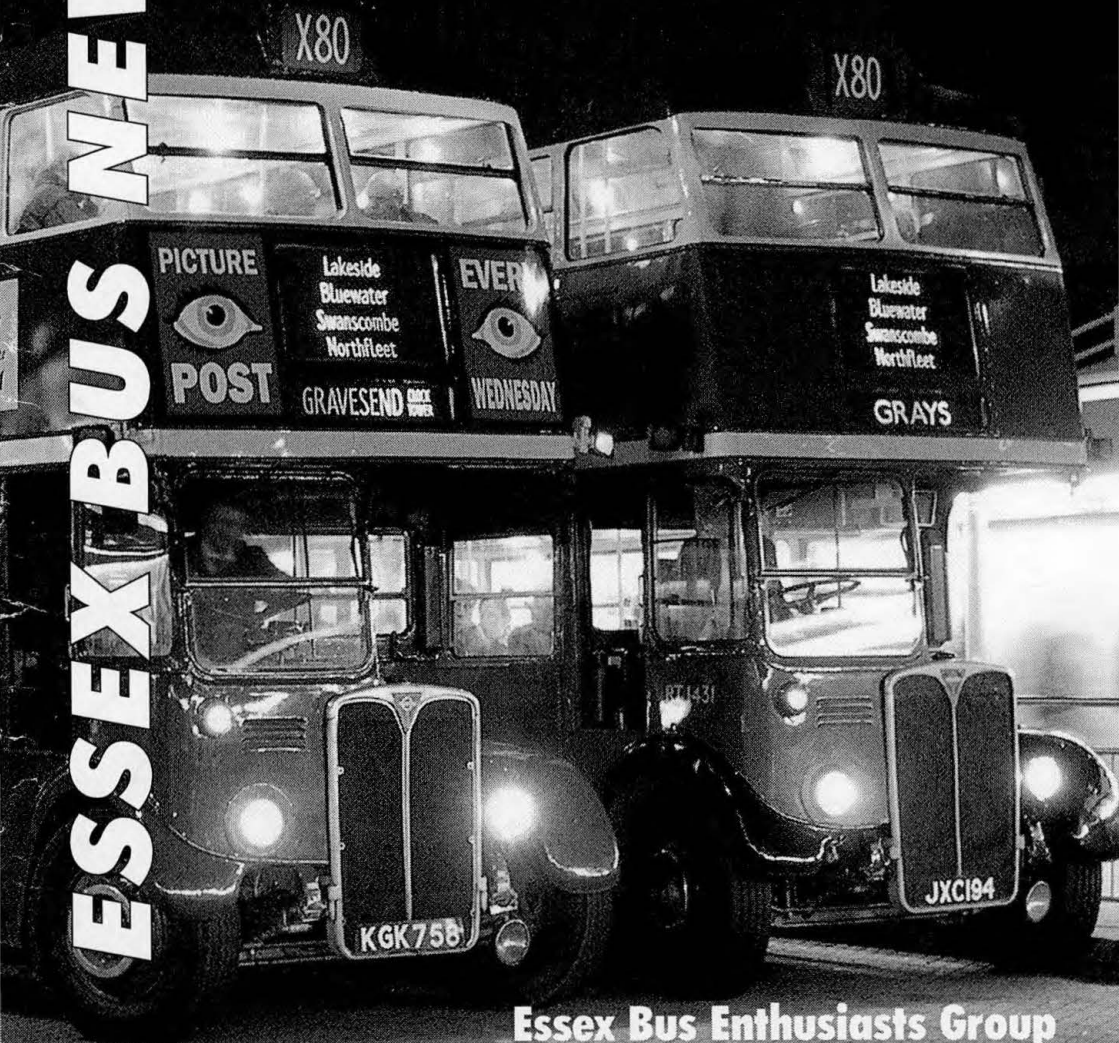


Issue 512
December 2006

ESSEX BUS NEWS



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A 12 month subscription is £18.50 by First Class post, renewable in January or July.

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 contact the Membership Secretary:

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Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from the Membership Secretary.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:

Owen Woodliffe
196 Sinclair Road Chingford
London E4 8PT

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

All orders for photos from lists enclosed with EBN should be sent to:

Lyn Watson
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants,
Monometer House, Rectory Grove,
Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 2HN

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

lynw@barrons-bds.com

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports are always welcome. Please send them to the relevant Sub-Editor.

Photos (prints, slides or digital images - in JPG format) are also welcome - please send to David Harman.

The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part, or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.

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

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

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>For inclusion in EBN dated:</i>	<i>reports should reach Editors by:</i>	<i>planned despatch date:</i>
January 2007	3 January 2007	12 January 2007
February 2007	7 February 2007	16 February 2007
March 2007	7 March 2007	16 March 2007

Please note that the **planned** despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The **actual** 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 **only** be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite). None of the Editors hold spares, so there is no point in contacting them. They cannot help!

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings now take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and *one Great Eastern trains & Arriva Southend services 7/8 stop nearby*. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Richard Delahoy*

- ▶ **Tuesday 9 January** - slide show by *Trevor Brookes* - "*Buses, trolleys & trams in New Zealand, 2005*"
- ▶ **Tuesday 13 February** - slide show by *Graham Belfall* - "*Wales*"
- ▶ **Tuesday 13 March** - AGM, followed by slide show "*30 Years AGO*" by *Alan G Osborne*
- ▶ **Tuesday 17 April** - cine/DVD evening with *Peter Carr*, buses & light rail
- ▶ **Tuesday 15 May** - ticketing evening with *David Harman & Richard Delahoy* - come and get some hands-on experience in using ticket machines, etc.
- ▶ **Tuesday 12 June** - to be advised

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: Downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. **20.00 to 22.00** (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **2007: Fridays 12 January, 9 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December.**

From the Editor ...

The end of another year, and a bumper edition of EBN in which we hope there is something of interest for everybody. The Editors thank all contributors and photographers for their sterling efforts during 2006, and hope that they will continue to support the Group in 2007. If your subscription expires in December and you have not renewed yet, please do so as soon as possible, to avoid a break in service.

Finally, all that remains is for the Committee and Editors to wish

... A Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to all readers !



Bus station update

Chelmsford bus station is almost completed, although there are still a few hard-hats in evidence on site. In theory it should be open for business before Christmas, although it has been decided to delay the official opening until mid-January (but it may be used unofficially before then). The bus manoeuvring problems appear to have been resolved by removing the 'loading projections' that jut out from the paved area.

In Southend, video monitors have been installed at each stand, displaying the front of any bus on that stand. This appears to be an unnecessary frill, since you can just as easily gaze out of the window to see the bus in question. However, the intention may be to aid identification of bus destinations at night and in adverse weather, particularly for those with less than perfect vision.

*photos: Chris Stewart (CF - 3),
Ian Banks (SD)*







Route X80 Running Day

above: Ensign Cravens RT1499 and RT1431 gleam at Bluewater. Graeme Selway

below: Green contrasts: RT1499 leads K5G HLJ 44 at Grays. Chris Stewart



Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

3 Jan 07 250 M-S

253 M-S

Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Waltham Cross Bus Station. Minor timetable revision
Waltham Cross Bus Station - Hammond Street, Smiths Lane
Reduced frequency from 4bph to 3bph

Arriva Southend

9 Dec 06 377 M-S

11 Dec 06 383 M-S

28 Jan 07 100 Su

Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station
Service withdrawn
Lakeside Bus Station - Chadwell St Mary, Brentwood Road Estate. Revised timetable and increased to 4bph
Basildon Bus Station - Lakeside Bus Station. New service operated under contract to Thurrock Council

Blue Triangle

29 Jan 07 389 M-S

Basildon Bus Station - Aveley, Usk Road. New service is operated under contract to Thurrock Council

Clintona Minicoaches

21 Jan 07 100 Su

26 Jan 07 380 M-F

27 Jan 07 98 M-F

29 Jan 07 99 M-S

Basildon Bus Station - Lakeside Bus Station. Service withdrawn. Contract awarded to *Arriva Southend*
Tilbury Ferry - Orsett Hospital, Rowley Road
Service withdrawn.
Orsett Hospital - Lakeside Bus Station. Service withdrawn and partly replaced by service 64 (renumbered 44).
Tilbury Town Station - Tilbury Ferry. New service replacing c2c, and operated under contract to Thurrock Council.

