

# ESSEX BUS NEWS

The Monthly Magazine Of The Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

April 2001

Issue 444

Your Ticket For All The Latest Bus  
News In Essex Every Month



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# Essex Bus News

We welcome your comments, suggestions and contributions. Please enclose an s.a.e. If you would like a reply. Our contact addresses are listed on the front cover.

## **Membership and Subscription Information**

A one-year membership includes 12 consecutive issues of Essex Bus News Magazine and runs from either January or July. Current rates are £13.50 First class £12.50 Second class postage. Membership applications and any enquiries about your membership should be addressed to Derek Stebbing.

## **Timetable Subscription Service**

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and monthly updates plus copies of Thurrock councils timetable book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information on joining the service.

## **Photo Sales**

A very large selection of photos is available for you to purchase and we have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell if you have a particular interest.

## **Members Adverts and Appeals**

As a free service we will publish members for sales, wants and appeals for information. Publication is subject to space and restricted to bus and transport related items. Please send your advert to the Managing Editor.

Members responding to adverts should deal direct with the advertiser, as the group is not involved with any of them.

## **Your Reports and Observations**

We aim to provide comprehensive coverage of bus services in Essex and members news reports and observations are very welcome. You can send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor or e-mail them to [essexbusnews@hotmail.com](mailto:essexbusnews@hotmail.com)

We are also interested in publishing original articles and photos concerning Essex operators, routes and vehicles past and present.

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the magazine editor or Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

## **Contributions and Closing Dates**

Thank you to the following for their help this issue – Essex County Council , Essex Buses ,Arriva Southend , Arriva Colchester, Arriva Shires & Essex , Hedingham Omnibus, LOTS, PSV Circle, Colin Sigston ,John Rugg, Richard Delahoy , Dave Arnold , Steven R, Jon Cush, Mark Bullock , Geof Toon , Grahame Bessey, Ross Whitley, John Salmon, Kevin Smith

**Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to Sub-editors  
by 7th May and to the Managing editor by 11th May  
The May magazine is due for posting on Tuesday 22nd May**

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# Welcome Aboard ! What's Inside This Month

| News Pages                |         | Features                    |         |
|---------------------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| Essex Buses In The News   | Page 5  | Arriva Southend In Camera   | Page 14 |
| First Eastern National    | Page 6  | EN Into London Part 3       | Page 24 |
| First Thamesway           | Page 9  | Blue Triangle Day Out       | Page 26 |
| Arriva Southend           | Page 11 | Eastern National Disposals  | Page 22 |
| Arriva East Herts & Essex | Page 16 | Atlanteans In Essex         | Page 27 |
| Arriva Colchester         | Page 12 | EN Acquired Deckers 1930-50 | Page 28 |
| Hedingham omnibuses       | Page 13 |                             |         |
| Other Operators           | Page 19 |                             |         |

## FAREWELL TO THE LEYLAND NATIONAL

**It does finally appear, that the final chapter for the Leyland National in passenger service with Eastern National has been written.**

Leyland National 1850 continued in service at Colchester, being noted in the depot on 9th March and was still there by 14th March.

The first Leyland National 1700 (WNO 549L) arrived in January 1973, while the first to be withdrawn was 1706 (WNO 555L) following accident damage sustained while operating service 351, in August of the same year.

Some 256 have been operated, 1500-03 (PJT 255-8R) being the only short examples. They were acquired from Wilts and Dorset in October 1986 for use on services from Bishops Cleeve. Also acquired was a batch of eleven from Alder Valley during 1984 and one from Plymouth City Transport in 1982. The other 240 were all new to Eastern National and included 15 Leyland National 2's. The last of these to arrive being 1939 (STW 20W) in October 1980.

Three were also adapted to carry wheelchairs these being the ex Plymouth example 2200 (UCO 46L), one of the Alder valley batch 2201 (KCG 618L) and a home example 2202 (WNO 559L). These were also used in normal passenger service from time to time.

The last of the series 1 Leyland Nationals, 1924 (JHJ 150V) remains in use as a driver-training vehicle.

So as 28 years of National service draws to a close let's hope that someone can rescue at least one from the breakers torch.

# **Dates For Your Diary**

## **Group Meeting**

**Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May** is the date of our next meeting at the Freight house in Rochford at 8PM. This month's attraction is a slide show "The first Six Month's Of Deregulation "

Join us as Richard Delahoy remembers the Buses and the services of the time as operators competed across Essex and several new names into the arena.

## **Make a Date for Leicester**

**We're pleased to bring you our first coach tour of the year and hope you can join us on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June for a packed day out in and around Leicester.**

On the agenda is a trip to much admired independent Whippet Bus and coach and Kinch in Loughborough . Both operators have an interesting selection of vehicles and there'll be plenty of photo opportunities.

Other highlights include an extended stop In Leicester City Centre with it's array of operators and the 'rainbow' colour schemes of First Leicester !

There's something to interest everyone and demand for tickets for this exciting day out is bound to be high .

Full details and pick up points are on a separate leaflet which you should've received with this months magazine .

**At just £16.50 per person it's outstanding value – Book today for a great day out !!**

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## **Members Free Adverts**

### **For Sale**

Through the Transport Ticket Society, a number of former Moore's Bros insert Setright ticket machines are available for sale, together with a few other similar machines thought to have been used briefly on the X10. All in good condition, and for sale in aid of a worthy cause at £37.50 each plus P&P. Serious enquiries only please to David Harman on 01892 511544 or David.Harman@btinternet.com.

### **Wanted**

Colour Prints of former Bournemouth Corporation Buses with new owners Dealers,NPSV's etc. Arthur Day 10,Hartley House Toland Sq, London SW15 5PD

# Buses In The News

The Latest from the Bus World

## Bus Quality Indicators

**The third issue of the *Bus Quality Indicators* Bulletin was published by the DETR this month and covers the period from October to December 2000.**

The main findings from the bus passenger satisfaction survey are:

- The average satisfaction rating for the bus journey just completed was 78 per cent in England, (81 per cent in England outside London and 73 per cent in London).
- The highest satisfaction rating in both London (average satisfaction rating 82 per cent) and outside London (88 per cent) was for on-bus safety and security and behaviour of the bus crew. For England as a whole these two aspects of the bus journey had an average satisfaction rating of 86 per cent.
- Satisfaction with information provided at the bus stop averaged 59 per cent in England (54 per cent outside London compared with 71 per cent in London).
- Satisfaction with bus service reliability averaged 64 per cent in London, 62 per cent outside London and 63 per cent for England as a whole.

The average age of the bus fleet was 8.5 years at the end of December 2000, with a target of 8 years by the middle of this year .

The bus service reliability survey (lost service kilometres) found that 2 per cent of scheduled local bus mileage in England was lost owing to factors which are deemed to be within an operator's control ,against a target of 0.5% 45 per cent of the lost mileage was because of staffing problems. Results for London contrasted with those outside London. In London, over 5 per cent of scheduled mileage was lost compared with 1.3 per cent outside London.

The survey was inaugurated at the Bus Summit held in November 1999 as an initiative to improve the quality of bus services. New national targets were agreed with the bus industry for reliability and investment with data being published every three months .

