

ESSEX BUS NEWS

May 2004

Issue 481



A contrast with the cover of *EBN479*. The last VR, 3072, takes the correct path under the bridge on February 28, closely followed by a Solo. 3072 has now been transferred to the 'heritage' fleet. In ten years time, will photographers be enthusiastically recording the final days of the Solos?

Richard Delahoy

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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12 month subscriptions are £17 by First Class post, £16 by Second Class, renewable in January or July.

Data Protection Act: Members' names, addresses, subscription renewal dates and 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.

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TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates, plus a copy of the Thurrock Council book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit

www.essexbus.org.uk

PHOTO SALES

We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write with requirements to:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way,
Benfleet, SS7 4LH

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Problems with your subscription, missing, defective or damaged EBN, or need back numbers? Contact the Membership Officer:

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From the Editor ...

I managed to get Peter Snell's address wrong on the Publications Sales List. Sorry!
It is as shown correctly opposite:

6 Mandeville Way, Benfleet, SS7 4LH

Peter Mansbridge has kindly offered to take over as Editor for Arriva Colchester/
Southend. He will welcome your reports at:

19 Bull Lane, Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8JE
peter.mansbridge@virgin.net

David Harman

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

We are pleased to announce an extra summer meeting, on Tuesday **July 13th**, in our usual venue, the **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford, 1930 onwards**. There will not be a formal speaker but the theme will be "**model buses**" and members and friends are invited to bring along models from their collection to exhibit (and perhaps discuss informally modelling techniques, eg kit building and customising EFE/OOC models). The meeting will also be an opportunity for members to meet to chat, exchange gossip, etc.

This July meeting is an experiment to fill the long gap between our Spring and Autumn programmes and we hope members will support it.

The Autumn programme is now largely planned as well and will comprise:

- ▶ **Tuesday September 14** - to be advised
- ▶ **Tuesday October 12** - **Presidential Address**, *Stephen Smith*, General Manager, First Essex
- ▶ **Tuesday November 9** - "**Trent Barton since privatisation**", *Keith Shayshutt*, Head of Development, trentbarton
- ▶ **Tuesday December 14** - "**20 years ago**" slide show, *Richard Delahoy*.

Put these dates in your diary now!

GROUP TOUR

- ▶ **Saturday July 3** - **North Norfolk Coach Tour** - booking form in *EBN480* or download from the EBEG website ~ *www.essexbus.org.uk*

OTHER TOURS

- ▶ **Weekend July 17/18** - **Blackpool Tram Excursion** from south Essex - *see EBN479*.

RALLIES, OPEN & RUNNING DAYS etc.

- ▶ **Sunday June 6** - **30th Annual Southend Bus & Transport Show**, Southchurch Park East, Lifstan Way, Southend.
- ▶ **Sunday June 6** - **Hertford & Stevenage Running Day** - pre-1970 buses working routes from Hertford Bus Station; 1970s buses from Stevenage Bus Station, with regular service linking the two.
- ▶ **Sunday June 27** - **North Weald Bus Rally** - "**50 Years of the Routemaster**".

Essex Service Changes

5 January		
	48/49	(NIBS) Laindon - Wickford. Withdrawn.
27 January	5	(Arriva S&E/Locallink) Harlow Town Service. ECC peak hour contract journeys operated by Locallink are now operated by Arriva the Shires & Essex.
31 January		
	199/299	(Arriva Southend) Southend Night Buses. Withdrawn.
2 February		
	213	(Regal) Epping - Waltham Cross. Minor changes to timetable.
	821	(First) Southchurch - Canvey. Now terminates at Hadleigh.
	C4	(Trustline) Harlow - Cheshunt. Revised route and timetable.
6 February		
	199	(Arriva Southend) Southend Night Bus Reinstated and now operates to Leigh, Hadleigh, Rayleigh and Eastwood.
9 February		
	253	(First) Chingford - Waltham Abbey Schooldays service re-numbered 853.
1 March		
	1	(Locallink) Bishops Stortford - Saffron Walden. Service amend to start from Takeley.
	38	(Locallink) Witham Town Service. Timetable revised with some journeys extended to and from Braintree and numbered X38.
	39	(Locallink) Witham Town Service. Some evening journeys will be withdrawn and Saturday service will start earlier.
	305	(National Express) Southend - Liverpool. Minor changes to timetable.
	319	(Locallink) Great Dunmow - Bishops Stortford. Timetable will be revised with most commercial journeys withdrawn.
	410	(Locallink) Harlow - Stansted. Service will operate on Schooldays only. The school holiday, Saturday and Sunday services will be withdrawn. Timetable will be revised to operate every 15 minutes between Harlow and Old Harlow with some journeys extended to and from Bishops Stortford and Stansted.
	717/797	(Jetlink) Cambridge - Brighton
	727	(Jetlink) Norwich - Gatwick Airport
	757	(Jetlink) Stansted Airport - Oxford
	A6/A7	(Airbus) Stansted Airport - London
		Operating name changed to <i>National Express</i> and minor changes to timetable.
8 March		
	H1	(Imperial) Loughton - Harlow. Service will be re-routed in Epping via Epping High Road and not via Ivy Chimneys.
15 March		
	8	(Arriva S&E) Harlow - Old Harlow. Revised route and timetable. Frequency will be increased to four buses per hour.
23 March		
	394	(Clintona) Abbess Roding - Epping. Withdrawn.
	600	(Olympian) Bishops Stortford - Lakeside. Monday to Friday service withdrawn. Service will operate on Saturdays only.

