

THE M&D AND EAST KENT BUS CLUB

Web-site : mdebusclub.org.uk

e-mail newsgroup : <http://groups.google.com/group/mdebusclub>

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Reports for the next issue of *Invicta* should be sent to the Editor at 42 St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9NG (e-mail : n.king112@btinternet.com). Those exclusively for "other operators" can be sent direct to the Editorial Assistant at 104a High Street, UCKFIELD, East Sussex, TN22 1PX (e-mail : jfletcher.1@btinternet.com). The deadline in both cases is **Tuesday 10th November 2015**. Late reports can be considered up to the following Saturday, but we do not guarantee to include them if they are substantial and/or require checking before being published.

Topical photographs are welcomed at any time. If sending digital images by e-mail, please confine transmissions to one picture per message, and use low definition to avoid system overload. We will come back to you if we need a higher definition file for use.

DIARY SUMMARY

Monday 2nd November – Hastings meeting, 1930.

Monday 9th November - Maidstone & Medway meeting, 1930.

Tuesday 10th November – Reporting deadline for next *Invicta*.

Saturday 21st November - Planned despatch date for next *Invicta*.

Front cover illustration : Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer P238 MKN has recently entered preservation. New to Maidstone & District in May 1997 as their fleet number 3238, it has regained the splendid but short-lived M&D livery which it carried for less than three years before succumbing to Arriva colours. It was photographed on the A25 between Oxted and Westerham on 20th September (the blind is of course not authentic there), just four days after emerging from repaint. *Darren Walker*

CLUB NOTICES

LOCAL MEETINGS : A **Maidstone and Medway** meeting will be held on Monday 9th November 2015 at 1930 in the upstairs room of the "Bush" public house in Rochester Road, Aylesford. Members are invited to bring photographs on any digital media, or slides by prior arrangement. For further information, please contact our Area Organiser, Jeff Tucker on ☎ 01634 241538.

A **Hastings** meeting will be held on Monday 2nd November 2015 at 1930 in the John Taplin Centre, Upper Maze Hill, St. Leonards-on-Sea, TN38 0LQ. Further information at terryblackman.co.uk, by e-mail to terry.blackman@btopenworld.com, or on ☎ 01424 812506.

PUBLICATIONS : Allocation publications AE.1 and AM.3 are now out of stock; please do not order them. A further announcement will be made in due course.

Myles Chantler *Sales Officer*

PERSONAL : We are sorry to record the departure of Kevin Hawkins from his post as Commercial Director of Arriva Southern Counties on 30th September. Kevin had joined ASC from Kentish Bus upon its formation in April 1998 and had always been quietly supportive of our work. We wish him well in whatever the future may hold.



Here is the updated list of vehicle data still required :

Gillingham : 1553 (on loan), 3318 adaptable seating capacities.

Maidstone : 2217 adaptable seating capacity and unladen weight.

Northfleet : 1631 adaptable seating capacity.

Tonbridge : 2879 unladen weight;

3970 adaptable seating capacity;

4386 unladen weight.

No queries have been resolved this month, and another has been added.

ARRIVA KENT & SURREY

(not including route information for the Guildford area)

VEHICLES IN : During period ending 25th September 2015, 2217 (T47 WUT) was formally acquired. Details were shown on page 15/261. Adaptable seating capacity and unladen weight are required.

VEHICLES ON LOAN : 1553 (X295 MBH) was on loan from Arriva Kent Thameside by 22nd September at GL, and still on 16th October. More surprisingly, 3816 (GN07 AVC) in old Fastrack livery was on loan from Arriva Kent Thameside at GL by 30th September until returned on 9th October – although another report (not backed up by an actual sighting) says it was still here on 12th October.

We still have no report whether 4213 has returned to Tunbridge Wells, although it is known to have left Arriva Kent Thameside around the turn of August/September.

ALLOCATIONS : Official details for period ending 25th September 2015 are :

1634	(GN06 EEF)	SHu-SH	3338	(W474 XKX)	TWu-TWw
2217	(T47 WUT)	Acq-M	3527	(LF02 PMY)	GF-GFu
2904	(R904 BKO)	NE-NEw	3757	(YJ08 DZG)	GFu-GF
3294	(Y294 TKJ)	SH-GL	6226	(X459 FGP)	GL-M

1634 had re-entered service by 1st September. Clarifying page 15/261, 3523 moved from GF to TW on 29th August and 3522 by 1st September.

Loans. 3292 (NE) has been at TW since 15th October. 3293 (GL) was at SH on 14th October. 6412 (SH) was at GL from at least 24th September to 6th October. 6429 (GL) was at SH by 1st October and still on 15th October.

“Unlicensed” fleet. 6439 was in use at SH on 10th October. We have no updated reports on any of 3318, 3519, 3520, 3521, 3522, 3527 or 8001.

Storage. 1601, 1605, 3242 and 3338 were still in store at Tunbridge Wells on 6th October. We have no updated report on 5932.

LIVERY : Further repaints are 6401 and 6412 in September, 3734, 3758, 3901, 6415 and 6417 in October. 3734, 3758 and 3901 are now in MAX livery, 3901 being ex Mercedes-Benz World livery.

It is now apparent that 2904 was not repainted in June, simply that New Enterprise vinyls were removed, leaving it in allover white.

Major advertisements. On 20th September, 6421/4 received (differing) allover rear display for e-bay. That on 6424 replaces its previous display for Hastings Direct. The rear displays of 4047/8 for MidKent College were revised by 21st September.

Route branding. 3758 lost its branding for 480/490, 6401 for 140/141 and 6412 for 334 at repaint. At 24th September, 6442 had lost most of its branding for 140/141 but still carried “places of interest” vinyls. 6443 had lost its branding for 140/141 by 1st October, and 6441 still had its full branding for 140/141 on 15th October.

VEHICLES OUT : During period ending 25th September 2015, 2904 (R904 BKO) was transferred to the service vehicle fleet.

Dismantlers 3245 and 3332 were still at Gillingham and Tunbridge Wells respectively on 6th October.

Previous sale 3233 was still at Sheerness on 6th October. 6241 was towed from Gillingham to AKT at Northfleet on 23rd September for the removal of further parts.

GENERAL : On 1st October 3909 was used at the Queen’s Monument in Maidstone for a “swap places” event designed to allow cyclists to sit in the cab and understand where the driver’s blind spots are, thereby encouraging them to cycle responsibly when in the vicinity of a bus.

6412/5 have the same minor livery differences following repaint as 6410 (see page 15/222), and have received e-leather seating.

SERVICE VEHICLES : During period ending 25th September 2015, T904 (R904 BKO) was transferred from the psv fleet. This and T126/32 (V326/32 DGT) are officially shown as unallocated. V047 (YG61 UUL) was transferred from HO to NE, replaced by V067, of which we have no details. Arriva London quote 29th August as the date for T126/32 being transferred.

Arriva Kent Thameside VDL/Wright 3971 (YE06 HPX), currently stored at Maidstone, was used for driver training work for much of September.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : M919 MKM (5919) – Go-Coachhire, Swanley, Kent; change of address to Sevenoaks, Kent 6/15.

P224 MKL (3224) – Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (dealer) 8/15 ex Arriva the Shires, Luton, Bedfordshire (3224).

P228 MKL (3228) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (3228); returned to Colchester from loan at Harlow by 10/15.

LF02 PNE (3528) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (3528); “unlicensed” 9/15.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 10/15 – M919 MKM (5919), P238 MKN (3238).

ROUTE CHANGES : The re-timing of the 0647 from Cranbrook on service 5 to 0630 from 27th September 2015 did not happen. Instead, it was re-timed to 0642 from 11th October 2015.

A route and timetable change was registered on 191 group from 30th September 2015. We understand this entails a new schoolday route 694, but no details of it have been reported.

Timetable changes were registered on 100 and 155 from 4th October 2015. We understand that these remove Maidstone operation on 100, which has proved impracticable. Related northbound journeys on 155 presumably therefore go via New Cut rather than into Chatham Station interchange.

Temporary diversions. From 28th September to 1st October 2015 Ratcliffe Highway was closed between Avery Way and Homewards Road for re-surfacing from 0700 to 1900 each day. Buses serving Allhallows were diverted via the A228 and Lower Stoke. School buses also double-ran along the Ratcliffe Highway to reverse into Hall Road in St. Mary Hoo.

On 28th and 29th September 2015, because of road works at the junction of Forge Lane and Church Street in Gillingham, service 177 was diverted after 2000 from Strand roundabout via the A289 to Lower Rainham Road roundabout, Lower Rainham Road, Plantation Road and Grange Road to Woodlands Road and normal route, returning from Hazlemere Drive via Plantation Road then as the inward route to Strand roundabout.

On 12th October 2015 Strood High Street was closed westbound from 2100 between Rochester bridge and Station Road for re-surfacing. Buses were allowed through until 2200 and were then diverted via Railway Street, Waterfront bus station, Dock Road, Medway Tunnel, Frindsbury Road and Station Road to Commercial Road. On 13th to 15th October 2015 the re-surfacing moved to the eastbound carriageway. From 2200, buses were diverted via North Street, Frindsbury Road and the reverse of the above, except that 191 went onto diversion directly at Wainscott.

