

## The Latest News *December 2006*



**28/12/06**



**Arriva Northumbria** now have Optare Metrorider 2601 (M621PDP) repainted and in service at Ashington alongside sister 2602 (P622PDP) which has been in use for some time. Gary Mitchelhill reports that sister 939 (N272BAL) is now in service at Hexham and was today on the 684.

**Go North East** Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4837 (R837PRG) is another repainted orange.

Gary Mitchelhill reports that **Northumbria Coaches, Ashington** have taken ex Arriva North East/Northumbria Leyland Lynxes J652/3/7/89UHN, H338TYG and Leyland Tiger / Plaxton E186/7XKO (ex YSU870/1). One of the Tigers is repainted, while one of the Lynxes will be used for spares.

Added to stock at **Phoenix Taxis, Blyth** is Iveco Daily MX56FWJ, which was seen today on the 430 in Ashington.

**24/12/06**

***I would like to wish all visitors and contributors to this site a very Merry Christmas.***

**Arriva Northumbria** Leyland Olympian / ECW 7229 (A584NWX) was noted yesterday parked forlornly in the back corner of Ashington depot. Fortunately, this is due to move to Jesmond in January with Scania L113 / East Lancs 282 (N282NCN), allowing Volvo B10BLEs 4502/3 (V502/3DFT) to go to Blyth. North East DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4086 (J413NCP) was yesterday noted parked up at Ashington freshly repainted, believed to be awaiting MOT.

Service changes at **Arriva North East** in January are to lead to a number of vehicle movements. As well as those previously mentioned for Redcar, Stockton are to lose DAF SB120 / Wright 1913-7/22 () to Peterlee, in turn displacing a selection of DAF SB220 / Ikarus and Optare Deltas, mainly to

Darlington. The official allocation does give identities for these, but at least one has not been seen on the road for many weeks, so I suspect it could change! Some of these are to go to Darlington to replace similar sisters, including freshly repainted 4086 mentioned above! again, I am suspecting the exact details will change. I will provide updates on this as things happen.



Further repaints into orange at **Go North East** are Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4842/908 (R842PRG, W908RBB). Thanks to Daz Taylor and Steven Hodgson for these.



Steven Hodgson notes a previously unseen **Weardale Motor Services** vehicle. It is Mercedes Vario / Plaxton Cheetah NK06FKF.

**22/12/06**

I have deleted the **Go North East** report from yesterday as I have been informed that I made something of an error - my appologies to those whose information I mis-remembered! Fortunately, Daz Taylor has supplied a list of recent repaints (may include some in progress/to come by the looks of it) and these are as follows:

Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4839/40 (R839PRG, 340GUP) - Orange

Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4848/9 (R848/9PRG) - White

Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4850-5/96-905 (R856/1-5PRG, V986-90ETN, W901-5RBB) - Green

Scania L94UB / Wright 4926-36/8 (Y926-9ERG, Y493ETN, Y931-6ERG, NK51OKX) - Blue

Scania L94UB / Wright 4941 (NK51OLC) - White

**21/12/06**

Daniel Smith reports that **Stagecoach in Newcastle** now have Dennis Darts 32117/21/5/8/9/33/4 (K117/21/5/8/9/33/4SRH) at Slatyford and these are expected to replace Mercedes 709s.

**14/12/06**

Bryn McGloin, Stephen Johns and Lee-James Worsfold all report that **Arriva Tees & District** have Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1650 (R425COO) now freshly repainted at Loftus. Wayne Picknett reports that Optare Delta 4016 (K416BHN) has been taken from Redcar to ITC - reason unknown. He also reports that the service changes in January should see 1557, 2621/37/8 and 3027 leave Redcar.

Steven Hodgson reports that **Go North East** MPD 522 is another with vinyls added to its white livery for various tickets. He also reports that SPDs 8167-74 are to be named after key figures in the history of Gateshead, complete with internal posters describing their contribution. The names (in order) are William Cotesworth, Sir Joseph Cowen, George Hawks, Thomas Bewick, Robert Spence Watson, Thomas Hepburn, William Henry Borcket and Sir Charles Parsons.

Ross Sherwood reports that **Stagecoach North East** have moved Dennis Dart / Plaxton 32173 (K582MGN) from Stockton to Darlington. Andrew Scott reports that five of the K-SRH Darts withdrawn from South Shields are now parked up at Slatyford.

**05/12/06**



Steven Hodgson has supplied this illustration of the latest branding applied to **Arriva Northumbria** Optare Metroriders 2639/41 (P639/41FHN). I wonder if it goes via the Metrocentre?!



David Conway reports that **Go North East** today named Scania L94UB / Wright 5217 (NK54NVN) "Christopher Moyes OBE" at a ceremony at Collingwood College, Durham University in memory of their former Cheif

Executive. As can be seen in Ian Boreham's photos, the name has been tastefully added to the Prince Bishops livery. On a slightly different note, advertising for various tickets is being added to the white "spare" vehicles. I noted such advertising on MPD 519 on Saturday and Steven Hodgson noted similar on SPD 8232 today.



Steven Hodgson reports that **Stagecoach North East** are using Dennis Dart SLF / Alexanders on their new service 12 in competition with Go North East and that black-liveried Volvo B10Ms 20243/5 (M543/5SPY) are now in service on the X78/X79. Andrew Scott passes on a report that the Mercedes Minis at Slatyford are expected to last into next year at least, so appear not to be getting replaced by the K-SRH Darts from South Shields.

**Leven Valley** proprietor Paul Thompson has kindly supplied an update on his smart fleet. Newly delivered today is Optare Solo 1 "Iona" (T11GAJ), which is expected to enter service around the weekend. Mercedes 709 / Alexander 95 (N595WND) has been sold to Morrison's Coaches, Stirling.

**04/12/06**

**Arriva Durham County** Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4534-6 (L219/20/32TKA) are now back at Bishop Auckland, allowing sisters 4531-3 (L201/10/6TKA) to go to Scotland West. Sighthings from Paul Francis, Dave P, Neil Wise and myself confirm that Leyland Lynxes (pending disposal) 5009/11 (H253PAJ, J651UHN) are in use at Peterlee and 5016 (J656UHN) is in use at Darlington.

Richard Smiles confirms that **Stagecoach North East** Volvo B10BLE / Northern Counties 21104 (P604JBU) has reached Stockton and reports that Leyland Olympian 14675 (H675BNL) is officially listed as a trainer - it has continued in service at Stockton, but Ross Sherwood noted it in Darlington recently. Olympian 14194 (H194WFR) and Dart 32762 (L762ARG) remain in use at Hartlepool.