**Front Cover Photo – 4750 WY Volvo B10M /Plaxton Paramount Numbered 35 in the First Thamesway fleet and based at Basildon this is the reserve vehicle for Green Line services but often works on other routes . Chris Stewarts picture shows it on Service 77 Hutton Circular on 9<sup>th</sup> March .**

# First Eastern National

## Acquired Vehicles

|      |          |                          |           |      |
|------|----------|--------------------------|-----------|------|
| 621  | L671 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 622  | L673 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 623  | L675 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 624  | L676 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 625  | L678 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 626  | L679 RMD | Volvo B6                 | Alexander | B31F |
| 5010 | MBN 402T | Leyland Lynx LX112L10ZR1 |           | B47F |

**5010** was soon re-registered to **G434 FVX** and has been named 'Big Bird'.  
This vehicle came from Isle of Man Transport; it is in Phoenix livery and was acquired in early March. Chassis/body number is LX1276

**5012** is registered **F240 CNY** not as listed last month

## Allocations

By 25.2.01 **5005 CF-BN**

By 31.3.01 **346 Reserve – CN; 360 D/L (D) – Paint Spare; 432 CF-AB; 916 AB-Reserve;**  
**1850 Reserve – D/L (D); 2604 AB-D/L (D); 3228 CR-D/L (D);**  
**5010 Acqd – CF**

Dennis Dart 916 was working from Colchester in early April.

## Traffic Requirements

The PVR (Peak Vehicle Requirement) at Chelmsford is now 80 and Clacton 22 whilst First Airport Buses requirement is revised to 16 Buses.

This updates the Traffic Requirement tables published in February's Essex Bus News

## This Month's First Eastern National News

### **National Service**

The major story this month concerns the de licensing of the last Leyland National in passenger service with First Eastern National. As mentioned on page 3 of this month's Essex Bus News this sad event brings to a close over 28 years of sterling service. Expect to read more about National in the months ahead.

## **Olympian Developments**

Volvo Olympian 4308 has returned to service at Colchester after some time off the road, as a result of severe accident damage. It is believed to have gone to Wigan for repairs.

However, sister 4315 sustained upper deck damage, when it collided with the canopy at Ipswich Station, while on rail replacement work in Ipswich on 18th March and was seen being towed away from Ipswich Rail Station.

### **Other News**

Raised pavements have started to appear at some stops in Colchester in Avon Way. This may be connected with the conversion of services 64/A to low floor.

Services along Lexden Road In Colchester were diverted on 15th March via Lexden Rd, West Lodge Rd, Queens Rd, Beverley Road, Creffield Road, Oxford Road, Lexden Rd, This was because of a dangerous tree between Beverley Rd and Oxford Road junctions with Lexden Rd. The diversion was quite unusual owing to the sharp left then sharp right required to negotiate the staggered Queens/Beverley/Creffield junction. Parking restrictions were not been imposed on roads and cars have difficulty in passing in some places.

### **Unusual Workings**

- 14.3.01.** DT 4028 on service 64A (normally Colchester Dart)
- 19.3.01.** CF 1517 on service 352 (it is route branded for 31/X)
- 22.3.01.** CR 1509 on service 64 (normally Dart)
- 31.3.01.** AB 2603 on Village Link 7 (normally Vario)

DT 4028 had failed the previous day in Colchester.

Rail replacement work between Shenfield, Chelmsford, Witham and Colchester plus the Braintree branch has kept the double deck fleet busy on Sundays. Vehicles in Phoenix livery frequently help out on this.

Further to EBN 442, Bristol VR 3076 did indeed fail in Ipswich on the last day of service 93 and was replaced by Eastern Counties Volvo B6 - L101 WYS.

### **Initial Disposals**

- 343 (H353 LJN)** First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 01/01
- 2613 (J613 UTW)** First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 01/01.  
(Numbered 840)
- 2614 (J614 UTW)** First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 02/01
- 2615 (J615 UTW)** First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 02/01
- 2616 (J616 UTW)** First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 02/01

### **Publicity**

New Timetable leaflets have been issued for the following services: -

Route 33 dated 2.4.01; 48 dated 8.1.01; 54/56 dated 2.4.01; 76/A dated 8.1.01; 102/3/4 dated 8.1.01 and 350/1 dated 2.4.01.

## Service Changes

- 7/8A** Sunday services that are operated under contract to Essex County Council passed to Heddingham from 1.4.01.
- 10/11** As services 7/8A
- 17/18** As services 7/8A
- 31A** Operation returned to EN from Arriva Southend under contract to ECC from 2.4.01.
- 33** Minor timetable revisions from 2.4.01.
- 42** Revised timetable introduced from 2.4.01.
- 46** Passed to Imperial Bus Company, Rainham with a revised timetable from 2.4.01.
- 47** Revised timetable introduced from 2.4.01.
- 54/56** Revised timetable and extended to Beaulieu Park from 2.4.01.
- 51** Additional journey on Sundays at 0840 from Chignall Estate from 1.4.01.
- 108** Sunday service withdrawn and replaced by Village Link service 3, between Harwich and Clacton from 1.4.01.
- 301** Operation passed to London Transit under contract to ECC from 2.4.01. with minor timetable revisions
- 350/1** Minor revisions to morning peak services from 2.4.01.
- 851-4** Operation of Harlow town services on Sunday passed to Clintona with effect from 1.4.01.

To clarify the report in last month's issue, Service 9 operates on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays only, under contract to Essex County Council for a three month trial period .It runs between Frinton and Walton along Rainham Way and Esplanade.

Revised Fares were introduced on 8<sup>th</sup> April.

## **ESSEX BUS NEWS BACK ISSUES**

*Just joined and want to complete your collection?*

Here's your chance to get hold of our Back issues that chronicle the fascinating changes to the Essex Bus scene.

1994 to 2000 Complete Years (12 Issues)

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Complete Years are £3.50 Each year and Part Years (At least 6 issues )  
£2.50 . Prices Inc. p&p.

Please Make Cheques/Po's Payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group and Write to Derek Stebbing  
18 Lynmouth Ave Chelmsford CM2 0TP

# First Thamesway

## FLEET CHANGES

### Disposals

January 2001: **311/345/348/353/371** all to First Eastern Counties.

**310** was seen heading North on the A12 on 4.4.01, minus destination blinds, heading for Clacton disposal yard.

**803** and **851** are both heavily cannibalised but currently remain at BN.

### Allocation Changes

For the period ending 31 March 2001

**313** Disposal - Paint Spare (at HH); **810** BN-RD; **2657** RD-BN

**Vehicle Requirements** - Unchanged

## This Month's News

### New Barbie and Facelift for Lynx's

705 was noted in service repainted into First Group corporate colours ("Barbie II" livery) on 5.4.01, without fleetnames or shaded magenta vinyls. A repaint programme is understood to be imminent, starting with the remainder of the low-floor Darts at HH. 12 Leyland Lynx (possibly including some from FEN) are also expected to be sent away for complete refurbishment, although it is not known where this will be carried out. Presumably these will re-appear in First Group corporate livery.

### Phoenix Olympians

Phoenix Olympian 5005 carries legal lettering for "Essex Buses Ltd t/a Thamesway", and it is presumed that 5001 does likewise. A former First PMT Olympian, thought to be EEH908Y, has been operating from HH on loan to Phoenix Student Travel to cover for structural repairs to one of the PST fleet.

