

# **ESSEX BUS NEWS**

**No. 587  
MARCH  
2013**



**Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**  
**[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)**

## Front Cover

The first few of the First Essex fifteen brand new E20Ds hit the road this week

44543  
Victoria  
Road South  
9 Mar 2013

photo by  
Russell  
Young



above Ken Coldwell took this picture of Hedingham L340 Volvo D7RLR, YV3RGG in Osbourne St., Colchester on 15 February on trunk route 88 to Halstead.



above The first two of the five Wright Volvo B7RLEs went into service on 3 March on the rebranded Route 133 (SX Connect), 634 at the University of Essex on the first day, photo by Russell Young



# Essex Bus News

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Owen Woodliffe as above;  
*he also stocks a wide range of colour photos;  
Send SAE with your requirements*

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## Membership:

**We are sorry to have to report  
the recent death of members  
A Bartlett (Witham) and  
Terry Dendy (Ingatestone).**

from Richard Delahoy,  
Membership Secretary & Treasurer

### **Subscriptions**

A calendar year subscription is £21, renewable in January.

New members may join from any month, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses.

Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.80 per month.. For example, a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.80, i.e. £18.00.

Data Protection Act. Members' details are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to :

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### **Your reports and observations**

Members reports, quality photos, prints, slides or JPGs to about 5"x4" size and 300dpi resolution and original articles are always welcome.

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.

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

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

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# **Dates for Your Diary 2013 –by Owen Woodliffe**

## **SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS**

The March meeting is at Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane, Wickford – five minutes walk from Wickford Station and five minutes drive from A130 and A127. In Wickford Town Centre, turn right into Swan Lane from Runwell Road (pub is on corner) then turn right in about 100' – marked Wickford Tennis Club. This is an unmade road so beware of potholes. Go straight ahead towards tennis courts and left at end. The cricket club is in front of you. Doors open at 19.30 for informal chat with main talk or show from 20.00 to 21.45/22.00. A cash bar is available. Members and guests are welcome - £1.50 donation towards cost of room, please

**Monday 25 March.** AGM to be followed by Memories, Memories by Alan Osborne. **Note 1945 start.**

Meetings transfer to Freight House, Rochford for:

**Monday 29 April.** Malta – Then and Now. Illustrated talk on recent changes by Owen Woodliffe

**Monday 3 June.** Richard Delahoy continues 'My First Pictures' – colour slides of Southend Corporation Transport and Essex Independents in the early 1970's

**Monday 1 July.** speaker tba

Meetings resume at Wickford and dates for remainder of 2013 are expected to be **30 September, 28 October, 25 November, 18 December** - venues and dates subject to confirmation.

## **NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold**

Venue: downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 19.15 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 19.45 to 21.45 £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

**Friday 12 April.** Trolleybuses Around the Globe. Alan Osborne

**Friday 10 May.** 20years ago. Richard Delahoy

**Friday 14 June.** Paul Smith

Other dates: **12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.**

## **TOURS**

**Saturday 25 May:** 'The Norfolk Crusader'. Departing Colchester North Station at 08.30, we shall be visiting a selection of operators including Mulleys at Ixworth, Coach Services at Thetford, Konnectbus at Dereham and Simonds at Diss.

Our lunch stop will be in Dereham Town Centre (may we suggest you bring food with you) . Return to Colchester approx. 18.00.

To book, please send a cheque for £20. payable to E.B.E.G. Together with a SAE to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5BE

**Tuesday 18 June.** Mystery Tour using Talisman vehicle. Leave Colchester North Station at 19.00. £10

**Tuesday 30 July.** Visit to Lodge Coaches. Pick up Chelmsford Rail Station at 18.30. £10.

1900

## EVENTS

**Saturday 6 April.** South East Bus Festival, The Kent Showground, Detling. Leave Colchester North Station at 08.00. Fare £10. The Group Sales Stall is expected to be at this event.

**Saturday 13 April.** There may still be some seats available on the OS study tour of former Moore's routes; see EBN585p5 for details.

**Saturday/Sunday 20/21 April.** Colne Valley Railway Vintage Vehicle Weekend.

**Sunday 28 April.** 251 Running Day. Further details to follow.

**Sunday 19 May.** Great Yeldham Transport Museum Open Day.

**Sunday 2 June.** Clacton Bus Rally

Information is published in good faith and members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers, as the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.

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## MPU1 again!

Photo by 'J D Eades, from an Illustrated History of United Counties OC Ltd by Roger M Warwick'

The reference to Eastern Counties in the February issue was caused by a lack of concentration by your Editor!

Apologies.



Plate 56 *Biggleswade garage was the home of 723 - MPU1 a 1947 Bristol K5G with fifty-five seat ECW body. The use of the word 'RELIEF' in connection with the provision of a second vehicle on a service was very much favoured in the Eastern National area whilst the equivalent United Counties destination display was invariably 'DUPLICATE'. In this instance MPU1 is seen loading passengers at Hitchin, Bancroft.*

***heretothere* Volume 701**  
**Bus, Coach, School Bus**  
**Timetables for Greater Essex**  
**March 2013**

## **Essex Timetable** **Books**

### **- and the future of the Timetable Subscription Service**

by Richard Delahoy



Members will recall that Essex CC ceased publishing timetable books in 2011 and subsequently Here To There Publishing - run by Group member Suzy Scott - have filled the vacuum with their "Greater Essex" book. The second edition of that book is now available:

- Fully up-to-date to late February 2013
- Covers all of the current Essex County Council area, plus Southend-on-Sea and Thurrock Council areas
- Includes the most recent edition of the Essex CC map
- Includes all bus & coach services, ticketing listings, and much more!

