

ESSEX BUS NEWS

No. 566
June 2011



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk



Pretty in pink (2): Former Stagecoach Devon Volvo B6/ Alexander P710 BTA on Lea Valley Buses (Gemma Smith) route 255, outside the block of flats on the site of Loughton Bus Garage on 28 May. (Not as nice as an RT on the 217A !). Similar ex Stagecoach B6s on the 555 have blue signwriting. *Russell Young*

Burtons of Haverhill Van Hools Y5 BCL and YJ09 CYH were found at Beeston's yard following the demise of Burton's in May. *Chris Stewart*



Essex Bus News

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints, slides or JPGs) and original articles are always welcome.

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

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

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

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

EBN dated

July

August

reports to Editors by

July 2

July 30

Despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can be obtained from the Distribution Secretary (see Group Directory).

■ SOUTH ESSEX EVENTS

- **Tuesday June 28 - evening visit to Ensign Bus;** visit will pick up in Lakeside Bus Station at 1900 and at Chafford Hundred Station at 1910 (connecting with the 1908 arrival from London). Participants should join at one of these two locations, NOT at Ensign's depot.

Cover

A new livery has been devised for the non branded routes of **Network Harlow**, the first recipient being Solo 2455, seen here in Velizy Avenue on 22 May. *Russell Young*

- ▶ **Monday July 25 - evening visit to the Castle Point Transport Museum**, arrive there from 1900 onwards. We hope to have a short ride in a museum bus during the evening, subject to availability.
- ▶ Note that there is no South Essex meeting in August. The autumn season will then recommence at our usual Wickford venue on Monday September 26, then Mondays October 24, November 28 and December 19 - details to be advised nearer to the dates.

Richard Delahoy

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2200. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome. *Dave Arnold*

2011 programme ~ slide shows

- ▶ **Friday July 8** - slide show by Paul Smith
- ▶ **Friday August 12** - slide show by Stev Maskell
- ▶ **Friday September 9** - slide show by Gary Sharpe
- ▶ **Friday October 14** - *see it, buy it!* Slides from the Group's sales stock will be shown by Owen Woodliffe – if you like one, buy it there and then!
- ▶ **Friday November 11** - slide show by Trevor Brookes
- ▶ **Friday December 9** - Xmas social & slide show by Gary Sharpe & Dave Arnold

■ TOURS

- ▶ **Wednesday June 22:** Evening visit to Talisman Coachlines. Pick up at North Station 19.00; fare £5; phone 01621 857509 to book.
- ▶ **Saturday August 27: Three Essex Girls and a Geordie** A day out with a difference starting at Colchester North Station at 09.00.

Our first bus will be WNO 480 of Talisman Coachlines which will take us to John Jacksons farm at Wormingford, we will have the morning here where we will have a chance to view the latest progress on VV 9146 the Northampton Crossley. Then it will be rides on AJN 825 (Bristol K), VNO 859 (Bristol KSW), WNO 480 (Bristol KSW) and GR 9007 (Crossley DD42). The ride out will include photo stops and also stops to change buses so you get to ride on them all. Lunch time will be in the form of a picnic at the farm, so you will need a packed lunch (free teas & coffees will be available). After lunch we will go to visit the premises of Felix at Long Melford (14.00 – 16.00) in GR9007, where we will be taken for a ride in their two Bedford OB's. We then return to the farm in GR9007, where WNO 480 will be waiting to transport us back to Colchester (approx. 18.00)

The fare for this super day out is only £20.00 [which includes a free raffle ticket to win a code 3 model of GR 9007 complete with adverts].

Bookings are on a first come basis as there is a maximum of 36 seats only. To book please send a cheque for £20.00 made payable to "Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group" together with a stamped addressed envelope to:

Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5BE

[As these are all old buses we cannot guarantee that all will be available on the day]

■ EVENTS ETC

- ▶ **Sunday June 12: 100 Years of the Trolleybus**, East Anglia Transport Museum.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday June 24-25: London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours: Acton Depot.

- ▶ **Saturday June 25: Ipswich Transport & Model Festival**, Ipswich Transport Museum
- ▶ **Sunday June 26: Bus & Coach Event**, East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville.
- ▶ **Sunday July 3: North Weald Bus Rally**, North Weald airfield. Bus services from Epping and Ongar.
- ▶ **Sunday July 3: North Norfolk Railway Vintage Transport Day**. Free Vintage Buses Holt-Weybourne-Sheringham, and display at Holt Station (A148). All buses welcome!
- ▶ **Sunday July 24: Colne Valley Railway Vehicle Rally**, Castle Hedingham, Essex. All vehicles welcome.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday July 29-30: London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours: Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Sunday July 31: Classic & Vintage Bus Day**, Cambridge Museum of Technology, Cheddars Lane, Cambridge.

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

Brian Smith

Further to the tribute in May's EBN, I was very sad to learn of Brian's death.

Brian and I had been friends since 1961. I met him in the very first week at Eastern National's depot at Cherrydown after the move from Bull Road. Our friendship began because of a dispute between the road staff and the fitting staff. The union felt that the fitters should have a separate rest area as they made the new canteen furniture dirty! Brian was so upset by this nonsense that he decided to have his sandwiches sitting in a bus over the pit! I was also annoyed by the militant union's attitude and always had my meal break in a bus with him.

We were both Eastern National 'nutters'. Brian had a good brain and I could give a registration number of a bus at BN and he would quote the fleet number without hesitation, and vice-versa. Brian always did the service on my Regal and FLE, as he said he treated them like babies. We had many social evenings throughout the years; my

wife, Noel, and Brian's wife, Jean having to put up with 'bus chat'. My collection was nothing compared to Brian's, though. Whilst living in Lanzarote, Brian and Jean came to visit us. I was working for a coach company there and he was very tempted by a job he was offered by my boss. However, he declined as he wanted to carry on with the UK business with Bill at S&M.

Brian will be missed by enthusiasts who I always thought could have made more of what he had to offer. Brian said to me once: 'When I go to heaven, I want to go in an Eastern National Bristol'. Well, if that EN Bristol were to have broken down en route, he would have sorted it out and reached his destination! On a breakdown, I always said to him: 'you are a good get-you-home man'.

Brian, it was a privilege to be part of your life, and you will be missed by many.

*Ted Miles
Ballina, Co.Mayo*

Arriva Photo Competition

"Arriva Bus UK is appealing for budding photographers to showcase their skills in a photography competition designed to

explore the role of public transport in the community.

People driven by a passion for photography are being invited to submit images of buses at work in the local area. The Arriva bus captured on camera should be shown playing an essential part in daily life, for example as a way of meeting up with friends and linking communities.

Judges are keen to see buses in a variety of settings and in all four seasons, whether in a tranquil country lane covered with snow, or a picturesque cityscape in the sun.

David Shadbolt, marketing manager for Arriva UK Bus, said: "The bus is for anyone and everyone, and so we thought it would be fitting to ask the local community to get involved so that our photography reflects our customers. That is why the competition has no age restrictions.

