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Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor.

Photos (prints, slides or digital images - in JPG format) are also always welcome - please send to David Harman.

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

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

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

PHOTOS/PUBLICATIONS

- Please note: all orders for Publications/ photos should be sent to the Chairman, Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex. IG3 8LT

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Cover: 46827 (N827 APU) stands on the forecourt of now-closed Braintree depot.

Chris Stewart

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford, (adjacent to Rochford station). 19.30 onwards. Refreshments available. All members and guests are welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please.

Spring 2005 programme:

- ▶ **Tuesday April 12** - Members slides - please bring along some from your collection (old or new) to show.

COLCHESTER 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. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please.

Spring / Summer 2005 programme:

- ▶ **Friday 8 April** - slide show by Alan Osborne - "Malta over the years"
- ▶ **Friday 13 May** - tba
- ▶ **Friday 10 June** - tba

EVENTS

- ▶ **Sunday 3 April** - Cobham Bus Museum Open Day & Wisley Gathering

TOUR

- ▶ **Sunday 8 May** ~ Tour to mark the 21st anniversary of the start of the X21 commuter variant of the famous Southend X1. X21 (Shoebury to London) started on May 9, 1983 (and yes, I photographed the first departure!).

The tour will use Arriva Southend 5404, aka Southend Transport 264 (Olympian/NCME DP decker), currently being repainted (but not into ST yellow coach livery, unfortunately!). The plan is to run the full X21 to Hyde Park Corner, then a break in Victoria, then a full rounder on the old Culturebus 614 before another break and fast run back to the Southend area.

Pick ups in the Southend area and along the line of the X21 route; starting from Shoebury c. 0750. Fare around £7.50 depending on numbers. Bookings to

richard@signal-training.com

or by post to P.O. Box 5657, Southend on Sea, SS1 3WT

Richard Delahoy

From the Chairman ...

I am pleased to announce that, subject to election at the A.G.M., the following members have volunteered to take on the two jobs rendered vacant by the death of Peter Snell:

Owen Woodliffe (Sales Officer) will take over the operation of the Group sales stand that will go to rallies and stands to sell books, timetables and general photographs (B&W and colour) and slides from the Group stock.

Lyn Watson (Photographic Officer) will be providing a POSTAL only service supplying lists of historical B&W prints from the Group negative collection.

Alan Osborne

Essex Service Changes

Arriva London North East

7-Mar-05 20 Daily

Walthamstow Central Station - Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive. REVISED TIMETABLE. This service is operated under contract to Transport for London.

Arriva Southend

21-Feb-05 60 M-F

Southend Bus Station - Canewden, Loftmans Corner
TEMPORARY DIVERSION. The closure of part of Sutton Road means buses will divert via Eastern Avenue, Priory Crescent, Warners Bridge to the Ann Boleyn and pick up the normal line of route.

21-Feb-05 377 M-S

Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station
REVISED ROUTE and timetable. This service is now extended in Tilbury to cover Calcutta Road and Dock Road. Chadwell St Mary, Brentwood Road Estate - Lakeside Bus Station. REVISED TIMETABLE with one late evening journey extended beyond Chadwell St Mary to Tilbury over the 377 route.

1-Apr-05 6 M-S

Southend Bus Station - Eastwood, Kent Elms
SERVICE WITHDRAWN

1-Apr-05 19A Daily

Southend Bus Station - Belfairs, Belgrave Road
SERVICE WITHDRAWN

1-Apr-05 29 Daily

Southend Bus Station - Belfairs, Belgrave Road
REVISED TIMETABLE with all evening journeys withdrawn.

1 April changes following withdrawal of Southend Council financial support. Last day of operation: 31 March (Thursday).

Docklands Buses

26-Feb-05 167 Daily

Ilford, High Road - Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive
REVISED TIMETABLE with M-S frequency reduced from x15 to x20 (evenings x30). This service is operated under contract to Transport for London.

26-Feb-05 549 M-S

Loughton Station - South Woodford Station
CHANGE of OPERATOR from Arriva the Shires and Essex. Frequency reduced from x30 to hourly with late evening journeys withdrawn. This service is operated under contract to Transport for London.

First

7-Mar-05 24 M-S

Southchurch, Newington Avenue - Rawreth, Carpenters Arms. REVISED TIMETABLE with all journeys now re-numbered 24.

11-Mar-05 83 M-F

Brentwood, High Street - Brentwood, Hornbeam Close
SERVICE WITHDRAWN and replaced by new service 80.

12-Mar-05 750 M-S

Basildon Bus Station - Romford Rail Station
SERVICE WITHDRAWN partly replaced with the diversion of service 101/751 in Basildon but the section via Herongate remaining uncovered.

13-Mar-05 44 TTh

Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Chignall Estate, Trent Road
SERVICE WITHDRAWN; replaced by *Stephensons*.

13-Mar-05 351 Daily

Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Romford Rail Station
REVISED ROUTE and timetable reduced to hourly with all

journeys now re-routed in Shenfield via Oliver Road and Shenfield Rail Station. The Sunday service is operated under contract to ECC.

14-Mar-05	80	M-S	Shenfield Station - Brentwood Station NEW SERVICE, partly replacing service 83, via Hanging Hill Lane and Norman Crescent with the introduction of some Saturday journeys.
14-Mar-05	101	M-S	Wickford Rail Station - Basildon Hospital REVISIED ROUTE and timetable to now serve Ballards Walk and Great Knightleys in Basildon replacing that section of withdrawn route 750. Evening journeys operated under contract to ECC.
14-Mar-05	551	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Romford Rail Station REVISED ROUTE and timetable and number change from 751. Operates Romford, Brentwood, Shenfield via Hanging Hill Lane, Billericay, Laindon and Basildon
14-Mar-05	851	SDO	Gallows Corner - Shenfield School. NEW SERVICE from Gallows Corner, Straight Road, Hilldene Avenue, Gooshays drive, Petersfield Avenue, Colchester Road, London Road, Brentwood to Shenfield School. One journey am with two return journeys - 1539 from Shenfield Schhol and 1541 from Brentwood, High Street.
1-Apr-05	17	M-S	Leigh Rail Station - Sutton Cemetery SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	17C	M-S	Southend Bus Station - Eastwood Rise SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	23	M-S	Leigh Rail Station - Belfairs, Belgrave Road SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	23A	M-S	Leigh Rail Station - Eastwood Rise, Oakwood SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	23B	M-F	Belfairs, Belgrave Road - Leigh Rail Station SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	61	M-F	Southend Bus Station - Temple Farm SERVICE WITHDRAWN.
1-Apr-05	64	Su	Southend Bus Station - Newington Avenue (circular) SERVICE WITHDRAWN
1-Apr-05	65	Su	Southend Bus Station - Newington Avenue (circular) SERVICE WITHDRAWN
1-Apr-05	69	M-F	Southend Bus Station - Temple Farm REVISED TIMETABLE.
4-Apr-05	127	T	<i>1 April changes following withdrawal of Southend Council financial support. Last day of operation: 31 March (Thursday).</i> Brightlingsea, Regent Road - Clacton, Station Road (NatWest Bank) SERVICE WITHDRAWN

Hedingham Omnibuses

18-Jul-00	5	Th	Sudbury Bus Station - Sible Hedingham, The Swan ROUTE CORRECTION - journeys operate via Bulmer Road, Kitchen Hill and Finch Hill and not via A131 Ballingdon Hill to Bulmer Tye and then Bulmer Village and Smeethen Hall Lane.
8-Nov-04		M-S	Sible Hedingham, Sugar Loaves - Castle Hedingham, Bell. HISTORICAL NOTE - for about 4 weeks a shuttle service was operated to cover the closure of Queen Street in Castle

Hedingham for road works. An hourly service was provided, via Yeldham Road, Nunnery Street, Bayley Street to St James's Street (where the buses turned).

