

The Latest News April 2006



29/04/06

Mark Gibbon has provided details of the vehicle exchnages expected this weekend at **Arriva North East** for Viva Tees Valley. These are in the table below. Note that some of these movements have already been noted as having happened (thanks Wayne and Dave P!), while Wayne adds that Optare Delta 4017 (K417BHN) is expected to be pressed into use at Bishop Auckland (as will several others, no doubt!).

Vehicles:	From:	To:
<u>Optare Metrorider:</u>		
873, 906, 2612/41/2/739	R	RR
886/91	BA	RR
921	ASW	BA
2618/35/7/8/9/728	LS	RR
2621	ASW	RR
<u>Optare Vecta:</u>		
1515	LS	R
<u>Dennis Dart SLF:</u>		
1642/3	PE	ASW
<u>Mini Pointer Dart:</u>		
1734	LS	RR
1736/7	LS	BA
<u>DAF SB120:</u>		
1915/6/20	RR	SN
<u>Optare Prisma:</u>		
3018/9	BA	LS
3020/2-4	RR	LS
<u>Optare Delta:</u>		
4014-8/96	RR	R
<u>DAF SB220 / Ikarus:</u>		
4083	R	PE
4089	RR	R
4108/9	SN	PE
<u>DAF SB220GS / Plaxton:</u>		
4058	RR	SN

26/04/06

Wayne Picknett tells me of a vehicle swap at **Arriva Tees & District**. Optare Prisma 3022 (N522XVN) has gone from Redcar to Loftus in exchange for Mini

Pointer Dart 1734 (V734DNL) - I think I know which depot got the better deal out of that swap! Also, Wayne had reported the departure of DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4083 (J926CYL) from Redcar. Over the coming weekend it is understood that Redcar will lose all of it's DAFs and Prismas 3020-4.

Peter Tuck reports that **Arriva Durham County** have regained Leyland Olympian / Alexander 7278 (J354BSH) freshly repainted.

Peter Tuck also reports that **Weardale Motor Services** also have ex Go North East MCW Metrobus 3768 (C768OCN). The metrobuses are at work on school services alongside existing fleet members.



John Atkin has kindly provided the above photo of **Leven Valley's** new Optare Solo T888EXG.

25/04/06

Andrew Tyldsley has kindly provided details of the recent movements at **Go North East**, which I have used to update my fleetlist. Highlights are the arrival of Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8290-2 (S726KNV, S783RNE , T438EBD) from Supertravel, Speke and the sale of Metrobuses 3633/751/65/8/77 (A633BCN, C751/65/8/77OCN) and Leyland Olympian / ECW 3665/72 (C665/72LJR). A number of these have gone to Weardale - see below

Peter Tuck reports that **Weardale Motor services** is currently home to former Dublin bus Leyland Olympian / Alexander 91D10112 and ex Go North East MCW Metrobuses A633BCN, C765/77OCN.

23/04/06





Now operating with **Arriva Durham County** at Bishop Auckland is London liveried DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7451 (R208CKO). Stuart Gray reveals that part of the reason for the loaning of Metrobuses from Jesmond and Durham is roof damage caused to 7277 (J353BSH) and 7285 (G762UYT) in the former storage shed - these are being repaired by Gardiners of Spennymoor, while 7278 (J354BSH) is at Jesmond for repaint. Given that several loaned buses, including 7212/3 (D198/223FYM) will need to return home for schools work as of tomorrow, it will be interesting to see what Bishop Auckland can turn out!

Wayne Picknett reports that **Arriva Tees & District's** Redcar depot has gained Optare Metrorider 2642 (P642FHN) from Darlington and 2621 (P621FHN) has returned from Scotland West.

Arriva Northumbria Blyth depot Scania N113 / Northern Counties 7256 (N181OYH) unfortunately suffered fire damaged while working service 364 on Friday. The following day Blyth borrowed Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 7410 (P410CCU) from Ashington.

Richard Smiles reports that **Leven Valley, Middlesbrough** have taken delivery of a third Optare Solo. It is registered T888EXG and named Lindisfarne.

Graeme Scarlett reports that **The Eden, West Auckland** have sold Mercedes 709 / Plaxton M3 (L634VCV) to Sherburn Coaches, Durham.

21/04/06



Peter Nardone tells me the superb news that **Stagecoach on Teesside** are again operating a Leyland Lynx! 29629 (K629YVN) is in use ex Sunderland, helping with the increased vehicle requirement which has resulted from new services 3/4 being introduced. It is understood that these will shortly be worked by ex Merseyside Dennis Darts.

