

ESSEX BUS NEWS

November 2004

Issue 487



First Scania 65684 and Solo 53138 outside the new Westway, Chelmsford depot at the opening ceremony on 20 October Chris Stewart

► ***First's new Chelmsford depot opens - see page 6***

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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derekstebbing@hotmail.com

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

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

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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- Please note: all orders for Publications/ photos should be sent to the Chairman, Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex. IG3 8LT

Design  www.casuarina.org.uk

PETER SNELL ~ 1935-2004

It is with much regret and deep sadness that we have to record the passing of Peter Snell who died in his sleep in the early morning of Saturday 23rd October, aged 68.

Peter joined the Group shortly after its formation in 1964. He had a long term interest in his local bus operators particularly the Benfleet & District and Canvey & District fleets, and over the years built up an extensive photographic record of their fleets. He was also a keen bus modeller.

When the committee was expanded in 1979, Peter came forward to offer his services as Photographic Officer. Over the years he also assumed responsibility for the Rochford social meetings as well as running the Group sales stand. After retirement from his job as a Commercial Transport Manager, he even found time to edit Essex Bus News from February 1993 until December 2000.

By this time, Peter's health was beginning to decline. He had to undergo an angioplasty operation to correct a blocked coronary artery and also began to suffer with diabetes. However, despite these setbacks Peter continued to serve the Group well to the best of his then restricted ability, his last appearance being on the sales stand at the North Weald bus rally in June.

We have all lost a good friend. The Group owes a great debt to Peter and he will be sorely missed.

The funeral service on Wednesday 3 November at Pitsea Cemetery was attended by the Chairman, together with several committee members past and present and many other members.

Our sincerest condolences go to his wife Margaret and their family.

Alan Osborne

WANTED URGENTLY !

**> SALES MANAGER
> PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER**

Members will have read of the sad passing away of Peter Snell. Peter performed two important functions for the Society and if these activities are to continue then we **URGENTLY** require volunteers to take them over. Time is short, we need **YOUR** help **NOW**.

SALES MANAGER

To store the Group sales stock of books, timetables etc. and to transport and staff, along with other members, the Group sales stand at rallies and sales.

We usually attend just four events per year - Southend, North Weald, Canvey and LOTS. This post has been advertised previously but nobody has come forward. If we cannot find anyone to take over, the Group Sales Stand will have to cease. The loss in revenue will mean that subscriptions will unfortunately need to be raised.

PHOTOGRAPHIC OFFICER

To store and operate the Group photographic service by post from home. To liaise with the Sales Manager regarding presence at sales events. It would be ideal if our photographic collection (or some part of it) could be on offer at events, however, this is not essential. This job would suit a retired member, based anywhere in the county, with or without their own transport.

If we cannot find any member willing to take on this important role, the Group Photographic Service will have to remain closed. If the post remains unfilled then the service will cease and it will be necessary to dispose of the current stock of photographs.

The holders of both jobs are entitled to a FREE Group subscription.

If you are prepared to take on either of these jobs, or would like further information, please contact the Chairman, **Alan Osborne**, as soon as possible:

7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex. IG3 8LT
020 8590 2041
dimequin@bushinternet.com

This is **YOUR** Group, please help us to run it and provide the services that **YOU** want.

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station). **19.30** onwards:

- **Tuesday 14 December** - "20 years ago" slide show, *Richard Delahoy*.

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

The November meeting will be in the upstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops are nearby. £1.00 donation, please, towards the cost of the room hire.

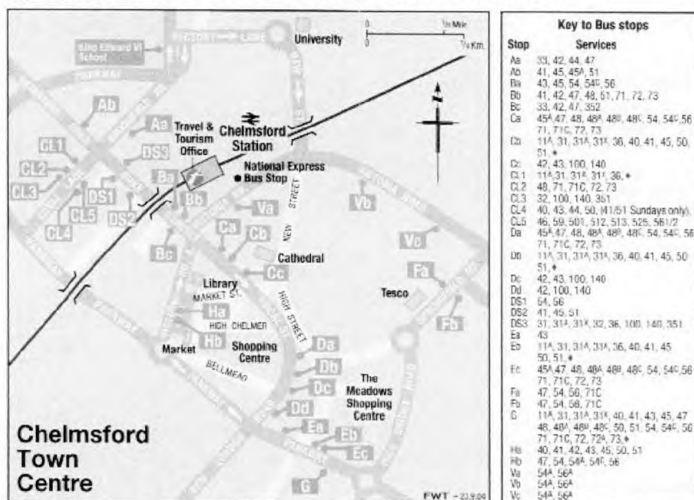
Dates for 2005 were given in EBN486. If you would like to present a slide-show or give a talk etc., please contact **Dave Arnold**, 01621 857509, david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

- **Friday 10 December** - *tba*
- **Friday 14 January 2005** - "Network Colchester", *Bill Hiron*

Essex Service Changes

One item only this month. There will be an important announcement about this section in December's EBN. *David Harman*

New stopping arrangements in Chelmsford from 24/5 October:



First - new Chelmsford stops as shown above.

Arriva the Shires & Essex 59 terminates in Coval Lane.

Heddingham Omnibuses 16 terminates in the Retail Market from 20 Sep.

Regal Busways 14/15/15A terminate in Railway Street, (joining Lodge 17/18) from 20 Sep.

