



MIDLAND

Branch Bulletin

No. 634 January 2025



I Tried to Run a South Yorkshire Bus Company
Extensive Route News

Front cover: Stagecoach East Midlands Enviro400 19298 (AE07 KYY) waits opposite Grantham Bus Station for the last part of its journey to the rail station. This extension was recently withdrawn and the additional layover generated has been put into increased running time in both directions, a remedy affecting a lot of bus services in recent months.

(photo: Gary Nolan)

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Diary - Meetings and Visits.

Saturday 11 January 2025 (LTHT): Meeting 500! Mike Greenwood takes a light-hearted look back at the meetings held over the last 43 years, from 1981 to 2024!

Tuesday 14 January 2025: Joint Speaker Meeting with South Wales and West branch by Zoom at 1930. Andy Foster, Director of Bus Planning, National Express West Midlands will talk on Real-time data to improve schedules. To join, email Darryl Meades at SWW@omnibus-society.org

Saturday 18 January 2025: Presidential Address. Bill Hiron MBE, Chairman of Eastern Transport Holdings, the parent company of Stephensons of Essex and NIBS Buses, will deliver his Presidential Address which will take place at The Abbey Centre, London at 1400.

Wednesday 15 January 2025 (HBG): Jam or cream on top? Richard Morgan will give a presentation on the highlights of a honeymoon in Torquay and other Devon locations from the 1980s.

Tuesday 4 February 2025: Zoom Speaker Meeting commencing at 1900. Julian Peddle will update us on the State of the Industry.

Meetings held by Zoom can only be attended by anyone who is able to use Zoom. This meeting is by invite only, restricted to 100 attendees and if you wish to join us you must inform Geoff Fisk at osmb.zoom@gmail.com by 1 February 2025, and an invite with joining instructions will be sent out by Monday 3 February 2025.

Saturday 8 February 2025 (LTHT): Trevor Follows presents his 'Annual Transport Review'.

Saturday 15 February 2025: Branch AGM and Speaker Meeting at Birmingham.

Wednesday 19 February 2025 (HBG): The Group's Annual General Meeting will be followed by a short presentation by Malcolm Roxburgh, formerly Chief Transport Officer with Bedfordshire County Council, who will conclude his presentation Just Nipping Out for an Hour. In a busy home life and career, Malcolm has found time now and then for photographing buses. He will be showing us some of his efforts from the 1960s onwards.

Tuesday 4 March 2025: Zoom Speaker Meeting. Phil Drake will present a talk with some goodies from the Bus Archive Ticket Collection of which he is Curator. See 4 February meeting for details of how to apply for a link to join this meeting.

Saturday 8 March 2025 (LTHT): East Midlands in the 1990s presented by Mike Fenton

Wednesday 19 March 2025 (HBG): An East of England Miscellany – Ian Barlex will show some of his pictures from the eastern side of England spanning the period since deregulation

Saturday 22 March 2025: Note revised date. Speaker Meeting at Derby. Our speaker will be OS President, Bill Hiron.

Wednesday 16 April 2025 (HBG): Carole Stevens, General Manager Putney Garage (AF) Go-Ahead London will give a virtual presentation on What I have Discovered, Learnt and Achieved on my Route to London Transport.

Looking forward we have provisional dates for the Summer Visits Programme:
 Saturday 12 April, Saturday 17 May, Saturday 21 June and Saturday 19 July.

Members are reminded that they can attend any meeting organised by the Omnibus Society or by any Branch or Group. Details of meetings can be found on the OS website <https://www.omnibus-society.org/diary> and also in the Omnibus Magazine.



The Midland Branch holds meetings where disabled access and facilities are available for members and their guests. On visits using coaches and heritage vehicles access may be problematical and you are advised to contact the bookings organiser for specific information.

Unless stated otherwise meetings held in Derby are at The Friends Meeting House, St. Helens St., DERBY, DE1 3GY and those in Birmingham are at the Priory Rooms, 40 Bull St, Birmingham B4 6AF.

Unless specified otherwise, meetings are at 1345 for a prompt 1400 start.

Events marked **EMBEG** are organised by the East Midlands Bus Enthusiast Group. Your contact for Group meetings and visits is John Curtis, 8 Waterton Close, Stretton, Burton on Trent DE13 0RL, email harrogate4@hotmail.com. Mobile 07941 372329 or tel. 01283 543224.

Events marked **HBG** are organised by the Herts and Beds Group (Affiliated to the Eastern and Southern Branch of The Omnibus Society). Your contact for Group meetings is Richard Morgan, Treasurer and Publicity Officer, 14 Rosedale Close, Sundon Park, Luton LU3 3AP. Email staff10@btinternet.com Tel: 07889 357392. Meetings are held in Room 7, The News Building, rear of Sundon Park Baptist Church, 244 Sundon Park Road, Luton LU3 3AL. The room will be available on the third Wednesday evening each month from 1900 until 2230 with free tea/coffee and biscuits. The Herts and Beds Group holds meetings where disabled access and facilities are available for members and guests.

Events marked **LTHT** are organised by Leicester Transport Heritage Trust. Your contact is Mike Greenwood, telephone 07712 458862 or e-mail mikegreenwood@ltht.org.uk. Meetings are held on the SECOND Saturday of each month starting at 10 am at the Braunstone Civic Centre, Kingsway, Braunstone Town, Leicester, LE3 2PP. The venue has a decent size car park and Arriva bus service 104 runs every 20 minutes from St Margaret's Bus Station. Use the 0930 departure and alight at the Braunstone, Welcombe Avenue stop, from where the Civic Centre is signposted. LTHT also organise Zoom meetings every month which are held on the fourth Saturday of each month at 1000. OS members are most welcome to attend. If you would like to be notified of these meetings, please send an e-mail to mikegreenwood@ltht.org.uk.

From The Chairman . . .

Congratulations are extended to Bill Hiron MBE, this year's OS President on receiving the Lifetime Contribution to the Bus Industry award at the recent UK Bus Awards. We look forward to his Presidential Address in London on 18 January and wish him well for his Presidential year.

Also making headlines at the same UK Bus Awards was Midland Branch member Dave Astill and his team at Nottingham City Transport who were crowned UK Bus Operator of the Year, as well as winning the Top City Operator category. Members will be well aware of the high-quality operation, which is NCT, and the congratulations of the Branch are extended to Dave and his team.

Further winners from our Branch area were: Arriva Derby – Top National Bus Depot with Runner-up Grimsby Stagecoach gaining the Silver Award; Stagecoach East Midlands in the Bus and the Community category for their fundraising success with Skegness Seasiders; the team of Stagecoach East Midlands, trentbarton, Nottinghamshire.

County Council and West Notts College – Silver winners in the Partnership for Excellence Category for their multi-operator Student Travel Pass; Stagecoach Grimsby again, Bronze Winners in the Recruitment and Retention Category; and last but not least Brian Bowater, NCT's Customer Service Support who gained the Silver Award in the Unsung Hero Category.

My best wishes to all OS members for a Happy and Successful 2025.

