

ESSEX BUS NEWS

February 2004

Issue 478



The only snow of the winter? Maybe. *Chris Stewart* caught 2679 (P679HPU), one of the dwindling band of Mercedes 709D's, in The Drive, Warley. The orange beacon visible on the roof, is a legacy of 2679's stay with Airport Coaches.

First - VR Finale ~ see page 3

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way,
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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports, quality photos (prints or slides) and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor.

The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part, or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.

Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Group.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors published.

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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from the Editor ...

Many thanks for all contributions and comments. One correction to EBN477 - page 23: the four Nationals were, of course, on hire to Thamesway in 1993, not 2003!

Please note my new email address: ebn@casuarina.org.uk

Press dates for March EBN: March 3 April EBN: April 7

David Harman

Dates for your diary

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

- ▶ **Tuesday March 9** - AGM, followed by a slide show: "FORTY years A.G.O." by *Alan Osborne*.
- ▶ **Tuesday April 13** - talk/slide show "EN and the Lodekka" by *Chris Stewart*.

All meetings take place in the **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (adjacent to Rochford Station and also served by Arriva 7/8). Doors open 1930 for an informal chat; the main show takes place from 2000 to 2145. Drinks available; 50p entrance fee. *Richard Delahoy*

GROUP TOUR

- ▶ **Saturday July 3** - Norfolk (tentatively). Make a diary note now! *Dave Arnold*

RALLIES, OPEN DAYS etc

- ▶ **Sunday April 4** - **Cobham Bus Museum Open Day**. The bus gathering will be at Wisley Airfield this year. This is one mile south of M25/A3 Jct.10, and is directly accessible from the southbound A3. Free bus service: Wisley Airfield-Cobham Museum-Weybridge Station. Visit: www.lbpt.org.uk *DRH*

First - VR Finale

First have kindly arranged for the last two Bristol VR's 3072 and 3219 to be used in service each **Saturday** in **February** - a final chance to sample them before they are withdrawn. They will be used on Saturdays 7, 14, 21 and 28 February on routes 72 - Braintree - Witham - Chelmsford and 351 - Chelmsford - Brentwood - Romford.

Timings are:

Ser 72 (BE depot, Car 9)	<i>first journey runs dead Braintree-Chelmsford</i>
Chelmsford departs	08.50, 11.50, 14.50 and 17.50
Braintree departs	10.25, 13.25 and 16.25
Ser 351 (CF depot, BMR Car 11)	
Chelmsford departs	06.55, 09.25, 11.55, 14.25 and 16.55
Romford departs	08.05, 10.40, 13.10, 15.40 and 18.05

Please note

- ▶ These are *planned* timings and cannot be guaranteed.
- ▶ Day rover tickets ("Essex Day") at £6.00 are valid all day on all *First* routes.
- ▶ For any updated information, check the website: www.essexbus.org.uk

FIRST ESSEX

Vehicles into the fleet

- 9045 X846KAN Ford Transit Van (at CN, replacing Escort van 2111: E50CEV)
 1.04 42488 SN53KJX *for full details see EBN476*
 42489 SN53KJY

These are the two 'missing' Transbus Darts, which have now entered service on the 36 Chelmsford-South Woodham (with lime green 'Connection' branding). They were noted being moved from Adderley Green *First PMT* to Essex on 18th January. Local numbers (781/2 being likely) have not yet been verified.

First Glasgow Dart/East Lancs 40777/MD5 (P856VUS) was reported heading south at about the same date, presumably destined for *First Essex* as 749. At the time of writing, though, this was unconfirmed as were the whereabouts of the ex Stagecoach Olympians.

Allocation changes - none (period ending 25 January 2004)

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another *First* fleet
 (A)=acquired, (R)=reserve, (Sp)=spare; (D)=disposal

But apologies for omitting p/e 28.12.03: 2662 CN-(D); 2683 CR-CN

Vehicle workings

Some of the former Hackney Community Transport mobility bus duties in East London have been taken over by *First Essex*, but adjustments to existing services mean that three of 852-855 are still in use on them at any one time. Interestingly *First Essex* buses now serve Walthamstow again.

The Leyland Lynx finally bowed out of use on the Chelmsford-Brentwood-Romford 351 at the end of January, following which 1414 and 1415 have both been noted working from Basildon. Bristol VR 3219 (VTH941T) has just managed to outlive them on this route, despite being 10 years older.

The former Stagecoach Olympians are understood to be destined for CR, displacing 4320-6 to CN and DT where they will allow C-reg Olympians to move and replace the remaining VRs and older Olympians.

Chelmsford-Shenfield rail replacements have included the following:

- 11th Jan: CF2669 CF2674 CF2822 BE3219 HH4005 CF4007 CN4018 CN4019
 BN4038 CR4302 CR4303 CR4315
 NIBS G603KTX BIL4710 Chambers W87HRT
- 18th Jan: CF2678 BE3219 HH4003 HH4005 CN4015 CN4016 CN4019 CF4024
 CF4025 CF4033 BN4035 CR4302 CR4305 CR4309
 NIBS G601KTX G604KTX G605KTX H229LOM Chambers W124JDX
 Stephensons TSO12X TSO13X TSO29X B752WSC
- 25th Jan: HH4003 CN4016 CR4304
 NIBS G607KTX Chambers W91HRT Stephensons TSO29X



4036 (L162 UNS), one of the Olympians recently cascaded from *First Glasgow*. Despite the lack of a destination display, the enormous number blinds favoured by the previous owner ensure that there can be no mistaking which route it is on! Seen in Brentwood High Street in January. *Chris Stewart*



42488 (SN53KJX) with Transbus badges and lime green "South Woodham Chelmsford Connection" vinyls, stands in Chelmsford Bus Station in January. *David Harman*

(First) Eastern National Bristol VR's ~ *the two survivors*



3219 (VTH 941T) passes the "Dog & Partridge" at Kelvedon Hatch on an afternoon school run in December 2003.

