

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Due to unresolved email problems, contact Derek Stebbing only by **letter** regarding missing, defective or damaged EBN.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit www.essexbus.org.uk

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports are always welcome. Please send them to the relevant Sub-Editor.

Photos (prints, slides or digital images - in JPG format) are also welcome - please send to David Harman.

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.

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All orders for publications should be sent to:
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London E4 8PT

Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos - send SAE with your requirements.

B/W PHOTO SALES

All orders for photos from lists enclosed with EBN should be sent to:

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Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied: email with requirements: lynw@barrons-bds.com

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Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station). 19.30 onwards. Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. *Richard Delahoy*

Spring 2006 season:

- ▶ **Tuesday 14 February** - "Tribute to the Routemaster": slides and film celebrating the almost complete demise of the Routemaster in everyday service. Members who can contribute material, ideally in the form of a "10 minute personal tribute", are invited to contact Richard Delahoy. I would like to arrange a varied evening looking at different aspects of the Routemaster, not just lots of photos, so if you can contribute perhaps memories of RMs from a driver's perspective, or memorable journeys as a passenger (eg a 721 ride from Brentwood to Aldgate), please get in touch! If you don't, you may have my "100 minute personal tribute"!!
- ▶ **Tuesday 14 March** - Annual General Meeting followed by slide show "30 years AGO" by *Alan G Osborne*.
- ▶ **Tuesday 11 April** - subject to be confirmed
- ▶ **Tuesday 9 May** - illustrated talk, "Piers of the Realm" (with particular emphasis on Southend) by *Dave Carson*.

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

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. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. We can now show prints, slides or digital photos. *Dave Arnold*

2006 programme:

- ▶ **Friday 10 February** - *Gary Sharpe*; slide show: *tba*.
- ▶ **Friday 10 March** - Talk by *Robert MacGregor* on Heddingham, plus slide show.
- ▶ **Friday 7 April** - *Alan Osborne*: 'Up North'. N.B. date is the **second** Friday, not first, which is Good Friday.
- ▶ **Friday 12 May** - *Richard Delahoy*: '20 Years ago'.
- ▶ **Friday 9 June** - *Geoff Dodson*: 'A Lifetime on the Buses'.
- ▶ **Fridays 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December**: *tba*

2006 TOUR PROGRAMME

Dates and provisional details are as follows:

- ▶ **Sunday 14 May** - By popular request, our third Heddingham shed bash.
- ▶ **Saturday 24 June** - *tba*
- ▶ **Saturday 2 September** - Essex area tour.

Dave Arnold

Cover: A wintry scene at King George's Park, Bull Lane, Rayleigh, with 46156 (N356 CPU) bound for Hullbridge on the 20. Date: 30 December. *Peter Mansbridge*

From the Editor ...

December EBN arrived late. This was due to a backlog at the printers and the usual pre-Christmas postal delays.

Beginning with this issue, the printers are using a new digital printing press to produce EBN. One drawback is that the new press cannot print on glossy paper. Hence, as you will see this month, EBN has a 'matte' finish. It should make little difference to the quality of the photographs, but will result in a lower printing bill.

David Harman

Essex Publicity News

Items obtained in November from the First Office in Colchester were :-

First A4 book for services in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds dated 28th August 2005. This includes timetables, Overground style coloured line maps for Ipswich and Bury and bus stop plans for both Ipswich Bus Stations, Bury Bus Station and Ipswich town centre.

Essex County Council 'smiling woman' timetables for 2C (6.6.04), 8C (6.6.04), 9 Gt Holland-Walton (21.6.05), 105/107/109 (20.6.05) and 175 (20.6.05)

First Corporate style leaflets for 5/6/5A (April 2005), 7/8/8A (25.9.05), 10/11 (April 2005), 17/18 (9.2.03), 71/C (24.10.04), 74/B (9.2.03), 88/A (28.2.05), 102/103/104 (April 2005).

First leaflet for X22 (25.9.05)

First leaflet for First Day Essex ticket dated April 2004

Colchester Bus Users Support Group leaflet giving details of various Colchester area bus tickets.

Photocopied timetables for 70, 75 and 76 (all undated) were also obtained.

Items obtained in November from the Southend Travel Office were :-

First 'pocket size' timetables and map for services 2 (9.1.05), 15/16 (4.1.05), 20/20C (9.1.05), 21/A/B (1.8.05), 22 (4.1.05), 24 (7.3.05), 26/A (4.1.05), 27/A (4.1.05) and Diamond (24.10.04)

First leaflet for service 69 (14.11.05)

Stephensons Londonlink Express (5.9.05) this gives times, fares and other travel information.

I have managed to lose the Arriva leaflets, so can't report on those!

