

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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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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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>For inclusion in EBN dated:</i>	<i>reports should reach Editors by:</i>	<i>planned despatch date:</i>
October	4 October	13 October
November	1 November	10 November
December	6 December	15 December

Please note that the **planned** despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The **actual** despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can **only** be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite). None of the Editors hold spares, so there is no point in contacting them. They cannot help!

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings now take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and *one Great Eastern* trains & *Arriva Southend* services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. *Richard Delahoy*

Autumn programme:

- ▶ **Tuesday October 10** - "*Piers of the Realm*" by *Dave Carson*, a talk/slide show about pier railways with particular emphasis on Southend.
- ▶ **Tuesday November 14** - "*EN's yellow & green years*" - a slide show by *Chris Stewart* with emphasis on the early post-privatisation livery.
- ▶ **Tuesday December 12** - 20 years ago slide show by *Richard Delahoy* celebrating the start of deregulation in October 1986.

■ 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*

Autumn programme:

- ▶ **Friday 13 October** - *Keith Woods: 'East Anglian Buses ~ A Personal View'*
- ▶ **Friday 10 November** - *Fred Lawrence: 'On the Company's Expenses' !*
- ▶ **Friday 9 December** - *Michael Yelton, practising lawyer* (author of "*Trams, Trolleybuses and Buses and the Law*") and *bus enthusiast* - topic to be advised.

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS ETC.

- ▶ **Sunday 24 September** - **Showbus, Duxford**. 500+ buses, stalls, plus the aircraft collection. Take a brolly!

■ BLUE TRIANGLE ESSEX SUNDAY ROUTES

- ▶ **Sunday 17 September**. See **EBN504** for details.

Cover: New **Hedingham Dart L351 EU56 FLM** poses for the camera. *Dave Arnold*

Saturday 2nd September dawned – well, heavily overcast and more than a bit wet actually – but a very large yellow double decker brought some welcome brightness to Shenfield, having first picked up at Chelmsford. In fact the station area was awash with double deck buses, owing to the previous day's serious overhead line problems on the railway. Nine NIBS buses were out between Chelmsford and Shenfield (slightly concerning, as we were going there later) – Scania 226*/8/41/5, 603/4/5 and Dominators 264/9 (*BIL4710) as were Ensign's E752SKR, G740RTY and P426/7/9UUG. Also seen in service were Town & Country C507OTW and H237LOM.

The Talisman 'MeggaDecker' (as it is now lettered) headed for Althorne, where Ford's obligingly moved much of the smart white-painted fleet of buses and coaches for photographs. The weather wasn't great, but there was much of interest – including three former Southend Transport vehicles - Fleetlines MRJ241W (a runner) and MRJ (non-runner), as well as Astromega 820KPO (ex JEV245Y). Of particular note also were Ayats double deck coach Y8CCL, one of several very impressive coaches, and surviving Dennis Dominator SMW56Y.

Moving on to Wickford, Steve Nelson had returned from a long stint on emergency rail service to greet us, having already positioned a number of vehicles with the assistance of one other driver on site. Two of the recently acquired ex Bournemouth Dennis Dominators were there – we had a ride to Rawreth and back in J266SPR – as was the East Lancs bodied Scania new last year, EU05ECV. After an enjoyable hour photographing Olympians, Scania's and the Dominators, it was time to move on to a rather windy Basildon Town Centre for a lunch break.

6 The South Essex Six-Legger Tour





Fords: ex-Southend Fleetlines, ex-London Olympian, ex-Thamesdown Dominator.

below: six-legger coach contrasts:
former Southend Astromega and new
Ayats Bravo.

All pictures: Iain Stewart





The afternoon visit was to Ensigns at Purfleet, and their amazing warehouses and workshops full of their sales stock, vintage fleet and buses awaiting restoration. A number of interesting vehicles were brought out for photographs, too many to list here but each one a treat. We also had tours of the workshop, which included the remarkable RT8, back from 40 years in the USA – being dismantled piece by piece ready for reconstruction. Bristol K6A HLJ44 was the preferred mode of transport to Ensign's vast outside storage yard at Rainham – driven by your Chairman, at the kind invitation of Ross Newman. Several vehicles were pulled out for photographs, including two of the Hedingham VRs which are heading for open-top work in Los Angeles, and M1396 which had worked for Master Travel of Brentwood (after Ross had worked some magic trick to get it going). Somewhat later than planned, it was time to return to Billericay, Shenfield and Chelmsford en route to Colchester.

Many thanks are due to Dave Arnold and Paul Smith for driving, and to all the operators we visited.

Chris Stewart

left: **East Lancs contrasts at NIBS:** newly-acquired ex-Bournemouth Dominator H258 MFX, and Omnidekka EU05 ECV at Bruce Grove.

below left: **Leyland contrasts at Ensign:** Talisman 'Megga Dekka' Olympian and Ensign's former Leeds City Transport PD2 5280 NW.

below: **Bristol contrasts at Ensign:** Back from a spell with Eastville Coaches of Bristol is former London Country Roe-bodied Olympian BPF 131Y. Alongside is ex-Hedingham VR BRC 836T.

Iain Stewart



Publicity News



Kim Peirson-Smith, Regional Development Manager for CitySpace and Essex County Councillor Rodney Bass, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, and "Smart Column".

