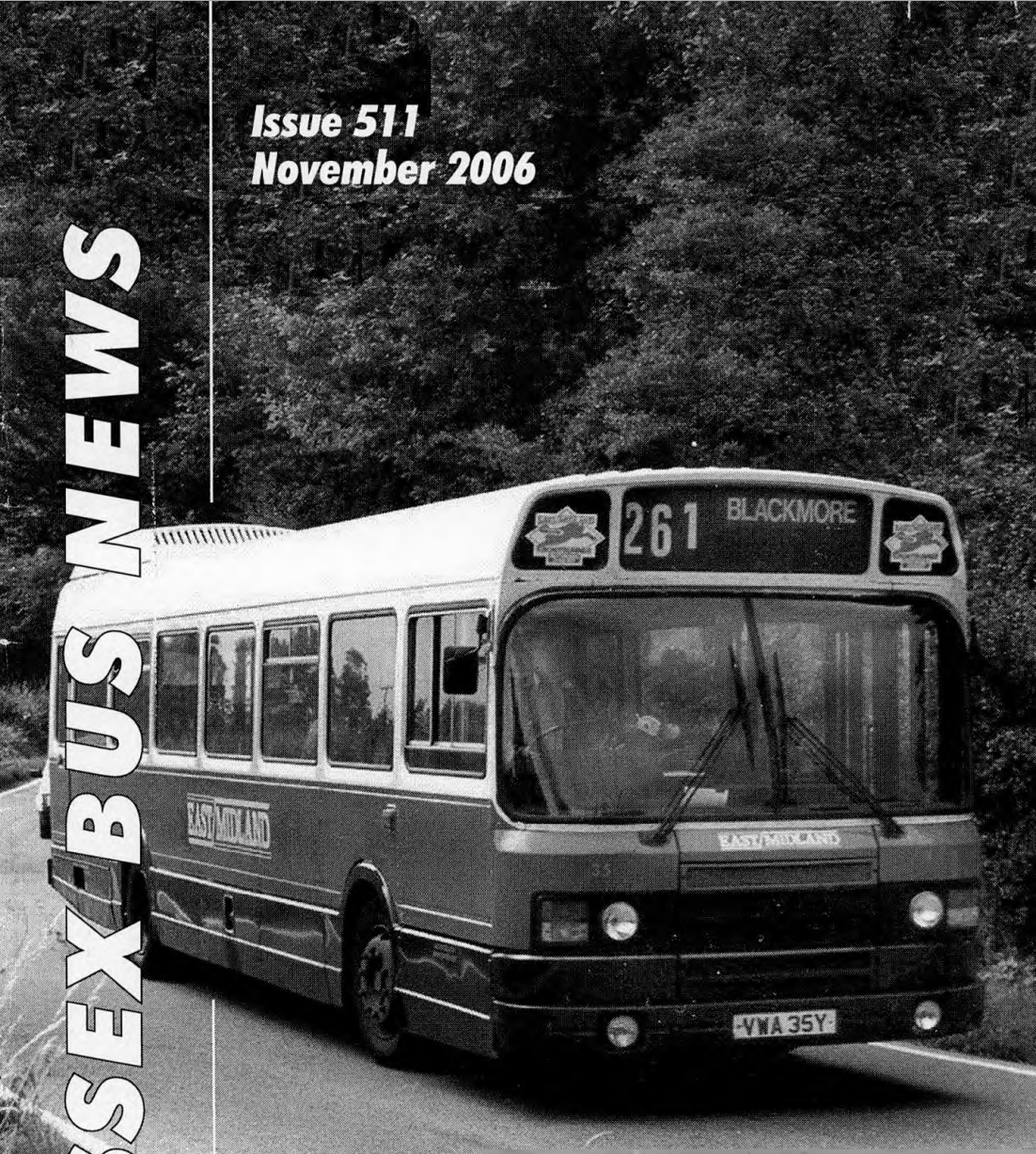
ESSEX BUS NEWS

Issue 511
November 2006



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A 12 month subscription is £18.50 by First Class post, renewable in January or July.

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

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Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from the Membership Secretary.

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Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit *www.essexbus.org.uk*

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All orders for publications should be sent to:

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

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

Lyn Watson
c/o Barrons Chartered Accountants,
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Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, SS9 2HN

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

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports are always welcome. Please send them to the relevant Sub-Editor.

Photos (prints, slides or digital images - in JPG format) are also welcome - please send to David Harman.

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.

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Dates for your diary

EBN PRESS DATES

For inclusion in EBN dated:	*reports should reach Editors by:*	*planned despatch date:*
December	**6 December**	15 December
January 2007	**3 January 2007**	12 January 2007
February 2007	**7 February 2007**	16 February 2007

Please note that the **planned** despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The **actual** despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can **only** be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite). None of the Editors hold spares, so there is no point in contacting them. They cannot help!

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings now take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and *one Great Eastern* trains & *Arriva Southend* services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Richard Delahoy*

- **Tuesday 12 December** - *20 years ago* slide show by *Richard Delahoy* celebrating the start of deregulation in October 1986.

2007 programme ~ Jan-Jun (provisional) ~ make a note in your diary now!

- **Tuesday 9 January** - Slide show by *Trevor Brookes*
- **Tuesday 13 February** - Slide show by *Graham Belfall - "Wales"*
- **Tuesday 13 March** - AGM, followed by slide show *"30 Years AGO"* by *Alan G Osborne*
- **Tuesday 17 April** - cine/DVD evening with *Peter Carr*, buses & light rail
- **Tuesday 15 May** - ticketing evening with *David Harman & Richard Delahoy* - come and get some hands-on experience in using ticket machines, etc.
- **Tuesday 12 June** - to be advised

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: Downstairs 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 and parking are nearby. **20.00** to **22.00** (doors open at **19.30**). All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Dave Arnold*

- **Friday 8 December** (note: ***not*** 9 December as given last month) - *Michael Yelton, practising lawyer* (author of "Trams, Trolleybuses and Buses and the Law") *and bus enthusiast* - topic to be advised.

2007 programme ~ make a note in your diary now!

- **Fridays 12 January, 9 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December.**

Cover: **East Midland in Essex:** Was it *really* twenty years ago? *Chris Stewart*



BLUE TRIANGLE ESSEX SUNDAY BUS SERVICES ~ 15 October

Pictures taken by *Richard Delahoy* at Little Dunmow, Throws Corner (as it is spelt today, a 1960's OS map spells it "Throes Corner"):

above: **EnsignBus Museum** ex-Lancaster CTD Leyland PD3/East Lancs **KTJ 204C**. The Tyneside Omnibus Co. livery is attractive but not authentic.

below: **Blue Triangle**'s former London Transport RTW178 in the distinctive livery of Stevensons of Uttoxeter, KLB 908, for whom it worked for many years.



■ **BLUE TRIANGLE** ~ *Essex Sunday Bus Services*
Sundays 19th November and **10th December**: Two extra running days and the last chance to sample the Blue Triangle heritage buses running on the 339/363/622 in Essex. Plenty of wintry bus-riding and photo opportunities. Times were given in **EBN504**.

■ **ENSIGNBUS** ~ *Route X80 Running Days*
Saturdays 25th November and **2nd December**: The X80 will be extended on those days to run about every 30mins from 9 am to 6 pm through from Gravesend to Grays, via Bluewater and Lakeside (for Xmas shopping). Normal X80 fares apply, but a special day ticket at £6 will apply for unlimited travel on the special vehicles as well as on all Ensign local bus services. Proceeds all help to maintain and restore the museum fleet.

Park the wife/girlfriend/partner at Bluewater/Lakeside and enjoy a day riding and photographing the buses ! As last year, buses will be subbed throughout the day to ensure a variety of vehicles in service, which will include London, provincial, guest vehicles and of course (subject to many things!!) an Ensign surprise vehicle. Times are:

Grays Bus Station	**0857** *then at* **27 / 57** *mins past the hour to* **1657**
Lakeside bay 13	**0910** *then at* **10 / 40** *mins past the hour to* **1710**
Bluewater bay 12	**0940** *then at* **10 / 40** *mins past the hour to* **1740**
Gravesend ClockTower	**1005** *then at* **05 / 35** *mins past the hour to* **1805**
Gravesend Clock Tower	**1015** *then at* **15 / 45** *mins past the hour to* **1745**
Bluewater bay 12	**1040** *then at* **10 / 40** *mins past the hour to* **1810**
Lakeside bay 13	**1110** *then at* **10 / 40** *mins past the hour to* **1840**
Grays Bus Station	**1123** *then at* **23 / 53** *mins past the hour to* **1853**

plus one late journey from Gravesend **1820** to Lakeside only (**1856**).

www.ensignbus.com

From the Editor ...