Map courtesy First

FIRST

Scheduled 'One' railway replacements - vehicles reported

Chelmsford - Shenfield (First contract)

10th October: 31373 34286 34301 34303 52582 NIBS G604KTX G605KTX

17th October: 31373 31375 34290 34305 34814 46801 51802 52582 NIBS H228LOM

H245LOM G605KTX Fourways G937FVX

24th October: 31373 31376 34011 34301 34311 34807 34814 34816 34817 62522 67013

NIBS H228LOM Stephensons B752WSC Chambers W89HRT W124JDX M81MYM

31st October: 31375 34014 34286 34303 34304 NIBS H228LOM H229LOM H245LOM

Chambers W124JDX Fourways G981FVX

7th November: 34018 34280 34303 34308 34314 34819 51804 NIBS G604KTX G605KTX

Fourways G937FVX G981FVX Stephensons C92CHM Chambers W87HRT

plus 51782 (shuttle from DT)

FIRST ESSEX

On Saturday 23rd October, Chelmsford's new £5m Westway depot took over from the 1930s Duke Street facility, and Chelmsford Bus Station closed to the public that evening. Continuous use of this location can be traced back almost a Century, as the Great Eastern Railway's buses (which started work in 1905) were housed in railway arches under the viaduct. Having inherited a nearly new open-fronted depot from National in 1930, Eastern National completely rebuilt the site in about 1936 to create the Bus Station at the front and depot behind. Substantial changes were made in 1973, when the internal stands were created, a separate maintenance area formed and the centre of the built frontage enclosed.

Complete redevelopment of the site has been proposed for many years, and it will soon house a multi-storey block of apartments, shops and a new horseshoe shaped bus station. In the meantime, buses are mostly operating to/from terminal points in Coval Lane, the Railway Station or (in the case of the 45 and 72/72A) Westway depot, where stops are located immediately outside. A driver shuttle operates to and from Westway for changeovers.

The official opening ceremony for Westway was held on Wednesday 20th, when Geoffrey Simms (Traffic Commissioner for

the Eastern Area) declared the building open, accompanied by First Essex MD Stephen Smith. The new site has open air parking for the initial allocation of 88 vehicles, together with a building housing offices, workshops (with some of the first vehicle lifts in the country, instead of pits), paint shop, body shop and MOT bay. The Driving School will be housed there in a specialist centre, along with Head Office staff from Stapleford Close (New Writtle Street); this move was due to take place over the weekend of 13th/14th November. The new Westway site is protected by comprehensive CCTV and other security features which have resulted in it being awarded 'Secured by Design' and 'Secure Parking' awards.

On show at the official opening were Scania 65684 and two new Solos (see below), contrasting with preserved K-types AJN825 and WNO479 while 'Heritage' fleet VR 38790 (KOO790V) worked a shuttle service for guests to/from Duke Street. A presentation was also made to 'UK Bus Driver of the Year' Michael Willson. As part of the move to Westway, Braintree depot has relinquished its share of service 352. A sale has been agreed on BE depot building, and a planning application



20 October ~

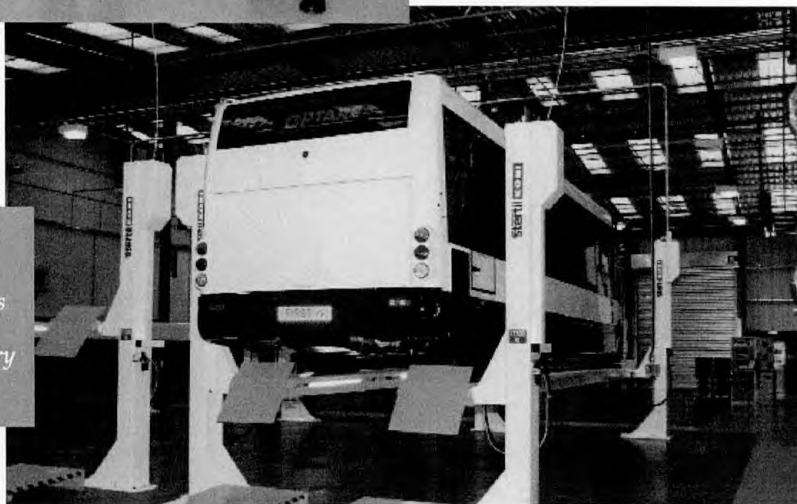
**OPENING OF
THE NEW FIRST
CHELMSFORD
DEPOT AT WESTWAY**

Exterior of the offices,
with *f* and other
architectural details in
corporate colours.



Our President, *Stephen Smith*,
Managing Director, First Essex,
with *Geoffrey Simms*, Eastern
Traffic Commissioner, at the
unveiling of the plaque
commemorating the opening of
the new depot.

Hydraulic vehicle lifts -
modern equipment that creates
a better working environment
for those who keep the *First*
wheels turning.



*Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary*

20 October ~

OPENING OF THE NEW FIRST CHELMSFORD DEPOT AT WESTWAY

right: Michael Willson, UK Bus Driver of the Year, with his trophy.

centre: Newly-repainted 3072 (KOO 790V) and new Solo outside the maintenance bays.

bottom: Westcliff AJN 825 and ENOC 2383 (WNO 479) represented the older generation.



Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary



submitted for an outstation site on Springwood Industrial Estate. At the time of writing, no date had been set for the final closure of BE.

The First travel office is now located in Chelmsford rail station, while a rest room/kitchen facility has been created in one of the railway arches for the use of drivers on layover in Coval Lane or at the Rail Station.

