

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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November 2008**



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus News

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints or slides or JPGs) 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.

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

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

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COVER *The new order in Southend: newly transferred in from Northfleet, Scania L113 3258, N258BKK, pulls away from the Alexander House stop in Queensway on October 18. This batch of 10 buses reintroduces Wrights bodies to the Arriva Southend fleet, but Scania buses have never featured before. An article about recent changes in Southend, together with a complete Arriva Southend fleet list, starts on page 7. Richard Delahoy*

Dates for your diary

■ PRESS DATES

For inclusion in EBN dated

December

January 2009

February 2009

reports should reach Editors by

29 November

3 January 2009

31 January 2009

planned despatch date

18 December

22 January 2009

19 February 2009

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 (see Group Directory).

■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

South Essex meetings now take place at **Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane, Wickford** - 5 minutes walk from Wickford Station and 5 minutes drive from the A130 and A127.

In Wickford town centre, turn into Swan Lane from Runwell Road (Swans pub is on the corner); then turn right into the entrance about 100' up on the right - marked Wickford Tennis Club. This is an unmade road, so beware of potholes. Go straight ahead towards the tennis courts and then left at the end - you will see the cricket clubhouse in front of you. Car parking available on site.

Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145/2200; a cash bar is available. Both members and guests are welcome. *Richard Delahoy*

Winter 2008 - Spring 2009 programme

- ▶ **Monday December 8** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*, "20 years ago" and Christmas Social.
- ▶ **Monday January 12** - "Southend Trams and Trolleybuses", illustrated talk by *Richard Delahoy*.
- ▶ **Monday February 9** - slide show by *Martin Weyell*, 1960s and 1970s.
- ▶ **Monday March 9** - "The X1 story, Southend to London and beyond, 1980 to 2008", illustrated talk by *Richard Delahoy*.
- ▶ **Monday April 6** - to be advised.

Please note the new meeting date - **second MONDAY in the month** - and venue.

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2200. £1 donation towards room hire, please (we regret that increased room hire charges, means we must ask for £1.50 from January). Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Both members and guests are welcome.

Dave Arnold

- ▶ **Friday December 12** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe*.

2009 programme

- ▶ **Friday January 9** - slide show "Braintree to Cape Town".
- ▶ **Friday February 13** - *Trevor Brookes*: TBA.
- ▶ **Friday March 13** - *Alan Osborne*: slide show: "Back to Back".
- ▶ **Friday April 17** [note: 3rd Friday **not** the 2nd] - *Robin Jenkinson*: Talk: "My Experiences in the Bus Industry in Essex in the 70's".
- ▶ **Fridays May 8, June 12, July 10, August 14, September 11, October 9, November 13, and December 11**: TBA

- ⊗ We have had complaints about people talking during slide shows - a distraction to the presenter and to the rest of the audience. *Please save the chat until afterwards.* Thanks! ☺

■ EVENT DIARY

- ▶ **Saturday November 22 ~ LOTS Autumn Transport Spectacular**, Harrow Leisure Centre, Christchurch Avenue, Wealdstone: doors open 10.30; admission: just £2. The Centre is 5 minutes walk eastwards along Masons Avenue from Harrow & Wealdstone station (Zone 5), for fast London Midland trains from Euston, TfL Overground, Bakerloo Line, and the Brighton - Gatwick - East Croydon - Clapham Junction - Watford service of Southern. Buses H9 and H10 stop outside the Centre.

Buses 140, 182, 186, 258 and 340 stop outside Harrow & Wealdstone station, and in Wealdstone High Street. Large, free car park adjacent to the hall.

► **Note:** the Group Sales Stall will be in attendance, with a wide range of photos, the latest ECC all-Essex timetable book, publications etc., and members may renew their subscriptions there too - please bring the renewal form enclosed with EBN534.

► **Ensignbus Running Days ~ Saturdays 6 and 13 December**

Half-hourly service on X80 from Grays Bus Station: 0857, then every 30mins to 1657, via Lakeside (xx10/xx40 mins past the hour), Bluewater (xx40/xx10) to Gravesend. From Gravesend Clock Tower: 1015, then every 30mins to 1745 via Bluewater (xx40/xx10), Lakeside (xx10/xx40) to Grays. One late journey from Gravesend at 1810 to Lakeside only. Additionally service X55 from Upminster Station (District Line and c2c) runs hourly from 1000 to 1600 via Aveley to Lakeside, returning hourly 1030 to 1730. Expect a range of interesting guest vehicles, and even Santa may make an appearance! £6 all routes day rover. Details and downloadable timetables at:

http://ticketslondon-online.biz/Combo_Site/Index.htm

► **Southend Running Day ~ Thursday January 1, 2009**

Stephensons of Essex are again organising a "running day" in Southend and the surrounding area, with a series of registered bus services run by Stephensons and other operators "on hire". This year they expect 14-15 buses/coaches to be in service, including an ex London RML, L class Olympian and ex Metrobus Trident, Southdown Queen Mary, an ex Southend Van Hool Astromega and various Olympians, a Bristol VR and a Leyland National. Routes to be operated will be:

- 3: Southend - Hadleigh - Benfleet - Canvey, every 30 minutes
- 6: Southend - Southchurch Garon Park, every hour
- 7: Shoebury Renown - Southend, every 30 minutes
- 7: Southend - Hospital - Rochford, every 30 minutes
- 61: Southend - Southchurch (Fossetts Park) every hour
- 251: Eastwood - Rayleigh Station, every 30 minutes.

Apart from First's X30, no other bus services will be running in the area on January 1st.

Feeder buses will run from London Aldgate (Mansell Street, stop S, 1000) and Chelmsford (times to be advised). A day rover costs £6 (£10 from London or Chelmsford) and national concessionary fare passes are accepted. The full timetables and vehicle details will be available on www.stephensonsofessex.com by mid December and will be published in the December **Essex Bus News**.

In addition, the Castle Point Transport Museum will be open from about 1115 to 1630 and service 3 will terminate there. A small number of preserved buses are expected to be on display in Southend.

All the buses are being crewed by volunteers and Stephensons still need to find conductors for some duties. If you would like to help out on the day as a conductor, please contact Richard Delahoy at richard@signal-training.com as soon as possible. You need to be aged 18 or over but previous experience is not necessary - we will give appropriate training.

