

TLB714

The London Bus

Number 714
February 2024



London Omnibus Traction Society
www.lots.org.uk



Metroline has become the first London customer for the single deck version of the MCV Volvo BZL, with the initial deliveries entering service on route 251. VMSL2846 loads up in High Street, Edgware. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Whilst Ship Hill, Tatsfield is closed for water main repairs (see 'Diversions' section), route 464 is curtailed at Biggin Hill Valley. Go Coach are providing onward travel with Fiat Ducato 1501 which has gained '464 Connector' branding is seen here in Church Hill, Tatsfield. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Front cover: Abellio London, who after a management buyout, are now in the process of rebranding as 'Transport UK', put one of their brand new Wright GB Kite Electroliners into service on a Romford - Stratford Elizabeth line rail replacement service on 3rd February, prior to its' intended use on route R70. 1710 departs from Romford. *(Martin Ruthe)*



THE LONDON BUS
The monthly newsletter of the
London Omnibus Traction Society
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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.

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This issue was finalised on 7th-10th February and is due for posting on Tues 20th February.

Closing date for TLB715 is Weds 6th March and due for posting on Tues 19th March.

Booked later closing dates are Wednesdays 3rd Apr, 1st May and 5th June 2024.

Editorial

Please note this section contains details of some new and changed TLB contact points.

It has not been a good month for TLB editors. Shortly after the last issue went to print, Dave Stewart had a fall at home and was taken to hospital, where various other health concerns were uncovered. The prognosis was initially grim but within a few days there was an improvement and he is currently still in hospital but in a stable condition.

Then, just as this TLB was being put together, Julian Bowden-Green was also taken to hospital, having suffered a major stroke. Julian was the editor of TLB until Dave took over in 1984, and more recently he has been the Membership Secretary as well as playing a significant role in other tasks such as distribution.

My own issues were far less serious (a chest infection coupled with a back injury), but they put me out of action for a couple of weeks, at a rather inconvenient time.

We wish a speedy recovery to both Dave and Julian but, since they are likely to be 'off duty' for a while, we have had to put in place some contingency arrangements. **Phil Miller** has volunteered to act as the Country Routes sub-editor and **Russell Young** (no relation) as the photographic co-ordinator. Phil's contact details can be found at the head of that section, while Russell can be contacted at russellwyong@hotmail.com. I plan to write a bit about photos in TLB in a future editorial, but I think you will agree that Russell has done a great job (at short notice) of pulling together an excellent selection for this issue. One other small change is that Steve Floyd (London Routes sub-editor) has agreed to take over the collation of information on railway replacement bus services. Please send any reports to him using the contact details in his section.

In terms of membership and distribution matters, we ask for your patience while alternative arrangements are put in place. Please continue to use the lotsmemsec@gmail.com e-mail address for membership matters and e-mails will be answered within 5 days.

LOTS Meetings

We now meet at The Gallery at 77 Cowcross Street, Farringdon. It is 3-mins walk from Farringdon Station (Met/H&C/Circle lines, Thameslink plus Elizabeth line). Doors open at 6pm for a 6.30pm start.

Dates in 2024 are Mondays 13th May, 17th June (AGM, *changed from 24th June*), 30th Sep, 18th Nov (*not 25th Nov as shown last month*).

The 13th May meeting will be a presentation by Ian Ross of the Crich Tramway Museum

Coming Events (LSS = LOTS Sales Stand due to attend).

Sun 25th February: Winter bus event at the Epping Ongar Railway.

Sun 10th March: Golders Green running day, covering parts of routes 13, 102, 210, 240 and 603.

Sat 16th March: Safeguard Coaches centenary event at Guildford Cathedral 12:00-16:00

Sat 23rd March: Barking Garage open day 11:00-16:00, with vintage buses on 62 & 145. (LSS)

Sat 6th April: South East Bus Festival at Detling (Kent Showground, Maidstone). (LSS)

Sun 7th April: Classic buses in rural Hertfordshire - running day centred on Hertford.

Sun 14th April: Spring Gathering at London Bus Museum, Brooklands. (LSS)

Sun 21st April: LT Country Bus Rally, East Grinstead (provisional date).

Sun 12th May: HCVS London to Brighton run.

Sat/Sun 18/19th May: Faversham Transport Weekend (bus event on the Sat).

Sun 19th May: Chiltern Hills Rally, Weedon Park, near Aylesbury.

Sun 2nd Jun: Classic buses in High Wycombe Bus Station.

Sun 9th Jun: Free heritage operation on route 406 (Kingston to Epsom and Tadworth).

Looking ahead: London Bus Museum's other major events at Brooklands in 2024 are on 23rd June and 20th October. The Alton Bus Rally and Running Day is back, now to be held on 21st July. An RM70 event is planned for 20th/21st July on the site of Chiswick Works. More details next month.

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.

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A full Sales List was in TLB711 and is also on our website. Orders from the Sales List or a letter are perfectly acceptable. In all cases above, if you send 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 Newest LOTS items:

- LOTS London Bus Review 2022 (£17.00) *A4 glossy, 80 pages, 135 colour pictures with extensive captions. This is the ORIGINAL annual Review made with about 50 years' experience.*
- SUP-45A London Bus Garages, allocations and routes (£5.50). *This lists all garages (irrespective of operator) from A to X. Each has a based fleetlist and a list of routes, types allocated and basic M-F PVR figures This first edition is dated September, ie to match info in TLB709.*
- LOTS LBM London Bus Magazine No.206 Winter 2023 (£6.00). *Two main articles, by Colin Stannard on his long career with (mostly) LT and successors, plus an account of the relatively recent Guildford 'bus war' between Arriva and Stagecoach by Andrew Babbs.*
- LOTS Fleetbook 2023 (£8.00)
- LOTS SUP 24J Service Vehicles - current fleet April 2023 (£5.00)

- Bus maps from Mike Harris: Greater London Bus Map No. 40 - 29/4/2023 £2.00
and Greater London Night Bus Map - 29/4/2023 £4.00

From Capital Transport

- London's Post-War Smaller Classes (STD, TD, G436, RLH, RFW, GS, RW, XA, XF, RC) entering service between 1946 and 1965 by Ken Blacker. £35.00 Includes over 200 photos.
 - London Country Busman, 1975-1990 by Matthew Keyte £30.00.
 - Tracks of London's Trams 1949-1952 by R J Harley. £25.00 published by Heathfield Publishing. The text tells what it was like to ride on the trams and what it was like to work on them in their final years. 80 B&W photos and 25 colour photos.

 - From LRTA: Bluebird Reborn: The History and Restoration of LCC No. 1. Edited by Lynn Wagstaff. £35.00. The book tells the story of LCC No. 1 from its inception in 1929, detailing its construction, service in London and Leeds, time spent in preservation and its recent restoration at National Tramway Museum.

 - The London Enviro 200 by David Beddall £30.00. History of the Enviro 200 and Enviro 200MMC in London service. 216 pages (Pen and Sword Books).
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GENERAL and INDUSTRY NEWS

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

National News, TfL and Politics

The national news in January was dominated by the **Post Office scandal**, following a powerful ITV drama which exposed the suffering experienced by hundreds of sub-postmasters who had been wrongly accused of fraud due to the faulty ‘Horizon’ computer system. Then, on 5th February came a surprise announcement from Buckingham Palace that **King Charles** has been diagnosed with ‘a form of cancer’. This followed his recent operation for an enlarged prostate, although prostate cancer was ruled out.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan (who is responsible for TfL fares policy), has announced his intention to freeze fares until 2025 at an estimated cost of £123 million which would be taken from GLA funding recently agreed with the Government. The stated aim is to help with the cost of living and encourage more people back to public transport. In contrast, regulated National Rail fares will increase by 4.9% in March. According to a press release from the Mayor this means that TfL fares will be 14% lower than if they had risen in line with National Rail fares and 21% lower than if they had increased with the Retail Prices Index since 2016. Record numbers are now using Pay As You Go as an alternative to Travelcards with 80% of tube journeys and 74% of bus journeys now paid for using PAYG. There was a previous fares freeze between 2016 and 2021. There will also be increases for Travelcard users due to the National Rail element and the daily PAYG cap will increase by up to 5% depending on the zones. However, the penalty fare, which has been unchanged since 2011, will increase from £80 to £100 from March which brings it into line with the penalty fare on National Rail services.

The Mayor has asked TfL to run a three month trial whereby **all rail and tube fares are made off-peak on Fridays**. Midweek Underground usage is now at 85% of pre-pandemic levels and weekend usage has returned to 100% but falls to 73% on Fridays. The aim is part of wider plans to ‘Revitalise Fridays’, working with businesses, the hospitality sector and other key stakeholders to encourage more Londoners to travel into the city on Fridays “to make the most of what London has to offer”. A passenger travelling from zone 6 to zone 1 using PAYG would save £2 compared with the current peak fare between 06:30 & 09:30. No changes are proposed to bus fares.

Industrial action continues, National Rail services were disrupted between 30th January and 6th February as a result of action by train drivers’ union ASLEF. Meanwhile the RMT has announced two 48 hour strikes on London Overground for Monday/Tuesday 19th & 20th February and Monday/Tuesday 4th & 5th March after workers were offered a below inflation pay offer. Bus drivers employed by Abellio & RATP in London have suspended plans for further strikes.

TfL is introducing 1,400 new e bikes to the Santander cycle hire scheme bringing the total number of e bikes to 2,000. A new £3 day pass is also planned for short journeys up to 30 minutes within a 24 hour period. 6.75 million cycle hires took place in 2023, the highest number since the scheme was introduced.

Corporate and company news

York Pullman has been acquired by First Group. The deal involves 130 coaches and buses and is intended to strengthen First’s presence in North Yorkshire. The current York Pullman operation was formed in 2007 but the name goes back much further. Managing Director Tom James will remain and the company will be run on a stand-alone basis.

The Go Ahead Group is to purchase the **Eastbourne Sightseeing** open-top operation from Seven Sisters Bus and Coach. It will become part of the group's Brighton & Hove Buses operating company. Go Ahead says the Eastbourne Sightseeing brand will be retained.

Flixbus has expanded to India with new services connecting 46 cities in partnership with five local bus companies in Delhi which will be the hub of the network. The company was founded in 2011 and only began operations in Germany in 2013 but now operates in 43 countries.

Arriva has retained the tender to operate Green Line coach services to Luton Airport, meaning the operator will continue to run its 757 service from London Victoria. The current 757 has operated in its present form for over 40 years.

Other General News

A fatal bus accident occurred at Victoria on 29th January. It happened when an RATP Volvo B5LH on route 13 was passing another bus in Terminus Place and crashed into bus shelters next to the 38 stop. In August 2021 a pedestrian died after being hit by a 507 bus in the bus station. As reported previously, Victoria bus station and Terminus Place had been closed for 'health and safety works' for six weeks before Christmas.

Some route 18 drivers are not stopping at some bus stops, even when seats are available upstairs according to a BBC London News report. Regular passengers in the Harrow Road area say this is a common occurrence when the bus looks full, but only on the lower deck. The problem appears to be due to the high number of short distance passengers on this route, who are reluctant or unable to travel on the upper deck. However, bus drivers were quoted as saying that the schedule is too tight and alleged they had been instructed to "go go go" when running late! The 18 was of course previously a bendy bus route. Maybe they should make a comeback?

Hounslow bus station and garage could be redeveloped and replaced by flats if a 'masterplan' for the town centre proceeds. The plan does not mention what would happen to the bus facilities.

The first Class 701 Arterio train entered service with South Western Railway on 9th January between London Waterloo and Windsor. They form the first part of a long delayed phased roll out of 90 new trains which will replace Class 455 units dating from the early 1980s and a few modern Class 707 units which will transfer to Southeastern.

London Overground will be providing services to London Bridge on Easter Sunday, 31st March for the first time. It results from engineering works which would have meant that some stations south of New Cross Gate would otherwise have no train service to central London on that date. A half hourly service will be operated between 09:30 and 23:00. Trial runs are planned for driver training purposes on Sunday 25th February. They will not be available to the public but for those looking for a sneak preview, they will run into platform 13 at London Bridge which leads to the upper concourse opposite the bus station.

Places for London (TfL's property arm), is planning a large 1,500 home development on the 'Limmo Peninsular' site near Canning Town station on land previously used as a tunnelling shaft for Crossrail. The development is significant because it is intended to be car-free apart from some blue badge parking spaces.

Miniature boarding ramps are to be deployed at more Underground stations to assist wheelchair users following a successful trial on the Victoria line. They should reduce the risk of wheels getting caught between the train and the platform which can happen even where level access is provided.

Safeguard Coaches, the family owned independent based in Guildford, will celebrate its centenary this year with an event at Guildford Cathedral on 16th March. Six heritage vehicles dating from 1949 to 1970 will operate special free services to link with the town centre and the Onslow Park & Ride site. They will also serve Park Barn which has been served by Safeguard buses since it was built in the 1950s.

GREATER LONDON AREA - Route Developments

Section Editor: Stephen Floyd, 4 Turnpike Gardens, Bedford, MK42 0AJ or by 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

Routes 5/N15, 15 17, 28/N28, 115, 395 and 640 from tranches 883A, 886, 888, 892 and 892A awarded starting on 4th May (28/N28), 20th July (17), 24th August (5/N15, 15, 115), 31st August (640) and 7th September (395). Routes W12, W13 and W14 from tranche 891A are also awarded starting on 7th September (*see consultations, later*).

- 5/N15 Retained by Go-Ahead Blue Triangle using existing LT new Routemaster vehicles (pvr 30).
- 15 Retained by Go-Ahead Blue Triangle using existing LT new Routemaster vehicles (pvr 13 to 14).
- 17 Retained by Metroline Travel using existing LT new Routemaster vehicles (pvr 16 to 15).
- 28/N28 Awarded to Metroline West using existing diesel double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by London Transit from Westbourne Park (X) garage (pvr 19).
- 115 Retained by Go-Ahead Blue Triangle using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles (pvr 18).
- 395 Retained by London Sovereign using existing diesel single-deck vehicles (pvr 5).
- 640 Awarded to Metroline Travel using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles. Currently operated by Sullivans from South Mimms (SM) garage (pvr 2).
- W12 Retained by Stagecoach East London using new electric single-deck vehicles (pvr 5 to 12).
- W13 Awarded to Stagecoach Lea Interchange using new electric single-deck vehicles. One vehicle will be a double-deck (type not known). Currently operated by Stagecoach East London, so novated within Stagecoach Group (pvr 7 to 9).
- W14 Retained by Stagecoach Lea Interchange using new electric single-deck vehicles (pvr 10 to 2).

Routes 5/N15, 15 and 17 are for 5 years;
Routes 28/N28, 395 and 640 are for 3 years;
Route 115 is for 6 years;
Routes W12, W13 and W14 are for 7 years.

Routes 127 and 191 have had 2-year extensions agreed. and will no longer form part of Tendering Programme for 2025/26, which is now updated to include up to Tranche #921. The current contracts for routes 414 and 655 will now terminate early and have been added to supplementary Tranches #899A and #901A. A new Route 495 (Hayes, ASDA – Toplocks Estate) has been allocated to Tranche #931A (it was previously allocated to Tranche #916.)

Finally, in the 2025/26 tendering programme, the eagle-eyed may have spotted that route N271, currently linked to the 263 contract, is referred to as N263 in Tranche #913. Neither of these have appeared as new or revised consultations though this may change of course; further details will be published once we have any further details.

The 2024/25 tendering programme is now as follows:-

| Tranche No. and start dates | Routes out on offer (with current operators) | 2-year extensions granted |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| #875 (04/24) | U1, U2, U3 (Metroline West) | -- |
| #877A (04/24) | E1 (London United) | -- |
| #880A (05/24) | 639/670 (London United) | -- |
| #884A (06/24) | 65/N65, 71, 281/=, 371, 406/418, 681, K5 (London United) | -- |
| #887 (08/24) | Tranche cancelled | 533 |
| #888 (08/24) | 66 (Arriva LN) | -- |
| #890A (09/24) | 618 (new route Ivybridge – Syon Lane) | -- |
| #892 (09/24) | 90 (Metroline Travel), 222/= , H13 (Metroline West) | -- |
| #893A (09-11/24) | 49, 117, 697 (London United), 398, H9/H10 (London Sovereign) | -- |
| #893B (09-11/24) | 290 (London United) | -- |
| #894 (09-12/24) | 4, 6/=, 98/N98, (Metroline Travel), 341/= (Arriva LN) | -- |
| #894A (09-11/24) | 148/= (London United) | -- |
| #895 (09-10/24) | 669, 672 (S'ch Selkent) | -- |
| #895A (10/24) | 160/660, 180 (S'ch Selkent) | -- |
| #896 (10-11/24) | 103, 150, 175, 370 (Arriva LN), 257 (S'ch East London) | -- |
| #897 (10-12/24) | 22/N22, 88/=, 170 (GA London General), 33/N33, 419 (London United) | -- |
| #898A (11/24) | 34/= (Arriva LN), SL1 (N. Finchley – Walthamstow) | -- |
| #898B (11/24) | 192 (Arriva LN) | -- |
| #899 (11-12/24) | 18/N18, 94/=, 266/N266 (Lon United), 218 (Lon Transit) ... | -- |
| #899A (11/24) | 414 (London Transit) | -- |
| #900 (11-12/24) | 176/=, 188/=, 360 (GA London Central), 355 (GA Metrobus) | -- |
| #900A (11/24) | 45 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #901 (12/24-02/25) | 258 (London United), 278 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #901A (01/25) | 655 (London United) | -- |
| #902 (01-03/25) | 444 (GA London General), 323, (S'ch East London) | 212, 357, 497 |
| #903 (01-02/25) | 121, 141, 329 (Arriva LN), 153 (GA London General) | -- |
| #904 (01-03/25) | 41/=, W4, W6 (Arriva LN), 657 (GA London General) | 29/N29 |
| #904A (02/25) | 299/389/399 (Sullivan) | -- |
| #905 (01-02/25) | 99, 269, 401 (Arriva LN), 233 (GA Metrobus), 422, B14, SL3 (S'ch Selkent), B16 (GA London Central) | -- |
| #905A (03/25) | R1, R2, R3, R4, R6, R8, R11 (GA Metrobus) | -- |
| #906 (02-03/25) | 36/=, 172, 343/N343 (GA London Central) | 109/N109 |
| #906A (02/25) | 118 (GA London General) | -- |
| #907 (02-03/25) | 423, H22, H37, H98 (London United), H28 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #908 (03/25) | 282 (Metroline West), 482 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #909 (03/25) | 161, 181, 284 (S'ch Selkent), 225 (GA London Central), C10 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #910 (03/25) | 138 (GA Metrobus) | 126 |
| #911 (03/25) | 169, 247, 287 (S'ch East London) | -- |
| #912 (03/25) | 68/N68 (Transport UK), 468 (Arriva LS), SL6 (ex X68) (GA London Central) | -- |

The first part of the 2025/26 tendering programme is now as follows:-

| Tranche No. and start dates | Routes out on offer (with current operators) | 2-year extensions granted |
|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------|
| #913 (04/25) | 263/N263 (Metroline Travel) | -- |
| #914 (4-5/25) | 424, 485, G1, (G-A London General), P5 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #915 (04/25) | SL5 (Arriva LS), SL7 (G-A Metrobus) | -- |
| #916 (04/25) | 31/N31, 95 (Metroline West) 427 (Transport UK) | -- |
| #917 (4-5/25) | 171/N171 (GA London Central), 196 (Transport UK) | 127 |
| #918 (05/25) | 25/N25, 241, 330, 474/= (S'ch East London) | -- |
| #919 (05/25) | 37/=, 337 (G-A London General), 270 (Transport UK), 386 (G-A London Central) | -- |
| #920 (05/25) | 44/N44, 77, 87/N87, 219 (G-A London General) | -- |
| #921 (5-6/25) | 67, 106 (G-A London General), 231, 491 (Metroline Travel), 327 (Sullivan) | -- |

ROUTE AND SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 2nd December 2023: As in TLB713.

Saturday 9th December 2023: As in TLB713.

Saturday 16th December 2023: As in TLB713.

Saturday 6th January 2024: As in TLB713 (no PVR changes)

Saturday 13th January 2024: Routes 60, 119/=, 166, 312, 407, 466 and 645 were re-routed via Fell Road instead of Croydon High Street and Katharine Street (West).

109 (*Transport UK-BC*) (Brixton Station & Croydon, Town Centre) and

N109 (*Transport UK-BC*) (Oxford Circus & Croydon, Town Centre) Extended on arrival via Park Street to terminate and start from St. George's Walk.

433 (*Transport UK-BC*) (Croydon, Town Centre & Addington Village, Interchange) extended via Park Street to terminate at St. George's Walk instead of Fairfield Halls.

