

ESSEX BUS NEWS

January 2002

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THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE OF THE ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

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Essex Bus News

We welcome your suggestions and contributions. Please enclose an s.a.e. If you would like a reply. Our contact addresses are listed on the front cover.

Membership and Subscription Information

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

Under the terms of the 1998 Data Protection Act, we need to inform you that Members Names & Addresses, Subscription renewal dates & relevant Postal rates are held on a computer Database for the purpose of administering member services. If you object to your information being held in the way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Timetable Subscription Service

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

Photo Sales

A very large selection of photos is available for you to purchase and 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.

Members Adverts and Appeals

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

Your Reports and Observations

We aim to provide comprehensive coverage of bus services in Essex and members Reports, Photos and original articles are welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor or e-mail them to essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

Contributions and Closing Dates

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

Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to Sub-editors by **5th February** and to the Managing editor by **8th February**.

The magazine is due for posting on **Thursday 21st February 2002**.

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

Welcome Aboard!

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CHECK OUT OUR NEW WEBSITE www.essexbus.org.uk

Added Value

Welcome to the first Essex Bus News of 2002. We're celebrating the New year with a giant 32 page issue including a Free 4 page Photo Pullout featuring the most memorable moments from last year.

Next month, it'll be 50 years since the esteemed City Coach Company sold out to the British Transport Commission and we'll pay a tribute to City with a special free 8-page supplement and a new booklet.

Then in March, watch out for 'Essex Publicity' another free extra focusing on the range of timetables issued last year.

Look out for more added value throughout 2002, as we continue to make Essex Bus News Your ultimate guide to Essex Buses!

Group Meetings

Tuesday 12th February 2002

Guest speaker from Nelson's (NIBS)

All meetings are held at the Pulman Suite, Freight House, Rochford. Doors open 19.30, meeting starts at 20.00 and finishes by 22.00.

The Freight House is adjacent to the Southend bound platform of Rochford Rail Station. Arriva Buses 7 & 8 stop close by and there's plenty of space for parking.

Front cover photo- She's back and painted! AJN 825 Former Westcliff Bristol K5G/ECW After years of hard work, Chris Stewart's photo shows AJN 825 looking pristine in post war Westcliff livery. The next step is pass the MOT and then look out for her around Essex this summer.

JOIN THE TEAM

WE NEED YOU!

Peter Snell, who undertakes many duties for the Group has asked to be relieved of two of his duties. We therefore urgently need help from one or two (preferably Southend area) members to either assist Peter in certain activities, or possibly take them over completely if they so desire.

SALES ASSISTANT

This position involves taking our sales stock to and from the FOUR events (Southend, North Weald, Canvey & LOTS) that we attend each year.

Naturally the applicant should have his own transport (car is of sufficient size) and ideally be resident in South Essex. The sales stock will continue to be stored at Peters home in Benfleet, however, this could be moved elsewhere should the new applicant either have space or be resident elsewhere.

The Group will meet all expenses, and prior entrance into these events is a very useful perk.

MEETINGS ASSISTANT

This post involves hosting the monthly Rochford meetings. The duties include arranging the speaker/presenter, transporting the projector and screen as well as dealing with drinks orders. Peter will continue to book and pay for the room. This post would ideally suit somebody who is a regular at the Rochford meetings who would be prepared to help in their running.

The above posts are open to one or two persons, who may become committee members if they want to. If you are interested, or would like to know more, these please contact

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or EMAIL essexbusnews@hotmail.com**

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

THIRTY SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT-

A review of the Groups activities during 2001

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT – Alan Osborne -

It has been another steady year for the Group. The magazine has continued to improve thanks to the considerable efforts of the new Editor, Sean Menzies and I am sure all members would wish me to convey their thanks to Sean.

However, a year on means that we are all a year older. Some of the more elderly members of the present committee are beginning to feel the strain and it has now reached the point when we **MUST HAVE SOME HELP TO RUN THE GROUP**. Sean has been a valuable member of the committee, as has our newest recruit, Chris Stewart, who has taken over the First Group sub editorship.

We are in urgent need of two more committee members. Without this new input, some of our existing services will not be able to function next year, so this requirement is really urgent. We need a **SALES ASSISTANT** to help at rallies and also a **MEETINGS ASSISTANT** to help with the Southend meetings. Further details are shown elsewhere in the magazine. Please help if you can.

If you would like to offer your services in some other capacity, then I am sure that we will be able to find you something to do. No experience is necessary, just the desire to help. This is **YOUR** Group, so please how about helping to run it? I am working to make 17th, February 2002 particularly special and all of the committee thank you all for your continued membership support.

MANAGING EDITORS REPORT – Sean Menzies -

A tremendous amount of time and effort has been made by the team to make Essex Bus News the ultimate reference to the County's bus and coach industry. I use the word 'team' because that is exactly what the magazine is all about. From the sub editors making contacts to bring the accurate information on the latest vehicles, service changes and management reshuffles, to the regular contributors who send news, photos, and articles.

This year, we have also made it easier for you to contact us with our very successful e-mail report line and in 2002 we will launch the group web site. The industry has embraced the Internet and it is important that we move forward with the times.

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Several new features have been launched including Dealer Report, Buses in the News, Vintage Timetables, Fleet Focus and two pages of topical or historical photographs every issue. The main operator pages have also been developed and we hope to further enhance our coverage of operators large and small over the coming year.

Our pledge for 2002 is to offer value for money and innovation and as always we welcome your contributions for the magazine.

TREASURERS REPORT – Alan Osborne -

The draft Group accounts for the year 2001 is now complete. The Group had an operating surplus of £233 for the year based on an annual turnover of £7439. The full audited Statement of Accounts will be available at our Annual General Meeting. Our reserve funds still remain at a generally healthy level, well able to meet all of our liabilities. May I thank Richard Delahoy for carrying out the duties of Auditor in a most efficient manner.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY REPORT - Derek Stebbing -

2001 was a much better year in terms of attracting new members to the Group than the previous year, and this has been due, I am sure, to the much improved quality and presentation of our magazine "Essex Bus News". Twelve new members joined the Group during the course of the year, and this helped to maintain our Membership levels at a reasonably stable level.

Retention of existing members was also slightly better than in previous years, particularly in July 2001 when only three members did not renew their subscriptions. It is of course vitally important to keep our existing members, as well as attracting new recruits.

