

ESSEX BUS NEWS

No. 562
February 2011



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk



501 gives way to 21

SM Coaches DAF/Plaxton Prestige R396 XDA at Epping on the 21, on Saturday 29th January. *Russell Young*

Irisbus Agora Line 303 (OY53 RFE) still in Norwich (Airport) Park & Ride colours, pulls away from the stop in Brentwood High Street, bound for Harlow. *Chris Stewart*



Essex Bus News

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints, slides or TIF (preferably) or JPG files, but **NOT** any other formats) and original articles are always welcome.

The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.

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

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

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Dates for your diary

■ PRESS DATES

EBN dated

March

April

reports to Editors by

26th February

2nd April

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 be obtained from the Distribution Secretary (see Group Directory).

■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: **Wickford Cricket Club**, off Swan Lane, Wickford - five minutes walk from Wickford Station and five minutes drive from the A130 and A127. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145/2200; a cash bar is available. Members and guests welcome. £1.50 donation please towards the hire of the room.

Front cover:

501 gives way to 21: Arriva East Herts & Essex Dart 3414 is seen at Pilgrim's Hatch (Rose & Crown) on the 501 on 3rd February. *Chris Stewart*

2011 programme

- ▶ **Monday February 28** - *Malta then and now* - slide show by Alan Osborne and Chris Stewart, contrasting visits to Malta over the last 40 years and including a look at the current scene, before it all changes irrevocably during 2011.
- ▶ **Monday March 28** - AGM followed by slide show by Alan Osborne, "*40+ years AGO*"
- ▶ **Monday April 11** - another dip into Martin Weyell's slide presentation "*an A-Z of Essex area operators*".
- ▶ (outdoor meetings/visits in May/June/July, to be advised nearer to the time)
- ▶ **Monday September 26** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday October 24** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday November 28** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday December 19** - Christmas Social and "*20 years ago*" slide show by Richard Delahoy.

Richard Delahoy

■ **NORTH ESSEX 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. Doors open at **1930** for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from **2000 to 2200**. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Dave Arnold

2011 programme ~ slide shows

- ▶ **Friday March 11th** - slide show by Owen Woodliffe
- ▶ **Friday April 8th** - to be announced
- ▶ **Friday May 13th** - slide show by Richard Delahoy ~ "*20 years ago*"
- ▶ **Friday June 10th** - slide show by Steven Hughes
- ▶ **Friday July 8th** - slides show by Paul Smith
- ▶ **Friday August 12th** - to be announced
- ▶ **Friday September 9th** - to be announced
- ▶ **Friday October 14th** - *see it, buy it!* Slides from the Group's sales stock will be shown by Owen Woodliffe – if you like one, buy it there and then!
- ▶ **Friday November 11th** - to be announced
- ▶ **Friday December 9th** - to be announced

■ **TOURS**

- ▶ **Saturday May 28th**: Group Tour organised by Colchester meeting members, visiting five different operators in **Suffolk and North Essex**. Departing Colchester North Station at 09:00 sharp; return by 18:00. Includes short lunchtime break for refreshments. To book, send a cheque for £15, payable to "*Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group*" together with an SAE to **Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5BE**. As we are restricted as to numbers, please book early to avoid disappointment!
- ▶ **Wednesday June 22nd**: Evening visit to **Talisman Coachlines**. Pick up at North Station 19.00; fare £5; phone 01621 857509 to book.

■ **EVENTS**

- ▶ **Saturday February 26th**: **Enfield Spring Transport Bazaar**, St.Stephen's Church Hall, Park Avenue, Enfield.
- ▶ **Weekend March 12/13th**: **North Norfolk Railway, Celebration Spring Steam Gala** with free classic bus services. All buses welcome!
- ▶ **Weekend March 12/13th**: **London Transport Museum, Open Weekend at Acton Depot**.
- ▶ **Sunday March 20th**: **Ipswich Transport Museum, Museum Re-awakening Day**.
- ▶ **Saturday April 9th**: **M&D 100, Centenary of Maidstone & District Motor Services**, Kent Showground, Detling. Bus entries (ideally M&D or Kent-related) and display and sales stalls welcome. Visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/MD100/

- ▶ **Weekend April 9th/10th:** North Norfolk Railway **Train & Bus Weekend**, with rally on the Sunday. All buses welcome!
- ▶ **Sunday April 10th:** "Cobham" (except that it's **not** at Cobham) **Annual Spring Bus & Coach Gathering & RF60**, London Bus Preservation Trust, Dunsfold Aerodrome, Surrey (bus service from Guildford station). Please note: Museum **not** open.
- ▶ **Weekend April 16/17th:** East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, **Classic & Vintage Weekend**. Free vintage bus service from Lowestoft station.

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

■ C-BUS (COLCHESTER BUS USERS SUPPORT GROUP)

A meeting will be held on **Monday March 21st:** at which **Linda McCord** of the national rail and bus watchdog **Passenger Focus** will give a talk on their work. 14:00 to 16:00 at the James Parnell Room, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester. Group members very welcome.

Group Constitution

The Group has never had its own formal constitution, having always worked on the basis of that adopted by the M&D and East Kent Bus Club from which it grew in 1964. Your committee felt it appropriate to formalise one for EBEG and have been working on this for some time, the updated and simplified proposal being printed in the centre of this issue. It is intended to put this up for adoption at the forthcoming AGM, but members have the opportunity prior to that to put any comments in writing to the Secretary:

Alan Osborne,

7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford, IG3 8LT

[draft removed from this archive copy]

Chris Stewart ~ Chairman

EBN mailing

From this month, we are using a different printer for EBN, with mailing done "in house". **Owen Woodliffe** has kindly agreed to take on the mailing and we are indebted to him for this. There will be a cost saving which will offset some of the steep rise in postage applicable from April.

This will entail a change in the arrangements regarding replacements for copies lost or damaged in the post. These should now be requested from Owen at

196 Sinclair Road, Chingford, London E4 8PT

pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

Membership Changes

We extend a warm welcome to new members:

Luke Deal, Marks Tey - 860 (rejoined)
 Len Rason, Romford - 989 (rejoined)
 Chris Sampson, Colchester - 1021
 Suzy Scott, Royston - 1022

Patrick Stringer, Brighton - 1023
 Phillip Huggett, Leigh on Sea - 1024
 Sean Keane, St Albans - 1025

Sadly, we must also record the deaths of:

Calvin Cole of Sible Hedingham, member 730 (whose death last summer has only just been advised to us).

Roy Gates of Laindon, member 783, who died in a nursing home on January 19th.

Richard Delahoy

For sale

Eastern National Fleet History 1964 to 1982 by Bob Palmer: £1 + 50p p&p (four copies left)

Eastern National Enthusiasts Club Newsheets 1977 to 1984: £1.50 per year, plus p&p

Please check availability with Owen Woodliffe in first instance by e-mail to *pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com* or write to him at

196 Sinclair Road, Chingford,
London E4 8PT

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £20, renewable in January.