Ensign Bus

28 Jan 07 X80 Daily

29 Jan 07 44 M-S

11 Dec 06 77 M-S

83 M-S

Bluewater - Tilbury, Asda Store
Revised to operate with one journey per hour M-S to Grays via Chafford Hundred, extra buses over this section at peak times to provide a 20 minute service (replacing the southern section of service 98). On Saturdays buses will no longer serve Hatthaway Road/Lenthall Avenue.
Lakeside Bus Station - Orsett Hospital.
Formerly numbered 64 and extended beyond Grays to Orsett partly replacing service 98
Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station
Revised timetable
Chadwell St Mary - Lakeside Bus Station
Revised timetable and increased to 4bph

First

6 Nov 06 24 M-S

12 Nov 06 102 Su

13 Nov 06 20 M-S

20A M-S

Southchurch, Newington Avenue - Rawreth, Carpenters Arms. Minor early morning timetable alterations.
Harwich Bus station - Colchester Bus Station
Minor timetable revision - all journeys depart Colchester 5 minutes later (no alteration to intermediate timings).
Harwich Bus Station - Parkeston, Harwich International Station. Revised route in Parkeston - clockwise via Station Road, Harwich International and A120 (Morrisons) with minor timetable changes.
Harwich Bus Station - Parkeston, Harwich International Station. Revised route in Parkeston - anti-clockwise via A120 (Morrisons), Harwich International and Station Road with minor timetable changes.

	22A	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Dovercourt (circular) Revised route from Harwich Bus Station via Main Road, High Street, Marine Parade, The Drive, Wick Lane, Low Road, Abbott Road, Gravel Hill Way, Warham Road, Ainger Road, Main Road, Parkeston Road, A120 (Morrisons), Parkeston Road, Main Road and High Street.
	22B	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Dovercourt (circular) Revised route from Harwich Bus Station via Main Road, High Street, Main Road, Parkeston Road, A120 (Morrisons), Parkeston Road, Main Road, Ainger Road, Warham Road, Gravel Hill Way, Abbott Road, Low Road, The Drive, Marine Parade, High Street and Main Road.
	104	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Colchester Bus Station Minor timetable changes - 2055 an 2315 ex Colchester now at 21:00 and 23:20 respectively.
19 Nov 06	3	Daily	Clacton, Jackson Road - Harwich Bus Station}
	4	M-S	Clacton, Jackson Road - Harwich Bus Station} Clacton terminal now Station Road instead of Jackson Road.
22 Dec 06	550	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Brentwood Rail Station Service withdrawn (All 551's now run via Gt Burstead)
30 Dec 06	25A	M-S	Shotgate, Post Office - Langdon Hills, Westley Road. Service withdrawn. Beauchamps Drive section covered by diversion of route 25. Langdon Hills section covered by service 25B
30 Dec 06	101	M-S	Ramsden Heath - Basildon Hospital. Service withdrawn. Great Burstead and Outwood Common section covered by diverting of service 551. However, at time of going to press there does not appear to be a replacement bus service for Queens Park or Ramsden Heath peak journeys.
2 Jan 07	1A	M-F	Basildon Bus Station - Pitsea Broadway Minor timetable revision.
	21	M-S	Bocking, Deanery Gardens - Black Notley, Bedells Avenue Minor timetable revision.
	25	Daily	Southend Bus Station - Basildon Hospital Revised to operate via Beauchamps Drive, Wickford (M-S) replacing service 25A.
	25B	M-S	Runwell Church - Langdon Hills, Westley Road Off peak service now operates in two sections:- Runwell to Basildon and Basildon to Langdon Hills (later section replacing withdrawn service 25A)
	30	M-S	Braintree, Fairfield Road - Mountbatten Road (circular) Minor timetable revision
	35	M-S	Southend Bus Station - Chelmsford, Coval Lane Service withdrawn
	37	M-S	Braintree, Fairfield Road - Beckers Green Minor timetable revision
	42	M-F	Basildon Bus Station - Pipp's Hill, Argos Distribution. Bentalls. Service withdrawn.
	48	M-S	Chelmsford, Westway, (First Depot) - Chelmer Village, New Dukes Way. Revised timetable.
	72	M-S	Chelmsford, Westway (First Depot) - Braintree, Fairfield Road. Minor timetable revision.
	72A	M-F	Chelmsford, Westway (First Depot) - Braintree, Fairfield Road. Minor timetable revision
	81	M-S	Brentwood Rail Station - Hutton, Wash Road (circular) Minor timetable revision.
	82	M-S	Brentwood Rail Station - Hutton, Wash Road (circular) Minor timetable revision
	551	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Brentwood Rail Station Revised to operate via Great Burstead and Outwood Common (instead of

			direct via Noak Hill) replacing service 101
	X20	M-S	Braintree, Marks Farm (Tesco Store) - Stansted Airport, Coach Terminal. Service withdrawn.
14 Jan 07	75	Daily	Colchester Bus Station - Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre
	76	Daily	Colchester North Station - Clacton, Jackson Road
27 Jan 07	389	M-S	Minor timetable alterations to 75/6 to improve reliability. Basildon Bus Station - Aveley, Usk Road Service withdrawn. Contract awarded to <i>Blue Triangle</i> .
Galleon Travel			
4 Dec 06	354	M-F	Buntingford, Greenways - Harlow, Princess Alexandria Hospital. This service is operated under contract to HCC.
	700	M-S	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Stevenage Bus Station
	C2	M-S	Cheshunt, Brookfield Centre Retail Park - Waltham Cross Bus Station
	C3	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Waltham Cross, Holbrook Estate (Long Croft Drive). 354/700/c2/3 all formerly operated in the name of Trustline
Heddingham Omnibuses			
24 Nov 06	9	TThF	Great Holland, The Ship - Walton, Columbine Centre Route now amended to now serve Edenside.
15 Jan 07	136	M-F	Jaywich, Tower Camp - Clacton, Brook Retail Park (circular) Revised timetable
15 Jan 07	602	S	Walton on the Naze - Felixstowe Leisure Centre Service withdrawn
Imperial Bus			
6 Nov 06	H1	M-S	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station. Revised M-F timetable with an additional late afternoon journey
Olympian Coaches			
1 Dec 06	743	M-F	Braintree, Tesco Store - London, Buckingham Palace Road. Revision to the single journey in each direction; now starts at Braintree, Swiss Bell at 06:13, no longer serving Redbridge. The return journey is now at 17:10, no longer serving Whitechapel or Redbridge.
Regal Busways			
12 Nov 06	240	Su	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Waltham Cross Bus Stn
	250	Su	Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive - Waltham Cross Bus Stn. 240/250: Revised timings to improve reliability
	251	Daily	Waltham Cross Bus Station - Upshire, Princefield Road Revised timetable.
21 Jan 07	214	Su	Waltham Cross - Lakeside Bus Station Withdrawal of this seasonal service.
S M Coaches			
29 Dec 06	395	M-F	Sele Farm, Bentley Road - Ware (circular). Service withdrawn
2 Jan 07	524	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Hertford Bus Station. Frequency increased to a half hourly service. (SDO journeys to Stevenage withdrawn)
Trustline			
1 Dec 06	354	M-F	Buntingford, Greenways - Harlow, Princess Alexandria Hospital.
2 Dec 06	700	M-S	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Stevenage Bus Station
	C2	M-S	Cheshunt, Brookfield centre Retail Park - Waltham Cross Bus Station.
	C3	M-S	Harlow Bus Station - Waltham Cross, Holbrook Estate (Long Croft Drive). All withdrawn and transferred to Galleon Travel - an associated concern.

David Tomlin

Publicity News

Essex County Council

"Passport to Travel" available for the following areas:- Basildon; Braintree; Brentwood; Castle Point; Chelmsford; Colchester; Epping Forest; Harlow; Maldon and Rochford
Leaflet for "New digital information points"

Bus and Train Maps dated Winter/Spring 2006/7. This has a full route map on the front and town maps on the rear. The FWT date is 1.11.06.

Sunday Travel Guide Winter/Spring 2006/07. This is in the A4 format now used for area timetables.

Hertfordshire County Council's Winter 2006/2007 Network Map is also available and includes various cross border services.