"We are looking forward to seeing a variety of images and, in particular, we will be looking for shots that capture the atmosphere and mood of bus travel in original and exciting ways."

Hopefuls are being urged to get on board by emailing their snapshots of life on and around the bus, along with their contact details, to photo@arriva.co.uk by Monday 31st July.

The national winner will be rewarded with a Sony digital SLR camera, while regional winners will receive vouchers from a well known photography chain. All winners will have their photo published on www.arrivabus.co.uk."

contact Arriva Bus
www.arrivabus.co.uk/photocompetition/

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

MISSING / DEFECTIVE EBNs

For replacements, contact the Distribution Officer:

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

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County

Council timetable book and bus map. Send

your details and a cheque for £12 to
Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road,
Southend on Sea SS1 3TT.

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

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

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

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

BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

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

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

lynw@barrons-bds.com

Service changes

Arriva London

7 May 11 462 D Hainault to Ilford: revised route around Limes Estate.

First Essex

3 Jul 11	5	D	Basildon to Pitsea: revision to route and timetable.
	40/50	D	Chelmsford to Great Baddow: revision to timetable.
	41/51	D	Chelmsford to Chignall Estate: minor revision to timetable.
	65	D	Highwoods to Stanway: minor timetable revisions.
	74	D	Colchester to Clacton: rerouted not via Wivenhoe Village.
4 Jul 11	5	M-S	Holland to Bocking Elm: minor revision to timetable.
	5B	M-S	Clacton to Bocking Elm Circular: minor revision to timetable.
	7/8	D	Clacton to Walton: additional journey introduced on Schooldays.
	10-12	D	Great Clacton to Jaywick: minor timetable revisions.
	13	M-S	Walton to Kirby Cross Circular: minor revision to timetable.
	15	Sch	Jaywick to Bishop Park College: minor revision to timetable.
	19	M-S	Clacton to St Osyth Beach: new summer service.

First London

2 Jul 11 265 M-F Brentwood to Lakeside: revised route and timetable.

Fords Coaches

9 May 11 5 ATh Burnham on Crouch to Southend: 1230 departure from South Woodham cancelled, Southend departure retimed.

Olympian Coaches

18 May 11	743	M-F	Braintree to London: service withdrawn
27 Jun 11	511	M-S	Bishop Stortford to Harlow: new service.

National Express

16 May 11	350	D	Clacton to Liverpool: minor timetable changes.
	737	D	Stansted Airport to Oxford: revised timetable and revised route between Luton and Hatfield.

New Horizon Travel

11 Jul 11	79	M-F	Brightlingsea to Clacton: revised route in Brightlingsea.
17 Jul 11	79	M-F	Brightlingsea to Clacton: service withdrawn.

NIBS

17 Jun 11 237 M-S South Woodham to Basildon: withdrawal of Saturday service (updated information) .

Regal Busways

4 Jul 11	342	Th	Black Notley to Witham: revision to route.
	343	Sat	Braintree to Fuller Street: revision to timetable.
	344	Fri	Black Notley to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.

345 Wed Fuller Street to Braintree: revision to timetable.

Renown Coaches

4 Jul 11 11 M-S Chrishall to Saffron Walden: service withdrawn.

SM Coaches

19 Jun 11 19A D Epping Hospital to Harlow: new hourly evening M-F service between Epping Hospital and Harlow. Also new SSuBH service two hourly daytimes between Harlow and Loughton.
20 M-S Harlow to Ongar: introduction of two hourly Sunday service.

TGM Group(Network Harlow)

3 Jul 11 133 D Braintree to Stansted Airport: service withdrawn.
308 M-S Stansted Airport to Bishops Park; revision to timetable.
X22 D Stansted Airport to Colchester University of Essex: revised timetable and service renumbered 133.

Viceroy Coaches

4 Jul 11 11 M-S Chrishall to Saffron Walden: new service

*Paul Harvey
with acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council,
Richard Delahoy, Harlowride & First*

Publicity News

Recent items of publicity include

Essex County Council leaflets for 3/A/B dated 04.04.11; 31A/5 dated 01.05.11; 37 dated 10.01.11; 46/A dated 07.02.11.

Joint Essex and Suffolk County Council leaflet for the **Harwich Harbour Ferry**, including basic details of connecting bus services.

First - Clacton Area Bus Guide a 44 page timetable booklet for services 3,4,5,5B,7,7X,8,10, 11,12,13,15 16, 17,17A,18,74,74B and 76 together with a line route diagram.

One older **First** item, not previously mentioned is a folded A4 leaflet for service 68 dated 8.11.10.

Ian Ransom

New links ~ 845



A couple of recent photos of new Epping Forest Sunday Shuttle Bus operated by **Community Links** (Essex County Council).

This giant banner hangs, appropriately, adjacent to the forecourt of the Royal Forest Hotel at Chingford, which was once graced by this fine class of buses.

Sadly though, route 845 is operated by nothing more exciting than an Iveco from the Harlow depot of Essex County Council. Bodywork is by specialist accessible-minibus-from-van converter, Euromotive (Kent) Ltd. of Lympne. GN59 COO enters Epping Forest Visitor Centre at High Beach, served hourly from Chingford and Loughton.

.Owen Woodliffe



New links ~ 898

EssexWorks.

Bus times

898

The Queens Shopper Bus



Serving:

- Blackmore
- Brentwood
- Doddington
- Hook End
- Kelvedon Hatch
- Pilgrims Hatch
- Romford
- Wyatt's Green

Valid from 03 May 2011



Essex County Council

From 3rd May, **Brentwood Community Transport** have been operating a new service 898 between Blackmore, Brentwood and Romford (Queen's Hospital/Market). 'Bertie', the newest of their Ivecos, is seen in Brentwood on the return half of the first journey. By the end of that week, the tree behind had been pruned back considerably as had many others in the High Street.

Bertie is labelled-up for his normal run - the free circular route run in conjunction with NHS South West Essex, connecting the Community Hospital with Hutton, Brentwood High Street, Station and Warley. He also does another service between Brentwood Leisure Centre and the Hospital.

BCT, in partnership with Brentwood District Council and Essex County Council is now proposing a new commuter service to run Mondays-Fridays at peak times between Blackmore and Shenfield Station.

Chris Stewart, David Harman

www.brentwoodct.co.uk/



■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

New/acquired vehicles

Chassis number details of the new P&R Volvos are as follows:

69512 EJ11ECA YV3R6R623BA147673
69513 EJ11ECC YV3R6R625BA147674
69514 EJ11ECD YV3R6R627BA147675
69515 EJ11ECE YV3R6R62XBA147959
69516 EJ11ECF YV3R6R626BA147960
69517 EJ11ECN YV3R6R628BA147961
69518 EJ11ECT YV3R6R62XBA147962
69519 EJ11ECV YV3R6R62XBA148173
69520 EJ11ECW YV3R6R613BA148174

Company listing shows these as B45F+37. Can anyone please confirm body numbers?

