



ESSEX BUS NEWS

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June 2007

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
serving Essex since 1964
www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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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Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from the Membership Secretary.

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

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

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

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

Lyn Watson
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants
Monometer House, Rectory Grove,
Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN

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

TOURS ORGANISER

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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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Excel / Stephensons - Ian Ransom - see above

Hedingham - David Harman - see above

National Express - David Harman - see above

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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>
July	4 July	13 July
August	8 August	17 August
September	5 September	14 September

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*

- ▶ **Tuesday 12 June** - *Lyn Watson* will present an illustrated talk '**On the Buses**' covering his experiences from first gaining a PSV licence, through the development of Stephensons and now Excel/Flight Delay services.
- ▶ There will not be a meeting at Freight House in July or August, the season resumes on **Tuesday September 11**. [details of autumn season on web site]

However, on **Tuesday July 10** there will be a visit to the **Castle Point Transport Museum** (which is being opened specially for us that evening) with transport to/from Rochford, Southend and Benfleet. A Stephensons bus will depart Rochford Station forecourt at 1900, Southend Queensway (rear of Odeon) 1915 and Benfleet station (1940). The route will be from Rochford via Southend Road, Manners Way, Victoria Avenue, then from Southend via London Road A13, then Benfleet Road, Essex Way from Hadleigh. The bus will pick up at any stop along the route, just signal to the driver. Return time will depend on how long the visit lasts!

Anyone going straight to the Museum is welcome from 19.15 onwards, but please make yourselves known to one of the CPTM officers on arrival.

There is no need to book, just turn up on the evening. There is also no charge but a collection will be made during the evening for the CPTMS.

cover: Bristols on parade at Southchurch Park at the Southend Bus Rally on 3rd June: FLF 2849 (NTW 942C), KSW 1407 (VNO 859) and Titan 2102 (LEV 917). 2400 (XVX 19) in the background. *Chris Stewart*

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: Downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Slides or digital photos are preferable, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 13 July** - (upstairs room) - slide show by Chris Stewart - 'From Charabanc to Highwayman' - A brief history of Eastern National's coaches.
- ▶ **Friday 10 August** - slide show by Dave Arnold - 'Rail Replacement'.
- ▶ **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

- ▶ **Sunday 1 July: North Weald Bus Rally**, North Weald Airfield. Special bus service from Epping Station.
- ▶ **Saturday/Sunday 7-8 July: Eastern Coach Works Event**, East Anglia Transport Museum. Saturday 7th: 1pm - 5pm; Sunday 8th: 10.30am - 5pm. To mark twenty years since the closure of Eastern Coach Works, a gathering of vehicles built in the town. Special attractions include a Saturday evening road run to the former factory site. Free Park and Ride service from Gisleham School.

The classic lines of the ECW body - Eastern National L 309 (ONO 49)
and KSW 1407 (VNO 859) at the Southend Rally. *Chris Stewart*





"AJN"

1939 Westcliff K5G **AJN 825** on its first outing since being acquired by the 825 Group (a consortium mostly of First Essex staff), and having passed its MOT on the Friday before.
Note neatly positioned seagulls on ridge line of roof!!!

Iain Stewart



Iain Banks

Southend Bus

There was a cavalcade of **Eastern National** vehicles (headed by FOP429, **Southend CT** Daimler open top which ran for EN after the takeover of Benfleet & District and before sale to SCT). Full line up was FOP VNO859 (KSW), NTW942C (FLF), ONO49 (L5G newly on the road again), some bloomin' red London thing which wanted to get in on the act and (not visible) FWC439H (RE). VR UAR597W also appeared later.

... and here it is.



Open toppers, old and new: **City Sightseeing** Volvo B7/ Ayats passes **Southend CT** Daimler.

all: Iain Stewart

Rally - 3 June 2007

Hedingham's new ADL Enviro L355, with Dave Edwards's RELL6G 1516 (FWC 439H), its first outing after some major engine and cooling system problems. It now has a 6HLXB engine from an Ulsterbus/Ipswich Bristol B21.

Iain Stewart



Supreme's ex-London Metrobus C361 BUV.

Ian Banks



Ford's of Althorne: an ex-Brighton & Hove Dennis Lance / Optare Sigma N407 MPN.

The AMO 407 indication appears to be an ECC school contract number

Ian Banks



Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

28-Apr-07	200	Su	Harlow Bus Station - Buckhurst Hill Station Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 541)
	201	Su	Buckhurst Hill Station - Ongar, Two Brewers Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 541)
	203	Su	Harlow Bus Station - Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 541)
	214	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Loughton (circular) Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 542/3)
	215	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Loughton (circular) Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 542/3)
	220	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington drive - Loughton (circular) Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 542/3)
29-Apr-07	500	M-S	Old Harlow, Post Office - Romford Rail Station Revised to operate via North Weald and Ongar
	501	Daily	Old Harlow, Post Office - Brentwood Rail Station Minor changes to timetable and new Sunday service introduced between Harlow and Ongar
	541	Daily	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station, Buckhurst Hills Station - Epping, St Margarets Hospital (M-S) and Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station (M-S evenings and Sundays)
	542	M-S	Debden - Loughton (circular) New service (partly replacing services 214/215 and 219/220) via River Way, Loughton Station and Parkmead
	543	M-S	Debden - Loughton (circular) New service (partly replacing services 214/215 and 219/220) via Parkmead, Loughton Station and River Way

Blue Triangle

28-Apr-07	11	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Purfleet Station Service now operates along Purfleet Road instead of Sandy Lane, Aveley (no change to timetable)
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C G Myall