Subscription rates have been set at £15.00 (1st class post) and £14.00 (2nd class post) for 2002. It is intended to maintain subscriptions at these rates throughout the year. Although this represents a higher increase in subscription rates than in recent years, the Committee decided that this will enable Sean Menzies (our Magazine Editor) to further improve the quality and content of "Essex Bus News".

Finally, may I once again remind all members that it remains important that we continue to attract new members to the Group, and, if you know anybody who may be interested in joining us, please ask them to write to me. We experienced a decline in membership during the 1990's, and it would be very pleasing to see some of these former members re-joining so that membership numbers can return to their pre-1990 level.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

-Derek Stebbing -

The Group's Timetable Subscription Service continues to provide all Essex County Council timetables for members of the service. In addition, we offer copies of the Thurrock Council timetables without any additional charge. There are presently 44 members of the Subscription service.

This service simply would not operate without the help of David and Mary Arnold, who are responsible for the mailing of all timetables, and the assistance of Robin Wheatcroft and his staff at Essex County Council and Faye Mason at Thurrock Council. My thanks go to each of them.

We can always accept new members into this service. Once again, simply write to me for details.

TOUR ORGANISERS REPORT -Dave Arnold -

Only one tour ran in 2001, this was to Leicester on 16th June. Our vehicle for the tour was Genial Travel OIL 2479 a Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paramount. Visits were made to Whippets of Fenstanton, Peterborough Bus Station, Leicester City Centre, Kinchbus and Paul Winson in Loughborough and finally to Grantham Bus Station. Despite the mixed weather the 44 participants on board had a good day out and local photographic shops had a boom in business on their return.

Plans for 2002 include a local tour of Essex and a visit to the South Coast. It is also hoped to repeat the successful Heddingham depot bash in September. Thanks are due to all those that help in planning tours and on the day, and also to those that have supported our tours and made the hard work worthwhile. I will continue to be involved in tours and look forward to meeting you during the next year.

EVENTS SECRETARY REPORT - Peter Snell -

Yet another year rolls by, and we have had a reasonable sales year, with photographs and particularly publications selling well at our Freight House meetings, and also at rallies. We were most fortunate to have good weather at both Southend and North Weald that brought out the crowds.

The Freight House meetings are being well supported, although a few new faces would be good to see. These have now been extended to start at 7.30 p.m. instead of 8.00 p.m. which gives everybody time to chat before the meeting starts. A mixture of guest speakers and slide shows brought a variety of subject for members indulgence. If you know of anybody who like to give a presentation, then please let me know.

I missed my first ever meeting in November and now realise that I could do with some help running the meetings. If one of the regulars could help me out it would be much appreciated. Please see the request elsewhere in this Magazine.

PHOTOGRAPHS OFFICER REPORT

- Peter Snell -

Once again I wish to thank those members who have kindly donated photos to the sales stock, these have recently been further strengthened by the purchase of the collection of the late Phil Ford, is there a member out there would be interested in cataloguing this most valuable collection of negatives.

I am now finding it increasing difficult to take the Group sales stand to rallies and sales events. Is there someone out there who would be prepared to assist, please see the request elsewhere in this magazine.

EASTERN NATIONAL ENTHUSIASTS GUILD

- Peter Snell -

The old boys club whose members, after two years of research, helped to publish the Leyland Lion book, which has been most well received. Following on from the success of this publication I am now working on a volume dealing with the A.E.C. fleet, which I hope will be ready by the end of the year.

If you can remember the old days of Eastern National then your thoughts and memories are always welcome, just put them down on paper and send them to me.

EASTERN NATIONAL SUB EDITOR REPORT

-Ian Ransom -

The biggest change for some years was the decision by First Group PLC to drop local trading names, which means that the Eastern National name will disappear from vehicles, during the course of 2002. This change has meant that we have decided to combine all former Eastern National and Thamesway news into one column, which will be produced by Chris Stewart.

Pressure of work and a large amount of time spent away from Chelmsford, would have meant me having to step down anyway. It has been a pleasure producing the Column since 1987 and I would like to thank all those contributors who have made it possible, but particular thanks must go to David Cornell, at Head Office, who has often stayed late to help me in meeting deadlines for the magazine.

The final Leyland National (1850) was withdrawn, but one still hangs on in use as a Driver Training vehicle at year-end. Interest was added when a further batch of vehicles was acquired, this time from Aberdeen in the shape of Alexander bodied Dennis Darts. As the year ended an official announcement was made regarding the Overground network for Chelmsford, which will commence in the spring with long wheelbase Optare Solos.

Please support Chris by reporting any items of news, or by supplying items of publicity etc. Remember this is your magazine, the more reports we get, the more of interest we can publish for the greater benefit of all members.

THAMESWAY SUB EDITOR REPORT

—Chris Stewart—

First Thamesway successfully re-tendered for the TfL contract on the 193 from September, securing the future of Romford depot. Optare Solos for this service will be the first new vehicles for some time. October saw the final retreat from Central London, with the Green Line 721 group of services left to Arriva Southend, and the Volvo coaches mostly dispersed to First Airport Buses and First Eastern Counties. From the autumn, 'Barbie 2' corporate livery has become a familiar sight first with Dennis Darts and then on refurbished Lynxes to cover the refit programme and also double deckers to alleviate shortages. First Airport red-liveried Volvo coach 35 has also added to the variety within the fleet. The Bristol VR soldiers on, and in fact the fleet has even gained one example (3112), these and Olympians have seen regular use on rail replacement work, included two weekends in Central London for London Underground.

I would thank all those members who provide reports (however brief they are always useful), and the employees of Essex Buses upon whom we rely. This will be the last report under the 'Thamesway' name, as local trading names were officially dropped from November in favour of 'First' so another era has come to an end.

NORTH ESSEX CORRESPONDENT REPORT

Paul Sparks has given notice that due to a change of personal circumstances, he does not wish to continue this column and will also resign from the committee in 2002.

WE NEED YOU !

See page 4

Buses in the News

ARRIVA AXES GREEN LINE ...But Stephenson's Saves the Day

After months of intense speculation, Arriva Southend have decided to pull the plug on the Green line service 721 next month.

Arriva have deregistered the Green Line Southend - London 721 service and Last day of operation will be Saturday February 16.