Membership Renewals ~ 2009

Members whose subscriptions are due on January 1st will have received a grey renewal invitation slip with last month's EBN. Very many thanks to the over 100 members who have replied already. If you have not yet sent in your renewal subscription, we would be grateful if you could do so soon.

Richard Delahoy, Treasurer/Membership Secretary

Welcome to new members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the Group:

Mr F C Mann of Colchester - 978
Carl Jones of Chelmsford - 979

Essex Air Ambulance

Once again, we are pleased to record a donation made to the Essex Air Ambulance, resulting from EBEG visits, trips and the running day this year. The amount raised by each event was: New Years Day Southend services - £167.50; Cobham trip - £140.00; Evening Talisman visit - £160.00; Evening Crossley visit - £40.00. All told, a grand total of **£507.50** - a very creditable figure. Can we match or beat that in 2009?

Our thanks go to all members and friends who participated in these events and to Stephensons of Essex and Talisman Coachlines for their support. The Essex Air Ambulance receives no central Government or National Lottery funding, and is entirely dependent on voluntary donations, and is thus a very worthwhile cause.

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

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

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

Richard Delahoy, 272 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 the Essex County

Council timetable book and updates. Contact:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@yahoo.com
or visit www.essexbus.org.uk

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

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

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

BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

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

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

lyn@barrons-bds.com

Rail Replacement

Saturday 25 October: NatExEA: Colchester - Clacton: **Network Colchester** 133, 155, 237 and 337. 429 spare at Clacton.

Sunday 26 October: NatExEA: Colchester - Walton: **Network Colchester** 101, 133, 156 and 337.

Monday 27 October: NatExEA: Harwich Town and Manningtree between 05:45 and 09:30 due to an incident at Wrabness: **Network Colchester** 101, 215, 234, 237. 528

With thanks to Keith Sadler of Network Colchester

Service Changes

Blue Triangle

3 Nov 08	575	M-F	Epping to Lakeside new service
	804	Sch	Chigwell to Loughton off peak schoolday service revised.

Clintona

15 Dec 08	374	M-S	West Horndon to Grays revised timetable.
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Ensignbus

20 Sep 08	22	D	Upminster to Grays the Sunday service is extended from from Belhus to Aveley. (updated information)
	44	M-S	Lakeside to Grays via Purfleet on to Orsett Mon - Fri, the Orsett journeys were rerouted between Palmers Avenue and Blackshots Lane to serve Palmers & Thurrock Colleges. (updated information)
	66	M-S	Ockendon to Tilbury revised Mon to Fri timetable.
	73	M-S	Lakeside to Tilbury revised route between Grays and Thurrock college and increase frequency on Saturdays.
	73C	D	Lakeside to Tilbury new service evenings and Sundays
	80	Su	Lakeside to Tilbury service withdrawn.
	X80	D	Chafford Hundred to Bluewater revised Sunday timetable.
	83	M-S	Lakeside to Chadwell increase frequency on Saturdays.

First Capital

24 Nov 08	265	M-F	Brentwood to Lakeside new service.
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First Essex

7 Dec 08	25	D	Basildon to Southend additional journeys Mon - Fri between Little Wheatleys and Rayleigh High Street.
	62	D	Colchester to Wivenhoe Sunday journey's extended to Wivenhoe Rail Station as service 62A.
	65	D	Highwoods to Stanway additional journey at 0743 from Highwoods on Mon-Fri.

National Express

8 Dec 08	777	D	Stansted Airport to Wolverhampton additional stop at Stevenage Rail Station.
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Network Colchester

3 Nov 08	93	M-S	Colchester to Ipswich revised timetable.
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SM Coaches

10 Dec 08	14	M-S	Harlow to Pinnacles route extended to Church Langley and withdrawn from Pinnacles.
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Stansted Transit

2 Nov 08	18	M-S	Haverhill to Newport route amended within Helions Bumpstead.
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Swallow Coaches

20 Oct 08	X1	M-F	Southend to London Victoria Commuter Service: revised timetable introduced. All journeys operate as X1's.
	X3	M-F	Canvey Island to London: this service was never introduced.

Travel with Hunny

1 Nov 08	55	M-S	Harlow to Loughton revised Mon - Fri timetable with introduction of Saturday service and extension to Princess Alexandra Hospital.
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Trustline

3 Nov 08	22/33	M-S	Harlow Town Service withdrawn.
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Paul Harvey with acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council, Richard Delahoy, Harlowride and First

John Rugg's afternoon out : 2 October 2008

service	operator and bus	journey	depart
104	NIBS BIL 6538	Laindon Centre - Basildon Bus Station	13:00
220	Stephensons 730, F630 MSL	Basildon Bus Station - Burnham-on-Crouch	13:45
31X	First 65684	Burnham-on-Crouch - Chelmsford	15:22
14	Regal Busways 602	Chelmsford - Wickford	16:55
25	First 46149	Wickford - Basildon Bus Station	17:47
8A	First 65627	Basildon Bus Station - Laindon Centre	18:19

NIBS
01268 767870

**USE
CONCESSION**

Tkt 24467 Trip 12142
Bus 6538 Route 0104
Equ 00183782 Duty 568
Mod 1480957

BOARDED: Laindon Ctr
ALIGHT: Bas Bus Stn

**USE FREE
CONCESSION PASS**

02/10/08 12:58

ECC CONCESSIONARY TICKET
If you have been issued
this ticket having paid
a fare please contact
your bus operator.

Regal Busways

Tkt 63399 Trip 16155
Bus 602 Route 0014
Equ 00209210 Duty 141
Mod 7350795

BOARDED: Chelmsford Tow
ALIGHT: Wickford

**ECC_OAP FREE
SINGLE PASS**

02/10/08 16:55

The changing (Arriva) Southend scene

The recent transfer in to Southend of ten Scania L113 and three DAF SB220 single deckers is perhaps the most visible manifestation of the progressive updating of the Arriva Southend fleet that has taken place over the last couple of years. It is no secret that Southend has not been seen as a particularly attractive area for bus operation in recent years, with a local authority that has been hostile to buses at times and lukewarm in its support at best. Yes, there have been some infrastructure projects funded under the Local Transport Plan, but these have not really achieved any significant journey time improvements, and congestion has been getting worse on key corridors across the town.