Vehicles in (10.04)

53138	EU54BNJ	Optare Solo 9.5m 191575
53139	EU54BNK	Optare Solo 9.5m 191576
60102	P868MBF	Dennis Lance SFO211BR2TGL10568 /Northern Counties 5661 DP43F New 2/97 to PMT, <i>ex First PMT</i>

53138/9 were on display (unregistered) at the official opening of Westway (CF) on 20.10.04, and are for use by DT depot on Village Link services 3/4. They will carry 'Village Link' vinyls on a simplified First livery (without magenta). A narrow bodied Solo demonstrator was also expected in November, with a view to operation of such vehicles on Harwich town services. Six Mercedes/Plaxton Cheetah midicoaches are due in early December for the new 24 hour a day X30 limited stop service from Southend to Stansted Airport; they will operate from CF. 60102 is one of several Lances expected for Lynx replacement; it was expected to operate from HH but has in fact gone to BN, reportedly displacing 62520 to the Driving School which in turn replaces withdrawn 90244.

Allocation changes (period ending 24 October 2004)

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another *First* fleet
(A)=acquired, (Sp)=spare/reserve (licensed); D/L(Sp)=spare/reserve
(delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal

30043 D/L(D)-sold; 34485 D/L(D)-sold; 34493 D/L(D)-sold; 34514 D/L(D)-sold;
34660 D/L(D)-BN; 34809 (Sp)-HH; 34810 CF-BE; 34811 HH-(Sp); 34817 CF-BE;
34818 BE-CF; 34819 BE-CF; 38644 D/L(D)-sold; 42485 BE-CF; 42486 BE-CF;
42487 BE-CF; 51462 BN-D/L(D); 51467 D/L(D)-sold; 51468 CF-BN; 62503 D/L(D)-sold;
62504 D/L(D)-sold; 62510 D/L(D)-sold; 62518 BN-D/L(D); 62526 D/L(D)-sold

With reference to EBN486, please note 34813 should read DT-BN while 51466 remains in use at CF. Some of the groupings in the official allocation sheet have changed, hence the re-introduction of D/L(D) and the appearance of D/L(Sp). Provision is also made for 'Disposal' vehicles still licensed, but currently there are none.

Disposals

Correction/addition to EBN486

62502/3/12/4/25 PVS, Barnsley (scrap) *not Hardwicks*
34707, 51249/54/60, 51465 also to PVS (scrap)

Period ending 24.10.04

30043, 34485/93, 34514, 51467, 62503/4/10/26 to PVS, Barnsley (scrap)

Repaints (by observation)

46825 to First Group new standard livery

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Unusual sightings:

October:

8th CF34816 on 42, CF51475 on 54/56

23rd BN43800 on 73/73A

25th CF34807 on 45

25th/26th 20102 on X22

26th BE46143 on 37 (usually a Merc 709), CF47228 on 72

28th CF34815 on 72, CR67006 on 64

November:

1st CF42482 on 36, CR65679 on 71

Former Essex vehicles

At the Canvey Museum's 25th Anniversary Open Day on 10th October, it was good to see pioneer Bristol Lodekka XVX19 and one-time Benfleet & District/Westcliff Daimler CWA6 FOP429 (in its open-top Southend Corporation guise) back on the road after a numbers of years absence. Further to the mention in EBN486, Bristol LS6G coach EJV638, one of a small handful of vehicles still existing which were new to Westcliff, moved to a new (Essex) owner for continued preservation on 8th November.

The former 3099, latterly Western National 1244 (UAR 589W), made an unexpected return to service on 2nd November. After 18 months out of use with FWN and recent sale to Munden (dealer) of Bristol, the VR worked Abus 683 from Keynsham to Wells and return. It was likely to operate their 791 to Weston super Mare the following day.

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, N Field, A R MacFarlane, C Sigston, S Simister, D Stewart, R Webb, R Whitley, TBL174M, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, LOTS, *First Essex*, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart

Forming a link with the next section, **2400** (XVX 19), ENOC's first Lodekka leads a recent addition to the *Arriva Southend* fleet - **5897** (F897 DKK) at the Canvey Open Day. The latter bus started life in the Maidstone & District fleet and seems likely to soldier on for a while yet.

Chris Stewart



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX**Confirmed orders:**

- 5 Volvo B7/Wright Commander for Harlow (service 510 Harlow-Stansted)
due imminently
2 Optare Solo for Harlow (service 59 Harlow-Chelmsford) due 12/04

New vehicles

2457/8 KE 04 PZF/G Optare Solo M880 SAB000000001489/90/Optare B29F new 6/04

Vehicles in

from Arriva the Shires 3269 6/04

3269 T493 KGB DAF DE02GSSB220 006527/Plaxton 9811.9DYH8996 B41F
new 3/99

from Arriva Southend 5445/6 9/04

5445 W445 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20938/Alexander ALX400 9950/22
H47/31F new 7/00

5446 W446 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20939/Alexander ALX400 9950/23
H47/31F new 7/00

Vehicles re-registered

5840 815 DYE Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1RH ON2567/ECW 26540
to D215 FYM 9/04 (ex D215 FYM) (Registration 815 DYE has been applied to
an Arriva the Shires coach)

Allocations

6/04: 2457/8.u; 3269.WE; 3334.HA

7/04: 2457/8.HA

8/04: 2125/457/8.u

9/04: 2457/8.HA; 5445/6.WE

Vehicles out

3094 (H926 LOX), 3098 (H245 MUK): Arriva the Shires (BD) 3094/8 9/04
(3098 had only reached AtS's Stevenage depot by 21 October)

5843 (D242 FYM), 5851 (C 36 CHM): gone 11/04 to another Arriva Group company.

