

ESSEX BUS NEWS

September 2001

Issue 449

**Your Ticket For All
The Latest Bus News In Essex**



THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

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Essex Bus News

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. Please enclose an s.a.e. If you would like a reply. Our contact addresses are listed on the front cover.

Membership and Subscription Information

A one-year membership includes 12 consecutive issues of Essex Bus News Magazine and runs from either January or July. Current rates are £13.50 First class £12.50 Second class postage. Membership applications and any enquiries about your membership should be addressed to Derek Stebbing.

Timetable Subscription Service

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and monthly updates plus copies of Thurrock councils timetable book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information on joining the service.

Photo Sales

A very large selection of photos is available for you to purchase and we have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell if you have a particular interest.

Members Adverts and Appeals

As a free service we will publish members for sales, wants and appeals for information. Publication is subject to space and restricted to bus and transport related items. Please send your advert to the Managing Editor. Members responding to adverts should deal direct with the advertiser, as the group is not involved with any of them.

Your Reports and Observations

We aim to provide comprehensive coverage of bus services in Essex and members Reports, Photos and original articles are welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor or e-mail them to essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

Contributions and Closing Dates

Thank you to the following for their help this issue – Essex Buses, Arriva Shires & Essex, Heddingham Omnibus, Colin Sigston, John Rugg, Martin Farmer, Jon Cush, Dave Arnold, Derek Stebbing, Richard Delahoy, Bill White, Members of the Essex Bus 'y' Group, Essex County Council, LOTS, PSV Circle, Essex Chronical, Thurrock Gazette.

**Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to Sub-editors by 5TH October and to the Managing editor by 9TH October.
The October magazine is due for posting on Monday 22nd October.**

Essex Bus News is designed by Sean Menzies & printed by Kithead Ltd, De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0QE

Welcome Aboard!

What's Inside This Month?

EMAIL YOUR NEWS essexbusnews@hotmail.com

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More For You Every Month

Welcome to a packed 28-page issue of Essex Bus News, hot off the press with all the latest vehicle and service news from around the county.

Every issue we're bringing you more to read and this month there's brand new section dedicated to Phoenix Student Travel, plus there's another of our acclaimed VR watch pages, plus our Arriva Colchester & Shires & Essex columns return after email problems prevented their appearance last time. On top of all this there's page after page of news, features and two pages of photos. All this for less than £1.30 a month!

With More to Come!

We're working hard to bring you a better value magazine with some exciting new features planned for the future including the long awaited website.

Next Month to celebrate our 450th issue, look out for a special feature on historic Westcliff on Sea Motor services with vintage timetables and articles plus the very latest news from all the operators. It's going to be a great Autumn!

With More News, More Photos, More Features and More Pages, it's no wonder More readers are subscribing to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

The Front Cover Photo First Eastern National 3101 UAR 591W

Bristol VR/ECW – Chris Stewart's photo from the 21st August shows one of the diminishing number of VR's in the county as veteran 3101 travels gently down the steep slope of Queen Street in Colchester. Keep in touch with the latest VR happenings with our new VR Watch feature on Page 26.

EMAIL YOUR BUS NEWS essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Special Guest at October Group Meeting

Robin Staines, Owner of Essex bus and Coach operator Clintona Minicoaches will be joining us at the October Group meeting at Freight House , Rochford at **19.30 on Tuesday 9TH October** to tell the story of his much respected company.

Established since the 1960's and with a varied and interesting fleet, it should be an entertaining evening and well worth joining us.

The Freight House in Rochford is easy to find with Arriva Buses 7/8 stopping outside. It's also right next to the Rail Station with plenty of space for Car Parking.

At our Meeting on Tuesday 11th November 'Buses 20 years ago' Richard Delahoy Looks back to events in 1981 with the help of his extensive slide collection.

There will also be a meeting on Tuesday 11th December and we'll give you more details of what's planned in next Months Essex Bus News.

Autumn Dates for Your Diary

Sunday 23rd September EFE Showbus, Duxford (01494 562047 or www.showbus.co.uk)

Saturday 6th October Network Transport Bazaar ,Camden centre, Bidborough St, London NW1 (Opposite St Pancras Stn) 11am –3pm
Over 60 stalls selling Books, Timetables, Photos (01923 233706)

Sunday 7TH October 'Come and ride our Buses ' Ipswich Transport Museum celebrating Eastern Counties 70th Anniversary.
(www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk)

Sunday 14th October Castle Point Transport Museum open day, Point Road, Canvey Island – Group Sales stand attending. (call 01268 752197)

Saturday 3rd November LOTS Annual Transport Sale ,Pickets Lock Leisure centre, Edmonton – Group sales stand attending (www.lots.org.uk)

Members Free Ad's

Could Group Member Ted Miles who lives in Tenerife please make contact with Peter Snell as Peter has lost your Address.

Bedford & AEC Info Wanted – Peter Snell would like to know if there are any Bedford VAS or AEC Reliance still operating in Essex?

If you can help please contact Peter at the address listed on this months front cover.

Buses in the News

Cable Car Plan For Colchester

It could just be the silly season but Essex newspaper The Evening Gazette recently carried a report that the UK's first round-the-town cable car system could be created in Colchester.

Details of the ambitious scheme have been sent to Colchester Council, Myland Parish Council and the town's MP Bob Russell.

Alan Ulman, a Mile End resident and Chelmsford Council worker who has promoted the idea to Colchester's politicians, said the scheme was a real alternative to new bus routes planned as part of the northern approach road development and Cable cars would come along every 30 seconds. One route suggested a starting point in Mile End Road, before going down Turner Road past the hospital, over the railway, past Leisure World and into the Castle Park area.

Councillor Brian Lawrence said reactions to the idea had so far been very positive adding that if it ever got off the ground it would be "a major first".

In the Cable Liner system developed by Siemens and Dopplemayr, Cable Car, people carriers would be suspended from a structural spine above, similar to the kinds of cable cars found in ski resorts.

Ideas on financing the scheme include getting contributions from organisations that might benefit and developers involved in projects in Mile End.

New Setras For Crusader

Clacton coach company Crusader holidays is upgrading it's fleet with nine new Setra Coaches which will hit the road in January.

The order, placed with Evobus is for the award winning Setra 315 GT-RD with Euro2 Man engines and as the fleet is already all Setra , the new delivery will be a like-for-like replacement.

Crusader took the first Man powered 315's imported into the country in 1998 and the investment will mean that the whole fleet will have been replaced within 3 years.

SM Travel takes on Buzz in Harlow

Harlow Bus company SM Travel has whipped up competition with Buzz Co – operative by increasing it's SM20 Service to run all day to the Staple Tye, Katherines and Sumners housing estates in Harlow.

