ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Essex Bus

Enthusiasts Group

Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

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Subscriptions are renewable in January or July.
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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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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 **Tuesday 5 November** and to the Managing editor by **Friday 8 November.**

The magazine is expected to be posted on **21 November 2002.**

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

Ed's comment

Wanted! Website Editor

The group's website has proved very popular this year and we'd like to recruit a website editor to expand and innovate the operator profiles section.
You don't have to be a web wizard, just have the desire to compile and update information and photos of the various bus and coach operators. There's no salary but plenty of benefits and great experience for future employment.
Think you can help? Take a look at our website and Email Sean Menzies at seamnz@aol.com Give me some idea of what you can offer and I'll get back to you! (Go on, it's worth it!)

Cover Photo

A17 SOE Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paramount

This colourful Stephenson's of Essex vehicle in all over livery for Adventure Island, Southend certainly turns a few heads and it's a regular performer on their Londonlink Express services. Acquired from Red & White, it was previously registered G345 FFX (Dave Arnold)

CORRECTION: A17SOE was the former H372PHK, ex Arriva. G345FFX became A14SOE

Buses in the news

The latest news from the bus world

Drink and ride

First night bus for Colchester

First has come to the rescue of Colchester's late night revelers with a new night bus service from October 8.
Services 998 and 999 operate on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 2330 to 0300 and 1900 to 0300 Saturdays. The route runs from University - Greenstead - High Woods - Mile End - Town Centre - Halstead Road - Straight Road - Mersea Road - Town Centre - University.
Two vehicles are needed, one clock wise, one anti clockwise and a £2 flat fare is charged, much less than the cost of a taxi home.

First started the new service in response to calls to cut down on problems with late night drinkers and a meeting of Colchester Council's quality of life panel which has been looking at ways of improving the town centre in the late hours.

Arriva cuts Thurrock services

The proposed bus cuts in Thurrock from November have featured heavily in the local press recently.
Since the proposals became public in late August there has been much comment on the area's bus services with Arriva Southern Counties commercial Director Kevin Hawkins telling the Thurrock Gazette that the changes were in response to low passenger numbers on some routes. He continued by saying that they needed to ensure they were running a sustainable network and one where there is potential for growth but unfortunately many Thurrock services were not allowing them to do this.
Thurrock council were said to be disappointed with Arriva's decision but consultation with Transport for London and Essex County Council has led to a reprieve for some services until January 2003 and a comprehensive review of the areas bus services is being undertaken.

Essex bus diary

Your guide to forthcoming events

Tuesday 12 November Group Meeting , Rochford
Open slide/photo evening -Bring along your bus pic's
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
Other Group meetings on Tuesday 10 Dec Richard Delahoy '20 years ago' Richard raids his slide collection to look at the way buses were in 1982/3.

Saturday 30 November Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Brentwood Centre, Doddinghurst Rd, Brentwood. 1000-1500
Over 200 stalls packed with bus and train models including the latest EFE and Corgi models at competitive prices. Also a chance to pick up vintage bargains. Plenty of car parking or use First service 73 from Brentwood which stops nearby. Also on **Thursday 5 December Toy & Train -The Mitre Suite ,Bishops Stortford Football Club, Woodside Road, Dunmow Rd, Bishops Stortford.**— From 1900 –2100 About 50 stalls

ESSEX BUS NEWS *Serving Essex since 1964*

Exclusive free gift!



A collectors souvenir paying tribute to Eastern National's fleet of Bristol VR's

- Featuring historic photos
- Look out for your free copy next month

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex service changes

Service changes for the current month are grouped into the relevant geographic area. In some cases this means that the service will be repeated in adjacent areas. Brief details of forthcoming service changes are shown with their estimated starting date.
All information is subject to change and you are advised to check with the relevant operator prior to travelling.

Saffron Walden, Dunmow, Braintree, Witham, Halstead

Service 72/A: Chelmsford - Braintree; Mondays to Saturdays. *(First)* From 14 October, the service will be re-routed in Braintree to operate via Charter Way (Freeport Bus/Rail interchange)
Service 133: Braintree - Stansted; Daily. *(Arriva)* There will be an additional journey from Stansted at 2123 on Sundays from 27 October.
Service 313: Thaxted - Saffron Walden; Schooldays. *(Viceroy of Essex)* These journeys have been re-routed to serve Cromwell Road.

Colchester

Service 1/A /B/C: Ambrose Avenue - Greenstead; Mon to Sat. *(Arriva)* From 28 October the route for these services will be amended in Greenstead. The timetable will be revised with all journeys operating as either 1 or 1A. The Essex County Council funded journeys will be renumbered 1E.
Service 2/A/E: Highwoods - Colchester; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* From 28 October, the timetable will be revised and the 15 minute frequency will be extended on Saturdays to 1630.
Service 3: Lexden - Colchester Town Centre; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* From 28 October, the route and timetable will be revised to serve the Church Road development, Hythe Tescos and Heath Road.
Service 5: Highwoods - Tollgate; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* From 28 October, the timetable will be revised to improve timekeeping.
Service 8/A/B: Monkwick - Horkesley Heath/Highwoods/Boxted; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* From 28 October the timetable for this service will be revised. Service 8B will no longer continue to Monkwick and journeys funded by Essex County Council will be renumbered 8E.
Service 83: Colne Engaine - Colchester; Mondays to Fridays. *(Arriva)* The timetable for this service will be revised from 28 October
Service 96/A: Ipswich - Mistley; Mondays to Saturdays. *(First Eastern Counties)* From 27 October there will be timing adjustments to the timetable and additional journeys on schooldays.

Service 194: Colchester - East Bergholt; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* This service will be withdrawn after 26 October.
Service 751: Ipswich - Colchester; Mondays to Saturdays. *(First Eastern Counties)* This service will be withdrawn from 27 October but the school time journeys will be covered by service 94B ; other timings will be covered by a revised 93 timetable which is now extended to Colchester approx. every 2 hours.
Services 998/9: Essex University - Colchester; Tue/Thur/Fri/Sat . *(First)* These new services will commence on 8 October operating half hourly between 2330 & 0300 on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and between 1900 & 2200 and 2330 & 0300 on Saturdays.

Harlow

Service 1: Harlow - Staple Tye Circular; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Arriva)* From 21 October the route will be withdrawn between Harlow Town Station and the Bus Station; the timetable will be revised and renumbered "Zip 1".

Chelmsford, Maldon, South Woodham

Service 501: Chelmsford - Southend; Schooldays *(First)*
This service is now being operated by Phoenix Student Travel.
Service 604: Woodham Walter - Ingatestone; Schooldays *(First)*
This service is now being operated by Phoenix Student Travel.

Brentwood

Service 5: Shenfield - Ingatestone; Schooldays. *(Bordacoach)*
This service is no longer operating.
Service 49: Shotgate - Brentwood; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Bordacoach)* This service is no longer operating.
Service 604: Woodham Walter - Ingatestone; Schooldays *(First)*
This service is now being operated by Phoenix Student Travel.

