

ESSEX BUS NEWS

March 2002

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The Monthly Magazine of The Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

A one-year membership includes 12 consecutive issues of Essex Bus News Magazine and runs from either January or July. Current rates are £15.00 First class & £14.00 Second class postage. Membership applications and any enquiries about your membership should be addressed to Derek Stebbing.

Under the terms of the 1998 Data Protection Act, we need to inform you that Members Names & Addresses, Subscription renewal dates & relevant 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 Subscription Service

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and monthly updates plus copies of the Thurrock council timetable book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information on joining the service or see www.essexbus.org.uk

Photo Sales

There's a huge selection of photos for you to purchase. 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.

Essex Bus News is designed by Sean Menzies & printed by Kithead Ltd, De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0QE

Members Adverts & Appeals

As a free service we will publish members for sales, wants and appeals for information. Publication is subject to space and restricted to bus and transport related items. Please send your advert to the Managing Editor. Members responding to adverts should deal direct with the advertiser, as the group is not involved with any of them.

Your Reports & Observations

We aim to provide comprehensive coverage of bus services in Essex and members Reports, Photos and original articles are 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 Essex Bus Enthusiasts 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.

Contributions & Closing Dates

Thank you to the dozens of contributors for their valuable news and information for this month's issue. There would much less to read without them.

Please send your Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to the Sub-editors by Saturday 6th April and to the Managing editor by Tuesday 9th April

The magazine is due for posting on Monday 22nd April 2002.

Welcome Aboard!

What's Inside

Essex Bus News

This Month?

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NEW ! www.essexbus.org.uk - It's All About Buses In Essex

This Month

Welcome to the March issue of Essex Bus News.

As we head into spring take a look at our Bus Diary on **Page 5** for details of some of the fantastic Bus Events over the coming months. Make sure you book your seat on our Essex Independents Tour - Booking form enclosed. Also, take a look at **Page 4** for our Lodge's Evening trip. Have a good month!

3 Trips for 2002

Saturday 18th May
Essex Independents
(Booking Form enclosed)

Saturday 22nd June
South Coast Spectacular

Saturday 1st September
Hedingham Shed Bash

See our Website for details

Cover

501 E002 FLA Optare Solo M850—Thanks to the kind help of Chris McCormick & Martin Farmer from First, we're delighted to show you the first of a batch of new 8.5 metre Optare Solo's for TfL Route 193. Newly delivered to Basildon garage on the 7th March, the First London livery suits the lines of the vehicle well. 26 9.2 metre Solos are expected at Chelmsford in May. (Chris Stewart)

Photo

Buses in the News

The Latest News from the Bus World

Chelmsford Gets Set for The Overground

Chelmsford's Bus users will benefit from a huge investment by First in the towns bus routes this Summer.

Popular Town routes 41/51, 45 & 54/56 will be given a smart new look on the 13th May, using 26 new Easy Access Optare Solos.

Routes and vehicles will be colour-coded and about 38,000 homes will receive route guides

The Solos have Telematic equipment (traffic light priority and real time information) and will display bus stop details internally.

Chelmsford Borough Council will Undertake infrastructure works including raised kerbs and real time information displays, while all bus stops and timetable panels will be refurbished or replaced as necessary by First.

Where are we Going?

An Evening visit to the garage of Respected Essex operator Lodge's of High Easter. They have an interesting fleet of Coaches and are also a Scania Dealer. We'll be travelling in their vintage Bedford SB /Duple MJB 481 (Subject to availability)

Kingstons Loses Grays Bus War

The Bus war in Grays came to an end earlier this month when Kingstons pulled the plug on it's daytime routes.

Just weeks after a blaze of publicity for new low floor buses and a £1000 competition, the company has admitted that it can't afford to continue it's war with Arriva after losses of £70,000.

Evening Visit To Lodge's Tuesday 14th May

How Do I Book my place?

We'll be leaving Chelmsford Rail Station at 18.45 returning by 2100. Seats are £5 each.

Please make cheques payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group and send to -

Dave Arnold 21 Cedar Chase Heybridge Maldon CM9 4NR
Please enclose an S.A.E and a contact number.

(Limited places -please book by 19/4, Car Parking is available at Civic Centre, nearby. If using Public transport, please allow plenty of time for your journey)

Essex Bus Diary

Your Guide to Forthcoming Events

Sunday 31st March Barking Bus Rally –Behind Town Hall—Enthusiasts Bazaar and road run in the afternoon over the last RT Route 62.

