

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Issue 492
April 2005



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@hotmail.com

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

PHOTOS/PUBLICATIONS

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Magazine Editor

David Harman, 24 Frankfield Rise
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LF
ebn@casuarina.org.uk

First in Essex

Chris Stewart, 10 Crossways,
Shenfield, CM15 8QX
chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Arriva Southend / Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge, 19 Bull Lane,
Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8JE
petemans_1@hotmail.com

Arriva Harlow & Ware

Mark Garrett, 36 High Street,
Chrishall, Royston, SG8 8RP
deganwoy@waitrose.com

Hedingham / Small operators & Tours Organiser

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase,
Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Essex Small Operators

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way,
Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
ianandSally@bigfoot.com

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

David Harman - as above

Problems with your subscription, missing, defective or damaged EBN, or need back numbers? Contact the Membership Officer:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@hotmail.com

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Cover: The two remaining survivors in the purple Thamesway version of the 'Anglia' livery, Darts 46130/1 are seen at Brentwood Station in April. Adam Kelleher

Dates for your diary

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: Downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. **20.00 to 22.00** (doors open at **19.30**). All members and guests are welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please.

Dave Arnold

Summer 2005 programme:

- ▶ **Friday 13 May** - A selection of black and white photographs - London Traffic Area Coach Operators - a perspective - The first 20 years - 1946-1966 by Fred Lawrance, previously of Dagenham.
- ▶ **Friday 10 June** - Slide show "Glasgow then and now - a comparison" by Steven Hughes

TOUR

- ▶ **Sunday 8 May** ~ Tour to mark the 21st anniversary of the start of the **X21 commuter variant of the famous Southend X1**. The tour will use Arriva Southend 5404, aka Southend Transport 264 (Olympian/NCME DP decker), which is currently being repainted (but not into ST yellow coach livery, unfortunately!). The plan is to run the full X21 to Hyde Park Corner, then a break in Victoria, then a full rounder on the old Culturebus 614 before another break and fast run back to the Southend area.

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

richard@signal-training.com

or by post to **Box 5657, Southend on Sea, SS1 3WT**

Richard Delahoy

RALLIES, OPEN DAYS

- ▶ **Sunday 5 June** ~ **31st Annual Southend Bus & Transport Show**: Southchurch Park East, Lifstan Way, Southend.
- ▶ **Saturday 25 June** ~ **Open Day at Stagecoach London's Hackney Garage**: 11am - 5pm, Waterden Road, E15. Shuttle bus to/from Stratford Station and also to/from Holloway Garage where Metroline are also holding an Open Day.
- ▶ **Sunday 26 June** ~ **North Weald Bus Rally**: North Weald Airfield, Epping.

From the Editor ...

Correction to EBN 491/22 ~ *Bob Williamson* points out that the fleetnumbers quoted in the appeal for info on 604 JPU's allocations should read: **427** (604 JPU) and **436** (606 JPU).

Essex Small Operators and Essex Publicity News ~ Personal and professional commitments mean *Ian Ransom* is unable to supply these columns this month. It is hoped to resume normal service in May.

David Harman

SALES ITEMS

The following items have been kindly donated to the Group from the estate of our late member Eric Thompson. We are most grateful for this bequest which will provide useful revenue for the Group funds.

► **ENEG/EBEG/EBN (1964 - 2004)**

A complete set of 40 years of the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group newsletter (from number 1, January 1964) through the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group newsletter and magazine and then Essex Bus News to 2004. These are available for sale by auction as a COMPLETE LOT, they will not be split up. Excess unwanted copies can be dealt with by arrangement. They are housed in two boxes. Reserve price : £20.

► **BUSES ILLUSTRATED/BUSES magazines**

A collection of Buses Illustrated and Buses magazines from 1960 onwards. There is almost a complete run from 1970. These are available for sale by auction in YEARLY LOTS. Reserve price £5 per year. Also available are certain copies of BUSES EXTRA.

Interested members should send their bids to the address below, where queries can also be answered. Carriage will be EXTRA at cost, or buyer can collect. The closing date will be 30 APRIL 2005. Address for bids and enquiries :

Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex IG3 8LT
020 8590 2021 dimequin@bushinternet.com

Essex Service Changes

THE DANBURY BLOCKADE

The A414 through Danbury will be closed for roadworks from April 11 for about three months in two separate phases.

In **phase 1**, the closure is at the west end of the village, near the Management Centre and Bell Hill. **First** services 31/X and 36 will be diverted completely away from the A414 (via Hatfield Peverel to Maldon, and via the A130/Rettendon Turnpike to South Woodham respectively) and Essex CC have arranged short term contract routes 31D and 36D to operate between Chelmsford and Maldon (31D) or South Woodham (36D) via Sandon and Woodhill Road (which runs parallel to and south of the A414, but which is not suitable for an intensive service with full sized buses) to rejoin the normal routes at Danbury Eves Corner (31D) or Danbury Common (36D). **NIBS** will run both these routes, and are thought to be hiring an Optare Solo and a Dennis Dart to augment their fleet to cover this work (Clintona Ivecos and a hired Dart SLF S722KNV noted so far). The **Arriva** Sunday service will also run as 31D, through to Maylandsea. **First** 31B (which runs via Cold Norton & Purleigh rather than Maldon) will divert from Cold Norton via South Woodham and the A130 and the service through Purleigh will be provided instead by Stephenson's 510, which will run during school holidays (usually schooldays only) and will be designated 510/31B for the duration.

Phase 1 is due to be completed on June 5 after which **phase 2** starts, closing the A414 east of Eves Corner at Danbury. **First** services will return to normal except that they will divert between Eves Corner and Woodham Mortimer, Oak Corner, via Bicknacre.