Allocation changes

Period 2 (four weeks commencing 24th April 2011)

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

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from any other First fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School; PH=Private Hire; Sh=shuttle bus (non PCV)

34280 D/L(D)-sold; 46145 HH-BN(Sh); 46151 BN-D/L(D)-sold; 46152 BN-D/L(D); 46169 HH-D/L(D); 46177 HH-CF(Sh); 46183 CN-BE(Sh); 47223 CN-CF(Sh); 67001 BN-D/L(S); 67011 CF-D/L(S); 67012 BN-D/L(S)

By observation: 67008 CF-CR on 9th May (replacing 67004 to disposal)

Disposals

To Erith Commercials (scrap): 34280 (11th), 46151 (16th)

To private owner (preservation): 46152 - now kept at Yeldham Transport Museum

Repaints/Adverts

65029/31 to fleet livery (ex P&R)

65032 - P&R vinyls removed

Solo 53127 carries an overall rear advert for the 'Race for Life' (to beat cancer) on 17th July at Hylands Park, Volvo 66799 likewise advertises the new bathroom showroom of MKM Building Supplies, Montrose Road, Chelmsford and Scania 65677, SVC Recruitment.

Area News - workings and sightings

Pointers and Dashes - Step entrance Darts

Hadleigh's last step entrance Darts bowed out with the transfer of 46169 to CN for disposal on on 17th, 46177 to CF as a crew shuttle bus the following day and 46145 to BN for the same purpose on 20th. 46145 had been noted working the 21A on 10th June. At the time of writing the last four step Darts in passenger use with First Essex were 46153/85 and 46827 at BN together with 46158 at BE. 46153 was one of the first vehicle to use the new Southend 'shared space' busway by Victoria Station while working the 25 on 1st June. It also operated the 351/551 that day so had visited Southend, Brentwood and Chelmsford.

46158 operated CF's 51 on 20th May and 41 on 27th. 46183 had moved to BE as a crew shuttle by 13th.

Lance Watch

The working Lance fleet currently stands at eight (60102, 67006/7/10 at CF, 67003/5/8 at CR and 67009 on loan to DT). With three of the former P&R Scania's repainted in fleet livery and a fourth in use still in black (but with vinyls removed), Lance workings on the 71 have reduced correspondingly although 60102, 67006/10 were all in use on it on 12th May. On 14th and 15th, 60103 was on loan from BN to BE working the 132; it spent all day on the CF-BE-CR 70 on 17th (alongside 60103 & 67006 on 71) but moved to CF the following day and was noted on the 42 on 19th (and the 71A on 25th). On 2nd June, however, it joined other Lances in storage at Braintree.

CF67007 worked the 17.15 48X and 17.55 South Woodham 36 on 20th May. The 42/42A saw



The 24 was diverted in May via South Avenue Southchurch instead of using North Avenue due to road resurfacing. Former London Dart/Marshall 41761 (X761 HLR).

Ian Banks

67007 on 11th & 14th May, 67010 on 17th/18th, 60102 on 19th, 67006/7 on 20th, 60103 on 21st and 67007 again on 25th. The 31 had 60102 on 20th May, 67010 on 26th and 60102 on 2nd June.

At Colchester, 67005 worked the 68 on 7th May and 67005 was on the 67 on 2nd June. 67008 has been working from CR although still officially shown as a CF vehicle. Very unusually there were two Lances out on Sunday 15th May, including 67003 on 61A/62. 67008 worked the 88 on Saturday 21st May.

Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)

Scania CR61057 was on on loan at Clacton from 12th May to at least 29th, operating mixture of Point Clears and Colchesters. DT42937 operated Clacton's 7/8 on the afternoon of Thursday 26th. Tridents DT32804/10 were working from CN at the end of May with several others in the workshops or parked out the back. Scania 65538 was still at Telford Road undergoing repairs at the end of May although it is understood to have had a replacement engine fitted. Lance 67004 is now being cannibalised for parts at CN.

Colchester (CR)

- 4th CR34285 on BE70X
- 8th CN43740 stabled at CR depot
- 11th CR34305 on 68
- 12th CR30560 on 64
- 19th CR34315 on 68
- 24th CR34304 on 64
- 27th CR34056 on 71

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Scania 65030 remains in use on Chelmsford P&R, occasionally on the Chelmer Valley as well as Sandon route. Plain black 65032, in regular use on 71/71A, returned on at least 1st June. The four Scania's with names retain them (65028-31: Holland, Mildmay, Tindal and Strutt), even the three which have been repainted (which only have fleetnumbers over the fuel fillers).

May

- 3rd CF66817 on BE70, BE66815 on 509
- 4th CF43801 on BE21, CF66811 on BE70
- 5th CF43357 on BE70, CF66811 on BE70
- 6th BE34613 on 70, CF43801 on BE21, CF66807/11 on BE70, BE66828 on 21 (and failed at High Garrett)
- 7th CF66807/11 on BE70
- 9th CF34286 on 71, CF43360 on BE509, CF66807/17 on BE70, BE66830 failed on 70 at Marks Farm
- 10th CF66809/17 on BE70, BE66828 on 42A, BE42489 on 70
- 11th BE34301 on 509, BE34613 on 70, BE42918 on 70, CF53114 on 42 (17.00 ex CF), CF66807/9 on BE70, CF65031 on 71,
- 12th CF66811/37 on BE70, CF65028/31 on 71
- 13th BE34613 on 70, BE43360 on 70X, CF66807/37 on BE70, CF66811 on 509
On 42: 34355, 46158, 42923, 60102, 65691/2, 66796/7/9, 66810. Cheetah 56005 on 48X
- 14th CF66809/11 on BE70..

- 16th CF66837 on BE70
- 17th CF65031 (repainted) on 71, BE60103 on 70; CF66807/9 on BE70; CF66817 on BE21.
- 18th CF66809/37 on BE70, BE66816 on 509, CF66837 on BE21
- 19th CF42486 light on A12 northbound at Marks Tey, showing "31", CF65028/32 on 71; CF66809 on BE70, BE43360 on 509 (pm), CF65032 on 71/71A, CF42921 on 47. On 42: 42930, 65690/2, 66794/6/8, 67006, 69434 with 34355 on 42A (16.10 to Stansted)
- 20th CF34282 on 42, CF42935 on 47, CF43360 on BE509, CF65028/30/2 on 71/A
- 21st CF66837 on 70
- 23rd BE34613 on 70, CF66809/11 on BE70, CF69434 on 71A (first sighting away from 42 for a while), CF65032 on 71
- 24th CF34286 and BE34614 on 70, CF66811 on BE70, CF65028 on 42
- 26th CF46158 on 71, CF66810/7 on BE70
- 27th CF34355 on 42, CF42934 on 71A, CF42488 on 36, CF66807/10 on BE70,
- 29th Coaches CF20501 & CF20801 on Ingatestone-Newbury Park rail replacement

Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)

On 9th May, Bread & Cheese Hill in Thundersley was closed owing to an accidnet and routes 2, 26B and 27/B were diverted via Kents Hill Road, Church Road and Kenneth Road.