Sunday 7th April Cobham Bus Museum Open Day and Rally

Tuesday 9th April Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group Meeting, Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford. Doors open 19.30, Meeting starts 2000 & ends by 2200 -This Month there's a slide show from Martin Wayall featuring the many buses encountered on his travels over the years. Our meeting room is adjacent to Rochford Station and ARRIVA Buses 7/8 stop outside. There's also plenty of room for parking.

Tuesday 14th May Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group Evening Trip to Lodges, High Easter –See Advert on the opposite page for details.

Saturday 18th May Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group Essex Independents Day Trip—Booking form enclosed with this issue or print one off from our website www.essexbus.org.uk Don't miss out!

Sunday 26th May Southend Bus Rally

Saturday 22nd June Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group South Coast Explorer Day Trip - A packed day out including a visit to Brighton ,Chicester, Emersworth & District, Town & Country and much more. Booking form and full details with next month's Essex Bus News.

Sunday 21st July North Weald Bus Rally

Sunday 1st September Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group Hedingham Shed Bash –A full day's outing to all the depots of this Fascinating independent. Plenty of VR's,Olympians and much more. A Booking form will be with Essex Bus News in June.

Coming Soon in

Essex Bus News

Grays 50 –A Celebration

First in Essex

Solo's on the way

The first of the Solos for the 193 (**501**: EO 02 FLA) was delivered to Basildon, in London red, on 7th Jan. The original registrations reserved for **501-511** have been surrendered, and they will now be EO 02 FLA/B/C/D/E/F/G/H/J/K, FKZ (probably in that order). Optare vehicle numbers (see EBN454) are 190803-813 for the London batch, with the Chelmsford series of 26 (note corrected number) expected to follow on as 190814-839. These will have 28 fixed seats and two further tip-up seats to give wheelchair and buggy space.

Acquired Vehicles

978 N978EHJ Dennis Dart/Plaxton B40F ex First (Capital) 2.02 - orig Thamesway
This completes the batch of vehicles.

4323 P191TGD Volvo Olympian 026889/Alexander 9529/48 ex First (Leicester) 3.02

Allocations

(period ending 24 February)

374 Disp-TS(462); **376** BN-Disp; **380** TS-Disp; **978** Acq-BN; **3071** Disp-Sold; **3110** Disp-Sold; **3228** Disp-Sold; **9023** Disp-Sold; **9031** Disp-Sold; **9032** Disp-Sold

Disposals

3071, 3110, 3228, 9023, 9031, 9032 all to Hardwick (Carlton) for scrap 2.02

Repaints/Refurbishments

(to 'Barbie 2' unless otherwise stated*)

2.02 1426 953 952 4018 (refurb) 950 711* 713* 4007 733* 942 -
Note re 711: All low-floor buses in the fleet now qualify for 'Barbie 1' livery

Dart Wars Update

Further to last months magazine Darts 735 and 966 have both been sent to Transbus at Ware for major repairs to be carried out. You might remember that these were involved in an accident at Basildon Garage.

Tigers return to East Anglia

Former Eastern National Leyland Tiger/Alexander 1118 (HHJ379Y) has returned to East Anglia, on loan from First (Mainline) to Rosemary Coaches at King's Lynn after 11 of their buses and coaches were damaged by vandals on 3rd Feb. It retains a yellow livery with 'schoolbus' titles and interestingly was joined by Olympians P185/6/91TGD from Leicester – the last of which is now 4323. Ex FEN 2618, 2624 were also noted on King's Lynn town services in green/yellow with EN and EC fleetnumbers.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

9.2.02	CR1501 and CR3072 on 65/65A, CR651 on 70 and CR910 on 67
15.2.02	BN934 on Brentwood local 77
23.2.02	2617 (disposal listed) working from BN on route 101
25.2.02	HH958 on service 752 short workings (with full blind display)
28.2.02	2621 (service 462 shuttle) on 77
7.3.02	346 (disposal listed) working from BN on route 101

Use of double-deckers on the 151 and 751 continues on occasions. On Saturday 2nd March, Basildon's 3109 and 4030 were amongst the many vehicles (which included Blue Triangle Routemaster coach RCL2260) on London Underground replacement work from Woodford to Leytonstone.

SERVICE CHANGES &PUBLICITY

Chelmsford 'Overground'

For the very latest news on this exciting new development ,please see 'Buses in the News' On page 4 this month.

30-Minute Shopper Bus 12

Commencing Monday 11th March, *First in Essex* introduced a new 30-minute circular service 12 operating from 0737 to 1849 Monday to Saturday between Thundersley, Pitsea, Tesco and Basildon. The new service, which will be operated with 2 branded Dart SLF's from Basildon's existing allocation, enhances the existing 2 and 22 between Tarpots and Basildon, effectively aiving six buses an hour.

