

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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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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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.

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

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Cover: **Heddingham's** Wright Eclipse bodied Volvo was at the Southend Bus Rally on 5 June.
David Harman

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*

Summer Special:

- ▶ **Tuesday July 12:** open evening, meet for a gossip etc. A small screen slide show will be running continuously, looking at events in 2005. NB: this meeting will be held in the upstairs Committee Room, **not** the Pullman Suite.

Autumn 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!

RALLIES, OPEN DAYS

- ▶ **Saturday 25 June ~ Open Day at Stagecoach London's E15 Garage:** 10.30am - 5pm, Waterden Road, E15. Shuttle bus to/from Stratford Station. The planned open day at Metroliner's Holloway depot has unfortunately been cancelled.
- ▶▶▶ The North Weald Bus Rally on Sunday 26 June is **CANCELLED**.

From the Editor ...

EBN492 - corrections

cover - 46130 and 46131 are the last **Darts** in the Thamesway version of the 'Anglia' livery; several Mercedes remain in this livery.

EBN 494 - corrections

- p.7 - Southend Council financial support ceased for Sunday routes after Sunday **27th**, not 28th March.
- p.14 - 34301 was of course new to **Yorkshire Rider**, not Cambus.
- p.22 - NIBS Scania G603 KTX was at **Witham**, not Burnham.
- p.27 - the lower Primrose timetable was dated May **1931**, not 1939.

David Harman

Essex Publicity News

Recent items that have been published include :-

BAA Stansted have published a *Travel to and from Stansted* booklet dated January 2005, this is similar to the two 2004 editions.

Essex County Council - timetable leaflets for services 44 (15.3.05), 32 (17.1.05), 19 (1.11.04), 37 (13.12.04), 93 (17.1.05), 322 (2.6.03) and 332 (12.3.05) All are of the newer woman standing on bus variety.

Essex County Council, Chelmsford – *passport to Travel* booklet dated March 2005. Gives details of bus information, how to catch a bus, a route map and frequency guide.

Essex County Council timetable booklet for A414 long term maintenance scheme starting 11.4.05. is available. This give details of revised services in the Danbury area, as a result of the closure of the A414.

Essex County Council timetable books for South Essex (dated 20.2.05) – apologies for missing this one. More recent editions are West and North West Essex dated 17.4.05; North East Essex dated 24.4.05; South East Essex and Southend dated 22.5.05 and South Essex dated 22.5.05. A new Central Essex book is also due. The latest timetables have themed cover pictures, replacing the old clock and town names style used for some years. Issued so far are: *South Essex*: gent holding flower (caption: "Would like to meet ..."); *South East Essex and Southend*: dozing rail commuter (caption: "Sweet dreams"). The contents appear to be unchanged.

- If you would like to join the Subscription Scheme and have all ECC timetable books mailed to you as soon as they are published, contact Derek Stebbing (address on page 2) for information, or visit www.essexbus.org.uk

Gatwick Flyer - twice folded leaflet for services to Gatwick from East London, Dartford and South Essex dated 1.5.05 to 31.10.05

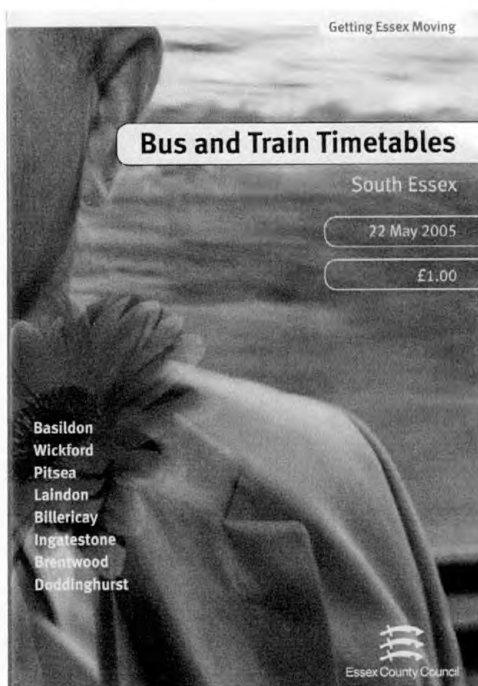
Hedingham - timetable booklet for 'North Essex/South Suffolk dated 1.3.05.

Hedingham - double sided leaflet for new Colchester service 3.

Imperial - timetable: green leaflet for service 320 (Tilbury-Lakeside) undated (but is 7.3.05)

National Express leaflets for :-

Stansted to and from London journey planner (A6, A7, A9) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06
Stansted to and from Heathrow /Gatwick (717.727,797) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06



Luton/Heathrow/Gatwick to and from Northampton/Milton Keynes/

Luton/Hemel Hempstead (707,787) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06

Cambridge to and from Luton, Stansted, Heathrow, Gatwick (717,787.797) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06

Norwich to Heathrow, Stansted, Gatwick (727) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06

Brighton to Gatwick, Heathrow (747) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06

London to/from Colchester, Clacton, Walton, Ipswich, Felixstowe (481/484) dated 7.3.05 to 5.3.06

Network Colchester - new timetable booklet dated 25.4.05.

