

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Issue 525
January 2008



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £19.50 by First Class post, 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 Shoebury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from Richard.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@yahoo.com

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, SS9 2HN

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied; email with requirements: lyn@barrons-bds.com

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Heddingham - David Harman - see above

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

For inclusion in EBN dated

February

March

April

reports should reach Editors by

2 February

1 March

29 March

planned despatch date

21 February

20 March

17 April

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).

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings 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 12 February** - Slide show by *Dave Arnold*, "2007"
- ▶ **Tuesday 11 March** - AGM followed by slide show by *Alan Osborne*, "North to Brentwood"
- ▶ **Tuesday 8 April** - *Paul Harvey* will present an illustrated talk "Lincolnshire's successful InterConnect strategy" followed by a current look at buses in Lincolnshire
- ▶ **Tuesday 13 May** - *Chris Stewart* will present the second part of his illustrated review of EN's depots & bus stations
- ▶ **Tuesday 10 June** - to be advised

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room (except as indicated) 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. Slides or digital photos are preferable, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 8 February** - slide show by *Chris Stewart*, "New Zealand 2007"
 - ▶ **Friday 14 March** - slide show by *Alan Osborne*, "40 Years AGO"
 - ▶ **Friday 11 April** * - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 9 May** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*, "20 years ago Part 2"
 - ▶ **Friday 13 June** - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 11 July** * - slide show by *Dave Arnold*, "2007"
 - ▶ **Friday 8 August** * - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 12 September** - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 10 October** - to be advised
- * in upstairs room

cover: WNO 480 waits time at Southend Travel Centre on the last departure to Shoeburyness on 1st January. *Richard Delahoy*

- ▶ **Friday 14 November** - slide show by *Chris Stewart*.
- ▶ **Friday 12 December** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe*.

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS, ETC

- ▶ **Sunday 24 March ~ Eastern Counties Double Deck Day**, Ipswich Transport Museum, Suffolk. www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk
- ▶ **Easter Monday 6 April ~ Annual Open Day and Bus & Coach Gathering**, London Bus Preservation Trust, back this year at **Wisley Airfield**, with bus services to **Cobham Museum**. www.lbpt.org/

■ GROUP TOURS

- ▶ **Saturday 21 June - Day trip to Stephensons and Excel** depots at Rochford, Maldon, Witham and Stansted. Plans are at an advanced stage for this tour, which will use a Stephensons double deck vehicle. A booking form will be included in the February EBN, but why not book the date in your diary now?
- ▶ Plans for an evening tour of interest to **North Essex** in July and a possible visit to **Kent** are currently being investigated. Full details will be included in future EBN, as and when agreement is reached.

Group Matters

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A thank-you to all members who have renewed promptly. If you haven't renewed, please do so as soon as possible. This will be the **LAST** EBN you will receive otherwise. Late renewals cause the Treasurer extra work and may delay your February EBN.

For 2008, the Committee have decided to streamline the subscription system in order to reduce the administrative burden. This will only affect (1) new members joining within the year, and (2) those existing members who normally renew in July.

- (1) For new members joining within the year, subscriptions will now run **from the month they join** until December. Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at **£1.70** per month. Thus, a member joining in March would pay $10 \times £1.70$; i.e. **£17**.
- (2) Existing members who normally renew in July, will be invited to renew for **six months only**, to bring everyone to a common December renewal date. To compensate for the extra work/cost (postage, envelope), there will be a one-off special subscription of **£9.25** for the six months, ie a 50p discount compared to 50% of the annual rate.

If you renewed in December, you will be **unaffected** and can ignore the above; the changes **only** apply to new members joining from February 2008 onwards, and existing members due to renew in July 2008.

PHOTO LISTS

No list this month as EBN 524 was late, and members will need a little more time to make their choices from the December list. Normal service will resume in February with further Bill Cansick shots.

SERVICE CHANGES

No-one has come forward to take over editing this section from David Tomlin. This month, I have attempted to update all the service changes since November. As there was a backlog, this has taken some considerable time, and in consequence, no time has been left to insert photos and certain other material that was planned to be in this EBN.

Undoubtedly, Service Changes is a more difficult job than it was before deregulation. Changes are more frequent. The principal source pre-deregulation, was the Traffic Commissioners' "Notices & Proceedings". These are now free (as a download from the VOSA website), whereas you used to have to pay for paper copies, but it has to be said that the standard of accuracy and detail provided is not all it could be. Other sources include the superlative LOTS "TLB", Essex County Council's "Bus Passenger News" and timetable booklets, TfL's "Local Service Permit Bulletin", Hertfordshire County Council's "Intalink News", plus literature and website info from bus operators themselves. The role comprises bringing all these together, reconciling discrepancies between them and creating a summary. Help and guidance will be freely available, so the holder of the job will not be left to fend for himself, if and when difficulties arise.

This month, I have demonstrated at some cost in time (which frankly, I could ill afford), that it is a job that **can** be done. However, it is not a job I can do again, nor can any of the other Editors or Committee members do it. We need to spread the load, not overload those who already donate their time and expertise.

Thus, once again we appeal for someone to come forward to take Service Changes on. It would be a pity, after 44 years, if it were to disappear. However, if no-one **does** come forward, that will be the unfortunate and unavoidable consequence.

David Harman

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Tellings Golden Miller Group plc

On 20 December 2007, **Arriva plc** announced that they had made a recommended cash offer for the share capital of **Tellings Golden Miller Group plc**. The offer was 45p in cash per TGM share, valuing the company at approximately £10.3 million as at 19 December.

TGM's principal operating subsidiaries are Burtons Coaches Ltd., Haverhill, including **Network Colchester** (ironically the successor to Arriva Colchester), Tellings Golden Miller Coaches Ltd., Hounslow (including Wiltax, Weybridge), Linkline Coaches Ltd., Harlesden, Classic Coaches Continental Ltd., Annfield Plain, Classic Buses (Stanley) Ltd., Stanley, Co.Durham, OFJ Connections (crew and airside passenger transport services at Heathrow) and OFJ Ground Services (airport ground services maintenance). TGM are also National Express contractors.

The offer was declared unconditional on 11 January, and, other things being equal, the takeover should go ahead without a hitch. We await further developments with interest.

David Harman

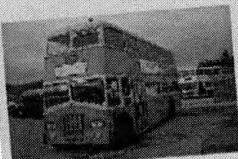
Southend Heritage Running Day



Southend-on-Sea
Heritage Running Day

**Family
Day Rover**

---£12---



Stephensons of Essex

Valid on date shown only

Tue. Jan. 1st. 2008

--4557--

Southend-on-Sea
Heritage Running Day

**Child/Short Jny
Single**

---£1---



Stephensons of Essex

Valid on date shown only

Tue. Jan. 1st. 2008

--1745--

January 1, 2008 saw the return of a limited local bus service in Southend, when Stephensons provided a skeleton service, assisted by other local operators; the last time buses had run in Southend on January 1st was in 1999. The services were inspired by and planned in the style of the special Boxing Day and New Year's Day services that Southend Transport used to provide (it being no coincidence that both Richard Delahoy and Lyn Watson had worked for ST on those special services).

Two trunk routes were provided, running half-hourly from about 0900 to 1800:

- 3 Southend - Westcliff - Leigh Elms -
Hadleigh - Tarpots - Benfleet Station -
Canvey Haystack
- 7 Southend - Thorpe Bay - Shoebury The
Renown

operated by heritage buses with the added contrast of a modern Optare Tempo.

In addition, Stephensons 61 (Southend - Sutton - Fossetts Park) ran every hour and the MPD Dart used on it also ran hourly as a 7 from Southend to the General Hospital (with odd trips covered by the open top KSW). Feeder routes were also provided, with Ensign running two X1 trips from Grays (Socketts Heath) to Tarpots and Talisman running a pair of 251s from Rayleigh and Eastwood to Southend.

Destinations were generally shown in time-honoured Southend Transport tradition by the use of black on yellow "strike boards" - so named after the many hired buses used during the 1967 strike. Ticketing was a mix of specially printed card tickets, Setright, Almex and modern ETMs.