Basildon, Wickford, Billericay

Service 25A: Langdon Hills - Shotgate; Mondays to Fridays. *(First)*
From 7 October, the 0758 journey from Basildon to Shotgate will start from Langdon Hills at 0740.
Service 49: Shotgate - Brentwood; Mondays to Saturdays. *(Bordacoach)* This service is no longer operating.

Canvey Island, Hadleigh, Rayleigh, Rochford, Southend

Service 501: Chelmsford - Southend; Schooldays *(First)*
This service is now being operated by Phoenix Student Travel.

11 November—Extensive changes to Arriva services in Thurrock.

The original plan was for the following to be withdrawn and cancellation notices were published in N&P's for **324 Hornchurch –Lakeside-Bluewater, 348 Ockenon—Lakeside– Grays –Tilbury, 378 Purfleet-Lakeside-Grays-Stifford Clays.** The evening and Sunday service on **370/373 Romford –Lakeside-Grays** was also threatened.
At the time of going to press in mid October, many of the above services were put out to tender by TfL and Thurrock Council and it is understood that many of the routes will be supported until the end of the year. However, there will still be changes and full details will be given as soon as possible.

Changes in Southend

Arriva will start a new **route 13** from **Central bus station—Temple Sutton**. The main routing is via the 19 route then Sutton Rd, Browning Ave, Royston Roundabout, Temple Sutton Cluny Square and Coakfield Ave. It'll run on Mon –Sat about every 30 mins from 0815 to 1800.
They'll also be timing changes to the **19 Southend –Belfairs Circular,** with most buses running 5 minutes earlier. This will give a 15 minute service with the new 13 on common sections of route.
Minor retiming of **service 5 Southend –Leigh on Sea** with most buses departing Southend 5 minutes earlier at 05,35 and Leigh on Sea at 00,30. (This retiming is necessary as the 19 interworks with the 19 in Southend)

New Arriva & Locallink Harlow services

Locallink buses has registered new **service 1 Old Harlow to Central Harlow via second Ave** from 11 November

16 November –New **service 6** registered by Arriva , **Harlow bus station –Potter St via Second Avenue.** Mon –Sat with some Hail and ride sections. Also timing changes to Harlow town services 2 and 3

Late Nov/Dec—Timetable changes are expected on the Dengie Village link network to coincide with the delivery of 6 new Mercedes Sprinters.

New Section Editor

From next month our Service changes section will be edited by Adrian Lancer. I'm sure you'll give Adrian a warm welcome and make him a valued member of the team. Email him at ebegsceditor@aol.com

First in Essex

Allocation changes
(period ending 28 September 2002)

406 BN-HH; **908** CR-spare; **2641** CF-spare; **2642** spare-BE; **2643** CF-spare; **2645** HH-spare; **2646** HH-spare; **2648** BE-spare; **2654** CN-spare; **2679** BE-AC; **2802** AB-CN; **2803** CN-BE

'Spare' covers paint spares and reserve fleet

Disposals

9.02 **325 326 346 355 368 374 376 380**
2602 2603 2605 2607 2632 2636 2639
3069 3076 3077 3079 3083 3084 3094 9411
all sold to Houston Ramm
(VR's all removed for scrap by Hardwicks)

Repaints

9.02 853 (London red)

Olympians 4027 and 4030 have both gained 'Mega' rear adverts for Hobbycraft of Basildon (and Crayford).

Other Vehicle News

3219 has returned to use temporarily at CR, joining 3078 although both remain listed for disposal. 2628/30 worked at CR until the end of September 2643 until the end of August and 2647/8 continue in use.

1550/1 entered service in National Express livery, minus most logos, and have been seen on the Coachlink 222.

On 2nd October, only the following vehicles were at Telford Road, Clacton awaiting disposal:
807 808 1425 1430 1431 2608 2621 2628 2630 2664 3092 3101 3103 4028 and 9034
9021 had been seen being taken away by Hardwicks on 30th September, and 1431 arrived under tow from HH the following day.

Rail replacements

The Witham - Braintree Sunday service was operated by *First* on 8th, 15th and 22nd September. Vehicles noted were:

8.9.02 2663 2664 4012 4018
22.9.02 2647 2663 2668 3072 3112 4017 4018

Shenfield to Rayleigh/Southminster Sunday service is also being worked by *First* until 20th October. Sightings include:

29.9.02 3113 4012 4016 4030 4303 5009 6006 6009
Ensign Metrobus B147EDP *Stephensons* TSO12X
6.10.02 1415 4009 4014 4027 4311 4314 5010 6004
Town & Country Olympian 202

Unusual workings

10.9.02 BN4030 on 2
11.9.02 BN1411 on 269
12.9.02 BN3113 on 2
14.9.02 BN4027 on 25, BN855 on 100
17.9.02 HH632 on 25
25.9.02 CF5002 on 352 (08.45 Chelmsford-Halstead)
DT4008 on morning East Mersea 67E
AB2650 on 222 (replaced failed Volvo 608)
26.9.02 CF4012 in Chelmsford depot having worked 31
30.9.02 AB2650 on 06.50 CR-MN 75 & rtn, then 09.00 CR-CN 76 (replaced failed 4018)
2.10.02 HH718 on 20, HH702/987 on Canvey Clipper
9.10.02 BN1411 on 20, BN855 on 100

VR watch

Disposal-listed 3078 continues in use at CR, being seen on the 66A on 20th September while 'float' 3109 (still in Thamesway livery) was noted on the afternoon 67E.

3219 returned to use at CR (strangely with a HH blind) on 25th September, seeing use on schools work, the 64, 77, 78 and 193 that day. The following day 3109 returned to DT, 3078 was out of action being serviced but 3219 worked the 77 and 193. On 27th, 3078 was back in use on the 78 with 3219 on the 64, which it also worked the next day (and the 64A the day after).

On 1st October, 3219 worked at least the 06.50 CR-CN 76, 07.45 CR-CN, 09.07 CN-MN 76/75 and 10.58 return, followed by the 13.07 CN-CR after which it ended up at CN overnight. CR1511 had failed on the 75 the previous day. By 4th October 3219 was back in CR, seen that day on the 77.

3113 has been in regular use from BN as can be seen from 'Unusual Workings'. It has also been used on the Shenfield-Southend 502 (at least 25th and 27th Sept). 3072 and 3112 are in regular use from BE, one on the 70X and the other on the 509.

