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THE M&D AND EAST KENT BUS CLUB
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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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Invicta reports should be sent to the Editor at 42 St Albans Hill, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, HP3 9NG (e-mail : editor@mdebusclub.org.uk). Those exclusively for "other operators" can be sent direct to the Editorial Assistant at 104a High Street, UCKFIELD, East Sussex, TN22 1PX (e-mail : other.operators@mdebusclub.org.uk). The deadline for the next issue is **Tuesday 9th January**. Late reports may be considered up to Friday 12th January, subject to space constraints, but will be held over if they are substantial and/or need checking before being published.

Scanned topical photographs are welcomed by e-mail. Please limit submissions to a maximum of three low-definition attachments per message. We shall come back to you if we need a higher-definition file for publication.

LOCAL MEETINGS

Monday 8th January at 1930 : Transport slide show at the John Taplin Centre, 3 Upper Maze Hill, St. Leonard's, TN38 0LQ. Further information from Terry Blackman on ☎ 01424 812506 or at terry.blackman@btopenworld.com.

Monday 8th January at 1930 : Maidstone and Medway meeting in the upstairs room of the "Bush" public house in Rochester Road, Aylesford, ME20 7BS. Members are invited to bring photographs on any digital media, or slides by prior arrangement. Further information can be obtained from our Area Organiser, Jeff Tucker, on ☎ 01634 241538.

Front cover illustration : At short notice, Nu-Venture took over operation of Kent County Council journeys on route 58 from Arriva Kent & Surrey on 27th November. Recent MAN/MCV arrival 615, in Castle Way, Leybourne on 5th December, demonstrates both its re-registration with a cherished mark and the different destination information (which may prove to be only short-term) now being displayed
Neil Bays

CLUB NOTICES

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING : Formal notice is given that the Club's Annual General Meeting will be held at St. Andrew's United Reformed Church, Watling Street, Canterbury (about three minutes' walk from the Bus Station) at 1430hrs on Saturday 10th March 2018. All current, full, honorary, associate and family members are invited to attend.

- Nominations are now invited for candidates to serve on the 2018/19 Management Committee, in the four executive posts of Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor, and the four places of Committee members, which will be elected at this meeting. Under the Constitution of the Club, no member may hold more than one of the executive posts.
- Any current full member may nominate any other current full member, for each of the eight available posts. Self-nomination is permissible but should at least be seconded by another current full member. If you need help with finding a seconder, please contact the Secretary at secretary@mdebusclub.org.uk or by post to 2 Gaiger Close, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 6UR.
- A member nominated for an executive post may also be nominated for ordinary membership of Management Committee (to allow for the possibility of unsuccessful nomination to the executive post).

The present Management Committee post-holders are Richard Mellor (Chairman), John Collins (Treasurer), Lee Crust (Secretary), Nicholas King (Editor) and Myles Chantler, David Jenkins, Richard Lewis and Chris Duncombe (Committee Members). All offer themselves for re-election/election but other nominations are very much welcome.

Nominations must be received in writing by the Secretary, Lee Crust, at 2 Gaiger Close, CHELMSFORD, Essex CM1 6UR or by e-mail to secretary@mdebusclub.org.uk by **Saturday 6th January 2018**. Each candidate must be nominated by two current full members (which may include themselves and/or a member of the existing Management Committee). The candidate's agreement should, as a courtesy, have been secured before the nomination is lodged although we can seek this after receipt of nominations if needed. If any post is contested, elections will be held by secret ballot at the AGM. Should there be more than one nomination for any post, details will be given in the February 2018 issue of *Invicta* together with information about how members unable to attend the AGM may vote.

Current full members may raise any items of formal business to the AGM and these should also be notified in writing to the Secretary (either by letter or e-mail as above) by **Saturday 6th January 2018**. Items received after this date cannot be included within the Agenda, an essential requirement for any discussion to be binding on the new Committee.

In this notice, the term "current full member" means a member, other than an honorary, associate or family member, whose subscription has been paid for 2018.

As usual, the Agenda, Annual Report and Accounts will be circulated as a single document with the February issue of *Invicta*.

We would also still like to hear from any member willing to assist with any of the Club's current activities. We continue to have vacancies in the Photographic and Sales departments and the long-standing vacancies for Area Organisers in Ashford, Gravesend, Sittingbourne/Isle of Sheppey and Tunbridge Wells/Tonbridge areas are beginning to enter the world of myth and legend! All reasonable expenses will be reimbursed and the Committee will consider splitting roles and duties among a number of people so we can get them covered. If you would like to know more about how you can help, whether you have joined us recently or are a longer-standing member, please get in touch.

Lee Crust Secretary

SURPLUS EQUIPMENT : The club wishes to dispose of its previous generation of lightweight folding tables which we used on the sales stand. Two are in good condition and two others are damaged slightly but may still be usable. They are available to any member or organisation for a donation to Club funds, and would need collecting from Chestfield. Enquiries (including as to condition) should be made to Brian Weeden on ☎ 01227 793433. If no interest is received by 31st January 2018 they will be disposed of elsewhere.

Chris Duncombe *Secretarial Assistant*

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS 2018 : Thank you to the 80% of members who have so far renewed their membership for 2018. For those of you who have yet to renew, we do hope you will do so, and to save you having to search for the original form issued with October's *Invicta*, a further form is enclosed which repeats all the payment details.

John Collins *Treasurer*

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE BULLETIN : Management Committee met on Saturday 28th October. Amongst the topics discussed were :

- Further updates on various administrative projects that have been taken on over the course of the year, many of which are now being finalised. These include a consolidated master list of members, among other reasons to make tracking Club membership anniversaries less time-intensive, and a comprehensive update to the Club's management manual.
- Following an approach from the Kithead Trust earlier in the year, the committee discussed at length to what extent we may be able to work with the Trust to ensure the Club's extensive records continue to be preserved, as well as whether anything already in the Kithead archives may be a useful reference source for the Club.
- After the slow start to the year as previously mentioned, the new editions of the annual publications had sold extremely well and this was reflected in the finances. The printing and collation problems experienced with FLB2017 and P.41 were discussed at length, and the willingness of the printer to replace all items at no cost to the Club was again noted. Black and white photos continue to sell very well, although colour uptake is markedly lower.
- We were pleased to note the very quick turnaround on membership renewals, with approximately 60 received within the first week.
- Initial discussion as to how upcoming regulatory changes would affect the Club, particularly in the areas of safeguarding and the new General Data Protection Regulation. Further investigations will take place in time for the next meeting, drawing on professional activities of the committee members and in collaboration with other organisations. It was also agreed that we should consider reinforcing the Club's copyright notices, especially on photos supplied in good faith for outside publications which had subsequently appeared elsewhere without appropriate credit.

The next meeting is on 20th January 2018. Comments from members on these or any other topic are welcomed for consideration.

Chris Duncombe *Secretarial Assistant*

OTHER NOTICES : This section is offered as a courtesy to members. The Club accepts no responsibility for any goods or services mentioned.

- The owners of P238 MKN will be running a route 136 feeder from Gravesend *Station* to the Nu-Venture event in Rochester on 30th December (see page 17/291), using timings from the 1997 timetable with an eight-minute stand at the St. George's Centre stops, which now see very little use. The timetable for the running day itself is now published on the Nu-Venture web-site at nu-venture.co.uk/webtimes.pdf.

- James White is looking to source an ex-East Kent cash tray, cash box and ticket machine stand for his preserved ex-East Kent Daimler Fleetline, RFN 953G, and would be glad to hear from any members who can provide any of these items. The cash till would have had the notice "PLEASE STATE YOUR DESTINATION AND TENDER EXACT FARE IF POSSIBLE" with black lettering on a yellow background, displayed to boarding passengers. If you have these items and would be agreeable to selling them, please contact James.J.White@hotmail.co.uk with details of your asking price and, if possible, attaching a picture. Interior pictures of the RFN-G Fleetlines when in service with East Kent would also be of specific interest.
- David Molyneux still has a few copies left of his colourful "Good old M&D" book (see review in *Invicta* 772), which would make excellent Christmas presents. If interested, please e-mail David on dlmolyneux@gmail.com, or phone him on ☎ 01372 800967.
- The annual South East Bus Festival at Kent Showground, Detling will be held on 7th April and will mark the 60th anniversary of the Leyland Atlantean. Those interested in entering vehicles can find further information at arriva.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival or at facebook.com/southeastbusfestival.



The following vehicle data are currently outstanding :

Guildford – variable seating capacity of 4200.

Kent Science Park : unladen weight of AC006 (if still around) and all details of LT63 JVV.

Northfleet – body number of 1560;
interior staircase picture of 6453.

Reserve (Maidstone) – interior staircase pictures of 6458/65.

Withdrawn – unladen weights and variable seating capacities of 2445, 4167/71.

There have been no deletions from the list this month, only additions.

Amending page 17/292, the last of the Mercedes-Benz Sprinters with Arriva Kent Thameside at Hemel Hempstead is 1020, not 1022 as initially reported elsewhere. It appears that the group order for 22 vehicles includes the four delivered earlier this year for Guildford and Maidstone, so this further batch has fleet numbers 1004-21. There is still no official information on where the rest will be used.

Ex-Abellio trainer T855 was seen in use in the Sittingbourne area on 29th November. This seems to imply that at least this one is now in use with AKS, but we await official confirmation.

ARRIVA KENT & SURREY

(not including route information for the Guildford area)

DEMONSTRATOR : An arrival at GL on 23rd November was SK17 HHC, a Wrightbus StreetDeck micro-hybrid (SA9DDRSXX16141250) / Wrightbus (AN241) H45/29F new in 8/17. It was in metallic silver with red, black and grey zigzag striping, and had the glass offside staircase feature. Fleet number 6802 was allocated although tickets were issued as 0000. Unladen weight was 10677kg. It was noted on driver familiarisation on 30th November, then on service 101 (although having no Sapphire features) on 1st, 4th, 5th, 7th, 8th and 11th December. It is featured in a short article in the December issue of *Buses* magazine.

VEHICLES IN : It has only just been noticed that some incorrect registrations were shown on page 17/209. 4459 is MX61 AXW whilst 4463/9/71 are MX61 AYB, MX61 AXK/N.

VEHICLES ON LOAN : 3537/9 are officially listed on loan to Arriva Midlands by 24th November; they were last sighted in Maidstone on 1st November and 10th October respectively. In fact 3539 is with Arriva the Shires at Milton Keynes. There are no reports of 3537, either at Midlands or Shires.

3909, on extended loan to AKT, has not been reported there since 7th October.

A fresh standby vehicle on ArrivaClick work from London Hire, Belvedere since at least 16th November is LT63 VJV, of which details are awaited. WR58 TXS has not been seen lately, so it seems likely that there has been a changeover. It is possible that the fleet number AC006 is used on a catch-all basis for whatever vehicle is currently in use, and that we should treat any such vehicles as loans rather than formal acquisitions.

