DS - res: 47041 returned to SPT: 52258 GWjv - res: 52456 AD - res: 53204 GWjv - AD: 53208, 53210 GWjv - res:

Yet another large batch of new buses, this time ADL Enviro 200 single decks allocated at Kilmarnock

36131	SF10 BZW	36137	SF10 BZO	36143	SF10 BVZ	36148	SF10 CFD
36132	SF10 BZX	36138	SF10 BZP	36144	SF10 BZH	36149	SF10 CDZ
36133	SF10 BZY	36139	SF10 BZR	36145	SF10 BZJ	36150	SF10 CEA
36134	SF10 BZL	36140	SF10 BZS	36146	SF10 BZK	36151	SF10 CEJ
36135	SF10 BZM	36141	SF10 BZT	36147	SF10 CFA	36152	SF10 CEK
36136	SF10 BZN	36142	SF10 BZU				

These were originally for Ayr, but have been allocated to Killie. Dennis Darts 34597-34604 have been moved to Ayr. Withdrawn at Ayr have been Volvo B6Les 31366-31678 and 31680. MAN / ALX300s 22603 and 22604 have been transferred to Perth. The two open tops at Ayr 11083 and 16863 are once again put away for the winter months

Yorkshire: Just a handful of notes for now, 16500 moves to Stagecoach East, and Volvo B10Ms 2092, 20930 and 20942 are running out of Ecclesfield for the time being, several ex Oxford MAN / Alexander ALX300s are in the process of arriving.

The new Scania N230UD / ADL Envio 400s for Chesterfield will be in service as this is read

15687	YN60 ACV	15690	YN60 ACZ	15693	YN60 ADV	15695	YN60 ACZ
15688	YN60 ACX	15691	YN60 ADO	15694	YN60 ADX	15696	YN60 AEA
15689	YN60 ACY	15692	YN60 ADU				

The are joined at Chesterfield by five new Volvo B9R / Plaxton Elites for National Express work 53712 (YN60 ABX), 53713 (YN60 ACF), 53714 (YN60 ACJ), 53715 (YN60 ACO) and 53716 (YN60 ACU)

Transdev

Harrogate & District: Five "MyBus" services were due to be taken over from First from the new school year, four to Menston St Mary's and one to Boston Spa school. At least two and maybe more Metro owned, BMCs, out of the batch inherited at Keighley are due to be out based at Starbeck, for use.

Keighley & District: Like its sister company several MyBus school routes have been won from First, with a number o BMCs allocated here to operate the services to Bingley Grammar School and Titus Salt School. The buses now allocated here are as follows with the old First number in (brackets)

101 YJ55ZZY (68601): 102 YK55AAF (68611): 103 YK55AAE (68602): 104 YK55AUC (68613): 105 YK55AVB (68617): 106 YK55AVC (68618): 108 YK55AVE (68620): 109 YK55AVL (68624): 110 YK06DNO (68633): 111 YK06EHL (68637): 112 YK06EHM (68634): 113 YJ06WTY (68629): 114 YJ56LKA (68666): 115 YJ56LJZ (68665): 117 YJ56WGC (68673): 118 YK55AVD (68619)

London United: Main news this month, is concerning new bus orders, twenty ADL Enviro 400H hybrid double decks are due in October for use on route 94 at Shepherd's Bush garage. Meanwhile it is stick with Optare for single decks with 17 12m Tempo B34Ds have just been ordered for route H37 Richmons-Hounslow with delivery due in early 2011. Only a couple of movements VP107 AV - BT: TA212 FW - TV: DPS625 NC - SO and DPS628 TV - NC:

Independent Operators

Scotland

AAA Coaches (Kirknewton): Volvo B12B / Sunsundegui NR04 AAA is now operating with Universal Travel of Glasgow.

Ayrways: Noted recently is Scania L113 / East Lancs single deck P655 VWX, latterly with Isle Coaches

Central Coaches (Aberdeen): A new arrival here is Plaxton Cheetah YN06 CYJ

C & M Coaches: A new arrival here is Mercedes-Benz Vario / ALX100 R341 KGG

Garelohead Coaches: Brand new is a slimline Optare Solo SR YJ10 MFH, used on route 302 between Helensborough and Carrick Castle. The service was previously home to Marshall bodied Mercedes M634 FJF which is believed to have left the fleet.

Henderson Travel: Several Renault / Car. ind 15 seater minibuses are in service in SPT Mybus livery 410 (SJ10 AVR), 510 (SJ10 AVT), 610 SJ10 NLJ) and 710 (SJ10 AVX)

E & M Horsborough: A pair of MAN / MCV Evolution single decks are being operated on route H4 for the Forth Valley Hospital whose blue and white livery they carry EH10 EMH and MH10 EMH. Leyland National Grenways EIG1436, EIG 1437 and TOF 694S have all been sold to Essbee (Coatbridge).

McGills: The second of two Plaxton Presidents has entered service 900 (X7 DCR), the other being 901 (X7 DKR)

Moffat & Williamson: Don has noted a silver liveried Volvo B7 / Plaxton coach with M & W titles here during August YN56 OSM. I have it as being with Holmes of Clay Cross

WAVE (Stirling): Standing for Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle Enterprises Ltd is a sister company to Dial a Journey, a charitable company operating accessible services, using mainly Mercedes-Benz Sprinter minibuses, for residents of Falkirk, Stirling and Clackmananshire. WAVE operates larger vehicles mainly on contract services to and from the Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert and it is these that interest us, as the company has just put into service two 8.9m ADL Enviro 200s KX10 DVM, KX10 DVN and four 12m ADL Enviro 300s KX10 DVF, KX10 DVG, KX10 DVH, KX10 DVJ all on lease from Dawson Rentals and used on the H1, H2 and H3 routes.

WJC Buses (Airdrie): A recent purchase from DJ International has been G700 PNS a former Alexander RV bodied Volvo Citybus. Also new is E864 RCS a Volvo Citybus coming from Stagecoach West Scotland

North East & Yorkshire

Centrebus Yorkshire Group

(Huddersfield Bus Co): New arrivals at the Waterloo depot have been four ex Wilts & Dorset Optare Solos S624 JRU, S625 JRU, S266 JRU, S267 JRU and S269 JRU

(White Rose Bus Co): 528 (Y254 FJN) is another Dart SLF to note

East Yorkshire: Former Finglands Northern Counties bodied Olympians have transferred here 612 (N744 ANE), 613 (N745 ANE), 614 (N746 ANE), 615 (N47 ANE) and 616 (N748 ANE).

Stringers (Pontefract): Purchased of late from Ken Routledge (Cockermouth) has been Mercedes-Benz O.814D / Plaxton Cheetah PX55 AEA

North West England

A1A Travel: The company withdrew from operating all Mersey Travel contracts from August 15th. Most passing to Eazibus the following day. The commercial 107 and 207 routes are continuing for now

Airport Parking (Sharston): A second brand new Optare Solo SR is YJ10 MGE

Blackpool Transport: Optare Deltas 103, 105 and 114 have been sold to Partons (Barnsley) for scrapping.. Five Volvo B7RLE / Plaxton Centro B45F single decks, ex dealer stock have been procured 525 (BF0 UVJ), 526 (BF60 UVK), 527 (BF60 UVL), 528 (BF60 UWM) and 529 (BF60 UVN). A further six 530-535 are also in the pipeline. I think these will see off the remaining Optare Deltas. I cannot recall if I have noted the fleet numbers of the Volvo B7RLE/ Wright Eclipses being purchased from Anglian, so here they are 520 (AO06 BOV), 521 (AU06 BPE), 522 (AU06 BPF), 523 (AU06 BPK) and 524 (AU06 BPO). At least one was still with Anglian during mid August. Dennis Trident 341 (PO51 UMV) is now in service in the new livery, the less said about which the better!!

