

## Editorial

The Bustimes website has developed into an essential 'go to' reference site. Besides route timetables it also provides a useful vehicle reference database and shows, in many cases, 'real time' information on which services are being worked by individual vehicles.

In recent weeks we have seen several comments that vehicle information is incorrect and at the end of November we became aware that details of several dozens of vehicles have been changed and are now incorrect. Not only fleet numbers but also liveries and even depot and company allocations have been changed.

Our advice is to use the vehicle allocation and details part of the site with caution at the moment. We hope that all the data will revert to being correct as soon as possible.

**D&G Bus**



We're proud to be bringing a new look to bus travel across Cannock and Stafford.

From 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021 most bus services operated by Arriva in the Cannock, Stafford, Rugeley and Lichfield areas will be transferring to D&G Bus under the new Chaserider brand.

We're not planning on any major timetable changes following the transfer, but there will be some very minor changes on some routes - all of our timetables are shown below.

Your regular drivers will be joining us so that there's no disruption to your service.

Some services are staying with Arriva - these are route 5 from Stafford to Telford and routes 765 and X65 from Lichfield to Tamworth.

We're looking forward to welcoming you on our buses very soon!

## Hotspur interloper in Nuneaton



During the early 1980s Midland Red Leyland National 518 (JOX518P), which was allocated to Shrewsbury and carried 'Hotspur' local branding was unusually used in service at Nuneaton following a visit to Central Works. It was on the N40 route but the third track of the number blind was broken! © Steven Knight Media.

## Stagecoach West

Enviro 400 19166 at Swindon has lost its Manchester 'Magicbus' livery and now carries Stagecoach 'Local' livery. Also in Stagecoach 'Local' livery is Enviro 200 37238 at Gloucester,

We also understand the repaint of Enviro 400 19167 out of 'Magicbus' livery is imminent if it has now already started.

## Stagecoach East

Dart SLFs 34771 and 34773 are both now operational at Fenstanton.

## Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Morecambe-allocated Trident 18355 has suffered fire damage and has been withdrawn. It is now for disposal.

## Roadside timetables return (in some areas)

We are pleased to read that a number of bus companies have started to install comprehensive bus service information back into roadside bus stop timetable cases.

Many were removed during 'Lockdown 1' earlier this year, when frequent service changes were made. Posters directed intending passengers to online timetables.

In our opinion it is right that printed bus stop information is back but it seems such information is patchy and in many areas notices still refer intending passengers to use online systems. Is it time the industry again made the provision of passenger information a top priority

A former bus industry colleague of mine has suggested that I will find any excuse to include a Midland Red D9 in Fleet Digest. Well I don't need an excuse, so here is  
5299 (6299HA) in  
Thorntons Way,  
Nuneaton having been  
'borrowed' from  
Leicester for a photo  
tour. © Steven Knight Media



## Fleet Digest online publication dates....

It is planned to publish the remaining three issues on *Fleet Digest* on

15th December 2020 (*Fleet Digest* No. 14)

23rd December 2020 (*Fleet Digest* No. 15)

31st December 2020 (*Fleet Digest* No. 16 - The last edition)



Whilst doing some research we came across the following 'Bank of Brian' £5 Voucher.

They were issued with a mail drop to publicise the launch of the Peterborough Citi network in April 2004. We just can't understand why the graphic shows a Route 'One' Olympian which was not part of the initial Citi network. Surely a graphic of one of the 20 new Pointer-bodied Darts which officially launched the Peterborough Citi network would have been much more appropriate!



## Moving forward



These are uncertain times for businesses across the globe. Many large companies, regardless of the sector in which they operate, are being hit hard by the downturn.

It's also an uncertain time for people generally, with daily stories in the media of job losses, lower returns on savings and worries over the state of pension funds.

These issues will inevitably create anxiety among the people who work for our business too, but I believe

## Megabus.com adds new dimension to inter-city bus travel



Brian and Megadrive are all smiles for the launch of Megabus.com

Our research also took us to archive copies of the Stagecoach Staff Magazine. Left: Sir Brian could have been commenting on this year - it was infact from 2012! Above: This was Megabus 'Sid' before he was named 'Sid' For this PR launch he was the anonymous 'Megadrive'!

## Go North East

With our usual thanks to the company we can provide a review of fleet information recently posted on their website.

Repaints during the last week of November 2020 included Wright Streetlite DF Micro-Hybrid 5439 and Optare Versa 8314 into the 2019 fleet livery; as well as Optare Versas 5383 and 5384 into the new 'Quaycity' livery.

Optare Versa 8314 has now returned to service at Riverside, with similar 8318 taken out of service.