603 (Muswell Hill Broadway & Swiss Cottage Station SDO) LBSL (QX) contract awarded to Metroline Travel using existing VWH-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles from Holloway (HT) garage. Previously operated by *Sullivans* from South Mimms (SM) garage using E-class AD40D Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles.

N250 (*Arriva London South-TC*) (Croydon, Town Centre & Brixton Station) Revised to start from Park Lane.

PVR changes from 13th January 2024:

Arriva London South: No change to N250 PVRs.

Metroline Travel: 603 to 2/-/- #HT391+.

Sullivans: 603 withdrawn.

Transport UK: No change to 109/N109, 433 PVRs.

Fridays 12th January 2024 from 22:00 to Monday 15th January 2024 until 05:00:

Also repeated at the same times over the following weekends: 19th to 22nd, 9th to 12th February 2024, 24th to 26th February and a further weekend in March, yet to be announced. The planned closure on 26th to 29th January did not happen, apparently this was a "contingency weekend".

The southbound bore of Blackwall Tunnel is closed and as in the past, a split service will operate on route 108: Canning Town & Stratford International and North Greenwich & Lewisham although part of the Friday night and early Monday service maintain the through service with the southbound service diverted via Tower Bridge. As before, bus users can use the Jubilee Line from North Greenwich to Canning Town at no extra charge.

Saturday 20th January 2024:

- 91 (*Go-Ahead London General-SW*) (Trafalgar Square & Crouch End Broadway) and
N91 (*Go-Ahead London General-SW*) (Trafalgar Square & Cockfosters Station) Re-allocated from Stockwell (SW) garage to Northumberland Park (NP) garage.
- 133 (Holborn Station & Streatham Station) and
N133 (Liverpool Street Station & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Transport UK from Battersea (QB) garage using new electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Previously operated by *Arriva London South* from Brixton (BN) garage using a mix of HA- and HV-class AD40H Enviro400H or Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 2 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 137 (*Arriva London South-N/BN*) (Marble Arch & Streatham Hill, Telford Avenue) and
N137 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Oxford Circus & Crystal Palace) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters. Routes re-allocated in full to Brixton (BN) garage, so Norwood (N) garage allocation withdrawn.
- 228 (Maida Hill, The Chippenham & Central Middlesex Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Metroline West, using new VMSL-class Volvo BZL/MCV electric single-deck vehicles from Willesden Junction (WJ) garage in due course. Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x20 (though widened to x24mins currently) to x30 mins. Previously operated by *London United* from Park Royal (RP) garage using DLE-class AD20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 333 (Elephant & Castle & Tooting Broadway) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead London General from Stockwell (SW) garage, using new Ee-class AD40 Enviro400EV electric double-deck vehicles in due course, and using MHV-class Volvo B5LH MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-decks until electrics arrive. Previously operated by *Arriva London South* from Brixton (BN) garage using a mix of HA- and HV-class AD40H Enviro400H or Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 2 hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 380 (*Stagecoach Selkent-TL*) (Belmarsh Prison & Lewisham, Lewisham Centre) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing diesel single-deck vehicles and re-allocated to Plumstead (PD) garage.
- 388 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & London Bridge Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles.

PVR changes from 20th January 2024:

- Arriva London South: 137 to 28/23/18 #BN171+ (N allocation withdrawn),
N137 8 every night #BN271+, 133/N133, 333 withdrawn;
Go-Ahead London General: 91 to 15/15/15 #NP301+, N91 to 6 Su-Th/ 7 Fr-Sa #NP361,
333 to 15/15/13 #SW281+;
London United: 228 withdrawn;
Metroline West: 228 to 7/7/7 #WJ131+;
Stagecoach East London: no change to 388 PVRs;
Stagecoach Selkent: 380 to 14/13/11 #PD281+;
Transport UK: 133 to 24/23/19 #QB641+, N133 6 every night #QB641+ (from daytime allocation).

Saturday 27th January 2024:

- 9 (Hammersmith, Bus Station & Aldwych) and
N9 (Heathrow, Terminal 5 & Aldwych) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Metroline Travel using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters from Brentford (AH) garage. Previously operated by *London United* from Stamford Brook (V) garage.
- 59 (*Arriva London South-BN*) (St.Bartholomew's Hospital & Streatham Hill, Telford Avenue) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.
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Saturday 27th January 2024 continued

- 89 (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (Lewisham, Town Centre & Slade Green Station) and
N89 (Go-Ahead London Central-NX) (Trafalgar Square & Erith, Cross Street) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract. Route N89 continues with existing EH-class AD40H Enviro400H hybrid double-deck vehicles, route 89 will be upgraded from existing EN-class Trident Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles to MHV-class Volvo B5LH MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-decks in due course when displaced from elsewhere.
- 96 (Stagecoach Selkent-PD) (Woolwich, Thomas Street & Bluewater, Shopping Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 218 (London Transit-X) (Hammersmith, Bus Station & North Acton Station) Re-allocated from Westbourne Park (X) to Stamford Brook (V) garage, thus novated from London Transit to London United.
- 278 (Transport UK-DH) (Heathrow Airport Central & Ruislip) Additional early morning journeys to and from Heathrow Airport, also additional SDO journeys. Stand arrangements reversed, so set down at Ruislip Station, then standing and picking up on departure in Ruislip High Street.
- 306 (Metroline Travel-AH) (Sands End, Sainsbury's & Acton Vale, Bromyard Avenue) Re-allocated to Holloway (HT) garage.
- 428 (Arriva London North-DT) (Erith, Cross Street & Bluewater, Shopping Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 472/= (Stagecoach Selkent-PD) (North Greenwich Station & Abbey Wood Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 476 (Go-Ahead London General-NP) (King's Cross St.Pancras Station & Northumberland Park Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing MHV-class Volvo B5LH MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-decks. The new schedules started on 20th January, though, to operationally assist with the re-introduction of routes 91/N91 at Northumberland Park (NP) garage.
- 482 (Transport UK-DH) (Southall, Town Hall & Heathrow Terminal 5) Revised daily timetables for reliability.
- 486/= (Go-Ahead London Central-BX) (North Greenwich Station & Bexleyheath, Shopping Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 601 (Thamesmead, Town Centre & Wilmington Schools, SDO) LBSL (QX) contract awarded to Go-Ahead London Central from Bexleyheath (BX) garage using existing MHV-class Volvo B5LH MCV EvoSeti hybrid double-deck vehicles. Previously operated by Stagecoach Selkent from Plumstead (PD) garage using a mix of diesel and hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 602 (Stagecoach Selkent-PD) (Thamesmead, Town Centre & Townley Grammar School SDO) Renewal of LBSL (QX) contract using existing hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 672 (Stagecoach Selkent-PD) (Thamesmead, Bentham Road & Woolwich, Beresford Square SDO) Morning service introduced, Woolwich Arsenal Station to Bentham Road at 08:00. Afternoon service increased to 4 journeys with revised departure times, also for reliability. (Note that the service starts and finishes at Bentham Road, Hawksmoor School stops, which also serves Woolwich Polytechnic School.)
- B15 (Arriva London North-DT) (Horn Park, Alnwick Road & Bexleyheath, Shopping Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- H32 (Transport UK-GW) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Southall, Town Hall) Revised daily timetables for reliability.
- U5 (Transport UK-DH) (Uxbridge, York Road & Hayes, Clarendon Road) Revised Sunday timetables for reliability.

PVR changes from 27th January 2024:

Arriva London North: No change to 428, B15 PVRs;

Arriva London South: 59 to 20/19/12 #BN91+;

Go-Ahead London Central: 601 to 7/-/- #BX691+, no change to 89, N89, 486/= PVRs;
Go-Ahead London General: No change to 476 PVRs;
London Transit: 218 novated to London United;
London United: 218 to 9/9/8 #V401+, 9/N9 withdrawn;
Metroline Travel: 9 to 14/14/11 #AH251+, N9 to 7 Su-Th/8 Fr-SaN #AH271+ (also using 9 daytime running numbers), 306 to 11/10/6 #HT251+;
Stagecoach Selkent: 96 to 24/24/15 #PD151+ (crosslink to 601 withdrawn), 161 to 16+/16/12 #PD51+ (+1/672), no change to 472/=, 602 to 2*-/ - #PD511+ (*672 We SDO only), 672 to 4*-/ - #PD501am/pm (*161), #502pm, plus #PD401/402pm, except We SDO when #PD511/512 crosslink from 602, so 2+/-/- (+2/602) on this day, 601 withdrawn;
Transport UK: 278 to 12/10/7 #DH271+, 482 to 8/9/6 #DH341+, U5 to 13/11/7 #DH251+.

Saturday 3rd February 2024:

43/= (*Metroline Travel-HT*) (Friern Barnet, Library & London Bridge Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
134/= (*Metroline Travel-PB*) (Warren Street, University College Hospital & North Finchley) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
SL5 NEW ROUTE (*Arriva London South-TC*) (Bromley North Station & Croydon, express) via route 138 to Westmoreland Road, Hayes Lane, South Eden Park Road, Monks Orchard Road then via route 119 to East Croydon to Park Street, terminating at Katharine Street, using ENX-class AD20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles. Mon-Sat daytimes every x12mins and Sundays and evenings every x15mins.

PVR changes from 3rd February 2024:

Arriva London South: SL5 to 10/9/8 #TC101+;
Metroline Travel: No change to 43/=, 134/= PVRs.

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

Saturday 10th February 2024: Widened timetables for routes 6, 12, 14, 22, 52, 74, 87, 91, 188 and 390 for roadworks in Charing Cross Road, Hyde Park Corner (Piccadilly Underpass) and Surrey Quays Road.

3 (*Transport UK-WL*) (Victoria Station & Crystal Palace) and
N3 (*Transport UK-QB*) (Oxford Circus & Bromley North Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
122 (*Stagecoach Selkent-PD*) (Crystal Palace & Plumstead Garage) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
201 (*Transport UK-BC*) (Morden Station & Herne Hill Station) Revised daily timetables for reliability.

Saturday 17th February 2024: 120 normal timetable re-introduced.

189/= (*Metroline Travel-W*) (Marble Arch & Brent Cross Shopping Centre) Bifurcation introduced in both directions at Claremont Road via Parkview Avenue to serve Brent Cross West Station.
EL1/= (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford Hill & Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.
EL2 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Becontree Heath, Leisure Centre & Dagenham Dock Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.
EL3 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Little Heath, Haw Bush & Barking Reach, Mallards Drive, SDO jnys to Barking Riverside, Northgate Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters.
U3 (*Metroline West-UX*) (Uxbridge Station & Heathrow Airport Central) Additional daily early morning trips introduced.

Saturday 24th February 2024: Arriva London North are re-opening Stamford Hill (SF) garage, having been mothballed since 7th November 2020 (see TLB675/676). However, Ash Grove (AE) garage operations will cease from the same date, thus becoming solely a Stagecoach East London operation as (HK) garage.

242 (Aldgate Station & Homerton Hospital) and

N242 (Tottenham Court Road Station & Homerton Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Stagecoach East London from Ash Grove (HK) garage using new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course, though with AD40H Enviro400H hybrid double-deck vehicles initially. Currently operated by *Arriva London North* from Clapton (CT) garage using HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.

254 (*Arriva London North-AE*) (Aldgate Station & Holloway, Nag's Head) Re-allocated to Stamford Hill (SF) garage.

277 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Dalston Junction & Crossharbour, ASDA) and

N277 (*Stagecoach East London-BW*) (Islington, White Lion Street & Crossharbour, ASDA) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles though converting to new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course later in the summer.

283 (*London United-V*) (East Acton, Brunel Road & Hammersmith, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DLE-class E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles. Early morning frequency on Saturday and Sunday early AM increased from x20 to x15 mins and revised daily running time.

SL3 NEW ROUTE (*Stagecoach Selkent-TB*) (Thamesmead, Town Centre & Bromley North, express) via Crossway, Carlyle Road, then via route 301 via Abbey Wood Station, Long Lane, then via route 422 via Bexleyheath Station, Broadway and Townley Road. From Bexleyheath to Sidcup the route runs southbound via Townley Road, Arbuthnot Lane, Bridgen Road, Parkhill Road, Hurst Road, Foots Cray Lane, Faraday Avenue, Hatherley Crescent, Station Road and northbound via Station Road, Hatherley Crescent, Faraday Avenue, Foots Cray Lane, Penhill Road, Danson Underpass, Lodge Lane, East Rochester Way (A2), Upton Road and Townley Road. (The original intention is to serve Penhill Road in both directions once infrastructure work at the roundabout at Hurst Road is completed.) from Sidcup, then via route 269 via Queen Mary's Hospital and Chislehurst to Bromley North, using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles. Mon-Sat daytimes every x12mins and Sundays and evenings every x15mins.

Saturday 2nd March 2024:

As noted last month the new contracts for the Croydon/Sutton scheme are confirmed as below, together with some corrections noted, especially for route **S4** which is NOT withdrawn in full! Please note that the proposed change to split route **407** was not proceeded with, although no explanation in the consultation was given that I could find! I will list these changes separately with other changes for the same date listed later. As ever though, the caveats that apply for changes occurring after our closing date still apply; not all the road layouts may be changed in time.

80 (*Go-Ahead London General-A*) (Hackbridge, Reynolds Close & Belmont High Down & Downview) Partial re-allocation to Goat Road (GM) garage, the electric double-deck vehicles remain at Sutton with hybrid double-deck vehicles from Goat Road.

164 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Wimbledon Station & Sutton Station) Extended from Sutton via Brighton Road to Belmont Station. The intention to further extend to the London Cancer Hub at the Royal Marsden Hospital complex depends on road layout changes.

166 (*Arriva London South-TC*) (West Croydon Bus Station & Banstead, Marks & Spencer, extended Mon-Sat to Epsom General Hospital) Re-routed in both directions from South End via 405 via Pampisford Road, replacing route 455 over this section.

Saturday 2nd March 2024 continued

- 312 (*Arriva London South-TC*) (Norwood Junction & South Croydon Garage) Extended daily from South Croydon via Brighton Road, Purley, Old Lodge Lane, thus replacing route 455 over the section to Old Lodge Lane. This will preclude the occasional appearance of double-deck vehicles because of the low bridge in Old Lodge Lane.
- 434 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Rickman Hill & Whyteleafe South, Wapses Lodge Roundabout Daily, except evenings)
Extended from Whyteleafe South to Caterham Station. The current route between Purley and Whyteleafe, via Northwood Avenue, will be taken over by new route 439. The original intention to divert this route via Higher Drive cannot be achieved until roadworks are completed at Wattendon Road, so will operate direct via route 407 and Godstone Road. Frequency unchanged.
- 439 NEW ROUTE (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Whyteleafe South, Wapses Lodge Roundabout & Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's) via route 407 via Godstone Road, Kenley Station, then via Park Road, Oaks Way, Oaks Road, Northwood Avenue Higher Drive, Beaumont Road, Foxley Hill Road, via existing route 434, then via Godstone Road, Purley Cross, Banstead Road, Foxley Lane (return direct), Purley Way, then via existing route 289 to Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's via Purley Way. Every x30 mins daily though no evening service after 20:00, will be operated new SEe electric single-deck vehicles, expected in time for the route start.
- 455 (*Go-Ahead Metrobus-C*) (Wallington Station & Old Lodge Lane, Canons Hill) ROUTE WITHDRAWN. Replaced by routes 166, 312 and S4, although a short section of St.Peter's Road in South Croydon is left unserved.
- 470 (*Go-Ahead London General-GM*) (Colliers Wood Station & Epsom, Town Centre, Mon-Sat) Route withdrawn from Sutton Station & Epsom, Town Centre and re-routed in Sutton Common via Marlborough Road, Dibden Road and Stayton Road in both directions, replacing route S3 via this routeing.
- S1 (*Go-Ahead London General-GM*) (Lavender Fields & Banstead, Marks & Spencer) Re-allocated from Goat Road (GM) garage to Croydon (C) garage, thus novated to Go-Ahead Metrobus. To be operated with a mix of diesel single-deck vehicles displaced from route 455.
- S2 NEW ROUTE (*Go-Ahead London General-A*) (St.Helier & Epsom Town Centre) From St. Helier Station, via existing route S4 via Green Lane, Rose Hill, Wrythe Lane, Whitby Road, Duke of Edinburgh Road, Edinburgh Road, Grennell Road, Benhill Road, Oakhill Road, Thicket Road, Benhill Avenue then Sutton (one way system), then via existing route 470 via Mulgrave Road, Worcester Road, York Road, Dorset Road, Northey Avenue, Sandy Lane, Station Way, Ewell Road, Cheam Road, Ewell By-pass, Reigate Road. Epsom Road, East Street to Epsom High Street. Frequency every x20 mins Mon-Sat, x30 mins Sundays & Evenings, thus introducing a Sunday service to parts of the former routes. Will be operated new SEe electric single-deck vehicles, expected in time for the route start.
- S3 (*London United-TV*) (Malden Manor Station & Belmont Station, Mon-Sat except evenings) Rerouted in Sutton Common area via existing route 470 via Angel Hill and Sutton Common Road.
- S4 (*Transport UK-BC*) (St.Helier Station & Roundshaw, Wilson's School, Mon-Sat) Apologies, the route is NOT Withdrawn, but restructured at both ends! Withdrawn from St.Helier Station and Sutton Station, standing in Marshalls Road. Then via existing route via Sutton (one way system), to Roundshaw, Mollison Drive, then extended via existing route 455 to Waddon Marsh, Sainsbury's via Plough Lane, Croydon Road, Hillier's Lane, Beddington Lane, Marlowe Way (serving ASDA), Beddington Lane, Coomber Way, Ampere Way, Purley Way, Trafalgar Way and Drury Lane. Frequency increased from x30 to x20mins Mon-Sat daytimes and introduced on Sunday every x30 mins.
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Saturday 2nd March 2024: Other changes listed below, also widened timetables for 5 for Romford cycle road works and 15 for effect of Charing Cross Road works.

- 58 (*Stagecoach Lea Interchange-LI*) (East Ham, Central Park & Walthamstow Central Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles though converting to new electric Volvo BZL/MCV double-deck vehicles in due course later in the summer.
- 97 (*Stagecoach East London-WH*) (Stratford City, Bus Station & Chingford Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing vehicles initially, although awarded to Stagecoach Lea Interchange, so is expected to be transferred to Lea Interchange (LI) garage using existing Wrightbus StreetDeck HEV96 hybrid double-deck vehicles from 30th March (to be confirmed next month). Evening frequency increased from x15 to x12mins.
- 101 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Wanstead Station & Beckton, Bus Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new Ee-class electric double-deck vehicles in due course.
- 123/= (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Ilford, High Road & Wood Green Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 158/= (*Arriva London North-EC*) (Stratford, Bus Station & Chingford Mount, Prince Albert) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 215 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Lee Valley Campsite) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class NRM new Routemasters. LTs have been making frequent appearances of late.
- 238/= (*Stagecoach East London-WH/BK*) (Stratford, Bus Station & Barking Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD40D Enviro400 diesel double-deck vehicles initially but converted to AD40H Enviro400 hybrid double-deck vehicles displaced by electric vehicles later in the summer. Re-allocated in full to Barking (BK) garage so West Ham (WH) allocation withdrawn.
- 275 (*Stagecoach East London-T*) (Walthamstow, St.James Street Station & Barkingside, Tesco) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 309 (*Stagecoach East London-HK*) (Canning Town, Bus Station & Bethnal Green, Bonner Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single deck vehicles.
- 325 (Prince Regent Station & East Beckton, Sainsbury's) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle from River Road (RR) garage, using new SEe-class AD20 Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Arriva London North* from Barking (DX) garage using ENL-class AD E200Dart Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles.
- W11 (*Stagecoach East London-AW*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Chingford Hall Estate) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new MetroCityEV electric vehicles in due course.

Saturday 9th March 2024:

- 167 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Ilford High Road & Loughton Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD20D Enviro 200 diesel single deck vehicles.
- 346 (*Stagecoach East London-RM*) (Upminster Park Estate, Waycross Road & Upminster Station, Mon-Sat) extended from Upminster Station via Hall Lane, Shepherd's Hill, Heath Road to Harold Wood Station then taking over route 497 via the existing route to terminate at Dagnam Park, Dagnam Park Square. The revised service will run every x20 mins, daily.
- 379 (Chingford Station & Yardley Lane Estate, Boardman Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Stagecoach East London from Walthamstow Avenue (AW) garage, using new MetroCity EV electric single-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Northumberland Park (NP) garage using WS-class Wrightbus StreetLite diesel single-deck vehicles.
- 497 (*Stagecoach East London-NS*) (Harold Hill, Dagnam Park Square & Harold Wood Station, Mon-Sat) Route WITHDRAWN and absorbed by route 346.
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Saturday 9th March 2024 continued

SL2 NEW ROUTE (*Arriva London North-DX*) (Walthamstow Central Station & North Woolwich, express) via Hoe Street, then via route 123, via Forest Road, A406, Woodford Avenue, Gants Hill, Ilford, then via route 169 via Ilford Lane to Barking, then via A406, then via route 474 via Royal Docks Road to North Woolwich, using HA-class AD E40H Enviro400H City hybrid double-deck vehicles. Mon-Sat daytimes every x12mins and Sundays and evenings every x15mins.

