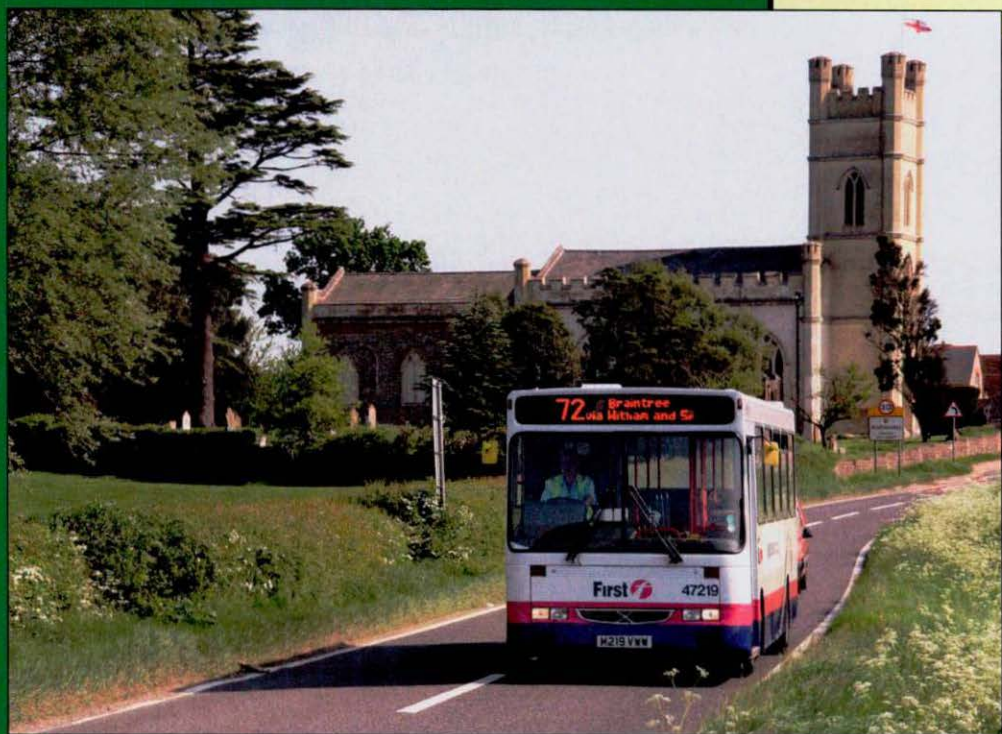


ESSEX BUS NEWS

**Issue 530
June 2008**



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

FOUNDED 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £19.50 by First Class post, 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 Shobury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

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:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@yahoo.com

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All orders for publications should be sent to:

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Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied; email with requirements:

lyn@barrons-bds.com

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.

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.

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>
July	28 June	17 July
August	2 August	21 August
September	30 August	18 September

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).

■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

From the **September** meeting, we are changing the meeting date to the **second MONDAY** in the month and are moving to a new venue - **Wickford Cricket Club** (in the town centre, five minutes walk from Wickford station and with its own car parking). Details of how to get there will be advised in EBN in due course.

Richard Delahoy

- ▶ **Tuesday July 15** - in place of a meeting, there will be an evening study tour of the **Kent Fastrack** system (see booking form in March EBN).
- ▶ *No meeting in August*

Autumn season:

- ▶ **Monday September 8** - topic to be advised
- ▶ **Monday October 13** - topic to be advised
- ▶ **Monday November 10** - topic to be advised
- ▶ **Monday December 8** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*, "20 years ago" and Christmas Social.

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room (except as indicated) 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 19:30 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 20:00 to 22:00. £1 donation towards room hire, please. Slides or digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Tuesday June 24** - evening visit to **Talisman Coachlines** - see April EBN for booking arrangements
- ▶ **Friday July 11*** - slide show by *Dave Arnold*, "London in 2007"
- ▶ **Wednesday July 23** - evening visit to see the preserved Crossleys at Worminford.
- ▶ **Friday August 8*** - Members' Evening (bring along 50 photos on CD or 50 Slides)
- ▶ **Friday September 12** - to be advised
- ▶ **Friday October 10** - slide show by *Fred Lawrance*.
- ▶ **Friday November 14** - slide show by *Chris Stewart*.
- ▶ **Friday December 12** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe*.

* in upstairs room

cover: Rural Essex: **First Dart 47219** at Rivenhall Church on the 72 from Chelmsford to Braintree; 13th May.

Keith Shayshutt

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS, ETC

- ▶ **Sunday June 22 ~ Hemel Hempstead Running Day**, Hemel Hempstead bus station.
- ▶ **Saturday June 28 ~ Bow Garage Centenary Open Day and Running Day**. 'Heritage bus' running day on the 9 and 15. A special bus service (X25) will operate between Bow garage and the Aldwych. A selection of vehicles will be used on this service. It is also planned to operate special buses over the old Routes 8a and 10 plus some some double deck workings on route S2 between Stratford and Bow garage.
- ▶ **Sunday July 6 ~ North Weald Bus Rally**, North Weald airfield, near Epping, featuring 75 years of London Transport. Vintage bus services from Epping and Ongar. The admission ticket (£8) includes the 339 bus link from and to Epping Station.
- ▶ **Sunday July 13 ~ Ridgewell Road Run & Rally**, Great Meadow End Farm, Ridgewell, Essex, Historic Commercial Vehicle Society, East Anglian Area.
- ▶ **Sunday July 13 ~ Ipswich Engineering Day, Ipswich Transport Museum**, Suffolk.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday July 25-6: London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours; Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Sunday August 3: Rail & Road Day, Ipswich Transport Museum**, joint admission with Mid-Suffolk Light Railway.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday August 29-30: London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours; Acton Depot.

■ TOURS

- ▶ **Saturday June 21 ~ The L O N G (est) Day Out ~ Stephenson's / Excel Depot Tour**
Please photocopy, complete and return the booking form in March EBN.
- ▶ **Tuesday June 24 ~ Talisman Evening Visit**. Please note there is **no** booking form for this tour - please pay (£5) on the night. See April EBN.
- ▶ **Tuesday July 15 ~ evening study tour of the Kent Fastrack system**. This is free **but pre-booking is essential**. Please photocopy, complete and return the booking form in March EBN.

All booking forms, enquiries etc. to:

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
Ianandsally@bigfoot.com



Preserved RE 1516, FWC439H in Brentwood High Street after a private visit to Ensignbus.

Steven Hughes

Welcome to new member

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Group:

974 Mr R Battell of Chatham, Kent

Richard Delahoy

Membership Renewals

A reminder to those who were sent renewal notices in May, for the second half of 2008: if you have not already done so, would you please send your subscription to the Membership Secretary. At the date of writing (June 5th), only just over half of those whose membership expires with this issue have replied. If we do not receive your payment soon, this will be your last copy of EBN.

Richard Delahoy

Octopus in Southend

From 15 June, a new multi-operator ticket, the **Octopus**, will be available on almost all buses in the Southend, Rochford and Castle Point Districts (corresponding to the old Southend Coordination Area that applied from 1955 to 1986). There will be day (£3.60 peak, £3 off-peak), weekly (£14), four-weekly (£40) and annual (£400) versions available, valid for travel on **Arriva, First, NIBS, Regal Busways and Stephensons** buses, including Essex County Council contract routes, subject only to some minor exclusions (school services in the 5xx and 8xx series, X10 and X30).

The new Octopus ticket is designed to meet the legal rules for a "Multi Operator Travelcard" scheme and is open to any bus operator to participate; the previous scheme's legal basis had restricted it to just Arriva, First and Stephensons and hence it excluded certain services and operators, and could not adapt to new operators coming into the area, such as Regal.

