

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Everything you need to know about Buses in Essex

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Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

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Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or see www.essexbus.org.uk

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We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell with details of what you're looking for and he'll be pleased to help you.

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Members reports, quality photos and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub -Editor.

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

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Thank you to the many contributors for their valuable news and information.

Welcome Aboard!

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ESSEX BUS NEWS

1964 - 2004: 40 years of local bus news

www.essexbus.org.uk

Editorial

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Cover

First Essex 721 R721 DGN Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer 2

The new Southend Metro network introduced colour coding to many routes and 721 is seen at Canvey Leigh Beck with orange branding for route 27. (Steven R)

Photo

Essex service changes

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

Week Commencing Saturday 7th June 2003

310B, C4, R3 As in Issue 469.

R2 As in Issue 470.

Sunday 15th June 2003

Canvey Clipper, 2, 3, 11A, 15, 16, 16C, 20, 20A, 20B, 20C, 21, 21C, 21D, 21E, 22, 24A, 25, 27, 29B, 64, 65

As in Issue 469.

22, 24, 24C, 25A, 25B, 25C, 25D, 25E As in Issue 470.

Thursday 19th June 2003

773 As in Issue 470.

Week Commencing Saturday 5th July

Unnumbered, 9, 33, 79, 308, 309, 333 As in Issue 470.

67 (*Stephensons*) (Southend Tour) Summer only route introduced on Weekends in July and then to run daily until Wednesday 3rd September.

167 (*Docklands Buses*) (Ilford & Debden) From Thursday 10th July until Monday 2nd September an emergency timetable will be introduced due to the closure of Roding Lane. The route will be rerouted between Chigwell and Buckhurst Hill via: High Road, Chigwell Lane, Rectory Lane, Debden Broadway and then normal route to terminate at Buckhurst Hill Station.

308, 309, 333 Further to Issue 470, the frequency of Stephensons' service 333 is hourly. The routes are actually operated by Excel Coaches, an affiliated company of Stephensons.

Week commencing Saturday 12th July 2003.

65, 65A As in Issue 470.

133 (*Stansted Transit*) (Stansted Airport & Braintree) From Monday 14th July, minor re-timings on Mondays to Saturdays and the 1835 journey from Braintree will be extended to Stansted Airport and operate additionally on Saturdays from Monday 14th July. (N&P quotes a timetable change from 19th August, but I assume this has been brought forward).

Week Commencing Saturday 19th July 2003

Colchester Tour, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 504, X40 As in Issue 470.

- 370 (Arriva) (Romford & Grays) New Monday to Friday and Sunday timetables from Sunday 20th July.
- 373 (Arriva) (Romford & Grays) New timetable from Saturday 19th July. The peak time journeys via North Stifford, Dog & Partridge diverted to operate via normal route. See school section for additional changes.
- 377 (Arriva) (Lakeside & Tilbury) New timetable from Saturday 19th July.
- 383 (Arriva) (Lakeside & Chadwell St. Mary) New timetable from Saturday 19th July.

Week Commencing Saturday 26th July 2003

Woodham Swimbuses As in Issue 470.

- 32 (Stagecoach) (Saffron Walden & Cambridge) Withdrawn between Saffron Walden & Sawston from Monday 28th July.
- 32 (Whippet) (Saffron Walden & Cambridge) New route from Monday 28th July, as present Stagecoach route 32, except that it will run via Adenbrookes Hospital instead of Trumpington.
- 351 (Arriva) (Hertford & Bishops Stortford) Withdrawn after service on Saturday 26th July.
- 354 (Arriva) (Buntingford & Harlow) Monday to Friday Arriva service transferred to Trustline.

Saturday 16th August 2003

- B6 (Arriva) (Harlow Town & Latton Bush) Routeing change.

Friday 29th August 2003

- 10 (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Colchester & Gurdon Road) Withdrawn. It is not known whether the return journey between Braintree and Cornish Hall End will also be withdrawn.

Week commencing Saturday 30th August 2003

- 59 (Arriva) (Harlow & Chelmsford) New timetable from Saturday 30th August 2003.
- 74X, 78X (Cedric Coaches) (Brightlingsea & Colchester) Withdrawn.
- 252 (Arriva) (Waltham Cross & Waltham Abbey) New daily route via Waltham Point from Monday 1st September.
- 268/9 (First) Blackmore -Brentwood- Grays Essex county contract awarded to Imperial from Monday 1 September.
- 505 As in Issue 470. Additionally, LBSL mobility bus route 908 will be diverted to cover part of the 505 routeing within London.
- 549 (Arriva) (Loughton & South Woodford) Status of route changed from LLSA to a full TfL contract. The route will be retendered.

School Services (all areas)

Monday 28th April 2003

551, 552 As in Issue 470.

