

ESSEX BUS NEWS

October 2000

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

438



Former Eastern National 1931 (MHJ727V) is now operating for Highland Country Services, part of the Rapson Group. It is numbered 141 and is seen here at its home garage at Aviemore.

Alan Osborne.

MANAGING EDITOR:

Peter Snell

Please send your news reports to:

SUB EDITORS:

Southend Transport:

Steve Thompson, 18 Vicarage Close, Canvey Island, SS8 0LY

Thamesway:

John Weeks, 34 Elliot Close, South Woodham Ferrers, CM3 5YN

Essex Buses & S Essex small ops:

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

County Bus:

Ian Burton, 46 Stoneleigh Drive, Hoddesdon, EN11 9LN

North Essex major ops:

Paul Sparks, 87 Thorpe Road, Great Clacton, CO15 4NT

North Essex small ops:

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR

TOURS ORGANISER:

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR

PHOTO ORDERS:

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

MEMBERSHIP:

Derek Stebbing, 18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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EDITORIAL

438 FOCUS OF THE MONTH

EBM438T, Leyland PSU5C/4R, Duple Dominant 2 C57F, new in 1979, was Southend Transport 338, one of the large fleet of coaches acquired for London Express services. It was new to Ebdons of Sidcup and purchased by Southend from Limebournes, London in 1984.

IN THIS ISSUE

Arriva Southend exchange Olympians for minis.

Eastern National depot allocation for June 1961.

Great Eastern Railway buses in Essex.

Town and Country Travel shed more routes, Arriva at Grays takes these over, so it is all change at Grays again.

VACANCY

There will be from January 2001 a vacancy on the editorial team, for a Sub Editor for the Arriva East and Essex area, any member who is interested in taking on this position should write to the Managing Editor, Peter Snell 6 Mandeville Way, Essex, SS7 4LH.

ROCHFORD MEETINGS FREIGHT HOUSE 8pm.

November 14th Programme not finalised as explained at October meeting.

December 12th Slide Show by Richard Delahoye "20 years ago".

Dates for 2001 meetings will be announced next month.

WANTED

Details of vehicles used by Thamesway on service 203 Loughton-Chigwell school service, and details of any photographs available. Details to Peter Snell please.

Any members who have notes for inclusion in the November EBN relating to Eastern National, would they please send them to Peter Snell direct this is due to the fact that Ian Ransom will sunning himself in Australia, it will probably rain there too !!!!!!!!!!! this is for the November EBN only thank you.

Contributions for this edition of Essex Bus News received with thanks from, Essex Buses, Essex County Council, Arriva Colchester, Arriva Southend, Arriva East Herts and Essex, Hedingham Omnibuses (Mr D R McGregor), C Stewart, R Delahoye, D Reynolds, C Sigston, LOTS, PSV Circle.

Contribution for the November EBN should be received by Sub-Editors by November 6th and Managing Editor by 10th November.

ACQUIRED VEHICLES

2902	M220 VWW	Dennis Dart 9.8 SDL	Alexander	B40F
2903	M221 VWW	Dennis Dart 9.8 SDL	Alexander	B40F
2904	M450 VWW	Dennis Dart 9.8 SDL	Alexander	B40F
2910	M228 VWW	Dennis Dart 9.8 SDL	Alexander	B40F

All are ex First Leeds (3220-22/30)

Chassis numbers are 3054/2311; 3054/2312; 3054/2314; 3054/2330

Body numbers are 9433/2; 9433/3; 9433/4; 9433/10.

My apologies for missing 2901 details last month chassis is 3054/2310 and body 9433/1.

2901/2/10 have entered service in First Leeds livery, it is planned to start a repaint programme shortly.

ALLOCATIONS

Period end 1.10.00 346 D/L(D)-Res; 1924 AB-CF; 2601-D/L(D)-Paint Spare;
2606 AB-D/L(D) 2609 D/L(D)-AB; 2627 BE-CF; 2901 Res-CF;
2902/10 Acqd-CF; 2903/4 Acqd-Res; 3106 CR-D/L(D);
3219 CF-BE; 3222/8 CF-CR; 5000 CF-BE; 5001 CF-Tway

UNUSUAL WORKINGS

22.8.00. Tway 4005 on service 350 (worked by CF depot)
23.8.00. Tway 4005 on service 350 (worked by CF depot)
25.8.00 CF 1850 on service 351

To correct previous notes, the vehicles in Phoenix livery do not operate to the Anglo European school. One days recent observations saw:-
26xx (unidentified Mercedes), 733, 920, 1850, 1425, 1427, 3112, 2901. In addition two Nelsons vehicles and an unidentified coach were seen.