ALLOCATIONS : Official details for period ending 24th November are :

1607	TW-TWw	3806	GL-GLw	4235	M-Mw
1610-4	RES-RESw	3807	RES-RESw	4240/2/3	M-RES
1616/7	GL-SH	3809	GL-RES	4280/1	GL-M
1635/6	SH-RES	3958/9/68	M-RES	4285-8	GL-GLw
1657	Acq-TW	3982	GL-RES	4382	Acq-NE
3336	TW-RES	4040/9	GL-RES	6009	RES-RESw
3340/3	TW-TWw	4057/67	GL-RES	6011	Acq-RES
3412	GF-RES	4097	New-M	6254	Acq-w
3537/9	M-Mw	4111-25	New-GL	6463	RES-M
3732	GF-RES	4126-9	New-M	AC001-6	SH-KSP

No official details were listed for October, so this list covers two months. Many of the moves are known to have happened earlier, as already recorded or as shown elsewhere in this issue. Note that none of the short-term transfers from NE or TW to M for the duration of the temporary garaging arrangements is shown, so we shall treat those as loans. 3982 is marked as due for transfer to M – see Reserve fleet details below.

Subsequently 3960 was reported at Southend (AKT) on 29th November, though this may only have been a maintenance visit.

Of previous movements delayed, 3905 (SH) was last noted at M on 10th November, moving via GL on 22nd November to reach SH by 29th November. 3908 (SH) was last noted at M on 14th November, moving via GL on 17th November to reach SH by 23rd November. 6437 (M) arrived from GL by (probably on) 17th November.

Additional moves for period ending 25th August were 2859 RES-NE, 2860 NE-RES.

Loans. There have been no further reports of 6129 (TW) either at M or back home. 6131 (TW) was in use at M on 8th December.

3736-9 have remained on nominal loan from NE to M. The coach appeared to be 4382 in the week or so leading up to 11th December. 4065 appeared as a substitute on X1.X2 on 29th November, following 6006 on 13th November.

Limited reports of the four vehicles on nominal loan from TW to M are that 4227 was seen on 24th and 25th November, 4229 on 25th November and 6124 on 29th November, 6130/5 on 4th December. 3961/2 (M) were on two of the workings on 25th November.

Of loans from GL to SH, 6413 remained current on 30th November and 6440 on 4th December. 6432 was returned on 13th November. 4063 has not been reported at either end since the last sighting at SH on 2nd November. 1650 was at SH by 9th December.

Of loans from SH to GL, 1616/7 were still at GL on 9th December; it seems doubtful whether either has ever reached SH.

Reserve fleet. 1000 remained in use at M until at least 27th November. 1609 remained in use at SH until at least 8th December. 1629 and 3412 were in store at GF on 11th December. 1635/6 were out of use at GL on 3rd December. 3809 remained in use at SH until at least 17th November, then was in use at GL on 24th November and still on 9th December. 3910 remained in use at M until at least 29th November; a report at SH on 25th November via GL the previous day seems to be a misidentification. 3952 remained in use at M until at least 25th November. 3958 was in store at M on 11th December (last reported use on 26th September). 3959 has not been seen since use at M on 9th November. 3968 was in store at M on 11th December (last reported use on 26th September). 3982 was in use at M by 25th November and still on 5th December. 4040 and 4049 were at GL on 3rd December, not necessarily in use. 4057 remained in use at SH until at least 10th November, but was back at GL by 29th November. 4067 remained in use at SH until at least 25th November, but was back at GL by 3rd December. 4240 has not been seen since use at M on 16th October. 4242 has not been seen since use at M on 17th November. 4243 has not been seen since being noted at Southend on 12th October; its last reported use at M was on 10th October. 6257 had returned to TW by 14th November and still on 6th December but was running at M again on 8th December.

There are no reports this month of 2860, 2863, 2881, 2882, 2905, 3336, 3707, 3732, 3808, 3810, 6011, 6239, 6458, 6465 or 8001.

Withdrawn fleet. 3343 is reported elsewhere as in use at NE; local sources cannot confirm this. 3537 and 3539 are away as mentioned above. 3806 remained in use at SH on 5th December. 6254 was back in use at TW on 14th November, then overnighted at M on 21st November before passing to store at Southend on 22nd November.

There are no reports this month of 3294, 3296, 3339, 3340, 3342, 3538, 3807, 4167, 4171, 6001, 6009, 6245, 6248, 6249 or 6261.

VEHICLES OUT : The purchaser of 3292/9, 6037, 6247/90 remains unconfirmed, though *Buses* shows others of this consignment to Hardwick, Barnsley, South Yorkshire (dealer); on what authority we are unclear.

3295/7, 3302 have been sold, apparently in October, to an unknown purchaser. 3302 remained in use at GL on 13th November but had gone by the end of the month.

4235 is confirmed as transferred to AKT during October (last reported use at M on 26th September) and 4285 is also confirmed as transferred to AKT, probably by 3rd November.

We shall now treat 1610-4 as transferred to AKT, at dates already shown.

LIVERY : Route branding. Clarifying page 17/294, 1656/7 have lost all reference to service 281 whilst recently away, but retain “Town Centre bus link” legends above the windows on each side.

PROPERTY : We understand that the ArrivaClick operation moved to the Kent Science Park operating centre on or around 12th November, the same date as the enhanced hours of operation came into effect. However, one of the vehicles (unidentified) was noted at Sheerness depot on 9th December.

Hoardings had been erected around the St. John’s Road frontage of Tunbridge Wells depot by December. The closed New Enterprise office north of Tonbridge station appears to have been resurrected as a staff rest-room, according to a notice on the door.

GENERAL : Arriva Kent Thameside 3779 left Gillingham during November after a lengthy period for mechanical attention.

SERVICE VEHICLES : The purchaser of T132 remains unknown; see comment above in "vehicles out" for the main fleet.

No information has been reported on the five ferry vehicles at TW, nor is anything shown in the latest official list. Local reports would be welcomed please!

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : FD02 UKK (6255) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (6255); transferred to reserve fleet 11/17 for extra schools work at Southend.

FD02 UKN (6258), LJ03 MZL (3520) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (6258, 3520); withdrawn 10/17.

GK52 YVC (3938) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (3938); transferred to reserve fleet 11/17.

LF52 USZ (3516) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (3516); withdrawn 11/17.

GN04 UCX/Z, GN04 UDB/D/H (1607/10-2/4) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (1607/10-2/4); allocated to reserve fleet, 1607/11/2 in use at Stevenage 11/17 and 1610 at Ware 11/17, 1614 last seen in use at Stevenage 10/17.

GN04 UDG (1613), GN14 DYD-F/H (4285-8) - Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (1613, 4285-8); allocated to Stevenage 11/17.

YJ07 VRC (1518) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (1518); withdrawn 11/17 (last reported in use at Harlow 8/17).

KX62 JXU/Y (7001/2), KX13 AVJ-P/R (7003-10), KX13 DHA (7011) – Arriva Merseyside, Aintree, Merseyside (7001-11); renumbered 4351-61 9/17.

KX13 DHE (4235) – Arriva Kent Thameside, Maidstone, Kent (4235); allocated to Southend 10/17.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.

ROUTE CHANGES : The route and timetable of 190/668 were revised from **22nd** November. Details are not known.

From **26th November** service 58 was withdrawn, Mon-Sat.

The timetable of 531 was amended from **11th December**; details are not known.

From **21st January** there will be minor timing changes on 333 and 334, and a new fast 334 journey from Sheerness to Sittingbourne at 0520, apparently via Sheppey Crossing rather than Kings Ferry bridge.

Special services. A Park and Ride service was registered to and from University of Kent at Chatham for the Dickensian Christmas Festival in Rochester on **2nd and 3rd December**. No details have been received. 6404/24/32/41/77/83 and 6519 were used on 2nd December, 6429/73/8/83, 6517/8 on 3rd December.

Christmas and New Year period. On **24th and 31st December** normal Sunday services will operate; no early finishes are necessary this year (190 continues until normal close of service after midnight).

No buses will run on **25th December**.

On **26th December** there will be special services on 166 (30min headway), 190 (Sunday service between Chatham Station and Dockside Outlet Centre), 700 (30min headway plus early journeys service), ArrivaClick (1000 to 2000). No other buses will run.

On **27th to 29th December** Saturday services will run, plus 6X(full route to Maidstone *Chequers*) and 120/121, all offering normal services for the day of the week. On 27th December 24 (Tuesday service) and T13 will also run, on 28th December 293 and T14; on 29th December 292, 299 and T15.

On **1st January** Sunday services will run with extra journeys on 166 and 700, and ArrivaClick (1000 to 2000).

Park & Ride. There will be no buses on **25th and 26th December** or **1st January**. From **27th to 29th December** a Mon-Fri service will run.

Temporary diversions. On **1st December** the Christmas lights at East Peckham were switched on, closing roads in the centre from 1645 to 2000. Outbound buses on 6/A ran from the Hop Farm Family Park via the A228 to Hale Street roundabout, entering the village via Hale Street to Branbridges Road and waiting there before leaving at their normal times to Tunbridge Wells. The 6 at 1650 from Maidstone ran from Hale Street to Branbridges Road to depart at the normal time.

On **6th December** Aylesford High Street was closed for emergency gas mains repairs. Buses were diverted via Rochester Road, Pilgrims Way and Bull Lane, turning in Eccles at Hawkes Road. This also affected Nu-Venture journeys on 155.

On **9th December** Eastwood Road, Ulcombe was closed for Southern Water reinstatement work. 59 terminated at Kingswood, not serving Ulcombe or Grafty Green.

The farmers' market in West Malling was transferred from 24th December to **10th December**. 72 was diverted in the usual way. This also affected Nu-Venture 151.

On **11th December** Northumberland Road, Maidstone was closed from 1900 to enable pothole work to be blitzed. Buses were diverted from South Park Road via Park Avenue (return Suffolk Road), Oxford Road, School Lane and Willington Street.

On **11th to 15th December** West Street, Faversham is closed so that block paving can be re-laid. 333 will be diverted on inward journeys via Stonebridge Way, Lower Road and South Road.

PUBLICITY : A leaflet has appeared for extra journeys on 700 from 24th November to 23rd December, although it does not make clear that these only operate on Mon-Sat.

A leaflet has also appeared promoting the enhanced ArrivaClick service.

TICKETING : New Ticketer ticket machines which accept contactless payment were introduced on 19th November at Guildford, replacing Wayfarer 200 machines. Return tickets have a QR code which is scanned on the return journey and the QR code is then torn off and retained by the driver. It remains to be seen whether these will appear at other depots. The major groups are committed to introduce contactless payment universally by the end of 2018; Go-Ahead and Stagecoach have almost completed and First have made some progress but Arriva seem so far to have only introduced it in the north-east.

AROUND THE AREAS : Maidstone area. On 27th November, 1000 was used in the afternoon peak on 9 (DLF), its first recorded use at this time of day. This has recurred on subsequent unspecified occasions.

Medway area. On the afternoon of 24th November at least one westbound journey on 700 diverted via the Medway Tunnel and A289 in the early afternoon for reasons unknown.

Swale area. 1520 was unusual on 368 (SLF) on 18th November. It has otherwise generally been on 361 (MPD) and associated work lately, rather than on its prescribed 349 diagram.