May

- 10th HH41730 on 26A, HH41732/5 on 26
- 11th BN34011 on 512, BN60863 on 11th
- 12th HH32883 on a.m. 25
- 16th BN66819 on 8A
- 18th BN66804 on 8A
- 27th BN40733, BN41645 and BN43445 on 351

June

- 3rd BN34011 on 551 (12.41 ex Brentwood Station)

Other news

Volvo coach 20102 was noted at Ipswich Old Cattle Market on 10th May while FEC trainer 20122 returned to Ipswich (from CF Westway) on or by 4th June.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to Anon, S Austin, A Bird, N Clark, T Clark, J Collins, D Edwards, M Farmer, D Flatman, J Long, K Mead, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', TBL177M, R Wansbury, R West, the Essex and East Anglia yahoo! groups, Essex and East Anglia Google groups, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'

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

Chris Stewart



Hi-vis jacket-attired officials look on as two Arriva Southend Darts traverse the Victoria Circus "shared space" which was unveiled on 1 June. The large stone balls denote the boundary between "shared space" and "pedestrian space", and as at the time of writing none have not been sent rolling or been stolen. Below: pedestrians mingle with Frst and Arriva Darts waiting at the lights. *Ian Banks*



Arriva Southend

The Omnibus Society reports that ten Optare Versas, to be numbered 4201-10 are due in August for service 9.

It is reported that Dart SLFs 3325/87 (T825 NMJ, P257 FPK) and 3423 (P423 HVX) (all in latest fleet livery) have received route branding for extended service 29.

Bread and Cheese Hill, Thundersley (A13) was closed due to an accident on 9 May. Service 5 to and from Basildon was diverted via Kenneth Road, Church Road and Kents Hill Road .

During the Southend Airshow (28/29 May) services 7/8 and 9 were diverted away from Woodgrange Drive/ Eastern Esplanade and operated via Southchurch Road.

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

Network Harlow

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Acquired vehicles

from MK Metro (2424/31) 5/11

2424 V412 UNH Optare Solo M850 VN6226 Optare 6226 B31F 10/99

2431 S401 ERP Optare Solo M920 VN6083 Optare 6083 B35F 1/99

from Arriva The Shires (Stevenage) 3293 by 5/11

3293 V293 HBH Dennis Dart SLF SFD612BR1XGW14128 Plaxton 998.8GKB1807 B29F
12/99

from TGM, Essex 3/11

3483 W483 YGS Dennis Dart SLF SFD612BR1YGW14843 Plaxton 008.8GKB2997 B29F
8/00

Allocations

3/11: 3381.WE; 3483, 3901-6.HA

5/11: 2431, 3293.WE

Vehicle disposals

3366 (J64 BJN ex J9 BUS): dismantled by Company 5/11

3381 (P330 HVX): Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) 5/11

3418 (P418 HVX): dismantled by Company 5/11

3842 (N622 FJO): Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) 5/11

Subsequent histories

2187 (R187 DNM): Gemma Smith, Harlow 1/11 ex Poynter, Wye, Kent

2283 P383 FEA as JST 245N): McNairn, Coatbridge, Strathclyde 3/11 ex JST, Darwen, Lancs

2378 (R948 VPU): Pickford, Chippenham by 12/10 ex HS Transport, South Kensington

3116 (L316 HPP): Glamorgan Bus, Cwmbach , South Wales 3/11 ex Handy, Merthyr Tydfil

3123 (M723 OMJ): Moseley, Wellington (dealer) 7/10 ex Roselyn Coaches, Par, Cornwall

3338 (L608 EKM): Moseley, Wellington (dealer) 3/09 ex Pointmost, Plymouth

3366 (J64 BJN ex J 9 BUS): dismantled by Arriva The Shires 5/11
5844 (D211 FYM): -?-, Paddock Wood (dealer) for scrap c3/11 ex Renown, Bexhill

General

Nine Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse single deckers (to be 3875-83) are due at Ware for service 310 in late Summer.

The Dennis Tridents replaced are expected to go to Arriva The Shires at Luton & Aylesbury.

Optare Solo 2455 has been repainted into a two tone blue livery with a bold red disc showing "Network Harlow" fleetnames.

Major revisions (again) are scheduled for Harlow local services on 13th June.

Harlow is now solely responsible for supplying vehicles for Greenline service 724 to Heathrow Airport although TGM do supply drivers from their Heathrow base.

Mark Garrett

Centrebus

Solo 353 (MX05 EKV) and Dennis Dart SLF/Alexander ALX200 505 (HJZ 9929, formerly Quality Line W872 VGT) have arrived at Harlow from Leicester, and Dart/Alexander 551 (KX51 FHE) from Leeds, to take up extra work gained recently around Hertford.

Route C3X Optare Solo 396 (YJ60 LRA) has been transferred to Dunstable, to join similar 397.

Dart/MCVs 547/8 (AE06 HBU/X) have now been repainted out of Trustline into Centrebus colours, leaving just 513 (S522 KFL), 541/2 (LN03 AYL/M), 544 (EU04 BZY) and 549 (LX07 GTF).

Ian Ransom with thanks to LOTS

Ensignbus

■ DEALING STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in *from*

Arriva Southern Counties: Dart P330 HVX, Scania N255 BKK, Volvo B10B N622 FJO
Mercedes 814 R118/22 TKO

Bluebird, Middleton: Darts MP04 BLU, AA05 BLU, BB05 BLU, CC05 BLU

Clintona, Brentwood: Dart W795 VMV

E & M Horsburgh, Edinburgh: Volvo B9TLs X555/777 EMH, Y555/777 EMH

London General: Darts P503/4 RYM, R446/56/70/87 LGH, S102 EGK
Volvo B7TL X597 EGK

McGills, Glasgow: Volvo B7TLs LN51 AZA/B

Stagecoach London: Delta J403 LKO Tridents V362 OWC, V114/45/54/60/
3/88 MEV, X236 NNO