The new service started on the 1st September and operates every 15 minutes on Mondays to Saturday's on a similar route to Buzz co-ops established B1/B31 services and gives some residents upto 8 buses an hour.

Meanwhile in Thurrock , Arriva continues to face competition from Kingstons Of Essex which boosted Route 20 to run seven days a week last Month serving Chadwell St Mary, Tilbury and Lakeside. A war of words broke out in the local newspaper 'Thurrock Gazette' with Arriva promising a quality service with easy access buses and Kingstons arguing that customers preferred a reliable service.

First Eastern National

Allocation Changes

Changes for the period ending 26th August

2612 CN – Disposal , **2805** CF- CN, **2924** Res – CR, **3076** CR –Disposal
3077 CF – Disposal, **3078** DT- CR, **3084** CF- Disposal, **3094** CR- Disposal
3103 CF- Disposal, **3112** CF- BN, **3219** CF- BE, **4008** CF- DT, **4010** CF- DT
4013 CR- DT, **5009** CF- Phoenix, **5010** CF- Phoenix, **5012** CF- Phoenix

Vehicle on Loan

DBV 133Y A Leyland Olympian/ECW was on loan from Ensign, Purfleet at Chelmsford during mid-July for use on Phoenix Student Travel services. It was in North Western livery and was last reported with Arriva North West.

Service Changes

- 7A** Withdrawn with effect from 2.9.01.
31 From 5 August, the Sunday service has been operated under contract to Essex County Council by Arriva Southend.

The Stansted to Colchester service operated by Airport Bus and Coach had a revised timetable introduced from 9.9.01.

A recent change; services 10/11 now terminate some 100 yards short of Tower Camp at the junction of Midway & Belsize Ave. As Darts appear to be in use on evening services this may be the reason as it's not possible to turn anything other than a mini at the original terminus without entering the Camp.

Unusual Workings

- 29.6.01.** CR 1506 & 2830 on service 65 (normally Scania low floor)
14.7.01 CN 4015 on service 71 (CR operated service)
16.7.01. CN 4015 on service 103/4 (DT operated service)
20.8.01. CF 1516 on service 36 (route branded for 31/X)
23.8.01. CR 2679 on service 77 (normally big bus)
 Unidentified Olympian on Village Link 3 (normally Mercedes)

A shortage of Dennis Darts at Chelmsford has resulted in Stansted Connection branded 2823/4 appearing on town services (45, 54 and 56) during July and August. Lynx normally substitute on service 33.

The continuing absence of 740, has resulted in Plaxton bodied SLF Darts appearing on service 42 at Chelmsford. Alexander Darts of the ex First Leeds batch (29XX) have also been seen from time to time. 740 has now returned to service at Chelmsford and was noted back in use on service 42 on 7.9.01. The evening before it featured as part of a BBC programme on vehicle thefts.

Service Vehicles

W354HHL Ford Transit van (white) with 'Eastern National' fleetname & fleet no. 9033 is in by 6.01at CR replacing similar F909LEV.

First Thamesway

FLEET CHANGES

193 Latest

Service 193 is to be operated by the existing vehicles after the new contract starts; it is understood that the Company has not yet been able to order the intended Optare Solos pending the results of further reviews by TfL.

Vehicles on loan

As will have been seen in EBN448, Lynx **G995VWV** was returned to Ensign and sold by them to Hedingham. Lynx **F282AWW** has gone back as well, leaving no vehicles on hire. The DAF/Caetano on hire from Stephenson's was **D521WNV**.

Allocations (period ending 26 August)

364 BN-D/L(D); **3112** FEN-BN; **5001** HH-PST; **9031/2** DTV-D/L(D) without being used (the intended modifications were never undertaken). The vehicles for disposal have been moved to Clacton.

Last month's allocation list did not show 1939 K5G/ECW **9001** (AJN825) or Mercedes publicity vehicle **9028** (H397OHK) which are both based at BN (but do not appear on the Company's allocation sheet).

Refurbishments/Repaints

1409/20 to 'Barbie 2' (with vinyls)

701-10, **1405** now have full vinyls

1421 is currently being prepared for refurbishment

2658 to all-over advertising livery (blue with red roof) for 'The Brewery', the new retail park on the site of the old Romford Brewery

SERVICE CHANGES

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| 102 | from 3.9.01 the 1538 from Billericay operates at 1520 |
| 502 | new service from 10.9.01 – one journey each way Shenfield-Southend (schooldays only, on behalf of Phoenix) |
| 561/2 | new services from 10.9.01 - one journey each way on each route Basildon-Chelmsford (schooldays only, on behalf of Phoenix) |

Out And About

First Thamesway provided **3069**, **3109**, **3113**, **4005** and **4026** for the Chelmsford V2001 shuttle on 18/19 August. Sundays 9/16 October were expected to see FEN/FTW buses on London Underground rail replacement work between King's Cross and Paddington.

ARRIVA Southend

New Sunday Contract

Service 100 Basildon – Lakeside Sunday only Thurrock Council contract from 9/09. Previously operated by Grays Garage, requiring 2 buses.

Also a new college day only contract was registered from 3/9 as Service 801 operating from Hockley to Thurrock College via Rayleigh, Wickford, Billericay, Laindon and Basildon. The route is part Hail & Ride but is not open to the public.

Vehicle News

Into the Fleet

2381 R951 VPU Mercedes Benz Vario 0814/Plaxton Beaver 2 From Ware

Out of the Fleet

2114 N918 ETM & 2129 N909 ETM Mercedes 709/Plaxton have been transferred from Southend to Luton

Olympian Back

5394 F574 SMG The second Olympian to be refurbished at Arriva Derby is now back in service in Southend.

Publicity

'Changes to services' leaflet dated 2/9. Timetable leaflets for Routes 1,4,7/8,9 were issued for the changes on 2/9. All timetable leaflets now have a route map and those for the 7/8 & 9 were treated to colour front covers and include info on the low floor guarantee. A new leaflet for the 17/17A is dated 16/7 and Route 2, 30/7

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group has one of the largest bus photo collections in Essex with 1000's of Photos Featuring Operators and Vehicles of Yesterday & Today- We'll Do All We Can To Help You

**Drop a Line to Peter Snell 6 Mandeville Way Benfleet SS7 4LH
(Please enclose an sae)**

**Your Search For Bus Photos is Over With Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
Photo Sales**

ARRIVA Colchester

Into the Fleet

5363 BYX 233V Mcw Metrobus from Ware(WE) by 9/01

3245 M845 DDS Volvo B6 is transferred from Hemel Hempstead

3246 M846 DDS Volvo B6 is transferred from Hemel Hempstead

Out of the Fleet

2128 N908 ETM MB 709D Transferred to Grays (GY) in 7/01

Service Changes

Service 16A Barnhall - St Helena School; Schooldays. (Hedingham Omnibuses) From 3 September, this service will be operated under contract to Essex County Council by Arriva Colchester.