Tonbridge area. Correcting page 17/297, 6006 (not 6001, which is long-withdrawn) was on X1.X2 (SLF) on 13th November. It appears that X1 and X2 avoid use of the M20 at times of congestion. On 27th November, 3738 was seen in Forstal Road, Aylesford on the 1820 departure from Maidstone. 6005 was on 6X (E20/OV) on 9th and 29th November, 1st and 8th December. On 29th November 3970 was also on 6X (E20/OV).

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

During period ending 24th November 1504-6 were formally withdrawn and returned to Kent County Council, 2445 was withdrawn, 6011 and 6254 were transferred to AKS. Several of these took place at earlier dates as already recorded.

There are no reports of withdrawn 6253, nor of when 1505 returned to KCC, though that is believed to have been during September.

On 24th and 31st December Sunday services will operate, with last buses as follows :

- A 2135 ex Dartford, 2125 ex Bluewater.
- B 2114 ex Temple Hill, 2121 ex Gravesend.
- 490 2145 ex Dartford (only as far as Gravesend *Garrick Street*), 2135 ex Valley Drive (only as far as Northfleet *Depot*).

No buses will run on 25th December.

On 26th December there will be special services on 483 (hourly between Bluewater and Gravesend centre but not serving Ebbsfleet), 490 (20min between Bluewater and Valley Drive), Fastrack B (30min headway either side of Bluewater to and from Temple Hill and Ingress Park to pre-empt possible traffic congestion). No other buses will run.

Saturday services will run on 27th to 29th December.

On 1st January Sunday services will run. The 483 at 1838 from Kings Farm will be extended to Bluewater, with an additional trip at 1940 from Bluewater to Kings Farm.

The route and timetable of 481 will be revised from 29th December, and again from 21st January. Details are not known.

On 2nd December Wrotham village was closed from 1000 to 1900 for the Christmas Fayre. 308 was diverted via the by-pass.

On 2nd December 4272 was on Fastrack B. This seems to be the first reported instance of a non-dedicated vehicle on this work.

ARRIVA KENT & SUSSEX

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : L156 YVK (3156) – Curtis, Allee es Frees, Alderney, Channel Islands (Riduna Buses) (clarification); withdrawn by 9/17 because of the illness of the proprietor, and possibly operated by Alderney Tours during the 2017 summer season on his behalf.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.

MAIDSTONE & DISTRICT

GENERAL : In early November, Setright SMB Mk I “Speed” ticket machine W36 was repatriated to the UK from Glenarchy, Tasmania, Australia, where it is understood to have spent at least the past forty years. The W series of machines was new in 1952/3, and we know that most had been withdrawn and disposed by 1973, when W36 was recorded in store at Postley Works, although a few remained in use at Gillingham, having been decimalised.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : KJ 1930 236) *chassis only* - Southdown Omnibus Trust, Amberley, West Sussex (preservation) 9/98 ex M. Plunkett, Ashurst, West Sussex [previously of Steyning, West Sussex] (preservation spares).

KL 7796 (73) – Southdown Omnibus Trust, Amberley, West Sussex (preservation); replica body now being constructed to replace the Short original.

DKT 11 (C553) – G. Lawson, Baildon, West Yorkshire (Yesteryear Vintage Vehicles) (preservation) 4/17 ex Peers, Bradford, West Yorkshire (preservation).

YKT 959B (P32) – A. Howe, Polegate, East Sussex (preservation); gone by 10/17 upon the mandatory clearance of Iden Grange, Staplehurst, where it had been kept.

PKE 809M (5809) – Gilkes, West Kingsdown, Kent (preservation) 1/14 ex C. Hamilton, East Peckham, Kent (preservation); Gadsby, Bromley, Greater London (preservation) 9/16 (clarifications).

C53 HDT (1053) – Bostock-Frith, Doncaster, South Yorkshire (preservation) ex Heaton, Dinnington, South Yorkshire (preservation).

N587 GBW (2587) – Unidentified, Haydock, Merseyside (mobile home) 5/14 ex Meakin, Crewe, Cheshire (Mikro Coaches of Crewe).

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.



EAST KENT

NEW VEHICLES : 15329 arrived on 15th November, 15331/2 by 20th November, 15328 on or by 22nd November, 15334 by 23rd November, 15330 by 24th November, 15335-7 on 24th November, 15338/9 by 2nd December (one believed on 24th November); 15333 by 6th December, all at Eastbourne. 15328-30 were first taxed on 3rd November, 15331 on 7th November, 15332-4/6 on 13th November, 15335/7 on 16th November; the date for 15338/9 is awaited. All arrived in base corporate livery.

Maximum capacity is H45/29F+18+1 (with high-back seating) and unladen weight is 11370kg. They have full destination displays at the rear rather than just route numbers, but compared to earlier MMCs do not have tinted windows, nor an air-conditioning box at the top of the staircase. They are expected to enter service in mid-January.

VEHICLES LOANED : Preserved 19946 was loaned to the Stagecoach London group from 1st to 5th December for use at the annual Ensignbus running day on 2nd December. It has now passed its fiftieth anniversary, having been delivered on 10th November 1967.

ALLOCATIONS : The following have taken place this month, based on official lists :

15328	New-RES	22.11.17	27582	DO-EB	26.11.17
15329	New-RES	15.11.17	33098	EB-RES	19.11.17
15330	New-RES	24.11.17	33305	EB-RES	19.11.17
15331/2	New-RES	20.11.17	34399	RES-RESw	11.11.17
15333	New-RES	6.12.17	34410	RES-TH	1.11.17
15334	New-RES	23.11.17	34433/5	RES-RESw	11.11.17
15335-7	New-RES	24.11.17	34441	RES-FK	6.11.17
15338/9	New-RES	2.12.17	34444	RES-EB	30.11.17
15500	HS-DO	19.11.17	34478	RES-RESw	11.11.17
15501	EB-DO	26.11.17	34497	TH-RES	1.11.17
17221	TH-RES	11.11.17	34539	RES-RESw	11.11.17

17402	RES-RESw	11.11.17	34542/4	HB-A	19.11.17
17528/9	TH-RES	11.11.17	34547	HB-FK	19.11.17
17538	HB-RES	19.11.17	34790/9	RES-RESw	11.11.17
17699	HS-RES	19.11.17	47065	RES-EB	11.11.17
18161/2	A-HB	19.11.17	47065	EB-RES	19.11.17
22009/54/7	RES-RESw	11.11.17	47066/7	DO-RES	19.11.17
22279	RES-RESw	11.11.17	47112/3	FK-RES	19.11.17
22942-8	RES-RESw	11.11.17	47119/20	DO-EB	19.11.17
25242/3	A-TH	19.11.17	47176	RES-EB	25.11.17
27516-8	EB-ancillary	19.11.17	47461/75	RES-RESw	11.11.17
27580/1	DO-EB	19.11.17	47661/3/6/7	A-DO	19.11.17

36488 remains still on strength at HS although out of use since its fire damage on 13th June. 47065 was apparently not used during its brief period back on strength at EB.

Photographers are advised to check their coverage of 16950/5 (due to return to Scotland) and 17553/82/5/7/90 at HB. These are due to be displaced by existing vehicles from the 99 when the new Scania's enter service. 27516-23 are moving to the training fleet; this process has nominally started with 27516-8 as above, though in practice 27516/9/22 have been taken and 27517/8 remained in service on 11th December.

Loans. 15543 (EB) is at HS from 30th November to cover repaints of their existing Wave 99 Scania's, initially 15775, on a rolling basis, 34649 (TH) was at DO on the afternoon of 15th November (only).

Reserve fleet. 15328-39 have been in store at EB, of which 15329 moved to type training at HS on 24th November and 15338 was in use for type training at EB on 8th December. 17221,17528/9 were in store at TH on 10th December. 17538 remained in use at HB on 7th December. 17699 remained in use at HS on 24th November. 18291 was in store at EB on 29th November. 33098 was used as the crew ferry at EB from at least 20th to 22nd November, then in service by 25th November and still on 11th December. 33305 remained in use at EB until at least 27th November, then moved to HS on 30th November. 34444 remained in use at HS until moved to EB on 30th November. 34492 moved from EB to HS in use on 20th November. 34497 remained in store at TH on 5th December. 47065 remained in use as the crew ferry at EB on 27th November. 47066 remained in use at DO on 11th December after a few days out of use. 47067 is in store at DO after last use on 24th November. 47112 is in store at FK after last use on 18th November. 47113 is in store at FK after last use on 4th November. 47117 was in store at A on 10th December.

Withdrawn fleet. 17402, 34799 and 47475 remained stored at HS on 23rd November. 22009 and 22942 remained stored at DO on 8th December. 22054/7, 22279, 22946-8 and 34435/78 remained stored at TH on 5th December. 22943/4, 34539 and 34790 remained stored at A on 10th December. 22945 has not been reported since use on crew ferry work at EB on 1st November. 34399 remained stored at EB on 29th November. 34433 remained stored at HB on 22nd November. 47461 remained stored at FK on 10th December.

VEHICLES OUT : 47116 moved to DO on 23rd November, and was still there on 8th December with 59303, both awaiting collection by new owners.

We understand that 17402, 22009/54/7, 22279, 22942-8, 34399, 34433/5/78, 34539, 34790/9, 47461/75 have been tendered for sale.

LIVERY : Repaints are 15498, 15558, 15770*, 15771*, 15778* in November,15561 in December. 15562 (which had escaped first cycle repaints), 15775* and 15779* follow.

Further to page 17/300, 28608 had regained black window surrounds by 11th November. 28606/7 were never changed to white, so 28610 is confirmed as the sole remaining example.

Route branding. 15770/1/8 lost their Wave 99 branding at repaint.

15338 had received Wave branding with line diagrams of the 99 route (though not mentioning the number) on the lower panels by 8th December. Reports of others, and any detail differences between their rear displays, would be welcomed.

The outline route diagrams of routes B and C have been removed from the rears of 44001-30. Instead, new displays have been applied, headlined as follows with supplementary text :

"no big deal" (44001/5/11/9/20/9)

bite size (44006/10/6/22/4/7)

the little wonder (44004/9/18/21/6/30)

*size matters" (44002/3/15/23/5/8)

it's huge (44007/8/12-4/7).

For this information we are grateful to non-member Simon Cooper.

Major advertisements. 34543 had received an allover rear display for the Lord Mayor of Canterbury's Christmas Gift Fund by 21st November, when an official launch took place at the Civic Centre. It had entered service by the following day.

15561 retained its allover rear display at repaint.

PROPERTY : The former Head Office at 16-21 North Lane, Canterbury has been converted into nine apartments, known as St. Dunstan's Place.

GENERAL : 24007 had moved to Herne Bay by 15th November to be prepared for prospective sale via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) on behalf of Fife Scottish. It is a Scania K270UB/Scania DP51F+47 (adaptable to DP45F+43 or DP48F+37+1) new in 10/07. Reading Buses collected it on 10th December.

15277, which suffered major damage in an accident at Pean Hill on the evening of 8th November, returned to Herne Bay on 13th November and was towed away on 30th November for repair at an outside contractor. It is likely to be missing for several months.