Saturday 23rd March 2024:

20 (*Stagecoach East London-AW*) (Walthamstow Central Station & Debden Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E40H Enviro 400H City hybrid double-deck vehicles.

76/= (Waterloo, Bayliss Road & Tottenham Hale Station) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Arriva London North from a re-opened Stamford Hill (SF) garage, (*see earlier*) using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles. Currently operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Northumberland Park (NP) garage using LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.

259 (*Arriva London North-EC*) (King's Cross, Grays Inn Road & Edmonton Green Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.

362 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Grange Hill Station & Goodmayes, King George Hospital) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.

393 (*Metroline Travel-HT*) (Chalk Farm, Roundhouse & Clapton, Lea Bridge Roundabout) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing DEM-class AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.

462 (*Stagecoach East London-BK*) (Limes Farm Estate & Ilford High Road) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing AD E20D Enviro200D MMC diesel single-deck vehicles.

Easter Holiday 29th March to 1st April 2024: A Saturday service is planned for Good Friday 29th March and a Sunday Service on Easter Monday 1st April, with normal service on Easter Saturday and Sunday.

Saturday 30th March 2024:

2 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Marylebone Station & Norwood Garage) and

N2 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Marylebone Station & Crystal Palace) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.

19 (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Battersea Bridge, South Side & Finsbury Park Station) and

N19 (*Arriva London North-AR*) (Clapham Junction & Finsbury Park Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing LT-class new Routemaster vehicles.

113 (*Metroline Travel-EW*) (Marble Arch & Edgware Station) and

N113 (*Metroline Travel-EW*) (Trafalgar Square & Edgware Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new WDE-class Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner electric double-deck vehicles.

249 (*Arriva London South-N*) (Anerley Station & Clapham Common Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using existing HV-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus Gemini 3 hybrid double-deck vehicles.

262 (Stratford, Bus Station & Gallions Reach, Shopping Park) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *Go-Ahead Blue Triangle* from Henley Road (DS) garage, using new Ee-class BYD D8UR Enviro400EV-City electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Stagecoach Lea Interchange* from Lea Interchange (LI) garage using Wrightbus Streetdeck hybrid double-deck vehicles.

317 (*Metroline Travel-PB*) (Enfield Town, Little Park Gardens & Waltham Cross, Bus Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

366 (*Go-Ahead Docklands-SI*) (Beckton, Bus Station & Redbridge, Roding Lane South) Re-allocated to River Road (RR) garage and novated to *Go-Ahead Blue Triangle*.

Saturday 30th March 2024 continued

- 372 (*Stagecoach East London-RM*) (Hornchurch, Town Centre & Lakeside, Bus Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
- 376 (*Go-Ahead Docklands-SI*) (Beckton, Bus Station & East Ham, Newham Town Hall) Re-allocated to River Road (RR) garage and novated to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle. Currently operated by SE-class E20D Enviro200 diesel single-deck vehicles, will be converted to a mix of existing and new SEe-class BYD D9UR Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles.
- 396 (*Go-Ahead Blue Triangle-RR*) (Ilford Broadway, Sainsbury's & Goodmayes, King George Hospital) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract using new SEe BYD D9UR Enviro200EV electric single-deck vehicles in due course.
- 473 (Stratford, Bus Station & North Woolwich, Free Ferry) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to Go-Ahead Blue Triangle from Henley Road (DS) garage, using new Ee-class BYD D8UR Enviro400EV-City electric double-deck vehicles in due course. Currently operated by *Stagecoach Lea Interchange* from Lea Interchange (LI) garage using Wrightbus Streetdeck hybrid double-deck vehicles.
- 493 (*Go-Ahead London General-AL*) (Richmond, Bus Station & Tooting, St. George's Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

SERVICE PROPOSALS

The Croydon / Sutton Changes, as detailed in TLB675 and updated in TLB706/707 are now introduced on 2nd March, so don't propose to repeat all the details here, except that route 407 was not split after all, and corrections to last month's TLB are made! (*see earlier route news.*)

The consultation for changes in the Upminster and Harold Wood proposals for routes **346, 347 and 497** were announced. There were 859 responses, most of which supported the extension of route 497 to absorb route 346, including new links from Harold Wood to Upminster although there was concern to reduce frequency. There was also a petition and concern to withdraw route 347. TfL have decided that route 347 will continue to operate, but "under review". After "careful consideration" of the results, TfL have decided to extend route 346 from Upminster to Harold Wood to absorb route 497, rather than the other way round and operating direct to Upminster Park Estate. Route 346 will therefore be extended from Upminster Park Estate, Waycross Road via the existing route to Upminster Station, then via Hall Lane, Shepherd's Hill, Heath Road to Harold Wood Station then taking over route 497 via the existing route to terminate at Dagnam Park, Dagnam Park Square. The service will run every x20 mins, daily, thus introducing a Sunday service to both existing routes. TfL add that the bus stand at Upminster Park Estate will be extended to allow route 346 to stand instead of 'hesitating' as currently. The changes will be introduced on 9th March (*see route news earlier.*)

A new consultation was issued on 10th January with a closing date of 18th February for route **273**. This seeks to replace Hail & Ride with fixed stops in the Manor Park and Horn Park area of Lee. It is also proposed to reroute direct in both directions via the full length of Exford Road, instead of serving the current loop via Winn Road, Jevington Way and Senlac Road.

The consultation for Catford Town Centre was also published recently. 1,503 responses were made and some changes to be made to the original proposals. These include further segregation between pedestrians and cyclists in Sangley Road. The stopping pattern of bus stops will be reviewed to minimise the impacts on those using bus routes **75 and 185**, along with minimising any loss of trees.

TfL, along with the LB of Lewisham, intend to have detailed designs of the scheme prepared by late 2024, with construction potentially starting in 2025, subject to further funding being available.

The consultation for Walthamstow and Wanstead routes **W12, W13, W14 and 549** were announced. There were 863 responses for these, with TfL deciding that the changes will occur as originally proposed. Rather than describe the changes in detail, please see TLB707, but essentially route

549 will be withdrawn and replaced by an extension of route W14, Route W12 will be restructured to operate from Coppermill Lane and Woodford Bridge, although re-routed away from Walthamstow Village. Whilst there are concerns about this, LB of Waltham Forest are determined to designate the area as a Low Traffic Neighbourhood. Route W13 will be extended to Leyton Asda. There were also concerns about the reduced frequency of the W14 replacing the hail & ride section of the W12 between Charnwood Drive and Nightingale Lane although TfL said the usage does not justify the demand. As noted in Tender news, the new contracts and revised routes will start on 7th September on the basis of new electric single-decks.

A new consultation was issued on 22nd January with a closing date of 3rd March. This proposes a new Night Route **N518**, to operate from Trafalgar Square, via route N18 to Sudbury (Barham Park Roundabout) then via Bridgewater Road, (via H17, 245), Whitton Avenue East, Whitton Avenue West, Pett's Hill, (via 487), Alexandra Avenue, (new section, then via 398), Rayners Lane, Village Way (complying with one-way system), Eastern Avenue, North View, (via 398), then Elm Avenue, (new section), then via 398 via Park Way, Pembroke Way to terminate at Ruislip Station. TfL say this was "identified in 2012/13 by the London Boroughs of Brent, Ealing, Harrow and Hillingdon with areas of a high population density, without a night bus service." (especially since the loss of the weekend 114). The service is proposed to run every x30 mins Su-Th nights and x15 mins Fr-Sa nights. This would interwork with route N18 which will be revised to run every x30 mins Su-Th nights and every x15 mins Fr-Sa nights, giving a joint x15mins Su-Th nights and x7½min Fr-Sa nights between Sudbury and Trafalgar Square. TfL add that "demand at weekends has increased by 4% above the pre-pandemic average demand on route N18." In effect the current N18 "short workings" between Trafalgar Square and Sudbury & Harrow Road Stations are being extended!

A new consultation was issued on 24th January with a closing date of 6th March. Route **188/=** at North Greenwich is proposed to be diverted from Blackwall Lane to serve the full length of Tunnel Avenue, in both directions instead of Millennium Way. Tunnel Avenue is currently bisected in two portions for the construction of the Silvertown Tunnel, so is proposed to start from early 2025 when the new tunnel opens. The route will terminate at North Greenwich via Tunnel Avenue and depart via Edmund Halley Way, Millennium Way and Tunnel Avenue. TfL say this will assist new development on the west side of Greenwich Peninsula, leaving route 108/= to serve Millennium Way. The northern part of Tunnel Avenue used to be served by route 185's peak hour extension to "Delta Metal Works" long before the O2 arena was constructed.

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

TLB686 p12: 410 stop changes in Norwood;

TLB703 p13: 344 diversion away from Southwark Bridge s/b to operate via London Bridge.

TLB705 p14: 419 fixed stops in Barnes.

TLB707 p13: 336 Downham routeing and stop changes.

TLB708 p16: Oxford Street.

TLB708 p16: Silvertown Tunnel Cyclists service.

TLB708 p17: 281 Tolworth rerouting.

TLB708 p17: 309 Poplar rerouting.

TLB709 p15: E1 extension to Osterley, new route 618.

TLB710 p14: R1, R2, R3, R6, and B14 routes in Orpington.

TLB711 p12: 178, 335 B16 in Kidbrooke.

TLB711 p13: 91/N91, 123, 232 in Harringey Heartlands.

TLB712 p14: U1, U2, U3 and E7 in Hillingdon.

TLB712 p14: 394 in King's Cross, Canal Reach.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN BRIEF

This list includes tenders that have been decided and principal route changes already in past TLBs. All dates and all details are subject to alteration or deferment. Just a note to say that contracts are increasingly being awarded or renewed for various lengths; all contracts do have “break” clauses” and can be terminated by the operator or TfL at any time and for any reason, which remain commercially confidential of course!

Notes: CE+2 = Contract extended by 2 years. CR5 = Contract awarded or renewed for 5 years, with a potential +2 year extension. CR2 = Contract awarded or renewed for 2 years, CR3 = Contract awarded or renewed for 3 years, CR4 = Contract awarded or renewed for 4 years, CR6 = Contract awarded or renewed for 6 years, CR7 = Contract awarded or renewed for 7 years. 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.

- TBA 2024: 77, 211 as part of the Central London review.
- 6th Apr 24: CR7 on S3* (London United to Transport UK)
- 13th Apr 24: CR6 on 195 (Transport UK), CR7 on 306* (Metroline Travel to Transport UK), 689* (Arriva LS)
- 27th Apr 24: CR6 on 110 (London United), 236 (S’ch Lea Interchange), 394 (S’ch East London), P4 (S’ch Selkent to G-A London Central), CR7* on 206 (Metroline West).
- 4th May 24: CR3 on 28/N28 (London Transit to Metroline West).
- 11th May 24: CR3 on 481 (London United to Metroline Travel).
- 18th May 24: CR6 on 464 (Transport UK).
- 25th May 24: CR6 on 272, 440 (London United), E11 (Transport UK), CR7 on E6* (Metroline West to Transport UK),
- 1st Jun 24: CR5 on 253/N253, 254 (Arriva LN), CR3 on E3 (London United)
- 22nd Jun 24: CR3 on 260, 302 (Metroline Travel), R68 (Transport UK), CR6 on 120 (Metroline Travel), CR7 on 143* (Metroline Travel), R70* (Transport UK).
- 29th Jun 24: CR5 on 211 (London United to Transport UK), CR3 on 328 (Metroline Travel), CR6 on 465 (London United to Transport UK), CR7 on C1 (London United).
- 13th July 24: CR7 on 382* (Metroline Travel).
- 20th July 24: CR5 on 17 (Metroline Travel), CR7 on 280* (G-A London General), C11*, W8* (Metroline Travel).
- 17th Aug 24: CR7 on 243/=* (Arriva LN), W7* (Metroline Travel).
- 24th Aug 24: CR5 on 15/N15, 15 (G-A Blue Triangle),
CR6 on 115, (G-A Blue Triangle), 130 (Transport UK), 410 (Arriva LS),
CR7 on 50*, 194*, 250/N250*, 255* (Arriva LS), 320* (G-A Metrobus).
- 31st Aug 24: CR3 on 640 (Sullivan to Metroline Travel),
CR7 on 289*, 663* (Arriva LS), 314* (S’ch Selkent).
- 7th Sep 24: CR7 on W12*, (S’ch East London) W13*(S’ch East London to S’ch Lea Interchange),
W14* (S’ch Lea Interchange). 549 (Sullivans - route withdrawn),
CR3 on 395 (London Sovereign).
- 21st Sep 24: CR7 on 210* (Metroline Travel).
- 28th Sep 24: CR7 on 131* (G-A London General), CR6 on 411 (London United).
- 5th Oct 24: CR3 on 201 (Transport UK), 661 (S’ch Selkent).
- 26th Oct 24: CR7 on U4* (Metroline West).
- 2nd Nov 24: CR6 on 627 (Arriva LS).
- TBA in 2025: CR7 on 129*, CR7 on SL4* (G-A Blue Triangle).
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OTHER SPECIAL and MISCELLANEOUS non-TfL OPERATIONS IN LONDON

Once again, nothing new this month although there have been several renewals and minor amendments to existing London Service Permits, I must report that a one-off operation sneaked under the radar! **Ensign** applied for an overnight event on the morning of 9th December 2023 between Tottenham Hale Station and Drumsheds, Glover Drive via Watermead Way and Edmonton Road, Angel using double-deck vehicles every 30 minutes from Midnight to 02:00, then every 15 mins until 03:45. Drumsheds is a new music venue inside the old Tottenham Ikea store.

DIVERSIONS, DEVIATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS

Central: From 15th January to 13th April, owing to gas main replacement in Charing Cross Road. Northbound buses on routes **24/=, N5, N20, N29, N41 and N279** are diverted from Trafalgar Square via Pall Mall, Waterloo Place, Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus and Shaftsbury Avenue. Route **29** is curtailed at Tottenham Court Road Station and route **176** is curtailed at Aldwych, although the night service is not mentioned! Pall Mall East is also blocked as part of the works, so all traffic operates via Cockspur Street eastbound. From 3rd January to 15th May, Wilton Road at the junction of the former bus garage at Gillingham Street, Victoria is closed owing to water main replacement. Route **24/=** is diverted in both directions via Belgrave Road and Gillingham Street to and from Wilton Road. Because of a tragic fatal accident, Victoria Bus Station was closed on 29th January at least, for police investigation. The Sloane Street diversions, ongoing for the last year, have now been extended to 29th November.

South-East: From 29th January to 29th April, Ship Hill, Tatsfield is closed for water main repairs. Route 464 is curtailed at Biggin Hill Valley. A shuttle bus, “operating in partnership with Transport UK, Go Coach and Thames Water” is provided by Go-Coach (*see photo in this TLB*), operates in both directions from Biggin Hill Valley to Tatsfield via Sunningvale Avenue, Ricketts Hill Road, Church Hill, Clarks Lane, Tatsfield Approach Road. Route **P4** diversion at Brockley Rise has been extended to 31st December.

South: From 22nd January to 13th March, owing to gas works in Wrythe Lane, St Helier, route **157** is diverted in both directions via Green Wrythe Lane and Thornton Road. From 24th January to 14th February, owing to gas works in Courtney Crescent, Carshalton Beeches, route **S4** was diverted in both directions direct via Stanley Park Road. Thanks to member Martin for these reports.

South-West: From 29th January to 6th March, owing to electrical works in Eden Street, Kingston, southbound buses on routes **65/N65, 71, 281/=, 406, 418, 671, K1, K2, K3, K4 and Surrey routes 458, 513, 514, 515 and 715** are diverted via Wheatfield Way.

West: From 3rd to 9th January (starting and finishing at 17:00) owing to resurfacing work, in Swan Lane and Wise Lane, West Drayton, route **U3** was diverted in both directions via Station Road, and Harmondsworth Road leaving Wise Lane estate unserved again. Thanks to member Chris for the update.

North-West: From 4th to 11th January, owing to a crane operation at the junction of Victoria Road and Wales Farm Road in North Acton, routes **266/N226** were diverted northbound via route 260 via Park Royal Road and Acton Lane. Routes **260, 440 and 487** were diverted south and westbound from Chase Road via Portal Way instead of Victoria Road, with route 440 northbound operating direct from Victoria Road to Chase Road. Route **218** was curtailed at Norman Way, with buses returning to Hammersmith serving the stops around North Acton playing fields from the first stop at Cloister Road. Also, on the weekends of 13/14 and 20/21 January, further utility works took place at Leamington Park. Routes **266/N266 and 440** were diverted southbound via A40 (eastbound), Savoy Circus, Old Oak Road, East Acton Road, Old Oak Common Lane, A40 (westbound) and Friary Road. Thanks to member Fabio for these reports. Route **452** curtailment at Ladbroke Grove Sainsburys, for ongoing roadworks at Kensal Green, has been extended again to 30th April 2024.

East: From 4th January to 30th March (work was suspended on 12-14th January, and also overnight only until 22nd January) owing to cycle lane works, Chandlers Way and Eastern Road, Romford were closed. Routes **66, 86/N86, 128/=, 247, 296, 347, 375, 651, 674 and 686** towards Romford Station were diverted from Mercury Gardens via Thurloe Gardens and South Street. Routes **370, 496, 649 and 650** follow the above route to South Street then Victoria Road. Routes **5, 103, 165, 174, 175, 193, 248, 252, 294, 365/=, 498, 499 and N15** were diverted from Mercury Gardens, via Thurloe Gardens, Oldchurch Road to circumnavigate roundabout then via Thurloe Gardens, Victoria Road and South Street. Phase 3 of this scheme starts on 30th March to 19th April during which South Street is also closed, so the diversions will be amended again.

COUNTRY AREAS - Route Developments

Section Editor: Phil Miller, 63 Oakleigh Drive, Croxley Green, Herts WD3 3EE or by email to tlbcountryroutes@hotmail.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. All reports will be very gratefully received!

West and South ESSEX, including THURROCK

Nothing to report this month.

HERTFORDSHIRE and Southern BEDFORDSHIRE

Sunday 19th November 2023 (Watford and Hemel area)

In the event there were a number of corrections/ clarifications necessary to the details in TLBs 711 and 712, so a full list is repeated below.

