

ESSEX BUS NEWS

**No. 569
September 2011**



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk



Ensign Bus ~ at work and play

The solitary ex Metroliner Alexander Trident to be retained for the operational fleet, 109 (T87 KLD) was on the Brentwood local 81 on 27th August. The Saturday service (one bus running hourly) is now scheduled for double decks.

Russell Young



The odd spot of rain could not possibly dampen the enjoyment of riding or seeing Ensign vintage fleet members and guest vehicles on the Summer Vintage Bus Running Day on the 27th.

Ensign TD895 makes a brave sight in a deserted and rain swept Brentwood High Street in the evening.

Russell Young



London Bus Company's RMC4 (SLT 59), sweeps past the Thatchers Arms, Warley on 27th August.

Russell Young

August EBN

Unfortunately, Royal Mail appear to have decided that some envelopes containing August EBN were too thick for 2nd class letter rate and should have been stamped at the 'large letter' rate. Some members were surcharged the difference plus the standard handling fee of £1. This did not apply to everyone.

We are sorry this happened but are baffled as to **why** it happened. July EBN had the same number of pages (36), was printed on the same weight paper by the same printer and enclosed in the same type of envelope. There were no surcharges reported in July.

All members affected can rest assured that they will be refunded but at present we don't know whether by the Group or Royal Mail. The latter have already agreed that something has gone wrong as only certain delivery offices decided to levy the surcharge. We are hopeful that the Group will not have to bear the cost, which could be considerable.

If you have had to pay a surcharge, please write (enclosing your EBN envelope if possible) with details of amount paid, to the Group's Distribution Officer:

Owen Woodliffe, 96 Sinclair Road, Chingford, London E4 8PT

by 30TH SEPTEMBER AT THE LATEST, so that a claim can be submitted to Royal Mail.

EBN delivery queries, non-delivery, damage, etc. should **ALWAYS** be taken up with the Distribution Officer (address above; email: pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com). In the event of a systematic problem, advice on what to do will be posted on the Group website www.essexbus.org.uk as soon as we know what has gone wrong.

Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>EBN dated</i>	<i>reports to Editors by</i>
October	October 1
November	October 29

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

Cover

Essex Lynx Revival
Regal Busways' ex-Preston Lynx 102 (F212 YHG) is now in fleet livery and was photographed working service 3 (Southend - Chelmsford) on 26th August.

Peter Mansbridge

Essex Bus News

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Your reports and observations

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

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

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

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

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■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

- ▶ **Venue - Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane, Wickford** - five minutes walk from Wickford Station and five minutes drive from the A130 and A127. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145/2200; a cash bar is available. Members and guests welcome. £1.50 donation please towards the hire of the room.
- ▶ **Monday September 26** - slide show by Chris Stewart, "From Derry to the Atlantic - the Lough Swilly bus company".
- ▶ **Monday October 24** - on the eve of the 25th anniversary of bus deregulation (was it really that long ago?!), Bill Hiron will present an illustrated talk "My 25 years in the bus industry", covering his managerial career that mirrors the deregulation era.
- ▶ **Monday November 28** - Harris Bus, a look back to the years from 1986 of this Essex & London operator that rose to prominence following deregulation, slide show by Dave Arnold & Fred Lawrance.
- ▶ **Monday December 19** - Christmas Social and "20 years ago" slide show by Richard Delahoy.

Richard Delahoy

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

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

preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome. *Dave Arnold*

2011 programme ~ slide shows

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

■ EVENTS ETC

- ▶ **Friday/Saturday September 23-24:** London Transport Museum, Guided Tours at Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Sunday October 2:** 'Come and Ride on Our Buses' Day, Ipswich Transport Museum
- ▶ **Saturday October 8:** Theydon Bois Transport Bazaar, Theydon Bois Village Hall (opposite village green, no parking at village hall). Free classic bus service.
- ▶ **Weekend October 8/9:** London Transport Museum, Depot Open Weekend.
- ▶ **Sunday October 9:** Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day
- ▶ **Saturday October 15:** Wheels by Lamplight, Ipswich Transport Museum
- ▶ **Sunday October 23:** "The Very Best of London Buses", launch event for the London Bus Preservation Trust at Brooklands, Surrey.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday October 28/9:** London Transport Museum, Guided Tours at Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Saturday November 19:** (back to Saturday, not Sunday this year): LOTS Autumn Transport Sale, Harrow Leisure Centre.

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

Welcome to new members ...

A warm welcome to new members :

David Gregory of Felsted - 1032

Brendan Cosgrove of St Leonards - 1033

Richard Delahoy

Essex CC Timetable Book

ECC have recently advised us that: "Unfortunately the scale of service changes has not stabilised to an acceptable level and this, coupled with the long lead time to produce the Essex Timetable book, has meant that on many occasions the publication is providing out of date information very quickly and in some cases before it hits the shelves. For this reason, ECC has taken the decision not to produce an October 2011 edition . At this moment in time [we] are unable to confirm when the next edition will be".

As far as we are aware, no decision has been taken to discontinue the book permanently. We will advise members when we have any further news, but in the meanwhile, should anyone in the timetable subscription service want to cancel that subscription and have their outstanding balance refunded, please advise Richard Delahoy. Otherwise, we will continue to hold your balances pending resumption of publication.

The future of EBN

Only two members responded to the appeal for help in EBN 568.

From next month, Owen Woodliffe has kindly agreed to add to his existing Group commitments by taking over responsibility for coordinating EBN Announcements - meetings, tours, rallies, events etc. Please send entries to:

Owen Woodliffe, 96 Sinclair Road, Chingford, London E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

Mark Lloyd has kindly offered to take over Hedingham news. Reports. please to:

Mark Lloyd, 448 Ipswich Road, Colchester, CO4 4EY
mark.lloyd@asgb.co.uk

The Committee are very grateful to Owen and Mark, but disappointed that no-one else out of the 260-odd membership can spare an hour or so per month to take on any of the other vacancies. These are:

Ensign Bus - a fleet and dealership where there is never a dull moment!

National Express - a much neglected operator

Community Buses - a new and growing area

Preservation - a field with much happening and many interested

To apply or find out more, contact either Chris or David ...

Chris Stewart, Chairman
10 Crossways,
Shenfield
CM15 8QX
shenfield252@gmail.com

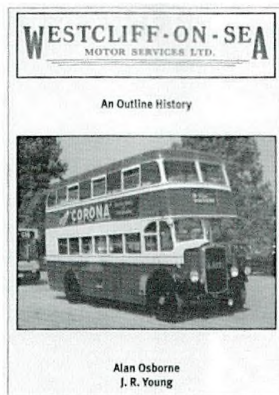
David Harman, EBN Editor
24 Frankfield Rise
Tunbridge Wells
TN2 5LF
essexbusnews@casuarina.org.uk
(not the email given last month which is now defunct)

Westcliff Motor Services History

Special offer price for members

Alan Osborne and Jim Young's history of Westcliff MS has now been published. Running to 224 pages, hardbacked and copiously illustrated, the book fills a major gap in published bus company histories and adds considerably to the existing works on Eastern National and its constituent companies.

The standard price for the book is **£25** (£27.50 by post) but we are delighted to be able to offer members the opportunity to buy copies for **£5** off, limited to one copy per member. We hope to have the book on sale at most Wickford and Colchester meetings and it will be on our stand at the Castle Point Transport Museum's open day



on October 9th. Alternatively, orders by post can be sent to **Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road, Chingford, London E4 8PT** with a cheque payable to EBEG for £22.50. Please identify yourself as an EBEG member when buying/ordering.

A review of the book will appear in a future EBN.

Black & White Photo Service

The first of the prints (early Southend and District) were listed on eBay in August with encouraging results. The next list will be **Westcliff-on-Sea** vehicles which will be listed in October. If you save **e-b-e-g** as a **favourite seller** eBay will email you when the sale goes live.

