

ESSEX BUS NEWS

January 2004

Issue 477



Two hours in Saffron Walden ~ 1

431, a Mercedes-Benz Vario 0814/Marshall of **First**, in red and yellow Bus Plus/Village Link colours, picks up in Saffron Walden on VL5 to Bishops Stortford.

David Harman

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, plus a copy of the Thurrock Council book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit

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We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write with requirements to:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way,
Benfleet, SS7 4LH

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

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A message from your new Magazine Editor

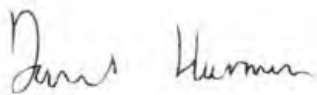
From this issue, I have taken over as Magazine Editor. I would firstly, like to thank Sean Menzies for the enormous amount of work he has put into transforming *EBN* in the past three years, and also to Guest Editors, Jeff Clayton and Peter Mansbridge for holding the fort so competently since August 2003.

As you will have read in the Chairman's Statement in November, finding a new Editor was not the only problem that required solving if *EBN* was to avoid ceasing in its 40th year. Kithead Ltd., who have printed the magazine reliably for many years, are to close in March, and we had to find a new printer urgently. This has been achieved, and from this month, a local firm I have used successfully for six years, will take over.

The method of printing will change too - from offset-litho to digital printing. This is an important change - the quality is comparable with litho, but it is more economical for shorter runs, and jobs can be turned round more quickly. By using this method, we hope *EBN* can resume appearing regularly at around the same time each month. One happy side-effect of this change is that we can use as many photographs as space will allow - so your shots, topical or historical, "three-quarter view" and "scenic" will be very welcome.

You will also notice some cosmetic changes in the layout etc. We have to now pay commercial rates for printing, and consequently, the size of *EBN* must stay within careful bounds. A smaller, but hopefully, still legible, typestyle will now be used, so that we can present the same amount of information as hitherto, but within fewer pages. Bear with us over the coming months as 'fine-tuning' to the layout is done.

A new Editor ... a continuing team of willing Sub-Editors ... a new printer what more could we possibly want? Well, quite simply, *YOUR* contributions ! *Please* keep us supplied with news, photographs, articles, reminiscences, snippets etc. about buses in Essex, past, present, and maybe, even the future. And, *please* tell us what you like, and what you don't like. *EBN* is, after all, *YOUR* magazine!



David Harman

ANDY MEADOWS : 1957 - 2003

It is with considerable sadness and regret that we have to record the passing of Andy Meadows who died on 23 December 2003 at the early age of 46.

Andy had a life long interest in the transport scene and first secured a position with National Travel South East at Kelvedon and later more locally in the booking office of Eastern National at Southend. His greatest wish was to be on the operating side and so he soon moved to Southend Transport initially as a conductor and later as a driver and became a regular performer on the London express service X1. When the committee of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group was expanded in 1979 Andy offered his services as Publications Officer. He also took his turn as a driver on some of our self-drive weekend coach tours.

Later he was unfortunately diagnosed with progressive Multiple Sclerosis. Since this meant an early end to his driving career, he turned his hand to administrative work again at a number of locations including Grey Green at Stamford Hill. Later on, he

took on the position of Editor of the magazine 'Bus Times'. He was a keen member of the Disabled Photographic Society and won several awards. It was whilst on assignment in Dublin that pedestrian Andy was the victim of a road traffic accident which served to reduce his mobility and eventually confine him to a wheelchair. However, this did not prevent Andy setting up the Cliff Agency for the sale of bus material which he was effectively able to combine with his Group role as Events Secretary. When his condition worsened he had to resign from the committee in 1998 and eventually became housebound, surrounded by his impressive collection of bus models.

We owe a great debt to Andy and he will be sorely missed. At the funeral at Southend Crematorium, the Group was represented by the Chairman and several members of the present and past committee. Our sincerest condolences go to his wife Janice and their two sons Ashley and Terry.

Alan Osborne

Dates for your diary

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

- ▶ **Tuesday February 10** - members photos evening. In a new departure, we will be projecting digital photos, so bring along your material on CD-ROM. *Dave Arnold* will be showing some of his recent photos and *Richard Delahoy* will cover the Winchester Running Day on January 1st, but more material will be welcomed on the night.
- ▶ **Tuesday March 9** - AGM, followed by a slide show by *Alan Osborne*.
- ▶ **Tuesday April 13** - talk/slide show "EN and the Lodekka" by *Chris Stewart*.

All meetings take place in the **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (adjacent to Rochford Station and also served by Arriva 7/8). Doors open **1930** for an informal chat; the main show takes place from **2000 to 2145**. Drinks available; 50p entrance fee.

Richard Delahoy

RALLIES, OPEN DAYS etc

- ▶ **Sunday April 4** - **Cobham Bus Museum Open Day**. The vehicle line-up will be at Wisley Airfield this year, as the Brooklands site is no longer available.

NEW FACT FILE !

Eastern National A.E.C. Regents and Renowns

Our latest Fact File number 6, compiled by Alan Osborne and Peter Snell concentrates on a interesting collection of vehicles ranging over over 30 years. Although not devoted to an operator it is in the same format as previous volumes.

- Brief history of the A.E.C. Regent
- Fleet list of new and acquired vehicles
- Rebodying and engine changes
- Allocations and disposals
- 9 historic black & white photographs
- Westcliff-on-Sea appendix

Order your copy of the 24 page Regents Fact File by sending a cheque or postal order for **£3.50** payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group to :

**Alan Osborne,
7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex IG3 8LT**

Also still available at **£3.50** :

- **Fact File 4 (Coastal Red)**
- **Fact File 5 (Jennings of Ashen)**

Essex Service Changes

Changes are now split into two sections to avoid some changes appearing more than once. Changes to "regular" services appear first, with changes to school services at the end. All changes are subject to change, so please check with the operator or Traveline before travelling. I can be e-mailed at EBEGSCEDITOR@AOL.COM

W/C Saturday 6th December 2003

38, 39, 59, 89, 89B As in previous issues.

W/C Saturday 13th December 2003

89, 552 As in previous issues.

222 (*First*) (Colchester & Stansted Airport) Revised timetable from Wednesday 17th December.

W/C Saturday 10th January 2004

4, 6 As in previous issues.

W/C Saturday 17th January 2004

X80, X90 As in previous issues.