20/04/06

Neil Wise and David Mallon inform me that things have become even more interesting at **Arriva Durham County** in Bishop Auckland, with a variety of MCW Metrobuses on loan from Durham and Jesmond, presumably while such matters as repainting some of the other vehicles are attended to during the school holidays. Those noted have been 604/20/2-4 (KYV646X, WLT954, A973SYF, B112/6WUL). It is also worth noting that a driver shortage at Bishop Auckland is impacting on service reliability at the moment. David has also noted Optare Alero 2502 (YN03UXW) on the road under its own power, albeit not operating service 83 - let's hope that it is more successful with Arriva than it was with Go North East!

I have compiled together a list of the recent movements at **Go North East** as best I can, utilising reports from Gary Mitchelhill, Andrew Tyldsley and others together with my own sightings and reports from various yahoogroups. This list is almost certainly incomplete and may contain errors, but is a start! Movements as follows:

Vehicles	From	To
3806/96/7/947-9/52/9/61	Bishop Auckland	Stanley
3807-10/88/92-6	Bishop Auckland	Chester-le-Street
3813-6	Bishop Auckland	Gateshead
3944-6	Bishop Auckland	Deptford
4808-12	Bishop Auckland	Winlaton
413/21*5/6/9, 40/1, 8419/20/1/4/6/8, 9180/2	Bishop Auckland	Withdrawn
4782-4	Deptford	Washington
8219/20	Deptford	Winlaton
3849/54-6	Chester-le-Street	Percy Main
3939	Chester-le-Street	Gateshead
3874	Chester-le-Street	Winlaton
418/22/3/4/8	Chester-le-Street	Withdrawn
4753/4	Gateshead	Driver Training
8430	Gateshead	Withdrawn
4768	Percy Main	Withdrawn
4774	Percy Main	Gateshead
3676, 4785	Percy Main	Washington
580/1, 3904/5	Stanley	Chester-le-Street
3926	Stanley	Deptford
3633/751/65/8/77	Stanley	Withdrawn
4756	Washington	Chester-le-Street
3919/20	Winlaton	Gateshead
571/2, 4759-61/89	Winlaton	Chester-le-Street
454/6	Winlaton	Stanley
4991/2	Acquired	Chester-le-Street
3862-5	New	Chester-le-Street

16/04/06

Chris Redpath has provided details of the latest movements at **Stagecoach North East**. Other than what has already been noted here and a few vehicle out of use for repairs there are only a few moves to report this time. Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14675 (H675BNL) replaced older Alexander bodied 14605 (C605LFT) at Darlington, while Volvo Olympian 16710 (N710LTN), which had been listed for transfer is again allocated to Walkergate. Megabus MAN / Jonkherre 50058 (T58BBW) has gone to Stagecoach Bluebird and Optare Solo 47025 (YL02FKY) has passed to Classic with the AD122 contract. Since Chris's report, some Dennis Darts have appeared at Sunderland from Stagecoach Merseyside and would appear to be under preparation for service somewhere with the region, while Hartlepool yesterday had reserve fleet Olympian 14651 (C651LFT) out on service 1!!

13/04/06

Arriva's Viva Tees Valley [website](#) is now up and running and contains some of the new timetables. Wayne Picknett reports that Optare Metrorider 2641 (P641FHN) is at Redcar ex reserve for a new gearbox and it is expected that this will be one of a number of Metroriders to be used at Redcar on the new "Viva" network.

I have put a couple of video clips on Google videos for your enjoyment as follows:

[Final day of operation by Go North East at Bishop Auckland \(all three vehicles original OK ones\)](#)

[Stokesley depot being locked up for the final time](#)

Brian Roberston reports that **Weardale, Stanhope** have taken delivery of Mercedes Vario / Plaxton Cheetah NK06FXF.

Brian also reports that **Nightingale, Greencroft** have acquired Mercedes 711 / Autobus Classique N778OGA from Harry Ferguson, Bathgate.

The latest Notices and Proceedings show that **First Choice, Stanley** have had their operators licence revoked.

09/04/06



Arriva Durham County & Stagecoach in Darlington were this week involved in the launch of the "Do the local motion" scheme in Darlington, designed to get people thinking about alternatives to car use.



Gardiners of Spennymoor now have Optare Metrorider J942JJR from Scarlet Band.

Neil Wise reports that **Garnetts, Tindale Crescent** now have ex Lothian Leyland Olympian OFS695Y.

