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August 2005



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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

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.

PUBLICATIONS

All orders for publications should be sent to:
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David Harman - as above

Problems with your subscription, missing, defective or damaged EBN, or need back numbers? Contact the **Membership Officer**, Derek Stebbing.

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

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

Autumn 2005 season:

- ▶ Meetings will be held on **Tuesdays September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13** - further details to be announced later, but in the meanwhile, mark these in your diaries now!

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. *Dave Arnold*

Autumn 2005 programme:

- ▶ **Fridays September 9, October 14, November 11 and December 9** - make a note in your diary now!

75th ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERN NATIONAL ~ RUNNING DAYS

- ▶ **Saturdays August 6, 13, 20, 27** - see pages 12-14 and www.essexbus.org.uk
Note correct dates - not as given in EBN 495.

GROUP TOUR

- ▶ **Saturday October 8:** Group Tour visiting Town & Country at Purfleet, plus another Essex operator (to be confirmed), using T&C's ex-Eastern National open-top Bristol KSW, (the former 2384 - WNO 480). Booking form next month, but note the date now!

TOUR

- ▶ **Weekend of September 10/11:** A trip is being organised from the Southend area to **Blackpool**, using a Bova coach from St Cloud. Cost is only £40, but you will need to organise your own overnight accommodation for Saturday night. A chance to see the trams, etc. In addition, Sunday sees a "Heritage Open Day" with preserved vehicles from the Lancastrian Transport Trust linking Blackpool Town Hall with the LTT's depot on the Clifton Road Industrial Estate.

Bookings/enquiries to **Matthew Evans** on **07746 779414**.

From the Editor ...

EBN is a week early this month and one or two items have had to be held over. We hope to include these in a bumper September edition.

David Harman

Cover: Hadleigh Olympian **34809** (C409 HJN) on school service 825 (Basildon-Westcliff High Schools-St.Thomas More School) at Wickford. It is the last Olympian/ECW at HH and is likely to have gone by the start of the Autumn term. *Peter Mansbridge*

75th ANNIVERSARY of EASTERN NATIONAL ~ PHOTO COMPETITION

A photo competition has been arranged around the 75th Anniversary Running Days. To enter, simply have a day out with a FirstDay ticket AND your camera. A prize will be awarded for the best photographs taken of the Bristol VR and the Tilling-green Dart on each of the four Running Days:

- August 6 Two **FirstDay** vouchers, giving two days unlimited travel on First Essex.
- August 13 Signed copy of **Glory Days ~ Eastern National** by Richard Delahoy.
- August 20 **EFE model of Bristol VR 3078** in First Eastern National green/yellow.
- August 23 Two **FirstDay** vouchers, giving two days unlimited travel on First Essex.

In addition, there are prizes of a **FirstDay** voucher for two runners-up on each day.

Thanks are due to Colin Riches, Marketing Manager at First, and to Richard Delahoy for generously donating the FirstDay vouchers, and copy of "Glory Days" respectively.

Steven Smith, Managing Director of First Essex Buses, **Geoff Dodson**, former Commercial Manager of Eastern National and **Richard Delahoy** have kindly agreed to act as our expert judges. Each route offer plenty of pictorial opportunities, so the judging panel will be looking for the more unusual or adventurous shots ... !

Conditions

1. Entry is open to Group members only.
2. Entries may comprise a maximum of EIGHT photographs, ONE of EACH bus from EACH Running Days, August 6, 13, 20, 27.
3. Prints, slides or digital images (JPG format; about 1080 pixels x 810 pixels @ 180dpi) are all welcome. If sending originals by post, please use Recorded Delivery as the Group cannot be held responsible for any loss. Originals will be returned by the same method.
4. Each entry MUST be accompanied by a FirstDay ticket issued on one of the four Running Days.
5. Closing date for submission of entries is **September 15**.

Send entries with your name, date/location of photo(s), plus FirstDay ticket to:

EBN Editor, 24 Frankfield Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LF

Digital images may be copied to CD and posted, or emailed to: ebn@casuarina.org.uk

Winners will be announced and winning photos published in October EBN. It is hoped to include a digital slide show of all entries with commentary by Richard Delahoy, at the December Rochford meeting.

David Harman

FirstDay in Essex

Adult £6.00 Child/Concession £3.00 Family (2+2) £12

The FirstDay in Essex ticket allows unlimited travel on all First bus services throughout Essex except the X22 and X30 Stansted Airport services and Essex County Council contracted services. A family can consist of a group of 4 persons of whom no less than 1 and no more than 2 must be adults. Buy your FirstDay on the bus.