SERVICE VEHICLES : It is apparent from the allocation changes shown above in the main fleet that thoughts of transferring MANs to the training fleet have been abandoned. Instead, 27516-23 are moving across to replace the coaches, 27516-8 nominally from 19th November. They will be converted at Eastbourne, where in practice 27519 is the first being dealt with, 27516/22 following. 52498 was out of use by 10th December.

MK 67 MJE was first licensed on 29th September and is a Ford Transit Connect 240 van with VIN WF0SXXWPGSHA53340. Its fleet number is 90750.

90778 is correctly a Ford Transit Custom 310 van.

20609 still awaited collection by its new owner on 23rd November.

Hired vehicles have included FN67 GFJ, a Vauxhall Insignia Sri at HO from 3rd to 23rd November, and FD15 RYZ, a Vauxhall Vivaro CDTi at HBt on 29th November for driver assessments.

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : FN 6050 – B.R. Weatherhead, Woburn Sands, Bedfordshire (preservation); believed dismantled for spares by 9/17.

JG 683 - Southdown Omnibus Trust, Amberley, West Sussex (as a mess hut) 11/08 ex G. Laming, Coulsdon, Surrey (preservation).

620 UKM *now FKK 845Y* (8845) – Mackintosh, Birmingham, West Midlands (preservation); gone by 12/16.

DJG 618C *now PNW 179C* (8618) – Dearnley, unknown location (preservation) 7/17 ex R. Smith, Keighley, West Yorkshire (preservation).

BJG 671V (7671) – Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); withdrawn 7/17.

XJJ 659V (7659). CJJ 677W (7677) – Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); withdrawn by 10/17.

G707 TCD (14977) – Unidentified, Burhave Strand, near Bremerhaven, Germany 5/17 ex Used Coach Sales, Warrington, Cheshire (dealer). Further information welcomed.

M911 WJK *now B10 AUB* (8911) – Drew Wilson, Carlisle, South Lanarkshire (dealer) 9/17 ex Gloucester Minibuses, Gloucester, Gloucestershire.

N366 LPN (16366) – Dover Christian Outreach Team, Dover, Kent ex D. Tutt, Folkestone, Kent (preservation). This has been kept outside Dover Transport Museum since mid-10/17 with the intention of converting the lower saloon to a kitchen and separate shower facility, and the upper saloon to bunk-bed accommodation, so that the vehicle can offer undercover facilities to homeless people in the Dover area. Conversion work had not started by the end of November, when it also still carried its allover rear display for East Kent College.

N373 LPN (16373) – The Big Breakfast, Folkestone area, Kent (npsv); after some weeks trading at the side of the A260 at Roberts Corner, this has disappeared in the first few days of 12/17.

N644 LPN (20644), R908 XFC (20008) – Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses) by 10/17 ex unidentified npsv users in Cornwall; withdrawn by 10/17.

P287 VPN (16287) – Further to page 17/300, this was re-registered from GRZ 1261 in 3/16 with Greenline Bus, Waterloo, West Yorkshire.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : 11/17 – 273 AUF; 12/17 – FFN 451.

ROUTE CHANGES : Further notes on changes from **19th November** :

- A On MFTO the service between the peaks is modified for operation by ten vehicles, in similar fashion to non-school days. Within the frequency repetition of the timetable, buses leave Singleton Hill at 0902.0912.0922.0931 x10min onwards (Bank Street 0932 x10min onwards), returning from Stanhope at 0914.0922.0927 x10min to 1407.1416.1424 x10min onwards (Bank Street 0940 x10min to 1440.1445.1450 x10min onwards)
- B There were also minor adjustments to peak services, Mon-Fri..
- C There were also minor adjustments to peak services, Mon-Fri..
- From **21st December** the 90 at 0810 from River will be replaced by a 91 at 0754 from Alkham Valley Corner *roundabout* on Mon-Fri during school holidays.
- From **24th December** (effective from 27th December) the following will be introduced as a result of East Sussex County Council tendering :
- 312 NEW ROUTE. Tenterden *The Vine* via Smallhythe, Wittersham, Iden and Playden to Rye Station (one schoolday journey each way diverted via Houghton Green as a loop between Iden and Playden), Mon-Sat, approx. 2hr headway.
- 313 NEW ROUTE. Rye *Harbour* via Rye Station, Playden, Peasmarsh, Beckley to Northiam *Coppards Lane*. Mon-Sat, approx. 2hr headway between Rye Station and Northiam and hourly between Rye Station and Rye Harbour, northbound service generally localised either side of Rye Station. On Mon-Fri the 1708 from Rye Harbour continues from Northiam via Broad Oak and Udimore back to Rye Station.

342 NEW ROUTE. Hastings *Pilot Road* via Conquest Hospital, Harrow Lane *Ashdown House*, Sainsbury's, Westfield, Brede, Broad Oak and Udimore to Rye Station, one schoolday trip each way, also short working on MFSH from Rye (0744) to Broad Oak, then to Northiam *Coppards Lane*, continuing to Rye as 313.

These will require two vehicles working from Hastings depot. 33098 and 33305 will provide the necessary resources, not necessarily directly. Rambler Coaches retain their existing schoolday workings on 313 and 342.

From **1st January** Uni2 will be withdrawn for the remainder of the Christmas vacation. Park Wood will therefore only be served by the Mon-Fri inward Uni1 at 0857.

Park & Ride. It is confirmed that there will be no service on **1st January**.

Christmas and New Year period. Services in Kent will finish early as usual on **24th and 31st December**. As this is the first time that these dates have fallen on a Sunday since 2006, the patterns are different this year, as follows:

- 8 Last buses at 1953 from Margate to Canterbury, 2040 Canterbury to Margate, 2053 from Margate (terminating at Birchington *Square*).
- 8X Last buses at 2023 from Margate to Birchington, 2037 from Birchington to Margate.
- 61 The 2253 from Whitfield to Pencester Road will not run.
- 61A Last buses at 1928 from Aycliffe to Whitfield, 2053 Whitfield to Aycliffe.
- 90 Last buses at 1954 from Whitfield to Aycliffe, 2028 from Aycliffe to Whitfield.
- B Last buses at 2101 from Kennington to Bridgefield, 2108 Bridgefield to Kennington.
- C Last bus at 2100 from Ashford *International Station* (full circuit).
- Loop (Thanet) Last buses clockwise at 2035 (full circuit) and 2105 (to Westwood only), anti-clockwise at 2045 (full circuit), 2115 (to Ramsgate only) and 2145 (to Westwood only).
- Triangle Last buses clockwise at 1945 (full circuit), 2015 and 2045 (to Herne Bay *Eddington Lane* only), anti-clockwise at 1920 (full circuit) and 2020 (to Herne Bay *Sea Street* only).

On all other routes, including those in East Sussex, normal Sunday services will run.

No buses will run on **25th December**, nor on **1st January**, the first known instance of no services on New Year's Day.

Special daytime services will run on **26th December** on 1/1A (Eastbourne), 8, 15, 16, Eastbourne Loop, Thanet Loop and Triangle. These are all the same as last year, except for 15 which has a wider approx.. 90min headway (with meal breaks) between Dover and Canterbury (no service between Dover and Deal compared to last year). Triangle journeys starting or finishing at Herne Bay do so at Eddington Lane or Sea Street as appropriate.

Normal Mon-Fri services will run on **27th to 29th December**. East Sussex schools return on 2nd January and Kent schools on 4th January.

Temporary diversions. Further to page 17/271, the diversions for the closure of Minnis Lane, River, Dover on **25th September** were very quickly rescinded when it was discovered that the information about the position of the closure was incorrect. It was actually between Lewisham Road and Coxhill Gardens and not between Lewisham Road and Lower Road and therefore did not affect buses.

Further to page 17/272, the re-surfacing work on St. Helen's Road, Hastings was completed early and the road re-opened on **23rd November**.

Further to page 17/301, more details have come to light of the diversions employed during the night-time closures of the A2. The closures have been extended to include the A2 between Wincheap and Whitfield. Only one carriageway at a time is closed and normally only short sections are closed but occasionally longer lengths are affected. Further enquiries have discovered that 15, because it is mainly operated by Solos in the evening, does not necessarily follow the diversion via Wingham during closures between

Bridge and Barham crossroads. When they cannot access or leave the A2 at Bridge they are diverted between the Dover Road P&R site and Bridge via Old Dover Road, Nackington Road, Bridge Road and Station Road. If the road is closed between Bridge and Barham crossroads then 15 is diverted via the 17 route, Derringstone and Rabbit Hole (return via Gravel Castle Road). When the A2 is closed between Barham crossroads and Lydden then the diversion is via the A260, Swingfield Minnis (Robert's Corner) and Swanton Lane. When longer stretches of the road are closed then two or more of these diversions are used. The closures are scheduled to continue until Christmas.

Further to page 17/304, the closure of the bridge from Park Farm to Bridgefield, Ashford was extended by a week to **24th November**.

Further to page 17/305, more Remembrance Day ceremonies on **12th November** have been reported in Herne, Thanet and Whitstable. At **Herne** the A291 was closed at the church between 1045 and 1115. The Triangle journey at 1051 from Herne *Church* operated to Hunters Forstal Road before diverting via Mill Lane, Thanet Way and A290 to Canterbury. The 1104 from Herne *Church* operated to Eddington Lane before diverting via Thanet Way and A290 to Canterbury. The 1035 from Canterbury operated via A290 and Thanet Way to regain its normal route at Mountview Road. In **Thanet** at Birchington the Square was closed and 8/X journeys were diverted via Kent Gardens, Surrey Gardens, Birchington *Station*, Alpha Road and Epple Road. At Westgate buses could not serve the Carlton Cinema stop and were diverted towards Margate via Station Road and Roxburgh Road. At Margate a ceremony was held at the Korean War Memorial, Trinity Square and closed Trinity Hill/Northdown Road. Buses were diverted between Cecil Square and Northdown Road via Union Crescent, Addington Road, Thanet Road, Park Road and Wilderness Hill. In Broadstairs the High Street was closed at Pierremont Hall and buses were diverted between The Broadway and Ramsgate Road via Osborne Road, Seafeld Road and Gladstone Road. At **Whitstable** the High Street was closed between 1045 and 1115 and Triangle journeys at 1048.1123 from Horsebridge and at 1052.1107.1122 from Harbour Street were diverted via Cromwell Road.

On **20th November** Telegraph Road, Deal was closed for roadworks for a week and 83 was diverted via Salisbury Road and Balfour Road.

Pett Road and Chick Hill, Pett were closed for re-surfacing from **20th to 24th November** between 0930 and 1600 each day. 347 journeys affected terminated at or commenced from Pett *Village Hall* except the 1534 from Guestling *School* which was allowed to turn at Elms Lane.

From **20th to 23th November** the northbound lane of Battle Road at Silverhill was closed to enable emergency water main repairs to take place. Buses to Hollington and Battle were diverted via Sedlescombe Road South, Windmill Road, Drury Lane, Theaklen Drive and Menzies Road.

From **21st to 23rd November** The Green, St. Leonard's was closed each evening from 1900 for re-surfacing. 26/A was diverted between Upper Maze Hill and Silverhill via Dane Road, Tower Road West and London Road.

