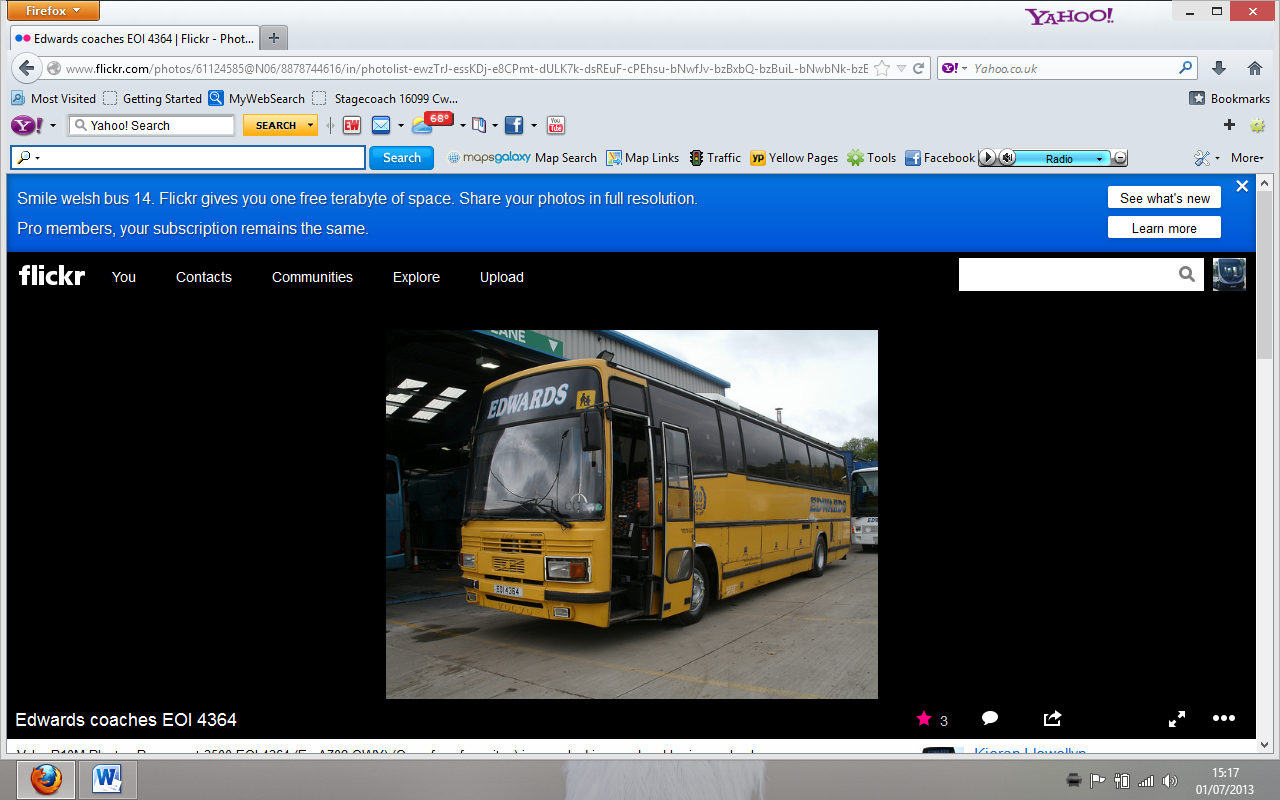
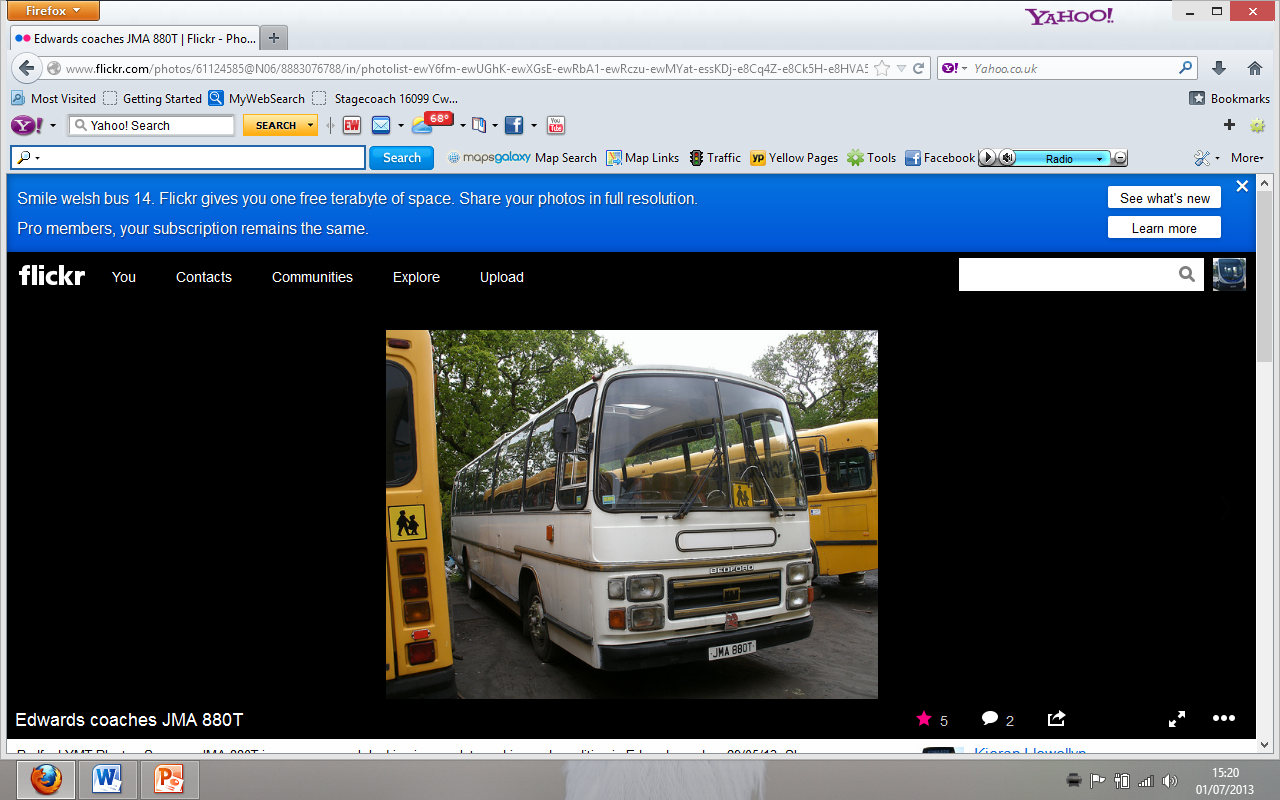
