

**Stagecoach in Nuneaton archive feature**



# Fleet Digest

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

**No. 8**  
**09-11-2020**



**UK-first for Go North East with 7.7 litre/6 cylinder engined StreetDeck**

**East Yorkshire returns further Mercedes Sprinters to Oxford Bus Co.**

**First new Oxford Tube coaches delivered: Full registration details**

## On the Cover



Stagecoach Midlands Volvo B10M/Alexander PS 20215 is now part of the heritage fleet but was new to Nuneaton. Our Nuneaton feature is on page 7.  
© Steven Knight Media

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Steven Knight Media  
PO Box 1299  
Peterborough  
PE2 2NX

## Editorial

We hope you have enjoyed Fleet Digest over the past few weeks and it has 'filled a gap' left by the withdrawal of the Fleet Ramblings new service.

We hope to share some news with you in the next issue on how you can continue to enjoy timely fleet updates through a new news website. We will feed information to the new website, which will be managed independently from Steven Knight Media, so hopefully you will be able to continue to enjoy a regular supply of information.

We will produce further editions of Fleet Digest through until the end of the year and although the fleet information will also be published on the new site, Fleet Digest will also include further historic features.

Finally, a big thank you to everyone who has contacted SKM recently with comments on Fleet Digest and also to everyone who has kindly made their images available for use. We really appreciate your support and hope that you will support the new venture.

## Stagecoach Midlands

Former **Stagecoach East** Dart SLF 35105 has been moved across from Rugby where it had been parked to Kettering as a replacement vehicle for recently withdrawn Optare Solo 47408.

## New look for First in Sheffield

First Group has unveiled a new look for its operations in Sheffield. The two-tone blue and cream livery has two steel silver flashes as a historic nod to the City's past steel industry.

© First South Yorkshire



## East Yorkshire

A further Mercedes-Benz Sprinters returned to the **Oxford Bus Company** after a period on loan here is 974 on 24th October 2020.

Similar 972 was at Anlaby Road depot in Hull on 6th November 2020 being prepared for return.

## Stagecoach South Wales

Porth-allocated Optare Solo 47720 is the latest recipient of the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery,

## Stagecoach East

Dart SLF 34538 is now in service at Bedford,

The entry into service of 34538 at Bedford suggests that despite being officially recorded as being transferred to **Stagecoach Oxfordshire** it never left this fleet.

34537 was also recorded as a transfer to **Stagecoach Oxfordshire** but we have had no confirmation that actually happened.

## THE OXFORD & CHILTERN'S BUS PAGE Weekly briefing

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

Malcolm and his team of contributors has produced another bumper page this week which is certainly well worth a read.

In the 6th November 2020 issue.....

Stop Press: The first two Panoramas arrive at Oxford tube

Editorial

Covid-19 update

Various services change following the recent 'Lockdown'

Memories from Times Past by Michael Wadman

Days out with Daniel Harwood in Brighton

and in Worcester with Jack Cooper

Ensign Sales and Changes in October

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

Don't forget that you can check out the latest page and previous posts from 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)

## EAST YORKSHIRE HEROES

Our Engineering Team are the undercover heroes of the business. Behind the scenes, they work incredibly hard at all hours of the day and night to make sure our buses can be there to take you to work and safely home again. You may not see them, but they do a fantastic job.

East Yorkshire



## Stagecoach Merseyside & South Lancashire

The repainting of former **Stagecoach East** Volvo B9Rs 53613/15 at Birkenhead's paint shop into the Stagecoach 'Distance' livery was completed last week and they are now due for movement to **Stagecoach North**

Scotland [Highlands].

Also repainted into the Stagecoach 'Distance' livery is Preston-allocated Scania/Enviro 400 15247. The only other double-deck buses to be repainted in the 'Distance' livery to date have also been Scania/Enviro 400s which are operated by **Stagecoach South West**.



Image: © Martin Connolly



Image: © Barry McGuire

## Stagecoach Oxfordshire

The first two of the new Volvo B11RLE/Plaxton Panorama coaches for the Oxford Tube service, 50421/22, arrived at Oxford depot on 6th November 2020. The carry registrations YX70LUA/D but are due to

be re-registered with the 'Tube' cherished registration plates before entering service.

As a result existing Tube Van Hool Astromega 50262 has already lost its T44UBE registration and is now registered OW14LKA.



The first of the 34 new Volvo B11RLE/Plaxton Paramount coaches for the Oxford Tube service have now been delivered to Stagecoach Oxfordshire. Pictured on arrival was 50421 (YX70LUA), which will be re-registered before entering service. See Page 16 for full registration details.. All images: © Martin Gibbon/Twitter

## Correction

It has been pointed out to us that our comment that Trident 17529 at Stagecoach South East (Fleet Digest No. 7) being the first Trident to receive the new Stagecoach 'Local' livery was technically incorrect. It should have said the first Trident/ALX400 to have received the new livery as a number of Enviro 400s are also on Trident chassis.