On 15th October 2015 buses were diverted via Queenborough by-pass (A249) to and from Sheerness following a fatal accident. No details are reported of the location.

On 17th October 2015 Faversham carnival took place and the last journeys to and from Faversham could not serve the town centre. The 333 at 1720 from Maidstone terminated on the A2 near The Mall and the 1828 from Crescent Road started from the lay-by on the A2 near the Abbey School at 1833.

From 26th to 28th October 2015 Tunbury Avenue, Walderslade will be closed between Victoria Road and Robin Hood Lane for gas supply work to be carried out. Buses will run via Chestnut Avenue, Walderslade Road, Walderslade by pass and Robin Hood Lane in both directions.

From **26th to 30th October 2015** the Cliffe Road/Frindsbury Road junction in Strood will be closed for highway drainage work. 133 will be diverted via Frindsbury Road, Bill Street Road and Cooling Road.

On **30th October 2015** Maidstone Road, Matfield will be closed between the A21 roundabout and Brenchley Road overnight from 1830. Buses will run non-stop between Paddock Wood *Maidstone Road/Badsell Road* and Pembury *Maidstone Road/Henwood Green Road* via Badsell Road, Colts Hill, Maidstone Road and Henwood Green Road.

From **31st October to 7th November 2015** the Upper Fant Road/Bower Lane junction in Maidstone will be closed for gas main replacement work. 8 and 86 will be diverted via St. Michael's Road and Tonbridge Road.

ROUTE WORKING : M – Correcting page 15/263, E20 work 575-0748 on schooldays.

PUBLICITY : Issue 49 of the 191 group leaflet is dated 21st September 2015. A handbill was issued dated 28th September 2015 for the revised schoolday morning journey on 5, and again for the altered timing from 12th October.

TICKETING : For some weeks, tickets have again been issued to those presenting ENCTS (and perhaps other) passes. A notice on buses apparently said that this was because of a change of software. However, this does not seem to apply at other Arriva subsidiaries.

AROUND THE AREAS : Maidstone area. "Short" 3958 was unusual on 82 (MC) on 1st October and 12 (SLF) on 8th October. Correcting page 15/264, 7006 was on 59 on 25th August.

Medway area. Whilst here, 3816 seemed to be used chiefly as a spare vehicle at Waterfront bus station to cover late running. Stop A at Hempstead Valley was closed for two weeks from 17th September; coaches used stop B.

Swale area. On 15th October 6429 was most unusual on 341 (SLF).

ARRIVA KENT THAMESIDE (Northfleet operation only; outside formal coverage)

During period ending 25th September 2015, 1553 (X295 MBH) was officially transferred to the Essex fleet as a repaint float at Harlow. However, by 22nd September it was on loan to Arriva Kent & Surrey, and still on 16th October.

4038, 4039, 4041, 4042 had been repainted by October, the latter three losing their 499 branding during this process.

Former Fastrack vehicle 3816 was on loan to Arriva Kent & Surrey by 30th September until reported returned on 9th October (although another report says it was still there, though not supported by actual sighting, on 12th October).

On the night of 24th/25th October, when the clocks go back, the night service on 480 will operate as for British Summer Time.

From 26th to 28th October Instone Road, Dartford will be closed overnight from 2200 for re-surfacing. 423 will run via Hanau Bridge and Home Gardens, turning via Hythe Street. 477 will run via Princes Road, Highfield Road South and North to Home Gardens,

Reference on page 15/263 to the use of 6450-5 should of course have been 6450-3.

ARRIVA KENT & SUSSEX

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : BKE 846T (5846) – Museum Motorzacji, Otrębusy, Poland (preservation) by 1/01 ex Brakell, Cheam, Surrey (dealer); re-registered WPR 3A and repainted red as a London vehicle (!) by 1/03.

FKM 867V (5867) – Le Bus Bristol, Amberieu-en-Bugey, France (mobile café) by 8/10 ex Judd, Manea, Cambridgeshire (amplification).

FKM 878V (5878) – Classic Bus West Nederland, Amsterdam, Netherlands by 6/01 ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer); re-registered BL-FR-77, 6/01; Down Under Imagofactory, den Bosch, Netherlands 9/01; On Stage, Risjwijk, Netherlands 8/04; van Loon, Moordrecht, Netherlands (Klasse) 7/07; Oko-Toet, Risjwijk, Netherlands 3/11. However, the date with Oko-Toet (and therefore the sequentiality of these entries) is subject to confirmation. The last confirmed report otherwise is 1/08. When re-registered, paperwork showed the chassis number of HKM 886V, but the correct identity has since been confirmed physically. Early in its Dutch career, an allover display was carried for Canal Digitaal, but it is not clear with which of its first two owners. (Clarifications and additional information.) See also footnote below.

FKM 880V (5880) – Unidentified owner in yard at Zastow, Poland by 3/07 ex Stephenson, Rochford, Essex (dealer).

FKM 882V (5882) – Mobile exhibition unit for children's project, Szitakuto, Budapest, Hungary by 12/12 ex McDonald's restaurant, Tatanánya, Hungary.

HKM 883/6V (5883/6) – Reported with Classic Bus West Nederland, Amsterdam, Netherlands by 11/03 and by 6/01 respectively ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer). The operator is reported elsewhere as ceased by 11/12, though a current address has been found for 10/15. But see footnote below.

E891 AKN (5891) – Amber, Rayleigh, Essex; withdrawn 6/15 and gone by 8/15.

L508 CPJ (3006), L515 CPJ (T515), R949 VPU (1179) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer); gone by 10/15.

L503 HKM (3106) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer); scrapped by 10/15.

P210 JKK (1210) – Town & Country Bus, Pontypool, Torfaen; back in service 4/15; Peakes Coaches, Pontypool, Torfaen by 7/15.

P195 LKJ (3195) – Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (dealer) 8/15 ex Arriva the Shires, Luton, Bedfordshire (3388).

P185 LKL (3185) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer) by 10/15 ex Autocar, Five Oak Green, Kent.

R455 SKX (2911) – Fowler, Holbeach Drove, Lincolnshire; gone by 8/15.

GJ52 HDZ (3593) – Go-Coachhire, Swanley, Kent; change of address to Sevenoaks, Kent 6/15.

Footnote re FKM 878V and HKM 883/6V : these all passed to Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) in 3/99, so their onward dates of arrival in Netherlands may have been somewhat earlier than shown. Classic Bus West Nederland is confirmed to be based in Amsterdam – Wijfhuizen (wife houses), which has previously been reported, does not exist, and the nearest phonetic alternative, Vijfhuizen (five houses), is near Haarlem rather than Amsterdam. Thank you to Jerry Spillet for this gloss. No Dutch re-registrations or physical sightings have ever emerged for HKM 883/6V (see entry for FKM 878V re possible false paper trail for HKM 886V); if one or both did not reach Netherlands, does anyone know what did happen to them?

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 7/12 – FKM 867V (5867); 10/15 – M501 PKJ (3104).

ARRIVA MEDWAY TOWNS

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : G641 BPH (7641) – P. Pask, Chelmsford, Essex (preservation) by 10/15 ex Amber, Rayleigh, Essex.

G643 BPH (7643) –P. Pask, Chelmsford, Essex (preservation) for spares ex TGMGroup, Heathrow Airport, Middlesex (0390) 3/14; unidentified dealer, Barnsley, South Yorkshire for scrap by 10/15.

P184 LKL (3184) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer); scrapped by 10/15.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 10/15 – J463 MKL (YDT463), M921 PKN (5921).

MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : 597 UKM (5597), 78 YKT (6078) – J. Brown, Wateringbury, Kent (preservation); stored at the back of the Badsell Road yard of Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer) 10/15. It is unclear whether they still rank as being in preservation.

OFN 721F (P145) – Parked at a residential address, Lizard, Cornwall, and clarified as purchased direct from East Kent Heritage Trust, Woodnesborough, Kent (preservation). Previous reports at Wadebridge, Cornwall and with an unidentified church group in Devon do not entirely chime with this, unless the present owner has been particularly nomadic since acquiring it. A photograph shows it still in traditional East Kent livery with lettering in the fleetname pan for “Big B’s”, but no “Surf Bus” qualifier as reported previously, although other lettering on the nearside panels seems to confirm such use and there is a Facebook site for “Big B’s Surf Bus” with pictures of the bus, albeit not updated since 4/15. However, Wadebridge is some way from the sea.

PKE 809M (5809) – West Kent Buses, West Kingsdown, Kent (preservation) 7/14 ex C. Hamilton, Pembury, Kent (preservation).

VKN 837X (2837) – Unidentified, Selkirk, Borders (shed) by 7/08 ex Wardlaw-Jackson, Ettrick, Borders (additional information).

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 9/15 – KL 7796 (73), NKT 896 (5400), PKE 810M (5810), VKN 837X (2837); 10/15 – HKT 580D (2580), LKP 385P (5385), KPJ 262W (5736), F188 HKK (2188).

