

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

The current rates for a 12 month subscription are £15 First Class, £14 Second Class post.

Subscriptions are renewable in January or July.

1998 Data Protection Act -Members Names & Addresses, Subscription renewal dates & postal rates are held on a computer Database for the purpose of administering member services.

If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Timetable Subscriptions

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and updates plus a copy of the Thurrock council book.

Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or see www.essexbus.org.uk

Photo Sales

We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell with details of what you're looking for and he'll be pleased to help you.

Your Reports & Observations

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

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

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How To Contact Us

Magazine Editor Sean Menzies

32 Clarence Road, Brentwood, CM15 9PB

E-mail essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Arriva East Herts & Essex Mark Garrett

36 High Street, Chrishall, Royston, SG8 8RP

Arriva Southend Peter Snell,

6 Mandeville Way, Benfleet, SS7 4LH

First in Essex Chris Stewart,

9 Fen Close, Shenfield, Brentwood, CM15 8SB

E-mail: chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Essex Small Operators Ian Ransom,

34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE

E-mail: ianandSally@bigfoot.com

North Essex Operators & Tours Organiser

Dave Arnold,

21 Cedar Chase, Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR

E-mail: david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Membership/Bck Derek Stebbing,

18 Lynmouth Avenue, Chelmsford, CM2 0TP

E-mail derekstebbing@hotmail.com

Contributions & Closing Dates

Thank you to the many contributors for their valuable news and information.

Please send your Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to the Sub-editors by **Friday 2nd August** and to the Managing editor by **Monday 5th August**.

The magazine is expected to be posted on **Monday 19th August 2002.**

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Welcome Aboard!

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www.essexbus.org.uk - It's All About Buses In Essex

Welcome to the biggest ever issue of Essex Bus News - 36 pages of news , photos and much more!

We've worked hard to bring you a plenty to read and we particularly hope that you enjoy our special 8 page Grays supplement which is packed with vintage photos and timetables and a personal reflection of the events of fifty years ago.

Of course, Essex Bus news is not just about the past and we're happy to bring you yet another new section 'Essex Service changes' - An at a glance guide to recent and forthcoming changes.

Have a great month !

Spirit of Loughton

Imperials H1 is one of the few all day double deck routes in west Essex.

Leyland Titan NUW 573Y named 'Spirit of Loughton' ,is seen at last years Canvey Bus rally with prominent route branding for the H1 which operates 6 days a week between Harlow and Loughton and covers many sections of route once served by Arriva and its predecessors. (Chris Stewart)

Cover

Photo

Buses in the News

The Latest News from the Bus World

Park & Ride for Chelmsford

Three locations for Chelmsford's long awaited park-and-ride scheme may soon be revealed.

Several sites have been earmarked as possible park-and-ride schemes for the town, including the junction of the A12/A130 Southend Road, the junction of the A12/A414 Maldon Road, the junction of A130 Essex Regiment Way/A131, the A12 Boreham Interchange, the A414 west of Chelmsford and the A1060 Roxwell Road.

A meeting involving transport stakeholders was held in Chelmsford in July but Chelmsford Borough Council has yet to confirm when a final decision will be made on the park-and-ride scheme saying that It is being considered as part of the new Borough Plan

Hearing the news of park and Ride proposals, Steve Smith General Manager of First in Essex said that while he welcomed the scheme, there would need to be extensive bus priority measures to ensure its success.

And guided buses for Maldon?

Guided buses could be gliding down Maldon High Street in the future if a team of consultants get their way.

Experts working on the LOIS project—a study of transport between London and Ipswich have suggested the move as a solution to the town's traffic problems.

The ambitious project is seen as being 'just an idea' at present but the aim is to improve links to Maldon, particularly from Witham and South Woodham.

There are currently only three guided busways in the UK - in Ipswich , Leeds and Bradford but they are more widespread in other countries.

Buses on the loop

The Tilbury loop of the C2C rail line will be closed for nine days in August and September whilst new tracks are laid.

A replacement bus link will run between Grays and Pitsea from 31st August until 8th September. More on line at www.c2c-online.co.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group—Serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Diary

Your Guide to Forthcoming Events

Thursday 8th August Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Bishops Stortford
The Mitre Suite ,Bishops Stortford Football Club, Woodside Road, Dunmow Rd, Bishops Stortford.— From 1900 –2100 About 50 stalls selling bus and train models and toys. John Webb 01526 398198
Further event on 10/10 & 5/12

Saturday 10th/Sunday 11th August Classic vehicle weekend
East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville , Lowestoft.
Rides of local area by museum buses. Details from 01502 518459

Saturday 24th August Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Brentwood
International Hall Doddinghurst Rd , Brentwood –From 1000—1500
Over 200 tables John Webb 01526 398198 Further event on Sat 30th Nov.

Sunday 25th August Bedford Gathering 2002
Holiday Inn, Impington ,Cambridge. - This years event celebrates the 40th birthday of the Bedford VAL. Details on line at www.bg-event.co.uk

Sunday 25th August Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Colchester
Higwoods Sports Centre, Brinkley Lane. From 1000 –1500
70 tables John Webb 01526 398198 Further event on 20/10 & 1/12

Sunday 1st September Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
Hedingham Shed Bash – Sold out , no more bookings please.

Saturday 7th September Transport Sale and London Bus Display
Transport sale at St Pauls centre, Enfield Town and display of 1940-1960's buses at Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford. Free rides between the sites.

Tuesday 10th September – Group Meeting, Rochford
Talk by Bill Hiron, Stephensons of Essex
Our first meeting for the autumn season and it should be an interesting evening. Group meetings take place in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large car park and Great Eastern trains and Arriva services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145

Holding a bus event? Mail us essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Essex Bus Diary

Your Guide to Forthcoming Events

Saturday 21st September Mid Essex Model Railway Exhibition ,
Shenfield High School—Many layouts and sales stands selling Bus and train models, books and collectors items. Also featuring Chris Stewart's local bus photo display. There will hopefully be a bus link from Shenfield Rail Stn and a couple of tours provided by Blue Triangle

Sunday 22nd September Showbus, Duxford

The 'big one' held annually at the Duxford Airfield. 100's of buses and sales stands and hopefully dry weather. A shuttle bus runs from Cambridge Stn. More details on their website www.showbus.com

Tuesday 8th October Group Meeting , Rochford

Slide show by Chris Stewart - "Brentwood Connections"
Other Group meetings on Tuesday 12th Nov & 10th Dec

Saturday 26th October LOTS Annual Transport Spectacular

Being held at Goresbrook Leisure centre, Dagenham. Frequent Bus links from local rail Stns. See their website for details www.lots.org.uk

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Serving Essex since 1964

This Month

- **Grays 50 - A special collectors pullout with 8 pages of photos, Vintage timetables & articles**

Coming soon

- **Essex Publicity Review 2002-Part 1**
- **The Campbell Fact File—a long awaited brand new book!**

Don't Miss The Bus!

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Service Changes

This new section is intended as an at a glance guide to recent & forthcoming changes to bus services.

All information is given for guidance only and details of forthcoming changes are subject to alteration. Please refer to printed timetables , Journey planners and National traveline for the latest situation.

6th July 2002

370/373 Grays –Romford (Arriva) New timetable with reliability measures. Monday to Saturday evening service on 370 reduced to hourly (in line with Sundays) and new hourly evening service on 373 On Monday to Friday school days there will be an additional double deck trip from Romford to Corbets Tey AM, return PM, to replace route 670.

8th July 2002

M599 Colchester –Clacton (Malcolms Blue Bus) From Sat 13/7 , one journey each way via Jaywick, Little Clacton, Weeley, Hare Green & Turner Rd. Operating on 2nd & 4th Sat of each month.

