The London Bus

Number 688
December 2021



London Omnibus Traction Society
www.lots.org.uk

All our inside pictures are of autumn events. What has to be the star item was at the Muswell Hill Running Day on 7th November when Timebus' TD 89 performed a few journeys on the old 212 (today's W7); it is powering along Park Road having just descended the steep Muswell Hill. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Back on 5th September the Epping Ongar Railway staged a Running Day. Leyland National LS 174 in Blue Triangle livery is a rarity out on the road these days and here it is travelling through North Weald. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Another fine exhibit at the EOR event was RFW 14. The small class of RFWs were fairly scarce when they were new and this one has not been seen out for quite a time. It is taking part in the 'road run' at the end of the event. *(Richard Godfrey)*



Front cover: The last-but-one London route to change hands this year was the 63/N63 on 13th November. It began on 17/9/1919 and the core section King's Cross- Honor Oak remains intact today. Go-Ahead MHV 42 is in Hanover Park, Peckham, being one of the batch MHV 30-49 that is on its way to Manchester. *(Richard Godfrey)*

THE LONDON BUS
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Our principal services are centred on the **LOTS general office** now at G16 Lombard Business Park. 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ. **If you need to contact us,** we visit the office regularly to deal with Membership and Subscriptions (incl. changes of address), TLB/LBM Distribution and general admin. If using the post to Lombard please mark the envelope "Membership" or"Distribution"or as appropriate.The **E-mail lotsmemsec@gmail.com** can be used for quick enquiries and follow-ups, including for address changes, non-arrival of TLB/LBM and blank or missing pages.

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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.

The Editors reserve the right to defer items to achieve page layouts or target dates, or to allow time for confirmation where appropriate. Every effort is made to ensure factual accuracy but the Editors and the Society cannot accept responsibility for errors of fact subsequently discovered.

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London Bus Magazine: e-mail to lbm.editor@yahoo.co.uk or write via G16 Lombard Business Park. 8 Lombard Road, Wimbledon, London SW19 3TZ, address, mark envelope for 'LBM Editor'

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LOTS Members' Information Service (your requests for historical info. on London bus matters): Les Stitson, 3 Purley Close, Barkingside, IG5 OTP or by e-mail to lots.infosvs@btinternet.com

LOTS Ombudsman: (complaints and problems about LOTS services): David Kemp, 10 Weare Gifford, Shoeburyness, Essex SS3 8AB) (In letters to Info Service and Ombudsman, **please add .sae.**

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Closing date for TLB689 is Weds 5th January due for posting on Tues 18 January.

Booked later closing dates are Wednesdays 02Feb, 02Mar, 30Mar, 04May, 08June 2022.

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Editorial and Society Matters

One year ago I remarked that 2020 was a strange year – including several buzz-words that had become common parlance. Well, 2021 didn't change much and COVID-19 is still with us long-term and the 2020 procedures have tended to become the so-called 'new normal', to use another buzz-word. We soon learnt to manage things and before long most 'normal' things drifted back into common use. We have resumed our Conway Hall meetings, albeit reduced in numbers due to the high expense of hiring the room and the reduced attendances in recent years. Most bus events were gradually resumed during 2021 and running days became more popular, especially with the grand exercises over routes 65 and 93 in west and south London. We even had two garage open days.

As TLB Managing Editor, I offer my thanks and that of the Committee to all those inside and outside the Society who contributed in many ways to the information flow for TLB, not to mention its preparation, proof reading, printing and despatching procedures. We also thank the operators, transport authorities and our members and friends who provide a lot of information. We also acknowledge information extracted from fellow enthusiasts' groups, from e-groups and magazines. Thanks to our 'back office team' who manage our actual office, membership, finances and sales, load, drive and unload the van and make sure that we have enough stationery stocks and stamps, all of which help to make the Society run smoothly.

TLB itself in 2021 achieved 472 pages and 98 pictures, reflecting the actual news of the day. Within London, the never-ending round of tender results and operator changes continued, in turn triggering new bus orders. Almost all of these have been for electric buses but the trouble has been with delays in power supplies. Once again we saw extra school buses, both in London and the Home Counties, this being largely to allow better 'social distancing'. Having said that, that aspect gradually diminished, as did the extra buses, and by the end of 2021 bus and train travel had reverted to more-or-less normal. There was no let-up in routine vehicle and route news both inside and outside London.

I wish you and your families a good Christmas and a Happy New Year for 2022.

Coming Events

All events are subject to any Covid-19 restrictions at the time. Events that seem likely to go ahead are below, although you should check before travelling. (LSS= LOTS Sales Stand should attend).

B/Hol Mon 03 Jan 22: King Alfred Running Day at Winchester Broadway.

Sat 12 Feb 22: NLETE Transport Bazaar at Enfield. Note that it returns to St Stephen's Church Hall, Village Road, Enfield (on route 329). 11:00-14:30, £3 entry (acc. children free). Please note that the NLETE events at Barnet will no longer be held.

Sun 20 Feb 22: Bus Running Day at the Epping Ongar Railway, North Weald.

Sat 02 April 22: South East Bus Festival at Detling showground in Kent.

Sun 10 April 22: London Bus Museum Brooklands – Spring Gathering.

Sun 08 May 22: HCVS London to Brighton run.

Other rallies now: 14 May (Faversham), 15 May (Whittlesey), 22 May (Didcot, a new event), 10 July (BBPG running day Godstone to East Grinstead, a new event), 17July (Alton), 31 July (Worthing), 7 August (Gosport).

LOTS Meetings

LOTS Meetings are at Conway Hall, Holborn at 7.30pm. We are in the Great Hall unless otherwise stated. Conway Hall authorities currently request that visitors are encouraged to wear face masks and that those feeling that they have Covid symptoms are asked not to attend. The next meeting has been booked for Monday 21st February 2022 (presenter to be advised).

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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The most recent Sales List is included with this TLB but in any case the Sales List on our website can be used. Orders from the Sales List or a letter is perfectly acceptable. In all cases above, if you send us 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 new Sales List that was distributed with November TLB687 featured several new and 'coming soon' titles and it should be noted that the pricing structure for binders has changed.

Please note that 'Surrey's Spring Line' (from LHRG) is no longer available.

LBM 198 Winter 2021 (£5.00) **NEW** Main features are 'Streatham's buses in the Sixties' by Ian King; 'Volvo double-deckers in London' by Malc McDonald; 'Trolleybus route 667 bank holiday workings' by Hugh Taylor.

Steering London Through – London's Road Services in the Second World War. By Tony Beard and Mick Webber. Capital Transport £40.00. Largely a chronological story of the period, focussing on the behind-the-scenes planning by LT, both before the war (starting in 1937) and during it. ***NEW***

London Trolleybus Depots Part Three. By Hugh Taylor, published by Adam Gordon, £44.00. Covers Stonebridge Park, Colindale, Finchley and Wood Green, including separate maps of the overhead layout of the four depots. **(**NEW**)**

Due to be published in December by Capital Transport is: M**r. Gibson's Ticket Machine** - The Complete Story 1944-1993. By Anthony Cross, (£16.95).

London's Buses 1979-1994 - The Capital's Bus Network in Transition. By Andrew Bartlett, (£30.00).

The London Volvo B7TL. By Matthew Wharmby (Pen & Sword) (£35.00).

London's Historical Railway Terminal Stations - An Illustrated History. By Geoff Swaine, (Pen & Sword) (£30.00).

GENERAL and INDUSTRY NEWS

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

TfL, politics and the Coronavirus Crisis

Covid rates were reasonably constant during November with vaccinations continuing and booster jabs extended to include those aged over 50. Then, on 26th November came the sudden announcement of a new variant, designated Omicron, which was first identified in South Africa. As a precautionary measure, the Government re-imposed compulsory mask wearing on public transport and in shops in England from 30th November. Flights from countries in Africa where Omicron cases had been identified, were suspended. Other passengers returning to the UK were told to take a PCR test within 48 hours of arrival and self-isolate until they received a negative result. Several other countries imposed similar restrictions on returning travellers. The Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced that eligibility for Booster jabs was being changed to make them available to all adults three months after a second vaccination instead of six months.

The TfL financial crisis continues. Its current funding agreement with the Government expires on 11 December and dire warnings were issued by The Mayor, in an attempt to secure a new deal. TfL is facing a £1.3bn black hole in its capital replacement and repairs budget. Fares income is currently £141 million worse than predicted as the return to work has been slow. Underground ridership is around 65% of normal levels and buses are carrying 71% of pre Covid levels. A TfL Finance Committee report makes it clear bus services could be cut by 18%, which is more than four times the reduction already under way. This could mean around 100 routes being withdrawn and a further 200 would have frequencies reduced, affecting services throughout London. Electrification of the bus fleet would be delayed and the Rotherhithe Tunnel, A40 Westway and A12 Gallows Corner flyover could be closed due to the inability to fund repairs. On the Underground, new trains for the Bakerloo and Central lines would be delayed, upgrades to Holborn and Camden Town stations would be put on hold along with Crossrail 2 and the Bakerloo line extension, and there would be no more step free stations. In a radio interview the Mayor claimed it might be necessary for TfL to close one Underground line to save money. Hopefully an agreement will be reached by the time this is read to enable the scale of these cutbacks to be substantially reduced or eliminated. If there is no agreement by 11 December, the Mayor says TfL may have to issue a Section 114 notice declaring itself bankrupt and handing responsibility for providing services back to the Government.

In advance of any potential cuts, **new bus service consultations** have been announced by TfL which, if implemented as planned, would merge routes 1 and 168 and see the end of long-established route 271. The consultations remain open for comments until 9 January. Further details in *Greater London Area Route Developments* and on tfl.gov.uk.

The reintroduction of **Night Tube services on 27 November** (TLB 687 refers) led to strikes by train drivers who are in dispute about revised rosters which would require them to work nights on four weekends a year. Daytime services on the Central, Jubilee, Northern, Piccadilly and Victoria lines were all affected on 26 November.

Corporate and company news

The **National Express** bid to take over **Stagecoach** continues (TLB 687 refers). Negotiations are now expected to continue until at least 14 December.

The implications of **Arriva** closing its garage in Guildford on 17 December will result in **Safeguard** taking over route 18 to Onslow Village, an area the company has not served since 1929. The 18 will be extended across town to also serve Weylea Farm, Bowers Farm Drive, Merrow Park and Bushy Hill replacing parts of Arriva routes 36/37 not covered by **Stagecoach's** extended route 1 and new route 6. Route 3 to Bellfields will be operated by Safeguard on Sundays making it a seven-day operation by the company.

Other General News

The Confederation of Passenger Transport (CPT) which represents bus operators claims there is a - £5bn funding gap between the plans submitted by local authorities in their Bus Service Improvement Plans (BSIPs) and the Government money likely to be available (TLB 687 refers). The CPT claims that without further funding most BSIPs will go unfulfilled, with sufficient funding only to transform 'a small number of places outside of major cities'.

Flixbus has announced its intention to launch a fleet of hydrogen powered long distance coaches on its European network by 2024. It claims they will have a range of 450km on a single refilling. Meanwhile **Van Hool** has built what it claims is the first battery electric double deck coach, with a range of up to 500km depending on conditions. The vehicle is intended for the US market.

As had been widely predicted, The Government has formally scrapped the eastern leg of **HS2 to Sheffield and Leeds** together with the east west Northern Powerhouse Rail scheme sometimes described as 'Crossrail for the North'. NPR would have halved journey times between Manchester and Leeds with a new station in Bradford City Centre**.** There was widespread condemnation to the announcement, especially from northern politicians. However, there are some winners, the HS2 line beyond Birmingham will now finish at East Midlands Parkway enabling links to the Midland Main line and serving existing stations at Nottingham and Sheffield and this line will be fully electrified. To replace NPR the Trans Pennine Express route will be improved with a new tunnel between Warrington and Marsden to link Manchester and Leeds via Huddersfield, giving a journey time between the two cities of 33 minutes, just four minutes longer than NPR via Bradford. A tram system is also promised for Leeds, after several previous attempts by the PTE for tram or trolleybus schemes were rejected by previous Governments. Leeds is the largest city in the country without a tram or Underground rail network.

Annual statistics released by the Office of Rail and Road show overall rail usage fell by 78% in the year to 31 March 2021, compared with 2019/20 figures. **Stratford has become the busiest rail station in Great Britain,** beating Waterloo which has held the record for 16 years. It had 14 million users. Runner up was Victoria, followed by London Bridge and Waterloo. Nine of the top ten busiest stations were in Greater London which this year includes Highbury & Islington (6th), Clapham Junction (7th), Barking (9th) and East Croydon (10th), all outside Central London. Paddington, Euston, St Pancras and King's Cross all dropped off the top ten list reflecting changing travel patterns during the pandemic. Birmingham New Street (8th) was the only station outside London in the top ten. Brighton was the busiest station in the South East region, well ahead of Reading and Gatwick Airport which were previously contenders.

All trams on the **West Midlands Metro network** were withdrawn from service on 13 November following the discovery of cracks. Temporary repairs had been carried out on the CAF built fleet in June but recent inspections showed cracks to be more extensive. Services are expected to be suspended for at least four weeks.

The annual Bus Industry Awards were held on 16 November. It was a virtual ceremony this year and the categories were different with no outright winner for Bus Operator of the Year. The 'Build Back Better Champion' award went to Martijn Gilbert of Go North East and previously Reading Buses, who began his career in London. Septimus Williams of Abellio London won 'Best London Bus Driver' while Mike Harvey also of Abellio won an 'Unsung Hero' award along with Jayne Hunt a garage supervisor at Norwood for Arriva London. There was also a 'None of the Above' category, won by Stagecoach London at West Ham for its achievement in helping to increase the number of operational ambulances during early stages of the pandemic. Congratulations to all winners.

GREATER LONDON AREA - Route Developments

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

No new awards this month. The Tranche list remains as in TLB687.

ROUTE AND SERVICE CHANGES

Saturday 25th September 2021: Additional:

W19 *(HCT Group*-AW) (Ilford High Road & Walthamstow, Argall Avenue Industrial Estate) Revised daily schedule for running time.