However, Arriva, First and Stephensons will continue to offer a range of operator-specific day, weekly, etc tickets (at a lower price than Octopus), but these will no longer be valid on other operators' services. Thus passengers have a choice: Octopus - higher price - valid on all operators' services, or operator-specific ticket - lower price - valid only on issuing operator's services.

(Short commercial break: If any members have seasons, weeklies etc of any Essex operators, or indeed any bus tickets whatsoever, your Editor collects such things and would welcome them address on inside cover)

Get an **OCTOPUS** ticket and cut the cost of travel around Southend, Rayleigh, Rochford, Canvey and Benfleet!

- Day, weekly, four-weekly and yearly tickets
- Valid for travel on most buses run by Arriva, First, NIBS, Regal Busways and Stephensons
- Available all day, every day
- Buy them on any bus
- Weekly, four-weekly and yearly tickets also available from Arriva's Travel Shop in Southend Travel Centre and from Cooks Coach Hire in Chichester Road

Octopus prices:
Day: £3.60
Day (off-peak): £3.00
Weekly: £14.00
4-weekly: £40.00
Yearly: £400.00
(Excludes school services and some routes)

Available from 15th June 2008

ARRIVA First NIBS Regal Busways Stephensons

David Harman

Publicity News

First: Folded A4 corporate timetable leaflets for 36;72/A and 351 all dated 14.4.08 and 102/3/4 dated 4.5.08. Overground folded corporate style timetables for 61;62;66/A all dated 2.3.08; 65 dated 4.5.08 and 100 dated 6.5.08.

Ian Ransom

Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

18 May 08	724	D	Harlow to Heathrow Airport withdrawn from Heathrow T4, now terminating at Heathrow T5.
1 June 08	724	D	Harlow to Heathrow Airport revised timetable with certain short journeys becoming 725.
	725	M-S	Harlow to Ware certain short journeys introduced replacing certain 724 journeys.
6 July 08	500	M-S	Old Harlow to Romford, service withdrawn between Ongar and Romford with revised timetable.
	501	D	Brentwood to Old Harlow service extended to Warley.

Arriva Southend

15 May 08	17	Thur	Southend to Westcliff Tesco new service via Southend Hospital.
28 June 08	498	D	Brentwood to Romford withdrawn.

Ensignbus

12 April 08	22	D	Grays to Upminster, additional journey in MF peaks extended from Aveley to Upminster.
	55	M-S	Lakeside to Belhus service withdrawn.
	66	M-S	Tilbury to Lakeside service extended from Lakeside to Ockendon Station.
16 June 08	22	D	Grays to Upminster revised route and timetable.
	66	M-S	Tilbury to Ockendon Station revised route and timetable.

First Essex

6 July 08	2	D	Southend to Basildon Sunday service extended to Thorpe Hall Avenue with revised timetable.
	3/26/27	D	Southend to Canvey Island revised timetable.
	20	D	Southend to Hullbridge revised Sunday timetable.
	21/A/B	D	Southend to Canvey Island revised Sunday timetable.
	22	D	Canvey Island to Basildon revised Sunday timetable.

7 July 08	25	D	Southend to Basildon revised timetable.
	7/8	M-S	Clacton to Walton revised summer timetable including new Service 7A
	10/11	M-S	Great Clacton to Jaywick revised timetable.
	17/18	M-S	Clacton to Point Clear revised timetable.
	48	M-S	Chelmsford to Chelmer Village revised route and timetable with journeys withdrawn from Westway and extended to Beaulieu Park.
	72/A	M-S	Chelmsford to Braintree, the 1545 departure from Braintree to terminate at Chelmsford Bus Station Mondays to Fridays.
First London			
28 June 08	498	D	Brentwood to Goresbrook new service via Romford.
NIBS			
16 June 08	104/6	M-F	Langdon Hills to Basildon service reinstated with no change.
SM Coaches			
29 May 08	M1/31	M-S	Harlow Town Services revised timetable and route.
Stagecoach Cambridge			
21 May 2008	7	M-S	Saffron Walden to Cottenham via Cambridge revised route and timetable.
Stephensons of Essex			
12 July 08	X1/10	M-F	Rochford to London service withdrawn.



The lay-by outside Southend Victoria station came into use in May. Stops are labelled:
 VK Continuing eastbound services
 VJ Services terminating at the Travel Centre
 VH Services terminating at the Travel Centre and rail replacement buses

Ian Banks

Trustline

29 June 08	700	D	Stansted Airport to Stevenage introduction of Sunday service.
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30 June 08	22/33	M-S	Harlow Town Services revised timetable.
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Viceroy Coaches

7 May 08	11	Tu	Great Chishall to Saffron Walden new service
	29	Tu	Linton to Saffron Walden new service
	34	M-S	Saffron Walden Town Service new service

Paul Harvey, with acknowledgements to

LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council, Richard Delahoy, Harlowride and First

Rail Replacement

Sat 3rd - Mon 5th May: NXEA Witham / Colchester / Harwich / Ipswich

The Great Eastern Main Line was closed throughout the May Day Bank Holiday weekend, between Colchester - Ipswich / Harwich Town on Saturday, and between Witham - Ipswich / Harwich Town on the Sunday and Monday.

On the Saturday, buses replaced trains as follows: Colchester, fast to Manningtree (every 30 minutes); Colchester, fast to Ipswich (4 buses perhour); Colchester to Harwich Town, calling at Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International and Dovercourt (x60 mins) and Manningtree to Ipswich (x60 mins).

On Sunday and Monday the railway was closed at Witham, and services were revised accordingly: Witham all stations to Colchester Town (every 60 mins); Witham non-stop to Ipswich (x30 mins); Witham to Ipswich, calling at Marks Tey, Colchester, fast to Manningtree (x60 mins); Witham to Harwich Town, calling at Kelvedon, Marks Tey, Colchester, Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International and Dovercourt (x60 mins); Marks Tey all stations to Sudbury (x60 mins).

Due to the railway engineering work, the railway level crossing at Manningtree was closed, so buses had to use the adjacent low bridge (9ft 6in high clearance according to the road signs). Therefore, First Essex Optare Solos were used.

Thank you to Robert Appleton, Chris Stewart, Richard Delahoy, Network Colchester, Colin Humphrey's www.ipswichbus.fpic.co.uk site for providing updated and expanded information on these services.

Vehicles reported in use, during the weekend included the following:

Belle Coaches, Lowestoft - Scania K113 / Van Hool Alizee: NJI 9243, LIL9455.

Burtons, Haverhill - All-Leyland Olympians: 245 (F245 MTW), 249 (H49 MJN); Volvo B12B / Plaxton Paragon: YN54 DDO (National Express livery), Scania / Irizar: YN08 DDX (plain white livery).

Chambers, Bures - Volvo Olympian / Alexander: P475, 488 MBY, (488 noted parked at Colchester on Monday); Volvo Olympian / NC: P549 WGT, P901 RYO; Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S851, 856 DGX. Of these 488, 851, 901 were noted parked spare - 488 at Colchester on Sunday, 851 at Manningtree on Sunday, 901 similarly on Monday. Volvo B10M / Plaxton: R361 GDX, Volvo B10M / Van Hool Alizee: M655KVU. In addition, an unidentified Marshall bodied single decker was noted parked in Marks Tey Station car park, may have been in use on the service to Sudbury.

