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Issued monthly by

THE M&D AND EAST KENT BUS CLUB

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Reports for the next issue of *Invicta* should reach the Editor at the address above by **Thursday 19th May 2011**. Those exclusively for the "other operators" section can be posted direct to Jonathan Fletcher at 104a High Street, UCKFIELD, East Sussex, TN22 1PX, or can be sent by e-mail as shown in the heading above, to arrive by the same date. Late reports can be accepted up to the following Saturday, particularly if sent by e-mail, though it helps preparation immensely if primary reports arrive by the main deadline. We cannot guarantee to include late reports 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 use low definition initially, and confine your transmissions to one picture per message. We will come back to you if we require a higher definition file for use.

DIARY SUMMARY

Monday 9th May - Maidstone & Medway meeting, 1930hrs.

Saturday 15th May - Closing date for bookings on West Midlands Explorer tour.

Thursday 19th May - Reporting deadline for next *Invicta*.

Saturday 28th May - Planned despatch date for next *Invicta*.

Front cover illustration : Resplendent in the final form of Maidstone & District livery which it carried when new in 1997, Arriva Kent & Sussex Volvo "Olympian" / Northern Counties 5929 pauses at Mereworth on 23rd March, its second day back on the road. The vehicle is currently working from Tunbridge Wells, although it is hoped that it may move to Maidstone later in the year.
Martin Smith

CLUB NOTICES

LOCAL MEETINGS : A **Maidstone and Medway** meeting will be held on Monday 9th May 2011 at 1930hrs in the upstairs room of the "Bush" public house in Rochester Road, Aylesford. Members are invited to bring slides and photographs. For further information please contact our Area Organiser, Jeff Tucker (☎ 01634 241538).

PUBLICATIONS : A new edition of P.21 (Preserved Vehicles) is now available at £3.50. Orders may be placed in the usual way.

ARRIVA SOUTHERN COUNTIES

Following fares revisions from 3rd April, prices for some categories of South East tickets have been revised. Day tickets are £6.50* for adults, £4.40 for children, £13* for families; weekly tickets are £26 for adults, £20* for children; four-weekly tickets are £82 for adults (£73.80 on-line), £74* for children. Those marked * are unchanged. A generic Kent & East Sussex leaflet for South East Savers has appeared for this date, and a leaflet for special fares for Bluewater staff.

Within the group orders recently announced for 2011, new vehicles are expected later this year for the 116 at Gillingham and for Bromley journeys of the 402 at Tunbridge Wells. Further details will be given when released.

ARRIVA KENT & SUSSEX

VEHICLES IN : The acquisition of four DAF DE02RSDB250 / Alexander "ALX400" H45/17F vehicles from Arriva London North, Wood Green, Greater London (DLA84/5, DLA91, DLA72) can now be confirmed. Details are :

6241 (S284 JUA)	XMGDE02RS0H007339	9827/4	new 2/99
6242 (S285 JUA)	XMGDE02RS0H007340	9827/5	2/99
6243 (S291 JUA)	XMGDE02RS0H007346	9827/11	2/99
6244 (S272 JUA)	XMGDE02RS0H006988	9812/8	2/99

These are currently being modified from H45/17D (6241/3) or H45/16D (6242/4) and repainted into corporate livery at Watford (Arriva the Shires). 6243 arrived at Maidstone, where all four are to be based, on 6th April. Unladen weight and details of standee/wheelchair adjustable capacities are awaited. It was intended that "bum perches" would be provided in the former exit area; this was not evident on 6243 on 17th April.

3953 (GK53 AOU) will not now be arriving from Arriva Kent Thameside.

ALLOCATIONS : In consequence of route changes from 10th April, 3194/5 (P194/5 LKJ) and 3203 (P203 LKJ) were due to move from M to other Arriva companies. Confirmation is awaited.

Loans. 3409 (TWw) had returned to service at TW short-term by 15th March, and is expected to remain in use until at least May. 5909 (TWw) was still in use on 8th April.

VEHICLES MODIFIED : 6212 was modified to H43/27F+15 by 14th April. 6211 was still dual-door on this date and the centre exit door was in use.

LIVERY : Further repaints are 3409, 6237 and 6239 in March, 6240 in April.

Major advertisements. Offside "Super Square" advertisements have recently been carried during a short-term campaign for Subway on 1602 (on by 22nd March, off by 5th April), 1603 (on by 21st March, off by 8th April), 1604 (on by 26th March, off by 9th April), 3205 (on by 28th March, off on 6th April).

3249 received an allover rear display for Mid Kent College on 6th April.

Route branding. 6237/9/40 have lost branding for the 71 at repaint.

GENERAL : 5929 was launched in its commemorative "1996" livery at the Kent Museum of Rural Life, Aylesford at a ceremony on 22nd March, and entered service later that afternoon, working the 7 at 1530 ex Tunbridge Wells and 1710 ex Maidstone. Appearances on the road have so far been relatively rare, doubtless due to the wish to keep it in pristine condition for the M&D 100 event at Detling on 9th April.

Various ill-informed rumours are in circulation that 6237-40 are due to move elsewhere. The Company confirm that there is no such plan.

SERVICE VEHICLES : Further to page 10/85, T212 (L212 YCU) was sold to Emblings, Guyhirn, Cambridgeshire during period ending 30th April 2010.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : RDZ 4279 (YDT379) - Hall Hunter Partnership, Wokingham, Berkshire (npsv); withdrawn by 11/10.

WKO 137S (5137) - B. Sealy, Hythe, Kent (preservation) 6/10 ex Atkins, Folkestone, Kent (Classic Omnibus).

BKE 848T (5848) - Owner is clarified as K. Warren, Staplehurst, Kent (preservation). See also entry for A201 OKJ below.

FKM 867V (5867) - Unidentified owner in France as a mobile café by 8/10 ex Judds, Manea, Cambridgeshire.

HKM 886V (5886) - Reported in the Netherlands by 12/10, now registered BL-FR-77. Last recorded as presumed disposed from Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) 5/02, and the registration quoted was previously noted on former FKM 878V (5878) with Classic Bus, Amsterdam, Netherlands. Clarification is awaited.

A201 OKJ *now GIG 2694* (5201) - K. Warren, Staplehurst, Kent (preservation) 7/10 ex Brijan Tours, Curdridge, Hampshire (94); re-registered A201 OKJ by 4/11. We understand that Warren and his associates are also now known as "Maidstone & District Preservation Group".

A204 OKJ (5204) - Hunter, Moortown, West Yorkshire; withdrawn by 11/07 and gone by 1/11.

C201 EKJ (1001) - Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (preservation) by 3/11 ex J. Brown, Wateringbury, Kent (preservation).

G80 SKR *now ICZ 8948* (1080) - Voy, Newton Aycliffe, Co. Durham (Central Coaches); gone 3/08.

J220 HGY (3101) - Arriva Tees, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (1686) 6/10, allocated to Redcar, ex Arriva Durham County, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (1686).

K469 SKO (3169) - Heart of Wales, Taffs Well, Cardiff 9/09 for spares ex Independent, Bedwas, Caerphilly.

L516 CPJ (516) - Watson, Stafford, Staffordshire (dealer) 7/10 for scrap, ex Arrive Midlands North, Cannock, Staffordshire (2119).

L503 HKM (3106) - Redroute, Northfleet, Kent; gone by 11/09.

L561 YCU (5561) - Archer, Poulton, Lancashire (Archway) 7/10 ex AM PM, Tyseley, West Midlands; re-registered RJZ 2265, 9/10.

M100 CBB (3174) - Beaufort, Chipping Sodbury, Gloucestershire by 9/09 ex Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer).

M461 JPA *now LEZ 4624* (1461) - Shaftesbury & District, Shaftesbury, Dorset 5/09 ex Pickford, Chippenham, Wiltshire (Faresaver).

M20 MPS (3099) - Arriva Midlands North, Cannock, Staffordshire (2060); transferred to reserve fleet 7/10 and gone by 3/11.

M30 MPS *now M100 PHA* (3100) - Stevensons, Cannock, Staffordshire (2038); out of use at Burton 3/11 and not expected to return to service.

N175 DWM (2415) - Pickford, Chippenham, Wiltshire (dealer); gone by 1/11.

P475 DPE (1475) - Pickford, Chippenham, Wiltshire (Faresaver); exported by 1/11.

P480 DPE (1480) - Pickford, Chippenham, Wiltshire (Faresaver) 4/07 ex Freedom, Ely, Cambridgeshire, then as published previously.

R204-9 CKO (6204-9) - Arriva Durham County, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (7447-52); R204/5 CKO re-allocated to Bishop Auckland 1/10, R206 CKO re-allocated to Peterlee 12/09; all re-allocated to Durham (Belmont) 2/10.

R103/14 TKO (1103/14) - Unidentified dealer for scrap 2/11 ex Veolia Cymru, Llantwit Fardre, Rhondda Cynon Taff (45003/5).

R104/23 TKO (1104/23) - Veolia England, Parc Nantgarw, Cardiff 7/10 as withdrawn stock at Nottingham, ex Dunn-Line, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire; Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) 8/10; Avondale Coaches, Clydebank, Dumbarton & Clydebank 11/10 (additional information and clarifications).

R110 TKO *now R3 GHA* (1110) - GHA, Ruabon, Wrexham; numbered MB21, 10/10.

R116 TKO (1116) - UK Bus Dismantlers, Bromyard, Herefordshire (dealer) 11/10 ex Veolia Cymru, Llantwit Fardre, Rhondda Cynon Taff.

YN53 ELU (1455) - Last reported with Countryliner Sussex, Guildford, Surrey 9/09, probably only as a short-term loan from East Sussex County Council, Lewes, East Sussex; Chelston Leisure Services, Torquay, Devon (Dial-a-Ride) 5/10, painted in First livery and used on services contracted to First Devon & Cornwall, Plymouth, Devon.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 9/10 - R204-9 CKO (6204-9); 10/10 - H847 AHS (2847), L563 YCU (5563); 12/10 - M502 RKO (3105), T139 AUA (8001); 1/11 - M461 JPA *now LEZ 4624* (1461), P480 DPE (1480), R117 TKO (1117); 2/11 - A203 OKJ (5203); 4/11 - BKE 848T (5848), A888 PKR (5888), E887 KYW (T043), G77 PKR (1077), L563 YCU (5563), R812 TKO (1812), R948 VPU (1178).

ROUTE CHANGES : The following were introduced from **10th April 2011** :

5 Revisions to certain journeys, Mon-Sat. The northbound service is now shown to terminate at Maidstone *King Street* during Mon-Fri shopping hours; this is because some incoming buses continue on route 17, on which through passengers to Chequers are presumably permitted.

8 0718 ex Maidstone Hospital re-timed to 0713, 1805 ex Maidstone re-timed to 1810, Mon-Fri.

9 Withdrawn, Saturdays (replaced by 19). The single Mon-Fri journey continues.

12 Revisions to certain journeys, Mon-Fri.

17 1002 ex King Street re-timed to 1009, Mon-Fri.