Stagecoach North West: Volvo B10M P129 XCN, Olympians F806 FAO,
H114/7 SAO

Stagecoach Scotland: Volvo B10M M528 RSO, Javelins K327 PHT K414 SUS

Vehicles out

Dublin Olympian 97-D-380	to now R315 LHK with Carman , Gravesend, Kent
Dart P504 RYM:	Eastonways , Ramsgate, Kent
Olympian G101 AAD:	Galleon Travel , Harlow, Essex
Trident V362 OWC:	Golden Tours , London
Darts Y806 / 59 TGH:	Haytons , Manchester
Volvo B10M R917 XVM,	
Dublin Olympian 98-D-20411	now R317 LHK: Impera , Liverpool
Volvo B10M P129 XCN:	Lawrenson , Preston, Lancs.
Tridents T189/96/7/8/201 CLO:	McGills , Glasgow
Solo BL52 BFU, Dart Y849 TGH:	New Adventure Travel , Cardiff
Volvo B6s 00-D-70021/39	now X974/6 CNO with New Horizon , Frating, Essex
Dart Y857 TGH:	Grant Palmer , Luton, Beds.
Volvo B10M SIL 2172:	Regal Busways , Cooksmill Green, Essex
Dart S102 EGK:	RLB Transport , Castleford, Yorks.
Volvo B9TLs X555/777 EMH, Y555/777 EMH now EY07AXH/J/K/M with	Rotala Group
Dart R470 LGH:	Sandwell Travel , Tipton
Olympian H803 BKK:	Shoreys Travel , Maulden, Beds.
Volvo B10B M566 YEM, Dragon M682 TDB,	
Dublin Olympian 97-D-374	now R314 LHK: Sleafordian , Sleaford, Lincs.
Darts R456/87 LGH:	Smith , Angus, Perthshire
Darts MP04 BLU, Y856 / 61 TGH:	Tates Travel , Barnsley
Dart R448 LGH:	Veolia Cymru
Darts V161 MVX, W202/3 DNO:	Watts , Cardiff
Dart W795 VMV:	Z&S , Aylesbury, Bucks.
Titan CUL 162V:	Ashcombe Primary School , Weston-super-Mare
Olympians K725 ASC/F806 FAO:	Delta Force Paintball , Woking, Surrey
Mercedes N369/636 AVV, R118 TKO:	Pro-Force Ltd , Chartham, Kent
Volvo B10Ms N446 XVA M948 TSX:	SDR Coach Help , Halstead, Essex
Volvo B10M M404 BFG:	Mr S Sinnaiya , London NW10
Olympians E303/4/34 MSG:	Totally Transport , Blackpool
Olympian E334 MSG:	Anker Medical Tech , Wittlich, Germany
Metrobus KYV 789X:	Societe Agricole , Liege, Belgium
Volvo B10M JUI 4377:	Mr N L Zhou , Harare, Zimbabwe
Volvo B7LA artics 00-D-65002/4/6/9/14/17/8:	Geoff Ripley , Barnsley

Hires

Primos MX07 JPU/O:	to Veolia
Darts R446 LGH/P503 RYM, Volvo B6 00-D-70027 (now X979 CNO), Olympians H114/7 SAO and K106 JWJ:	Stephensons of Essex , Rochford.
Scania N392 OTY:	Cedrics , Ardleigh, Essex.

■ ENSIGN BUS CO. LTD.

Dart 731 (R531 VEG) has been sold to Nu-Venture, Aylesford, Kent.

The Virgin London Marathon on 17 April saw Ensign provide one of each (almost) Routemaster types - RM25, RM1361, RMA50, RCL2220 and RML2405 to convey the 'elite' runners, and Cadet 700 and Darts 720, 724 and 726, the 'elite' wheelchair users.

David Harman with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Hedingham Omnibuses

Depot Allocations - May 2011

Depot	Saloon	Dart/B6	SLF/DDA	Coaches	Double-deckers	Total
Hedingham HD	L206	L297	L211 L326 L212 L328 L301 L340 L325		L337 L374 L355 L386	13
Sudbury SY	L148	L243 L296	L334 L339	L242 L298 L282 L291	L358 L362 L359 L363 L360 L366	15
Kelvedon KN	L200	L198 L208 L342 L344		L281	L300 L364 L373 L305 L365 L375 L307 L367 L379 L372	16
Tollesbury TY	L354	L208	L343 L370 L349 L385 L350		L160 L316 L369 L310 L317 L384 L315 L368	15
Clacton CN	L196	L210 L241 L258	L312 L356 L335 L380 L338 L381 L346 L382 L348 L383 L351	L244 L309 L285 L347 L286 L290 L295 L299	L313 L336 L361 L314 L341 L371 L330 L345 L376 L331 L352 L377 L332 L353 L333 L357	39
<i>total</i>	6	11	25	13	44	99

with thanks to Mr D R MacGregor of Hedingham

Lea Valley Buses (Gemma Smith)

LOTS and the Harlowride website reports the influx of six Volvo B6BLE/ Alexander, to replace the selection of vehicles used on services 255/555. They are former Stagecoach Devon P704/5/ 10/13 BTA, P328/55 GND. As they are repainted, they are gaining prominent route branding: 704/5 (for the 255) 713 (for the 555) so far.

Vario R187 DNM has been sold to SM Coaches.

Ian Ransom

Olympus / Roadrunner / SM Coaches

Acquired from Stagecoach Highland County is N101 WRC, Mercedes Benz 811D/Plaxton, from Lea Valley Buses, R187 DNM a Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton, and from London Central, via Ensign, Y862 TGH a Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton. LOTS also report further Varios, R112 GNW from Arriva Scotland West and P450 PRH from Redline Buses, Slough.

Irisbus AgoraLine 301 (GY53 RDU) has lost Norwich Park & Ride yellow for the SM white with blue skirt scheme.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton H940 DRJ, has been sold. Volvo B10M/Jonckheere N986 WGR has been re-registered B10 GTL.

Ian Ransom

Stephensons of Essex

Yellow Star Travel Services Ltd (t/a Burtons) of Haverhill, Suffolk went into administration on 26 May, following which Stephensons successfully negotiated to take over the bus services at short notice. The deal did not include the coach or private hire business, for which the administrators are still looking for potential buyers.

To clarify, Burtons was latterly part of the TGM Group, but the Haverhill operation was sold to its management in February 2010, who set up the Yellow Star company to take this over.

A number of Darts in dealer white were loaned to Burtons from Dawson Rentals prior to the above events. These included KU52 NFM/RXV/TZM/YKH, and some were noted in use after 26 May, together with some of Burtons own vehicles.

Buses continue to be operated from the former Burtons depot, at Duddery Hill in Haverhill. A number of Stephensons vehicles have transferred to Haverhill, including Solo EU58 AXX, Enviro 200 EU10 NVR, Olympians K872 CSE, H159 BKH, H552 VAT, Volvo B10M M453 VCW, and 'heritage' Leyland Olympian coach D511 PPU. Loans from Ensign include former London Dennis Dart SLFs R446 LGH, P503 RYM, former Dublin Bus Volvo B6 X979 CNO (formerly 00-D-70027) and former Stagecoach Olympians H114/7 SAO and K106 JWJ.

Also here on short term loan, is ADL demonstrator Enviro 300 SN09 CGX, pending delivery of two new Enviro 300s currently in build at Scarborough.

Stephenson's website comments that: "While some buses will be in our smart green and white colours, others have been drafted in to ensure services are maintained and may be in a variety of shades. So please keep a look out, and check the destination display or board on the front of the bus". The vehicle position is understandably very fluid at present and will change over the next few weeks.

From 28 May, services operated are:

- 14, 14B, 15 Haverhill - Bury St Edmunds
- 16, 16A Mildenhall - Bury St Edmunds
- 17 Red Lodge - Bury St Edmunds

- 59 Haverhill - Saffron Walden
- 905 Burrough Green - Bury St Edmunds
- 981 Dalham - Bury St Edmunds, West Suffolk College
- 985 Risby - Bury St Edmunds / Westley Middle School - Denham

The following services, previously operated by Mulleys (and due to pass under council contract to Burtons) will be operated by Stephenson's as of Monday 6 June:

- 132 Moreton Hall - Hardwick Middle School
- 200, 201 Mildenhall - Lakeheath
- 312 Exning - Bury St Edmunds
- 343 Great Wratting - Bury Schools / Bury - Depden
- 400, 401 Newmarket - Mildenhall
- 943-6 Haverhill - Bury Schools

The following services previously operated by Burtons, are now operated by Galloway European Coachlines of Mendlesham:

- 377 Thorpe Morieux - Bury St Edmunds
- 386 Stowmarket - Bury St Edmunds

Operation of services 9/10, Braintree - Gt Bardfield has passed to Network Colchester.