Chris Stewart



3072 (KOO 790V) pauses at a dolly-stop beside some characteristic Essex architecture at Lexden. Member, David Edwards is at the wheel. March 2002.

Chris Stewart

1st Feb: CF434 CF1414 CF1415 HH4004 HH4005 CF4007 CF4010 CF4024
 CF4025 BN4035 CR4301 CR4303 CR4305
 NIBS G603KTX G607KTX Chambers W124JDX Stephenson's TSO13X
 B752WSC

Noteworthy sightings include:

January

10th CR683 on 77
 13th CF4007 on 48
 14th CR1502 on 77
 17th CF1415 on 42
 20th HH748 on 20, HH774 on 20
 22nd CF1414 and CF1415 on 351
 602 on 222
 23rd HH4005 on 2 & 25 all day (replacing failed HH1409)
 CF733, CF2906 and CF2908 all on 351
 24th HH1417 and HH1424 on 20
 26th CF1414 and CF1415 on 351
 CR450 on 78X (16.10) and 88B (17.50), CR1509 on 222
 CR4301 on 78, CR4307 on 77
 27th CR4324 on 71
 CF2665 on 45
 28th CF729 and BE2826 on 352
 CF1415 on 351 (and again on 29th)
 29th (snow) BN4036 on 502 as normal, morning 512 operated by CF2669 (via Stock
 and Ramsden Bellhouse) with CF4024 or 4025 on main road
 31st CF1415 on 351
 HH720, HH748 and HH913 all on 20

February

2nd HH717 on 20
 CR1505 on 61
 3rd 602 on peak 71
 4th 602 on 88B and 71
 5th BN1412 on 12, 1414 on 8A and 1415 on 8
 Scania on evening 502

VR-watch

Our faithful band of reporters have given the following sightings of 3219, which has continued to work out of CF depot:

619 3 times w/e 17th Jan
 525 23rd, 27th 29th and 30th Jan, 4th Feb
 512 3rd Feb and several other occasions
 351 5th Feb, 7th Feb (your sub-editor catching the first working of the day from
 Shenfield to Romford and back)
 36 22nd Jan (and probably several other occasions)

By comparison, 3072 has led a fairly predictable existence on the 70X or 509. However, it was on Shenfield-Chelmsford rail replacement work on 8th February (first run 06.28 ex-Chelmsford; last, 2207 ex-Shenfield!).

Former Eastern National STW30W was noted on Hedingham's 89 leaving Halstead on 26th January. This is thought to be a candidate for early withdrawal.

One-time Essex VRs with *First Western National* have gained 'Sema' numbers as follows: 38785 (KOO785V), 38888/95/7 (UAR588/95/7W), 38920/3/8 (XHK220/3/8X); UAR589W and XHK225X are currently delicensed

Other News

Also renumbered by *First Western National* are these former Essex vehicles:

21091	M291FAE
42181	P711HPU
46101/2/5	K901/2/5CVW
46159-66	N959-66CPU

whilst, with *First Somerset & Avon*, K915/7CVW have become 46115/7.

Work has now started on the new Chelmsford depot in Westway, with a programme scheduled to last 44 weeks. There is no news yet on a likely closure date for BE, although this is obviously linked to the completion date for Westway. Braintree suffered severe problems with snow on 28th/29th January.

First Essex fleet allocation - 25 January 2004

Braintree	(BE)	778-80, 943/4, 2666/71/5/80, 2808/11/2/6/21/6/7, 2909-11, 3072, 3219
Basildon	(BN)	404/5, 655-67, 712-4/34-8/53-61, 852-5, 918/20/7/9-34/6/7/45, 967-74/83-7, 1403/6/10/2/8, 2825, 4035-8
Chelmsford	(CF)	430-5, 512-37, 670-4, 729-33/9-44/75-7, 1414/5, 1516-20, 2658/65/8-70/3/4/6/8/9, 2822-4/8, 2901-8, 4007/10/2/4, 4024/5/33/4
Clacton	(CN)	919/21/2/4-6, 1510-3, 2683, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20, 4015-9
Colchester	(CR)	450-2, 610, 650-4/68/9/75/8/82-7, 715/6, 975-82, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-6
Hadleigh	(HH)	403/6-10, 717-21/45-50/62-74, 907-11/3/28/35/8-42/6-58, 1409/17, 1419-24, 2803/14/5/8, 4003-5
Harwich	(DT)	2681/2, 2802/13/7, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford	(RD)	401/2, 501-11, 912/4/6, 2804
Heritage		2383, 9001 (AJN825)
Spare		602/8, 2664
Reserve		1405/11/29
Disposal		1402/4/16/25/6, 2111, 2649/50/2/4/62/3/7/72, 4026/7, 9002
Driver Training		35, 1433 (BN); 9039/41/3/4 (Driving School at Head Office)
Ancillary vehicles (note that some of these details are by members' observation only)		
BN: 9030, 9308; CF: 9008/38/42; CN: 9028, 9045;		
CR: 9033; HH: 9035/40; HO: 9004/10		

The following buses are currently fitted with tachographs:
852-4, 1404/5/33, 2829/30, 4013/5/6/9, 4311/5

Sources: *Own observations plus many thanks to M Austin, J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, M Jameson, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, A Rook, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, P Snell, D Stebbing, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, A Williams, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, First Essex, PSV Circle*

Chris Stewart

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires 3094, 3100, 3817 1/04

3094	H926 LOX	Ds	Dt	9.8SDL3004/392	Ce	C27.008	B40F	2/91
3100	K448 XPA	Ds	Dt	9.8SDL3017/1247	Pn	929.8HPN1147	B40F	12/92
3817	H367 XGC	Ds	Dt	8.5SDL3003/425	Wt	N41	B29F	3/91