Imperial Bus			
31-Jan-05	H1	M-S	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station TIMETABLE CORRECTION. The Saturday departures from Loughton are at 07:35, 10:45, 13:45, and 16:45. the departures from Harlow are at 09:05, 12:05, 15:05, and 18:05.
7-Mar-05	320	M-S	Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
National Express			
7-Feb-05	717	Daily	Cambridge, Drummer Street Bus Station - Gatwick Airport, South Terminal. REVISED TIMETABLE and operation now running between Cambridge and Gatwick only with just one journey extended through to Brighton.
7-Feb-05	727	Daily	Norwich, University of East Anglia - Gatwick Airport, South Terminal. REVISED TIMETABLE
7-Feb-05	797	Daily	Cambridge, Drummer Street Bus Station - Gatwick Airport, South Terminal. REVISED TIMETABLE and revised to operate between Cambridge and Gatwick with just two night journeys starting from Brighton.
7-Mar-05	305	Daily	Liverpool Coach Station, Norton Street - Southend, Central Bus Station. REVISED TIMETABLE
7-Mar-05	481	Daily	Felixstowe Bus Station - London, Victoria Coach Station. REVISED TIMETABLE
7-Mar-05	484	Daily	Walton, Church - London, Victoria Coach Station. REVISED TIMETABLE
7-Mar-05	777	Daily	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Birmingham, Digbeth Coach Station. REVISED TIMETABLE. The 01:00 from Birmingham will operate 30 minutes earlier, now departing at 00:30.
NIBS			
21-Feb-05	222	M-F	Shotgate, Post Office - Billericay Rail Station TEMPORARY TIMETABLE introduced during a projected 10 week programme of roadworks in Southend Road, Wickford.
Stephensons			
21-Feb-05	60	M-S	Southend Bus Station - Canewden, Loftmans Corner TEMPORARY DIVERSION The temporary closure of part of Sutton Road means buses will divert via Eastern Avenue, Priory Crescent, Warners Bridge to the Ann Boleyn and pick up the normal line of route. Some Saturday journeys will also serve Sutton Cemetery.
21-Feb-05	560	SDO	St Thomas More School - Canewden, Loftmans Corner TEMPORARY DIVERSION, The temporary closure of part of Sutton Road means buses will divert via Rose Inn to Pudeys Way, picking up normal line of route and will not be serving Temple Farm or Stock Road.
15-Mar-05	44	TTh	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Chignall Estate, Trent Road CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First</i> .

David Tomlin

Essex Bus Publicity Review

The information office in Chelmsford, located in the Railway Station, has an excellent range of leaflets available, it includes leaflets for many non Chelmsford area services. The following were obtained here in mid-February:-

First

Overground leaflets for services 40/50; 41/51; 42; 43; 44; 45;47;48/A;54/56 and 100. All are dated 24th October 2004 (except 44 dated 25th October 2004 – no Monday service being the reason why). These are pocket size, but fold out to give an easy to read timetable and route map. They include a town centre map, with stopping points shown. The Chelmsford town services (all except 100) include an Underground style line diagram, for services in Chelmsford. The 100 includes town centre maps for Chelmsford, Basildon and Grays with stopping points, it also includes an Underground style map for Basildon area services.

In the same style are leaflets for services 101 and Diamond. The 101 has a route map, and stopping points in Basildon and is dated 4 January 2005. The timetable is again easy to read and includes Essex CC Sunday service 140.

The Diamond leaflet is dated 24 October 2004 and includes a route map, town centre maps of Chelmsford and Southend, plus a Chelmsford area Underground style route diagram. The easy to read timetable includes Sunday service 11A. All of the above include details of Traveline, how to contact First, details of season and local area tickets and an excellent what's changed feature.

Timetable leaflets in First corporate style for services 7/8/8A dated 12 January 2003; 30 dated 13 January 2003; 31/B/C/X dated 25 October 2004; 33 dated 24 October 2004; 36 dated 24 October 2004; 37 dated 15 April 2002; 61 dated 6 June 2004; 65 dated 6 June 2004; 66/A dated 6 June 2004; 67/A/B/C/D/E dated 6 June 2004; 70/X dated 2 January 2005 71/C dated 24 October 2004; 72/A dated 3 December 2004; 74/B dated 9 February 2003; 76 dated 6 June 2004; 77/78/78A/78X dated 6 June 2004; 88/A dated 2 January 2005; 102103/104 dated 9 February 2003; 351 dated 24 October 2004; 352 dated 24 October 2004; X30 dated 5 December 2004; Colchester-Stansted coachlink dated 4 April 2004. These all feature a photo on the cover of two female passengers talking, a female driver (looking friendly) or a woman with a buggy (for those routes normally operated by low floor buses). Inside is a basic line map, an easy to read timetable and information on local fares, contacts etc.

A faxed photocopy of the timetable for Service 93 (Ipswich-Colchester) – undated.

Essex County Council

Essex Public transport map dated winter 2004/5, this is produced by FWT (12.11.04) and is in colour. On the reverse side are details of services in the County, together with a list of operator contacts and tourist information centres.

Older fast moving Vario timetables for 21 (dated 14 April 2002) and 34/A (dated 1 December 2003).

Newer woman standing, while two older people board versions are available for 32 and 59 both dated 25 October 2004 or 73/A dated 4 January 2005.

A pocket size timetable for service 34/A dated 13 December 2004, is also available. This includes a timetable, a route map, a guide to other services in

Braintree and a photo of Stansted Transit KE53 VDP.

General information items are Scholar's Season Ticket (published June 2004), thebuscard for 16-24 year olds (published March 2004).

Other items of recent publicity are:

National Express Airport, Service A6,A7,A9 (Stansted to and from London) dated 24th May to 6th March 2005. This is incorporate style and includes timetables, information and an excellent line map, that shows connections with the Underground. Also from **National Express** is a photocopied timetable dated 7th February 2005, for services 717/797 (Cambridge to Gatwick), it shows connections at Gatwick for Brighton.

Chambers have a standard double sized A4 timetable, following service revisions on 4th January 2005.

Ensignbus have a twice folded leaflet for Service X80 (Chafford Hundred Station – Gravesend Valley Drive) following a revision on 17th January 2005. It includes a useful route map. This service also has its own web site at www.routex80.com

Hedingham have produced a double sided A5 leaflet for service 4 (Stanway-Colchester) which commenced on 10th January 2005

Southend-on-Sea Borough Council produced a small map folded to A7, with a "Guide to bus stop arrangements during the redevelopment of the new travel centre" dated 9th January 2005. Part of this was reproduced in EBN 489.

Stansted Transit have a timetable leaflet for service 133 (Braintree to Stansted), it features a cover photo of a route branded Dart/Plaxton (or Transbus etc!). Inside is an easy to read timetable, basic fares information , for main points en route and an advert for the airport travelcard, which is available to Airport employees only.

Many thanks to Ian Taylor, for his help in the preparation of this review.

Essex County Council have released timetables for West and North West Essex dated 16 January 2005, North East Essex dated 16 January 2005, Central Essex dated 6 February 2005 and South East Essex and Southend dated 20 February 2005. Also available is a VillageLink bus timetable book dated 24 January 2005 and Sunday Travel Guide dated Winter2004/Spring 2005.

A new map is available for VillageLink services dated January 2005, this also includes a table of services ad operator contact details.

Ian Ransom

Belatedly, congratulations to **First Essex** and **Essex County Council** for winning the Runner Up award in the Infrastructure category of the **2004 Bus Industry Awards**. The award was for the real-time passenger information system, introduced as part of bus quality partnerships in the Chelmsford area.