Note that only the services previously operated by Burtons (or due to pass to them in June) are being operated by Stephenson's and in some cases, other operators may have contracted journeys using the same route number. These include the 59, where the main service is still provided by Four Counties Buses (Walden Travel) and Viceroy of Essex, and on 200/ 201, by Coach Services of Thetford.

We hope to clarify the situation more fully next month.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Steve Curl, www.stephensonsofessex.com and Richard Delahoy

Other operators

AMBER, Rayleigh Acquired from Stagecoach Western Buses is Mercedes Benz 709D/ Alexander Belfast M668 FYS, and from Stagecoach Bluebird buses N716 LTN a Volvo Olympian/ Alexander.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh Scania K114/Irizar YR02 ZZL was sold to Scania (dealer), Worksop and then passed to P&D York Travel, Wolverhampton.

BRENTWOOD COACHES, Brentwood Setra S315GT WXC 732 (LV51 ZHL) has been numbered 10.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Optare Spectra M137 KRU has suffered severe rear end fire damage and is currently out of use. Scania N113/East Lancs N392 OTY is currently

on loan from Ensigns, to provide cover; it retains Arriva livery.

CHIGWELL CARS, Chigwell Acquired is Renault master LJ08 WCV.

COOKS, Rochford Bova Futura YF02 XVW has been withdrawn, after being involved in a serious accident on the M11 in early April.

FORD, Althorne New here is BMC 850 BX11 HFS.

GARDNER, Boreham Acquired from Hookways, Meeth, Devon is Volvo B10M/ Plaxton V342 JTO.

GODWARD, Basildon Volvo Olympian/ East Lancs P340 ROO has been sold.

GRAND ILLUSION, Benfleet New here is

LK60 CVE a Mercedes Benz Sprinter/
Stanford.

INTACAB, Basildon New last year, but only recently reported is Vauxhall Vivaro FX10 NXV (a non PSV).

KINGS COACHES, Stanway Due for delivery, as these notes were being prepared is Van Hool T916 Astron KC11 ABC. Bova Futura KC02 ABC, will go to Moseleys in part exchange, but is expected to stay for a few more weeks, due to current heavy demand for coaches here.

LCB TRAVEL, Harlow New last year, but only recently reported is Ford Transit LC60 LCB.

NCS, Widdington Acquired is LDV Convoy EY55 DLN

NEW HORIZON, Alresford Acquired is former Dublin Bus X974 CNO (00-D-70021) a Volvo B6BLE/Wright. Dennis Dart M65 VJO has been fitted with a LED destination display and a ticket machine, for use on stage services.

OZ TAXIS, Mayland Have reverted to taxi operations. Two minibuses here are Ford Transits EY54 NYA and BK55 JZG.

P&L MINIBUS, Colchester LDV Convoy Y469 HPL has been sold.

RICHARDS, Chelmsford Acquired from London Concord, Slough is NUI 6788 (P167 ALJ) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton.

SBC, Wickford Acquired from Countywide, Sheerness are Volvo Olympian/Alexander N122 UHP and N600 WGL (N124 YRW). Both were new to London United, for their Heathrow to London express services. They are normally to be found on school services to Westcliff High School.

STANSTED COACH & CARRIAGE, Birchanger LDV Convoy T441 FOW has been sold.

TONY GLEW, Gt Tey Acquired from London Borough of Barking & Dagenham is Iveco 40C13/Mellor EO52 EEH. To correct EBN 564, TJI 4147 came from Llew Jones, Llanrwst.

TRANS-SAFE, Pitsea Acquired is Ford Transit CV52 OJA, it has been re-registered A14 FWP. Sister RJ53 UOH is now A11 FWP.

TURNERS, Little Maplestead Volvo B10M/Alexander P859 GND has been acquired.

*Ian Ransom with thanks to Dave Arnold,
Peter Mobbs (Kings Coaches), Colin Sigston,
PSV Circle, Essex Bus y-group*



New Horizon Volvo B6 X974 CNO
in Jackson Road, Clacton on the 79
on 26 May. *Jonathan Bale*

Tales from the cab - and the platform : Part 4



Doug Brown recalls trials and tribulations whilst collecting some old deckers

Part 3 was in Essex Bus News issue 564, April 2011.

Encounters with the boys in blue

During my winter solstice from driving coaches, which lasted from end of October till April, I used to pass the time doing a bit of fitting, an am/pm school contract, an evening Bingo run and on a Saturday night a London Theatre, mostly for Bee-Line of Brentwood. This firm had three deckers plus a coach. The deckers were all of the open platform variety, of course. Then one day the proprietor decided to update his fleet and asked me to collect four deckers that he'd bought from Aldershot and District, these buses having doors. He said I was the only person he could trust to bring the deckers through London without taking their roofs off. I said I would only do this job if he paid my train fares up front – I didn't want to be out of pocket and I knew some operators did have cash flow problems. I went to the railway station to find out what the fare would be and added a few quid on for food. He coughed a bit at the price but eventually turned up with readies.

At Aldershot Garage I was shown my deckers but there were only three, not four. I asked where the other one was and I was taken into an outside yard and there was this old bus in the bushes! This was the spares workshop. Everything in the cab was rusty, some windows had been cannibalised and a wooden door had been fitted across the open platform. I said I could not take that beast, it hadn't been started in years. They said not to worry, they would get it roadworthy for me in the next three days.

With the first decker I bought back, I was surprised how well it went. Coming through central London (no M25 in those days) I was climbing Ludgate Hill when a Police mini went past and pulled me over on the forecourt of St Pauls. The policeman came up to my window and asked what an Aldershot and District double decker was doing in the City of London, being driven by someone without a uniform. I said "I reckon it's been nicked, don't you?". But he said that was unlikely as if a bus is stolen, it usually ends up in a ditch before it gets very far, or else it is driven under a low bridge and takes the roof off. Seeing that I had done neither of these things, I showed him my licence and the acquisition document for the bus. That answered his questions, so I asked him to tell his mates that I would be round that way for the next three days with the other buses, so that they wouldn't stop me.

The next day I got stopped – not at St Pauls this time but on the Wandsworth one way system, and on the third day on the Kingston by-pass! The Police only seemed to like red deckers in London! Now comes the bit I was not looking forward to – collecting the wreck. The A&D mechanics told me that the brakes and lights worked OK, but warned me that it used a bit of oil and so gave me a gallon in a container, suggesting that I check the oil again in London. They also advised that the exhaust box was full of oil so I might get an exhaust fire.

