

Solent Bus News

Newsletter of the Solent Omnibus Club. Established 1969

Issue 221 ~ October 2016



Stagecoach livery for the Chichester-Midhurst service © Adrian Willats



www.solentomnibusclub.weebly.com

Diary

Most meetings are held at Portchester Community Centre 7.45pm.

7th October 2016

Chris Richardsen – title to be decided + Other

4th November 2016

Clive Wilkin – title to be decided

2nd December 2016

David Etheridge

6th January 2017

Roger Watts – with a return of his traditional New Year address

February 3rd 2017

AGM and annual photographic competition.

Plus presentations from last years competition winners.



Three views of 650 AAA in Basil Williams ownership. Leyland PSUC1/2 with Weymann B43F body. John Bulman

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Editorial

Now the holiday season is over, we should see a growing number of electric buses, mainly in the big cities, of course. This does seem to be the way forward with all manufacturers at various stages of development. The big advance, now in operation, is 51 buses on the Red Arrow routes from Waterloo to Victoria or London Bridge, which is in the process of taking over from the Mercedes Citaros. Unfortunately, necessary haste led to me using a Citaro on the 507 recently, although a couple of the new ones were to be seen [n the route. They have been built by Chinese manufacturer BYD although the bodywork is by Alexander Dennis with their MMC Enviro. They are naturally silent but noisy air conditioning plants tend to disguise this. The drawback is the requirement for multiple charging points overnight and the logistics of making them available. Smaller schemes are around London, and further afield, where the experience has, no doubt, contributed to this large scheme. Air pollution in London, in particular, is bad and violating air pollution laws could cost considerable sums in fines.

Locally more new buses are entering service with First employing 17 on the Fareham-Gosport Rapid Transit routes. The buses chosen are the increasingly popular Alexander Dennis E20D with the MMC Enviro body. This is a dramatic change away from Wrightbus, at least in this area and add to similar vehicles which entered service on cross Southampton Bluestar route 18, and Stagecoach with two batches in Winchester, one for the city services and the other for the park and ride.

Club News

The August meeting saw an interesting presentation by Roger Watts and Wally Corney showing their exploits in predominately delivering buses. The “enthusiasm” for this stemmed from when Priory Coaches collected Caetano coaches from Southampton Docks and they needed delivering to dealers in the Midlands. Our stars in this well illustrated their trips and other exploits. In recent years delivering buses scheduled for refurbishment between Hants and Dorset Trim and London operators has met their needs, or should that be desires. It was difficult to determine which suffered more by these M3 hauls, the drivers or the buses. A “different” subject for a summer evening.

For our September meeting we were entertained by Geoff Borrows, ably supported by Roger Watts, to a superb presentation on the coachbuilder Strachans. A wonderfully informative history matched to a high quality selection of photographs and presented in very slick fashion. Over an hour and a quarter we were taken from the Company origins in West London to its final demise in the 1970s when the factory was based on the old Hamble airfield.

Many of the vehicles featured in the photographs came from local operators; Tourist Coaches, Southampton; Provincial, Southampton Corporation; Hants & Dorset and Aldershot & District. Some we hope to feature in the Newssheet at a later date.

Geoff has not been in the best of health recently, and I would like to take the opportunity to wish him well and thank him once again for all the effort he put in to making a successful evening.

Quiz

1. Which manufacturer identifies the vast majority of its vehicles by a series of designations beginning with B?
2. Name the French owned operator who can be found on the northern edge of Lancashire and Yorkshire?
3. By what name does the Dutch railways operate buses in London?
4. Why did Stagecoach dispense with Burnley's buses after they had acquired them?
5. Welsh operator GHA failed in the summer. How was GHA arrived at?
6. Which bus group provides the largest number of buses in London service?
7. We all know about First and Stagecoach and their five digit fleet numbers, but which operator now had six?
8. With which bodywork is the Toyota Coaster normally associated?
9. In which city do buses operate to Cathcart, Maryhill and Partick?
10. Liverpool, Cardiff, Croydon. Derby. In which one is Arriva not the predominant operator?

News from our area. (First fleet and route news and Stagecoach fleet news will normally be found elsewhere in this newsheet)

In the short one way part of Queen Street, Portsmouth two set down coach stops have been provided for passengers for the museums. The one on the left is marked for UK coaches and the one on the right for International ones. Seeing a Dutch coach using it was on a par with seeing birds using a newly installed feeder.

Airlynx, North Baddesley. New are RF16 EGC-D, Mercedes Benz Sprinter 516CD1/EVM.

AIRLINK PORTSMOUTH A.L.P have applied for an Operating Centre at LANGSTONE TECHNOLOGY PARK, LANGSTONE ROAD, HAVANT PO9 1SA authorisation: 2 Vehicles

Bluestar is currently advertising for coach drivers for a forthcoming National Express contract between Southampton and London. It is not known when it starts or how many journeys are involved.

Emsworth and District Plaxton Pointer Dennis Dart X531 UAT was withdrawn 5/16. The bus was new to London Sovereign in Harrow as DP5531. Latest addition is G670 UYT, a Northern Counties bodied Leyland Olympian which left Arriva North East in 2005 and made up the assets of failed GHA! It arrived at E & D 9/16. From the same source G503SFT although that originally came from Arriva Midlands. Both started work in London on early tender wins with Atlas Bus and Kentish Bus respectively. As reported in the June edition, J552 GCD which Caren (of E & D0) told our member had been sold back in May is still at West Leigh and not going anywhere soon!



Emsworth & District R569 UOT in Eastleigh, June 2016. ©Barry T.

First are cancelling service A between Eastleigh and Hedge End with an effective date from 29-OCT-2016. The route runs on Sundays and holidays only. Xelabus provide the service Monday to Saturday. Routes E1/E2 between Eastleigh and Winchester

are also cancelled with effect from 30 October. These, no doubt are the result of local authority spending cuts

Lucketts, Fareham. An order has been placed for five 13.3m long C53Ft Irizar i6. Fitted with DAF 12.9 litre MX13 462bhp engines. The delivery will be split between Lucketts, Coliseum and Worthing Coaches.