PVR changes to 18/14/8 #AW181+.

Saturday 9th October 2021: As in TLB687.

Saturday 16th October 2021: As in TLB687, for route 718 see 5th December.

Saturday 23rd October 2021: As in TLB687, additionally:

149/= *(Arriva London North*-AR) (London Bridge Station & Edmonton Green Station) Fr-Sa night service frequency restored to x15mins.

PVR thus restored to 10 PVR Fr/Sa nights.

Saturday 30th October 2021: As in TLB687, for route 645 see 1st January 2022:

Sunday 31st October 2021: As in TLB 687.

Monday 1st November 2021: (Additional minor changes to school routes)

649 *(Go-Ahead Blue Triangle*-DS) (County Park, Campion School & Romford, North Street Garage) Friday schoolday journeys retimed to depart Campion School at 15:30, 15:31, 15:32 and 15:47.

667 *(Go-Ahead Blue Triangle*-RR) (Ilford High Road & Chigwell, West Hatch School) 07:48 journey from Ilford retimed to run 10 minutes earlier at 07:38.

All information is repeated in full from this point:

Saturday 6th November 2021:

40 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-Q) (Dulwich Library & Clerkenwell Green) Mon-Fri peak frequency reduced from x6-7 to 8-9mins and Mon-Fri daytime from x8 to x10mins.

96 *(Stagecoach Selkent*-PD) (Woolwich, Thomas Street & Bluewater, Shopping Centre) Special weekend schedules for shopping traffic for Bluewater.

120 *(Metroline Travel*-PA) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Northolt Station) Widened schedules during Mon-Fri evening peak and Sat daytimes for ongoing roadworks in South Road, Southall.

188/= *(Go-Ahead London Central*-Q) (Russell Square & North Greenwich Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10mins.

221 *(Arriva London North*-WN) (Edgware Station & Turnpike Lane Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

313 *(Arriva London North*-E) (Chingford Station & Potters Bar Station, SDO to Dame Alice Owen's School) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using existing LT-class NRM New Routemasters. The school journeys to and from Dame Alice Owen's School retimed to better match school times.

487 *(Metroline West*-WJ) (South Harrow Station & Harlesden, Willesden Junction) Introduction of widened schedules Mon-Sat daytimes to mitigate HS2 roadworks at Atlas Road.

626 *(Sullivan Buses*-SM) (Dame Alice Owen's School & Finchley Central Station, SDO) Afternoon journeys retimed to depart at 15:55, 15:58, 15:59 and 16:00.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

PVR changes 6th November 2021:

Arriva London North: No change to 221, 313 PVRs;
Go-Ahead London Central: 40 to 18/15/9 #Q431+, X68 to 1+/-/- (+9 ex 188) #Q**71**+;
176 to 22/21/16 #Q401+, 188 to 30*(*X68)/21/17 #Q41+;
(Note these correct TLB687, also the cross-link from X68 to 176 is withdrawn.)
Metroline Travel: 120, 487 no change to PVRs;
Stagecoach Selkent: 96 Sat PVR temporarily increased by 1;
Sullivan Buses: No change to 626 PVRs.

Saturday 13th November 2021: Additionally, bus routes 58, 212, 215, 230, 257, 275, 675 and W11 had stop changes in Walthamstow Central Bus Station to reduce the number of bus movements.

3 *(Abellio*-WL) (Whitehall & Crystal Palace) and
N3 *(Abellio*-WL) (Oxford Circus & Bromley North Station) Routes temporarily re-allocated to Battersea (QB) garage, although drivers will still sign on at Walworth. This is to make room for the new allocation on route 63.
13/= *(Tower Transit*-X) (Victoria Station & North Finchley) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x6 to x8-9mins, with extra peak journeys withdrawn.
38 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Victoria Station & Clapton Pond) &
N38 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Victoria Station & Walthamstow Central Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
63 (King's Cross St. Pancras Station & Honor Oak, Forest Hill Tavern) &
N63 (King's Cross St. Pancras Station & Crystal Palace) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *Abellio* using new electric double-decks, in due course from Walworth (WL) garage. Route N63 will be operated by existing hybrid double-decks. Previously operated by *Go-Ahead London Central* from Peckham (PM) garage.
168 *(Metroline Travel*-HT) (Hampstead Heath, South End Green & Old Kent Road, Tesco) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8mins to x8-9mins and Mon-Sat evening frequency from x11 to x12mins, with extra peak journeys withdrawn.
258 *(London Sovereign*-BT) (Watford Junction & South Harrow Station) Re-allocated from Edgware (BT) garage to Park Royal (RP) garage thus novated to *London United.* This move is to facilitate a new electric operation at Edgware (BT) when route 125 is gained. The knock-on effect then meant the move of the 283 (see below).
283 *(London United*-RP) (East Acton, Brunel Road & Hammersmith, Bus Station) Re-allocated from Park Royal (RP) garage to Stamford Brook (V) garage.
363 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-PM) (Crystal Palace & Elephant & Castle) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.
414 (Putney Bridge Station & Maida Hill, The Chippenham) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *Tower Transit* using existing hybrid double-decks from Westbourne Park (X) garage. Withdrawn between Marble Arch and Maida Hill. (See consultations in TLB687). Previously operated by *Abellio* from Battersea (QB) garage. This was brought forward from 20th November.

PVR changes 13th November 2021:

Abellio: 3 to 18/17/11 #QB301+, N3 to 7 Su-Th/11 FrSa #QB301+ (from day allocation);
63 to 26/21/17 #WL251+, N63 to +8 Su-Th/+9 Fr-Sa WL21+ (from 381 day allocation);
381 no change to PVRs plus (*N63,*N381), 414 withdrawn;
Arriva London North: no change to 38/N38 PVRs;
Go-Ahead London Central: 63/N63 withdrawn, 363 no change to PVRs;
London United: 258 to 11/11/5 #RP81+, 283 to 10/10/8 #V201+;
London Sovereign: 258 novated to London United;
Metroline Travel: 168 to 18/18/14 #HT401+;
Tower Transit: 13 to 22/22/17 #X1+, =13 to 6 every night #X1+ (from day allocation),
414 to 16*/15*/13* #X601+, (*N97), N97 no change to PVRs but operated all ex route 414.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* ----------

Saturday 20th November 2021:

14/= *(Go-Ahead London General*-AF) (Putney Heath, Green Man & Russell Square) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

39 *(Go-Ahead London General*-PL) (Clapham Junction, Falcon Road & Putney Bridge Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

74 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AF) (Baker Street Station & Putney, High Street) &

N74 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AF) (Baker Street Station & Roehampton, Danebury Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

87 *(Go-Ahead London General*-SW) (Aldwych & Wandsworth, Wandsworth Plain) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x6 to x7½mins.

430 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AF) (South Kensington, Natural History Museum & Roehampton, Danebury Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

436 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-NX) (Lewisham, Lewisham Centre & Battersea Park Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

H20 *(Abellio*-TF) (Hounslow, Civic Centre & Twickenham, Tesco) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

U7 *(Abellio*-WS) (Uxbridge Stn & Hayes, Sainsbury's) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

PVR changes 20th November 2021:

Abellio: H20, U7 no change to PVRs; Go-Ahead London Central: no change to 436 PVRs;
Go-Ahead London General: 87 to 18/18/11 #SW91+, 14/=, 39, 74/N74, 430 no change to PVRs.

Friday 26th November 2021: Normal routing restored via Bishopsford Bridge in Mitcham for routes 118, 280 and N44 during the evening, following a successful route test for buses to pass each other. Route 280 remains on its widened headway (until 15th January 2022).

Route 718 continued until Sunday 5th December, as it was anticipated the full reopening of the road would take place on Monday 6th December.

Saturday 27th November 2021:

As noted in General and Industry news, the Night Tube returned to the Central and Victoria lines from Saturday night 27th November (and not Friday night/Sat morning 26/27th November, in spite of industrial action taking place as a result of new rosters), but none of the current Fri/Sat night daytime routes that have night services at weekends were restored at this time. Also, from this date, a number of weekend closures started on Westway (A40), albeit usually in one direction only. To update the information in TLB687, this is up to July 2022, although not all weekends will be affected. Many routes in the area have special schedules to mitigate against the inevitable congestion on Edgware Road, Harrow Road, Marylebone Road, Western Avenue and Uxbridge Road. These include routes 6/=, 7, 16, 23/=, 27, 31, 46, 49, 52/=, 70, 72, 98, 112, 148/=, 205, 207, 220/=, 226, 245, 260, 272, 283, 295/=, 297/=, 316, 328, 332, 390/=, 452 and 607. The schedules involve widening during the day, and in some cases may include additional (temporary) PVR; I will record these once all the schedules are uploaded and hopefully in the next TLB.

21 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-NX) (Newington Green & Lewisham, Lewisham Centre) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x6-7 to x8-9mins.

76 *(Go-Ahead London General*-NP) (Waterloo, Baylis Road & Tottenham Hale Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10mins, with extra peak journeys withdrawn.

91 *(Metroline Travel*-HT) (Trafalgar Square & Crouch End Broadway) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10mins, with extra peak journeys withdrawn.

92 *(Metroline West*-G) (Ealing Hospital & St.Raphael's North, Drury Way) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8-9 to x10 mins and Sun and evenings from x10 to x12mins.

242 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Aldgate Station & Homerton Hospital) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10 mins.

253 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Hackney Central Station & Euston Station) Outstationing of buses at Ash Grove (AE) garage withdrawn.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

Saturday 27th November 2021, continued:

282 *(Metroline West*-G) (Ealing Hospital & Mount Vernon Hospital) Revised timetables daily for running time.

W19 *(HCT Group*-AW) (Ilford High Road & Walthamstow, Argall Avenue Industrial Estate) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

N73 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Oxford Circus & Walthamstow Central Station) Fr-Sa night service frequency restored to x15mins.

N277 *(Stagecoach East London*-BW) (Islington, White Lion Street & Crossharbour, Asda) Revised nightly timetable.

PVR changes 27th November 2021:

Arriva London North: 242 to 14/12/11 #CT1+; 253 no change to PVRs but outstationing of buses at Ash Grove (AE) ceases;
N73 restored to 10 PVR Fr/Sa nights;
Go-Ahead London Central: 21 to 21/20/14 #NX191+;
Go-Ahead London General: 76 to 19/18/13 #NP101+;
HCT Group: No change to PVRs, (but note additional entry for 25th September earlier.)
Metroline Travel: 91 to 17/17/16 #HT501+;
Metroline West: 92 to 16/16/12 #G101+, 282 to 16/13/10 #G301+;
Stagecoach East London: N277 to 4 every night #BW301+.

Saturday 4th December 2021:

65 *(London United*-FW) (Ealing Broadway Station & Kingston, Brook Street) and

N65 *(London United*-FW) (Ealing Broadway Station & Chessington, World of Adventures) Revised running times daily and nightly.

108/= *(Go-Ahead London Central*-MG/NX) (Stratford International & Lewisham, Town Centre) As noted in diversions in TLB687, permanently re-routed southbound via Dreadnought Street, Blackwall Lane to Millennium Way from Blackwall Tunnel Southern Approach instead of Boord Street.

152 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AL) (Pollards Hill, Westmorland Way & New Malden, Fountain) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

157 *(Arriva London South*-TH) (Crystal Palace & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

413 (Sutton Garage & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract retained by *Go-Ahead London General* using existing SEN-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks from Merton (AL) garage. This had been novated from *Quality Line* from 3rd July 2021. The 413 is being converted to 10.8m SEe-class BYD/E200EV electric single-decks cascaded from route 360, itself receiving 12m SEe buses spare from routes 507 and 521.

655 (Mitcham, Fair Green & Raynes Park High School) LBSL (QX) contract awarded to *London United* using existing ADE-class diesel double-deck from Tolworth (TV) garage. Previously operated by *Go-Ahead London General* from Merton (AL) garage.

PVR changes 4th December 2021:

Arriva London South: 157 no change to PVRs;
Go-Ahead London Central: No change to 108/= PVRs;
Go-Ahead London General: No change to 118, 152, 280, 413 PVRs, 655 withdrawn.
London United: 655 to 1/-/- #TV151, no change to 65 PVR. N65 to 5 every night.

Monday 6th December 2021:

718 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AL) (Morden Station & St. Helier, Bishopsford Road, circular) Route withdrawn, so last day of operation was Sunday 5th December, thus PVR withdrawn from this date.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* ----------

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

Saturday 11th December 2021:

As mentioned under vehicle news in TLB685, Hayes (WS) garage in North Hyde Gardens is to be closed and replaced by new premises at Dawley Road by Spring 2022. Further to TLB687, a change of plan is that routes are now temporarily reallocated to Southall (GW) garage and thus the piece in TLB687 is corrected below:

278, 350, 482, U5, U7, U9 *(Abellio*-WS) All Re-allocated to Southall (GW) garage.

13/=, 23/=, 218, 228, 414, 452/=, C3 and N97 This date is also when *Tower Transit* routes allocated to Westbourne Park (X) garage, are novated to *London Transit.* This includes the night routes starting on Friday night 10th December.

CHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR BUSES IN LONDON

The summary below applies to London Buses/TfL operations. Details of non-TfL services should hopefully be covered in TLB689. Anyone aiming to be out and about should consult TfL publicity or their website. At the closing date of this TLB, these are the expected operations, with any differences also covered in TLB689. In this instance, references to Night Buses are for the night following the day in question.

Christmas Eve, Friday 24th December: Saturday service on all day routes and a special service on routes 521 and X68. 24-hour services will run until just after midnight, and there will be no 'N' night buses on the night of 24th/25th.

Christmas Day, Saturday 25th December: No daytime or Night TfL service operating. If non-TfL services operate, normal or special commercial service fares will apply. Travelcards, Bus passes and concessionary permits would not be valid on these services. After a gap last year, Vintage Bus Hire are running a free service, with RT2043 or RT4779 running an hourly service along route 430 leaving Roehampton, Danebury Avenue from 0930-1530 to Putney Bridge Station and South Kensington Station. For further details see: https://1950s-vintage-bus-hire.co.uk

Tootbus are running on Christmas Day approximately every 25-40 minutes from 10:00 to 16:40 on the "London Discovery" tour at a premium rate of £40 adults, £20 children. Tickets can be pre-booked from < https://www.tootbus.com >

Boxing Day, Sunday 26th December: A Sunday day and night service will operate. As there was no night service on the night of 25th/26th, 24-hour services will commence operation at approximately 06:00.

