

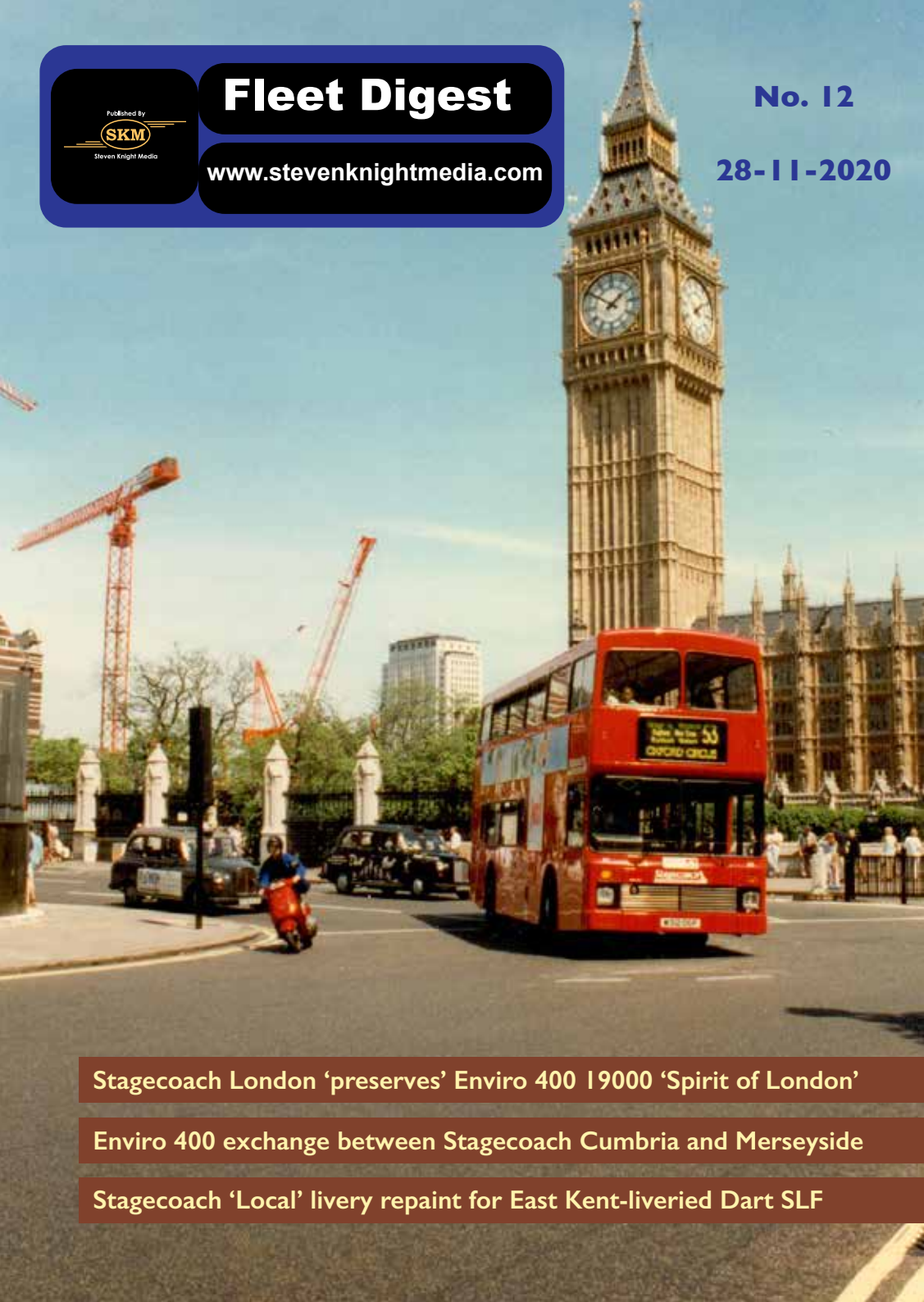


# Fleet Digest

[www.stevenknightmedia.com](http://www.stevenknightmedia.com)

No. 12

28-11-2020



Stagecoach London 'preserves' Enviro 400 19000 'Spirit of London'

Enviro 400 exchange between Stagecoach Cumbria and Merseyside

Stagecoach 'Local' livery repaint for East Kent-liveried Dart SLF

## On the Cover



Westminster, London on 14th June 1996 and Stagecoach Selkent Northern Counties Palatine-bodied Volvo Olympian 312 M312DGP works a 53 service © Steven Knight Media

© Steven Knight Media 2020

Steven Knight Media  
PO Box 1299  
Peterborough  
PE2 2NX

## The 'Spirit' lives on

We are delighted to hear that Stagecoach London has taken the decision to add Enviro 400 19000 'Spirit of London' to its 'Heritage' fleet following its retirement from service.