SERVICES

354 Withdrawn after operation on 30.9.00.

Operation of service 646 (Noak Hill to Cranham - Schooldays only) passed from Chelmsford depot to Basildon from the start of the new school term. Two of the Leyland Lynx recently moved from Hadleigh are normally used.

GENERAL

Through ticketing on local services in Chelmsford, to connect with the service to Stansted has recently been introduced.

The V2000 concert in Chelmsford on August 19/20th saw every available double decker from Eastern National and Thamesway in use, in addition Nelsons supplied six vehicles. The peak vehicle requirement on the shuttle service from Chelmsford Bus Station to Hylands park, was in excess of 45 vehicles. The following weekends Chelmsford Spectacular saw a similar shuttle in operation, albeit on a much smaller scale.

Volvo Olympian 4308, was involved in a serious RTA in late July. It was hit by a car with such force that the steering box was taken off and the bus then collided with a building. It is understood that it will be repaired. Scania 652/3 have also been off the road with accident damage recently.

Bristol KSW 2383 has seen continued use on special services during the summer. These include the joint Great Eastern "Ale Trail" on the Harwich Line, The Chappel Beer Festival and at the Harlow Show. During this latter event a partial gearbox failure occurred, for which part number MS187/1 is required for repair. Please contact the company or Ian Ransom, should you know where it can be obtained.

Mercedes 2655 was used to take staff to the First Corporate Games held in Aberdeen during July.

PUBLICITY

Recent items include timetable leaflets for services 33 dated 5.6.00; updated by 33 (fax dated 29.8.00); 72/A dated 4.9.00; 73 dated 4.9.00; 75 dated 4.9.00; Diamond dated 4.9.00; Stansted CoachLINK dated 11.6.00;

INITIAL DISPOSALS

308 (H308 LJN)	First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 9/00
330 (H338 LJN)	First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 8/00
382 (H393 OHK)	First Eastern Counties, Norwich, 9/00

EASTERN NATIONAL GARAGE ALLOCATIONS HD HALSTEAD 18/6/1961

309	ONO49	Bristol L5G	B35R
365	UEV843	Bristol LS5G	C39F
367	UEV845	Bristol LS5G	C39F
460	1864F	Bristol MW5G	B41F
461	1865F	Bristol MW5G	B41F
469	206MHK	Bristol MW5G	B41F
491	1255EV	Bristol MW5G	DP41F
494	1258EV	Bristol MW5G	B45F
496	1260EV	Bristol MW5G	B45F
497	1261EV	Bristol MW5G	B45F
516	1270EV	Bristol MW5G	B45F
523	2734EV	Bristol MW5G	B45F
1315	NNO106	Bristol K5G	L55R
1331	ONO64	Bristol K5G	L55R
1370	TNO681	Bristol KSW5G	L55R
1371	TNO682	Bristol KSW5G	L55R
1492	323GPU	Bristol LD5G	H60R
1521	79JNO	Bristol LD5G	H60R
1536	1850F	Bristol LD5G	H60R
1567	59PPU	Bristol LD5G	H60R

A MOST NORTHERLY E.N. DECKER

Toysan Linja of Keuren is known to have operated former Eastern National Bristol FLF6G 2852 (OVX296D) with local registration XKM 980 on sightseeing tours around Jyväskylä, Finland. A recent report indicated it was no longer in service, however, this leaflet on the Jyväskylä region obtained from the Tampere Tourist Office during a visit to Finland in July 2000 still illustrates the vehicle. If anyone speaks fluent Finnish, perhaps they might care to translate!

Alan Osborne

Matkailuneuvonta, opasvälitys, ryhmäpaketit

Opasvälitys ja retkisuunnittelu

Jyväskylän seudun matkailupalvelu,
Asemakatu 6, puh. 624 904,
E-mail: matkailu@jkl.fi.
Laukaan oppaat, puh. 839 0196.