First Data File

Your at a glance guide to First in Essex

First in Essex fleet allocation 28 September 2002

Airport Buses	112, 432/4/5, 602/8/10, 917/43, 1550/1, 2640/9/50/83, 2813-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	101/2/11, 397/8, 2679
Braintree (BE)	944, 2642/56/63/4/75/80, 2803/4/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2910/1, 3112, 3219, 5000
Basildon (BN)	404/5, 655-67, 711-4/34-8, 852-5, 913-5/8-22/4-34/45/65-73/82-6, 1400/4/10/1/20/32, 3113, 4026/7/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/8/13-6/26-8, 1516-20, 2644/67/8/70-4/6-8, 2901-9, 4007/10/2/24/5/33/4, 5001-4/6
Clacton (CN)	907/12/6, 1510-3, 2665, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	650-4, 715/6, 909-11/74-81, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-5
Hadleigh (HH)	406-10, 630-4, 701-10/7-21, 809/11, 935-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/12/7-9/21-4, 2652/3/7-62, 4003-5
Harwich (DT)	2655/66/9/81/2, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401-3, 501-11, 805/6/10
Heritage	2383, 9001
Spare	314, 908, 1429, 2641/2/5/6/8/54, 3109
Disposal	807/8, 1425/30/1, 2608/21/8/30/47/51, 3078/92, 3101/3, 3219, 4028, 9021
Reserve	100/3
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles	BN: 9028-30, 9308; CF: 9008, 9034; CN: 2111; CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10

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*
TRAFFIC REQ'T									
Minibus	6	2	12 (2)	1	0	4	14	5	46
Midibus	12	38	41	12	20	0	35	0	158
SD	0	18	9 (6)	4	12	0	14	0	63
DD	2	3	7	4	14	6	2	0	38
Phoenix DD	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	4
Phoenix SD/Midi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Total traffic reqt	21	66	72 (8)	21	46	10	65	15	324
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	4
Midibus	1	4	5	1	1	0	3	0	15
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 SD/Midi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobility (Midi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL ALLOC									
Minibus	7	2	12 (2)	1	0	5	16	6	**51**
Midibus	13	42	46	13	21	0	37	0	**172**
SD	0	19	11 (6)	4	14	0	16	0	**70**
DD	2	4	8	5	15	7	3	0	**4**
Phoenix DD	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	**44**
Phoenix SD/Midi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	**11**
TOTALS	**23**	**72**	**80 (8)**	**23**	**50**	**12**	**72**	**17**	***FLEET TOTAL 357***

First Airport

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



First in Essex 398 K398 GHJ Mercedes 709/Plaxton Beaver –One of a batch of three new to Thamesway in 1993 for an increased commitment to LT contracts, this bus was refurbished a few years ago and now carries out airside duties at Stansted Airport. (Chris Stewart).

Essex tour report

Saturday 18 May was a day to remember as over 50 bus fans joined us for our Essex tour 2002. Richard Huggins is your guide for a packed day.

Our main transport for the day was provided by Town & Country Buses of Purfleet – Leyland Titan OHV757Y doing the honours and after pick-ups between Shenfield and Redbridge, we made our way to the Purfleet premises of Ensign, aided by the new A13 road.
This location provides the principal workshops of the company, with open-top conversion work currently being undertaken and a number of Metrobuses, now used primarily for rail replacement work, were also present. Interest was also generated by the presence of 2 Leyland Olympians of Phoenix, a three-axle Metrobus conversion being prepared for Big Bus Company, and the remains of a Berlin double-decker. The company's preserved RT4421 (NXP776) was present to provide our transport to another of Ensign's bases, at Frog Island, Dagenham, and, upon departure, we were able to see the depot of Town & Country (to be visited by the Group on the 22nd June tour).

For those who have not been to the Ferry Lane area recently but can recall what Ensign's former yard looked like in the 1980's, with London DMS's as far as the eye could see, then this might give some idea of the sight that awaited us – save that the DMS's are now Metrobuses and vehicles are imported from Hong Kong rather than exported. In addition to Ensign, Ferry Lane also provides a base for First (Capital), Blue Triangle and Imperial – and if you own a Japanese car this would appear to be the place to come for spare parts.

A number of interesting vehicles were present, including three former Southend buses – CJN436C, latterly a playbus and hopefully to be restored by Ross Newman, JTD392P (ex preservation) and XTE227V, in the livery of Alec Head of Luton. Also present were two ex Hedingham vehicles, REV188R and CEV89T. No doubt somebody counted up the Metrobuses! Frog Island is also used as the base for London Pride Sightseeing vehicles, which are kept in an adjacent modern building.

After spending an interesting hour at Ensign, we headed for Nelson's depot at Wickford. Passing the Sadler's Farm roundabout, we were able to glimpse several vehicles of the Castle Point Bus Company. Upon arrival at Nelson's (NIBS), the company's whole VR fleet was immediately viewable outside the depot.
Many vehicles were displayed including eight Bristol VR's, which include BIL4710, formerly STW25W of Eastern National, NIBS own five Alexander-bodied Scania double-deckers and a small selection of single-deckers including 2 unusual Auwaeters. After most of the fleet had been moved around for photography, we were treated to a ride to Wickford Railway Station and back on former Southern Vectis VR NDL652R, Group member Chris Stewart driving.

Next stop was Fourways at Highwood, where we received another warm welcome, and all moveable vehicles were suitably positioned for photographs. The company own 3 Bristol VR's and a former Nottingham Leyland Atlantean, together with a small fleet of coaches used on touring and contract work. As a bonus, we were offered the opportunity to travel into Chelmsford on VR LBD923V, and a number of us took this up.

A break of an hour in Chelmsford meant those that wished to had the chance to view First's new Optare Solos working the various town services, or to find sustenance in one of the nearby drinking or eating establishments. Chelmsford's one remaining VR, 3072: KOO790V, had been glimpsed heading off on the 351 to Romford but its days must now be numbered.

Onward to Maldon and to the Quayside Industrial Estate, to view the vehicles of Phoenix Student Travel Ltd. This fleet had grown rapidly over the last year or so, and now comprises over 30 vehicles most of which are Leyland Olympians and Leyland Lynx. Whilst several vehicles are leased to Essex Buses and operate school services from Chelmsford, Basildon and Braintree, the majority are covered from Maldon by Phoenix direct and serve a number of schools throughout Essex. Again, as many vehicles as possible were moved for photography and, after an otherwise cloudy day, the sun made a belated appearance. A group photograph was duly taken in front of OHV757Y.

Coming soon! Lookout for details of our exciting programme of days out in 2003 !



Fourways Coaches, Highwood, Chelmsford – DKE 350Y Leyland Leopard/Duple Dominant IV – One of the many operators visited on our very enjoyable Essex tour in May. Go to page 14 for a tour report. (Chris Stewart)



H140 AFV DAF/Van Hool – Well known Colchester operator and friend of the group, Genial Travel gained this comfortable coach last September from Ribblesdale. It is often seen on British and continental day trips. (Dave Arnold)

Essex Bus Shop

New! Issue 2 Autumn/Winter 2002/3
www.essexbus.org.uk

Inside this issue

- **Essex Bus Books**
- **Current Timetables**
- **Vintage Timetables**
- **Essex Bus Photos**

Happy christmas shopping

Welcome to the Autumn issue of Essex Bus Shop brought to you by Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.
Inside this handy 4 page pullout you'll find all you need to know about our range of books and special offers and how to order them.
The highlights include our brand new Campbell fact file and the PSV Circle's comprehensive fleet history of Colchester Corporation and Successors.

