

ESSEX BUS NEWS

**No. 564
April 2011**



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk



Chelmsford's second Park & Ride, using a site off the A138 known as 'Chelmer Valley', started operation on 4th April with bus services again operated by First Essex using Wright-bodied Volvo B7RLEs. A batch of nine, numbered 69512-20, will be used on this and the existing Sandon route, displacing the Scania's from the latter although only 69512-6 (BJ11ECA/C/D/E/F) were available at the outset. 69516 (*front cover*) was photographed by Russell Young at Anglia Ruskin University, and 69512 (*top*) at the P&R site by Steven Hughes, both on the first day - 4th April.

Essex Bus News

Magazine Editor

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints, slides or JPGs) and original articles are always welcome.

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.

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

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

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Dates for your diary

■ PRESS DATES

EBN dated

May

June

reports to Editors by

30th April

28th May

Despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can be obtained from the Distribution Secretary (see Group Directory).

■ SOUTH ESSEX EVENTS

- **Tuesday May 24 - evening visit to the London Borough of Redbridge transport depot** in Ley Street, Ilford, to view their interesting fleet of Leyland Olympians. The site also includes the historic former Ilford trolleybus depot, currently up for sale. The meeting

Chelmsford's second Park & Ride

Latterly the electronic displays on the Scania's had been re-programmed to display either 'Sandon' (as seen here in *Chris Stewart's* photo opposite on 11th March) or 'Sandon Park & Ride' in order to avoid confusion after 4th April. From that date, operation of the Sandon site passed from First Essex to Chelmsford Borough Council, who are also responsible for the Chelmer Valley site.

Chris Stewart

will include a talk about the transport operations and is expected to last 90 mins-2 hours.

There are some specific rules for this visit:

You **MUST** register in advance no later than Monday May 16 by sending your name and car registration (if arriving by car) to Richard Delahoy, preferably by e-mail to richard@signal-training.com or by letter to 272 Shobury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT.

Please arrive between 1845 and 1900. The depot is in Ley Street, almost opposite Wards Road, a short distance from the A12. By public transport: Newbury Park Underground is 0.6 miles away, Seven Kings NXEA is 0.8 miles away and Ilford is just over a mile away; buses 169 and 364 pass the door; alight at Perth Road stop.

There is no charge for the visit but a collection will be made for our nominated charity, Essex Air Ambulance.

- ▶ **Tuesday June 28 - evening visit to Ensign Bus;** pick ups from Lakeside Bus Station and Chafford Hundred Station, do NOT go directly to the depot, please - pick up times/ arrangements to be advised in next month's magazine.
- ▶ **Monday July 25 - evening visit to the Castle Point Transport Museum,** arrive there from 1900 onwards. We hope to have a short ride in a museum bus during the evening, subject to availability.
- ▶ Note that there is no South Essex meeting in August. The autumn season will then recommence at our usual Wickford venue on Monday September 26, then Mondays October 24, November 28 and December 19 - details to be advised nearer to the dates.

Richard Delahoy

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2200. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides / digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome. *Dave Arnold*

2011 programme ~ slide shows

- ▶ **Friday May 13** - slide show by Richard Delahoy ~ "20 years ago"
- ▶ **Friday June 10** - slide show by Steven Hughes
- ▶ **Friday July 8** - slide show by Paul Smith
- ▶ **Friday August 12** - slide show by Dave Arnold
- ▶ **Friday September 9** - slide show by Gary Sharpe
- ▶ **Friday October 14** - *see it, buy it!* Slides from the Group's sales stock will be shown by Owen Woodliffe – if you like one, buy it there and then!
- ▶ **Friday November 11** - slide show by Trevor Brookes
- ▶ **Friday December 9** - Xmas social & slide show by Gary Sharpe & Dave Arnold

■ TOURS

- ▶ **Wednesday June 22:** Evening visit to Talisman Coachlines. Pick up at North Station 19.00; fare £5; phone 01621 857509 to book.

■ EVENTS ETC

- ▶ **Saturday May 7: Theydon Bois Transport Bazaar & Bus Running Day,** Theydon Bois Village Hall (opposite village green). 11:00 till 15:30.
- ▶ **Sunday May 15: London Heritage routes (9 and 15)** augmented with many additional classic buses 10:00 to 18:00.
- ▶ **Sunday May 15: Country Bus Rally,** Sevenoaks.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday May 27-28: London Transport Museum,** Guided Tours at Acton Depot.

- ▶ **Saturday June 4:** LT Country Bus Rally, Stevenage route re-enactment day.
- ▶ **Sunday June 5:** LT Country Bus Rally, Hertford & Stevenage.
- ▶ **Sunday June 5:** Family Fun Day, Ipswich Transport Museum, Suffolk.
- ▶ **Sunday June 5:** Clacton Vintage Bus Display & Running Day, Clacton Factory Outlet.
- ▶ **Sunday June 12:** 100 Years of the Trolleybus, East Anglia Transport Museum.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday June 24-25:** London Transport Museum, Guided Tours at Acton Depot.
- ▶ **Saturday June 25:** Ipswich Transport & Model Festival, Ipswich Transport Museum
- ▶ **Sunday June 26:** Bus & Coach Event, East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville.
- ▶ **Sunday July 3:** North Weald Bus Rally, North Weald airfield. Bus services from Epping and Ongar.
- ▶ **Sunday July 3:** North Norfolk Railway Vintage Transport Day. Free Vintage Buses Holt-Weybourne-Sheringham, and display at Holt Station (A148). All buses welcome!

