

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Everything you need to know about Buses in Essex

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Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

The current rates for a 12 month subscription are £16 First Class, £15 Second Class post.

Subscriptions are renewable in January or July. 1998 Data Protection Act -Members Names & Addresses, subscription renewal dates & postal rates are held on a computer database for the purpose of administering member services.

If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Timetable subscriptions

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and updates plus a copy of the Thurrock council book.

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

Photo sales

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

Your reports & observations

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

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

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

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

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Problems with your subscription, need back issues or your magazine has pages missing? contact **Membership officer** Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP E-mail: derekstebbing@hotmail.com

Thank you to the many contributors for their valuable news and information. Please send your Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to the Sub-editors by **Friday 7 February** and to the Managing editor by **Tuesday 11 February 2003**.

The magazine is expected to be posted week commencing **24 February**.

Welcome Aboard!

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ESSEX BUS NEWS

It's all you need to know about buses in Essex
Visit our website for the latest news and much more

www.essexbus.org.uk

Editorial

Welcome to the first issue of 2003 - After a fantastic 2002, we're powering ahead to bring you more of what you want to read in the next 12 months all for just £16!

This year we'll bring you

- More coverage of the latest bus news and service changes
- Three great operator visits
- Monthly meetings with special guests and photo evenings.

Plus watch out for some great free extras and so much more!

Cover

**Arriva Shires & Essex Dennis Dart
3362 K412 FHJ**

One of a batch of 10 Darts new to County bus in 1993, 3362 is about to undertake a journey from Brentwood High St to Harlow on the day of the 'big freeze' 8th January 2003. (Chris Stewart)

Photo

www.essexbus.org.uk

Buses in the news

The latest news from the bus world

Plus point :transport integration a step closer

Public transport integration in Essex took a major leap forward this month with the launch of a value for money new ticket.

'PlusBus' - Available in 14 towns across the First Great Eastern network, enables leisure travellers to buy combined rail and bus tickets at hundreds of rail stations nationally.

First Great Eastern already has successful 'Fastcard' through tickets aimed mainly at commuters who buy season tickets. The PlusBus scheme provides add-on bus fares - with information readily available for ticket office staff - in a simple customer friendly way.

Passengers will have access to detailed information at each of the stations participating in the scheme. Easily identifiable posters using common branding across the whole network will show local bus routes on which the tickets are available, a list of destinations and the main stops en route plus a plan of where to catch the appropriate bus.

Essex buses abroad

Denis Strange, one of the participants on last October's 'Busman's Holiday' trip to Holland and Belgium, has produced a high quality 2 hour video covering many of the British vehicles seen and travelled on. Predominantly Bristols, they include lengthy rides on a former Pontypriidd L6G, United Counties KSW6B, two Western National FLF's, an Eastern Counties FS5G, a Thames Valley FLF6G and a Southern Vectis LD6G at the Heineken Brewery. There is also f footage taken on former Mulley's Regal IV/Burlingham Seagull ECF111, while many other buses and coaches are filmed in their operators' premises. Of local interest are former Eastern National KSW open-top 2379, FLF's 2823, 2853 and semi-automatic 2900.

Copies are available, price £17.00 each inc P&P, from him at 20 Hainault Drive, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6LE (cheques payable to Denis Strange)

Supreme: Mystery of blaze damage

A blaze which caused about £400,000 of damage to coaches at Supreme's garage on an industrial estate remains a mystery.

Investigators have been examining the wreckage of the vehicles, which were gutted by flames on New Year's Eve in Grange Farm Road on the Whitehall Industrial Estate, Colchester.

The severity of the damage has meant fire brigade and police officers have been unable to pinpoint the exact cause of the suspicious fire which destroyed four coaches and two minibuses.

John Bridge, managing director of the company, which has its headquarters in Southend was shocked by the devastation.

For more on this story, see this months ' other operators' section from page 29

Gareth Morgan obituary

It is with regret that we announce the sudden death of group member Gareth Morgan at the age of 41 years on 12 December.

Gareth had been a member of the group since 1977 and will be remembered when he worked as a conductor with Southend Transport during his holidays in the summer season. We published an article about his experiences in 2001.

Although his work kept him out of Essex in recent years , he remained a staunch supporter of public transport and often attended rallies and group events.

Our sympathies are extended to his family at this sad time. The funeral took place in Benfleet on 2 January.

Essex bus diary

Your guide to forthcoming events

Tuesday 11 February Group Meeting , Rochford

Bus slides and photo evening

You're welcome to bring along a selection of bus photos and slides as we spend a relaxing evening looking at buses and coaches past and present. They'll also be a chance to buy the latest bus timetable books and group publications. The evening offers a chance to meet others who share your interest and swap the latest bus gossip!

Group meetings take place in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large car park and Great Eastern trains and Arriva services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145. Another meeting on Tuesday 11 March 2003.

2003 rally dates

Looking ahead to the new season and the following dates are booked for rallies and open days. **Cobham - Sunday 6 April, Barking -Sunday 20 April, North Weald- Sunday 29 June, Ipswich buses family day and open day at Constantine Road garage- Sunday 13 July and 100 years of Ipswich Corporation Running Day at Ipswich transport museum - Sun 5 October.** More details on all these events nearer the time.

Three group trips for 2003

Following the fantastic success of last years Programme, we're pleased to offer you three great visits for 2003.

Tuesday 13 May—Evening coach trip/operator visit

Saturday 17 May- Essex Independents day trip- Provisionally travelling on an Ex Hong Kong Metrobus supplied by Ensign

Saturday 28 June—Full day Coach trip/operator visits

Watch out for more information soon
Only in **Essex Bus News**

VR Memories update

VR fan Allan MacFarlane offers a few corrections to November's VR Memories supplement— 3003 doesn't quite have original engine covers, having gained a side grille and probably having been converted to 3-piece ex one piece (difficult to see for definite)

From FWN list delete UAR50W (withdrawn) and substitute UAR594W (still in service) 3110-23 were ordered by Southdown and have rear number boxes, 3124-9 being ordered by Alder Valley ABUS have 3073-5 (as well as 3089, 3116/7)

NEW

THE COASTAL RED FACTFILE

**COMING
SOON**

Photo collection

A big thank you to member Dave Lilley for listing 204 films which make up the Phil Ford collection. There are colour photos of many Essex operators - Contact Peter Snell for what's available. (See page 2)

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Serving Essex since 1964

*Everything you need to know
about buses in Essex in 2003*

- ♦ **Sea change in Southend** - Jeff Clayton looks at the dramatic changes to bus services since the mid nineties.
- ♦ **National Nostalgia** - Remembering 30 years of the familiar sights and sounds of EN's Leyland Nationals.

Plus lookout for more great days out, events, group meetings and so much more - Have you renewed your subscription?

Your big value monthly

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Thirty eighth annual report

A review of the Groups activities during 2002

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - Alan Osborne

This palindrome year must go down as one of the best that the Group has ever had. Under the editorship of Sean Menzies our monthly magazine has gone from strength to strength and has broken all records in terms of numbers of pages printed and production costs, it now represents exceptional value for money. Our coach tour programme was very successful and turned in a good profit. A new evening run by vintage coach was very well received and will be repeated in the future. Thanks to Dave Arnold and Ian Ransom for all their efforts. For my own part I have authored two new Fact File booklets during the year which have been very popular and have boosted our sales so admirably managed by Peter Snell. Working on the Campbell volume was a particular pleasure for me, since I well remember riding on their old Albion Victors between Wickford and Pitsea before they were acquired in 1956. I also had an opportunity to talk to Mary Campbell and establish an important centenary. I have just finished the Coastal Red Fact File, they had a short but frenetic life after deregulation. My next project will be Jennings of Ashen, their Fact File should be completed later this year.