75th ANNIVERSARY of EASTERN NATIONAL ~ RUNNING DAYS

Tilling green Dart 47252, and 'heritage' Bristol VR 38790 (3072) will perform the duties below, subject to availability. There will be plenty of opportunities for photography and/or just for bus-riding on 'something special'.

If you plan to ride on the 'specials', (and we hope that members *do* support this venture), the **FirstDay** ticket offers excellent value. Valid for a whole day's travel on First Essex routes (with minor exceptions), it can be bought on any First Essex bus.

■ SATURDAY AUGUST 6 ~ Colchester depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) – Tilling Green - CR12: Service 67

0655	(67D) Colchester, Bus Stn – West Mersea, High Street	0728
0730	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	0820
0830	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	0925
0930	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1020
1030	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1125
1130	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1220
1230	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1325
1330	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1420
1430	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1525
1530	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1620
1630	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1725
1730	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1820
1830	Colchester, Gen Hospital – Blackheath, Cherry Tree	1903

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) – EN Yellow/Green - CR14: Service 67

0750	Colchester, Bus Station – West Mersea, High Street	0825
0830	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	0920
0930	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1025
1030	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1120
1130	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1225
1230	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1320
1330	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1425
1430	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1520
1530	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1625
1630	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1720
1730	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1825
1830	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Bus Station	1912

■ SATURDAY 13TH AUGUST - Basildon depot

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) – EN Yellow/Green - BN24: Service 551

0630	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	0737
0755	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	0908
0927	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1040
1055	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1208
1227	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1340
1355	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1508
1527	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1640
1655	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1808
1847	Basildon, Bus Station - Brentwood, High Street	1931

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) – Tilling Green - BN25: Service 551

0727	Basildon, Bus Station – Romford Station	0840
0855	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1008

1027	Basildon, Bus Station – Romford Station	1140
1155	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1308
1327	Basildon, Bus Station – Romford Station	1440
1455	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1608
1627	Basildon, Bus Station – Romford Station	1740
1755	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1908

■ SATURDAY AUGUST 20 - Hadleigh depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) – Tilling Green - HH76: Service 27

0818	Canvey, Leigh Beck – Temple Sutton, Garon Park	0934
0940	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1106
1113	Canvey, Leigh Beck – Temple Sutton, Garon Park	1232
1240	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1406
1413	Canvey, Leigh Beck – Temple Sutton, Garon Park	1532
1540	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1706

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) – EN Yellow/Green - HH65: Service 21

0818	Canvey, Eastern Esp – Southend, Central Bus Stn	0935
0942	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1106
1116	Canvey, Eastern Esp – Southend, Central Bus Stn	1235
1242	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1406
1416	Canvey, Eastern Esp – Southend, Central Bus Stn	1535
1542	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1706

■ SATURDAY AUGUST 27 - Chelmsford depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) – Tilling Green - CD 5: Service 31/31X

0635	Maldon, High Street - Burnham	0717
0718	Burnham - Maldon - Chelmsford	0830
0835	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	0918
0924	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1040
1035	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1118
1124	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1240
1235	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1318
1324	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1440
1435	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1518
1524	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1640
1635	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1718
1724	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1840

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) – EN Yellow/Green - CD 6: Service 31/31X

0618	Burnham – Maldon - Chelmsford	0730
0735	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	0814
0824	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	0940
0935	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1018
1024	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1140
1135	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1218
1224	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1340
1335	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1418
1424	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1540
1535	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1618
1624	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1740
1735	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1818
1824	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1940
1910	Chelmsford - Maldon - Burnham	2020
2022	Burnham - Maldon - Chelmsford	2134

Essex Service Changes

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Days of operation</i>	<i>Terminals and Notes</i>
Arriva Southend				
	21-Aug-05	31	Sun	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Maylandsea, Post Office CHANGE OF OPERATOR (see First)
Arriva East Herts & Essex				
	9-Jul-05	Zip 1	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye (circular) CHANGE OF INFORMATION. This service was not withdrawn and continued to operate but under contract to ECC.
	30-Aug-05	46	M-S	Ongar, Two Brewers - Harlow Bus Station CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
	30-Aug-05	214	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Loughton (circular) CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
	30-Aug-05	215	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Loughton (circular) CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
	30-Aug-05	219	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Loughton (circular) CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
	30-Aug-05	220	M-S	Debden Broadway, Torrington drive - Loughton (circular) CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
Blue Triangle Buses Ltd				
	3-Sep-05	502	Sat	Loughton Station - Romford Rail Station CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Imperial Bus</i> and is operated under contract to ECC.
Carters Coach Services				
	19-Apr-05	750	TTH	Colchester Bus Station - Capel St Mary, White Horse WITHDRAWN SERVICE
Excel				
	1-Sep-05	310	Sch	Great Dunmow - Stansted Mountfichet School WITHDRAWN SERVICE
First Essex Buses Ltd				
	20-Jun-05	175	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Fingringhoe, High Park Corner REVISED ROUTE and times on the morning journey. The 09:50 now starts from Abberton, The Langenhoe Lion and serves Rowhedge and Old Heath no longer serving Blackheath.
	30-Aug-05	7	M-S	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Heddingham Omnibuses</i> .
	30-Aug-05	8A	M-S	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Heddingham Omnibuses</i> .
	30-Aug-05	10	M-S	Great Clacton, Telford Road - Jaywick, Tower Camp REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Heddingham Omnibuses</i> .