Buy a book for christmas -It'll last a lifetime

A fleet history of Colchester Corporation and successors

This new book published by the P.S.V Circle is the ultimate guide to Colchester's buses past & present. Inside its 60 pages are complete fleet lists of all Trams & Buses from 1904 to 2002 with details of chassis and body numbers, dates new and full disposal information. There are also 25 historic black & white photos.
60 pages with laminated card covers **Price £8.50**

The Campbell Fact File –The complete history of Campbell & Son of Pitsea – By Alan Osborne

The long awaited story of one of the most enterprising South Essex independents can now be told. Campbell's ran to rural Basildon before it became a new town and were the last operator to be taken over by Eastern National in 1956.
This full history details their complete bus & coach fleet from 1916 to 1971 and if you've ever wondered what the M.E.C. site at Shell Haven was all about, then all is revealed.
The book includes many nostalgic photos, a route map, route list and details of tickets and timetables issued by the company.
32 Pages with card covers & 9 B&W photos. Price £3.00

The Lion Roars No Longer – Eastern Nationals Leyland Lions By Peter Snell & Alan Osborne

A comprehensive illustrated history of the 73 Leyland lions operated by Eastern National from the late Twenties to the early Fifties.
Read all about the rebodying programme, the allocations ,loans to London Transport and much more .
16 pages Inc 9 rare photos and card covers **Price £2.50**

Hicks Bros Fact file - By Alan Osborne

A nostalgic look back at this fondly remember north Essex operator. Featuring a short history, fleet list at takeover by Eastern National plus details of routes and tickets.
24 pages Inc 9 B&W photos. Card covers. **Price £2.00**

Grey Green –From Ewer To Arriva By Owen Woodliffe

An excellent book telling the story of one of one of the most famous Bus & Coach operators in London & the South East.
With plenty of photos & a history of the many routes & Vehicles operated, this book is an essential addition to your bookshelf.
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City Fact File—By Alan Osborne

It's over 50 years since this much loved Essex operator sold out to the British Transport Commission and this top selling book celebrates the life of the company in words and pictures.
Order your copy before it sells out and read all about the famous Wood Green to Southend service and the pioneering local routes around South Essex. There are many special features including a full history, a fleet list prior to takeover, vintage timetables, route maps and much more.
With 32 Pages , laminated covers featuring 2 rare colour photos and 8 black & white photos inside , it's outstanding value at **just £3.50**

Eastern National Fleet Record- By Bob Palmer

The essential book for all EN fans! This invaluable guide lists in fleet number order all of the vehicles from renumbering in 1964 and all subsequent additions to the fleet up to the division of the company in 1990.
52 Page Inc. card covers. **Price £3.00**

The ENOC Lancet – By Peter Snell

An illustrated history of Eastern Nationals Dennis Lancets, introduced in the 1930's. 12 pages, 8 b&w photos and card covers. **Price £1.50**

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Prices include postage & packing for the UK only and items are subject to availability. Please enquire for overseas orders.
Please allow 28 days for delivery, although its usually faster.

Christmas on camera

The Group has an extensive photo collection with thousands of colour and black & white photos & slides going back at least 50 years.
We do not currently have lists of what's available but are always happy to respond to individual requests. Please write to our Photos officer with a note of your needs, enclosing an SAE.

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Derek Stebbing 18 Lynmouth Avenue Chelmsford CM2 0TP

Vintage timetables -A unique gift idea!

If you're looking for something a little different this christmas then how about buying a vintage timetable as a present for a loved one or a friend?
Alan Osborne has an extensive collection of historical timetables, going back as far as 1909 and he's happy to supply photocopies of individual service timetables. They make a great gift!
Let Alan know what your looking for and he'll let you know if he can help you. Write to:

Alan Osborne, 7 Farley Drive, Seven Kings, Ilford, IG3 8LT
or phone 020 8590 2021

The small print—All items referred to in this supplement are subject to availability. The prices shown are correct at October 2002 & supersede all previous offers. We reserve the right to alter prices & offers during the lifetime of this publication.
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First in Essex 1412 F412 MNO Leyland Lynx – It's amazing to think that the Lynx's are almost 15 years old and approaching life expiry. Jeff Clayton's shot depicts 1412 in recently painted 'Barbie 2' colours at Southend Bus Station on 26 March 2002.



First In Essex 4018 C418 HJN Leyland Olympian/ECW –One of a batch of 15 duel purpose buses delivered to Eastern National in 1986, 4018 is still going strong 16 years later and had been internally refurbished and repainted into 'Barbie 2' when Jeff Clayton caught up with her at Colchester Bus station on 3 April.

ARRIVA

New Tickets for Harlow

Arriva the Shires & Essex recently launched a new range of tickets. New Arriva day,week and monthly tickets are now available and offer further discounted travel for regular passengers travelling in Harlow and across most of the counties north of London. A new Arriva week pass is now available at £18 per person, offering a reduction over the previous Silver Card and Gold Card prices. Monthly tickets are also available. For travel purely within Harlow, the £2.40 Arriva day and £8 weekly ticket remain available

The daily Explorer ticket is outstanding value at only £6 and continues to provide unlimited travel for up to two adults and two children thoughout Essex and Hertfordshire.

O licence update

The Grays operations were finally transferred from the licences of Arriva East Herts & Essex on 1st October 2002. The DAF vehicles for services 256 (Noak Hill-Hornchurch) & 346 (Upminster Station-Park Estate) were, it is understood transferred to Arriva Kent Thameside whilst the remaining buses and services were transferred to Arriva Southend, whose licence had been increased to 135 vehicles to accomodate the Grays operations. This leaves EH & E purely with the vehicles and services operated by Harlow, Debden & Ware depots. The following vehicles were moved 'on paper' but there was no change to actual allocations

2130/4/5/7 (N910/4/5/7 ETM), 3387-90 (P257-60 FPK), 3400-3 (R310-3 NGM),
3404-12 (P324-32 HVX), 3421/3-9/31 (P421/3-9/31 HVX), M615 (KYO 615X),
YFB58 (E 58 UKL), YFB 86 (G 86 SKR): Arriva Southend 10/01 (same fleet no)
4500-13 (KE 51 PTY/Z, PUA/F/H/J/K/O/U/V/X/Y, KC 51 NFO, KE 51 PVD):
Arriva Kent Thameside 10/01 (same fleet no).
All officially have an "E" prefix to their fleet number, but this does not appear on the vehicles.