It is available from H2T direct for £14.00 or in selected retail stores for £15.00. However, we have negotiated a special rate available to all EBEG members:

- Get one copy for £12.50 plus postage = £20.50
- or 2 copies for £25.00 plus postage = £36.60
- Missed the first one? Get one of each for £36.00, including the supplement to the first one (one or two sets per person).



This special offer is only available on line at [www.heretotherepublishing.com/ebnspecial](http://www.heretotherepublishing.com/ebnspecial) or by writing to H2T (quoting reference "ebnspecial");

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**Terms & Conditions** - two copies per person maximum (or two sets of old/new). Cannot be used with any other voucher or discounts, except for a H2T Credit Note. Only available by post or online - NOT valid when buying from a retail store. Old & New Combo will be sent together. Orders are processed in weekly batches (typically) then we send it onto the printer, who print-on-demand - so allow 7-14 days. If you don't have your book within 28 days of the date of your order, get in touch with us.

Cheques or Postal Orders payable to Here To There Publishing Ltd please.

With this new arrangement through Here To There, it is no longer necessary for the Group to continue to offer a timetable subscription service (which originally started because it was not possible to obtain the Essex CC timetable books by post). Hence we have discontinued that service and the few remaining subscribers have been contacted directly.



Paul Harvey  
took this  
ex  
Hedingham  
L244  
M988NAA  
Volvo B10  
Plaxton  
Premiere  
coach  
in Spalding  
Bus Station  
operating for  
Fowlers of  
Holbeach  
Drove in a  
snowy  
February.

## **Service Changes by Paul Harvey**

### **Centrebus**

|             |     |     |                                           |
|-------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------|
| 31 March 13 | 5   | Sat | South End to Harlow: service withdrawn.   |
|             | 354 | Sat | Buntingford to Harlow: service withdrawn. |

### **Ensign Bus**

|             |    |     |                                                                                                              |
|-------------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 March 13 | X1 | M-S | Lakeside to Basildon: two lightly used Mon-Fri evening journeys withdrawn and Sat service to operate hourly. |
|-------------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Go Ride**

|             |     |     |                                       |
|-------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------|
| 29 March 13 | 374 | D   | Basildon to Grays: service withdrawn. |
|             | 33  | Sun | Grays to Lakeside: service withdrawn  |

*It is understood that the Sunday operation on services 33 and 374 ceased a number of months ago.*

### **Hedingham Omnibuses**

|           |     |    |                                                          |
|-----------|-----|----|----------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Feb 13 | 176 | MO | East Mersea to Colchester Highwoods: service reinstated. |
|-----------|-----|----|----------------------------------------------------------|

### **Imperial Bus**

|             |     |     |                                 |
|-------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|
| 29 March 13 | 374 | M-S | Basildon to Grays: new service. |
|-------------|-----|-----|---------------------------------|

### **Logic Bus**

|            |   |     |                                                                                                                                             |
|------------|---|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 April 13 | 1 | M-S | Harlow to Sumners Circular: revised Saturday timetable with introduction of additional journey at 1911 from Harlow Station on Mons to Fris. |
|------------|---|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **National Express**

|             |     |   |                                                  |
|-------------|-----|---|--------------------------------------------------|
| 18 March 13 | 727 | D | Norwich to Brighton: revised to serve Cambridge. |
|             | 797 | D | Cambridge to Brighton: service withdrawn.        |

### **New Horizon Travel**

|             |    |     |                                                                                                              |
|-------------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 18 March 13 | 14 | M-F | Walton to Frinton: revision to route and timetable to operate from Frinton to Clacton (updated information). |
|-------------|----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Roadrunner**

|            |     |     |                                                                                     |
|------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 April 13 | 351 | M-S | Stansted Airport to Hertford: revised to operate Bishop Stortford to Hertford only. |
|------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

### **Stephensons**

|           |      |     |                                                    |
|-----------|------|-----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 18 Feb 13 | 1    | Th  | Sudbury to Ashen: new service.                     |
|           | 10   | Wed | Braintree to Cornish Hall End: new service.        |
| 25 Feb 13 | 51   | Sch | Great Dunmow to Newport: revised timetable.        |
|           | 52/3 | Sch | Wimbish to Newport: revised timetable.             |
|           | 91   | Sch | Saffron Walden to Hempstead: revised timetable.    |
|           | 94   | Sch | Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden: revised timetable. |

### **TGM (Network Colchester)**

|            |      |     |                                                                                                                                                    |
|------------|------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 3 March 13 | 1/1A | M-S | Shrub End to Greenstead: revised timetable.                                                                                                        |
|            | 2/2C | D   | Highwoods to Horkesley Heath/Boxted: revised route and timetable. Service extended to Severalls Park and Gavin Way.                                |
|            | 8/8C | D   | Monkwick to Highwoods: revised route and timetable. All journeys renumbered 8. Service withdrawn from Gavin Way and to operate via Severalls Lane. |



|                             |     |       |                                                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------|-----|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>TGM(N CR)</b><br>(cont.) | 133 | D     | Stansted Airport to Colchester Univ of Essex:<br>revised timetable and route in Colchester.                       |
|                             | 602 | Sch   | Colchester to Highwoods: minor change with<br>afternoon journey extended to Horkesley Heath.                      |
| 15 April 13                 | 115 | Sch   | Weeley to Tendring College: minor change to<br>route.                                                             |
| <b>Travel With Hunny</b>    |     |       |                                                                                                                   |
| 25 Feb 13                   | 269 | M-S   | Brentwood to Grays: minor timetable change to<br>the 0724 school journey from Grays which will<br>depart at 0710. |
| 31 March 13                 | X5  | Sat   | Harlow to Romford: service withdrawn.                                                                             |
| <b>Uno</b>                  |     |       |                                                                                                                   |
| 31 March 13                 | 5   | Sat   | South End to Harlow: new service.                                                                                 |
|                             | 354 | Sat   | Buntingford to Harlow: new service.                                                                               |
| <b>Whippet Coaches</b>      |     |       |                                                                                                                   |
| 31 March 13                 | E   | TThFS | Cambridge to Clacton: revised timetable.                                                                          |
|                             | F   | Fri   | Newmarket to Southend: revised timetable.                                                                         |

*(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council, Richard Delahoy & Harlowride)*



John Salmon "caught" Hedingham 393 Volvo B10BLE Wright Renown laying over in the bus layby opposite his home after working early morning 16 service from Wethersfield to Chelmsford on 13th February.