Olympian Coaches - timetable leaflet in black print on white for Harlow Town Bus Services R7/8, R2/R3, R1/R11/R21 and Lakeside Express 600 dated 12.1.05. A revised timetable and farechart for Service 524 dated 2.2.05 is also available.

Stephensons - X1/X2/X10 leaflet dated February 2005.

Suffolk County Council publish seven timetable books and some of these stretch into Essex. The latest set was dated 20.12.04 (Edition 16) A route map dated 1.11.03 is also available.

Thurrock Council have replaced their book with new-style leaflets which are glossy twice-folded. The full set is thought to consist of 40A (14.9.04), 98 (10.1.05), 100 (6.9.04), 364 (14.9.04), 374 (6.9.04), 380 (1.9.04) and 389 (1.9.04)

Ian Ransom

With many thanks to Ian Taylor



Wrights' solution to producing a DDA-compliant, wheelchair accessible "coach" is this Eclipse Commuter body on Volvo B7RLE chassis. The only one built so far is now registered **BP54WYH**. It is seen here in the layover area at Stansted airport on May 14, on demonstration loan to **National Express** for the Stansted to London services.

Richard Delahoy

FIRST ESSEX

New & Cascaded Vehicles

According to the First Essex timetables on the Consortium of Selective Schools in Essex website (www.csse.org.uk), routes 506/507 (South Woodham-Chelmsford) and 525 (Chelmsford-Colchester) are to be operated by new dedicated First Student yellow school buses with effect from September 2005. Official confirmation of this and further details were still awaited at the time of writing.

With reference to EBN489/490, Darts 42485-7 are registered WMM/X/E, hence 42482-7 are SN03WLD/K/W, WMM/X/E. Apologies for the continued confusion over these.

Allocation changes

period 24 Apr to 22 May 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

34810 CR-FGC; 31456 FGC-RES; 31462 FGC-RES; 61054 FGC-RES;
61057 FGC-RES; 62523 D/L(D)-sold; 62529 D/L(D)-sold

Disposals:

3.05 20069 to Hardwick (dealer), Carlton for scrap (disposal dates for 62523/9 given in EBN 493 are believed to be correct, although conflicting with the allocation list).

Repaints:

5.05 67004 67005 67006 67007 all to standard group livery

Other vehicle news:

Volvo Olympians 34302/8/9/15 all now have new Brightech (orange) electronic blind displays, with side and rear display boxes normally used for numbers. 34302 at least has 'one' programmed in the rear box for rail replacements.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

65652 has not been seen since suffering accident damage in March 2005, and the resulting shortage of low floors at CR has led to many appearances of step entrance vehicles on 'low floor' routes. Route 66 continues to see 47101-6, although it should be s that the 61, 64/A, 66 are not yet Quality Bus Partnerships.

Scheduled rail replacements from Shenfield to Chelmsford came to an end on Monday 30th May. Braintree drivers have had regular duties on these, albeit using Chelmsford-allocated Olympians; over the last weekend, however, 34817 (a one time BE vehicle) was actually kept at BE over the weekend.



Substitutions for the Plaxton Cheetahs used on First's Stansted X30 service continue from time to time, such as Solo 53137, E002NFX, seen here on layover in Southend on May 21. This was the first time that the photographer had seen one with the route details programmed into the dot matrix display. *Richard Delahoy*

47252 (M450 VWW) put in a guest appearance on the 1602 D1Amond service ex-Southend on May 20. It was caught, 20 minutes down, at Victoria Circus. *John G.Lidstone*



Unusual sightings:

May:

- 3rd CR34018 (77/78 branded) on 193, CR34309 on 61, CR47102 on 64A.
- 4th CR43740 on 64, CR47106 on 71.
- 5th 51808 on 103 (officially still allocated to BE).
- 5th CF43732 (Diamond branded) on 42
- 8th CR34304 on 70, CR67006 on 61.
- 9th CR47102 on 65, CR47105 on 70 (0800 CR-BE) CR67005 on 64A.
- 10th CR46829 on 71 (0800 CR-CF), CR47101 on 70 (0800 CR-BE), CR47104 on 64A
- 12th CR20110 on 88 (and 13th), CR34014 on 70, CR47101 on 61, CF47219 on 352, CF56008 on 43.
- 13th CR47104 on 64A.
- 16th CR34013 (77/78 branded) on 193, DT46802 on 103, CR47101 on 61, CR47105 on 64A.
- 17th CR34307 on 64, CF34807 on 352, CF43732 on 36, BE46816 on 48, CR46830 on 61.
- 18th CR47105 on 64A.
- 19th CR47102 on 71, CR47104 on 64A, DT46802 on 103, CR56003 on 77.
- 20th CR34307 on 64A, CN46122 on 1700 76/75 and rtn (normally Lance), CF47252 on Diamond, CR67003 on 65, CR67006 on X22.
- 21st CF53137 on X30.
- 25th CR20102 on short Marks Tey 70.
- 26th CF34818 on 352, BE46808 on 36X, CF47220/7/8 all on 72.
- 27th HH41005 on 20.
- 29th CF53112 on X30.