Allocations

1/04: 3094, 3100, 3445, 3817. HA

Subsequent histories

- 2055 (G896 TGG): reregistered UWR 498 by Western Greyhound, Newquay, Cornwall 8/00; reregistered G896 TGG 10/03; Ebley, Nailsworth, Glos 12/03
- 2290 (G930 WGS): Bayview Enterprises, Helensburgh 12/03 ex Hardie, Port Glasgow
- 2316 (J936 WHJ): Bond, Stamford Bridge, East Yorkshire by 5/03 ex Vokes, Market Weighton, East Yorkshire
- 2325 (L805 OVX): Hunter, Sauchie, Scotland by 8/03 ex Mitchell, Pleau, Scotland; Collison, Stonehouse, Motherwell 12/03
- 5251 (KYV 681X): Cooper's Tourmaster, Bedlington, Northumberland 7/03 ex Clockwork Travel, Gillingham, Kent via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)
- 5253 (B283 WUL): Wiltax, New Haw, Surrey 5/03 ex Wilkinson, Staines; re-registered VLT 23 by 9/03
- 5367 (GYE 508W): numbered 108 by Guide Friday, Stratford 2/03
- 5370 (A988 SYF): withdrawn by Regal, Edgware 7/03 – de-roofed in accident
- 5384 (A110 FDL): Western Greyhound, Newquay, Cornwall 3/02 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer); reregistered XOD 665 & numbered 665 11/03
- DP301-6/8/9 (J 301-6/8/9 WHJ): Original London 1/04 ex Arriva London North DP301-6/8/9
- DP545 (K545 OKH): Arriva Midlands North 545 4/02 ex Arriva London South DRL45
- MD604 (J604 WHJ): Huxley, Threapwood, Cheshire 7/00 via Autosort, Liverpool (dealer)
- MD606 (J606 WHJ): Stafford Bus Centre, Cotes Heath (dealer) 10/03 ex Durbin, Patchway, Bristol; bears registration 91-WX-3789

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Buses (February 2004) records that Dennis Lance/Wright Pathfinder 3379 (M268 VPU) and 3381 (M761 JPA) suffered fires recently. 3379 may be repairable but the future of 3381 is in doubt.

Those buses carrying any form of route-branding are having it removed in readiness for a network relaunch in the near future.

LOTS say the third ex-Arriva London Olympian, 5388 (D234 FYM) has been transferred to Grays for school journeys into Romford on the 370. This replaces a borrowed Arriva Kent Thameside Volvo B10M, 7708, now returned.

David Harman

Ensignbus

Operating fleet:

Vehicles in

ex-Metroline London Northern Ltd., Harrow DNL101/2/13/5/7-20:

701/2/13 L101/2/13 HHV

Dennis Dart / Northern Counties B40F

new 5/94

715/7/8/9/20 L115/7/8/9/20 HHV

Dennis Dart / Northern Counties B40F

new 6/94

ex-Stagecoach Red & White 708:

708 L708 FWO Volvo B6-50 / Alexander B40F

new 6/94

ex-Stagecoach United Counties 423:

723 L423 XVV Volvo B6-50 / Alexander DP40F

new 7/94

ex-Stagecoach Cheltenham & Gloucester

733 L833 CDG Volvo B6-50 / Alexander B40F

new 6/94

ex-Stagecoach Red & White 724:

764 L664 MSF Volvo B6-50 / Alexander DP40F

new 7/94

All are very neatly turned out in Southdown-style (!) apple green and cream livery, with dark green lining. Most are fitted with white-on-green blinds, but some, if not all of the Volvos have dot-matrix displays.

operated by Ensignbus
NEW! Starting 17/01/04

X80 - TIMETABLE

Lakeside ↔ Bluewater ↔ Strood Station

Operating Monday - Saturday Frequent Departures

For further information:
Telephone: 01708 865636 Website: www.ensignbus.com

X90 - TIMETABLE
NEW! Starting 17/01/04

X90 - TIMETABLE

Lakeside ↔ Dartford ↔ Bluewater

Operating Monday - Saturday Frequent Departures

For further information:
Telephone: 01708 865636 Website: www.ensignbus.com

They are being used on routes X80 (Lakeside-Bluewater; daily) and X90, (Lakeside-Dartford-Bluewater; M-S) which started on 17 January, (see EBN476). Certain X80 journeys extend via Gravesend and Higham to Strood Station. These interwork with the Higham-Strood rail replacement service. The latter is in place for a year whilst the Strood and Higham tunnels are lined, to prevent chalk falling on the tracks.

There are further ex-Metroline Darts and two ex-Go North East B6's in the same livery (but with appropriate fleetnames) with *The King's Ferry*, Gillingham (L103/5 HHV), *RedRoute Buses*, Gravesend (L109/15 HHV), and *ASD Transport*, Strood, (M429/43 RDC). These are used solely on rail replacement duties.

David Harman
acknowledgements to LOTS,
Ian Ransom

Two attractive colour timetables have been provided, one for each route. See also www.ensignbus.com/

**Ensignbus
X80/X90**

Dart 717 waits
at Bluewater,
surrounded by
Arriva Kent
Thameside
vehicles ...



... 20 minutes
later, laying over
at Lakeside,
with 701 behind.

Volvo 723 on the
rail replacement
service at Strood
station.