Both Arriva and First had directed investment in new buses to more promising territory and for Arriva, the low point was the transfer away at the end of 2004 of the Dennis Tridents, 15 of which had come brand new to

Southend in 2000 as Fleetline replacements. The Tridents were replaced by elderly (but refurbished) Olympians, retaining a strong double deck contingent in the town, in contrast to much of the rest of the bus industry (and in marked contrast to First, whose only deckers seen in the town are for schools work). In 2000, double deckers had represented around 60% of the Arriva Southend fleet but this dropped to around 50% by 2002 and then to about 40% by 2007. The latest changes see this drop to just 16% of the fleet total today.

Arriva has though become more resurgent of late, with frequencies held and improved in some cases (increasing the 9 to every 12 minutes, for example), plus the re-introduction in a limited way of socially worthwhile services (6A, 17) that Southend Council used to fund but stopped in 2005. The fleet has also seen a steady updating - not with new buses, but with modern types



Plaxton bodies are very common in the Southend fleet but the 3 DAF SB220s have introduced a different style front end, as shown by 3918, T918KKM, seen in Chichester Road on October 11. The building behind was once Keddies department store, now a bar, hotel and offices.

Richard Delahoy



One of the ten Scania saloons, 3253, N253BKK, illustrates the new order on service 1 on October 18th as it passes Chalkwell Park en route for Southend and Shoeburyness. The electronic Hanover destination displays don't however say where in Shoeburyness it terminates - Blackgate Road, in the case of service 1. Richard Delahoy



Contrasting types and destination gear: also at Chalkwell Park, 20 minutes earlier than the previous shot is Dart 3387, P257FPK. Some of this batch have retained conventional roller blinds, sadly in this case with an incorrect display - Shoeburyness Renown is the terminus for the 7/8, not the 1. Richard Delahoy



Freshly repainted DAF SB220 / Plaxton 3918, T918 KKM, at Shoebury on 30 September, illustrates the box-like Prestige bodywork and the (unused) rear number indicator suspended from the internal roof panelling. John G Lidstone

No sooner had sister 3912, T912 KKM, settled in service at Southend, then its dark blue skirt has been painted in standard Arriva blue (but someone missed the doors!). Perhaps a unique livery? John G Lidstone





Olympian contrasts: 5392, F572SMG, is an Alexander bodied example, also seen in Chichester Road on October 11. Unfortunately the route number blinds are just too big for the masked down display - 7 in this case. The bulk of the multi storey car park over the recently revamped Victoria Plaza shopping centre dominates the skyline. Richard Delahoy

5892, F892BKK, provides the contrast with its Northern Counties body. It is the last surviving NCME bodied decker in a fleet that once boasted over 70 examples on Fleetline chassis. 5892 was caught on August 23 passing Thorpe Bay Station, before the 1 was converted to single deck operation (and again with a wrong blind display!). Richard Delahoy





Due for Southend: 5930, P590 MKL, at Hawkhurst on February 16. Richard Delahoy



Finally, a close up shot to illustrate the electronic displays now used on many Arriva Southend buses. 3402, R312NGM, has just arrived in Southend on service 5, branding for which it carries on the sides and rear. The Hanover unit provides a comprehensive display but can challenge photographers when a fast shutter speed sometimes captures an apparently blank display. At least with a digital camera you can see the results immediately and try again if necessary - provided the bus is still in shot. It helps if you are at a terminus or busy stop! Richard Delahoy

cascaded from elsewhere in the Southern Counties group.

The latest change has seen trunk service 1 (Shoebury - Southend - Hadleigh - Rayleigh, running every 10 minutes on the core Southend to Hadleigh section, every 20 minutes at the outer ends) converted to single deck operation, offering more accessible buses. Loadings are still being assessed and a few workings on the 1 may retain deckers, but otherwise the remaining 11 Olympians are now usually on 7 & 8 plus school workings 401/2/8. The Olympian fleet will be upgraded around the end of the year with the transfer from Maidstone of Volvo examples 5934-7 (P934-7MKL), most likely replacing some of the final Gardner engined Olympians (5392/6, 5881/2/92 - the other Leyland Olympians have Cummins engines). It is to be hoped that 5402-5, the final remaining former Southend Transport buses in the fleet, will be the last ones to go!

Meanwhile the single deck fleet has seen the transfer in of cascaded low floor Darts so that only 11 step entrance buses remain, and these will probably all have been retired by the end of 2009, if not sooner (dependent on the availability of more cascaded buses). The fleet has also been modernised with the fitment of Hanover electronic destination

displays to many Darts, replacing the conventional roller blinds and broken side/rear displays. There are now 30 buses with electronic destination displays. One exception is DAF 3912 which has retained roller blinds on its recent transfer in to Southend, in contrast to the other two DAFs and the Scania's, which came already fitted with electronic displays. 3912 is also a bit of an oddity as it carries the inter-urban version of Arriva's livery, although the dark blue skirt has been repainted into aquamarine since it came to Southend. More prominent route branding has also been applied to five buses for the 5, two for the 13 and four on the 29. Will the 1 be next?

Whilst the newest buses in the Arriva Southend fleet are T registered (1999), the age profile has improved in the last two years and now 47 buses out of the total of 69 are low floor, accessible vehicles with only 11 older Darts to be replaced plus the residual double deck fleet. Updating the latter is complicated by two low bridges on the 7 and 8 routes which preclude the cascading of many of the first generation low floor deckers.

Incidentally, the low bridge on Thorpe Hall Avenue southbound is a similar impediment to service 1.