In the meantime members are recommended to *www.busphotostall.co.uk* run by Adrian Dodsall which contains large lists of colour and black and white photos from Essex operators. The quality and service are excellent.

Lyn Watson

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

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

MISSING / DEFECTIVE EBNs

For replacements, contact the Distribution Officer:

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

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County

Council timetable book and bus map. Send

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

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

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

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

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

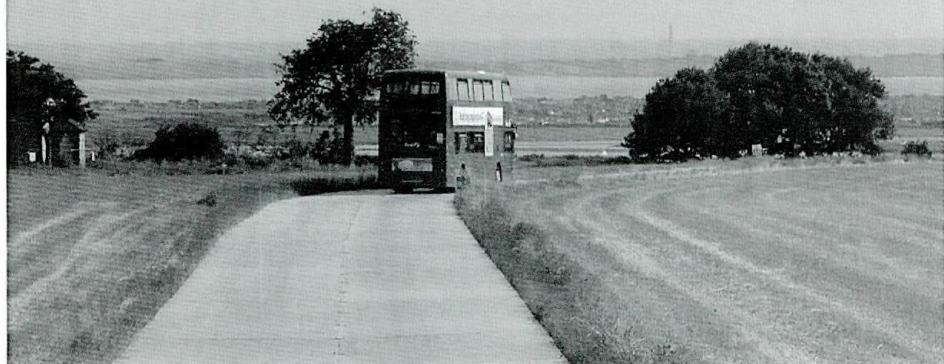
BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

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

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

lynw@barrons-bds.com

A new bus station for Essex



Richard Delahoy reports ...

A new bus station opened recently in Essex, served by just two routes but both running at 3 to 4 minute headways – and this on a Sunday! But go back today and you'll find no trace of it. Why? Well, this was all for the one-day Olympics test event held on Sunday July 31st at the new Hadleigh Castle mountain biking track.

The 2012 London Games are intended to be the "public transport games", with almost all spectators using public transport. The same is true of the events being staged at subsidiary venues around the country, but the mountain biking track built on the old cliffs around Hadleigh Castle presents a particular challenge, as there is only one narrow access road, Castle Lane, through a residential area, not wide enough for two buses to pass and with nowhere to turn/park at the entrance to the spectator areas.

However, on the cliff top stretching towards Leigh are the fields of the Salvation Army farm, with a short access road, Park Chase, off the A13 London Road. So obscure that the Google Street View camera car has not

even ventured down it, Park Chase became the entry point, with a temporary roadway laid for 800 metres over the fields to a massive bus station area, complete with queuing pens/railings. The roadway was simply a series of flexible metal panels laid over the fields and presented a somewhat surreal sight, especially entering the site, with lines of buses parked up in the distance, seemingly put out to graze in the fields. Buses followed a one-way loop, in via Park Chase and over the fields, then out via Castle Lane into the centre of Hadleigh. All surrounding roads had draconian parking restrictions and at Leigh, Belton Way West was closed except for westbound buses.

Two routes were operated, HAD1 from a park and ride site at Waterside Farm on Canvey and HAD3 from Leigh Station, connecting with trains from London and also the station car park. Around 5,000 visitors were expected (from pre-sale tickets) so the provision of 25 buses for the two routes looked somewhat of an overkill, but there would not have been any prizes for getting it wrong! First Group holds the master contract with the ODA (Olympic Delivery Authority) for spectator road transport and First London

above: Seen from the top deck of the following bus, an Enviro 400 follows the temporary roadway across the site, with Canvey in the near distance and Kent on the horizon.

Richard Delahoy

provided the 25 deckers for the public service, 23 DN class ADL Enviro 400s from Dagenham depot and two VN class Volvo B9TLs from Lea Interchange. First Essex provided shuttles for event staff, commencing with Colchester depot's Volvo 32484 and two other unidentified Essex buses

on the Friday morning before. On the Sunday, Hadleigh Tridents 32857/9/60/4, 33001/2 were all on staff shuttles.

There were plenty of staff on site to smooth the operation of the shuttles, with a bus always on the stand ready to load and others

above: 33571 heads for the Canvey Park & Ride site whilst 33548 loads for Leigh Station.

below: Sovereign's wreckers are not needed as 33567 heads for Canvey and 33548 loads for Leigh. *both Richard Delahoy*



waiting. And in case of problems (not that I spotted any), recovery experts Sovereign had two of their large breakdown trucks on standby, whilst potential problems of a different sort were catered for by the appearance of the Southend "SOS" bus, G649EKA (featured in EBN 557, September 2010).

The actual Olympics event will take place on August 11th & 12th, 2012 and the arrangements trialled so successfully on Sunday July 31st will be repeated, only catering for many more spectators than the 5,000 at the test event. Meanwhile, about the only clue to the bus station's existence is its

entry in the NAPLAN bus stop database and hence a small bus stop symbol that appears somewhat incongruously in Google maps in the middle of a field, a long way from the nearest road!

For the record, the full list of First London buses used was (correcting the list published last month): DN 33503-6/8/44/6/8/54-7/9/60/2-4/7/8/ 70-2/4, VN 36125/57.

Thanks to Ian Banks, Les Thorington, Stuart Currie, Chris Stewart, Nigel Clark and Kevin Frazer (c2c Rail) for their help in compiling this article.



Enviro DN33503 turns into the Waterside Farm park & ride site on Canvey, ready for another morning trip to the event site. *Ian Banks*

Hadleigh Trident 32859 leaves Leigh Station on a staff shuttle (with destination display programmed to alternate between "Hadleigh Event" and "Workforce Shuttle, Leigh Rail Station" as seen here), passing Dagenham's 33563. *Richard Delahoy*



Three Essex Girls and a Geordie

(or "The North Essex and Suffolk Rambler")



*The double deck participants, lined up here in the morning's sunshine, have a combined age of 252!
all photos: Chris Stewart*

This tour commenced at Colchester North Station where shortly after 9.00am Talisman former Eastern National open-top KSW WNO 480 arrived to take us to Wormingford, home of John Jackson and now also of KSW5G VNO 859, K5G AJN 825 and former Sunderland Crossley GR 9007. Whilst VNO and AJN have been on the preservation scene in Essex for many years, the Crossley was fully restored by John and Tony Melia just four years ago after seven years work.

Our visit today was to offer a ride on each vehicle and view the ongoing progress on restoration of former Northampton Crossley VV 9146, as well as to view some of the other fascinating vehicles and artefacts present. As we arrived in good weather but, with rain forecast, it was decided to have a run on the vehicles first; this took the form of a circular tour via Fordham, Chappel and Wakes Colne and Mount Bures with photo stops to enable everyone to change vehicles as desired. After this we then had an hour or so to discuss the ongoing work on VV 9146 and walk around the premises which included, amongst other things, remains of VV 9141 (donor vehicle for VV 9146) and ex-Army and RAF vehicles.

John gave us a very interesting talk about his 1936 Anti-Aircraft Gun, which saw service in Portuguese Angola before being repatriated to the UK.

There was then time for a further circular tour with the four preserved vehicles, this time via West Bergholt, passing en route First Scania 65539 laying over at Route 66 Terminus. Back at Wormingford there was time for a relaxed lunch in the convivial surroundings, with copious supplies of tea, coffee and biscuits provided by the excellent catering service.

The second part of the day was a tour in GR 9007 across the border into Suffolk via Sudbury and to the premises of Felix at Long Melford. We almost made it! But, just as we were passing Melford Hall and within a mile of Felix's premises - the front nearside tyre had punctured! The nearest spare was back at Wormingford. Such incidents do not deter the hardened enthusiast. Contact with Felix having been made, within minutes Stephen and Chris Golynia arrived with their two Bedford OB's DBU 889 and CCB 861 and took us on to their depot so the day could continue as planned (for most of us anyway).

