

Issue 522
October 2007

ESSEX BUS NEWS



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A 12 month subscription is £19 by First Class post, renewable in January or July.

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:

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Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from Richard.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact:

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derekstebbing@yahoo.com

or visit www.essexbus.org.uk

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:

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

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

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

Lyn Watson
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants
Monometer House, Rectory Grove,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN

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

TOURS ORGANISER

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports, quality photos (prints or slides) and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor.

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>For inclusion in EBN dated</i>	<i>reports should reach Editors by</i>	<i>planned despatch date</i>
November	7 November	16 November
December	5 December	14 December
January 2008	5 January 2008	21 January 2008

Please note that the planned despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The actual despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can only be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite).

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

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

- ▶ **Tuesday November 13** - 'from PS1 to ftr via 60009' - North Yorkshire, 2007, by *Richard Delahoy*
- ▶ **Tuesday December 11** - '20 Years ago' - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*

Winter / Spring 2008 Programme dates are as follows: make a note in your diary now! **January 8, February 12, March 11** (AGM followed by slide show), **April 8, May 13** and **June 10**. Full details of the programme to be announced nearer to the time.

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Slides or digital photos are preferable, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 9 November** - *Keith Woods* - 'East Anglian Buses - a Personal View part 2'
- ▶ **Friday 14 December** - slide show by *Fred Lawrance* - 'Coach operators of East Anglia - 1950s and 1960s'.

■ EVENTS

- ▶ **Saturday 24 November** ~ **LOTS Autumn Transport Spectacular**, Harrow Leisure Centre. www.lots.org.uk/ Unfortunately, due to a clash of dates, Owen will NOT be attending this event with the Group stall. However, it is possible that a limited amount of Group material may be available on certain other stalls.
- ▶ **Saturdays 1 and 8 December** ~ **Ensignbus X80 Running Days**. Further details next month.

cover: **Hedingham's new L356 (EY57 FZE)** illustrates how the traditional livery has been adapted to suit the curvy lines of the Enviro 200 body.
D R MacGregor

► **Tuesday January 1, 2008 ~ Southend Area Running Day**

Stephensons of Essex are planning to provide special services on New Year's Day, when only the X30 will be running (no other First or Arriva services are expected to operate that day), mainly using heritage buses. Full details will be published next month, but it is hoped at least 10 buses will be operating a skeleton service on the core routes in the style of the old Southend Transport Boxing Day and New Year's Day services. In the meanwhile, if any operator wishes to participate (operations will be limited to buses with a full psv test and operator licence), they should contact

Richard Delahoy, richard@signal-training.com

Group Matters

Subscriptions

At the Committee Meeting held on 24th September, it was agreed to raise the subscription rate to £19.50. Thanks particularly to Photo and Stall Sales, the Group's finances are in good shape, but a postal increase is likely next year (as is unfortunately, usual) and material for EBN regularly exceeds the budgeted space. Extra pages do cost extra money !

We hope members will agree that even at this figure, the Group offers very good value for money, and will continue their membership into 2008 and beyond.

Whilst on this subject, as most will know, Derek Stebbing has been Membership Secretary for a good many years. In that time, his professional workload has steadily increased, and is presently quite onerous. Accordingly, he has decided that now would be an appropriate time to stand down from the role. Richard Delahoy (Treasurer) has kindly agreed to take over for the time being. We would like to place on record our thanks to Derek for his efforts over the years. He will continue to manage the Timetable Subscription Service, but for membership subscriptions, changes of address etc., please contact Richard until further notice:

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

Photo Sales

There is no Photo Sales list this month, but these should resume in November.

In the New Year, it is hoped to offer prints from the first of the Bill Cansick negatives, with Essex Independents and some other interesting material also in the pipeline.

In the longer term, we would like to offer colour prints via monthly lists. These will have to be produced by a different process, so negatives cannot be used. Instead, we would need JPGs on a CD-Rom. If any members would be prepared to scan their negatives or slides onto CD-Rom, please contact Lyn Watson in the first instance. The subjects must be Essex vehicles (or disposals thereof) and of reasonable quality.

Lyn Watson
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants
Monometer House, Rectory Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN
lynw@barrons-bds.com

Service Changes

Arriva East Herts and Essex

17 Sep 07 320 M-F Hoddesdon, Clock Tower - Broxbourne Station
New half hourly shoppers service

Arriva Southend

23 Sep 07 7 Daily Shoeburyness, Renown - Rayleigh Rail Station
Minor timetable changes with buses now serving Southend
Hospital (double run along Prittlewell Chase in both
directions)

8 Daily Shoeburyness, Renown - Hockley, Spa
Minor timetable changes with buses now serving Southend
Hospital (double run along Prittlewell Chase in both
directions)

Cedric Coaches

28-Aug-07 78X M-S Brightlingsea, Victoria Place - Colchester, High Street
Half hourly service

Ensign Bus Co

28 Aug 07 73 Daily Tilbury, Civic Centre - Upminster Station
Minor revision to timetable

First

26 Aug 07 78 Daily Colchester High Street - Brightlingsea, Regent Road
Contract journeys evenings and all day Sunday

2 Sep 07 45 Daily Moulsham Lodge Estate, Heath Drive - Oxney Green, Lodge
Road This service has not been withdrawn (and our thanks
to the membership for drawing this to our attention)

3 Sep 07 512 SDO Southend High School for Boys - Chelmsford, Coval Lane
Revised timetable and route no longer serving either
Wickford Station or Beauchamps School but serving
Ramsden Crays (Crays Hill to us locals)

618 SDO Blackmore, The Green - Ingatestone, Anglo European
School. Minor revision to timetable.

619 SDO Debden Station - Ingatestone, New Road
Minor revision to timetable

620 SDO Epping Station - Ingatestone, Anglo European School
Minor pm timetable revision

X30 Daily Southend Travel Centre - Stansted Airport
Now virtually 24 hour service with additional short
workings at either end peak periods (M-F)

30 Sep 07 605 Su Colchester Bus Station - Walton on the Naze
Service suspended for the winter

H C Chambers

2 Sep 07 753 M-S Colchester Bus Station - Bury St Edmunds Bus Station
Service now terminates at Sudbury. A through services still
operates to Bury St Edmunds but a change of bus may be
required

Network Colchester

28 Aug 07 2 M-S Horkesley Heath, Keelers Way - Severalls Park
Minor changes to the timetable.

2A M-S Monkwick, Gosfield Road - Highwoods, Tesco Store
Minor changes to the timetable.

