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Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

Photos (prints, slides or digital images - in JPG format) are also always 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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Problems with your subscription, missing, defective or damaged EBN, or need back numbers? Contact the **Membership Officer**, Derek Stebbing.

Cover ...

As reported on EBN494/11, the Southend seafront open top bus service is not running this summer, thus ending an 80+ year tradition of special seasonal services in Southend. To mark the occasion, a special farewell day was held on Sunday June 5th to coincide with the Southend Historic Transport Show. Only one bus was used, Stephenson's City Sightseeing liveried Olympian JFR4W. The service ran roughly every two hours and is seen here at the Shoeburyness East Beach terminus, about to depart on the final trip into Southend and then on to depot, hence Rochford on the destination blind with a Southend Central Bus Station slipboard in the window. I wonder how many pictures of open toppers have been taken at this classic location over the years?

At the time of going to press, there is the possibility of a further one day only operation on Sunday **September 18** between Leigh and Southend only, in connection with the Old Leigh Regatta - but as that clashes with Showbus, it is unlikely to prove as popular with enthusiasts! *Richard Delahoy*

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station). 19.30 onwards. Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. *Richard Delahoy*

Autumn 2005 season:

- ▶ Meetings will be held on **Tuesdays September 13, October 11, November 8 and December 13** - further details to be announced later, but in the meanwhile, mark these in your diaries now!

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. *Dave Arnold*

Autumn 2005 programme:

- ▶ **Fridays September 9, October 14, November 11 and December 9** - make a note in your diary now!

LAST DAY OF ROUTEMASTERS ON THE 14 AND 22

- ▶ **Friday July 22** - Several Essex vehicles will be taking part as "guests". These are Blue Triangle's RTW 75, an Ensign RT and a "surprise" bus from Ensign. For full timetables and info, see the 14/22 page of the LOTS website: www.lots.org.uk/

75th ANNIVERSARY OF EASTERN NATIONAL ~RUNNING DAYS

- ▶ **Saturdays August 8, 13, 20, 27** - see pages 12-14 and www.essexbus.org.uk

TOUR

- ▶ **September 10/11:** A trip is being organised from the Southend area to **Blackpool**, using a Bova coach from St Cloud. Cost is only £40, but you will need to organise

your own overnight accommodation for Saturday night. A chance to see the trams, etc. In addition, Sunday sees a "Heritage Open Day" with preserved vehicles from the Lancastrian Transport Trust linking Blackpool Town Hall with the LTT's depot on the Clifton Road Industrial Estate.

Bookings/enquiries to **Matthew Evans** on 07746 779414.

From the Editor ...

EBN 494

- p.3 As you were! Last day of Southend's supported Sunday routes *was* (Bank Holiday) Monday 28th, as per EBN 493, **not** Sunday 27th.
- p.21 Osborne's RT2827: the owners thought the platform doors were fitted by Eastern National at Canvey. "Oh no they weren't!" says *Peter Newman*. "Passenger Vehicle Sales (London) Ltd, (predecessor of Ensignbus) fitted them!" He goes on: "... the RT was a real credit to its owner, and I could not help feeling that the doors looked very good, bearing in mind that they were fitted around 40 years ago. Incidentally they are entirely air-operated, with no electrical parts at all".
- p.23 Finally, good news regarding Ensign's RT1431: the missing dumbiron plate has been returned and is now refitted to the bus.

David Harman

Essex Publicity News

OLYMPIAN COACHES A double sided A4 folded to A5 dated 20th June 2005 for route 524 - no sign of anything for the 525 which I am not sure has/will be starting. Also a 20th April 2004 similar leaflet for the 601-607 commuter services to London with a 608 on the reverse for the Braintree service

ENSIGNBUS X80 leaflet dated 9.4.05 identical style to earlier issues (see later page). Stocks ran out quickly this time, however, and just a single sided A4 sheet with green print is currently available.

A single sided A4 sheet with blue print throughout is now available for Ensignbus X80 dated 5th June 2005

ESSEX COUNTY COUNCIL *Sunday Travel Guide* plus the *Central Essex* timetable book (dated 29.5.05) now available. The cover theme for the latter is a little girl asleep on a bus, (caption "all partied out"). ECC currently have a *Passport to Travel* for Brentwood, Chelmsford, Braintree, Uttlesford and Maldon. These have been issued door to door and give basic details of bus services and other travel options available in the area.

Maps from Thurrock Council May 2005 and Essex CC Summer 2005 have both been published recently

HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Two of their Area Travel Guides include services which run into Essex:

Area 6. Hertford, Lea Valley and Cuffley - June 2005

Area 7. Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford & Royston - June 2005

Areas 1 to 5 are not appropriate to Essex

There is also a Summer 2005 Network Map available.

Many thanks to Ian Taylor for the above, your sub-editor is currently working away from home, so has been unable to provide a full column this month.

Essex Service Changes

<i>Operator</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Route</i>	<i>Days of operation</i>	<i>Terminals and Notes</i>
Arriva the Shires				
	9-Jul-05	Zip 1	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye (circular) WITHDRAWN SERVICE
	5-Sep-05	321	M-F	Bumbles Green Telephone Exchange - Harlow Bus Stn REVISED TIMETABLE to reflect a change in route number (formerly route 1).
Carters Coach Services				
	19-Apr-05	750	TTH	Colchester Bus Station - Capel St Mary, White Horse ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. The route does not run direct from Capel St Mary to Dedham Heath , Crossroads but via East Bergholt, Brantham, Cattawade, Manningtree Rail Station, Lawford and then on to Dedham Heath, Crossroads.
Clintona Minicoaches				
	23-May-05	71	Weekdays	Warley, Eagle Way - Stondon Massey, Soames Mead REVISED ROUTE with journeys operating to and from Stondon Massey, Soames Mead
	23-May-05	72	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Stondon Massey, Soames Mead. REVISED ROUTE with journeys operating to and from Stondon Massey, Soames Mead
Ensign Bus Company				
	7-Apr-05	X80	Daily	Lakeside Bus Station - Gravesend, Valley Drive REVISED TIMETABLE operating half hourly (M-S) and hourly between Lakeside and Bluewater only on Sundays.
Excel				
	11-Apr-05	308	Weekdays	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Bishops Park, Tesco Store. REVISED ROUTE operating via Riverside instead of the High Street.
	11-Apr-05	309	Weekdays	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Bishops Park, Tesco Store. REVISED ROUTE operating via Riverside instead of the High Street.
First				
	2-Jan-05	101	Weekdays	Wickford Rail Station - Basildon Hospital ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. At Billericay, Queens Park, buses now continue to and from Arlington Way to Queens Park roundabout (Perry Street) via Rosebay Avenue and Queens Park Avenue (completing a full circle around Queens Park).
	9-Apr-05	343	Saturdays	Braintree Bus Park - Flacks Green (circular) REVISED ROUTE and TIMETABLE. This service now operates via Powers Hall End and not via Fairstead or Gambles Green.
	25-Apr-05	565	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Bulphan, Church (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE

29-May-05	606	Sun	Walton on the Naze - Harwich Quay, West Street SUMMER SUNDAY service re-introduced.
29-May-05	605	Sun	Colchester Bus Station - Walton on the Naze. SUMMER SUNDAY service re-introduced and extended beyond Kino Road.
29-May-05	X22	Daily	Stansted Airport Coach Station - Colchester Bus Station REVISED TIMETABLE with the introduction of additional journeys at 02:35 and 03:35 from Colchester and 04:00 and 05:00 from Stansted.
19-Jun-05	7	Daily	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road REVISED TIMETABLE
19-Jun-05	8	Weekdays	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road REVISED TIMETABLE
19-Jun-05	8A	Daily	Walton, The Naze - Clacton, Jackson Road REVISED TIMETABLE
20-Jun-05	105	Weekdays	Colchester Bus Station - Walton Rail Station REVISED TERMINAL in Walton.
20-Jun-05	107	Weekdays	Colchester Bus Station - Walton Rail Station REVISED TERMINAL in Walton.
20-Jun-05	109	Weekdays	Colchester Bus Station - Walton Rail Station REVISED TERMINAL in Walton.
21-Jun-05	9	TThF	Great Holland, The Ship - Walton, Columbine Centre REVISED TERMINAL in Walton.
1-Aug-05	25A	Weekdays	Shotgate, Post Office - Langdon Hills, Westley Road REVISED TIMETABLE to improve running times.
1-Aug-05	25B	Weekdays	Runwell Church - Langdon Hills, Westley Road REVISED TIMETABLE to improve running times.
1-Aug-05	81	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Hutton, Wash Road (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE to improve running times.
1-Aug-05	82	Weekdays	Brentwood Rail Station - Hutton, Wash Road (circular) REVISED TIMETABLE to reflect improved running times.
1-Aug-05	351	Daily	Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Romford Rail Station REVISED TIMETABLE to improve running times.
Hedingham Omnibuses			
16-May-05	4	M-F	Tollgate Medical Centre - Colchester, High Street REVISED ROUTE now serving Scott Drive, Shakespeare Road and Chaucer Way.
23-May-05	345	Wed	Fuller Street - Braintree One return journey
23-Jun-05	132	Daily	Clacton Railway Station - Brook Retail Park NEW SERVICE operating every half hour.
11-Jul-05	95	Weekdays	Tollesbury, The Square - Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre. REVISED TIMETABLE with the 0655 from Tollebury operating SDO and the 0750 operating via Heybridge Basin (M-F)
1-Sep-05	325	Wed	Greenstead Green, Hare & Hounds - Braintree Bus Park WITHDRAWN SERVICE
1-Sep-05	327	Fri	Twinstead Church - Halstead, Butler Road Car Park WITHDRAWN SERVICE
1-Sep-05	329	Fri	Cross End, Le Mote Hall - Halstead, Butler Road Car Park. WITHDRAWN SERVICE
Imperial Bus			
22-Jul-05	320	Weekdays	Tilbury, Civic Centre - Lakeside Bus Station (circular) WITHDRAWN SERVICE

Network Colchester

4-Apr-05	93	Daily	Colchester Bus Station - Ipswich, Old Cattle Market Bus Station ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. The Sunday service deviates from the normal weekday route in East Bergholt at The Street and operates via Renbrow Road, White Horse Road and London Road to the White Horse instead of via The Old Street, and is thus able to serve Flatford Mill.
25-Apr-05	83	Weekdays	Colchester Bus Station - Colne Engaine, The Green REVISED TIMETABLE with the service now operating to Mount Bures additionally on Fridays.
18-Jul-05	1	Weekdays	Greenstead, Hamlet Drive - Ambrose Avenue, worthington Way REVISED TIMETABLE with lightly used early morning and early evening (M-F) and late afternoon (sat) journeys withdrawn.
18-Jul-05	2	Weekdays	Highwood, Tesco Store - Colchester, High Street REVISED TIMETABLE with lightly used early morning and early evening (M-F) and late afternoon (Sat) journeys withdrawn.
18-Jul-05	5	M-F	Shrub End, Leather Bottle - NorthStation, Asda Store REVISED ROUTE and timetable with service withdrawn between Lexden Poets Estate and Ambrose Avenue/Prettgate with subsequent adjustment to the timetable.
18-Jul-05	8	Weekdays	Monkwick, Gosfield Road - Highwoods, Tesco Store REVISED TIMETABLE with lightly used early morning and early evening (M-F) and late afternoon (Sat) journeys withdrawn.

Olympian Coaches

13-Jun-05	524	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Stevenage Bus Station REVISED TIMETABLE
13-Jun-05	525	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Chingford NEW SERVICE operating hourly.
13-Jun-05	741	M-F	Braintree - London REVISION to service number at the request of TfL formerly 608. Local journeys within Essex numbered 742.
13-Jun-05	R3	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye (circular) WITHDRAWN SERVICE
13-Jun-05	R7	M-F	Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow (circular) WITHDRAWN SERVICE

Stephensons

13-Jun-05	288	Weekdays	Maldon, Tesco Store - Maldon, Blackwater Leisure Centre. REVISED TIMETABLE with frequency increased to half hourly except at 11:30 and 15:30.
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Trustline

27-Jun-05	C2	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Upshire, Princefield Avenue NEW SERVICE via Berry Green
27-Jun-05	C3	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Upshire, Princefield Road NEW SERVICE via Theobalds Grove
26-Jun-05	C4	Weekdays	Harlow Bus Station - Cheshunt, Brookfield Centre WITHDRAWN SERVICE

David Tomlin

FIRST ESSEX

New & Cascaded Vehicles

7.05 65626 V826FSC Scania L94UB/Wright Axcess Floline B43F new 11/99
65627 V827FSC Scania L94UB/Wright Axcess Floline B43F new 11/99

The whole batch of these due from First Beeline is 65626-32 (V826-32FSC), with chassis numbers 1835688/6/5, 1835615, 1835492/90 and 1835689. Body numbers are (in sequence) B711-717. Two more have also arrived but have not yet been identified; all are in fleet livery having been repainted from Reading Park & Ride colours.

Scania 61054/7 (R434/7GSF) are type L113CRL with chassis numbers 1829613 and 1829612. Body numbers are Y259 and Y262. These have entered service from BN on route 8 (without branding).