The display screen messaging is initially managed by the Essex Traffic Control Centre at County Hall as part of an integrated travel information and control service. In the longer term, it is anticipated that real-time bus service information will be driven from the on-bus telematics system (which presently feeds the TRIPS system). All high-tech stuff, but indicative of how technology is being increasingly harnessed to deliver a simple but very desirable thing - reliable and up-to-date travel information.

If we have any members in the Chelmsford area, perhaps one might like to 'road-test' a "Smart Column" and let us have their verdict.

*David Harman
with thanks to Kate Tindle at Essex County Council*

A network of seven public transport information kiosks was launched in Chelmsford on 21 August by Essex County Council. This is a pilot project comprising CitySpace "Smart Columns" which will provide residents and visitors with accurate and timely travel and local service information.

Five "Smart Columns" are sited on-street and two within County Hall. If successful, the feasibility of installing further units to other locations across the county will be explored.

The aim is to make public transport information more accessible and thereby to stimulate patronage. It builds on the positive reaction from the public to the TRIPS real-time information displays at bus stops in Chelmsford and elsewhere.

The large LCD display screen at the top broadcasts real-time information, travel and disruption news affecting the town. The lower, touch-screen allows users to access a journey planner, timetables, a taxi-finder, access to the County Council's website and local area maps. The unit incorporates a print facility.

Essex Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

29 Jul 06 59 M-S

Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Harlow Bus Station
Minor timetable revision

Ensign Bus Co

9 Sep 06 77 M-S

Tilbury - Lakeside

30 Sep 06 55 M-F

Service generally operates 5 minutes later throughout.
Grays (circular): New peak hours hail and ride circular route from Grays Bus Station, to London Road, Wharf Road, Argent Street, Derby Road and Grays Bus Station.
Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary: New half hourly service operating via Grays, Little Thurrock and Tilbury.

66 M-S

Excel

30 Aug 06 314 W

Saffron Walden, High Street - Braintree Bus Park

315 W

Corrected start date. This service is under contract to ECC.

346 W

Stebbing Green - Great Dunmow, Tesco Store
Corrected start date. This service is under contract to ECC.

446 W

Leaden Roding School - Great Dunmow, Tesco Store
Corrected start date. This service is under contract to ECC.

4 Sep 06 204 SDO

Berden, Green - Saffron Walden, High Street
Corrected start date. This service is under contract to ECC.
Saffron Walden - Bishops Stortford
Renumbered from 1002.

First

27 Aug 06 70 Daily

Colchester Bus Station - Braintree, Fairfield Avenue

Corrected information. The M-S ECC contracted evening services are now operated by *Regal Busways*.

29 Aug 06 88 M-S

Colchester Bus Station - Great Yeldham, The Green
Minor timetable alterations. The Sunday service now operated by *Network Colchester* under contract to ECC

Heddingham Omnibuses

24 Aug 06 1 Th

Ashen, Village Hall - Sudbury Bus Station

Single journey in each direction revised to operate 25 minutes later throughout

2 Sep 06 343 S

Braintree Bus Park - Flacks Green (circular)

Corrected start date. This service is under contract to ECC.

Imperial Bus Co

4 Sep 06 321 SDO

Thurrock, Warren Lane - Stifford Clays, William Edward School: New service

Network Colchester

27 Aug 06 88 Su

Colchester Bus Station - Halstead, Conies Road
Service operated under contract to ECC

NIBS

6 Sep 06 434 SDO

Shelley, Leisure Centre - Sheffield High School
New Service

435 SDO

Kelvedon Hatch, Blackmore Road (Fox Hatch House) -
Shenfield High School: New Service

436 SDO

Ongar Station - Sheffield High School: New Service

437 SDO

Ongar, The Stag - Sheffield High School: New Service

Regal Busways

26 Aug 06 506 S

Harlow Bus Station - Waltham Cross Bus Station
Service withdrawn

29 Aug 06 1 M-S

Canvey, Leigh Beck - Writtle, Highwoods Road
Revised timetable and now serving Writtle College and projected to Highwoods Road hourly.

1A M-F

Canvey, Leigh Beck - Writtle, Highwood Road

			Revised timetable with journeys projected to Highwoods Road.
29 Aug 06	1B	M-F	South Benfleet, Tarpots Corner - Canvey, Leigh Beck Revised single morning journey in the one direction via Benfleet Station direct to Canvey Town Centre.
	52	M-S	Pleshey, Vicarage Road - Galleywood, Temple Grove Saturday service between Chelmsford and Galleywood withdrawn and replaced by journeys numbered 52A.
	70	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Braintree, Fairfield Avenue Corrected Information. This operator has been awarded the ECC M-S evening contract journeys.
	502	M-F	Ongar, Two Brewers - Epping Station: Minor timetable amendment with the 06:44 from Ongar now extended through to Harlow
2 Sep 06	52A	S	Pleshey, Vicarage Road - Galleywood, Temple Grove New route serving Little Waltham and covering withdrawn section of service 52 between Chelmsford and Galleywood.
1 Oct 06	214	Su	Waltham Cross - Lakeside Bus Station: Service reinstated for the festive season.
East London Bus & Coach			
4 Sep 06	608	SDO	Romford, Gallows Corner - Shenfield, High School London Buses replacement for <i>First</i> SDO service 851
Town & Country			
4 Sep 06	98	M-F	Orsett Hospital - Lakeside Bus Station: Revised to serve Lenthall Avenue instead of Hogg Lane with a minor timetable revision.