Buses and operators participating were:

Ensign Bus: Bristol K HLJ 44 and ex London Cravens bodied RT1431, JXC 194;

Ken Larking: the former Westcliff and Eastern National KSW open topper WNO 480, making a welcome return to PSV service and still in the livery of its previous operator, the now-defunct Town & Country of Purfleet;

London Bus Company: "Dartmaster" RM85;

Regal Busways: Optare Tempo YJ56WVY

Stephensons: 424DCD, their ex Southdown "Queen Mary" PD3, joined by Olympian C383SAO as the control/information bus and MPD Darts SK02XGO & XGP;

Talisman Coachlines: ex London RML 2535 and ex Colchester RVW90W, an ECW bodied Atlantean.

opposite: "Queen Mary" 424 DCD with Stephensons fleetname in Southdown style, pulls away from the Queensway stop. *John G. Lidstone*

below: Atlantean passes "Dartmaster" on the 7 bound for (Southend) Victoria.

John G. Lidstone





Symbolic of the close ties between the old Colchester and Southend Corporations which led to numerous hires from the former to the latter, is **Talisman's** CBT-liveried Atlantean 90. In the background: **Stephenson's** Dart SLF and Olympian, plus HLJ 44. *Richard Delahoy*

Around 700 passenger trips were made and any profits are being donated by the operators to charities they support (Essex Air Ambulance, McMillan Cancer Support and the Royal British Legion).

Planning has already started for 1/1/09 and Stephenson's would be delighted to hear from other operators wishing to participate with modern or heritage buses - contact richard@signal-training.com if you are interested.

Incidentally, the story of the special ST Boxing Day/New Year's Day services was published in EBN January & February 2000 and is available on our web-site, www.essexbus.org.uk, on the Archive Articles page.

Finally, a set of the five special card tickets produced for the occasion is available, along with a copy of the timetable and a commemorative leaflet, priced £2.50 including postage. To order, send a cheque payable to Stephenson's to

**Richard Delahoy,
272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea,
SS1 3TT.**



above: **Talisman** RML2535 on the 3 (Canvey). *Richard Delahoy*
 below: If Southend Transport still existed, the sort of bus they might have borrowed for demonstration purposes? **Regal Busways** Essex Pullman-liveried Optare Tempo sets down in Queensway. *John G. Lidstone*





above: WNO 480 leads **Ensign** HLJ 44 round Victoria Circus. Note intrepid passengers on top-deck! *John G. Lidstone*

below: The shapely rear of HLJ 44 at Southend Travel Centre. *John G. Lidstone*





Editor's choice: Wonderfully atmospheric night shots made possible through the wonders of the "digi": above; **Ensign's** Craven RT1431 on the X1 feeder to Grays. *Richard Delahoy*
 below: Awaiting departure on the last trip on the day, **London Bus Co.** RM85 at Victoria Circus (Odeon) at 17.45. *Chris Stewart*



Publicity News

New publicity items include ...

Essex County Council Leaflet for Bus Times - Christmas & New Year 2007; Bus and Train Map Winter/Spring 2007/08. This contains 21 town area maps on the reverse; Folded A4 leaflets for services 88/A/B dated 21.10.07; 95 dated 1.9.07; 140 dated 26.8.07; 541 dated 29.4.07; 542/3 dated 30.4.07.

Hertfordshire County Council have issued a Winter 2007/08 Public Transport Map and leaflet covering services over the Christmas/New Year.

Suffolk County Council intend to issue a January 2008 edition of their Public Transport Map in January 2008, whilst production of their timetable booklets continue apace. There is now an Issue 2 of Area 2 Ipswich South (January 2008), Issue 3 of Area 3 Shotley Peninsula (29th July 2007), Issue 1 of Area 7 Sudbury (December 2007) and Issue 1 of Area 8 Haverhill (4th June 2007). All of these include cross border services into Essex. A free mailing list facility is provided by Suffolk CC. PDF versions of all 23 area booklets and the map can be downloaded from www.suffolkonboard.com/

First leaflets for 33 dated 27.8.07 and X30 dated 3.9.07

Arriva have kindly supplied copies of the leaflets mentioned in EBN 523. They were delivered door to door and cover Hammond Street, Waltham Abbey, Waltham Cross and Debden; Harlow, Sawbridgeworth, Bishops Stortford and Stansted Airport; and Harlow. All were dated Autumn 2007. There is also a Harlow version for Christmas, with the title of "Avoid the nightmare before Christmas". All include a frequency guide, a line map and money-off bus ticket vouchers.

Stephensons published a timetable leaflet on A4, for their special services on 1.1.08. This covered services 3,7 and 61, together with feeder services from Rayleigh, Grays and Chelmsford. A single sided A4 sheet detailing bus services in Southend on Boxing Day 2007 has also been issued.

Imperial have issued a glossy A5 leaflet for "your new improved H1" dated 17.11.07. Details are also available at www.routeh1.com

Trustline published an A5 8 page timetable book for services C2/3/4/5 in September

Ensignbus have produced a timetable leaflet dated 10th November 2007 for services 33, 44, 66, 73, 83, X80 in the usual format.

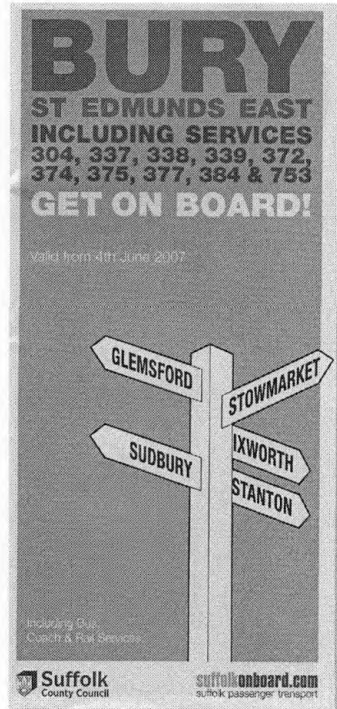
Regal Busways: A5 leaflet for service 3 (Southend – Chelmsford) dated 3.12.07

Chambers of Bures have issued a 3rd September 2007 edition of their double-sided A4 timetable sheet.

Gatwick Flyer have leaflets dated 1st October 2007 to 30th April 2008 for their services to Gatwick Airport and to Stansted Airport.

Crusader Holidays: 36 page 210 x 147mm booklet for 2008 tours to UK and Europe.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Ian Taylor



Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

17 Oct 07	500/501	M-S	Harlow - Brentwood/Romford: amended timetable.
1 Jan 08	10	D	Harlow - Church Langley - Tye Green - Harlow circular: amended timetable.
6 Jan 08	510	D	Harlow - Stansted Airport: now operates every 20 mins daytime; hourly through the night, giving 24 hr service.
20 Jan 08	EB2	D	Easybus: Stansted Airport - London Baker Street: Revised route at Hastingwood to serve new stop. Service extended to Victoria Coach Station, with revised timings in consequence.
29 Jan 08	373	M-S	Upminster Station - Lakeside - Grays: service withdrawn; last day of operation: 28 Jan.

Arriva Southend

21 Jan 08	6A	M-F	Belfairs (Woodcutters) - Leigh Station: additional Tuesday jny.
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Crown Coaches

3 Sep 07	35	M-S	Southend Travel Centre - Chelmsford. As recorded in EBN524 (" <i>Service 35 ~ a sorry tale</i> "), long after the operator and route have ceased, a 'new service' registration is finally published in "Notices & Proceedings"!
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Ensign

10 Nov 07	33	M-S	Grays - Lakeside: amended route and timetable.
1 Dec 07	H80	S	New service: Grays Bus Station - Gravesend Clock Tower 1 and 8 December 2007 only.
17 Dec 07	44	M-S	Lakeside - Orsett Hospital: amended timetable.
	73	M-S	Tilbury - Lakeside / Grays - Upminster: M-F evening journeys retarded by 5 mins.
12 Jan 08	55	M-S	New service: Grays - Lakeside - Ockendon; 30-min frequency.