Information is published in good faith and members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers, as the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £20, renewable in January.

New members may join from any month during the year, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses. Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.70 per month. E.g., a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.70; i.e. £17.

Data Protection Act: Members' details are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to:

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoenbury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

MISSING / DEFECTIVE EBNs

For replacements, contact the Distribution Officer:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County

Council timetable book and bus map. Send

your details and a cheque for £12 to
Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoenbury Road,
Southend on Sea SS1 3TT.

Subscriptions can start with any issue of the book (usually three a year) and will be renewable annually at the same time as your Group membership subscription is due.

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT

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

BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

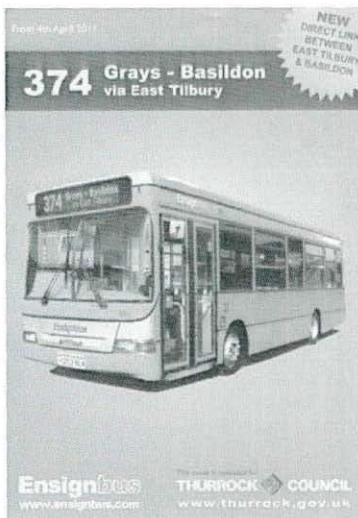
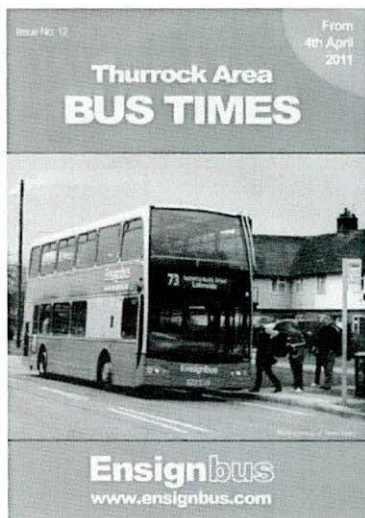
Lyn Watson
Willow Tree Cottage, 11 Roman Bank,
Gedney Dyke, Lincolnshire, PE12 0AR

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can be supplied; email with requirements:

lynw@barrons-bds.com

Publicity News

Ensign Bus have issued a 32-page full colour Thurrock Area Bus Times booklet (No.12) dated 4 April 2011, plus A5 leaflets for the 20, 274 and 375 new / revised routes from the same day. *Ian Ransom with thanks to John Rugg*



Service changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

16 Apr 11 725 M-F Harlow to St Albans: revised timetable.

Arriva Southend

27 Mar 11 1 D Shoeburyness to Rayleigh: revised route and timetable with extension to Blackgate Road. (updated information)
 5 M-S Southend to Basildon: revised timetable
 3 Apr 11 150 Sun Basildon to Lakeside: revised timetable with service renumbered 200.

Arrow Passenger Services

16 May 11 99DD M-F Dengie Area Flexible Service: new service.

Beestons (formally registered to Constable Coaches)

1 Apr 11 236 M-S Sudbury to Haverhill: minor revisions to serve Samuel Ward and Great Cornard Schools on Schooldays.

Braintree Community Transport

30 Apr 11 SB28 Sat Stisted to Braintree: new service operating every other Saturday.

Brentwood Community Transport

3 May 11	898	M-S	Blackmore to Romford Queens Hospital: new service
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Carters

3 Apr 11	755	M-S	Colchester to Hadleigh: two additional journeys added from Hadleigh on Schooldays(1458) and Saturday(1423).
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Centrebus

22 May 11	392	M-S	Hertford to Harlow: service withdrawn.
	C3X	M-S	Harlow to Waltham Cross: service withdrawn.
23 May 11	C3	M-S	Epping to Harlow: revised route and timetable.

Coggeshall Community Bus

4 Apr 11	CCB	M-F	Coggeshall to Kelvedon: additional early morning journey introduced.
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Community Link

7 Apr 11	SB04	Thur	Stanford Rivers to Ongar: new service
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Ensignbus

4 Apr 11	20	M-F	Grays to Orsett Hospital: service revised to operate from Lakeside to Stifford Clays on Mondays to Saturdays. (updated information)
	22A	M-S	Aveley to Stifford Clays: new evening service

First

4 Apr 11	5/6	M-S	Holland to Bockings Elm: minor timetable changes on Service 5, with services 5A & 6 withdrawn.
	13	M-S	Walton to Kirby Cross: revised timetable with Saturday withdrawn.
	24	M-S	Rawreth to Southchurch: service withdrawn.
	24	M-S	Southend to Southchurch: new service
	25C	M-S	Basildon to Beauchamps and Shotgate: service withdrawn.
	26	D	Canvey to Bournes Green: revised timetable and 26A to operate via Chalkwell and Westcliff Station to replace service 24.
	30	M-S	Beckers Green to Marks Farm: revised timetable and route frequency reduced.
	40/50	D	Chelmsford to Great Baddow: withdrawal of service 40 Monday to Friday off peak journeys and Saturday service. Revised timetable.
	41A	M-S	Chelmsford to Chignall Estate: service withdrawn.
	45	D	Moulsham Lodge to Writtle: minor timetable changes.
	47	M-S	Broomfield Hospital to Chelmer Village: revised route and timetable not serving Springfield Road, Beeleigh Link and New Duke Way.
	48	M-S	North Springfield to Chelmsford: revised route and timetable with service extended from North Springfield to Broomfield Hospital and will also serve Springfield Road and Beeleigh Link.
	51	D	Chelmsford to Galleywood: revised timetable with service extended to Chignall Estate.
	74	D	Clacton to Colchester: minor timetable revisions.
	76	D	Clacton to Colchester:: minor timetable revisions.
	X30	D	Stansted Airport to Southend: 1710 journey from Chelmsford to Southend withdrawn.