David Tomlin

Regal Busways were major beneficiaries in the latest ECC tender round, and their buses may now be seen in some hitherto unfamiliar places. *below: Step-entrance Dart 505 (J105 DUV) at Herongate on the 565. Chris Stewart*





Dart SLF 602 (YN04 PZZ) is on the 11A at Kent Elms Corner on 27 August.

Richard Delahoy

Sister 601 (YN04 PZY) in Duke Street, Chelmsford. *Kevin Smith*



■ FIRST ESSEX

V Festival

This year's V festival buses at Chelmsford operated from a temporary bus station behind the old depot site, entering from Viaduct Road and leaving past the Civic Theatre. Support for First Essex came from First London, Fourways and NIBS. Vehicles sighted included:

First Essex

Olympians 30558 30559 31374 31375 31376 31377 31456 34303 34304 34311 34315
34816 34818
Lance 60102

First London

Tridents TNL33030/1/2/6 (LK51UYM/N/O/E), 33068 (LN51GLK), 33084-8
(LN51GME/F/G/O/U), 33091 (LN51GMY)
Olympian VDN32415 (S215LLO)
Dart DML41771 (X771HLR)

Fourways

Dennis Condor G310FWC
Olympians G937/81FVX, H691/9PTW

NIBS

Scania BIL4710, G604KTX

New/acquired vehicles

Period 5

68521KP54AZV BMC 1100FE/B60F NMC111TKCRD200020
new 1/05 to First West Yorkshire

This has entered service at Chelmsford on service 618 (Ingatestone-Blackmore)

Also expected soon are Volvo B10M/Plaxton Interurban coaches 60031, 60129/30 (R346/5/4GHS) from First PMT.

Allocation changes

Period 5: 31 July to 27 August 2006

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/retained (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School

31198 BN-CF; 34807 CF-RES; 46107 RES-D/L(D); 46116 BE-D/L(D); 46118 Anc-D/L(D);
46122 RES-D/L(D); 46124 CN-D/L(D); 46129 RES-D/L(D); 46134 BN-D/L(D);
46135 BN-D/L(D); 46145 BN-CN; 46801 CN-D/L(D); 46808 BE-BN; 46186 CF-CN;
51809 BN-D/L(D); 56001 CR-BE; 56009 CF-BE; 65727 CF-PMT; 65728 CF-PMT;
65729 CF-PMT; 65730 CF-PMT; 65731 CF-PMT; 68521 FGC-CF

The Scania on loan from PMT were returned on 16th (65727/30) and 20th (65728/9/31), having seen use on a variety of duties after being displaced from the 31 by 65680-4.



V 2006 Festival

above: First London VDN34 (S215 LLO) passes Duke Street Bus Station (as was)

below: First Essex 31376 (L164 UNS) in the temporary V bus station.

both: Chris Stewart



The latest starting date for the forthcoming Plaxton Primos is Monday 9th October.

Repaints:

Period 5 (all to standard Group livery)

65680 65681 65683 65684 65682 34286 31373 34307

Disposals:

The Van Hool integral at Clacton (G836KNW) is reported to have been sold for preservation, but confirmation of this is awaited.

Other Vehicle News

Some updated details of Hadleigh's double deckers may be of interest. 31376/7, 31456 are in standard group livery with 31462 in 'Barbie 2'. 31376 has LED displays, 31377 retains roller blinds and 31456/62 have dot matrix displays.

Two reports from Harwich indicate some of the reasons for loan vehicles being seen:

18th August

- 34280 at Barnhawk Engineering for new floor and a full retrim to group colours
- 34285 with a firm in Eye, Suffolk for major accident damage repair
- 34286 back from repaint looking very smart
- 34290 at Volvo, Ipswich for engine repairs
- 43800 off road all week with gearbox/exhaust faults
- 46802 on Clacton services along with 53138
- 51780 still on daily service on 20s
- 51803 on 22s
- 53139 off for MOT, rear axle/differential and gearbox problems intermittently since 20th July

26th August

- 34280 work now including repair to bent rear axleframe
- 34282 accident damage (tree)
- 34285 still away
- 34288 broken oil pipe
- 51780 differential broken
- 53112 on loan from CF
- 53138 awaiting alternator
- 53139 still persistent gearbox problems
- 46802 nearside accident damage
- 43800 awaiting gearbox

On a better note, KSW5G 90230 (2383) passed its MOT on 1st September and has also had a new tachograph fitted at a company in Haven Road, Colchester. It was due to work a wedding special on 9th September.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

From 23rd July for three weeks, Station Road in Clacton was closed at Wagstaffs Corner for junction improvements. As a result, Clacton bound 5, 6, 7, 8/A buses were diverted via Skelmersdale Road, Carnarvon Road, Wellesley Road, Pier Avenue and Rosemary Road. Clacton bound 4, 10, 11, 17, 18s were diverted via Wellesley Road, Pier Ave, Rosemary Road. On 15th August, a serious collision on the A120 near Marks Farm roundabout, Braintree, caused severe disruption for X22 and 70.

