

TLB689

The London Bus

Number 689
January 2022



London Omnibus Traction Society
www.lots.org.uk



Ensignbus' annual grand Running Day was on Saturday 4th December. A new route this year was the X54 visiting the Purfleet Heritage Centre and the RAF Hornchurch Heritage Centre. RT 8 was new in 1940 and was in service in London as later that year the RAF at Hornchurch (54 Squadron) was sending Spitfires up to fight in the Battle of Britain.

Also on the X54 was RMC 1477, the latest restoration by Ensignbus, before whom it had been with Timebus in red for some years. Here it is in Airfield Way on its last lap to the former RAF Station. It has been treated to traditional yellow blinds as befitting its Green Line origins. *(Both Richard Godfrey)*



Front cover: Arriva at Stevenage has treated StreetLite 4288 to a heritage livery, belatedly commemorating 50 years since the start of the Superbus scheme in the town in 1971. On 17th November it was on the (SB)8 on Fisher's Green Road in Symonds Green on its way to the Town Centre. *(Richard Godfrey)*



THE LONDON BUS
The monthly newsletter of the
London Omnibus Traction Society
website at www.lots.org.uk



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Managing Editor: David Stewart, 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, HA0 4JH or e-mail via <davestewart297@gmail.com> I finalise the newsletter, deal with the photographs and miscellaneous items in TLBs such as Society Matters, Appeals & Adverts, notification of Publications and Events.

Our principal services are centred on the **LOTS general office** now at G16 Lombard Business Park, 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ. **If you need to contact us**, we visit the office regularly to deal with Membership and Subscriptions (incl. changes of address), TLB/LBM Distribution and general admin. If using the post to Lombard please mark the envelope "Membership" or Distribution or as appropriate. The **E-mail lotsmemsec@gmail.com** can be used for quick enquiries and follow-ups, including for address changes, non-arrival of TLB/LBM and blank or missing pages.

For enquiries about, or, orders to **Postal Sales**, please **E-mail** lotspostalsales@gmail.com

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UK rate: £30 MEM+TLB; £47 MEM+TLB+LBM; £24 LBM only.

Europe rate: £40, £57, £27 respectively. Rest of the World: £40, £61, £27 respectively.

Reports for TLB should first go to individual section sub-editors (each section is headed by the contact details) or via my e-mail and it will be passed to the appropriate person. The TLB Editors should be addressed direct by e-mail or post - Please do **NOT** use Lombard for TLB items as it will miss the deadline. If it is specifically for the LBM Editor, e-mail to lbm.editor@yahoo.co.uk or write via the Lombard address, marking envelope for which service or who it is that you want.

Please note TLB closing dates at the foot of page 1, though we can usually include late items in the following three days if layouts allow it. Production will **NOT** be delayed for items received too late.

The Editors reserve the right to defer items to achieve page layouts or target dates, or to allow time for confirmation where appropriate. Every effort is made to ensure factual accuracy but the Editors and the Society cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact subsequently discovered.

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Other specialist services: Please include a stamped self-addressed envelope if you want a reply.

London Bus Magazine: e-mail to lbm.editor@yahoo.co.uk or write via G16 Lombard Business Park, 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ, address, mark envelope for 'LBM Editor'

TLB Backnumbers from Charlie Turton, 21 Coleridge Walk, Langney, Eastbourne, BN23 7QJ.

LOTS Members' Information Service (your requests for historical info. on London bus matters):

Les Stitson, 3 Purley Close, Barkingside, IG5 0TP or by e-mail to lots.infosvs@btinternet.com

LOTS Ombudsman: (complaints and problems about LOTS services): David Kemp, 10 Weare Gifford, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 8AB) (In letters to Info Service and Ombudsman, **please add SAE**).

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Closing date for TLB690 is Weds 2nd February and due for posting on Tues 15 February.

Booked later closing dates are Wednesdays 02Mar, 30Mar (earlier than usual), 04May, 08June 2022.

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Editorial and Society Matters

First of all, Happy New Year to everyone. In the January 2021 TLB I hoped that 2021 would be better, so perhaps I should perhaps repeat that now! It already is in some ways but not others.

I have had requests for more pictures and larger pictures in TLB although that has an impact on what can fit on inside covers. Therefore I will include a centre spread supplement in some issues of TLB. It won't be possible in LBM months (March, June, September and December) because we are right on the postal weight limit with TLB+LBM despatches and a 4-page spread exceeds that. In some issues there won't be enough pictures of news items to fill. However, in this issue of TLB you will see the first example with a group of pictures to commemorate the major changes at Guildford. I have also made some detail changes to the layout on the covers and I intend to vary the cover colours on some issues. For example this TLB extends the livery of the front cover picture to the cover itself – but in reverse proportion.

Coming Events

All events are subject to any Covid-19 restrictions at the time. Events that seem likely to go ahead are below, although you should check before travelling. (LSS= LOTS Sales Stand should attend).

- Sat 05 Feb: Elstree and Borehamwood Transport Collectors Fair, 10.00 - 16.00, Admission £3.00. At Allum Manor House and Hall WD6 3PJ. Organised by Julian Bowden and Sons.
- Sat 12 Feb: NLETE Transport Bazaar at Enfield. Note that it returns to St Stephen's Church Hall, Village Road, Enfield (on route 329). 11:00-14:30, £3 entry (acc. children free). Please note that the NLETE events at Barnet will no longer be held there.
- Sun 20 Feb: Bus Running Day at the Epping Ongar Railway, North Weald.
- Sat 26 March: Heritage operation on route 101 (Wanstead to North Woolwich).
<https://www.londonbusmuseum.com/route-101-running-day/>
- Sat 02 April: South East Bus Festival at Detling showground in Kent.
- Sun 10 April: London Bus Museum Brooklands – Spring Gathering.
- Sun 08 May HCVS London to Brighton run.
- Other rallies now: 14 May (Faversham), 15 May (Whittlesey), 22 May (Didcot, a new event), 26 June (LBM Brooklands), 10 July (BBPG running day Godstone to East Grinstead, a new event), 17 July (Alton), 31 July (Worthing), 7 August (Gosport), 23 October (LBM Brooklands).
- Sun 12 June: Heritage operation on route 81 (Hounslow to Slough, journeys to Windsor). To include participation by more modern preserved buses outside the LEZ.
<https://www.londonbusmuseum.com/route-81-running-day/>
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LOTS Meetings

LOTS Meetings are at Conway Hall, Holborn at 7.30pm. We are in the Great Hall unless otherwise stated. Conway Hall authorities currently request that visitors are encouraged to wear face masks and that those feeling that they have Covid symptoms are asked not to attend. The next meeting is on Monday 21st February 2022 where Andy Corbett, Commercial Delivery Director of RATP will do a presentation about RATP DEV TRANSIT LONDON.

Payments for Membership and orders to Postal Sales

You can pay through the banking system if you wish. Our account number is 11725054, sort code 16-32-45. Please just add your name to the paying-in slip and then send us an e-mail to lotsmemsec@gmail.com (for membership) or lotspostalsales@gmail.com (for postal sales) with your name, address and membership number (if known) to tell us what you have subscribed to. Occasionally we receive payments without any idea as to what they were for.

For anyone wishing to pay for Membership and Sales at the same time, please use “Mem + Sales” as the reference on the bank payment in addition to your name / Membership Number. The ‘lotsmemsec’ email address can be used to query membership matters and to query non-arrival of TLB or LBM, missing or damaged pages. Queries about Postal Sales to the ‘lotspostalsales’ email above.

If you use the post, please address your orders to LOTS Postal Sales (or LOTS Membership), Unit G16 Lombard Business Park, 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ. Make sure that the ‘Postal Sales’ or ‘Membership’ name is included prominently, so we can give the best attention. Postal Sales orders will be dealt with as soon as possible, subject to ‘staff’ availability - especially in these current times - but, please still allow the usual 28 days for receipt of your order.

The most recent Sales List is included with this TLB but in any case the Sales List on our website can be used. Orders from the Sales List or a letter is perfectly acceptable. In all cases above, if you send us a cheque, please don’t staple cheques to the form – they really won’t get lost by us but might be when the banks try to process them electronically!

LOTS Postal Sales

The new Sales List that was distributed with November TLB687 featured several new and ‘coming soon’ titles and it should be noted that the pricing structure for binders has changed.

Please note that ‘Surrey’s Spring Line’ (from LHRG) is no longer available.

LBM 198 Winter 2021 (£5.00) **NEW** Main features are ‘Streatham’s buses in the Sixties’ by Ian King; ‘Volvo double-deckers in London’ by Malc McDonald; ‘Trolleybus route 667 bank holiday workings’ by Hugh Taylor.

Steering London Through – London’s Road Services in the Second World War. By Tony Beard and Mick Webber. Capital Transport £40.00. Largely a chronological story of the period, focussing on the behind-the-scenes planning by LT, both before the war (starting in 1937) and during it. (***NEW***)

London Trolleybus Depots Part Three. By Hugh Taylor, published by Adam Gordon, £44.00. Covers Stonebridge Park, Colindale, Finchley and Wood Green, including separate maps of the overhead layout of the four depots. (****NEW****)

Mr. Gibson’s Ticket Machine - The Complete Story 1944-1993. By Anthony Cross, (£16.95) by CapitalTransport. (****NEW****)

London’s Buses 1979-1994 - The Capital’s Bus Network in Transition. By Andrew Bartlett, £30.00.

The London Volvo B7TL - by Matthew Wharmby (Pen & Sword), £35.00.

London’s Historical Railway Terminal Stations - An Illustrated History. By Geoff Swaine, (Pen & Sword) £30.00.

GENERAL and INDUSTRY NEWS

Section Editor: Andrew Boag, 88 Marine Parade, Brighton BN2 1AJ or by e mail to andrewj.boag@gmail.com

TfL, politics and the Coronavirus Crisis

Covid continues to dominate. The rapid spread of the Omicron variant was headline news throughout December with daily infection rates soaring to over 200,000 by early January. Fortunately hospitalisation and death rates have remained relatively low as it became increasingly clear omicron infections were likely to be less severe than earlier variants. Nevertheless, the Government imposed 'Plan B' asking people to work from home if possible. Shops and hospitality venues were able to stay open in England but many Christmas events were cancelled by their organisers. Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales had more severe restrictions. The New Year's Eve firework display on the River Thames was cancelled although a smaller display, live from several riverside locations, was shown on TV at midnight. According to Government statistics bus, Underground and rail usage fell back during December as restrictions took effect, with tube and National Rail passenger numbers dropping down to just over 50% compared with March 2020 levels. Buses did better at 70-75%.

Staff shortages as a result of people isolating became common in most industries. All Southern rail services into Victoria Station were cancelled until 10 January. There was already a planned blockade between Christmas and New Year due to engineering works, which was extended, suggesting that at least part of the problem was a shortage of engineering workers as well as train staff. Bus and Underground services in London do not appear to have suffered significant cancellations but that may have changed by the time this is read. TfL announced that the Waterloo & City line would re-open on 10 January initially peak hours only, which had also been the case between June and October 2021. TfL has also confirmed that the planned 17-week closure of the Northern line between Moorgate and Kennington via Bank will go ahead as planned from 15 January. Temporary bus route 733 will run between Moorgate and Oval during the closure.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson faced a difficult time on several fronts during December, the most spectacular of which was losing the North Shropshire By-Election to the Liberal Democrats, in what had previously been a safe Tory seat. Labour and its leader Kier Starmer began to take the lead in opinion polls for the first time since Boris was elected.

Another short term funding agreement has been reached between TfL and the Government which provides support until 4 February. Andy Byford, London's Transport Commissioner, said "The Government has confirmed an extension of its funding support for TfL through until 4 February, for which we are grateful. The Mayor has also set out a range of proposals that will help support TfL's financial sustainability". He added "There is no UK recovery from the pandemic without a London recovery and there is no London recovery without a properly funded transport network in the capital. It is therefore essential that discussions with Government continue so that we can agree the sustained long-term Government funding that is vital for the coming years if a period of 'managed decline' of London's transport network is to be avoided".

The Mayor has announced **changes to the Congestion Charge**, which are claimed to prevent car use exceeding pre-pandemic levels. The daily charge which was increased from £11 to £15 in May 2020 will remain but from 21 February there will be no charge after 18:00 on Mondays to Fridays while weekends will be free before 12:00 and after 18:00.

Heidi Alexander, the Deputy Mayor for Transport has resigned from her post which she had held since 2018. Before that Heidi Alexander was Labour MP for Lewisham East where she became shadow Health Secretary, but she resigned from that post in a protest against Jeremy Corbyn's leadership. Her replacement at City Hall is former Labour MEP Seb Dance who took up his new role on 4 January.

e-scooters and e-unicycles have been banned on all TfL services since 13 December. This follows safety concerns after a number of fires on TfL premises caused by defective batteries which ruptured without warning. The ban includes TfL approved rental scooters which are the only ones that can be legally used on roads.

----- *General & Industry News* -----

TfL has announced that it intends to make its trial of **24-hour bus lanes** permanent, after a trial found that extending bus lane hours on London's busiest roads cut journey times and helped reliability. Improvements in bus journey times were particularly noticeable in central and inner London, especially in both the mornings and evenings and throughout Sundays. 24-hour bus lanes should improve service reliability in the longer term, which, combined with the reduced journey times, will make bus use more attractive and help encourage more Londoners onto buses. A statutory consultation will take place before changes are made involving emergency services, local authorities and other stakeholder groups.

Disruption to Underground services at weekends has continued in the dispute with the RMT union regarding night tube rosters (TLB 688 refers). This affects primarily the Central and Victoria lines. A few days before Christmas the RMT announced that industrial action would continue every weekend until June 2022 if there is no agreement.

Corporate and company news

The acquisition of **Stagecoach** by **National Express Group** was finally confirmed on 14 December. Both groups had expanded and then retracted from rail franchises, concentrating on bus and coach services. National Express shareholders will own about 75% of the new company and Stagecoach 25%. Stagecoach will sell off its Megabus UK and Falcon South-West coach service operations, as well as its 35% stake in Scottish Citylink bus services. Stagecoach chairman Ray O'Toole will become chairman of the merged group, while National Express chief executive Ignacio Garat will keep the same role at the merged firm. The new company has said there will be no garage closures but about 50 jobs are likely to be lost from head office functions. The combined fleet will have around 40,000 vehicles.

Other General News

The decline of coach services into London from the Home Counties continues. Following on from the end of Green Line services to Hemel Hempstead last month came the news that **The King's Ferry would cease running its Kent commuter coach services**. The company, which is part of the National Express Group ran its last services on 24 December, having operated them for around 40 years. They provided direct coach services to central London from the Medway towns, Swale and other areas. Services picked up passengers in housing estates close to the M2 motorway which were some distance from rail stations, and carried them directly into central London, offering big savings on rail fares. However, usage had been falling for years and dropped off again during the pandemic, so they became unviable. During their heyday in the 1980s and 90s dozens of coaches from The King's Ferry, Maidstone & District's Invictaway and Chalkwell Coaches competed for passengers, mostly following the same route through the City and along the Embankment to Victoria Street terminating at Bressenden Place.