David Harman





Ensignbus's former RCL2220 stands at the Brentwood, Robin Hood & Little John 721 terminus prior to providing (thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus), the Mid Essex MRC Model Railway Exhibition free bus service. *Chris Stewart*

Ensignbus Dealing fleet:

VEHICLES IN:

From

Arriva London:	M1101, L26/7/47/79/99/113/156/163/219/238.
London General/Central:	RML2630 M1389 NV14/24
Mckindless Coaches :	Dart J609KCU Metroriders K351/9KCU
Stagecoach Gloucester:	Volvo B6's L240CCW L841CDG M843EMW M847HDF
Go Ahead North East:	National 2's UPT660/1/4/70V
Isle of Man Transport:	Dart SLF's DMN23/36R
Stagecoach South:	Dart K593NHC

VEHICLES OUT

Volvo B6's L440/7/52VWA	<i>To:</i>
Darts K584/6/7/8ODY, J609KCU	Glenvale Transport, Liverpool
Bristol VRT BHJ368S	Glenvale Transport, Liverpool
RML2616 and National 2 FTN709W	Mr Bacon, Dunstable.
National 2's UPT660/1/4/70V	Stansted Transit.
T1072	Ayrways Coaches, Scotland
M1185	Big Bus (last London Central Training Titan)
Olympian ARP617X	Theobalds Coaches, Dunstable.
Metrobus BYX218V	PVS for scrap.
Dennis Condor DL39 EH7436	Circus Tavern, Purfleet.
	now G159FWC with Big Bus Co, London.
	This is the last of the batch of 43.
	Aintree Coachlines.

NV15 (N415JBV again!!)

Also, AV9 is now registered M264SGY.

Acknowledgements to Ensignbus

Hedingham

My apologies for having overlooked the arrival of L330 (EU53 MVZ) in this column. It is a Volvo B7/Transbus.

L331/2 are CUD 223/4Y, ex-Oxford Bus Co. 223/4, and both are H47/28D. They are to remain 2-door vehicles at Sudbury.

R259 LGH Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties H47/27D is in (12.03) with fleet no. L333, ex London Central NV 59. This will also stay as a 2-door bus.

Volvo/Plaxton L290/1 are now C53F (ex C57F)

Bristol VR/ECW L178 (DWU 294T) and L260 (BHJ 368S, new as VPF 282S) have gone to Ensign (dealer) (12.03).

Bristol VR's scrapped include L204 (AUD 461R), L247 (CPT 731S) and L257 (PWY 46W)

It is expected that at least 10 VR's will be withdrawn during 2004. It is assumed that further Olympians will be acquired.

Ian Ransom



Hedingham Omnibuses have (I think) exhausted the Oxford Bus Company's supply of good quality Olympians (and, previously, VR's). T-reg Tridents are now the oldest 'deckers' at Oxford and are presumably not due for disposal yet! An earlier ex-OBC Olympian, L313 (VJO 206Y) is seen in Braintree Bus Park in July 2003.

David Harman

Essex Small Operator News

A1 TRAVEL, Harlow S843 GWW LDV

Convoy is with this new operator

AH MINIBUSES, Little Clacton S23

WCL Mercedes Benz/? is in (by 12.03)

AJS MINIBUS, Harlow EO51 TFV

Hyundai Traject is in (by 11.03) with

PSV disc. EY03 VGZ Ford Transit

Tourneo is in (by 11.03) on a taxi plate.

APT, Rayleigh GGC 223X (ex LIL 2063,

GSK 304, GGC 223X) Bristol LH /

Plaxton is in (by 12.03) ex Andrews, Rhewl, N.Wales.

L671 RUA Bova Futura is in (by 12.03) ex Reading 271.

BOON, Boreham All 7 vehicles of this defunct fleet went to Ensign (dealer) 12.03. Former Colchester Atlantean/ECW YNO 78S & RVW 90S passed directly to Talisman, Gt. Bromley on 15.12.03

Atlantean/Park Royal XPG 182T also passed to Talisman 29 or 30.12.03

Atlantean NNO 63P and VPA 149S and Metrobuses KYO 628X and B146 WUL were taken by Ensign on 15 or 16.12.03

The Boon's story has now finally ended after 54 years of service (The business started in 1949).

BROWN, Harlow T689 JLH Ford Transit is in (by 11.03)

CATTON, Harlow T711 LTW Ford Transit Tourneo is in (by 11.03) on a taxi plate.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Dennis Javelin/Neoplan P891 MHE has not gone (correction to our notes last month). Bova Futura TJI 6306 (ex 327 RFC, G419 WFP) is repaired and back, after suffering an accident

Volvo/Berkhof R20 CED is in 'David Urquhart Travel' livery (by 10.03 - probably for the summer)

Bristol VR HWJ 933W has gone for scrap, leaving just FKM 881V here.

CHARIOTS, Corringham Reported as

acquired in Buses is A629 BCN an ex Go North East MCW Metrobus.

CJ TRAVEL, Harlow T447 KPP LDV Convoy is in (by 11.03).

COLCHESTER COACHES, Clacton

Bova Futura G95 VFP has been reregistered C18 OVA (by 12.03)

COOK, Rochford T384 VKE LDV

Convoy is in (by 12.03), as is R902

TCH Bova Futura ex O'Donnell, Belfast, N.I.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood

Registration 5281 RU is on a ?/Duple 320 with modified front (looks to have Van Hool parts) (by 11.03)

ENIGMA TRAVEL, Colchester A130

SNH (ex 5583 HA, A130 SNH) a

Mercedes 0303/Jonckhree and F321

SMD were in ex Tee-Jays, Wivenhoe (7.03). F321 SMD has now passed to Glew (see below)

EXCEL, Stansted Mercedes

Vario/Plaxton S548/54BNV were

short term loans from Dawson

Rentals - they are being prepared for return (12.03).

X802HNV MB Sprinter /? M16 is in (by 11.03).

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree C402 XFO

Bedford YNV/Plaxton is in (by 12.03) ex Perrett, Shipton Oliffe, Gloucs.

FORD, Althorne P899 FMO a Dennis

Javelin/Berkhof has been reregistered

P6 AWF (by 11.03). Dennis

Javelin/Plaxton J858 HHU has been reregistered A16 AWF (on 13.10.03).

