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ESSEX BUS NEWS



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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A 12 month subscriptions is £18.50 by First Class post, renewable in January or July.

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 the Membership Secretary.

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TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:
Owen Woodliffe,
196 Sinclair Road, Chingford,
London E4 8PT

See page 3 regarding photo sales.

B/W PHOTO SALES

All orders for photos from lists enclosed with EBN should be sent to:

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Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied; email with requirements:
lyn@barrons-bds.com

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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.

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>For inclusion in EBN dated</i>	<i>reports should reach Editors by</i>	<i>planned despatch date</i>
September	5 September	14 September
October	3 October	12 October
November	7 November	16 November

Please note that the planned despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The actual despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can only be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite).

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and one Great Eastern trains & Arriva Southend services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Richard Delahoy*

There is no meeting in August; the Autumn programme comprises:

- ▶ **Tuesday September 11** - *Chris Stewart* presents an illustrated talk on **Eastern National garages**.
- ▶ **Tuesday October 9** - **'30 Years of the Southend Bus Rally'** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*
- ▶ **Tuesday November 13** - **'from PS1 to ftr via 60009'** - North Yorkshire, 2007, by *Richard Delahoy*
- ▶ **Tuesday December 11** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy* **'20 Years ago'**.

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the 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 very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Slides or digital photos are preferable, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 14 September** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe* - **'Evening of nostalgia?'**
- ▶ **Friday 12 October** - slide show by *Fred Lawrence* - **'On the company's expenses - 2!'**
- ▶ **Friday 9 November** - to be advised
- ▶ **Friday 14 December** - slide show by *Fred Lawrence* - **'Coach operators of East Anglia - 1950s and 1960s'**.

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS ETC

- ▶ **Saturday/Sunday 8/9 September: Trolleybus Weekend**, East Anglia Transport Museum. www.eatm.org.uk

cover: Volvo B12M tri-axle 20202 (T702 JLD), one of three on loan to First Essex. Seen at First London's Dagenham depot on the Omnibus Society visit on 17 July. *Chris Stewart*

- ▶ **Saturday 9 September: Chingford Royal Forest Vintage Bus Display & Running Day**, Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford. Free connecting vintage buses from Chingford station and around Epping Forest.
- ▶ **Saturday 9 September: LT Country Bus Rally**, Loughton and Epping.
<http://freespace.virgin.net/ian.smith/buses/CBR/CBR01.htm>
- ▶ **Saturday 16 September: EFE Showbus Rally**, Duxford Airfield, Cambridgeshire.
www.showbus.co.uk/index.html
- ▶ **Sunday 4 October: Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day**, Point Rd., Canvey Island. #
- ▶ **Saturday 24 November: LOTS Autumn Transport Spectacular**, Harrow Leisure Centre. www.lots.org.uk/ #

Owen and the Group Sales Stall plan to be at these events.



Stephensons

Southend Fleetline mini-running day Saturday September 1

Subject to availability, Stephensons will be operating their former Southend Transport Leyland Fleetline MRJ233W (in Southend Transport livery) as a duplicate to their service buses, covering routes previously worked by Southend Fleetlines in their heyday. Photo stops will be taken in suitable locations. The schedule is as follows:

60	Rochford East St	1130	60	Sutton Rd, Eastern Ave	1410
	Southend Bus Station	1150		Canewdon Loftmans Corner	1436
				Continues to Wallasea Bay	1442
14	Southend Bus Station	1208		Wallasea Bay	1444
	Shoebury East Beach	1242		Loftmans Corner	1450
				Southend Bus Station	1527
	Shoebury East Beach	1246			
	Southend CBS	1320			
61	Southend Bus Station	1345	60	Southend Bus Station	1601
	Fossetts Park	1358		Rochford North St	1617
	Continues to Sutton Road				

Normal fares apply, including a day rover at just £2.70, available on all Stephensons routes. Why not sample the *Fossetts Park Clipper* (see page 16) on the same day?

From the Editor

Ian Ransom and *Lyn Watson* are taking a well-earned Summer break, so there are no Small Operator, Publicity reports, or Photo List this month. *Mark Garrett* has received no Arriva East Herts & Essex reports, so no column this month. We hope normal service will resume in September.

Corrections:

EBN 517: p.18: a Freudian slip: the Regal Solo is on the 565; I was thinking of the route's number in bygone days - 265.

EBN 519: p.8: All change at Debden: Barton Road should read Burton Road; Barking depot is of course DX not BX.

APPEAL FOR PHOTOS

Owen Woodliffe has been selling so many photos on the Sales Stall, that stocks are now very low. In fact, supplies of Eastern National KSW/FLE/MW/RE shots are almost non-existent. No stock means no money coming in, which will lead to the Treasurer looking glum - something we are all keen to avoid, especially as subscription time approaches.

How can members help?

If you have ANY spare photos you would be willing to donate to the Group, Owen will gratefully receive these at either the Colchester or Rochford meetings, or will refund postage if you send them to him.