20-May-07	132	Su	Saffron Walden, High Street - Cambridge, Drummer Street Bus Station. Scheduled to serve Littlebury in both directions and re-routed in Cambridge to serve Addenbrookes Hospital and Rail Station
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Clintona Minicoaches

21-May-07	99	M-S	Tilbury Town Station - Tilbury Landing Stage Amended timetable (route Fort Road, Brennan Road, Civic Square and Calcutta Road)
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EasyBus

7-Jun-07	EB2	Daily	Marylebone/George Street - Stansted Airport, Coach Station. New half hourly limited stop service via Thornwood, Hastingwood Services and South Woodford
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Ensign Bus

7-Apr-07	X81	Daily	Gravesend Pier (West Street) - Bluewater. Emergency Tilbury Ferry replacement service. Last day of operation: 18 May.
28-Apr-07	44	M-S	Orsett Hospital - Lakeside Bus Station. The last two journeys from Lakeside to London Road/ Stonehouse Lane have been withdrawn

30-May-07	55	M-F	Grays Bus Station (Circular via Argent Street) Service withdrawn
27-Apr-07	77	M-S	Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station Renumbered (see service 73)
28-Apr-07	73	Daily	Tilbury, Civic Centre - Upminster Station Replaces service 77 now Lakeside - Tilbury (M-S), Upminster - Tilbury (evenings and Sundays) via Aveley, Belhus, Lakeside, Grays and Chadwell St Mary.
	83	M-S	Chadwell St Mary - Lakeside Bus Station Evening journeys now operated by buses on service 73
First			
25-Feb-07	65	Daily	Stanway, Tollgate Medical Centre - Highwoods, Tesco Store. Re-routed in Stanway and minor changes to morning peak journeys (M-F)
1-Apr-07	31X	M-S	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Burnham on Crouch, Clock Tower. Re-routed between Southminster and Althotrne via Diary Farm Road
2-Apr-07	36	Daily	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - South Woodham, Town Centre. Minor changes to M-F timetable
	42	M-S	Broomfield Hospital - Galleywood, Barnard Road (West Lawn). Minor changes to M-F timetable
8-Apr-07	3	Daily	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Harwich Bus Station
	4	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Harwich Bus Station.
	5	M-S	3 and 4: Clacton terminal now Pier Avenue Holland, Frinton Road (Park Bvd) - Bockings Elm, Flatford Drive (Kersey Drive).
	6	M-S	Holland, Frinton Road (Park Bvd) - Bockings Elm, Flatford Drive (Kersey Drive).
	7	M-S	5 and 6: Re-routed in Clacton via Pier Avenue Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Pier Avenue
	8	M-S	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Pier Avenue
	8A	M-S	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road 7, 8, 8A: Clacton terminal now Pier Avenue
	10	M-S	Great Clacton, Telford Road - Jaywick, Tower Camp
	11	M-S	Great Clacton, Telford Road - Jaywick, Tower Camp.
	17	M-S	10 and 11: Re-routed in Clacton via Pier Avenue Clacton, Pier Avenue - Point Clear, Holiday Park
	18	M-S	Clacton, Pier Avenue - Point Clear, Holiday Park
10-Apr-07	5	Daily	17 and 18: Clacton terminal now Pier Avenue Basildon Bus Station - Pitsea, Tesco Store
	25A	M-F	Revised morning peak timetable (M-F) Shotgate, Post Office - Langdon Hills, Westley Road
	25B	M-S	Peak time journeys only Runwell Church - Langdon Hills, Westley Road
			Revised timetable with certain journeys to/from Shotgate numbered 25A
15-Apr-07	140	Su	Basildon Bus Station - Chelmsford, Bus Station Revised timetable
14-May-07	76	Daily	Colchester North Station - Clacton, Jackson Road Minor timetable alterations
27-May-07	605	Su	Colchester Bus Station - Walton on the Naze SUMMER SUNDAY service re-introduced
	606	Su	Walton on the Naze - Harwich Quay, West Street SUMMER SUNDAY service re-introduced.

Hedingham Omnibuses

8-Apr-07	132	Daily	Clacton Railway Station - Brook Retail Park Minor revision to the timetable and re-routed in Clacton via Pier Avenue
27-May-07	78	Su	Colchester High Street - Brightlingsea, Regent Road The 17:49 from Wivenhoe now starts from Colchester at 17:30
30-May-07	345	W	Fuller Street - Braintree Re-routed via Gambles Green
31-May-07	4	ThS	Little Baddow, Spring Close - Maldon, Tesco Store Withdrawn from Curling Tye Green
2-Jun-07	343	S	Braintree Bus Park - Fuller Street Extended to Fuller Street via Gambles Green

Imperial Bus

14-May-07	H1	M-S	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station Revised M-F timetable with service extended to Princess Alexandra Hospital and Edinbough Way, Tesco
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Network Colchester

3-Jun-07	96	Su	Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station - Mistley, Rigby Avenue. Service withdrawn
	96A	Su	Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station - Mistley, Rigby Avenue. Service withdrawn
4-Jun-07	90C	Su	Hadleigh Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station. Revised to operate within Suffolk only (This service is sponsored by Suffolk CC)

Olympian Coaches

4-Jun-07	743	M-F	Braintree, Tesco Store - London, Buckingham Palace Road. Revised timetable
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Stansted Transit

10-Apr-07	133	Daily	Braintree Bus Park - Stansted Airport Coach Station Minor changes to early morning timetable
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Trustline

28-Apr-07	10	M-F	Loughton Station - Abridge (circular) Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 541)
	500	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Romford Rail Station Service withdrawn (refer to Arriva service 541)