Excel

29 Oct 07	613	SDO	New service: Fuller Street Garage - Braintree (Notley High School).
	652	SDO	New service: Steeple Bumpstead - Braintree (Tabor Science College).
31 Oct 07	150A	SDO	Boyten End (Golden Farm Lane) - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School); amended route, stopping places and timetable.
	150B	SDO	New service: Braintree (London Road) - Great Dunmow.
	150C	SDO	New service: Leaden Roding (New House Farm) - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School)
	150D	SDO	New service: Stebbingford Bridge (Palm Trees) - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School)
	150F	SDO	New service: Margaret Roding (Garnish Hall) - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School)
	150G	SDO	Thaxted (Watling Street) - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School); amended route, stopping places and timetable.
	150I	SDO	New service: Elsenham High Street - Great Dunmow (Helena Romanes School)
21 Dec 07	601	SDO	New service: Braintree - Broomfield (Chelmer Valley High School)
	621	SDO	Rayne Village Hall - Chelmsford (John Payne School)

Fargo Coachlines

School services withdrawn following takeover by Stephenson/Excel:

6 Nov 07	CC0800	SDO	Gt. Leighs - Braintree.
	FCL2	SDO	Hatfield Peverel - Gt. Baddow.
	FCL3/4	SDO	Rayne - Gt. Baddow.
	FCL5	SDO	Braintree - Gt. Baddow.
	FCL8	SDO	Beeleigh Link - Gt. Baddow.
	FCL20	SDO	Braintree - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	FCL23	SDO	Cressing - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	FCL37	SDO	South Woodham Ferrers - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	FCL129	SDO	Hempstead - Radwinter.
	FCL203	SDO	Chappel - Coggeshall.
	FCL201	SDO	Copford - Coggeshall.
	FCL204-6	SDO	Kelvedon - Coggeshall.
	FCL565	SDO	Gt. Leighs (Bansters Lane) - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).
	FCL567	SDO	Boreham - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).
	FCL 568	SDO	Boreham (Butterfield Road)/Broomfield - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).
	FCL598	SDO	Witham (Augustus Way) - Chelmer Valley High School.
	NOT AV	SDO	Gt. Leighs - Colchester.

First

29 Oct 07	66/66A	D	West Bergholt - Rowhedge: amended timetable.
2 Jan 08	1/1A	M-S	Basildon - Pitsea Broadway: M-F 0903 Pitsea to Basildon retarded to 0913 and runs 10 mins later throughout.
	512	SDO	Chelmsford - Southend High School for Boys: 0701 jny advanced to 0656 and operates 5 mins earlier throughout.
7 Jan 08	2	D	Basildon - Southend: minor M-F timetable changes.
	3/26/27/27A	D	Off peak 26/26A M-F and all day S journeys withdrawn from Bourne Green with revised timetable. Minor timetable changes to evening journeys on 27/27A.
	20/20C/820	D	Southend - Hullbridge/Lower Hockley: 0712 20C Lower Hockley - Rayleigh Station withdrawn. M-S evening service, Southend - Hullbridge improved to half-hourly until 2035, then hourly at 2135 and 2235 ex Southend.
	21/21A/21B/25/25E/821/822	D	Southend Travel Centre - Canvey, Eastern Esplanade: evening journeys, Southend - Garon Park withdrawn; Canvey - Southend evening service unchanged. Morning peak journeys ex Canvey at 0709, 0731 and 0750 and afternoon peak journeys ex Southend at 1502, 1525, 1542, 1602 and 1625 now operate via Blenheim Chase and Elmsleigh Drive.
	24/24A	M-S	Rawreth - Southchurch: re-routed from Rayleigh Station via Downhall Road to Rawreth Lane, ASDA. Additional peak journeys on service 25 to/from Little Wheatleys / Rayleigh Station to replace 24 jnys.
	25/825	D	Southend - Basildon Hospital: revised running time to assist punctuality; additional peak journeys: Little Wheatleys - Rayleigh Station, replacing service 24 trips.
	66/66A	D	Rowhedge - Colchester - West Bergholt: Sunday Rowhedge - Colchester jnys renumbered 66A to match M-S jnys.
	74/74B	D	Colchester - Wivenhoe - Clacton: minor timetable changes.



From 7 January, First Essex service 24 will be rerouted from Rayleigh Station via Downhall Rd to Rawreth Lane Asda instead of going to its long established current terminus at Rawreth Carpenters Arms Roundabout. Freshly repainted 46814 is seen at the soon to be abandoned terminus (for 24s - 25s will continue to pass through) on Christmas Eve.

Peter Mansbridge

75	D	Colchester - Tiptree - Maldon: minor timetable changes.
76	D	Colchester - Weeley - Clacton: minor timetable changes.
103/104	M-S	Colchester - Manningtree - The Mistleys/Ramsey - Harwich: minor timetable changes.

Fords of Althorne

17 Dec 2007	5	Th	Burnham-on-Crouch - Southend: return departure from Southend advanced to 1345 to match times of service 2 operating alternate weeks.
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Galleon Travel / Trustline Buses

19 Nov 07	C3	M-S	Hertford / Harlow - Waltham X - Holdbrook Est. : minor alterations to morning and evening jnys.
5 Jan 08	22/33	M-S	New circular service: Harlow Bus Station - Hare Street - Kingsmoor - Staple Tye - Stewards - Passmores - Harlow Bus Station (33 clockwise; 22 anticlockwise); M-F peak and evening extensions to Harlow Rail Station; 15 min frequency.

Hedingham

29 Nov 07	130	M-F	Clacton Common - Clacton: amended stopping places.
	131	M-F	Jaywick (Tyndale Drive) - Clacton - Jaywick (Tyndale Drive) circular: amended route.
	132	M-F	Brooke Retail Park - Clacton (Station Road): amended route and stopping places.

	134	M-F	Holland Haven - Clacton - Holland Haven circular: amended route.
	135	M-F	Gt. Clacton - Bocking Elms - Clacton - Gt.Clacton circular: amended route.
	136	M-F	Jaywick (Tower Camp) - Clacton - Jaywick (Tower Camp) circular: amended route.
Village Link 2	M-S		Clacton - Mistley: amended route.
4 Feb 08	130	M-F	Clacton Common - Clacton: withdrawn and replaced by new service 137.
	132	M-F	Brooke Retail Park - Clacton (Station Road): withdrawn and replaced by new service 137.
	137	M-F	New service replacing 130/2: Brook Retail Park - Clacton Factory Shopping Centre - Clacton Town Centre circular; half-hourly.
Imperial Bus			
17 Nov 07	H1	M-S	Loughton Station - Harlow Bus Station: now operates as circular in Loughton/Debden, via Homebase, High Road, Loughton Station, Epping Forest College, Debden Broadway and Station, Debden Estate, Homebase before return to Harlow. Operates 8 minutes earlier throughout. Within Harlow, M-F service now starts at Old Harlow Post Office, then via Edinburgh Way, Harlow Town Station, Princess Alexandra Hospital, Harlow Bus Station and Potter Street. Bush Fair no longer served. One new express journey operates mornings, Debden - Epping - Harlow, numbered X1.
1 Dec 07	H2	SSu	On Saturdays, service follows direct route, Harlow Bus Station - Potter Street, and improved to operate 2-hourly. All stops Old Harlow - Debden, fast to Lakeside, and then to Bluewater. To 23 December only.
London Borough of Havering			
1 Sep 07	KM00020	SDO	New service: Ongar (Stoney Park) - Doddinghurst - Brentwood (Sawyers Hall College): one am and pm journey.
National Express			
21 Jan 08	A6	D	Stansted Airport - Baker Street - London Victoria: certain late evening journeys diverted via Golders Green and renumbered A4.
	A9	D	Stansted Airport - Liverpool Street - London Trafalgar Square: night service journeys curtailed to terminate at Stratford, Meridian Square.
3 Mar 08	350	D	Liverpool - Clacton-on-Sea: amended timetable.
NIBS			
5 Nov 07	104	M-F	New service: Langdon Hills (Gt Berry, Tesco) - Laindon - Basildon - Langdon Hills (Gt Berry, Tesco), replacing <i>Crown Coaches</i> 104.
	106	M-F	New service: Langdon Hills (Gt Berry, Tesco) - Laindon - Langdon Hills (Gt Berry, Tesco), replacing <i>Crown Coaches</i> 106.
21 Jan 08	477	SDO	West Horndon Rail Station - Brentwood (Seven Arches Road): amended route and timetable.
Regal Busways			
19 Nov 07	211/212	M-S	Waltham Cross - Breach Barns:
	213	M-S	Waltham Cross - Epping:
			revised times following completion of roadworks.