There is no **Arriva East Herts & Essex** or **Network Colchester** news this month as **no** news whatsoever has been received from members. Mark Garratt (AEH&E) and Peter Mansbridge (NC) are reliant on reports from members, as they only get limited official information. So, ***please*** keep them posted on your observations from these areas!

Correction to **EBN510**: the ex-East Midland Ford Transits were of course Carlyle (not Dormobile) conversions.

David Harman

Publicity News

Essex County Council have issued:
"Getting Around Harlow" which contains a route map and full timetables. Dated August 2006 it was produced by FWT on 24.7.06.
Travelpass dated April 2006, but the map is dated 25.7.06.
Tendring Passport to Travel dated September 2006
Public Transport Map dated Summer 2006
Sunday Travel Guide dated Summer 2006

A complimentary A4 version of the Central Essex timetable was produced during the mid Summer but with the same cover date as the existing A5 size book.

Olympian Coaches re-issued their leaflet for London Commuter Services 741,742,743 which reflected revised fares from 1st April 2006.

Clintona have an A5 size leaflet for service 261 undated

Stephensons of Essex have issued a royal blue slimline leaflet for their X1, X10 London Link services dated 4th September. There is also a bright green folded leaflet dated 5th September for "Three Great Routes" namely the 200/10/20 from the Dengie area

Ensignbus issued a double sided slimline leaflet for service X80 and A4 single sided panel timetables for routes 64, 77 and 83 dated 1st July 2006. There were superseded by a slimline leaflet, dated 30th September 2006 and folded many times, containing timetables for routes 55, 77, 83, 66 and X80.

A 2006 leaflet has been issued for the **Brightlingsea to Point Clear/East Mersea ferry**

An October 2006 to April 2007 leaflet is now available for **Gatwick Flyer** along with a similar leaflet for the new service to Stansted which started on 1st July 2006.

To catch up on older items:-

First:

Pocket size leaflets for services 8/A (incl 8B/C) dated 26.2.06; 12; 25; 65; 67/A (includes 67B/C/D/E) and 78/A all dated 8.10.06; 100 dated 29.10.06.

Corporate style timetable leaflets for services 5/5A/6,10/11, 88/A all dated 8.1.06; 70 dated 27.2.06; 72/A dated 26.3.06; 17/18 dated 27.8.06; 550/551 dated 4.9.06; 7/8/8A dated 11.9.06; 71/C, 74/74B, 75, 76 and 102/3/4 all dated 8.10.06.

Credit size card timetable for service 999; undated.

An A5 leaflet for service 1/A (Basildon-Pitsea) dated 27.2.06.

You First Magazine Issue 1 which includes advertisements for various routes, ideas for days out, healthy eating and other good stuff.

The 71C and the 100 timetables show the service as using Chelmsford Bus Station, which would be a problem, as it is still not completed! A report in the *Essex Chronicle* suggests that the end of January, will be the opening date.

Essex County Council:

Leaflets for Closure of Station Road, Tiptree from 23-27 October and temporary service 75X operated by First.

Timetable leaflet for services 87/A and 247 dated 5.6.06.

Proposed dates for new area timetables is :-

South East Essex & Southend; South Essex; West & North West Essex – October 2006.
Central Essex; North East Essex – November 2006.

Basildon area leaflets can be obtained from the information desk in the Eastgate centre, if the inspectors office in the Bus Station is closed.

Ian Ranson, with thanks to Ian Taylor

Essex Service Changes

Arriva London North

5 Nov 06	**397**	Daily	South Chingford, Sainsburys - Debden Broadway, Torrington Drive: Service now operates daily with the introduction of a half hourly Sunday service

C G Myall

14 Nov 06	**101**	T	Saffron Walden, Tesco Store - Whittlesford, Memorial Extended to and from Saffron Walden, Tesco Store

First

1 Oct 06	**50**	Daily	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Great Baddow, BAE Systems New hourly service introduced on Sundays
6 Oct 06	**66A**	M-S	Colchester Bus Station - Rowhedge, Heath Road Service withdrawn
8 Oct 06	**2**	Daily	Southend Travel Centre - Basildon Bus Station Minor timetable alteration - the 18:32 (M-F) Basildon to Hadleigh withdrawn
	65	Daily	Stanway, Tollgate Medical Centre - Highwoods, Tesco Store Frequency reduced to 5bph on Saturdays.
	66	Daily	West Bergholt, Queens Head - Old Heath, Speedwell Road Revised timetable and re-routed in Rowhedge
	67B	SSu	West Bergholt, Queens Head - West Mersea, High Street Introduction of hourly Saturday service (replacing 67,67A) West Mersea and Colchester. Sunday service unaltered
	75	Daily	Colchester Bus Station - Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre The 07:20 Colchester to Maldon and 08:28 Maldon to Colchester journeys withdrawn on Saturdays
	76	Daily	Colchester North Station - Clacton, Jackson Road Service now scheduled to serve all stops between Colchester and Greenstead Road. Additional journey 09:07 Frating to Colchester (M-F)
	78	Daily	Colchester High Street - Brightlingsea, Regent Road Revised timetable
8 Oct 06	**X22**	Daily	Stansted Airport - University of Essex Additional stop at Braintree, Marks Farm Roundabout
9 Oct 06	**12**	M-S	Basildon Bus Station - Dawes Heath, Deanes School Minor timetable revisions - the 07:37 (M-F) now departs at 07:45 and is extended to Deanes School and an SDO 15:30 from Deanes School to Pitsea Broadway
	15	M-F	Southend Travel Centre - Basildon Bus Station Revised timetable. The 06:05 starts from Thundersley, Woodmans Arms. The 06:30 from Southend terminates at Tesco Store (Princes Avenue). The 15:40 Southend to Basildon withdrawn. The 17:10 from Southend now terminates at Rayleigh with an additional journey at 18:10 to Tesco Store (Princes Avenue)
	15A	M-F	Hadleigh Bus depot - Southend Travel Centre Now only operates in the one direction. The 15:28 running five minutes later at 15:33 throughout
	15B	SDO	Southend Travel Centre - Pitsea Broadway: Revised timetable. The 07:25 from Southend now terminates at Hadleigh bus depot. Journeys operate in the one direction only
	15C	M-F	Lower Hockley, Dome - Southend Travel Centre Operates in one direction only
	16	M-F	Southend Travel Centre - Canvey, Eastern Esplanade Revised tiimetable. Additional journey 15:40 Southend to Rayleigh Station. The 18:18 from Southend now starts from South Benfleet at 19:21.
	26	M-S	Bournes Green - Canvey, Newlands Minor timetable revision. Additional journey 16:46 South Benfleet to Canvey, Newlands
	28	M-F	Southend Bus Station - Canvey, Leigh Beck: Minor revision to the 17:12, 17:22, 17:31 and 17:41 from Benfleet Station to afford better train connections.