Reported during early August was the operation of a SSuO 88X; all 88s were diverted as 88A

owing to closure of Fordstreet bridge, with 88X operating as shuttle to/from Aldham, theoretically with a CR Cheeta. ECC 88B shorts CR-Fordham continued to operate for the period, despite the hourly service via Fordham. First operate all journeys on 88X, meeting with Hedingham journeys also. Notably Olympian 34303 worked 88X on Sun 6th August but made its way onto '78W' [78 shorts Wivenhoe only] by the evening.

Since the observation (in EBN508) of 65681 working the 31X on 4th August, all the others (65680/2-4) were on the 31/31X by Monday 14th with just 65730 on the 09.24, 12.24 and 15.24 ex Burnham. On Tues 15th 65727 was on 09.24 and 12.24 but substituted by 65683 on 15.24. On the 18th 65728 was on the 09.24, 12.24 and 15.24.

With various ECC contract losses from 26th August, the final 105 journey was operated by 46830, the last 175 by 34307 and the last 71C by 34303. The last 75s were operated by 34308, but it became unserviceable on its final service return from MN and was subbed by 34307, departing 15 minutes late. In Brentwood, 46825 operated the last day of First's involvement with the Bulphan/Herongate 565 and brought to an end First/EN/TW operation south of Running Waters on the A128.

Contrary to EBN508, service X20 operates from Braintree Bus Park and only two vehicles have been transferred to BE for it. CF56008 was at BE on 14th August for driver familiarisation.

Unusual sightings - August

- 1st CR34303 on 64; CR67004 on 66.
- 5th BN43712 on 100, Route 61 CR43716 on 65
- 6th Dart CF47220 on 352
- 7th CR43715 on 65, CR65679 on 66A and later X22, CF60104 on 352 (also 7th, 10th and 17th)
- 9th Olympian CR34056 on DT104 (loan); Dart DT43800 on VL4; DT46802 on VL3; CN46820 on DT VL3, Lance CF60103 on 352.
- 10th Route 66-branded CR43743 on 64; CN46822 on DT103, Scania CF65727 on 351.
- 12th CR65679 on X22, CR67006 on 64A; CR67008 on 61.
- 13th CF47223 on 352, CF42485 on 33.
- 14th CR34309 on X22; Route 61 CR43716 on 61; CR67006 on 65, BE46116 on 352, CF65728 and CF65681 on 352, CF65729 on 33, CF65682 on 36, CR65685 on 71.
- 15th CR34014 on X22, CR34056 on DT104(loan); CR43743 on 70, Route 67 CR67002 on 66, CF65728 on 33.
- 16th BE46812 on 352, CR67002/5 (67 branded) both on 70
- 17th BE46116 on 351
- 18th CR62408 on X22; Route 65-branded CR65690 on 88(Gt Yeldham).
- 19th Route 65-branded CR62410 on X22, BE46812 on 35, BE46116 & BE46824 both on 351 (working from CF).
- 20th BE46116 on 71C.
- 21st CF42482 on 351, CR46829 on 61
- 22nd CR34012 on DT104(loan); Route 66-branded CR43740/4, CR47101/5 and CR34301 all on 65; CR46829 on 64A; CR47102 on 67(day); CR67004 on 61; CR67005 on 66; CN67009 on 18.
- 23rd Merc BN51804 on 1A; CR65679 on X22; CR67004 on 65; CR67008 on 64.
- 24th CN46130 o/l to DT (on 104, 17.35 ex CR), CR30560 on 71, CR67004/8 on 66A. BE46812 on 35.
- 25th CR34303 on X22; CR62408 on X22; CR67004 on 65. CR65691 on DT VL4. BE46808 on 41/51.
- 26th Green Dart CF47252 on X20, CR34303/10 & CR67006 all on X22. ECW Olympian CF34816 on 351 (10.05 ex CF).



46804 (L804 OPU) in Brentwood High Street on 23 August, in the last week of First operation of the 565. *Chris Stewart*

- 28th CR34303 & CR65679 on X22. CR34315 on 78W, CN46805 on 76.
- 29th BN31373 on 22; BN31375 on 5. ECW Olympian CF34816 on 72 (seen on 14.00 ex BE), BE46824 on 352, CR65652 on 70.
- 30th CR34304 on X22, CF65683 on 352.
- 31st Scania CR62408 on X22.

Unusual sightings - September

- 1st Lance CF60104 on 36 (08.20 ex CF)
- 2nd BE46116 on 35
- 5th BN30558 on 100
- 6th BE46116 back at Braintree on 30, Cheetah CF56006 on X20 (presume normal maintenance cover), Solo CF53137 on X30
- 8th CF56006 on X20 again, BE46821 on 352

OTHER NEWS

Former Eastern National VR XHK228X (38928 with First Devon & Cornwall) is now stored at Newquay, and is unlikely to see further service.

Personal

May we extend the Group's best wishes to David Stewart of LOTS and member John Salmon, both following recent major surgery.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, J Collins, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, A Kelleher, J Podgorski, I Ransom, J Salmon, C Sigston, 'Solo', A Timms, A Toms, G Toon, R Webb, R Whitley, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle, Terminus.