Volvo Olympians 31456/62 (N967/73SOS) have chassis numbers YN2RV18V3 26767 and 26725, with Alexander body numbers 9529/24 and 9529/30. Preparation work is still continuing at HH but they will then displace 34698 and 34809 either for Group cascade or disposal.

Allocation changes

period 3: 23 May to 26 June 2005

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

46130 BN-RES; 61054 RES-BN; 61057 RES-BN

Repaints:

Period 3: 67006 67008 46143 46180 43718 67007 46172 46808 43717 46810 46811 all to standard group livery.

Also reported (some since 26 June): 34284 43733 46130 46136 46819 43713 43730
The last green and yellow double deck at CR, 34310, has been undergoing body preparation prior to repaint.

Other vehicle news:

Dodge trainer 90232 G707 VHA is reported as having been sold to Bristol Bus & Coach Sales in 4/05 and then to Charles Mudamburi, Bulawayo, Zimbabwe in 6/05. Lynx trainer 90242 was not so adventurous - it has been sold to Hardwicks for scrap but awaits removal after mechanical failure. Lynx 62521/2 remain at BN but out of use, with 62524 continuing in use for training.

Use of 61054/7 at BN has released two Marshall Darts from the 8, at least one (41640) now having orange route branding for the 25/25A which will gain more of these low floor vehicles when 65626-32 also enter service on the 8. Repainted 46180 has been



Olympian contrasts

above: Hadleigh-based 34698 (B698 BPU) is due for transfer to First Potteries in the next few weeks. Here seen in Rayleigh High Street. *Peter Mansbridge*
below: Slightly newer 34818 (C418 HJN) at Chelmsford Rail Station; 1 June.

Chris Stewart





Dart contrasts:

above: Newly-repainted out of Premier 100 livery **46172** (N972 CPU), at Brentwood Station.

below: **46181** (N991 EHJ) in 'Barbie 2'; **46151** (N951 CPU) in a variation, but with plain white roof, and intended to take Metro branding, Basildon Bus Station. *Adam Kelleher*



working from CN, while 46819 has been repaired and repainted after accident damage on 11th June.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Unusual sightings:

- June 6th CN46806 on 1800 75 CR-MN (usually Lance), CR46829 on 61 and CN51889 on 11 (usually Dart)
- 7th CR34302 on 175, CN46175 on 1600 75 MN-CR (usually Lance), CR47105 on 64 on 105 (usually Dart/Pointer). CF34808 and 34818 both on 351.
- 8th CR47106 on 64A.
- 9th CR47106 on 64A, CR62408 on 71, CR67001 on 64A.
- 10th CR34302 on 61, CR46829 on 61, CR47102/6 both on 64A, CR47104 on 66A (Dart SLFs are now commonplace on the 66 group).
- 11th CF46822 and CF47219 on BE21.
- 13th CR47103 on 66.
- 14th CR47102 on 64, CR47106 on 64A, CR62408 on 67.
- 15th BN31375 on 80, BN65669 on 351
- 16th CR46929 on 66, CR47106 on 66A, CR67004 on 64.
- 17th CF42488 (36 branded) on 31, CR47102 on 64, CF65684 (31 branded) on 36
- 18th CR67006 on 64.
- 19th CR67002 on 88, CR67006/7 on X22.
- 20th BN34698 on 20 (17.00 ex Southend), BN46112 on 12, BN46131 on 5
- 21st BN34812 on 551, CF42923 on 31A, CR67005 noted in BN depot (probably MOT prep)
- 24th BN43800 on 82, CF46813 on 21, CF47219 on 352 and CF47221 on 72
- 25th CF47252 on Diamond
- 28th BN41642 on 860 and 81 (afternoon working)
- 29th BN41647 on 82 (daytime)
- 30th CF47223/6 on 352
- July 1st CF47252 on 352
- 6th CR34011 on 64/A, CR34056 on 66/A, CR62408 on 70
- 7th CR65001 on 70

Former Depot News

With reference (EBN494) to demolition of the Duke Street boundary wall, this was only partial to enable hoardings to be erected around the site.

First Essex report EBN495

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, J Clayton, R Delahoy, M Farmer, P Mansbridge, N Field, I Hardie, A Kelleher, J Podgorski, C Sigston, D Stewart, R Whitley, *Essex Bus and South West y-groups*, *Real Bus News* group, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart

75th ANNIVERSARY of EASTERN NATIONAL ~ RUNNING DAYS

To mark the anniversary of the start of operations by the Eastern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. in June 1930, First have arranged a series of running days on Saturdays in August. Tilling green Dart 47252, and 'heritage' Bristol VR 38790 (3072) will perform the duties below, subject to availability. There will be plenty of opportunities for photography and/or just for bus-riding on 'something special'.

If you plan to ride on the 'specials', (and we hope that members *do* support this venture), the **FirstDay** ticket offers excellent value. Valid for a whole day's travel on First Essex routes (with minor exceptions), it can be bought on any First Essex bus.

■ Saturday August 8 ~ Colchester depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) – Tilling Green - CR12: Service 67

0655	(67D) Colchester, Bus Stn – West Mersea, High Street	0728
0730	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	0820
0830	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	0925
0930	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1020
1030	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	1125
1130	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1220
1230	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	1325
1330	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1420
1430	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	1525
1530	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1620
1630	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	1725
1730	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1820
1830	Colchester, Gen Hospital – Blackheath, Cherry Tree	1903

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) – EN Yellow/Green - CR14: Service 67

0750	Colchester, Bus Station – West Mersea, High Street	0825
0830	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	0920
0930	Colchester, Gen Hospital – West Mersea, High Street	1025
1030	West Mersea, High Street – Colchester, Gen Hospital	1120

FirstDay in Essex

Adult £6.00

Child/Concessions £3.00

Family (2 + 2) £12

The FirstDay in Essex ticket allows unlimited travel on all First bus services throughout Essex except the X22 and X30 Stansted Airport services and Essex County Council contracted services. A family can consist of a group of 4 persons of whom no less than 1 and no more than 2 must be adults. Buy your FirstDay on the bus.