Following the completion of the repaints on the 'Saltwell Park' branded Wright Streetlites, Wright Streetlite DF Micro-Hybrid 5415 has transferred from Riverside to Deptford. Similar 5416 and 5417 have both been formally allocated to Riverside, having previously been in a float/reserve capacity, where they have displaced Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2s 6048/49 to Deptford. These three buses, as well as Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 3943 which transferred to Deptford last week, will provide cover whilst Deptford's "Fab Fifty Six" branded Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2s undergo repaint and refurbishment. The examples taken out of service thus far include 6087/88/89/90.

Repaints in week ending 22nd November 2020 included Wright Streetlite DF Micro-Hybrid 5438, Optare Versa 8313 and Wright Streetlite DF 8346 into the 2019 fleet livery; Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3 6333, has been treated to a partial (back end) repaint, into the light green variant



Image © Go North East



Image © Go North East

of the "X-lines" livery, for services X45/X46/X47; with Optare Versas 5387/88 have received the new "Quaycity" livery.

The 6-cylinder Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3, 6377, has transferred from Riverside Depot to Chester-le-Street, for a trial period in use on 'X-lines' service X21. Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3 6333 has now returned to service at Consett following repaint. The cherished registration mark is intended to be re-allocated to Volvo B5TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 3 6334 (BF63 HDC) in due course in order to hide its age (being the oldest Volvo B5TL allocated to service X21!).

Following the completion of the repaints on the 'Saltwell Park' branded Wright Streetlites, Optare Versa 8294 has transferred from Riverside to Chester-le-Street displacing Scania Omnicity 5263 for transfer to Washington, where it has ousted Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 3943 to Deptford, to provide cover whilst Deptford's 'Fab Fifty Six' branded Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini 2s undergo repaint and refurbishment.

Optare Versa 8313 (NK10 GOC) has now returned to service at Riverside, with similar 8317 taken out of service in lieu.

The final new vehicles to be procured this year have now been delivered. These are in the two-tone orange variant of the 'X-lines' livery, for use on services X84/X85. These feature cycle racks like the batch earlier this year which are used on services X70/X71 between Newcastle and Consett, but additionally feature new 'business tables' on the upper saloon (which pull out from the main table for laptops and tablets) as well as two wheelchair bays, improving accessibility. Fleet details for these vehicles are:

6352 (YX70 OKM)  
6353 (YX70 OKN)  
6354 (YX70 OKO)  
6355 (YX70 OKP)

The final part of our bumper Go North East update covers changes during week ending 15th November 2020 with repaints being Optare Versa 8312 and Wright Streetlite DFs 8342/43/44 into the 2019 fleet livery; as well as Optare Versas 5385/86 into the new 'Quaycity' livery.

The 6-cylinder Wright StreetDeck Micro-Hybrid 3, 6377, transferred from

Washington Depot to Riverside, to be used on services X9/X10 for a trial period.

To permit a better utilisation of the spare coaches, 7126 has transferred to Riverside and 7127 has transferred to Deptford. Optare Versa 8312 has now returned to service at Riverside, with similar 8316 taken out of service in lieu.

The remaining balance of Yutong ZK6118BEVG/Yutong E10 vehicles have been delivered. These are:

8801 (ND70 AFA)  
8802 (ND70 AET)  
8803 (ND70 AEU)  
8804 (ND70 AEV)  
8805 (ND70 AEW)  
8807 (ND70 AEY)  
8809 (ND70 AFK)

8809 carries a red variant of the 'Voltra' livery, with the intention of this example being a shared spare bus for 'Voltra' services 53/54 and 'Quaycity' service Q3, following earlier trials of electric buses on the latter route.

8806 (YD70 CFU) and 8808 (YD70 CFX) have now both surrendered the registration plates they were originally delivered on, and have been re-registered as ND70 AEX and ND70 AEZ respectively.

Get around  
this **Christmas**  
& **New Year**

**Let us do the driving!**





With our usual thanks to Ross at Ensign Bus for details of activity at the dealership during November 2020

### Vehicles in

From Lothian Buses: Volvo B7RLE's SN04NHM/NHU/NHV/NHY /NJF/ NJE, SK07CGE/ CGF/CGO/CGU/CGV/CFV/CFX/CFY/CFO/CFP/CFU, SN57DCO/DDF/ DCU/ DCY/ DCZ/DDE, SN58BYO/BYP/BYS/BYT.

From Go-Ahead London: Volvo B7TL LX06EAP; Enviro 200s LX07BXJ/BXM, SN57DWX, YX11FYZ; Scania YN08OAX; Enviro 400s LK08FLH/FLM, LX56ETL

From Metroline: Enviro 400H LK58CPV; Volvo B7TL LK54FWP

From Galleon Travel: Optare Tempo's YJ10MDE/MDU.