On **23rd, 24th and 30th November** and **1st December** Queens Road, Hastings was closed each evening from 1900. Buses between Park Gates Roundabout and Priory Meadow were diverted via Bethune Way, Braybrooke Road and South Terrace.

On **24th November** between 1030 and 2100 Meads Street, Eastbourne was closed for the Meads Magic Event. 3/A were diverted via Darley Road and Beachy Head Road.

New Romney High Street was closed during the early morning of **25th November** after a car had been driven into the front of the Cinque Port Arms pub at about 2230 the evening before. Buses were diverted via Lydd, Lydd-on-Sea and Greatstone.

On **25th November** Millmead Road, Margate was closed at the junction with Invicta Road for four days to enable a burst water main to be repaired. 32 and 56 were diverted via Dane Valley Road, Tomlin Drive, William Avenue and Irvine Drive.

Between 1345 and 1415 on **25th November** Battle High Street was closed for the Santa parade and switching-on of Christmas lights. The 304 at 1327 from Hawkhurst and the 305 at 1338 from Hastings were diverted between John's Cross and Battle via A21 and Marley Lane.

Later on **25th November** the Hawkhurst Bonfire Procession closed the A229 between The Moor and Hawkhurst from 1900. The 304 at 1753 and 305 at 1848 from Hastings terminated at The Moor and the 254 at 1833 from Tunbridge Wells was diverted between Flimwell and The Moor via A21 and A229.

Margate Road, Ramsgate was closed at the Hare and Hounds crossroads from 0600 to 0900 on **26th November** because of an accident. Buses were diverted via Pyson Road, Rumfields Road and Westwood Road.

Tivoli Road, Margate was closed in the vicinity of Tivoli Park Avenue on **26th November** for ten days to enable UK Power Networks to repair a high voltage cable. Buses towards Margate were diverted from Victoria Traffic Lights via College Road, St. Peter's Road, Vicarage Crescent and Queen's Avenue.

At Hailsham the High Street was closed from 0800 to 1615 on **26th November** for gas main work. Buses to Eastbourne were diverted via North Street.

In Bexhill, St. Leonard's Road was closed on **26th November** and 99 to Eastbourne was diverted via Sea Road and Marina.

In Eastbourne, the Hampden Park level crossing was closed on **26th November** for maintenance work. Loop and the last 1 were diverted via Lottbridge Drove, Cross Levels Way, Kings Drive, Decoy Drive and Brodrick Road.

On **27th November** the slip road from the A2 (coastbound) to Upper Harbledown was closed for five days, between 0800 and 1600 each day, to enable phone ducting to be laid in the road. 3 group journeys were diverted via A2 and A2050 and did not serve Upper Harbledown. Although buses were observed following the diversion on the 28th the Stagecoach web-site stated that buses would only divert on 30th November and 1st December.

In Worth, Jubilee Road was closed on **27th November** for five days to enable a new sewer connection to be made. 80 operated via A258 and did not serve Worth village.

From **27th November to 1st December** Hillside Road, Hastings was closed for re-surfacing. 2 and 26/A were diverted between Parkstone Road and The Ridge via Grange Road. 71 also followed this diversion via Grange Road but in order to serve the Maitland Close stop operated along The Ridge to turn at the Conquest Hospital roundabout.

Anglesey Avenue, Hailsham was closed from **27th to 30th November** for re-surfacing. 1X and 51 operated via London Road.

On **29th November** at about 0700 a serious accident between Upstreet and Sarre closed the A28 until 1500. Buses were diverted via A299 Thanet Way and A291.

An accident near Battle *Station* on the same day closed the road from 0730 to 1030 and 304/5 were diverted via Marley Lane and A21.

Accidents on both carriageways of the A2 between Barham Crossroads and Bridge closed the road from 0900 to 1300 on **1st December**. 12, 15 and 16 were diverted via Adisham Road, Wingham and Littlebourne. 89/A operated between Aylesham and Canterbury via the 89B route.

In Eastbourne the Little Chelsea Christmas Event closed Grove Road and South Street from 1200 on **1st December**. 3/A were diverted from Terminus Road to turn at the Station roundabout before operating to the Memorial roundabout via Terminus Road where

3 regained its normal route. 3A operated between Memorial roundabout and Meads Road via Cornfield Terrace, Blackwater Road and Grassington Road. Grove Road and South Street are being closed on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays between 1600 and 1900 from **2nd to 17th December** for the Neon Noel Christmas Event. 3/A are being diverted as above to Memorial roundabout and then 3A to Meads Road is operating via South Street, Furness Road and Grassington Road. Towards town 3A is operating from Meads Road via Grassington Road and Furness Road to rejoin its normal route at Gildredge Road.

Queuing traffic in Dover on **1st and 2nd December** resulted in 61 being diverted via Military Road between the town centre and Aycliff.

In Bexhill, Devonshire Road was closed from 1300 for the Shining Lights event and late night shopping. 22A and 98 operated from Marina to turn at the De La Warr roundabout before returning via Marina and Sea Road. 99 operated via Sea Road and Marina in both directions.

An incident on Hengist Way (A299) between Minster and Manna Hutte on **1st December** meant that 9 was diverted via Manston Airport and Manston from 1400.

On the same day late night shopping in Uckfield closed roads from 1700 and prevented 54 from operating to Nevill Road.

And from 1800 on **1st December** Robertsbridge High Street was closed for the Christmas Capers event. The 304 at 1753 and 305 at 1848 from Hastings and the 305 at 1755 from Hawkhurst operated via the by-pass (A21).

An incident at Redoubt Bends between Hythe and Dymchurch at about 1700 on **2nd December** resulted in the A259 being closed. Wave buses were diverted via Boltoph's Bridge Road, Donkey Street and Burmarsh Road.

On **3rd December** St. Leonard's Road, Bexhill was closed for roadworks. 99 towards Eastbourne was diverted via Sea Road and Marina.

On **4th December** Hoath Road, Sturry was closed for up to five days to enable a water main to be repaired. 7 was diverted between Sturry and Hoath via Island Road (A28), Upstreet, Chislet, Marshside *The Gate*, Old Tree Road and Mill Road.

Cockering Road, Thanington, Canterbury was closed from **4th to 8th December** between 1000 and 1500 each day for the removal of trees. 1 group operated direct via A28.

Gore Lane, Eastry was also closed from **4th to 8th December**, this time to enable UK Power Networks to provide a new electricity supply. 81 was diverted between Eastry, High Street and Poison Cross via High Street, Sandwich Road and Statenborough Lane.

Waites Lane, Fairlight was closed from 1900 each evening during the same period for re-surfacing. The 101 at 1900 from Hastings could not serve Fairlight Cove but stayed on Battery Hill/Pett Level Road.

From **4th December** for an unspecified period 10/A cannot serve Sellindge *Greenfields* because of utility roadworks on the corner of Swan Lane and A20.

In Eythorne, Shooters Hill was closed on **4th December** for patching work at the East Kent Light Railway level crossing. 89/A was diverted between Church Hill and Eythorne *Post Office* via Shepherdswell Road, Long Lane and Coldred Road. Any journey operated by a double-deck vehicle together with school buses diverted via Wigmore Lane and Sandwich Road.

During the afternoon of **4th December** an accident involving a pedestrian closed London Road, Dover at the Cherry Tree Avenue junction, bringing chaos to services using this road. Buses were diverted via Connaught Road, Deal Road and A2.

On **5th December** for three days St. Helen's Park Road, Hastings was closed for re-surfacing. 21/A/B were diverted between The Langham and Down's Road via Elphinstone Road, Blacklands Drive and Woodbrook Road.

From 2200 on **5th December** Cheriton Road, Folkestone was closed at the Central Station to enable a detailed inspection of the railway bridge to be undertaken. 16 was diverted between Bus Station and Black Bull Road via Foord Road and 17 and 71 continued via Radnor Park Road to/from Cheriton Road.

From **6th December** repair work to concrete slabs at Folkestone Bus Station means that all services normally using bay A are operating from Bay E on Middelburg Square.

From **7th to 15th December** the road between Town Row and Mark Cross (Catts Hill) is closed for re-surfacing. 252 is operating as a 251 via the A267, not serving Rotherfield. A shuttle bus is operating between Mark Cross, Rotherfield and Town Row on Mondays to Saturdays.

Rye Christmas Festival closed roads in the town between 1400 and 1800 on **9th December**. Wave buses were unable to serve the town centre and operated between the Kettle O'Fish and Skinners roundabouts via the A259, Fishmarket Road, South Undercliff and The Quay.

Because of adverse weather on **11th December** 100 group did not operate west of Rye, nor 2 south of Northiam. Services in Hastings were disrupted severely, though getting back to normal by early evening.

From **11th to 15th December** West Street, Faversham is closed to enable the block paving to be re-laid. 3 group and 666 journeys from Bysing Wood are being diverted via Stonebridge Way, Lower Road and South Road.

From **11th to 15th December** from 2000 each evening Sedlescombe Road North, St. Leonard's is closed for re-surfacing between Upper Church Road and St. Helen's Road. 26/A is being diverted between Silverhill and Ashdown House via Battle Road, Upper Church Road, Sedlescombe Road North, Junction Road, The Ridge and Harrow Lane.

Mayfield High Street is closed from 1830 to 1900 each evening from **11th to 14th December** for the Mayfield Live Crib Event. 252 journeys at 1810 from Tunbridge Wells and 1830 from Heathfield are not serving Mayfield but operating via the by-pass (A267).

Ironlatch Avenue, St. Leonard's was closed from 1930 for re-surfacing on **11th December** until 0600 the next morning. 22/C was diverted between Blackman Avenue and Wishing Tree Roundabout via Marline Road, Church Wood Drive and Crowhurst Road. The 0545 22C journey from Hollington Tesco commenced from Wishing Tree roundabout at 0545 and operated via Mayfield Farm, Tesco and Marline Road to Blackman Avenue.

On **14th December** the Willingdon Carol Evening will close part of The Triangle, Willingdon, Eastbourne between 1745 and 2045. Services 54 and 98 will remain on Eastbourne Road and service 51 will use the southernmost part of The Triangle.

ROUTE WORKING : A – From **19th November** the MFTO requirement is increased by 6 MB and reduced by 2 OV and 3 Solo. All journeys on E and G are now worked by MB. EX is worked by MB in the morning, SLF in the afternoon. Other type changes are 11-0955 11A-1042.1352 11B-1242 SLF to Solo, A-0927.1011.1107.1151.1247.1331.1427 on SLF.

The Saturday requirement is increased by 7 MB and reduced by 2 OV and 3 Solo. All journeys on E and G are now worked by MB.

The Sunday requirement is reduced by 2 MB. MB workings on A are now 0553.0653.

DO – From **19th November** the MFTO requirement is increased by 2 DLF and reduced by 2 E20. Type changes are 12-0603.1645 15-0926.1020.1106.1200.1246.1340.1426.1515.1555 43-0655.0946.1036.1346.1436.1751 80-0613.0713.1113.1513 81-0825.1225.1625.1733 E20 to DLF. No changes have been scheduled for E30 workings, although none are now left here except for 27891, which is a second spare for Park & Ride work.