Note YFB58/86 are crew ferry vehicles. The whereabouts of the two Iveco 59-12 - 2100 (M160 RBH) & 2334 (L724 PHK) is unknown at present

Arriva Data File

For operational reasons this information is subject to change and is given for guidance only.
The PVR total for Southend has been calculated from working timetables and differs from that shown on the company allocation list.

Southend	**PVR 64**	(inc Dengie)	**Allocation**		79
Double Deck	**PVR 32**		**Allocation**		37
Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288		
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	E5404T	E5405T	
Volvo Olympian	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Single Deck	**PVR 19**		**Allocation**		**20**
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
Midi Bus	**PVR -TBC**		**Allocation**		**17**
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS007	DS008	DS009
	DS014	E3092	E3349	E3350	E3370
	E3373				
Mercedes 709	E2110T				
Mercedes 810	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193	
Dengie Contract	**PVR 4**		**Allocation 5**		
Renault Master T35	E0329	E0331	E0332	E0333	E0334
Coach	**PVR 0**		**Allocation**		**1**
	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	E3065	E3066	E3338		
Shuttles	E1253	R580LVL			

Colchester	**PVR 42**		**Allocation 52**		
Double Deck	**PVR 11**		**Allocation 12**		
Leyland Olympian	E5389T	E5397T	E5398T		
	E5403	E5407T	E5408T	E5409T	
MCW Metrobus	E5361				
Volvo D10M	610	613	614	617	
Single Deck	**PVR 16**		**Allocation 16**		
DAF SB220	E4335	E4336	E4337	E4339	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3419	E3420	E3422	E3430T	
Leyland Lynx	E3341	E3342	E3343	E3346	E3347
Volvo B6	E3241	E3245	E3246		
Midi Bus	**PVR 11**		**Allocation 18**		
Dennis Dart	DS015	DS019	DS020	DS021	DS023
	DS024	3168			
Mercedes 709	E2115				
Mercedes 711	E2388	E2391	E2392		
Mercedes 810	E2174	E2243	E2372	E2382	E2383
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	**PVR 4**		**Allocation 4**		
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4505T	2196			
Grays	**PVR 38**		**Allocation 45**		
Double Deck	**PVR 1**		**Allocation**		1
MCW Metrobus	M615				
Single Deck	**PVR 27**		**Allocation 31**		
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			
Midi Bus	**PVR 10**		**Allocation 13**		
Dennis Dart	E3404	E3405	E3406	E3407	E3408
	E3409	E3410	E3411	E3412	
Mercedes 709	E2130	E2134	E2135	E2137	
Ferry Bus 609	YFB58	YFB86			

Other operators

Our comprehensive coverage of the many smaller operators is very popular and our team of reporters Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston and Ian Ransom try their best to bring you the latest news. Your contributions are welcome, simply see 'Everything you need to know' on page 2 for postal and email addresses.

Stephenson, Rochford

Operational fleet:-

UWV 618S Bristol VR/ECW is in (by 7.02) ex Stagecoach (North.West.) 2037 and is in `City Sightseeing - Southend-on-Sea' livery - mainly red.
JFR 4W Leyland Olympian/ECW is in ex Burnley & Pendle/Ribble 2104 (with roof damage) and converted to O45/32F (by 7.02) - it is in `City Sightseeing - Southend-on-Sea' livery - basically red.
MIL 8340 (chassis ex WGB 853W, WLT 439, NCS 123W) Volvo B10M/East Lancs (rebody) is in (by 7.02) ex Dunn-Line, Nottingham.
TSO 12X Leyland Olympian/ECW is in (by 7.02) ex Burton, Haverhill, Suffolk
D523 DWP (ex 3698 E) Scania/Plaxton 4000 is in (by 5.01) ex Maney, Park Street, Herts.
E242 CGA (ex A1 KRT, E662 KCX) DAF/Duple 340 is in (by 5.01) ex Valente, Musselburgh, Scotland.
5796 MX (ex G530 LWU) Volvo B10M /Plaxton is in (by 7.02) ex Red & White 935 - `London Link Express' lettering.
WDA 2T (ex J420 HDS, KSU 462, J420 HDS) Volvo B10M/Plaxton is in (by 7.02) ex Red & White 743 - in Stagecoach livery with `Stagecoach Rhondda' names.
A14 SOE (ex G345FFX) has `London Link Express' lettering.
VHB 678S Bl VR/ECW is currently (unlicensed) (by 7.02) - thought to be sold and awaiting collection.
Hire fleet:-
ORJ 100W MCW Metrobus ex Waters (Town & Country), Corringham (by 7.02)
VWA 35Y LN2 (unlicensed)
The above two vehicles are painted blue (similar shade to Arriva) and are intended for hire to training companies.
Dealer vehicles - all (unlicensed) at 7.02:-

MHJ 347F was with Stephenson by 4.99 and still here 7.02 - we don't think this has been operated by Stephenson.
MPK 694P AEC Reliance /Plaxton is in (by 5.01) ex B & B Location Diners (non-PSV), Hersham, Surrey and still here 7.02.
UWV 620S Bristol VR/ECW is in (by 7.02) ex Stagecoach (N.W.) 2038 - has `Cumberland' fleet names.
NEH 726W Bristol VR/ECW is in (by 7.02) ex Go West (Norfolk Green), Kings Lynn, Norfolk.

TSO 21X Leyland Olympian/ECW is in (by 7.02) ex Smith (Fargo), Rayne, Essex
ANA 605Y Leyland Atlantean/Northern Counties is in (by 7.02) ex Gt.Manchester South 4605 A653 EMY Leyland/Roe Doyen is in (by 5.00) ex Temple (Roadrunner Travel), Grafton, N.Yorks. and still here 7.02.
YTL 434 (ex D800 SGB) DAF/Plaxton 4000 is in (by 5.01) ex Harps, Birkenshaw, W.Yorks. and still here 7.02 - this vehicle has serious front end accident damage.
G350 GCK Dennis Dart/Duple is in (by 7.02) ex Go West (Norfolk Green), Kings Lynn, Norfolk.
H136 MOB Dennis Dart/Carlyle is in (by 7.02) ex Connex Bus DT 136
Other:-