Finally may I thank all members for their continued support and my fellow committee members for their most valued help and assistance.

TREASURERS REPORT - Alan Osborne

The draft Group accounts for the year 2001 are now complete. The Group had an operating surplus of £474 for the year based on an annual turnover of £9202. The full audited Statement of Accounts will be available at our Annual General Meeting. Our reserve funds still remain at a generally healthy level, well able to meet all of our liabilities. May I thank Richard Delahoy for carrying out the duties of Auditor in a most efficient manner. Thanks are also due to Richard for his considerable efforts in getting the Group web site 'live' earlier in the year.

MANAGING EDITORS REPORT - Sean Menzies

Our mission statement 'everything you need to know about buses in Essex' defines the role of the magazine as we move into the future.

This year we have continued to respond to readers requests for clear and accurate information. A number of new sections have been launched including Essex Service Changes with comprehensive information on recent and forthcoming changes for all operators. The Data Files with at a glance guides to the current First and Arriva fleets and the Bus Diary with details of meetings and rallies. In addition, there have been a number of well received supplements including specials on the City Coach Company, Grays buses and the Bristol VR.

I am very grateful to our editorial team for their dedication and for rising to the challenge of making Essex Bus News the first stop for bus information. I would also like to thank the increasing numbers of members who contribute news and photos each month.

Your comments about Essex Bus News are valuable and the teams looks forward to your support in 2003.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT - Derek Stebbing

I am delighted to be able to report that 2002 was the most successful year that I have known, and possibly since the Group was formed in 1962, in terms of attracting new members. During the year (1st December 2001 - 30th November 2002) a total of 29 new members joined the Group, whilst we lost only 9 members at the two subscription renewal dates. I am in no doubt that this success in boosting our membership is due almost entirely to the quality of our magazine 'Essex Bus News', which provides truly excellent coverage of the bus scene in Essex. I extend my own thanks to Sean Menzies for all his efforts in transforming the magazine since he took on the post of Managing Editor. Our new web site has also played its part in attracting interest.

We are attracting new members from many parts of the U.K., and also abroad. We now have members living in the U.S.A., Australia and the Canary Islands, to name just three locations. After several years of declining membership, followed by a period of relatively little change, it is most pleasing to see such a large increase in membership in one year, and I hope that we can build

on this progress during 2003 and continue our membership growth. I would make my usual plea - if you know anybody who might be interested in joining us, please let me know and I will gladly send them a membership pack.

Subscriptions for 2003 have been increased slightly, to £16.00 for 1st class postage and to £15.00 for 2nd class postage. This will cover the postal increases that are expected during the year, and also allow for increases to magazine content. I believe that our subscription rates offer good value for money.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow committee members for their help and assistance at various times during the year, and I look forward to a successful 2003.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE - Derek Stebbing

The Group's Timetable Subscription Service is also going from strength to strength and at 30th November 2002, there were 49 subscribers to the service. This service enables members to receive all timetable books and maps published by Essex County Council and Thurrock Council, together with monthly updates of "Bus Passenger News". A full subscription to this service costs £25.00, which lasts for approximately one year, depending on the quantity of material published and postage charges. We can still accommodate some new subscribers, so if you are interested in joining please let me know.

My thanks go to David and Mary Arnold, who distribute all the material on the Groups behalf, and also to Robin Wheatcroft and his colleagues at Essex County Council who provide the Group with considerable help and support in providing this service to our members.

TOURS ORGANISERS REPORT - Ian Ransom & Dave Arnold

Three tours were operated in 2002, which proved to be our most successful year for some time.

Our first tour was on Saturday 18th May, using a Town & Country Leyland Titan to visit Ensigns, Nelsons, Fourways and Phoenix Student Travel, with a lunch stop in Chelmsford, which gave participants the opportunity to view the new Optare Solos on the 'Overground' network.

The second tour was on Saturday 22nd June, using Genial Travels Volvo/Van Hool to visit Brighton and Chichester. Participants were then given the opportunity to ride on a preserved Southdown

Leyland PD3 to the depot of Emsworth & District. The return journey included a halt in Havant Bus Station.

The final tour of the year ran on Sunday 1st September using a Volvo/Plaxton of Hedingham and District. This was a repeat of the highly successful depot bash last year. Just about the entire Hedingham fleet was seen on the day and many felt that the entire fleet had been photographed as well.

Additionally, an evening visit to Lodges using their Bedford SB, proved to be a very popular and entertaining event, allowing time for photographs with refreshments kindly supplied by the Lodge family.

Thank you to everyone who has supported our trips this year, they prove to be excellent days out, which provide an opportunity to share knowledge and enjoy a chat, as well as the more serious side of number taking and photography ! On a personal note, thank you to all who supported me, when my mother was diagnosed with cancer, before she sadly passed away. This made it difficult for me to be out on tours during 2002, but I will be back in 2003. Plans are at an advanced stage for this year, day trips to Essex and Reading, with an evening visit again using Lodges SB are planned. Details will be given as always in Essex Bus News, another excellent reason for to renew your subscription !

EVENTS SECRETARY REPORT - Peter Snell

Only three rallies were attended this year, our attendance at Southend was declined due to unrealistic levels of Public Liability Insurance being required. North Weald proved to be an exceptionally successful day, with record sales of City Fact Files, these were followed by Canvey and LOTS. I am most grateful to Adrian Burch for his most valued assistance at these events.

The Rochford meetings are very popular with attendance figures rising steadily. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Richard Delahoy for agreeing to run the meetings , although I will still continue to organise the beer. The purchase by the Group of an Episcopa will enable us to project monochrome and colour photographs, both ancient and modern, which should provide a different form of entertainment, so watch the magazine for details of future meetings.

PHOTOGRAPHS OFFICER REPORT - Peter Snell

Thanks are due to Sean Menzies for highlighting our publications in the magazine, sales have been very good, especially of the City and Campbells Fact Files. I have to thank Alan Osborne for all the work that he has put into these volumes.

Slides and photograph sales have had a good year and a substantial number of individual enquiries have been dealt with. Although I cannot guarantee that I can fulfil every request I will do my best to help. Finally my usual plea - if any member has some negatives rotting away in the attic and doing nothing, then why not let the Group make use of them.

FIRST IN ESSEX SUB EDITOR REPORT - Chris Stewart

Romford's red liveried Optare Solos finally entered service in March on the 193, to be followed in May by a large number in First corporate livery for the launch of the Chelmsford 'Overground' network. Later in the year, virtually new full-size buses began appearing in Chelmsford when six month old Wright-bodied Scanias from Edinburgh took over the 100 to Lakeside. As a result of these acquisitions, many of the Mercedes 709's were withdrawn and a number of Plaxton-bodied Darts moved to First Western National. The Alexander bodied Volvo B6's at Colchester also returned to Scotland, but before long five B10L's were transferred south. By the year end, though, these had been exchanged again for East Lancs bodied Dart SLF's. Two Dennis Amazingly the Leyland National driver trainer, 1924, has also continued in use for another year although many of the Bedford trainers have been sold. The Leyland Lynx refurbishment programme has ended, and the first non-refurbished examples have now been withdrawn. The fleet total has remained virtually static at 357.