22nd July 2002

X1/X2/X11 Rochford –Southend –London Victoria (Stephensons)
On Saturdays, all journeys are renumbered X11, following the same routeing in Greater London as existing route X10, thus there are fewer stopping points within London than at present. The stops at Rainham, Dagenham and Canning Town are no longer be served on Saturdays.
A Saturday service is planned to operate on August Bank Holiday.
On Monday to Saturday, all eastbound journeys via Aldgate now serve bus stop 'S' in Mansell Street and follow the evening peak routeing, i.e. from Mansell Street via Alie Street, Goodmans Stile to Commercial Road. As a consequence Aldgate Bus Station is no longer directly served. This standardised routeing will help to avoid passenger confusion and should improve reliability by avoiding the congested Aldgate one-way system.

502 Ongar –Epping Station via North Weald (Regal Busways)

New Monday to Friday limited stop service registered.

Late July

First have cancelled the following Brentwood area School services from the end of the school Term—**861 Stondon –Hedley Walter** , **862 Hook End-Hedley Walter**, **863 Stapleford Abbots –County High**, **864 Fyfield-County High**, **866 Doddinghurst –Shenfield High Sch.**

Essex Service Changes

22nd July 2002

608 Halsted –Colchester (Hedingham)

Saturday service withdrawn after operation on 27/7

29th July 2002

7/8/8A Clacton –Walton (First) New Timetable.

9 Great Holland –Walton (Tue,Thur,Fri) New Timetable & revised route from 30/7

10/11 Telford Rd –Jaywick (First) Additional M-F morning trips.

13 Hadleigh –Clacton (Hedingham) No longer operates after 3/8

79 Colchester –Boxted (Hedingham) No longer operated after 2/8

318 Thaxted –Bishops Stortford (Hedingham) ECC contract no longer operated by Hedingham after 1/8

Mobility Buses (First-TfL contract) From 3/8 Mobility route 951 will run on Fri instead of Sat. New route 952 will run on Tue,Thur,Sat from Romford to Lakeside ,serving North and South Ockendon rather than Warley. The 951/2 combine to provide a regular 6 day a week service from Romford to Cranham.

5th August 2002

Village Link 2 Clacton –Mistley Via Lawford (Hedingham) Mon–Sat Route transferred from First under contract to ECC.

17/61/69 & 17B (Arriva), 23C (First) Southend Borough have retendered these routes and the short term contract extending the 6 from Kent Elms to Leigh (Arriva). First have won the new contracts, using Mercedes minibuses from Hadleigh - pvr 3. The routes comprise:

17 Hourly M-S days, Leigh Station to Sutton Cemetery - via present 17 to Deeping, then Southchurch Road to the White Horse, then as at present to Sutton. (ie, NOT serving CBS - due to lack of running time, mainly). (to Interwork with 23 at Leigh Stn)

17C Hourly M-S evenings, Southend Bus Station to Eastwood Rise via existing 17B to Leigh (Station) then as 23C to Eastwood Rise

23 Hourly M-S days, Leigh Station to Belgrave Rd via present 17. Interworked with 17. Morning peak journey via Thames Drive still runs, numbered 23B.

23A Hourly M-S days, Leigh Station to Eastwood Rise, via present 6 to Kent Elms, then Prince Ave, Tesco, Cockethurst Corner, White House Rd, Rayleigh Rd to Eastwood Rise. (6 was half hourly but did not serve the station or Tesco nor continue to Eastwood Rise)

61/69 - Minor changes - peak journeys Southend to Sutton Cemetery.

Essex Service Changes

5th August

- 1 Shoeburyness -Rayleigh (Arriva)**— On M-F 0711 Southend – Rayleigh retimed to depart 0706 with other timing changes on this trip.
- 2 Southend –Basildon (Arriva)**—To improve reliability, on M-F 0735 from Basildon is retimed to depart Basildon 0740 , Arr Southend 0903.
- 6/6A Southend—Eastwood ,Kent Elms (Arriva)** The 6 is revised to run from Southend to Kent Elms only with timing changes.
- 7/8 Shoeburyness –Rayleigh (Arriva)** Timing changes to PM trips from Greensward sch.
- 9 Shoeburyness– Rayleigh (Arriva)** Mon –Fri—Additional running time given to journeys from Rayleigh between 0720—0900
- 60 Southend –Canewdon (Arriva)** - New commercial service running off peak on Mon—Fri only.
- 172 Messing –Colchester (Arriva)** Wednesday Only- ECC Contract—transferred from Hedingham from 7/8
- 211/212 Waltham Cross –Breech Barns (Regal Busways)** Monday to Saturday CC contract transferred from Arriva.
- 213 Waltham Cross— Epping (Regal Busways)** Monday to Saturday ECC contract transferred from Arriva.
- 251 Waltham Cross –Waltham Abbey (Regal Busways)** Monday to Saturday ECC contract evening Journeys transferred from Arriva. Daytime commercial service remains with Arriva.

19th August

- 228 Maldon Tesco—Maldon Leisure Centre (First)** New service via Maldon High Street running every 30 mins between about 0930 –1530 Monday to Saturday.

September 2002

- 115 Weeley—Tendering Via Little Clacton (Hedingham)** Schooldays only—ECC contract formally operated by First
- 812 Ingatestone – Harold Wood, Champion School (Schooldays) (First)** Application for London service permit for one journey in each direction 0756 Ingatestone to Champion School ,1555 Champion School to Ingatestone

We need your news!

Each Editor prepares their own section and would welcome your contributions. See our contacts list on Page 2

First in Essex

Scanias –Almost the full set

At the time of writing (9th July), all but two of the Scanias for service 100 had arrived at Clacton en route to Basildon. The remaining two are believed to be working in Glasgow following loss of vehicles in a depot fire.

Allocations (period ending 30 June 2002)

631 Acq-HH; **632** Acq-HH; **633** Acq-HH; **634** Acq-HH; **808** HH-Disp; **811** Disp-HH; **1400** HH-BN; **1404** HH-BN; **1410** HH-BN; **1429** BN-Paint spare; **1430** BN-Disp; **1431** BN-Disp; **2647** BE-BN; **2679** CR-BE; **3109** BN-Disp; **5002** CF-Pool

3078 remains listed for Disposal but in use at CR.

It is not clear whether **811** was ever in fact take out of use at HH.

One of **1430** or **1431** is expected to become a Driver Training vehicle to replace Leyland National **1924**.

Disposals

6.02 104 117 315 316 319 321 323 327 357 364 372
 379 2625 2627 all to Houston Ramm (dealer), Rochdale
 9411 TBC
 2633 2634 to Phoenix Student Travel

Repaints/Refurbishments (to 'Barbie 2')

6.02 968 4014 (refurb)

Publicity Bus

The Transit publicity vehicle mentioned in last month, **M317MOC**, belongs to *First in Norfolk & Suffolk* but is exchanged with *First in Essex* whenever their van with towbar (**L631VAE**) is required to take the *First* publicity trailer to an event.

Coach hired from Stephenson's

Stephenson's B10M CAZ 6831 has been on hire to Airport Buses at Stansted. Barbie-liveried Volvo 608 was unfortunately involved in a serious accident at Marks Tey on 27th June whilst working the Coachlink 222, subsequently being taken to CN depot for repair. Meanwhile Barbie 2-liveried Olympian CF4007 suffered significant damage to the front nearside corner of the roof after it came into contact with Chelmsford Station railway bridge on 18th June

Mini to Phoenix

Mercedes Minibus, former 2634 (K634 GVX) is now in service in Phoenix livery (5051), usually on the 608 (Great Dunmow to Anglo European School). The Dart previously used on the 608 has in turn moved onto the 579 (Maldon-Chelmsford).