### Romford goes Solo

Romford depot, having secured the new 193 contract, is understood to be fully staffed after a lengthy period of shortages. Enhanced pay rates have been agreed with effect from 1 April and on the same day Essex CC contracts for the 200/201 and 500 (see EBN442/3) passed to Imperial, Rainham. The morning/evening 301 contract has also presumably transferred to a new operator. An Optare Solo is understood to have been tested successfully on the 193, and a batch of them is expected to be delivered in normal "Barbie" livery (rather than the London red version).

## **First Thamesway News Continued**

### **Hospital Trials**

Trials have also taken place for the possible alteration of service 751/2 (Basildon/Shenfield-Romford) to serve both Harold Wood and Oldchurch Hospitals; one of the many links called for by Brentwood area residents. Introduction of this, together with the provision of raised kerbs along the route, still depends upon suitable funding. Whilst on the topic of the 752, this was originally thought to be intended for Monday-Friday operation only, but has in fact run on Saturdays since introduction; Essex CC contract service 80 (operated by Clintonia) continues, however, over the same route on Saturdays.

### **Village link Petition**

Further to my comment in EBN443, prospective Essex CC councillor Derek Hardy has in fact started a petition calling on the County Council to reinstate the recently-withdrawn Village Link routes and particularly those serving Doddington and Kelvedon Hatch.

### **Bus Bosses Grilled by Passengers**

First Thamesway have attended a number of recent meetings where considerable discontent has been aired. A public meeting in Brentwood on 23 March was attended by 160 people (and filmed by Carlton TV for use in a future programme about transport problems). Divisional Manager Chris McCormick took away with him a number of requests and suggestions particularly about the 77 and 751. He also indicated that the present service 77A to Woodman Road is to be replaced by a variation on First Eastern National's service 73, although when this is planned for is unknown. In Billericay, the main topic was the unreliability of route 101, and the newly-formed Southend Bus Users Group have criticised the company over the erratic use of low-floor vehicles on the 21/22 and the differential fares situation on the 721.

### **Real Time Clipper**

Real time information displays are starting to appear with the first at the bus stop outside Hadleigh Garage showing the next Canvey Clipper. .

## **Service Changes**

The following service revisions have been notified:

26.2.01      Alterations to route/timetable on Brentwood County High School service **860**  
**8.4.01**      Revised Sunday timetables on **2, 3/3A, 11A, 20, 21, 22, 25E, 27, 64 and 65**.  
These Southend changes give extra running time during Sunday shopping hours and a half-hourly frequency is introduced on Route 20 from Southend to Hullbridge and on Route 22 From Canvey to Basildon .

Increased fares were introduced from 8.4.01.

## **Publicity**

8.04.01 Bus Times for Sunday services in and around Southend

# Arriva Southend

## Transfers Out March 2001

|                |                    |           |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------|
| 2224 (L424CPB) | Mercedes/Dormobile | to Grays  |
| 2264 (J4SLT)   | Mercedes/Plaxton   | to Grays  |
| 3352 (J402XVX) | Dennis Dart/Wright | to Harlow |
| 3353 (J403XVX) | Dennis Dart/Wright | to Harlow |
| 3354 (J404XVX) | Dennis Dart/Wright | to Grays  |
| 5383 (B183BLG) | Leyland Olympian   | to Grays  |
| 5384 (B184BLG) | Leyland Olympian   | to Grays  |
| 5385 (B185BLG) | Leyland Olympian   | to Grays  |

Olympians **5402** (H262GEV) and **5403** (H263GEV) are now used on the **383** route in the Thurrock area in place of mini-buses, and have had extra destinations added to their blinds.

Four Group members were on the first bus to Wallasea Island on service 17 when it was extended to Canewdon and Wallasea on 19th March, the vehicle on the service was 2129 (N909ETM). The usual vehicles on the service now are 2086-2088 (L326-328AUT) which having new blinds have had Wallasea included. A photo of the first bus to Wallasea is featured in our Arriva Southend Photo selection on Pages 14 & 15.

## Services

The Essex County Council timetables show that services 19/19a run via Mountdale Gardens

This is incorrect as they follow the old 62/62a routes via Blenheim Chase and Elmsleigh Drive.

## Albion Lives On

From the 'British Buses Abroad in North America' internet news group has come more news about the ex Southend Albion/Leyland Lowlander 326 (7090HJ).

Withdrawn by Southend in 9/76, 326 went Canada in 1978, and was used as transport for the British Team at the Commonwealth Games in Edmonton Alberta, that year. At the time it was painted in an A.O.A for Robinsons Barley Water. It was sold locally after the Games and has been at Shuswap Lake, British Columbia since at least 1983. From photographs it was a lot of has been put into keeping this vehicle in good shape.

If you are going to Shuswap Lake for your holidays this year send the Group a photo!

## Shoebury Flooding

Due to flooding on Friday 23rd March, North Shoebury Corner roundabout was closed, resulting in routes 4/5 being diverted via Delaware Rd/Asda. There was significant congestion affecting these routes plus the 1 and 7/8 group.

## Subsequent Disposals

Fleetline 242 MRJ242W

Trustline Ensign (dir) Stephensons (dir) Llynfi, Maesteg.

Fleetline 238 MRJ238W

Stephensons (operational fleet) Llynfi Maesteg

Both 3/2001

Also one of the Q reg Fleetlines with Trustline has been exported to Austria by Ensign.

# Arriva Colchester

## Into the Fleet March 2001

|      |          |                                          |
|------|----------|------------------------------------------|
| 4335 | J56 GCX  | DAF SB220LC/Ikarus Citybus – From Harlow |
| 4336 | J926 CYL | DAF SB220LC/Ikarus Citybus - From Harlow |
| 4337 | J927 CYL | DAF SB220LC/Ikarus Citybus - From Harlow |
| 4339 | K124 TCP | DAF SB220LC /Ikarus Citybus -From Harlow |

## Out of the Fleet March 2001

|      |                     |                   |              |
|------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------|
| 3305 | JIL 2195 (JOX 477P) | National Greenway | To Aylesbury |
| 3312 | NIW 6512 (FCA 6X)   | National Greenway | To Aylesbury |

## Rail Replacement

**08/04/01** – Wickford – Southend 18 Drivers from Colchester, 1 Southend and 1 Stephenson's driver using vehicles from the 2392-5419 (excluding 5396) batch.

**Easter Sunday evening** approx 2130 until Easter Monday morning approx 1100 covering the Shenfield – Chelmsford replacement GER contract.

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## London Style Panel Timetables

Transport for London have now issuing London style Panel Timetables for Cross – Boundary routes operated under the 3/2 London Bus Agreement .

The most recent issues for Essex Cross- Boundary Routes are listed below.

**First Thamesway 151** 08.05.00  
**First Thamesway 301/Arriva East Herts & Essex 549** 27.03.00  
**Arriva East Herts & Essex 324** 11.03.01  
**Arriva East Herts & Essex 348** 06.11.00 & 11.03.01  
**First Eastern National 350/351** 08.01.01 & 02.04.01  
**Arriva East Herts & Essex 370 /373** 10.03.01  
**Arriva East Herts & Essex 500/502** 28.05.00 & 01.04.01  
**Arriva East Herts & Essex 505** 23.09.00  
**Blue Triangle 565** 29.07.00  
**First Thamesway 751/752** 08.01.01

# Hedingham Omnibuses

## Into The Fleet

**L318 G326 NUM Leyland Lynx LX 1632 LX2R11C15Z4S B49F**

This bus was new to Caldaire Holdings in 04/90 and was acquired from Arriva Yorkshire where it was numbered 326 .