VRs: preserved 3219 and heritage 3072 outside Hadleigh; 5 June. *Chris Stewart*

1130	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1225
1230	West Mersea, High Street - Colchester, Gen Hospital	1320
1330	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1425
1430	West Mersea, High Street - Colchester, Gen Hospital	1520
1530	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1625
1630	West Mersea, High Street - Colchester, Gen Hospital	1720
1730	Colchester, Gen Hospital - West Mersea, High Street	1825
1830	West Mersea, High Street - Colchester, Bus Station	1912

■ Saturday 13th August - Basildon depot

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) - EN Yellow/Green - BN24: Service 551

0630	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	0737
0755	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	0908
0927	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1040
1055	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1208
1227	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1340
1355	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1508
1527	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1640
1655	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1808
1847	Basildon, Bus Station - Brentwood, High Street	1931

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) - Tilling Green - BN25: Service 551

0727	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	0840
0855	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1008
1027	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1140

1155	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1308
1327	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1440
1455	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1608
1627	Basildon, Bus Station - Romford Station	1740
1755	Romford Station - Basildon, Bus Station	1908

■ Saturday August 20 - Hadleigh depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) - Tilling Green - HH76: Service 27

0818	Canvey, Leigh Beck - Temple Sutton, Garon Park	0934
0940	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1106
1113	Canvey, Leigh Beck - Temple Sutton, Garon Park	1232
1240	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1406
1413	Canvey, Leigh Beck - Temple Sutton, Garon Park	1532
1540	Temple Sutton, Garon Park - Canvey, Leigh Beck	1706

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) - EN Yellow/Green - HH65: Service 21

0818	Canvey, Eastern Esp - Southend, Central Bus Stn	0935
0942	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1106
1116	Canvey, Eastern Esp - Southend, Central Bus Stn	1235
1242	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1406
1416	Canvey, Eastern Esp - Southend, Central Bus Stn	1535
1542	Southend, Central Bus Stn - Canvey, Eastern Esp	1706

■ Saturday August 20 - Chelmsford depot

Dennis Dart / Alexander 47252 (M450VWW) - Tilling Green - CD 5: Service 31/31X

0635	Maldon, High Street - Burnham	0717
0718	Burnham - Maldon - Chelmsford	0830
0835	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	0918
0924	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1040
1035	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1118
1124	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1240
1235	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1318
1324	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1440
1435	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1518
1524	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1640
1635	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1718
1724	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1840

Bristol VRT / ECW 38790 (KOO790V) - EN Yellow/Green - CD 6: Service 31/31X

0618	Burnham - Maldon - Chelmsford	0730
0735	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	0814
0824	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	0940
0935	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1018
1024	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1140
1135	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1218
1224	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1340
1335	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1418
1424	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1540
1535	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1618
1624	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1740
1735	Chelmsford - Maldon, Milton Road	1818
1824	Maldon, Milton Road - Chelmsford	1940
1910	Chelmsford - Maldon - Burnham	2020
2022	Burnham - Maldon - Chelmsford	2134

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicle News:

Vario 1193 was still in use in Southend in mid-June. It was working on service 13 on the 16th. 1188 is now the sole remaining Vario at Southend (see **EBN 494**).

Unusual Workings

June 13th 5402 on 9

22nd 3322 on 13

July 1st 5089 on 13

5th 3150 (Dart) on Dengie Villager C and D (afternoon)

1755 (Sprinter) on 6A (evening peak)

Other News

Volvo B6 3601 (L601 EKM) has received a mega offside advertisement for 'one' railway. Dart 3373 (K323 CVX), withdrawn last summer, is now with Carousel Buses of High Wycombe.

Olympians 5092 (F642 LMJ) and 5895 (F895 BKK) were present at the Southend Bus Rally at Southchurch Park on 5th June.

Peter Mansbridge



New to County Bus in 1997 for TfL awarded route 34, Dart SLF R341 COO was transferred to Arriva London South in 2003. However, **DPP431** has returned to London North at Edmonton to cover whilst East Herts & Essex ADL's are repainted red. It is shown here back in County Bus territory at Debden. *Owen Woodliffe*.

Vehicle News

On 1st June Burton's Olympian (F245 MTW) returned 'home' to Colchester for maintenance. It was still at Colchester on 30th June. By 20th June, Burton's B10M/Paragon (W800 BCL) had also arrived for maintenance but left by 23rd June. Burton's Iveco Euro Midi W654 SJF was at the depot on 29th June.

D10M 335 was running for Burton's on 11th June, noted on 32 (Saffron Walden-Cambridge). It is not known if this is a transfer or just a loan.

Scania K113/VH (M53 VWW), is now with Arriva the Shires, and was noted at Stansted on 12 June, still with 'Network Colchester' name on offside and school bus signs added.

DAF SB220/Ikarus 358 (J56 GCX) returned to service from 24 June.

Vehicle Workings

Allocation of vehicles to route 5 has become increasingly unpredictable of late, with Darts and B6s now regularly appearing for both morning and afternoon journeys rather than the initial Vario in the morning/double-decker in the afternoon set up. There has also been a notable increase of Darts on route 87 instead of Varios. On school route 9, a double decker usually appears in the morning with a Lynx operating the afternoon journeys. Michael Allen reports that the 2B is usually a saloon in the morning and double-decker in the afternoon (contrary to what was said in EBN493). He also reported that Dart SLFs still often appear on 2s and 8s in the middle of the day.

Unusual workings

June 1st	367 on 5, 353 on 1	June 17th	310 (branded for 8) on 5, 308 on 87
1st/2nd	373 on 8	21st	373/4 on 8A
2nd	307 on 5	23rd	347 on p.m. 9
7th	316 on 5	24th	358 on 1
8th	310 (branded for 8) on 5	27th	356 on 8
9th	351 on 5	29th	361 on 2, 311 (branded for 8) on 5, 516 on 5, Lynx 357 on tow in Southway, having failed on route 2
10th	356 on 5, 310 (branded for 8) on 2	30th	306 on 5
11th	316 on 83		
13th	313 on 87		
16th	319 and 307 on 5, 349 on 2 (off peak)		

Other News

On 14th June East Street was closed for emergency road works, so routes 1,9, 87 had to be diverted via Ipswich Road and St Andrews Avenue to get to and from Harwich Road.

Escort van 55 (V146 KTW) arrived by 31st May, with dual 'Burton's-Colchester Coachways' and 'Network Colchester' names. It is in standard 'TGM' livery. It, in fact, floats between Colchester, Haverhill and Newmarket for crew ferry purposes etc. Another crew ferry noted in use at Colchester has been Mercedes Vito (W40 BCL).

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski, Michael Allen

Hedingham

L340, the new Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse, has chassis number YV3R6G6295A105551 and body number J553 4.05. It entered service on 1 June. *Dave Arnold*

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

LATEST DEALER MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN *from*

Arriva the Shires	Lynx H255/8GEV H409/10ERO
Isle of Man Transport	Olympians DMN17/8/20R
Mullaney's Coaches	Olympian G760VRT.