KMB, Hong Kong's largest bus operator has ordered another 72 tri-axle ADL Enviro 500s, bringing the total in the fleet since 2012 to more than 2,500. 50 similar buses but with three doors and two staircases are being delivered to the Land Transport Authority in Singapore. Back home, **20 double deck hydrogen buses** are now entering service with National Express West Midlands. The 'Streetdeck Hydroliner' buses are based at Walsall depot where they run on route 51 into Birmingham. They are the first double deck hydrogen buses in England outside London. New manufacturer **Arrival** has commenced trials of its battery electric single decker. A fleet of 44 Arrival buses was included in the City of York Council's bid for Government funding through its zero emission ZEBRA scheme. Minibus manufacturer **Mellor** has announced a completely new range of single decks of various lengths as it attempts to broaden its appeal with larger vehicles. The Sigma battery-electric range features six models from 7 to 12 metres. A picture showing a wheel forward 7 metre bus looks very similar to the Chinese built Higer Steed buses recently supplied to The Big Lemon in Brighton, but with two doors.

Congratulations are due to George Marcar, TfL's Bus Driver Policy Implementation Manager who has been awarded an MBE for his work over many years to improve accessibility in London. He created the Big Red Book which gives guidance to bus drivers and arranged accessibility forums at bus garages, depots and other locations.

GREATER LONDON AREA - Route Developments

Section Editor: Stephen Floyd, 4 Turnpike Gardens, Bedford, MK42 0AJ, e-mail to stevefloyd1959@gmail.com This section covers local TfL bus services within the Greater London County boundary. Fuller detail of any commercial or county services that enter the Greater London County from outside will be in the Country Area Route Developments section that follows this section in TLB. Night services are indicated by e.g. =24 night only or 24/= day and night (24 hour) services.

LONDON BUSES - TENDERED ROUTES UPDATE

No new awards this month. The Tranche list remains as in TLB687.

ROUTE AND SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 4th September 2021: Additional PVR Change:

Arriva London South: 60 to 19+(+1/405(D)/19/15 #TC31+; 194 to 15/14/10 (link to 405(D) off); The 405(D) is renumbered to 645 from 1st January 2022, (see later).

Metroline West: 295 to 19/19/13;

Saturday 16th October 2021: Additional PVR change:

London United: 220 to 25/20/15 #RP151+.

Saturday 6th November 2021: As in TLB688, additional PVR change:

Abellio: 207 to 29/29/22 #GW51+.

Saturday 20th November 2021: As in TLB688, Additional PVR Change:

405 to 9/8/6 #TC431+, 405 sdo journeys unchanged until 1st January 2022, (see later).

Friday 26th November 2021: As in TLB688.

Saturday 27th November 2021: As in TLB688, Additionally:

75 (*Stagecoach Selkent-TL*) (Lewisham Town Centre & Croydon, Fairfield Halls) Monday schoolday journey from Forest Hill School, Mayow Road reverts to depart at 14:45.

As noted in TLB688, all routes listed gained special widened timetables to mitigate against weekend work on Westway (A40) up to July 2022. Although to correct that it should have included routes 92 and 95, not 98 or 148/=; apologies for that. Not all weekends will be affected, although when the special timetables operate, several routes also gained additional PVRs to maintain recovery time or to change the amount of running in/out of the parent garage for relief purposes. Also note that RATP routes did not change until 11th December, although are listed below to keep the list together. The routes and any temporary PVR changes are as follows:

6/= (no change), 7 (Sa+1), 16 (Su +1), 23/= (no change), 27 (Su+1), 31 (no change), 46 (Sa/Su +1), 49 (Sa/Su+1), 52/= (Su+1), 70 (Su -3), 72 (Su+1), 92 (Su+1), 95 (Sa/Su+1), 112 (Su+1), 205 (Su+1), 207 (Su+1), 220/= (Sa/Su+1), 226 (Sa/Su+1), 245 (no change), 260 (Sa/Su +1), 272 (Sa+1), 283 (Su+1), 295/= (Su+3), 297/=(Sa/Su+1), 316 (Su+1), 328 (Su+2), 332 (Su+1), 390/= (no change), 452 (Su+1) and 607 (Su+1).

All information is repeated in full from this point:

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 4th December 2021:

- 65 (*London United-FW*) (Ealing Broadway Station & Kingston, Brook Street) and
N65 (*London United-FW*) (Ealing Broadway Station & Chessington, World of Adventures) Revised running times daily and nightly.
- 108/= (*Go-Ahead London Central-MG/NX*) (Stratford International & Lewisham, Town Centre) As noted in diversions in TLB687, permanently re-routed southbound via Dreadnought Street, Blackwall Lane to Millennium Way from Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach instead of Boord Street.
- 152 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Pollards Hill, Westmorland Way & New Malden, Fountain) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 157 (*Arriva London South-TH*) (Crystal Palace & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 413 (Sutton Garage & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract retained by *Go-Ahead London General* using existing SEN-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks from Merton (AL) garage. This had been novated from *Quality Line* from 3rd July 2021. From 11th December and ongoing, the 413 was converted to 10.8m SEe-class BYD/E200EV electric single-decks cascaded from route 360, itself receiving 12m SEe buses spare from routes 507 and 521.
- 655 (Mitcham, Fair Green & Raynes Park High School) LBSL (QX) contract awarded to *London United* using existing ADE-class diesel double-deck from Tolworth (TV) garage. Previously operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Merton (AL) garage.

PVR changes 4th December 2021: (Note minor changes to these from TLB688)

Arriva London South: 157 no change to PVRs;

Go-Ahead London Central: no change to 108/= PVRs;

Go-Ahead London General: 413 to 8/8/6 #AL141+, no change to 118, 152, 280 PVRs, 655 withdrawn.

London United: 655 to 1/-/- #TV151, no change to 65 PVR.

N65 to 5 every night, running numbers now as daytime 65 #FW51+, crosslink to 71 no longer runs.

Monday 6th December 2021:

- 718 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Morden Station & St. Helier, Bishopsford Road, circular) Route withdrawn, so last day of operation was Sunday 5th December, thus PVR withdrawn from this date.

Saturday 11th December 2021:

Abellio's Hayes (WS) Garage was closed although is due to be replaced by new premises at Dawley Road by Spring 2022. Routes 278, 350, 482, U5, U7 and U9 are now temporarily reallocated to Southall (GW) garage.

Tower Transit routes at Westbourne Park (X) garage novated to London Transit.

PVR changes 11th December 2021:

Abellio: 278 to 10/9/7 #GW271+, 350 to 5/5/5 #GW151+, 482 to 8/8/6 #GW341+,

U5 to 11/9/5 #GW501+, U7 to 5/3/3 #GW201+, U9 to 3/3/1 #GW211+.

London Transit: C3 to 9/9/8 #X501+, no change to 13/=, 23/=, 218, 228, 414, 452/=.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR BUSES IN LONDON

Further to the summary in last month's TLB, the following day routes gained an all-night service on New Year's Eve: 40, 45, 118, 123, 132, 154, 158, 161, 174, 183, 236, 248, 274, 319, 333, 355, 388, 407, 415, 422, 432, 486 and W3. Extra journeys were also provided up to 0100 on routes 30, 31, 46 and C11. Additional buses were also scheduled on existing night and 24-hour routes: =35, =108, =159, =188, =238, N2, N3, N25, N26, N29, N86, N109, N250 and N279. Golden Tours also operated on Christmas Day on the red route, every 20 mins, from 10:00 with the night tour running hourly from 17:00 to 19:00. The live event on New Year's Eve at Trafalgar Square was cancelled. On New Year's Day, 1st January, routes 347 and 375 operated a normal Saturday service at TfL's request.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 1st January 2022: (or first equivalent Schoolday)

- 26 (HCT Group-HK) (Waterloo Station & Hackney Wick) Revised M-F schedules are deferred.
- 608 (Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR) (Gallows Corner & Shenfield High School SDO) Revised to call at all stops between Harold Park Petersfield Avenue/Dagnam Park Drive and Brentwood on AM journey, but remains non-stop between these points on the PM journey.
- 624 (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (Grove Park Station & Avery Hill, Stationers' Crown Wood Academy or Welling Corner SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by Go-Ahead London Central using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage.
- 625 (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (Plumstead Common & Chislehurst, War Memorial SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by Go-Ahead London Central using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage, with revised timetable.
- 629 (Sullivan Buses-SM) (Wood Green Station & Turkey Street, St. Ignatius College SDO) AM journeys retimed to run 5 minutes earlier at 07:27 and 07:35.
- 633 (Go-Ahead Metrobus-C) (Coulsdon South Station & Beddington Church) Extended to Pollards Hill via Hillier's Lane, Beddington Lane (direct, not via ASDA), Mitcham Common and then via existing route 463. To clarify, the 463 loop via Recreation Way isn't currently served so the actual terminus at Pollards Hill is at South Lodge Avenue, Yorkshire Road (Stop U), picking up at Wide Way, Ivy Gardens, (Stop K).
- 639 (London United-JE) (Roehampton, Danebury Avenue & St. John Bosco College via Southfields, SDO) Re-allocated to Tolworth (TV) garage.
- 645 (Arriva London South-TC) (Purley Cross, Banstead Road & West Croydon) New Route number for '405D' journeys and extended via Tamworth Road, Reeves Corner, Waddon New Road Waddon Road to Waddon, Post Office. (I am reliably informed the Post Office has closed), so sets down at Purley Way (stop SV), picking up at Waddon Road, Courtney Road (stop EX).
- 658 (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (Woolwich, Thomas Street & Avery Hill, Stationers' Crown Wood Academy SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by Go-Ahead London Central using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage.
- 670 (London United-JE) (Roehampton, Danebury Avenue & St. John Bosco College via Wimbledon, SDO) Re-allocated to Tolworth (TV) garage.
- D6 (HCT Group-HK) (Cambridge Heath, Ash Grove Garage & Crossharbour, ASDA) Revised M-F schedules are deferred.
- U9 (Abellio-GW) (Uxbridge Station & Harefield Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

PVR changes 1st January 2022:

Abellio: no change to U9 PVRs;

Arriva London South: 60 to 19(+1/645)/19/15 #TC31+; 405 to 9/8/6 #TC431+, 405 sdo journeys withdrawn;

645 to 2*/-/- #TC211+; *60

Go-Ahead London Central: no change to 624, 625, 658 PVRs;

Go-Ahead Metrobus: no change to 633 PVRs;

London United: 639 To 1/-/- #TV161, 670 to 1/-/- #TV166.

The planned route changes after our closing date are listed below but may be subject to change

Saturday 8th January 2022:

Widened schedules daily introduced for routes 25, 277, 323, 425 for approx. one month for Mile End Road/Burdett Road cycle lane works. Also,

Widened schedules Mon-Fri introduced on route 161, with temporary reduced M-F running time schedules on routes 128, 136, 145 169 and 474.

School holiday schedules retained on routes 18, 70, 111, H32 and H37; and Saturday schedules on Mon-Fri on routes 28, 85, 211 and C1.

These are to combat ongoing staff shortages owing to Covid-19 infections and staff isolating.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 8th January 2022:

- 120 (*Metroline Travel-PA*) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Northolt Station) Re-allocated to Lampton (SG) garage.
- 156 (*Abellio-QB*) (Wimbledon, Sir Cyril Black Way & Vauxhall Station) Schoolday journey from Southfields College to Vauxhall retimed from 14:58 to 15:10.
- 235 (North Brentford Quarter & Sunbury Village, Three Fishes) LBSL QC contract awarded to *London United* using new electric BE-class single-decks, in due course from Hounslow Heath (WK) garage. Previously operated by *Metroline Travel* from Brentford (AH) garage.
- 236 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Finsbury Park Station & Hackney Wick, Eastway) Revised timetables for reliability introduced on Thursdays and Fridays, with timetables widened by ½min on Thursday afternoons and 1min on Friday afternoons.
- 237 (*Metroline Travel-AH*) (White City, Bus Station & Hounslow Heath, Hussar) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 298 (*Sullivan Buses-SM*) (Arnos Grove Station & Potters Bar Station) Revised timetables for running time during Mon-Fri peak hours.
- 308 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Wanstead Station & Clapton, Lea Bridge Roundabout) Revised timetables for reliability on Fridays, incorporating an additional PVR for PM peak hours.
- H20 (*Abellio-TF*) (Hounslow, Civic Centre & Twickenham, Tesco) Due to redevelopment work, stand at Hounslow moved to Civic Street.
- H26 (*Abellio-TF*) (Feltham, Sparrow Farm & Hatton Cross Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

PVR changes from 8th January:

120 to 17/16/14, now #SG101+ (PA wdn). Others PVRs to follow next month.

Saturday 15th January 2022:

Widened schedules Mon-Fri introduced on routes 165, 248, 252, 256 and 365.

School holiday schedules re-introduced on route 174 and Saturday schedules on Mon-Fri on route 257.

These are to combat ongoing staff shortages owing to Covid-19 infections and staff isolating.

Normal schedules will be re-introduced on these and those noted above on 8th January, as soon as the situation improves.

- 5 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Romford Market & Canning Town, Bus Station) Revised running time daily.
- 15 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-DS*) (Trafalgar Square & Blackwall Station) Revised running time daily. Mon-Fri, Sunday and evening frequency reduced from x8 to x12mins and Saturday daytime frequency reduced from x7 to x10mins.
- 72 (*London United-S*) (East Acton, Brunel Road & Hammersmith Bridge, North Side) Mon-Fri daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10mins, with additional journeys in AM peak withdrawn. Note this change has been brought forward from 22nd January 2022.
- 273 (*Stagecoach Selkent-TL*) (Lewisham, Tesco & Petts Wood Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using existing AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks.
- 280 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Belmont Station & Tooting, St. George's Hospital) Widened schedules, for Bishopsford Bridge removed.
- 362 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Grange Hill Station & Goodmayes, King George Hospital) Revised timetable daily, to better match shift changes at King George Hospital.
- 533 (*Metroline Travel-AH*) (Hammersmith, Bus Station & Mortlake circular) LBSL (QC) contract extended to 15th July 2022. Frequencies standardised at x15mins Daily.
- 733 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Moorgate, Finsbury Square and Oval Station) New Route, partially replacing the City branch of the Northern Line during Bank Station reconstruction, until May 2022, using existing VH-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus hybrid double-decks. Operating Monday to Friday daytimes only, every x7½mins, with additional peak flow journeys, via Moorgate to Bank, then via 133 via London Bridge, Elephant and Castle and Kennington, terminating at Oval Station, Harleyford Street, then running out of service to and from Vauxhall Bus Station to stand.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 22nd January 2022:

- 73 (Arriva London North-CT) (Oxford Circus & Stoke Newington Common) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x5 to x6mins, with additional journeys peak hours withdrawn.
- 108/= (Go-Ahead London Central-MG/NX) (Stratford International & Lewisham, Town Centre) Due to redevelopment work at Stratford International Bus Station, stand moved to International Way, terminating in a loop via Montfichet Road, Penny Brookes Street and Celebration Avenue. These works expected to last for 3 years.
- 133 (Arriva London South-BN) (Liverpool Street Station & Streatham Station) and
N133 (Arriva London South-BN) (Liverpool Street Station & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 221 (Arriva London North-WN) (Edgware Station & Turnpike Lane Station) Start of conversion to HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini hybrid double-decks, displaced from route 259.
- 259 (Arriva London North-EC) (King's Cross, Gray's Inn Road & Edmonton Green Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8-9 to x10mins, Sunday and Evenings from x10 to x12mins with additional journeys peak hours withdrawn. Also, converted to LT-class NRM New Routemaster vehicles, displaced from previous PVR reductions within Arriva London. The type change was phased from 6th January.
- 333 (Arriva London South-BN) (Elephant & Castle & Tooting Broadway) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 360 (Go-Ahead London Central-Q) (Royal Albert Hall, Prince Consort Road & Elephant & Castle) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 380 (Stagecoach Selkent-TL) (Belmarsh Prison & Lewisham, Lewisham Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 388 (HCT Group-HK) (Stratford City, Bus Station & London Bridge Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 696 (Hayes, Bourne Avenue & Bishop Ramsey School) LBSL (QX) contract had been awarded to *London Sovereign* but that is changed. Instead, it is retained by *London United* using existing diesel double-decks (SP-class Scania or ADE-class E400s) from Hounslow Heath (WK) garage.
- C1 (London United-S) (White City, Bus Station & Victoria Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x13 to x15mins, with Sunday and evenings reduced from x13 to x20mins.
- W5 (HCT Group-HK) (Harringay, Sainsbury's & Archway Station) Additional peak journey withdrawn.
- N29 (Arriva London North-WN) (Trafalgar Square & Enfield Town, Little Park Gardens) Additional journeys on "VN29" withdrawn.