3 Dec 07	1/1A/1B	M-S	Canvey - Rettendon - Chelmsford - Oxney Green: amended timetables.
	3/3A	M-F	New service: Southend - Rayleigh - Rettendon - East Hanningfield (3A only; one jny each way) - Chelmsford - Writtle Agricultural College, replacing <i>Crown Coaches</i> 35.
27 Dec 07	95	S	Maldon (Blackwater Leisure Centre) - Tollesbury (Kings Head): amended timetable.
Roadrunner			
14 Nov 07	M1/M11/M21/M31	M-F	Harlow Bus Stn - Sumners - Katherines - Harlow Bus Stn circular: M11/M21 withdrawn; revised routes and times for M1/M31.
	M1	S	
SM Coaches			
4 Dec 07	M15/M16	M-S	Harlow Bus Stn - Potter Street - Brays Grove - Tye Green - Harlow Bus Stn. / Harlow Bus Stn - Potter Street - Harlow Bus Stn: addition of M1: Sumners - Katherines - Bus Stn - Rail Stn - Potter Street (M-S)/Potter Street - Brays Grove - Bus Stn - Rail Stn - Pinacles - Sumners (M-F) and M31: Potter Street - Bus Stn - Rail Stn - Potter Street (M-F)/Sumners - Katherines - Bus Stn - Rail Stn - Sumners (M-S) am peak jnys.
3 Feb 08	524	M-S	Harlow - Ware - Hertford: now operates every 30 mins. daytime.
4 Feb 08	SM19	M-S	Sumners - Staple Tye - Potter Street - Epping circular: extended to include Staple Tye, Katherines and Sumners, plus peak hour extensions to Templefields and Pinacles.
Stansted Transit			
25 Oct 07	564	SDO	Felsted - Dunmow: converted from school contract to local bus service.
Stephensons of Essex			
8 Oct 07	504	SDO	Wickham Bishops - Southend High School for Girls: amended timetable
	514	SDO	Hatfield Peverel (Duke of Wellington) - Leigh-on-Sea (Westcliff High Schools): amended timetable.
<i>New school services replacing Fargo registrations:</i>			
5 Nov 07	201	SDO	Copford (Church Road) - Coggeshall (Honywood Community Science School).
	203	SDO	Earls Colne (Coleford Hill) - Coggeshall (Honywood Community Science School).
	204/6/9	SDO	Kelvedon (London Road) - Coggeshall (Honywood Community Science School).
	205	SDO	Kelvedon (Railway Tavern) - Coggeshall (Honywood Community Science School).
	602	SDO	Little Baddow (Jarvis Field) - Gt. Baddow School.
	603	SDO	Chelmer Village (Beeleigh Link) - Gt. Baddow School.
	605	SDO	Hatfield Peverel (The Street) - Gt. Baddow School.
	620	SDO	Braintree (Mountbatten Road) - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	623	SDO	Cressing (Ashes Road) - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	637	SDO	South Woodham Ferrers Station - Chelmsford (St. John Payne School).
	665	SDO	Gt. Leighs (Aragon Road) - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).

	667	SDO	Hatfield Peverel (The Street) - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).
	676	SDO	Broomfield (Woodhouse Lane) - Colchester (Lexden Road Schools).
	698	SDO	Witham (Augustus Way) - Chelmsford (Chelmer Valley High School).
1 Jan 08	3	*	Shoeburyness (The Renown) - Southend General Hospital.
	7	*	Canvey (Haystack) - Southend Travel Centre.
		*	* Operating annually on 1 January only; half-hourly frequency.
10 Jan 08	230/240	SDO	Heybridge (Wood Road) - Maldon - Billericay / Basildon - Brentwood: services withdrawn.
	290	SDO	Maldon (Wycke Hill) - Braintree (Fairfield Road): service withdrawn.
14 Jan 08	200/210/220	MTThF	Bradwell-on-Sea - Southend / Basildon: amended route and timetables.
	250	M	Heybridge (Wood Road) - Southend: withdrawn between Heybridge and South Woodham. Day of operation now Tuesdays.
	260	Th	South Woodham (ASDA) - Maldon (Tesco): days of operation now Wednesdays and Fridays on days when William de Ferrers School is open.

David Harman. with thanks to LOTS and
www.harlowide.co.uk/



■ FIRST ESSEX

Acquired vehicles

30702 G617OWR Leyland Olympian ON11306 Alexander H47/32F 4588/4
 new 6/90, chassis type ONCL10/1RZ
 acquired for spares only from First West Yorkshire, arrived at HH on 17.12.07

Allocation changes

Period 9: 26 November 2007 to 30 December 2007

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; (S)=spare/retained (licensed);

D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School;

PS=Paint Spare

46167 BN(PS)-BN; 46803 (S)-BN; 52580 BN-FGC; 52581 BN-FGC

Disposals

Period 9: 52580/1 to First Hampshire & Dorset (at Hilsea)

Repaints (Periods 9):

41008 53127 65679 53136 41007 46803 41006

Vehicle workings:

Rail Replacements

VR 38790 was in use on 16th December (Southend-Wickford) and again on 30th (emergency)

Shenfield-Witham). Further use was anticipated in January. Even more unusual was yellow school bus 68555 covering the early part of the day between Ipswich and Felixstowe on 21st December.

The major bus substitution on the One Great Eastern line over the Christmas period saw:

23rd Dec:30560, 31375/6, 34012/3, 34301/3/10, 34818

30th Dec:34807/15 (on planned work) and 38790 (see above)

Chelmsford & Braintree

December

- 6th CF46813 on 352
- 10th CF34807 on 45
- 13th CF34815 on 45 a.m.,
- 15th CF34818 on 351 (10.05, 12.05 & 14.05 ex CF), BE46817 on 54/56, CF47252 on 72
- 17th CF56003 on 352
- 18th BE46817 & CF47229 on 352
- 22nd CF46116 on 351
- 23rd CF34807 on 72 (and 24th), CF46116 on 352
- 31st CF34815 in CR late afternoon having arrived on 71 (probably replacing failed 34310)

January

- 9th BE46822 and CF46129 both on town route 45 at same time
- 10th CF34807 on 45 a.m. peak, BE46143 p.m.
- 11th CF34818 on 351 (12.05 ex CF), Solo CF53121 on 72

Colchester, Clacton & Harwich

White Plaxton Primo MX06BPF arrived at DT on 9th January, on loan to cover 57001 which has returned to Plaxtons for rectification of a chassis fault. The loaned bus was first used late on 11th January (after being serviced, a number of other matters rectified and Wayfarer trays fitted). Meanwhile diagram changes mean that Solo 53138 moved to CN and their Olympians 34311/4 moved to CR w.e.f. 5th January, Clacton now covering one line of Village Link 3/4 and Colchester virtually all of the 75/76.

On 7th December, a jackknifed lorry closed the A12 Kelvedon by pass (southbound) for much of the day. As a result, some Chelmsford bound 71s were diverted via Tiptree, owing to severe congestion on the A12 Marks Tey - Feering section.

On Sunday 16th, there was another Christmas Fair in Colchester, meaning the High Street was closed until 20.00. Buses were diverted via their usual High St closure routes, like the previous Christmas Fair.

Between 14th and 20th January, Mersea Road, Colchester will be closed at the junction of Napier Road for work connected with the Garrison Urban Village development. The 67 group will be affected; diversionary details will hopefully follow next month.

December

- 1st CR62407 on 70 (12.30 CR-bound at Marks Tey).
- 3rd CN34314 on CR61 (took over from CR47101 at CR bus stn 1725); CR65654 on 66
- 7th CR34282 and CR43715 on 71, both diverted via Tiptree due to incident on A12 (q.v.)
CR65686 on 88 (21.35 ex HD)
- 8th CR65652 on 71 (15.05 ex Chelmsford)
- 13th CR62407 on 66 (14.15 ex W Bergholt)
- 15th CR46820 on 71, CR65679 on 88 (07.40 ex HD), CR67006 showing '104 Harwich'
- 22nd CR30558 & CR46820 on 88, CR34014 on 75
- 24th CR47101 on DT104, CR62410 on 71

Basildon/Hadleigh

'Short' Dart 46803 had moved (after repaint) to BN by 8th December. On 29th, three of the breed were all at Brentwood Station around 16.15 – 46803 on the 81, 46804 showing 82 (but receiving fitter's attention) and 46808 on the 73.

December

6th BN52583 on 5, BN52585 on 100

13th BN61057 on 100

15th BE43712 on 100

January

11th BN65666 on 22

Other News

First London low-floor (and 14'6" high) Trident 33022 (LK51UYZ) was borrowed by First Essex on 8th December, to assess the feasibility of taking a batch of these vehicles. Trials were undertaken at all the various depots, but at the time of writing no decision had been made; they would need removal of their centre doors as well as complete refurbishment. There are also physical limitations on operation imposed by certain low bridges.