Richard Delahoy

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD - FLEET LIST, 1 November, 2008

<i>Fleet no</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Chassis</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Seats</i>
3004	L506 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3005	L507 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3007	L509 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3008	L510 CPJ	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3123	N543 TPK	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3124	N544 TPK	Dennis	Dart	East Lancs	B40F
3132	L132 YVK	Dennis	Dart	Northern Counties	B35F
3145	L145 YVK	Dennis	Dart	Northern Counties	B35F
3153	L153 YVK	Dennis	Dart	Northern Counties	B35F
3154	L154 YVK	Dennis	Dart	Northern Counties	B35F
3175	M200 CBB	Dennis	Dart	Plaxton	B40F
3181	P181 LKL	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B40F
3204	P204 LKJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B40F
3250	N250 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3251	N251 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3252	N252 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3253	N253 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3254	N254 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3255	N255 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3256	N256 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3257	N257 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3258	N258 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F

<i>Fleet no</i>	<i>Reg</i>	<i>Chassis</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Seats</i>
3259	N259 BKK	Scania	L113	Wright	B43F
3307	R307 CMV	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3308	R308 CMV	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3318	T218 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3320	T820 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3321	T821 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3322	T822 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3323	T823 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3324	T824 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3325	T825 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3326	T826 NMJ	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3387	P257 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3388	P258 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3389	P259 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3390	P260 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3391	P261 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3392	P262 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3393	P263 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3394	P264 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3395	P265 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3396	P266 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3397	P267 FPK	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B39F
3400	R310 NGM	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3401	R311 NGM	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3402	R312 NGM	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3403	R313 NGM	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B33F
3421	P421 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3423	P423 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3425	P425 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3426	P426 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3427	P427 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3428	P428 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3431	P431 HVX	Dennis	Dart SLF	Plaxton	B43F
3911	T911 KKM	DAF	SB220	Plaxton	B39F
3912	T912 KKM	DAF	SB220	Plaxton	B39F
3918	T918 KKM	DAF	SB220	Plaxton	B39F
5089	F639 LMJ	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F
5090	F640 LMJ	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F
5392	F572 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F
5396	F576 SMG	Leyland	ONLXB/1RZ	Alexander	H47/32F
5402	H262 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	H47/31F
5403	H263 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	H47/31F
5404	H264 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	DPH43/29F
5405	H265 GEV	Leyland	ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	DPH43/29F
5881	E225 CFC	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	Alexander	H47/30F
5882	E228 CFC	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	Alexander	H47/30F
5892	F892 BKK	Leyland	ONLXB/1RH	Northern Counties	H45/30F

Liveries: All vehicles in Arriva livery
3912 in inter-urban version (but now without dark blue skirt)

Branding: *Basildon Direct 5* 3318, 3321, 3322, 3402, 3428
Route 13 Sutton Shuttle 3307, 3308
Route 29 3391, 3392, 3421, 3431

Destination gear: *Roller blinds* 3004/5/7/8/23/4/32/45/53/4/75, 3387/9-92/7,
3400/1/21/3/5-7/31, 3912, 5392/6/402-5, 5881/2/92
Electronic 3250-9, 3307/8/18/20-6/93-6, 3402/28, 3911/8, 5089/90
Not known 3388, 3403

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD.

New/Acquired vehicles

Volvo coaches 20801-5 have chassis numbers starting YV3S5M12 followed by 8A128544, 3A128712, 5A128713, XA128545 and 7A128714 respectively. 60755-8 have body numbers W110-3 and not as previously given.

Five Darts arrived by 8th October from *First Glasgow No 2 Ltd* (40733/4/6/7 were new in 5/97 to *Strathclyde* and 40738 to *Kelvin Central*, as MD19, 20/2-4):

40733 P626WSU Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW10974 Plaxton 9710.6HLZ6323 B39F
 40734 P627WSU Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW10996 Plaxton 9710.6HLZ6324 B39F
 40736 P629WSU Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11027 Plaxton 9710.6HLZ6337 B39F
 40737 P630WSU Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11089 Plaxton 9710.6HLZ6338 B39F
 40738 P631WSU Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1VGW11090 Plaxton 9710.6HLZ6339 B39F
 first licenced 15.5.97

The following are all due from *First Manchester* (at Oldham). 66807/9/11 arrived on 8th October, quickly followed by 66808/10/2 on 9th and subsequently by 66802/14-9. Meanwhile 66794-801/3-6/13 entered service on *First Eastern Counties'* newly-won Ipswich Park & Ride contract from 25th October and will be transferred to *First Essex* when new P&R vehicles are delivered, expected to be around February 2009. The balance for Essex (66820-30/7) are due by early December, when a number of major service changes take place.

66794	MX05CBF	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6245A103626	Wright J001 B43F	3/2005
66795	MX05CBU	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6265A103627	Wright J002 B43F	3/2005
66796	MX05CBV	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6255A103702	Wright J003 B43F	3/2005
66797	MX05CBY	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6275A103703	Wright J004 B43F	4/2005
66798	MX05CCA	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6215A104247	Wright J005 B43F	4/2005
66799	MX05CCD	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6235A104248	Wright J006 B43F	4/2005
66800	MX05CCF	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G7275A104168	Wright J007 B43F	4/2005
66801	MX05CCJ	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6295A104268	Wright J008 B43F	4/2005
66802	MX05CCK	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6205A104613	Wright J009 B43F	4/2005
66803	MX05CCN	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6225A104614	Wright J010 B43F	5/2005
66804	MX05CCO	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6255A104719	Wright J011 B43F	4/2005
66805	MX05CCU	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6215A104720	Wright J012 B43F	4/2005
66806	MX05CCV	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6225A104841	Wright J013 B43F	4/2005
66807	MX05CCY	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6245A104842	Wright J014 B43F	4/2005
66808	MX05CCZ	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6265A104843	Wright J015 B43F	5/2005
66809	MX05CDE	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6225A104886	Wright J016 B43F	4/2005
66810	MX05CDF	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6245A104890	Wright J017 B43F	5/2005
66811	MX05CDK	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6285A104973	Wright J018 B43F	5/2005
66812	MX05CDN	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6255A105031	Wright J019 B43F	5/2005
66813	MX05CDO	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6295A105047	Wright J020 B43F	5/2005
66814	MX05CDU	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6205A105048	Wright J021 B43F	5/2005
66815	MX05CDV	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6225A105049	Wright J022 B43F	5/2005
66816	MX05CDY	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6295A105050	Wright J023 B43F	5/2005
66817	MX05CDZ	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6285A105153	Wright J024 B43F	5/2005
66818	MX05CEA	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G62X5A105221	Wright J025 B43F	5/2005
66819	MX05CEF	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6215A105222	Wright J026 B43F	6/2005
66820	MX05CEJ	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6265A105250	Wright J027 B43F	5/2005
66821	MX05CEK	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6285A105251	Wright J028 B43F	6/2005