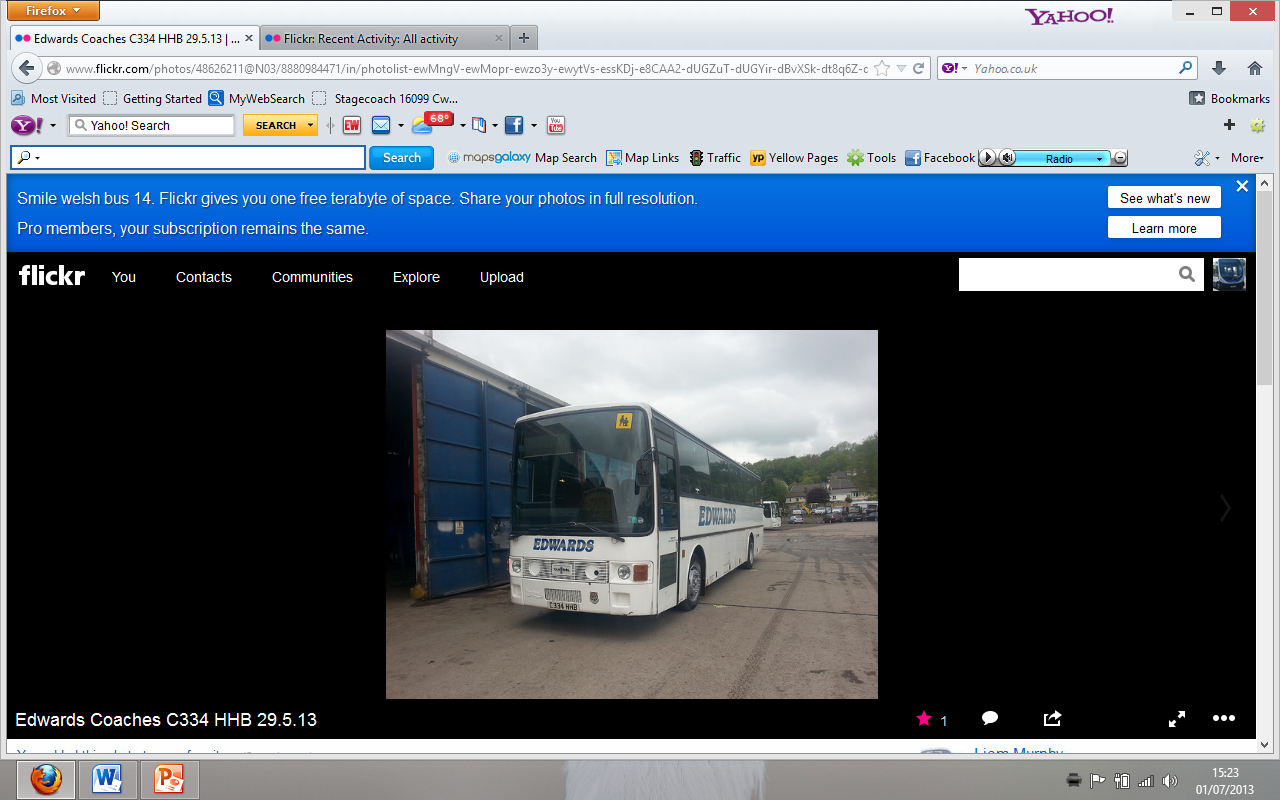
***Edwards Coaches – ‘Golden Oldies***