The **ECC TRIPS** (Travel Real-time Information Priority System) scheme is based on the Siemens *Astral* bus management system. *SmartInfo* real-time information displays are being installed at certain bus stops in Basildon, Billericay and Colchester, in addition to those in Chelmsford. Railway stations are also receiving them: Rayleigh, Clacton and Billericay; Chelmsford and Colchester to follow. GPS (Global Positioning System) satellite technology is used to relay bus expected arrival times to passenger displays. *David Harman*



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD.

New vehicles - further and corrected details

							<i>New</i>
2459	KE 54 OSU	Optare Solo	M950	SAB19000000001639	Optare	B33F	12/04
2460	KE 54 OSV	Optare Solo	M950	SAB19000000001640	Optare	B33F	12/04
3856	KE 54 LNR	Volvo B7RLE		YV3R6G6205A101954	Wright H963	B43F	11/04
3857	KE 54 LPC	Volvo B7RLE		YV3R6G6255A101982	Wright H964	B43F	11/04
3858	KE 54 LPF	Volvo B7RLE		YV3R6G6275A101983	Wright H965	B43F	11/04
3859	KE 54 LPJ	Volvo B7RLE		YV3R6G6295A101984	Wright H966	B43F	11/04
3860	KE 54 HHF	Volvo B7RLE		YV3R6G6205A101985	Wright H967	B43F	12/04

Allocations

1/05: 2139/40 HAU

5836 (WLT 916 ex C816 BYY) and 5843 (D242 FYM) remain at Ware, delicensed, having been replaced by Dennis Tridents.

Other news

The Debden outstation of Harlow closed after service on 4th March. Vehicles 3461-9/71-9/81, Ds Dt SLF/Alexander B29D were transferred, together with routes W13, W14 and 397 to Arriva London North, worked from their Edmonton depot

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD

Vehicles Out

Dennis Trident/Alexander 5442 (W442 XKX) to *Arriva the Shires & Essex.*

NOT

Fare Changes

Southend Area: Some single fares of £1.20 and above will rise by 10p.

The Explorer ticket will be renamed as the Arriva Southend Day Family ticket, still priced at £6. Clipper Cards will be renamed as the Southend 10-journey ticket, and remain at its existing price.

Thurrock Area:

The £1.30, £1.40, £1.60 and £1.70 adult single fares are unchanged. All other single fares will increase by 10p. Some child fares will increase by 5p.

Bronze Card and Silver Cards will be replaced by a new range of Day, Weekly and Four-weekly tickets. The Thurrock Tickets will allow unlimited travel throughout the route of 377/383 and on services 370/373 as far north as North Ockendon/White Post Wood. Thurrock Plus tickets allow unlimited travel throughout the routes of services 370/373/ 377/383. Transport for London 'Oyster Prepay' cards are no longer accepted on services 370/373.

Paypoint:

This scheme has been available in both the Southend and Thurrock areas since the end of January 2005. Weekly and Four weekly tickets can now be bought in advance from certain newsagents.

Other news:

From Monday 21st February Sutton Road in Southend has been closed from Temple Farm roundabout to Shopland Road for major roadworks. This is expected to last eight

weeks with Arriva Southend route 60 being diverted via Cuckoo Corner and Warners Bridge. Meanwhile route 6 has been on diversion since the 4th January due to a bridge closure on Hamlet Court Road in Westcliff. The service has been diverted via Milton Road and Canewdon Road. (see *Essex Service Changes*)

Bill White reports that Grays based Dennis Dart/SLF 3424 (P424 HVX) was severely damaged by fire on Wednesday 9th February whilst operating service 383. An electrical fault is believed to have caused the fire.

Fleetlist

Below is a fleetlist for the Southend operations (i.e not Grays). A fleetlist for the Grays operations will follow next month as there have been several requests for such. Some fleetnumbers are nominally prefixed with "E" but are not generally carried on vehicles.

	Reg	Chassis	Body	Seats	Notes
YFB580	R580 LVL	Ford	Transit	Ford	M7F (1)
1751	DE52OKW	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
1752	DE52OKX	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
1753	DE52OKZ	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
1754	DE52OKV	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
1755	DE52OLM	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
1756	DE52OLN	Mercedes	Sprinter 411CD	Koch	B16F
2188	R188DNM	Mercedes	Vario 0810	Plaxton	B27F Ex AtS
2191	R191DNM	Mercedes	Vario 0810	Plaxton	B27F Ex AtS
2192	R192DNM	Mercedes	Vario 0810	Plaxton	B27F Ex AtS
2193	R193DNM	Mercedes	Vario 0810	Plaxton	B27F Ex AtS
3138	L138YVK	Dennis	Dart	NCME	B35F Ex ASC (2)
3145	L145YVK	Dennis	Dart	NCME	B35F Ex ASC (2)
3150	L150YVK	Dennis	Dart	NCME	B35F Ex ASC (2)
3153	L153YVK	Dennis	Dart	NCME	B35F Ex ASC (2)
3154	L154YVK	Dennis	Dart	NCME	B35F Ex ASC (2)
3218	T218NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3220	T820NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3221	T821NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3222	T822NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3223	T823NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3224	T824NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3225	T825NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3226	T826NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3379	M269VPU	Dennis	Lance SLF	Wright	B40F Ex AEH&E
3384	M764 JPA	Dennis	Lance SLF	Wright	B40F
3387	P257 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3391	P261 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3392	P262 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3393	P263 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3394	P264 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3395	P265 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3396	P266 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3397	P267 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
DS 007	L509 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F Ex ASC (3)
DS 008	L510 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F Ex ASC (3)
DS 009	L511 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F Ex ASC (3)
DS 024	N544 TPK	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F Ex ASC (3)
3601	L601 EKM	Volvo	B6-9.9	Plaxton	B40F Ex ASC (4)
3602	L602 EKM	Volvo	B6-9.9	Plaxton	B40F Ex ASC (4)
3608	L608 EKM	Volvo	B6-9.9	Plaxton	B40F Ex ASC (4)
5273	G663FKA	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H47/29F Ex L&C (5)
5274	G664FKA	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H47/29F Ex L&C (5)

5275	G665FKA	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H47/29F	Ex L&C	(5)
5276	G626EKA	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H47/29F	Ex L&C	(5)
5278	G628EKA	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H47/29F	Ex L&C	(5)
5286	K36XNE	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H45/31F	Ex L&C	(6)
5287	K37XNE	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H45/31F	Ex L&C	(6)
5288	K38YVM	Dennis	Dominator	East Lancs	H45/31F	Ex L&C	(6)
5089	F639 LMJ	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex AtS	
5386	C32 CHM	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	ECW	H42/26D	Ex ALS	(7)
5387	D172 FYM	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	ECW	H42/26D	Ex ALS	(7)
5392	F572 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
5393	F573 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
5394	F574 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
5395	F575 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
5396	F576 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
907	F577 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex ASC	(8)
908	F578 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex ASC	(8)
5399	F579 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F	Ex L&C	(8)
5402	H262 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	H47/31F		
5403	H263 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	H47/31F		
5404	H264 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	DPH43/29F		
5405	H265 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	DPH43/29F		
5881	E225 CFC	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	Alexander	H47/30F	Ex AtS	(9)
5882	E228 CFC	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	Alexander	H47/30F	Ex AtS	(9)
5891	E891 AKN	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
5892	F892 BKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
5893	F893 BKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
5894	F894 BKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
5895	F895 BKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
5897	F897 DKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	N.Counties	H45/30F	Ex ASC	(4)
f5442 5443	W443 XKX	Dennis	Trident	Alexander	H47/31F		(10)
5451	W451 XKX	Dennis	Trident	Alexander	H47/31F		(10)

Notes (1)	crew shuttle/Dengie Link spare bus	AEH&E	Arriva East Herts & Essex
(2)	new to Kentish Bus	ALS	Arriva London South
(3)	new to London & Country	AtS	Arriva the Shires
(4)	new to Maidstone & District	ASC	Arriva Southern Counties
(5)	new to North Western Road Car	L&C	London & Country
(6)	new to Mayne, Droylesden		
(7)	replacements for burnt-out Tridents		
(8)	new to Alder Valley		
(9)	new to City of Oxford		
(10)	awaiting transfer out		

Liveries: All vehicles are in Arriva livery, except:
5393: overall advertisement (Southend United FC)
YFB698: white
Mercedes Sprinters in Essex CC dark blue for Dengie Link network
Trainers in off white or standard Arriva livery.

