ESSEX BUS NEWS

September 1997

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

401



ONE OF THREE LEYLAND NATIONAL 2s NOW OPERATED BY NELSONS OF WICKFORD, ARN 891Y IS SEEN AT NORTH BENFLEET

pjs.

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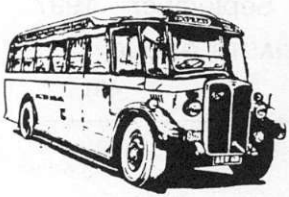

ESSEX BUS NEWS
No. 401
EDITORIAL



In This Issue

Interesting fleet changes in Essex Buses fleets.

Photographs

New lists of Hedingham and Harrisbus available - Large SAE to P.Snell

Rochford Meetings

Next meeting will be at the Freight House on Tueday October 14th at 8pm.

Apologies to members who received some blank sheets in EBN399.

We regret the slight delay in receiving EBN400. This was caused by a delay in Kithead receiving the address labels.

ESSEX ODDS AND ENDS

Ford Transit/Reeve Burgess minibus JMJ 119V is now in use as a caravan from Tidings Hill in Halstead.
Leyland atlantean JPL 142K (once London Country AN42) is parked at Brickfields Industrial Estate in Thundersly, owner unknown.
For those with unusual tastes CVE Omni H204 BKM is with Drive it Yourself Rentals in Laindon.
Recent visitors to Nationwide Seatbelts in Maldon are Metroline WLT 893 (M1185) and WLT 826 (M1429), Southern National Tiger/Marshall B591 FOG and Leopard/Alexander PRA 115R , Iveco/Robin Hood D52 ERV and D224 VCD both from Taylors Yeovil and B850 WYH and B180 WYV both Leyland/ Wadham Stringer from LB of Greenwich.

Eastern National

VEHICLES RENUMBERED

Mercedes 810 minibuses 2701 to 2708 have been re-numbered 421 to 428. This is the first step towards a common fleet numbering policy for Essex Buses. The new Marshall bodied minibuses soon to be delivered will be 411 to 419, which follows on from the existing numbering series on Thamesway minibuses, there will be no number 420. There are no plans to re-number any further vehicles at present.

ALLOCATIONS

Period end 27.7.97. None
Period end 24.8.97. 1833/51 CN-CF; 2236 CN-Reserve; 2248 Pool-CN; 2601 BE-CF 2668 CR-CN; 2807 CF-D/L(D); 2808 CF-BE; 2810 CN-CR; 3093 Pool-CR; 3225/34 CR-D/L(D).

2808 becomes the first 'big bus' to be allocated to Braintree since January 1992.
Leyland Nationals have returned to Chelmsford and are normally to be found on schools contracts, but are also used for stage work from time to time.

GENERAL

Recent management changes, following the depature of Robin Orbell have now been announced. Stephen Smith the former Operations Director has moved into the vacant position as Managing Director of Eastern National, while his replacement is Derek Trotman, who was Director of Basildon and District operations. We wish both gentlemen well in their new positions.
The company continues to face competition in Chelmsford from the taxibus operations, refered to in recent issues. The use of these services appears to be very low, which may be a reflection of the operation of these services, with only the loop service operating most of the time.
The company have joined with WAGN, to provide through ticketing on service 308 at Bishops Stortford, for journeys to and from London. This may be a reflection of the increase in importance of the town, which has become a City, according to WAGN in the EN Grapevine magazine!

SERVICES

7/8 From 1.9.97. some journeys were rerouted via Walton Station.
15 New service introduced between Walton and Colchester on Monday to Friday from 1.9.97.
20/A Minor timetable revision introduced from 1.9.97.
33D New service introduced between Southend and Chelmsford on college days, from 8.9.97. Joint with Thamesway.
58/A Revised timetable introduced from 8.9.97.
59 Revised timetable introduced from 8.9.97.

71X Introduced between Colchester and Chelmsford on college days only from 8.9.97. with two journeys each way.
75/B Revised timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
103/4 Minor timetable changes introduced from 1.9.97.
233 Revised route and timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
306 Revised route and timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
605 Withdrawn after operation on 28.9.97.
606 Withdrawn after operation on 28.9.97.
631 Withdrawn after operation on 28.9.97.
X3 Introduced between Harwich and Colchester, with one journey each way from 1.9.97.