'Spirit of London' carries fleet number 19000 (LX55HGC) but when new was given the number 18500 carries the name in tribute to the 13 people killed on a bus during the 7th July 2005 London bombings. It was built as a one-off replacement for the bus destroyed in the attack, and was the first production example of the Alexander Dennis Enviro 40. It was unveiled in October 2005 and has since operated across East London in a variety of liveries.

On 19th October 2012 it was seriously damaged in an arson attack, but was repaired at a cost of around £60,000 and returned to service during April 2013.

Our picture shows the bus at the Routemaster 60 gathering in Finsbury Park in July 2014.

Stagecoach London also has the final Routemaster built (RML2760) as part of its 'heritage' fleet and this vehicle (also seen at Routemaster 60) is now part of the London Bus Museum collection at Brooklands.

Both Images © Steven Knight Media



## Stagecoach South East

The first vehicle here to receive the ocean green Stagecoach 'Specialist' livery scheme is Scania/Enviro 400 15915.

Now repainted into Stagecoach 'Local' livery here is Thanet-allocated Trident/ALX400 18176, along with the first Optare Solo here to get the new livery - 47664.

Dart SLF 34541 has lost its East Kent Centenary livery and is also receiving Stagecoach 'Local' livery.



Stagecoach South East Scania/Enviro 400 15915 now carries the 'Specialist' version of the new livery. © Matthew Arnold/Twitter

## Leyland visit for Stagecoach Volvo



Partly obscured by the foliage at a hotel in Leyland on 7th October 2010 is Stagecoach Ribble Volvo B10M/Plaxton Premiere Interurban 52414 (P114DCW). It carries 'cityconnect' Manchester-Chorley-Preston-Blackpool branding. When pictured it was working a Private Hire for Virgin Trains from Preston station as part of a Passenger Panel event. The vehicle subsequently became part of the Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire fleet and was one of the Volvo B10Ms there to receive 'Schoolrunner' livery. © Steven Knight Media



## Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Due here from **Stagecoach Merseyside & South Yorkshire** at Chester is Enviro 400 19569. It will be allocated to Kendal and will receive Lakes livery. Its' arrival will allow 10014 to be transferred to Carlisle which in turn will allow 19143 to leave this fleet and move to **Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire's** Chester depot.

Scania/Enviro 400 15533 is still expected here as soon as it is released by **Stagecoach Oxfordshire**.

Now at West Cumbria from **Stagecoach South** is roof-damaged Enviro 400 19161 which is for an open top conversion project here.

Volvo B12M 53028 at West Cumbria has now been withdrawn and is for disposal.

## Stagecoach West

Although Trident 18420 has been painted into the Stagecoach 'Specialist' livery and was expected to be restricted to schools contracts it has already been out on normal service. On Saturday 21st November 2020 it was operating on service 10 (Thornbury-Avonmouth).

## Stagecoach South

Enviro 400 19161, which received substantial damage in a low bridge collision has transferred to **Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire**.

We have received a report that Optare Solo 47554 has received Stagecoach 'Local' livery.

## Stagecoach London

As reported in our Editorial comment, an addition to the Stagecoach UK Heritage fleet here is Enviro 400 19000 'Spirit of London'.

New vehicles delivered for Route 173 are Enviro 400City EVs 14130/33.

Enviro 400 19747 has transferred from Romford to Rainham whilst Enviro 200 36320 has transferred from Bromley to West Ham in exchange for 36325 and 36577 has transferred from Rainham to Romford.

Changes to the loan vehicles here has seen Optare Solos 47632/42 become spare at Bromley following the end of the contract they were being used on. Several loaned Enviro 200s have also been transferred with 36378/79 moving from Bromley to West Ham; 36060 from Plumstead to Barking and 36065 from Plumstead to Bromley.

## Stagecoach North East

Repaints into the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery continues here with Enviro 300s 27164/65 and 19681 recently repainted. Also now in the 'Local' livery is 28003, the first of the Scania/Enviro 300 gas buses to receive the new livery.



Stagecoach West Trident/ALX400 18420 was in use on normal service on 21st November 2020 despite it carrying the new 'Specialist' livery.

© Richard Kemble



Above: Heading to Wellingborough with a 48 service is Stagecoach Midlands' Dart SLF 35105 which was transferred from Stagecoach East earlier this year. © Andrew Fulcher



Left: Enviro 200 36247 is the first of the batch with Stagecoach South West at Exeter to receive the new 'Local' livery. © Dave Tozer

This week on the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page

**THE OXFORD & CHILTERN'S BUS PAGE**

Covid-19 update  
New rules for our area, now in Tier 2

Malcolm remarks that the past week has been quieter for contributions, presumably as a result of the continued COVID 'Lockdown'. However, he has again managed to put together an interesting news page (Issue 132 published on 27th November 2020) which includes:

Memories from Times Past from Michael Wadman, Paul Bateson and Tony Bungay including Thames Valley in High Wycombe Readers Write -A request from Paul Bateson regarding a picture of an Ipswich bus.

