

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Everything you need to know about Buses in Essex

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Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

The current rates for a 12 month subscription are £16 First Class, £15 Second Class post.

Subscriptions are renewable in January or July.

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If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Timetable subscriptions

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and updates plus a copy of the Thurrock council book.

Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or see www.essexbus.org.uk

Photo sales

We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell with details of what you're looking for and he'll be pleased to help you.

Your reports & observations

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

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

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How to contact us

Magazine Editor/Arriva Sean Menzies
32 Clarence Road, Brentwood, CM15 9PB
E-mail essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Service changes Adrian Lancer
E-mail : ebegsceditor@aol.com

First in Essex Chris Stewart,
10 Crossways, Shenfield, CM15 8QX
E-mail: chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Arriva Harlow & Ware Mark Garrett
36 High Street, Chishall, Royston, SG8 8RP
E-mail: deganwy@waitrose.com

Essex Small Operators Ian Ransom,
34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
E-mail: ianandSally@bigfoot.com

Hedingham/ Small operators & Tours
Organiser Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase,
Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
E-mail: david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild/Photos
and Southend area news -Peter Snell,
6 Mandeville Way, Benfleet, SS7 4LH

Problems with your subscription, need back issues or your magazine has pages missing? contact **Membership officer** Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP
E-mail derekstebbing@hotmail.com

Thank you to the many contributors for their valuable news and information.
Please send your Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to the Sub-editors by **Friday 7 March** and to the Managing editor by **Tuesday 11 March 2003** .

The magazine is expected to be posted week commencing **24 March** .

Welcome Aboard!

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ESSEX BUS NEWS

Essex Independents Tour 2003
Saturday 17 May—Only £8.50! - See page 17 and book now!

www.essexbus.org.uk

Editorial

There's so much to read this month it's difficult to know where to start!

The closure of the Central line has resulted in one of the biggest ever rail replacement jobs. Around 75 buses a day have been organised by Ensign involving operators large and small. Read the full story from Page 5.

On Saturday 17th May we'll be repeating our successful Essex Independents tour visiting Ensign, Imperial, NIBS and Phoenix. Seats will sell out fast, so make sure you book your place—See page 17 for a booking form.

Finally, Don't forget to order your copy of the COASTAL RED factfile— more about this fantastic new book on Page 36.

Cover

Former Eastern National 4510 D510 PPU
One of a batch of 13 Leyland Olympians with ECW coach bodies delivered in 1985/86, this imposing Vehicle was seen in Sheringham operating with Sanders of Holt last August. (John Stewart)

Photo

Essex bus diary

Your guide to forthcoming events

Tuesday 11 March Group Meeting , Rochford AGM and Buses 30 years ago

The first half of the meeting will be our Annual General meeting where you'll be able to hear what we're been doing and ask the committee any burning questions you might have. Alan Osborne will then host a slide show looking at how buses were 30 years ago.

The evening offers a chance to meet others who share your interest and swap the latest bus gossip!

Group meetings take place in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large car park and Great Eastern trains and Arriva services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145.

**Another meeting on Tuesday 8 April
Special guest speaker Bob Farrell, Managing Director of
Phoenix Student Travel.**

Evening visit to Fourways Coaches—Tuesday 13 May

An evening visit featuring a trip from Chelmsford to the Fourways Garage at Highwood. We'll be travelling on a one of their 4 ex Dublin Leyland Olympians.

The bus will pick up at Victoria Road (*Duke Street end*) Nr Chelmsford Rail Station at 19.00 and returning by 21.30.

Seats are just £5 each. Please make cheques payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group and send to:-

Dave Arnold 21 Cedar Chase Heybridge Maldon Essex CM9 4NR.
Please enclose a S.A.E and a Contact phone number.

Fourways have an interesting fleet of buses and coaches and we look forward to your company.

Why not book your place on the Essex Independents tour on Saturday 17 May at the at same time? - See page 17 for the booking form

Central line buses

Following the derailment at Chancery Lane on 25th January, emergency Central Line replacement services have been operating over parts of the route.

The first buses to operate were Ensign 152 and 147 on the night of Sat 25 Jan. They covered the last 2 trains from Stratford all stations to Epping. From Sunday 26 Jan to Sunday 2 Feb an Epping-Stratford all stations service was operated with up to 35 buses used. Operators used on this included: Ensign, Imperial, Red Route, Sullivans, Amber-lee, Chambers, First Capital, Metrobus, Regal Busways, Windmill Coaches, Trustline, Green Light Travel, Caistors, Scenic Travel, P and A coaches, First Airport, Kings Ferry, Central Parking and JWS Travel who operated a 16 seat Transit on Epping-Theydon Bois short workings.

Ensign acted as co ordinator for all of this with their controllers out at most main locations. Also operated during this week were Epping-Chingford short workings during the peak hours only to get people on to the main line service to Liverpool Street. RCL2220 was used on this every day.

As from Monday 3 Feb, six different routes have been operated as follows:

- Service A Epping-Harlow. Every 15 mins
- Service B Epping-Theydon Bois. Every 15 mins.
- Service C Epping-Leytonstone. Every 15 mins.
- Service D Debden-Chingford Every 15 mins.
- Service E Buckhurst Hill-Blackhorse Road. Every 10 mins
- Service G Leytonstone-Stratford. Every 5 mins.

These are all operated by Ensign with their controllers and buses. Obviously a lot of sub contracting is necessary and below are the usual allocations.

Page 6

Service A. Entirely covered by Ensign , with City Sightseeing drivers drafted in from Cambridge,Brighton, Stratford, Blackpool,Cardiff and Inverness.

Service B. Entirely JWS Travel with Transits.

Service C. Mainly Firstgroup with the Airport, Essex, Northampton,Leicester, Midland Red and Welsh subsidiaries being involved. Also Trustline, Chambers and Ensign involved.

Service D. Mainly Imperial with Ensign,Trustline and Trimmer Travel helping.

Service E. Mainly Supreme Coaches with Amber-Lee, Windmill and Stephensons helping.

Service G. A mixed bag here...Media bus, Red Route, Scenic, Clockwork, Central Parking, Regal and Ensign.

Spares at Epping have been Fargo Coaches, Cedrics and P and A Coaches, as well as Ensign vehicles. The PVR for the whole operation is about 75 buses. Services are likely to continue in their present form until late Feb/early March.