My sincere thanks go to the Essex Buses employees on whom I rely, as well as all my regular contacts and correspondents. Please keep the information coming in the future, using which ever method is easiest, I now get post, phone calls, e-mails and text messages all about Essex Buses !

Coming soon
Essex independents tour 2003

Essex service changes

Changes are now split into two sections to avoid some changes appearing more than once. Changes to "regular" services appear first, with changes to school services described in brief at the end. All changes, especially those with a date after 14th January, are subject to change, so please check with the operator before travelling.

Monday 2nd December 2002

5,13,19 As in Issue 463

33,200,210,319,344 As in Issue 464.

Monday 9th December 2002

6,6A,951,952 As in Issue 463

87,87A,247,565,750,R1,R2 As in Issue 464.

W/C Saturday 14th December 2002

4 As in Issue 464.

W/C Saturday 28th December 2002

608 As in Issue 464.

Thursday 2nd January 2003

50 As in Issue 463.

92 (*Arriva*) (Colchester & Tollesbury) Changes to Monday to Friday timetable

Saturday 4th January 2003

372 (*Arriva*) (Hornchurch & Lakeside) LBSL route transferred from Arriva to Blue Triangle. New Monday to Saturday daytime timetable.

511 (*Kingstons*) (Epping & Bluewater) Renumbered N50 and will now run between North Weald and Bluewater on the first Saturday of each month only.

Sunday 5th January 2003

93,94 (*First*) (Colchester & Ipswich) Routeing and timetable changes.

133 (*Arriva*) (Braintree & Stansted) Revision to the Monday to Saturday timetable due to Braintree College's revised hours.

Tuesday 7th January 2003

OC3 (*Olympian Coaches*) (Harlow & Staple Tye) Route renumbered R3 with routeing and timetable changes.

Sunday 12th January 2003

Routes with timetable changes only from 12/01/03

7,8,36,73,352 As in Issue 464

Village Link 5 (First) (Saffron Walden & Bishops Stortford)

5,5A,6 (First) (Flatford Drive & Holland on Sea) Minor change to Monday to Friday timetable.

16 (Hedingham Omnibuses) (Wethersfield & Chelmsford)

30 (First) (Braintree, Fairfield Road, circular)

36 (First) (Chelmsford & South Woodham Ferrers)

45 (First) (Moulsham Lodge & Oxhey Green) Reduced from x12 to x15 minutes Monday to Friday daytimes.

71C (First) (Chelmsford & Colchester)

73 (First) (Chelmsford & Maldon)

Services with routeing changes from 12/01/03:

74,74B,76 As in Issue 464.

350/1 (First) (Romford & Chelmsford) All journeys which were numbered 350 are 351 and most will now run direct via Chelmsford Road in line with main service. The only journeys running via Shenfield Station depart from Romford at 0710 and from Chelmsford at 0710 and 1555. The Mon – Sat evening service between Brentwood Station and Chelmsford withdrawn. Last Mon-Sat departure from Romford at 1905 extended from Brentwood to Chelmsford.

Wednesday 15th January 2003

SW1-6 (Stephensons) (Asda South Woodham) First currently operate the free buses. From this date Stephensons will be taking over, with some revisions to the routes and days of operation, which will then be:

SW1 - Wednesdays: Burham, Southminster, Althorne

SW2 - Thursdays: Southminster, Bradwell, Steeple, Maylandsea

SW3 - Wednesdays: Stock, Ramsden Heath, Wickford

SW4 - Fridays: Stock, Billericay, Wickford

SW5 - Thursdays: Maldon, Danbury

SW6 - Fridays: Sandon, East Hanningfield

(The existing Rochford service will be withdrawn).

Monday 20th January 2003

H1 (Imperial) (Loughton & Harlow) Routeing and timetable changes.

Monday 27th January 2003

Dengie Village Link Major revisions to services. Timetable

changes on routes A and C with routeing changes to routes B and D

New route E introduced between Maylandsea and Cambridge Station

Friday 31st January 2003

- 34** (*Richmond Coaches*) (Standon & Cambridge) This route will be renumbered 334 and rerouted in Barkway to serve Townsend Close.
- 310B** (*Metroline*) (Harlow & Enfield) From Saturday 1st February, this route will be withdrawn between Enfield and Waltham Cross.

Monday 10th February 2003

- 381,382** (*Regal Busways*) (Harlow & Toot Hill) A new Monday to Friday timetable will be introduced to improve reliability.

School Services (all areas)

Monday 2nd December

- 200,210** As Issue 464 (See also 12th February)

Monday 16th December 2002

- 503,504** As in Issue 464.

Monday 13th January 2002

- 606,619** As Issue 464
- 620** (*First*) (Epping & Ingatestone) Routeing and timetable changes.

Wednesday 12th February 2003

- 200,210** (*Stephensons*) (Bradwell & Southend/Basildon) will be reduced to run Monday, Tuesdays and Fridays only.

Monday 24th February 2003

There will be many changes to Pheonix's routes from this date.

Services with timetable changes:

- 401** Althorne & Sandon School
- 608** Great Dunmow & Ingatestone

Services with route and timetable changes:

- 514** Chelmsford & Westcliff
- 602** North Fambridge & Ingatestone
- 607** Ostend & Ingatestone
- 701** Capel St Mary (White Horse) & Colchester

New Pheonix services:

- 513** Little Waltham (Ash Tree Corner) & Southend (Southchurch Boulevard) via Chelmsford and East Hanningfield.
- 609** Maldon & Ingatestone (Anglo European School) via Great Totham.

Ensign dealer report

our monthly guide to the latest vehicle movements

Vehicles in

From Travel West Midlands: Scania H228/245LOM.
 From Nelsons, Wickford: Bristol VR's LBD921V, SNV930W.
 From Go North East: Olympians C652/674LJR.
 From Imperial: Metrobus BYX228V.
 From Go Ahead North East: Metrobuses BYX141V, BYX217V
 From Arriva the Shires: Metrobuses
 B155WUL, BYX290V, KYV786X. Iveco's M719/720/721/725UTW.
 From Travel West Midlands: Scania H211/26/29/34/41/43LOM.

Vehicles out

DMS2472, Fleetline XTE227V PVS for scrap.
 Tiger TPC114X Trimmer Travel, Romford.
 M516 Preston St coachworks, Kent.
 Scania H228/245LOM Nelsons Coaches, Wickford.
 Olympian C652LJR Red Route Buses, Northfleet.
 M228 " " " "
 Olympian 90-d 1042 Ronnie Bruen (Bluebird) Dublin.
 Olympian 90-d-1046 Jimmy Kavannagh (Malahide), Dublin
 Scania E109JYV Kent County Council
 M1167, M261, M269, M95 All to PVS for scrap.
 Scania H234/243LOM Kingstons, Essex.
 Scania H226/229LOM Nelsons, Wickford.
 Olympian A234GHN Western Greyhound, Newquay.
 Olympian 90-D-1016 Fourways, Chelmsford.
 Olympian C68CHM Mr David Jury, Adelaide, Australia
 Olympian C674LJR Red Route Buses, Northfleet.
 Metrobus BYX141V Top Line Travel, York.
 Metrobus BYX217V Halifax Joint Committee.
 Lynx E63WDT Mr Martin Maybury, Eire.
 Olympian 90-D-1038 Ipswich Buses (now H705PTW)
 Lynx J42GGB Bus Eirean, Dublin.
 Metrobus BYX290V Eastonways, Ramsgate.