***By Kieran Llewellyn***

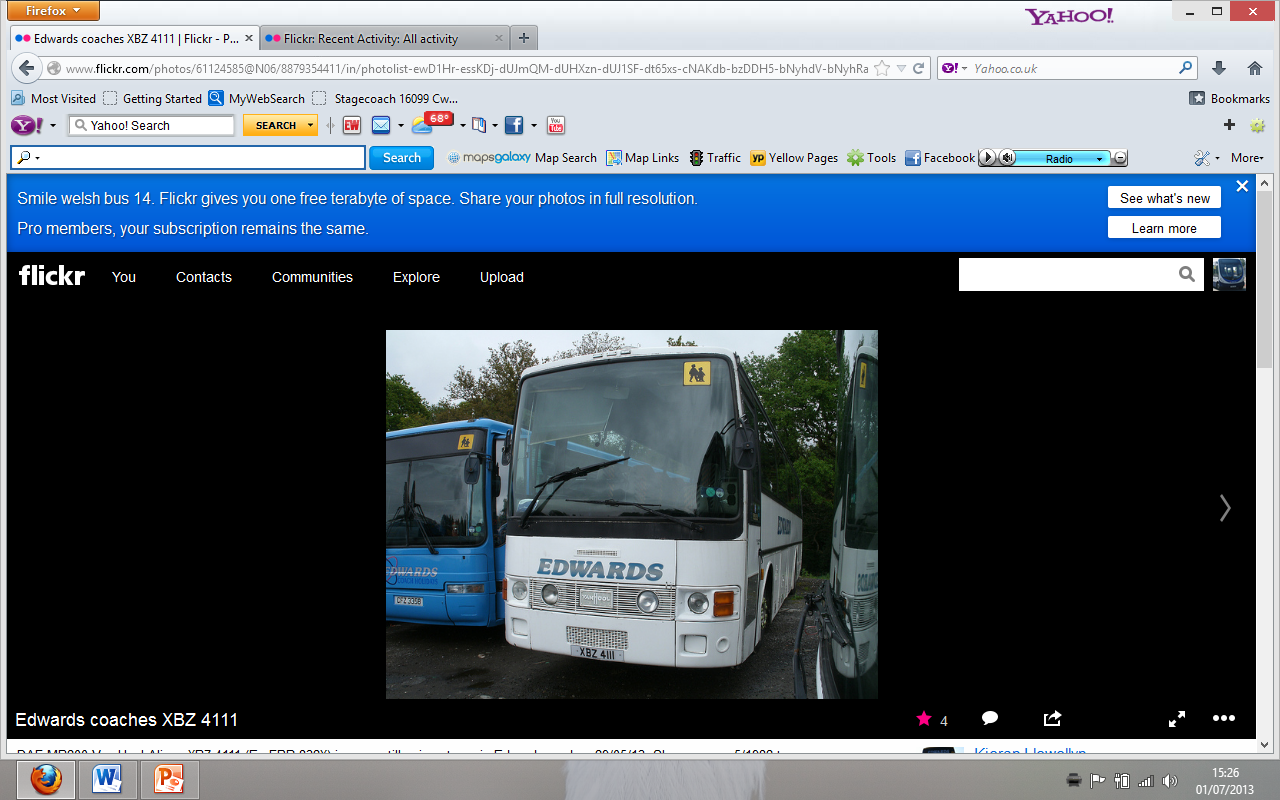
Over the years Edwards coaches have had a large number of 'golden oldies' including a lot of Leyland Leopards and Leyland Atlantean's as well as a large fleet of Volvo Ailsa's, MCW Metrobuses and a handful of old DAF coaches also. Over the years these coaches have left the fleet etc. but in the current fleet a number of 'golden oldies' still remain, some which have been there for a long time (some up to 25 years!) and some which are more recent purchases for the school bus fleet but are 'golden oldies' which stand out and are very interesting.   
  