Geoff Lusher

Recent Books

Listed below are books published since the last Bulletin. Ken Jubb can continue to obtain these for OS members, and they can be despatched post-free at the cover prices listed. Cheques should be made payable to Ken Jubb although all proceeds will be shared between the Bus Archive and the Midland Branch. It may be possible for pre-ordered books to be made available for collection at some of the proposed winter meetings. Contact Ken at 1 Foredrift Close, REDDITCH B98 7NP (01527 544908).

PLAXTON - THE PARAMOUNT YEARS (Howard Berry) Amberley
96 pp soft back £15.99
Another all-colour album

AROUND THE EDINBURGH TRAMWAY SYSTEM WITH PETER MITCHELL (Charlie Loarridge and Chris Romain) Adam Gordon

160 pp 300 x 215 mm hard back £30

The quality of Peter Mitchell's black and white photographs is well known, and this is a further confirmation of his skill with a camera. Superb crisp images taken throughout the Edinburgh network on visits in 1951 and 1955; presented in route number order together with a map of each. There is a separate eight-sided track diagram by J C Gillham.

TRAMS AND RECOLLECTIONS EDINBURGH 1956 (Henry Conn) Silver Link/Mortons No. 124 in the Recollections series
120 pp soft back £11.99

Another predominantly black and white album using photographs by David and John Clarke taken in many and varied locations. A shame two books on the same subject are published around the same time - buy whichever you can afford!

SERVED BY SOUTHDOWN (Stewart J Brown and Chris Warren) Heathfield Publishing
144 pp 245 x 245 mm hard back £35

It is that man again! The bulk - but by no means all - of the black and white photographs are by Peter Mitchell so quality is assured with a splendid selection of vehicles from the Leyland TS and TD era through to early Leopards and PDs in equally varied rural and town locations. A wonderful evocative volume.

STAGECOACH 2025 BUS HANDBOOK British Bus Publishing

176 pp soft back £23.25

(NB three Stagecoach garages in Manchester are scheduled for closure as part of the franchising programme in January 2025)

A CENTURY OF EDINBURGH'S TRAMS AND BUSES (Gavin Booth) Fawndoon
144 pp 255 x 220 mm hard back £40

No-one is better qualified to produce this superb book than our friend Gavin Booth. Detailed text supported by quality photographs - black and white for the early days, colour later - together with a summary fleet list.

TROLLEYBUSES - GLASGOW'S SILENT SERVICE (Hugh Dougherty) Stenlake
48 pp soft back £12.95

THE GUY WULFRUNIAN - MORE THAN JUST A BLUNDER BUS (written and published by Basil Hancock)
416 pp 305 x 215 mm hard back £49.50

We are told there were only 137 Wulfrunians produced so this weighty volume can only be described as comprehensive. All but a handful of these advanced vehicles went to West Riding and generally saw only seven or so years in service. Other customers who bought only one or two were LUT, Bury, West Wales, Wolverhampton, County Motors, and Accrington, plus a pair of demonstrators. West Riding purchased one or two of these vehicles too and, in turn, a small number of their own passed to independent operators when disposed of. It is ironic that when West Riding withdrew them, many were replaced by second-hand Bristol Lodekkas!

Ken Jubb

A Great Try

Our speaker meeting in Derby on 16 November featured a talk by National Chairman Nigel Eggleton entitled I tried to run a South Yorkshire Bus Company, a reference to the notorious book which got BR manager Gerry Fiennes the sack – I tried to run a Railway.

Nigel had a varied career in the bus industry including a spell at Go West Midlands before joining First in 2013 where he took charge of the Midlands company, then comprising Worcester, Potteries, and Leicester. He described these as successful and innovative companies which were consistently at or towards the top of First's internal league tables. Morale was reasonably high, and route branding was introduced across the companies, resulting in generation of revenue. Examples were shown of The Nimrod at Worcester, a reference to the City's famous composer and his Enigma Variations, Frequent Fourteens at Leicester and the Minton pattern flooring for Potteries buses.



The attractive Nimrod livery is seen here carried by First Worcester Citaro 64043 (LK08 FMC). (photo: Nigel Eggleton)



*Suiting the body style of the E400, the FREQUENT fourteens livery certainly added some colour to the Leicester fleet.
(photo: Nigel Eggleton)*

Then came a phone call in May 2020 asking Nigel to add First's extensive operations in South Yorkshire to his existing portfolio. Subject to there being no fall-off in performance at the Midlands companies, Nigel agreed and proceeded to take stock of the situation at First South Yorkshire. This he described as a neglected company having made a £2.6m loss in the last pre-Covid year and with severe engineering problems. Nigel quoted some disturbing statistics. Added to this there was a shortage of skilled staff and a high volume of major unit failures.

All was not well on the traffic side either. Whilst the Midland companies were fully staffed, South Yorkshire was 12% short of drivers with high turnover. Some duties contained almost 5hrs 30mins without a break and running times were unrealistic. Post-Covid, there was a reluctance to work rest days despite the introduction of a £40 sweetener payment.

The Trade Union structure needed amending as there had been much internal strife following the closure of Rotherham depot and the transfer of vehicles and staff to Sheffield. Nigel identified the establishment of trust as the priority as many of the workforce had a worrying anti-management attitude. He established a Keep Talking policy and developed his relationship with union representatives from full-time officer downwards. Improvements in the hourly rate were seen as crucial to reducing turnover, and Doncaster drivers were moved up to £13.00 per hour - negotiations with Sheffield proved more challenging. On the engineering side, two new Engineering Managers were appointed and shift patterns revised with the emphasis on removal of demarcation. Remarkably, lost mileage had been reduced to 0.5% by July 2022.

Nigel continued the policy of route branding and local identity as applied in the Midlands and he showed us examples of an evocative Mainline for Service X78, Doncaster's red buses, featuring Sir Nigel Gresley's Doncaster-built A4 locomotive Mallard, and one of the Sheffield local liveries – Hendersons Relish Strong and Northern, apparently a Sheffield equivalent of Lea and Perrins Worcestershire Sauce!

Nigel found that the relationship with South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority was unsatisfactory and needed some personal attention. The co-ordination of services in Sheffield in its current form had reached its sell by date. The level of fares was too low, not having fully recovered from the low fares policy of South Yorkshire in the 1970s. Whilst an overall review of the service network was necessary, Nigel felt that there was insufficient revenue available for improvement despite support by SYCMA. Franchising was clearly on the agenda for South Yorkshire, but Nigel's view was that this would achieve little more than an Enhanced Partnership but at greatly increased cost.

With all the hard work under way on restoring First South Yorkshire to the proud and profitable company it once was, came the news from First Group Headquarters in June 2022 of a restructure which sought to reduce the number of companies from 10 to six. Part of this plan involved the addition of First Manchester to Nigel's responsibilities albeit with First Worcester moving to control from Bristol. Taking account of earlier central decisions, Nigel felt that it was time to move in a different direction despite the uncompleted work at South Yorkshire. He indicated his disagreement with the proposals and took voluntary redundancy from First Group. The industry as a whole has sadly lost a highly experienced busman and manager, and it can ill afford to do so at this crucial time in its history.