Further items of publicity not recorded here are :-

First A5 leaflet for temporary services 40X/50X dated 24.7.06; A5 leaflet for service 50 introduced on Sunday's from 1.10.06.

First Service 45 pocket size timetable dated 24.10.04 has an insert for service revisions from 27.2.06.

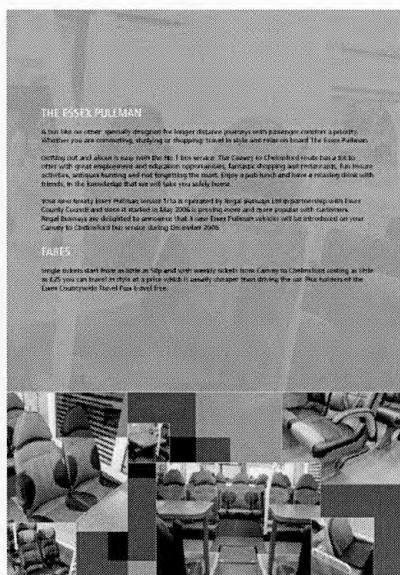
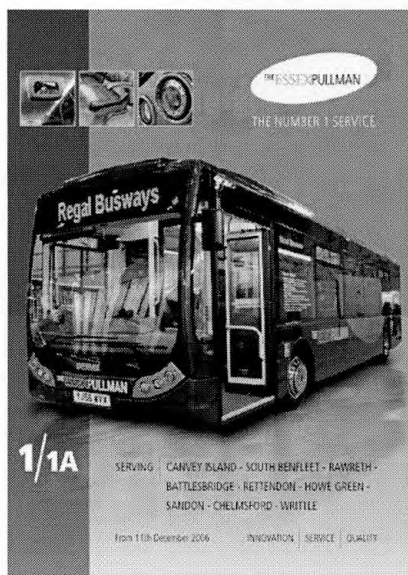
Arriva corporate style (folded A4) timetable leaflet for services 4 dated 13.2.06; 6 dated 3.4.06; 8 dated 23.10.06; 10 dated 13.2.06; 59 dated 29.7.06; 500/1 dated 4.1.06; 510 dated Spring 2006

Essex County Council timetable leaflets for 4 dated 27.8.06; 10 dated 27.8.06; 11 dated 27.8.06; 12 dated 27.8.06; 47/146/147 dated 29.8.06; 200/1/3 dated 27.8.06; 381/2 dated 29.8.06; M1/M11/M21/M31 and 1 dated 13.2.06 (all Harlow area)

Essex County Council / Regal Busways A5 colour booklet for *The Essex Pullman* - service 1/1A, dated 11 December 2006.

Hertfordshire County Council for service 392 (Old Harlow to Hertford) dated 2.10.06

Ian Ransom. Thanks to Helen Kirk at Essex County Council and Ian Taylor





THE ESSEX PULLMAN

Regal Busways' new Optare Tempo YJ56 WVX (note 'Essex' registration) on display in Chelmsford. Livery is shades of metallic grey. The interior features leather seats, climate control, double-glazing, on-board telematics and a lounge area with tables and power sockets for laptops etc. A further two are due shortly.

Chris Stewart



FIRST ESSEX

New vehicle

Period 8:

57001 YN56NHE Enterprise Bus Ltd/Plaxton Primo chassis TS9EB01GS6P130024, body no 6589

Received at Harwich 11th November, from display at Euro Bus Expo (entered service 13th November)

Allocation changes

Period 8: 29 October 2006 to 25 November 2006

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/retained (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal;

DS=Driving School

34807 RES-CF; 34816 CF-D/L(D); 46120 CN-RES (CN paint spare); 46809 CN-D/L(D); 46820 D/L(D)-CN; 46827 CN-BE; 51801 D/L(D)-BN; 51803 D/L(D)-RES; 51804 D/L(D)-BN; 51808 BN-D/L(D); 57000 DT-returned to Plaxton; 57001 new-DT

The allocation list does in fact already show 57001 at DT, with no mention of 57000.

Repaints

None

47106 has gained an allover rear advert for 'Escape' Night Club.

Other Vehicle News:

34056 has gained LED destination equipment. At the time of writing (8th Dec) it was on loan to DT depot, covering defective 34280 and 34285.



... up to 43 passengers ...

Primo 57001 at Euro Bus Expo.

Steve Barham



Scania 65680 on the 35: the 1602 departure from Southend on Thursday 16th November.

Ian Banks

Volvo Olympians CR34011 and CN34314 are both likely to be out of service for some time undergoing repairs. On Thursday 23rd November, 34314 suffered an engine fire at Tiptree on route 75 while a foreign lorry is reported as having collided with 34011 at Marks Tey, causing serious damage but luckily no reported injuries.

Unusual workings:

From 27th November, Western Road in Silver End was closed for repairs and route 72/72A was subject to a major diversion omitting Rivenhall. A Witham-Rivenhall shuttle was operated (as 72X) using former Thamesway Mercedes 51803.

Severe disruption was caused in Colchester town centre on the afternoon of 13th November when Xmas lights collapsed onto the High Street and caused a 5 hour closure.

November sightings

- 1st CR34302 on 64A
- 3rd CR43715 on 61; CR47101 on 65
- 4th CF34807 on 36 (returned to service ex reserve)
- 5th CN67012 off 74
- 6th CR34301 on 61 and 64A; Route 66 CR43740 on 64A; CR47102 on 74; CR47103 on 76; CR47104 on 65
- 7th CF43731 on 352; BE46827 & CF47228 on 72; CF56004 on X20; Lance CF60102 on 42
- 8th CR34011 on 68 (usually Lance or Scania LF)
- 9th CF60102 on 352, BE46817 on 42
- 10th CF47227 on 352, CF47228 on 42
- 13th CR47103 on CN74
- 14th BE46824 on 352; CF56009 on X20
- 15th Route 66 CR43744 on 64, 46116 on 509 duplicate
- 16th CF43730 on X30; CF65680 on 35
- 17th Route 66 CR43741 on 65; CR62408 on X22; CR67008 on 64; CF60102 on 352
- 19th CF43729/31 on X30
- 20th CF47224 on 352
- 21st CF31198 back in service (after long period off road) on peak 36 and later on 33; CF43731 on X30; CF47227 & CF60102 on 352; CR47106 on 65; CF56007 on X20; CR67006 on 66; CR67007 on X22;



34818 (C418 HJN) on the 12.45 to Halstead; 8th December. *Chris Stewart*

- 22nd CR34018 on 68; CR67006 on 65
- 23rd CR43743 on 64, CR34303 on 61
- 24th CR47101 on 64A
- 26th CR34302 on 66
- 27th CR34018 on 64A, CF60102 on 352
- 28th CR34302 on 65; Route 66 CR43742 on 64; CR67007 on 76 (covering 34314); 46116 on 351 (07.58 ex Brook Street); BN65673 on 551
- 29th CF34807 on 35 (07.25 CD-SD, 09.02 return, 10.40 CD to SD and 12.02 return); CR34303/7 on 61; CR34309 on 64A; CR47105 on 71 (usually Lance or DD); CR62408 on 71
- 30th CR34310 on 64; CR47101 on 71; CR47105 at DT working schools service; DT43800 on 20/22; CF53114 on 42; BN65669 on 82

December sightings

- 1st CR34304 on 64; CR34307 on 66; CR43740 on 61; BE46143 on 33
- 2nd CF34807 on 352; BE46811 on 35; CR34305 on 61 (replacing 43716) plus CR34301; CR34056, 47103, 67001/5 on 64; CR34308 on 66; CR34307 on 67B; CR47101/3 on C3; CR30560 on 78
- 4th CR47101 working at CN; CF47252, BE46813 and CF60104 on 35
BE46821 on X30 (12.00 Southend to Stansted)
- 5th CR47105 still o/l to DT (covering 34285), CR47106 o/l to CN (covering 34314), CN46830 on 78; CR34308 on 66 (replaced 67002)
- 6th CF34818 on morning 618 and later on 351 (11.05 ex Chelmsford)
- 7th CF34807 on 351 (11.05 ex CD), DT51780 worked 11.40 Village Link 4 & return after Solo 53139 suffered damage in floodwater at Little Oakley on the B1414; CF53135 on X30.
- 8th CF34815 and CF31198 on 351, CF34818 on 352 (12.45 ex CD); CF43731 & 47228 on 42; BE46811/24 on 36; CR30560 on 71

