

# The Trident

The Monthly Magazine of the GB Bus Group

## GB-BG



Up to Scotland for this months cover and one of the older members of the, impeccably turned out Lothian Fleet, Olympian 371 (F371WSC) (GB-BG Collection)

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

# Volume 3

# No 5 May 2008

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All reports and queries are most welcome by forwarding to the relevant person above. For further information please ring, write or e-mail Maurice Brown.

## **Noticeboard**

### **Editors Bit**

Hello once again, another packed magazine, so little waffle from me only to say that I have a chunk of rail replacement reports to get through and just not got through them I'm afraid so they will be in next time. Unfortunately I have to let you know that Chris Morton has had to give up his duties within the group, owing to failing health. He had just taken on the web site role and so once again we are looking for some one who would be able to spend an hour or so a week on working on it. If you feel this is just the job for you then get in touch with either Maurice or Jeff and they will get you going.

*Gez*

### **Magazine**

The deadline for the magazine is 26<sup>th</sup> May 2008. Please can you send any contributions to the area editors a few days before to give them chance to deal with the information. Many thanks.

## Membership Details

Membership of the GB Bus Group is £13.00 per year. This gives a monthly magazine and 20% discount on all HB Publications Bus Books. Please make cheques and Postal Orders to GB Bus Group

A warm welcome to: Terry Baldock (Kent), Martin Hall (Derbyshire), Terry Holmes (Staffordshire), Roy Hodgson (Lancashire), F. Leach (Lancashire), Paul Mason (Liverpool), G. Morre-Kibbie (Blackpool), David Mobbs (Ayrshire), Ian Pilkington (West Midlands), Geoff Siddons (Nottingham), Peter Watson (Birmingham), Mike Wilson (Solihull)

## Contributions

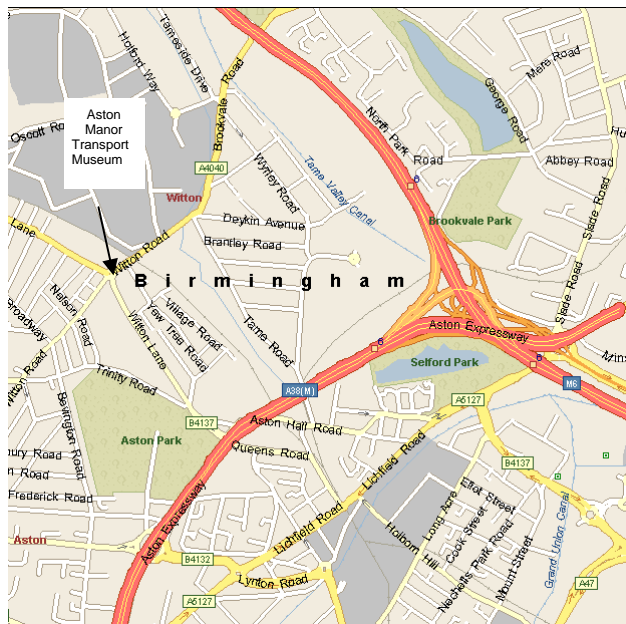
Thanks go to contributors LOTS, Dave Stewart, Tony Hunter, Mark Haldon, Malcolm H Crowe, Tony Allen, Arthur Morse, Anthony Walton, Barry Harper, Dougie King, Tim Jennings and not forgetting our friends at the PSV Circle. Apologies if I have missed any one.

## AGM

Just a reminder that the AGM takes place at the Aston Manor Transport Museum, Witton Lane, Birmingham. On Saturday May 17<sup>th</sup> at 1200. We are intending to meet up around 11.00 to give time for a look around the museum beforehand. If you are attending, would you be kind enough, to let Maurice know Thank you.

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

A glitch in the printing last month meant the museums location was missed off the map, it can be found at the corner of Witton Road and Aston Lane.



## News from the Industry

**A Surprise** development in Huddersfield where the Stagecoach operation was expected to be sold to Arriva. In the end the Huddersfield Bus Company which was set up by Arriva to purchase the operation has been part acquired by Centrebus with Arriva retaining a 40% share. Through the company as well as buying the Stagecoach operation K Line of Honley has also been purchased.

**Strathclyde** Partnership for Transport (SPT) has ordered 15 new LoBus accessible buses recently launched at the CV show by Allied vehicles. They are based on the Renault Master chassis and will

carry up to 15 passengers and one or two wheelchairs. They will be used on as yet unspecified contracts where SPT will provide the vehicles to the successful bidders.

**Arriva** is to purchase 80% of Interbus Invest, the largest privately owned bus group in Hungary, for £25.4. It operates 800 vehicles on operations that cover Slovakia as well as its native Hungary. It will be the 12<sup>th</sup> country to see Arriva operation and provides an opportunity to develop additional services as the Hungarian Bus sector in soon to be subject to privatisation. The deal is still subject to regulatory approval but it is expected to be forthcoming by the summer.

**Raddoneur**, the commercial arm of Wirral Community Transport went into administration on April 14<sup>th</sup> and was expected to go into voluntary liquidation. The company was called before the traffic commissioner earlier in the year following problems with maintenance and had its licence cut from 12 to ten vehicles. Four routes were operated under contract to Merseytravel and emergency replacement contracts are currently being awarded.

**Skills**, the Nottingham based coach operator has acquired the business of Colwick based Motorvation, which had been in administration. 14 vehicles along with associated contracts are involved, along with several existing members of staff. The fleet is to be relocated to the Skills depot at Bullwell. The Motorvation name will continue but a new livery is to be developed.

**Well known** Fife operator Moffat and Williamson hitherto run by the two families, for the past 30 years, is now solely run by the Williamsons after buying out the Moffat family interests in the firm. There will be no outward change to the 62 vehicle fleet run from Glenrothes and Newport-on-Tay.

**Arriva** announced on April 7<sup>th</sup>, that they had purchased Stansted based Excel Logistics, along with associated companies Excel Gatwick and Flight delay Services of Manchester. Operation will continue as now under the umbrella of the TGM division.

**Wilts and Dorset** services were disrupted for three days in early April after 375 drivers, members of the RMT, took strike action over rostering. After more protracted talks a settlement was reached between the Union and management and the strike was called off.

**Stagecoach** announced on March 31<sup>st</sup> that it had acquired Cavalier Contracts Ltd along with its bus and coach operations Cavalier Travel and Huntingdon & District. The operations will be branded as "Stagecoach In the Fens" with depots at Huntingdon and Long Sutton with around 70 vehicles and 125 staff transferring. Cavaliers taxi and minibus operations are not included in the deal. Fuller details of the fleet can be found in the fleet news section.

## Fleet News

### Arriva

**Easybus:** Although operated by The Shires (London - Stansted) and New Enterprise (London - Gatwick). I shall list them separate for now as I think it will be easier as the buses seem swap between the two fleets as needed currently running are 0290-99 Mercedes-Benz Sprinters with the rest Sorocos. Also in use at the moment are two all white Temsa Opalins YJ08EAY and YJ08EBA.

0290	KE04WBD	0297	KE04WBN	0303	YX57CCY	0309	YX08AOB
0291	KE04WBF	0298	KE04WBP	0304	YX57CAA	0310	YX08AOC
0292	KE04WBG	0299	KE04WBT	0305	YX57CAE	0311	YX08AOD
0293	KE04WBJ	0300	YX57CCO	0306	YX57CAO	0312	YX08AOE
0294	KE04WBK	0301	YX57CCU	0307	YX57CAU	0313	YX08AOF
0295	KE04WBL	0302	YX57CCV	0308	YX57CAV	0314	YX08AOG
0296	KE04WBM						

**Burtons (Haverhill):** New vehicles for use on National Express service 787 are FM08KME, FM08KMF and FM08KMG

**Classic:** Volvo B12B / Plaxton YN54ZHM is in stock from Burtons, Haverhill and sister KX56OVL is in stock from Wiltax.

**Kent Thameside:** Darts 3181, 3324 and 3388 have moved from Northfleet to Southend.

**Midlands North:** We now have the registrations for the B9TL/Wright Eclipse Geminis, N47/29F currently entering service at Tamworth to hand:- 4200 (FJ08LVL), 4201 (FJ08LVM), 4202 (FJ08LVN), 4303 (FJ08LVO), 4204 (FJ08LVP), 4205 (FJ08LVR), 4206 (FJ08LVS), 4207 (FJ08LVT). Also new are Scania K230UBs N45F 3800 (YN08HZK) 3801 (YN08HZL), 3802 (YN08HZM), 3803 (YN08HZP), 3804 (YN08HZS), 3805 (YN08HZS), 3807 (YN08HZU), 3808 (YN08HZV) and 3809 (YN08HZW)

**North East:** Optare Metrorider 2710 (R710MHN) is now working for Peterlee ex Redcar while sister 2709 (R709MHN) has now been withdrawn from Peterlee. The Ex Stagecoach North East Darts are now appearing everywhere since the merge of depots and often appear alongside sisters of the North East batch in Middlesbrough Bus Station (Still with Stagecoach fleet numbers). Optare Prisma 3001 (M301SAJ) has been withdrawn due to accident damage. Daf Ikarus 4086 (J413NCP) is now working for Loftus after a brief spell at Redcar. Optare Solo 2505 (Y296PDN) is now in full Arriva colours and is looking very smart!