Geoff Lusher

BSIP - Local transport authority final allocations 2025 to 2026

With thanks to those members who highlighted a few missing Midland Branch area Local Authorities in the list last month, here they are.

Local transport authority (Midland Branch Area)	BSIP capital funding 25/26	BSIP capacity and capability allocation 25/26	BSIP revenue funding 25/26
Herefordshire Council	£1,108,112	£63,000	£1,867,493
Rutland County Council	£132,263	£63,000	£364,710
Shropshire Council	£1,398,474	£63,000	£2,497,869
Telford and Wrekin Council	£1,788,577	£63,000	£1,545,124

ROUTE NEWS

Acknowledgments: Thanks for contributions from Nick Eyles, Peter Hale, Geoff Lusher, Nigel McBride, Gary Nolan, Andrew Pearson, Mike Tongue, Mike Walton, and Paul Wilkinson

ARRIVA Group

ARRIVA MIDLANDS (Arriva Midlands Ltd), Leicester

31 August 2024 (additional)

110 BIRMINGHAM - Tamworth (D). Further to 632-10, the journeys diverted Sch between Whitehouse Common Road and A453 north of Bassett's Pole via Weeford Road and Slade Road do a double-run from Roughley X Roads to the NXWM X5 terminus.

4 January 2025

1B DERBY - Boulton Moor. Extended along Snelsmoor Lane to junction with Fellow Lands Way.

2/2A DERBY - Chellaston / Swadlincote. The journeys that start and finish at Chellaston Academy extended with S106 funding, M-Sa daytime 60' to new housing along Riber Drive.

ARRIVA MIDLANDS (Arriva Midlands North Ltd), Leicester

4 January 2025

5/5A TELFORD - Donnington - Newport - STAFFORD (M-Sa 30', ESu 60'). Revised timetable with morning peak journeys running up to 15' earlier. After about 0800, departures from Telford run 5' later at xx23 and xx43 and from Stafford 3' later at xx23 and xx53.

8/8A TELFORD - Lightmoor - Madeley - BRIDGNORTH / MUCH WENLOCK (M-Sa). Revised timetable with morning peak journeys towards Telford running up to 10' earlier and additional journeys from Madeley and Broseley.

9 BRIDGNORTH - Wolverhampton (M-Sa 60'). Revised timetable and reduced 10 journeys to 8/9 journeys, following end of revenue support in August 2024.

53 ELLESMORE - Oswestry (M-Sa). Revised timetable M-F following end of revenue support in August 2024. Sa service withdrawn. **Lakeside Coaches Ltd** provides a replacement.

X5 SHREWSBURY - Oswestry (M-Sa 60'). Frequency increased to 45'. Buses from Shrewsbury to Oswestry no longer turn right from Montford Bridge onto the A5, but instead turn left, travel along the A5 to Churncote Roundabout (A5/A458), and return along the A5 to Nesscliffe.

CENTREBUS Group

CHASERIDER BUSES LTD, Cannock

5 January 2025

36 WALSALL - Rushall - Aldridge - Shenstone - LICHFIELD (M-Sa 60'). New BSIP-supported 60' Su service introduced, replacing **National Express West Midlands 35** between Walsall and Aldridge on that day.



Chaserider Volvo Evora 639 (BV73 MKE) makes a rare visit to Telford and is seen here at Madeley Centre, operating on service 100. (photo: Alistair Stevens-Brown)

HIGH PEAK BUSES (Eric W. Bowers Coaches Ltd), Dove Holes5 January 2025

199 BUXTON - Whaley Bridge - Stockport - MANCHESTER AIRPORT (D). TfGM franchising phase 3 commences, service continues under TfGM Cross Border permit. TfGM ends funding for the evening timetable, the short journeys between Stockport and Manchester Airport are withdrawn and consequently the late evening journeys from Manchester Airport to Buxton run earlier. The late journey FSa from Buxton to Whaley Bridge will also run slightly later.

394 GLOSSOP - Stepping Hill Hospital (M-F 120'). TfGM franchising phase 3 commences, service continues unchanged under TfGM Cross Border permit.

COMFORTDELGRO Group**METROLINE (Metroline Manchester Ltd)**5 January 2025

219 MANCHESTER - Stalybridge - GLOSSOP (1 late night journey FSa) **and**

237 ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE - Glossop (M-F 20', Sa 30', ESu 60'). New services, transferred from **Stagecoach Manchester** under TfGM franchising phase 3.

FIRST Group**FIRST POTTERIES LTD, Adderley Green**5 January 2025

38A/39A KIDSGROVE - Hanley - Newcastle-under-Lyme - WATERHAYES. Now serves Shelton Boulevard in Festival Park.

101 HANLEY - Newcastle - Trentham - Stone - STAFFORD (M-Sa). Revised timetable maintaining the same overall frequency but with departure times changed by up to 10' and minor changes to running times. In addition, on M-F the 0801 Hanley - Stone departs at 0815 and is extended to Stafford, the 0909 Stone-Hanley starts from Stafford at 0846 (calling at Stone at 0924) and there is an additional Hanley-Stafford journey at 1844. On Saturdays, the morning frequency is increased from 30'/35' to 30' resulting in an extra journey in each direction and there are additional Hanley-Stafford journeys at 1841 and 1941.

FIRST WORCESTERSHIRE (First Midland Red Buses Ltd), Worcester29 November to 1 December 2024

Extra services ran in Worcester for the Christmas Fayre. This year the park-and-ride service ran to and from the Sixways Stadium (former Worcester Warriors ground), 30' Friday evening 1635-2210, 12'-30' Sa and 15'-30' Su. Extra late journeys were also run on 30 (Dines Green), 35 (Warndon), 44 (Malvern) and 144 (Bromsgrove).

5 January 2025

These service improvements are being delivered as part of Worcestershire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

Droitwich Area Services

19 DROITWICH - Cockshute Hill - PRIMSLAND WAY loop (M-Sa daytime 60'). The service to Cockshute Hill and Primsland Way, last running in 2017, is reinstated. (**Finesse Travel 354** has provided a minimal twice weekly service since 31/12/17). Increases the service to the east of the town combining with **157** to provide an improved service to the Primsland area.

20 DROITWICH - High School - Westlands - DROITWICH **and**

20A DROITWICH - Chalverton Court - High School - Westlands - DROITWICH **and**

20B DROITWICH - High School - Westlands - Berry Hill and Hampton Lovett Industrial Estates - DROITWICH (M-Sa daytime approximately 30' combined). New services, replacing **LMS Travel Ltd**, on different timings. The industrial estate buses are provided by a combination of 20B and extension to other Droitwich services.

22/22A DROITWICH - Witton Middle School (22) - Blake Avenue - Fernhill Heath - Dilmore Avenue - Claines - Cornmeadow Estate (22A) - WORCESTER (3-5 journeys M-Sa daytime). New service, replacing **Kev's Cars & Coaches Ltd 355**, at different timings and with the school time journeys via Witton Middle School also being provided on M-F in school holidays.