Felix run a coach, mini-bus and taxi fleet and Mercedes Benz predominate. However they also own a BMC Nifty coach and, in addition to the two OB's we were using, a third OB - JFJ 939 new to Greenslades, more recently with C & R Coaches of Little Tey but fitted

out for the last 20 years as a luxury mobile accommodation unit. A 1934 Bedford truck, a restoration project, also attracted some interest.

At this point, the fine weather gave way to a short thunderstorm but this soon passed and our tour of Suffolk villages in DBU 889 and CCB 861 took place in splendid sunshine. Our route was via Glemsford, Hartest where we halted for photos at the former Theobald's premises, Shimpling, Lawshall and Stanningfield and back to Long Melford. This tour was much enhanced by the local knowledge of Stephen and Chris, pointing out en route the site of former operators' Song's and Brown's depots in Glemsford and both the old and newer premises of Hebdict's at Lawshall. Perhaps you did not know that Glemsford was famous for horsehair - weaving it became a major cottage industry locally (as did the manufacture of coconut matting) from the mid 19th Century, providing work for local hand loom weavers whose work had been taken over by machinery and other textiles. Flax manufacture was another major



Bedford OB JFJ 939, a caravan for 20 years but for a time another 'Essex girl'.

Reconstruction work progresses apace on former Northampton VV 9146.





You've never seen the inside of an OB look like this! Keith Peacock (of AJN's 825 Group) stands in the kitchen.

employer (for more about the village and its history see www.glemsford.org.uk).

Upon arrival back at Long Melford there was a welcome sight as GR 9007, now roadworthy again, was awaiting our return. At this point it is appropriate to record our special thanks to Felix employee, Glyn, who, having been walking past Melford Hall just after GR 9007's puncture had immediately offered his services to take John and Tony back to Wormingford in a Felix mini-bus, pick up a spare wheel and return so that repairs could be effected whilst the rest of us enjoyed our OB tour. Many thanks Glyn.

After recording our thanks to Stephen and Chris for their hospitality, return to Wormingford was, fortunately without a hitch and here, on behalf of the group, Chris Stewart gave warm thanks to John Jackson, Tony Melia and the various owners/vehicle group members who had contributed to such an enjoyable day. The highlight of our subsequent return to Colchester on WNO 480 was a hailstorm which ensured that those hardy - some would say foolhardy - members

(including the Chairman) on the top deck got a good drenching.

So, finally, thanks to Keith, Gary and all who helped to organise the day, and to Trevor for driving us to and from Colchester in WNO; a pity there were only 18 of us to enjoy the fruits of their labours.

Richard Huggins

p.s. As pointed out prior to the tour by several people, GR 9007 is of course a 'Mackem' rather than a 'Geordie', but that didn't really have the same ring to it.

On the back cover:

above: Former Lancashire Lass **CCB 861** is about to turn at Boxted, the sky still black from the thunderstorm which had just passed over.

below: Felix's other OB, **DBU 889**, also originated in Lancashire. The pair are seen at Hartest Garage, one time outstation to Theobald's.

both: Chris Stewart

Service changes

Arriva

28 Aug 11 541 D Harlow to Loughton: revised timetable.

Carters Coaches

3 Sep 11 755/6 MS Hadleigh to Colchester: service withdrawn.
 4 Sep 11 92 MS Manningtree to Ipswich: revised timetable.
 93 MS Ipswich to Colchester: revised timetable
 94 MS Hadleigh to Colchester: new service
 96 MS Mistley to Ipswich: revised route and timetable.

Ensign Bus

2 7 Aug 11 X91H * Shenfield to Bluewater: revised timetable.
 *operates last Sat in August and first Sat in December only.

First Essex

28 Aug 11 200 MS Basildon to Lakeside: revised route and timetable to operate via Colleges instead of Stifford Clays and withdrawn between Grays and Lakeside (updated information).

First London

5 Sep 11 608 Sch Harold Park to Brentwood via Shenfield School: new Schoolday service.

Lea Valley Buses (Gemma Smith)

12 Jul 11 255 MS Loughton Station to Cheshunt: service withdrawn.
 555 MS Loughton to Harlow: service withdrawn.

Regal Busways

30 Aug 11 2 MWF Chelmsford to Southend: new service one return journey.
 6 TTh Chelmsford to Southend: new service one return journey operating via Rayleigh.
 R3 MF Rayleigh to Rawreth Asda: new peak hour service.

Roadrunner

23 July 11 255 MS Loughton to Cheshunt: new service

SM Coaches

20 July 11 19 MS Harlow to Epping: service extended to Loughton.

TGM Group(Network Harlow)

4 Sep 11 1/A/B MS Harlow to Sumners Circular: Monday to Saturdays 1 & 1A daytime journeys withdrawn. No change to evening 1B journeys.
 2/3/A MS Harlow to Staple Tye Circular: revised timetable.
 4 MS Harlow to Latton Bush Circular: revised timetable to operate every half hour.
 5 MS Sumners to Pinnacles: revised route and timetable.
 6 MS Harlow to Brays Grove: revised timetable with daytime journeys withdrawn.

	7 / A	MS	Harlow to Old Harlow Circular: revised timetable.
	10	MS	Harlow to Church Langley: certain journeys diverted via First Avenue to Church Langley and renumbered service 20. Revised route on service 10 schooldays to serve Passmores Academy.
	505	MS	Harlow to Chingford: revised route and timetable.
	900	Coll	Epping to Harlow: new college day only service one return journey.
5 Sep 11	901	Sch	Harlow to Passmore School: new am only schoolday service.
	250	MS	Debden to Waltham Cross: revised timetable.
	251	MS	Upshire to Hammond Street: revised timetable.
Travel with Hunny			
23 Jul 11	555	MS	Harlow to Waltham Abbey: new service.
Uno			
4 Sep 11	700	D	Stansted Airport to Stevenage: revised route and timetable. Section of route to Hatfield withdrawn.
Walden Travel			
5 Sep 11	94	Sch	Saffron Walden to Wimbish: revised route and timetable with service extended to Thaxted.

Paul Harvey
(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council,
Richard Delahoy, Harlowride & First)

Publicity News

The Go-Ride items for the 79/79A mentioned last month are in fact postcard-size.
Other recent items:

First 22 page booklet, plus fold out map for services 100/200 dated 28.8.11; First 30 page booklet with fold out map - Braintree Area bus guide, which I'm pleased to report shows ECC journeys operated by other operators, where First provides a commercial daytime service; 22 page booklet plus fold out map for services 42/ A dated 28.8.11; 12 page booklet for service 70 dated 28.8.11; First corporate style multifold leaflet for services 48/X/49 dated 28.8.11

Essex County Council leaflets for services 3/ A/ B (Southend - Writtle) dated 4.7.11 and double-sided colour sheets for services 79 and 79A dated 23rd July.

Ian Ransom

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

All operating companies within First Midlands and South East (First Essex Buses Ltd are now registered at Westway, Chelmsford, namely:

First Essex Buses Ltd
First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd
Northampton Transport Ltd
Leicester Citybus Ltd
First Midland Red Buses Ltd
First Potteries Ltd

Changes to legal lettering were first noted on 1st September.

New/acquired vehicles

In EBN568, please delete all references to 42442. Volvo B7s 32475-8/80-5 are H49/27F and not as shown. In addition, 66177/9 should be W377/9EOW with chassis numbers 006062 & 006218 and body numbers B545/7.

