

The Latest News *March 2006*



31/03/06

Arriva North East Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4537 (L235TKA) is now working for Peterlee, while Optare Prisma 3006 (N806XHN) is repaired and back at work at Redcar. Neil Wise reports that Bishop Auckland is now home to Optare Metroriders 886, 916 (N886RTN, R916JNL) and Leyland Olympian / ECW 7214/23 (D187/203FYM). Neil also reports that Dennis Mini Dart / Alexander 1795 (Y258KNB) is now at Darlington, but requires further repairs before entering service.

I can now confirm that **Style Travel, Peterlee's** Dennis Javelin / Wadham Stringer is L602ASU.

30/03/06



Andrew Tyldsley has kindly provided details of the latest fleet changes at **Go North East** (plus thanks to Andrew and "Megabusfan" for their contributions to the above illustrative selection of pictures). The ex Anglian, Beccles Scanais are correctly 4991/2 (YR02ZYK/M) [ZYL escaped Go North East's net!] and are followed by ex Beestons, Hadleigh Volvo B10BLE / Alexander

4993 (S590KJF). Allocation changes see DAF SB120 / Wright 8275 (Y292HUA) enter service at Deptford, displacing newer 8246 (NA52BVC) to Winlaton, allowing Optare Solo 452 (S252KNL) move from Winlaton to Stanley. Leyland Olympian / Alexander 3950/1 (G183WGX, H551PVW) enter service at Stanley and 3652 (H550PVW) enter service at Bishop. Optare Delta 4752 (G752UCU) has joined the driver training fleet, but Tiger trianters 5102-4/118/28 (C102/4PCN, A718ABB, C682JGR) have been withdrawn, as have Optare Metrorider 419 (P419VRG) and Leyland Olympian / ECW 3673 (C673LJR).

"Consett771" reports that **Hunters, Tantobie** now have Optare Solo W7JPT, while I noted a previously unseen Mercedes Vario minicoach V2EFA working for them..



In stock with **Low Fell, Gateshead** for service 106 Newcastle - Walker is Optare Solo CE52UWV.

Graham Mottram reports that **Atkinsons, Ingleby Arncliffe** in fact have two double deck coaches. One is a tri-axle vehicle with Jonkherre bodywork registered BIG6152, while the other is on a "G" plate and of type unconfirmed.

29/03/06

A number of minor movements have occurred over the last few days with **Arriva North East**. Wayne Picknett reports that Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 7285 (G762UYT) is currently present at Redcar to receive a replacement rear axle, while Dart 1686 (J220HGY) and Optare Delta 4002 (G210HCP) have both left Redcar, the former for MOT and onward transfer to Bishop Auckland, the latter for scrap. Following on from earlier reports, Metrorider 2621 (P621FHN) has been joined at Scotland West by 921 (R921JNL) ex Jesmond. Leyland Olympian / ECW 7212 can now be confirmed as D198FYM. Neil Wise reports that Mini Darts 1793/8 (W166PNT, SA52MYT) have returned from partial refurbishment at Arriva North West and are now at Jesmond for repaint (along with a good number of ex London Olympians!), while 1797 (Y215BGB) is currently out of use. A number of vehicles are being removed for scrap, including Olympians 7286/92 (UWW13X, CUB66Y). Happily, sister 7293 (CUB68Y) was noted hard at work for Jesmond both yesterday and today.

Travelsure, Seahouses again have their Metrobus OJD833Y for sale on [ebay](#), but this time joined by Leyland Tiger / Duple [A185MKE](#), which was previously with Tees & District as their 1434 (648WHK).

27/03/06

Thanks to a couple of people who emailed over the last few days about Go North East repaints and Hunters Solo. Unfortunatley, your emails are on my PC at home (unlike me!) so it may be Thursday before I can put the news online.

Neil Wise reports that **Arriva Durham County** Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4533 (L216TKA) is back in store at Richmond with 4538 (L244TKA) now at Darlington for preparatory work. Stuart Gray reports that Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 7285 (G762UYT) may be repaired after all, in spite of being the only one of the batch remaining.

Wayne Picknett reports that **Arriva Tees & District** have sent Optare Metrorider 2621 (P621FHN) up to Scotalnd West after a very short stay at Redcar.

A posting on the **Arriva Northumbria** yahoogroup by Dannyspectra shows that the identity of Jesmond's 7213 is D223FYM - destroying all illusuions we may have had that they had been numbered in any logical order!

David Oakley reports that **Go North East** have acquired a further pair of Scania L94UB / Wright. They are 4991/2 (YR02ZYK/L) ex Anglian, Beccles. Also, Andrew Tyldsley reports that Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton 8289 (Y558KUX) is now in use at Stanley.