You may also be interested to know that on Wed 8 Jan Ensign's RCL2220 managed to find itself working Gravesend-Faversham all stations for Connex due to the appalling weather conditions. They also provided an emergency service for South West Trains from Feltham to Hounslow and Windsor to Staines from Mon-Thursdays. Drivers stayed in hotels and the 7 buses concerned were garaged at the First Bracknell depot.

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

THE END OF THE AMOS ERA

By Alan Osborne

The bus service of Amos, Belchamp St. Paul running into Sudbury ceased after Tuesday 31 December 2002 and here we pay tribute to this long established operator.

Mr. Daniel Amos, the grandfather of the present owner started the family carrier business in 1902 with a horse and cart. Later a convertible vehicle was acquired which could carry both goods and passengers, but not at the same time !

In the early 1920's, Mr. James Amos used a 14-seater Chevrolet on the bus service into Sudbury. A Saturday service to Halstead commenced in March 1938 as a summer only shopping facility. It was suspended in September 1938, but was reinstated during the war running on Tuesdays. In 1948 a third service to Bury St. Edmunds for the Wednesday market was started. In 1962 the Tuesday Halstead journey was revised to instead work into Sudbury.

The Market Hill terminal in the Suffolk town was changed to the new Bus Station in 1969. In the following year the Bury service was withdrawn leaving just the Ovington - Sudbury service running on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays along a different route each day. Around this time the ownership passed to W. G. Amos, trading as J. Amos & Son. The bus timetable (see below) then remained the same for almost thirty years. Changes were eventually made from 8 August 2000, when the Tuesday service was cut back to start from Belchamp St. Paul and the route revised so as to omit Borley. In addition, the Saturday afternoon working then ceased. It remained in this form to the end.

The Amos fleet usually numbered about four vehicles; in addition to the bus service, school contracts and local private hires and excursions were undertaken. Bedford vehicles were generally favoured with the most long lived and notable Amos vehicle being JVX 307, a Bedford OWB fitted with 32-seat utility style Duple bodywork. It joined the fleet in November 1944 and lasted for almost twenty years during which time it went through no less than three sets of seats. In later years a minibus sufficed for the Sudbury service. Bell punch tickets have always been used, suitably altered by hand when the fares increased. Sometimes sister-in-law Kathy Kemp would act as unpaid conductor, also collecting her own £3 return fare.

It was announced in the summer that the business would cease at the end of 2002. The school runs finished at the end of the school term in July, thus ending a contract that had been held since 1932. During August a start was made to dispose of the coach fleet. Bus operations were then maintained with the sole remaining vehicle, Dodge minibus D457YPN.

The author was present in Sudbury on Saturday 28 December to witness the last ever departure to Ovington. Incidentally some of the timings on the inward run, Ovington dep. 9.30 a.m., passing Tilbury 9.35 a.m. and Great Yeldham 9.40 a.m. had remained unchanged for over fifty four years.

The very last journey on 31 December 2002, proudly driven by Billy Amos, now 80 years old, was festooned with balloons to mark the business having completed its century. We all wish him a long, happy and well earned retirement.

I am most grateful to Nigel Turner for his valued help with this article.

Ovington –Sudbury (timetable dated 1.4.74)

	Tues	Thurs	Sat	Sat		Tues	Thurs	Sat	Sat
Ovington, Green	09:40	13:00	09:30	13:30	Sudbury, Bus station	11:45	16:30	12:00	16:30
Tilbury court	09:45		09:35	13:35	Borley green	11:55	16:40		
Great Yeldham			09:40	13:40	Foxearth School	12:05		12:15	16:45
Little yeldham church			09:45	13:45	Pentlow, Forge	12:15		12:25	16:55
Belchamp st paul, Green	09:55	13:05	10:00	14:00	Belchamp, Otten		16:50		
Belchamp, Otten		13:10			Belchamp st paul, Green	12:20	16:55	12:30	17:00
Pentlow, Forge	10:00		10:05	14:05	Little yeldham church			12:45	17:15
Foxearth school	10:10		10:15	14:15	Great Yeldham			12:50	17:20
Borley green		10:20	13:20		Tilbury court	12:30		12:55	17:25
Sudbury, Bus station	10:30	13:30	10:30	14:30	Ovington, Green	12:35	17:00	13:00	17:30

Everything you need to know about buses

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Past and present



Laying over in the bus parking area in Sudbury is LGV 555, a Duple bodied Bedford SB3 still in the livery of its former owner, Mulley of Ixworth, with Amos fleetnames.(Alan Osborne)



The setting of Sudbury Bus Station depicts D457 YPN, an Alexander bodied Dodge previously in the fleet of Brighton Borough Transport on the final departure on 31 December 2002. (Dave Arnold)



First

New year, new name

With effect from 2nd January, Essex Buses Ltd has been renamed First Essex Buses Ltd and the registered address transferred to Bus Depot, Duke Street, Chelmsford.

A planning application was lodged on 10th January for a temporary bus station in Viaduct Road, with linear bays and presumably involving vehicle entry from Parkway. Planning permission has not yet been granted for the new permanent Bus Station. The office functions at Stapleford Close are due to move to temporary Borough Council-owned accommodation behind Duke Street during March, prior to eventual relocation to the new depot at Westway. The long association of Eastern National with New Writtle Street will come to an end, except for the Driving School premises.

Meanwhile Essex County Council having been looking to provide a new Bus Station at Clacton, with one developer suggesting land opposite the railway station. Clacton has been without a Bus Station since the Eastern National one in Jackson Road was sold off in 1989.

FLEET CHANGES

Acquired vehicles

12.02	745	P852VUS (see EBN463)
1.03	753-760	R637/40VLX, R642/4/5/50/1/3TLM (see EBN464)

Most of 753-760 are now at Basildon, repainted into 'Barbie 1' livery, but entry into service has been delayed for reasons outside the Company's control.

Thank's to our regular contributors including R Appleton, J Clayton, D Edwards, M Farmer, S Hughes, P Mansbridge, K Mead, I Ransom, P Rowden, J Salmon, C Sigston, K Smith, P Snell, D Stebbing, R Whitley.

Vehicles on loan

First Airport H566MPD Volvo/Plaxton from Stephenson's of Essex
N797WAN Scania/Berkhof from First Beeline (Green Line livery), first noted 17.12.02
N613APU Volvo/Plaxton from First Eastern Counties

The coaches have been needed to cover for mechanical problems at times with 602/8/10 and 1551, while 1550 is currently away for repainting.

Village Link Vario 433 was involved in an accident near Stansted recently. A similar Mercedes Vario/Plaxton of First Midland Red, S560RWP, was noted at Brentwood on 9.1.03; this vehicle may be on loan to First Essex and could have been on crew transfer duties for service 73.

Allocations (period ending 29 December 2002)

745 Acq-HH; **908** spare-CN; **909** CR-DT; **982** BN-CR; **1408** CF-Disp; **2641** BE-Disp; **2642** BE-Disp; **2655** DT-BE; **2666** DT-BE; **2802** CN-DT

Disposal-listed **2641** and **2647** remain in use at CR (not CN as reported last month), with **3219** mainly at CR (see below).