Service 66C : Colchester - Fingringhoe ; Mondays to Saturdays.

From 1 September an additional journey will operate on Saturday afternoons leaving Colchester at 1630.

New School Contracts

Arriva Colchester have been awarded Essex County Council contracts for school services 631/2 (Mersea to Thomas Audley School) commencing 9/01. Earmarked to operate these services are Metrobuses 5360 (BYX 220V) at present "u" at Colchester & 5363 (BYX 233V) at present "u" at Arriva East Herts & Essex' Ware depot

Doubles only on the 8

The double deck requirement from September means that service 2 will be all single-deck. This leaves service 8/8A as the only double-deck service.

Tiger Withdrawn

On 13 August 4312 Leyland Tiger/Duple Caribbean was withdrawn and currently resides in the old paintshop.

In Brief

- Colchester Driver Sean McCabe was expected to attend the 'Bus Driver of the Year' contest in Blackpool over the Weekend of 8/9th September. We'll let you know how he got on next month.
- Burger King ticket rolls have been in use since 27 August.

ARRIVA East Herts & Essex

Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires 2124/5 7/01

2124 N194 EMJ MB 709D 669003-2N-034752 Pn 957.6MHV4252
B27F 8/95

2125 N195 EMJ MB 709D 669003-2N-034526 Pn 957.6MHV4253
B27F 8/95

From Arriva Colchester 2128/34 7/01

2128 N908 ETM MB 709D 669003-2N-035454 Pn 957.6MHV4255
B27F 9/95

2134 N914 ETM MB 709D 669003-2N-035644 Pn 957.6MHV4261
B27F 9/95

From Arriva Southend 2135 7/01

2135 N915 ETM MB 709D 669003-2N-035835 Pn 957.6MHV4262
B27F 9/95 from Arriva Colchester 2136 7/01

2136 N916 ETM MB 709D 669003-2N-036677 Pn 957.6MHV4263
B27F 9/95

From Arriva Southend 2137 7/01

2137 N917 ETM MB 709D 669003-2N-035691 Pn 957.6MHV4264
B27F 10/95

From Arriva the Shires 2158 7/01

2158 N366 JGS MB 709D 669003-2N-042816 Pn 967.6MHV5362
B27F 7/96

From Arriva the Shires 2826 6/01

2826 G116 PGT MB 811D 670303-2P-018071 Ar AM42/790/9
B28F 4/90

From Arriva the Shires 2116 7/01

2116 N186 EMJ MB 709D 669003-2N-032735 Pn 957.6MHV4244
B27F 8/95

From Arriva the Shires 2122 8/01

2122 N192 EMJ MB 709D 669003-2N-034647 Pn 957.6MHV4250
B27F 8/95

Vehicles out

2188 (R188 DNM): Arriva Southend 7/01

2199 (L429 CPC), 2200 (L426 CPB): Arriva the Shires 2199/200 7/01

2224 (L424 CPB), 2264 (J 4 SLT ex J61 MHF): Arriva the Shires 7/01

2333 (L723 PHK), 2336-8 (L722/17/8 OVX): Arriva London North 7/01

2341 (M721 UTW): Arriva the Shires 2341 7/01

2350 (M730 AOO): Lutonian, Luton 7/01

2372/80 (R942/50 VPU): Arriva Southend 2372/80 6/01

2378/79/81 (R948/9/51 VPU): Arriva Southend 2378/9/81 7/01

2826 (G116 PGT): Gale, Harlow (dealer) 7/01

5363 (BYX 233V): Arriva Colchester 5363 by 9/01

Allocations

6/01: 2096. w; 2226. HA; 2334. GYa; 2341. HAU; 2372/80. w; 2826. GYa; 5260. WEw.

7/01: 2059. w; 2100. GYa; 2124/25. HA; 2128/34-37. GY; 2158. HA; 2188/99/200/226/264/333/6-8/41/50/78/9/81/826. w; 3091/92/96. HAU; 5269. WEw; 5363. WEu.

7/01: 2116, 2341. HA

8/01: 2122. HA

Latest Repaints

To Arriva corporate 6/01: 2362, 3091/92/96

Vehicle Loans

2333/6-8 are on loan to Arriva London North for service 377 (Ponders End-Oakwood) which has partially replaced Arriva EH & E's route 517

Service Vehicles Update

Position at 6/01 Please add the following

1168 R103 CBU Ford Transit Van Southend

1250 R580 LVL Ford Transit Mini-bus Southend

14 New Cadets

The 14 vehicles for Grays TfL contracts 256/346 are now, I am reliably informed, to be DAF120 10.2m/Wright Cadet and are expected in October/November. Booked registrations are within the band **KE51 PSZ to KE51 PVK**. Your Sub-Editor has details of the registrations booked by the parent company but this includes 3 further DAF120s & 4 Dennis Dart MPDs and which is to have which registration has not yet been decided. Even so, there are numerous gaps in the series. Darts 3404-14 are expected to be reallocated within the group.

Stevenage Buses

Vehicles parked up at Arriva the Shires Stevenage depot in mid 8/01 were 2090 (M150 RBH) RTA damaged - for breaking; 2096 (M156 RBH) for disposal; 2233 (M583 SSX) for disposal - engine u/s; 3325 (E565 BNK) awaiting transfer to Training School & 5375 (MUH 285X) awaiting new engine. 3348 (H258 GEV), for many months parked up at Dunstable is now undergoing preparation for service. 2333/6-8 remain on loan to Arriva London.

Olympian Refurbishment Update

32 Leyland Olympian/Alexander - 5083-5107, 5130, 5392-6/9 (F633-44 LMJ, G645-57 UPP, F747 XCS, F572-6/9 SMG) are all due for mid-life refurbishment, to be carried out at Arriva Derby.

On completion the initial allocation was planned to be as follows: -

- 6 for High Wycombe for services 362/72 (High Wycombe-Chesham)
- 4 for Aylesbury for enhanced service 280 (Aylesbury-Oxford)
- 4 for Luton for service X66 (Luton-Milton Keynes)
- 6 for Grays for service 324 (Hornchurch-Bluewater)
- 12 for Southend for service 1 (Shoeburyness-Rayleigh)

However, the refurbishment program has made a slow start - at this rate it will take nearly 3 years to complete the work. The ultimate allocations have been revised as Luton requires some 4/5 vehicles to convert their service 27 (Luton-Marsh Farm) to d/d operation from Volvo B6. It is not expected that the intended Grays allocation will be amended, rather Aylesbury &/or Southend)

Head Office Move

The Head Office of the Group, presently at Castle Street, Luton depot is expected to move together with the Luton & Dunstable allocations to a new site at 487, Dunstable Road, Luton adjacent to Chaul End Lane on 17th September. The National Omnibus & Transport Company originally occupied the Castle Street premises in 1927. I understand that Originally the land cost £5,375 and adjacent ground was later bought for £7,750. I wonder how many millions Arriva will net on its sale! Chaul End Lane was for some years the terminus of service 52D worked partially by Eastern National before the transfer of 1952.