New members may join from any month during the year, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses. Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.70 per month. E.g., a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.70; i.e. £17.

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

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoenbury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

MISSING / DEFECTIVE EBNs

For replacements, contact the Distribution Officer:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County Council timetable book and bus map. Send your details and a cheque for £12 to

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoenbury Road,
Southend on Sea SS1 3TT.

Subscriptions can start with any issue of the book (usually three a year) and will be renewable annually at the same time as your Group membership subscription is due.

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT

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

BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

Lyn Watson, Willow Tree Cottage,
11 Roman Bank, Gedney Dyke,
Lincolnshire, PE12 0AR

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

501 gives way to 21

The Brentwood to Ongar road was historically the preserve of LT Country Area/London Country 339, itself born of a National route. Extended from Epping to Harlow with the opening of the new garage at HA and to Warley (Fords) at the other end, for a time in the 1980s Eastern National worked to Ongar with their 239 and then East Midland's Frontrunner South East took it over on an ECC contract (along with several others in the area) from D-day in 1986. When East Midland sold out to Stagecoach in 1989, the Frontrunner operations were immediately sold to Ensign who in turn sold the Wyatt's Green-based contracts to County Bus & Coach, the privatised successor to London Country (North East). Operation of the 239 by County started on 5th July 1989, the contract being due to expire in October 1994 but from 3rd April 1993 (see EBN347) a new 501 Stansted-Lakeside (Mondays to Fridays) or Stansted-Brentwood (Sats) replaced the previous 392 Harlow to Ongar and 239. Worked from Harlow and later becoming part of Arriva Herts & Essex, this brought us back to the days of the 339.

County operated, amongst other vehicles, Leyland Nationals (SNBs) and ECW-bodied Leyland Tigers such as TL17 seen at Brentwood Station on 25th May 1993 (photo by Phil Ford). A variety of other vehicles continued to be used until withdrawal of the service from 5th February 2011, although for some years all single deckers - Leyland Olympians had figured in the past, these being the early TPD-X batch of Roe bodied examples, and the 511 variation to Lakeside via Great Warley also employed them with route branding. Imperial's 339 came and went very quickly in 2010, while Kingston's earlier 511 to Lakeside was another brief incursion.

SM Coaches of Harlow registered a new service 21 Harlow-Warley from January 2011 although operation started a week late on 15th. Again a variety of vehicles has been used so far, from Agoroline OY53RFE to Scania R396XDA as well as Darts of various ages (up to Enviro 200 EU08FHC). Route details were programmed in about a week after the start.

Chris Stewart





Arriva's 501 was reduced to run Warley-Harlow but a later revival of the Lakeside connection was the 511, which operated via Great Warley rather than the M25. Roe-bodied Olympian 5404 (new to LCBS) is seen in Brentwood High Street on 17 April 1999.

SM Coaches's newest vehicles are Enviro 200's such as 102 (EU08 FHC), seen heading down Brentwood High Street with destination set for the wrong direction (and route 20).





Joining the Marshall Capital-bodied Darts of Ensign, First and Imperial in Brentwood, is a one-off in the SM Coaches fleet, 207 (P830 BUD). This was a former Dawson Rentals vehicle, which was previously used by Godson's of Leeds and Merseypride of Liverpool. Seen here overtaking a First Dart at Brentwood Station. *All photos: Chris Stewart*

Service changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

7 Feb 11 500/1

D Harlow to Epping & Warley: withdrawal of Monday to Saturday 500 service. No change to Sunday service.

Arriva Southend

7 Feb 11 5

M-S Southend to Lakeside: revision to timetable with section of route between Lakeside and Basildon withdrawn (updated information).

Blue Triangle

7 Mar 11 575

M-F Epping to Lakeside: revised timetable.

Constable Coaches

28 Feb 11 236

M-S Haverhill to Sudbury: revised Saturday timetable.

First

6 Feb 11 65

D Stanway to Highwoods: revised route and timetable to serve new Sainsbury's store.

100

D Chelmsford to Lakeside: revised timetable

140

Sun Chelmsford to Basildon: rerouted to serve Noak Bridge with minor timetable changes.

7 Feb 11 46

M-S Chelmsford to Ongar: revised timetable.

28 Feb 11 619

Sch Debden to Ingatestone: revised route and timetable.

Flagfinders				
7 Mar 11	FP	D	Braintree to Braintree Freeport: revision to timetable.	
Harwich Connexions				
4 Mar 11	SB61	Fri	Wix to Dovercourt: new service.	
	SB62	Fri	Ramsey to Manningtree: new service.	
New Horizon Travel				
6 Mar 11	77	M-S	Aingers Green to Colchester: service extended to Colchester General Hospital with revised timetable.	
7 Mar 11	79	M-F	Brightlingsea to Clacton: new service.	
Regal Busways				
17 Jan 11	654	Sch	Ongar to Epping: revised route and timetable.	
Roadrunner				
31 Jan 11	R3	M-S	Waltham Abbey to Harlow: service withdrawn.	
TGM Network Harlow (Arriva East Herts & Essex)				
7 Feb 11	1/1A	M-S	Harlow to Sumners Circular: revised timetable.	
	2/3	M-S	Harlow to Staple Tye Circular: peak journeys extended to Town Station with revised timetable.	
	4	M-S	Harlow to Latton Bush Circular: revised timetable.	
	6	M-S	Harlow to Latton Bush: revised timetable.	
	7	M-S	Old Harlow to Sumners Farm Circular: revised timetable.	
	10	M-S	Harlow to Church Langley: revised timetable.	
Wyvern Community Transport				
4 Feb 11	174	TS	Rochford to Southend via Ashingdon: new service.	

Paul Harvey
(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council,
Richard Delahoy, Harlowride & First)

First

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

Acquired vehicles

43436 P436NEX Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1TGW10295 Plaxton 9610HLZ9513 B40F 11.96
43484 R684DPW Dennis Dart SFD322BR1WGW12219 Plaxton 9810.7HLB8663 B37F 5.98

Ex First Eastern Counties Ltd - both were at work on or by 31st Jan, 43436 at CN and 43484 at CF. Two more P-reg Darts are due - one arrived at CN on 4th Feb.

Allocation changes

End of Period 10: list dated 21st January 2011

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

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from any other First fleet; (A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School; PH=Private Hire; PS=Paint Spare

20351 CR-RES; 20352 CR-RES; 20353 CR-RES; 32894 RES-HH; 34301 CF-CR; 34302 CF-CR; 43737 HH-D/L(D); 46157 HH-D/L(D); 67006 CR-CF; 67007 CR-CF

Allocation list EBN561

44516-9 should say Alexander Dennis bodywork

46145 should be shown as D/L(D) [HH] and 46183 as D/L(D) [CN]

47223 and 47228 are transposed - 47223 should be CN and 47228 as D/L(D), a change which took place during Period 9.