Bullock (Cheadle): A former Dublin bus Olympian in use is S472 KBA. The Hybrid Volvo / Wright demonstrator that had been with First West Yorkshire BK10 MGW is now having a spell here.

Coach Hire Booking (Accrington): A new operator starting operations with a Scania K340 Omniexpress / Lahden C55FT YT10 WLK and Volvo B10M /Jonckheere Mistral T61 LEC, the latter coming from The Travellers choice. An operating Centres of Suite 16, The Globe Centre St James Sq, an industrial unit near to the town centre is registered for six vehicles

Coachmasters (Rochdale): A pair of former Lothian Volvo Olympians have been acquired from Stephenson's K873 CSF and K876 CSF along with Dennis Trident / East Lancs Lolyne V415 KMY

Courtesy Coaches (Chadderton): Volvo B12M / Plaxton YN54 WWA is now registered as M13 YEL. With similar Volvo B12B YN05 VRZ now M40 YEL

Also arriving of late has been Temsa Safari YJ57 BSY

Go Goodwins: Noted here in Late July was FE52 HFS and Iribus Agoraline.

Grand Prix (Brough): The latest incumbent of the 563 Penrith – Kirkby Stephen service is Volvo B7RLE / Wright PX56 GNF, It has been sourced from an Irish operator where it was registered 07-LS-1424

Hodsons (Clitheroe): A recent purchase, from Docklands Coaches has been Mercedes-Benz 614D/ Onyx C24F, being re-registered as MHZ 7975 on arrival

Home James (Speke): Running here is an ex Shearings Volvo B10 / Jonckheere Mistral Y389 KBN

JP Travel (Middleton): Mini Pointer Darts 113 (V387 HGG) and 114 (V389 HGG) have been sold to Hanson of Stourbridge). Another arrival is Dennis Dart SLF M473 FJR, an ex Go Ahead North East bus.

Manchester Community Transport: Latest second hand purchase is ADL Dart SLF / ADL Pointer 2 RX56 BWE

Peoples Bus: Several ex East London Bus Group Dennis Trident / ALX 400 double decks have been acquired LV52 HHL and LV52 HHZ

Pilkingtons (Accrington): Four Optare Solos have been purchased from NX West Midlands S278 AOX, T297 UOX, T311 UOX and T312 UOX.

Ken Roteledge (Cockermouth): One of Eddies spies noted a new Mercedes-Benz Sprinter on its way here on trade plates RV60 DJO

Selwyns (Runcorn): The new Plaxton Elites are now finding their way onto the 533 Wrexham Glasgow service as well as the London routes. DAF / Van Hool 90 (YJ51 EKX) is now SEL 36 with 100 (T185 AUA) now SEL 73. The previous holders of these registrations older DAF / Van Hools R61 GNA and R62

GNW have been sold to Jones (Llanfaethlu). Also departed is Y469 HUA which is now with South Gloucs, still operating National Express services

Shearings: The long established base at Dover Eastern Docks, has been replaced by one at the Stanford Intersection, Stop 24, unit 19, Junction 11 off the M20 at Hythe.

Walton Swift (Preston) A large increase in school contract work has led to the procurement of several double deck Volvo Olympians, previously operated by Preston Bus, E325 MSG, E326 MSG, E328 MSG and E329 MSG Also here is ex Stagecoach Volvo B10M K720 DAO.

Central England

Abbey Travel (Leicester): A pair of MCW Metrobuses have been bought from NXWM B819 AOP and B849 AOP

Chapel End Coaches (Nuneaton): A new arrival is GT03 LLL, from Evobus, ex Shearings, one of the original Grand Tourer coaches, hence the registration

Confidence (Leicester): Buses sent to the scrap yard of late have been Olympians JTY 371X, EEH 903Y and A132 SMA along with Leyland Tigers A112 MUD and B123 UUD

Midland Classic: A new arrival here is former ELBG Dennis Trident / ALX400 V118 MEV, still in dual door mode at the moment. Also arriving is a former Midland Red North Dennis Falcon K212 HUA.

Nottingham City Transport: Alan Spencer indicates that 940-945 are moving to a different, as yet unknown route from September 5th, With a new Light Blue line commencing at the same time

Rotala Group

(Central Connect): A new ADL Enviro200Dart 4 / MCV Evolution B40F is in service carrying Signature livery AE10 CTO in full two tone grey livery. AE10 CSF is another Dart in Signature livery which had been delivered earlier in the year to the Heathrow operation

(Diamond Bus): The first ten new Man 14.220 / MCV Evolution B39Fs on order have been noted, 601 an d607 are in Red Diamond colours with 608 is running with Central Connect in all white with Signature titles

601	AE10 CSU	604	AE10 CSY	607	AE10 CTK	609	AE10 KFW
602	AE10 CSV	605	AE10 CSZ	608	AE10 Kfv	610	AE10 KFX
603	AE10 CSX	606	AE10 CTF				

Silverdale (Nottingham): Alan Spencer tells me that local newspaper adverts have the company looking to recruit 15 drivers for working on National Express routes. The remaining diagrams on the 450 service have been taken over from Stagecoach

Trent Barton: Optare Solo 455 is now in fleet livery, having previously worn Radcliffe Lines

Wales

Alpine (Llandudno): More vehicles to record as being acquired include D149/213/244 FYM Leyland Olympian ECW PO42/26D which came from Blackpool in July. However, D213 FYM was subsequently returned from whence it came, presumably being unsuitable. One further acquisition to note is PN05 BUA a MB 0814D Plaxton B33F which also arrived in July and is ex Holmeswood Coaches. Leyland Fleetline N/Counties 64 CFM 87S has been sold.

Brodyr Williams (Upper Tumble): Bedford SB Plaxton PTF 863G, Leyland Tiger Duple F66 ETH and Dennis Javelin Plaxton N899 KFA have all gone. Notably, F66 ETH being scrapped by the end of June.

Bysiau Cwm Taf (Whitland): Acquired back in May from Logan, Dunloy was YN 08 NB a Volvo B12M Plaxton C49FT.

Chapmans (Tonyrefail): Acquired in June was HIL 8221 (ex G654 ONH), a Volvo B10M Jonckheere from Cavendish, Pontyclun.

Edwards (Llantwit Fardre): Acquired in July were NDW 408/09X Volvo Ailsa N/Counties H39/35F. Both have come from RVTPS, Bargoed, the latter being for spares only. On loan in July from Moseley, Wellington was WA 54 ECZ a Bova FHD 12.340 and originally with Diamond Coaches, Morriston. From Rhymney Valley Preservation Group has come ex Cardiff Volvo Ailsa B55-10 Northern Counties NDW 408/09X.

European Heritage (Aberystwyth): A new name for Meirion Motors with a new delivery in the form of WA 10 CFP a Van Hool Astron Van Hool C54FT which arrived in June.

Evans (Steynton): New in June was YN 10 FKW a MB 0816D Plaxton Cheetah C33F. From Jones, Login has come R162 LDE a Dennis Javelin Plaxton. Gone are FY 02 WHP a MB 0814D Acl which has

gone to Blythwood, Glasgow, and YN53 EJJ a MB 0814D Plaxton which is now with Glyn's, Mynyddcerrig.