Non PSV/service vehicles:

Driver trainers:	YDT208 L208YCU	Volvo B6-50/NCME - no longer loc.
	3603/5, L603/5 EKM	Volvo B6/Plaxton
Engineers van; white livery		
	1168 R103CBU	Ford Transit Van

Peter Mansbridge (P-1)

FIRST ESSEX**Depot Buildings**

CF: Site clearance has continued apace at Chelmsford; by mid February the forecourt concrete had been removed and very little was left evidence of the former use. The basement room at the railway arch end, the entrance to which was latterly behind the service 100 stand, was exposed to view for a while and it would be interesting to know its original purpose. A fuel tank was also uncovered at the railway end of the site, under the original location of the inspectors office.

BE: Meanwhile the Braintree depot site has been sold for redevelopment as 42 flats with 3 shops where the buses previously loaded. It will have closed by the time you read this, the allocation being transferred to Springwood Industrial Estate (except for the 70X and 509, which pass to CR and CF respectively). The Fairfield Road depot originally housed three Model T Fords for Hicks' service to and from Courtaulds Factory at Bocking. The site evolved in stages from 1922, to take in Charlie Gray's scrap yard in 1926 and Cuff's Coal Yard in 1928, when the workshop area, two cellars and body shop were constructed. The workshop offices, stores, canteen and toilets were rebuilt in 1975, and the final change was relocation of administration offices in 1992. and Braintree Bus Park opened in 1932 (the first departure being to Silver End and Witham). Under Eastern National control since 1st January 1950, Hicks name disappeared in 1955 (or did it - is it still under the 'First' sign on the front?) and their former Silver End depot closed in 1965 with services transferring to Braintree. It reopened in 1974, taking

Kelvedon's allocation this time. On closure of Halstead depot in 1984, BE gained its work on the 311 group and again took most of SE's services when it closed for good in 1988. That same year marked the first attempt to relocate BE depot, a process now completed.

Double deckers first arrived in 1930 (a Leyland TD1, VX4732), Bristol KSWs and Lodekkas gradually infiltrating the blue Guys and Leylands once Hicks was under BTC control - but former City Coach Company Leyland Titans were also drafted in, lasting until well into the 1960s, and three of the KSWs were slightly non-standard by virtue of their staggered seating and platform doors for the ex Hicks 322 London service. At the other end of the scale, the very successful Countrycar service started on 3rd November 1981 with Peugeot 504 RLX168W, probably the oddest ENOC vehicle to have carried a Setright ticket machine! The successor to the Countrycar service, the 343, is still operated by BE on Saturdays. The first new vehicles since 1984 were three SLF Darts for the 352 in 2003, but these duties have now been transferred to Chelmsford. Prior to the Darts, the previous new buses had been ECW-bodied Olympians 4017/8 (34817/8), both of which have seen recent service from BE. It is anticipated that 14 Darts will be operated from the new base, with 28 drivers (compared to a recent peak of 32 vehicles and 62 drivers in 1991, prior to the advent of Ford Transits and Mercedes 709s). Services 72/72A are extended to and from Springwood Industrial Estate from 28th March.

Rail replacements

Chelmsford-Shenfield rail replacements continue until April 3rd. The usual vehicle mix has been noted.

New & Cascaded Vehicles

31458	N969SOS	Volvo Olympian/ Alexander Royale H47/32F new 1996
31462	N973SOS	Volvo Olympian/ Alexander Royale H47/32F new 1996
42918	EU05AUL	Alexander Dennis Dart SLF
42919	EU05AUK	
42920	EU05AUM	
42921	EU05AUN	
42922		
42923		

All six Darts have been delivered. 31458/62 are at Hadleigh but have not entered service as yet. Meanwhile narrow Optare Solo demonstrator YJ54BTE arrived at Clacton on 9th February for trials at Harwich.

Repaints:

2.05 46144 to corporate standard livery

VEHICLE WORKINGS

34810/7 were working out of BE from 8th Feb, having been shown on the allocation sheet as such for several months although 34818/9 had continued to be their regular double deckers. 34817 returned to CF on 20th February in exchange for 34819.

Green Dart 47252 was working at BE from 19th to about 28th Feb, covering for 46143.

Darts are now fairly common on Brentwood town service 73, usually one of the short variety (46112/4/6, 46804) but 46118 was noted on the 22nd February and 46129 on the 28th.



Dart/East Lancs 42857 (P857 VUS) on the DIAMond Service in Chelmsford on 26 February.

Chris Stewart

Unusual sightings:

February:

- 8th CF46813 on 351
- 9th CF47252 on 42, BN65670 on 750
- 10th CF53114 on 48
- 11th HH31377 on 2, BN43800 on 8
- 14th BN60102 on 82
- 17th HH46148 on 23A
- 18th BN34660 on 101, CF47226 on 352
- 23rd BN46132 on 351
- 24th CF47225 on 352
- 25th BN65666 on C25 school contract, CF42486 on 42
- 26th HH42857 on Diamond ('D1A')

March:

- 2nd HH46814 on Diamond (showing 33X)
- 3rd HH40777 on Diamond

Other News

The following addresses have recently been removed as *First Essex* operating centres:

- Office 12, Stansted House, Third Avenue, Stansted, CM24 1AE (First Airport)
- 12 Stortford Road, Dunmow, CM6 1DA (Presumably An Outstation Address)
- Clivedale, Bryant Avenue, Harold Wood, Romford, RM3 0AP (Rd Depot)

Former Eastern National/First Essex vehicles

Dennis Javelin coach 21090 (M290FAE), one time *First Airport* 1550, has returned to the locality with the First coaching unit at Rainham.

Bristol VR STW26W (3082) is about to set off across America - see www.thebritbustour.com and details on pages 20/1. Sister STW25W (3081, ex NIBS) is understood to be still available for sale at Castle Point Bus Company, the intended preservation purchase having apparently failed to materialise.

Somewhat older SHK519, Eastern National 4137 and (from 1952) United Counties 876, appeared on eBay recently (its first sighting since 1970, when UCOC sold it to Twell of Ingham). Mark Garrett recalls it at Luton depot on the 56 to Limbury in 1961, and later at Biggleswade and Bedford, having been part of the Midland area transfer from EN. See page 23.

ABus of Bristol used VR STW33W (3089) on their 645 from Keynsham to Street on 8th January, this service being operated by XHK221X (3116) on 22nd January and KOO791V (3073) on 12th February. KOO had been seen working the Stockwood service 57 on 8th and 22nd January.

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to N Allen, Alex Hall, J Clayton, N Field, M Garrett, A Kelleher, A R MacFarlane, S Maskell, C Paynter, J Rugg, J Salmon, C Sigston, S Simister, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, A Williams, *Essex Bus*, *South West and British Buses in North America* y-groups, *Real Bus News* group, LOTS, *First Essex*, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

With particular thanks to Dave Smith for the Braintree historical information, much of which in turn was taken from Tony Langley's "*Hicks Bros Ltd, an Essex bus company*".