Chris Stewart

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LIMITED

General news

The placing into service of the new Mercedes Citaros has been more protracted than expected. Officially by the end of the month only 3901-6 were in service and all working from Ware. Regretfully this contradicts reports from elsewhere. Again it is stated that DAFs 3441-4/9 and 3269 are all parked up at Ware awaiting transfer to the parent company. A correspondent has confirmed that 3269 together with MB 709Ds 2122/58/9 were parked up at Ware last week in spite of 2158 being reported as sold last month!

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicles in

3974 DWL19 (LJ51 DFD) DAF DE12CSSBSB120 009365 Wright E330 B31D New 11/2001

This vehicle is expected shortly from *Arriva London South* at Brixton. It is needed to meet the increased PVR at Grays depot following the introduction of car GY64 (additional schooldays journey on 498).

Vehicle Workings

Some of the DLAs intended for route 160 at Dartford have returned from refurbishment. 6233/5 are now in service on 498 together with unrefurbished 6227.

The Village Link Mercedes Sprinters have not been previously illustrated. Here is 1714 (DE52 OKZ) labelled for route C in Southend. *Paul S.Brain*



Southend based Dominator 5274 has had its fixed destinations for route 29 removed (see EBN508). It is now therefore available for service on all Southend routes, although is generally allocated to route 1. 5276 retains its fixed destinations at the time of writing and so continues to work route 29.

It is reported that commuter route 6A is currently being operated by a different vehicle each day.

Other News

The refurbishment programme on Grays Cadets continues with at least 3502/9 so far treated. They have returned from Pickerings with fleetnumbers ART3502/9 - this should be corrected shortly as the ART prefix should only be on the roof fleetnumber for helicopter identification.

The new blinds on order for the Grays Cadets (and DWL19) will include some Dartford displays so Grays Cadets and DWL19 are highly likely to end up running from Dartford in coming months.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold and Les Thorrington



Vehicles in

From *Burtons main fleet*

100 (T50 BCL)	Dennis Trident/ALX400
105 (S50 BCL)	Dennis Dart SLF/Caetano Compass
904 (W904 UJM)	Volvo B10BLE YV3R4A510YA006052 Alexander 9958/4 B44F New 4/2000

Vehicle Workings

New Omnidekka 102 entered traffic on route 8/8A on 17th August. It has regularly appeared on 8/A since then.

Trident 100 will primarily be used for new Essex CC contracts 175 (Colchester-Fingringhoe) and 275 (Rowhedge-Thomas Lord Audley School).

Following the departure of the operational Solo and most of the Varios, Essex CC routes 83, 87, 247 are now worked by Dart SLFs.

Further to the report of a regular working of a Route 8 Dart/East Lancs on 93 (see EBN508), the diagram is Mon-Sat and consists of 93/C late afternoon/early evening trips.

Repaints

Repaints on the SLF/Pointers are now getting broader blue skirts. The blue now extends across the whole skirt area, up to the body moulding. The yellow stripe has been moved to immediately above the lower body molding. 528 (AY54 FPZ) is the first to be so painted.

Corrections

Two corrections to EBN508.

Volvo B10M (H683 GPF) has not been transferred to Network Colchester. It remains with Burtons.

S50 BCL is a Dart/Caetano, not an ex-Metrobus Olympian/East Lancs as stated last month.

Apologies for any confusion caused.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski

Hedingham



New vehicles

The final two new Darts were delivered on 7 August. The complete batch is:

L348	EU56FLR	ADL Dart	SFD3CACR46GW88819	ADL 6216/1	B37F
L349	EU56FLP	ADL Dart	SFD3CACR46GW88820	ADL 6216/2	B37F
L350	EU56FLN	ADL Dart	SFD3CACR46GW88821	ADL 6216/3	B37F
L351	EU56FLM	ADL Dart	SFD3CACR46GW88822	ADL 6216/4	B37F

Note that the registrations are in reverse order. They were posed for the photo-call at Hedingham, courtesy of *Dave Arnold*.

Allocations ~ August

VR L237 CN to TY
Tiger coach L124 TY to SY
Dart L348: CN
Dart L349: TY
Dart L350: HD
Dart L351: KN

Other vehicle news

Olympians L331 and L332 are being converted to single-door layout by Full Circle, Diss, and will be transferred from Sudbury to Clacton on their return.

General news

A new state-of-the-art MOT bay came into use at Tollesbury on 9 August.

At least five vehicles (one from each depot) are expected to attend Showbus at Duxford on 24th September.