	R2/R3	<i>(Olympian)</i> Harlow - Staple Tye. Revised route and timetable. Services extended to and from Old Harlow.
	R4	<i>(Olympian)</i> Harlow - Latton Bush. Withdrawn.
26 March		
	210	<i>(Clintona)</i> Debden - Abridge. Withdrawn.
27 March		
	217	<i>(Clintona)</i> Ongar - Epping. Withdrawn.
	251	<i>(Arriva S&E/Regal/Trustline)</i> Upshire - Hammond Street. Regal service increased to operate every 20 minutes during the day between Upshire and Waltham Cross on Mondays to Saturdays with certain journeys extended to and from Ongar.
	396	<i>(Clintona)</i> Hastingwood - Harlow. Withdrawn.
28 March		
	370/373	<i>(Arriva Southend)</i> Grays - Romford. Minor changes to timetable with a revised early morning and late evening service.
	449	<i>(Arriva S&E)</i> Ongar - Loughton. Withdrawn.
29 March		
	38/X38	<i>(Locallink)</i> Witham - Braintree. Service X38 journeys have been extended from Braintree to Great Dunmow, Stansted Airport and Bishops Stortford.
	319	<i>(Locallink)</i> Great Dunmow - Bishops Stortford. Service now operates one return journey on Schooldays only.
	344	<i>(Heddingham)</i> Black Notley - Chelmsford. Service will be re-routed and reduced to one return journey on Fridays only.
	549	<i>(Arriva S&E)</i> Loughton - South Woodford. Revised timetable. Terminal in Loughton is now at Loughton Station.
1 April		
	331	<i>(De Vere Travel)</i> Sible Hedingham - Sudbury. New Thursday and Saturday service via Great Yeldham, Belchamp St. Paul and Borley.
2 April		
	344	<i>(Heddingham)</i> Black Notley - Chelmsford. Re-routed and reduced to one return journey on Fridays only.
3 April		
	210	<i>(Locallink)</i> Old Harlow - Harlow. New Monday-Saturday service.
4 April		
	222	<i>(First)</i> Stansted Airport - University of Essex. Revised timetable with additional late evening journeys.
	727	<i>(National Express)</i> Norwich - Gatwick Airport. Change of stop in Norwich on night journeys.
	X40	<i>(First EC)</i> Stansted Airport - Bury St. Withdrawn.
5 April		
	1/1A/1E	<i>(Arriva Colchester/First)</i> Greenstead - Ambrose Avenue. Route in Greenstead on Mondays to Saturdays will be revised with minor changes to the timetable.
	2	<i>(Arriva Colchester)</i> Highwoods - Colchester. Revised timetable.
	2A	<i>(Arriva Colchester)</i> Highwoods - North Station. Early morning and Monday to Friday late afternoon journeys will be withdrawn. Service will also be reduced to hourly.
	3	<i>(Arriva Colchester)</i> Stanway - Hythe. Saturday service will be withdrawn and Monday to Friday service will be revised to operate between Colchester Town Centre, Greenstead and the University of Essex.
	4	<i>(Arriva Colchester)</i> Stanway - Colchester. New Monday to Friday

- service to partly replace revised Service 3.
- 5 (Arriva Colchester) Highwoods - Tollgate. Minor changes to the timetable.
- 8/8A/8B (Arriva Colchester) Monkwick - Horkesley Heath / Highwoods / Boxted. Monday to Friday afternoon and early evening timetable will be revised. 0736 from Monkwick on Saturdays will be extended to Boxted. Late evening journeys will be renumbered Service 8E.
- 14/15/15A (Chariots of Essex) Wickford - Chelmsford. Change of operator to Regal Busways. Minor change to early morning timetable.
- 17 (Lodge) Great Dunmow - Chelmsford. Monday and Wednesday service withdrawn.
- 18 (Excel) Haverhill - Newport. Revised route and timetable.
- 210 (Locallink) Old Harlow - Harlow. Withdrawn.
- 6 April
- 101 (CG Myall) Whittlesford - Saffron Walden. Friday service withdrawn. Service will operate on Tuesdays only.
- 8 April
- 1 (Locallink) Takeley - Saffron Walden.
- 19 (Locallink) Farnham Green - Bishops Stortford
- 47/146/147 (Locallink) Ongar / Toot Hill - Harlow / Hatfield Heath. Operator now Centra.
- 347 (Locallink) Hatfield Broad Oak - Harlow. Operator now Centra.
- 502 (Locallink) Waltham Cross - Romford. Operator now Centra and revised to operate between Loughton and Romford only.
- 503 (Locallink) Harlow - Waltham Cross. Withdrawn.
- Easter:
- 9 April - Good Friday - Sunday service - except First 351/750/1 - Saturday service.
- 11 April - Easter Sunday - Normal Sunday service
- 12 April - Easter Monday - Sunday service
- 11 April
- 102 (CG Myall) Saffron Walden - Cambridge. Service re-numbered 132 with minor changes to the timetable.
- 200/201/203 (Locallink) Harlow / Ongar - Buckhurst Hill / Debden. Operator now Centra.
- 19 April
- 16 & 16A (Arriva Colchester) Old Heath / Barnhall - St. Helena School. The morning journeys will be advanced by 7 & 5 minutes respectively.
- 88/A/B/C (First/Heddingham) Great Yeldham - Colchester. Additional Monday to Saturday journey at 0923 from Earls Colne to Halstead.
- 167 (TfL-Docklands Buses) Debden - Ilford. Schooldays journeys withdrawn from Service 167 and covered by Service 667.
- 667 (TfL -Arriva London) Ilford - Buckhurst Hill. Revised timetable. Terminal will be West Hatch School.
- X21 (Stephensons of Essex) Southend Airport - Lakeside. New Monday to Friday service between Southend Airport, Rayleigh, Basildon and Lakeside.
- 410 (Locallink) Harlow - Stansted. Operator now Centra.
- 446 (Locallink) Manuden - Saffron Walden. Operator now Four Counties.
- 447 (Four Counties) Anstey - Saffron. Withdrawn.