Recent new timetables from **First** are 'pocket timetables' for services 41/51 and 48/A (25.12.05) and corporate style leaflets for services 31/B/C/X (28.11.05), 33 (25.12.05), 35 (25.12.05), 72/A (25.12.05) and 351 (25.12.05)

Essex County Council Christmas and New Year 2005 booklet (with information as at 5.12.05)

A new set of **Suffolk County Council** timetable books (Issue 17) are now available dated 5th December 2005. The books for the south and west of the county include services which run into Essex. The **Olympian Coaches** leaflet which was previously reported as being undated actually bears a very tiny June 2005 issue date on the front.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Ian Taylor

Essex Service Changes

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Days of operation</i>	<i>Terminals and Notes</i>
Arriva East Herts & Essex				
	4 Jan 06	501	M-S	Old Harlow, Post Office - Brentwood Rail Station Minor timetable alteration. The 06:50 Harlow Bus Station to Brentwood now departs 10 minutes earlier at 06:49 to allow additional running time in the Brentwood area.
		822	SDO	Tylers Green - Epping, St Johns School New SDO service
Docklands Buses				
	3 Jan 06	167	Daily	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Ilford, High Rd. Minor timetable revision.
Ensign Bus				
	28 Dec 05	64	M-F	Grays Bus Station - Lakeside Bus Station New part-subsidised Thurrock Council service replacing withdrawn Town & Country service 364 jnys.
Stephensons				
	30 Jan 06	200	Tu	Southend Bus Station - Bradwell on Sea, Kings Head Revised to operate only on Tuesdays when schools are open.
Town & Country				
	10 Jan 06	40A	M-F	Grays Bus Station - Chafford Hundred, Armada Gate Centre. Minor timetable revision.
Trustline				
	30 Jan 06	C2	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Upshire, Princefield Road Revised timetable.
		C3	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Upshire, Princefield Road Revised timetable.
Olympian Coaches				
The commuter routings registered in June did not take effect until July. Per LOTS, present routes appear to be:				
		741	M-F	Bishops Stortford (Dunmow Road) - Sawbridgeworth - Old Harlow - Church Langley - Potter Street - M11 - London, Victoria.
		742	M-F	Harlow estates to Potter Street feeder service, connecting with 741 am and pm.
		743	M-F	Braintree, Marks Farm (Tesco Store) - London, Victoria. One commuter journey in each direction.
There is a second and unconnected 742:				
		742	M-F	Stanstead Abbots - Harlow - Potter Street - M11 - London.

David Tomlin



Diamond > 35

60104, one of the ex PMT lances now at Chelmsford is seen at Southend having operated the 35 ex-Chelmsford. The Diamond service became the 35 from 14 November 2005.

Dart **47220** at Chelmsford Coval Lane after working the 35X from Southend. the 35X was introduced from 28 December 2005 for the fast morning peak journeys using the new Great Baddow bypass bus lane.

Peter Mansbridge



■ FIRST ESSEX

New/Cascaded Vehicles

Period 9:

30559 (P183TGD) Volvo Olympian YN2RV18V326848 Alexander H47/32F 9528/40
from First Mainline, originally Strathclyde VO83 new 8/96

Note: 30558/60 are also H47/32F and not H74/32F as given last month!

Allocation changes

Period 9: 20 Nov to 25 Dec 2005 (Note: some actual transfers delayed beyond 25 December)

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another First fleet

(A)=acquired; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/reserve (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve
(delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School

30558 RES-HH; 30559 FGC-HH; 31376 HH-BN; 31377 HH-BN; 34809 RES-D/L(D);
34812 BN-D/L(D); 34813 BN-CF; 34815 CF-D/L(D); 43800 BN-DT; 46112 D/L(D)-sold;
46114 D/L(D)-sold; 46118 BN-D/L(D); 46119 CN-RES; 46121 CN-RES; 46124 CN-RES;
46125 CN-RES; 46126 CN-RES; 46131 BN-CN; 46132 BN-CN; 46133 BN-CN;
51782 DT-D/L(D); 52581 RES-BN; 62520 D/L(D)-sold; 62521 DS-D/L(D);
65630 RES-BN; 65632 RES-BN; 90242 D/L(D)-sold

Repaints: Period 9: 46174, 47104, 52581, 67011, 46173, 46186 (all to standard Group livery)

Disposals: 46112/4, 62520, 90242 - see EBN500. The Mercedes and at least one of the Darts are being advertised for resale (export only), whilst the Olympians and Lynx were resold for scrap and collected direct from Clacton by PVS, Barnsley.

Other Changes:

34012 - dot matrix destination removed.

31373, 42854 - Brightech screens added

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Final retreat from Romford - 24 December 2005

The last day of the 551 to Romford produced Olympians 31373 & 34813 and Lance 60102 in the morning, with Dart 46172 on the 15.55 from Romford (thereby being the last 551 between BN and Romford). 34813 worked the 08.27 from Basildon and return, but failed to appear on its next run - this was probably the last ECW bodied bus on regular (non-school) stage service in the London area. The corresponding final day of Mon-Sat 351s to Romford produced Dart 43729 and Lances 60104 & 67040, of which 60104 worked the last round trip.

Regarding the 16.35 service 71 from CF (EBN500), this apparently comes off the previous 71 and is usually a Lance (with an Olympian much more rarely), the preceding 16.05 occasionally being a Scania if one has been in for maintenance during the day. 47101 now frequently appears on 61, as its destination is programmed as such (unlike 47102-6).