Other News

- A new **map** (entitled 'busmap guide for South East Essex' and bearing the new 'First transforming travel' logos) was issued on 15th Jan, produced by FWT and covering the area from Laindon and Stanford le Hope to Southend, South Woodham Ferrers, Wickford and Billericay. As well as a very clear map, the reverse side has route and frequency guides (split into daytime, evening and Sunday/Bank Holidays), full bus stop information for Southend and Basildon Bus Stations together with reasonably comprehensive ticketing information. Unfortunately it is already out of date since the introduction of the service 12 mentioned above.
- LT bus stop signs complete with 'Mobility Buses Stop Here' markings were in place along St Mary's Lane, Upminster as early as 19th Feb ready for the introduction of the extended 951 to Warley.

First VR Watch – March 2002

11 in Service (No change on last month)

**3069 HH, 3072 CR, 3078 CR, 3083 CF, 3092 CR, 3101CR,
3103 Reserve, 3109 BN, 3112 BN, 3113 HH, 3219 BE**

First in Essex fleet allocation 24 February 2002

Braintree (BE)	944/5, 2630/47/8/56/63/4/80, 2803/4/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 3219, 5000
Basildon (BN)	639-45, 711-6/34-8, 805/9/11, 852-5, 913-5/8-22/4-34/59-72/3/7, 978/80-2/4-6, 1430/2/3, 2657/60/1, 3109/12, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/8/13-6/25-9, 1516-20, 2627/31-46, 2667/8/70-4/6-8, 2806/9/10/23/4, 2901-11, 3083, 4007/10/2/24/5, 5001-4/6/11
Clacton (CN)	907/12/6, 1510-3, 2649-54/65/83, 2801/5/19/20, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	621-4/6, 650-4, 908-11/75/6, 1501-9, 2679, 2829/30, 2921-6, 3072/8/92, 3101, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20/2
Hadleigh (HH)	315-21/3-7, 701-10/7-21, 808, 935-42/6-58, 983/7, 1400/4-6/9-12, 1417-24/31, 3069, 3113, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	2655/66/9/81/2, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	368, 401-10, 806/7/10, 2658/9/62
Heritage	2383, 9001
Paint/refurb spares	314, 2619, 3103
Temporary shuttles	374, 2605/21
Disposal	313/46/55/7/64/72/5/6/9/80, 2603/8, 3076/7/9/84/93/4, 3334, 4028, 9021, 9411
Driver Training	35, 625, 1924 (BN); 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles	BN: 9028-30, 9308; CF: 9034; CN: 2111; CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL
TRAFFIC									
REQ'T									
Minibus	6	5	27 (1)	8	1	4	11	4	67
Midibus	11	48	24	6	17	0	35	0	141
SD	0	3	11 (5)	4	11	0	15	0	49
DD	1	3	4 (1)	4	14	6	5	0	38
Phoenix DD	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	1	8
Midibus	2	5	3	1	2	0	3	0	16
SD	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	8
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Phoenix DD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
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
TOTAL									
ALLOC									
Minibus	7	6	29 (1)	8	1	5	13	5	75
Midibus	13	53	27	7	19	0	38	0	157
SD	0	3	14 (5)	4	14	0	17	0	57
DD	1	4	5 (1)	5	15	7	6	0	44
Phoenix DD	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	6
Phoenix	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
TOTALS	22	71	81 (7)	24	49	12	74	17	357

Airport

Airport Buses 100/1/12, 432/4/5, 917/43/74/9, 602/8/10, 2625/6/8/75, 2802,
2813-5/22/5/8

Airport Coaches 102/3/11, 397/8

Delicensed 104/7

Disposal 117, 2602/7/9/17 (plus 2605 temp shuttle at BN for 462)

	AIRPORT BUSES	AIRPORT COACHES
TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT		
Minibus	8	4
Midibus	11	0
Coach	2	0
SPARES		
Minibus	2	1
Midibus	0	0
Coach	1	0
TOTAL ALLOCATION		
Minibus	10	5
Midibus	11	0
Coach	3	0
TOTAL	24	5

Colour Bus (C)/Mega Rear (M) Contracts

Vehicle	Depot	Type	Contract	Expiry Date
1511	CN	C	Dream Radio	15.07.02
2658	RD	C	'The Brewery'	31.08.02
2826	BE	C	Meadows Shopping Centre	15.03.02
2901	CF	M	Countryside	30.04.02
2902	CF	M	Countryside	30.04.02