## UK first for Go North East

Go North East, the region's largest bus company, has invested £5million into new, environmentally friendly buses from Wrightbus, a UK-based bus manufacturer.

As part of the investment, Go North East has taken delivery of the UK's first 7.7-litre, 6-cylinder Daimler OM936 engined StreetDeck.

This unique bus 6377 (NK70BYV) has the same engine that is fitted to a Mercedes-Benz Citaro, and delivers more power compared to the standard 5.1-litre 4-cylinder OM934 engined StreetDecks that the bus company already operates.

Fitted with Wrightbus' third generation of 'Micro-Hybrid' technology, the bus offers excellent environmental credentials, helping reduce fuel consumption and CO2 emission levels.

The bus, which comes with a higher top speed of 62mph, will be trialled across all of Go North East's interurban X-lines express routes, evaluating suitability and comparing against the native 5.1-litre 4-cylinder OM934 engined StreetDecks.

The bus has been recently operating on Go North East's X-lines XI route which serves Easington Lane, Houghton-le-Spring, Washington, Gateshead and Newcastle.

Martijn Gilbert, managing director at Go North East, told SKM: "We're delighted to have the UK's first 6-cylinder Wright StreetDeck bus, and we hope that it will help shape the future of investment for our interurban express routes.

"The bus, which is part of our wider £5million investment into new buses from Wrightbus, provides enhanced power, whilst maintaining our

commitment to cleaner, greener air across the region."

Buta Atwal, Wrightbus' CEO, added:

"Wrightbus are once again delighted to have been chosen to supply our vehicles to Go North East.

"These vehicles represent the first vehicles supplied as part of the Bamford Bus Company and we are excited that the new 6-cylinder option also represents a new era for Streetdeck and further strengthens our offering providing a new experience for drivers, passengers and operators whilst continuing to offer excellent value for money.

"Martijn, Colin and the team are at the forefront of innovation in our industry and we look forward to continuing to work together to bring products and solutions to the market to help delight our customers."

Images: © Go North East



## From our archives: Stagecoach's early years in Nuneaton

When Midland Red was split into separate regional companies in September 1981 depots in Warwickshire, as well as Banbury became part of Midland Red South.

With the privatisation of the National Bus Company, Midland Red South was sold to Western Travel in December 1987. In 1993 Stagecoach bought Western Travel and the Midland Red South operation

including Nuneaton garage became part of Stagecoach.

Midland Red South benefited from Stagecoach ownership which saw much needed investment and replacement of life-expired vehicles taking place. However, in the early years mid-life vehicles were cascaded from other parts of the Stagecoach empire.



Stagecoach fleets in Scotland provided a number of vehicles to replace life-expired and unreliable vehicles within the Midland Red Fleet. One arrival at Nuneaton from Stagecoach's Western Buses operation was Park Royal-bodied Leyland Atlantean UNA840S which was new to Greater Manchester PTE. It carries fleet number 992. © Steven Knight Media

From Stagecoach Glasgow came a number of Volvo B6LEs with Alexander ALX200 bodywork including P365DSA, which was allocated fleet number 461. When photographed it retained branding applied when new which promotes its Low Floor/east access credentials. © Steven Knight Media





Nuneaton depot benefited from Stagecoach investment with a sizeable delivery of Alexander PS-bodied Volvo B10Ms. Pictured is 204 (M204LHP). The batch had a mix of bus and dual purpose seating.  
© Steven Knight Media



The minibus fleet was also upgraded with a fleet of Mercedes-Benz 709Ds with Alexander Sprint bodywork. This was the standard Stagecoach minibus and examples were to be found countrywide/ Pictured is 367 (N367AVV). © Steven Knight Media

Volvo B10M/Alexander PS 215 (N215TDU) was part of the batch of vehicles new to Nuneaton garage. When retired from frontline service work it was retained as part of the training fleet and subsequently was allocated to the Stagecoach Midlands fleet of 'Heritage' vehicles. © Steven Knight Media



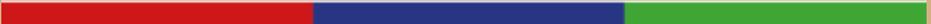


151 (R151CRW) is an Alexander ALX200-bodied Dennis Dart. It carries a special 'Primeline' livery for services using the Foleshill Road/Longford Road route into Coventry which included a bus gate. Travel West Midlands also used the 'Primeline' branding.  
 © Steven Knight Media

Carrying fleet number 598 and carrying Vanguard fleet names is Leyland National KHT124P. It was new to Bristol Omnibus and was originally numbered 3026.  
 © Steven Knight Media