75 (*First*) (Colchester & Maldon) Some Sunday journeys will operate via Maldon Tesco from Sunday 18th January.

90 (*Stephensons*) (Maldon & Witham) Minor revisions to weekday morning timings from Monday 19th January.

325 (*First*) (Halstead & Braintree) Route transferred to *Hedingham Omnibuses*, withdrawn between Halstead and Greenstead Green and to operate on Wednesdays only.

327 (*First*) (Halstead & Twinstead) Route transferred to *Hedingham Omnibuses* with a revised timetable operating on Fridays only.

329 (*First*) (Halstead & Cross End) Route transferred to *Hedingham Omnibuses* with a revised timetable operating on Fridays only.

Sunday 1st February 2004

Revised timetable will be introduced on the following *First* routes:

3 (Southend & Canvey)

7,8 (Clacton & Walton)

10,11 (Jaywick & Telford Road)

17,18 (Clacton & Point Clear)

21,21A,21B (Southend & Canvey)

27,27A (Temple Sutton & Canvey)

28 (South Benfleet & Canvey)

W/C Saturday 14th February 2004

X1,X2,X10 (*Stephensons*) (Rochford & London) Following variations from Monday 16th February:

Main route revised between Wennington and Dagenham so that all journeys in both directions operate via A13 Thames Gateway in place of A1306 New Road.

All morning peak journeys towards London (routes X2 and

X10) diverted from Aldgate High Street via Aldgate, Fenchurch Street, Gracechurch Street, Cannon Street, Queen Victoria Street, New Bridge Street and Victoria Embankment to rejoin main route.

Alternative westbound route via Renwick Road, River Road, (or Thames Road) withdrawn.

All stopping points between Wennington, New Road and Dagenham, Ripple Road, Chequers Lane/ Dagenham Heathway, withdrawn (inclusive).

Stopping point altered to be Ripple Road (Goresbrook Leisure Centre) instead rather than at Dagenham Warner Village.

Eastbound stop at Canning Town on route X1 only, revised to bus stop H on slip road to Canning Town roundabout west of Stephenson Street.

Existing stops (both directions) at Limehouse Station, Commercial Road, replaced by stops further west at Stepney Methodist Church in Commercial Road.

Additional setting down points on routes X2 and X10 westbound in morning peak at: Fenchurch Street LBSL stop for Fenchurch Street Station, Cannon Street o/s station and Blackfriars Station (Queen Victoria Street).

Revised Monday to Friday timetable to reflect above changes and reduced running times following completion of most of A13 roadworks.

Service withdrawn on Saturdays due to low usage. Service number X11 therefore discontinued.

SCHOOL SERVICES AND SCHOOLDAYS-ONLY VARIATIONS

Friday 17th December 2003

521X As in previous issues.

Tuesday 5th January 2004

49 As in previous issues.

20 (*Arriva*) (Debden & Walthamstow) Monday afternoon schooldays journey retimed in accordance with school requirements to depart at the same time as on Tuesdays to Fridays.

521 (*First*) (Great Holland & Colchester) Withdrawn after end of summer term.

Adrian Lancer

DECEMBER ESSEX BUS NEWS - DON'T BLAME US !

The December *Essex Bus News* arrived late, but don't blame us. It had to be at the printers early for Christmas and so a truncated version was compiled by Peter Mansbridge and was printed well beforehand. However, the Post Office lost the address labels, with the result that dispatch was delayed until after the Christmas holiday resumption after another set of labels had arrived. This was considerably annoying to all concerned. Our new printers will in the future receive labels by e-mail which should be more reliable.

Alan Osborne

FIRST ESSEX

Vehicles into the fleet

Four Scania Omnidiekkas are on order for *First Hampshire & Dorset's* route X53, but it is not known at this stage whether this means the five Scania/Wright saloons currently on this service will be released to *First Essex*.

Six former Stagecoach (originally Cambus) long-wheelbase Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties H49/33F were expected in January, part of a much larger batch bought by *First* from Volvo Bus. All have been given national fleetnumbers in the 34000 series, although local numbers will still be needed with *First Essex* for the immediate future. The revised national numbering and engineering database, known as 'SEMA' after the computer software supplier, is already being applied in other parts of the country including the South West. The vehicles for *First Essex* are believed to be 34011-4 (P551-4EFL), 34018 (P546EFL) and 34056 (P556EFL) but this is subject to confirmation. All of the batch are being repainted into 'Barbie 2' (at various *First* locations) before delivery.

Allocation changes (period ending 28 December 2003)

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

(A)=acquired, (R)=reserve, (Sp)=spare; (D)=disposal

974 HH-BN; 987 HH-BN; 1401 (D)-sold; 1407 (R)-sold; 1408 (D)-sold; 1412 HH-BN; 1418 HH-BN; 1432 (D)-sold; 2643 (D)-sold; 2644 (D)-sold; 2646 (D)-sold; 2648 (D)-sold; 2651 (D)-sold; 2655 (R)-sold; 2663 BE-(D); 2667 CF-(D); 3112 (D)-sold; 9003 (D)-sold; 9020 (D)-sold; 9026 (D)-sold; 9029 (D)-sold

Repaints

p/e 28.12.03 4308

Disposals

11.03 1408, 2643/4/6/8/51/5, 9026/9 as given last month
 12.03 1401 to First Cityline (*First Bristol*) - previously on loan
 9003 9020 to Houston Ramm (dealer)
 1407 1432 to First West Yorkshire Buses (*First Bradford*)
 3112 to RTF Commercials, Bocking (after removal of parts for use on 3219)

Volvo coach 608 (N608APU) is currently on loan to First Midland Red.

Liveries

Current route branding details on *First Essex* vehicles (excluding Chelmsford Solos with non route-specific details), courtesy of Jeff Clayton and Adam Williams:

CONNECTION

Claret Line 31/31X: 670-4
 Blue Line 352: 776-80

METRO (Southend)

Red Line 20: 938-41/6/7
 Blue Line 21/21A/21B: 762-9
 Purple Line 24/24A: 910/1/3
 Green Line 26/26A/26B: 770-4
 Orange Line 27/27A/27B: 717-21/45-8

OVERGROUND (Basildon)

Red Line 5:	734-8
Blue Line 8:	753-8
Green Line 12:	759/60
Turquoise Line 100:	655-7/9-67

Colchester:

Blue Line 64:	650-54
Red Line 65:	68/75/8/83-7

OVERGROUND (Chelmsford)

Brown Line 40/50:	519-21
Green Line 41/51:	515-18
Red Line 42:	739-44
Blue Line 45:	522-6
Purple Line 47:	533/34
Orange Line 54/54A/56/56A:	527-32

The only double-deckers remaining in Eastern National livery are VRs 3072 & 3219, Leyland Olympians 4010/24/5 and Volvo Olympians 4307/9/15 together with 4017 in the short-lived green skirt/chrome yellow livery.