39623 NML623E AEC Routemaster Park Royal H40/32R new 10.5.67 LT RML2623
42445 P445TCV Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11150 Plaxton 9710/6HLZ6948 B40F
new 1.7.97 Western National 445
43356 V356DVG Ds Dart MPD SFD612BR1XGW13897 Plaxton B29F 998.8GKB1728
new 1.11.99 First Eastern Counties356
43442 P442NEX Ds Dart SLF SFD322BR1TGW10370 Plaxton B40F 9610HLZ9519 17.11.96
Eastern Counties 442
60766 R644CVR Volvo B10BLE YV3R4A518WA004319 Wright B41F A264 26.6.98
First Manchester 644
60767 S657RNA Volvo B10BLE YV3R4A511WA004422 Wright B41F A266 14.9.98
First Manchester 657
66169 W369EOW Volvo B10BLE YV3R4A518YA006218 Wright B44F B537 17.3.00
First Provincial 369

Known arrival dates:

43442 by 10th August and 42445 on 12th (both from Norwich), 66169 on 27th (from Great Yarmouth), 60766/7 on 29th and 43356 on 4th Sept (all from Ipswich). Routemaster 39623 has been exchanged for 39480 (seemingly during during July), the latter being seen at King's Lynn for MOT on 18th July.

Allocation changes

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

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

As far as your sub Editor can deduce from comparing official lists which use differing formats/terminology, these are the moves for Period 4 (four weeks ending 23 July 2011):

20500 CF-RES(PH); 20501 CF-RES(PH); 30558 CR-FGC; 30560 CR-FGC; 32478-80/2-5 FEC-

CR; 34285 CR-RES(CR); 34288 CR-RES(CR); 32490 CR-FGC; 34301 CR-RES(CR); 34302 CR-RES(CR); 34303 BE-CR; 34304 CR-RES(CR); 34309 CR-RES(CR); 34310 CR-RES(CR); 34355 RES(CF)-BN; 34613 BE-RES(BE); 39480 PH(BE)-FEC; 39623 FEC-PH(CF); 41653 BN-RES(BN); 42441 FEC-BN; 42443 FEC-BN; 46158 CF-RES(CF); 46185 BN-RES(BN); 60102 CF-RES(CF); 66177 FEC-RES(CF); 66179 FEC-RES(CF); 62407 CN-CR; 65551 FEC-CR; 65552 FEC-CR; 65576 FEC-CR; 65672 CR-FEC; 65673 CR-FEC; 65673 CR-FEC; 67006 CF-RES

Period 5 (four weeks ending 20th August 2011):

27th July: 34310 CR-BN; 34303 CR-RES(store at CN); 34311 CR-RES(store at CN)

10th Aug: 34310 BN-RES(store at CN); 34314 CR-BN; 34315 CR-BN

15th Aug: 34301 RES(CR)-CR; 34309 CR-RES(store at CN); 42445 FEC-HH; 42854 HH-D/L(D); 67007 CF-RES(store at BE)

16th Aug: 66811 BE-CF; 66837 BE-CF

34310 and 43356 have subsequently been seen in use from CF and 34304 at CN while 43442 is at BN.

Please note the following corrections to previous EBNs:

EBN564: 62407 should read CR-CN

EBN565: 41736 BN-HH, 43736 HH-BN (not BN-HH as shown) and 43738 HH-BN

Disposals:

39480 to First Eastern Counties Buses Ltd

46145 and 47223 to Erith Commercials for scrap (25th July & 9th August respectively)

56005/6/9 were recorded in EBN565 as having gone to First Scotland East on 10th April this year, but they in fact departed on 14th July (two on low loaders and one being driven) for First Glasgow, where they have since been seen in service.

Repaints/Adverts:

30902 repainted

65032 (by 2nd Sept) to corporate front and Audi Chelmsford/Colchester contravision advert on the former black livery (appearing briefly in service with the repainted front but no advert on 24th August)

32478 has a super rear advert for 'Race 4 Life'.

43743, 65688 and 66828 gained super rear adverts for Colchester Institute (43743 for the College at Clacton) during July while .65576 lost its Giant Pet Store super rear advert during August.

In EBN567, Dart 42485 is said to have "lost its super rear advert for Duxford by May 2011". It actually lost it by at latest 21st September 2009, although the top of the advert above the rear window stayed in place long after the rest had been removed.

Area News - workings and sightings

Pointers and Dashes - Step entrance Darts

46153 worked route 100 on 15th & 31st August and 351 on 22nd, and was seen on the 551 on 8th Sept. 46158 was noted on 45 (26th Aug and 8th Sept), 54/56 (15th & 19th Aug), 71/71A (16th/17th Aug) and 51 (2nd Sept).

Lance Watch - three at work

Since early August, 67009 has been working from Clacton (74 on 8th and 17/17A on 19th) although it was unserviceable at CN by 31st. 67003 was noted working Harwich 103 on 19th while 60102 was on 31X (11th), 71/71A (15th, 18th, 24th & 26th) and 42/42A (8th/31st Aug and 1st Sept).



On 18th & 19th August, part of Grove Road, Rayleigh was closed for roadworks with First service 20 diverted via Trinity Road and Warwick Road.

Plaxton Dart 40733 turning out of Warwick Road back onto normal route (Clarence Road.)



East Lancs Dart 40777 travelling along Warwick Road and crossing The Chase on diversionary route.



Trident 32905 travelling along Warwick Road on diversionary route, having just turned left from Trinity Road.

All: Philip Mansbridge

Official listing shows 67004/5 at CN 'unfit', 67008/9 at CN (reserve), 67006/7/12 at BE (reserve) with 60103/4, 67001/2/10/1/3 at BE 'surplus'. CF67007 had been seen on service 42 on 5th August and 71/71A on 6th & 8th August.

Further sightings from 22nd July were 60102 on 42, 67006 on 71 (also 28th) and 67007 on 71A.

Rail Replacements and Special Events

V Festival 19th-22nd August

Vehicles noted working this year's V Festival shuttles to and from Chelmsford's Hylands Park were:

First Essex Volvo B7s 30900-3, Tridents 32809/18/52/5/7/9/64 & 33001, Olympians 31376 & 31456, 34011/4/8/56, 34284/5, 34301/2/4/7/8/10/1/4/5/55 & 34610 and Scania 65521

First London Tridents 32929, 33078/86/7/92/4/6 & 33232 plus an unidentified Enviro E400

Stephenson's of Essex G707TCD, J564HAT, K890CSF, L953MSC & N827FKK

Fourways E851/2DPN, G310FWC, G937/81FVX, H691/9PTW & J627SPR

NIBS (vehicles unknown)

Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)

First Eastern Counties Scania 65524 was at Clacton from 11th August for recovery of the engine, prior to passing for scrap. CR65576 spent from 4th to 18th unfit for service at CN. Unusual vehicles on the 4 and 22A/B (see below) were the result of Dart/Enviro DT44516 being off the road (at CR) and DT44519 away for a new engine at Cummins, Iver. Loan vehicle CR34303 moved from DT to CN in early August but at that time DT32847/9 were at CN for repairs. Harwich retained Olympian CR34288 and Trident CN32855 on loan at that time, 34288 only moving back to CR in early September, being noted on route 62 on 8th.

August

2nd DT42937 on 4

3rd-5th DT32818 on 22A/B all day

4th DT32804 unfit at CN, CN41679 on 76

5th CR34288 on DT103 (and 10th)

6th CR65553 on CN74.

8th DT32810 on 22A/B early morning

17th Olympian CR34307 on CN76

25th CR65576 on 17/17A

26th CR65677 on CN74

Sept

8th 34304 on CN76

Colchester (CR)

During the University holidays, the ex FEC Volvo B7TLs have appeared on various CR routes as will be seen below, although intended for 61/A & 62/A from September. The evening and Sunday/bank holiday services at CR can now be 100% low floor.

From 1st to 4th August, Old Heath/Rowhedge bound routes 66/A were diverted owing to a temporary no right turn from St Botolph's Circus into Military Road (caused by building works).