June

- 3rd CF53114 on X30 (with LED display programmed)

Big Cats near extinction

Lynx 62521/2 made a number of appearances on the 351 and 551 during May. Sightings on the 351 include 9th (62521), 13th, Saturday 14th and Monday 16th (all 62522), whilst both were on the 551 on 11th and 17th May. On 23rd, 62522 made an appearance on the 100 (13.00 from Chelmsford) whilst regular use on the Brentwood 81/82 and 860 diagram continued until about 25th May.

Former Depot News

- BE: Detailed planning permission has now been granted for redevelopment of the old Fairfield Road site.
- CF: Demolition of the boundary wall across the front of the site began on 31st May.

First Essex report EBN494

Sources: Own observations, plus many thanks to *First Essex* and to R Appleton, A Bird, J Clayton, R Delahoy, M Farmer, N Field, I Hardie, A Kelleher, J Lidstone, J Podgorski, J Salmon, C Sigston, S Simister, A Spindler, D Stewart, A Toms, N Turner, R Whitley, *Essex Bus and South West* y-groups, *Real Bus News* group, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart



The Thamesway "sash" livery is gradually disappearing..
above: 46118 (M918 TEV) pauses at the rustic bus shelter in Ingatestone High Street.

Chris Stewart

below: 46172 (N972 CPU), the last survivor with Premier 100 vinyls (albeit with "100" removed), was at Brentwood Station on 20 May. Adam Kelleher



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LIMITED

Vehicles out

3334 (L124 YVK): Arriva the Shires (Stevenage) 3334 5/05

3440 (R170 GNW): Arriva the Shires (Hatfield) 3440 4/05

Subsequent histories

2125 (N195 NMJ): gone from Arriva the Shires (BD) 4/05

2137 (N917 ETM): Brijan Tours, Bishops Waltham (HA) 77 by 2/05
ex Timeline, Bolton.

2331 (K711 FNO ex K810 JKH): RS Autos, Haynes (Q) by 12/04
ex Cedar, Bedford.

3098 (H245 MUK), 3376 (M266 VPU): ASM, Aylesbury (breaker) 5/05

General

The "ZIP" service to Milwards in Harlow operated by Mercedes People Carrier 1257 (T557 UOX) is to be withdrawn after service on 9 July.

Although a peripheral matter, Ware depot is scheduled to gain the Welwyn Garden City local services upon the closure of the ex Sovereign depot at Hatfield inherited by Arriva earlier this year.

Leyland Olympian 5843 (D242 FYM), although technically still in stock, was, in early June, in store at Arriva's Stevenage premises.

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicles in

5092 (F642 LMJ) Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ Alexander RL H47/32F

Vehicles out

5443 (W443 XKX) Dennis Trident/Alexander.

This, the last remaining Trident in the Arriva Southend fleet left Southend on 10th May as expected. It last operated in service on the morning of 10th May.

Varios 1191-3 are due to be withdrawn imminently, a result of the April revisions and a change in the way in which the engineering spare requirement is calculated. This leaves 1188 as the only Vario allocated - for the 6A and 10.

Fleet Renumberings

Whilst the fleet was renumbered on paper from 29 April, it has taken some time for the new numbers to appear on vehicles. On 13th May Paul Brain noticed at the least the following had been renumbered. Varios 1191, 1192, 1193, Darts 3007, 3008, 3124 and Leyland Olympian 5807.

Meanwhile, it has been confirmed that Leyland Olympian 5829, which was expected to be renumbered to 5883 to be in sequence with the other ex-Oxford Olympians, will now keep 5829 as its permanent fleetnumber.

Unusual Workings

May 19th 1192 on 1 and 1193 on 7

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Paul Brain.

Vehicle workings

The 5 is generally Vario operated now that average loadings have been established. The appearances of Dart SLFs on the 2 and 8 in the daytime have almost ceased.

Unusual Workings

May 5th 310 (8 branded) on 5

9th 352 on 5

11th 374 on 2

13th 360 on 5

19th 360 on a.m 2B

25th 337 on a.m schools 9 instead of the usual Lynx; 360 on 2.

31st 360 on 2

Vehicle News

Stored Burtons Tiger/Derwents G234/5 BRT were removed on 11 May.

D10M/ Ar (G620 OTV) has likewise gone, having been at Colchester for repairs since February. Stephenson's B10M/Pn (N144 ARC) was spotted at the depot on 13th May.

Burton's Javelin/Pn T13 VCC, T160/2 SBJ which were stored at Colchester in late 2004/early 2005 have gone to Ventura (dealer/lessor), Lingfield for resale.