Subsequent histories

2093/6 (M153/6 RBH): dismantled for spares by Olympian, Harlow by 7/04

2099 (M159 RBH): Olympian, Harlow (EX) by 9/04 ex WG Services,
Harlow (EX)

2287 (G927 WGS as BNZ 9816): Russell, Darwen, Lancs by 2/04 ex
O'Neill, Darwen

2312 (G932 WGS as SIL 5309): Bassi, Fartown, West Yorks by 11/03 ex
Lowe, Cuminstown, Scotland

2314 (J934 WHJ): Sutton, Cressing, Essex 4/04 ex Brown, Motcombe,
Dorset

2327/8/30 (K707/8/10 FNO): gone from WG Services, Harlow by 7/04

- 2329 (K709 FNO) Barker, Roydon (EX) by 9/04 ex Gale, Harlow (EX)
- 2336 (L722 OVX) SM Coaches, Harlow (EX) 8/04 ex WG Services, Harlow (EX)
- 2348/9/52 (M728/9 UTW, M732 AOO): dismantled for spares by Olympian, Harlow by 7/04
- 5370 (A988 SYF): Leach, North Mymms, Herts by 4/04 ex Regal, Edgware; PVS, Carlton (dealer) 8/04
- AN248 (KPJ 248W): Hulston, Newton, Notts 8/04 ex Ausden Clark, Leicester
- DP302/4/6/8/9 (J302/4/6/8/9 WHJ): Transit Group. Buntingford 9/04 ex Ensign, Purfleet (dealer)
- TPL510 (OIB 3510 ex EWW 944Y): exported to Africa 9/04 ex Frimley (2002), Aldershot
- TL17 (KIW 6511 ex WPH 117Y): Kirton Bus & Coach, Kirton, Lincs (dealer) 6/04 ex Amvale, Grimsby

General

2457/8 (KE 04 PZF/G) are basically type M850 with Cummings engines which has increased their length by 0.3 m - hence the new designation.

3269 (T493 KGB) is in Greenline livery and is regarded as the spare vehicle for service 724 (Harlow-Heathrow Airport).

5445/6 (W445/6 XKX) are the first two of expected six ex Southend Dennis Tridents for service 310 (Hertford-Enfield). Because the service enters London, Arriva are being "encouraged" to place low floor vehicles on the route. The other four are expected to be 5442/3/7/51 (W442/3/7/51 XKX). Their arrival is dependant on the release of Leyland Olympians from Arriva the Shires fleet who seem to be permanently short of such vehicles, hence the delay.

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND

Vehicles in

5891 (E891AKN) Leyland Olympian/NCME H45/30F on 7 November (at 09.45 to be precise!)

5892/4 (F892/4 BKK) Leyland Olympian/NCME H45/30F.

All from *Arriva Kent & Sussex*, Hawkhurst

Vehicles out

Trident 5435 (W435 XKX) to *Arriva Kent & Sussex*, Maidstone

Trident 5437 (W437 XKX) to *Arriva Kent & Sussex*, Maidstone on 7 November.

Olympian/NC 5417 to *Arriva North West and Wales*. This vehicle finally departed Southend on 13th October

Other Vehicle News:

Dart 3370 (K320 CVX), withdrawn from service in June 2004, but stored in Short Street depot since, has departed for *Arriva Yorkshire*.

Peter Mansbridge

Vehicles on order

The eight Dart SLFs due for service 1/1A are to have Alexander bodywork. [To confuse things, the former Transbus business is now Alexander Dennis Ltd., so technically, both chassis and body are Alexander Dennis. The actual style of body to be carried is unknown]. They will not be ready for the service relaunch on 8 November.

Repaints

Dart 310 and 311 (N540/1 TPF) has been repainted into the Network Colchester (Burtons) livery and have had vinyls fitted. Some of the vehicles in Arriva livery have now received large Network Colchester side vinyls on an aquamarine background.

Renumbering

The report in EBN485 was incorrect; former Arriva numbers remain on unrepainted vehicles. Many (but, as at 6 November, not all) vehicles have now received additional numbers in the 3xx series, applied as small yellow vinyls in various positions. The allocated numbers, as officially in use from 8 November, are:

New	Old	Reg. no.	Type	New	Old	Reg. no.	Type
306	DS004	L506 CPJ	Dart/East Lancs	341	5389	C41 HHJ	Olympian
308	DS006	L508 CPJ	Dart/East Lancs	345	5397	F245 MTW	Olympian
309	DS15	M526 MPM	Dart/East Lancs	346	5398	F246 MTW	Olympian
310	DS20	N540 TPF	Dart/East Lancs	347	5407	H47 MJN	Olympian
311	DS21	N541 TPF	Dart/East Lancs	348	5408	H48 MJN	Olympian
313	DS23	N543 TPE	Dart/East Lancs	349	5409	H49 MJN	Olympian
316	3406	P326 HVX	Dart/Plaxton	351	3341	H251 GEV	Lynx
317	516	L516 CPJ	Volvo B6/PLaxton	352	3342	H252 GEV	Lynx
318	3241	M841 DDS	Volvo B6/Alex	353	3343	H253 GEV	Lynx
319	3246	M846 DDS	Volvo B6/Alex	356	3346	H256 GEV	Lynx
333	613	G613 BPH	Volvo Citybus/EL	357	3347	H257 GEV	Lynx
334	614	G614 BPH	Volvo Citybus/EL	358	4335	J56 GCX	DAF/Ikarus
335	7615	G615 BPH	Volvo Citybus/EL	359	4339	K124 TCP	DAF/Ikarus
337	617	G617 BPH	Volvo Citybus/EL	373	2243	R763 DUB	M-B Vario
				374	2174	R174 VBM	M-B Vario