Here I have selected a handful of different 'oldies' which are either still in Edwards fleet today or ones that have been in the Edwards fleet in the past with information about them.  
  
First up is Volvo B10M Plaxton Paramount 3500 EOI 4364. She was new in 1984 to Dodsworth, Boroughbridge. She started her life with Edwards back in 2009 when she came from P.T.S coaches, Pontyberem where she was still used on tour work! When Edwards bought her in 2009 she was sprayed Yellow and joined the school coach fleet - where she still remains as a reserve school coach on RCT school contracts. She is in great condition for her age and still runs nicely too.



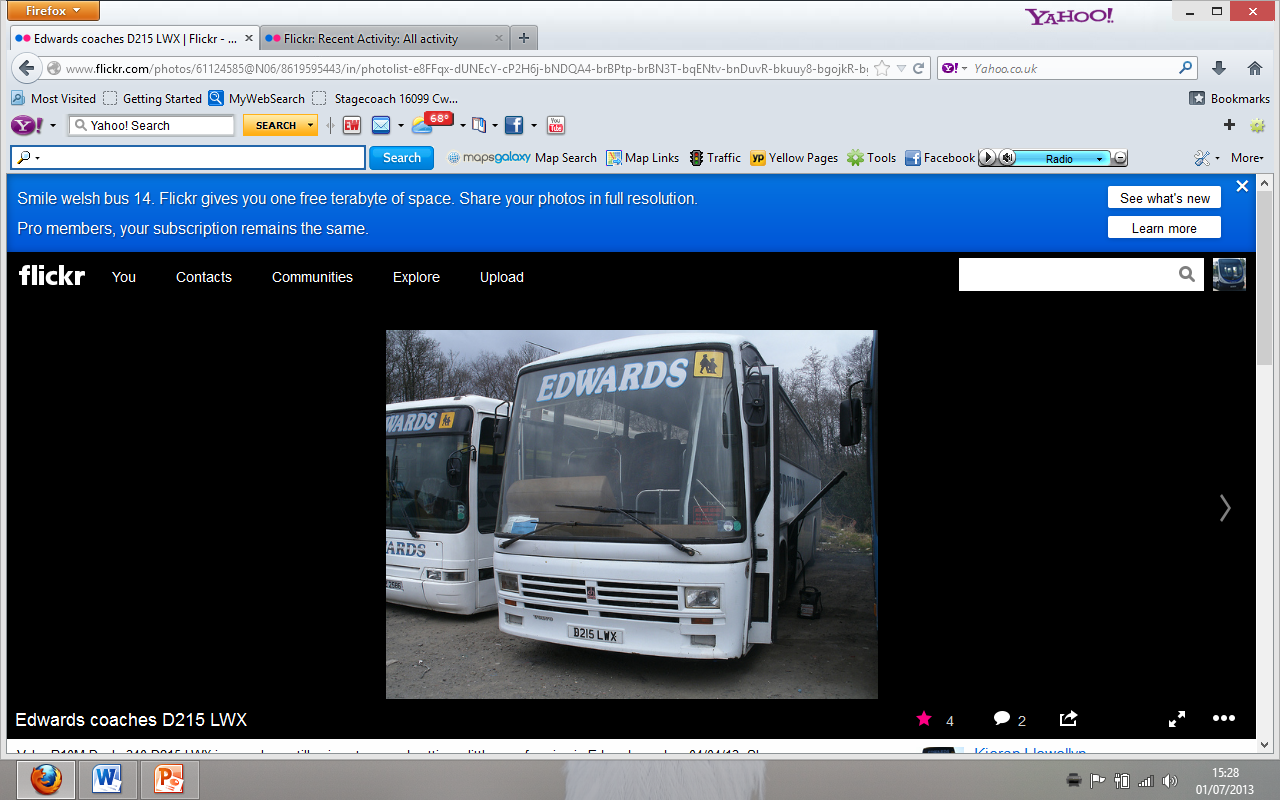
Bedford YMT Plaxton Supreme JMA 880T started life during 1979 with Evans, Llanrhaeadr as a tour coach. She joined Edwards fleet in 2009 from Bradfords, Ystrad Mynach and is an outstanding coach! She runs very well for her age and is in superb condition inside and out. She is a reserve coach at Edwards and is used mainly on local RCT school contracts especially in the Summer when the newer coaches are out on private hire's all the time so older coaches are needed to fill in any gaps.