BN933 has gained a full-depth offside advertisement for Festival Leisure.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Rail replacement work every Sunday from 4th January until 16th May covers the Chelmsford-Shenfield section of *First Great Eastern* whilst the bridge by the Britvic Roundabout is replaced. Noted:

- 4.1.04 2822, 3219, 4003, 4007, 4016, 4017, 4025, 4304, 4326,
NIBS 603, Stephenson's TSO13X, Chambers W87HRT
- 11.1.04 2669, 2674, 2822, 3219, 4005, 4007, 4018, 4019, 4038, 4302, 4303, 4315
NIBS 603, BIL4710, Chambers W87HRT

Unusual sightings include:

- 10.12.03 HH1409 on 21
- 11.12.03 HH913 and HH1409 on 20
HH1411 on 26
- 13.12.03 CF775 on Diamond
HH949 on 26, HH950 & HH951 on 21 and HH953 on 27
- 15.12.03 BN713 on 8, coach 602 in BN showing 646
CR980 working from CF, CF1415 on Diamond (10.40 ex Chelmsford)
- 16.12.03 CF1414 and CF1517 on 31
CR4324 on 71
Coach 602 on either 561 or 562
BN664 on 646
- 17.12.03 Coach 602 on Hutton local 82 and school C25
HH762 on 25
HH1409 on 27, HH1411 on 20
CF4033 or 4034 on 31
- 18.12.03 HH911 on 17 (usually 400-series Mercedes)
HH948 on 27, HH1419 on 26
CF775 on 42
- 19.12.03 Coach 602 on Hutton local 83, 608/10 both at CR
CR4303 on loan to DT

- 20.12.03 BN933 on 5
HH942 and HH953 on 26, HH950 on 21
HH1417 HH1421 and HH1423 all on 20, HH1411 on 2/25
- 22.12.03 HH955 on 24/24A
CF1414 on 33
- 23.12.03 HH718 and HH1420 on 20
- 24.12.03 HH911 on 20
- 26.12.03 FLFs 2552 (YDU265D), WG2917 and an FLF6LX coach noted at WG (on *Five* - in an *On the Buses* episode!! 2552 - or 2652 inside - was the FLF mock-up built at Central Works for studio scenes)
- 29.12.03 CR682 on 222, CR683 on 64
- 30.12.03 HH768 on 20
BN1403 on 100
- 31.12.03 BN713 on 100
CF1415 on 36
- 2.1.04 CR651 on 70 (10.05 ex CR) believed to be for driver familiarisation
CR669 and CR2829 on 64
CF4033 on 31
- 3.1.04 BN967 (the only Dart still lettered for *Premier 100*) on 100
- 7.1.04 CR684 on peak hour 71, CF4007 on peak 31
- 8.1.04 CR682 on 71
- 9.1.04 HH750 on 825
- 10.1.04 CR4305 on 64/64A

VR-watch

Since 3219's return to service (recorded in EBN476), correspondents have kindly reported some of its workings:

Chelmsford-South Woodham 36: 8th Dec, 16th Dec (06.55 ex CD), 18th Dec (17.25 ex CD)
Chelmsford-Romford 351: 22nd Dec
Chelmsford-Southend 512: 10th Dec, 11th Dec, 15th Dec, 9th Jan, 13th Jan
Ingatstone-Debden 619: 19th Dec (midday end of term working)
Chelmsford-Shenfield rail replacement: 4th Jan, 11th Jan

With 3112 now disposed of, the Bristol VR type enters its 35th year of service with Eastern National/First represented by just 2 examples - the oldest two of the recent survivors, V-reg 3072 and T-reg 3219.

Other News

Clacton disposal yard contained 1402/4/5/16/25/9, 2649/50/2/4/67, 4026/7 and 9002 on 27th December. By 7th January, 9002 had gone whilst 1426 and 2664 had arrived.

First Essex fleet allocation - 28 December 2003

Braintree	(BE)	778-80, 943/4, 2666/71/5/80, 2808/11/2/6/21/6/7, 2909-11, 3072, 3219
Basildon	(BN)	404/5, 655-67, 712-4/34-8/53-61, 852-5, 918/20/7/9-34/6/7/45, 967-74/83-7, 1403/6/10/2/8, 2825, 4035-8
Chelmsford	(CF)	430-5, 512-37, 670-4, 729-33/9-44/75-7, 1414/5, 1516-20, 2658/65/8-70/3/4/6/8/9, 2822-4/8, 2901-8, 4007/10/2/4, 4024/5/33/4
Clacton	(CN)	919/21/2/4-6, 1510-3, 2662, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20, 4015-9
Colchester	(CR)	450-2, 610, 650-4/68/9/75/8/82-7, 715/6, 975-82, 1501-9, 2683, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-6

Hadleigh	(HH)	403/6-10, 717-21/45-50/62-74, 907-11/3/28/35/8-42/6-58, 1409/17, 1419-24, 2803/14/5/8, 4003-5
Harwich	(DT)	2681/2, 2802/13/7, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford	(RD)	401/2, 501-11, 912/4/6, 2804
Heritage		2383, 9001 (AJN825)
Spare		602/8, 2664
Reserve		1405/11/29
Disposal		1402/4/16/25/6, 2649/50/2/4/62/3/7/72, 4026/7, 9002
Driver Training		35, 1433 (BN); 9039/41/3/4 (Driving School at Head Office)

Ancillary vehicles (note that some of these details are by members' observation only)

BN: 9030, 9308; CF: 9008/38/42; CN: 2111, 9028;

CR: 9033; HH: 9035/40; HO: 9004/10

The following buses are currently fitted with tachographs:

852-4, 1404/5/33, 2829/30, 4013/5/6/9, 4311/5

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to *M Austin, J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, M Jameson, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, A Rook, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, P Snell, D Stebbing, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, A Williams, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, First Essex, PSV Circle*

Sold for further service ...