	67	M-S	Colchester High Street - West Mersea, High Street Saturday service withdrawn apart from evening ECC contract journeys
	67A	M-S	Colchester General Hospital - West Mersea, High Street Saturday service withdrawn apart from evening ECC contract journeys
	73	M-S	Warley, Eagle Way - Bishops Hall Estate, Danes Way Revised timetable. M-F frequency reduced generally to every 20 minutes combined with 73a.
	73A	M-F	Warley,Eagle Way - Bishops Hall Estate, Danes Way. Revised timetable
	103	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Colchester Bus Station Minor timetable revision and buses will now serve all stops between Parsons Heath and Colchester
	104	M-S	Harwich Bus Station - Colchester Bus Station Minor timetable revision and buses will now serve all stops between Parsons Heath and Colchester
Imperial Bus Co			
10 Nov 06	**321**	SDO	Thurrock, Warren Lane - Stifford Clays, William Edward School: Service withdrawn
Olympian Coaches			
10 Oct 06	**M7**	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow (circular) Service withdrawn replaced in part by service M9
	M8	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow (circular) Service withdrawn replaced in part by service M9
Roadrunner Coaches			
10 Oct 06	**M9**	M-F	Harlow - Church Langley: New service
Stansted Transit			
25 Sep 06	**1**	SDO	Takely, Four Ashes - Saffron Walden, Church Street Main service revised to operate between Bishops Stortford and Stansted Airport. One SDO journey in each direction Takeley to Saffron Walden
9 Oct 06	**319**	SDO	Great Dunmow, High Street - Bishops Stortford Boys High School: Revised departure times.
Stephensons of Essex			
6 Nov 06	**513**	SDO	Southend High School for Boys - Chelmsford, Retail Market Revised terminal in Chelmsford now the Retail Market and not Coval Lane
13 Nov 06	**250**	M (SDO)	Heybridge, Oak Road - Southend Travel Centre New Monday service (also runs on 18/12/06)
14 Nov 06	**230**	T (SDO)	Heybridge, Oak Road - Basildon Bus Station New Tuesday service (also runs on 19/12/06)
15 Nov 06	**290**	W (SDO)	Maldon, Morrisons - Braintree, Fairfield Road New Wednesday service (also runs on 20/12/06)
16 Nov 06	**260**	Th (SDO)	South Woodham, Asda - Maldon, Tesco Store New Thursday service (also runs on 21/12/06)
17 Nov 06	**240**	F (SDO)	Heybridge, Oak Road - Billericay, Sun Corner New Friday service (also runs on 22/12/06)
Trustline			
30 Sep 06	**393**	M-S	Rye Park, Stanstead Road - Harlow Town Station Service withdrawn
2 Oct 06	**392**	M-S	Hertford Bus Station - Old Harlow, Post Office Revised Terminal. Service extended from Rye Houe to Hertford and Harlow to Old Harlow

David Tomlin

Chelmsford Bus Station





Chris Stewart's pictures show the new Bus Station is almost finished, and closely resembles the "artist's impression" *(left)*.

The opening date was promised for September but now looks to be either December or January 2007. Apart from building work not being complete, a practical problem has arisen - it has been discovered that buses may have difficulty manoeuvring around the concourse.

The local press reported on an "official bus test" in early November. This showed that some buses could not pass each other, while others had to be reversed and manoeuvred unsatisfactorily.

No doubt, this will be resolved in due course. Meanwhile, the apartments are mostly complete and a few remain unsold. Prices range from £199,995 to £319,995.

David Harman



■ FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes

Period 7: 30th September to 29 October 2006

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another First fleet
(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/retained (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School

46111 HH-D/L(D); 46116 CN-D/L(D); 46131 CN-D/L(D); 46133 CN-D/L(D); 46175 RES-CN; 46802 DT-D/L(D); 46820 CN-D/L(D); 46829 CR-CN; 46830 CR-CN; 51475 D/L(D)-sold; 51801 BN-D/L(D); 51804 BN-D/L(D); 52583 RES-BN; 57001 new-DT; 57002 new-DT; 60031 RES-CR; 60129 RES-CR; 60130 RES-CR; 90244 DS-D/L(D)

Repaints

Period 6 (by observation): add 41637
Period 7 - none

Disposals

Period 6: 51809, 52582 – Erith Commercials for component recovery/scrap following cannibalisation
Period 7: 51475 to Erith Commercials

Other Vehicle News:

Primos: 57000 (the demonstrator) has Mobitec displays *(www.mckennabrothers.co.uk)*, whilst 57002 has Hanover LED display *(www.hanoverdisplays.com/english/home.html)*. 31374, 34014, 34056, 41717 and 60102 have all been converted to LED displays (60102 ex dot matrix)

Notes on allocation changes:

46116 appears to have worked from BE and CF, but not CN as shown in the allocation list.
51804 is working from BE (see later).
57002, 60129/30, 60031 have yet to arrive.
90244 (the former 1427) was the last Leyland Lynx at work with the Company.
EBN509 showed 56001 as going CR-BE but in fact this does not appear to have happened; instead 56003 moved to BE the following month and gained X20 branding.

Disposal list:

The current list of vehicles delicensed for disposal consists of Darts 46107/11/6/8/22/4/9/31/3/4/5 and 46801/2/5/20, Mercedes 51801/3/4 and Lynx 90244.

Confusing bonnet exchanges:

51475 (now sold) was seen parked up at CN disposal yard with 90236's bonnet, leading to some confusion. It seems that the (yellow) bonnet – with fleetnumber displayed - from withdrawn Mercedes 51475 was swapped with that from publicity van 90236 before the latter's recent MOT. 90236 now in fact has the Barbie-coloured bonnet from 51809.

Harwich update:

Dart 46802's MOT expired at midnight of 24th October, but remained in use until mid afternoon on Village Link 3/4s, as both Solos had been unserviceable. Mercedes 51803 was also taken to Clacton disposal yard on 31st October following expiry of its road fund licence, but 51780 remained in stage use at the end of October. 34285 was still off the road with mechanical problems and undergoing work at Haven Road, Colchester.



above: Olympian **34815** (C415 HJN) makes an appearance on the 351 on 21 October. *Chris Stewart*

below: Primo **57002** (YN56 NHF) in service on the 20A at Harwich on 14 September. The 'hump' on the roof is the Sütrak climate control unit. *Fred Lawrance*



Unusual workings:
Owing to roadworks, Bocking Church Street was closed from October 13th and was expected to remain so until November 3rd. Service 352 omitted Bocking and operated direct via Convent Hill, with a shuttle bus operated as a replacement by Mercedes minibus 51804 (see above) in Thamesway 'Anglia' livery.

Notices in buses indicated that routes 103/4 would miss out most of Bradfield/Mistley Heath from October 9th for 3 days, and would operate via B1352 and the old Bradfield railway station for roadworks. This in fact only happened on Monday 9th as the intended roadworks did not appear to take place.

From 16th to 24th October the B1352 Wrabness road was closed, so both DT51780 & DT51803 were used on two extra duties to run at shuttle bus service from Ramsey to Bradfield Heath. The normal service 103 operated via Ramsey, the A120 and Wix, then Bradfield Road, Wix to Bradfield before regaining its normal 103 route.

October sightings

9th	Short Dart 46116 on 351 (and 10th)
10th	CF65681 on 351, BN51804/5 both on 551
11th	46116 on 48
13th	CF56007 on X20, CF43731 and CF60103 on 352
14th	Dart MPD DT43800 on 103 (15.20 ex Harwich), CF34807 on 36
16th	CF42921 on 352
17th	Vario BN52583 first noted on 73
19th	Olympian/ECW CF34815 on 48
21st	(Saturday) Olympian/ECWs CF34807 and 34815 on 351 (09.05 and 10.05 ex Chelmsford), 34807 then 10.40 & 13.40 service 35 to SD.
23rd	Mercedes DT51780 on 104 (19.40/20.55/22.05/23.15)
24th	DT51780 on 104 (06.10 Harwich-CR and return), DT51803 on Village Link 3 (06.20/07.27/08.40/09.40)
25th	CF56008 on X20
26th	BE46824 on 352, green Dart CF47252 on 72
27th	BN30558 on 22, 34807 on 72, BN61054 on 81/82
28th	Lance CF60104 on 352, Cheetahs CF56006/8 on X20
29th	Dart/Alexander CF47219 on X30

OTHER NEWS
Former Eastern National/Thamesway/First Essex vehicles
Bristol Bus & Coach Sales are reported to have acquired Mercedes O810Ds 50365/6/7 (P706/7/8PWC) ex First Glasgow on 31st August 2006.

On 23rd October in Norwich, former Thamesway Olympians 1001-4 (H101-4 KVX) were noted as follows:
34901 on 14/15 (Wymondham-Dussingdale Road)
34902 on 10 (Spixworth-Mulbarton)
34903 on unknown service
34904 on 18 (Old Catton-Long Stratton)
along with Dennis Dart M923TEV (46823) also on 14/15, and a large number of N-APU Volvo/Plaxton coaches on Excel express services.

Happy Al's Coaches of Birkenhead still operate former Olympian coaches 4504/7 (B692/5BPU, now A13/4 ALS), numbered 20/1, upseated to H45/28F, fitted with dot matrix displays and in the latest maroon livery.