Country Travel Coaches, Leiston, Suffolk - Setra coach: P568 VEE; Mercedes coach: S21NET
First Essex - Volvo Olympian / Alexander: 30560 (P190 TGD), Volvo Olympian / NC: 34307, 34308, 34309, 34310, 34311, 34314, 34315 (L307 PWR etc); Optare Solo: 53112,

53116/9/20/2/3/5/35 (EU02 NDX, NEJ, NEY, NFA, NFD, NFE, NFG, NFU) all from Chelmsford Depot, with Harwich-based 53138 (EU54 BNK) in use on Monday. It is reported that 15 Solos were used in total.

Galleon Travel, Harlow (Trustline) - Dart SLF / MCV: DMA8 (AE06 HBX) - prominently branded for Route 700 (Stansted Airport to Stevenage) ; AD Dart/Enviro 200: LK07GTF; Ex-Dublin Bus Leyland Olympian / Alexander: 764 (H764 PVW), H721PVW, J820 CEV

Peter Godward Coaches - Scania / Irizar: S332 SET, Iveco TurboCity / Beulas: YG53 OHE. Grahams, Kelvedon - Scania / Irizar: T361 JWA, YN03 DDE.

Network Colchester - Scania Omnidekka: 101 (AY55 DKA), 102 (YN06 TFZ); Trident / East Lancs: 155 (T405 SMV); DAF DB250 / Plaxton President: T133 AUA (Wiltax livery); Optare Solo: 307 (YJ51JWW)

Talisman, Great Bromley - Setra coaches: LSU 113, TSU 182, S268 BTL, LSU 788, Olympian / Alexander: J534, 605 CEV, L972 WSC; All-Leyland Olympian: H47 MJN (TGM / Network Colchester livery with Talisman fleetnames). Leyland Atlantean 90 (RVW 90W) in Colchester Borough Transport livery was also reported in use on Sunday

Thank you to Roger A. Smith for providing information on the two unidentified vehicles noted in service on the Monday, mentioned last month:

Neoplan Coach NUI 5125 and Plaxton-bodied Dennis Javelin coach NUI 5162, both in all-over white livery. Both are owned by North Quay Services Ltd of Lowestoft, who trade as "Eurosun" and are often seen in Essex operating on behalf of Travelstyle Holidays, picking up in places such as Colchester, Witham, Chelmsford, Southend, Basildon, Romford etc.

Sun 11th May: NXEA, Colchester / Manningtree / Ipswich

Services ran as follows: Manningtree, fast to Ipswich (every 30 mins); Colchester, fast to Ipswich (2 buses per hour); Colchester to Manningtree (x60 mins); Colchester to Harwich Town, calling at Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International, and Dovercourt (x60 mins). Thank you to Richard Delahoy and Network Colchester, for providing details of Network Colchester buses in use on this service, no other reports have been received, but presumably other operators vehicles were also in use.

Network Colchester - Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: 101 (AY55 DKA), 102 (YN06 TFZ); Optare Solo: 300 (W427 CWX), 307 (YJ51 JWW); Dart SLF / Plaxton: 528, 529 (AY54 FPZ, FRC); Vario / Plaxton 708 (S108 HGX). Vehicles 302, 303, 360, 364 were also reported in use.

Sun 18th May NXEA: Colchester - Ipswich / Stowmarket / Harwich / Clacton

According to the timetable, replacement bus services ran all day as follows: Colchester, fast to Ipswich (2 per hour); Colchester to Harwich Town, calling at Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International, and Dovercourt (x60 mins); Colchester to Manningtree (x60 mins); Manningtree, fast to Ipswich (x30 mins).

Rail Replacement Buses also served Stowmarket from start of service, until mid-afternoon, when the railway re-opened, as follows: Colchester, fast to Stowmarket, every 60 minutes (last buses were timetabled to be the 13.30 from Colchester and the 15.00 ex Stowmarket); Ipswich fast to Stowmarket, every 60 minutes - although alternate buses on this service called additionally at Needham Market (Last buses were 12.28 ex Ipswich, via Needham Market, 13.22 fast from Ipswich, and 14.21 ex Stowmarket, via Needham Market); Manningtree to Stowmarket, calling at Ipswich, every 60 minutes (Last buses were 13.15 ex Manningtree and 15.00 ex Stowmarket).

Vehicles noted in use included:

Burtons, Haverhill - DAF SB220 / Ikarus (bus): J807 KHD

Cedrics, Wivenhoe - All-Leyland Olympian: G285 UMJ.

Chambers, Bures - Volvo Olympian / NC: N531 LHG, P549 WGT, P901 RYO; B10M / Van

Hool Alizee: M655 KVV.

Chenery Travel, Diss, Norfolk - Setra coaches: R102 HEV, SPV 555. 555 appeared to be in a special dark blue livery promoting Chenery's website, 102 in Chenery Travel livery

First Essex - Leyland Olympian / ECW: 34815 (C415 HJN); Volvo Olympian /NC: 34301, 34305, 34309 (L301 HWR etc) 34301, 34309 noted parked at Colchester Station - appeared to be spare; Optare Solo: 53137, 53138 (EO02 NFX,EU54 BNK)

Galloway, Mendlesham - DAF SB4000/ Van Hool Alizee: 185 (5048 PP); DAF SB4000 / Ikarus (coach): 208 (4092 PP); VDL/Van Hool Alizee: 224 (YJ05 PXT); Optare Spectra: 229 (5946 PP); Setra tri-axle S315GT: 263 (AY57E2T).

Grahams, Kelvedon - Scania / Irizar coach: YN03 DDE.

John's Travel, Stowmarket - Scania / Irizar: JIL2573

Network Colchester - Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: 101; Volvo Citybus / East Lancs: 215 (G615 BPH); DAF DB250/ NC: 282 (R382 GTW) in Wiltax livery.

'Reynolds Diplomat' - Setra coach: RG51 FMG (Overall metallic gold livery with no visible legal lettering)

Talisman, Great Bromley - Olympian / Alexander: J534, 605 CEV, L972 WSC.

In addition, on Sunday 25th May, Talisman Setra coaches WSU 225 and SSU 331 were noted at Liverpool Street Station, and appeared to be working the fast service from Liverpool Street to Harwich Town

Forthcoming Rail Replacement Services: (June / July)

Sat 14th - Sun 15th June	NXEA	Colchester - Ipswich / Harwich Town
Sat 14th - Sun 15th June	NXEA	Cheshunt - Hertford East / Stansted Airport (until 13.00)
Sat 14th - Sun 15th June	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 20.00 Sat and all-day Sunday)
Mon 16th - Thurs 19th June	NXEA	Cambridge - Audley End (from 23.45)
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd June	NXEA	Colchester - Ipswich / Harwich Town
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd June	NXEA	Colchester - Colchester / Walton-on-the-Naze
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd June	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 20.00 Sat and all-day Sunday)
Sun 22nd June	NXEA	Cambridge - Audley End (until 12.00)
Mon 23rd - Thurs 26th June	c2c	Upminster - Pitsea via Rainham (from 22.40)
Sat 28th - Sun 29th June	NXEA	Colchester - Colchester / Walton-on-the-Naze
Sat 28th - Sun 29th June	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 20.00 Sat and all-day Sunday)
Sat 28th - Sun 29th June	NXEA	Chingford - Hackney Downs
Mon 30th June - Thurs 3rd July	NXEA	Chingford - Hackney Downs (from 23.10)
Sat 5th - Sun 6th July	NXEA	Liverpool Street - Chingford
Sat 5th - Sun 6th July	NXEA	Colchester - Colchester / Walton-on-the-Naze
Sat 5th - Sun 6th July	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 20.00 Sat and all-day Sunday)
Sun 6th July	NXEA	Manningtree - Ipswich (until 10.00)
Mon 7th - Thurs 10th July	c2c	Grays - Pitsea (from 22.20)
Sat 12th - Sun 13th July	NXEA	Liverpool Street - Chingford
Sat 12th - Sun 13th July	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 20.00 Sat and all-day Sunday)
Sat 19th July	c2c	Grays - Southend Central (from 20.00)
Sun 20th July	c2c	Upminster - Grays via Tilbury
Sun 20th July	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham
Sun 20th July	NXEA	Liverpool Street - Stansted Airport
Sun 27th July	NXEA	Hockley - Southend Victoria (until 10.00)
Sun 27th July	NXEA	Manningtree - Colchester (until 10.00)

Michael Springett

■ FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes

Period 2: 27 April to 25 May 2008

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

31377 HH-DT; 52585 BN-BE(S); 60102 DT-CR; 67001 CR-BN;

In practice it would seem that 52584 moved, rather than 52585.