Saturday 29th January 2022: Widened frequencies for routes 129, 286 and 386 for Greenwich cycle works restored to normal.

- 9 (London United-V) (Aldwych & Hammersmith, Bus Station) and
N9 (London United-V) (Aldwych & Heathrow Terminal 5) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 28 (London United-JE/V) (Kensal Rise Station & Wandsworth, Southside Shopping Centre) and
N28 (London United-JE) (Camden Town, Bayham Street & Wandsworth, Southside Shopping Centre) Re-allocated from Wandsworth (JE) garage as an outstation of Stamford Brook (V) garage to Westbourne Park (X) garage and thus novated to *London Transit*. Note that the N28 moves on Saturday night, not the usual Friday night. Wandsworth (JE) garage therefore ceases to be a London Buses operating garage, though Toot-Bus sightseeing buses remain there.
- 59 (Arriva London South-BN) (Euston Station & Streatham Hill, Telford Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 89 (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (Lewisham, Town Centre & Slade Green Station) and
N89 (Go-Ahead London Central-NX) (Trafalgar Square & Erith, Cross Street) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 125 (Colindale Station & Winchmore Hill, Station Road) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *London Sovereign* using new electric double-decks, in due course from Edgware (BT) garage. Currently operated by *Metroline Travel* from Potters Bar (PB) garage.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 29th January, continued:

- 170 (*Go-Ahead London General-SW*) (Victoria Station & Roehampton, Danebury Avenue) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x7½ to x10mins with additional peak journeys withdrawn.
- 234 (*Metroline Travel-PB*) (Highgate Wood, Sussex Gardens & Barnet, The Spires) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using existing DEM-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks.
- 453 (*Go-Ahead London Central-NX*) (Marylebone Station & Deptford Bridge Station) Mon-Fri peak frequency reduced from x4-5 to x6mins.
- 476 (*Go-Ahead London General-NP*) (King's Cross St. Pancras Stations & Northumberland Park Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- N20 (*Metroline Travel-HT/PB*) (Trafalgar Square & Barnet Hospital) Potters Bar (PB) allocation transferred to Holloway (HT) garage.
- N91 (*Metroline Travel-HT/PB*) (Trafalgar Square & Cockfosters Station) Potters Bar (PB) allocation transferred to Holloway (HT) garage.

Saturday 5th February 2022:

- 298 (*Sullivan Buses-SM*) (Arnos Grove Station & Potters Bar Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- W9 (*Sullivan Buses-SM*) (Chase Farm Hospital & Southgate Station) (correcting last month, sorry!) renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AE-class AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single-decks.

Saturday 19th February 2022:

- EL1/=(*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford Hill & Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- EL2 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Becontree Heath, Leisure Centre & Dagenham Dock Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- EL3 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Little Heath, Haw Bush & Barking Reach, Mallards Drive, SDO to Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Saturday 26th February 2022:

- 55 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Oxford Circus & Walthamstow Central Station) and
- N55 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Oxford Circus & Woodford Wells, Horse & Well) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class New Routemasters.
- 56 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Whipps Cross & St. Bartholomew's Hospital) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD40H Enviro400H hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 242 (*Arriva London North-CT*) (Aldgate Station & Homerton Hospital) and
- N242 (*Arriva London North-CT*) (Tottenham Court Road Station & Homerton Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 277 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Dalston Junction & Crossharbour, Asda) and
- N277 (*Stagecoach East London-BW*) (Islington, White Lion Street & Crossharbour, Asda) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 335 (*Arriva London North-DT*) (North Greenwich Station & Kidbrooke, Wingfield School) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini hybrid double-decks.
- 397 (*HCT Group-AW*) (Crooked Billet, Sainsbury's & Debden Broadway) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D AD Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 488 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Bromley-by-Bow, Tesco & Dalston Junction) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D AD Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- W14 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Leyton, Asda & Woodford Bridge) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

----- Greater London Route Devts -----

Saturday 5th March 2022:

- 58 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (East Ham, Central Park & Walthamstow Central Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 97 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & Chingford Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 101 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Gallions Reach, Shopping Park & Wanstead Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 215 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Lee Valley Campsite) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 238/= (*Stagecoach East London-WH/BK*) (Stratford, Bus Station & Barking Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 308 (*Tower Transit-LI*) (Wanstead Station & Clapton, Lea Bridge Roundabout) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing MV-class Volvo B5LH MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 309 (*HCT Group-HK*) (Canning Town, Bus Station & Bethnal Green, Bonner Road) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 325 (*Arriva London North-DX*) (Prince Regent Station & East Beckton, Sainsbury's) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 415 (*Abellio-QB*) (Tulse Hill Station & Old Kent Road, Tesco) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class New Routemasters.
- 455 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Wallington Station & Old Lodge Lane, Canons Hill) LBSL (QC) contract extended this time for 2 years, or until service changes as a result of the Croydon/Sutton consultation are introduced.
- W11 (*HCT Group-AW*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Chingford Hall Estate) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- W12 (*HCT Group-HK*) (Coppermill Lane & Wanstead Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- W15 (Cogan Hall Estate & Hackney, Town Hall) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *Go-Ahead London General* using new and existing electric SEe-class single-decks from Northumberland Park (NP) garage. Currently operated by *Tower Transit* from Lea Interchange (LI) garage.
- W16 (*HCT Group-AW*) (Chingford Mount, Prince Albert & Leytonstone Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D AD Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.

SERVICE PROPOSALS

Further to my note last month about route 271 being (mostly) unchanged apart from an extension to Liverpool Street, member Michael reminds me it was also extended on Sundays to Hendon Central Station from 1987-1991 to replace route 143 on that day.

A summary of the main proposals variously awaiting results and/or start dates, for example:

TLB684 p16: R7 in Chelsfield.

TLB685 p13: Bank Junction.

TLB688 p13: 1/168 'merger' and changes to 188.

TLB688 p13: 143/620 and 21/263/271 changes.

Other more minor examples involve road layout changes.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN BRIEF

This list includes tenders that have been decided and principal route changes already in past TLBs. Worth noting here that we expect some proposals for further route changes to coincide or proceed the introduction of the Elizabeth line, likely to be later this year. Details will be added in the main section when dates confirmed.

Notes: CE+2 = Contract extended by 2 years. CR = Contract awarded or renewed for 5 years, with a potential +2 year extension.

CR7 = Contract renewed for 7 years. All dates and all details are subject to alteration or deferment.

The * suffix = award specified new buses; the # suffix = award specified part new bus allocation. Not all award dates will be necessarily the same date that new buses are introduced.

- 12th Mar 22: CR on 549 (Stagecoach East London to Sullivan Buses), 667 (G-A Blue Triangle to Stagecoach East London), 677 (Stagecoach East London to G-A Blue Triangle), CE+2 on 167 (Stagecoach East London), 379 (G-A London General), W13 (HCT Group).
- 19th Mar 22: CR on U5* (Abellio).
- 26th Mar 22: CE+2 on 76/= (G-A London General), 259 (Arriva LN), 362, 462 (Stagecoach East London).
- 2nd Apr 22: CR on 13/= (Tower Transit), 432 (G-A London General to Arriva LS), CR7 on 617,629 (Sullivan Buses), 678 (Stagecoach East London to Tower Transit), CE+2 on 2/N2, 19/N19, 249 (Arriva LS), 113/N113 (Metroline), R1/R11, R2, R3, R4, R6, R8 (G-A Metrobus).
- 9th Apr 22: CE+2 on S3 (London United).
- 16th Apr 22: CE+2 on 195 (Abellio), X26 (G-A Metrobus).
- 30th Apr 22: CR7 on 111/= (London United to Abellio), CR7 on 322*(G-A London General to Abellio), 350 (Abellio), CR7 on 204*, U10 (Metroline West), CE+2 on 110 (London United), 236 (Tower Transit), 394 (HCT Group), P4 (Stagecoach Selkent), 206, U1, U2, U3, U4 (Metroline West).
- 21st May 22: CR7 on 135 (G-A Blue Triangle to Tower Transit) 433* (Abellio), CE+2 on 464 (Abellio).
- 4th June 22: CR7 on 217 (Sullivan Buses), CE+2 on 253/N253, 254 (Arriva LN).
- 25th June 22: CR7 on 70 (London United), 245 (Metroline Travel), CE+2 on 120, 245, 260, 302 (Metroline Travel), R68, R70 (Abellio).
- 28th May 22: CR7 on 177 (Stagecoach Selkent), CE+2 on E6 (Metroline West).
- 2nd July 22: CE+2 on 465, C1 (London United).
- 23rd July 22: CE+2 on 280 (G-A London General).
- 30th July 22: CR7 on 613, 662, 665 (London United) 671 (London United to Abellio).
- 27th Aug 22: CR7 on 116 (London United), 119/=# (G-A Metrobus), 198 (Arriva LS), 264/=* (Arriva LS to G-A Metrobus), A10 (Metroline West) CE+2 on 50, 194, 250/=, (Arriva LS), 320 (G-A Metrobus).
- 3rd Sep 22: CE+2 on 90 (Metroline Travel)
- 12th Oct 22: CR7 on 226* (Metroline West to London United).
- 22nd Oct 22: CR on 220/= (London United).
- 29th Oct 22: CR7 on 295/=* (Metroline West to London United).

OTHER SPECIAL and MISCELLANEOUS non-TfL OPERATIONS IN LONDON

From Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December, all commuter coaches operated by King's Ferry were withdrawn. This involved routes 717, 719, 720, 722, 750, 751, 765, 770 and 774, all originating from the Medway towns, Swale, Hoo or New Ash Green. They all served Bexley, (Black Prince, on the A2) before setting down at Canary Wharf, Bank, Embankment to Westminster Pier, returning from Blackfriars (Puddledock) in the London area. The company stated: "The ongoing challenges created by Covid-19 have reduced demand to such an extent that means our services are not commercially viable and unlikely to become so in the near future." This brings a sad end to over 40 years commuter coach operations from Kent, once started by Green Line 720 from Gravesend, with only a few services remaining. See the special report elsewhere in this TLB. As noted last month, in Country Area news, Green Line routes 748/758/768 were withdrawn for the same reasons.

DIVERSIONS, DEVIATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS

Central: From 29th November to 13th December, owing to further roadworks in St Giles Street, Tottenham Court Road, route 14/= was diverted southbound direct via Shaftsbury Avenue. From 4th to 25th January, owing to utility works in Porchester Gardens, Bayswater, route 70 is diverted southbound via Westbourne Grove and Inverness Terrace.

South: No sooner had Bishopsford Bridge re-opened, further utility works on 8th December meant that single-alternate traffic lights were used on the bridge and routes **118 and N133** were diverted again via Morden Road, though routes 280 and N44 remained unaffected. Thanks to Julian for the report. From 9th to 13th December, Westway in Caterham was closed for water main works. Terminating buses on routes **404 and 466** were diverted via Banstead Road, Townend and Chaldon Road. This would also have affected terminating buses on Metrobus route **400** from the South. Thanks to Ian for the report. Because of a house fire on 16th December, at Collingwood Road, Sutton where two sets of twins tragically died, route **80** was diverted at Sutton Green to run via Rose Hill, Sutton By Pass (Reigate Avenue) to Sutton Common Road while investigations took place. Thanks to Martin for the report.

South-East: From 29th November to 17th December, owing to gas works in Nathan Way, Thamesmead, routes **301 and 472/=** were diverted in both directions via Western Way. From 4th to 15th January, owing to cosmetic works in Bean Lane, Bluewater, route **428** was curtailed at Darent Valley Hospital. From 4th to 28th January, owing to gas works in The Fairway, Petts Wood, route **R3** is diverted in both directions direct via Tudor Way.

South-West: From 30th November to 13th December, owing to a collapsed sewer in Eden Street, Kingston, all routes were diverted via Wheatfield Road, although routes **85/= and 371** were revised to start from Fairfield Bus Station. From 10th until 05:00 on 15th December, the left turn from Town Lane, Ashford Hospital was blocked by roadworks, so route **116** was diverted on departure via route 203 via Town Lane, Clare Road, Bedfont Road, Stanwell Road and then Great South-West Road to regain its route at Clockhouse Roundabout. Thanks to Roland for the report.

From 21:00 on 2nd January to the 6th, The Quadrant right beside Richmond Station suffered a burst water main, causing diversion of Northbound buses (no change southbound). Routes 65, N65 and 490 diverted via Sheen Road, Manor Road, Lower Mortlake Road to lime of route. Routes H22, H37, R68, 190, 391, 419, N22 would presumably have diverted via Sheen Road, Manor Road to Manor Circus. The R70 and 493 may have diverted or curtailed in the Town Centre.

West: From 6th December to 31st July 2022, owing to the erection of scaffolding around a tower block to remove cladding, route **440** is diverted northbound via Victoria Road and Chase Road. In the early morning of 4th January, High Street Yiewsley was closed due to a police incident, connected with a murder. Routes **222/= and U3** were diverted in both directions via Falling Road, Park View Road, Stockley Road, Lavender Rise, Mulberry Parade, Porters Way and Station Road, with route **350** joining the diversion at Stockley Road. Route **U5** was diverted direct from Stockley Road missing out Stockley Estate. Route **U1** was curtailed at Apple Tree Roundabout and route **698** curtailed at Cherry Lane roundabout. Later in the morning route **U3** was amended to operate direct from Falling Lane/Apple Tree Roundabout. Later in the day, routes **222/=, U1, U3 and U5** ran via route 350 to avoid the High Street but with West Drayton station being served again. Thanks to Chris for the initial report

North: From 11th to 17th December, owing to electrical works on the South Grove stand in Highgate Village, route **271/=** was curtailed at Archway Station. From 11th to 15th December, owing to a gas leak in Eaton Road, Enfield Town, route **192** was diverted northbound via Lincoln Road, Great Cambridge Road and Southbury Road. From 13th to 16th December, owing to cosmetic works in Prince of Wales Road, Kentish Town West, route **46** was diverted towards Smithfield via Malden Crescent, Ferdinand Street, Chalk Farm Road, Castlehaven Road, Hawley Road, and towards Paddington via Camden Road, Bayham Street, Pratt Street, Camden High Street, Chalk Farm Road, Ferdinand Street and Malden Crescent. Route **393** terminating at Chalk Farm diverted via Kentish Town Road, Camden Street, Camden Road, Bayham Street, Pratt Street, Camden High Street and Chalk Farm Road.

East: From 3rd to 10th December, owing to a burst water main in Freemasons Road, Custom House, routes **241, 325 and 678** were diverted southbound via the A13, Prince Regent Lane and Victoria Dock Road, and northbound via Victoria Dock Road, Prince Regent Lane and Barking Road. Thanks to Chris for the report. From 4th to 30th January, owing to building works in South Street, Romford, routes **248, 252 and N15** are diverted south and eastbound via Oldchurch Road and Rom Valley Way.