Pictured in St. Andrew's Square, Edinburgh, former Eastern National Leyland-National 1910 (DAR 132T), is now working for Lothian Buses, as their no.111. *D. Quelleron*

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited**Vehicles in**

From Arriva London South DRN118 11/03:

3398 L118 YVK Ds Dt 9SDL3034/1738 NC 4656 B35F New 3/94

Allocations

11/03: 3398.WE

1/04: 3413.WE.

Vehicles out

LDR7 (N677 GUM): Arriva London North LDR7 11/03

Subsequent histories

2200 (L426 CPB): Beattie, Renfrew 10/03 ex Arriva the Shires 2200

2283 (P383 FEA): Reay, Wigton, Cumbria 10/03 ex Arriva Midlands North 383

2288 (G928 WGS): Court, Fillongley, Warwicks 2/03 ex Bland & Bainbridge, Culham, Oxon

2312 (G932 WGS): Lowe, Cuminstown, Scotland by 7/03 via Ramm, Sudden (dealer)

2325 (L805 OVX): gone from Mitchell, Plean, Falkirk, Scotland (SE) by 8/03

2332 (K712 FNO ex K811 JKH): Douglass, Weymouth 1/01 via Gale, Harlow; McCracken, Ash Vale, Surrey 6/03

3048 (BAZ 6869 ex JIU 577T): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 9/03, for scrap ex Arriva the Shires 3048

5082 (B272 LPH): Blackburn Borough Transport 8/03 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)

5115 (G285 UMJ): Beestons, Hadleigh, Suffolk 9/03 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)

LR61/4/5/8 (B261/4/5/8 LPH): Huntingdon & District 61/4/5/8 8/03 ex Keighley & District) 974-6/68

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited**Vehicles in**

From Arriva London South L32, L172 11/03

5386 C32 CHM Leyland ONLXB/1RH ON2314/ ECW H46/32D, New 3/88

5387 D172 FYM Leyland ONLXB/1RH ON2434/ ECW H46/32D, New 12/88

These are to replace the Tridents 5448/9, destroyed by fire in September (EBN474/5).

As they are of 'highbridge' dimensions, they are reported to be confined to route 29.

Buses says that they will not remain long, as two former Southend Olympians are expected to be transferred back from Colchester to replace them. LOTS report that L234 (D234 FYM) is also due at Southend.

David Harman

Essex Small Operator News

A1 TRAVEL, Harlow This new operator has LDV Convoy S843 GWW.

ABACUS, Crays Hill Acquired from Taw & Torridge, Devon is Van Hool T815 775 HOD (G254 VML). It has replaced A141 EPA a Tiger/Plaxton.

ABBA CARS, Rayleigh Ford Transit N886 XKE is a recent addition.

ABOUT TOWN TRAVEL, Canvey Island Have ceased PSV operations, the vehicles here were Freight Rover Sherpas E270 KPD and E211 KUL.

AH MINIBUSES, Clacton LDV 400 M365 FDX has been withdrawn.

AIRPORT MINIBUSES, Colchester Have acquired P71 BJU a Mazda E2200 minibus from Stanway Travel Services, Layer-de-la-Haye.

A&M COURIERS, Thundersley MCW Metrorider D658 NNE left some while ago for Brown, Builth Wells.

AMAYESING MINIBUSES, Grays Ford Transit N342 OPN has left this fleet.

AOG SERVICE, Leigh-on-Sea DAF 400 29 HLW has been re-registered back to its original L781 RRP.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh DAF/Van Hool APT 42S (new as D814 PNT) was re-registered D645 YNO and sold to Chapman, Penygraig a year ago. The registration APT 42S is now on BJS 327Y a Toyota/Caetano.

Leyland Tiger/Duple JUI 4996 (new as E712 FTY) has gone to Mann, Northfleet.

ARROW TAXIS, Maldon New here is DE53 AJV a Mercedes 112CDI (non PSV).

ASHES EUROTRAVEL, Cressing Mercedes 609D/Whittaker E659 JAR (new as E833 YHL) has gone to Hilton, Newton-le-Willows.

BARKER, Roydon Not previously reported is that Neoplan WIW 4749 H204 AOD),

came from Viceroy, Saffron Walden. Recent additions are Iveco/Robin Hood D505 LWR, Ford Transit F817 VEH and Talbot Freeway G731 UYE.

Vehicles sold to unknown owners are Neoplan HUI 2756 (new as C182 KET), Setra OIB 3517 (new as C358 KGG), Mercedes minibuses RBZ 2625 (B200 AYS) and RJ1 4576 (B333 SDD), Optare CityPacer SJI 9335 (D371 JUM), Ford Transit D350 NSU, Iveco E705 GNH and MCW Metrorider E133 SNY.

BASILDON TRAVEL, Basildon Previously reported S565 OOK a Mercedes 108D is now believed to have been reported in error. Vehicles sold are A236 KTT a Bedford YNT/Duple, which was scrapped and K442 BMO a Scania/Berkhof, which has passed to Safas, Worthing.

BORDACOACH, Shotgate The PSV Circle report that DIB 2183 (A545 HRY) a Volvo/Duple has been sold. This leaves no vehicles recorded with Geoff Stubbington, who is well known for the variety of vehicles operated under a number of names, in the Essex/London area.

BRENTWOOD COACHES Volvo/Plaxton HIL 9272 (TFP 3X) has gone to Bland, Stamford, while Leyland Tiger/Plaxton LUI 7646 (E668 UNE) is now with Holmeswood, Lancashire. Volvo B10M/Plaxton P20 HMC has been acquired from Hallmark, Luton; it is now registered UTR 705.

BUSHEL & SACK HOTEL, Barnston Has an operators licence, with Ford Galaxy W522 OCH, carrying an operators disc.

CAROUSEL, Harlow Here but not previously reported is T940 KUR a Vauxhall Movano.

CATTON, Harlow Ford Transit L420 K VX has been re-registered L3 LYN.