F305AWW Leyland Lynx (unlicened) belongs to an unknown college and is stored at Stephensons. (ex Business Link Essex Partnership)
Note: Some of the vehicles listed above under `operational' or `dealer' may have been hired to other companies.
The discs of Venturer Coachways Ltd. (PF0000829) are still active and in use by Stephenson (who owns that company). They may appear on any of Stephensons fleet.
Buzz, Harlow
Leyland Leopard/Plaxton GWV 926V is assumed gone, as it has not been seen for some time
County Coaches, Brentwood
UJI 6747 (ex E441 MOU) Volvo/Duple 320 is in the yard and assumed owned (by8.02)
2786RU Scania/Irizar is named `Cornwall'
???? (ex 2629RU, EJN270T, 2629RU, FDU2T) Bedford/Plaxton has gone.
Cousins (Kings), Stanway
C27OFL has gone (probably as long ago as mid 2000)
Croxford (Farnham Hire Service), Farnham
M2 SOB Toyota/Caetano is in (by 8.02) ex Simmonds, Bottesdale, Suffolk.
Don, Dunmow
DUI 672 Ds Javelin/Neoplan is in ex Smith, Marple, Gt.Manchester
Eyres-Scott, Billericay
J606 KGB Mercedes Benz 609D/Made to Measure is in (by 8.02) - last reported with WHM (Brentwood Coaches), Little Waltham.
Flagfinders, Braintree
G129 RGT was outside the depot on 30.8.02 and has not gone as reported elsewhere
Harris Coaches W.Thurrock
1245 FH (ex M502 XWC) DAF/Van Hool has gone to Jackson, Bicknacre.
Hunter, South Ockendon
S557 SMJ LDV Convoy/LDV is in (by 8.02) ex Brown, Yiewsley, Gt.London.
Jackson, Bicknacre
1245 FH (ex M502 XWC) DAF/Van Hool is in (by 8.02) ex Harris Coaches, W.Thurrock. It was reregistered to M502XWC soon after acquisition and the reg. 1245FH was returned to Harris.

Kirby, Rayleigh
R104 HEV Setra S250 is in (by 8.02) ex Staines Crusader, (Crusader Holidays), Clacton.
Larking, Leigh-on-Sea
29 HLW (ex ???????) Leyland DAF 400/LDAF M16 is in (by 8.02) - it is lettered for `Essex County Hotel' (Note - the registration 29HLW was previously on a MAN/MAN of M & E Coachways (Jones), Shoeburyness.)
MJJ (Leisure) Hatfield Peverel
B15 MJJ and C15 MJJ are MB Vito in (by 8.02) (These vehicles are newer than the regs. suggest, possibly bought new recently.) B15MJJ is on a taxi plate. C15MJJ does not have a taxi plate but we have been unable to see if it has a PSV disc.
Mason (Master Travel), Herongate
J730 USF Mercedes Benz 609D/Crystals is in (by 8.02) ex Mutter, Kelty, Scotland East.
Mayes, Grays
EA51 YTM Ford Transit/Ford is in (by 8.02)
Memories for Tomorrow, Stansted
3 further vehicles have been found parked at Bishops Stortford Football Club, Woodside, Bishops Stortford, Herts. and about 10 vehicles at Hoblongs Industrial Estate, Great Dunmow. (This later site is likely to be short-lived as new roads in connection with the A120 are reported to cross the site.)
J111 SAS Scania/Van Hool is in (by 7.02) ex Airlinks, London.
Other vehicles still in the fleet are:- K1 TCC, P 421/5JDT, R13 7XWF LRU 822, T638 JWB (in Jetlink colours but without lettering).
Morgan, Ingatestone
GVW 894T Bedford/Plaxton is in (8.02) ex Hedingham L94.
Also in this fleet (at 8.02) are UNO 100W, BHK 710X and an X-reg. ?/Pn Supreme V.
N.C.S., Newport
M549 GAV LDV 200 is ex Royal Mail. This vehicle was offered at Chelmsford auction on 5.8.02.
N470 JGK LDV 200 is ex Royal Mail. This vehicle was offered at Chelmsford auction on 5.8.02.
K837 JVX Renault Traffic. This vehicle was offered at Chelmsford auction on 12.8.02, 19.8.02 & 2.9.02.
W721XCE LDV Convoy (in by 3.02) has fleet no. 239 and is M16
The operating centre. at The Paragon, Newport is empty (8.02). The legal address is 8 The Maltings, Newport.
The name N.C.S. was on the board of Ashdon Road Commercial Centre, Saffron Walden for Unit 10 and on the door of that unit, but we saw no vehicles there.
Nelson, Wickford
4 Leyland Olympian/ECW ex Isle of Man Transport via Ensign (dealer) are in (8.02) - one is EMN213U (ex C73CHM), others are thought to be EMN203U (ex C80CHM) and EMN204U (ex C51CHM) plus one other.
E101VWA and F616CWJ have gone to Ensign (dealer) (8.02).

Olympian, Harlow
P498 GKJ an Iveco is in (by 8.02) ex Kent County Council
Porter (Stan's), Gt.Totham
Bedford YMT/Plaxton EBM 460T suffered accident damage (c 7.02). It was at Lodge, High Easter, early August awaiting repair.
NMJ 296V Bedford YMT/Plaxton was in (7.02) ex Bates, Appledore, Kent and went to Fowler, Holbeach Drove, Lincs (8.02) - it was used by Porter.
Ruffle, Castle Hedingham
H391CFT Toyota Caetano is in (by ?.01) ex Charter, Meldreth, Cambs.
Seymour, Harlow
F173 CKW Mercedes/Reeve Burgess is in (by 2.02) ex Staines, Brentwood and rereg. to 46 HLT (by 2.02).
Smith (Fargo), Rayne
T494 OAY LDV Convoy is now (by 8.02) in the Fargo Self-Drive Vehicle Hire fleet.
Stephenson, Rochford
B100 XTW Leyland Tiger/Duple is in (by 7.02) ex Arriva Colchester 4312
Stubbington, Benfleet
Leyland Tiger B873YYX is (unlicensed) (by 8.02)
Thorn P. (A.P.T.), Rayleigh
R476 YDT Scania/Irizar is in ex Bus Eireann SI 20 (98-D-41119).
Tokeley (PDQ), Colchester
H12 PDO Toyota/Caetano is thought to be ex M944 JJU, ROI 8235, M944 JJU ex Collis (t/a Peter Carol), Bristol. (in to Tokeley 5.02 and rereg. to H12PDO 5.02)
WG Services (SM Coaches), Harlow
S234 HGU Iveco/Beaulas is in (by 8.02) ex Pullmanor, Herne Hill, London.
WHM (Brentwood Coaches), Little Waltham
9 HIL 9272 (ex TFP 3X) is (unlicensed) (by 8.02).
16 LUI 7647 (ex F145 SPV) was sold to Volvo (q), Loughborough (3.02) and presumably reregistered at the same time.
P338VWR Volvo/Plaxton C53F is in (by 3.02) ex Wallace Arnold and reregistered to LUI 7647 (3.02) - fleet no. 16.
Waters (Town & Country), Corringham
E60 WDT Leyland Lynx is in (8.02) - fleet no. 108
C809 BYY, C30/76/117CHM Leyland Olympian/ECW are in (8.02) - C76CHM has fleet no. 201.
Mercedes Vario T437 EBD has fleet no. 107.
West, Woodford Green
R10ETS Volvo/Plaxton is in (by 7.02) ex Yorkshire European, Boroughbridge.
Windmill, Gt.Bromley
NIL 7051 (ex UOB 487Y, DXI 84, 87 STT, A833 WNS, 9446 AT) VH T818 had gone by 6.02 - it is now with North Quay (Eurosun), Lowestoft, Suffolk (by 8.02).
J2 WKC (ex J2 TCC) came to Windmill as J2WKC by 5.02 - it was reregistered to JSU 282 by Windmill 6.02

Essex dealer report

The latest vehicle movements at Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From Arriva Southern Counties Olympians A888/90PKR E151/52/55OMD.
From Arriva Midlands North Scania E113KYN.
From Mercury Radio Bristol VR CBV2S
From Arriva Midlands North Scanias E114KYN and E109JYV
From London General M475.
From Nothern Blue,Lancs Dominators B107UAT,C125CAT,C129CAT.