Monday 2nd June 2003

501, 605, 607, 608, 609 As in Issue 469.

Monday 16th June 2003

820, 821, 822, 825 As in Issue 470.

Monday 21st July 2003

373 (Arriva) (Romford & Grays) SDO extension beyond Grays to Bradleigh Avenue (Convent School) withdrawn.

Monday 28th July 2003

35A Further to Issue 470, there was no routeing change from 7th July and the route will be withdrawn after service on Friday 25th July.

Monday 1st September 2003

CMO 501 (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Steeple Bumpstead & Hedingham School) Withdrawn.

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Scania update

First

To clarify the report in EBN470, fleet numbers 668-687 have been allocated to eight ex dealer stock Scania's and twelve new buses, all model L94UB with Wright Solar bodies. 669-74 at least are B43F+32 (or B40F+30+1 wheelchair). 676/7/9-81 are currently working for *First in Hampshire & Dorset*, with 'national' fleetnumbers 62406-10. Of these, 62406-8 are reported to be at Weymouth, with 62409/10 at Bridport, for the X53 'Jurassic Coast' service which operates Exeter-Bridport-Weymouth-Wareham. The original tender for this service apparently called for low-floor double-deckers, and the Scania's may move to Essex later in the year if these materialise. 669-74 have been loaned since March 2003 by Scania Bus & Coach to *Brighton & Hove* (as their nos. 46, 41, 42, 45, 44 and 43), but as at early July they were being repainted into 'Barbie 1' (from dealer white). 668/75 have already been repainted.

10 vehicles (668/75/8/81-6 and one other) will be required at CR from 14th July, when service 65 is enhanced to run every 12 minutes, Scania's 650-4 and Darts 715/6 then transferring to the 64. Orange 65 route branding had been applied to 678 by 25th June, when it was used as part of a bus users' consultation in Colchester. Five vehicles from the 669-74 batch are due to enter service soon on the Chelmsford-Maldon 31, displacing Lances.

Thanks due to a number of individuals for information about these vehicles, the following list of which is believed to be correct. All chassis numbers are prefixed 'YS2L4X2000'.

668	YP02ABN	chassis	1841520	body F044
669	YR52VEH		1841965	F183
670	YR52VEK		1841971	F184
671	YR52VEL		1842021	F188
672	YR52VEP		1842100	F190

673	YR52VEU	1842214	F195
674	YR52VEY	1842105	F191
675	YR52VFU (not JFU)		
676	YS03ZKA		
677	YS03ZKB		
678	YS03ZKC	1844819	G597
679	YS03ZKD		
680	YS03ZKE		
681	YS03ZKF		
682	YS03ZKG	1844735	G599
683	YS03ZKH	1844837	G598
684	YS03ZKJ	1844958	G600
685	YS03ZKK	1844925	G602
686	YS03ZKL	1844965	G601
687	YS03ZKM	1845036	G603

Repaints

5.03 940 946 4314 2805 4302 939 947 948 4303 949 951 2820

Allocation changes (period ending 28 June 2003)

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to another First fleet (see below for details)

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

2642 (D)-AB; 2652 HH-(D); 2825 AB-(Sp); 3109 (Sp)-(D)

Airport Buses/Coaches Stansted depot closed on 7th July, and the following changes are understood to have taken place as a result:

100 (R)-engineering vehicle 9040 (HH); 101 AC-BN (FGC); 111 AC-sold; 112 AC-sold; 397 AC-(D) at BN; 398 AC-(D) at BN; 432 AB-CF; 434 AB-CF; 435 AB-CF; 602 AB-CR; 608 AB-CR; 610 AB-CR; 915 RD-BN (FGC); 917 AB-BN (FGC); 943 AB-BE; 1413 CF-DVT (9039); 1550 AB-BN (FGC); 1551 AB-BN (FGC); 2640 AB-(D) at CN; 2642 AB-(D) at CN; 2646 CF-(D) at CN; 2648 AB-(D) at CN; 2649 AB-(D) at CN; 2650 AB-(D) at CN; 2669 DT-CF; 2677 CF-(D) at CN; 2679 AC-CF; 2683 AB-CR; 2804 DT-RD; 2813 AB-DT; 2814 AB-(R) at CN; 2815 AB-(R) at CN; 2822 AB-CF; 2825 AB-CN

Phoenix 5011 is reported to have been used for driver training, with two more 14xx Lynx destined to join 1413 as permanent trainers.