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

16.8.97. CF 1129 on service 33.
26.8.97. CF 1130 on service 33.

INITIAL DISPOSALS

1863 (YEV 321S)	Transferred to Thamesway, 8/97.
2807 (L807 OPU)	Eastern Counties, Norwich, 8/97.
3225 (AYG 850S)	As 1863.
3234 (NUM 339V)	As 1863.

HARRIS bus



VEHICLES

New vehicles continue to be delivered with the arrival of Volvo Olympian/East Lancs R356-8 RVX, these seat H51/35F. 354 was delivered on 31.7.97. and must have been the first R registered vehicle in service, at 0000 on 1.8.97! This leaves just 359 to come.
Ipswich Olympian M42 EPV was exchanged for Dominator B82 NDX on 30.7.97, although this vehicle returned home on 7.8.98. Atlanteans SDX 22/30/35R returned in late August, leaving RDX 18R on loan.
Vehicles on loan were P718 WFR Dart SLF/East Lances from late July to 11.8.97 and Optare Metrorider P914 XUG from 11.8 to 14.8.97.
DAF/Ikarus J52 GCX suffered an engine fire on 30.8.97. outside Tilbury, Asda. Two fire engines attended and this vehicle is now out of use.

SERVICES

Further sucess in London tendering has seen services 132 (Eltham to Bexleyheath) and 180 (Thamesmead to Lewisham) won from January 1998. The 132 will be single deck and the 180 double deck, both using low floor vehicles. It is understood they will operate from the existing Crayford outstation.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT

A "Fun Bus" school-holiday service, numbered 99, was operated on Mondays to Fridays from 23.7.97 to 3.9.97, with support from Colchester Council. 463 received Fun Bus vinyls. The route was from Bus Station, via Magdalen Street, Hythe, Hawthorn Avenue, St Johns Road, St Christopher Road, Upland Drive, Ipswich Road, Highwoods Approach, Derwent Road, Brinkley Lane, Brinkley Grove Road, Mill Road, Turner Road, Cowdray Avenue, Leisure World, St Andrews Avenue, Harwich Road, Roller World, and East Hill to Bus Station. Buses ran in this direction at 900, 1000, 1100, and 1200, and in the reverse direction at 1400, 1500, and 1600.

The first of seven single decker Volvo B10Ms arrived from Harlow on 6.8.97. B857 XYR was used, in Town Link livery, from 7.8.97, with fleet number 457. It entered the paint shop on 12.8.97, emerging a week later in CBT livery, but without a fleet number. It re-entered service, still un-numbered, on 22.8.97, but was damaged in a collision with an Eastern National Dart in Colchester Bus Station the following day.

B858 XYR arrived on 21.8.97 and went straight to the paint shop.

Greenway 349 was returned from Ipswich Buses with a new engine on 11.7.97.

On 13.7.97 43 was at the ECW day at Carlton Colville.

On to railway work, on 13.7.97 46 operated an early journey from Colchester to Witham. On 20.7.97 45 did the same, and 48 and 49 were used on Central Line replacement services between Leytonstone and Bethnal Green. On 27.7.97 67 did the trip to Witham, 45 and 47 the Central Line service, and 348, 349 and 350 were used on the District Line replacement between Embankment and South Kensington. On 28.7.97 100 was on stand-by at Waterloo. On 30.7.97 354 was used between Mark's Tey and Sudbury. On 3.8.97 347, 348 and 349 were on District Line service. On 10.8.97 48 ran to Witham and 354 operated between Colchester and Sudbury. On 17.8.97 347, 352 and 354 helped cover the District Line. On 23.8.97 41, 43, 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 were used between Shenfield and Ilford. And the following day 41, 43, 46, 48, 49, 87, 88 and 89 did the same.

Open-top 55 and Fun Bus 463 took part in the Colchester Carnival on 26.7.97. 55 was used throughout the summer on tours of Colchester, until 6.9.97.

Fares were increased on 1.9.97, 35p going to 37p and others going up by 5p.

Thamesway

Thamesway, Eastern National and Eastern Counties fleets are to be renumbered into a common [redacted] series - full details next month.

Transferred from Eastern National

1863	YEV 321S	Leyland National
3225	AYG 850S	Bristol VRT
3234	NUM 339B	Bristol VRT

Transferred to Eastern Counties

923	M823 TEV	Dennis Dart
1601	L601 MWC	Volvo B6

Allocations to 24/8/97

327 BN-HH	923 BN-EC	942 HH-BN	1601 BN-EC
1845 BN-HH	1863 EN-HH	3225 EN-BN	3234 EN-BN

Initial Disposals

205	C684 ECV	8.97	Hardwick (dlr), Carlton (this corrects n/s 399)
249	F249 NJN	8.97	Broken up by Thamesway

Repaints

1405		1412	1420	1421
1112	1114	1115	are now in the original yellow and maroon livery.	