66822	MX05CEO	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G62X5A105252	Wright J029 B43F	5/2005
66823	MX05CEU	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6215A105253	Wright J030 B43F	5/2005
66824	MX05CEV	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6235A105254	Wright J031 B43F	5/2005
66825	MX05CEY	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6215A105379	Wright J032 B43F	6/2005
66826	MX05CFA	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6285A105380	Wright J033 B43F	6/2005
66827	MX05CFD	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G62X5A105381	Wright J034 B43F	6/2005
66828	MX05CFE	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6295A105565	Wright J035 B43F	6/2005
66829	MX05CFG	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6255A105580	Wright J036 B43F	6/2005
66830	MX05CFJ	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6275A105581	Wright J037 B43F	6/2005
66837	MX05CFU	Volvo B7RLE YV3R6G6285A105105	Wright J044 B43F	6/2005

Also expected soon are Darts 42430 (P430ORL) and 42924-34 (SN05EAA/C/E/F/G/J/K/O/P, DZO/P) from *First Devon & Cornwall*, followed by Volvo B12M coaches 20500/1 (AO02RBX/Y) from *First Eastern Counties*.

Allocation changes

Period 7: 28 September to 25 October 2008

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School; PS=Paint Spare

40733 FGC-RES; 40734 FGC-RES; 40736 FGC-RES; 40737 FGC-RES; 40738 FGC-BE; 46803 BN-D/L(D); 46812 BE-D/L(D); 46830 CN-D/L(D); 47101 CR-BE; 47104 CR-CN; 66802 FGC-RES; 66807 FGC-RES; 66808 FGC-CR; 66809 FGC-CR; 66810 FGC-CR; 66811 FGC-CR; 66812 FGC-RES; 66814 FGC-RES; 66815 FGC-RES; 66816 FGC-RES; 66817 FGC-RES; 66818 FGC-RES; 66819 FGC-RES

In practice, 47101 remained at CR and 46812 at BE beyond 25 October

20110 has been in use with the Driving School, first being noted on 29th October; *First Eastern Counties* 20122 has consequently been returned. For the record, details of 20122 are P732NVG, Volvo B10M-62 45707/Plaxton Premiere C53F body no 9612VUM5876 (first registered 26.9.1996).

Disposals (period 7):

56002 56003 to *First Aberdeen* (by 10th October)

Repaints (period 7):

56006 46167 56005 56004 [*Cheetahs 56004-6 to Aircoach livery*]

47101 has working LED display again and 67009 has gained one

42486 has an overall rear advert for 'County Interiors'

43732 (one of the last two buses to retain route 5 branding, the other being 43738) now has an overall rear advert for 'More'

Area News - workings and sightings:

Planned railway replacement

Noted at Brentwood on Sunday 26th October:

11.00: 34807 (317), 34304 (310) and 34284 (315)

16.00: 34818 (304), 34311(-), 46144 (-) possibly transfer vehicle, 34807 again (318), 65681 (307).

Clacton & Harwich (DT)

Clacton still seem to borrow Scania/Solar LFs from CR for Evening/Sunday Essex CC journeys on 74 and 76 despite the arrival of SLF Darts 43736/7 at CN. At Harwich, Olympian 31377 has been away at Barnhawk Engineering having engine bay repairs while

both Primos (57001/2) have been recalled by ADL with suspension problems.

13th CT65652 on 4
17th/18th CN53138 on 20.30 CN-WN and 21.06 WN-CN 8A (usually 43736 or 43737,
although DT65651 used earlier in the month)

Colchester

Ex *First Manchester* B7RLEs 66808-11 (but not 66812) entered service at CR during the week commencing 20th October, appearing on a variety of services as can be seen below although often used on service 60. On 30th, services in Colchester were subject to diversion and delay because the town centre was closed for a homecoming parade by 2 PARA (The 2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment), followed by a memorial service at St Peter's Church for five of their fallen comrades.

October

2nd CR34310 on 65
6th CR67004 on 61, CR67036 on 65
10th CR34304 on 65
13th CR62409 on X22
14th CR60756 on 71
16th CR34301 on 65
17th CR60758 on 66A
18th CR47103 on 65; CR60756-8 all on 60 (the route they were acquired for)
20th CR67036 on 193, CR66809 on 61
21st CR60130 on 75 (16.00 ex CR), CR66810 on evening CUFC shuttles
22nd CR66809 on 65, CR66810 on 66
24th CR66809 on 88 (21.45 ex HD)
25th CF31198 on 72
28th CR30560, CR34302 on 66A; CR47103 on 64 (rare now); Cheetah (RES)56005 on X22
30th CF46144 on 41; BN46172 on 100; CF65680 on 40; BN67001 on 100
31st CR66808 on 65, CR66809 on 64, CR66811 on 64

November

3rd Volvo/Plaxton CR20102 on 17.35 CR-CF 71

Chelmsford & Braintree

October

11th CF46826 on 352, CF65684 on Park and Ride
13th CF46116 on 352, CF47221 on 352, CF65681 on 33
14th CF53113 on 351 (14.05 ex CF)
16th CF42923 on 33, CF43730 on 42
17th CR42922 on 31/36
22nd CF42922 on 351 (16.05 ex CF), CF65681 on X30
24th (RES)40733 on 72
28th CF40733 on 42
29th CF40733 in use (33), BE40738 on 36; Solo CF53135 on 17.05 CF-BSN 351, Olympian CF34807 on the next journey (18.05) having worked 36X early morning
30th BE46812 on 351

November

1st CF40737 in use (42)
3rd BE46812 still in use (48)
4th BE46816 on 352
5th Olympians CF31198 on 72, CF34815 on 351



Although the 351 is due to be completely low floor by the end of the year, the new extension from Monday 5th October round the Clements Park development in Warley (on the old Warley Hospital site) saw double deckers from the outset. The second journey that day was 34818, as seen here - the first was Dart SLF 42485. Two trips still go to Warley Fords, avoiding school times as there is a primary school just up the road from this location in Vaughan Williams Way. Chris Stewart

Basildon & Hadleigh

The newly-introduced evening ECC-funded Brentwood local 73 requires a low floor vehicle, with Solo CF53122 reportedly allocated for this [presumably a BN duty unless CF cover it]. Disposal-listed 46803 is currently at the back of BN yard.