David Tomlin

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

Allocation changes

Period 2: 30 April 2007 to 28 May 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

34816 D/L(D)-sold; 46118 D/L(D)-sold; 46122 (S)-D/L(S); 46124 D/L(D)-sold;
46129 (S)-D/L(S); 46130 D/L(D)-sold; 46131 D/L(D)-sold; 46132 D/L(D)-(S);
46133 D/L(D)-sold; 46134 D/L(D)-sold; 46135 D/L(D)-sold; 46139 D/L(D)-sold;
46178 D/L(D)-sold; 46805 D/L(D)-sold; 46809 D/L(D)-sold; 46810 D/L(D)-sold;
46819 D/L(D)-sold; 51801 D/L(D)-sold; 51804 D/L(D)-sold; 51807 D/L(D)-sold

This leaves 51780 and 51803 as the last Mercedes 709/711 in the bus fleet

Disposals:

Period 2: 34816 46118 46124 46130 46131 46133 46134 46135 46139 46178 46805 46809
46810 46819 51801 51804 51807 all to Erith Commercial

Correction to EBN517 (*incorrect information received*): 56001 to First Aberdeen and not as given

Repaints

Period 2: 40779 34304 42486 42487 31375 34056 46128 42482 34308 47219 34309

46157 has gained an overall rear advert for Adventure Island

47229 now has LED displays, including the rear

Other vehicle news:

Galleywood-bound service 42 Dart 42923 (EU05AUP) suffered major damage some time after 07.00 on Friday 1st June. It collided with scaffolding around a new building at the corner of New London Road and Parkway after being hit by a car. The bus driver had to be cut free but we believe that both he and the two passengers on board luckily escaped serious injury.

42923 was removed at 13.20 by two 'On Time' recovery vehicles - one to pull it backwards onto Parkway and the other to tow it away up London Rd. It was taken to Westway depot for assessment on its future - the front is reported to have been badly distorted.

Buses travelling into town appeared to be diverted via Princes Road and the Army & Navy roundabout, including one 351. Whilst 42923 was being recovered, Parkway was closed westbound and some routes were using Newbridge Road, Springfield Road and Victoria Road. 42482 was on the 42 in the afternoon although this is not unusual as the 42-branded Darts are used on other services from time to time. One Park & Ride journey is known to have taken a particularly inventive route in order to maintain the service.

On Saturday 2nd, the part of London Road between New Writtle Street and Parkway was still closed while the scaffolding was being dismantled, and one 100 was seen coming into town from Rainsford Lane (probably having used Waterhouse Lane).

Dart 46120 is still undergoing major refurbishment work at HH, but Olympian 31456 is now back on the road after a long period and Dart 46129 has been prepared by HH for further service elsewhere.

Operations – unusual sightings:

Services 31/31X, 36 and 352 should be low floor vehicles. Anything can appear on the 33 or 351 although double deckers are rare outside certain peak workings. In Colchester, Olympians and step entrance Darts are fairly frequent on the 61 and 64/64A, as are step entrance Darts on the 66 and Clacton Darts on the 75/76. The listings below are starting to reflect this.

Chelmsford

- 11th CF47219 on 352
- 12th CF47219 on 47
- 17th CR65682 and CF60102 on 352
- 22nd BE46143 and CF60103 on 352, Olympian CF34807 on 31 (16.00 ex Chelmsford)

Colchester, Clacton & Harwich

- 2nd CR67008 on 66
- 3rd 66-branded CR43744 on 64A; CN67011 on CR64
- 4th 66-branded CR43744 on 65
- 5th CN46830 on loan to DT, CN47225 also on loan
- 6th CF31198 (with BE driver) on Witham-Colchester rail replacement
- 7th CR65679 on 75
- 9th CR34309 on 65; CR47102 on 70 (daytime, 10.05 ex CR et seq); CR65679 on 61, CR62408 on 88 (10.30)
- 10th CR47103 on 78 all day (09.15 ex CR et seq), CR60031 on pm 70 duplicate (16.20 ex CR). CR34012 on loan to DT (13.30 CR-DT 104)
- 11th 66-branded CR43741 on 64
- 15th CR34014 on 65; DT51780 on 103; DT51780 ON CR75 (Tiptree pm "short")
- 16th CR34012 on 66; 66-branded CR43744 on 65
- 17th 66-branded CR43739 on 64A, CR47104 on 88
- 18th 66-branded CR43741 on 64A; CR47104 on 65; CR65679 on X22, repainted CR34308 on 88
- 21st 66-branded CR43742 on 64; CR47101 on 65. CR67008 covering failed DT34285
- 22nd 66-branded CR43740 on 65; 65 "semi branded" 65690 on 64A
- 23rd 66-branded CR43739 on 64, but 64-branded CR62407 on 66. CR34310, CR43716 and CR67007 on 65.
- 24th CR62408 on 75 (pm Tiptree short); CR34308, CR43740 and CR67007/8 on 65. CN47225 still on loan to DT
- 25th CR47104 on 65
- 27th CR34310 on Witham-Colchester rail replacement (BE driver)
- 29th CR34310 on 65
- 30th 66-branded CR43743 on 64; CR47101 on 65.
- 31st CR34303 on 65

Basildon & Hadleigh

Brentwood's 73 has been host to short Plaxton Darts BN46804 on 9th May and BN46808 on 10th & 15th (not all that unusual) with Marshall Darts BN41645 on 14th May and BN41644 on 8th June (much more so).

- 12th CR43741 in BN (possibly for MOT), BN46173 on 1

Other News - Where are they now?