24 April		
26 April	10	(<i>Imperial</i>) Passingford Bridge - Loughton. Withdrawn.
	10	(<i>Trustline</i>) Loughton - Abridge Circular. New service to partly replace withdrawn <i>Imperial</i> 10.
	391/2/3	(<i>Trustline</i>) Harlow - Rye Park. Service 391 journeys withdrawn.
3 May	-	May Day - Sunday service
17 May	36	(<i>First</i>) South Woodham - Chelmsford. Minor changes to Monday to Friday timetable.
	38/X38/39	(<i>Locallink</i>) Witham Town Services/ Witham - Bishops Stortford Withdrawn.
	40/50	(<i>First</i>) Chelmsford - Great Baddow. Revised timetable with Service 50 extended from Maltings Estate to BAE Systems.
	352	(<i>First</i>) Halstead - Chelmsford. Minor changes to Monday to Friday timetable.
19 May	38/39	(<i>Stephensons of Essex</i>) Witham Town Services. New services to partly replace withdrawn <i>Locallink</i> services.
	319	(<i>Locallink</i>) Great Dunmow - Bishops Stortford. Operator now <i>Centra</i> .
24 May	A6/A7	(<i>National Express</i>) Stansted Airport - London. Timetable will be revised with an increased frequency on Service A6 and night journeys, numbered A7, stopping additionally at Stratford.
30 May	605	(<i>First</i>) Colchester - Walton. Summer Sunday service will be re-introduced.
	606	(<i>First</i>) Walton - Harwich. Summer Sunday service will be re-introduced.
1 June	A	(<i>Arriva Southend</i>) St. Lawrence - Latchingdon. Timetable will be revised with late evening and Saturday early morning journeys withdrawn.
	B	(<i>Arriva Southend</i>) St. Lawrence - Burnham-on-Crouch Timetable will be revised.
	C	(<i>Arriva Southend</i>) Latchingdon - South Woodham Timetable will be revised with early morning and late evening journeys withdrawn. Section of route via North Fambridge will be withdrawn.
	D	(<i>Arriva Southend</i>) Latchingdon - Maldon Section of route via Cock Clarks will be withdrawn.
	E	(<i>Arriva Southend</i>) Maylandsea - North Fambridge Monday to Friday timetable will be revised and Saturday service will be withdrawn.
4 June	3B	(<i>Stephensons of Essex</i>) Shoeburyness - Rayleigh/ Benfleet Service will be withdrawn.
6 June	67	(<i>Stephensons of Essex</i>) The Southend Tour. Re-introduced for the summer.
	222	(<i>First</i>) Stansted Coach Link. Service will be renumbered X22 and re-routed via the new A120, not via Blake End.

*A last look
at the last VR's:*

3072 at Silver End on
21 February. (08.50 ex
Chelmsford)



3219 on the
penultimate round
trip 13.25 from
Chelmsford on its last
day - 13 February,
passes the "Green
Dragon", Shenfield.

Poster inside 3219
on its last day.
Note ECW makers
transfer still more-
or-less intact!

All: Chris Stewart



► **Magazines for disposal:**

Courtesy of a local operator, the Group has 136 copies of *Bus & Coach Buyer*, 2000 to early 2003 for disposal. They are available to members for a modest donation to Group funds (say 10p per magazine).

Contact **Richard Delahoy** if you are interested - richard@signal-training.com or phone 01702 588590 (before 2100). Buyer collects or can be delivered in south Essex.

FIRST ESSEX

'Sema' renumbering

Please note the following corrections to the 'Sema' renumbering list in EBN480:

42485-7 are SN03WMM/X/E not WLM/X/E

15249/52/4/60 are L649/52/4/50MEV not M-MEV

Apologies for these errors, and thanks to Colin Sigston for raising them.

62409 (YS03ZKG) is to become 65687, as the number 62409 is already carried by sister bus YS03ZKD with First Hampshire & Dorset. This one is expected in Essex, along with 62406-8 (YS03ZKA/B/E) - 62410 has already arrived (see below).

Vehicles into the fleet

30.4.04 **62410** YS03ZKF Scania L94UB/Wright from *First Hampshire & Dorset*

Olympian **34012** (P552EFL) is understood to have arrived in error without seats, and was returned to Eastleigh for them to be fitted. 34056 entered service on or about 27th April.

Chassis and body numbers for recent and anticipated arrivals are:

31376/7	L164/5UNS	ON20809/10	RL67/4692/15 and 16
40777/8/9	P856/8/9VUS	SFD212BR1TGW10552/4/5	B21605/7/8

Of these, 31376 and 40777 were reported in EBN480 and 31377 and 40778 have since arrived. 40779 was expected during May.

Disposals

34707 *First Hampshire & Dorset* actual date to be confirmed

Allocation changes (period ending 25 April 2004):

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

(A)=acquired; (D)=disposal; (R)=reserve; Sp=spare

30043 CF-(D); 31376 FGC-HH; 34011 FGC-CR; 34012 FGC-CR; 34013 FGC-CR;
34014 FGC-CR; 34056 FGC-CR; 34282 CR-CN; 34284 CR-CN; 34285 CR-CN;
34286 CR-CN; 34288 CR-DT; 34514 CF-(D); 34660 CF-Sp; 34707 CF-FGC;
34808 DT-CF; 34815 CN-CF; 34816 CN-CF; 34817 CN-CF; 34818 CN-BE;
38790 BE-Heritage; 40777 FGC-HH; 46175 Sp-CN; 51465 CF-(D); 51466 (D)-CF;
51471 BE-CF; 51476 CF-BE; 62511 (R)-BN; 62512 BN-(D)

Repaints (to 'Barbie 2')

p/e 25th April: 34698 46803 51807 51803 51810 46135 46109 46818 46814 46108
46816 (accident repair) 34309

A number of all-over rear end advertisements have been applied recently, those seen being:

34301 34305 34814 'one' Account (entirely unrelated to the new local rail operator!)
47226 Anglia News

Colchester service 61 is being branded in orange, and vehicles 43715/6 will be treated accordingly.



'Sema' renumbering ~ 17 March 2004

above: Ex-Eastern Counties Lance **1516** (67036 to be) at Marygreen Manor, Brook Street, Brentwood on 16 March 2004.

below: In contrast, bought-new Lance **67009** (ex-1509) in 'Barbie 1½' livery passes springtime daffs at Boreham on 15 March 2004.