18 Withdrawn, Mon-Fri (western section replaced by 79).

- 19 Revised timetable, Mon-Fri, and introduced hourly on Saturdays to replace 9.
- 59 Revised timetable with reduced service overall, Mon-Fri. There are no longer any journeys running via Sutton Road and Langley.
- 71 Minor timing changes to certain journeys, Mon-Fri; late evening service reduced to hourly, Mon-Sat; revised on Sundays to run direct via Gighill Road instead of the bottom of Lunsford Lane.
- 72 Minor timing changes to certain journeys, Mon-Fri.
- 79 Inward service revised to run via Holland Road and Sittingbourne Road, reduced to hourly headway and extended from Maidstone town centre to Palace Wood and Mid Kent Shopping Centre loop (as on Saturdays), Mon-Fri shopping hours.
- 82 Revisions to certain journeys, Mon-Fri; late evening service reduced to hourly, Mon-Sat.
- 84 Revised timetable, Mon-Fri; withdrawn, Saturdays.
- 85 Revisions to certain journeys, Mon-Fri; late evening service reduced to hourly, Mon-Sat.
- 89 Revised timetable (including reduction to 20min headway on Mon-Fri) and withdrawn between East Farleigh and Marden, Mon-Sat.
- 155 Revised to hourly headway between Maidstone and Chatham with all journeys serving Ringlestone during shopping hours, and other revisions outside these times, Mon-Sat. See also AMT notes.
- 281 Evening buses all run five minutes later to improve connections with trains at Tunbridge Wells Station, Mon-Sat.
- 575 0737 ex Kings Hill re-timed to 0731, schooldays.
- 703 1735 ex Bluewater withdrawn, Mon-Fri.

Note that some of these details amplify or correct information in the official summary leaflet of changes.

Bank holidays. Sunday services will operate on 22nd, 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May, except as follows on 22nd April :

- 71 Extra buses between Maidstone and Lunsford Park, providing a 30min headway between Maidstone and Larkfield with 77.
- 219 Special 30min headway (widening to 40min mid-afternoon) between Tunbridge Wells *Sainsbury's* and Willow Lea/Higham Wood.

Temporary diversions. From **28th March to 6th April 2011** St. Faith's Street, Maidstone was closed to northbound traffic. 155 and 506 were diverted via Fairmeadow, 506 then via the B2012 to Stacey's Street.

From **7th April 2011** for two weeks Earl Street and Pudding Lane, Maidstone are closed. 155 and 506 are diverted outward via Cannon, Medway bridges and Fairmeadow to St. Faith's Street, and inward via Fairmeadow and Cannon. The inward diversion also applies as appropriate to 79. On 88, the morning service operates direct from St. Faith's Street via Fairmeadow and the Medway bridges to West Station, omitting the town centre stops; the afternoon journey to East Station omits Cannon, running direct from the Medway bridges via Fairmeadow to St. Faith's Street. On 16th April Earl Street and Pudding Lane were open to inward traffic and being used by buses; the outward closure was intermittent and all buses appeared to be using the diversion. This may however have only been for the weekend.

From **10th April 2011** services formally returned to normal at Pembury Hospital. In practice, some buses have been running this way in recent weeks. However, the bus stops remain on Tonbridge Road rather than on the approach road or in the new hospital grounds. Around September, when demolition of the old hospital is complete, a new

access road will be available which will lead to a stop directly outside the main entrance of the new building.

ROUTE WORKING : We regret that details of changes from **10th April 2011** had not arrived by the time that we went to Press.

PUBLICITY : New fares leaflets dated 3rd April are for the Maidstone, Sevenoaks and Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells area.

New timetable leaflets dated 10th April 2011 are for 5 (issue 40), 8 group (issue 43), 12 (issue 39), 17 (issue 26), 59 (issue 18), 71 (issue 8), 72 (issue 7), 79 (issue 21), 82 (issue 25), 85 (issue 25), 89 (issue 36), 155 group (issue 35), 333 group (issue 32), 703 (issue 10), Loose Road summary (issue 12). There is also a summary leaflet of changes in the Maidstone area.

Note that the 85 leaflet now includes the 84. The 155 leaflet now presents all journeys in one unified timetable.

The leaflets for 502, 704/705 and Tunbridge Wells to Knights Park summary are now the last in the old style.

FARES : Fares were revised from 3rd April in order to keep pace with the rising costs of providing services. Most single fares and Happymax fares were increased by 10p, and most return fares were increased. Day, Weekly and 4-Weekly Savers were also increased, except that some categories in the Maidstone Plus and Sevenoaks/Sevenoaks Plus areas were unchanged, and the Tunbridge Wells zone was extended to include Pembury Hospital.

AROUND THE AREAS : Maidstone area. On 22nd March 5920 was on 72 (DLF), 5931 on 155 (DLF). On 30th March 3706 was on 155 (DD), 3963 on 71 (DLF).

Tunbridge Wells area : On 7th March 3266 was on 277 (Solo). On 19th March 6439 was on a Bromley journey of 402 (SLF). On 22nd March 5912 and 6212 were on 6 (DLF), 5943 on 7 (DLF), 6438 on 6 (SLF) and 6445 on 6.7 (DD). On 24th March 5929 was on 218 (SLF). On 29th March 3409 was on 219 (SLF). On 11th April 1502 was on 77 (SLF), 1602 on 277 (Solo).

Weald area. The former depot site at Hawkhurst, initially the subject of a planning application by Barretts Homes for residential development, has subsequently passed to Tesco's, whose proposals for a supermarket were approved early in March following an appeal process despite widespread local objections.

ARRIVA MEDWAY TOWNS

ALLOCATIONS : In consequence of route changes from 10th April, 3037 (N237 VPH), 3246 (P246 MKN), 4044 (GN09 AWV) and 4045 (GN09 AWW) were due to move from GL to other Arriva companies, whilst 3021 (N221 FPK) and 7624 (G624 BPH) were to be withdrawn. The departure of 4044/5 is noted below; confirmation of the other changes is awaited.

Loans. 5936 (SH) was used by GL on at least 4th and 5th April before returning home on 8th April. 5937 (GL) had returned from SH by 1st April. 6410 (SH) was again used by GL at least from 14th to 16th March. 6425 (GL) was at SH by 23rd March, returning on 8th April.

LIVERY : 3216 was repainted during March.

Route branding : 3216 lost Medway Mainline branding at repaint. 4044/5 lost their Medway Mainline branding on 6th April, and 6429 on 8th April.

Major advertisements. Offside "Super Square" advertisements have recently been carried during a short-term campaign for Subway on 3239 and 3240 (on by 24th March, off on 6th April), 3243 (date on not reported, off on 4th April). Overall rear displays for Mid Kent College were applied to 3239 (purple base) on 5th April and 3243 (blue and black base) on 4th April.

VEHICLES OUT : 4044 (GN09 AWV) and 4045 (GN09 AWW) were transferred to Arriva Guildford & West Surrey, Maidstone, Kent on 10th April 2011.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : E153 OMD (5753) - Mott, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire (Yellow Buses); withdrawn by 10/10.

G619 BPH (7619) - Hoar & Savage, Tilsworth, Bedfordshire (Red Kite); named "Bill Bailey", 10/10.

G626 BPH (7626) - TGM Group, Heathrow Airport, Middlesex (226) 5/10, allocated to Colchester, ex Arriva strategic reserve.

G627 BPH (7627) - Arriva strategic reserve by 1/10 ex Burtons, Haverhill, Suffolk; Head, Whittlesey, Cambridgeshire (Decker Bus) by 8/10.

H765 EKJ (5765) - UK Coaches, Countesthorpe, Leicestershire (Atlantis) 9/10 ex Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer).

H767 EKJ (5767) - GHA, Ruabon, Wrexham; numbered DD27, 10/10.

K471 SKO (3171) - PVS, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) 2/08 ex Arriva Yorkshire, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (160).

L565 YCU (5565) - Landmark, Arlesey, Bedfordshire 10/10 ex Stephenson, Rochford, Essex (dealer).

N801 BKN (1801) - Wigley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) 2/09 ex Arriva Durham County, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (2738).

N209 CKP (1209) - Williams, Glasgow (Braveheart Travel) 7/10 ex Sassarini, Wemyss Bay, Inverclyde (Orion).

P472 APJ (1472) - Wigley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) 5/09 ex Arriva Durham County, Sunderland, Tyne & Wear (2742).

P482 DPE (1194) - Pickford, Chippenham, Wiltshire (Faresaver); scrapped 3/10.

P213 JKL (1213) - Alansway Coaches, Heathfield, Devon; gone 11/09.

P216 JKL (1216) - McNulty, Belmullet, Co. Mayo, Republic of Ireland 5/08 ex Goosecroft, Denny, Falkirk; re-registered 96-MO-4524, 5/08.

P224 LKK (1224) - Redwoods Travel, Hemyock, Devon 10/10 ex Filers Travel, Ilfracombe, Devon.

P225 LKK (1225) - GHA, Ruabon, Wrexham; withdrawn 8/10; numbered MB16, 10/10.

P230 LKK *now* YAZ 8744 (1230) - Halifax Bus, Sowerby Bridge, West Yorkshire (TJ25); named "The Londoner" by 2/11.

R201-3 CKO (6201-3) - Arriva Liverpool, Aintree, Merseyside (3616-8) 1/11, allocated to Bolton, ex Arriva Merseyside, Aintree, Merseyside (3616-8). Please delete report on page 10/175 of R202 CKO to Arriva Manchester, Aintree, Merseyside (3617).

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 11/10 - G637 BPH (7637); 12/10 - E151 OMD *now* HIL 8984 (5751); 4/11 - BKE 832T (5832), P220 LKK (1220).

ROUTE CHANGES : The following were introduced from **10th April 2011** :

100 0832 and 1504 ex St. Mary's Island withdrawn, 1817 ex Chatham Station re-timed to 1822, Mon-Fri; withdrawn, Saturdays.

101 The first four buses from Gillingham re-timed two minutes later, no longer serving Tyland Barn or Running Horse, Mon-Fri; withdrawn between Gillingham and Twydall, except last two trips each way, and frequency between Gillingham and Maidstone increased to 30min, Sundays.

105 Withdrawn (replaced by 185), Mon-Sat.

114 1735 ex Chatham withdrawn, Mon-Sat.

116 0633 ex Chatham revised to start at St. Mark's Church (0649), Mon-Fri; 1748 ex Chatham curtailed at Medway Maritime Hospital and 1845 ex Hempstead Valley withdrawn, Saturdays.

121 0746 ex Rainham Mark and 1635 ex Chatham withdrawn, Mon-Fri.

132 Frequency reduced to 12min, Mon-Sat daytime.

133 1820 ex Cliffe withdrawn, Saturdays.

135 Revised timings to improve reliability, daily.

136 Revised running time between Chalk and Gravesend, Saturdays.

145 Early evening frequency widened to 20min, Mon-Sat.

155 Revised to hourly headway between Chatham and Borstal (joint 30min with through service to/from Maidstone) during shopping hours, and other revisions outside these times, Mon-Sat. See also AKS notes.

164 2110 ex Chatham withdrawn, Thursdays and Fridays.