Evans (Tregaron): Several exits to record this month including, XIL 8166 (ex D142 HML) a Bedford YMP Plaxton which has been exported to Zimbabwe; FHS 744X a Volvo B10M Duple, which has gone to Barnsley for conversion into a transporter, and GE02 MTB a MB 0814D / Plaxton which is now with Bob McCarthy, Cork. Noted for sale in the trade press in July were XIL 8149 (ex G414 VAY) a Dennis Javelin Plaxton, 6053 NE (ex E362 NEG) a Volvo B10M / Plaxton and FIG 6948 (ex S102 VBJ) a Mercedes-Benz O.814D/ Plaxton.

Express Motors (Penygroes): Acquired in August from Nefyn Coaches, was CX08 AOG an Optare Solo Optare B27F and currently retains its red and silver livery. A further acquisition is T402 AGP a Dennis Dart Marshall B30F which has come from London Central, while M471 FJR a Dennis Lance Wright Pathfinder B40F has come from Go North East. Due in September is a new MAN / ADL Enviro 200 will carry a CX 60 *** registration.

GHA Coaches (Wrexham): Thanks to my old mate Charlie, we have a big update for here, firstly a new outstation has been opened at Poolbank Industrial Estate, Tarvin near Chester. Flintshire CC owned Optare Versa B37Fs YJ09 OTN, YJ09 OTP, YJ09 OTR and YJ09 OTS are being operated on Mold to Ellesmere Port SP1 and SP2 services. Operated on Ceiriog Valley Services 60 and 64 are Wrexham Council owned B19F Optare Solos YJ09 EZH and YJ09 EZK. Several Optare Solos were purchased at the recent NX West Midlands auction S280 ADX, T289 UOX, T308 UOX, T313 UOX, T314 UOX, T316 UOX and T317 UOX which are expected to replace the remaining Mercedes minibuses in the fleet. Bought at the same time was MCW Metrobus F89 XOF. Several more buses have been purchased from the Stafford Bus Centre ex Arriva Cymru Volvo B10M / Alexander Q body H74DVM and H87DVM, ex Stagecoach Cheltenham & Gloucester Volvo B10M / Plaxton Premier P281XYS, ex Arriva Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties H767EKJ and ex Arriva Merseyside Volvo B10M / Wright N596CKA. Scrapped have been Rare Iveco Turbo City / Wadham Stringer M10GHA (ex M290OUR) and East Lancs Re-body Leyland Tiger UAS749. Mercedes-Benz Mini's M463JPA, P88GRN, H738TWB are withdrawn and under cannibalisation at Wrexham Depot.

Optare Metrorider R627SJM, Plaxton Pointer / Dennis Dart R175VLA, and Marshall bodied Dennis Dart R817OYS are all in white Vale Travel livery for service 2 Wrexham - Cefn Mawr

Globe (Cwmaman): Two Volvo B10M's with Plaxton bodywork have been acquired from Ace/Ellis, New Inn and are registered PIL 6502 (ex F180 NDV) and G519 LWU.

Gwyn Williams (Lower Tumble): 126 GDZ 886 (ex B328 AMH) a Leyland Tiger / Van Hool is now with Hayward, Carmarthen.

Hayward (Carmarthen): Various acquisitions to record here are EXI 7746 (ex WRK 14X) a DAF MB230 Jonckheere, ex Roberts, Burry Port; GDZ 886 (ex B328 AMH) a Leyland Tiger Van Hool, EX Gwyn Williams, Lower Tumble; UPG 349X Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex Morris Travel, Carmarthen; B270 KPF a Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex Morris Travel, Carmarthen; C105 AFX a Volvo B10M Plaxton, ex Don's, Cross Hands; D215 JHY a Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex Morris Travel, Carmarthen; H2 WJL a Leyland Tiger Plaxton, ex Morris Travel, Carmarthen, and J796 KHD a DAF MB230 Van Hool, ex Gwynne Price.

All but EXI 7746 and GDZ 886 have now gone for scrap. H2 WJL has now gone to Don's, Cross Hands.

Lew Jones (Llanwrst): A recent acquisition here is YN 06 JEU a MB 1018 Unvi, which was new to Hammond, Beeford. Ayats CX 03 JVC has been re-registered LJI 1697, while Irisbus EuroRider Beulas Y10 HAY has gone to Presitge, Crewe.

Lloyd's (Machynlleth): S740 RNE a MB 0814D Plaxton Beaver has also gone to Nefyn Coaches

P&O Lloyd (Bagillt): A new Optare Solo has been delivered carrying the new '60' registration plate and is being stored until September. From Skills, Nottingham has come S364 OOB a Volvo B10M Plaxton C49FT, while from Bennett's, Gloucester has come YK 04 KWD an Optare Solo.

Mid Wales (Penrhyncoch): New here is YN10 HJO a Dennis Javelin / Plaxton Profile C57F, one of two, the second being to C70F layout. On loan in mid July was YX59 BXW an ADL Enviro 200 demonstrator.

Morris Travel (Carmarthen): Vehicles out include UPG 349X Leyland Tiger Plaxton, B270 KPF Leyland Tiger Plaxton and H2 WJL Leyland Tiger Plaxton, all of which went to Hayward, Carmarthen in June.

Nefyn Coaches (Nefyn): As reported above, S740 RNE and T692 LNV MB 0814D Plaxton Beaver have been acquired from Lloyd, Machynlleth.

New Adventure (Gabalfa): Acquired back in March were S926 LBL Optare Excel Optare from Zaman, Aylesbury and V162 EFS Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer from Lothian Buses. In June DE 52 OJU MB 411CDi Koch was acquired from Huyton Travel. Several re-registrations to note are FJ 03 ZZX an Irisbus 397.12.35 Beulas which now carries registration H12 KFJ and similar vehicle, YN 54 AAK which now carries registration H14 KFJ. Meanwhile Volvo B10M Van Hool M677 KVV has been re-registered H17 KFJ.

Pencoed Travel (Bridgend): From Dodsworth, Boroughbridge has come YJ 54 GHG a VDLSB4000 Van Hool C51FT.

Silver Star (Caernarfon): Now withdrawn is K303 NJL a Dennis Dart Wright Handybus.

Sixty Sixty (Merthyr Tydfil): In May, WD 02 LNP (ex 02 LH 2705) a Scania K124EB Irizar was acquired from Mangan, Gortahork.

Tanat Valley (Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant): Now in service here is ex Arriva Yorkshire M431 UNW Volvo B10B-58 Alexander B51F.

Thomas Bros (Llangadog): Acquired from Davis, Minchinhampton in July was M38 GRYa MB 709D Danescroft C24F.

DJ Thomas (Neath): R990 EHU MB 0814D Plaxton was acquired in July from Malcolm Bevan, Neath.

London / Greater London

Abellio: Fourteen of the Surrey CC owned Pegasus ADL Super Dart SLF / East Lancs have arrived for operation by the Surrey division on contracted routes 446, 458, 459 and 461; LK55 ACX, LK55 ADU, LK55 ADV, LK06 BWC, LK06 BWD, LK56 JKE, LK56 JFK, LK56 JKJ, LK56 JKN, LK56 JKO, LK56 JKV, LK07 CBF, LK07 CBV AND LK07 CBX. As yet we do not have any new fleet numbers for them.

Chalfont Coaches: Yet another Volvo / Van Hool is WA10 ENM

East London Bus Group: Not many changes this period 17133 sold to Ensignbus along with 34263 and 34322: 34162 dis - res: 34203 dis - TB: 34295, 34296 res - U: 34329 dis - WH:

Ensignbus: New into the fleet is former ADL Enviro 400 demonstrator SN56 AWW. It carries fleet number 121 and looks rather dashing in the silver and blue fleet livery.

