ESSEX BUS NEWS

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May 2008



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
FOUNDED 1964
www.essexbus.org.uk

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £19.50 by First Class post, renewable in January.

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

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

Richard Delahoy,
272 Shoebury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from Richard.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@yahoo.com

or visit *www.essexbus.org.uk*

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:

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

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

All orders for photos from lists enclosed with EBN should be sent to:

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

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied; email with requirements:
lyn@barrons-bds.com

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.

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

For inclusion in EBN dated	*reports should reach Editors by*	*planned despatch date*
June	**31 May**	19 June
July	**28 June**	17 July
August	**2 August**	21 August

Please note that the planned despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The actual despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can only be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite).

■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

The June and July Meetings take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and *one Great Eastern* trains & *Arriva Southend* services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 19:15 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 20:00 to 21:45. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire, please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown.

Richard Delahoy

- **Tuesday June 10** - *Owen Woodliffe* will present a slide show, '**Down Memory Lane (from the '60's and 70's.**
- **Tuesday July 15** - in place of a meeting, there will be an evening study tour of the **Kent Fastrack** system (see booking form in March EBN).
- *No meeting in August*

Autumn season:

- **Monday September 8** - topic to be advised
- **Monday October 13** - topic to be advised
- **Monday November 10** - topic to be advised
- **Monday December 8** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*, "**20 years ago**" and Christmas Social.

- From the **September** meeting, we are changing the meeting date to the **second MONDAY** in the month and are moving to a new venue - **Wickford Cricket Club** (in the town centre, 5 minutes walk from Wickford station and with its own car parking). Details of how to get there will be advised in EBN in due course.

■ NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room (except as indicated) at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 19:30 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 20:00 to 22:00. £1 donation towards room hire, please. Slides or digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- **Friday June 13** - *Andy Baker* (of the Cambridge Omnibus Society) ~ a photo talk on

cover: **YN08 MPF**, the first of two Scania/Irizar coaches for the new ***airdirect*** service from Ipswich to Stansted Airport, operated by **Excel**.
Richard Delahoy

the history of **Barton** of Chilwell. Note the correct date for this talk - not as shown last month.

- **Tuesday June 24** - evening visit to **Talisman Coachlines** - see April EBN for booking arrangements
- **Friday July 11*** - slide show by *Dave Arnold*, **"London in 2007"**
- **Wednesday July 23** - evening visit to see the Crossleys at Worminford.
- **Friday August 8*** - Members' Evening (bring along 50 photos on CD or 50 Slides)
- **Friday September 12** - to be advised
- **Friday October 10** - slide show by Fred *Lawrance.*
- **Friday November 14** - slide show by *Chris Stewart.*
- **Friday December 12** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe.*

* in upstairs room

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS, ETC

- **Friday/Saturday May 30-1** ~ **London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours; Acton Depot.
- **Sunday June 1** ~ Family Fun Day, **Ipswich Transport Museum**, Suffolk.
- **Sunday June 22** ~ **Hemel Hempstead Running Day**, Hemel Hempstead bus station.
- **Saturday June 28** ~ **Bow Garage Centenary Open Day and Running Day.**
- **Sunday July 6** ~ **North Weald Bus Rally**, North Weald airfield, near Epping, featuring *75 years of London Transport* Vintage bus services from Epping and Ongar.
- **Sunday July 13** ~ **Ridgewell Road Run & Rally**, Great Meadow End Farm, Ridgewell, Essex, Historic Commercial Vehicle Society, East Anglian Area.
- **Sunday July 13** ~ Ipswich Engineering Day, **Ipswich Transport Museum**, Suffolk.
- **Friday/Saturday July 25-6**: **London Transport Museum**, Guided Tours; Acton Depot.

■ TOURS

- **Saturday June 21 ~ The L O N G** (est) **Day Out ~ Stephensons / Excel Depot Tour** Please photocopy, complete and return the booking form in March EBN.
- **Tuesday June 24 ~ Talisman Evening Visit.** Please note there is **no** booking form for this tour - please pay (£5) on the night. See April EBN.
- **Tuesday July 15** ~ evening study tour of the **Kent Fastrack** system. This is free **but pre-booking is essential.** Please photocopy, complete and return the booking form in March EBN.

All booking forms, enquiries etc. to:

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE

Ianandsally@bigfoot.com.

Welcome to new members

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

972 Mr L. Hay of Ongar
973 Mr J C Atkinson of South Ockendon

Richard Delahoy

EBN ~ back issues

We still have full year sets for sale, from 1987 - see last month's EBN for details. Please contact **Richard Delahoy** if you are interested - no reasonable offers refused!

richard@signal-training.com

or write to **272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT** (with an SAE),

Membership Renewals

In the final stage of the move to a single membership renewal date (December), those members whose subscriptions expire with the June EBN will shortly receive a separate renewal notice from the Membership Secretary, inviting them to renew for 6 months to December 2008. This will then bring all members to a common renewal date, and in future renewal notices will be enclosed with the October issue of EBN each year. This will save the Group postage and will enable us to process renewals more efficiently.

Richard Delahoy

Photo Lists

The Photo Lists have been a phenomenal success. Twenty-five have been issued, in total comprising over 5000 different shots. Members have bought large numbers of prints to add to their collections, and the Group has had the benefit of the profits. This has been particularly useful in cushioning the effect of increased costs caused by the unavoidable move to more expensive printing for EBN in 2004. The back room (and dark room) work has all been done by Lyn Watson and Kevin Lane, to whom the Group owe considerable thanks.

However, April's list is the last for the forseeable future because we've run out of material. Lists *could* resume if further negatives become available. Can you help?

What is needed is simple: the loan (or sale) of reasonable quality, well-exposed black and white negatives of ENOC and predecessors, other Essex operators, and disposals of Essex vehicles beyond Essex. If you can help, please contact:

Lyn Watson, c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants,
Monometer House, Rectory Grove, Leigh-on-Sea, SS9 2HN
lyn@barrons-bds.com

Publicity News

Essex County Council timetable leaflet for service 31A and 52 both dated 7.4.08.; 75 dated 6.1.08

Thanks to **Arriva the Shires** for clarification of notes in EBN 526, regarding Harlow area services. A copy of the booklet for service 10 dated 13.8.07 was provided, service 12 is included with the 2 and 3. It is confirmed that the timetables for 7 (11.4.05) and 521/2/3 (5.8.00) are still current. The timetable for ECC provided services 1 and 11, are included in other publicity, not issued by Arriva. Finally a revised timetable booklet for service 724 and 725 dated 25.3.08 following its extension to Terminal 4 and Terminal 5 has been issued.

First timetable leaflet for service 88/A dated 8.1.08

Jacksons Coaches Day Excursions leaflet April 2008-January 2009

Chambers of Bures have issued a new timetable dated 07 April 2008 in their usual format.

