

The Latest News *June 2007*



28/06/07



Thank you to the many people who have reported that **Arriva Tees & District** have DAF SB220 / Ikarus P127RWR and DAF SB220GS / Ikarus T793TWX on loan at Redcar. Mark Gibbon reports that three Optare Metroriders are expected on loan from Blackpool Transport in the next day or two. Alex Kennedy has noted Optare Prisma 3016 (N516XVN) over the pits at Durham - though the latest allocation sheets do not show this as a transfer. They do, however, show that Darlington are due to gain MPDs 1703-6 (V703, 612, 705/6DNL) from Durham in exchange for Optare Metroriders 2616/33/7/702 (P616/33/7FHN, R702MHN).

Steven Oliver reports that **Perrymans, Berwick** have yet another new Optare Solo! This one is MX07NTU, making a total of ten Solos in stock.

25/06/07

Neil Watson reports that **Arriva Northumbria** Volvo Olympian 7414 (P414CCU) has gained prominent rear-end advertising for daily and weekly tickets and that sister 7413 (P413CCU) has gained "The Express" branding, with Colin Davidson reporting that sister 7411 (P411CCU) and DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7449/50 (R206/7CKO) have also gained this branding.

Stuart Gray reports that **Arriva Durham County** Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 1617 (S617KHN) is on loan from Bishop Auckland to Darlington.

Mark Gibbon reports that **Arriva Teesside** Leyland Lynx driver trainer 9990 (G512EAJ) is on loan to Loftus to be used for road safety demonstrations at schools.

Neil Watson reports that **Stagecoach North East** Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 21136/44 (R236/44KRG) have gained LED destinations. Danny Howard has noted an ex Stagecoach Bluebird coach in the Wheatsheaf, apparently for conversion into a driver trainer.

Daryl Mitchelhill has noted **Go North East** Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 3929 working for Percy Main - believed to be one of two on loan. A couple of correspondents have noted that Solos 452/3/80/1 and MPDs 8192-5 all now have Go North East Jayline fleetnames.



John Atkin reports that **Abbey / A1 Coaches** Volvo B10M / Plaxton 801CXK is now in full use following the fitment of a modernised front end.

18/06/07



Arriva Northumbria are starting to brand some buses for the X31/X32/X33 - first one done being DAF DB250 / Northern Counties 7452 (R209CKO). Paul Francis and Danny Howard note that Leyland Olympian / ECW 7212 (D198FYM) is now operating for Peterlee ex Jesmond, while Scania N113 / Northern Counties 7255 (M180LYP) has been noted at Ashington ex Peterlee.

Ian Wilson and Wayne Picknett report that **Arriva Tees & District** now have Durham MPD 1701 (T701RCN) at Durham on loan from Redcar in place of sister 1703 (V703DNL). Optare Prisma 3006 (N806XHN) has now returned from repair following its accident with DAF Coach 1206.

Danny Howard reports that **Stagecoach North East** Volvo B10B / Plaxton 21032 (L32HHN) is now complete as a driver trainer. I noted that 21037 (L37HHN) is under conversion at Stockton, now featuring supplementary brake and tachometer.



Stagecoach Yorkshire Volvo B7TL / East Lancs 16938 (YM02CLZ) was on Saturday used on the first section of the Megabus Newcastle - London via Sunderland and Middlesbrough service. Neil Broadley snapped it in Middlesbrough.



The Eden, West Auckland yesterday took freshly repainted Optare Starrider H931SYG to the Fathers Day rally at Belmont. This has been in stock for some months, but had not yet been noted.

Ian Wilson brings some updates from **Skelton Coaches, Charltons**. One time Hartlepool Transport and Stagecoach Transit Leyland Freighter towing vehicle A898OBV. Leyland Leopard OUF50W is to be sold. A Leyland Royal Tiger Doyen is being prepared for service and it is planned to follow this with former Cleveland Transit Leyland Loepard / Plaxton EDC406V and former Northern Leyland Tiger / Plaxton A716ABB.

14/06/07

Dave reports that **Arriva Northumbria** Leyland Olympian / ECW 7221 (D157FYM) is back on the road at Blyth with a new engine, while Scania N113 / Northern Counties 7256 (N181OYH), which has been out of use for many months after a fire, is now fitted with a new engine and the majority of the other parts it will need for a return to service - I look forward to travelling on this one again!



Richard Smiles has provided the above photo of **Compass Royston, Stockton** Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYF in its, err, "colourful" new livery for

service 686. John Atkin, Alex Kennedy and Graham Mottram report that Compass Royston have new Optare Solo MX07MTO in use.

Grant Potter has noted that **Veolia North East** [formerly Dunn-Line (Durham)] have repainted Volvo B10M / Plaxton W389PRC into Veolia livery..



John Atkin reports that **Abbey Coaches / A1, Middlesbrough** have applied the A1 version of their unusual new livery to recently acquired Iveco minibus MX06KXC.



Daniel Stazicker, with his usual zeal for searching out the more interesting vehicles, has noted that one time **TWPTE** Leyland Atlantean SFC4P is still in use in Hartlepool with Families First, still in the form of an exhibition unit from its days as a promotional vehicle for Sunderland FC.