165 Withdrawn except for certain peak journeys, Mon-Sat (replaced by 169).

166 Frequency reduced to 12min, Mon-Fri shopping hours and Saturdays.

169 **NEW ROUTE**. Chatham via 165 to Princes Park, then via Walderslade Village to Alexandra Hospital, two-hourly, Mon-Sat.

176 0625 and 1630 ex Walderslade extended from Alexandra Hospital, and revised afternoon timetable to improve reliability, Mon-Fri.

179 Frequency reduced to two-hourly, Mon-Sat.

181 Frequency reduced to 20min, Mon-Fri shopping hours and Saturdays.

182 1533 ex Twydall withdrawn, Mon-Fri; 1824 ex Chatham and 1853 ex Twydall withdrawn, and 1838 ex Twydall curtailed at Gillingham, Saturdays; introduced between Chatham *Bus Station* and Twydall (replacing 101) with hourly headway, Sundays.

184 0624 ex Alexandra Hospital and 1548 ex Chatham withdrawn, Mon-Fri; this service therefore becomes northbound only and mornings only.

185 Revised to operate basically hourly between Chatham *Bus Station* and Davis Estate via former 105, Mon-Sat, with two inward and two outward journeys extended on Mon-Fri from/to Princes Avenue via Lordswood, Walderslade and Bluebell Hill Village as before.

191 0730 ex Chatham diverted at Hoo *Five Bells* to continue to Grain, Mon-Fri; 0820 and 1930 ex Chatham and 2005 ex Hoo withdrawn, Saturdays.

196 0737 ex Chatham withdrawn, 0821 ex Chatham Station re-timed to 0820 with revised running time, 1557 ex Hoo withdrawn, Mon-Fri.

327 **NEW ROUTE**. Sittingbourne *East Street* (return to *rear of Forum*) via Chalkwell, Key Street, Newington, Upchurch, Otterham Park, Rainham, Medway Maritime Hospital, Gillingham to Chatham *Bus Station*, Sundays, following KCC re-tendering.

334 0857 ex Sheerness re-timed to 0904, Mon-Fri.

- 341 Withdrawn between Sittingbourne and Iwade/Sheerness on Mon-Fri during school holidays.
- 347 1922 ex Kemsley and 1934 ex Sittingbourne withdrawn Mon-Fri, 0805 ex Sittingbourne and 0745 and 1814 ex Kemsley withdrawn, Saturdays.
- 349 Mon-Fri service revised to start and finish at rear of Forum via St. Michael's Road (as on Saturdays), no longer serving High Street.
- 351 Withdrawn on Mon-Fri during school holidays.
- 360/362/363 Certain journeys revised, Mon-Fri; revised timetable, Saturdays, 360 and 362 broadly reverting to the previous joint 30min headway between Rushenden and Minster *Bell Farm Lane* with hourly projections to and from Leysdown, and 363 withdrawn. 360 introduced on Sundays between Rushenden and Leysdown following KCC re-tendering.
- 361 Revised timetable, weekday evening peaks.
- 632 Withdrawn, schooldays.

Note that some of these details amplify or correct information in the official summary leaflet of changes.

Bank holidays. Sunday services will operate on 22nd, 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May, except as follows on 22nd April :

- 101 0920 ex Gillingham extended from Twydall at 0907.
- 132 30min headway (last journeys serving Medway Maritime Hospital).
- 140/141 30min headway on 141 until late afternoon, then hourly headway on Strood section of 140 until mid-evening. Normal service on 140 between Chatham Station and Dockside Outlet Centre.
- 145 30min headway, not serving Orion Road.
- 164 30min headway.
- 166/167 Combined 30min headway (hourly service on each route).
- 176 Hourly headway over whole route from Walderslade Village to Grange Road.
- 181 30min headway.

700 and 701 will have special timetables on these five dates, but will not operate on 24th April, when Bluewater is closed.

Some of these patterns differ from those of previous years.

Temporary diversions. From **21st to 29th March 2011** Rainham Road, Chatham was closed between Rock Avenue and Canterbury Street for re-surfacing from 2130 until 0600 the following morning. 132 was diverted via Rock Avenue, Montgomery Road and Canterbury Street in both directions, and late evening buses on 176 via Canterbury Street and Jezreels were diverted via Rock Avenue.

From **28th March to 6th April 2011** St. Faith's Street, Maidstone was closed to northbound traffic. 101, 135 and 155 were diverted via Fairmeadow.

A fire in London Road, Strood which closed the road over the weekend meant that on **28th March 2011** 136 was diverted outbound via Knight Road and Priory Road, thence unknown mileage, after circulating around Strood town centre in order to serve stop H in Commercial Road. Inward buses arrived via Cuxton Road. This continued until the following afternoon.

From **30th March to 5th April 2011** the junction of Mierscourt Road, Rainham with the A2 was closed for re-surfacing from 2130 until 0600 the following morning. 132 was diverted via Station Road, Longley Road, Holding Street, A2, Maidstone Road and Arthur Road in both directions.

From **7th April 2011** for two weeks Earl Street and Pudding Lane, Maidstone are closed. 101, 135 and 155 are diverted outward via Cannon, Medway bridges and Fairmeadow to St. Faith's Street, whilst inward 101, 135, 155 and the single 334 via East Station are diverted via Fairmeadow and Cannon. On 16th April Earl Street and Pudding Lane were open to inward traffic and being used by buses; the outward closure was intermittent and all buses appeared to be using the diversion. This may however have only been for the weekend.

ROUTE WORKING : We regret that details of changes from **10th April 2011** had not arrived by the time that we went to Press.

PUBLICITY : New fares leaflets dated 3rd April 2011 are for the Medway Towns and Sheppey & Swale areas.

New timetable leaflets dated 10th April 2011 are for Chatham Maritime (37), 101 (issue 20), 113/114 (issue 5), 116 (issue 7), 120/121 (issue 3), 132 (issue 40), 133 (issue 33), 136 (issue 19), 142 group (issue 4), 145 (issue 39), 155 group (issue 35), 164 (issue 20), 166 group (issue 38), 169 group (issue 1), 176/184 (issue 39), 182 (issue 26), 185 (issue 1), 191 group (issue 40), 333 group (issue 32), 347 group (issue 11), 360 group (issue 40). There is also a summary leaflet of changes in the Medway area. There is no leaflet for Sunday 327, though this can be found in the new Chalkwell booklet.

The 169 group item includes 179 and 181. The 155 and 191 group leaflets now present all journeys in one unified timetable.

The leaflet for 711 is now the last in the old style.

It is reported that issue 4 (14th September 2009) of the 113/114 leaflet was re-issued at an unknown date to include the map, missing from the original version.

FARES : Fares were revised from 3rd April in order to keep pace with the rising costs of providing services. Most single fares and Happymax fares increased by 10p, and most return fares were increased. Day, Weekly and 4-Weekly Savers were also increased, except that the Sheppey weekly price is unchanged, and the Medway zone was extended to include Cliffe and Grain.

AROUND THE AREAS : Medway area. On 14th March 6443 (140/141 branding) was on 155.166 (SLF), 3021 on 176 (SLF). On 15th and 16th March 3241 was on 145 (MPD). On 18th March 3021 was on 116 (SLF). On 22nd March 1613 was on 191 (SLF). On 26th March 6433 was on 166 (SLF). On 28th March 3021 was on 176 (SLF), 4048 on 140.141 (DLF). On 1st April 3021 was on 176 (SLF), 4059 on 116 (SLF). On 3rd April 6418 was on 700/701, despite the official intention to use MPDs on Sundays. On 4th April 4055 was on 116 (SLF), 7629 on 116 (DLF), 3198 on 191 (DLF), 4048 on 166 (SLF), 3021 on 181 (SLF). On 5th April 1615 and 3021 were on 176 (SLF), 3050/3 on 145 (MPD), 4049/50 on 116 (SLF), 5938 on 155 (SLF). On 7th April 3021 was on 140.141 (DLF). On 8th April 6429 was on 132 (Env). On 11th April 4055 was on 101 (DLF).

Swale area. On 22nd March 6412 was on 336 (DD).

NEW ENTERPRISE

ALLOCATIONS : 1118 (R118 TKO) and 1190 (P481 DPE) were due to be withdrawn on 10th April. Confirmation is awaited.

VEHICLES OUT : Further to page 10/11, 5405 (H265 GEV) was sold to G. Claydon, Corringham, Essex (preservation).

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : YSU 872 *now G795 RNC* (2192) - Bayliss, Ogmere Vale, Bridgend (dealer) for scrap 1/11 ex Hayward, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire.

KYO 611X (M611) - Southern Film Services, Weybridge, Surrey (npsv); gone by 1/11.

YKP 975X *now XGS 771X* (7032) - Contrary to the new edition of P.21, it appears that this is still with G. Emery, Wednesford, West Midlands (preservation).

F899 GUM (2899) - Howe, Lincoln, Lincolnshire; gone by 12/10.

F621 HGO (2900) - Easy Pub Management, Wolverhampton, West Midlands (Gorgeous Travel); withdrawn 10/10.

H301 FKL *now TIL 7583* (1301) - GHA, Ruabon, Wrexham; numbered MB26, 10/10.

H263 GEV (5403) - Regal Busways. Great Wakering, Essex 8/10 ex West Kent Buses, West Kingsdown, Kent (dealer).

H264 GEV (5404) - Hamilton, Pembury, Kent; also now reported with Gilkes, West Kingsdown, Kent (West Kent Buses) (264) in 9/10. These two operators work together closely; can it please be clarified which actually owns the vehicle?

L159 BFT (3159) - PVS, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) 9/09 ex Arriva Yorkshire, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (153).

M54 AWW (2054) - Nu-Venture, Aylesford, Kent by 7/10 (operating on Bzee Bus disc) on extended loan from Go-Coachhire, Swanley, Kent; returned to Go-Coachhire by 9/10.

R157 GNW (2897) - Lock, Orpington, Kent; re-registered WJG 584, 9/09; change of address to Longfield, Kent 10/10.

YX57 CAA (0304), YX08 AOB-G (0309-14), YX08 HWF-H/K-P (0321-6/8/7/9) - easybus, Camden Town, Greater London (0304/9-14/21-6/8/7/9); change of address to Park Royal, Greater London 12/09, and leading zeroes being dropped from fleet numbers at repaint (nominal date 12/09).

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 9/10 - J25 UNY (2194); 10/10 - TIB 5903 (2830); 11/10 - BKE 853T (5853); 4/11 - GJG 750D (50), WKO 138S (5138).

ROUTE CHANGES : The following were introduced from **10th April 2011** :

200 Withdrawn following KCC re-tendering, Mon-Fri.

202 Withdrawn following KCC re-tendering, Saturdays.

204 Revised timings, Saturdays.

210 Revised timings, Saturdays.

211 Withdrawn following KCC re-tendering, Mon-Sat.

Bank holidays. No buses will operate on 22nd, 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May.

ROUTE WORKING : We regret that details of changes from **10th April 2011** had not arrived by the time that we went to Press.

PUBLICITY : A leaflet has appeared for Day Breaks, Short Breaks and Holidays 2011. Those with an eye for such matters report that it contains several grammatical solecisms and some incorrect matching of dates to days of the week (e.g. "Monday 24th March").