Dennis MPD'S 1751/2 (W752/3SBR) now wear rather minimalistic branding for service M55 out of Jesmond depot. Optare Metrorider 922 (R922JNL) is now at Darlington ex Stockton. Optare Metrorider 2630 (P630FHN), 2645 (P645FHN) & 914 (R914JNL) have all moved to Darlington ex Bishop and disposal fleet. 51 Optare Solos are due to arrive by the end of September, 28 for Darlington, 14 for Durham & 9 for Peterlee. Any Metrorider fans better get there photos before it's too late!

**North West & Wales:** Dennis Darts 1172 and 1175 have moved to Llandudno Jnc from Laird St with 1288 also moving along the coast from Rhyl. Vario 0312 has been sold to Lloyds (Machynlleth). Sister vehicles 0315 (R815YJC), 0317 (R817YJC) and 0318 (R818YJC) have been sold to the Stafford Bus Centre for onward sale.

**Scotland:** Transferred up from Midlands is Northern Counties Olympian 7302 (G510SFT) allocated in Inchinan

**Southend:** Eleven new 10.2m Enviro200Darts B29D have been delivered to Grays for use on TfL route 370 between Romford and Lakeside and entered service in mid April.

4000 GN08CGO 4003 GN08CGX 4006 GN08CHC 4009 GN08CHG  
4001 GN08CGU 4004 GN08CGY 4007 GN08CHD 4010 GN08CHH  
4002 GN08CGV 4005 GN08CGZ 4008 GN08CHF

Several older Darts have been transferred out as a result of these arrivals and with service 373 and 383 being withdrawn. 3262, 3264, 3265, 3266, 3269 and 3270 are now at Tunbridge Wells, where they replace DAFs on route 402 that works into Bromley as they don't meet the LEZ standard. 3204, 3389, 3400-3403, 3425-3428 are now at Southend. 3218 has moved to Dartford, 3246 to Maidstone and 3263, 3267 and 3271 at Northfleet.

## First Group

**Berkshire:** Mercedes Citaro ES64005 (LT02NUB) has been transferred from the London operation and is seeing use in Slough.

**Cymru:** New Alexander bodied Darts are entering service at Swansea 44503 (CU08ADO) and 44508 (CU08ADX) have been noted. 51542 (M842ATC) has gone to PVS for scrap.

**Edinburgh:** More new Wright bodied Volvo B9TLs in service are 37138 (SN57HCX), 37143 (SN57HDD) and 37145 (SN57HDF). A couple of Marshall bodied Darts have arrived from London 41349 (V349DLH) and 41357 (V357DLJH) with a similar one 41220 (R220TLM) moving across from Glasgow. Noted in late April have been six ex South Yorkshire B10Ms 60578, 60579, 60583, 60590, 60591, and 60593

**Hampshire & Dorset:** Sold to Erith Commercials for scrap have been 20076 (TJI3136) and 40619 (M247VWW)

**West Yorkshire:** New Volvo B9TL / Wright Eclipse Gemini have been arriving at Bradfords Bowling Back Lane over the last few weeks, with the following route branded 37063 and 37066 for the 72, 37067-37070 for the 617/618, 37071-37077 for the 640//641 and 37079-37085 for the X6.

37063 YK57EVS 37071 YJ08GVE 37079 YJ08GVP 37086 YJ08GVY

37064	YK57EZT	37072	YJ08GVF	37080	YJ08GVR	37087	YJ08GVZ
37065	YK57EZU	37073	YJ08GVG	37081	YJ08GVT	37088	YJ08GWA
37066	YK57EZV	37074	YJ08GVK	37082	YJ08GVU	37089	YJ08GWC
37067	UK57EZW	37075	YJ08GVL	37083	YJ08GVV	37090	YJ08GWD
37068	YK57EZX	37076	YJ08GVM	37084	YJ08GVW	37091	YJ08GWE
37069	YK57EZZ	37077	YJ08GVN	37085	YJ08GVX	37092	YJ08GWF
37070	YK57FAA	37078	YJ08GVO				

## Go Ahead Group

**Blue Triangle:** An additional Enviro 200Dart entered service in early April SE36 (YN08DMY)

**Brighton & Hove:** Several Dennis Darts have moved here from Metrobus as replacements for indigenous step entrance versions Arrived so far are 240 (W791VMV), 241 (W792VMV), 242 (W796VMV), 245 (W335VGX), 248 (T312SMW) and 249 (T313SMV) all N29F

**London:** The awaited Enviro 400s for route 36 have now entered service E94 (LX08EBP), E98 (LX08ECA and E99 (LX08ECC).

**North East:** Dennis MPD 509 & 510 (X509/10WRG) have entered service at Percy Main ex Deptford and are in Wallsend Link's livery. Caetano Dart 8285 (V435KGF) & 8256 (NK04FOV) have also entered service at Percy Main, the latter being in Centurion livery. Scania Solar 4954 & 70 (NK51OLR/NK53UNW) & Olympian 3824 (S824OFT) have also entered service at Percy Main. Northern Counties Olympian 3930 (R389LGH) has moved to Stanley from Gateshead, while sister 3939 (R398LGH) has been written off.

Optare Deltas 4759/91 (K759RBB/M791HCU) have both moved to Ashington ex Deptford & Washington. Low floor Daf 4823/4/5 (P323/4/5AFT) are all at Washington ex Deptford. Volvo Olympian 3825 (S825OFT) has moved to Gateshead ex Washington & MPD 8196 (V196ERG) has moved to Stanley ex Winlaton. Dennis SPD's 8209/10 (V209/10ERG) have both moved to Deptford ex Percy Main & Dennis SPD 8212 (V212ERG) has moved to Winlaton ex Percy Main. Scania Solar 4945 (NK51OLJ) has moved to Deptford ex Gateshead.

8161/2/3/4/5 (S361/2/3/4/5ONL) have all moved to Chester Le Street ex Gateshead and painted a dark green colour for the "Lambton Worm" brand which is due to start at the end of next month on service 71. Dennis Trident Plaxton Presidents 3885/6 (NK51UCN/P) have both been fully refurbished and painted all over pink ready for there Angel vinyl's to be added. Optare Solo 453 (S253KNL) has moved to Ashington ex Stanley while Leyland Olympian 3952 (H550PVW) has also moved to Ashington ex Stanley.

Dennis Tridents 3873/4 (W183/4SCU) have moved to Deptford ex Percy Main & Gateshead. Optare Solo 464 (T464BCN), Mercedes Sprinter Koch 470 (BU53AXC), Marshall Minibus 483 (P459EFL) & Optare Metrorider 484 (R92HUA) have all been withdrawn from Ashington although the Metrorider has popped up on Staff Shuttle duties at Deptford. Dennis MPD 503/4/5 (X503/4WRG/X595FBB) are both Pink ready for there Pink Panther brandings. Scania Solar 4944 (NK51 OLH) has also moved to Deptford ex Gateshead as has 4942 (NK51OLE).

**Southern Vectis:** Several Darts SLFs have moved over from the mainland being freed up from Solent Blue Line after service changes there. 577 (SN03ECC), 578 (SN03ECD), 579 (SN03LDJ) and 580 (SN03LDK). Volvo B10M 596 (UEL489) has been re-reg'd to K728JWX.

## National Express Group

**West Midlands:** With grateful thanks to Tony Hunter these are the latest changes to the fleet Metrobuses withdrawn comprise 2558, 2618, 2659, 2685, 2705, 2734, 2784, 2789, 2837, 2862, 2891, 2897 and 2983 whilst others now sold are 2531, 2651 (Scrap), 2660, 2680, 2786, 2827, 2860, 2939, 2979, 2981, 2982, 3021, 3035 (Scrap) and 3090. Allocation changes comprise 290 PE - PB: 550 PE - WA: 551 PE - WA: 1359, 1360, 1362-1367 YW - PE: 1591, 1656 PE - CV: 2596 YW - LH: 2805, 2807 WB - LH: 4228 PB - WB: 4231 PB - WB: 4266 PB - BC: 4267, 4274 PB - WB:

4292 PB - BC: Other vehicles sold have been 265, 267, 274: 1207, 1275 and trainers 9073 and 9262 the latter two being scrapped. Trident 4030 has also been withdrawn

## Stagecoach

The coming years order have now officially been announced and will be delivered between May 2008 and the end of April 2009. Details of the initial orders are:

Body/chassis supplier	Vehicle type	Emission standard	Quantity
Body	Chassis	Type/ Emission Standard	Number
ADL Enviro 400	Enviro 400 (Cummins)	Double deck Euro 5	150
ADL Enviro 400	Scania 230UD	Double deck Euro 4	56
ADL Enviro 300	ADL Enviro 300 (12m)	Single deck Euro 5	38
ADL Enviro 300	MAN 18.240 (12m)	Single Deck Euro 4	120
ADL Enviro 200	ADL Enviro 200	Midi-bus Euro 5	25
ADL Enviro 200	MAN 14.240	Midi-bus Euro 4	32
Optare Versa		Midi-bus Euro 4	9
Optare Solo 9.5m		Mini-bus Euro 4	4
Optare Solo 8.5m		Mini-bus Euro 4	50
Plaxton Panther	Volvo B12B (12.3m)	coach Euro 5	7
Plaxton Panther	Volvo B12B Inter-urban (15m)	coach Euro 5	4
Total			495

**Cambridgeshire:** As noted in the news section operations of Cavalier Coaches and Huntingdon & District were assumed from the end of March. It will be operated as "Stagecoach in the Fens" with the following fleet being acquired