2B M-S Boxted - Severalls Park Minor changes to the timetable

8E M-S Monkwick, Gosfield Road - Great Horkesley, Keelers Way

	78	M-S	Evening journeys operated under contract to ECC Colchester High Street - Brightlingsea, Regent Road Early morning and early evening journeys only
NIBS			
1 Sep 04	2	SDO	The Wick, Radwinter Ave (Salcott Crescent) - Anglo European School. Morning journey extended on from Billericay, Mayflower School
3 Sep 07	471	SDO	Doddinghurst - Brentwood
	472	SDO	Doddinghurst - Brentwood
	473	SDO	Doddinghurst - Brentwood
	474	SDO	Doddinghurst - Brentwood
	477	SDO	West Horndon Station - Brentwood 471-4/7: New schoolday only services
Stansted Transit			
3 Sep 07	1	SDO	Takely, Four Ashes - Saffron Walden, Church Street 15:20 from Saffron Walden to run 10 minutes later
	5	M-S	Bishops Stortford Interchange - Saffron Walden, Tesco Store 15:20 from Saffron Walden and 17:15 from Bishops Stortford both to run ten minutes later
4 Sep 07	302	SDO	Bishops Stortford, St Michaels Mead - Saffron Walden, High Street. 15:36 journey will now start from Newport. (New SDO service 802 will start from Saffron Walden High School)
22 Sep 07	35	M-S	Southend Bus Station - Chelmsford, Coval Lane Service withdrawn (now operated by <i>Crown Coaches</i>)
Stephensons			
1 Sep 07	801	COL	Hockley Spa - Thurrock College Minor pm timetable revision
3 Sep 07	515	SDO	Rochford - Rayleigh. Revised timetable afternoon journey operates 15 minutes earlier
3 Sep 07	800	COL	Southend Central Bus Station - Thurrock College Minor timetable revision
	D8	SDO	Maldon High Street - Maldon Tesco School days only via Round Bush
Viceroy of Essex			
4 Sep 07	29	T	Linton, Fire Station - Saffron Walden, High Street 09:15 journey from Linton to run 15 minutes earlier

David Tomlin

Publicity News

CEDRICS COACHES rarely get a mention here but this time there is a folded A5 undated leaflet, red print on cream paper, for their 78X Brightlingsea to Colchester service.

ENSIGNBUS has produced a new timetable leaflet for routes 44, 66, 73, 83, X80 following changes on 11th August 2007

FIRST have produced corporate style folded A4 leaflets for services 33 dated 27.08.07; 351 dated 26.8.07 and 352 dated 26.08.07. Also available are the smaller folded (overground style) to 75mmx105mm leaflets for services 41/51 dated 24.06.07; 42 dated 24.6.07; 61 dated 26.8.07; 62 dated 26.8.07; 65 dated 26.8.07; 66/ A dated 26.8.07 and 100 dated 16.7.07. A folded A4 leaflet for service X30 is also available dated 3.9.07.

HEDINGHAM have issued an A5 size "Bus Times" book commencing 3rd September 2007, price 30p. Full timetables for all services are shown on 24 glossy pages along with colour

Gremlins

Sorry – having now got the numbers correct, EBN521 refers wrongly to the tri-axes as Scania rather than Volvos. And despite using a reliable publication, 68555 is registered MX55NWS not NWF. Details are:

BMC 1100FE NMC111TKCRD200082 BMC B60F new 9/05 to First Manchester

Allocation changes

Period 6: 27 August 2007 to 30 September 2007

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; (S)=spare/retained (licensed);

D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal;

DS=Driving School; PS=Paint Spare

30558 BN-CR; 34011 CR-BN; 34012 CR-BN; 34290 DT-CR; 46132 (S)-HH; 46173 BN-CF;
60102 CF-DT; 68555 FGC-CF

Repaints (Periods 5 & 6):

46146 43742 46169 53118 53119 46147 43744 46185 46171 53131 62407 62408 53120
46148 53122 46171 62409 46149 62406 53123 46184 62410

53112 has driver recruitment advertising on the sides (including the windows)
47102 and 53128 have gained an allover rear adverts for Bryant Homes

Destination Equipment

Hadleigh Darts 43718 and 46154 have been fitted with LED displays. HH vehicles already with them are 31376/7, 40777-9, 41005-17 and 42852-5/7 while 31456/62 have dot matrix displays.

BN65665 has gained LED displays at the front and DT43800 was expected to be fitted with them after its MOT on 29th September (having already had LED rear lights installed).

Vehicle workings:

Chelmsford & Braintree

Collision-damaged Dart 42923 was noted back in service on 3rd October.

September sightings

15th BE46808 on CF56

24th CF60104 on 42 (22.25 from Broomfield Hospital)

28th CF60104 on 352

Colchester, Clacton & Harwich

Olympians 34301/2 have returned to CR from being on loan to CN, and 67009/10 to CN from CR. 47104 was seen back at CR (ex CN) on 11th September, when Lance 60102 moved from CF-DT and Olympian 34290 DT-CR. Mercedes 51780 had moved from BE to CN by 20th but was back at work in Harwich on 28th, when it spent all day on town services 20/22 and the following day on 103/104s.

CN have been borrowing a CR Scania for Saturday night ECC contracted 74Bs, returning it



34011 (P551 EFL) did an unexpected turn on the 551 and 82 on 6th October, here seen at Woodland Avenue shops, Hutton. *Chris Stewart*

on Sunday mornings. Usual vehicle is 65679 which has had its destination programmed accordingly.

September sightings

- 4th 65-branded CR65686 on 64
- 7th CR62408 on X22
- 9th CR65690 on CN76 (having been borrowed for 74B)
- 10th CR62408 on CN74
- 19th 65-branded CR65685 on 64
- 23rd 65-branded CR65678 on 70
- 24th CR62408 on X22
- 26th DT51780 on CN11
- 27th CR47104 on 62
- 28th 65-branded CR65685 on 64; CR67006 on 62

October

- 3rd Volvo CR20110 on 88 (08.50 ex HD)

Basildon/Hadleigh

ECW Olympian CF34818 was in Hadleigh recently for mechanical work, and their own 31377 was towed away minus engine and gearbox on 5th October for major repair and refurbishment.

September sightings
6th BN46804 on 100
11th BN67036 on 82
21st BN41644 on 100

Other News - Where are they now?