Unusual workings

9.6.02	Vario 434 working 222, and CR1506 loaned for one round trip.
11.6.02	2621, 2825/8 all noted on 222.
13.6.02	Solo 513 on the 48
21.6.02	CF2676 on the 36
24.6.02	CR716 on 71
27.6.02	BN711 on Mobility contract

VR watch

11.6.02	BN3109 on 750
17.6.02	At around 15.45, three VR's were to be seen in Colchester Bus Station. 3103 left on service 88, Cedric's BKE835T on the 78X and CR3078 on service 67 (at 15.48).
21.6.02	3103 (now at CF) on 36 to South Woodham
26.6.02	3103 on 351 (and subsequent occasions)
28.6.02	BE3219 worked the 13.00 70 ex-BE and 1405 70 ex-CR, replacing defective 4315.

With 3109 now on the disposal list, it is no longer possible to see all three Basildon VR's together in Brentwood as happened on at least two occasions during June – on school services 860, 861 and 864. Of these, only the 860 will continue after the school summer holidays, and this has already become mainly Lynx operated. In North Essex, however, latest reports are that 3092 has moved to BE and is currently being prepared for MOT, ready for additional schools work from September, alongside 3219.

First in Essex fleet allocation 30 June 2002

Airport Buses	100-2/12, 432/4/5, 917/43, 602/8/10, 2640/9/50, 2802/13-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	103/7/11, 397/8
Braintree (BE)	944, 2648/56/63/4/75/9/80, 2804/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2910/1, 3219, 5000
Basildon (BN)	404-8, 711-4/34-8, 852-5, 913-5/8-22/4-34/45/59-73/7-86, 1400/4/10/32, 2647, 3112/3, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/8/13-6/25-8, 1516- 20, 2667/8/70-4/6-8, 2901-9, 3072, 4007/10/2/24/5, 5001/3/4/6
Clacton (CN)	907/12/6, 1510-3, 2654/65/83, 2801/3/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	621-4/6, 650-4, 715/6, 908-11/74-6, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-5
Hadleigh (HH)	409/10, 630, 701-10/7-21, 809/11, 935-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/11/2/7-24, 2652/3/7-62, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	2655/66/9/81/2, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401-3, 501-11, 805/6/10
Heritage	2383, 9001
Spare	314, 1429, 2641-6, 3092, 3103, 5002
Delicensed	107
Disposal	313/7/8/20/4-6/46/55/68/74-6/80, 625, 807/8, 2602/3/5/7/8/19/21/6/8/30-2/5-9/51, 3069/76-9/83/4/94, 3109, 4028, 9021
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles	BN: 9028-30, 9308; CF: 9034; CN: 2111; CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10

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

Vehicle	Depot	Type	Contract	Expiry Date
1511	CN	C	Dream Radio	15.07.02
2658	HH	C	'The Brewery'	31.08.02

Looking for service changes?

To make life easier all Essex services changes are now in one place.
See our at a glance guide from Page 7

Garage Runouts

These tables show the maximum number of buses required for service
from each garage on Monday to Friday.

All information is given for guidance only and is subject to change.

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL
TRAFFIC REQ'T									
Minibus	6	5	10 (2)	2	0	4	11	5	45
Midibus	12	49	42	12	20	0	34	0	169
SD	0	4	11 (5)	4	11	0	16	0	51
DD	1	3	4 (1)	4	15	6	3	0	37
Phoenix DD	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7
Midibus	1	5	4	1	2	0	3	0	16
SD	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	7
DD	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	6
Phoenix DD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phoenix	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL ALLOC									
Minibus	7	5	11 (2)	3	1	5	12	6	52
Midibus	13	54	46	13	22	0	37	0	185
SD	0	3	13 (5)	4	14	0	18	0	57
DD	1	5	5 (1)	5	15	7	4	0	43
Phoenix DD	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SD/Midi									
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
TOTALS	22	73	79 (8)	25	51	12	71	17	358

First Airport

	AIRPORT BUSES	AIRPORT COACHES
TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT		
Minibus	8	3
Midibus	8	0
Coach	4	1
SPARES		
Minibus	1	1
Midibus	1	0
Coach	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATION		
Minibus	9	4
Midibus	9	0
Coach	4	1
TOTAL	22	5

Hedingham

Into the fleet

L327 Dennis Dart MPD/Transbus B29F arrived 1.7.02

VIN is SFD6BACR32GW16432, body no. is 01864/4 - registration not yet known.

Out of the fleet

L100 UNO100W Bedford YMT/Plaxton has gone to Morgan (Ingatestone Coaches), Ingatestone (7.02)

L136/7 D136/7XVW Bedford YMQ/Plaxton have gone to Fowler, Holbeach Drove, Lincs. (6.02) via Ensign dealers.

L153 D345 VPE Ford Transit has been withdrawn.

Repaints and Route branding

L212 M211WHJ has lost its route branding upon repaint (6.02)

L105 BEV105X is currently in the paint shop at Tollesbury (6.02)

L168 PWY43W has been repainted at Hedingham (6.02)



5009 F237 CNY Leyland Lynx – This bus has had an interesting life – new to Cardiff Bus in March '89, it is seen here on our Essex Independents tour in May.



966 N966 CPU Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer – A batch of service changes in May resulted in the demise of the historic 151 route number to be replaced by a new 750 and 751. Will the 351 be the next to go? (Both photos Chris Stewart)

ARRIVA

Harlow & Ware

Vehicles in

2190 R190 DNM Mercedes Vario O810D670373-2N-065316
Plaxton 987.8MWV8516 B27F 4/98 From Arrive the Shires 2190 5/02

Vehicles out

3064 E969 PME Leyland Lynx remains to West Kent Coach Sales, Chislehurst (dealer) 5/02
3092 H923 LOX Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3004/Carlyle Dartline To Southend
3349 J316 XVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011 /Wright Handybus To Southend
3350 J317 XVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011 /Wright Handybus -To Southend 6/02
3373 K323 CVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011/Plaxton Pointer To Southend 5/02

Allocations

5/02: 2190, 3328/9. HA; 3352/3. WE

Ivecos still in service

During 5/02 2360/1/4 (N739/40/44 AVW) were all reported in service at Harlow

Colchester

Into the fleet

2196 J27 UNY Leyland Tiger/Plaxton 321 C53F from Gillingham on 22/6
617 G627 BPH Volvo Citybus B10M-50/East Lancs B49/39F from Cranleigh
E2115 N919ETM Mercedes 709D/Plaxton Beaver DP27F from Southend on 27/6

Out of the fleet

E4312 B100 XTW Leyland Tiger/Duple Caribbean to Stephenson's, Rochford 28/6
E5388 B189 BLG Leyland Olympian/ECW towed to Scotland 4/7

Repaints

22/06 - 3343 at Gillingham due back 04/07
04/07 - 5398 due back from Cummins

Rail replacements

23/06 - Alexandra Palace - Hertford North with 3430

03/07 - Colchester to Ipswich or Harwich with DS15 and 5409

The Scania's have had radio cassettes fitted.

Grays

Fares Increase

Fares in the Thurrock area were revised from 7/7 with some single fares rising by 5p or 10p. Some Return's were reduced whilst many were unchanged and some increased.

Southend

Into the fleet

E3092 H923 LOX Dennis Dart 9.8SDL3004/Carlyle Dartline B40F

E3349 J316 XVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011 /Wright Handybus B35F

E3350 J317 XVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011 /Wright Handybus B35F

E3373 K323 CVX Dennis Dart 9SDL3011/Plaxton Pointer B35F

Out of the fleet

E2086 L326 AUT Mercedes 709/LCB Withdrawn and stored at Southend

E2087 L327 AUT Mercedes 709/LCB Withdrawn and stored at Southend

E2088 L328 AUT Mercedes 709/LCB Withdrawn and stored at Southend

O Licence increase

Arriva Southend have recently applied to the traffic commissioner to increase their O Licence authorisation to 135 vehicles. The application is still pending but we assume this will be to allow the Grays allocation to operate on Southend's O licence - at present it is still part of E Herts & Essex and it is this licencing complication that has prevented Southern Counties taking full control previously.