Repaints (Period 2):

43734 34288 43735 47252

42485 has gained an overall rear advert for the Imperial War Museum at Duxford whilst 46182 now has one for Adventure Island in Southend.

34014/8 received 'between decks' promotional material for service 62 at the beginning of June.

Area News - workings and sightings:

Numbers in (brackets) refer to route branding

Rail Replacements (May)

Colchester/Ipswich/Clacton area planned work involved an interesting selection of vehicles on 31st May, namely Yellow School Bus 68555, Olympian/ECW 34807 and First Eastern Counties Volvo coach 20112 (N612APU) on loan along with First London Olympian 34330 (H130FLX).

Clacton & Harwich

CF Solo 53118 was on loan to DT at the end of May, covering DT53138 which was away at Harris Commercial for repairs to severe rear end collision damage. CR67009 remained on loan, whilst newly arrived Olympian 31377 was unfit.

June

5th 46127 on CN 76 (19.00 ex CR), CR67009 still at DT and CR67006 on loan to CN

Colchester

Southbound Mersea Road in Colchester reopened on 1st May, meaning the Mersea-bound 67 group could revert to their normal route.

Volvo/Plaxton 60130 suffered severe fire damage on the A120 on 2nd June and has been taken to CN for assessment. Newly refitted 20463 quickly took its place on the X22.

May

3rd CR62410 on 66, CR65651 on 88B (showing 82A)

8th CN67013 on CR71

9th CR34309 on 65, CR43740 on daytime 75

17th CR62409 on X22 (and 18th)

25th CR62409 on X22, CN67012 seen having spent the night at CR depot.

27th CR34310 on 65

31st CR62407 on X22

June

3rd CR34314 on 62, CN67010 on 71

5th CN67013 on 71 (17.35 ex CR)

Chelmsford & Braintree

May

- 8th CF42487 on 42, CF42483/9 on 72, CF43731 on 72 (exchanged with repainted CF47252), CF42921 on 352
- 9th CF34807 on 72/72A (and 18th)
- 11th CF42919 on 351, CF42920 on 352
- 14th CF43730 on 352, CR47101 on 48
- 19th CF31198 on 72
- 20th CF60104 on peak a.m. 45
- 22nd CF34815 on 36, CN46820 on 41, CF47223 on 40
- 23rd CF43731 on 352
- 25th CF65680 on 33
- 27th CF34807 on BE 72, CF42486 and CF60103 on 42, CF47252 on 352

June

- 1st CF53126 noted parked at BE
- 3rd CF34807 and CN46820 on 72, CF56004 on 72
- 5th CF34815 on peak a.m. 45, Vario 52584 on 72.

Basildon & Hadleigh

May

- 6th BN67036 on 8A
- 7th BN65632 (5) and BN65666 (100) on 8A, BN67036 on 5
- 8th BN31374 on 8A, BN46170 and BN61054 on 100, BN65671 (100) on 5
- 10th HH31462 returned from CF, BN67036 seen westbound on A13 near Corringham (not in service), BN46811 and BN34011 on 22, BN65671 on 5 (exch for BN43738)
- 13th BN34011 on 22, BN34012 on 5, BN43714/5/34 on 100, BN43738 (5) on 22, BN65670

For two or three weeks now, Clacton's 'short' Dart 46820 has been on loan to Chelmsford. 'Barbie 2' livery is now a rarity in Brentwood or Chelmsford. Brentwood High Street, 7 May 2008. *Chris Stewart*





Surviving 'C-HJN' Olympians still present a pleasing, modern appearance that belies their 22 years. 34807 and 34818 in Chelmsford. *Kevin Smith*





Former First Essex Dart 46103 at Worcester with First Midland Red (or Wyvern).

Keith Woods

(100) and BN67036 on 5

15th BN31373 on 22

16th BN67036 on 100

29th BN46171 on 100

June

4th BN31375 on 8, BN67001 (67) on 100

5th BN34012 on 5

Other News

Preserved Westcliff Bristol K5G AJN825 successfully passed its annual MOT on 9th May.

First Wyvern 46103 (K913CVW) has now been stood down to the reserve fleet at Worcester.

Former First Essex Olympian 30559 (P183TGD), now with First London at Dagenham, was noted prowling round Brentwood on 28th May, one of a number of First London vehicles seen doing so at various times in connection with the transfer of TfL route 498 to First from Arriva on 28th June. 30559 was also expected to see use on rail replacement work in the Ipswich/Clacton area.

Olympian coach 4503 (originally B691BPU) remains at Hamill's recycling yard in Ahoghill, Northern Ireland although with many parts missing. A build up of ex Ulsterbus Leyland Tigers has meant that 4503 survived somewhat longer than would normally have been the case in this location.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to A Bird, W Bell, N Clark, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, N Mansfield, D Moth, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', TBL177M, R Whitley, the Essex Bus, South West, First Group Fans and British Buses Abroad in North America y-groups, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle, Bristol VR South West Bus News (<http://www.geocities.com/ndl642m>).

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

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited Vehicles In

To Southend – both from Northfleet

3181 (P181 LKL) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B40F

3324 (T824 NMJ) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B38F

Dart SLFs 3388 (P258 FPK) and 3403 (R313 NGM) are also now at Southend having been transferred from Grays.

Vehicles Out

3384 (M764 JPA) Dennis Lance/Wright has been transferred from Southend to Tunbridge Wells. Its last day in service at Southend was 19th May. 3384 was the last of a batch of four Lances new to Southend Transport in 1995 remaining at Southend. This batch had been the first low floor vehicles in the Southend area. The other three Lances in the batch were transferred away from Southend in 2004.

Mercedes-Benz 811D /Plaxton 2415 (N175 DWM) on loan to Grays depot during March is now in use with Arriva The Shires as a crew ferry.

Vehicle News

The registration details for the 11 new Alexander Dennis Enviro 200s at Grays (4000-4010) are as follows:

4000 GN08 CGO

4003 GN08 CGX

4006 GN08 CHC

4009 GN08 CHG

4001 GN08 CGU

4004 GN08 CGY

4007 GN08 CHD

4010 GN08 CHH

4002 GN08 CGV

4005 GN08 CGZ

4008 GN08 CHF



Enviro 200 4004 (GN08 CGY) on the 370 at Lakeside in May. *David Harman*



Before they were famous ...

Arriva Kent Thameside Scania 3254 (N254 BKK), soon to transfer to Southend. Seen in May at Dartford (Home Gardens) on the 480, for which new VDL/Wrights are due shortly.

David Harman

After they were famous ...