- CEDRIC, Wivenhoe** Leyland
Olympian/ECW ACM 708X has been sold for scrap.
- CF TRANSPORT, Thundersley** Recently reported additions are Renault Masters F471 RUW and G83 BJN, plus Ford Transit/Crystals G236 TKK.
- CHARIOTS, Corringham** Acquired last year was Ford Transit L830 MJN.
- CHAUFFEUR 2000, Hadleigh** Have surrendered their operators licence. The only PSV here was Ford Transit K948 FHK.
- CHILTERN TRAVEL, Stapleford Abbots** Former Lodge Scania/Van Hool 160 EBK has been re-registered to an unknown plate, with 160 EBK having been returned to Lodges.
- CLINTONA, Brentwood** Iveco/Mellor P585 HME has passed to Taaffe, Gillingham, while Iveco minicoach M365 UML is now with Boyle, Longfield. New here is YX03 HTF a LDV Convoy.
- COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood** Further to EBN 475, the previous identity of the new 7947 RU was L712 PHE a Volvo B10M/Van Hool ex Express Travel, Speke.
- CPD, Basildon** Ford Transit W483 MFT is being used here.
- CROWN, Thundersley** Bedford
YMQ/Duple NJT 120W has been withdrawn.
- DENGIE TAXIS, Maylandsea** This new operator has T229 PNA a LDV Convoy.
- EXCALIBUR, St Lawrence** Leyland
Tiger/Plaxton PIL 9784 (A33 MTM) is now with Glowbelle, West Bromwich.
- EXCEL, Stansted Airport** Acquired from Friedel, Enfield is N235 WDO a Mercedes 410D/Autobus. Acquired for use on local stage work are Mercedes Vario/Plaxton S548/54 BNV and Dennis Dart/Plaxton K712 KGU. Acquired for Airport use is Mercedes 311CDI X802 HNV.
- FARGO, Rayne** Recent non PSV additions are Ford Transit EA02 ELJ and LDV
Convoys EU03 VPR/W. Leyland
Atlantean LRB 582W has been acquired from Lincolnshire and is likely to be stripped for spares. A further two ex Blackpool Atlanteans AHG 340V and GHG 345W have arrived, along with former Metrobus all Leyland Olympian F802 NGU and a Metrobus A638 BCN. Also acquired is Dodge/Wadham Stringer E927 JAR, thought to be used as a driver trainer. Leyland
Atlantean/MCW VFT 188T has gone to Brown, Barway.
- FLAGFINDERS, Braintree** Bedford
YMT/Duple MIB 1366 (SGS 507W) has been sold. Bedford YNV/Duple C416 ADH has passed to a non PSV owner in Braintree. Ford Transit/Dormobile C464 BHY has been sold.
- FLORIDA, Halstead** MCW Metrobus F817 YLV has been acquired from Arriva, Merseyside.
- FOURWAYS, Highwood** OTO 547M a Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs has been sold into preservation.
- FUN4UBUS, Tiptree** This new operator has a Leyland Atlantean with rare Willowbrook body, ACZ 7670 (WWM 924W).
- GALE, Harlow** This operator also acts as a dealer and as a result the following have been sold, LBZA 4329 (E125 LAD) a Duple 425, MJI 8660 (B542 BMH) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton, WAZ3829 (WJX 477V) a Leopard/Plaxton and TPC 113X a Tiger/ECW.
- GLEW, Colchester** Acquired from Clintona, Brentwood are Ford Transit H239 ANE and Fiat N157 CMM.
- GODWARD, Shotgate** Acquired from Coachlines, Rossendale is Volvo/Van Hool RJI 8722 (new as D561 MVR).
- GOODWIN, Braintree** Leyland
Fleetline/Roe TET 748S was sold in early 2003, for non-PSV use in Lowestoft.
- GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford** Ford
Transits R451/2/4 HWV have been sold.

HALLS, Elsenham Two Bedford

YMT/Plaxton have been acquired, ALZ 4584 (HBT 147W) and RBZ 2566 (YMJ 545S). Both are being used for spares. Bedford YMT/Duple EWV 953V has been sold. This operator has now ceased, although an application for a new operator 24x7, based at the same site has been received. The closing fleet here were the above ALZ and RBZ, plus TGW 895W a Bedford YMT/Plaxton, PNW 6782W a Bedford YLQ/Duple, A32 TGA a Bova Europa, and DAF's B920 CSU, C66SUT and D784 VMO. B920 is Irizar bodied, the others with Plaxton bodies.

HANN, Harlow Acquired from Production Europe, Frinton some while ago was G63 VVM a Renault Master.

HARDY MILES, Southend Further to EBN 475, the previous identity of Mercedes L507D XIL 3730 is F782 LOD.

JWS TRAVEL, Chadwell St Mary Dennis Dart/Carlyle ANZ 8798/9 (H139 MOB, H167 NON) were sold some while ago, but were not reported here. Acquired from Freeway, Pinxton is Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs OCW 13X.

KNIGHTS, Great Braxted LDV minibus S180 YNO has been acquired from MoD.

KV MINIBUS, Little Oakley Ford Transit K763 EVW has been sold.

LODGE, High Easter MAN/Optare M73 WYG has been acquired from Black Prince, Morley. This vehicle normally operates Villagelink services. Iveco/Robin Hood E971 VUD is now with Tedd, Old Sarum.

Mercedes 811D/Carlyle G836 UDV has been sold to Seymour, Harlow, while sister G833 UDV has also been sold.

MASSEY, Orsett FUM 484Y a Leyland Olympian/ECW has gone to Cass, Moreton, Merseyside.



Bristol VR HJB 459W, recently purchased by **Lodge** of High Easter from Hedingham, is seen in winter sunshine. This, and sister vehicle, BRC 839T were acquired for use on a new contract for Chelmer Valley High School, which recently gained specialist school status. They have been repainted in Lodge's blue and cream, with the school name, plus "Specialist Engineering College" and "Blue Falcons" gymnastic display team logos, between decks.

John Salmon



Two hours in Saffron Walden ~ 2 An exotic, if slightly unwieldy vehicle for the town service: V384 NOA, an air-con fitted Mercedes 0405 integral of **Viceroy of Essex**. Despite narrow streets in the town, and tight corners in the estates, the Merc's skirts appear to be in unblemished condition! *David Harman*



Two hours in Saffron Walden ~ 3 Loading for Gt.Dunmow on the 312 route, is **Four Counties Buses** (Walden Travel Ltd) 10 (V10 WTL), a Mercedes-Benz Vario 0814/Plaxton Beaver 2. Unusually, most of the Four Counties fleet carry names (apparently from "Lord of the Rings", "The Hobbit" etc.). No.10 is "Lady Galadriel". *David Harman*

MASTER TRAVEL, Herongate

Mercedes/Crystals J730 USF has gone to Gilligan, Crewe.