Handy Guide

A pocket guide to Arriva services from Shoeburyness & Thorpe Bay to Southend is available. There's an underground style route guide, details of first and last buses, how often buses run and a ticket guide.

ARRIVA Datafile

The following information is updated to 1 July 2002 and given in good faith but late changes may occur.

Essex Bus news is produced on word processing and DTP packages and for production reasons some pages are finalised ahead of others. Therefore, late changes might not been shown until the next month.

Southend	PVR 62		Allocation		75
Double Deck	32		Allocation		37
Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288		
Dennis Trident	E5434	E5435	E5436	E5437	E5438
	E5439	E5441	E5442	E5443	E5445
	E5446	E5547	E5548	E5549	E5451
Leyland Olympian	E5392	E5393T	E5394	E5395	E5396
	E5399	E5402	E5404T	E5405T	
Volvo Olympian	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Single Deck	PVR 19		Allocation		20
Dennis Dart SLF	E3218	E3220	E3221	E3222	E3223
	E3224	E3225	E3226	E3391	E3392
	E3393	E3394	E3395	E3396	E3397
Dennis Lance SLF	E3379	E3381	E3382	E3383	E3384
Midi Bus	PVR 11		Allocation		17
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS007	DS008	DS009
	DS014	E3092	E3349	E3350	E3370
	E3397				
Mercedes 709	E2110T				
Mercedes 810	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193	E2372
Dengie Contract	PVR 4		Allocation 5		
Renault Master T35	E0329	E0331	E0332	E0333	E0334
Coach	PVR 0		Allocation		1
	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	E3065	E3066	E3338		
Shuttles	E1253	R580LV			

Colchester	PVR 42		Allocation 52		
Double Deck	PVR 11		Allocation 14		
Leyland Olympian	E5389T	E5390T	E5397T	E5398T	
	E5403	E5407T	E5408T	E5409T	
MCW Metrobus	E5361	E5365			
Volvo D10M	610	613	614	617	
Single Deck	PVR 16		Allocation 16		
DAF SB220	E4335	E4336	E4337	E4339	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3419	E3420	E3422	E3430T	
Leyland Lynx	E3341	E3342	E3343	E3346	E3347
Volvo B6	E3241	E3245	E3246		
Midi Bus	PVR 11		Allocation 18		
Dennis Dart	DS015	DS019	DS020	DS021	DS023
	DS024	3168			
Mercedes 709	E2115				
Mercedes 711	E2388	E2391	E2392		
Mercedes 810	E2174	E2243	E2382	E2383	E2384
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	PVR 4		Allocation 4		
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4505T	2196			
Grays	PVR 38		Allocation 45		
Double Deck	PVR 1		Allocation 1		
Leyland Olympian	E5385				
Single Deck	PVR 27		Allocation 31		
DAF SB120	E4500	E4501	E4502	E4503	E4504
	E4505	E4506	E4507	E4508	E4509
	E4510	E4511	E4512	E4513	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3387	E3388	E3389	E3390	E3400
	E3401	E3402	E3403	E3421	E3423
	E3424	E3425	E3426	E3427	E3428
	E3429	E3431			
Midi Bus	PVR 10		Allocation 13		
Dennis Dart	E3404	E3405	E3406	E3407	E3408
	E3409	E3410	E3411	E3412	
Mercedes 709	E2130	E2134	E2135	E2137	
Ferry Bus 609	YFB58	YFB86			

Other Operators

ACE OF CLUBS THUNDERSLEY DAF 400/Carlyle J32 UTG has been sold.

ALLPOINTS EXPRESS GRAYS This operator has surrendered their operators licence.

AMBER RAYLEIGH YNJ 214 a Bova Europa has been acquired from BJS, Gt Woking. Also acquired is Volvo/Plaxton ALZ3255 (ex L2TCC) ex Summerfield, Southampton.

AMOS BELCHAMP ST PAUL A clearout of unused stock saw Bedford SB/Duple HRT 530N, Bedford YRQ/Plaxton SWO 70N and Ford Transit's JAR 484Y and C764 NRC sold.

ANITA MATCHING GREEN Volvo/Plaxton KIW 5196 (new as E658 UNE) has gone to Reliant, Heather.

APT RAYLEIGH Vehicles sold are HIL 8435 (new as A721 BUX) a Volvo/Plaxton and Bristol VRT/ECW LHG 445T.

BARKER ROYDON Here but not previously reported, is MCW Metrobus B137 WUL. Neoplan IUI 6718 (new as C791 PEM) has gone to Smith, Corby Glen.

BASILDON TRAVEL SERVICES Is the new name for what was Lee Roy, Brentwood, but now based in Laindon. Vehicles here are C718 NHJ (ex 5765 OZ, C26 OFL) Volvo/Van Hool ex Kings, Stanway and C995 ERO Bedford/Plaxton ex Lodge, High Easter.

BOBS MINIBUSES LITTLE OAKLEY Sold to unknown owners are Iveco/Plaxton J143 GMP and Renault Traffic N827 BHC. Acquired is Iveco/ElmeE40 XGF. Renault Master P257 FOP is currently out of use. Vehicles are now based at Little Oakley Hall, Clacton Road, Little Oakley.

BORDACOACH SHOTGATE DIB2183 (ex A545HRY) Volvo/Duple has been acquired, ex SJH Crays Hill

BRANDON BLACKMORE END A clearout of former London Fleetlines has seen MLK 677L, THM 707M, GHV 3N, GHV 13N, GHV 23N and GHV 97N sold.

BRENTWOOD COACHES Have sold Bedford OB/Duple KEL 95 for preservation and Leyland Tiger/Plaxton HWY 701 (E303 OMG)

BURTONS HAVERHILL Service X38 (Haverhill to London via Stansted) was withdrawn after operation on 10.5.02. This was the last of many independent services that once connected this area with London.

CEDRIC WIVENHOE Not previously recorded, is the sale of Volvo/Ikarus HIL 6244 (E499 UOP) to Woodcock, Portslade. A further Leyland Olympian/ECW here is A243 GHN.

Bristol VR/ECW PWR 446W and HWJ 934W are reported in 'Buses' to be out of service.

CLINTONA BRENTWOOD M738OKK a Fiat 49-10 has gone to Ball, Bristol

CM3 CARS SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS Omni K56 GSH is being used for spares. Similar J383 NKM has been acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus.

CHARIOTS STANFORD LE HOPE Vehicles that have departed, but not been recorded here are Bova Europa HIL 2393 (VWX 357X), Toyota/Caetano G105 APC, Volvo/Ikarus G432 SNN and Dennis Javelin/Caetano N584 GBW. A new fleet livery of bright yellow and orange has been introduced. Village Link back up J431 PPF an Iveco/Carlyle is in this livery.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS Omni's H994 DKL, H220 BKM and L746 RVW have been sold. Volvo/Van Hool M673 KVV has been acquired and reregistered 2 TRR, which was on a Ford Scorpio. Further to EBN 457 Ford Transit G651 PKO is still here. Ford Transit R451 HVW is now numbered 35, was 94.

COOKS SOUTHEND Bova Futura 556 EHN (B558 KRY) has been sold to Gloag, Perth.

COUNTY BRENTWOOD Vehicles sold but not recorded here are PJI 7727 (A198 MNE) a Volvo/Van Hool, MEL 561P a Bristol VRT/ECW, UJN 412V (JTM 106V) a Bedford YMT/Plaxton and E928 JJN (new as E608 YJO) a Volvo/Ikarus.