The "Colchester" O/T Atlantean - 5301 (JHK 495N) is now regarded as an Arriva the Shires & Essex Head Office vehicle belonging to no particular fleet. I am told that it is longer registered for PSV work; it can however be hired by private parties!

Minibuses Transfers Explained

The considerable transfer of minibuses is due to a policy decision to make Grays an "all automatic gearbox" garage. Many of the fleet of Iveco Minis are being transferred to the Auxilliary fleet.

Providing their weight can be reduced to less than three and a half tons, they can be driven purely on the requirements of an ordinary car licence. Weight reduction is being achieved by removal of destination equipment, driver's bulkhead and some seats.

Service Changes

Service 10/10A Harlow – Church Langley From 28/8 revised route in Church Langley with the spur route to Tesco withdrawn.

Routes 59 & 349 From 30/7 these routes were combined into one service numbered 59. The journeys to Hatfield Broad Oak, and the peak hour service to Templefields both now operate under the 59 number. Most journeys remain at the same times, there are however some minor variations.

Service 324 Hornchurch –Bluewater – From 30/7 the College day only journey from Rainham – Thurrock College & from Rainham – Belhus were withdrawn with further minor Timetable changes from 3/9

Service 348 Romford- Lakeside – From 3/9 the two journeys that continued to Chadwell St Mary were withdrawn.

Service C1 Cuffley-Brookfield Centre – Timetable changes from 10/9

Route and timetable changes have been registered from 30/9 on Services 310/310A, 331, 395

Publicity

'Transport for Thurrock' Bus map and Route info folder issued 8/01

Service 724 Green Line Leaflet Dated 11/6

Service 251 Dated 2/6

'Zip 1' reprint dated 5/01

Road Changes in Grays

The 17TH August Issue of 'Thurrock Gazette' revealed the extensive scheme of traffic calming taking place in Grays town centre.

The road improvements are in conjunction with a Morrisons supermarket development that is set to open next Spring and many of the changes are taking place around the site of the store.

Traffic calming, humps and speed restrictions will be brought in along Argent Street, London Road and Orsett Road. The completion of the Grays western By-pass is also a key element to ensure that only traffic bound for the town centre will use local roads. Buses, Taxis and Cycles will be able to use both Stanley Road and Crown Road in both directions.

No details have been given about a new Bus Station but it's expected to be close to the Rail Station and the use of Crown Road in both directions should assist with this plan. The new road scheme is expected to start next Spring.

Essexbusnews@hotmail.com

THE EASY WAY TO EMAIL YOUR BUS NEWS



VYH 51G AEC Reliance /Plaxton Panorama Elite

New to Hall's of Hounslow, North London in 1968/69. One of the few surviving Reliance's in Essex, it was converted to a racing car transporter in March 1999 and is currently owned to CLC Constuction in Pilgrims Hatch, Brentwood. (Chris Stewart)



1924 JHJ 150V Leyland National The last National on the books of Essex Buses is now used as a driver trainer and Chris Stewart caught up with this historic vehicle on 15th May this year. Surely a preservation prospect?



5011 G473 DHF Leyland Lynx Chris Stewart's photo depicts Phoenix Student Travel helping out on the intensive shuttle service to the V2001 Concert at Hylands Park, Chelmsford over the weekend of the 18th/19th August.



3113 XHK 218X Bristol VRT/ECW The V2001 Concert witnessed a variety of vehicles and Hadleigh's Bristol is seen heading towards the venue on 18th August.

Hedingham and District

Out of The Fleet

L88, 89, 95, 98, 224 & 225 all to Ensign (dlr) 7/01
L133 & L170 to Ensign (dlr) 8/01
L139 & L146 to Slackers, Gt Blakenham, Suffolk for scrap 7/01
L158 scrapped 8/01
L165 to Trent Preservation Group 7/01
L166 to The Loch Lomond Factory Shopping Village (as a shuttle bus) 7/01
L169 seats to **L100** and scrapped 7/01

Corrections

The correct registrations for L224 is **A486 FPV** & L225 **A487 FPV** Both went to Ensign for disposal in July.
L100 is still with Hedingham and was repainted at Tollesbury in August

Acquired

L321 G995VWV Ld Lynx from Ensign (dlr) 7/01 [not yet in use]
L322 ???????? (ex MAM 95N, G222DKA) Ld Lynx ex Isle of Man Transport 95 via Ensign (dlr) [in paint shop at HD]

Repaints

L100 at Tollesbury, L161 at HD, L198 at Sible Hedingham, L207 at Kelvedon ex Advert

Tey Closes

Hedinghams Tey Depot closed on 10th August with most coaches going to Kelvedon Garage but 1or 2 going to Sudbury.

Licence Reduced

Following the recent service reductions the company's O'Licence (PF0050) Was reduced to 110 discs in August.

Service Changes

Service 16A: Barnhall - St Helena School; Schooldays. (Hedingham Omnibuses) From 3 September, this service will be operated under contract to Essex County Council by Arriva Colchester.

Phoenix Student Travel

Phoenix Flies Higher

We're pleased to launch a new column dedicated to the expanding operations of Phoenix Student Travel.

Any contributions are welcome to essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Phoenix Services

As we explained in last month's Essex Bus News, there was a major change to the services from the start of the new academic year. 27 services are being operated with 12 Routes being registered by Ensign Bus and 15 Services with Essex Buses Ltd (First Eastern National/First Thamesway). A complete list of services is given here in numerical order. All run on schooldays only with one journey in each direction and the start date unless indicated was w/c 3rd September 2001.