MCFEETERS, Orsett Have surrendered their licence. The only vehicle left here was MAN SR280 RBD 319Y (new as ADV 154Y).

METEOR PARKING, Stansted Here, but not previously reported are LDV Convoy R41/2 BYG and Mercedes 108D W96 AJN. Dennis Dart SLF T550 HNH, has gone to Countyliner, Guildford. Acquired from Docklands Minibuses is Optare Solo YG52 DHL, although after a short stay it passed to Go-West, Kings Lynn.

MINI COACH HIRE, Runwell Ford Transit/Dormobile F45 GNS has been sold.

NCS, Newport LDV 200 N420 HWC has been acquired from the MoD. Similar N639 HVX has been sold.

NELSONS, Wickford A further Scania/East Lancs acquired from Black Prince, Morley is P655 VWX. The former BIL 4710 (J51 GCX) a DAF/Ikarus has been sold, its new registration is not known.

NEW HORIZONS, Wivenhoe A recent addition is VW Caravelle T498 LHK (non PSV).

NEWPORTS, Layer Marney Have surrendered their PSV licence. The only vehicles here were Talbot Express J907 UHP and Nissan Serena L69 LPU.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Acquired are G96 ERP a Mercedes 709D/Dormobile and G118 PGT a Mercedes 811D/Alexander. Further ex Arriva Iveco/Marshall are L723 PHK and M152 RBH. Former Buzz Marshall minibuses R211 VLX has been acquired in a withdrawn condition and is used as a store.

Coaches acquired are Tiger/Berkhof B593 HFE (new as B123 KPF) and Volvo/Plaxton K19 CCL (new as K90 CAP).

Not previously mentioned here is

that this operator has acquired Memories for Tomorrow trading as Stort Valley. These remain separate fleets with their own discs and will therefore be shown as separate operations here.

P&M, Shotgate Acquired from Ace of Clubs, benfleet is DAF 400 J872 LJU, while from Tudor Hotels, Bournemouth comes Volvo B10M/Plaxton K464 PNR.

PDQ, Colchester Toyota/Caetano H12 PDO was reregistered back to M944 JJU and sold to Harrod, Wormegay during mid 2003.

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate Acquired from Star, Ossett is S605 VAY a MAN/Noge. From an unknown source is OY52 YTR a Iveco 391/Beulas.

RAYS TRAVEL, Shotgate Acquired from Golden Boy, Hoddesdon is YO1 7353 (B473 UNB) a Volvo B10M/Van Hool. It replaces Volvo B10M/Plaxton OUH 828X, sold to Gath, Thornhill Lees.

REGAL, Cooksmill Green Mercedes 709D/Dormobile L428 CPC has been sold. A further Dennis Dart/Plaxton J104 DUV has arrived, ex London United. Mercedes 709D/Dormobile G97 ERP is being used for spares.

RODS MINIBUS, Stanford-le-Hope Have ceased PSV operations, the only vehicles here were Freight Rover/Sherpa F892 XOE and LDV Convoy R177 DKO.

RONDA, Rochford Ford Transit C490 TBC is no longer owned.

RS TRAVEL, Braintree Bedford YMT/Plaxton WOO 903W used as a driver trainer, is also used as a PSV when required. Acquired is LDV 400 J278 CAL, while LDV 400 N737 FKX reported as sold, is still here.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham Vehicles sold are Ford R1114/Plaxton XVA 545T, Mercedes 609D/AVB F809 LBM and Mercedes 410D/Autobus L337 HFU.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS Acquired from Essex County Council, is Ford Transit M824 XVW.

STANS, Great Totham Bova VWH 836 (F148 NVE) has been re-registered MUI 7843, similar R927 JYG is now VWH 836.

STANSTED BUS, Stansted Recently formed, this operator has acquired a number of vehicles from various sources there are, Ford Transits E666 FTW, F768 KVV and G621 UKR, Iveco E70 HVX, Mercedes 811D/PIC G205 YDL and LDV's M474 OVM and T207 LGB.

STEPHENSON, Rochford Former Lothian Olympian SIL 1075 (OFS 693Y) was acquired last year, it has been re-registered to TSO 29X, this plate having come from an older Olympian/ECW, which has been sold. The new registration for the former TSO 29X is not known. Volvo/Plaxton A14 SOE (G345 FFX) went to sister company Excel, Stansted in July 2003. Leyland Tiger/Duple B100 XTW has gone to First Midland Red.

Leyland Olympian C101 OTW is now registered XSU 913.

Other Olympian/ECW acquired recently are DBV 136Y ex Hall, Kennoway and A234 GHN, A888/90 PKR from Western Greyhound, Newquay.

STERLING EUROPEAN This fairly new operator, is reported to have gone into liquidation over Christmas. Before then, Volvo/Plaxton N23 RTN was sold to Stephenson, Rochford, as a dealer vehicle.

STORT VALLEY, Great Dunmow Acquired from Olympian, Harlow is NIL 2993 (E444 MMM) a Van Hool T825 integral, while from Dunn Line, Nottingham comes AHZ 7344 (K777 GSM) a Scania K93/Plaxton, and from Courtney, Bracknell is K20 CCL (K500 CAP) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton, while N179 OUT an Iveco/Indcar has arrived from Ash, Woodburn Moore. Dennis Javelin/Plaxton LRU 822 (N959 DMJ) is

now unlicensed. Setra ECZ 9142 (R42 EDW) has gone to Kings Ferry, Gillingham. Olympian/ECW A592 NWX and Scania/Alexander H234/43 LOM are now with Locallink, Bishops Stortford.

SUPREME, Colchester To correct previously published information, Leyland National 2 C112 OSJ, is in fact registered C112 GSJ. A further ex London United Metrobus is C439 BUV.

N11 RED a Neoplan, reported as passing to APT, Rayleigh some months ago, was an incorrect report and this vehicle remained with Supreme. It has now passed to an operator in the Watford area.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Scania K113/Irizar N820 DKU has passed to Le-Blond, Hemel Hempstead.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Grays Acquired from TGM, Twickenham is Mercedes 811D/Optare F46 CWY, while from Metroline are Dennis Dart/N Counties L110/2 HHV. MCW Metrobus ORJ 94W has gone to PVS, Carlton (for scrap).