EB – From **1st to 17th December** an extra vehicle (nominally 19978) is required on FSSu for route 2.

FK – Correcting page 17/306, MFTO type changes from **29th October** included 127-0922 (not 0932) from DLF to Solo.

PUBLICITY : New leaflets dated 19th November are for A, B and C, E and G, all in the new A6 format. The leaflet for E and G includes outline details of EX in side text boxes. The 3rd April leaflet for Wave 100 group has been re-issued with a slightly modified cover design (identifiable by the treatment of route numbers) and updated route map inside. A Christmas vacation timetable slip has been issued for Unibus dated 17th December to 13th January. Finally, a booklet has been issued summarising Christmas and New Year variations.

AROUND THE AREAS : **Canterbury area.** 18175 (borrowed from TH layover at the Bus Station) was on Triangle (DLF) on 14th November. 15914 was on Triangle (DLF) on 24th November.

Dover area. On 27th November 36872 was borrowed from TH for a service 43 journey after 15438 failed at Westwood. It worked as far as Sandwich, where 19016 took over. On 26th November all workings on the 15/43/80/81 circuit were by DLF rather than E20. It is not known whether this is regular, or simply reflects expected loadings by shoppers on the Sundays before Christmas.

Eastbourne area. Whilst no type changes have been scheduled from 19th November, it is apparent from vehicle transfers above that 3/A and associated workings on Mon-Sat should have reverted to Solo operation.

Following the demise of 22945 as the crew ferry vehicle after 1st November, 15501 was noted on this work until 10th November. 33098 was noted on 20th and 22nd November, then 47065 returned by 27th November.

Folkestone area. Whilst no type changes have been scheduled from 19th November, it is apparent from vehicle transfers above that two Solo workings on Mon-Sat have been converted to SLF operation. However, it is difficult to discern a regular pattern, given the regular level of type substitutions. 47112 was unusual on 18 (SLF) on 18th November.

Thanet area. The three Enviro300s are usually found on Loop (E20) and Breeze (DLF), although no formal type conversions have been scheduled. On 8th December, 27578 was on a Loop diagram which included evening work on 8 and 8X. The two Optare Versas have been very elusive. On 21st November 25243 worked a single crew ferry trip between Westwood Garage and Ramsgate Station, 25242 similarly on 22nd November, then they were put onto 38 and 56 (both SLF) during the day on 25th November. 25243 was then on 39 (SLF) until midday on 27th November, 25242 on 56 and associated workings (SLF) on 29th and 30th November, a single morning journey of 39A (SLF) on 1st December, and a crew ferry trip on 2nd December. Neither has been used since. 36897 was unusual on 8.8A (DLF) on 13th November, especially as 15270 (Breeze branding) was on 9X (DLF). 36878 (Loop branding) was on 8.8A (DLF) on 27th November.

17221 was noted at Canterbury Bus Station on 18th October. The reason for this outing, only its fourth recorded use since being commissioned, is not known.

SOUTH COAST BUSES

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : 405 DCD *now* L425 TJK (605) – Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (dealer) c7/17 ex Greater Manchester South, Stockport, Greater Manchester (20605).

UWV 623S (7623) – Romer, Bear Cross, Dorset (Romeround)) 9/17 ex Mortons Travel, Little London, Hampshire.

AAP 648T (7348) – Terrill, Lewes, East Sussex (preservation spares) by 3/15 ex Southdown Historic, Worthing, West Sussex (preservation); D. Mulpeter, Seaford, East Sussex (preservation) 7/17.

XJJ 655V (7655) – Hoare, Chepstow, Monmouthshire (Chepstow Classic Buses); withdrawn by 10/17.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.

BORO'LINE MAIDSTONE

GENERAL : The registration 217 UKL was noted on a black Vauxhall Corsa three-door hatchback in the Maidstone area 11/17, apparently carried since the car was new in 1/16. This was at one time on Boro'line 290 (7/88 to 6/91, the latter date correcting publication F.3) and 249 (6/91 to 6/92, having reached Kentish Bus by the latter date).

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : OKM 146G (46) – Possible identity of an engineless Massey-bodied Leyland Atlantean located for several years near Ballymena, Antrim and reportedly previously owned as an exhibition vehicle by a company in Armagh manufacturing drainage pipes for the construction industry. This vehicle was last recorded in 8/86 with Hayes Pipes, Thirsk, North Yorkshire (npsv), who also have a factory in Lurgan, Armagh, so could well have made its way later across the Irish Sea. Any further information would be welcomed.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.

MAIDSTONE CORPORATION TRANSPORT DEPARTMENT

SUBSEQUENT DISPOSALS : BDY 809 (86) – London Trolleybus Preservation Society, Lowestoft, Suffolk (preservation) (on loan to Hastings Trolleybus Restoration Group); long-standing electrical problems now resolved and the vehicle can again move under its own power. Work is now in hand on repainting with a view to it being available for events in 2018.

Latest reports for disposal vehicles : None.

OTHER OPERATORS

Vehicle notes prepared by Jonathan Fletcher
(Those with operating centres within the Club area)

In the Medway Council area, Saturday timetables will run from 27th to 29th December on supported services except as shown otherwise under operator headings. There will be a Sunday service on 1st January, and no buses on 25th or 26th December.

At the time of going to Press, no information was available from Kent County Council or East Sussex County Council about Christmas and New Year arrangements for their supported services, other than under the major operator headings above.

Adjustments to afternoon journeys on 22nd December and special services from 27th to 29th December by operators of commuter services are available on their web-sites. There are, of course, no operations on 25th/26th December or 1st January.

Babcock Land, Wainscott : Authorisation was surrendered on 3rd December.

Buzzlines, Lympne : The timetable of S1 (Greatstone to Brockhill Park School) was amended from 27th November.

Chalkwell, Sittingbourne : Vehicle in :

MX09 KLK lo 50C15 (5743896) Emv (?) 16 L 6/09
white with red and black stripes upswept towards the rear; ex Skanska, Chessington, Greater London 8/17.

Coaches C16 CWL and C17 CWL were noted on IB1 and IB2 on 6th November instead of the usual double deckers. It is reported that all the double deckers carry Island Buses vinyls.

The route and timetable of the Island Bus group (including 321) (Sheerness to Sittingbourne schools) will be amended from 2nd January. The changes on 8 and 9 from this date include the withdrawal of peak journeys to and from Kent Science Park (apparently because of the influence of the ArrivaClick service) and the diversion of both away from the High Street. Please also see Local Authority notes below.

A timetable leaflet for 326 group dated 26th May has just been reported.

Children Family & Youth Services, Ramsgate (Turner Cars) : It has just come to light that the office address and operational base moved to Station Road, Westgate-on-Sea in April 2017, for the final few months before operations ceased.

Connections 4 You, Manston (Airport Connections) : Vehicles in :

CN57 HSD MB 515CDI (9061552N317742)	UVM Treka (11547)	B9FL	10/07
ex Welsh Ambulance Service, St. Asaph, Denbighshire (npsv) 2/17.			
LJ57 EFZ VW Crf (86013198)	Sd	13 L	1/08
ex Godfrey, Cliftonville 7/17.			
GY61 VLW Fd Tt (TTFDBS15816)	Fd	16	11/11
ex Children Family & Youth Services, Ramsgate 10/17.			
HY07 OPT Fd Tt (TTFD7K78550)	Fd	16	3/07
HN57 VFE Ctn Rly (11298720)	?	14	1/08
YJ57 DLZ lo 50C15 (5686627)	lo	11 L	10/07
GJ09 LHH Fd Tt (TTFD8T60823)	Fd	14	4/09
GV59 ONP Fd Tt (TTFD9G65473)	Fd	12	1/10
WN59 WBD MB 311CDI (9066332S366539)	MB	14	10/09

these six all ex Children Family & Youth Services, Ramsgate 11/17.

BU05 SYO (Renault Master / Renault -5-L) is a non-psv which came from Godfrey, Cliftonville in 8/17. Vehicles from Children Family & Youth Services which are currently in non-psv configuration include MX57 JHE (Iris.bus 50C15 / MinO, currently with no passenger seats, just space for wheelchairs), NX57 GDJ (Iveco 50C15 / Stanford -7-L), WA58 KWH (Iveco 45C15 / Courtside -7-L) and SF09 LFD (Iveco 50C15 / NuTrack -5-L).

Non-psv J111 NDT currently seats -7-L. AJ06 OVG is a non-psv 6-seater.

Vehicles out : (n)MV57 KRG sold 6/14; N23 RTN sold 12/16; (n)YC14 XLO sold 6/17; (n)YC14 XLY sold 11/17; (n)YJ53 UNT withdrawn by 11/17 and in use as a seat store.

Dosanjh, Strood (A.S.D. Coaches) : From 27th to 29th December a special timetable will operate on 783 (Rainham to Manor Farm), for which a registration amendment has (unusually) been published, and the Medway Mobility service will run as normal. The timetable of 652 (St. Mary's Island to Cuxton *Bush Road*) is amended from 2nd January.

Empress, St. Leonards : Vehicle re-registered and out : 68 (CAZ 1066) back to R128 AWF 11/17 and sold 11/17. This was the only vehicle operating on the Hastings Coachways licence, which is no longer in use now.

Forbes, St. Margaret's (S and L's) : Authorisation has been revoked without a public inquiry.

Ham, Flimwell : VDL Futura 2 demonstrator WJ17 EYZ with C57FT seating was in use on 28th November, on loan from Moseley, Wellington, Somerset (dealer).

Route U20 (Jarvis Brook to Wadhurst *Uplands College*) has been de-registered from 12th February.

Hedges, Strood (Angel Travel) : Vehicle out : (n)LJ54 ZCO gone 3/14.

Jempson & Bailey, Peasmarsh (Jempsons) : Further to page 17/309, it is thought that AE55 VGJ has been downseated to increase capacity for shopping trolleys.

Kent Coach Tours, Ashford : Vehicle in :

LJ54 BDU Vo B7TL (103583) AD ALX400 (4411/17) H45/20D 2/05
ex Ensign, Purfleet, Essex (904) 11/17.

Similar LJ54 BFL (page 17/309 refers) is assumed to have been a short term loan until LJ54 BDU was available.

Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (Travelmasters) : It is confirmed that BX12 CVP has been converted to single door (revised seating capacity not reported). It entered service in November after repaint into yellow and two tone blue.

Kings Ferry, Gillingham : 710 (WJ65 EKU) was repainted into the latest fleet livery by October.

Vehicles out : 619 (FJ60 KUN) and 620 (FJ60 KUO) withdrawn 11/17.

Amazon work apparently being covered by Symphony Chauffeurs, Heathrow (Hemel Hempstead) and Dan's, Woodford (Tilbury). All services are daily, not just Mon-Fri. The Hemel Hempstead timetables show 24th September and Tilbury 6th November, rather than official start dates of 20th November; however, vehicles on Hemel Hempstead work were only acquired during October, so it is unclear what happened meanwhile. Timings seem to be approximate at best, with early running observed in both directions.

Vehicles in corporate livery continue to appear on National Express work regularly; we shall no longer attempt to itemise these. There are no spares for weekend requirements, even when all ten dedicated vehicles are available (which has not been the case lately).