30-Aug-05	11	M-S	Great Clacton, Telford Road - Jaywick, Tower Camp. REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
30-Aug-05	17	M-S	Clacton, Station Road - Point Clear, Holiday Park REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
30-Aug-05	18	M-S	Clacton, Station Road - Point Clear, Holiday Park REVISED TIMETABLE with the Sunday service now operated (under contract) by <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
05-Sep-05	389	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Aveley, Usk Road CHANGE of OPERATOR from <i>Clintona Minicoaches</i> . This service is operated under contract to Thurrock Council to a revised route and timetable. The sections of route around Crammavil Street, North Stifford and Victoria Road, Stanford le Hope are now withdrawn. Saturday service reduced
Hedingham Omnibuses			
28-Aug-05	7	Sun	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Station Road CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC.
28-Aug-05	8A	Sun	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Station Road CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC.
28-Aug-05	10	Sun	Jaywick, Tower Camp - Clacton, Jackson Road CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC. This service operates in one direction only see service 11 for return journeys.
28-Aug-05	11	Sun	Clacton, Station Road - Jaywick, Tower Camp CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC. This service operates in one direction only see service 10 for return journeys.
28-Aug-05	17	Sun	Clacton, Station Road - Point Clear, Holiday Park CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC.
28-Aug-05	18	Sun	Clacton, Station Road - Point Clear, Holiday Park CHANGE OF OPERATOR from <i>First Essex Buses Ltd</i> . This service is operated under contract to ECC.
28-Aug-05	73A	M-S	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Maldon, Cherry Gardens WITHDRAWN SERVICE
Imperial Bus			
25-Jul-05	320	M-F	Tilbury, Asda - Lakeside Bus Station (circular) SERVICE RE-INTRODUCED to a revised timetable and route. Starting at Tilbuey, Asda, serving Civic centre, Feenan Highway and Marshfoot Road to Grays and Lakeside.
27-Aug-05	46	M-S	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Ongar, Two Brewers CHANGE OF OPERATOR Refer to <i>Arriva East Herts & Essex</i>
Network Colchester			
4-Apr-05	93	Daily	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station CORRECTED INFORMATION. The Sunday service deviates from the normal weekday



Former First Capital Dart/Marshalls on the 8 are gradually moving to the 25A/25B, replaced by cascaded Scania's. **41640** (R640 VLX) displays orange 25A/25B ~ Langdon Hills - Basildon - Wickford - Shotgate/Runwell vinyls at Wickford on 22 July.

Peter Mansbridge



FIRST ESSEX

Coaching Developments

We understand that First Essex now have driving duties on National Express service 350 (Clacton-Manchester) as far as Cambridge. Coaches seen so far have been YN54APK/APO/APX, which are part of the 23016-20 Scania/Irizar batch used initially on the X30 in 'Barbie' livery. These are now obviously repainted in National Express livery for the 350 (and feeders). They are part of the First London fleet based at Trafford Park, Manchester for nationwide coaching duties.

CPT "On the Move" recorded that First Essex's X22 was the 4th fastest growing route in the UK in 2004, and the fastest-growing of any First route. Patronage was up 64% on 2003. Firstgroup had 19 routes in the top fifty (Stagecoach 16, Arriva 7, Go Ahead Group 6 and Blazefield 2), with four of these being in the top 15. See also Arriva news on p.20. (www.cpt-uk.org/)

New & Cascaded Vehicles

On the occasion of an Omnibus Society visit to First Essex Westway on 20th July, all five BMC Falcon 1100 yellow school buses for the First Student operation were to be seen. The Turkish BMC company (www.bmcukltd.com) had its origins in the mid 1960s as an overseas licensee of the British Motor Corporation (later British Leyland).

LK54 FNE	chassis no. NMC111TKCRD200035
LK54 FNJ	details to follow

These two were unused with First Manchester and were collected from their Bolton depot.