4305 has finally been fitted with upper deck repeater indicators/trafficators to match the et of this batch, which were so treated on arrival. **4309** is under repair at a bodyworks in Maldon, while **4320** has now returned from Transbus. **4315** has gained a mega rear adverts for Broadband (internet).

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Severe snowfall on 8th January played havoc with the first day of many school terms, Shenfield-Southend 502 (Olympian 4026) finally arriving at 11.20 (3 hrs late), service 512 (4034) faring slightly better with a 10.30 arrival. Both departed early at 14.15.

Competition in Clacton

The full story of how a Coach operator gave Eastern National
a run for its money

Coming soon - THE COASTAL RED FACTFILE

Unusual workings

25.11.02	BN5005 on 102 (and other occasions)
1.12.02	Scania on 102
3.12.02	HH750 on CC
5.12.02	DT4009 on 74, H1410 on 12
6.12.02	HH704 on CC
8.12.02	CN4016 in Norwich on private charter
10.12.02	DT4013 on first Village Link 3 (also other reports of DD's)
11.12.02	BN666 on school C25
12.12.02	HH702 on CC, HH1423 on 3, 2643 on 20 CR1507 on 107 (16.30 ex CR), normally Dart, 2641 on 66C
17.12.02	HH2660 on 20
18.12.02	BN945 and BN1410 on 5, BN1404 on 8
29.12.02	HH718 on 21, BN931 on 12
30.12.02	CR1503 on 66A (normally Dart)
31.12.02	BN35 noted at Tarpots Corner approx 19.00
4.1.03	CR715/6 (route branded for 65/A) worked 64A, CN4015 on 76 CF4033 on 59 to Harlow (approx 16.10), CR4302 on 64
7.1.03	CR1502 on 65A (approx 17.00 at Bus Station)
9.1.03	BN1404 on 100

VR watch

3219 has been working from CR, but was among a number of vehicles sent to CN over the Christmas period to prevent vandalism. It was used all day on the 74 on 30th Dec, and on town service 5/5A on 2nd Jan. It was back at CR by 4th Jan, working a 78 on 6th Jan and 77's on 10th. On 12th Dec it had worked the morning 67E from East Mersea, the 68 and the last 88B while on the 16th Dec it operated a short morning 70 (Marks Tey to Colchester). It was later seen towing failed Mercedes minibus 2647 up North Hill about 10.20 before working 66's. On 18th Dec it ran the last West Bergholt-Rowhedge 66A.

3109 was reported to have worked Village Link 3/4 on an unknown date. BN3113 moved from Basildon on 11th Dec, but is understood to be undergoing mechanical repairs. Its place was taken for the next few days by CF4025 on loan. 3078 and 3101 (awaiting disposal) both carry 'sold' notices, prohibiting removal of parts, although no further details are currently known. Former 3081 (STW25W, now BIL4710) was due for withdrawal by NIBS before Christmas (your sub-editor having both photographed it and driven it on 19th Dec) but it was noted still in use on 10th January.



Datafile

Your at a glance guide

First Essex/First Airport fleet allocation 29/12/02

Airport Buses	112, 432/4/5, 602/8/10, 917/43, 1550/1, 2640/8/9/50/83, 2813-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	101/11, 397/8, 2679
Braintree (BE)	944, 2646/55/6/63/6/75/80, 2803/4/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2910/1, 3072, 3112, 5000
Basildon (BN)	404-6, 655-67, 711-4/34-8, 809, 852-5, 914/5/8-22/4-34/45/65-73/83-6, 1400/4/10/32, 3113, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/13-6/26-8, 1516-20, 2644/67/8/70-4/6-8, 2901-9, 4007/10/2/24/5/33/4, 5001-4/6
Clacton (CN)	907/8/12/6, 1510-3, 2665, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	650-4, 715/6, 910/1/74-82, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-5
Hadleigh (HH)	407-10, 701-10/7-21/46-8/50, 811, 913/35-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/11/2/7-24, 2643/5/52/3/7-62, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	909, 2669/81/2, 2802, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401-3, 501-11, 805/6/10
Heritage	2383, 9001
Spare	314, 1429, 2654/64, 3109
Disposal	1408/25/30/1, 2641/2/7/51, 3078/92, 3101/3, 3219, 4028,
Reserve	100
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles (note that some of these details are by members' observation only)	
BN: 9028/30, 9308; CF: 9008; CN: 2111;	
CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10; Disp 9029/34	

The following buses are fitted with tachographs:

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

First Airport

	AIRPORT BUSES	AIRPORT COACHES
TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT		
Minibus	6	3
Midibus	7	0
Coach	6	1
SPARES		
Minibus	1	1
Midibus	1	0
Coach	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATION		
Minibus	7	4
Midibus	8	0
Coach	6	1
TOTAL	21	5

Depot requirements and vehicle allocations

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

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL BY TYPE
PVR									
Minibus	6	4	12 (2)	1	0	2	14	5	46
Midibus	13	38	41	12	20	2	40	0	166
SD	0	16	8 (6)	4	12	0	11	0	57
DD	2	2	6	4	14	6	3	0	37
Phoenix DD	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Midi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total PVR	22	65	71 (8)	21	46	10	68	15	325
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4
Midibus	1	3	5	1	1	0	3	0	14
SD	0	1	2	0	2	0	2	0	7
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Phoenix DD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phoenix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
ALLOC									
Minibus	7	4	12 (2)	1	0	3	15	6	50
Midibus	14	41	46	13	21	0	43	0	180
SD	0	17	10 (6)	4	14	0	13	0	64
DD	2	3	7	5	15	7	4	0	43
Phoenix DD	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
TOTALS	24	71	80 (8)	23	50	12	75	17	FLEET TOTAL 358

Arriva southern counties

New look dengie

6 new Mercedes Benz Sprinter minibuses have been delivered, to replace the current Renault Traffics. They are Essex CC owned as with the Traffics and will enter service in late January.

The new Mercedes Benz Sprinter 411CD are advised as DE520KW/X/Z/V, OLM and OLN. OLM is numbered 1755, suggesting that the batch may be 1751-6.

Southend drivers attacked

A gang or copycat offenders are responsible for the spate of violent attacks on bus drivers, police have revealed.

They have vowed to do all they can to bring a stop to the attacks on drivers working in the Shoebury area where four Arriva drivers were attacked last month.

The attacks resulted in evening services not serving the section between the Renown and East beach after 1800 on Wednesday 11 December for one night. Some Darts now have full assault screens, in place of the partial ones previously fitted.

Christmas day 133

Service 133 (Braintree – Stansted Airport) operated on Christmas day . 4 minibuses were used crewed by 2 Colchester and 2 Southend drivers. On 26 Dec (and 1 Jan) a normal Sunday service operated on 133.

Free travel was offered on 24/25/26TH December

Changes to Grays one way

Thurrock Council expect the Grays one-way system to be altered from Sunday February 16, with two way working on most roads presently one-way, and the stands on the north side of the new bus station being brought into use for eastbound buses. This will presumably mean that buses will no longer serve the stops by the Thameside Theatre/police station at the north end of the High St.