Chris Stewart

Vehicles in

Volvo B10M-62/ Van Hool C48FT CSU 908/909 (formerly R10/20 TGM); new 4/98 and 3/98.

Vehicles out

M52 (M52 AWW) Scania/Van Hool Coach has returned to Arriva the Shires.

Repaints

Olympians 348/9 (H48/9 MJN) have been repainted into fleet livery.

Peter Mansbridge

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

LATEST DEALER MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN *from*

Arriva London:

RML2329/2678

Go-Ahead London:

RM478/687/758/787/2022 NV169

ASD Coaches, Strood:

M753/1206

Nottingham City Transport:

Olympians K481/2GNN, L485/6/7NTO
Volvo D10M R338RRA.

Mr Chris Cunningham:

RML2712.

Independent Records:

RM752 (Open top Travis one)

Stagecoach South:

Mercedes 709 M889ECD.

VEHICLES OUT

RM531:

RM1174:

L213:

Mercedes M889ECD:

RM1955:

RM2106:

Olympians C651/7LJR A512EJF:

Olympian N115UHP:

Ensign fleet Darts 718/9:

M1206:

RML2739:

RM1977:

RML2484:

M628 M727:

LDP10/17:

Scania G922TCU:

to

Mr Steve Anderson, Merseyside.

Miss Helen Bruce, Essex.

Converted to half top and numbered 213 in
City Sightseeing Blackpool fleet.

Clintona Coaches, Essex.

Mr Chris Cunningham, Surrey.

Mr Pat Every, Devon.

Fargo Coaches, Rayne, Essex.

Firstgroup PLC.

Glenvale Transport, Liverpool.

London Borough of Ealing.

Mr Damien Lowe, East London.

Mr Steve Merion, West London

Mr Lyndsey Mitchell, Aberdeen.

PVS for scrap.

Sullivan Buses, South Mimms, Herts.

Westring Coaches, Chichester, Sussex.

Acknowledgements to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Essex Small Operator News

AMBER, Rayleigh Vehicles sold are KCZ 4754 a DAF/Plaxton to Hill & Dilliway, Sittingbourne and the former RJI 4670 (new registration unknown) a Bova Europa for scrap.

A&M COURIERS, Thundersley LDV Convoy S450 YON, previously reported as offered at auction, was not sold and remains here.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh Leyland Olympian/ECW FUM 483Y has gone to Blythwood, Glasgow. Leyland Tiger/Alexander A44 XHE is now with Neilson, Fraserburgh.

The website currently shows pictures of the following in the fleet :- L694—Mercedes Benz/? (van conversion), TJI 4833 (ex J743 TDP) Scania/Berkhof and YR02 ZZU Scania/Van Hool.

BARKER, Roydon Leyland Olympian ARP 606X is now registered XIL 5455. This was originally reported as being on MCW Metrobus B137 WUL. This was in error and the MCW was sold to Head, Luton, in Spring 2004. Also sold is RIB 4321 (C221 CWW) a Neoplan/Plaxton 4000.

BASILDON TRAVEL, Basildon Mercedes Benz 709D/Dormobile K106 RNS has been sold to Young, South Shields, while LDV 400 L206 HOX is now with Patterson, Seahouses.

BENFLEET BUS, Benfleet Acquired from MJR, Thundersley is N554 DKO an Iveco minibus.

BRANDON, Blackmore End Bristol LHS/Plaxton GGC 224X has been sold.

BRIANS, Maylandsea Acquired from an unknown source is Bedford YRQ/Plaxton PNU 133R. Iveco/Caetano A121 YNP went to a private owner in 03/04

BUS BOYS, Grays This new operator has N770 FFA a LDV 400 minibus.

CEEFA COACHES, Crays Hill Vehicles sold are Mercedes Benz 709D/Reeve Burgess F122 TRU and Setra S250 P773 NKE.

CHARIOTS, Corringham Bova Futura MIL 4345 (AJF 88A) has gone to a dealer,

while the last Ford coach here A600 NWC a Ford R1115/Duple has gone to Trotter, Stoney Stoke.

CLINTONA, Brentwood Iveco/Marshall P481/2 CEG and R418 XFL, were sold to Alansway, Heathfield in 09/04, following the loss of some contract work.

COOKS, Rochford Bova Futura L3 LWR (L121 OWF), is reported as having left this fleet.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood As a correction Volvo B10M/Duple UJI 6747 (E441 MOU) has never been operated here. Bedford YNV/Plaxton D130 HML (5919 RU here) was sold some time ago.

DEBDEN MINICABS, Debden Ford Transit WDB 582X has been sold.

DMA, Brentwood Vehicles sold are Ford R1114/Plaxton XUN 344V and Ford R1114/Duple WNT 377Y. Bedford VAS/Duple XUX 540T, reported as sold, is in fact still here.

ENIGMA TRAVEL, Colchester Recently acquired from Sarang, Leicester is A19 ABU (G89 NRN) a Mercedes L508D minibus.

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Scania Plaxton 4000 D523 DWP (ex Stephenson's and not actively used by Excel) is sold to Trimmer Travel (Romford)

Ex Road Car Olympian/East Lancs DFW 42X is in use on a temporary basis, nominally part of Stephenson's stock

A third Scania/Irizar has been acquired YN53 GDV, ex Scania demonstrator, which had been on loan for some time.

Stansted Bus Co Ltd has been acquired as a subsidiary and all existing Essex school contracts are being transferred over from 24/7, an associated business, subject to ECC approval. Vehicles acquired with this business are Scania K93/Van Hool J111/555 SAS, Leyland Tiger/Wright RXI 5540 and F860 YJX a DAF SB2300/Duple. These are expected to be only here in the short term and will be replaced by other vehicles.

FARGO, Rayne Leyland Atlantean/ECW LRB 582W has been sold. Recent additions are MCW Metrobus C959 LWJ and Leyland Olympian/ECW A592 NWX.

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree Recently acquired for use on the Town Centre – Freeport shuttle service is Dennis Dart SLF VU02 TPX.

FORD, Althorne TDT 32S a Bedford YMT/Duple, is now reported, as still here, but withdrawn.

FUN4UBUS, Tiptree Rare ex Merseyside Leyland Atlantean/Willowbrook has passed to a private owner.

GALE, Harlow YO1 7079 (KAR 986Y) a Mercedes Benz L307D/Reeve Burgess has been sold.

GARDNER, Boreham A recent addition from an unknown source is T49 CNN a Scania L94/Irizar, while from Oakfield, Broxbourne is M38 KAX a Volvo B10M/Plaxton.

GBN Pitsea, EU02 OAN is another Ford Transit (in by 2.05) It is non-PSV.

GRAHAMS, Kelvedon S351 SET a Scania L94/Irizar, has been sold.

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford The PSV Circle report that EX1 2805 (E858 WSB) a Volvo B10M/Duple was registered back it it's original plate and sold by 09/04. However, an identical vehicle was here in 01/05, so it's sale may have been cancelled.

It appears that all the overall advert Transits have either been sold, or had the adverts removed. There are still some all over rear adverts however. (Is this a mini-rear??)

HAILSTONE, Basildon A new Mercedes Benz O814D/Euro Coach Builders C33F is in (2.05) (info. from Route One magazine)

HANN, Harlow Talbot Express/Dormobile A679 KLE has been sold.

HOLDER, Wickford Has S269 RBC an LDV Convoy, ex Fargo, Rayne.

INGATESTONE COACHES, Ingatestone Further to last month Bedford YNT/Duple BGS 295X had passed to Flagfinders, Braintree in 12/02, but has not been recorded until now. This vehicle had been sold by early 2005 for scrap.