Opastetut kierrokset

Päiväkierros kahsikerrossuilla Jyväskylässä
26.6.-6.8. joka päivä 12.30, kesto 1 tunti
Aikuiset 40 mk, alle 12 v. 20 mk.
Opastuskielet suomi ja englanti.

Vanhan hautausmaan kävelykierros
28.6.-2.8. kesäviikko-ittain klo 18, kesto 1,5
tuntia. Opastuskieli suomi. Ryhmille
tilauksesta myös eri kielillä. Mita
hertovatkan meillä iäkkaat
lehtipuit ja vanhat hautakivet
Jyväskylän historiasta? Mita
merkittävät Suomen kulttuurille
nimet Isa Asp, Greta Haapala,
Wolmar Schildt-Kilpinen?
Näihin kysymyksiin ja monen
muuhun saat vastauksen 160-
vuotiaalla vanhalla hautaus-
maalla. Kierroksen johtajaksi
voi osallistua musiikkiharrastaneen
vanhan hautausmaan kappellissa.
Osallistumismaksu 30 mk, lähtö
kierrokselle sankarihaudoilta, Puistoka-
dulta.

Valmiita ryhmäpaketteja

Tähtihetkiä Jyväskylän seudulla
Kesäinen juhla-kierros 24.5.-15.8.
Kylpylä-hotelli Perunka, kanavaristeily,
Viherlandia, Savutuvan apaja, Pellava-Aitta,
Ilmailumuseo, Asemuseo, Kauppmuseo, Pandan
tietämyymälä.

Tule yksin, kaksin tai ryhmänä; tule jalan,
autolla tai muulla pelillä. Ota opas, jonka
avulla voit elää kaupungin historiaa ja nyky-
päivää. Opastamme eri kielillä.
Kysy lisää opasvälityksestä, Jyvs-
kylän seudun matkailupalvelusta.

Jyväskylän matkailuoppaat ry

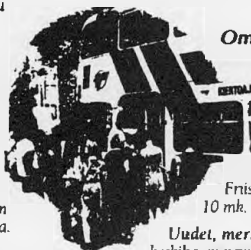


Juhlakierrostarjous ympäri vuoden:
Kylpylahotelli Perunka, Viherlandia, Savutuvan
apaja, Pellava-Aitta, Ilmailumuseo, Asemuseo,
Kauppmuseo.

Seikkailupäivä Viherlaaksossa
15.5.-27.8.2000

Iloinen luokkaretki ala-asteen oppilaille ja päivähoiti-
ryhmille. Ryhmäpakettiin sisältyy pieni laavamaika,
ruokailu Viherlandian ravintola Edenissä ja salua
ja seikkailua Viherlaaksossa, Hilarius-Hiiren
kotipuistossa. Hinta alkaen 90 mk/henkilö.

Varaukset: Myyntitoimisto, puh. 339 8350,
fax 339 8399. Pyydä esite, jossa ovat
aikataulut ja hinnat.



Omatoimiselle matkailijalle

Alvar Aallon kohteet: Kävely-
pyöräily- ja autoilureittikartat
5 mk/kpl (myös englanti, saksa,
ranska).

Arkkitehtuuria ja nähtävyyk-
siä Jyväskylässä, Vuoleensininen
Fräisi -vihkonen (suomi ja englanti)
10 mk.

Uudet, merkityt kävelykierrokset valmistuvat
kesäkaupungin alueelle heinäkuussa. Ne tutus-
tuttavat matkailijaa Jyväskylän kaupunkihistoriaan
Kävelen tai pyöräillen, esittein tai oppaan kanssa
huljettavat reitit sopivat myös lapsiperheille.
"Salainen Jyväskylä" -esite 10 mk.