Bank Holidays Monday and Tuesday 27th/28th December: A Sunday service on day routes, and a Sunday night service on 24-hour and nightroutes will operate.

Wednesday and Thursday 29th/30th December: Normal Saturday service on all day routes and a special service on routes 521 and X68. Normal Wednesday/Thursday Night service on 24-hour and night routes will operate.

New Year's Eve, Friday 31st December: Saturday service on all day routes and a special service on routes 521 and X68. A Saturday service will operate on all 24-hour and night routes. A number of daytime routes may gain night services, although we have no details of these at time of going to press. If you are planning a trip out, please consult the TfL website for the latest information. Note there are no New Year's Eve fireworks although a 'live' event is planned at Trafalgar Square. Also note that there is no free travel this year.

New Year's Day, Saturday 1st January 2022: Normal Sunday service will operate on all day, 24-hour and Night bus routes.

Sunday 2nd and Bank Holiday Monday 3rd January 2022: Normal Sunday service will operate on all day, 24-hour and Night bus routes.

Tuesday 4th January 2022: Normal services resume.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* ----------

Saturday 1st January 2022: (or first equivalent Schoolday)

26 *(HCT Group*-HK) (Waterloo Station & Hackney Wick) Revised M-F schedules for running time, restoring service prior to 1st August 2020. (This change, and that on the D6, is to restore the increased PVR on 26 and decrease on D6).

624 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-BX) (Grove Park Station & Avery Hill, Stationers' Crown Wood Academy or Welling Corner SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by *Go-Ahead London Central* using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage.

625 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-BX) (Plumstead Common & Chislehurst, War Memorial SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by *Go-Ahead London Central* using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage.

633 *(Go-Ahead Metrobus*-C) (Coulsdon South Station & Beddington Church) Extended to Pollards Hill via Hillier's Lane, Beddington Lane (direct, not via ASDA), Mitcham Common and then via existing route 463.

645 *(Arriva London South*-TC) (Purley Cross, Banstead Road & West Croydon) New Route number for '405D' journeys and extended via Tamworth Road, Reeves Corner, Waddon New Road Waddon Road to Waddon, Post Office.

658 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-BX) (Woolwich, Thomas Street & Avery Hill, Stationers' Crown Wood Academy SDO) LBSL (QX) contract retained by *Go-Ahead London Central* using existing E-class AD E40D Enviro400 diesel double-decks from Bexleyheath (BX) garage.

D6 *(HCT Group*-HK) (Cambridge Heath, Ash Grove Garage & Crossharbour, ASDA) Revised M-F schedules for running time, restoring service prior to 1st August 2020.

U9 *(Abellio*-GW) (Uxbridge Station & Harefield Hospital) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Saturday 8th January 2022:

Widened schedules daily introduced for routes 25, 277, 323, 425 for approx. one month for Mile End Road/Burdett Road cycle lane works.

120 *(Metroline Travel*-PA) (Hounslow, Bus Station & Northolt Station) Re-allocated to Lampton (SG) garage.

235 (North Brentford Quarter & Sunbury Village, Three Fishes) LBSL QC contract awarded to *London United* using new electric BE-class single-decks, in due course from Hounslow Heath (WK) garage. Currently operated by *Metroline Travel* from Brentford (AH) garage.

237 *(Metroline Travel*-AH) (White City, Bus Station & Hounslow Heath, Hussar) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

H26 *(Abellio*-TF) (Feltham, Sparrow Farm & Hatton Cross Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

Saturday 15th January 2022:

5 *(Go-Ahead Blue Triangle*-RR) (Romford Market & Canning Town, Bus Station) Revised running time daily.

15 *(Go-Ahead Blue Triangle*-DS) (Trafalgar Square & Blackwall Station) Revised running time daily. Mon-Fri, Sunday and evening frequency reduced from x8 to x12mins and Saturday daytime frequency reduced from x7 to x10mins.

273 *(Stagecoach Selkent*-TL) (Lewisham, Tesco & Petts Wood Station) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using existing AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks.

280 *(Go-Ahead London General*-AL) (Belmont Station & Tooting, St. George's Hospital) Widened schedules, for Bishopsford Bridge removed.

733 *(Tower Transit*-LI) (Moorgate, Finsbury Square and Oval Station) New Route, partially replacing the City branch of the Northern Line during Bank Station reconstruction, until May 2022, using existing VH-class Volvo B5LH Wrightbus hybrid double-decks. Operating Monday to Friday daytimes only, every x7½mins, with additional peak flow journeys, via Moorgate to Bank, then via 133 via London Bridge, Elephant and Castle and Kennington, terminating at Oval Station, Harleyford Street, then running out of service to and from Vauxhall Bus Station to stand.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

Saturday 22nd January 2022:

72 *(London United*-S) (East Acton, Brunel Road & Hammersmith Bridge, North Side) Mon-Fri daytime frequency reduced from x8 to x10mins, with additional journeys in AM peak withdrawn.

73 *(Arriva London North*-CT) (Oxford Circus & Stoke Newington Common) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x5 to x6mins, with additional journeys peak hours withdrawn.

133 *(Arriva London South*-BN) (Liverpool Street Station & Streatham Station) and

N133 *(Arriva London South*-BN) (Liverpool Street Station & Morden Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

259 *(Arriva London North*-EC) (King's Cross, Gray's Inn Road & Edmonton Green Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x8-9 to x10mins, Sunday and Evenings from x10 to x12mins with additional journeys peak hours withdrawn.

333 *(Arriva London South*-BN) (Elephant & Castle & Tooting Broadway) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

360 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-Q) (Royal Albert Hall, Prince Consort Road & Elephant & Castle) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

380 *(Stagecoach Selkent*-TL) (Belmarsh Prison & Lewisham, Lewisham Centre) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

388 *(HCT Group*-HK) (Stratford City, Bus Station & London Bridge Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

390 *(Metroline Travel*-HT) (Victoria Station & Archway Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x6 to x8-9mins, with additional journeys peak hours withdrawn.

696 (Hayes, Bourne Avenue & Bishop Ramsey School) LBSL (QX) contract awarded to *London Sovereign* using existing ADE-class diesel double-deck vehicles, allocated to Harrow (SO) garage. Currently operated by *London United* from Hounslow Heath (WK) garage. (So not 'novated' as such as it is a new contract!)

C1 *(London United*-S) (White City, Bus Station & Victoria Station) Mon-Sat daytime frequency reduced from x13 to x15mins, with Sunday and evenings reduced from x13 to x20mins.

W5 *(HCT Group*-HK) (Harringay, Sainsbury's & Archway Station) Additional peak journey withdrawn.

Saturday 29th January 2022:

9 *(London United*-V) (Aldwych & Hammersmith, Bus Station) and

N9 *(London United*-V) (Aldwych & Heathrow Terminal 5) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

59 *(Arriva London South*-BN) (Euston Station & Streatham Hill, Telford Avenue) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

89 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-BX) (Lewisham, Town Centre & Slade Green Station) and

N89 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-NX) (Trafalgar Square & Erith, Cross Street) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

125 (Colindale Station & Winchmore Hill, Station Road) LBSL (QC) contract awarded to *London Sovereign* using new electric double-decks, in due course from Edgware (BT) garage. Currently operated by *Metroline Travel* from Potters Bar (PB) garage.

234 *(Metroline Travel*-PB) (Highgate Wood, Sussex Gardens & Barnet, The Spires) Renewal of LBSL (QC) contract, using existing DEM-class AD E20D Enviro200 diesel single-decks.

453 *(Go-Ahead London Central*-NX) (Marylebone Station & Deptford Bridge Station) Mon-Fri peak frequency reduced from x4-5 to x6mins.

476 *(Go-Ahead London General*-NP) (King's Cross St. Pancras Station & Northumberland Park Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

N20 *(Metroline Travel*-HT/PB) (Trafalgar Square & Barnet Hospital) Potters Bar (PB) allocation transferred to Holloway (HT) garage.

N91 *(Metroline Travel*-HT/PB) (Trafalgar Square & Cockfosters Station) Potters Bar (PB) allocation transferred to Holloway (HT) garage.

----- *Greater London Route Devts* -----

Saturday 5th February 2022:

298 *(Sullivan Buses*-SM) (Arnos Grove Station & Potters Bar Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

W7 *(Metroline Travel*-HT) (Finsbury Park Station & Muswell Hill Broadway) Mon-Fri peak frequency reduced from x3-4 to x6mins, and from x3-4 to x4mins in AM peak towards Finsbury Park.

W9 *(Sullivan Buses*-SM) (Chase Farm Hospital & Southgate Station) LBSL (QC) contract extended for 2 years.

SERVICE PROPOSALS

Two new proposals were announced this month both affecting long standing trunk routes and also explains in some part the change to tendering deadlines mentioned last month. Both proposals opened on 22nd November with a closing date of 9th January 2022. Both consultations say "we want to simplify the bus network…more efficiently and connected to key locations." The first concern routes **1, 168 and 188/=** stating the corridor between Holborn and Elephant & Castle is 'over-bussed'. Routes 1 and 168 are to be merged into a new route, from Canada Water via existing route 1 to Holborn, then continuing via existing route 168 to Hampstead Heath. The short section of existing route 168 from Bricklayers Arms to Old Kent Road, Tesco will be withdrawn. The section of existing route 1 from Holborn to Tottenham Court Road Station will be covered by re-routing route 188/= instead of terminating at Russell Square. The new route is likely to be provisionally numbered route 1 although the existing Route N1 from Tottenham Court Road to Thamesmead is unchanged.

The other proposal involves routes **21, 143, 263 and 271/=**. Long standing route 271 is proposed to be withdrawn, being partly covered by a re-routeing of route 21 away from Newington Green, continuing instead via existing route 271 from Hoxton, via New North Road and Canonbury Road to terminate at Holloway, Nags Head. From Holloway, route 263 covers the 271 by re-routing at Archway via Highgate Hill, Highgate Village and North Hill then via its existing route to Barnet Hospital. Route 263 is replaced via Archway Hill by re-routing existing route 143. The current double-deck school journeys on route 143 from Archway Station to and from Bishop Douglass School at East Finchley will be operated by a new route numbered 620, still serving Highgate Village. Finally, the night journeys operated by existing route 271 will operate as N271, from Moorgate Finsbury Square, via the existing route 271 to Highgate Village, then newly extended via North Hill to East Finchley to terminate at North Finchley via the existing 263 route.

Note that these proposals eliminate buses standing at the erstwhile trolleybus, but long-established stand at Highgate Village. It may be of interest to reflect that the 271 (apart from a short term extension to Liverpool Street) has remained unchanged since it replaced trolleybus 611, which itself replaced tram 11, all almost exactly over the same roads save for compliance with traffic management schemes.

Finally, the extension of route **633** to Pollards Hill proposal concluded with 88% of respondents agreeing, and this starts at the beginning of the Spring term, as noted above.

A summary of the main proposals variously awaiting results and/or start dates, for example:
TLB684 p16: R7 in Chelsfield.
TLB685 p13: Bank Junction.
Other more minor examples involve road layout changes.

FORTHCOMING CHANGES IN BRIEF

This list includes tenders that have been decided and principal route changes already in past TLBs. Worth noting here that we expect some proposals for further route changes to coincide or proceed the introduction of the Elizabeth line, likely to be next year. Details will be added in the main section when dates confirmed.

Notes: CE+2 = Contract extended by 2 years. CR = Contract awarded or renewed for 5 years, with a potential +2 year extension.

CR7 = Contract renewed for 7 years. All dates and all details are subject to alteration or deferment.

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.

19th Feb 22: CE+2 on EL1/=, EL2, EL3 (G-A Blue Triangle).

26th Feb 22: CR on 55/N55, 56 (Stagecoach East London), 335 (Arriva LN), 397 (HCT Group), 488 (Tower Transit), CE+2 on 242/N242 (Arriva LN), 277/N277 (Stagecoach East London), W14 (Tower Transit).

5th Mar 22: CR on 308 (Tower Transit), 415 (Abellio) W15 (Tower Transit to G-A London General), W16 (HCT Group),

CE+2 on 58 (Tower Transit), 97, 215, 238/= (Stagecoach East London), 101 (G-A Blue Triangle), 309 (HCT Group), 325 (Arriva LN), W11, W12 (HCT Group).

12th Mar 22: CR on 549 (Stagecoach East London to Sullivan Buses), 667 (G-A Blue Triangle to Stagecoach East London), 677 (Stagecoach East London to G-A Blue Triangle), CE+2 on 167 (Stagecoach East London), 379 (G-A London General), W13 (HCT Group).

19th Mar 22: CR on U5* (Abellio).

26th Mar 22: CE+2 on 76/= (G-A London General), 259 (Arriva LN), 362, 462 (Stagecoach East London).

2nd Apr 22: CR on 13/= (Tower Transit), 432 (G-A London General to Arriva LS), CR7 on 617,629 (Sullivan Buses), 678 (Stagecoach East London to Tower Transit), CE+2 on 2/N2, 19/N19, 249 (Arriva LS), 113/N113 (Metroline), R1/R11, R2, R3, R4, R6, R8 (G-A Metrobus).

9th Apr 22: CE+2 on S3 (London United).

16th Apr 22: CE+2 on 195 (Abellio), X26 (G-A Metrobus).

30th Apr 22: CR7 on 111/= (London United to Abellio), CR7 on 322*(G-A London General to Abellio), 350 (Abellio), CR7 on U10 (Metroline West), CE+2 on 110 (London United), 236 (Tower Transit), 394 (HCT Group), P4 (Stagecoach Selkent), U1, U2, U3, U4 (Metroline West).

21st May 22: CR7 on 135 (G-A Blue Triangle to Tower Transit) 433* (Abellio), CE+2 on 464 (Abellio).