Vanguard was a Bedworth (Warwickshire) bus and coach operator that initially competed against Midland Red. In July 1994 it was under Stagecoach ownership as part of the Midland Red South business. Leyland National 3014 (GOL426N) carries Western Travel's City of Gloucester livery but was new to Midland Red as its 426.  
 © Steven Knight Media



## Dodge City for Stagecoach's Millennium Training Fleet

From our archives...  
**BONUS FEATURE**



At the turn of the Millennium Stagecoach bought a number of Wadham Stringer-bodied Dodge G13s from the Ministry of Defence for use as training buses. Above is a rare image of Stagecoach Busways DT25 (EE875GRG) in

Peterborough whilst on loan (with instructor) to Stagecoach Viscount on 23rd July 2002. Below is Stagecoach Midland Red T4 (E685FTM) at Showbus on 24th September 2000. Both © Steven Knight Media





Stagecoach East has transferred ADL Enviro 300s 27642-47 from Bedford to Cambridge and pictured working a Cambridge Citi 5 service to Swavesey is 27646. This batch of Enviro 300s started life with Stagecoach South being transferred to the Norfolk Green operation at King's Lynn when it was managed by Stagecoach South. Upon the closure of King's Lynn depot all six vehicles were transferred to Bedford. © Harrison Dethridge



The newest vehicle in the Delaine Buses fleet is 167 (AD70DBL), an 11.8m ADL Enviro 200MMC - the first of its type for the Lincolnshire-based operator. It will be followed in 2021 by a second example. © Steven Knight Media





## Crusader project continues investment at Go North East

Go North East, has unveiled its refurbished double-deck buses to be used on its Crusader 26 and 27 routes which serve South Shields, Jarrow, Gateshead and Newcastle, up to every 15 minutes.

The upgraded double-deck buses will help increase seated capacity on the services by 77%, and passengers can charge into town with free Wi-Fi and USB charging points at every seat.

The newly refurbished low-emission buses, which have been painted into the company's latest iteration of its Crusader brand, also have high-back seats for extra comfort and have already started operating on Go North East's 26 and 27 services.

The Crusader buses pay homage to the Jarrow March of 5-31 October 1936, also known as the 'Jarrow Crusade', in which 200 men, or "Crusaders" as they preferred to be referred to, marched from Jarrow to London.

The Jarrow March became recognised by historians as a defining event of the 1930s, and the town holds numerous memorials to it.

Elsewhere in East Gateshead, Go

North East will be making improvements to its 93 and 94 routes which operate around Gateshead, Team Valley, Low Fell and Heworth.

The 93 and 94 routes have also been upgraded with double-deck buses which feature free Wi-Fi, and will soon also be fitted with 'next stop' audio-visual announcements.

Go North East's managing director, Martijn Gilbert, said: "We're delighted to be providing this upgrade to the people of East Gateshead and beyond.

"Whilst offering fantastic onboard features, these upgrades also provide enhanced capacity which is even more important in the current climate.

"We're committed to ensuring our buses are clean, safe and comfy, and offering better buses with more seats, is an essential part of that."



Images: © Go North East



## Now Transdev adds a new face mask design

Earlier this year Transdev decided to launch its own design of face mask following the Government's announcement that they should be worn when in bus stations and when travelling on buses, unless medical exemptions apply.

The first offering was 'All the colours of Transdev', which had a design based on the seating material onboard Transdev buses. In mid-September 2020 the company handed a cheque for £2475 to NHS Charities Together from sales of the face masks.

Now it has added to the range with a 'All the buses of Transdev' design. Both can be bought online at £4.50 each or a bundle of each design for £15. Go to [shop.transdevbus.co.uk](http://shop.transdevbus.co.uk). They are also available from Transdev travel shops.



## Stagecoach variety in Corby

Stagecoach's United Counties operation has faced a number of challenges. In Corby there was a dominant taxi operation which competed against local buses.

After success with a Routemaster operation, the company turned to an intensive minibus operation, under the Magic Minis' branding.

Corby depot was also the recipient of second-hand Titans cascaded from Stagecoach's London operations as well as other vehicles drafted in from other parts of the Stagecoach empire.

Only with the launch of the Corby Star network did it benefit from significant investment in new vehicles, although that was over 15 years ago.

We are pleased to present a selection of images from Corby, including the depot.

In recent years Corby depot had been relegated to that of an outstation (of Kettering) and following 'Lockdown' in March 2020 it was effectively closed with the outstation work transferring to Kettering. The site at Corby has effectively become a vehicle storage site.

Fleetlines were never part of the United Counties fleet until the mid-1990s when several second hand examples joined the fleet. At Corby is 992 (SDA715S), a Leyland Fleetline with MCW bodywork which was purchased from G&G of Leamington Spa but which was new to the West Midlands PTE. © Steven Knight Media



Having previously operated a number of former London Transport/London Buses Routemasters, United Counties received a number of Leyland Titans and allocated them to Corby. Pictured is 10590 (NUW590Y).