Plaxton Pointer Dennis Dart SLF HX03 CZY which had been stored at the **Portsmouth University's** Langstone Campus ever since First Hampshire & Dorset took over the University's bus operation was seen being driven eastwards along the A27 through Emsworth at 1300 on Thursday 11/8/16. The bus is still in University livery and had no indication of its destination. It had returned to its compound by 15 August, at least.

Princess, West End, Southampton's YR16 BPO, Scania K410EB6/Irizar is re-registered PB16 SFC. New is YV16 ONN, Scania K360EB4, Irizar C49Ft.

Xelabus have acquired a number of ex Stagecoach Alexander bodied Volvo Olympians, which have been reregistered. This age denying practice is, of course, widespread but Xelabus has used registrations some six years older! The government receive income from such "essential?" reregistering. The buses acquired are S271CCD, P718GND, R760DRJ, R507UWL, R501UWL and R505UWL. They have become fleet numbers 531-536 respectively with registrations J15-20 XEL. They were acquired on 20 July from Stagecoach East Kent, who recently had a massive clear out of this type. They were used to connect Winchester Station and The Boomtown music festival in August and will cease to be legal to operate after the year end. On hire to Xelabus is 32 seat Optare Solo KX14FJA. It is owned by Dawson Rentals but was new to the Maltese government. One of the ex Menizes Scania's is for sale by J. Lloyd, Commercial Salvage after an engine fire, Members who watch South Today on BBC One will be familiar with **First's** pay dispute in Weymouth but have you noticed that the BBC has modernised their backdrop to the story. At the start of the dispute, step entrance Darts were featured but now they have changed to featuring Wright StreetLites which is current and therefore accurate. If any member is responsible for this please identify yourself, or otherwise credit will have to rest with the BBC,

Al Burrito, a Mexican bar of Albert Road, Southsea has recently acquired a former

London bus. It is an Alexander bodied Leyland Olympian, new a quarter of a century ago to what became Arriva on routes 253/4 which circumnavigate inner east and north inner London and what was once trolleybus route 653. The bus passed to the Original London Sightseeing Tour which was recently passed from Arriva to RATP (the Paris transport authority) who also own London United into whose fleet some of the remaining buses of the acquired forty buses in the batch had permeated. Al Burrito has had a kitchen fitted and the bus visits music festivals and food fairs. They hope to take on two more "giant" buses next year. I have not located where the bus is kept when not in use'



In for a long wait. A2B service 22 still on the bus stop at Southampton General Hospital.

Thanks this time to David Etheridge, Bob Gray John Kirby, Alan Lambert, Keith Lloyd, Robert Smith, Barry Turberfield, Andy Warton and John Woodson.

Letter from the Chairman.

Gentlemen,

Unless there is major upheaval in the geo-political situation between now and mid-January 2017, I regret that I will be unable to attend the SOC AGM on Friday February 3rd 2017. I also currently anticipate being unavailable for the March, October and November meetings.

Whilst during the last five years I have made every attempt, and generally been successful, to avoid conflicting arrangements for the first Friday of each month, the stars do not align for 2017. Under such circumstances it would be inappropriate for me to consider re-election as Chairman in the knowledge that I am likely to miss one third of the meetings during 2017 and so it is with deep regret that I tender my resignation.

Prior to writing this letter, I have informed the other committee members and the Newsheet editor of my decision, and agreed with them a timetable to ensure that I am fully involved in the preparation for the AGM. Roger Watts will be issuing a timetable in the December Newsheet, along with nomination papers for the election of a new Chairman.

There is now a great opportunity for a Club member to come forward who has the enthusiasm to give this vibrant club new momentum. I hope that in giving this advance notice it will allow members to have a discussion prior to the AGM and nominate a candidate you can all agree upon.

Barry T.



In this next selection from my 1986 minibus slides, I look at south east London, the south coast and Devon. Brighton & Hove introduced minibuses in early 1986, using Mercedes 608Ds with Alexander bodies such as this example seen at Brighton railway station. The Iveco "Turbo Daily" with Robin Hood bodywork is represented by Roundabout (Selkent/Orpington Buses) RH13, (D513 FYL), named "Blackbird". The scene is a rather damp one outside Orpington railway station, with a typical 1980s small car, the Austin Metro, also appearing in the picture!

Dartmouth played host to "Hoppa" minibuses during my holiday in the south west that year - Western National 84 (C699 ECV) is a Reeve Burgess bodied Mercedes 608D in the original livery. Later, the white area became cream, the coloured lines were changed and the town names dropped - just "Hoppa" sufficing for anywhere that they operated. Finally, at Barnstaple and arguably *not* entirely a 'Red Bus', we see North Devon 442 (C363 GFJ), a Dormobile bodied Ford Transit.

GO SOUTH COAST LIMITED.

AMERICA’S CUP WORLD SERIES 2016, PORTSMOUTH.

The 2016 event took place in Portsmouth from Friday 22/7/16 to Sunday 24/7/16. Portsmouth City Council commissioned a special park and ride service linking a large car park at Lakeside 1000 North Harbour, Cosham, with Avenue de Caen, Southsea. The contract for this service was awarded to Go South Coast Limited, Poole, Dorset. Buses used included the following.

Fleet No.	Registration	Livery
1012	YN06 JWE	Bluestar
1125	HF58 GZP	Bluestar
1126	HF58 KCA	Bluestar
1557	HJ63 JMV	Unilink
1561	HJ63 JNL	Unilink
1565	HJ63 JNV	Unilink
1567	HJ63 JNZ	Unilink
1568	HJ63 JOA	Unilink
1801	HX51 ZRA	Bluestar
1802	HX51 ZRC	Bluestar

Go Ahead Bluestar has gained some prestigious contracts in Portsmouth. It has been contracted to provide a delicate shuttle service for this year’s America’s Cup during its second year in Portsmouth and was also brought in to run the park and ride service for the Victorious Festival 2016 on 27 and 28 August in Southsea.