Series 2 Bristol VR 3040 (PWC515M), owned for a long time by preservationist Bob Salmon, is reported to have been sold in 2005 for spares to The Early Childhood Bus, St Albans (to assist with returning their VR LVL805V to the road). However in a strange turn of events it was removed without their authorisation from storage at A1 Salvage in Peterborough late in 2006 and has not been located since. 3039 remains in the USA although out of use, and former United Counties 3200/1 (JRP801L, RNV810M) both survived. 3200 was thought to be in preservation and 3201 with a Charity in London - but have not been reported for several years, nor indeed has Series 1 3016 (SMS42H) which was a mobile bar/off licence in South London. Further details of these and a vast number of other Bristols (including a recent photo of preserved LH 1103 in Tilling green and cream - see below) can be found on <http://bcv.robshy.com> and updates are always welcomed.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, G Norris, J Podgorski, I Ransom, D Pretty, J Salmon, C Sigston, R Sly, K Smith, 'Solo', A Spindler, D Stewart, A Toms, R Whitley, the *Essex Bus*, *South West* and *British Buses in North America* y-groups, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by fax on 01277 216745, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart

What if the dreary NBC livery had been just a bad dream? Preserved Bristol LH 1103 (UVX 7S) in Tilling green and cream, with RE 1516 behind. *Fred Lawrance*



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LIMITED**New vehicles**

2483 YK 07 BCZ Optare Solo M950 SABFNGAF07R192902 Optare B30F 9/07
2484 YK 07 BEO Optare Solo M950 SABFWGAE07R192900 Optare B30F 9/07
2485 YK 07 BEU Optare Solo M950 SABFWGAE07R192901 Optare B30F 9/07

Allocations

9/07: 2483-5 HA; 3818 u

Vehicles out

2120 (NJ190 EMJ), 21236 (N916 ETM): gone by 9/07
3362 (K412 FHJ), 3363 (K413 FHJ): Arriva The Shires 3362/3 8/07
5337 (C437 BUW): Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) 9/07

Subsequent histories

2099 (M159 RBH): gone from SM Coaches, Harlow 8/07
2327 (K707 FNO): gone from SM Coaches, Harlow by 12/04
5851 (C36 CHM): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 8/07 ex Arriva The Shires 5851

Operational Fleet Allocation 9/07

Harlow (HA): 443/4, 1258, 2172/5/7/89/90, 2248, 2370/1/7, 2453-60/65-7/73/4/83-5
3100/23/4/9, 3250-7, 3338/41/6/52/5/7-60/4/6-9/71/2, 3413,
3819/56-60, 3907-9
Ware (WE): 2376, 2461-4, 3399, 3417/8/35/9/40/83, 3828/30-2, 3901-6, 4521/2,
5423-9/33/42/3/5-7/51
Training (t): 3361
Delicenced(u): 3353, 3818, 5379

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

All but one of the six Dart SLFs destined for route 29 are now at Southend. 3181 (P181 LKL) remains at Grays to cover for a vehicle shortage there. It is due at Southend shortly but in the meantime Dart/East Lancs 3006 (L508 CPJ) has been reinstated at Southend to take its place. 3006 has been in store at both Southend and Tunbridge Wells since withdrawal at the end of August. The six 'Route 29' Dart SLFs (3181, 3388/90. 3421/3/31) are to be receive repaints before route branding for service 29 is applied. 3431 was the first to go to Maidstone for repaint.

Dominators 5286-8 (K36/7 XNE, K38 YVM) are on the Arriva Southern Counties Disposal List and it is believed they are now sold. At the start of October they were in store at Short Street, Southend.

Five of the six Mercedes Sprinters used on Dengie Village Link services until April 2007 have been advertised for sale by Erith Commercials.

Dual door TfL specification Darts 3299 (Y299 TKJ) and 3303 (Y303 TKJ) have been in use at Grays on loan from Dartford in recent weeks. 10.6m 3303 even managed a spell on route 346 which is usually operated by 9.2m Cadets due to restrictions in Upminster Park Estate!

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold and Essex Bus y-group



Dominator Finale (definitely!) The Arriva Southend trio at Short Street, with fleetnames removed and red 'disposal' stripes applied. *Ian Banks*



Vehicles In

From Burtons, Haverhill

219 (G619 OTV) Volvo Citybus/ Alexander 23514 H47/37F New 12/1989 as Trent 619

300 (W427 CWX) Optare Solo M850 VN6397 B30F New 4/2000

Solo 300 entered service at Colchester on 27th September.

Vehicles Out

To Burtons, Haverhill

310 (N540 TPF) Dart/East Lancs

349 (H49 MJN) Leyland Olympian

To Wiltax, New Haw

347 (H47 MJN) Leyland Olympian

348 (H48 MJN) Leyland Olympian – note 348 has been on loan to Wiltax for some months but has now been transferred there 'permanently'.

Following the loss of 347-9, Olympian 346 is the last remaining Colchester Borough Transport vehicle in the fleet.

Vehicle Workings

There have been a number of changes to vehicle workings during September following changes to branding. See the Branding Update below.

Trident 157 is now a regular vehicle on service 93.

Unusual sightings:

Aug 28 157 (8 branded) on 2.
Sept 1 157 (8 branded) on 2 nd 309 on ECC 50/92 (usually SLF).
17 905 on 1.

Rail Replacement

Sept 9 102 operated between Shenfield and Chelmsford.
16 101, 102, 155, 157 operated between Colchester and Liverpool Street.

Volvo Citybus 214 returned to service during the week commencing 3rd September after long term accident repairs.

Branding Update

Route 2 Omnidekka 102 and Volvo Citybus 214 have received green route 2 branding.
Route 8 Tridents 155/6 have received blue route 8 branding, whilst Trident 157 and Omnidekka 102 have lost route 8 branding.
Route 93 Omnidekka 340 has lost route 93 branding.

Publicity and Ticketing

The latest timetable booklet was issued from 28th August. It has a picture of Trident 155 (then unbranded) on the front cover, on route 8. The booklet no longer shows Suffolk County Council routes 730/1, or the Suffolk County Council "SundayBus" routes.

From 28th August, a new 4 weekly travel ticket called, "Network 4 Week" was introduced. It costs £40 00, and is available to buy on the bus. This complements the 'Network Day' daily (£2.70), "Network Week" weekly (£11.00) and "Network 10" 10 journey (£12.00) tickets already available.

Other News

Omnidekka 101 has had an electronic destination blind fitted.

Network Colchester has been running a three bus Essex County Council contract (KM0245) to Thomas Lord Audley School from the start of the Autumn term. Volvo Citybuses 214, 333 and 335 carry CCTV for this purpose. Contracts JM1011 (2 buses to Thurstable School) and JM60 (one bus to Bishops Park College) continue to run.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Essex Bus y-group

708 (S108 HGX) at Manningtree station on the 10.40 departure 730 to Bildeston.