JAYS MINIBUSES, Tilbury Recently acquired is Ford Transit EF03 FJK, from a private owner.

LINKFAST, Thundersley Leyland Titan OHV 694Y has been sold for scrap.

MCS, Chadwell St Mary Acquired is D178 CLH a Mercedes 811D/Robin Hood.

NEIL ANTHONY PRIVATE HIRE, Wickford This new operator has Ford Transit EU51 RXR ex Chambers, Benfleet and S816 NLO a Mercedes minibus.

NEW HORIZONS, Alresford Recently acquired is EO02 EOX a LDV Convoy. Vehicles sold are the only full size vehicle SBZ 5832 (new as H620 FUT) a Bova Futura and LDV Convoy P801 MTR.

OLYMPIAN Harlow, The following vehicles, previously reported as sold, are still owned, although the last three are currently out of service. MIL 1853 (A239 HNR) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton, B589 HFE (new as B123 KPF) a Leyland Tiger/Berkhof, E882 YKY a Leyland Tiger/Plaxton and M732 AOO an Iveco/Marshall. A clear out of disused stock has seen the sale of Bova Futura MUI 5952/4 (new as L1 NKF and L55 FTG) to Mentor, Rotherham (dealer), Iveco/Marshall L718 OVX, M290/1 AJC, M153/6/9 RBH and Mercedes 310D P546 MSF to unknown buyers.

PETER GODWARD, Basildon Sold some while ago are YPB 827T a Bedford YMT/Duple and D145 WCC a Freight Rover/Carlyle. Recent additions are T339 ABV an LDV Convoy and RJI 8602 (E828 EUT) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton

REGAL, Cooksmill Green Recently acquired from Shetland Islands Council is Optare Solo MX03 YDF. This is normally to be found on Service 52 (Chelmsford-Pleshey) and is numbered 302.

RONDA, Rochford Acquired from Harwoods Travel is A19 HWT (E735 VWJ) a Mercedes 609D/Whittaker.

RP CONTRACT HIRE, Great Yeldham A recent addition is P282 NNB an Iveco/Mellor ex City of Sunderland

RS TRAVEL, Cressing LAG Panoramic ILZ 5166 (G381 JBD) has left the fleet.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow MCW Metrobus KYV 677X went to Hansen, South

Mimms, over a year ago.

STANS, Great Totham Ford

Transit/Dormobile MIL 9403 (H112 SVG) went to King, Sawbridgworth in 2002, but has not been reported until now.

STANSTED TRANSIT, Stansted Acquired in 12/04 from Black Prince, Morley is Optare MetroRider V237 LWU. L237 CCW a Volvo B6/Alexander has gone to Glenvale, Merseyside.

STB COACHES, Chadwell St Mary

Acquired last year, from the former JWS Travel fleet, was LDV Convoy P552 OVG. Bova Europa A806 JAY was sold for scrap.

STEPHENSONS, Rochford The company have reached a decision NOT to operate the Southend open-top service in 2005, this could spell the end of open-top operation in the town.

A low floor Dart is to be sourced, in connection with the recent takeover of service 93 (Maldon-Southminster) from First.

STERLING EUROPEAN, Southend Volvo B10M/Alexander F118 PHM went to Makins, Raynham in 06/04.

SUPREME, Souhend & Colchester

Leyland National 2 C112 OSJ was sold by 06/04. While MCW Metrobus C384 BUV, Mercedes 412D S789 RKU and Mercedes 0404 W366 EOL are reported as having left, some time ago.

SWIFT CARS, Chelmsford S362SNO

Ford Transit is in. This is ex Group

Taxibus and was first noted with Swift Cars 6.02 on a taxi plate and subsequently up to 5.03 similarly. From 'by 11.03' it has had a disc. Apologies for the delay in reporting this one.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Setra S228 DT B413 CGG has been withdrawn. The best seats are being transferred into Setra S215 HD JSU 282 (J2 TCC) which is now C53F as a result.

THORNS OF RAYLEIGH Leyland

Tiger/Caetano PJI 4704 (C97 NNV) was sold in early 2004.

TONY GLEW PRIVATE HIRE, Great Tey

Vehicles sold and not previously reported are 831 FUB (VNM 900S) a Bedford YLQ/Plaxton, E389 BMX a Freight Rover Sherpa/Crystals, E976 WDS a Mercedes 811D/NCWS and H239 ANE a Ford Transit/Deansgate. Still here, but out of use are VAZ 8024 (A717 GJA) a Leyland Royal Tiger, KVJ 291Y a Bedford CFL/Plaxton, A392 NNK a Mercedes Benz L307D/Reeve Burgess and D694 FDH a Leyland Cub/Reeve Burgess.

WEBB Highwood IUI 2735 (G720 ONX) a Volvo B10M/Ikarus has been acquired from C&I Coachlines, Highwood.

WESTS Woodford Green Bova Europa A14 BUS has been re-registered B127 DHL and has been sold

Ian Ransom; acknowledgements to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston, PSV Circle, Lyn Watson (Excel and Stephenson's) and Geoff Clarkson (Crusader)

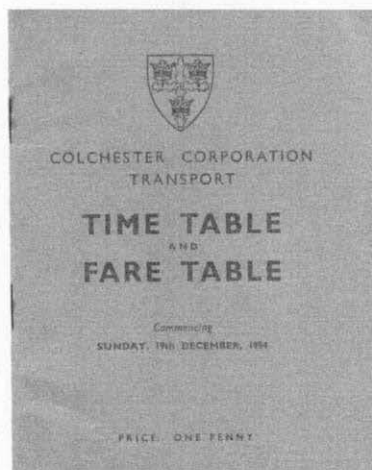
FLEET SPOTLIGHT ~ Crusader Coaches – March 2005

Many thanks to Geoff Clarkson, Chairman of Crusader, for the following fleetlist :-

1 EU03 OJG	Setra S315 GT
2 EU03 OJH	Setra S315 GT
3 EU03 OJJ	Setra S315 GT
4 EU03 OJK	Setra S315 GT
5 V105 OJN	Setra S315 GT
6 V106 OJN	Setra S315 GT
7 T107 LTW	Setra S315 GT
8 EK51 KYX	Setra S315 GT
9 T109 LTW	Setra S315 GT
10 EK51 KYY	Setra S315 GT
11 T111 LTW	Setra S315 GT
12 EK51 KYZ	Setra S315 GT
13 W113 BHJ	Setra S315 GT

14 W114 BHJ	Setra S315 GT
15 EU05 AVP	Setra S315 GT
16 EU05 AVW	Setra S315 GT
17 EU05 AVV	Setra S315 GT
18 EU05 AVT	Setra S315 GT
19 EU05 AVR	Setra S315 GT
20 T120 LTW	Setra S315 GT
21 EK51 KZA	Setra S315 GT
22 EK51 KZB	Setra S315 GT
23 EK51 KZC	Setra S315 GT
24 EK51 KZD	Setra S315 GT
25 EK51 KZE	Setra S315 GT
26 EK51 KZF	Setra S315 GT

Colchester Corporation Timetable Booklets



Following recent developments in Colchester, I feel that now would be a good time to publish a check list of timetable booklets issued by Colchester Corporation and its successors. If anyone has any additional booklets which are not listed I would appreciate notification. Compared to other operators there were some wide intervals between timetable issues especially in the 1950s/1960s when services did not change as frequently as they do nowadays. Often these gaps were filled by Revised Services Leaflets, e.g. those dated 4th December 1966 and 3rd September 1967.

Production of booklets ceased in the mid 1970s following the introduction of Essex County Council books. Colchester Borough Transport Ltd issued two books in 1994 and Arriva, one book in 1998.

Interestingly, Network Colchester marked the start of its revised route network by issuing a booklet dated 8th November 2004. The first of many?