Bluestar General Manager, Matt Kitchin, said ‘For both events, we’ve also brought in support from our sister Go Ahead operators, Southern Vectis and Unilink. We operate these park & ride services from a base, just off the M27 motorway.

Go South Coast operating from the Bluestar depot, commenced operation in September of National Express service 032 between Southampton and London. Seven new Volvo B11RTs with Caetano Levante bodies are used. Advertisements for drivers appeared on bus shelters in Southampton during July.

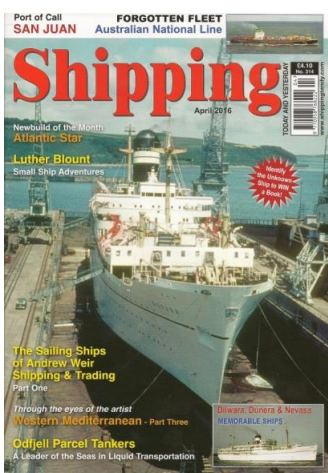
As we all know, that is the regular place in the calendar that this well-supported event has made its own - and after this year's rally had passed, leaflets bearing that very phrase were on display at Brislington (31 July) and Stokes Bay, Gosport (7 August). Fellow-SOC member Robert Martin and I arrived at the rally site at about 9.45, by which time sufficient cars were already parked to see us directed to the first part of the 'overflow' field! We headed first for the stalls, to get an idea of what was on offer and to gauge the likelihood of us parting with some of our hard-earned pounds at various points during the day. Our visits to annual 'favourites' like Alton usually follow a well tried and tested pattern - stall browsing with intervals of vehicle photography, complemented by several stops to sit down, (dry grass permitting, of course!), take the proverbial 'weight off our feet' and eat and drink the lunch that we always take with us.

I managed to add some old slides to my collection, courtesy of stalls run by Presbus and J. Bulman, Esq., together with a quantity of old magazines at 50p each from the folks who look after several old Aldershot & District buses. Hundreds of recent and older magazines were on offer - bus, railway, general vintage vehicle, shipping and more - the stall attracted much attention all day and was well worth a look. I even managed to buy the April 2016 issue of Shipping - Today and Yesterday, featuring the British India Line school cruise ship "Nevasa", on which I sailed at the age of thirteen way back in 1974. I had recently seen one in WH Smith and *nearly* bought it at the full £4.10, so to get one for 50p was indeed a bargain!

The numbers of photographs that we take at regular rallies do tend to vary, as we will inevitably have seen many of the vehicles before. However, new restorations, changes in livery on preserved vehicles *and* new vehicles or liveries in current fleets continue to provide enough excuses to press that shutter button! Here is a small selection from another very enjoyable "third Sunday in July" - see you there in 2017....



Stagecoach 15586, (404 DCD, ex-GX59 JYT) is in Cancer Research livery, Southdown 2210 is freshly restored in all over NBC green while Alexander PS-bodied L622 TDY and K785 DAO show that even the original Stagecoach livery is now seen as nostalgic!



VW Beetle HGU 947N is an example of the final imports from Germany, carrying its indicators in the bumpers and not, as before, atop the front wings. Finally, S.S. "Nevasa" is the 'cover girl' on the magazine mentioned in the text!

PH1121126/324 GO SOUTH COAST LTD T/A SOUTHERN VECTIS, 2-8 PARKSTONE ROAD POOLE BH15 2PR From: Lakeside IBM North Harbour To: Southsea Clarence Pier Via: Name or No: 40 Service Type: Normal Stopping Effective Date: 27-Aug-2016 End Date: 29-Aug-2016 Other Details: Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th July 2016.

First Hampshire & Dorset operated the park and ride services for this year's Bournemouth Air Festival. As well as hiring three green Tridents from First South West Limited for the Saturday and Sunday, they hired at least the following double deckers from Wheelers Travel Limited :

3379 RU originally V475 KJN, then WLT 461, V475 VJN Dennis Trident 2 Alexander ALX 400 body

P3 WTL originally T670 KPU Dennis Trident 2 Alexander ALX 400 body

J3 WTL originally R618 MNU Volvo Olympian OLY-50 Northern Counties body

P6 WTL this bus was registered T669 KPU which was also ex-B&H (no. 881) in 2014. (information and photographs on back cover supplied by Chris Warren)

Of these, the Tridents were new to Stagecoach London. P3 WTL is no stranger to Southdown Enthusiasts' Club having been acquired by Brighton & Hove with Stagecoach's Lewes operation. The Olympian was new to Midland Fox.

Kevin Kitcher was told that one more double decker reached Bournemouth but broke down and was not used. It had a red and white or red and cream livery but Kevin's informant did not know the registration.

Report from Robert Smith

6

West Midlands Tramway extension to New Street,
23 July 2016. David Welsher.



A fairly long-legged lady walking along Stephenson Street outside New Street station. Also included is new CAF “Urbos 3” tram 20, while another one (tram) waits in the headshunt to form the next service in 7-8 minutes.



Tram 28 rounds the curve from Corporation Street into Stephenson Street, at the end of the new extension of the system to New Street station.



Tram 22 draws away from the stop in Corporation Street, having just left the New Street/Grand Central terminus.

A DAY IN WINDSOR AND SLOUGH 29/4/16.
SHAUN DANIELS



First 33179, LR02 LYY, in Lego Shuttle livery.



RATP Group, London United, YX12 FOJ.



First VSH69922, BV13 ZCK.

I must admit to feeling a degree of shame at having neglected this local event for some time, as it should rightly claim its place as the first ever bus rally that Robert (M) and I visited, way back in the early days of our travels together in 1981! My only visit in this century (!) was in 2004, so I thought - spurred on by a good weather forecast - that a return visit this time around was in order! I travelled to The Hard by Park & Ride, using the Gosport ferry (also for the first time in I don't know *how* long!) to reach the free bus service on the other side. The 10.45 departure was Bristol RE No. 12 (ECG 112K) driven by its owner Terry Lawson, and we arrived at the rally site at about 11.00. At this time, the sky was still grey - and a strong wind made browsing of the stalls tricky - especially if one was trying to look through a wad of prints! Later on, when I had done a mix of browsing prints and slides, (and buying some!), photographing vehicles, chatting to friends and having lunch stops, the sun broke through - completely altering the scene and, perhaps most strangely, the wind seemed to all but vanish!