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Allocation changes

E2137 N917 ETM Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton Beaver GY – Delicenced
E5361 BYX 301V MCW Metrobus DR101/12 –CR Training sch- Delicenced.
YDT 47 F47 ENF Leyland Lynx LX112L10ZR1R- CR (Training sch)
(Renumbered from 3047)

Arriva East Herts & Essex

Vehicles in from Arriva the Shires 1/03

5120 G290 UMJ Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ ON10992
Leyland DD1025 H47/31F New 12/89
5122/3 G292/3 Leyland Olympian ON11016/7Leyland DD1027/9
H47/31F New 1/90
5124 G294 UMJ Leyland Olympian ON11020 Leyland DD1030
H47/31F New 12/89
5129 H199 GRO Leyland Olympian ON2R50C13Z4 ON11776 Leyland
DD1144 H47/29F 2/91

Vehicles out

2090 M150 RBH Iveco- remains sold following stripping for spares 12/02
2339-41/5 M719-21/5 UTW, 2357 M737 AOO All Iveco's -gone 1/03
3104 L400 BUS Dennis Dart/Marshall - Arriva the Shires (Watford) 12/02

Allocations

12/02: **5263, 5370. WEu**
1/03: **5120/2-4/9. WE 5255/60/3, 5348/63 Withdrawn**

In brief....

A further 7 Leyland Olympians are due from Arriva the Shires (Watford) for service 310 at Ware.

The reign of Metrobuses on the route is rapidly coming to an end; the five Olympians mentioned above are already at work on the service.

It is expected that the Iveco 59-12 minibuses parked up at Harlow, Ware & Stevenage will be disposed of during the next few weeks. Indeed on 4 January the 5 mentioned above were about to depart from Ware depot to their new owners .

It seems that Dart 3104 cannot settle. It is confirmed at Watford on 4/1/03.

Arriva Data File

Vehicle requirements from January 2003

Garage	M-F peaks	M-F off peak	Sat	Sun
Colchester (Bus)	36AM 35PM	28 (29 W)	29	3
Coach	4	0	0	0
Grays	30AM 29PM (b)	26	26	12
Southend	57AM 58PM(a)	50 (51 W/T)	51	19
Dengie	Mon-Sat 4 (from 27/1 – 5 with PM vehicle swap)			

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

W – Wednesday T – Thursday

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

Route 346 Mon-Sat 2 Cadets

Allocations –Southend (SE)

Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288	DD16	
Dennis Trident	E5434	E5435	E5436	E5437	E5438
	E5439	E5441	E5442	E5443	E5445
	E5446	E5547	E5548	E5549	E5451
Leyland Olympian	E5392	E5393T	E5394	E5395	E5396
	E5399	E5402	E5405T		
Volvo Olympian	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Dennis Dart SLF	E3218	E3220	E3221	E3222	E3223
	E3224	E3225	E3226	E3391	E3392
	E3393	E3394	E3395	E3396	E3397
Dennis Lance SLF	E3379	E3381	E3382	E3383	E3384
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS007	DS008	DS009
	DS014	E3092	E3349	E3350	E3370
	E3373	E3404			
Mercedes 709	E2110T				
Mercedes 810	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193	
Renault Master T35	E0329	E0331	E0332	E0333	E0334
Coach	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	E3065	E3066	E3338		
Shuttles	E1253	R580LVL			

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Colchester (CR)

Leyland Olympian	<u>E5389T</u>	<u>E5397T</u>	<u>E5398T</u>		
	E5403	E5404T	<u>E5407T</u>	<u>E5408T</u>	<u>E5409T</u>
Volvo D10M	613	614	617		
DAF SB220	<u>E4335</u>	<u>E4336</u>	<u>E4337</u>	<u>E4339</u>	
Dennis Dart SLF	<u>E3419</u>	<u>E3420</u>	<u>E3422</u>	<u>E3430T</u>	
Leyland Lynx	<u>E3341</u>	<u>E3342</u>	<u>E3343</u>	<u>E3346</u>	<u>E3347</u>
Volvo B6	<u>E3241</u>	<u>E3245</u>	<u>E3246</u>		
Dennis Dart	DS015	DS020	DS021	DS023	
	DS024	3168			
Mercedes 711	<u>E2388</u>	<u>E2391</u>	<u>E2392</u>		
Mercedes 810	<u>E2174</u>	<u>E2243</u>	<u>E2372</u>	<u>E2382</u>	<u>E2383</u>
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	PVR 4		Allocation	4	
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4505T	2196	Trainer	Lynx	YDT 27

Grays (GY)

MCW Metrobus	M615				
DAF SB120	E4500	E4501	E4502	E4503	E4504
	E4505	E4506	E4507	E4508	E4509
	E4510	E4511	E4512	E4513	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3387	E3388	E3389	E3390	E3400
	E3401	E3402	E3403	E3421	E3423
	E3424	E3425	E3426	E3427	E3428
	E3429	E3431			
Dennis Dart	E3405	E3406	E3407	E3411	E3412
Ferry Bus 609	YFB58	YFB86			

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

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

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

Other operators

ADVANCE MINIBUSES HOCKLEY N387 VPB Mercedes Benz

Sprinter/Stamford is in (by 11.02)

Ford Transit J797 MHD has gone to Southend Radio Cars, Hockley (by 11.02)

AMBER RAYLEIGH Mercedes 609D/Reeve Burgess D868 VKE (ex CSU 907, D161 HML) has gone to JWS Travel, Chadwell St.Mary (by 11.02). Volvo B10M/Jonckhree L529 XUT has gone to Moseley (dealer), Wellington (by 10.02)

Bedford YNT/Plaxton SAZ2350 (ex TOB614Y) has gone (by 12.02) - seen in Basildon in the yard of Sterling / 5 Star Training

Bova Europa 227ASV (ex SMY 627X) is here and being used for spares - not sure if it was ever operated.

Similar KEG 689Y is formerly XLF 611, KVS 154Y, 687 DEW ex Mil-Ken, Kentford, Suffolk.

RJI 4670 (ex VPG 339X, 997 GAT) a Bova Europa is in (by 12.02) ex Sterling Training, Basildon. P912 DTT Bova Futura is in (by 12.02) ex Garrett, Newton Abbot, Devon.

We are dubious whether Bristol VR/ECW AUP 714S, which we reported with this operator from third party information, has ever been here.

ANITA STANSTED AIRPORT Dennis Javelin/Caetano K3 ERN has been reregistered K869 JJN (by 11.02)

Volvo B10M/Caetano P3 ERN is named "Miss Amy" (by 11.02)

BASILDON TRAVEL The operating centre is now Unit 4, Mill Court, Swinbourne Road, Basildon SS13 1EH.

R33 SBC and R473 YDT both Scania/Irizar are recent additions

M660 SRE Mercedes Benz 709D/Marshall is in (by 12.02) ex First PMT 560 via Ramm (dealer).

N741 FKX a LDV 400 is in (by 12.02) - this vehicle has been seen a number of times since new in the Basildon area, but owner unknown - has been reported with Godward.

L206 HOX a further LDV 400 is in (by 12.02) ex Churchfields Vehicle Rentals, Salisbury - it is non PSV

F136 KAO Mercedes Benz 609D/Reeve Burgess is in (by 12.02 - probably a lot earlier) for spares only - it is ex Swallow, Rainham, Gt.London and is in TESCO livery.

The following are also in (by 12.02) (info. from company):-

JXI 225 (its original Irish number) Mercedes Benz 609D/Ulsterbus ex Guthrie & Lennox, Motherwell, Scotland West. F303 JNC Mercedes Benz 609D/PMT

L202 BPL Toyota/Caetano ex Palmer, Laindon.