DAF SB/Ikarus J56 GCX was moved into the workshop over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend, so could be due to re enter service. Between January and April of this year this vehicle had been on loan to Burtons.

Other news

Burton Coaches parent, Tellings Golden Miller Group plc, announced plans on 1 June to dispose of its London Bus Division to National Express.

*Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski
David Harman*



With no prospect of financial support from the Council, **Southend** open top route 67/Southend Tour will not operate this year. It has not been commercially viable for a long while, being tendered by Essex County Council as far back as 1988.

The operation of seasonal summer services along the seafront is thought to have first begun in 1921. Since 1937 (with the exception of the war years), open-toppers have generally been used - a fine tradition. As a fitting farewell, Stephensons worked a special service on the day of the Southend Bus Rally, June 5. This was numbered 68, (the original co-ordination scheme number), and used Olympian JFR 4W. Full report and pictures next month.

The **Colchester Tour** (operated by Talisman Coachlines) continues to run this year, and slightly further afield, new City Sightseeing Tours begin in Great Yarmouth, Newport (Mon) and ... Singapore.

David Harman; acknowledgments to Richard Delahoy

Hedingham

L340, the new Volvo/Wright bus was delivered in mid-May. It has now been registered EU05 CLJ and is in a new style Hedingham red/cream livery.

Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston.



L339 (EU05 AUR) One of the two new Darts, seen on the 3 at Colchester Bus Station on 22 April. *Roger Tuke*

Essex Small Operator News

5 STAR TRAINING, Basildon Is in common ownership with FST Coaches. Here and mainly used for training are SAZ 2350 (TOB614Y) a Bedford YMT/Plaxton and WVM 101S a Ford R1114/Plaxton.

10.8.4, Saffron Walden Yes that really is the fleet name, with Volvo B10M/Plaxton MJI 8660 (B542 BMH) being the only vehicle owned.

A1 TRAVEL, Harlow Ford Transit L830 MJN has been acquired from Chariots, Stanford-le-Hope.

ABACUS COACHES, Crays Hill Van Hool T815 775 HOD (previous identity unknown) has been sold. Acquired is a somewhat smaller Freight Rover Sherpa/Carlyle E970 SVP from Mikes, Basildon.

ALEC LEONARD, Basildon Acquired from FST Coaches Basildon is HUT 3584 (D390 XCD) a LAG Panoramic.

AOG SERVICE, Southend DAF 400 L781 RRP has been sold.

AVRO, Orsett USU 677 (FGD 400X) a Bedford YNT/Duple has been sold.

BJS, Gt Woking The last coach is now reported as gone BAZ 7360 (G860 RNC) a Volvo B10M/ Van Hool. Only two Mercedes minibuses are currently recorded here.

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow DAF 400 L949 HBH has been sold

BRIANS, Maylandsea Mercedes Benz L207D E61 ANO has been sold.

BROMLEY PRIVATE HIRE, Elmstead Market Renault Trafic F354 SRK has been sold. LDV Convoy Y149 KNF has been acquired.

CAROUSEL, Harlow Ford Transit EY03 VNP has not been sold.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe N972 EUG Bova Futura is in (by 5.05) ex Godson, Crossgates, WestYorkshire. Similar, TJI 6306 (ex 327 RFC, G419 WFP) has gone by 5.05.

Volvo B10M/Jonckhree FSK 868 (ex K908 RGE) no longer has a toilet. We are not sure if it is now C53F or C57F

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS, Chelmsford LDV Convoy BX53 ZGO has not been

seen for some time and may well have gone. It is thought that it is a LDV demonstrator.

CLINTONA, Brentwood On short term loan for use on service 36D (Chelmsford -South Woodham Ferrers via Sandon) are L885 SDY and M889 ECD Mercedes Benz 709D/ Alexander Belfast. Iveco/ Mellor P586 HME and P772 VVL have been sold.

COOK, Southend Bova Futura N75 WSB was in the yard of Phillips, South Woodham Ferrers on 5.5.05 and 6.5.05 - not sure if purchased or just visiting.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood In answer to a query regarding notes on Bristol VR's. The notes on BHJ 370S are reasonably old, but have only just been reported, while the notes on CJH 121V are recent.

CS TRAVEL, Colchester Ford Transit S153 NPO has been sold.

DON, Gt Dunmow Recently acquired is Neoplan YR02 UOG.

EAGLES TRAVEL, Harlow The only



Clintona's smartly-turned out Vario SF04 HXL on the Blackmore 261 at Wilson's Corner, Brentwood on 27 May. *Chris Stewart*

vehicles operated here, Citroen C25D G851 LHE and DAF 400 G941 AAY have been sold.

EASIBUS, Benfleet LDV 400 M724 BRV has been sold, it is replaced by Renault Master R863 XDA.

ENIGMA TRAVEL, Colchester Recently acquired is DAF MB2300/Plaxton KCZ 4754 (A958 SYB).

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Offered for sale on ebay are J111/555 SAS Scania/Van Hools (or Vanhall on the web site!)