### Leyland Olympian

14050	H650VVV	14389	C55CHM	14396	B264LPH	14839	H139GGS
14051	H651VVV	14390	C60CHM	14397	B265LPH	14840	H140GGS
14052	H652VVV	14391	C98CHM	14398	B268LPH	14849	H149GGS
14053	H653VVV	14393	D178FYM	14399	C479YWY	14850	H150GGS
14156	A156OFR	14394	D215FYM	14690	A978OST	14851	H151GGS
14388	C38CHM	14395	B261LPH	14691	B898UAS	14852	H152GGS

### MCW Metrobus

15920 A766WVP

### DAF /Optare Spectra

15997 T125AUA 15998 T128AUA 15999 T129AUA

### Dennis Trident

18292 AE51VFW

### Volvo B10B

21160 R120HMK 21162 R122HMK 21164 R124HMK 21166 R126HMK

21161 R121HMK 21163 R123HMK 21165 R125HMK

### Volvo B7RLE

21217 KX57MTE

### Enviro 300

27583 SN54HXG 27584 AU55DYO 27585 MX55NWK

### Volvo B6

30463 M429BNV 30464 M430BNV 30465 M384VWX 30466 M385VWX

### Dennis Dart

32029 K916FVC 32030 K918FVC 32031 L265EPD

### Dennis Dart SLF

33297 N199PYJ 33302 V675FPO 33307 AE51VFU 33311 S719KNV

33298	R562UOT	33303	X166BNH	33308	AE51VJD	33312	AE56MDN
33299	R566UOT	33304	X168BNH	33309	HV52WTK	33313	AE07DZB
33300	R791NRW	33305	AE51VFX	33310	HV52WTG	33314	AE08DZC
33301	R773LHP	33306	AE51VFX				
Mercedes 709D							
40182	N376JGS	40183	N382JGS	40184	M46WVUR		
Mercedes Benz Vario							
42040	T405BGB	42041	T455HNV	42042	X991WAU	42043	V383NOA
Iveco				Renault Master			
46617	P389JOM			48108	BU06LNC	48109	BX07XPW
Volvo B10M							
52074	G370REG	52050	CLZ1842	52083	G549LWU	52340	P325VWR
Volvo B7R				Dennis Javelin			
53200	C2BCP			59104	J860COO		

It is expected that several of these will be withdrawn before too long as newer vehicles are drafted in from other fleets. Already noted have been Volvo B10Ms 20114 (N214LTN), 20530 (P530ESA), 20531 (P531ESA), 20534 (P534ESA) 20573 M473ASW, 20574 M474ASW 20575 (M475ASW) and 20589 (M489SW) all down from West Scotland where they have been replaced by new MAN / Enviro 300s. Volvo B10M 20752 (M752LAX) has also arrived from Wales.

**East Midlands:** Latest batch of movements to get through; 14082 is now with Yorkshire for spares, 14097, 14344 SP- dis: 14340 MD - SK: 14347 MD - SP: 14667, 15972 res - SK: 15983 NK - dis: 16314 res-GY: 16453, 16457 HL - res: 16476 res - MD: 16488 MD - res: 16732 HL - res: 16735 SK - HL: 16736 MD - HL: 16802 SP - res: 18033, 18036, 18038, 18040, 18041 Hyde Rd - MD: 18021, 18022, 18023 Hyde Rd - HL: 20417 Shafton - GH: 26121, 26122 LC - SK: 34185, 34186 SK - LC: 34191 SK - NK: 48102 res - GH: 52084 WP - MD: 52259 res - WP. 47277-47279 GY - dis: 48103 res - GH: 52084 MD - w: 52125 GY - w: 48101 FX04LJK has been returned to Lincolnshire Council. 47277-47279 have been returned to Mistral

As can be seen the first ex Manchester President bodied Tridents have now started to arrive in Hull and Mansfield, so expect further cascades next month. 18021 had been delivered to Mansfield but then sent to Hull.

### **East Scotland**

**(Fife)** The Rennies B12M 53028 has had its fleet number corrected to 53038. MANs 22277 and 22712 have moved from Dunfermline to Aberhill. Moving up from Oxfordshire in mid April are Volvo Olympians 16518 R418XFC, 16519 R419XFC, 16520 R420XFC and 16521 R421XFC. These will allow older Olympians to move to Rennies replacing Scania which are coming up for the age limit on Fife Council work. This month fleetcard changes 14498 (J198YSS) Aberhill to Rennies 16737 (N737LTN) Dunfermline to Aberhill 18096 (SP04DCE) Aberhill to Glenrothes 20111 (N211LTN) reserve to Perth (to cover for 22502) 20302/3 (L302/3PSC) St.Andrews to reserve 20338/9 (R338/9HFS) Dunfermline to St.Andrews 22266 (V266ESX) Glenrothes to Aberhill 22277 (X277MTS) Perth to Aberhill (Correction to previous update) 22502 (SP07EWL) Perth to reserve (severe accident damage) 22712 (V712DSA) Perth to Dunfermline (Correction to previous update) 52476 (R176DNH) Aberhill to Perth and finally a surprise move Bova 59621 (N401LTL) Manchester to Rennies

**(Perth)** The four new MAN Enviro 300s allocated here are 22575, 22576, 22577 and 22580, the latter in Hospital Link colours for route 333. Two B10Ms 20111 N211LTN and 20112 N212LTN have been placed into reserve.

**(StrathTay)** The allocations for the new Enviro 300 MANs are 22564, 22565 and 22566 at Forfar, 22567-22573, 22581 at Dundee and 22574, 22578, 22579 Arbroath. All Leyland Tigers are now withdrawn, and only 1 Leyland Olympian remains in use which is 14338 G338KKW which is allocated to Arbroath, but is likely to find itself at a new outstation at Arnhall, near Edzell Wood most of the time. Quite a few fleet movements last period so here goes 14683, 14683 and 14686

are withdrawn, 16813 moves to Blairgowrie, 16883 is now at Montrose with Trident 18353 moving from there to Arbroath. Similar 18389 and 18390 are now at Dundee. Volvo B10M 20315 is at Montrose and 20322 at Blairgowrie. 20321, 20329 and 20403 move to the reserve fleet. B10B 21021 moves from Forfar to Montrose. 21048 moves into Forfar allowing 21051 to move into reserve. Withdrawn are 25817, 25818, 32104, 32477 and 32478. 32480 moves from Arbroath to Montrose. Moving into Arbroath are 32904, 32905 and 47158. 47255 moves from Dundee to Montrose. Two Interurbans 52249 and 52250 are now at Kirriemuir with 52052 there being placed into reserve.

**Manchester:** New bus deliveries have now speeded up a notch so quite a lot to get through this time 19223 (MX08GJZ), 19226 (MX08GKF), 19227 (MX08GKG), 19228 19229 (MX08GKK), 19231 (MX08GKN), 19269 (MX08GPF) and 15452 (MX08GHZ)

Due to leave fro Stroud on May 4<sup>th</sup> were 18312 (KX05TWK), 18313 (KX05TWL), 18314 (KX05TWM) and 18323 (MX05WHR)

**North East:** Man Alexander 22204 is now at Stockton. Dennis Dart Plaxton 32182 (K857LGN) remains in use at Stockton. Man Alexander 22195 (T195MVM), Dennis Dart Alexander 32774 (N774RVK) & Volvo B10M 20117 (N217LTN) are all in Wheatsheaf paint shop at the moment getting repainted. Volvo B10BLE / Northern Counties 21102 (P602JBU) has been displaced from Stockton to South Shields and that South Shields

#### **North West:**

**(Cumbria)** The single Versa, for route 2, is 25225 PX08CSU. Also new are eleven MAN / Enviro 300s which arrived in late April entered service from Lillyhall on enhanced routes 30/31/31A.

22595 PX08CSV 22598 PX08CTE 22607 PX08CTO 22610 PX08CTY  
22596 PX08CSY 22599 PX08CTF 22608 PX08CTU 22611 PX08CTZ  
22597 PX08CSZ 22600 PX08CTK 22609 PX08CTV

The arrival of these has seen B10Ms 20733, 20738, 20761, 20767, 20770 and 20777 de-licenced.

**(Lancaster)** The Three Optare Versas were launched on April 11<sup>th</sup> operating on service 6 / 6A 25222 PX08CRZ, 25223 PX08CSF and 25224 PX08CSO. The first of the next batch of Tridents being received from Manchester 18324 MX05WHS, 18361 MX55KPO and 18362 MX55KPP were collected from Princess Rd on April 13<sup>th</sup>. A fourth, 18381 MX55KRU, was due to have been picked up but accident damage meant it stayed at [PS] until a couple of day later before heading north. Three more we collected on 20<sup>th</sup> April. 18326 MX05WHU, 18363 MX55 KPR and 18382 MX55KRV, again a fourth should have been picked up 18325 MX05WHT but again technical difficulties delayed its arrival. 18326, after fitting with a tachograph has gone on loan to Barrow, whilst one of their indigenous East Lancs bodied examples is away for major repairs following an accident.

As a result of these arrivals the three remaining Titans 10056 and 11003 were withdrawn mid month leaving 10684 of the type in service. Also withdrawn have been Leyland Olympians 14206, 14207 and 14209

**(Lancashire)** Volvo B6s 30457 M457VHE and 30458 M458VHE have moved from Lancaster to Chorley for use on increased Lancashire Cunty Council work around Ormskirk.