The first arrival on **New Horizon** new route 79 into Clacton Jackson Road on 7th March was Trident V124 MEV, and this has continued every day since. *Jonathan Bale*

Route 77 now seems to have been converted to single deck. Former Thames Transit Dart M65 VJO is seen in Head Street, Colchester on 15 March. *Russell Young*



P&R M-S Chelmer Valley Park & Ride: new service.

Gemma Smith (Lee Valley Buses)

16 May 11 255 M-S Waltham Cross to Debden: revised route and timetable.

Hedingham Omnibuses

14 Mar 11 50A/C M-F Tollesbury to Colchester: the 1630 Tollesbury to Colchester and 1745 Colchester to Tollesbury reinstated. (updated information)

Olympian Coaches

18 May 11 743 M-F Braintree to London Victoria: service withdrawn.

Regal Busways

4 Apr 11 3/3A M-F Southend to Oxney Green: revised timetable and route to serve Daws Heath with introduction of Saturday service.
 5 Apr 11 47/147 T-S Ongar to Harlow: minor timetable revisions.
 1 May 11 1 M-S Oxney Green to Canvey: revised timetable
 14/15 M-S Wickford to Chelmsford: revised timetable.
 31A M-S Chelmsford to Maldon: revised timetable.
 52 M-S Pleshey to Temple Grove: revised timetable
 3 May 11 4 M-F Oxney Green to South Benfleet: revision to timetable.

Renown Coaches

25 Apr 11 300 MW-S Saffron Walden to Bishop Stortford: service withdrawn.

Roadrunner

4 Apr 11 392 M-S Harlow to Hoddesdon Rye Park: revised timetable with service extended to Hertford.
 18 May 11 1 M-S Harlow Town Service: service withdrawn.

SM Coaches

6 May 11 19-21 M-S Harlow to Ongar/Warley: revised timetable.

Stagecoach Cambridge

17 Apr 11 7 M-S Cambridge to Saffron Walden: 0655 departure from Saffron Walden to operate 10 mins later.

Stephensons

4 Apr 11 220 MThFSch Burnham to Basildon: service withdrawn on Mondays. (updated information)

*Paul Harvey
 (acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council,
 Richard Delahoy, Harlowride & First)*

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

New/acquired vehicles

Volvo B7RLE/Wright 69512-7/9 (BJ11 ECA/C/D/E/F/N/V) have so far been noted from the batch (69512-20) due for Chelmsford Park & Rides. They are in black livery with silver lettering as used on the Scania's, but have white roofs and moquette covered cushioned seats rather than leather. Those mentioned above were all licenced from 28th March and entered service during the week commencing 4th April.

From First Eastern Counties Ltd:

42436 P436ORL Dennis Dart SFD322BR1TGW10205 Plaxton 9610HJZ5625 9/96

Western National

43445 P445NEX Dennis Dart SFD322BR1TGW10417 Plaxton 9610HLZ5922 11/96

Eastern Counties

43448 P448NEX Dennis Dart SFD322BR1TGW10430 Plaxton 9610HLZ5925 11/96

Eastern Counties

46440 N810VOD Dennis Dart SFD212BR1SGW10114 Plaxton 9610HJZ4767 4/96

North Devon

Seating capacities are yet to be confirmed for any of the above. 46440 carried a rear bike rack whilst in Devon and retains the associated camera on the rear.

Allocation changes

End of Period 12: list dated 27th March 2011

These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from any other First fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed);

D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School; PH=Private Hire; PS=Paint Spare

34301 CR-BE; 34302 CR-BE; 34303 CR-BE; 42436 FEC-BN; 46120 D/L(D)-sold; 46157 D/L(D)-sold; 46168 D/L(D)-sold; 46180 D/L(D)-sold; 62407 CN-CR; 65690 CR-BE; 65691 CR-BE; 65692 CR-BE

A comprehensive new style fleet information sheet has been introduced within the company and a number of abbreviations have changed. In addition, the only step Dart shown as D/L(D) at this time was 46828.

Since the date of the latest list, 41730/2/5/6 are reported to have moved BN-HH and 43736/8 HH-BN. 43445/8 were used briefly at CF before moving to BN whilst 46440 went straight there.

Disposals:

Period 12:

To Erith Commercials Ltd for component recovery/scrap: 46120 (8th Mar), 46157 (11th), 46168 (11th), 46180 (22nd)

Volvo coaches 20351-3 are understood to be destined for First Aberdeen and two of them are thought to have left by 23rd March.

Other changes:

66837 is reported to have an overall rear advert for SVC Colchester.



Before they were famous ...

This former North Devon Dart has very recently moved from First Eastern Counties at Ipswich to Basildon. 46440 (N810 VOD) It is seen here at Woodbridge on 13 July 2010.