**L319 N326 HUA Volvo B6 05880 Alexander Dash 9501/9 B40F**

New to Yorkshire Travel, Dewsbury in 11/95

## Out of the Fleet

L256 SUB791W Bristol VR /ECW Ex Viscount Bus  
Broken up for spares and towed for scrap in April.

## Repaints

Vehicles that have recently been treated to a fresh coat of paint include L161, L209, L242, L316 AND L317

## SERVICE REVISIONS

- 7/8A** (Clacton – Walton) Sunday service under contract to ECC from 01.04.01
- 7** (Stambourne – Halstead) Withdrawn after operation on 13.2.01.
- 10/11** (Clacton – Jaywick) Sunday service under contract to ECC from 01.04.01
- 14** (Saffron Walden Town Service) Withdrawn with effect from 1.3.01 and replaced by additional journeys on Viceroy service 34.
- 16** Additional journeys at 1145 from Wethersfield and 1315 from Chelmsford with effect from 2.4.01.
- 17/18** (Clacton – Point Clear) Sunday service under contract to ECC from 01.04.01
- 59** 1130 from Saffron Walden to Haverhill withdrawn from 1.3.01.
- 89/A** Revised timetable introduced from 14.2.01. And again from 5.3.01.
- 90** (Maldon – Witham) Passed to Hedingham from EN under contract to ECC from 12.2.01.
- 91** (Tollesbury to Witham) Saturday service from 14.4.01. Operates under contract to Essex County Council.
- 95** (Tollesbury to Maldon) Saturday service from 14.4.01. Operates under contract to Essex County Council.



**5416 Volvo Olympian /Northern Counties Palatine N706 TPK**

Seen at the Woodcutters in Eastwood on one of the last days of regular double deck working on the 29 (Southend – Belfairs ) . This long standing route is now mainly operated by Mercedes Minibuses in an effort to reduce costs .



**3353 Dennis Dart /Wright Handybus J403 XVX**

A casualty of the service changes in March was Routes 62 and 62A (Southend – Belfairs ) which was replaced during the daytimes by new route 19 . This shot shows 3353 ,new in 1992 to County bus , at Southend Bus Station .



**5446 Dennis Trident /Alexander ALX 400 W446 XKX**

Although Predominantly used on the 7/8 , the Tridents often appear on other routes and 5446 , part of a batch of 15 new to Arriva Southend last year , is seen departing on an early evening journey from Leigh on Sea Station on Route 6A to Eastwood.



**2129 Mercedes 709D / Plaxton Beaver N909 ETM**

Our Arriva Southend photo feature concludes with a view of 2129 which has just arrived on the first trip on Route 17 to Wallasea Island and is preparing to undertake a return journey . Three Merc's with Leicester Carriage Builders bodies are the regulars on this route and have Wallasea on the destination blinds.

# Arriva East Herts & Essex

## Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires 3/01

2199 L429 CPC MB 709D 669003-2N-018767 Danescroft B27F 12/93  
2200 L426 CPB MB 709D 669003-2N-018701 Do 52728 632 93 B27F 12/93

From Arriva Southend 3/01

2224 L424 CPB MB 709D 669003-2N-013413 Do 52711 632 93 B27F 10/93  
2264 J 4 SLT MB 709D 669003-2N-001318 Pn 927MHV0407 B23F 7/92  
(originally J 61 MHF)  
3352 J402 XVX Ds Dt 9.8SDL3012/800 Wt P122 B40F 4/92  
3353 J403 XVX Ds Dt 9.8SDL3012/944 Wt P123 B40F 5/92  
3354 J404 XVX Ds Dt 9.8SDL3012/943 Wt P124 B40F 5/92  
5385 B183 BLG Ld ONLXB/1R ON1624 ECW 26049 H45/32F 12/84  
5386 B184 BLG Ld ON1625 ECW 26050 H45/32F 12/84  
5387 B185 BLG Ld ON1635 ECW 26051 H45/32F 12/84

## Vehicles out

2236 (N936 ETU), 2346 (M726 UTW): Arriva the Shires 2236/346 as a training vehicles 3/01  
2347 (M727 UTW), 2359 (N739 AVW): Arriva the Shires 2347/59 as crew reliefs 4/01  
3048 (BAZ 6869 ex J TU 577T): Arriva the Shires 3048 4/01  
3092 (H923 LOX): Arriva the Shires 3092 3/01  
3335 (H350 PNO): Arriva the Shires 3335 as a training vehicle 3/01  
4335 (J 56 GCX): Arriva Colchester 4335 4/01  
4337 (J927 CYL), 4339 (K124 TCP): Arriva Colchester 4337/9 3/01  
5254 (C404 BUV), 5256 (KYV 756X): Arriva Scotland 4/01  
5353 (GYE 493W): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 4/01, for scrap  
5354 (GBU 4V): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 2/01, for scrap

## Withdrawals

**3/01: 2072, 2090, 2236, 2346, 3092, 3310/35, 4337/9, 5254/6, 5353.**

**4/01: 2233, 2347/59, 3308, 4335**

Note 2072, 2233, 3308/10 are parked at Arriva the Shires Stevenage depot;

## Allocations

**3/01: 2199/2200/24/64 GY; 2360/2-4, 3352/3 HA; 3354, 5385-7 GY**

## General

Metrobus M894 (A894 SUL) was acquired for spares from Arriva London South in 2/01 & allocated fleet number 5925 on paper. Its stay was short lived passing on to Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) for scrap later the same month.

Your Sub-Editor has received a report that claims Dennis Darts 3404-14 are type SFD112 (ie 9.2m). Our records and those of the manufacturer state type SFD212. If any member in the Grays area can substantiate either type, we will be most grateful.

## Odd workings

Route 373 5/2 Greenway 3308

Route 500 21/3 Iveco 2338

Route 501 13/3 DAF 5446; 24/3 Iveco 2096

Route 502 24/3 Iveco 2364 & Dart 3359 (branded for 510)

Route 510 17/2 Dart SLF/Alex 3474; 24/3 Iveco 2092

Route 724 19/2 Vario 2380; 23/3 Iveco 2352; plus B6BLE on 6/3, 24/3 & 30/3

## Service Revisions

- 4/A** Minor revisions to Monday to Friday afternoon services from 29.4.01.
- 5** Minor revisions to Monday to Friday afternoon services from 29.4.01.
- 324** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 348** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 370** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 377** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 378** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 383** Revised timetable with effect from 10.3.01.
- 502** Minor revisions to Monday to Friday morning services from 29.4.01.

## **Publicity**

New leaflets issued for the Grays changes from 10<sup>th</sup> March were Routes 324,348/370/373,377 and 378/383 .

## **Training Vehicles**

You maybe aware that although the group's Training Vehicles are based at Watford, they appear as and when required at any depot. The fleet is at present being updated and the withdrawal of the Bedfords 1147-9, Ford 4094 and Mercedes 2163/4 if not already taken place, is imminent.