NEW ENTERPRISE

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : R157 GNW *now WJG 584* (2897) – Bestway, Bolton, Greater Manchester 8/15 ex Lock, Longfield, Kent.

YJ07 JWN (2920) – Barnard, Kirton-in-Lindsey, Lincolnshire; gone 7/15.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 10/15 – F901 GUM (2901), K906 SKR (5906).



EAST KENT

VEHICLES IN : 19648-56/9/62/8 are all confirmed to be plated as Alexander Dennis E40D rather than Trident. Although this is a good year ahead of the official change of model type, we shall adopt it in our records.

ALLOCATIONS : The following have taken place this month :

16270	(S270 CCD)	TH-THw	14.9.15
16388	(N388 LPN)	HS-HSw	30.8.15
20008	(R908 XFC)	TH-THw	15.9.15
20011	(R811 XFC)	TH-RES	30.9.15
20312	(M312 YSC)	TH-THw	11.9.15
20638	(M638 BCD)	TH-RES	13.10.15
20642	(N642 LPN)	TH-THw	19.9.15
20675	(R675 HCD)	DO-RES	8.9.15
20832	(P832 FVU)	DO-RES	7.9.15
20955	(R955 XVM)	DO-RES	9.9.15
20956	(R956 XVM)	TH-RES	26.9.15
22005	(X605 VDY)	DO-RES	7.9.15
22009	(GX51 PUJ)	RES-RESw	19.9.15
22054	(KX53 VNK)	EB-RES	8.9.15
22054	(KX53 VNK)	RES-TH	22.9.15
22057	(KV53 FAA)	EB-RES	13.9.15
22057	(KV53 FAA)	RES-TH	30.9.15
22194	(NDZ 3023)	A-RES	7.10.15
22942	(OU51 WLK)	EB-RES	19.9.15
22942	(OU51 WLK)	RES-A	8.10.15

20642 was last used on 22nd July. 22942 was last available for service at Eastbourne on 13th August. 20654, at Dover, is now the last B10M in use.

Loans. 16023 (A) was at TH on 23rd September, returning the following day. 16389 (TH) was at DO from 13th to 19th October.

Reserve fleet. 22194 moved in store from Ashford to Eastbourne on 8th October. 20649 was still in store at Hastings on 5th October. 20011, 20638, 20647, 20675, 20676, 20832, 20955, 20956, 22005, 22107, 22187, 22192, 37327, 40933 and 53708 all remain out of use at their existing locations.

Storage. 16270 moved from Thanet to Dover on 28th September. 16371 and 16388 were still in store at Hastings on 5th October. 16022, 16270, 16356, 16387, 20008, 20312, 20642, 20644, 22006, 22007 and 22009 all remain stored at their existing locations.

LIVERY : Further repaints are 15482, 15554, 18164, 22279, 34498 and 47175 in October. 15554 is a further case of two repaints in very close succession. 22054 follows.

Route branding. 15482 lost its Wave branding and 47175 its Stars branding at repaint. 47175 was the last such.

GENERAL : The authorised operating centre at The Garth, Canterbury has been replaced by one at the Bus Station for 17 vehicles.

20642 lost its LED destination equipment by 19th October.

New vinyls about how to contact the Company were affixed to most if not all vehicles over the weekend of 27th September. Several branded vehicles have, at least temporarily, had fare vinyls removed pending updating following the changes of the previous weekend.

SERVICE VEHICLES : New at HS is 93057 (YG65 FSX), a Ford Fiesta Style Econetic 1.4 TDCi five-door hatchback with VIN WF0DXXGAKDFL50583, first licensed on 10th September. This has replaced 93019 (YB10 VZF), returned to its leasing company.

New at TH by 8th October is 93058 (YD65 YWS), a Ford Transit Connect 240 TDCi panel van with VIN WF05XXXWP5FS02507, first licensed on 7th October. This has replaced 95227 (YC60 EXR), returned to its leasing company.

By 5th October 90778 (YE15 ZNJ) had received red and yellow stripes on the rear.

We have no updated report on previous sale 20609.

Hired vehicles during the past month have included WO15 KXB, a Vauxhall Insignia car at HB from 19th to 23rd September, HN13 VGF, a Renault Trafic van at HBt on 22nd September, and WV64 NUE, a Fiat 500L car at HB on 6th October.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : CSU 978 *now* K55 OTS (8408) – Office & Transport Services, Constantine, Cornwall; re-registered M408 BFG, 8/15; Dealtop, Plymouth, Devon 8/15.

PFN 868 – Although claimed 8/15 by East Kent Bus & Coach Preservation Trust, Folkestone, Kent (preservation), we are informed that the disposal of this vehicle from PFN 868 Preservation Group, Berkhamsted, Hertfordshire (preservation) remains under negotiation and is not yet complete.

SYC 852 *now* M407 BFG (8407) – Spike, Flint Cross, Cambridgeshire 6/15 ex Stagecarriage, Grangetown, Cleveland (4).

AFN 775B (7775) - East Kent Bus & Coach Preservation Trust, Folkestone, Kent (preservation) 9/15 ex J. Palk, Tonbridge, Kent (preservation).

GJG 737D (7737) – At Winsford premises of Used Coach Sales, Warrington, Cheshire (dealer) 9/15 (correction to page 15/269).

JJG 906P *now* EIG 1433 (1906) – Horsburgh, Pumpherston, West Lothian; gone 7/10.

XJJ 664V (7664) – Reported with E. Mozell, Bad Axe, Michigan, United States of America 11/09. Is this the same as USA Bus Co., Charlotte, or a subsequent owner?

XJJ 669V (7669) – J. Hallet, Couvin, Belgium by 8/14 ex Ireland, Hull, East Riding of Yorkshire (dealer).

A197 PPU (8197) – Kinsley, Handsworth, South Yorkshire (Diamond Travel) (not in use) by 7/15 ex Corbett, Sheffield Lane Top, South Yorkshire.

B483 UNB (52002) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer); gone by 10/15, perhaps never having reached them physically.

F764 EKM *now* SUI 7853 (7764), F765 EKM *now* TIL 4754 (7765) – Xelabus, Colden Common, Hampshire (as dealer) 7/15 ex Brjan Tours, West End, Hampshire (53/4).

F781 KKP (15311) – Cooper, Annitsford, Tyne & Wear; withdrawn by 8/15.

G707 TCD (14977) – UK Coachways, Horwich, Greater Manchester 10/13 ex UK Private Vehicle Hire, Horwich, Greater Manchester (change of entity); Used Coach Sales, Warrington, Cheshire (dealer) by 5/15.

J813 NKK (14813) – Durham, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (Howletts Coaches); gone 6/15.

K716 ASC (14716) – Unidentified at public house, Shropshire (npsv) 6/14 ex Hosking, Crowlas, Cornwall (Rosevidney Travel).

K791 DAO (20661) – Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer); sold “fairly recently” by 10/15.

K853 LMK (15353) – Reilly, Bootle, Merseyside; converted to PO41/27F 7/09 at Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) in course of acquisition, then as published previously.

K821 TKP (14821) – Durham, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (Howletts Coaches); gone for scrap 4/14.

N196 LPN (896) – Pointmost, Plymouth, Devon (Girtings) 4/15 ex Lister PVS, Bolton, Greater Manchester (dealer).

N963 NAP (40963) – Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); featured in the ITV series “Doc Martin” in a field with a children’s camp, transmitted on 19/10/15. Although the date of the recording is not known, we do have a 10/15 sighting (at Winkleigh) as listed below.

L828 BKK (14828) – Johnson, Worksop, Nottinghamshire; loaned to Hulley, Baslow, Derbyshire 9/15.

N974 NAP (40974) – TRC Coaches, Treorchy, Rhondda Cynon Taff 3/15 ex Cole, Treorchy, Rhondda Cynon Taff; withdrawn by 7/15.

N452 PAP *now* JHZ 6109 (452) – Xelabus, Colden Common (as dealer) 8/15 ex Brijan Tours, West End, Hampshire (109).

P286 VPN (16286), R299 HCD (16299) – C&G Coach Services, Chatteris, Cambridgeshire by 9/15 ex Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (dealer).

S273 CCD (16273) – Rodger, Weldon, Nottinghamshire 7/15 ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer).

S901 CCD *now* PSU 764 (52621) – Lincolnshire, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (52621); re-registered S901 CCD, 5/15, but process not completed and new plates not applied until after arrival at Bluebird Buses, Aberdeen (52621).

V909 DDY *now* DAZ 5455 (52659) – Lincolnshire, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (52659); re-registered V909 DDY, 5/15, but process not completed and new plates not applied until after arrival at Highland Country, Inverness, Highlands (52659); allocated to Fort William 8/15.

GX02 WXS-V (35901-4) – Go-Coachhire, Swanley, Kent (6103-6); change of address to Sevenoaks, Kent 6/15.

PN03 ULS – Stagecoach North West, Carlisle, Cumbria (for spares); gone for scrap 6/15.

YJ05 XNC (47163) – Western Buses, Ayr, South Ayrshire (47163); allocated to Blochairn, 8/15.