(Note: registration A16AWF was previously on a family car)

GLEW, Colchester Bristol LHS/Plaxton WJI 2832 (ex GFM 663X) and Bedford YMQ/Plaxton XWM 279W have gone for scrap (by 12.03)

F321 SMD Mercedes Benz/Optare is in (12.03) ex Enigma Travel, Colchester

GOODWIN, Braintree Volvo/Berkhof

840 FAY (ex FHJ 841Y) has been rereg-

istered AKZ 3675 (by 12.03) (Note: registration AKZ 3675 was previously on a car.)

GRAHAMS, Kelvedon Scania/Irizar YN03 DDE has been named "Master Josh".

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford EF53 KBJ a Ford Transit is in (by 12.03) and is numbered 73. EU53 VLJ LDV Convoy is new (12.03)

HAILSTONE Basildon L732 FRX Mercedes Benz/Plaxton is in (by 11.03) ex Golden Boy, Hoddessdon and N387 VPB Mercedes Benz 312D is in (by 11.03) ex Advance, Hockley

JWS TRAVEL, Chadwell St.Mary E577 LNH Freight Rover 400 /Bradshaw is in (by 11.03) ex Phillips, South Woodham Ferrers.

PJI 3531 (D162 HML) Leyland Royal Tiger/Leyland is in (by 11.03) ex Lush, Hitchin, it had JWS names when seen 11.03, but now (12.03) has 'STB Travel' with JWS legal lettering.

LOCALLINK, Stansted ILL 4821 (ex XPD 229N) Leyland National Greenway is in (by 12.03) lettered for 38 Witham Town Service. (last reported with Pilkington, Accrington, Lancs.)

LOGDE, High Easter Former First Essex Toyota/Caetano M121/31 SKY have arrived (by 12.03) via RTF Commercials (dealer), Bocking. J6 FTG Toyota/Caetano has gone to Brown, Barway, Cambs. (by 12.03).

160 EBK (ex R307 PTF, WLT 852, R307 PTF) Mercedes Benz/ Autabus has gone to Stan's, Gt.Totham, Essex (by 12.03).

Mercedes Benz Touro demonstrator NX03 MVC was on loan during October; reports suggest that new vehicle deliveries will be of this type, rather than Scania's, that have been purchased for some years.

MAYHEM EVENTS, Abridge P803 NSC LDV Convoy - lettered 'Progressive



J W Lodge & Sons: As reported in EBN 477, a M.A.N./Optare was acquired via Ensign from Black Prince of Morley last year. Smartly painted in cream and powder blue, M73 WYG pulls out of Chelmsford Retail Market on the afternoon Villagelink 17 to Dunmow.

David Harman

Tours - SKOLA' and LDV 400 M615 DGH.

Both the above seen at Patch Park, Abridge (11.03) - they are assumed to belong to Mayhem Events, we do not know if they are licensed; it is possible that they are used on site as non-PSV. DGH passed through Chelmsford auction 3.00 and is thought to have been new to a school in East London. NSC may have come from SKOLA of Bawdsey, Suffolk.

MCINTYRE, Harlow Ford Transit M675 BLX seen 11.03 unmarked - assumed gone from McIntyre.

MEMORIES FOR TOMORROW, Stansted L192 MAU Mercedes Benz/Dormobile had Mem.f.Tom. disc, but 'Olympian Coaches' lettering when seen 11.03 (ex Nottingham 192).

MUI 5952 (ex L11 FTG) Bova Futura is in (by 11.03) ex P & E Coaches, Hartlepool.

N.C.S., Newport Renault Traffic 122 - M48 AVX is on a taxi plate (by 11.03). Sister 118 - M603 AVW was seen 11.03 but probably in ages ago.

NEW HORIZON TRAVEL, Alresford L64 TTS (ex JIW 6734, L540 XUT) Toyota/Caetano is in (12.03) ex Reliant, Heather, Leics.

OLYMPIAN COACHES, Harlow Recently acquired Iveco/Marshall M728 UTW is being used for spares (by 11.03), similar N739 AVW and M158 RBH are both unlicensed (11.03). Buses reports that Mercedes minibuses G96 ERP, G99 NBD, G111/18/20 PGT and Setra MJI 7857 (B267 XNK) are withdrawn. Acquired is ex Stort Valley Dennis Javelin/Plaxton P425 JDT.

P & M Shotgun, L571 GKO LDAF 400 is in (by 12.03) - last reported with Browne, Brabourne, Kent.

RED CAR, Debden BBM 56A (ex KBH 852V) and LAZ 4524 (ex SNM 73R) both Bedford/Plaxton are both parked (unlicensed) at Debden truck park (11.03). ONO 12V

Bedford/Plaxton is being scrapped at Debden truck park (11.03).

RONDA COACHES, Rochford C957 LVW Renault Master is parked at the owners address (1.04) - status unknown.

RYDERS TRAVEL, Harlow P970 ONC LDV Convoy had this operators disc but CJ Travel, Harlow legal lettering when seen 11.03.

DAF 400 L948 HBH LDAF 400 seen 11.03 unmarked - assumed gone from Ellingham.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow K805 DCF is a further MAN/Optare (by 11.03) ex Reading Buses 805. MCW Metrobus KYV 677X has passed to Decker Bus, South Mimms.

STERLING EUROPEAN, Southend According to a notice at 49-51 Hamlet Court Road (seen 2.1.04) this operator has ceased trading. The following were found in a locked yard in Stock Road, Southend (close to the original Supreme depot) on 2.1.04:-

RIL 8899 (ex ?????) Mercedes Benz/Autobus (coach built body - not van conversion) - plain white livery

Volvo/Alexander F118 PHM smartly painted red with 'Sterling European' fleetnames and fleet no. VA118

Scania/Irizar M256 TAK & M258 TAK both plain white

EO52 OZT LDV Convoy (not EU.... as we reported earlier - sorry about that) - plain white livery

C17 MEO (ex S602 VAY) MAN / Noge ex Shamrock, Pontypridd - still in 'Cameo' livery which it had from new with Coach Stop, Southend.