Former Romford (red) Solos 53107-11 are with *First Devon & Cornwall* at Plymouth, now in standard Group livery and with LED displays. 53101-6 are all believed to be with *First West Yorkshire* at Leeds.

MW 1348 (208YVX) will be in use around Hawes again this summer

FLF 2751 (JWC711) - modified to European specification and used by Creativ Marketing of Munich since 1993, seen in Athens May 2007 (see

<http://web.ukonline.co.uk/robsly/jwc711.html>)

VR 3082 (STW26W) – off on its annual trip across America (see www.thebritbustour.com)

ON coach 4505 (B693BPU) seen recently with K&J Travel, York

ON coach 4511 (D511PPU) – Sanders, Holt ex Fargo, Braintree. Sanders ran 4510/2, the former being PLZ2876 with Flagfinders of Braintree and the booked bus for Colne Engaine/Coggeshall Honeywood School duty.

Lynx 1401 (E401HWC) - WTTS, Weston-super-Mare (Driving School) May 2007 ex First Bristol 62501, via Bristol Bus & Coach Sales

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

Text message reports relating to First Group may be sent on 07973 509459, in addition to e-mail and conventional post.
Chris Stewart



■ EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS, Stansted

Olympian A890 PKR sold, left on Saturday to Ards Tours, Newtonards in Northern Ireland. Mercedes 709 L313 YDU has been sold to C Mc Carthy, Enniskillen

The new Ayats Bravo has arrived, but is not registered yet

■ STEPHENSON of ESSEX, Rochford

K108 SAG was sold in mid May- the last step entrance Dart here.

New MPD type Dart EU07 FRN is currently working from Rochford in all over white pending painting into fleet colours. It will then be transferred to Maldon for use on Witham town services 38/9, to release similar SK02XGO for transfer to Rochford where it will be painted ready for the start of the 61 on July 23. The other 02 Dart, XGP is already at Rochford for the 14.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Lyn Watson

Regal Busways

A company official states that fleetnumbers P 01 – P 03 are in fact **Pullman 01-03**. This amends advice given by a staff member at Highwood depot.

Ian Ransom

The MOT Testing facilities at Tollesbury depot have recently been upgraded to include the latest equipment required by the VOSA. The original paint shop was gutted, a new inspection pit constructed to the required depth to accommodate low floor vehicles, roller brake testing equipment to the latest design together with improved lighting, safety features and testers office have all been installed.

All company vehicles now use these facilities for annual test. Other local operators are also able to make use of the centre. Pre-tests for brakes, lights and smoke emission are also available at a small additional cost. Consent from VOSA is awaited to extend facilities to HGVs up to 11 tonnes. (Contacts: **Nick Deighton** or **Phil Sayer** - telephone/fax **01621 869215**).

To increase security at this depot new steel gates are being fitted to the parking area in front of the garage.

Vehicle news

May saw the repainting of **L207** (L207 RNO) and **L208** (L208 RNO). This completes the two-year repainting programme for all Dennis Darts/Volvo B6s. These have all been brush painted in the paint shop at Hedingham, which is still part of the original workshop.

Bristol VR **L155**, Volvo/Alexander Strider **L354**, and Enviro 400 **L355** all attended the Southend Bus Rally on 3rd June.

David Harman, with thanks to Mr D R MacGregor of Hedingham Omnibuses

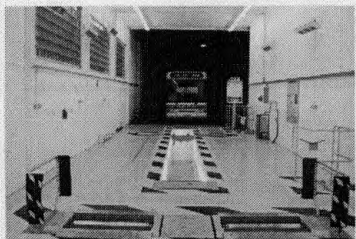



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Hedingham Omnibuses



Latest State-of-the-Art M.O.T. Facilities

62 New Road, Tollesbury, Maldon, Essex CM9 8RE
 Telephone: 01621 869215

above: **L142** stars in Hedingham's MOT Facilities brochure.

left: SLF Dart **L343** features in a test system makers advertisement in *Bus & Coach Professional*.

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX

Vehicles out

2126 (N196 EMJ): Palmer, Dunstable 4/07

Subsequent histories

2092-4 (M152-4 RBH): gone from Olympus, Harlow by 4/07

2122 (N192 EMJ): Drake, Blaina ex Hillier, Fareham

2235 (N935 ETU): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 4/07 ex Arriva the Shires 2235

3350 (J317 XVX ex 9163 AP, J317 XVX): Clarke, Hemel Hempstead 4/07 ex Rodemark, Herstmonceux

5384 (A110 FDL ex VOD 665, A110 FDL, WDL 748, A701 DDL): gone from Western Greyhound 665 by 2/07

5839 (D181 FYM): numbered 4230 by Cavalier Travel, Long Sutton by 4/07

5840 D215 FYM ex 815 DYE, D215 FYM): numbered 4231 by Cavalier Travel, Long Sutton by 4/07

DP313 (J313 WHJ): SM, Harlow 5/07ex Arriva Cymru 1113

General

The **easyBus** service using 10 Mercedes 411CDi vehicles from Luton Airport to London ceased after 26 May and the vehicles are scheduled to operate a new service from Stansted Airport to London (Gloucester Place) commencing 7 June. They are at present technically *Arriva the Shires* vehicles and your Sub-Editor understands that notwithstanding the considerable "dead" mileage involved, they will continue to be operated from Luton and not from the more obvious Harlow depot.