DONS DUNMOW Dennis Javelin/Duple F635 SAY was sold to a dealer some while ago.

ELLINGHAM HARLOW Departed some time ago was E194 JGM a Mercedes/Reeve Burgess.

ELMHURST HIRE THORNWOOD COMMON Volvo/Plaxton 4885 MC (VEG 154X) has been sold.

FARGO RAYNE R137 XWF a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton has been sold. Withdrawn are Fleetline/Roe MBE 616R and Bristol VR/ECW MFN 45R, TPE 155S, YBF 682S and HUP 766T. This is likely to end VR operation here. Leyland Atlantean ANA 546Y is reported as having gone from the fleet.

FLAGFINDERS BRAINTREE Departed are unusual Bedford YRT/Alexander GSX 115N and Leyland Cub/HTI C924 DKR.

FORD ALTHORNE Not previously recorded here is that service 1 (Tillingham to South Woodham Ferrers) and 4 (Burnham to South Woodham ferrers) were withdrawn with effect from 2.5.02.

DAF/Jonckhree C141KFL has been reregistered KUI8329, Scania/Van Hool CNZ 3817 (ex V66 CCH) has been reregistered V863PPU DAF/Caetano H411 CJF has been reregistered CNZ3817 (by 5.02).

DAF/Caetano L706 CNR has gone to Ward, Alresford via Scania (dealer). Bristol VR RRP 857R has been withdrawn and awaits it's fate in the yard here.

FOURWAYS HIGHWOOD Vehicles recently sold are MCW Metroliner C979 HOX and Volvo/Plaxton MBC 39V.

GLEW COLCHESTER After a period off the road, Optare City Pacer D633 XVV is back in use.

GODWARD SHOTGATE Bedford YMT/Plaxton ARW 62S was sold to an Irish operator, some while ago.

HARRIS WEST THURROCK Volvo/Plaxton M519 NCG (A9 EXC) left the fleet some while ago.

HOWARD HALSTEAD MPY 884W a Bedford YNT/Plaxton was sold to Rule, Boxford some two years ago.

HUNTERS SOUTH OCKENDON N626 EUR a Freight Rover has gone to LC Travel, Rochford.

JWS TRAVEL CHADWELL ST MARY ANZ 8798 (ex H139 MOB) and ANZ 8799 (ex H167 NON) both Dennis Dart/Carlyle and ex Anglian, Ellough, Suffolk have been acquired.

LOTS have published, what is believed to be the correct version for two of this operators routes. Service 300 started on 3.12.01. between Basildon and Tilbury Asda via Stanford-le-Hope, East Tilbury and Chadwell, every hour M-S. From 8.4.02. the late evening service was withdrawn, while from 8.4.02. it was extended from Tilbury to Grays, it has been registered as being withdrawn from 29.6.02. Service 320 was registered to start Friday 12.4.02. which is unlikely, it runs hourly M-S from Grays Town Centre via Little Thurrock and Tilbury to Chadwell Brentwood Road Estate.

KINGSTONS Leyland Titan A68 THX and Metrobus GYE 453W have been sold to Ensigns (dealer). For the benefit of members and future historians, LOTS have published what is hoped to be the correct version of route changes for this operator in Thurrock. Given that local reports are few and that service changes do not tend to be the same as registered, it is difficult to follow, we now publish the version as per LOTS, for the benefit of members not with that group. From 1.12.01. services were 20 (M-S) Lakeside-Grays-Tilbury and 20X (M-S) Lakeside-Grays-Chadwell, to confuse 20X (eve and Su) Lakeside-Grays-Tilbury-Chadwell was also operated. From 16.2.02 the daytime 20X became 80 and Dart SLF's were introduced to the group 20/20X/80. After 1.3.02. all but four evening journeys on 20X were withdrawn, although the registered change date was 5.3.02, although a local source quotes that the Sunday service ran on 3.3.02. The only services now left in Thurrock are 511 Epping-Bluewater (Sat and Bank Hols) plus the evening 20X.

KIRBY RAYLEIGH Setras sold are WVY 596 (FUA 406Y) and N206 PUL.

LOCALLINK STANSTED AIRPORT Further Dennis Dart/East Lancs acquired are L910/1 JRN. LOTS report that the revised service on route 210 (Start Hill to Harlow) did not commence until 27.4.02, this updates EBN 456. To correct EBN 456, the Leyland National 2 here is in fact BHY 996V. Further vehicles noted here, but not in livery, so possibly on loan are Lynx D109 NDW and Dart/Wright JDZ 2350.

LONDON TRANSIT Service 316 Bishops Stortford to Great Dunmow, was withdrawn after operation on 30.3.02.

MALCOLMS BLUE BUS CLACTON Service M599 between Clacton and Colchester via Jaywick, Little Clacton, Weeley and Colchester General Hospital was introduced from 13.7.02. operating on the 2nd and 4th Saturdays of the month. Service M130 a Clacton Circular via Highfields Holiday Camp, commenced daily operation from 27.5.02.

MASTER TRAVEL HERONGATE Volvo/Plaxton 579 FTM (A417 CJH) is no longer here.

MIKES CRAYS HILL Bedford YMP/Plaxton A162 KKK is no longer here.

MILESTONE CANVEY ISLAND Dennis Javelins PJI 4655 and F201 SHY have been sold to Trent Valley, Rugeley and Matthews, Goytre respectively.

NCS NEWPORT A further Renault Traffic here is M815 AHJ.

NELSONS WICKFORD Rare Neoplan single deckers E101 VWA and F616 CWJ have been withdrawn. The last Leyland National 2 here ARN 893Y is awaiting sale. A special service operated on 6.7.02. from Grays to Orsett Showground, in connection with a special event.

OLYMPIAN HARLOW Leyland Atlantean/ECW SUP 269V has gone to Kirton, Hayes. Acquired is Iveco/Marshall L864 BEA. IN response to a query, service OC1 is a schooldays operation from Harlow to Bishops Stortford, which commenced on 13.5.02. It part replaces Locallink service H2 (Epping-Harlow-Bishops Stortford-Stansted), which was withdrawn after 10.5.02.

P&M COACHES SHOTGATE Departures are KIW 7812 (A339 YDT) a Volvo/Jonckhree and ABM 471A (LUA 247V) a Volvo/Plaxton.

PDQ COLCHESTER Recent additions are N206DME a LDV Sherpa 400 and H12PDO a Toyota/Caetano (The registration H12PDO was previously on a Jaguar car).

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS R5 DWA Iveco/Beulas has been acquired ex Allan, Gorebridge, Scotland South. Dennis Javelin/Caetano K710 RNR has gone to Ward, Alresford via Scania (dealer)

RAYS TRAVEL SHOTGATE Volvo/Plaxton PYY 198 (GWC 33T) has gone to Wint, Butterson.

REGAL COOKSMILL GREEN Acquired for use on Essex CC tendered services are Mercedes/Reeve Burgess G172 FJC and Mercedes/Dormobile G97 ERP. Back up is provided by former Preston Dodge F88 UHG, which retains an rear end advert for a store in that City. All are in a smart maroon/cream livery. This operator has been successful in North West Essex winning services 211/2 (Breach Barns to Waltham Cross), 213 (Epping to Waltham Cross) and the Evening/Sunday 251 (Hammond Street to Upshire), all at the expense of Arriva from 5.8.02.

SJH CRAYS HILL Volvo/Plaxton H829 AHS is a recent addition.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS J411 AOO Ford Transit/Dormobile is acquired ex Essex County Council via Chelmsford Auction

SOUTHERN STAR ROYDON JIL 2202 (BRY 701Y) a Bova Europa has been sold.