4th June 22: CR7 on 217 (Sullivan Buses), CE+2 on 253/N253, 254 (Arriva LN).

25th June 22: CR7 on 70 (London United), 245 (Metroline Travel), CE+2 on 120, 245, 260, 302 (Metroline Travel), R68, R70 (Abellio).

28th May 22: CR7 on 177 (Stagecoach Selkent), CE+2 on E6 (Metroline West).

2nd July 22: CE+2 on 465, C1 (London United).

23rd July 22: CE+2 on 280 (G-A London General).

30th July 22: CR7 on 613, 662, 665 (London United) 671 (London United to Abellio).

27th Aug 22: CR7 on 116 (London United), 119/=# (G-A Metrobus), 198 (Arriva LS), 264/=* (Arriva LS to G-A Metrobus), A10 (Metroline West) CE+2 on 50, 194, 250/=, (Arriva LS), 320 (G-A Metrobus).

3rd Sep 22: CE+2 on 90 (Metroline Travel)

12th Oct 22: CR7 on 226* (Metroline West to London United).

22nd Oct 22: CR on 220/= (London United).

29th Oct 22: CR7 on 295/=* (Metroline West to London United).

OTHER SPECIAL and MISCELLANEOUS non-TfL OPERATIONS IN LONDON

No new applications this month.

DIVERSIONS, DEVIATIONS AND DISRUPTIONS

Central: Further to the report last month, from 9th November to 3rd December, owing to electrical works in St Giles Street, Tottenham Court Road, routes **8, N68 and N242** were again cut back from Tottenham Court Road Station to Holborn, (often standing in Red Lion Square and blocking existing stands!) with **N253** revised to stand in New Oxford Street. Routes **14/= and 176/=** don't appear to be affected this time. Thanks to Joel for the report. From 15th to 23rd November, owing to gas works in Bloomsbury Way, routes **19/N19, 38/N38, 55/N55 and N41** were diverted westbound via Drake Street, Procter Street and High Holborn. From 23rd November to 6th December, owing to road works in Cavendish Square, Oxford Circus, departing journeys on routes **12/=, 55, 73, N8, N25, N55 and N73** were diverted via Henrietta Place, Wimpole Street and Wigmore Street.

South: From 22nd to 30th November, owing to water works in Galpins Road, Thornton Heath, route **60** was diverted in both directions via London Road, Stanford Road and Stanford Way. From 26th November to 10th December, owing to cosmetic works in Cranmer Road, Mitcham, routes **127 and S1** are diverted in both directions via Carshalton Road, Commonside West and Madeira Road.

South-East: From 10th to 24th November, owing to a collapsed sewer in Kent Road, St.Mary Cray, route **R6** was diverted in both directions via High Street, Mill Brook Road, Station Road and Cray Avenue. From 17th November to 18th December, owing to cycling works in Oxestalls Road, Pepys Estate, routes **199/N199** are diverted in both directions direct via Grove Street.

North: From 9th to 29th November, owing to sewer works in Highgate West Hill, route **214/=** was curtailed between Highgate Village and Parliament Hill Fields.

North-East: From 22nd November to 1st December, owing to telecommunications works in Graham Road, Hackney routes **277/N277** were diverted towards Crossharbour via Dalston Lane, Amhurst Road and Mare Street.

East: From 15th to 29th November, owing to water works in Station Road Chigwell, routes **167, 667 and 677** were diverted in both directions direct via Hainault Road. From 22nd to 28th November, owing to water works in The Broadway, Rainham, route **103** was revised to finish journeys in Viking Way and start from Upminster Road South. Route **372** was diverted in both directions via New Road, Upminster Road South and Bridge Road (return via Viking Way). A shuttle service operated between Wennington (Willow Farm/Premier Inn) and Rainham Station, this being operated by Ensignbus.

COUNTRY AREAS - Route Developments

Section Editor: David Stewart, 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, Middlesex, HA0 4JH or by e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.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.

X, including THURROCK

Friday 29th October:

5/6 *(Stephensons)* (linked service 5 Bishop's Stortford & Stansted Airport and 6 Stansted Airport & Saffron Walden, M-S) and

301 *(Stephensons)* (Bishop's Stortford & Saffron Walden, M-S) Both reverted essentially to pre-Covid timetable, having been reduced since 25th March 2020. However, daytime frequency on both remains hourly throughout but with a minor thinning at peak times.

Monday 1st November:

22, 44, 66, 73/73A, 77/77A, 83, Z1, Z2, Z4 *(Ensignbus)* Minor tweaks to some timings.

42A *(First Essex)* The main service between the Chelmsford area and Stansted Airport was withdrawn except for just one M-F am peak journey Takeley to Chelmsford and one pm peak return. The end-to-end service can still be made on the limited-stop X10 and X30.

Monday 6th December:

22X, 24, 25, 29, 66A, 88A *(Ensignbus)* Timing changes registered.

Tuesday 4th January:

13 (*Vectare*) (Epping & Waltham Cross, M-S) Revised timetables throughout to combat traffic conditions, also to standardise SDO and NSD timings.

14 *(Central Connect)* Harlow Bus Station & Pinnacles. Timetable changes.

19/19C *(Vectare)* (One M-S early journey Ongar to Epping, one M-S evening journey back), Minor timetable change in connection with that on route 13.

20 *(Vectare)*: New service: Harlow Bus Station to Southern Way School via Leisure Centre, Mon-Fri, one journey each way.

30 *(Vectare)* New service: Coopersale Plaza & St Margaret's Hospital. Mon-Sat).

HERTFORDSHIRE and southern BEDFORDSHIRE

Monday 4th October:

B and 19 (*Centrebus* in Luton) Timetable changes registered on both services although no timetable evidence any more on website. However the 19 was suspended anyway due to driver shortage, presumably from this date.

On the B, due to criminal damage at Downside Estate in Dunstable, from Friday 5th November the entire Daily service was withdrawn from the lengthy estate loop, terminating instead at Mayfield Road on the edge of the estate.

Saturday 4th December:

748/758/768 *(AtS)* (Hemel Hempstead & London) Last day of operation. Arriva say that ridership dropped so much during the pandemic as to now make the service unsustainable.

Sunday 12th December:

After a long time when buses had been on diversion, Clarendon Road, Watford re-opened. Routes to and from the north of the town had had to miss Watford Junction Station.

----- *Country Route Devts, Herts & Beds)* ----------

Monday 27th December:

33 (*Grant Palmer)* (Luton Interchange & "Amazon LTN1" at Ridgmont, Mon-Sat odd journeys at shift times) De-registered from 27th although presumably last day would be 24th. Amending the initial entry in TLB683 p21 when this route began on 21st June 2021, it didn't go to the main Amazon Centre at Dunstable. It used the M1 from Jct 11 to 11A.

Monday 4th January 2022:

13 (*Vectare*) (Epping & Waltham Cross, M-S) Revised timetables throughout to combat traffic conditions, also to standardise SDO and NSD timings.

357 *(Arriva KT)* (Harpenden & Borehamwood, M-S) Revised Mon-Fri timetable, in particular to allow more appropriate timings for schools at Borehamwood.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE and east BERKSHIRE (incl. borders of eastern OXFORDSHIRE

Monday 15th November:

7 (*Red Rose)* (Aylesbury & Bedgrove, M-S) Increased from x40 to x30mins daytime but still x40mins in peaks.

17 (Red Rose) (Aylesbury & Bicester, M-S) Minor timing adjustments at school times.

55 (*Red Rose)* (Aylesbury & Chesham, M-F) More journeys suspended, now every two hours.

60 (*Red Rose)* (Aylesbury & Buckingham, M-S) Daytime reduced from hourly to two-hourly.

Monday 22nd November:

The driver shortage is happening all over the area that we cover but usually it is a thinning out here and there. In this case though, it is more severe and with even new route numbers (E for emergency no doubt!). It concerns Thames Valley Buses at Bracknell.

108 (Bracknell & Jennett's Park, Daily) Suspended on M-S (replaced by E1/E2 - unaltered Suns).

150 (Bracknell & Binfield, Daily) Suspended on M-S (replaced by E1/E2 and E3 - unaltered Suns).

157/8 (North Bracknell circular, M-S) Suspended (replaced by E1/E2).

194 (Bracknell & Camberley, Daily) Evening service (M-S only) suspended after 20.00 and M-F frequency between 10.00 and 14.00 halved to hourly.

N1 (North and West Bracknell circular, M-S late evening journey) Suspended.

E1/E2 (North and West Bracknell circular via Bullbrook, Warfield (Tesco), Binfield, Jennett's Park, Wildridings and Easthampstead, M-S daytime) New temporary routes, E1 in this direction, E2 in reverse; frequency hourly in each direction.

E3 (Bracknell & Priestwood, M-S daytime) New temporary route frequency hourly.

Monday 29th November:

101 (*Red Rose)* (Aylesbury & Leighton Buzzard, M-S) Whole service suspended.
As with 55 and 60 above on 15Nov, these are the result of driver shortages.

RA1 (*Reading Transport)* (Reading Station & Heathrow Airport, Daily) Revised timetable, now operating Daily at a non-memorable 35-min frequency.

Sunday 5th December: (all intended to be temporary due to driver shortage.

8/X8 *(Carousel)* (High Wycombe & Coachway, M-S) The X8 variant withdrawn and the 8 reduced from x20 to x30mins.

35/36 (*Carousel)* (High Wycombe & Bourne End, M-S) Revised timetable with reduction in peaks. Evening buses on the 36A variant renumbered 36 and thus rerouted at Wooburn Green.

36S (*Carousel*) New SDO route: Penn via Hazlemere, High Wycombe and then via normal 36 to Bourne End. This replaces SDO contract route BB13.

39 (*Carousel*) (High Wycombe & Totteridge M-S) Reduced fromx30 to x60min.

----- *Country Route Devts* ----------

SURREY and northern parts of WEST SUSSEX

Saturday 28th August:

Sorry but three typos not noticed in TLB685 p19 in the list of Metrobus minor timing changes: Duplicate 61 should be 51 and 61; duplicate 10 should be 10 and 100; 40a should be 420.

Monday 1st November: A rather limited DRT service has begun in Leatherhead. Running Mon-Fri 07:00 to 18:00 at a flat fare of £1, thus far it just covers areas to the north-west of the town and station. It is named for the Mole Valley Community Transport and uses a Peugeot minibus WA18 DDU.

Saturday 18th December:

As in TLB687 with the following additions:

3 (Guildford & Bellfields, Daily) The Sunday SurreyCC service from Arriva K&S to Safeguard, who already run the Mon-Sat service.

18 (Guildford & Onslow Village, M-S) This SurreyCC service from Arriva K&S to Safeguard with a revised timetable. Extended across Guildford via London Road, Weylea Farm Estate, Burpham (incl. Sainsbury's), New Inn Lane, Park Lane, Merrow to Bushy Hill Estate. This maintains the link from Bushy Hill and Merrow to Sainsbury's and also the deviation via Weylea Farm Estate that were on Arriva 36/37 but all of which were not covered by new Stagecoach 6.

28 The solitary journey on M-F 06:12 Guildford to Knaphill goes from Arriva K&S to Stagecoach South with a minor timing change to 06:20. No change to main Mon-Sat service by Falcon. This odd journey was effectively a 'live positioner' on a bus to do a day's work on route 91 with Arriva and that practice continues with Stagecoach.

436 (Woking & Weybridge, M-S) It remained the case that both Falcon and Hallmark (Diamond) had registered commercially. However on 4th November Hallmark cancelled their registration, leaving Falcon with the route from 18th December.

479 (Guildford & Epsom, Daily) The Mon-Sat Surrey CC service from Arriva K&S to Falcon. The Sunday service remains with Stagecoach South.

Also from 18th December, the entire list of Metrobus routes have been re-registered in the name of Brighton & Hove Bus & Coach Co Ltd. This had the effect of three routes (420 plus SDO 820 and 866) bringing B&H as an operator of local bus services in TfL's Greater London!

Tuesday 4th January 2022:

91, 436 Registrations by Hallmark (Diamond) have been cancelled now that Stagecoach is to run the 91 and Falcon the 436 from 18th December.

455 *(Carlone)* (Addlestone & Woking, M-F with a separate SDO section between Woking to Merrist Wood College) Revised timetable with through journeys now from Addlestone across Woking to and from Merrist Wood College.

North and west KENT

Monday 1st November:

306/308 Sorry, correcting TLB687 it went from Arriva KT (not K&S) to Redroute.

Thursday 11th November:

480 and 481 *(Arriva KT)* Minor timetable adjustments due to the Cascades Leisure Centre at the Riverview Park terminus changing its times for accessing its site.

Monday 29th November

The stops at Gravesend *Garrick Street* were closed for ongoing work on the new bus hub. Buses were moved to Clive Road. Access from the station to Clive Road was closed and buses towards Bluewater or Dartford are running via Rathmore Road, going round the one-way system and not serving King Street.

PUBLICITY NEWS

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

The latest division of TfL to publicise their Covid precautions is Docklands Light Railway with **"Travel safe with DLR"**, a double sided A5 publication featuring a night time view of Canary Wharf station on the front. The rest of the leaflet has narrative about what staff and passengers do to prevent transmission. **"DLR Discovery Treasure Hunt"** is also a double sided A5 sheet promoting an app based trail starting at Tower Gateway. The front has narrative about the trail, with the reverse offering a cartoon 'Treasure Map' of the network annotated with nine key stations. Although undated, the DLR Discovery website reveals this to have been operational all summer and 'extended until 1st December. Passengers seeking information about payment options can use an updated edition of **"Helping you on your journey."** Like the previous edition reviewed in TLB643, it is a multifold item which measures 10.5cm x 7.5cm when closed. It mainly focuses on how to pay for travel on the DLR, but includes one panel with a list of staffed stations and space for 'General notes/Directions.' Although undated it does make reference to the daily cap for zone 1-3 being valid from January 2020.