157 DROITWICH - Celvestune Way - Copcut - Pulley Lane - Primsland Wildlife Way - Primsland Way - Showell Road - Celvestune Way - DROITWICH (M-Sa daytime 60'). New service, replacing **Astons Coaches Ltd 19** with different route and timings.

Worcester City Services

28/X28 WORCESTER - Red Hill - Baynham Estate (28) - COUNTY HALL (M-Sa 60'). Retimed to better co-ordinate with revised service X50 on London Road.

30 WORCESTER - Bromyard Road - DINES GREEN (D 10'-12'). Extra buses including later buses until 2310 M-Sa.

34 WORCESTER - Tolladine Road - WARNDON VILLAGES (M-Sa 20'-30'). 60' daytime Su service added.

35 WORCESTER - Rainbow Hill - WARNDON (M-Sa 10'-15', Su 20'). M-Sa evening service extended to 2310.

38 WORCESTER - Ronkswood - ROYAL HOSPITAL (M-Sa 20'-30', Su 60'). Extra journey on Sa evenings.

Worcester Country Services

44 WORCESTER - Malvern Link - Barnards Green - GREAT MALVERN (M-Sa 30'). Later journeys and 60' Su service added.

X50 WORCESTER - Parkway Station - Pershore - EVESHAM (M-Sa 60', Su 60' Worcester - Pershore only). Increased generally to 30' M-Sa, running later. Su service extended to Evesham.

144 WORCESTER - Droitwich - Bromsgrove - CATSHILL (M-Sa 20', Su 60'). Retimed with some improvements.

LAKESIDE COACHES LTD, Ellesmere

4 January 2025

53 ELLESMORE - Oswestry (Sa 5 trips & Sch 1 trip). New service replacing **Arriva Midlands North**. Sch extends to Marches School in Oswestry.

GO-AHEAD Group**GO NORTH WEST LTD, Bolton**

5 January 2025

341 GLOSSOP - Hyde (M-Sa 60'). New service, transferred from **Stotts Tours (Oldham) Ltd** under TfGM franchising phase 3.

NATIONAL EXPRESS Group**NATIONAL EXPRESS COVENTRY (West Midlands Travel Ltd)**

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

2 COVENTRY - Torrington Avenue - Tile Hill South - CANNON PARK (M-Sa) **and**

2A COVENTRY - Torrington Avenue - Tile Hill South - WESTWOOD BUSINESS PARK (M-Sa). Services withdrawn. The Coventry - Tile Hill South section is replaced by **Stagecoach Midlands 188**, while the rest are covered by existing NXC 18 and 18A.

51 COVENTRY - Earlsdon - Hearsall Common - CHAPELFIELDS (Su 60'). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM tender due to low usage. Note that the new Su service on **Stagecoach Midlands 51** starting on 5 January is over a different section of route.

5 January 2025

12X COVENTRY - Kenilworth Road - UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK (D) - CANLEY, Prior Deram Walk (ESu). The Canley extension, via Westwood Business Park and student accommodation, now operates all day D 30' (20' Su daytime).

NATIONAL EXPRESS WEST MIDLANDS (West Midlands Travel Ltd)

Birmingham city centre changes. In Birmingham city centre, Albert Street reopens for buses (between High Street and Moor Street Queensway) on a slightly different alignment following tramway works and is now named New Albert Street. Several National Express West Midlands services are rerouted accordingly. In fact, part of Corporation Street, Lower Bull Street and New Albert Street are all now two-way, so bus shelters placed in Corporation Street opposite the Square Peg pub a couple of years ago are now finally in use.

5 January 2025

2 Birmingham - MAYPOLE **and**

3 Birmingham - YARDLEY WOOD. Rerouted from Moor Street Queensway terminus via Carrs Lane, High Street and New Albert Street to join Moor Street Queensway westbound.

4/4A Birmingham - Warwick Road - SOLIHULL. Birmingham terminus moved back to Carrs Lane from Moor Street Queensway. Returns via High Street and New Albert Street to join Moor Street Queensway westbound.

23 Birmingham - Harborne - BARTLEY GREEN **and**

24 Birmingham - Harborne - QUINTON ROAD WEST. Rerouted from Moor Street Queensway via New Albert Street (instead of Carrs Lane and High Street) to Bull Street and Corporation Street.

33 Birmingham - PHEASEY **and**

51 Birmingham - WALSALL **and**

907/907A Birmingham - SUTTON COLDFIELD **and**

X51 Birmingham - Walsall - CANNOCK. Rerouted into Birmingham via Lancaster Circus underpass, James Watt Queensway, Dale End, Newton Street, Corporation Street and Old Square to terminate in Corporation Street opposite the Square Peg. Return via Bull Street, New Albert Street and Moor Street Queensway to James Watt Queensway and Lancaster Circus underpass.

45/47 Birmingham - Pershore Road - LONGBRIDGE. Rerouted from High Street terminus via New Albert Street to Moor Street Queensway.

61/63 Birmingham - Bristol Road - FRANKLEY. Extended from Smallbrook Queensway via St Martins Queensway, Moor Street Queensway, Priory Queensway, and Old Square to terminate in Priory Queensway (southbound). Return via Priory Queensway and Moor Street Queensway.

65 Birmingham - PERRY COMMON **and**

67 Birmingham - CASTLE VALE **and**

68 Birmingham - PEDDIMORE, Amazon. No change in route but different terminal stops in Priory Queensway nearer to Old Square.

97 Birmingham - CHELMSLEY WOOD. Terminus moved from Albert Street to Carrs Lane. Rerouted from Carrs Lane terminus via High Street and New Albert Street to Moor Street Queensway.

934/935 Birmingham - Kingstanding - WALSALL **and**

936/937/937A Birmingham - Kingstanding - BROWNHILLS WEST **and**

997 Birmingham - Pheasey - WALSALL. Rerouted into Birmingham via Lancaster Circus underpass, James Watt Queensway, Dale End, Newton Street, Corporation Street, Old Square, Corporation Street (westbound) and Bull Street to terminate in New Albert Street. Return via Bull Street, New Albert Street and Moor Street Queensway to James Watt Queensway and Lancaster Circus underpass.

FD Birmingham - FORT DUNLOP. Rerouted from Carrs Lane terminus via High Street and New Albert Street to Moor Street Queensway.

X21/X22 Birmingham - Queen Elizabeth Hospital - BARTLEY GREEN. Rerouted via St Martins Queensway, Moor Street Queensway, Priory Queensway, and Old Square to terminate in Priory Queensway (southbound). Return via Priory Queensway and Moor Street Queensway.