However, commuters and shoppers will not be left stranded as Stephenson's of Essex are stepping in with a new X1 service starting the following Monday and have submitted an application for a London Service Permit which is required for services that enter the TfL area. The service will be affiliated with Green Line and Stephenson's are expected to run 5 coaches on the service with some journeys also serving Rochford.

It is hoped that an unusual vehicle type will work the last Arriva journey to mark the end of an operation by Southend Transport/Arriva Southend that goes back to October 6, 1980.

WE'RE ON LINE!

What's Green and Cream and on your PC screen? No it's not another culinary disaster but after months of hard work, it's here!

The Essex Bus Enthusiasts Website is on line at www.essexbus.org.uk It's designed to be easy to use and to attract new members.

You can surf for the highlights of each issue of Essex Bus news and keep in touch with breaking news. Plus, there's a growing library of photos, articles and operator profiles. Look out for our range of publications, timetable subscription service and photo sales.

Why not get your friends to surf and join up to the fastest growing bus group in the county? Take a look today !

www.essexbus.org.uk

First in Essex

FLEET CHANGES- New Vehicles

The Optare Solos for Romford's 193 contract will be numbered **501-511** with registrations EK51 KHG/H/J/L/M/O/P/R/T/U/V, although not necessarily in that order. None had arrived at the time of writing (7 January) but delivery is now imminent.

Acquired Vehicles

974, 979 N974/9EHJ Dennis Dart/Plaxton B40F ex *First Capital* – both noted in Basildon depot on 19 December in full 'Barbie 2' livery but still with London route numbers showing at the rear. They have now been allocated to Stansted (AB). The balance to come consists of **978, 981-4**.

Vehicles on Loan for 462

Operation of London route 462 (Ilford – Hainault) is being covered temporarily by *First in Essex* as forecast last month. The vehicles used are the DW639-45 batch of Dennis Dart 8.5SDL/Wright B26F new March 1991, details being as follows:

- 639** JDZ 2339 8.5SDL3003/387 body M192
- 640** JDZ 2340 8.5SDL3003/388 body M193
- 641** JDZ 2341 8.5SDL3003/389 body M194
- 642** JDZ 2342 8.5SDL3003/390 body M195
- 643** JDZ 2343 8.5SDL3003/378 body M196
- 644** JDZ 2372 8.5SDL3003/430 body N49
- 645** JDZ 2373 8.5SDL3003/443 body N50

All are allocated for this purpose to BN depot, with three Disposal-listed Mercedes 709's (**380, 2605/21**) in use as temporary driver shuttle vehicles (although 2605 has recently been noted running in service at Hadleigh). On 31 December, Marshall bodied Dart **855** (S979JLM) was seen on the 462; interestingly this bus is similar to the new DMS-class vehicles ordered by *First in London* for the 362/462, the new contracts for which begin on 23 March.

Still Super

Accident-damaged Dart BN924 is expected back from repair shortly, retaining its 'Super 8' livery.

Allocations (period ending 30 December)

104 AC-D/L; **107** AC-D/L; **314** HH-Paint Spare; **368** Res-BN; **372** RD-RD (Shuttle); **375** BN-Disp; **380** Disp-Temp shuttle (TS); **639-645** O/L-BN; **907** CR-CN; **974** Acq-AB; **979** Acq-AB; **2605** Disp-TS; **2617** AB-Disp; **2621** CF-TS; **2626** BE-AB; **2628** BE-AB; **2647** CN-BE; **2648** CN-BE; **9021** DVT-Disp

104 & 107 are regarded as 'seasonal peak vehicles' & are temporarily delicensed

Repaints/Refurbishments

(All to 'Barbie 2' unless otherwise stated *)

12.01 1403 987 1427 958 1415 721(*) 100(*) 1416 955
(*) 100 is in yellow/green BAA; 721 is in original 'Barbie' colours but without route branding

1.01 2662 ex BT Overall Ad.

The following is believed to be a complete list of vehicles in 'Barbie 2' livery as at the end of December 2001 (a few still awaiting full vinyls):

621-4/6, 701-10, 955/7/8/73-7/9/80/5-7, 1403/5/9/15-7/9-21/4/7, 1509/10/2/3, 2676/8-80, 2921-26, 4013/5, 9002/3

The lone Bedford

The listing for disposal of Driving Trainer 9021 (CRW515T) leaves only one Bedford trainer in use, 9026 (VIB9308). *First Airport* 104/7 are delicensed because of seasonal reductions in vehicle requirements. Dart 912 is now shown as B35F (ex B34F).

Corrections

Apologies for the omission of BN711, CF2631-46 and CF2901 from the allocation list last month. The colour bus contracts for 2658 (Brewery) and 2662 (BT) were also transposed, 2662's now having expired. 4010's Mega Rear advert was changed to one for Debenhams during November and December. It still retained it when seen on 5 January, on which date CF2671 was noted with a Mega Rear advertisement for Mercedes dealers Hadleigh Carport. BN2661 was noted in use from RD depot on 7 January.

The Dodge driving trainers are in fact numbered **9002** (G707VHA) and **9003** (E330WOK).

VEHICLE WORKINGS

- *First Airport Buses* began operation of ECC-contracted routes 392/393 (Harlow - Hoddesdon, Rye Park) on Saturday 22 December, partly replacing Arriva 392 and Buzz B4. On the first day it was worked initially by Darts CF2823 and AB943 (both in green & yellow), newly acquired 974 being seen later.

- Chelmsford's remaining VR (3083) was noted on the Chelmer Village Asda Shopper's service (C24) on Friday 28 December. On 5 January, *Phoenix Olympians* 5001/6 were both in Chelmsford depot showing 'C24', the former with 'Asda Shoppers' Service' on the destination blind. Meanwhile Dart 5000 was to be found at the rear of the adjacent Civic Theatre, serving as a temporary dressing room extension for Newpalm Productions' annual pantomime! Hadleigh's VR's have seen in the New Year on stage services, 3113 being noted (3 January) on the 27.

- First Great Eastern Sunday rail replacements, presumably involving *First in Essex* buses, are scheduled for the following dates:

13, 20, 27 January	Shenfield – Witham
3, 10 February	Shenfield – Chelmsford
24 February	Colchester – Ipswich
3, 10, 17 March	Colchester – Ipswich

- Real time information displays have appeared at Chelmsford Station and St John's Hospital on the 42, neither of them yet in use.