Also updated is **"Back on Track"**, which since the last edition in TLB663 has expanded to four A5 pages. The cover pictures a train speeding away from Langdon Park, accompanied by logos for DLR, operator Keolis Amey and the East London NHS Foundation Trust. Inside the narrative outlines the schemes' aim of instilling confidence in vulnerable passengers. Supporting passengers with a hearing impairment is a double sided 'Z card'. **"Learn to sign with DLR"** shows how to sign sixteen simple everyday phrases, whilst the reverse is **"Learn to fingerspell with DLR"** and illustrates signs for each letter of the alphabet. Although undated, the introduction does refer to sign language being useful as an alternative to lip reading where people wear face masks during the pandemic.

Wider societal issues are reflected in **"Sexual harassment is not tolerated on our network"**, an orange A5 sheet published jointly by Mayor of London, Metropolitan Police, British Transport Police and TfL. It has text outlining the behaviours constituting sexual harassment and details of how to report incidents. British Transport Police's **"Look Beyond the Obvious"** uses two case studies to highlight how vulnerable victims of grooming might be using the network and urging passengers to report concerns. It is a multifold credit card sized leaflet with orange cover.

Brixton is this month's epicentre for Art on the Underground projects. 'Things Held Fast' is depicted on the front of **"Helen Johnson Brixton Station"**, a double sided slimline celebrating the artist's installation here between May and November 2021. Travellers venturing beyond the station might be tempted to explore using **"Brixton Botanical Map"**, a multifold slimline offering a street map and extensive narrative showing some of the area's green spaces.

TfL run their own blog at < https://londonblog.ifl.gov.uk > in which transport highlights of the capital are promoted. A post on 15 November provided a guide to the best routes for seeing Christmas lights, with this enthusiastic introduction 'London's festive lights are at full beam 💡, and what better way to see the city at its most sparkly than on the bus! 🚌 We've put together the best bus routes for viewing the most spectacular displays and stopping off for a spot of festive shopping! Your sleigh awaits… ✨'; the emojis being chosen by TfL. Unfortunately, the initial blog (now corrected) was riddled with errors, including route 22 passing Harrods and Selfridges and the 94 passing Fortnum & Mason!

----- *Publicity News* -----

BCI LX17DCF calling at a snowy bus stop is the photo chosen by Ensignbus for the cover of **"Christmas & New Year 2021 / 2022 Service Information."** The six page A5 leaflet outlines service provision between 24 December 2021 and 4 January 2022, including full Boxing Day timetables for routes 22, 44, 73A, X10 and X80, accompanied by a note that route 66 will run a regular Sunday service. One page summarises the return of the annual heritage running day, which took place on 4 December. Full details of this year's event are found in **"Ensignbus presents Running Day"** with a picture of RT8 on the A5 cover. Also six pages, it has full timetables for routes X21, X54, X55 and X81 accompanied by a network map.

A new version of the **"your buses for Wokingham"** book has appeared, dated September 6th 2021. It consists of thirty pages and a fold-out map and is the first version since the introduction of the Thames Valley brand. Although the introduction notes that 'there are no changes to any of our times in this booklet', the opportunity has been taken to include times for services 3 Wokingham - California - Arborfield - Shinfield - Royal Berkshire Hospital - Reading (operated by Reading Buses) and 4/X4 Bracknell - Wokingham - Winnersh - Reading (operated jointly by Reading Buses and Thames Valley). Once again, there are representations of a Solo in the Wokingham orange version of the Thames Valley livery, even though no such buses currently exist!

The gloomy prediction in TLB676 that the pandemic would be used as an excuse by many operators to dispense with printed publicity appears, unfortunately, to be true in many areas. Only one hundred and thirty six items have been reported by this column during the year, a decrease of a fifth on the previous nadir of 2020. This is despite 2021 being a more 'normal' year with restrictions on domestic travel generally removed. In the capital the 'default' for most information racks seems to be empty, with even the iconic Tube map missing from many. In the country areas, Arriva has closed virtually all enquiry offices, First's facility at Slough has yet to reopen whilst many libraries and information centres often have nothing to offer. Nevertheless, there remains pockets of good practice, Carousel, Ensignbus, Go Coach, NIBS, Reading Buses, Southdown, Uno and Wanderbus all publishing high quality information to tempt travellers (back) on board.

Despite the decline in the items, the number of correspondents reporting items continues to grow. Thank you to each of you, without your support this column would not exist.

CURRENT VEHICLE NEWS

This section covers the current vehicle news (including initial disposals) pertaining to bus operators within the "TLB" area, roughly comprising the old LT/LCBS areas. All current vehicle reports to David Stewart at 5 Kathleen Avenue, Wembley, HA0 4JH (e-mail to davestewart297@gmail.com)

General news:

The Muswell Hill Running Day on Sunday 7th November featured journeys on current route 43 plus former routes 134A, 212 (incl. 'Express'), 244 and 251A. Buses used were TD 89; RF 401, 486; RT 1658, 1790, 2177, 3933, 4779; RM 613, 1804, 1993, 2208; RML 903; DM 1052; M 1014; VPL 630.

The annual Bromley Running Day was due to occur on Sunday 12th December, using four RFs on the 227 plus one RT and one RM on the former 94 (Grove Park & Petts Wood).

There was a strike on the Underground on Friday 26th November. Not all lines were affected but the Central and Piccadilly lines were severely reduced and a few extra buses were allocated but only between 07:00-09:00 and 16:00-19:00. Ensignbus had four buses for route 29, two from Candy Coaches on route 94 (a Scania and an E400), one double-deck from Imperial Coaches on route 95. Two from Bear Buses and one from RedRoutemaster (ex WVL 220) on route 483 with one from London Bus Group and two ex-PVLs from RedRoutemaster on route 487.

Further to TLB686 page 22, the Equipmake/ Beulas battery electric bus is now a reality and will enter trials with Go-Ahead London in February 2022. First shown in early November, it is named the Equipmake Jewel-E 10.9m with Beulas dual-door bodywork with the customary TFL standard 87 passengers (incl. standing) capacity. It has fleet number EM 1 and registration plates ZED 1 (not necessarily the final, of course).

ABELLIO LONDON (BC,QB,WL), ABELLIO WEST LONDON (GW,TF,WS garages)

Previously a very rare occurrence, on the last day of this operator on route 414, Friday 12th November, a lot of hybrid E400Hs (25** series) were in use, covering for the more usual elderly diesel E400s. Most of these had small cards in the windscreen stating 'Route 414 only', presumably connected to the preparation for the transfer to Walworth to provide the bulk of the stock for route 63.

Thus, on Saturday 13th, routes 63/N63 were taken over from Go-Ahead and, while waiting for new electric BYD/ADL E400EVs to arrive (and power supply to be installed), E400Hs were used. In turn, route 345 reverted to operation with the older diesel E400s, many off of the 414!

A further order is for thirty battery- electric Wrightbus Electroliner BEVs for route 111 that has a contract start date of 30th April 2022.

Recent repaints/ refurbs include 2469.

New deliveries (November and ongoing to December and January):
I have shown the whole batch here although as at 4th December only 3401/2/4/5/7/8/9 had been licensed for service.
3401-29 (LC71 KWJ/K/L/M/N/O/P/R/S/T/U/V/W/X/Y/Z, KXA/B/D/E/F/G/H/J/K/L/M/N/O)
BYD D8UR-DD - AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H42/23D, ULW 13340kg.

Transfers: (November): 2452 BC/QB/WL. 2453-61 AB/ WL. 2529 GW/WS. 2534-51 QB/WL.
3401/2/4/5/7/8/9 -- /WLu. 8127 BC/TF. 9401-BC/QB.

Livery changes:
LT 617 from advert for Greatest Hits to one for Bulldog.
LT 621 from advert for Currys back to red.
LT 627 from advert for Capital One back to red.
LT 999 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.

Disposals:
8845 off lease (by November).
9461-66 to Green Bus, Hockley, Birmingham (November).

----- *Current vehicle news* ----------

ABELLIO, Continued:

Subsequent disposals:

E20D 8140 (YX16 OBR) from B&C Sales, Oxford to NIBS, Wickford, Essex.
E200Darts 8555 (YX11 AED) and 8575 (YX11 HOA) are at JH Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear.
Trident 9777 (KU52 YBM) is now with Xelabus, Eastleigh.

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.

The small VLW class gradually subsided during October, leaving just one (VLW 905) to run until 1st November. The batch is now in process of going off lease. Having been replaced by newer models from Dartford, many of Norwood's early Ts have gone off lease too. Of the latter, most gathered at the Erith outstation prior to being collected.

Surplus LTs from frequency cuts on routes 19, 38 and 149 will be moved to Edmonton where routes 259 and N279 are being converted to the type. In turn, HVs so released from the 259 would move to the 221 from Wood Green to replace older DWs.

Recent repaints/ refurbs include DW 315, 324, 476, 479, 481, 485, 487, 557, 558; HV 14; ENX 26.

Enfield's LT 177 that I mentioned in TLB687 only ran again for three days – 11/12/13 October – but after that it was off again and was still off at the end of November. LT 580, accident from 16th September, was back in use on 7th November. DW 296 suffered a collision on 2nd December.

HT 21 escaped onto route 60 on 29th November, with HT 19 on the 194 on the 30th.

Loans: T 28 from Arriva NE back to London (November).
The E400EV demonstrator LF69 UXJ has left Arriva (at BN), probably by September.

Transfers:
(September): LT 580 AR/ARu.
(October): VLW 901-4/6-10 EC/ECw.
(November): DW 401, 402, 403 E/DX.
HV 142 BN/GYu. HV 146, 148 GYu/DT. HV 147, 149, 151 BN/DT.
LT 2, 194 CT/E. LT 564 AR/EC. LT 570, 579 AR/CT. LT 580 ARu/AR.
T 28 Stockton/ ECt. T 84-96 N/Nu. T 193 DX/N. T 292, 294, 296, 297, 298 DT/N.
VLW 905 EC/ECw. ENL 25 TH/DT. ENX 6 DT/TH.
(December): DW 296 WN/WNu. HV 6 BN/DT.

Livery changes:
HV 358 from advert for Google back to red.
LT 229 from advert for film 'No time to die' to one for Wheel of Time.
LT 345 to advert for Gorillas (Mk.3).
LT 470 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.2) back to red.
LT 472 from advert for Vodafone to one for Wheel of Time.
LT 530 to advert for Gorillas (Mk.3).
LT 538 from advert for Heart FM to one for Bulldog.
LT 955 to advert for JD Sports.

Disposals:
ENL 18, already withdrawn for some time, has been written off (November).
T 82-96 off lease (November). Three of these, T 82 (WLT 982), T 85 (185 CLT) and T 93 (393 CLT) have Routemaster registrations which would most likely be retained by Arriva. If so. Their original regs LJ59 ACO, LZE, LZO are vacant on DVLA.
VLW 901-910 off lease (November).

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 and West Surrey (GF, A-K&S licence and NF, AKT licence)
The fleet at Guildford will come off service after 17th December and, given the age of most of them, it remains to be seen how many will be fit for service elsewhere.

Disposals: 3891/2/3/4/5/6 to Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs for scrap (December).

Part 2: Hertfordshire and West Essex (HA, HH, SV, WA and WE garages (all A-KT licence).
StreetLite 4288 was duly 'launched' in Stevenage on 16th November. Its first foray into service in the town came on the 17th when it was on the 7 and 8 (neither were ever 'Superbus' routes)!

Transfers (November): 1457, 1459 HAu/HA. 3858, 3863 WE/WEu.
Disposals (November): 3858, 6046, also T524 and T946 that were on loan to AY (area 3) all to Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs for scrap.

Part 3: Bedfordshire and Buckinghamshire (AY, LD and WB garages, on AtS licence)
An highly unexpected oddity on 9th November was Tourismo coach 7215 on route 321, espied in Watford and correctly 'blinded' on its electronic display.
Recent repaints to the lighter blue:- 3962.
The B8RLE/ MCV buses (9x10.8m, 5x12m) have started to arrive at Luton; to begin with they were on normal town services but soon also ran on the Busway.

New deliveries (November):
3970/71/72/73/74 (LF71 DLK, DLN, DLO, DLU, DLY) Volvo B8RLE- MCV EvoRA. At the time of closing for press, it was unclear which are 10.8m or which are 12.1m. Observations suggest that those above are the 10.8m/ B38F or B42F version. I defer to TLB689!

Acquired (November) from Arriva Midlands:
2408 (YJ58 VCG) Optare Solo M950 B33F – 2008.
3506 (YN08 HZT) Scania K230UB OmniLink 11.7m B45F – 2008.

Renumbered: E400s 6460 and 6462 (SN58 EOC, EOE). These were in TLB687 as being from ASC (our area 2). Officially, they have been renumbered 5457 and 5458 respectively. You will not be surprise to hear that they are in use at AY still displaying 6460 and 6462.

Transfers:
(November): 2408, 3506 Mids/AY. 2451, 2498 AY/MKw. 2737 LDw/MKw,
3607 LD/MKw. 3646 WB/WBw. 3798 MKu/AYu. 3915 WB/AY/WB. 3970-74--/LD.
4017, 4019 AY/MKw. 6043, 6044 AY/AYu. 7100 LD/LDw. 7209 LD/LDu(accident).

Disposals:
Clarifying TLB687 entry, 7102/3/4 are with Arriva Midlands at Hinckley, not Centrebus. They are for use on route X6 (Leicester & Coventry).
2498, 2737, 3646, 3861, 3864, 4017/18/19/21/22, 5428, 6002, 6061 to Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs for scrap (November).

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

A2B TRAVEL GROUP, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire

Acquired: SK68 LZP and YX68 UJT AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F - 2018.

Change of reg and disposal: AB53 AZB reverted to GX57 AUT and has now gone.
Disposals: Solo KX51 GTE has been rejected and to be returned to Ensign Bus.

CAROUSEL BUSES, High Wycombe

The newly acquired 431 and 432 have both gained Carousel fleet livery.

Disposal: Solo 712 to Chiltern Automotive (November).

CENTAUR, Crayford

Further to TLB685 p26, MetroDecker CN21 FZA has seating H41/26F.

Disposal: Scania LX59 COJ to Beeston's, Hadleigh, Suffolk (by August), then to Ensign Bus and re-sold to Borderbus, Bungay, Suffolk (October).