ARRIVA KENT THAMESIDE (outside formal coverage)

Thirteen Alexander Dennis "Enviro400" vehicles have been ordered for the retained contract on T/L route 160.

3404/8 (P324/8 HVX) were due to be withdrawn from NF on 10th April against incoming vehicles released by route changes elsewhere. Confirmation is awaited.

3953 (GK53 AOU) will not now be transferred to AKS as intended.

Further to page 11/64, 1624/5 (SN06 BPE/F) remained with Arriva Guildford & West Surrey until 10th April, when they moved on to Arriva London North at Enfield. 1626/7/9/31 (SN06 BPK/U/X/Z) were collected by Arriva London North on 2nd April. No reports are available on the collection of 1628/30/2 (SN06 BPV/Y, SN06 BRF). 1628/31/2 had remained in use at DT after 19th March.

Repaints in existing Fastrack livery are 3802 in March, 3801 and 3805 in April, all at Watford (Arriva the Shires). Two more are programmed in the coming weeks.

Long-term demonstrator 4400 has recently appeared regularly on 700.701. 3980 was on the 428 on 25th and 31st March.

Further unladen weights reported (thank you to members from outside the area) are 3115 as 6480kg, 4400 as 10360kg, 5940 as 10620kg.

4033 was noted with legal lettering to "Arriva Thameside Ltd." on 5th April.

Fuller details of acquired crew ferry vehicles are that CF21 (K271 MMD) has VIN SCRF3B3MKNC077961 and CF22 (P527 RYT) has VIN SCRF3B3MKTC086605. Dates new were by 7/93 and by 7/97 respectively. Both are shown on Carweb as Carbodies TX1 model, although they are believed to be FX4 (the TX1 model was not introduced until a later date). V014 (W161 JEU) has VIN W0L0TGF70Y8154656.

Fares were revised from 3rd April in order to keep pace with the rising costs of providing services. Most single fares, Happymax and Early Bird fares increased by 10p, and most return fares were increased. Day, Weekly and 4-Weekly Savers were also increased.

MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : IIL 9168 (2197) - Hayward, Carmarthen, Carmarthenshire 8/09 for spares ex Keepings, Penrhwiweiber, Rhondda Cynon Taff; Ammanford Metals, Ammanford, Carmarthenshire (dealer) 9/10 for scrap.

325 NKT *now AFE 719A* (4004) - London Bus & Truck, Northfleet, Kent (status unclear) by 9/10 ex Liskeard & District, Bolventor, Cornwall (Camelford & District Omnibus Company); reported to S. Murphy and P. Brooker, Maidstone, Kent (preservation) by 3/11, but this requires confirmation.

25 TKR (4025) - K. Dennison, Bacup, Lancashire (preservation); advertised for sale on a display board at Dunsfold event, 4/11 (vehicle not present as such).

597 UKM (5597) - J. Brown, Watlington, Kent (preservation) by 3/11 ex Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (preservation). Clarification requested whether in fact ownership ever changed from Brown to Wealden in 1/10 as reported previously.

648 WHK (2185) - Patterson, Seahouses, Northumberland; re-registered A185 MKE, 5/04, then as reported previously.

78 YKT (6078), UKE 403H (3403) - J. Brown, Watlington, Kent (preservation) by 3/11 ex J. Mee, Northfleet, Kent (preservation).

OFN 721F (P145) - East Kent Heritage Trust, Dover, Kent (preservation); change of address c3/10 to Woodnesborough, Kent.

AKM 425K (3425) - A. Grant, Tonbridge, Kent (preservation) by 3/11 ex Wealden PSV, Five Oak Green, Kent (dealer). It seems possible that this was not acquired by Wealden from Grant in 3/08 as reported - can this be clarified, please?

OKE 142P (2142) - Wilbys, Hibaldstow, Lincolnshire; gone by 12/10.

TSJ 64S (3001) - Unidentified, Stranraer, Dumfries & Galloway (preservation) 5/10 ex Aldis, Framlingham, Suffolk.

BKE 847T (5847) - Owners are clarified as M. Thomas & K. Warren, Staplehurst, Kent (preservation). See also entry for BKE 847T under Arriva Kent & Sussex notes.

GKE 442Y (5442) - J. Purcell, unknown location (preservation) 3/09 ex Kirton, Iver, Buckinghamshire.

C449 BKM *now LUI 5603* (5449) - Beaverbus, Wigston, Leicestershire 8/10 ex McDonald, Wigston, Leicestershire (Beaverbus) (change of entity); scrapped 9/10.

C452 GKE (5452) - Hartlepool Families First, Hartlepool, Co. Durham (playbus) 5/02 ex Holmeswood, Holmeswood, Lancashire, then as published previously.

C454 GKE (5454) - School Bus, Kingston Bagpuise, Oxfordshire (45); gone by 11/10.

E49 UKL *now NIL 2975* (1049) - Woolley, Newborough, Anglesey; re-registered E49 UKL, 10/10; Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (dealer) 10/10 for scrap.

P207 RWR (2907) - Morse, Sherriff Hulton, North Yorkshire; re-registered M80 RCE (correction), 9/06.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 7/10 - P207 RWR *now M80 RCE* (2907); 11/10 - 869 SVX (2179); 3/11 - OFN 721F (P145); 4/11 - "D 8650", DY 4965 (6903), KO 7311 (461), DKT 16 (C558), HKL 819 (8001), LKT 991 (S43), NKN 650 (0001), OKP 980 (CO252), 390 DKK (3360), 277 DKT (3277), 308 LKK (3308), 28 TKR (4028), 26 YKO (P26), BKT 821C (3706), LKT 132F (3132), OKO 816G (2816), AKM 425K (3425), PKE 809M (5809), LKP 385P (5385), BKE 847T (5847), GKE 442Y (5442), C201 EKJ (1001), P179 LKL (3179).

STAGECOACH KENT & EAST SUSSEX

A general fares revision will be introduced from 1st May in the order of 3% overall. Full details are not yet available, although Explorer tickets will be increased to £5.80 for adults.

A "Passport to great days out in East Kent and East Sussex" item has been published, dated April 2011, containing a network-wide map for the area and vouchers for reduced admission at the usual range of local tourist attractions. This and other new publicity material includes the new fare levels.

A new Family Explorer ticket is available for up to two adults and three children at £20 including travel on the Dotto train service at Eastbourne.

Holder of adult Explorer tickets may take up to three children with them at 10p each during school holidays from 9th to 26th April, 28th May to 3rd June and 23rd July to 31st August.

EAST KENT (Stagecoach in East Kent)

VEHICLES IN : The two Optare "Solo SR" vehicles from Eastonways, Ramsgate, Kent were delivered to Thanet from Kent County Council on 30th March. Details are :

47560	(YJ59 GGF)	SABFWJAF09L290049	new 10/09
47561	(YJ59 GGK)	SABFWJAF09L290050	10/09

Unladen weight is 7160kg, and capacity is B30F+20 (adaptable to B27F+22, B30F+15+1 or B27F+17+1). The model type is officially recorded as M980. These details vary from what has been recorded previously for these vehicles and confirmation of the model type would be particularly welcome. Both were in red with gold skirt and sandy-cream separating wave, and "Island Hopper 38/A" logos.

VEHICLES ON LOAN : As we go to Press it is reported that 16371 (N371 LPN) is to be loaned to Eastbourne Buses imminently for a short period.

ALLOCATIONS : The following movements are based on official information :

33035	(P435 APJ)	RES-RESw	12.3.11
33321	(T936 WWV)	HB-HBw	8.4.11
33428	(X428 NSE)	Acq-RES	2.3.11
33476	(S476 SSE)	Acq-RES	2.3.11
47560	(YJ59 GGF)	Acq-RES	30.3.11
47561	(YJ59 GGK)	Acq-RES	30.3.11

Reserve fleet. 16241 remains in store at Dover, 33428/70/6 and 47560/1 remain in store at Thanet, apart from 47560/1 visiting Ashford for repaint as shown below.

LIVERY : Repaints have been 19026, 19030 and 34779 in March, 16376, 19028, 34066, 47560 and 47561 in April. 47560/1 lost their red livery and are now in light purple.

Route branding. 19026/8/30 lost their Link branding at repaint. Subsequently 19030 received the new version by 26th March, with rear display apparently identical to 19027. 47560/1 are receiving branding for route 38 before entering service.

Major advertisements. Offside "Super Square" advertisements have recently been carried during a short-term campaign for Subway on 34778 (on 19th March) and 33385 (date not quoted). Reports of their removal have not been received

VEHICLES OUT : Remaining vehicles from the previous batch of sales collected by Wigley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) were 32603/8 (N603/8 KGF) by 6th April, 32222 (K922 OWV) and 32467 (N467 PAP) on 9th April.

14803 (H803 BKK) was also taken on 9th April, though its new owner has not yet been confirmed (it has not been seen at the site of the alleged purchaser).

Other vehicles have recently been offered on tender but we await details of outcomes.

33321 (T936 WWV) was transferred to Eastbourne Buses on 9th April, overnighting at Ashford on 8th April en route.

Further to page 10/322, 53017 (VU03 VWB), 53020 (PX03 KCV) went to Stagecoach Glasgow, Ayr, North Ayrshire.

GENERAL : Authorisation has now been increased to 310 vehicles.

Further to page 11/67, the LED destination of 20636 was activated by 31st March. The comment relating to B10Ms not yet fitted with LED destinations should have been qualified as referring only to Alexander-bodied examples.

The latest forecast for the arrival of 59211, delayed by fire repairs, is locally stated as July. Some doubt now attaches to previous reports that this is/was the identity of a National Express vehicle on commercial premises at Lymgne.

SERVICE VEHICLES : 40933 (N933 NAP) moved from Thanet to store at Ashford on 24th March following its use on the Kingsgate shuttle service (see page 11/69).

Tree-lopper 15751 (JVV 251W) moved from Ashford to Folkestone on 28th March and is believed now engaged on cutting along the 558 route as planned.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : CFN 121 - K. Thompson, Retford, Nottinghamshire (preservation); Sly, Clarborough, Nottinghamshire, under whose O-disc this operates, changed address to Retford, Nottinghamshire by 3/10.

CJG 959, YJG 807, VJG 187J (1187) - East Kent Heritage Trust, Dover, Kent (preservation); change of address c3/10 to Woodnesborough, Kent. CJG 959 is currently for sale as reported earlier.

CSU 978 *now M408 BFG* (8408) - Fleetlink UK Ltd., Altrincham, Greater Manchester (dealer) 3/11 ex Southdown, Chichester, West Sussex (52218).

KFN 239 - Ownership remains with East Kent Heritage Trust, Woodnesborough, Kent (preservation) and did not transfer to B. Burlingham, Woodnesborough, Kent (preservation) as reported previously.

TSU 640 *now FKK 840Y* (8840) - Caine, Thornbury, Gloucestershire (Mike's Travel); withdrawn 5/10.

AFN 780B (7780), DJG 619C (8619) - Friends of the East Kent, Dover, Kent (preservation); change of address c3/10 to Woodnesborough, Kent.