Dave Arnold

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

	<i>from</i>	
Arriva Midlands	Olympian E159 OMD	
Arriva London Sightseeing	Metroliners C906 GUD B115 ORU	
Regal Travel, Edgware	M577	
Reading Buses	Deltas G502/4/9XBL	
Kelly Coaches, Dublin	Metrobus Mk2 88-D-43756 (former East Kent E754 UKR)	

Vehicles out

	<i>to</i>	
Dublin Olympian 91-D-10124	now J665 CEV with Yahoo.com	
Dublin Olympian 93-D-10165	now L720 SNO with TM Travel , Chesterfield.	
Hong Kong Condor EN8257	now H529 PVW with Avro , Orsett, Essex.	
Volvo D10M G647 EKA	A & P Brown , Ely, Cambs.	
Olympian A509 EJJ	Country Hopper , Ibstock, Leics.	
Volvo D10M's H660/2 GPF}		
D203 ELJ C201 YPR}	Dunn-Line , Nottingham.	
Metrobus A619 BCN	Golden Eagle Coaches , Motherwell.	
Olympian P494 MBY	Heddingham Omnibuses .	
Olympian C34 CHM	Highwayman Coaches , Errol, Perthshire.	
Metrobus 88-D-43576	Kent Coastliner , Ramsgate.	
ex-Chambers Olympian H538 JBJ	Holloway , Scunthorpe.	
Titan KYV 339X	Mark Rishworth , Worcester.	
Olympian F620 MSL	Weardale MS , Stanhope, Co.Durham.	
Olympian F630 MSL	Stephensons , Rochford, Essex.	
Volvo B6 N670 VUP	Z & S Coaches , Watford.	
Routemasters: RML2344	Tom Curtis , Bristol.	
RML2328	Wharfside Regeneration Ltd , Ipswich.	

*David Harman
with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus*



Observations

5/6 Aug: Volvo B10M/Premiere 20457 (R813 HWS) on 350.
7/8 and 24/5 Aug: Volvo B10M/Premiere (X193 HFB) on 350.

John Podgorski

Essex Small Operator News

10.8.4. Saffron Walden shares the depot of Viceroy and operates Bedford YNV/Van Hool KAZ 6901 (C413 DML) and Volvo B10M/Van Hool MJI 8660 (B542 BMH)

24/7, Elsenham Although now part of Excel, news of two former vehicles is that DAF SB/Paramount D784 VMO was parked at the old Brandon's, Blackmore End depot on 15/7/06. Javelin 9m/Duple G963 WNR is now with Alans Bus & Coach, Royston, Herts.

A&B TAXIS, Pitsea Acquired is Toyota Caetano JUI9570 (K770 JRA)

ACME TRANSPORT, Stansted Acquired recently are Ford Transit M597 GTT, LDV Convoy P705 TEW and T483/4 VOM VW LT46/Mellor. The VW's operate as PSV's. The Convoy is ex Raynham, Newport.

ADTAX, Saffron Walden New here is Ford Transit AF06 NKN

ADVANCE, Hockley New in 2004, but only just reported is VW LT35 minibus BX53 UAD

AMBER, Rayleigh BX06NZZ is another Autosan (by 6.06)

ANITAS, Stansted Airport Volvo/Caetano RY51 ERN now has the name "Miss Viv" (by 8.06). To correct EBN 507, the new Bova is RY06 ERN.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh Volvo/Jonckheere R6 APT (R189 SUT) has gone to Aylmerton Field Study Centre, Norfolk. Scania/Irizar R877 SDT now has A.P.T. lettering

C104 TFP (ex 985 FXA, C104 TFP, 4542 VU, C104 TFP) Bova Futura in (by 7.06) Loverings, Combe Martin, Devon - has A.P.T. lettering

H937 VUG (ex A1 YET, H937 VUG) Van Hool T815 appeared in an advertisement for this operator (late 6.06) - ex Lever, Motcombe, Dorset - presumed dealer stock.

BARKER, Roydon Plaxton 425/Lorraine J8 WSB, is reported as being acquired in 2004. Neoplan WIW 4749 is now registered H203 AOD, while Leyland Olympian/ECW XIL 5455 (ARP 606X) is now WIW 4749. The Olympian and NUI 9050 (E451 CGM) a Duple 425 are now in schoolbus yellow.

BROWN, Harlow Ford Transit C710 NPU and E677 VKP have been sold.

CEDRIC'S, Wivenhoe Now has Bova Futura R50 TPB, ex Gibson's of Moffat, Scotland. Volvo B10M/Paramount 12 (602 JHU) and Bova Futura 14 (MIL 2886) have been sold via BCA Auctions, Manchester. Olympian 23 (B162 AKH) has gone for scrap. Sold LDV Convoy P595 WWO is now a caravan.

DAVES MINIBUS, Harwich Ford Transit Y719 XEO is a recent addition.

DMA, Brentwood PJ1 6079 (TPJ 298S) a Bedford YMT/Duple has been withdrawn.

DON'S, Dunmow Leyland Leopard (rebuild)/Paramount A62 KJX has been traced to AC Travel, Gravesend, Kent, as LUI 6440.

FARGO, Rayne Another ex Lincolnshire Leyland Olympian/East Lancs is C48 KBE. Vehicles withdrawn are Atlantean/East Lancs AHG 339V, Metrobus A635 BCN, Olympians C657 LJR and D511 PPU, Mercedes 609D E67 UND, Leyland Swift/Elme F353 VRN and Bova Futura IIL 2257 (G57 SBA)

FARNHAM HIRE, Farnham New in 2003, but only just reported is Iveco 45-12 BU53 VOO.

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree Ford Transit J978 AKY has gone to an unknown owner, while Dennis Dart/Alexander VU02 TPX, is with Proctor, Leeming Bar.

GEORGES, Canvey Island Renault Master L16 ATS has been withdrawn.