Scott Cooper reports (and thanks to James Stoker for reminding me!) that **Tees Valley, Eaglescliffe** has acquired Leyland Atlantean / East Lancs GFV153W from Atkinsons, Ingleby Arncliffe, who it is understood now have a double deck coach.



Acquired by **Sherburn Coaches, Durham** is Optare Starrider GJZ2332.

Style Travel, Peterlee would appear to have moved to Peterlee Fire Station. A 70 seat MOD spec Dennis Javelin / Wadham Stringer is now in use.

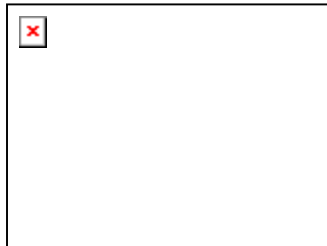
M&D Travel, Thornaby have added Mercedes 709 / Plaxton ACZ7664 to stock, while Peter Nardone has spotted some additional full size coaches in use.

21/03/06

News from Neil Wise and Alan Britton concerns movements at **Arriva Durham County**. Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4533 (L216TKA) is currently parked up at Darlington, while MPD 1747 (V747ECU) is back in use with LED destination.

Andrew Tyldsley confirms that the Bishop Auckland based **Go North East** Olympians repainted are 3946 (R477RRA) and 3952 (H550PVW).

19/03/06



Stuart Gray informs me that **Arriva Durham County** Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4535 (L220TKA) entered service at Bishop Auckland on Friday, while Dennis Dart / Northern Counties 1685 (L141YVK) is temporarily working for Durham, having undergone some preparatory work for Bishop Auckland there. He also reports that Leyland Olympians 7285 (G762UYT) and (unused) D231FYM are both thought defective beyond economic repair.

Wayne Picknett tells me that the transfer of various reserve fleet Meteroriders to **Arriva Tees & District's** Redcar depot is due to an unusually large number of native vehicles being off the road for various repairs.

John Hart reports that **Go North East** DAF SB120 / Wright 8245 has moved to Winlaton. Gary Mitchelhill tells me that the ex Isle of Man and Nottingham Olympians at Bishop Auckland are starting to receive fleet livery and look smart.

Ross Sherwood tells me that **Stagecoach Darlington** finally have Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties 14675 (H675BNL) from Stockton, while Alexander bodied 14198 (J198HFR) has reappeared.

Sam Edmondson brings the interesting news that **Stagecoach in South Shields** are to hold an open day at their depot on 01/04/06. Also, Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 16432 (N332LGK) remains at South Shields and now has full blinds and ticketing equipment for South Shields routes.

Carl Irwin reports that **The Eden, Bishop Auckland** have purchased Optare Metrorider DHZ3247 (ex L178KHG) from Northumbria Coaches, Ashington to replace smaller Mercedes 709 / Plaxton M3 (L634VCV).

16/03/06



Gary Mitchelhill has kindly provided the above photo of **Go North East's** four new Volvo B7TL / Wright for service 724. They are numbered 3962-5 and currently carry registrations NK55OKZ/LA/B/C, though it is not clear if they will gain "06" plates before hitting the road. It will be interesting to see whether they enter service before Bishop Auckland closes. Gary also reports the entry into service at Deptford of Scania L94UB / Wright 5229-33 (NK55OLG/H/J/M/N) on services X20/X50. Andrew Lawson reports that Optare Spectra 3843 (K311FYG), Optare Delta 4806/7 (J206/7VHN), Volvo B10B / Plaxton 4816 (N816WGR) and Volvo B6 / Alexander 8430 (M430RDC) have all recently been noted working from Bishop Auckland, as have Stanley Volvo B10BLE / Wright 4852/3 (R452/3PRG) deputising for defective Tridents.

Wayne Picknett reports that **Arriva Tees & District** also now have Optare Metrorider 873 (M873LBB) at Redcar with the promise of more to come. I am not sure of their intended use.

14/03/06

I have further updated the information on **Arriva North East's** April service changes on Teesside - click [here](#) - keep checking back for any further updates as things become clearer. Wayne Picknett reports that Redcar depot now have Optare Metrorider 2621 (P621FHN) ex Reserve, while I understand that sister 2625 (P625FHN) is now at Stockton.

Ross Sherwood tells me that Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14198 (J198HFR) have now vanished from **Stagecoach in Darlington's** depot, having been parked up alongside withdrawn Lynx II 29621 (J901UKV) for a while.

Neil Wise reports that **Proctors, Leeming Bar** now have Mercedes 709 / Alexander M196SRR ex Redby, Sunderland.