The fleet will then consist of Ivecos 2235/6/346, Swifts 3087 & 3335, Lynx 3065/6, Volvos 4038/9 plus 6 of the rebodied machines that have been at Colchester. Iveco 2233 (with Keiss body) has been deemed unsuitable and is for disposal.

## **Ancillary vehicles**

As at 3/01 these consisted of:-

|               |                                      |                  |
|---------------|--------------------------------------|------------------|
| 1100 Q480 MTW | Clarke American Floor Scrubber       | HA               |
| 1139 D413 UTO | Vauxhall Astra van                   | GY               |
| 1158 G886 TUF | Leyland Dropside lorry               | WE/Hoddesdon     |
| 1162 M228 TEF | Vauxhall Astra van                   | WE/Hoddesdon     |
| 1164 P367 NNA | Ford Transit                         | GY               |
| 1165 P731 KNV | Vauxhall Astra van                   | GY               |
| 1166 P596 GJF | " " "                                | HA               |
| 1167 P937 BJB | " " "                                | HA               |
| 1169 R341 WBC | Vauxhall Astra Merit 1/7TD           | HA               |
| 1170 S181 FFE | Ford Transit                         | WE/Hoddesdon     |
| 1171 R823 CNB | Ford Transit Mini Bus (7 passengers) | HA ( at Debden?) |
| 2310 G925 WGS | MB 709D/Reeve Burgess Crew bus       | GY               |

**LEICESTER - join us for a day trip on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> June**  
**See The Booking form with this month's magazine .**

## Rest Of Essex – Other Operators

**Ace of Clubs Benfleet** Have acquired G40 OHS a Ford Transit/Dormobile from Arriva The Shires.

**Airlinks Feltham** Revised timetables on Jetlink services via Stansted were introduced from 2.4.01.

**Amber Rayleigh** Ford/Plaxton KJX 549W has been sold.

**APS Wickford** Ford Transit R798 BUJ is being operated here.

**APT Rayleigh** Former Essex Buses Mercedes/Reeve Burgess C697ECV is in ex BJS, Gt.Wakering by 3.01 but is unlicensed. Here in service is F301 RUT a Mercedes Benz and C153 EHW a ?/Wadham Stringer. 71 FXO (new as EPC 893V) a Volvo B58/Plaxton has gone from this fleet.

**Arriva Kent Thameside** Service 722 (Gravesend to Lakeside) was withdrawn after operation on 6.1.01.

**Arrow Taxis Maldon** The shuttlebus service in Maldon was de-registered from 5.2.01. does anyone know if it was still operating this recently?

**Barker Roydon** Former EN Metroliner SJI 9333 (B459 WHJ) was sold last year to Copeland, Brown Lees.

**BJS Great Wakering** Leyland Tiger/Plaxton BJS 327Y (new as A72 NKE) has been sold.

**Blue Triangle** Former Colchester Leyland Lynx E34 EVW has become the regular Monday to Friday vehicle on service 565 (Romford – Brentwood – Bulphan/West Horndon).

**Bobbys Minibuses Corringham** Have acquired Iveco minicoach G884 XJS ex Farnham Hire Services, Farnham. Also acquired is Renault F476 RUW.

**Bobs Little Oakley** Recently acquired is J143 GMP an Iveco 49-10/Plaxton.

**C&M Laindon** Toyota/Caetano XFK 305 (of which no previous details are known) has been acquired.

**Cedrics Wivenhoe** 1(ACM708X) has not been seen for about 6mths - anyone know anything about it? 4 (ACM 705X) is currently out of use at Thorrington.

**Chariots Corringham** A second Colchester Atlantean TPU 68R has been acquired. Also here are Bova Europas 719 EKH and HSV 781.

**Chelmsford Cab** Omni H227 BKM has been sold.

**Clarke Basildon** Are operating Renault J306 GRV.

**Clintona Brentwood** A shuttle service from Chelmsford Civic Centre to Hylands Park on Sundays only was introduced from 8.4.01.

**Ford Althorne** Summer must almost be here?? The swimbus services from South Woodham Ferrers to Chelmsford on 9/11/18/20.4.01 and Maldon on Tuesdays from 6.3.01 to 22.5.01 (except 10/17.4.01) have been registered.

**Fourways Highwood** Volvo/Jonckhree WNU 27Y has been sold.

**Freelance Westcliff-on-Sea** Still here despite previous reports is Ford Transit/Dormobile A39 HDU.

**Godward Shotgate** A37 DTV a Volvo/Van Hool has been acquired.

**Imperial Rainham** Recent additions are Leyland National VIB 8319 (THX 130S) and MCW Metrobus OJD 837Y. Also acquired are three Mercedes for use on recently won ECC tendered services. One is Vario/Alexander T455 HNH in a dark blue livery, which was on service 46 (Chelmsford – Ongar) on 3.4.01.

Buses observed in service on the 1<sup>st</sup> APRIL included Vario/Alex T471HNH (all white) on 500 Vario/Alex T454HNH (green/cream) on 201 Vario/Alex T455HNH (green/cream) on 200 Leyland National Mk1 10.3m VIB8319 (ex Connex, originally LT LS130) on 201

## Email Your News to Essex Bus News

[essexbusnews@hotmail.com](mailto:essexbusnews@hotmail.com)

**Kingston Thundersley** Service 511 from Loughton to Lakeside and Bluewater via Ongar and Brentwood was introduced from 2.4.01. Operating on Mondays to Saturdays. Attempts to photograph it on the first day were fruitless, as the timetable has changed – but was not available! Leyland Titan A68 THX was seen on the 511 on 3.4.01 – the timetable mentions 'Luxury Express'! Other vehicles owned are Metrobus B149 EDP, Mercedes minibus F752 EVG, Renault G782 MAK and a Scania/Jonckhree K442 BMO. It is reported that an ex Cardiff Lynx is also here. The Mercedes and Metrobus were on the 511 on 4.4.01. The fare is a maximum £5 if anyone wants to go from Loughton to Bluewater on a decker (or in a Mercedes for that matter!). Chris Stewart is fairly sure it runs via The Drive in Brentwood to Warley Ford's, then along The Avenue to the A128. Making it, he thinks, the first stage route along that bit of road – judging by the bits of tree in the road it's not really meant for deckers either

**Kirby Rayleigh** K100 BYS a Setra S315 is in stock here.

**Linkfast Benfleet** As only one vehicle now carries S&M fleetnames, Linkfast will now be used for vehicles owned by that concern. MCW Metrobus WYW 34T is a recent addition, as are unusual MCW Metrobus/Alexander JIL 8213, Bristol VR/ECW VCA 4358W and Leyland Titan OHV 694Y. Vehicles here but no longer in use are Atlantean JIG 1P and Fleetlines GHV 59N, OJD 136R, OJD 191R, KUC 941P and OJD 383R. There are no longer any Fleetlines in service.

**London Transit Buntingford** Operation of commercial service 316 between Bishops Stortford and Gt Dunmow commenced on 2.4.01. It operates direct via Takeley at about hourly intervals from 0800 to 1600. Vehicles added are Leyland National AOL 17T and Dennis Dart/Caetano W483 OUF.

**Malcolms Blue Bus Services Clacton** Service 555 (Holland – Clacton – Jaywick), commenced on 10.3.01. operating Saturdays and summer Sundays/Bank Holidays. It is assumed this replaces service 134, but this has not yet been de-registered.