**TAKSI**
puh. 106 400

Toimisto: 4111 101
Fax: 4111 111
Tekstipuhelin: 4111 155

Jyväskylän Aluetaksi Oy

Thamesway

DISPOSALS September 2000

342	H352LJN	To First Eastern Counties
354	H365LJN	To First Eastern Counties
382	H393OHK	To First Eastern Counties

ALLOCATION CHANGES

310 BN-HH 368 Shuttle-Paint Spare 3226 HH- CN disposal Phoenix 5001 ENCF HH

SERVICE CHANGES

- 2 Southend-Basildon Daily Revised timetable from 3rd September.
- 2a Basildon-Walthamstow Suns and Bank Hols Service withdrawn from 3rd September and as mentioned in EBN437 this is final link on the old City Road the last vehicle was Dennis Dart SLF 705 P705 HPU.
- 3/a/b/c Canvey-Southend Revised timetable from Sept 3rd and some journeys extended to Temple Sutton (see service 63).
- 15/a/b/c/d Basildon-Southend Revised timetable from 4th Sept.
- 16 Southend-Canvey Revised timetable from 4th Sept
- 20/b/c Southend-Hullbridge Revised timetable from 3rd Sept.
- 21/a/b/c/d Southend-Canvey Revised timetable from 3rd Sept
- 22 Canvey-Basildon/Lakeside Revised timetable from 3rd Sept, w/d Bas-Lakeside.
- 25e Sutton Cemetry-Basildon (Suns-BH) revised timetable from 3rd Sept.
- 28 Canvey-Benfleet Revised timetable from 4th Sept.
- 63 Southend-Temple Sutton withdrawn see service 3.
- 80 Warley-Shenfield Revised timetable from 4th Sept.
- 81/2 Warley-Hutton Revised timetable from 4th Sept.

ODD WORKINGS

- 13/9/00 Dart 919 Super 8 livery on 269
- 16/9/00 Mercedes 323 on 27
- 22/9/00 Dart 711 on Green Line 721 and again 26th and 27th.
- 22/9/00 Mercedes 327 on 3 (mid-day)

Thamesway were involved in railway replacement work between Wickford and Shenfield on October 1st.

London Transport contract service W19 Ilford-Walthamstow that was being operated on behalf of First Capital was taken over by Capital on 2/10/00 and the 6 Mercedes returned.

BUS DRIVER VACANCIES

First Eastern National
First Thamesway
First Airport Bus & Coach

Are you over 18? Hold a full clean licence?

Basildon 01268 525251 Chelmsford 01245 262828
Colchester 01206 366911 Stansted 01279 680854

For an application form

BUS DRIVER VACANCIES

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First Thamesway
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Are you over 18? Hold a full clean licence?

Basildon 01268 525251 Chelmsford 01245 262828
Colchester 01206 366911 Stansted 01279 680854

For an application form

THAMESWAY MERCEDES 811D

0800-0804	F800-804RHK	Reeve Burgess B31F	2/3-89
805 - 811	K805-811DJN	Plaxton B31F	10/92

These buses were first operated on London Transport contracts from Walthamstow.

0800-0804	Transferred to First Capital	26/9/98	600/6/7/3/4
805-811	Loaned to First Capital for route D8	5/6/98	

Returned to Thamesway

805 9/98, 806 10/98, 807 9/98, 808 4/98, 809 9/98, 810 4/98, 811 10/98.
Allocated to Basildon and Romford depots.

The First Capital vehicles 0800-0804

0800	to First Western National	6382	11/99
0801	to First Western National	6381	11/99
0802	to First Western National	6398	2/00

Loaned by First Capital to First Thamesway for service W19, with three Capital 811Ds

Capital 613	J613HMF	TW800
Capital 611	J611HMF	TW801
Capital 612	J612HMF	TW802
Capital 603	F803RHK	TW803
Capital 604	F804RHK	TW804

Capital assumed operation of service W19 from 2/10/2000 and vehicles subsequently sent back to Capital..

PHOENIX STUDENT TRAVEL LIMITED

Phoenix liveried school bus services operated by The Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex began operating with two buses contracted from Eastern National after Essex County Council discontinued free travel to the county's grammar schools.

It was developed as a non-profit making service and has blossomed into a separate organisation, called Phoenix Student Travel Ltd, that has 34 buses under contract and has purchased a fleet of seven vehicles to help with increasing demand.

The scheme is supported by First Group and has created 18 jobs.

Over 2000 students are transported to 37 schools and colleges. Parents deal direct with Phoenix and this has reduced the administrative burden on schools.