EFN 178L (1178) - J. Bamford, Cliffsend, Kent & B. Sealy, Hythe, Kent (preservation) 10/10 ex Friends of the East Kent, Woodnesborough, Kent (preservation) (change of address from Dover c3/10).

NFN 84R (1184) - J. & A. Baxter, Hawkinge, Kent (preservation) by 3/11 ex C. Underwood, Hythe, Kent & M. Bellinger, Penge, Greater London (preservation).

TFN 980T (7980) - Owner is B. Sealy, Hythe, Kent (preservation) (clarification).

EYE 244V (7244) - Jackson, Blackpool, Lancashire (Lancastrian Transport Trust) by 4/11 ex unidentified npsv owner in Oxford, Oxfordshire.

XJJ 661V (7661), CJJ 677W (7677) - Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); back in service 6/10; withdrawn 7/10.

KYV 511X (7201) - auctioned at Wilson Auctions, Newton Abbey, Co. Antrim 4/10 ex Walsh's Hotel, Maghere, Co. Down; no further report.

SKL 680X (7680) - Wigley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) for scrap ex Pikes Coaches, Andover, Hampshire 9/10.

NUW 670Y (7270) - Weaver, Sleaford, Lincolnshire (npsv); gone by 12/10.

NUW 671Y (7271) - Gilkes, West Kingsdown, Kent (671); withdrawn by 10/10.

C122 CHM (7122), D126 FYM (7126) - Tees Valley, Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland 9/10 ex Freedom Travel, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

C707 FKE (7) - Lindsay, Lochboisdale, South Uist, Western Isles; gone by 12/06.

D326 GCD *now YAZ 8922* (8618) - Clegg & Brooking, Middle Wallop, Hampshire 10/09 ex Thompson, Christchurch, Dorset; gone by 8/10; Sims Metals, Corfe Mullen, Dorset (dealer) 9/10 for scrap.

E748 SKR (7748) - Freight Media, Banbury, Oxfordshire (npsv); gone by 11/10.

F761 EKM *now BIG 8752* (7761) - Hardy Miles, Southend, Essex; Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) 10/10; Massiah, Shepperton (Bear Buses), Middlesex 12/10.

F762 EKM *now BIG 8744* (7762) - Hardy Miles, Southend, Essex; Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) 10/10; SBC Engineering, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex (SBC Leisure) 10/10.

F774 EKM (7774) - Durham, Winslow, Buckinghamshire (Howletts Coaches); gone c2/10.

G974 ARV (844) - Erith Commercials, Dartford, Kent (dealer) 2/10 ex Wilkins, Cymmer, Neath & Port Talbot.

J814 NKK (14814) - Abus, Brislington, Gloucestershire 5/10 ex Munden/Peters, Bristol.

J230 XKY (15330) - Bar 'n Bus, Benfleet, Essex 8/10 ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer). Further details of use still awaited.

K714 ASC (254) - Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); withdrawn 7/10.

K847 LMK (15347) - Johnson, Hodthorpe, Derbyshire; this did not enter service and is being used for spares.

K870 LMK (15370) - MAS, Anston, South Yorkshire (MASS Travel); withdrawn for spares by 4/10.

L601 VCD (20601) - Confirmed with Wigley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer) 3/11 ex Ripley, Carlton, South Yorkshire (dealer).

L211 YAG (1211) - Premiere, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (817); gone for scrap 8/09.

M911 WJK (8911) - Durbin, Patchway, Gloucestershire (South Gloucestershire Bus & Coach) 3/11 ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer).

N606 KGF (32606) - S.M. Coaches, Harlow, Essex (503); gone for scrap 11/10.

N354 MPN (354) - Stagecoach Scotland, Cowdenbeath, Fife (16354); loaned to Strathtay Scottish, Cowdenbeath, Fife 7/10, 9/10 and 11/10, on all occasions at Blairgowrie.

N926 NAP (40926) - Bluebird Buses, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire (40926); allocated to Bochan as ancillary vehicle by 11/10.

N927 NAP (40927) - Landmark, Arlesey, Bedfordshire 8/10 ex Lets Go, Manselton, Swansea (15).

N928/9 NAP (40928/9) - Bluebird Buses, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire (40928/9); withdrawn by 11/10 and gone 1/11.

N930 NAP (40930) - Colchri, Renfrew, Renfrewshire; in service by 9/10. Also now quoted with Morris, Renfrew, Renfrewshire by 8/08 until this date, ex Bluebird Buses, Aberdeen, Aberdeenshire (40930); clarification awaited.

N948 NAP (40948) - Forbes, Johnstone, Renfrewshire (Key Coaches) by 11/10 ex First Stop, Renfrew, Renfrewshire (311). Also now quoted with Astrascreen, Greenock, Inverclyde between these operators; clarification awaited.

N965 NAP (40965) - Reays, Wigton, Cumbria; reinstated 1/11.

N452 PAP (452) - Brijan Tours, Curdridge, Hampshire; numbered 109.

S901 CCD (52621) - Lincolnshire, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (52621) 11/10 ex Greater Manchester South, Stockport, Greater Manchester (52621); Cleveland Transit, Stockton, Cleveland (52621) 12/10 (amplification and correction).

S902 CCD (8902) - Lincolnshire, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (52622) 11/10 ex Greater Manchester South, Stockport, Greater Manchester (52622).

S903 CCD *now 456 CLT* (8903) - Hampshire Bus, Chichester, West Sussex (52623) 10/10, allocated to Winchester for driver training, ex Stagecoach South (Hants & Surrey), Chichester, West Sussex (52623); Stagecoach South (Hants & Surrey), Chichester, West Sussex (52623) 4/11, allocated to Aldershot for driver training. In practice it appears this was at Winchester throughout 2010.

S371 DFC (42371) - Go-Goodwins, Eccles, Greater Manchester; re-registered WEZ 7837, 12/09; re-registered S371 DFC, 10/10; GB Coaches, Audenshaw, Greater Manchester 11/10.

S379 DFC *now* WSV 541 (42379) - Go-Goodwins, Eccles, Greater Manchester; re-registered S379 DFC, 10/10; GB Coaches, Audenshaw, Greater Manchester 11/10.
 S380 DFC *now* RIL 4396 (42380) - Summercourt Travel, Summercourt, Cornwall; re-seated to B35F and named "St. Merry", 6/09 (both therefore before re-registration).
 V904 DPN (52654) - Red & White, Cwmbran, Torfaen (52654) 9/10 ex East Midland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (52654).
 PX03 KCV (53020), VU03 VWB (53017) - Stagecoach Glasgow, Ayr, North Ayrshire (53020/17); repainted into Megabus livery and allocated to Blochairn, 12/10.
 PX03 KCV then to Midland Red (South), Rugby, Warwickshire (53020) 2/11, allocated to Rugby.
 VU03 VVZ (53015) - Plaxton, Anston, South Yorkshire (dealer) 9/10 ex East Midland, Lincoln, Lincolnshire (53015).
 VU03 VWA (53016) - Tyre Valley, Acomb, Northumberland 12/10 ex Plaxton, Anston, South Yorkshire (dealer).
 KX08 HMF ("E08") - PC Coaches, Lincoln, Lincolnshire 12/10 ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer). Date from Kent County Council, Aylesford, Kent (as agent) to Ensign not known.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 9/10 - M108 CCD (1108); 10/10 - 531 FN *now* OSV 517 (8531), JJJ 1P (7001), XJJ 658V (7658), JWV 269W (7369), M913 WJK (8913), B124 WUV (7284); 11/10 - 414 DCD *now* B15 YST (1404), 418 DCD *now* B8 YST (1408), G96 SKR (96); 12/10 - H801 BKK (14801), J812 NKK (14812); 1/11 - F761 EKM *now* BIG 8752 (7761); 2/11 - PFN 858; 3/11 - CJG 959, KFN 239, YJG 807, AFN 780B (7780), DJG 619C (8619), VJG 187J (1187), MFN 41R (7041); 4/11 - JG 8720, FFN 446, GJG 757D (7757), RFN 953G (7953), WJG 470J (8470), RVB 977S (0977), E754 UKR (7754), K858 LMK (15358), L601 VCD (20601), N938 NAP (40938), V904 DPN (52654).

ROUTE CHANGES : The following changes are due in the second half of May, having been scheduled initially for 10th April 2011 but deferred pending consultation on bus stops in Singleton and completion of works at Drovers roundabout :

A-Line Extended at Singleton around Imperial Way, Mon-Sat daytime only.
 E-Line Diverted to serve Repton Park, Mon-Sat (except southbound journeys before 0830).

The Open Golf tournament this July will be held at St. George's, Sandwich. As in 2003, Stagecoach East Kent has been successful in winning the park and ride contract.

Bank holidays. Sunday services will generally operate on 22nd, 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May, except as follows on 22nd April :

15 Additional journeys 0930.1130.1255.1415 Dover to Canterbury, 1015.1215.1335.1530 Canterbury to Dover.

34 0930.1100 Westwood to Ramsgate, 1009.1039.1139 x30min to 1409 Newington to Ramsgate, 0956.1026.1126 x30min to 1356 Ramsgate to Newington, 1056.1426 Ramsgate to Westwood.

A-Line 0909.0924.0954 ex Singleton, 0930.1000 x15min to 1300.1330.1345.1400.1430.1445.1500.1515.1545.1600.1615.1630.1645.1700.1730*.1809*.1920* ex Bank Street. Journeys marked * do not serve ASDA.

Loop *Clockwise* 0744.0914.0929.0937.0953.1003.1010.1025.1033.1039 Westwood to Margate, circuits from Margate at 0800.0900.0930.0958 then at 05.13.20.28.35.43.50.58 past each hour until 1605.1612.1620.1627.1635.1647.1700.1710*.1722.1730.1745*.1800.1830 and as normal; *anti-clockwise* 0626.0726.0856.0917.0935.0942.0950.1005.1012 Westwood to Margate, 1003 St. Peter's to Margate, circuits

from Margate at 0815.0915.0945.1005 than at 05.12.20.27.35.42.50.57 past each hour until 1650.1700\$.1708.1715.1722*.1735\$.1745.1755*.1800*.1805*.1815 and as normal. Journeys marked * terminate at Westwood, those marked \$ terminate at Ramsgate Harbour.

Temporary diversions. Further to page 11/68, the diversion at Canterbury on **24th February 2011** was via Station Road West and North Lane. The accident at Sturry shown for 1st March was at Black Mill bridge on **2nd March 2011**, around midday until about 1415. Contrary to previous reports, vehicles were not generally turned at Sturry (indeed, it is questioned how this could have been achieved) and were diverted via Vauxhall Road and Broad Oak, although delays were substantial.

From **22nd March 2010** for up to five days Sly Corner, Kenardington was closed between the Woodchurch Road and Kenardington Road junctions for carriageway repairs. It is assumed that 11B followed the diversion via Woodchurch Road and Kenardington Road.

The closure of Canterbury Road, Elham (see page 11/68) occurred again on **27th March 2011**.

The closure of St. Dunstan's Street, Canterbury did not need to be repeated over the first weekend of April (see page 11/69).

From **4th April 2011** for up to five weeks Bromley Green Road is closed for replacement of water mains. It is not clear whether relevant journeys on 11A and 11B are omitting May Cross, or double-running via Hamstreet Road.