Temporary numbers for vehicles not expected to remain in stock for long:

New	Old	Reg.no.	Type
*	E4336	J926 CYL	DAF/Ikarus
J927	4337	J927 CYL	DAF/Ikarus
*	V201	L201 YCU	Volvo B6/Northern Counties
*	7643	G643 BPH	Volvo Citybus/Northern Counties
J27	2196	J27 UNY	Tiger/Duple coach
M52	4352	M52 AWW	Scania/Van Hool coach
M53	4353	M53 AWW	Scania/Van Hool coach
* = retains old number			

Service changes

The network was due to be recast from 8 November, with changes as detailed in EBN476. A 10-15 minute weekdays frequency is provided on the four core routes. The (Colchester) *Evening Gazette* has carried (inevitable) adverse reader comments about the changes. No

doubt, fine-tuning will take place in the light of operating experience and customer feedback.

An attractive slimline colour timetable booklet has been produced with the four routes now colour-coded. The colours have been carefully chosen to avoid clashing with the existing *First* 61 (tangerine), 64 (blue), 65 (red) and 78/A (violet) routes !

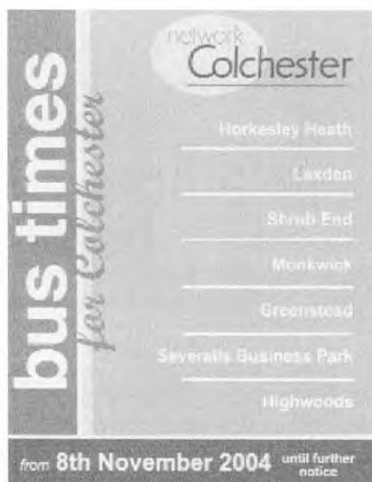
- 1 pink
- 2 brown
- 5 lime
- 8/8A turquoise

Colchester looks set to become very colourful, bus-wise!

Vario 373 (R763 DUB) was observed on 6 November, in use by staff updating bus stop flag vinyls and timetable cases.

Some late corrections etc. to the timetable booklet:

- > Frequency Guide: buses to the General Hospital run every 10 minutes during the daytime.
- > Service 1: · There are extra late evening buses on Mondays to Saturdays from Shrub End, Leather Bottle at 2241 to Greenstead Elm Crescent (arr 2313) and at 2311 to Colchester High St (arr 2331)
- > Mondays to Fridays, the bus at shown at 1824 from Greenstead, Hamlet Drive starts instead from Elm Crescent at 1823, not as shown; other times are correct.
- > On Mondays to Fridays, the 2216 and 2246 from Greenstead to Shrub End continue to Prettygate
- > On Saturdays, there is an additional late evening bus from Greenstead Elm Crescent at 2316 to Osborne Street (arr 2331).
- > Service 2: the last bus from town (2245 from the High Street) continues to Mill Road Roundabout, arriving at 2311.
- > Town centre bus stop map: Services 8/8A also stop in Osborne Street at stop H; service 2 also stops in St Johns Street and in Head Street at stop P; services 1 and 2 stop in the Bus station (stand 20 for service 2; stand 21 for services 1 & 5).