There is a 2008 leaflet available for the **Harwich Harbour Foot & Cycle Ferry** in the current Suffolk County Council style. It carries the logos of both Suffolk and Essex County Councils and is very similar to the 2007 edition.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Arriva the Shires, Ian Taylor



CS *in* BS

above: **Excel** MCV Evolution on Bishops Stortford town service 308, seen leaving the Bus Station.

below: **Arriva the Shires** Volvo/Wright 3856 on their Harlow - Bishop's Stortford - Stansted service 510.





above: Parked up at the Bus Station were two **Stansted Transit** ex London ECW Olympians.

below: **Excel's** former Brighton & Hove Scania N113/East Lancs G727 RYJ seen leaving the Bus Station. All taken on 11 March 2008. *Chris Stewart*



54th UK Coach Rally



Three Essex coaches were at Brighton in April:

Regal Busways Volvo / Plaxton 7345 FM in metallic blue "Regal Explorer" livery.



Lodge's Euro 4 Mercedes Tourismo AL08 DGE was an Evobus exhibit.



Crusader Setra S416GT-HD tri-axle EU08 FAF won 'Coach of the Year' award.

Photos: Dave Arnold

Service Changes

Arriva Southend			
8 June 08	**9**	D	Rayeigh to Shoeburyness revised timetable.
	29	D	Southend to Eastwood revised timetable.
Carters			
7 April 08	**93**	Sat	Ipswich to Colchester 1520 from Ipswich terminates atEast Bergholt.
	755/6	M-S	Colchester to Ipswich via Hadleigh revised timetable and route.
Constable Coaches			
1 April 08	**971**	Sch	Hadleigh to Colchester, formerly Beestons unnumbered service.
First			
6 May 08	**5**	D	Pitsea to Basildon 0601 from Felmores advanced to 0556.
National Express			
26 April 08	**777**	D	Stansted Airport to Wolverhampton relocation of Milton Keynes stop.
Nelsons (NIBS)			
16 June 08	**104/6**	M-F	Langdon Hills to Basildon service withdrawn.
Network Colchester			
6 May 08	**2**	M-S	Severalls Park to Horkesley Heath revise route through Highwoods.
	6	M-S	Old Heath to Colchester new service.
	8	M-S	Horkesley Heath to Monkwick revised route through Highwoods.
Richmonds Coaches			
30 May 08	**26**	Thur	Berden to Bishop Stortford withdrawn and replaced by a Community Transport service.
SM Coaches			
24 March 08		M-S	Harlow Town Services, general network revision of all Services within Harlow. Full details available from *Harlowride* website.
28 May 08	**524**	M-S	Hertford to Harlow revised timetable.
Stephensons of Essex			
17 May 08	**288**	M-S	Maldon Tesco to Maldon Leisure Centre service reinstated.
2 June 08	**D5**	M-S	South Woodham to Burnham amended stopping point at Riverview Park
Trustline			
30 March 08	**351**	M-S	Hertford to Bishop Stortford certain journeys on schooldays extended to Birchwood School.
24 May 08	**22/33**	M-S	Harlow Town Services revised timetable

Paul Harvey

(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council, Richard Delahoy, Harlowride and First)

Rail Replacement

Sun 20th April: **Stansted Express**, London Liverpool Street - Stansted Airport.
Service ran non-stop between Liverpool Street to Stansted Airport every 15 minutes. Last buses were scheduled to be the 12.25 from Liverpool Street and 13.15 from Stansted, after which time the train service resumed. Vehicles used included Beulas-bodied Iveco TurboCity and Mercedes Touro coaches from Redwings, Herne Hill, London.

Sun 20th April: **National Express East Anglia**, Marks Tey - Colchester /Ipswich
Two-bus services replaced trains here, one non-stop between Marks Tey and Ipswich, the other Marks Tey - Colchester - Manningtree. Two buses per hour on each service, with many services duplicated. Vehicles reported in service as follows:

Cedrics, Wivenhoe - All-Leyland Olympian: K815, 816 HMV.
Chambers, Bures - Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S851 DGX; Volvo Olympian/ NC: P549 WGT, P902 RYO.
First Eastern Counties - Volvo B7TL / Transbus ALX400: 32487 (AU53 HKE), plus one other, thought to be 32495 (AU53 HKM).
First Essex - Volvo Olympian / Alexander: 34280 (P180 TGD); Volvo Olympian / NC: 34307, 34310, 34315 (L307 PWR etc).
Galloway, Mendlesham - Van Hool Alizee bodied DAF coaches: 198 (AY53 EEX), 252 (YJ04 HHS).
Grahams, Kelvedon - Unidentified Irizar bodied Scania coach, noted parked at Marks Tey.
Network Colchester - Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: 101 (AY55 DKA), 102 (YN06 TFZ); Dennis Trident / East Lancs: 155, 156 (T405, 406 SMV); DAF DB250 / Plaxton President: T131 AUA (in Wiltax livery).
Talisman, Great Bromley - Olympian / Alexander: J534, 605 CEV, L972 WSC; Setra coaches: LSU 113, TSU 182, S268 BTL, SSU 331, NSU 668.

Sat 26th April: **c2c**, Pitsea - Southend Central / Shoeburyness. Service ran every 15 minutes during the day, serving all stations from Pitsea to Southend Central. Alternate buses continued via all stations to Shoeburyness, providing a half-hourly service over this section. Early morning and late evening service appeared to be every 30 minutes, calling at all stations from Pitsea - Shoeburyness.

Vehicles in use included:
Ensign, Purfleet - Optare Spectra: 101, 104, 106 (YN51 ZVE, ZVL, ZVN) - 101, 104 newly repainted blue / silver. Olympian / Alexander Royale: 126, 128 (P426/8 UUG); Metrobus: 167, 175 (F767, 775 EKM).
Godward, South Woodham Ferrers - Olympian/Optare: E917 DRD.
P&M, Wickford - Leyland Olympian / Alexander: J849 TSC. Livery style reminiscent of the final Southend Transport livery, although with the blue areas painted sky blue instead of the darker ST blue.

Sun 27th April: **c2c**, Upminster - Pitsea, via Laindon. Bus service ran every 30 minutes, serving all stations. Vehicles used included:
Ensign, Purfleet - Optare Spectra: 106; Volvo Olympian / Alexander Royale: 128, 129; Metrobus: 192 (F292 NHJ). In addition Northern Counties-bodied Dart 620 (L120 HHV) was parked at Upminster, showing "Rail Replacement" blinds, but is not clear whether this vehicle was actually used in service on this day.