OTHER NEWS

Former Eastern National/Thamesway/First Essex vehicles and routes
Route 193

Oldchurch Hospital in Romford closed officially on 10th December, with all patients, staff



above: Former Eastern National Olympian 4503 (B691 BPU), now registered **MIB 6189** with **Ards Tours**, Newtownards, Co.Down. The Olympian alongside, **A47 FRS**, was new to Northern Scottish, but is in the livery of its last owner, Tanat Valley of Llanrhaeadr-ym-Mochnant. *Photo courtesy Gordon Hawkins*

below: 4503 in post-privatisation green and yellow, working the 53. *ELEG Archive*





Ex-Eastern National 1348 (208 YVX), 1961 Bristol MW6G now with **Chris Balmer Vintage Omnibus Services**, and operating the Wensleydale Vintage Tour Bus on Saturday 16 September, between Riverside Meadows Caravan Park, near Ripon, and Redmire Station / Hawes Station Yard. Photographed at 1035 at Masham, Little Market Place. *A K Spindler*

and services transferring to the new Queen's Hospital off Rom Valley Way. Shortly before closure, route 193 (now operated by First London East for London Buses, but a former EN/First Essex route) was diverted internally to terminate outside the A&E Department, with the bus stop/stand outside the front entrance being taken out of use. The 193 is still due to be re-routed to serve Queen's from 1st January 2007, although the Health Authority had sought late approval to bring this date forward. Dennis Darts are due to take over from the Solos 53101-11 in April.

Canadian VRs – Northern Irish Olympian

Terry Hussey (until recently the owner of MVX878C – see EBN511) and Paul Bateson, who once worked for Southend Transport and who runs the British Buses in North America web forum <http://autos.groups.yahoo.com/group/British-Buses-Abroad-in-North-America/>, both confirm from recent trips that former 3127 (XHK232X) and 3233 (LUA717V) are still with Absolute Charters Inc of 2631 King Street, Halifax, Nova Scotia. XHK is out of service with a failed engine - this one is painted red, carries fleet number 37, operating plate 16.308D and (for reasons which are probably best left unexplored) displays SMS37H at the rear. LUA – acquired by EN in 2/95 from Yorkshire Rider after the Colchester depot fire – is due for disposal but was in use, carrying fleet number 79 and licence plate 16.538D (showing RLJ799H at the rear). It is in green advertising livery for Alexander Keith's brewery.

Meanwhile, in Northern Ireland, the former 4503 (B691BPU) – one of the first batch of long wheelbase Olympian coaches – is operating under registration MIB6189 with Ards Tours (Bell), Newtownards where it has been since at least July 2004.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to W Bell, A Bird, P Brain, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, B Elsom, M Farmer, G Hawkins, N Field, I Hardie, A Kelleher, F Mulley, I Ransom, C Sigston, S Simister, 'Solo', R Whitley, British Buses in North America, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle, Terminus.

May I take this opportunity to thank all contributors for their information during the year and to ask that you continue sending reports during 2007. Text messages may be sent on 07973 509459, in addition to e-mail and conventional post.

With Season's Greetings
Chris Stewart



■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

New vehicles

2473	YJ56 ATY	Optare Solo M880	SABENHAF06L192536	Optare B28F	11/06
2474	YJ56 ATZ	Optare Solo M880	SABENHAF06L192537	Optare B28F	11/06

Allocations

11/06: 2155.u; 2473/4.HA; 3269.u

Vehicles out

2107 (M47 WUR): gone 10/06
 2143 (N373 JGS): gone 11/06
 2151 (N381 JGS), 2158 (N366 JGS): Pickford, Chippenham (dealer) 9/06
 2333 (L723 PHK): Olympian, Harlow 6/03
 3352 (J402 XVX), 3353 (J403 XVX): Arriva The Shires (Stevenage) 3352/3 11/06
 Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Vehicle on loan

Dart SLF 3395 (P265 FPK) has been on loan to Guildford to replace a fire-damaged Dart.

Vehicles Out

3047 (N247 VPH) Dennis Dart SLF/East Lancs Spryte transferred from Grays to Guildford. This is a permanent replacement at Guildford for the fire-damaged Dart mentioned above. This will enable 3395 to return to Southend.

Dominator Update

Four of the five G-reg Dominators have been sold to Stephensons of Essex in a dealer capacity. These are 5273/4/6/7. 5278, the one G-reg Dominator remaining, was withdrawn from service but then reinstated for further service to cover for 3395 (see above). However, now that 3395 is returning to Southend, 5278 is due to be withdrawn again.

Vehicle Workings

At Grays 6225 (X458 FGP) has replaced 6236 as the allocated DAF double decker for the 498 school bus

A further 498 school bus is to be introduced from 4th January 2006. The 07:43 Romford - Brentwood school journey retimed to 07:40, will now be single deck operated (GY65). The double deck (GY64) will operate an additional journey at 07:50 giving a 10 minute headway from Romford - Brentwood between 07:30 and 08:00. The single deck will then form the new 15:46 Brentwood - Romford in the afternoon. A single decker is expected from Arriva London to operate this new school bus.

Route Developments

Arriva have retained service 64 on Sundays and gained route 100 on Sundays in the recent Thurrock tenders. The new contracts commence on 28th January 2007.

TfL are consulting over an extension to route 498 from July 2007. This will extend the route from Romford Station via the new hospital, Rush Green, Beacontree Heath, Heath Park Estate and Dagenham Heathway to Goresbrook Village.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, Essex Buses y-group.



Arriva Durham County Volvo Olympian/East Lincs 7429 (M693 HPF) in Bishop Auckland, sporting the roof and upper deck side windows from Arriva Southend 5393 (F573 SMG). 7429 was deroofed in Middlesbrough in August (see EBN 510). As 5393 was low-height, the windows are shallower than those on the lower-deck. The blend of body styles is not that noticeable, but headroom upstairs is slightly restricted.

Photo courtesy of Jeff Tattersall (Jeffs Bus Lane: www.jeffsbuslane.co.uk)



Vehicles Out

Trident 100 (T50 BCL) to Burton's (unused at Colchester).

Vehicle on Loan

Dart SLF 530 (AY54 FRC) is currently on loan to TGM Portsmouth

Vehicle Workings

The sole remaining Vario 708 now usually appears on routes 730/1, 83 or schools 728.



above: Dominators G626EKA, G663FKA, G628EKA, G665FKA, G664FKA with fleetnames painted out and red 'disposal' stripes applied, in Short Street.

below: Recent transfer from Arriva Kent & Sussex 3175 (M200 CBB) in Chichester Road. What appears to be a Northumbria registration is in fact a 'cherished' plate: CBB = Cardiff BlueBird, its original owner.

Ian Banks



The morning 275 from Rowhedge to Thomas Lord Audley School is now Omnidekka operated. This journey then forms into an 8.

Unusual Sightings:

October 2nd 530 on 5; 907 (2 branded) on 1.
4th 904 on 8.
10th 802 (8 branded) on 2 - replacing faulty 905.
17th 364 (1 branded) on 83/93B.
18th 512 on 8; 907 (2 branded) on 8.
19th 102 on 275.
24th 510 (8 branded) on 5.

November 4th 515 on 2E (usually SLF/Pointer).

6th 246 on 105.
9th 515 (2 branded) on 1.
20th 903 on 8.
21st 101 on 726.
27th 515 (2 branded) on 83; 904 on 83.
28th 101 on 275; 907 (2 branded) on 5.
30th 903 on 8; 906 (2 branded) on 5.

Other Vehicle News

Olympian 247 has had front nearside upper deck repairs following tree branch damage.

Darts 800/1/2/3/6 are in the process of having their route 8 branding removed. So far 800 and 806 have been seen running in service without branding.

As of 31st October, 102 was the only vehicle to physically carry the new TGM fleetnumbers.

Network Colchester's second Omnidekka 102 (YN06 TFZ) swings into the bus station. 102, unlike 101, was delivered new with an LED indicator. *Kevin Smith*



Other News

Colchester High Street was closed for five hours during the afternoon of 13th November after some Christmas lights fell down on the roadway. Head Street and North Hill northbound remained open for buses only. Routes were diverted as follows:

1 Greenstead bound - Southway, St Botholphs Circus, Magdalen St, Brook St.

2 Severalls Park bound - Balcerne Hill, Southway, St Botholphs Circus, Magdalen St, Brook St.

5 Lexden bound - Balcerne Hill.

8/A Monkwick bound - Balcerne Hill, Southway.