Service Changes

33D New service Southend General Hospital to Chelmsford via Eastwood, Rawreth Runwell Hospital and Rettendon, Mon. to Fri. only when Anglia Polytechnic is open - joint with Eastern National.

33E New service Chelmsford to Southend via Rettendon, Rawreth and Eastwood, Mondays only when nominated by Chelmsford Borough Council as fare free days for state retirement pensioners. One journey in each direction.

34A From 3rd September early journeys from Laindon re-routed to serve Nevendon Road instead of Radwinter Avenue.

60 From 3rd September revised timetable and routing not serving Basildon.

99 New limited stop service Chelmsford to Lakeside via Galleywood, Shenfield, Brentwood and Brook Street. One journey in each direction on College days from 3rd September.

110 New limited stop service Chelmsford to Orsett Hospital via Runwell and Basildon Hospitals, two journeys in each direction college days from 8th September.

133 New schoolday service Basildon to Southend via Wickford, one journey in each direction from 3rd September.

193 Last day of experimental Sunday operation is 28th September.

551 Minor timetable revisions to schoolday service from 8th September.

LATE NEWS

The Eastern National and Thamesway fleets are not to be renumbered but rather tidied up to improve classification.

Southend Transport

VEHICLES.

Acquired AN110 MPJ210L Leyland Atlantean PDR1A/1sp MCW OT43/29d
ex Sampsons via Leaside.

The AN is for possible use on a new seafront service next year between Southend and Shoeburyness.....?

Disposals

RM115 WFO410(WLT378) Nostalgiabus Merton Park 4/97 ex Timebus.

LD203/4 PIB5144/45(UTD203/4T) Brighton & Hove 5/97 ex Brighton Transport 81/5

LD219 SPN669X Brighton & Hove 5/97 ex Brighton & Hove 24

LD509 LAK303W Hookway,Meeth 11/96

LD521 XWX193S Hodgson,Millows8/96 ex Keenan,Ayr

VR303 YUM516S Eastville Bristol 2/97.

VR403/4 LHG447/8T Roberts Culloden 1/97

Repaints

ON265 H265GEV into new fleet livery ex Choice advert.

SERVICES

New service 11 Ashingdon Schools - Lakeside. Mon-Sat 1 journey each way operates via Rochford,Western Approaches,Eastwood,Rayleigh,Shotgate,Wickford, Laindon,Bulphan,Orsett. From8/9/97.

New service X4 Hyde Park Cnr, - Southend Mon-Fri only 2 journeys this direction only. Operatesas X1 to Rookery Cnr then non stop to Tarpots Cnr. then as X1 to Southend. From 7/9/97.

PUBLICITY

Timetable leaflet for new service 11 dated 8/9/97.

New X group services timetable, Green Line style dated 7/9/97.

GUILD MEMBER JIM READ OF WHITE RODING RECALLS HIS SCHOOLDAYS.

The two Simpson vehicles which were transferred to Eastern National upon takeover in March 1940 were soon painted in the smart pre-war livery.

I remember seeing 3871 Albion DNO 42 on service 8 (later renumbered 58) on just one occasion before its requisition for War service - no doubt the gleaming paintwork was hurriedly camouflaged all over.

After the Easter school holidays in 1940 I cycled from White Roding to Leaden Roding King William to catch the 8am school bus to Chelmsford. This was a new service which would return at 3.45pm, the primary purpose of which was to continue the Simpson contract of the carriage of Leaden Roding children to and from Margaret Roding School. Initially this was a special journey - out a.m and back p.m. private.

On the first morning 3600 Dennis Ace CTW 196 (which was later destroyed by enemy action in the big air raid in May 1943) appeared and together with sister bus 3607 CTW 203 with its noisy Gardiner 4LK engine - OMO of course - settled in to the routine.

One afternoon 3870 Bedford CHK 801 stood on the Service 8 stand which was on the Duke Street side of the park about halfway down. I, together with a few fares for Chignall Corner, boarded. I settled down in the single seat beside the driver - it wasn't referred to as a 'courier' seat in those days!

After Chignall Corner and a discussion about CHK's origin the driver said 'I wonder what this old gal will do', whereupon his toe went down and we reached Margaret Roding School in record time.