Disposals:

34818 in fact passed to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet before being resold for preservation

47228/9 have been sold to Erith Commercials Ltd (47229 left on 11th Jan and 47228 on Feb)

Area News - workings and sightings

[x] indicates route branding

Revised 'O' licence applications recently approved and detailed in 'Notices and Proceedings' cover the following maximum vehicle numbers:

BE (21), BN (69), CF (91), CN (24), CR (67), DT (12) and HH (66). Colchester covers all three locations (Queen Street, Magdalen Street and Haven Road).

Olympian Matters

Northern Counties-bodied 34301/2 returned to Colchester at the beginning of January in exchange for two Lances. Having been used on the 71/71A in the preceding two days (presumably from CF, although one CR line remains), 34301 was back on the 61 from CR on 8th. Alexander-bodied 34282 was working from CR on 10th but had moved to CN later in the month, being seen on the 74 (19th/20th/21st) and 76 (27th). CR34310 was on loan to DT on 25th Jan (16.40 service 104 ex CR).



Former First Eastern Counties Scania/Wright 65553 (R553 CNG) still bearing partial Norwich Overground branding, seen at Highwoods Tesco on 15th January. Russell Young

Colchester sightings on the 64/64A have been CR34308/10 (5th Jan) and CR34314 (30th Dec/25th Jan). Those on the 65 have been CR34013 (22nd Jan), CR34301 (12th Jan), CR34311 (20th Jan), CR34315 (5th Jan) and CR34018 & CR34288 (17th Jan). Route 68 saw CR34288 (12th Jan), CR34301/15 (22nd Jan), CR34056 (24th) and CR34304 (27th). CF-based 34355 worked the 71 on 4th Jan (16.40 ex CF) while CR34304 was noted on 13th Jan. BE34613 operated the 131 (10th Jan) on while sister CN34610 was noted on the 74 (11th/18th) and the 76 (20th). On 24th Jan, CF34284 worked the 09.00 service 42 from Warner's Farm and appears to be the regular vehicle for that journey (although it failed the following morning); 34355 had worked an afternoon journey on 29th Dec (when CR30560 was on 70). BN34011 has been reported several times on the 25C (25th and 27th).

Pointers and Dashes

46154 appears to have been taken out of service but 46158 was at work from both BE and CF, appearing for the latter on the new 41A (11th Jan - 14.20 to Chignall), 42 (7th & 14th Jan), 50 (27th Jan) and 54 (4th Feb). 46120 operated BE's 132 (11th Jan) and CF's 45 (18th Jan - seen mid morning). 47101 also remained in use on 3rd Feb (ser 45).

During the week ending 18th, HH had disposal-listed 46145/69 in use alongside 46168/77. The 551 had BN46153 on 10th and 46151 on 2nd Feb, the 351 producing 46151 (21st) and 46185 (25th). 46151/3 and 46827 were all on the 25/B on 18th, with 46828 on 27th. At HH, 46168 was parked up by 2nd Feb awaiting disposal along with 46157/80.

At Clacton, 46183 went to BN for MOT on 17th Dec and didn't reappear until after Christmas. It was noted on the 8 (15th Jan). 47228 was last used in early December but 47223 remains in regular service.

Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)

As at 7th Jan, 32804 was back in use at DT but 32809/10/47/9 were away at CN along with 44518. Harwich instead had CR34056, 34282, CN32852 and CN57001. By 24th Jan, 32809/47/9 were still at CN although repairs to accident-damaged 32809 had started by 27th and 32849 was due to receive a new engine. CN32852/4 and CR34310 were at DT instead.

As at 27th Jan, vehicles parked in the yard at Telford Road were 20351-3, 34280/6, 47228 (since departed), 60031, 60130 and 68000.

11th DT44518 on 76
13th Volvo PH20500 on 7 (14.55 Frinton to Clacton)
21st CN46183 on 76

In addition, CN62407 is reported to appear frequently on 17/18 as well as 74/76.

Colchester (CR)

January

4th CR61057 and CR65523 on 70
5th CR62408 on 70
6th CR60206 on 70
11th CR56583 on 71
15th CR67005 on 65

Chelmsford (CF) & Braintree (BE)

Chelmsford town service 45 was for a long time exclusively Solo operated, but the following observations of Darts during January show this to no longer be the case:

14th 43801, 47101, 42929
17th 42918
18th 42919, 46120

19th 43801, 40737, 42935, 42484
 20th 42485
 21st 42482, 43357, 43359
 22nd 43359
 24th 42485
 25th 42484, 42487
 26th 40736, 43367
 28th 42928, 46158

A snapshot of Chelmsford Bus Station on 4th Jan saw the following, which included a few unusual workings:

CF42484 arrived on ser 73 at 16.40 and departed on same service at 16.49
 BN65626 arrived on ser 100 at 16.47
 BN34011 arrived on ser 512 at 16.54
 CR67007 arrived on ser 70 at 16.57 and departed at 17.10 to Colchester
 CF53129 arrived on ser 42 at 17.05 to Broomfield Hospital
 CR34013 arrived on ser 70 at 17.08

On 18th Jan, heavy overnight rain resulted in flooding around the Braintree area, on the A12 Witham bypass and between the Army & Navy and Odeon roundabouts in Chelmsford. This caused delays to 70, 71/A and 509 in the morning peak. There were notices at Chelmsford Bus Station advising severe delays on the X30 and service 31X was not running beyond Maldon. At 11.00 a total of 14 vehicles were either in service or parked up within the circulating area of the bus station, more than usual probably because of cancelled services. National Express service 305 to Liverpool left at 10.36, an hour late.

December

26th CF68799 on X30
 28th CF42928 on 21 in Gosfield
 29th BE66818 on 71A (and again on 30th)
 31st CR61057 on 70, CF42919/28 on 21

January

2nd BE66816 on very early 42A (05.05)
 3rd CF42918 and CF42928 on 352, CF66811 on 42A
 4th CF66794 on X30, 34355 on Warners Farm short and BE42484 on 42
 6th CF67006 on 36 (first report at CF), CF67011 on 42
 8th CF42930 on 51, BE43801 on 41
 10th CF42920 on 51, 47101 on 41, CF66798 on BE70
 11th 47101 on 56, CF66809 on BE70, CF67006 on 42
 13th CF53116 on 42, CF66802 on BE70
 14th CF66794, 66808 on BE70.
 15th CF53137 on 21 in Gosfield
 18th CF67006 on 42
 19th 34355 on BE509, CF66795 on BE70, PH20501 on Anglo European 618 or 619
 21st CF66808/11 on BE70, CF53137 on 41A, CF67006/8 on 71
 28th CF66811 on BE70
 23rd CF66794 on X30
 24th CR65539 on 70, CF43802 on BE132, CF66809 on BE70
 26th CF66808/9/11 on BE70

Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)

January

11th HH32886 on 26, HH32862 on 21, HH32857/32905 on 27, HH33001 ex 21
 12th BN65671 on 100

18th BN67002 on 100
21st BN60103 on 551 (and presumably 351)
25th HH41737/61 & HH42439 on 24, HH32860/2/3/4/87, 33001 all on 27
26th HH32859 on peak 25
27th BN43800 on 351, BN66806 on 8, HH32887 on 27
February
2nd HH42854 on 24
4th BN65631 on 100