GRAHAM'S, Kelvedon Dennis Javelin/Plaxton K9 BMS (ex MIL 7163, K9 BMS) is with this operator (we think this has never been with the related MG Travel)

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford R959 RFP seen 4.8.06 in Chelmsford with all Taxibus lettering removed and now with the name "Sue". Assumed gone from Taxibus.

HARDY MILES, Southend BIG 8746 and BIG 8748 are both MCW Metrobuses (Mk.2) - both seen 7.06. A further Metrobus BIG 8750, was seen Northbound on the A1 at Grantham in August.

HARRIS COACHES, Southend Volvo



Regal Busways' new Slimline Solo YJ06 YSK in Colchester on new tender 71. *Dave Arnold*

B10M/Plaxton RJI 8602 (E828 EUT) has gone to Coach Continental, Middlewich.

KB COACHES, Wickford Y171 PDC (Y4 HAT) an Ayats Atlas coach, has been acquired from Collier, Earith.

KEANE, Canvey Island Operates a number of welfare type vehicles and has recently been granted a licence for one vehicle; this is currently on LDV Convoy, P261 CCH. Other vehicles operated include Peugeot Boxer A8 CFY (R526 GHY), X477 OFC; Renault Master K488 XOF, 853 YPX, R856 XDA; Ford Transits E335 UNY, L362 SHK, R792 GVC

KNIGHTS, Witham M969 AGO LDV/ Jubilee is in (by 7.06) ex Chalkwell, Sittingbourne, Kent.

LOGIC, Nazeing Two recent additions are ASV ??? (N784 ORY) a Dennis Javelin/ Caetano ex Holmeswood Coaches and RJI 1976 a DAF MB200/Plaxton ex Phoenix, Swindon. Leyland Tiger/ Plaxton F701 ENE is now DIG 3781, while Bova Futura G417 WFP has become DIG 3780. Ford Transit X685 XRD has gone to Albanygate, Waltham Cross. DIG 3781 (Charlotte) and Mercedes 811D/ Reeve Burgess 46 HLT (F173 CKW) are in schoolbus yellow. BMC schoolbus LT06 JOE is named National Treasure.

LONDON HERITAGE, Southend own AEC Routemaster/ Park Royal SMK 714F.

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS, Clacton Former Colchester Leyland Atlantean/ECW TPU 68R, is here ex Chariots, Stanford-le-Hope.

MATTS, Blackmore Ford Transit W575 LFP, has been here for some time, but has only just been reported.

MICKS MINIBUSES, Canvey Island A second VW LT46 is GX55 DMF, new in late 2005.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island In from Countryliner, Guildford is Mercedes Vario/Medio BU04 EXR.

NCS, Stansted Another LDV Convoy is Y263 PWC.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Dennis Dart/Plaxton K714 KGU has been withdrawn.

RAYNHAM, Newport Mercedes Benz 108D S788 ENU has been sold.

REGAL, Cooksmill Green Former South Yorkshire Leyland Fleetline/Alexander, SHE 557S is still here and has not been sold. New here for recently obtained ECC tendered services is YJ06 YSK one of the first new 7.1 metre SE Slimlines to enter service. It was on the 31A (Chelmsford - Little Baddow on 30.8.06)

RICHARDS TRAVEL, Galleywood YN06CKA Scania/ Irizat PB seen 8.06

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham Recent additions are former Arriva Southend C32 CHM, a Leyland Olympian/ECW and

N870/3 XMO Dennis Javelin/ Caetano. IAZ 6448 (YRS 94Y) a Bedford YNT/Plaxton, previously reported as sold, is still here, although withdrawn. Also withdrawn are MCW Metrobus B279 WUL and Mercedes Benz 410D K327 EJ.V.

SM COACHES, Harlow New here are Alexander Dennis Dart/ Caetano EU06 KDJ/ K/R and Irisbus Agora Line EU06 KHK

STRAIGHT DRIVE GOLF DAYS, Halstead Have ceased operating, Ford Transit M499 SWJ, was the only vehicle here.

SUPREME, Southend MCW Metrobus GBU 5V is not here and went from Presidential for scrap (Mitchell, Southend)

SWT, South Woodham Ferrers N484 UJH an LDV 400, has been sold to a private owner.

TALISMAN, Gt.Bromley V35 HAX a Setra in 30.6.06 ex Kings Ferry, Gillingham Kent via Scania (dealer)

Olympian tri-axes J534, 605 CEV were garaged at Ensign, Purfleet for the duration of the Motor Show at Excel, London in late 7/06. They were subcontracted to Ensign for the Motor Show park & ride.

Olympians M85/7 MYM went to Geldard, Armley, W.Yorks. on 13.6.06

Atlantean XPG184T went to Wealden (dealer) on 1.8.06

The following vehicles carry fleet numbers (by 6.06), all of which correspond to the numbers they had with former operators:-

55 JHK 495N, 77/8 YNO 77/8S, 90 RVW 90W, 304 J534 CEV, 306 J605 CEV, RML2535 JJD 535D

TERRAVISION, Stansted New here are Scania K114EB/ Irizar YN06 NKC/D. They are 65 seaters. Three similar vehicles are due. Also three similar vehicles and 2 12metre coaches will carry Terravision names, but will be operated by Excalibur, Nunhead.