Three unregistered vehicles with chassis numbers as above but ending 200019, 200079 and 200080 had just been received after being imported via Portbury Dock near Bristol.

These buses have Cummins 3.9litre engines and Allison gearboxes; bodies are 10.75m long, all with 3+2 seating - LK54FNE and chassis no. 200019 (see below) were labelled as B60F, with the other 2 newly delivered vehicles showing B55F). Two-step entrances are augmented by a rear disabled lift. Fleet numbers and proposed registrations were not available at the time of writing, but it is known that the vehicles are intended for former Phoenix routes 619 (Debden-Ingatstone) and 620 (Epping-Ingatstone) in addition to those listed in EBN495, displacing up to five double deckers from CF depot.

The former First Beeline Scania's at CN are confirmed as being 65626-8/31, which will be allocated to BN once vinyl route branding has been applied for service 8.

Allocation changes

period 4: 26 June to 24 July 2005

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;
DS=Driving School

51458 D/L(D)-sold; 51466 D/L(D)-sold; 51468 D/L(D)-sold; 51469 D/L(D)-sold;
51470 D/L(D)-sold; 51476 RES-BE; 51778 RES-D/L(D); 51779 RES-D/L(D);
51806 RES-D/L(D); 51808 DT-BN; 51810 DS-D/L(D); 62520 DS-D/L(D); 62521 RES-DS;
62522 RES-DS; 67036 BN-CF; 67037 BN-CF; 67038 BN-DS; 67040 BN-CF;
90245 DS-sold



Bathtime for Solos 53131 (E002 NFN) and 53112 (E002 NDX)



	18-Jul-05	2	M-S	route in Capel St Mary at The Street and operates via Rembrow Road, White Horse Road and London Road to the White Horse instead of via The Old Street and thus able to serve Flatford Mill. Horkesley Heath, Malvern Way - Severalls Park, The Crescent REVISIED INFORMATION. The actual terminal points for this route are Horkesley Heath, Malvern Way and Severalls Park, The Crescent.
Regal Busways	24-Aug-05	502	M-F	Ongar, Two Brewers - Epping Station REVISED ROUTE and TIMETABLE. The introduction of an additional early morning journey and extended to Epping.
Stephensons	1-Sep-05	800	Coll	Southend Bus Station - Thurrock College REVISED TIMETABLE
	1-Sep-05	801	Coll	Hockley Spa - Thurrock College REVISED TIMETABLE
Town & Country	1-Sep-05	380	M-S	Tilbury Ferry - Orsett Hospital, Rowley Road SERVICE WITHDRAWN
	3-Sep-05	374	M-S	West Horndon Rail Station - Lakeside, Tesco REVISED TIMETABLE. The Saturday service is reduced to operate every two hours.

David Tomlin

Stephensons Olympian C383 SAO in Coval Lane on local service 44 on 29 March. This bus was new to Northern Scottish, registered GSO 4V, and then C474 SSO. It gained its current mark after transfer to Stagecoach North West. *Kevin Smith*



The once ubiquitous Mercedes 709 is now down to four examples in service and a driving trainer - 51476 and 51780 at BE, 51782 at DT, 51889 at CN and 51475 as a trainer. The Leyland Lynx figure in the fleet only as driving trainers, whilst the allocation of Lance 67038 to the Driving School is also notable. Service 351 reverted to CF operation from 24 July hence the transfer of 67036/7/40.

During mid July, First Essex Varios 52580/5 arrived back from Stansted Transit and await refurbishment and repaint in standard livery before being placed back in service with First Essex.

Disposals - Period 4

51458, 51466, 51468 and 51469 to Erith Commercials

51470 to private owner

34660 to Hardwick (dealer), Barnsley for scrap

Repaints:

Period 4: all to standard group livery.

43733, 46819, 46132, 46116, 43730, 46821, 34284, 34310, 34305

34310 has new LED blinds at the front, but no rear displays whilst 34305 currently retains the older front display.

Vehicles remaining in old liveries as at the time of writing were:

Eastern National (Badgerline) green sash/yellow: 46112, 46802/6, 51470/1/4/5

Thamesway (Badgerline) magenta sash/yellow: 46118/29/33/4

'Anglia' Eastern National yellow/green skirt: 46823/4, 51781/2

'Anglia' Thamesway yellow/magenta skirt: 46114/31, 51801/2/4/5/6

Note that 46114 and most of the Merc 709s are for disposal. The only 709s listed above still in use are 51475 as a training vehicle and 51781 at DT.