Another idea that came up at the last Committee Meeting was for those members who have gone 'digital', to copy shots (ancient or modern) to a CD, and get prints made in the automatic machines you find in Jessops, Boots etc. These cost little, and would allow a good margin on resale. "Digi" photographers - how about it? Again, please contact Owen at:

196 Sinclair Road, Chingford,
London E4 8PT

David Harman

Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

30-Jul-07	541	Daily	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station: Revised timetable
	542	M-S	Debden - Loughton (circular): Revised timetable
	543	M-S	Debden - Loughton (circular): Revised timetable
13-Aug-07	2	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Staple Tye (circular)
	3	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Staple Tye (circular)
	4	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Latton Bush (circular)
	8	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow (circular)
	10	Daily	Harlow Town Station - Church Langley (circular)
	333	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Bishops Stortford, Heath Row (Snowley Parade):
			Minor revisions to timetable for 2-3-4-8-10 and 333.
	505	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Chingford Rail Station Withdrawn journey: 16:16 from Harlow Bus Station to Waltham Abbey, Quaker Lane.
3-Sep-07	SW1	M-F	Sawbridgeworth - Lower Sheering (circular): Revised timetable and routing via Lower Sheering, Ash Groves and Elmwood Yewlands (shopping hours only) plus SDO
	SW2	M-S	Leventhorpe School - Hand Lane, High Wych Road. Sawbridgeworth, Knight Street (Bell Street) - Northfield Road (circular): Revised timetable and route via Northfield Road and White Lion P.H. (Shopping hours only).

Arriva Southend

6-Aug-07	383	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - South Ockendon Station Minor timetable revision to reflect a re-routing at the Brentwood Road Estate, Chadwell St Mary.
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Carters Coaches

4-Jun-07	755	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station: Additional journey at 17:45 via Capel St Mary and Washbrook
4-Jun-07	756	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station: The 17:45 from Colchester now re-numbered 755

Ensign Bus 11-Aug-07	44	M-S	Orsett Hospital - Lakeside Bus Station Operates Orsett to Lakeside (M-F) and Grays to Lakeside (S) with minor timetable amendments	
	66	M-S	Lakeside - Tilbury, Civic Square Withdrawn between Tilbury and Chadwell ST Mary	
	X80	Daily	Bluewater - Tilbury, Asda Store: Revised timetable	
Excel 25-Aug-07	18	M-S	Haverhill Bus Station - Newport Grammar School Change of operator to <i>Stansted Transit</i> .	
First 16-Jul-07	100	M-S	Chelmsford, Bus Station - Lakeside Bus Station Minor timetable alterations early morning and evening with additional short working Great Burstead, Kings Head to Billericay Station (M-F) at 08:23.	
	552	M-F	Basildon Bus Station - Ramsden Heath Minor timetable alteration - the 07:57 ex Ramsden Heath now cut back to terminate at Billericay Station	
	23-Jul-07	5	M-S	Holland, Frinton Road (Park Boulevard) - Bockings Elm, Flatford Drive (Kersey Drive)
	6	M-S	Holland, Frinton Road (Park Boulevard) - Bockings Elm, Flatford Drive (Kersey Drive): Amended routes for the 5 and 6, stopping places and timetable? (If anyone has precise information it would be useful to know)	
	7A	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, Post Office: New Summer service running hourly shopping hours via Holland on Sea and Central Avenue, Frinton on Sea. (See also 7/8 and 8A).	
	8	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, The Naze: Summer timetable introduced and service now restricted to 4 morning journeys (see 7a and 8a).	
	8A	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, The Naze: Summer timetable introduced and service now operates hourly from 11:30 (retaining existing 07:00 journey) cross refer with 7a and 8.	
	20	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Parkeston, Harwich International Station: Minor timetable revision with the 19:05 departure from Harwich revised to 19:12.	
	24-Jul-07	42	M-S	Broomfield Hospital - Galleywood, Barnard Road (West Lawn): Minor timetable revision.
	26-Aug-07	61	M-S	Wivenhoe Rail Station - Colchester North Station Withdrawn between Mile End and Colchester North Station with timetable amendments.
	62	Daily	Colchester general Hospital and Wivenhoe, Cemetery Re-numbered from 78 operating every 20 minutes (M-S) and hourly (Sun).	
	65	Daily	Stanway, Tollgate Medical Centre - Highwoods, Tesco Store Timetable amendment.	
	66	Daily	West Bergholt, Queens Head - Old Heath, Speedwell Road Minor timetable revision and routing in Rowhedge.	
	66A	M-S	West Bergholt, Queens Head - Rowhedge, Rowhedge New half hourly service.	
	73	M-S	Warley, Eagle Way - Bishops Hall Estate, Danes Way Introduction of two-hourly service on Sundays between Brentwood Station and Pilgrims Hatch, Clarence Road working off the 351.	
88B	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Little Tey, Godbolt's Farm ECC contract service.		
140	Su	Basildon Bus Station - Chelmsford, Bus Station		