COUNTRY AREAS - Route Developments

Section Editor: David Stewart, 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 4JH or by e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com This section is set out in adjacent geographical areas anti-clockwise around London from Tilbury to Gravesend. It covers all local bus services of all operators running outside the Greater London County but within the traditional LT/LCBS 'London Country' areas.

West and South ESSEX, including THURROCK

Monday 6th December

Just to record the formal cancellation of several Ensignbus services that had been suspended anyway. I had wrongly listed some of these as 'minor tweaks to times' in TLB688. They had been odd journeys as minor variations to main routes (22X, 66X), school-based variations (24, 25, 29) and an infrequent short-lived link between Socketts Heath & Lakeside (88A). Also abandoned was a registration for a special 'Festival Shuttle' between Chafford Hundred (Premier Inn) and Damyns Hall Aerodrome. The latter is a little-known airfield just north of Aveley.

Sunday 26th December (ONLY):

X10 (*Ensignbus*) This annual hourly route ran again between Southend and Lakeside via Basildon.

HERTFORDSHIRE and southern BEDFORDSHIRE

Monday 6th December:

A and Z (*Arriva the Shires*) These Luton- Dunstable Busway services each reduced from x10 to x12min. This reduces their PVR from 18 to 15 which no doubt explains the recent purchase of 14 new buses!

Tuesday 4th January:

42 (*Grant Palmer*) (Bedford & Toddington, M-S, isolated M-F jnys to Dunstable) Revised timetable for reliability with one early morning M-F journey (07:30 Flitwick to Bedford) withdrawn.
44/45 (*Centrebus*) (Stevenage & Luton, M-S) Minor timing changes for running time.

Sunday 9th January:

1, 4 (*Arriva tS*) (Luton area) Mon-Sat daytime frequency from x20 to x30mins on each.
12, 27 (*Arriva tS*) (Luton area) Mon-Sat daytime frequency from x10 to x12mins on each.
31 (*Arriva tS*) (Luton area) Mon-Sat daytime frequency from x15 to x20mins.
2,3,4,5 (*Arriva KT*) (Stevenage circulars) Mon-Sat daytime frequency on each route from x15 to x20min. All four are interworked operationally.
301 (*Arriva KT*) (Stevenage, Lister Hospital & St Albans) The 'short working' x30min section between Stevenage Bus Station and Welwyn Garden City withdrawn. The main through service remains at x30min.

All these Luton and Stevenage reductions save 14PVR and are due to a severe driver shortage.

Monday 10th January:

20 (*Richmonds*) (Bishop's Stortford & Great Hornead, M-F) All journeys in Furneux Pelham will now serve The Causeway. Revised timetable with more running time.

Thursday 10th February:

502/532 (*Little Jim's Buses*) (Tring & Hemel Hempstead, M-S) Revised timetable with additional running time due to traffic congestion. The pm journey on 502 from Ashlyns School to Dudswell will no longer serve Berkhamsted High Street or Durrants Farm Estate.

Sunday 13th February:

395 (*Arriva KT*) (Hertford, Sele Farm & Ware, Fanham Common, Daily) Sunday timetable revised for reliability. Saturday timetable altered to standard x30mins to remove the uneven spacing.

----- Country Route Devts -----

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and east BERKSHIRE (incl. borders of eastern OXFORDSHIRE)

Monday 6th December:

2, 4/4A, 12 (*Redline Buses*) (Aylesbury services) Minor timing changes at school times for journey to and from the Aylesbury Vale Academy. This is said to be temporary.

Tuesday 4th January:

60 (*Red Rose*) (Aylesbury & Buckingham via North Marston and Winslow, Daily) Revised timetable but still roughly every two hours M-S. Some journeys on Mon-Sat renumbered **60A** and rerouted between Winslow and Buckingham via Great Horwood, leaving other journeys as 60 via Padbury. The Sunday service (all as 60 via Padbury) with four journeys each way by Redline Buses is unchanged.

X30 (*Arriva tS*) (Aylesbury & High Wycombe limited stop, M-F) Withdrawn. (*Presumably due to Christmas/New Year, it last ran before Christmas*). No change to the 300.

SURREY and northern parts of WEST SUSSEX

Saturday 27th November: After 11 days of random cancellations, from this date certain specified journeys on Metrobus routes 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 20 and 100 were suspended due to driver shortages.

Monday 20th December: Stagecoach routes in the Guildford/ Woking area went to Saturday schedules on Mon-Fri (except for 39A/B/C,40,47,100 which ran as normal M-F). This is due to driver shortages.

Sunday 2nd January:

Just two weeks after assuming former Arriva services around Guildford, Stagecoach South has reduced frequencies on all routes!! The initial arrangements were listed in TLB687 page 19. It is all due to critical driver shortages – very few Arriva drivers transferred over – but is the maximum that could be covered. One presumes that one day the full 18th December timetable can be restored.

- 1, 2 Reduced to x30min on all seven days of the week but with extra short journeys on Mon-Fri between Guildford and Manor Park to make it x15min on that section only.
- 6 Reduced to x30min Mon-Sat.
- 34,35 Reduced to combined x30min Mon-Sat. Evening short journeys Woking & St.John's withdrawn.
- 47 Morning service reduced from 3 to 2 journeys.
- 53/63 Short journeys on 53 to Cranleigh withdrawn with a re-timing to the group to make a x30mn Mon-Sat combined frequency between Guildford and Cranleigh then alternately hourly to Ewhurst (53) or Horsham (63).
- 91 Reduced to x20min on Mon-Fri (already x20 on Sats), all evenings to hourly. The last bus on Mon-Sat at 23:25 from Woking Station continues to run but only from the normal north side; the deviation via the south side was discontinued.
- 100 (Spectrum P&R) Suspended.
- 200 (Artington P&R) Reduced to x30min Mon-Sat (x20 M-F peaks). 'Country' routes 70/71/72 are diverting via Artington during P&R operating hours.
- 300 (Morrow P&R) Reduced to x30min Mon-Sat (x20 M-F peaks).

Tuesday 4th January:

- C1 (*Cobham Chatterbus*) (Weybridge & Oxshott via Cobham, M-F) Revised timetable although all the various existing links are maintained.
- C3 (*Cobham Chatterbus*) New route, M-F to supplement the C1 between Sainsbury's, the Cobham village area and Cobham & Stoke d'Abernon Station, especially during the daytime offpeak.

Monday 10th January:

- 442 (*Carlone*) (Staines & Heathrow T5) Revised timetable to improve reliability and with new late evening journeys added. The same timetable now applies Daily (7 days a week) and P/Hols.

North and west KENT

Thursday 2nd December:

Route AZ (*Go Coachhire*) was finally allowed to use the section of Fastrack on the bridge between Rennie Drive and Crossways Boulevard. Initially this was a two-week trial.

Friday 31st December:

Last day of the Meopham Welfare Committee minibus services 1 and 3.

1 (Tues & Fris) from Meopham via Harvel, Meopham again, Longfield Hill, New Barn to Gravesend.

3 (Thurs) from Sole Street via Cobham to Gravesend.

The original route, on Fridays from Harvel via Sole Street to Meopham, was started by Reliance on 5th May 1978 and was taken over by the MVC from 2nd February 1979 and it then ran as a circular from Meopham via David Street, Harvel, Luddesdown, Sole Street back to Meopham. Through services to Gravesend came at later dates. An almost 43 year life for such a service must be quite rare!

Tuesday 4th January:

Go Coach made timetable changes on TW3,4,6,7 while TW1+2 are combined to one bus.

COMMUTER COACHES INTO LONDON, AS AT 4 JANUARY 2022:

Once, not that long ago, there were innumerable services from **north Kent** but they have gradually been reduced to a mere trickle, partly caused by the pandemic and 'working from home'. The most recent withdrawal was on 24th December 2021 when National Express The Kings Ferry ceased all such operations. It had also incorporated the services previously operated by Clarks. 50 departures were provided in 2019 from the Medway Towns, with a maximum of 11 departures provided after the services restarted in 2020 (and was the number provided at withdrawal). Just three operators remain with scheduled commuter services.

734 Brookline Coaches from Ryarsh / Kings Hill to Westminster. Three departures provided in 2019; just one departure currently.

735/736 Redwing Coaches Gravesend / Chalk to Embankment. Ten departures provided in 2019; five departures currently.

786/788/789/90/93 Centaur Tunbridge Wells / Tonbridge / Sevenoaks to Vauxhall. 13 departures provided in 2019; seven departures currently (no service on 790 or 793).

Turning now to **Herts & Beds**, Green Line 755 still provides a limited peak hour run from Luton estates (one through to London, one as a feeder to a 757) as part of the main 757 daily schedule, but the 748/758/768 group from Hemel Hempstead, both the daytime and the 'commuter peak' services ceased altogether after 4th December 2021. That leaves the 771/772 Marshalls Coaches Leighton Buzzard / Houghton Regis to Moorgate. Three departures provided in 2019; just one departure as 771 (plus a morning feeder 772) currently.

Summary

Of the 94 individual journeys provided by commuter coaches in 2019, there were 35 journeys provided at the end of November 2021 (37% of the journeys provide in 2019), and just 14 provided on 4 January 2022 (15% of the total provided in 2019). I thank Peter Bradley for preparing the detail of this piece to show the drastic changes in the fortunes of many coach operators.

AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTMAS 2021 AND NEW YEAR 2022 SERVICES (excluding TfL services in Greater London)

Written with editorial thanks by our special guest sub-editor John Bull.

Christmas Day 25 Dec: There was an increase in the number of express services operating around Greater London on Christmas Day compared with 2020, but the position has still not fully returned to the pre-pandemic situation in 2019. LHR, LGW, LTN, STN=Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted airports. CBS = Central Bus Station, T5 = Terminal 5. VCS = Victoria Coach Station. NX = National Express. This time there were the following, again with NX running special 800 series one-day Christmas Day routes:

NX821 VCS - LHR CBS & T5 55 trips (including 10 on NX817) 0330 - 2200, up to every 20 mins from 0730 - 1630. NX821 LHR T5 & CBS - VCS 56 trips (including 10 on NX817) 0615 - 0010, up to every 20 mins from 0745 - 1845.

NX817 VCS - LHR CBS & T5 - LGW (North) - Brighton 10 trips 0700 x 90 mins 2030.

NX817 Brighton - LGW (North) - LHR T5 & CBS - VCS 10 trips 0610 x 90 mins 1940.

NX824 VCS - Marble Arch - Baker Street - Finchley Road Stn - Golders Green - LTN 9 trips 0430 x 2 hours 2030. NX824 LTN - Golders Green - Finchley Road Stn - Baker St - Marble Arch - VCS 8 trips 0700 x 2 hours 1900, 2115.

NX813 VCS - Stratford - STN - Cambridge 6 trips 0900, 1130, 1330, 1530, 1730, 1930.

NX813 Cambridge - STN - Stratford - VCS 6 trips 0815, 1015, 1215, 1415, 1615, 1845.

Megabus VCS - LHR CBS (with shuttle to T5) approx x30 mins in both directions 0730-2030.

Oxford Bus Co restored The Airline service as far as LHR but not to LGW: LHR CBS & T5 - Oxford 12 trips 0540 x 90 mins 2220, Oxf - LHR T5 & CBS 12 trips 0400 x 90 mins 2030.

First Berkshire restored their Railair services to LHR T5, CBS: RA1 (Reading), RA2 (Guildford, Woking) reportedly with full Sunday services (RA1 0400 x 60 mins 0015), (RA2 0330 x 60 mins 2240). In addition NX, Megabus and newcomer Flixbus ran coaches from VCS the length of Britain, many via LHR.

The only other public transport known to be operating on Christmas Day within the LOTS area: TfL Dial-a-Ride available 0700 - 0200 the following morning (ie into Boxing Day)

Vintage RT on route 430 Putney Bridge Stn - Roehampton Danebury Avenue 1000 x 30 mins 1530.

Heathrow Express: shuttle service between Heathrow T 2 & 3 and T5 every 30 minutes from 06:00 until 22:45.

Heathrow Hotel Hoppa normal shuttle service between T2 & T3, T5 and 34 local hotels 0430-2300.

First Berkshire route 7 LHR T5 - Slough - Britwell normal Sunday service 0300 x 60mins 2330.

Arriva KT routes to STN 0300 - 2300: 133 Braintree x 2 hours, 309 Thorley Park (Bishop's Stortford) hourly; 510 Harlow 8 trips.

Metrobus route 10 LGW - Crawley - Bewbush, mostly x 30 mins, 24 hours.

Note: Oxford Tube did not resume on 25 Dec. 2200 last ex Vic on 24 Dec, 0810 first ex Vic on 26 Dec (ditto on 1 Jan).

Greater London 26 December: London General operated a P&R shuttle service from the BP car park at Sunbury-on-Thames to Kempton Park racecourse from 0900 - 1700. TfL Dial-a-Ride available 0700- 2200. The only national rail services running on 26 Dec were: Tottenham Hale to Stansted Airport; London Bridge to Sutton via West Croydon; London Bridge to East Croydon via Crystal Palace; London Bridge to East Croydon, Gatwick Airport and Brighton; Heathrow Express Terminals 2 & 3 to T 5. London Overground ran Highbury & Islington to West Croydon and Shepherd's Bush to Clapham Junction. Most of London Underground operated except: Jubilee line between Willesden Green and Wembley Park, and over entire line after 1900, Metropolitan line between Aldgate and Wembley Park, Piccadilly line between Acton Town and Heathrow, Rayners Lane and Uxbridge, Waterloo & City line. On DLR there was no service Bank/Tower Gateway to Poplar/West India Quay. No service on TfL Rail. Rail replacement buses ran between Stonebridge Park and Willesden Green; Tower Gateway and Canary Wharf; Acton Town and Heathrow, with replacement coaches between Hammersmith and Heathrow T2/3 and T5. NX resumed normal services.



Pictured at Merrow (Bushy Hill) on 4th April 1985 is SNB 543, LCBS's highest numbered Leyland National (aside from any second hand ones). The traditional 408A became the G8 ten days later on the 14th. With 'national' three-track number blinds it was never easy to show the route number very well. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Fast forward to 2021 and 17th December was the last day of the Guildford Garage of Arriva, today's successor to LCBS. It did have a number of Versas, now passed on to Arriva in Essex and Herts. Versa 4204 is ready to depart from Woking Station on the frequent short route 91 to Knaphill. *(Derek Everson)*





On 18th December Falcon Coaches took over route 436 and has route-branded three Enviro200s. YX18 KNN is in Weybridge High Street. The present-day 436 is nothing like the old LT/LCBS 436 that went from Staines to Guildford and only 'met' the current 436 in Woking. (Terry O'Neill)

At a late stage in the changes of operator, Falcon also took the 479, a route that has had quite a few operators but is now stable. Falcon Coaches has route-branded a couple of Enviro200s for this route too, although using different colours. YX18 KYW passes through Ashted *en-route* to Epsom. (Richard Godfrey)





Safeguard took route 18 and on the first day 18th December brought out their 1956-vintage AEC Reliance. It is in Onslow Village with the 'normal service bus' Optare MetroCity YJ67 FYX close behind. The company's bus fleet is almost entirely Optare and includes three now-rare Excels. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Stagecoach took the bulk of Arriva's work at Guildford. Route 1 was projected across town to Merrow (Bushy Hill) and Trident 18191 pauses in North Street. Once just hosting the 408A, Stagecoach route 1 and Safeguard 18 both terminate at Bushy Hill nowadays. *(Richard Godfrey)*





Mirroring the December changes, in 1990 Alder Valley's local Guildford operations passed to London & Country and the fleetname 'Guildford & West Surrey' was used. Former AV Bristol VR No.934 poses at Artington, now the home of a park-and-ride site and a parking place of the overflow from Stagecoach's nearby depot. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Alder Valley 'donated' some Alexander-bodied Leyland Olympians to London & Country and on 7th January 1993 No.906 is at West Croydon Bus Station about to set out on the long route 408 to Guildford. *(Richard Godfrey)*



----- *Non-TfL Christmas/ New Year services* -----

West and South Essex inc Thurrock

First Essex: 24 Dec: MF times, X30 early finish; 25 Dec: no services; 26 Dec: no services except X30 x 2 hours; 27-28 Dec: Sunday times, X10/X30 x 2 hours; 29-31 Dec: special times 1 Jan: as 26 Dec. 2 - 3 Jan: normal Sunday times.