I have listened to various views on the 'state' of the event recently, ranging from 'still really good' to 'on its last legs' - so I was keen to make my own judgement this time. Shortly after my arrival, I did a quick count up of buses and made it between 38 and 40. Later I saw former ViTA secretary Brian Hay, one of this event's organisers, who told me that they had 15 stalls, so on those figures I don't think there is too much cause for concern. Crowds appeared to be good, buses were leaving with good loads and one stall holder that many of us have known for a long time reported brisk business - to which I contributed!

I saw and spoke to many familiar and friendly faces, spent some money, (25 prints, 31 slides, 11 old magazines and a programme), took two enjoyable bus rides and generally passed a pleasant four hours there, so if enough others say something similar, then I think the rally is doing just fine!



Seen here are: Provincial 1 (401), my transport back to the ferry and sharing the picture with No. 57, Stagecoach 19881 (GX11 AKF) in South Downs National Park livery, one half of Bob Gray's 'fleet' in the shape of HCD 449 and - just to show that not everything was green - Alder Valley 601 (CJH 141V), which seemed to be 'screened up' for the wrong rally, as the word "SOUTHSEA" was displayed!



One of the prints I bought was of MCO 658 in Plymouth's centenary livery in 1992. It features on a VHS tape I bought a while ago and I thought it would be nice to have a photo of it!

May 1935

The South Eastern and Metropolitan Traffic Commissioners have recently approved a scheme of reorganization on the London-Portsmouth route, consequent upon the absorption by Southdown Motor Services Ltd., of the services of Alexandra Motor Coaches, Ltd., Underwood Express Services, Ltd., Imperial Saloon Coaches, and the Hindhead London service of the Aldershot and District Traction Co., Ltd. It is understood that part of the Southsea-London service of A. Timpson and Sons, Ltd., is also being absorbed, and that a total sum of about £20,000 is involved by the amalgamation.

The increased Southdown service will be introduced on May 23, when, for the first time, passengers on this route will have the choice of as many as 10 different departure times each way daily, with certain additions on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The London departures will range between 8 a.m. and midnight, and those from Portsmouth between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. At the same time, many new intermediate fares will be introduced, and through bookings will be given to numerous places on the local bus routes of the Southdown and Aldershot and District companies.

At Southsea, connections will be made with the steamers to the Isle of Wight, and, by arrangement with the Southern Railway, through bookings are available to all the principal destinations in the Island.

A new fleet of Leyland coaches, with luxurious Harrington coachwork, will be brought into use.

Major changes at Fareham have brought about an average age of a staggeringly low 30 months, a figure which would be hard to beat anywhere in a town of Fareham's size. Moreover a visitor in the bus station was a new long 66 registered Enviro 200 for imminent use on the BRT which will undoubtedly displace buses older than the average age which will reduce the age by at least a few months. As indicated last time, by having a survey every couple of years it was expected that trends in the area would be identified. The advent of long StreetLites for the X4/X5 was this year's indication Next time the AD E200s for the Bus Rapid Transit routes E1/E2 will meet the bill. Ironically the modern buses to be displaced from the routes are hardly over 30 months but already in the older half of Fareham's buses!

Those two BRT routes on 6 September to Gosport operate every 12 minutes each giving an inclusive six minute frequency on the busway. Three extra buses were introduced some eighteen months after the busway opened with fleet numbers lower than the original BRT buses. The three new ones have fleet numbers 69537-9 with 63 registrations with the original ones being 69542-55 which have 12 registrations. Incidentally First have no buses bearing the numbers 69540/1. The eleven buses on the BRT routes E1+E2 (ten departures plus one bus arriving in the hour and leaving after) were 69537-9/42/4/6-9/54/5. These buses have been re-liveried and show an Olympic style medal on the rear,

The 9/9A to Gosport via Bridgemary and Rowner is a 15 minute service. Recently a batch of long Optare Solos has been delivered to Fareham, primarily for this route. First is not such a prolific user of Solos, having less than 200 of them, just 25% of Stagecoach's use of these vehicles. Long Volvo's were the former stock for this route which were disqualified from use on regular services following the end of last year because of DDA compliance, a fact which will apply to double deckers at the end of 2016. There are nine available Solos at Fareham, 53601-9 dating from 2014. The four on this service were 53601/3/6/7. Another Solo will be found on another route in this survey and occasionally one can be found in Portsmouth in the evening.

Route 3 to Portsmouth runs every 10 minutes, a doubling since last time. The route was originally programmed for new 14 registered Wright StreetLites but increasingly the Scania OmniCities, first used on routes from Portsmouth to Waterlooville, are being used. Seven buses on the route were made up of five Scania and two StreetLites. The former were 65008/13/20/3/4 and the latter 47582/3. The StreetLites are shorter than the Scania (and look it). Three unbranded longer ones locally are based in Portsmouth which does not operate on route 3, although a long one from the X4/X5 batch, which is unbranded, was found on the 3 a few days later. This route largely accounts for the increase in the number of buses seen.

The X4 route passes through Fareham every 30 minutes on its way from Portsmouth to Southampton. The X5 serves Fareham similarly in passing from Gosport to Southampton. The services have their unique routes, certainly within the Fareham Borough area, but have some common points where they cross or meet giving a combined 15 minute service to Southampton and Fareham. The route, last winter, was reequipped with long Wright StreetLites 63296-63312 which are mostly route branded. Spare buses with First and Stagecoach locally tend to have "spare" buses in ordinary livery. They have 65 registrations and displaced the Scania Omnicities which are largely on the route to Portsmouth and the linked Southsea local route 1! Route X5 incorporates the former 5 south of Fareham. The buses seen on the X4 were 63299/304/5/8. Five buses were seen in the hour owing to a longish layover in Fareham. The fifth one was one of batch was OmniCity 65006. X5 provided just the four buses- the expected StreetLites 63296/8/300/9.