C334 HHB is a Leyland Tiger Van Hool Alizee which eventhough new to Thomas of Rhondda in 1986, has spent most of her life with Edwards being bought by them in 1988! She was put to service straight away as a tour coach and was used on tours for many years until the late 90's when she became a standard coach in Edwards fleet. After many years as a standard coach she then got used mainly on school related work until in the last few years she was made a reserve coach. In her 25th year as an Edwards coach, she is now a reserve school coach and still runs well and is in good condition for her age.  
  


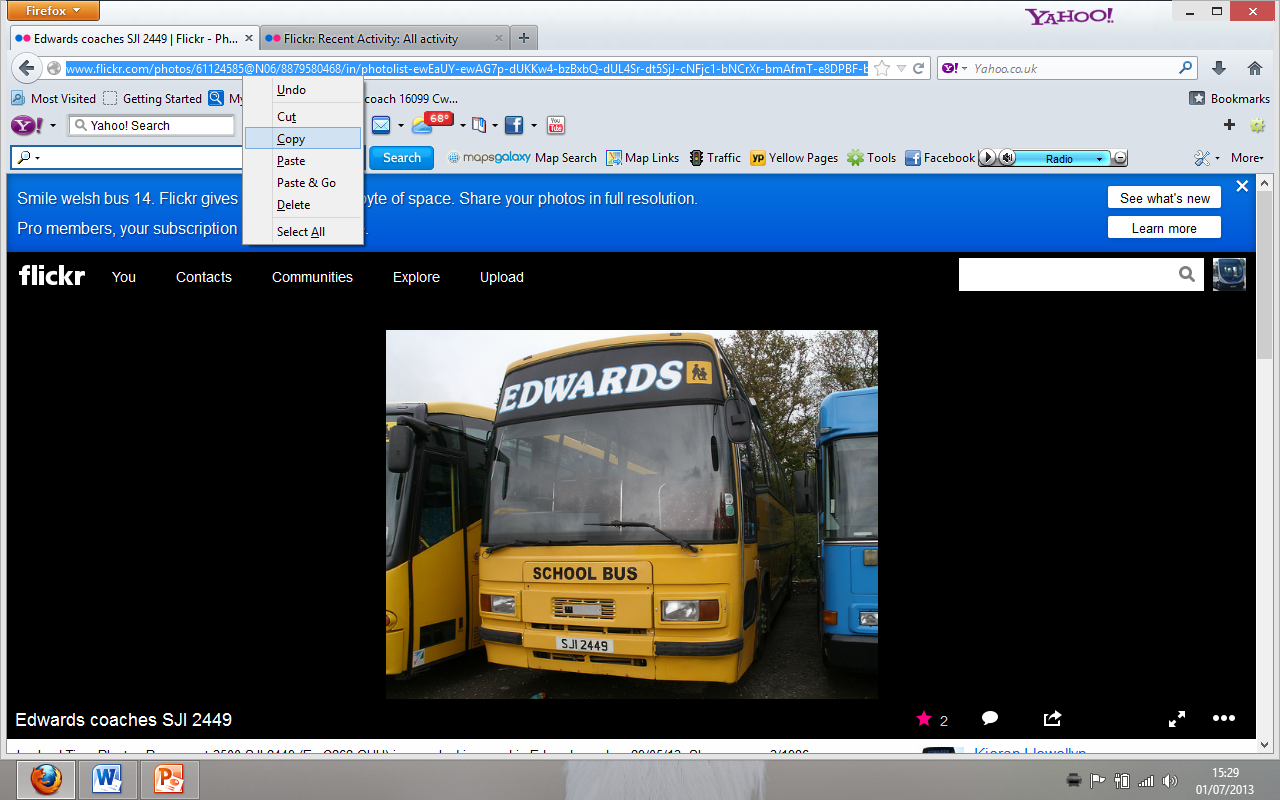
DAF MB200 Van Hool Alizee XBZ 4111 is a pretty rare coach these days being an old 1982 DAF Van Hool. She joined the fleet as a standard coach when still reasonably old and more recently she has become a reserve school coach. She is still in good condition for her age and is still going on school work in the RCT.



