

Lakeland Travels

Buses in the Lake District



Above: Former London Transport Leyland Titan T512 (KYV512X) suffered an upper deck arson attack in March 1988 and was subsequently converted to open top. It was later transferred to Stagecoach North West and became part of the Lakes open top fleet. Initially numbered 976 on transfer it later became 10512.
© Steven Knight Media

Left: In green Lakes livery with Cumberland fleet name is former Ribble ECW-bodied Leyland Olympian 2129 (VRN829Y).
© Steven Knight Media



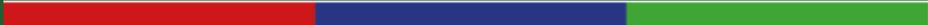
Above: Like most Stagecoach fleets the North West operation included a number of minibuses. Pictured at Conniston with an X12 for Ulverston is Mercedes-Benz 709D/Alexander 68 (G294TSL). It was new to Stagecoach's Glasgow Magicbus operation.
© Steven Knight Media



Centre: With the Plaxton Beaver 2 bodywork, Mercedes Vario 36 (R36LSO) was new in 1996 to Stagecoach Western Buses, moving to the North West fleet in 2000.
© Steven Knight Media



Bottom: The Alexander Sprint-bodied Mercedes 709D became the standard Stagecoach minibus. 200 (N614VSS), pictured at Bownes came to the North West fleet from Stagecoach Viscount where it was new, although it had initially been ordered for the Western Buses fleet.
© Steven Knight Media





Above: Green livery, Cumberland fleetnames and 'The Langdale Rambler' branding is carried by 275 (L275JAO), a Dennis Dart with the original style of Alexander Dash bodywork.
© Steven Knight Media

Centre: Another view of former Ribble ECW-bodied Leyland Olympian 2129 (VRN829Y).
© Steven Knight Media



Bottom: Series 2 Bristol VRT/ECW 2037 (UWV618S) was new to Southdown in September 1978 moving to Cumberland in April 1990. It carried this version of the Lakes livery for the 2001 season after which it was withdrawn and sold. After a spell working the Southend tour it was exported to New Jersey, USA
© Steven Knight Media



Above: Leyland Tiger 1151 (B151WRN) has the attractive Duple Laser bodywork and was new to Ribble.
© Steven Knight Media



Centre: Another former Ribble vehicle seen on the normally open top 599 route is ECW-bodied Leyland Olympian 2175 (C175ECK). © Steven Knight Media



Bottom: Duple Dominant Express bodywork is carried by Leyland Tiger 626 (CKC626X), which joined the Stagecoach from the Heysham Travel fleet.
© Steven Knight Media