Arthur Nugent



New vehicle 08/07

L356 EY57FZE ADL Enviro 200 SFD321AR17GY10442 / Alexander 7209/8 B37F

Acquired vehicles ex-Dublin Bus RA199 (8/07) 201, 200 (9/07) via Ensign (dealer)

L358 M276UKN (95-D-199) Volvo Olympian SLVYNC215SC025849 /
Alexander (Belfast) D10.04 H47/27D new 3/1995; reregistered 9/2007.

L359 M273 UKN (95-D-201) Volvo Olympian SLVYNC212SC025856) /
Alexander (Belfast) D10.06 H47/27D new 3/1995; reregistered 9/2007.

L360 tba (95-D-200) Volvo Olympian SLVYNC211SC025850) /
Alexander (Belfast) D10.05 H47/27D new 3/1995; reregistered 9/2007.

David Harman, with thanks to Dave Arnold



SAFE TRAVEL FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL CHILDREN

Allocated to our Clacton depot in September was an additional Alexander Dennis low floor vehicle. This was not a basic Enviro 200, but with nearly £10,000 worth of additional safety features suitable for the conveyance of primary school children.

The 37 seater Enviro 200 comes with high backed Lazzerini seats. The high headrests give added protection and reduces the danger of 'whip lash' should the driver be forced to make an emergency stop. For added protection all forward facing seats are fitted with seat belts. In case of a serious accident an emergency escape hatch is fitted in the roof, thus providing an escape route should the vehicle end up on its side.



A special feature is the drivers steering column and binnacle incorporating state of the art electronic screen (LCD) display providing driving information and warning signals.

The Company's traditional fleet livery of cream and red has been modified to blend in with the revised design of the Enviro 200.

D R MacGregor



■ EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS, Stansted

Dennis Javelin/Plaxton R128 XWF has been sold to Alan Wilde t/a Lets Travel. Also sold is Leyland Olympian/ECW B204 DTU to Freedom Travel Coaches in Cambridge. This went to them for the first day of schools, being replaced by one of the ex-Brighton Scania's, which are now all confirmed as joining the fleet.

Olympian A890 PKR should be deleted from the fleetlist in EBN521; it left the fleet some months ago. Olympian KTL 43Y is delicensed.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Lyn Watson

NIBS

Acquired from Ensign (dealer), Purfleet is H243 LOM another former Travel West Midlands Scania N113/Alexander. The three Tridents have been reregistered as follows

BIL 4419 (T401 SMV)
BIL 6538 (T404 SMV)
BIL 4539 (T410 SMV)

Ian Ransom

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Arriva the Shires: Metrobus C437 BUY.
Brighton & Hove: Scania's N758/60 OAP.
Stagecoach Devon: Volvo D10M's F303/4/6/7/9 MYJ.
Stagecoach East Midlands: Olympians G339 KKW L109 LHL
Stansted Transit: DAF SB120 Y284 HUA.

Vehicles out

to

Darts R704/5/7/9 MEW: **A2Z Travel**, Walsall.
Dublin Olympians 93-D-10173, 92-D-150 and 92-D-152 now
L918 SNO, K231 SNO and K230 SNO respectively with **Dunn-Line**, Nottingham.
Olympians L956/82 MSC: **Holloways**, Scunthorpe, Lincs.
Scania's N758/60 OAP: **Hunters Coaches**, Leeds.
DAF SB120 Y284 HUA: **Kimes Coaches**, Folkingham, Lincs.
Scania's J273/5/6/7/8/9/82/4/6/8 UWO:
Lough Swilly Buses, Eire.
Olympian A543 HAC: **McKindless**, Wishaw.
Metrobuses LMO 190X, A647 BCN: **On-a-Mission**, Solbury, Beds.

Metroriders P415/9 VRG: **Devon Road Ltd**, Strood, Kent.
M946: **PVS** for scrap.
M675: **South East Coachworks**, Faversham, Kent.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus



above
below

Stephenson's 449 (P749 HND) was on the 14 on a bright 4th October. *Ian Banks*
NIBS Trident BIL6538 (ex-T404SMV) at Billericay Station on rail replacement work on 30th September. *Chris Stewart*



Regal Busways

K716 PCN (ex NFX 667, K716 PCN) Dennis Dart/Alexander has been acquired. It was new to Busways, and came via Solent Blue Line (585). An unusual visitor on 22 August, was Village Link 14/15 branded Dart YN04 PZZ on service 75. *Ian Ransom*

Stansted Transit

STANSTED TRANSIT More Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton's are KV51 KZC from Nippy Bus, Yeovil, YT51 EAG/M, last reported with Birmingham Motor Traction, and KM51 BFZ from Simonds, Botesdale. Two further Enviro 200's are KX57 FMF/G

Ian Ransom

Small Operator News

ACME, Molehill Green The depot is now at Waltham Hall, CM22 6PF, which is adjacent to Stansted Airport. Acquired is Mercedes Benz 814D/Bradshaw R363 TUX

AMBER, Rayleigh Bova Futura P34 OET has been sold to Moseley (dealer), South Elmsall

APT, Rayleigh LUI 5601 (ex K279 PHT, 74KK99) Dennis Javelin/Wadham Stringer seen in use 21.9.07 (ex Alexcars, Cirencester, Glos.) This vehicle has the fleetname "A.P.T. Coaches"; "A.P.T. Travel" is the usual fleetname.

ASTROCABZ, Latchingdon Ford Transit DN07 XFU is in use here

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Recently acquired YD02 RCO a DAF SB4000/Van Hool is reported to be in use at the Colchester United FC team coach

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford Ford Transit Tourneo AV06 XUH is a recent addition

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Yet another new Ford Transit is EK07 UYZ. Similar EK07 RSZ is numbered 45, while EK07 OPD is number 44

CM3 CARS, South Woodham Ferrers Fiat Ducato Y383 LHT was reported as being stolen last year and has not been recovered

CROWN, Thundersley Acquired from Ensign (dealer) for use on service 35

(Chelmsford-Southend) is Mercedes Benz 709D/Alexander N977 NAP, it carries Village Highwayman route branding on its former Stagecoach livery. Also on the 35 is former Ensign Dennis Dart/Wadham Stringer H908 DTP. Also acquired is Bova Futura LUI 9951 (P565 XNW)

CRUSADER, Clacton Setra S315GT W114 BHJ has been sold

FARGO, Rayne Ford Transit X817 ATD is now with a private owner

GARDNER, Boreham LAG Panoramic BHZ 9621 (G488 KBD) has gone to a West Sussex operator

HAWAII FIVE O, Colchester Ford Transit Tourneo SA07 HPX is a recent (non-PSV) addition. Ford Transit S804 TNA has been sold.