Disposals

805 806 809 810 811 all to First Glasgow (6.03)
3078 to Mr R Howard-Tricker, ?, Holland (5.03)

On the occasion of an Omnibus Society visit to Clacton on 17th June, the following vehicles were present in the disposal area:

1408/25/6/30/1, 2650/1/5/64, 3092, 3101/3/9, 4028, 9002/3/20/9

note 9002 was still licensed, 9003/20 D/L

VEHICLE WORKINGS

The last 24C to South Woodham Ferrers was worked by HH403 on 13.6.03 (the service having started on 2.9.02). The last 20B from Southend High School for Girls to Hullbridge was worked by HH1409 on the same day.

Unusual sightings

- 16.6.03 CR4320 on 64s, CR4324 on 65As, CR4325 on 77s
AB100/1 at CR for new driver assessment
- 19.6.03 CR4301 on rail replacement CR-Ipswich
- 30.6.03 CN2824 temporarily exchanged for CR974
- 1.7.03 CR1502 on 77
- 23.6.03 AB610 (Green Line livery) on afternoon 646 at Cranham
- 25.6.03 AB610 on Brentwood local 82 (BN diagram, one trip prior to school C25)
- 26.6.03 HH1409 and HH1423 on 26
- 27.6.03 HH717 (branded 27) on 20
BN1404 on 8, CF1416 on Diamond
CF2828 on 41/51, CF2901 on 45, CF2905 on 47
- 7.7.03 (BN)1551 on morning Hutton 83 (presume then 82 circuit and C25 schools)
CF430 on 33
CF2907 on 45 and then 43

VR-watch

3219's continued usage has again been logged and reported by our faithful band of VR enthusiast members in and around Colchester (thanks also from your sub-Editor for the recent hospitality). Workings have included:

- 17.6.03 afternoon Norman Way Schools-East Mersea 67E, then 17.35 service 71 to Chelmsford and return
- 18.6.03 07.40 Coggeshall-CR 70, later Greenstead-Tollgate 65s (full blind fitted that day, can also show 'East Mersea' for the first time)
- 20.6.03 peak hour 70
- 25.6.03 09.10 Stanway-CR 70
- 27.6.03 afternoon 67E, then two 77s to Wivenhoe
- 28.6.03 noted on 64A
- 30.6.03 afternoon schools 193, then 17.30 service 78A to Brightlingsea
- 1.7.03 13.45 and 15.45 CR-HD 88s
- 7.7.03 afternoon 69, 16.15 and 17.45 88B

EBN470 made reference to 3084 being at CN - this should have been 3103; apologies for any confusion. On 25.6.03, 3109 was noted on suspended tow heading away from CN, but had returned by 29.6.03 minus engine and gearbox. BN3113 remains out of use, leaving just BE's 3072 and 3112 in regular use (apart from 3219).

Thanks for your help....R Appleton, M Austin, J Clayton, C Cole, D Edwards, M Farmer, P Mansbridge, P Rowden, C Sigston, P Snell, D Stebbing, D Stewart, R Whitley, A Williams, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, First Essex, PSV Circle



4015 C415 HJN Leyland Olympian/ECW Location Jackson Rd Clacton. (Jeff Clayton)

First Essex/First Airport fleet allocation - 28 June 2003

Airport Buses	112, 432/4/5, 602/8/10, 917/43, 1550/1, 2640/2/8/50/83, 2813-5/22
Airport Coaches	101/11, 397/8, 2679
Braintree (BE)	944, 2656/63/6/71/5/80, 2804/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2909-11, 3072, 3112
Basildon (BN)	404-6, 655-67, 712-4/34-8/53-61, 852-5, 918/20/2/5/7, 929-34/6/7/45/67-73/83-6, 1400/4/10/32, 3113, 4026/34, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/13-6/27/8, 1516-20, 2646/67/8/70/2-4/6-8, 2828, 2901-8, 4007/10/2, 4014/24/5/33, 5001/4/17
Clacton (CN)	919/21/4/6, 1510-3, 2665, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	650-4, 715/6, 910/1/74-82, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-6
Hadleigh (HH)	403/7-10, 705/8-10/7-21/46-8/50/62-7, 907/8/13/28/35, 938-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/11/2/7-24, 2652/3/7-62, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	909, 2669/81/2, 2802, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401/2, 501-11, 912/4-6
Heritage	2383, 9001 (AJN825)
Spare	1429, 2655/64, 2803/25
Reserve	100, 2649/54
Disposal	805/6/9-11, 1408/25/6/30/1, 2641/3/4/5/7/51/2, 3092, 3101/3/9, 3219, 4028/30
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles	(note that some of these details are by members' observation only)
	BN: 9030, 9308; CF: 9008/38; CN: 2111, 9028;
	CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10; Disposal 9029/34

The following buses are fitted with tachographs:

701, 852-4, 1400/4/5/32/3, 1510/1, 2383, 2655/6/77, 2801/9/29/30, 4013/5/6/9/30, 4310/1/5

Depot requirements and vehicle allocations

For operational reasons this information may be subject to change, and is given for guidance only