## New Vehicles/On Loan

Wright StreetLite 47401 (officially new in January) entered service on 12th February with First Essex legal lettering. Unladen weight is 8076kg. It has a 4 cylinder Cummins engine and Voith gearbox.

The first of the Volvo 7900H hybrids arrived (unregistered) at Basildon on 3rd March with five being noted there the following day. Some others were taken straight from the ferry at Harwich to First London's Dagenham depot, the five from Basildon also joining these within a few days. Some 'green' logos will be added before they enter service on service 100 later in March.

The first of the ADL Dart/Enviro 200s have also arrived and started entering service from 6th March. Seen so far are 44537-41-3/6 (YX13 AEF, AHN/O/P/U/V/Z, AKJ), all with 'Chelmsford City' fleetnames on the side panels. Seating is B39F+37 and unladen weight is 7535kg.

## Acquired vehicles (all February 2013, except \* January)

|        |          |                  |              |       |                   |
|--------|----------|------------------|--------------|-------|-------------------|
| 33044* | LN51 DVH | Ds Trident 21797 | Plaxton 7585 | 11/01 | Centrewest TN1044 |
| 33077  | LN51 GNF | Ds Trident 21847 | Plaxton 7618 | 12/01 | F-Capital TNL1077 |
| 33078  | LN51 GNJ | Ds Trident 21831 | Plaxton 7619 | 12/01 | F-Capital TNL1078 |
| 33086  | LN51 GMG | Ds Trident 21862 | Plaxton 7627 | 1/02  | F-Capital TNL1086 |
| 33178  | LR02 LYX | Ds Trident 22315 | Plaxton 7906 | 8/02  | Centrewest TN1178 |
| 33184  | LR02 LZD | Ds Trident 22327 | Plaxton 7912 | 8/02  | Centrewest TN1184 |
| 33186  | LT52 WVB | Ds Trident 22345 | Plaxton 7914 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1186 |
| 33188  | LT52 WVD | Ds Trident 22353 | Plaxton 7916 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1188 |
| 33190  | LT52 XAA | Ds Trident 22337 | Plaxton 7918 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1190 |
| 33192  | LT52 XAC | Ds Trident 22356 | Plaxton 7920 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1192 |
| 33194  | LT52 XAE | Ds Trident 22355 | Plaxton 7922 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1194 |
| 33195  | LT52 XAF | Ds Trident 22348 | Plaxton 7923 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1195 |
| 33196  | LT52 XAG | Ds Trident 22354 | Plaxton 7924 | 9/02  | Centrewest TN1196 |

33044/178/84/6/8/90/2/4-6 have chassis prefix SFD136BR22GX

33077/8/86 have chassis prefix SFD322BR12GX

## Allocation changes

Period 11: 27th January to 23rd February 2013

*These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.*

FG=to/from another First Group company (change of legal ownership);

RES=reserve; Sh=shuttle bus (non PCV)

The following traditional depot codes are used in EBN, although they no longer appear on the company's listings:

BN-Basildon; BE-Braintree; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; DT-Harwich;

HH-Hadleigh; (D)-Disposal



30900 BE-FG; 30901 BE-FG; 33077 FG-BN; 33078 FG-BE; 33086 FG-BE; 33178 FG-BN;  
33184 FG-BE; 33186 FG-BE; 33188 FG-BN; 33190 FG-BE; 33192 FG-BN; 33194 FG-BN;  
33195 FG-BE; 33196 FG-BN; 34610 BN-sold; 40737 CF-sold; 40777 HH-sold;  
41235 BN-sold; 65671 BN-CF

### **Disposals**

30900/1 to First Eastern Counties Ltd

34610, 40737/77, 41235 to Alpha Recovery Ltd, Northumberland (scrap)

### **Repaints**

20802 to new Aircoach livery



Wright StreetLite evaluation vehicle 47401 entered service at Colchester on 12th February, and is seen here on Saturday 23rd February loading in Osborne Street on the ECC contracted service to Tollesbury. (Kevin Smith)

### **Area News - workings and sightings**

Route branding indicated [thus]

#### ***Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)***

During the last week of January, Volvo B7 CR32481 was in use from Harwich.

DT44517/9 were back in service but DT44518 was out of use.

DT42937 has been noted working from Clacton.



**Colchester (CR)**

FEC 43488 (R688 DPW) has been on loan to CR, working the 61/62 on 27th February, 65 on 28th, the 88 on 1st March and all day on 64s on 6th March. Volvo B7RLE/Wright 66976 (KX05 MGZ) arrived from Worcester on 6th March and was used that day on service 8E, with 66972/7/9 also reported and more expected.

**January**

12th StreetLite CR47401 first in service (175 to Fingringhoe)  
16th CR47401 first used on 71A/71C (16.10 and 19.05 ex Colchester)  
21st CR34307 on 61/62  
23rd CR47401 first used on 88 (17.40 to Halstead)  
24th CR47401 first used on 92 (Tollesbury)  
26th CR60758 on 71A

**Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)**

Mercedes 12000 has been used predominantly on the 71 and 351 but was noted working the 132 on 27th February. CF42919 moved to FEC at Yarmouth on 7th March, part of a cascade prompted by new arrivals at CF. BE43473 was noted at Yarmouth for MOT on 19th February.