Jim Long

Recently transferred from First Eastern Counties, Dart 42448 (P448NEX) is seen when fairly new at St Stephen's Street, Norwich on 12th August 2000. *Jim Long*



Area News - workings and sightings

Pointers and Dashes - Step entrance Darts

As at 17th March, the position was:

BN	46151/2/3/85, 46827
BE/CF	46158, 47101
CN	46182/3, 47223
HH	46145/69/77
D/L(D)	46120/57/68/80, 46828

46182/3 became surplus as a result of service reductions from 4th April and were parked at the back of CN depot while 47101 was out of use at CF by 26th March. 47223 was still in use at CN on 5th April. On 6th, BN46151 was on the 551, HH46169 on the 24/26A and BN46827 on 25 while 46158 was working on the 54/56. The following day (7th), 46153/85 were on the 551 and 46827 on the 351/551. 46152 was noted on the 551 on 8th April.

46158 also saw use on routes 45 (7th Mar), 41A and 42 (23rd), 71/71A (24th/25th), 50 (29th) and 31 (1st Apr). Hadleigh were still using 46169 and 46177 on 24th Apr, the latter on service 21 (on which 46145 had been noted on 14th March).

Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)

The use of Olympian 34610 on 74/76 has become an almost daily occurrence, but its appearance on service 6 was unusual on 10th March. On 22nd, Dart 42436 (P436ORL) arrived from FEC at Ipswich and worked the 10/11/12, then three round trips on service 17 the following day after which it failed. After repair it moved to Basildon.

As at 27th March, Harwich still had CN32852/4 on loan as their own 32809 was still at BN following its accident on 29th September and 32849 was at CN awaiting a reconditioned engine. DT also had CN43740 on loan while Dart/Enviro 44517 was away for MOT.

On 1st April, CN62407 was replaced on the 09.05 service 76 from Colchester by ex FEC Scania CR65522 and this then operated on services 7/8 during the afternoon, returning the following day on the 74.

Colchester (CR)

65674 reported as being on loan to Eastern Counties at Ipswich in February, but it is not known if it was used.

March

2nd	CR34309 on 68
3rd	CR34290 on 64, CR62410 on 70
4th	CR34056 on DT104, CR30558 on 64, CR34285 on 70X, CR34290 on 64, CR34310 on 70
6th	CR65652 on 64A (Sunday) - usually Solar.
7th	CR34311 on 64A
8th	CR66810 on BE70
10th	CR34314 on 65, CR65651 on 61
17th	DT42937 on 103
24th	CF46158 on 71A, CR65650 on 8, CR65654 on 61

Chelmsford (CF) & Braintree (BE)

For the record, Braintree was hosting the following on 10th March:

34284 34301/2/3 34613 43359 42483/6/7/8 42923/31/3/4/5/6 43802 56009 65690/1/2 66797 66802/10/4/5/29 (total 27)

March

2nd BE66814 on 509 - usually SLF



Service 24 Rawreth Farewell ~ Saturday 2nd April

Ex First London Dart SLF/Marshall **41737** heading along Highlands Boulevard, Leigh.
(now no longer served by any bus.

Ex First Devon & Cornwall Dart SLF/Plaxton **42439** at Scrub Lane, Hadleigh. also now
bus-less.

Peter Mansbridge



3rd CF66798, 802/10/29 on BE70
 4th CF66802 on BE70
 7th BE34302 on 131, CF66798, 810 on BE70
 9th CF34284 on 131, BE34302 on 70X, CF66809 on BE70
 10th BE34302 on 70X (am), CF34355 on 70 & 509 (pm), CF66810/29 on BE70
 11th CR34284 on BE509 (pm)
 14th CF66797 on BE70, CF66802 on BE131
 15th CF66807 on BE70
 16th CF34355 and CF53139 on 42, CF66803 on BE509
 17th CF34355 on 42, CF66796, 811 on BE70
 21st CF42935 on 47
 23rd CF42918 on 71/71A, BE43358 on 42, BE43360 on 51, CF43484 on 56, CF53131 on BE21, CF66802 on BE70
 24th CF66799 on BE70 (and 25th)
 25th BE43357 on 51, CF53114 on 132, BE65690 on 42A, CF66814 and CF67007 on 42
 29th CF42484 on 70X

April

4th Ex FEC 43445 on 45 (and 5th/6th), 43448 on 45 but at BN by 6th
 5th/7th BE34301 on 42
 6th BE65691 on 42, BE34301 on 542, CF67001 on 100
 8th CF53125 on BE132

Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)

Following the part withdrawal of Hadleigh's route 24 from 4th April, the remaining section is now interworked with the 26/26A and, as noted earlier, some related vehicle exchanges



After they were famous ...

Former First Essex Mercedes / Marshall 52585 (V435 GTW) seen on 9th April in Southsea with First Hampshire. Note the comprehensive blind display. A type that is popular locally, sister, 52584 is still in service. *John G Lidstone*

took place with BN over the preceding weekend.