London Dial-a-Ride: A new batch of VW / Bluebird Tucanas have commenced delivery these first five being allocated to Orpington. D7120 is now at Palmers Green

D7122 YX10 FFY D7124 YX10 FGA D7125 YX10 FGD D7126 YX10 FGC
D7123 YX10 FFZ

Metroline: The new Enviro 200s have been very slow entering service and are being intermixed on the C11 and 143. With the Kings Cross depot moving to Freight Lane its allocation has now become wholly single deck covering routes 46, 214 and 274.

The last of the Thorpes fleet of Dennis Darts have now been withdrawn as noted in the latest round of allocation changes :- DA148 AH - NWw: DLD108 HT - PB: DLD118-136 KX - KC: DLD149 HT - KC, 161-179 KX - KC: DLD180, 693-711 HT - KC: DLF63, 65, 67, 69, 71-73, 75, 76, 79, 103, 123 PA - NWw: DE1120, 1124, 1126, 1127, 1129 PVu - PA: DP43 HT - AH: VPL207 HD - AC: TPL259 HT - HTu: TP379 HD - NWw: TP431 HD - PB: TP434 W - PB: VPL174 EW - AC: VPL581-603 KX - HT: Being returned to Dawson Rentals have been DLF35, 92, 95, 100, 104, 108, 110 DP1045, TP299, 316, 354, 363 and 365

SM Coaches (Harlow): A pair of former Arriva North West Wrights are now here RDZ1709 and RDZ1712

TGM Group: Toy has noted Temsa Safari YJ05 PVW here of late and suspects it may be on hire as he has noted it at Arriva Bus & Coach in Gomersal a few times.

Westbus: DAF / Van Hool 95 (Y462 HUA) is now registered as WIB 150. New Van Hools are 138 (YJ10 DDN) and 139 (YJ10 DDO)

W & H (Crawley): Seen by Tony in August has been SF07 XNV a Volvo B12M / Jonckheere SHV, ex Parks as LSK 500

Z & S (Aylesbury): A recent arrival from RH Buses is Optare Solo W251 DWT still in its former owner livery

Southern England

Ashford Minibuses Ltd (Ashford): Not quite true as Tony espied a SetrS415 GT-HD full size coach at Claude Monets home in Giverney which he was in France GB58 AMB the former BK58 URJ.

Avensis (Romsey): Acquired in July from Elite, Stockport was YN 07 EXD SCania K380EB Irizar C57FT.

Bayliss (Deal): Arriving from Procters of Beadle comes Volvo B12B / Jonckheere Mistral C57FT B12 BAY ex FJ04 ETK. A Mercedes-Bezn Touro has also been noted recently V40 BAY ex CU58 ERY.

Britannia Parking (Bournemouth): One of Tony Allens favourite fleet we have an upgrade from Solos to Enviro 200s with five new ones, I'm sure we have noted a couple but here is the complete list 15 (MX10 KNU), 16 (MX10 KNO), 17 (MX10 KNP), 20 (MX10 KNV) and 25 (MX10 KNW). The Solos MX57 CAO, MX57 CAU, MX57 CAV, MX08 MYV and MX08 MYY have been returned to Mistral

Brown (Crawley): W309 WRE (ex 1497 RU) Volvo B10M-62 Plaxton C53F has arrived from Bakers, Biddulph

Cavendish / Grosvenor / Lever As already seen by Tony several Temsa Safari coaches have been added for the summer YJ10 DUA, YJ10 DUV YJ10 DVA, YJ10 DVB, YJ10 DVC being C53FT along with a pair of C57Fs YJ10 DUH and YJ10 DUU. Now we have a problem here as buses magazine have these all noted with Cavendish of Poole of with whom Tony has noted DVC. It may be they are split between the companies, but at least DUH and DVA have legal lettering for "Grosvenor School for English". Tony is conducting further investigations to see what he can come up with.

Chalkwell (Sittingbourne): Acquired from ERB Services, Byker in June was YN53 SVU an Optare Solo, this replaces XIL 9100 (ex N133 RAP) a Mercedes-Benz Vario which has gone to Silcox of Pembroke Dock.

Countryliner (Guildford): The two ex London United Darts are numbered DP4 and DP5 respectively.

Dolphin (Wimborne): Another noted by Tony is a Bova Futura YD02 PXS, which had been with Durham City Coaches from new. Also noted has been HIB7178 which he suspects is ex Barnes (Aldbourn)

Courtney (Bracknell): New in July was YJ 10 EZX Optare Solo Optare B32F, followed by YJ 10 MBV/MBX further Solo's, but with B37F layout.

Eastonways (Ramsgate): From C&S, (Heathfield) has come P710 COA a Volvo B10M-62 / Caetano C53F latterly registered 97 CW 1

Emsworth & District (Southbourne): A further Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer, R171 VLA, has been acquired from Metroline and is to enter service in traditional Southdown style green and cream, which as seen by the former Cavendish fleet suits these vehicles remarkably well

Fernhill (Bracknell): New here in July was Optare Solo 6 YJ10 MBY.

Hams (Flimwell): No longer in are Leyland Titans WYV 64T, CUL 162V NHM 465X, all sold to On A Missionn (Soulbury), but following that firms demise the current status of the buses is not known.

Hythe & Waterside (Hythe): A new delivery in May was A5 HWC Scania K360EB Omniexpress Lahden C50F.

Landtourer Coaches (Brighton Hill): New back in April was YJ10 DJK VDL SB4000 / Van Hool C53F, we had already noted this as it carries Globus livery, but had been unable to identify the operator. Also new are two rare MAN 24.440 Farebus Califa C60F. HY10 AYB and HY10 AYD Re-registrations to note are HY04 EVT a Scania K114 / Irizar to IIG 1638, HF54 DZG Scania K114EB / Van Hool to ONZ 1125 and similar vehicle, HF54 UOG to ONZ 1126. The latter two carry Cosmos livery, an are all ex Bus Eirann

Rambler (Hastings): Dennis Dart 9.8SDL Alexander MDY 397 has reverted to its original registration of J505 GCD.

Robinson (Seaview): Acquired from Ampert & District back in April was SN05 FPG Volvo B12B / Van Hool C49FT, which now carries registration PDL 230.

Southwest Recruitment (Bournemouth): Tony is betting that no one has noted, let alone sent me details of YX54 AXU a PSV registered LDV Convoy with this company

Thamesdown (Swindon): Eight Optare Versas should be arriving in early September.

Wootens: A couple of re-registrations are Volvo B10M / Plaxton Premiere W4 (B9 TWN) now N89 OYE and W37 (B12 WTN) now R186 TKU. Leyland Titan W53 (A869 SUL) is now withdrawn

Weaveaway (Newbury): Bova FHD12.340 X70 OXF has been re-registered yet again and is now RG03 BVV and has been sold onto with PPH at St Albans. On short term loan from Plaxton, Anston in July was SG03 ZCH a Volvo B12M Jonckheere C53F, originally with Roberts, Hugglescote.

South West England

A2B Newquay Travel (Newquay): H754 PVW, a Leyland Olympian Alexander and originally came from Dublin Bus, has been sold by Ensign, Purfleet to Leo Capricorn Services, Wolverhampton

Alexcars (Cirencester): Acquired in April from MCH, Uxbridge was BU 06 CVC MB Turismo MB C30FT.

Beacon Bus (Dolton): From Shearings has come Y311 KBN, now OUI 7651, Volvo B10M-62 Van Hool C46FT, and from Moore, Newtownabbey, FNZ 5143 MB 0814D TransBus C33F.

Bugler (Bath): AEC Routemaster JJD 366D has been sold to Ensign, Purfleet.

Crudge (Dunkeswell): Acquisitions to note are P12 BSL Bova FHD12.340 C49FT which was originally with Axe Vale Coaches, Biddisham, HS 02 UEH Neoplan N316SHD C48FT, originally with WT Travel, Westonzoyland, and Y814 UDT MB 0814D.