11/06/07

Mark Gibbon confirms that **Arriva Teesside** Scania Omnicity 4663 (NK07FZF) [the one without the funky leather seats] has been swapped with 4649 (NK05GXC) from Durham. This is because the X1, upon which 4663 had been a regular, is now operated using vehicles fitted with analogue tachographs. 4663 is too new to be fitted with an analogue tacho under recently introduced regulations.



Paul Francis has supplied the above photo of **Go North East** Optare Solo 481 (MX03YDD) sporting its new fleetnames.

Peter Tuck reports that former **Cleveland Transit** Leyland Atlantean / Northern Counties (rebody) H49 (SXG49H - now FBZ2932) is now with a community organisation as the Haltemprice Community Bus and made an appearance at yesterday's East Coast Run.

Ian Wilson reports that **Compass Rosyton, Stockton** began operation of service 686 Middlesbrough - Middlehaven today. Mercedes Sprinter BX55FYF has been given a special multi-colour "Middlehaven Mover" livery for the service.



Daniel Stazicker has noted ex EYMS (new to Northern) Leyland Olympian / ECW JTY404X in use with **Franks, Haswell**.



Yesterday saw the 80th anniversary celebrations of **The Eden, West Auckland**. Graeme Scarlett and his team of staff, family and helpers made an excellent job of organising the celebratory rally held next to the former OK depot in Bishop Auckland. I look forward to perhaps the 90th and/or 100th anniversary!

09/06/07

Andrew Lawson reports that **Arriva Durham County** Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4536 (L232TKA) remains in use at Bishop Auckland, though Stuart Gray reports that this, along with sister 4534 (L219TKA) and DAF SB220 / Ikarus 4083 (J926CYL) are expected to be removed from use at Bishop Auckland soon. Stuart has also reported the return to service of Dennis Dart / Northern Counties 1685 (L141YVK) with a new engine (I noted this out on the 1/1B today) and the onward movement of Volvo B6 4535 (L235TKA) to Stockton to take up training duties. Darlington today had Scania Omnicity 4656 on the 723 (this will presumably do Moorsbus tomorrow) and Durham had Lowlander 7444 on the X61, so it seems such weekend swaps may become commonplace.



Photo courtesy and © Daryl Mitchelhill

Daryl Mitchelhill reports that **Arriva Northumbria** currently have Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4539 (L225TKA) parked up at Ashington.

Ian Wilson passes on a report from Tony Walshaw, that **Arriva Tees & District's** Redcar depot has Mini Pointer Dart 1703 (V703DNL) on loan from Durham.

It can be confirmed (thanks to the sightings of myself and a number of others) that **Go North East** ex Jayline Solo MX03YDD is in use as 481. This now carries Go North East Jayline fleetnames. Andrew Chadwick has noted Volvo Olympian 3900 working South Shields school runs in yellow. Andrew Tyldsley confirms that several Olympians are so painted and will be given suitable branding. No vehicles are being worked by Redby on GNE's behalf.



Photo taken at Filby Avenue (see forum for details)

Photo seen at <http://www.veffbuslines.co.uk>

An anonymous informant has provided details of two new Scania / Caetano copaches for **Classic, Anfield Plain** that are for operation on National Express work. The are FJ07DWF/G. My informant has supplied the above photos of one of these. Steven Hodgson notes that these have now been added to Classic's online fleetlist.



Photo courtesy and © Daniel Stazicker

Daniel Stazicker has provided the above photo of **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe's** recently acquired Leyland Olympian JTY396X, which was noted previously. John-Paul Lavery notes that Tees Valley currently have a Volvo B10M for sale on ebay.

Peter Barclay has noted that **Redby, Sunderland** appear to have ceased operating the 14/14A after 02/06/07.

05/06/07

Neil Wise tells me that **Arriva Durham County** usefully made a temporary swap of Darlington's DAF DB250 / East Lancs 7443 (Y693EBR) for Durham's Scania Omnicity 4655 (NK05GXJ) last weekend, allowing 7443 to make itself useful for the X61 and 4655 to work on Moorsbus. Additionally, Wayne Picknett tells me that Peterlee used Durham Omnicity 4656 (NK05GXL) on their Moorsbus working.



Go North East have taken on Optare Solos VU52UEF and MX03YDD from Jayline. The former is in use at Deptford with fleetnumber 480 applied, while the latter has been parked up at Saltmeadows. It is anticipated that these, together with native Solos 452/3 (S252/3KNL) and MPDs 8192-5 (V192-5ERG) will don a modified Go North East Jayline identity. (Thanks to Paul Francis, Ian Wilson and an anonymous informant for the above). Prior to the start of GNE operation yesterday, Chris Hall and Ian Wilson both noted MPDs out on driver familiarisation for the 211.

Danny Howard notes that **Stagecoach North East** Dennis Dart / Alexander 32563/711 (K563NHC, K711PCN), Leyland Lynx II 29630 (K630YVN) and 14636 (C636LFT) are now listed for scrap.



Daryl and Gary Mitchelhill report that **Redby, Sunderland** have ex Go North East Optare Sigma L482CFT in use. Gary also noted a yellow Northern Counties bodied Olympian working around South Shields.

Steven Oliver reports that **Perrymans, Berwick** have new Mercedes Vario / Plaxton Cheetah YN07OPA. It differs from previous examples by having different seats, air conditioning and an automatic gearbox.

Finally, a reminder that **The Eden's** 80th birthday event happens on Sunday!