.....plus all the local news and some pictures of other operators.

Editorial

More on the Christmas Light Bus in Oxford  
New tube coaches start entering service on November 28th

You can check out the latest news update at the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page at any time by visiting

Marlow Branch replacement bus service - further pictures

[www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk](http://www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk)



# The Road to Gold (Part 1)

## Stagecoach Midlands 48 Coventry-Atherstone/Leicester



The Stagecoach Gold brand is being phased out in many parts of the Stagecoach UK operation. In the first of a two-part feature we look at the evolution of the Stagecoach Midlands Coventry-Atherstone/Leicester operation

The Coventry to Leicester via Bedworth, Nuneaton and Hinckley 658 service was one of the core routes which was operated by the erstwhile Birmingham & Midland Motor Omnibus Company, better known as Midland Red. It was generally operated jointly by Southgates Street garage in Leicester and the garage at Hinckley. Pictured above at Coventry's Pool Meadow bus station is BMMO D9 4934 (934KHA), in the background is a BMMO S17 with a 765 service to Lichfield via Bulkington, Nuneaton, Atherstone and Tamworth. The 765 was jointly worked by Nuneaton and Tamworth garages.

© Steven Knight Media Collection



Left is another D9, this time 5318 (6318HA) with a 658 to Leicester in Nuneaton bus station which it shares with two more D9s on local services.

© Steven Knight Media Collection



Above: Mancetter is situated mid-way between Nuneaton and Atherstone. In the 1960s and early 1970s on Saturdays the main Coventry-Nuneaton-Tamworth-Lichfield 765 service was supplemented by short Nuneaton-Mancetter workings due to increased market day loadings. Pictured with a Mancetter service is BMMO S21 5875 (LHA875F), which is a dual-purpose vehicle and has a maroon roof.

© Steven Knight Media Collection



Above: Carrying the post-MAP 'Hunter' branding and heading towards Nuneaton with a 765 service from Tamworth and Atherstone is Midland Red Leyland National 551 (NOE551R).

© Steven Knight Media



Left: Under Stagecoach Midland Red ownership, but still carrying the post-privatisation Midland Red South livery is Leyland National 771 (BVP771V). The bus is working a 157 through to Coventry Rail Station vis the old Midland Red 747 route, but has started its journey at Earl Shilton between Leicester and Nuneaton. Midland Fox retained the old 658 route upon privatisation. © Steven Knight Media







Above: The nearest Midland Red operation to the current 48 was the post-MAP X57 Coventry-Earl Shilton and X77 Coventry to Tamworth services. Pictured at Coventry's Pool Meadow bus station is BMMO S22 5912 (PHA512G).

© Steven Knight Media



Centre: Now numbered 48 and operating between Coventry and Atherstone and under Stagecoach ownership a Dart SLF with the later style of Alexander Dash bodywork, 101 (P101HNNH) reflected investment in new vehicles for the route.

© Steven Knight Media



Bottom: The 157 route also received investment with a batch of Alexander PS-bodied Volvo B10M saloons being allocated to Nuneaton. Some of them had dual purpose high-back seating. With standard bus seats is 208 (N208TDU) which is just starting its journey from Coventry to Leicester.

© Steven Knight Media





Further investment in the 48 saw Alexander ALX200s in 'Primeline' livery being used before a batch of Pointer-bodied Dart SLFs were used. Pictured are 151 (R151CRW) which was new in 1998 and 34495 (KV53NHM) which was new at the start of 2004. Both: © Steven Knight Media



Stagecoach made an investment case for four double deck vehicles for the 157 Coventry-Nuneaton-Leicester service and these were delivered in 2006. The ALX400-bodied Tridents, 18502-18505, also returned all day double deck operations at Nuneaton garage. Distinctive 157 branding was also carried. At the time the 157 was hourly but a plan to significantly increase services on the Nuneaton-Leicester corridor was already being panned. What was in the pipeline was converting the 48 from Coventry to Nuneaton to every ten minutes with alternate journeys extending from Nuneaton to Atherstone or Leicester. After barely a month in service the Tridents were stripped of their route branding and transferred to Stagecoach South at Andover for the Active8 route to Salisbury. Pictured is 18503 (KX06LYV).