	BE	BN	CFand (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL BY TYPE
PVR									
Minibus	5	3	11 (2)	1	0	2	11	1	36
Midibus	13	39	41	12	20	2	41	4	172
SD	0	16	7 (6)	4	12	0	11	0	56
DD	2	2	6	4	14	6	3	0	37
Phoenix DD	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Phoenix	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Midi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total PVR	20	64	68 (8)	21	46	10	67	15	319
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4
Midibus	1	3	5	1	1	0	3	0	14
SD	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	7
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
ALLOC									
Minibus	6	3	11 (2)	1	0	3	12	2	40
Midibus	14	42	46	13	21	2	44	4	186
SD	0	17	9 (6)	4	14	0	13	0	63
DD	2	3	7	5	15	7	4	0	43
Phoenix DD	0	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	3
Phoenix	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
TOTALS	BE	BN	CF	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	FLEET TOTAL
	22	70	76 (8)	23	50	12	73	17	351

ARRIVA

Harlow, Ware -Vehicles in

From Arriva London South L224/31 6/03

D224 FYM Ld ONLXB/1RH ON2581 ECW 26561 H42/26D 12/86

D231 FYM Ld ONLXB/1RH ON2593 ECW 26568 H42/26D 1/87

Allocations : 6/03: 5841/3/4. WE; D224/231 FYM. HAU

Vehicles out : 2094/6-9 (M154/6-9 RBH), 2230/1 (M290/1 AJC), 2338 (L718 OVX), 2349 (M729 UTW), 2351-3/5/6/8 (M731-3/5/6/8 AOO, 2362 (N742 AVW): Olympian, Harlow 6/03, 5082 (B272 LPH), 5111/5 (G281/5 UMJ): Ensign, Purfleet (deal;er) 7/03

Subsequent histories: 2092 (M152 RBH), 2348 (M728 UTW), 2359 (N739 AVW): Olympian, Harlow 6/03 ex Arriva the Shires 2092/348/59

Iveco help: Following the disposals mentioned above, your Sub-Editor has 3 Ivecos unaccounted for - 2333/37/57 (L723 PHK, L717 OVX & M737 AOO). Can you help?

Southern Counties -Colchester,Grays, Southend

Allocation Changes

Into the fleet

DS004 L506CPJ Dennis Dart/East Lancs

DS006 L508CPJ Dennis Dart/East Lancs

E3245 M845DDS Volvo B6/Alexander

E3387 P257FPK Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton

E4310 A250SVW Leyland Tiger/Duple

Delicenced at SE-CR

SE-CR

CR-Delicenced

GR-SE

SE-Delicenced

Out of the fleet

E3420 P420HVX Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton

E3430 P430HVX Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton

CR-Gillingham

CR-Gillingham

Arriva Data File

Vehicle requirements from July 2003

Garage	M-F peaks	M-F off peak	Sat	Sun
Colchester (Bus)	About 38	About 38	About 38	0
Coach	4	0	0	0
Grays	30AM 29PM (b)	26	26	12
Southend	57AM 58PM(a)	50 (51 W/T)	51	19
Dengie	Mon-Sat 5 with PM vehicle swap)			

Key - (a) 58 AM 59 PM on non college days (b) 29AM 28PM on non sch days

W -Wednesday T - Thursday

The Grays allocation inc. TfL contracts route 256 M-F peaks 10 Cadets , 9 off peak, Sat 9 Cadets, Sun 5 Cadets (pvr 3- middle/late meal relief taken at garage) Route 346 Mon-Sat 2 Cadets

Allocations -Southend (SE)

Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288	DD16	
Dennis Trident	E5434	E5435	E5436	E5437	E5438
	E5439	E5441	E5442	E5443	E5445
	E5446	E5547	E5548	E5549	E5451
Leyland Olympian	E5392	E5393T	E5394	E5395	E5396
	E5399				
Volvo Olympian	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Dennis Dart SLF	E3218	E3220	E3221	E3222	E3223
	3387 E3224	E3225	E3226	E3391	E3392
	E3393	E3394	E3395	E3396	E3397
Dennis Lance SLF	E3379	E3381	E3382	E3383	E3384
	E3387				
Dennis Dart	DS007	DS008	DS009	DS014	E3092
	E3349	E3350	E3370	E3373	E3404
Mercedes 810	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193	
Mercedes Sprinter	1751	1752	1753	1754	1755
	1756				
Coach	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	YDT965	YDT966	YDT888		

Colchester (CR)