			Minor timetable revision
	231	Daily	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Brentwood Rail Station
			Minor timetable revision (Sunday service no longer serves Romford terminating at Brentwood Station (where it interworks the 73).
	232	Daily	Chelmsford Rail Station - Halstead, Colne Road
			Minor timetable revision with a later evening journey introduced from Halstead to Chelmsford.
1-Sep-07	7A	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, Post Office
			Summer only service withdrawn
2-Sep-07	8	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, The Naze
			Reverts to winter timetable
	8A	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Walton, The Naze
			Reverts to winter timetable
Four Counties Buses			
30-Aug-07	318	Th	Thaxted, Bardfield End Green - Bishops Stortford Interchange: Change of operator to <i>Stansted Transit</i> .
H C Chambers			
2-Sep-07	84	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Sudbury Bus Station
			Minor timetable revision.
Hedingham Omnibuses			
16-Jul-07	15	M-F	Lexden, Straight Road (Oaklands Avenue) - Colchester North Station: Revised timetable.
1-Sep-07	14	F	Chelmsford, Retail Market - Tiptree, Thurstable School Minor timetable amendment and re-routed in Chelmsford using Essex Yeomanry Way (By-pass) instead of Baddow Road.
	3	M-F	Colchester, High Street - The Hythe, Tesco Store
			Revised timetable - 14:50 from Hythe withdrawn.
	91	M-S	Witham, Safeway Store - Tollesbury, The Square
			Minor revision to the timetable and re-routing around Tiptree.
	95	M-F	Tollesbury, The Square - Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre
			Revised timetable and new journeys to/from Plume Schools.
5-Sep-07	X16	W	Wakes Colne, Chappel Corner - Bury St Edmunds, Bus Station: Revised to operate to and from Wakes Colne, via Great Tey, Coggeshall, Earls Colne, Halstead and direct to Bury St Edmunds.
Network Colchester			
22-Jul-07	88	Su	Colchester Bus Station - Halstead, Conies Road
			Revised timetable.
NIBS			
20-Jul-07	67	SDO	Southminster, High Street - Burnham on Crouch, St Peters School: Revised timetable.
3-Sep-07	221	M-F	Wickford, Broadway - the Wick (circular)
	222	M-S	Shotgate, Post Office - Billericay Queens Park
03-Sep-07	237	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - South Woodham, Town Centre
			Revised timetable for 221/2/37.
Regal Busways			
10-Aug-07	X2	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Chelmsford, New London Road Service withdrawn.
Stansted Transit			
21-Jul-07	35	M-S	Southend Bus Station - Chelmsford, Coval Lane
			Minor timetable changes
28-Aug-07	18	M-S	Haverhill Bus Station - Newport Grammar School
			Change of operator from <i>Excel</i> .
6-Sep-07	318	Th	Thaxted, Bardfield End Green - Bishops Stortford Interchange: Change of operator from <i>Four Counties</i> .

David Tomlin



Hylands Park in Chelmsford was transformed for the period 27th July – 8th August into a temporary ‘village’ for 40,000 Scouts, Venture Scouts, leaders and staff during the 21st World Scout Jamboree. (see <http://eng.thejamboree.org>). As can be imagined, the transport requirement was huge – the USA contingent contracted 80 coaches alone, their main supplier being Epsom Coaches with support from HR Richmond and Galloways.

Around 400 coaches a day were being used to transport the participants to offsite activities, and also up to 10,000 day visitors from a Park & Ride site at North Weald airfield. Everyone staying went to Gilwell Park, near Chingford (“the home of UK scouting”), at some point during their visit.

Ian Hardie (courtesy *UK Bus Fleetnews* yahoo group) noted the following at Hylands on Thursday 2nd August::

Bakers, Biddulph
Bakers, Weston-super-Mare M638 KVV, JNZ 2212, SIL 6715
Berrys, Taunton M161 PYB
Blue Iris, Nailsea
Brentwood Coaches
Burtons, Haverhill FN04 FSE
Classic, Co. Durham WSV 572, NK51 ZST, YN06 CJU
R W Chenery, Dickleburgh
Countryliner, Guildford
Cropley, Boston
Dunn Line, Co. Durham W382 PRC, W389 PRC
Eddie Brown, Helperby
Epsom Coaches, Epsom BU06 EBO
First London N822 KWS, T702 JLD
Flights Hallmark
Golden Boy, Hoddesdon
Hams Travel, Flimwell
Hatts, Chippenham
Holmeswood, Rufford
Johnsons, Henley-in-Arden
Leons, Stafford
Lugg Valley Primrose, Leominster
Marshalls, Leighton Buzzard
Maynes, Buckie, Scotland
Motts, Aylesbury W200 MMT
New Enterprise, Tonbridge SCZ 9651, SCZ 9652
OFJ Connections, Heathrow Airport
Olympian Coaches, Harlow
PC Coaches, Lincoln
Selwyns, Runcorn
TM Travel, Chesterfield
Weaverway, Newbury
Woods, Leicester
Yeomans Canyon, Hereford

Bakers of Weston Super Mare had at least 20 vehicles evident on other dates. I was unable to investigate owing to personal circumstances but noted **APT** of Rayleigh on 29th July at Bedfords Park, Havering-atte-Bower and **Classic Coaches** of Annfield Plain in Brentwood on several occasions.

First London had four double deckers and 5 single decks/coaches during the peak period, Trident 33036 running a Hylands-Chelmsford shuttle (this being one of two at Dagenham fitted with tachographs, the other being 33085) with the other double deckers working Hylands-Epping. The coaches operated excursions each day to Lakeside, Cambridge, Colchester, Windsor (one of the tri-axle Volvos being seen on this) and Gilwell Park.

First Essex provided two yellow school BMCs for the Epping shuttle, along with one double deck which also acted as spare vehicle.

Chris Stewart

With thanks to Ian Hardy, Stephen le Bras, Keith Nason, Bernie Elsom, Derek Stebbing, Duncan Law, Kevin Smith and Nick Field

Go Ahead Blue Triangle

Blue Triangle Buses Ltd. of Rainham, TfL and Essex County Council tender service operator, was sold to **London General Transport Services Ltd.** (Go Ahead Group) on 29th June. MD and well-known enthusiast, Roger Wright is retaining the Blue Triangle 'toybox' of heritage buses, plus the 2001 batch of Caetano Nimbus-bodied Darts, presently on loan to various other operators.