August

3rd CR32485 on 1

4th CR32480 on 1

5th CR32480 on 64, CR32482 on 64A, CR32477/8/84 on 65

6th CR32483 on 8E
 7th CR32482 on 64
 8th CR32485 on 64 and 65
 10th BE30901 on 15.50 Halstead 88A (having previously broken down and been swapped for CR65534)
 11th CR32477 on 64, CR32478 on Maldon 75
 12th CR32477 on 1, CR32478 on 64, CR32485 on 2E, CN43744 on CR63
 17th CR32477 on 64
 18th CR34304 on 68
 19th CR65539 on CF71
 22nd CR32482 on 66A
 23rd CR32477 on 63 (saloon working) and 64, CR34308 on 68
 24th CR32477 on 1, CR32478 on 65, CR32482 on 66
 25th CR32481 on 65
 26th CR32477/81/2 on 65, CR32483 on 64A

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Braintree's operation of the 70 route has seen 66177/9, 30900-3 appear regularly.

August

3rd BE34613 on 70
 8th CF65029 on 42/42A
 11th 66179 on 70
 12th BE43360 on 70X
 16th BE42488/9, BE43357 on 21
 17th BE43357 on 70X
 20th CR65521 on 42 (also V shuttles), 66179 on 70 (also 23rd/24th)
 24th CF66798 on BE70, CF34284 on 71
 25th CF65028 on 42
 26th 34310 on 42, CF65691 on 71, CF65690 on 36, BE66817 on 36
 30th 34310, CF43358, CF66811 and BE66817 all on 42
 31st 34310 and 65671 on 42

Sept

2nd 20500 on X30, 34310 on 42 (a.m. Warner's Farm to CF Station), CF43359 on 42, CF53136 on 71, 65671 on 31X, 66169 on BE21
 7th 65671 on X30

And a snapshot of an hour at Chelmsford Bus Station on 24th August:

BE30901 on 15.20 service 70 to Colchester
 CF42921 at 15.18 on service 45 to Moulsham Lodge.
 46177 on depot shuttles
 CF65032 on 15.35 service 31 to Maldon (Fleet livery on front, remainder plain black)
 46158 at 15.44 on service 56 to North Melbourne
 42934 at 15.59 on service 47 heading into town
 CF65028 on service 31D to Burnham at 16.05

Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)

On 14th August, Stanford Le Hope level crossing was closed and service 100 diverted (both ways) via Victoria Road (not serving London Road west of level crossing). Scania 65690-2 moved from CF to BN at the end of August to cover enhanced requirements on the 100.

August

8th BN34011 on 25

15th BN34011 on 351/551, BN65627 on 100
 20th BN34315 on 25, BN43714 on 25
 23rd BN34355 on 25
 24th HH41761 on 2
 26th BN34012 on 100, BN43442 on 551, BN66827 on 5
 28th CF42923 on 256 (temporary loan) and 80A/C on 29th, BN65626 seen in CR
 31st BN60766 on 25, ex CF 65691/2 on 100 (with BN65666) and 65690 on 5 (with 42923)

Sept

1st BN60766 on 25
 2nd BN60767 on 25, BN60809 and BN43442 on 100
 6th 42923 on 551

Other news

In mid August, former Veolia Cymru Volvo B7RLE/Plaxton CN07HVL/M and CN57EFB/E/F passed through First Essex for preparation work en route from Ensign to elsewhere within First Midlands and South East.

Shenfield School T/L route 608 passed to First London from Stagecoach with the new term - Trident TN33232 (no stranger to these parts, having worked V Festival) was noted on Tuesday 6th September.

Finally, a bit of history. Five bus stop posts along the line of the old 115 route in Holland-on-Sea still existed in July even though the service ceased in the early 1990s. Two are located in Salisbury Road and three in Canterbury Road; one in Salisbury Road has been repainted cream (ex green) and now sports a hanging flower basket!

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to M Allen, R Appleton, S Austin, I Banks, A Bird, N Clark, T Clark, J Collins, D Edwards, M Farmer, D Flatman, F406LTW, M Hart, A Kelleher, K Lee, J Long, K Mead, L813OPU, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', D Southwood, J Waite, R Wansbury, R West, the Essex, East Anglia and British Buses in North America yahoo! groups, Essex Buses Google group, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

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

Arriva

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

New vehicles

3875	KX11	PVN	Volvo B7RLE	149706	Wright	AF411	B45F	8/11
3876	KX11	PUK	Volvo B7RLE	149705	Wright	AF412	B45F	8/11
3877	KX11	PUJ	Volvo B7RLE	149707	Wright	AF413	B45F	8/11
3878	KX11	PVL	Volvo B7RLE	149986	Wright	AF414	B45F	8/11
3879	KX11	PUY	Volvo B7RLE	149987	Wright	AF415	B45F	8/11
3880	KX11	PVA	Volvo B7RLE	149985	Wright	AF416	B45F	8/11
3882	KX11	PVD	Volvo B7RLE	150030	Wright	AF418	B45F	8/11
3883	KX11	PVE	Volvo B7RLE	150028	Wright	AF419	B45F	8/11

Vehicles in

from TGM, Essex 401-5 2/11

401	S301 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1WGW12428	Plaxton 9810.1HJB9440 B32F 8/98
402	S302 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1WGW12429	Plaxton 9810.1HJB9441 B32F 8/98
403	S303 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1WGW12430	Plaxton 9810.1HJB9442 B32F 8/98
404	S304 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1WGW12431	Plaxton 9810.1HJB9443 B32F 8/98
405	S305 JUA	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1WGW12432	Plaxton 9810.1HJB9444 B32F 8/98

from TGM, Essex 564/5 6/11

564	AE55 VGK	MAN 14.220 WMAA66ZZ95C005843	MCV B37F	2/06
565	AE55 VGL	MAN 14.220 WMAA66ZZ95C005844	MCV B40F	2/06

from Anglian Bus, Ellough, Suffolk 7/11

566	KV03 ZGK	Transbus Enviro 300 SFD113AR12GG10117	Transbus 0182/5 B44F	3/03
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from TGM, Essex 3250/1 2/11

3250	V250 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A916XC010090	Wright B585 B40F	9/99
3251	V251 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A91XXC010092	Wright B586 B40F	9/99

from TGM, Essex 3253 7/11

3253	V253 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A911XC010093	Wright B588 B40F	9/99
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from TGM, Essex 3254-6, 3417/39/40 2/11

3254	V254 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A913XC010094	Wright B589	B40F	9/99
3255	V255 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A919XC010097	Wright B590	B40F	10/99
3256	V256 HBH	Volvo B6BLE YV3R3A917XC010098	Wright B591	B40F	10/99
3417	P417 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF 322BR1TGW10286	Wright W84	B41F	8/96
3439	R169 GNW	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1VGV11046	Wright Y248	B36F	9/97
3440	R170 GNW	Dennis Dart SLF 212BR1VGV11060	Wright Y246	B36F	9/97

Allocations

2/11: 401-5, 3250/1/3-6, 3417/39/40.HA

6/11: 564/5.HA; 2424.WE; 3174.w

7/11: 566.HA

8/11: 3875-80/2/3.WE

Liveries

2/11: allover yellow 401/4/5 (S301/4/5 JUA) (as received)

allover blue - 3250/1/3-6 (V250/1/3-6 HBH) (as received)

allover red - 3417 (P417 HVX). 3439/40 (R169/70 GNW) (as received)

6/11: two tone blue livery with "Network Harlow" fleetnames - 2459 (KE54 OSU)

6/11: allover white - 564/5 (AE 55 VGK/L) (as received)

by 6/11: super rear advert for Easyjet - 3857 (KE54 LPC)

by 6/11: super rear advert for Ryanair - 3873 (KE57 EPA)

7/11: allover white - 566 (KV 03 ZGK) (as received)

Vehicles out

402/3 (S302/3 JUA): TGM, Essex 402/3 6/11

3180 (P180 SRO): Arriva the Shires 3180 6/11

3413 (P833 HVX): gone 7/11

3833 (M503 VJO): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 7/11

5423-6 (W423-6 XKX): Arriva the Shires 8/11

Subsequent histories

2187 (R187 DNM): Olympus/SM Coaches, Harlow by 5/11 ex Gemma Smith, Harlow
2378 (R948 VPU): Petty, Berkhamstead by 7/11 ex Pickford, Chippenham
3371 (K321 CVX): Hardwick, Carlton(dealer) 7/11 ex Arriva The Shires 3371
3461-3 (W461-3 XKX): Arriva London North ADL61-3 6/11 ex Arriva London South
ADL61-3
3842 (N622 FJO): Poynter, Wye, Kent 6/11 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)

General

For legal reasons the above vehicles have been returned to this operator whose Harlow operations, although controlled by TGM Group, are registered in the name of Arriva East Herts & Essex. The Ware operations are similarly controlled by Arriva the Shires. It is anticipated that the Harlow operations and vehicles will be transferred to TGM, Essex on 1st October.