SUPREME, Southend Further news of MCW Metrobuses is that B269 WUL and C336 BUV have been acquired. Also in the yard are what are thought to be GYE 388W and A730 THV which are being used for spares. Former Manchester Metrobus SND 124X is now being used for spares (by 12.03). after a low-bridge accident at Kirby.



Talisman of Great Bromley: Olympian/ECW C667 LJR ex-Go North East. Seen at Showbus in September 2003, and amazingly no, it *isn't* raining!

Chris Stewart

TALISMAN, Great Bromley BJ03 JHL Setra S415 (demonstrator) was on loan for a few days around 10.11.03. A new Setra 415 is due shortly.

YNO 77S Leyland Atlantean/ECW O../..F, K633/4/40 GVX Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton are in ex Phoenix, Witham (collected 3.12.03) (K633GVX is fitted out as a support vehicle with table and cabinets.)

Leyland Atlantean XPG 184T and Dennis Dominator C721 NCD have not left this fleet, as previously reported.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Grays fleet nos. are 109 (L112HHV); 205 (H247LOM); 207 (C107CHM); 210 (SDX34R); 212 (H237LOM). Another Olympian/ECW C818 BYY has arrived, it replaces the only Leyland Titan OHV 757Y, both vehicles passing via Ensign (dealer).

TURNER, Wickham St.Paul Buses reports the arrival of G855 KKY a Mercedes Benz 609D/Whittaker from

Chambers, Bures.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Buses reports the arrival here of AVK 157V a Leyland Atlantean/Alexander.

WESTS COACHES, Buckhurst Hill An exciting arrival is open top AEC Regal/Beadle HKL 836, which after restoration work is expected to see some limited use.

WICKS, Braintree DAF/Jonckhree PIB 2344 (ex WRK 17X) has been reregistered to ?????? (by 12.03) and is withdrawn without number plates.

Bedford YNV/Plaxton C746 DVG (ex SLK 886, C185 CTA) has been reregistered PIB 2344 (by 12.03)

Buses reports that the operation of Ford coaches ended when XAR 554X was involved in an accident. The other two HFX 425V and RDH 587W were sold in 2003.

YELLOW LINE, Braintree T320 UEU a Mercedes Benz 310D is in (by 12.03) ex Saga, Folkestone, Kent

ESSEX - NON-PSV OPERATORS

BRADAMOUR TOURS, Westcliff-on-Sea T653 JVF LDV Convoy is in (by 11.03) (This vehicle passed through Chelmsford auction 6.03 and is thought to have been new to Contract Personnel of Norwich.)

JOBSEVE, Tiptree The following Essex Buses Mercedes Benz 709D/Reeve Burgess (H-reg.) or Plaxton (others) were purchased 11.03 (collected 28.11.03):- H380/96 OHK, J622 UTW, K643/6 GVX, L648/55 MEV

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION, Harlow P931 PBX Renault Master is in (by 11.03).

THE WAY / KIDS WAY D402 PWL Freight Rover Sherpa 400 is lettered as above with address Widford Hall, Chelmsford (by 11.03).

MISCELLANEOUS

EX52 KOV Ford Transit seen in Basildon (11.03) - has restricted disc, operator unknown.

AHG 331V Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs seen in use in Woodham Ferrers area 15.12.03 - operator unknown - last reported with Lancastrian Transport Trust, who then sold it to Stephenson, Rochford (dealer).

MCW Metrobus KYV 791X (last operated by Kingston, but latterly the property of Elite Engineering) has gone (12.03) - presumed for scrap.

MLH 455L Daimler fleetline/MCW lettered 'Good News' and parked at Debden truck park (11.03).

J695 RPJ LDAF 400 / LDAF seen 10.11.03 & 24.11.03 in car park outside Chelmsford auction - probably in the hands of a dealer. (New to W.Sussex Education Authority)

K606 YAN Ford Transit / Dormobile is a

mobile cafe - seen at Basildon (11.03).
CMN 411A (ex KYV 783X) MCW Metrobus seen (12.03) at Elite Engineering, Rettendon (for maintenance). It is thought to belong to a film company - I.o.M tax disc was issued 19.11.02 and had expired end 10.03.

JSF 775T Bedford YLQ / Duple Dominant II is parked at 265 Chelmsford Road, Shenfield (a residential property). It appears to be static. (New to Silver Fox, Edinburgh - unable to trace any subsequent owners)

J221 HNV LDAF 400 seen 2.1.04 parked in Southbourne Grove, Southend-on-Sea. It was lettered "Phyl Smith's Travel" and there was evidence of an 01604 (Northampton area) phone no. It was being used as a van.

L215 BPL Toyota/Caetano seen 12.12.03 at Valleys Associates, Basildon - may not belong to this operator.

LOW 8Y Mercedes Benz 508D is at Convoy Commercials (dealer), Rawreth (by 1.04)

London Borough of Havering

A report with photographs in the 'Romford Recorder' states that 14 vehicles were burnt out in a fire at the Whitworth Centre, Noak Hill Road, Harold Hill on 4.10.03. From the photographs it is clear that many (possibly all) of the vehicles were mini- and midi-buses. This site, which is in the London Borough of Havering (map ref. TQ531925), was obviously being used as an operating centre, although it seems that it has not been used since the fire. When visited 12.03 the compound was empty, although there was still evidence that there had been a fire.