STANS GT TOTHAM Vehicles sold are VAZ 9993 (new as XGS 765X) a Tiger/Plaxton Ford Transit MIL 9403 and N912 DWJ a Dennis Javelin/Berkhof.

Coming soon – The Campbells Fact File

An exciting new book about a famous Essex operator

STEPHENSONS ROCHFORD Revised timetable introduced on services X1/2/10 from 22.7.02. with the Saturday service becoming X11. Further to EBN 454, the ex Red and White Volvo/Plaxton 935 is registered 5796MX (ex G530LWU), other vehicles in use on London services are ex Arriva Volvo/Plaxton F372 PHK and H566 MPD, similar but ex Red and White G345 FFX, Leyland Tiger/Duple A249 SVW, Leyland Olympian/ECW C101 OTW and MIL 8340 (WGB 853W) a Volvo/East Lancs double decker. The Southend open top service has become a City Sightseeing service. Bristol VR/ECW UWV 618/20S and Leyland Olympian/ECW JFR 4W are expected to operate this service. Last years open top fleet of Bristol VR/ECW VHB 677/8S and CJH 119V have been withdrawn.

STORT VALLEY STANSTED We have never recorded the demise of the Essex Express network of commuter services operated by a variety of operators here before now. The only service from Braintree thought to be operating, is this operators 630 from Braintree, Marks Farm (Tesco) to London, Victoria via Rayne, Dunmow and Takeley. It commenced as long ago as 10.12.01.

SUPREME COLCHESTER Not previously reported is that MCW Metrobus GOG 95W has been sold to SM Travel, Harlow. Other vehicles sold but not reported until now are Olympian/Alexander A319 GLV to Smith, Partna and EOS J3 SUP to Curwen, Elswick.

Vehicles sold for scrap include former Eastern National VR WTH 949T, Daimler Fleetline OKW 504R and Leyland National 2 BVP 809V.

SWT SOUTH WOODHAM FERRERS Have acquired Ford Transit R927 GNH which operates on a taxi plate. Renault Master K193 TKO is also now on a taxi plate.

THAMES BUSES GRAYS We don't have any details on who this operator is, but they do have Leyland Lynx D109 NDW and Leyland Royal Tiger Doyen E47 TYG.

TRUSTLINE SOUTH MIMMS The regular vehicles on services 392/3 at Harlow are Optare Vectras P910/1 SUM, which are numbered VM910/1 here.

VICEROY SAFFRON WALDEN Vehicles known to have been sold are 597 AXF (VWX 370X) aq Bova Europa, H29 CFG a DAF/Duple and H433 GVL a Setra S215.

WARD ARLESFORD Ford Transit J716 PEA has been sold. JUL 4996 (ex E712 FTY, PIL 2168, E712 FTY) a Leyland Tiger/Duple was acquired some while ago.

JIL 7651 (ex E858 WSB) has been reregistered back to E858 WSB and sold to Scania (dealer). It was seen at A.P.T., Rayleigh on 26.5.02 (not sure if owned).

YELLOWLINE BRAINTREE Recently acquired is LDV Convoy V239 MNM.

We welcome your contributions – See page 2 for contact info

Essex Dealer Report

The latest vehicle movements at Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From the Recievers of White Rose. M836,M821,M246,Metrorider J582CUB,
National HHH389X
From BlazeField Holdings Lynxes
F661PWK,E115SDW,G297KWY,G298KWY,E63WDT,F167SMT
From Metroline M460 1/06.
From BlazeField Holdings. Lynxes E113RBO E114SDW F74DCW E60WDT E61WDT.
From Armchair,Brentford. Mark 2 Metrobuses E748SKR F772EKM.
From Isle of Man Transport. Olympians EMN203U EMN210U EMN207U EMN211U
EMN213U MAN44U.
From Arriva the Shires. Tiger E881YKY.
From Kingstons,Benfleet Metrobus JIL8213

Vehicles Out

Olympian A238GHN Barfordian Coaches,Barford.
M1426 Converted to Half top and now with Toplevel Travel,York.
Tiger B518HAM Kingstons,Essex.
M243,M294 PVS for scrap.
Metro's SND119X,ORJ77W PVS for scrap.
Bedfords D136XVW,D137XVW Fowlers,Holbeach Drove.
M1230 TM Travel,Chesterfield.
MCW Tri axle ML56 DU7765 now E881JAR with Big Bus,Wimbledon.
M64,M74,M129 and Tiger WPH139Y Stratford Blue Travel (to replace Atlanteans on
GF schools)
M175 has been returned unused by Metropolitan Omnibus and is now with
Fowlers,Holbeach Drove.
Metrobuses MRJ45W ORJ77W M78 M542 PVS for scrap.
Lynxes F167SMT F168SMT Kent County Council,Ayelsford.
Dennis Condor DL19 EG2545 now G755CVX with Kinch,Wilts.
M246,M226 Johns School of Motoring,Hackney.
L76 Town and Country,Purfleet.
M244 Bar n Bus,Southend
Tiger WPH139Y and DT88 Transferred to Stratford Blue.
Olympians EMN207U MAN44U Fords Coaches,Althorne.

www.ensignbus.com

Disposals and subsequent history of London based vehicles are covered in more detail by London Omnibus Traction Society (LOTS) See their web page www.lots.org.uk for details on joining the group. Disposals from London operators are usually referred to by their fleet number. For registrations see 'London Bus & Tram Fleetbook 2002' published by LOTS

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

Remembering the original Eastern National

This regular page affectionately known as 'the guild' takes a nostalgic look back to the early days of the company through to the early 1960's.

The guild Editor, Peter Snell is always pleased to receive your information and memories for possible inclusion in this section.

Please write to Peter at 6 Mandeville Way Benfleet SS7 4LH

TILLING STEVENS AND EASTERN NATIONAL

Eastern National operated a small fleet of Tilling Stevens buses, compared with large operators south of the River Thames.

In 1932, Eastern National took delivery of eight B30A7s with Beadle B32R bodies,

3309 EV5676	3313 MJ282
3310 EV5677	3314 MJ281
3311 EV5678	3315 MJ283
3312 MJ284	3316 EV5679

These proved to be the only Tilling Stevens to be acquired new.

However operators whose fleets were taken over by Eastern National contributed a variety of different chassis. From Borough Motor Services at Southend came two B10A2s with Vickers B32 bodies 3432-3433 (TX5630, HJ7639) the former was originally owned by W.L.Davies, Clydach Swansea. In 1937 from Berry & Sons of Colchester, a B39A2 with Duple C36F coachwork 3699 (CNO740) and a B10A2 with Short B32R body 3704 (UF3067) originally Southdown Motor Services 467.

In 1938 a fleet of saloons from the North Western Road Car Co., was acquired 3791-3804.

3791 DB9318 B10A2 Tilling B31R	3796 DB9341 B10A2 Tilling B31R
3792 DB9324 B10A2 Tilling B31R	3801 DB5228 B10A Tilling B36R
3793 DB9328 B10A2 Tilling B31R	3802 DB9342 B10A2 Brush B31R
3794 DB9336 B10A2 Tilling B31R	3803 DB9351 B10A2 Brush B31R
3795 DB9391 B10A2 Tilling B31R	3804 DN9355 B10A2 Brush B31R

These were numbered 418/424/428/436/439, 328, 442/451/455 in the North Western fleet. In the same year Huntingdon Coaches of Houghton was taken over and 3787 (VT297) a B10A with a B32 saloon body was added to the fleet, this was new to J. E. Pritchard of Stoke on Trent in 1927.

In June 1941 the following TSMs were still operating from Bedford depot

3309 EV5676	3792 DB9324
3310 EV5677	3793 DB9328
3312 MJ284	3795 DB9339
3313 MJ282	3802 DB9342

All the Tilling Stevens had been withdrawn by 1942, with the exception of 3312 (MJ284) 1944 and 3699 (CNO740) by 1945.