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ARRIVA East Herts & Essex

Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires 3483 2/02

3483 W483 YGS Ds Dt SLF SFD612BR1YGW14843
Pn 008.8GKB2997 B29F new 8/00

From Arriva Kent Thameside YFB 86 2/02

YFB86 G 86 SKR MB 609D 668063-2P-025506
RB 18037 B20F new 3/90

YFB86 is used for driver shuttles on TfL contracts 256/346

Allocations

2/02: **2231**. HAa; **2341/62**. w; **2363**. HA; 3483. WE; **YFB86**. GYa

Vehicles out

2104 (L800 BUS): Arriva Kent & Sussex 1851 1/02

3361 (K411 FHJ): Arriva the Shires 3361 2/02

3423/4 (P423/4 HVX): Arriva Colchester 3423/4 2/02

5387 (B185 BLG): Arriva North West group 2/02 (as part of a fleet to work replacement bus services for Arriva Trains Northern)

Liveries

2/02: Arriva corporate - 3405/11 (P325/31 HVX)

To correct last month's magazine -

New vehicles 4511-3 (KE 51 PUY/PVA/PVD) are **B27D**

4507 is registered **KE 51 PUO**

2103 (L700 BUS): returned to Arriva the Shires at Watford 2/02; it did'nt go to Arriva Kent & Sussex but 2104 did (see above)

5373 (MUH 283X): remained with Arriva the Shires at Stevenage 2/02

310 Metro Concerns

The state of the Metrobuses at Ware is giving cause for concern. Some 10 are required for weekday operation of service 310 (Hertford-Enfield) but rarely are that number available and their duties are covered by low floor Dennis Darts and the 2 DAF SB220/Optare Deltas recently transferred from Harlow.

3483 (W483 YGS) is the dedicated vehicle for service 379 (Hertford-Knebworth-Stevenage)



Leyland Tiger/East Lancs EL2000 WPH 135Y New to London Country in 1982 as part of an intake of 42 coaches with ECW B51 bodies, the vehicle later past to Kentish bus and was rebodied by East Lancs in 1993. Now with Hedingham ,housed at their Tollesbury garage, Chris Stewart's photo of the 28th January shows it about to depart Colchester Bus Station.



As Mentioned in our Though the years feature on page 23, Southend Transport unveiled a new coach livery in 1990 and it is shown to good effect in Richard Delahoy's photo of **580 A250 SVW**, one of a batch of 6 Leyland Tigers with Duple Caribbean 1 bodies ,new in 1984.



The February service changes in Southend resulted in a number of routes being restructured. Lower Hockley Dome is now only served during peak hours by First's Service 20.

Arriva 5438 W438 XKK Dennis Trident/Alexander undertakes a journey to Lower Hockey prior to the revisions.



Leyland Titan WYV 8T Blue Triangles 565 is a good place to see unusual vehicles including Metrobuses, Lynxes and the occasional RT. On the 19th February, a Leyland Titan was the chosen vehicle and Chris Stewart at Bulphan on it's way to Romford.

Arriva

Full Service Soon

Arriva Southern Counties have not produced an Allocation book for March, therefore we are unable to give full details of fleet changes. We hope to be able to resume this service next month.

Southend

Last Green Line 721

The Last ARRIVA Journey on Saturday 16th February journey was operated by Scania 4353. The first Stephenson's London Link on Monday 18th was performed by ex Southend 4330 (still in Green Line livery!).

Service Changes Update

From 17th February Essex County Council agreed to support evening services on 7A (Southend –Rayleigh) & 8A on Sunday daytime via Ashingdon. On Sunday evening 5A (Southend –Leigh) is extended via Hadleigh & Thundersley to Rayleigh Stn to cover route 1 journeys.

Colchester

20/02 - Coach 4310 transferred to Southend for use of Southend United FC

23/02 - Coaches 4352 and 4353 should have moved from Southend to Gillingham for repaint, tentively expected at Colchester 01/03.

28/02 - 377 to Maidstone and trainer 373 to Colchester - probably temporary

06/03 - 3342 to Gillingham for repaint

4352 delivered to Colchester in Arriva livery

4353 delivered to Southend and was exchanged on 07/03 for a withdrawn minibus 2320 which will go into storage at Southend.

Volvos 610 and 614 are parked up at the back of the garage - too many faults to allow service work.