FARGO, Rayne Not previously reported here, is that Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs KCK 202W has gone, as has Northern Counties bodied ANA 601Y. Former Eastern National Leyland Olympian/ECW coach B689 BPU has been sold, following fire damage. All Leyland Olympian F802 HGU, Mercedes Benz L608D/Reeve Burgess B423 CMC, Mercedes Benz L508D/Smith C238 HNO and LDV Convoys S267 RBC, T487 OAY left the fleet some while ago. Volvo Citybus/Northern Counties G642 BPH has arrived from Arriva Medway Towns. Further recent arrivals are Leyland Olympian/ECW A512 EJP and A563 KQY, while acquired some while ago, but only just reported are Ford Transit N105 BPU and S361 SNO ex Chelmsford Taxibus and LDV Convoy's Y533 PBD and X679 ABN from private owners.

Another new LDV Convoy is EU03 VPN.

Finally, YN04 GOE is a new Scania K124/Irizar, that arrived last July.

FORD, Althorne Long term withdrawn Bristol VR/ECW SRP 816N has gone for scrap. An unidentified PRG —] Fleetline is still here and is in use as a store. C810 BYY, Leyland Olympian / ECW is in (by 4.05) ex Sanders, Holt, Norfolk

FUN4UBUS, Tiptree P360 AKG is a small vehicle (probably a Mazda) using a disc

GALE MOTORS, Harlow A recent addition is a Duple 425, 278 EPX (new

as C207 HSD) from Auty & Maynard, Rushden.

GARDNER, Boreham LAG Panoramic E572 JHJ, which was acquired for spares, has been sold for scrap.

GBN ASSOCIATES, Pitsea Recently arrived is Ford Transit W486 ROT. Transits sold are R87 FUB, R875 CGX, and W634 XOE.

GRAHAMS, Kelvedon Ford Transit E786 MEU has been sold.

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford Recent arrivals are LDV Convoy EY54 DHL/K/M/N, EU54 ANF/P, they are numbered 64-69. Ford Transit ET53 VJB has been sold, while similar ET53 VJC has been withdrawn.

HAILSTONE TRAVEL, Basildon Mercedes 814D/Plaxton L732 FRX has been sold.

HARDY MILES, Southend Mercedes Benz 308D/Pilcher Greene G659 WHV has been acquired from Ronda Coaches, Rochford. Ford Transit P851 HMG has been sold.

HARROD, Linford Acquired from Barrys Buses, East Tilbury is LDV 400 L329 BKM.

KNIGHTS, Tiptree Fiat Ducato/Crystals F913 FWA and Ford Transit H138 XMA have been sold. Acquired is Ford Transit N823 DAR.

LANE, Shoeburyness Ford Transit G583 UYL has been sold.

LATTIMER, Thundersley Mercedes Benz Vito PJL 13 has been sold.

LCB TRAVEL, Thornwood Common Mercedes Benz 413 X734 AVU has been acquired from AJS Minibus Hire, Harlow.

LINKFAST, Thundersley Bristol VR/ECW SNV 930W has been sold. Leyland Olympian/ECW ARP 605X has been acquired. Good to see one ex United Counties vehicle replaced by another!

LODGE, High Easter Vehicles sold are Dennis Javelin/Neoplan T484 RFS, Mercedes Benz 811D/Mellor M759 PVM and Toyota/Caetano M121 SKY. Acquired from leons, Stafford is Scania