SERVICE CHANGES

22 December 2001

392/393 see notes above

B14 Harlow Staple Tye to Templefields taken over by *First Airport Buses* under contract to ECC, replacing Buzz Co-Operative B14

6th January 2002

8B/8C Pitsea-Laindon circular & 232 Basildon –Shotgate Minor retimings to some journeys to improve reliability.

Late January 2002

34/34A Great Notley – Beckers Green: timetable changes

**NEXT MONTH – CITY CELEBRATION –
-ONLY IN ESSEX BUS NEWS-**

Publicity

The following timetable leaflets have been issued but not reported previously in Essex Bus News

33 dated 9.9.01
 73/A dated 23.4.01
 74/B dated 8.1.01
 75 dated 8.1.01.
 76/A dated 9.7.01
 77 (Brentwood) dated 23.4.01.
 77/A/78/A dated 2.9.01
 88/A/B/C dated 8.1.01.
 101 dated 29.10.01
 352 dated 30.7.01

Christmas Services

For the record, Christmas travel arrangements this year generally involved Saturday services on 24, 27, 28 and 31 December although Essex CC contracted journeys operated to their normal timetable. Exceptions were Brentwood local 77 which ran to a special timetable, and Billericay/Ramsden Heath 102 which operated to its usual Mon-Fri timings.

Thanks are due to LOTS for information and details on several topics this month.

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

Vehicle	Depot	Type	Contract	Expiry Date
1511	CN	C	Dream Radio	15.07.02
2658	RD	C	'The Brewery'	31.08.02
2826	BE	C	Meadows Shopping Centre	15.03.02
2901	CF	M	Countryside	31.12.01
2902	CF	M	Countryside	31.12.01
4007	CF	C	Chelmsford Council	31.12.01

BOOK A BARGAIN!

SEE PAGE 32 FOR FANTASTIC SAVINGS ON A GREAT READ



Kingstons of Essex was one of the more colourful operators last year and its inaugural service began on 2nd April. Former London Buses **Leyland Titan T1068 A68 THX** was in use on the 511 Loughton –Bluewater on the routes second day and is pictured at Brentwood Rail Station. (Chris Stewart)



626 L679 RMD One of a batch of Volvo B6/Alexander acquired from First Capital at the start of the year. Painted in the 'Barbie2' livery, that became increasingly common later in the year, the B6's are usually on service 64/A and Chris Stewart's camera snapped 626 in a deserted Colchester Bus Station on 19th June 2001.



Three Leyland Lynx hired from Ensign brought some variety to First Thamesway in the Summer. Former Arriva Yorkshire **F282 AWW**, still in West Riding colours, complete with adverts was allocated to Hadleigh to cover for the refurbishment of the company's Lynxes. Chris Stewart's Photo shows the bus at Shenfield Station performing an evening journey on 12th June.



The ubiquitous Leyland National finally bowed out of passenger service in March after ending its days at Colchester. Thankfully, **1850 YEV 308S** escaped the breakers torch and was preserved. It is seen here appearing at Showbus in September, still in 1990's Eastern National Livery. (Chris Stewart)



First Thamesway Mercedes 811D/Plaxton Beaver 807 K807 DJN Pictured at Daisy Road, South Woodford on 14th July, Andrew Colebourne's photo depicts the final weeks of Thamesways contract on the 301(South Woodford- Ongar)



From 30th July Imperial of Rainham took over the contracted journeys. At the same time, the route was renumbered 549 bringing it into line with the Arriva daytime service. **T454 HNH Mercedes Vario 0814D/Alexander ALX100** is seen at Cowslip Road, South Woodford undertaking a trip to Epping Station. (Andrew Colebourne)



The end of the school year in July resulted in the departure of a number of Bristol VR's with further withdrawals likely in 2002. One of the earlier escapees 3074 KOO 792V is spending its twilight years with Abus in Bristol. (Chris Stewart)



Arriva was prominent in the media throughout the year and in November it was decided to manage the Colchester &, Southend operations from Maidstone. 2319 L619 LVX Mercedes 709D/Dormobile had an interesting year being allocated to Harlow, Southend and Colchester at various times. It is seen at the latter location on 19th July. If last year was interesting, this year promises even more!

First in Essex fleet allocation 30 December 2001

Braintree (BE)	944/5, 2630/47/8/56/63/4/80, 2803/4/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 3219, 5000
Basildon (BN)	368/74/6/9, 639-45, 711-6/34-8, 805/9/11, 852-5, 913-5/8-22/4-34/59-72/3/7, 980/5/6, 1430/2/3, 2657/60/1, 3109/12, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/8/13-6/25-9, 1516-20, 2627/31-46, 2667/8/70-4/6-8, 2806/9/10/23/4, 2901-11, 3083, 4007/10/2/24/5, 5001-4/6/11
Clacton (CN)	907/12/6, 1510-3, 2649-54/65/83, 2801/5/19/20, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	621-4/6, 650-4, 908-11/75/6, 1501-9, 2679, 2829/30, 2921-6, 3072/8/9/92/3, 3101, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15
Hadleigh (HH)	315-21/3-7, 701-10/7-21, 808, 935-42/6-58, 987, 1400/4-6/9-12, 1417-24/31, 3069, 3113, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	2655/66/9/81/2, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	372, 401-10, 806/7/10, 2658/9/62
Heritage	2383
Paint/refurb spares	314, 2619, 3103
Temporary shuttles	380, 2605/21
Disposal	313/46/55/7/64, 2603/8, 3071/6/7/84/94, 3110, 3228, 3334, 4028, 9021/3/31/2, 9411
Driver Training	35, 625 (usually at BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (usually at CF)
Ancillary vehicles	9001, 9028-30 (at BN)

First Airport

Airport Buses	100/1/12, 432/4/5, 917/43/74/9, 602/8/10, 2625/6/8/75, 2802, 2813-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	102/3/11, 397/8
Delicensed	104/7
Disposal	117, 2602/7/9 (plus 2605 temp shuttle at BN for 462)