Unusual sightings:

December: 1st CR34308 on 67A, CN46122 on Colchester 66A, CR46830 on 71 and CR67002 (67 branded) on 68



*Chris Stewart's
First
photo library*

Retreat from Romford

above: 34815 on the 09:13 to Chelmsford (351, not 152!); Brentwood High Street on 22 December. below: 60104 passes "The Rose" Shenfield on the last day, 24 December.





above: 46185 at Gallows Corner on 22 December.

below: Arriva 3500 at Brentwood (Sainsburys) on the first day of the 498 - 28 December.



- 2nd CR62409 (65 branded) on 64A, CR65652 (64 branded) on 88 to Gt Yeldham and CR67005 on 61
 - 6th CR47101 on 61
 - 7th CR34308 on 67 (and 8th), CR56002/3 on Clacton 76 (due to failure of CN67012).
 - 9th CR34309 on 67A.
 - 10th BN31374 on 22, BN43800 on 73 (and a number of subsequent dates), BN46804 on 73.
 - 12th BN41645 on 82
 - 13th CF34815 on daytime 352, BN41644 on 82, BN41653 on 81/82 (and fairly frequently on Brentwood routes since)
 - 14th CR34304 on Harwich 103.
 - 15th CR34056 on 66, CR34304 on 103/4, CR43744 on 64, CF47228 on 509, CF60104 on Colchester 71 (replacing failed CR34310) and CR65653 on 71 (17.35 ex CR)
 - 16th CR34012 on 64A, CR34309 on 68
 - 17th CF43729 on 352
 - 18th BN46173 on 140, CR67001 (67 branded) on 88C.
 - 19th CR34304 on Harwich 104.
 - 20th CR34012 on 61, CR65679 on 66
 - 21st BE46116 on 36.
 - 22nd CR65679 on 70
 - 28th BN31373 on 81, CF43731 on 72
 - 29th CF43729 on 31, CF43731 on 72 and CF47226 seen bound for SD on 35. CF34809 and CF34815 both on 36
 - 31st CR34011 (77/78 branded) on 66A/67s, CR34013 (77 branded) on 103, CR34018 (77) on 66 and CR62409 (65) on 64.
- January
- 3rd CR34315 and CR62408 on X22, CR34305 on 64. BN60102 on 81 (ex 551), BN41653 on 551.
 - 5th BN31373 on 8, BN46118 on 81/82, BN43800 still on 73, CF65682 on 36
 - 6th CF53128 on 351

OTHER NEWS

FirstDay at Harwich

Regular contributor Robert Appleton from Stockport said he made good use of a FirstDay £6 ticket on 3rd January to visit Colchester and Harwich.

At Colchester 20102 and 20110 were parked at the bottom of the bus station (see notes above).

At Harwich the actual allocation was:

Volvo Olympian 34282 34284 34285 34286 34290 34013

Dennis Darts 46802 47106 Mercedes 709D 51780

Optare Solos 53138 53139.

34013 and 47106 on loan from Colchester, whilst 34280 and 34288 were away for repairs.

As this was a school holiday day, five of the six Olympians were on services 103/104, Dart 46802 was on Harwich - Parkeston 20A/20B, the remaining Mercedes 51780 on Harwich - Long Meadows 22A/22B, borrowed Dart/Alexander 47106 over the pit in the depot for maintenance and Solos 53138/9 on the Village Link services 3/4. DT Solos 53138/9 regularly appear on ECC sponsored evening 103/4 journeys, in addition to their daytime Village Link commitments.



Mercedes survivors:

above: Former Village Link Marshall-bodied Vario **52581** is seen for the first time in Brentwood at Warley (Fords). *Chris Stewart*

below: **51807** at Avey, Usk Rd, terminus for the Thurrock Council contract route 389 from Basildon. This service passed from Clintona to First in Autumn 2005.

Peter Mansbridge



Harwich depot were awaiting receipt of 43800 from Basildon; presumably destined for the 20/20A, this will also act as a spare low floor bus for the Village Link Solos.

The Bristol KSW open-topper 90230 (2383) is currently at Clacton depot along with VR 38790 (3072).

Christmas Market in Colchester

On 4/12/05, between 1000 and 1600, Colchester High Street was closed for a Christmas market. Routes affected were southbound 2C, 8C, 66/A, 67C, 77/A, 78/A (diverted via Cowdray Ave, Ipswich Rd, East St, East Bay, East Hill); eastbound 1C, 70, 71, 75 (diverted via Southway, St Botholph's Circus, Magdalen St, Brook St, East Hill); 64/A (diverted via Southway, then normal route along St Botholph's Circus, Magdalen Street, then to bus station via Brook St, East Hill and back in reverse order).

Former EN VRs in the West

Unfortunately First Devon & Cornwall 38785 (KOO785V) is now withdrawn and being cannibalised at St Austell, but 38928 (XHK228X) has received body repairs and a new MOT for continued use in Cornwall. ABus XHK221X worked their Bath-Weston service on 14 December.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to R Appleton, A Bird, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, A Kelleher, J Podgorski, C Sigston, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, Real Bus News group, LOTS, PSV Circle, Terminus.