Go Ahead will keep the Blue Triangle name, and Roger Wright has registered a new company, London Bus Company Ltd. for the residual operations. It is understood he will continue to have the use of the Ferry Lane, Rainham depot for a year.

Chris Stewart / LOTS

Nick Field ~ Special Operations Controller



First in Essex has promoted **Nick Field** from the position of Service Supervisor to Special Operations Controller to help develop new business opportunities in the county.

He will also be monitoring the presentation of the 330 buses that operate from First's seven depots.

One of Nick's first tasks is to build on the existing network of yellow school bus services in the county. He will be liaising with schools and colleges to encourage them to consider dedicated home to school transport as a way to help reduce the number of cars on the school run.

In his new role he will also be promoting the 1953 ECW bodied Bristol KSW5G open topper, WNO 479, together with other vehicles in the fleet, as ideal for weddings and other private hires.

FIRST ESSEX

New vehicles

Details are awaited of new ancillary vehicles 90344/5 (there are reports of a new Inspectors' van at Chelmsford). A further BMC 'Yellow School Bus' is understood to be on order for the new School term (for additional contract CF0009).

Vehicles on extended loan

20202	T702JLD	Volvo B12	007257	Plaxton	0825	C51F	new 6.99
20203	T703JLD	Volvo B12	007258	Plaxton	0826	C51F	new 7.99
20204	T704JLD	Volvo B12	007295	Plaxton	0827	C51F	new 8.99

Chassis numbers are prefixed YV3R2A212XA and body numbers 9912VHS.

These tri-axe coaches were new to *Berks Buck Bus Co* (702-4) for Heathrow RailAir, were at Bristol (Lawrence Hill) for a while and are on extended loan from *First Rail Support* (a trading division of *First Capital East Ltd*) at Dagenham. 20202 arrived in Essex on 8th August with 20203 following two days later. The final one was expected by 13th August. They are to increase capacity on peak X30 journeys as well as for private hire and rail replacement.

Allocation changes

Period 4: 2 July to 29 July 2007

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another First fleet

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; (S)=spare/retained (licensed);

D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal;

DS=Driving School; PS=Paint Spare

The only changes shown on the Company's allocation sheet are that spare and ancillary vehicles are now shown against specific depots, some of these not having previously been listed at all. For completeness, the full list is:

BN:	46167, 67067/9, 90237/49
BE:	51803, 90248
CF:	46116/27, 60469/84, 67036/8/40, 90233/9/77
CN:	38790, 46132, 46803/6, 90236/47, 90344
HH:	90243, 90345

However members report that the following transfers took place between 23 July and 31 July: 31456/62 HH-CN; 34301/2 CR-CN; 46289/30 CN-HH; 47104 CR-CN; 67009/10 CN-CR

Repaints (Period 4):

43739 53113 41644 43740 46140 53116 41651 43741 43743 46141 53117

Repainted Solos (done by Optare) are losing their 'Overground' branding. 41644 gained LED destination display whilst being repainted (joining 41637/42).

Other vehicle news:

Training vehicles 60469/84 were first registered on 21.5.90 and 2.7.90 respectively.

34807, damaged in a collision at the end of July, is due to be repaired and repainted in Group standard livery.



FOUR IS GOOD, BUT SIX IS BETTER

above: Volvo B12T/Plaxton 20202 (T702 JLD) at First London, Dagenham. *below:* 20203 (T203 JLD) in Brentwood on 10th August, en route from First London at Dagenham to First Essex at Chelmsford, where it will operate on loan for some months enhancing the X30 and working private hires. Chris Stewart, with thanks to Nick Field for his assistance





34807 (C407 CJN) makes a guest appearance on the 351, seen here in Brentwood High Street on 27th July. A few days later, it was involved in an RTC (= road traffic collision; RTA as was), in the Stansted area. It is understood to be repairable. *Chris Stewart*

Service 33 was extended from Stansted Airport to Bishops Stortford from 24th June, taking First Essex buses back into Hertfordshire. 46144 (N844 CPU) is seen at Bishops Stortford Interchange on 17th July in typical summer weather. *Peter Mansbridge*



Lance 67036 is expected to be returned to passenger service in time for the next school term, and Olympian 30559 transferred to *First Rail Support* at Dagenham for a Thurrock school contract. 67039 is due to leave for *First Yorkshire* at Bradford as a Driving Trainer.

Harwich's Primos are approaching their first birthday and have clocked up approx 33,000 miles each (compared to the 200,000 miles of the two Solos).

Vehicle Operations

Chelmsford & Braintree

Throughout July, 43729-31 were frequently on the 42 deputising for collision damaged 42923. 42483 still carried full 352 branding. 60102-4 are now regularly to be found on the extended 33.

When the Sunday service 351 is curtailed at Brentwood after operation on 19th August, we believe that CF depot will resume operation but using Optare Solos. Part of the contract involves a new Sunday service on service 73 to Bishops Hall Estate (Clarence Road) using the former journey time to/from Romford. The twice daily Monday to Friday journeys to/from Brook Street are also being diverted to Brentwood Station after 24th August leaving London Road, Brentwood without an 'Eastern National' presence for the first time since 1920.