'Sema' renumbering ~ 17 March 2004

above: Dart 46122 (ex-922) at Great Clacton Church, 13 March 2004.

below: Olympian 34816 (ex-4016) with real-time info-equipped bus stop in Clacton on 15 March 2004.

All: Chris Stewart



VEHICLE WORKINGS

Chelmsford-Shenfield rail replacement log (ends 16th May)

11th April: CF30043 BN31198 CR34290 CR34302 CR34315 HH34711 CF34807
HH34811 CF34812 CN34817 CN34818 CN34819 CN46809 CF52581
NIBS 228 604 607 *Stephensons* TSO15X TSO29X B248NVN
Chambers W91HRT

12th April: CF30043 CR34302 CR34304 CR34305 DT34314 CF34660 CF34807
CF34812 CF34814 CN34817 CN34818 BE34819 38790 CF52581
CF52585 plus DT51782 (shuttle)
NIBS 228 604 605 607 *Stephensons* TSO15X TSO29X B248NVN
Chambers W91HRT

19th April: No reports

25th April: CR34011 seen, no other reports

2nd May: CR34290 CR34302 CF52585 CN67011 *Stephensons* TSO15X

3rd May: CR34018 CR34056 CN34282 CR34301 CR34309 CF34807 CF34812
CF52580 CF52583 *Stephensons* TSO15X

Unusual sightings:

During the Easter school holidays, HH31376/7 were both to be seen fairly regularly on route 20, and this situation continued after schools returned (HH effectively having one DD over requirements). The railway bridge at Battlesbridge was closed to traffic with effect from 16th April until further notice, Basildon depot providing two Mercedes 709s for a shuttle service from Bedloes Corner to Battlesbridge leaving the Diamond service to operate via the Battlesbridge by-pass. 51463 is thought to have been use on the first day, with 51473 noted on the 20th.

April

14th CF47223/9 both on 42
BN46134 on 100

15th CF47223 on 41

16th HH31376 on 20
CR34285 on 61

21st 62515 (displaying only 1415) on 83

22nd HH31377 on 20, HH40777 on 26

24th DT34809 on 104
CF47229 on 42

27th HH34698, HH41007 and HH42852 on 20
HH46109 on 27
CF47224 on 42

28th CF46824 on Diamond
CF67039 on 512 (replacing failed Olympian)
CR65679 on 78 (09.00 ex CR), still on at 15.00

29th (Sp)34660 on evening peak 48

30th HH31377, HH42854 on 20
(Sp)34660 on 71 Chelmsford-Colchester, 88 (probably 18.45 ex CR) and
late Brightlingsea

May

5th CF34815 on peak 48, CF47220 on 31X & CF47224 on Diamond (43731 failed)

6th CR20110 on 70 (12.05 ex CR)

7th BN51805 on 12

VR-watch

38790 (KOO790V) saw use on Chelmsford-Shenfield rail replacement on Easter Monday up until 23.00, and was seen working the 07.10 Chelmsford-Romford 351 the following morning (Tuesday 13th). Since then it has moved to Clacton, possibly for body work. 38644 has been physically renumbered at CN disposal yard, along with most other withdrawn vehicles.

First Devon & Cornwall are facing severe retrenchment from 29th May, including the closure of St Austell depot and around 150 redundancies. Amongst the casualties are expected to be all remaining closed-top VRs, including those former Essex vehicles which have held on in service.

Ancillary vehicles

'Sema' numbers confirmed for ancillary vehicles are as follows:

90233	9004	L631VAE	Ford Transit van
90234	9008	M186PNP	Vauxhall van
90235	9010	E157BTL	Ford Cargo lorry
90238	9033	W354HHL	Ford Transit van
90240	9037	N121DBD	Ford Escort inspectors' car
90247	9045	X846KAN	Ford Transit van
90248	9046	K801SKN	Ford Escort van
90250	9312	G442AGV	Ford Fiesta van

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to M Austin, J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, P Snell, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, A Williams, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, First Essex, PSV Circle, Terminus **Chris Stewart**



750 (soon to become 42867) on rail replacement work at Shenfield Station. Olympian 34707 stands behind. 14 March 2004. *Chris Stewart*

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD.

New vehicles 3/04

3830 KE 04 CZF	VDL SB120 XMGDE12BSOH011509	Wt H024 B35F
3831 KE 04 CZG	VDL SB120 XMGDE12BSOH011510	Wt H025 B35F
3832 KE 04 CZH	VDL SB120 XMGDE12BSOH011511	Wt H026 B35F

Note VDL (not VOL as in EBN 480. *My mistake - DRH*) are successors to DAF.
3830-2 are for Hertfordshire supported service 331 (Hertford-Buntingford-Royston) and therefore are not strictly "Essex" vehicles

Vehicles in

From *Arriva the Shires* (Hemel Hempstead) 5/04

3174 P674 OPP Ds Dt SLF 322BR1TGW10416 EL B20604 B41F new 10/96

Allocations

3/04 2109/11/2/226. w; 3830-2. new-WE
4/04 2370, 3352. WE-HA.
5/04 3174. HA; 3328. HAU

Vehicles out

2109 (M 39WUR), 2226 (M454 HPG): Pickford, Chippenham (WI) 5/04
2111/2 (M 41/2 WUR): Arriva the Shires 3/04 and then to Pickford,
Chippenham 5/04

General

DAF SB220 3328 (G621 YMG ex A 10 BUS, G259 EHD), a former Wests, Woodford Green vehicle is to be converted into a trainer.

3172 (P672 OPP) similar to 3174 above is also expected shortly

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHERN COUNTIES LTD.

Southend

Vehicle News

Volvo Olympian 5417(N707 TPK) caught fire at Southend Central Bus Station on the morning of the 16 April. The rearmost nearside window was blown out and there was visible fire damage to the vehicle.

Northern Counties Dart 3154, (L154 YVK), (see EBN479) only stayed at Southend for a few weeks. It has gone to Northfleet to ease a vehicle shortage there.