Dartline (Clyst St Mary): Acquired from Carberry, Portadown is SA 02 RMZ (ex TLZ 7944) Scania K114 Irizar C53F.

Eurotaxi (Siston Common): EU 05 AVR Setra S315GTHD was acquired from Staines, Clacton on Sea in July.

Grindle (Cinderford): L18 RMS DAFSB3000 Van Hool C43FT has been acquired from Stone, Bath.

Hatch Green (Hatch Green): A new Optare Solo B27F I missed arriving in May was YJ10 LZX

Hookways (Meeth): Volvo B12B Jonckheere FJ03 ABU has been re-registered as 6740 HP, whilst 9878 HP Volvo B10M-61 Plaxton has reverted to registration E561 RRL and sold onto Forward, Sampford Peverell.

Redwood Travel (Hemyock): XIL 1231 (ex P532 UGA) Mercedes-Benz 412D / Cpt has been acquired from Creigiau Travel, Capel Llanilltern, and FB53 GTZ (ex SIL 6438), Volvo B12B Jonckheere C53FT which has come from Skills, Nottingham, and is now registered USV 628.

Quantock Motor Services (Norton Fitzwarren): Former Rawenstall Corporation Leyland Titan H31/25R has been acquired. A new, and as yet un-registered ADL Enviro 200 Dart 4 B29F has been delivered, and is presumed to be waiting for a '60' registration plate.

South Gloucestershire Bus & Coach (Patchway): Ex National Express FJ57 KHH Scania K340EB Irizar C61FT joined the fleet in July. Delivery of some of the new batch of National Express ordered Caetano Levantes are expected her very soon

South West Coaches (Wincanton): New in July were YJ10 MGY Optare Solo B28F and YJ10 MGZ An Optare Versa B40F.

Turners (Bristol): New in May was PO10 CJT Scania K124IB / Irizar C49FT.

Western Greyhound (Summercourt): Mercedes-Benz Vario / Plaxton Beaver's W29 WGL and W348 WCS have been scrapped. Acquired from Epsom Buses have been Mercedes-Benz Citaro B38Fs 208 (BU53 AWZ) and 209 (BU53 AWW). A friend of mine who used to work at Epsom tells me these buses were delivered to coach spec in the cab, thus the driver enjoyed the greater comfort of a fully adjustable leather seat.

New Deliveries

Claydon Fox (Oxfordshire)	YN10 ENY	Mercedes-Benz O.816D / Plaxton Cheetah
Leons (Stafford)	ET10 LCT	Minicoach
New Bharat (Southall)	BC10 NBC	Volvo B12B
Ken Routledge (Cockermouth)	YN10 FKX	Mercedes-Benz / Plaxton Cheetah
Stuarts (Carlisle)	SF10 GXK	Bova Futura
Kearneys (Cork)	10-C-9288	King Long

Around the Dealers

Ensignbus

Vehicles In

From ELBG: Tridents V108 / 16 / 7 / 9 / 35 / 37 / 39 / 42 / 91MEV Darts Y263FJN LX51FHE

From Stagecoach East: Olympians G642EVV F635/8YRP.

From C.I.E. Darts 02-D-18250 / 1 / 2 / 4 / 16547 / 8 / 50 / 20217

00-D-84186 / 7 / 92 / 97 / 89232 / 33 / 35 .

DAFSB120's: 01-D-4744 / 52 / 92 / 94 / 95 00-D-96294 / 300 / 01 / 04.

From Rotala: Enviro 400 SN56AWW.

From First Essex: Olympian C415HJN (for preservation only)

From Irvines Coaches: Volvo B10M N66BUS.

From Bugler Coaches, Bristol: RML2366.

From Preston Bus: Lynx's H28YBV F212YHG G218KRN Olympians E323 / 4 / 5 / 6 / 7 / 8 / 9MSG.

From Peterborough Council: Solo YJ56WVN.

Vehicles Out

Scania 113's RDZ1709 / 12: RoadRunner Coaches, Harlow.

Olympian E912DRD: Ministry of Defence, Salisbury.

Lynx H28YBV: RM Buses, Nantwich.

Olympians E325 / 6 / 8 / 9MSG: Walton Swift, Preston.

Olympian H140GGS: Mr D Michael, Stroud, Gloucs.

Olympian H262GEV: Bear Buses, Slough.

Olympian H754PVW: Leo Capricorn Services Ltd, Wolverhampton.
 Olympians H805/6BKK: Greys Coaches, Ely.
 Olympians K656 / 63UNH: Too Kool 4 Skool, Skelmersdale.
 Olympian P258PSX: Irvines Coaches, Law.
 Dublin Olympian 98-D-20403 now R259LHK with Central Buses, Birmingham.
 Dublin Olympian 97-D-351 now P729SWC with Jim Bell Coaches, Hull.
 Volvo B10B M538WHF: Dews Coaches, Somersham.
 Volvo B10M M160CCD: Herberts Coaches, Shefford, Beds.
 Volvo B10M M550SPY: A and P Travel, Ely.
 Volvo B10M N66BUS: Olympian Coaches, Harlow.
 Volvo B7TL's LN51AZA/B: McGills Buses, Glasgow.
 Scania's N386 / 90 OTY: Lawtons Coaches, Lincs.
 Trident T689KPU: Brylaine Coaches, Lincs.
 Trident W81TJU: Aintree Coaches, Liverpool.
 Tridents V116 / 7 / 9 / 139 / 142MEV: Sullivan Buses, South Mimms.
 Tridents LG02FDO / P / V / X: Rotala Group.
 Darts S302 / 3MKH: Countryliner , Guildford.
 Darts Y254 / 65 / 76YJN: Centrebus.

Rally News

Forthcoming Events

October

2nd - 3rd	Sandtoft, TrolleyBus Weekend
3rd	Amersham. Running Day (MET Station)
3rd	Birkenhead. Wirral Bus & Tram Show
3rd	Ipswich Transport Museum Ride on Buses Day
3rd	Lathalmond. Scottish Vintage Bus Museum Open Day
3rd	Swanage. Purbeck Bus Rally at Beach Car Park
9th -10th	Gloucester Warwickshire Railway Steam & Vintage Vehicle Gala
10th	Aldwarke. South Yorkshire Transport Museum. Open Day
10th	Amberley Museum Vintage Vehicle Show
10th	Castle Point, Canvey Island. Transport Museum Open Day
10th	Glasgow. Bridgeton Depot Open Day
10th	Ruddington. Nottingham Trans:Heritage Centre Transport Event
10th	Skipton. Yorkshire Dales Vintage Bus & Coach Running Day
10th	Warminster Vintage Bus Running Day
10th	Wythall, Transport Museum. 50 years of the Daimler Fleetline
12th	Otley. Ledgard Reunion 19.30 Hours at Rose & Crown, Bondgate
16th	Ipswich Transport Museum, "Wheels by Lamplight"
16th	Manchester Museum of Transport. Ticket Holders Only. Photo Tour of Route 409
16th -17th	London. Acton Depot of Transport Museum. Open Weekend
17th	Birmingham. Aston Manor Running Day
17th	Isle of Wight Bus Museum Running Day
17th	Long Hanborough. Oxford Bus Museum Bus & Classic Vehicle Rally
17th	Manchester Museum of Transport.Remembering the No.9
17th	Sandtoft, TrolleyBus Museum St. Leger Rally
29th -30th	London. Acton Depot of Transport Museum. Guided Tours
30th	Crich. Starlight Halloween
31st	Blackpool. Lancastrian Transport Trust Depot open Day
31st	Brislington, Bristol. Mini Running Day
31st	Halifax. Piece Hall Nocturnal Heart of the Pennines Rally

Event Report

July 4th and it began with a marathon journey to Epping, the north-eastern extremity of the Central Line - so far out in the sticks, my nose began to bleed. Outside the station, the queue for shuttle buses to the field. The huge billboard opposite promoting an arthritis treatment suggested that someone could have made a less than flattering judgement of the age of the bus enthusiasts who would be gathering here!