Seen in July

- 9th CF60102 on 352
- 10th CF34807 on 351 (15.05 ex Chelmsford)
- 11th Scania CF65681/4 on 351 (12.05 and 09.05 ex CD), CF65680 on 72 (14.02 ex Westway), CF43731 on 351 (10.05), CF46129 and BE46823 on 42
- 12th BE46824 on 51, CF47223 on 47
- 20th BE46812/7 on 352
- 24th CF47223 on 352
- 28th CF34807 on 351 (10.05 ex CD), CF31198 and CF46116 on 33, BE46144 on 352

August

- 2nd CF34815 on p.m. 31B
- 3rd CF34815 on 42, CF34818 on daytime 352 with CF60104
- 4th CF53133 on 40/50, CF42482 on 42, CF42488 on 72, BE46144 on 351, CF47219 on 36
- 6th BE46817 on 45, BE46824 on 51
- 7th CF34818 on 45, BE46824 on 352
- 8th BE46817 on 351 (most other workings Alexander Darts), BE46821 on 51, CF31198 and CF47219 on 352
- 9th CF34815 on 09.30 352 ex CD
- 10th CF34818 on 45 (morning peak duty), CF31198 on 31/36 diagram

Colchester, Clacton & Harwich

Solo CF53113 and Dart CN47102 have been on loan to DT, where Olympian 34285 is reported to have been off the road for 215 days out of the last 365. 34286 was also VOR but 34284 returned to service with retrimmed floor and blue lower deck grab poles.

CR43715/6 have lost their branding (for the 61) as have CR43739/40/1/3 (66). Debranded CR43715/6 now regularly appear on 64/A, 65, 66. CN46820 has been noted on Colchester's 61. Repainted CR34315 has smaller fleet numbers, as per 34011. 46803 was running from DT on 31st July but carries Clacton blinds.

Seen in July

- 5th DT51780 on CR61; CR67008 on CN75/76

7th CR62408 on 66
 9th CR60130 on 75 (pm Tiptree short)
 11th CR43739 on 71
 12th CR60130 on 75 (pm Tiptree short)
 13th CN46828 on CR 64A
 14th CR43716 on X22
 16th 67-branded CR67003 on 71
 24th DT43800 on 103 (16.15 ex CR)
 25th CR34012 on 75/76
 30th DT51780 on 104 (11.50 ex DT)

August

1st CF31198, CF34818 and CR20102 on emergency rail service Harwich-Colchester
 4th BN30558 on 75/76
 6th DT34288 on CR 65
 8th 65-branded CR65688 on 75 (08.35 CR-Tiptree), CR67005 on 66, CR65651/2 on 64 with CR62406

Basildon/Hadleigh

Seen in July

10th BN30559 on 551
 11th BN52581 on 25A (usually a Dart)
 23rd 46830 first noted at HH
 27th 46829 on Brentwood 81/82 (i.e. working from BN)

Other News - Where are they now?

Further to EBN519, former 2111 (NVX311) apparently worked with newly arrived RML2695 in the Beaufort 4th July parade, before leaving under its own power (after 42 years there) for the 135 mile journey to Mr Ron Taylor at the Lu Mil Vineyard, Elizabethtown, Bladen County. It has had a PD2 engine and synchromesh gearbox since 1990, installed by David Wightman whose postings on the *British Buses Abroad in North America* yahoo group are acknowledged with thanks. In doing so, David had to move the radiator forward 3-4 inches, modify the clutch, gearchange rods and pivot points as well as reversing the location of the throttle.

Slightly nearer to home, open top FLF6G 2300 (RWC608), one time X10 coach and later bus conversion 2937, moved to its new home in the South West with the Bristol Road Transport Collection (in the care of William Staniforth) on 4th August. It had been with the late Peter Hughes' collection in Kent, having a two week sojourn at Denyer Bros near Ongar before passing an MOT and being driven to Kemble in time for the rally there on 4th/5th August.

Hedingham-liveried Bristol LH6L 1103 (UVX7S) is also now reported as being back on the road in the care of Fred Lawrence.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, I Mahoney, K Nason, J Podgorski, D Pretty, J Salmon, S Simister, K Smith, R Smith, 'Solo', D Stewart, A Timms, R Webb, R Whitley, the *Essex Bus, South West* and *British Buses in North America* y-groups, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by fax on 01277 216745, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart

Vehicle News

Trident 155 (T405 SMV) entered service in Colchester on 8th August.

Unusual workings

July 19th 351 on 1.

25th 367 (1 branded) on 2E and 351 on 1.

29th 307 on 88 (usually SLF/Pointer).

Fleetnumbers update

Trident 100 (V337 DPD) is to be renumbered 157 to fit in with recently acquired East Lancs
Tridents 155 and 156.

Volvo Citybus/East Lancs 334 has been renumbered 214 upon completion of repairs to the
accident victim at the end of July. It is currently waiting for MoT before returning to service.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski



NationalExpress

General

On 5th July, DAF SB3000/VH D308 (Y308 HUA) collided with the waiting room at Stansted
Airport coach station. Luckily, only one person was slightly hurt.

Ancillary vehicle

KY 56 FGF is a Fd Fusion crew ferry car in full Nat Ex livery. Seen at Stansted on 15th July.

NATIONAL EXPRESS CONTRACTORS

A very unusual visitor on the **Stagecoach Viscount** diagram of 484 (London-Walton on the
Naze) on 16-17th July was Stagecoach liveried B10M/Premiere Expressliner 52415 (R115
OPS).