Stephensons school services are also affected. For the whole of the work, the 505 is withdrawn between Gt Baddow and Danbury Eves Corner. In phase 1, the 514 is diverted via Sandon and Woodhill Rd. In phase 2, the 504 is diverted from Oak Corner direct to Bicknacre, with Essex CC Contract Services providing a minibus shuttle to/from Danbury Eves Corner. The 510 is diverted in phase 1 via Woodhill Rd/Sandon and in phase 2 via Bicknacre.

This can necessarily only be a brief description of a complex plan for this major road closure. Details of the First services and the replacement 31D/36D are in a comprehensive ECC booklet with four maps but regrettably, despite detailed discussions between ECC and Stephensons, details of the latter's services are omitted.

Richard Delahoy

THIS MONTH'S SERVICE CHANGES

Arriva the Shires & Essex

29-Mar-03	1/1A	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Katherines (circular) REVISED ROUTE and TIMETABLE and renumbered from B1.
10-Apr-05	2	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Dtaple Tye (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE.
	3	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Staple Tye (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	4	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Latton Bush (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	5	M-S	Pinnacles, Flex Meadows - Potter Street (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	7	M-S	Churchgate Street, Hobbs Cross Road - Kingsmoor (circular). REVISED TIMETABLE
	8	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	10	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Church Langley (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	250	Daily	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Waltham Cross Bus Station. REVISED TIMETABLE
	251	Daily	Upshire, Princefield Road - Hammond Stret, Smiths Lane. REVISED TIMETABLE. For evening and Sunday service refer to <i>Regal Busways</i> 251.
	505	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Chingford Rail Station REVISED ROUTE and TIMETABLE. Journeys withdrawn between Old Harlow and Harlow and no longer serve Mark Hall North.
	510	Daily	Harlow Bus Station - Stansted Airport Coach Station REVISED TIMETABLE and route. All journeys withdrawn from Mark Hall South (Harlow).
	724	Daily	Heathrow Airport, Central Bus Station - Harlow Bus Station. REVISED TIMETABLE with short journeys numbered 725.
	725	M-S	St Albans, St Peters St - Harlow Bus Station NEW SERVICE. The short journeys on the 724 renumbered and registered as 725.
	B6	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Latton Bush (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
25-Apr-05	302	SDO	Saffron Walden, High Street - Harlow Bus Station NEW SERVICE as a positioning journey for service 332.

Burtons Coaches

21-Feb-05	32	M-S	Cambridge, Drummer Street Bus Station - Saffron
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Walden, High Street. REVISED ROUTE and TIMETABLE. The service has been re-routed in Sawston.

Carters Coaches

02-Apr-05	93	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus station. CHANGE OF OPERATOR - refer to <i>Network Colchester</i> service 93.
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Clintona Minicoaches

29-Mar-05	71	Weekdays	Warley, Eagle Way - Stondon Massey, Bricklayers Arms. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of this route in Brentwood for about one month via Queens Road and Ingrave Road for journeys to Stondon Massey. All inbound journeys operating normal line of route.
	72	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Stondon Massey, Bricklayers Arms. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of this route in Brentwood for about one month via Queens Road and Ingrave Road for journeys to Stondon Massey. All inbound journeys operating via normal line of route.
	261	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Blackmore Bus Terminal TEMPORARY DIVERSION of this route in Brentwood for about one month via Crescent Road, Kavanaghs Road and London Road for journeys to Blackmore but with buses starting from the same side as the station. All inbound journeys operating via normal line of route.

Ensign Bus Company

07-Apr-05	X80	Daily	Lakeside Bus Station - Gravesend, Valley Drive REVISED TIMETABLE.
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First

05-Mar-05	24A	M-S	Southchurch, Newington Avenue - Rawreth, Carpenters Arms. SERVICE WITHDRAWN..
14-Mar-05	30	Weekdays	Braintree, Fairfield Road - Mountbatten Road (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE
	72	Weekdays	Chelmsford, Westway (First Depot) - Braintree, Fairfield Road. REVISED TIMETABLE
29-Mar-05	73	Weekdays	Warley, Eagle Way - Bishops Hall Estate, Danes Way TEMPORARY DIVERSION for about one month whilst north bound traffic is prohibited in Kings Road. Journeys from Brentwood Station operating via Queens Road and Ingrave Road. Inbound journeys operating via Kings Road as normal.
	73A	Weekdays	Warley, Eagle Way - Bishops Hall Estate, Danes Way. TEMPORARY DIVERSION for about one month whilst north bound traffic is prohibited in Kings Road. Journeys from Brentwood Station operating via Queens Road and Ingrave Road. Inbound journeys operating via Kings Road as normal.
	80	M-S	Shenfield Station - Brentwood Station TEMPORARY DIVERSION for about one month whilst north bound traffic is prohibited in Kings Road. Journeys from Brentwood Station operating via Crescent Road and Kavanaghs Road to London Road. Inbound journeys operating via Kings Road as normal. In additio
	81	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Hutton, Wash Road (circular) TEMPORARY DIVERSION on Saturdays via Crescent Road, Kavanaghs Road and London Road then normal