Chris Stewart

ALLOCATION LIST as at 25 December 2005 (fleet total 369)

N.B. Some actual transfers involving BN & CN depots had not taken place by 7 January 2006

Basildon (74):	31198, 31373-7, 41637/40/2/4/5/7/50/1/3, 43712-4/32-8, 46134/45/67-74/7/84/5/7, 46804/25, 51801/3-5/7-9, 52580/1/5, 60102, 61054/7, 62526-32, 65665-77
Braintree (15):	46116/43/4, 46808/11-3/6/7/21-4/6/7
Chelmsford (78):	34807/13/6/8, 42482-9, 42918-23, 43729-31, 46183/6, 47219-21/3-9/52, 53112-37, 56004-9, 60103/4, 65680-4, 68532/4/5/51/2
Clacton (23):	34311/4, 46120/30-3/75/6/8, 46801/5/6/9/10/9/20/8, 67009-13
Colchester (66):	20102/10, 30560, 34011-4/8/56, 34301-5/7-10/5, 43715/6, 43739-44, 46829/30, 47101-6, 56001-3, 62406-10, 65650-4, 65678/9/85-92, 67001-8
Hadleigh (66):	30558/9, 31456/62, 40777-9, 41005-17, 42852-5/7, 43717-21, 46107-11/3/28/35-42/6-58/79-2, 46803/14/5/8
Harwich (12):	34280/2/4-6/8/90, 43800, 46802, 51780, 53138/9
Driving school (9):	46127, 51475, 62524, 67036-40, 90244
Ancillary vehicles (3):	90236/7/41
Reserve (13):	38790, 46119/21/2/4-6/9, 52582-4, 90230/1
Delicensed for disposal (10):	46118, 34809/12/5/9, 51476, 51782, 51889, 62521/2

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Corrections ~ EBN500

Delete vehicles in: L601/2/8 EKM. A last minute change of policy meant that these vehicles went to Arriva the Shires and the undermentioned vehicles were received instead.
New vehicles: Solos 2461/2 are model M880, not M850

Vehicles in from Burtons (Network Colchester) 317-9 11/05

3336	L516 CPJ	Volvo	B6-50 005277	Plaxton	9410.2VWN2286	B41F	2/94
3341	M841 DDS	Volvo	B6-50 005379	Alexander	AM107/1392/2	B37F	8/94
3346	M846 DDS	Volvo	B6-50 005453	Alexander	AM107/1393/18	B40F	8/94

Allocations

12/05: 3336.HA; 3341/6. WEu

Vehicles out

3091 (H922 LOX): Kimberley Coaches, Low Prudhoe, Durham 11/05
3096 (H243 MUK), 3817 (H367 XGC): Stafford Bus Centre, Cotes Heath (dealer) by 11/05
5838 (C38 CHM), 5839 (D181 FYM), 5840 (D215 FYM ex 815 DYE, D215 FYM):
Cavalier, Long Sutton, Lincs 4228/??/ 9/05

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Vehicles in

3412 (P332 HVX) Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer B34F from Guildford. To Grays
3004/6 (L506/8 CPJ) Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3035 East Lancs EL2000 B40F back from loan to Network Colchester

3004/6 returned to Southend during the week commencing 19th December. 3004 briefly appeared in service in Southend. Both have now been transferred to Grays.

Other Vehicle News

Dart SLF/Plaxton 3285 (T285 JKM) and Dart/Northern Counties 3112 (L112 YVK) have been temporary loans to Grays from Dartford - 3112 is technically withdrawn and on the disposal list.

DLA65-68 (DAF DB250s) (S265-8 JUA) are confirmed as coming to Grays on loan from Arriva London at Wood Green from 14th January (when service 29 is converted to articulated operation). It is expected that these will become 6220-23 in the Southern Counties numbering scheme but this has not been confirmed. For the time being, the buses allocated for the 498 are apparently 3500-3 (R310-3NGM), which started showing 'Brentwood' and 'Romford Station' by about Wednesday 28th. Only 3500-2 have been seen or seen reported, plus 3285 from early on. Red 3089 ran on 4th & 5th Jan, dual door 3512 on 5th

A further expected loan at Grays is an as yet not identified Arriva the Shires vehicle.