Leyland Olympian	<u>E5389T</u>	<u>E5397T</u>	<u>E5398T</u>	E5404T	<u>E5407T</u>
	<u>E5408T</u>	<u>E5409T</u>			
Volvo D10M	613	614	617		
DAF SB220	<u>E4335</u>	<u>E4336</u>	<u>E4337</u>	<u>E4339</u>	
Dennis Dart SLF	<u>E3419</u>	<u>E3422</u>			
Leyland Lynx	<u>E3341</u>	<u>E3342</u>	<u>E3343</u>	<u>E3346</u>	<u>E3347</u>
Volvo B6	<u>E3241</u>	<u>E3246</u>			
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS015	DS020	DS021
	DS023	E3168	E3406		
Mercedes 711	<u>E2392</u>				
Mercedes 810	<u>E2174</u>	<u>E2243</u>	<u>E2372</u>	<u>E2382</u>	<u>E2383</u>
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	PVR 4		Allocation	4	
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4305T	2196	Trainer	Lynx	YDT 47

Grays (GY)

MCW Metrobus	M615				
Leyland Olympian	E5402	E5405T			
DAF SB120	E4500	E4501	E4502	E4503	E4504
	E4505	E4506	E4507	E4508	E4509
	E4510	E4511	E4512	E4513	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3388	E3389	E3390	E3400	E3401
	E3402	E3403	E3421	E3423	E3424
	E3425	E3426	E3427	E3428	E3429
	E3431				
Dennis Dart	E3405	E3407			
Ferry Buses	YFB160	YFB580	YFB698	YFB724	

Key - T- Vehicle fitted with tachograph, Underlined - Fitted with GPS

All information is subject to change and given for guidance only.

Compiled by Sean Menzies and Paul Rowden with invaluable help from Arriva Southern Counties.

Other Operators

A&M COACHES THUNDERSLEY Ford Transit H68 BKM has gone to Halifax Bus, West Yorkshire.

AMBER RAYLEIGH Bova Europa 227 ASV has been re-registered to an unknown plate, before being used for spares.

APT RAULEIGH The former identity of Bova Futura T123 APT is T517 PYD. N11 RED a Neoplan N122/3 has been acquired from Supreme, Colchester. Vehicles sold are Scania/Van Hool OIL 5135 (new as D910 RBU) to an unknown owner and Mercedes/Crystals M919 HSU (M3 ECT) to Stansfield & Booth, Hazel Grove.

ASHES EUROTRAVEL CRESSING Vehicles are now being parked at Tuttons Timber Yard, Shardlowes Farm, Hedingham Road, Gosfield.

AUTOHIRE STANSTED LDV Convoy T907 LGB does not exist, the correct registration is T207 LGB. Ford Transits F957 BKF, H794 GLC, F768 KVV, G621 UKR, E666 FTW, LDV Convoy T207 LGB, Y529 PBD and Fiat E490 OJT have been sold.

BAMBRIDGE CARS CANVEY ISLAND Ford Transit R375 CTW has been sold.

BARKER ROYDON Bova Europa LUI 5808 (FUA 396Y) has gone to Premier Travel, London.

BASILDON CAB Ford Transits M234 TNO and S581 UGV have been sold.

BOBBYS MINIBUSES STANFORD LE HOPE Renault Master E196 JRK has gone to a private owner.

BOBS MINIBUSES LITTLE OAKLEY Renault Master P257 FOP has been sold.

BORDACOACH SHOTGATE Not previously reported is that former Grey Green Leyland Tiger/Duple B873 YYX has been sold, to Gainsbury, Rainham.

BRIANS MAYLANDSEA Sold some while ago was Freight Rover E195 EOO.

BROMLEY PRIVATE HIRE ELMSTEAD MARKET N27 MPV LDV 400 is in (by 6.03). Vehicles sold are Freight Rover D992 SHJ, Talbot Express E609 EPK and Ford Transit E64 HVX.

BROWN HARLOW Ford Transit D108 XVX has been sold. It is replaced by similar E677 VKP acquired from Catton, Harlow.

CAROUSEL HARLOW This new operator has Ford Transits RY02 RYH and EY03 VNP.

CATTON HARLOW Fiat D821 BLT has been sold.

CHAEUFFEUR 2000 HADLEIGH This new operator has Ford Transit K948 FHX.

CJ TRAVEL HARLOW Ford Transit D930 CRE is now with a private owner.

CLARKE BASILDON Ford Transit D731 RJN has been sold.

C&M LAINDON LDV Convoy P654 NWC a LDV Convoy has gone to Brain, Brynna.

CROWN THUNDERSLEY Ford Transit F470 BOH has been sold.

COOK SOUTHEND Y664 HWY a Bova Futura is in (by 6.03).

DENGIE TAXIS LATCHINGDON L404 FTF a DAF400 has gone (by 6.03) - seen in private use.

DON DUNMOW Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs DHG 211W has been acquired from Lincolnshire.