			line of route. (This is the normal line of route for the M-F service). Inbound journeys on Saturday operate via Kings Road as normal.
	551	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Romford Rail Station TEMPORARY DIVERSION whilst the road is closed at the junction of Hanging Hill Lane with Rayleigh Road with buses serving Hutton Drive and Hutton Village (in both directions).
	565	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Bulphan, Church (circular) TEMPORARY DIVERSION for about one month whilst north bound traffic is prohibited on Kings Road. Journeys from Brentwood Station operating via Crescent Road and Kavanaghs Road to London Road. Inbound journeys operating via Kings Road as normal.
11-Apr-05	31	Weekdays	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Maldon, Milton Road TEMPORARY DIVERSION due to long term roadworks on the A414 through Danbury. The A414 from the A12 to Eves Corner will be closed and phase 2 between Eves Corner and Woodham Mortimer, Royal Oak Roundabout and buses will operate to a temporary timetable.
	31B	M-F	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Burnham on Crouch, Clock Tower. TEMPORARY DIVERSION due to long term roadworks on the A414 through Danbury. Refer to <i>Stephensons</i> service 510 for details.
	31C	M-F	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Burnham on Crouch, Clock Tower. TEMPORARY DIVERSION due to long term roadworks on the A414 through Danbury. Phase one effects the A414 from the A12 to Danbury, Eves Corner and phase two between Eves Corner to Woodham Mortimer Royal Oak Roundabout. A temporary timetable will be in operation.
	31X	Weekdays	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Burnham on Crouch, Clock Tower. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of the service due to long term roadworks on the A414 through Danbury. During phase one the road will be closed between the A12 and Eves Corner and during phase two between Eves Corner and Woodham Mortimer Royal Oak Roundabout and buses will operate to a temporary timetable.
	36	Daily	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - South Woodham, Town Centre. TEMPORARY DIVERSION as the A414 through Danbury will be closed for long term roads. The A414 will be closed between the A12 and Eves Corner and buses will operate to a temporary timetable and divert between Great Baddow and Danbury, Eves Corner via Sandon.
	507	Schooldays	Woodham Ferrers, The Bell - Chelmsford Girls County High School. TEMPORARY DIVERSION due to long term roadworks on the A414 through Danbury. The A414 will be closed during phase 1 from the A12 to Eves Corner and during phase 2 from Eves Corner to Woodham Mortimer Royal Oak Roundabout and this service will operate to a temporary timetable.

Hedingham Omnibuses

10-Jan-05 4 M-F

Tollgate Medical Centre - Colchester, High Street

			CORRECTION this service operates Monday to Friday only.
14-Mar-05	3	M-F	Colchester, High Street - The Hythe, Tesco Store NEW SERVICE operating as a circular route via Harwich Road and Longridge Park hourly daytimes.
Malcolms Blue Bus Service			
19-Apr-05	555	TFSa	Jaywick, Meadow Way - Great Clacton (circular) NEW SERVICE
Network Colchester			
04-Apr-05	93	Daily	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station. CHANGE OF OPERATOR. The Monday to Saturday evening service is now added to the existing Sunday only SCC contract. The timetable has also been amended and the 23:55 from Ipswich to Colchester will now operate Monday to Saturday instead of just Friday and Saturday.
23-Apr-05	8B	M-S	Boxted, Homedale Corner - Monkwick, Gosfield Road. SERVICE WITHDRAWN and replaced by service 2B
25-Apr-05	2	Weekdays	Highwood, Tesco Store - Colchester, High Street REVISED ROUTE and timetable. This service will be extended from the Town centre to Horkesley Heath via Mile End every 15 minutes replacing service 8/8A between North Station and Horkesley Heath. For evening journeys to Horkesley Heath refer to service 8.
	2B	M-S	Boxted - Highwoods, Tesco Store NEW SERVICE replacing withdrawn service 8B.
	5	M-F	Shrub End, Leather Bottle - North Station, Asda Store REVISED ROUTE restructured to run daytime only from Prettygate (one way loop via Straight Road and Leather Bottle and out via Ambrose Avenue and Poets Estate then existing route to North Station and terminating at the Asda store at hourly intervals (with Monkwick, Gosfield Road - Highwoods, Tesco Store
	8	M-S	REVISED ROUTE structured to run from Monkwick to North Station then via existing 5 to General Hospital and on to Highwoods. Combined frequency with 8A every ten minutes. One morning and afternoon journey will serve Gilberd School at similar times to the"
	8A	M-S	Monkwick, Gosfield Road - Highwoods, Tesco Store REVISED ROUTE structured to run from Monkwick to North Station then via existing 5 to General Hospital and on to Highwoods. Combined frequency with every ten minutes. ECC evening journeys continue to operate Monkwick to Horkesley Heath as at present.
	247	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - East Bergholt, Cooks Garage TIMETABLE CHANGES with some minor adjustments to timings of the peak hour schoolday journeys. The Saturday service is operated under contract to ECC.
S M Coaches			
07-Apr-05	T6	M-S	Harlow Town Station - Latton Bush (circular) WITHDRAWN SERVICE
Stephensons			
15-Mar-05	44	TTh	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Chignall Estate, Trent Road. CHANGE of OPERATOR from First.
11-Apr-05	504	Schooldays	Southend High School for Girls - Wickham Bishops, Snows Corner. TEMPORARY DIVERSION at Woodham

Mortimer direct to Bicknacre not serving Danbury for the duration of the long term roadworks on this section of the A414. ECC will provide a free minibus shuttle service from Danbury to Bicknacre (using their own Contract Services vehicles).

- 505 Schooldays Great Baddow, Blue Lion - Colchester County High School. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of the route between Great Baddow and Bicknacre and buses will not serve Danbury throughout the duration of the roadworks on this section of the A414.
- 510 Schooldays Southminster, High Street - Chelmsford, St John Payne School. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of route during the first phase of the A414 roadwoks affecting Danbury with buses operating via Woodhill Road and Molrams Lane. Retimed to operate 18 minutes earlier replacing First 31B via Purleigh and to run via Coval lane and Broomfield.
- 514 Schooldays Westcliff High Schools - Hatfield Peveral, Maldon Road. TEMPORARY DIVERSION of this route between Molrams Lane and Woodhill Road for the duration of the A414 roadworks in Danbury with a double run in Well Lane. A special stop will be observed at The Heights in Danbury.