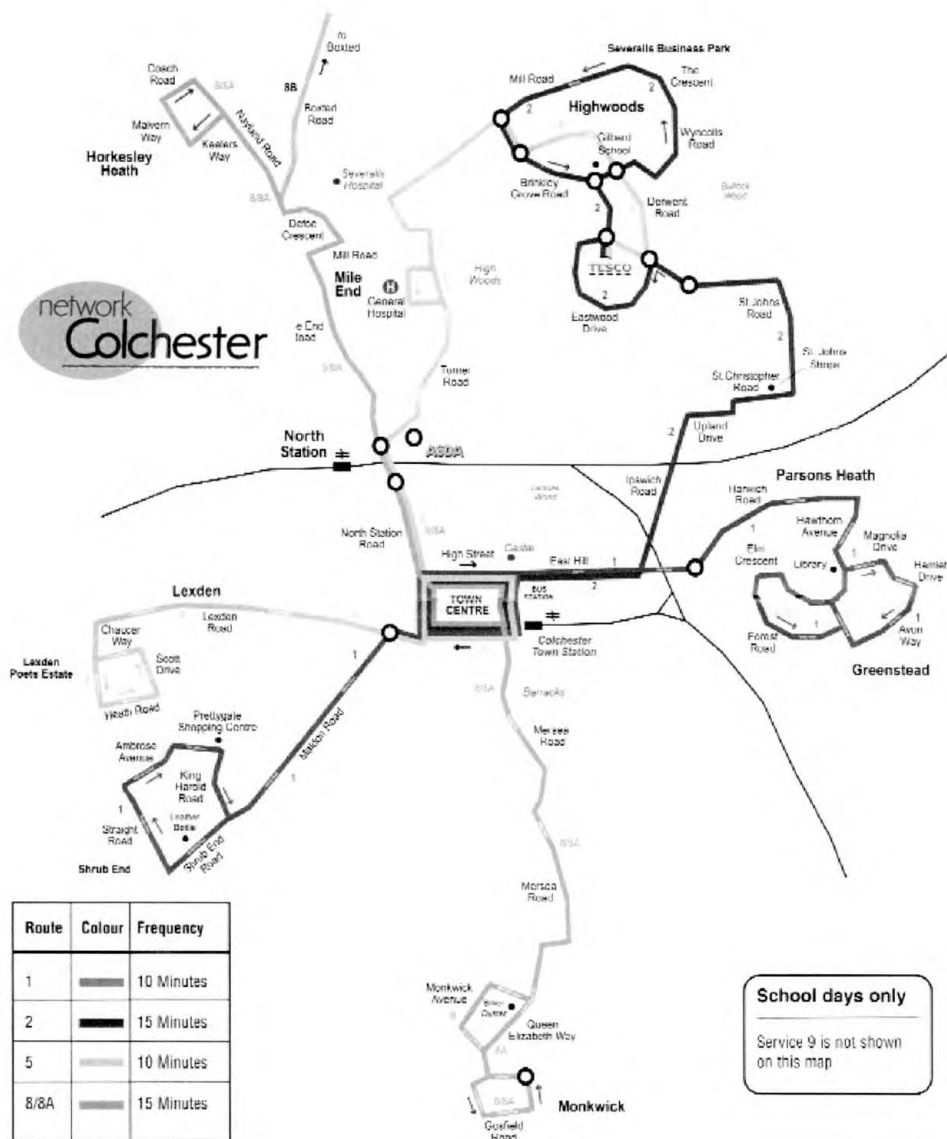


Service 8B stops at the same stops as services 8/8A.

- > Service 5 and Network Map: at present, service 5 in Highwoods will run via Mill Road, Maximus Drive and Gavin Way (then Derwent Road to Highwoods Centre as shown). When building work is completed, it will operate from Mill Road via Brinkley Grove Road and the whole length of Gavin Way as shown on the map - date to be advised.

Copies of the new timetable are available from drivers, from the *Travelstyle* shop in St.Botolphs, and are being delivered to households in the area. If any non-local member would like one, send a DL (220mm x 110mm) or larger SAE to

Richard Delahoy,
P O Box 5657, Southend on Sea, SS1 3WT



The Network Colchester map from the new timetable. Hopefully, the route 'colours' will be distinguishable in black-and-white! Failing

which, please take up Richard's offer of a copy of the timetable in full colour. David Harman



The last of numerous hand-me-downs received by Colchester from other parts of the Arriva empire, 516, (now **317**), a Volvo B6/Plaxton, new to London & Country. It is loading for Tollesbury on the tendered 92 on a dull November day.

David Harman

Network Colchester took over operation of the following *Suffolk County Council* Sunday contracts from 31 October:

- 90C Haverhill – Sudbury – Ipswich
(ex *Chambers* 757)
- 93 Colchester – Ipswich
(ex-*Chambers*)
- 96/96A Mistley – Ipswich
(ex *First*)

These services are thought to be Dart operated (perhaps a local member can confirm or otherwise?).

Chambers 757 was a Colchester to Sudbury service, essentially positioning journeys for Sunday contracts. Ipswich to Haverhill was numbered 90/90C under Chambers and First, depending on the route taken by individual journeys (90 via Boxford, 90C via Lavenham). NC have standardised it as 90C for all journeys - all of which go via Boxford (the old 90 routing) rather than Lavenham (the old 90C route) -

but with a revised timetable. For the positioning journey from Colchester to Sudbury and return, the 900 (90-O!) number has been used and these run via the A134 rather than Bures, hence not calling them 757 (and also to minimise blind winding!).

The morning 900 (0830 ex CR) continues to Haverhill, changing to 90C at Sudbury (with through fares). The evening 900 starts from Sudbury as the bus has come from Ipswich, but it also connects in Sudbury with the last Haverhill to Ipswich working.

Rail Replacement

Courtesy of *Chris Stewart*, observations from the Network Colchester contract for:

Wickford -Southend ~ 17th October

Network Colchester 335 341 345 346
347 349 J27UNY J927GYL
NIBS Bristol VR NDL652R Scania
saloons P653VWX P655VWX
Supreme N852DKU

General news

Tickets: Wayfarer rolls with the NC title have appeared in connection with a "Free Return to BT" advertisement on the reverse.

The range of other tickets has been revised and the new timetable lists:

Network Day

unlimited travel - one day - **£2.40**

Network Week

unlimited travel - one week - **£10.00**

Network 10

any ten single journeys within one month from date of purchase - **£10.00**

Network Transfer

any cross-town journey requiring a change of bus in the town centre - **£1.40**

All are available from drivers. NC continue as a partner in the *Boroughcard* scheme, available for one week, month or quarter on NC and also *First* and *Heddingham* buses

within the town area. This is available off-bus only, from *Travelstyle* and the *First* travel office.

Finally, crews are now being issued with distinctive new uniforms, including navy blue jackets with yellow/red NC insignia.

*Peter Mansbridge,
Colin Sigston, David Harman*



A reminder of sunny, warm September. Scania E4352, now **M52**, is seen in Sandown, IOW with a school party. A Southern Vectis open-top VR (WDL 655) is in hot pursuit. *A D Nugent*

Essex Small Operator News

AMBER COACHES, Rayleigh The previous identity of Bova Futura RJ1 4670 is M40 FTG. Bova Europa YNJ 214 (A806 JAY) has been withdrawn, with the registration removed. DAF/Plaxton SJI 4433 (BYB 704X), has gone for scrap. DAF/Van Hool H523 YCX has gone to Brown, Trench.

APT COACHES, Rayleigh A recent addition is Setra S215 UIL 4721 (64 AAE, G841 AOW). MAN11.220/Berkhof R500 GSM has been sold to Barrys, Weymouth. Bova Futura N501 MWW, previously reported was for dealer stock and has now been sold.