From Tower Transit: Volvo B9TL's BJI1DVV/DVW/DVO/DVN/DVT.

### Vehicles Out

Enviro 200s LK08DWO YX58DWC: Avondale, Glasgow.

Enviro 200 LK58CTU: PCV Training Ltd, London EC1.

Enviro 200s YX58FPD, LK08FLC, LK08FKW : Squarepeg Buses, Leeds

Enviro 200 YX58DWN: Panther Travel, Harwich, Essex.

Enviro 200s YX58DWG/DWM: Canavan Travel, Glasgow.

Enviro 200s LK58CNC/CTF: Hattons Travel, Merseyside.

Enviro 200 YX58DUA: Gloucester Minibus.

Enviro 200s YX10BDE/BFK: A2B Travel, Ely, Cambs.

Streetlites SN64CVO/CVM/CVP: Centrebus Ltd.

Optare Versa's YJ12PKX/PKY/PLF: Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex.

Volvo B11RTs BV66WOJ/WNX: Catteralls Coaches, Southam, Warwicks.

Volvo B7TL BX55XMB: Price Coaches, Wrexham.

Enviro 400 LK58KGN: XLP Limited, London, EC2.

MANs LK07AYF/AYH: Wealden PSV, Tonbridge, Kent.

Optare Tempos YJ10MDE/MDU; Trident KX04RVJ; Optare Versa YJ60KGE: Brylaine Travel, Boston, Lincs.

Enviro 400 LK58KHL: First Devon and Cornwall, converted to part open top.

Volvo B9TL BJI1EAM: Farleigh Coaches, Rochester, Kent.

Scania YN05HGA: Dons Coaches, Dunmow, Essex.

Volvo B7RLEs SN58BYP/BYS: A Line coaches, Newcastle.

Volvo B7RLEs SN58BYO/BYT: Als Coaches, Liverpool.

Volvo B7RLE SK07CFP: Aintree Coaches.

Volvo B7RLE SK07CFO: Robinson Coaches, Huntingdon.

Volvo SN57DCY: Oakley Coaches, Plymouth.

Routemaster RM650: Mr P Jones, Redhill Surrey.

The following to Shelton Motors for scrap: MANs LK07AYL/AYE/LK57AYT/AYW/AYD/EHU; Enviro 200s LK08FLW/FLZ, YX58FPC, YX11FYZ, LX07BXJ, LK58CPN; Trident

LX03BFU; Volvo B7L MV02VEH; Scania YN08OAX; Enviro 400s LK58CPV/CPU/CPN, SN08AAO; Volvo B7TLs LK54FWP, FX54AOA, Dart WX05RVR

### Ensign Fleet

Enviro 200s 714 and 715 sold to Centrebus.

Volvo B9TL 126 sold to Grant Palmer, Dunstable.

Temporary Transport for London (TfL) schools fleet Enviro 400s 976/ 977 sold to Sullivan Buses.

Volvo B9TLs BJI 1DVV and BJI 1DVW have replaced 976 and 977 in the TfL schools fleet. Once this contract is over they will be single door converted and join the main operational fleet, so are numbered 136 and 137 accordingly.

Volvo B9TL BJI 1EAG now single door and blue/silver, numbered 135.

## THE OXFORD & CHILTERN'S BUS PAGE

### This week on the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page

*Weekly Briefing Issue No. 133 - December 4th 2020 is now online and includes:*

Editorial

More on the new Oxford tube Panoramas entering service on November 28th

Megabus revised livery from Colin Ashcroft

Covid-19 update

New rules for our area, now in Tier 2

National Express double deck coaches back in service

Marlow Branch replacement bus service - further pictures

New buses in London from Mark Wakefield

Memories from Times Past from Michael Wadman,

Overseas we return to Canada with Paul Bateson

Readers Write

Replies to Paul Bateson regarding a picture of an Ipswich bus.

Readers visits

Gavin Francis visits Didcot

Thomas Walker in Aylesbury and Bicester

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

Don't forget that you can check out the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page at any time by visiting [www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk](http://www.oxford-chiltern-bus-page.co.uk)



Midland Red 5917 (RHA917G) was the second vehicle from the final batch of Midland Red-built single decks, designated S23. It was new to Banbury in December 1968 and after working from Leamington and Bearwood as well as acting as an engineering float vehicle it arrived at Nuneaton in March 1979 but was withdrawn in October the following year. Having left the last stop before the Bus Station the driver had already changed the blinds for the next trip. © Steven Knight Media