Former VR 3123 (XHK228X), latterly First Devon & Cornwall 38928, has moved from Newquay outstation to a possible future in preservation. One time Eastern National and Hedingham Bristol FLF6G 2841 (MVX878C), stored in Hampshire for a long time with other



WEST COUNTRY SURVIVORS

above: Ex-Eastern National **38608** (XHK 228X) with Western National **38928** (XDV 608X) and ex-Eastern Counties **38908** (VEX 288X) at FDC Newquay depot.

below: **XHK 220X** has a new lease of life with the Street Safe charity in Newquay.

Steve Simister





Eastern National FLF6G 2841 (MVX878C), in Hedingham livery, about to depart from Hampshire for Northumberland and a new career with Dreadnought Coaches.

Terry Hussey

www.dreadnoughtcoaches.co.uk

preserved Bristols (including NIBS RELL6G TUO255J), has been sold by owner Terry Hussey to Dreadnought Coaches of Alnwick, Northumberland for restoration to Class VI standard and passenger use. It left Hampshire by low loader during late October.

■ **FIRST COACHES (NATIONAL EXPRESS)**

Trafford Park, where coaches were based for National Express Clacton 350 and Southend 305 services, closed after service on Sunday 1st October and the office was vacated on Monday 9th October. Some of the vehicles have since been reported at Oldham, with notices inferring that they are 'Trafford Park' vehicles (strictly an operating centre of First Centrewest Ltd).

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to W Bell, A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, B Elsom, M Farmer, I Hardie, T Hussey, A Kelleher, F Monck, K Nason, I Ransom, C Sigston, R Smith, 'Solo', A Spindler, G Toon, N Turner, R Webb, R Whitley, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, Real Bus News, Mark Haldon's Wirral Bus Companies, LOTS, PSV Circle, Terminus.

Chris Stewart

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicle Movements

Out : Dennis Dominators/East Lancs 5273/4/6/7/8 (G663-5 FKA, G626/8 EKA)
At the time of writing (Nov 1st), 5273 and 5276 had been withdrawn from service.

In : Listed below are the Dominator replacements.

3005 (L507 CPJ) Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3035/1910 East Lancs B8501 B40F New 5/1994 to London and Country

3006 (L506 CPJ) Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3035/1911 East Lancs B8502 B40F New 5/1994 to London and Country

3133 (L133 YVK) Dennis Dart 9SDL3034/1757 Northern Counties 4671 B35F New 3/1994 to Kentish Bus and Coach.

3175 (M200 CBB) Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3040/2193 Plaxton 9410HXN3275 B40F New 1/1995 to Tellings-Golden Miller (Cardiff Bluebird).

3005/6 have transferred in from Hawkhurst, 3133 from Northfleet and 3175 from Sheerness. 3133 replaced Dominator 5276 whilst 5273 was withdrawn after the return of Dart SLF 3326 (T826 NMJ) from being on loan to Grays. Volvo B6 3606 (L606 EKM) which was on loan to Southend is now allocated to Southend as a Dominator replacement.

Before they were famous: L507 CPJ as **Arriva Kent & Sussex** 3005, in Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells in August. Revised East Sussex CC tenders from 29 October caused 3005 and 3006 to become surplus to requirements. *David Harman*



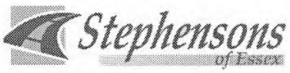
Vehicle Workings
The replacement of Dominators with Darts will mean that some double deck workings on routes 7/8 will be converted to single deck.

Member Les Thorrington has sent in details of a week of vehicles used on 6A morning journeys

Monday 23rd October	1188 - booked vehicle operated all journeys.
Tuesday 24th	The first two journeys were operated by 5092 which was replaced at Leigh Station by 1188. 5092 had faulty windscreen wipers.
Wednesday 25th	1188 operated all journeys.
Thursday 26th	3009 operated all journeys.
Friday 27th	3123 operated all journeys.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold and Les Thorrington





■ **EXCEL**

New vehicles

AE56 MDV/X/Y MAN 18.220 / MCV Evolution

These are for use on service 308 (Bishops Stortford - Stansted) and are in a grey/green livery with BAA and Herts CC logos. One will be on show at Eurobus at the NEC in November.

EU56GVG Dennis Dart SLF

The Ayats Bravo on order, is for use at the Manchester base. Volvo B10M/ Plaxton J420 HDS and Scania/Irizar RL04 EXL are also based there.

Loaned vehicles

Former Brighton & Hove F712 LFG and G728 RJY, Scania N112/East Lancs, are currently on loan from Stephenson (dealer stock), and will probably be acquired.

Sold vehicles

A999 PKR Leyland Olympian/ECW

This was sold in October., as was one of the Mercedes 709D's, which are being replaced by the MAN/Evolutions.

General

Rail replacement for Central Trains on 29 October, saw Scania/Irizars YN 53 GDV and RL 04 EXL, Ayats Bravo WX06 WSX, Neoplan Skyliner (Ex-Jumbocruiser, Bristol) T386 JWA and Volvo/Alexander PS M453 VCW in use, together with Volvo B10Ms A17/8 SOE of Stephensons, and Touro 0404's of Clockwork Travel, Crawley.

On 5 October, WAGN rail replacement on the Enfield Town-Hertford East/Stansted Airport line saw ex Brighton & Hove Scania/East Lancs 712 ,728, Olympian/ECW C122 CHM, Mercedes L313 YDU/L314 YDU, N70 TGM, ex-Metrobus Dart, J226 HGY, ex-Reg's BU51 REG, Volvo/Alexander M232 TBW, and Dart K108 SAG on loan from Stephensons. On Stansted Express duties were ex-Jumbocruiser Neoplan T778 JWA, Scania/Irizar YN53GDV and MAN/MCV Evolutions AE56 MDV/X.

Volvo B10M/Alexander M233 TBV was on service 506 on 28/9, in place of the more usual Olympian.

Vehicles are now being painted into a new livery of white with blue skirt/roof, in a similar style to Stephensons vehicles. This should facilitate inter company transfers.

■ **STEPHENSONS OF ESSEX**

New vehicles

SN56 AYH Dennis Dart MPD: This is for use on Witham area services.

General

Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties M408 RVU was re-registered WLT 838 before it arrived here.

Ian Ransom; acknowledgements to Lyn Watson, essex-buses y-group

Hedingham

Withdrawn vehicles

L168 (PWY 43), **L194** (JWV 271W), Bristol VRs, to Ensign (dealer), October.

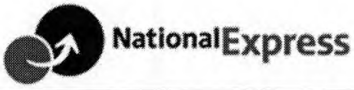
Allocations

L168 VR KN > sold
L194 VR KN > sold
L330 B7TL HD > CN

General

An Enviro 400 is on order for delivery next year.

Dave Arnold



Following the closure of the First depot at Trafford Park, **Selwyns** of Runcorn are now operating Services **305** and **350** again, having previously surrendered these around 18 months ago. **First** (Trafford Park) had taken over the services then, initially with 54-reg Scania/Irizar Centuries, though lately these were downgraded to X & R-reg Volvo/Plaxtons. It would appear Selwyns are operating both routes as they did before:

350 Driver leaves Liverpool on 350 to Peterborough, where another joins and 'jumps' the service to Cambridge, where the initial driver continues to Clacton. In the opposite direction, one driver leaves Clacton for Cambridge, where a jump driver takes it to Peterborough, and the initial driver takes over, through to Liverpool.

305 Driver leaves Liverpool on 305 to Cambridge, where another driver joins and drives to Southend with the initial driver as a passenger. In the opposite direction two drivers leave Southend to Cambridge where the one driving becomes the jump driver for the 350 to Peterborough and back, and then drives the southbound 305 back to Southend. The driver who travelled passenger from Southend now drives the 305 to Liverpool.

David Harman
with thanks to Graham Lord and the national_express y-group

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in *from*

Arriva Midlands: Olympians B274/5 LPH, B187/90 BLG, E160/1 OMD
Scania F154 DET, G36 HKY G711 HKW, F153/4/7 DET
Mercedes N466 EHA

Dublin Bus: Olympians 91-D-1089/90/105/6-10,
92-D-139/44/5/7/8/51/2, 93-D-10155/9, 61/2, 70-5
175 is of particular interest as it was the very last
Leyland built.