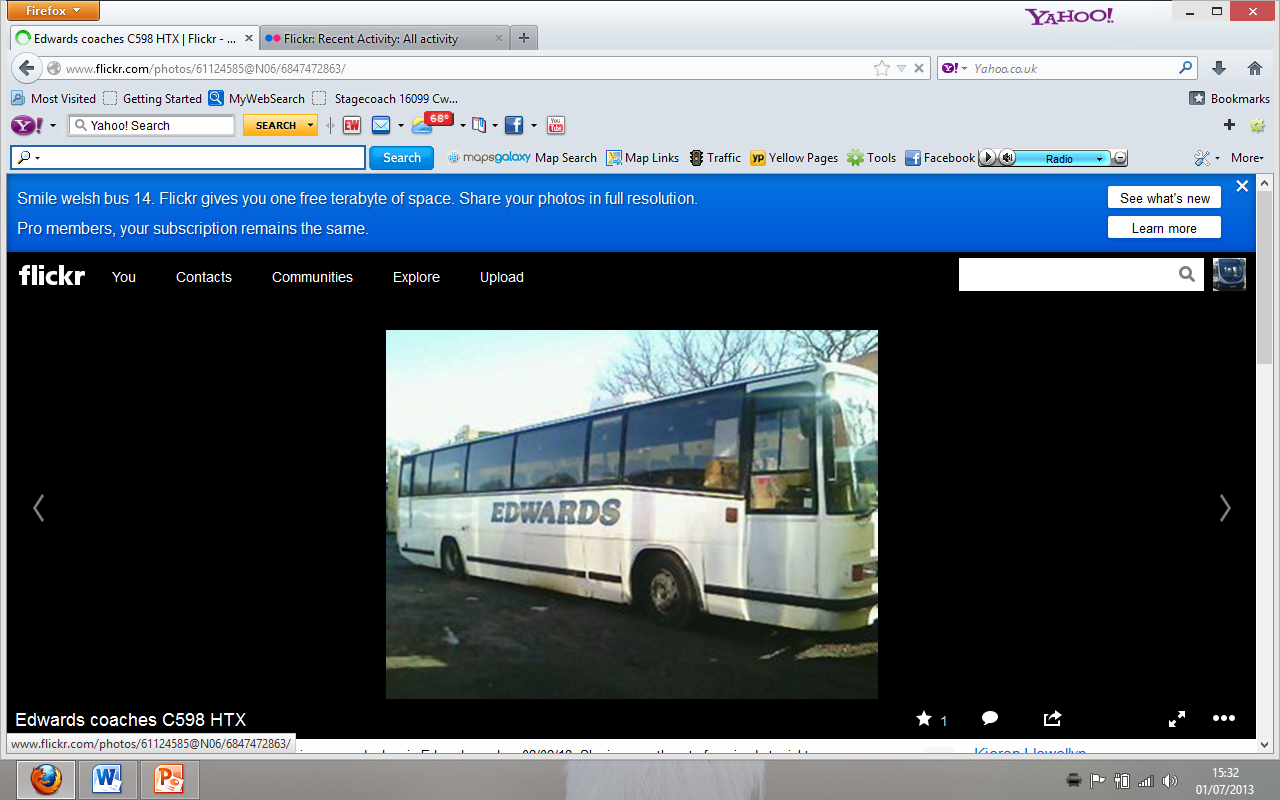
Volvo B10M Duple 340 D215 LWX was new in 1987 to Wallace Arnold and joined the Capitol/2 Travel fleet in the 90's. After her days with them she joined the fleet of Gregory's coaches, Blaencwm before joining Edwards as a school coach in 2009. She is still going today as a reserve school coach and is in good condition for her age and pairs up nicely with younger Volvo B10M Duple 340 SIJ 814 - those being the only Duple 340's in the fleet.