- 2 (*Arriva KT, Hemel town service, daily*) Revised timetable with frequency reductions.
 - 3, 4 (*Arriva KT, Hemel town services, daily except Sunday evgs*). Revised timetables. The M-S evening service (which has been Town Centre & Warners End only) withdrawn .
 - 9 (*Arriva KT, Watford & Leavesden, M-S except evgs*) Withdrawn (replaced by 328).
 - 10 (*Arriva KT, Holywell & Abbots Langley, daily*) Withdrawn (partly replaced by 20 & 328)
 - 20 (*Arriva KT, Holywell & Hemel, daily*) Frequency increased from x30 to x20 mins on Mon-Fri except evenings. However there is an overall frequency cut along the common stretch of the 10 and 20 (Holywell Estate – Tibbs Hill Road), which had been x15 mins M-S.
 - 97 (*Arriva KT- Hitchin & Stotfold- daily exc. evgs*) Timetable changes only.
 - 301 (*Arriva KT- Stevenage & St Albans, daily*). Timetable changes only.
 - 302 (*Arriva KT, Welwyn Garden City & Hemel Hempstead, daily*) Extended M-S daytimes in Hemel from Marlowes to Riverside and then to the Rail Station. Revised timetable.
 - 320 (*Arriva KT*) New route. M-F schooldays only. One journey each way in each "peak". Hemel Hempstead (Riverside) then to Marlowes, then as per the pre-April 2022 320 via Adeyfield, Leverstock Green, Bedmond, Garston, Watford, Vicarage Rd, Croxley Green and Rickmansworth, then to Maple Cross. (Note that TLB 712 incorrectly stated that the 320 was withdrawn in 2013). Replaces 821. The timings seem to be to serve schools west of Watford, and significant chunks of each journey are thus clearly intended for use by passengers other than schoolchildren (perhaps that also explains the non-8xx route number). Often uses an AD Enviro 400 double-deck from Hemel garage still sporting old (and now new again) route 320 branding- a first for a schoolday service anywhere?!
 - 321 (*Arriva KT, Luton & Maple Cross or Berry Lane Estate, daily*) Withdrawn between Watford Town Centre and Berry Lane Estate/ Maple Cross (replaced by 322). Rerouted instead to Watford
-

- General Hospital (Car Park) via Lower High Street, Dalton Way, Thomas Sawyer Way and Shrodells Rd. Frequency reduced from x20 to x30 Mon-Sat (but see 721 and 725).
- 322 (*Arriva KT*) New route. Daily. Hemel Hempstead Bus Stn via 508 Apsley, Kings Langley, Hunton Bridge, Hempstead Rd, Watford Junction to Watford Town Centre, then via 321 Vicarage Rd, Queens Ave, Whippendell Rd, Croxley Green, Rickmansworth and Mill End to Berry Lane Estate or Maple Cross. X20 M-F daytimes (one bus per hour to Maple X, two to Berry Lane), x30 Sat daytimes (alternating Maple X/ Berry Lane), x60 evenings/ Sundays (all Berry Lane). No Sunday evening service Watford Town Centre to Hemel Hempstead.
- 328 (*Arriva KT*) New route. Daily except late evenings. Mount Vernon Hospital & Watford Junction via 508 (Northwood, South Oxhey, Bushey Arches, Watford Town Centre). Extends M-S via route 9 (North Watford and The Harebreaks) to Leavesden Aerodrome Way, then further via Langley Lane, Tibbs Hill Road and route 10 through Abbots Langley village to a new terminal loop via Broomfield Rise and Hazelwood Lane. The 10 had continued further to terminate at South Way. M-S runs x30 Mount Vernon to Watford Town Centre, x60 on to Abbots Langley; Suns x60 Watford & MVH. In the MF am peak, the short journeys extend to/ from Watford Junction.
- 335/336 (*Arriva KT, Watford Town & Chorleywood/ Amersham, M-S exc. evgs*) Withdrawn.
- 336 (*Red Rose*) New route, effectively an extension and renumbering of Red Rose's existing 385A via the western end of Arriva KT's withdrawn 335/ 336. So, still M-S except evenings, mostly x60. From North Bushey (or Watford Junction during M-F peaks) via existing Red Rose 385A through Watford, West Watford and Ascot Rd to Watford Morrisons. Then extended to double-run back out to Rickmansworth Rd via Ascot Rd, then as per withdrawn 335/ 336 Watford Rd, Croxley Met Stn, Rickmansworth to Chorleywood, where buses loop via Green Street then Chorleywood Stn. Still one journey each way daily via Cedars Village but the use of number 335 to signify these journeys is abandoned. One pm peak/ late afternoon journey Mon-Sat runs direct between Two Bridges and Watford Junction via Rickmansworth Rd, Beechen Grove and Clarendon Rd instead of via Whippendell Rd/ Hospital; of these only the westbound journeys run through the town centre.
- 385 (*Red Rose, M-F peaks Watford Morrisons & North Bushey via Whippendell Rd*) No change.
- 385A (*Red Rose, North Bushey & Watford Morrisons, M-S exc. evgs*) Withdrawn (replaced by 336).
- 508 (*Arriva KT, Hemel & Mount Vernon Hosp, daily*) Withdrawn (replaced by 322, 328).
- 721 (*Arriva KT*) New route. Mon-Fri except evenings, x30. Luton Station Interchange via route 321 to St Albans (King Harry) then via King Harry Lane, A4147 Leverstock Green, A414 to Hemel Hempstead (Riverside). Despite the route number, the service is in fact all stops between Luton and the western end of King Harry La, then only serving three stops to Hemel.
- 725 (*Arriva KT*) New route. Mon-Sat except late evenings, x60. Limited stop. Rickmansworth Stn & Stevenage Lister Hospital via route 724 (serving the same stops) to Hatfield (Ellenbrook Lane), then via the A1001, Welwyn Garden City, Knightsfield, Old Welwyn, Oaklands, Woolmer Green, Knebworth, Stevenage Town Centre and Old Town.
- 821 (*Arriva KT, Hemel Hempstead & Maple X, schooldays only*) Withdrawn (replaced by 320).

Monday 4th December

Introduction of new HertsLynx DRT service for Dacorum, based around Hemel Hempstead.

Saturday 30th December

Watford Click (*Arriva KT*) Last day of operation.

Tuesday 2nd January 2024

25, 25B, 410 (*Central Connect*) all as in TLB 713.

Sunday 7th January (additional to TLB 713)

- 602 (*Uno, Hatfield & Watford daily*) Rerouted westbound in Radlett via Watling Street and Park Road ex Aldenham Rd and Watford Rd (matches eastbound routeing).
- 724 (*Arriva KT, Harlow & Heathrow Airport, daily*) The new timetable better coordinates with the new 725, now roughly x30 on the common stretch, and the route now runs all night.

Monday 4th February

- 303, 331 (*Sullivan, Nicholas Breakspear School routes*) Timetable changes for reliability.
- 602 (*Uno, Hatfield & Watford, daily*) An extra M-F early am journey added from Hatfield to St Albans.

Sunday 17th February

9A/B/C/D (*Stagecoach, Bedford Bus Stn & Hitchin, currently 9A/B Mon-Sat except evgs each hourly, plus 9C SDO*) This group of routes extended from Hitchin to Stevenage via Whitehill, A602, Lister Hospital and Stevenage Old Town, thus competing with Arriva 100/ 101 and Uno 635. Also a 9D variant added, consisting of M-F early morning (southbound) and evening (northbound) journeys which will run direct between Shefford and Henlow Camp via Hitchin Rd and Bedford Rd (omitting Henlow). No change to the combined 9A/B x30 frequency Mon-Fri, but reduced from x30 to x60 on Saturdays.

Sunday 3rd March

- 755, 757 (*Arriva the Shires, Luton to London Victoria*) Revised timetable; increased frequency.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and EAST BERKSHIRE (incl. eastern borders of Oxfordshire)

Sunday 7th January (additional to TLB 713)

The withdrawn 7A (*Arriva the Shires, High Wycombe & Bourne End*) was Suns only and is replaced by routes 5 (*HW & Bourne Ed via Wootton Green*) and 6 (*HW & Bourne End via Flackwell Heath*) which are introduced on that day (now both daily except evgs).

Sunday 28th January

First Beeline: Minor timetable changes daily (unless stated) on routes 3 (*Uxbridge & Slough via Iver*), 6 (*Maidenhead & Wexham Court*), 7 (*Britwell & Heathrow*), 8 (*Slough & Heathrow T5*), 12/ 13 (*Slough & Burnham, Mon-Sat*), A4 (*Heathrow Central & Cippenham*) and X74 (*Slough & High Wycombe*). On the X74, some journeys are shortened or withdrawn.

First say that these changes are the work of an AI programme called Prospective, “which makes small adjustments to some service timetables to improve the service. The technology considers road conditions, congestion, and available resource amongst many more factors. By utilising the latest data and AI technology, our network planning experts have created new timetables that reflect real life experience and improve journeys for customers”. What passengers on the X74 will make of this excellent news is anyone’s guess!

SURREY and northern parts of WEST SUSSEX

Nothing to report this month.

North and West KENT

Friday 9th February

- S11 (*Go-coach, South Darenth & Sevenoaks Schools, SDO*) Withdrawn (LDO). TLB 713 incorrectly stated that the service was withdrawn after 5th January. Kent County Council are continuing to support the service until 9th February (half-term break) whilst alternative arrangements are considered for the future.
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AN OVERVIEW OF CHRISTMAS 2023 AND NEW YEAR 2024 SERVICES (excluding TfL services in Greater London)

Written by our special guest sub-editor John Bull. This section should have appeared in the January 2024 TLB but was lost in the editorial transition. Sorry about that.

Christmas Day 25th December

LHR, LGW, LTN, STN=Heathrow, Gatwick, Luton, Stansted airports. CBS = LHR Central Bus Station, CA = Cargo Area, T2, 3, 4, 5 = Terminal 2, 3, 4, 5. NX = National Express; VCS = Victoria Coach Stn, BPR = Buckingham Palace Road.

While newcomer Flightline 730/731 (Newbury & District) from Basingstoke to Heathrow did not run, the other recent addition, Railair RA3 (Firstbus) Watford Junction to LHR, T2, T3 did run. The other express services which ran on 25.12.2022 all made welcome returns. Green Line 757 (Vic, BPR - LTN & Luton Stn, not via Bricket Wood on this day 0505, 0635 x 60 to 2235, ex Luton to BPR 0640 x60 - 2330). Railair (Firstbus) RA1 ran special services to LHR T5, T2, T3,: ex Reading Stn 0240 x60mins 2240. ex T3 0400, 0500, 0555 x60 2255, 0015. RA2 Guildford, Woking to LHR T5, T2, T3 ex GF Stn 0230 x65mins 2305, ex T3 0405 x65 2230, 2350 plus 0030 to Woking Stn only. RA3 Watford Junction to T2, T3 0400 x 2 hrs 2000, 2145, 2330, ex T2 0440 x 2 hrs 2040, 2225, 0010. The Airline (Oxford Bus Co) maintained its 2022 levels: OXF - High Wycombe Coachway - LHR T5, CBS 0550 x60-1700, OXF - LHR- LGW 0550 x 120 - 1550; LHR CBS, T5 - Oxford 12 trips 0920 x 60 2030, LGW - LHR - OXF 6 trips 0925 x 2 hrs - 1925.

Again NX ran special 800 series one-day Christmas Day routes:

NX821 VCS - Heathrow CBS, T5, T4 0330, 0415, 0500 - 2230. x 20 mins (30mins before 0700 & after 2000, 51 trips);

NX821 LHR T4, T5 & CBS - VCS 0600 - 2330, 50 trips, x 20 mins (30mins before 0800 & after 2200).

NX823 VCS - LGW (North & South) 0520, 0600 x 20 mins - 2200. 50 trips (incl 10 on NX817 on to Brighton)

NX823 LGW (Sth & Nth) - VCS 0520, 0600, 0640, 0720 x 20 mins -2200, 2300, 2320, 2340. 51 trips (including 11 on NX817 starting from Brighton)

NX824 VCS - Marble Arch - Baker Street Stn - Finchley Road Stn - Golders Green - LTN 45 trips 0100 x 30 mins 2300

NX824 LTN - Golders Green - Finchley Road Stn - Baker St - Marble Arch - VCS 48 trips 0001, 0030 x 30 mins -2330.

NX826 VCS - Stratford - STN - Cambridge 4 trips 0800, 1100, 1500, 1900.

NX826 Cambridge - STN - Stratford - VCS 4 trips 0830, 1215, 1615, 1915 ex STN.

NX813 VCS 0900, 1330, 1700 - LHR CBS & T5 - STN (arr 1125, 1555, 1925) - Cambridge - Norwich - Great Yarmouth.

NX813 Great Yarmouth - Norwich - Cambridge - STN (dep 1015, 1330, 1745) - LHR T5 & CBS - VCS.

NX816 VCS - Stratford - STN - Colchester - Ipswich 1200, 2000. NX816 Ipswich etc - STN 0930, 1700 - Stratford - VCS.

Thus NX813, 816, 826 combined VCS - STN: 9 trips 0800 - 2000. STN - VCS 9 trips 0830 - 1915.

NX820 LTN - Luton - MK - Northampton - Coventry - Birmingham ex LTN 0830, 1130, 1430. ex Brum 0930, 1230, 1530.

Flixbus 940 LGW (Sth & Nth) - LHR (T5 & CBS) - Bristol - Newport - Cardiff - Bridgend - Port Talbot - Swansea 4 trips 0850, 1320, 1720, 2120. ex LGW. 4 return trips Cardiff etc to LHR, LGW, ex LHR CBS 0605, 1010, 1410, 1805.

In addition NX, Megabus and 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 was:

Vintage RTs on route 430 Putney Bridge Stn 1000 x 30 mins 1530 - Roehampton Danebury Avenue, 0930 x 30 1500 to Putney Bridge Stn.

TfL Dial-a-Ride available 0700 - 0100 the following morning (ie into Boxing Day, also to 0100 from 24 Dec into 25 Dec and 31 Dec into 1 Jan).

Heathrow Hotel Hoppa normal shuttle service between T2, T3, T4, T5 and local hotels 0411 - 0013.

Carlone H31 special one day minibus route LHR CBS - Bath Road - Harlington Corner - Hatton Cross - T4 , ex CBS 0525 x60 0825, 1025 x 60 1725, 1925 x 60 2225; ex T4 0455 x 60 0855, 1055 x 60 1755, 1955 x 60 2255.

Flightline (formerly Green Line) 703 Slough - Langley - LHR T5 (Thames Valley Buses) 0400 x60 mins -2300, ex T5 0430 x 60 mins - 2330.

First Bus Berkshire A4 Cippenham - Slough - LHR CBS 0327, 0357, 0442, x approx 60 0027, ex CBS 0445 x60 0030. . First Berkshire Route 7 Britwell - Slough - Langley -LHR T5 0300 x approx 60 2300, ex T5 0407 x60 0007.

Carlone 442 Egham - Staines - Stanwell - T5 ex Egham 10 trips 0318 - 1707, ex Staines 1820, 1955. ex T5 12 trips 0725 - 2320 to Staines/Egham.

Arriva KT routes to STN: 133 from Braintree 8 trips 0250 - 2150, ex STN 0350 - 2250 ;

310 Thorley Park (Bishop's Stortford) 16 trips 0310 - 2210, ex STN 0343 - 2243;

510 STN - Harlow 8 trips 0350 - 2250 ex STN, 0250 - 2150 ex HA connecting with 133 at STN.

Metrobus route 10 LGW North & South Terminals - Crawley - Bewbush, mostly x 30 mins, 24 hours.

Big Bus Red Route open-top tour 0900 x15-mins -1700 from Victoria. Golden Tours ran various Christmas Day coach tours. Note: RM/RML route T15 did not run 25, 31 Dec, or 1st Jan.

Heathrow Express Christmas Day rail shuttle service only between Heathrow T 2 & 3 to T5, 0520 x 20 mins 2350, T2 & T3 to T4 0540 x 30mins 2330. Elizabeth and Piccadilly lines did not run.

Greater London 26th December

The most newsworthy development was the partial restoration of Green Line 724 which has not run on Boxing Day since 2012, or New Year's Day since 1st Jan 2013. This was achieved by the novel arrangement of Thames Valley Buses running a (limited) daytime service between Heathrow and Watford Junction only, with Arriva running two early and one late positioning journeys via Watford to and from Harlow. As a result, every daily bus and coach route serving Heathrow ran on Boxing Day.

A Sunday service ran on TfL bus routes, with the earliest journey being on route 490 at 0315 from Richmond, arriving T5 at 0359, with routes 350 and 423 both arriving there at 0355 and the 482 at 0405. The earliest arrival at CBS was the A10 at 0354, while London City Airport saw the 474 route arriving there at 0408 and 0410 from each direction. Elsewhere, London General operated a P&R shuttle service from the BP car park at Sunbury-on-Thames to Kempton Park racecourse from 0900 x20min - 1715. TfL Dial-a-Ride available 0700- 2400. The only national rail services operating were Chiltern Railways Marylebone to Oxford Parkway, Heathrow Express (as on 25th Dec); Southern limited services Victoria, Clapham Junction, East Croydon, Gatwick Airport and Brighton, also Victoria and Sutton via West Croydon, also Victoria and East Croydon via Crystal Palace. Stansted Express Tottenham, Harlow Town, Bishop's Stortford and Stansted Airport. The only London Overground services ran between Clapham Junction and Shepherd's Bush from 09:00 until 20:00, and between New Cross Gate and Crystal Palace from 08:15 until 22.15. DLR and most of London Underground operated except: Bakerloo line: Queens Park - Harrow & Wealdstone, Kensington Olympia, Waterloo & City Line and the Elizabeth Line.

Non-TfL buses serving Heathrow: Arriva/ Thames Valley Buses 724 LHR CBS - Watford - Harlow. Arriva CBS - HA 0530, 0705, 0025,(also 1915 on 1 Jan) TVB LHR - WFJ 0815 x 2-3 hours 2040. Other routes to LHR largely Sunday services. BM Coaches H30 T4 -CA -T5 0500-2340; Carlone 442 T5 - Staines, Egham - Englefield Green 0315 - 2353; Carlone X442 Staines - T5 0320 - 2330; Carousel



Route 157 passed on re-tender from Arriva London South to Go Ahead London General on 2nd December. Until new electric vehicles arrive, existing E400s and WVLs will be used. WVL431, which retains its Docklands Buses fleetnames, turns into Parkgate Road, Wallington. *(Terry Wong Min)*

As a consequence of the fire involving MEe12 on 11th January, all the Go Ahead London General electric Optare Metrodeckers have been stood down for checks. Route 200 reverted to diesel operation using assorted E200s and E400s as a result. T204 sporting temporary route information displays is seen in Colliers Wood. *(Richard Godfrey)*





From 20th January, the operation of 133 was awarded to Transport UK. Until new electric vehicles arrive, a mixture of diesel hybrids and some existing electrics are being used. LT161, pulls away from the Borough Station stop, on the first day. *(Martin Ruthe)*

The 20th January service revisions also saw route 333 change operator, from Arriva London South to Go Ahead London General from Stockwell garage, using diesel hybrids, until electric vehicles arrive. MHV 89 swings round the Elephant & Castle. *(Terry Wong Min)*





Londoner Buses Routemaster operated tourist service continues to see the occasional use of 'guest' vehicles. The Newman family's Green Line RMC1477 put in an appearance on route T15 on 20th January. Photographed here departing from the Tower Hill pick up stop. (Richard Godfrey)

It wasn't just the 'central' area 333 that changed in January. Very long established Hertford town service route 333, became the H5 and H6. London Country RF243 on route 333 stands at the now closed Ware Park Hospital on 27th August 1974. (Mike Harris)





Go Ahead Metrobus E200MMC 6710 is the first acquired Southdown PSV bus to gain fleet livery. Seen here on route 424 waiting time in Horley. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Changes to Arriva the Shires services on 7th January saw a number of inter urban routes centered on Aylesbury renumbered and given 'X' prefixes (despite not being 'Express'). The 500 Aylesbury - Watford service became X5. E400 5464 with the now redundant 'Sapphire' branding, passes through Berkhamsted. *(Richard Godfrey)*



102 CBS - High Wycombe 0245 - 0055; Diamond bus H21 T4 - Feltham 0301 - 0005; Diamond bus 459 Iver Heath - West Drayton - T5 0315, 0415, 0515; Diamond bus 555 CBS, T4 - Sunbury, Walton on Thames, Whiteley 0455 - 2050, Diamond Bus 556 T4 - Ashford - Chertsey 0250 - 0024, Diamond Bus 710 Chesham - T5, CBS 0250 & 0450; First Berkshire A4 Cippenham - Slough - LHR CBS 0315 - 0205; 7 Britwell - Slough - Langley -LHR T5 0300- 0010; 8 Slough - Windsor - Egham - Staines - T5 0715 - 1927. :Flightline 703 Bracknell - WR - SL - T5 0245 - 2115. ex T5 0400 - 2335. Flightline 730/731 Basingstoke - T5 0245- 0020. Heathrow Hotel Hoppa normal shuttle service 0411 - 0013; NX A30 T4 -CA -T5 -CBS - VCS 03.27 only; NX A40 VCS - Ealing - Southall- CBS- T5- CA- T4 0215, ex LHR direct VCS 0345; Oxford Airline 0330 OXF -HE- 0450 CBS - 0600 LGW. Last to OXF-2115 ex LGW, 2220 ex CBS, OXF arr 2350, Railair RA1 Reading - T5- T2- T3 0240 - 0015, Railair RA2 Guildford - Woking - CBS 0230 - 0028; Railair RA3 T2- T3 - Watford Junction 0355 -2340. Thames Valley 5 Cippenham 0258 - T5- CBS, Go2Gate Dedworth - T5. NX resumed normal services.

Other express services: Arriva Green Line 757 Vic, BPR - LTN - Luton Interchange, Sunday service (from 0340). Berry's Superfast, to Taunton etc (afternoon and evening only). Oxford Tube Vic BPR - Hillingdon - Oxford, Sunday service 0525 - 0425, 0316 - 0215 ex OXF. Londonline (formerly Green Line) 702 Vic, BPR - Slough - Reading 0912 x60 1830, 0719 - 1608 ex Reading, not via Windsor on 26th Dec but connected with 703 at Slough in both directions.