Ensignbus have bought a batch of LEZ-compliant Optare Spectras from Reading, which see regular use on rail replacement work. Repainted 107 and 101 illustrate the distrinctive Spectra front and rear aspects. *John G. Lidstone*



Sat 26th - Sun 27th April: London Underground District Line,
Upminster - Dagenham East. Bus service ran every few minutes, serving all stations, using "Go-Ahead" owned Blue Triangle and London Central vehicles:

Blue Triangle - Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: SO1 - SO5 (BV55 UCT, UCU, UCW, UCX, UCY) SO2 noted in use on Saturday, the remainder on Sunday. Dennis Trident / East Lancs: TL901, TL903, TL905B, TL906, TL908, TL909 (V901 FEC etc) - (903, 905B, 906 on Saturday, 901, 903, 905B, 908, 909 on Sunday); Volvo Olympian / NC: NV111, NV116, NV117 (P911 RYO etc), NV162 (R362 LGH). NV111, NV117 carry "Go-Ahead London" allover blue driver training livery with branding removed. Noted in use on Saturday (NV111, NV117) and on both days (NV116, NV162); Trident / Plaxton President: PDL2 (X602 EGK) noted in use on both days. This vehicle is on long-term loan to Blue Triangle from London General and retains their livery. London Central (all from Camberwell Depot) - Volvo B7TL / Alexander: AVL9, AVL10, AVL20 (V109 LGC etc) all noted in use on Saturday; Volvo B7TL / Plaxton President: PVL307 (PJ02 RGV) PVL326, PVL327 (PJ52 LWE, LWF) - used on Saturday (307, 327) and Sunday (326); Volvo B7TL / Wright Eclipse Gemini: WVL216 (LX06 DYW), WVL227 (LX06 DZK), WVL235 (LX06 DZT), WVL242 (LX06 EAC), WVL246 (LX06 EAJ), WVL272 (LX06 ECF), WVL273 (LX06 ECJ) Noted in use on Saturday (227, 242, 246, 272), Sunday (235, 273) and both days (216).

Sun 4th May: **c2c**, Pitsea - Grays; Service ran every 30 minutes serving all stations, via Tilbury. Vehicles used included:

Ensign, Purfleet - Optare Spectra: 104, 107; Olympian/Alexander Royale: 129; Metrobus: 143 (D943 NDA), 167 (F767 EKM). Dart SLF /Marshall 725 (R625 VEG) was parked at Pitsea, possibly in use as a crew-room.

Sun 4th May: **c2c**, Grays - Barking; Service ran every hourly serving all stations, via Rainham. Vehicles reported in use included:

Ensign, Purfleet - Optare Spectra: 105 (YN51 ZVM); Leyland Olympian / Alexander: J845 TSC in Lothian livery, on loan from Ensign sales stock. In addition, Ensign Plaxton-bodied Darts 700 (V800 CBC) and W141 WGT (the latter in all-over red livery with a blue skirt and Ensign fleetnames) were both noted parked at Grays Station. 141 at least showing "Rail Replacement" blinds, although unclear as to whether it was used in service. 700 may just have been on layover in normal service.

Mon 5th May: **NXEA**, Witham - Colchester / Harwich / Ipswich
Bus services ran as follows: Witham all stations to Colchester Town (every 60 mins); Witham non-stop to Ipswich (x30 mins); Witham to Ipswich, calling at Marks Tey, Colchester and Manningtree only (x30 mins); Witham to Harwich Town, calling at Kelvedon, Marks Tey, Colchester, Manningtree, Mistley, Wrabness, Harwich International and Dovercourt (x60 mins); Marks Tey all stations to Sudbury (x60 mins).

Vehicles in use included the following:
Belle Coaches, Lowestoft - Scania K113/Van Hool Alizee: NJI 9243, LIL 9455.
Burtons, Haverhill - Volvo B12B / Plaxton Paragon: YN54 DDO (National Express livery), Scania / Irizar: YN08 DDX (plain white livery).
Chambers, Bures - Volvo Olympian / Alexander: P475, 488 MBY, (488 noted parked at Colchester); Volvo Olympian / NC: P549 WGT; Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S851 DGX; Volvo B10M / Plaxton: R361 GDX, Volvo B10M / Van Hool Alizee: M655KVU. An unidentified Marshall bodied single decker was noted parked in Marks Tey Station

car park, may have been in use on Sudbury service.
Country Travel Coaches, Leiston, Suffolk - Setra coach: P568 VEE.
First Essex - Volvo Olympian / NC: 34307, 34308, 34310, 34314, 34315 (L307 PWR etc); Optare Solo: 53122, 53135 (EU02 NFD, NFU).
Galleon Travel, Harlow (Trustline) - Dart SLF / MCV: DMA8 (AE06 HBX) - prominently branded for Route 700 (Stansted Airport to Stevenage) ; Ex-Dublin Bus Leyland Olympian / Alexander: 764 (H764 PVW).
Peter Godward Coaches - Scania / Irizar: S332 SET, Iveco TurboCity / Beulas: YG53 OHE? - both noted parked at Witham.
Grahams, Kelvedon - Scania / Irizar: T361 JWA, YN03 DDE.
Network Colchester - Scania Omnidekka: 102, Trident / East Lancs: 155, DAF DB250 / Plaxton President: T133 AUA (Wiltax livery)
Talisman, Great Bromley - Setra coaches: LSU 113, TSU 182, S268 BTL, LSU 788, Olympian / Alexander: J534 CEV and possibly L972 WSC too. All-Leyland Olympian: H47 MJN (TGM / Network Colchester livery with Talisman fleetnames).
Finally two unidentified vehicles - possibly from the same operator, given the similarities in livery, registrations and that they were seen running together on the A12. Neoplan Coach NUI 5125 and Plaxton-bodied coach NUI 5162, both in all-over white livery, 5125 with a large "Eurosun" fleetname on the windscreen.

In addition, on Saturday 26th April, First London used Caetano-bodied Darts from Dagenham Depot on Jubilee Line Replacement service between Stratford and North Greenwich, alongside Darts from other First London depots; Sullivan Buses and Travel London. The Dagenham-allocated Darts in use included: DMC41492 (LK03 LMJ), DMC41493 (LK03 LLX), DMC41499 (LK03 LNV), DMC41511 (LK03 NFZ) and DMC41527 (LK03 FDD). Dagenham allocated Trident / Plaxton Presidents TNL33029 (LK51 UYL) and TN33043 (LN51 DVG) have also been seen running on Hornchurch / Romford-area routes still displaying slipboards for District Line Rail Replacement Services in West London, indicating possible use on these services over the Bank Holiday weekend.