March

- 1st BN67009 on 100
- 17th BN41730 on 100
- 18th BE65692 on BE21
- 23rd BN40733, 41650, 42551, 43800 and one of 43845-8 all on 73/73A, BN65628 on 100
- 25th 42436 on 200 (ex CN)
- 30th 46440 on 100 (ex FEC)

April

- 6th Ex FEC 43448 first noted working from BN (on 551)

Other news

Former Thamesway Volvo coaches 20105/6/8 (N605/6/8APU) all left King's Lynn (FEC) for Erith during March.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to S Austin, A Bird, N Clark, T Clark, J Collins, D Edwards, M Farmer, K Mead, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', TBL177M, R West, the Essex, East Anglia, South West and British Buses Abroad in North America yahoo! groups, Essex and East Anglia Google groups, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail to shenfield252@gmail.com or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart

Arriva

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Dennis Lance/East Lancs 3021/2 (N221 TPK/N322 TPK) have been withdrawn. 3021 was withdrawn on the 12th March with 3022 withdrawn following the service changes of 27th March which saw a reduction in fleet PVR. Just two step entrance vehicles remain in the fleet (both Volvo Olympians).

From 27th March, service 13 (Southend – Garon Park) was withdrawn and replaced by an extended service 29 which now operates Belfairs – Southend – Garon Park. The two MPD Darts 1608/9 have lost the route 13 branding and are now generally found on service 4/4A although they have also been noted on the extended 29, despite their small capacity. The only route branding that remains in the fleet is for service 29, currently unaltered from the previous version of the service, on Dart SLFs 3391/2 and 3421/31.

Arriva Southend are providing drivers for a shuttle from Rochford Station to Southend Airport to connect with the new daily Aer Arann flights to Galway and Waterford. This uses two all-white Plaxton Primos rented by London Southend Airport (Stobart Air) from Dawson Rentals, KX08 OLA/B. See inside back cover. The shuttle is only running until the new Southend Airport station opens - it is physically completed but awaiting authorisation to open. The Primos are based at the airport but come to the Arriva Southend depot for fuelling and maintenance, and have been allocated Arriva numbers 1401/2 (KX08 OLA/OLB). If either is off the road, one of the two MPD Darts substitute (1608/9).

Ex-Arriva Southend 5419 (N709 TPK) (new to Southend Transport as LR709) Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties now with Arriva North West was completely deroofed when it was driven under an 11' bridge near Macclesfield Station on 25th March and is presumably now withdrawn.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, David Flatman and Essex bus y-group



TV news

**Dramatic end
for an Essex bus**



Ex-Arriva Southend (and Network Colchester) Dart/East Lancs 3124 (N544 TPK) appeared in a recent episode of the BBC1 drama 'Casualty' (shown on Saturday 12th March). It appeared in full as withdrawn condition complete with red band as applied to all sold on buses, plus fictional "Shuttle Line" fleetnames applied. It was crashed into a traffic light post and then a car crashed into the side, followed by a mock fire. screen grabs courtesy Richard Delahoy

TGM Group

■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Former Colchester Borough Transport Lynx 30 (H130 LPU), now with Tanat Valley of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant, was undergoing MOT and repaint preparation in March.

Crosville Enthusiasts' Club (1967) Review

Centrebus

Former Trustline MAN/Optare Vecta 769 (P10 TLS) has been withdrawn.

Ian Ransom with thanks to LOTS

Ensignbus

■ DEALING STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in	from
London General:	Darts S91-98/108/110/2/4 EGK, S954/5 JGX, Y705/853/4/56-66 TGH, R452/3/74 LGH
Stagecoach Bluebird:	Dart R313 MSL, Mercedes 709s N636 VSS, N369/70 AVV, N752 CKU
Stagecoach Cambridge:	Volvo B10Ms P845-850 GND, Darts R562/6 UOT
Stagecoach London:	Tridents V148/50/6/8/173/9/204 MEV, X287 CNO, Volvo B10Ms N446 XVA, M948 TSX.
Stagecoach South Wales:	Mercedes 811s N413/6/8/9/21/9 WVR
Vehicles out	to
Mercedes 709 M668 FYS:	Amber Coaches, Rayleigh, Essex
S96/114 EGK:	Axe Valley Travel, Seaton, Devon
Dart S112 EGK:	Bear Buses, Staines, Middx.
Volvo B10M M235 TBV:	A&P Brown, Ely, Cambs.
Tridents V313/5/7 GLB:	Centrebus
Olympians L203 SKD E333 MSG P492 MBY:	Deckerbus, Whittlesey, Cambs.
Dart 00-D-89227/84191 now W973/5 ETW	
Darts Y863-866 TGH:	K & H Doyle, Alfreton, Derbyshire
Mercedes 811 N101 WRC:	Galleon Travel, Harlow
Tridents V138/55/8/204 MEV:	Golden Tours, London
Tridents T185/90/5 CLO:	McGill's Buses, Glasgow
Darts R452 LGH, S94 EGK, S954 JGX:	
	Padarn Bus, Llanberis
Dart R474 LGH:	Red Route Buses, Northfleet, Kent
Dart Y705 TGH:	Rotala Group, Birmingham
Volvo B10M M911 WJK:	South Gloucestershire Bus and Coach, Bristol
Volvo B6BLE 00-D-70026	now X964CNO and Dart V675 FPO:
	Tates Travel, Barnsley
Darts S91/93 EGK:	Travelmasters, Sheerness, Kent
Dart T56 KLD, Olympian K886 CSF:	
	Xelabus, Eastleigh, Hants.

Enviro 300 EG02 OAN: **Z&S Travel**, Aylesbury, Bucks.

Mercedes 711 P347 HKU: **Bristol Gliding Club**, Stonehouse, Glos.

Olympian L217 TWM: **Miss S Lacey**, West Drayton, Middx.