David Tomlin



First Roadside Publicity Unit **90236** (H397 OHK) in Brentwood High Street, attending to bus stop displays for the the 351/750/751 changes. 14 March. *Chris Stewart*

Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary



MARCH CHANGES ~ 351/750/751

top:
Olympian 34813
on the 750 in
Brentwood High
Street - 11 March

centre:
'green' Dart
47252 on the 351
overtakes 46186
on the 751 in
Brentwood High
Street - 11 March



bottom:
ex-PMT Lance
60102 on the
revised 351
routing (from
13 March) in
Oliver Road,
Shenfield
- 14 March



FIRST ESSEX

Depot News

Braintree (Fairfield Road) closed its doors at 23.58 on Saturday 2nd April, shortly after Mercedes 51780 (P680HPU) had been refuelled after presumably working the last journeys that night. Around 10.15 on Sunday 3rd, 51808 and Transit van L631VAE left, loaded with items for the new Springwood depot and newly-allocated 51808 (P408HPU) would probably have been the last bus to leave from the old Hicks/Eastern National depot - except that preserved Bristol KSW5G/L55RD 1407 (VNO859) departed from outside the depot at 11.00 having been brought up to mark the occasion. Contrary to expectations, the one Sunday duty on 3rd April in fact commenced from Springwood not Fairfield Road (believed to have been Dart 46821).

New & Cascaded Vehicles

Apologies for errors in EBN491 - corrections marked in bold.

Chassis/body numbers for the new Darts (B37F) are given below.

31456	N967SOS	Volvo Olympian/Alexander Royale H47/32F new 1996
31462	N973SOS	Volvo Olympian/Alexander Royale H47/32F new 1996
42918	EU05AUK	SFD3CACR44GW18047 4224/1
42919	EU05AUL	SFD3CACR44GW18048 4224/2
42920	EU05AUM	SFD3CACR44GW18049 4224/3
42921	EU05AUN	SFD3CACR44GW18050 4224/4
42922	EU05AUO	SFD3CACR44GW18051 4224/5
42923	EU05AUP	SFD3CACR44GW18052 4224/6
61054	R434GSF	Scania L113CRL/Wright Axxess B40F new 1997
61057	R437GSF	Scania L113CRL/Wright Axxess B40F new 1997

The new Darts entered service starting with 42923 on 15th March, working the 14.50 to Galleywood (replacing substitute 47225). By 24th, the changeover was complete releasing 43739-44. These were being prepared at the time of writing prior to being transferred to CR for the 66.

42918-23 are route branded, and have a new style of electronic destination screen - incorporating a fixed destination and changing 'via' points on the front, and scrolling destination across the rear number box. They are fitted with Telematics units for real-time information displays at bus stops, and fold-away seats that can seat 37 with 21 standing, 34 with 21 standing plus one buggy or wheelchair user, or seat 34 with 24 standing. Double glazing is fitted as standard and six CCTV cameras are fitted. An internal passenger sign indicates 'next stop'. Three hanging handles over the wheelchair bay are provided to further assist those who are less able. At their launch, the phenomenal growth in patronage on the 42 was highlighted - up **221%** since the Quality Bus Partnership was created in 1999.

31456/62 have come from First Glasgow, but are currently at Rotherham for roof repair work prior to being returned to Hadleigh. 61054/7 appeared briefly at BN but have gone to Clacton for preparation work; these are ex First in Huddersfield (First West Yorkshire Ltd).



19 March:

above: Dart 46808 over the pits in the cramped maintenance area.

right: Dart, Olympian and offices.

Chris Stewart



3 April:

The 'slope' with an Olympian and Dart 47252.

Chris Stewart with thanks to Dave Smith who took the photo



3 April:

This view of the 'slope' and fuelling point may be compared with the 1950s view in EBN481.

Chris Stewart with thanks to Dave Smith who took the photo





3 April:
Maintenance
bays with
Chelmsford's
Ford Cargo truck
90235 (E157 BTL)
and Transit van
90233 (L631 VAE)
clearing the site.

Dave Smith

BE

Closes!



The National Bus
Company lives ! -
drivers' room.

Dave Smith



3 April:
Possibly the last
First vehicle to
leave Fairfield
Road - Mercedes
51808 (P408
HPU) with stores
bound for
Springwood,

Chris Stewart

Allocation changes

Some information for the period to 19 Feb corrects that given in EBN490

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

(A)=acquired; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/reserve (licensed);

D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; (D)=listed for disposal but still licensed; DS=Driving School (Westway)

period 26 Dec 2004 to 19 Feb 2005

20069 BN-(D); 20102 RES-CR; 34811 RES-D/L(D); 51468 BN-D/L(D);

51470 BN-D/L(D); 51474 CF-D/L(D); 51475 CF-DS; 51778 CF-DT; 51781 DT-D/L(D); 62509

BN-D/L(D); 62515 RES-D/L(D); 62517 RES-D/L(D); 62523 BN-D/L(D); 90229 DS-D/L(D);

90241 CF-RES; 90242 DS-D/L(D); 90246 DS-D/L(D)

period 20 Feb to 27 Mar 2005

34660 BN-D/L(D); 34699 D/L(D)-sold; 34810 BE-CR; 34814 BN-FGC; 34817 BE-CF; 42919 new-CF; 42920 new-CF; 42921 new-CF; 42922 new-CF; 42923 new-CF;

43731 HH-CF; 43732 HH-CF; 43739 CF-RES; 43740 CF-RES; 43741 CF-RES;

43742 CF-RES; 43743 CF-RES; 43744 CF-RES; 46112 BN-RES(paint spare);

46114 BN-D/L(D); 51252 D/L(D)-sold; 51462 D/L(D)-sold; 51463 D/L(D)-sold;

51464 D/L(D)-sold; 51472 D/L(D)-sold; 51473 D/L(D)-sold; 51803 HH-BN;

51807 HH-BN; 62509 D/L(D)-sold; 62515 D/L(D)-sold; 62517 D/L(D)-sold;

62518 D/L(D)-sold; 62519 D/L(D)-sold; 67036 CF-BN; 67037 CF-BN; 67040 CF-BN; 90229

D/L(D)-sold

Disposals:

3.05 34699 51252 51462 51463 51464 51472 51473 62515 62517 62518 62519

and 90229 all to Hardwick (dealer), Carlton for scrap

34814 to First Somerset & Avon (at Weymouth)

62509 sold privately (for preservation, along with 62506)

Repaints:

46167 46804 46812 all to new standard livery (p/e 27th March)

62520 has been given Driver Training vinyls on a basically 'Barbie' livery

Advertisements:

Member *Tony Spindler* kindly advises of the following all over rear or side adverts:

46129 Coral (rear)

46133 Basildon Festival Leisure (rear)

46134 Basildon Festival Leisure (offside rectangle)

46145 Essen (rear)

47223 Lind of Chelmsford, BMW dealer (rear)

47227 believed also Lind

whilst 46116 retains its offside advert for Brentwood Council recycling

VEHICLE WORKINGS

With the major changes to the 351 and 751 together with the withdrawal of the 750, vehicle allocations have altered accordingly. All Lances are now at BN depot, which works virtually all of the 351 as well as the 551 and schoolday 851. One Chelmsford double deck duty remains on the 351, the 09.13 Brentwood-Chelmsford ECC supported journey, which works off the 619 Debden-Anglo European School service. This has usually been an ECW-bodied Olympian, including green/yellow CF34817 during the

week ending 8th April. BN has one double deck working on the 351, in order to work the 15.50 school journey from Chelmsford, and this has generally been an Alexander bodied Olympian (although 34813 was seen on 16th March). The 851 to Shenfield School is also generally double deck worked.

On 11th March, Braintree double deck operation ended with BE34810 on its usual 70X and BE34819 on the 509. These duties transferred to CR and CF respectively. On the same day, your sub editor was enjoying a lengthy ride on BN34813 (C413HJN) over the whole of the 750 route. The only double deck seen out on the 750/751 on Saturday 12th was 31374 on the 751, but CF34807 worked on the 351.

Rail replacements:

Six weeks of Shenfield-Witham rail replacements started on April 10th, following on from the Shenfield-Chelmsford contract. Buses work Shenfield-Witham direct, Shenfield-Chelmsford, Chelmsford-Witham and Shenfield-Witham all stations. Vehicles are provided by First, with assistance from Fourways and Chambers. The following were amongst those in use on 10th:

31374 31376 31377 34013 34301 34302 34303 34304 34308 34309 34314 34812 34813
34815 34818 46131 67008 67009 67010

Fourways H691PTW H699PTW G981FVX

Chambers H951PTW P549WGT W87HRT W91HRT

Unusual sightings:

- | | | |
|-------|------|--|
| March | 3rd | CR34018 on 71, HH40779 on Diamond |
| | 7th | CF42489 on 351, CR67002 on 64A |
| | 8th | BN43800 on 73 |
| | 9th | BE46812 on 47 |
| | 10th | BN34660 on 751, HH40778 on Diamond, BE46144 on 72, CF47252 (green) on 42. CF47220 worked the final 44 operated by First |
| | 11th | BN43800 on 22 |
| | 12th | CR34810 on X22, CR34303 on 65 |
| | 14th | CR67007 on 61 |
| | 15th | 61054 on 101 |
| | 16th | BN43800 on 351, BN67038 on 101 |
| | 17th | CR34315 on 70X (34810 never having worked this for CR), BN60102 on 100, CR67008 on 65 |
| | 18th | CR34013 on 70, CF47252 on 51 |
| | 19th | BN34813 on 100 |
| | 20th | CR43715 on SuO service 1 (Ambrose Ave-Greenstead), CF43732 on 352 |
| | 21st | CR47180 on 64 |
| | 22nd | CF34818 on 12.45 352 to Halstead, HH43717 on 24 |
| | 23rd | CR67002 on 61, CR34302 on 65 (and 25th) |
| | 24th | CF47220 on 72, CF47228 on Diamond (13.40 ex Chelmsford), CF47252 on 43 and CF46813 on 36 |
| | 26th | CF47220 on Braintree 30, CF42488 on 72 |
| | 29th | BN43712 on 81, CR46829 on 61 (and 30th) |
| | 31st | HH41014 on 21A, BN41650 on 22, CF42488 on 31, CF43733 on 72, BN46172 on 8, BN46183 on 351, CF46813 on 42 (17.10), CF47223 on 36, CF47224 on 31; CF53114 on X30 (10.00 ex SD) |
| April | 1st | CR46181 on 64A |
| | 2nd | CR34012 on 64, CF47220 and CF47224 on 72, CR67006 on 88 |
| | 3rd | CR34315 on 77A (usually a Dart on Sundays) |
| | 4th | CR34012 on 64A, CF42489 on Diamond, CF47224 on 352, CF47252 on 72 |

- 5th BN31373 on 25A, BE46144 on 352, BN46145 on 5, CR46830 on X22, CF53114 on X30 (10.00 ex SD)
- 6th CR34014 on 67A, CR46182 on 61
- 7th CR46829 on 61 (and 8th)
- 8th CR34013 on 70, CR46830 on 61, CR47102 on 64A, CR67003 on 64A
- 9th DS51810 on 88B
- 10th CR34315 on 70 (usually a Dart on Sundays), CF43732 on 71C

Lynx Watch *With thanks to Peter Mansbridge*

- March: 22nd HH62521 on 2/25
- 24th HH62522 on 2/25
- April: 1st HH62521 on 20 (17.00 ex SD), HH62522 on 20 (14.48 ex Hullbridge) and 15 (15.40 ex SD)
- 4th HH62521 on 15 pm peak Tesco/Royal Bank of Scotland - SD shuttle
- 5th 62524 seen on training duties pulling into Chelmsford Westway (reallocated to BN for training)
- 6th HH62522 on 20 all day
- 8th BN62524 on morning and evening additional 81s, presumably off schools 860

Ancillary vehicles

The following list is correct to 7th April. 20069, 90242 and 90250 are now sold.