L431 VWV LDV 400 ex Sault & Roff (Pernico), SE16 (note: this is one of the vehicles which appeared in Chelmsford in 2.95 when the T.G.W.U. operated a free bus service.)

M417 BCD LDV 400 (thought to be ex Churchfields Vehicle Rentals, Salisbury)

S565 OOK Mercedes Benz Vito

Leyland Swift/Elme HIB6984 (ex F214GEC) and Ford Transit M902EGK are assumed gone.

BIG TIME LIMOS SOUTHEND N231 LKX is a Lincoln Town Car (with PSV disc) (in by 11.02). M579 AJN is a Lincoln Royale (no disc or taxi plate) (in by 11.02)

BOBBYS MINIBUSES STANFORD-LE-HOPE L493 VBP is another Renault ex Ambulance (in by 12.02)

BOBS MINIBUS SERVICE LITTLE OAKLEY B2 CBT (ex L25 CAY) Toyota /Caetano is in (by 11.02) ex Chauffeur Bus, Luton Airport, Beds.

BOON BOREHAM NNO 66P a former Colchester Atlantean/ECW has gone to Embling, Guyhirn, Cambs. (by 11.02)

BRAINTREE YELLOW LINE BRAINTREE Omni F294 UPY is unlicensed (by 12.02) - it is B16F

BRANDON BLACKMORE END The burnt out vehicles (27.10.02) are believed to be:-

Bova Futura's HIL 2325 (ex B640 RJF, 2 TRB, B555 KRY), BMB 20M (ex F573 WHD) and HIL2921 (ex 6330 FH, A86 RWC); Volvo B10M/Plaxton PNH 183 (ex YAD 505X, 904 DRH, CNS 550X); Volvo B58/Plaxton WOI 2658 (ex RHP 24W); Scania K113/Irizar 625 DAO (ex N757 JLW, N6 RDC) and ex Eastern National Leyland Olympian/ECW B690BPU (ex IIL1828, B690BPU) and B696BPU (ex IIL1829, B696BPU)

The remains of all the burnt-out coaches had been removed by 21.11.02
Fleetline/Park Royal KUC 217P was scorched but is now repainted (offside only) and back in use.

Ref. Bus Fayre (Jan 2003) and Buses (Jan 2003) - the list of burnt out vehicles given in these publications cannot be correct. The Astromega, LXR 958 (ex MSU 986Y) Van Hool T824 had gone about 5 years ago; all the Bova's were listed, but your sub-editor saw one that had not been burnt. Also the Bova list in Buses has wrong registrations.

W831/2CTW are Kia cars now operating on PSV discs.

There has also been a major clear-out of the Mushroom Farm Industrial Estate site - the remains of Fleetlines GHV13N, GHV23N & JTD393P have all gone 11.02

Fiat/Caetano C638 KDS was towed away 21.11.02 - fate unknown.

Bristol LHS/Plaxton UIB 4589 (ex SFP 828X) and Dennis Dominator/Alexander FGE441X have gone (by 11.02).

Leyland Leopard/Plaxton KBH 860V is in use and appears to be a loan from Smith (Fargo), Rayne (11.02)

Dennis Javelin/Duple F635 SAY and Toyota/Caetano M10KFC are thought to be loans from Don, Dunmow (11.02), M10KFC had returned to Don's by 29.11.02

IIL 2257 (ex G57 SBA) Bova Futura is here (11.02) - is thought to be purchased - it has had all Mil-Ken's markings removed.

LRB 582W Leyland Atlantean/ECW ex Lincolnshire 1382 is here (11.02) - not sure whether this is a loan or purchase.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton CAZ 6831 (ex D855 FRF, WHA 325, D814 SGB) is also here (on loan from Stephenson (dealer), Rochford) (11.02)

Bova Futura HIL 2922 (ex A251 SBM) Bova Futura is unlicensed and has been for some time.

CHARIOTS, STANFORD-LE-HOPE Iveco/Carlyle J431 PPF has been re-registered VIL 4056 (by 11.02)

Mercedes Vario/Marshall S642/3 MGA are now VIL4057/8 - not necessarily in that order

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Y538 GJN a Ford Transit/Fd is in (by 11.02) with fleet no. 18

CRUSADER CLACTON A new unregistered Setra S315GT-HD (chassis WKK62725223000171) was noted at Evobus (dealer), Coventry (11.02)

DMA BRENTWOOD Recent disposals are of Bedford VAS XUX 540T and the only AEC Reliance left as a PSV in Essex DAZ 4520 (XCE 7T). The AEC has gone to Doncaster, Dagenham, Gt.London.

EXCALIBUR TRAVEL SOUTHMINSTER With help from this operator, we are able to publish an update to recent events here:-

The operating centre is now St.Lawrence Hall Farm, St.Lawrence.

Toyota/Caetano SJI 4781 (B105 YUC) was withdrawn (mid 2001), reregistered B105 YUC (by 6.02) and is now used as a store.

Bedford YLQ/Plaxton RBJ 460R was sold (early 2002) to a person in Surrey (not an operator) for use as a driver trainer.

Ford R1114/Duple OHA 517W is withdrawn (by 11.02).

Medcedes L608D/Reeve Burgess YPG 751Y was sold (mid 2001) for spares.

Similar but Whitaker bodied D154 OWJ was sold (2000) to Hopkins (t/a Vantage), Romford, Gt.London. To correct information elsewhere F864HGX is a Talbot Express HUI 4953 (ex F435 RRY) Iveco 315/Caetano C28F is in (4.01) ex Canham (t/a J C Coaches), Boughton, Notts.

E498 AAW (ex SEL 219, E671 NNV) LAG Panoramic is in (12.01) ex Holywell, Eastbourne, E.Sussex and rereg. to SJI 4781 (by 6.02).

H434 V GK LDAF 400/Chassis Development is in (9.02) ex Luker, Crondall, Hants.

R453 ECR Ford Transit is in (9.02)

Neoplan N907 GAZ 3620, HUI 4953, Leyland Tiger/Plaxton PIL 9784 and OHA 517W are currently for sale.

GAZ3620 is one of only 3 of this model imported

FOURWAYS HIGHWOOD Leyland Leopard/Duple MNK427V has gone to a scrap dealer (by 10.02).

4 ex Dublin Bus Leyland Olympian/Alexander are expected. One is 90-D-1049 which has been altered to H../..F and is being prepared for service (11.02)

GIBBS LIMOUSINES HOOK END GIB 858 is a stretch-limo (with PSV disc) (in by 12.02)

GRAHAMS KELVEDON Bedford YNT/Plaxton HIL 4585 (ex C153 UDD) has gone to Goodwin, Braintree (by 12.02).

HOWARD HALSTEAD K48 NEU a Mercedes Benz/Made to Measure is in (by 11.02) - this has legal lettering for Webb, Barham, Kent.

Leyland Tiger/Plaxton C330 PEW was sold by auction on 29.11.02 (at auctioneers Cooper Hirst, Victoria Road, Chelmsford) - buyer unknown.

Freight Rover E816 UKW and Mercedes 709D/Reeve Burgess F722FDV were also offered at the same auction but neither received any bids.

E816 UKW had no seats and had obviously been out of use for a considerable time.

F722FDV is DP25F, and still has the overall advert for 'The Swan's Nest' restaurant at Exminster (which was applied by Devon General in 11.96). The M.o.T. expired 4.02 so presumably it has been out of use since then. This vehicle had been removed from the auction site and was seen on the back of a truck in a yard at Rettendon on 2.12.02.