Service News

Arriva have lost the contracts for journeys on services 66C,78,91(To Heddingham),95(To Heddingham),175(To Heddingham) –Last day 31/3
About 2 Buses will be saved by this reduction.

Phoenix Student Travel

Into The Fleet

2 acquisitions by Phoenix, to be operated as part of the Ensign fleet:

5007 G29 TGW - Dennis Dart/Carlyle Works (ex London United, via Ensign)

5014 F283 AWW - Leyland Lynx (orig West Riding, via Ensign)

Neither is yet in service. 5007 may appear in a special version of the fleet livery - watch for details!

Current Services –March 2002

Service 501: Chelmsford – Southend High Sch for Girls (First)

Service 502: Shenfield - Southend High School for Boys (First)

Service 503: Althorne - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign)

Service 504: Feering - Westcliff/Southend High Schools (Ensign)

Service 505: Danbury - Colchester County High School (Ensign)

Service 506: South Woodham - Chelmsford Girls CH Sch (First)

Service 509: Great Dunmow – Colchester Royal Grammar (First)

Service 510: Ostend - KEGS/St John Payne School (Ensign)

Service 512: Chelmsford - Southend High School for Boys (First)

Service 513: Broomfield - Southend High Schools (First)

Service 514: Springfield - Westcliff High School (Ensign)

Service 521 :Holland on Sea - Colchester (First)

Service 522: Great Holland - Colchester (First)

Service 525: Great Baddow - Colchester (First)

Service 559: Tilbury – Westcliff Southend High Sch for Girls (Ensign)

Service 560: Langdon Hills – Southend High Sch for Girls (Ensign)

Service 561: Basildon – Chelmsford Patching Hall Lane Sch (First)

Service 562 :Billericay – Chelmsford Girls County High Sch (First)

Service 579: Maldon - KEGS (Ensign)

Service 602: North Fambridge - Anglo European School (Ensign)

Service 603: Chelmer Village - Anglo European School (First)

Service 604: Woodham Walter - Anglo European School (First)

Service 606: Braintree - Anglo European School (First)

Service 607: Ostend - Anglo European School (Ensign)

Service 608: Great Dunmow - Anglo European School (Ensign)

Service 609: Wickham Bishops - Anglo European School (First)

Service 610: Brentwood - Anglo European School (Ensign)

Service 619: Debden - Anglo European School (First)

Service 620: Epping - Anglo European School (First)

Essex Dealer Report

The latest vehicle movements at Purfleet dealer Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From White Rose Travel Metrobuses C308BUV,B149EDP
 Returned from Connex Bus M170,M619.
 From Arriva London (E on 20/2/02) M675,M1137.
 From Metroline (EW on 20/2/02) M1169.
 From Arriva The Shires Olympian A110FDL (New to Southern Vectis and
 once allocated to Southend Transport)
 From Arriva Northumbria Olympians A234GHN,A238GHN,A243GHN.
 From Burnley and Pendle Olympians HSB698Y,SCK225X.
 From Stagecoach Midland Red Olympian C116CHM (Accident damaged)

Vehicles Out

T805,T721,T771,T812,T814 Rennies,Dunfermline.
 Lynx F286AWW Midland Rider,Staffs.
 Olympian EEH904Y Confidence,Leicester.
 M170 Freeway,Derbyshire.
 T26 Converted to open top for City Sightseeing.To be numbered 326 and
 allocated (probably!!) to Chester.
 M812 JTS Engineering,Billericay (roof removed to paint Limehouse Link
 Tunnel)
 T306,T525,T517,T465,T526,T508,T533,T544,T545 Blackburn Transport.
 T580,T563,T583,T609,T640,T629 Thomas Coaches,South Wales.
 National 2 FSD687V London Borough of Hillingdon.
 M675 Kingstons of Essex.
 Atlantean SDC146H Calgary City Sightseeing,Canada.
 M302 Transferred to City Sightseeing and converted to open top.
 M1308,M201 Halifax Joint Committee.
 M328 PVS for scrap

For more about Ensignbus check www.ensignbus.com

Disposals and subsequent history of London based vehicles are covered in more detail by London Omnibus Traction Society (LOTS) See their web page www.lots.org.uk for details on joining the group. Disposals from London operators are usually referred to by their fleet number. See 'London Bus & Tram Fleetbook 2001' published by LOTS for registrations.

Don't Forget

**We'll be visiting Ensign as part of our Essex Independents Day Trip
 Saturday 18th May - See Booking form with this issue**

Two Men and a Bristol

In view of the diminishing number of VR's about, Chris Stewart & his brother challenged themselves to ride on a many VR's as possible on Monday 28th Jan.