**February**

8th BE33184 on 125  
12th CF42443 on 42, CF42936 on 42A  
14th BE33186 on 70  
16th CF66796 on 351  
19th CR34305, CF43460, CF43483, CF66808 & CF69434 on 71/71A  
21st BE33088 on service 30 all day (very unusual double deck working),  
BE33195 on 70  
21/22 BE33044/78/86-8/186/8/90 all noted on 70  
23rd CF34284 on 42, CF65032 on 351  
27th CF65030 on H3 28th BE33190 on 70

**March**

6th CF44540 on 54/56, CF44546 on H3 (first sightings on new E200s in service)  
7th CF44537-40 all on 45, CF44543 on 42 and CF44546 on 54/56; CF46158 on 42A & 51, CF69434 on 31/31X, CF65032 on 71X then 36  
8th CF34284 on 71

**Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)**

Rail replacement work 3rd March (Newbury Park-Shenfield-Wickford):  
BN32864, HH32905, BN33077, HH33081, HH33133/4

**February**

13th BN34011 and BN34310 on schools, BN33077 and BN34314 on 25  
16th BN32859/64/83, BN33077 & BN33196 all on 25  
18th BN34011 on daytime 551 (half term)  
22nd HH32887 on 27

23rd BN33178 on 25, BN41524 on 21; BN41523/42, BN65628/36 & BN65667/76/91 on 100  
26th BN31456 on 25 (also 27th/28th), BN60864 on 100  
28th BN34310 on schools

### March

1st BN43448 on 73 (and 4th/5th), BN60863 on 551  
2nd BN33194 on 25  
4th BN34310 on a.m. schools 512, BN34011 on a.m. 502, BN33184/92 & BN34015 on 25  
5th BN31456 on 25, BN41541 on 200, BN43848 on 100

### Other News

With reference to EBN586, Trident 32886 remains at HH and was not part of the fleet transferred from Redditch to Rotala. HH retain 32883/6/7 and 32905 from their original allocation of Tridents.

**Sources:** Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to S Austin, A Bird, N Clark, T Clark, F406LTW, A Kelleher, J Long, D Pretty, I Ransom, P Robinson, 'Solo', R West, the Essex, East Anglia and British Buses in North America yahoo! groups, Essex Buses Google group, [www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk](http://www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk), Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail to [shenfield252@gmail.com](mailto:shenfield252@gmail.com) or by conventional post.



above left



above right

53103 Former Essex Solo has been on the move again, leaving Bradford for *First Hampshire & Dorset* at Yeovil in June 2012. It moved again to *First Somerset & Avon* at Weston-super-Mare in November 2012, being photographed there on 21st February. (Allan MacFarlane)

Hybrids; A glimpse of things to come...two of the new Volvo 7900H hybrids at Basildon depot on 4th March, as yet unregistered. (Nigel Clark)

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The picture of VR on old route 20 shown on page 20 of EBN586 was taken in Loughton by John Rugg on 21 August 1989. Apologies to John for failing to give him the appropriate credit.

## Arriva Southend notes by Peter Mansbridge

The 16 new Versas for service 1 are to be numbered 4245 -60. As of 8<sup>th</sup> March all except 4259 had been delivered to Short Street. Registration details are:

|                |                |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|
| 4245 - KX13AUM | 4246 - KX13AUN | 4247 - KX13AUO | 4248 - KX13AUP |
| 4249 - KX13AUR | 4250 - KX13AUT | 4251 - KX13AUU | 4252 - KX13AUV |
| 4253 - KX13AUW | 4254 - KX13AUY | 4255 - KX13AVB | 4256 - KX13AVC |
| 4257 - KX13AVD | 4258 - KX13AVE | 4259 - KX13AVF | 4260 - KX13AVG |

They are the stretched 11.7m B44F version and are Cummins engined. The original 2011 batch of Versas used on service 9 are 11.1 m versions with Mercedes engines.

For the record a number of the new Versas were delivered with '62' plates, which have subsequently been voided as follows:

|                           |                           |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 4245 Delivered as KX62JZU | 4246 Delivered as KX62JBO |
| 4247 Delivered as KX62JBU | 4248 Delivered as KX62JFO |
| 4249 Delivered as KX62JHA | 4250 Delivered as KX62JHJ |
| 4251 Delivered as KX62JJF | 4254 Delivered as KX62JNO |

DAF Cadet 3505 now carries a full rear advertisement for Southend Borough Council.

The M&D and East Kent Club "Invicta" reports that Dart MPD 1608 (GN0Y UCY) has been transferred to Northfleet and not Maidstone as reported in EBN586.

*With thanks to Richard Delahoy, David Harman and Essex Buses Yahoo Group.*

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**John G. Lidstone** has been very thoroughly photographing Southend's new Versas – just a few of these are shown elsewhere in this edition.

You are encouraged to have a look at his 2013 Optare Versas gallery - see <http://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157632771327662/with/8477678598/>

See also his new 'Southend Buses Update' Flickr set, which will be updated daily with any new things around Southend. He is building this and already I has 1<sup>st</sup> Jan – 18<sup>th</sup> Feb uploaded, so this will then be up to date (probably more when you read this!). This is will a useful update of new/changed/outgoing stuff in Southend. The Southend Buses Update set is at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157632851543844/>





New Versa 4257 on its delivery run in Victoria Avenue on the afternoon of 27 Feb looking superb. John G Lidstone.