How all over advertising on buses has evolved and not always for the better

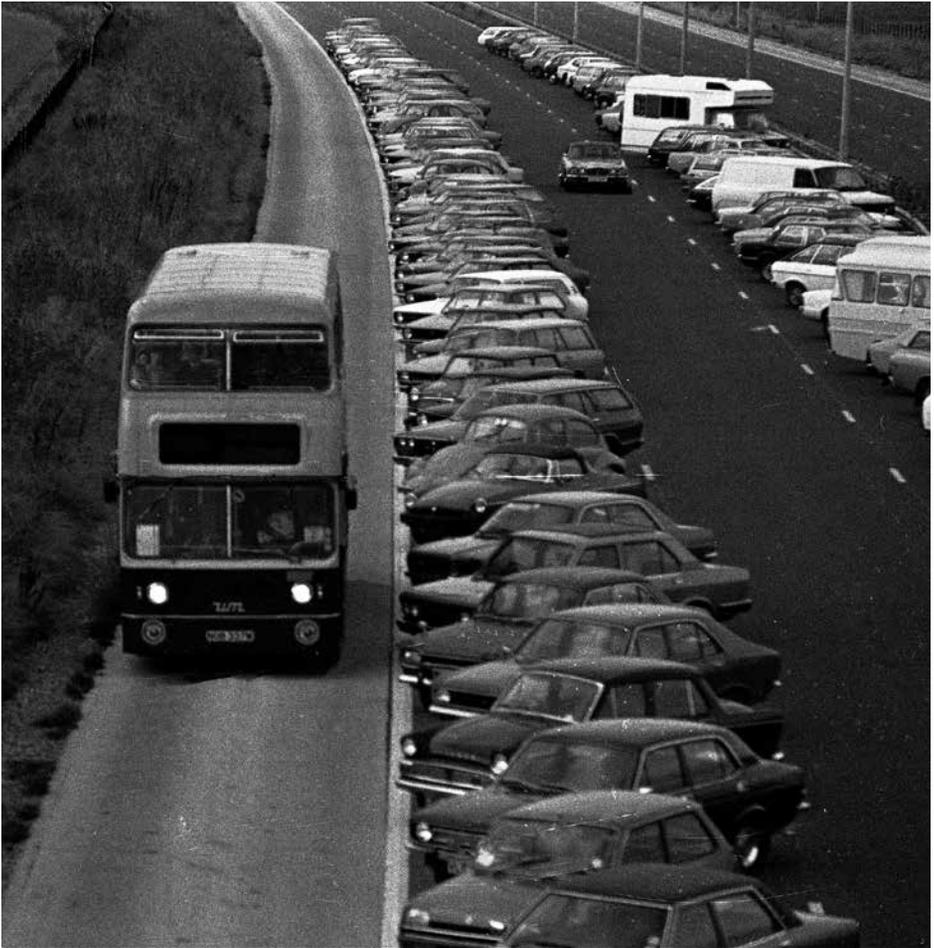


Buses have long been seen as mobile billboards and in the late 1960s and into the 70s and 80s the all-over advert bus started to appear. Many early examples were signwritten. As a cheaper alternative in the 1980s the 'Unibus' (double deck) and 'Polybus' (single deck) options became available.

The advent of high quality printed vinyl re-invented the all-over advert but we have always taken the view that the development of the 'Contravision' option covering windows was a step too far!

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Motorway Motor Show (1978 style)

In 1978 the Motor Show, which included the Commercial Motor Show left its Earl's Court home and moved to Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre. The West Midlands PTE operated a large number of shuttle services and part of the newly-built, but unopened M42 Motorway, between Bickenhill and the M6, was used as a car park. WMPTE Daimler Fleetline/Park Royal 4337 (NOB337M) is pictured heading to the NEC past a number of parked cars. (Apologies for the condition of the image, the negative has not survived well over the past 42 years). We often wondered how many car owners would have been walking around trying to find their car at the end of the day. © Steven Knight Media

Late News.... Late New

Go North East

Ahead of the impending launch of the new vehicles, ADL Trident 2/ADL Enviro 400MMC 6337 has transferred from Consett Depot to Hexham.

Late News.... Late New

Stagecoach West

A further MAN/Enviro 300 to receive Stagecoach 'Local' livery is 22745, whilst also now in 'Local' colours is Enviro 400 19167.

Stagecoach London

The remaining three 10.2m Enviro 200s here for cascade to Stagecoach UK Regional operations, 3633/132/37, have been moved from London and are now at **Stagecoach West Scotland's** Kilmarnock depot. We await confirmation on the plans for these three vehicles but rumours of them joining the **Stagecoach Oxfordshire** fleet as Optare Solo replacements are not now true.

Megabus Operations

We can confirm that Volvo B1 IRs 54201/02/07/08 remain at **Stagecoach South East's** Thanet depot where they are based for Kent County Council contracts.

Stagecoach North East

We have been advised that the expected repaint of Hybrid Enviro 400H 12061 into Stagecoach 'Local' livery did not take place and we are informed that the vehicle retains its green based 'electric hybrid' livery.



Stagecoach East Midlands' Enviro 400 19691 is the latest of the type at Hull depot to lose promotional branding and get a repaint into the Stagecoach 'Local' livery. © Ian Knott

Megabus' New Look



We recently reported that Megabus was undertaking a livery trial on one of its Volvo B1 IRs in a modified livery. 54272, named 'Nimbus 2000' has gained a yellow swoop at the rear, although in our opinion this would look better if the blue and yellow were blended rather than a harsh, solid colour break. Harry Potter fans will recognise the 'Nimbus 2000' name - it is a broomstick which features in the Harry Potter books and also in the films and is used in the game of Quidditch.