83 Colchester bound - Southway, St Botholphs Circus, Magdalen St, Brook St, East Hill.

175 Colchester bound - Magdalen St, Brook St, East Hill.

Correction to EBN 510

Dart 514 has been re-registered to HX51 LRN not HX51 LRM as stated in EBN 510

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Fred Mulley, John Podgorski and Ian Ransom



EXCEL, Stansted

The new MCVs have been fitted with interior and exterior CCTV and a program will be put in place to equip the lowfloor Darts in conjunction with the Stephensons program

Recently acquired is Dennis Dart/Northern Counties L113 YVX (ex Stephensons dealer stock). It is in the new white and blue skirt livery. The ex-Brighton Scania's are now confirmed as Excel fleet : F712 LFG and G727/8 RYJ.

Dennis Javelin R128 XWF (ex Meteor) has transferred from Stansted to Manchester replacing J420 HDS (Volvo B10M) which has now been sold. Dart K 716 KGU has also been transferred to Manchester for a new hotel operation. Olympian A890 PKR remains in the fleet but is for disposal . The Olympian sold last month was A888 PKR, not A999. Mercedes 709D L319 YDU is the one withdrawn and sold last month

A further coach operator, based near Gatwick Airport has been acquired (as a new subsidiary) with effect from 1st December. The initial fleet consists of eight vehicles, some of which will be disposed of during December. Full details next month.

STEPHENSONS of ESSEX, Rochford

Leyland Olympian/ECW C176 ECK has been fitted with bus seats, replacing the coach ones previously fitted. An ongoing repainting program will see all long term vehicles in the latest bus and London Express liveries by early in the New Year. The latest repaint to gain green skirt and roof is Olympian UAR 219Y

14 vehicles are now fitted with interior and exterior CCTV, and a further six are to be fitted shortly following positive results with regard to the reduction of vandalism and better evidence in accident situations

A further substantial contract gain has been made subject to funding, details of which will be available shortly.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Lyn Watson

Heddingham

Acquired vehicles ~ November

from Ensignbus operational fleet, via Ensign (dlr)

L353 P489 MBY Volvo Olympian YN2RV18V3 26982 Alexander 9601/9 H43/31F

New to Metroline Travel, Harrow, AV9, in 11/1996. It was converted to single door and upseated by Ensign.

from Nottingham City Transport 604, via Ensign (dlr)

L354 M604 TTV Volvo B10B-58 YV3R13F17RA000835 Alexander Strider AF10/3093/6

B51F. New 2/1995. This is currently in the paintshop

Withdrawn vehicles ~ November

L318 (G326 NUM), **L321** (G995 VWV), **L327** (J41 GGB) - Lynx

To Ensign (dlr), then to Quantock MS, Taunton (L318/21); Sunfun, Ely, Cambs (L327).

Allocations ~ November

CN	L253	L299	L324	L348	L312	KN	L281	SY	L282	TY	L308	u/l
L160	L255	L300	L326		L319	L167	L296	L122	L291	L150	L309	L353
L199	L285	L304	L331	HD	L325	L168	L306	L124	L298	L207	L315	L354
L210	L286	L305	L332	L196	L328	L194	L310	L148	L233	L237	L316	
L244	L287	L307	L334	L206	L330	L197	L311	L200	L336	L243	L317	
L245	L290	L313	L335	L211	L340	L198	L344	L208	L339	L262	L322	
L248	L292	L314	L338	L212	L350	L241	L351	L233	L341	L283	L329	
L249	L293	L320	L346	L297	L337	L254	L342	L242	L345	L288	L343	
L251	L295	L323	L347	L301		L258		L246	L352	L303	L349	

CN Clacton HD Heddingham KN Kelvedon SY Sudbury TY Tollesbury u/l unlicensed

Dave Arnold

Lynx **L327** (J41 GGB) seen at Tollesbury on the Group Tour this year. It was one of two new to Whitelaws of Stonehouse, Lanark. David Harman



■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Arriva Southern Counties:	Darts M501 PKJ, M502 RKO, L503 HKM.
Dublin Bus:	Olympians Olympians 91-D-1091, 92-D-138, 143/9, 93-D-10169
Hedingham:	Lynxes G326 NUM, G995 VWV, J41 GGB
Manns Travel, Gravesend:	Metrobus LMO 190X
Nottingham City Transport:	Volvo B10B's M603/4 TTV, M605/6/7 UTV, N610 XRR
Renown, Bexhill:	Volvo B10M G126 NGN, G133 PGK
Quantock M.S, Taunton:	Olympian F621 MSL
Stagecoach North East:	Darts K564 NHC, J702 KCU, K703/10 PCN Lynx K627 PVN Olympians C605/11/5/8/39/45/51/8 LFT
Stansted Transit:	Darts P512 RYM P685 RWU.

Vehicles out

to

Volvo Olympian P493 MBY:	Aintree Coaches , Liverpool.
RML2612:	Arriva Germany .
Darts M501 PKJ, M502 RKO:	Atbus , Ashford, Middx.
Olympians C605/11/31/45/46 LFT:	A2Z Travel , Walsall.
Olympians B187/90 BLG, E160 OMD:	C&N Travel , Leicester.
RML895:	Dr Corcoran and MR Mercer , Bristol.
Scania's G34/7/8 HKY, H804 RWJ:	Fargo Coaches , Rayne, Essex.
Olympian B912 ODU:	Freeway Coaches , Derby.
Volvo B10B's M605/6/7 UTV N610 XRR:	Gemini Travel , Swansea.
Dart P512 RYM:	Grayline Coaches , Bicester, Oxon.
Olympian P489 MBY and B10B M604 TTV:	Hedingham Omnibuses .
Olympian G552 VBB:	Herberts Coaches , Bedford.
Olympian 91-D-1091:	Mr Gordon Hislip , Eire.
Hong Kong Olympian FS4861:	now L762 SNO with Kinch Coaches , Wilts.
Tiger E118 KfV:	Manns Travel , Gravesend, Kent.
RML2632:	Milan City Sightseeing .
Dublin Olympian 93-D-10174	now L80BUS with PeoplesBus , Liverpool.
Metrorider M977 WWR:	Pier Metals , Rainham, for scrap.
M1034:	PVS for scrap.
Lynx G326 NUM, G995 VWV:	Quantock Motor Services , Taunton, Somerset.
Tiger MIB 5354:	Red Route Buses , Northfleet.
Olympians G518/43/52 VBB:	Renown Coaches , Bexhill.
Metrorider P423 VRG:	SE Coachworks Faversham.
HK Olympian FR2618	now K134 KNO with Shamrock , Bournemouth.
Delta J205 VHN:	Southern Transit , Brighton.
Lynx J41 GGB:	Sunfun , Ely, Cambs.
Volvo D10M G126 NGN:	Travelmasters , Isle of Sheppey.
Mercedes 709's N193 LPN, M337 LHP:	Tristar Mini Coaches , Morpeth, Northumbria

■ ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Vehicles acquired:

from Metroline Travel, Harrow

730	R630VEG	Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR1WGW12198	Marshall C39.233	B31F
731	R631VEG	Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR1WGW12199	Marshall C39.234	B31F
New 5/1998 to MTL London Northern DML30/1.				