## **TGM Essex; Network Colchester by Peter Mansbridge**

Fleetnumbers for the 5 ex Arriva Southern Counties 'Fastrack' Volvo B7RLE / Wright are: GN07AVD – 631, GN07AVE – 632, GN07AVF – 633, GN07AVO – 634, GN07AVP – 635

The vehicles have been painted into a new service 133 livery, branded as 'sxconnect' and entered service from Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March. 631-3 have transferred direct from Fastrack duties at Arriva Kent Thameside. 634/5 had latterly been at Arriva Medway Towns in Arriva Corporate Livery. (See pic inner front cover). Dennis Trident/East Lancs 381/2 (T405 /6 SMV) are due to transfer to Arriva Medway Towns at Gillingham. It is reported that 382 left Colchester on 21<sup>st</sup> February.

Transbus Dart SLF SN54 HXC has transferred in from TGM Stansted. Correcting the renumbering information provided in EBN 584, Dennis Trident/ Alexander KN52 NDX is renumbered 450, KN52 NCD is renumbered 451, and KN52 NEF is renumbered 452.

*With thanks to Richard Delahoy, David Harman, Keith Sadler*

# Ensignbus

## ENSIGN FLEET - February 2013; by Mark Lloyd

### Vehicles withdrawn:

706 X926CNO DAF SB120 Wright B39F To Acme Bus Co, Takeley.

706 was originally 01-D-4785 with Bus Eireann in Ireland and joined them as DWR1.

### General.

Ensign are withdrawing the Basildon flyer service number X1, operating between Lakeside Bus Station and Basildon Bus Station cancellation effective from 19 April 2013.

Roadworks on the A13 have reportedly caused major delays on the service.

Ross Newman quoting "20 minute delays every day both ways 0900-1530. Often service 100 beats the X1. The roadworks are due to last up to another 2 years".

*With thanks to Ross Newman.*

## Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements: February 2013 by Mark Lloyd.

### VEHICLES IN

|                       |                                                                               |                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Beestons Coaches      | FJ08FYN                                                                       | Volvo B9TL Wright Gemini ex<br>First Manx 37562                                                                                |
| Dublin Bus            | 00-D-40054-6/58                                                               | Volvo B7TL's                                                                                                                   |
| Go Ahead Chambers     | S218YOO                                                                       | Olympian Alexander ex RV417                                                                                                    |
| Go-Ahead London       | BX04BXP<br>FJ54ZDU/X/Y/Z<br>FJ54ZTW/X/Y/ZUC<br>DWL14/20/3-5/8-30/3            | VDLSB120's Wright ex                                                                                                           |
| Metroline             | LN51KXR/V/W<br>LR02BAO<br>X642/6/56/9/61/2LLX<br>Y172/6NLK<br>Darts RX51FNS/Y | Trident ex TPL238/42/43<br>Tridents ex TPL271<br>Volvo B7TL ex VPL142 etc<br>Volvo B7TL ex VPL 172/6<br>Dart SLF ex DP1002/6/5 |
| Premier Travel        | FJ58YSC/KX57BWF                                                               | Enviro 200's                                                                                                                   |
| Stagecoach Chester    | C814BYY D251FYM                                                               | Olympians ECW ex<br>39932/39939                                                                                                |
| Stagecoach E Scotland | CCZ5837                                                                       | Volvo B10M Jonckheere Mistral<br>ex 52672                                                                                      |
| Stagecoach South      | Y113LTF<br>RK51XXL<br>W963JNF<br>X972VAP                                      | Merc 814's Plaxton Beaver<br>All ex Buzz Fleet 40/42/38<br><br>Dart SLF ex 33072                                               |

|                             |               |                                                     |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| Tom City Sightseeing Oxford | MUI 7851 / 53 | Olympians Alexander RH Open top                     |
| Travelsure                  | MX56HYN       | Dart MPD Alexander Dennis                           |
| TWH                         | A823SUL       | Titan                                               |
|                             | RM1843        | (Repatriated from Missouri, USA:<br>Leyland engine) |

## **VEHICLES OUT**

|                                      |                 |                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Alpine Coaches, Llandudno            | P566MSX/R453MSL | Volvo B10M's Plax Prem<br>ex 52366/52433                                                       |
| Axe Valley, Seaton, Devon            | V757HBY         | Trident ex TP57 Metroline                                                                      |
| Beestons Coaches, Suffolk            | X179CHJ         | Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40014                                                                      |
| City Sightseeing Oxford              | LY02OAE/OBK     | Tridents ALX400 ex SC<br>17539/58                                                              |
| Classic Bus North West,<br>Blackpool | Y652NLO         | Dart SLF ex Metroline DLD182                                                                   |
| GHA Group, Wrexham                   | W465/71WGH      | Volvo B7TL's ex Go Ahead<br>London PVL65/71                                                    |
|                                      | YJ06FYA         | Solo ex Meteor Parking                                                                         |
| Helms Coaches, Liverpool             | X947CNO         | Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40016                                                                      |
| Holloways Coaches,<br>Scunthorpe     | X648/54/63LLX   | Volvo B7TL's ex<br>Metroline VPL 148/54/63                                                     |
| New Adventure Travel,<br>Cardiff     | R63GNW          | DAF SB3000 Ikarus ex SBL<br>7227                                                               |
|                                      | CCZ5387         | Volvo B10M Jonckheere ex SC<br>E Scotland                                                      |
| New Horizon, Frating, Essex          | Y661/3NLO       | Dart SLF ex DLD161/3                                                                           |
|                                      | RX51FNS/V/W     | Dart SLF ex DP1002/6/<br>(one written off on delivery due to accident on<br>A12 at Colchester) |
| Nottingham Minibuses                 | Y251/348FJN     | Dart SLF ALX200 ex SC<br>34251/245                                                             |
| Peoplesbus, Liverpool                | Y464/72NHK      | Trident ALX 400 ex SC 17464/72                                                                 |
| Red Route Buses, Northfleet          | X178CHJ         | Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40015                                                                      |
| RoadRunner, Harlow                   | Y653/664NLO     | Dart SLF ex DLD183/164                                                                         |
| Metroline                            | Y244/48/52FJN   | Dart SLF ALX200 ex SC<br>34244/8/52                                                            |
| Warrington Coachways, Preston        | S218YOO         | Olympian Alexander ex Go<br>Ahead Chambers                                                     |
|                                      | W963JNF         | Merc 814 Plaxton Beaver ex<br>Buzz Fleet                                                       |



## **VEHICLES OUT. (cont)**

Whippet Coaches, X636/8LLX

Volvo B7TL's Ex

Fenstanton, Cambs

Metroliner VPL 136/8

## **OTHER MOVEMENTS:**

Trident T128KLD : Ones and Twos Locations, Royston, Cambs.