Arriva East Herts & Essex Solo 2486/YJ57EJF came and went on a stage service before my shuttle arrived – Green Line liveried RT3228/KYY957. Like all the rest seemed to be, this was operated by the London Bus Co of Northfleet (who have a substantial number of ex-LT buses), blinded 339 for the route, and absolutely immaculate. Upstairs a cheery gent collected the £8 admission to the rally, that was also the fare for this and various other (though not all) rides on the day. Fellow passengers chatted about developments on the London bus scene, some of them from the fascinating perspective of insiders. One old guy had obviously heard the same sort of alarming stories about the countryside as I had, as he came prepared in overcoat and woolly hat whilst the perspiration ran in rivers at just 10.30 am.

Arrival found the North Weald airfield guarded by a plastic replica of the iconic Hurricane, the superb gun-platform that served heroically here in the Battle of Britain. Our bus ran the gauntlet of the usual posse of photographers lurking by the gate, including some really dubious looking characters whom I believe to be members of an especially dodgy gang known as the GB Bus Group. Essex boy John Layton blasted out 'Johnny Remember Me' over the PA – via a record, not in person, in case you are wondering where he is these days. Sad to say, I am so old I actually do remember. A brilliant red Gnat jet trainer (first flew in '55) did a superbly noisy fly-by before coming in to land, just adding to the nostalgia.

A substantial turnout of sales stands, real ale tent and display of taxis had joined the buses. Vintage buses came and went on their joy-riding. From what was being said it sounded like the promoters of this annual bash, expected 200 plus. If so, it looked like they could have fallen victim to the counter attractions of the football World Cup. At the time I was around it looked like there were about 120. The parking reflected this as, with the benefit of hindsight, many there could have been given a bit more of the huge amount of space making photos a bit less problematic.

Unsurprisingly, the majority of the participants were preserved vehicles. With this place being in relatively close proximity to the Duxford home of Showbus, I was expecting few of these to be new to me. Pleasingly I was wrong. The emphases were ex-London (which pleased me as well) and the local county of Essex. Undoubted star of the show though was the recently imported Maltese plated 'BUS364' in their yellow and orange/red colours, this being on a 1943 Bedford QL chassis with Maltese built body.

On the current PSV front a small and immaculate display celebrated the 50th anniversary of Essex's Hedingham & District. This featured recent acquisitions E400 SN10CCV and E200 EU10ADX as well as Olympian R702DNH and Leopard RGV284N. Elsewhere, just two TfL buses present: Metrobus's Scania/ East Lancs Omnidekka 930/YN56FDD and Metroline's Volvo B7TL decker VP553/LK04CVR.

The other PSVs were mostly local operators. These included a couple of fairly newly registered ex-Dublin Olympians: N881FKK(96-D-292) of Stephenson, Rochford and N661 JNO (96-D-280) of New Horizon, Frating. Nice to see so many of these finding good homes. For me though, highlight of the Essex contingent was vivid yellow Irisbus Agora Line OY53RDU of SM Coaches, Harlow – one of at least three they have acquired from the Norwich park and ride (I was to see a second on rail replacement in Whitechapel later in the day).

From further afield, Brighton & Hove had brought ex-London artic 103/BX02YZP. Thamesdown had Dart 101/KE53VDP from Swindon. From Buckinghamshire Khan of Aylesbury was showing Solo MX58KYR (thanks very for this one much Mr K); and Red Rose had Olympian T309ORP from their quaintly named Blinking Owl garage in the same town. Centrebus had MAN 11.190/Optare Vecta 969/P10TLS; and Midland Classic from Staffordshire Volvo B7/Wright 81/JB08MCL. Those who know me would not seriously have expected me to stay out of the beer tent so my sums could have become a bit suspect, but I reckon about two dozen PSVs in total.

So, suitably fuelled-up, the time came for me to take off back to London for some rail replacements and the Sunday night extravaganza at Victoria Coach Station. My thoughts on the journey back? Something for everyone at North Weald. Those who give their time and money to put together event such as this deserve the strongest support from those of us who love the hobby! Date for the diary for you in 2011 then.

Tony

Out & About

Travels with Tony

I was brought up in the north to be wary indeed of the towns of middle England. 'They drink dodgy ale and don't play rugby league there', I was told. So they must be reet queer places with odd folk I thought. I was more than a shade apprehensive then when the sign on the M1 said 'Northampton'. But, being one of life's risk takers, I decided to go for it.

Within moments, sight of the monolithic Carlsberg brewery guarding the southern approach to the place confirmed my very worst fears. I shuddered at the thought of gassy beer. Nervously I headed on – to the Grosvenor Centre and the adjacent Greyfriars Bus Station where I knew the action to be. I have never visited hell but this hideous and gloomy cave must be a very good imitation. Whoever designed it should be made to stare for hours each day at a picture of it on his front room wall, as pay off for the misery he has inflicted on humanity. At one end of the building I found some refreshing and safe looking greenery overlooking all the movements and lurked furtively there. Surrounding roads looked ideal for photos. The place is dominated by Stagecoach East (United Counties) with just a few from Warwickshire. Scania/E400 15608/KX59BCY appeared from Kettering as did several of its ex Manchester sisters. There were quite a few Olympians too and numerous E300s. Alexander PS 20809/M809DNE was the one older single deck seen.

First in Northampton have a good presence, albeit fairly quick repeating. Their commonplace Wright bodied Volvo B7s dominate here. 26 were seen, a few Solos, but only 2 deckers (maybe the rest come out to play only at school time). There were half a dozen or so Arriva (MKMetro) too. A couple of N Express came and went plus a single York's coach. Independents were disappointing: a couple of Taylor/Meridian Bus, two Country Lion Darts (P4 and P5 CLN, the former in a disturbing yellow scheme for a bingo shuttle) and Soul's E300 SN04EFH. Not the greatest spotting for variety although, to be fair, plenty of numbers went in the book during my two hour stay.

Suddenly and without warning, I was mobbed by women. GB Bus Group groupies? 'Fraid not. Evacuees from a fire alert in a nearby store – which turned out to be down to a smoking toaster. By the time the fire engines showed up, anyone left inside could have been done to a crisp had there really been a fire for them to see to. The delay meant the crowd had turned a bit ugly by now (although, in truth, quite a few had been pretty ugly from birth), greeting the arrival with jeers. Time for a sharp exit.

So, on to Nottingham. To me the one-time Queen of the Midlands has all the vibrancy and feel of a proper northern city. A great bus place too. It is a place of rich colour and masses of action for the bus fan as both major operators – Nottingham City Transport and Trent – sport a wide variety of liveries. There are trams too. You have a bit of walking to do though, as you are not going to see anywhere near everything at the one spot.

I kicked off by Broad Marsh bus station near the train station. This is dominated by Trent - and N Express, a few other coaches, and other stage operators either use the place or pass right by. Numerous amongst these are the modern, rich red and now numerous buses of Premiere. Others include Marshall of Sutton-on-Trent and Veolia. Most notable amongst those seen here though was Alexander Dennis E400 hybrid SN59AWW carrying NCT fleet no 100.