Ex London Olympian 5387 (D172 FYM) has returned to service in Southend on route 29 following repairs to major accident damage received in October (see EBN499)

Other News

Southend operated an additional contract on behalf of an employment agency from Thorpe Bay Esplanade to Rayleigh Weir from 19th December to 13th January. This used a double decker up to three times per day.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to

Chris Stewart and Matthew Arnold (Essex Planning & Scheduling, Arriva Southern Counties)

■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Acquired vehicles: repeated from EBN500 with further details:

<i>from Burtons main fleet</i>							
109	R90 BCL	Dennis Dart	SLF SFD322BR1XGW13815	SCC 4092/2000	B42F	9/01	
<i>from Metrobus, Crawley</i>							
303	M723 CGO	Dennis Dart	9.8SDL3054/2256				
			Plaxton Pointer	9410HXN3272	B35F	-/94	
<i>from Burtons main fleet</i>							
385	W905 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	YV3R4A512YA006053				
			Alexander ALX300	9958/5	DP44F	4/00	
386	W906 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	YV3R4A51XYA006060				
			Alexander ALX300	9958/6	DP44F	4/00	
354	Y40 TGM	Dennis Dart	SLF 322BR1XGW13813	SCC 4091/2000	B36D	8/01	
355	Y50 TGM	Dennis Dart	SLF 322BR1XGW14211	SCC 4102/2000	B36D	8/01	

Vehicles out

Dart 317 to Arriva The Shires (at Stevenage) as 3406.

Volvo B6s 318/9 to storage with Arriva East Herts & Essex at Ware.

Renumberings

B10BLEs W905/6 UJM have been renumbered from 95/6 to 385/6. They have also been fitted with proper destination blinds.

Vehicle workings

Daytime route 2 is now almost 100% low floor. The only exception is one diagram that is still worked by a 'decker' or a step-entrance single decker.

Schools route 9 is now normally a 'decker' in the morning and a low floor single decker in the afternoon. Both interwork with service 2.

The remaining Lynxes and DAFs now normally work on 2 and 8/A.

The unbranded SLF/Pointer 360 now regularly appears on 2, 8/A in addition to route 1.

Services 87 and 247 appear to have become mainly low floor operated.

Unusual sightings

November	30th	337 on 93E
December	1st	334 on 8, 381 on 5
	2nd	334 on 8A, 373 on 2
	5th	364 on 87, 308 on 2, Y40 TGM on 5
	6th	334 on 8, 382 on 5,
	9th	363 (1 branded) on 2 (day), 359 on 5
	12th	362 (1 branded) on 9, 364 (1 branded) on 2 (day), 358 on 8E
	16th	347 on 1
	19th	348 on 8A, 364 (1 branded) on 2 (day)
	20th	311 (8 branded) on 83, 333 on 8, 367 (1 branded) on 2 (day)
	21st	335 on 8, 364 (1 branded) on 247, 359 on 93
	22nd	302 (8 branded) on 93, 365 (1 branded) on 87
	23rd	374 on 8
	31st	374 on 8

Repaints/Branding

302 has received blue route 8 branding.

337/374 to TGM livery ex Arriva.

381, 385 have received green route 2 branding and Network Colchester names.

S108 HGX to TGM livery ex red.

Still in Arriva livery at the end of 2005 were:

Darts 306/8, D10M 334, Lynxes 351/2/3/5/6, DAFs 358/9, Vario 373.

Other News

381/2/7 now carry schoolbus signs.

Current Fleet

106	R60 BCL	Dart SLF	Nimbus	355	Y50 TGM	Dart SLF	Compass
107	R70 BCL	Dart SLF	Nimbus	356	H256 GEV	Lynx	
108	R80 BCL	Dart SLF	Nimbus	357	H257 GEV	Lynx	
109	R90 BCL	Dart SLF	Nimbus	358	J56 GCX	DAF	Ikarus
302	M722 CGO	Dart	Pointer	359	K124 TCP	DAF	Ikarus
303	M723 CGO	Dart	Pointer	360	SN54 HWY	Dart SLF	Pointer
309	M526 MPM	Dart	EL 2000	361	SN54 HWZ	Dart SLF	Pointer
310	N540 TPF	Dart	EL 2000	362	SN54 HXA	Dart SLF	Pointer
311	N541 TPF	Dart	EL 2000	363	SN54 HXB	Dart SLF	Pointer
333	G613 BPH	Volvo B10M	EL	364	SN54 HXC	Dart SLF	Pointer
334	G614 BPH	Volvo B10M	EL	365	SN54 HXD	Dart SLF	Pointer
335	G615 BPH	Volvo B10M	EL	366	SN54 HXE	Dart SLF	Pointer
337	G617 BPH	Volvo B10M	EL	367	SN54 HXF	Dart SLF	Pointer
340	AY55 DKA	Scania N94	EL	373	R763 DUB	Vario	Beaver
347	H47 MJN	Olympian	Leyland	374	R174 VBM	Vario	Beaver
348	H48 MJN	Olympian	Leyland	378	S108 HGX	Vario	Beaver
349	H49 MJN	Olympian	Leyland	381	W901 UJM	B10BLE	ALX300
351	H251 GEV	Lynx		382	W902 UJM	B10BLE	ALX300
352	H252 GEV	Lynx		385	W905 UJM	B10BLE	ALX300
353	H253 GEV	Lynx		386	W906 UJM	B10BLE	ALX300
354	Y40 TGM	Dart SLF	Compass	387	W907 UJM	B10BLE	ALX300

■ BURTON'S COLCHESTER COACHWAYS

B10BLE 95 was on schools from here when acquired before entering service with Network Colchester.