Unusual workings

April	20	5386 on 60
	21	5441 on 1
	22	5418 on 60
	23	3404 on 9
	29	3225 on 7
May	4	3379 on 9

Colchester

Service Changes in Colchester

There was a service revision from 4 April 2004 with most timetables being revised.

The changes are as follows:

- Service 1 / A revised timetable to improve reliability and rerouted in Greenstead. Evening service is unchanged.
- Service 2 Slightly revised timetable for reliability.
- Service 2A Reduced to hourly between 0930 and approx 1520 only.
- Service 3 Completely revised route. Now Town Centre - Bridgebrook - Longridge Park - University of Essex hourly. Withdrawn on Saturdays
- Service 4 New service: Town Centre - The Commons - Ambrose Avenue - Westlands - Dugard Avenue - Stanway (Lakelands). Monday to Friday only. 3 off-peak returns only.
- Service 5 Minor timing changes for reliability. Revised route in Highwoods to serve a new development and will run via Mill Road, Maximus Drive, Gavin Way to Highclere Road (instead of Brinkley Grove Road).
- Service 8 Minor timing changes for reliability and will use the new North Station bus lane instead of running by ASDA store.
- Service 16 a.m. bus revised to run 7 mins earlier from 19 April
- Service 16A a.m. bus revised to run 5 mins earlier from 19 April.
- Service 247 will also use the new North Station bus lane.

All other services are unchanged.

Other news

Arriva Colchester are currently suffering from a driver shortage, not helped by the fact that they are supplying drivers to Grays and Dartford.

Arriva have taken a two year extension on the lease of the Magdalen Street depot in Colchester.

Peter Mansbridge

Hedingham

L334 and L335 (EBN480) arrived 3.04.

L335 (PJ02RHE) has VIN: SFD3C2CR31GW16184, body no. 0154/8.

Dave Arnold/Colin Sigston

Essex Publicity News

Additional to the Essex Publicity Review for 2003 in EBN 480 I can add the following to the list of Hedingham publicity-

A5 booklet(Hedingham Omnibuses) in red and cream dated April 1st 2003 titled "North Essex and South Suffolk" but also including Clacton area services. It did not include services operated by Sible Hedingham depot.

Folded leaflet(Hedingham & District Omnibuses) in blue and black undated but issued at the end of September for the revision of service 8. This was titled "Market day services" and has timetables for services 1, 5, 8,10 and X16.

Essex CC issued a timetable for service 118 dated November 3rd 2003 after the minor revision of this service.

Nigel Turner



Twelve-bus **Regal Busways** has become well-established with a number of routes, mostly in Essex. Ex-London United Busways Dart **532** (J132 DUV) was on a short working of the Chelmsford - Pleshey service in March 2004.

Chris Stewart

The Essex tender for Braintree locals 34/34A was briefly held. Ex-Cambus Volvo B6/Marshall **464** (L664 MFL) stands in Braintree Bus Park in July 2003. The Regal staff car (a Skoda (!) in the fleet colours of regal maroon) can just be seen behind.

David Harman



24x7, Elsenham This operator uses the operating centre adjacent to Elsenham Station, replacing the now defunct Halls Coaches. It is part of the group that now comprises Olympian, SM Travel and Stort Valley. We will try and keep vehicles under the correct fleet, but obviously there may be many changes on a day to day basis. The opening fleet here is Leyland Tiger/Wright RXI 5540 (B273 AMG), DAF/Plaxton C66 SUT, Dennis Javelin/Duple G963 WNR, Scania/Van Hool J111/555 SAS and Setra K1 TCC.

AIRPORT CARZ, Stansted Airport Two more Ford Transits are EJ03 WRX/WRG (numbered 461/63)

AMBER, Rayleigh Volvo/Van Hool DKZ 7319 passed to Lewis, Greenwich last year.

APT, Rayleigh Acquired is Volvo B10M/Plaxton E743 JAY. Vehicles sold are 896 BRK (F853 YJX) and former Eastern National C697 ECV a Mercedes/Reeve Burgess. Scania/Irizars R472/6 YDT are now in the Irish Republic as 98-D-73347/43 with Malahide, Malahide and Bruen, Dublin respectively. DAF/Van Hool J48 UFL has gone to Dighton, Ipswich.

AVRO, Orsett Have acquired MCW Metrobus C431 BUV.

BASILDON TRAVEL, Basildon Reported as being acquired is L215 BPL a Toyota Caetano. This may be an error as L202 BPL is here. JXI 225 A Mercedes L609D/Ulsterbus has gone to a private owner.

BEESTONS, Hadleigh The regular vehicle on services 11-13 (Halstead-Sudbury) is Solo YN53 YGY.

BRENTWOOD COACHES, Brentwood Have sold Volvo B10M/Plaxton HIL 2391 (E571 UHS) and LUI 7651 (B127 PEL) to Palmer, Blackwater, Cornwall.

BROWN, Basildon Volvo B10M/Plaxton JBW 68Y (ex 6957 MT, RDW 27Y) is being stripped for spares (4.04).

BROWN, Harlow XJN 205X a Mercedes

L207D/Reeve Burgess has gone to a private owner.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Ford Transits EF52 AKZ/KPL/KSN/KPG/KPX and EA52 OGX have been sold. Ford Transits EN53VDG has fleet no. 74, ET53VJD has fleet no. 58, EO04VPY has fleet no. 42

CHILTERN TRAVEL, Stapleford Abbots Scania/Van Hool 160 EBK, acquired from Lodge, High Easter a few months ago is now registered 455 FLU.

CI COACHLINES, Highwood DAF/Plaxton IUI 3589 (new as A803 LEL) was sold some while ago.

COOK, Southend Freight Rover E377 FVX has been sold, as has DAF/Plaxton E132 YUD, the latter to Graham, Appleby.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood It is reported by the PSV Circle that KKK 887V is now registered 5189 RU, but there is some confusion, can anybody confirm this? Volvo B10M/Berkhof 1023 RU (ex R943 SJM) is named 'Yorkshire' (by 4.04)

Registration 5919 RU is on a Mercedes Benz/? (van conversion) (by 3.04).