Apparently, most Bedford buses and coaches were built on lorry chasses during 1935 and CHK was no exception as the WTL mark would confirm. Indeed, Mr. R. Simpson informs me that both the G.M.C's (VX 4591 and VX 5986) were built on lorry chasses as photograph no. 5 in the Simpson book would suggest.

CHK 801's chassis was scrapped in 1942 but the body was sold on. I am rather suprised that it did not end its days as a Company works lorry as did it's counterpart CEV 394 and, indeed, many of that marque.

CHK never appeared on that run again so perhaps the driver did knock the big ends out on the return journey!

County Bus

FLEET

LR 5 and LR 11 (TPD 105/11X) have not been sold (see EBN 399) but are in store at Barking (Grey Green depot).

Ex Cowie Leaside Metrobus GBU 4V has been seen in full Cowie County Bus livery, cream with red upswept stripes at the rear operating the 310 service from Ware garage.

Repaints

Metrobus DTG 366V (M366) is now in full Thameside livery with upswept Cowie stripes at the rear as is Metrobus DTG 367V (M367). This and most of the other Metrobuses carry the route number but a yellow block where the destination should be displayed. One of the Cowie Leaside Metrobuses now has a proper destination blind. It is understood that Metrobus DTG 372V (M372) is still in Grey Green livery at Grays.

Metrobus JBO 80W (M80) is in County Bus/Thameside livery but does not have upswept Cowie stripes at the rear.

Several of the SLF Darts on routes 370/373 have been route branded. There are 2 versions of this and some even squeeze the route information at the front below the windscreen.

General

Vehicle allocation for routes operated from the Grays garage has changed in recent months. J registered Darts (DW 316/7) usually operated the 383 (Chadwell St Mary - Lakeside) whilst the 377 was always a minibus service. Since the P registration Darts arrived, some of them have appeared on the 377 and 383. Metrobuses regularly operate on the 383 now. The 2 vehicles required for this service are usually both M's. DW 316/7 now run regularly on the 377 and Sunday service 352 (Aveley - Basildon via Grays). The Leaside Metrobuses are still used on the Tesco service.

Allocation Changes to August 1997

DW 64/5	to Harlow
DW 761/2	to Harlow
MB 367	to Harlow
MB 667	to Harlow
MB 712/3/4/5/8/9	to Harlow
OD 621/760	to Harlow
SLF 165	to Ware
VEL 855-61	Harlow to

SERVICES

21 July	C1	Cheshunt Station-Cuffley Station. HCC contract. Revised route and timetable. Journeys extended to Ware
26 July	313	Saffron Walden-Great Dunmow. ECC contract. Revised Saturday timetable taking over part of former Viceroy service
30 August	17	Ware/Puckeridge-Bishops Stortford. HCC contract. Revised running time
	310	Hertford-Enfield. Monday-Saturday. Revised running time. Later journey to and from Enfield. Revised Monday-Friday am peak journeys towards Hertford
	311	Hoddesdon-Waltham Cross. Revised Monday-Friday peak service
	376	Grays circular. Service withdrawn
	378	Grays-Lakeside. Revised route and timetable. Grays-Lakeside. At Lakeside serves Motherwell Way and West Thurrock Rabbits
	807	Harlow (Circular). Revised timings for Burnt Mill School
2 September	445	Belhus-Rainham. Revised timetable
4 September	665	ECC contract. New schooldays only contract. North Weald - Epping (St Johns C of E School)
To be advised	363	Hammond Street-Tottenham Hale. Improved late evening service Monday-Saturday. Earlier journey from Cheshunt-Tottenham Hale

WEST'S COACHES COUNTY BUS.

Prior to the takeover of the bus fleet by County Bus,the BUS registationswere re tained,consequently the following were reregistered

H20BUS to H350PNO
J6 BUS to J65BJN
J9 BUS to J64BJN
J12BUS to K762JVX
K2BUS to K761JVX
K5BUS to K759JVX

Incidently Metrorider F719CWJ was seen on Harlow Town service 803 on 11/9/97.