Route 8 Dart 310 was on schools work in early December.

Iveco Euromidi W30 BCL has returned to the main Burtons fleet.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN from

Aintree Coaches Olympian B962WRN.

Arriva London RML2264/2324/2521/2545/2549/2572/2573 2636/2730/
RML 2753/2759

AEC Regent V RV1

Leaside Travel D14/D17/DP5/DP6/DP1A/DP2A/DP3A/TPL1A
TPL2A/TPL8A/TPL518/DVH6/DVH8

Metrobus Olympians G804/6TMX H807XMY K814/5/6HMY
Mercedes 811 P347HKU.



Ensignbus X80 Running Day ~ 17 December

above: RT624 near the ferry terminal at Gravesend.

below: View from the top-deck of RT624 crossing the Queen Elizabeth II bridge, 240ft above the River Thames.

below right: HLJ 44 at Gravesend.

Owen Woodliffe



Metroline AV4/5/6/7/8/9/10/11/12/13/14/15/16/17/18/19.
DL77
Roundabout Buses Olympian EWW543Y.

VEHICLES OUT

	to
RML2492:	David Button , Colchester.
RML2573:	Capital Radio , London.
RML2636:	C.F. Trading Ltd , Stockport.
RML2401:	Coach Services Ltd , Thetford, Norfolk.
RML2334:	Mark Dunlop , Basingstoke, Hants.
M1250/1398:	Dunn Line , Nottingham.
RML2593:	Falkland Islands Tourism , Port Stanley, Falkland Islands
RML2759:	Imperial Buses , Rainham.
RML2356:	Marc Lavis , Le Gosier, Guadeloupe.
RML2647:	Magic Bus Ltd , Southampton, Massachusetts, USA.
Darts M814HCU/L315XBB:	David Ogden Travel , St Helens, Lancs.
RML2324:	Renown Coaches , Bexhill, East Sussex.
Olympian G806TMX:	Roundabout Buses , Orpington, Kent.
Hong Kong Olympian FC1714	now J534 CEV with Talisman , Colchester.
DAF G906/8TYR:	Bob Vale Coach Sales , High Wycombe, Bucks.
RML2441:	Vertriebsgesellschaft Ltd , Lansberg, Germany.

OPERATIONAL FLEET

■ ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Dart 712 (P102 OLX) entered service on 28 December, for the start of service 64, Grays-Lakeside via Purfleet. It is route branded for the service.

With thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus





Ensign have supplied **Talisman Coachlines** with two former Hong Kong long-wheelbase Alexander-bodied Leyland Olympians. Former 204 (FC 1714), now J534 CEV, is seen here on *one* rail replacement at Billericay on 7 January. Both were new to China Light & Power, later passing to Hong Kong Citybus. *Dave Arnold*



Rail Replacement

Saturday 7 January: buses replaced *one* trains between the following stations:

- * Billericay to Chelmsford non-stop.
- * Billericay to Witham non-stop, connecting into local train services to Braintree, Colchester, Clacton, Harwich Town and Ipswich.
- * Billericay to Colchester non-stop, connecting into Intercity train services for stations to Norwich.
- * Chelmsford to Witham for local journeys only.

Passengers from London requiring Ingatestone and Hatfield Peverel had to alight at Shenfield where there was a connecting bus to these stations only. A non-stop coach service operated between London Liverpool Street and Colchester.

In fact, there was an hourly coach from Shenfield > Ingatestone > Chelmsford > Hatfield Peverel > Witham, and everything else was done from Billericay (presumably to avoid total gridlock in Shenfield on a Saturday).

Vehicles observed

APT, Rayleigh	Olympian ARP 619X
Cedrics, Colchester	ex GAN Olympians C659 LJR, C669 LJR
Chambers, Bures	Olympians G864 XDX, ex-Dublin H951 PTW, ex London Central/General M655 KVV, M81 MYM, P901 RYO, P902 RYO, P549 WGT
Ensignbus	Metrobus F773/5 EKM
Fargo, Rayne	TPD 111X (LR11), Olympians B511 DTU, A512 EJE, C651/7 LJR (the last two still both in GA Northern livery), ex L&C Volvo G642 BPH, Olympian DFW 42X, Metrobus A635 BCN (in Ensignbus livery), A638 BCN, ex Eastern National D511PPU
First Capital	Olympians H136FLX, H144FLX, Volvos S214-6 LLO, Trident T801 LLC
Transit Group, Stansted	Metrobus POG600Y (in livery), ex-Arriva London D182/212/9/28/45 FYM (in red),
Talisman, Colchester	M85/7 MYM (ex London Central), H859 PTW (ex Dublin), ex HK tri-axle J534 CEV (still in HK livery but with fleetnames), Atlantean RVW 90W
Town & Country, Purfleet	Scania H237/47 LOM, Olympians L 9, 18, 43, 54, 76, 117 and C507 OTW, Excels R377/8 DJN, Dart T439 EBD
Trustline, Hunsdon	Ex Reading Titans RMO 77/8Y in full Trustline livery (very smart they look too), Metrobus GYE 399W (in Wiltax livery but without their fleetnames and carrying on hire to Galleon Travel label).

plus numerous coaches.