EAST THAMESIDE, Canvey Island Former Thamesway Tiger/Duple IAZ 6393 (B336 BGL) passed to Gainsbury, Barking in 1999, but has not been reported until now.

ENSIGN, Purfleet Acquired for part of the Lakeside-Bluewater and Strood tunnel rail replacement fleet is Volvo Olympian/N Counties P913 RYO, which looks superb in the green and cream livery.

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Acquired from Burnley & Pendle is M453 VCW a Volvo B10M/Alexander. Dennis Dart/Plaxton K709 KGU has passed to Belle Vue, Gorton.

FARGO, Rayne A further ex Blackpool Atlantean/East Lancs to report here is AHG 331V.

A634/5 BCN are MCW Metrobuses



Vanishing VR's: Now withdrawn from the NIBS fleet is FDV 835V. *Chris Stewart*

in 4.04 ex Go Northern 3634 and Go Gateshead 3635 via Ensign (dealer).

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree MCW Metrobus B82 WUL is a recent addition.

FORD, Althorne Leyland Olympian C44 CHM was acquired from Phoenix Student Travel, but has not been recorded in this column.

GOODWIN, Braintree Volvo B58/Plaxton 987 UYA (EPC 904V) has gone to a private owner in the Maldon area.

GRAHAMS, Kelvedon K9 BMS Dennis Javelin/Plaxton is reported in (by 3.04)

HALLS, Elsenham Bedford YMT/Plaxton ALZ 4584 (HBT 174W) was sold, before this operator sold his fleet.

HARRIS COACHES, Purfleet DAF/Van Hool 1245 FH (N604 EEV) has gone to Jones, Flint.

HARWOODS TRAVEL, Gt. Wakering Mercedes 609D/Whitaker A16 GVC (E735 VWJ) has been acquired, it was re-registered A19 HWT after arrival.

KELLYS TRAVEL, Harlow A recent addition is Setra S215HD K40 TCC (K399 STL)

KINGS, Stanway This operator has had several accidents recently. To cover, a vehicle has been hired from Arriva (dealer). It is YJ04HHP DAF SB4000/Van Hool C53F - registration date 23.3.04 - arrived here 23rd or 24th.

This vehicle is badged as a VDLBUS - caution - this looks like VOLVO at first glance!

Cousins is the first operator of this vehicle, but it is only on loan.

LOCALLINK, Stansted Airport

Suddenly ceased operations after 7th April. Operations in the Stansted area passed to Centra, although no vehicles were involved. Witham town services passed to Stephensons, who have placed an order for two short Darts, for use here.

LODGE, High Easter The past came back on 23rd April, when due to the unavailability of the normal MAN/Optare, Bedford/Duple XNM 820S, worked the Village link service from Chelmsford. Mercedes Benz Touro C49Ft is a new vehicle shown at the Brighton Coach Rally without reg-

istration plates. It is expected to become BX04 NBY

METEOR PARKING, Stansted Airport

More Mercedes Citaro articulated vehicles for car park shuttles are BU53 AXP/R/T/V (numbered B9-B12). Smaller Ford Transit N604 DOR has been sold.

NCS, Newport Acquired from Age Concern is Ford Transit K803 RKL.

NELSONS, Shotgate Bristol VR/ECW FDV 835V has passed to Thorns of Rayleigh, leaving just two VR's here NDL 652R and LFJ 855W.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Further news of the ex Arriva Iveco's is that M736/8 AOO are in service, while M732 AOO, M153/6 RBH and M728 UTW are being used for spares. Leyland Tiger/Plaxton FIL 7665 (A527 LPP) passed to hall, Coventry some while ago.

PDQ TRAVEL, Colchester Mercedes 208D R505 YOJ has passed to Twenty Four Seven Cars, Colchester.

P&M COACHES, Shotgate
Bedford/Plaxton coaches sold are

TKW 347S and TEC 956Y.

RAYNHAM, Newport Mercedes 308D/Crest P249 LHL previously reported here, is an error and should be deleted.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham Mercedes 308D K144 PLP has been sold.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Iveco minibuses withdrawn recently are K707/8 FNO and M530 VWT. Vehicles sold include Ivecos H103 EKR, K710 FNO, L699 NWX and Volvo B6/Marshall L657/9 MFL.

STANS, Gt.Totham Bova Futura MUI 7843 (ex VWH 836, F148 NVE) has gone to Southern Star, Harlow (3.04), while Mercedes Vario X687 EJE has gone (3.04) to an unknown owner.

STEPHENSON, Rochford Not previously reported here, is that Volvo B58/Plaxton NIL 8650 (DNP 444W) was sold some while ago. The former TSO 29X (now SIL 1075) has been sold to McDade Travel, Uddingston (this is not the former Lothian vehicle, which has also carried this registration).



Not quite the usual fare on the Witham town service! **Stephenson's** ex Phoenix Olympian 6009 working on service 38 on Saturday 1 May 2004.

Keith Shayshutt

Leyland Titan OHV 778Y has also been sold. Volvo B10M/Plaxton K879 EAW was re-registered A18 SOE a few months ago. Volvo B10M/Plaxton A14 SOE (G345 EFX) has passed to Stagecoach South Coast for driver training.

Former Phoenix Olympians C64 CHM is now in Asda livery, while C94 CHM carries green/white fleet livery, but without names.

K108 SAG and J226 HGY Dennis Dart/Plaxton are in use on Witham town services. Two Transbus Dennis Dart MPD are on order, for use on these services.

STERLING EUROPEAN, Southend

Another former London MCW Metrobus reported is B182 WUL. Also reported here is Leyland Olympian/ECW C521 LJR.

STORT VALLEY, Gt.Dunmow N179 OUT an Iveco minicoach, previously recored with this operator, is in fact with the associated SM Travel, Harlow operations.