■ STRATFORD BLUE, Stratford-upon-Avon

Vehicle acquired:

from Stagecoach South Wales via Ensign dealing stock

692 K92 BNY Dennis Dart 9SDL3011/1349 Plaxton 939HMN1232 B35F
new 5/1993 to Rhondda Buses 92.

■ CAMBRIDGE BLUE, Ely, Cambs

The Ensign/City Sightseeing garage at Ely along with all services and staff passed to Stagecoach (Cambus) on 2 December. In the short term, existing vehicles are being used until others are transferred in from within the Stagecoach Group. The Ely-based fleet is believed to be:

108	C808 BYY	Leyland Olympian	ECW	Cambridge Blue
141	A441 UUV	MCW Metrobus II	MCW	Cambridge Blue
143	D943 NDA	MCW Metrobus II	MCW	Cambridge Blue
144	A144 AMO	MCW Metrobus II	MCW	Cambridge Blue
146	A646 BCN	MCW Metrobus II	MCW	Cambridge Blue
208	EYE 325V	MCW Metrobus	MCW	City Sightseeing
252	WLT 752 *	MCW Metrobus	MCW	City Sightseeing
319	KYV 804X	MCW Metrobus	MCW	City Sightseeing
341	BYX 241V	MCW Metrobus	MCW	City Sightseeing
347	M647 RCP	DAF DB250	Northern Counties Palatine II	City Sightseeing
397	A897 SUL	MCW Metrobus	MCW	City Sightseeing
611	G611 CEF	Leyland Lynx		Cambridge Blue
620	G620 CEF	Leyland Lynx		Cambridge Blue

* formerly EWF 452V

David Harman

with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Essex Small Operator News

A1 TRAVEL, Harlow Have surrendered their operators licence, vehicles recorded here are, Peugeot Boxer N756 PPG and LDV 400 N874 WOC.

ABACUS TRAVEL, Crays Hill Freight Rover/Carlyle E970 SVP has been sold

AIR CONNECTIONS, Wendons Ambo Ford Transit V236 JRD has been acquired

ANITA, Stansted Airport New is Mercedes Sprinter/Optare RN56 ERN.

APT, Rayleigh Recent additions are H179 EJF (since re-registered BIG 8732) a Dennis Javelin/Caetano from Hulley, Baslow; L47 ORC a Volvo B10M/Jonckheere from Henshaws, Moreton-in-Marsh and more local L336 PWX a Bova FHD12-340 from Wards, Alresford, where it was registered 866 VNU. Volvo B10M/Caetano APT 42S has been re-registered to its original N790 SJU.

ARROW, Maldon Ford Transit P624 NOO has been sold.

BESTAX, Rayleigh Acquired is Ford Transit P889 HNT

BIG RED LONDON BUS, Billericay Acquired is former Arriva London North AEC Routemaster /Park Royal SMK 688F

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow Acquired from Brighton & Hove, is Dennis Dart/Plaxton M96 WBW, also acquired is L878 VHT a Mercedes 709D/Plaxton

BOBS, Gt Oakley Is believed to be the operator of WJV 980, a MAN 8/Lex front engined midicoach

BROMLEY PRIVATE HIRE (BPH), Elmstead Market. Ex NHT, Alresford is LDV Convoy W192 RRE.

The house and depot in Elmstead Market have been offered for sale. BPH is to relocate.

BROWN, Basildon Acquired from P&M, Crays Hill are Volvo B10M/Plaxton OLJ 193W and L571 GKO a DAF 400 minibus. Both retain P&M livery at present.

CLINTONA

CLINTONA MINICOACHES ~ *Current fleet*

registration	type	year	seats
H211 FPD	Mercedes 609D	1990	26
L885 SDY	Mercedes 709	1993	25
M988 CYS	Mercedes 709	1994	18
M889 ECD	Mercedes 709	1995	25
N230 WDO	Mercedes	1995	24
N420 WJL	Mercedes 814	1995	33
R399 EJV	Mercedes Sprinter	1998	16
R603 HKN	Iveco - Ford	1998	27
R84 EDW	Mercedes Vario	1998	33
R86 EDW	Mercedes Vario	1998	33
R993 FOO	Mercedes Vario	1998	33
EF52 OKX	Ford Transit	2002	16

registration	type	year	seats
GK02 SOC	Mercedes Sprinter	2002	16
MX03 PPV	Mercedes Vario	2003	19
YX03 HTF	LDV Convoy	2003	13
SF04 HXL	Mercedes Vario	2004	31
SF04 HXK	Mercedes Vario	2004	31
YX54 GYZ	Mercedes Vario	2005	33
MX54 ZBJ	LDV Convoy	2005	16
AE55 VPO	Mercedes Vario	2006	33
BX06 XZA	LDV Convoy	2006	16
BX56 VTE	Mercedes Sprinter	2006	25
BX56 VTF	Mercedes Sprinter	2006	25

with thanks to Robbie Staines

CD HIRE, Hatfield Heath Ford Transit P692 MOO was new here, but has only just been reported. Acquired non-PSV Ford Transits are M696 SKP, N161 JLD, P358 GKR and T61 MAW. Sold are Bedford CF A25 NHK and Ford Transits F639 DKR and P692 MOO.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Seen in the yard in early December and presumed to be acquired is G618 BPH a Volvo B10M-50/ East Lincs

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford Thank you to Roger Smith for correctly pointing out that this operator is a Private Hire Operator, rather than a Hackney Carriage (taxi) operator. A licensed taxi can ply for trade (from a rank for example), a private hire vehicle needs to be pre-booked. Non PSV Ford Transits here are V843 MGH, EU52 RCZ, EG04 WHX, EA54 BVK, EA54 BVR, EN54 WRT

CN ENTERPRISES, Abridge Acquired from Kent Coach Tours, Ashford, is Volvo B10M/Plaxton F135 URP It replaces Volvo B10M/Jonckheere TXI 8757 (MRP 837Y) which has been sold

CROWN, Thundersley Iveco 59-12/UVG N418 UWN has been withdrawn. Bedford YMQ/Duple NJT 120W has been sold.

CRUSADER, Clacton Setra S315 V105 OJN has been seen with fleetnames removed.

DAVES MINIBUSES, Harwich Ford Transit T474 JHK has been sold.

DMA, Brentwood Mercedes 307D E168 FLK and DAF 400 G396 VMD have been

withdrawn. Long time withdrawn vehicles sold are Bedford YMT's PJI 6079 (TPJ 286S) and OCN 902R; Ford R1114 RUJ 343R, LVY 520T and ABV 881V; Bedford VAS5 XUK 520T, Freight Rover D822 LVS and Talbot Express E502 NMD.

ELITE MINIBUS, Chelmsford This new operator has Ford Transit FM51 OZV

FARGO, Rayne Recently acquired and still in Arriva livery are Scania N113DRB/ N Counties G37/38 HKY. Both were operating from Witham depot in mid November. Further examples here are G34 HKY and H804 RWJ.

FLORIDA, Halstead New is Setra S416GT-HD BU06 HUH.

FREEDOM 2 TRAVEL, Thundersley This operators licence has been revoked and it is therefore assumed that the following have been sold:- Scania/Irizar N854 DKU, R33 SBC and V256 JTO, Toyota/Caetano L215 BPL, and Mercedes 412 minibus S789 RKU, plus recently acquired Volvo B12M/Jonckhree FN52 HRW/X, which came from Lochs and Glens, Aberfoyle. The only other vehicle reported here is Mercedes 811D/Carlyle H994 FTT, which may have been reported in error, as it was still in Basildon with Crown fleetnames in October.

GAMBLE TRACKLINE, Colchester Ford Transit YM04 YBW has returned to 1car1.

GRAHAMS, Kelvedon Dennis Javelin/Plaxton K9 BMS has been sold to Lewis Coaches, Brandon.



above: **Regal Busways** Olympian B203 DTU was an unusual visitor to the 1A on 29 September.

below: Intruder from Suffolk: **Beestons** Scania/Wright YS02 XDO on the 247 in August.
Kevin Smith



HARDY MILES, Southend More vehicles re-registered are LDV 400 M759 BEU to BIG 8775, LDV Convoy T589 LAG to BIG 8794, Mercedes 211D EO02 AOL to BIG 8776, Mercedes 413 BJ03 JSZ to BIG 8739 and Mercedes 416 GK03 EUU to BIG 8730.

HERRINGTON HOUSE SCHOOL, Hutton Here for some time and operated on a restricted disc is Ford Transit K84 EAR.

KEANE, Canvey Island Recent additions from Fleetfort, Canvey Island are Ford Transit L289 JFV, Renault Trafic L487 VBP, Citroen Relay N983 AMD, Fiat Ducato N153 UMO and LDV Convoy S438 RBC (all non-PSV). From Towncars Clacton is LDV Convoy W498 UCF

NIRBYS COACHES, Rayleigh New is K60 BYS a Setra (model type not known)

LINKFAST, Thundersley Recent additions are Leyland Olympian/ECW A17 ALS (C207 GTU) from AI's Coaches, Birkenhead and C32 CHM, reported to have been with Crown, Thundersley, previously (although there is some doubt about this). Similar ARP 608X has been withdrawn. Former London Fleetline KUC 941P, which had been used as a store/office has been sold.