The challenge began at Colchester North Station at 08.45 – lucky strike first time as 3078 was sitting there on the next 67 to West Mersea. We duly travelled there via a blustery causeway and back to Colchester Bus Station; 3072 obligingly appeared shortly afterwards on the 77 to Wivenhoe, where we got off knowing 3093 was on the other duty and came back on that half an hour later.

After a short reconnaissance break back at Colchester, 3101 turned up on the 64 to Shrub End, so it was off there, across town to Greenstead and then back to the Bus Station. We thought our luck was (still) in when 3092 arrived on the 66 to Little Heath but it went off service to the depot, so we headed for Shenfield via Braintree in time to see 3219 leave for its school run (509 Colchester – Great Dunmow). No more double-deck travel (Lance on 70, Lynx on 352 and Dart on 351) although it turned out CF3083 was on the 351 but had left Chelmsford before we got there.

So, 6 different VR's in less than 12 hours and a ride on 4 of them – Can you beat the VR Challenge? Let us know in writing or email us from our outstanding new website. www.essexbus.org.uk

Events Manager

Here's your chance to join the team and get free admission to all the bus events we attend. Just think No waiting to get in and get first choice of all the rare bargains!

As our Events Manager you'll take our sales stock to and from the FOUR events (Southend, North Weald, Canvey & LOTS) that we attend each year. There's also potential to attend other events and increase our sales stock. The skys the limit!

You'll need to have your own transport (car is of sufficient size) to take the stock to the events where other members will help you to run the stall. We'll also meet all expenses.

So what are you waiting for? Call Alan Osborne on 020 8590 2021 and start enjoying the benefits!

Essex Publicity

**PUBLICITY ISSUED BY SMALLER OPERATORS IN ESSEX
DURING 2001 -COMPILED BY IAN TAYLOR**

Once again I am pleased to be able to provide details of the timetable leaflets issued by the counties' smaller bus operators during the last year. As always, I have tried to be as comprehensive as possible but doubtless there have been others which I have not seen and I would be grateful for a note of these. Email me if you can help

BURTONS OF HAVERHILL

A slimline leaflet was produced for the X38 London service dated 1st January 2001. This replaced the "stop gap" version issued in November 2000.

BUZZ CO-OPERATIVE

An 18 page booklet entitled "Excursions 2001" was issued in June which included full timetables for routes B1/B11/B31, B4, B6 and B14. Revisions on 22nd December 2001 led to the issue of a single sided A4 timetable sheet for route B6 and a double sided A4 sheet for routes B1/B11/B31. Both were printed on yellow paper.

CHAMBERS

A double sided A4 timetable leaflet was issued dated 1st July 2001 which included all services.

Revisions from 1st January provided the first item of publicity for 2002.

CITY SIGHTSEEING

A twice folded multi-coloured leaflet was issued advertising the "Official Tour of Colchester" which began on 2nd June 2001. A rudimentary route map was included, together with a list of stops.

CLINTONA

A sky blue A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced by Essex County Council for routes 851-854 dated 1st April 2001.

www.essexbus.org.uk
All about Buses in Essex

COGGESHALL COMMUNITY BUS

A pink A4 leaflet folded to A5 was issued showing the revised timetable introduced on 21st May 2001.

DRAWDIVE

Single sided A4 timetable sheets were issued for the Brock Hill to Maldon service dated 3rd September 2001 and 17th September 2001 following two timetable changes in quick succession.

FOUR COUNTIES BUSES

A pink A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced by Essex County Council for route 313. It was cover-dated 14th September 2001 although the timetables inside were incorrectly dated 4th September 2000.

GATWICK FLYER

The summer timetable leaflet was dated 1st May 2001 to 31st October 2001 with purple print on white paper whilst the winter timetable was dated 1st November 2001 to 30th April 2002 and had blue print. A small green leaflet advised of a Christmas supplement of £6 per adult for travel on 24th, 26th, 31st December and 1st January 2002.

GRAVESEND - TILBURY FERRY

The Gravesend - Tilbury Ferry has a history stretching back 600 years; which, needless to say, I will not be recounting here! White Horse Fast Ferries had latterly run the service, but went into liquidation in May. The service itself did continue for a while until cessation following a crisis over unpaid wages for the crews. During October 2001 Captain John Potter of the "Lower Thames and Medway Boat Company" stepped in to reinstate the service for a trial period of three months, using two vessels: Martin Chuzzlewit (the mainstay) and Princess Pocahontas (standby). The last timetable issued by White Horse was a single sided black and white A4 leaflet folded to "slimline" dimensions dated 30th April 2001. The new operator continued to issue this leaflet but with it's own logo substituted and a couple of telephone numbers amended in manuscript.