- L94/Irizar T200 LCT. New is Mercedes 1836 RL BX 54 ECC, it replaces similar BU53 AYB and SF04 HXK.
- MALCOLMS BUS SERVICES, Clacton** Former Essex Buses Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton K640 GVX has been on loan from Talisman, Gt Bromley for use on Service 555 (Clacton-Jaywick).
- MANNS, Basildon** Ford Transit S18 MJM has been sold.
- MARINA CARS, Chelmsford** This new operator has LDV Convoy M642 MBC.
- MASTER TRAVEL, East Horndon** P80 ASH a Scania K113/Irizar, previously reported as sold, is in fact still here. Also here is Leyland Leopard/Plaxton Paramount (rebodied from a Willowbrook) Q553 UOC.
- MCINTYRE, Harlow** Ford Transit M675 BLX is here.
- MCS, Chadwell St Mary** Leyland Tiger/Plaxton FKK 838Y has been sold.
- MELS MINIBUSES, Horndon-on-the-Hill** LDV 400 L573 HVS and Ford Transit P197 PVX have been sold.
- MILTON, Grays** Ford Transit L910 TGP has been sold.
- MJR, Benfleet** Disposals not previously recorded are F578 PLF a Ford Transit, G145 GOL an Iveco/Carlyle and G40 OHS a Ford Transit/Dormobile
- NCS, Saffron Walden** A clear out of withdrawn stock, has seen the following departures XIL 2206 (D986 OSU) a Mercedes Benz 609D/Scott; Mercedes Benz 811D/Phoenix G205 YDL Ford Transit's E666 FTW, F768 KVVW, G621 UKR, H371 OTX; Iveco 49-10/Carlyle E79 HVX; Freight Rover Sherpas F260 ACX, F313 NPF; DAF 400 J847 KNL, M807 LYL; LDV 400 L724 PAV; LDV 200 M515 GAV, N601 AVX; LDV Convoy M474 OVM and Renault Trafic's H429 PNO, J776 BJN, K841 JVX, K42 JWC, M761 AVW. Ford Transit G378 BEV has been re-registered G188 FWC.
- NELSONS, Wickford** Bristol VR/ECW NDL 652R is on loan to Excel, Stansted Airport.
- S722 KNV suffered gearbox problems and was to be returned to its owners (c15.5.05). P942 EMS Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander arrived as a replacement (c13.5.05)
- NEW HORIZON, Alresford** VW minibus T498 LHK is reported as sold.
- NIKITAS TAXIBUS, Wickford** Two Ford Transits are operated SB03 WCT and MV05 YFD, although both are currently on taxi plates.
- OLYMPIAN, Harlow** The remains of G118 PGT a Mercedes Benz 811D/Alexander have been sold for scrap. Two recent additions are K801 DCF a MAN 11.190/Optare and Dennis Dart/Plaxton K714 KGU. Iveco/Marshall M153 RBH previously reported as gone, is still here. Mercedes Benz 308D P546 MSF is also here.
- PDQ, Colchester** Ford Transit AV04 XJY is a recent arrival (although Non-PSV). Vehicles sold are M203 AHJ a Bedford Midi, N205 DME a LDV 400 and Ford Transit P249 UTM.
- PEGASUS, Point Clear** Ford Transit EF51 AXA has been sold.
- PETER GODWARD COACHES, Basildon** Rare Quest/Jonckhree D327 VVV, has been re-registered, but it's new identity is unknown. Vehicles sold are D403 TFT a Mercedes 709D/Reeve Burgess, Iveco/Beulas S1 WDA, DAF 400 minibuses K610 MOR and K824 YOK and Mercedes 614D/Crest T416 BGU. The recently arrived Scania/Irizar is confirmed as YN54 AKZ.
- Iveco/Beulas R4 DWA and Y10 PGC are in Southern Holidays livery.
- Peter Godward are now operating services on behalf of National Express
- PJ COURIERS, Corringham** Renault Master J306 GRV is here. Ford Transit T765 RNO has been sold.
- P&M, Wickford** DAF 400/Steedrive G267 VJR has been sold. Volvo B10M/Van Hool T9 TGM has been acquired from the TGM group.
- RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate** Van Hool T815 G104 CJN has been sold
- RAYNHAM, Newport** LDV Convoy P705 MEW has been acquired. J338 VSC an Iveco 49.10/AMC has been sold.

RAYS TRAVEL, Shotgate FDZ 792 (ex A541 WSU, 851 GWL, A590 XRP) a Volvo B10M/Jonckhree was in the Mills Court yard of Godward. on 5.5.05. Not known if this is a change of operating centre, or if the vehicle has been sold.

REGAL, Cooksmill Green Optare Solo MX03 YDF was only here on loan while Darts YN04 PZY/Z were re-seated. It has now left the fleet.

RICHARDS, Galleywood Mercedes Benz 609D/Cunliffe L885 MWB has been sold.

RONDA COACHES, Rochford Vehicles sold are Ford Transits UKK 419X and G437 VFE, Renault Master C957 LVW, Mercedes Benz 308D/Pilcher Greene G659 WHV and Talbot Express K451 TKR. Vehicles acquired are K114 PLP a Mercedes Benz 609D/Devon Conversions and P135 KOJ an LDV Convoy.

RS TRAVEL, Cressing Have sold N737 FKX a LDV 400.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham MCW

Metrobus B82 WUL was sold some time ago.

SEYMOUR, Moreton Mazda E2200 G635 MYC has been sold.

SJH TRAVEL, Crays Hill Volvo B10M/Plaxton C266 BMS has been sold.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS, Southend A clear out of old stock, has seen the following sold B55 XHJ a Toyota Hiace; Ford Transits D912 PKY, E719 BNO, E844 FPC, F675 TFA, G707 YMG; Fiat Ducato D826 VEV; Freight Rover F373 CAW; Renault Trafic G168 BBX, G382 RVU and Mazda E2200 J478 YTW.

SS CABS, Tiptree Ford Transit SS51 SYD is here (although Non-PSV).

STANS, Gt Totham Mercedes Benz 0814D/Eurocoach X687 EJE has been sold.