On 21st July, a Norfolk bound 497 was seen on the A12 near Colchester. Normally this service
would use the M11/A11.

John Podgorski

Rail Replacement

The Central Line derailment on 5 July brought some interesting vehicles from Essex into
London to work a rail replacement service between Leytonstone and Stratford via Leyton.
Blue Triangle had RT 3871 as well as RM, M and TA types, whilst **Ensignbus** had an RM
amongst their allocation. On Friday 6th, Roger Wright was again at the wheel of RT 3871 and
in the evening five **NIBS** deckers were noted (Dominators G607KTX, H 258HFX, J269/271
JPR and Scania H228LOM).

Owen Woodliffe



Hedingham

NO NEED TO HOLD THE BABY !
~ the low-floor revolution in Essex

In 1994, Essex was the first county to award grants to bus operators enabling them to purchase and operate low floor buses. The intention being to completely convert a route into low floor operation.

Grants were made to three operators:

County Bus and Coach : 4 vehicles for route 502 Harlow - Romford.

Southend Transport : 4 vehicles for service 5 and 6 Southend - Leigh and Southend - Eastwood.

Hedingham and District : 2 vehicles for service 90 Witham - Maldon.

Vehicles were manufactured by Dennis Specialist Vehicles of Guildford. These were modified 'Lance' chassis with a new type low front axle. This enabled the bodybuilders, Wrights of

Ballymena to provide the front two thirds of the bus a step free area. Thus ample space for pushchairs, wheelchairs and luggage accommodation. In addition a powered ramp allowed wheelchair users easy access to the vehicles.

The two Hedingham vehicles quickly proved popular with both drivers and passengers. From the drivers point of view the powerful Cummins engine gave good acceleration enabling them to maintain time especially as the route served housing estates in both Witham and Maldon. From the passengers point of view it was the young mothers with buggys which welcomed the easy access. Gone were the days when it was necessary to ask the driver to hold the baby whilst they struggled to fold up the buggy and clamber on board.

In service, the experimental design of the vehicles required special equipment to keep them working. After some years it became necessary for them to be kept at the Hedingham depot where equipment and expertise were available.

Both vehicles have recently been refurbished, new engines fitted and repainted. They both maintain service 89 (Great Yeldham - Braintree). Still popular with drivers and passengers they should provide good service for many more years.

D R MacGregor



Freshly repainted L212 (M211 WHJ) glistens at Hedingham depot. *D.R.MacGregor*



FossettsPark Clipper



FossettsPark Clipper

61

Southend
Town Centre

Bournemouth
Park Road

Sutton Cemetery

Fossetts Park

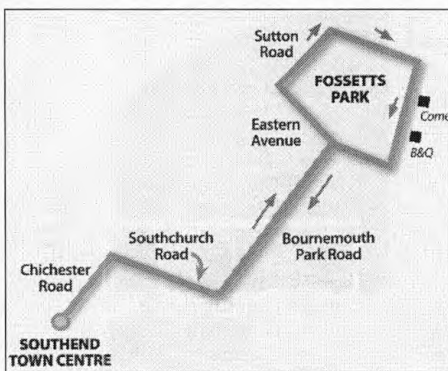


Starts 23 July 2007

 Stephensons

Stephensons Fossetts Park Clipper started on 23 July.

The route runs along Bournemouth Park Road, linking the town centre with Fossetts Park, home of new B&Q and Comet stores, as well as the existing Waitrose supermarket and a neighbouring private hospital. The service is half hourly during the day from Monday to Saturday, and hourly on Sundays,





using low-floor easy-access buses, with facilities for buggies and wheelchairs. The service is being supported by site developer Lansbury Retail.

left: Councillor Anna Waite and Stephensons Managing Director, Bill Hiron are seen at the launch (courtesy, *Southend Evening Echo*).

opposite: Peter Mansbridge caught former Witham Link SLF Pointer Dart 411 (SK02 XGO) at Southend Travel Centre, bearing the new route branding. Ian Banks provided the attractive slimline timetable leaflet.