SUPREME COACHES, Southend An attack at the depot in which 127 coach windows were smashed has been reported in the press.

TALISMAN, Gt. Bromley The Setra previously recorded as S613 AKP is in fact registered S6 TRA here. M85 MYM and M87 MYM Volvo Olympian/Alexander are in (3.04) ex London Central AV5 and AV7

THORNS OF RAYLEIGH Leyland Leopard KRS 532V has been scrapped at the depot.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Grays Vehicles sold are Leyland Leopard/Duple GBO 246W and MCW Metrobuses GOG 214W and BYX 144/174V. Noted on service 364 and rail replacement work recently is Optare Excel R375 DJN, still in London red. There is a link here, in that Bernie Waters who owns this fleet, was working at Harris Bus, when these were new.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Recent additions are LAG Panoramic WIB 9498 (F679 BBD) ex Dawes, Heydon;

Bedford YMT/Plaxton TPJ 298S ex Walden Travel, Saffron Walden and MAN/Caetano JIL 3125 (H397 CJF) ex Hill, Hanwell. Volvo B10M/Plaxton JUI 5015 (G383 RHR) has passed to Stewart, Bishops Tatchbrook, while the stay of TPJ 298S was short, as it passed to Andrews, Foxton and Volvo/Jonckhree C404 LRP has passed to Dawes, Heydon.

WALDEN TRAVEL, Saffron Walden

New here is Volvo B7R/Jonckhree BL53 WTL.

WEBB, Highwood Acquired from C&I Coachlines, Highwood is Volvo/Ikarus IUI 2735 (G720 ONX).

WESTS, Woodford Green Acquired for occasional use is AEC Regal/Beadle HKL 836.

WICKS, Braintree DAF/Jonckhree PIB 2344 was re-registered to it's original WRK 17X and has been withdrawn, with PIB being placed on C746 DVG a Bedford YNV/Plaxton, during September last year.

YELLOWLINE, Braintree From SAGA, Folkestone comes T320 UEU a Mercedes 310D.

YOUNGS TRAVEL, Shotgate This new operator has Iveco minibus L743 PDM from Wirrall Social Services, while from P&M, Shotgate comes Volvo/Duple 342 FRH (A501 OKH).

MISCELLANEOUS

N564DOR Io / ? seen in yard at Woodham Ferrers (4.04) - owner unknown.

NON-PSV OPERATORS

Miscellaneous

H392HLX MB 308D / MB-? (possibly PG) lettered 'Connaught Stroke Club, Waltham Forest' seen 3.04 outside Chelmsford auction; probably in the hands of a dealer.

EU53TOA LDV Cy / LDV is lettered 'Small Wonders Day Nursery and Out-of-School Club' - seen 3.04 in Boreham
BYX 233V an MCW Metrobus is now at Circus Tavern, Purfleet.

Ian Ransom

Massey bodies in Essex

Bodywork by Massey always appeared to be robust and well-built and was a favourite with East Anglian municipal operators. Great Yarmouth, Lowestoft, Ipswich, Colchester and Southend were all operators of Massey bodies and Moores Bros of Kelvedon purchased new and rebodied examples on their Guy fleet.

These were all conventional high and lowbridge types on front engined chassis. However Colchester bought ten Leyland Atlantean PDR1/1 with H43/31F bodies.

A total of 36 Atlanteans and 1 Daimler Fleetline were built at Wigan. These were added to the fleets of Maidstone (12), Birkenhead (13), Colchester (10). A1 Service of Ardrossan had the sole Daimler Fleetline built. The Colchester fleet delivered in 1967/8 was:

45 - 47 (WEV 745 - 747F)

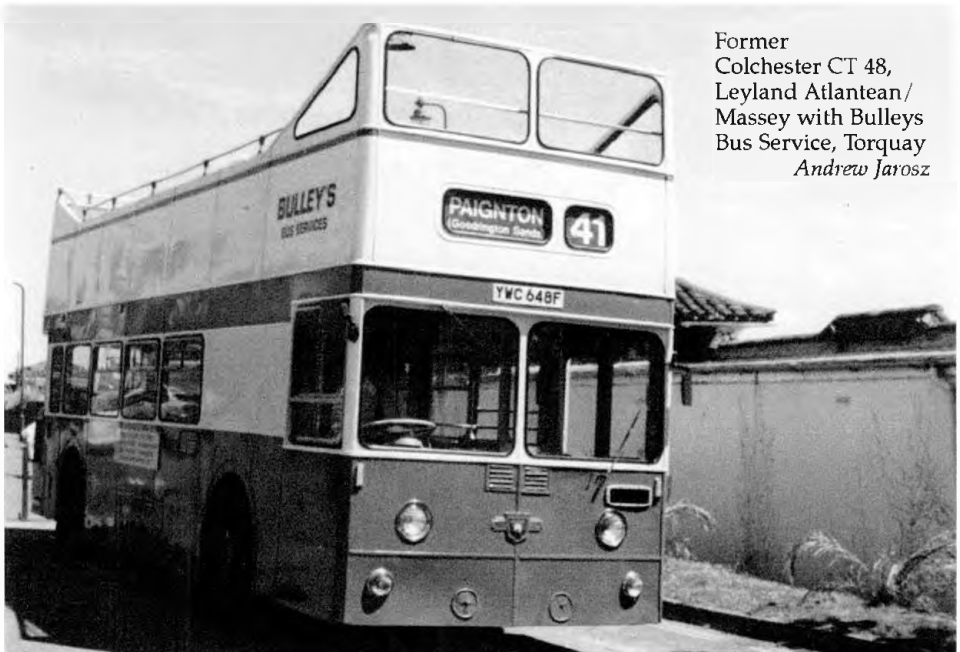
48 - 49 (YWC 648 - 649F)

50 - 54 (AVX 50 - 54G)

These were converted to OMO in 1969 and were in service until 1980 (49/50 1986). The exceptions were 48 (YWC 648F) which was converted to open top in 1979, and 46 (WEV 746F) which became a driver trainer, being renumbered 96 and finally scrapped in 1988. 48 (YWC 648F) was sold for preservation in December 1988 and later passed to Rallybeam of Ipswich for use on a sea front service at Felixstowe in 1990 as Blue Bus Service. Rallybeam moved to Devon and 48 was used on the Torquay to Paignton service during the summer season from 1994 to 1997, then trading as Bulleys Bus Service. It is currently used by Maghull Coaches of Liverpool for a City Sightseeing Tour.