TN TRAVEL, Colchester The ex IDF LDV Convoy, R71 BYS was delicensed/stored at Evergreen Garage, Stanway, in 6-7/06 but is now back in use.

Evergreen Garage and 6 London Road have ceased to be used as Operating Centres, but the latter is still the registered office. Current Operating Centres are: rear of 4, London Road and 47, Fingringhoe

Road.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Grays Acquired from Carousel, High Wycombe are MCW Metrobus WYW 57T and Leyland Lynx F558 NJM.

TOWNCARS, Clacton Recent additions are LDV Convoy W498 UCF, Y469 HPL; Ford Transits X681 PLW, AY02 YVX and Mercedes benz 109CDI NY04 MWN. All operate on taxi plates.

TURNERS, Wickham St.Paul YN06 CKX Scania/ Irizar seen 8.06. Similar YP02 AAO went to Scania (dealer) (by 6.06)

WICKS, Braintree Bedford YNV/ Duple E882 WAH, is now back in use.

YOUNG, Rayleigh Volvo B10M/ Duple 342 FRH (ex A501OKH) seen in use 6.06.

Miscellaneous

BL03 SGU LDV Convoy seen 7.06 with "Stanway Travel" names.

XGS767X is thought to now be with D.Thorn (by 7.06) rather than A.P.T.

ESSEX - Non-PSV Operators

Felsted School, Felsted: The following all seen 22.7.06:- V998 DJT Peugeot Boxer N679 MMW, EN02 VYA, EN02 VYB and EK54 HSX all Ford Transit

The **Brentwood School Dodge Commando/** Duple Dominant bus-cum-library B672 FHE, was seen at RTF Commercial, Bocking on 15th July. It is not known if it is for repair or sale.

Miscellaneous

NML 615E (RML2615) seen at Alresford and thought to be with Concourse Cars.

F938BKU Ford Transit/ Dormobile (which was once with Bonner, Ongar; although this seems never to have been recorded) seen 7.06 in Southend-on-Sea, apparently as a caravan.

Pattinson Fruit Farm, Gt Horkesley. The premises have now been demolished.

Pre-1986, some pcv type buses/ coaches were run for staff transport. These included SB/ Plaxton Embassy 4881 WU, 769 FTM; Leopard/ Duple Commander SYX 568/9F and Ford A/ WS SVX 330W.

Former **Stansted Hire, Stansted**

Mountfichet Fiat 49 E79 HVX is now a caravan.

*Ian Ransom, with thanks
to Dave Arnold and Colin Sigston*



Coaches in camera - 1

above: Kirby's of Rayleigh have a new Setra S415. K9 BYS is seen loading outside Alnwick Castle whilst on a tour of Northumberland. Livery is silver with blue and red signwriting. As can be seen, the Setra offers subtly different styling to the various Spanish offerings.

Peter Mansbridge

right: Excel Passenger Logistics of Stansted have a stunning new Ayats Bravo, WX06 OSW. Livery is white with red and blue insignia.

Informed sources say that not only is it one of the largest coaches in Essex, it certainly feels like it when you get behind the wheel!

The row of symbols in the rear screen show that it really does have everything ... including the kitchen sink.

Lyn Watson







Coaches in camera - 2

above:

Peter Godward Coaches IVECO/Beulas TC52 PGC in cream Southern Holidays livery crosses Buckingham Palace Road, Victoria.

Dave Arnold

upper right:

An uncommon combination, Mercedes/Irizar **BX04 NBY** of **Lodge's** of High Easter, gleams at the the Lincoln Steam Fair.

Dave Arnold

below right:

By way of contrast, **Lodge's** immaculate Bedford SB/Duple **MJB 481** at Leez Priory ... but let *John Salmon* tell the story ...

Lodges' to the rescue!

My daughter Kate has recently married. As a surprise for me (a long term bus enthusiast) she arranged for a vintage PSV to carry us to the wedding at Leez Priory near Felsted. Unfortunately the arrangement fell through at the last moment. Frantically searching for a replacement she contacted Lodge's Coaches at High Easter and they offered to supply their 1956 Bedford Duple.

The wedding was brilliant and when the coach arrived to carry us to Leez Priory we discovered the coach was named Katie. We are very grateful to Lodge's for supplying this great vehicle. (Members may like to know that it will be at Showbus 2006 at Duxford on 24th September).

John Salmon



PCV HOLDER ?

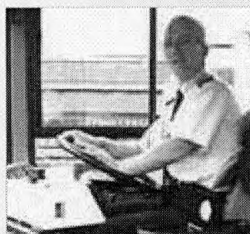
➤ Full and Part-Time Drivers required

Stephensons of Essex and our associated company, Excel Passenger Logistics are expanding fast and we have vacancies for drivers at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services and weekend rail replacement, together with scheduled service work and private hires.

If you're over 25 and have held a PCV licence for two years or more, we'd like to hear from you.

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.



➤ Full and Part-Time PCV Fitters

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.



➤ Rail Controllers/Customer Service Assistants

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

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

Stephensons: Bill Hiron 01702 541511

Excel: Graham Hayden 01279 681800



Stephensons

excel