**National Express** Summer schedules were introduced on 2.4.01.

**NCS Newport** Recently acquired is N601HVX a LDV Sherpa 200

**Nelsons Wickford** Revised timetables were introduced on service 37 (South Woodham Town Service) from 16.1.01 and on service 222 (Shotgate to Billericay) on 11.1.01 and again on 23.1.01. and again on 5.2.01. Service 221 (Wickford Town) and 232 (Shotgate – Basildon) were also revised from 5.2.01.

**P&M Shotgate** Volvo/Plaxton E659 UNE has been acquired.

**Palmers Laindon** Ford Transit L202 BPL has been acquired.

**PJ Couriers Corringham** VW LT31 K237 UFJ and Ford Transit T765 RNO are in operation here.

**Reliance Benfleet** A further Dennis Javelin/Berkhof is P242 KJM.

**Ronda Coaches Rochford** Ford Transit A211 PBM is thought to have been sold some time ago.

**SM Travel Harlow** Service G34 (Harlow – Welwyn Garden City) withdrawn with effect from 2.4.01. Former Arriva EH&E Iveco/Dormobile K707/10 FNO have been acquired.

**Seymour Harlow** Have sold G103 KUB to Roydon Coach Services.

**Stallion Coaches Broomfield** Mercedes/Reeve Burgess F71 SMC has been sold.

**Stephensons Rochford** Service 225 (Runwell to Beauchamps School) passed to Nelsons from 2.4.01. In connection with this the timetable for services 7B/222 was revised from the same date.

**Supreme Southend** EOS E180Z – J2 SUP has been sold.

**Toms Mini Coach Southend** Here but not previously reported is Mercedes 108D – R14 HTS. Also here is Ford Transit H844 BJX.

**Town & County Purfleet** Service 140 (Basildon to Chelmsford) a revised timetable was introduced from 1.4.01. It no longer serves Noak Bridge.

**Viceroy Saffron Walden** Operation of service 17 (Saffron Walden – Gt Bardfield) passed to London Transit from 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2001.

**Walden Cabs Saffron Walden** Freight Rover/Made to Measure E692 UND is owned ex Adtax, Saffron Walden.

## **Essex County Council Publicity**

Timetables leaflets issued recently include Village Link 3/4 dated 8.1.01; 31A dated 8.1.01; 31A dated 2.4.01; 59/347/348/349 dated 8.1.01.  
75 & 76A (Sundays) From 1st April (Timetables inside dated 75 13/9/99 and 76A 24/5/98)

7/8A dated 8.4.01 (Timetables however are dated from 1/4); 10 dated 1.4.01; 17/18 dated 1.4.01.

These show only the Sunday services although this is not stated on front of leaflets.

The latest comprehensive books are **North Essex 25<sup>th</sup> March**  
**West & North West 22<sup>nd</sup> April 01**  
**South Essex 25<sup>th</sup> February**  
**South East Essex & Southend 25<sup>th</sup> February**

**Remember that if you join our Timetable Subscription service you can get all Essex & Thurrock Timetable books delivered to your door .**  
**See Page 2 of this month's magazine for more information .**

## **Essex - non-PSV**

**Essex Dog Display Team** The vehicle (BAO91Y) is now kept at their training ground situated on Doddinghurst Road between the Brentwood Centre and the A12 bridge

## **Buses at Auction**

### **Chelmsford Auction**

The following have been seen at Chelmsford Auction on 12.3.01:-  
E260CPU Fd Tt/Do-Steedrive (no seats) Essex C.C.  
K779EVW Fd Tt (l.w.b.)/Fd M14 reg. 22.10.92 Essex C.C. (not offered on this date)  
G815WEV Fd Tt Essex C.C. (again - now a non-runner)  
F467BAK Fd Tt(s.w.b.) (D60153)/Fd (high) M11 Harlow District Council 0807 (reg. 1.8.88)  
F525KNB Rt Master T35D (VF6FB30A101268235)/Renault-?conversion C14F (reg. 1.6.89)

### **Frating Auction** (near Colchester, Essex)

Seen here on 14.3.01 were:-  
F100UNV LAG Panoramic (G355/286) ex Archway Travel Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs.  
S102KJF lo (001237)/Bs EuroRider 35 C53F ex Waterhouse, Eastbourne, E.Sussex (reg. 8.98)  
194WHT lo/Bs EuroRider 35 C49Ft ex Waterhouse (reg. 8.98)  
JD22349/50/1/7 Ds Dt/Wt, H550XGK Ds/Pn all ex Camden Coaches, W.Kingsdown, Kent (none of these offered on this date)

**Essex Buses** **Eastern National** **Thamesway** **First**  Eastern National**First**  Thamesway**SUBSEQUENT  
DISPOSALS**

| <u>FLEET No.</u> | <u>REG No.</u> | <u>DETAILS.</u>                                                                       | <u>DATE.</u>   |
|------------------|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| 113              | M61 WER        | Fisher, Dundee.<br>ex Stephenson, Rochford (dlr).                                     | 08/00          |
| 115              | KBH860V        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 119              | R252KWY        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 120              | N210FWA        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 121              | M384WET        | Stewart, Aberfeldy.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.<br>re-reg XSV234 | 03/00<br>04/00 |
| 122              | R917HTW        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 123              | R918HTW        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 124              | R919HTW        | gone.<br>ex Associated Coachways (1999) Ltd, Stansted.                                | 10/00          |
| 227              | D227PPU        | O'Keeney, Killybegs.<br>ex Hardwick, Carlton (dlr).                                   | 09/96          |
| 236              | D236PPU        | O'Connor & Healy, Kilbrittan.<br>ex Hardwick, Carlton (dlr).                          | 09/96          |
| 237              | D237PPU        | Wharton, Crossdoney.<br>ex Hardwick, Carlton (dlr).<br>re-reg 86-CN-659               | 09/96<br>09/96 |
| 244              | D244PPU        | Barry, Cork.<br>ex Hardwick, Carlton (dlr).<br>re-reg 86-C-3784                       | 01/97<br>01/97 |

|      |                      |                                                                                  |                      |
|------|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| 1602 | SJI9333<br>[B459WHJ] | Copeland (t/a Adam Martyn), Brown Lees.<br>ex Barker, Roydon.                    | by 09/00             |
| 1603 | B460WHJ              | Wigley, Carlton (dlr for scrap).<br>ex Swallow, Rainham.                         | by 03/99             |
| 1702 | NAT555A<br>[WNO551L] | Ludlows, Halesowen.<br>re-reg UOA322L<br>Cooper, Derbyshire (preservation).      | by 12/98<br>04/00    |
| 1718 | NEV675M              | - ? - , - ? - (preservation).<br>ex Watts (t/a TM Travel), Old Tupton.           | by 03/00             |
| 1829 | VNO731S              | Harris, Dublin.<br><b>re-reg 78-D-1025</b>                                       | <b>07/99</b>         |
| 1937 | MSU433<br>[STW 18W]  | Arriva Fox County Ltd FLEET No 2152.<br>re-reg STW 18W                           | by 07/00             |
| 2385 | WNO481               | - ? - , Tenerife (mobile shop)<br>ex - ? - (preservation), Bristol.<br>Derelict. | by 03/96<br>by 08/97 |
| 2823 | JHK455C              | Hoare (t/a Chepstow Classic), Chepstow.<br>ex Hoare, Chepstow (preservation).    | 04/98                |
| 2839 | LWC665C              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 2853 | OVX297D              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 2875 | STW763D              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 2877 | STW765D              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 2900 | WVX527F              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 2913 | WWC743F              | believed gone.<br>ex Top Deck, Earls Court.                                      | by 10/00             |
| 4081 | ONO995               | Brown (preservation), Rushden.<br>ex Salmon (preservation), South Benfleet.      | by 02/00             |