Ancillary vehicles - 4/07

1152 YS 03 UBT	Vauxhall Combi 1700	HA
1153 YB 53 YXZ	Vauxhall Combi 1700 "Driver travel"	HA
1170 S181 FFE	Ford Transit 80 Engineers van	WE
1171 R823 CNB	Ford Transit 80 Engineers van	HA
1172 NC 04 XLH	Ford Transit	WE
1185 W385 LFS	Vauxhall Combi Epic "Driver travel"	WE
1191 Y657 RUT	Vauxhall Astra Envoy Engineers van	WE
1199 BV 53 WYF	Vauxhall Combi 1700 "Driver travel"	WE

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND

Vehicle News

The Dengie Village Link Mercedes Sprinters were delicensed from the 31st March. All are currently being stored at Southend with the exception of 1756 which is away for accident repairs at a commercial facility in Latchingdon.

The only trainer currently allocated to Southend is Volvo B6/Plaxton T605 (L605EKM).

Grays Branding

Following the Grays area service changes on 28th April the 383 branded buses (3204, 3389, 3425 and 3426) have had their branding amended to "Basildon direct". Redundant route 370/3 branding has also been removed from the last two buses that carried it.

Other News

A special service was due to operate in Hawkwell during the week commencing 4th June to replace service 8 diverted due to the closure of the junction of Rectory Road, Main Road and Hall Road due to emergency roadworks.

Mercedes-Benz 711D (P478 DPE) new to Southend Transport in February 1997 is now with Central Travel of Sheffield. It is usually to be found operating service H01 between The Royal Hallamshire and Northern General Hospitals in the city on behalf of Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold and Richard Delahoy



Fleet renumbering situation

The Network Colchester fleet was renumbered 'on paper' in June 2006. The new fleet numbers were shown on page 20 of **EBN 507**. The new numbers have been slow to actually appear on vehicles with only 12 buses out of a fleet of 42 carry new numbers as of June 2007. In EBN, buses have been referred to by their new numbers since the renumbering regardless of whether or not the vehicles actually carry the new numbers.

However, it appears that Network Colchester continue to refer to buses by their old fleet number until the bus **physically** carries a new fleet number at which point the bus is then considered renumbered! Therefore, from now on in EBN, the fleet numbers will refer to the **actual** fleet number carried on the bus.

Courtesy of Network Colchester, the following list shows the current position:

<i>Number carried</i>	<i>Reg.</i>	<i>Chassis</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Seats</i>	<i>New Note</i>
100	V337DBD	Dennis Trident	Alexander	H51/29+17F	1999 8
101	AY55DKA	Scania Omnidecker	East Lincs	H47/33F	2005 93
102	YN06TFZ	Scania Omnidecker	East Lincs	H47/33F	2006 8
333	G613BPH	Volvo Citybus	East Lincs	H49/39+20F	1989
334	G614BPH	Volvo Citybus	East Lincs	H49/39+20F	1989
335	G615BPH	Volvo Citybus	East Lincs	H49/39+20F	1989
337	G617BPH	Volvo Citybus	East Lincs	H49/39+20F	1989
346	F246MTW	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29+17F	1988
347	H47MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29+17F	1991
348	H48MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	H47/31+17F	1991
349	H49MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	H47/31+17F	1991
307	YJ51JWW	Optare Solo	Optare	B29F	2001
354	Y40TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	2001 8
355	Y50TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	2001 8
106	HX51LRK	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
107	HX51LRL	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
108	HX51LRN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001 2
109	HX51LRO	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001 2
105	HX51LRJ	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
351	HX51LSN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
360	SN54HWY	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
361	SN54HWZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
362	SN54HXA	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
363	SN54HXB	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1

Number

carried	Reg.	Chassis	Body	Seats	New Note
364	SN54HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
365	SN54HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
366	SN54HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
367	SN54HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004 1
528	AY54FPZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
529	AY54FRC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
530	LK55KZZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2005 *
708	S108HGX	Mercedes Benz	Plaxton Beaver 2	B27F	1998
310	N540TPF	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	1995
801	N541TPF	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	1995
302	M722CGO	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	1995
303	M723CGO	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	1995
309	M526MPM	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B35F	1995
903	W903UJM	Volvo	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
904	W904UJM	Volvo	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
905	W905UJM	Volvo	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
386	W906UJM	Volvo	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000 2
387	W907UJM	Volvo	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000 2

SERVICE AND ANCILLARY VEHICLES

1151	YVW 979L	Mattbro C40/12FFL/D	Fork Lift	1973
V146	V146 KTW	Ford Escort		1999 §
A37	N611LMR	Ford Transit		1995

Notes: 1, 2, 8, 93 - route branded thus

* on loan to TGM, Portsmouth

§ ex-Royal Mail, June 2005

Vehicle News

Burton's Mercedes 0814D S553 BNV has left Magdalen Street by 8th May, following its repaint. Repairs to accident damaged Volvo Citybus/East Lancs 334 began the week commencing 20th May and were well advanced by 31st May.

Other News

Tellings-Golden Miller (parent company of Network Colchester) acquired *Wiltax Buses* of New Haw, Addlestone, Surrey on 4th June. Noted at New Haw on 1st June was Network Colchester Leyland Olympian 348 (H48 MJN).