The following were all reported between 5th and 13th February (some ex LT vehicles are shown by their fleetnumber only):

Amber Lee, Gravesend – M1120 (?), Lynx F239CNY, Leyland Nationals EMB367S, NPJ478R, DD coach TAZ4997

Anita, Stansted K869JJN

Arriva Leaside – M777, M1124, M1130

Blue Triangle (route F) – RCL2260, RM298, T9, T908

Casters Coaches, Romford – M807

Cedrics, Wivenhoe – A189RUM, H547GKX

Central Parking, ? – SND123X

Chambers, Bures – W91HRT

Clockwork Travel, Crawley – C663LJR

Day, Chale, Isle of Wight – M1262

Ensign - UTN510Y, BYX250V, WYW55T, A146AMO, A638BCN, B147EDP, C779/80OCN, E747/9/52SKR, F292NHJ, G122VDX
Fargo, Rayne - KCK204W
First Essex - 919/22/5-8 (all Super 8 livery), 2815
First London - P415MTW
First Midland Red - M252/5MRW (Dennis Lance/Plaxton Verde)
First Northampton - J115MRP (Volvo B10M/East Lancs)
Imperial, Rainham - RM1641, T379, T837, GOG259W, SAG520W
JWS Travel, Chadwell St Mary (route B) - Transit J58SDB, N322HLA
Kellys, ? - CJH169V
Mediabus, Canning Town - M443, M656
Memories for Tomorrow - A592NWX, H234/43LOM (formerly Kingstons)
P & A Coaches, Ilford - Y11PAT
Redbridge Transport - RDL687/8/9X (newly acquired ex Southern Vectis Olympian/ECW)
Redroute, Gravesend - M49, M761, M820, G905TYR, coach 494WYA
Regal Travel, S London - M1358
Roundabout Buses - T997
Stephensons of Essex - TSO15X
Supreme Travel, Southend - KJW288W, ORJ91W, SND124X, LOA337/80X, LOA426/34X, F254OFP, L507KDA
Trimmer Travel, Dagenham - TPC114X
Trustline - M265, M993, Neoplan F616CWJ (ex NIBS/Ensign)
WK (West Kent?) Hire - M581
Windmill Coaches, Colchester - XPG184T, C721NCD
Unknown - VR XJJ667V, Metrobuses BYX268V, KYO612X, coaches OHE274X, E882YKY

A big thank you to Ross Newman at Ensign bus and Chris Stewart for their invaluable help in compiling this feature.

Don't forget we'll be spending the morning at Ensigns base as part of our fantastic Essex Independents Tour on Saturday 17 May.

For full details and a booking form, please turn to the special section on pages 17-20.

Essex service changes

Changes are split into two sections to avoid some changes appearing more than once. Changes to "regular" services appear first, with changes to school services described in brief at the end. All changes, especially those with a date after 11th February, are subject to change, so please check with the operator or Traveline before travelling.



traveline
public transport info
0870 608 2 608
www.traveline.org.uk

Thursday 2nd January 2003

50 As in Issue 463.

92 As in Issue 465.

Saturday 4th January 2003

372,511 As in Issue 465.

Sunday 5th January 2003

93,94,133 As in Issue 465.

Tuesday 7th January 2003

OC3 As in Issue 465.

Sunday 12th January 2003

7,8,36,73,352 As in Issue 464

5,5,5A,6,16,30,36,45,71C,73 As in Issue 465.

74,74B,76,350,351 As in Issue 465.

Wednesday 15th January 2003

SW1-6 As in Issue 465.

Thursday 16th January 2003

92 (*Hedingham Omnibuses*) (Colchester & Maldon) Timetable change.

Monday 20th January 2003

H1 Change deferred.

Monday 27th January 2003

Dengie Village Link As in Issue 465.

Friday 31st January 2003

34,310B As in Issue 465.

Sunday 9th February 2003

70 (First) (Braintree & Colchester) The Monday to Saturday evening and Sunday timetables will be revised.

75 (First) (Colchester & Maldon) New Sunday timetable.

76A (First) (Colchester & Clacton) New timetable.

76C (First) (West Bergholt & West Mersea) New timetable.

88,A,B,C (First) (Halstead & Colchester) The Monday to Saturday evening and Sunday timetables will be revised.

102 (First) (Colchester & Harwich) This service will operate to a revised route and timetable and will no longer serve Colchester North Station.

Monday 10th February 2003

381,382 As in Issue 465.

10,11 (First) (Great Clacton, Telford Road & Jaywick) Changes to evening timetable.

17,18 (First) (Clacton & Point Clear) Changes to evening timetable.

22A,B (First) (Harwich & Long Meadows) These services will operate to a revised route and timetable and will no longer serve Harwich Quay.

66,A(First) (West Bergholt & Rowhedge) Changes to evening timetable.

67,A,C (First) (West Mersea & Colchester) Changes to evening timetable.

74,B(First) (Colchester & Clacton) Changes to evening timetable.

103,104 (First) (Colchester & Harwich) Changes to evening timetable.

Saturday 15th February 2003

952 (First) (Lakeside & Romford) Timetable change.

Sunday 16th February 2003

3,4 (First) (Harwich & Clacton) Changes to route and terminal points.

Monday 24th February 2003

301 (Stansted Transit) (Saffron Walden & Bishops Stortford) Timetable and routeing change.

306 (Stansted Transit) (Wicken Bonhunt & Bishops Stortford) Timetable and routeing change.

319 (First) (Great Dunmow & Bishops Stortford) Timetable and routeing change.

T10 (*S M Travel*) (Harlow & Church Langley) New route operating every 30 minutes during the middle of the day with other journeys at peak times. Some sources report this change as occurring on Monday 10th March, so we await to see what actually happens.

School Services (all areas)

Monday 13th January 2002

606,619 As Issue 464

620 As in Issue 465.

Wednesday 12th February 2003

200,210 (*Stephensons*) (Bradwell & Southend/Basildon)

Further to Issue 465, service 200 will operate on Mondays & Tuesdays only and 210 on Fridays only.

Monday 24th February 2003

401,513,514,602,607,609,701 As in Issue 465.

604 (*Phoenix*) (Woodham Walter & Ingatestone) Route withdrawn, but it will be covered by revision to services 602 & 607.

608 (*Phoenix*) (North End & Ingatestone) Further to Issue 465, only the timing of the morning journey will be amended.

Monday 31st March 2003

7 (*Avro and Elm Park Coaches*) (Grays & Stanford-Le-Hope) New route.

Essex county council local bus tender results

Essex county council has two main tender rounds each year with changes to local bus services usually taking effect in March/April and August/September. Outside these times there will of course be alterations to routes, sometimes to improve reliability and at other times to provide a service deemed to be socially necessary where an operator has deregistered a complete commercial service or un- remunerative journeys.

When Essex County council contracts are due for renewal or tender they have to be reviewed. Their performance is measured in terms of passenger usage and subsidy per passenger, as contained in the Councils Road Passenger Transport Strategy. This strategy, as agreed by Members, outlines the policies the Council will adopt when considering the support of local bus services. (continued on next page)

When a number of services were reviewed in this round of tenders, It was found that the subsidy per passenger exceeded the level laid down in the policy and / or passenger usage was very low.