National Express West Midlands 734 (SN61 DCF), an AD Enviro 200 B29F loads in Dudley's New Street on Service 14A to Merry Hill. This service transfers to Diamond Bus with the January TfWM tender changes. (photo: Geoff Lusher)

Other changes**4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)****14 FOXYARDS ESTATE** - Dudley - Tividale Hall - Blackheath - HALESOWEN (D) **and****14A DUDLEY** - Tividale Hall - Blackheath - MERRY HILL (M-Sa). Services withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus** services **14, 14A, 24, 24H, 214** and **215**.**24 DUDLEY** - Springfield - Rowley Regis Hospital - MERRY HILL (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus** services **14, 14A, 24, 24H** and **215**.**35 WALSALL** - Aldridge (Su). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by a new Su service on **Chaserider Buses** 36.**54 WEST BROMWICH** - Smethwick - Warley - Brandhall - WORLDS END (D). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus**.**61 WOLVERHAMPTON** - Goldthorn Park (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus**.**5 January 2025****3 WEST BROMWICH** - Lion Farm - Blackheath - Cradley Heath - MERRY HILL (D). ESu service withdrawn, lost on TfWM retender to **Carolean Coaches Ltd**.**4H WEST BROMWICH** - Blackheath - Halesowen - HAYLEY GREEN (D). M-Sa evening service, which ran Halesowen - Hayley Green only, now runs over the full route.**22 BEARWOOD** - Warley - Langley - OLDBURY (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus**.**96 KINGSTANDING** - Erdington - Fort Shopping Park - CHELMSLEY WOOD (M-Sa). ESu service gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus**. NXWM have moved Enviro 200s into Perry Barr Garage for the service.**ROTALA Group****DIAMOND BUS LTD, Tividale****West Midlands area****4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)****22 BEARWOOD** - Warley - Langley - OLDBURY (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **National Express West Midlands**.**23 WEDNESBURY** - Gospel Oak - Bilston - PORTOBELLO (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Carolean Coaches** and extended to Willenhall.**41 WEST BROMWICH** - Westminster Road - FRIAR PARK (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Carolean Coaches** with route change at the West Bromwich end.**41A WEST BROMWICH** - Westminster Road - WEDNESBURY (M-Sa). Service withdrawn. Mostly replaced by **Carolean Coaches** **41**, but **64** now covers Lily Street, Ruskin Street and Shaftesbury Street in West Bromwich, and **30** covers the Hall Green - Wednesbury section.**80 BILSTON** - Lower Bradley - MOXLEY (M-Sa). Service withdrawn at end of TfWM tender due to low use. The busiest section, through Lower Bradley, is replaced by new **Carolean Coaches** **23A**.**96 KINGSTANDING** - Erdington - Fort Shopping Park - Chelmsley Wood - BIRMINGHAM AIRPORT (ESu). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **National Express West Midlands**, who already ran the M-Sa service.**224 BILSTON** - Etingshall - SEDGLEY (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Carolean Coaches**.**A1 SOLIHULL** - Damsonwood Circular (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Landflight Travel Services** and renumbered **601**.**A2 SOLIHULL** - Buryfield Road Circular (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Landflight Travel Services** and renumbered **602**.**A15 SOLIHULL** - Lyndon - Acocks Green - Robin Hood - SHIRLEY STATION (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by new **Landflight Travel Services** **630** and **631** except for the Robin Hood - Shirley section.

5 January 2025

14 DUDLEY - Tividale Hall - BLACKHEATH (D) **and**

14A DUDLEY - Kates Hill - Tividale Hall - Blackheath - HALESOWEN (ESu). New services, replacing parts of **National Express West Midlands 14** and **14A** on TfWM tender.

24 MERRY HILL - Saltwells Road - Dudley Wood - Rowley Regis Hospital - BLACKHEATH (M-Sa) **and**

24H MERRY HILL - Cradley Heath - Blackheath - Rowley Regis Station - HALESOWEN (M-Sa). New services, replacing parts of **National Express West Midlands 14, 14A** and **24** on TfWM tender.

30 WEST BROMWICH - Great Bridge - Hall Green - STONE CROSS (M-Sa). Rerouted from Hall Green to Wednesbury (instead of Stone Cross) via Woden Road South and Chestnut Road.

50 BIRMINGHAM - Kings Heath - MAYPOLE (D). M-Sa improved from 12' to 10', and some early/late journeys extended as **50A** from/to Redditch (see below). Operation now understood to be entirely by Redditch garage; previously Tividale had a minority share.

50A BIRMINGHAM - Kings Heath - Maypole - Wythall - Redditch Gateway - REDDITCH (D). New service of 5-6 peak journeys M-Sa and 2 journeys at beginning and end of operation Su, being positioning journeys to and from Redditch depot.

54/54A PERRY BARR - Hamstead (M-Sa). Extended to Great Barr (Scott Arms) via Rocky Lane, Tower Hill, Kingsdown Avenue and Old Walsall Road, replacing part of **61**. The Hamstead Village terminus is no longer served.

54 WEST BROMWICH - Smethwick - Warley - Brandhall - WORLDS END (D). New service, gained on TfWM tender unchanged from **National Express West Midlands**.

61 WOLVERHAMPTON - Goldthorn Park (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender unchanged from **National Express West Midlands**.

61 WEST BROMWICH - Handsworth - Perry Barr - GREAT BARR, Scott Arms (M-Sa). Truncated at Perry Barr. Most of the section on to Great Barr is replaced by **54/54A**. Also operates direct along Birmingham Road at the Hawthorns instead of Halfords Lane, Dartmouth Road and Kenrick Way.

64 WEST BROMWICH - Hateley Heath - Hill Top - WEDNESBURY (M-Sa). Rerouted between West Bromwich and Hateley Heath via Shaftesbury Street, Lily Street and Ruskin Street to replace **41** because Carolean Coaches does not have narrow vehicles suitable for these roads.

65 DARLASTON - Wednesbury - WOODS ESTATE (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender unchanged from **Walsall Community Transport**.

66 WEST BROMWICH - Wigmore Farm - STONE CROSS (M-Sa). Rerouted in West Bromwich via Lyndon and St Clements Lane instead of Hallam Street, replacing the rerouted **64**.

74A WEST BROMWICH - Greets Green - Great Bridge - DUDLEY (M-Sa). Diverted from Great Bridge to Horsley Heath, Denbigh Road (instead of Dudley) over roads new to buses: Horseye Road, Alexandra Road and Lower Church Lane.

214 DUDLEY - Priory Estate - FOXYARDS ESTATE (M-Sa). New service replacing part of **National Express West Midlands 14** on TfWM tender.

215 DUDLEY - Kates Hill - Dixons Green - Springfield - WARRENS HALL (M-Sa). New service replacing parts of **National Express West Midlands 14, 14A** and **24** on TfWM tender.

637 WALSALL - Highgate - MANOR HOSPITAL (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender unchanged from **Walsall Community Transport**.

674 WALSALL - Gillity Village - Yew Tree - Friar Park - WEDNESBURY (M-Sa). New service replacing and combining **Walsall Community Transport 67** and **74** on TfWM tender. Route is as the former 74 to Gillity Village, then via Walstead Road to Yew Tree, then via Greenside Way (instead of Orchard Road and Woodruff Way - still served by 45) to Tame Bridge, then as the former 67 route to Wednesbury.