NIBS: 25-28 Dec, 1 - 3 Jan: no service, 24, 29-31 Dec: no service 31, Sats on 21 & 81, MF on 269, 374. 4 Jan: normal service.

Ensignbus: 24 Dec: MF early finishes. 25 Dec: no services 26 Dec: reduced Sunday, early finish on 22, 44, 73A only. Special X10 Lakeside- Basildon- Southend 0700 x hourly 1800, return 0820 - 1920.

Z1, Z2, Z4 No am trips FROM Amazon Tilbury. 27-28 Dec: Reduced Sun on 22, 44, 73A; Normal Sun on 66, X80, Z1, Z2, Z4. 29-31 Dec: Sats, some early finishes on 31 Dec. 1 Jan: only 22, 44, 73A early finishes. 2 Jan: Sunday. 3 Jan: Bank Holiday service. 4 Jan: normal services.

Arriva Harlow: 24, 29-31 Dec: Saturday with early finish on 510 (2350 ex STN) on 24th, 31st.

25-26 Dec, 1 Jan : no service except 133, 309, 510 as above on 25 Dec. 27-28 Dec, 2-3 Jan: Sunday service. 4 Jan: normal MF schoolday service. NX 26 Dec: A6 normal service, delayed start on A9.

TfL routes as for London.

Hertfordshire and southern Bedfordshire

24 Dec: mainly Sat service with early finish by 2000, (2200 Luton A, 2130 Luton 31, Z, 2250 757, 2350 AKT 510). Normal last bus on AKT 309, 724, Metroline 84, 242 and TfL. No service Arriva 6 (WGC). Normal MF on HCC shopping services, Little Jim's. Mullany's, Stagecoach 9A/B. 25 Dec: No service except special services on AKT 309, 510. NX 824, as above. 26 Dec: No services except 757 special 2 hourly from 0315 ex LTN, 0440 ex Vic; NX A1, A11 normal, AKT 309, 510 as above. Arriva Click Watford 0800-1900. Herts Lynx: no service. TfL normal Sunday, 27-28 Dec: Sunday services.

29-30 Dec: Saturday times, HCC shopping services normal. AKT 6 (WGC) no service. 31 Dec as 24 Dec, except 757 normal last bus. 1 Jan: No services except: AKT 309, 510 as 25 Dec; Sunday times on Luton A/Z, 757, NX A1, A11, TfL and Metroline 84. Herts Lynx 1000-1600 2 - 3 Jan: Sunday times. 4 Jan: back to normal. Red Eagle ran H11 on 24,29,30,31Dec to its normal M-F times.

Buckinghamshire and east Berkshire

24 Dec: Mainly Saturday times with early finish. First Berkshire normal MF times, Oxford Airline and Thames Valley and 702, 703 MF times with early finish. TfL full Saturday times. 25 Dec: no service except Oxford Airline, First 7 route and Railair RA1, as above. 26 Dec: no service except First 7 route and Railair RA1, as above for 25 Dec. Oxford Airline special times to LHR and LGW. Green Line 702: 0755 x 60 mins 1055 ex Slough, 1200 x 60 1500 ex WR, 0930 x 60 1630 ex Vic. TfL Sunday times. Thames Valley local routes in Bracknell 0900-1800. 27-28 Dec: Sunday times. 29-31 Dec: Saturday times with early finishes on 31st except for First Berkshire, Railair, TfL. 1 Jan: As 26 Dec except Green Line 702, 703 Sunday times. 2-3 Jan: Sunday times. 4 Jan: back to normal.

Surrey and Sussex

24 Dec: Normal Friday service, except Stagecoach (with early finish) and TfL both Saturday times. 25 Dec: Only NX817, Railair RA2 and Metrobus 10, as above. 26 Dec: Only NX025, Railair RA2, Stagecoach and TfL Sunday times, Metrobus: special times on 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 100, 200. normal Sunday 400. 27-28 Dec: Sunday times. 29-31 Dec: Generally Saturday times, but weekday where no Saturday service. Stagecoach early finish on 31st. 1-3 Jan: Sunday times except Stagecoach no service on 1 Jan. 4 Jan: Normal times.

North West Kent

24 Dec: AKT, TfL Saturday times (AKT with early finish), Arriva Click Ebbsfleet 0600-1900, Go-Coach MF school holiday service, go2; 25 Dec: no service; 26 Dec: no service except TfL normal Sunday, Arriva Click Ebbsfleet 0800-1900;

27-28 Dec: AKT, TfL Sunday times, Go-Coach go2 only; 29-31 Dec: Saturday times, go2, AKT early finish on 31st 1900, (480/490 2300). 1-3 Jan: AKT, TfL Sunday times, go2, (Arriva Click Ebbsfleet on Jan 2 only). 4 Jan: MF schoolday service.

PUBLICITY NEWS

Section Editor: Andrew Webb, 11 Tentelow Lane, Southall, Middlesex, UB2 4LQ or e-mail to Andrew_d_webb@hotmail.com (note the two underscores).

Passengers at Ensignbus' annual heritage running day, which took place on 4 December, were able to pick up a photocopied A4 sheet titled "Ensignbus presents Running Day" with the same picture of RT 8 featured on the A5 item reviewed in TLB688. The reverse has timetables for the four heritage routes and was accompanied by a second A4 sheet showing the network map featured last month.

Two Enviro 200s sporting Santa hats feature on the cover of "Christmas service levels 2021 for Luton, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire", a double sided slimline from Centrebus. It provides an overview of timetables and customer service opening hours between 24 December 2021 and 4 January 2022.

Antlers on a Scania are the festive decoration on Arriva's "Christmas 2021/2022 Luton", a four page purple A5. As well as an overview of services between Christmas Eve and 4 January, it has a Boxing Day timetable for Greenline 757 and list of last buses on 24 and 31 December. Arriva's website also carried similar PDF files for Buckinghamshire, Essex and Hertfordshire but no printed copies have been seen. This maybe because they were not printed or because there are so few outlets for printed material to be displayed.

Scania YN56FFD departing High Wycombe Bus Station on route 36 followed by an unidentified Sprinter on route 34 can be found on the cover of "Festive bus services" from Carousel. The multifold slimline summarises services between 20 December 2021 and 4 January 2022. This includes last departure times on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, plus information about which timetable to consult for each route on 29 and 30 December. Despite operating temporary timetables on several routes to counter driver shortages, no printed versions have been published.

Two previously unreported multifold slimlines from Safeguard are "Service 3" and "Service 4 & Service 5", both valid from 6 September 2021. Both have full timetables, route maps and details of fares. In the same format is "Service 18", issued to mark the company's return to Onslow on 18 December 2021 after a gap of ninety-two years.

After a break of two years, Surrey County Council reissued two A5 timetable books to cover the significant changes in Guildford from 18 December 2021. Both date 18.12.21, one is for Guildford, Godalming and Haslemere with a green cover and another for Woking with a light orangey- brown cover. complete with the council's 'Travel Smart Surrey' logo and website address.

They were issued to coincide with the major changes in connection with Arriva pulling out of the area and therefore bus services being re-arranged with other operators. Sadly, pandemic- related problems with driver shortages hit Stagecoach South and just two days later some limited reductions were made while two weeks later another set of frequency reductions rendered the printed timetables for Stagecoach routes out-of-date. Nevertheless, it must be hoped that the 'book times' will be restored in due course. As with previous issues of the books, local maps are on fold-out rear covers. The Guildford book has three, for Guildford, for Godalming and for Haslemere and Hindhead. The Woking book has two maps, one for Woking as far out west as Knaphill and one for Byfleet and West Byfleet. Both books are complemented by 'where to board your bus' maps for all the town centres.

CURRENT VEHICLE NEWS

This section covers the current vehicle news (including initial disposals) pertaining to bus operators within the "TLB" area, roughly comprising the old LT/LCBS areas. All current vehicle reports to David Stewart at 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, HA0 4JH (e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com)

General news:

London Bus Museum now has green RMC 1469, while its RMC 1461 has had a repaint (by Stagecoach London) into red but with gold trim. This recalls the short-lived limited stop route X15.

The annual 'Route 159' commemorative run was on Saturday 11th December. Routemasters noted were RM 188, 238, 848, 1214, 1527, 2116, 2208, 2213, RML 887, 2440 and RCL 2233.

The following were seen at The Bromley Bus Running Day on Sunday 12th December. Route 227 had RF 368, 392, 486, 633 and Dart DT 29; the old 94 had RT 1702 and RM 1397 while RF 28 did trips on 725 Beckenham & Chislehurst.

ABELLIO LONDON (BC,QB,WL), ABELLIO WEST LONDON (GW,TF,WS garages)

Nine of the new E400EVs entered service on route 63 on 20th December for the first time and more followed gradually. By the 24th they were then parked up over Christmas and New Year with a resumption on 4th January. They have full width rear destination displays, high back seats both up and down, roof lights and with interior iBus displays like on the "Red Arrows".

The 11th December transfers below were due to the closure of the old Hayes (WS) Garage and in consequence the transfer of routes 278, 350, 482, U5, U7, U9 to Southall (GW) Garage.

Recent repaints include 2481, 8332/4/5/6 and 8342.

New deliveries:

3401-24 delivered in December, details were in TLB688.

Transfers:

(November): A typo in TLB688: 2453-61 QB/WL.

(December): 3401-05 --/WLu/WL. 3406-13 --/QBu/WL. 3414-24 --/QBu.

(11th December, closure of WS):

2006-21, 2410-13, 2523-31, 2579, 8162-66, 8567-70, 8788, 8893-96, 9419 WS/GW.

Livery changes:

LT 29 from advert for New Balance back to red.

LT 617 from advert for Bulldog back to red.

LT 622 from advert for Currys back to red.

Disposals:

8343-47 off lease (December). See also Go Coach entry later in this section.

These last ran with Abellio on 23rd December.

Subsequent disposals:

E200Dart 8571 (YX11 HPJ) is another with JH Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear.

E20D 8775 (YX61 ELC) is with Chalkwell, Sittingbourne, Kent.

B7TL 9064 (BX55 XNT) moved from Hulleys, Baslow to Hunter Bros, Leeds.

E400 9428 (LJ09 CAA) now at Coastliner Buses, Blackpool, Lancs.

E400s 9435/39/40 (LJ09 CBO, CBY, CCA) now at Finch, Higher Ince, Greater Manchester.

In TLB688, Trident 9777 has reg KU02 YBM.

ARRIVA LONDON (part of Deutsche Bahn)

ARRIVA LONDON NORTH - AD, AE, AR, CT, DT, DX, E, EC, GY and WN.

ARRIVA LONDON SOUTH - BN, N, TC and TH.

Various LTs have been drifting into Edmonton for route 259. The very first pair (LT 564 and 571) to enter service did so on 6th January. Full LT operation is programmed for 22nd January.

Recent refurb/ repaints include DW 316, 477, 480, 482, 483, 516, 517, 525, HV 41 and T 80.

More odd workings at Croydon (TC) included HT 27 on 412 on 5th December, HT 25 on 466 on 26th and 29th December and HT 24 on 412 on 29th. Route 50 at BN has hosted several EAs during December while EA 3 was a first of type on route 133 on the 29th.

T 184 (DX) suffered a fire in the very early morning of 30th December.

Transfers:

(December): DW 333 E/DX. DW 404 E/DX. HV 8, 12, 13, 17 BN/DT. HV 49 DT/GYu.

HV 55 DT/TC. HV 135/6/7/9, 141 BN/GYu. HV 150 BN/DT. HV 230 CT/WN.

LT 199 CT/AR. LT 565/6/7/9, 576/8, 580/1/2 AR/EC. LT 568 AR/E. LT 570 CT/AR/EC.

LT 579 CT/AR/E. (note that LT 568 and 579 are on loan at E and will move on to EC.

T 97, 110, 111, 113 N/DXu. T 114 TH/N. T 184 DX/DXu (fire).

T 186, 187, 188, 189, 190, 192 DX/N. T 300 DT/N.

(January): ENX 29 DT/TH.

Livery changes:

HV 343 from advert for Cannaray back to red.

LT 185 from advert for Greatest Hits Radio back to red.

LT 200 from advert for Kraken back to red.

LT 229 from advert for Wheel of Time back to red.

LT 319 from advert for Nocco back to red.

LT 328 from advert for Kraken back to red.

LT 347 from advert for Capital One back to red.

LT 469 from advert for Capital One back to red.

LT 519 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.2) back to red.

LT 580 from advert for Nocco back to red.

LT 594 from advert for Sage to one for Gorillaa (Mk.3).

LT 600 from advert for Capital One back to red.

LT 729 from advert for Monzo Bank back to red.

LT 967 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.2) back to red.

Disposals:

Further to TLB688, T 82 and 83 have been taken off the 'off lease' list and are due to go to another Arriva company as trainers. A picture has been seen of T 82 (still reg. WLT 982) with a 'provincial' blue rear half and a purple front, together with huge 'driver under instruction' notice. As at mid-January T 82 was kept at Hemel Hempstead, while T 83 was at Milton Keynes (Arden Park) Garage, probably for trainer conversion.

T 85 (185 CLT) and T 93 (593 CLT, correcting TLB688) remain with those regs for now. As we closed for press, T 84-96 (since added to with T 97, 110/1/3 at DXu) remained in storage. 84/5/7/8/9 and 92/3/4/5/6 are at Erith (ERu), 86 and 91 at Barking (DXu) and T 90 (Nu).

ENL 21 to Arriva Midlands as a training bus No. T21 (December).

T 82 to Arriva Southern Counties (December). Parked at HH at present.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

ARRIVA'S 'COUNTRY BUSES' (within ASC and ATS)

Vehicles in each part that are based at the relevant garages are covered in full, with any transfers to or from other areas of AtS and ASC outside our sphere of coverage mentioned where necessary. These are: Colchester (CO), Southend (SE), Milton Keynes (MK), Gillingham (GL), Maidstone (MD) and Tunbridge Wells (TW).

Part 1: North West Kent and West Surrey (GF, A-K&S licence and NF, AKT licence)

From late November, Guildford buses had 'Farewell Arriva Guildford 1932-2021' on their displays, alternating with the normal route and destination displays. I know what they mean but it is somewhat stretching truth just a little to imply that Arriva has been there since 1932 !!

The fleet at Guildford came off service after 17th December and most were re-allocated elsewhere. On the 17th preserved coaches TPL 88 and STL 1, both of which were based at GF, visited. The last bus back that night to GF was Citaro 3901.

Into stock at GF: 4183 (YJ10 EYD) Optare Versa V1100 B38F – 2010.

4218 (KX61 LFS) Optare Versa V1100 B37F – 2012 (But 4218 returned to TW in December).