Forthcoming Rail Replacement Services

Sat 24th - Mon 26th May (Bank Holiday)	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton /Walton-on-Naze
Sun 25th May	NXEA:	Colchester - Ipswich /Harwich Town
Monday 26th May (Bank Holiday)	NXEA:	Marks Tey - Ipswich / Harwich Town
Sat 31st May - Sun 1st June	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze / Harwich Town / Ipswich
Sat 7th - Sun 8th June	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze / Harwich Town / Ipswich
Sat 7th - Sun 8th June	c2c:	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 2010 on Saturday and all day Sunday.)
Sat 14th - Sun 15th June	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze / Harwich Town / Ipswich
Sat 14th - Sun 15th June	c2c:	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 2010 on Saturday and all day Sunday.)
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd June	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton /Walton-on-Naze / Harwich Town / Ipswich
Sat 21st - Sun 22nd June	c2c:	Barking - Grays via Rainham (from 2010 on Saturday and all day Sunday.)
Mon 23rd - Thurs 26th June	c2c:	Upminster - Pitsea via Laindon (from 2240)
Sat 28th - Sun 29th June	NXEA:	Colchester - Clacton /Walton-on-Naze
Sat 28th - Sun 29th June	NXEA:	London Liverpool Street - Chingford
Mon 30th June - Thurs 3rd July	NXEA:	Hackney Downs - Chingford (after 2310)

Michael Springett

Bob Dorr, MD, First Essex

12 months on from his appointment as Managing Director of First Essex, **Bob Dorr** spoke to EBN about his background in the bus industry.



"I completed an engineering apprenticeship with the Rootes Group, so I can swap a Hillman Imp transaxle to this day! However both my parents worked 'on the buses' as conductors in the Lincoln area, so it's in the family and it was perhaps inevitable that I followed a career in public rather than private transport. Joining the Lincolnshire Road Car Company as a conductor in February 1976, I became a crew driver, then OPO, before leaving to join Lincoln City Transport in March 1978. Thanks to the influence and support of David Greenwood, General Manager and then MD, I rose to Traffic Manager there before joining West Yorkshire Road Car Co in 1987 as Operations Manager, firstly at Otley and then at Keighley.

From there I returned to the now-privatised Lincolnshire RoadCar, initially as Operations Manager for Lincoln depot but eventually (with many thanks to MD Paul Hill) I became Commercial Director. Whilst at RoadCar I oversaw the integration of the Lincoln City business which was acquired after an intense period of post-Deregulation rivalry.

I moved on in January 2001, joining Stagecoach West (Cheltenham and Gloucester) as Operations Director. I then took up a similar role at Solent Blue Line from late 2004 until December 2005 when I moved to First Essex.

Since becoming MD in April 2007 I have had lots of challenges to meet – fleet presentation, service delivery, customer focus and not to mention improving financial performance. It's been great fun so far and I have an excellent team of people working for me, so I'm aiming to not only build on this first year but more importantly to expand the business after a number of years of gentle contraction."

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The Lincolnshire Road Car Co Ltd was a Tilling & BAT group company dating from 1928, when it took over the Grantham and Louth operations of Silver Queen – associated with the Clacton and Walton operator acquired by ENOC.

Lincolnshire was sold to its management at almost exactly the same time as ENOC - January 1987 - and to Yorkshire Traction in January 1988, adopting the name 'RoadCar' shortly before privatisation. Since 2006 it has been part of Stagecoach.

West Yorkshire Road Car Co dated from 1927 and, like LRCC, was a T&BAT company into which both the LMS and LNE railways bought. Sold to a team comprising existing management and the MD of East Yorkshire in 1987, it is now part of the First group.

Cheltenham & Gloucester was the privatised Cheltenham District Traction, a highly
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distinctive operation within the Tilling Group's Bristol Tramways/Omnibus Company. When the Bristol empire was broken up for sale by NBC, the Cheltenham operation passed to Western Travel before acquisition by Stagecoach. Solent Blue Line, on the other hand, was a modest Deregulation mainland venture by Southern Vectis which expanded rapidly on the acquisition of Hampshire Bus operations from Stagecoach. It has latterly become a Go-Ahead subsidiary, now trading as Bluestar.

So, interestingly, there is a strong 'Tilling' group thread in Bob's career, with the exception of Lincoln City Transport, a proud municipal operation dating from the days of horse trams in 1883 until the forces of Deregulation forced unimaginable changes, culminating in its sale to RoadCar in 1993. Nevertheless Lincoln had, after many years of Leylands and a few AECs, operated Bristol REs (with Alexander bodies) and VRs.

Chris Stewart



Olympian **34282** (P182 TGD) displays the polished wheel trims now being fitted across all First Group fleets - and also a ghostly reminder of olden times - the *f* **Eastern National** display on the LED indicator. Clacton in April, and an unusual working on service 18.

Kevin Smith

■ FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes

Period 1: 31 March 2008 to 26 April 2008

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

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

43729 CF-BE; 46127 DS-CF(S); 46129 CF-BE; 46811 BE-BN; 46827 BE-CF; 52583 BN-FGC

Disposals (Period 1):
52583 to *First Hampshire & Dorset*

Repaints (Period 1):
31456 40778 34807 31462 34818 43800

This leaves 34815, 46108-10/3/22/7, 46820, 51803 and 67036 (together with Driving School 67037/8/40) as the only vehicles still in 'Barbie 2' livery with 'fades'.

CF53117 was noted on 20th April with new LED display fitted, as also fitted to DT43800.

Jodie Marsh no longer features on the back of Olympian CF34815, having been replaced by an all over rear advert for Newmarket Races (first seen 1st May). CF42485 is also reported as carrying a new rear advert, in this case for Duxford Imperial War Museum.

Area News - workings and sightings:

Rail Replacements (March)

Vehicles used recently on c2c planned rail replacement work have included ECW Olympian 34818 on 19th April and 31374, 31462, 34018, 34301/3 and 34807/15 on 27th (Pitsea to Shoeburyness). An emergency replacement between Chelmsford and Witham on 20th April involved 34301, 42921/2 and 65684. The Bank Holiday weekend of 4th/5th saw an unusual requirement for 15 Solos (including the two from DT), providing low-floor Ipswich-Clacton travel whilst the level crossing at Manningtree was rebuilt and only the shallow underpass available for vehicles.

Clacton & Harwich

On 11th April, Harwich had 34280/4/5 and 57001 all VOR which accounted for CR Lances 67004/5 on loan (together with long term CR34290). 67004 returned to CR on 16th. 34288 had not returned from Harris Commercials when these notes were written, but 43800 had, complete with LED displays.

March

17th CR67007 on DT103
25th CR34013 on DT104

Colchester

Southbound Mersea Road, Colchester, between St Botolph's Circus and Napier Road, was still closed in early April, even though it was due to reopen on 30th March. This is now expected to happen in May.

The T-SSF Scanias continue to appear on 65 quite regularly.