Worcestershire area

5 January 2025

These improvements are being delivered as part of Worcestershire's Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP).

3 KIDDERMINSTER - Birchen Coppice - Stourport - ARELEY KINGS (D). M-F service improved, with extra early journey, then daytime service increased 20' to 15'.

8 RIFLE RANGE - Kidderminster - Bewdley - HALES PARK (M-Sa daytime). Extra early morning journey.

12 ASTWOOD BANK - Alexandra Hospital - Crabbs Cross - REDDITCH (M-Sa daytime 30'). Later journeys and 60' Su service added.

DIAMOND BUS (EAST MIDLANDS) LTD, Burton upon Trent9 December 2024

LinkUp LICHFIELD area DRT service (MTW 0900-1700, ThFSa 0900-1900). New DRT service, available to convey passengers from all the villages in the Lichfield D.C. area to either Lichfield or Burntwood, using a series of virtual bus stops as well as relevant existing bus stops.



As detailed above, a new demand responsive service, Link Up, has commenced on a six-month trial period funded by Lichfield District Council through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund. The two Diamond East Midlands minibuses are seen here at Lichfield Bus Station - 15017/8 (WN74 YFO/M), Mercedes Benz Sprinter 519 CDi with Ilesbus bodies.

(photo: Geoff Lusher)

STAGECOACH Group**STAGECOACH EAST MIDLANDS (Lincolnshire Road Car Co. Ltd), Lincoln****Gainsborough area**16 December 2024

61 GAINSBOROUGH - Queen Elizabeth High School (Sch). Temporary change due to East Stockwith road works. The 0702 journey from Blyton to Morton will run 10 minutes earlier at 0652 until further notice.

101/601 SCUNTHORPE - Gainsborough (Sch). Temporary change due to East Stockwith road works. Service 101 journey at 1610 from North Lindsey College to Gainsborough starts from John Leggott College at 1610 until further notice.

367 GAINSBOROUGH - Kirton Lindsey, Kirton Academy (Sch). Temporary change due to East Stockwith road works. 0740 journey from Gainsborough Bus Station departs 8 minutes earlier at 0732 until further notice.

Lincoln area6 January 2025

1 LINCOLN - Waddington - GRANTHAM (D). Revised timetable to improve punctuality. Increased running times in both directions with reduced layover at Grantham Bus Station.

2/2E LINCOLN - Washingborough - BRANSTON (D). Revised times at Heighington Railway Bridge on inbound Service 2 journeys up to 3' earlier.

19 LINCOLN - Skellingthorpe (M-Sa). 1530 NSch journey ex Lincoln timed at Skellingthorpe Road, Spar Shop 3' later.

31/31X LINCOLN - Sleaford (M-Sa). 6' additional running time on the 0645 31X from Lincoln and 0725 31X return journey departs Sleaford at 0735 but still arrives in Lincoln at 0830.

533 LINCOLN - North Hykeham (M-F 1 early morning journey). Revised route and timetable serving Hollywell Road and not Larne Road.

535 LINCOLN - North Hykeham - COUNTY HOSPITAL (M-F 1 early morning journey) Revised route and timetable serving Hollywell Road and not Larne Road.

Scunthorpe area6 January 2025

1/1A SCUNTHORPE - Ashby Circular (D). M-F daytime journeys have 1' less running time and first two journeys on Service 1 run 5'earlier at 0640 and 0710.

3 SCUNTHORPE - Ashby - Bottesford - WESTCLIFFE circular (M-Sa). All journeys depart Scunthorpe 10' earlier and have 5' additional running time.

6 SCUNTHORPE - Ashby (D). M-Sa round trip time increased by 5'.

7/8 SCUNTHORPE - Skippingdale Circular (D). M-Sa journeys retimed to run 10' earlier and running time increased by up to 6' on all days.

103 SCUNTHORPE - Kirton in Lindsey - LINCOLN (M-Sa). The 0739 journeys (CHol/Sa and CDO) from Hemswell will depart at 0730 and run 9' earlier throughout.



Stagecoach East Midlands service 103 has a minor timetable change following that in October when running times were increased. ADL E300 27202 (SL64 HYP) is the normal vehicle type for this lengthy route to Lincoln.

(photo: Gary Nolan)

260 BARTON UPON HUMBER - Immingham (M-Sa). Reduced running time between Barrow and Goxhill in both directions.

560 EAST HALTON - Winterton - SCUNTHORPE COLLEGES (Sch). Minor changes to running times with some intermediate timing points no longer shown.

Skegness area

6 January 2025

56 LINCOLN - Horncastle - SKEGNESS (D). Revised timings to improve punctuality with some significant changes to departure times from both Lincoln and Skegness. M-Sa evening departures from Lincoln now at xx20 instead of xx00 and 15'-20' later from Skegness. Sa morning times revised to be 15' earlier from Lincoln until 1045 then 1200. 0900 and 1000 ex Skegness now 20' earlier on Sa. Su timetable revised with variable journey times in both directions.

57/X57 SKEGNESS - Boston (M-Sa). The 1710 journey from Boston to Skegness has increased running time and 0715 CDO Service X57 from Chapel St Leonards and Skegness to Boston College has a slight route change in Boston and now runs via Eastwood Road.

B1 BOSTON - Bakkavor, Boston (D). Timetable no longer shows intermediate timing points at Old Leake and Benington.

STAGECOACH MANCHESTER (Greater Manchester Buses South Limited)

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

219 MANCHESTER - Stalybridge - GLOSSOP (1 late night journey FSa) **and**

237 ASHTON-UNDER-LYNE - Glossop (M-F 20', Sa 30', ESu 60'). Services withdrawn, transferred to **Metroline Manchester Ltd** under TfGM franchising phase 3.

5 January 2025

358/360 HAYFIELD - New Mills - STOCKPORT (D 60'). TfGM franchising phase 3 commences, service continues unchanged as franchised service.

STAGECOACH MIDLANDS (Midland Red (South) Ltd), Northampton

2 November 2024

87/87A COVENTRY - Balsall Common - Knowle - SOLIHULL (M-Sa). From or by this date a double run added from Westwood Heath Island to serve the University of Warwick, and no longer calls at Coventry Station Interchange.

4 November 2024

20A COVENTRY - Foleshill Road - Bell Green - UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (M-Sa evening, 3 journeys). Service withdrawn and replaced by **National Express Coventry** 20A service, which had run Coventry - Bell Green only after 2030 but has now been extended to University Hospital (see 632-11).

2 January 2025

14 NORTHAMPTON - Buckton Fields (D 30'). Journeys towards Buckton Fields diverted via Acre Lane.

5 January 2025

51 COVENTRY - Earlsdon - Coundon - Arena Park - Lentons Lane - Potters Green - UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL (M-Sa). New 60' Su service added between Arena Park and University Hospital on TfWM tender.

87/87A COVENTRY - Balsall Common - Knowle - SOLIHULL (M-Sa). The 87A variant via JLR (Fen End) is withdrawn.