CENTRAL CONNECT (Galleon Travel 2009 Ltd), Roydon Essex

The anticipated second MetroDecker is now delayed to February 2022. With the disposal of SGZ 1087, just one (SGZ 1089) Scania s/d is left in the fleet; it is also the last bus in service in the Trustybus livery. Solos CE52 UWR and FY52 RZC have now been withdrawn and due to go for scrap.

The new garage at Stansted should be operational in early January and will take over the office and engineering functions from Roydon. Although it had been planned that the new site would be the former Mercedes-Benz site, it will now be next door in the larger Audi site. Routes 7/7A, 306, 351, 386 are all in the Bishop's Stortford area and will transfer there. The existing garage at Roydon will remain for other services.

New deliveries (1st December):
CC71 GAL, CE71 GAL AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.7m B34F.

Disposal: Scania s/d SGZ 1087 (ex YN56 NNE) to scrap at Shelton Motors, Ely, Cambs (November).

CENTREBUS, Luton and Stevenage

Solo 325 to standard new livery, formerly with Fab 80s branding.
One more Volvo B8RLE to be identified is 633 (BU16 UWR) now at Luton. That should complete those at Luton - 633/4/5/6/7 (UWR/L/M/N/S), while 630/1/2 (UWK/P/O) are at Grantham.

CHILTERN AUTOMOTIVE, Cryers Hill, Bucks

Following on from the recent use of an RF on a normal service in Herts when their modern bus was unavailable (TLB686 p35 refers), on 22nd November they had another unserviceability. A Bucks school contract was covered by RML 2508, borrowed from The Vintage Red Bus Company. It was the am and pm runs on route 683 between Piddington and West Wycombe and the Royal Grammar School, High Wycombe, complete with '683' on paper notice in a front window.

Acquired (November) from Carousel No.712:
MX58 AAJ Optare Solo M950 B33F – 2008.

DIAMOND BUS SOUTH-EAST (Hallmark connections Ltd) Stanwell

(including Hotel Hoppa) part of Rotala plc
Into our area from elsewhere in Diamond (November):
32310 (SK16 GXN) Wrightbus StreetLite DF B41F – 2016.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Ensignbus has continued to provide help to Stagecoach SE (East Kent) though September, October and still into December. Open-top 339 (TSU 639) featured in the Lord Mayor's Show on 13th November in a two tone green livery for Army Cadets; some were on board, others walked alongside.

During a road closure at Rainham Broadway causing TfL route 372 to be diverted between 08:00/ 22nd Nov and 14:30/28th Nov. Ensignbus provided one E200 each day to cover the bit via Wennington.

At the 4th December Running Day, RMC 1477 was 'new' to the heritage operational fleet and now in Green Line livery.

Disposals (November):
Volvo B9TLs 117 and 118 to Pulham's, Bourton-on-the-Water, Glos.
Volvo B9TLa 121 and 122 to Red Rose, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Volvo B9TL 123 to New Adventure Travel, Cardiff.

FALCON COACHES, Byfleet

Acquired (November) via Dawsongroup:
YX19 ONL, ONM, ONN AD E20D – AD Enviro200(MMC) 9.0m B30F – 2019.

Change of registration: The Volvo B5L/MCV bus illustrated in TLB687 can be seen displaying egistration LK71 DKV. However, it is actually registered at DVLA as LF71 DKV. Can we have a visual please as to what it is now carrying!

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

Volvo 7900H 69931 has acquired an all-over advert (except front) for Trooli Broadband.
After Citaro 64017 returned to service as a training bus (TLB687 refers), the Essex BEG reports that it then went on loan to First Essex in mid-October. It remains to be seen if it comes back to Slough.
Disposal: Adding to TLB687, Citaro 64019 has appeared with G H Watts in Leicester.

1ST BUS STOP, Gravesend

Acquired (November) via Ripley, Barnsley and formerly Metroline DE 1623:
YX58 FPE AD E200Dart – AD Enviro200 10.2m B29D – 2008.

GO-AHEAD LONDON

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

The prototype Equipmake Jewel-E/ Beulas double-deck bus (fleet no. EM 1) is due to begin trials here in February 2022 (also see the head of this Vehicle section). It is planned for it to operate on all current double-deck electric routes for a period of time, to gain a full comparison with existing models. That should be followed by use on some diesel routes to gain an evaluation of the possible range.

The loss of routes 63/N63 from 13th November (to Abellio) triggered the immediate disposal of twenty MHVs to Go North West in north Manchester. This is a trifle unusual as it might have been expected for them to replace older buses (e.g. WVLs) in London. They will be converted to single door layout at Thornton's in Northumberland as well as a general refurbishment and repaint.

A new vehicle order is for 24 BYD/ADL E400EVs for Croydon Garage (Metrobus) to comply with the recent tender award for routes 119 and 264 in August 2022.

The staff shuttle between Vauxhall and Battersea Power Station worked by the Commercial department ceased around the end of September, a few days after the Northern line extension was opened on 20th September.

On 30th November twelve upseated SEe buses were moved to Camberwell for use on route 360 from early December. Indeed the first out on the 360 was SEe 51 on the 1st December. Nine of those displaced from Camberwell (10.8m versions SEe 52-60) are moving to Merton during December, these being for route 413.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

GO-AHEAD LONDON, Continued:

There is a continuing trickle of EHs to River Road in east London for school bus services. Route 176 at Camberwell has been gaining surplus LTs to gradually increase the proportion of the type.

On 13th November WVL 283 was on a rail replacement service when it got wedged under the railway bridge at Trafalgar Street at Brighton Station. It was soon extricated though as it was back in service on New Cross' route 321 on the evening of the 15th.

Recent refurbs/ repaints include SEe 6, 9, 12, 16, 21, 29. Others have been upseated as well as a repaint. – see 'detail changes' below.

Transfers: Outstations at LS=Luton, FK=Folkestone, NH=Newhaven, KL=King's Lynn).
(November): EH 21, 22, 27, 28, 29, 30 SW/RR. EH 116, 117 Q/MB. EH 118 Q/RR. EH 166 Q/NX.
LT 42, 43, 44, 45, 46 SW/Q. LT 845, 846, 847 NX/Q.
MHV 25, 28, 29 PM/Q. MHV 30-49 PM/PMw. MHV 54, 55 Q/NX.
WHV 80 C/RR. WHV 168, 169, 170 Q/SW.
SEe 1, 2 RA/Q. SEe 41-44 DS/u(H&D)/Q. SEe 45-48, 50, 51 u(H&D)/ Q.
(Note that moves of those via H&D Eastleigh may take a while to be completed).
(December): SEe 52-60 Q/AL (gradual moves during December).

Livery changes:
LT 298 from advert for Capital One to one for Gorillas (Mk.3).
LT 308 from advert for Capital One to one for Wheel of Time.
LT 438 to advert for JD Sports.
LT 428, LT 432 and LT 447 from adverts for Calvin Klein back to red.
LT 450 from advert for Calvin Klein to one for Bulldog.
LT 480 from advert for Nocco back to red.
LT 865 to advert for Bulldog.
WHV 124 from advert for Cos back to red.

Detail changes:
SEe 1, 2, 41-48, 50, 51 upseated from B21D to B33D plus a refurb. Of these, SEe 41-44 had been used by Here East but may not have had that name on the sides.

Disposals:
MHV 30-49 to Go North West, Manchester (November).
PVL 143, 218, 398, 404 to Ensign Bus (November). These were the last PVLs in the fleet which had reached 419 examples delivered between 2000 and 2005. It also clears 'London' buses based at CY.
WVL 313-321 sold in December (detail t.b.a.).
WVL 322-331 to Go East Anglia at Clacton (November).

GO COACHHIRE, Otford and Swanley, Kent (incl. 'The Bus Doctor')

Acquired (November) from Nu-Venture, Aylesford, Kent:
5602 (YJ59 GFK) Optare Versa V1040 B34F – 2009. (**fleet no. assumed**)

Disposals: Volvo B7TL 9801 (X688 YUG) gone for scrap (November).
Correcting TLB687 p27, delete reference to MB515 BF10 VBY, the company say that they never had such a vehicle! .

HCT GROUP (t/a CT PLUS) (AW and HK garages).

Solo 1760, incident from 27th April, was back in use on 17th November.

Disposals: Correcting TLB687. YX65 RHK is 1344 (not 1341).
1322 (YY67 HBK) to CT Plus Yorkshire (Powells).

----- *Current vehicle news* ----------

LITTLE JIM'S BUSES, Berkhamsted

Acquired (October): from Chalkwell, Sittingbourne, Kent:
GX04 AWR Optare Solo M850 B29F – 2004.

LONDON TRANSIT – X garage.

The formal change to fleet numbers is due to be from Saturday 11th December although it will inevitably be some while before all the buses can be physically altered. In practice, operations under the new licence will commence on the evening of Friday 10th on Night routes N13/N23/N97. For the time being I shall keep this fleet separate from RATP until we see if or when it is more obviously integrated with the existing London United and London Sovereign operations.

Vehicles renumbered from Tower Transit to RATP sequences:
WH 31122-28 to WH 45401-07.
OE 34001-37 to OME 46001-37.
VN 36102/08/23/24/25/26/33 to VDW 41001-07
VH 38115/16/18/21/22/24/25/33 to VH 45081-88.
MV 38201-04/06/09/10-35 to VMH 45321-352.
DNH 39111/13/14/16/17/19, 120-4/6-32 to ADH 45061-078.
DML 44181-88 to DE 20151-56/49/50. (note the order).
WV 46101/4/5/7 to WLS 30027-30.
WV 46215-24 to WLS 30031-40.

Note that at the date received (30Nov21), some LI and X locators don't tie up with where they actually are being used. Presumably this will get resolved before the due date.

And now in the other way round that may make it easier to record.
Vehicles renumbered from Tower Transit to RATP sequences (in RATP order):
DE 20149-56 ex DML 44187/88/44181-86.
WLS 30027-30 ex WV 46101/4/5/7.
WLS 30031-40 ex WV 46215-24.
VDW 41001-07 ex VN 36102/08/23/24/25/26/33.
ADH 45061-078 ex DNH 39111/13/14/16/17/19, 120-4/6-32.
VH 45081-88 ex VH 38115/16/18/21/22/24/25/33.
VMH 45321-352 ex MV 38201-04/06/09/10-35.
WH 45401-07 ex WH 31122-28.
OME 46001-37 ex OE 34001-37.

Routes operated are 13/N13 (MV>VMH), 23 (OE>OME), 414 (DNH>ADH), 452 (WH>WH/ VH>VH/ VN>VDW), C3 (OE>OME), N97 (MV/DNH) with 218 and 228 (DML>DE and WV>WLS).

METROBUS, Crawley (within the Go-Ahead Group) (CY depot)

As noted in TLB687, vehicles were transferred to the ownership of Brighton & Hove Bus Company on 28th October. The change to O'Licences and route registrations followed from 18th December. However, there is no change to the Metrobus fleet name and its branding.

The hydrogen buses for Fastway work (TLB687 refers) are due in June 2022.

6012 is no longer a 'covid-1 vaccine bus, 6101 is a Poppy Appeal bus, while 6557 is an overall advert in orange for St Catherine's Hospice and 6558 is still an advert for Crawley Town FC.

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

METROLINE TRAVEL – AC, AH, EW, HD, HT, KC, PA, PB, PV, SG and W garages, also
METROLINE WEST – G, HZ, UX and WJ garages.
(within the ComfortDelgro group of Singapore)

Seventeen BYD/ADL E400EVs (BDE class) are on order for route 204.

Metroline is due to trial the Volvo BZL/MCV battery- electric demonstrator later this month. The 'Z' in the designation refers to Zero Emission and replaces the usual diesel engine designation. It was launched at Volvo's in late November where it was revealed that it is equipped with Metroline interior. It should be trialled at garages with existing electric buses.

For the past month or so, VWHs started to appear on the 134 from PB; allegedly due to some problem with the OMEs. On 28th November at about 15:30, OME 2668 (PB) was in a collision causing fairly minor damage to its front offside. On Sunday 7th November, the day of the Muswell Hill Running Day (see head of this section), PB's OME 2654 ran some journeys on HT's route 43 as well as re-creating the 134A on that day.

Towards the end of November, Solo OS 68 has been revived at Potters Bar, no doubt to act as a spare to the MetroCity on route PB1. Indeed, training on the MetroCity OEM 2750 soon began. That has had a change to its registration which, unlike its original one, does appear on DVLA records. It is expected to receive specific 'electric' branding for the PB1.

OS 2502, incident from 4th August, was back in use on 16th November.

VWH 2027 is the first of five at Cricklewood to receive all-over vinyls for the Central London Christmas lights; they should be used on route 139.

Following its appearance on route 43 on 7th November as part of the Muswell Hill Running Day, on Saturday 20th November RML 903 performed several runs over route 43 between Muswell Hill Broadway and Islington Angel, with fares donated to the BBC Children in Need charity.

From 13th November, one VWH (2243) made its first presence at Edgware (EW) when it turned out on route 113. Thus far it remains the only VWH there and has even gained EW garage codes.

Recent refurbs/ repaints noted include VWH 2018, 2024, 2033, 2035, 2037, 2039, 2097, 2108, 2224.

West Perivale (PV) Garage is to close in February 2022. This is the former Thorpe's premises. Route 120 is due to transfer to Lampton (SG) Garage on 8th January. That leaves routes 31/N31, 90 and 297 which will be re-allocated elsewhere, decisions still to come.

Transfers; (h suffix = Hertfordshire Commercial Fleet).
(August): OS 2502 W/Wu. (September): VWH 2295 W/PV.
(November): LT 16, 98, 100 HT/W. VW 1396/97 PV/HZu. TE 1576, 1578 HZu/WJ.
TE 1579 HZu/EW. TE 1580/81 HZu/UX. VWH 2238/39 HZu/W. VWH 2243 PB/EW.
VWH 2299 HT/PV. VWH 2300 W/HT/PV. VWH 2301/02/03/04 W/HT.
OS 68 PAu/PB. DE 870 W/WJ. OS 2502 Wu/W.