Service 501 : Chelmsford - Southend (First Eastern National)

From 10th September

Service 502 : Shenfield - Southend Highschools (First Thamesway)

From 10th September

Service 503 : Althorne - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 504 : Feering - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 505 : Danbury - Colchester County High School(Ensign Bus Co)

Service 506 : South Woodham Ferrers – Chelmsford (First Eastern National)

From 10th September

Service 509 : Great Dunmow - Colchester (First EasternNational)

From 10th September

Service 510 : Ostend - KEGS/St John Payne School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 512 : Chelmsford - Southend (First Eastern National)

From 10th September

Service 513 : Broomfield – Southend (First Eastern National)

From 10th September

Service 514 : Chelmsford - Westcliff High School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 521 : Holland on Sea - Colchester (First EasternNational)

From 10th September

Phoenix Student Travel Services Continued

Service 522 : Great Holland - Colchester (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 525 : Great Baddow - Colchester (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 559 : Purfleet - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 560 : Purfleet - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign Bus Co)

Services 561/2 : Basildon – Chelmsford (First Thamesway)
From 10th September

Service 579 : Maldon - KEGS (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 602 : North Fambridge - Anglo European School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 603 : Chelmer Village - Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 604 : Woodham Walter - Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10TH September

Service 606 : Braintree - Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 607 : Ostend - Anglo European School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 608 : Felsted - Anglo European School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 609 : Wickham Bishops – Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 610 : Purfleet - Anglo European School (Ensign Bus Co)

Service 619 : Debden - Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Service 620 : Epping - Ingatestone (First Eastern National)
From 10th September

Operating Centres

We hope to provide more detail on allocations shortly, meanwhile it was intended that for the Ensign services, 3 buses would run from Ensigns Garage in Purfleet and 9 buses from a base at Quayside Industrial Estate in Maldon.

Vehicle News

Acquired

Leyland Olympians, new to London Buses have been acquired from Ensign Bus to complement the existing fleet and a current fleet list is given here together with allocations where known. Again, more information in future issues.

Phoenix / Ensign, Maldon.

All seen at Maldon Depot in early September.

C807BYY	Red	L7	
C811BYY	Red	L11	
C64CHM	Red	L64	(still Two Door)
C77CHM	Red	L77	
C82CHM	Blue	L82	now 6004
C86CHM	Red	L86	
C106CHM	Blue	L106	now 6011
C109CHM	Red	L109	
C110CHM	Blue	L110	now 6010
F237CNY	Blue	5009	)
F240CNY	Blue	5012	> ex Essex Buses.
G434FVX	Blue	5010	)

The other vehicles in the Phoenix fleet with allocations where known are :

Dennis Dart 8.5SDL3003, Reeve Burgess

5000 H116THE BE

Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1R, Eastern Coachworks

5001 JTY371X
 5002 JTY382X CF
 5003 JTY395X CF
 5004 JTY400X CF
 5005 XWY478X BN
 5006 SJR616Y MN

Leyland Lynx

5009 F237 CNY MN
 5010 G434 FVX MN
 5011 G473 DHF
 5012 F240 CNY

Members Free AD

Wanted Any information on / or photos of vehicles owned by Simonds of Botesdale Ltd, Suffolk.

Please contact Dave Arnold 21 Cedar Chase Heybridge Maldon CM9 4NR or email david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk.

OTHER OPERATORS

A & D BENFLEET X246NVY Mercedes Benz/? is in by 5.01. L689KNO Ford Transit / Dormobile is in by 7.01 (ex either Essex C.C. or Southend Council)

A & J ROCHFORD Ford Transit H951KVX in by 6.01

ADVANCE HOCKLEY H952PPU (ex ??????) Toyota Town Ace Super Extra M8 (with PSV disc) is in by 5.01.

AIRLINKS WEST DRAYTON Revised timetables on this operators network and those operated by group company Cambridge Coach Services came into operation on 24.9.01.

AMBER COACHES RAYLEIGH WFA719V a Bristol VR/ECW is in by 6.01 ex Stephenson, Rochford. HNJ973V a Bedford YMT/Plaxton is in by 6.01 ex Kingsmaster, Thundersley. Bristol VR/ECW SAO 411R is unlicensed here.

AMOS, BELCHAMP ST. PAUL PEB 124R a Bedford YMT/Plaxton has gone to Ruffle, Castle Hedingham

APT RAYLEIGH A fairly recent addition is M919 HSU a Mercedes minicoach. C153EHW ?/WS is in by 5.01 - assumed to be ex MoD. K2APT is now on a Ba Futura (by 7.01 - sorry no further details)

ARROW TAXIS MALDON All cars and the Fd Tt now appear to be operating on taxi plates, although they also still carry their PSV discs at present (7.01).

ASHES CRESSING E795CCA Mercedes Benz/PMT is in by 6.01. This operator is also using the former Stapleton yard in Plantation Road, Boreham as an operating centre

BOBS LITTLE OAKLEY K802TKE Iveco/Dormobile M..L is in by 7.01

BOBBYS MINIBUSES STANFORD LE HOPE L821LHJ Talbot minibus is in by 6.01 ex Essex Ambulance Service

BPH TRAVEL ELMSTEAD MARKET J583EGH LDAF 400/LDAF in by 5.01

BRANDON, BLACKMORE END Fleetlines THM707M, GHV3/13/23/97N, JTD393P plus 2 short Plaxtons thought to be UIB4589 (ex SFP828X) & 841BMB (ex OEG289P, 896RHA, RGF230P) both Bristol LHS6L are all in various states of being dismantled.

Dennis Dominator/Alexander FGE441X is also here but unlicensed

BRENTWOOD COACHES Bristol VR/ECW UNW 928R is now with County Coaches leaving Brentwood Coaches with no DD's. HIL2392 (ex J73NJT, A6XEL) Volvo/Plaxton has also left the fleet.

BUCKDEN MINI COACHES S.BENFLEET G861APU a Ford Transit, was offered at Chelmsford Auction on 25.6.01. This operator has now ceased.

BUZZ HARLOW Revised services were introduced from 11.6.01.

CASTERS COACHES SOUTH WOODFORD B686NSC Scania/Jonckhree is in by 6.01 OJD807Y MCW Metrobus is in by 6.01

CAUSTON, BISHOPS STORTFORD IIL7077, SBZ8075 both Volvo/Van Hool & TIB4880 Volvo/Plaxton (ex Wallace Arnold) are (according to 'Bus Fayre' 7.01) with this operator. We had previously reported them with Smith (Fargo) having seen them at his yard. This may also apply to IIL7076.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE L565TUP ?/Jonckhree seen 6.01 - we think this must be ex L5GAR Volvo/Jonckhree ex Lee, Langley Moor 'Buses' reports that Cedric has sold R16CED Volvo/Jonckhree to Motts, Stoke Mandeville who have reregistered it R50MTT and Cedric has reregistered R71 VVP Neoplan N122/3 to R16CED (fleet no. 16) 19 R19CED Volvo/Berkhof has also gone to Lee, Langley Moor.

CEEFA COACHES BASILDON Mercedes Benz/Reeve Burgess F122 TRU has been acquired. It carries advertising for Sainsburys and is used on a free service to the store at Rayleigh Weir, Monday to Friday btwn 0900 and 1600.