KEANE, Canvey Island Ford Transit K758 JVX is now with a private owner and Renault Trafic L488 VBP has gone for scrap.

LITTLE OWLS, Danbury Have surrendered their licence. Ford Transit CV55 FWJ was the only vehicle here.

LOGIC TRANSPORT, Nazeing Volvo B10M/Plaxton NIW 8795 (A655 UGD) has been sold.

MATTHEWS TRAVEL, Rayleigh Acquired from Stanley Mackay, Bonnyrigg is Setra S250 GSK 673 (R772 KSX). Setra S215HD B434 RLO has been withdrawn

MG TRAVEL, Kelvedon Mercedes/Onyx P2 BST (P484 TGA) has been acquired.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Vehicles confirmed as withdrawn are Dennis Dart/Duple G350 GCK, MAN 11.190/Optare K801 DCF and Iveco/Marshall L723 PHK. Vehicles sold are Leyland Tiger/Plaxton E882 VKY and Iveco/Marshall M735/8 AOO, M153 RBH, N739 AVW.

PANT VALLEY, Blackmore End The only vehicle recorded here, LAG Panoramic D217 XPK has gone for scrap

P&M, Shotgate Former Stagecoach Volvo B10M/Jonckheere S134 KRM has been acquired

SAINT CLOUD, Rochford Acquired from Alec Leonard, Basildon is LAG Panoramic HUI 3584 (D390 XCD)

S&M, Thundersley Acquired from Ensign (dealer) is D152 FYM a Leyland Olympian/ECW

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Apologies for the typing error last month, the new Iveco/Univ are EU07 XGK/L/M. Vehicles confirmed as withdrawn are Dennis Dart/Plaxton J313 WHJ, MAN 11.190/Optare L608 FRD (now sold), Iveco/Mellor L699 NWX, Iveco/Marshall M291 AJC and M159 RBH, Iveco/Indcar N179 OUT.

SS CABS, Tiptree: One vehicle is being kept at Brook Hall, Brook Road, Tiptree, Colchester, CO5 0RQ.

STANS, Gt Totham Recently acquired is Dennis Javelin/PLaxton TIL 8271 (G877 VPK)

STANSTED COACH, Birchanger The depot has moved to Duck End, Birchanger. DAF SB2300/Duple F860 YJX has been sold to Snowdrop Travel, Dagenham

STANWAY TRAVEL, Laver-de-la-Haye Ford Transit Y131 RAR has been sold to a private owner

TALISMAN Gt Bromley Ex Lothian 972 L972 MSC Volvo Olympian/Alexander has been here from 24.8.07, initially on loan from Ensign (dealer) for inspection with a view to purchase. It is not taxed and has not been used. It has been converted to single door, but not finished internally. As at 11.9.07 it is at Dunmow for painting; it will then return to Ensign for completion of the conversion and recertification before coming back to Talisman.

TONY GLEW, Gt Tey Mercedes Benz 811D/Optare G122 KUB has gone to Brown, Barway

TOWNCAR, S Clacton Toyota/Caetano M131 SKY is now with Brown, Barway

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Mercedes Benz 711D/Adams P614 RGB has been sold to Express, Brompton, Kent

Ian Ransom with thanks to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston, PSV Circle, John Podgorski

“... for the Guidance of Employees” (3)

From: “General Instructions, Rules, Regulations and Bye-Laws for the Guidance of Employees”, issued by Southend-on-Sea Corporation Transport Department, June 1936, courtesy Richard Delahoy

191 Free Rides.

The only persons allowed to ride free are the following :-

- (a) Employees of the Transport Department riding to or from work. Employees not in uniform must produce a travelling tally.
- (b) Persons producing passes. The numbers of all passes are to be entered on the waybill in the space provided: passes are of 4 kinds, i.e.:
 - (1) Departmental passes.

- (2) Conference delegates' passes.
- (3) Passes issued to children by the Educational Dept.
- (4) Councillors' passes.

- (c) Policemen in uniform.
- (d) Territorials (Infantry) in uniform and carrying rifles.
- (e) Members of the St. John Ambulance Association, when in uniform (nurses or men).
- (f) Firemen in uniform.

I like the bit about Territorials being allowed to travel free only if they were carrying their rifles!

David Harman



Preservation Notebook

Through the good offices of Ross Newman at Ensignbus of Purfleet, Essex, we were able to borrow RLH61 for the Mid Essex Model Railway Exhibition/Shenfield Station shuttle on Saturday 15th September.

Conveniently it has blinds which include the 248 & 248A, the nearest routes - albeit inside the Greater London border in the RLHs latter years - on which these lowbridge buses worked (converted to single deck in September 1970).

RLH61 didn't work the 248/A in service but was the last lowbridge bus in LT service on the 178 in April 1971. It then spent many years in Ontario before being repatriated by Steve and Ross Newman and rebuilt/restored as a 65th Birthday present for their father Peter Newman.

I don't think I hadn't travelled on an RLH for 36 years so the chance to do so and also drive it was a double bonus. Duncan Law is seen at the wheel in Shenfield.

Chris Stewart

Essex Coast Express

NOTE—LIGHT FIGURES FROM 1201 A.M. TO 1200 NOON
HEAVY DARK FIGURES FROM 1201 P.M. TO 1200 MIDNIGHT

LONDON & CLACTON—continued

GEORGE EWER & CO., LTD.
(GREY-GREEN SERVICES)