The following changes will take place as a consequence of the latest tender results:

- 7, 8A, 10, 17, 18** (Clacton Town Services) Sunday evening services withdrawn from 31st March 2003.
- 73** (Bishops Hall Estate & Warley) The proposed new evening service was not awarded.
- 80** (Town & Country) (Warley & Shenfield) Service withdrawn from 31st March 2003.
- 90** (First) (Maldon & Witham) Awarded to Stephenson's of Essex for 4 years. Frequency increased to hourly and new low floor buses introduced from 31st March 2003.
- 127** (First) (Clacton & Brightlingsea) Reduced to Tuesdays only from 31st March 2003.
- 140** (Town & Country) (Basildon & Chelmsford) Sunday evening journeys will definitely be withdrawn from 30th March 2003. Town & Country have decided to de-register the daytime service as well and ECC are currently deciding whether to offer the daytime service for tender.
- 195** (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Tolleshunt Knights & Maldon) Service withdrawn from 31st March 2003.
- 232** (Arriva) (Basildon & Shotgate) Monday to Saturday evening service withdrawn from 31st March 2003.
- 319** (First) (Bishops Stortford & Dunmow) Awarded to LocalLink for 1 year.
- 323** (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Greenstead Green & Sudbury) Reawarded to Hedingham Omnibus for 1 year.
- 341,342** (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Fuller Street & Witham) Reawarded to Hedingham Omnibus for 1 year.
- 344** (Witham & Chelmsford) Awarded to Hedingham Omnibus for 1 year.
- 391** (Arriva) (Old Harlow & Katherines) Service withdrawn from 31st March 2003.
- 605,606** (Colchester & Walton) No bids received. Will be offered again with a slightly revised timetable.
- 631, 632, 633** (Burnham & Saffron Walden) Summer Sundays only services withdrawn and partly replaced by an all year round Sunday service between Maldon & Braintree at the end of May.
- M2, M4** (Great Braxted & Little Bedew & Maldon) Services withdrawn from 31st March 2003.



Marshall Darts creep into service

Acquired vehicles

1.03 **753-760** R637/40VLX, R642/4/5/50/1/3TLM

Vehicles from this batch were first noted in use at BN on 4th February, including 760 on the 12.

Basildon Overground route branding details are as follows:

1	Brown
5	Red (735-8)
8	Blue (753-8)
12	Green (759/60)
25A/B	Orange
42	Pink
100	Turquoise (655-67)
101	Purple

Vehicles on loan

Driver shortage at Chelmsford have seen loans from BE, CR and HH as well as First Midland Red at Kidderminster and Hereford. The Vario mentioned in EBN465 (S560RWP) has been used to ferry these FMR drivers at the start and end of each week. Although it has been seen in Brentwood on service 73 driver changeover duties, it has not been seen in service. On 6th February sister vehicle 559 was seen in Brentwood.

Allocation changes/Repaints **(period ending 26 January 2003)**

2644 CF-Disp ,2641/7 and 3219 still remain in use at CR, with 2642 at CN

Repaints 1.03 **1550** (to First Group coach livery)

4321 has gained a rear end advert for the Vauxhall Agila.

Late changes: **919/21/2/4/5/6/8** all BN-reserve; 919 temporary use at BN, 921/2/6/8 temporary use at Stansted (for Central Line LUL replacements, but in practice add at least 925). All are to be prepared for repaint, then placed in store at CN.

2646 BE-CF, **2671** CF-BE (assault screen fitted), **2909** CF-BE, **5000** BE-PST

Liverpool Street-Stansted Airport rail replacement contract passes to National Express w.e.f. 9.3.03

Bits 'n' pieces

Noted visiting Chelmsford on 14th January was First Eastern Counties Leyland National 2 trainer G UW503W, and also an unidentified mostly white Dart/East Lancs showing 'Airport'.

Olympian 4320 returned to CR by 9th January following repairs to fire damage.

Dart 2801 was involved in an accident in St Johns Road, Clacton whilst operating service 18 on 29th January. It suffered serious front end damage and is expected to have to go away for repair.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

The following have been recorded on scheduled railway replacement work between Chelmsford and Witham:

12th January: 1401 1427 2667 2676 3072 3112 4012 4015 4016
4019 4026 4035 4304 4305 4311 4315

19th January: 1428 1508 2668 2676 2677 3072 3112 4007 4013
4014 4015 4016 4018 4019 4025 4301 4302 4303 4304 4307
4315 4324

2nd February: 1505 1509 1513 3072 3112 4009 4013 4014 4016
4019 4301 4302 4303 4304 4305 4307 4322

Dart 980 was noted on Park & Ride at Colchester on 25th January. 2823/9/30 have 'P&R' spliced on to their blinds but 909/10/74-82 have had the yellow blank altered to yellow on black 'P&R' wording. 2641 has a Dart blind (ex 724) and 2676 has Tesco P&R vinyls.

Unusual workings

- 2.1.03 HH811 on 3
- 8.1.03 CN4015 on 17/18 all day (usually Dart)
- 10.1.03 BN5005 on service 83 crew transfer in Brentwood (and other occasions)
- 13.1.03 BN711 on 101
BN965 on 12
- 16.1.03 BN918 on 12
- 18.1.03 CR2926 on 107 (16.30 ex Clacton, return 109, 105 CR-Walton), the first reported sighting of non-Plaxton Dart in Walton
- 20.1.03 651 on 88A (15.45 ex CR), then 18.05 ser 70 ex CR and return
2647 on 77 (17.20 ex CR and return)
- 29.1.03 BN713 (860)
CN1511 on 107 (16.30 ex CR) then 109 to CR and 105 to WN
BN4026 (750)
- 30.1.03 Coach 608 being towed in to Basildon depot
- 31.1.03 BN921 (751)
Heavy overnight snowfall on 31st January brought much of the County to a virtual standstill.
- 1.2.03 HH705 on CC
HH717 on 2
HH1406 on 3
- 3.2.03 CF512 on morning 42
CF2906 on 45 (normally Solo)
CF5002 In Chelmsford Bus Station showing '100 blank' (not sure if used on 100)
CF2910 on 42
- 4.2.03 CR2830 on 71 (11.35 ex CR)
CR4304 on 77 (normally Dart M-F)
- 6.2.03 CR980 on 78
CR4014 on morning 67E, replaced on duty by CR977 after stone from a lorry broke an upstairs windscreen
CR4301/2/4 all on 77
- 7.2.03 CR715 on 70

VR watch

3072 worked all day from 06.30 to 23.45 on 2nd February rail replacement work from Witham to Colchester.

3109 continues in use at Harwich, while 3113 returned to service at BN on 21st January. It has seen use on service 502 and as a result also on the 102. It set out on the 502 on 31st January but was taken off the road at Billericay because of snow.

3219 worked 77's on 10th January, and on 13th ran the 16.18 67A to West Mersea. On 20th it was reported on the morning 68 West Bergholt-Highwoods Gilberd School followed by a short Marks Tey-CR 70, while on the evening it was on the 17.50 88B from CR. On 23rd it was seen on the 13.45 and 15.45 CR-Halstead 88 and return. On 4th February it was working 64A's.

Former 3081 (STW25W, having regained its original number in place of BIL4710 on 10th January) left NIBS, Wickford for Ensigns towards the end of January, having served there for just over 12 years (longer than its original lifespan with Eastern National). It is now working with Castle Point Bus Co along with former NIBS SNV930W.