YJ59 GGF/K (47560/1) – Go-Coachhire, Sevenoaks, Kent 8/15 ex Kent County Council, Aylesford, Kent.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 8/15 – J812 NKK (14812), J231 XKY (15331); 9/15 – JG 9938 (P152), EFN 568, KFN 220, F781 KKP (15311), H801 BKK (14801), J132/43-5 HMT (15332/43-5), K846-8/51/60/2/71 LMK (15346-8/51/60/2/71), L826-30 BKK (14826-30); 10/15 – CJG 959, 523 FN *now* KVG 430A (8523), YJG 587K (R8), BJG 674V (7674), XJJ 653/9/61V (7653/9/61), CJJ 677W (7677), N951/63/6/7/75 NAP (40951/63/6/7/75). Note that this list includes sixteen former East Kent vehicles with Johnson, Worksop, Nottinghamshire, fifteen of them active (including one out on loan), which must be something of a record, at least in recent times.

ROUTE CHANGES : Further notes on changes from **20th September 2015** :

6 2300 duplicate from Keynes College, withdrawn, Mon-Sat during University term; 0833 from Herne Bay re-timed to 0829, Saturdays.

292 Withdrawn from Sandhurst, operating direct between Newenden and Rolvenden Layne (morning departure from Lydd *Camp* now at 0715), schooldays. This is because of overloading – see Ham, Flimwell notes.

Uni1 The 0835 and 0932 journeys from Bus Station on Saturdays do *not* operate.

From **4th October 2015** the afternoon journey on 71 (Hastings) was revised on approaching Ore to turn right into Old London Road as far as Market Cross, then up Harold Road (reverse of previous) to terminate at Ore *Post Office*, no longer going on to Silverhill, and the MTThF timing was altered to 1522 because of altered out-muster time, schooldays.

The following were introduced from **11th October 2015** :

68 Withdrawn from Malvern Road and Clarendon Place, now double-running via Belgrave Road to turn in Westbury Crescent by the garages, Mon-Sat.

80 Morning journey extended at Dover to Northbourne Avenue via Folkestone Road, Elms Vale Road, Eaton Road and Goschen Road because of overloading on 80A, schooldays.

The following were introduced from **19th October 2015** :

2 0746 from Kingsnorth Road *The Limes* revised to start at Beaver Lane *Arcon Close* (0746) because of heavy loadings, schooldays. Passengers in Kingsnorth Road are being encouraged to use 2A instead.

On the night of 24th/25th October, when the clocks go back, we presume that an extra journey will operate on the Uni2 night service, as it did on Nitebus last year.

It seems unlikely that the new Bexhill relief road will be open in time for the Hastings changes of **1st November 2015** (pages 15/270-271). Relevant journeys on 21 will take extended layover at Hollington *Tesco* until it is open, Mon-Sat.

Temporary diversions. Further to page 15/116, the works in Bank Street, Ashford were completed early and the road reopened on **19th October 2015**.

Further to page 15/273, the work on repairs to a bridge at Peter's Green were also completed early and service 349 resumed its normal route on **5th October 2015**.

Further to page 15/273, the second entry for the closure of Sturry Hill, Sturry showing service 4 journeys diverting via Popes Lane should be ignored. This was the original diversion route which was subsequently changed to a diversion through Broad Oak.

Heavy rain on **22nd September 2015** caused flooding with service 99 being diverted via Buckhurst Road and Terminus Road in Bexhill because of the closure of Westcourt Drive. In Deal, Western Road was closed with service 15A diverted via West Street, and Lord Warden Avenue was impassable with service 82 operating via Liverpool Road.

At lunchtime on **23rd September 2015** a lady collapsed in front of the gates to Folkestone Bus Station and buses had to be sent round the evening and Sunday route to enter the bus station from Middelburg Square with 'Wave' buses to Dover turning into Bay B and then reversing, with the aid of a banksman, to access Bay C.

On the evenings of **23rd and 24th September 2015** Dymchurch Road, Dymchurch was closed from 1900 for essential carriageway repairs. Buses were diverted between Dymchurch and New Romney via Mill Road and St. Mary's Road (Dymchurch and New Romney).

On **24th September 2015** West Street, Faversham was closed for emergency repairs to a gas leak. The road was closed again on **29th September to 8th October 2015** to complete the repairs. On both occasions buses were diverted via Stonebridge Way, Lower Road and South Road.

On **24th and 25th September 2015** Callis Court Road, Broadstairs was closed between Lanthorne Road and Grange Road for carriageway repairs. Service 56 was diverted from Stanley Road to Lanthorne Road via Callis Court Road, Lindenthorpe Road and Kings Avenue.

On **28th September 2015** Westcourt Drive, Bexhill was closed to enable Network Rail to carry out work to strengthen the railway bridge. It is expected to be closed for up to 15 weeks. Service 99 is being diverted between Devonshire Road and Westcourt Drive via Marina, Sea Road, Station Road, Town Hall Square (return via Buckhurst Road and Upper Sea Road), Terminus Road and Terminus Avenue.

On **29th September 2015** Albion Street, Broadstairs was closed for up to four days for emergency gas repair work to be carried out. Service 56 was diverted from Broadstairs Rail Station to Stanley Road and back to the rail station via Carlton Avenue, Stanley Road, Callis Court Road, Lanthorne Road, Stone Road, Knights Avenue, Kings Avenue, Lindenthorpe Road and Carlton Avenue.

On **1st October 2015** Bicycle Arms Road, Rotherfield was closed from 0900 to 1800 for roadworks. Service 252 could not serve Rotherfield during this period and operated via the service 251 route. A shuttle bus, operated by Chatfield, Worthing (Compass), met the 1516.1605.1705 journeys from Heathfield and the 1610.1620.1702.1733 journeys from Tunbridge Wells at Mark Cross with journeys from Tunbridge Wells looping round to connect with the shuttle at the shelter by Mark Cross Inn to avoid passengers having to cross the busy A267.

On **2nd October 2015** Hailsham Road, Heathfield was closed for 13 nights from 1900 each evening. From **2nd to 9th October 2015**, except at the weekend, the section northwards from Station Road was affected and buses operated via Station Road in both directions. From **12th to 16th October 2015** the section south from Station Road was closed with buses operating between Horam and Heathfield via A267 and A265.

On **3rd October 2015** the Eastbourne bonfire night and procession closed the seafront from 1600. Service 99 was diverted between Sovereign Roundabout and Memorial Roundabout via Lottbridge Drove, Seaside, Cavendish Place and Pevensy Road returning via Trinity Trees, Seaside and Lottbridge Drove.

On **3rd October 2015** the Rotherfield bonfire procession closed off the village from 1700. Service 252 operated the 251 route and did not serve the village.

From **5th October 2015** Downs Road and Minster Road, Ramsgate have been closed in connection with the upgrade of the sewer system. The work is not expected to be completed before **20th November 2015**. Buses which would normally operate via Chilton Tavern are operating via London Road.

On **6th October 2015** Park Farm Road, Folkestone was closed at about 1800 because of an accident. Service 73 was diverted between the fire station and Sainsbury via Black Bull Road, Canterbury Road and Churchill Avenue.

On **7th October 2015** Durlack Road, Ash was closed from 2000 to enable telecom cable repairs to be carried out. Service 14/14A was unable to serve Staple and instead operated via Shatterling.

On **8th October 2015** a series of accidents disrupted services in East Kent during the day. A fatal accident in the early hours between Blean and Whitstable closed the road until just after the morning peak and buses were diverted via Rough Common, A2, Brenley Corner and Thanet Way. Then, during the late morning, the A257 was closed at Littlebourne and buses were diverted via A2, Barham Cross Roads and Adisham Road between Canterbury and Wingham. This was followed by the closure of Northdown Road,

Cliftonville at around 1300. Buses were diverted via Sweyn Road, Ethelbert Terrace and Zion Place. Finally an accident at Barham Crematorium closed the A260 during the afternoon with service 16 diverting via A2, Dover and A20 between Barham Cross Roads and Hawkinge.

On **12th October 2015** Herne Drive, Greenhill, Herne Bay was closed for four days for carriageway repairs. Buses operated from Greenhill Road via Coulter Road and Greenhill Road to Greenhill Roundabout with those due to start from Coulter Road commencing from the first stop in Greenhill Road two minutes earlier.

On **12th October 2015** until mid-morning the following day Chestfield Road, Chestfield was closed to repair a burst water main. Buses were diverted between Radfall Corner and Tesco via South Street and Millstrood Road.

An accident at the junction of Spinney Lane and Adisham Road, Aylesham at about 1700 on **12th October 2015** closed Adisham Road. Service 89 was diverted via the 89B route via Adisham and Bekesbourne.

A fallen tree closed the A261 between Hythe and Newingreen until late morning on **13th October 2015**. Buses were diverted via the 10A route via Saltwood.

From **13th to 16th October 2015** Ninfield Road Bridge, Sidley was closed for re-surfacing from 1900 each evening. Buses were diverted via Buxton Drive and Woodsgate Park.

On **14th October 2015** an accident at the junction of Dane Road and Approach Road, Margate closed Dane Road during the late morning. Service 32/32A was diverted via Park Crescent Road and Addiscombe Road.