VEHICLES OUT

	<i>to</i>
RML2369:	Brandscape Ltd , Warwicks.
RM1380:	Mr David Campbell , Otterbourne, Herts.
Metrobus D957NDA:	C & M Coaches , Chatham.
Darts K323CVX, L153WAG, J301WHJ:	Carousel Buses , High Wycombe.
L52/63/99/163/176/252:	Double Decker Houses Ltd , London, SE1. These have been shipped to Turkey for conversion into mobile dormitories for doctors/nurses in London. They will be shipped back when finished.
RML2676:	Mr Steve Legge , Rickmansworth, Herts.
RML2372:	Mr Andrew Ponsford , Tunbridge Wells.
M1371:	The Scout Association , Chingford.
RML2376:	Mr Chris Small , Herts.
Volvo D10M G641BPH:	SunFun Travel , Cambs.
L143/7/61/86/8/92:	TM Travel , Chesterfield.
RML2291:	Mr Marcus Turpin , Kettal Brewery, Gibraltar.

with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus



*Chris Stewart's Eastern National panorama at the Southend Bus Rally.
left to right: LD 2400, MW 1402, VR's 3219, 3086, 3072, KSW 1407, MW 1356, RE 1516*

Ensignbus X80



X80 at Lakeside: Dart 701 (P81 MOR) on May 21, and Olympian 151 (R241 LGH) on December 18. both: Kevin Smith

opposite: The distinctive rear of Dart 710 (P910 MOR) on May 10. David Harman



X80 

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BUGGYBUS  **BUGGYBUS**

every 30 minutes
monday - saturday

from
5 June 2005

The six former National Express Airport Dart SLFs are:

701/2 (P81/2 MOR), 703-5 (P503/4/95 MOT), 710 (P910 MOR)
Dennis Dart SLF SFD322 / UVG UrbanStar B34F

From June 5, the X80 was extended to Grays, Chadwell St Mary (Brentwood Road Estate), Tilbury, Civic Square and ASDA store, on Sundays and Public Holidays. The cover of the new timetable folder is shown above. See also www.routeX80.com

David Harman



Essex Small Operator News

A&M Coaches, Bowers Gifford S450 YON LDV Convoy was at 'Safestore', Basildon on 5.5.05 and lettered 'Sterling Mini Coaches' - obviously gone from A&M. Is it assumed there is a link between the old Sterling (see below) and the new one.

ALEC LEONARD, Basildon HUI 3584 (ex ?) LAG was at 'Safestore', Basildon on 5.5.05 - but did not appear to be in use - this is not Lidgard's quoted operating centre.

AMERICAN LIMOS, Westcliff-on-Sea Appears here to record that S468 KRO a stretch limo is operating on a restricted licence.

APT, Rayleigh JO03 CCL a Scania/Irizar is in (by 6.05) ex Courtney, Bracknell, Berks. Along with similar SN53 RWY from an unknown source.

ARROW TAXIS, Maldon Ford Transit N513 FFA has been sold. A new Ford Transit is EU05 MTV.

BRENTWOOD COACHES, Brentwood Volvo B10M/Plaxton HWY 701 (E303 OMG) reported as sold, is still here. Similar HIL 9275 (A822 XMK) has gone, however.

CD TRAVEL, Kelvedon (previously RS Travel, Witham), Has Leyland Royal Tiger Doyen C792 KWA in allover red. It was seen at the Rivenhall Airfield industrial estate

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe Setra S315 W8 CED is now white, ex white / orange/yellow.

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS, Chelmsford EU03 EWP (no. 29) a Ford Transit has an overall advert for O2 (by 6.05).

EJ03 WSF was at the Chelmsford operating centre (but not in use) on 24.4.05 - it was unmarked and assumed to be here from another company in the group and awaiting disposal.

EO05 AVF/J/K/M, all Ford Transit were at the Chelmsford operating centre (but not in use) on 17.6.05 They were lettered 'airportcarz' and are assumed to be awaiting delivery to another group company. they had fleet nos. 14/11/16 none.

COLCHESTER COACHES, Clacton Now has Leyland Olympian/ECW SPY 209X,

which is believed ex West Kingsdown Coaches, as it arrived in that operator's maroon/cream livery.

EAGLE LINE, West Horndon Vehicles sold are Ford Transit/Dormobile C477 TAY and Talbot Express/Adams K973 NME.

EXCALIBUR, St Lawrence LAG Panoramic E498 AAW and Mercedes Benz L608D/Plaxton HAZ 6288 (A197 RUR) have been sold.

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Loaned Dart K708 KGU to Stephenson's in early 5/05 and it was seen on Witham Link 38 on 4/5. It was back with Excel on 5/5.

Two ex Blazefield Volvo B10B/Alexander PS; ex Lancs United M231 TBV, ex Burnley and Pendle M232 TBV. 232 is now in Excel blue.

Javelin/Premiere R128 XWF is now in a new (Ray Stenning designed) two-tone blue coach livery, with the legends 'Excel-excellence and very smart it looks!!! Here since at least 29/4 has been pink/purple Leyland Olympian/ECW B204 DTU which is destined for the Bexhill Bus Co ex Stephenson's.

Olympian C122 CHM has been acquired ex Stephensons stock for fleet use here, not operational yet

C286 BPP is in use as well, but only on a temporary basis (ex Trimmer Travel)
FARGO, Rayne NUI 4246 (ex YNN 31Y, EBZ 6295, YNN 31Y) Volvo/Plaxton is in (by 4.05) ex Stephenson, Rochford. DFW42X is now permanently here.

The Help Force Recruitment vehicles WBB532Y (ex NTU11Y) and E927JAR were unlicensed in the Witham yard on 15.5.05
GARDNER, Boreham MAN/Caetano had gone (again) from Gardner's house at Widford. However, a visit to the Drakes Lane depot revealed it there as MIL 8396 (ex G162 XJF).

It was last reported with Ham, Flimwell, E.Sussex going from them to Scania (dealer), Workop (5.02). It has been static at Gardner's house almost continuously since 4.03.