Datafile

Your at a glance guide

First Essex/First Airport fleet allocation

26 January 2003

Airport Buses	112, 432/4/5, 602/8/10, 917/43, 1550/1, 2640/8/9/50/83, 2813-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	101/11, 397/8, 2679
Braintree (BE)	944, 2646/55/6/63/6/75/80, 2803/4/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2910/1, 3072, 3112, 5000
Basildon (BN)	404-6, 655-67, 711-4/34-8, 809, 852-5, 914/5/8-22/4-34/45/65-73/83-6, 1400/4/10/32, 3113, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/13-6/26-8, 1516-20, 2667/8/70-4/6-8, 2901-9, 4007/10/2/24/5/33/4, 5001-4
Clacton (CN)	907/8/12/6, 1510-3, 2665, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	650-4, 715/6, 910/1/74-82, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-5
Hadleigh (HH)	407-10, 701-10/7-21/46-8/50, 811, 913/35-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/11/2/7-24, 2643/5/52/3/7-62, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	909, 2669/81/2, 2802, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401-3, 501-11, 805/6/10
Heritage	2383, 9001
Spare	314, 1429, 2654/64, 3109
Disposal	1408/25/30/1, 2641/2/4/7/51, 3078/92, 3101/3, 3219, 4028
Reserve	100
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles (note that some of these details are by members' observation only)	
	BN: 9028/30, 9308; CF: 9008; CN: 2111;
	CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10; Disp 9029/34

The following buses are fitted with tachographs:

701, 852-4, 1400/4/5/32/3, 1510/1, 2383, 2655/6/77, 2801/9/29/30, 4013/5/6/9/30, 4310/1/5

Depot requirements and vehicle allocations

For operational reasons this information may be subject to change, and is given for guidance only

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL BY TYPE
TRAFFIC REQ'T									
Minibus	6	4	11 (2)	1	0	2	14	5	45
Midibus	13	38	41	12	20	2	40	0	166
SD	0	16	8 (6)	4	12	0	11	0	57
DD	2	2	6	4	14	6	3	0	37
Phoenix DD	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Midi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total req't	22	64	69 (8)	21	46	10	68	15	323
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4
Midibus	1	3	5	1	1	0	3	0	14
SD	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	7
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Phoenix DD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phoenix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
ALLOC									
Minibus	7	4	11 (2)	1	0	3	15	6	49
Midibus	14	41	46	13	21	0	43	0	180
SD	0	17	10 (6)	4	14	0	13	0	64
DD	2	3	7	5	15	7	4	0	43
Phoenix DD	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
TOTALS									TOTAL 356
	24	70	77 (8)	23	50	12	75	17	

(Ref: trip01/03mag)

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
great days out
2003

Saturday
17 May 2003

The Essex
Independents
Tour

A fantastic day out

Only £8.50

Turn over for full details including your booking form!

The Essex Independents Tour

SATURDAY 17 MAY 2003

Special highlights

- ◆ A fully inclusive day out from your chosen pick up point travelling on Ensign's 3 axle MCW Metrobus Double decker 484 F84 UJN - Previously DZ1845, Acquired from China Motor Bus in 2000.
- ◆ We'll start a packed day with an extended visit to Ensign's base at Purfleet giving you the chance to view the extensive stock of buses.
- ◆ We'll also pay a visit to Imperial with their range of ex London vehicles.
- ◆ In the afternoon, we join our Metrobus and head into Basildon town centre for lunch.
- ◆ Then we travel to Nelson's garage in Wickford, where you'll be able to spend an hour looking at their extremely varied fleet including VR's and Scania's.
- ◆ Our final visit will take us to the Maldon depot of Phoenix Student Travel to see their expanding fleet.
- ◆ Around teatime we rejoin our bus for a leisurely drive back to your joining point with happy memories of a tiring but brilliant day out!

All this for only £8.50 per person

Book your seat today—Limited places!

Please select your joining point and departure time



Shenfield Rail Station	08:00
Brentwood High St Stop E	08:05
Gallows Corner Comet	08:15
Newbury Park opposite Stn	08:20
Gants Hill Odeon Cinema	08:25
Redbridge opposite Station	08:30

Our joining points have been specially selected for their convenient access to bus, rail and underground links. We maybe able to arrange additional pick-up's en-route—ask for details.

Please make sure you are at the agreed joining point 10 minutes before departure time .

Return times will be between about 17.30 and 18.30 depending upon traffic conditions.

HOW TO BOOK YOUR SEAT

To book your seat on the Essex Independents tour on Saturday 17 May 2003, please complete the booking form overleaf and enclose a cheque or postal order for the correct amount. If you do not wish to spoil your magazine, a photocopy is acceptable or you can print off a form from our website. www.essexbus.org.uk

All bookings are on a first come, first served basis and you and your party agree to accept the following conditions of travel.

- 1) It is your responsibility to make sure you are at the agreed joining points on time and no refund can be given if you do not travel.
 - 2) Smoking is not permitted on vehicles or other designated areas. Frequent comfort stops will be make for everyone's benefit.
 - 3) You are requested to comply with all instructions given regarding access to vehicles and buildings and punctual departure times.
 - 4) Although it is unlikely, visits to operators and the vehicles used maybe substituted owing to reasons beyond our control.
 - 5) The tour is open to both members and non members of the group and requests for cancellations will only be accepted in writing.
- No refunds will be given if you cancel after 07/05/03.

The Essex Independents Tour 2003

SATURDAY 17 MAY

We've had many requests to repeat this fantastic day out. Last year's tour sold out within 2 weeks , so don't delay , complete and send off your booking form today!

Please reserve me _____ seat(s) at £8.50 each seat on the Essex Independents tour on Saturday 17 May 2003. I agree to the booking conditions and enclose a cheque/postal order for £ _____
(Please make cheques payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group)

Name _____

Address _____

Contact no _____

Joining Point _____

Your signature _____

(Our ref - trip 1/03 mag) office use booking no _____ Seats _____

Please enclose a stamped self addressed envelope to enable us to confirm your booking and joining point.

Send the completed form and remittance to :

Dave Arnold 21 Cedar Chase Heybridge Maldon Essex CM9 9JE

If you need any further information, please email Dave at

david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Additional copies of this booking form can be found on our website at
www.essexbus.org.uk

First Airport

	BUSES	COACHES
TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT		
Minibus	6	3
Midibus	7	0
Coach	6	1
SPARES		
Minibus	1	1
Midibus	1	0
Coach	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATION		
Minibus	7	4
Midibus	8	0
Coach	6	1
TOTAL	21	5

Thank you to this month's contributors including R Appleton, J Clayton, C Cole, D Edwards, M Farmer, S Hughes, P Mansbridge, K Mead, I Ransom, P Rowden, J Salmon, C Sigston, K Smith, P Snell, D Stebbing, R Whitley.

Please keep your contributions coming – You can contact section editor Chris Stewart by post or email. See page 2 for details.



As we reported last month, the historic link with New Writtle street will soon end as First move their admin offices to Duke St. Chris Stewart's photo shows part of the extensive building in Stapleford Close, once home to Eastern National's central Engineering works.

Arriva southern counties

Dengie on the road

It turns out that the 6 Dengie minibuses are in fact owned by Arriva but were funded with Rural Bus Grant money channelled via ECC, who have an option to purchase them should Arriva cease to run the contract

Changes to Grays one way postponed

The Grays town centre road changes reported last month have been deferred until 16 March.

Allocation changes

(CODES CR – Colchester, GY- Grays, SE – Southend)

E3406 P326 HVX Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer B34F **GY –CR**
E3411 P331 HVX Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer B34F **GY- Tunbridge Wells**
E3412 P332 HVX Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer B34F **GY- Tunbridge Wells**
E5394 F574 SMG Leyland Olympian /Alexander B47/32F **SE – GY**
E5396 F576 SMG Leyland Olympian /Alexander B47/32F **SE – GY**
1751 DE52 OKW Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW-SE**
1752 DE52 OKX Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW -SE**
1753 DE52 OKZ Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW-SE**
1754 DE52 OKV Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW-SE**
1755 DE52 OLM Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW- SE**
1756 DE52 OLN Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD **NEW-SE**
E0329 V729 JOO Renault Master -SE – for disposal
E0331 V731 JOO Renault Master -SE- for disposal
E0332 V732 JOO Renault Master -SE – for disposal
E0333 V733 JOO Renault Master -SE – for disposal
E0334 V734 JOO Renault Master -SE – for disposal

(E5394/6 were still at SE in mid -February)

Have you booked your seat yet?