Livery changes:
LT 103 from advert for Gorillas (Mk.2) back to red.
LT 750 to advert for JD Sports.
LT 766 to advert for Wheel of Time.
OME 2669 to advert for FFI.
VWH 2121 and VWH 2325 from advert for Cos back to red.

Change of registration: OEM 2750 from YJ71 GTZ to YJ71 GPX.

Disposals:
VW 1753/54/57, 1760/68, 1770/74/75/77 to Ensign Bus (November).

----- *Current vehicle news* ----------

RATP-DEV LONDON including
LONDON UNITED - AV, FW, JE, RP, S, TV, V and WK (ex HH) garages and
LONDON SOVEREIGN – BT, CP and SO garages. (c suffix= commercial).

The formal change to fleet numbers at London Transit from those of Tower Transit into the RATP sequences is due from 11th December although it will inevitably be some while before all the buses can be physically altered. In practice it will start at about 10pm on Friday 10th as Westbourne Park (X) Garage operates three Night routes N13, N23 and N97. For the time being, I shall keep the X buses separate under the London Transit heading, although I anticipate moving it to the RATP heading in due course. We need to see how the mix of LU/LS/LT pans out and to see if buses begin to transfer between the three segments.

In the new deliveries below the BMEs are for routes 398/H9/H10 at Harrow, the BCEs are those ordered are for route 65 at Fulwell. The end of November marked the point when all 24 BMEs, BE 37041-061 and BCE 47030-110 were all delivered. At that date, though, all recent deliveries remain stored until the electric power supply could be completed. Outstanding were BE 37062-084 for route 235, BCE 47111-137 for route 183 and BCE 47138-156 for route 125. Although the company already runs the 183, the 235 is taken from Abellio on 8th January and the 125 from Metroline on 29th January. The sequence of delivery is expected to be – 235, 125, 183 in that order. The 235 will run from WK and the 125 from BT, both garages being new to electrics – will they be luckier with power supply?

A surprise was that the BCE driver trainer at Harrow Garage (47033) went out on route X140 in the afternoon of 30th November and again on the next days. Presumably this was charged up by the portable unit as the full power supply had not yet been installed. Not to be outdone, Fulwell powered up BE 37049 on 1st December and it went out on route 290, 37048 and 37060 following.

Recent refurbs/ repaints include SDE 20280, ADE 40482, 40493, 40494.

LT 154, incident from 22nd September, was back in use of 1st December.

New deliveries (November):
BME 27001-004 (LG71 EAC/E/F/J), then the prefix alters to LC71 (not LG71) for routes H9/H10:
BME 27005-024 (LC71 KTV/X, KUA/B/D/E/F/G/H/J/K/N/O/P/R/S/T/U/V/W).
BYD D8UR – AD Enviro200EV(MMC) 10.2m B24D, ULW 12270kg.

BCE 47054-083 (LG71 DXS/T/U/V/W/X/Y/Z, DYA/B/C/D/F/H/J/M/N/O/P/T/U/V/W/X/Y, DZA/B/C/E/F) BYD D8UR-DD – AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H42/23D. ULW 13345kg.

Corrections to regs: BE 37049 (TLB686 p29) and 37050 (TLB687 p29) have been registered the other way round, 37049 is now LG71 DTZ and 37050 is now LG71 DTY.

Transfers: (CP- Canons Park, Parr Road, c = commercial).
(August): BCE 47033 u/SOt.
(November): BME 27001-024 --/u. ADH 40306 WK/TV. SP 40041 AV/WK. SP 40045 FW/WK. BCE 47033 SOt/SO. BCE 47054-083 --/u.
(December): LT 154 AVu/AV. BE 37048/049/060 u/FW.

A visual check on 27th November listed no fewer than 70 buses stored at Lea Interchange Garage. Others not yet in use are at FW, SO and WK. So, at LI:-
BME 27007/08/09/11/14, BE 37041/44-50/52-60 and
BCE 47030/41/43/45-51/55-58/60/62/64/66-74/76-80/82/83/88/91/92/94/96, 47100-08/10.
Three of the BEs were then the first to be retrieved for service.

Livery changes: BCE 47002 to advert for FFI.
Disposal: SP 40026 to Whippet Coaches, Swavesey, Cambridgeshire (end of October).

----- *Current vehicle news* -----

RED EAGLE BUSES, Dinton near Aylesbury

YX08 MFO and LJ08 CZT have been repainted to the new livery.

REDLINE BUSES, Aylesbury

Volvo B9TL PO58 NPJ to the new double-deck livery. Dart KN52 NBM has been stood down.

RED ROSE TRAVEL, Dinton near Aylesbury

Volvo B7TL PA04 CYC has gained the new livery.

Acquired (November) from Ensignbus Nos, 121, 122:
PL08 YLZ, YMA Volvo B9TL – Optare Olympus 10.9m H51/31F – 2008.

RICHMOND'S COACHES, Barley, Herts

Adding to TLB687 the new BU71 UNR seating is DP38F with high-back seats.

STAGECOACH LONDON (part of Stagecoach Holdings) incorporating:

EAST LONDON - BK, BW, NS, RM, T and WH; and **SELKENT** - KB, PD, TB and TL.

The first ten of the batch of BYD/ADL E400EVs (14148-57) were used at the COP26 event in Glasgow to transport delegates around. In one instance when carrying VVIPs, five of them were specially fitted with tinted film on their window glass (later removed) for the occasion and for security reasons. They were based for the duration at Western Buses depot at Kilmarnock. The last two were still around in Glasgow on Wednesday 3rd November but all ten were back at ADL Falkirk on Friday 5th November.

Subsequently between 8th and 12th November, four duly arrived at Catford, the rest following during the month. The first into service at Catford did so on 1st December and then it was a quick process with all but two (14156/57) actually in service by the 4th! The Plumstead batch had all been delivered but none were in service by the 4th.

Recent refurbs/ repaints include 19870, 37537, 37539.

New deliveries (November and early December):

14148-162 (LG71 DNV/X/Y, DOA/H/J/U, DPE/F/K/N/O/U/V/X) for Catford (TL) and 14163-172 (LG71 DPY/Z, DRO/V/X/Z, DSE/O/U/V) for Plumstead (PD). .
BYD D8UR-DD – AD Enviro400EV-City 10.9m H42/23D. ULW *****kg..

Transfers: (December): 14148-162 --/TL. 14163-172 --/PDu.

Livery changes:
11005 from Poppy Appeal livery back to red.
14147 to advert for FFI.
36635 – perhaps a bit belated but just to confirm that 462 branding was removed.
LT 252 to advert for Bulldog.
LT 256 to advert for Gorillas (Mk.3).
LT 261 from advert for Currys back to red.
LT 266 from advert for No Time to Die back to red.
LT 367 from advert for Currys to one for Wheel of Time.

STAR TRAVEL, Aylesbury

Disposal: Solo MX08 DFV to Stafford Bus Centre for re-sale (October).

SULLIVAN BUSES, South Mimms

AE 12 and AE 15 have had a red repaint.

----- *Current vehicle news* ----------

SUSSEX COACHES. Shipley, West Sussex

Acquired: from Coachpoint, Aldershot (where it gained a dark blue livery, retained by Sussex Coaches) and originally Go-Ahead North East No.5228:
NK54 NWB Scania L94UB – Wrightbus Solar 12m – 2005.

TOWER TRANSIT - LI and X Garages

WH 31127 had moved from LI to X in mid-October and its first foray on service was on route 13 (briefly) on 9th November. WH 31122-28 are moving slowly to X. However, WH 31123 suffered an incident on 30th June 2021. WHs have been added to the mix on route 452. The newly acquired route 414 from 13th November brought DNHs to the route and they have continued as the principal type although after a few days other types joined them, albeit only in ones and twos.

Other than VH 38125, all the loans at Stagecoach are still there, all waiting for completion of electric supply at Catford, VH 38112/3/4/5/6/7/9, 120/3/6/7/8/9, 130/1/2/3/4/5/6 being still there.

Recent refurbs/ repaints include DNH 39111/16/17/24/30/32 (that leaves just 39127 to be checked please) and MV 38239/40.

The formal change to fleet numbers at London Transit from those of Tower Transit into the RATP sequences is due from 11th December although it will inevitably be some while before all the buses can be physically altered. See the London Transit entry above for details.

Returned from Stagecoach: VH 38125.

Transfers:
(June): WH 31123 LI/LIu.
(July): Correction to TLB687, sorry I got it back to front, MV 38201/02 X/LI (not LI/X). There have been transfers quoted but the reality was that both were at X until 16th July (38201) or 23rd July (38202) but then a few days later both went to LI. As we closed for press both were still at LI although they are earmarked for London Transit from 11th December.

(November): WH 31126/28 LI/X, VH 38125 Sch/X. MV 38217 LI/X.
MV 38236/38/39/40 X/LI. MV 38241 LI/X.

Livery change:
OE 34034 to advert for FFI. As other 'FFI' buses it has lettering for 'Green Hydrogen' – and, no, it's not an HFC bus!.

Disposals:
DH 38501/2/3 to Universitybus, Hatfield (November).

UNIVERSITYBUS (t/a uno), Hatfield and Northampton

Acquired (November) from Tower Transit Nos DH 38501/2/3:
SN65 ZGO/P/R AD E40H – AD Enviro400MMC (ex ' VE variant') 10.4m H39/25D – 2015.
These were the experimental 'VE - virtual electric' buses that proved to be unsuccessful. They were hybrids but were meant to gain a short re-charge at each end of the route (69) in east London. However it often didn't work and they ended up being operated as 'normal' hybrids. In late November, the special 'VE' equipment was being removed (by TruckAlign at Charlton, SE London).

VECTARE, Rettendon, Essex

New delivery (October): RX71 TGK Mercedes Benz Sprinter B16F.

Disposals: Further to TLB686 p31, it is confirmed that all four Volvo B7RLEs BK13 NZM/R/S/U did indeed go to Stotts of Oldham.

The "Where are they now" column (or: Subsequent vehicle disposals)

Section Editor: Andrew Morgan, Easton House, Easton Lane, Bozeat, Northamptonshire NN29 7NN. Note – email address andrew@morgan1368.co.uk Note that the former London company names are listed in code to allow more space for narrative detail. ALN=Arriva London, FLN= First London, GAL= Go-Ahead Group London, LU= London United, ML= Metroline, SLN= Stagecoach London.

Routemasters:

RM 1058 (204 UXJ) from Signature Motor Homes to Mr G Marriott, Gasthorpe, Suffolk (November).
RM 1797 (772 DYE) from Mr R Duker to The Expeditional, London E16 (November).
RM 1871 from The Expeditional to Mr R Mead, Bucklesham, Suffolk (February).
RML 891 (HSL 660) is now being used only for promotional work by The Expeditional with a colourful yellow/orange livery for 'Green Tea Sensi' in June and a pinky red livery for ClimateLive 2021 in November.
RML 2346 from Ensign Bus to Mr T Brown, Finningham, Suffolk (November).

Olympians:

AV 3 (P483 MBY) (ex ML) has been sold from Herberts Travel (July).
AV 35 (S135 RLE) (ex ML) from Herberts Travel to Bunting's Travel, Southery, Norfolk (July).
NV 90 (A12 VXH, ex R390 LGH) (ex GAL) reverted to original registration with Imperial Coaches in April. See also WVL 157 below.
VA 138 (R138 EVX) (ex SLN) was sold for scrap from Hunter's Coaches (July).

Miscellaneous low-floor double deck types:

DLP 54, 58, 64 (LJ51 DJZ, DKF, DKV) (ex ALN) have been numbered 6997, 6998, 6999 respectively with Go North East.
DLP 97 (LF52 URB) (ex ALN) from Hardwick to PVS, Barnsley (August).
DW 49 (LJ53 NGU (ex ALN) has been re-registered to H13 WYV by Wyvern Omnibus.
DW 79 (LJ04 LGY) (ex ALN) was sold from Arriva the Shires (by November).
DW 119 (LJ05 BMY, ex 15 KXB, ex 319 CLT) (ex ALN) further to TLB687, it has been re-registered to OXZ 7005 in October and numbered D7 in the Reddin's fleet.
VLW 19 (UUI 2948, ex LJ51 DGE) was sold from Arriva the Shires (by November|).
VLW 68 (LF52 UTE) from New Adventure Travel to M&D Bus & Coach, St Helens, Merseyside (September 2020).
VLW 122 (LF52 UOV) from Coach Services to Abbey Travel, Hull, East Yorkshire (by November).

TN 33242 (LT52 WVL) (ex FLN) further to TLB684, this TN is confirmed from First South West to Wigley, Barnsley in July.
VN 32109 (LT02 ZDH) (ex FLN) was sold from the Bromley Bus Preservation Group for scrap (November 2020).
VNL 32271 (LT52 WWS) (ex FLN) from Ensign Bus to Seven Sisters Bus & Coach, Ringmer, East Sussex (November).
VNZ 32333, 32336, 32344, 32345 (LK53 LYT, LYN, LZE, LZF) (ex FLN) from First West of England to First Eastern Counties (November).
VNZ 32334, 32335, 32338, 32346 (LK53 LYU, LYV, LYY, LZG) (ex FLN) were sold from First West of England (November).
VNL 32347, 32349 (LK53 LZH, LZM) (ex FLN) from First West of England to Ensign Bus (November).
VNW 32355 (LK53 LZU) (ex FLN) is confirmed from First West of England to Wigley, Barnsley (by August).

----- *Where are they now?* -----

VNW 32657 (LK55 ACO) (ex FLN) after its major fire damage with First Glasgow (see TLB682), the remains were sold for scrap in June.

DNH 39125 (SN12 ATO) (ex FLN) has been reported from Bus & Coach Centre, Forest Hill, Oxon to Taiwan; can anyone confirm details of the new owner and have any others also been exported ?

AVL 6, 8, 31 (V106, 108, 131 LGC) (ex GAL) further to TLB683, these passed to Eagle Coaches, Castle Acre, Norfolk (May) and were subsequently re-registered in August to M50, 30, 40 ENH.