Manor House, Margate : New vehicle :

DK17 AWR Pt Bxr (?) ? 16 7/17
white with black fleetnames.

Nanji, St. Leonard's (Ali's Trips) : Authorisation was surrendered on 3rd December.

Nu-Venture group, Aylesford : Vehicles in :

544 GX54 DWK Tbs Dt 4CYL (SFD3CACR44GW17887) Tbs Ptr 2 (4205/19) B38F 9/04 dark blue; ex Go West, Kings, Lynn, Norfolk (34639) 3/17.

TA654 LK05 GHA AD Tdt 2 (SFD138BR65GXB3628) AD ALX400 (4418/17) H41/19D 5/05 red; ex Metroline, Cricklewood, Greater London (TA654) 6/17.

SN51 UAZ Ds Dt SLF (SFD2B2CR31GW16313) Pn Ptr 2 (0170/20) B27D 2/02 ex London General, Colliers Wood, Greater London (LDP210) 10/17, for spares only.

SK02 XHH Ds Dt SLF (SFD2B2CR32GW16350) Pn Ptr 2 (0172/10) B27D 3/02 ex London United, Twickenham, Greater London (DPS30633) 10/17, not yet in service.

253 SN54 GPY AD Dt SLF (SFD6BACR44GW17988) AD Ptr 2 (4228/3) B23F 11/04

254 SN54 GPZ AD Dt SLF (SFD6BACR44GW17989) AD Ptr 2 (4228/4) B23F 11/04

255 SN54 GRF AD Dt SLF (SFD6BACR44GW17990) AD Ptr 2 (4228/5) B23F 11/04

274 SN03 YBG Tbs Dt 4CYL (SFD6BACR33GW87296) Tbs Ptr 2 (3020/4) B23F 8/03

277 SN03 YBR Tbs Dt 4CYL (SFD6BACR33GW87299) Tbs Ptr 2 (3020/7) B23F 8/03

the above five ex London General, Colliers Wood, Greater London (253, 254, 255, 274, 277) 11/17. 277 entered service on 20th November in red livery (normally used on 70 during the day, plus an afternoon peak trip on 149 and a single journey on 123), but the others are expected to be repainted first.

2139 (IUI 2139) was relicensed on 1st November after a period out of use.

Vehicles out : (w)T552 (NUW 552Y) sold 1/16; (w)3558 (R309 WVR) sold 5/16; (w)145 (LT02 ZDV) sold 6/17; 744 (T744 JPO) withdrawn c.7/17; 522 (NA52 AWU) withdrawn by 10/17 and sold for scrap 11/17; SN51 UAZ sold for scrap 11/17.

From 26th November Arriva Kent & Surrey journeys on 58 (Maidstone to Trottscliffe) were taken over with an unchanged timetable (plus existing Nu-Venture journeys on schooldays). From 22nd January the commercial journeys of 185 (Chatham to Davis Estate) on Mon-Fri have been de-registered, and 1 will be extended to some parts of Barming currently served by 78, which is to be reduced.

Saturday services will run from 27th to 29th December, plus 79C, and Sunday services on 1st January. There will be no buses on 25th or 26th December.

Operations from Hoo Marina were reduced from 11th December prior to planned withdrawal from the site by the end of the year.

Buses on service 58 are showing destination displays of "Maidstone Town" and "Wrotham Heath" (rather than "Trottscliffe"), both with "via Maidstone Hospital". We understand the former display is likely to be changed shortly.

Poynters, Wye : All vehicles had gone from the operating centre by 21st November, apart from the shell of long-withdrawn Leyland-National MCA 674T round the back of the garage.

Rainham Coach Co., Gillingham : Vehicle out : NU04 YBK sold 2/15 (this vehicle had joined the fleet in 8/11).

Rambler, St. Leonards : Vehicle out : 11 (R710 YWC) sold for scrap 2/16.

Route 311 (Pett *Chick Hill* to Rye *Station*) was de-registered from 13th November.

Regent, Whitstable : New vehicle :

BV17 CRF Vo B11R (178908) Ssd SC7 (?) C53F 3/17 white with orange and red fleetname.

Vehicle in :

MX62 AXN Wt StreetLite WF (12141125) Wt (AG658) B37F 9/12 white; ex First South West, Camborne, Cornwall (55105) 11/17.

BG63 VUX is B17F, to the same layout as the Stagecoach East Kent vehicles with 4 tip-up seats in the low floor section.

All of V480 NKK, MX05 CZY, YX09 FLC and YX09 FLH are cream with orange and red flash (in some cases this is a correction rather than a repaint).

The route and timetable of 667 (Canterbury to Challock) and the timetable of 61 group (Dover town service) were revised from 5th December. Details are not known.

Renown, Bexhill : Vehicle out : preserved YTT 178S sold 4/15.

Rival Travel, Five Oak Green : Authorisation has been revoked without a public inquiry.

Roberts, Adisham : Vehicles out : S217 TKR to Bovington, Margate 7/17; IIL 5313, IIL 5316 and YXI 3057 sold 7/17; PIL 9377 sold 8/17. These were all the remaining vehicles in the fleet, so it appears that operations did cease as planned at the end of the summer school term.

Starlight, Shatterling : Vehicle in and out :

JUI 3971 DAF SB3000DKV601 (314023) VH Aze SH (13899) C28F 5/90 black and pink, named *The Bonkers Bus*; ex Millenium Limousines, Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland 7/15 and gone 4/17; ex G958 KJX 4/00.

Operations ceased after the disposal of this vehicle. The company Starlight Travel Ltd. was dissolved on 3rd October 2017 and authorisation surrendered on 3rd December.

Strood Cabs, Strood : FE63 KHY, a Vauxhall Vivaro in black with silver lettering, is reported. It is probably a non-psv 8-seater.

Thanet Community Transport, Birchington : New vehicles :

FJ17 EJD	MB 514CDI (???168)	?	?? L	7/17
FJ17 EJE	MB 514CDI (???883)	?	?? L	7/17
FJ17 EJZ	MB 514CDI (???202)	Sd	?? L	7/17

all three silver.

Vehicle in :

FN62 AEU MB 513CDI (9066572S706388) Treka Bus (?) 15 L 9/12 silver; ex Hackney Community Transport, Hackney, Greater London (npsv) by 10/17.

Trinity School, Rochester : Authorisation has been granted.

Troke, Ramsgate (Viking Mini Coaches) : Vehicle out : NBZ 2248 sold 10/17. No vehicles are operated now.

Vincent, Kemsley (Call a Cab) : Vehicle in :

BD60 SRY Fd Tt (TTFDAR50406) Fd 16 12/10 white; ex unknown operator 5/14.

WKN, Yalding : Vehicle out : (w)S15 WKN sold 10/17 and subsequently re-registered back to BX02 CMO in 11/17.

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 : The timetable of 28/29 group (Brighton to Tunbridge Wells) will be amended from 14th January. This entails minor timing changes on Saturday and Sunday mornings, and withdrawal of the Sunday service from East Hoathly. It appears that the changes on 4th November related purely to diversions for the annual Lewes Bonfire evening, details of which fall outside our remit.

Clarke, Lower Sydenham : The stopping places and timetable of 761-765 (Grain to London) will be revised from 29th December. This may be a technical change as no alterations have shown on the London Bus Permit schedule, and introduction on the Friday of a holiday period is unusual.

Cuckmere Community Bus, Polegate : The timetable of 50 (Eastbourne to Heathfield) is revised from 1st January.

Go-Coachhire, Otford : LAZ 7641 has been scrapped, and 8312 and 8601 have been sold. YJ09 MMK/O are the Optare Solos acquired from Arriva Kent Thameside via KCC, of which YJ09MMK was in yellow and purple livery by 25th November. 6001 was also in yellow and purple by 14th November. Optare Solo YJ59 WFV was on loan from KCC during November, and an Optare Solo registered KX14 FHV was on the 289 in allover white on 17th November, although its provenance is not known.

The timetable of 235 (Penshurst to Hildenborough *Station*) will be revised from 15th January. Timetable leaflets have appeared for 200/235 (April), 280/283/289 (3rd April), 404/405 (4th September) and 237/631/632 (October).

NATIONAL EXPRESS

On **24th and 31st December** the 2025 from Dover and 2330 from Victoria on 007 and the 1840 from Ramsgate on 022 will not run.

On **25th December** special service 814 will run from Canterbury *Bus Station* via Hempstead Valley and Maidstone (pick-ups only) to Eltham (set-down only) and Victoria at 0900.1330.1630, with the 1330 trip running through from Ramsgate (1220) via Broadstairs and Margate (pick-ups only here and at Canterbury). Down trips from Victoria are at 0800.1300.2000, with the 0800 continuing to Ramsgate, all with the reverse pattern of pick-up or set-down. These are the only points which will be served, and special fares apply. Note the loss of the Dover service compared to the past two years and the introduction of Thanet. It was not known when we went to press who will be operating this service.

From **26th to 29th December** Saturday services will run on all routes, except that the 007 at 0700 from London will not run on 26th December. This is an enhancement of previous provision on Boxing Day.

Special services on **1st January** will be :

007 Dover *Pencester Road* via Ferry Port (pick-up only), Canterbury, Hempstead Valley (H) or Bluewater (B) to Eltham and all normal stops (set-down only) to Victoria at 0635H.1015B.1410B.1750H, returning at 1000H.1400B.1800B.2130H.

022 Ramsgate via Dumpton Park, Broadstairs, Margate, Westgate, Birchington, Canterbury, then via Bluewater (B), Hempstead Valley (H) or direct (X) to Eltham and all normal stops to Victoria at 0750H.1125X.1540B, returning at 1200B.1600X.2000H. The X journeys also serve Herne Bay, Greenhill Bridge and Whitstable; the B and H journeys also serve St. Peter's, Northdown Park and Cliftonville (both stops). Points as far as Birchington/Whitstable are for pick-up only towards London and set-down only coast-bound, but unlike 007 there do not seem to be any published restrictions within the London area.

Both of these are similar to last year, but with some timing changes. Note that the service via Herne Bay and Whitstable is on 022 rather than 009. No other local services run on this date.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

GENERAL : At its meeting on 30th November, the Environment & Transport Cabinet Committee considered proposed reductions in financial support amounting to around £2m in each of the next two years, resulting from cuts of Government funding to the County Council. The paper was intended to consider the criteria used to assess Socially Necessary Bus Services (SNBS, a new designation for tendered work) and to seek authority to go out to public consultation on the proposed reduction or withdrawal of supported services. An appendix to the report listed 75 routes that would have to be withdrawn to meet the savings target. This showed recorded passenger numbers and cost per passenger journey, coupled to a priority rating on a scale from 7 (average cost more than £18 per passenger journey) to 1 (around £1.50 per passenger journey). The established yardstick for justifying financial support has been £3 per passenger journey since 2011. The paper also showed whether each route should be considered on grounds of access to work, to learning, to health care or to food shopping (not necessarily just one of these).