JWS CHADWELL ST.MARY C129 CAT Dennis Dominator/East Lancs is in (by 11.02) ex Northern Blue, Oswaldtwistle, Lancs. via Ensign (dealer).

KINGSTON RETTENDON H243 LOM Scania/Alexander double decker is in (by 11.02) ex W.Midlands 3243 (we think there is also another of these).

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS CLACTON KTT42P Bristol LHS/ECW was in (by 10.02) ex Carter, Ipswich and out (by 12.02)

MASTER TRAVEL EAST HORNDON Have recently acquired, via Houston Ramm-; H609OVW-Mercedes Benz/Reeve Burgess-C25F. Note the seating capacity has changed from it's day's with First Eastern National.

N.C.S. NEWPORT The following were observed 11.02:-

E702 DPU a Ford Transit/Dormobile - is currently unlicensed and used as a seat store.

G378 BEW Leyland DAF 200, H429 PNO and K42 JWC both Renault Traffic are unlicensed.

Renault Traffic M128 AVW and LDV 200 M515 GAV are being used for spares Unreg. Rt Tc (VF1T3X30511759936) / Rt M11 (new reg. date 27.9.94) is here ex Lex Vehicle Leasing (presumed leased to MoD.) via auction.

Ford Transit/Dormobile G381 BEV is currently B7FL and on a taxi plate, as are Renault Traffic J787 BJN, J508 XHK, K299 JHJ, K841 J VX, L95 RHJ, L174 RHJ, L819 RHJ, M728 AHJ and M601 AVW.

Additions not previously reported are Renault Traffic M811AHJ and M341 AJN, both operate on taxi plates.

This operator has a new o/c on the outskirts of Newport and also stores vehicles on an industrial estate near Wimbish (sorry no further details).

NIBS WICKFORD Bristol VR/ECW LBD 921V and SNV930W have gone to Ensign (dealer) (12.02) - 3 more are expected to go.

H228 LOM, H245 LOM Scania/Alexander are in ex West Midlands 3228/45, with others expected as VR replacements.

PDQ COLCHESTER This operator is quoting a revised address:- 7 Victoria Esplanade, W. Mersea, Colchester, CO5 8AT

RP CONTRACT HIRE SIBLE HEDINGHAM H792 PPU (ex LHJ 766, H821HVM) Ford Transit/Dormobile was seen 11.02 at this operator's home address, but still lettered 'Ashes' (Sutton, Cressing) - not sure whether on loan or acquired.

STEPHENSON ROCHFORD BOK 40V a MCW Metrobus, new to West Midlands is here (by 11.02) in use.

G619 OTV Volvo B10M-50/Alexander and GSU 554 (ex A213 SAE) Leyland Tiger/Plaxton are here (by 11.02), both ex Burton, Haverhill, Suffolk - both are unlicensed and probably dealer stock.

A109 KUM Leyland Olympian/ECW is here (by 11.02) ex First Cymru 909 possibly dealer stock.

K879 EAW Volvo/Plaxton is here (by 11.02) ex Tim's Travel, Sheerness, Kent - its not known if this is for service or dealer stock.

In answer to your query in the recent EBN, Stephensons A14 SOE is the former G345 FFX and A17 SOE is H372 PHK.

They have a run of "SOE" regs, for Stephensons Of Essex, of course!

Essex independents tour 2003 - more info next month

SUPREME COLCHESTER Vehicles acquired are EJ02 FCX Ford Transit Tourneo, W366 EOL Mercedes Benz 0404 (by 11.02) ex Waterhouse, Bexhill, E.Sussex.

MCW Metrobuses C374 BUV (by 11.02) and GOG 252W (by 11.02) the latter not in use. Volvo B10M/Plaxton K657 BOH (ex K5 CEN) and K659 BOH (K3 CEN) are ex West Midlands Travel and are in use.

K657 BOH (ex K5 CEN), K659 BOH (ex K3 CEN) and Scania/Berkhof L200 SUP are now white and carry 'Supreme Coaches (Colchester)' on the rears (by 12.02 - but see below). MCW Metrobus KJW 300W is being used for spares (by 11.02), while similar GOG 249W MCW/MCW has fleet no. 5249, LOA 426X has fleet no. 5426 and LOA 434X has fleet no. 5434

This operator suffered a fire at the Colchester o.c. at about 1700 hrs on 31.12.02 - several vehicles were destroyed and others damaged. Those destroyed are K657 BOH (ex K5 CEN), LDV 400 M953 UHK, Ford Transit S825 ONK (definitely) plus at least 3 more thought to include L200 SUP & Scania/Van Hool R864 SDT. Those damaged include Leyland National 2 EON 829V, K659 BOH (ex K3 CEN), Volvo/Berkhof L100 SUP, and Scania/Van Hool R862 SDT.

TEE-JAYS WIVENHOE F321 SMD Mercedes Benz 811D/Optare is in (by 11.02) - (has 'Crest' on the destination box - presumably O'Brien, East Ham)

THORNS OF RAYLEIGH BVR 100T Leyland Fleetline/Northern Counties is in (by 11.02) ex Mayne, Clayton, Gt.Manchester.

TURNERS WICKHAM ST.PAUL T372 JWA Scania/Irizar is still here, having been reported as sold elsewhere in error. L931/2TGT both LDAF 400 are in (by 9.02) ex Angel Motors, Tottenham, Gt.London.

Non PSV operators

THE DEANES SCHOOL, BENFLEET V934 EFX Peugeot Boxer/Peugeot-RKC is in (by 11.02)

PPK ENVIRONMENTAL LTD. (01206 - Colchester area - phone) K465 CEH Ford Transit is in (by 11.02) - previously reported with Robertson Van Hire, Colchester

WE WELCOME YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS

See page 2 for how to contact us by post or email

MISCELLANEOUS

MBH541 Our report of this vehicle having moved from Howe Green was wrong. It has been moved further back from the road, but is still at the same site.

F143AAV Ford Transit seen 11.02 at house in White Horse Ave. (at junction of Tidings Hill), Halstead - thought to be a mobile shop.

F743PYH Ford Transit lettered for 'Variety Club Golfing Society' with no. 289 seen 18.11.02 in public car park outside Chelmsford auction. It was unlicensed and probably in the hands of a dealer.

H371OTX Ford Transit/Dormobile further to our report last month, this vehicle is now (11.02) in Lodge's yard. It is unlicensed and has no seats. Owner unknown, but it may be with (or have been with) Dunmow scouts (needs confirmation).

D879 YLL Further to EBN 463, this vehicle was new to London Borough of Islington, No 412.

STOP PRESS - As this issue went to press it was announced that Kingstons of Essex had had their operators licence revoked from 25/1/02. This follows an recent public inquiry into maintenance of vehicles and reliability of services. The company is also prohibited from registering local bus services for an indefinite period and will pay a penalty of £100 per authorized vehicle. Kingston's director Stuart Kingston is disqualified from holding an operators licence for five years.

Phoenix

5007 G29TGW has gone to Ensign (q) (11.02)

F294AWW has gone (11.02) - never used.

It should be noted that a vehicle maintenance company is based in the Phoenix yard. Thus vehicles may be seen in the yard which are not the property of Phoenix.

Hedingham

L284 L203 HYE has gone to Beeston, Hadleigh, Suffolk (by 11.02) via Taylor (dealer), Isleham

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