It is reported that two former Metrobus East Lancs-bodied Dennis Tridents are being prepared for service with Network Colchester.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, David Harman and John Podgorski

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Go-Ahead NE: Spectras K301/3 FYG, K159 PGO
 London United: M1006/1019
 Metroline: V201/4
 Reading Buses: Spectra L705 DRD

Stagecoach East Midlands: Volvo B6's N322/3/4/5 JTL
Stagecoach South: Volvo B6's N421/2 PWV Merc 709's N943/77 NAP
Stagecoach West: Olympians C609/10 LFT
TM Travel: Dart SLF R83 GNW
Wards Coaches, Colchester: Tiger TIB 4587

Vehicles out

Lances K701/2/3/4 NDO, L706/7/8/9 HFU: **A2Z Travel**, Walsall.
Olympian J814 NKK Spectra K159 PGO: **ABus**, Bristol.
Delta's G638/40 RTY: **Acorn Coaches**, Tamworth.
Olympian C335 HWJ: **Caernarfon Commercial**s, Gwynedd.
Titan WYV26T: **Cheddar Gorge**, Somerset.
Metrobus BYX144V, M495: **City Sightseeing** San Diego.
Metrobus BYX302V: **City Sightseeing** San Francisco.
Dart G29 TGW: **County Coaches**, Canterbury.
Dublin Olympians 91-D-1061/4 now H708/9 PVW with **Billy Davies Coaches**, Glasgow.
Olympian R942/3 YOV: **Dualway Coaches**, Dublin.
Bristol VR's PWY 43W JWV 271W: **Estubus Publicidad Exterior S.L**, Madrid, Spain.
Spectra K303 FYG: **Fairbrothers**, Warrington.
Olympian L204 SKD: **Geldards Coaches**, Leeds.
Lynx XAZ 1293: **Kenzo Bus Sales**, Surrey.
DAF W178 CDN: **Kimes Coaches**, Folkingham, Lincs.
Olympians C609/10 LFT Volvo B6's L833 CDG, N421/2 PWV, N322/3/4/5JTL:
Darts 01-D-34168/70/2/3/5, 39111/4 **McKindless**, Wishaw.
Fleetline MNU 635P: **Nottingham Vintage Vehicle Society**.
M1006, Metrobuses ULS 621X, EWF 454V,
Atlantean CWG744V (final ex Guide Friday bus) **PVS** for scrap.
Trident T648 KPU: **Red Route Buses**, Northfleet.
Spectra's K312/23 FYG: **RH Transport**, Witney, Ox.
Olympian F254 YTJ: **Sun Fun**, Earith, Cambs.
Tiger TIB 4587: **Supreme Coaches**, Southend.
Metrobus A722 UOE: **UKIP**, Brussels.
Volvo B10M's S134 KRM S905/6 JHG: **Bob Vale Coach Sales**, High Wycombe.
Dublin Olympian 91-D-10111 now J778 CEV with **Z & S Coaches**, Aylesbury.

■ ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Acquired vehicles

transferred from Stratford Blue

- 620 L120 HHV Dennis Dart 9SDL3034/1854 / Northern Counties 4730 B34F
new 6/1994 to London Buses Ltd DNL111.
692 392 MBF (K92 BNY) Dennis Dart 9SDL3011/1349 / Plaxton 939HMN1232 B35F
new 5/1993 to Rhondda Buses 92.
from TM Travel, Staveley, Derbys.
761 R561 UOT Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11467 / UVG Urbanstar 5796/97 B44F
new 8/1997 to Marchwood Motorways, Totton, 561.
783 R83 GNW Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11537 / UVG Urbanstar 5822/97 B40F
new 4/1998 to Speedlink Airport Services, 83.

Withdrawn vehicles

605, 638, 640 - Deltas. 638/40 (G638/40 RTY) sold to Acorn Coaches, Tamworth.
605 (G505 XBL) was severely damaged when a lorry ran into the rear in the Dartford Tunnel

on the afternoon of 8th May. This leaves just one Delta in service - 606 (G506 XBL).

Services

The Tilbury Ferry replacement service (EBN 517) was numbered X81. It ran for the last time on Friday 18 May.

Fleet List - May 2007

126	P426	UUG	Olympian Royale	705	P505	MOT	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar
127	P427	UUG	Olympian Royale	710	P910	MOR	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar
128	P428	UUG	Olympian Royale	711	P201	OLX	Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer
129	P429	UUG	Olympian Royale	712	P202	OLX	Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer
149	E749	SKR	MCW Metrobus	719	R619	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
152	E752	SKR	MCW Metrobus	720	R620	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
157	E747	SKR	MCW Metrobus	721	R621	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
161	F761	EKM	MCW Metrobus	722	R622	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
162	F762	EKM	MCW Metrobus	723	R623	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
167	F767	EKM	MCW Metrobus	724	R624	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
173	F773	EKM	MCW Metrobus	725	R625	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
175	F775	EKM	MCW Metrobus	726	R626	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
192	F292	NHJ	MCW Metrobus	727	R627	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
606	G506	XBL	Optare Delta	729	R629	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
620	L120	HHV	Dart NC Paladin	730	R630	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
692	392	MBF	Dart Plaxton Pointer	731	R631	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
700	V800	CBC	Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer 2	732	R632	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
701	P81	MOR	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar	738	R638	VEG	Dart SLF Marshall Capital
702	P82	MOR	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar	761	R561	UOT	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar
703	P503	MOT	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar	782	R182	VLA	Dart SLF Plaxton Pointer 2
704	P504	MOT	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar	783	R83	GNW	Dart SLF UVG Urbanstar

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman and Paul Dickson, Ensignbus

Essex Small Operator News

1 TO 1 MINICOACHES, Basildon

Rare Iveco/Indcar N594 TAY has been withdrawn

ADVANCE MINIBUSES, Hockley

VW LT35 BX53 UAD has been sold to Haines Minibuses, Banstead

AIRPORT MINIBUSES, Colchester

Acquired is T895 SWC a LDV Convoy.

APT, Rayleigh

Acquired from Barrys Coaches, Weymouth is M321 VET a Scania K113/Van Hool. F503 OJE a DAF SB2000/Van Hool has gone to Ronda Coaches, Rochford.