Evening visit to Fourways – Tuesday 13 May

Essex Independents tour – Saturday 17 May

Trainers and Ferries renumbered

At the start of the year, the fleet of crew ferry and trainer buses were renumbered into the Arriva Southern Counties series.

The ferry buses are in the YFB series (FB denotes ferry bus) These vehicles are used carry drivers when a services terminus is some distance away from the garage. to a remote bus service. At Grays ferry buses are used for drivers allocated to the 256/346 TfL contracts and can often be seen parked in the swimming pool car park in Harold Hill or behind Upminster rail stn At Southend they are mainly used to and from Central Bus Station to Short St garage. However, services 13 and 19 pass close by the garage and are used to convey drivers.

The driver trainers are now in the YDT series (DT denotes driver trainer)

E1250 to YFB580 R580 LVL - SE

E1253 to YFB698 P698 PRJ LDV Convoy-SE

E2100 to YFB160 M160 RBH Iveco Turbo Daily/Marshall- GY

E2334 to YFB724 L724 PHK Iveco Turbo Daily/Marshall- GY

E3065 to YDT 965 E965 PME Leyland Lynx -SE

E3066 to YDT 966 E966 PME Leyland Lynx-SE

E3338 to YDT 888 E888 KYW Leyland Lynx -SE

Arriva East Herts & Essex

Vehicles in - From Arriva the Shires 1/03

5111	G281 UMJ Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10793 Leyland DD1010 H47/31F New 9/89
5115	G285 UMJ Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10909 Leyland DD1015 H47/31F New 11/89
5117	G287 UMJ Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10972 Leyland DD1017 H47/31F New 12/89
5119	G289 UMJ Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10991 Leyland DD1024 H47/31F New12/89
5130	F747 XCS Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10989 Alexander RL43/1788/10 H47/32F New 2/89
5132	H202 GRO Leyland Olympian ON2R50C13Z4 ON11778 Leyland DD1146 H47/29F New 3/91
5133	H203 GRO Leyland Olympian ON2R50C13Z4 ON11779 Leyland DD1147 H47/29F New 3/91

Vehicles out

2091 (M151 RBH): Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)

2233 (M583 SSX), 2333 (L723 PHK), 2336 (L722 OVX): Gale, Harlow (dealer)

2339-41/5/8 (M719-21/5/8 UTW): Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) in 1/03

5251 (KYV 681X), 5252 (KYO 612X), 5253 B283 WUL), 5255 (B155 WUL), 5257 (KYV 771X), 5348 (KYV 786X), 5363 (BYX 233V), 5367 (GYE 508W), 5370 (A988 SYF), 5376 (MUH 286X): All to Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) 1/03

5260 (BYX 290V): Eastonways, Ramsgate 1/03 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)

Metrobuses 5259 (B289 WUL) & 5263 (BYX 230V) remain at Harlow and Stevenage respectively for parts recovery.

Allocation changes

1/03: 5111/5/7/9/30/2/3. WE.

In Brief...

Remaining Metrobuses have now all been withdrawn from active service, their places at Ware being undertaken by Leyland Olympians transferred from Watford following that depot's receipt of new DAF DB250s.

Harlow depot, having prepared the Olympians for service, used at least 5111/5 on local service 2 - the Staple Tye Circular (11 January) before sending them on to Ware.

Next month in your **ESSEX BUS NEWS** ____

- Rare bus found in Ongar – Read the story of this fascinating find.
- Where are they now – Dave Arnold round up the latest locations of former First Essex buses.
- Sea Change in Southend – Jeff Clayton looks at the dramatic change to buses since the mid nineties.

Arriva Data File

Vehicle requirements from February 2003

Garage	M-F peaks	M-F off peak	Sat	Sun
Colchester (Bus)	36AM 35PM	28 (29 W)	29	3
Coach	4	0	0	0
Grays	30AM 29PM (b)	26	26	12
Southend	57AM 58PM(a)	50 (51 W/T)	51	19
Dengie	Mon-Sat 5 with PM vehicle swap)			

Key – (a) 58 AM 59 PM on non college days (b) 29AM 28PM on non sch days

W –Wednesday T – Thursday

The Grays allocation inc. TfL contracts route 256 M-F peaks 10 Cadets , 9 off peak, Sat 9 Cadets, Sun 5 Cadets (pvr 3- middle/late meal relief taken at garage)

Route 346 Mon-Sat 2 Cadets

Allocations –Southend (SE)

Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288	DD16	
Dennis Trident	E5434	E5435	E5436	E5437	E5438
	E5439	E5441	E5442	E5443	E5445
	E5446	E5547	E5548	E5549	E5451
Leyland Olymplan	E5392	E5393T	E5395		
	E5399	E5402	E5405T		
Volvo Olymplan	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Dennis Dart SLF	E3218	E3220	E3221	E3222	E3223
	E3224	E3225	E3226	E3391	E3392
	E3393	E3394	E3395	E3396	E3397
Dennis Lance SLF	E3379	E3381	E3382	E3383	E3384
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS007	DS008	DS009
	DS014	E3092	E3349	E3350	E3370
	E3373	E3404			
Mercedes 709*/810	E2110T*	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193
Mercedes Sprinter	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755
	1756				
Coach	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	YDT965	YDT966	YDT888		
Shuttles	YFB580	YFB698			

Colchester (CR)

Leyland Olympian	<u>E5389T</u>	<u>E5397T</u>	<u>E5398T</u>		
	E5403	E5404T	<u>E5407T</u>	<u>E5408T</u>	<u>E5409T</u>
Volvo D10M	613	614	617		
DAF SB220	<u>E4335</u>	<u>E4336</u>	<u>E4337</u>	<u>E4339</u>	
Dennis Dart SLF	<u>E3419</u>	<u>E3420</u>	<u>E3422</u>	<u>E3430T</u>	
Leyland Lynx	<u>E3341</u>	<u>E3342</u>	<u>E3343</u>	<u>E3346</u>	<u>E3347</u>
Volvo B6	<u>E3241</u>	<u>E3245</u>	<u>E3246</u>		
Dennis Dart	DS015	DS020	DS021	DS023	
	DS024	E3168	E3406		
Mercedes 711	<u>E2388</u>	<u>E2391</u>	<u>E2392</u>		
Mercedes 810	<u>E2174</u>	<u>E2243</u>	<u>E2372</u>	<u>E2382</u>	<u>E2383</u>
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	PVR 4		Allocation	4	
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4305T	2196	Tralner	Lynx	YDT 47

Grays (GY)

MCW Metrobus	M615				
Leyland Olympian	E5394	E5396			
DAF SB120	E4500	E4501	E4502	E4503	E4504
	E4505	E4506	E4507	E4508	E4509
	E4510	E4511	E4512	E4513	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3387	E3388	E3389	E3390	E3400
	E3401	E3402	E3403	E3421	E3423
	E3424	E3425	E3426	E3427	E3428
	E3429	E3431			
Dennis Dart	E3405	E3406	E3407		
Ferry Bus 609	YFB58	YFB86	YFB160	YFB724	

Key – T- Vehicle fitted with tachograph, Underlined – Fitted with GPS

All information is subject to change and given for guidance only.