Dart X229WNO : Qualiti Conversions, Southampton.

Bova SIL9638 Volvo

B10M G392GJT : Martin Mapfeka, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Olympian MUI7851 : Kays Travel and Tours, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Javelin R126XWF : Masimba Garaba, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Volvo B7TL SK52MSO : Millar Travel, Dublin.

RML2290: Truro, Falmouth and District, Truro. *With thanks to Ross Newman.*

## **Cedric's – Update; by Mark LLoyd.**

R550LGH had roof damage caused by accident ex GANE Olympian NC Ex 3901, now withdrawn.

R257LGH GANE Olympian NC Ex 3899 has replaced R550LGH.

No 16 Toyota Caetano Optimo minicoach P960DNR is (w).

H548GKX & K816HNV are also (w) and being used for spares.

Only one Optare Spectra from the 4 purchased from W&D left is M133 HPR.

## **Hedingham**

**Withdrawn Vehicles:-** Both departed the fleet week ending 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013.

L148 WPH135Y Leyland Tiger East Lancs 2000 B55F To Nash dealer

L208 L208RNO Volvo B6 Alexander Dash B40F To Nash dealer

This was the last Volvo B6 to be withdrawn from the fleet. Please refer to the separate article on the Hedingham B6 history.

## **Route Changes:-**

Services 1 & 10 withdrawn by Hedingham have been re-issued to tender and will be run by Stephenson's to existing timetables from 18/2/13.

Service 176 has been retained by Hedingham under tender to ECC.

Services 14 and 129 ceased after 17/2/13 without replacement.

See previous EBN for service details.

Contrary to previous report 34/A has no Kelvedon duties.

Weekday allocation on 83/A still HD.

## **Allocations:-**

L210 M210VEV TY - HD

L241 N241EWC CN – SY (See Chambers notes below)

L328 EU03BZK HD – CN (correction to error in previous EBN)

L366 S127RLE HD – SY

L398 T802RFG CN – HD L407 X509WRG HD - TY



Hedingham L340, a Volvo B7RLR, YV3 R6G is seen here in Osborne Street, Colchester on 15.02.2013 on the trunk 88 route to Halstead. Ken Coldwell.

### **Hedingham (cont), General:-**

L148 entered the fleet in the summer of 1988 with an ECW B51 coach body C53F, ex Kentish Bus dating from 1982. Similar vehicles were employed at the time on express services out of Colchester by Chartercoach WPH131/2/3Y which could regularly be seen on the 084 service Clacton - London. The B51 coach bodies had originally been designed to re-body refurbished Bristol RE chassis. This fact proved, in a relatively shortish period, to be its undoing as the RE's chassis went virtually to the back of the body thereby providing support for the body behind the rear axle, but Leopards and later Tigers being mid engined didn't, causing severe structural failure. Many ex TL batch Tigers went on to have their ECW coach bodies removed and replaced by those of other manufacturers, mainly East Lancs.

To prolong the life of their purchase and to create a modern looking heavyweight service saloon the chassis was rebodied with a new East Lancs EL2000 body in late 1993. It is in this guise that the vehicle lasted nearly 20 years in the fleet, surviving a vehicle cull after the loss of schools contracts at Sudbury in late 2011, the vehicle was transferred to Tollesbury to provide further schools transport. In its heyday the Tiger performed the majority of the 84 Sudbury – Colchester service when taken over from Norfolks. The loss of the Tiger and the withdrawal of L84 for preservation from the fleet this year has seen the demise of the Leyland saloon from the fleet. Of course the marque is still represented by several late Leyland Olympians still in the fleet.



# **CHAMBERS** by Mark Lloyd

## **Acquired Vehicles:-**

W956WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex London General PVL56  
W957WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex Longon General PVL57  
W491WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex London General PVL91  
W519WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex London Gen'al PVL119  
W517WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex London Gen'al PVL117  
W428WGH Volvo B7TL Plaxton President H45/25F Ex London Gen'al PVL128

W517/519/956 have arrived at Sudbury repainted in a revised livery with red at the rear, white and deep maroon colour at the front, a copy of the Plymouth Citybus livery worn by cascaded President B7TL's there. The others were delivered at some point but have been returned for re-work. All have all round LED destination equipment and have been converted from two doors to single door layout. The original layout would have had the rear doors just ahead of the rear wheels, these vehicles obviously having a centre forward facing staircase.

The doors have been replaced with a second deep window on the nearside, making a slightly strange eye line view. The single piece upper deck front windscreen has been protected by the addition of extra tree defenders compared to when in daily use in London.

The buses have had a delayed entry into service due to teething problems with the refurbishments. W428WGH and W491WGH being initially delivered in January but having to return to the supplier for re-work.

## **Transferred Vehicles:-**

L241 N241EWC Dennis Dart Plaxton Pointer B35F wears Chambers names.  
L366 S127RLE Volvo Olympian Alexander H72F transferred back to SY.  
L241 has been transferred to SY and now wears Chambers fleet names and has LED destination equipment fitted. Transfer due to withdrawal of Alexander Dash bodied Dart see below.