Still in service with First Leicester is Leyland Lynx 62602 (F602RTC), one of four lent to Thamesway in November and December 1992 by Badgerline – the others were their 1621/3/4 (F621/3/4RTC).

ALLOCATION LIST as at 30 December 2007 (fleet total 335)
excludes all ancillary vehicles except Driving Trainers

Basildon (66): 31373-5, 34011/2, 41637/40/2/4/5/7/50/1/3, 43712-4/32-8, 46167-72/4/7/83/4/7, 46803/4/8/25, 51804/5/7, 52583/4/5, 61054/7, 65626-32, 65665-77, 67036

Braintree (13): 46143/4, 46811-3/6/7/21-4/6/7

Chelmsford (86): 20201-3, 31198, 34807/15/8, 42482-9, 42918-23, 43729-31, 46129/73, 47219-21/3/8/9/52, 53112-37, 56002-9, 60103/4, 65028-32, 65680-4, 68521/32/4/5/51/2/5

Clacton (21): 34311/4, 46145/75/6/86, 46820/8-30, 47105/6, 47224-7, 67009-13

Colchester (61): 20102/10, 30558/60, 34013/4/8/56, 34290, 34301-5/7-10/5, 43715/6, 43739-44, 47101-4, 60031, 60130, 62406-10, 65650-4, 65678/9/85-92, 67001-8

Hadleigh (64): 31376/7, 31456/62, 40777-9, 41005-17, 42852-5/7, 43717-21, 46108-10/3/20/2/8/32/6-8/40-2/6-58/79-82, 46814/5/8

Harwich (12): 34280/2/4-6/8, 43800, 53138/9, 57001/2, 60102

Driving school (6): 46127, 67037/8/40, 60469/84

Heritage vehicles (2): 38790, 90230

Reserve/spare (3): 46116 (CF), 46806(CN), 51803(BE)

Delicensed for disposal (1): 30702

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to M Allen, A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, G Norris, J Podgorski, D Pretty, J Salmon, 'Solo', A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, the Essex Bus, South West and British Buses in North America y-groups, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by fax on 01277 216745, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart

■ STEPHENSONS OF ESSEX LTD., Rochford

Overlooked until now is that Volvo B10M/Plaxton N70 SLK was re-registered A14 SOE in May 2007. Dennis Dart SLF's renumbered are P749 HND to 450, and EU05 CZA to 460. Dennis Trident V415 KMY is numbered 815

The vehicles acquired from Fargo, Rayne are as follows: .

GIL 8879	Volvo B10M	Plaxton C53FT	C47 KBE	Ld Olympian	East Lancs CH47/29F
HIL 2154	Volvo B10M	Plaxton C50F	C48 KBE	Ld Olympian	East Lancs CH47/29F
NUI 4246	Volvo B10M	Plaxton C57F	C651 LJR	Ld Olympian	ECW H45/32F
E664 JNR	Bova FHD	Bova C53F	L762 SNO	Ld Olympian	Alexander H68/42D
F26 EKR	Bova FHD	Bova C51FT	L808 SNO	Ld Olympian	Alexander H68/42D
T370 JWA	Scania L94	Irizar C55F	F329 UJN	Ds Condor	Du Metsec H63/43D
YN51 MFZ	Scania K114	Irizar C53F	G717 FVX	Ds Condor	Du Metsec H63/43F
GHG 343W	Ld Atlantean	East Lancs H50/36F	G642 BPH	Volvo B10M	N.Counties H45/31F
TPD 111X	Ld Olympian	Roe H43/29F	A635 BCN	MCW Metrobus	MCW H46/31F
DBV 136Y	Ld Olympian	ECW H45/32F	A638 BCN	MCW Metrobus	MCW H46/32F
A512 EJF	Ld Olympian	ECW H45/32F	A634 BCN	MCW Metrobus	MCW H46/31F
D511 PPU	Ld Olympian	ECW CH45/24F	K352 ANV	MB 709D	Alexander (B) B25F
C46 KBE	Ld Olympian	East Lancs CH47/29F			

Also acquired were Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs GHG 345W and Leyland Olympian/East Lancs DFW 42X. These had been used for spares and the remains sold for scrap.

Former East Yorkshire (new to Eastbourne) Leyland Olympian/Northern Counties E851/2/6 DPN were acquired in December and are expected to replace MCW Metrobuses. The three Metrobuses have been sold to Griffin, Sevenoaks, Kent. Olympian TPD 111X has been sold to Play on Sports Ltd., as a static bar/smoking area.

■ EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS LTD.

Dennis Dart/Plaxton J226 XGY and K708 KGU have been sold to Taylor, Towcester. Volvo B10M/Alexander M453 VCW has been transferred to Stephenson's, Witham depot, although it has not yet been allocated a fleet number.

Vehicles transferred here following the takeover of Fargo are Scania N113/Northern Counties G34/7 HKY, H804 RWJ, Mercedes Benz 0814D/Eurocoach X734 MFL, short Bova Futuras A4 HFY (R636 VYB), YS03 GSX, and Scania K114/Irizar YN53 OZO.

Bova YS03 GSX has since been sold to Silver Coachlines, Edinburgh. A Neoplan Skyliner is coming in part exchange and may be used.

■ **EXCEL GATWICK LTD., Gatwick:** This is the former Clockwork Travel Ltd., renamed in November last year. Leyland National Greenway IIL 4821 (XPD 229N) has been sold. Former Fargo Mercedes Benz Vario/Eurocoach Y877 WFL has been transferred here, as has Scania K114/Irizar YN53 CDE

■ **FLIGHT DELAY SERVICES LTD., Manchester** FDS is also part of the Stephenson's/Excel group. Scania K113/Irizar T42 CNN has been re-registered H12 FDS. The most recent fleetlist shows Mercedes Vario/Plaxton Cheetah Y637/8 AVV as being here. Mercedes Benz Vito X802 HNV and DA52 AFE are no longer shown.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson



Midwinter: **Stephensons** Dart EU05 CZA operating on Witham Town Service 39 at Chipping Hill, Witham on 27 December.. *Keith Shayshutt*



A reminder of summer: **Arriva Southend** 1188 (no longer in fleet) arriving in Rayleigh High Street having operated the morning service 10 journey from Paglesham.

Peter Mansbridge

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Vehicles out

3358 (K408 FHJ), 3359 (K409 FHJ), 3818 (H368 XGC), 5379 (C379 BUV): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 12/07

Subsequent histories

3364 (K414 FHJ): gone from Arriva The Shires 11/07

3463 (W463 XKX): Arriva London South ADL63 10/07 ex Arriva London North ADL63

5373 (MUH 283X): Blowfield, Forest Hill, Oxford 1/07 ex Roundabout Buses, Crawley Down

5386 (B184 BLG): Tees Valley, Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland 3/07 ex Carterton, Witney

General

The two Vo B7RLE/Wt delivered in 11/07 - 3873/4 (KE 57 EPA/C) are additional vehicles for service 510 (Harlow-Stansted Airport) which, from January 2008 will have an increased frequency and become a 24 hour service.

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Dennis Lance 3379 (M269 VPU) suffered a serious fire whilst operating in service on route 9 in Southend on 31st December. The fire broke out whilst the vehicle was on Queensway near to the Kursaal Estate. The future of the vehicle is unknown.

Dominator 5288 (K38 XVM) and possibly one other have passed to GM Coaches of Cefn Cribbwr, Bridgend.

The change of operator on TfL route 498 (from Arriva to First), the extension of the route to Gorsebrook Village, Dagenham and the introduction of a 30 minute Sunday service has been delayed from 26 January to 28 June 2008. Changes to service 499 (which will see Arriva take over the service from First) are also to take place from 28th June.

The transfer of LEZ compliant Darts from Dartford to Grays for the 370 (EBN 524) may be more correctly for contractual reasons (the 370 is now a TfL service), and not for LEZ reasons (which does not apply until July). TfL contracts specify vehicle types/specifications, so far as emissions are concerned.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and Essex Bus y-group



Vehicles In

from Wiltax, New Haw

131/3 T131/3 AUA DAF DB250 LF Plaxton President H45/19D

New 4/1999 to Capital Logistics.

Chassis numbers T131 AUA - XMGDE02RS0H007005

T133 AUA - XMGDE02RS0H007004

These vehicles arrived on 21st December in orange/yellow Wiltax livery and were delivered to Old Heath workshop. 133 has been used on rail work since late December. 131 was first used on 10 January.