Dublin Olympian 97-D-366 now R291 LHK with **Serco plc**.

Volvo B10M R986 XVM: **Sawila-Mlowoka Road Transport**, Pretoria, South Africa

Volvo B10Ms R931/50/61/3 XVM, P846-850 GND: **Sir Camerao International**, Maputo, Mozambique

Mercedes 814 R821 YJC: **Uslugi Transport**, Przewozosdo Wojnicz, Poland

Darts S97/98/108 EGK, S955 JGX, R716 YWC, R190 TKU. DAF 01-D-4803:

Geoff Ripley, Barnsley, for scrap.

■ ENSIGN BUS

Olympians P427/9 UUG are now reregistered WLT 307 and WJY 759.

■ PRIVATE HIRE FLEET

Former Bath Bus Co. (City Sightseeing Cardiff) RM25 is now a private hire bus at Purfleet.

■ CITY SIGHTSEEING

Former Bath Bus Co. (City Sightseeing Windsor) Olympian H151 GGS has been sold to City Sightseeing Cyprus.

Olympian E305 MSG and Trident T75 KLD, now converted to part open top have been sold to Rubicon Classic Enterprises - City Sightseeing Bristol.

RM1978 is now with Bath Bus Co. (RATP) - City Sightseeing Cardiff.

Dublin Olympians 97-D-349/3/335 are now P772-4 SWC with Bath Bus Co. (RATP), allocated to:

City Sightseeing Cardiff

P772 SWC - full open top

City Sightseeing Eastbourne

P773 SWC - full open top

City Sightseeing Eastbourne

P774 SWC - part open top

David Harman with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus and LOTS

Olympus / Roadrunner / SM Coaches

Recently acquired are N632 VSS a Mercedes Benz 709D/Alexander Belfast, ex Stagecoach Western Buses and N986 WGR a Volvo B10M/Jonckheere ex Tates Travel, Low Barugh.

Dennis Dart/Plaxton R479 LGH has been sold to Lea Valley Buses, the new title adopted by Gemma Smith Ltd.

Ian Ransom

Regal Busways

Leyland Olympian/ECW B714 HVO has been withdrawn

Ian Ransom



Southend sees two National Express services a day, the 090 to London (operated by Peter Godward Coaches of Basildon) and the 305 to Liverpool (Selwyns Travel of Runcorn). As reported in EBN 557 (September 2010), the 090 continues on to Whitehaven and one of the two regular coaches is FJ08KMX, a Scania with Caetano Levante bodywork. Meanwhile the Selwyns fleet now includes a number of Volvo B9Rs with Plaxton's new Elite body, including YN11AYB. The destination display below the windscreen was specially developed for Selwyns and is now a Plaxton option. Both were seen in Southend Travel Centre on Saturday April 2nd by Richard Delahoy.



Stephensons of Essex

Acquired for component recovery and then scrapping are three former Go-North East Leyland Olympians 3955/2/1: Northern Counties G528 VBB and Alexander H550/1 PVW (originally Dublin Bus 91 D 1085 and 91 D 1065).

Ian Ransom with thanks to Richard Delahoy

Talisman Coachlines

New is Setra S416GT-HD UL11 ULM, collected prior to Christmas and in store.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Paul Smith

Other operators

ACCESS ANYONE, Southend Airport This minibus operator, continues to expand, with the arrival of R936 KGU a VW1200, formerly with Bestax, Rayleigh and Peugeot Boxer FX55 CXF from a private owner.

AC ROSS, Braintree Acquired are Ford Transits KS06 EHU and AD09 CSU, both from private owners. LDV Convoy Y198 JPM has been withdrawn.

AMBER, Rayleigh LDV Convoy X533 HJM has been withdrawn.

APT, Rayleigh Recently acquired is YN05 HAX a Scania K114/Irizar ex Thompson Tours, Christchurch, it was re-registered PT05 APT after arrival here. BIG 8743 (N251 XKR) a Mercedes Benz 609D/Robin Hood, has been sold.

ASTROCABZ, Maylandsea Ford Transit R337 EFG has been sold.

BESTAX, Rayleigh Acquired are Citroen Relay FL03 LXB and Ford Transit S799 KNR.

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford Ford Transit AV06 XUH has been sold.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS A further VW LT46 minibus is GX04 FZV (numbered 136).

CLINTONA, Brentwood Mercedes Benz 412D/Autobus R399 EJV is currently out of use.

COLCHESTER COACHES, Clacton-on-Sea

Acquired from Tiger Line, Lye Green, is WJI 2849 (N903 ABL) a Volvo B10M/Berkhof, it is now registered N555 CCL. Also re-registered is Iveco/Beulas T858 JBC, which is now T555 CCL.

FARGOLINK, Rayne Vehicles withdrawn are LDV Convoy X679 ABN, Y533 PBD and Ford Transit EN56 VKK.

KEANE, Canvey Island Acquired from Mortlock, East Tilbury is M68 DLN a Mercedes Benz 811D/Wadham Stringer and Peugeot Boxer HG53 NTE from a private owner. Ford Transit P119 FRR has gone to a private owner.

GODWARD, Basildon LDV Convoy T339 ABV has been withdrawn.

KELLYS, Lutton Setra S215HD MAZ 7016 (A601 UHT) has been withdrawn.

KNIGHTS COACHES, Gt Braxted LDV Convoy R622 YJV has been withdrawn.