88/88A SOLIHULL - Knowle - Chadwick End - Fen End - BALSALL COMMON (M-Sa). This TfWM tendered service is renumbered **188**; rerouted between Solihull and Knowle via Widney Manor, Bentley Heath, Dorridge and Station Road; and extended to Coventry (Hales Street - not Pool Meadow) via Berkswell, Tile Hill, Torrington Avenue and Earlsdon. These changes replace the Solihull - Dorridge section of **Landflight Travel Services A3**, and the Tile Hill South - Coventry section of **National Express Coventry 2** and **2A**. The former **88A** variant via JLR (Fen End) continues with 188 diverted accordingly during M-F peaks.

169 KINGS HEATH - Billesley - Shirley - SOLIHULL (M-Sa). Journeys before 0930 and after 1500 rerouted between Marshall Lake Road and Solihull direct via Blossomfield Road instead of Widney Lane, Alderminster Road and Monkspath Hall Road, no doubt to assist timekeeping.

OTHER OPERATORS

ASTONS COACHES LTD, Earls Croome

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

19 DROITWICH - Celvestune Way - Primsland Way - PRIMSLAND ESTATES (M-Sa daytime 60'). Service withdrawn and replaced by **First Worcestershire 19** and **157**.

BLACK CAT TRAVEL LTD, Lincoln31 December 2024 (l.d.o.)**IT1/IT2 SPALDING INTO TOWN services (M-Sa). Services withdrawn, LCC contracts transferred to Brylaine Travel.****BRYLAINE TRAVEL LTD, Boston**2 January 2025**IT1/IT2 SPALDING INTO TOWN services (M-Sa). IT1 0700 - 1810 approx every 45' and IT2 0735 - 1735 every 45'. New services replacing Black Cat Travel on LCC tender.****B3/B3X BOSTON - Spalding (M-F). Revised route to serve Wigtoft.**

Brylaine has built up a sizeable fleet of former Lothian Wright bodied Volvo B9TLs including SN08 BYH which was fleet number 916 with that operator. It is seen in Boston Bus Station being prepared to operate the B3 to Spalding which saw a route revision from 2 January 2025.

(photo: Gary Nolan)

B7/B7X BOSTON - Skegness (M-F). 0755 B7X ex Skegness cancelled.**96A/96X MABLETHORPE - Alford - SPILSBY (M-F). New services replacing Hunts of Alford on LCC tender, to same M-F winter timetable. Sa operation summer only.****CAROLEAN COACHES LTD, Willenhall**5 January 2025**3 WEST BROMWICH - Lion Farm - Blackheath - Cradley Heath - MERRY HILL (ESu). New service, gained on TfWM retender from National Express West Midlands, who continue to run the M-Sa daytime service commercially.****23 WEDNESBURY - Gospel Oak - Moxley - Bilston - Portobello - WILLENHALL (M-Sa) *and*****23A WEDNESBURY - Gospel Oak - Bradley Lane - Bilston - Portobello - WILLENHALL (M-Sa). New services, gained from Diamond Bus on TfWM tender and extended to Willenhall. 23A is a new variant, operating via Bradley to replace part of withdrawn Diamond 80.**

41 WEST BROMWICH - Westminster Road - FRIAR PARK (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus** with route change at the West Bromwich end via All Saints Way instead of Lily Street, Ruskin Street and Shaftesbury Street - which are too narrow for Carolean's buses (**Diamond Bus** 64 serves them instead).

224 BILSTON - Ettingshall - SEDGLEY (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus**.

CELTIC TRAVEL (Celtic Travel (Llanidloes) Ltd), Llanidloes

23 December 2024

X48 CRAVEN ARMS - Knighton - Llandrindod Wells - BUILTH WELLS (registered separately each side of Knighton) (M-Sa). New service, 4 trips Craven Arms - Llandrindod, of which two extend to Builth Wells and one northbound run through from Llanwrtyd Wells as **48**.

HORNSBY TRAVEL SERVICES LTD, Scunthorpe

28 December 2024 (l.d.o.)

4/4C SCUNTHORPE - Wrawby - BRIGG (M-Sa). Sa extension to Normanby Hall Country Park withdrawn.

2 January 2022

94 BRIGG - Hibalstow - KIRTON IN LINDSEY (M-Sa). Revision to running times with most journeys departing Kirton in Lindsey 2' later and arriving at Brigg 6' later.

94A/94B BOTTESFORD - Brigg, Carey Lane (Sch). Increased running time on journeys from Brigg by up to 11' on 94B.

HUNTS OF ALFORD (F. Hunt Coach Hire Ltd), Alford

31 December 2024 (l.d.o.)

96A/96X MABLETHORPE - Alford - SPILSBY (M-F). Services withdrawn, LCC contracts transferred to **Brylaine Travel**.

KEV'S CARS & COACHES LTD, Lydiate Ash

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

355 DROITWICH - Witton Middle School - Blake Avenue - Fernhill Heath - Dilmore Avenue - Claines - Cornmeadow Estate - WORCESTER (3 journeys M-Sa off-peak plus school journeys). Service withdrawn and replaced by **First Worcestershire 22/22A** at different times.

LANDFLIGHT TRAVEL SERVICES (Silverline Landflight Ltd), Solihull

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

A3/A3W SOLIHULL - Widney Manor - Bentley Heath - Dorridge - Purnells Way - KNOWLE (M-Sa). Service withdrawn. The Solihull - Dorridge section is replaced by **Stagecoach Midlands 188**, and the Dorridge - Purnells Way - Knowle section by new **A6**.

A4 SOLIHULL - Shirley - Dickens Heath - Tidbury Green - Maypole - WYTHALL (M-Sa) **and**

A5 SOLIHULL - Shirley - DICKENS HEATH (D). Services withdrawn and replaced by new **664** and **665**.

A12 SOLIHULL - Danford Lane - Olton - ACOCKS GREEN (M-Sa). Service withdrawn and replaced by new **630**.

5 January 2025

A6 SOLIHULL - Knowle - Purnells Way - DORRIDGE (M-Sa). New service, replacing part of **A3** and part of **Stagecoach Midlands 88**. The M-F service only operates off-peak, but the Sa service runs all day until 1800.

A7 SOLIHULL - Knowle - Dorridge - Hockley Heath - Blythe Valley (D) - SOLIHULL (M-Sa) **and**

A8 SOLIHULL (M-Sa) - Blythe Valley - Hockley Heath - Dorridge - Knowle - SOLIHULL (D). Route simplified at Blythe Valley to omit Central Boulevard. The Su service now follows the full circular route once more.

601 SOLIHULL - Damsonwood circular (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus** and renumbered from **A1**.

602 SOLIHULL - Buryfield Road circular (M-Sa). New service, gained on TfWM tender from **Diamond Bus** and renumbered from **A2**.

630 SOLIHULL - Danford Lane - Olton - Lyndon - Acocks Green - HALL GREEN, Robin Hood (M-Sa). New service replacing **A12** and parts of **Diamond Bus A15**. Basically 30' peak, 60' off-peak.