Vehicles out

M372 Norfolk Green ,Kings Lynn.
Olympians 90-d-1017/29/54/55/58/59 Dualway,Dublin.
L42 L48 Now Acquired by Bath Bus Co.
Olympian A237GHN Nostalgiabus,Mitcham.
Neoplan E101VWA Mr McKillen,Eire.
Scania E112KYN PC Coaches,Lincoln.
Bristol VR CBV2S Phoenix Student Travel,Maldon.
Fleetline WDA980T Mr S Keasey,Portsmouth for preservation.
Olympians A888/890PKR Western Greyhound,Newquay.
Olympian JTY374X Phoenix,Maldon for spares
Olympian HSB698Y UK North,Manchester.
M964 Transferred to City Sightseeing for open top conversion.
Metrobus D678MHS Johns School of Motoring,Hackney.
M805 Avro Coaches,Stanford le Hope.
M1163,M1284 Mr T Draper,Chesterfield.
Olympian E152OMD TM Travel,Chesterfield.
Scania E114KYN,Olympians E151OMD,E155OMD Northern Blue,Lancs.
Olympian B552ATX Longs Coaches,S Wales.
Dominator B107UAT Rothwells Coaches,Leeds.
DT103 Talent Resourcing LTD,County Durham.
M720,M1058 Transferred to City Sightseeing for open top conversion.
M3 Imperial,Rainham.
Lynxes G201/3/4/5/6/7URO Lough Swilly Buses,Eire.
Olympians 90-d 1011/15 Dualway ,Dublin.
Also M269 is under cannibalisation and T681 has been scrapped.

For full details of all the latest stock
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. London operator's disposals are usually referred to by their fleet number. For registrations see 'London Bus & Tram Fleetbook 2002' published by LOTS

Essex by bus
Weyall's way

A trip out by Martin Weyell, planned with the help of Essex CC timetables, undertaken on Thursday 4th July.

Depart	Arrive	Service	Vehicle	Fare	Pass'rs
EPPING STATION 08.43	ONGAR (TWO BREWERS) 09.08	Arriva 501	3254 V254HBH Volvo B6BLE/Wright	£1.50	13
ONGAR (TWO BREWERS) 09.32	CHELMSFORD (BUS STATION) 10.13	Imperial 46	K822NKH Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton	£3.15	12
CHELMSFORD (BUS STATION) 10.32	WETHERSFIELD (GREEN) 11.36	Hedingham 16	L312 (W312CJN) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton	£3.20	1
WETHERSFIELD (GREEN) 12.01	BRAINTREE (BUS PARK) 12.28	London Transit 9	T273EWW DAF SB220/Optare Delta	£2.10	6
BRAINTREE (SAINSBURY'S) 12.55	HALSTEAD (HIGH STREET) 13.19	First 352	2911 (M229VWW) Dennis Dart/Alexander	Staff pass	8
HALSTEAD (HIGH STREET) 13.58	SUDBURY (BUS STATION) 14.40	Beestons 11	S511NNH Mercedes 0814 Vario/Plaxton	£1.45	10
SUDBURY (BUS STATION) 14.45	HAVERHILL (BUS STATION) 15.40	Beestons 236	YS02XDO Scania L94/Wright	£1.80	26
HAVERHILL (BUS STATION) 16.15	SAFFRON WALDEN (HIGH STREET) 16.50	Hedingham 59	L325 (EX02RYR) Dennis Dart SLF/Alexander	£1.70	3
SAFFRON WALDEN (HIGH STREET) 17.17	BISHOPS STORTFORD (Interchange) 18.03	London Transit 301	J102DUV Dennis Dart/Plaxton	£2.10	5
BISHOPS STORTFORD (Interchange) 18.24	EPPING STATION 19.31	First 333	2802 (L802MEV) Dennis Dart/Plaxton	Staff pass	8

Weyall's day in detail

All buses ran to time except First 352, arrived Braintree 13.07/Halstead 13.33 and Beestons 236, arrived Haverhill 15.45

Hedingham's route 16 and Beestons 236, both runs of an hour, were both on buses with modern hard plastic seats with a small amount of foam and fabric on the seat and backrest - these were VERY hard on the behind after an hour. By contrast, the third hour-long journey, First's 333 from Stortford to Epping, was on an "old-fashioned" high-floor Dart with normal thick foam and fabric seats on metal frames, which gave a very comfortable ride.

The extremely low number of passengers on three of the journeys will be noted, the 17.17 ex Saffron Walden only getting 3 users despite it being the rush hour, and the 10.32 Hedingham 16 only attracting one (me!). Six of the runs were on routes run under contract to Essex CC, and I was puzzled at the seemingly different fare scales – the £3.15 from Ongar to Chelmsford appeared very high indeed, whereas Halstead to Sudbury was a reasonable £1.45; perhaps fares charged are based on whatever Essex thinks the route will bear.

Phoenix Student Travel

Into the fleet

5017 F114SDW Leyland Lynx is in (9.02) ex Kingstons, Hockley via Ensign.
6017 C54CHM Leyland Olympian /ECW is in (9.02), ex SELKENT L54.
JTY374X Leyland Olympian/ECW is in (9.02) from Ensign but for spares only and is already part cannibalised.
CBV2S Open top Bristol VR/ECW (ex Mercury Radio, via Ensign) is a private, long term preservation project only.
Ex EN Merc K633GVX is now smartly converted to a service/control van and appeared at Showbus.

Service news

New schoolday routes (previously operated by First) are 501, Chelmsford to Southend and 604, Chelmsford to Ingatestone. Both were taken on at short notice at the start of term, representing a further contraction of the work First undertake on behalf of Phoenix.

Essex by bus
Rugg's rural travels

On Saturday 29th December 2001, John Rugg travelled on then-new service 300 from Basildon to Tilbury and return operated by JWS Travel of Chadwell St Mary.

The vehicle was one of a pair of Mercedes/Plaxton 27-seaters specially signwritten on dark blue livery for the service, which is supported by Thurrock Council and a Rural Bus Subsidy grant. As *First* service 101 had recently been extended from Stanford-le-Hope to Grays at 30-minute intervals, there is now a much-improved service in this area.