October

- 4th BN43732 (5) on 8
- 7th BN67001 on 100
- 8th BN43712 and BN61057 on 100, BN46177 on 5, BN67001 on 5 and BN67002 ex 8
- 9th BN46829 on 5
- 14th BN65667 (100) on 8, BN43712 and BN61057 on 100, BN43713 and BN67001 on 5, BN46170 back in use
- 15th BN34012 on 5, BN46183 on 8, BN61054 on 100
- 17th BN46825 on 100
- 16th BN61054 on 8, BN61057 on 100
- 18th BN61054 on 100
- 21st BN34012 on 5
- 22nd BN34011 on 5
- 24th BN65665 (100) on 5
- 27th CF46827 on 73A
- 28th BN34011 on 22, BN43735 (ex 5) on 12, BN65672 (100) on 8
- 30th BN31374 on 22, BN43715 (gremlins) on 5, BN46808 on 1A (usually Vario), CF46827 on 200, BN65667 (100) on 8A, BN67001 on 100

November

4th BN41651 on 5, BN46174 on 5, BN46169 on 12, BN61057 on 100

Other News

Don's of Dunmow has again been approved as an operating centre for one vehicle, although it is not known whether one is actually kept there.

Trainer 60469 (G624NWA) has unladen weight of 9300 KG.

Abus of Bristol's former 3116 (XHK221X), last used at Warminster mini running day on 12th October, unexpectedly worked the Keynsham-Wells 683 on Tuesday 4th November and the 791 Bath to Weston-super-Mare the next day.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, N Clark, R Clark, T Clark, D Edwards, M Farmer, K Mead, N Mansfield, A Nugent, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I Ransom, J Salmon, C Sigston, 'Solo', A Spindler, J Thorpe, A Timms, TBL177M, R Webb, R Whitley, the *Essex Bus*, *South West*, *First Group Fans* and *British Buses Abroad in North America* y-groups, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Bristol VR South West Bus News* (www.geocities.com/ndl642m).

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

A new 80-seat Scania/Optare Olympus was delivered in early November and awaits registration.

The replacement Solo to the correct width has arrived and is registered EU58 AXX. This and EO08 WND are having vinyls applied for Witham Town services (38/39). The loan Solo MX07 NTF, which mainly operated on Southend service 61, has been returned to Mistral.

An interesting addition is Leyland Olympian/ECW coach WIL 4714 (D823 UTF). This is one of a batch ordered by Southern Vectis, but delivered to Alder Valley. They were used on London Commuter services when new. This is the penultimate coach-outline Olympian built. A decision as to whether it will join the operational fleet, has not yet been made.

Acquired from Arriva Southend are former 5394 and 5808 - Leyland Olympian/Alexander, F574/8 SMG. They are not expected to enter service before Christmas. Coincidentally, these were new to Alder Valley South.

Leyland Olympian E852 DPN was loaned to Network Colchester on Monday 20th October, as a result of a vehicle shortage there. It operated service 703 (Jaywick-Colchester Norman Way Schools).

Volvo B10Ms/Plaxton sold to Airport Connections, Manston, Kent are N144 ARC (A16 SOE), M801 KJT (A19 SOE) and N23 RTN. The SOE registrations have been retained

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Lyn Watson

Arriva

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD.

Disposals

Further Olympians withdrawn for disposal are Alexander bodied 5394, 5395, 5399, 5808 and 5829. It is reported that 5399 has gone to Maidstone to be converted to an SOS bus. 5394 and 5808 have been sold to Stephenson's of Essex. Wealden, Five Oak (dealer) have taken seven (two Alexander bodied and five NCME) and are advertising them via the trade press; one other is reported as going for scrap and there is an unconfirmed report of one with Arriva Scotland. Further details will be given next month.

Correction to EBN534

DAF SB220 3911 (T911 KKM) did not arrive at Southend until mid October (not with the rest of the batch on 13/14th September as stated in EBN534).

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Essex Bus y-group

Network Colchester

Disposals

Dart SLF/Caetano, both to Excel, Stansted: 105 (HX51 LRJ); ~~305~~³⁵¹ (HX51 LSN)

Vehicle Workings

A vehicle shortage saw Stephenson's Olympian 852 (E852 DPN) used on school route 703 on 20th October. In addition, Burtons Olympian F246 MTW was borrowed from Haverhill between 19th and 22nd October.

Unusual Sightings

307 on 93

Corrections to EBN 534

Classic Buses Optare Excel N204 LCK went to Burtons instead and was never allocated to Colchester.

Former Excel Scania N113 237 (G37 HKY) has not operated in Colchester in Arriva livery. It is understood to have now received fleet livery.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski

Trustybus

Acquired from Ensign is Dennis Dart/Marshall S522 KFL. It is currently operating in Metroline livery, pending a decision on a new livery being made. New here is Enviro 200 KX58 GTE; it replaces Mini Pointer Dart KU52 RXE, which has been sold.

Ian Ransom

Stansted Transit

Dennis Dart/Plaxton J304 WHJ has been sold.

Ian Ransom



AFTER THEY WERE FAMOUS

Still alive and well in Napier, New Zealand is former Southend Transport 348 (WJN348J) - looking through the window, the blue interior seemed very familiar! 20 October 2008

Chris Stewart



Hedingham

It is reported that former Stagecoach East Midland Olympian K357 DWJ has been acquired via Ensign.