Former Southend Transport Fleetline 395 (JTD 395P) now with **English Riviera Sightseeing** (C J Bowden & A D Slater) of Torquay. It operates a Torquay - Brixham service, and is seen here in the Strand. *Colin Paynter*



The Scania/Wright and DAF/Plaxton vehicles due at Southend from Northfleet this August (EBN529) are for route 1 (Shoeburyness – Rayleigh via London Road). An additional DAF/Plaxton Prestige due for Southend at the same time is 3921 (T921 KKM) from Tunbridge Wells. This will replace a further Olympian.

Branding

Further Dart SLFs now carrying *Basildon Direct* branding for service 5 are:

3318 (T218 NMJ)	3402 (R312 NGM)
3320 (T820 NMJ)	3428 (P428 HVX)
3321 (T821 NMJ)	

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, John Podgorski and Essex Bus y-group.



Fleetnumbers of recently acquired Olympians are G183 JHG - 183 and E851/2/6 DPN are 851/2/6. Acquired from APT Travel, Rayleigh is CIW 7633 (A185 MNE), a Volvo B10M/Van Hool. It is numbered 133.

Accident damaged Volvo B10M/Alexander M231 TBV has been sold for scrap.
K352 ANV, a Mercedes 709D/Alexander Belfast had been sold for export.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Lyn Watson

Trustline

Further to last month R711 MEW is numbered DMS 11 and S528 KFL is DMS 28.

Recently acquired is KU52 RXF a Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton. Acquired from Weaverway, Newbury is YN57 FWT a Scania K340/Irizar, while from OFJ Connections, Heathrow is X216 HCD a Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton and from Flights Hallmark, Hounslow is YR02 ZKW a Dennis R/Plaxton. Four Optare Excels, P501/4/6/8 OUG have been acquired from the Rotala group, four more are expected. Dennis Dart SLF/MCV AE55 MVL has gone to Rotala and is expected to be joined by AE55 VGD.

Mercedes Benz 709D/UVG N159 MTG has been broken for spares and Leyland Olympian/Roe TPD 125X AND Leyland Olympian/ECW C103 CHM have gone to Erith Commercial for scrap. Dennis Darts K92 BNY, L61 PDM, L63/4 SFM, M150 HPL and J51 EDM are for sale.

Ian Ransom

Regal Busways

A Volvo B10M/Plaxton coach 7345 FM (FE51 RCO) has been acquired. Fleetnumbers of recently acquired Darts are 501 – K716 PCN, 503 – J605 XHL, 504 – L4 YTB (still in Yorkshire Traction livery), 507 – K877 UDB, 508 – K414 FHJ.

It is reported that Dennis Dart/Plaxton K832SFT and Leyland Olympian/ECW OUI6275 (JTY 372X) have been written off after accidents *Ian Ransom*

Due shortly are the two new Scania Omnidecker N94UD with Darwen Group bodies. These will be allocated fleet numbers 103 and 104. Registration details are :

103 YN08 OBY

104 YN08 OBZ

These vehicles are for route 1 and will displace two Dart SLFs from the route.

Other News

The southbound Mersea Road in Colchester reopened on 1st May meaning Monkwick bound 8/8A and Fingringhoe bound 175 could revert to their normal route.

Former Network Colchester Olympian 247 (H47 MJN) is now with Talisman, Great Bromley via Ensing (dealer).

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski



excel

Further to EBN 525, Mercedes Benz Vito X802 HNV is on the most recent company fleetlist and is still at Manchester.

Sold from Gatwick are Setra BJ03 OUP, Iveco V209 EAL and Mercedes Benz Vario R831 COT. Skyliner M227 TGV (XFM 225) did not last long and has gone to Classic Annfield Plain. Former Fargo, Scania/Irizar T370 JWA was returned off lease, before the sale of the business to Arriva.

Fleet as acquired by TGM / Arriva in April:

SIL 9992	Scania ??	Irizar	C??F	
M227 JGV	Neoplan Skyliner	Neoplan	CH??/??FT	(XFM 225)
KTL 43Y	Leyland Olympian	East Lancs	H50/35F	withdrawn
A4 HFY	Bova FHD10-340	Bova	C36FT	(R636 VYB)
C122 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H42/29F	
D126 FYM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H42/29F	
F712 LFG	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
G34 HKY	Scania N113DRB	Northern Counties	H47/33F	
G37 HKY	Scania N113DRB	Northern Counties	H47/31F	
G725 RYJ	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
G726 RYJ	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
G727 RYJ	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
G728 RYJ	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
G729 RYJ	Scania N113DRB	East Lancs	H47/33F	
H11 FDS	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F	(K716 KGU) Manchester
H12 FDS	Scania K114	Irizar	C53F	(T42 CNN) Manchester
H804 RWJ	Scania N113DRB	Northern Counties	H47/33F	
K397 GHJ	Mercedes 709D	Plaxton	B23F	non PSV
K398 GHJ	Mercedes 709D	Plaxton	B23F	non PSV
L316 YDU	Mercedes 709D	Alexander (B)	B25F	
L113 YVK	Dennis Dart	Northern Counties	B35F	
M232 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander	DP48F	
N70 TGM	Mercedes 709D	Plaxton	B23F	

R852 SDT	Sca K113	Irizar	C51FT	Manchester
W100 FFC	Volvo B10M	Plaxton	C49F	Gatwick
X802 HNV	Mercedes Vito		M16	Manchester
X734 MFL	Mercedes 0814D	Eurocoach	C29F	
Y83 HHE	Scania ??	Irizar	C??F	Gatwick
Y637 AVV	Mercedes 0814D	Plaxton	C??F	Manchester
Y638 AVV	Mercedes 0814D	Plaxton	C??F	Manchester
Y877 WFL	Mercedes 0814D	Eurocoach	C25F	Gatwick
BU51 REG	Dennis Dart SLF	Alexander	B29F	
YN51 MFZ	Scania K114	Irizar	C53F	
YN53 CDE	Scania K114	Irizar	C49FT	Gatwick
YN53 GDV	Scania K114	Irizar	C49F	
YN53 OZO	Scania K114	Irizar	C49FT	
RL04 EXL	Scania K114	Irizar	C53F	
XL04 EXL	Scania K114	Irizar	C53F	
MX54 XVA	Mercedes Sprinter		C16F	Gatwick
WX06 OSW	Ayats Bravo	Ayats	CH61/17FT	
AE56 MDV	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
AE56 MDX	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
AE56 MDY	MAN 14.220	MCV	B31F	
EU56 FTO	ADL Dart SLF	ADL	B31F	
EU56 GVG	ADL Dart SLF	ADL	B27F	
MR07 FDS	Ayats Bravo	Ayats	CH61/17FT	Manchester

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Dublin Bus: Olympians 96-314/319/321/323.

Metroliner: DML33/6/8/40/2/4/7.

Stagecoach Manchester: Olympians SJI 4458, H41 GBD, H493 LNA, J925 FPS, Scania E705 EFG, Dominator H137GVM.

Stagecoach Yorkshire Volvo B10B's M901 DRG, M647/8 YLV, N659 EKD, Scania NIL 2457/8 NIL 5383 M298 TWB Darts K109/10/13/14/18 SRH, N105 CET, Kirn Mogul N349 FKU.

Vehicles out

to

Metrobus NOA451X: ACE Travel, Merseyside.

Dart R445LGH and Kirn Mogul N349FKU: Aintree Coaches, Merseyside.

Scania M522 UTV: Alder Valley Travel, Ashford, Middx.

Vario's R103/5/14/16 NTA: Avondale Coaches, Clydebank.

Olympian J703 HMY: Bear Buses, Surrey.

Volvo B10B M901 DRG: Beestons Coaches, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Olympian D260 JVR Metrobus D943 NDA: A & P Brown, Soham, Cambs.