11/03/06

I have updated the information on **Arriva North East's** April service changes on Teesside - click [here](#) - with some corrections kindly provided by some regular contributors. On the vehicle front, Stuart Gray confirms that Volvo B6 / Plaxton 4537 (L235TKA) is being used for driver familiarisation at Bishop Auckland. The recently arrived Olympians are numbered 7211-3/23/5/6/77/8 on the latest allocations (presumably there is a 7224 also to come). Those vehicles now understood to be in stock to fill some of these numbers (thanks to Chris Redpath for a couple of the more recent of these!) are C58/102CHM, D149/98/223/31FYM, J353/4BSH (Chris reports, courtesy of the PSV circle,

that these lost their WLT registrations in London before transfer) and one other unidentified example. In addition Colin Davidson has noted one numbered 7214 (D187FYM) parked up at Ashington (presumably being prepared there). Following the closure of Richmond depot, many of the Metroriders were transferred to Darlington while others are now in reserve, though it is understood that these may not be as the allocation sheet just yet, so I shall refrain from putting the full details here just yet!

Chris Redpath kindly has provided details of the latest **Stagecoach North East** movements. Other than vehicles off for repairs etc, Leyland Olympian / Alexander 14198 (J198WFR) is now allocated to Darlington (I believe it has operated here for some time) and the City Sightseeing MCW Metrobus allocation is no longer listed. It should also be noted that Stockton retains one Leyland Olympian / Northern Counties - 14675 (H675BNL), in spite of the recent arrivals from Newcastle.

The **Go North East** [website](#) shows that Optare Solo 453 (S253KNL) has moved from Winlaton to Stanley, and that Optare Spectra 3854 and Volvo Olympian 3940 have both returned home to Chester-le-Street and Gateshead respectively. Interestingly, there is currently a former GNE Leyland Olympian / ECW (C-LJR) for sale on [ebay](#).

Tees Valley Coaches, Eaglescliffe now have Leyland Olympian / Alexander C637LFT for sale on [ebay](#), having not long since bought it via ebay! Also for sale is Volvo B10M / Jonkherre [GLZ3137](#), while it would appear that Leyland Olympian / ECW A658OCX has also been sold.

Nexus' Tyne and Wear Timeables website records the withdrawal of **Northumbria Coaches'** service 618 Newcastle - Amble from 03/03/06 (though it is thought that this date may not be correct), making way for the Kick-start funded journeys on Arriva's 518. Towing vehicle G921UVY is for sale on [ebay](#).

Travelsure, Seahouses are currently selling MCW Metrobus OJD833Y on [ebay](#).

09/03/06

Via the Evening Gazette, **Arriva** have now made public full details of their April service changes for Teesside. I have produced a handy pdf summary - click [here](#). By and large the changes are sensible, though there are a few excentricities! Much will hang on how well Arriva get their new timetables out and published.

08/03/06

Reports from Paul Francis and Stuart Gray allow me to give an update on the status of the ex Arriva North West Volvo B6s now with **Arriva Durham County**. Two more have arrived, these are L201/10TKA. The full batch of eight appears to be numbered 4531-8 (L201/10/6/9/20/32/5/44TKA). 4531 is

being used for engineering familiarisation at Bishop Auckland and 4532 is in service at Peterlee.



Arriva Teesside / Tees & District have announced that major service changes are to take place from the end of April. Existing higher-frequency routes will be developed into very frequent core routes, while the remaining services will be recast. Full details are expected to be made public tomorrow. James Ingram reports that Optare Delta 4018 (K418BHN) is now parked up at Redcar minus blinds and ticket machine, while Chris has provided the above photo of Olympian 7279 (G756UYT) with it's new owner Cedrics of Wivenhoe.



Yesterday saw the end of operations at **Arriva Durham County's** Richmond depot and the passing of much of its rural work to other operators under contract to North Yorkshire County Council. Services upon which Arriva ceased to operate were the 29, 30, 30A, 36, 47, 70, 72, 73, 79 and X79.

Richmond depot is to be used for storage of withdrawn vehicles. Olympian 7268 (C268XEF) arrived yesterday for storage and also stored there are a further pair of ex Arriva North West Volvo B6 / Plaxton - L216/44TKA. Some photos of the final day of operation will be added here later today.

Tony Walshaw brings the sad news that **Compass Royston, Stockton** expect to withdraw three of their Bristol VR / ECW over the next few months. The most likely candidates are to be MOU746R, WWY119S and BUH235V (the latter has been out of use for some time with gearbox problems, but is still largely complete). Also, it is anticipated that Leyland Fleetline / Alexander HSD85V and Leyland Atlantean / Roe AUP350W will be withdrawn. Anyone interested in potentially purchasing one of these vehicles is invited to contact Gary Walton, Managing Director at Compass Royston - please email me if you need any contact details.

04/03/06

In stock at **Alrite, Middlesbrough** is Volvo B10M / Jonkherre NIB4906.

03/03/06

An interesting acquisition by **Style Travel, Peterlee** is Volvo Citybus / Alexander YCZ4811 ex Redline, Penwortham.