- | | | | |
|-------|---------------|------|---|
| 62520 | F420MJN | (BN) | Leyland Lynx Driving Trainer |
| 62524 | F424MJN | (BN) | Leyland Lynx Driving Trainer |
| 51475 | M675VJN | (CR) | MB L709D Driver Assessment vehicle |
| 51810 | P410APU | | MB 711 Driver Training |
| 90230 | (2383) WNO479 | | Heritage Bristol KSW5G ECW O33/28R |
| 90231 | AJN825 | (CN) | Heritage Bristol K5G ECW L27/26R |
| 90233 | L631VAE | (CF) | Ford Transit van |
| 90234 | M186PNP | (BN) | Vauxhall van |
| 90235 | E157BTL | (CF) | Ford Cargo lorry |
| 90236 | H397OHK | (CN) | MB L709D External Publicity van |
| 90237 | H606OVW | (DS) | MB L709D Driving Trainer |
| 90238 | W354HHL | | Ford Transit van |
| 90239 | S961NLM | | Peugeot car |
| 90240 | N121DBD | | Ford Escort estate |
| 90241 | H315LJN | (CF) | MB L709D |
| 90242 | F413MNO | (DS) | Leyland Lynx Driving Trainer |
| 90243 | S935RBE | (HH) | MB 410D Engineering |
| 90244 | F427MJN | (DS) | Leyland Lynx Driving Trainer |
| 90245 | F428MJN | (DS) | Leyland Lynx Driving Trainer |
| 90246 | L656MEV | | D/L(D) MB L709D Driver Assessment vehicle |
| 90247 | X846KAN | (CN) | Ford Transit van |
| 90248 | K801SKN | (BE) | Ford Escort van |
| 90249 | S586RVW | (BN) | Ford Transit van |
| 90277 | S936RBE | (CF) | MB 410D Engineering |

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to J Clayton, N Field, M Garrett, A Kelleher, P Mansbridge, J Podgorski, J Salmon, C Sigston, S Simister, D Smith, A Spindler, D Stewart, N Turner, R Webb, R Whitley, *Essex Bus and South West y-groups*, *Real Bus News* group, *LOTS*, *First Essex*, *PSV Circle*, *Terminus*. With thanks also to the rail replacement controllers at Shenfield

Chris Stewart

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD.

Vehicles in from *Arriva Southend* (5442/51) 4/05; new 7/00

5442 W442 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20936 Alexander 9950/20 H47/31F

5451 W451 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20943 Alexander 9950/27 H47/31F

Vehicles out

3103 (L300BUS): *Arriva the Shires* (Aylesbury) 3/05

3439 (R169GNW): *Arriva the Shires* (Hatfield) 3/05

General

Either 5836 (WLT 916 ex C816 BYY) or 5843 (D242 FYM), Leyland Olympians in store at Ware, is to be relicenced early April and transferred to *Arriva the Shires* at Aylesbury.

5442/51 (W442/51 XKX) have not yet entered service at Ware.

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD.**Vehicles in**

5090 (F640 LMJ) Leyland Olympian/ Alexander H47/32F

From *Arriva the Shires*. This vehicle has replaced Trident 5442, which stayed in



The first dual-entrance Darts for the upgrade of TfL route W15 were delivered to *Arriva London North* at Edmonton in late January. PDL97 (LJ54 BAO) is at Woodford Wells on 14 February. Several were licensed to enable Edmonton drivers to route-learn the W13, W14 and 397, transferred from *Arriva East Herts & Essex* (Debden out-station) in March. *Owen Woodliffe*

Southend for longer than suggested in EBN 491. It was still in service on 14 March when Paul Brain spotted it heading Shoebury bound along Victoria Avenue.

DSL47 (N247 VPH) Dennis Dart/East Lancs Spryte B31F

This vehicle has been transferred from *Arriva Guildford & West Surrey* at Guildford to Grays to replace fire damaged Dart SLF 3424 (see EBN491). Not previously reported is that Grays based Dart SLF 3405 (P325 HVX) has also been withdrawn following accident damage.

Other vehicle news

Leyland Olympian 5404 (H264 GEV) has returned from Leicester with more than just a repaint. It has had a full internal refurbishment. Fellow dual purpose 'GEV' 5405 (H265 GEV) is expected to receive the same treatment as 5404, but was still in service in Southend on 4 April in non-refurbished form.

5404 appeared at the Cobham Rally on 3 April.

Trident Log

Below are some sightings of the remaining two Tridents, in what is probably their final few weeks in service in Southend. With thanks to Steven Rowe for providing some of the sightings.

March	22	5443 on 6
	23	5443 on 9, 5451 on 5
	28	5443 on 9
	31	5443 on 9, 5451 on 7
April	5	5443 on 7
	7	5443 on 5, 5451 on 7

Fleetlist corrections

Richard Delahoy has provided some corrections to last months fleetlist for the Southend operations. Incidentally this was originally provided by Richard whom I forgot to acknowledge last month!

Trainer **YDT208** is reportedly no longer at Southend.

Lynx trainer F47 ENF is based at Southend but is mainly held as a spare for the other trainers (and for occasional service van work).

The reference to YFB698 under the liveries heading should have referred to **YFB580** (the former having been withdrawn some while ago).