Olympians JSK 492, J702 HMY: Cedar Coaches, Bedford.

Dart N105 CET: Eastonways, Ramsgate, Kent.

Metroliner N633 LFR: Florida Coaches, Halstead, Essex.

Olympian F442 AKB: Peter Godward Coaches, Chelmsford.

Scania E705 EFG Olympian H41 GBD: Heritage Coaches (Sussex Commercials), Brighton.

Scania G117 SBA: NIBS, Wickford, Essex.

Dominator H806 AHA: On-A-Mission Coaches, Herts.

Dublin Olympians 96-D-311/307/313 now P268/314/302 SWC with Warrington Transport.

Volvo B6 M386 VWX: **Epping Community Church**, Loughton, Essex.
Olympian G127 WGX: **Inter-Recruitment**, Peterborough.

■ **ENSIGN BUS CO. Ltd., Purfleet**

Dart 792 (R692MEW) has entered service in blue and silver.
Metrobus 175 has been sold to Supreme Coaches, Southend.

An order has been placed for ten Volvo B9TL with Darwen Olympus 82 seat bodies. These are for the 73/83 commercial routes, where capacity problems are being experienced with the single deckers and increasing frequencies is not really an option. Delivery is due September/October.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross and Steve Newman, Ensignbus

NIBS

nibs

The new Scania/Olympus decker (H51/28F) is expected to arrive during June.

Former Mayne's of Manchester Scania/Northern Counties G117 SBA has been acquired via Ensignbus.

Dart SLF/Plaxton R507 SJM was a short term loan to Regal in late April, due to a shortage of serviceable vehicles at Regal.

Dennis Dart/Northern Counties L110 HHV has been withdrawn.

Scania P653/5 VWX are now with Isle Coaches of Owston Ferry.

Dennis Dominator/East Lancs H265 MFX which had been used for spares, has gone to a Yorkshire dealer for scrap.

Ian Ransom, Chris Stewart



stansted transit

New are Volvo B12B/Plaxton KX08 HLR/U.

Leyland Olympian/ECW D197 FYM has been withdrawn. Redundant vehicles sold for scrap are Leyland Nationals AOL 17T and UPT 684V, Leyland Lynx G256/7 EOG, J43 GGB and H51 NDU, plus Darts J128 DUV and J653 XHL. Dennis Dart SLF/UVG P739 FMS has been sold. *Ian Ransom*

Small Operator News

A&D, Laindon Acquired from SS Cabs, Tiptree is LDV Convoy EK03 KZU.

ACCESS ANYONE, Leigh on Sea Acquired from Thurrock Hospital is Renault Master T493 CGX. Ford Transit/Dormobile G720 WDU has been sold.

APT, Rayleigh Acquired vehicles are DAF MB230/Van Hool N753 VCY from Elkin Travel, Sutton Coldfield and S6 PCL a

Dennis Javelin/Neoplan from Roberts Coaches, Hugglescote.

ARROW, Maldon Ford Transit V783 DWH has gone to a private owner.

ASTROCABZ, Maylandsea Another Ford Transit here is CP54 CYZ.

AVRO, Orsett MCW Metrobus C431 BUV has been withdrawn

BOBS MINIBUS, Little Oakley Registration

- B2 CBT is now on a Mercedes Benz/Autobus. It was previously on a Toyota/Caetano
- BULL & NICHOLLS, Harlow** SDZ 9026 (G174 RBD) a Volvo B10M/Jonckhree has been sold to Bob Vale (dealer), Great Kingshill
- CD HIRE, Harlow** Ford Transit T711 LTW has been withdrawn
- CEDRIC, Wivenhoe** Further to the last two editions of EBN, Leyland Olympian/Alexander K360 DWJ is numbered 10, while former APT, Rayleigh, Scania K113/Irizar 827 APT, has been re-registered to FIG 6292 and numbered 13. Volvo Citybus/East Lancs G618 BPH has been sold to Bob Vale (dealer), Great Kingshill. Volvo B10M/ Jonckheere R15 CED is now plain white. Olympians H547 GKX, K814/5/6 HMV are all fitted with electronic destination gear.
- CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford** Ford Transit EA54 BVR and W556 SRX have been sold.
- CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS, Chelmsford** Leyland Tiger/Plaxton UJI 2339 (new as C202 PPE) and R505 SCH an Iveco CC95/Indcar have been sold.
- CJ TRAVEL, Harlow** LDV Convoy T447 KPP has gone to Calder Valley Motors, Hebden Bridge.
- CLINTONA, Brentwood** Mercedes Benz 609D/Autobus N230 WDO has gone to Silverdale, North Acton and Mercedes Benz 814D/Plaxton to Chapman's Travel, Tonyrefail.
- COOK, Southend** Scania K113/Irizar N11 CHN has been withdrawn.
- CROWN COACHES** Buses reports that the following were owned in February 2008. Renault Master EJ57 EHD/L, EX08 YOU/w, DAF DB250/N Counties P318 KTW, Dennis Dart/Wadham Stringer H908 DTP and Mercedes Benz 709D/Alexander N316 XRP and M340 LHP. As a result of a public enquiry by the Traffic Commissioner in April, the operators licence was revoked. It was reported at the enquiry that Crown had been sold to a Mr Stewart from Chatham, who had planned to rename operations as Inghams of Essex, using vehicles on Airport transfer work. I would appreciate any reports on the current status of the above vehicles.
- CRUSADER, Clacton** New are Setra S416GT-HD EU08 FAA/F/J. Setra S315GT, EK51 KZE has gone to Munro & Farrell, Alton.
- ENIGMA, TRAVEL Colchester** KCZ 4754 (A958 SYB) a DAF MB200/Plaxton has been sold for scrap. A19 ABU a Mercedes Benz L508D has gone to a private owner.
- FLAGFINDERS, Braintree** Optare Solo MX04 VLP is now with Newport Transport, Gwent.
- FLORIDA, Halstead** Recently acquired is Iveco minibus R364 LRP
- FORD, Althorne** Acquired from Stan's Great Totham is Dennis Javelin/Plaxton T84 JFP. Dennis Javelin/Caetano G854 VAY has been withdrawn. Long term withdrawn vehicles sold for scrap are Bristol VR/ECW SRP 816N, Bedford YRT/Plaxton EHJ 147P and Bedford YMT/Duple TDT 32S.
- GARDNER, Boreham** Acquired is R289 THL a Dennis Javelin/Neoplan, last reported with Cousins Coaches, Walthamstow.
- GBN, Pitsea** Ford Transits AY52 VNH and LK52 RVZ, have replaced similar W947 PBR and W61 JXX at the Colchester branch. The PSV Circle reports that Ford Transit LN52 YRA is also in use with this company.
- H&E, Wickford** Ford Transit P374 PNO has been sold.
- JACKSON, Bicknacre** Dennis Javelin/Plaxton MJI 2550 (F868 RFP) is for sale on ebay, at an address in Winsford. Its replacement here is former Holmeswood Coaches DAF SB4000/Marco Polo PO53 OFA. DAF SB3000/Van Hool T59 AUA has been re-registered MJI 2550, taken from the sold Dennis Javelin.
- KINGS, Stanway** New is KC08 ABC, a 13.1 metre tri-axle Bova Magiq. It replaces W444 ABC, which has passed to Phillips, South Woodham Ferrers. On a short term loan from Arriva, Cleckheaton (dealer) is Temsa Safari HD TB285W YJ 57 BS; it arrived on 12th May and is due to stay for a month.
- LINKFAST, Thundersley** It is confirmed that former Harris Bus, P318 KTW a DAF DB250/Northern Counties is here. MCW Metrobus KYV 724/9X are back in service.
- LODGE, High Easter** New is Mercedes

Benz Touro AL08 DGE. 436 VVT (new as H960 FFW) a Scania K93/Berkhof has gone to West Row, West Row. Acquired is a Mercedes Benz/? N982 TPG, for which no further details are known. Scania K114/van Hool EX52 TWA has gone to Herrington Coaches, Fordingbridge

LONDON HERITAGE, Rettendon Buses reports that four vehicles are owned and named, as follows. RM1989, Franchesca, RML2411, Trudy, RML2588, Judith and RML2714, Danielle

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS, Clacton K633GVX was on loan from Talisman 27.1.08 until 9.2.08. K632SWP a Mercedes Benz/? is believed to be with this operator (by 4.08). It is a re-registration, but previous details are not available at present.