EAGLE LINE BULPHAN Vehicles sold are Talbot Express E438 PMD to Waylands, Ellough; similar F931 XUK to a private owner and K554 CEG a Freight Rover to Swallow, Rainham.

EASYBUS HADLEIGH Vehicles disposed of are Freight Rover E617 LHX and DAF 400 K168 BBH.

FARGO RAYNE It appears that vehicles of Brandon, Blackmore End are now carrying Fargo names. We will therefore record all vehicles under this heading. Daimler Fleetline/Park Royal KUC 217P has gone to PVS (dealer), Barnsley for scrap (by 5.03). Leyland Leopard/Plaxton LHE 258W has gone for scrap (by 5.03). All VRs have now gone (by 5.03) TPE 155S and YBF 682S were the last.

Former Southend Daimler Fleetline/Northern Counties Q475 MEV (chassis ex GHJ377L) has gone to Stephenson (dealer), Rochford (5.03)

Daimler Fleetline/Roe MBE 616R is (unlicensed) (by 5.03)

Scania/Van Hool P145 GHE & R468 YDT have gone to Moseley (dealer) (5.03)

YJ03 GXL & YJ03 GXS are new Bova Futura (in 5.03)

URN 208V Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs is in (5.03) ex Stephenson (dealer), Rochford (Note - this in addition to URN209V already recorded)

Leyland national 2 WBB 532Y has been acquired.

FARNHAM HIRE SERVICES FARNHAM DAF 400 H545 EVM has gone to a private owner.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Bedford YRT/Alexander GSX 121N has been sold for preservation in Scotland. Mazda E2200 L520 CAY has gone to Classic, Sible Hedingham.

GLEW COLCHESTER A392 NNK a Mercedes Benz L307D/Reeve Burgess is in (by 6.03) ex Knights Coaches, Great.Braxted

GODWARD SHOTGATE Toyota/Caetano E565 DMA (new as E257 PEL) has gone to Douglas, Weymouth.

GROUP TAXIBUS CHELMSFORD Ford Transits G124 UKJ and G342 PKR have gone to a dealer in Frating. Other vehicles presumed sold are Ford Transits R270/72/96/98 EVW, R696 FTW, S363/4 SNO.

HALSTEAD TRAVEL This operators licence has been revoked.

HANN HARLOW Acquired is Citroen Relay R960 HFH, it has been reregistered GAZ 4435. This plate was on a Talbot Express, this has been reregistered to an unknown plate, before being sold.

JWS CHADWELL ST MARY Mercedes/Autobus A19 HOD is now registered N17 JWS. MCW Metroriders J936/43 JJR have gone to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet.

KB COACHES WICKFORD Recently acquired from Knight, Sidcup is WSV 487 (J200 CCH) a Volvo/Berkhof.

KELLYS TRAVEL LATTON Acquired from Tim's Travel, Sheerness is Mercedes 0303 SIW 6253 (new as D356 CBC).

KIRBY RAYLEIGH K50 BYS a Setra S415HD is new (reg. 15.4.03). Setra S215 NMC 873 (RWF 313X) has gone to Rose, Margate.

KNIGHTS GT. BRAXTED Mr. Vaughan the owner of this firm passed away recently - we understand that the company is currently being run by solicitors.

LINKFAST THUNDERSLEY MCW Metrobus B215 WUL has been acquired.

LITTLE CLACTON TAXIS This operation has been renamed AH Minibuses. LDV 400 M365 FDX and Ford Transit N272 BHJ, carry the new name. Ford Transit E208 LGV has gone to a private owner.

MASTER TRAVEL HERONGATE Recently acquired is Scania/Irizar P80 ASH, ex Ashton, St Helens.

MATTS BLACKMORE Ford Transit J52 ROW is now with a private owner.

MCS GRAYS Toyota/Caetano C499 AYY has gone to best, Penzance.

MILESTONE CANVEY ISLAND F805 FAW a Ford Transit has been sold.

MILTON MINIBUSES CORRINGHAM This operators licence has been revoked

NCS NEWPORT F313 MPF a Freight Rover/Sherpa/Dormobile reported some while ago, is in fact registered F313 NPF. Previously reported Renault Masters L957 PHJ and L844 RHJ do not exist. DAF 200 M765 LYL has gone to Durham Travel.

OLYMPIAN HARLOW The following Iveco 59-12 / Marshall have been acquired (6.03):-

L 718 OVX, M 153/4/6/7/8/9 RBH, M 290/1 AJC, M 731/2/3/5/6/8 AOO, M 728/9 UTW, N739/42 AVW

Most (possibly all) came from Arriva East Herts. & Essex. Not all are expected to see service with Olympian - some may be used for spares and some may be sold on.

PIONEER CLACTON Official record show this operating centre to now be at Unit 6, Comac Yard, Clacton. Does anybody know where this is located?