Park Royal bodies

The arrival of Park Royal bodied Routemaster 39480 prompted the question as to whether this was the first from this bodybuilder to have operated for Eastern National/First. Well the answer is no, although we have to go back a long way to find any, and even then only by acquisition of other operators - Hicks had Leyland TD1 HF6703, TD4 DPU747, Dennis Lancet FTW391 and double deck Leyland TS1s VX8349 & MW5198. Berry of Colchester provided AEC Regal HX4358 which became EN 3696, while Rayleigh Motor Services gave EN Regents JN343 (3438), JN2310 (3440) and JN2767 (3442). Finally Benfleet/Canvey Daimlers FOP385, 416/7/59/61/2/5 all had Park Royal bodies.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to A Bird, N Clark, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, K Mead, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', D Southwood, TBL177M, R West, the Essex, East Anglia, South West and British Buses Abroad in North America yahoo! groups, Essex and East Anglia Google groups, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle, 'Terminus' and Bristol VR South West Bus News (<http://ndl642m.blogspot.com>).

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail to shenfield252@gmail.com or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart

Arriva

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND

From 16th January, all buses operated by Arriva Southend were converted to use Wayfarer TGX150 ticket machines issuing thermal tickets, replacing the overprinted Wayfarer 3 stock.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy

TGM Group

■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Scania/East Lincs 876 (N176 PUT) returned to Stansted on 3rd January. Scania/East Lincs 870 (N430 XRC) remains at Colchester. For the record, 870 was incorrectly recorded as N870 PUT in EBN558.

Long-departed Lynxes

Former Colchester Borough Transport Lynx 27 (K27 EWC) was sold in December 2010 by Arriva North West & Wales to **GHA Coaches** of Ruabon, probably for spares.

Latterly numbered 8175, this was the last Lynx in ANWW (and maybe within the Arriva group?), used before withdrawal as a training bus. CBT 27 had arrived at Mold depot as

SLC27 on August 31st 1994. It was one of the type transferred from Colchester to Crosville Wales almost immediately after the British Bus takeover. SLC27 was based at a number of depots including Mold, Caego (Wrexham), Corwen, Chester, Llandudno Junction, Crewe and latterly at Winsford and Wythenshawe.

Sister CBT Lynx 30 (H130 LPU) remains in use with **Tanat Valley Coaches**, Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, Shropshire. It saw regular use throughout December and into January owing to the unavailability of Volvo B10B saloons, with regular stints on the D74 (Llanfyllin - Shrewsbury) and 445 (Llanfyllin - Oswestry).

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski, Keith Sadler, and the Crosville Enthusiasts Club (1967) Review

■ NETWORK HARLOW

Ex Arriva London Dart SLFs 401/4/5 (S301/4/5 JUA) have received yellow livery for 'Yellow Route 4', Harlow - Church Langley. Further to EBN560 Dart SLFs 402/3 (S302/3 JUA) carry lime green livery for 'Green Route 4', Harlow - Latton Bush.

Further Volvo B6/Wright to receive blue livery for 'Blue Route 2 & 3', Harlow - Staple Tye are 3253-6 (V253-6 HBH).

Solo 2511(CE52 UWW), presently on loan to Colchester, was new to Bebb's, Llantwit Fardre, but came from Link-Line Coaches, Willesden (part of the TGM Group).

As the TGM fleet list included in this edition of EBN shows, several vehicles are expected to be transferred away from Harlow by mid February following the withdrawal of services 500/501 (Harlow - Brentwood) including Dart SLFs 411-3 (S311-3 JUA) to Colchester and Dart SLF 3295 (X295 MBH) to Stansted.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, LOTS

■ TGM STANSTED

Following the withdrawal of First's Clacton-Colchester-Stansted service, TGM Group are operating a replacement, also numbered X22. It started on January 9th and runs every two hours, 24 hours a day, from Stansted to Colchester (University of Essex), the section onwards to Clacton not being served. It is running for an initial three-month trial period with support from BAA whilst the long term future is assessed. The service is operated from Stansted depot.

Briefly loaned from TGM Heathrow at inception was a Scania K114/Berkhof, YN54 ANU, but the coaches transferred to Stansted to operate it are:

GSU 348 DAF SB4000/Van Hool, previously with TGM subsidiary Classic Coaches,
(originally registered NL52 XZY)
YN06 CJY/Z Scania K114/Irizar

Not previously reported was the withdrawal of Mercedes Vario minibuses, 710/3 (S550/3 BNV) in September 2010. DAF/Van Hool coaches YJ57 BOU/BTU were also withdrawn in the summer, after the X3 Stansted - Grays service ceased, and were transferred to TGM Heathrow, as was Scania/Irizar coach GO03 CLA.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy

■ TGM GROUP, Essex operations, fleet lists:

These lists are as planned for February 7, 2011 and reflect transfers planned to have taken place by the time this EBN is published.

Network Colchester

101	AY55 DKA	Scania N94UD	East Lancs	H47/33F	
102	YN06 TFZ	Scania N94UD	East Lancs	H47/33F	
103	YN08 OBY	Scania N230UD	East Lancs	H51/28F	
104	YN08 OBZ	Scania N230UD	East Lancs	H51/28F	
105	YT59 NZM	Scania N230UD	Optare	H51/28F	
106	YT59 NZN	Scania N230UD	Optare	H51/28F	
131	T131 AUA	DAF250LF	Plaxton	H45/27F	
133	T133 AUA	DAF250LF	Plaxton	H45/27F	
155	T405 SMV	Dennis Trident	East Lancs	H45/28F	
156	T406 SMV	Dennis Trident	East Lancs	H45/28F	
185	KN52 NCD	Dennis Trident	Alexander	H43/22F	
190	KN52 NDX	Dennis Trident	Alexander	H43/22F	
191	KN52 NEF	Dennis Trident	Alexander	H43/22F	
195	W395 RBB	Dennis Trident II	Alexander	H51/31F	
196	W396 RBB	Dennis Trident II	Alexander	H51/31F	
204	H804 RWJ	Scania N113CRB	Northern Counties	H47/33F	
214	G614 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39F	
215	G615 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39F	
231	N161 VVO	Scania N113CRB	East Lancs	H45/35F	
410	S310 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	
411	S311 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	
412	S312 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	
413	S313 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	
414	S314 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	
354	Y40 TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	To be renumbered 510
355	Y50 TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	To be renumbered 511
512	HX51 LRK	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
513	HX51 LRL	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
514	HX51 LRN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
515	HX51 LRO	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
516	HX51 LRJ	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
517	HX51 LSN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano	B40F	
521	SN54 HWZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	
362	SN54 HXA	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	To be renumbered 522
367	SN54 HXF	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	To be renumbered 527
529	AY54 FRC	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	
901	W901 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
902	W902 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
903	W903 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
904	W904 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
905	W905 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
386	W906 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	To be renumbered 906
907	W907 UJM	Volvo B10BLE	Alexander	B44F	
870	N430 XRC	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	B51F	On loan from Stansted
2511	CE52 UWW	Optare	Solo 920	B??F	On loan from Harlow
3483	W483 YGS	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B29F	