Wayfarer TGX150 ticket machines have been introduced, to replace Wayfarer 3 equipment.
David Harman

Imperial

Marshall-bodied Dart R874 MCE has been acquired via Ensign. *David Harman*

Regal Busways

Optare Solo M880 YJ57 YCF was on loan, but has now gone. Olympian B714 HVO and Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton R510 SJM have been acquired, the latter from Nelsons.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Chris Stewart



As well as the National Greenway PDZ6275 (see EBN534), Regal Busways have former London Transport LS365 which was more recently with Chase Bus Services (see <http://bus.fotopic.org.uk/p36537861.html>). This bus is quite often seen in the Brentwood area on a schools contract and as a driver transfer vehicle. Some die-hard fans of the Leyland National dream that it could be used on their service 565 ... *Chris Stewart*

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

Arriva Midlands:	Olympian G511 SFT.
Blue Triangle:	Tridents V901/2/3/4/5/6/7/8/9 FEC, PO51UMG/J
Dublin Bus:	Olympians 96-D-258/9/80/304 97-D-326/334.
Go-Ahead North East:	Solo's S249/52 KNL, T463/5 BCN
London United:	Dart MPD's SN51 SXD/E/F/P/R/S/T/U/V/W.
Metroline:	Darts R122/27/28/29/31/33/36/37/38 RLY R154/63 RLA.
Rotala Group:	Volvo D10M's G112/9 NGN, G850 WGW, Volvo Olympian N122 UHP
Stagecoach Bluebird:	Olympian G213 SSL.
Stagecoach East Midland:	Olympians SHE 620Y, B502/3 FFW, B516 UWW, G342KKW, K357DWJ, C635/44 LFT Tigers BSG 550W, KSP 329X, Dart N424 MBW.
Transdev Bournemouth:	Darts M459/60/61/62 LLJ, N463 TPR.
Veolia Midlands:	Leyland Lion E635 CDS, Volvo B10M MIL 8437.

Vehicles out

Solos T466/9 BCN:	ACE Travel , Liverpool.
Leyland Lion E635 CDS:	Aintree Coachlines , Liverpool.
Dublin Olympians 96-D-305/6	now P476/8 SWC with Anglian Bus , Beccles, Norfolk
M1130:	Bankfoot Buses , Perth.
Tridents PO51 UMG/J:	Blackpool Transport .
Dart S523KFL:	Carousel Buses , High Wycombe, Bucks.
Olympians H492 LNA J688 TNF:	Carvers Coaches , Ellesmere Port, Cheshire.
Dublin Olympian 96-D-281	now N624 JNO with Chalkwell Coaches , Sittingbourne, Kent.
Dart N110 CET:	Eastonways , Ramsgate.
Olympian K357 DWJ:	Heddingham Omnibuses , Heddingham, Essex.
Dart R874 MCE:	Imperial Buses , Rainham, Essex.
Olympians B503 FFW B516 UWW:	Johnsons Coaches , Hodthorpe, Sheffield.
Solos T457/64 BCN:	RH Transport Services , Chipping Norton, Oxon.
Darts R154 VLA R127/9/37 RLY:	Rotala Group , Birmingham.
Fleetline NFX 136P Metrobus EWF 453V:	Talisman Coaches , Colchester, Essex.
Tridents V902/4/5/8 FEC:	Tappins Holdings for City Sightseeing, Oxford.
Tigers BSG 550W KSP 329X:	TM Travel , Chesterfield.
Dublin Olympian 96-D-322	now P462 SWC with Warrington Transport .
M777:	Sarah Ambrose , Spain.
Volvo D10M E736 HFW:	Direct Location Services , Chertsey, Surrey.

■ ENSIGNBUS LTD., Purfleet

Ex-Metroline Volvo Olympians are numbered as follows:

124 S124 RLE
125 S125 RLE
132 S132 RLE
136 S136 RLE
138 S138 RLE

156 S126 RLE

All have been converted to single-door and repainted in fleet colours.

Disposals

Dart 782 to AM-PM Travel, Birmingham.

Spectras 101/2 to Geldards, Coaches, Leeds.

■ ENSIGNBUS MUSEUM FLEET

It is believed that Metrobus F292 NHJ has passed from the operational fleet to museum stock.

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

National Express

■ NATIONAL EXPRESS OPERATIONS LTD.

New vehicles: KX 58 GUO, fleet no SA24, is a new ADL Dart E200 used on a new park & ride tract at Stansted Airport, on which Scania/Wright T367 JWA is also used.

Liveries: By 10/08: V38 (LK 53 KVV) to plain white, ex "2002" Nat Ex livery.

General: The other ex-Hotel Hoppa Volvo B6BLE/Wright stored at Stansted is P250 AAP. By 25 October, two of the B6s had gone from this site, two remained, one being P250.

Ancillary vehicles: Another Ford Fusion crew ferry at Stansted is KU 58 WSM.

■ CONTRACTORS

Burton Coaches Ltd., Haverhill

Liveries: by 10/08: YN 04 XFD, Volvo B12B/Plaxton, to new Nat Ex, ex "2002" Nat Ex.

Galloway European Coachlines Ltd., Stowmarket

DAF SB3000/Van Hool 6399 PP is now a "back up" NX coach, with LED destination, but in Galloway livery.

John Podgorski

Smaller Operators

A and BEE, Harlow has acquired VW Transporter CE06 OPL, it runs on taxi plates.

A & K MINIBUSES, Wickford Recently acquired are Ford Transit S780 AFG, similar WG06 OLC and Renault Master FY02 LRO. The last two run on taxi plates.

ALANS, Hatfield Peverel Have ceased PSV operations. VW Transporter CP51 CZC was here.

APT, Rayleigh Mercedes Benz 811D/Wadham Stringer M68 DLN has gone to Enterprise Travel, Darlington. Toyota/Caetano N254 NWX has also been sold.

ARROW TAXIS, Maldon New here is Ford Transit EF08 CYS.

BPH, Elmstead Market Acquired is LDV Convoy FM02 HPX.

CD HIRE, Harlow This long standing operator of minibuses, has now ceased operating. Ford Transit T711 LTW, was the last recorded vehicle here.

CEDRIC, Ardleigh Two Leyland Olympians, M457 UKN and E915 DRD were on loan during mid October, due to a shortage of serviceable vehicles.

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford New here, but only reported recently is MF07 VOH a VW Transporter, running on taxi plates.

CREST, Rochford Acquired from Croft Minicoches, Glasgow is Mercedes Benz

0814D/Transbus.

CRICKETERS PH, Eight Ash Green Have acquired Ford Transit/LCB P193 SRP.