63B

63B

FARES UNTIL 18 JUNE AND FROM 14 SEPT			FARES 19 JUNE TO 13 SEPT.			READ DOWN			DAILY			READ UP		
S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR
..	..	..	..	..	..	845	115	615	LONDON—	1215	928	1045	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	900	130	650	KINGS CROSS COACH STATION	1155	915	1028	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	910	140	660	SHOREDITCH (OPP. 138, HIGH ST.)	1145	905	1018	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	920	150	670	COACH STN., 345-351, WILE END RD.	1135	895	1008	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	930	205	705	STRATFORD (MANBY PARK ROAD)	1125	885	998	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	945	215	715	ILFORD (137, HIGH RD.)	1115	875	988	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	955	225	725	GOODMAYES (144, HIGH RD.)	1105	865	978	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1010	240	740	ROMFORD (LION CORNER)	1095	855	968	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1020	250	750	BRENTWOOD (WHITE HART GARAGE)	1085	845	958	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1035	305	805	INGATESTONE (OPP. P.O.)	1075	835	948	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1045	315	815	WIDFORD (WHITE HORSE)	1065	825	938	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1105	330	835	CHELMSFORD (PEACHEY ST., HIGH ST.)	1055	815	928	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1115	340	845	CHELMSFORD (REGENT THEATRE)	1045	805	918	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1131	401	901	WITHAM (THE GEORGE)	1035	795	908	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1135	405	905	KELVEDON (KELVEDON BRIDGE)	1025	785	898	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1145	415	915	MARKS TAY (A.A. BOX)	1015	775	888	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1201	431	931	LEXDEN (BOUTLET, OLD TRAM TERM.)	1005	765	878	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1211	441	941	COLCHESTER (MOORES, 138, HIGH ST.)	995	755	868	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1215	445	945	FRATING GREEN	985	745	858	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1225	455	955	WEELEY	975	735	848	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1235	465	965	CHELMSFORD (PEACHEY ST., HIGH ST.)	965	725	838	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1245	475	975	CLACTON (WARWICK CASTLE)	955	715	828	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1255	485	985	HOLLAND-ON-SEA (BLOOMFIELD'S GAR.)	945	705	818	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1265	495	995	GREAT HOLLAND (WESLEYAN CHAPEL)	935	695	808	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1275	505	1005	KIRBY CROSS (A.A. BOX)	925	685	798	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1285	515	1015	PRINTON (PRINTON GATES)	915	675	788	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1295	525	1025	WALTON-ON-NAZE (CNR. HOUSE CAFE)	905	665	778	..	..

A SPECIAL THEATRE SERVICE LEAVES LONDON AT MIDNIGHT ON THE THIRD WED. OF EACH MONTH
LONDON: CO.5 OFFICE, 85, STAMFORD HILL, N.18. TEL.: STAMFORD HILL 4201
CLACTON: CO.5 OFFICE, 38, JACKSON RD. TEL.: A. WARWICK CASTLE B.O., PIER AVENUE. TEL.: 644
PRINTON: A. J. DANDY, MAES MIKADO CAFE, 131, TREE AVENUE. TEL.: 280
WALTON: DOELL, HIGH STREET. TEL.: 112

BOOK ON SUTTON'S CROSSELY COACHES FOR CLACTON-ON-SEA, ST. OSYTH, & JAYWICK

(Through Service to Jaywick and St. Osyth)

FROM KINGS X COACH STATION .. 9.0 a.m., 2.0 p.m., 6.30 p.m.
FROM JAYWICK SANDS .. 8.30 a.m., 2.0 p.m., 6.30 p.m.
FROM CLACTON .. 9.0 a.m., 2.30 p.m., 7.0 p.m.

FARES:—

UNTIL 18 JUNE & FROM 14 SEPT			FROM 19 JUNE TO 13 SEPT.		
S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR
CLACTON	8/6	SINGLE, 8/6 DAY, 9/6 PERIOD	MON.—FRI.	6/6	SINGLE, 6/6 DAY, 10/6 PERIOD
JAYWICK	8/6	SINGLE, 7/6 DAY, 8/6 PERIOD	SAT. & SUN.	6/6	SINGLE, 7/6 DAY, 11/6 PERIOD
			MON.—FRI.	7/6	SINGLE, 8/6 DAY, 12/6 PERIOD

63C

OPERATED BY SUTTON'S CROSSELY COACHES

63C

FARES UNTIL 18 JUNE AND FROM 14 SEPT.			FARES FROM 19 JUNE TO 13 SEPTEMBER			READ DOWN			DAILY			READ UP		
S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR	S	DR	PR
..	..	..	..	..	..	900	200	650	LONDON (KINGS CROSS COACH STN.)	1225	555	1025	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	920	250	650	GLOBE ROAD (STERNY GR. STN.)	1215	545	1015	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	930	260	705	STRATFORD (MANBY PARK RD.)	1205	535	1005	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	947	247	717	ILFORD (TOWN HALL)	1195	525	995	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1150	450	900	COLCHESTER (138, HIGH STREET)	1185	515	985	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1255	555	955	CLACTON (54, PIER AVENUE)	1175	505	975	..	..
..	..	..	..	..	..	1258	558	1005	JAYWICK SANDS	1165	495	965	..	..

ON SATS. AND SUNS. AND BANK HOLIDAYS FROM 20 JUNE TO 13 SEPT. CLACTON 8/6; 7/6 DR; 11/6 PR; JAYWICK 7/6; 6/6 DR; 10/6 PR

TERMINAL AGENTS
LONDON: KINGS CROSS COACH STATION, EUSTON ROAD. TEL.: TERMINUS 8420
CLACTON: CO.5 OFFICE, 38, JACKSON RD. TEL.: 644

BOOK YOUR TICKET AT KINGS + COACH STATION

'Phone: Terminus 6420

"Roadway" ~ Summer 1936 edition, showing the Grey-Green and Sutton's Crossley Coaches Essex coastal services.

(courtesy Alan Osborne)

Forty years ago, on 2 October 1967, Essex Coast Express was launched. Whilst Essex had gained a new express coach service the previous year (The Eastlander, linking Ipswich with Cheltenham via Colchester, Chelmsford and Harlow jointly operated by Associated Motorways, Grey-Green, Travel House (Luton) and Premier Travel), Essex Coast Express was an amalgamation of existing services of three operators. Once again Grey-Green, still then within the George Ewer Group, was involved but in this case had a significant proportion of the pooled operating mileage.

The Grey-Green contribution to the Pool was their daily, all year Service 2, London to Harwich that they had commenced on 1 January 1930 and Service 4 to Clacton/ Walton on Naze that had been acquired from WH Jacobs' Monty Super Coaches of Woodford in 1934. Both services were thrice daily, except from 1956 when fuel rationing caused by the Suez Crisis forced withdrawal of the midday weekday journeys of the Harwich service that was not reinstated until 1967. In practice, however, the service to Harwich was invariably worked other than at weekends by a shuttle from Colchester off the Clacton coach. Originally, independent coach services had used Charing Cross Embankment as a terminal

63E

OPERATED BY THE EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO., LTD.

63E

OPERATES SATS. AND SUNS. ONLY UNTIL 30 MAY, THEN DAILY

LONDON:	60	5X	60	50	60	50	60	50
VICTORIA COACH STATION	900	930	1000	230	630	715	800	880
WITTHAL GREEN (CAMROBERT ST.)	940	1010	1040	240	710	795	880	960
STRATFORD (MANLEY PARK ROAD)	1002	1032	1102	302	732	817	900	980
COLCHESTER (BUS PARK)	1210	1240	1310	340	940	1025	1110	1190
CLACTON (E. NAT. OFFICE, PIER AVENUE)	1250	1280	1350	380	980	1065	1150	1230
JAYWICK SANDS (E. N. OFFICE)	1300	1330	1400	430	1030	1115	1200	1280

60 SATS. ONLY

5X NOT SATS.