© Colin Ashcroft/Twitter

Go North East boosts its X84/X85 routes



On 12th December 2020, Go North East introduced a major upgrade to its express X84 and X85 routes which serve Hexham, Corbridge, Wylam, Heddon-on-the-Wall and Newcastle.

The £1 million investment is the latest part of an overall £8.5million upgrade in new low-emission environmentally friendly double-deck buses which are being introduced to the routes as part of the company's premium interurban X-lines brand, providing a next-level service for its customers on longer distance routes across the North East.

The investment also highlights the company's commitment to improving air quality and busting congestion by taking cars out of traffic jams.

With a frequency of up to every 30 minutes, the buses run fast and direct getting customers from Hexham to Newcastle in as little as 45 minutes and connect into the wider X-lines network serving Chester-le-Street, Consett, Durham, Houghton-le-Spring, Metrocentre, Middlesbrough, Peterlee, Stanley and Washington. Travellers can also sit back

and relax as these state-of-the-art buses come with all the latest mod-cons, including free Wi-Fi, USB and wireless charging, seat back phone holders, next-stop audio-visual announcements, including live rail connection times, and tables on the upper-deck.

Go North East's new X84 and X85 buses also feature bike racks and a dedicated space for up to two wheelchair users, a first for the continued improvements to the accessibility of buses in the North East.

Martijn Gilbert, managing director at Go North East, said: "We're so pleased to be further extending and enhancing our X-lines network of express interurban bus services.

"We now have premium express services connecting Newcastle and key locations across the region, providing fast and comfortable journeys along main roads and to intercity railway standards, providing a viable alternative to driving.

"These services provide a high quality and productive environment, allowing you to get to the region's city centres and attractions affordably, sustainably and in luxury."

Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

The company has three 'Santa Buses' this year. At Carlisle is Enviro 200 37094, whilst Optare Solo 47147 is at Barrow and MAN/Enviro 300 22607 has received branding at Morecambe.

Currently in the paint shop at Carlisle are Optare Solo SR 47962 from West Cumbria, Optare Solo 47142 from Barrow and Scania/Enviro 400 15821 from Morecambe.

We also understand that Enviro 200 37094

and Optare Solo 47147 will be repainted into Stagecoach 'Local' livery once the 'Santa Bus' graphics are removed.



Stagecoach East Midlands

Now in the main fleet at Lincoln, from the Reserve Fleet are Dart SLFs 35147/48.

Gainsborough-allocated Plaxton President-bodied Trident 18029 was parked up at Hull depot on 7th December 2020.

We have seen reports that Skegness Seaside open top Trident 17015 is now in Winter storage at Hull.

Volvo B12B 53033 , which had latterly been recorded as being prepared for service here, was observed heading north on 8th December 2020 and is now at **Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire's** Carlisle



© Lee Wardle

depot for repaint into all over white.. It previously carried Rail Replacement livery. We understand that it has been sold to McColls of Dumbarton and the repaint is part of the sale.



© Lee Wardle

This week on the Oxford & Chilterns Bus Page

Another bumper news page from Malcolm and his contributors this week. Included in the latest issue No. 134 dated 12th December 2020 are:

- More on the new Oxford tube Panoramas delivered
- Covid-19 update
- Government gives NEx and megabus £3 million to run extra services at Christmas
- Buses in London from Gavin Francis & Jack Cooper
- Memories from Times Past from Michael Wadman,
- Overseas - a visit to Toronto, Canada with Paul Bateson
- Readers Write

- Tony Bungay on Green Line and David Gray on a Versa in the last issue
- Readers visits
- Joel Forey on new buses in Newcastle
- Ensign Bus arrivals and disposals-
- Malta Transport Society 2021 calendar.
-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



In 1979 Midland Red celebrated its 75th Anniversary and marked the occasion with the repainting of DD12 Alexander-bodied Daimler Fleetline 6007 (GHA407D) into a special commemorative livery. 6007 had been new in October 1966. The repaint was carried out at Midland Red's Central Works in March/April 1979 with the bus returning to service in May 1979 and was used at a number of garages that year. It passed to Midland Red (East) in September 1981 and was withdrawn in July 1983.

© Steven Knight Media Collection/Keith Norris (Midland Red)