© Steven Knight Media



Above: In a black and gold variation of the Stagecoach 'stripes' livery and with Corby's Magic Minis branding is Stagecoach United Counties. 60 (F60AVV), an Iveco 39-10 with Robin Hood bodywork.

© Steven Knight Media



Left: Similar 52 (F495NTR) joined the United Counties fleet from Hampshire Bus. It carries Stagecoach 'stripes' livery along with the 'Street Shuttle' branding which United Counties for its minibus networks.

© Steven Knight Media



New in 1972 was 359 (K359ANY) an Alexander-bodied Mercedes 709D.

© Steven Knight Media





Above: Four vehicles in Corby depot in April 2004 and none of them had been new to United Counties! Leyland Olympian/ECW 14946 (A546HAC) was new to Midland Red South and Titan 11096 (B96WUV) to London Transport. Of the Alexander RL-bodied Leyland Olympians 14472 (C472SSO) was new to Bluebird Scottish and 14484 (D384XRS) to Northern Scottish.

© Steven Knight Media



Above: 14520 (F41XCS) is a Leyland-bodied Leyland Olympian. It joined Stagecoach with the takeover of AI and moved from Western Scottish to Busways before being sent to Corby.

© Steven Knight Media

Left: Northern Counties-bodied Leyland Olympian 13026 (A26ORJ) also moved to Corby from the North East but had been new to Greater Manchester. Alongside is ECW-bodied Leyland Olympian 14179 (C179ECK), which when new was delivered to Ribbles, also moved to Corby from the North East. © Steven Knight Media

A fire at the Biggleswade outstation on 16th September 2004 destroyed eleven buses. A number of vehicles were drafted in to United Counties on loan and then two ECW-bodied DP-seated Leyland Olympians 14935/36 came from Stagecoach Midland Red with four assorted Leyland Olympians 13026, 14179, 14520 and 14631 from Stagecoach North East. All were allocated to Corby displacing Alexander RL-bodied Leyland Olympians 14472/76/77/79/83/84 to transfer to Bedford.





Pictured in Corby against a plethora of street furniture is Mercedes 709D/Alexander 40354 (K354ANV) which was carrying an all over advertisement for the Autohaus VW dealership in Kettering. © Steven Knight Media



# buses running to **normal timetables**

to allow people to carry on travelling to  
school and essential employment  
during lockdown



## te News >>> Late News >>> Late News >>> Late New

### Stagecoach South

Chichester-allocated Trident 18502 has suffered rear end fire damage and is currently in the Strategic Reserve Fleet here pending assessment.

### Stagecoach Cumbria & North Lancashire

Optare Solo SR 47945 is now in the new local livery, joining 47944 at West Cumbria. 47946 is next in line for a repaint. Also being repainted are Optare Solos

47237 Lakes livery and 47239 'Local' livery. Carlisle route 67-branded Enviro 200 37093 is also receiving the new 'Local' livery.

### Stagecoach Midlands

Received on loan here from Stagecoach South East are Canterbury Park & Ride-branded Enviro 400s 10063-66. They have been temporarily made due to 'Lockdown 2' and will be allocated to Northampton. They will remain on loan until the end of November.



Now with Stagecoach Midlands at Northampton and on loan until the end of November 2020 are the four Stagecoach South East Canterbury Park & Ride-branded Enviro 400s 10063-66. Pictured at Main Road depot in Northampton following arrival is 10065.

© Patrick Stringer/  
Twitter

### Stagecoach Oxfordshire

The full list of the registrations for the new Oxford Tube vehicles is:

50421	YX70 LUA	50431	YX70 LUT
50422	YX70 LUD	50432	YX70 LUW
50423	YX70 LUE	50433	YX70 LUY
50424	YX70 LUF	50434	YX70 LUZ
50425	YX70 LUH	50435	YX70 LVA
50426	YX70 LUJ	50436	YX70 LVB
50427	YX70 LUL	50437	YX70 LVC
50428	YX70 LUO	50438	YX70 LVD
50429	YX70 LUP	50439	YX70 LVE
50430	YX70 LUR	50440	YX70 LVF

50441	YX70 LVG	50448	YX70 LVO
50442	YX70 LVH	50449	YX70 LVP
50443	YX70 LVJ	50450	YX70 LVR
54444	YX70 LVK	50451	YX70 LVS
50445	YX70 LVL	50452	YX70 LVT
50446	YX70 LVM	50453	YX70 LVU
50447	YX70 LVN	50454	YX70 LVV

The first five vehicles will be re-registered with the cherished TxxUBE registrations T40UBE, T44UBE, T50UBE, T55UBE and T60UBE which are/were carried by Van Hool Astromegas 50261-65. Stagecoach Oxfordshire