The vehicles mentioned are the fleet recently reported in EBN 437, 5000-5006.
These are leased to First Essex who operate them alongside bona fide First Essex vehicles.

A former Midland Fox Cub, Ford Transit "breadvan" B416NJJ is currently operated by Tom's Mini Coaches at Southend, new in September 1985 it was purchased by Toms in September 1992 from Don Valley in Sheffield, unusually this is still carrying the original Midland Fox fleetnumber plate M18 after all these years!!

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD Operation of recently acquired services 72 (Stondon Massey - Brentwood) and 261 (Blackmore - Brentwood) is normally with T821/2 TTW Iveco/Marshall. If they are not available a R-- EDW Mercedes covers..

NELSONS School services 41-46/48/50 will have revised timetables from 30.10.00. From 2.10.00 service 21 (Shotgate - North Benfleet) was revised to serve The Wick. The timetable will be further revised from 30.10.00.

Bristol VR VEX 295X was on hire to Town & Country on 24.8.00.

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL

Publicity items include revised VillageLink timetables for services 2; 14/15 and 16 dated 4.9.00. Timetable leaflet for services 32 dated 31.7.00; 59/347/348/349 dated 6.3.00; 73/A dated 4.9.00; 301 dated 31.7.00.

Sunday Travel Guide timetable book dated 28.5.00 - 20.5.01

Dengie VillageLink timetable booklet dated 30.5.00.



SERVICE CHANGES

14/15

Wickford-Chelmsford Timetable changes 14/9.

16

Extended to Wethersfield and serves Broomfield Hosp.4/9.

THE EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

THE ORIGINAL EASTERN NATIONAL

The National Omnibus and Transport Company operated a total fifty two Leyland PLCs, the normal control version of the Leyland Lion PLSC, this was made up of fourteen B26R saloons with Strachan and Brown bodies, and the balance were C26D coaches with Beadle and London Lorries (1) coachwork.

On the formation of Eastern National in 1929/30 only four of these were taken into stock, one saloon 2343 (VW196) and three coaches 2349 (TW8929), 2350 (TW9359), 2354 (TW9347).so they were never prominent in Eastern area. When the Silver Queen Onibus Company at Clacton was acquired by Eastern National in 1931 a Leyland PLC was among the fleet taken over, 3159 (TW9799) a Strachan bodied C30D coach.

All of these were withdrawn and sold by 1945, however three Western National Leylands did see service in Essex at least with 2356 (TW9348) and 2564 (VW4709) plying for hire along Southend Sea Front operated by George and Leslie of Southend, and Wright of Southend had 2333 (TW8931), which was used on workmans contracts.

ARRIVA EAST HERTS AND ESSX

FLEET

Vehicles In / Transfers

2233	M583 SSX	Ford Transit 59.12 Keiss B29F
2235/6	N935/6 ETU	Iveco 59.12, Mellor B25F
3352-4	J402-4 XVX	Dennis Dart, Wright B40F
3386	P256 FPK	Dennis Dart SLF, Plaxton B39F
3417/8	P417/8 HVX	Dennis Dart SLF, Wright B40F
5376	MUH 286X	Leyland Olympian, ECW H45/32F

Liveries

August 00: 2233 (M583 SSX), 2236 (N936 ETU), 2374 (R944 VPU), 3064 (E969 PME),
 3417/8 (P418/8 HPU) to Arriva corporate livery
 3386 (P256 FPK) retains Southend livery without fleetnames
 5263 (BYX 230V) to overall advertisement for Fishpools
 Sept 00: 2235 (N935 ETU) to Arriva corporate livery

General

2100 (M160 RBH) has not been acquired (correction to EBN 437)
 5263 (BYX 230V) has not been repainted into ??? (correction to EBN 437)

3386, 3417/8 have been transferred from Arriva Southend to meet a Herts CC requirement for low floor vehicles to operate on service 331 (Hertford - Royston).

C835 BUW Metrobus in Metroline livery was seen operating route 310A on 02/10/00.

3389 (P259 FPK) Dennis Dart SLF, Plaxton B39F in Arriva corporate livery with 370/2 route branding was on display at Showbus, Duxford on Sunday 24th September.