LONDON TO:	UNTIL 18 JUNE AND FROM 18 SEPT	18 JUNE TO 18 SEPT (EXCEPT SATS, SUNS, AND BANK HOLIDAYS)	SATS, SUNS, AND BANK HOLIDAYS FROM 18 JUNE TO 18 SEPT
CLACTON (E. NAT. OFFICE, PIER AVENUE)	5.0	5.0	5.0
CLACTON (BUS PARK)	5.0	5.0	5.0
CLACTON (WITTHAL GREEN (CAMROBERT ST.))	5.0	5.0	5.0
CLACTON (VICTORIA COACH STATION)	5.0	5.0	5.0

TERMINAL AGENTS

LONDON: LONDON COASTAL COACHES, VICTORIA COACH STN., BUCKINGHAM PALACE RD., S.W.1, TEL: 1 SLOANE 0000
 COLCHESTER: EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO., LTD., 101, ST. JOHNS STREET, TEL: 2048
 CLACTON: EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO., LTD., PIER AVENUE, TEL: 1 102

63F

OPERATED BY ECLIPSE COACHES

63F

COMMENCES 30 MAY

DOWN	DAILY	UP	TERMINAL AGENTS
B10	SALING (TOWN HALL)	↑	LONDON: ECLIPSE MOTOR COACHES 37, THE APPROACH, EAST ACTON, S.W.1, TEL: 1 SHEPHERDS BUSH 4562 3 N
B11	SHEPHERDS DUSH (THE LAWN)	↑	CLACTON: THOMAS BOOKING OFFICE 10, WARRICK CASTLE HOTEL, PIER AVENUE, TEL: 1 944
B12	HANDEDWORTH (THE GROVE)	↑	
B13	WALHAM GREEN (MOORE PARK ROAD)	↑	
B14	CLACTON (WARRICK CASTLE HOTEL)	↑	

C 15 MINS. LATER ON SUNDAYS

UNTIL 18 JUNE AND FROM 18 SEPT	18 JUNE TO 18 SEPT (EXCEPT SATS, SUNS, AND BANK HOLIDAYS)	SATS, SUNS, AND BANK HOLIDAYS FROM 18 JUNE TO 18 SEPT
5.0	5.0	5.0
5.0	5.0	5.0
5.0	5.0	5.0
5.0	5.0	5.0

"Roadway" ~ Summer 1936 (continued): the Eastern National service. Neal's Eclipse Service became part of a swap of pick-up points between Ewer's, Orange Luxury and United Service Transport shortly afterwards.

severe and soon the coach was proceeding direct to Mile End Coach Station where Clacton passengers from Kings Cross were transferred from Yarmouth/Felixstowe coaches.

In the meantime, Pentonville Road Coach Station (which had been partially demolished for several years) was required to be vacated in November 1965 and a temporary street pick up point was used in Midland Road, St Pancras until February 1966 when Grey-Green services moved to Britannia Airways Terminal at Mabledon Place. Although licences for Grey Green services to Harwich, Felixstowe and Yarmouth were amended to commence at Brixton, the extension was not taken up. These difficulties together with the general decline in passenger traffic no doubt prompted

but all were banished from Central London following a Report to the Government by Lord Almuere in the thirties and several dispersed to Kings Cross. PSV Operators Ltd, of which J H Ewer was a director, managed a coach station at Belgrove Road junction of Euston Road opposite Kings Cross Station from which Grey-Green were operating in 1934 until expiry of lease caused a hasty move in 1947 to an open site in nearby Judd Street. By 1954 a more permanent coach station was built in Pentonville Road between Northdown Street and Killick Street but during the early sixties this site became under threat of development for an office block and Grey-Green decided to extend the Clacton/ Walton service to Brixton in October 1962 by amendment of the summer only road service licence from Camberwell of their Orange Luxury subsidiary. Two Grey-Green coaches were allocated to Orange Coach Station in Brixton but traffic congestion even in those days was

the need for more economical operation together with a stable London terminus. In those days any application for new or variation of road service licences could attract objections from practically anyone, including British Rail. Discussions took place between Tom McLachlan and John Wilson, who had previously been with Grey-Green, during which a possibility of adding the Harwich - Colchester stage services of RW Hooks, Great Oakley to the Pool that could minimise this risk. Whilst the licences were therefore purchased by George Ewer, the recast services were to be operated by Eastern National and the Grey-Green involvement on this section ceased.

At this stage it may be opportune to record that although Ewers may probably be remembered as a London operator, they had three coach stations in East Anglia for many years before and after World War 2, at Great Yarmouth, Ipswich and Clacton. The latter

had premises at 33 Jackson Road from the early thirties until the sixties, although use was also made of Wash Lane Coach Station due to its restricted space. A photograph of Jackson Road appears in both 'Grey-Green-From Ewer to Arriva' and Tom McLachlan's recently published 'Grey-Green and Contemporaries'.*

Under the new arrangements Eastern National revised their Service 80, that had previously been a Sunday only non stop service between Colchester and Tendring Heath Hospital, to operate daily from Harwich (Bus Station) via Dovercourt, Great Oakley, Wix, Tendring Heath, Little Bentley, Great Bromley and Elmstead with three Weekday and two Sunday connections and through ticket availability at Colchester. EN also introduced a Saturday only 80A with two return journeys from Stones Green via Beaumont, Tendring Heath, Horsley Cross and Great Bromley. At the other end of the route, Eastern National's contribution was a coach station worthy of the name at Kings

Cross and access, albeit only initially on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, to Victoria Coach Station. The former Tilling garage that was accessed from Northdown Street had been converted to a coach station in 1963 by addition of pedestrian access and waiting room from Pentonville Road, from which X10, Southend coach/air services and tours departed. Eastern National's London to Clacton service went back to National Omnibus days and in 1922 a morning and afternoon departure from Wash Lane to London was being advertised for 9 shillings.

Sutton's and Ewer's had similarities as the founders shared the same Christian name and both started as hauliers who converted their lorries for passenger use in the early 1920's. Sutton's made much of their early association with Crossley and an advertisement in the *East Essex Advertiser* and *Clacton Gazette* in May 1925 under the heading 'Sutton's Crossley Coaches' for 'Your Outing this Year' invited passengers to travel in a motor 'identical to those used by The Prince of



SJJ 311, one of twenty superb Leyland Tiger Cubs with Harrington Wayfarer coachwork, loads at the PSV Operators Kings Cross Coach Station in Pentonville Road, on Grey-Green Service 1 to Harwich. Coach styling then mimicked car styling (or perhaps, vice-versa) as evidenced by the Vauxhall Victor on the right.