BARKER, Roydon Leyland Olympian/ECW ARP 606X has been acquired. This was of course new to United Counties. Rare Duple 425 PJI 1244 (new as C716 NYJ) has passed to Bernards, Latton.

BOBBYS MINIBUSES, Corringham Unusual Iveco/Lorraine G884 XJS is now with Kilpatrick, Glenrothes.

BORDACOACH, Shotgate Acquired from neighbour Peter Godward is Volvo/Van Hool RJ1 8722 (new as D561 MVR).

BURTON Haverhill, although not based in Essex, it is worth recording here that this operator is using Dennis Trident/Alexander V337 OBD (previously a demonstrator with *Dublin Bus*, 99 D 42) on their Saffron Walden-Cambridge service.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Neoplan R16 CED is back in service, following accident repairs. Dennis Javelin/Neoplan P891 MHE has been sold to Daglish, Rowrah.

CHARIOTS, Corringham Iveco/Carlyle VIL 4056 (J431 PPF) has lost its cherished plate to Iveco/Marshall M40 MPS. It is assumed J431 PPF has been withdrawn, it was the back up vehicle for Village Link services, which passed recently to Regal.

COOKS, Rochford Recently added to this fleet is Bova Futura L484 HKN (L6 KFC)

ex Horton, Snareshill, it is now registered WWC 820. This plate was previously on a Bova Europa, which is assumed to have been withdrawn. Bova Futura L343 RWF has been sold to South Mimms, St Albans.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood

Acquired from Robson, Ashington is R734 EGD a Mercedes 614D/Onyx, which is now 5919 RU. EBN 481 also refers.

CUNNINGHAM, Corringham sold some time ago were HKG 65N a Bristol LHS/Plaxton to Wilding, Hartlepool and JHS 719N a Bedford VAS5/Plaxton to an unknown owner.

ELMHURST HIRE, Thornwood Common Volvo B58/Plaxton KIW 8607 (TKV 3W) has been sold.

FARGO, Rayne vehicles sold are R275 LDF an LDV Convoy to Chapman, Penycraig and Scania L94/Van Hool to Horton, Shareshill,

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree Bristol VR/ECW XHK 217X has been acquired and re-registered XIL 2154. This was formerly with *First Essex*.

FORD, Althorne Vehicles sold include Fleetline/Alexander PRG 124J to a preservationist in Aberdeen, PRG 138J which went to Maldon Majorettes in 1988! Leyland Fleeline/ECW OHR 187R and Bristol VR/ECW RRP 857R have both gone for scrap.

FLORIDA, Halstead Former Ribble Atlantean/ECW RFR 424P has passed to a private owner. Acquired, is Scania K124/Irizar S943 ETV.

GBN, Pitsea This employment agency has a second Ford Transit licensed as a PSV, EU02 OBN.

GODWARD, Shotgate A37 DTV a Volvo/Van Hool has been sold to Cookson, Welshpool.

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford A number of earlier Transits have been sold, including EF52 AOD.

LINKFAST, Thundersley Has now started operating Leyland Olympians, with the arrival of ARP 608X and A323 AKU. Bristol VR/ECW PJO 447P has been sold for scrap. Metrobus OJD 888Y has been withdrawn.

LODGE, High Easter Mercedes 1836RL coach BU53 AYB, is reported as being here, but this may only be a dealer loan.

MASTER TRAVEL, Brentwood Scania/Irizar P80 ASH has passed to Goulden, Welwyn Garden City.

MIKE COACHES, Crays Hill Volvo B58/Van Hool SJI 7477 (KWT 616V) has been sold

NCS, Newport Recently acquired is M642 UCT a Mercedes 811D/Autobus.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Have acquired Leyland Tiger/Plaxton E882 YKY from Kellys Travel, Latton. Leyland Tiger NIW 4810 (new as A943 XDW) is now back in use, but Bova G561 XRG, Iveco N739 AVW and Dennis Javelin P426 JDT are out of use. Disposals are of D171 NON a Freight Rover/Carlyle and Iveco/Marshall M731 AOO.

PALMER, Laindon Scania/Berkhof TJI 4832 (J742 TDP) has been sold to Witte, Calne.

RAYNHAM, Newport New to this operator and not previously reported is LDV Convoy AE53 KZV.

RED CAR, Pilgrims Hatch BBM 56A (KBH 852V) a Bedford YMT/Plaxton has gone for scrap.

REGAL, Chelmsford Buses magazine reports that Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton G172 FJC was sold to Erith Commercials, Dartford for scrap.

RS TRAVEL, Witham Scania/Irizar N302 FSG has been sold.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham The end of operation of full size Ford coaches has arrived, with the sale of Duple bodied TBM 626W and Plaxton bodied TDX 221W, for scrap. Also gone for scrap is PEB 124R a Bedford YMT/Plaxton.

STALLION Chelmsford Have ceased operating and Toyota/Caetano F874 TNH has been sold.

TERRAVISION, Stansted This operator

runs a service between Stansted Airport and Central London, which needs 5 vehicles. Three of them are new Scania K114/Irizar YN04 YJJ/K/L.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Grays The only Leyland Titan here OHV 757Y has been sold (some members may remember its use on a recent tour of Essex). LOTS record that Metrobus SND 106X had left the fleet by April, this was the last of its type here. Fleet expansion continues, with the arrival of Volvo B6/Plaxton L103 GHN, M104/6 PVN, Optare Excel P323 KAR and Dennis Dart/Wright J637 KCU.