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

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL
TRAFFIC									
REQ'T									
Minibus	6	9	27 (1)	8	1	4	11	4	71
Midibus	11	44	24	6	17	0	35	0	137
SD	0	3	11 (5)	4	11	0	15	0	49
DD	1	4	4 (1)	4	14	6	5	0	39
Phoenix DD	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	4
Phoenix	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SD/Midi									
Mobility	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
(Midi)									
Route 193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
(Mini)									
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	1	2	0	0	1	2	1	8
Midibus	2	5	3	1	2	0	2	0	15
SD	0	0	3	0	3	0	2	0	8
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Phoenix DD	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Phoenix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD/Midi									
Mobility	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
(Midi)									
Route 193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
(Mini)									
TOTAL									
ALLOC									
Minibus	7	10	29 (1)	8	1	5	13	5	79
Midibus	13	49	27	7	19	0	37	0	152
SD	0	3	14 (5)	4	14	0	17	0	57
DD	1	5	5 (1)	5	15	7	6	0	45
Phoenix DD	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
SD/Midi									
Mobility	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
(Midi)									
Route 193	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	12
(Mini)									
TOTALS	22	71	81 (7)	24	49	12	73	17	356

BREAKING NEWS –AJN 825 REPAINTED

As our exclusive front cover shows, Westcliff K5G AJN 825 has been repainted and returned to Basildon Garage on 7th January. It is hoped that she will appear at this year's Southend Rally.

ARRIVA

Management Changes Update

The Grays, Colchester and Southend operations transferred to Arriva Southern Counties based at Maidstone on 24/11/01 with vehicles being formally transferred on 1/1/02.

At the time of writing it appears that Grays is still operating under the East Herts & Essex operators Licence PF6042/I which has an authorisation for 205 discs. To our knowledge, no application has been made to the traffic commissioner for a separate licence.

A full list of buses transferred to the control of Southern Counties is given on the next few pages.

New Vehicles

4500 KE 51 PTY DAF DE12CSSB120 XMGDE12CS0H009369

Wright E334 B31F 11/01

4501 KE 51PTZ DAF DE12CSSB120 XMGDE12CSOHOO9370

Wright E335 B31F 11/01

4502 KE 51 PUA DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

4503 KE 51 PUF DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

4504 KE51 PUH DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

4505 KE 51 PUJ DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

4506 KE 51 PUK DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

4507 KE 51 PUU DAF DE12CSSB120 /Wright B31F 01/02

In early January, 4502-6/8 were in store at Southend Garage and were expected to enter service on 19/1/02.

The balance of the DAFs have been allocated registration plates KE 51 PUQ/PUV/PUX/PUY/PVA/PVD

Into the Fleet

From Arriva the Shires (BD) 2102-4 11/01

2102 L600 BUS Optare MR11 VN1800 Optare 1800 B31F 8/95

2103 L700 BUS VN2074 2074 B32F 9/96

2104 L800 BUS VN1897 1897 B31F 9/96

These 3 ex Lucketts of Watford Optare Metroriders are at Grays as staff/meal relief vehicles

Take a trip back in time – see page 31

Page 22
On Loan

From Arriva Medway

3164 J464 MKL Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3012/618

Plaxton 919.8HPN0467 B40F 11/91

3166 J466 OKP Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3012/876

Plaxton 919.8HPN0646 B40F 5/92

These two buses were in use at Grays pending the entry into service of the first DAFs on the 256 (4500/1) on 22/12/01.

4 Mercedes 811D/Plaxton B31F from Arriva North West were expected as replacements for some of the Ivecos. However because of a critical vehicle shortage at High Wycombe, they have been placed into service there. For the record they are N780 EUA, N 175-7 DWM.

Out of the Fleet

3348 H258 GEV Arriva the Shires 3348 12/01

5375 MUH 285X Hardwick, Canton 12/01, for scrap

3164 J464 MKL Arriva Medway Towns 01/02

3166 J466 OKP Arriva Medway Towns 01/02

As at 4/1/02 withdrawn at Stevenage were

2090/4/6/7, 2233, 2238/52/53/58 At Ware were 2345/55/57, 5250, 5384/87

and at Harlow were 2059, 2226, 2092/3, 2363

Allocations

11/01: **2102-4**. GYa; **4500/1** GY

12/01 **2091** U , **2092-4/7** W, **2098/9** U, **2351** U, **2352/3/5/7/8/63** W

, **3328/9** WE

1/01 **4502-6/8** GY, **5384/7** W

Repaints

All to corporate livery

8/01: - 2122 (N192 EMJ)

11/01: - 2102-4 (L600/700/800 BUS),

4500/1 (KB 51 PTY/Z)

By 12/01 3369 J316 XVX , 3360 K410 FHJ

12/01 3355 K505 FHJ

Another Lynx Trainer

3348, the Lynx that has been parked up at Dunstable since 4/00, is to become a training vehicle.

Arriva have announced alterations to fares in the Harlow and Ware area from 2nd January 2002. Most fares under £2 will increase by 10p, whilst those over £2 will generally increase by 20p. There will also be alterations to the prices of daily, weekly, and monthly passes.

ARRIVA in Essex

This section looks at the operations in Southend, Grays and Colchester that are managed as part of ARRIVA Southern Counties, Maidstone.

- The major story is the withdrawal of Green line 721 in February. See 'Essex Buses In the News' on page 10 for full details.
- 5399 F579 SMG Olympian/Alexander was refurbished in December.
- There will be major changes to Southend services from 18/2. These changes are being made to improve reliability in heavy traffic and also reduces the peak vehicle requirement, which is necessary because of a shortage of drivers.
- Full details of the changes are shown on the next page.
- There's also likely to be many vehicle movements in the next few months at Southend, Grays and Colchester.

Service Changes –Grays Area

Saturday 19th January 2002

Service 324 Romford –Bluewater Section of route between Romford and Hornchurch town centre withdrawn.

Service 348 Tilbury –Upminster Section of route between Ockenden Stn and Upminster withdrawn. Route also altered to run slightly further along Daiglen Drive before cutting across to Arisdale Ave. TfL have arranged for a temporary **Route 548** to cover Cranham Jobbers Rest –Upminster. This will run during shopping hours on Monday-Friday. It's anticipated that from 25th February more permanent changes will be made to this section of route.

Service Changes Southend Area

Monday 18th February 2002

Service 1 Southend –Shoeburyness Slight reduction in peak frequency owing to heavy traffic. On Sundays rerouted at Shoebury via Asda and in Southchurch via Woodgrange Drive (**Route 1A**) also increased to every 30 min over this section. Sunday Morning/early evening reduced to hourly and early finish about 2000.

Service 2 Southend-Basildon Slightly reduced frequency from Basildon hospital after 16.30. Also timing changes for reliability.