Allocation Changes to August 2000

2070	J65 UNA	to Arriva Southend
2233	M583 SSX	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
2236	N936 ETU	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
3386	P256 FPK	Arriva Southend to Ware
3417/8	P417/8 HVX	Arriva Southend to Ware
4337		Ware to Harlow

Allocation Changes to September 2000

2235	N935 ETU	Arriva the Shires to Harlow
2314	J934 WHJ	Harlow to Sold (Ramm, Sudden)
2318	J938 WHJ	Harlow to Sold (Hardie, Greenock)
5376	MUH 286X	Ware to Arriva Southend Harlow

SERVICES

- 9 September 388/9 Aveley - Basildon. The Saturday service is now operated by Clintona Minicoaches.
- 23 September 301 Ongar - Loughton. Service withdrawn.
- 391 Old Harlow - Harlow. Revised timetable
- 392 Old Harlow - Hundred Acre Estate, Hoddesdon. Service no longer operates to Hertford. Revised timetable.
- 501 Old Harlow - Brentwood. Revised timetable. Additional journeys Mondays to Fridays between Ongar and Epping during the morning and afternoon peak periods.
- 503 Harlow - Loughton. New service. Monday - Saturday daytimes hourly.
- 505 Old Harlow - Walthamstow. Revised timetable.

W G TRAVEL FORMERLY S M TRAVEL HARLOW

W G TRAVEL FLEET LIST

6 2000

BX12410	Bova FLD12-250	Bova C53F
HIL2923	Bova FHD12-280	Bova C49FT
A319HFP	Bova EL26/581	Duple C53F
RNH784V	Ford R1114	Plaxton C53F
F353VRN	Leyland LBM6T/2RS	Elme C35F
B205YBX	Au N122/3	Au CH57/20CT
KEH976N	Daimler CRG6	Park Royal H43/33F
D555HNW	Fiat 49-10	Robin Hood DP21F
F224AKG	Fiat 49-10	Carlyle B21F
F77CJC	Fiat 49-10	Carlyle DP25F
G743DSG	Fiat 49-10	Carlyle B24F
H103EKR	Fiat 49-10	PIC B23F
N303FOR	Iveco 59-12	Mellor B29F
N139GMJ	Iveco 59-12	Marshall B31F
N662HBY	Iveco 59-12	Marshall DP27F

ROUTES OPERATED (ESSEX)

- G34 Harlow-Hertford-Welwyn Garden City, Mon-Sats
- SM18 Roydon-Harlow Mon-Fri School Days
- SM19 Harlow-Bishops Stortford Mon -Fri School Days
- SM20 Harlow Local Service Mon -Fri School Days
- T15 Church Langley-Harlow Mon-Sats

ARRIVA SOUTHEND

Transfers in

2181-3 R191-193DNM Mercedes 0810 Vario Plaxton B27F ex Arriva The Shires 10/00.

Transfers out

5373	MUH283X	Leyland Olympian ECW H45/32F to Arriva Grays	10/00.
5381	MUH281X	Leyland Olympian ECW H45/32F to Arriva Grays	10/00
5384	A110FDL	Leyland Olympian ECW DP41/23f to Arriva Grays	10/00

REPAINTS

5392	F572SMG	Arriva livery ex HWS all-over advert	9/00
5419	N709TPK	Arriva livery	9/00.

DISPOSALS

4314	B84SWX	Helms Eastham
4315	B85SWX	Aintree Coaches Liverpool
(554)	A154EPA	Ayling Shipley 2/00

Fleetline Disposals

234	5334	De Courcey Coventry
235	5335	Trustline Sth Mimms ref EBN 437
236	5336	De Courcey Coventry
237	5337 233 5333	Sidcup Coaches Sidcup via Stephenson's Dir
238	5338	Stephenson's Rochford fleet
239	5339	Ford Althorne rebuilt to single door
240	5340	De Courcey Coventry (for 5 plates)
241	5341	Ford Althorne rebuilt to single door
242	5342	Trustline South Mimms
243	5343 237 5337	Seen Arriva Cannock painted orange 9/00
244	5344 221 5321	De Courcey
250	5345	Trustline South Mimms
251	5346	Trustline South Mimms
252	5347	Pegg Liverpool
253	5348	Trustline South Mimms
254	5344	Pegg Liverpool

SERVICE CHANGES

SERVICE 13 Southend-Eastwood Rise withdrawn on Saturdays from 26/8/00
SERVICE 62a Southend-Belfairs/North Leigh. 3 Sunday journeys PM withdrawn 20/8/00

GENERAL NEWS

A general fares increase took effect from October 1st
Arriva Southend are still operating vehicles with incomplete blinds, notable is Mercedes 2086-2088 L326-8AUT which have been at Southend since February have no destination blinds.