**Oxfordshire:** Following the arrival of the new Scania Enviro 400s a shuffle around of vehicles has led to numerous Volvo B10Ms leave the fleet 20542 P542ESA and 20822 P822FVU move to Yorkshire whilst 20007- 20011 have moved to East Kent. Volvo Olympians 16522 and 16526 departed for Bluebird on April 16th

**South:** In the course of delivery to Aldershot are MAN 14.240 / Enviro 300s 39651 (GX08HBN), 39652 (GX08HBO), 39653 (GX08HBP), 39654 (GX08HBU), 39655 (GX08HBY) and 39656 (GX08HBZ). They are for use on route 20 between Aldershot and Guildford. Dennis Darts 32556 (K566NHC) and 32560 (K660KHC) have both been broken up for spares. Volvo B10M 20189 20628 now at Chichester. Similar 20381 is now at Worthing. Transferred down from North East are Darts SLFs 32302 (N302AMC), 32623 (P623PGP), 32632 (P632PGP) and 32657 (P457EEF). 32623 and 32632 have been allocated to Aldershot

**West:** Due at Stroud as this is read are Seven Tridents from Manchester 18312-18315 and 18321-18323

**West Scotland:** More new arrivals see no less than thirteen MAN / Enviro 300s enter service at Cumnock.

22582 SF08GOK 22586 SF08GPJ 22589 SF08GPV 22592 SF08GPY  
22583 SF08GKU 22587 SF08SPK 22590 SF08GPX 22593 SF08GRK  
22584 SF08GKX 22588 SF08GPU 22591 SF08GPZ 22594 SF08GRU  
22585 SF08GPE

These have released several Volvo B10Ms to Canbridge. 20577 is now at Dumfries replacing 20114 which has also headed south

Another Neoplan re registered is 50132 now carrying UIB3542 off artic 51071.

**Yorkshire:** Four new arrivals here at Shafton, for use on West Yorkshire PTE "My Bus" school contracts, are BMC Probus 850s 29719 Y N08JDF, 29720 YN08JDJ, 29721 YN08JDK and 29722 YN08JDO. They should replace the existing fleet of four 1100FEs 29701-29704 which are due to be returned to BMC. MAN/ Enviro 300 22557 has transferred to Barnsley.

More vehicles sold are Darts 32115 K115SRH, 32483K409EWA, 32484 K410EWA and 32593 K116CSG. Former North West B10M 20700 K700DAO is now at Doncaster allowing Dart 32357 R707YWC to be moved to Rawmarsh along with 32363. B10M 20235 has been sold to PVS.

Chesterfield should be receiving new MAN /Enviro 300s as this is read for route 43

## Transdev

**London United:** Three Scania Omnicitys were delivered into Shepherds Bush garage on April 16<sup>th</sup> for use on route 148; SP29 YN08DHU, SP30 YN08DHV and SP31 YN08DHX. Two more followed SP32 YN08DHY and SP33 YN08DHZ. A further 4 are due imminently.

## Veolia

**Bebb:** Currently being evaluated is and Enterprise / Plaxton Primo demonstrator YX07GVD. Transferred to Dunn Line have been CN04NFD, CN04NFE, CN04NFF and CN04NFG.

**North East:** Currently have Dennis Dart / Plaxton FM52GKV on loan from Veolia Nottingham (in Dunn Line livery) and MAN 14.220 / East Lancs ML53BLU on loan from Veolia York (in Veolia livery). The Dart was the regular bus on the CSA shuttle in Washington before being replaced by the MAN. Formerly on this service was Veolia Cymru Optare Solo CN06BXE. This is reported due to return to Wales.

## Independents

### Eastern Counties

**Anglian Beccles:** Two new Optare Versa have entered service 411 AU08DKL and 412 AU08DKN seeing use on route A47

**Crusader Holidays:** Three Setra S416GT-HDs have been added for the start of the new holiday season EU08FAA, EU08FAF and EU08FAJ, with FAF taking coach of the year at Brighton

**Hedingham & District:** Two recent arrivals are Northern Counties bodies Olympians L364 (K107JWJ) and L365 (L109LHL) both from Stgaecoach East Midlands as 16477 and 16478 respectively. These replace L254 (RAH260W) and L293 (RAH268W) that have been sold to Ensign.

**P&M Coahces (Wickford):** A pair of Lothian Olympians have been purchased J846TSC and J849TSC both retaining dual doors on the lower deck H51/30D. Also in from Imperial (Rainham is Titan CUL214V

**SM Coaches (Harlow):** In from Arriva EH & E is Dennis Dart K408FHJ

**Stephensons (Rochford):** East Lancs bodied Atlantean, or at least what is left of it, GHG345W has been collected by Hardwicks.

**Terravision (Stansted):** Transferred from Stansted Transport are Scania K114EB/Irizar Centurys YN04YJJ, YN04YJK and YN04YJL.

### London / Greater London

**City Circle:** Two new Setra S416.HD-GR are BN08OOD and BN08OOE

**Clarkes of London:** The first three axle Scania /Irizar PB with an 08 plate here, is YN08JBV running in all white in late March

**East London Bus Group:** New buses on order for the coming months comprise; 39 Scania Omnicitys 15001-15020 to WH for route 106 and 15021-15039 at PD for route 177. 29 ADL Enviro 200Darts are also due 36009-36037

**Hackney Community Transport:** The long awaited Darwen Olympus bodied Trident has finally been delivered over twelve month late EO1 PN08SWJ it see use on peak school journeys.

### Midlands

**TM Travel Chesterfield:** New deliveries are MAN/Plaxton Centro N38Fs are YN08JWC, YN08JWD and YN08DWE When seen in mid April they were operating in all white. Also new is a MAN/Optare Versa N40F YJ08PFN in full fleet colours.

### North East

**Leven Valley:** Optare Solo MX54KTX has now left following 2 weeks of service.

**Stanley Coaches:** Have bought Leyland Tiger / Plaxton C34CWT from Garnets and that it is to be used on a school contract (lucky kids!). Acquired is SF06WCL, reported as a 12.8m long Plaxton ex Parks of Hamilton. Volvo B10M / Plaxton P4STX has been sold. Mercedes Vario / Plaxton YN57OUY has gained personalised plate JU57STX.

**Premier Travel:** Have two ex K&J, York Leyland Lynxes. One is identified as OKZ4787 (ex G93EOG). Also in stock is Volvo B10M / Plaxton M303BAV and a Van Hool coach that could not be fully identified.

**Phoenix:** Have reregistered Vario SF57EUA to A2OJD, the previous holder of this reverting to NK05OFZ.

**Redby:** Some buses that didn't transfer to Go North East have been traced. Volvo B7RLE / Wright MX07OYT is working Park and Ride at Worcester North, while sister AE57FXW is now working on loan to Arriva Yorkshire. Optare Solo R13DBY is now with TM Travel, Stavely.

**First Choice:** Have disposed of their Olympian and Metrobus.

### Ex North East Buses:

Ex **OK Travel / Go North East** Optare Delta J203VHN with Harris, Blackwood and ex **Cleveland Transit / Stagecoach Darlington** Leyland Lynx II K622YVN with Veolia Wales.

### North West

**Ashalls:** A new addition noted in early April is Volvo B12B / Caetano SF07KGG latterly with Corporate Travel of Fife

**Avon Buses:** Three new buses entering service are 10.9m ADLDart SLF/ MCV Evolutions 108 AE08DKO, 208 AE08DKU and 308 AE08DKV.

**Eavesway (Wigan):** The registrations of the new Van Hool TD921 Altanos are YJ08EAA, YJ08EAC, YJ08EAE, YJ08EAF, YJ08EAG, YJ08EAK, YJ08EAM and YJ08EAO

**Elite (Cleveleys):** A new Slimline Solo has entered service on Thornton Cleveleys local service 87, MX08DHE

**Haytons (Manchester):** A second Plaxton Beaver 2 / Mercedes Vario is R453PRH, along with its sister usually to be found working the 44 between Manchester and Gatley.

**JP Travel:** In use in April is BMC Falcon demonstrator BV57MPU B45F.

**Fairway Commercials:** A new company operating from the same site as the former A1 Minibuses operation. In service is Dennis Dart R402XFL, still in Ogdens colours, its previous operator. It comes complete with route branding for service "339 Hard Lane – St Helens – Warrington".

**Finglands:** Four new Wright double decks have been delivered to Rusholme 1792 (YX08FWE), 1793 (YX08FWF), 1794 (YX08FWG) and 1795 (YX08FWH). They are to replace Olympians 1739 (M832HVC), 1774 (N592BRH), 1745 (N598BRH) and N603BRH) which will move across to East Yorkshire as their 571, 592, 598 and 603 respectively.

**The Travellers Choice:** Up for sale at the moment are Volvo B10M /Jonckherre Mistral 899CAN and Merc /Autobus FX51BRV.

**Tyrer:** Four new Optare Solos have been added for operation on the new service 94 operating as "The Green Line" linking Boundary Mill shopping outlet with Colne, Nelson and Brierfield MX08DGE, MX08DGO, MX08DGU and MX08DGV. Also new are similar MX08DHA and DHN operating from the new depot at Bolton

### Scotland

**Lothian:** Two buses from the sightseeing fleets 47 (A145DPE) and 311 (E311MSG) are now with Allens Tours of Belfast

**Rabbies Trail Burners:** The Edinburgh based, small group, operator has taken delivery of three Mercedes Benz 515CDi /KVC conversions. SN08GJJ, SN08GJK and SN08GJO. The vehicles feature 16 reclining seats, air conditioning and double glazing. A further three are on order.