Also on a 30 minute frequency is Fareham town local route F1 to the North West which was operated by a StreetLite, a type giving modernity to such routes in the area. 47581 served the two journeys which the hour provided. Similar Fareham route F2 was another StreetLite serviced route, by 47589, which a half hour later was to operate the hourly 10 to Gosport via Bridgemary and Elson. Route 20 which wanders north of the M27 to Wickham via Knowle was serviced by one of the Optare Solos, 53608. Route 20 regularly seems to attract "shorter" buses. Could that be why the Solos were obtained? Route 21/21A signs in at every 70 minutes. Another Wright StreetLite 47578 serviced this route whilst the two hourly 11 to Alverstoke via the A32 saw StreetLite 47590.

There are other First routes from Fareham which have a frequency of greater than an hour but were not seen in the survey hour. These routes serve North Portchester and Whitely.

Stagecoach has a route which terminates at the railway station but only serves the bus station on the return journey to Winchester. The bus in 2016 was Enviro400 19163 NK57EUH which, as its registration suggests, was new in the north east, particularly Newcastle. It was based in Newcastle in the spring of this year and has, no doubt, been obtained to replace the step entrance buses which will be illegal to operate after the year end. The hourly "pre survey" bus to Winchester was a similar ex Newcastle bus, 19160.

This year we were to find three coaches. Two were on the 206 National Express service from Poole to Gatwick Airport and one finally arriving in Fareham on the service 030 from London Victoria via Portsmouth. All were standard National Express Caetano bodied Volvo B9Rs. However since the last survey, route 206 has changed from Excelsior to Go South Coast who are using the same vehicles and fleet numbers, even though they had to create a new series to accommodate them. This feels like an agreed transfer rather than a franchise win. The two coaches this year were fleet numbers 916 and 926, 60 and 11 registered coaches respectively. There are thirteen coaches involved in this transfer, numbered 914 to 926. The Lucketts coach was similar vehicle, BK15AHU

Two buses made appearances at the bus station. The afore mentioned Enviro 200 bus for the BRT 67172 which was there for driver training, although it did not move for long. The other surprise was the appearance of 37161 a late Volvo B7TL with an 07 mark which wears Portsmouth City Council's Park and Ride livery. It was originally earmarked for the short lived extension of the park and ride bus to Southsea. The reason for it being around was solved a couple of days later when it was seen engaged on school work at Portchester. These two buses were, of course, excluded from the statistics but the former provided me with the first 66 bus I found anywhere.

Yet again there have been significant changes to buses at Fareham. The Volvo B10BLEs have had to be replaced and with the elimination of them and the Dennis Darts, a new broom really has swept clean. New StreetLites have displaced the Scania from Southampton bound routes and these are now the oldest buses in First's Fareham regular fleet by many years. The Scania displaced the Volvos whilst the shorter StreetLites have effectively replaced the Darts. Add in the Solos and it has been all change, except, that is, for the BRT routes which are about change buses after just four and a half years, a policy which also applies to First for the A3 Corridor routes via Waterlooville. That though is yet another excuse for you to give Fareham a visit. It is already giving the ingredients for the next survey there but the one at Gosport in four months' time will produce an appetiser. A surprising package where least expected.

Facts and Figures (2016, 2014, 2012, 2010, 2007, 2005, 2003 in order).

Venue.....	Fareham Bus Station
Date.....	Tuesday 6 September 2016, Wednesday 18 June 2014, Thursday 3 May 2012 Wednesday 2 January 2010 Friday 16 November 2007 Tuesday 12 July 2005 Monday 7 July 2003
Time.....	1500-1600
Number of Journeys	42 33 36 38 43 45 44
Number of different buses.....	40 37 38 37 49 53 52
Median Age.....	March 2014 (2 years 6 months) February 2005 (9 years 4 months) (February 1999 (13 years 3 months) August 1998 (11 years 5 months) October 1996 (11 years 1 month) March 1997 (8 years 4 months) June 1997 (6 years 1 month)
Oldest Bus.....	First Scania OmniCity 65006 YN54NZA First Volvo B10BLE 66128 S118JTP First Dennis Dart 46367 N467ETR; First Dennis Dart 46313 L313LTP; First Dennis Dart 45389 JDZ2389; First Leyland Lynx 62640 H640YHT; First Leyland Lynx 1040 H640YHT;
Newest Bus	First Wright StreetLite 63309 SN65OLP. First Wright StreetLite 47586 SN14ECD; First Volvo B7RLE 69554 BF12KWP;
Lucketts Scania 4952 FJ58AHF Telling Golden Miller Volvo B10M KP51UEZ: First Optare Solo 50278 W309DWX: First Optare Solo 734 YN03ZVW	
Number of liveries.....	5 5 4 4 5 8 9
Percentage of low floor.....	100% 100% 94.7% 56.5% 38.9% 41.5% 36.5%
Most distant destination.....	Gatwick Airport...Poole, Poole, London, London, Winchester.