On **15th October 2015** Western Road, Deal was closed for up to seven days to repair a gas leak. Buses were diverted via West Street.

On **16th October 2015** a fuel spillage closed the A290 between Blean and Whitstable for most of the afternoon. Buses were diverted between Rough Common Turning and Long Reach via Rough Common, A2, Brenley Corner and Thanet Way.

On **17th October 2015** Faversham carnival closed roads throughout the town. The 1750 and 1900 service 3 journeys from Canterbury operated from Love Lane via London Road, Ospringe and Western Link to terminate at Bysing Wood. The 1833 journey from Kiln Court and 1936 journey from Bysing Wood both commenced from Bysing Wood and operated to Love Lane via Western Link, Ospringe and London Road.

On **17th October 2015** Hastings Bonfire Procession took place, closing roads in the Town Centre and Old Town from 1800. Services from Warrior Square to Hastings Station operated via St. Margaret's Road, White Rock Road, Cambridge Road and Cambridge Gardens. In the opposite direction they operated via Cambridge Road, Falaise Road and St. Margaret's Road. Services 20/20A, 100 and 101 to Ore operated from Hastings Station via Devonshire Road, South Terrace, Queen's Road, Elphinstone Road, Mount Pleasant Road and Old London Road, returning from Ore to Hastings Station via Old London Road, Mount Pleasant Road, Elphinstone Road, Park Gates Roundabout, Bethune Way, Priory Avenue, Linton Road, Cornwallis Gardens and Cambridge Gardens. Services 21/21A, 22/22A and 26A operated from Hastings Station to Queen's Road via Devonshire Road and South Terrace. Services 2, 21/21A, 22/22A/22C and 26 to the Rail Station operated as normal to Park Gates Roundabout and then via the 20/20A diversion route above. Service 28 from West Hill operated from Castle Hill Road via Queen's Road, South Terrace, Priory Avenue and then the 20/20A diversion route to the station.

On **17th October 2015** Hailsham Bonfire Torchlight Procession closed the High Street from 1900. Buses operated via North Street.

From **19th October 2015** Sandwich Road, Cliffs End has been closed to enable a new gas pipeline to be laid. It is expected to re-open on **7th December 2015**. Buses are being diverted between Cliffs End *Meverall Avenue* (the actual closure point is reported as Cliffsend *Sportsman*) and Ebbsfleet via Meverall Avenue, Cliffs End Road, Foads Lane, Clive Road, Cliff View Road, Canterbury Road West, Hengist Way and Richborough Way.

On **20th October 2015** the A28 between St. Nicholas Roundabout and Brooks End will be closed towards Margate for re-surfacing for three nights from 2100 each night. Buses will be diverted via A299 and Seamark Road.

On **21st October 2015** Pebsham Lane, Bexhill will be closed between Wrestwood Road and Bishop's Walk for three days for re-surfacing. Service 98 will be diverted via Haslam Crescent, Seabourne Road and Bishop's Walk to Pebsham Lane.

On **26th October 2015** High Street, St. Margaret's at Cliffe will be closed for carriageway repairs. Service 15 will operate direct between Dover Road and Station Road and will not serve the village.

On **26th to 28th October 2015** Mongeham Road, Deal will be closed between St. Richard's Road and Northbourne Road to enable a new electrical supply to be installed. Buses will operate between Bettshanger and St. Richard's Road via Burgess Green, A258, Sholden and Mongeham Road.

On **26th to 30th October 2015** The Street, Woodnesborough will be closed near the village hall to enable a new electrical supply to be installed. Buses will be diverted between Woodnesborough and Sandwich via Foxborough Hill, Poison Cross (Eastry), Statenborough Lane and Sandwich Road.

ROUTE WORKING : C/HB – From **20th September 2015** the MFTO-UTO requirement is 1 DD, 2 DLF, 8 SLF from C, 3 DD, 31 DLF, 10 SLF, 6 Uni from HB, with 1 DD, 1 DLF and 4 SLF changing ends. DD work 14, 23A, 27, 89B, 645, 901, 918, Code 182, Code 183, except as stated elsewhere, 3B-0715 4-1515 5-0918.1050.1148.1720.1815 7-1400 36-0810.1030.1247.1735 908-1540NF 912-1425F 954-0830 Uni1-0820.0929 Uni2-0915.0941.1515.1653 and minority routes 89-0921 951-0833. DLF work 3, 3A, 3B, 3X, 4, 4A, 4X, 5, 6, 6A, 6X, 904, 906, 908, 911, 912, 914, 915, 916, 920, 954, except as stated elsewhere, 14-0845. 1017 21-0916.0946.1046.1116.1246 21A-0901.1001.1031.1201.1331 23A-0840 25-0647. 0815.0845.0858.0905.0918.0925.0938.0945 x20min to 1145.1710.1720.1740.1800.1930.1939.1947.2009 25A-1820 27-1740 36-0930.1147.1530.1705.1757 905-1510 Uni1-0827. 0835.1605F.1705^{KC} Uni2-0835.1415.1441.1623 and minority routes 13-0718 13A-0635 89-0827.1021.1043.1121.1143.1221.1243.1321.1343.1421NF.1443NF 951-1550F 953-0818 955-1425F. SLF work 7, 14A, 21, 21A, 22, 22A, 23, 25, 25A, 36, 653, 956, Uni2, except as stated elsewhere, 3-0555.0636.0848.0857.0908.0958.1435.1900.1936.2100.2136.2310 3A-0755.0812 3B-0900.0938.2235 3X-0645.0710.0715.0725.0738. 0848.0918.0927.1025.1055.1058.1128.1518.1527.1607.1618.1627.1638.1647.1658.1707.1718.1727.1738.1747.1758.1807.1818 4-0525 4A-0455.0613.0645 5-0640.1350.1445.1810.1902.1915.2007 6-0758.1540.1845 23A-1450F.1715 and minority routes 1A-1645.1750.1829 13-0748 13A-2330 89-0626.0643.0728 95-0810 666-1548 955-0828. Uni work 905, 919, Uni1, except as stated elsewhere, 4-0733.1855 4A-0709 904-0717 906-0723 Uni2-1835 to close.

The Saturday-UTO requirement is 2 DLF, 8 SLF from C, 2 DD, 31 DLF, 12 SLF, 6 Uni from HB, with 2 DLF and 5 SLF changing ends. DD work 89B except as stated elsewhere, 5-0835.0948.1350.1445.1610.1712 14-0945.1117 27-1058.1114 and minority route 89-1520.1537. DLF work 3, 3A, 3B, 3X, 4, 4A, 4X, 5, 6, 6A, 6X, 14, 26A, 27, except as stated elsewhere, 7-0856.1020.1118.1510.1740 21-0846 25-0647.0745.0808.0830.1810.1930.1939.1947.2009 89B-0943 and minority routes 1-1510.1529 89-0825.0843.0921. SLF

work 7, 14A, 21, 21A, 22, 22A, 23, 23A, 25, 25A, 36, Uni2, except as stated elsewhere, 3-0840.1058.1135.1358.1435.1525.1900.1936.2100.2136.2310 3A-0755 3B-0938.1005.1238.1305.2235 3X-0725.0848.0918.0927.0930.1025.1058.1155.1218.1227.1228.1325.1358.1500.1518.1527.1538.1547.1558.1607.1618.1627.1638.1647.1658.1707.1718.1727.1738.1747.1758.1807.1818 4A-0709 5-0715.1810.1902 6-0618.1845 27-0909.1740 and minority routes 1A-1750.1829 13A-2330 89-1021.1043.1121.1143.1221.1243.1321.1343.1421.1443. Uni work Uni1, 3-0635.0721 3X-0710.0738 4-0732.1855 6-0752 Uni2-1835 to close.

The Sunday UTO requirement is the same as in UV, plus two Uni from HB for Uni1 and 6-1042 6A-1850.

All of this is subject to the usual caveats as regards local interpretation of official type prescriptions.

FK – From **20th September 2015** three extra DLF are required on schooldays and two extra DLF on Saturdays. Details of their workings are shown on page 15/274 and below.

TH – From **20th September 2015** two extra DD and two extra DLF are required on schooldays and three extra DLF on Saturdays. Details of their workings are shown on page 15/274 and below.

Inter-depot changes – Further MFTO changes in the Canterbury fall-out from **20th September 2015** are 916-1425F worked by FK/DLF, 27-1403F.1419F worked by TH/DD instead of FK/DLF, 956-1410F remains at C/HB. In the FK listing on page 15/274, 27-1158.1214 should read 27-1058.1114, and in the TH listing 36-0925 should read 36-0924.

Saturday changes are 1A-0948 to 1417.1645 3-0740.1035.1335.1505.1548.1640.1728 3B-0825.1138.1438 3X-0825.0858.0925.0958.1118.1127.1225.1258.1418.1427 worked by FK/DLF, 5-1050.1148.1520.1615 9-1405 11-1250 14-0710.0845.0900.0917.1017.1145.1317.1345.1517.1610.1740 23A-1010 27-1258.1314 worked by TH/DLF.