GBN, Pitsea. Further to 'EBN' 489, Transit minibuses are regularly hired from JD

- Robertson, Colchester, for use by the GBN Colchester branch. R875 CGX replaced R87 FUB, and has since been replaced by W634 XOE which has been joined by W486 ROT. All these are/were on long term (longer than 2 weeks) hire. On short term hire has been R614 XNF. All but XNF carry/carried 'GBN' magnetic signs when on loan.
- GRAHAMS COACHES, Kelvedon** N376 EAK Mercedes Benz/Plaxton is in (by 5.05) ex Neal, Isleham, Cambs.
- HARRIS, Grays.** One time LDV 400 minibus 9242 FH is with a private owner in Colchester by 4/05
- HARWICH TAXIS, Harwich** DAF 400 J428 UOC has been sold.
- HAWAII FIVE- O, Colchester** I kid you not, has Ford Transit NK02 EZB
- HOWARD, Halstead** This operator ran a few years ago and briefly provided competition between Halstead and Colchester. F722 FDV Mercedes Benz/Reeve Burgess has turned up with Silcox, Pembroke Dock for spares.
- KV MINIBUS, Wrabness** Ford Transits G808 WEV, H904 PAH and H811 UTV have all been sold. Renault Master R9 BRT has been re-registered R935 GDX.
- LOGIC TRANSPORT, Nazeing** Has Bova Futura G417 WFP by 5/05.
- MALCOLM'S BUS SERVICE, Clacton** Is running Mercedes Benz 709D K634 GVX at 5/05 on Clacton-Jaywick circular 555. It was with Talisman and still kept at Talisman's depot. It is thought that Malcolm has acquired this bus, which is still in Phoenix purple. Previously he had borrowed Talisman 709D K640 GVX
- MATTS, Blackmore** Freight Rover E653 AFM, the only vehicle recorded here, has been sold.
- MILTON Chadwell, St Mary** W495 AEV a Ford Transit is in (by 6.05)
- NEW HORIZONS TRAVEL, Arlesford** Has opened a new office at the shopping parade on Main Road, Arlesford (about 100 yards from the proprietor's home). This has replaced a shop rented from Cedric's at Wivenhoe
- OLYMPIAN, Harlow** Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paramount MIL 1853, which was in a livery of white with blue front and rear ends, is now in overall white fleet livery.
- PDQ, Colchester.** Transit P249 UTM is with a private owner in Colchester (ex PDQ owner driver) by 1/05
- PETER GODWARD, Basildon** YN05 HFU Scania/Trizar PB is in (by 5.05) and has 'Southern Holidays' names.
- RELIANCE, Bowers Gifford** Dennis Javelin/Berkhof P242 KJM has left the fleet. It is replaced by Scania L94/Van Hool T90 ASH.
- RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham** J299NNC a Scania K93/Plaxton has gone to Volvo (dealer), Loughborough (by 5.05). CE02 YRY and CA52 LBG are Volvo B12M / Sunsundegui ex Bebb, Wales (in by 6.05).
- RYDER, Colchester** In answer to a recent query, this operator provides vehicles under contract to the MoD. For reasons of security, these vehicles will not be recorded here.
- SAINT CLOUD, Rochford** Former Thamesway Mercedes Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess C964 GCV, left some while ago, while similar but Dormobile bodied and ex Badgerline D534 FAE, has also gone. Acquired is Ford Transit D370 RVW.
- STANS, Gt Totham** OIA 419 (ex G40 SAV) a Volvo B10/Van Hool is named "Miss Judy".
- STANWAY TRAVEL SERVICE/PITTS, Layer-de-la-Haye** AF52 AHE a Ford Transit is in (by 4.05)
- STB COACHES, Chadwell St Mary** Acquired, but not previously reported are Setra S215 B350 XOW from Millington, Streatley; Ford Transit J58 SDB, N322 HLA and Mercedes Benz 0814D/Autobus N17 JWS (A19 HOD) from the ceased JWS Chadwell St Mary fleet and L573 HVS a LDV 400 and V950 DRO a Ford Transit from Mels, Horndon-on-the-Hill.
- STEPHENSONS, Rochford** C101 LTW (XSU 913) the ex Ebdons Olympian is sold but has not departed yet; this was the last double deck coach in the fleet
- Following the decision to withdraw the open top service, UVW 618S has been sold; again awaiting collection at present. Another milestone, as it was the last VR in service with Stephensons, VRs have been operational on the fleet continuously since deregulation!! Leyland Olympian open top JFR 4W will remain for the foreseeable future as a special events vehicle
- Former Southend Volvo B10M/Plaxton



NIBS

Darts hired for temporary routes 31D and 36D.

Transbus bodied
SN03 LGA at Maldon
Promenade; 14 June.
Chris Stewart

Alexander-bodied
P942 EMS in Radford Way,
Billericay on the 222;
18 May. *Kevin Smith*

Marshall-bodied
S722 KNV in Coval Lane,
Chelmsford; 26 April.
Kevin Smith



A17 SOE (H372 PHK) was sold to Gary Bishop in Downham Market; the registration will return in due course. This was the last Plaxton 3500 operational. In replacement is N70 SLK a B10M Premiere National Expressliner.

All coaches are to be repainted with a green skirt; A19 SOE is the first, followed by N70 SLK.

Further Darts have been acquired: P749 HND, a low floor 40 seater, currently being refurbished at Brandons Coaches, expected to enter service shortly. A new Dart was delivered recently, but has not yet been registered, details to follow. Plaxton bodied K716 KGU will also be joining the fleet, ex dealer stock

A Volvo B10M/ Alexander PS has also been added to the fleet: M233 TBV

STERLING EUROPEAN, Southend

Operations appear to have now ceased. The last vehicles recorded here were RIL 8899 (N200 SAS) a Mercedes 814d/ Autobus, MCW Metrobus B182/301 WUL, Leyland Olympian/ECW C521 LJR, MAN/Noge C17 MEO, Scania K113/Irizar M258 TAK and Setra S250 T301 ROF

SUPREME, Colchester. Part of Colchester depot has been rented out to Industrial Water Jetting Services (IWJS). The part is the 'main yard', with Supreme still having access for parking. The main Supreme Colchester depot has been concentrated at the workshop, which is almost next door to the other site. It seems the Colchester allocation has been reduced. CAZ 6273 is a Volvo B10M/Plaxton Paramount now at Colchester.

SWIFT CARS Chelmsford V832 FPO and Y658 RHR are further Ford Transits (in by 6.05)

E200 UWT Mercedes Benz/Optare is at the depot (by 6.05) - it is probably not in use.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Setra S210 FSU 637 (F744 DMS) has been sold, its place being taken by Setra S215 SSU 331 (K124 OCT). Van Hool T815 A779 VFM, was sold some while ago, but has not previously been mentioned here. Toyota/Caetano M232 JBC has arrived from Crusader, Clacton.

A left-hand drive Setra S228DT (VIN: WKK13900001030557) has been acquired (5.05) from Ebnetter, St.Gallen, Switzerland

where it had registration SG32108. It was registered F559 UDX on 1.6.05

Talisman has now repaired roof damaged Olympian/Alexander H643 PTW
THORNS OF RAYLEIGH, Rayleigh Leyland Fleetline/N Counties BVR 100T and Leyland Leopard/Duple FYX 816W have been sold. DAF MB230/ Plaxton A12 APT (E339 EVH) has been acquired from APT, Rayleigh.

TOMS MINICOACHES, Southend Ford Transits H144 BJX and K779 EVW have been sold.

TONY GLEW, Gt Tey N553 JBX Renault /Cymric is in (by 6.05) ex Regent, Whitstable, Kent

TOWNCARS, Clacton Have recently obtained an operators licence. Currently here are Ford Transits S153 NPO, X581 WTN and Non-PSV EF51 AXA.