LODGE, High Easter Dennis Javelin/Berkhof R714 KGK has been sold to the well known operator White Bus, Windsor, after a brief stay here.

LONDON HOPPA, Stansted On a recent visit here, group member John Podgorski, could find no vehicles at the depot. Does anyone know if they have moved or ceased trading?

M&E, Rochford Recent additions are Leyland Olympian/ECW A203 MEL and DAF SB2305/Plaxton OIL 5268 (G954 KJX)

MALCOLMS, Clacton Acquired for use on a school contract is TXI 7874 a former Ulsterbus Mercedes 709D/Wright.

MAYHEM EVENTS, Abridge Acquired is LDV Convoy R637 RKX

METEOR PARKING, Stansted Buses magazine reports that six Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 are due, they will replace Optare Excels and cascade two Mercedes Benz Citaros to the Long Stay Car Park shuttle.

MJR TRANSPORT, Benfleet Acquired in 2001 and only just reported is Fiat Ducato

R833 WLF

NCS, Widdington New here and only just reported are LDV Convoy R601 JAR and T68 VJN, Acquired are Renault Trafic J788 BJN and T970 LBV, Peugeot Boxer M831 JPJ, N134 OBO and S962 AFW all are Non-PSV. Vehicles sold are Renault Master K550 JWC, Renault Trafic J786 BJN, Peugeot Boxer M830 JPJ, LDV Convoy R705 YPO and Citroen Relay FL53 VXV, now with Lets Go Biking, North Tawton. Dennis Dart/Wright J949 MFT is now with Country Bus & Coach, Addlestone.

NELSONS, Shotgate Acquired from Town & Country are Scania N113/Alexander H237 LOM and H247 LOM plus Dennis Dart/N Counties L110 HHV. H247 LOM is likely to be used for spares. The remaining Mercedes 811D minibuses L890/1 UVE (Marshall) and N811 CSC (Alexander) were sold in October.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Dennis Dart/Plaxton K714 KGU is back in use. Due to objections from the organisers of the 2012 Olympics, this operator now operates on Olympus and Roadrunner discs. For now, vehicles continue to carry Olympian names and will continue to be recorded as such here. Mercedes 0404 S139 RWA has been sold. A London commuter service coach is no longer outstationed in Braintree. The old Dunmow site has been redeveloped as a Travelodge

PDQ, Colchester Here from new is VW Transporter MM05 YNP, its a non -PSV

PETER GODWARD, Shotgate Leyland Tiger/Plaxton E118 KfV has been sold to Ensign (dealer)

P&M, Shotgate Acquired from Town & Country is Leyland Olympian/ECW C104 CHM. P&M are now operating the C2C shuttle between Tilbury Town and Tilbury Riverside using an LDV minibus.

RAYMENT, Prittlewell New here is Ford Transit EF05 WCE.

RAYS TRAVEL, Shotgate Have surrendered their operators licence and the only vehicle here Volvo B10M/Van Hool YOI 7353 (B473 UNB) is for sale.

REGAL, Highwood New for Service 1 (Wittle-Canvey) is YJ56 WVX an Optare Tempo, fitted with leather seats and tables, this must be the best appointed service bus in the county at the moment.

Two more are due. A further mini Solo here is YJ56 AOU, a further one is due. Dennis Dart/Plaxton J104 DUV appears to be withdrawn, as it is at the depot, with missing windows.

RICHMOND, Stapleford Tawney DAF 400 L634 ANX has been sold.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham Leyland Olympian/ECW A9 ALS (C205 GTU) has been acquired from Al's, Birkenhead

SBC LEISURE, Southend Buses reports that the Scania Omnidieka B16 YBC (SN04 CPE) is to be fitted with a convertible roof and fitted with seatbelts for private hire work.

SJH, Crays Hill Volvo B10M/Plaxton C266 BMS is named Suzy Jane, similar L570 FND is Amy, Mercedes 811D/Optare F367 BUA is named Little Eve.

SOUTHEAST RADIO CARS, MCW Metrobus GOG 225W is now registered BIG 8757

SPOT ON TRAVEL, Benfleet This new operator has Peugeot Boxer R492 PVC

STAINES, Brentwood Vehicles sold are Mercedes 814D/Mellor N783 OGA, LDV Convoys P675 LWA and S649 RJA and Iveco59-12/Marshall R604 HKN, T821/2 TTW. S649 RJA is with Belfitt, Cinderford.

STANSTED TRANSIT, Stansted Airport Acquired from BAA, Stansted is DAF SB220/Optare G957 KJX. Sold for scrap to Wigley, Carlton are Leyland National TVP 856S and MCW Metrobus A920 SUL.

STANWAY TRAVEL, Layer-de-la-Haye Ford Transit EU52 JZN (non-PSV) has been here for some time

SWIFT CARS, Little Waltham Ford Galaxy EK02 DJU is also here

TERRAVISION, Stansted A further three axle Scania K114EB/Irizar YN06 NYM is in use. Acquired is similar but twin axle YN03 WPU. Vehicles sold to Terravision, Manchester are Scania K114/Irizar YN04 YJJ/K/L

TN TRAVEL Colchester The operating centre has changed again: one vehicle is kept at 47 Fingringhoe Road, the other is sometimes at 4 London Road.

TONY GLEW, Gt Tey This operator has been advertised for sale on:
www.sbscommercial.co.uk/sbs/a301129.aspx

TOWNCARS, Clacton Recent additions are LDV Convoy BD52 HHA and KC03 KKY (both non P5V) and similar LJ54 ZCO,

Ford Transit NA52 XOF and AY05 WRK (AY is non PSV)

TOWN & COUNTRY Further to EBN 511, Leyland Olympians C30 CHM and C107 CHM were purchased by Trustline. Both need a lot of work and may not be used. The wrecker P397 MMA is also with Trustline. Volvo B6 104 (M104 PVN) has been advertised on eBay but so far has not sold.

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Ford R1114/ Duple ODJ 588W has been withdrawn.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Vehicles sold are Mercedes Benz 0404 T811 PNV (99-D-20833) to Cooks, Swayfield and Mercedes 0814D/Plaxton PF51 KHB to London Borough of Camden.

WESTONS TAXIS, Clacton Have also surrendered their operators licence, the only vehicles recorded, were Mercedes 412D P595 HHF and Mercedes 110CDi HK02 LWP. The business has continued under the names Manning & Manning (t/a Westons Taxis) and P595 HHF at least is here.

WOODCROFT SCHOOL Loughton Bedford Midi G788 AEV, which was here on a restricted disc has been sold.

YOUNGS TRAVEL, Shotgate Acquired but not in use is N564 DOR an Iveco 59-12/European Coach Conversions. Fiat minicoaches C403 NAW and L743 PDM are withdrawn.

Although slightly out of our area, members may be interested to know that **Harold Wood Coaches**, operated for the final time on Tuesday 28th November, when a school party was taken to Barking Abbey. An article in the Romford Recorder, kindly made available by group member, A Nugent, gave a brief history of the company and owners Fred and Vera Leech, as well as five photographs, from various eras.

Ian Ransom

*Thanks to Essex Bus y Group, Chris Stewart,
Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski, Roger
Smith, PSV Circle*



ESSEX DARTS (in Hertfordshire) ~ 2

Stansted Transit P678 RWU ex-Armchair and T75 WWV, ex-Epsom Buses, in Bishops Stortford on VillageLink services. *Kevin Smith*





Garons Leisure Centre - 26th November: Shuttle service between there and Southend for the annual model railway exhibition. *above: Southend CT 219 (GJN 509D); below: Eastern National 2849 (NTW 942C) Ian Banks*



20 years since deregulation



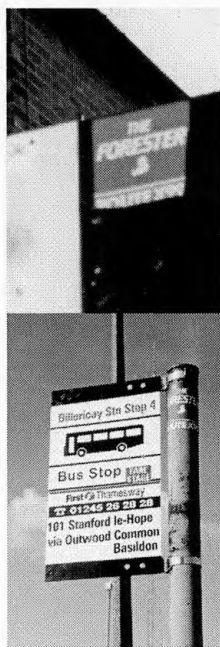
The Forester ~ London Buses X99

Anticipating the dramatic changes which Deregulation would bring two months later, London Buses Ltd introduced the X99 'Forester' service from Harlow to Basildon on 2nd August 1986. Operated by six dedicated Leyland Nationals from Hornchurch (RD) garage, the X99 brought London buses beyond Brentwood for the first time on an hourly (Mon-Sat) service which served Epping, Debden, Buckhurst Hill, South Woodford, Ilford, Romford, Brentwood, Shenfield, Billericay and Laindon. The buses, converted from dual door, fitted with 42 coach seats and painted red, green and white, were LS27, 30, 71, 76, 79 and 435 (KJD527/30P, OJD871/6/9R, BYW435V).