46129 (M929 TEV) in Thamesway 'sash' magenta/yellow and **46112** (K912 CVW) in EN green 'sash' /yellow at Brentwood station on 15 July 2005.

Adam Kelleher



Chris Stewart's
First
photo diary

19 July: Omnibus Society visit to Westway

above: Telematics Merc 90241 (H315 LJN) and Lynx Driver Trainers 90244 (F427 MJN) and 62521 (F421 MJN).

below: 43732 (S732 TWC) on the vehicle hoist.



VEHICLE WORKINGS

The sole Mon-Sat evening duty on Southend area route 20 is now generally an East Lancs Spryte-bodied Dart (most often 21 branded) or sometimes a Dart SLF of the 43717-21 batch. This provides a vehicle with an assault screen - the substitution of these vehicles for set-entrance Darts began just on Friday and Saturday evenings, but has become normal throughout the week (except on Sundays, when the 20 interworks with 21B and 26B).

Due to a burst water main part of Bull Lane, Rayleigh was closed on 12th July from 08.30 to 17.00 - service 20 was diverted via Highfield Crescent.

Unusual sightings:

- June 20th CR47104 on 64 (and 21st), CR47105 on 64A.
21st CR20102 on 70, DT46802 on 103, CR47101 on 64A, CR47105 on 66.
22nd CR20110 & CR43743 on 70, CR46829 on 61, CR47106 on 64.
24th DT46802 on 103, CR47102 on 66A, CR67006 on 64A.
25th CR43743 on 67 (evening).
27th CR47102 on 64.
28th CR47103/4 on 64/64A, CR47105 on 66A.
29th CR47101 on 105 (usually Dart), CR47103 on 66, CR47104 on 64A
30th CF42482 (36 branded) on 31, CR47103 on 64A, CR47106 on 66,
- July 1st CR47102 on 64A.
4th CR47102 on 88, CR47104 on 64A.
5th CR67007 on 105.
6th CR34011 on 64A, CR47103 on 64A.
7th CR47101 on 107 (usually Dart/Pointer), CR47106 on 64A, CF53137 on Diamond (18.40 ex CF).
8th CR46830 on 61, CR47101 on 107 and 175 (usually Lance), CR47102 on 66A
11th CF34817 on a.m. 43, CR46829 on 61, CR47105 on 66, CR47106 on 64A
12th CR46830 on late 64s, CR47103 on 66, CF47223 on 43, CR56001 on 77 (17.15 ex Wivenhoe), CR65654 (64 branded) on 88 (18.45 ex CR).
13th CR34014 (77/78 branded) on 193, CR46829 on 61, BN61054 on 551.
14th CR34011 (77/78 branded) on 193, CR47103 on 66, CR47105 on 64A.
14th HH42857 on 24, CF42488 (36 branded) on 31, CR65652 on 71C
15th CR47102 on 75 (1100 CR-MN), CR47104 on 64.
16th CF47252 on Diamond (at least 16.40 ex CF and 18.00 ex SD)
18th CR43740 & CR65679 on 70, CR46829 on 61, CR47106 on 64, CF53135 on X30
19th CR47102 on 66, CR47103 on 66, CR47104 on 61.
20th CF42488 on 31, CR43716 (61 branded) & CR47102 on 66, BE46817 on 41/51, BE46827 on 43, CR47105 on 64, CR47106 on 64A, CF47227 on 42, CF53113 on X30, CF67040 on 100.
21st CR34014 on 64A, CF47221 on 42 (and 22nd).
22nd CF34815 on 33, CF34817 on Diamond, CF46828 on 352, CR47102 on 66, CR47104 on 64.
23rd CR34315 on X22
24th CR34308 on X22, CF53112 on X30.
25th BN34812 on 551, CF34817 on 351 (11.05 ex CD), CF43738 on 851/then 81/82, CR46829 on 61, CR47105 on 66, CR47106 on 64
26th CF34807 on 33 and 351, CF34808 on 36, CF34816 on 72 (two round trips to Braintree, replacing failed 46827)
27th CR46829 on 61, CR47106 on 64A.
28th CR47102 on 64, CR47105 on 66, CR47106 on 64
29th CF34819 on 351, HH46113 on 20, HH46146 on 24.



34819 (C419 HJN) at Epping station - the 1654 arrival on the 620 from the Anglo European School at Ingatestone with blinds still set from the morning journey. The 620 is slated for operation by the new BMC Falcon school buses from the start of the Autumn term.

Chris Stewart

Other vehicle news

With the end of school term, Olympians 34815/8 went on loan to First Eastern Counties at Lowestoft (erstwhile home of their bodybuilders, ECW) on 27th July for use in connection with the Lowestoft Air Show.