LCB TRAVEL, Harlow Acquired from Ryders Travel, Harlow is X878 EKL an Iveco 49-10 minicoach, it has been re-registered C14 LCB.

LINKFAST, Thundersley Here on loan, for a short period, from Ensign (dealer), Purfleet, was XIL 3492 (G642 BPH) a Volvo B10M/Northern Counties. It has now been sold for preservation.

LODGE, High Easter Mercedes Benz

811D/Mellor N982 TPG has been sold.
LOGIC, Nazeing Iveco/Indcar R515 SCH has been sold.

L&R, Shotgate Volvo B10M/Ikarus CLZ 6782 (new as F108 SSE) has been sold. It is replaced here, by former Ruffle, Castle Hedingham P919 HNA a Dennis Javelin/Neoplan

MELS MINIBUSES, Horndon-on-the-Hill Ford Transit P197 PVX has been withdrawn.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island Acquired from Peakes Coaches, Pontypool is W354 MKY a Scania L94/Irizar, it has been re-registered N300 MSC. The previous N300 MSC Dennis Javelin/Neoplan has been re-registered to its previous T788 JWA and sold.

REOWN, Bexhill Have applied for a separate operator licence for the base in Saffron Walden. It is in the name of Saffron Buses and is for two vehicles (PF1102189/N).

RUNWOOD HOMES, Hadleigh This former non-PSV operator has Mercedes Benz 513CDi EU59 FBD/E. Ford Transit

M819 XVW has been sold for scrap.
SBC, Wickford LDV Convoy P676 LWA has been withdrawn.

S-CAPE, Corringham Ford Transit R765 ENO has been withdrawn.

SUPREME, Rettendon MCW Metrobus E750 SKR has been withdrawn.

TONY GLEW, Little Tey Dennis Dart/Wadham Stringer CHZ 2948 (L297 VRV) has been sold to a Scottish operator. Renault Master X256 XBX has been acquired from Andrews Travel, Wisbech, while TJI 4147 (N956 CVP) a Dennis Javelin/Wadham Stringer, has been acquired from Teejay, Carnoustie.

TURNERS, Little Maplestead Scania K114/Irizar YN06 CKX has been sold to Rooney, Hilltown, Northern Ireland,

TWH, Waltham Abbey The excellent Harlowride website reports that both BMC Falcons CN04 XCK/L and the Trident/Alexander KN52 NDY have been sold.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston, Alan Timms, PSV Circle and Harlowride website



Ex-London Country Olympian/Roe TPD 118X is in use with the NHS, touring south east Essex to offer free health checks. Livery is red. Seen in Rayleigh High Street on March 23.

Philip Mansbridge

Years gone by

Just a brief look back this month, due to space constraints

April 1970

Eastern Coach Works (ECW) had just announced, that dual purpose vehicles, would now be based on a bus shell, with certain embellishments, rather than a coach shell, without certain embellishments. As this did not suit Eastern National requirements, it had been decided, that they would buy coaches and would then pass into dual purpose use, when they were about five years old.

Bristol RE coaches AAH 125B and GPW 482D, were on loan from Eastern Counties and in use from Chelmsford.

Bristol FLF 2612 (AVW 403F) had been converted for use on coach-air services from Southend Airport, and had the two rear single seats removed and extra luggage space fitted.

The overhaul area at Kings Cross Coach station, was being incorporated into the passenger area.

The use of Clacton depot, to help with repair



Southend Transport's Albion Lowlanders were hardly the most suitable buses for one man operation but nevertheless, all were permanently converted as such in 1969/70. Here 323, 7087HJ, photographed by Richard Delahoy on July 6th, 1971 at the garage, shows the initial style, with the then standard OMO signs under the canopy and to the right of the door, and the protruding box in the cab side window to house the ticket machine. Double deck OMO became much more extensive from October 1971 after delivery of the first 26 Daimler Fleetlines and the Lowlanders were fitted with self-service Videmat machines and later received fareboxes and "no change given" plates on the radiator cowl.

work on Eastern Counties vehicles, to clear a maintenance back log had recently ceased. Southend Transport Albion Lowlander 326 (7090 HJ) had been equipped for one man operation (as it was then called).

Finally, the Group weekend tour to Newcastle, was being advertised, after travel by overnight train, visits to a number of

depots in Newcastle, Sunderland and Darlington, were being made, using a United RELH coach (Saturday) or a Northern Routemaster (Sunday). Hotel accommodation was included in the price of £3.15.0 (if 25 passengers), a bargain weekend rail ticket, for Kings Cross – Newcastle, would cost £4.16.0. *Ian Ransom*

Forty Years Ago - 1606 (BNO 107B)

My favourite local single decker of the period (double deck was the LDL prototype, 236LNO), RELH6G 1606 arrived at Brentwood depot during 1970, went to Southend later that year until the end of 1971 and then stayed at BD until withdrawal in 1977. Although it had no duties on either the X10 or 400, Brentwood maintained a spare vehicle for these (MW coach conversion 1439 and RELH 1602 being earlier vehicles for this purpose) and 1606 regularly went out as breakdown cover on the 400 - sometimes for several days at a time, residing at Wood Green on occasions - as well as at least once on loan to National Travel. When 'at home' it

had one regular spreadover driver, Tony Seymour, who loved it - manual gearbox and all - and (in theory anyway) 1606 had one regular duty. This included a morning Shotgate-Brentwood 250 running as a duplicate just behind the 251. Sadly the vehicle passed to Eastern Counties for spares in January 1978, then Ben Jordan's and finally Whiting of Carlton for scrap in 1980.