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**A Part of Essex
History**

Essex Bus News Through The Years

July 1970 Late Coaches

A tour had been arranged to Wood Green, Brentwood, Hadleigh and Basildon using an Eastern National Bristol KSW. This was likely to be the last tour using one of these fine vehicles, as Bristol RE's had been ordered to replace them. Indeed 1522/3 (KHK 414/5J) were almost complete at ECW and were due to enter service in August.

Late delivery of coaches for extended tours, saw AEC Reliance JWN 390E on loan from South Wales and used on a tour to Brittany. Leyland Leopard DHK 297G was hired from Harris Coaches and used on a tour to Switzerland and Italian Lakes.

Staff shortages are not new and open top Service 67 had not been operated, due to crew problems at Hadleigh and Southend.

No news was published about Southend Transport, but Colchester were set to acquire AEC Reliance/Plaxton 652 GVA from Hedingham (L53) it had been new to Irvine, Salsburgh.

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and East Kent Bus Club 42 St Albans Hill Hemel
Hempstead Herts HP3 9NG***

Grays 50

A Celebration



**A souvenir supplement presented free with
the July 2002 issue of Essex Bus News**

Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Grays 50

John Weeks reflects on the changes in Grays in 1952

It does not seem possible that it was 50 years ago that London Transport took over the majority of Eastern National services in Grays. The really frightening thing is that I can remember it. I must be getting old!

Buses had always interested me since my earliest memories possibly because several routes ran past my house. The most frequent was the 32A, which ran from Grays to Nutberry Corner and was worked by Eastern National single deckers, normally Bristol JO5Gs but occasionally newer L5Gs. My favourite was DEV 468 as it was a regular performer on the route, but it was extra special day if one of the new KNO registered L5Gs turned up.

Ticket

There was also a small brown and beige bus used on the route, which was operated by Our Bus. This always seemed very cosy being so small and also unusual as you had to pay the driver when you got on. You did at least get a proper ticket on Our Bus even though it didn't have a hole punched in it. Eastern National tickets in comparison always had a lump missing and were not worth collecting. (At that age I could not get to grips with the Willibrew system.)

Other buses that appeared odd to an eight year old were the wartime Guys. They sounded very different to all the other buses around and some of them did not even have glass in the upstairs back window! Most of the time they seemed to go to Tilbury Ferry, where on the return journey to Grays there was a real chance that they would not manage to climb the steep hill up to Chadwell St Mary.

All was about to change. From September 1951 some of the Eastern National routes that ran past our house were taken over by London Transport. The first signs of the forthcoming changes occurred shortly before the changeover day when a London Transport lorry was seen altering all the bus stops to LT style, and a new shelter was erected at the bus stop opposite our house.

(TT.3434A)

[illegible]

Page 7 Top—The Aftermath. London Transport routes 371/371A taken from the January 1954 local timetable showing linked service of LT 371/A & EN 31.



London Transport STL 1569 CXX 357 in central area red livery was one of the extra buses drafted in to work the additional Grays services. It stands outside the Queens Hotel awaiting departure to Tilbury Ferry. Before co-ordination came into effect on 2nd January 1952, the original Eastern National service numbers (such as 37A) continued in use. (A.B.Cross)



Eastern National Bristol L5G 3897 KNO 600 operating route 85 to Woodside Estate with London Transport fleetnames. EN buses continued to run from Argent Street garage (code GA), they carried GY plates with red background stencil holders. An excellent Corgi model is available to perpetuate this operation (A.B. Cross)

Page 3

Amazed

On the actual changeover day, September 30, I was amazed to see red London Transport STLs running on the Eastern National routes. This was the first time that I had seen red buses at Grays garage, although they appeared several times in later years. The Eastern National buses were still around but they had LT fleet names and carried red GY garage code plates and running numbers in LT style. The route numbers remained the same, the 32A still went to Nutberry Corner, but there was now a choice of colour, red or green, as about this time the brown and beige Our Bus disappeared amongst the changes. Strangely other Eastern National buses kept the same fleet names but these were used on the longer routes to Southend, Chelmsford and Clacton.

Changeover

The next changes came about the following January when full integration took place. The new route changes and numbers appeared in the local paper a few days before the actual changeover.

Most of the route numbers bore some resemblance to the previous Eastern National numbers. The Grays to Nutberry Corner 32A became 323A and was extended across town to Purfleet. There had been no cross-town services in Grays before the changes but with integration of the local routes it made travel to the factories of West Thurrock and Purfleet much easier from the eastern side of town. On the actual day of the changes, January 2nd 1952, the ex Eastern National buses which had been part of the scene for so long disappeared, presumably transferred to other garages on the company. The new routes were worked solely by London Transport buses mostly STLs either red or green. The modern RTs were rarely seen on the ex EN services, they seemed to spend most of the time on route 370 which had been extended across town to terminate at Tilbury Ferry. When more RTs became available they replaced the motley collection of STLs and by 1955 Grays had nothing else.

Conductor

In 1961 I achieved an ambition and started working at Grays as a conductor. Many of the staff that had transferred over ten years earlier were still there. They had many interesting memories of the good old days "on the National". By this time the 323A to Nutberry Corner had been reduced to peak hours only, in EN days it had been every 10 minutes. By 1968 it had been withdrawn completely.

	Weekdays.										Fridays.									
	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Grays, King's A. dep	10 30	2 30	4 50	5 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 30	1 40	2 30	4 04	5 05	4 07	4 5	8 56	...	...
W. Thur'ck, F & G	10 39	2 39	4 59	5 49	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 39	1 49	2 39	4 9	5 09	4 07	5 4	9 4	...	...
Aveley, Prince A. "	10 50	2 50	5 10	6 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 50	2 0	2 50	4 20	5 10	6 0	8 5	9 15	...	...
Lennard Arms	10 57	2 57	...	6 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	10 57	...	2 57	...	...	6 7	...	...	...	...
Rainham	11 6	3 6	...	6 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 6	...	3 6	...	...	6 16	...	...	...	...
Cherry Tree	11 9	3 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 9	...	3 9	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newton Corner	11 12	3 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 12	...	3 12	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Romford St. R'g Sun	11 25	3 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 25	...	3 25	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Romford St. R'g Sun	11 30	3 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 30	...	3 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newton Corner dep	11 43	3 43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 43	...	3 43	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherry Tree	11 46	3 46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 46	...	3 46	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rainham	11 49	3 49	...	6 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 49	...	3 49	...	6 40	...	...	...	...	...
Lennard Arms	11 58	3 58	...	6 49	...	...	...	...	...	...	11 58	...	3 58	...	6 49	...	...	...	...	...
Aveley, Prince A. "	12 54	5 5	15 6	56	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 54	5 4	5 4	25 5	15 6	56	8 30	9 30	...	...
W. Thur'ck, F & G	12 16	4 16	5 26	7 7	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 16	4 16	4 16	4 36	5 26	7 7	8 41	9 41	...	...
Grays, King's A. arr	12 25	4 25	5 35	7 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	12 25	4 25	4 25	4 45	5 35	7 16	8 50	9 50	...	...

Saturdays and Sundays.