Transfers: (August 2021): 4218 TW/GF. (September 2021): 4183 TW/GF.

(December): 1009 NF/SEu. 1558 GF/TWu. 1563 GF/NF. 1631 NF/NFu. 3897, 3901/03 GF/GFw.

Transferred out of Area 1:

Sprinter 1001, Solo 2401, Versas 4183, 4213-17, 4227/29 to Area 2. 1009 out of area.

Citaros 3904/5/7/9/10 to Area 3 (WB) where they were renumbered 3024/5/1/3/0 respectively

Disposals from Area to 'out of our areas'

E20Ds 3984 and 3987 to Gillingham (GL).

E20Ds 3989-3993, 4044/47/52/53 to Colchester (CO) via SE for preparation. .

Versas 4201/02/04-12 to Southend (SE). Also Sprinter 1009 to SE (but perhaps to move on).

Versa 4218 to Tunbridge Wells (TW). Also Dart 1558 (unserviceable)

Normal disposals: Dart 1631, Citaros 3897, 3901/03, Versa 4200 to Hardwicks, Barnsley (December).

Part 2: Hertfordshire and West Essex (HA, HH, SV, WA and WE garages (all A-KT licence).

At the Stevenage garage, the temporary site at Kodak in Bessemer Road is still in use as the new part of Babbage Road is not yet finished. The original Babbage Road site can now accommodate a reduced number of buses as new workshop facilities and bus fuelling and washing facilities have been constructed. As Bessemer Road has none of these facilities, all buses parked there overnight have to be scheduled during the daytimes to run dead to Babbage Road for refuelling and washing.

Recent repaints to the lighter blue:- 3506, 3773, 3896.

Transferred in from Area 1: Sprinter 1001, Versas 2401, 4183, 4213-17, 4227/29 .

Transferred in from Area 3: Solo 2509 (now renumbered 1521). Versas 2990 and 2992 (now renumbered 4180 and 4181 respectively).

Transfers (December):

1001 GF/WE. 1454 HA/WE. 1460 WE/WEu. 1521(2509) WB/HA. 1594 WE/WEu. 2401 GF/WE.

3550 SV/HH. 3742/43/44 HH/HHu. 3815 HA/HAu. 3824 HH/HHu. 3826 HA/HAu.

3857/59/60 WE/WEu. 3874 HA/HAu.

4180(2990), 4181(2992) WB/HA. 4183 GF/HA. 4213/14/27/29 GF/HH. 4215/16/17 GF/WE.

Normal Disposals (December):

Solo 1460, Dart 1594, Centros 3742/43/44, Volvo B7RLEs 3815/24/26, 3857/59/60/74 all to Hardwick's, Barnsley. Some of these may take some time to actually leave premises.

Part 3: Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire (AY, LD and WB garages, on AtS licence)

Recent repaints to the lighter blue:- 3506, 3896.

New deliveries (November/ December):

Sadly, there were a lot of mis-reports early on – this below supersedes any that have been published before. The seat totals have been visually checked. Note that although the fleet number block 3967-80 is consecutive, there is a mix of the two lengths! All are habitually on Busway routes A and Z although several appearances have been made on 321, F70 and Luton town routes.

3970/71/72/73 (LF71 DLK, DLN, DLO, DLU), 3976/77/78/79/80 (LF71 DLY/Z, DME/O/U)

Volvo B8RLE- MCV EvoRa 10.8m B38F (35+3 tip-ups).

3967/68/69 (LF71 DLD, DLE, DLJ), 3974/75 (LF71 DLV, DLX)

Volvo B8RLE – MCV EvoRA 12.1m B46F (43+3 tip-ups).

Transferred out of Area 3: Solo 2509 out of area to TWu (but expected to move to Area 2 at HA and renumbered 1521, Versas 2990/92 WB to Area 2 at HA.

Transferred in from Area 1:

Citaros 3020/1/3/4/5 (BD12 DHL/P/V/M/N), previously numbered 3910/07/09/04/05 respectively.

Transfers:

(December): 2461 LN/LNu. 2480 LD/MKw. 2509 WB/TWu. 2990/92 WB/HA. 3020/1/3/4/5 GF/WB. 3039 WB/WBu. 3601/03/04/05/06/07/08/10 and 3618 LD/MKw.

3700 WB/WBu. 3812 LD/ay. 3924 WB/ay. 3967-80 --/LD. 4713 LD/MKu. 7100/01 LD/MKw.

Disposals:

Solo 2451, DAF/Cadet 2704 to Shelton Motors, Ramsey (December).

A2B TRAVEL GROUP, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Correction to TLB688: KX51 GTE should KX51 CTE.

CARLONE BUSES, Lyne, Surrey

Change of registration: Sprinter CL13 BUS has reverted to BX63 BFK prior to disposal.

CAROUSEL BUSES, High Wycombe

Disposals: Solos 709, 710, 711, 713 sold.

CENTRAL CONNECT (Galleon Travel 2009 Ltd), Roydon and Stansted

The new depot at Stansted should be operational by the time this is read. It is at Unit 2B, Stansted Industrial Estate, Start Hill, Stansted, Essex.

The training bus, Dart KP02 PVO, is now in Central Connect red and blue livery. StreetLite CC11 BUS that had an accident in June 2021 is now back in service.

Acquired (December): via Ensign Bus and originally London United SP 13:

YN56 FBX Scania N94UD – Scania H41/23D – 2006. This bus then passed on to Underworld Tours for the East End “gangster tour”. Presumably it replaces ex-Stagecoach Trident 17336 (X336 NNO).

And from Stagecoach Midland Red South via Ensign Bus:

KX57 KFZ and KX57 KGF Optare Solo M880 B27F – 2007 (ex MRS 47518 and 47510 resp.)

KX58 AYF Optare Solo M950 B29F – 2008 (ex MRS 47652).

Change of registration: MetroDecker YJ21 FDD to CT21 GAL. It has also been repainted from a version of Green Line livery to Central Connect colours.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

CHILTERN AUTOMOTIVE, Cryers Hill, Bucks

Acquired (December) via Ensign Bus, formerly Go-Ahead London WVL 238:
LX06 DZW Volvo B7TL – Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 10.1m H41/21D – 2006. (re-regd A10 VXH).

DIAMOND BUS SOUTH-EAST (Hallmark connections Ltd) Stanwell

(including Hotel Hoppa) part of Rotala plc
28336 to Hotel Hoppa white and purple (joining 28342/344).

Acquired (December) from Diamond North-West:
20185/7/8/9 (BX70 GHG/H/J/K) Wrightbus StreetLite DF 9,7m B29F – 2020.

ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Once again, RM 371 was decorated all over as the ‘Christmas Bus’.
Into stock, no doubt for the heritage fleet: RF 463 (MXX 440) and RM 1543 (543 CLT).

Disposals:

B9TLs 113, 114, 116 to Moving People, Accrington, Lancashire (December).
B9TLs 121, 122 to Redline, Aylesbury (December).
E200Dart 791 (LJ56 ONP) to KleanBus, Maldon, Essex (December).
E200Dart 792 (LJ56 ONS) to Aintree Coaches, Merseyside (December).

FALCON COACHES, Byfleet

As the bus fleet is expanded with more routes gained, the larger Unit 20A yard at Byfleet now houses more buses. The coaches are now at Unit 5, previously occupied by Arena Travel and Abellio Surrey. Another outstation has opened at Little Owl Farm, Halebourne Road, Chobham. As well as expansion of services, some of the recent additions to the fleet have replaced several older buses (see below), which were stood down in early December and may have left by now.

Of those below, YX18 KUD has been here before but has now come again, and has route 479 branding. It has been joined on 479 by ‘new’ YX18 KYE, YX18 KYW and YX19 ONO. YX71 OGZ (TLB686 p25) has now gained route 436 branding, as has new YX71 OJH and existing YX18 KNN. New YX71 OJN has route 461 branding.

Acquired (December) all presumed via Dawsongroup:

YX18 KUD AD E20D – AD Enviro200 (classic) 10.5m B39F – 2018.
YX18 KYE AD E20D – AD Enviro200 (classic) 10.5m B39F – 2018 (was B33F as new at Manchester Airport for car park duty so should have been upseated to B39F).
YX18 KYW AD E20D – AD Enviro200 9.0m B29F – 2018.
YX19 ONK AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F – 2019.
YX19 ONO AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 10.9m B41F – 2021.
YX21 RPO AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 10.9m B41F – 2021.
YX71 OJH AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 10.9m B41F – 2021.
YX71 OJN AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F – 2021.
YX71 OJO AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F – 2021.

Registration change: Further to TLB688, the B9TL/MCV has had its reg changed to LF71 DKV.

Withdrawn: KX58 GSZ, KX10 DVM, KX60 DVO, KX12 ATO.

FIRST in BERKSHIRE (First Beeline Buses Ltd) (RG, SH depots)

Disposal: Citaro 64017 (LT52 WXP) to First Essex Buses (October 2021). In TLB687 p25 it was said that this driver trainer had returned to service at Slough. If that was true (and it seems unlikely), it was for a very short time, perhaps while awaiting its replacement, 66903 a Volvo B7RLE trainer. Anyway, it was disposed of to First Essex on 10th October, still decked with training vinyls.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

GO-AHEAD LONDON

BLUE TRIANGLE– RR,DS; **DOCKLANDS BUSES**– SI; **LONDON CENTRAL**- BX, MG, NX, PM, Q; **LONDON GENERAL**- A, AF, AL, LS, NP, PL, RA and SW; **METROBUS**– C, MB.

Recent refurb/repaints include SEe 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, 21, 23, 29 and SE 93, 256.

SEe buses on the Here East contract at Stratford are getting mixed up again. SEe 30, 31, 32, 34 have been in use lately, in normal red livery. These are covering for the dedicated buses (SEe 37-40) while those are repainted. In due course, 30/1/2/4 will get upseated and re-allocated to the 444 at NP. SEe buses began to convert route 413 (AL) to the type from 11th December and progressed gradually.

The MHVs gradually taking up residence at New Cross from late November seem to have been used only on routes 36, 321 and 436. Going back a little, the moves of E 246 and 256 in TLB687 were the last two of the class at Camberwell where they both worked for the last time on route 185 on 29th October. Camberwell had maintained a small E contingent since March 2012 and since then were almost always on route 185.

Transfers: Outstations at LS=Luton, FK=Folkestone, NH=Newhaven, KL=King's Lynn). (September): E 69 RRu/RR.

(December): Amending TLB688, SEe 52, 53 stayed at Q but SEe 63, 64 moved Q/AL in their place. E 69 RR/SW. EH 23, 24, 25, 26 SW/RR. EH 84 Q/MB. EH 85 Q/NX. EH 113 NX/Q/NX. EH 167, 168, 169, 170 Q/NX. MHV 25, 29 Q/PM. MHV 27 PM/Q. WVL 308, 309, 310 BX/BXt. WVL 313 MG/A. WVL 422 AL/SI. SEe 35 RA/Q. SEe 30, 31, 32, 34 u/DSc. SEe 61 Q/RA. SE 268 PL/AL. SEN 30, 31 AL/RR. SEN 32 AL/PL.

Livery changes:

LT 280 and LT 438 from advert for JD Sports back to red.

LT 294 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.2) back to red.

LT 295 and LT 479 from advert for Monzo Bank back to red.

LT 427 from advert for New Balance back to red.

LT 450 and LT 865 from advert for Bulldog back to red.

Me 1 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.

Here East buses: SEe 37 orange and named 'Edith', SEe 39 is purple and pink and is 'Maris'.

** 38 and 40 to be ID'd, please ??**)

Disposals:

Further to the note in TLB688, WVL 314-321 (but not 313) went to Ensign Bus (December).

SE 21 sold to --?-- (December).

SE 28 and 32 to DTR (GOVIA Thameslink Railway) (April 2020). These are all-white.

ENL 89, 93 (rest-buses and still with Arriva fleet nos) to Ensign Bus (December)..

GO COACHHIRE, Otford and Swanley, Kent (incl. 'The Bus Doctor')

The last "PVLs" in the fleet 8301/2/4 and 8802 have been withdrawn, with 8304 the very last in use on 30th December. Indeed, on the 30th there was a 'farewell' tour over much of the network using 8304 (formerly Go-Ahead PVL 225). Having said that, it is highly likely that it would go out on school services in early January!

On 4th December by Gravesend Bus Station, E400 9507 collided with a car and some traffic lights, causing some frontal damage.

'Acquired' (December), formerly Abellio 8343-7:

YX66 WFD/E/F/G/H AD E20D – AD Enviro200 9.75m B27D- 2016. (Fleet nos to come).

GOLDEN TOURS, Alperton

Volvo B8L 208 has joined 202/4/5/9 in being branded for Warner Brothers (Harry Potter).

HCT GROUP (t/a CT PLUS) (AW and HK garages).

Off loan: SED 1 (YX17 NKZ) last ran here on 22 July 2021 so will have departed after then.

LONDON TRANSIT – X garage.

The formal change to fleet numbers was from Saturday 11th December although it will be some while all the buses can be physically altered. The fleet name is RATP Dev Transit London, with a new logo. Again, it was a week or so before many buses sported it. It was a bit tight to achieve the due date with MV 38201/202 only being retrieved back from LI to X Garage three days before the change-over.

Within a few days the first transfers came between London Sovereign and London Transit when two DEs moved to X to provide spare cover for routes 218 and 228. As the fleet at X is operating under the RATP fleet numbers, from now on I shall cover fleet details under the RATP heading.

METROLINE TRAVEL – AC, AH, EW, HD, HT, KC, PA, PB, PV, SG and W garages, also

METROLINE WEST – G, HZ, UX and WJ garages.

(within the ComfortDelgro group of Singapore)

A typo by me in TLB688: West Perivale Garage, which is due to close, is of course PA (not PV).

Six VWs listed by the company as moving to HZu (1392-7) had all returned to PV by 11th December; I suspect that some never actually went to HZu.

The gradual moves of VWHs into PV has resulted in plenty on the 83/N83/483 and many more on the 245 alongside a few hydrogen WHDs. At Brentford (AH), new wanderings on 1st January saw VWH 2701/02/05 on route 190 while DEL 2252 was unusual on the 533 on 4th January. Of late, several VMHs have been used on route 204 (EW).

Nineteen VWHs from PA and PV formed the new allocation at Lampton (SG) Garage from 8th January when route 120 transferred over.

LT 17, off since 16 April 2021, was back on 6th January 2022. The transfer to PA of TE 1577 is officially just for rail replacement work.

Recent refurbs/ repaints include DEL 2062, 2071; VWH 2020, 2023, 2030, 2098, 2187, 2218;

Transfers: (h suffix = Hertfordshire Commercial Fleet).

Re. Solo OS 68 is more correctly described as at PBh as it is for Herts (not TfL) work.

(August): VWH 2298 W/PV.

(December): LT 807 HT/W. TE 933, 934 PB/HZw. VW 1392/3/4/5/6/7 HZu/PV/PAu..

TE 1577 HZw/PA. VW 1829, 1831 PV/PAu. TE 1981, 1982 G/PB.

VWH 2240 HZu/PV/PAu.. VWH 2301/02 HT/PV.

DE 870 WJ/W. DM 961 HZw/AHw/PAw.

(January): LT 11 HTu/HT. VWH 2266-69, 2277 PV/SG. VWH 2270-76/78-84 PA/SG.

Livery changes:

LT 111 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.

LT 663 from advert for Pure Gym back to red.

LT 748 from advert for 'No Time to Die' back to red.

LT 793 from advert for Greatest Hits Radio back to red.