Dale Tringham photographed 1606 in dual purpose Tilling green and cream on 20th March 1971 at Victoria Coach Station, the X10 having gained OMO workings during the winter of 1968/69 some time before the



FLF coaches were taken off completely. By 1975, when I photographed it in the gloom of King's Cross (in the company of Premier Travel Reliance OJE550M and a VR), it had gained NBC bus livery and bus seats while

an ENEG tour in April 1977 found 1606 in the corner of Brentwood depot, by now sporting a reflective front number plate.

Chris Stewart



Tales from the cab - and the platform : Part 3



Doug Brown recalls another eventful trip that did not go quite according to the rule book!

Part 2 was in Essex Bus News issue 559, November 2010.

Learning London

During the late 1950s I decided it would be a good idea to learn my way around London. To this end I got a job as a taxi driver in Brentwood and every time a job came in for London I volunteered to do it. For weeks I got hopelessly lost and got so angry with myself that every time I came back I studied the A to Z. This went on for about 6 months and I began to despair if I would ever learn, then one day I was

driving the taxi down Rosebery Avenue towards Holborn Circus when all the roads I had been down fitted in my mind like a gigantic jigsaw puzzle. I was elated - I had cracked it! From this time on I could go anywhere in London without getting lost. However the City was still a bit of a problem but I worked at it and it was easier to crack than the whole of London.

So when I went on the buses I put it round that I knew London. So one day the Brentwood depot supervisor asked me to do a private hire trip to Gatwick with a decker. This was taking 60 children, 6 teachers and all their suitcases to the airport. When the day came I was given Big Bertha - this was an open platform 70 seater, the only one like it on the fleet [this was 1541, later 2510, 236 LNO, the solitary Bristol LDL in the EN fleet]. Despite being an open platform bus, I was not given a conductor, having to do the job alone.



The length of "Big Bertha", 236LNO, is readily apparent in this undated picture of her outside Southend Victoria Station on the 251, her regular haunt - when not on private hire work to Gatwick Airport! *Richard Delahoy collection*

We piled many suitcases under the stairs while the remainder went up front behind my observation window on the long rear-facing seat. The trip went very well and I got them to Gatwick in good time to catch their flight. In fact it went so well I was asked to do the return journey, a 6am pick up from Gatwick a week later. I wanted to get to the airport and get some food before my return journey so I left the depot at 3am. However as I was driving Big Bertha along the A12 just passing Whalebone Lane, the bell rang twice. To say I was shocked was an understatement, especially at that time of morning! I put all the saloon lights on and pulled into the bus lay-by at Summerville Road, keeping an eye on the platform at all times. No one got off. No one was sitting downstairs either. So I assumed perhaps there was an old tramp sitting upstairs. I got out of the bus and went upstairs, but there was no one up there either. By now my curly hair had gone straight with fright!

From this time on I drove with all the saloon lights on. All went well until we crossed the river and got to the Elephant & Castle junction. Then a lot of people one their way home after a night on the town got on the bus when I had to stop at traffic lights, so I had to keep pulling over to tell them to get off. Then I thought it would be a good idea to just leave the cleaner lights on [there was a switch which put on only half the lights, enough for the cleaners to work but avoiding draining the batteries on a parked bus].

As I was going through Streatham I noticed a newsagent putting a board out on the street which had on it "Air crash, many dead". My mind went into overdrive and I

thought about my passengers, so I decided to get out and buy a paper to check. Thankfully it was not my school group but an air crash in India. At this point I happened to look upstairs, only to see a passenger sitting in one of the seats! I thought "I do not believe this" - I went upstairs and asked where he was going. He tried to give me the fare and said he was going to work. I asked him if he worked at Gatwick Airport - he said no, so I said he'd better get off or that was where he would finish up!

I had "Private" on the destination blind and of course the bus was painted green not red. I did not realise until then that the public could be such idiots. Eventually we got to Gatwick and back and a good time was had by all except me. And I never did find out how or why the bells had rung back on the A12 in the early hours of the morning!

Edited by Richard Delahoy.

rear cover: **Arriva Southend** made some selective, relatively minor service cuts from March 27 in response to the reduced level of concessionary fares funding. A casualty was the Thursday only 17, an off-peak shopper bus from Southend to the Tesco store on the A127, via Hamlet Court Road and Southend Hospital. On the last day of operation, a very Spring-like Thursday March 24, *Malcolm McKinnon* photographed 1608, GN04UCY, one of the pair of MPD Darts that are the newest buses in the Southend fleet. The route 13 branding seen here was removed from both MPDs within a few days as the 13 route was absorbed into an extended service 29.



A short-term visitor to Essex was ADL E400 demonstrator SN59 AWX, here on loan to **Constable Coaches** on the 247 in Colchester bus station in March. This was the Enviro 400 that briefly reintroduced double-deck operation to Jersey last year. *Jonathan Bale*

Arriva Southend are crewing two Plaxton Primo midibuses owned by Dawson Rentals and being operated on behalf of **Stobart Air**, operators of London Southend Airport. They provide a shuttle to Rochford Station to connect with the newly started Aer Arann flights. *Richard Delahoy* photographed them on Sunday April 3rd at the Airport.