Peter Godward Cs, Wickford: Tiger E118 KFV

Hedingham Omnibuses: Bristol VR's PWY 43W, JWV 271W

Metroline: DML519/25-7/9/30/1/2

Stansted Transit: Dart P685 RWU, Tiger MIB 5354

Trustline, Hunsdon, Herts: M399

Vehicles out *to*

Olympian 93-D-1075: **Aintree Coaches**, Liverpool
Metrorider M808 WWR: **Mr S Bines**, Westcliff, Essex
Dart M96 WBW: **Blue Diamond Coaches**, Harlow, Essex
RML2592: **Bryan Canfield**, Horsham, West Sussex
Dublin Olympian 91-D-10122: now J717 VEV with **Brylaine**, Boston, Lincs.
Dart M95 WBW: **Carters Coaches**, Ipswich, Suffolk
Dublin Olympian 92-D-136 now J714 CEV with **Castle Buses**, Liverpool
Hong Kong Olympian FC1067 now J697 CEV with **Cedar Coaches**, Bedford
Metrorider M809 WWR: **Essex Limousines**, Hadleigh, Essex
Scanias G36 HKY G711/4 LKW: **Geldard Coaches**, Leeds
Volvo B10M ADZ 4731: **London General**, Mitcham
L65: **Metropolitan Police**, as training vehicle
Delta G747 RTY: **PVS** for scrap.
RML888: **Red Route Buses**, Northfleet.
Darts M68 CYJ M65 CYJ M97 WBW}
Olympian G541 VBB} **Renown Coaches**, Bexhill, East Sussex.
Hong Kong Condor EN5923 now H657 PVW} with **Souls Coaches**
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1072 now H658 PVW} Olney, Bucks.
Scania H803 RWJ: **TM Travel**, Chesterfield
Metrorider P429 VRG: **Trustline**, Stansted, Essex

■ ENSIGNBUS, Purfleet

Vehicles acquired:

from Metroline Travel, Harrow

719 R619 VEG Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR1WGW12171 Marshall Ml C39.222 B31F
727 R627 VEG Dennis Dart SLF SFD212BR1WGW12176 Marshall Ml C39.230 B31F
New 5/1998 to *MTL London Northern* DML19/27 etc.

These are operating in red at present whilst others are being repaired/repainted. It is likely that more of this type will replace the Deltas, so as to convert the X80 to low-floor.

David Harman
with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Town & Country update

Limited operations continued after 24 September, comprising Essex CC school contracts and the c2c Rail Tilbury Town/Riverside shuttle. By 19th October, the c2c shuttle was being worked by a 16-seat LDV minibus of P&M Coaches, Wickford. On 21st/22nd October, Town & Country's usual weekend c2c rail replacement work in the Southend area was being covered by other local operators. School contracts were however still being worked as late as 18th October and probably continued until the end of term on Friday 20th. This appears to be the last day of operation. By 30th October, SBC Leisure and Imperial were working former T&C ECC contracts at Ongar.

As the arrangements for clearing T&C's outstanding debts had failed, bailiffs acting for creditors seized ten vehicles which were put up for auction with Clarkson James of Southend. Others have since been sold via eBay or direct.

Disposals, including some previously unrecorded, are summarised below :

100	L110 HHV	Dart	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to NIBS, Wickford.
101	R375 DJN	Excel	repossessed; 7/06.
102	R377 DJN	Excel	repossessed; 7/06.
103	T439 EBD	Dart SLF	repossessed; 7/06.
104	M104 PVN	B6	still in fleet as at 30 Sep.
105	T457 HNH	Vario	repossessed; 7/06.
106	P323 KAR	Excel	repossessed; 7/06.
107	R378 DJN	Excel	repossessed; 7/06.
108	M106 PVN	B6	(unserviceable) auctioned (eBay); 10/06.
109	L112 HHV	Dart	last used 8/04; sent for scrap by 7/05 following accident.
* 109	L103 GHN	B6	scrapped after accident; remains gone by 9/06.
200	C103 CHM	Olympian	sold for scrap to Hardwicks, Barnsley, 9/04.
201	C76 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to dealer.
202	C809 BYY	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to dealer.
204	C30 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, buyer unknown.
205	H247 LOM	Scania	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to NIBS, Wickford.
206	C117 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to dealer.
207	C107 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, buyer unknown.
208	C43 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to dealer
209	H239 LOM	Scania	sold c.3/06 to Travelspeed (Northern Blue), Burnley (139).
210	SDX 34R	Atlantean	auctioned (eBay); 10/06, to preservationist(?)
211	C507 OTW	Olympian	seen on A1 on tow on Oct. 19 - Barnsley bound?
212	H237 LOM	Scania	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to NIBS, Wickford.
213	C104 CHM	Olympian	still in service as at 18 Oct.
214	C54 CHM	Olympian	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, to dealer.
215	C818 BYY	Olympian	scrapped after a fire; gone by 9/06.
KSW480	WNO 480	KSW	sold 10/06 to Ken Larking (preservationist).
	P397 MMA	ERF wrecker	auctioned (Clarkson James); 10/06, buyer unknown.

* duplicated number

David Harman
with thanks to Richard Delahoy, and Dave Stewart of LOTS

Essex Small Operator News

1ST DIRECT CARS, Benfleet This fairly new operator uses licences on limos, YK55 AHD a long Hummer and EJ52 RVZ a Lincoln.

24x7, Elsenham The following are still reported as being in the area, although operations have ceased. Bova Europa A32 UGA, DAF SB2300 B920 CSU (Irizar), C66 SUT (Plaxton) and Setra S215HD K1 TCC.

A&D MINICOACHES. Basildon Ford Transit R240 DTW has been sold to a private owner.

AIR CONNECTIONS, Wendons Ambo This new operator has Ford Transit L802 KAJ (although it is a non-PSV).

APT, Rayleigh Scania/Berkhof H921 OBE has been sold to a dealer. Acquired is a Dennis Javelin/ Caetano, which has been re-registered BIG 8732.

AUTOHIRE, Stansted Acquired from Wimco, Mitcham is Fiat/Devon Conversions M619 DPN.

AVRO, Orsett MCW Metrobus KYV 805X has been sold to Ensign (dealer), Purfleet.

BARKER, Roydon Dennis Javelin/Duple BSK 887 (E332 BWO), Ford Transit F817 VEH and Mercedes Benz 410D K457 LDM have been sold.

BASILDON CAB, Basildon Ford Transit S752 UGV has been sold

BASILDON TRAVEL, Rayleigh Scania/Irizar N410 SFH has been sold to BMC, Coventry (dealer).

BB CARS, Maylandsea Ford Transit NX05 RKA, is thought to have been acquired from Astrocabz, Maylandsea.

BESTAX, Rayleigh Toyota Hiace N536 PHK has been sold to T&C Cars, Tilbury.

BIG TIME LIMOS, Southend This operator of limousines, has surrended their operators licence.

BJS, Gt Wakering Acquired from APT Rayleigh, is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton XGS 767X. Mercedes Benz 614D/Crest S217 TKR has been sold.

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow Mercedes Benz 811D/Wadham Stringer M93 JHB has been withdrawn

BRENTWOOD COACHES Volvo B10M/Plaxton D263 HFX (XCF 447) and E306 OMG (WXC 732) have been sold to Hopley Coaches, Mount Hawke, Cornwall.

BRIANS, Maylandsea Mercedes Benz 609D/Scott H830 YGA has been sold, to British Car Auctions, Hindhead (dealer)

BROOMSTICKS COACHES, Fichingfield Freight Rover F116 TWP has been sold, while similar D855 OJA and Toyota/ Caetano's G964 VBC, H889 ERY are withdrawn.

BROWN, Basildon Leyland Titan WDA 4T has been sold for preservation

CD HIRE, Harlow Ford Transit N660 DAR has been sold, to a private owner.

CD TRAVEL, Kelvedon Vehicles here now operate on Ross discs, rather than Guernari discs, previously carried. Bedford YNT/Plaxton B787 OUT has been sold to P&M Coaches, Shotgate. Leyland Atlantean/Roe EPH 222V has also been sold. LDV Convoy BL03 SGU is here from a private owner. LDV 400 N811 ERP, reported in EBN504, is thought to be an error. Volvo B58/Duple CAV 620V is still here

CEDRICS, Wivehoe A fire here in late July gutted the crew restroom, but no vehicles were damaged.