		Analysis of Buses															
						Chassis											
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%		
		2016		2014		2012		2010		2007		2005		2003			
Wright StreetLite		14	35.0	3	8.1												
Volvo B7RLE		11	27.5	12	32.4	10	26.3										
Scania OmniCity		6	15.0	5	13.5	2	5.3	4	10.8								
Optare Solo		5	12.5			1	2.6					1	1.9	1	1.9		
Volvo B9R		3	7.5	2	5.4	1	2.6										
Trident/Enviro 400		1	2.5	1	2.7	1	2.6										
Volvo B10BLE				10	27.0	3	7.9	1	2.7	3	6.1	6	11.3	3	5.8		
Dennis Dart				4	10.8	18	47.4	26	70.3	32	65.3	27	50.9	31	59.6		
Scania Coach						1	2.6	1	2.7								
Volvo Olympian						1	2.6			3	6.1	1	1.9	1	1.9		
Mercedes 709D								4	10.8	9	18.4	14	26.4	10	19.2		
Volvo B10M								1	2.7	2	4.1	1	1.9				
Leyland Lynx												3	5.7	1	1.9		
Iveco Turbo Daily														4	7.7		
Leyland Olympian														1	1.9		
								Bodies									
Wright		25	62.5	25	67.6	13	34.2	1	2.7	4	8.2	5	9.4	7	13.5		
Scania		6	15.0	5	13.5	2	5.3	4	10.8								
Optare		5	12.5			1	2.6					1	1.9	1	1.9		
Caetano		3	7.5	2	5.4	2	5.3	1	2.7								
Enviro		1	2.5														
Plaxton				4	10.8	18	47.4	25	67.6	34	69.4	35	66	32	61.5		
Alexander				1	2.7	1	2.6	2	5.4	2	4.1	5	9.4	2	3.8		
Northern Counties						1	2.6	1	2.7	3	6.1						
UVG								3	8.1	3	6.1	2	3.8	4	7.7		
Marshall										3	6.1	1	1.9	2	3.8		
Leyland												3	5.7	1	1.9		
Reebur												1	1.9				
Mellor														2	3.8		
Autobus														1	1.9		
								Operators									
First Hampshire & Dorset		36	90.0	34	91.9	35	92.1	35	94.6	47	95.9	47	88.7	49	94.2		
Go South Coast		2	5.0														
Lucketts		1	2.5			1	2.6	1	2.7								
Stagecoach		1	2.5	1	2.7	1	2.6	1	2.7	1	2.0	1	1.96	2	3.8		
Excelsior				2	5.4	1	2.6										
Telling Golden Miller										1	2.0	4	7.5				
Solent Blue Line												1	1.9				
Brijan														1	1.9		
						Type of Vehicle											
Single Deck		31	77.5	34	91.9	33	86.8	32	86.5	36	73.5	36	67.9	35	67.3		
Minibus		5	12.5			1	2.7	4	10.8	9	18.4	15	28.3	15	28.8		
Coach		3	7.5	2	5.4	2	5.3	1	2.7	1	2	1	1.9				
Double Deck		1	2.5	1	2.7	2	5.3			3	6.1	1	1.9	2	3.8		



Photographs above, © Bob Gray.



FIRST SOLENT BUS SERVICES - ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**W1 (FAREHAM - WHITELEY) (PH0006159/427)**

The introduction of the service followed the extension of Whiteley Shopping Centre, featuring a Cineworld cinema and six new restaurants. Neil Carter, the Centre's manager, had worked with First Hampshire & Dorset Limited for several months to develop this new bus service. *The News*, 16/7/2016 page 15

FIRSTSOLENT BUS SERVICES.**1A (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHSEA) (PH00061159/428)**

New high frequency commercial shuttle service operated from Friday 22/7/16 to Sunday 24/7/16 only for America's Cup World Series sailing events.

Outward: PORTSMOUTH, THE HARD - St George's Road - Cambridge Junction - Old Portsmouth, High Street - Pembroke Road - Gordon Road - Southsea, Duisburg Way - Clarence Parade - Avenue de Caen - **SOUTHSEA, AVENUE DE CAEN.**

Return: SOUTHSEA, AVENUE DE CAEN - Avenue de Caen - Clarence Esplanade - Serpentine Road - Duisburg Way - Gordon Road - Old Portsmouth, Pembroke Road - High Street - Cambridge Junction - Portsmouth, St George's Road - The Hard - Queen Street - Wickham Street - Clock Street - **PORTSMOUTH, THE HARD.**

Note: Serpentine Road is a private road across Southsea Common and was used by preserved buses attending rallies. This was the first time that a commercial bus service used this road. Avenue de Caen was used as a temporary bus station for the 1A and the special park & ride service (the latter operated by Go South Coast Limited).

Operating Depots: Hilsea and Hoeford.

Normal Vehicle Type: Wrightbus StreetLite Max DF MicroHybrid, including 63190, 63191, 63192, 63311 and 63312.

Fares: Special fares were charged on this service. Adult single £2.00, child single £1.00, adult return £3.00, child return £1.50 and family £5.00.

Southsea Food Festival, Southsea.

Southsea Food Festival took place between 0500 on Saturday 16/7/16 and 1930 Sunday 17/7/16. Clarendon Road (between its junctions with Palmerston Road and The Vale), Osborne Road (between its junctions with Palmerston Road and Portland Road) and Palmerston Road (between its junctions with Osborne Road and Auckland Road West) were closed to traffic. Bus services were diverted as follows.

1 (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHSEA - PORTSMOUTH) (CLOCKWISE) Diverted from South Parade via Clarence Parade to Duisburg Way. **1 (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHSEA - PORTSMOUTH) (ANTICLOCKWISE)** Diverted from Duisburg Way via Clarence Parade to South Parade.

7 (SOUTHSEA - WECOCK FARM) & 18 (SOUTHSEA - PAULSGROVE) Diverted from South Parade via Clarence Parade and Osborne Road to Portland Road.

7 (WECOCK FARM - SOUTHSEA) & 18 (PAULSGROVE - SOUTHSEA) Diverted from Portland Road via Osborne Road and Clarence Parade to South Parade.

Fire at The Hard, Portsmouth.

The popular Pompey Stand Up take-away in The Hard became engulfed in flames and thick black smoke at about 1500 on Friday 22/7/16. The road was blocked and the area around the fire evacuated. Bus services were not seriously affected and traffic chaos was limited to the immediate area of the blaze, although queues built up along Queen Street. The park & ride terminated in The Hard instead of in the remainder of the old Interchange. Services **1 (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHSEA - POSRTMOUTH) (ANTICLOCKWISE)** and special America's Cup World Series **1A (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHSEA)** were diverted from The Hard via Queen Street, Alfred Road and Marketway to circumnavigate the roundabout at the junction with Hope Street, then via Marketway, Alfred Road, Anglesea Road, King Richard I Road, Lord Montgomery Way and Cambridge Road to Cambridge Junction.