In addition to the expected new cross-crewing between C/HB and FK and additional or revised such work between C/HB and TH on Mon-Sat, FK also crew DO Park & Ride for a short while on Fridays.

We shall hold back on confirming any changes of principal/minority routes until we have seen what further effect MFSH and University vacation changes have.

As an interesting side-point, the 14 is now worked by four depots – Canterbury/Herne Bay, Dover, Folkestone and Thanet.

PUBLICITY : Dated 1st September are revised timetable leaflets for 2/2A and 10 group. The expected leaflet for 26A is simply dated September 2015.

FARES : From 5th October scholars' tickets are accepted on 4X and 6X before 0900.

AROUND THE AREAS : **Ashford area**. On 17th October both Old Romney cars on 2A were DLF (17402 and 17689) rather than DD. It has become common for one Ashford DLF to find its way to Old Romney, but this is the first known time that two have done so.

Canterbury/Herne Bay area. There were four rather than three DD/DLF parked at Canterbury Bus Station on Sundays 20th and 27th September. It seems that one of these was covering for an SLF.

From 20th September the crew ferry workings between Bus Station and Dover Road Park & Ride site were withdrawn on Mon-Fri late evenings and completely on Saturdays.

On 12th October 16509 was borrowed from Thanet work on Canterbury routes for a Canterbury diagram on 3 group and 25 from mid-morning until mid-afternoon, albeit crewed by Thanet.

A "for sale" notice has been erected at Herne Bay garage, describing it as a "mixed use development opportunity".

Folkestone area. 20011 (on layover from Thanet) was borrowed at Canterbury for 3. 3B (DLF) in the morning of 23rd September after 15440 sustained a broken window. A DD is not uncommon on one of the "Canterbury" DLF cars. On 1st October 15702 was on 16 for a while until replaced by a Gold vehicle around lunchtime.

Hastings area. Readers of *Buses Yearbook 2016* may have been startled by the statement on page 82 that service 99 runs via Battle and the Conquest Hospital. This appears to be yet another case of an author from outside our area professing misplaced expertise in writing about it (he even claims to have ridden the route).

Optare Solos were used on 349 during the recent diversion (see page 15/273) because of the tight turning space at Sandhurst.

Thanet area. On 2nd October 18160 was borrowed at Canterbury for afternoon 917 (DLF) after 18170 failed. They reverted the same evening. On 6th October 15554 was borrowed at Herne Bay at lunchtime for 36 (DLF) after 17627 failed there, running to Westwood Cross and back to Herne Bay where 17627 resumed. On 8th October 16507 was on 38 (SLF) in the afternoon. On 12th October 18160 was borrowed from Canterbury after 18171 failed on the 14 near Sandwich.

HASTINGS & DISTRICT (1983-1992)

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : HKE 678L (678) – Coney Green Farm, Stourport-upon-Severn, Hereford & Worcester (npsv) by 5/12 ex Talbot Inn, Knightwick, Hereford & Worcester (npsv).

HKE 680L (680) – D. Law, Brentwood, Essex (preservation); last noted 9/11.

KKE 736N (536) – S. Becquart & E. Caldier, Villebon-sur-Yvette, France (status unknown) at unknown date ex Chabaud, Sommière-du-Clarín, Vienne, France; noted in recovery yard at Cosne-sur-Loire, France by 9/11.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 10/14 – KKE 736N (536).

BORO'LINE MAIDSTONE

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : E155 OMD (755) – Williamson, Grays, Essex (Travelux UK) 5/08 ex Hankin, Mill Lane, Hampshire, then as given previously.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : No reports.

MAIDSTONE CORPORATION TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : No reports.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 10/15 – BDY 809 (86).

OTHER OPERATORS

Vehicle notes prepared by Jonathan Fletcher

(Those with operating centres within the Club area)

A Query : A plain white Ford "Transit" 16-seater displaying no names and registered NX61 UPB has been seen on school runs in Dover, running on a green (standard international) operator disc. Could local members find out who is operating it, please?

Ashford Minibuses, Ashford (AMb.travel) : GO02 AMB has EVM C16F bodywork and is in the silver version of fleet livery.

Bayliss, Deal : New vehicle :

BF65 WHW Vo B11R (170361) Ssd SC7 (?) C53FT 9/15
white with grey and black.

The seating capacity of YX15 OVF and YX15 OVG seems to be CH71/4FT – the door ahead of the rear wheels appears to be an emergency exit only, and although one of the four lower lounge seats can be removed to carry a passenger in a wheelchair, the floor at this point is on the same level as the entrance door and no lift appears to be fitted.

Vehicle re-registered and out : W12 BAY back to BX60 LBP and sold 9/15.

Brookline, Ryarsh : New vehicle :

RB65 DCB VDL FHD2-122.370 (D004415) VDL Fta 2 ? 9/15
cream and light green with two-tone green waves.

LW51 ZFS returned from repaint into green with cream lower panels and entered service on the afternoon journey on 4 on Friday 2nd October, before fleetnames were added over the weekend.

Volvo "Olympian" CEZ 939 was hired from Carosa, Hoo for an unreported period to cover the 4 until LW51 ZFS was ready for service, its final use being the morning journey on 2nd October.

Carosa, Hoo (Farleigh Coaches) : See Brookline, Ryarsh notes.

Carr, Pluckley : Vehicle out : K578 RGT to Roffey, Watringbury by 9/15.

Clarke's, Biddenden : Vehicles in :

W26 WWW MAN TGL 12.250 (WMAN14ZZ3FY322771) MOBpeople Midi Explorer (?) C41F 4/15
W90 WWW MAN TGL 12.250 (WMAN14ZZXFY322783) MOBpeople Midi Explorer (?) C41F 4/15

both black; ex Centurion, St. Clement, Jersey 8/15; ex Jersey registrations J124143 and J124144 respectively 8/15.

Vehicles out : the previous W26 WWW and W90 WWW (Iris.bus 65C18 / Indcar "Wing") re-registered and believed sold 8/15 or 9/15. W90 WWW has reverted to YN08 FEF but the new mark for W26 WWW is not known.

Concorde International, Canterbury : GK06 BPY is white.

Dosanjh, Strood (A.S.D. Coaches) : Vehicle in :

F6 ASD Oe M850 (961) Oe Solo B28F 10/02
white with two-tone blue fleetname; ex Bournemouth Transport, Bournemouth, Dorset (OS751) 9/15 as CE52 UWR and re-registered to F6 ASD by 10/15.

Goatham, Hoo (C. Goatham and Son) : This application has been re-stated for C. Goatham and partners, Flanders Farm, Ratcliffe Highway, Hoo, Rochester, ME3 8QE with revised trading name and details otherwise unchanged. The listed partners are Clive Goatham, Pauline Goatham, Ross Goatham and Stephen Everard.

Ham, Flimwell : MX03 ABN was re-registered to LJ03 HAM in September.

Schoolday service 292B was registered from 21st September between Sandhurst *The Swan* and Newenden/Rolvenden. However, it is actually running between Sandhurst and Tenterden *Homewood School*.

Heather, Smeeth (R & J Coaches) : Vehicle in :

BX60 CKD BMC 750 (NMC750RKDRD100022) BMC Nifty C28F 12/10
white with blue and maroon stripe and squiggles; ex Golyntia & Warnack, Long Melford, Suffolk 7/15.

Kent Coach Tours, Ashford : During the morning of 12th October, Kingsford Street, Mersham was closed to enable a CCTV drainage survey to be carried out. Service 125 was diverted via The Street and Hythe Road.

Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (Travelmasters) : Vehicles in :

YX08 AOW MB 0816D (6703742N127718) Fer Toro (33 (998)) C23F 4/08
yellow and two-tone blue; ex Johnsons, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire 6/15.

LF02 PTX Vo B7TL (002245) Wt Eclipse Gemini (F276) H??/??F 7/02
LF02 PTY Vo B7TL (002246) Wt Eclipse Gemini (F277) H??/??F 8/02
LF02 PVE Vo B7TL (002259) Wt Eclipse Gemini (F278) H??/??F 8/02
LF02 PVJ Vo B7TL (002260) Wt Eclipse Gemini (F279) H??/??F 8/02

ex Arriva London North, Wood Green, Greater London (VLW59, VLW60, VLW61, VLW62) 7/15. LF02 PTY and LF02 PVJ entered service in July, LF02 PVE in October, and these three are in yellow and two-tone blue fleet livery; LF02 PTX is not yet in service. Their seating capacities following conversion from dual door have been variously reported as H41/29F or H43/27F and we would welcome confirmation, please.

Kings Ferry, Gillingham : New vehicles :

E01 YT65 BYF Ir i6 (VS916AD00F1016407) Ir C61DLT 9/15
E02 YT65 BYH Ir i6 (VS916AD00F1016409) Ir C61DLT 9/15

These are tri-axle 14-metre examples and are in Eurolines livery (white with red and dark blue) to operate Eurolines 140 (London to Amsterdam daytime service) from 1st October. However, they both slipped out onto evening commuter services on 17th September, E01 on 725b (1715 from Canary Wharf) and E02 on an unidentified later journey.