Ian Ransom

*Thanks to Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold,
Arthur Nugent, PSV Circle, LOTS*

Phoenix Student Travel - disposals

<i>Note</i>		<i>Type</i>		<i>Disposal</i>	<i>Date</i>
	5000	H116 THE	Dennis Dart/Reeve Burgess	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5001	JTY 371X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, (dlr.), Purfleet.	07/03
	5002	JTY 382X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5003	JTY 382X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5004	JTY 400X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5005	XWY 478X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5006	SJR 616Y	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Shamrock, Newport, Mons., then to Alpine, Llandudno.	12/03
	5007	G29 TGW	Dennis Dart/Carlyle	Ensign, dlr. , Purtleet.	11/02
	5009	F237 CNY	Leyland Lynx	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5010	G434 FVX	Leyland Lynx	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5011	G283 DHF	Leyland Lynx	Ensign, dlr.), Purfleet..	07/03
	5012	F240 CNY	Leyland Lynx	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5014	F273 AWW	Leyland Lynx	Ensign, (dir.), Purtleet.	07/03
	5015	F74 DCW	Leyland Lynx	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
	5017	F114 SDW	Leyland Lynx	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
1	5050	K633 GVX	Mercedes 709D/Plaxton	Talisman, Gt. Bromley	12/03
	5051	K634 GVX	Mercedes 709D/Plaxton	Talisman, Gt. Bromley.	12/03
2		K640 GVX	Mercedes 709D/Plaxton	Talisman, Gt. Bromley.	12/03
	6000	C807 BYY	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
3	6001	C811 BYY	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, Rochford.	10/03
	6002	C62 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6003	C64 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6004	C82 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6005	C86 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6006	C42 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6007	C77 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6008	C94 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6009	C109 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6010	C110 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6011	C106 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6012	C26 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6014	C44 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ford, Althorne.	12/03
	6015	C81 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	10/03
	6016	C818 BYY	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, dlr , Purfleet.	12/03
	6017	C54 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, (dlr.), Purfleet.	12/03
	6018	C507 OTW	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, dlr , Purfleet.	12/03
4	6019	C108 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Stephenson, (Maldon)	12/03
		C104 CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, (dlr , Purf7eet.	12/03
5		C668 LJR	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign, (dlr , Purfleet.	12/03
6	7001	YNO 77S	Leyland Atlantean/ECW	Talisman, Gt.Bromley	12/03

Notes

- 1 Service van.
- 2 Unused and still in Eastern National livery.
- 3 Delicensed for some months.
- 4 Still in London red; unused.
- 5 Unpainted; in use.
- 6 Converted to open-top for Colchester Sightseeing Tour; red livery.

<i>Note</i>		<i>Type</i>	<i>Disposal</i>	<i>Date</i>
7	CBV 2S	Bristol VR/ECW	Mulleys, Ixworth.	12/03
8	F464 MCA	Volvo B10M/Plaxton	Ensign, (dlr), Purfleet.	12/03
9	C112 CAT	Dennis Dominator/East Lancs		
10	R259 LGH	Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties	Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03
			Shamrock, Newport, Mons.	12/03

Notes

- 7 Open-top; Phoenix livery.
- 8 White livery
- 9 Being upgraded with coach seating; not used in service.
- 10 Not used in service

Bristol VR CBV 2S was collected by Mulley on 3.12.03. Leyland Atlantean YNO77S and Mercedes K633/4/40GVX were all collected by Talisman, Gt.Bromley on 3.12.03. The following were collected on 3.12.03 by Shamrock: Leyland Olympian JTY 382/400X, SJR 616Y, Dennis Dominator C112 CAT, Leyland Lynx E114 SDW, F237/40 CNY, F74 DCW, G434 FVX (ex BMN 402T) (F240CNY was towed by a Shamrock recovery vehicle), Dennis Dart H116 THE. Olympian JTY 395X was towed away by Ensign (dealer) on 6.12.03. After removal of mechanical parts, it is expected to go for scrap.

It is reported that Stephenson's are only keeping nine vehicles for the seven routes now operated. The balance are up for sale. The Maldon yard has now been reduced in size. K640 GVX had only just arrived when the company ceased trading, and was auctioned off with 5050/1.

Richard Delahoy, Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston



Phoenix Olympian 5002, now with Shamrock, proceeds down Wash Road, Hutton, last year. *Chris Stewart*

Where are they now ?

Some catching-up to do! Latest locations of former Eastern National (EN), Thamesway (TW) and Essex Buses (EB) vehicles - Part 1. Part 2 next month.

28	G148GOL	Golding & Lawson (t/a Turners of Essex), Wickham St Paul. ex Page, Fobbing	by 02/03	TW
121	PIW3836	Campbells Coaches, Clydebank. ex Campbell, Clydebank.	03/03	EB
	[ex NYY148, M663ASL, XSV234, M384WET]			
245	F245MVW	First Manchester fleet No 1852. re-numbered 50154.	10/02	EB
246	F246MVW	First Manchester fleet No 1856. re-numbered 50157. Withdrawn.	10/02 10/02	EB
254	F254RHK	First Manchester fleet No 1857. re-numbered 50158.	10/02	EB
256	F256RHK	First Manchester fleet No 1853. re-numbered 50155.	10/02	EB
258	F258RHK	First Pioneer fleet No 1855. re-numbered 50156.	10/02	EB
305	H305LPU	PVS, Carlton (dlr for scrap). ex First Pioneer FLE3	12/02	TW
378	H389OHK	Erith Commericals, Crayford (dlr). ex First Eastern Counties fleet No 860.	01/03	EB
388	H388MAR	First Manchester fleet No 1862. re-numbered 50161.	10/02	EB
389	H389MAR	First Eastern Counties fleet No 968. Destroyed by fire. To Jordan, Coltishall (dlr for scrap).	03/03 03/03	EB
421	P701PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA201. re-numbered 50361.	05/03	EB
422	P702PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA202. re-numbered 50362.	05/03	EB
423	P703PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA203. re-numbered 50322.	05/03	EB
424	P704PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA204. re-numbered 50363.	05/03	EB
425	P705PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA205. re-numbered 50364.	05/03	EB
426	P706PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA206. re-numbered 50365.	05/03	EB
427	P707PWC	First Glasgow (no.2) fleet No MA207. re-numbered 50366.	05/03	EB
428	P708PWC	First Glasgow (no.1) fleet No MA208. re-numbered 50367.	05/03	EB
516	F771GNA	Fletcher, Malton.		
	[ex KCT986, F771GNA] re-reg DJZ6637.			
519	J48SNY	Moffat & Williamson, Gauldry. ex Watts (t/a TM Travel), Old Tupton. via Transbus, Anston (dlr).	09/02 07/02	EB EB
521	F613XWY	Jordan, Coltishall (dlr). ex First Eastern Counties fleet No 26.	07/03	TW