**WHERE ARE THEY NOW No 8**  
**Arriva Southend 4306-4312**  
**Formerly Southend Transport 546-551**  
 Leyland Tiger/Duple C57F new 1984

|            |         |                             |
|------------|---------|-----------------------------|
| 4306 (546) | A246SVW | Irvine Salsburgh            |
| 4307 (547) | A247SVW | Goodman Whittlesey          |
| 4308 (548) | A248SVW | Goodman Whittlesey          |
| 4309 (549) | A249SVW | Stephenson of Essex (fleet) |
| 4310 (550) | A250SVW | Arriva Colchester 4310      |
| 4311 (551) | B100XTW | Arriva Colchester 4311      |

# Eastern National and Thamesway London Bus Contracts

## *-A Look At the Routes and Vehicles Used –*

### Part 3 - 1991 To 1992

#### 1991 Swings and Roundabouts

The influx of midi buses in Southend from January enabled the replacement of most of Walthamstow's P to V registered VR'S with slightly newer W and X reg examples.

The September closure of Southend garage, combined with a further rationalisation of commercial routes, enabled fleet replacements to continue. 5 surplus Leyland Olympians/ECW were allocated to Ponders end to complete the upgrading of Route 307.

During the year the competition for LT Contracts became intense and tender prices were very competitive. The Operators were seeking to expand their route portfolios, as it seemed likely that London bus services would be deregulated in the next few years. It has since been disclosed that some of the bids accepted around this time were quite unrealistic and the Walthamstow debacle is a case in point.

In May, LT announced that London Forest had successfully retained 11 routes in the Walthamstow area. However, the award of the contracts was dependent upon the agreement of revised working arrangements to reduce costs.

A series of strikes ensued and Forest's trunk route 123 Ilford – Wood Green was among those hit. Between the 11<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> July, Thamesway drafted in VR's and Olympians to Walthamstow garage to run short journeys between Ilford and Walthamstow on commercial route 251.

In late July, LT decided to re – award the London Forest tenders and Thamesway was successful in gaining two routes and retaining the W9 and W13. However, the elation of winning more work was tempered by news that the company had lost tendered Routes 20, 167, 235 and 275 to Grey Green. LT were also reorganising the 359.

This major loss would lead to the closure of Walthamstow garage in 1992 and Staff morale was obviously affected. To overcome shortages the weekday evening and all the Sunday service of the 167 and 275 were sub – contracted to Grey Green between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 5<sup>th</sup> October.

On a happier note, the contract for route **193 (Romford – County Park Est)** was retained from 14<sup>th</sup> September and 8 nearly new Mercedes 709/Reeve Burgess were transferred from Eastern National to upgrade it. The displaced Mercedes 608's were moved from Brentwood to Basildon but some would return in 1993 for new LT route 462.

The new three-year contracts for the **W11 (Walthamstow Central Stn – North Walthamstow)**, **W12 (Walthamstow - Wanstead)** and **W13 (Leytonstone-Woodford Wells)** commenced on the 23<sup>rd</sup> November from Ponders end using the existing minibuses. The W14 was lost to County bus on the same day but conveniently the vehicle requirement was unchanged.

## 1992 Badgers into Central London

The tender losses announced the previous summer came into effect with the withdrawal of Route 359 after 31<sup>st</sup> January and the LT contracts for the 20, 167, 235 and 275 passing to Grey Green from 7<sup>th</sup> March. This major reduction of work necessitated the closure of Thamesways Walthamstow garage. Many of the surplus Leyland Nationals moved to Hadleigh to enhance Southend routes 20 and 27 as the bus war with Southend Transport intensified while the Bristol VR's were transferred to Badgerline and Western National.

After these losses Ponders End needed 13 Mercedes Mini's for Routes 379, W9, W11, W12, 5 Minis for W13 and 1 for Essex County council contract Routes 211/3 Breach Barns – Waltham Cross. Olympian Decker's continued to rein on the 307. Brentwood garage continued to resource the 193 Romford – County Park Est with 7 Mercedes 709's and Route 362 with 6 Mercedes.

The companies move into central London gathered pace this year with the launch of a group of competitive routes from Southend to London Victoria in direct competition to the long established 'x' group services from Southend Transport. Numbered S1, S2, and S3 the routes operated commercially from Basildon garage from 7<sup>th</sup> July with an initial batch of 11 mid – life coaches.

The next move into the capital came with the announcement that Thamesway had successfully tendered to operate **Route 214 Liverpool St – Parliament Hill Fields**. The contract commenced on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August and 17 brand new 9 metre Dennis Darts with Plaxton Bodies were bought for the service. These were liveried with very prominent Badger motifs and certainly attracted much attention. It was around this time that Thamesways parent company Badgerline was preparing to float as a public company and no doubt it was considered a good opportunity to use a high profile new route to publicise this.

The terminuses for the 214 were quite remote from the garage and it was economical for driver's meal breaks to taken at Aldgate Bus Station with buses driven 'Dead' to and from Liverpool St.

Whilst this undoubtedly improved driver utilisation, it also had the knock on affect of increasing the vehicle requirement and it wasn't unusual to see Mercedes Minibuses substituting for Darts.

Around this time a couple of ex – London Austin FX4 taxis were purchased to facilitate driver transfers and these could often be seen at the various driver change points. A Peugeot Estate car, formally used on Eastern National Country car services was also used at Ponders End and Brentwood as a cost effective driver shuttle.

The gold run of successful tendering continued in the Autumn with the assumption of the LT contract for the **D8 Stratford – Cross Harbour** from the 5<sup>th</sup> October. More new buses were required and 7 Plaxton bodied Mercedes 811D were ordered. However, late delivery entailed the use of existing buses whilst some smaller Mercedes 608's were loaned from Basildon to make up the shortfall on the 362.

The new 214 and D8 operated from Ponders End garage and that consequently experienced quite an expansion in drivers and vehicles.

The nature of bus operation means that whilst bus garages are virtually empty during the week, the opposite prevails on Sundays. Useful extra income came in the form of two Hertfordshire Council Sunday contracts on **Routes 242 Waltham Cross – Potters Bar** and **363 Waltham Cross – Hammond St**. Mercedes 709's were employed on these from 6<sup>th</sup> September.

# Essex by Bus

## A Dome Bus in Bulphan

**Our regular correspondent John Rugg was in for a surprise when he went for a trip on the Blue Triangle.**

On Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> March I decided to travel on Blue Triangle Route 565 from Bulphan to Romford via Brentwood.

I had hoped to travel on a double Decker but in the event a rather interesting vehicle appeared at the rural setting of Bulphan church at two minutes before departure time. The bus in question was Leyland Lynx E34 EVW formally of Colchester Transport and Arriva Cymru. It had also been used by Blue Triangle as a stand by bus for the Jubilee line emergency cover at the Millennium Dome last year.