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES

A new "Tollesbury & Surrounding Area Bus Guide" was issued on 4th June 2001 together with a double sided A4 leaflet also dated 4th June for routes 50,80,84.

A "Spring into Summer 2001" leaflet gave details of day excursions from the Tendring Peninsula together with timetables for routes 600/602/603. A slimline leaflet (i.e. a twice folded A4 sheet) was issued for route 89 following changes on 11th June 2001. Essex County Council produced some pink A4 leaflets folded to A5 for Sunday evening journeys on routes 7/8A dated 8th April 2001, 73/73A dated 29th October 2001 and for route 91 dated 14th April 2001. Likewise pink A5 leaflets were issued for route 95 dated 14th April 2001 and for the Sunday evening journeys on routes 10 and 17/18 from 1st April 2001. A standard Village Link leaflet appeared for route 16 dated 2nd April 2001.

IMPERIAL BUS COMPANY

A double sided green A5 leaflet was issued for routes 100,108 and H1 following revisions on 3rd September 2001. Green A5 leaflets were also provided by Essex County Council for routes 46 dated 2nd April 2001 and 5th November 2001, 200/201 dated 1st April 2001 and for the Sunday service on route 500 from the same date. A green A4 leaflet folded to A5 was issued for route 549 on 30th July 2001, whilst further changes led to the appearance of a yellow version dated 29th October 2001.

Another green A4 leaflet folded to A5 was prepared by Essex County Council for new route 10 dated 22nd December 2001 which included Trustline's new route 202. Imperial issued their own double sided green A5 leaflet titled "Improved timetable and a new Saturday service" following revisions to route H1 on 22nd December 2001.

JACKSONS MINICOACHES

A single sided A5 leaflet was issued following revisions to route 237 on 30th July 2001.

JWS TRAVEL

A white A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced by Thurrock Council for route 374 dated 5th September 2001. The pre-Christmas Sunday service, which operated between 25th November 2001 and 23rd December 2001, was publicised by a single sided green A5 leaflet. In addition an eight page, A5 size, stapled booklet appeared during December containing timetables for routes 374, 374 EXTRA and 300. This item used royal blue print on white paper throughout and although undated, route 300 is known to have commenced on 3rd December 2001.

KINGSTONS OF ESSEX

A4 leaflets folded to A5 were issued following the introduction of route 511 dated 2nd April 2001 and for Sunday and Bank Holiday route 20 (dated as commencing Good Friday 13th April 2001). A double sided A5 leaflet was issued on 8th May 2001 following the introduction of a drastically reduced timetable on route 511 whilst pink A4 leaflets folded to A5 appeared for routes 20/X20 and 375/511 dated 4th August. A revised leaflet was produced following changes to 20/X20 on 30th November 2001.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HAVERING

Timetable leaflets were issued for services TG1 and TG2 which commenced on 8th January 2001 and 29th January 2001 respectively. They were similar to those issued in 1999/2000 for the Havering Connect minibuses, i.e. A4 size, printed on coloured paper with a section of the local street map on the reverse with the routes highlighted. By January 2001 routes H3, H6 and H7 had been withdrawn; their last days of operation being 18th February 2000, 3rd March 2000 and 17th December 1999 respectively. A revised leaflet for route H2 was issued in January 2001 following minor timetable changes.

LONDON TRANSIT

Essex County Council provided pink A5 leaflets for routes 306 and 317 both dated 2nd January 2001. There was also a white A5 for route 316 dated 2nd April 2001 and a green A5 for route 17 dated from the following day. A sky blue A4 leaflet folded to A5 reflected the change of operator on route 301 from 2nd April 2001.

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS SERVICES

A double sided sky blue A4 sheet was issued for route 555 dated 10th March 2001, whilst a single sided blue A5 leaflet appeared for route M135 dated 11th August 2001.

MEMORIES FOR TOMORROW

Single sided A4 timetable sheets were issued for Locallink service B1 (15th October 2001), Locallink H2 (2nd January 2002) and Locallink L1/service 301A (15th November 2001).

NELSONS

A white A5 leaflet for route 37 dated 15th January 2001 and a yellow A5 leaflet for route 225 dated 2nd April 2001 were produced by Essex County Council.