0600	B10TJW [ex C600NPU]	Halifax Bus, Halifax fleet No TJ10. re-reg - ? - . Scrapped.	by 01/03 by 01/03	EN
621	L671RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 201.	09/02	EB
622	L673RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 202.	09/02	EB
623	L675RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 203.	09/02	EB
624	L676RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 204.	09/02	EB
625	L678RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 205.	09/02	EB
626	L679RMD	First Aberdeen fleet No 206.	09/02	EB
701	N701CPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40869.	04/03	EB
702	P702HPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40871.	04/03	EB
703	P703HPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40879.	04/03	EB
704	P704HPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40878.	04/03	EB
706	P706HPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40876.	04/03	EB
707	P707HPU	First West Yorkshire Ltd fleet No 40877.	04/03	EB
711	P711HPU	First Western National fleet No 4510.	03/03	EB
722	R722HHK	Yorkshire Rider fleet No 3359. re-numbered 60934.	02/03	EB
723	R723HHK	Yorkshire Rider fleet No 3360. re-numbered 60935.	02/03	EB
724	R724HHK	Yorkshire Rider fleet No 3361. re-numbered 60936.	02/03	EB
725	R725HHK	Yorkshire Rider fleet No 3362. re-numbered 60937.	02/03	EB
726	R726HHK	Yorkshire Rider fleet No 3363. re-numbered 60938.	02/03	EB
800	F800RHK	First Western National fleet No 6382. gone.	by 04/03	EB
801	F801RHK	First Western National fleet No 6381. gone.	08/02	EB
802	F802RHK	First Western National fleet No 6386. gone.	by 04/03	EB
807	K807DJN	Porteous (t/a P & C Travel), Wigan. now C33F.	10/02	EB
903	K903CVW	Northampton Transport Ltd fleet No 693. ex Leicester fleet No 693.	08/03	EB
915	K915CVW	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 303.	07/03	EB
965	N965CPU	First Western National fleet No 4512.	03/03	EB
966	N966CPU	First Western National fleet No 4511.	03/03	EB
(1012)	ILI 98 [ex 9579 F]	Woodlawn Heritage Group, Galway (preservation). ex West of Ireland Steam Railway Association (preservation). To Bedford, Celbridge (preservation). [current at Cavan & Leitrim Railway, Dromod 01/03]	by 12/99 02/00	EN
1100	BHJ509S [ex UVX4S]	Spall, Dallinghoo (dlr for scrap). ex Arnold, Maldon (for spares).	01/04	EN
1111	HHJ372Y	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2221. ex First Southern National fleet No 2221.	06/03	EN
1120	HHJ381Y	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2225. ex First Southern National fleet No 2225.	06/03	EN
1121	HHJ382Y	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2226. ex First Southern National fleet No 2226.	06/03	EN
1122	A691OHJ	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2224. ex First Southern National fleet No 2224.	07/03	EN
1125	A694OHJ	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 7026. ex First Southern National fleet No 7026.	06/03	EN

1126	A695OHJ	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2223. ex First Southern National fleet No 2223. To Emblings, Guyhim.	07/03	EN
1127	UFX940	First Somerset & Avon fleet No 2227.	09/03	
	[ex A696OHJ]	ex First Southern National fleet No 2227.	06/03	EN
1130	C130HJN	Jordan, Coltishall (dlr). ex First Eastern Counties fleet No 19.	07/03	EB
1302	JIL7713	Smith, Erith.		
	[ex LLT343V]	gone.	by 01/03	EN
1309	ANA93Y	Ambassador, Great Yarmouth.by ex Alldritt, Rugeley.	04/03	EN
1550	M290FAE	First Beeline.	07/03	EB
1551	M291FAE	First Beeline.	07/03	EB
1602	SJI9333	Vals, Chase Terrace.	02/03	EN
	[ex B459WHJ]	ex Copeland, Brown Lees.		
1653	???????	Ludlows, Halesowen. gone.	08/01	EN
	[ex NAT222A, KCG610L]			
1901	DAR123T	Classic, Annfield Plain fleet No 723. ex Lothian Buses fleet No 110.	03/03	EN
1913	JHJ139V	Goodwin, Carlton (dlr). ex Hulley, Baslow fleet No 19. To West Kent Coach Sales (dlr). Then to Kent County Constabulary, Maidstone.	by 12/02 by 12/02 12/02	TW
1933	MHJ729V	Sheedy, Newport (dlr for scrap) ex Williams, Pontllanfraith fleet No 23.	01/03	EN
1936	MHJ732V	Sheedy, Newport (dlr for scrap) ex Williams, Pontllanfraith fleet No 20.	01/03	EN
1937	STW18W	Wheels, Nuneaton. ex Arriva Fox County fleet No 2152.	by 05/03	EN

Dave Arnold



Former Eastern National/Thamesway Mercedes minibuses are spread far and wide, but 385 (H385 OHK) only went as far as Basildon Travel. *Dave Arnold*

From the archives ...



A wintry scene in Braintree Bus Park with 1376 (TNO687), a 1952 Bristol KSW5G ready to work to Chelmsford on the 311. Date uncertain, but 1948 K5G, 1303 (NNO94) behind, was withdrawn (as 2223) in 1965. *Chris Stewart Collection*



Perhaps, ten or so years later, 3046 (NAG 586G) one of the three former Western SMT Bristol VR's acquired (via Eastern Counties) in 1973, heads for Braintree on route 70 (or is this in Braintree?). *Chris Stewart Collection*