MASTER TRAVEL, South Ockendon P80 ASH a Scania K113/Irizar has been sold.

MATTHEWS TRAVEL, Hockley is the correct trading name of Kirbys of Essex (not to be confused with the larger Kirby of Rayleigh). Setra S215HD B81 HLO has not been sold, but remains here out of use.

MEECHAM, Stansted This new operator has acquired Ford Transit EY54 NYV from New Horizons, Alresford.

NCS, Widdington Additional LDV Convoys are EG02 MVP and YJ04 UAL. Renault Traffic L95 RHJ is with a private owner.

NEED A BUS, Bowers Gifford Acquired from private owners are Ford Transits BD05 RHZ and BP05 GHU. Similar Y651 JTW has gone to a private owner.

NEW HORIZONS, Alresford Has it's first "big" bus in the shape of Optare Excel V388 KVV ex Claribel, Birmingham.

OLYMPUS/SM TRAVEL, Harlow The link between this operator and SM Travel Harlow, has now led to vehicles used on coach work and schools, being principally housed at the Olympus depot, while those used on stage work, are normally kept at the SM depot, irrespective of ownership. With this in mind, these two operators will now appear under one heading. Services 1 and 31 are in the name of Roadrunner, a subsidiary of Olympus. Services 14,15,18,19 are in the name of SM Travel. In addition, cross town ticketing is available, on all services.

Recent additions are Alexander Dennis E200/Alexander Dennis EU08 FHB/C/D. Acquired is K408 FHJ a Dennis Dart/Plaxton, previously with Arriva The Shires. Vehicles sold are Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton MX56 HYA to Reading Buses and HY56 HYB to First Eastern Counties.

Acquired from Holmeswood Coaches, Holmeswood, is L385 RYC a Bova Futura FHD12-340.

Returned unsold from dealers are Iveco/Marshall M733 AOO and M157 RBH

P&M, Shotgate Leyland Olympian/Alexander C615 LFT had a short stay and has gone to Bubble Travel, Accrington. Volvo B10M/Plaxton E659 UNE went to Stephenson's of Easingwold, last year. Similar K464 PNR is on ebay for sale in Billingham. In response to a question, this operator is scheduled to provide National Express services from London Victoria between Friday and Monday. Services operated are 1030 and 2300 London-Blackpool (FSu) and 0930 and 2300 Blackpool-London (SM); 1130 London-Sheffield (Su) and 1710 return (Su); 1200 London-Leeds (Su) and 1730 return (Su)

PETER GODWARD, Basildon Former Hong Kong Volvo B10M/Van Hool AIG 8933 (FD207) has been sold to Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness. Acquired from Irvine, Law is S332 SET a Scania K94/Van Hool.

PINK ELEPHANT, Stansted Sold to Stafford Bus Centre (dealer) is R287 OFV a Dennis Dart SLF/East Lancs. Mercedes Benz Vito W96 AJN has gone to a private owner. Buses reports that for Heathrow Terminal 5 Long Stay Car Park are MAN14.220/MCV AE57 LYW-Y; these were in fact registered (with two others as AE08 DKJ/K/L/N AND AE08 DLJ. At Southampton are similar AE57 FBJ/K. DAF SB220/East Lancs W263/5 CDN have moved from Luton to Stansted.

SAINT CLOUD, Rochford Ford Transit D370 RVW has been withdrawn.

SBC, Southend Recently acquired is P676 LWA a LDV Convoy.

SKY TRANSFERS, Basildon This new operator is using Ford Transits SD57 HYS and SH57 LYJ on pre-booked links from



Talisman Coachlines' two new Setra tri-axles. *Paul Smith*

Essex to and from Stansted Airport
STANS, Gt Totham Dennis Javelin/Plaxton B3 CEC (J718 KBC) has been sold to Lodge, High Easter.

STANWAY TRAVEL, Layer-de-la-Haye Ford Transit Toureno DS06 YBP has been acquired.

STUARTS MINIBUS, Wickford Ford Transit Y103 KDK has been sold. It is replaced by similar ND05 XKN.

SUPREME, Southend MCW Metrobus F773 EKM has been acquired from Ensigns rail replacement fleet. Similar C361 BUV has been withdrawn, as has Scania L94/Van Hool R863 SDT. MCW Metrobus B264 WUL has been sold

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Toyota/Caetano M232 JBC has been sold to an owner in Cyprus. Bristol VR CBV 2S remains at the depot in early May. Former Badgerline D601 GHY a Volvo B10M/Van Hool has passed to Dew, Somersham. An interesting addition is another ex Colchester vehicle, H47 MJN,

an all-Leyland Olympian. An advertisement in the *Essex Gazette*, states that the Routemaster will be used on some dates on the Colchester Town Tour.

TERRAVISION, Stansted Transferred from the Manchester operation are Scania K114/Irizar YN04 YJJ/K/L.

TOWNCARS, Clacton Mercedes Benz 609D and Ford Transit X581 WTN have been sold.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Scania K113/Irizar M304 VET has gone to Dawsonrentals (dealer), Milton Keynes, as has Volvo B12B/Plaxton KX07 HDO

WESTONS TAXIS, Clacton Have surrendered their operators licence. Mercedes Vito's W177 HDX and HK02 LWP are assumed to now be registered as taxis.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to LOTS, PSV Circle, Essex Bus y-group, National Express y-group, Chris Stewart, John Podgorski, Peter Mobbs, Colin Sigston and Dave Arnold

Preservation Notebook

VHK 177L

The intertwined later history of Tillings, National Travel and Eastern National was very well illustrated by a batch of four RELH6G coaches (9439-42: VHK175-8L) delivered in the latter part of 1972. Previous batches of RE coaches had Plaxton coachwork, and these were the first with the later style of ECW bodywork. Arriving in October 1972, our subject was numbered in the Tillings series as 9441 since it was new to National Travel (NBC) Ltd at Chelmsford, although (like all Tillings vehicles at the time) carrying EN livery and fleetname. However this was just at the inception of 'National' coach liveries, and (along with the rest of the Tillings fleet) 9441 was repainted white before entering service at Prittlewell in January 1973. Three months later, Tillings came under the control of newly-formed National Travel (South East) Ltd but still with Chelmsford legal address and little change to operations. On 1st January 1974, however,

Samuelsons, Timpsons and the coaching operations of Eastern National joined Tillings within National Travel (SE) Ltd which changed to a London SW1 legal address. Although many of the vehicles were operated from Kelvedon, and it seemed that the connection with EN had been severed.