Grays Operations Fleetlist and vehicle workings guide

Below is a fleetlist for the Grays operations of Arriva Southend based at Europa Park, London Road, Grays. Thanks to Bill White and Tonys Fleetlists y-group for help in preparing this fleetlist

No.	Reg	Chassis	Body	Seats
DSL47	N247 VPH	Dennis Dart	East Lancs Spryte	B31F
3204	P204 LKJ	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B40F
3246	P246 MKN	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B40F
3247	P247 MKN	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B40F
3388	P258 FPK	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3389	P259 FPK	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3390	P260 FPK	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3400	R310 NGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F

3401	R311 NGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3402	R312 NGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3403	R313 NGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3421	P421 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3423	P423 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3425	P425 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3426	P426 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3427	P427 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3428	P428 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3429	P429 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3431	P431 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
4500	KE 51 PTY	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4501	KE 51 PTZ	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4502	KE 51 PUA	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4503	KE 51 PUF	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4504	KE 51 PUH	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4505	KE 51 PUJ	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4506	KE 51 PUK	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4507	KE 51 PUO	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4508	KE 51 PUU	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4509	KE 51 PUV	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4510	KE 51 PUX	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4511	KE 51 PUY	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4512	KE 51 PUX	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
4513	KE 51 PVD	DAF SB120	Wright	B31D
5388	D234 FYM	Leyland ONLXB/1RH	ECW	H42/26D

Current Routes operated by Grays are:

- 370 Grays to Romford via Ockendon
- 373 Grays to Romford via Aveley
- 377 Lakeside to Tilbury via Grays
- 383 Lakeside to Brentwood Road Estate via Grays
- 256 Hornchurch to Noak Hill (TfL)
- 346 Upminster Station to Park Estate (TfL)

Vehicle requirements:

- 370/373 interwork and require 11 Dart SLF plus the 370D school journey requires 1 double-decker.
- 377/383 interwork and require 5 Dart SLF
- 256 requires 10 DAF SB120
- 346 requires 2 DAF SB120

Running numbers (usually displayed in the front screen) are:

- GY1-11 370/3
- GY13 370D (plus odd crew ferry journeys Grays Garage - Lakeside)
- GY15-19 377/383
- GY41-50 256
- GY51-52 346

Peter Mansfield, Colin Sigston



BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS ~ 2

The new buses in the **Arriva Southend** fleet ... when they really *were* new (or newish).

above **London & Country 908** (F578 SMG) Olympian/ Alexander, new to Alder Valley, in Fairfield Bus Station, Kingston on LRT route 57; 30 October 1996.

below **Maidstone & District 3603** (L603 EKM), Volvo B6/Plaxton in King Street, Maidstone, loading for Tunbridge Wells; 28 March 1998.

Martin Weyell



Hedingham

New vehicles

The Darts recently delivered (EBN490/18) have been registered as:

L338 EU05AUT

L339 EU05AUR

Other details are as previously given. They are now believed to have been part of a Cardiff Buses order cancelled following the Transbus administration crisis. Cardiff's standard interior trim is similar to Arriva's. Others from the same batch have gone to Coakley Bus Co., of Motherwell.

Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston



Former Arriva Colchester vehicles reported to have arrived at Arriva Northumbria from Arriva the Shires:

Leyland Tiger/Plaxton (BAZ 7384)

DAF SB220/Ikarus 4083 (J926 CYL) and 4084 (J927 CYL)

All are at Ashington Depot. It is believed that the Tiger may be for spares.

Dart SLF 367 attended the Cobham Rally on 3 April with a PSV Circle party.

Peter Mansfield



Dart/East Lancs 309 (N526 MPM) displays the lime green route 5 branding in March.

Dave Arnold

LATEST DEALER MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN *from*

2 Travel:	B6 M71HHB
Arriva London:	RML2351/2407/2608/53/2718/26/41 DRL151/3
Eastbourne Buses:	Olympian 256 (G305UYK)
Go-Ahead North East:	Metroriders L390AVK M504/5/7HNL
Go-Ahead London:	NV106
Jonathon Lloyd (former Stagecoach vehicles, flood-damaged at Carlisle):	RML2429/70/80/88/92/95
Trustline:	DNL108 RM1822
Yorkshire Traction:	Olympian A622WDT

VEHICLES OUT

RML2440:	<i>to</i> Mr P Cartwright , High Wycombe.
NV102:	Chambers Coaches , Bures, Suffolk.
M446:	Crisis UK , London.
Volvo D10M G642BPH:	Fargo Coaches , Rayne, Essex.
Olympian G305UYK:	Liverpool City Coaches .
DRL 152/4/5/6/7/8:	McKindless , Wishaw.
RM758:	Ronaldsway Coaches , Lancs.
Metroriders M505/7HNL:	Shamrock Coaches , South Wales.
Olympian K482GNN:	TM Travel , Chesterfield.
NV106 RML2428/9:	Sullivan Buses , South Mimms, Herts.
Metroriders P414VRG N409/12NTN:	Trustline , Hunsdon, Herts.

ENSIGN FLEET NEWS

713 and 717 have been sold to Glenvale Transport, Liverpool.
160 has been sold to Bear Buses, Slough.

SLF Darts 704 and 701 are now in service on route X80. They are in the normal Ensign blue/silver livery, not South Eastern Trains green/cream, although they do have green route branding vinyls and 'Buggybus' logos.

with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Sold for further service ...



- above* **First Midland Red 22000 (B100 XTW)** Leyland Tiger/Duple Caribbean, formerly **Southend Transport X1 coach 551**, at Evesham garage. Can anyone tell us its history since leaving Southend? *Dave Arnold*
- below* Former **Eastern National 649 (L649 MEV)**, Mercedes-Benz 709D/Plaxton now with the **Jobserve** recruitment agency at Swindon. *Les Powell*



F is for ... **Fargo Coachline** and their Bova YJ03 GXL at "The Cats" in Rayne, date: 16 February ... and for ... **Flagfinders** and their ex-R+I Buses Dart/Carlyle G128 RGT, seen leaving Braintree Bus Park on the Freeport service on 19 February.