631 SOLIHULL - Danford Lane - Olton - Hobs Moat - Lyndon - ACOCKS GREEN (M-Sa). New service added at short notice to replace more of the **Diamond Bus A15** route than the 630 has done. 60' off-peak.

664/665 SOLIHULL - Shirley - Dickens Heath (D) - Tidbury Green - WYTHALL (M-Sa). New services replacing **A4** and **A5**. The route is as before to Tidbury Green then follows a big loop: 664 via Majors Green, Maypole, Wythall (still serving Inkford and the old church) and Wythall Station back to Tidbury Green; 665 the reverse. The Su service, Solihull - Dickens Heath, uses the number 665.

LMS TRAVEL LTD, Worcester

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

20/20A/20B DROITWICH - Westlands (M-Sa daytime approximately 30' combined). Services withdrawn and replaced by **First Worcestershire**, on different timings.

MARSHALLS OF SUTTON-ON-TRENT LTD, Sutton-on-Trent

30 November 2024 (l.d.o.)

339 TUXFORD - Sutton on Trent - NORTH MUSKHAM (M-Sa). Service withdrawn, part replaced by new **38**.

2 December 2024

37/37A RETFORD - Tuxford – NEWARK (M-Sa, each service approx. 120'). **37A** withdrawn (30 November l.d.o.) and part-replaced by new **38**. Bathley and Norwell no longer served except by **Nottsbus Connect** DRT facility. Apparently delays at level crossings over the East Coast Main Line made this section unreliable.

38 RETFORD - Tuxford - Grassthorpe - NEWARK (M-Sa). New service replacing **37A** operating via Grassthorpe but not serving Carlton on Trent and Cromwell. Operates every 120' co-ordinated with **37** providing a 60' frequency on main parts of the route.

PC COACHES, Lincoln

6 January 2025

48 LINCOLN - Witham St Hughs (M-Sa). 0630 ex Lincoln retimed to 0645 with intermediate times revised. Sa 0839 ex Witham St Hughs retimed to 0910 and other departures from Witham St Hughs 1' earlier with journey times reduced by up to 12'.

49/49X LINCOLN - Bassingham (M-Sa). 0650 ex Lincoln retimed to 0700 M-F and withdrawn on Sa as is the 0735 ex Bassingham. Additional 49X 0830 Sa Lincoln to Witham St Hughs. All outbound journeys have running time reduced by up to 7' and inbound journeys by up to 11' and by 26' on the 1910 49X from Witham St Hughs.

ROBERTS COACHES (Roberts Tours Ltd), Coalville

Sundays 1, 8, 15 and 22 December 2024

103 MEYNELL'S GORSE (PARK & RIDE) - Leicester City Centre (M-Sa daytime) **and**

203 ENDERBY (PARK & RIDE) - Leicester City Centre (M-Sa daytime) **and**

303 BIRSTALL (PARK & RIDE) - Leicester City Centre (M-Sa daytime). The Park & Ride services operated additionally on these Sundays 15' from 1000 until final departures from City Centre at 1730.

SLEAFORDIAN COACHES (Sleaford Taxi Co. Ltd), Sleaford

6 January 2025

SLE8 SLEAFORD - Welbourne, Sir William Roberston Academy (SDO). New services replacing **A.C. Williams Coaches WM06** on LCC tender, operating at 0700 ex Sleaford and 1524 ex Academy.

STOTTS TOURS (OLDHAM) LTD, Oldham

4 January 2025 (l.d.o.)

341 GLOSSOP - Hyde (M-Sa 60'). Service withdrawn, transferred to **Go North West Ltd** under TfGM franchising phase 3.

TANAT VALLEY COACHES (R.E. Morris & Sons Ltd), Llanrhaeadr ym Mochnant

11 November 2024

400 OSWESTRY - Aston Way circular (M-Sa). Minor timing changes including an extra 4' running time.

406 OSWESTRY - Aston Way circular (M-Sa). New service operating from Willow Street Post Office via industrial estate (some), Chestnut Avenue, Hazel Grove, Aston Way, Balmoral Crescent, Cabin Lane, Unicorn Road, Whitefriars, Blackfriars, Malory Road, Monkmoor Road, College Road and Victoria Road back to Willow Street, in this direction only. 3 journeys a.m. peak and 4 journeys p.m. peak. Supplements service on **400** and **402**.

WALSALL COMMUNITY TRANSPORT LTD, Little Bloxwich4 January 2025 (I.d.o.)**65** DARLASTON - Wednesbury - WOODS ESTATE (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus**.**67** WEDNESBURY - Friar Park - Tame Bridge - YEW TREE (M-Sa) **and****74** WALSALL - Chuckery - GILLITY VILLAGE (M-Sa). Services withdrawn. Replaced by new **674** combining the two and operated by **Diamond Bus**.**637** WALSALL - Highgate - MANOR HOSPITAL (M-Sa). Service withdrawn on expiry of TfWM contract. Replaced by **Diamond Bus**.**A.C. WILLIAMS COACHES, Ancaster**20 December 2024 (I.d.o)**WM06** SLEAFORD - Welbourne, Sir William Roberston Academy (SDO). Service withdrawn, LCC contract transferred to Sleafordian Coaches as Service **SLE8**.**GENERAL****Rutland**

As in 2023, Rutland County Council, using the grant received as part of the BSIP, funded free one-way and return travel during December on all bus routes for passengers boarding anywhere within Rutland after 9am (including Sa), whether the journey ended inside or outside the county; tickets for journeys starting from outside the county were priced as normal but return journeys back into Rutland were included as long as a free return ticket was requested at the start of the outward journey.

Additionally, and also funded by the BSIP, free shoppers' buses were operated on behalf of Rutland County Council to Nottingham and Peterborough:

7 December 2024: Uppingham (North Street East) - Nottingham serving Preston, Gunthorpe, Oakham, Barleysthorpe and Langham then non-stop to Nottingham (Broadmarsh Bus Station), operated by **Lawson's of Corby**, departing Uppingham at 0815, return from Nottingham at 1430.

14 December 2024: Oakham (Bus Station) - Peterborough serving Gunthorpe, Preston, Uppingham, Glaston and Morcott then non-stop to Peterborough (Queensgate Bus Station), operated by **Blands (Rutland) Ltd**, departing Oakham at 0830, return from Peterborough at 1440.

Transport For West Midlands5 January 2025

Several tendered services change from 5 January 2025, mainly in the Dudley, Solihull, and Wednesbury-Bilston areas. The main features are that Carolean Coaches gains more work, while Diamond gains in Dudley and Walsall but loses all its Solihull area contracts. Also, some Solihull local services are now numbered in (or renumbered into) a 600 series rather than the A series, possibly hinting at route numbering in a franchise world - although one new A series service starts!



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Produced by the Midland Branch of the Omnibus Society.

Submissions for next month's Bulletin should be made by 31 January 2025

The views expressed in the Bulletin are not necessarily those either of the Midland Branch committee or of the Omnibus Society