Fleet list - December 2007

<i>old</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>reg. no.</i>	<i>chassis</i>	<i>body</i>	<i>seats</i>	<i>new</i>
	101	AY55DKA	Scania Omnidecker	East Lancs	H47/33F	2005
	102	YN06TFZ	Scania Omnidecker	East Lancs	H47/33F	2006
	103	<i>on order</i>	<i>Scania Omnidecker</i>	<i>East Lancs</i>		2008
	104	<i>on order</i>	<i>Scania Omnidecker</i>	<i>East Lancs</i>		2008
516	105	HX51LRJ	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
512	106	HX51LRK	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
513	107	HX51LRL	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
514	108	HX51LRN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
515	109	HX51LRO	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
	131	T131AUA	DAF250LF	Plaxton President	H45/19D	1999
	133	T133AUA	DAF250LF	Plaxton President	H45/19D	1999
	155	T405SMV	Dennis Trident	East Lancs	H45/28F	1999
	156	T406SMV	Dennis Trident	East Lancs	H45/28F	1999
	157	V337DBD	Dennis Trident	Alexander	H51/29+17F	1999
	214	G614BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39+20F	1989
	215	G615BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39+20F	1989
	219	G619OTV	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	Alexander RV	H47/37F	1989 *
	300	W427CWXX	Optare Solo M850	Optare	B29+22F	2000
802	302	M722CGO	Dennis Dart 9.8SDL	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	1995
803	303	M723CGO	Dennis Dart 9.8SDL	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	1995
	307	YJ51JWW	Optare Solo M850	Optare	B29+22F	2001
806	309	M526MPM	Dennis Dart 9.8SDL	East Lancs EL2000	B35F	1995
213	333	G613BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39+20F	1989
217	337	G617BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39+20F	1989
246	346	F246MTW	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29+17F	1988 *
517	351	HX51 LSN	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B40F	2001
510	354	Y40TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	2001
511	355	Y50TGM	Dennis Dart SLF	Caetano Compass	B30D	2001
520	360	SN54HWY	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
521	361	SN54HWZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
522	362	SN54HXA	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
523	363	SN54HXB	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
524	364	SN54HXC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
525	365	SN54HXD	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
526	366	SN54HXE	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
527	367	SN54HXF	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
906	386	W906UJM	Volvo B10-BLE	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
907	387	W907UJM	Volvo B10-BLE	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
	528	AY54FPZ	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
	529	AY54FRC	Alexander Dennis Dart	Alexander Dennis Pointer	B37+22F	2004
	708	S108HGX	Mercedes Benz 814D	Plaxton Beaver 2	B27F	1998
	801	N541TPF	Dennis Dart 9.8SDL	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	1995
	903	W903UJM	Volvo B10-BLE	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
	904	W904UJM	Volvo B10-BLE	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000
	905	W905UJM	Volvo B10-BLE	Alexander ALX300	B44+34F	2000

> numbers in bold are those currently physically carried.

* since transferred to Haverhill

General

335 has been repainted and since 1 December, has been renumbered 215.

Vehicle Workings

Unusual sightings:

December

7th 303 on 83 (usually SLF).

11th 300 on school contract 728 (usually SLF).

Scania OmniDekkas 101/2 were in use on rail replacement between Ipswich and Marks Tey on Sunday 9th December.

Re. EBN 524: 300 and 307 on 2: a low floor vehicle is actually scheduled to operate some journeys on service 2 and often an Optare operates it.

Other News

From 14th January routes 8/8A will be on long term diversion via Military Road and Bourne Road due to the closure of Mersea Road at the junction of Napier Road for major works connected with the Garrison Urban Village development. The diversion is expected to last until the end of March.

The North Hill closure on 18 October (EBN 523) was in both directions. Service 65 buses did a complete loop of the town centre from Head Street to Crouch Street, and then Balkerne Hill.

Volvo Citybus 219 (G619 OTV) and Leyland Olympian 346 (F246 MTW) were transferred to Haverhill on 4 January. 346 was the last remaining Network Colchester bus which originated in the Colchester Borough Transport fleet. More details next month.

Bus Users UK "Bus Surgery" (EBN523): These surgeries are organised up and down the country to enable bus users to raise issues in connection with their services. They usually make use of a bus provided by a local company. As Colchester is served by two main operators, it was felt appropriate to use a "neutral" vehicle, and Optare kindly offered the Tempo demonstrator. Driver Brian MacPhail set off at 03.00 hrs on the morning of 29 October, and when the surgery closed at 15.00 hrs, took the Tempo back to Optare at Rotherham. The surgery was staffed by representatives of First (including MD, Bob Dorr for the afternoon), Network Colchester and Essex County Council.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Michael Allen, Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Keith Sadler



Hedingham

Allocations - December 2007

	Saloon	B6 / Dart	SLF	Coach	Double-decker
Hedingham	L196 L206		L211 L328 L212 L340 L301 L350 L325		L337 L355
Sudbury	L148 L200	L241 L297	L339	L124 L291 L233 L298 L242	L336 L358 L341 L359 L345 L360 L357 L361
Kelvedon		L208 L319 L258 L342	L344 L351	L281 L311	L167 L306 L197 L310 L254 L300
Tollesbury	L150 L354	L207 L303 L243 L308 L283	L343 L349	L309 L329	L237 L315 L262 L316 L288 L317

<i>Clacton</i> L322	L198	L312	L244	L160	L293	L333
	L210	L326	L282	L197	L305	L352
	L287	L334	L285	L245	L307	L353
		L335	L286	L248	L313	
		L338	L290	L251	L314	
		L346	L295	L253	L330	
		L348	L299	L255	L331	
		L356	L323	L292	L332	
			L3247			

Paint float

L199

with thanks to Mr D R MacGregor of Heddingham Omnibuses

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Arriva the Shires: Darts K414 FHJ, M951 LYR
Dublin Bus: Olympian 96-D-310
Lothian Buses: Olympians J845/6/7/9/50/1/4 TSC
Metroliner: DML16 DMS10/17/19
Reading Buses: Optare Spectras YJ51ZVH/K/L/N/M/O/E
Stagecoach Devon: Volvo D10M's F301/5MYJ
Stagecoach East: Olympians D379/82 XRS
Stagecoach Yorkshire: Metroliner 400GT's E99 AAK E906 TOJ
Veolia Denmark: Volvo B7L's SB95709 SB95593 SB95711 SB95712
 SB95594 RZ92799 RZ92676 RZ97043
 RZ92781 RZ97044 RZ92782 RZ92675 TC88976

Vehicles out

to:

Dublin Olympian 91-D-1070 now H754 PVW with
A2B Travel, Newquay, Cornwall
 Darts R867/7/9 MCE: **A2Z Travel**, Wolverhampton
 Vario R101 NTA: **Countryliner**, Guildford, Surrey
 Lance L405 BFX: **Freestones Coaches**, Norwich
 Dublin Olympian 91-D-1075 now H764 PVW with
Galleon Travel, Harlow, Essex
 Dublin Olympian 91-D-1074 now H751 PVW with
Halifax Joint Committee
 Volvo D10M's F301/5 MYJ: **Kent Coach Travel**, Sheerness, Kent
 Olympian J840 TSC: **Mortons Coaches**, Tadley, Hants.
 Olympians J167UNH H604LNA: **Mulleys**, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk
 Olympians D379/82 XRS: **Red Kite**, Beds.
 Darts P341/2/3/4 OEW, T63/4/5 KLD:
Renown Coaches, Bexhill, East Sussex
 Lance L705 HFU: **RH Transport**, Witney, Oxon.
 Bristol VR's AIG6623/4 : **City Sightseeing** Hollywood
 RML2743: **City Sightseeing** Milan
 Lynx F113 HVK, Metrobuses EWF 465V LAT 520V KGY 158V
 and Olympian E229 WBG: **PVS** for scrap.

The Veolia Denmark Volvos are left-hand drive, East Lancs-bodied examples, originally supplied to Arriva Denmark (whose franchise operations passed to Veolia). They are likely to be converted to semi-open top and sold to sightseeing operators worldwide.