A suspicious fire at First Eastern Counties on 25th July destroyed the heavily cannibalised remains of former Thamesway Olympian 4031 (A92 KWW), along with FEC 34580 (A980 OST) and 34854 (F154 XYG). Quick thinking by staff saved further roadworthy vehicles from damage.

In the West of England, ABus of Bristol used former Eastern National VRs KOO791V and XHK221/2X at Glastonbury Festival, where former London Borough of Redbridge VR HKM885V (now with the RMT Union) also appeared. XHK222X survived a failed gearbox on the last day to re-appear on the Weston-super-Mare service the week after (21st August), only to be written off when a 4x4 pick up driving on the wrong side of the road hit the front corner of the VR with some force. Remarkably and thankfully there were no injuries, but the incident closed the main A368 road for about two hours.

First Essex report EBN496

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, J Clayton, R Delahoy, M Farmer, P Mansbridge, N Field, I Hardie, A Kelleher, A Nugent, J Podgorski, P Rowden, J Salmon, C Sigston, D Stewart, R Whitley, *Essex Bus and South West* y-groups, *Real Bus News* group, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart



Chris Stewart's
First
photo diary

**19 July ~
Omnibus Society
visit to Westway**

BMC Falcons.
above and left:
unregistered
example.
below: LK54 FNJ



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Vehicles in

From *Arriva the Shires* 3435/9/40 6/05

3435R165 GNW	Ds Dt SLF	212BR1VGW11045	Wt Y249	B36F	8/97
3439R169 GNW	Ds Dt SLF	212BR1VGW11046	Wt Y248	B36F	9/97
3440R170 GNW	Ds Dt SLF	212BR1VGW11060	Wt Y246	B36F	9/97

Vehicles out

2140 (N370 JGS): gone 6/05

5844 (D211 FYM), 5849 (C 31 CHM): Arriva the Shires (BD) 5844/9 6/05

Allocations

6/05: 3435/9/40.WE; 5841.u

General

Readers will notice the return of Dart SLFs 3435/9/40 after a brief absence. It is thought that their use at Ware is connected with the Welwyn Garden City local services mentioned in EBN494. Further vehicles are due for these services in early August.

A further 2 Optare Solos are on order.

Funding has been obtained to enable the "ZIP" service to Milwards in Harlow to continue for the present using the Mercedes People Carrier 1257 (T557 UOX).

Fleet allocation July 2005

Harlow

Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban	3856-60
DAF SB220/Plaxton Prestige	3445-9
Volvo B6BLE/Wright Crusader	3250-7
Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer 2	3230/1
Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer 1	3100, 3356-60/2-4/8/9/71/2, 3413/4
Dennis Dart/Wright Handybus	3366/7, 3818
Optare Solo	2457-60
Optare Alero	443/4
Mercedes 709D/Plaxton Beaver I	2116/8-24/6/38/43/5/51/8/9
Mercedes Vario O810D/Plaxton Beaver II	2172/5/89/90/4/5, 2248, 2370/1

Ware

Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX400	5442/3/5-7/51
Leyland Olympian/ECW	5837-40/2/5-7/50
DAF SB220/Plaxton Prestige	3269, 3441-4
DAF SB120/Wright Cadet	3830-2, 4521/2
Dennis Dart SLF/Wright Crusader	3416-8/35/9/40
Dennis Dart MPD/Plaxton Pointer II	3483, 3828
Dennis Dart/Northern Counties	3398/9
Mercedes Vario O810D/Plaxton Beaver II	2373-7

Parked up

Leyland Olympian/ECW	5841 (at Stevenage)
	5843 (at Watford)

Note: Training vehicles are supplied by Arriva the Shires Training Unit based at Luton.

Mark Garrett



Former Arriva Southend Olympian 5415 (N707 TPK) is now 3352 with Arriva North West & Wales. Here it is in Liverpool on 23 April with GTL and Supertravel vehicles in the background. *Kevin Smith*

ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

General

Service 13 (Southend - Temple Sutton) was the 12th fastest-growing route (tied with Wilts & Dorset's 165 - Poole - Royal Bournemouth Hospital) in the UK in 2004, and also the fastest-growing of any Arriva route. Patronage was up by 32% on 2003. Arriva had 7 routes in the top fifty, and three in the top 15. See also First news on p.12. (CPT "On the Move" www.cpt-uk.org/)

David Harman



Vehicle News

DAF J56 GCX was reinstated to traffic in late June 2005, only to be parked up again in the workshop in July 2005. However, it was back in traffic by 27 July.

Burton's Olympian 345 is now stored in the 'no 2 depot', having been at Colchester since 1 June 2005.