David Harman

Stephensons of Essex ~fleet as at June 2007

no.	reg.no.	chassis	body	seats	first reg.	notes
114	A14 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49T	10-May-96	formerly N70 SLK
116	A16 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49T	1-May-96	formerly N144 ARC
117	A17 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49T	1-May-96	formerly N45 ARC
118	A18 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49T	19-Apr-96	formerly N746 BAU
119	A19 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C53F	26-Oct-94	formerly M801 KGT
123	N23 RTN	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C53F	3-May-96	
231	M231 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander	B48F	19-Jan-95	accident write-off
233	M233 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander	B48F	19-Jan-95	
321	EU07 FVL	Optare Solo		B24F	1-Apr-07	
322	EU07 FVM	Optare Solo		B24F	1-Apr-07	
323	EU07 FVN	Optare Solo		B24F	1-Apr-07	
324	EU07 FVO	Optare Solo		B24F	1-Apr-07	
411	SK02 XGO	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	1-Mar-02	
412	SK02 XGP	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	1-Mar-02	
413	EU03 CFX	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	1-Apr-03	
414	EU03 CFY	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	1-Apr-03	
416	SN56 AYH	ADL Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	1-Sep-06	
417	EU07 FRN	ADL Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	9-Mar-07	
424	424 DCD	Leyland PD3	Northern Counties	H69F	1-Jun-64	
449	P749 HND	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B37F	15-May-97	
460	EU05 CZA	ADL Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B37F	22-Jun-05	
674	C174 ECK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H77F	08-Aug-85	low-height
676	C176 ECK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H77F	02-Dec-85	low-height
682	C382 SAO	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H77F	26-Jun-86	low-height
683	C383 SAO	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H77F	26-Jun-86	low-height
707	G707 TCD	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H86F	10-Apr-90	low-height
721	F621 MSL	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H87F	1-Sep-88	low-height
730	F630 MSL	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H87F	1-Sep-88	low-height
808	M408 RVU	Leyland Olympian	Northern Counties	H77F	22-Mar-95	highbridge
809	M409 RVU	Leyland Olympian	Northern Counties	H77F	1-Mar-95	highbridge
810	M410 RVU	Leyland Olympian	Northern Counties	H77F	22-Mar-95	highbridge
862	C62 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	17-Apr-86	highbridge
864	C64 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	17-Apr-86	highbridge (1)
877	C77 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	13-May-86	highbridge
881	C81 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	16-May-86	highbridge (2)
882	C82 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	17-Apr-86	highbridge
892	C92 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	21-May-86	highbridge
896	C106 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F	3-Jun-86	highbridge (3)

901	OFS 683Y	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H87F	20-Dec-82	highbridge
902	UAR 219Y	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H85F	21-Dec-82	highbridge
905	G305 UYK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H79F	1-Jan-90	highbridge
953	L953 MSC	Volvo Olympian	Alexander	H82F	2-Feb-94	highbridge
955	L955 MSC	Volvo Olympian	Alexander	H82F	10-Feb-94	highbridge
962	L962 MSC	Volvo Olympian	Alexander	H82F	1-Apr-94	highbridge

Heritage

MRJ 233W Daimler CRL6 Northern Counties H82F 1-Jul-81

notes: (1) Asda livery; to be scrapped
(2) Asda livery; for disposal?
(3) Tesco livery

with thanks to Lyn Watson

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Arriva London: L515/7/20/21/38/51/54.
Bear Buses: Olympian G648 EVV.
EMI Records: RML2542.
Lothian Buses: Olympians L956/72/82 MSC.
Metroliner: DMS1/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9/12, AV2/3/23.
Waltham Forest College: DMS1988 (Daimler - the original DMS type!).

Vehicles out

to

DMS1/2/3/12: **A2Z Travel**, Walsall.
Olympian R369 DJN: **Banbury and District Community Bus Project**.
Olympian BPF 131Y: **Catherine Best**, St Martin, Guernsey.
Dublin Olympian 92-D-144 now J803 CEV with **Cambridge City Council**.
RM1348: **The Car Company**, East Grinstead.
AV23: **Chambers**, Bures, Suffolk.
Dublin Olympians 93-D-10162 now L899SNO and 93-D-10162/92-D-145 (registrations to follow) with **Dunn-Line** (Veolia), Nottingham.
Olympians L213/4/7 TWM, L201 SKD: **Dunn-Line** (Veolia), Nottingham.
Olympians R920 WOE, R944 YOY: **Finch's Coaches**, Wigan.
Olympians L205/7 SKD: **Geldards Coaches**, Leeds.
Olympian F512 NJE: **Generation Travel**, Guisborough, Cleveland.
L547: **Halifax Joint Committee**.
L538: **MASH Direct**, Comber, Co Down, N Ireland.
Scania H243 LOM: **NIBS**, Wickford, Essex.
Delta J207 VHN: **PVS** for scrap.
Iveco L957 JGS: **South East Coachworks**, Faversham.
Olympian A71 GEE: **Thames Valley Police Firearms Unit**.
Dublin Olympians 91-D-10105, 91-D-10109 now H721 PVW, J820 CEV with **Trustline**, Hunsdon, Herts.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus



NEW for NIBS

Former Metrobus Trident/East Lancs **T401 SMV** at Bruce Grove (*Chris Stewart*) and en route for Wickford Station (*Kevin Smith*). The tree-guard and electronic destination equipment are NIBS additions.



ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD

The Dart SLFs destined for transfer from Grays to Southend for route 29 have been identified provisionally as 3181/3388/3390/3421/3423/3427. Meanwhile Dart SLFs 3307/8 from Maidstone are expected to convert route 13 to low floor operation from September.

Grays is due to receive Dart SLFs 3218/62/4-6/9-71 (in red livery for route 370) from Dartford as replacements for the Dart SLFs moved to Southend.

DAF/Alexander decker 6225 (X458 FGP), normally allocated to school workings on TfL 498, is presently on loan to New Enterprise Coaches (Tonbridge) Ltd. for rail replacement work between Wadhurst and Tunbridge Wells. This is expected to last from the 4th to 29th August.

Dominator operation is expected to end in Southend by September with the remaining three (5286-8) due for replacement by the cascaded Dart SLFs from Grays and Maidstone.

The news in EBN519 that Vario 1188 had departed Southend for Sheerness was somewhat premature. It is not expected to leave Southend until the end of August.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold.

DAF **6225** on the forecourt of Tunbridge Wells station on 8th August. *David Harman*





P478 DPE is the Mercedes-Benz 711D new to Southend Transport in 1997 which is now with **Central Travel** of Sheffield. (EBN 518). Seen outside the Royal Hallamshire Hospital.