Changes from 3rd December 2001 produced two A4 leaflets folded to A5 from Essex County Council for service 222 (Southend to Brentwood) and 221/222 (The Wick circular).

OLYMPIAN COACHES

A single sided A4 timetable sheet on blue paper was issued for new route OC2 which commenced on 3rd December 2001 in Harlow.

SM TRAVEL

A white A5 leaflet was produced by Essex County Council following changes to route T15 on 1st September 2001. It is unusual for the council to provide a leaflet for a commercial service.

STEPHENSONS

A Summer 2001 leaflet was produced for seafront route 67 similar to those provided in previous years. Unfortunately the Summer 2000 edition was accidentally omitted from last year's publicity review.

STORT VALLEY COACHES

Two single sided A4 timetable sheets were produced for London commuter services 600/10/20/40/41. Both sheets were undated but valid from 10th December 2001. In addition an A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced for new route 630 (Braintree to London) which commenced on 10th December 2001. A note on the leaflet advised that "the service will be monitored until late January 2002. Should the service be well used then it will become permanent."

TOWN & COUNTRY BUSES

A sky blue A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced by Essex County Council for route 140 dated 1st April 2001. It also included a timetable for route 101, operated by First Thamesway, dated 8th February 1999.

A yellow A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced by Thurrock Council for route 380 dated May 2001 which also included details of Clintona route 389.

VICEROY

A blue A4 leaflet folded to A5 was provided by Essex County Council for route 34 dated 1st March 2001 whilst a pink A4 leaflet folded to A5 was produced for routes 59/590 from the same date, which included journeys operated by Hedingham.

ESSEX BUS NEWS THROUGH THE YEARS

With Ian Ransom

A new series looking back at events as recorded in previous years by the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

March 1990 Astromega

The format of the magazine had changed and was now the same size as that used today, but covered only 12 pages.

The cover photo was of Van Hool Astromega JEV 245Y, which had just been sold by Southend Transport, to Fords of Althorne.

A sign of things to come at Eastern National, was the expected arrival of a Dennis Dart demonstrator on loan. It was planned for it to be used on Service 46 (Chelmsford - Ongar).

The fleet allocation at that time was Basildon (58), Bishops Stortford (14), Braintree (28), Brentwood (41), Chelmsford (60), Clacton (36), Colchester (30), Gt Dunmow (1), Hadleigh (35), Harwich (9), Maldon (21), Ponders End (32), South Woodham (2), Southend (46), Walthamstow (39), Walton (5), Unlicensed (15), Total (472)

Colchester Borough Transport had increased fares on 19.2.90, and the CBT Coachways arm had just published their 1990 excursions programme. Destinations offered included Newquay, Inverness and Norway. To operate these, the coach fleet had expanded with the arrival of Dennis Javelin/Duple coaches G105/6 AVX. The MCW Metroriders, were reported as undergoing attention at Eastern National Engineering in Chelmsford.

Southend Transport also had a demonstrator on loan, in the shape of CVE Omni G613 EDC. They had also increased some fares from 18.3.90. A new coach livery had been unveiled on two coaches (547 and 550), This was the blue dominated livery, replacing the mainly yellow livery used before that.

Hedingham had opened a new depot at Burnham on Crouch, which would be the base for the recently won South Woodham Ferrers town service.

A List to Myself – Things I Must Do

- 1) Offer my help as Sales Manager –See Page 17**
- 2) Book my Seats on the trip to Lodge's and The Essex Independents Tour**
- 3) Wash the car & Feed the Cat**

The Essex Independents Tour - Saturday 18th May

A Great Day Out for Just £7.50!

A fully inclusive day out from your chosen pick up point travelling on a **Town & Country Double Decker** (expected to be a Leyland Olympian or Titan).

♦ We'll be visiting well known dealer and operator **Ensign** in Purfleet including a rare trip to one of their secret storage locations—Not to be missed!

♦ Also **Nelsons (NIBS)** Garage near Wickford with it's Bristol VR's and Scania's

♦ Plus our first ever visit to **Fourways** at Highwood, near Chelmsford

♦ **Added Bonus !** A visit to **Phoenix Student Travel's** depot in Maldon. There'll also be a lunch stop in **Chelmsford Town centre** and a chance to take photos of the Optare Solo's on the new **First Overground services**.

BOOK YOUR SEAT TODAY!
Limited Places!

**USE THE BOOKING FORM ENCLOSED
THIS MONTH OR SEE OUR WEBSITE
www.essexbus.org.uk**

Need More Information?
Email -
david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Next Month
Your chance to book for the
South Coast Spectacular!