CHAMBERS BURES Former Harris Bus, P318 KTW a DAF double decker has been acquired. It is normally on service 753 Colchester Bury St Edmunds).

CHARIOTS STANFORD-LE-HOPE NIL4810 (ex ???, OJI4755, C623UPG) LAG Panoramic is in by 6.01. MIL4345 (ex AJF88A) Bova Futura is in by 6.01. GYE412W MCW Metrobus is in by 6.01. HSV781 (ex FUA399Y) Bova Europa is in by 6.01 Former Colchester TPU68R Leyland AN/ECW is in by 6.01

CHELMSFORD CAB L866MJN Ford Transit/Red Kite Conversions B15FL is in by 5.01 (fleet no. 76) - this is ex Essex County Council and passed through Chelmsford Auction 4.01.

Y539FVX is a new shape Ford Transit in blue livery (by 6.01) - thought to be a loan from Ford Motor Co.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD Have a Mercedes high-roof minicoach R388EJV. The bus-bodied one M988CYS is B16FL

CM3 CARS S.WOODHAM FERRERS F358SMU Ford Transit/Do-Oatia is in by 6.01 ex A&D Benfleet. R447SLY LDV Pilot (on taxi plate) is in by 6.01.

C N ENTERPRISES DEBDEN The registration VIA137 is on a Volvo/Jonckhree Mistral (by 7.01) (ex Wallace Arnold - assumed to be one of the batch P353-7VWR). Therefore the previous holder of VIA137 must have been reregistered

CUNNINGHAM CORRINGHAM B885WNB a Mercedes minibus has gone to Harwood, Gt.Wakering (by 6.01).

DON DUNMOW M30TGM Ds Javelin/Plaxton is in by 6.01

DMA COACHES BRENTWOOD Bedford YMT/Plaxton SJI 4423 (ex FBJ 3T) has gone to Caster Coaches, Debden by 6.01

ELMHURST THORNWOOD COMMON KIW8607 (ex TKV3W) Volvo B58/Plaxton is in by 6.01

ENSIGN PURFLEET The following are normally in use on the Colchester tour. VRG 416T, BYX 144V and LAT 504V. All are MCW Metrobuses and they are garaged overnight at Boons, Boreham depot. A non branded spare from Purfleet is use as required to cover maintenance etc. The timetable for this service was revised from 21.7.01.

FARGO RAYNE LHE258W Leyland Leopard/Plaxton is in by 7.01 (was with Associated, Harlow.)

C751CWX (ex 86-CN-688, C751CWX) Neoplan/Plaxton 4000 at the o/c 7.01.

FIRST EASTERN COUNTIES A revised route and timetable was introduced on service X40 (Stansted to Bury St Edmunds) from 2.9.01.

FORD ALTHORNE TIL6709 Bedford/Van Hool is C658KVW reregistered by 5.01 Services to Maldon leisure Centre from South Woodham Ferrers run on Tuesdays only from 31.7.01. to 6.11.01. (except 4.9.01), services to Chelmsford Riverside ran on Mon, Wed and Friday from 30.7.01. to 31.8.01.

GARDNER WIDFORD NIL7951 (ex MGV645V, 447HWT, JGV319V) Bedford/Van Hool is withdrawn (by 7.01)

GODWARD SHOTGATE S1WDA Iveco/Beulas is being prepared by Lodge (on behalf of Scania) for Godward. It is ex Allan, Gorebridge, Scotland. (6.01). JIL4315 (ex 367RTV, D573NNS, C361KGG) Volvo B10M/Van Hool and VVY670 Volvo/Berkhof have been sold by 7.01

Y10PGC Iveco/Beulas C..Ft is in c5.01- in 'Southern Holidays' livery (by 7.01).

GOLDEN BOY ROYDON N66BOY Volvo/Van Hool is believed to be one of N69WEW or N71WEW (rereg. by 7.01) This operator is due to move operating centre towards the end of this year.

HARBACH MANNINGTREE N567HVF LDV 400 (high) is in by 5.01

IMPERIAL RAINHAM Have introduced service 108 (Chigwell Row to Debden Park HS via Limes Farm Estate) on schooldays only from 4.9.01. Service H1 was introduced from 3.9.01. operating Monday to Friday between Loughton and Harlow Princess Alexandra Hospital via Debden, Epping and North Weald. A revised timetable was introduced on service 100 (Loughton to Buckhurst Hill) from 3.9.01.

J.M.J. TRAVEL (Grays area phone) G227EOA Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle is with this operator (by 6.01)

JACKSON BICKNACRE B782FOG (ex B111WAT, B107LPH) Leyland ON/ECW is currently CH45/31F - the upper deck seats have different trim to those on the lower deck.

KNIGHTS GT. BRAXTED G343WHY Mercedes Benz a minibus is in by 5.01. WJ12832 (ex GFM663X) Bristol LHS/Plaxton has passed to Glew, Colchester by 5.01

LEE-ROY BRENTWOOD E640KYW MCW Metrorider had this operator's disc but was parked on the drive of Palmer, Laindon (7.01)

LODGE GOOD EASTER J6FTG Toyota/Caetano is in by 6.01. Bedford OB MJB481 is now PSV licensed (6.01) and is used on advertised excursions.

LONDON TRANSIT BUNTINGFORD Another addition is Dart SLF/UVG R79 GNW, Dart/Alexander N5 BLU is now repainted in their white livery

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS SERVICES CLACTON Service M135: Great Clacton - Clacton Town Centre (Saturdays) This service was introduced from 11 August operating to the same route and to a similar timetable to that operated by Hedingham Omnibuses on Mondays to Fridays. Service 555 was withdrawn with effect from 9.9.01.

N.C.S. NEWPORT M549 GAV LDV 200 is in by 6.01 ex Royal Mail (PSV disc 6.01, taxi plate 7.01). K585JWC Renault Traffic is in by 7.01 (but probably a lot earlier) N639HVX LDV Sherpa 200/LDV is in by 7.01 (operates on taxi plate). All Renault Traffics seen recently are now on taxi plates.

NELSONS A special service operated between Grays Rail Station and Orsett Showground on 4.8.01. Revised routes and timetables were introduced on this operators extensive school network from the start of the September term.

OLYMPIAN, NORTH WEALD FIL4907 (ex A613HGY) Leyland Tiger/Plaxton was at Frating auction on 18.7.01

PALMER, LAINDON Toyota/Caetano L202BPL and G146GOL Iveco/Carlyle are both here and at an operating centre at Wrexham Road, Laindon

PDQ COLCHESTER R147CTW MB Sprinter/MB- Bernard Mansell is in by 6.01 on taxi plate.