	NS	NS	NS	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
Grays, King's A. dep	9 0	9 40	10 30	12 0	1 45	2 03	0 4	4 40	5 30	6 07	7 45	8 08	30	9 15	9 40	...	...	...	...	...
W. Thur'ck, F & G	9 9	9 49	10 39	12 9	1 54	2 9	9 4	9 4	4 49	5 39	6 07	7 45	8 08	30	9 24	9 49	...	...	...	...
Aveley, Prince A. "	9 20	10 0	10 50	12 20	2 5	2 20	3 20	4 20	5 0	5 30	6 20	7 20	8 5	8 20	9 50	...	...	...	...	...
Lennard Arms	9 27	...	10 57	12 27	...	2 27	...	4 27	...	5 27	...	6 27	...	8 27	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rainham	9 35	...	11 6	12 36	...	3 36	...	4 36	...	5 36	...	6 36	...	8 36	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherry Tree	9 39	...	...	12 39	...	3 39	...	4 39	...	5 39	...	6 39	...	8 39	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newton Corner	9 42	...	...	12 42	...	3 42	...	4 42	...	5 42	...	6 42	...	8 42	...	...	...	...	...	...
Romford Sta. arr	9 55	...	...	12 55	...	3 55	...	4 55	...	5 55	...	6 55	...	8 55	...	...	...	...	...	...
Romford Sta. dep	10 0	...	...	1 0	...	3 0	...	5 0	...	7 0	...	9 0	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Newton Corner	10 13	...	...	1 13	...	3 13	...	5 13	...	7 13	...	9 13	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cherry Tree	10 16	...	...	1 16	...	3 16	...	5 16	...	7 16	...	9 16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Rainham	10 19	11 13	1 19	...	3 19	...	5 19	...	7 19	...	9 19	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Lennard Arms	10 28	11 22	1 28	...	3 28	...	5 28	...	7 28	...	9 28	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Aveley, Prince A. "	10 5	10 35	11 29	1 35	2 10	3 35	5 5	5 35	6 07	7 25	7 35	8 10	8 55	9 35	9 45	10 5	...	...	...	...
W. Thur'ck, F & G	10 16	10 46	11 40	1 46	2 21	3 46	5 16	5 46	6 11	7 31	7 46	8 21	9 6	9 46	9 56	10 16	...	...	...	...
Grays, King's A. arr	10 25	10 55	11 49	1 55	2 30	3 45	5 25	5 55	6 20	7 45	7 55	8 30	9 15	9 55	10 5	10 25	...	...	...	...

NS—Not Sundays.

For Fare Table, see Next Page

Bus

Grays - Purfleet

372

MONDAY to FRIDAY

Grays, War Memorial	5 30	5 35	5 37	5 40	5 50	6 0	6 10	6 20	6 25	6 30	6 35	6 37	6 40	6 50	7 0	7 5	7 10	7 20	7 25
Purfleet, Post Office	5 48	5 53	5 55	5 58	6 0	6 10	6 20	6 30	6 35	6 40	6 45	6 53	6 55	6 58	7 0	7 5	7 10	7 20	7 25
Purfleet, Post Office	5 50	5 55	5 57	6 0	6 10	6 20	6 30	6 40	6 45	6 50	6 55	6 57	7 0	7 10	7 20	7 25	7 30	7 40	7 45
Grays, War Memorial	6 8	6 13	6 15	6 18	6 28	6 38	6 48	6 58	7 0	7 10	7 13	7 15	7 18	7 28	7 38	7 43	7 48	7 58	8 3
Grays, War Memorial	7 30	7 35	7 37	7 40	7 50	7 55	8 0	8 10	8 20	8 30	8 35	8 40	8 50	9 0	9 5	9 10	9 20	9 25	9 30
Purfleet, Post Office	7 48	7 53	7 55	7 58	8 0	8 10	8 20	8 30	8 35	8 40	8 45	8 53	8 55	8 58	9 0	9 5	9 10	9 20	9 25
Purfleet, Post Office	7 50	7 55	7 57	8 0	8 10	8 20	8 30	8 40	8 45	8 50	8 55	9 0	9 10	9 20	9 30	9 40	9 50	10 0	10 5
Grays, War Memorial	8 8	8 13	8 15	8 18	8 28	8 38	8 48	8 58	9 0	9 10	9 13	9 15	9 18	9 28	9 38	9 43	9 48	9 58	10 3
Grays, War Memorial	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38
Purfleet, Post Office	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38
Grays, War Memorial	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38	Then every 10 mins. until 1 38

SATURDAY

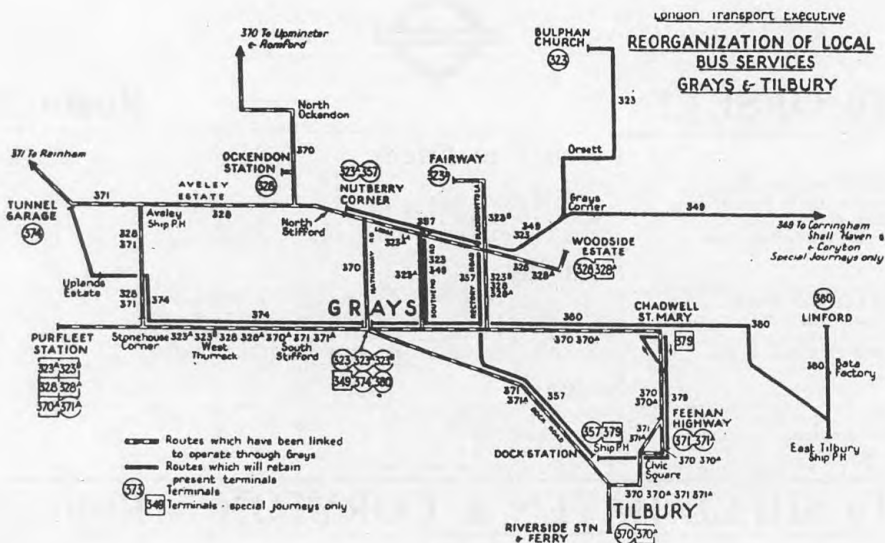
Grays, War Memorial	AS MON. 9 0	Then every 10 mins. until 9 38	11 10	11 15	11 20	11 30	Then every 5 mins. until 11 58	10 50	11 0	11 10	11 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purfleet, Post Office	AS MON. 9 10	Then every 10 mins. until 9 38	11 20	11 25	11 30	11 40	Then every 5 mins. until 11 58	11 0	11 10	11 20	11 30	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purfleet, Post Office	AS MON. 9 20	Then every 10 mins. until 9 38	11 30	11 35	11 40	11 50	Then every 5 mins. until 11 58	11 10	11 20	11 30	11 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grays, War Memorial	AS MON. 9 38	Then every 10 mins. until 9 38	11 40	11 45	11 50	12 0	Then every 5 mins. until 12 0	11 20	11 30	11 40	11 50	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

SUNDAY

Grays, War Memorial	7 0	7 20	Then every 20 mins. until 12 40	12 40	1 0	Then every 10 mins. until 11 58	11 20	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purfleet, Post Office	7 18	7 38	Then every 20 mins. until 12 58	12 58	1 8	Then every 10 mins. until 11 58	11 38	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Purfleet, Post Office	7 20	7 40	Then every 20 mins. until 1 0	1 0	1 10	Then every 10 mins. until 11 58	11 40	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Grays, War Memorial	7 38	7 58	Then every 20 mins. until 1 18	1 18	1 28	Then every 10 mins. until 11 58	11 58	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...

(TT.1165)

Front cover photo: T792 HLX 462 AEC Regal/Man Egerton – One of a batch of 30 built in 1948 for country area routes. In accordance with country practise, a sliding door was fitted. Looking in fine condition, this vehicle was spotted in Corringham last October on its way to the Canvey Rally. (Chris Stewart)



STARTING ON 2nd JANUARY 1952

CO-ORDINATION OF Road Passenger Transport Services in the GRAYS AND TILBURY DISTRICTS

TIMETABLES AND DIAGRAMS OF THE REVISED ROUTES



With the compliments of
LONDON TRANSPORT
55 Broadway, S.W.1 Abbey 1234
Local Garage and Enquiry Office
London Road, Grays Tilbury 156