Expected soon for Eurolines 142 (London to Amsterdam night service) are E03 and E04 which will be 77-seat VDL double deckers. Pending their delivery 621 (FJ61 EXF) and 622 (FJ61 EXG) are the usual performers on this service.

420 (BT15 KNA) has C50DLT seating (adjustable to 46 + 1 wheelchair). It is likely 424/5 (BT15 KNB/C) are the same but we would welcome confirmation, also of the seating capacity of Irizars 421-3 (YM15 DKJ-L). YJ15 ETR is fleet number 915.

Some coaches, including 413 (FJ12 GBV) and 623 (FJ61 EXH), have received advertisements covering the whole rear apart from the window pillars and number display, based around Kings Ferry's latest slogan "the comfort zone".

The route and timetable of 726 (Hempstead Valley to North Greenwich) were amended further from 5th October. On 726 and 774, drivers are only able to issue single and return tickets; all others must be purchased by mobile phone or through the web-site. Revisions on other routes generally included additional running time in the London area. Issue 3.3 of the timetable updates all services at this date.

See also National Express notes.

Lawson, Dover (Britannia Luxury Coaches) : New vehicle :
603 ET15 LHK MB 516CDI (9066572P131829) ? C??F 7/15
white with dark blue and red.

Lehane, Sturry : Vehicle out : LK54 TGU sold 11/14.

Nu-Venture group, Aylesford : The Highways England road closure at Bredhurst ended early during 30th September and 130 resumed its normal route and stops in the Bredhurst and Wigmore Road areas. On 7th October a further local Kent Highways road closure in the Yalding area led to a reduced off-peak service on buses 23 and 26. Between 0845 and 1530, 23 ran between Maidstone/Tovil and East/West Farleigh, and 26 did not serve Hunton, Yalding, Laddingford or Collier Street. This closure was originally planned for 5th October, but deferred. From 19th to 23rd October bus 283 is not able to serve Ravenswood Avenue at Tunbridge Wells during road works, and buses terminate at the junction of Albion Road and St. James's Road, leaving two minutes later.

A revised bus 123 timetable leaflet from 5th October has been published by Nu-Venture, also a new 21st September edition of the composite leaflet for 14/66, 58, 78, 79 and 88, replacing that of 1st September.

Rainham Coach Co., Gillingham : Authorisation has been revised to 10 vehicles at 1a Springfield Road and 18 vehicles at Pier Road.

Rambler, St. Leonards : Vehicle in :
EK51 XXC Ds Dt SLF (SFD6B2CR31GW16136) Pn Ptr 2 (0143/9) B29F 2/02
ex Regal Busways, Great Wakering, Essex 9/15; ex 02-D-18253 (Eire) 10/10. Currently it still carries South Lancs Travel colours (white, yellow and dark blue) and a fleet number 14 from its time with that operation; it remains to be seen if it retains number 14 in the Rambler fleet.

SN53 AUW has been repainted cream with green skirt and rear and has been given fleet number 20.

Vehicle out : 14 (JG04 RAM) sold by 6/15.

Renown, Bexhill : A more recent leaflet for service 297 is dated 27th August 2014. However, this seems to have gone out of circulation and the previous item is again being issued.

Roffey, Tonbridge (Starline) : A change of address and operating centre took place by 8/14 (although it has not been notified in official sources) to Unit 4b, Mereworth Business Centre, Danns Lane, **Wateringbury**, Maidstone ME18 5LW.

Vehicle in :

K578 RGT Vo B10M-60 (31291) VH Aze H (31729) C48FT 3/93
cream; ex Carr, Pluckley by 9/15.

Vehicles out : YN61 AWR sold 11/14; ROF 462 sold 3/15 (officially having been re-registered back to R739 VOD in 1/15 but it still carried ROF 462 plates when it left); R308 JAF gone 4/15.

S.J. Travel, Shatterling : Vehicles in :
SA58 FGE VW Crf (86011084) Verve ? L 9/08
white; ex Manchester Community Transport, Heaton Chapel, Greater Manchester by 10/15. It was a 15-seater with its previous operator but has been reduced to less than that now.

NJ59 NVZ Fd Tt (TTFD9A38755) Fd 16 9/09
white; ex University of Warwick, Coventry, West Midlands (npsv) by 10/15.

Can anyone confirm whether NJ06 JWF and/or NM07 TRZ have been replaced by these new arrivals, or are they still around?

Starlight, Shatterling : Starlight Travel Ltd., Little Shatterling Farm, Shatterling, Canterbury, CT3 1JR have applied for 1N vehicle under PK1140547 with operating centre at the licensed address. This seems to be associated with, and perhaps replacing, S.J. Travel, Shatterling.

OPERATORS OUTSIDE FORMAL COVERAGE

(Those with licensed address but no operating centre within the Club area, those operating into the Club area without either therein, operators of stretched limousines, and significant npsv developments)

Brighton & Hove, Hove : A further minor route and timetable change registered on 29 group from 21st September does not affect journeys within our area.

Clarke, Lower Sydenham (Clarks of London) : The timetable of 761-764 (Grain to London), and the routes and timetables of 769 (Vigo to Victoria) and 770 (New Ash Green to London), were revised from 1st September. The timetables of all three are again revised from 29th October.

Cuckmere Buses, Polegate : A new timetable booklet is dated 13th September 2015 to 23rd April 2016, including services on the western fringe of our area.

Ensign, Purfleet : The route, stopping places and timetable of service X80 (Chafford Hundred to Bluewater) are revised from 2nd November. This only concerns road revisions with Lakeside.

Correcting page 15/280, the new Thurrock area timetable book is dated 3rd September 2015 (to coincide with the new school term); and the ASDA store at Gravesend was not closed as such, just the escalator access to and from Overcliffe. On 12th October the same shuttle service was again in operation, with the same vehicle, this time apparently for three to four weeks whilst lifts are out of action.

Go-Coachhire, Sevenoaks : The licensed address is now Block 10, Vestry Industrial Estate, Vestry Road, Sevenoaks, TN14 5EL (actually at Otford). This appears to have been the case since late June, when the new address first appeared in *Notices & Proceedings* entries, although no formal change has been published as such. It had been carried on legal letterings for some time previously.

PN02 XBM and YN03 DFC were returned to Go-Ahead group, London by the end of September. X562-4/6/7 EGK and X656 EGK, Volvo B7TL/Plaxton H41/20D of 2000, were acquired from London Central, Colliers Wood, Greater London (PVL162-4/6/7/5) during September.

To clarify, YJ59 GGF/K remain formally owned by Kent County Council.

New schoolday service 431A was registered from 11th September between Sevenoaks *Trinity School* and Sundridge. Mon-Sat service 8 has been registered from 2nd November, running two loops hourly from the Bus Station via Station, London Road, Britains Lane, Julians Way, Grange Road, Oak Lane and High Street, and via Station, London Road, Riverhead, Tesco, Bradbourne Vale Road, Bat & Ball, Wickenden Road, Hillingdon Avenue, Seal Hollow Road, Bayham Road, Quakers Hall Lane, St. John's Hill, Mount Harry Road and Station. The timetable of 401 (Westerham/Chartwell to Sevenoaks/Tunbridge Wells) was revised from 11th September.

Red Route, Northfleet : A change of timetable was registered on 407 (Vigo to Wrotham) from 5th October.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

TRAFFIC : From 1st October Kings Ferry, Gillingham took over operation of the UK sector of Eurolines services 140 and 142 between London and Amsterdam. 140 leaves Victoria at 0800 via Folkestone (0955), Channel Tunnel, Brussels, Breda, Rotterdam and Den Haag, reaching Amsterdam at 2015, with the return journey at 0830, passing Folkestone at 1640 before reaching Victoria at 1830. 142 leaves Victoria at 1900 via Gillingham (2000), Dover (2050), Channel Tunnel, Breda, Rotterdam and Den Haag, reaching Amsterdam at 0600, with the return journey at 1930 (via P&O ferry at Calais rather than the Channel Tunnel), passing Dover at 0330 and Gillingham at 0420, reaching Victoria at 0545. From 3rd November, timings on 140 alter to 1000 from Victoria, 1155 at Folkestone and 2215 at Amsterdam, returning at 1000 from Amsterdam to 1805 at Folkestone and 2000 at Victoria.

New service 270 is to start on 7th December between Gatwick North/South terminals and Canterbury (Bus Station and University) via Maidstone, Chatham, University of Greenwich Campus (Dock Road) and Hempstead Valley, connecting at Canterbury with 022 to and from Thanet. The service includes three night journeys, which will run through to and from Birchington, Westgate, Margate, Cliftonville, Broadstairs and Ramsgate. We understand that it will be worked by Kings Ferry, Gillingham.

GENERAL : Special service T60 has been running to and from the rugby World Cup at Twickenham. Full details are unclear, but on 26th September FE51 RGZ of Godward, Basildon was noted in Folkestone, on 3rd October YN07 LJF of the same operator in Folkestone, and on 4th October YN06 PFE of Lehane, Sturry in Canterbury.