STANSTED HOTEL SPRINTER, Stansted Have recently commenced operations with the following Dennis Javelin/Neoplan M904 OVR, MAN 13.220/Marco Polo T180 SUT, Mercedes Benz 310D minibuses S609 BVE, V626



Stansted Transit ex-Go North East National 2 FTN 709W, still in GNE red/blue at Wilson's Corner, Brentwood in May. Route number 1429! *Chris Stewart*



A547 RCA, a Bedford YMP /Plaxtion in the **Tony Glew** fleet, was new to Bostocks of Congleton. *Trevor Brookes*

EWf and Mercedes Benz 413 Cdi minibuses W7 ART (W696 KFE), W887 COJ

STANWAY TRAVEL SERVICES, Colchester Mazda E2200/Howletts P71 BJU has been sold. Ford Transit Y131 RAR has arrived from PDQ, Colchester, with similar EF52 ANX arriving from Chelmsford Taxibus. A new Ford Transit KX54 EDL arrived last September.

STEPHENSONS, Rochford Leyland Olympian/ECW open top JFR 4W was noted in Witham on 30th April, being used as a campaign bus by the local Labour candidate

SWIFT CARS, Chelmsford New vehicles not previously reported are Volkswagen LT35 GX54 FTT/U.

SWT, South Woodham Ferrers LDV 400 N484 UJH is at the operating centre, with it's registration removed. It's not known if it's withdrawn, or waiting a new registration.

TONY GLEW, Great Tey Acquired from

Ward, Alresford is SIB 9025 (D802 ALR) a Bedford YMP/Plaxton. E976 WDS a Mercedes 811D/North West Coach Sales, is being used as a store.

TURNERS TOURS, Wickham St Paul Vehicles sold recently are Dennis Javelin/Neoplan N582 AWJ and Scania K124/Irizar T372 JWA. Acquired from Lawson & Watson, Dover is Renault Master/Cymric Y507 CCY. A Dennis Javelin / Berkhof is in (by 5.05) ex Grey, Witchford, Cambs. This is thought to be ESU 350 (ex G18 ELY, ESU 308)

Ian Ranson

Thanks are due to Dave Arnold, Ray Palmer and Roger Smith Colin Sigston, Chris Stewart and the PSV Circle

LATEST DEALER MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN from

Arriva London: L46/56/65/143/147/150/161/185//192/257/258
Arriva Southern Counties: Volvo D10M G642BPH Dart J310WHJ
Arriva TOLST: M530/82
Go-Ahead London: RML2736 2502 2644 2654 2535 2376
 LDP33 NV44-6/50/8/78/125/172
Metroline: Metrobus B875 DOM M1042/1197/1250
RedRoutes Buses: Dart L109HHV
Western Grayhound: Olympians F633/8LMJ

VEHICLES OUT

Volvo B10M's B864/70/1/2XYR: **A and P Travel**, Ely, Cambs
 Olympian A632WDT: **ACE Travel**, Liverpool.
 RML2535, 2736: **Amber-Lee**, Strood, Kent for PCV use.
 RML2391: **Mr Mark Allin**, Northampton.
 Dominator VVN203Y: **Bristol VRT APT811W**:
Mr Riccardo Augonio, Rome, Italy.
 RM2151: **Awaydays Travel Ltd**, Holt, Norfolk. This bus is actually still owned by Ensignbus but is to be restored in LT livery and used by Awaydays on a heritage service for the North Norfolk Railway.
 Olympians F633/8LMJ: **Barfordian Travel**, Bedford.
 RML2653: **Mr P Bertola**, Rome, Italy.
 RML2595: **Mr Hannes Boek**, Linz, Austria.
 RML2748: **Mr Michael Bogron**, Sweden.
 RML2685: **Mr Dick Bole**, Dover, Kent.
 T67/860 (Ex-City Sightseeing 282/354)
Brean and Berrow, Somerset.
 RM1666 **Mr & Mrs Brammall**, Cumbria
 Dart L109HHV **Carousel Buses**, High Wycombe, Bucks
 RML2726: **CHI Advertising Ltd**, London. (to be converted into mobile demo unit for Argos shops)
 RM436: **Mr Lawrence Clifford**, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.
 Lynx F80SMC: **Coastbusters**, Ashford, Kent.
 RML2476: **CP Holdings**, Luton. (to be used as a mobile exhibition unit in Budapest, Hungary).
 RM1822: **Mr Carl English**, Dover, Kent.
 Volvo Olympians N117/21UHP: **FirstGroup Plc**.
 RML2510: **Mr Erich Geigesburger**, Augsburg, Germany
 RM994: **Ms Laura Henderson**, t/a The Melting Pot, Portsmouth.
 RML2658: **Mr Paul Hobbs**, Lymington, Hants.
 L58/150: **Ipswich Buses**.
 RML2718: **Mr Ishiguro**, Toyohashi, Japan.
 Olympians C649/60LJR, Volvo B6 L408GCD:
Jeffs Coaches, Northants.
 RML2351: **Mr Jon Kalstrud**, Moss, Norway.
 RML2464: **Master Exhibitions**, London. (for use as a mobile