TGM Harlow

262	M162 GRY	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	For Geest staff contract
401	S301 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	Yellow route 10 livery
402	S302 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	Green route 4 livery
403	S303 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	Green route 4 livery
404	S304 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	Yellow route 10 livery
405	S305 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B32F	Yellow route 10 livery
2406	YJ58 PFY	Optare	Versa	B38F	For ECC route 59
2407	YJ58 PFZ	Optare	Versa	B38F	For ECC route 59
2453	YJ06 FXS	Optare	Solo	B33F	
2454	YJ06 FXT	Optare	Solo	B33F	
2455	YJ06 FXU	Optare	Solo	B33F	
2456	YJ06 FXV	Optare	Solo	B33F	
2457	KE04 PZF	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2458	KE04 PZG	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2459	KE04 OSU	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2460	KE04 OSV	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2465	KE55 KTJ	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2466	KE55 KTD	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2467	KE55 KTC	Optare	Solo	B29F	
2473	YF56 ATY	Optare	Solo	B28F	
2474	YJ56 ATZ	Optare	Solo	B28F	
3229	T829 NMJ	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B36F	
3230	V230 HBH	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
3231	V231 HBH	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
3250	V250 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3251	V251 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3253	V253 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3254	V254 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3255	V255 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3256	V256 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	Blue route 2/3 livery
3257	V257 HBH	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B40F	
3417	P417 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Wrights	B41F	Red route 1 livery
3439	R169 GNW	Dennis Dart SLF	Wrights	B36F	Red route 1 livery
3440	R170 GNW	Dennis Dart SLF	Wrights	B36F	Red route 1 livery
3828	KE03 UKK	Dennis Dart SLF	Transbus	B29F	
3856	KE54 LNR	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B43F	For service 510
3857	KE54 LPC	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B43F	For service 510
3858	KE54 LPF	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B43F	For service 510
3859	KE54 LPJ	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B43F	For service 510
3860	KE54 HHF	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B43F	For service 510
3873	KE57 EPA	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B44F	For service 510
3874	KE57 EPC	Volvo B7RLE	Wrights	B44F	For service 510
3907	BU06 HSL	Mercedes Benz	Citaro	DP39F	Green Line livery
3908	BU06 HSN	Mercedes Benz	Citaro	DP39F	Green Line livery
3909	BU06 HSO	Mercedes Benz	Citaro	DP39F	Green Line livery
3910	BK58 URL	Mercedes Benz	Citaro	DP37F	Green Line livery

(one Citaro is outstationed at TGM Heathrow each night)

For disposal or reserve fleet:

3241	R602 WMJ	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B38F
3249	R605 WMJ	Volvo B6LE	Wrights	B38F
3414	P334 HVX	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B40F
3416	P416 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Wrights	B41F
3435	R165 GNW	Dennis Dart SLF	Wrights	B36F

TGM Stansted

239	F639 LMJ	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H47/32F	
240	F640 LMJ	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H47/32F	
264	M834 SDA	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H45/33F	
326	BU51 REG	Dennis Dart MPD	Plaxton	B29F	
327	EU56 FTO	Dennis Dart MPD	Plaxton	B29F	
530	KP54 BYY	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
551	KU52 RXT	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
552	KP51 UFL	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
556	KP54 BYZ	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B37F	
561	AE56 MDV	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
562	AE56 MDX	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
563	AE56 MDY	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
564	AE55 V GK	MAN 14.220	MCV	B40F	
565	AE55 VGL	MAN 14.220	MCV	B40F	
363	SN54 HXB	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	<i>To be renumbered 523</i>
364	SN54 HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	<i>To be renumbered 524</i>
365	SN54 HXD	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	<i>To be renumbered 525</i>
366	SN54 HXE	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	<i>To be renumbered 526</i>
360	SN54 HWY	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	<i>To be renumbered 520</i>
528	AY54 FPZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	ADL	B37F	
3295	X295 MBH	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B29F	

National Express operations:

YN54 DDJ	Volvo B12B	Plaxton	C51Ft	National Express livery
YN54 DDK	Volvo B12B	Plaxton	C51Ft	National Express livery
YN54 DDL	Volvo B12B	Plaxton	C51Ft	National Express livery
YN54 DDO	Volvo B12B	Plaxton	C49Ft	National Express livery
YU04 XFB	Volvo B12B	Plaxton	C49Ft	National Express livery

Airport By Coach operations:

YN08 MPE	Scania K340	Irizar	C53Fl	X5 Ipswich service
YN08 MPF	Scania K340	Irizar	C53Fl	X5 Ipswich service
YN06 CJY	Scania K114	Irizar	C??F	X22 Colchester service
YN06 CJZ	Scania K114	Irizar	C??F	X22 Colchester service
GSU 348	DAF SB4000	Van Hool	C??F	Spare for ABC services

Reserve and Arriva hire fleet:

243	G643 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	Northern Counties	H45/35F
261	M161 GRY	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F
802	M722 CGO	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F
867	N167 PUT	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	B51F
869	N169 PUT	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	B51F
872	N172 PUT	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	B51F
873	N433 XRC	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	B51F
876	N176 PUT	Scania L113CRL	East Lancs	DP49F

Please note that there are frequent transfers and loans of vehicles between depots, but these lists set out the intended position following the withdrawal of services 500/501 at Harlow and consequent reallocations.

With thanks to Richard Delahoy

Adam Barham / Panther Travel

Fleet list as at 1st February

<i>Kirsty</i>	PDZ 6274	Leyland-National LN 11351A/1R	East Lancs DP49F	
		Greenway conversion (formerly UHG 744R)		reserve
<i>Caitlin</i>	PDZ 6275	Leyland-National LN 11351A/2R	East Lancs DP49F	
		Greenway conversion (formerly UFG 54S)		fleet
	RDZ 4278	Leyland-National LN 11351A/1R	East Lancs B49F	
		Greenway conversion (formerly JOX 481P)		delicensed
<i>Katherine</i>	YEV 307S	Leyland-National LN 11351A/1R	LN B52F	awaiting MOT
<i>Ruby</i>	JHJ 150V	Leyland-National LN 11351A/1R	LN B49F	preserved
	GUW 452W	Leyland-National LN NL106AL11/2R	East Lancs B24D	
		Greenway conversion (formerly GUW 452W)		delicensed
	J550 LCD	Dennis Dart	Alexander B40F	delicensed
<i>Dasher</i>	P390 LPS	Dennis Dart	Alexander B40F	awaiting MOT
	IUI 2735	Volvo B10M	Ikarus C49FT	fleet

Ian Ransom

Centrebuss

Further to last months fleetlist, Dennis Dart/Plaxton L161 XRH was in use on driver shuttles in Harlow on 7th January, having previously been at Stevenage. Dennis Lance/Wright M268 VPU is reported has being stripped for spares and remains despatched to Ripleys. Sister M269 VPU was still in use at Harlow in late January. Dual-door Dart 112 (L712 JUD), recently returned to service at Harlow has also been sold to Ripleys for scrap.