Service 4 Section of route between Southend –Leigh renumbered **5** serving Leigh Stn peaks, Rectory Grove off peak. Evening service withdrawn but contracted Sunday Service unchanged. Southend-Landwick/Wakering section retains service number **4** but a few journeys on Thurs & Sats extended to Foulness to replace **18**.

Services 6/6A/6B Off peak and Saturday service btwn Kent Elms and Leigh Stn withdrawn but contracted hourly service between Southend –Kent Elms retained. Peak period **Route 6A** (Belfairs) withdrawn. Peak period **6A** withdrawn from Eastwood Rise –Kent Elms section but eve. peak frequency from Leigh Stn – Kent Elms improved to Every 15 Mins. Section btwn Southend-Landwick replaced by **4B**

Services 7/8 The Section of the **8** between Shoeburyness and Wakering replaced by **Service 4A**. **7A** journeys between Shoebury –Hockley Spa renumbered **8A** running via Hospital and Hawkwell. Two **7A** trips an hour will run between Southend-Rayleigh via Hospital, Ashingdon and Hockley. **Service 7A** journeys currently terminating at Ashingdon Schools, extended to Hockley Spa, renumbered **7** and serve Cuckoo Corner. Also considerable reduction to the evening services. On Sundays, service from Southend –Shoeburyness withdrawn and replaced shopping hours by **1A** & **4A**. Hourly daytime only **7A** from Southend – Rayleigh via Hospital and Ashingdon.

Service 9 Rayleigh –Shoeburyness Improved Sunday morning service with alternate journeys terminating at Rayleigh High St. Sunday evening service withdrawn after 2000. On Saturdays, some morning trips from Rayleigh withdrawn.

Service 17/17A Eastwood- Canewdon-Wallasea Island – First **17A** Journey retimed to improve reliability.

Service 18 Southend-Foulness –Replaced by the **4**, section via Rose Inn wdn.

Service 19 Southend –Belfairs(circular) Peak time reliability changes.

Service 29 Southend –Eastwood Daytimes reduced to every 20 mins but all journeys now run with larger buses (Dart/Lance). Evening service withdrawn after 1845 except on Sunday when its contracted to Southend Council. First two Sunday morning journeys withdrawn.

Service 61/69 Southend –Canewdon via Sutton Cemetery Minor retiming to first 61 journey and first 69 will run 25 minutes earlier.

VEHICLES TRANSFERRED TO CONTROL OF ARRIVA SOUTHERN COUNTIES

GRAYS:- Official Total 46.

MB 709D: 2128/30/34/35/36/37; Dart: 3349/50/54/73/74/75, 3404-14;

Dart SLF: 3387-90, 3400-03, 3421/23-29/31; DAF SB120: 4500/01;

Olympian: 5080, 5373/85/86

Additionally, but not officially listed are thought to be:

(a) Staff vehicles - Iveco: 2100, 2334; Metroriders: 2102-04 (2334 is reported as being at Dartford)

(b) In store at Arriva Southend: DAF SB120: 4502-06/08

COLCHESTER:- Official Total 51.

MB 711D: 2369/88/91/92; MB 810D: 2174, 2243, 2382-84; MB 811D: 2319/20;

Dart/Carlyle: 3092; Dart SLF: 3419/20/22/30; Volvo B6/Alexander: 3241/45/46; National Greenway: 3309; Volvo B10M/East Lancs: 3317-20;

Leyland Lynx: 3341/42/45/46/47; DAF SB220/Ikarus: 4335-37/39;

Leyland Tiger Coach: 4305/10/12; Bova Coach: 4344;

Metrobus: 5350/60/61/64/65/66/69; Olympian: 5389/90/97/98, 5407-09

SOUTHEND: Official Total 84

MB 709D: 2086-88, 2110/15; MB 810D: 2186-88/91-93, 2372/78-81

Dart: 3370; Dart SLF: 3218/20-26, 3391-97; Lance 3379/81-84

DAF Coach: 4055/56; Volvo Coach: 4330/31;

Scania Coach: 4351-54;

Dominator: 5273-76/78/86-88; Leyland Olympian: 5388/92-96/99, 5402-05;

Volvo Olympian: 5415-19; Trident: 5434-39/41-43/45-49/51

Additionally, but not officially listed are thought to be:

(a) Essex C.C. Dengie Peninsular - Renaults: 0329/31-34; LDV

Convoy: 1253

(b) Staff vehicle - Ford Transit: 1250

(c) Training vehicles - Leyland Lynx: 3065/66 plus possibly another.

The entry into service of further DAF SB120s at Grays will release some Darts for cascading elsewhere. Whether these will remain within the "Southern Counties" group or be transferred to "The Shires & Essex" group remains to be seen.

It appears that all of the coaches at present allocated to Southend will become surplus when route 721 is abandoned in February.

WE NEED YOUR ARRIVA NEWS

WRITE TO THE SUB EDITOR MARK GARRETT WITH ANY NEWS OR
OBSERVATIONS

Hedingham & District

New Coaches Arrive

New Volvo B10M-6200/Plaxton Paragon C53F are

L323 EK51JBE VIN: YV31MA61X1A053106

Body: 0112VUL3871

L324 EK51JAU - VIN: YV31MA6151A053109

Body: 0112VUL3872

Other Vehicle News

L152 D576VBV is withdrawn 12.01, L275 RWC41W is withdrawn 12.01 and is being used for spares,

L268 XGS767X is currently in the paint-shop at Tollesbury.

Service Changes

50 Colchester - Tollesbury From 2 January 2002, this service will operate to a revised Monday to Friday timetable.

80 Fordham - Boxted/Stoke by Nayland; Mondays to Saturdays
After 29 December, Hedingham Omnibuses will withdraw the Saturday service. Essex County Council is currently considering an alternative service.

84/A/C Malting Green - Sudbury; Mondays to Fridays.
After 28 December, Hedingham Omnibuses will withdraw these services. A replacement Monday to Saturday service, numbered 84, will be provided from 2 January 2002 by H.C. Chambers & Son. The 1630, service 84A journey from Colchester, will be replaced by a similar journey, numbered 79, operated by Hedingham.

Phoenix Student Travel

Service Changes

From the start of the new school term in January there were minor route and timetable changes to the following services
503,504,510,514,559,560,579,602,607,608,610.

Please refer to the September issue of Essex Bus News for routes.