Service 300 operated via Basildon Hospital, Homesteads, Stanford-le-Hope, Buckingham Hill Road to East Tilbury Station, around the Bata estate and back over the level crossing to Muckingford Road, then into Chadwell St Mary, turning right at Cross Keys and travelling clockwise around the "chimney-pots" emerging from Waterson Road into Linford Road. Approaching Cross Keys for the second time, the route goes straight over the cross roads to the next roundabout and turns left along the Chadwell by-pass into Feenan Highways (vicious road humps to slow you down), through Tilbury Civic Square, passing Tilbury Tow station to the ASDA superstore.

The fare was £3.75 and the magic total of 8 passengers was carried all the way to Chadwell St Mary, where 2 got off and 2 more got on. 5 people got off in Tilbury and 3 remained until the end of the journey. The original driver (wearing a 'London Sightseeing Tours' jumper) was replaced by a new driver (wearing an Ensign jumper), and the vehicle returned at much quicker speed to Basildon. The three other passengers got off by Chadwell St Mary, and I had the vehicle to myself for the rest of the journey.

The timetable is very ambitious ad it remains to be seen how long the subsidy money lasts before commercial restraints come along. With a journey time of 55 minutes, it fits very neatly into a two-hourly round trip but with 2 level crossings to negotiate on each trip this can lead to inevitable delays at certain times of the day.

Since this article was written, the service has been withdrawn from 29th June 2002

Disappearing breeds Part 1 Leyland Leopards

Many chassis makes that were once popular with Essex operators are now disappearing and with this occasional new series Peter Snell will attempt to find the last of the disappearing breeds in regular service.
The Leyland Leopard PSU3, PSU4 & PSU5 feature this month.

BLUE DIAMOND HARLOW
BAJ 998T PSU3/4R

BUZZ COOP HARLOW
GWV 926V PSU3/4R

COLCHESTER CO CLACTON
VAS 599T PSU5C/4R

DONS DUNMOW Gt DUNMOW
A62 OJX PSU5C/4R

FARGO BRAINTREE
KBH 860V PSU5C/4R

FOURWAYS CHELMSFORD
MNK 429V PSU3E/4R
DKE 350V PSU5D/5R

GALE MOTORS HARLOW
WAZ 3829 (WJX 477V) PSU3C/4R

K B COACHES WICKFORD
EWW 207T PSU3E/4R

HEDINGAM OMNIBUSES
RGV 284N PSU3B/4R
BAR 103X PSU3E/4R
BEV 105X PSU3E/4R
DBH 452X PSU3E/4R

MEMORIES OF TOMORROW STANSTED
DCA 31S PSU3E/4R

S AND M BENFLEET
LUA 288V PSU3F/4R

THORPE (APT) RAYLEIGH
KRS 532V PSU3E/4R

TOWN AND COUNTRY THURROCK
GBO 246W PSU4E/4R

In part 2 we'll focus on the Ford R. If you can update this list or know of any Ford R's still in service, please contact Peter Snell. See page 2 for contact info

Colchester's Coaches

Peter Snell surveys the fleet from 1979 to 2002

1979					
101		DHK 101T	Leyland PSU3E/4R	Duple	C51F 2001
102		DHK 102T	Leyland PSU3E/4R	Duple	C51F 2001
1987					
Acquired West Riding Automobile Ltd					
103		OHE 274X	Leyland TRCTL11/3R	Duple	C53F 2000
104		OHE 280X	Leyland TRCTL11/3R	Duple	C53F 2000
1988					
45		F245 MTW	Leyland ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	CH72F c
46	qv	F246 MTW	Leyland ONCL101RZ	Leyland	CH72F 1993
11		F111 NPU	M.C.W. MF158/014	MCW	DP29F 1991
1990					
105		G105 AVX	Dennis Javelin	Duple	C55F 1993
106		G106 AVX	Dennis Javelin	Duple	C57F 1993
107		H107 JAR	Volvo B10M-60	Ikarus	C49FT 1993
108		H108 JAR	Volvo B10M-60	Ikarus	C48FT 1993
1991					
47	qv	H47 MJN	Leyland ON2R50C13Z4	Leyland	CH72F 1994
109		J109 WVW	Leyland TR2R62C21Z6/8	Plaxton	C53F 1994
1995					
Southend Transport					
100		A250 SVW	Leyland TRCTL11/2RP	Duple	C57F 2002
1996					
Guildford and West Surrey Buses Ltd					
LNC463		NWO 463R	Leyland National 11351A/1R	LN	DP48F 2000
123		H123WFM	Mercedes Benz 814D	N.W.C.S.	C24F 2000
Southend Transport					
46		F246 MTW	Leyland ONCL10/1RZ	Leyland	CH72F c
47		H47 MJN	Leyland ON2R50C13Z4	Leyland	CH72f c
Arriva East Herts and Essex					
101		BAZ 7384	Leyland TRCTL11//Rh	Plaxton	C49FT c
102		HDZ 8354	Bova FHD12-280	Bova	C49FT 2002
1999					
Arriva Southend					
4312		B100 XTW	Leyland TRCTL11/3RP	Plaxton	C57F 2002
2002					
Arriva Southend					
4352		M52 AWW	Scania K113CRB		
Van Hool		C49F c			
4353		M53 AWW	Scania K113CRB	Van Hool	C49F c
New Enterprise Maidstone					
2196		J27 UNY	Leyland TRCTL10/3ARZM	Plaxton	C53F c
Arriva Southend					
2115		N919 ETM	Mercedes Benz 709	Plaxton	DP27F c

The coach fleet has also hired in many vehicles over the years, especially from Souhend and various other operators and demonstration coaches.

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♦All Trams & Buses from 1904 to 2002

♦60 Pages inc 25 photos

Order by sending a cheque/PO payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

Peter Snell
6 Mandeville Way
Benfleet SS7 4LH
(Allow 28 days for delivery)

Essex Bus News through the years

Southend open topper helps out

Eastern National had reduced the order for Leyland Nationals for 1973 to 14, 19 were on order for 1974, including one to replace early accident victim 1706 (WNO 555L).
The company were about to receive 6 Bristol VR's from the Scottish Bus group, this would result in 6 Bristol FLF's being transferred to Eastern Counties.
Ford R192/Alexander UOO 660L, had been on loan for a couple on months, the fact that the Chief Engineer had transferred from Midland Red (who operated a number of Fords) led to speculation that more may arrive.
Colchester had withdrawn former Salford AEC Reliance/Weymann 2/3 (TRJ 102/3), which had always operated in Salford livery.
Southend were short of vehicles, so open top Leyland PD3's were in use on service 62. The top deck was not used in inclement weather.

Looking for christmas gift ideas?
Look at Essex Bus Shop free this month!

Looking back

Many new members have joined us in 2002 and they have asked how to get back issues of Essex Bus News. Here's your answer. It's simple!

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