TURNERS OF ESSEX, Wickham St.Paul YN03 DDL a Scania K114/Van Hool is lettered for 'David Urquhart Travel' (by 6.05).

VALLEY ASSOCIATES, Basildon This fleet, together with the former Basildon Travel and Eyres Scott fleet are now in common ownership. Vehicles believed to have now gone as a result are Scania/Plaxton 238 JUO, Bedford YNT/Plaxton C995 ERO, Bedford YMP/Plaxton D279 RBV, Mercedes 709D minibuses K126 RHD and M660 SRE and finally Mercedes 108D S565 DDK.

VICEROY Saffron Walden Acquired from the now defunct 24x7, Elsenham is Bedford YRQ/Duple PNM 682W. AE05 MZL is a new BMC Probus 850 Club (by 6.05) www.bmc-probus.co.uk/bmc/probus_850.html provides a link, should you wish to see what one looks like.

WALKERS, Corringham Ford Transit/Steedrive G724 RGA has been sold. Acquired is EU54 LXZ, but no details of it's type are known.

WARD, Alresford A recent addition is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton TIB 4587 (B488 TYG) ex Hussain, Walsall. Also here is Peugeot Boxer R841 GFL

WESTS, Woodford Green MCW Metrorider F711 CWJ has been sold.

WICKS, Braintree Dennis Javelin/UVG R719 TRV was acquired early this year from Neals, Isleham. WRK17X a DAF

MB200/Jonckhree is still here, but withdrawn.

WOODCROFT SCHOOL, Loughton Ford Transit L552 RHJ, which was here as a PSV, has been sold.

YOUNGS TRAVEL, Wickford Leyland Tiger/Plaxton IIL 9170 (E511 RFU) is reported to have returned to the parent company, based in Hornchurch.

Miscellaneous

CAZ 6273 (ex A519 NCL) Volvo / Plaxton has been seen in N.E. Essex recently (4.05) - owner unknown. (last reported with Dalybus, Goose Green, Gt.Manchester.)

G417 WFP (ex WYR 562, G417 WFP) Bova Futura seen in unmarked white at Chelmsford 18.5.05 and may be with a local operator (last reported with Holmeswood, Lancs.)

L215 BPL Toyota / Caetano is still in the area - seen 1.5.05 at Chelmsford in unmarked white and on 5.5.05 in the Mills Court yard of Godward. (last reported with Eyres-Scott)

VLT 191 (ex GYE 429W) MCW Metrobus seen in Brentwood (5.05) with Wiltax (of Ashford, Surrey) names and their fleet no. M429 - thought to be with Brown, Basildon. Although only here for a brief period, probably on loan.

CAV 620V (ex JIL 9345, CAV 620V) Volvo B58 / Duple has been seen in the Brentwood area and is also thought to be with Brown, Basildon (last recorded with Richards, Guist, Norfolk).

Legal lettering in window says Sunray Coaches of Epsom; haven't been close enough to check operator's disc

F122TRU Mercedes Benz / Reeve Burgess was at 'Safestore', Basildon on 5.5.05 - owner unknown - last recorded with Ceefa Coaches, Crays Hill

ILZ 1566 (ex G381 JBD) LAG Panoramic was at 'Safestore', Basildon on 5.5.05 - lettered for 'RS Travel Services, Witham', but may not be theirs now - did not appear to be in use.

ESSEX - Non-PSV Operators

NBZ 8509 (ex A878 SKL, KCT 415, A261 BTY) DAF/Plaxton seen 12.4.05 outside the premises of Convoy Commercial, Rawreth with the name 'Pegasus'. Last report we

have found is of it with Woodland Centre Trust, E6.

J129KPO Renault / Wadham Stringer found at 287 Point Clear Road, Point Clear (4.05) (was new to London Borough of Greenwich) - probably in use as a van rather than a bus.

N122AKM Ford Transit Variety Club Sunshine Coach presented by The Tompkins Foundation to Woodacre School, Erriff Drive, South Ockendon'

Felsted School, Felsted

EX53 USE Ford Transit seen 5.05

The King Edmund School, Rochford

HF51 CPU Fiat Ducato Maxi / Fiat-Red Kite (seen 6.05)

The Salvation Army, Hadleigh

M720 WAR LDV Sherpa 400 with lift (seen 6.05)

A look at the Woodham Ferrers Birkett Hall yard recently revealed that P&M Coaches Bedford YNT/Plaxton TEC 956Y was still there and Youngs Volvo B10M/Duple 342 FRH (A501 OKH) was still there, although 342 FRH was back in use with Youngs by late June. Neither of these have moved for some time. Also still there was former Browns of Basildon, Volvo M10M/Plaxton JBW 68Y with panels, lights etc. missing. Ownership of these 3 vehicles is open to question.

Also there (although no longer recorded in the PSV section) was ABM 471A (ex LUA 247V) Volvo B58 / Plaxton (another former P&M vehicle) which has been in that yard for several years and at one time appeared to be in the process of renovation with new panels.

A correction is required to our report in EBN 472/22 regarding the demise of the 'Boon's' name. Scania/Irizar N820DKU which is currently with Le-Blond of Hemel Hempstead, Herts. still carries the Boon's name on each side (but not the rear) (seen 4.05). The driver explained that it is painted on and the whole vehicle will have to be repainted if the name is removed.

*Thanks to Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold,
PSV Circle, Geoff Clarkson (Crusader Holidays),
Paul Smith, Chris Stewart, John Podgorski,
Lyn Watson (Excel and Stephenson's)*

The Essex Bus ~ in print

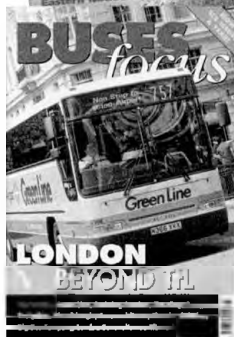


In **Bus & Coach Preservation Vol.8; No.2** - July (Ian Allan, £3.50), John Lidstone profiles newly-restored Southend open-top Daimler 244, with rare photos of it in original service in Birmingham, and subsequently with Canvey, Westcliff, and SCT. Like John, I thought the 'transit'-style numbers looked too small, and this will apparently be rectified in due course. BCP 8/2 also has news of EN semi-auto FLF 2903 (WVX 530F), in a scrapyard at West Drayton. A desirable bus that awaits a fairy godmother ...



Vol.8; No.3 - August, contains a history of the First Essex 'heritage' VR 3072, again by John Lidstone, with help from Chris Stewart and Nick Field. Pictures show it in varied liveries, including 'flying marrow' (City 400) and EN Citybus.