May 1919	March 1952	26.7.64	25.4.94	Colchester B.T. Ltd
17.3.26	12.4.53	23.3.69	1.8.94	Colchester B.T. Ltd
1.5.28	19.12.54	24.1.71	4.98	Arriva Colchester
16.1.33	19.8.56	28.5.72	8.11.04	Network Colchester
1.7.36	16.2.58	6.5.73	7/6/04	Arriva Colchester
4.3.46	13.9.59	30.3.75		
4.11.46	29.1.61			
22.5.49	1.4.63			

Subsequent Network Colchester books: 25/4/05 & 28/8/07

31/10/49 Revision leaflets: 29/7/62, 3/9/67, 7/2/77

Southend & District Joint Services Timetable Booklets

These timetables appeared on a frequent basis, with three editions in 1955 and two per year until 1963. Between 1964 and 1977 there was only one issue per year (usually in May or June) except for 1970. Following the introduction of Essex County Council publications, the booklet was incorporated into the new series and details may be found in EBN 432. Southend Transport Ltd issued some booklets in the years 1986-1990 together with one isolated one in 1994.

2.1.55	13.9.59	6.6.65	5.9.71	6.9.87
28.5.55	11.9.60	22.5.66	28.5.72	20.12.87
25.9.55	25.6.61	28.5.67	27.5.73	18.4.88
3.6.56	17.9.61	19.11.67	19.5.74	2.10.88
30.9.56	17.6.62	(Emergency	18.5.75	30.4.89
8.6.57	23.9.62	Timetable)	20.6.76	28.10.90
29.9.57	23.6.63		July 77	Spring 1994
15.6.58	15.9.63	26.5.68	26.10.86	(1986 on are Southend
14.9.58	19.4.64	25.5.69	14.6.87	Transport alone, not

S&D Joint Services)

The BritBus Tour ... with 3082



Former Eastern National and Thamesway Bristol VR 3082 (STW 26W), latterly **New York Apple Tours** 160, is making a 3000 mile, coast-to-coast journey across the USA to promote British popular music. Sponsored by Stagecoach, London Pride and Virgin among others, the BritBus Tour was launched on 1 March in New York. The VR will apparently be sold when the tour reaches California.

The route and timetable is:

1 March	New York City
3 March	Columbus, Ohio
4 March	Indianapolis, Indiana
5 March	St. Louis, Missouri
8 March	Albuquerque, New Mexico
10 March,	Las Vegas, Nevada
12 March	Los Angeles, California

All rather more arduous than WG-SSY-WG on the 251.

More on the BritBus Tour at: www.thebritbustour.com/allaboard.php

More pictures of STW in NYC (and NJ) by Alex Hall at: <http://gallery44155.fotopic.net/>

*David Harman, with thanks to
Chris Stewart, Alex Hall and British-Buses-Abroad-in-North-America@yahoogroups.com*



left: upper: STW 26W outside the Virgin Megastore in a snowy Union Square on March 1.

left lower: Times Square: In company with **Gray Line** (Coach USA) open-top Dennis Trident 71307. The top-deck of the Trident hosted a British musical send-off for the VR.

above: Union Square: Flanked by **MaBSTOA** (Manhattan and Bronx Surface Transit Operating Authority) New Flyer 5370 on the M14 (14th Street Crosstown) service. The artic is one of 270 delivered in 2002-2004.

Photographs courtesy Alex Hall

Preservation Notebook

427
(EBN 484) Chris Brown from Shropshire has acquired former Eastern National Bristol SC4LK bus **407** (604JPU) for preservation. It was latterly with Express Motors, Penygroes, Gwynedd as a potential donor to another preservation prospect, but had for many years been with Vagg of Knockin Heath after withdrawal by ENOC in 1964. Chris also advises that sister **409** (606 JPU) was destroyed by a fire at Silver Star's Caernarfon garage. This may have previously been reported.

We know from the very first ENEG newssheet that 604 JPU ended its days at Clacton (CN). A long shot I know, but does anyone have information about where it operated during its life with EN? If anyone can help, let me know and I'll pass details on to Chris.

Richard Delahoy

richard@signal-training.com

Box 5657, Southend on Sea, SS1 3WT

436.



407 spent some time at Brentwood depot as these two photographs show.

above: Beside Bedford-Beadle 164 (NVX 524), withdrawn in 1960. Photobus/Arnold Richardson

below: EBEG Collection both courtesy Chris Stewart





Eastern National 4137 (SHK 519), a Bristol KSW5G, new in 1951, was offered for sale recently on online auction site eBay (www.ebay.com - item 4531088130). It had been transferred to United Counties (as 876) in 1952. After withdrawal by UCOC, it was exported (by ?) to the US. The bus was in use latterly at a leisure complex at Lake George in the Adirondack Mountains, upper New York State. EBay bids reached the heady heights of US\$112 (and fifty cents) but as there was a reserve (apparently US\$1,500 - about £780), the bus was not sold.

4137 appears to be fairly complete and in near original condition, save that it now has what is described as a 'Brunswick' engine. Requests for further information from the vendor as to mechanical condition etc. have not so far met with a reply.

Shipping back to the UK is an obvious hurdle for any would-be preservationist. Expert advice from *Peter Newman* of Ensign Bus is to use a ro-ro (rather than container) ship. He also recommends shippers, Wallenius Wilhelmsen Lines (02380 237711).

4137 back in Essex? ... it might not be an impossible project ...

David Harman with thanks to Chris Stewart

BLIND SPOT

from Bob Palmer:

I was most interested in the Blind Spot feature (EBN485). Hopefully some more blind listings can be produced. The combined number/via points blind for Clacton would make a good second feature to go with the ultimate listing.

Some comments on the CN ultimate blind seem in order. As a compiler of blind listing for a small part of London Buses in the late eighties/early nineties, I can appreciate how the compiler of this blind had to keep the three sections (Dovercourt/trunk routes/locals) as they are listed to avoid constant and lengthy blind winding by crews and constant end to end winding does destroy blinds eventually. But, why doesn't Clacton appear in the local routes listing?

Bob Williamson quotes the lettering as 3.5" high. Were the blind box glasses masked by tape? Or, did the 4 inch lettering always look too full in the aperture available? Comments please?

I notice also the two London destinations for MILE END. I presume it's the one in east London and not the one near Colchester

The positioning of HARWICH out of alphabetical order at the end of the Dovercourt section but at the start of the 'trunk routes' section is interesting and completely logical. Note also the positioning of CLACTON and WALTON in adjacent displays. Very handy for the Walton outstation crews!

I do find it surprising that GRAYS and, for some reason, LAINDON were added to the blinds at CN sometime later. Did vehicles from DT or CN 'sleep over' at another garage and therefore these destinations may have proved useful to the receiving garage? Can anyone comment?

Finally, who compiled the blind layouts for EN? Was it done locally or did Head Office have an input? The latter seems logical, especially as Chelmsford compiled the timetables and therefore knew in advance which destinations would be serving.

Bob Williamson replies

A Clacton 48" x 11" via blind to match the destination blind in EBN485 is shown opposite. A slightly earlier version did not have 108/109, and any buses working these routes showed a white blank! Both types were in use until 1963 at least. The high suffix letters on the 19 and 53 were never used in timetables and appear to have been for the use of crews to enable the correct 'via' points to be shown on the numerous short workings.

The 3.5" lettering was peculiar to a batch printed for Clacton and Chelmsford (at least) but the boxes were not masked as the gap between each display was big enough to fit neatly into the 5" exposure. The 'MILE END' display is, I'm sure, for the Colchester one. Many Clacton blinds had some very odd displays added in the 1960-64 period (like LAINDON and GRAYS) but I never found out why. It is believed that Head Office compiled the listings as I had correspondence with Mr. Kydd (then the Chief Engineer at E.N.) in the mid-1960s and he mentioned that his staff were compiling entirely new blinds for the entire fleet. These started to appear from 1966 and were easily identifiable as they had the tasteless lower case lettering for the qualifying points.