Sundays 8 January

Buses Shenfield-Witham (presumably various permutations), similar vehicles to Saturday although no coaches were seen and there were fewer buses overall. There will be further engineering work at the same locations on **Sundays 15, 22 and 29**.

Acknowledgements to Ian Ransom, Chris Stewart



above: **K&J Travel** of York now own ex-Colchester Corporation Bristol RE 24 (SWC 24K), seen in York, 29 September 2005 *David Barnard*
below: Former Thamesway Mercedes 321 (H327 LJN), with **Grant Palmer**. Dunstable; 2 December 2005. *Chris Stewart*



Essex Small Operator News

A H MINIBUSES, Clacton Mercedes Benz Sprinter R390 BVE, is a recent addition.

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow Acquired for spares is M93 JHB a Mercedes Benz 811D/Wadham Stringer.

BRENTWOOD COACHES, Little Waltham Acquired from Epsom Coaches are P806/7 DPA Volvo B10M/Jonckheere. Volvo/Caetano 610 KWC is now registered AIG 7832, Volvo/Plaxton XCF 447 is now D263 HFX, WXC 732 is now E306 OMG and P806 DPA is now WXC 732.

CD TRAVEL, Kelvedon In from Ruffle, Castle Hedingham is M52 WEV a LDV 400 minibus.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Acquired is a further Leyland Olympian/Leyland, H552 GKX.

COOKS, Rochford Acquired in June, but not previously reported, is DT03 UCT, a Bova Futura FHD12-340.

CRUSADER COACHES, Clacton The four remaining T registration Setra S315GT coaches left at the end of the summer season. T109 OTW went to Drewery Travel, Olney, Bucks in 11/05, T111 LTW went to Lakeland Tours, Tempo, County Fermanagh, while T107 LTW and T120 LTW passed to The Brotherhood, Beechcroft, Nunnington, Kent. This is an American religious organisation, with two residential homes in England. The coaches are to be used to ferry residents.

Three of the new Setra 415 coaches are in store at Evobus, Coventry. They should be delivered in mid-February and will receive new registrations, for use in March.

DONS, Great Dunmow The recently acquired Neoplan is registered YR 02 UOG not OUG, as previously reported. Also, M706 HBC a Dennis Javelin/ Marco Polo, has not been sold and remains here.

ENSIGN, Purfleet Acquired from Supreme, Southend is T375 JWA a Scania K124/Irizar.

FORD, Althorne Acquired from Timeline, Manchester is Iveco/Beulas FN02 VBX.

FOWLER, Loughton Acquired in early 2005 was W104 MWG, from a private owner.

FREEDOM 2 TRAVEL, Thundersley Acquired from Supreme, Southend are N851/4 DKU which are Scania K113/Irizar. In from Peter Godward, Shotgate is RJ1 8602 (E828 EUT) a Volvo

B10M/Plaxton, while from an unknown owner is V256 JTO a Scania K124/Irizar.

HARDY MILES, Southend MCW

Metrobuses acquired are ex Supreme, ORJ 91W, LOA 417X, LOA 427X, ANA 154/63Y, C336 BUV and C755 OCN.

Similar LOA 380X has arrived from Johns School of Motoring, Edemontton. Also here from Supreme is F254 OFP a Volvo B10M/Alexander.

HARWOODS TRAVEL, Great Wakering In from Stans, Gt Totham is EBM 460T, a Bedford YMT/Plaxton.

LODGE, High Easter Recent additions are a pair of Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F367 MUT and F883 RFP, while Scania K113/Van Hool 98 CLJ (P159 FJO) has also been acquired.

NELSONS, Shotgate Bristol VR/ECW NDL 652R, has been sold for preservation, to an owner in Essex.

NEW CENTURY, Thundersley Recent additions are Ford Transit Y336 APW, LDV Convoy LA03 OHN and Iveco/Indcar W534 RSE

NEW HORIZONS, Wivenhoe Ford Transit EN03 ZBZ is now with Wivenhoe Private Hire (non PSV).

PRESIDENTIAL, Shoeburyness Acquired from Rennie, Dunfermline is OHV 814Y, a Leyland Titan.

REGAL, Highwood Leyland Olympian/ECW C264 XEF is a recent addition from Arriva Northumbria.

RONDA COACHES, Rochford In from Neave, Catfield is E364 YGB a Mercedes Benz 609D/Scott.

SBC, Southend Further vehicles from Supreme are Scania L94/Van Hool R862 SDT and Scania K124/Irizar T377/78/79 JWA. T377 JWA is now S11 FSC, while T378 JWA is now OJN 944.

SWIFT CARS, Chelmsford KP02 LRJ is a recently acquired VW minibus.

TOWNCARS, Clacton A further Ford Transit is S265 LGW.

YELLOW, Braintree Former Group Taxibus, Ford Transit EJ03 WSE, is now here.