RAIL REPLACEMENT

The following operators provided cover during the past month :

20th September : Ashford to Ebbsfleet International - DJ Coaches, Gravesend (unidentified), Buzzlines, Lympe (unidentified) (additional closure because blocking limits for the Ashford to Ramsgate closure prevented HS trains from accessing Ashford station).

26th September : Meopham/Strood to Rainham - Chalkwell, Sittingbourne (reported as YT05 WEZ – not known in this fleet, presumably a mis-report for YJ05 WCZ), Dosanjh, Strood (D10 ASD, L3 ASD, Y13/6 ASD, Y22 ASD), Go-Coachhire, Sevenoaks (Y825 TGH), Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (LF52 ZNZ, AY58 CYJ, SN58 ENU), Lehane, Sturry (JAZ 6689, LIG 1755, YN06 PFE), Thurbin, Istead Rise (V862 HBV).

27th September : Meopham/Strood to Rainham - Go-Ahead London group (Y748 TGH), Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (LF02 PVE, LP02 PTY – the latter not known in this fleet, presumably a mis-report for LF02 PTY), Chalkwell, Sittingbourne (N727 JNO), Dosanjh, Strood (D10 ASD, Y10/20 ASD), Thurbin, Istead Rise (LN51 KYD), Ensign, Purfleet (unidentified).

For both these closures, trains terminated on the London side of the closure at Sole Street, where there is a crossover for them to return on the correct track, but replacement buses ran to and from Meopham as Sole Street station is not user-friendly for buses (especially double-deckers) to terminate or stand. Sole Street passengers to and from the east circulated via Meopham, with a local minibus for the last train. Previously, a minibus has been provided all day between Sole Street and Meopham.

3rd October : Folkestone Central to Deal, Dover Priory to Canterbury East. The following were noted at Dover, though it is not specified which operation each was on - Bayliss, Deal (RX13 FSA), Buzzlines, Lympe (LN15 RYD), Chalkwell, Sittingbourne (YJ05 WCZ), Crosskeys, Folkestone (N166 XUO – not known in this fleet, presumably a mis-report for N166 XVO), Howe, Ramsgate (BX55 FYT), Lehane, Sturry (LIW 5406), Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (BIG 2117, LF52 ZNZ, SN58 ENU, LF02 PUE, LF02 PVJ – LF02 PUE not known in this fleet, presumably a mis-report for LF02 PVE), YMS, Canterbury (G29 TGW, L213 TUN, YN05 BUJ).

3rd and 4th October : Strood to Paddock Wood - Go-Ahead group, London unidentified E20 single-deckers reported between Strood and Maidstone West.

4th October : Dover Priory to Canterbury East - YMS, Canterbury (YN05 BUJ).

11th October : Faversham to Ramsgate - Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (LF02 PVJ, SN58 EXU – SN58 EXU not known in this fleet, presumably a mis-report for SN58 ENU), Lehane, Sturry (unidentified).

11th October : Folkestone Central to Dover Priory - Crosskeys, Folkestone (X72 UAO), Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (LF02 PTY, EY07 AXJ/K/M).

Operators of other scheduled work have not been reported.

Further to page 15/251, the reporter accepts that A542 NJO with Ham, Flimwell, not otherwise known with them, on 27th July could have been a sighting error for B542 HAM. Reporters seem to be suffering various other identity errors in the listings above, as indicated.

The following are scheduled for the coming month :
24th and 25th October : Robertsbridge to Hastings.
24th and 25th October : Strood to Paddock Wood.
25th October : Bexhill to Ashford.
31st October : Dover Priory to Ramsgate.
1st November : Faversham to Margate.
1st November : Sevenoaks to Paddock Wood.
1st November : Sevenoaks to Tunbridge Wells.
1st November : Redhill to Tonbridge.
7th November : Margate to Minster.
8th November : Maidstone West to Strood.
8th November : Strood to Dartford.
8th November : Sittingbourne to Canterbury East/Herne Bay.
14th and 15th November : Ashford to Ramsgate via Canterbury West.
15th November : Maidstone West to Paddock Wood.
21st (from 2200) and 22nd November : Faversham to Ramsgate.
22nd November : Borough Green to Ashford.

The following emergency works have also arisen :
1st October : Ramsgate to Dover Priory (bridge strike at Sutton Lane, Ringwoud ; unidentified from Bayliss, Deal and two from Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness including LN06 CAE).
1st October : Ashford to Hastings (train hitting a person at Rye : four unidentified from Ham, Flimwell, two unidentified from Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness).
7th October : Dover Priory to Ramsgate (overhead wire problems at Stratford, necessitating single-line working and buses replacing scheduled HS workings apparently turned short or diverted in Kent : eight unidentified from Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness).
14th October : Tonbridge to Sevenoaks (emergency engineering works in Sevenoaks tunnel : six unidentified from Ham, Flimwell).
15th October : Strood to Maidstone west (train crew shortage : one unidentified from each of Ham, Flimwell and Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness).
17th October : Ashford to Dover Priory/Ramsgate (obstruction on line between Ashford and Dover Priory : one unidentified from each of Ham, Flimwell and Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness).

AT THE RALLIES

The following vehicles of local derivation have been reported :
Southdown Bus Day, Amberley Museum, 27th September 2015 : JG 9938*, EFN 568, KFN 220, NKT 896*, TCD 481J. At least those marked * carried passengers around the site during part of the day.
Amersham running day, 4th October 2015 : KPJ 262W.
West of England Transport Collection Open Day, Winkleigh, 4th October 2015 : CJG 959, BJB 674V, of which BJB 674V was used on the car park shuttle. Other vehicles, not part of the rally, were parked or stored on site from the Hoare, Chepstow operational and dealer fleets; those with local origins are listed under subsequent disposal latest reports, and also there was S530 RWP, formerly of Dosanjh, Strood.
Canvey Island Transport Museum Annual Transport Show and bus rally, 11th October 2015 : LKP 385P, M513 VJO, P191 LKJ, P238 MKN. All were used on the bus link between the rally site and the museum.

HISTORY CORNER

759/1 – ELHAM VALLEY RAILWAY. From midnight on 12th April 1958, the bridge at World's Wonder (OS grid reference 185455), north of Elham, was removed. We believe that this work was actually undertaken from the small hours of Sunday 13th April.

An article in the *East Kent Omnibus* of May/June 1958 says that removing the bridge freed service 17 for double-deck operation. This seems to have fuelled an urban myth that the 17 had hitherto been restricted to single-deck operation by this bridge.

In fact, the bridge had been road-over-rail, with awkward sharp bends on both approaches where the road had been banked up to cross the railway, as with many road-over-rail bridges on this line. Double-deckers had been used on the 17 for many years (it was one of the routes designated for GFNs in 1953 when they were the first doored double-deckers in the fleet), and although the bridge had a 5 ton axle weight limit, buses were allowed to cross provided that no other vehicle was on it.

The demolition process was prefaced by providing a temporary diversion of the B2065 road down onto the former railway track bed. The bridge was then closed and removed – with some difficulty, which delayed completion of the task into the daytime. The 17 therefore had to terminate on either side, passengers being escorted on foot through the site. It is not clear whether crews also changed vehicles, or whether (and if so how) the timetable was revised to accommodate this unexpected situation. The temporary road was then opened and work continued in the following days to remove the abutments and former approaches to the bridge and to rebuild the road on its present straighter (and wider) alignment. It was purely on the temporary road that single-deckers would have been necessary had the bridge remained in place.

The *EKO* article was accompanied by the picture reproduced on the next page. As well as the misleading implication of single-deck operation, the article was incorrect in dating the removal to May 1958, in saying that the World's Wonder was an inn (it was, and still is, a nearby farmstead), and in locating the site as "about three miles north of Elham" (it is just under a mile).

Members with an interest in the Elham Valley railway may wish to know that a much-improved and fuller history of the line has recently been published by Wild Swan. It is

heartily recommended (although the author's literary style may grate for some). As well as repeating the picture of GFN 917 at World's Wonder, the book contains three other pictures of East Kent buses : a distant early single-decker in Barham, a double-decker passing under the rail bridge at Wincheap (OS grid reference 141569) before it was removed in 1955; and a double-decker, the upperwork of which is perceptible behind the down platform buildings of Canterbury South station, apparently working a city service relief.



GFN 917 negotiates the temporary roadway at World's Wonder shortly after it had been opened on the former track-bed, heading north-west at this point between the abutments of the former bridge. The Pegden's traction engine in the background had been instrumental in pulling down the bridge after conventional methods had failed. *Folkestone Herald*

Back cover illustrations

Upper : Something of a surprise has been the arrival at Maidstone of T47 WUT, a Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton previously on extended loan from Arriva Midlands North to Arriva Kent Thameside to help out with a vehicle shortage at Harlow. Still allocated its previous owner's fleet number of 2217, it was caught in Castle Way, Leybourne on 30th September, lacking masking to the destination display. *Darren Walker*

Lower : MAN single-deckers, displaced from Eastbourne by the arrival of cascaded double-deckers, have returned to Thanet to enable the replacement of their last Volvo B10Ms. 22054 passes Little Cliffsend Farm on the afternoon journey of route 42A on 24th September. This car had previously been at Thanet for a few weeks in 2013.

Phil Cattermole

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