From **12th to 13th April 2011** New Street, Sandwich was closed between St. Bart's Road and No Name Street from 0900 to 1800. Buses were diverted via Dover Road, St. Bart's Road, Woodnesborough Road and Moat Sole.

From **13th to 19th April 2011**, except over the weekend, Fulbert Road and Rokesley Road, Dover were closed. Buses omitted this mileage. Press reports indicate that these works will include the provision of bus stop clearways.

From **18th to 21st April 2011** Melbourne Avenue, Dover is closed between 0800 and 1800 for re-surfacing. 61 runs as normal to Green Lane roundabout, then back to Buckland Bridge and via Crabble Hill, London Road and Whitfield Hill to Tesco. 87, 88/A and 89/A are diverted between Buckland and Tesco via London Road and Whitfield Hill.

From **18th April 2011** for two days Wingham Road, Ickham is closed between School Lane and Bay Lane. We assume that 622 conforms to the official diversions eastbound via Wickham Road, Nargate Street and A257, westbound via A257 and Cherville Lane.

From **18th April 2011** for up to five days Mongeham Road, Great Mongeham is closed between St. Richard's Road and Northbourne Road. We assume that 14 conforms to the official diversion via St. Richard's Road, Cross Road, Ellens Road and Ellens Hill.

From **20th April 2011** for up to three days The Street, Sholden will be closed. It appears that buses will be unable to serve Sholden village for the duration.

ROUTE WORKING : C/HB - From **10th April 2011** two extra DLF are required at C on Sundays for 335 and positioning journeys on 3 group. Exceptionally, 3-0855 335-0827 are scheduled for SLF.

TH - From **10th April 2011** two extra Solos are required on weekdays for 38 and 38A.

PUBLICITY : KCC leaflets for the 558 and 638 from 4th January 2011 are confirmed to have been published, though that for 558 only exists as a photocopy. Other new items are 13 group dated 11th April 2010 with updates to 27th March 2011, 3 group (including 335) from 10th April 2011 and 38 group from 11th April 2011.

The latest edition of the Buzz magazine is dated April to August 2011.

AROUND THE AREAS : **Ashford area**. On 26th March 47117, also 47116 during the morning peak, were on C-Line (SLF) and 16283 (HB) was borrowed at Canterbury for a trip on 652 following a breakdown. On 1st April 33022 was on 15S (SD). On 2nd April 18167 was on two different workings of A-Line (Solo) for most of the day, 16385 on C-Line (SLF), 20311 on 400.652 (SLF). Since losing A-Line branding at repaint, 47668 has often been on the 11 group.

Canterbury/Herne Bay area. On 2nd April 33318 was on 4X (DLF). On 16th April 16274 replaced 22009 on 13A.23A (SLF).

Dover area. On 1st April 20009 was on 61 (Solo). On 7th April 20010 was on 61 (Solo), 33367 on 87.88A.89 (SD), 33387 on 87.88.88A (SD). On 14th April 16011 was on 13A.23A (SLF). On 15th April 16364 and 33387 were on 61 (Solo).

Folkestone area. On 14th March 15480 (Wave branding) was on 16 (DLF), 16390 on 73 (SLF), 33379 on 71 (Env). On 29th March 20636, later replaced by 18168, was on 77.78 (Solo), 19030 (Link branding) on Wave from late afternoon, 47113 on 16 (Dart/SD), 47461 on 16 (DLF). On 31st March 47113 was on 16 (Dart/SD). On 1st April 15506 (Link branding) was on 127 (DD), 16368 on 16 (DLF), 16384 on 78 (Solo), 16390 and 47114 on 71 (Env). On 7th April 15482 (Wave branding) was on 16 (DLF), 16384 on New Romney shorts of 102 (DLF), 19025 (Link branding) on Hythe shorts of 102 (DD), 34089 on 73 (Solo), 47115 on 71 (Env). On 11th April 16384 was on 127 (SLF) all day, 16390 on 71 (Env), 20542 and 20636 on 73 (Solo). On 16th April 16242 was on 16.17 (DLF).

Thanet area. Services 38/A have used Stars vehicles from 11th April until ex-Eastonways 47560/1 are ready for use. Consequently more SLFs have appeared on 34, and SDs on Loop, than usual. On 11th April 20008/11 and 20638 were all on Loop from start of service, and all SLFs continuing on 8.34 or Loop into the evening were changed over at that point, for reasons unknown. On the same day 16264 (HB) completed the 1330 ex London on National Express 022 after 59210 sustained a flat tyre at Whitstable. On 13th April 20008/11 and 20640 were all on 34 (SLF/Solo) at one stage.

HASTINGS & DISTRICT (Stagecoach in Hastings)

LIVERY : An offside "Super Square" advertisement was carried during a short-term campaign for Subway on 33377 by 19th March. This was removed by 4th April.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : J506 GCD *now A/G 4698* (32506) - Glover, Ashbourne, Derbyshire; re-registered J506 GCD, 9/10; UK Private, Adlington, Lancashire 12/10.

J507 GCD (32507) - University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey (npsv); auctioned at Mannheim, Frating, Essex 9/10; no further report.

J509 GCD (509) - South West, Wincanton, Somerset; withdrawn 3/10.

N457 PAP (32457) - Brijan Tours, Curdridge, Hampshire 3/11 ex Hampshire Bus, Chichester, West Sussex (32457).

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 12/10 - J502-4/10/1 GCD (502/3, 32504, 510, 32511).

ROUTE CHANGES : **Bank holidays**. Sunday services will generally operate on 22nd, 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May, except as follows on all these days :

26 0813.1433 ex Silverhill, 0910.1010.1110.1210.1310.1510.1610.1710* ex Conquest Hospital (* terminating at Silverhill).

26A 0852 ex Silverhill, 0940.1040.1140.1240.1335*.1405*.1440.1540.1735* ex Conquest Hospital (* terminating at Silverhill).

The usual duplicates will also operate on Arrows routes.

Temporary diversions. Service 24 was diverted away from Church Road for about two weeks until **6th April 2011**, running via Falaise Road (westbound) or White Rock (eastbound) and St. Margaret's Road.

Normal working resumed at Terminus Road, Eastbourne on **14th April 2011**.

PUBLICITY : A new timetable leaflet for 98.99 is dated 10th April 2011.

The latest edition of the Buzz magazine is dated April to August 2011.

STRANGE VISITORS : 47400 was on Arrows work on 9th and 23rd March. Timings are not quoted, so we do not know what standard types it was displacing. On 1st April 16315 was on Wave (DLF).

SOUTH COAST BUSES

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : 404 DCD *now L424 TJK* (604) - Ribble, Carlisle, Cumbria (20604) 7/10 for driver training, allocated to Chorley, ex Greater Manchester South, Stockport, Greater Manchester (20604); returned to Greater Manchester South 8/10.

HKE 690L (7620) - Whilst with Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses) this was loaned to Mac Tours, Edinburgh 8/01 to 1/02, then appeared at the Fairford Air Tattoo, Fairford 7/02, Gloucestershire; an earlier sighting with "Magictaxi.co.uk" in London, probably on loan from Hoare, was 12/06 (clarifications and additional information). More recently, J. Holden, Bude, Cornwall (preservation) 5/10 ex Nash, Ockley, Surrey (dealer); Mulpeter, Seaford, East Sussex (Seaford & District) 10/10, but yet to enter service.

AAP 648T (7348) - Used as storehoused whilst with Terrill, Lewes, East Sussex (preservation); since gone as reported already.

L602 VCD (602) - Yorkshire Traction, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (20602) 8/10 for driver training ex Greater Manchester South, Stockport, Greater Manchester (20602); returned to Greater Manchester South 8/10.

L201 YAG *now LUI 7662* (1201) - Premiere, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (1862); re-registered L201 YAG, 1/10; withdrawn by 12/10 and gone by 2/11.

L202 YAG (1202) - Premiere, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (1816); withdrawn 2/10 and gone for scrap by 10/10.

L204 YAG (1204) - Premiere, Nottingham, Nottinghamshire (1833); gone by 12/10.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 9/10 - A823 SUL (7203); 4/11 - HKE 690L (7620).

HASTINGS & DISTRICT (1983-1992)

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS: RKO 816M (816) - Uttlesford Buffy Bus, Littlebury Green, Essex by 12/96 ex Peterborough Bus, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire (628), then as published previously.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 4/11 - HKL 836 (436), MWV 840 (1165).

EASTBOURNE BUSES (Stagecoach in Eastbourne)

(outside formal coverage)

33035 (P435 AYJ) was allocated to formal strength on 12th March and 32223 (K923 OWV) was withdrawn for disposal on 11th March (stored at Hastings as reported last month).

33321 (T936 WWV) was transferred from East Kent on 9th April and was back in service by 13th April. As we go to Press it is reported that 16371 (N371 LPN) is to be loaned from East Kent for a short period.

An offside "Super Square" advertisement was recently carried during a short-term campaign for Subway on 33370 by 22nd March. This was removed by 5th April.

By 13th April 35902/4/5 had received Loop route branding. On 35902/5 this includes the rears (apparently different designs).

The Dotto train service is again running from 9th April to 30th October, to a revised timetable.

From 10th April 2011, the MFSH requirement is 3 DD, 7 DLF, 1 SD and 35 SLF. The Saturday requirement is 3 DD, 7 DLF, 1 SD and 34 SLF. The Sunday requirement is unchanged.

The crew ferry requirement is reduced to one vehicle on Mon-Sat. This is now scheduled for a non-wheelchair-accessible Dart relegated from the main fleet, because the number of drivers needing to be ferried sometimes exceeds the capacity of a car (or van). It appears that the three Renault cars therefore become redundant, and that van 90309 (which was still present on 13th April) can now be released back to East Kent as intended. However, reports indicate that two cars/the van are still being used on such trips, presumably when a spare bus is not available. A town centre rest room is being opened which obviates the need for most duty changes at various other points around the town, although crews are taking relief at the tennis club pending renovation of the permanent building. All ferry workings are now between the garage and Memorial roundabout, except one on Mon-Fri which runs to and from Lottbridge Drove *KFC*.

BORO'LINE MAIDSTONE

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : CKN 143Y *now* CYJ 790Y (243) - Taylor, Merstham, Surrey (driver trainer); gone by 1/11.

A853 UYM *now* 84-D-4831 (287) - Healy, Rochfortbridge, Co. Westmeath, Republic of Ireland; withdrawn by 5/07.

C203 GKR (203) - Southern Film Services, Weybridge, Surrey (npsv); gone by 1/11.

C874 YKE (205) - Gretton, Peterborough, Cambridgeshire; gone for scrap 10/10.

E156 OMD (756) - Thomas, Porth, Rhondda Cynon Taff; scrapped on site 12/10.

F112 TML (932) - Pilkington, Accrington, Lancashire (King Travel) 9/10 ex Tees Valley, Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 12/10 - F105 TML (925).

OTHER OPERATORS

Vehicle notes prepared by Jonathan Fletcher

(Those with operating centres within the Club area)

From 28th March to 6th April 2011 services of various operators have been affected by the northbound closure of St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, and from 7th April for two weeks by the closure of Earl Street and Pudding Lane. Arrangements generally conform to the details shown under the Arriva Kent & Sussex heading.

