



It's 9.40 and we are just about to board our bus from Greyfriars Road which leaves at 9.45.



As we board I try and count you on.

Of course Sandy, Anita and Joan have had to hurry out of the coffee bar across the road, just in time for the bus. Jeff is wearing his shorts in honour (we hope) of the sunny day,

I reminded myself that Lillian and Pat are going to catch the bus at the Heath Hospital so just 34 boarding now. On we get, passes presented, seats occupied.

The bus leaves on time and noisy conversations start afresh as the bus travels up North Road



to Gabalfa roundabout and down the slipway into the Heath Hospital. Traffic in our direction is light but there always seems to be a queue trying to come up from Western Avenue.



Good, both are at the bus stop I think to myself.

"Well done the two of you, welcome aboard".



"Listen please, **including** those talking at the back of the bus, answer your names as I call them out even though I may have spoken to you earlier".

Strange, I seem to be missing a name. As I didn't need to call out my name and Alison's name I expect 34 replies. I only get 33. Try again.

"Lynne .... Plummer"?

"Sorry, Lynne, you are right under my nose, must be my hearing, or are you in very quite voice mode today"?

We swiftly join Western Avenue where the traffic appears to be quite light.





Joining the M4 without dicing with juggernauts the bus heads east for Newport, again the traffic looks to be quite light.



Coming off the motorway we head into Newport centre. Traffic had increased due to a hold-up the cause of which appears to be roadworks. We arrive later than expected, at 10.31 at Newport bus station.



Our bus is due to leave the bus station at 10.33!

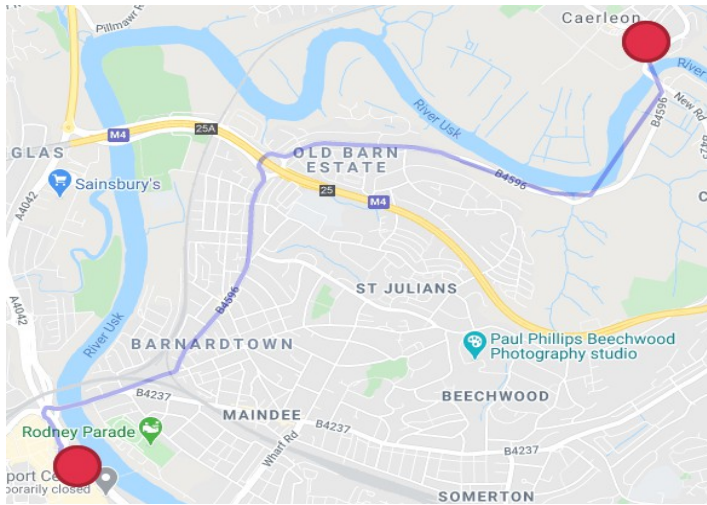
"Here we are, off we get and please make sure that you have all your belongings. Please move quickly to Bay 10 which is on our left as you get off the bus".

We move smartly over to the No27 bus which is still in position at its bay, though it looks as if the driver may be thinking of closing the doors.

I get there first, wait at the step up into the bus and everyone files past me. Except Jeff.

Anyone missing now will need to catch the next bus at 11.17.

A little out of breath, Jeff arrives looking sheepish having wandered in the opposite direction to look at something that has caught his eye. He noted that at the bus doors, Pam, looking as immaculate as ever, is waiting for him with a pained expression. All 36 have successfully boarded the bus.



This next part of the journey is going to be quite short, and should take about 17 minutes with us due to arrive in Caerleon at 10.44.

"Everybody, are you all listening". Yes including you Elize, now please keep a good lookout as I will be mentioning a few matters of interest as we approach Caerleon itself".