D10M 335 returned to Colchester, off loan from Burton's, by 25 July 2005.

Unusual workings

July 2nd	374 on 8
4th	348 on 87
5th	356 on 8A, 308 on 2
6th	361 on 5

July 7th	362 on 8A route 8,309 on 5, 308 on 2
8th	359 on 8, 374 on 8A
11th	306 on 2,347 on 5 (a.m.), 373 on 8A, 317 on 9
13th	373 on 8 (eve)
14th	316 on 2, 348 on 5 (a.m.),348 on 87 (p.m.), 357 on 1
15th	357 on 8, 351 on 8A, 360 on 5, 337 on 9 (p.m.)
16th	310 on 8 (eve)
18th	357 on 8A, 318 on 2, 347 on 2 (off peak)
19th	352 on 8A, 367 on 2 (day)
20th	361 on 2 (day);
21st	308 and 316 on 2, 317 on 2B (a.m.), 2 (day), 9 (p.m.)
22nd	360 on 2 (day);
25th	310 (8 branded) on 1, 352 on 8
26th	352 on 8, 365 on 5
27th	351 on 8A, 360 on 5,316 on 2
28th	337 on 5

Vehicle to route allocations - situation at 1 July 2005

- 1: Dart SLF throughout.
- 2: Lynx, DAF days off peak; D10M, Olympian days peak; Dart SLF eves.
- 2B: Lynx, DAF a.m.; D10M, Olympian p.m.
- 5: Vario, B6, Dart.
- 8, 8A: B6, branded/unbranded Dart days; Dart SLF eves.
- 9: D10M, Olympian a.m.; Lynx, DAF p.m.
- 50/92: B6, Dart.
- 83: Vario.
- 87: Vario, B6, Dart.
- 90: Dart SLF
- 93: Dart SLF
- 96: Dart SLF
- 247: Vario.
- 631/2: D10M, Olympian.

Service Changes

The route changes from 18 July 2005, saw the western end of 5 withdrawn between Poets Corner and Ambrose Avenue, while a number of early morning and early evening journeys on 1, 2, 8 have been withdrawn.

The last journey over the now abandoned Poets Corner-Prettygate section of 5 was Vario 373 on the 1803 ex ASDA on 15 July 2005.

The 18th July route revisions saw no new timetable booklet, just "supplementary sheets".

Other News

Interesting visitors during July 2005 were Harris B12B/Je (FN04 FSE) on the 11th ; Lochs and Glens 15m triaxle Bova Futura (LG05 BCL) on the 18th ; and Burton's B1B/Pn (EU05 BCL), Olympian 346 and RML 2295 on 20 July.

Repaints into Network Colchester livery appear to have ceased for the time being, the last repaint having been carried out in November 2004.

A recruitment open day for drivers was held on 17 July 2005 at the depot in an attempt to alleviate a driver shortage.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski

LATEST DEALER MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN *from*

- Arriva London:** RM1324 RML2625 (cannibalised)
L21/45/49/50/201.
Blazeffield Holdings: Olympians P426/7 UUG.

VEHICLES OUT

- to*
RML2502: **CHI Ltd**, London.
RM1033: **Mr Peter Comfort**, Basingstoke, Hants.
Olympian G760 VRT (new to Chambers of Bures):
Geldards Coaches, Leeds.
Dart K567 NHC: **Johnson Matthey Ltd**, Royston, Herts..
Olympian N118 UHP: **KC21 Ltd**, Aldershot, Hants.
M530 M682 Metrobus B875 DOM: **Mckindless**, Wishaw.
Volvo B6's M845 EMW L451 LWA: **Pier Metals**, Rainham for scrap.
RML2407: **Mr John Pitt**, Doncaster.
M455/566/923/976/78/1096, T840,
City Sightseeing 255 and CUL 167V: **PVS** for scrap.
M310: **San Francisco Tours**, California, USA.
M1042/1107/14/97: **The Scout Association**, Chingford, Essex.
Olympians N114/9/20/2 UHP: **South Gloucestershire Bus & Coach**
RM1621: **Mr Larry Sullivan**, Guildford.
RML2741: **Superdrug Ltd**, London.
Ailsa WTS 272T: **Taybus Vintage Vehicle Society**, Scotland

ENSIGN FLEET AND OPERATIONAL NEWS

Acquired vehicles:

- ex-Lancashire United 926/7
126 P426 UUG Volvo Olympian/Alexander Royale DP45/27F new 4/97
127 P427 UUG Volvo Olympian/Alexander Royale DP45/27F new 4/97
ex-Stagecoach North East 29611/20
611 G611 CEF Leyland Lynx LX2R11C15Z4R/ Leyland B51F new 11/89
620 G620 CEF Leyland Lynx LX2R11C15Z4R/ Leyland B51F new 11/89

Temporary acquisitions

Olympians L45/6/9/197 and Olympian F635 LMJ for TfL work.