A current fleet list is shown on the next page.

Phoenix Student Travel

Surf our website @ www.essexbus.org.uk for more about Phoenix

Fleet no.	Registration	Type	Operator	Depot *
5000	H116 THE	Dennis Dart/Reeve Burgess	Essex Bus	BE
5001	JTY 371X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	CF
5002	JTY 382X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	CF
5003	JTY 395X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	CF
5004	JTY 400X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	CF
5005	XWY 478X	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	BN
5006	SJR 616Y	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Essex Bus	CF
5008	E275 KEF	Leyland Tiger/Plaxton	Ensign	MN
5009	F237 CNY	Leyland Lynx	Ensign	MN
5010	G434 FVX	Leyland Lynx	Ensign	MN
5011	G473 DHF	Leyland Lynx	Essex Bus	CF
5012	F240 CNY	Leyland Lynx	Ensign	MN
6000	C807BYY	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6001	C811BYY	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6002	C62CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6003	C64CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6004	C82CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6005	C86CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6006	C92CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6007	C77CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6008	C94CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6009	C109CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6010	C110CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6011	C106CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN
6012	C28CHM	Leyland Olympian/ECW	Ensign	MN

* Note that 2 of the Maldon fleet operate out of Purfleet but the allocation varies from week to week as buses go to PT for servicing.

Other Operators

A&B LINES DOVERCOURT Have restarted operating with L951 HBH a DAF 400 minibus.

ANITAS MATCHING GREEN Volvo/Caetano RY 51 ERN is new here.

AVRO ORSETT Ex Blue Triangle MCW Metrobus JUM501V is now owned by Avro having been on hire to them, but both Bristol VR's PFA50W and ONH925V are due to be put back on the road (although both need considerable work).

BLUE TRIANGLE Are now using MCW Metrobuses as the regular type on service 565. The use of Lynxes is now less likely as they are designated for use on rail replacement work only. RCL2260 was in use on the 565 on Christmas Eve.

BUZZ HARLOW Service B1 (Templefields to Harlow) was revised to operate every 10 minutes on Saturdays from 1.12.01. From the same date service B6 (Harlow to Brays Grove circular) also had a revised Saturday timetable. Services B4 (Harlow to Summers) and B14 (Staple Tye to Templefields) were withdrawn with effect from 22.12.01. They have been replaced by First Airport Buses operating under contract to Essex County Council.

CARTERS COACHES Revised routes and timetables were introduced on service 93 (Colchester-Ipswich) and 755 (Colchester-Capel St Mary) from 2.1.02.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE Recently acquired is Dennis Javelin/Neoplan P891 MHE. Bova Futura MIL 2886 (G97 VFP) is withdrawn following an accident. Vehicles sold are L3 CED a Bova Futura and NIL 2266 (E600 WDV) and EIJ 4016 (H881 AVK) both are Neoplan double deckers.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Additions here are Leyland Swift/Elme F353 VRN ex SM, Harlow and Ford Transit X369 THK from Excellent Connections, Stansted Airport.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD Fiat minicoach M738 OKK is reported to have been sold.

CN ENTERPRISE LOUGHTON DAF/Plaxton RJ1 2720 (A463 JJF) has been sold.

COGGESHALL COMMUNITY BUS New timetables will be introduced from 21.1.02.

FARGO RAYNE Further to EBN 443, TIB 4880 a Volvo/Plaxton is'n't acquired. It belongs to Powernormal, Hampshire, using the Fargo depot as an Essex base.

FIRST CAPITAL Service 253 (Chingford-Waltham Abbey, schooldays) had a revised route in Waltham Abbey and a slight timetable revision from 7.1.02.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE A further Bristol VR/ECW for schools contract work is VRP 288S. Dennis Dart/Carlyle G129 RGT has been sold.

FOUR COUNTIES TRAVEL SAFFRON WALDEN Dennis Javelin/Plaxton M782 NBA has been sold.

HAILSTONE BASILDON Mercedes/Frank Guy K697 FAU has been sold via Frating Auctions.

IMPERIAL RAINHAM Service 10 (Loughton-Passingford Bridge) commenced from an unknown date, replacing that section of the former Arriva 502. Service H1 (Loughton-Harlow) had an improved service introduced, including a Saturday service, also as replacement for the Arriva 502. Services withdrawn are 100 (Loughton-Buckhurst Hill) and 108 (Chigwell Row-Debden Park School)

JACKSON BICKNACRE Mercedes Vario/Plaxton T639 JWB has been sold.

JETLINK WEST DRAYTON Have issued timetable leaflets dated 24.9.01 to 24.3.02 for the following services that serve Stansted Airport either directly or by connection 707/117/1727/1797; 727/1728/1787; 737; 757; 757/1787/1797; 777

To recap the following serve Stansted and operate Daily:-

727 Brighton-Gatwick-Heathrow-Stansted-Newmarket-Thetford-Norwich

728 Stansted-Newmarket-Thetford-Norwich

737 Ipswich-Colchester-Braintree-Stansted

757 Oxford-High Wycombe -Hemel Hempstead-Hertford-Stansted-Cambridge

777 Stansted-Hatfield-Luton-Coventry-Birmingham

JWS TRAVEL GRAYS Service 300 Tilbury (Asda) - Basildon; Mondays to Saturdays. This new service commenced on 3 December operating hourly between 0815 and 2015 via Tilbury, Chadwell St Mary, East Tilbury and Stanford Le Hope

KINGSTONS THUNDERSLEY Service 375 (Lakeside-Pitsea) has been withdrawn with effect from 30.11.01. These were in effect driver change journeys for service 20

KIRBY RAYLEIGH Not previously reported is that Setra LHK 589Y has been sold.

LC TRAVEL ROCHFORD Ford Transit/Dormobile G539 JRN has been acquired.

LINKFAST THUNDERSLEY A further former London Metrobus is WYW 88T. Leyland Atlantean SUP 271V and Leyland Titan OHV 694Y have been withdrawn.

LONDON TRANSIT A revised timetable will be introduced on services 331/2 (Braintree to Great Bardfield) during late January.

NELSONS SHOTGATE Service 48 (Rayleigh-Brentwood, schooldays) has been withdrawn from the end of 2001, with service 41 (Shotgate-Brentwood) providing a partial replacement. Service 48 was normally operated by Leyland Leopards, the roar of this type will be sadly missed in the area in which they operated. Services 221/2 (Wickford-Billerica) have a revised timetable, with an improved service to The Wick.