So we set off, and whilst climbing the Hogs Back on the A31 she started to get a bit hot and the exhaust was like a bonfire. Then all the smoke stopped – instead, I had a 6ft blow torch! No one would dare overtake in case their cars caught fire even though this was a dual carriageway. Then a daring police mini driver did a wide berth and got in front of me. He got out and came running to the bus shouting "Your b****y bus is on fire!" and as he came running his hat fell off. He didn't

stop to pick it up, but kept shouting that the bus was on fire. I told him to stop panicking, saying that it was not on fire and pointing to the exhaust which by now had become a methane burner. To prove the point, I shut the engine off and the flames went out. He went to the exhaust and said it was making a gurgling noise. I suggested he did not stand there then, in case of an explosion!! So he came back to the cab and asked if this was Steptoe's mobile junkyard*. Then a massive ball of fire came out of the exhaust and as a van drove through, it burst with a deafening bang. The van driver nearly lost control.

At this, the policeman decided it was safer to scarper, telling me not to start the bus up again until he was at least a mile up the road. Thankfully I never got another blow torch from the exhaust but every now and again lumps of red hot coke would fall out on to the road, causing cars to swerve.

The worst thing about driving this old beast was the gear stick - you had to catch it first, as it had so much play it rolled all over the cab and to change gear you almost had to put the gearstick through the windscreen for

some gears and behind your back for the others. I checked the oil in London as the A&D mechanic had suggested and found the sump almost empty; I had to put the gallon in just to get to Brentwood. Then the smoke started all over again!

By the time I got back to Brentwood I was shattered and the first pint in the local pub tasted like nectar!

Edited by Richard Delahoy, who adds that he too was once stopped whilst moving an empty bus – in this case on the A23 with an ex London DMS still in LT red which he was taking to Brighton, where the Corporation were painting some for Ensign Bus's sales stock. His experience was the opposite of Doug's – in this case, "why was a red London bus so far from London?". Again, a chat with the local constabulary explained things and he was allowed to continue (thankfully without comment about the missing panel on the nearside!).

* For younger readers, "Steptoe's scrapyards" is a reference to the classic 1960s/1970s BBC sitcom, *Steptoe & Son* - see www.bbc.co.uk/comedy/steptoeandson/.



Chris Stewart adds that Bee-Line operated from The Hive, erstwhile home of Brentwood Town FC in Ongar Road, Pilgrim's Hatch and ran at least two ex Thames Valley KSW6Bs (one of which survived in Denyer's yard and is now under restoration) and an LS6B coach to bus conversion. Here is a picture from Chris's collection, taken September 25,

1971 (photographer unknown), of SOU458, a 1958-built ex A&D Dennis Loline 1 with East Lancs H68RD body, flanked by a KSW and the LS. Was this Loline perhaps one of the buses that Doug collected all those years ago?

Buses, dustcarts and trolleybuses - Redbridge Visit, 20 May

Redbridge Transport operates an extremely well presented fleet of municipal vehicles, minibuses and a small number of full size coaches and buses. It also supplies the dustcart fleet for operation by a third party, the majority of these being housed in the former Ilford London Transport trolleybus depot in Ley Street. The main site adjoining this houses extensive workshops and in-house facilities for most repairs, as well as offering commercial MOTs. Few of the numerous vehicles now remain in the pale

blue and cream livery which has been superseded by white with pink and green relief.

On 24th May, twenty EBEG members were given a comprehensive tour of the operations (not just the bus fleet) and a very informative commentary by enthusiastic Redbridge staff to whom we are very grateful. Currently there are four double deck buses in the fleet, these being ex Dublin Olympians and now registered S264/5/90, 301 YOO. They



It's not often that dustcarts appear in EBN but these well-maintained Redbridge examples occupy the former Ilford trolleybus depot in Ley Street. *All photos: Chris Stewart*



Still in King's Ferry colours is C5LBR, an elderly but well presented Dennis Javelin/Berkhof.

The front and rear views of the unusual LCB-bodied Cannons in the Redbridge fleet. These Cummins-engined vehicles all retain the older Redbridge livery although they are due for replacement soon.





The extensive workshops carry out all normal maintenance and repairs in-house for the whole Redbridge Transport fleet.

replaced a batch of six ex Southern Vectis ECW-bodied X-registered buses which, despite their age, found ready buyers (helped considerably by LEZ conversions having been undertaken to their Gardner engines). Prior to this Redbridge had operated five Bristol VRs, at least two of which still survive. Full size coaches (all carrying A-LBR or C-LBR plates) include a former King's Ferry Dennis Javelin/Berkhof which belies its age and is currently finding useful employment as a driving trainer. A batch of eight narrow-bodied V/W-registration Cannon/Leicester Carriage Bodies buses is due to be replaced shortly by seven Mercedes Ategos with Nu-Track bodywork, the latter built in Northern Ireland as coincidentally were the Cannon chassis and the Olympian's Alexander bodies. The products of the latter's Strabane factory are not common although they supplied a few similar-looking vehicles to Jersey coach operators. Redbridge's numerous minibuses and minicoaches are predominantly on Mercedes chassis.

The former trolleybus depot (code IF) has been the subject of redevelopment proposals for some years but is largely unaltered internally, even retaining the old office to the back corner (albeit unsafe to enter). The building was opened as a tram depot in 1903 by Ilford UDC, whose terracotta sign remains on the flank wall (albeit with the UDC lettering partly removed when Ilford, then still in Essex, became a Borough). Trolleybuses replace trams in 1938 and IF closed in 1959 with conversion to diesel buses. Anyone interested in this era is commended to David Bradley's website www.trolleybus.net and particularly to some colour slides under 'routes 691/693'.

Our thanks go to Eddie Cross, Engineering Manager, for setting up a most enjoyable visit and to our hosts on the night for giving freely of their time. In lieu of any attendance charge, a collection for our adopted charity, the Essex Air Ambulance, raised £82.

Chris Stewart

Suffolk & North Essex Tour, 28 May



Viv Carter's former ENOC RELL 1546 alongside Talisman's DAF YJN455S at Beeston's
all photos: Chris Stewart

This was the Group's first full day tour for nearly three years and the first organised by Keith Woods. 27 participants joined Talisman's preserved DAF YJN 455S, driven by Paul Smith, at Colchester North Station for a visit to several independent operators on the Essex/Suffolk borders.

The first call was to Carter's on the A12 at Capel St Mary where we received a warm welcome from Viv Carter. Carter's have been at these premises since 2000 and in 2010 celebrated 25 years of service. A number of members purchased their excellent 25th anniversary book and we were able to view a selection of their varied fleet. This included former London Dennis Tridents, Dublin Bus & Stagecoach Olympians and Plaxton Primo BU08 ALV in anniversary livery. From the preserved fleet were Greenway WAH 587S and Bristol RE SVW 274K, formerly Eastern National 1546, and it was in the latter (courtesy of Viv Carter) that we were able to enjoy a ride to Beeston's of Hadleigh, our next visit.