GLEW, Gt Tey Bedford YMP/Plaxton SIB 9025 (D802 ALR) and similar A547 RCA are thought to have been sold. Volvo B10M/Berkhof AKZ 3675 (FHJ 841Y) is withdrawn. A first here is MCW Metrobus A144 AMO. Mercedes Benz 709D/Wadham Stringer N837 LGA has also been acquired.

GODWARD, Basildon Leyland Olympian/Optare E914 DRD has been sold for scrap, following accident damage.

HAILSTONE TRAVEL, Basildon Further to last month, YX08 EHF carries Rawreth Coaches fleetnames.

HAWAII FIVE 0, Colchester Ford Transit EU04 EAA has passed to P&L Minibuses, Colchester (a non PSV operator).

JD's PRIVATE HIRE, Rayleigh Renault Master EJ57 EHY, has not previously been recorded here.

LOUDWATER TRAVEL, Basildon Volvo B10M/Plaxton P184 NAK has been sold.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island Dennis Javelin/Neoplan T788 JWA has been acquired from Maynes, Buckie.

NAKITAS TAXIBUS, Wickford Also new, but recently reported are Ford Transit

MA07 LWZ and Renault Trafic MA08 UYK, the latter runs on taxi plates. Acquired is Ford Transit DN07 NKZ. MA07 LWZ has been re-registered E2 OLM.

NCS, Widdington Peugeot Boxer M829 JPI has gone to a private owner.

SUPREME, Southend LDV Convoy P499 GOL has been sold to a private owner

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Former Hong Kong Olympians J534/605 CEV have been advertised for sale.

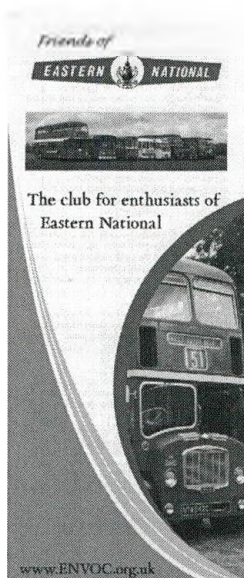
TOWNCARS, Clacton-on-Sea and Colchester Have ceased operating PSV's. Vehicles here were Ford Transit X681 PJW, EF51 AXA, AY02 YVX, AY05 WRX; Mercedes Benz minibuses S23 WCL, KJ51 NWP; LDV Convoy BD52 HHA and KC03 KKY; Renault Master LX03 CVR. Most were operated on taxi plates.

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Renault Trafic M105 AJN has been sold for scrap.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Optare Solo M850 CL52 CCL has been acquired from Courtney, Bracknell. Plaxton Primo KX07 KNZ has gone to Dawsonrentals (dealer).

YELO, Braintree Recently acquired is LDV Convoy BV04 CZM.

Thanks to PSV Circle, Essex Bus y-group, Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold.



THE FRIENDS OF EASTERN NATIONAL is part of the Eastern National Vehicle Owners Club, set up to promote the preservation of EN vehicles and to bring enthusiasts and owners together. The club helps to locate parts, memorabilia etc., advises on historical matters relating to Eastern National, and offers a quarterly newsletter, meetings and events throughout the year.

Membership is open to all and costs £10 annually.

Application should be made to the Club Secretary at:
24 Russell Court, Churchill Way, Colchester CO2 8SR

www.envoc.org.uk

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Part 1: 1912 - WW2; Part 2: 1945-1960

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These are one-hour compilations of archive footage, mostly of general historical interest, but both contain clips on transport topics, which *Martin Weyell* has kindly identified:

Part 1 includes: General Steam Navigation paddle steamer arriving at Clacton Pier; Eastern National Thornycroft Daring double-decker in Chelmsford, followed by a normal-control single-decker, and double-decker at the same location; brief rear shot of a Southend trolleybus pulling away from a stop; rear shot of an EN single-decker heading through Finchingfield by the pond; Colchester town centre, showing tram tracks and centre poles, said to be in 1935 (trams ended in 1929); colour clips from 1938 in Leytonstone of LT-type six-wheel double-decker, and trams on service 61.

Part 2 highlights include: tender loco and train hauled by 61514 entering and leaving an unknown station; colour nearside view of prewar Bristol K in Clacton in 1951; nearside of Bristol L ONO83 in Clacton on route 107 to Frinton; six double-deckers crossing the bridge between Canvey and the mainland during the 1953 floods; two Southend Corporation double-deckers, including 220 (BHJ744) in countryside on flood relief work; the Tunnel Cement works railway, including 'Thor' an 0-4-0ST, and Bristol K ONO64 in Finchingfield.

Other East Anglian Film Archive titles of interest:

Railways of East Anglia 1900-1980s
The Lost Railways of East Anglia
Railway to Nowhere: Branch Line to Laxfield
East Anglia's Steam Years
Tramways of East Anglia
Southend Past: The Town our Parents Knew

The latter is definitely worth a look - the website has a clip which includes 42256 with an LTS line train, what appears to be a Red & White (or former Red & White) Duple-bodied Bristol L coach on the Arterial, and a pleasure steamer. The cover shows an AEC trolleybus. The DVDs for other counties include **Norwich in the Fifties**, with a colour shot of an ECOC bible indicator-fitted TSM on the cover, whilst **Bedfordshire Memories Part 2** contains footage of 1950s Luton CTD Crossley (?) deckers.

David Harman

Harlow Depot ~ 2008



The former depot in Old Harlow: The house on the site is called "Coachman's Cottage", presumably in a reference to its history. Chris Stewart

rear cover

In contrast to the buses on pages 8 and 10, a bus with a correct and complete "Shoeburyness Blackgate Road" destination! 5808, F578SMG, has since been withdrawn and sold to Stephenson's of Essex. On September 6 it was seen heading south on Thorpe Hall Avenue at Bourne Green, shortly to pass under the 14' railway bridge that restricts service 1 to saloons and low height deckers. The tree lined central reservation to the left of the bus carried Southend's trams until 1938. Richard Delahoy

First Stansted Aircoach Volvo leaves Chelmsford bus station in October. Note the plethora of logos - WiFi, BAA and Essex County Council. Chris Stewart



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