Following the arrival of new Volvo B7RLEs at Ware, it is expected that Dennis Tridents 5427-9/33/42 (W427-9/33/42 XKX) will also be transferred to Arriva the Shires

Fleet Allocation 8/11

Harlow (HA): 401/4/5, 564-6, 2406/7/53-60/5-7/73/4, 3229-31/50/1/3-7, 3417/39/40/83, 3828//56-6-/73/4, 3901-10
Ware (WE): 2403-5/24/31/63/4/83-8, 3281/2/93, 3830-2/75-83, 4521/2, 5427-9/33/42/3/5-7
Under repair at Watford (u): 3252

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Further to EBN 566 the number of Optare Versas expected for service 9 has increased from 10 to 12. It is understood the extra two had originally been earmarked for Maidstone. The 12 vehicles will cover the 11 vehicle service 9 pvr. Delivery was expected as we went to press, more details next month.

Most (if not all) single deck vehicles have received roof cove branding in recent months which reads *arrivabus.co.uk/southend*.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Dave Stewart

Centrebuss

A recent addition here is former Stagecoach London Dennis Dart SLF/ Alexander 528 (Y254 FJN). Dennis Dart SLF/MCV 547/8 (AE06 HBU/X) have left Harlow for Leeds.

Ian Ransom with thanks to LOTS

Ensignbus

■ DEALING STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in from

Arriva Southern Counties: Mercedes Varios: R798DUB, R119/120/1 TKO
R186 DNB X653 WTN

Dublin Bus: Volvo B7LAs 00-D-65005/8/11/5/8
Go Ahead North East: Darts W928 PTS/W869 YNB/S366/9/71 ONL
Henshaws, Moreton-in Marsh, Glos.: Javelin P153 JUJ
Metroline: Tridents: T191-4/202/5 CLO, V308/314 GLB
Red Kite: Trident V150 MEV
Safford's Coaches: Volvo B10B M901 DRG, Volvo B10M N907 DCC
Shamrock Buses: Tridents LV52 HHP/HHR
Skills, Nottingham: Olympian J629 CEV
Stagecoach East Scotland: Volvo B10Ms N415 PYS, N974 FSR, Javelins M933 ROS/
N84 RGD/N75 CSX, Mercedes 614 PIJ 601
Stagecoach London: Tridents V130/4/6/49/57/59/61/2/6/71/2/4/7/8/93/
5/211/4/6/8 MEV, X251/3/68/96/8/303/4/9/11/2/5
338/63/73/81/2/4/5/6/8 NNO, Darts Y273/339 FJN,
Y671 JSG
TD Travel: Volvo B10M E237 VVP
Veolia Transport: DAF SB3000 T110 AUA, Javelin S610 VAY/P898 FMO
MAN T868/9 JBC, Volvo B7TL FE51 RCY
Enviro 300 SJ56 GBY, Volvo B10M Y336 AUT
Scania YN03 DFZ, YN04 GKP/GKY/GPK, YN55 NDU/
PXD/E/U/W
Volvo B12B FJ56 YWF, Olympian P474 MBY
Solos YN04 LWP, CN06 BXS

Vehicles out

to
DAF P712 RWU: **A & J Coaches**, Ely, Cambs.
Tridents X251/309/386 NNO: **Anglian Bus**, Ellough, Norfolk
Dart P503 RYM: **Axe Valley**, Seaton, Devon
Volvo B10M N415 PYS: **Beeston**, Hadleigh, Suffolk
Iveco Scolabus FN52 GTZ: **Belle Vue**, Stockport
Trident V213 MEV: **Bus Transport Ltd**, London NW11
Javelin P153 JUJ:
Scania YN55 NDU/PXE: **Crosville Motor Services**,
(not the original one) Weston-super-Mare
Volvo B10M E237 VVP, Trident X262 NNO:
CountryBus, Newton Abbot, Devon
Volvo B7TLs LN51 AZA/AZB, FE51 RCY:
Countryliner, Guildford
Volvo B12B FJ56 YWF: **Edinburgh Coach Lines**
Volvo B10B M901 DRG: **Express Travel**, Gloucester
Volvo B7RLEs CN57 EFB-E-F, CN07 HVL-M:
FirstGroup Plc
Scania YN55 PXD/PXW: **Gardners Coaches**, Chelmsford, Essex
Javelin R749 XPO: **GHA**, Wrexham
Dublin Olympian 97-D-359 now R336 LHK,
DAF AIG 7821, Volvo B10Ms GIL 6241, RIB 1795, Javelins M601 RTX, S608 VAY:
GM Coaches, Bridgend
Trident V168 MEV: **Golden Tours**, London
Scania T499 OWY: **Grahams**, Kelvedon, Essex
Volvo B10M N974 XSR: **Heritage Coaches**, Horsham, West Sussex
Dart R446 LGH: **Imperial Buses**, Hornchurch
Optare Tempus YJ56 WUB-C-D, WVE/WVS-T-U-V, YJ06 FXW
Javelins HBZ 4674, LIL 9974, S611 VAY, M933 RDS, MAN T866-9 JBC
DAF T110 AUA **Go-Ahead South Coast**
Darts AA05 BLU, BB05 BLU, Solo YJ06 YRC:
Henshaw, Moreton-in Marsh, Glos.

Scania YN04 GKK/P/Y: **Mayne's Coaches**, Manchester
 Tridents T408/414 BNN: **Meridian Line**, Royston, Herts.
 Tridents V134/59/74 MEV, X268 NNO: **Mullaney**, Watford
 Volvo B7TL X597 EGK: **Nippybus**, Martock, Somerset
 Javelin N75 CSX: **Rayleigh Roadways**, Rayleigh, Essex
 Olympian M491 ASW: **Red Kite**, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
 Olympian C32 CHM: **Red Route**, Northfleet, Kent
 Olympian G517 VBB: **Regal Coaches**, London W12
 Darts P502 RYM/T47 KLD/V560 JBH: **Renown**, Bexhill, East Sussex
 Dart P507 RYM: **RLB Transport**, Castleford, W Yorks.
 Scania YN55 PXU: **Rogers Coaches**, Worcester
 Tridents V170/86 MEV: **Saffords**, Sandy, Beds.
 Trident V424 DRC: **Simonds**, Diss, Norfolk
 Scania V304EAK, W301-3 MKY: **Skills**, Nottingham
 Trident V171 MEV: **Sleafordian**, Sleaford, Lincs.
 Olympian H224 VKU: **Smith**, Patna, Scotland
 Dart Y284 FJN: **Stephensons**, Rochford, Essex
 Dennis Dragon M699 TDB: **Swift Coaches**, Largs
 Dublin B6BLEs 00-D-70024/9/32 now X947/89/81 CNO with
Town & Country, Caldicote
 Dart R447 LGH, B10M P851 GND: **TWH**, Harlow, Essex
 Trident V150 MEV: **A C Williams**, Grantham, Lincs.
 Solos YJ55 BHX/Z: **Yeomans**, Hereford

 Volvo B10Ms Y336 AUT, N907 DCC: **Bob Vale Coach Sales**

 Trident X338 NNO: **LIDL Supermarkets**

 Tridents PJ02 PZR/S: **Island Sightseeing**, Malta, converted to open top.
 Dublin Olympian 97-D-348: **Tanamount Nigeria**, Lagos, Nigeria, converted to part
 open top.
 Mercedes Varios: R798 DUB, R119/20/21 TKO, R186 DNB, X653 WTN:
Uslugi Transport, Poland
 Volvo B10M M790 PRS, Mercedes 709 N752 CKU:
Nile Transport, Harare, Zimbabwe

 Volvo B7LAs 00-D-65005/8/11/5/8, Dart R868 MCE:
Geoff Ripley, Barnsley

■ ENSIGN BUS CO. LTD.