© Patrick Stringer



Investment came to the 48 in 2000 when the vehicles were updated with Enviro 200s (above), which carried appropriate route branding  
 © Steven Knight Media

In 2018 further investment in vehicles, ADL 11.8m Enviro 200MMCs, (below) also saw the route upgraded to 'Stagecoach Gold' standards.  
 © Steven Knight Media







Left: Nuneaton bus station is the setting for Stagecoach Midland Red 423 (K423ARW), a Mercedes 811D with Wright bodywork which was working a 48 Coventry to Atherstone service in September 1994. The bus was new to the privatised Western Travel Midland Red South operation.

© Steven Knight Media

Midland Red Marshall-bodied Leyland Leopard 242 (JHA242L) heads out of Nuneaton along Hinckley Road with an X57 service for Earl Shilton.

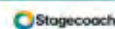
© Steven Knight Media



**Keep up to date  
with your services**

check your timetable updates

For more information visit [stagecoachbus.com](http://stagecoachbus.com)





# First MIDLAND RED SOUTH Olympians at Nuneaton



Midland Red South took delivery of its first Leyland Olympians in 1983 and Nuneaton garage gained an allocation



In 1982 Midland Red South took delivery of nine bus-seated ECW-bodied Leyland Olympians. They were numbered 901-909. The first of the batch 901 (A541HAC) was given an all over advert for National Holidays. It was allocated to Leamington garage but is seen in Nuneaton at the Pingles Leisure Centre whilst working a shuttle service from Nuneaton Bus Station for the 'Railway Bonanza & Bus Rally'

© Steven Knight Media



Prior to 908 and 909 entering service at Nuneaton, 903 (A543HAC) was borrowed for driver training. Drivers having four hours training as the Olympian was a new type of vehicle. Pictured during training are Alan Perry, Maureen Perry, Arthur Brown, Geoff Wormleighton, Keith Smith and Pete Napier with 'Zak' on the front row. © Steven Knight Media

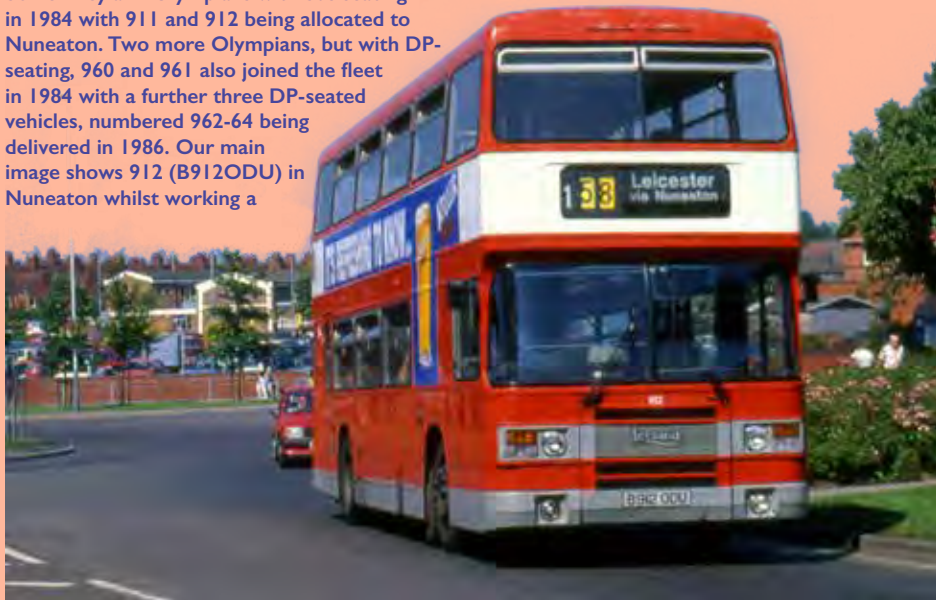




903 is pictured (above) in Nuneaton Bus Station whilst on training duties. © Steven Knight Media

Midland Red South took a further three ECW-bodied Leyland Olympians with bus seating in 1984 with 911 and 912 being allocated to Nuneaton. Two more Olympians, but with DP-seating, 960 and 961 also joined the fleet in 1984 with a further three DP-seated vehicles, numbered 962-64 being delivered in 1986. Our main image shows 912 (B912ODU) in Nuneaton whilst working a

158 service from Coventry to Leicester for the now privatised Midland Red South the bus has gained white and grey relief to its 'poppy' red livery. © Steven Knight Media





# Stately Leopards

Woburn Abbey provides the backdrop to Midland Red South S28 Leyland Leopard/Marshall 322 (PHA322M). The event was one of the 1980s Showbus rallies. Inset: 322 in the company of Yorkshire Traction 11 (HE8899) a Duple-bodied Leyland Leopard.  
Both: © Steven Knight Media