HEDINGHAM

SERVICES

49 Revised timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
80 Revised timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
84 Revised timetable introduced from 1.9.97.
118 Revised route and timetable introduced from 4.9.97.
175 Morning journey advanced to 0754 from 4.9.97.
601 Revised timetable introduced for the winter after 28.9.97.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

A&D BENFLEET Ford Transit F358 SMU has been acquired from Hailstone, Basildon.
A&M CORRINGHAM Iveco/Dormobile E337 DRO is now de-licensed.
AIRPORT EXPRESS SOUTHEND Ford Transit G129 CAD has been acquired.
APT RAYLEIGH Bristol VR CBV 10S has been sold.
ASHES EUROTRAVEL CRESSING This new operators has two Renault Traffics F697 KEV and K478 GJN.
BJS GT WAKERING Bedford YRQ/Plaxton JDW 556N was acquired from APT, Rayleigh but was soon sold to S&P Rochford.
BLACKWELL ABBESS RODING Ford Transit E870 AJR has been sold to Wallis, Halstead.
BLUE TRIANGLE Have introduced service 613 on schooldays only between South Ockendon and Palmers College.
BOON BOREHAM Setra K50 TCC (K125 OCT) is a recent arrival, thought to be a dealer loan. Of interest is that K124 OCT (now SSU 331) is owned by Boons. Setra H435 GVL is still here.
BORDACOACH WICKFORD AEC Reliance YPL 91T is now in use again.
BRENTWOOD COACHES Registration 823 NMC is now on a private car. The Olympian previously with this plate (new as C259 MWJ) is assumed to have been sold.
BUZZ HARLOW Service B21 has been withdrawn.
CABS WESTCLIFF Ford Transit E719 BNO is here.
CEDRICS WIVENHOE Services 84X and 120X have been withdrawn and replaced by contract journeys.
CHAMBERS BENFLEET New here is R897 YBJ a Ford Transit. It is assumed that similar N723 JBJ has been sold.
CHARIOTS CORRINGHAM Volvo/LAG JBZ 3250 (A61 GRY), Duple 425 E205 EPB and Bristol VR/N Counties RDC 113R have been acquired.
CHELMSFORD CAB New LDV minibuses are R958/9 RFP. Mercedes/Robin Hood F118 OGS has been acquired.
COACH STOP SOUTHEND Scania/Irizar R877 SDT has been added to this remarkable fleet. This one being orange with tiger illustrations.
COLCHESTER COACHES THORRINGTON Unusual additions are two Metropolitans, one of which is KJD 241P.
COUNTY COACHES BRENTWOOD Scania/Jonckhree 7947 RU has been named Somerset.
CROWN THUNDERSLEY Bova Europa B290 RJF, is thought to have been sold.
FARGO RAYNE VW Sharans P841 LPU and P273 KHK have been acquired from Stansted Airport Cars. Ford Transit C707 OPN has been sold to a breaker. The use of Trycotts as an operating centre has now ceased.
FREELANCE SOUTHEND Ford Transit A39 HDU has been sold to Westbury Pines Residential Home, Westcliff.

GOLDEN BOY ROYDON Mercedes minibus J763 ONK has been re-registered YOI 7374. The previous owner of this plate Leopard/Duple is now UJN 292V (new as MNK 428V).

GOLF EXECUTIVE BOREHAM Ford Transit M672 PKP has been acquired.

HALSTEAD TRAVEL Ford Transit B59 VMJ is now in use as a store shed at its owners home. Bedford YMT/Plaxton FTO 562V appears to have been acquired. It is rumoured that two Bristol VRs are to be acquired.

KB COACHES WICKFORD Mercedes minicoach XJS 14X is a recent addition. Also here is Bova Europa 7222 EL (A335 JJU) ex Halls, Elsenham

NELSONS WICKFORD Revised route and timetable introduced on service 47 from 4.9.97.

PRESIDENTIAL COACHWAYS SHOEBURYNESS Ford/Plaxton JDO 242W has been acquired.

RONDA COACHES ROCHFORD Bedford YMT/Plaxton DHE 699V is now here.

RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM Volvo/Berkhof A830 NTW has been re-registered XIB 2453.

S&M HADLEIGH Fleetline KUC 154P and Leopard GBO 246W are currently out of use at Springfield cafe, Corringham.

SJH CRAYS HILL Volvo/Plaxton A21 NRO has been acquired.

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Have introduced service 20X on schooldays between Rochford and rayleigh from 4.9.97. Open top service 67 will be withdrawn after 28.9.97. Former Southend Fleetline JTD 393P has been withdrawn following accident damage.

SUPREME SOUTHEND Former Merseyside Olympian/Alexander A319 GLV is a recent arrival.

VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Revbised timetable introduced on service 34 from 1.9.97.

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Contributions received with thanks from Essex Buses,Southend Transport, Essex County Council, County Bus & Coach, PSV Circle, LOTS,R Dennis, C Sigston.

Material for October EBN should be with Sub Editors by 3rd October and Managing Editor by 9th October.



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