Road Traffic Accident in Commercial Road, Portsmouth.

A road traffic accident occurred on the Church Street Roundabout at the northern end of Commercial Road at about 1700 on Wednesday 3/8/16, blocking southbound traffic until 1810. Bus services were diverted as follows.

X4 (PORTSMOUTH - SOUTHAMPTON), 8 (PORTSMOUTH - CLANFIELD), X9 (PORTSMOUTH - DENMEAD), X9 (PORTSMOUTH - HAMBLEDON) & park & ride (PORTSMOUTH - TIPNER) Not diverted. **X4 (SOUTHAMPTON - PORTSMOUTH), 8 (CLANFIELD - PORTSMOUTH), X9 (DENMEAD - PORTSMOUTH), X9 (HAMBLEDON - PORTSMOUTH) & park & ride (TIPNER - PORTSMOUTH)** Diverted from Rudmore Roundabout via Kingston Crescent, Kingston Road, Fratton Road, Lake Road and Cornmill Street to Marketway.

Road Traffic Accident in Portsdown Hill Road, Cosham.

A car overturned in Portsdown Hill at the junction with Crookhorn Lane at about 1730 on Wednesday 13/7/16. The road was partially blocked until 1845. Bus services were diverted as follows.

7 (SOUTHSEA - WECOCK FARM) Diverted from Northern Road via London Road, Ladybridge Road and Stakes Road to Stakes Hill Road. **7 (WECOCK FARM - SOUTHSEA)** Diverted from Stakes Hill Road via Stakes Road, Ladybridge Road and London Road to Northern Road.

Vandalism in Howe Road, Rowner, Gosport.

Vandalism of buses causes extra costs to bus companies and disruption of services, as well as potential injury to drivers and passengers. Hurling missiles at buses is a frequent problem, particularly on some housing estates such as Paulsgrove in Portsmouth, and Leigh Park and Wecock Farm on the outskirts of the City. The blight tends to occur without pattern, making it difficult to predict and control. Culprits are usually children, hence increased likelihood of trouble during school holidays, combined with longer daylight times in the summer.

First Hampshire & Dorset suffered a spate of missile attacks in Rowner, culminating in an attack in Howe Road on Monday 8/8/16. On the morning of Tuesday 9/8/16, the Company withdrew services **9/9A** from Howe Road until close of service on Thursday 11/8/16, and issued an explanatory statement on Twitter. This potentially gave parents and other responsible adults a chance to chastise the guilty children, although it did engender complaints from intending passengers. Bus services were diverted as follows.

9/9A (GOSPORT - FAREHAM) Diverted from Grange Road via Nimrod Drive to Grange Lane. **9/9A (FAREHAM - GOSPORT)** Diverted from Grange Lane via Nimrod Drive to Grange Road. *The News*, 10/9/2016 page 7.

Road Works at a Roundabout in Northern Road, Cosham, Portsmouth.

The roundabout in Northern Road at the crossroads with Southampton Road and Spur Road was resurfaced between 1930 and 0500 on the nights of Monday 11/7/16 to Friday 15/7/16. Bus services were diverted as follows.

2 (PORTSMOUTH - PAULSGROVE), 3 (PORTSMOUTH - FAREHAM) & 18 (SOUTHSEA - PAULSGROVE) Diverted from Portsbridge Roundabout via Western Road and Southampton Road to Pasteur Road. **2 (PAULSGROVE - PORTSMOUTH), 3 (FAREHAM - PORTSMOUTH) & 18 (PAULSGROVE - SOUTHSEA)** Diverted from Southampton Road via Northern Road, London Road and Spur Road to Northern Road.

7 (SOUTHSEA - WECOCK FARM) Diverted from Portsbridge Roundabout via Western Road and Southampton Road to Northern Road. **7 (WECOCK FARM - SOUTHSEA)** Diverted from Portsdown Hill Road via London Road and Spur Road to Northern Road.

8 (PORTSMOUTH - CLANFIELD) Diverted from Portsbridge Roundabout via Western Road and Southampton Road to Northern Road. **8 (CLANFIELD - PORTSMOUTH)** Diverted from London Road [Widley] via London Road [Cosham] and Spur Road to Northern Road.

Road Works in London Road, Waterlooville.

London Road was closed to traffic for road works between its junctions with St George's Walk and Rockville Drive from 0800 to 1600 on Monday 18/7/16. Bus services were diverted as follows.

8 (PORTSMOUTH - CLANFIELD) Diverted from London Road via Rockville Drive and Stakes Hill Road to St George's Walk. **8 (CLANFIELD - PORTSMOUTH)** Diverted from St George's Walk via Stakes Hill Road and Rockville Drive to London Road.

CLOSED CONTRACT SERVICE.**654 (HAMBLEDON - CROOKHORN)**

New closed contract service for schools and college served to replace withdrawn service 145. Schooldays only from Monday 5/9/16. Two versions will be operated.

654 (HAMBLEDON - COWPLAIN)

Outward: HAMBLEDON, THE GARDENS - West Street - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Denmead, Hambledon Road - Denmead Green - Hambledon Road - Sunnymead Drive - Pyrford Close - Milton Road - Cowplain, Hart Plain Avenue - **COWPLAIN, COWPLAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL.**

Return: COWPLAIN, COWPLAIN COMMUNITY SCHOOL - Hart Plain Avenue - Milton Road - Pyrford Close - Sunnymead Drive - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Denmead, Hambledon Road - Denmead Green - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Hambledon, Hambledon Road - West Street - **HAMBLEDON, THE GARDENS.**

Operating Depot: Hoeford.

Normal Vehicle Type: Details to follow.