Chris Stewart



The Essex bus ~ in print



- **Classic Bus 75** - February/March 2005 (Ian Allan, £3.50)
Worth it for the superb shot on the front cover alone: Osborne's two ex-demonstrator Bridgemasters, 2211 MK and 80 WMH. Inside is the concluding part of Alan Townsin's series on six-wheelers, which includes the City Tigers and Gnus. There is also interesting correspondence on "Dartford Tunnel Coachways", in which Eastern National played a leading role, plus pics of Southend Bridgmaster 317, ENOC K5G 1263, Colchester Leopard coach 102, a City Tiger, and a colour drawing of a City Gnu.



- **London Bus Magazine 129** - Autumn 2004 (LOTS, £3.50)
Something we overlooked: Our member, *Ian Taylor* tells the story of Harlow's Buzz Co-Op. This was formed by a group of former London Country North East drivers in 1988 to compete with their former employer. Expansion, competition, truce, further competition and eventual cessation in 2003, are all recounted in Ian's usual comprehensive style. Copiously illustrated in colour and black-and-white.

- **Bus & Coach Preservation** - May 2005 (Ian Allan, £3.50)
One of the more famous Eastern National vehicles was 1541, later 2510 (236 LNO), known to crews at Brentwood as 'Big Bertha' or the 'LiNO bus'. This was of course, the solitary Bristol Lodekka LDL prototype, 30ft long, flat-floor, air suspension, with Gardner 6LW and five-speed box. It was every driver's favourite - an FLF but without the doors. After years at BD, it spent a short time at BE, CR and finally SD before withdrawal. Fortunately, it was saved for preservation and has been at the Castle Point Museum for many years, awaiting restoration.

John G Lidstone tells how 25-year old Craig Mara has taken on this herculean task and how it is progressing. It's a fascinating account. So far, Craig has completely rebuilt the air suspension, no mean feat - with replacement air-lines and tanks, airbags, and has also fabricated new metal front wings ... but there's much work still to be done. He's presently working on the wiring. One intriguing fact emerges: under layers of paint, 1541 still has the signwritten 251 route branding between the decks. (Note for younger members: ... yes, route branding was around long before vinyl and Ray Stenning were invented!)

An interesting story, expertly told. Part two is promised in due course.

David Harman

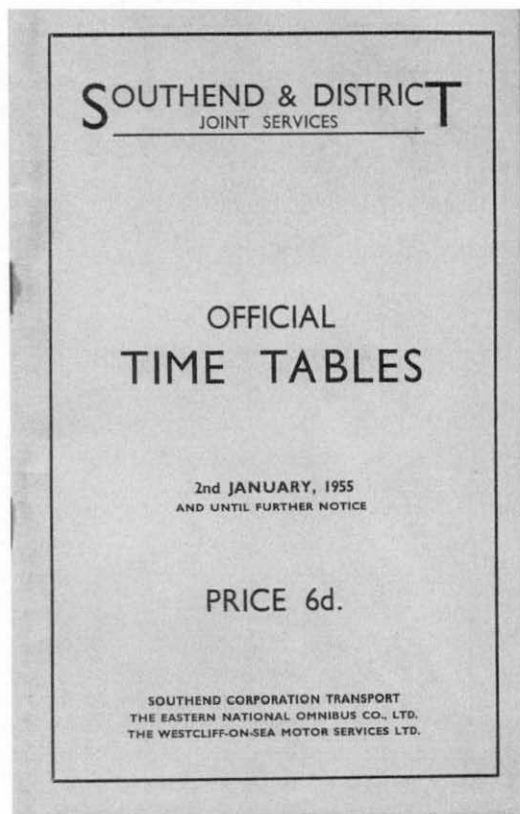


Southend & District Joint Services Timetables

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

2.1.55	13.9.59	6.6.65	28.5.72	20.12.87
28.5.55	11.9.60	22.5.66	27.5.73	18.4.88
25.9.55	25.6.61	28.5.67	19.5.74	2.10.88
3.6.56	17.9.61	19.11.67	18.5.75	30.4.89
30.9.56	17.6.62	(Emergency	20.6.76	28.10.90
8.6.57	23.9.62	Timetable)	July 77	
29.9.57	23.6.63	26.5.68	26.10.86	Spring 1994
15.6.58	15.9.63	25.5.69	14.6.87	
14.9.58	19.4.64	5.9.71	6.9.87	

(1986 on are
Southend Transport
alone, not S&D Joint
Services)



From the archives ...



The closure of Braintree provides the excuse for another shot (by Alan Cross, courtesy Chris Stewart) of CK 4209, the former Hicks Bros. ex-Ribble Leyland TD1. This one, however, was taken in its twilight years as Eastern National 1103.

It shows the considerable rebuilding of the prewar Leyland "piano-front" body, which was undertaken by Vincent of Yeovil. Despite that, some body 'sag' is apparent. The purpose of the "6" in the destination box is unknown - perhaps this was a contract working of some sort.

The location is Brentwood depot [BD]. Also visible are 176 (KTW243), an ex-City utility-bodied Bedford OB, an unidentifiable saloon with Westcliff fleetname, and the old traffic office and canteen block.

Strange as it may seem,

you can still find an ex-Ribble Leyland in the current fleet - but, sadly, it's not a TD1! Olympian 34660 (B960 WRN) was new to Ribble in 1985. It joined the Eastern National fleet in 1998 from Arriva North West, and is seen here in the green/yellow scheme as 4024. It was delighted for disposal this month.

David Harman





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 Rochford, Maldon and Stansted depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services and weekend rail replacement, together with scheduled service 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.

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