AVRO, Orsett MCW Metrobus JUM 501V was sold to Wigley, Carlton for scrap in September 2006.

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow

Toyota/Caetano H691 HRT has been sold.

CEEFA, Thundersley This operator is now based at Sadlers Hall Farm. Acquired from RSM Driver Training, Canvey Island is NIM 2309 (new as A381 ROU) a Leyland Tiger/Van Hool

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS, Chelmsford

To correct previous information Ford Transit EN56 VKK is with Fargo, Rayne and has never been with Chelmsford Taxibus.

CLINTONA, Brentwood Mercedes Benz 814D/Autobus R86 EDW has been sold.

COUNTY, Brentwood Other vehicles named are Volvo B10M/MMCI, 2629 RU (E739 JAY) which is Suffolk, Volvo

B10M/Jonckhree 2786 RU (N547 SJF) named Lancashire and Dennis Javelin/Duple 5189 RU (F879 RFP) named Rutland.

FARGO, Rayne HIL 2154 (new as F433 DUG) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton has been acquired from Harold Wood Coaches.

GLEW, Colchester Acquired in March was Mercedes Benz 811D/Optare G122 KUB, from an unknown source.

HAILSTONE, Ipswich Mercedes Benz 814D/Autobus W238 KDO has been sold to Lewis, Ipswich. YN03 WYB a Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton is now named Hurricane.

HANN, Harlow Ford Transit R798 BUJ has been sold.

KEANE, Canvey Island Acquired is X211 CHT a Fiat Ducato. Further fleetnumbers recorded are Ford Transit R792 GVC (5) and Renault Master R957 XDA (28)

LCB TRAVEL, Harlow Two recent additions are Ford Transit's EO52 VGM and DV54 GLK

LINKFAST, Thundersley MCW Metrobus WYW 88T and BYX 307V have passed to Ensign (dealer). Acquired from that source are Leyland Olympian/ECW C27 CHM and Mercedes Benz 711D/Wadham Stringer N159 MTG.

McINTYRE, Harlow Ford Transit M675 BLX has been sold

MILESTONE, Canvey Island In from Wings, Uxbridge is T350 EJM a Mercedes Benz 0814D/Autobus. G146 GOL an Iveco/Carlyle has been withdrawn

NCS, Widdington Renault Trafic K686 JWC has been sold

OLYMPUS, Harlow Toyota/Caetano T53

GHO has gone to Holloway, Willenhall (dealer)

RAYMENT, Prittlewell Mercedes Benz 110CDI KG51 WTT (non PSV) has been acquired

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham Scania K93/Plaxton J287 NNC has gone to A S Coaches, Harrogate

SBC, Southend B16 YBC (SN04 CPE) the Scania/East Lancs used on open top services in Southend last summer has been sold to a dealer.

STANWAY TRAVEL, Layer-de-la-Haye Ford Transit KX54 EDL is now a non-PSV

STB COACHES, Chadwell St Mary Ford Transit L573 HVS and Mercedes Benz 814D/Autobus N17 JWS (A19 HOD) have been sold

TERRAVISION, Stansted Airport Scania K114/Irizar SA02 RNF has been acquired

THURROCK COACHES, Chadwell St Mary Acquired from Gardner, Boreham is BHZ 9622 (F24 WNH) a LAG Panoramic

WARD, Alresford Previous identities of the ex Dublin Olympians are H693 PVW (91-D-1069) and H694 PVW (91-D-1063).

WICKS, Braintree An unusual addition for this operator is DAF SB250/Optare K125 PGO. Bedford YNV/Plaxton C746 DVG has been withdrawn.

YOUNGS TRAVEL, Shotgate RAX 20Y a Setra S215HD has been acquired from Ceefa Coaches, Thundersley.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold. Some news has had to be held over until next month, due to editorial holidays.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiast's Guild

LODEKKA TRIBULATIONS

A recent article in *Bus Fayre* magazine (May/June 2007) showing "Lodekkas In Trouble", featuring buses of this marque from the fleet of the West Yorkshire Road Car Company after various mishaps. This made me think about Eastern National's Lodekkas and some of their corresponding accidents of diverse severity occurring within a contingent of some 387 buses. Of West Yorkshire's 237 buses, all of the featured vehicles, although quite badly damaged, were repaired and returned for further service. The same can be said for Eastern National as, so far as I'm aware, there were no complete 'write-offs', all damaged vehicles returning to service.

Whilst not intending to be an exhaustive study of ENOC's Lodekka tribulations, I can give some details of certain incidents, plus a few photos to illustrate some of these events. The first piece of information I have of a particularly bad accident came from reading

the PSV Circle Fleet History of Eastern National, and concerns Bristol LD5G **1142** (XVX 30). In 1956 when the vehicle was two years old (the same age as myself at the time!) a road roller ran into the back of it on Bread and Cheese Hill, Thundersley. It was rebuilt by ECW and resealed from H33/25R to H33/27R, similar to later LDs. It lasted with Eastern National until late 1971, having by this time been renumbered to 2411 in 1964.

Another early incident, although not as severe, befell **1459** (562 CTW) a 1955 Bristol LD6B which as shown in the first photo has come to grief in a field beside the road somewhere in south Essex while working a service 3 South Benfleet to Southend journey. It would be a touch ironic if it was at Thundersley, as with 1142. The bus itself seems to be fairly new by the look of it, so I shouldn't think the depot manager would have been too pleased with the poor driver at





the time. The photo was obtained from the Group many years ago and comes from the *Southend Busman* series, copyright C.L. Rayner Collection. Any further details by anyone who remembers or was connected with the incident would be very interesting. 1459 was re-numbered to 2428 in 1964 and withdrawn late in 1970 some 15 years after its accident.