**Silver Choice (East Kilbride):** New here from Excel (Stansted) are Bova FHD Futura C51FTs YJ0GXL and YJ03GXS.

### Southern England

**Buzzlines:** Volvo B10M DIG4528 has been re registered back to P116HCF and sold to Divine (Yately). Also leaving the fleet have been Scania K94/Irizars C70F SC04OOL and SK04 OOL both now with Williams (Brecon). Finally Volco B10M/Plaxton 10MKK ex N251KFR is now with Palmers of Blackwater.

**Coliseum (Southampton):** Neoplan 435SFC has been re registered to HS03OJN and is now with Hodgson (South Yorkshire)

**Eastbourne Buses:** 301 (YJ05WCC) is now with Andybus (Dauntsey)

**Eastonways (Ramsgate):** Recently acquired from Howe (Westgate) is Toyota Coaster NBZ8510 ex J480NJU. An Optare bodied Olympian E916DRD is also a recent addition.

**Excelsior Bournemouth:** A new Volvo B12 / Sunsundeugi is 401 FJ08FYF is now here

**Griffin (Dunton Green):** Two buses bought from Mann (Gravesend) are Leyland Tiger C53F C379PCD ex UJI2346 and DAF MB230/Plaxton C57F D638WNU. DAF E342WTT has been sold for scrap.

**Phoenix (Hastings):** In from MCH of Uxbridge is an Excel bodied Mercedes 411CDi YR52OCS ex MCH456

**Rambler (Hastings):** A pair of Plaxton bodied Volvo B10B-58s acquired from Hoggans of Neath are 31 (M606UTV) and 33 (M607UTV) both are B51F. A couple of re-registrations are B10M 03 (GX02AEE) to BDY389. The previous owner Van Hool bodied B10M 22 is now H533WGH. Berkhof bodied B12M (31) DDY557 was registered back to CA52LAO and has left the fleet.

**Renown (Bexhill):** Purchased from Fleetlink (Aldershot) is Volvo B10M/Plaxton C53F P943EBB originally (P3CLA)

### South West

**Bakers Dolphin:** Thanks to Chris Rubery, Traffic Manager who informs us of the arrival of two new coaches BD08GLD and HD078GLD both Scania's K114EB4 with Irizar PB bodywork C36FT

**Hookways Coaches:** Acquired Coaches are LIL 8823, L919 NWW, L 3 SKC, N564 DJW, L531 XUT, W752 AAY, R 2 WCT, T 4 WCT, N408 SPC

Coaches sold D569 MVR, D778 NYG, E716 CPC, J511 LRY, L975 OWY, M 39 LHP, N373 EAK, N111GLO and N843NBV

**Hatts:** Mercedes 0814 Plaxton Beaver 2 DP33F VX53AVJ went to Mid West (Cheltenham ) 3/08 and on to Simonds (Botesdale) 4/08, while sister vehicle VX04KTK also left 3/08 and went to Perrys of Moulton 4/08.

**Mid West (Cheltenham):** MAN Noge YN54JTY arrived from from Wicksons (Walsall) 3/08 and was driven to Tecoma, Cyprus. Ex Crossgates Solo MX05OTR went to Frome Minibuses 4/08 in exchange for Sprinter WU51CZC.

**Filers (Stanton Wick)** took delivery 4/08 of B10M Van Hool T9 T107JBA ex National Holidays from Plaxton Sales. It has been up seated to C53F (no toilet).

## **Wales**

**Edwards (Llantwit Fardre):** Two new Volvo B12B /Plaxton Paragons are YN08DNV and YN08DNX both C57FT.

## **Irish happenings**

Enviro 500's are becoming more prevalent on Dublin streets and appearing on more routes (10 - Donnybrook-Phoenix Park) in addition to route 39-Blanchardstown. Three-axle double deckers are now a common sight in the centre of Dublin as are Enviro 400's also.

Latest deliveries are VT50-VT63 07-D-70050-63 all Volvo B6TL H57/36F and allocated to Phisboro Volvo Wright 'Eclipse' have taken over nearly all routes in Waterford except No 4 City-Loglas. Their size has resulted in rerouting in the city, No2 from Patrick St to the Clock Tower instead, No2 likewise from Michael St. Both now no longer passing through the narrow central Streets – a disadvantage for elderly poorly mobile passengers who will now be forced to make their way from the central shopping area to the Quay and back whereas previously they could get on or alight much closer to the shops.

Cork city has been allocated about 100 new single deck vehicles, including suburban coaches all allegedly wheelchair accessible, 30 are additional, with 20 new drivers. So far 2 new routes have been announced. As a result V-W 'Eclipse' have also replaced many older buses in Cork . Cork city V-W 'Eclipse' (unlike Waterford) are painted in the revised livery (wavy red stripes rather than straight) and are registered in Cork, rather than Dublin. Local registration and new livery is also the case in Limerick. I believe the total number of 'Eclipse' vehicles is about 80

On a negative note transport minister Dempsey disappointingly announced last month that none of the present Dublin Bus routes would be put out to private tender. Private operators could apply for licenses for new routes but the process is drawn out and tedious and frequently takes 2 years or more.

In Belfast plans have been revealed for a £147m Bus Rapid Transit network across the city. The report will now go before Belfast City Council. The system will be built by the Department of Regional Development, with the actual running being put out to tender. Work however is not expected to commence until 2011.

## **New Deliveries**

Berrys Taunton	WA08AOZ	
Dhillons	DH08LON	Volvo/Van Hool
Edwards (Llawit Fardre)	YN087DNX	Plaxton Paragon
Galloways	AY07DZP	Volvo/Van Hool T9
G Line Lytham	YJ08EBG	Volvo/Van Hool T9
Hardings (Betchworth)	BV08ZWN	Mercedes-Benz Tourino
Hodgsons Barnard Castle	HC08BUS	Volvo B12B / Paxton Panther
P & O Lloyd	YN08AUE	MAN Plaxton Panther
Moretons Little London	WA08AOY	Bova Futura
Silverdale Nottingham	YN08ATO	Eurorider/ Beulas Cygnus
Whytes Newmachar	SV08CEO	Bova
WH Motors	WH08AGH	Volvo/Sunsundeugi
Worthing Coaches	YN08DFD	Scania Irizar

## Alexander Dennis (Falkirk)

8<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**First Bus**

*Enviro* D/D LK08FNC, LK08FNA

**Stagecoach**

*Enviro* D/D MX08GPE, MX08GLV, MX08GLY  
S/D SF08GPX

15<sup>th</sup> April 2008

**Stagecoach**

*Enviro* S/D PX08CSV, PX08CSY, PX08CSZ  
S/D SF08GPJ (22586)  
D/D MX08GMV, MX08GKZ

**First Bus**

*Enviro* D/D LK08FNE

22<sup>nd</sup> April 2008

**First London**

*Scania Enviro* D/D MX08GNK, MX08GJF

**First London**

*Dennis Enviro* D/D LK08FKX, LK08FKY

**Stagecoach**

*Enviro 300* S/D YN08JGU

## Around the Dealers

### Holloway (Willenhall)

**Vehicles in**

P220 OLC from Woods, Standish

W594 KFE from Dutton, Enfield now M14 previously recorded as M13.

X322 HEE from Hickling, Stocksbridge

X584 AAK from Myhill, Great Shelford

X506 NDN from Jacksons, Silsden

Y 61 CJW from Silverline, Solihull

Y341 XAG from Allen, St Austell

Y651 GNJ from Shreeve, Lowestoft

Y746 NAY from Williamson, Stockport

A 11 XEG from Caradoc, Rushbury

BF 03 SFU from Stubbington, Strood

HF 03 JHK from Principle Link, Corby

DK 53 VZV MB 411CDI/? M16 from ??

CN 54 GXG from Little Bus, Leominster

FN 54 EYO Rt Mtr VF1PDMVL532221493/? M16 from ??

SN 54 FHU from Selvey, Cambuslang

KP 06 XGN MB 311CDI/? M16 from ??

KY 06 JZW MB 311CDI/? M16 from ??