CHARIOTS, Stanford-le-Hope Recent additions are TIB 8567 (C409 LRP) a Scania/Jonckhree and Mercedes Benz/Whittaker F675 DDY (TDY 946, F609 EHE).

CHELMER VALLEY, Chelmsford This taxi operator, now has an operators licence and among a large number of taxi-plated Ford Transits is FA04 UYY, which is licensed as a PSV.

CM3 CARS, South Woodham Ferrers Here and not previously reported are LDV Pilot R447 SLY and Fiat Ducato Y383 LHT.

COOKS, Southend Recently acquired is Bova Futura FHD12-340 YJ03 GYG from McNulty Coaches, Wembley.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood Volvo B10M/Caetano S9 BOS has been re-registered 2899 RU and named Hertfordshire

CREST COACHES, Rochford Is obviously connected with Crest, London, as

Mercedes Vario/Autobus P844 ADO carries phone numbers for London and Rochford!

CROWN, Thundersley Leyland Olympian/ECW C32 CHM has been acquired from Ruffle, Castle Hedingham, via Ensign (dealer). Setra S215HD F668 DDO has been sold, to McCabe, Manchester. Mercedes Benz 811D/Carlyle H994 FTT has been sold, to Freedom 2 Travel, Thundersley.

CRUSADER, Clacton Vehicles on order for delivery in December are two Setra 416GTHD and two Setra 415GTHD. They will enter service in March on 07 plates. These will replace Setra 315's V105/106 OJN and W113/114 BHJ, which will be sold shortly.

DAVES MINIBUSES, Dovercourt Ford Transit C5 SHH (M254 RSS) has been sold. Ford Transit T474 JHK is now licensed as a PSV.

DONS, Gt Dunmow Former Hong Kong Olympian J645 CEV has been reregistered BIG 8728. Leyland Olympian/East Lancs A486 HKB had been delicensed, after it fell into a hole in the road, but is now back in use.

Previously mentioned HX54 UGN is a Neoplan Euroliner.

EAGLE LINE, Bulphan Ford Transit J234 MUE was seen at Newmarket races, with no names, legal lettering or disc, so is assumed to have been sold.

EAGLES TRAVEL, Harlow Acquired from A1 Travel, Harlow is LDV Convoy S843 GWW

FARGO, Rayne Leyland Leopard/Plaxton KBH 860V, MCW Metrobus C959 LWJ and Leyland Olympian/ECW A563 KWY and A592 NWX have been sold. Ford Transit ET53 VHZ has been acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus

FLAGFINDER, Braintree Bristol VR/ECW CJH 121V has gone to Embling, Guyhirn for spares.

FORD, Althorne News of ex Southend Fleetlines is that MRJ 239W is unlicensed and is used as a seat store, while MRJ 241W is back on the road. Former Thamesdown Dennis Dominator/ Northern Counties SMW 56Y is also now unlicensed. Also Bedford YRT/Plaxton EHJ 147P (820 KPO, LAY 474P) is still here, although used as a store.

FREEDOM 2 TRAVEL, Thundersley Mercedes 412D/Olympus HSK 860 is reregistered S789 RKU. Acquired is Toyota/Caetano L215 BPL.

FST COACHES, Basildon Ford Transit S548 WKY has been sold

GAMBLE TRACKLINE, Colchester This fairly new operator (a rail maintenance contractor), has Ford Transits YS04 GVC and YM04 YBW on hire from 1car1.

GARDNER, Boreham Acquired from Calne Travel, Calne is Scania/Van Hool AHZ 1253. This was once with Lodges, High Easter as 160 EBK, E663 YDT.

GO 2 MINIBUSES, East Horndon Not previously recorded is that Iveco/Mellor X615 ORH is here

HANN, Harlow Vehicles sold are Renault Master D753 GBV and Ford Transit E295 XWJ. Talbot Express ADZ 1335 (G659 OWD) is withdrawn

HARDY MILES, Southend Mercedes Benz 609D/Robin Hood N251 XKR has been re-registered BIG 8743, Ford Transit N798 NKK is now BIG 8744, Mercedes Benz 308D G659 WHV is now BIG 8745, MCW Metrobus C360 BUV is BIG 8749, similar C344 BUV is now BIG 8751, Mercedes Benz 507D/Devon Conversions XIL 3730 (F782 LOD) is now BIG 8753, Mercedes Benz 312D P294 YOD, has been re-registered BIG 8754. MCW Metrobus GOG 225W, LOA 417X, BIG 8750 (C336 BUV), BIG 8748 (C755 OCN) and Volvo Citybus/Alexander BIG 8746 (F254 OFP) have passed to Southend Radio Cars. Further MCW Metrobus' withdrawn are MRJ 37W, LOA 413X, LOA 426X and B80 WUL. LDV Convoy/Crest T589 LAG is in from Smart, Biggin Hill. MCW Metrobus ORJ 91W has ben sold

HARWOOD Gt Wakering Bedford YMT/Plaxton EBM 460T has been sold

JACKSON Bicknacre MJI 3084 (J811 KHD) a DAF SB3000/Van Hool, has been reseated to C53F.

KELLY, Harlow To correct a previous report, the Mercedes Benz 0303 coach here is SIW 6253 (D356 CBC).

LINKFAST, Thundersley Acquired in the summer from Ensign (dealer) were MCW Metrobus KYV 724/729X

LODGES, High Easter Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F459 NDV has been acquired from Blunsdons, Woodstock.



ESSEX DARTS

S.M. Coaches have been investing in new vehicles for their Harlow local routes. *above:* Caetano-bodied **EU06 KDJ**; *below:* ADL-bodied **EU06 KNR**. Ten out of ten for the smart appearance, but black marks for mispelling "Potter Street", and calling the railway station "B.R. Station" on the blinds, and "Train Station" (that dreadful Americanism, beloved of our TOCs) on the windscreen sticker. *Kevin Smith*



Dennis Javelin/Berkhof R714 KGK has arrived from Epsom Coaches, Epsom. Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F367 MUT is now with Reynolds, Caister.

LOGIC, Nazeing Vehicles withdrawn are IIW 372 (D885 UDY) a LAG Panoramic and RJI 1976 (D628 YCX) a DAF MB200/Plaxton. The recently acquired Javelin/Caetano is ASV 237

LONDON HOPPA, Stansted Airport Mercedes Benz 310D V626 EWF has ben sold to Lets Travel, Bootle. Mercedes Benz 413 Cdi W7 ART has also been sold.

LONGTAIL CARRIAGE COMPANY, Orsett This new operator has Renault Masters CV02 KFZ (a non-PSV) and FY02 WOC.

LOUDWATER TRAVEL, Basildon Volvo B10M/Plaxton P184 NAK has been acquired, it has replaced similar L533 XUT.

M&E, Rochford Bristol VR/ECW CJH 123V has been sold for preservation

MASSEY, Orsett Bova Futura F212 TAN, the only vehicle here is reported as being sold. Your sub-editor has not seen it on its previous school contract in Brentwood, which would tend to confirm this.

MB TRAVEL, Harlow Recently acquired is Ford Transit SA55 NRY. It has replaced LDV Convoy W292 PTD, which has been sold.

NCS, Saffron Walden Mercedes Benz 811D/Autobus M642 UCT has been sold

NEW HORIZONS, Alresford Ford Transit S399 XSU has ben sold, to a private owner

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Scania K93/Plaxton AHZ 7344 (K777 KGM) has been withdrawn. Van Hool T815 NIL 2993 (E444 MMM) is back in use. Acquired is Mercedes Benz 0404/Hispano S139 RWA.

PJ COURIERS, Corringham Ford Transit R854 EWC has been sold, to a private owner

PM ENTERPRISES, Hockley This new operator has Optare Metrorider K351 SCN

PRODUCTION EUROPE, Frinton-on-Sea This operator has ceased and Renault Master P351 SBX has been sold.

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate Bristol VR/ECW OPL 215R, which had been here as a store shed has been sold.

RAYNHAM, Newport Acquired is Ford Transit KR05 OGJ (a Non-PSV)

REGAL, Highwood A couple of Mercedes/Plaxton minibuses have been on short term loan from NextBus (Pickford), Chippenham, in recent weeks, following success in winning ECC tendered work. These include P480 DPE and HHZ 5929. A new Optare Tempo destined for service 1, will appear at Eurobus at the NEC.