Over 180,000 leaflets were distributed prior to the first day, on which a free travel offer brought havoc – crush loading and many people being left behind. Sadly the route proved to be very short-lived, and was withdrawn on 7th February 1987. Very optimistic timings and consequent serious unreliability meant numbers never reached the required levels. Some of the 'X99 Forester' vinyl labels lived on, however, one at Shenfield surviving until 1998 with another at Billericay Station surviving well beyond that!

Five of the vehicles were transferred to London Coaches and used on a contract for the Japanese School in East Acton until 1989. Most of the six still appear to exist, including LS30 and LS79 in preservation.

Chris Stewart





EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiasts Guild

WINGING IT INTO CF

Chris Stewart has found two photographs in the EBEG Archive, which combined, give a panoramic view of the inside of Chelmsford depot. They both appear to have been taken at the same time - a summer's day in what we think is 1962 ...

There's no-one about but we'd better be quick ... so, notebooks and pens at the ready ... go !

On the left is one of the two FS6G's, **1570** (62 PPU), brand new that year, bearing the 11/11A Southend - Chelmsford signwritten route 'branding' (or advertisement), and correctly blinded-up for 'Southend 11A'. The 11/11A offered "...connections (at Chelmsford) for Ongar (route 32), Harlow (46), Bishops Stortford (58), Dunmow (33), Braintree (50/311), and Halstead (311) etc ...". Who would have thought that, 45 years later, ENOC's successors would abandon this major route ?

Then there are two more late-model Lodekkas, registrations unclear. The furthest one has the 'climate control unit' in operation (the top-pivoted driver's windscreen in the 'open' position). In the distance, a KSW pulls in from Fairfield Road, maybe just off one of the town services. On the far left, in front of the tyre cage, is Chelmsford's AEC Matador breakdown truck (on trade plates **632 TW**), later to be numbered 0101. This was constructed at Central Works using the front half of the 'Queen Mary'-style ECW body from former Tillings Transport MXB 738 (see EBN 484). The bodyshop staff always seemed to excel themselves on such conversions, perhaps because it made a break from the routine 'you bend 'em, we mend 'em' type repairs.

On the right, backing onto (from memory) the conductors' room, cashiers office, conductor training school, inspectors office and the rear of the public enquiry office are:

- Eastern Counties **LSC868** (TVF 868), new in 1956, one of their SC/ECW coaches in



cream and maroon colours. This is labelled 'YARMOUTH' and 'RELIEF'. ECOC was quite a fan of the coach version of the SC. Whether any passengers due for a sedate, if noisy ride up to Norfolk for their hols were, is another matter.

- an unidentified KSW with advertisement for Kodak colour films - Kodacolor (prints) or Kodachrome (slides). 64 ASA on slide film was about as fast as you could get then, unless you went to Ektachrome 125. Note the white steering wheel to alert drivers to the 8' width in the days when most buses were 7' 6".
- the first MW saloon, 449 (1858 F), new in 1958. This was the only one fitted with the Cave-Brown-Cave heating system and consequently had a rather ugly front radiator. It was unpopular with drivers as the heater unit protruded into the interior and restricted the already cramped cab. Other peculiarities of 449 (later numbered 1300) were the cream window surrounds, and the rear window with heavily-radiused corners, reminiscent of designs from the 1930s. Does anyone have a photo showing this?
- an LS saloon, known to crews as a 'tram' by virtue of the single, centrally-placed spotlight in the front valance.
- 015 (SEV 814), the unique Leyland Royal Tiger/Thurgood, acquired with the Rose Bros. (Primrose) business in 1958. This was withdrawn in 1963. (see EBN 486)
- a PS1 coach - probably 014 (KKX 408), or perhaps one of the ex-City Leyland PS1/Duples. 014 was withdrawn in 1962, most likely at the end of the summer season; the ex-City ones went in 1961/2. 014 had been new to Queens Park Coaches of Halton, Aylesbury, who were taken over by ENOC in 1951. It passed to United Counties in May 1952, but was bought back in 1958.
- only just visible at the very end, an MW coach with the first style of ECW body.

That's it ... CF ~ tick *done*.

David Harman

Blind Spot

EXCURSION
PRIVATE
RELIEF
BISHOP'S STORTFORD
BLACK NOTLEY
(THE PLOUGH)
BOCKING
BRAINTREE
BROOMFIELD
BROXTED
CHELMSFORD
DUNMOW
EBENEZER CLOSE
FELSTED
GALLEYS CORNER
GT. HALLINGBURY
GT. WALTHAM
LINDSELL

LT. WALTHAM
LONDON
(KINGS CROSS)
BLACK NOTLEY
(HOSPITAL)
WHITE NOTLEY
(CROSS KEYS)
HALSTEAD
COLCHESTER
GT. SAMPFORD
GT. BARDFIELD
SUDBURY
CLACTON
GREENSTEAD GREEN
STISTED
BOCKING
(FOUR RELEET)
RAYNE
(POD'S LANE)
RIVENHALL CAMP
SILVER END
STEBBING
(BRAN END)
STEBBING GREEN

TAKELEY
WETHERSFIELD
WHITE COLNE
WILLOWS GREEN
WITHAM
HARLOW
SILVER END
WITHAM 335
MALDON
WITHAM
SILVER END 335
BRAINTREE
SILVER END
WITHAM 335
WICKHAM BISHOPS
SILVER END
WITHAM 335
HOWBRIDGE ESTATE

30"x12".

PRINTED BY 'NORCO'
STATHAM ST. PENDLETON
SO EARLY 1950s.

335 SECTION ENVOI-
MADE & SEWN-IN.

"EX-1124", "EX-1193"
& "REMOVED FROM 1191"
WRITTEN ON TOP WHITE
BLANK.

© R J Williamson

With the recent demise of Braintree depot and the last vestige of the old Hicks Bros. concern now gone, this month we have a Hicks blind.

Bob Williamson bought this blind from Eastern National in 1965, but it must have been out of use for some time. The main section dates from Hicks Bros days and includes some archetypal rural Essex destinations - Bocking (Four Releet) - was/is this a pub?, Rayne (Pod's Lane), Stebbing (Bran End) and White Colne.

Successive buses that carried this blind were:

- 1191 OVW 756 Guy Arab III/Strachans, new in 1949 as Hicks Bros. no.90. Sold 1959.
- 4109 PTW 624 Guy Arab III/Strachans, new in 1950; ordered by Hicks Bros. Renumbered 1193 in 1954. Sold 11/59.
- 1124 NVX 304 Leyland PD1A/ Roberts, new 1948 as City Coach Co. LD7. Sold 10/63.



1191 (OVW 756) in Braintree Bus Park. This must be post 1954 (the renumbering) but no later than 1958 (when depot code letters replaced the coloured symbols) as it appears to have the Braintree symbol (a dark blue triangle). The bus is in the relatively short-lived combination of Tilling green livery with old-style Hicks fleetname.

Bob Williamson collection ~ photographer unknown.

PCV HOLDER ?

⇒ Full and Part-Time Drivers required

Stephensons of Essex and our associated company, Excel Passenger Logistics are expanding fast and we have vacancies for drivers at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services and weekend rail replacement, together with scheduled service work and private hires.

If you're over 25 and have held a PCV licence for two years or more, we'd like to hear from you.

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.



⇒ Full and Part-Time PCV Fitters

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.



⇒ Rail Controllers/Customer Service Assistants

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact:

Stephensons: Bill Hiron 01702 541511

Excel: Graham Hayden 01279 681800



excel  **Stephensons**