NX 57 FWS from Shaw, Horsehay

**Vehicles out**

R993 GAV to Barn, Wombourne ex Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead

T669 LNT? to Liddell, Bristol ex Home James, Speke

V947 EWA to Age Concern, Halesowen

W499 VLW to Birmingham Community Association ex Caldervale Council  
 W507 VLW to Age Concern, Bedfont ex Caldervale Council  
 W596 VLR to DEK, Stafford ex Caldervale Council  
 Y997 JLG to Principle Link, Corby ex Corvus, Swindon  
 OU 02 BUW to Baker, Moreton in Marsh  
 WX 02 ELW to Little Bus, Leomonsler ex Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
 YX 02 NRY to DEK, Stafford ex Hockey, Longwell Green  
 SK 52 VDO to Woods, Standish ex Scott, South Queensferry  
 YY 52 GFZ to Hoxey, Pershore ex Lamb, Wemyss Bay  
 AP 03 ZRD to Godfrey & Haines, Cliftonville ex Heels, Cromer  
 FY 03 SVW to Dutton, Enfield ex? Inwood, Windsor  
 BU 03 UJG to RCP Parking, Norwich ex Jones & Iceton, Newton Aycliffe  
 BU 04 ZWM, ZXK to DEK, Stafford ex National  
 KP 54 TZW to Kevs, Wildmoor [Holloways think this has already been destroyed by fire]  
 KF 54 UEM to Holsworthy, Dolton  
 YX 54 HNE to Allen, St Austell ex Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
 KN 05 XOF to Caradoc, Rushbury  
 KN 05 XRS to Kevs, Wildmoor  
 FJ 06 LKY to Myhill, Great Shelford ex Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
 FJ 06 LLC to RCP Parking, Norwich ex Bunyan, Hemel Hempstead  
 [Holloways believe these work at Manchester Airport which may explain why no vehicles have ever been reported with this op since 7/01]  
 WX 05 HKP to Hickling, Stocksbridge ex Rushworth, Scholes  
 BX 56 BWL to Selvey, Cambuslang ex Brierley & Barvella  
 DX 56 EKY to New Testamemnt Church of God, Dudley  
 YX 06 DNU to Mole, Kidderminster ex Hutchinson, Easingwold  
 BU 08 EJF, EJG to Silverline, Solihull  
 BX 08 ERJ MB 515CDI to Age Concern, preston  
 CS 08 CTS new MB 515CDI to Gaw, Stewarton  
 M 20 MGH new lo 50C13 to Mountain Goat, Windermere CA  
 S 15 XEC new MB 515CDI to Smith, Edgware  
 New unreg lo 45c15 to White, St Albans  
 New unreg MB 515CDI to Elite, Limousine, Crumpsall

## Stafford Bus Centre

Several former Stagecoach vehicles were noted in mid April the B10Ms having been here a while.  
 14362, 20404, 20406, 20706, 20707, 20708, 20709, 30652, 30655, 32611, 40714 and 42590  
 M79VJO  
 R133LNR Merc 814d Plaxton Beaver  
 SIL8752 Volvo B10m MCI Sedissa 3  
 R275RAU 814d Beaver  
 M816GFT Dart / Marshall Diamond bus

## Preservation News

### Events

**Manchester Museum of Transport:** 17/18<sup>th</sup> May - North Western & Stockport Event  
**Scottish Vintage Bus Museum:** 18<sup>th</sup> May – Bus Running Day  
**The Piece Hall Spring Bus Rally Halifax:** 18<sup>th</sup> May – Trips to destinations around Calderdale

**Quantock Motor Services:** 24/25<sup>th</sup> May – Vintage Bus Rally & Running Weekend at Minehead, Somerset  
**Buckinghamshire Railway Centre:** 25/26<sup>th</sup> May Quainton Bus & Transport Rally  
**South Yorkshire Transport Museum:** 25<sup>th</sup> May – Open Day  
**Ragley Hall Classic Car & Transport Show:** 25/26<sup>th</sup> May – Alcester, Warwickshire  
**BaMMoT, Wythall:** 25/26<sup>th</sup> May - Holiday Operating Days  
**Aston Manor Transport Museum:** 26<sup>th</sup> May -Two Museums Day with BaMMoT, Wythall  
**London Transport Museum:** 30/31<sup>st</sup> May – Guided Tours at Acton Depot  
**Truckfest:** 31<sup>st</sup> May to 1<sup>st</sup> June – Kent Countyshow Ground  
**Historic Commercial Vehicle Society:** 1<sup>st</sup> June – Tyne Tees Run  
**Ipswich Transport Museum:** 1<sup>st</sup> June – Family Fun Day  
**Nottingham Heritage Vehicles:** 1<sup>st</sup> June – Bus & Coach Gathering, Wollaton Park  
**Oxford Bus Museum:** 1<sup>st</sup> June – Open Day  
**Seaton Tramway:** 7<sup>th</sup> June - Annual Bus & Vintage Vehicle rally  
**Royal Victoria Bus & Coach Rally:** 8<sup>th</sup> June – Royal Victoria County Park, Hants  
**Churnet Valley Steam Railway:** 8<sup>th</sup> June – Classic Bus Rally, Stoke – on- Trent  
**South Yorkshire Transport Museum:** 8<sup>th</sup> June – Open Day  
**Cardiff Transport Preservation Group:** 8<sup>th</sup> June – Barry Festival of Transport  
*Sometimes the above can be cancelled at short notice – so please check before hand, as you do not want a wasted journey*

## Event Reports

### Aston Manor Rear Engines Day, 16<sup>th</sup> March 2008 – Ray Wilson

HXI3009 Lynx, XON41J Fleetline, M202DRG Lance, P420EWJ Volvo B10L, BX56XDJ Volvo B7RLE, FWA4745V National, H35HCG Lynx, D101NDW Lynx, G209EOG Lynx, C62HOM Lynx, G292EOG Lynx, G38YHJ Lynx, AYR339T National, JDZ2349 Dart, D931NDA Metrobus, JOV714P VRT, JOV738P Ailsa, AE54JRV Man 14.220, AE07DZX Man 14.220, JYC855 951, 6479HA BMMO 517, XNX136H Leopard Only vehicles parked outside of museum building listed

### Kirkby Stephen Classic Commercial Vehicle Rally – Ray Wilson

Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2008

JVC855 PS1, JTB Regal 111, MTJ84 Arab 111, JVY516 Regal 111, TFJ808 Arab 1V, WAT652 Regent V, 627HFM Lodekka F.D, NWS358 Reliance, OSC711 Tiger Cub, YDK590 Reliance, CUV186C Routemaster, CUV290C Routemaster, JJD551D Routemaster, SMK686F Routemaster, SCS335M Leopard, UWY607S VRT, KGN433 OB, JTE546 Regent 111, CHG541 PS2, TCP897 BDJ, MUA45P LHS6L, DCK219 PD2, ULS658T Fleetline, K51132 Sentinel DGA Steam Bus

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2008

CWX671 K5G, FWW596 OB, JYC855 PSI, JTB749 Rega111, MTJ84 Arab 111, JVY516 Regal 111, FCK884 Tiger Cub, TFJ808 Arab 1V, WAT652 Regent V, 109DRM Lodekka FS, 627HFM Lodekka FD, MMS358 Reliance, OSC711 Tiger Cub, YDK590 Reliance, AAO34B MW6G, CUV186C Routemaster, CUV290C Routemaster, JJD551D Routemaster, SMK686F Routemaster, NCK338J RESL6L, JDC544L Fleetline, SCS335M Leopard, RGF231F LHS6L, KRN104T Leopard, EJR111W Atlantean, UWV607F VRT, KGN433 OB, DBU889 OB, JTE546 Regent 111, DCK219 PD2, FHN149W ?, PTF727L National, ULS658T Fleetline EVD580 PSI, PRO439W LH56L, CHG541 PS2, KS1132 Sentinel DG4 Steam Bus

## Museum Reports

### THE NORTH WEST MUSEUM of TRANSPORT St. Helens

A brilliant museum, 200yards from bus and train stations, very good for photography, 14 cars, 2 lorries and 4 Fire Engines, But NO CAFE! However the exhibits made up for that. 1975 TJ AEC Renown Leigh 28,

201 YTE Leyland Titan Lancaster City 201  
 4227 FM Bristol Lodekka Crosville DFG 157  
 434 BTE Crossley Regent Darwen 17  
 562 RTF Leyland Titan Widnes 31  
 574 TD Guy Arab Lancashire United 110  
 A 323 GLV Leyland Atlantean Merseyside 1003  
 AFY 971 Leyland Titan Southport 43  
 AJA 139B Bedford Val North Western 133  
 ANQ 778 AEC Regent Sydney Australia  
Note the Reg. is 778 and not 668 as in the preserved book  
 BKC 367C Leyland Titan Preston 61  
 BED 731C Leyland Titan Warrington 50  
 BED 732C Leyland Titan Warrington 51 but in Weardale colours New here  
 CDJ 878 Leyland Titan St. Helens 78  
 DED 797 Leyland Titan Warrington 18  
 DFM347H Guy Arab Chester 47  
 DKC 301L Leyland Atlantean Merseyside 1301  
 EFM 181H Bristol RELL6G Crosville SRG 181  
 FFM 135C Guy Arab Chester 35  
 FFY 404 Leyland Titan Southport 87  
 FHF 456 Leyland Atlantean Wallasey 6 in Merseyside colours CL1  
 FWA 475V Leyland National South Yorkshire PTE 1075 in Isle of Owston Ferry colours  
 GEK 14V all white D/D unidentified ex owners  
 GFY 406 Leyland Titan Southport 106  
 H35 HBG Leyland Lynx Halton35  
 HTF 644B Leyland Titan Widnes 38  
 HTJ 522B Guy Arab Lancashire United 167  
 JFM 650J Daimler Fleetline Chester 50  
 JTD 300B Guy Arab Lancashire United 166 in Laurel and Hardy Museum colours  
 KDJ 999 AEC Regent St. Helens 199  
 KJA 299G Bristol RESL 6G North Western 299  
 KRN 422 Leyland Titan Preston 31  
 KTD 768 Leyland Titan Leigh 16  
 KUS 607E Leyland Atlantean Glasgow LA 352 in Edwards, Llantwit Fadre colours  
 MDJ 554E Leyland Titan St. Helens 54  
 MDJ 555E Leyland Titan St. Helens 55  
 MNC 487W Leyland Fleetline GMPTE 8144  
 MXX 421 AEC Regal London Transport RF 444 New here  
 NTF 466 Daimler Lancaster City 466  
 NWA 257K Daimler Fleetline Sheffield 257 in Finch of Wigan colours  
 PDJ 269L AEC Swift St. Helens 269  
 RFM 435F Leyland Tiger Cub Chester 53  
 RFM 61M Daimler Fleetline Chester 61  
 RFM 641 Guy Arab Chester1  
 RFM 644 Guy Arab Chester 4  
 RTC 645L Leyland National Widnes 1  
 RV 6360 Leyland Titan Portsmouth 6  
 SMK 701F AEC Routemaster London Transport RML 2701  
 TDJ 612 AEC Reliance St. Helens 212  
 TRJ 109 AEC Reliance Salford 109  
 TVT 127G Leyland Leopard Potteries SN 1127  
 UTC 768D Leyland Leopard Lancashire United 216

## Out and About

### Brighton Coach Rally

My mate Norman has been down to this years rally, doesn't take pictures I'm afraid so we will just have to settle for his report.