LT 811 from advert for Capital One back to red.

VWH 2018, 2026, 2027, 2033, 2034 to decoration for Winter Lights.

Disposals:

VW 1759, 1782 to Ensign Bus (November).

VW 1755/56/62/64/72/76/80 to Ensign Bus (December).

DM 961-970 to Geoff Ripley, Barnsley (December).

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

Grant PALMER, Flitwick, Beds

Fleet numberings and changes of registration:

These are all the former Lothian vehicles in stock.

Volvo B9TL SN08 BXO to BU52 WAY and now No.710.

Volvo B9TL SN08 BXU to BU53 WAY and now No.711.

Volvo B9TL SN08 BXS to BU56 WAY and now No.712.

Volvo B9TL SN08 BYC to GP55 BUS and now No.713.

New deliveries (December):

231, 232 YX71 OJF, OJG AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F.

RATP-DEV TRANSIT LONDON including

LONDON UNITED - AV, FW, JE, RP, S, TV, V and WK (ex HH) garages and

LONDON SOVEREIGN – BT, CP and SO garages. (c suffix= commercial) and.

LONDON TRANSIT – X garage.

All of the planned transfers from TT to RATP occurred as planned. The formal change to fleet numbers at Westbourne Park was from Saturday 11th December although it will be some before all the buses can be physically altered. The fleet name is RATP Dev Transit London, with a new logo. Again, it was a week or so before many buses sported it.

Within a few days the first transfers occurred between London Sovereign and London Transit when two DEs moved to X to provide spare cover for routes 218 and 228. More between LS and LT are due soon. Thus, as the fleet at X is operating under the RATP fleet numbers, from now on I shall cover fleet details under the RATP heading as part of the combined group.

The first bus out of X on its first day was VMH 45347 (ex MV 38230) on route 13.

From 29th January, routes 28/N28 are to move from Wandsworth (JE) to Westbourne Park (X) Garage, presumably taking its VHs with them. The 639/670 school buses moved to JE to Tolworth (TV) from 1st January. It also means that the operational link between JE and V (Stamford Brook) Garage will no longer be necessary.

The BMEs at Harrow were entering service on linked circular routes H9/H10 and the 398 quickly through December, the very first being BME 27005 on the 10th. By the end of December all three routes were 100% BME. These buses have McKenna's very bright white LED destination displays which make them stand out! Still at Harrow, the dedicated X140 batch of BCEs was slower to arrive there, the first in actual service being BCE 47104 on the 17th.

Correcting TLB688, route 235 is being assumed from Metroline (not Abellio). Until the new electric BEs can be commissioned, DLEs from around the fleet will be used. With route 125, again until the BCEs can be commissioned, VHs will be used, nominally sourced from service reductions at X and others from FW by a retention of SPs on route 71. The 183 already has SPs until BCEs are ready.

Recent refurb/ repaints reported include ADE 40303, 40306.

T/T's WH 31123 was out of use after 30th June but was reinstated (by now with RATP at X as WH 45402) on 27th December.

The shuffling of DLEs, mostly into WK, was to provide enough buses for the take-up on 8th January of route 235 from Metroline.

The next lot of E400EVs – for route 183 at Harrow – will be BCE 47111-137 (LB71 ECT then LB71 OCA/C, OAO/P/S/U/V/W/X/Y/Z, OBA/C/D/E/F/G/H/J/K/L/M/N/O/P/R).

Those E400EVs for route 125 at Edgware –

BCE 47138-156 LG71 DWV/W/X/Y/Z, DXA/B/C/D/E/F/H/J/K/L/M/O/P/R.

The 10.9m E200EVs for route 235 at Hounslow Heath are –

BE 37062-084 LB71 NZM/N/O/P/R/S/T/U/V/W/X/Y/Z, OAA/C/D/E/G/H/J/L/M/N

New deliveries

BME 27001-004 have ULW 12321kg, BME 27005-224 ULW 12270kg. (Corrects TLB688).

----- Current vehicle news -----

RATP-DEV TRANSIT LONDON, Continued:

To round up the delivery of new buses, these had arrived by the end of December:

BME to 2024 (whole batch), BE to 37061, BCE to 47110 (perhaps except 45097). Although all 24 BMEs are now at Harrow, there are still about 70 BEs and BCEs to actually go into service from storage. Only those listed in this and earlier TLBs as going to a garage for service had done so by 31st December. At that stage, all others remained stored (u) at various locations.

Transfers: (CP- Canons Park, Parr Road, c = commercial).

(November): Correcting TLB688, ADE (not ADH) 40306 WK/TV.

DLE 30021 WKc/FW. DLE 30316-326 RP/V. ADE 40401-410 BT/RP.

(December): DE 20019, 20041/43/44/45. 20056, 20074, 20093, 20122, 20123 SO/FW.

DE 20032-040 SO/BT. DE 20094/095 SO/X. DE 20124/5/6/7 SO/BT.

DE 20181/7/8/9, 20190/2/3 SO/BT. BME 27001-024 u/SO. DLE 30020 WKc/FW.

DLE 30063 FW/WK. DLE 30259/260 BT/AV. BE 37042 u/FW. SP 40043 AV/WK.

VH 45126/127/132 SO/V. VH 45133/134 SO/FW. WH 45402 Xu/X.

BCE 47075 u/FW. BCE 47103/4/8/10 u/SO.

(January): DE 20046 SO/FW. DLE 30238/239/240/241/242/243/244/246/247 FW/WK.

DLE 30259/260 AV/WK. DLE 30258/261/262/263/264 BT/WK.

DLE 30265 BT/WK. DLE 30268 RP/WK. DLE 30330 FW/WK. SP 40042/44 AV/FW.

Off loan (December): ADE 40477/478 returned to Tower Transit (as DN 33637/638).

Livery changes:

LT 127 from advert for Greatest Hits Radio back to red.

BCE 47001 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.

READING TRANSPORT and THAMES VALLEY BUSES (incl. Green line)

A round-up now of the progress in putting the fleet into Thames Valley or Reading liveries (as opposed to liveries inherited from Courtney): Of the current fleet strength of 51, 17 (33%) still carry ex-Courtney liveries; 13 (25%) have been imported from the main Reading or Newbury and District fleets; and 4 (8%) have been delivered new to Thames Valley. The remaining 17 (33%) were in a Courtney-inherited livery but have now been turned out in Thames Valley livery (this includes 796 which has yet to return from accident damage but will eventually do so in TV livery). The remaining vehicles in ex-Courtney liveries are:- Bottle Green Bracknell area:- 452, 453, 455, 456; Yellow and Blue Bracknell locals:- 661, 669, 670; Yellow and Red Route 53:- 671, 672, 673; Chineham Park contract livery (white and red):- 457, 458; Foundation Park contract livery (white with black and light brown):- 668. (I am counting this vehicle as still being in stock as I have seen no suggestions of its withdrawal, but the contract has not run for many months; White:- 451, 454, 662, 666.

E40H 235 is another to adopt the two tone grey.

New delivery (November): 681 (YX71 OJE) AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 11.5m B43F.

This bus is in the burgundy/ gold/ red branding for route 194 (Bracknell & Camberley) and two more are due in Spring 2022. .

Disposals: Solos 193, 194 (YJ66 AEY, AEZ) left the fleet (by December 2021).

RED EAGLE BUSES, Dinton near Aylesbury

More repaints to the new livery:- YX10 FFB and YX10 TAT.

RED ROSE TRAVEL, Dinton near Aylesbury

Dart Y238 FJN is withdrawn with fire damage.

Disposals: Volvo B9TLs PL08 YLZ and YMA to Redline.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

REDLINE BUSES, Aylesbury

Acquired (December) via Red Rose and originally from Ensignbus No.121/122:

PL08 YLZ, YMA Volvo B9TL – Optare Olympus H51/31F – 2008.

All four Volvo B9TLs, PL08 YLZ/YMA and PO58 NPJ/NPL were repainted to Redline's new red and white livery in December.

Disposals:

Dart KF52 NBM to ASM, Aylesbury for scrap (December).

Volvo Olympians L983 MSC and T309 ORP are in the process of being sold for preservation.

SAFEGUARD, Guildford

On Saturday 18th December the company's preserved AEC Reliance/ Burlingham 200 APB was used for certain journeys on route 18. This was to commemorate 92 years since they served Onslow Village and to celebrate their new service to Burpham and Merrow. Safeguard continues to operate three Optare Excels, a very rare type these days and they were out on the usual services 4 and 5.

STAGECOACH LONDON (part of Stagecoach Holdings) incorporating:

EAST LONDON - BK, BW, NS, RM, T and WH; and **SELKENT** - KB, PD, TB and TL.

After Catford began to put its new E400EVs into service on routes 160/ 660 from 1st December, Plumstead followed suit with theirs from the 13th, this time on route 180. The loaned VHs from Tower Transit – all running from Catford – went back to TT during the first half of December. As well as the 160 they were also used at times on routes 47, 75 and 199. The last to be used by Stagecoach were 80126 and 80128 on the evening of 15th December, finishing just after Midnight.

One oddment was E20D 36542 (TB) on the 61 on 10th December.

One recent refurb/ repaint reported - 36619.

Scanias 15024-29 are being converted to open top at WHu.

Returned to Tower Transit off loan (December):

80112-117/9, 120/3/6/7/8/9, 130/1/2/3/4/5/6 (80125 was in TLB688) returned to TT.

New deliveries: Re. TLB688, ULWs for 14148-162 is 13268kg. for 14163-172 is 13241kg.

Transfers:

(December): 14163-172 PDU/PD. 15026 WH/WHu, 15027 PD/WHu. 15028/029 PDU/WHu.

19840/1/2/3 PD/TL.

Livery changes:. Correcting TLB688, 11005 was still in Poppy Appeal livery in mid-December but has now gone back to red.

11363 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.

12334 from advert for Boots back to red.

LT 239 and LT 247 from advert for Monzo Bank back to red.

LT 252 from advert for Bulldog back to red.

LT 256 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.3) back to red.

LT 267 from advert for Pure Gym back to red.

LT 377 from advert for New Balance back to red.

LT 385 from advert for Capital One back to red.

STAGECOACH SOUTH, Guildford

Full coverage of the vehicle changes at Guildford when the company re-allocated twenty buses from other 'South' garages for new services to replace those of Arriva who closed their garage after 17th December will be published in the Southdown Enthusiasts' Club monthly Journal. The Stagecoach depot at Peasmarsh, just south of Guildford, is not really large enough for everything so buses are being parked at the nearby Artington park-and-ride site. Indeed, the height barrier at the P&R at the left hand side of the entrance has been removed. By Friday evening 17th several buses (E200s and E300s) from other 'South' depots were noted at Artington; more would follow from other areas. On the 18th itself E200s and E300s were ubiquitous but the new route 6 had two of the E200EVs and that practice has continued.

SULLIVAN BUSES, South Mimms

E400 E 50 was damaged when it struck a tree at Willesden Green on 26th December while on Jubilee line rail replacement. AE 13 is another red repaint.

TOWER TRANSIT - LI and X Garages

On Friday night 10th/11th December, the last Tower Transit bus scheduled back into X was MV 38218, running at 00:45 ex Victoria, due North Finchley 01:31, due in at X at 02:06. The first London Transit bus was an (N)13, due to depart from X at 23:24 and from North Finchley at Midnight.

Recent refurb/ repaints include MV 38244 (adding to 38237-40).

All of the loaned VHs that had been at Stagecoach (Catford) were duly returned. Other than the eight VHs at X (38115/6/8, 121/2/4/5, 133) that were transferred to London Transit on 11th December, all of TT's VHs, both those from Stagecoach and any that had been left over at X, all landed at LI. Almost immediately a refurbishment programme began, after which they are due to operate on route 733 (15th January start) and in due course in May, on route 135.

Returned from loan to RATP (December): DN 33637/638.

Returned from loan to Stagecoach (December):

VH 38112-117, 119, 120, 123, 126-136 (38125 was in TLB688) returned to TT.

Transfers:

(December): WH 31123 LIu/Xu (see also RATP entry) . .

WH 31122/24/25 LI/X. DN 33637/638 --/LI.

MV 38201/202 LI/X. MV 38205/207/208/213/214 and 38243 X/LI.

Disposals:

Gemini 2DLs WN 35002/3/4 sold to --?-- (by December).

WESTBUS (within the ComfortDelgro group of Singapore)

Disposals - all coaches and all in October:

150 to HM Travel & Logistics, Fortane Beg, Tulla, County Clare, Ireland.

154 to Walsh's Executive Travel, Monasterosis, Edenderry, County Offaly, Ireland.

157 to Kearns Coaches, Woodfield, Birr, County Offaly, Ireland.

The "Where are they now" column (or: Subsequent vehicle disposals)

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Note – email address andrew@morgan1368.co.uk Note that the former London company names are listed in code to allow more space for narrative detail. ALN=Arriva London, FLN= First London, GAL= Go-Ahead Group London, LU= London United, ML= Metroline, SLN= Stagecoach London.

Routemasters:

RM 541 (789 UXA) from Used Coach Sales to Mr B Flindall, Westbury, Wiltshire. (December).

RM 826 (HI 5311, ex KFF 252) was sold from Bonnie Bus Company to the Scottish Deer Centre, Cupar, Fife (August); it is now in red livery and remains open top but its conversion to a new use was never completed. It made its debut at the end of November as Santa's Grotto.

RM 1543 from Mr P Watson to Ensign Bus (November). (also see page 25).

RM 1590 (RSL 259) from Used Coach Sales to C Gasperl, Molsheim, France (September) and arrived in November.

Olympians:

NV 8 (M408 RVU) (ex GAL) was sold from Galloway Travel (by May).

NV 67 (L16 RTC, ex R267 LGH) (ex GAL) was re-registered back to its original registration by Collins Coaches in June. (See also TAL 129 (ex ML) below).

NV 89 (R389 LGH) (ex GAL) updating TLB682, it is now being used as a pop-up food and drink venue around the Merseyside area by The Bus Yard, Southport, Merseyside.

NV 136 (R336 LGH) (ex GAL) was last known to be operating as Belfast Playbus and appears to have changed owner as it is now with Kidz Playbus, Maydown, Londonderry, Northern Ireland (by September 2016) and was re-registered to DCZ 2344 by December 2016.

NV 175 (R375 LGH) (ex GAL) following its deroofing (see TLB684), this NV passed to Wigley, Barnsley (December).

NV 185 (R385 LGH, ex K5 YCC) (ex GAL) from Lawson Bus & Coach to Poynters Coaches, Northampton. (July) where it is fleet number 21 and was re-registered to N21 POY in August.

VA 141 (R141 EVX, ex J333 ETC) (ex SLN) was sold from Flagfinders (by August).

VN 102 (R102 XNO) (ex SLN) was sold for scrap from Viking Coaches (October 2018).

VN 118 (R118 XNO) (ex SLN) from Wright Travel to Fintry Bay Café, Millport, Firth of Clyde (June) for conversion to overnight accommodation.

VN 342 (N342 HGK) (ex SLN) was sold for scrap from Viking Coaches (November 2018).

VN 347 (N347 HGK) (ex SLN) from Wigley to Moxon Coaches, Worksop. Notts. (August 2013) and has now been sold (by August).

Miscellaneous low-floor double deck types:

DLA 352 (LJ03 MLE) (ex ALN) was loaned from Base to Viking Coaches, Heywood, Lancs. from March; by September it was reported with Mason Minibus & Coach Hire, Long Marston, Herts. but it had not been clarified whether it was loaned or acquired.