Many thanks to Geoff Clarkson (Crusader Coaches), PSV Circle, John Podgorski, Colin Sigston and Dave Arnold. Many thanks to all for recent reports, I've not had time to include them this month.

Ian Ransom

Not quite 25 years

Route 711 was withdrawn after operation on 9th September 2005, just two months short of its 25th birthday. I feel an article is in order if only to publicise the fact that I have just finished writing the definitive route history of Green Line 1970-2005 for publication in LOTS London Bus Magazine in 2006/07. There are eighty pages, even without photographs!

In the postwar resumption of Green Line, the number 711 was allocated to the Reigate to High Wycombe service which ran, without too many changes, until withdrawal on 1st October 1977.

The number then lay vacant until 8th November 1980 when it was used to denote a new peak hour operation between Old Harlow and Redbridge Underground Station. The choice of route number was influenced by its extensive use of the M11 Motorway. On 26th March 1983 the service was extended to Victoria via Stratford, Aldgate, Embankment and Westminster.

On 1st October 1983 additional peak hour journeys were added, although some had actually started from 25th July by local arrangement, often displaying route number 799. From 29th October 1984 an increased peak hour service was introduced and, along with route 799, it was diverted via Fenchurch Street instead of Tower Hill. Eastern National commenced a new Monday to Friday peak hour service under the guise of route 712 from Bishops Stortford to Victoria via Old Harlow, Potter Street and the 711 routeing.

One morning southbound journey on route 711 was back-projected to start at Stansted Airport from 10th May 1986. When London Country was split into four separate companies from 7th September 1986 operation of the 711 fell to London Country North East. With de-regulation came vast amounts of route changes but for the 711 it just meant that one peak journey each way was diverted via Katherines and Sumners. On 26th January 1987 the 20:20 departure on route 711 to Bishops Stortford was renumbered 799. Evening peak timetable revisions took place from 14th December 1987. From 14th May 1988 the commuter

service was revised with more journeys serving Sumners and Katherines but most Redbridge short workings were withdrawn. An off peak and a Saturday service were introduced between Old Harlow and Victoria.

Another new timetable introduced from 24th September 1988 provided for the extension of Monday to Friday peak hour Redbridge duplicates to Victoria. The rest of the service adopted more regular two hourly off peak and Saturday timings.

County Bus & Coach Company assumed responsibility for route 711 when London Country North East was split from 1st January 1989.

London Express was a network of local express routes which all inter-connected at Victoria Coach Station with the National Express hub. Most companies in the Home Counties participated and white coaches with green and red vinyls were supposed to be used. All journeys arrived at Victoria at approximately 10:30 and 18:30 and departed at 11:00 and 19:00. Daily London Express journeys were added to route 711 on 30th April 1989. The venture was not a success however and was phased out in 1990. London Express journeys henceforth terminated at Eccleston Bridge with the main service from 29th April 1990. The Sunday (London Express) service was withdrawn following operation on 22nd April and the Saturday service ran for the last time on 27th October 1990. The Monday to Friday off peak frequency was reduced from 5th January 1991 and the last evening journeys (16:55 Harlow to Victoria and the 19:00 return) also ceased from 29th June 1991.

One peak hour journey each way was extended to Sawbridgeworth and Thorley Park from 20th January 1992 in order to replace part of Eastern National 712 which ran for the last time on 18th January.

The 07:20 Harlow to Redbridge and the 07:53 return journey were withdrawn on 3rd June 1995. A further revision on 5th August 1995 withdrew the entire Old Harlow to Thorley Park section. From 4th September 1995 the route became operated by a

Sampson Coaches vehicle.

There were further revisions from 31st March 1997 by which time only two return journeys in Monday to Friday peak hours remained from Harlow to Victoria. The journeys via Sumners and Katherines now only served the Water Lane roundabout at the entrance to these estates.

The Cowie Group plc began to re-launch itself as Arriva from 14th October 1997 and County Bus and Leaside Travel began to receive the new identity. From 9th March 1998 route 711 was reduced to one Monday to Friday peak return journey only. Operation had been with Leaside Travel for a couple of years but from 1st February 1999 the route registration was formally moved from Arriva East Herts & Essex to Arriva London North without any change to the real operation or to the timetable; indeed there were no further alterations until

withdrawal after operation on 9th September 2005.

There are very few traditional Green Line services left; the name survives as little more than a brand name for commuter coaches, many from areas outside of the former LPTB boundary. The only link back to the "real" Green Line network under London Transport auspices is route 724 which survives, at the time of writing, between Harlow and Heathrow Airport. The Windsor and Hemel Hempstead groups of services form a link back to London Country days as do routes 757 and 797 from the Luton and Baldock areas to London. Never the most interesting of Green Line services, the loss of route 711 is a little sad when looked at in this context.

Ian Taylor

Another superb preserved example of the Bristols that helped out in London, is **Eastern Counties LKH133** (HPW 133), seen at the LVVS Museum at Lincoln. *David Barnard*



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For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact:

Stephensons: Bill Hiron 01702 541511

Excel: Graham Hayden 01279 681800