Compiled by Sean Menzies with invaluable help from Arriva Southern Counties.

Other operators

ABACUS TRAVEL CRAYS HILL MXI 675 (ex E305 OMG) Volvo/Plaxton is in (by 12.02)

AIRLINKS STANSTED The Omnibus Society report that the initial allocation at the Start Hill base comprised Leyland Olympian/Northern Counties 91/2 (R91/2 GTM), Volvo B10M/Plaxton 307/15 (M307/8 BAV), 309-12 (N309-12 VAV), 313/4 (P313/4 CVE) and 315 (P315 DVE) plus Scania/Plaxton S17-19 (M717-9 KPD). As this allocation is likely to change frequently, we will not be publishing changes in EBN.

A&M COURIERS BENFLEET Further details on Toyota/Caetano JUI 9570 is that it was new as K770 JRA and came from Dunn-Line, Nottingham. MCW Metrorider D658 NNE is reported as having been withdrawn, some while ago.

AMBER RAYLEIGH A further DAF/Van Hool acquired from Weaver, Newbury is H524 YCX (in 09.02). DAF/Plaxton SJI 4433 (BYB 704X) is now unlicensed (by 12.02). Bristol VR MFA 719V has been withdrawn (by 08.02).

ANITAS STANSTED K3 ERN is a new Volvo B12M/Caetano Enigma - registered 29.11.02 (taxed from 1.12.02)

A.P.T. RAYLEIGH JIL 3959 (ex D814 PNY) DAF/Van Hool is in (by 12.02) ex Hillier/Thomas, Foxham, Wilts. JUI 4996 (ex E712 FTY, PIL 2168, E712 FTY) Leyland Tiger/Duple is in (by 12.02) ex Ward, Alresford. Leyland Leopard/Duple KRS 532V (ex CSU 922, HAS 98V) is currently unlicensed. Bova Futura R980 GUB has been reregistered 827 APT.

A Bova Futura is currently advertised for sale - thought to be F212TAN from poor quality photograph in trade press.

Leyland Tiger/Alexander A39 XHE was sold to Kneil Coaches, Fraserburgh (08.02).

B.J.S. GT.WAKERING Toyota/Caetano BJS 327Y (ex F697 PAY) has gone to APT, Rayleigh (by 12.02)

BLUE TRIANGLE, RAINHAM Four Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton have been obtained for London Buses route 372 (Hornchurch to Lakeside via Rainham, Wennington and Aveley), they are EJ52 WXC/D/E/F

BRENTWOOD COACHES Volvo/Plaxton HIL 9272 (ex TFP 3X) is back in service - without fleet no. (was no. 9)

BROWNS OF BASILDON MCW Metrobus GOG 95W is kept at Saddlers Hall Farm, Bowers Gifford. This is an additional o.c. to 'The Granary', Crays Hill.

BROWRING WESTCLIFF Acquired (by 11.01) but not reported before is LDV Convoy R643 AEG. It replaces Nissan Urvan F400 HJO.

CEDRICS WIVENHOE Acquired from Armchair, Brentford are Volvo Olympians H547/8 GKX. Also acquired from Go Northern is Leyland Olympian/ECW C669 LJR.

CEEFA COACHES BASILDON Acquired is Fiat/Lorraine J833 WDC, in from an unknown owner (by 10.02). A Setra has just been acquired from West Kingsdown Coaches, a second is also expected. Details when known.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS R505 SCH Iveco/Ind is in (12.02) ex McLeans, Witney, Oxon.

EY51 BVU is a Ford Transit Tourneo and has fleet no. 21.

New Ford Transit/Stanford (new 12.02) are:- EA52 OGX - fleet no. 52, EF52 AKZ - fleet no. 38 EF52 AOD - fleet no. 55, EF52 KPL - fleet no. 31 and EF52 KPX - fleet no. 49

LDV Convoy R956 RFP no longer has a fleet no. (was 90) (12.02)

Vauxhall Movano Y186 HUY is thought to have been a dealer demonstrator/loan vehicle - it is not here now.

EDS MINIBUS HIRE EAST TILBURY We understand that Peugeot Boxer N846 EBW was written off (by 11.02). Toyota/Caetano B3 EDS (ex C352 LVV) has been reregistered (we think to its original number) (by 6.02) and sold (by 12.02). It is currently parked, without front number plate, between Dock Road and Melbourne Road, Tilbury, Essex.

G442 WFC MAN/Caetano has been purchased (by 6.02) ex Wilby, Hibaldstow, Lincs. and reregistered to B3 EDS (6.02). P590 XBW LDV Convoy is in (by 12.02) ex Grieve, Abingdon, Oxon. The operating centre is now at the former Bata factory, Princess Margaret Road, East Tilbury in addition to at the registered address.

FOURWAYS HIGHWOOD H691 PTW is ex 90-D-1049 Dublin Bus RH49 (1.03)

H699 PTW is ex 90-D-1016 Dublin Bus RH16 (1.03). Both are Leyland Olympian/Alexander Belfast and now H??/??F (They were H47/27D with Dublin Bus)

FREELANCE COACH TRAVEL SOUTHEND Sold some time ago were RWB 483X a Bedford VAS/Plaxton and A39 HDU a Ford Transit/Dormobile.

GARDNER TRAVEL HIGHWOOD Recently acquired is H39 VNH a MAN/Jonckhree.

HOWARD HALSTEAD This operator is now quoting the address 1 Woolpit Downs, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5EL as the registered address.

Leyland Tiger C330 PEW appears to have been re-acquired by Mr. Howard from the auction. It is back at his operating centre but without discs.

Mercedes 811D/Robin Hood WIB 7493 (ex E90 JHG) is unlicensed (by 12.02)

JWS TRAVEL An unidentified Metrobus is reported to have been acquired.
KINGSTON RETTENDON According to evidence given at the public inquiry on 13.12.02, the current operational fleet consists of the following 5 vehicles:-

KYV 791X MCW Metrobus, H234/43 LOM Scania/Alexander ex West Midlands 3234/43 - (in by 11.02), G282 OHE Volvo/Plaxton ex Hill, Wolverhampton, West Midlands via Evobus (dealer) - (in by 12.02) and S139 RWA Mercedes Benz 0404/Hispano ex Turner, Lye, West Midlands via Evobus (dealer) - (in by 12.02).

Mercedes Benz 609D/AVB F752EVG is still unlicensed, as is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton SIB 9492 (ex A149EPA), the latter is currently stored at Phoenix, Maldon.

Scania/Plaxton A8 FRX (ex H528 DVM) plus Scania/Berkhof K442BMO (ex A17HLC, K442BMO) and M683LRU have all gone (by 12.02)

However, there are other vehicles in the yard, one is a Toyota/Caetano - these may be unlicensed or possibly belong to others.

This operator ceased after 25.1.03. when its licence was revoked.