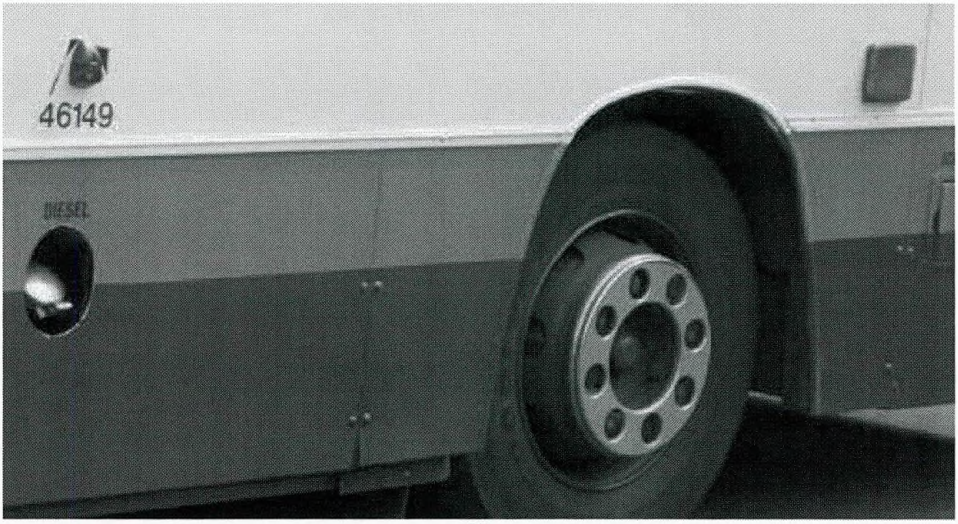
April

9th DT34286 on 76 (20.00 ex CR)
10th DT34286 on 74 all day



The polished wheel-trims now fitted to all First vehicles enhance appearance considerably - a small thing that seems to make a big difference. It must have been a nice order for whoever makes them! East Lancs Dart **41005** and Plaxton Dart **46149** illustrate the effect.

John G. Lidstone



15th CR47102 on 104 (13.30 ex CR)
16th CR65653 on 66, DT34282 on 74 (12.40 ex CR)
17th Solo DT53139 on 103, DT34282 on 74 (11.40 ex CR et seq), CR67005 on 64, DT53139 on 104 (17.35 ex CR) and CN46806 on 75 (17.35 ex CR)
19th CR62408/9 on X22
22nd CR47101 on 65
25th CR62409 on X22

May
1st 90230 (KSW5G CN2383) on private hire for a school 'prom' in Colchester

Chelmsford & Braintree
Several vehicles have been on loan – B2-liveried CN46820 (initially it would seem covering CF53131 at DT whilst 43800 was repainted) followed by CR 47101 and Olympian HH31462 from about 7th May.

April
4th CF65681 on 352
5th Olympian CF34818 on 33, CF(S)46127 on 36
7th BE46813/23 on 33
8th CF46127 on 351
23rd Repainted CF34807 on 33, CN46820 on 352, CF60102 on 70
24th Lance CF60103 on 42, Scania CF65684 on 352, DT34282 on Clacton services, CF53131 on DT 3/4
25th Scania CF65683 on morning 618
30th CN46820 (still o/l) on 351 (11.05 from Chelmsford)

May
1st CF34815 on 351 (12.05 & 14.05 from CD)
3rd CF34815 (and BE46812) on 351
7th CR47101 (loan) on 33
8th CF42483/9 and CF47220 on 72 plus CF43731 (subbing for CF47252), CF42921 on 42, BE46129 on 352 but then exchanged for HH31462 (loan), HH31462 also on 36 with CF34818, CN46820 and CF65683 on 48, BN46184 on 351

Basildon & Hadleigh
April
11th BN31375, BN34011 and BN65673 on 5, BN41651 and BN46172 on 1/1A (but BN52584 on 25B)

May
3rd BN65631 on 551/82 (11.40 551 from Brentwood Station, off 10.42 service 82), BN34012 on 100
8th Olympian BN34011, Dart BN46170 and Scania BN61054 on 100

Other News
Some interesting photos have appeared on *http://kuszok.fpic.co.uk/c1492955.html* showing former First Group Mercedes now in Poland, either converted or undergoing conversion to left hand drive. Amongst these are former 51808 (P408HPU) and 52592 (R412VPU).

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

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by fax on 01277 216745, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so. *Chris Stewart*

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Vehicles in

from Arriva The Shires 2246/375, 3414 4/08

2246 R766 DUB Mercedes O810D 6703732N065245 Plaxton 977.8MWV7518 B27F 9/97
2375 R945 VPU Mercedes O810D 6703732N066343 Plaxton 977.8MWV7380 B27F 5/98
3414 P334 HVX Dennis Dart 212BR5TGD13496 Plaxton 969.2HWN5784 B34F 10/96

Allocations

4/08: 2246.HA; 2370/1.u; 2375.HA; 3341.u; 3414.HA

Vehicles out

2172 (R172 VBM): Hardwick, Carlton (dealer) 3/08
3358 (K408 FHJ): SM Travel, Harlow 1/08
3359 (K409 FHJ): B Line, Royston, South Yorkshire 1/08

Subsequent histories

2111 (MEZ 2217 ex M 41 WUR): Belfitt, Cinderford, Glos, 8/07 ex Pickford, Chippenham, Wilts; gone 1/08
2112 (M 42 WUR): Collins, Rathangan, Eire by 12/07 ex Pickford, Chippenham, Wilts
2116 (N186 EMJ): gone from Hillier, Foxham, Wilts 11/07
2311 (G931 WGS): Viceroy, Saffron Walden by 12/07 ex Charter, Kneesworth, Cambs
2312 (G932 WGS as SIL 5309): PSV Products, Warrington (dealer) 12/06 ex Bassi, Fartown, West Yorkshire
2332 (K712 FNO ex DNZ 5131, K712 FNO, K811 JKH): A1 Coaches, Carlin How, Cleveland 11/07 ex Wren, Carlin How, Cleveland
3385 (M951 LYR): M Travel, Old Trafford, Greater Manchester 12/07 ex Arriva The Shires 3385
5337 (C437 BUV ex VLT 12, C437 BUV): Young, Faversham via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)
5386 (B184 BLG): Coastal Continental, Barry 9/07 ex Tees Valley, Marske-by-the-Sea, Cleveland
5838 (C38 CHM), 5839 (D181 FYM), 5840 (D215 FYM ex 815 DYE, D215 FYM): Cavalier (part of Stagecoach group) 14388/93/4 3/08 ex Cavalier, Long Sutton 4228/30/1

Fleet allocation 4/08

Harlow (HA) 443/44, 1258, 2175/77/89/90/246/48/375/77, 2453-60/65-67/73/74/83-89, 3100/16/23/24/29, 3230/31/50-57, 3338/46/56/57/60/66-69/72/413/14, 3856-60/73/74/907-09

Ware (WE) 2376, 2461-64/90, 3399/417/18/35/39/40/83, 3828/30-32, 3901-6, 4521/22, 5423-29/33/42/43/45-47

Unservicable (u) 2370/71, 3341/71

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Courtesy of *Matthew Arnold*, Arriva Southern Counties Business Development Manager, *Essex Bus News* is able to report exclusive news of some significant vehicle movements. Due for Southend during July and August from Arriva Kent Thameside at Northfleet are Scania L113/Wright "Axcess Ultralow" (B43F) 3250-9 (N250-9 BKK) and DAF SB220LF/Plaxton Prestige (B39F) 3911/8 (T911/8 KKM). All 12 vehicles (currently allocated to routes 480/490 at Northfleet) have undergone extensive refurbishment during the past year with body overhaul, repaint, retrim and fitment of Hanover destination displays. These vehicles will replace a similar number of older double deck vehicles in the fleet at Southend, so photographers are advised to catch them while they can.