This years rally the 54<sup>th</sup> attracted its usual array of brand new vehicles and some older ones as well, the list of what was noted is set out below. The coveted coach of the year award was awarded to Crusader Holidays with its 13m, three legger Setra S416GT.HD comfort class EU08FAF. It marks the third year of wins for the coach after Edwards and Buzzlines examples have won in the previous two years. Edwards also entered a similar vehicle with a different specification, but didn't manage to reach the top. It did however take the prize for the best coach from Wales. The best coach from Scotland went to a Bova Magiq from Maynes acoches Buckie

The Scania trophy went to Cozy Travel with its new 13.9m Irizar 70 seat S-Kool. Banstead coaches took the Standard coach title with its 2006 winning Mercedes-Benz Touro. TM Travels new 12.8m Plaxton Paragon bodied Volvo took the Plaxton and Kirkby awards, whilst its driver, Tim Watts won the Peter Bostock trophy and took the driver quiz prize.

Taking the top mini / midi bus award was Reays of Wigton with its only just launched Esker Riada bodied Mercedes Vario. The best coach over five years old went to a gleaming Van Hool bodied Scania K114 of York Pullman. The VDL Group had three trophy's on offer the Berkhof award was won by a 14.2, Volvo B12B Axial of The Travellers Choice, whilst the Jonckherre trophy went to Flight Hallmark B12B / SHV which is used as the team coach for Aston Villa. The thid was for the top Bova which went to Paul S Winson with a Futura. The top executive coach, was taken by another football team coach this time of, Coliseum who transport Southampton FC with its Beulas bodied MAN R37.

The Trophy for Coach driver of the year, for the second time was Chris Bibby from Bibby's of Ingleton, carrying on a long line of such Trophy's won by his father Peter down the years. Peter himself was also won this years directors challenge competition. They also walked away with Top Team of the year for the driver and navigator of the top coach on the road section. The navigator being Malcolm Stephenson a previous winner of the driver of the year on two occasion in the past. Midi bus driver of the year was Darren Brown from Crawley Luxury Coaches driving a Bedford YMQ. Completing the awards was minibus driver of the year Matthew Haines from Haines Mini Coaches driving an Esker bodied Mercedes-Benz Vario which also won the Elite award for the best mini coach conversion.

Kenzies were out in force with three coaches spanning 57 years with a 1951 Bedford OB, a 1965 Bedford VAL and a new Van Hool bodied Volvo B12B, with the VAL taking the best coach over 25 years old title.

The road run took place in driving rain on the Saturday with City Circle BX08XTD leaving at 0824, slightly late due to a couple of parked cars that had to be removed, with the rest of the field leaving at two minute intervals. 51 vehicles had been entered but four did not turn up although a couple of late additions took the entrants to 49.

A date for your diary, next years rally is to be held on April 18/19<sup>th</sup>, th e50th to be held at Brighton.

#### Road run

1	BX08XTD	48	City Circle	Setra
2	AL08ASH		Ashford Luxury Coaches	Plaxton
3	FJ57CZL		Flights Hallmark	Volvo B12B 6x2 Jonckherre SHV
4	3262MW		Burtons	Van Hool
6	YJ08NTY		Parrys International	Van Hool T917 Astron
8	M17YNE		Maynes Buckie	VDL Bova Magiq
11	FC02DRX		Chalkwell Sittingbourne	Volvo
12	EU08FAF		Crusader Holidays	Setra S416GT-HD
13	PN08CPO		Cedar Coaches	MAN A91 Marcopolo Viaggio III

14	B10MVO	Clarkes	Volvo Jonckherre Mistral
15	YJ08EFT	Tellings Golden Miller	Temsa Opalan
16	7345FW	Explorer	
17	PN08CNF	Flanagans	Iveco Eurorider Marcopolo
18	OC08BOY	Golden Boy	
19	YJ57BBV	Bibby Ingleton	DAF Van Hool
20	MT08MTT	Motts Travel	Volvo B7R Plaxton Paragon
21	BC07JAB	Blakes Devon	Scania Irizar PB
22	YN08NKW	TM Travel	Volvo
23	BC57WKB	Blakes Devon	
24	AY57EZR	Galloway	Setra S416GT-HD
25	CR08RAM 38	Rambler Hastings	Volvo 9700
26	AY08DZP	Galloway European	Setra 416GT-HD
27	YJ08EBZ	Beestons	
28	YN08FEU	Reays Wigton	Mercedes-Benz O816 Esker Riada GT
29	HJB635W	Crawley LuxuryCoaches	Bedford YMQS / Duple Dominant
30	PN08LBK	The Travellers Choice	Volvo B12B6x2 Berkhof Axial
31	FK02CLC	Crawley Luxury Coaches	
32	OO06BAN	Banstead	Mercedes-Benz Touro
33	YN57DVZ	Haines Mini Coaches	Mercedes O.814 Esker
34	PHL454R	York Pullman	Bristol LHS Plaxton Supreme
35	MH08BAN	Banstead	Mercedes-Benz Touro
36	B13KJT	York Pullman	Scania K114 Van Hool Alizee
37	JB804	Kenzies	Bedford OB
38	PN08LAE	The Travellers Choice	Jonckherre SHV
39	CNW155C	Kenzies	Bedford VAL Harrington Cavalier
40	07PSW	Paul S Winson	Bova Futura FHD127-365
41	YJ08NSY	Kenzies	Volvo B12B Van Hool
42	SK08OLL	Cozys	Scania Irizar S-Kool
43	BK08NJO	Edwards Llanwit Fadre	Setra S416GT.HD
44	YJ08EAC	Easvesway	Van Hool
45	CC08ZYO	Cozys	Scania K470 Irizar PB
46	E5ELF	Roadliner	Leyland Royal Tiger Doyen
47	FJ03ZTP	Victory Tours	
48	M155ELF 2402	Roadliner	Mercedes-Benz
49	RE08JAK	Royale	Van Hool
50	KEN959	Coliseum	MAN R37 Beaulas Aura
51	G12ELY	Greys Ely	Volvo B12B 6x2 Jonckherre SHV
52	YJ07JEU	Centurian	Temsa Safari HD
53	BJ08KNN	Setra	Setra S415GT-HD

Dealers/Manufacturers

Heritage	4981VX	Neoplan Skyliner
Hams Travel	WA57JZP	Volvo Van Hool
Morton	YJ08DZZ	
Reliance	YN08AVZ	Cygnus
Brookline	WA08AOV	VDL Bova Magiq
Holmeswood	PN08CMO	MAN
Holmeswood	PN57CUX	Marcopolo
Damory Coaches	HF08TKX	Scania Darwen Olympus
Express Batley		Iveco Elite
Coliseum	636VHX	MAN
Lodge's	AL08DGE	Mercedes-Benz Turismo
Ellisons	FJ07ABU	Jonckherre SHV
Volvo	FJ57SKD	Volvo B9R / Sunsundeugi

Noted in Norwich recently have been

Three First West Yorkshire Vehicles sighted in use at First Eastern Counties: -  
69329, 69330 and 69331

Nottingham news;- 208 YN54AHA now in network green (ex park & ride) This operator is looking for two new garage sites 1 to the north & 1 to the south. Parliament street is now too small and area is up for redevelopment. They also want to move from Gotham & Trent Bridge. NCT is looking at the former colliery site in Gedling

New Scania Omnilink 305 was seen on 16/03/08 on route 30 Nottingham – Wollaton vale

February 9<sup>th</sup>

Epsom (08:40-10:45)

Epsom Coaches  
DD 01 03 04 06 08 09  
MCL 1 2 3 4 5  
OP 02 07 16  
SD 29 31 33 34

Epsom Coaches Garage

DD 02 10 902 903

Countryliner

MRM 3 5

Transdev

DPS 538

Arriva

DWL 9

Metrobus

817 836

Sutton (11:00-15:00)

Arriva

ADL 11 13 16

DLA 134

DW 9

DWL 2 4 5 6 8

Epsom Coaches

OP 03 04 05 07 08 10 16

SD 26 30 38 39 40 41 42 43 46

48 51 53

Go-Ahead

EVL 1 7 12, 13 15 25 28 30 34 39

40 45 46 51

E 60

LDP 8 9 52 53 57 64 69 71 74 91

93 96 98 106 150 151 191 199

200 204 207 208 210

PVL 66 99 103 122 149 154 161

164 180 181 182 183 184 185

187 192 194 266 378 380 382

Metrobus

541 544 830 832 834

Sutton Garage (A):