From 10th April 2011 services of various operators formally return to normal mileage at Pembury Hospital. In practice, some buses have been running this way in recent weeks. However, the bus stops remain on Tonbridge Road rather than on the approach road or in the new hospital grounds. Around September, when demolition of the old hospital is complete, a new access road will be available which will lead to a stop directly outside the main entrance to the new building.

Unidentified operator : YR52 MDJ, a plain white Volvo B10M / Plaxton "Panther", has been noted in the Thanet area since 30th March and may have joined the fleet of a local operator (K&A, Ramsgate and L&I, Westgate have been suggested as possibilities). Can anyone confirm who is operating it, please?

Ace Team, Gillingham : Authorisation has been granted.

Autocar, Five Oak Green : There will not be any Scotney Castle operations on the 256 this year because of lack of funding.

Bagust, Chislehurst (Imperial Coaches / Days Coaches) : Vehicle in :
B542 HAM Vo B10M-61 (11339) Pn Pt 3200 2 (8612VZP2C003) C53F 3/86
ex Ham, Flimwell 3/11; ex C515 DND 1/01.

Vehicle out : KYV 312X believed sold for scrap after suffering vandalism 3/11.

Bayliss, Deal : An unspecified variation of authorisation took place in April, and the total of vehicles was increased to 8.

Borden Travel, Sittingbourne : Authorisation has been granted.

Bovington, Margate (P.D. Minibuses) : Authorisation has been revised to two vehicles. The new operating centre is officially listed at Chambers Wall Farm, Potten Street, St. Nicholas-at-Wade, Birchington, CT7 0QP. Note also the change of official trading name.

Buzzlines, Lympne : AE54 HYU was acquired in 9/10.

Carmans, Gravesend : Service TW4 has been registered from 26th April on schooldays between Kemsing *Noahs Ark* and Tunbridge Wells *Boys' Grammar School* via Seal, Sevenoaks and Southborough. A double-decker is believed to have been sourced.

Carr, Pluckley : Vehicle in :
KV03 ZGC Vo B12B (012889) Tbs Pr (0312TKL5098) C49FT 7/03
white; ex Flights Hallmark, Hounslow, Greater London (3000) by 1/11; ex P70 FTG by 1/11, KV03 ZGC 7/08.

Chalkwell, Sittingbourne : YO53 OUG sports Dolphin route branding.
Service 339 started on 7th April, running from Sheerness to Hempstead Valley Shopping Centre on Thursdays. Services 326 and 327, extended to Chatham from 11th April, arrive at Waterfront Way via The Brook and depart via Best Street. Some Saturday journeys on 327 now serve Otterham Park Estate. From 27th April the timings of 324 are altered to 0930 ex Sheerness, 1500 ex Canterbury; the morning bus on 323 is also altered to 0930 in line.

A revised timetable booklet is dated 11th April, and carries a flash for the company's 80th anniversary this year.

On 26th March Lower Road, Minster was closed between Thistle Hill Way and Scocles Road. 367 was diverted via Thistle Hill Way and Scocles Road.

Connections 4 You, Manston : X672 FCR was acquired in 2/11.

Dosanjh, Strood (A.S.D. Coaches) : Vehicle in :
NA54 YUU Fd Tt (TTFE4E16946) Fd 16 10/04
white with blue fleetname; ex M.C. Personnel, Gillingham by 3/11.

Eastonways, Ramsgate : Vehicles in :
SN53 LWM Tbs Dt SLF (SFD6BACR33GW87406) Tbs Ptr 2 (3041/10) B29F 1/04
SN53 LWO Tbs Dt SLF (SFD6BACR33GW87419) Tbs Ptr 2 (3041/11) B29F 1/04
SN53 LWP Tbs Dt SLF (SFD6BACR33GW87420) Tbs Ptr 2 (3041/12) B29F 1/04
silver and light blue; ex Nu-Venture, Aylesford (721-3) 3/11.
F709 SDL was reinstated to service in March.

Vehicles out : YJ59 GGF and YJ59 G GK returned to KCC 3/11 (and then to East Kent as shown under that heading). The exchange of these vehicles for SN53 LWM/O/P took place on 22nd March. YJ59 GGF/K were last used on the 38/38A on 18th March, with step-entrance Dennis "Darts" N110 CET and N308 DSL filling in until SN53 LWP entered service on the route on 23rd March and SN53 LWO by 29th March. SN53 LWM/P performed Eastonways last day on the 38 on 9th April.

New route E83 has been registered from 25th May between Palm Bay and Ramsgate Station via Margate, Westgate, Birchington and Manston, running hourly on weekdays. Note that this route and its number are in effect a mirror image of the 38.

Essential Travel, Chartham (ETW Executive Cars) : Essential Travel Management Ltd., 14 Chestnut Close, Chartham, Canterbury, CT4 7TD have applied for 1R vehicle under PK1102612 with operating centre at Stour Valley Industrial Estate, Ashford Road, Chartham, Canterbury, CT4 7HF. This may or may not be a recordable operation - information is awaited.

Express Cabs, Maidstone (Intacab) : GN57 FCM carries fleet number 86. An additional non-psv is GL57 EUW, a Volkswagen "Transporter" 8-seater.

Gads Hill School, Higham : Gads Hill School, Gads Hill Road, Higham, Rochester, ME3 7PA have applied under PK1103291 for 4 vehicles at the licensed address and 1 vehicle at H.E. Group Ltd., Whitewall Road, Medway City Estate, Rochester, ME2 4DZ.

Hales, Ashford : Vehicle in :
S182 TNM LDV Cv (DN043108) LDV 16 12/98
ex unknown operator by 2/11 (previously with OEC, Sandwich during 2006).
Vehicle out : N119 XNU withdrawn or gone by 10/10.

Ham, Flimwell : L139 VRH was re-registered to K14 HAM in 7/10, and at the same time the previous K14 HAM (withdrawn Ford "Transit") reverted to N457 PBB.
Vehicles out : (w)N457 PBB gone 8/10; B542 HAM to Bagust, Chislehurst 3/11.

Heather, Smeeth (R & J Coaches) : Vehicle in :
R173 SUT Vo B10M-62 (48616) Je Msl (24607) C53F 3/98
white with blue and maroon stripe; ex Seaward, Shepherds Bush, Greater London by 3/11.

Kent Coach Tours, Ashford : YN06 MXT was re-registered to KCT 415 before entering service in April.
Vehicle out : YJ59 GFG returned to KCC 4/11 (and now in use by Go-Coachhire, Swanley on the 280/283 at Tunbridge Wells).

Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (Travelmasters) : Vehicles in :
S91 EGK Ds Dt SLF (SFD212AR1WGW12695) Pn Ptr 2 (9810HJB0041) B29D 12/98
S93 EGK Ds Dt SLF (SFD212AR1WGW12702) Pn Ptr 2 (9810HJB0043) B29D 12/98
red with black skirt; ex London General, Mitcham, Greater London (LDP91, LDP93) 3/11.
A17 GMV was re-registered from R639 RSE in 11/10

Kent Staff Services 2000, Folkestone : Vehicle out : YK05 EWZ sold 2/11.

Kent Top Temps, Aylesford (Kent Top Travel) : YX60 BZR/S/T/U have Plaxton body numbers 1012TTX8661-4 respectively.
Vehicles out : 204 (YF02 SKN), 222 (SN56 EMK), 225 (SN56 ENV), SN56 EOB, 224 (SN56 EOD) to Regent, Whitstable 4/11.

The timetables of 36 and 295 (withdrawn during the daytime on Saturdays) will be revised from 29th May. From the same date 293, 297, 553 and 593 have all been de-registered. See Kent County Council notes.

Kings Ferry, Gillingham : 4.20 (H6 KFC) is now in The Travel Link livery.

6.17 and 6.18 are the vehicles normally used on National Express 007 (see that section). They appear to alternate, and presumably therefore have other workings beyond London on a 48-hour cycle.

M.C. Personnel, Gillingham : An additional Ford "Transit" 16-seater is reported as MK59 USZ but this registration isn't right. Can anyone offer up the correct version?

Mancini, Faversham (Kingsman International Travel) : Vehicle in :

YO53 VGD LDV Cv (?) LDV 16 ?/03
white; ex unknown operator 2/11; ex unknown (possibly military?) registration 12/08; not yet in service.

Nu-Venture, Aylesford : S67 (K867 LMK) was repainted into Chatham & District livery in April, in time for the M&D 100 rally, though use in public service has been constrained.

DN5-7 (DN03 SUL, DS03 SUL, LT03 SUL) received electronic destination displays by 10th April and are all now believed to be in service (DN6 was first used on 23rd March).

Vehicle out : C3558 (Y46 JKR) sold 3/11.

The summer extension of 176 from Grange Road to Riverside Country Park resumes from 24th April until 25th September. From 26th April, 14 will now continue, albeit operating only between Sutton Harbour and Cornwallis Academy, and 66 will be extended from Sutton Harbour via A274 and Headcorn.

Service 87 will be withdrawn after operation on 3rd June. 172 and 173 are due to be diverted in part from 6th June via Dock Road, Medway Tunnel, Medway City Estate and a new bus-only link road to Strood. The present KCC contracts of services 13, 28, 29 and 59 are expected to end on Saturdays after 25th June, and of 70 on weekdays after 1st July.

On 22nd April, only service 151 will operate. On 25th and 29th April, 2nd and 30th May only services 151, 176 and 181 will operate.

In consequence of a fire in Strood (see Arriva Medway Towns notes) the 172 was diverted via the 173 on 28th March until the following afternoon. The 404 was recently affected by the closure of Edenbridge High Street. The effective date is not known, but normal working resumed on 6th April. From 11th April until further notice, the southern part of Eythorne Street is closed, and service 13 is diverted north of Great Danes, running via A20 and Greenway Court Road to Hollingbourne School, thence to Eythorne Street *Hasteds*; a special temporary timetable is in force. From 9th to 13th May a further closure is scheduled at Speldhurst and 282/285 will again terminate at Ferbies.

The last date of using Wayfarer 3 ticket machines was 25th March.

Poynters, Wye : Vehicle out : R187 DNM sold 2/11. Can anyone confirm whether N402 WVR and R953 VPU have also left the fleet?

Regent, Whitstable : Vehicles in :

YF02 SKN	Oe M850 (885)	Oe Solo	B27F	6/02
SN56 EMK	VW LT46 (6H030784)	VDL Kusters	16	9/06
SN56 ENV	VW LT46 (6H033437)	VDL Kusters	16	12/06
SN56 EOB	VW LT46 (6H031469)	VDL Kusters	16	12/06
SN56 EOD	VW LT46 (6H031137)	VDL Kusters	16	12/06

white (except YF02 SKN in DART Network livery of yellow with light blue, white and black logo); ex Kent Top Temps, Aylesford (204, 222, 225, ?, 224) 4/11.

Rose, Chatham (Roseway) : Authorisation has been increased to two vehicles at the licensed address and one at 72 Coombfield Avenue, Dartford, DA2 7LH.