Peter Mansbridge

Former **Southend Transport** Fleetline 395 (JTD 395P) seen in Torquay in July. Operator? - possibly Rallybeam Ltd., who also operate in Suffolk, although they don't have a service to Paignton Zoo currently registered. *Simon Coates*

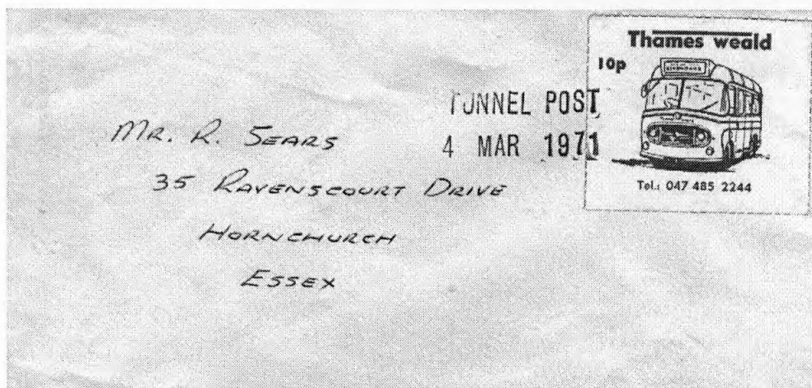


Sunday Travel Guides

In the late 1980s a number of county councils in Southern England organised Sunday bus networks accompanied by varying publicity. Whilst books produced by the likes of Buckinghamshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Kent and West Sussex County Councils all gradually fell by the wayside, the Essex Sunday Saver booklet went from strength to strength. Initially it was merely summer dated but from 1994 there were winter editions as well. Later it was renamed The Sunday Travel Guide and its size grew to more than 100 pages. All were A5 size except for the final issue (Winter/Spring 2006/07) which was A4 with 60 pages. Note that there were two versions of the 5th April 1987 edition; one with a white cover and one with a blue cover. Unusually a Winter 2002/2003 edition was never produced. *Ian Taylor*

5.4.87 to 27.9.87	1.10.95	Sunday Travel Guide	2.6.02 to 29.9.02
27.3.88 to 23.10.88	19.5.96 to 22.9.96	Supplement -	25.5.03
30.4.89 to 15.10.89	29.9.96	Issued Jan 01 Valid	26.10.03 to 23.5.04
20.5.90 to 16.9.90	25.5.97 to 28.9.97	Until 20.5.01 (16	30.5.04 to 26.9.04
19.5.91 to 15.9.91	5.10.97	page A5 booklet)	5.12.04 to 22.5.05
17.5.92 to 20.9.92	24.5.98 to 27.9.98	27.5.01 to 19.5.02	29.5.05 to 2.11.05
23.5.93 to 26.9.93	4.10.98	Sunday Travel Guide	Winter 2005/06
22.5.94 to 15.9.94	30.5.99 to 26.9.99	Update - Harlow	Summer 2006
2.10.94	3.10.99 to 21.5.00	Town 2.9.01 (16	Winter/Spring
21.5.95 to 24.9.95	28.5.00 to 20.5.01	page A5 booklet)	2006/07

Trouble at t'post



The recent postal strikes bring to mind the lengthy stoppage in 1971. Then, private postal services were given special dispensation to operate, and the redoubtable Dr. Nesbitt Heffernan, proprietor of Thames Weald Ltd., started his "Tunnel Post". Mail was carried between Sevenoaks and Romford on the "Tunnel Express" bus, with deliveries

within a short distance off the route. Stamps were printed, showing one of the long-lived Thames Weald Bedford J2 / Plaxtons.

Chris Stewart has produced this genuinely used Tunnel Post letter, which was part of his late father-in-law's collection.

David Harman



FOUR IS GOOD, BUT SIX IS BETTER (2)

Two **City Coach Company** tri-axes (or six-wheelers as they used to be called):

above: The first Leyland Gnu TE P1, G1 (FGC 593) gleams at Duple's Hendon works, presumed when brand new in 1938. An LT trolleybus (also six-wheeled) can just be seen passing on the left. *Arthur Ingram*

below: LT25 (DUC 901), the first of the 1937 Leyland TS7T/Duples refuels at Kentish Town (?), ready for the long trip down to Southend. *Arthur Ingram*



CANVEY & DISTRICT MOTOR TRANSPORT CO. LTD.



Chris Stewart's Canvey visit photo-call ~ 10 July





Preservation Notebook: Former Eastern National 1963 FLF6B coach RWC608 (2605 in the 1964 renumbering scheme), latterly converted to bus 2937 (and FLF6G) and then again to open top as 2300, left Essex this afternoon heading for the care of William Staniforth and the Bristol Road Transport Collection. It had been part of Peter Hughes' collection in Kent and has not been on the road for several years, but passed an MOT quite satisfactorily this week following care and attention from Ian Mahoney of Shenfield. The photo below was taken at Marden Ash on 4th August. Note it has a Brentwood depot blind fitted (222 is an old tradition of Den Denyer of Denyer Bros, in whose yard it has spent 2 weeks). *Chris Stewart*



PCV HOLDER ?



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

Stephensons of Essex and our associated company, Excel Passenger Logistics are expanding fast and we have vacancies for drivers at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services, weekend rail replacement, together with work and private hires.

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

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.

> **FULL AND PART-TIME PCV FITTERS**

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

> **RAIL CONTROLLERS / CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact

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