654 (DENMEAD - CROOKHORN)

Outward: DENMEAD, DENMEAD GREEN - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Waterlooville, Hambledon Road - Maurepas Way - St George's Walk - Stakes Hill Road - private road - *Oaklands Roman Catholic School and Sixth Form College* - private road - Stakes Hill Road - Crookhorn, Purbrook Way - College Road - **CROOKHORN, SOUTH DOWNS COLLEGE.**

Return: CROOKHORN, SOUTH DOWNS COLLEGE - College Road - Purbrook Way - Waterlooville, Stakes Hill Road - St George's Walk - Maurepas Way - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Denmead, Hambledon Road - **DENMEAD, DENMEAD GREEN.**

Variation: One journey will operate as follows. **WATERLOOVILLE, OAKLANDS ROMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL AND SIXTH FORM COLLEGE** - private road - Stakes Hill Road - St George's Walk - Maurepas Way - London Road - Hart Plain Avenue - Cowplain, *Cowplain Community School* - Hart Plain Avenue - Milton Road - Pyrford Close - Sunnymead Drive Hambledon Road - B2150 -

Denmead, Hambledon Road - Denmead Green - Hambledon Road - B2150 - Hambledon, Hambledon Road - West Street - **HAMBLEDON, THE GARDENS.**
Operating Depot: Hoeford. **Normal Vehicle Type:** Details to follow.

PORTSMOUTH PARK & RIDE.

Portsmouth City Council launched the following new commuter and visitor passes on Monday 8/8/16.

Pass	Price	Validity
commutepass 20	£50	Use any 20 days anytime within six months
commutepass 50	£100	Use any 50 days anytime within one year
visitorpass 10	£30	Use any ten days anytime within one year

The new passes can be obtained from machines at Tipner park & ride site or on line and represent good value. The commutepass 50 works out at £2 per day. *The News*, 2/8/2016 page 9.

Bus Fares.

The long-standing Family FirstDay Hampshire ticket cost £15-00 and allowed a group of two adults and two children, or one adult and three children, unlimited travel for one day on all FirstSolent services. This ticket was replaced by the Hampshire Group Day Ticket. Priced at £15-00, like its predecessor, the new ticket allows unlimited travel for one day for a group of any five people travelling together.

Fleet News

REACQUIRED VEHICLE - CORRECTION.

34258 was reacquired from First Beeline Buses Limited on 29/5/16.

MODIFIED VEHICLE.

32036 Converted to PO49/29F+14 variable to PO49/28F+14+1 wheelchair.

REPAINTED VEHICLES.

32036 (after conversion) painted in red, cream and blue Jurassic Coaster livery with a cartoon of a dinosaur named Jessie in 7/16.

46325 painted plain white with First Southampton fleetnames in 7/16.

ALLOCATIONS.

Fleet No.	Date	From	To	Note
47580	22/7/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	
47580	23/7/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	
47580	29/7/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	
47580	29/7/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	One day only
47580	1/8/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	
47580	2/8/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	
47584	12/8/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	One day only
47584	12/8/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	
47590	5/8/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	One day only
47590	5/8/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	
47594	25/7/16	Hoeford	Hilsea	
47594	29/7/16	Hilsea	Hoeford	

BUSES AT THE RALLIES.

First Hampshire & Dorset buses appeared at the following rallies.

Royal Armouries Fort Nelson Classic Buses Running Day, Bank Holiday Monday 30/5/16:

69543

Alton Bus Rally & Running Day, Sunday 17/7/16:

46325 in plain white livery

Provincial Society Bus Rally, Stokes Bay, Sunday 7/8/16:

32702 32707 56306 63061 63296 64002 65006 69543

Note that 32707 was used as the rally control bus.

Stagecoach South Ltd

Fleet News from Andy Warton

Fleet No.	Registration	Vehicle	From	To	Date	Notes
16295	R295 HCD	Olympian/Alex RL	Guildford	Winchester		Reserve
18064	WA04 CRJ	Transbus Trident/ALX400	Reserve	South West		
36022	402 DCD	Enviro 200	Chichester	Basingstoke		
36023	GX07 HUJ	Enviro 200	Chichester	Basingstoke		
52655	V905 DPN	Volvo B10M/Jonckheere		Disposal		
53237	SV55 FKN	Volvo B7R/Plaxton		South West		
53238	SV55 FKO	Volvo B7R/Plaxton		South West		
53610	KX58 NCC			Aberdeen		

Service updates:

PH0005857/250 STAGECOACH (SOUTH) LTD. From: Winchester To: Abbott's Barton, No: 6A. Effective 05-Sep-2016. Shoppers service 3 days a week.

PH0005857/249 STAGECOACH (SOUTH) LTD. From: Winchester To: Owslebury No: 63. Effective 05-Sep-2016. Shoppers service three days a week.

Stagecoach has launched a new bus livery depicting some of the most iconic and picturesque locations along its route 60 (see front cover). The service runs through the South Downs, serving Chichester, West Dean, Singleton and Midhurst. The new look was designed by Best Impressions. Stagecoach and the South Downs National Park Authority launched two of the new look buses at a special ceremony at the Visitor Centre in Midhurst.

Fire at The Hard, Portsmouth.

The popular Pompey Stand Up take-away in The Hard became engulfed in flames and thick black smoke at about 1500 on Friday 22/7/16. The road was blocked and the area around the fire evacuated of visitors, take-away staff and workmen on the new Interchange. Nevertheless, many people loitered near the fire. Twelve fire fighters from Southsea Fire Station extinguished the blaze by 1615, when the road was re-opened. Bus services 20, 21, 23 and 700 terminated in the City Centre, with the 700 laying over in Station Street, and a shuttle service to and from The Hard was operated. The Hoverbus service followed a half-moon shaped route, avoiding St George's Road. *The News*, 23/7/2016 page 11. [Shaun Daniels & John Kirby]

Quiz answers.

1. Volvo 2. Transdev Blazefield 3. Abellio 4. Incompatible industrial relationships 5. Initial of first names of owner's sons- Gareth, Hefin and Arwyn. 6. Go Ahead 7. Lucketts 8. Caetano 9. Glasgow 10. Cardiff