Vehicles in
11 new Alexander Dennis Enviro 200s (4000-4010) were delivered to Grays depot during April for T*f*L route 370. These have replaced Dart SLFs (some in provincial Arriva Livery) and DAF SB120s on the route. Full details in EBN next month.

Grays – Southend Transfers
In addition to the vehicles listed in EBN528 further Dart SLFs at Southend from Grays are:

3389 (P259 FPK)	Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B39F
3400 (R310 NGM)	Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B33F
3401 (R311 NGM)	Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton B33F

Dart SLFs 3181/3324/3388/3403 are also expected at Southend shortly. .

Vehicles Out
The following vehicles have been withdrawn from Southend:

Dennis Dart/East Lancs 3006/9 (L508/11 CPJ)
Dennis Dart/Northern Counties 3133/8/50 (L133/8/50 YVK)
Volvo B6/Plaxton 3606/9 (L606/9 EKM)

Operations Update
As mentioned briefly last month, the service changes from March 30 (withdrawal of Grays service 383 and extension of Southend service 5 to Lakeside, over part of the former 383) were the final stage in the process to separate T*f*L and other work.

Grays garage thus now only operates work under contract to T*f*L, comprising routes 256, 346, 370 and 498. The peak vehicle requirement is:
Monday to Friday 24; Saturdays 22; Sundays 13.

The extension of service 5 has increased Southend's run out, and the PVR there is now:
Monday to Friday 57*; Saturdays 53; Sundays 18. (* + 1 on Wednesdays).

Southend's work now includes Sunday Thurrock Council contracted routes 44 (Grays to Purfleet) and 150 (Lakeside to Basildon), comprising 4 duties, with drivers taking meal breaks at Lakeside or Grays depot. On weekdays, the timetable on the 5 calls for some lengthy dead runs, for example on Mondays to Fridays, four buses run dead out of Southend to Grays (2 buses), Basildon (1) and Pitsea (1), whilst in the evening, 1 bus runs in dead from Lakeside and 1 from Basildon. Service 5, incidentally, has a 2-hour running time for the hourly through journeys, with a 21 minute stand at Lakeside. It is covered by a separate rota at Southend, working routes 5, 29 and Sunday 44/150.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski



The new *"5 Basildon direct"* branding is depicted on SLF Dart **3318**.

John G. Lidstone



Belton Way East (the main road up from Leigh Station to Leigh town) is closed for two weeks in early May. The resulting diversions - a double run down to Leigh Station via Belton Way West and service running along Marine Parade is highly unusual and a very rare occurrence. So, you have eastbound buses on routes heading wrong-way, west, up Belton Way West. You have westbound buses heading east down Belton Way West, and roofed buses along Marine Parade - for decades (apart from the short-lived 24B minibuses) only ever served by open-toppers, apart from just a handful of duplicates on 68s on bank holidays and Derby Day each year back in SCT/ST days.

3132 on the 6A is seen climbing up from Leigh Station and the mudflats.

John G. Lidstone

Transport for London

Serial number LP: 022382

London Low Emission Zone
Low Emissions Certificate

Expiry date: Last day of December 2009 (zero nine)

Vehicle Registration Mark: S291 TVW

Make/Model: VOLVO B10M Premier

Chassis number/VIN: YV31MA617WC060963

The vehicle displaying the above registration mark or chassis number or VIN has been examined in accordance with the Transport for London Low Emission Zone emissions standards.

Prescribed Emission Standard: 0.16g/kwh

Particle trap fitted or modification type used: No trap, standard exhaust

Tick one only: P ☐ M ☑ G ☐

Signature of tester:

Date of issue: 8/2/08

Vehicle testing station number or manufacturer reference number: 35

Warning: certificates showing alterations should not be issued or accepted.
Note: please read the notes on the back of this certificate as soon as you receive it.

MAYOR OF LONDON

VOSA
Vehicle & Operator Services Agency
LEC 1 June 2007

LEZ

Commencing on 7 July 2008, the low emission zone covering most of Greater London and operating 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days of the year comes into operation. All diesel powered coaches and buses are covered by the new regulations. Only two of the company's coaches meet Euro 111 emission standard for particulate matter being registered as new on or after 1 October 2001.

These are:

L323 EK51JBE
L324 EK51JAU

Coaches fitted with Euro II engines may meet the required low emission standards of Euro III for particulate matter. These tests are being carried out at local VOSA centres where coaches which meet these standards are issued with a certificate, form LEC1.

The following coaches have met these standards:

L291 S291 TVW Certificate expires 31 Dec 2009
L329 Y747 HWT Certificate expires 30 Nov 2009
L309 R453 FWY Certificate expires 30 Nov 2009
L311 W311 CJN Certificate expires 31 Dec 2009

Other suitable coaches awaiting test are:

L299 P395 AAA
L298 N667 THO
L295 N664 THO
L290 S290 TVW
L286 P530 CLJ



with thanks to D R MacGregor



Few opportunities remain for **Supreme's** Metrobuses to return to the Capital before LEZ commences. **C439 BUV** was on rail replacement service at West Hendon on 23 February.
Owen Woodliffe

Vehicles in
From *Wiltax, New Haw*
282 (R382 GTW) DAF DB250/Northern Counties 004239 H43/25D
New 3/1998 to Harris Bus

Vehicle Workings
Unusual Sightings
April
3rd 387 on 5
4th 300 on 8 (daytime)
10th 106 on 1
21st 307 on 8A (daytime)
23rd 101 on 1

Vehicle News
Route 1 Dart SLF 367 is back in service following repairs to accident damage.

Oympian 47 (H47 MJN) has passed from Wiltax via Ensign to Talisman, Gt Bromley.
Former Colchester Borough Transport Leyland Lynx II (H130 LPU) has been acquired by Tanat Valley, Llanrhaedr Ym Mochnant from Arriva Cymru.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Podgorski

The X1/X10 London Link commuter services have been deregistered after Friday 11 July. The company statement announcing this, read:

> "Over the last couple of years we have been faced with huge increases in costs, particularly fuel. Changes to EU drivers hours in April 2007 meant that we had to start the X1 from Stanford-le-hope instead of from Southend. The London Low Emission Zone (LEZ), commencing from July, would mean an investment of many hundreds of thousands of pounds for newer coaches. Increased reliability on both rail lines has contributed to a decline in passengers and therefore revenue. The introduction of the national concessionary bus pass scheme from April 2008 has further reduced revenue.
>
> The decision has not been an easy one. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for their support over the years, and hope that alternative travel plans can be made. Monthly season tickets will not be issued after 12th June, and annual tickets will be refunded (pro rata) as at 11th July."