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Yet another new vehicle to report is YN53 CHY a Scania K114/Irizar.

VALLEY ASSOCIATES, Basildon Volvo B10M/Van Hool G985 WKK has arrived from Searles, Hextable. Also acquired is H385 OHK a Mercedes 709D/Reeve Burgess, K126 RHD a further 709D and S565 DDK a Mercedes 108D. NFS 362T a Volvo B58/Duple is also here, but not thought to have been used.

WARD, Arlesford The two former Southdown Bristol VR's JWV 264/5W are reported as being sold.

WESTS, Woodford Green Unusual TAZ coach A13 BUS was reregistered to its original F788 TBC and has gone to Goodwin, Wembley. The first new coach for some years is Dennis Javelin/Plaxton EU03 DKD.

Ian Ransom

Manchester to ... Essex

The old-established bus operator, Maynes of Manchester has over the years disposed of buses that have later entered service with Essex operators.

First to appear in 1979 were two AEC Regent V Park Royal H73R deckers (6972/4 ND) which were operated by Castlepoint Bus Company at Benfleet on school work. After withdrawal (6972 ND), at least, was rebuilt with open staircase and early London Transport RT class front end. This appeared on sightseeing tours around London, (6972 ND) is now preserved.

In 1996 two Bristol VR/ECW 70 coach seated deckers (MRJ 8/9W), new in 1980, were purchased by Hedingham and District L251 L252 arrived with H & D via City of Oxford Motor Services and, at the time of writing, are still in service.

In 1998, Castlepoint Bus Company added an ex-Maynes London Transport DMS (KUC 969P), formerly DMS1969, a Leyland Fleetline FE30AGR / MCW H44/24D, to their existing DMS fleet; it only survived until May 1999.

Also in July 1999, three East Lancs bodied Dennis Dominators were added to the Arriva Southend fleet. Originally operated by Maynes, they saw service with North Western R.C.C. before going to Guildford and West Surrey. 5286 5287 5288 (K36 XNE. K37 XNE. K38 YVM) have H45/31F bodies and were new in March 1993.

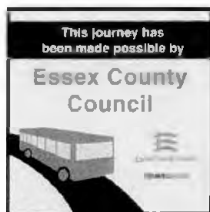
The final vehicle presently operating in Essex is with Thorn of Rayleigh: BVR 100T, a Leyland FE30AGR/Northern Counties H75F, new 1975, and used on school work. This came from Coopers of Warrington (no.36), a Maynes associated company.

Peter Snell



"A view with a difference": Arriva Southend 5716 (N706 TPK), Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties with rear-end advertisement for Little Changes of Leigh. Seen in Southend Central Bus Station. *Peter Snell*

Essex by Bus



John Rugg's Sunday Rover itinerary – 7 December 2003
(weather sunny but cold). Cost £3 (senior citizen ticket), to
mark the final (First) outing of the year

<i>Depart / Arrive</i>	<i>Service</i>	<i>Vehicle</i>	<i>Passengers</i>
Billericay (Rail Stn) 08.57	First 140	712 (R712DJN)	
Chelmsford (Bus Stn) 09.25		Dennis DartSLF/Plaxton	10
Chelmsford (Bus Stn) 09.30	First 352	779 (SN03WLM)	
Braintree (Bus Park) 10.10		Transbus Dart/Pointer	8
Braintree (Bus Park) 10.15	First 70	982 (N982EHJ)	
Colchester (Bus Stn) 11.05		Dennis Dart/Plaxton	23
Colchester (Bus Stn) 11.10	First 102	4310 (L310PWR)	
Harwich (Bus Stn) 12.40		Volvo Olympian/ Northern Counties (ex Yorkshire Rider)	25
Harwich (Bus Stn) 12.55	First Village Link 32	817 (L817OPU)	
Clacton (Jackson Road) 13.50		Dennis Dart/Plaxton	7
LUNCH BREAK			
Clacton (Jackson Road) 15.10	First 74	924 (M924TEV)	
5mins late		Dennis Dart/Plaxton	
Colchester (Bus Stn) 15.57		- former Basildon Super8 vehicle	40
10mins late			
Colchester (Bus Stn) 16.10	First 71C	775 (SN03WLD)	
Chelmsford (Bus Stn) 17.23		Transbus Dart/Pointer	25
Chelmsford (Bus Stn) 17.35	First 351	2904 (M904VWW)	
Shenfield (Green Dragon) 18.06		Dennis Dart/Plaxton (ex First Yorkshire)	4
		TOTAL	142
		Average 18 per journey	
		Travel costs approx 37.5p per hour	
Shenfield (Rail Stn) 18.20	First rail replacement	4025 (A147UDM)	
Billericay (Rail Stn) 18.35		Leyland Olympian/ECW (ex Arriva North West)	Quite a lot!

Book Review



Ian Allan's *Glory Days* series has mostly tackled predictable fleets - London, Southdown, Midland Red, but the subject of this latest volume, by Group member, Richard Delahoy, is far more interesting - Eastern National. What's inside the Tilling cream and green covers?

Answer: a concise history of EN from 1930 until 1968, with prologue covering the National (Omnibus & Transport) days, and epilogue covering the National (Bus Company) and First days. Then, there are some 75 black-and-white, and 50 colour photographs, most previously unpublished, plus ephemera - timetables, badges, etc. You can see the difficulties Richard faced - deciding what to leave out, rather than what to put in!

The cut-off date means NBC livery and 'double-N's are conspicuous by their absence and there is no trace of Barbie either. Tilling green/cream predominates, and there are other delights - two rare colour shots of City vehicles, Tillings Transport coaches in pearl grey and maroon, plus a VR in Alexander blue.

The pictorial gems? Well, very difficult to choose, but in the monochrome section, I liked the Dennis Lancet paired with the sad-looking prototype Beadle-Commer in Chelmsford bus station, the future EN 001: Campbell's Albion CX13, and the line-up of veterans (left) at CF.

Equally difficult was picking favourites from the colour shots, but the delightful rear view of open-toppers at Jaywick, and the superb ex-Queens Park Coaches PS1/Duple get my vote.