■ ENSIGN BUS Co., Purfleet

Acquired vehicles

from Reading Transport 721/31-6

101	YJ51 ZVE	DAF DB250 XMGDE02RS0H009025	Optare 8711	H47/27F	11/2001
102	YJ51 ZVH	DAF DB250 XMGDE02RS0H009457	Optare 8715	H47/27F	11/2001
103	YJ51 ZVK	DAF DB250 XMGDE02RS0H009458	Optare 8716	H47/27F	12/2001
104	YJ51 ZVL	DAF DB250 XMGDE02RS0H009459	Optare 8717	H47/27F	12/2001
105	YJ51 ZVN	DAF DB250 XMGDE02PS0H009460	Optare 8719	H47/27F	2/2002
106	YJ51 ZVM	DAF DB250 XMGDE02PS0H009456	Optare 8718	H47/27F	2/2002
107	YJ51 ZVO	DAF DB250 XMGDE02PS0H009563	Optare 8720	H47/27F	2/2002

from Stagecoach Yorkshire 50001/2

464	864 DYE	MCW DR140/3 MB9000	MCW	CH47/16Dt	4/1988
new to <i>Central Coachways</i> 1906, but built for Ribble as a DR140/2; reregistered from E906 TOJ (previously YTC 858, E906 TOJ).					
tba	E99 AAK	MCW DR140/3 MB9525	MCW	CH53/18Dt	6/1988
new to <i>Yorkshire Traction</i> 99; (previously HE 8899, E99 AAK).					

from London General LDP20

753	WLT 753	Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR1TGW10467	Plaxton	9610HJZ6113	B36F
new: 11/1996; reregistered from P720 RYL.					

Withdrawn vehicles

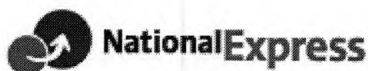
Metrobuses 152/7 (E752/747 SKR). Metrobuses 149 (E749 SKR), 161-2/73/5 (F761-2/73/5 EKM) will follow once the Spectras are repainted.

RT981 has passed to Carousel, High Wycombe for their heritage fleet.

General

The London Low Emission Zone (LEZ) does not take effect for PCVs until 7 July 2008, not as stated in EBN 524.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus, Richard Delahoy and Ian Ransom



Unusual sighting

24 December: Chalfont Coaches DAF SB4000/Van Hool WA04 MHK on 484 (London-Clacton-Walton /short to Colchester). This was a holiday relief for the contract maintained by Galloway of Mendlesham.

Traffic

Walton bound 484s had to be diverted in Colchester on 16/12, due to closure of the High Street for the Xmas Fair. Diversion was via: Avenue of Remembrance, Colne Bank Avenue, Cowdray Avenue, Ipswich Road, East Street, East Bay, East Hill, High Street, Queen Street to bus station. This is the standard diversion for 484 when Colchester High Street is closed.

John Podgorski

Acquired from Hunter, Pickering are Mercedes Benz Vario 0814D/Plaxton T431 EBD and T462 HNH. Also acquired is Leyland Olympian/ Northern Counties F259 YTJ. MCW Metrobus F99 XOF reported as sold, is still here, although withdrawn. Dennis Dart/Plaxton J307 WHJ has been sold for scrap. The company moved to a new depot located on the Skyline 120 development at Notley Garden Village in Braintree. Some vehicles are still parked in the old terminal car park at Stansted Airport, near to Excel's premises.

Ian Ransom

Regal Busways

REGAL Cooksmill Green Acquired are Dennis Dart/Plaxton K955 PBC, K877 UDB and K832 SFT These were unusual when new, in being delivered to independent operators, Liverpool Motor Services, Arrowline, Knutsford and Hyldon Castle, East Boldon, respectively. Dennis Dart/Plaxton (but new to London Buses) J605 XHL, has also been acquired. Similar J105 DUV has been fitted with electronic displays and looks very smart. *Ian Ransom*

Essex Small Operator News

1to1 MINICOACHES, Laindon Peugeot Boxer R770 VWL has been withdrawn.

ADVANCE, Hockley Acquired from Glasgow City Council is W879 WHS a VW LT46/AVB.

AH MINIBUSES Clacton-on-Sea Recently acquired is Iveco Turbo Daily LK03 GXZ

AMBER, Rayleigh Volvo B10M/Plaxton ALZ 3255 (L2 TCC) has been sold to a Nottingham operator.

APT, Rayleigh Scania K114/Irizar JO03 CCL has been sold to Peake, Pentwyn. Acquired is Volvo B10M/Plaxton MIL 8584 (A6 XEL), new to Excelsior, Bournemouth.

ARROW, Maldon New is Ford Transit EJ57 DXK.

BARKERBUS, Roydon Mercedes Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess B457 DWE has been withdrawn.

BENFLEET BUS, Benfleet Have recently surrendered their operating licence. Only one vehicle was owned an Iveco 45-10 minibus N554 DKO.

BILLERICAY CARRIAGES, Wickford Acquired from Carousel, Harlow is Ford Transit EY03 VNP.

BJS, Gt Wakering Neoplan N216H IIL 1044 (D808 RKY) has been sold.

BOBS, Little Oakley Acquired is Mercedes Benz 0814D/ Autabus W403 HOB.

BRIANS, Maylandsea The operators licence has been surrendered and MAN 11.180/Berkhof J20 GSM has been sold.

BROWRING, Westcliff Renault Master R852 XDA has been sold.

BULL & NICHOLLS, Shotgate Volvo B10M/Plaxton BJS 98Y had been sold by June 2007.

CD HIRE, Harlow Ford Transit L420 K VX has been sold.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe One on the Bova's here R50 TPB has recently been re-registered FSK 868.

CHARIOTS, Stanford-le-Hope Recently sold are Renault Master K442 GJN, DAF SB3000/ Van Hool K509 RJX and Mercedes Benz 410D/ Autabus K685 WKJ.

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford Ford Transit BN06 SVF is a recent addition

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS, Chelmsford Ford Transit 48 is registered EX07 UFH, there is no EK07 UFH here. Ford Transit's

EY54 NXT/NXZ/NXJ/NXW/NXB/NXG and LDV Convoy EY54 DHL/DHK/DHM/DHN/ANF/ANP have all been sold. More new Ford Transits to report are EO57 BFV/UJE/KBZ/UHY/KCN, numbered 26-30.

CLINTONA, Brentwood R84 EDW a Mercedes Benz 0814D/Autobus has gone to Mid West, Cheltenham, Mercedes Benz 609D/Crystals H211 FPD to Barnes, Dagenham, M988 CYS a Mercedes Benz 709D/Wadham Stringer to Connections 4 You, Manston and R603 HKN an Iveco/Marshall to Halifax Bus.

COGGESHALL COMMUNITY BUS New is Iveco 45C15 GN57 JVT, which replaces Mercedes Benz Sprinter EY53 CYW.

COUNTY, Brentwood Volvo B10M/Duple 5281 RU (E441 MOU) has been sold to EK Travel, St Ives, Cambridgeshire.

DMA, Brentwood Volvo B10M/Jonckhree HIL 3087 (new as A312 EAJ) has been withdrawn

DONS, Great Dunmow Dennis Javelin/Plaxton M30 TGM has gone to Pye, Minsterley

EASIBUS, Benfleet P282 HFY a LDV Convoy has been sold.

ENIGMA, Colchester Acquired in 2006 from a private owner, but not previously reported is Ford Transit N16 CAS (N83 GAG).

EXCALIBUR TRAVEL, Mayland Toyota/Caetano B105 YUC has been sold.

FARGO, Rayne No full size vehicles are now owned and it is understood that the following were sold, prior to the Stephenson's takeover. Leyland Atlantean/E Lancs GHG 344W, Leyland National 2 WBB 532Y, Mercedes 609D/Made to Measure E677 UND, Leyland Olympian/Roe TPD 105X, Leyland Olympian/ECW C657 LJr and Scania N113/N Counties G38 HKY. Acquired is Ford Transit ND05 KYG.

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree Sadly, Bristol VR/ECW XIL 1254 (XHK 217X) has been withdrawn. Optare Solo MX57 CBF has been noted on Freeport shuttles from Braintree and is assumed to have been taken into stock.

FLORIDA, Halstead Bova FHD12-290 F690 ONR has been withdrawn.

FORD, Althorne Bedford YNV/Duple D66

ONS has been withdrawn.

FST COACHES, Basildon LDV Convoy 2942 FH has been re-registered to it's original S436 JRV and has been sold.

GALLEON TRAVEL, Harlow This operator has recently moved from Hertford to Harlow and will now be covered in future EBN.

GEORGES MINIBUS, Canvey Island Renault Master L16 ATS has been sold.

H&E MINIBUS, Wickford Acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus is Fiat Ducato/Stanford EU03 DTF.