West and South Essex inc Thurrock

First Essex: 24th Dec: Sun times, X10, X20, X30 early finish; 25th Dec: no services; 26th Dec: no services except X10 (Basildon - STN) normal hourly service, X20 (Colchester - STN) normal hourly Sunday service, X30 (Southend - STN) late start then normal hourly;. 27th-30th Dec: Saturday times, 31st Dec; normal Sunday 1st Jan: no services except X10, X20, X30 2nd Jan: normal **NIBS:** 24th-26th, 31st Dec, 1st Jan: no service, 27th-30th Dec: MF service, none on 21, 81, 2nd Jan: normal. **Ensignbus:** 24th Dec: Sun early finishes. 25th Dec: no services 26th Dec: Sunday, some early finishes, No 66, X80. Special X10 Lakeside- Basildon- Southend 0600, 0700, 0800 x30mins 1700 x hourly 2000, 2030, 2120 return 0720 - 2150. Z1 27th-30th Dec: Sats, 31st Dec some early finishes. 1st Jan: Sunday some early last buses. 2nd Jan: normal services. **Arriva Harlow and Stansted:** 24th, 31st Dec: Sunday with early finishes, except 510 (2250ex HA, 2350 ex STN) 724 (1930 ex HA, 2240 ex LHR, arr HA 0117 . 25th-26th Dec, 1st Jan : no service except 133, 309, 510, as above plus 724 on 26th Dec, 1st Jan. 27th-30th Dec: Saturday. 2nd Jan: normal MF. **Epping Ongar Railway** feeder route 339 ran 20-24, 28-31st Dec, 5th-7th Jan. **TfL** routes as for London. **Vectare** 24th,31st Dec: Sunday: 27th-30th Dec: Saturdays, 25th-26th Dec, 1st Jan: No service.

Hertfordshire and southern Bedfordshire

(mainly Arriva, Centrebus, Grant Palmer, Sullivan, Uno and HCC contracts) 24th Dec: Sun service with early finish by 2000, (AKT 2215 Luton A, 2130 Luton Z, 2125 ex LHR 724, 2250 ex HA 510, 2250 ex BPR 757; Stagecoach MK1 LTN - MK 1935, LTN - Bedford 2020). Normal last bus on AKT 309 and TfL. Herts Lynx 1000-1600... 25th Dec: No service except special services on AKT 309, 510. 757 NX 824, as 25th Dec above. 757 not stopping Bricket Wood on this day. 26th Dec: No services except 757 Sunday times from 0340 ex LTN and BPR; Luton A Sunday from 0435, AKT 309, 510,724 as 26th Dec above. Grant Palmer CX Sunday times (0440 - 1945), Herts Lynx: no service. TfL normal Sunday times. NX normal. 27th-30th Dec: mainly Saturday times, Normal MF on HCC one-day-a-week shopping services,. Special times 386 and Uno 635. Herts Lynx 0700 -1900, 1000-1600 on 30th Dec. 31st Dec as 24th Dec, except 757 normal last coach. Arriva Click Watford withdrawn. 1st Jan: No services except: AKT 309, 510 as 25th Dec; 724 as 26th Dec. Sunday times on Luton A (from 0435), Green Line 757, Sullivan, NX A1 etc, TfL. 2nd Jan: back to normal.

Buckinghamshire and east Berkshire

24th Dec: Mainly Sunday times with early finish up to: Arriva 280 1947 to AY ex Oxford . Carousel 102 to HE 1905 ex CBS. Oxford Airline via High Wycombe Coachway 2105 ex LGW, CBS; Londonline 702 ex BPR 2200 to SL, WR etc; Flightline 703 ex T5 2335 to Bracknell, First Berkshire normal Sun times up to A4 0105 ex CBS, TfL full Sunday times. 25th Dec: no service except Oxford Airline, First A4, 7 , Flightline 703 routes and Railair RA1, as above. 26th Dec: no service except as above for 25th-26th Dec for Carousel 102, Oxford Airline. Londonline 702, Flightline 703. Sunday times on First Berkshire from A4 0315 ex Cippenham and TfL. Thames Valley Sunday times 5, Go2Gate, plus local routes in Bracknell 0900-1800, 27th-30th Dec: Saturday times 31st Dec: Sunday times, with early finishes except for 702, 703, First Berkshire, Railair, TfL.

1st Jan: As 26 Dec except Sunday times on First Berkshire, 702, 703, Thames Valley Bracknell. 2nd Jan: back to normal.

Surrey and Sussex

24th Dec: Normal Sunday service, except Stagecoach early finish, c2030. 25th Dec: Only Airline, 442, NX817, NX823, Flixbus 940, Railair RA2 and Metrobus 10, as above. 26th Dec:, First Berkshire, Diamond Bus 555, 556, Railair RA2, Stagecoach and TfL Sunday times, Metrobus: special times on 2, 3, 4, 5, 10, 100, 200. normal Sunday 400. Carlone 442, X442 special times 27th-29th Dec: Generally Saturday times, but MF on Metrobus routes 21, 22, 271, 272 & 318, (with 22, 318 having no Saturday timetables) 236 special times. Compass 23, 24, 25, 42 MF times. 30th Dec Saturday times. 31st Dec: Sunday times, Stagecoach early finish, c2000. 1st Jan: Sunday times except Stagecoach no service. 2nd Jan: Normal times.

North West Kent

24th, 31st Dec: AKT, Go-Coach 401 only, TfL Sunday times (AKT early finish c2100, AZ c1500), 25th Dec: no service; 26th Dec: no service except Fastrack A 0935 x30 1635 x60 1935 ex DT, 1007 x30 1707 x60 2007 ex Bluewater. Fastrack B 0945 x30 1715 ex Temple Hill, 0930 x30 1630 ex Gravesend. TfL normal Sunday, AZ Sunday with later start 0717 ex Gravesend, 0735 ex DT. 27th-30th Dec: Saturday times, including Go2, no service on Go-coach 3, C1. 1st Jan: AKT, TfL Sunday times. Go-Coach no service. 2nd Jan normal.

PUBLICITY NEWS

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

The Superloop network expanded on 3 February with the launch of “**SL5 Bromley North Station to Croydon Town Centre.**” The double sided A5 flyer is in the same format as the SL1 leaflet reviewed in TLB713. The front has a line diagram of the route showing bus stops served, whilst the reverse has narrative about the route and an illustration of the ENX Enviro 200s operating the service.

Billed as the final event to celebrate the one hundred and sixtieth anniversary of the Underground, participants in a treasure hunt covering five stations between Earls Court and Battersea Power Station on 20th January received “**Architecture Treasure Hunt**”, a twelve page A4 document. As well as instructions for the treasure hunt there is a potted history of each station accompanied by between three and five questions that can be answered by exploring each station and its immediate surroundings. Westminster, Piccadilly Circus and Temple were the stations visited enroute.

The latest “**Tube Toilet map**” is dated October 2023 and has gained a second side on its A3 format since the previous edition reviewed in TLB707. The front still shows toilet facilities on the map

across the network, although facilities inside gatelines are now denoted in white on a dark blue background rather than red on a white background. On the reverse there is narrative about using toilets on TfL services accompanied by a table showing ‘locations of non-Transport for London managed toilets at Transport for London stations.’ Most of these are at stations shared with National Rail services, although those in bus stations at Canning Town, Golders Green, Hatton Cross, North Greenwich, Vauxhall and Walthamstow are listed. Also included are facilities in the subways at Green Park and Piccadilly Circus plus facilities in the terminals at Heathrow.

December 2023 versions of **“Step-free Tube guide”** in slimline format, **“Colour large print Tube map”** and **“Black and white large print Tube map”** are now available in the long established Accessibility Guides format.

An updated edition of **“Groups and travel trade guide”** from the London Transport Museum is the first reported since the 2020 edition in TLB666. The eight page A4 brochure has a montage of images on the front cover which includes RM1, West Ham Corporation Tramways car 102 and the 1938 stock. Inside there is narrative, accompanied by illustrations covering both Covent Garden and Acton Depot plus the programme of Hidden London tours. Although undated there is reference to the ‘How to Make a Poster’ exhibition running between October 2023 and 2025.

Previously unreported is an April 2023 edition of **“Hop-on Hop-off Open Top Tours”** from Golden Tours. It is in the same extended slimline format as other editions, the most recent of which dates from August 2023 and reviewed in TLB710.

Artwork featuring RF600 and RT19 dominate the cover of **“Spring Gathering”**, a single sided A5 sheet promoting the London Bus Museum’s event on 14th April.

A picture of a Christmassy shopping street scene featuring a Lynx minibus tied with a red ribbon can be found on **“Intalink Herts Lynx, Rapid on-demand travel. HertsLynx is coming to Dacorum, Launching this December!”**, a black single sided A5 flyer with green print which heralds the launch of the latest area to be covered by the council’s ‘DRT’ service

Following several years with virtually no printed publicity Arriva has published a flurry of new items to promote major changes to several networks across the LOTS region.

Valid from 19th November 2023 is **“Watford Area Bus Timetable”**, a forty page A5 book with the now standard Arriva sky blue cover which features a photo of Wrightbus StreetLite 3660 in St Peter’s Street, St Albans working the 321 towards Watford. It offers full timetables for routes 20, 321,322, 328, 724 and 725 plus a map of the company’s Watford network. Valid from the same date is **“West Herts Interurban Bus Timetable”** with a photo of St Albans Abbey on the cover of the fifty two page A5 book which has timetables for routes 20, 301, 302, 321, 322, 721, 724, 725 and 908. These are accompanied by a map showing the Arriva network in an area bounded by Maple Cross, Tring, Hemel Hempstead, Harpenden, St Albans, Hatfield, Welwyn, Watford and Northwood. Despite the cover dates the timetables for route 724 in both books are correct from 7th January 2024.

From 7th January the Arriva network centred on Aylesbury underwent a major revamp with full details to be found in **“Buckinghamshire Better Bus connexions”**, a sixty-eight page slimline book with plain blue cover carrying the strapline: ‘We’re improving your Buckinghamshire network’. It has timetables for routes X4, X5, X6, X7, X8, X9, X40 and X90, although the X4 and X40 are missing from the list on the cover. Passengers can consult maps of Arriva bus routes within Aylesbury and of the area covered by Orbit tickets which extend to Northampton, Oxford, Reading, Watford, Hertford and

Baldock. One page includes a range of ticket deals, including a chance to download a free Orbit Zone Adult Day ticket: five thousand were available until 31st January.

Also valid from 7th January is “**High Wycombe morning, noon and night**” which is a fifty two page slimline book. As well as timetables for the company’s local routes it also includes a map of the town network and the same free ticket offer seen in the Buckinghamshire book above.

Carousel have published “**fly to Heathrow**”, a multi fold slimline valid from January 2024 presented in landscape format. Promoting route 102 between High Wycombe and Heathrow, it uses the ‘Flightline’ branding first seen on publicity for Reading Buses’ route 703. The front has a red flash promoting the £2 maximum fare, accompanied by an illustration of a Flightline branded double decker which hints at a refresh for vehicles used on the route. One panel has narrative about the route accompanied by a simple route map. When fully opened there is a complete timetable plus bus stop maps for High Wycombe, Beaconsfield, Gerrards Cross and Uxbridge. The rear panel reinforces the £2 fare offer as well as deals for Heathrow staff. It also carries the Carousel logo which has been modified by the addition of the word ‘country’ under Carousel and a Red Kite (the bird of prey) ‘north east’ of the company logo. The leaflet has been delivered to homes near the route as part of a marketing campaign.

The aforementioned route 703 is included in an updated edition of “**Windsor Express**” valid from 2nd January 2024. The forty four page slimline is in the same format as the previous edition reviewed in TLB710.

Making a first appearance in a decade is Windsor Duck Tours with “**Windsor’s Road & River Sightseeing Adventure**”, an undated four page slimline leaflet which outlines their ‘Mallard Splash Tour’ and ‘Swan Splash Tour’. This is accompanied by a simple route map, departure times and ticket prices. The previous leaflet was reviewed in TLB598 in June 2014.

CURRENT VEHICLE NEWS

Section Editor: Chris Jennings, 30 Kingcup Avenue, Green Lane, Leverstock Green, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HP2 4GF or by e-mail to chris_routemaster@hotmail.co.uk. This section covers the current vehicle news (including initial disposals) of bus operators within the ‘TLB’ area, roughly comprising the old LT/LCBS areas.

General news:

The shorter 10.3m BYD/E400EV demonstrator model LD72 XZS has been seen at Metroline HT and UX garages in mid-January for route testing on route U4 and W7, for potential vehicle suitability.

A Volvo BZL MCV double-deck demonstrator MVB1 (LF73 DXZ) has arrived at Go Ahead Sutton garage in late January for route trials, seen so far on route 213. This bus is red, TfL spec with dual-door configuration with Go Ahead London logos and seating moquette.

ABELLIO LONDON (BC,QB,WL), **ABELLIO WEST LONDON** (DH,GW,TF)

This section has now moved under the new ‘Transport UK’ name.

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.

An order has been placed for 76 x Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner double decks for routes 50, 194, 250/N250, 289, 689 (to be ES85-160) and 11 x Wrightbus GB Kite single decks for route 255.

Three LT buses (LT183/184/220) have moved across to AE in December 2023 and additionally LT180 in January to allow the start of a refurb/repaint programme of the LTs allocated to route 254 (LT327-50).

ARRIVA LONDON continued

4th January was the start of the Switch MetroCity EVs (EMN class) entering into service on route 377 (E), with EMN1/2, joined by EMN3 on the 5th and EMN4 on the 15th.

DW424 suffered a mishap within DT on 4th January, resulting in underside and offside lower panel damage.

Odd workings include HA17 on route 254 on 8th January and HA18 on the 9th, usually a solely LT operated route. On several days in January the odd T appeared on route 221, a type not seen on the route for many months prior to this. Likewise, HAs have ventured onto route 250 several times during January.

Superloop SL1 branded buses (HA2-14) interestingly display the former Arriva style company logos (seen on the offside, behind the driver's cab area and also behind the centre door area), instead of the expected newer Arriva company logo, which was introduced in 2020. Also some of the batch display extra 0s in the fleet number, including HA2/7/9/11/12 (which show HA002/007/009/011/012).

Superloop SL5 (Bromley - Croydon) duly commenced on 3rd February, based at TC and utilising the 10.8m E200s released from route 289. The 289 has consequently been converted to double deck E400 operation (utilising T class buses, formerly used on route 157, which were earmarked for withdrawal) and will in due course receive Electroliners for its tender re-award. Thus far ENX7-13, 15, 17, 18 have received Superloop SL5 branding and have the correct newer style Arriva company logos.

Following the loss of route 133 and 333 in January, some E40H-City HA buses have moved to Barking (DX) garage for storage before redeployment onto Superloop SL2 (Walthamstow Central - North Woolwich in the coming months.

Route 137/N137 moved on 20th January from Norwood (N) to be fully operated by Brixton (BN) garage, leading to LT954-76 moving as well.

Ash Grove (AE) garage is due to close in late February, when route 254 and its LTs move into Stamford Hill (SF), which is re-opening on 24th February. Route 76 will additionally move into SF on 24th March, when the route is taken over from Go Ahead London (NP). Over the years, AE has been unfortunate with retaining its routes, route 48 was withdrawn on 12th October 2019, route 106 was lost on 6th June 2020 to Go Ahead London (NP), whilst route 78 was lost to Go Ahead London (PM) on 2nd December 2023.

When route 242 is lost on 24th March to Stagecoach London (HK), Clapton (CT) garage will become a fully LT bus type only garage, with routes 38/N38, 73/N73 and 253/N253. Likewise Stamford Hill (SF) will also be a fully LT bus type only garage as well, operating routes 76 and 254.

Route 307 is still approximately 60% operated by StreetDeck Electroliners (ES1-16), with Sunday workings being exclusively DW. Enfield (E) garage are in the process of upgrading their National Grid connection and power charging capabilities to be able to charge more buses at one time, ie. overnight, which currently is not possible.

Recent repaint/refurbs noted include HV204, HV205, HV206, LT321, LT323, LT331, LT348 and LT542.

Transfers:

(September): LT193 E/Eu.

(October): HV6, 8, 21, 26 BN/BNw. T42 THu/THw.

(November): T227 BN/BNu.

(January): DW424 DT/DTu. DW503 EC/E. EMN1 Et/E. EMN2 Eu/E. EMN3/4 ECu/E. EN36 E/AR. ENX14 TH/TC. ES24/26/27 ECu/BN. HA17/18 AEu/AE. HV2/3/5/10 BN/DT. LT179 E/CT.

LT180 E/AE. LT327 AE/CT. LT334/38/42 AE/CT/AE. LT954-68/70-76 N/BN. SLS7/19 Nu/TH.

T108 CNw/TH. T187 BN/TH. T189/193 Nu/TH. T192, 288, 297 BN/TH. T294 Nu/TH.

T295/298/299 CNw/TH.

(February): ENX6-13, 15, 17, 18 TH/TC. HA16 AEu/AE. HA36-40, 42-53 BN/DXu. HV56 BN/TC.

T98, 102, 105, 107 Nu/CNw. T168 TC/TH. T188, 190, 277, 292 Nu/TH.

Livery changes

EA22 from advert for Ovo Energy back to Red

HV15 from advert for Royal Mail H Potter back to Red

ARRIVA LONDON continued

HV208 to advert for £1.75 Hopper
HV315 from advert for Pink Lucozade back to Red
LT197 from advert for Cos back to Red
LT199 from advert for TK Maxx back to Red
LT321 from advert for Top Boy back to Red
LT325 from advert for Top Boy to one for M&S BraFit
LT474 from advert for Paramount+ SOL back to Red
LT538 from advert for British Gas to one for Bob Marley (Ooh Yeah)
LT584 from advert for Gant back to Red
LT719 from advert for X-Box back to Red
LT733 from advert for Comfort back to Red
LT737 from advert for JD Forever Forward back to Red
LT738 from advert for Hunger Games back to Red
LT739 from advert for Apple TV+ Monsters back to Red
LT740 from advert for Sonic Superstars "Tails" back to Red
LT741 from advert for Uniqlo HeatTech back to Red
LT834 from advert for Gant back to Red
LT837 from advert for Remy Martin back to Red
LT974 from advert for Apple TV+ Monsters back to Red

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 (NF, AKT licence).

Correction to TLB713: 1034 NF/NFu (not NFs/NFu). 1034 was previously used on the Arriva Click service in the Ebbsfleet area.

Into the area: AC010 (RX18 LNA) from Area 2 (ex Arriva Click bus).

Transfers: 1021 NFu/ Arriva K&S Maidstone (on loan). AC010 Area 2 WA/NFt.

Out of area: T27 (LJ58 AVD) transferred to Southend. This Enviro200 is still used as a training bus.

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

Adding to TLB713, Watford's 'Arriva Click' minibus service last day was 30th December, with the registration cancelled effective from 31st. The Watford (WA) base for the minibuses has been now given up and is no longer used.

E40Ds 6524 and 6527 were unusually on route 322 on 9th January. Of late double decks are starting to reappear on route 320.

To recap on vehicle allocations to each garage across the area, here are the current allocation:

HA – Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 1012 (used for 'staff ferry' movements), Optare Solos 1457/58/66/67, 1517/19, 2484, SB200s 3756/70-74/97-99, Volvo B7RLE 3820, 3881/82/89, E200s 4008, E20Ds 4076/78/81/83-87/95/96/101/113/120, Optare Versas 4183/84, 4230-32/37-39.

HH – Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 1007 (training bus), StreetLites 1662-65, E300 3550/54/66-68/71-73/79, SB200s 3757-60/63/67/68, 3777, Volvo B7RLEs 3887/88, E200s 4009/10/60/61, Optare Versa 4189/91-93, 4213/27/29/42/43, StreetLites 4320/21/27/31/37, E40Ds 6524-27 and 'training buses' T82 and T533.

SV – Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 1019, AC009 (used for 'staff ferry' movements), Dart SLFs 1610/13/14, E300s 3551-53/56-60/62/65/74-78, SB200s 3751, 3775/80-85/88-94/96, 3813, 3875/76/78-80/85/86, StreetLites 4274-77/85-88 and 'training bus' T530.

WE – Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 1010/13, Optare Versas 2401/3-5, E200 3985, Optare Versas 4185/90/94/98/99, 4214-17/28/36, E400 6458/61, E40Ds 6485-92/94-98, 6523 and 'training bus' T60.

ARRIVA COUNTRY continued

Additionally: 1011 WEw. 1015, AC007/8/9/11 HHu. 2482 WEu. 4187 WEu (long term VOR).

Transfers: 1011 WE/WEw. 1015, AC007/8/11 WA/HHu. 2482 WE/WEu. AC009 WA/SVs.

Out of area: AC012 on loan to Area 3 (WB). See below.

Disposal:

AC010 (RX18 LNA) to Area 1, now at NF as a ‘training bus’.