PRODUCTION EUROPE FRINTON Fiat D653 CLX has gone to a private owner.

REGAL COOKSMILL GREEN Dennis Dominator OAP 16W has been sold to Hansen, Welwyn Garden City. The Braintree based vehicles are kept at The London Pressed Hinge Company, Swinbourne Drive, Springwood Industrial Estate.

RS TRAVEL BRAINTREE Are reported as having Atlantean EPH 222V, Fleetline RCU 835S. It is possible that N302 FSG Scania/Irizar (ex Stewart, Portsmouth, Hants), K19 FTG Volvo/Plaxton (ex Gordon, Rotherham, S.Yorks.) and ILZ 1566 (ex ?????) LAG Panoramic, are also here.

RYDER TRAVEL HARLOW Ford Transit C710 NPU has gone to Brown, Harlow. Other vehicles sold are Ford Transits D211 DDF, E253 CPU, Fiat E473 EUF, Talbot Express F84 KKP, DAF 400 J558 PPA and Vauxhall Midi K795 SLO.

SJH SHOTGATE Volvo/Plaxton HWV 65X (LBO 13X) has gone to Elliott, Shepshed.

SM TRAVEL HARLOW Bova Futura BXI 2410 (A118 DUY) has gone to Metcalfe, Cumdivock.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS Previously reported Freight Rover E934 YEV was reported in error. It does not exist.

STORT VALLEY GREAT DUNMOW Acquired from an unknown source is Setra S250 ECZ 9142 (R42 EDW). Vehicles sold and not previously recorded here are Leyland Titan YJB 68T to Thames Bus, Knaphill and P186 NAK a Volvo/Plaxton to Bonson, Keighley.

SUPREME COLCHESTER Acquired is former Go Wear MCW Metrobus C755 OCN. Also acquired is Leyland National 2 C112 OSJ.

SWT PRIVATE HIRE SOUTH WOODHAM Ford Transit J813 AWF has been sold.
TOWN AND COUNTRY GRAYS Former Ipswich Leyland Atlantean/Roe SDX 34R has been acquired from a preservationist.
Three Scania/Alexanders have been acquired, these are H237/39/47 LOM. MCW Metrobus GOG 265W has gone to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet.
TRAVELLUX STANFORD-LE-HOPE DAF/Jonckhree LBZ 8073 (new as JNV 633Y) has gone to Star Line, Clevedon.
TREKKERS LATTON COMMON The operating centre is now at Matthews Garage, Cedar Road, Moreton
TURNERS WICKHAM ST. PAUL YN03 DDL Scania K114IB/Van Hool is new (by 3.03) Vehicles sold are Freight Rover F653 PGV and DAF 200 G815 WOO.
WINDMILL GT. BROMLEY This company has changed it's name to 'Talisman Coach Lines Ltd.'
C520/2 LJR are more Leyland Olympian/ECW ex Go Ahead via Ensign (dealer) (in 11.6.03)
A70 THX a Leyland Titan has gone to Bone, Hook, Hampshire (15.6.03). Vehicles sold to unknown owners are Leyland Atlantean/Roe XPG 184T and Dennis Dominator/East Lancs C721 NCD.
YELLOWLINE BRAINTREE To correct confusion LDV Convoy V329 MNM does not exist. The correct registration is V239 MNM. Ford Transits sold are G510 EPY, K828 DVT and H685 GTJ.
Phoenix, Witham
6015 C81CHM is now in fleet colours (6.03)
YN077S Ld AN/ECW O43/31F is in ex Guide Friday (c 2.03) and is now painted red (6.03) for City Sightseeing - Colchester Tour.

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Ensign dealer report

Your monthly guide to the latest vehicle movements

Vehicles in

From Metroline DNL's 4, 7, 9. M1292.
From Arriva the Shires Olympians G281/5UMJ, B272LPH
From London Central T1018 (Q on 30/06) T1044 (BX 27/06)
From Isle of Man Transport Darts DMN16/7/9/20R
From Metroline S11/6/7.
From Bath Bus Company Leyland-DAB BBZ8027
From Freight Media Metrobus FUT36V
From Roberts Coaches Olympian C507OTW (L91)
From Metroline DP234
From Arriva London M715, M1105
From Arriva the Shires Olympian F633LMJ Greenways IIL4821, BTX152T