HAILSTONE, Basildon Ford Transit EA02 ELH has been acquired from Fargo, Rayne.

IMPERIAL, Rainham Although not one of "our area" operators, it is worth recording that RM 909 (WTS 481A) appeared on service H1 (Loughton to Harlow) in late October and RT 786 was in use on on Saturday 17th November. The regular buses on this route are now normally Leyland Olympian/N Counties G515/7/21 VBB, which have recently been refurbished.

KEANE, Canvey Island Ford Transit L362 SHK has been sold.

KINGS, Stanway A fairly unusual addition is a short Bova Futura KC57 ABC.

KIRBY, Rayleigh BX07 NLR a Setra S415 GT has gone to Dodsworth, Boroughbridge.

LEE ROY, Brentwood LDV Convoy P676 LWA has been sold to Swallow, Rainham

LINKFAST, Thundersley Ex London MCW Metrobuses sold are WYW 9T, WYW 38T and BYX 268V. Also sold are Leyland Olympian/ECW A17 ALS (C207 GTU) and Mercedes Benz 711D/UVG N59 MTG.

LODGE, High Easter Dennis Javelin/Plaxton J13 WSB has been acquired from Soul, Olney, Berkshire. Iveco/Marshall R708 SLU has gone to Halifax Bus, Sowerby Bridge. It is reported that BV57 VGT a Mercedes Benz Touro demonstrator belonging to Evobus was on the Colchester to London rail replacement service, during the Christmas period.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island Mercedes Benz 609D/NWCS G840 CLV has been sold. Acquired is Mercedes Benz 0404/Hispano W358 EOL.

MJR TRANSPORT, Benfleet The operators licence has been surrendered and Fiat Ducato R933 WLF and Peugeot Boxer T868 FFC, will be sold.

NEW HORIZONS, Wivenhoe Mercedes Benz 413CDI/Concept YX06 FHB has been sold to Chigwell Cars, Chigwell.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Volvo B10M/Plaxton MIL 1853 (A339 HNR) has been withdrawn. A second ex City of Oxford Volvo B10M/Plaxton is V282 SBW (V15 OXF). Mercedes Benz/Plaxton T817 ASR has gone to Mike Boggis, Ipswich.

P&M, Crays Hill Acquired from East Yorkshire is V842 JAT a Volvo B10M/Plaxton. It has replaced similar but Paramount bodied E589 VTH.

PEGASUS, Point Clear VW Caravelle S308 SEV has been sold.

PETER GODWARD, Basildon Iveco 391/Beulas TC52 PGC has gone to Mentor, Hellaby (dealer). Ford Transit P24 XAG has been sold.

RICHARDS, Galleywood Ford Transit EY51 CVC now operates as a PSV.

RICHMOND 4 WHEEL DRIVE, Stapleford Tawney Mercedes Benz 609D/Scott WJI 2706, is not here, and was reported in error.

RONDA COACHES, Rochford Ford Transit/Robin Hood UKK 419X, previously reported as sold, is now reported as being sold for preservation.

ROSS, Kelvedon LDV 400 minibuses sold are M52 WEV and N186 URJ.

RUFFLE, Sible Hedingham Ford Transit N249 GOO has been withdrawn.

SAINT CLOUD, Rochford Ford Transit D370 RVW reported as sold, remains in use as a Non-PSV. LAG Panoramic WIB 9498 (F679 BBD) has been withdrawn. Bova Europa B91 FNO has been sold.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow N303 FOR an Iveco/Mellor is reported as sold for scrap. Enviro 200 demonstrator SN56 AYA was here in November, it also visited Olympian, Harlow.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS Acquired from Saint Cloud, Rochford is N626 EUR a LDV 400.

STANS, Gt Totham Recently acquired is B3 CEC (J718 KBC) a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton from Smith's, Blofield, Norfolk.

STANSTED COACH & CARRIAGE, Birchanger Recently acquired is Fiat Freedom YY04 PVT.

SUPREME, Southend Ford Transit R308 WPU has been withdrawn.

SWIFT CARS, Little Waltham Acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus is RJI 6621 (OGE 8Y) a DAF MB200/Van Hool.

THORNS OF ESSEX, Rayleigh Acquired from KTM Coaches, Duloe, Cornwall is Volvo B10M/Plaxton RBZ 2675 (new as D265 HFX).

TONY GLEW, Gt Tey Renault Master N553 JBX has been withdrawn.

TOWNCARS, Clacton Mazda E220 P98 EVO has been sold.

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Acquired from Sullivan Buses is all-Leyland Olympian G293 UYK.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton K625 ORL and Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton have been sold, the latter to Flights Hallmark, Hounslow. Acquired from Stagecoach West is Volvo B6/Alexander L667 MSE.

WALDEN TRAVEL, Saffron Walden Volvo B7/Plaxton FJ53 KZE is numbered 18 and named Aragom.

WARD, Alresford Ford Transit AY54 WOU has been acquired.

WEBB, Highwood Acquired from the now defunct C&I Coachlines, Highwood are IUI 2733/4 (F635 EDH, F881 VSJ) both are Volvo B10M/Ikarus and P120 KNO an Iveco 391/Beulas,

WESTBROOK TRAVEL, Shoeburyness Ford Transit BN02 FLJ reported as being here last year, is not owned.

YOUNG, Shotgate L743 PDM an Iveco minibus has been sold for scrap.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to LOTS, PSV Circle, Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold, John Podgorski, Richard Delahoy and Essex Buses y-group

Fun and games in Southend

Peter Newman of Ensignbus posed the following brain-teaser on the Essex-buses y-group recently:

On New Years Day Stephensons are operating a variety of vintage buses on some Southend services, including Ensign RT1421. But when did an RT **LAST** run in passenger service in Southend (excluding railways, schools and staff buses)?

*No-one was quite sure, so Peter not only provided the answer but also told us when an RT **FIRST** ran in passenger service in Southend:*

In 1965 (I think) **Eastern National** were very short of crews and a deal was done with **Super Coaches (Upminster) Ltd** for the hire of six buses and crews for peak-hour enhancement Mondays - Fridays. Crews were given Setright and route training at Prittlewell Depot, and it was arranged that a pilot scheme of one bus would be used on the 3 to Canvey. If this was successful then the other five buses would follow in a day or two.

We used an RT and managed a full rounder before being pulled off by request of the unions. So that was the end of that little caper !

Then we come to the 1967 strike (yes - 40 years ago!) A mixture of ex City Coach PD2's, RT's and RTL's were used primarily on the 17, which we exclusively operated, and also on some of the other SCT routes. When we started the 17 it was worked with two ex-Western Welsh Tiger Cubs (HUH 39 was one), with an RF or Reliance as well. When it started to get busy we double-decked it. (**Broadway Coaches** of Wickford also operated an RT, plus an RTL and an RTW, in the same period).

However, the **LAST** time an RT ran in public service in Southend was the year of the big freeze (I think it was

1986, but I am not sure of that) when Ensign ran a lot of journeys on the X1 for SCT, and our RT did a couple of journeys in that period.

~ ~ ~

The 1967 strike came about after a breakdown in national negotiations led to the Transport & General Workers Union (to which many busmen belonged), instructing their municipal members to ban overtime and the carriage of standing passengers. This had a major impact on Southend Corporation as the then shortage of crews meant many normal duties could only be maintained by paying overtime.

The overtime ban came into effect on 3 November 1967, upon which SCT passed operation of the 17 (Temple Sutton - Eastwood) to Super Coaches, and various school contracts to Channel Coachways. The union responded by calling an all-out strike from 7 November, and Eastern National local crews came out "in sympathy". EN crews from outside the SCT area, halted long-distance services (11, 19, 151, 251 etc) at the Co-ordination Scheme boundary.

SCT then attempted to run a skeleton service with office staff driving buses (including the Albion Lowlanders adapted for OMO), and by hiring-in a large number of vehicles and crews from independent operators. Destinations were provided by means of yellow and black "strike boards" (which made a reappearance in Southend on 1 January 2008 - see page 5!).

Exactly 40 years on, Peter Newman has neatly reminded us of an interesting (unless you happened to be an ordinary passenger) interlude in Southend's transport history.

We hope to take a closer look at the 1967 strike next month (and also follow-up on Kings Cross Coach Station and the Essex Coast Express). In the meantime, photos of the independents running in Southend in 1967/8 would be welcome.

David Harman

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.

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Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services, weekend rail replacement, together with 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.

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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