AC013 (RX19 XUR) to Arriva North West.

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

It was announced on 11th January, that Arriva has been successful in retaining the Greenline 757 (Luton Airport - London Victoria) service for 5 years with a possibility of an extension for a further two years. The new tendered contract starts in March 2024. The service uses a fleet of Mercedes-Benz Tourismo coaches (7200-15).

Arriva bus UK has had a local re-organisation from 1st January, with Aylesbury (AY) and High Wycombe (WB) garages now managed by Arriva Southern Counties, rather than Arriva Midlands, but like Luton (LD), remain on the Arriva the Shires O licence, with the vehicles allocated and administered by Arriva Midlands.

StreetLite 2317 has been repainted into the light blue livery.

To recap on vehicle allocations to each garage across the area, here are the current allocation:

AY – Mercedes-Benz Citaros 3011/16-19/21/23/24/30-32, SB200s 3730/31/41, 3812/16, Mercedes-Benz Citaro 3914, E40Ds 5461-69 and ‘training bus’ E400 T64.

LD – Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 1009/20, Dart SLFs 1616, 2211, StreetLites 2310/13-24/28, E20Ds 3112-18, 3129-35, StreetLites 3301/2, 3319, Scania 3513-15, StreetLites 3651-57/59/60, Volvo B7RLEs 3891-97, 3939-44, 3951/52/54-80, Dennis Trident 5425, Volvo B7TLs 6403/39/47-49, Mercedes-Benz Tourismo coaches 7200-15 and ‘training buses’ E200 T36 (loan) and SB200s T486, SB120 T941.

WB – StreetLites 2325-27, SB180 2790, Optare Versas 2951-58, 2982, Mercedes-Benz Citaros 3007-10/12-15/20/25/27/29, Mercedes-Benz Citaro 3920, Volvo B9TLs 4210-12, E400s 5457-60, Volvo B7TL 6149 and Mercedes-Benz 516CDi AC012 (loan).

Additionally: 2979 WBu. 3580 WBu. 3641 AYu. 3919 WBu. 3953 LDw. 4749 WBw.

Note: 3920 is on loan to WB from AY.

On loan:

E200 T36 (GN09 AWG) in use at Luton as a ‘training bus’ for an expected 8 weeks before onward transfer to Tamworth, Arriva Midlands.

Mercedes-Benz 516CDi AC012 (RX18 LNO), ex Watford Arriva Click vehicle.

Transfers: 1020 LD/LDs. 3953 LDu/LDw. AC012 Area 2 HHu/Area 3 WBs.

BIG BUS COMPANY, Earlsfield

Further to information in TLB710, it is now known that the 20 Ankaï tri-axle buses in the fleet will be converted by the company Equipmake from diesel power to battery-electric. The first of the batch are expected to be completed by March 2024, with a further 3 ready by May 2024 and the rest completed by January 2025.

Of the 20 Ankaï tri-axle buses in the fleet, 9 have been VOR (off the road) for some time, stored and are expected to return converted to electric in the next 12 months. Based on MoT expiry dates, these are AN331 (LJ12 JUO) since March 2021, AN332/3/4/8 (LJ12 JSY/JWA, LX12 AZL/AYN) since April 2021, AN339 (LJ12 JVK) since October 2020, AN342 (LJ12 JVZ) August 2023, AN344 (LF12 ADU) June 2021 and AN345 (LJ12 MYG) September 2020.

CAROUSEL BUSES, High Wycombe

Information adding to TLB707: Mercedes-Benz Sprinters 981-87 are in dark blue livery, allocated to the 'PickMeUp' service and are confirmed as B16F and the 517CDi EVM Cityline model.

Scania N230UD/E400 223 (MF10 OXF) has been on loan here for many months and is now assumed a permanent member of the fleet. Engine fire victim 869 (KF57 OXF) from 26th October 2023 remains withdrawn and stored, pending disposal.

Route 102 (High Wycombe – Heathrow Airport) will be rebranded and gain 'Flightline' status and spec, with some of the E40D MMCs formerly used on the Oxford Brookes University service being transferred in, refurbished and repainted into two tone green livery with appropriate branding. E40D 609 (see below) in the first to be done with vehicles expected to be ready for the launch in Spring 2024.

Into the fleet:

609 (PS64 OXF) - AD E40D – AD Enviro400 H47/32F from Oxford bus.

889-891 (BF62 JZJ, JZL, JZP) - Mercedes-Benz Citaro B40F from Stewarts Coaches, Woodley, Reading. 889 has been repainted red so far and is in use here, with 890/891 to follow.

Out of the fleet:

988 (RX23 TYG) has passed onto Pulhams Travel, Bourton-on-the-Water, Gloucester (part of Go Ahead group) and has had its 'PickMeUp' branding removed.

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

On 8th January, Hertford local routes H1-4 and 333 were relaunched as an integrated network numbered H1-H6. Thus far Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 223 (CC04 GAL) and E20D 353 (YY73 RGZ) have been branded up for the revised network of routes in a black based livery with H for 'Hertford' signage.

The Scania OmniCity deckers are being stood down, with 595/98 (YP59 OEM/T) last used in November 2023 and 597 (YP59 OES) last used in October 2023, which have all been sold on. Just 596/99 (YP59 OEO/V) remain in use for now.

Fleet numbering changes:

Update to TLB713 – E20D YX22 OJJ is fleet numbered 326 (not 322) and is in two tone blue livery. E20D GW16 BUS is now known to be fleet numbered 343 (formerly 915, this updates TLB713).

Into the fleet:

322/25 (YX73 OVM/P) – AD E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 10.9m and both in two tone blue livery.

348, 351 (SK73 COJ, YY73 TGV) – AD E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 10.9m (B40F) in plain white.

355/56 (YY73 RHE/F) – AD E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 9.0m (B30F).

Update to TLB713 and above: E20Ds 322-25, 349 are B40F, 353/54 are B30F.

On loan:

316 (YX16 OBO) E20D MMC from Vectare, Essex, in two tone blue livery.

Disposals:

327-330 (CC21/CE21 GAL, CC71/CE71 GAL) E20Ds to Vectare, East Midlands division.

Scania OmniCity 595/597/598 (YP59 OEM/S/T) left the fleet in February 2024.

E200s 914 (LX07 BYA), 918 (LX09 AZL), 919 (KX08 HMF) left the fleet in January 2024.

Scania 1089 (SGZ 1089) left the fleet in January 2022.

VW Transporter Mellor 1102 (YX10 AYP) left the fleet in October 2023.

E200 1402 (LX07 BXV) left the fleet in January 2024.

E200 1403 (SN57 DWV) left the fleet in October 2023.

E200 1407 (CC55 BUS) left the fleet in January 2022.

Scania OmniCity 2001/7 (YP59 OEX/N) both left the fleet in October 2023.

Scania OmniCity 2003 (YP59 OER) left the fleet in February 2024.

CENTREBUS, Luton

Correcting TLB707 – E20D 595 is registered YX18 KNZ, not KX18 KNZ.

Into the fleet:

502 (YX67 VGJ) – E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 9.6m B33F from Falcon Buses, Byfleet.

This bus has been repainted into orange and blue fleet livery.

DIAMOND BUS SOUTH EAST (Hallmark Connections Ltd), Stanwell

E200 SN08 ACZ had been withdrawn in July 2021 and remains stored as a ‘donor’ bus for spares to keep the others in the batch on the road.

FALCON COACHES, Byfleet

E20D YX68 UJR has had its route 461 branding removed.

Into the fleet:

YX72 OJW – E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 9.0m B30F and currently plain white.

Disposals:

Dart SLFs KV03 ZFG/H departed the fleet in early 2021.

Update to TLB713: E20D YX67 VGJ passed onto Centrebus, Luton instead of D&G Staffordshire.

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

StreetLites 47689, 47690 and 47693 have been repainted into the orange front/ purple rear livery with ‘Beeline’ fleetnames.

Mercedes-Benz Turismo coach BF73 CCD has been in use from 20th January, for vehicle trials on Railair service RA2. It is in white, although it does have ‘Railair’ logos on the front and side and is allocated fleet number 24212.

Disposals:

Fiat Ducato 59200 (SJ71 HRM) and MetroCity EV 49900 (YJ72 EVV) departed the fleet (January).

StreetLite 47667 (SN15 ACO) transferred to First Essex (November 2023).

Volvo 7900H single decks 39920 (BV13 ZCF) and 39924 (BV13 ZCN) have been scrapped (January).

1st BUS STOP, Gravesend

Disposals:

LJ53 BFN (ex BU53 TOP), LJ53 BDU (ex B22 TOP), LJ53 BDX (BU22 TOP) were sold in August 2023 (See TLB709, pg.36 and TLB711, pg.30)

LX53 JZJ, LX53 JZO (ex BU51 TOP), LX04 FYC, LX04 FYH (ex MT04 BUS) were sold in August 2023 (See TLB709, pg.38).

LX53 JZN (ex B21 USS) was sold in September 2023 (See TLB711, pg.30).

LX04 FYW (ex MT51 BUS) was sold in August 2023 (See TLB711, pg.30).

GO-AHEAD LONDON

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

Outstations: FK=Folkestone, KL=King’s Lynn, LD=Lower Dicker, LZ=Leighton Buzzard.

The ordered 28 x Irizar i.e trams electric single decks for the Kent Fastrack contract award are to be fleet numbered IE21-48. Although the contract starts in November 2024, gained from Arriva Kent Thameside, the buses are not expected until Summer 2025, with diesel single decks to be used in the interim period.

Correction to TLB713: Route 151 is awaiting the forecourt area to be remodelled at Worcester Park Station and not Wallington Station. Until then DOEs are allocated and not the longer E400EVs.

The additional Volvo B9TLs drafted into C to supplement WVL334-44 for the PVR increase and renumbering of route X26 to Superloop SL7 (WVL454, 484-95) have now been downseated on the lower deck by 4 seats, directly behind the centre doors to accommodate luggage racks.

On 5th January E200EVs started to work on route 265 (AF), with six in use that day and the full batch SEe220-32 in use by the 17th.

GO-AHEAD LONDON continued

Me12 suffered a severe engine fire in the Wimbledon area while working on route 200 on 11th January. Consequently the next day, the Optare MetroDeckers (Me1-17) were kept off the road, whilst safety checks were carried out and to date they are still off the road, pending rectification work. Buses were drafted in at short notice, namely E200s spare from the recent conversion of route 265 to E200EV but also 2 E400s from each of NX and SW, also a WVN from NP to operate the usual double-deck route 200.

EH161 suffered a major engine fire on 12th January and has been completely destroyed. SEe232 suffered severe frontal fire damage whilst parked within Putney (AF) garage on 24th January.

MHV's started to drift into Stockwell (SW) from 15th January ahead of their prescribed use on the newly contracted 333, thus MHV79 was a new venture on route 44 as was MHV54 on route 91, both on that day, with MHV87 appropriately working the route of that number on 16th. The 88 joined in on 18th hosting MHVs 73 and 82. Whilst the 333 is intended to be all MHV operated, 23rd January brought WHV97 along to help out.

Route 91/N91 with its EHV's moved from SW to NP on the 20th January, to make room at SW for the takeover of route 333 from Transport UK (formerly Abellio London) on the same day. The route is operated by MHVs until electric buses arrive and electrification work at SW is completed.

Route 601 was duly taken over from Stagecoach London on 29th January and is now worked from BX and allocated refurbished and repainted MHVs.

We missed reporting the first appearance of MHV 53 at Northumberland Park (NP) back on 16th November 2023, found initially on school route 657 and only from 8th January did it appear on route 476. Its solitude at NP was then quashed by the arrival of other MHVs. These were the first moves to theoretically update rolling stock ready for that route's contract renewal effective from 27th January, although soon after the 91 contract was absorbed, the MHVs failed to appear on route 476 after 25th but were all used instead on route 91 until the end of January. Interestingly, EHV 12 did turn up as a 'first' on route 476 on 23rd January.

Further to information in TLB713, the intention to move route 366 and associated E200EVs (SEe200-19) on 27th January has been delayed, whilst electrification work at RR continues. In the meantime, route 376 remains at SI and has not moved to DS, although this is pending.

New route 439 (Waddon Marsh - Whyteleafe) is scheduled to begin on 2nd March, initially using E200EVs borrowed from route 450, which will use some of the E200EVs stored for eventual use on route P12 (PM). On the same day, route 455 will be discontinued, with its Optare MetroCity buses, staying at Croydon (C) garage for redeployment onto route S1, their former home. Route S1 will transfer from Goat Road (GM) back into Croydon (C), to in turn make room for the hybrid workings on route 80 to be transferred from Sutton (A) to Goat Road (GM). This will help facilitate new route S2 (St Helier Station - Epsom) which will operate from Sutton (A) with E200EVs and begins on 2nd March.

The Newhaven (NH), Pulborough (PU), Ringmer (RG) outstations, used for several years by the Commercial fleet for Rail Replacement work in the South of England, are no longer used. To replace Ringmer, a new site at Lower Dicker (LD) has been operational since late August 2023, this being the base of The Big Lemon bus company. Pulborough (PU) was used up to November 2023. Newhaven (NH) was last used in 2022, when Brighton & Hove required capacity for their own fleet.

VDL SB180/ MCV Evolution MDL1 (YJ60 GGE) and VWL45 (YX54 FWL) have been withdrawn by March 2023.

A Volvo BZL MCV demonstrator model MVB1 (LF73 DXZ) has arrived for trials at Sutton, thus far has been in use on route 213. The bus is red, dual-door with Go Ahead London logos and seating moquette. Capacity is quoted as H62D, split unknown.

An update further to TLB713, is that the Irizar ie-trams (IE1-20) are now not likely to enter service on route 358 until early June, owing to 'power connection and land ownership issues contributing to the delays of the pantograph installations at either end of the route'. IE9-20 which are outstanding will receive '24' regs.

4 x 10.2m E200EVs have moved from storage at Swindon into Croydon (see transfers below), to release 4 x 9.7m E200EVs off route 450 for temporary allocation onto new route 439 from the 2nd March (as mentioned above). SEe329-331 are on order for route 439, but will arrive later in the year.

GO-AHEAD LONDON continued

Recent repaint/refurbs noted include LT391, LT400, LT407, LT413, LT415, LT417, LT419, LT421, LT423, LT425, LT445, LT485, MHV56, MHV65, WHV76/77/78, WHV83 and WHV85.

Seating detail change:

WVL454, 484-95 now H39/19D (ex H39/23D) with luggage racks fitted for use on Superloop SL7. SEe3-5, 7-9, 16, 17, 19, 20-22, 24 are confirmed as up-seated from B21D to B33D. These are ex route 507/521 buses, now redeployed onto route 108 (NX) – SEe16, 17, 21, 22, route 444 (NP) – SEe3-5, 7-9, 24 and route 360 (Q) – SEe19, 20. Others of the batch – SEe6, 10-15, 18, 23, 25-29 are in the process of being done.

SEe37-40 remain as B21D and are allocated to the 'HereEast' contract in the Stratford area.

To recap - SEe1, 2, 30-36, 41-51 were up-seated from B21D to B33D some time ago and are correctly shown in Fleetbook.

Transfers:

Update to TLB713 – Commercial fleet:

EN13/14/16 are now confirmed as outstationed at Lower Dicker (their 'parent' base is now NXc).

VWL47-50 are confirmed as still outstationed at FKc (their 'parent' base is now BXc).

VC10-13 are still outstationed at KLc (their 'parent' base is now LZc).

MDL1 FKc/w (exact location unknown, but now departed the fleet, see below).

VWL45 NHc/w (exact location unknown).

(September): SE269-72/74 AF/u (location unknown, all not been in use since).

(November): MHV53 Q/NP. WS79/80 NP/NPu.

(December): WS4 NP/NPu.

(January): E161/62 SW/AL. E183 AL/NX. E204/5 NX/AL/NX. Ee99/100 MGU/AL. EH113 SW/NX.

EH116 RR/Q. EH161 RR/RRw. EHV1 NPt/NP. EHV3/4/6-16 SW/NP. Me12 AL/ALu.

MHV20/57/58/61 Q/NP. MHV54 NX/SW/NP. MHV65/68/69 Q/BX. MHV70/73-82 Q/SW.

MHV71/72/87-89 NX/SW. MHV92 AF/SW. MVB1 -/A. SE124/25 SW/AL. SE133-38 AF/AL.

SE276-78/80-82 AF/AL. SEe7 NPu/NP. SEe220/21 Qu/AF. SEe222/24-31 SIu/AF. SEe223 AFt/AF.

SEe232 NPu/AF/AFu. SEe261/62/67/68 Go Ahead Swindon/Cu. SEe264 Go Ahead Swindon/Q.

WHV50 SW/NX. WVL435 SW/AL. WVN9 NP/AL. WS3 C/MB. WS9 C/NP.

(February): E181/2 AL/NX. EHV2 SW/NP. SE273 AF/AL. SEe260/63 Go Ahead Swindon/Q.

SEe262 Cu/C.

Livery changes:

LT58 from advert for Expo 2030 v2 back to Red

LT399 from advert for Starfield back to Red

LT431 to advert for M & S BraFit

LT437 to advert for Moon Boot (yellow)

LT446 from advert for Apple TV+ Monsters back to Red

LT451 to advert for Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra

LT485 from advert for Hunger Games back to Red

LT503 from advert for Brew Dog back to Red

LT508 from advert for Comfort back to Red

LT849 from advert for TK Maxx back to Red

LT854 from advert for Gucci Cosmos to one for Bob Marley (Could You)

LT857 from Advert for Sonic Superstars to one for Moon Boot (purple)

LT861 from advert for X-Box back to Red

LT865 from advert for Cos back to Red

LT913 from advert for Gucci Cosmos back to Red

LT931 from advert for Brewdog back to Red

GO-AHEAD LONDON continued

Disposals:

MDL1 departed the fleet in November 2023.

51-53 have passed to Heddingham Buses, Essex (November 2023).

GO-COACH HIRE, Swanley

Further to information in TLB713, we now know that the sale to Hulley's of Baslow, Derbyshire does include RML2699 (SMK 699F) but not the rest of the heritage fleet (see below), which are retained by Austin Blackburn (the former MD of Go Coach).

Fiat Ducato minibus GN15 BVV (allocated fleet number 1501) has joined the fleet to operate a shuttle service, between Tatsfield and Biggin Hill Valley, covering a part of TfL route 464 that cannot be served due to planned water works. The service started on 29th January and is known as the '464 Connector' and is scheduled to finish on 29th April. The vehicle is white with 464 signage (photo included in this TLB). The service is provided in partnership with Transport UK (who run the 464), Go Coach (providing the 'Connector' service) and Thames Water, who are carrying out the water works.

E400 9011 (LK57 AXT) is currently on loan to Hulley's.

Into the fleet:

GN15 BVV Fiat Ducato minibus.

Out of the fleet:

312 YUK (Bedford QL), WXG 316 (AEC Swift) and 5003 (S519 KFL) retained by Austin Blackburn.

LONDON DIAL-A-RIDE

The fleet size as of 1st December has been reported as 246 vehicles. The demand post COVID has been reported as decreasing, leading to the fleet being reduced further to potentially 170 vehicles, with the oldest Volkswagen T6/ Mellor Tucana minibuses being disposed of.

Disposals:

D8002-6 have been departed the fleet to CVA Auction in December 2023.

LONDONER BUSES, Wandsworth (Part of Transpora group)

Update to TLB711, this operator is part of the Transpora group, which also includes Manchester Bus Tours. This operator is not associated with Top View Sightseeing London. Londoner Buses are based within the TootBus garage at Wandsworth (WD).

Adding to TLB713, joining RML2344 (CUV 344C), RM1357 (357 CLT) and RML2583 (JJD 583D) have also been on loan from London Bus 4 Hire, all seen on route heritage route T15.

RMC1485 (485 CLT) was seen on loan and in use on the T15 on 30th December and RMC1477 (477 CLT) on 20th January. RMC1485 is in red livery and RMC1477 is in Green line livery, both immaculately presented.

METROBUS, Crawley and Copthorne (part of B&H Buses within the Go-Ahead Group)

Recapping on vehicle orders with additional information:

12 x Wrightbus GB-Kite Hydroliners hydrogen fuel-cell single-decks for Fastway route 100 (due in Spring 2024). To be fleet numbered 6401-12 and of single door configuration.

11 x Wrightbus GB-Kite Hydroliners hydrogen fuel-cell single-decks for route 430/435 (due in Summer 2024). To be fleet numbered 6413-23 and of single door configuration.

12 x hydrogen fuel-cell double-decks for route 420/460/480/820 (now known to be due in Autumn 2024 or early 2025).