Once the repeats set in at Broad Marsh I moved to the junction of Parliament St and Mansfield Rd, by the Victoria Shopping Centre in the middle of town. This is a seriously busy spot, and exceptionally so during the rush hours. Mostly NCT but also Trent, Premiere, the fast-growing purple painted fleet of Dunn of Hucknall, and a few others. The NCT fleet is dominated by Scania's but this place provides maximum variety for them with numerous Versas, Tridents and Solos, the peak hours bringing out lots of their older vehicles.

About 500 yards up Mansfield Rd is the rather sedate Victoria bus station, with views around of all that is left of the great train station of the same name. Lots of nostalgia with memories of numerous happy days spent here by the wonderful and scandalously butchered Great Central main line. Buses to be seen now are mostly Trent, including the Derby expresses, and a few Stagecoach from north Notts. The fairly low activity level means it is not really worth hanging about here though, especially as several of the Trent can be seen elsewhere in town.

Last spot for me was outside the Gala Casino on Maid Marian Way, which is a sort of inner ring road to the west of the city centre. Some different NCT and Trent to be had here as well as quite a few Premiere. This place is really only gap-fillers though. Broad Marsh and Parliament St between them will net you a pretty high percentage of this city's buses.

Heading off from here to the south, next destination was Loughborough where the major attraction was to be the Volvo dealership. I say 'was' as the place was found to be deserted (having decanted to Coventry according to Gez). So no point in talking about the gems I had expected to find here. Still plenty to be seen close by though on the A6004 Belton Road that cuts through the industrial estates to the north east of town. Trent's fellow Wellglade group member Kinchbus have their yard off this one down Swingbridge Rd. Every time I have been here numerous older vehicles from various Wellglade companies have been easily visible from the outside, this time several Darts hanging on from an auction a few days before.

Just a few hundred yards to the south of here are the premises of Paul Winson. The yard is wide open and every one of the truly immaculate fleet present (VA 30 plus) can be seen easily without setting foot in the place – a mixture of coaches, older double decks for school runs and the like, and a few single decks for stage services. Also here this time were a couple of coaches from the Leicestershire County Council non-PSV schools fleet. I have seen some of these here before so maybe they stop over here during the day or visit for MoT or some such. It is worth a stop in the centre of the smallish town of Loughborough. Kinchbus dominate (the Solos on university service being extra nice), with Premiere, Centrebus, NCT, Veolia and Arriva from Leicester also being noted.

Last stop this time out was Oxford, to check on the changes since my visit recorded in the July 'Trident' as reported by Gez in that same edition of the mag. All but 2 of the City of Oxford E400s and about 12 of the Stagecoach hybrid E400s were seen in about 90 mins, almost all on Blackbird Leys services at the spot by the police station. On this day at the end of July the Oxpens coach park was absolutely heaving with almost all UK coaches too, with very many other coaches seen picking up all over town. These duly logged, it was off home to write about it all for you with a full notebook from a cracking day and a bit. Middle England? It's not so bad after all. I'll be back.

Tony

2nd August 2010
By Rod Whitaker

Cambridge

Atkinson, Ingelby, Arncliffe
BX54 EDC

Meridian Line, Royston
MX07 DWU

Stagecoach Cambridge
15457 15462 15465 15658
16021 16216 16528 16541
16542 16587 17079 18335
18339 18340 18342 18343
18347 18348 19296 19297
19299 19300 19301 19302
19303 19304 19305 19306
19308 19309 19310 19311
19312 19314 19315 19316
19568 19573 19575 19576
19578 19579 19580 19581
19582 19583 19584 19586
19587 19590 19591 19593
19594 19595 19596 19597
19598 19599 19600 19602
19603 19604 19605 19606
19608 19610 19612 19614
19615 19617 19618 19619
21223 21225 21226 22058
22060 22278 22301 22303
22305 22316 22318 22319
22320 22324 22325 22326
22327 22328 22329 36011
36012 36045 36060 36061
36063 36065 47353 47394
47395 52423

Whippets
H14 WCL H16 WCL H18 WCL
K702 DAO P343 ROO
P348 ROO S134 EJE

V101 LGC X804 EGK
FE51 RBU AE59 EHP

Norwich

Anglian, Beccles
R85 EMB R86 EMB V227 AKH
YN03 UWJ AU06 BPO
YJ06 FZV AO57 BDY
AO57 EXA YN57 HFY
YN57 HPZ AU08 DKN
AU58 AKN AU58 AKW

Easton, Stratton, Strawless
YN08 HXZ

Edwards, Llantwit Fardre
WA03 EYH

First Eastern Counties
20127 32104 32106 32107
32200 32475 32484 32653
32654 32656 33057 33146
33149 33165 33167 33169
33238 33240 34157 37563
37569 37579 43450 43451
43484 53118 53121 53123
65538 65554 65559 65560
65565 65571 65580 65587
66950 66957 69005 69006
69011

Konect Bus
MX05 EKW MX05 EKY
MX05 EXZ YJ05 PXB
YJ05 PXC YJ06 PXE YJ57EGX
MX58 ABV
YJ09 MHY SN10 CFE
SN10 CFF SN10 CFG

Leons, Stafford
BT08 LCT

Neaves, Great Yarmouth
YJ03 PKZ AU03 HWS

Norse, Norwich
AU05 FKE AU05 FKG
OW03 FXG PN03 ULL
PN03 ULR PN03 ULT
PN03 ULU PN03 ULV
PN03 UMA PN03 UMC
PN03 UME PN03 UMG
PN03 UMH AE05 PXD
AE05 PXE AU05 FKB
AU05 FKF

Sanders, Holt
YJ03 PKY YN03 UWG
OU05 KLA

Simmonds, Botesdale
WVE 284 AE09 DJJ

03rd August 2010

By Rod Whitaker

Exeter

Bruce Coaches, Shotts
FJ57 KHV

Carmel, Okehampton
YB05 UDT

D Coaches, Morrision
BK09 RLY

Dartline
YJ08 PFU YJ58 BHV

Excelsior, Bournemouth
YN08 NKM

First Devon & Cornwall
20559 32768 33422

First Hampshire
37581 37586

First Somerset
42834 42841

Globe Holidays, Barnsley
EIG 7401

Hookways, Meeth
409 FRH C111 EFS

Hughes, Sunderland
OTP 940

Robinsons, Great Harwood
MX10 DDJ

Shearing / National Holidays
124 441 616 YJ03 VMY

Spearings, Willand
WA54 HXU

Stagecoach Devon
15326 15560 15663 15664
15666 15667 15668 15669
16016 16017 16601 16602
16603 16723 17003 17004
17006 17051 17052 17055
17703 17706 17707 18069
18078 18081 18112 18113
18114 18115 18117 18117
18118 18119 18368 19093
19094 19102 19107 19109
19110 19119 1932119322
19569 19571 20347 20480
24140 24141 24142 24143
24145 24149 24150 24151
31701 31704 31705 31706
31708 31711 31713 32163
32165 33158 33159 33751
33803 33805 33807 34012
34030 34034 34077 34095
34399 34408 34861 34862
34863 34864 34865 34867
34868 34869 35154 35164
35165 35166 35167 35168
35169 35170 35171 35243
35264 46604 47081 47085
47086 47087 47088 47090
47091 47092 47093 47095
47099 47100 47101 47102
47103 47104 47106 47109
47600 47699 52343 52344
52346

Turner Tours, Chumleigh
K892 CSX M151 HPK
S726 RNA

Western Greyhound,
Summercourt
WK04 OKE WX58 EAA
WK58 EAC WK59 CWW

14th August 2010
By Clive Smithson
West Yorkshire
(had a West Yorkshire bus &
train day rover costing £6.00)
Leeds (09:05 – 09:30)
Arriva Yorkshire
469 627 634 723 1111 1608
1611 1800 1611 1800 1807
1911