Ian Ransom, LOTS

Ensignbus

■ DEALING STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in	<i>from</i>
Aintree Coaches:	RM1978
Bear Buses:	Olympian J703 HMY
Lothian Buses:	Olympian F357 WSC
Metroline Travel:	Tridents T38/87 KLD, T183/4/6-8/90/4/6/201/4/7 CLO, V316 GLB
The National Stud:	Mercedes T943 BWO, P347 HKU, Lynx G619 CEF
Stagecoach Bluebird:	Mercedes 709s N632 VSS, M668 FYS, Darts R710/1 YWC
	Olympian J515 WAX (Hong Kong EW3034)
Stagecoach Cambridge:	Dart V675 FPO
Stagecoach East Midland:	Olympians K102 JWJ/M819 KRH/M223 SVN
Stagecoach Manchester:	Dragons M687/91/6/9 TDB
Stagecoach Yorkshire:	B10Ms M606 VHE, L340/3 KCK
Tates Travel, Barnsley:	Volvo B10Ms M874 UEG, N986 WGR
Travel De Courcey, Coventry:	Volvo B10Ms R902/3 JGA
TWH, Waltham Abbey:	RM909, RM1018
Yourbus, Nottingham:	Volvo B10Bs M549/56 WTJ, M566 YEM, M517/26 WHF

Vehicles out

	<i>to</i>
Olympian J703 HMY:	Abbey Travel , Leicester
Dublin B6LEs 00-D-70033/6/7:	Aintree Coaches , Liverpool, to be registered by the operator
Trident T196 CLO:	ATBus , Staines, Middx.
Dart R866 MCE, Metrobus BIG 8750:	Bear Buses , Feltham, Middx.
Tridents T89 KLD, T206 CLO:	Bu-Val Buses , Manchester
Solos YJ55 BHP/U/V:	D&G , Stoke
Olympian J515 WAX:	Decker Bus , Whittlesey, Cambs.
Volvo B10M N986 WGR:	Galleon Travel , Harlow
Trident T61 KLD:	Green Bus , Birmingham
Volvo B10Ms L339/40 KCK:	Lawrenson , Preston
Olympian G415 OKY:	Limburg , Sheffield
Bus Éireann DAF 00-D-96309/24/16, 01-D-4777 now X949/44/6/8 CNO with	McGills Buses , Glasgow
Tridents T187/8 CLO:	McGills Buses , Glasgow
Dart R710 YWC:	Ramblers , Hastings
Olympians F629 MSL, G34 OCK:	Regal Busways , Chelmsford
RTL47:	RM Buses , Wem, Shropshire
Mercedes 709 N632 VSS:	SM Coaches , Harlow
Olympian F625 MSL:	Stephensons , Easingwold
B6BLE 00-D-70030	now X951 CNO
Trident V316 GLB:	with Tates Travel , Barnsley
Tridents V309/12 GLB:	Thamesdown Transport .
Olympian F357 WSC:	Travel De Courcey , Coventry
	Xelabus (PB Bus Marketing), Southampton
Darts T602/3 JBA:	The National Stud , Newmarket.
Volvo B10Ms R902/3 JGA:	Bob Vale Coach Sales , Alton, Hants.

RML2564, RML2466: **West Coast Sightseeing**, Vancouver, Canada

Vehicles on hire

	<i>to</i>
Volvo B10M XIL 3492:	Linkfast , Benfleet, Essex.
Volvo B7LA 00-D-65016	now X954 CNO:
	McGills Buses , Glasgow
Darts V675 FPO/R449 LGH, Olympian P477 MBY:	Veolia , Rotherham
Dart R448 LGH and Dublin Bus 00-D-70024 now X947 CNO:	Veolia , South Wales

■ ENSIGNBUS CO. LTD.

Acquired vehicle *from dealing stock.*

706 X926 CNO DAF SB120 008838 / Wright Cadet D487 B39F
New 1/2001 to Bus Éireann DWR11 (01-D-4785)

Olympian 124 (S124 RLE) is on hire to Carters Coaches, Northants.

■ CITY SIGHTSEEING

Bath Bus Co. Ltd: CS Windsor open top Olympian E767 LBT (TWY 7) and CS Eastbourne Scania J813 HMC/H225 LOM have been sold to City Sightseeing Cyprus.

From sales stock, Dublin Olympian 97-D-332 is now P757 SWC and open top with CS Bristol (**Rubicon Classic Travel Ltd**).

■ ENSIGN HERITAGE FLEET

Two additions are 1957 former Royal Blue Bristol LS/ECW coach 2206 (VDV 749), and former London Transport RTL453 (KLB 648), both acquired from private preservation. The latter has now been recertified to Class VI standard.

David Harman with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus



RTL453's first trip out on 6th February, at Tilbury Ferry, on an enthusiasts private hire covering former London Country routes in the Grays area. *Russell Young*

Olympus / Roadrunner

Vehicles acquired are N40 TGM a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton from Veolia, Wales and S235 HGU, an Iveco 391/Beulas from Phillips, Brynmenyn, which joins sisters S233/4 HGU, which were already here.

Volvo B7TL/Plaxton W461/2/8/73 BCW are now fitted with LED destination displays.

Scania N113/Wright 3106 (RDZ 1714) is reported as being used for spares Volvo B10M/Plaxton DAZ 1559 and EAZ 2588 have been sold to Sughra Parveen, Nottingham.

Dart R477 LGH suffered severe frontal damage in an accident on 27th January. On 31st January, TWH's similar Dart P684 RWU (just acquired from SM Coaches) had a rear-end fire and may be used to rebuild R477 LGH. *Ian Ransom, LOTS*

Regal Busways

Further new Optare Solo M780s are YJ60 KHA/B/C, numbered 209-211, new in December (209/10) and January (211). Together with the earlier three, 206-8 (YJ60 KBX/Y/Z), these make up the six ordered last year. On loan in early January, was Optare Solo M990, KX04 HPP, previously with Stagecoach Devon and used on P&R services in Exeter.

A second former Preston Bus vehicle has arrived via Ensign (dlr): all-Leyland Olympian G34 OCK. Also acquired via Ensign is former Stagecoach (United Counties) Alexander-bodied Olympian F629 MSL. Olympian/ECW B714 HVO has been withdrawn.

On 27th January, Dart 602 (YN04 PZZ) escaped from its normal use on services 14/15 (Chelmsford-Wickford) and was in use on 52 (West Hanningfield-Pleshey), on a duty normally operated by a Solo. *Ian Ransom, LOTS*

SM Coaches

Darts P677, P684 RWU were sold to TWH (C Hunn) in January, and P684 has since suffered a rear end fire. Similar Dart P685 RWU was also damaged by fire, in August 2010, and is no longer in the fleet. Dart N606 KGF was scrapped in November 2010.