## **Withdrawn vehicles:-**

P488MBY Volvo Olympian Alexander H43/29F Originally Metroliner AV8  
N465PAP Dennis Dart Alexander Dash B40F Originally Sussex Coastline  
S218YOO Volvo Olympian Alexander H78F Originally Dublin bus  
S218YOO passed to Ensign w/e 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2013 and is now with Warrington Coachways.

*With thanks to Dave Arnold, Paul Clarke, & Essex-Buses yahoo group.*





A trio of Chambers Volvo Olympians at Sudbury bus station on 15.02.2013 enjoying the winter sun before setting forth for Colchester and Bury St Edmunds. The two outer vehicles are ex Dublin Bus with Alexander RH bodies (R431 LHK) and (R989 KAR), the middle one (R549 WGT) is a Northern Counties example. Ken Coldwell.

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## **Jackson – Bicknacre** by Roger A Smith

Daf/Van Hoon C49FT reg AY53KRO has been recently acquired. Previously with Galloway, Mendlesham, Suffolk.

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## **Editor's note.**

I regret having to delay several interesting articles until a future issue. Chairman Chris Stewart has some more information and photos on Moore's, Paul Creighton has written a fantastic piece on Atlanteans in use for non-PSV work. Outer rear cover pictures are from his article, just to give a taste of things to come. **Top,** *"Thurrock Marching Brass' LYF 310D shows its cheerful livery of lemon yellow, Royal blue and white to good effect; sister LYF 311D wore a similar scheme."*

**Bottom,** *"Seen in 1990 in its guise as the Poddington Peas Road Show is GBF 279N: its very colourful livery had a yellow and blue background and red lettering."*

Both photo's Paul Creighton.

## **Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher**

### **Vehicle on Loan**

The Olympian on hire from Panther (see EBN 586) was BIG 7596. It was returned to Panther on February 23<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Services**

Routes 2, 6 and R3 (see EBN 582) were withdrawn after March 1<sup>st</sup>.

### **Workings and Observations**

#### **March**

8<sup>th</sup> - 614 on 261 (still in as acquired livery)

7<sup>th</sup> - 602 on 52

6<sup>th</sup> - 801 on 565 (and again on 8<sup>th</sup>)

5<sup>th</sup> - 611 on 565

4<sup>th</sup> - 1206 on 553 (first observation of an Olympian on the 552 or 553). This bus now has a maroon nearside panel beneath the front windscreen, the rest of the vehicle remains in Preston cream and two tone blue livery. PO2 on 565.

3<sup>rd</sup> - 1301 and 1302 on Greater Anglia Rail Replacement (1301 Shenfield to Newbury Park, 1302 Ingatestone to Shenfield)

1<sup>st</sup> - 515 on 261 (replacing 608 which was receiving attention in Brentwood High Street)

#### **February**

28<sup>th</sup> - PO1 on 565 (and again on March 1<sup>st</sup>)

27<sup>th</sup> - 604 on 3

26<sup>th</sup> - 103 on Brentwood County High School service (with 390 on blind), 204 on 552, 511 on 565

23<sup>rd</sup> - 605 on 1

22<sup>nd</sup> - 1303 on 3

20<sup>th</sup> - PO2 on 261

19<sup>th</sup> - 103 and 604 on 261

18<sup>th</sup> - 613 on 261 (and again on 23<sup>rd</sup>, still in as acquired livery), 1301 on 3

17<sup>th</sup> - 201 on 88, 801 on 71C

16<sup>th</sup> - 611 on 261

15<sup>th</sup> - 206 and 511 on 261, 1301 on 261 (first observation of a double decker on the route)

14<sup>th</sup> - 1206 on 5 (and again on 21<sup>st</sup>) - Thursday only one journey East Hanningfield to Maldon and return, Panther's BIG 7596 on 3 (afternoon only)

13<sup>th</sup> - 1206 on 3

12<sup>th</sup> - 206 on 31A, 511 on 7, 604 on 3

11<sup>th</sup> - 210 on 261, 611 on Braintree Freeport

6<sup>th</sup> - 1204 on 3 (and again 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>)

*With thanks to 529, Terry Clark, Chris Hatley, John Podgorski, Kevin Smith, Chris Stewart and Owen Woodliffe.*





Cummins-engined Leyland Olympian BIG 7596 (F639 LMJ) has been on loan to Regal, seen here on 15 February, the Chelmsford-Southend service 3 in Central Southend yesterday; very smart already, it's to gain polished wheeltrims and Panther Travel fleet names soon when back off loan, new to Luton & District. John G Lidstone.



A real excitement for Southend bus fans was the reappearance of the former Arriva 5403, Southend all-Leyland Olympian 263 (H263 GEV), now with Regal Busways, on Chelmsford - Southend service 3 in February, still with Arriva 'sold bus' red paint daubed all around it. The offside still has an Arriva fleetname, formerly concealed beneath an advert within advert framing. John G Lidstone.



## **Harlow Operators by Adam Kelleher**

### **Travel With Hunny / RoadRunner (inc. Olympus) / SM Coaches**

It is confirmed that Travel With Hunny's proprietor Chris Hunn is now Operations Manager with RoadRunner (see EBN 586). TWH remains as a separate company for the time being. However, evidence of potential integration between the two companies was the appearance of Dart P301 AYJ of Olympus operating the X5 to Romford on Saturday March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Ex Go Ahead North East Dart V434 KGF, which was on loan to TWH from Ensign in September and October last year (see EBN 582), and noted in Brentwood, operating schools route 489, on January 18<sup>th</sup>, still in Go Ahead red and light blue livery but with NIBS fleet names (see EBN 586) has had a full repaint into NIBS livery, first seen on March 4<sup>th</sup>.

SM Coaches Dart / Plaxton R485 LGH has passed to RoadRunner. It was seen on route C3 on February 24<sup>th</sup> still with SM fleet names.