The X1 was started by Southend Transport jointly with Reading Transport on 6 October 1980. after the Transport Act 1980, (which deregulated express services) took effect. Twenty-seven eventful years!

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson

Excel Passenger Logistics, now part of the TGM Group within Arriva, started a new coach service between Stansted and Ipswich from Saturday May 3rd. Supported by BAA, the service is branded as ***airdirect*** and has its own website, *www.airdirectipswich.com*, where seats can be booked in advance and taxi pick ups arranged within Ipswich. Registered as a local service, with stops at Capel St Mary, Marks Tey and Braintree, national concessionary fare passes are also accepted.



Two Scania/Irizar coaches with side wheelchair lifts will operate the service but only YN08MPF had been delivered in time for the start (and is not quite in the correct livery yet!), so existing Excel Scanias XL04EXL and RL04EXL are also being used at present. The service runs every two hours, 24 hours a day (in contrast to First services X22 & X30, there are no gaps in the middle of the night), with a journey time of 75 minutes. Route branding is in the familiar Best Impressions house style.

The photograph above and on the front cover were taken at the Braintree stop (in Cressing Road just off the A120) on the afternoon of Friday May 9th, in between erecting timetable displays at the bus stop! This is a good location for pictures as both coaches pass within 10 minutes of each other and run due south, round a roundabout and then due north, so somewhere is right for the sun whatever time of day. *Richard Delahoy*

Other news: Bova Futura YJ03 GXL has joined its sister (YJ03 GXS) with Silver Coach Lines, Edinburgh. A Scania/Irizar is expected to replace it.

The outstation for one vehicle at Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead has closed. It was the base for the vehicle used on the ECC Saffron Walden-Haverhill service.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in	*from*
Dublin Bus:	Olympians 96-D-289/96/324
London General:	LDP45/65
Metroline:	AV32
Reading Buses:	Spectra L707 LJM
Stagecoach Manchester:	Scanias M42 ONF, M113 RNK, M113 SLS, M521/2 UTV, G117 SBA. Olympian tri-axles J166 UNH, G127 WGX and J703 HMY Olympian D260 JVR
TM Travel:	Volvo B10B's N779 DRH M664 KHP DAF SB220 KUI 9267
Transdev Blazefield:	Volvo B6's L644/5/9 OWY M680 SSX M386 VWX Volvo B6BLE's P338/42/44/5/6 JND Metroriders N633 LFR, P638 ARN.
Transdev Bournemouth:	Darts M457/8LLJ
Wiltax Buses:	Olympian H47 MJN (former Network Colchester)

Vehicles out	*to:*
Mercedes 709's N610/38/9 VSS:	**ACL Travel**, Hewish, Somerset
Dart LDP65 (R465 LGH):	**Aintree Coaches**, Merseyside
Volvo B10B's N779 DRH M664 KHP:	**ATbus**, Ashford, Middx.
Bristol VR's GGM 108W CJH 141V RAH 260W DMS1988 :	**Bankfoot Buses**, Perth
Scania L113's M113 SLS M521 UTV N632 XBU:	**Centrebus**, Leicester
Olympians D183/251 FYM converted to open top and allocated to City Sightseeing Chester, on long term hire to **First Group**	
Volvo B6's L644/9 OWY :	**Fowlers Coaches,** Holbeach Drove, Lincs.
Darts P313/6 MLD:	**GB Coaches**, Manchester
Olympians P344/6 ROO:	**Herberts Coaches**, Shefford, Beds.
Spectras K170 FYG, L706 FRD, L707 LJM:	**MASS Engineering**, Sheffield
DAF SB220's R396/7 XDA T164 AUA W178 CDN:	**Renown Coaches**, Bexhill
Dart M458 LLJ:	**Sandwell Travel**, W Bromwich
Dublin Olympian 96-D-310 now P263 SWC with **South Mimms Travel**	
Dublin Olympian 92-D-139 now J908 CEV with **Swanbrook Coaches**, Cheltenham.	
Olympian H47 MJN:	**Talisman Coaches**, Colchester
Olympian J854 TSC:	**TM Travel**, Chesterfield
Metrobuses POG 514/80Y:	**Whippet Coaches**, Fenstanton, Cambs.
Olympian J166 UNH, Scania M42 ONF:	**Z & S Travel**, Aylesbury, Bucks.
Olympian A17ALS:	**Combined Ind. Services**, Southend, Essex.
Dart R875 MCE:	**Hartlepool Families First**, Hartlepool.
Dart J980 JNJ:	**ICT 4 Life**, Sheffield.

Metrobus BYX 268V, Olympians E924 KYR, F283 DRJ, D205/30 FYM
PVS for scrap



left:
A montage of (mainly) Royale front ends at Purfleet in April.

below:
864 DYE, one of the two rare MCW Metroliners recently acquired from Stagecoach in Yorkshire (Yorkshire Traction Co.). After the Stagecoach takeover, they were used for a while on Megabus duties, but being completely non-standard, were not destined to last long.

A new and distinctive type to don Ensignbus colours, the two Metroliners are said to be 'nippy'.

John G. Lidstone



Metrobus OJD840Y: **Double Decker Bus Co.**, Cambridge, MA, USA.
Metrobus BYX307V, VRG418T: **Sarah Ambrose**, Tarragona, Spain.
Atlanteans AVK 177V VFT 189T: **Star Line Tours**, Hollywood, CA, USA.

■ **ENSIGN BUS CO. Ltd., Purfleet**
Metroline coach E99 AAK has been reregistered 304 CLT.

Metrobus 143 and 173 have been withdrawn.
173 have been sold to Supreme Coaches, Southend.
RM758 withdrawn from Heritage Fleet and sold to Bellamy's Coaches, Nottingham.

RCL2220 was used as the UKIP "battle bus" for the London Mayoral elections and open top Olympian 307 was used by George Galloway's Respect party.