Following the tragic events of 7 July, Ensign vehicles were involved in emergency evacuations from Canary Wharf and Aldgate areas. From 1900 onwards, Metrobuses and Volvo Olympians were used on National Express workings from Victoria to: Cheltenham, Bath, Worcester, Kings Lynn, Great Yarmouth, Clacton and Colchester. This was due to the non-arrival of coaches from other parts of the UK on the advice of Metropolitan Police.

From Thursday 8 July, a service between Arnos Grove to Finchley connecting with the Northern Line, was operated on behalf of TfL/LUL. This was altered from 1600 to run Arnos Grove to Seven Sisters, connecting with the Victoria Line, run with Metrobus and Centra assisting. Operation of this has since transferred to First / Blue Triangle.

with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

What the papers said ...

(Southend) **EVENING ECHO** ~ 10 JUNE



All aboard — this 1913 Napier Double Decker Bus is estimated to fetch between £30,000 to £50,000

Historic vehicle sale

The Sharpe family of Rayleigh's extensive collection of historic motor vehicles was due to be auctioned by Christies on 30 June. Included was this 1913 Napier 40hp omnibus. It had been estimated to fetch £30-50,000 but in the event, failed to sell.

The vehicle is not registered which hinders identification; only the chassis number is known: 1172..

Napiers originally made cars and taxicabs, but later went on to build commercials at a factory in Acton, W2. Christies carefully say that the body is 'understood to have been built, possibly incorporating some original elements' by the late John Mitchell. Mitchell was best known for his replica cars made for the film *Chitty*

Chitty Bang Bang and period-style open-topped buses built for Disneyland.

The body appears to be an LGOC-style replica, but the Napier was not a make that found much favour in London. If the chassis did originally bear a bus body, it would be interesting to know who operated it.

David Harman

(Cutting supplied by Dave Arnold)

Preservation photo-call



Two old buffers at Mangapps Railway Museum on 30 June:

left: 03089 (D2089) - built at Doncaster in 1960; the last Class 03 at Norwich.

right: 3219 - built at Bristol/Lowestoft in 1978; one of the last two VR Series 3's at Braintree.

Chris Stewart

Used by 15,000 Colcestrians (at least) ! ~ Colchester Corporation Timetables

Roger Tuke has the following timetables etc. additional to those listed in EBN491:

(1) Time Tables

Colchester Corporation	Time Table and Fare Table	11.01.53
Colchester Corporation	Revised Time Tables	23.11.69
Colchester Corporation	Revisions to Bus Services	21.11.71
Colchester Borough Trans. Ltd.	Time Table; the 01.08.94 issue was reissued with the additional date at the base of 30.01.95.	

Also known to exist is a Corporation Time Table dated October 1949.

(2) Fare Table charts as displayed in the buses

01.09.62	14.06.64	04.12.66	19.07.70
02.02.64	04.07.65	01.06.67	21.02.71

(3) Fare Table booklets

20.10.57	01.09.62	04.07.65	19.07.70
01.10.61	14.06.64	01.06.67	21.02.71

(4) Single sheets

Time Table ~ Tramways	17.03.26
Provisional Time Table ~ Omnibus Services	01.05.28
Fuel Rationing Revised Services	Dec 56
Revised Time Table Service 6	22.08.60
Revised Time Table Service 8	22.08.60
Special Bank Holiday Services	24.03.61
Time Table and Revised Fare Table services 1/1A	09.06.61
Revised Services 1, 1A and 6 Time Table and Revised Fare Table	29.07.62
Revised Services	04.12.66
Revised Services	03.09.67
Revised Services 2 and 2A	22.10.67
Revised Services	18.04.76

15,000 COLCESTRIANS (at least!)

will use this Timetable Booklet Issue—a fertile field for your advertising. If you would like to be advised of any future issues, write without obligation to

**COLCHESTER CORPORATION TRANSPORT
DEPARTMENT**
MAGDALEN STREET

from Time Table ~ 26 July 1964

- Roger has all timetables listed in EBN491 except for the May 1919, 17.03.26, 01.05.28 01.07.36, and also the October 1949 issues.

If you have any of these, he would very much like to obtain copies and will happily refund copying costs. He is also willing to copy items from his own extensive Colchester collection in exchange. Write to him at:

**6 Hawarden Grove,
London SE24 9DH**

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 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.



⇒ 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



Stephensons