LB MINICOACHE CANVEY RDZ 1359 (F372 YVP) a DAF 400 went to TLS Commercial Services, Rochford. (BY 07.01).

LINKFAST BOWERS GIFFORD WYW39T is another MCW Metrobus (in by 1.03)

LOCALINK FARNHAM A second Lynx is F273 AWW this was ex Coakley, Motherwell (by 10.02) . This and E266 WUB are normally found on services 210/410 (Harlow - Sawbridgeworth/Bishops Stortford). Olympians TJT 195/6X carry overall adverts for radio station Ten17 and are normally found on Harlow town service 1 (Old Harlow - Bus Station)

Leyland National 2 BHY 996V is being used for spares.

MANN'S BASILDON S18 MJM a Ford Transit is here (by 12.02) - unmarked.

MASTER TRAVEL HERONGATE EGS 154T Bedford VAS/Duple formerly operated here, is dumped at Burnt Mills Road, Basildon (no tax or O.disc - 12.02)

MAYHEM EVENTS ABRIDGE This 'operator' is really a Paintball Games organisation. M615 DGH LDV 400 was seen 12.02 at the operating centre (not sure if it had a disc or if it is with this operator.)

MCFEETERS ORSETT Bedford YMT/Duple HAL 241V is currently (12.02) dumped in a field at Baker Street, Orsett, Essex with Bedford YNT/Duple RSU883 of Avro Coaches).

MIKES COACHES CRAYS HILL Mercedes 811D/Optare J10 CHR was sold to Horlick and Harris, Ross (by 08.02)

N.C.S. NEWPORT S848 LER LDV Convoy is in (by 12.02) ex Raynham, Newport. M832 AHJ Renault Traffic is in (by 12.02) (presumed ex M.o.D. and reregistered). J447 NOD VW LT55 is in (by 12.02)

NEWPORTS LAYER MARNEY L69 LPU Nissan Serena is in use on a PSV disc (was previously on a taxi plate).

NIBS SHOTGATE Recently acquired double deckers are in a revised livery of red below the lower deck windows, yellow between decks and a red roof. DAF/Ikarus J51 GCX has been reregistered BIL 4710. Bristol VR/ECW BIL 4710 was reregistered back to STW 25W and has been sold to Ensigns, Purfleet.

Further ex West Midlands Scania/Alexanders are H226/29/41 LOM.

P&M SHOTGATE F367 BUA Mercedes Benz/Optare is in (by 11.02)

RAYNHAM NEWPORT J338 VSC Fiat/AMC despite being reported sold some while ago, is still here (but appears to be out of use)

RONDA COACHES ROCHFORD Acquired from Advance, Hockley is Ford Transit/Dormobile G437 VFE (by 10.01). From Central London Dial A Ride comes G659 WHV (by 08.02) a Mededes 308D/Pilcher Greene and from an unknown source Talbot Express K451 TKR.

SAINT CLOUD ROCHFORD Is the trading now being used by Saint Cloud, Rochford. Leyland Tiger/Plaxton C211 PPE is out of use, it appears to have no nearside or rear windows.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS GT WAKERING Ford Transit/Dormobile D704 PEV is unlicensed (by 11.02). Further vehicles recently reported are Ford Transits G129 CAD and L582 EPC, both are thought to have been here for years!

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Newer Volvo/Plaxton coaches obtained for London services are K879 EAW, ex Tims Travel, Sheerness and from Skills, Nottingham N144 ARC, N45 ARC and N746 BAU. These will replace G/H registration coaches.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton, ex Arriva Southend, H566MPD (orig H843AHS) has now been reregistered A16SOE and is in a blue overall advert livery for Essex FM.

STORT VALLEY The PSV Circle report the arrival of ex Reading Leyland Titan/Park Royal YJB 68T (by 08.02), this may well be a loan from Thames Bus, Cobham. Leyland Tiger/Plaxton URH 657 (BRY 1Y) is still here and was not sold to Localink.

Essex Independents Tour 2003

Ensign- Imperial- NIBS-Phoenix Plus Basildon town centre

Book your place now

SUPREME COACHES COLCHESTER Leyland National 2 MSO 10W has arrived from an unknown source (by 09.02) for spares. Futher MCW Metrobuses in stock are GYE 440W ex Kingstons, Rettendon (by 07.02) and former London United B184 WUL and C384 BUV (in by 08.02). Vehicles withdrawn and not previously reported here, are Leyland National PTD 671S, Leyland Fleetline/Roe CWU 139T and MCW Metrobus KJW 288W. The remains of MCW Metrobus BYX 272V went to Southend Car Breakers (04.02).

THORNS OF RAYLEIGH The operating centre is currently (by 11.02) Fairways Garden Centre, Hullbridge Road, Rayleigh.

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS COLCHESTER This organisation operates tours for Americans to visit antique auctions around the country and is quoting an address of P.O.Box 2608, Stratford St.Mary, Colchester, CO7 6WR (actually in Suffolk). The operating centre moved to Wheelers Yard, Putticks Lane, East Bergholt, Colchester CO7 6XU (also in Suffolk) and has moved again to Unit 1, Brantham Mill Industrial Estate, Bergholt Road, Brantham, Manningtree, Essex CO11 1QT (again just in Suffolk). Mercedes Benz/Robin Hood P571HKM is used for these tours.

TOMS MINICOACHES SOUTHEAD Ford Transit G378 BEV arrived from Essex County Council (by 05.02)

TOWN & COUNTRY GRAYS Leyland Olympian C815 BYY has fleet no. 209. MCW Metrorider J961 JNL went to Hardwick, Carlton for scrap (by 09.02)

TURNERS WICKHAM ST.PAUL ODJ 588W Ford/Duple is at the operating centre and is assumed owned. (This was at one time with Whent, Burnham-on-Crouch)

WALDEN TRAVEL (FOUR COUNTIES BUSES) SAFFRON WALDEN Acquired and used on ECC tendered services is Mercedes Vario/Plaxton W577 JVV.

WALKER STANFORD-LE-HOPE Ford Transit G724 RGA is back in service (by 12.02)

WINDMILL GREAT BROMLEY Acquired from Go Northern is Leyland Olympian/ECW C667 LJR.

COASTAL RED FACT FILE

A red hot read - order your copy today

Turn to page 36

Miscellaneous operators

Longtail Carriage Co. This name appears on a pair of Renault Masters which are at Poplars Lodge, Baker Street, Orsett, Essex. One is CV02 KFZ. We cannot find any reference to this operator except in Yellow Pages.

The following were seen in various yards on Purdeys Industrial Estate, Rochford (11.02):-

OHV 714Y Leyland Titan/Leyland (Stagecoach livery) - thought to be with Bar 'N' Bus.

OJD 866R Leyland National

G581 YTW Ford Transit/Dormobile

OHP 9W Ford/Plaxton

EUI 4415 (ex BDV 862Y) Volvo/Berkhof seen 12.02 parked at Patch Park, Abridge, ex McGregor, Plumstead, SE18 - tax expired 11.02 - owner unknown.