Another warm welcome and we were able to explore the extensive premises and selection of the bus and coach fleet, including PN09 ENX, a coach-seated tri-axle

Volvo/Optare Olympus in which our host Dave very kindly gave us a ride to Sproughton Top and back. Copies of the company's timetables and holiday brochure were available - several of the coaches were labelled 'Barcelona' although apparently this was something to do with a football fixture at Wembley that evening! On a sadder note Coach Y5 BCL in Burton's of Haverhill colours reminded us of the demise of that operator just the previous Thursday.

Back in YJN 455S we now made for Sudbury and Hedingham's depot. The double deck fleet is now entirely Volvo Olympians but it was good to see WPH 135Y, the rebodied Leyland Tiger, still in service (now the oldest operational vehicle in the fleet). Following this visit we enjoyed a lunch break in Sudbury, a town with facilities to satisfy all tastes and a bus station served solely by local independents; Chambers, Beeston's and Regal all appeared during our stay.

Leaving Sudbury, and a good climb up Ballingdon Hill, we soon arrived at our next stop, Turner's of Little Maplestead. Made very welcome again we could see examples of the Volvo and Scania coach fleet and



This former Stagecoach (new to Express Travel) Dart/East Lancs, P455 DCW, is in fact amongst the oldest operational vehicles in Carter's fleet.

Carrying Southend CBC 'cherished' mark FHJ 565, the former P366UUG is a Volvo B10B/Wright new to Keighley & District and is similar to a number of vehicles in the Beeston's/Constable Coaches fleet.





Black-liveried 100-seat tri-axle Volvo/Optare PN09ECX of **Beeston's** is seen after a short trip out to Sproughton Top

varied buses including Dennis Condor G303 FWC, Leyland Olympian G293 UYK and former Hong Kong Dart N978 RCD.

Onward next to Halstead and Florida Coaches, accessed by a narrow approach from the A131 and another varied fleet. Again a former Hong Kong bus was present - Leyland Olympian H493 LNA, latterly with Stagecoach Manchester, and former Merseyside Volvo G659 DTJ represented the double deck fleet. Two MAN coaches were present and some interest was shown in derelict Toyota FIL 8617 nestling round the back.

The final 'mystery' visit of the day had not been advertised prior to the day - this turned out to be an extremely interesting hour at

Yeldham Transport Museum. After introductions and welcomes from Tony Freeman and John Russell we were able to view the fascinating collection of vehicles, which also includes items of railway interest (a restoration project for two coaches of the Lynton & Barnstaple Railway is in hand). The collection is housed in a former aircraft hangar brought from Biggin Hill in 1959 and deserves our best wishes. Further details can be found on <http://yeldhamtransportmuseum.co.uk>

Returning to Colchester via Halstead we halted briefly on Stonebridge Hill before Earls Colne to photograph 'RED BUS' - former Midland Red Ford R192/Plaxton YHA 341J which has served as a



Dave Arnold doing his impression of a "garden gnome with a camera" in the yard of Turners of Essex.

Fred Lawrance

Turner's and Florida picture next month



Thankfully some people can be relied upon to be happy in their work ... Gary Sharpe in former London Country Tiger WPH 135Y, rebodied by East Lancs.

Yeldham Transport Museum held its first Open Day on 14/15 May and amongst the visitors was Fred Lawrance with his rather older London Country Reliance P3 (SPK203M), a one time Grays garage private hire coach. Part of the building complex is visible behind.



roadside café there since 1988 - albeit that the front has now been rebuilt.

Arrival time back at Colchester North was 18.00 after an excellent day out. Thanks are due to Keith Woods for organising it (hopefully a foretaste of more to come - see elsewhere in EBN for details of a day out on

27th August), Paul Smith for driving YJN 455S - a most comfortable vehicle for a 'Full Day Tour' - and to all the operators and Museum staff for their hospitality on the day, as well as Dave Arnold and Gary Sharpe for moving vehicles at Hedingham Sudbury.

Richard Huggins

Yeldham Transport Museum - First Open Day

Yeldham Transport Museum has been set up at the Hunnable Industrial Estate, Great Yeldham, in a former WW2 aircraft hangar, moved there in 1959 from RAF Biggin Hill.

It is now home to a group of railway and bus preservationists and the first museum open day was held on Saturday 14/Sunday 15 May. John Salmon took these pictures of ex-Eastern National residents, Leyland National 1849 (YEV 307S) and Bristol VR 3107 (UAW 597W).

<http://yeldhamtransportmuseum.co.uk/>



Essex Fords in Malta

The fascinating collection of former UK vehicles in use as 'route buses' in Malta has tended to overshadow many vintage coaches in use as what is termed 'unscheduled buses' on the Island. Two Fords that once operated in Essex were still in service during March this year.

There is an interesting link with past and future as the George Ewer Group, of which Grey-Green Coaches Ltd was a wholly owned subsidiary company, was acquired by Cowies of Sunderland in 1980 after an acrimonious takeover battle. Cowies motive was to acquire Ewer's motor dealerships in East Anglia (Scott Bros, Page & Scott, Burrells) and the South (Oakleys) and it is no secret that they had no long term future for the coach business of which they had no

experience. Grey-Green was offered for disposal but there were no takers and in following years Cowies ordered their withdrawal from British Coachways and the East Anglian Express pool in order to improve profitability. However, tendering of London bus routes was to change Grey-Green fortunes with the first route operated by Dix in 1987 followed quickly by many more. After Cowies acquired London bus subsidiaries Leaside and South London, they went on a spending spree that netted them some 7000 buses in a few years.

By this time founder Tom Cowie had retired and consultants advised all the activities be rebranded as Arriva. The bus division was given a new logo, claimed to be a wheel within a wheel. Arriva then entered Europe



KCY 888, a R1114 model with Caetano coachwork, was with the owner co-operative KopTaCo and seen in Sliema. With Cedric of Wivenhoe it was NAY 428W and departed these shores in 1988.



KCV 919, also a R1114 but with Duple coachwork, was new to Dix of Dagenham, by then a Grey-Green subsidiary, as CYH 801V in 1979. Also with a KopTaCo owner since 1986, who modified it for an underfloor engine, currently a Volvo.

and have operations in many countries, the latest being Malta. I wonder if the new regime in Malta realise that there is a vehicle that was part of the company that started this massive empire, for it is doubtful that

without Grey-Green there would have been Arriva.

Owen Woodliffe, who also took the photos

rear cover

From Dublin's fair city (via Purfleet), where the girls are so pretty ...

Four former Dublin Olympians are the third generation of London Borough of Redbridge double deckers.

Another four former Dublin Olympians (L358/9/62/3) and ex Metroline L366 form the current double deck allocation at **Heddingham's** Sudbury depot. *both:*
Chris Stewart



Van Hool T916 222 GRA (originally YJ08 EBZ) is one of several **Beeston's** coaches to carry former Chesterfield Leyland PD2 registrations, retained when those vehicles were sold.

Another Dublin Olympian/ Alexander (Belfast) now to be found in a local fleet. This example R156 LHK with **Carter's** is former 98-D-20388. *both: Chris Stewart*