PRESERVATION NEWS

336 CJN436C Leyland PD3 the Southend playbus has been sold, this vehicle known as LULU 2 has been acquired by Chris Pearce a Southdown "Queen Mary" fan and is to be restored to Southend livery after rebuilding.

ARRIVA COLCHESTER

Transfers in

3081	F153KGS	Volvo B10M Plaxton B54F ex Arriva The Shires	27/9/00
5380	TPD110X	Leyland Olympian Roe H43/29F ex Arriva The Shires	28/9/00

Transfers out

3305	J1L2195	LN/Greenaway	to Arriva EH & E Grays 10/00
3308	NIW6508	LN/Greenaway	to Arriva EH & E Grays 10/00

3305	H350PNO	Leyland LBM6T/2RA	to Arriva <i>Southend Grays</i>
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General News

Mercedes 810D were recalled to the manufacturers in September for retarder problems.
Leyland Olympian 5407 H47MJN attended Showbus at Duxford 24/9/2000.

Services

2/9/00	Last day of operation on service 756
8/9/00	Last day of operation for the Town Circular Tour.

Disposals

3303 NWO463R	Gale Harlow 8/00
4302 OHE274X	Arriva Fox County 7/00
5319 RVW89W	Court Fillongley 3/00 via Hardwick Carlton.



Leyland Olympian NL 2735 is number 324 in the fleet of Highalnd Country Bus Services. It was formerly registered B693BPU and was 4505 in the Eastern National and Thamesway fleets. It is seen here at Scrabster Pier, the ferry terminal for the Orkney Islands, on the connectional service from Thurso Railway Stn. This is the most northerly point in United Kingdom regularly served by double deckers.

Alan Osborne.

GREAT EASTERN RAILWAY BUSES IN ESSEX

In July 1904 the Great Eastern Railway started to operate buses in the Lowestoft area using three Milnes-Daimler double deckers, painted in a brown livery with the GER coat of arms on the body panels and Great Eastern Railway on the boards of the top deck.

The company were soon looking to expand their operations and it was decided to build their own buses at Stratford Works of the railway. Work started in 1905 when 30 seat plus luggage and 36 seat double deckers were produced, every part except the low tension magneto and the French carburettor. Built on frames worthy of goods wagons they must have been one of most uncomfortable motor-buses ever built. these were painted red and white.

New services were duly operated in the summer of 1905, and in August a service commenced from Clacton to St Osyth, this ran again in the summers of 1906 and 1907, A service from Colchester to Nayland was planned but never operated, the next services in Essex commenced on the 8th September when buses ran from Chelmsford to Danbury. Great Waltham and Writtle, these routes were operated by the new GER buses

The GER buses were not very succesful, resulting in the services being suspended on the 20th December pending them being rebuilt. On completion of the work of this work operations were resumed by 12th March 1906.

A service from Colchester to West Mersea was the only route that GER met competition this was from local operator A W Berry of Colchester, acquired by Eastern National some 30 years later. A further route was proposed to run from Romford to Gidea Hall Estate, the railway company eventually subsidised a local operator.

At the end of 1905 an order for three Thornycroft and three Maudslay double deckers was made to be delivered by 1906, the Thornycrofts appeared on time, one of which was sent to Clacton for the summer of 1906 this released Stratford built buses to help out on other routes. On the delivery of the Maudslays they to operated on summer routes and one of these was sent to Clacton. A garage was established in Chelmsford to house the buses serving the town.

In 1908 the services were still not making a profit, and fares were raised from 1d to 1½d, this raised the fare from Clacton to St Osyth to 9d from 6d.