EVL 11 (PL51 LGU) (ex GAL) from Roselyn Coaches to Bus & Coach Repairers (dlr), Yaxley, Cambs. (July 2020) for scrap.

EVL 12, 32, 33 (PN02 XCA, XCS, XCT) (ex GAL) from Redbridge Transport to Ensign Bus, Purfleet, Essex, and then to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (all in November).

PDL 20 (PJ02 PZT) (ex GAL) from LG Commercials (dlr) to Rothbury Commercials, Barrowford, Lancs. (October).

PVL 192 (X592 EGK) (ex GAL) was re-registered by GDS Travel to K600 GDS in July.

PVL 260 (PN02 XBH) (ex GAL) from Fowlers Coaches to Wigley, Barnsley (July).

PVL 383 (PJ53 NKX) (ex GAL) from Hardwick in June 2018 but was confirmed in June 2021 on Arranmore island off north west Ireland as "The Only Plaice" mobile fish and chip shop. It is not known if it went via another owner between 2018 and 2021 or when itwas under conversion for its new role.

PVL 397, 401 (LX54 GZH, GZN) (ex GAL) re-registered by GDS Travel to K700, 900 GDS.

PVL 405, 416 (LX54 GZT, GZV) (ex GAL) from Go North East to Little's Travel, Ilkeston, Derbys. (by November).

PVL 410, 415, 419 (LX54 GZB, GZU, GZZ) (ex GAL) from Go North East to A & A Coach, Tockwith, North Yorkshire (by November).

PVL 417, 418 (LX54 GZW, GZY) (ex GAL) from Go North East to L&G Coaches, Birtley, Tyne & Wear (by November).

VWL 3 (XIL 8977, ex LB02 YWZ) (ex GAL) was sold from Thandi Coaches (January).

WVL 157 (LX53 BAA) (ex GAL) has been re-registered to A12 VXH by Imperial Coaches. See also NV 90 above.

WVL 159 (LX53 BAO) (ex GAL) further to TLB684, this WVL is now confirmed with Mrs Busby, Stafford, Staffs.

WVL 205 (LX05 EZB) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (November).

WVL 223 (OTW 833, ex LX06 DZF) (ex GAL) further to TLB679, this WVL has now passed to Candy Coaches, Morden, London (by November); it has not been confirmed if this WVL has retained its cherished registration.

948 (YN07 EXO, ex WSV 541) was re-registered by Don's Coaches to DUI 672 in August. This updates TLB686 and amends the acquisition date accordngly.

SP 15 (YN56 FBZ) (ex LU) updating TLB687, this SP passed from Beeston's to Ensign Bus (August) prior to the sale detailed therein.

SP 37 (SGZ 3348, ex YN08 MRY) (ex LU) was named Roger Fern by Ipswich Bus from May; it was previously recorded as named Sir Bobby Robson.

TLA 9 (SN53 EUR) (ex LU) has been sold from Skills Motor Services (by November).

VLP 1 (LN51 AZA) (ex LU) has been sold from Skills Motor Services (by November).

VP 106 (W449 BCW) (ex LU) was re-registered by GDS Travel to K400 GDS in July.

----- *Where are they now?* -----

TE 735 (LK07 AZP) (ex ML) has been re-registered to S600 YRK by Yorkshire Coastliner in August for use on City Sightseeing work in York.

OME 2652 (YJ19 HVC) (ex ML) operated with Glasgow Citybus during the recent COP26 event in a blue livery for Switch Mobility.

VPL 167 (IIG 9286, ex Y167 NLK) (ex ML) from 1st Bus Stop to Peyton Travel, Bridgend, Mid-Glamorgan (November 2019).

VPL 221 (LK51 XGR) (ex ML) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (November).

TA 17021 (S821 BWC) (ex SLN) was sold from Chiltern Travel (by August).

TA 17065 (T665 KPU, ex 80 XAP) (ex SLN) is understood to still be in the Herberts Travel fleet, so please ignore the report in TLB675,

TA 17082 (T682 KPU, ex 70 WYX) (ex SLN) was sold from Herberts Travel (by August).

TA 17085 (T685 KPU) (ex SLN) from Axe Valley Mini Travel to Edmunds (dlr), Tedburn St. Mary, Devon (August) for scrap.

TA 17172 (V172 MEV) (ex SLN) from Sleafordian Coaches to PVS, Barnsley (by August).

TA 17413 (LX51 FHZ) (ex SLN) from Stotts Tours to Wigley, Barnsley (November).

TAS 17489 (VLT 217, ex LX51 FMJ) (ex SLN) has reverted to its original registration with Stagecoach North West in July.

TA 17954 (LX53 JYU) (ex SLN) from London Borough of Redbridge to Southern Coach Lines, Newbury, Berks. (July), and then passed to Reading & Wokingham Coaches, Wokingham, Berks. (September).

TA 17987 (LX53 KBN, ex N50 SLK) (ex SLN) from Tetley Coaches to PVS, Barnsley (March).

15151 (LX59 COJ) (ex SLN) updating TLB687, this Scania passed from Centaur Overland Travel to Beeston's, Hadleigh, Suffolk (by August) and then to Ensign Bus (August) prior to the sale detailed therein.

15163, 15166 (LX59 CRJ, CRV) (ex SLN) from Adventure Travel to Ensign Bus (November).

15168 (LX59 CSF) (ex SLN) finally entered service with Preston Bus in November.

Low-floor single deck types:

ENS 2, 11 (LJ07 EDL, ECF) (ex ALN) correcting TLB687, the entry for ENX 2, 11 should have read ENS 2, 11.

DML 44047 (YX58 FPE) (ex FLN) from Ripley to 1st Bus Stop, Gravesend, Kent (November).

SE 1, 6, 10 (LX07, BXH, BXN, BXS), 30 (SN57 DWW) (ex GAL) from Ensign Bus to MC Tractors / Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs. (November).

DPS 561 (SN51 SZY) (ex LU) was sold for scrap from Turners Tours (July 2019).

DP 1032, 1038 (KP02 PWN, PWO) (ex ML) from Ensign Bus to Trainfor Group, Faversham, Kent (November).

SLD 34150 (V150 MVX) (ex SLN) from Royal Blue Buses to Mr Bassett, St. Ives, Cornwall (May) for preservation.

SLD 34390, 34391, 34395 (LX03 CAA, CAE, CBU), 34551, 34557 (LX53 LGF, LGO) (ex SLN) updating to TLB686, these are used by Skills Motor Coaches on shuttle services at the Birmingham National Exhibition Centre and are therefore being used for the same purpose as when they were with their previous owner.

25313 (LX09 AAF) (ex PVS) from Lister PVS to Ripley, Barnsley (by July 2020) for scrap.

36306, 36307, 36308 (LX56 EAA, EAC, EAE), 36322 (LX58 CCD) (ex SLN) have been allocated to Bedford with Stagecoach East.

36324 (LX58 CCF), 36583 (YX63 LGD) (ex SLN) although originally reported as with Stagecoach East, these Enviro 200s are now allocated to Inverness with Stagecoach Highlands.

36365 (LX59 ECT) (ex SLN) has now entered service at Ashford with Stagecoach South East after conversion to single door B34F.

SERVICE VEHICLES

Section Editor: Thomas Young: e-mail to tom@ltsv.com or by post via 'The SUPs Editor (LTSV)' at our Lombard address (see page 1). The LTSV web site at www.ltsv.com has an on-line database of service vehicles, with pictures, plus the facility to record your own sightings and comments. A hash sign (#) after the livery of a vehicle indicates that it carries no company lettering or logos.

LUL/LBSL/TfL Fleet; Newly reported vehicles

9142VW	RE70 HYN	VW Crafter Dropside Truck	LUL	White	?

Additional information and updates

9142VW was noted (unmarked) at the Bedfont dealership in November 2020 and was licensed in February 2021 but is believed to have not been delivered until early November 2021. It now has normal TfL/LUL lettering but the cab is otherwise all white and the body in unpainted metal.

New Transit dropside truck LL21 KPR (TLB685 refers) has been given Trams white/blue/green livery and fleetnumber 9108F. Three of the four new Transit vans (9157F-9159F, TLB685) were still at Acton Works in mid-November.

Vehicles withdrawn include 7589F. The only Mk7 Ford Transits remaining in the fleet are now facilities vans 7674F and 7675F, and these may also be out of use following their holiday to Harrow (TLB684 & 687 refer). They have recently been parked up in the van yard at Acton Works, rather than the lorry yard, where facilities vans are normally kept.

Bus Company Fleets; Newly reported vehicles

-	GL68 HGY	VW Transporter Minibus	Arriva London	Silver #	DT
220	DE69 HYW	Seat Leon Car	Arriva London	Red #	DX
90760	MW66 XNV	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White #	TB
90750	MK67 MJE	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White	WH
90742	MJ18 PVE	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White	BW
92939	MV18 HLX	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White	T
90693	MT70 ANP	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White	BK
90689	MW70 XDR	Ford Transit Connect Van	Stagecoach	White	NS
-	BL19 YKG	Ford Transit Courier Van	Tower Transit	White	X
-	SM70 OFW	VW Transporter Van	Tower Transit	Grey	X

Additional information

Arriva London HV17 SVK and DE69 CZX have transferred DT-DX, the latter now numbered 219. Also numbered at DX are HV65 OAY (132) and FP67 OOE (122). Vehicles withdrawn are HV65 OBD/OBH, HX65 XUO, WO16 PHV, WM66 AED, WN17 UGU, FJ18 XFH and GL68 HGY (which didn't stay long!).

Arriva SC Kia Soul car MW67 UBX is withdrawn.

Go-Ahead EK64 CFZ has been sold. Transfers are RJ19 HSV NP-MB, WP21 YCZ DS-C, RX71 SYR NP-RR and RX71 SYV C-MB.

One of the Go Coachhire taxis has been seen (LL07CXD, TLB687 refers) and was black with Go Coach, Amazon and Fastrack lettering.

RATP-Dev vans LM15 OYB/OYC are withdrawn. Other vehicles not seen for some time and presumed gone (most likely following the delivery of the Dacia cars and Renault vans last year) are BU18 VSV, LC18 GHF/GJO/HFL and ML68 XJG. Five Volvo V40 cars (VE68 XSN/T/V/X and XTG) were taken into stock a couple of years ago. Although not listed here, they were allocated fleetnumbers in the ST750xx range (where ST perhaps indicated Short Term?). These cars also appear to no longer be in use.

----- *Service Vehicles* ----------

The six vans into stock at Stagecoach London all came from Stagecoach South East in one-for-one swaps with existing London vans, the aim being to get vehicles with better emissions performance into London. Out of stock (to Stagecoach South East) are MC16 FHA/YUK and MD16 SWN/SWO/SXK/SXM. Catford and Plumstead already had newer vans, while just Rainham has retained a 16-reg van (MD16 SXL).

Tower Transit LX13 OUV/OUW are believed withdrawn.

Rail Replacements : info via Managing Editor to davestewart297@gmail.com

Please bear in mind that these are 'filler material' for TLB and do not necessarily cover every item of rail work. Most remain unknown, unreported or of no special interest. I can only record, and do so briefly, those that are observed and reported.

Southern: 14 Nov – Horsham to Barnham by Go Ahead London VWL's and Scania dd's and sd's, Southdown PSV Scania/Enviro 400 MMC's and a Crawley Luxury Optare Solo on standby.

21 Nov London Bridge & Tulse Hill by Go-Ahead EHs,MHVs.

27/28Nov no Southern trains in or out of Victoria with trains terminating generally at East Croydon and buses thence as far as Clapham Junction. Buses East Croydon & Clapham Junction via local stations by Go Ahead-EHs,MHVs,WHVs,WVLs.

Overground: 01 Nov Clapham Junction &Canada Water by Abellio E400s. As,LTs.

Great Northern: 14Nov, 21Nov, 28Nov, 05Dec Alexandra Palace & Stevenage by Go-Ahead and Metroline. 21Nov Finsbury Park & New Barnet early am, also Go-Ahead and Metroline. 05Dec New Southgate & Finsbury Park early am, also Go–Ahead and Metroline.

Piccadilly: 20/21Oct David Corbel Coaches, P & J Ellis and Jeakins Travel assisted Westbus on the Hammersmith – Heathrow Terminal Five service. Westbus will be operating a similar service on most days across the Christmas and New Year period due to further Piccadilly Line engineering work.

DLR: 27/28Nov Tower Gateway & Canary Wharf by Arriva London HA/HV/DW and Metrolne.

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

This TLB closed on 3-5 December and due for posting on 14 December. Closing date for TLB689 is Weds 5 January and due for posting on Tues 18 January. Reports to the Editors by post or e-mail to < davestewart297@gmail.com > or to heads of sections for contact points. Next closing dates are Weds 05Jan, 02Feb, 02Mar, 30Mar 2022 (note early date due to Easter), 04May, 08June. These dates are for us editors to have sufficient time to process, although info over the next four days can invariably be slotted in as time and space allows. Those of you who report regularly should 'bookmark' these dates.



The superb route 93 Running Day on 9th October featured plenty of RT and RM family buses, but a fine somewhat rare example of the RT class is roof-box RT 1705. It displays a packed 'via points' blind box and is traversing the southern end of the route on its way to Epsom. *(Richard Godfrey)*



On 30th October Stagecoach staged an open day at Plumstead Garage to commemorate 40 years since its opening in 1981. Scania Metropolitan MD 60 made an exceedingly rare appearance and is seen picking up passengers for one of the local tours. *(Adrian Willats)*



16th November was the centenary of route 408 (Guildford & Croydon) and special RT journeys were provided on that day. Green RT 3491 is followed by red (but once green) RT 4779 in Waddon Road, Croydon. *(David Bowker)*

Rear cover: At just a few days notice, Arriva in Kent abandoned routes 306/308. KentCC arranged for Redroute to take over from 1st November. Four ex-Go-Ahead London E200s were hastily bought but here is an older purchase, Dart former LDP 273 at The Vine in Sevenoaks having come from Gravesend. *(Richard Godfrey)*

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our members and readers



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LOTS