Sutton's Ford Thames FOO 940 exits from Northdown Street from the Eastern National Coach Station. The plum-coloured label displayed the names of the three operators of Essex Coast Express. Note the Ford Anglia bottom-left. Owen Woodliffe

Wales in his Indian Tour and now his African Tour'. Sutton's were based at the original premises at 54 Pier Avenue, Clacton that had been converted and extended. Their London express service first appeared in the Highways Guide of Autumn 1930 and had daily morning, afternoon and evening departures from London Charing Cross Underground and Clacton via Ilford, Chelmsford, Colchester, St Osyth. Sutton's own timetable dated May 1931 urged passengers to 'Look for the Red Coaches'. Development of Jaywick Sands in the early thirties caused journeys to be extended, although by then from November to April from Tuesday to Saturday the service had been reduced to twice daily except at Xmas. Along with Ewer's the London terminal had also moved to Kings Cross Coach Station where Sutton's red coaches, up to half a dozen at weekends during the heydays as they did not hire in for their service, loaded

ESSEX COAST EXPRESS

WINTER TIME TABLE

OCTOBER 2 1967 to APRIL 10 1968

daily coach service

EASTERN NATIONAL	GREY GREEN	SUTTONS COACHES
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alongside those of Grey-Green. By 1967 Sutton's distinctive Duple-bodied Royal Tigers, signwritten with London-Clacton-Jaywick Sands along the roofline, had given way to a variety of Fords that were used until Grey-Green took over Sutton's share of the Pool in 1973.

Essex Coast Express was promoted with plum colour leaflets and screen labels and the new facilities brought increased business with less mileage. Tom McLachlan, who has checked my draft, reckons that had this Pool not occurred, Grey-Green would have been off East Anglian services ten years earlier. The following year the Felixstowe, Great Yarmouth and Bury St Edmunds services of Grey-Green and Eastern Counties together with the seasonal holiday camp services of Norfolk Motor Services and Eastern National's to Sheringham were merged into East Anglian Express with blue used for marketing leaflets. However, the use of Essex Coast Express was to last only until 1973 when the Clacton and Harwich services

became part of an enlarged East Anglian Express.

Owen Woodliffe

- * *Grey-Green and Contemporaries Part One - to 1960 is an excellent work and complements Owen's own history of Grey-Green, by also covering the other independent express operators from London. A special offer is in the present issue of "Classic Bus": Copies (normally £25) may be obtained at a post-free, discounted rate of £22.50 (cheques payable to "Bus Enthusiast Publishing") from:*

Bus Enthusiast Publishing
5 Hallcroft Close
Ratho,
Newbridge EH28 8SD

*Owen's history: **The Grey-Green Story** is still available, price £10.95, (cheques payable to "Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group") from:*

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

Eastern National FLF coach 2608 (KNO 949C) on the X80 at Dovercourt.

Chris Stewart Collection / Photographer unknown



Lunchtime chez Kings Cross Coach Station

Owen's mention of the former Tilling garage and its transformation into the Eastern National Kings Cross Coach Station, brought back memories.

Years ago whilst working in the City, I sometimes used to take the tube up to Kings Cross in my lunch-hour. The aim was to browse the latest bus books at the now long-defunct Kings Cross Model Shop in York Road. The routine also involved a stroll up to the coach station to see what was there, and to pinch a few leaflets.

It would be an understatement to say that the whole area was not very salubrious, and it hasn't changed much since. The pedestrian entrance to the coach station was via a gloomy alleyway between two shops in the Pentonville Road, and in negotiating this, you often had to step round recumbent tramps clutching empty Emva Cream sherry bottles. The 'departure lounge' was just a corner of the garage. As with the Chelmsford and Southend depot-cum-bus station conversions,

Eastern National's property department had done their level best to turn a sow's ear into a silk purse, but were forced to admit defeat at some point. The brick walls were disguised with cream and mid-khaki gloss paint, and brightened up with tour and express service posters. A false ceiling, concealed lighting, seats, drink vending machines and so on, made the terminal fairly presentable. Having said that, even Victoria Coach Station was pretty basic in those days, and as for Birmingham Digbeth

Apart from the Essex Coast Express, Kings Cross was served at various times by the Lincolnshire Road Car 'B' and 'D' express services to Cleethorpes, the United Counties ex-Birch service to Rushden, and the other Eastern National expresses, X1, X10, etc. plus the coach-air services and Tilling tours.

Now, as one or two may know, your Editor collects tickets (and ticket machines) and has done so for more years than he would care to

Tilling dual-purpose MW T1401 (804 WVV) emerges from the vehicular exit at Kings Cross, on the X1 to Southend. EBEG Collection / Andy Meadows



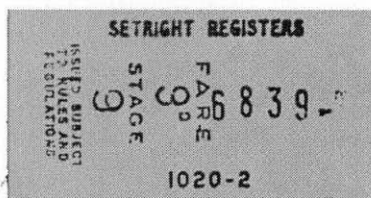


Tilling RE T441 (YHK 728F) and MW T301 (VYO 766) in the depths of KX. A Duple Firefly-bodied Bedford is just visible to the right.

EBEG Collection / Photographer unknown

admit to. I have a reasonable Eastern National collection, but the Kings Cross Coach Station was the source of a great disappointment ticket-wise. How so? Well, in connection with the coach-air services (which ran at obscure times to Southend, Stansted and Luton airports), a ticket vending machine was installed in the terminal area. This was a Setright 'Multiset', a design which was tried briefly and unsuccessfully as an on-bus unit by Ribble and by Plymouth City Transport. In modified, static form, it was later adopted with more success by British Rail at their North London Line stations.

Despite regular sorties to Kings Cross, I never found any of the tickets. The machine was only switched on when a coach-air service was due to depart and these never coincided with my visits - in fact the whole place was utterly deserted at midday during the week (apart from the tramps). On one notable occasion, I *did* find the machine switched on, and invested a then whopping 90p to buy the cheapest ticket possible - a child single to Stansted - but no ticket came out! All very frustrating!



So, does anyone have one of these tickets that would fill the blank page in my album? The Multiset resembled an ordinary Setright Speed but was wider, and printed on thin card. The pictures come from a contemporary Setright Registers catalogue. *David Harman*

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