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

Regal Busways

A further Dennis Dart/Plaxton is former Stagecoach Yorkshire L4 YTB. It retains Yorkshire Traction livery, from it's previous owner. Also acquired is Leyland Olympian/ECW OUI 6274 (JTY 401X). *Ian Ransom*

Stansted Transit

Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton P689 RWU and T223 SAS have gone to Dawsonrentals, Milton Keynes, as has similar but Caetano bodied T401 LGP. Dennis Dart MPD KV03 ZGP has lost its service 133 branding and is now in plain white. *Ian Ransom*

Small Operator News

A&J, Rochford A third ex Essex County Council, Ford Transit/Steedrive is H950 KVX. Ford Transit D28 WVW, G90 XFP and H829 DRY have been sold

AMBER, Rayleigh Acquired from Happy Days, Stafford is YR02 ZZL a Scania K114/Van Hool. Sold to Basildon Travel, Rayleigh are J833 WDC an Iveco 315/Lorraine and N741 FKX a LDV 400.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh DAF SB2305/Van Hool E605 LVH has been sold to Laser Cabs, Porth

BJS, Gt Wakering Acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus is Leyland Tiger/Plaxon B405 CMC

BUS 2 BUS, Shoeburyness Acquired is Ford Transit/Chassis Developments R266 AKY

CEDRICS, Wivenhoe Former Stagecoach East Midland Leyland Olympian/ECW K360 DWJ has been acquired. The registered name of this operator changed recently from Cedrics (Garages) Ltd to Cedrics Coaches Ltd. Leyland Olympian K815 HMV now has an LED destination display.

Buses reports that the fleet has been renumbered as follows Leyland Olympian C669 LJR (1), H552 GKX (2), G756 UYT (3), K814-6 HMV (4-6), H547/8 GKX (7/8) G285 UMJ (9). Coaches are



NIBS Plaxton Dart **R507 SJM** is now repainted and fitted with an LED indicator, here seen in Wickford.

Imperial Marshall Dart **R710 MEW** picks up in Chelmsford on the 32.

Kevin Smith



Scania/Irizar YN51 MHO (11), DAF/Van Hool YN02 RCO (12), Bova Futura FSK 868 (14), OUI 8418 (18), Y658 HWY (19) Volvo/Jonckhree R15 CED (15), Toyota/Caetano P960 RNR (16), Volvo/Van Hool YIL 7758 (17), Volvo/Berkhof R20 CED (20). Volvo Citybus/East Lancs G618 BPH is thought to still be here, but its new number is not known. Mercedes Benz Touro BW04 ZGU has gone to Vale (dealer) Gt Kingshill

CEEFA COACHES, Basildon Acquired from Alec Leonard, Basildon is KJI 6029 (F380 CHE) a Scania K112/Van Hool.

CLINTONA, Brentwood Acquired from Lecks Travel, Haverthwaite is Mercedes Benz 0814D/Autobus FX03 GJU.

COOKS, Rochford Unusual in this normally Bova fleet is N11 CHN a Sca K113/Irizar from First Choice, Stanley. Also acquired is Ford Transit LT52 DFY a Ford Transit. LDV Convoy T384 VKE has been sold.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton V771 GCS has been acquired.

CREST, Rochford Acquired from an unknown source is Mercedes Benz 609D/Devon Conversions M937 XKA.

EDS MINIBUS HIRE, East Tilbury Acquired from Tydd Travel, Tydd St Giles is P164 ANR a Toyota/Caetano, it has been re-registered B3 EDS. The previous B3 EDS a MAN 10.180/Caetano was re-registered to it's original G442 WFC and sold.

FLORIDA ,Halstead MAN/Reeve Burgess C122 BTP has been advertised for sale on E-bay

HARDY MILES, Southend Volvo Citybus/Alexander BIG 8746 (F254 OFP) is back in use.

KIRBY COACHES, Rayleigh New is Setra S415HD BX07 NLR. Setra S215HD F993 MTW and G636 CAF, are for sale.

KIRBYS OF ESSEX, Rayleigh B81 RLO (7639 MW) a Setra S215HD has been sold

LODGE, High Easter Sold to Norwich School are Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F459 NDV and J13 WSB

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Iveco 59-12/Marshall M733 AOO and M157 RBH have been sold to LHE Ventura, Lingfield. Acquired is former Arriva Dennis Dart/Wright H368 XGC

PETER GODWARD, Southend To correct previous reports YN07 LJE/F are Scania K340's rather than K114.

RONDA, Southend Acquired from BJS, Gt Wakering is KUI 8146 (E744 YMW) a Mercedes Benz 709D/Reeve Burgess. DAF MB200/Plaxton RIB 7910 (new as XAD 727X) has been sold for scrap.

SBC, Wickford The PSV Circle reports that the depot is now located at Dollymans Farm, Doublegate Lane, Wickford. It had previously been at Stock Road, Southend.

SIMONS BUS, Wickford Recently added to this fleet is S346 UEW a LDV Convoy.

S&M, Thundersley MCW Metrobus BOK 40V and Leyland Olympian/ECW C205 GTU, have been sold. The Metrobus went for scrap.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Bova Futura HIL 2923 (A398 VML) has been sold to Vale (dealer), Great Kingshill.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS, Southend Acquired from BJS, Gt Wakering is Mercedes Benz 0814D/Onyx X476 DAB

STANS, Gt Totham Dennis Javelin/Plaxton B3 CEC (J718 KBC) is named Miss Judy.

SUPREME, Southend Ford Transit R308 WPU is now in use as a service vehicle. Reported as acquired is G65 SNN a Mercedes Benz 709D/Carlyle G65 SNN, although it appears to be a store. Former Crown Iveco 59-12/UVG, N418 UWN is withdrawn here. Acquired is P215 VTY a LDV Convoy. Former Crown H994 FTT a Mercedes Benz 811D/Carlyle has been sold.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Two new Setra S416GT are due. They will be registered EU08 NEU and OK08 ULM. Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton K633 GVX is on loan to Malcolms Blue Bus, Gt Bromley.

TN TRAVEL, Colchester Ford Transit N804 HVX appears to be back in use

TURNERS, Little Maplestead ODJ 588W one of the few remaining Ford R1114/Duple left in PSV service has been withdrawn

WICKS Braintree Acquired from Bassi, Huddersfield is Toyota/Caetano S760 DOX

Ian Ransom with thanks to PSV Circle, John Podgorski, Colin Sigston and Dave Arnold



Scania-engined RM478 is owned by the CEO of Equity Insurance, who sponsored a Fun Run/Half Marathon on 9th March in Brentwood. Seen here on the village green at Blackmore. *Chris Stewart*

On a shuttle service to/from Castle Point Transport Museum on Canvey, Eastern National L5G ONO 49 was one of several vehicles being used in connection with the miniature railway being open at Waterside Farm and a Model Railway Exhibition on 20th April in the Museum.. *Chris Stewart*







PCV HOLDER ?

> FULL AND PART-TIME DRIVERS REQUIRED

Stephensons of Essex and Excel Passenger Logistics are expanding fast and we have vacancies for drivers at our Maldon, Rochford, Stansted and Witham depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services, weekend rail replacement, together with work and private hires.

If you're over 25 and have held a PCV licence for two years or more, we'd like to hear from you.

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.

> FULL AND PART-TIME PCV FITTERS

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford, Stansted and Witham depots.

> RAIL CONTROLLERS / CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact

Stephensons:	Bill Hiron	01702 541511
Excel:	Graham Hayden	01279 681800

Stephensons excel