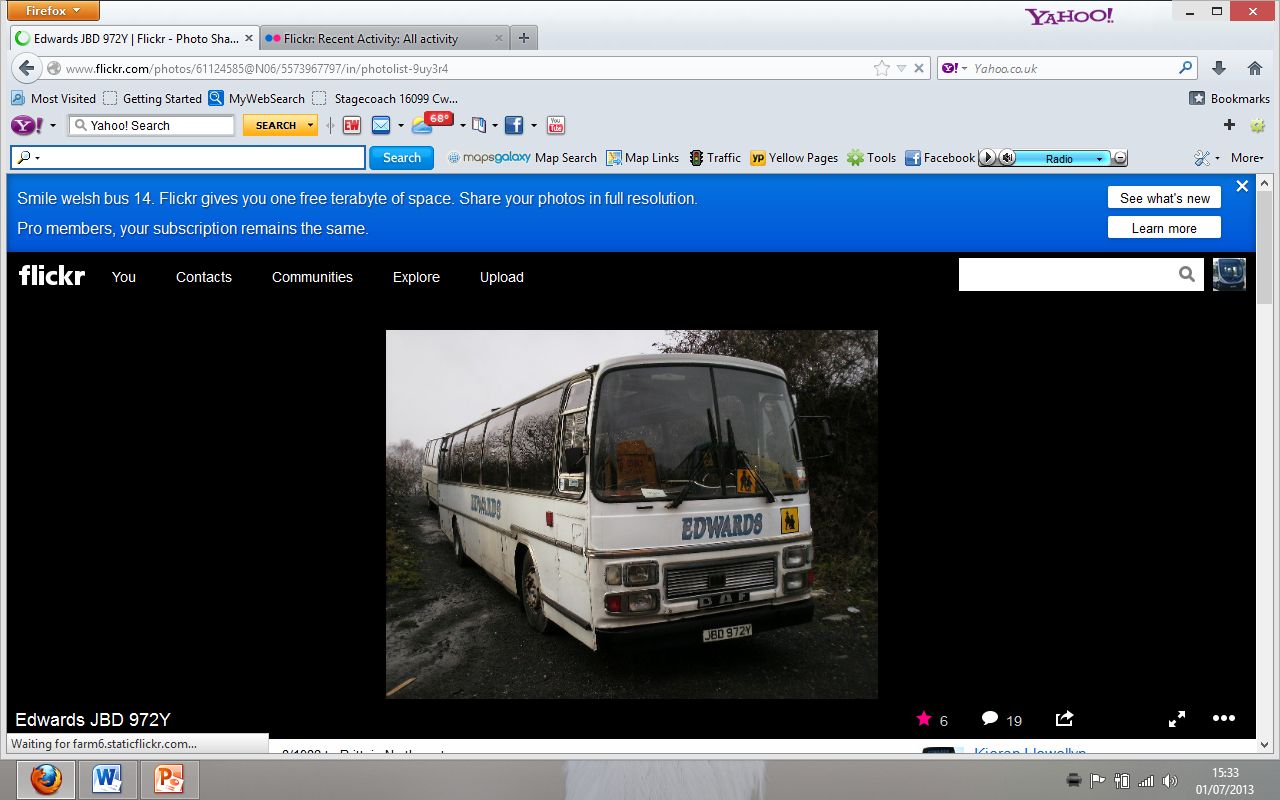
One coach which has seen a lot of use with Edwards is Leyland Tiger Plaxton Paramount 3500 SJI 2449. She was new in 1986 and was a tour coach with Edwards by 1992. She was one of Edwards frontline coaches at the time until she was made a school coach a few years ago which was followed by being up-seated. She is still used on schools and is a reserve on other school related work.