P&M COACHES SHOTGATE Volvo B58/Plaxton ABM471A is at Birkett Hall, Woodham Ferrers (being used for spares)

PHILLIPS SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS K203FEH MercedesBenz/Dormobile is with this operator by 6.01 ex Arriva The Shires 2083. G200RRN ?/VH is in by 6.01 (sorry no further details - we think this is a reregistration). YFJ649X (ex 7346HP, KMR4X) MAN has gone (by 7.01)

RED CAR & COACH KELVEDON HATCH AUJ733T Bedford YMT/Duple is here with 'Freeway' lettering (6.01)

ROD'S STANFORD-LE-HOPE R177DKO LDV Convoy is in by 7.01

RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM P919HNA Dennis Javelin/Neoplan is in by 6.01. We understand that a Toyota/Caetano has recently been added to the fleet.

Mercedes/Whitaker J299DFU has gone (by 7.01)

RW PRIVATE HIRE TIPTREE Ford Transit K355PDX has gone (by 6.01) and been replaced by a newer version R544 EOO.

RYDERS HARLOW M202DCV Toyota/Caetano is in by 6.01

SJH CRAYS HILL HWV65X (ex 820GXC, LBO13X) Volvo/Plaxton Viewmaster is in by 7.01 and DIB2183 (assumed to be Volvo/Duple ex A545HRY) is in by 7.01

SOUTHEND RADIO TAXIS SOUTHEND

This operator now includes the former Airport Express business.

S552TVW Fd Tt (s.w.b.)/Fd currently has 'Airport Express' names and a PSV disc. D704PEV Fd Tt/Do has 'Airport Express' names - not sure if PSV disc or taxi plate.

STEPHENSON, ROCHFORD E275KEF Leyland Tiger/Plaxton is in use by 7.01 - had been in dealer stock earlier.

D521WNV DAF/Caetano is in use by 7.01 - had previously been on loan to Thamesway Revised timetables were introduced on Southend area schools services 508 and 509 from 3.9.01. A revised route and timetable was introduced on open top service 67 from 23.7.01.

SWT PRIVATE HIRE SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS K193TKO Renault Master is at the o/c - probably owned

VICEROY, SAFFRON WALDEN X178BNH Mercedes Benz/Plaxton is in by 7.01 G361FOP FR Sherpa/Carlyle is here ex Lodge, High Easter (by 7.01 - but presumed in by 1.01 when it had left Lodge). It was unlicensed when seen 7.01

WALDEN TRAVEL, SAFFRON WALDEN R682DWS Dennis Javelin/Plaxton is in by 7.01 ex Stevens, Bristol, has fleet no. 14 & is named "Gandalf" P553KSP. ??/ (ex ????) is in by 7.01

Service 91 (Saffron Walden to Hempstead via Radwinter and Finchingfield) was introduced on Tuesdays to Thursdays during school terms only from 11.9.01.

WARD ALRESFORD M222DDY Scania/Van Hool is ex Rambler Coaches, Hastings, E.Sussex and is here on loan from a dealer.

WICKS BRAINTREE H238AFV DAF/VH is in by 6.01 ex Ribblesdale (Robinsons), Gt.Harwood, Lancs.

WYNN MAYLANDSEA F864HGX Fiat Ducato/Fiat is in by 5.01. HUI4953 (ex F435RRY) Fiat 315/Caetano is in by 6.01

YELLOWLINE BRAINTREE G964VBC Ford Transit/Ford is in by 7.01 (on taxi plate)

Essex County Council Publicity

All five area Timetable books were treated to new editions in September. Don't forget to join our Timetable subscription service to ensure you receive the latest books and updates – See page 2 for more info.

Two other items to note include a Sunday Travel Guide Harlow Update booklet issued to coincide with the new times for the Sunday town routes from 2/9 and a Sunday Ticket guide leaflet issued in August.

Essex Dealer Report

The latest vehicle movements at Purfleet dealer Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From Metroline (PB) 17/8/01 **M1113,M1334,M1414**. From Warrens,South Wales **VR's WJM822T,VPF288S**. From Arriva North East Olympians **C265XEF,C266XEF,B246NVN,B245NVN,B255RAJ,B253PHN**

From Heddingham Bedfords **BHK710X,WOO903W**, From New World First Bus. Dennis Condors

DL24 EG6964,DL41 EH6321,DL31 EG4324,DL16 EG857,DL36 EH7956,DL19 EG2545,DL25 EG7583,DL21 EG5131,DL38 EH7908,DL4 EE9168,DL14 EF9534,DL26 EG3356

DL45 EJ3194,DL23 EG5851,DL48 EJ4800,DL47 EJ4042,DL37 EH6884,DL35 EH6403,DL18 EG2166,DL22 EG4627,DL42 EJ2225,DL30 EH2014,DL44 EJ2261,DL13 EF7027

DL29 EH2206,DL40 EH9604,DL39 EH7436,DL27 EG9386,DL8 EF3349,DL46 EJ3811,DL41 EH9876

From Isle of Man Transport Olympians **MAN54N,MAN80N,CMN45C**.

From Metroline on 28/8 **M468** (North Wembley), From White Rose on 31/8 **M88**.

Vehicles out

Lynx **MAN95N (G222DKA)** Heddingham Omnibuses ,Fleetline **Q475MEV** Stephenson's ,Southend in a dealer capacity - it is going on, together with **Q554 MEV**, to Fargo of Rayne, **M124**,Metrobus **MRJ42W,T454**,Dennis **B102UAT** PVS,Barnsley.

Tri axle **ML49(DT9375)** Exported to Ghana, **T573** Imperial,Rainham, **DL43 (EJ1293,G452CVX)**Northern Blue,Dinnington.**M1290,M1294** Halifax Joint Committee. Bedford **BHK710X** Ingatestone Coaches,**T458,T578,T461,T597,T446,T971,T632,T613, T797,460,552,748,749,653,984,964,952,1061** Glenvale Transport,Gillmoss.

T20 Mr J Vigereux,Paris, **M1333** Bedford **A487FPV** Liverpool and District bus and coach rental. Also Olympians **L42** and **L48** are on long term loan to Bath Bus Company

National **TOF705S** Red Route,Northfleet, **M1165,M1293** McKindless,Wishaw.

M1414 Buffalo,Flitwick, Olympian **MAN82H** Bugler,Bristol,**L9,L87,L23,L12,L83,L74** Truronian,Truro- all converted to single door 72 seaters, Brighton PD2 **LSL847** Mr Matteo,Rome,Italy ,Olympian **A150UDM** Sanders,Holt.

L110,L94,L11,L77,L82,L106,L86,L7,L64,L62,L92,L109 Phoenix,Chelmsford All to single door 72 seaters.