Vehicles out

Bristol VR HJB469W, M1292, Metrobus FUT36V PVS for scrap
M681, Metrobus GOG265W Coopers Tours, Newcastle.
Scania J812HMC Irvine's, Law.
L108 Phoenix Student Travel
M1205 ASD Coaches, Strood.
T1044 Big Bus Co, London.
Metrorider J936JJR Red Route, Northfleet.
Dominator C129CAT CL Travel, Cambs.
M716 Roberts Coaches, Leics.
DNL104 Imperial, Rainham.
Leyland-DAB BBZ8027 Special Event Services, Chelsea.
Condor DL18 EG2166 now G34FWC with Big Bus Co.
" DL42 EJ2225 " G32FWC " " " ".
" DL41 EJ3811 " G969FVX " " " ".
M1147 PVS for scrap
M636 Decker Bus, South Mimms
DNL107, DP237 Imperial, Rainham
Olympian 90-d-1033 now H838PTW with Nu-Venture.
Dominator FGE424X Mr N Miller, Mildenhall
S11, S17, S18 Geldards Coaches, Leeds.
Scania's H202LOM, H206LOM Ausden Clarke, Leicester.
Lynx E115SDW Trustline, Harlow
DNL114 Holloway Coaches, Scunthorpe.
Fleetline MRJ231W Mr O Pickett, Southend for preservation.
M715 Trilon Enterprises, Leatherhead

For details of all the latest stock visit www.ensignbus.com

ESSEX INDEPENDENTS TOUR 17th MAY 2003

Dave Arnold looks back at our recent tour on Saturday 17 May 2003

This tour attracted over 50 participants, but space on the tour vehicle was not a problem - this was Ensign's former Hong Kong 3-axle Metrobus F84 UJN providing 107 seats.

The first visit was to Ensign's premises at Purfleet where the workshops are located and a selection of vehicles including former Dublin Bus Olympians, Isle of Man Marshall bodied Darts and Ensign's operational fleet were present. Phoenix Student Travel outstation two vehicles here and Lynx 5014 and Olympian 6012 were present.

Ensign kindly provided RCL2220 as additional transport to their base at Frog Island and to Imperial Bus Company's depot at the same location.

We first visited Imperial's premises where examples from their fleet of Metrobuses, Leyland Titans and Dennis Darts were present, a number of London origins but also examples from Hull, Greater Manchester, West Midland and Go-Ahead Northern. RT786 (JXC149) looked to be in splendid condition in one of the sheds but outside RMF1254 was in need of substantial restoration. A surprise for those who explored the depths of the yard was a small diesel shunting engine of industrial origin sporting a 32A (Norwich Thorpe) shed plate.

On to Ensign's Frog Island base and we were able to compare the scene with last year's visit. Although there were noticeably fewer vehicles present there was still plenty to keep us occupied - three former Ipswich Dennis Falcons, two Nelson VRT's including DNG232T destined for Croatia and now sporting a right hand side door and a number of former Dublin Bus Olympians and London vehicles were among the attractions.

A swift run down the A13 brought us to Basildon bus station for a lunch break. On the bus front one of First Essex's last remaining VR's 3113 was noted in the depot yard and observations at the bus station soon revealed most of Basildon's latest acquisitions, Dennis Dart - Marshalls transferred from London, 753 -758 being branded for route 8 and 759/760 for route 12.

Suitably refreshed we were delighted to have the opportunity to ride on Nelson's VR's NDL652R or FDV835V for the journey to Wickford and along with F84 UJN we travelled by way of Barleylands and Crays Hill.

We received our usual warm welcome at Nelson's and most of the fleet was moved for photography. Compared with last year there has been a substantial change with the arrival of four former London and Isle of Man Olympians and five Scantias from West Midlands. In addition the livery has changed to red and yellow, only the three remaining VR's and the two L-reg mercedes minibuses still bearing the old livery.

Onward to Maldon to Phoenix Student Travel Ltd, this operator's premises have increased in size since last years visit and more Leyland Lynx and Olympians have been acquired. Other vehicles present included Bristol VR CBV 2S in a mauve 'Funder Bus' livery, Dennis Dominator C112CAT and three London Metrobuses, together with Stephenson's Olympian B752GSC.

People power had to be employed to assist movement of mercedes minibus 5050 and again the cameras were kept busy. Thus another successful trip came to a close and our thanks go to all the operators concerned and to the tour organisers.



An impressive line up of MCW Metrobus in the yard of Imperial, one of the operators visited this year. (Ian Stewart)



First Essex 3113 XHK 218X Bristol VR/ECW- The once numerous fleet of VR's is now down to penny numbers and the future of 3113 is uncertain because of mechanical problems. Chris Stewart was lucky enough to find her in service in Ingrave Rd in Brentwood working service 750 in June.



First Essex 1416 Leyland Lynx - It's amazing to think that the fleet of lynxes are now reaching old age and with the delivery of more Scania's this autumn, the advice is catch 'em while you can. Jeff Clayton caught up with 1416 at Southend High School for girls last summer.

Looking back

Many new members have recently joined us and have asked how they can get back issues of Essex Bus News. Here's your answer. It's easy!

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