Study of this paper showed several anomalies. For instance, route 666 was shown to carry about 11,000 passengers annually, which equates to 39 passengers daily – this figure is reached on one peak journey from Faversham to Ashford alone. Route 111, with one return trip a week (incorrectly listed as Ashford to Dover), was shown to carry almost 30,000 passengers annually, an unlikely average of 300 per journey.

In consequence, a revised list was issued around 24 hours before the meeting, now showing 78 routes at risk, of which 14 had not been included previously, whereas eight others now dropped off the list, joining another 30 or so not included on the first list. Route 666 now showed an annual total of 82,375 passengers, equivalent to about 270 daily, whilst route 111 was revised to 1,483 passengers, equivalent to around 15 per journey. There were many other cases of very sharp revisions of figures, in both directions.

Debate on the paper lasted for two hours, with considerable criticism of the late changes to figures. However, the list was deflected by a claim that the consultation was to be on the criteria for SNBS, and that if the criteria were to alter, then so would any list of changes.

The motion for consultation was passed, but on the following day most Kent MPs signed a joint letter to the leader of the County Council, urging him to “reconsider plans to

cut subsidies for 78 bus services across the county”, and the matter was raised in the House of Commons.

Much coverage in the print and web media has raised the profile of the issue. This has not been helped by the publication of the list of services at risk which failed to point out that it is only supported journeys that are at risk, especially where much of the existing service is otherwise provided commercially by operators (for instance Chalkwell 326/327), an own goal which quickly attracted misunderstanding and adverse public reaction.

At the full Council meeting on 7th December, leader Paul Carter read out most of his response to MPs, which included an apology saying “I think that list of routes was prematurely released and I am sorry it has caused people understandable concern”. He also pledged to take personal charge of negotiations with bus operators, intending to meet with Arriva and with Stagecoach before Christmas, although many of the routes at greatest risk are in the hands of smaller operators. The response placed the existing £7.5m budget for subsidised services in the context of £17m for ENCTS provision, £14m for the Young Persons Travel Pass (of which £6m comes from parental contributions), £7m for home to school transport (within a total school bus budget of £33m including Special Needs provision) and £3m for 16+ Kent Travel Card (of which £2m comes from parental contributions). The full statement is available on the KCC web-site.

The 78 routes at risk are a mixture of all-day, evening, Sunday and schoolday services. Top of the revised subsidy list are Friday-only shopper services 292/299 between Tonbridge, Hawkhurst and Tenterden, at £18.09 per passenger, but many more fall below the £3 per head criterion. The list also includes many routes carrying scholars entitled to free travel, where the axing of subsidy would not create a saving for KCC once the cost of alternative transport (e.g. closed door contracts) is taken into account.

The original and revised lists can be found on the KCC web-site as item 12 at <https://democracy.kent.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=831&MId=7547>.

It is far too soon to predict likely outcomes, and whilst there may be some element of facilities being retained on a reduced basis, either supported or becoming commercial operations, it seems likely that significant cuts will occur, on a scale already experienced by many other local authorities up and down the country. It would be interesting to know how many of those who now writing their hands so publicly over the proposals actually ever travel on these journeys.

SWALE BOROUGH COUNCIL

GENERAL : Two free hop-on hop-off services are running at Sheppey on Saturdays from 2nd to 23rd December. One runs from Eastchurch *High Street* via Minster Road, Halfway Road, Sheerness *High Street*, Queenborough *Rushenden Road* and *Cullet Drive* to Neats Court *Retail Park* at 0900 x20min to 1740, returning at 0937 x20min to 1817, and the other from Leysdown *Leysdown Road outside Merlin's* via Eastchurch *High Street* to Minster Road *near Costcutters* at 0930 x28min to 1754, returning at 0958 x28min to 1822. Operation is by Chalkwell, Sittingbourne, who on 2nd December were using YN03 ZXJ, YO53 OUG and LJ04 LDA/F on the Neats Court service. On 9th December, YO53 OVC was in use and it is suggested that the entire operation was with single-deckers. A third service runs in Faversham, replicating last year's operation as a park-and-ride between Abbey School and Court Street. Is there one at Sittingbourne as last year?

EAST SUSSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

GENERAL : Publicity for the change of contractor on 312/313/342 from Renown, Bexhill to Stagecoach South East from 24th December adds that the Rye Academy is currently consulting on changes to school session times from April 2018 to fit better with the times when pupils arrive by train. Southern are considering changes to train times from May 2018. Should the Rye Academy decide to proceed with timing changes from April 2018, which would involve starting and finishing 15 minutes later, the County Council will work with bus operators to try to alter bus times accordingly. It may not be possible to run some morning journeys later because of the need to cater for other service users, including children attending St. Michael's CofE Primary School at Playden.

RAIL REPLACEMENT

The following are scheduled for the coming period :

- 27th December to 1st January : Redhill to Tonbridge.
- 1st January : Folkestone West to Deal.
- 1st January : Canterbury East to Dover Priory.
- 1st January : Borough Green to Ashford International.
- 3rd to 5th January : Chislehurst to Tunbridge Wells (last train).
- 3rd to 5th January : Lewisham to Gillingham (last train).
- 6th and 7th January : Ashford International to Dover Priory.
- 7th January : Strood/Rochester to Rainham.
- 8th January : Tonbridge to Wadhurst (last few trains).
- 9th and 10th January : Redhill to Tonbridge.
- 9th and 16th January : Tunbridge Wells to Hastings (last two trains) (mini bus Battle to Crowhurst).
- 14th January : Sittingbourne to Herne Bay.
- 14th January : Sittingbourne to Dover Priory.
- 14th January : Strood to Maidstone West.
- 20th January : Faversham to Ramsgate.
- 21st January : Battle to Hastings.
- 21st January : Bexhill to Hastings.
- 21st January : Sittingbourne to Sheerness.
- 21st January : Rainham to Faversham.
- 21st January : Tonbridge to Maidstone West.
- 21st January : Tonbridge to Ashford International.
- 22nd January : Tonbridge to Hastings (last two trains).
- 22nd to 26th January : Dartford to Gillingham (last two trains).
- 28th January : Gillingham to Faversham.

Reports received on scheduled work during the past month are :

- 12th November : Faversham to Margate –also Bayliss, Deal (V20 BAY, V30 BAY); Lehane, Sturry (also JAZ 6689, LIW 1932); London General, Colliers Wood (also PVL222, VC1); YMS, Canterbury (also CIB 926). The Stagecoach South East contribution only involved the identified vehicles, not any others as suggested.
- 26th November : Ashford International to Canterbury West (additional closure) – London General, Colliers Wood (946, PVL263); Stagecoach South East (10703/4,

15263/72,15441/75/9/92, 15548/9/54/5/9, 15704/5/78/80 - these were changed during the day and did not all work simultaneously).

There was also an additional closure on this date between Ebbsfleet International and Ashford International, on which no reports have been received.

3rd December : Ashford International to Ramsgate via Canterbury West – Bayliss, Deal (V30 BAY); Lehane, Sturry (LIG 1755); London General, Colliers Wood (937, MEC14); Stagecoach South East (10701/6, 15273, 15478/81/90/8, 15538/58/60, of which 10701 was staffed by Folkestone rather than Hastings); YMS, Canterbury (T9 YMS). Stagecoach only ran between Ashford International and Canterbury West.

9th December : Faversham to Margate – Gillies, Aylesham (LL05 RSL); London General, Colliers Wood (DOE43, MEC14, PVL370); Regent, Whitstable (MJ11 DHG, BV17 CRF); Taylor, Cliftonville (OD02 OXF).

10th December : Faversham to Ramsgate – Bayliss, Deal (unidentified); Lehane, Sturry (unidentified); Regent, Whitstable (MJ11 DHG); Stagecoach South East (15262/6/7, 15500/56,15703-5,15903).

Further to page 17/316, 15266/73 were the only Stagecoach South East vehicles used on 12th November between Faversham and Margate, although four driver duties were apparently involved.

The following emergencies have been reported with sufficient information :

12th and 13th November : Tonbridge to Strood (staff shortage) – Ensign, Purfleet (two unidentified).

13th November : Minster to Sandwich (points failure) – Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (two unidentified).

16th November : Tonbridge to Hastings (power supply issues) – Ham, Flimwell (six unidentified).

16th November : Tonbridge to Maidstone West (driver shortage) – Go-Coachhire, Otford (two unidentified).

27th November : Faversham to Dover Priory (person hit by train) – Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (five unidentified); YMS, Canterbury (five unidentified).

30th November : Ashford International to Dover Priory (electrical supply issues at Folkestone East) – Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (around nine unidentified).

30th November : Medway Valley line (failed train) – Ham, Flimwell (one unidentified); Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (four unidentified).

8th December : Uckfield line (major power supply issue at East Croydon, with replacements running to/from Tunbridge Wells to connect passengers with South Eastern services) – Ham, Flimwell (one), Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (two) and Southdown PSV, Copthorne (one) for Oxted; Ham, Flimwell (two) for Crowborough; Edwards, Hailsham (two, probably including KC10 ABC) and Seaford and District, Seaford (two, including 2260) for Uckfield. Ham'sT70 HAM and BX54 DKJ were also seen at Uckfield. Then from 2300 buses were on stand-by to cover any missed connections or last service cancellations at Eastbourne (two from Brighton & Hove, Hove), Oxted (two from Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness) and Crowborough (one from Southdown PSV, Copthorne). All were unidentified unless stated.

10th December : Paddock Wood to Maidstone West (first two trains starting from Tonbridge) (staff sickness) : Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness (two single-deckers).

AT THE RALLIES

Vehicles of local derivation reported are :

Ensignbus running day, 2nd December : MFN 946F on service X81 (Tilbury to Shenfield). FFN 451 was booked for service X21 (Upminster to Ongar) and was seen between Brentwood and Ongar but did not appear in operation.

HISTORY CORNER

784/1 – HISTORY OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS GARAGE. Don Vincent reminds us that News-Sheet 1 (August 1952) reported on the “recent” enlargement of the garage (Eric Baldock’s essay dated this work to 1950), mentioning that buses occupied the upper level and coaches the lower level. It is not known how long this separation continued.

785/1 – FILM NOTE. Richard Wallace reports a recent transmission on Talking Pictures (channel 81) of the 1950 film “Double Confession”, featuring Maidstone & District CO85 (KKK 824) prominently at the start of the film, which was shot largely on location at Bexhill and Hastings. In another clip, apparently filmed from Hastings Pier, are passing images of a Hastings & District trolleybus and an East Kent Dennis Lancet, presumably a CFN on the 113, as well as what seems to be a Southdown double-decker.

Back cover illustrations

upper : Wrightbus StreetDeck micro-hybrid demonstrator SK17 HHC has been in use with Arriva Kent & Surrey over the turn of the month. This view was taken in Sir John Hawkins Way, Chatham on 8th December. *Phil Cattermole*

lower : Arriva Kent & Surrey route 299 is, with the Friday operation of 292, top of the risk list for KCC subsidised services in their current review of justifiable criteria for continued support. Alexander Dennis Enviro200 4065, working from the New Enterprise base, was photographed in Hawkhurst on 15th September having decanted one of its two expensive passengers. *David Jenkins*



**SEASON'S GREETINGS TO
ALL OUR READERS**



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