So, *Glory Days - Eastern National* can be unreservedly recommended, and if, for some inexplicable reason, it wasn't in your Christmas stocking, don't delay, buy it today!

David Harman

► **Glory Days - Eastern National** by Richard Delahoy. Published by Ian Allan Publishing; ISBN 0-7110-2952-0.

Available at the special price of £15 (normally £16.99), post-free from Richard at:

272 Shoebury Road,

Southend-on-Sea, SS1 3TT.

Please make cheques payable to "Signal Training", and indicate if you would like your copy autographed.

40 ... 30 ... 20 ... 10 Years Ago

40 YEARS AGO

Eastern National Enthusiasts Group News Sheet No.1 - January 1964

One double-sided A4 roneoed sheet recorded that the Management Committee (A G Osborne, B M Barrett and T L Murphy) welcomed all members to the Group.

A bevy of Bristol FLF / ECW's, 1657-1669 was new that month, including the first with the letter suffix registrations: 1665-9 (AVX 956-60B). Also new were 579/80 (AVX 962/3B) Bristol RELH/ECW coaches. Secondhand additions to the coaching fleet came from Tillings Transport - a Bristol LL6G "Queen Mary", two LS's and four

MW's, and there were three MW's transferred from United Counties.

The fleet was spread over 15 main depots, one outstation (Harlow), Central Works at Chelmsford, Silver End (SE) - storage, Prittlewell (PL) - coaches, plus Pier Hill Coach Station at Southend. How things have changed !

30 YEARS AGO

Eastern National Enthusiasts Group News Sheet No.118 - January 1974

Progress ! The News Sheet had doubled in size to *two* A4 pages.

Leyland-Nationals were flooding in, this month's contingent being 1725-1731 (NEV 682-8M). On the debit side, two elderly Lodekkas had passed to Eastern Counties - 2460/84 (322 GPU, 297 JHK).

In the reverse direction, six ex-Scottish Bus Group Bristol VRTs had arrived after a brief sojourn with Eastern Counties - 3042-4 (LFS 287, 292, 295F) and 3045-7 (NAG 583, 586G, OCS 576H).

Suttons Coaches of Clacton had pulled out of the East Coast Express pool at the end of 1973, leaving EN and Grey-Green to maintain services.

Meanwhile, Colchester Corporation had just received 19-23 (OWC 719-23M) Leyland-engined RE/ECW's, and Southend Corporation had a motley collection of vehicles on hire to cover for vehicle shortages and increased private hires (which required Fleetlines) arising from ASLEF (remember them?) rail strikes. These included two ex-Ribble PD3/Burlinghams, painted in SCT colours, plus two PD2A's and a Leopard from Thamesdown, and three AEC Swifts from Gt.Yarmouth.

20 YEARS AGO

Eastern National Enthusiasts Group News Sheet No.238 - January 1984

The News Sheet now comprised four double-sided A4 sheets.

No new or withdrawn vehicles, but an



EASTERN NATIONAL

Express Coach Service

X10

SOUTHEND

- Westcliff
- Leigh
- Hadleigh
- South Benfleet
- Pitsea
- Vange

BASILDON

- Gidea Park
- Romford
- Newbury Park
- Snaresbrook
- Leyton
- Dalston
- Islington

LONDON



1964

from 26th MARCH until further notice.

FOR TIMES & FARES, see separate leaflet

which also gives details of service X1,

operating from 15th MAY to 4th OCT.

ALL TICKETS ISSUED ON THE COACHES

From the April 1964 Basildon area timetable: an advertisement for the X10 service, with one of the FLF coaches prominent.



XEU 860T, a 1979 Leyland-National 'B' type, no.712 in the Brewers fleet, but formerly with Badgerline. Seen, about to depart for Chelmsford from Southend Central Bus Station on a chilly December 1993 day. *David Harman*

order had been placed for four MCW Metroliner coaches, to be numbered 1600-1603.

Service developments included a revised network of 23 "Highwayman" express services for the summer season. New route 795, Southend - Brighton, to be operated jointly by EN, Southend Transport, London Country and Southdown.

Colchester had acquired three former Tyne & Wear Atlantean/Alexanders. Southend had ordered six Leyland Tiger 218 coaches, and acquired a mixed bag of secondhand Leopards for the X1. Hired coaches, also for the X1, included examples from Leicester, Burnley & Pendle, Derby and Lancaster.

10 YEARS AGO

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Essex Bus News No.357 - January 1994

EBN, now in the current A5 booklet form, was reporting that the Badgerline Group, (owners of Eastern National and

Thamesway), had just been successfully floated on the Stock Exchange.

In the run-up to Xmas 2003, Thamesway had four elderly Nationals on hire from fellow Badgerline Group company, Brewers.

656 (L656 MEV) a Mercedes/Plaxton Beaver and 801-2 (L801-2 MEV) Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointers had arrived for Eastern National.

Four of Colchester Borough Transport's Olympians, 45, 47-9 were transferred to other parts of what was then British Bus. 47 and 48 went to Southend Transport, and were painted in a new blue and yellow livery for the "London Coachlink" (the X1). Southenders had awoken on 1 January to a Routemaster-less bus service - all remaining RMs had last run on the previous day.

County Bus & Coach (then in the final months of ownership by Lynton Travel Group) was acquiring Ivecos from Blaze field fleets, but also had new ones, plus a Dart/Wright Handybus on order.

David Harman

From the archives ...



Chris Stewart reports (EBN476) that First will be vacating the former Hicks Bros. depot at Braintree in Autumn 2004. Here are two atmospheric views (courtesy of the Omnibus Society) showing part of the frontage in happier times. "Happier" is a relative term; the white edged mudguards and masked headlights suggest that this must be wartime.

No.63, departing on the Chelmsford route, was new as an all-Leyland TD1, delivered to Swindon Corporation in 1931. It passed to Hicks in 1936. Rebodyed by Park Royal in 1939, it lasted until 1952. The rather distinctive radiator shell with fretwork "Hicks" logo was a refinement applied to quite a number of the fleet. No.68, pulling out for "Stortford", was also an all-Leyland TD1, new to Ribble in 1930. It joined the Hicks fleet in 1939 and survived with ENOC (as no.1103) until 1956. Elliott's the hairdressers, has long gone, the shop was later the EN enquiry office, and more recently, a kebaberie.

David Harman