(Go-Ahead)

E 58 59 61

EVL 8 24 25 40 43

LDP 9 48 52 203 207 209

PVL 188 257

February 16<sup>th</sup>

Morden (11:15 -13:00)

Epsom Coaches

MCL 1 2 3 4 5

OP 02 04 07 08

Go-Ahead

EVL 3 4 6 9 10 14 15 16 17 19 22

24 25 26 28 30 32 34 35 39 40 44

50 51

LDP 1 8 9 48 49 52 53 57 64 75

85 92 93 103 106 134 137 139

140 150 151 152 192 193 194

200 202 203 204 206 209 216

253 255 259

PVL 58 67 84 119 147 149 152

165 168 182 183 281

London Buses

DW 2 3 5 6 8 9 10 12

Transdev

DPK 624

Travel London

9070 9071 9072 9073 9703 9755

9756 9759 9761 9767 9774

Merton (13:45 - 14:40)

Epsom Coaches

OP 02 04

Go-Ahead

LDP 78 95 105 136 138 191 196

198 252

SE 2 5 6 7 10 12 14 15 17

Transdev

TA 208 219 223 256 261 265 266

267 269 272 274 275 277 278

281 284 290 336 337 339 344

346

Travel London

8435 8437 8476 8477 8501 8502

8505 8506

February 26<sup>th</sup>

Chichester (10:25-13:45)

Chichester (Inc Bus Stn / Garage  
(S)

Stagecoach Coastline

14818 14975 15760 16281 16306

16307 16308 16309 16310 16311

18511 18512 18513 18520 18523

18525 20461 20663 20665 20668

20831 20832 20833 20834 32452

35562 32613 32614 34518 34523

34527 34528 34529 34531 35250

35251 35252 40655 40495 46614  
47542

Buzzlines (Kent)

YN05MEU

Compass Travel

J599DUV R449PRH S 73TNM

V896LOH

Countryliner

DS 18

Emsworth & District

H 37YCW

March 4<sup>th</sup>

Brighton (10:15–14:30)

Brighton & Hove

9 14 96 97 104 105 106 108 115

202 205 206 207 216 217 218

221 226 228 230 601 602 607

608 615 618 619 620 623 625

627 629 631 640 648 651 652

653 656 658 661 663 669 671

672 673 674 675 676 683 687

762 764 765 766 768 776 777

802 804 806 812 813 814 815

818 819 821 824 826 827 828

829 831 835 836 839 843 844

845 847 849 851 852 853 856

859 860 861 866 867 868 869

870 874 876 881 883 908 912

915 917

National Express

SC 40 VC 6 8 17

Countryliner

MRD 9

Stagecoach Coastline

18517 18523 18526 20643 33002

34516 34519

Metrobus

829

March 6<sup>th</sup>

Crawley (10:35–14:30)

Arriva S.Counties

5896

Crawley Luxury

K 3CLC 685 CLC

Metrobus

117 201 203 204 205 224 225

226 227 241 242 243 244 245

246 293 295 301 302 304 305

307 308 366 369 373 376 378  
379 516 532 535 536 537 539  
540 546 547 548 549 550 551  
552 553 554 556 557 558 817  
818 819 821 822 824 828 829  
837 839 843 844 845  
Southdown PSV  
GX57BXG GX57BXH S160JUA  
W544JVV W569JVV

April 1st

Redditch Bus Station

First Wyvern  
33401 33403 33404 33405  
67202 205 211 242 244 246 247  
249 250 256  
67600 634 635 638 640 641 643  
644 650 654 655

Go West Midlands  
418 421 426 437 454 455 458  
Johnsons  
YN53SVX YJ07EHH  
Central Connect  
S395HVV  
Hardings  
S 3HCR  
Stagecoach  
20823

April 19th

Coventry Pool Meadow

Travel Coventry  
281 311 582 584  
1540 41 47 54 55 62 68 71 72 91  
94 95 98  
1603 04 10 11 25

3001 37 53 54 55 65  
3240  
4205 08 09 11 12 13 16 19 24  
4406 07 08 12 13 20 23 24 28 33  
41  
4674 90 92 93 94 95 96  
6002 05 06 07 08 09 11 12 13 16  
17  
DeCoursey  
532 544 546 555 556 566 569  
Stagecoach Warwickshire  
16079 20221 31322 31323 31351  
34113 34625 35176 35181 35182  
35185

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Now we have the last of the jaunts from Cassandra around Cheshire. Next month a few from Mike Pinder on his travels around the country.

**Holmeswood, Spragg Street, Congleton**

Sited of Willow Street A54 sign posted BUXTON. The site is a public Street so much can be viewed from public land

*Rail – Congleton*

*Food – Near Town Centre, pubs & cafes*

On foot – Leave the bus station, turn right onto Mountbatten Way dual carriageway relief road. Cross on the pedestrian lights, at the Traffic Island turn left into Moor Street (A54). The office is on your right turn right into Spragg Street. Turn right for small overflow yard. Permission must be gained before entering the yard or repair bays

**Brown's Coaches**

**Ken's, Greenfield Road, Congleton**

Shed off the A54 Holmes Chapel Road, west of the town. After negotiating a one way system surrounding a large pub, you come to a Mini Island at the junction of A34 A534 and A54. Take the A54 then first right into Back Lane sign posted Park Industrial Estate. Take second right into Greenfield Road. (Greenfield Farm Trading Estate) The yard is on the left by Royal Mail sorting office and is visible from public land

*Rail – Congleton (very long walk)*

*Bus – Unknown*

*Food – None*

**Byley Coaches on B5081 Middlewich off A50 Road**

Sited behind a small shop/petrol pumps, in the centre of village, the buses are not viewable from public land.

*Rail – Holmes Chapel, Knutsford & long walk*

*Bus – Unknown*

*Food – None*

*Close to RAF Byley where in 1940 provided fighter cover for the North West using a Battle of Britain ravaged Hurricane Squadron*

*The large shed by the access gate was a Wellington Bomber Assembly shed, parts arriving from Hawarden. The adjacent church contains a small number of flyers, which is a poignant reminder of*

war, particularly during a country wedding. The M6 cuts across the former busy airfield. A metal detector could find interesting objects around the former fighter dispersals

### **Crewe Bus Station**

*Information: Enquiry Office & well marked stands*

*Toilets: Yes, 20p coin*

*Photography: Permitted, sun can be a problem*

*Food: Café on site, close to other cafes, pubs & Mcdonalds*

*Nearest Station: Crewe*

*Buses: A number of Arriva and First pass*

Walking - Leave railway station, turn left (rail replacement coaches park down the entrance on your left) Cross road to traffic lights, right into Mill Street, follow road down hill observing D & G 's Crewe garage on your right. Under Railway Bridge, turn left to traffic lights, right, over Rail Bridge into town. Left at the large square, continue past shopping precinct, the bus station is on your right.

*The Arriva garage is now closed.*

*Walking time c25 minutes*

Services: Via Travel - town service

*Arriva – Local services, plus Chester, Macclesfield*

*First Potteries – Service 20 to Hnaley (Stoke – on – Trent*

*D & G – Newcastle – under – Lyme*

Other transport attractions:

*Crewe Heritage Centre –only remaining APT, Crewe north signal box*

*Arriva North West Day ticket valid/available*

*First Day ticket/available*

### **Macclesfield Bus Station**

A relatively new bus station, closer to town, replacing Sunderland Street Bus Station/Garage

*Toilets: Unisex, free (office hours)*

*Information: Enquiry Office (office hours)*

- *Also excellent timetable information, well marked stands*

- *Photography: Very difficult as bus stands protected by electronic doors. Better results from outside on access/exit roads*

- *Food: Numerous cafes/pubs close by*

Services – *Arriva – Local plus Stockport, Manchester, Crewe, Congleton*

*Clowes – 108 Leek, Ashbourne (Mon –Sat)*

*D & G - 108 Stockport –Leek – Derby (Sun only)*

*Bakers – Congleton, Biddulph, Knutsford (27)*

*Bowers – 60, 64, Disley, Glossop, Whaley Bridge*

*Holmeswood – Local*

*Nearest Station: Macclesfield – Leave station, cross road, turn right and immediately turn left into Waters Green, climb steep hill (Queen Victoria Street) Bus station top of hill (Taxi rank outside station for the less fit!) Clowes/Arriva in coming pass the rail station*

*Toilet – In enquiry office (office hours)*

*Food – Café, pubs close by*

*Macclesfield tourist info 01625 504 114 (minicom 01625 500321)*

*Arriva North West Day Ticket valid/available*

*Macclesfield College (Park Lane) 01625 427 744 - has yellow school buses*

*Cheshire Travelline 0870 608 2 608 Mon – Sun 0800 -2000*

*Textphone 0870 241 2 216*

[traveline@cheshire.gov.uk](mailto:traveline@cheshire.gov.uk)

# The Gallery



You can really tell the length of the new Caetano Levante SC37 from this angle.



A Jonckherre bodied Volvo of Trathens working a Sunday extra for National Express KSK985



One of the new Enviro 400s E98 of London Central for the 436



Here is a new Go North East Citaro 5289 (NK08CGE) now with its "Citylink" branding applied



A brand new Scania Omnilink SP24 (YN08DHK) of Transdev London United seen here at Hatton Cross working new route 483



One of the part open top Lothian Dennis Tridents on City Sightseeing duties in Edinburgh 506 (T506SSG)

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