08/04/06





As anticipated today saw the unfamiliar sight of **Arriva Durham County** operating to many new and different locations! Leyland Olympians 7212/3/4/23/77/8 (D198/223/187/203FYM, J353/4BSH), DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7450 (R207CKO), Dennis Dart / Northern Counties 1685 (L141YVK), Dennis Dart / Plaxton 1686/7 (J220/1HGY) and most of the Volvo B6s were all noted operating - mainly on the former Go North East routes. Also in use were Metroriders 2610/739 (P610FHN, N802BKN) from Darlington (the latter on the very scenic 88), 911 (R251JNL) from Loftus and 886/916 (N886RTN, R916JNL) from Northumbria reserve. Darlington now have Optare Solo YM52TOU as 2501 for the 70, while Bishop Auckland presumably have the Alero (if it's in working order!) - new fleetnumber 2502. Ian Wilson has also noted that Peterlee now hgave Volvo Olympian / East Lancs 7422 (M686HPF) - presumably as an extra bus to work the X27. Thanks to Andrew Tyldsley and "Unitedmandurham" for some of the above photos.



In contrast to Arriva, **Go North East** had rather a more modern presence in Bishop Auckland today. The four new Volvo B7TL / Wright entered service on the 724 today as 3962-5 (NK06JXE/D/C/B) - note the new 06 registrations and the reverse order lettering! It should be noted that these have over an hour of layover in Bishop Auckland per round trip under normal circumstances. A multitude of fleet movements has begun due to the closure of Bishop Auckland and other service changes - I'll try to post some information when things settle down a bit! Thanks to Andrew Tyldsley for some of the above photos

Ross Sherwood reports the arrival of Dennis Dart / Alexander 32717 (K717PCN) at **Stagecoach in Darlington** from Newcastle.

A previously un-noted Iveco 59-12 with **Alrite, Middlesbrough** is M825WWM, which carries a welfare-spec body of unknown manufacture (possibly Mellor) and wears a different livery variation with less white.

07/04/06



Today saw the final day of operation at **Go North East's** Bishop Auckland depot. Its closure effectively marks the final nail in the coffin of OK Motor Services - for many the biggest sadness of all. While the majority of today's operations were fairly run of the mill, the use of three of Stanley's MCW Metrobuses (3765/8 and one other) on schools work was quite unusual. It seems likely that Bishop Auckland's vehicles will be spread widely and will see off the last remaining NBC era double deckers in the fleet. Thanks to Andrew Tyldsley for some of the above photos

Arriva Durham County take over the majority of the former Go North East services in and around Bishop Auckland from tomorrow. A number of extra vehicles were gathered at Arriva's Bishop Auckland depot today being prepared for tomorrow. These were Leyland Olympians 7214/23/78 (D187/203FYM, J354BSH), Darts 1686-8 (J220/1HGY, J468OKP), B6 4531 (L201TKA) and Metrorider 911 (R251JNL). Other vehicles also present but

not identifiable were a few more B6s, another Metrorider and (most interestingly) a dual-door Northern Counties Palatine 2 bodied decker.

02/04/06

Stuart Gray reports that **Arriva North East** are expecting further Metroriders at Bishop Auckland and are planning to replace their Leyland Lynxes from service by October. Neil Wise reports that DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413HCP) is now stored at Richmond having suffered engine failure, while Wayne Picknett reports that Optare Delta 4104 (H266CFT) has departed Redcar for scrap with Optare Vecta 1552 (M501AJC) and Leyland Olympian / ECW 7276 (G21HHG) expected to be removed from Redcar depot shortly.



John Hart has kindly supplied the above photo of **Stagecoach in South Shields** Dennis Dart / Plaxton 32749 (L749VNL) smartly repainted in South Shields Corporation colours - very nice it looks too!

Tony Walshaw has kindly provided an update on **Compass Royston, Stockton**. Bristol VR / ECW BUH235V is now to be broken for spares, while sisters WWY119S and MOU746R are both out of use with axle and engine problems respectively. Also out of use is Leyland Atlantean / Alexander EJR107W - the future of all three is not certain. Volvo B10M / Jonkherre KIW7812 is back in use after two years and is repainted white.

Craig Bell has noted that, in spite of some recent service withdrawals, **Northumbria Coaches, Ashington** retains Volvo B6BLE / Plaxton NK54PHV and at least three of the Volvo B10M coaches previously used on the 618. These were on rail/Metro replacements yesterday.