Acquired vehicles

from Sanders, Holt, Norfolk

121 PL08 YLZ Volvo B9TL YS3S4L8288A128191 East Lancs 68701 H51/31F new 8/2008
 122 PL08 YMA Volvo B9TL YS3S4L8278A128330 East Lancs 68702 H51/31F new 8/2008
from Stagecoach London 34309/6/3
 780 LX51 FGK Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR11GW65830 Alexander 0070/56 B34F 10/2001
 781 LX51 FGD Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR11GW65818 Alexander 0070/53 B34F 9/2001
 782 LX51 FGA Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR11GW65815 Alexander 0070/50 B34F 9/2001

Disposals

Dart/Marshall 721 (R621 VEG) to TWH, Harlow.
 Dart/UVG 710 (P910 MOR) to Renown, Bexhill, East Sussex.
 Olympian/Alexanders 124 (S124 RLE) and 152 (392 GBF) to Bear Buses, Slough. 152
 registered to P794 SWC.

Dart/Marshall Capitals 719/29/32 (R619/29/32 VEG) are withdrawn and for sale.

David Harman with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Lea Valley Buses

This recently established operator, Gemma Smith Ltd. (t/a Lea Valley Buses) went into administration on 12th July and ceased to trade on 26th July. The six Volvo B6RLE/Alexander (P704/5/10/13 BTA, P328/55 JND) owned passed to Roadrunner, Harlow, together with operation of service 255 (Brookfield Centre - Loughton via Waltham Cross), which requires four vehicles.

Ian Ransom with thanks to LOTS

Olympus / Roadrunner

See the Lea Valley Buses notes above. P704/5/10 BTA and P355 JND are branded in pink for route 255 and remain mainly on that route, albeit now licensed to Road Runner Buses Ltd. The two others were branded in purple for route 555, (now operated by TWH), and these have had the 555 bit of the branding removed. The ex-LVB buses appear on any Olympus / Roadrunner route in practice.

Further vehicles acquired are Dennis Dart SLF/ Plaxton P758 FOD, P301 AYJ and P324 EFL, all former Stagecoach vehicles, now in blue/white fleet livery.

Of the former London United Volvo B7TLs, W462/8 are now in white and blue; W461/73 remain in red. These are now normally on new route 511 (Harlow - Bishops Stortford).

Ian Ransom with thanks to LOTS

Regal Busways

Leyland Lynx F212 YHG has been repainted into new livery with front style fleetname, although without stripes and numbered 102. 102 is regular vehicle for the 2/6/680/681/R3 workings (no published timetable is available for 680/1 as we went to press). 102 will also be backed up by the latest additions to fleet, three ex Heddingham Lynxes: H48 NDU, J724 KBC and J295 TWK. Also acquired is Volvo/Plaxton Excalibur J734 CWT, which came from Ensign (dealer), Purfleet.

Leyland Olympian/ECW B714/HVO (1202) which had been in use as a seat store, has been repaired and after MOT, will enter service. It retains Ipswich green/cream livery.

Further to EBN 568, Ensign 724 was on loan for about 10 days, while Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton X211 ONH (611) was repaired.

Leyland National BYW 365V (101) appeared at the North Weald Rally, after about two years out of use.

Dennis Dart/Plaxton J140 DUV (540) has been stripped for spares, after serious accident damage.

Ian Ransom

Stephensons of Essex

Dennis Trident/East Lancs V415 KMY has been reacquired from Coachmaster, Heywood. This and Scania N94UD YN07 LHD (506) went on loan to Norfolk Green, Kings Lynn in late August and are expected to be there for about a month.

Further acquired vehicles are:-

439 Y284FJN, Dennis Dart SLF, Alexander B34F is a fifth ex East London Bus Group Dart acquired via Ensign to add to the four 51 plate examples reported in July.

456 GU52HJX / XS 2210 457 GU52HJY 458 GU52HKC 459 GU52HKD
all Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B38F, ex Coastal Coaches (Jenkins), Newick; being prepared for service from Haverhill depot.

The final hired vehicle, Ensign Volvo B6RLE/Alexander Belfast X979 CNO (previously 98-D-20386), was returned to Purfleet on 22nd August.

802/4, L562/4 YCU (Volvo Olympian/NCME) have been withdrawn and sold to South Gloucester Bus & Coach, after initial short term use at Haverhill.

Readers will be aware that Stephensons also act as dealers but it is not our policy to report vehicles held in dealer stock, which can often be found parked at Haverhill, Witham and Rochford depots. Hence other vehicles, not reported in EBN, can be seen on Stephensons premises from time to time but are not part of their operational fleet and will only be reported here when sold on.

Finally, Haverhill depot converted from Almex A90 to Wayfarer 3 ticketing from September 1st, bringing it in line with the Essex depots.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson and Richard Delahoy

Community Buses

Go-ride: the 'big buses' reported in EBN 568 as being used on the 79 when the minibus was in danger of being overloaded, included an Olympian hired from Hedingham Omnibuses. To update the list of community bus services last month:

<i>operator</i>	<i>route</i>	<i>name</i>	<i>day(s) of operation</i>
Go-ride CIC , Abingdon, Oxon			
79 Brightlingsea - Gt Bentley - Clacton		Brightlingsea Bullet	TS
79A Brightlingsea town service			TS
			<i>David Harman</i>

Other operators

ALANS MINIBUSES, Hockley Acquired from Oxfordshire County Council is N985 BWL a Mercedes Benz 609D/Devon Conversions and Ford Transit R826 GKO.

Ford Transit G720 WDU has been withdrawn. Ford Transit S780 AFG has been sold.