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul LAG Panoramic VIL 9417 (G953 GRP) is now with Barry, Weymouth.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Volvo B58/Jonckhree XNV 139W was acquired some time ago from Lewis, Bury St Edmunds, but has never been reported, it has now been sold anyway! Smaller S828 LER a LDV Convoy, has arrived here from Raynham, Newport. Setra S228DT OIB 3517 (C357 KGG) is now with Dawes, Heydon.

YOUNG, Shotgate Bova Futura B842 FFM (new as B2 BDO) has been acquired.

The above recent loss of Volvo B58's, leaves your sub-editor with only two recorded in the County. BHJ 369S is with Phillips, South Woodham Ferrers and NFS 362T with Basildon Travel.

Miscellaneous

Former Kingston operations

The yard at Rettendon appears to have been vacated several months ago. We do not know if operations continue elsewhere but Leyland Tiger/Plaxton SIB 9492 (ex A149 EPA) was seen in use on 17.9.04 (owner/disc unknown). (Note that Elite Engineering - a maintenance company - use the yard behind the former 'Kingston' yard and vehicles of various operators can be seen there, but these have no connection with the 'Kingston' organisation.)

SE04 CVL Peugeot Boxer seen 13.9.04 with

restricted disc - sorry could not get details.
MX54 CLY LDV Convoy seen 1.10.04 in Colchester with blue disc - sorry could not get details.

SJR 617R Leyland Olympian / ECW seen in Colchester area 7.04 - not sure of owner, but possibly Regal Busways. Last reported with Bennett and Lane, Gloucester.

ESSEX - Non-PSV Operators

Stevand (driver training)

M102 AHJ Renault Traffic is with this company (by 9.04) - This is almost certainly a reregistered ex-ministry vehicle.

Miscellaneous

D710GHT Leyland / Wadham Stringer is now a caravan (by 9.04) parked in Cedar Chase, Maldon.

Ensignbus

Former Hong Kong Super Metrobus 484 (F84 UJN), used on the 2003 Group tour, was sold to **Lodge Coaches** of Chelmsford in October.

Ex-Metrobus (new to East Surrey Bus Services) Dart/Wadham Stringer J752PPM is now in the **Stratford Blue** fleet.

Former London Central NV60 will become 161 in the **Ensign** fleet after single door conversion and repaint.

Ross Newman, Colin Sigston

Through train>bus ticketing was introduced on the X80 from 16 October. Tickets can be booked from any **South Eastern Trains** station to **Lakeside** via Greenhithe station and bus X80, and from any **c2c** station to **Blewater**, via Chafford Hundred station and X80.

David Harman



Now-departed jumbo Metrobus 484 at Basildon Rail Station on the 2003 Group tour. *David Harman*

LATEST VEHICLE MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN *from*

Beestons, Hadleigh:

Metroline:

Pauls Travel, Huddersfield:

Stagecoach North East:

Metrobus, Orpington:

Stagecoach South East:

Olympian G305UYK

M449

Volvo B6 L413JBD

Scania's F916JRG F904JRG

Dart J752PPM

Dart J506GCD

VEHICLES OUT

Olympian F303JTY:

RML2330:

Volvo B6's L662/7MSF:

RML2473 RM1801 T100:

RML2614:

RML2635:

RM1801:

T590:

Metrobus A641BCN:

NV33/6/42:

Volvo DI0M A129DTO:

RM2179:

M1425:

Olympian A504EJF:

Scania G925TCU:

M1220:

RML2467/501/55

Olympian A561KWY:

L5/13/196/217:

M1385:

NV17/8/20/34/41/52/3/60/75/103/5/15/19/23

to

Beestons, Hadleigh, Suffolk.

Russell Cade, London.

Centra London.

Da Willy Bus Company, Linz, Austria
(don't laugh, that's what it says here!)

Miss Emma Dubois, Dubai, U.A.E.

Endomade Ltd, Lancaster.

EF Language Schools, London.

Essex Police.

Eventus World Wide, Hammersmith.

Firstgroup PLC.

Fowlers Coaches, Holbeach Drove.

Andrew Green, Croydon.

Imperial Coaches, Southall.

Hornsby's Coaches, Scunthorpe.

Hunts Coaches, Alford, Lincs.

Kingdom of Faith Church, Horsham.

Niagara Falls Double Deck Tours, Canada.

Rallybeam Ltd, Suffolk.

Shamrock Coaches, Wales.

Top Cat Ltd, Reading.

Yorkshire Traction Group, Barnsley.

(NV19 reregistered to P919RYO from 19CLT by
LG/LC.)

Dave Arnold, with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Heddingham

Acquired vehicle *from London Central (NV79), October*

R279 LGH Vovo Olympian/Northern Counties.

This is being altered to single door before entry into service. *Dave Arnold/Colin Sigston*

**Castle Point Transport Museum - Canvey
Open Day ~ 2004**



above: Newly-repainted Southend Corporation Transport Daimler 244 (FOP 429)
below: SCT PD3 334 (CJN 434C)





above: Former EN 3086 (STW 30W), now L255 in the Heddingham fleet.
 below: VR line-up: L255 with NIBS ND1 625R (ex-Southern Vectis) and Casters Coaches MEL 560P (ex-Hampshire Bus) All: Chris Stewart





PCV HOLDER ?

Full and Part-Time Drivers Required

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

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services and weekend rail replacement, together with scheduled service 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.

Planning and Schedules Officer required at our Excel Stansted head office. An exciting opportunity exists for the right person. Whilst we would ideally like someone who can demonstrate experience in these areas, we will also consider anyone who shows the drive and enthusiasm to learn these skills with a view to progression within the group

For more details contact:

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