A shortage of vehicles on 31 October led to the use of Nelsons P654 VWX, a Scania L113/East Lancs on service 14/15 (Chelmsford-Wickford), while Leyland Olympian/ECW C264 XEF was on service 31A (Chelmsford-Little Baddow)

RICHARDS, Galleywood Scania/Irizar GX02 AOC has been sold, to a dealer.

RONDA COACHES, Rochford Acquired from Moore, Belfast is BCZ 2452 a Mercedes Benz 711D/Eurocoach. Vehicles withdrawn are DAF MB200/Plaxton RIB7910 (new as XAD 727X), Ford Transit UKK 419X and Freight Rover E542 FMV. LDV Convoy P135 KOJ has been sold.

ROSS, Kelvedon In addition to the vehicles listed under CD Travel, 2 further LDV minibuses are AD02 ZTF and WX04 YMS.

SAINT CLOUD, Rochford Vehicles sold are former London Country Leyland Tiger/Plaxton C211 PPE and Ford Transit G539 JRN. Ford Transit D370 RVW has been withdrawn.

SEYMOUR, Harlow Leyland Tiger/Plaxton F701 ENE has been sold.

SIMONS BUS, Wickford LDV Convoy W927 HDX has been acquired from a private owner.

SM COACHES, Harlow have two new Darts MX56 HYA/B.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS A further Iveco minibus from Manchester City Council is N526 BJA

STANSTED TRANSIT, Stansted Acquired from Burtons is Dennis Javelin/Plaxton T162 SBJ (T400 BCL). Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton V392 SVV has gone to Southdown PSV, Copthorne.

STAN'S, Gt Totham Recently acquired is a short Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F973 UGM from Burtons, Alfreton. It has been re-registed MVF 812 on arrival here. Longer but similar K101 OCT has gone to GM

Travel, Barham, Suffolk. LDV Convoy T164 JUJ has gone to Burton's, Alfreton. Volvo B10M/Van Hool OIA 419 (G40 SAV) has gone to an unknown buyer. The registration should return here. Dennis Javelin/Plaxton T84 JFP (G2 ELY, ESU 238) has been acquired from Grey, Ely. Finally, Bedford YNV/Plaxton VIB 4645 (E245 FLD) went to Baldry Coaches, York, some time ago

SUPREME, Southend A further MCW Metrobus is BYX 239V acquired from Currian Tours, Nanpean.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton K633 GVX has been fitted with 22 seats and is back in use, following a period as a support vehicle. Former Hong Kong Olympians J534/605 CEV are branded "Megga Dekka". Setra S315GT V35 HAX has been reseated to C40FT. Similar WSU 225 (W4 FWS) has been refitted as a "band bus" and seats C14FT, it has been on loan to Sauter Drexler, Lincoln.

TERRAVISION, Stansted Airport Two further coaches for use on Stansted to London services are YN06 CFY and YN06 NZA, both are Scania K114/Irizar.

TOMS MINICOACHES, Southend The operators licence has been surrendered and the remaining vehicles Mercedes L508D CLY 156Y, Ford Transit G188 FWC and Mercedes 108D R14 HTS have been sold

TONY GLEW, Great Tey Bedford YMP/Plaxton A547 RCA has been withdrawn. Acquired from Three Star, Luton is Mercedes Benz 811D/Plaxton K408 BAX, this was new with bus seats, but now has 33 coach seats. Leyland Tiger/Plaxton LIW 1941 (A830 PPP) is out of use. Vehicles sold are Leyland Tiger/ Roe VAZ 8024 (A717 GJA), Mercedes Benz L307D A392 NNK, VW LT55 E856 ENR, MB609D/Whittaker F862 FWB.

TOWNCARS, Clacton Mazda E2200 P98 EVO is a non-PSV, recently acquired. Renault Master LX03 CVR is also here, but is a PSV.

TRUSTLINE, Stansted Are using Dennis Dart SLF/Caetano T418/421 LGP on the shuttle service, between Bishops Strortford FC and Stansted Airport. They have replaced Leyland National Greenways

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Further to EBN 494, the vehicle acquired from Grey was G17 ELY (ESU 378) and now re-registered S148 FVE a Dennis Javelin/Berkhof.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Dennis Javelin/Duple G963 WNR has been sold. Acquired is Mercedes Benz 412D/Onyx P646 SBD

WALKERS, Corringham Peugeot Boxer LU51 UXK has been sold

WARD, Alresford Ford Transit W354 ODX is reported to have been sold. Peugeot Boxer R548 GFL has been acquired.

WICKS, Braintree Vehicles acquired with the former Goodwins, Braintree business were AKZ 3675 (840 FAY) a Volvo B10M/ Berkhof and A147 RMJ a Leyland Tiger/ Van Hool, it is understood that Mr Goodwin has retired.

Bedford YNV/Duple TJI 2807 (D101 PBM) has been withdrawn.

Miscellaneous

L47 ORC Volvo/Jonckheere seen 9.06 near South Woodham Ferrers - plain unmarked white.

L931NWX Mercedes Benz 709D/Devon Conversions seen 20.9.06 on a low-loader parked in Bicknacre.

N186URJ LDV 400 seen 14.8.06 operating on taxi plate - 01376 (Braintree/Witham) phone no. - possibly with CD Travel/ Ross?

LX03CVR Renault Master seen 16.8.06 with restricted disc, Colchester phone no., AAT lettering

ESSEX - Non-PSV Operators

Essex County Council - ET03 HHY Ford Transit seen 10.06

Stevand (Driver Training) - WCK212V Bedford YMT / Plaxton seen 24.8.06

Clacton Coach Park: From the start of the 2006 summer season, half of the coach park became a car park. The whole area can still be used for coach parking on busy days.

Ian Ransom

Thanks to Geoff Clarkson (Crusader), Stans Coaches, PSV Circle, John Podgorski, Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold, Richard Delahoy, Essex Bus Y-group



VICEROY OF ESSEX ~ PAST AND PRESENT

above: Leyland TD1/Short **UF 7428,** now restored to Southdown livery at the Amberley Museum. This was in the Viceroy fleet from 1942 until 1958. It was new to Southdown as their no.928 in 1931.

below: Mercedes 0405 **V384 NOA** in Saffron Walden High Street. *Chris Stewart*



above: Line-up of **Lodge** vehicles, old and new, on 24 September.
below: Carl Lemon's **Eastern National** (via Western National) VR **3072** (UAR 597W) in NBC leaf green livery. *Chris Stewart*



Castle Point Transport Museum ~ Open Day 2006

This annual event, following its usual format, was enhanced this year by a day of fine weather with a good selection of some 60-70 vehicles, new and old, in the Furtherwick Road Car Park. As usual, there was a regular service to the Museum, offering the opportunity to travel ona wide variety of vehicles such as Talisman's former Colchester open-top Atlanteans YNO 78S and JHK 495N, Blue Triangle's RTW75 and Museum faithful KSW5G, VNO 859.