Burtons, Cambridgeshire
UK05 BCL

Centrebus Leeds
Y257 FJN Y276 FJN
Y299 FJN

First
19026 30861 30912 30943
30943 32456 34145 37032
37032 37085 37085 37132
37646 37648 37650 37674
37683 37689 37697 37709
40576 53905 53906 60133
61064 66706 69328 69413
69414

Hunters Leeds
1093 3603

Keighley & District
452 573

Selwyns Runcorn
FJ59 APX

Veolia Durham (Duun-Line)
FJ56 YWA FJ56 YWF

**Ilkley, West Yorkshire (11:00 –
11:45)**

First
37673 37699 41315 53303

Harrogate Coach Travel
M951 DRG

Keighley & District
1845

Pride of the Dales
VIA 187

**Otley, West Yorkshire (12:05 –
13:00)**

Centrebus, Leeds
Y297 FJN

First
37673 37668 37672 37674
37689 53301 53303 69412

Harrogate Coach Travel
EIG 1356

Metro Connect
PN06 FJF

TLC Travel, Bradford
MX56 NLL YJ10 EYX

Likely (13:25 – 14:25)
East Yorkshire
57

First
37670 37675 53303

Keighley & District
1845

Pride of the Dales
VIA 485

Keighley (15:00 -15:30)

Burnley & Pendle
1069

Finglands, Manchester
YN55 WTP

Keighley & District
450 451 563 567 569 574
707 708 709 710 713 715
716 717 718 848 1044 1047
1048 1051 1063 1804 1807
1809 1810 1844 1845 1847
1849

Tyrer Bus
MX09 MJF

Leeds (17:00 – 18:00)

Arriva Yorkshire
451 456 468 635 636 703
1100 1105 1106 1300 1452
1600 1913

Centrebus, Leeds
X236 MBJ Y254 FJN
Y264 FJN Y276 FJN
Y302 FJN LX51 FHC
YN03 UWA YN03 UWS
BC05 JHD

First
19012 1919 19026 30925 30928
30935 30945 30957 31763
32436 32437 32439 32442
32443 32448 32451 32458
32460 32533 34234 37028
37031 37032 37039 37066
37080 37085 37120 37124
37659 37664 37683 37686
37695 37700 37710 37714
42179 40578 53908 60925
61033 61035 61051 61075
66995 66701 66701 66707
69311 69315 69316
69318 69320 69328 69330
69331 69335 69336 69339
69340 69344 69349 69350
69416 69417 69420

Fourways, Leeds
YX06 KDJ YN10 ABV

Go-Ahead North East
7085 7102

Hunters, Leeds
P3 HCL BX06 OAV

Silverdale, Nottingham
FJ09 DWY

Harrogate & District
1090 2714 3612 4003

Rollinson Safeway, Leeds
MK02 AXG YJ56 JOA

Stagecoach Glasgow
54047

Tony's Back Bit

In the January magazine I asked whether anyone had any info on Met Police operated East Lancs bodied Volvo B7TL decker LX55 FFE, which they have had since new. Well, I can answer this one myself now. Painted with scenes of major London landmarks (or are they crime scenes?), this is used in recruitment. I caught up with it outside Walthamstow bus station – the self same spot where the national press reported shocking harassment by PCSOs of Austrian tourists photographing a red bus. No one batted an eyelid when I snapped this one, those concerned possibly having moved on to work more appropriate to their knowledge of the law of the land, such as cleaning people's shoes.

I have been asked if I know where Plaxton bodied Volvo B10M-53 A11 XAO has gone since its time as a hospitality unit with Brackley's Special Event Services company. The answer is, sadly I do not. I do know this was new to Flights as F700 COA and was later A8 TRA. Digging suggests this operator has a small fleet of such buses including the one-time Williams Motor Racing's Renault FR1 F551 OBW. As they are based near Silverstone, this could be the place to catch them.

Seen in Dundee, the Local Blood Transfusion Service's MB O814 MX03 PRV - which they have had since new. Anyone know what they actually use this for? If it's to give a lift home to any donor feeling a bit faint after opening a vein, I do hope local readers are not being a bit cheeky and giving blood just to take advantage of this if short of the bus fare.

Meanwhile, at Oxford's Peartree Services has been owner Welcome Break's promotional Routemaster JJD498D/RML2498 in a snazzy all-over black. After moving on from First, this one spent time with Gillingham football club. Did not last long with them though as I suppose they belatedly realised they were never going to need a bus for a victory parade when they won the FA Cup!

Caught at the 2010 North Weald rally was Bristol FSF open topper 882VFM of local letting agents Lloyd Williams – originally Crosville f/n DFG72. Not too far away, a trip to Newham to see what was going on with the Dawson leases to the local council mentioned in last month's mag identified a few larger buses. MB O814Ds KX02ZWY, ZXP and ZXS were all seen running around in all white with paper Newham/Dawson stickers. ZWY has been about a bit, past operators including Menzies at Heathrow and Derbyshire County Council, ZXP was with Britannia Parking in Bournemouth, and ZXS has been with the council on the Isle of Wight as well as First South Yorkshire's 52702.

A bus with a truly interesting tale to tell is Bristol LHL6L EAW752L. Originally with touring coach operator Robinson of Great Harwood, Lancs, this was later a horsebox. Then it was acquired by Robbie the Pict (name acquired by deed poll) as a caravan. To say Mr Pict – former RAF man and godfather to Leonardo DiCaprio - is an interesting character is about as big an understatement as saying folk on the Titanic were unlucky. There are pages and pages on the net about him and what a read. His bus was spied at Kyleakin, Skye – not too far from his Dunvegan base.

A trio of 33 seaters to report with Nottingham City Council, all with them since new. KF52TZJ and KF52TzM are MB O814Ds and YJ57EHS a Solo M950SL. There are quite a few more midis in this fleet too, still requiring i/d. Nearby local authority Leicestershire County Council has a number of 70 seat yellow school buses. Javelin YX03FCU and Plaxton bodied Volvo B7R YN55KMU were seen recently in the yard of PSV operator Winson of Loughborough.

To finish off this month, the 'Hackney Playbus' observed from the top of an ELBG Scania near Clapton Pond. Roe bodied Atlantean HDX905N has been in this role for 10 years and before that spent 7 years as a playbus with the London Borough of Waltham Forest. It was new to Ipswich buses as f/n 2 in 1975. My admiration for those who spend their working lives with such buses and endure the endless torment of hundreds of kids is absolutely unlimited. Happy spotting. Tony

My thanks this month are extended to Alan Spencer, Tony Kent, David Blean, Andrew Churchill, Dougie King, Tony Hunter, Simon Wilson, Matthew Barker at the Derby Bus Depot, Stephen Evans, Josh Peterson, Ian Rivett, Steve White, Mark Watson, Brighton & Hove Bus Co, Go North East, Arthur Moorse, Nigel Diplock, Stuart Martin, LOTS, The Ribble Enthusiasts Club, Chris Barker, Ross Newman at Ensign, Malcolm Crowe, The Oxford & Chiltern Bus page. Along with the other groups with which we share information.

The Gallery



Front Cover: This is the new livery being used by Blackpool Transport Optare Solo 290 captured in the resort (Stuart Harrison)
Rear Cover (Top): West End Travel use this Transbus Mini Pointer Dart n Rural rider service around Leicester (Terry Fletcher)
Rear Cover (Bottom): The very pleasing livery of Tom Tappin coaches is captured to full effect on 172 (N172 LHU) a Van Hool Alizee, resting in the yard in glorious sunshine (Tony Allen)