OLYMPIAN COACHES HARLOW Operation of service OC2 (Harlow to Staple Tye circular) commenced on 3.12.01. Every 15 minutes daytimes on Monday to Saturday.

PDQ COLCHESTER Toyota Caetano H708 BRG suffered severe fire damage at the end of October and is likely to be scrapped.

RELIANCE BOWERS GIFFORD K261/2 FUV which are both Dennis Javelin/Plaxton have been sold.

RUFFLE CASTLE HEDINGHAM Have sold Mercedes/Reeve Burgess F62 MTM and Ford Transit L631 WLD. Former London Metrobuses acquired are B82 WUL, B168 WUL and B279 WUL.

SJH CRAYS HILL Have sold Volvo/Plaxton A21 NRO.

SM TRAVEL HARLOW The recently acquired Bova is in fact registered WSV 486.

SOUTHERN STAR HARLOW DAF/Caetano J40 PSW was re-registered J508 LRY before entering service here.

STANS GREAT TOTHAM Former Ipswich Leyland B21/Alexander XRT 947X (WOI 3004) has been sold.

STAGECOACH CAMBUS Service 32 (Saffron-Walden-Cambridge) now has some journeys operating via Addenbrookes Hospital.

STORT VALLEY STANSTED Sold are Dennis Javelin/Plaxtons R179 TKU and S499 UAK. Service news is that service 301A (Stansted-Saffron Walden) had a revised timetable introduced from 7.1.02. A schools service numbered L1 was introduced between Stansted and Sawbridgeworth from 7.1.02.

TOWN & COUNTRY PURFLEET Have acquired Leyland Titan OHV 757Y.

Essex County Council

Recently issued timetable leaflets are for service 52/A/B dated 5.11.01. and 73/A dated 29.10.01

New Timetable books will be available for West & North West Essex from 21/1, Central Essex & North Essex from 27/1 & South Essex & South East from 24/2.

Our Timetable subscription service offers these books direct to your door as soon as they're published. Have you subscribed yet? See page 2 for more details.

City Celebration- Free 8 page supplement

Next Month Only in Essex Bus News

Essex Dealer Report

The latest vehicle movements at Purfleet dealer Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires and Essex. Olympian ARP617X.
 From Mr C Smith RT4421. (For Ensign fleet)
 From Arriva Midlands North Lynx HX13012 & Tiger SIB9492.
 From Arriva TOLST. RM307, RM 753.
 From Midland Rider Dart G29TGW.
 From Arriva S Counties Olympian TPD117X.
 From Arriva Midlands North. Olympian EEH903Y and Tiger WPH139Y.
 From Cental Bus, Motherwell Lynxes F273AWW F302AWW.

Vehicles Out

M800 TM Travel, Chesterfield.
 T1003 Glenvale Transport.
 Olympian WDC218Y Martin's coaches, Northants.
 Metrobus A622BCN Jobserve, London as a mobile recruitment office.
 Lynx F282AWW Brylaine, Boston.
 Dennis Condor EJ2261 (DL44) now G652CVX with Cedar, Bedford.
 T868, T863, T983 Glenvale, Liverpool.
 M1182 Reverend Malcolm, Hackney
 M793, M796 Halifax Joint Committee.
 Metrobus B565RWY John's School of Motoring, Hackney.
 M944, M1145, M645 Stephenson's of Easingwold (NR York)
 Lynx F302AWW Midland Rider, Staffs
 Also Big Bus have purchased the following ex Hong Kong Metrobuses, which are all at Kent Coachworks for open top conversion. When Ensign have registered we'll publish the new UK identities.
 ML50 DU154 MB9053, ML74 DZ3401 MB9714, ML57 DU4314 MB9056, ML56 DU3365
 MB9052, ML77 DZ7075 MB9730 ML46 DT7029 MB9057

You may also be interested to know that Ensignbus ran what they think was the largest Christmas day operation in the UK with 17 vehicles operating on a London Sightseeing Tour. The Buses used included Ensign 484, 192, 167, 147, 157, 149 and 152. Also used were City Sightseeing Cambridge 208, 252, 253, 254, 256, 317, 318, 319, Stratford 257 and Generic liveried 357 (BYX257V). A 10 minute frequency was offered from Coventry St between 0930 and 1600, with good loadings achieved.

For more about Ensignbus check www.ensignbus.com

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS THROUGH THE YEARS

With Ian Ransom

This is the first in a new series looking back at events as recorded in previous years by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group and more recently the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

In the first month we go all the way back to Issue 1 of the monthly newsletter issued in January 1964, when only events at Eastern National and Tillings Coaches were covered

January 1964

New Registrations

Issue 1 covered just two sides of a sheet of paper measuring 8 x 13 inches. The management committee of A Osborne, B Barrett and T Murphy welcomed members to the Group and advertised the first of our monthly meetings, which was to be held at Alan Osbornes home.

Vehicle news recorded was that new deliveries from October 1963 to January 1964, were Bristol FLF's 1657-1669 (993-995 KOO, 934-938 LWC and AVX 956-960B). 1663-5 were unusual at that time, in being fitted with Cave-Brown-Cave heating. 1665-7 were to have been registered 727-9 WWC, but Essex CC had adopted the new registration system in December 1963 and hence the change of registration.

Also new were Bristol RE/ECW coaches 579/80 (AVX 962/3B), while a variety of Bristol LL, LS and MW coaches were acquired from Tillings (7) and United Counties (3).

The allocation list published gives an idea of how the car has impacted bus use since then, with the number of vehicles allocated in brackets Brentwood (55), Braintree (37), Basildon (77), Bishops Stortford (15), Chelmsford (92), Clacton (37), Colchester (43), Canvey (8), Dovercourt (7), Halstead (20), Hadleigh (43), Harlow (2), Kelvedon (27), Maldon (30), Southend (127), Wood Green (17), Delicensed (71) Total (708)

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76 A4 Pages with colour card covers. **Price £10.95** (includes £1 p&p)

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

One of our best sellers from last year, this book is a comprehensive history of the 73 Leyland Lions operated by Eastern National from the late 'Twenties to the early 'Fifties. Read all about the rebodding programme, allocations, loans to

London Transport & much more. 16 pages Inc 9 rare photos and card covers

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