Three of the Maidstone Massey Atlanteans operated in Essex. These were EKP 233C with Lodge High Easter, EKP 234C with Boons Boreham and lastly JKE 341E in the Osbornes of Tollesbury fleet.

Peter Snell



Former
Colchester CT 48,
Leyland Atlantean/
Massey with Bulleys
Bus Service, Torquay

Andrew Jarosz

As most readers are well aware, *First* are due to vacate the BE garage in the autumn and the building has become one of numerous bus garages threatened with demolition, as in the local town plan the site has been firmly stamped for flats as a brownfield site. There was talk in the boom years of the late 80s of Eastern National going "out of town" and flats being built on the garage site. But then there was the recession ...

The history of BE depot site makes it particularly interesting, and it plays a very important part in the history of Braintree itself. Of the semi-detached houses in front of the depot (just downhill from the former Lake and Elliot store building which accommodates two takeaways), the one on the right actually pre-dates the depot. This house, and land behind and north of it which previously contained a shoe factory, were acquired in 1922 by bus company manager Mr. Hicks, who had started his business in the village of Felsted but was expanding. The house became Mr. Hick's home. The original garage entrance is between Mr. Hick's house and the Lakes building, and the oldest part of the garage is still obvious at the rear being yellow brick with blocked windows. The site of the original petrol pump is just to the right of Mr. Hick's house, where two metal pipes are still visible. Around 1926 the depot was greatly expanded with the garage being extended north up the hill (hence that slope) with a large new facaded frontage and a barbershop with a travel office and waiting room behind it. In due time there were added the house of the Hicks foreman Fred Baxter to the left side of the manager's house, the workshop, and the house of the Hicks fitter Fred Shuttlewood to the far end of the workshop. I do not know of any other bus depots that have the houses of the bus company's "top

brass" incorporated into them. Together, the houses and garage form an archeological and architectural snapshot of a long gone but respectable local business.

The trusses in the roof behind the frontage are of a distinct pattern which I have not seen elsewhere, and from looking at an old 1930s photograph in John Marriage's *"Braintree and Bocking, a Pictorial History"*, it is obvious that since then the central portion has been altered, maybe to accommodate taller buses. A narrow single storey building at the southern end of the site is the former body shop. A cafe was added to the top end of the site and is the small appendage with boarded windows to the right of the frontage. The barbershop later became a travel office, which once had a flag flying proudly on top, but this closed in the 80s. The whole structure, now nearly 80 years old, has remained largely original except for the removal of a canopy on the east side of the workshop, which was originally the bus washing area. Former EN driver Tony Langley wrote an excellent book about Hicks, including the history of the garage.

In 1954, Eastern National took over Hicks and their Braintree garage. It is quite possible that the old Hicks name survives under the modern sign as it was in a recess, with metal letters placed on a dark tiled background. The garages at Chelmsford and Colchester, which are of a less distinctive style, are also under threat because of the pressure on town centre sites for redevelopment. The shed is now of course used for garaging only, but BE had a generally high standard of bodywork maintenance, which meant we had some of the smartest buses in the fleet.

This part of Braintree's town centre was drastically altered in the late 70s when a supermarket was built, but back



104 (TF 5756) next to the derv pump on the "slope" in Braintree garage. This was a 1931 Leyland LT2 with Leyland body, ex-Hicks 46. Both it, and 105 (TF 6615), another LT2 new in 1931, but with a 1945 Wilkes & Meade body, ex-Hicks 45, seem to be in EN green but with Hicks fleetnames. Despite the Lancashire registrations, they are thought to have been new to Hicks, or were perhaps former demonstrators. Both were withdrawn in 1956. The fuelling roster attached to the pump (right), shows the allocation as including 104/5/52/3/83/222/351/4/402, and 'deckers' 1104/7/8/9/1176/82-7/9/92-4/1372/3/6/9. The date must be sometime between 1954 and 1956. *Alan B Cross*



then the BE garage was safe from development. Over the last 20 years, Essex's bus garages, once a familiar town centre feature, have been relentlessly demolished one by one; Maldon, late 90's, Walton on Naze mid 90's, Silver End and Eastern National Central Works (Chelmsford) 1990s, Southend 1980s, and Halstead 1984, plus the bus park buildings in Clacton in 2003. The Braintree garage is the only one left in Essex to be built in a particular architectural style; all the demolished ones mentioned above except Central Works were built in this style.

Myself, I think that the whole site, or at least its facade, should be listed as a good example of 1920s civic architecture. The only listed bus garages I know of in the whole of Britain are Workington (which is not used for garaging) and Edinburgh. Old

windmills were being relentlessly demolished until the late 1960s; I think bus depot preservation is, demolition-wise, currently in the same position as windmill preservation was in the '30s. I have sent a letter, complete with photographs, to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport so that they can consider having the whole site or frontage listed. As things currently stand, the depot has been for sale for about three months. I think it would be possible to incorporate the frontage into any new development - after all, the adjacent cinema and post office were both kept after they became redundant, although the cinema was once threatened with demolition. But a developer wishing to retain the bus shed frontage is unlikely, and the future is probably not very rosy.

Sue Burdon

50 Years Ago



XTW152 was the only coach delivered to EN in 1954 (although there were some 1953 deliveries which didn't enter service until 1954). LS6G BD 389, renumbered **318** in the 1964 system, is seen outside Harlow outstation on an ENEG tour. (Can anyone date this?)

Chris Stewart / EBEG Collection E54