Other observations on March 2<sup>nd</sup>.

SM Coaches - V193ERG & LX51FHH on 524, Y351FJN on 20, P741RYL on T15. RoadRunner (inc. Olympus) / TWH - LX51 FGO on 255, V194 ERG, Y907 TGH and Y653NLO on C3, V669 NLO, Y244 FJN and Y237 NLK on 511, V199 ERG, Y662 NLO and Y672 NLO on R1, KU52 RYM on 555.

### **Logic Bus**

Observations March 2<sup>nd</sup>: RX51 FNP and RX51 FNT on 1, W126 WGT and one other on 3.

*With thanks to Ian Barlex and Peter Horrex*



First Essex route 70 has had an increase in double decks recently with the addition of ex First London Tridents working alongside the various single and double deck Volvo's. 33086 in Coggeshall Road, Braintree on 16 Feb 13.

Russell Young

EBN587p22





above First in Essex Wright Streetlite 47401 - in Gurnard Road, Colchester on 23 Feb 13.

below First in Essex Mercedes Citaro demonstrator 12000 on route 71A at Marks Tey, again on 23 Feb 13. Both by Russell Young,

# The ABC of Eastern National by Jim Waite

Another stage in this light-hearted look at a much-missed company

## N

Is for National, the single-deck product of Leyland which was presented as 'a take it or leave it' product once they had absorbed and removed their UK competition. Although companies bought significant numbers, EN's fleet eventually totalling 250, the door was opening to overseas providers and effectively began the downfall of the Leyland empire.



Secondhand Leyland National 2200 (UCO46L) was bought from Plymouth City Transport in 1982 and converted as a 'mobility' vehicle able to carry 8 wheelchairs (with 17 coach seats fitted to the 'upper' rear section). It was the first of three such vehicles (one ex Alder Valley and the former 1708: WNO 559L). 2200 passed to Thamesway livery following the 1990 split, after which it became an 'Expo Bus'. *Chris Stewart collection*

## O

Is for the Open-top summer services that EN provided in the seaside resorts of Clacton and Southend. Over the years, various types of vehicle were used including secondhand AEC Regents, Leylands, Bristol GO/Ks, FLFs and VRs. However, probably the best known are the batch of Bristol KSWs of the WNO series, many of which are still in existence. CPTMS is fortunate in having WNO 478 amongst its collection as well as former Benfleet & District Daimler FOP 429, converted to open top after sale to Southend Corporation.



## P

Is for Prittlewell, the garage (PL) and workshops inherited on the absorption of Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services in 1955. The engineering facility worked in conjunction with the main works at Chelmsford and did a significant amount of servicing as well as rebuilding. The garage was the home for the Southend coach fleet and served as a base for the storage of coaches in the winter period. PD was also the code for the new garage at Ponders End, opened to cater for the LRT contracts that had been gained in 1986.



Prittlewell depot yard, with four ex Benfleet & District Daimlers visible together with a Bedford OB, an open top (Westcliff) GO5G and ex Eastern Counties K5G AVF 354 bought for contract work. PL closed in 1981 but was reopened again from 1987-91. *EBEG collection*

## Q

Had me in a Quandary for a while until I remembered the Quintet of Duple bodied Fords that surprisingly appeared in 1975. Registered MAR 775-9P with fleet numbers 1000-4, all were based at Bishop's Stortford (BS) for their country routes, but they did not last very long before being disposed of. Also, Quest Motors of Maldon, taken over in 1935 together with a network of routes stretching across the Dengie peninsula.

## R

Is for RE, the final single-deck chassis produced by Bristol prior to the take-over by Leyland who, jointly with NBC, produced the National to supersede it. EN had coach, dual purpose and bus versions of the RE with ECW, Duple and Plaxton bodywork.

*[To be continued.]*

## **Stephensons by Richard Delahoy**

### **New:**

Due imminently are a further two brand new Scania N230/ADL Enviro 400 deckers, to be numbered 603/4.

### **Acquired:**

All 5 of the ex London United '55' plate Scania deckers have now been received and are in the course of conversion to single door. They will be numbered 513-7, registration number order to be confirmed, and will receive electronic destination displays in place of the London roller blind equipment.

Of the 3 ex Centrebus Scania deckers, 510/2 are now repainted in fleet livery but 511 has remained in service at Haverhill depot in Centrebus orange/blue/white, it may have been repainted by the time this issue is published..



Framed by Volvo coach 200 and MPD Dart 412, YN55NHP, one of 5 ex London United Scania deckers just acquired awaits its single door conversion and repaint into fleet livery; its former London fleetnumber SLE20 is shown on a strip of masking tape in the windscreen. Rochford depot, February 22nd. Richard Delahoy.





Of the 3 ex Centrebus Scania deckers, 510/2 are now repainted in fleet livery but 511 has remained in service at Haverhill depot in Centrebus orange/blue/white, it may have been repainted by the time this issue is published.. Richard Delahoy.



We are unlikely to see this registration again! See note on page 28. Richard Delahoy.

## **Arriva Southend new buses by Richard Delahoy**

The 16 Optare Versas for Arriva Southend had not entered service as we went to press, but this selection of photos taken by Richard Delahoy on a misty February 26th courtesy of Arriva Southern Counties show how they were received from Optare. Fleet number transfers were added at Southend but each carried a window sticker from the factory to show the chassis number. Some arrived with KX62xxx registrations but these will be voided; later deliveries did not carry any registrations. Not yet route-branded, the buses show their greater length of 11.7m and 44 seats, including three over the front nearside wheelarch, making them stand out from the 11.1m route 9 Versas already at Southend.







New Optare Versa for Southend, see note on p28. Richard Delahoy.



Unusually on a Sunday, small Solo 201 puts in an appearance on route 88 (Halstead – Colchester), 17 February 2013. Russell Young.



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