By 1909 the Colchester to West Mersea service ceased, leaving Berrys to operate the route which was extended to Colchester railway station, and in July 1913 an agreement was made with the National Steam Car Company of Chelmsford to operate the railway services and the last GER buses ran on July 19th 1913.

But in April 1914 a new service commenced running from Harwich to Upper Dovercourt via Marine Parade and High Street, this was operated by Tilling TTA1 petrol electric double deckers which was later replaced by a single deck Tilling Stevens. This service lasted into London, North Eastern Railway days until September 1923.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS RUNNING DAY

10 SEPTEMBER

Chris Stewart

Although rather out of our area, the first Tunbridge Wells Vintage Bus Day on Sunday 10 September was a welcome opportunity to travel on some authentic Maidstone & District vehicles in their true setting, interspersed with a trip on the fast-developing Spa Valley Railway from Tunbridge Wells West to Groombridge. It was also a warm, sunny day and luckily the Fuel Protests only hit the South East the following day.

A total of ten routes had been worked out, with about as many vehicles operating, all really to celebrate the 50th anniversary of M&D Bristol L6A/ECW B35R LKT991 (fleet number SO43), upon which we were to enjoy a trip to Penshurst and back during the afternoon. I can just recall travelling from Shenfield to Brentwood on an LL or LVWL, and I think I have only been any distance on one preserved example in the interval (and that was in 1978), so the journey on SO43 (on the back seat!) really was a treat. We had started the day with a return run to the village of Frant on 390DKK (SC390), one of the Harrington bodies AEC Reliance coaches which had a bus front grafted on in the 1960's, and then did a quick 'fill-in' to Central Station and back by double-decker (Regent V VKR470, back on ex Trainer PD2/Burlingham JCK541) before going by steam train to Groombridge (staying just long enough to photograph LKT leaving) and back in time for the afternoon run on the L6A. Unfortunately sister K6A HKE867 had I believe failed its MOT the week before, but there was the further pleasure of East Kent Tillings-Stevens JG669 which came to substitute. Harking back to a completely different age, with its wooden body and petrol engine, it certainly turned a few heads and we were glad of the chance to ride to Eridge on it before heading for home.

There is likely to be another similar event next year, and if so it will be well worth a visit (although Hertford and Warminster running days will probably clash). Perhaps we ought to find a suitable EN coach to send on the X20, X21, X60 or X61? (Has anybody got a photo of one in Tunbridge Wells?)

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A 1951 advert kindly sent in by
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20 September 2000

Dear Sir,

A couple of years ago my wife and I visited China and New Zealand. As a result of some advertising I was able to supply material from that and a few of our subsequent trips abroad to fellow enthusiasts.

I am writing now as we are off on our travels once more in January. Whilst the bulk of our time will be spent in New Zealand we shall be visiting Hong Kong, Sydney, Cairns, and Singapore on route.

From my research it should be possible to take a wide variety of subjects in all the locations viz:

Hong Kong- Trams in a variety of advertising liveries
All the H K operators inc o/t Olympians/RMs
Sydney - Municipal operations etc
Monorail
New Zealand- Trolley buses in Wellington
Foxton working trolley bus museum
Ex-UK vehicles e.g. VRs RMs Metroliners RTs RLHs
Fleetlines Atlanteans Metroriders
plus locally bodied REs Bedfords Fords Seddons
Leylands AECs
Stagecoach operations
Independent service and coach operators
Cairns- as yet unknown territory !
Singapore- Municipal operations featuring British built vehicles

I am sure some of your members will be interested in some of these items. I make a very modest charge for this service as it helps me enjoy my own interest even more. I supply either colour slides or colour prints (6 x 4) for only 40p per shot and a p&p charge of 50p. A full refund is given if the finished product is not acceptable, but it has never proved necessary yet.

Also available are colour slides and prints of U.K. vehicles from the 1970s through to 2000. Most major and municipal operators and numerous independent operators too are featured in my computerised listings. Individual searches are made for those who require views of sold vehicles with subsequent owners.

I can also offer a take to order service subject only to time constraints.

The charge for these slides and prints is the same as the foreign material-

40 p per view plus 50 p postage/packing

I hope to be of service to some of your membership.