However a number of former EN coaches, including 9441, reverted to their original owner when the NT(SE) operations in Essex were taken over again in October 1978. 1404 (as it had become) took on some historic significance in the ECW story during early 1981, by being selected to be rebuilt as a prototype for the ECW B51 coach body fitted to Leyland Leopards and Tigers. Painted in the new red, white and blue coach livery, it reappeared in May 1981. Most of its EN career, before and after rebuild, seems to have been at PL, SD and CN. After a further four years service, it went to Bristol Omnibus in



Newly delivered at Central Works in October 1972 and caught on camera by Terry Clark, 9441 never operated in these colours. Note the 'Not Licenced' sticker in the window, a standard feature for many years.



Seen at Brighton during National Travel (South East) days (EBEG collection)



Following a major rebuild – mostly to the front and rear – 1404, as it became, is seen in the newly launched red, blue and white EN coach livery. (CS collection)

February 1985 (numbered 2079) where it was re-registered 929CVJ, in turn becoming part of the Badgerline fleet on its creation in January 1986. Withdrawn in 1990, it languished at a Yorkshire scrap dealers before being bought to Northern Bus of North Anston in April 1992. After a number of modifications during six years there, it

regained its original registration in August 1998 and passed to Steve Graham of Widnes for preservation. Ten years on, after a considerable amount of work, it took to the road again with a 1500-mile round trip to the far North of Scotland and Orkney during Bristol's Centenary Year.



Restored to full health, and now wearing an interpretation of EN/NBC livery with far more white, 1404 is seen ready for the road in May 2008 (Steve Graham).





EASTERN NATIONAL VEHICLE OWNERS CLUB

With the demise of the Eastern National Preservation Group, a number of owners have formed the Eastern National Vehicle Owners Club.

The main aim of the club is to gather together information on the whereabouts of preserved ex-Eastern National and associated companies (Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services, City, Moore's etc.) vehicles, any spares which are available for selling or swapping, etc. We know there are approximately 88 vehicles world wide, some in running order, with others in various state of preservation.

A 'Friends of Eastern National Club' has also been formed for non-vehicle owners.

With your help, let us keep the Eastern National name alive.

There is a membership charge of £10 per annum so that a magazine can be produced, plus outings, meetings and running days arranged with other organisations

Ian Banks, Secretary
69 Westbury Road, Southend-on-Sea
Essex SS2 4DL.

In conjunction with the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society's road run and rally at **Ridgewell** on **Sunday 13th July 2008** we are getting together an **Eastern National Running Day**. We hope to have a few connecting bus services using our buses from Chelmsford, Braintree and Colchester railway stations, and also some type of road run from Ridgewell. At the moment the timetables are being worked out, as are the final stations to be served.

Please check on the ENVOC message board and/or the Essex Yahoo Group when available. I hope to see you there with our VR3000 CPU979G.

www.envoc.org.uk/

Bristol Harbourside Rally



Bristol's annual Harbourside rally and running day on 18th May was a special celebration of the Centenary of Bristol motorbus manufacture. As such it was good that seven of the vehicles attending had Essex connections (albeit that one was an 'honorary' Bristol!), whilst many others would have passed through the County when new, on their way to or from ECW at Lowestoft. In age order, they were:

LHY937 - 1949 highbridge K6B new to the Bristol City fleet (C3449), later 3775 and then Gloucester G1541. After working for London Borough of Waltham Forest as a school bus, LHY was bought for preservation and spent some years in the Castle Point Transport Museum on Canvey before recently moving to Northamptonshire for completion of its restoration. The was its first rally since Southend in 1981, having spent the intervening 27 years off the road.

LYM732 - 1951 AEC Regal IV with 1960 ECW 'MW'-style coach body, new to Tillings Transport (BTC) Ltd but sold in 1964, eventually becoming the regular coach of Denyer Bros, Stondon Massey from 1969 to 1977. Restored over the last 7 years by Ian and Ryan Mahoney, this coach is still resident in Essex. The photograph was taken in Princes Street, Bristol, alongside the site of the old Bristol Greyhound booking office.

WNO484 - 1953 KSW5G formerly EN 2386, one of the ten converted in 1965/66 but this one was sold to South Wales Transport in 1974; ostensibly as a source of spares after accident damage sustained in Eastwood, it was subsequently restored to running order. This attractive 'United Welsh' livery was never carried, SWT 500 having been poppy red, silver (1977 Jubilee livery), white with red band and SWT green.

(photo: Steven Hughes)



BHU92C – 1965
MW6G ordered by
Eastern National
but diverted to
Bristol for their
Greyhound fleet.
Seven of the 1965
order for EN were
diverted before
construction,
gaining these one
line destination
displays and
6HLW engines,
while a further 4 of
the balance, which
had already been
finished, also went
to Bristol as
MW5Gs with 'T'
shape destination
displays.

OFM53F – 1968
Crosville RELL6G/
DP50F, now
extensively restored
and preserved in
Essex by Paul
Ashman.



KJD413P – 1976
Bristol LH6L new to
London Transport at
Romford (NS) garage
for the 247 to
Brentwood and 250 to
Epping, now
preserved in the West
Country in the livery
of Tally Ho! Coaches
of Kingsbridge, with
whom it worked from
1982 to 2004.



XHK221X – 1981 VRT
ex Eastern National/
Thamesway 3116,
passing later to
Badgerline before
acquisition by Abus
of Bristol. Recently
repainted in this blue,
cream and white
scheme which was
Abus' original livery,
the VR has additional
lettering to celebrate
Bristol's centenary.

Chris Stewart



EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiast's Guild



Editor's perks: an occasional wallow in nostalgia. City Coach was before my time, but the scene above remained little changed for years, and the bus, LD13 (NVX 310), or rather its eminent successors, the "FJNs" could be seen at the same stop into the 1960s.

So what do we have here? A wet afternoon in Brentwood High Street looking roughly north from the White Horse (then dispensing Charrington's Fine Ales, but now a fast-food emporium), towards the Ingrave Road/Ongar Road crossroads at Wilson's Corner (Wilson's department store out of shot to the right).

The white building is the *Saffron Walden Building Society* (still standing, and the SWBS is still extant, albeit renamed). Opposite the bus is the row of shops including a bakers (name forgotten), *Price & Wood* (ironmongers?) and *Henderson's* cycles (Raleigh, Rudge and Triumph). All long gone, but the buildings survive, if not the splendid array of chimney-pots (pre-smokeless zone).

The roadway as far down as the GPO (still there), had a cambered, cobbled shoulder, originally used for market stalls, but latterly for buses and parking (free, with no time

limit). The shelters were basic affairs - prefabricated concrete sides and uprights, and a curved corrugated asbestos roof. A painted City stop flag for the 'main road' (Southend - Wood Green) and local routes can be seen on the end. In front of the SWBS, and on far right, are two of the High Street's fine, pollarded plane(?) trees, a few of which still stand.

The schoolchildren wear regulation navy blue (Brentwood School) or brown (Ursuline) gaberdine raincoats, caps (boys), berets (girls), and leather satchels, strapped to the back, pack-mule fashion. Not an anorak or Bart Simpson lunch-box in sight! No Wotsits or Slush-Puppies either, nor sherbert fountains or penny chews (as sweet rationing didn't end until 1953).

The bus, a 1949 Leyland PD1A/Beadle lowbridge, has the long-lived, signwritten Southend Kursaal (officially "Ker'sahl", unofficially, "Curse-all") advertisement, also carried by the FJNs. LD13 became Westcliff, then, ENOC 1130, converted to open-top in 1958, renumbered 2110 in 1964, and departed for Syd Twell's yard at Ingham, a year later.

That's it ... back to reality!

David Harman



PCV HOLDER ?

> **FULL AND PART-TIME DRIVERS REQUIRED**

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

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For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact

Stephensons:	Bill Hiron	01702 541511
Excel:	Graham Hayden	01279 681800