RELIEF

19 COLCHESTER
 MALDON
 19A COLCHESTER
 19B COLCHESTER
 TIFTREE
 19E GREAT TOTHAM
 19C WEELEY
 ELMSTEAD
 19H GREENSTEAD
 19D MALDON
 DANBURY
 19F RAYLEIGH
 19G COLD NORTON
 RAYLEIGH
 19I RAWRETH
 19J HEYBRIDGE
 19K MUNDON
 LATCHINGDON
 19M EASTWOOD
 5I CHELMSFORD
 COLCHESTER
 5IA MANNINGTREE
 5IB ARDLEIGH
 MANNINGTREE
 53 CHELMSFORD
 COLCHESTER
 53C WITHAM
 53A CHELMSFORD
 LAINDON
 53B GRAYS
 53D WITHAM
 KELVEDON
 53E WIVENHOE
 ST. OSYTH

53F ORSETT
 HORNDON
 53G HATFIELD PEVEREL
 SPRINGFIELD
 53H SPRINGFIELD RD.
 53J EAST GATES
 GREENSTEAD
 101A BOCKINGS ELM
 ST. OSYTH
 102 THORRINGDON CROSS
 101B BOCKINGS ELM
 ST. OSYTH
 103A GT. CLACTON
 PARK GATE CNR.
 103 KIRBY-LE-SOKEN
 THORPE-LE-SOKEN
 104 WIX RAMSEY
 DOVERCOURT
 104A RAMSEY
 105 WEELEY
 THORPE-LE-SOKEN
 106 GT. CLACTON
 DOVERCOURT
 106A LITTLE OAKLEY
 107 HOLLAND-ON-SEA
 KIRBY CROSS
 107A CLACTON STATION
 HOLLAND RD.
 108 THORPE-LE-SOKEN
 MANNINGTREE
 109 RAILWAY STN.
 VALLEY ROAD
 111 THORPE-LE-SOKEN
 BEAUMONT
 113 OMNIBUS STATION
 HOLIDAY CAMP
 113A MARINE PARADE WEST
 114 OMNIBUS STATION
 HOLIDAY CAMP

114A GREAT CLACTON
 THE CEMETERY
 114B HOLLAND RD.
 115 OMNIBUS STATION
 HOLIDAY CAMP
 115A OMNIBUS STATION
 116 HOLIDAY CAMP
 OMNIBUS STATION
 117 HOLLAND RD.
 118 FRONKS ROAD
 DOVERCOURT
 118A MAIN ROAD
 119 FRONKS ROAD
 DOVERCOURT
 119A MAIN ROAD
 DOVERCOURT STATION
 120 FRONKS ROAD
 122 PARKESTON CEMETERY
 DOVERCOURT MEMORIAL
 123 MANNINGTREE
 HOLBROOK
 123A WEELEY
 TENDRING
 EXCURSION

© R J Williamson

THE 1954 AND 1964 RENUMBERINGS

from John Taylor:

May I make a few small corrections to the article on the Eastern National's numbering systems (EBN489)?

The National steam cars ran from 1 - 203. 202/3 being HK 3160/1 registered on 30th September and 19th October 1917 respectively. They had Hurst Nelson O18/16RO bodies. There was also C1 (HK 3187) registered on 30th November 1917 with a Brush B28R body ex-Southend Corporation). It was so numbered because it was coke-fired as opposed to the others which were fired by paraffin. They had flash tube boilers. There were also some un-numbered vehicles:

F 1802 new on 4th April 1906 with Munnion B16R body. Sold to Harrogate Road Car Company Ltd., 17th December 1914

F 2582 new on 3rd March 1908 with Gloucester Carriage & Wagon Works O18/18R body. Sold to Harrogate Road Car Company Ltd., 1912. This was a demonstrator known as "Deaf Emma". It is not thought to have been used in "National" service.

F 4442 new 6th February, 1911. This was originally a lorry used to ferry spares etc. from Chelmsford to Nunhead etc. It was fitted with a Hurst Nelson O18/16RO body on 9th November 1917.

Several numbers were used twice.

There are several accounts as to the reason that 2001 was chosen for the motor buses. The most probable is that they didn't want to continue the numbering from 203. It was thought that the business would look bigger than it actually was if the numbering began at 1001 or 2001. They chose the latter and the business did become very large.

After formation of Eastern, Western and Southern National, the common management continued, with the Managing Director and Secretary and Traffic Manager based at 206 Brompton Road, London SW3 and the Chief Engineer at New Writtle Street (Anchor Works). Where heavy dockings etc. could not be carried out at Laira (Plymouth) or Reckleford (Yeovil), the vehicles still came to Chelmsford.

By this time Tilling had acquired National and in May 1932, Western and Southern National moved their head office to Exeter and Eastern National to Chelmsford. Western and Southern National acquired a new General Manager and Engineer, P.G. Stone Clark on 9th May 1932, (ex-Chief Engineer at Trent). WJ Morison became solely the Chief Engineer of Eastern National, therefore the common numbering system was no longer feasible.

The split was intended to be at 3392 with Eastern National's order for Dennis Lancets etc. being numbered from 3393 upwards. However, Southern National were negotiating with George Spivey (Rambler Motor Company) at Westham, Weymouth at the time to purchase his business. No vehicles were involved as they had been burnt in a fire at his premises. Southern National agreed to take delivery of a new Dennis Dart which he had on order for the 1932 season. This had a Duple C20F body and was delivered to Southern National registered YD 4906 in June 1932. It was no. 3393 under the joint scheme. The new Eastern National batch was therefore numbered 3394 upwards.

The first duplicated numbers were:

3394 YC 4067 Thornycroft A6 26-seater

3395 YC 3587 Thornycroft A6 26-seater

acquired by Southern National from Cox (Wincanton Motor Services) of North Cadbury, Somerset in November 1932.

Stores appropriate to Western and Southern National were transferred by September 1932, making the split final. However heavy work was still carried out at Chelmsford for Western and Southern National for several years. The Western/Southern National series

for acquired vehicles finally reached 3827. Towards the end, several numbers had been used three times.

The cast number plates with the ornate figures were in fact aluminium and started at 2001 and ran to 4110. From 4111, simple styled figures we used. Western and Southern National plates initially were cast aluminium but soon changed to brass which was chrome-plated. I have many specimens of all styles.

Ironically, 3885 never had the ornate style plate. It had four plain figures riveted onto the back of an old plate. I have one such plate which shows 3805 on the obverse. Presumably aluminium was in short supply at the time. Several early post-war buses had similar plates.

FIFTY YEARS AGO - 1955 - THE END OF WESTCLIFF

The Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd. ceased as a bus operator on 2 February 1955, all vehicles passing to Eastern National with effect from the following day. The name gradually disappeared, although it was retained on Prittlewell-based coaches until some time in the 1960's. Two 1950's views of Westcliff vehicles, courtesy of *Chris Stewart*:



1938 Bristol K5G
AHJ 402 waits on
the cobbles in
Romford Market
Place before the
return trip to
Vange on the 2A.

Times were hard
in those days - no
cosy bus shelters
to sit and wait in !

AHJ 402 became
1264 in the
Eastern National
fleet and lasted
until 1962.

S L Poole



JN 7501, a 1936
Bristol L5G with
ECW dual-
purpose body, in
London, probably
in the vicinity of
Victoria Coach
Station. As
Eastern National
232, it was
withdrawn in
1956.

*Photobus / Arnold
Richardson*



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