Further to TLB709, Volvo B9TLs 6950/1/2 (LX58 CWK/L/M) arrived in red from their days with Go Ahead London as VE1-3 and remain unpainted, although they do have Metrobus logos. These E400 buses are a first for Metrobus, having a predominantly Scania double-deck fleet (34 x OmniCity) with just the batch of 6 x Volvo B9TLs (6901-6).

METROBUS continued

E20D 6710 (YX68 URC) is the first of the former Southdown buses to be repainted into Metrobus two tone blue livery (photo included within this TLB).

Volvo B7TL 6946 (LK04 CRU) was withdrawn in January.

Into the fleet:

7003 (YX56 FHP) Volvo B7RLE Wright Eclipse B35F from East Yorkshire and repainted into the orange (front end), yellow (rear end) 'training bus' livery.

Disposal: Volvo B7TL 6947 (LK04 CUC) to Scrapco (dlr), Paddock Wood, Kent (August 2023).
See TLB713, pg.40.

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

METROLINE WEST – G, HZ, UX and WJ.

(within the Comfort DelGro of Singapore).

The next batch of new buses due in the Spring are: VMSL2878-2905 Volvo BZL – MCV 10.8m B29D for route 228 and 316 (WJ).

Volvo BZL MCV VMSL2846 arrived at EW by early January and has been seen on driver type training duties, prior to the batch (VMSL2843-56) entering service on route 251. On 8th January, 3 of the new VMSLs entered service on route 251 (EW). On the 12th January, the first of the VMSS class entered service on route 384 (PB).

Route 603 was re-gained on 13th January from Sullivan Buses and is now operated by HT garage using hybrid double decks (VMH/VWH). To recap on previous School route gains, route 626 was gained from 4th September 2023 and is operated by PB with VWH2137-40, which have been refurbished and repainted. Route 635 was gained on 16th January 2023 and is operated by SG with VWH2133-35, which have also been refurbished and repainted. In practice, route 626 (PB) and route 635 (SG) are operated by hybrid double decks, mixed with existing buses within those garages.

Route 228 was duly taken over from RATP (RP) on 20th January, now operated by WJ and initially allocated DELs within the fleet, until their ordered VMSLs arrive later in the year. The DELs transferred in from EW, when the VMSLs started to roll out on route 251.

Route 9/N9 was taken over from RATP (V) on 27th January, now operated by AH and using LTs (LT657-63, 745-653). As a consequence, route 306 has moved from AH with its VWHs into HT, for the remainder of the contract until it is lost to Transport UK (formerly Abellio London) on 12th April.

VWH2016 was involved in a RTC on 30th January whilst on route 328 in the Earl's Court area on route 328 and suffered severe frontal damage.

Recent repaint/ refurbishes are LTs 550/641/643/644/647/648/650/654/658, VWHs 2047/2168/2169, 2171/2172/2178, 2185, 2191/2194, 2206/2215/2229/2296/2298, 2302/2308/2336 and 2341.

New buses into fleet (January 2024):

VMS2813 (LF73 DVT) - Volvo BZL - MCV 10.3m B25D.

VMSL2847/49 (LF73 DXL/DXO) – Volvo BZL – MCV 10.8m B29D

Transfers: (h suffix = Hertfordshire Commercial Fleet).

TEH1105-12 HZu/HZw (exact date unknown). TEH1113 Wu/HZw (exact date unknown).

(January): DEL2248-55 EW/WJ. LT641/42/44/48/52/56, 754/755 HT/W.

LT657 HT/AHt/AH, LT658-63, 745-53 HT/AH. LT789, 800-803, 805 W/HT. LT794 Wu/HT.

TEH1463 Gu/G. VMH2437 G/HT. VMH2439 EWu/HT. VMH2441 PAu/HT. VMH2453/54 PV/HT.

VMH2497/98 EW/HT. VMH2573/74/82/83 PV/PB. VMS2813 -/PAu. VMSS2834 PBt/PB.

VMSS2838/39 PAu/PB. VMSL2843/45/50/52/54-56 PAu/EW. VMSL2846 PAu/EWt/EW.

VMSL2847/49 -/PAu. VW1184/85 PV/W. VW1366 PB/PV. VWH2016 W/Wu.

VWH2697-2707 AH/HT.

(February): VWH2343 HD/AC. VMH2438 G/HT.

Livery changes:

LT642 from advert for X-Box back to Red

METROLINE continued

LT658 from advert for EE Mobile back to Red
LT659 from advert for TKMaxx back to Red
LT748 to advert for Bob Marley (Exodus)
LT756 from advert for Remy Martin back to Red
LT762 and LT765 from adverts for Ginori 1735 back to Red
VWH2341 from advert for Fish Said back to Red

Disposals:

TE1076, TE1082 and TE1084 to Ripley, Barnsley (November 2023).
TE1077 and TE1086 to New Adventure, Cardiff (December 2023).
TE1992 to Fleet Commercial & Conversions Ltd, Orpington, Kent.

GRANT PALMER, Flitwick

Out of the fleet:

105 (YJ05 WDC), 201 (YT51 EAJ), 202 (KW02 CVS) and 203 (SN03 DZY) all left the fleet some time ago, with MOT expiry dates in 2021 or 2022.

RATP-DEV TRANSIT LONDON including

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

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

LONDON TRANSIT – X garage.

The batch of BYD/E200EVs at Harrow (SO) – BME27001-24 are allocated to routes 398, H9/H10, however they also make the odd appearance on route H18/H19. BME27003 was seen on route H19 on 19th January and BME27022 on the H18 on 23rd January.

The introduction of BE37087/91/95 at S means that all of the BE buses have now been used in service. The batch BE37085-101 will in due course be united onto route 226 (Golders Green – Ealing Broadway). Currently just BE37085/86/88/97 are at BT and allocated to route 226.

Route 228 passed to Metroline (WJ) on 20th January and the DLEs formerly allocated are to be deployed elsewhere. Route 9/N9 passed to Metroline (AH) on 27th January and the LTs formerly used on the route will be redeployed elsewhere in the TfL network (See below in disposals). The last day of RATP operation on route 9 saw the route hosting its final ADH visitor, when ADH45007 performed. On 29th June, another LT operated route is lost, when route 211 goes to Transport UK.

Route 218 moved garages again on 28th January, this time from X to V along with its DE buses. The StreetLites for the time being are stood down (WLS30027-40).

VMH45323 was involved in a serious RTC within Victoria Bus Station at the terminus of route 13 at approximately 9am on 29th January, where unfortunately a fatality occurred.

Recent repaint/ refurb include SDE20298, SDE20300, DLE30226, VH45155 and VMH45343.

Transfers:

DE20160/62 BTu/NCw (exact date unknown). ADH45004 Vu/Vw (exact date unknown).

TDE90011 FWt/RPt (exact date unknown). TDE90014/16/92 FWt/Vt (exact date unknown).

TDE90015 FWt/WKt (exact date unknown). TDE90070 TVt/FWt (exact date unknown).

TDE90074 FWt/Xt (exact date unknown).

(August): DE20118 RPu/RPw.

(September): DE20158/59/61/64/65/70 BTu/NCw. DE20168 BTu/WKu. DE20171/73 RPu/RPw.

(October): WLS30038 X/Xu.

(December): DE20018 AV/NCw. DE20116 RP/RPu.

(January): ADH45074 Xu/X. BE37087/91/95 Xu/S. DE20094/95 X/V, DE20149-56 X/V.

DE20176/79/87 BT/FW. DLE30129/30/32 FW/S. DLE30141 RP/BT. DLE30264/65 AV/BT.

DLE30291/93/94/95 RP/V. DLE30297 RP/BT. DLE30330 RP/BT. LT120/22-29/31-35 V/Vu.

LT121/30 S/Su. VH45184 WK/FW. VH45189 RP/V. VMH45323 X/Xu.

WLS30027-30/37/39/40 X/Xu.

RATP-DEV continued

(February): DLE30273 BT/RP. LT674 V/S.

Livery changes:

BCE47014 and BCE47021 from adverts for Chiquita Bananas back to Red
LT75 from advert for Go Kerala to one for M&S BraFit
LT677 from advert for Uniqlo HeatTech back to Red

Disposals:

ADH45003 departed the fleet in July 2023. Last used 30/10/2022.
DE20115, MCL30301/2/5/7 left the fleet in December 2023.
LT120-135 passed to Stagecoach London (February 2024).
SP40049, SP40180/83/88/89/91/94/95/97, SP40201/2/4 left the fleet by January 2024.

READING TRANSPORT and THAMES VALLEY BUSES

Further to TLB707 pg.26, the newer E40Ds allocated to Londonline 702 and Flightline 703 have personalised registration numbers to reflect places on the route:

731 (RG23 BUS) – RG for Reading. This is the spare bus in two tone grey livery.
732 (GL23 LDN) – LDN for London, 733 (GL23 SLH) – SLH for Slough, 734 (GL23 WND) – WND for Windsor, 735 (GL23 LGO) – LGO for Legoland, 736 (GL23 BKL) – BKL for Bracknell and 737 (GL23 LHR) – LHR for London Heathrow Airport.

E20D 662 (KX64 AEK) has been repainted into Thames Valley livery, with yellow relief for use on the ‘Bracknell’ services, joining 670 (YX67 UYM).

South Bracknell circular routes 171/172 have been upgraded from 19th January, with the delivery of 4 x E20D MMCs (see below). The new buses feature wood effect flooring, high back seats, wireless charging, free wifi and audio and visual next stop announcements. In turn E40Hs 234/235 (SN63 VTY/Z) and Volvo B7RLEs 453/455 (BD14 KXY, BG14 OPB) have been stood down.

Into the fleet:

684-87 (YX73 PGZ/PHZ, YY73 OYN, TV73 BUS) - E20D – AD Enviro200 MMC 11.5m B43F.

Note: 684-86 are in two tone blue livery and branded for routes 171/172.

687 is in two tone ‘generic’ grey livery and the registration number is personalised for ‘Thames Valley’.

Out of our area:

E40Ds 758/59 (YX64 VRU, YY15 OYA) are now based at Reading and no longer operate in our coverage area.

Disposal: Volvo B7RLE 452 (BD14 KXX) sold to Select Bus Services, Staffordshire.

RED EAGLE BUSES, Dinton near Aylesbury

Dart SLF KN04 XCU has been stood down, leaving just one Dart SLF still in use – AA53 GHA.

Into the fleet:

YX61 GBE/GBF – AD E20D – AD Enviro200 10.2m B29D. Both in red.

REDLINE BUSES, Aylesbury

Into the fleet:

BV73 MLX/Y/Z, MME Volvo B8RLE MCV EVoRa B38F (all in white).

Note: BV73 MME was used by Red Rose Travel from the 10th to 15th January.

Disposals:

SN53 LWR, BU05 HFX, LK55 KKD, YX08 MDV and YX09 FMC to Red Rose Travel, Aylesbury.
Volvo B7TL SK52 MPV and Dart SLF KN04 XCT have both been scrapped.

RED ROSE TRAVEL, Dinton near Aylesbury

E20D YX18 KOV was unusually seen in use on route 357 on 29th January. This bus along with E20Ds E1 RRT, KX18 KOU/W are in green livery, branded up and normally allocated to route W30 (Watford Junction Station – Croxley Business Park).

Volvo B7TL W495 WGH and E200 YX10 BGV are both withdrawn.

Acquired:

SN53 LWR, BU05 HFX, LK55 KKD, YX08 MDV and YX09 FMC from Redline Buses, Aylesbury.

REDROUTE BUSES, Northfleet

Volvo B7TLs X653 LLX, PJ52 LWH, Dennis Trident LK05 GGX, Dart SLF LK55 KLV and Optare Versa YJ09 EZN have all been stood down some time ago and remain stored.

SAFEGUARD, Guildford

Further to information in TLB713, Optare Excels X307/8 XBT are preserved but no longer in the fleet, having both changed ownership in July 2023.

E20D YX18 KOD entered into service on 5th January and is allocated to route 81 (Woking – Barnsbury Estate). The repaint into company livery has not happened as yet and the bus is still in white.

STAGECOACH LONDON (part of Stagecoach Holdings) incorporating:

EAST LONDON – AW, BK, BW, CS, HK, NS, RM, T and WH.

SELKENT - KB, PD, TB and TL; **LEA INTERCHANGE BUS CO** – LI.

New vehicle orders are as follows:

17 x Wrightbus Electroliners 10.6m for route 242/N242 (HK). To be fleet numbered 82049-82065.

19 x Volvo BZL/ MCV 10.3m for route 314 (TB).

To recap on existing orders:

3 x Switch MetroCity MC870EV 8.7m for route 379 (AW). To be fleet numbered 45009-11.

19 x Volvo BZL/ MCV 10.8m for route 276 (LI). To be fleet numbered 66026-44.

10 x Switch MetroCity MC950EV 9.5m for route W11 (AW). To be fleet numbered 67013-22.

40 x Volvo BZL/ MCV double decks for route D7 (HK), 277 (WH) and 58 (LI). Now to be numbered 86181-210, updating the previously earmarked 86031-70 numbering. Of these 86181-90 are for route D7 (HK).

Senior E200s 36037/8 (SN57 DWE/F) still plod on into 2024, faithfully allocated to route W5, although likely to be withdrawn before their 17th birthday in September 2024. Switch MetroCity EVs (45001-8) have been in the fleet for a while and still await electrification work at AW to be complete, before they enter onto route W5. They will replace the 2xE200s mentioned above and the Optare Solos 47983-90. Recent Sundays have seen the W5 mainly worked by the later MMC E200s.

Electroliner 82012 entered service on the 8th January, the last of the batch (82001-14) allocated to route 199 (TL). On the same day 82021, the first of the Electroliners for route 86, entered service. Adding to information in TLB713, we now know that the full batch of Electroliners for route 86/N86 (82015-48) will be based at NS and not co-worked with LI.

LT239/LT240 both arrived at TB in mid-January for driver type training duties, prior to a batch of LTs coming for the introduction of Superloop SL3 (Bromley – Thamesmead) on 24th February. LTs earmarked for Superloop SL3 (TB) are LT239/240 (from BW) and LT120-135 from RATP (following the loss of route 9/N9 to Metroliner).

Following the transfer of a few more LTs from BW into T, route 215 is now mostly operated with LT buses. Route 380 along with allocated E20Ds (33641-56) moved from TL to PD on the 20th January.

MetroCity EVs 45003/5/6/7 were moved from LI to AW for storage purposes in mid-January, however they then moved again to Catford (TL) for temporary use on route 124. This will release some 8.9m E200s (from the batch 36581/2/4-7) to go on loan to AW for use on route 379 (PVR of 2), which is gained from the 9th March.

In the long run, the MetroCity EVs will return to AW for eventual allocation onto route W5. Likewise, the ordered 3 x MetroCity EVs (mentioned above) for route 379 will join them in due course, however the electrification work at AW remains ongoing, hence the delay.

STAGECOACH LONDON continued

With recent bus refurbs (except LTs), a grey vinyl seat covering is the new norm, instead of the traditional Stagecoach blue seating material moquette. This is evident on E40H 12504, re-acquired E20D 36665, the E20Ds on route 346 (37579-82) and most of the route W19 allocated E20Ds (37583/84, 37721, 22, 24-34, 36, 37) to name a few.

Recent repaint/refurbs noted include LT251, LT255, LT260, 12383, 13135 and 37733. E40D 11024, E200 36397 and Optare Solo 47915 have had routine red repaints. E200 36280 has been repainted purple for its new role as a training bus.

Transfers:

(August): 36348 TL/TLw.

(November): LT268 BW/T. 36651 TL/TLu.

(December): 11017 TL/WH. 12401 TL/BK. 15036 PD/PDu. 19756 BK/TL. 19801 TL/PD. 19846 TL/TB.

(January): LT239/240 BW/TBt. LT255 BWu/BW. LT242, 269 BW/T. 10157 T/LI/TL.

10172-74 BK/RM. 10348 WH/BK. 11021 WH/WHu. 11035 PD/WH. 11037 TL/WH.

11062/63 TL/BK. 12405/6 WH/BK. 12500 HK/BW. 15042/47/110 WH/WHw. 19764/69 BK/WH.

19797 T/WH. 19836/37/38 RM/WH. 19839 BK/WH. 19840 TL/WH. 19841 TL/PD.

19863/64/66 PD/LI. 36298 WHt/WH. 36370 BK/ TL. 36641-56 TL/PD. 36671 KB/PD.

45002 LIu/TLu. 45003/5/6/7 LIu/AWu/TLu. 82012 TLu/TL. 82021 NSt/NS. 82022 LIu/NS.

(February): LT120-135 RATP/TBu. 15079 PD/WH. 19861 PD/LI. 36690 KB/TL/PD.

Livery changes

11342 from advert for Fenty Beauty back to Red

84111 from advert for Ovo Energy back to Red

LT239 from advert for Hunger Games back to Red

LT240 from advert for X-Box back to Red

LT248 to advert for Bob Marley (Don't Worry)

LT260 from advert for Go Kerala back to Red

LT268 to advert for Moon Boot (pink)

LT272 to advert for M & S BraFit

LT362 from advert for Remy Martin back to Red

LT364 from advert for Peroni back to Red

Into the fleet:

LT120-135 (LTZ 1120-135) from RATP (February 2024).

STAR TRAVEL, Aylesbury

Optare Solo SF54 ORO has been stood down some time ago and remains stored.

Disposals: Optare Solos SCZ 3849 and YJ05 XNT have both left the fleet.

SUSSEX COACHES, Billingshurst

See below for other known members of the fleet. Most are in the red livery with gold relief.

A1 FKB (originally CN06 GFK) Scania OmniCity CN94UA AB53D.

EEZ 242 (originally SP57 CNO) Scania OmniLink K270UB6 B51F.

KIG 3429 (originally 05-D-7007, then LW55 AJU) Volvo B9TL ALX500 H57/34F.

NEZ 9533 (originally YN07 LDX) Scania OmniLink K270UB B53F.

P90 BUS (originally YN04 ANP) Scania N94UB East Lancs OmniTown B33F.

SK52 MPY Volvo B7TL Alexander ALX400 10.1m H45/20D.

LK53 LZM Volvo B7TL Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 10.1m H38/25F.

LX09 AHF Scania N230UD OmniCity 10.8m H41/22D.

YT09 YHW Scania N270UD East Lancs OmniDekka H51/35F.

YT59 DYC Scania N230UD OmniCity 10.8m H41/22D.

TOOTBUS, Wandsworth

15 x Volvo B9TL tri-axles are to be re-powered to battery-electric by Magtec with the first 10 electric charging points due to be installed within the garage in the coming months. By 2029, the intention is to have 30 buses in the fleet running on battery-electric power, both via re-power work on existing buses and the delivery of new buses. The intention is to create a zero emission Tootbus fleet in London.

Based on MOT expiry dates, DLP253 (LJ51 DJY) has been withdrawn since March 2019, DLP248 (Y548 UGC) since March 2023, VXE723 (YJ11 TVD) since November 2022 and VXE733 (YJ11 TVU) since September 2021.

TOP VIEW SIGHTSEEING LONDON, Wimbledon

Correcting the information in TLB711, pg.23 – this company is based at Weir Road, Wimbledon, situated next to the Wimbledon Dial-A-Ride base and not connected to Londoner Buses or their Wandsworth (WD) operating centre.

TRANSPORT UK, formerly Abellio London (BC, DH, GW, QB, TF, WL)

E40H 2532 was a very rare occurrence on route H32 on 14 January, which since takeover has always been allocated LT buses. E40Hs 2004 and 2515 were noted on route H32 on 15th January with others since.

Electroliner 3031 has moved from QB to TF and is being used as the top up vehicle for the +1 PVR increase on route 111. This bus is part of the batch ordered for route 363 (WL) and is likely to be replaced in due course when Electroliner 3103 arrives. 3032 was the first of the batch to actually work on the 363 on 5th February.

Route 133 was taken over from Arriva London on 20th January, now operated by QB garage and using a mix of E40H/LT/Electroliners until its own batch of ordered Electroliners (3059-3085) arrive later in the year.

On the weekend of 3rd/4th February, some of the new Wright GB Kite single decks (1703/6-12) were used on Elizabeth line Rail Replacement work, covering UL16 (Stratford City – Romford). The batch are due to enter service on route E7 (GW) in the coming months.

Recent reported repaints/ refurbishes include 2461, 2462, 2487, 2503, 2505, 2531, 2553, 2556, 2557, 2559, 2561, 8143, 8144, 8206 and 8883.

New buses information:

The Wrightbus GB Kite Electroliner 10.9m 1701-12 are confirmed as all arrived in December 2023. They are B30D and had been in store, pending completion of electrification work at GW for use on route E7.

Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner 10.6m H40/20D – 3038-45 arrived in December 2023 and 3046/47 (LV73 FHT/U) have arrived in January 2024, completing the batch ordered for route C3 (QB).

Transfers:

(December): 1704/6 -/QBu. 1705/7/12 -/BCu. 3042/44/45 -/QBu.

(January): LT21 GW/QB. LT632/36 WL/QB. LT633-35/37/39/40/88 TF/QB. LT995 TF/GW/TF. 1540 BC/WL. 1702/3 QBu/BCu. 2414/16/18/20 WL/QB. 3027/29/30/31 QB/TF. 3038-45 QBu/QB. 3046/47 -/QB. 8206 GW/TF. 9525 GW/QB.

(February): 1703/7-12 BCu/BC. 1706 QBu/QB. 3032 QB/WL.

Livery changes:

LT34 from advert for Brewdog back to Red

LT155 to advert for Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra

LT163 from advert for Cos back to Red

LT165 from advert for Peroni back to Red

TRANSPORT UK continued

LT166 from advert for Remy Martin back to Red
LT168 from advert for Go Kerala to one for Moon Boot (red)
LT170 from advert for Gant back to Red
LT606 to advert for Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra
LT617 from advert for Mentos back to Red
LT621 to advert for Samsung Galaxy S24 Ultra
LT623 and LT682 from adverts for Ginori back to Red
LT693 from advert for JD Forever Forward back to Red
LT695 to advert for Bob Marley (One Love One Heart)
LT706 from advert for Gant back to Red
LT768 from advert for Sonic Superstars "Dr Eggman" back to Red
LT773 from advert for Hunger Games back to Red

Disposals:

8777-79/83 have departed the fleet off lease in September 2023.

Note: 8777-79 have since been on loan from the lease company to Falcon, Byfleet (see TLB709).

UNIVERSITYBUS (t/a uno), Hatfield and Northampton

Further to TLB707, BYD E400EV LF69 UXJ is now known to be a permanent member of the fleet, having arrived in June 2023 and allocated to TfL School workings. Its fleet numbered 1469 (see below).

Update to TLB711, E200 605 (C17 UNO), last used on 11th August 2023, has now resurfaced and is back in use as of 5th January. It serves as a second spare bus for TfL route 383. The route has a pool of 5 E200s (601-5) and 1 StreetLite (46) to meet a PVR of 4. E200 605 was originally registered SK07 HLM from its days with London United and will be 17 years old in May 2024. It is the oldest bus in use on TfL services.

E40D 1479 (YY64 GXG) made its debut on TfL School Service work on 15th January, noted on route 643. It had previously been used on non-TfL work since its purchase in 2020.

The HertsLynx service was expanded to cover Hertford and Ware areas from 4th December, leading to a PVR increase to 7, hence the additional Mercedes-Benz Sprinters into the fleet (TLB713). On 11th December the scheme was introduced into Dacorum, covering an area from Berkhamsted, Hemel Hempstead and Tring, requiring an additional 3 Mercedes-Benz minibuses.

Mercedes-Benz Citaro 302 (BX56 VSK) has been stood down in September 2023 (See disposals below).
Mercedes-Benz Citaro 305 (BX56 VSN) has been stood down in August 2023.

Into the fleet:

1469 (LF69 UXJ) BYD D8UR-DD AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H43/24D (June 2023).

YE73 EUT, YE73 RBU Mercedes-Benz 517CDi/ EVM B16F. These are in black livery for the HertsLynx service, without fleet numbers. They join YE73 RBV (mentioned in TLB713) and are allocated to the HertsLynx service in the Dacorum area.

Disposals:

208 (YN07 LFA) left the fleet by April 2023.

302 (BX56 VSK) left the fleet by January 2024 and been repainted silver and seen parked with GH Watts, Leicester.

308 (BV57 VHG) left the fleet in September 2023. This bus was last used in May 2023.

412/13 (YJ61 MKP/U) left the fleet in September 2023.

1470 (LJ16 EZS) left the fleet by August 2023 and was seen recently at BYD Hounslow.

VALE TRAVEL, Aylesbury

Darts L116 HHV and M454 LLJ have been stood down some time ago and remain stored.

Into the fleet:

EEZ 2916 Volvo B7TL – Alexander ALX400 H49/27F 2005.

This bus and BYZ 6521 (mentioned in TLB713) are in dark green livery from their previous owners.

Disposals:

Volvos T59/61 NWL, Dart SLF T844 TGH, Optare Solo AU54 ENY and VW Crafter SN09 EKU have departed the fleet.

WESTBUS (within the ComfortDelgro group of Singapore)

Volvo Olympian 130 (S137 RLE) and Volvo B7TL 185 (LK54 FWT) have both been stood down in 2018 (when their MOTs expired) and remain stored.

Scania N230UD 189 (LK57 KAX) has been stood down by July 2021 (when its MOT expired) and remains stored.

Disposal: 187 (LK07 AZZ, ex Metroline SEL742) to Yorkshire Buses, Leeds, West Yorkshire (December 2023) – See TLB713, pg.38.

WHITE BUS SERVICE, Winkfield

Disposals:

E20D 60 (YX68 ULW) departed the fleet in January 2024.

Optare Tempos 66/67 (YJ07 EGD, YJ57 EHV) both departed the fleet some time ago.

Z&S BUSES, Aylesbury

E20D YX16 OHV is now known to be fleet numbered 162.

E200 MX59 AVV has recently been repainted into fleet livery, formerly in plain white. This bus had been delicensed for two years and is now re-licensed and back on the road.

E200s 150 (SR54 ZNS), 178 (KX57 AAO), 182 (VE58 XKY), 184 (MX59 AVO), 186 (MX60 BWV) and 190 (MX11 CZK) and Dennis Trident 270 (LR02 BCF) have all been stood down some time ago and remain stored.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? (Subsequent vehicle disposals)

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Routemasters:

RM180 (XVS 830, ex VLT 180) further to TLB708, it appears that Peoplesbus only sold their previous routes, contracts, staff and vehicles, and retained their Operators licence. RM180 has been noted in use with Peoplesbus and should therefore be reinstated with this operator.

RML2480 (JJD 480D) from Mr & Mrs A Wells to Londoner Buses, Wandsworth, London (January). This RML had latterly been used by Norfolk based operator Bus & Us until early 2020.

Olympians:

NV28 (N528 LHG) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Bromley Bus Preservation Group (January).

NV51 (R251 LGH) (ex GAL) from Amber Vintage to Birdham Primary School, Birdham, West Sussex (July). This NV had latterly been The Amber Bar Bus, but the bar and all fittings were removed before it was acquired by the school.

Miscellaneous low-floor double deck types:

- DLA238 (X438 FGP, ex S15 KFR, ex MIG 9502), 246 (X446 FGP, ex MIG 9502, ex X111 HOW) (ex ALN) from Presidential to MD Bus & Coach (dlr), St. Helens, Lancs. (September). DLA238 then passed to an unknown owner (also in September).
- DLA376 (LJ03 MTF, ex JRZ 3263) (ex ALN) updating and correcting TLB704, this DLA is with Providence Travel, Ellesmere Port, Merseyside and the owner of the company is Mr K Yallop (not Wallop).
- DW35, 36 (LJ53 NJF, NJK) (ex ALN) were sold from Lynx Bus (June and September respectively) for scrap.
- DW287 (LJ59 LWP) (ex ALN) has been numbered DW1 and re-registered to YB09 BUS with Yorkshire Buses.
- DW296 (LJ10 CUH) (ex ALN) from Xelabus to Master Coaches, Hounslow, Middlesex (June) and remains in all over yellow livery.
- T9, 40 (LJ08 CWA, CUO) (ex ALN) from Bryans Coaches to BBPG (February).
- VLA40 (LJ53 BCK) (ex ALN) was sold from Heyfordian (May 2022) for scrap.
- VLA92 (LJ54 BDX) (ex ALN) was withdrawn by Whippets Coaches on the 27th September after fire damage.
- VLW73 (LF52 UTL) (ex ALN) from Team Pennine to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).
- DN33585 (SN09 CEU, ex W70 BUS), 33599 (SN09 CFP ex N600 BUS) (ex FLN), updating TLB708, it is confirmed that these are numbered 19915 and 19916 with Stagecoach (and not 19913 and 19909).
- VN32102 (MIG 3842, ex LT02 ZCL) (ex FLN) from First Hants & Dorset to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).
- VN32101, 32107 (LT02 ZCK, ZCX) (ex FLN) have been sold by First Eastern Counties (November and January respectively).
- VN37884 (BV10 WVN) (ex FLN) has been reported in January at Bus & Coach Centre; this was latterly VW1836 (ex ML) and was recently returned to Close Brothers Asset Finance.
- VN37900 (LXZ 5385, ex BF60 UUL), 37908 (LXZ 5396, ex BF60 UUX), 37916 (LXZ 5413, ex BF60 VHW), 37920 (LXZ 5418, ex BF60 VJA), 37921(LXZ 5415, ex BF60 VHY), 37926 (LXZ 5417, ex BF60 VHZ) (ex FLN) passed from Lothian Country to Lothian Buses (VN37908 , 37920 - April, VN37900, 37916, 37921 – all in May, VN37926 – March) and have retained their fleet numbers 1003, 1013, 1028, 1032, 1030 and 1031 respectively.
- VNL32208 (HIG 8790, ex LT52 WTO) (ex FLN) has been sold by First South West (January).
- VNL32209 (OIG 1795, ex LT52 WTP) (ex FLN) from First South West to Wigley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November).
- VNL32210 (LT52 WTR) (ex FLN) further to TLB701, this VNL is confirmed as passing to Mr Wilkins, Gorleston, Norfolk (December 2022) for preservation. It then passed to Viscount Travel, Thornton-le-Dale, North Yorkshire (October) and was loaned to Yorkshire Travel Group, Rothwell, North Yorkshire (from October).
- VNL32111 (TJI 4838, ex LT52 WTU) (ex FLN) from First South West to Ensign Bus, Purfleet, Essex (January).
- WNH39005 (LK58 ECZ) (ex FLN) was sold for scrap from First West of England (by January).
- E39 (LX06 FKO), 41, 50, 53 (LX56 ETE, ETV, EUA) (ex GAL) from Go South West to Shears (dlr), Northam, Devon (October).
- EVL5 (PL51 LGF) (ex GAL) from Acklams to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (October) for scrap.
- PVL206 (X506 EGK) (ex GAL) from Finch to Poynters Coaches, Northampton, Northants. (October) and was re-registered to H19 POY in the same month.
- PVL236 (Y736 TGH) (ex GAL) was re-registered to H20 POY in October by Poynters Coaches.
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PVL255 (PL51 LDV) (ex GAL) from Fowlers Travel to Bus & Coach Repairs (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs. (July).

PVL405 (LX54 GZT) (ex GAL) has been on loan in October from Littles Travel to Notts & Derby.

WVL160 (LX05 FBY) (ex GAL) was sold from Thames Travel to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (November) for scrap.

WVL371 (LX60 DXB) (ex GAL) from First Hants & Dorset to First South West (January).

960 (YT59 DYC) (ex GAL) is now confirmed as passing to Sussex Coaches, Billingshurst, West Sussex (by July and possibly January 2021).

ADE40448, 40452, 40459, 40467, 40468 (YX62 BCK, BGE, BKF, BPO, BPU) (ex LU) from Eastern Scottish to Xplore Dundee (October) where they have retained their fleet numbers 8962, 8974, 8964, 8963, 8961 respectively.

SLE61 (N900 DLC, ex YN55 NLM) (ex LU) is now fleet number 6023 within the Dartline fleet.

SP40011 (YN56 FBU) (ex LU) was sold by Happy Al's (March) for scrap.

SP40012 (YN56 FBV) (ex LU) from Happy Al's to PSV Recycling (dlr), Hadleigh, Essex (November 2021) for scrap.

SP40041, 40046 (YT09 BKA, BNA) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Yorkshire Buses, Leeds, West Yorkshire (January) and after conversion to single door, they are now in a red and white livery.

SP40042, 40048 (YT09 BMO, BND) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Lodge's Coaches, Chelmsford, Essex (November and October respectively).

SP40043 (YT09 BMU) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to unknown owner (December).

SP40099, 40100 (YT59 SGX, SGY) (ex LU) returned after loan to Gwynfor Coaches (November), presumably back to Dawsongroup, and passed to JH Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear (January) where they have been re-registered to UGD 735 and MSU 392 also in January.

SP40179, 40182 (YT10 XCC, XCF) (ex LU) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Farleigh Coaches, Hoo, Kent (September) and they were re-registered to VEZ 959 and VEZ 353 also in September.

TA345 (SN03 LFS) (ex LU) from Ace Coaches to Dunrinnin, Irvinestown, Northern Ireland (July) where it has been converted into an Airbnb.

TLA28 (SN53 KJJ) (ex LU) was sold from Butlers Coaches (by October) for scrap.

VE4 (PG04 WGV) (ex LU) from Team Pennine to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (by January).

TE938, 939 (LK58 KHC, KHD) (ex ML) from Ensign Bus (dlr) to Belle Vue, Stockport, Greater Manchester (October).

TE1075 (LK10 BZY) (ML) from North West Bus Sales to Hunter Coaches, Moortown, West Yorkshire (October).

TE1076 (LK60 AEX) (ex ML) from Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire to unknown owner (January).

TE1095 (LK60 AHC) (ex ML) has been repainted in January in new two-tone green and yellow Peoplesbus livery and re-registered to V1 BUS. It is to be used on school service 686 (Knowsley to St. Edmund Arrowsmith School at Whiston).

TP290 (LR02 BCX) (ex ML) was sold from Landmark Coaches (November 2022).

VP324, 331, 332, 337 (LR52 BMV, BNF, BNJ, BNU) (ex ML) have all left GSAL (by September) having last worked for the school in July. It is assumed that they returned to a dealer as they have subsequently been re-licensed; further reports would be welcome.

VP520 (LK04 CSU) (ex ML) from Southdown PSV to Scrapco (dlr), Paddock Wood, Kent (March 2023) for scrap.

VPL162 (Y162NLK) (ex ML) further TLB668, this VPL finally entered service with Belfast City Sighting on the 28th October 2023.

TA17057 (T657 KPU) (ex SLN) was sold by Redroute Buses (April) for scrap.

TA17124 (V124 MEV) (ex SLN) further to TLB it is now confirmed that this TA passed to Allshapes, Felixstowe, Suffolk (by November 2021) where it is being used as a static boutique and art gallery.

TA17130 (BIG 7596, ex V130 MEV) (ex SLN) from Panther Travel to Gillens Coaches, Greenock, Renfrewshire (October).

TA17317 (X317 NNO), ex MSV 617 (ex SLN) was sold from Butlers Coaches (August) for scrap.

TA17377 (Y377 NHK) (ex SLN) was sold from City Transport (by July).

TA17562 (LV52 HDO) (ex SLN) the report in TLB671 was not correct and it remains with Cotswold Green, although withdrawn from service.

TA17608 (LV52 HHT) (ex SLN) from Peoplesbus to PVS, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (October).

TA17953 (LX53 JYT, ex DB53 EAT) (ex SLN) was sold from Dining Bus Services (August).

TA18474, 18482 (LX55 ERV, BDZ) (ex SLN) were sold from Stagecoach Midlands (by June) although both were still stored on site in June 2023.

12372 (YX16 OGL) (ex SLN) further to TLB710 page 28, it was confirmed as passing to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

15005 (LX58 CEF) (ex SLN) further to TLB710 page 28, it was confirmed as passing to Ripley, Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Low-floor single deck types:

ENL32 (AB09 PAN, ex LJ09 KPU) (ex ALN) from Panther Travel to Tetleys Coaches, Leeds, West Yorkshire (March 2023).

ENL92 (GN58 BUU) (ex ALN) was loaned from HGV Training to Stagecoach East Scotland in January, and then to First Glasgow in May, for continued driver training.

DML44026 (YX58 DVY) (ex FLN) from Ripley to BM Coaches, Middlesex (July).

DML44031 (YX58 DWE), 44087 (YX09 AEE) (ex FLN) were sold by Metroline (by December).

DML44041 (YX58 DWV) (ex FLN) was sold by Falcon Coaches (December).

DML44057 (YX58 FPV) (ex FLN) further to TLB713, it appears that this DML is back with BM Coaches, and that Solus and BM Coaches are sister companies. Additionally, it was re-registered to YUI 2774 by January.

WV46111 (SN64CVR) (ex FLN) was latterly with Central Connect; it was then reported with Yorkshire Buses and had been re-registered to CC11 BUS. It has now left this fleet (by December) and reports would be welcome.

WS35, 36 (SN64 CUC, CUG) (ex GAL) had left the Big Lemon fleet (by October).

DE20035 (YX09 HKD) (ex LU) was sold by First Glasgow (November).

DE1607 (YX58 DWE), 1654 (YX09 AEE) (ex ML) – see the corresponding entry for DML 44031, 44087 (ex FLN) above.

DEL849 (LK08 DWA) (ex ML) has been sold from Central Connect (September).

DSD211 (LR02 BDZ) (ex ML) correcting previous reports, this DSD passed from McGills Buses to Clyde Metals Recycling (dlr), Greenock, Renfrewshire (April) 2021) for scrap. (It was DSD214 that passed to Omnibus Kitchen and was used as a mobile kitchen; TLB706 and TLB713 refer.)

36328 (LX58 CCO) (ex SLN) from Stagecoach South East to Hardwick, Ripley, South Yorkshire (August) for scrap.

SERVICE VEHICLES

Section Editor: Thomas Young by e-mail to tom@ltsv.com or by post to Lombard address (see page 1) marked “TLB SVs”. The LTSV website at www.ltsv.com has an on-line database of service vehicles, with photos, plus the facility to record your own sightings and comments. A hash sign (#) after the livery of a vehicle below indicates that it has no markings.

As you may have noticed, I have taken over the role of Managing Editor of TLB. I will not be using this new power to increase the amount of service vehicle coverage though, as there is usually nothing more to report! You may have also noted the new email address of lotstlbeditor@gmail.com. This is intended for general TLB matters; anything to do with service vehicles can continue to be sent to tom@ltsv.com.

LUL/LBSL/TfL Fleet;

Nothing to report!

Bus Company Fleets; Newly reported vehicles

| | | | | | |
|------|----------|------------------------------|-------------------|---------|----|
| - | YC21 HJN | BMW X2 SUV | Arriva London | Blue # | DT |
| - | FL23 JBZ | Vauxhall Combo Van | Arriva London | White | AE |
| - | KS23 WXZ | Citroen C4 Hatchback Car | Arriva London | Red # | DT |
| - | YF23 UGA | Nissan Qashqai SUV | Arriva London | Blue # | DT |
| - | AO73 JZA | Ford Puma Car | Arriva London | Black # | DT |
| - | HG21 XSK | Nissan NV250 Van | Go-Ahead London | White # | Q |
| ? | DV73 FRP | Vauxhall Vivaro Life Minibus | Stagecoach London | White | RM |
| ? | DV73 FRZ | Vauxhall Vivaro Life Minibus | Stagecoach London | White | RM |
| ? | DV73 FSA | Vauxhall Vivaro Life Minibus | Stagecoach London | White | RM |
| 6859 | YF17 ZKL | Ford Focus Hatchback | Transport UK | White | TF |

Additional information

YF17 ZKL above is the first service vehicle reported with Transport UK lettering. More significantly it carried fleetnumber 6859, showing that the main numbering series is still in use. Abellio had stopped applying external fleetnumbers about 7 years ago, and the highest we were aware of was 6811. Please keep a look out for any other re-branded service vehicles, particularly if they show numbers between 6811 and 6859.

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

This TLB closed on 7th February and is due for posting on 20th February. Closing date for TLB715 is Wed 6th March and due for posting on 19th March. Contributions to Editors by post or e-mail to lotstlbeditor@gmail.com or refer to heads of sections for specific contact points. Later closing dates are Weds 3rd April, 1st May and 5th June 2024.



'Superloop' route SL1 was introduced on 9th December. It links Walthamstow Central and North Finchley. Arriva London North HA9 (but displaying HA009), starts out on its' long trip north and east, from North Finchley. *(Martin Ruthe)*

The SL5 is the latest 'Superloop route, it provides a limited stop link between Bromley and Croydon. Arriva London South ENX12 in South Eden Park Road, Beckenham. Low trees here, restrict the route to single deck. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Rear cover: Vehicle loans between Hulleys of Baslow and Go Coach (who they now own) has been nothing unusual recently. The latest one though, has turned a few heads. London Country 'heritage' liveried E400 9001 is seen here in the grounds of Chatsworth House on 24th January. *(Tony Wilson)*



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