Stradling, Chatham (Strad-Link Minibus Hire) : Vehicle in :

R197 TTK Fd Tt (BDVEVR67032) Fd 16 8/97
ex unknown operator 5/09.

Streamline, Maidstone : It is confirmed that AA10 SET has an Excel body conversion.

Team Support, Acton : New vehicle :

LK09 GXL Rt Mtr (?) ? 16 4/09
white with blue lettering.

Thanet Community Transport, Broadstairs : GK10 VRL has been downseated to 10L.

Thomson & Scott, Broadstairs (East Court School) : Authorisation was surrendered on 29th March.

Valley Travel, Cranbrook (Valley Travel Mini Bus) : Valley Travel (South East) Ltd., The Old Station House, Gills Green, Cranbrook, TN18 5ER have applied for restricted authorisation under PK1102786. The number of vehicles is however shown in *Notices & Proceedings* as nil!

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, stretched limousine operators, and significant npsv developments)

Brighton & Hove, Hove : Beacon Road, Crowborough was closed on 8th to 13th March from 1900. 28 and 29A were diverted via Whitehill (as 29 route). "Regency route" re-branding of Scania 680-8 for the 29 group has commenced (see page 11/51).

Centaur Overland, Sidcup : Service T1-4 have been registered from 20th June on Mon-Fri between Pembury *Langton Green* and London *Vauxhall Bridge Road*.

Countryliner Sussex, Guildford : As expected, an additional operating centre has been listed at Fairbridge Way, Burgess Hill, RH15 8BF, and authorisation has been revised to 40N (though not 45N as reported) vehicles. An additional outcome of the Traffic Commissioner's public inquiry on 14th March is that no new EU (i.e. tachograph) work is to be undertaken. Note that the operator name does not have "Sussex" in brackets, as we have sometimes shown in the past.

Ensign, Purfleet : Issue 12 of the timetable book is dated 4th April. Southbound Mon-Fri journeys hourly from 1150 to 1450 are omitted on the X80 timetable, this is believed to be an error rather than a change, especially as the northbound service continues at these times.

Gilkes, West Kingsdown (West Kent Buses) : A service has been registered between Chatham Station and Chatham Historic Dockyard on 11th and 12th June, running half-hourly. This is presumably for the annual Model Railway Exhibition.

Go-Coachhire, Swanley : Further to page 11/76, the new journey on 402 leaves Hildenborough *Church* at 0911. The 412 is de-registered from 7th May, and timetables of 413 and 421 are revised from 9th May (see page 11/76).

Griffin, Dunton Green : Service WK2 has been registered afresh from 26th April, running from Riverhead *opposite Riverhead public house* via Sevenoaks, Weald and Hildenborough to Weald of Kent School. The registration quotes operation on Mon-Fri, though we believe this will be schooldays only. The timetable of 408 is revised from the same date. Further to page 11/76, new route BM1 is a direct replacement for former Metrobus route 303.

Southdown PSV, Copthorne : Service 646 has been registered on schooldays from 26th April between Edenbridge *High Street* and East Grinstead *Sackville School*. The legal address is now quoted as Unit 3, Silverwood, Snow Hill, Crawley Down, Crawley, RH10 3EN.

Vinson, Faversham : The first Bristol VR noted in use this year is XAN 48T.

The **Amadeus Strood** (Medway Valley Park) night club has closed, perhaps not that recently, after an interesting history of what might be best described as the clandestine operation of a number of bus services, some previously recorded in *Invicta*, in detail as scant as the clothing of many of its patrons. Certainly, buses from daytime London Buses contracts were used by Harris of Grays around the time the club opened. Free (?) services linked the club with parts of Medway, and central Maidstone, at anti-social hours of the night at weekends.

We are told that a local operator was recently approached by the new owners of what is now to be called **PASSION** (opening this month) about their bus service requirements (and politely refused!), so the story is likely to continue.

All of this calls into question the status of the fleet of the club's last owner, Aaron P. Stone, whose O-licence was "not continued". That fleet used to be garaged adjacent to Strood Station and was, in a number of ways, the remains of the **Amberlee** operation.

Our correspondent suggests that members with further information may rouse themselves from their armchairs to fill in some of the gaps.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

TRAFFIC : Around the end of March, although the exact date is not known, the journeys on 007 (0730 ex London and 1100 ex Dover) hitherto worked by Ulsterbus vehicles with National Express drivers from Crawley have been taken over by Kings Ferry, Gillingham.

Registration changes have been lodged for the timetables of 021, 022 and 024 from 16th May. Further details are not known.

From June, Eurolines, part of the National Express group, are to introduce more frequent stops in Kent and Medway. The existing stops at Hempstead Valley, Canterbury and Dover are to be complemented by a new service to Brussels via Calais and Lille, stopping at Hempstead Valley and "stop 24" close to the Channel Tunnel terminal outside Folkestone (this is believed to be the recently-built motorway service area adjacent to junction 11 of the M20).

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

Further to page 11/77, it appears that East Sussex County Council only honour their own ENCTS passes (including those issued by the relevant District Councils) for travel before 0930 on Mon-Fri. Holders of passes issued by other authorities are excluded.

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

TENDERS : Tenders have been issued for 293, 295/297 (Saturday daytime), 553 and 593 from 29th May following de-registration by Kent Top Travel.

PUBLICITY : The following timetable leaflets have recently been confirmed for supported services. We publish them all together here, although some may have been produced under the auspices of the operators concerned, and some have been superseded by subsequent issues already reported :

13 (Nu-Venture) dated 12th April 2010, 13 (Kent Coach Tours) dated 11th April 2011, 20 group dated 12th April 2010, 36 dated 8th March 2010, 39 and 56 dated 22nd March 2010, 68 dated 11th April 2010, 130 and 131 dated 11th April 2011, 150 dated 17th May 2010, 200 (including 402 journey) dated 11th April 2011, 222 group dated 11th April 2010, 280/283 dated 11th April 2011, 282/285 dated 12th April 2010, 294 dated 14th June 2010, 295/297 (issue 2) dated 15th March 2010 with corrections, 401/421 dated 11th April 2010 and re-issued with Countylinks branding 1st August 2010, 404/405 dated 12th April 2010, 407 group dated 30th May 2010, 523 dated 21st June 2010, Maidstone Kent Karrier dated 11th April 2011.

MEDWAY COUNCIL

GENERAL : The latest target date for the Chatham dynamic bus facility coming into operation is 7th August.

Mr Geoff Walters (Public Transport Manager) recently left the service of the Council following staffing economies. We should like to thank Mr Walters for his assistance to the Club over many years.

Further to page 10/332, it is suggested that Lambkin, Sheerness (Tim's Travel) used the Pentagon bus station when operating service 327 on Sundays many years ago. Can anyone remember this, please?

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

AWARDS : A batch of tender results was expected imminently as we went to Press. We hope to have details next month.

PUBLICITY : Update sheets for the Uckfield timetable leaflet have just been reported dated 29th March 2010 and 29th November 2010.

BOOK REVIEW

by Nicholas King

MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT : 1915 to 1921 - Richard Rosa. As planned, this second volume in Richard Rosa's coverage of the early years of M&D has appeared.

There is little to be added to the general level of commendation already expressed for the first volume (page 11/78). The book covers the main part of the Great War years and the initial period of expansion following the end of hostilities. Particular attention is paid to the acquisition of Neve's operation at Sutton Valence in 1916 and of the North Kent operation in 1920, both of which have vexed previous historians with their various loose ends. As before, whilst no attempt is made to draw clear conclusions, the available evidence is set out clearly for readers to draw their own conclusions.

The book can be ordered from the author at 77 Artillery Row, Gravesend, Kent, DA12 1LY at £8.95, or at £16.50 with the previous volume covering the years up to 1914, inclusive of postage. Cheques should be made payable to "Richard Rosa", and your Club membership number must be quoted to secure these promotional prices. Those wishing to pay by direct bank transfer or to order copies from overseas can contact the author by e-mail on the special address of m-and-d@hotmail.co.uk.

AT THE RALLIES

Vehicles of local derivation reported are :

M&D 100, Detling, 9th April 2011 : "D 8650", DY 4965*, JG 8720, KO 7311, DKT 16, FFN 446, HKE 867*, HKL 819*, HKL 836, LKT 991*, MWV 840, NKN 650, OKP 980, YIL 3191, 390 DKK*, 277 DKT*, 308 LKK*, 558 LKP, 28 TKR, 26 YKO, BKT 821C*, LKT 132F, OKO 816G, RFN 953G, AKM 425K, FKM 706L, HKE 690L*, PKE 809M, LKP 385P, RVB 977S, WKO 138S, BKE 832T, BKE 847T, BKE 848T,

- 11/110 -

GKE 442Y, A201 OKJ*, A888 PKR, C201 EKJ, E887 KYW, F579 SMG, G77 PKR, K907 SKR, K867 LMK*, L605 EKM, M916 MKM, M923 PKN, M619 PKP, N102 CKN, P179 LKL, P219 MKL, P929 MKL, R903 BKO, W183 CDN, UK04 TGM, GN58 BTE*. Those marked * were used on rides around the site. GJG 757D was also present separately, outwith the M&D event.

Cobham Bus Museum annual bus and coach spring gathering, Dunsfold Aerodrome, 10th April 2011 : EAS 543 (ex WLT 752), OKP 980, 409 DCD, GJG 750D, WJG 470J, LKP 385P, RVB 977S, DAD 798Y, P934 MKL, R456 SKX, V904 DPN.

Back cover illustrations

upper One of several vehicles appearing for the first time in preserved guise at the M&D 100 event on 9th April at Detling was former M&D 5442 (GKE 442Y), a 1983 Leyland "Olympian" with Eastern Coach Works bodywork. It has been restored in its original Invictaway livery, which had been introduced over the previous winter to replace the original black version, and was one of five such vehicles introduced to increase capacity on the Invictaway network between the Medway Towns and London, supplementing the use of three converted Leyland "Atlantean" vehicles. These five were to be followed by nine more as the service reached its peak in the mid-1980s.

5442 itself was relegated in 1992 to bus work at Hawkhurst, whence it passed in 1996 to Clydeside and from 2000 through a succession of other owners before being acquired by J. Purcell for preservation in March 2009. *Nigel Eadon-Clarke*

lower Representing the traditional single-deck fleet of M&D as many members remember it, 3224 (originally SO224, then S224) is an AEC "Reliance" of 1957 with Beadle bodywork, the last order supplied by this local builder to M&D. This view was caught at Godden Green on 6th August 1995 during a rally and running day at Sevenoaks. The 68 had been licensed from 6th February 1932 (although Omnibus Society records give the starting date as 29th February 1932), replacing a former operation of West Kent Motor Services, Sundridge, and was always associated with Borough Green depot until its closure in 1983. Subsequently it has been worked by a number of smaller operators under a KCC contract, and its original western section survives as service 404, currently worked by Nu-Venture, Aylesford.

3224 spent its entire operational life with M&D at Faversham until 1971 before appearing with the Assembly of God at Sittingbourne and from 1975 as farm workers' transport in the Leybourne area, passing into preservation ownership in 1981. *Derek Jones*

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- 11/111 -