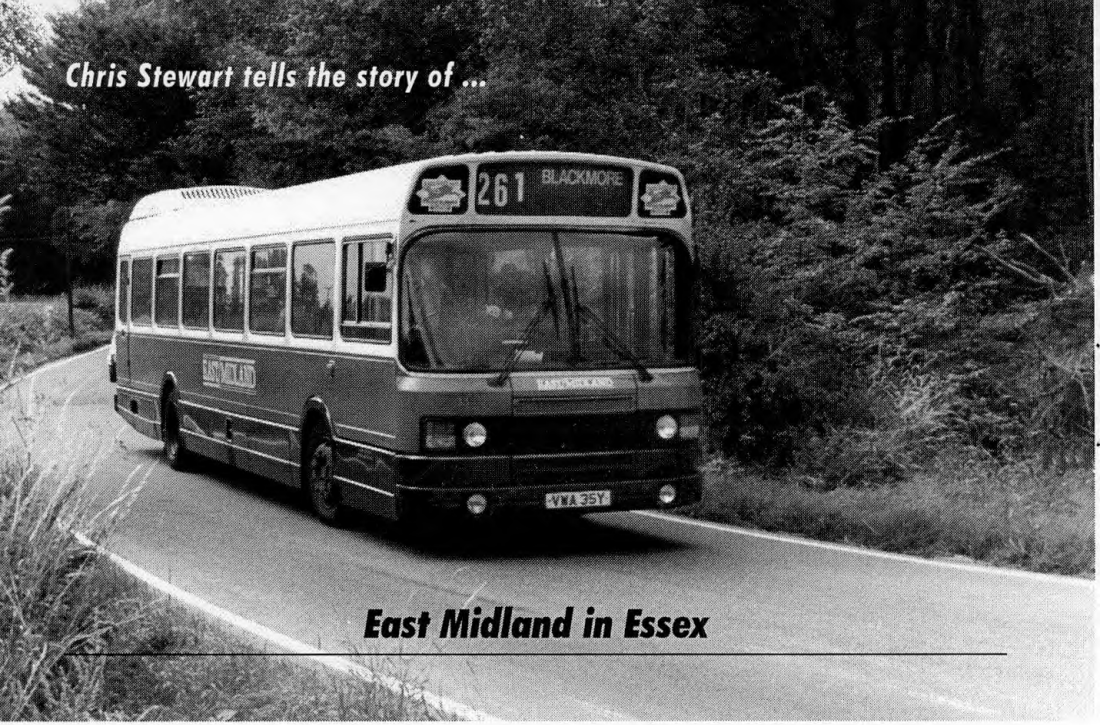
London vehicles, past and present were well represented, including LH6L, OJD 524R among the array of Routemasters, RT's and RF's and two Leyland Titans, with the future demonstrated by two Dennis Enviros, one being East London's 18500, "Spirit of London".

Devotees of the former Eastern National VRT fleet found five examples (3072 ~ preserved, 3086 ~ Hedingham, 3107 ~ preserved, 3112 ~ Flagfinders, 3219 ~ preserved), and a photographic line-up was duly arranged, along with NDL 652R, latterly with NIBS, Wickford.

It was good to see again a significant number of Museum vehicles working, a welcome addition this year being LYR 997, the former Osborne's RT. At the Museum itself, there were further vehicles, the usual array of stalls, model railway and displays, all contributing to the day's enjoyment.

Richard Huggins

Chris Stewart tells the story of ...



East Midland in Essex

The brave new world of October 1986 brought some radical changes to established thinking. In Essex, the most extreme was the appearance of NBC subsidiary East Midland Motor Services from an outstation near Doddinghurst – five vehicles to start with, although East Midland's presence in Essex and East London increased considerably in 1987 and 1988 with the formation of Frontrunner South East. Partly this was to test the water as London Deregulation looked imminent – but East Midland's excursion showed the way for Ensign, Capital Citybus and Blue Triangle to break the LT hold on Havering. As for the Brentwood and Ongar area routes, it was a bold response to changing times, but ultimately changes of ownership and different thinking brought it to an end.

On 26th October 1986, East Midland started operating the following services out of a vehicle repair yard at Wyatt's Green, just east of Doddinghurst:

239 Warley – Brentwood – Kelvedon Hatch - Ongar (ECC Contract) Mon - Sat.

260 Warley - Kelvedon Hatch – Blackmore – High Ongar - Ongar (ECC Contract) SuO.

261 Warley - Brentwood - Hook End - Blackmore (ECC Contract) Mon - Sat.

270 Brentwood Station – Shenfield Station - Hutton (ECC Contract) (SuO)

347 Brentwood – Warley – Harold Wood – Gidea Park -Romford (ECC Contract) Mon- Sat.

X90 Ongar-Worksop (FSuO):
Depart Worksop 1700 (F) and 1400 (Su). Depart Ongar 1730(F) and 1430(Su). Running time 4hours 30 minutes. Ongar-Harlow-Bishops Stortford-Cambridge-Huntingdon-Oakham-Melton Mowbray-Nottingham-Mansfield-Worksop.

By the 3rd May 1987 timetable the situation was:

239 Warley - Brentwood - Kelvedon Hatch - Ongar (ECC Contract) Mon - Sat.

260 Warley - Brentwood - Kelvedon Hatch - Blackmore - High Ongar - Ongar (ECC Contract) SuO

263 Doddinghurst - Hook End - Ongar - Daily

264 Doddinghurst - Shenfield Station Mon - Fri

270 Brentwood Station - Shenfield Station -



opposite: National 2 **35** (VWA 35Y) in rural Doddinghurst.
above: I'm lovin' it! Bristol RE **9** (NNN 8M) passes McDonalds in Brentwood High Street. The plain, but not unattractive front was an EMMS modification applied to several of this batch.
below: Unmodified RE **5** (NNN 5M) in an autumnal Ongar. *all: Chris Stewart*





Frontrunner VR **131** (XRR 131M). *Chris Stewart*

Hutton (ECC Contract) SuO
347 Brentwood - Warley - Harold Wood - Gidea Park - Romford (ECC Contract) Mon - Sat
X90 Worksop - Ongar FSuO

Initial allocation to Wyatt's Green was drawn from fleet numbers 5-8 (NNN5-8M), 1974 Bristol RELH6L/ECW DP47F and 34-6 (VWA34-6Y), Gardner-engined Leyland National 2/DP47F. Two returned to Worksop for maintenance by rotation using the X90, which also carried drivers to and from home each weekend. A strike at Worksop in 1987 prompted a change to Mansfield as the 'home' base and the X90 was altered accordingly. Only vehicles 6, 8 and 36 went on to carry Frontrunner names on their East Midland livery. The REs were much less commonly seen after the end of 1987.

Double deckers appeared (but not at the outset) for the 347 – VRs 131 (XRR131M), 149 (OTO149R), 158 (SNU158R), 169 (VTV169S) and 190 (DWE190W) being recorded at various times. 131/58 carried Frontrunner fleetnames, 149/69 Mansfield & District with 190 retaining East Midland. Three ex GMPTE Atlanteans, part of a large batch being drafted in to Hornchurch and Loughton, were outstationed temporarily in August 1988 to take up early operation of the Loughton-Waltham Cross 251.

Other vehicles used at Wyatt's Green and Debden were Alexander TE-bodied Leyland Tigers 39, 42/3 and 52 (A39, 42/3XHE and B52DWE) together with a selection of Leyland Nationals – ex Crosville 503 (HCA976N) and 504 (UTU979R), ex Hastings & District 512-6 (VKE562/4-7S), 'native' 579 (OVO579M), 591 (LRB591P), 592/3 (OTO592/3R), 598 (RAU598R) and 615 (EKW615W). Only 512-5 carried Frontrunner names.

East Midland was sold to its management on 5th February 1988 and to Stagecoach in

April 1989. The Frontrunner South East operations at Rainham, Debden and Wyatt's Green were sold to Ensign on 1st July 1989 but Debden and Wyatt's Green were immediately resold to County Bus. They continued to run the Brentwood/Ongar group of services but withdrew from the 347 on 28th October 1989 – only for Ensign to run it again (usually with their own VRs) until 27th October 1990 whereupon Blue Triangle replaced it with their 265 (later 565).

Neither Ensign or County Bus acquired any former East Midland vehicles, a selection of short Leyland Nationals being supplemented by ex Sampson's Volvos at Debden whilst Wyatt's Green hosted former Southdown Leyland Leopard/Plaxton coaches OUF49/50/65/66W in full National Express livery (displaying 'on hire to East Midland' stickers while services were re-registered in the name of County Bus). Wyatt's Green outstation was closed in due course and services operated by Arriva from Harlow – the main Ongar road (East Midland 239) still being their sole preserve with the 501 while Blackmore is now served by Clintona. Upminster Common no longer has a bus service.

As a postscript, RELH6L NNN7M is now very nicely presented in dual purpose NBC livery and was at Showbus 2006 in the ownership of Bryan Sharpe in Derby. This vehicle passed through Ensign's hands as dealer in 1989, then to Parfitt's of Rhymney Bridge and Tenby Bus & Coach before heading to Sykes of Carlton in 1991 – from whom it was rescued by Richard Sinclair of Bournemouth and restored.

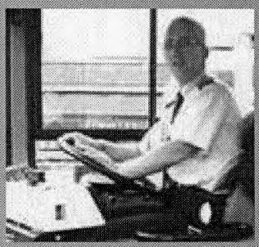
Successor to East Midland / Frontrunner on the 261: **Clintona** Vario **SF04 HXL** at Blackmore bus terminus. *Chris Stewart*



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Excel:	Graham Hayden	01279 681800

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