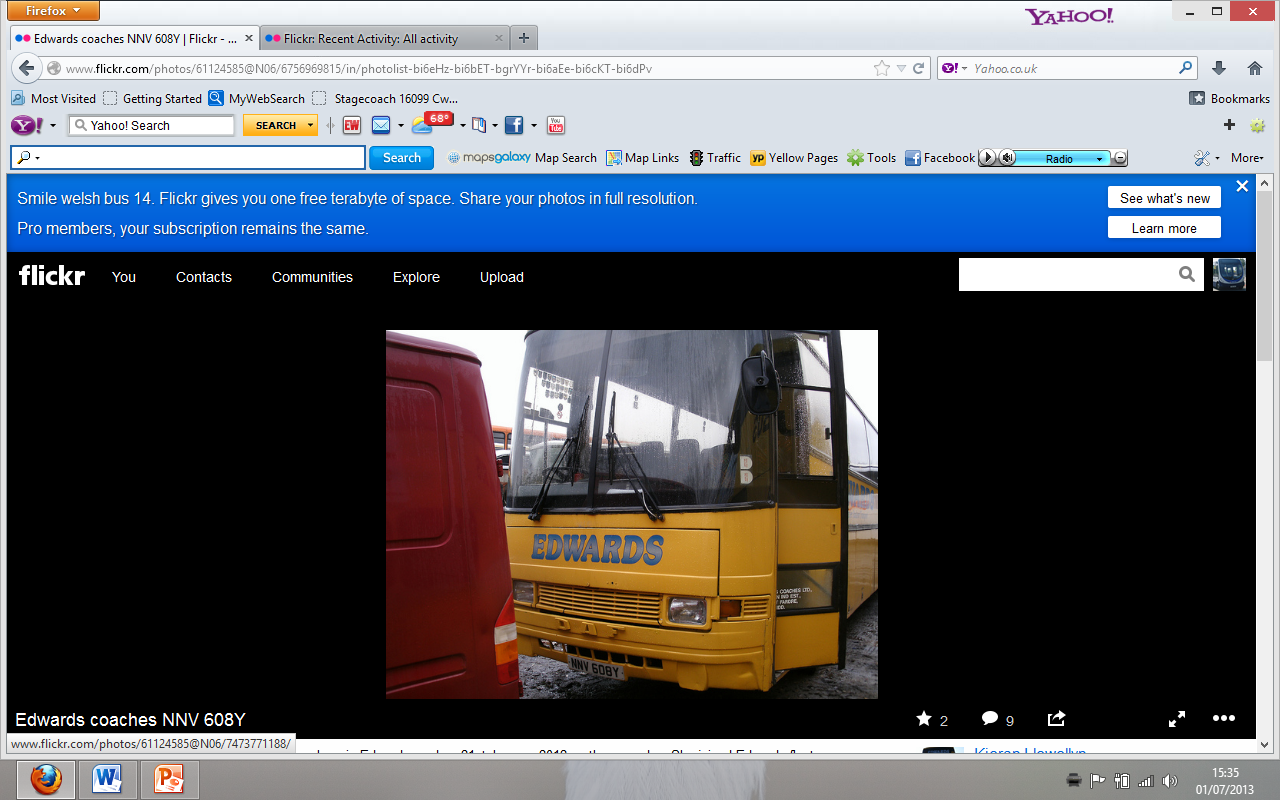


C598 HTX is a DAF MB200 Plaxton Paramount 3200 which had been in the Edwards fleet a long time. She was used a school coach from a few years back and was in good condition, although she was sadly scrapped during early 2012.



Another coach which sadly left the fleet was DAF MB200 Plaxton Supreme JBD 972Y. She was a school coach for many years in Edwards fleet but was sadly scrapped during 2012.



DAF MB200 Jonckheere Jubilee NNV 608Y joined the fleet in 1992 and was a frontline tour coach. After her days as a tour coach she became a standard coach, then later on a school coach. She was used on RCT schools until early 2012 when she was withdrawn and scrapped.

Another very similar coach was DAF MB200 Jonckheere Jubilee B495 CBD. She joined the Edwards fleet in 1988 as a frontline tour coach and by 2009 was a school coach used on RCT school contracts. She was sadly, in her 21st year with Edwards, withdrawn and scrapped.

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