To correct last months report Metrobuses **F165/6 UJN** are sold to Brylaine Coaches ,Scotland

Disposals and subsequent history of London based vehicles are covered in more detail by London Omnibus Traction Society (LOTS) See their web page www.lots.org.uk for details on joining the group. For more about Ensign check www.ensignbus.com Disposals from London operators are usually referred to by their fleet number. See 'London Bus & Tram Fleetbook 2001' published by LOTS for registrations.

Where Are They Now Special

The Surviving Eastern National Leyland Nationals

1702	WNO 551L	Preserved Andy Cooper ,Chesterfield
1707	WNO 556L	Preserved Julian Patterson , Kings Lynn
1718	NEV 675M	Preserved Andy Cooper
1721	NEV 678M	Kettlewells, Retford
1736	HWC 87N	Arriva Fox County Greenway
1750	JNO 199N	Was with Essex Fire Service as demo vehicle
1783	PEV 695R	CNT, Aintree
1806	TJN 505R	Blackburn Transport
1810	TJN 509R	Midland Choice , Willenhall
1817	VNO 740S	Birmingham Coach Co.
1833	VAR 899S	Preserved Steve Simster ,Chelmsford
1849	YEV 307S	Birmingham Coach Co.
1850	YEV 308S	Preserved Bill Armquest
1855	YEV 313S	Beestons ,Long Melford
1862	YEV 320S	Preserved Julian Patterson
1866	YEV 324S	Blackburn Transport Greenway
1878	BNO 668T	Birmingham Coach Co.
1879	BNO 669T	Pilkington ,Acrington
1885	BNO 675T	Preserved Colin Sanders
1892	BNO 682T	Hunts ,Alford Urban bus conversion
1898	DAR 120T	Connect Coaches ,Saleham
1906	DAR 128T	Powell Bus , wickenshaw
1910	DAR 132T	Birmingham Coach Co.
1913	JHJ 139V	Bowes Coaches , Chapel en le Frith
1914	JHJ 140V	Ludlows ,Halesowen Urban bus
1923	JHJ 149V	North West Gas Display Unit
1925	MHJ 721V	Williams ,Crosskeys
1933	MHJ 729V	Williams ,Crosskeys
1936	MHJ 732V	Williams ,Crosskeys
1937	STW 18W	Arriva Fox County

This list was compiled by Sean Menzies with assistance from Martin Farmer and The Leyland National Preservation Group . Information correct to 2/01 & updated to 7/01. Some vehicles may have been re registered but these are not shown.

SPECIAL MEMBERS ONLY BOOK OFFER

**—Save 50%—
SEE PAGE 28**

ESSEX VR WATCH

Chris Stewart & Martin Farmer keep track of the ever reducing number of Bristol VR's in passenger service with Essex Operators.

ESSEX BUSES VR's

V2001 shuttle service between Chelmsford Station and Hylands Park over the weekend of 18/19 August saw 3069, 3072, 3077, 3101, 3103, 3109 and 3113 in use while one NIBS VR was reported on Sunday evening. 3112 was undergoing repair but has been used fairly frequently on the 151 during school holidays (as has 3109). 3103 was due for withdrawal at the end of Sunday but departed slightly prematurely after suffering a broken windscreen; however on 10 September it was at Clacton depot being prepared for a PCV test and further service.

The Latest News

CF has retained 3083, which spent much of August in Clacton depot but returned to service on Phoenix Service 512.

3077, officially D/L(D), is reported in use at DT covering for failed 4013 while 3069 and 3113 have been in regular use on routes 20, 21, 22 and 27 during the school holidays. 3113 worked the evening 752 short workings on 7 September, after working a Brentwood schools duty.

FORMER EN VEHICLES

A trip to the Bristol Vintage Bus Group's excellent open day at Brislington on Sunday 19 August brought an unexpected bonus – Abus KOO792V (one time 3074) operated a shuttle to Crown Coaches/Abus' yard (they also run KOO791/3V, STW33W and XHK222X, as well as several other VR's). Abus operate a number of stage services in Bristol and North Somerset using VR's and other vehicles, one regular VR working (normally in the hands of lifelong Bristol enthusiast Allan MacFarlane) being the Tuesdays-only 683 from Blagdon to Wells and back. If anyone is heading that direction and wishes to make prior contact (and to see if any of the former EN vehicles is out), we can provide contact details.

Don't forget the Castle Point Museum Rally/Open Day on Sunday 15 October, when resident VR 3000 (CPU979G) may be joined by other visiting VR's from the current fleet and subsequent owners (3000 and 3129, the last VR delivered, are owned by group member Paul Harrison).

**Reports of VR workings will be greatly appreciated
Email your reports to essexbusnews@hotmail.com**

INTO LONDON

The History of Eastern National and Thamesway London Bus Contracts

Part 8 – 1998 A Capital Investment

Thamesway and Eastern Nationals foray into London was never exactly uneventful but 1998 must certainly have been one of the most traumatic.

The year began with Ponders End assuming a new **Route W17 Walthamstow – Coppermill Lane**, commencing on 14th February and requiring 1 Minibus. On the same day MTL London Northern took control of **Route 214 Liverpool St – Parliament Hill Fields** with the batch of 17 Darts being loaned to operate it.

The future of Thamesways London bus contracts was decided after First Groups purchase of Capital Citybus for £24.1 Million on the 8th July 1998. Coming just a year after Centrewest buses joined the First group portfolio, this latest acquisition gave the group control of over 20% of London Bus contracts together with the opportunity for a significant enhancement of productivity. The first signs of the impending deal were felt on the 29th June, when **Route D8 Stratford – Isle of Dogs** and its buses were transferred to Capital Citybus, initially for three months, but in fact permanently after Capital became part of First Group.

The retreat from London intensified from the 26th September when the control of Ponders End Garage and **Routes 191, 362, 379, 389, 399, 462, W11, W12, W13, W17** were all reassigned to First Capital with their respective batches of vehicles.

This left just **Route 193 Romford – County Park Estate** and the **Havering/ Ilford** Mobility Bus routes under Thamesway control. The 193 continued to operate from Ponders End until 17th October when operation moved to a new garage near Romford. The group of Mobility Routes moved to Basildon garage around the same time. Indeed, at certain times during the next few years at least half of the buses for the 193 were operated from Basildon Garage owing to staffing problems at Romford.

1999-2001 The Story Continues

Over the last few years, operation of Routes 193 and the group of Mobility routes has continued and the improved staffing situation at Romford Garage has reflected in a better performance on the 193 with very little lost mileage being recorded. First Thamesway successfully retendered for a new 5-year contract for the Havering & Ilford Mobility network from 14th October 2000 and also retained the 193 from 28th September 2001 with a new Sunday service and new buses expected next year. After 16 years on the roller coaster ride of London Bus Contracts, the story continues.

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