I Boarded the bus and it left on time at 13.50 and it was obvious that the Lynx was well cared for with new seat covers and a very tidy appearance. It also gave a very lively performance, which is usually quite typical of the Leyland Lynx.

The fare was £3.20 Return from Bulphan to Romford and we picked up 5 other passengers on the journey into Romford and 8 on the return trip. The regular driver said that fewer people tended to use the route on Saturday compared to during the week.

The route encountered varied Traffic conditions and went into Romford via a tortuous and circuitous route, also making a double run to Harold Wood Station for no apparent reason.

### **The Verdict**

In common with my recent trip on the 374 (Thurrock Wanderer in February's Essex Bus News) I think it's fair to award another 9 out 10 although I think that continuing the Saturday service must be doubtful on this commercial service.

### **What Could Be Improved?**

There were absolutely no timetables on display at Bulphan Church. The only evidence of a Bus service was a faded Eastern National sign!

**Essex by Bus – Why not tell us about your Bus journey . Maybe you've spent a day travelling around the county on a rover ticket or you get the bus into town . Don't worry if you're not the worlds greatest writer -We'd love to hear your story !**

# ESSEX LEYLAND ATLANTIAN

## REGISTER 2001

### ARRIVA COLCHESTER

|                                      |          |        |     |
|--------------------------------------|----------|--------|-----|
| JHK495N                              | AN68/1R  | ECW OT | w/d |
| STEVENS (COLCHESTER COACHES) CLACTON |          |        |     |
| KPJ268W                              | AN68B/1R | Roe    |     |
| KPJ289W                              | AN68B/1R | Roe    |     |

### CASTLEPOINT BUS CO (LINKFAST GROUP)

|         |          |                   |     |
|---------|----------|-------------------|-----|
| XRF24S  | AN68A/1R | East Lancs        |     |
| SUP271V | AN68A/1R | ECW               | w/d |
| JJGIP   | AN68/1R  | ECW               | w/d |
| OEM787S | AN68A/1R | MCW               |     |
| RJA711R | AN68A/1R | Northern Counties |     |

### CHARIOTS STANFORD LE HOPE

|        |          |     |
|--------|----------|-----|
| TPU67R | AN68A/1R | ECW |
|--------|----------|-----|

### OLYMPIC NORTH WEALD

|         |          |     |
|---------|----------|-----|
| SUP269V | AN68A/1R | ECW |
|---------|----------|-----|

### SIBLEY & KEEBLE HALSTEAD

|         |          |     |
|---------|----------|-----|
| RFR424P | AN68A/1R | ECW |
|---------|----------|-----|

### FOURWAYS CHELMSFORD

|         |         |            |
|---------|---------|------------|
| OTO547M | AN68/1R | East Lancs |
|---------|---------|------------|

### VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN

|         |         |                            |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|
| HIL4349 | AN68/2R | East Lancs B46F ex SUG595M |
|---------|---------|----------------------------|

### BOONS BOREHAM

|         |          |            |     |
|---------|----------|------------|-----|
| JSC883E | PDR1/1   | Alex       | w/d |
| MVK538R | AN68A/2R | Alex       |     |
| NNO63P  | AN68A/1R | ECW        |     |
| NNO66P  | AN68A/1R | ECW        |     |
| VPA149S | AN68A/1R | Park Royal |     |
| XPG182T | AN68A/1R | Park Royal |     |
| VNO78S  | AN68A/1R | ECW        |     |
| RVW90W  | AN68A/1R | ECW        |     |

### DONS DUNMOW

|         |          |            |
|---------|----------|------------|
| YDS650S | AN68A/1R | Alex       |
| JUS774N | AN68A/1R | Alex       |
| KSU850P | AN68A/1R | Alex       |
| JGA189N | AN68A/1R | Alex       |
| CBV306S | AN68A/1R | East Lancs |
| EJR113W | AN68A/2R | Alex       |

### HARVEY and DUMBARTON CLACTON

|        |          |     |
|--------|----------|-----|
| TPU68R | AN68A/1R | ECW |
|--------|----------|-----|

### STAINES (WINDMILL) CLACTON

|         |          |     |
|---------|----------|-----|
| XPG184T | AN68A/1R | Roe |
|---------|----------|-----|

# Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

A monthly Page Dedicated to the Original Eastern National

## ***EASTERN NATIONAL ACQUIRED DOUBLE DECKERS From 1930 To 1950 By Peter Snell***

**During the Period 1930 until 1950, Eastern National acquired a considerable number of operators in the area serviced by the Company. The vehicles acquired were mainly single deck buses and coaches, with double Decker's in the minority.**

It was in 1931 that Eastern National acquired the two Clacton based companies, that of Silver Queen and Enterprise. From Silver Queen came a vintage collection of Thornycroft J type open top, open staircase buses, these however did not survive long, also three veteran Leyland Decker's, again opentop/stairdeckers were included, all these had gone by 1932. Also from Silver Queen came six Leyland TD1s 3163/4 (VX822/3), 3167—3170 (VX5121/2, VX5304/5), all of which had Leyland bodies. 3163/4 had open stair case bodies. These were compatible to the Eastern National TD1 fleet and survived the last one 3170 being withdrawn in 1951.

From the Enterprise fleet came 3213 (MY2126) an AEC Regent. Short bodied L48R05. This survived in service until at least 1941, still as an open staircase bus.

In the same year the business of J and S Hinsby at St Neots were taken over together with five vehicle, one which was a veteran Leyland S4 3283 (EW590) with 036R0 bodywork, this was withdrawn the same the year.

In 1933 the Borough Motor Services at Southend became a subsidiary of Eastern National with six AEC Regents referred to in EBN439. In the same year the Aylesbury Omnibus Company was acquired which had three Dennis 4ton, 48 seat open top/stair double Decker's, these became 3464-3466 (XN5524.YE3930.XP3760) these were withdrawn by 1934.

It was in 1936 when the next "Decker" was taken into stock from the Union Lack fleet at Luton, and was a former Albion demonstrator 3693 (GG9600) a Venturer with Brush H51R bodywork and was not withdrawn until 1944.

Eastern National, in 1938 required open top buses for service at Clacton, and two Leyland TD1s 3805/6 (TR5295. TR5326) with Short OT51ROS bodies were purchased from Hants and Dorset, E196 and E92, However with wartime hostilities looming the service was soon withdrawn, 3806 was scrapped and 3805 was put into storage until 1946 when it was rebuilt (or rather rebodied) by Beadle and survived in service until 1952.

The three Leyland TD2s 3886-3888 (DR9838/9/64 that arrived from Plymouth City Transport in 1945 were part of a batch acquired from Plymouth by the Tilling Group and distributed to various Tilling companies, these carried Weymann L48R (3886/7) and Leyland L48R (3888) bodies, these were new in 1932, 3886/8 were withdrawn in 1953 and 3887 was renumbered 1105 before it was withdrawn in 1955.

The final buses purchased in this period came from the Brighton and Hove Omnibus Company in 1950. Four ABC Regent opentoppers were acquired for service at Clacton numbered 101-104 (GW6259/63/96/99) these had ECW bodies (101-103) and Beadle (104), they were renumbered 1157-1160 in 1954 and finally withdrawn in 1958.

Many more double Decker's were of course acquired when the Westcliff and Hicks fleets were combined with Eastern National.