TOF 713S Leyland National is currently (12.02) neatly parked at the rear of flats in Alexandra Close, Chadwell St. Mary, Essex. Many of the windows are smashed and it would appear to be abandoned. It still has the legal lettering of Brands, Guildford, Surrey

D148 BLN Dodge/? converted to a caravan, seen parked at premises in Nevendon Road, Wickford (11.02)

E928 JAR is a Renault/Wadham Stringer Vanguard converted to a caravan. Seen in Hillcrest Road, Horndon-on-the Hill, Essex 12.02 - tax disc was issued 21.11.02 - this is almost certainly an ex M.o.D. vehicle which has been reregistered.

L743GYV LDAF 200 (probably ex Royal Mail) seen 2.12.02 in public car park outside Chelmsford auction. Probably in the hands of a dealer.

ESSEX - NON-PSV OPERATORS

BROOKER RACING (Shaun Brooker & Martyn Brooker) The Volvo/Duple converted to a transporter and now carrying registration JJI 769 (by 6.02) is thought to be the former FHS 768X last with Amber, Rayleigh, Essex.

STERLING / 5 STAR TRAINING, Basildon SAZ 2350 (ex TOB 614Y) Bedford YNT/Plaxton is here ex Amber, Rayleigh (by 12.02)

BRENTWOOD SCHOOL B672 FHE Dodge/Duple (has Dominant I front-end at least) is here and is parked and visible from Ingrave Road.

SOUTHEND COUNCIL EN02 LYW Ford Transit/Ford-Eurm seen 11.02

THURROCK COUNCIL EX51 XCM Iveco/Iveco-? is here (seen 12.02)

Ensign dealer report

our monthly guide to the latest vehicle movements

Vehicles in

From Go-ahead North East Olympians C667LJR,C669LJR.
 Metrobuses WYW55T,UTN508Y,UTN510Y,A624BCN,C757OCN,GYE381W,BYX153V.
 From Travel West Midlands Scania H212LOM,H221LOM.
 From Arriva Yorkshire Olympians A578NWX,A592NWX,CWR520Y,EWX532Y,
 EWX534Y.
 From Travel West Midlands. Scania H218/225/236/237LOM
 From Arriva the Shires. Olympians MUH286X,EWX550Y.
 Metrobuses A988SYF,KYV681X,KYV771X,GYE508W.
 From London Central. T1014 (PM on 11/02)
 From Ipswich Buses. Dennis Falcons G120/21/22VDX

Vehicles out

Olympian C669LJR Cedrics Coaches, Wivenhoe.
 Olympian C667LJR Windmill Coaches, Boreham.
 Metrobuses GYE381W,BYX153V Halifax Joint Committee.
 M945,M1226 Scotguide, Glasgow (to be converted to part open toppers)
 Metrorider J582CUB Red Route Buses, Northfleet.
 Bristol FS 869NHT Mr Martin Curtis, Bath.
 Scania H241LOM Nelsons, Wickford.
 DR 24 Hams, Flimwell.
 M1155 Mr Gary Harper , Oxford
 Olympian 90-D-1018 Isle of Man Transport.
 Olympian 90-D-1013 Tappins Coaches, Oxford(open top)
 Metrobus C757OCN Imperial, Rainham.
 Bristol VR SNV930W Linkfast, Benfleet.
 T395 Delta force paintball, Solihull.
 National 2's LSD732W,USJ491Y Rainham Metals for scrap.
 M786 Telepages UK Ltd, Newport for non PSV use.
 Metrobus A624BCN Johns School of Motoring, Hackney.
 Neoplan F616CWJ Trustline, Harlow.
 Metrobus KYO612X Amber-Lee,Chatham.
 Olympian A592NWX Scenic Travel, Chelmsford.
 Metrobus BYX233V Trustline, Harlow.
 M1071 Red Route, Northfleet,for spares.
 Scania H211/212/221LOM Ausden Clarke, Leicester.
 RM1864 Londag ltd, Zurich.
 M508 Transferred to Stratford Blue.
 Olympians CWR520Y,A578NWX,EWX550Y Geoff Amos, Daventry
 Bristol VR STW25W Linkfast, Benfleet.
 M619 and L116 PVS for scrap.
 Olympian C663LJR Clockwork Travel, Gillingham.
 M1283 Mr David Wilkinson, Staines.
 WYW55T,UTN510Y,BYX250V,BYX268V,G122VDX all temporarily drafted into the Ensign fleet for
 the duration of the Central Line replacement.

Visit www.ensiqnbus.com for all the latest stock for sale.

Essex by bus

Rugg's sunday dart about

JOHN RUGG'S SUNDAY ROVER MARATHON ON 20 OCTOBER 2002 - ONLY £3 ALL DAY (SENIOR CITIZEN'S TICKET) WITH DENNIS! AND SOME VERY TIGHT CONNECTIONS ESPECIALLY AT BRAINTREE

Depart	Arrive	Service	Vehicle (all Dennis)	Number of passengers
Basildon (Bus Station) 08.40	Lakeside (Bus Station) 09.30	Arriva 100	3429 P429HVX Dart SLF/Plaxton	20
Lakeside (Bus Station) 09.50	Romford (Rail Station) 10.28	Arriva 370	3423 P423HVX Dart SLF/Plaxton	12
Romford (Rail Station) 10.33 (5 mins late)	Chelmsford (Bus Stn) 11.25 (5 late)	First 351	2910 M228VWW Dart/Alexander	12
Chelmsford (Bus Station) 11.32	Braintree (Bus Park) 12.07 (5 late)	First 352	2821 L821OPU Dart/Plaxton	16
Braintree (Bus Park) 12.13 (1 min early)	Colchester (Bus Stn) 12.55 (5 early)	First 70	1508 P508MNO Lance/N Counties	12
Colchester (Bus Station) 13.05	Maldon (Swan Hotel) 13.54	First 75	1507 P507MNO Lance/N Counties	15
Maldon (Swan Hotel) 14.19	Maylandsea (P.O.) 14.35	Arriva 31	3226 T826NMJ Dart SLF/Plaxton	2
Maylandsea (P.O.) 14.38 (5 late)	Chelmsford (Baddow Rd) 15.24 (10 late)	Arriva 31	3226 T826NMJ Dart SLF/Plaxton	12
Chelmsford (Baddow Road) 15.40	Southend (Bus Station) 16.47	First 11A	958 N958CPU Dart/Plaxton	17
Southend (Bus Station) 16.55	Basildon (Bus Station) 17.45	First 2	946 N946CPU Dart/Plaxton	28
Average 14 passengers per journey				TOTAL 146

Since John completed his trip there has been a number of timetable changes to improve reliability and some of the connections may no longer be possible.

Members free advert

Member Andrew Halford from Loughton is having a spring clean and is looking for a good home for the following magazines.

The London Bus TLB 281 Jan 88 to TLB 460 Dec 02

Buses April 87 to Dec 02

Essex Bus News Jan 94 to Dec 02

London Bus Magazine Issue 62 Autumn 87 to issue 94 Winter 95.

If you're interested then please phone Andrew on 07889 260025



MCW Metrobus BYX 299V – New to London Buses, this vehicle is fitted out with computers and televisions as it tours Essex and beyond to advertise the internet recruitment service, Jobserve.



Mercedes Benz Vario/Plaxton Beaver 2 560 S560 RWP – If you're wondering why this vehicle is in Essex, then turn to page 12 to find out.

COASTAL RED FACT FILE

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