DLP 60 (LJ51 DKL) (ex ALN) has been reported as re-registered by Yorkshire Coastliner to T600 TDV – confirmation is awaited.

DW 5 (LJ03 MWV) (ex ALN) from Vision Bus to Ripley, Barnsley (August) for scrap.

DW 22 (LJ53 BFV, ex 822 DYE) (ex ALN) has been loaned from Fairbrother to Warrington Borough Transport from November.

DW 93 (LJ04 LFK) (ex ALN) from Abus to Cotswold Green, Nailsworth, Glos. (August).

VLA 34 (LJ53 BDZ) (ex ALN) was last recorded with South East Coachworks and arrived at St Werburgh's Primary School in Bristol in September 2020 and is now a library named "The Book Tree Bus".

VLA 127 (LJ05 BJO) (ex ALN) further to TLB677, Zinc Corporation trades as Arena Buses and was noted in early December operating on a South Western Railways rail replacement service.

----- *Where are they now?* -----

VLA 176 (BJ55 BVH) (ex ALN) further to TLB680, this VLA was noted on a South Western Railways rail replacement service at the end of December; can anyone confirm details of the current owner/operator ?

VLW 19 – Correcting TLB688, it should have read VLW 16 (UII 2948, ex LJ51 DGE) (ex ALN).

VLW 73, 84 (LF52 UTL, USY) (ex ALN) have passed from Ross to Team Pennine, West Yorkshire (December) and are in use at Elland. As with the others that have passed to Team Pennine, these may only be on loan.

DN 33509 (GBZ 477, ex LK08 FMA) (ex FLN) has regained its original registration and passed from South Staffs Coach Hire to ASD Coaches, Strood, Kent (August).

TN 33120 (LT02 NWC) (ex FLN) was sold for scrap from First Glasgow (December).

TN 33125 (LT02 NVN), 33158 (LR02 LXT) (ex FLN) were sold from First South West (December) with 33125 being confirmed to Wigley, Barnsley.

TN 33148 (LR02 LXG) (ex FLN) from First Somerset & Avon to Wigley, Barnsley (December).

TN 33177 (LR02 LYW, ex HIG 1527), 33234 (LT52 WWX, ex HIG 1531) (ex FLN) were sold from First West of England (December).

TN 33358, 33359, 33361 (LK53 EXW, EXX, EYA) (ex FLN) sold from First Glasgow (December).

TNL 33072 (LN51 GOC) (ex FLN) was sold from First South West (December).

VN 37780 (LK59 CWW) (ex FLN) from Ensign Bus to Axe Valley Mini Travel, Seaton, Devon (December).

VNW 32360 (LK04 HYP) (ex FLN) was sold from First Bristol (December).

VNW 32392 (LK04 HXA) (ex FLN) was sold from Warrington Borough Transport (December).

VNZ 32331, 32337 (LK53 LYP, LYX) (ex FLN) were sold from First Bristol (December).

EVL 37 (PJ02 PYU) (ex GAL) from Go North East to Alpha Recovery (November).

PDL 20 (PJ02 PZT) (ex GAL) updating TLB688, it passed from LG Commercials via SBC, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex (April 2020) and then to Rothbury Commercials (October 2020), and then to Mario Coach Travel, Barrowford, Lancashire. (by May).

PDL 25 (PJ02 PZY) (ex GAL) from First South West (where it was latterly numbered 33112) to BBPG (November). It had been in the green First Kernow livery.

PDL 47 (PN03 UMG) (ex GAL) has been loaned from Orion to Warrington Borough Transport from November. Not previously recorded was that it was re-registered to HIG 4522 in March.

PVL 162 (X562 EGK) (ex GAL) from Go Coach to Bus & Coach Repairs (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs. (September).

PVL 165 (X656 EGK) (ex GAL) further to TLB686, this PVL is reported as sold to Bus & Coach Repairs (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs.

PVL 194 (574 CPT, ex 165 DKH, ex X594 EGK) (ex GAL) has been in use with Go North East prior to Christmas as their Santa bus.

PVL 218 (Y818 TGH) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to Cwtch-up Independent Voluntary Foodbank, Cardiff (December).

PVL 225 (Y825 TGH) (ex GAL) was used on the Go Coach PVL farewell tour on 30th December.

PVL 296 (PJ02 RFE) (ex GAL) from RedRoutemaster to Lianne Coaches, Thorpe, Surrey (December).

PVL 316 (PJ52 LVT) (ex GAL) from Reliance Buses to Hodgson, Barnsley (August).

PVL 358 (PJ53 NKC) (ex GAL) was re-registered by the Oxford Bus Company to DXZ 7120 in April.

PVL 373 (PJ53 NKK) (ex GAL) further to TLB688, the report for PVL 383 (PJ53 NKX) should have read PVL 373 – there were no clear photographs available to confirm the report that was received until we received confirmation from the owner after TLB went to print. All the other information was correct, but delete any reference to it going via Hardwick.

PVL 398 (LX54 GZK) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (December).

PVL 404 (LX54 GZR) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to GDS Travel, Peterborough, Cambs. (December).

VWL 14 (LB02 YXM, ex AGZ 9366) (ex GAL) from Littles Travel to Bus & Coach Repairs (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs. (by November).

----- *Where are they now?* -----

- WVL 54 (LF52 ZPP) (ex GAL) from Axe Valley Mini Travel to Ensign Bus (December).
WVL 73 (LF52 ZPC) (ex GAL) was named "Dave" by Ellie Rose by September.
WVL 97 (LF52 ZNK) (ex GAL) has been sold from Axe Valley Mini Travel (by December).
WVL 223 (OTW 833, ex WLT 916, ex LX06 DZF) (ex GAL) has been further re-registered by Candy Coaches to NRZ 5152 where it is used by VIP Partybus.com.
WVL 238 (LX06 DZW) (ex GAL) from Imperial Coaches to Ensign Bus and then to Chiltern Automotive, High Wycombe, Bucks. (all in December). Between March and December when with Imperial, it had been registered to A10 VXH.
WVL 320 (LX59 DBY) (ex GAL) further to TLB688 page 26, this WVL passed from Ensign Bus to Candy Coaches, Morden, London (December) and was seen on a South Western Railways rail replacement service at the end of December now re-registered to WLT 428.
- SP 3, 5 (YN56 FCD, FCF), 19 (YN08 DHD) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus to Connexions Buses, Harrogate, North Yorkshire (December).
SP 13 (YN56 FBX) (ex LU) from Beestons to Ensign Bus (August) and then to Galleon Travel / Trustybus / Central Connect, Roydon, Essex (December). It is to be used on the East End Gangster Tour and it is assumed that it will replace TA 17336 (es SLN).
SP 14 (YN56 FBY) (ex LU) from Al's Coaches to Ensign Bus (December). This updates TLB685 and it is therefore now confirmed that it did not pass to Beestons.
TA 219 (SN51 SYY) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (December).
VLE 28 (PA04 CYL) (ex LU) has never been recorded as part of the operational fleet with NIBS and is believed to have been used for spares.
- OME 2652 (YJ19 HVC) (ex ML) continues its travels and was operating with Xplore Dundee in December.
TA 84 (T184 CLO) (ex ML) was sold from Moxon (by August) for scrap.
TAL 119 (X319 HLL) (ex ML) was loaned from Sleafordian to GHP Trading, Ancaster, Lincs in September and returned.
TAL 129 (X329 HLL) (ex ML) re-registered to L16 RTC by Collins Coaches in June. (See NV 67 above).
TE 712 (LK56 FHE), 832 (LK57 AXM) (ex ML) from Midland Classic to Roselyn Coaches, Par, Cornwall (December).
TE 729 (LK07 AZF) (ex ML) was loaned from Rosso to Team Pennine in September and returned.
TE 831 (LK57 AXJ) (ex ML) from Midland Classic to Completely Business, Costessey, Norfolk (by December).
TE 882 (LK08 DXU) (ex ML) from Ensign Bus to Gwynfor Coaches, Llangefni, Anglesey (December).
TP 376, 390 (LR52 KWU, KXJ) (ex ML) from Bradshaws Travel to JH Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear (December).
TPL 255 (LN51 KYO) (ex ML) was sold for scrap from John Dix (August).
VP 580 (LK04 ENJ) (ex ML) was last reported in May 2020 being used for spares with Southdown PSV but is now confirmed with Driver Wood Activity Centre, Copthorne, Surrey (by October).
VPL 168 (IIG 9287, ex Y168 NLK) (ex ML) was sold from Finch to an unknown dealer (December).
VPL 180 (IIG 9298, ex Y197 NLK) (ex ML) from 1st Bus Stop to Bus & Coach Repairs (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs. (May).
VPL 216 (LK51 XGL) (ex ML) from Ensign Bus to Gardbus, t/a Southampton Mini Link, Eastleigh, Hants. (October).
VPL 221 (LK51 XGR) (ex ML) updating TLB688, this passed from Redbridge Transport to Ensign Bus (October).
VW 1759 (LK59 CWW) (ex ML) – see the corresponding entry for VN 37780 (ex FLN) above.
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----- *Where are they now?* -----

- TA 17070 (T670 KPU, ex P3 WTL) (ex SLN) from Shoreline Suncruisers (by November 2020); it was reported that it was being sold for use as a caravan, but this has not been confirmed.
- TA 17277 (X277 NNO) (ex SLN) from Stagecoach North West to Wigley, Barnsley (December).
- TA 17327 (E2 STX, ex X327 NNO) (ex SLN) is used by Stanley Travel as an events grandstand and is in an all over wrap livery.
- TA 17753 (LX03 BTV) (ex SLN) from Stafford Bus Centre to Coastliner Buses, Blackpool, Lancs. (December).
- TA 17849 (LX03 BZC) (ex SLN) was sold from DW Coaches (June).
- TA 17984 (LX53 KBF) (ex SLN) was sold from Gloucester Minibuses to an unknown owner, Wareham, Dorset (August).

Low-floor single deck types:

- DM 44266 (YX61 FZJ) (ex FLN) has been re-registered by Langston & Tasker to L20 LNT.
- DML 44019 (LK08 FLV), 44023, 44049 (YX58 DUH, FPG) (ex FLN) from Ripley to 1st Bus Stop, Gravesend, Kent (May).
- DML 44152 (YX10 BFO) (ex FLN) from Panther Travel to Flagfinders, Braintree, Essex (August).
- LDP 199 (SN51 UAM) (ex GAL) was sold from DS Dhoot Training (by May).
- LDP 264 (LX05 EYR) (ex GAL) from Nu-Venture to BBPG (July).
- SE 23 (SN57 DWK) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to Gardbus, t/a Southampton Mini Link, Eastleigh, Hants. (October).

DE 20091 (SK07 DYY) (ex LU) disappeared in late 2019 but it has only recently become apparent that it was acquired by Integrated Solutions, London NW10 where it has been used for driver training.

- DE 1595 (LK08 FLV), 1599, 1625 (YX58 DUH, FPG), 1806 (YX10 BFO) (ex ML) – see the corresponding entries for DML 44019, 44023, 44049, 44152 (ex FLN) above.
- DLD 138 (W138 ULR) (ex ML) was sold from Flagfinders (July).
- DLD 708 (LK55 KMG) (ex ML) has been sold from Nu-Venture (September) for scrap.
- DLF 100 (KU52 YKG) (ex ML) has been re-registered to K31 MBC by Mounts Bay Coaches
- MM 781 (LK07 AYN) (ex ML) from Wealden PSV to Wigley, Barnsley (by December 2020).

36320 (LX58 CBY) (ex SLN) following the loan from Stagecoach East Scotland to Moffat & Williamson since February, it was formally acquired in October.

SERVICE VEHICLES

Section Editor: Thomas Young: e-mail to tom@ltsv.com or by post via 'The SUPs Editor (LTSV)' at our Lombard address (see page 1). The LTSV web site at www.ltsv.com has an on-line database of service vehicles, with pictures, plus the facility to record your own sightings and comments. A hash sign (#) after the livery of a vehicle indicates that it carries no company lettering or logos.

LUL/LBSL/TfL Fleet: Newly reported vehicles: None reported

Additional information and updates

Having sat at Acton Works for almost three months, new Point Care vans 9157/58/59/60F were finally delivered to Arnos Grove (AGS) around the end of the year.

Accident damaged 8498R and 8737R have been disposed of.

Bus Company Fleets; Newly reported vehicles

-	GL69 SFE	VW Transporter Minibus	Arriva London	Silver #	DT
-	HG21 XBL	Nissan NV250 Van	Go-Ahead London	White #	AL
-	WO21 PFX	MB Vito Minibus	Go-Ahead London	Red #	NP
-	RX71 SYT	MB Vito Minibus	Go-Ahead London	Red #	NP
-	RX71 SZR	MB Vito Minibus	Go-Ahead London	Red #	MG
-	WV71 ZVS	MB Vito Minibus	Go-Ahead London	Red #	NP
-	NA08 BWK	Vauxhall Vectra Hatchback Car	Uno	Black	UB

Additional information

Abellio 6784 (YP61 KCC) is withdrawn.

Arriva London van FD17 KKH, previously in unmarked white, has recently been given Arriva markings including 'Norwood Engineering' lettering and chevrons on sides and rear. FP61 XTN and FH65 BYA are withdrawn.

Ensignbus Volvo recovery truck AY20 TXB carries standard blue/silver livery and was re-registered to EB20 TOW, most likely in September 2021. Van NL66 OLU is also blue/silver and has fleetnumber 807. LX63 WFU is withdrawn.

Go-Ahead London RJ13 DYA and RK64 OVJ have been sold. Updating earlier information, van EF19 HFU is unmarked (red #).

Uno AV05 PZU is withdrawn.

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Myles Chantler is looking to buy or copy the following timetable booklets and is happy to pay reasonable prices and costs for Surrey County Council Redhill/East Surrey July 2000, Oct 2003, Jun 2005, April 2006, Sept 2011 and Sept 2016, West Sussex County Council Mid Sussex Jun 1995, Jan 1998 and Nov 1998, the West Sussex / Surrey joint Crawley / Gatwick area Nov 2001, Mar 2003 and Aug 2003, Metrobus West Sussex Nov 2005, Compass 2001-2012 and Southdown PSV upto 2014. Contact can be made via farmermyles@hotmail.co.uk

----- THE END -----

This TLB closed on 7-9 January and due for posting on 18 January. Closing date for TLB690 is Weds 2 February and due for posting on Tues 15 February. Reports to the Editors by post or e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com or to heads of sections for contact points. Next closing dates are Weds 02Feb, 02Mar, 30Mar 2022 (note early date due to Easter), 04May, 08June. These dates are for us editors to have sufficient time to process, although info over the next four days can invariably be slotted in as time and space allows. Those of you who report regularly should 'bookmark' these dates.



The truncated route 414 was with Tower Transit from just 13 November to 10 December so this scene with DNH 39123 at what is now the first pick-up stop at the top of Park Lane is already history. The 414 continues to run from Westbourne Park Garage and this bus is now ADH 45070 in the RATP series. *(Haydn Davies)*

Metroline has treated several VWHs to this 'winter lights' design and all are normally on route 139. VWH 2033 is seen passing West Hampstead Station and will soon be travelling under the winter lights on Oxford Street. *(Tommy Cooling)*



Rear cover: Arriva at Luton has introduced 14 MCV-bodied Volvo B8RLEs for use on the Busway routes A and Z. In this view No.3972 has broken down on the Dunstable Road just off the Busway and is being subbed by B7RLE/ Wright No.3955. The grim December weather makes the 'blinds' stand out so well. *(Barrie Lee)*



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