AMBER, Rayleigh Former Veolia Cymru

- Bova Futura FHD12-340 WA54 HXZ, has been acquired
- APT COACHES** Volvo B10M/Berkhof M786 BNA was acquired earlier this year from Oakleaf Coaches, Carlton. It was re-registered APT 42S, but was then sold to Brightonian, West Sussex in July
- B&C MINIBUSES, Loughton** Ford Transit GN04 YSK has been acquired; it replaces similar A12 PSV (T707 MRP)
- BARKERBUS, Roydon** Vehicles sold are NUI 9050 (E454 CGM) a Duple 425, SKZ 6990 (F666 JNA) a Mercedes Benz 609D/ More Style, D521 WNV a DAF SB2300/ Caetano which had been converted to a mobile home and T494 OCL a LDV Convoy.
- BASILDON TRAVEL, Rayleigh** Bova Futura FHD12-290 G821 YJF has been sold
- BESTAX, Rayleigh** Renault Trafic PX09 APF has been sold
- CEDRIC, Ardleigh** Acquired from Veolia Cymru is AIG 5289 (N755 VAY) a Dennis Javelin/Marco Polo. Scania N113/East Lancs N392 OTY has returned to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet, following a loan spell here. Fire damaged DAF DB250/Optare M137 KRU, is being stripped for spares
- CHARIOTS, Stanford-le-Hope** Acquired are BIG 8794 (T589 LAG) a LDV Convoy/ Crest from APT, Rayleigh; NIL 8649 (new as A9 XEL) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton; XIL 5980 a Volvo B10M/ Van Hool (new in Hong Kong as FC 8623) from Kent Coach Travel, Sheerness and N717 UVR a Volvo B10M/Plaxton ex Dan's, South Woodford
- CHIGWELL CARS, Chigwell** Acquired is Ford Transit KA07 VFN.
- COOK, Rochford** Bova Futura FHD12-340 YF02 XVW, which suffered severe accident damage on the M11 has been sold.
- EXECUTIVE MINIBUSES, Aveley** Optare Solo EM09 BUS, which was used on the ECC contract service, has been sold to A&J Ballantyne, Bellshill.
- FARGOLINK, Rayne** LDV Convoy X804 ATD has been sold.
- FLORIDA, Halstead** Optare Metrorider N633 LFR was sold in early 2010, but has only just been reported.
- GALLEON TRAVEL, Nazeing** Acquired from Veolia Cymru are CN54 HFE a Volvo B12M/Jonckheere and FJ56 YWB a Volvo B12M/Plaxton.
- HAILSTONE, Shotgate** Acquired from Castle Coaches, Windsor is Iveco 40C12/ Concept MX07 UFB.
- HANN, Harlow** Citroen Relay GAZ 4435, has reverted to its original registration R960 HFH.
- KB COACHES, Wickford** Vehicles sold to Lake Coaches, Isle of Wight are Volvo B10M/Berkhof WSV 487 (J200 CCH) and sister L7 CCH.
- KNIGHTS, Witham** Ford Transit N823 DAR has been sold
- LCB TRAVEL, Harlow** A second new Ford Transit here is CB60 LCB
- LINKFAST Thundersley** Further to last month's disposals, Bristol VR/ECW VCA 458W has been sold for preservation
- LODGE, High Easter** Former Southend Transport Leyland Olympian/Alexander F261 RHJ has been advertised for sale.
- LONGTAIL CARRIAGE COMPANY, Orsett** Renault Master CV02 KFZ has been sold to Bay Travel, Kirkcaldy.
- M&E, Rochford** Leyland Olympian/ECW A745 WEV (A203 MEL) and B248 NVN have been sold to a local scrap dealer.
- MELS MINIBUSES, Horndon-on-the-Hill** Ford Transit P197 PVX has been sold.
- NCS, Widdington** LDV Convoy Y263 PWC has been sold.
- NEW HORIZON, Frating** Trident V124 MEV was placed in reserve at the end of July.
- PANTHER BUSES, White Roding** Leyland National YEV 307S, has lost its Katherine name.
- RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate** Volvo B12B/Plaxton KX07 HDG has been sold.
- RONDA COACHES, Rochford** Volvo B10M/Plaxton A342 LDG has been sold.
- RUFFLE, Sible Hedingham** Long withdrawn Ford Transit N249 GOO has been sold.
- RYDERS TRAVEL, Harlow** LDV400 P970 ONC has been sold.
- SALWA TRAVEL, Abridge** Acquired is Bova Futura FHD12-290 A19 KFC (G994 UKL).
- S-CAPE, Corringham** Iveco49-10/Frank

Guy P513 RFW has been sold.

SJH TRAVEL, Crays Hill Acquired from Furlongs Travel, Kirkby is Volvo B10M/ Van Hool S616 GKS; it has been re-registered SJI 4781.

SJS, Chelmsford LDV Convoy P4 SJS has been replaced by a Ford Transit, which now carries P4 SJS.

STANSTED BUS & COACH, Birchanger LDV 200 V883 MDA has been sold.

TERRAVISION, Stansted Scania K114/ Irizar YN04 WPU has been sold to Oakleaf Coaches, Carlton. Similar YJ03 WJJ has gone to Bens Coaches, Coedpoeth.

TURNERS, Little Maplestead DAF400 L931 TGT has been sold.

TWH, Harlow Acquired is Dennis Dart

SLF/Plaxton R447 LGH for service 555. Dennis Dart SLF/UVG R83 GNW now carries route branding for X5 (Harlow-Romford) on blue and gold fleet livery/ Part open top Leyland Olympian/ Northern Counties G551 VBB is being used on a sightseeing tour of East London.

WARD, Alresford Acquired from Style Travel, Houghton-le-Spring is M208 UYD a Bova Futura FHD12-340.

WILSONS TRAVEL, Grays LDV Maxus WIL 2669 has been re-registered; its new registration is not known. Ford Transit WIL 2667 (LR55 RKU) has been sold.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to John Podgorski, Owen Woodliffe, PSV Circle and Harlowride



Situated at Roydon Hamlet on the western border of Essex with Hertfordshire, BarkerBus has a varied and oft-changing fleet. Acquired last year, Bedford VAL with Plaxton Panorama body VBD 310H was new in 1970 to Coates of Wollaston as a 48-seater. It had been with its last operator for a decade and was sold on e-bay for conversion to a stock car transporter. The new owner then had second thoughts and re-advertised it. Barker's intend to use it for wedding hires once the seats have been retrimmed.

Blue Bird P36 JCR was also added to the fleet in 2010 and has recently been joined by two more. It is a 60-seater. In the background is another rare type, a Plaxton 425 which was one of just a dozen built at Lorraine in France following the demise of Duple. Barker's have a quartet of 425's, two of each.

This Dennis 8.5metre Javelin with Wadham Stringer body has had an interesting history having started life 15 years ago with the Ministry of Defence. FA54 WMW has carried three other registration numbers in this time. *Owen Woodliffe*



Cherrydown 50



The growth of Basildon New Town - the population of which reached 47,000 in 1959 and has continued to grow since to around 120,000 - led to the construction of a purpose built bus depot for Eastern National in

Cherrydown, replacing a facility in Bull Lane, Vange which had expanded twice since being opened in 1952 but which by 1960 was completely inadequate. Work started on the new site in May 1960 and the



new depot became operational at Easter 1961 with 61 vehicles, the official opening being October of that year. Fifty years on and two rebuilds later, Cherrydown depot continues to serve First Essex although it is

some years since it was full of Bristol/ECW vehicles and the allocation of 69 vehicles is considerably reduced from the 97 of 1969. Much of the former office and ancillary space is now used in First's joint venture





with Basildon Adult Community College.

Bill Cansick's photo of Bristol MW 1349 (209YVX, one of those re-engined in 1973 with 6HLW coach engines) contrasts with the modern scene (MPD Dart 43846 and Scania 60811 being visible). Likewise the old arrangement facing Cherrydown itself is evident in a pre-rebuild NBC era photo

(Eastern National collection, courtesy Geoff Dodson) with the present appearance recorded on 5th July. Ironically road works have intruded on both occasions!

We will have a closer look at Bull Lane and the growth of Basildon's bus services in a future EBN.

Chris Stewart

NEW DEPOT, ENQUIRY AND ADMINISTRATION OFFICES, BASILDON NEW TOWN

The Company's New Premises are now completed, occupying a site in Cherrydown, covering approx. 6,000 square yards, near the Town Centre. Here is provided accommodation for some 70 vehicles, with the most up-to-date equipment for their maintenance. The exterior and interior lay-out of the offices conforms with the latest styles in design and appearance and includes modern and comfortable Enquiry and Booking Office facilities, where the requirements of the travelling public can be dealt with in pleasing surroundings.

— a further development for your Service —

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26/11/61

from the Company's timetable dated 26th November 1961



Never on Sunday doesn't really work, and *Not only on Sundays but also Bank Holidays and weekday evenings* seems a bit cumbersome, so instead ...

NETWORK COLCHESTER ECC CONTRACTS FROM 28TH AUGUST

Scania N230/Olympus 106 (YT59 NZN) in Magdalen Street, Colchester on its way to Clacton on the 76, whilst Trident 191 (KN52 NEF) climbs North Hill, Colchester on the 66, both on 28th August. *Russell Young*





Route 1 branded
Dart/Plaxton 367 ((SN57
HXF) on the 352 at
Chelmsford on 29th
August. Kevin Smith



Scania N230/ East Lancs
Olympus 103 (YN08
OBY) in Maldon High
Street on the 75 on 28th
August.

Dave Arnold



Route 6 branded Caetano
Dart 514 (HX51 LRN) at
West Bergholt on route
67B. 28th August.

Russell Young