John also provides a pictorial review of EN's VR's, with a selection of interesting shots, particularly of the former Scottish ones, and of VRs in wintry Southend.



Buses in Focus No.36 - July-August (Ian Allan £3.75) looks at the smaller London fleets. John profiles Blue Triangle of Rainham, whilst Steven Morris 'raises the blue Ensign'. Comprehensive 'behind-the-scenes' studies of two successful Essex bus companies.

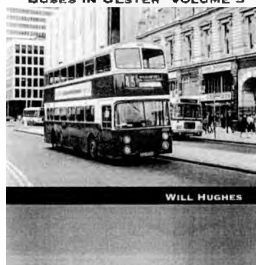
David Harman

Buses in Ulster: Citybus, Belfast's Buses 1973-1988

Colourpoint Books have now reached Volume 5 in their series on 'Buses in Ulster'. Entitled 'Citybus: Belfast's buses 1973-1988' (ISBN 1 898392 99 4), this covers a highly troubled period when Northern Ireland's bus operators fought to keep services as near normal as possible, despite the destruction of well over a thousand vehicles as a result of civil disorder (nor should it ever be forgotten that several platform staff also lost their lives). Having settled on the Bristol RE as the standard Belfast and urban Ulsterbus vehicle from 1975 onwards, it was not surprising that numerous NBC examples were bought by Citybus and Ulsterbus when MAP revisions made them redundant (sometimes prematurely) in the UK during the mid 1980s. Amongst them, 20 former Eastern National REs made the one-way journey to Northern Ireland, 16 of them to Belfast. Colour photos of repainted MHK915J (with four native Alexander-bodied examples behind) and unrepainted WNO538L being delivered (still showing Colchester on the blind) contrast with depressing monochrome pictures of the charred remains of WNO541L and also of WNO538L again - hijacked and destroyed whilst en route to Ardoyne depot following overhaul and repaint into fleet livery. It is perhaps unfortunate that EN is over-

Citybus

Belfast's buses 1973-1988
BUSES IN ULSTER VOLUME 5





EN 1530 (MHK 912J) passed to Citybus as 791 in February 1985 and was withdrawn in 1988 or 1989. It is seen at Ladybrook Crescent. *Arnold Richardson / Photobus*

represented in the images of burnt out buses, for the vast majority of the photos in this book show little sign of the daily mayhem which afflicted the Province. A further volume entitled 'Buses under Fire: NI buses during the Troubles' is promised for the Autumn, and will obviously not make easy reading, but here there are many other (mainly colour) images of Eastern Counties, United Counties and other NBC REs at work or at rest, a wide range of Alexander bodied examples and several of Bristol B21s - including Ipswich Buses liveried 151. Two of these ex-Ulster B21s are currently with Carters Coaches. From the other margins of Essex, there are many photos and much information about the numerous ex-LT/LC Merlins and Swifts bought during the 1977-80 period.

Further details of this book are on Colourpoint's website (www.colourpoint.co.uk) - it contains 176 pages, around 80 colour photos plus over 100 B&W and is priced at £18. Any profit goes to the Irish Transport Trust (of which the author, Will Hughes, is chairman) towards vehicle preservation. Incidentally Volume 3 in the same series covers Belfast 1926-1973 and includes the 100 ex London D class rebodied by Harkness, amongst them former Romford garage Green Line examples which worked the 721 to Brentwood and 722 to Upminster.

Eastern National Bristol RELs sold to Citybus (CB) and Ulsterbus (UB) 1985/6. All had been withdrawn by 1990, nearly all destroyed maliciously.

1524	KVX	570J	CB790	1539	PEV	501K	CB707	1549	WNO538L	CB714
1528	L VX	116J	UB788	1540	PEV	502K	CB709	1550	WNO539L	UB795
1530	MHK	912J	CB791	1541	PEV	503K	CB710	1551	WNO540L	UB796
1532	MHK	914J	UB789	1542	RPU	882K	CB711	1552	WNO541L	CB715
1533	MHK	915J	CB792	1544	RPU	884K	CB794	1553	WNO542L	CB717
1534	MHK	916J	CB793	1545	SVW	273K	CB712	1554	WNO543L	CB718
1536	OHK	226K	CB704	1547	SVW	275K	CB713			

Chris Stewart

EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiast's Guild

THE 'NATIONAL' COMPANIES ~ 75+ YEARS ON

It is of interest to note that neither Eastern, Western or Southern National were ever directly owned by Tilling. Ownership was through the holding company, National Omnibus and Transport Co. Ltd. As mentioned in **EBN489**, the three companies that bore the names are now under common management. It is a pity that the once respected and famous names have completely disappeared. Both Eastern and Western National Omnibus Co. Ltd. have been dissolved. Southern National survives as Northumbria Motor Services Ltd., since renamed Arriva Northumbria Ltd. Having been dormant for some years it was revived and renamed.

The three 'National' companies were as follows:

The Eastern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. [Company no.237553]

28 Feb 1929 incorporated
7 May 1993 dissolved

The Western National Omnibus Co. Ltd. [236066]

1 Jan 1929 incorporated
2 Dec 1997 dissolved

The Southern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. [237558]

28 Feb 1929 incorporated
4 Jul 1986 renamed Northumbria Motor Services Ltd.
2 Apr 1998 renamed Arriva Northumbria Ltd.

Also incorporated in 1929, were:

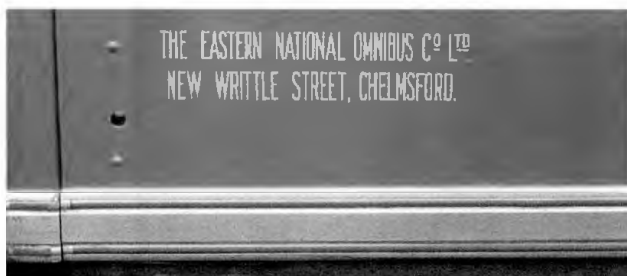
The Midland National Omnibus Co. Ltd. [237555]

28 Feb 1929 incorporated
by 1 Jan 1969 renamed Amalgamated Passenger Transport Ltd.
31 Dec 1980 renamed Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Traction Co. Ltd.
9 Feb 1987 renamed Countryside Tours Ltd.
10 Jul 1989 dissolved

The Northern National Omnibus Co. Ltd. [237556]

28 Feb 1929 incorporated
by 1969 dissolved

John Taylor



PCV HOLDER ?

⇒ Full and Part-Time Drivers required

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

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

If you're over 25 and have held a PCV licence for two years or more, we'd like to hear from you.

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.



⇒ Full and Part-Time PCV Fitters

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.



⇒ Rail Controllers/Customer Service Assistants

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact:

Stephensons: Bill Hiron 01702 541511

Excel: Graham Hayden 01279 681800