LOTS

Other operators

ABBA, Rayleigh Ford Transit P889 HNT, reported as being sold to Southend Radio Cars, remains here.

AC ROSS, Braintree Acquired from Regent Coaches, Whitstable is LDV Convoy P985 JKP.

ADVANCE MINIBUSES, Hockley This operator, has ceased operations. VW LT46 W879 WHS and Mercedes Benz 411D/Stanford X86 JOJ have been noted at APT premises, although they may only be in store. Ford Transit DN06 RVV has been sold.

AJ MINIBUS, Rochford Have ceased operating. Ford Transits H951/2 GVX, X704 ARD, Y849 CNG, LDV Convoy M742 XAR and Fiat Ducato EU53 NMM have been sold.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh Acquired from Mayne, Manchester is Scania K124/Irizar YN04 GPZ, it has now been re-registered GT04 APT. Sold to Embling, Guyhirn is re-registered Scania K113/Van Hool APT 42S (M321 VET) now VJI 9417.

AVRO, Orsett Former Hardy Miles MCW Metrobus BIG 8751 (C344 BUV) has been acquired via Ensign.

B&C MINIBUSES, Loughton Acquired is Ford Transit/May A12 PSV (T707 MRP)

BESTAX, Rayleigh Vehicles sold are Ford Transit M339 GRH, M543 RCP, N886 XKE, P889 HNT, Nissan Vanette P248 PTU and R308 VNO, Volkswagen minibuses R960

ETW and R936 KGU.

BPH, Elmstead Market LDV Convoy W192 RRE has been sold.

BRADAMOUR, Leigh-on-Sea LDV Convoys R824 CCR, P982 JHJ and Ford Transit N693 WRP have all been withdrawn.

CEDRIC, Ardleigh Volvo B10M/Jonckheere 15 (R15 CED) has been sold to Tees Valley Coaches, Marske-by-Sea.

CF TRANSPORT, Hadleigh Mercedes Benz 308D/Devon Conversions K712 DHJ has been withdrawn.

CHARIOTS, Stanford-le-Hope Acquired is DAF SB3000/Van Hool E804 EJC. Sold to Shoreline Travel, Christchurch, is Volvo B10M/Plaxton K566 GSA.

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford Another Ford Transit here, is NX51 WHE

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Recently acquired are Mercedes Benz Sprinter/Stanford, 115/7 (MX55 HYM/OFV) from London Hire, Rotherhithe and LB of Hammersmith and Fulham, respectively. From sister fleet Excellent Connections, Manchester are Ford Transits 131-5 (EJ55 DSV, EF06 AOM, EF06 AOO, EJ55 DSY and EA55 LPZ), while from an unknown owner is VW LT46, 136 (GX54 FVF). Ford Transit 52 (EK07 VUV) has been withdrawn after an accident. Ford Transits sold are 40, 42, 55, 57 (EF05 OLX, EF05 OMC, EY54 NXP, EF05 OMB). Recent

- additions now with fleetnumbers are 118 (WX55 OHB) and 138 (HX04 VRR).
- CM3 CARS, South Woodham Ferrers** Ford Transit R447 SLY has been withdrawn.
- COACHTRIPPERS, Galleywood** Recent additions are, former Hardy Miles BIG 8753 (N661 VSS) a Mercedes Benz 709D/ Alexander Belfast, similar ex Bluebird Buses N367 AVV and Mercedes Benz 811D/ Marshall LUI 1748 (P239 EJW) ex Dosanjh, Strood.
- COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood** Mercedes Benz 614D/ Onyx 5919 RU, has been re-registered R734 EGD and sold to Downton Travel, Dorchester.
- DE VERE CARS, Sible Hedingham** Acquired from the former Ashes, Cressing fleet is VW LT35 Y98 LMO.
- DMA, Brentwood** Ford Transits F657 DVU and H580 PHK have been withdrawn. Bedford YNT/Plaxton KBZ 8724 (B497 JDL) has been sold to Walsall Coronets (Non-PSV).
- DONS, Great Dunmow** Dennis Javelin/ Duple NIW 4122 (E851 EPD) has been withdrawn.
- GARDNER, Boreham** Acquired from Lianne Coaches, Slough is Mercedes Benz 0815D/ Sitcar SF04 ZLV.
- HARDY MILES, Rochford** Vehicles reported with new owners are Volvo B10M Citybus/ Alexander BIG 8746 (F254 OFF), now with OTT, Faversham. Scania K113/ Irizar BIG 8775 (N854 DKU) with Peoples Bus, Liverpool. Noted at the premises of APT, Rayleigh are Mercedes Benz Sprinters BIG 8730, 8739, BIG 8754 (MX05 NYN) Mercedes Benz Varios BIG 8757, YN05 XVM, YN05 XYY LDV Convoy BIG 8794 (T589 LAG) and DAF SB2305/ Van Hool GLZ 7478 (D238 YRX). It is not known if they are for service, or stored.
- KINGS COACHES, Stanway** Bova Futura WA05 OSD, returned off short term loan, to Moseley (dealer) on 6th December.
- KNIGHTS, Witham** Acquired from a private owner, is LDV Convoy W592 AAY. Similar LK03 ZVE has gone to HBC Salvage, Canvey Island. Mercedes Benz 609D/ PIC, XIL 8477 and Ford Transit N823 DAR have been withdrawn.
- L&R TRANSPORT, Shotgate** Acquired from Calne Travel, Calne is K354 YOD a Scania K113/Plaxton.
- LOGIC Nazeing** Volvo B10M/Marco Polo X995 JJH, has been re-registered 46 HLT
- LONDON HERITAGE TRAVEL, Collier Row** AEC Routemaster/ Park Royal CUV 331C has not been acquired.
- MALCOLMS BLUE BUS, Clacton-on-Sea** Any previous reference to former Ipswich Buses WOI 607 being here, should be ignored.
- M&E, Rochford** Leyland Olympian/ECW A745 WEV (A203 MEL) has been withdrawn.
- NCS, Widdington** LDV Convoy W609 XDM and X673 CNO have been sold.
- P&M, Crays Hill** Volvo B10M/Plaxton MNZ 9302 (FE02 FBN) has been sold to Glen Valley, Wooller.
- PETER GODWARD, Basildon** New here is Scania Omniexpress YT60 OTC.
- PROMPT CARS, Mayland** LDV Convoy T229 PNA has been withdrawn.
- RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate** Seen here in December was BK09 WTC a Mercedes Benz Turismo demonstrator, assumed to be on loan.
- S&M, Bowers Gifford** Leyland Olympian/ ECW B962 WRN has been sold.
- SBC, Wickford** Setra S415HD EW03 NLV has been sold to an operator in Cyprus.
- SJH, Crays Hill** Volvo B10M/Plaxton C266 BMS, has been sold to Jones, Llanerchymed.
- SUPREME, Rettendon** Recent acquisitions are Scania K93/Plaxton J291 NNC from Provence, St Albans and Mercedes Benz 614D/ Autobus V922 PDV from Stagecoach (Cooks Coaches), Somerset. Scania L94/ Van Hool R863 SDT, is back in use. Withdrawn MCW Metrobuses LOA 434X and F775 EKM, were parked on Swanvale Industrial Estate in Witham in late 2010.
- TONY GLEW, Little Tey** Former Eastern National Olympian/ECW coach PLZ 2876 (D510 PPU) has been sold via eBay.
- TURNERS, Little Maplestead** Scania K124/ Van Hool W269 MKY has been sold to Ausden Clark, Leicester.
- WARDS COACHES, Alresford** Peugeot Boxer R841 GFL has been withdrawn.

Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle, Essex Bus y-group, Essex Bus Photos Google group, Harlowride web site, Alan Timms, Colin Sigston, Peter Mobbs

Years gone by ...

This month we look back to events from 45, 35, 25 and 15 years ago.

February 1966

Eastern National had taken delivery of new Bristol FLF's 2854-6 (OVX 298D, OPU 824/5D). These were to 1966 standard, with only one cream band, fixed drivers windscreen, new type indicators and other minor variations. 2854/6 were allocated to Southend.

Unusual at the time was that a minibus had been hired from Hearl of Stanford-le-Hope for a Dunton to Basildon works contract. Another minibus had been hired from Victoria Coaches of Leigh-on-Sea for a similar service from Canvey to Basildon.

Tillings had taken delivery of Bristol MW/ECW T311 (OWC 181D). This had forced air ventilation and a larger boot, for extended tours.

Colchester Corporation's new Leyland Titans, were delivered at the end of January. They were numbered 39-44 (OVX 139-44D).

Hedingham had acquired four vehicles, with the business of Blackwells of Earls Colne. They became L41 (JJD 541) AEC Reliance/Roe, L42 (PYB 240) AEC Regal IV/Harrington, and L43/4 (EUH 961/973) Leyland PD2/Leyland. (Copies of Michael Yelton's excellent account "*Blackwells of Earls Colne*", published by the Group in 2009, are still available, price £11.15 inc p&p from Owen Woodliffe - address on page 4).

February 1976

Eastern National had taken delivery of Ford R1014/Duple buses 1000/1 (MAR 775/6P), which were for use at Bishops Stortford. These were reported as the first Fords, since a Ford T was acquired from Road Motors of Luton in 1925. Bristol FLF 2608 (KNO 949C) was under conversion, from coach to bus at Central Works, Chelmsford.



Eastern National Ford/Duple Dominant 1000 (MAR 775P) passing through Moreton en route from Harlow to Ongar. EBEG Collection, courtesy Chris Stewart



Unusual additions to the **Southend Transport** fleet were a pair of Leyland Leopard coaches bought through the new bus grant scheme. On Saturday February 26th, Richard Delahoy was tipped off that they were on their way from Plaxton's factory and he arrived at the London Road garage late afternoon just in time to see them before the light went. With fleet number displayed on the number blinds but as yet unregistered, 202 is refuelled after the delivery run from Scarborough; ST trade plate 075 HJ in the windscreen. It was to become **LBN 202P**. *Richard Delahoy*

Bristol VR's 3025 (WNO 545L) and 3063 (LJN 658P) had been modified from semi to fully automatic, with Sevcon units being fitted. Leyland National 1743 (HAR 489N) had previously been converted.

Southend Transport had taken delivery of Leyland Leopard/Duple 201/2 (LBN 201/2P), in a livery of two shades of blue. It was expected that nine Leyland PD3's would be going on loan to London Country at Harlow, for use on service 339 (Harlow-Epping-Ongar-Brentwood-Warley). Vehicles loaned from Ensigns, mainly for contract work were Leyland Leopards 204 (432 FXX) and 205 (VDB 915). Both were in full Southend livery.

February 1986

Vehicles delivered to **Eastern National** were Olympians 4009/12-15/18 (C409/12-15/18 HJN) in reversed yellow/green livery, which was to be the dual-purpose version of the new post-NBC fleet livery. The 25 new

Mercedes minibuses (0200-24) were reported as being destined for use at Clacton, although 0204/10/17/24 were on hire to Southdown at Eastbourne, while 0222 had been inspected by London Country at Reigate. The Bristol RE fleet, had been reduced to two, 1542 at Braintree and 1554 at Clacton, both were expected to be withdrawn in the near future.

Better news for RE fans, was that **Colchester Borough Transport** had repainted 25 (SWC 25K) and it was now back in service.

The link between **Southend Transport** and **Ensign** was again in the news, with rebodied Leyland Leopard/Berkhof coaches 254/5, being noted at the dealer's Purfleet premises. Leyland Fleetline 384 (GHJ 384L) had been sold to Jubilee Coaches of Stevenage. Ipswich Atlantean 40 (RGV 40W) remained on loan, with Bristol RE 303 (JEH 179K) being loaned to Ipswich, in return.



Acquired initially by **Southend Transport** for contract work but both later used in extremis on bus work were two second-hand Leopards. Seen here outside St Christopher School in Mountdale Gardens in Leigh is Alexander bodied 205, VDB915, on February 21st. This was ex North Western RCC. *Both Richard Delahoy*

Changes were being made to X1/10/11/31 services, with the last pick up point, to Southend, now being at One Tree Hill, Corringham

February 1996

Thamesway had taken delivery of 701 (N701 CPU) the prototype 9.8m Dennis Dart SLF, allocated to Hadleigh.

Colchester Borough Transport, acquired Leyland National Greenway LNC 463 (NWO 463R), with it being reported that the entire fleet would be renumbered in the London & Country series.

The reported requirement for **Eastern National's** Chelmsford outstations were:

Bishops Stortford (1 Lynx, 7 short Dennis Darts and 4 Mercedes 608 minibuses), Great Dunmow (1 single deck - Lynx or Dart), Maldon (2 Lynx, 6 long Darts and 1 decker, normally a VR)

Hedingham Omnibuses were on the verge of taking over **Osbornes** of Tollesbury, from 1.3.1996, including the freehold of the depot. It was reported that three large groups had lodged offers to purchase Hedingham, with Robert McGregor reporting that the company had ambitious plans to float on the Stock Market at the end of 1996.

Southend had withdrawn Bristol VR 305 (DWU 477S) and Leyland National 751 (JTU 586T), both with accident damage.

rear cover: out and about in January

YN06 CJY, one of two **TGM Stansted** Scania /Irizar for the new X22. Photographed at Colchester North Station on 15th January. *Russell Young*

Hedingham Lynx L196 (H48 NDU) was in all-day service on Clacton local route 135 on 12th and 13th January, here seen at Pier Avenue. *Jonathan Bale*



The second Leopard acquired by for contract work was 204 (432 FXX). This was ex Grey-Green and was photographed on March 3rd, also outside St Christopher School.

Richard Delahoy

Eastern National Ford 1000 (MAR775P) again, this time on the forecourt of Bishops Stortford depot with one of the early MW coach conversions (1439: OO 9547) visible behind. *EBEG Collection, courtesy Chris Stewart*