The second photo shows the badly damaged rear end of 2502 (1847 F), probably within Prittlewell garage which dealt with major overhauls for the Southend area. A picture of the same bus can be found in *Glory Days: Eastern National* (Ian Allan) in the same damaged condition, although in this instance it is seen outside the garage before entering for extensive repair. At the time it was a Bristol LD6B, later re-engined to LD5G early in 1971. The advertisement on the nearside for Life Assurance dates it to 1969. For the record, 2502 was a 1958 built bus, originally numbered 1533 and withdrawn in the Spring of 1976.

So far all the unfortunate Lodekkas have been

rear entrance vehicles. The only badly damaged front entrance Bristol FLF that I am aware of concerned a 31ft semi-automatic version that had a fully loaded petrol tanker run into the back of it on Brook Street Hill, Brentwood. It happened in late December of 1977 while the bus was working a Southend to London 251 service. The *Brentwood and Billericay Gazette* gave a full account of what happened. Quite a number of people were injured according to the report. All happened to be downstairs in the most vulnerable location. From the state of the rear end, it is not possible to know the identity of the vehicle in the photo. I'm sure it would have been rebuilt as I don't recall any early withdrawals of semi-auto FLFs.

Road Traffic Accidents involving buses both at the present time as well as the past are thankfully rare, especially of the sort described in this article. A combination of good drivers and sturdy vehicle construction helping to minimise the damage when things do go wrong.

Peter Oughton

Injured hero of bus crash rescue



hands at the wreckage of a double-decker bus in Brentwood on Wednesday in a frantic bid to free nine screaming women.

Lorry driver Reg White, a passenger on the stricken bus, ignored his own injuries and bravely tried to rip away tangled metal to reach the injured after the horrifying collision between the bus and a fully-loaded petrol tanker in Brook Street Hill.

Hero Reg comforted the screaming women until police with specialists cutting equipment released them and a convoy of ambulances ferried them to Harold Wood Hospital.

Reg, of North Road Avenue, Brentwood, said: "I was flung out of the bench seat along the side and landed on my head. "I got up and pulled the seat off a woman who was well and truly trapped.

"I won't forget one old lady who was trapped. She turned round to me and said 'Don't worry about me - I'm too old. Help someone else.' "It was like a battlefield, and as I was interested in war getting them out."

The driver of the lorry was

David Hammond, 44, of South Ockendon, was still clutching the wheel when police cut away the twisted sub from his legs and body. He was rescued from Harold Wood Hospital after treatment.

The injured still recovering in Harold Wood are: Mrs. Joyce Miles, 36, of Priests Lane, Shenfield, who is "fairly satisfactory" in the hospital's intensive care unit; Miss Dagmar Beane, 16, of Yoking Way, Brentwood, "satisfactory" with a broken leg and cuts; Miss Lynn Brown, 15, of Church Road, Ramsden Bretherton, "satisfactory" with cuts to the face; Tina Hagden, 17, of Hook End Lane, Duddinghurst, "satisfactory" with leg injuries.

Jill Glendenning, 45, of Western Road, Billerica, "satisfactory" with cuts to face; Ruby Schofield, also of Western Road, Billerica, "satisfactory" with leg injuries.

The others released from hospital after treatment for cuts and bruises were Mrs. Margaret Bright, of Rothford, Folkestone, 24, of Chislehurst, and Mrs. Mary Bush, 43, of Mayfield Gardens, Brentwood.

Rajah Ali, 47, of Southend, was driving the bus from Southend to London's Wood Green when the accident happened at nearly 8.30 a.m. He said: "I heard this terrific crunch and felt the bus jolt forward."

Almost 30 years ago:
A heroic tale from the
Brentwood & Billerica Gazette
for 23 December 1977:

.... Lorry driver, Reg White, (pictured), a passenger on the stricken bus, ignored his own injuries and bravely tried to rip away tangled metal to reach the injured after the horrifying collision between the bus and fully-loaded petrol tanker in Brook Street Hill.

Hero, Reg comforted the screaming women until police with specialist cutting equipment released them and a convoy of ambulances ferried them to Harold Wood Hospital.

Reg, 39, of North Road Avenue said: "... I was flung out of the bench seat along the side and landed on my head.

I got up and pulled the seat off a woman who was well and truly trapped. I won't forget one old lady who was trapped. She turned to me and said "Don't worry about me - I'm too old. Help someone else."

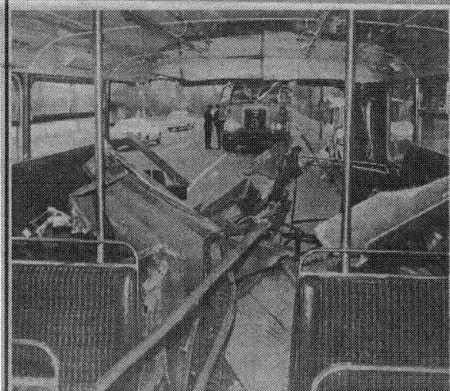
It was like a battlefield, and all I was interested in was getting them out ..."

Eight women received injuries ranging from broken legs to cuts and bruises. The tanker driver, David Hammond, 44, of South Ockendon, received minor injuries.

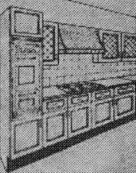
The bus driver, Rajah Ali, 47, of Southend said: "I heard this terrific crunch and the felt the bus jolt forward".



Lorry driver, Reg White, here passenger on a bus trip to terror.



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Excel:	Graham Hayden	0121 681800