exhibition unit for Bank of Scotland.)
 RM1082 **Mr. Tim McAndrews**, London
 Metrobuses A700UOE POG524Y M1303 M1406:
McKindless, Wishaw.
 RML2294: **St Michaels Inc**, Long Beach, California.
 NV58 NV172: **Mullaney's Coaches**, Watford.
 RML2617: **Mr Colin Packham**, Braintree, Essex.
 M202/667/680: **PVS** for scrap.
 Volvo B6 M425PVN: **Red Route Buses**, Northfleet.
 M121 M314: **San Francisco Tours**, California, USA.
 RML2608: **Mr Alexander Soissins**, Dijon, France.
 Volvo B6 L405GDC: **South Mimms Travel**, South Mimms, Herts
 LDP33 NV44/5/6/50: **Sullivan Buses**, South Mimms.
 RML2740: **Mr Paul Talbot-Jenkins**, Oakham, Lancs.
 Olympian E915KYR: **TM Travel**, Chesterfield.
 Volvo Olympians L485/6NTO: **Western Greyhound**, Newquay.

Of interest operationally open top Ayats 382 and half top Ayats 273 from Bath (but at Purfleet having just been certified) were used on emergency rail replacement between Shenfield and Chelmsford on Friday 27 May. This was the hottest May day for 50 years or so and the open tops proved very popular with the over-heating rail passengers!!

with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Sold for further service ...



Former Eastern National 1981 VR 3117 (XHK222X), seen with **ABus** of Bristol on 22 May. Livery: cream with maroon skirt. *Chris Stewart*

Southend Bus Rally ~ 5 June



Eastern National line-up: 3219 (VTH941T), 3086 (STW30W) in Hedngham livery as L255, 3072 (KOO790V) and 1407 (VNO859).



Framed by two Routemasters, the superb Ensignbus Cravens-bodied RT1431 (JXC 194) with Ross Newman at the wheel. Compare the raked rear profile and the 5-bay/7-bay construction, with Osborne's Weymann-bodied RT.



Osborne's of Tollesbury No.39 (LYR 997) an ex-London Transport RT they ran from 1965 until 1972.

The neat platform doors were fitted (by EN) at Canvey. Appropriately the bus is now kept at the Castle Point Bus Museum, and Southend was its first outing following restoration. It looked splendid.

pictures: David Harman





The classic lines of
1959 Eastern National
Bristol MW5G/ECW DP41F
480 (217 MHK).



A future classic? Heddingham's
L340 - Wright Eclipse-bodied
Volvo B7RLE, showing the
unusual livery treatment.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiast's Guild

Blind Spot:

Regarding the CN/DT destination blind shown in EBN 485 and Bob Palmer's query concerning "MILE END" in EBN 491, it may be worth pointing out that this terminal and "LAYER ROAD", also on the blind, were required for service 81 which was a football match days only route in Colchester. As some HD blinds also carried LAYER ROAD, it seems probable that any vehicles on layover in Colchester would be used for the service.

Nigel Turner

Preservation Notebook

Former Webbs of Galleywood ex-Lincoln RE UVL 873M (EBN493)

Many thanks to you all for the interest in No. 73 - www.lvvs.freemove.co.uk/uvl873m.htm has a bit more about its return to Lincoln, but is a little out of date.

Recent news includes its return to LVVS premises in the Spring. Much mechanical work has been carried out away from the Museum, which is of course not readily visible. The front panel has been repaired, and is ready for fitting, we have also acquired a replacement front windscreen from our friends at the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum, Lathalmond, and a replacement radiator from one of our members. However, during the mechanical work, a crack in the front nearside pillar was noticed, so much of the front end has been dismantled to get at this. In early May, no. 73 looked worse than it did when it went away! More recent work has included repairs to this, along with fibreglass repairs to the front and rear domes. Work still to do includes repairs to the floor (some sections were rotten due to rain ingress) and some seat frames are also rusted through.

A final word, 73 is not on public display at the LVVS - the rear yard and workshop are not generally open to the public except at special events. If you are in the area and want to see it, then drop me an e-mail and I will try to arrange this.

Jon Bigwood - kk69521@yahoo.co.uk

SOUTHEND BUS RALLY - JUNE 5 ~ ENSIGNBUS CRAVENS RT1431

Newly-restored RT1431 was at the Rally and then parked overnight at Arriva Southend, before returning to Purfleet on Monday. Unfortunately, between Sunday morning and Monday morning, someone decided to remove one of the brass dumb-iron plates. This is stamped with the number "RT1431" plus the chassis number (see picture of a similar plate from another RT).

This is **THEFT**, pure and simple. If an enthusiast was responsible, (and we sincerely hope this is not so), it does the enthusiast fraternity no good at all.

If any member knows the whereabouts of this item, or can provide any information, please contact.



Ensignbus, Juliette Close, Purfleet Industrial Park, Purfleet. Essex, RM15 4YF
01708 865656 / ross.newman@ensignbus.com

The last days of Braintree

~ an eyewitness account by Sue Burden

That regretful day -

Final day of operation - April 2nd 2005

"Save Our Depot" said a graffiti on the boarded window of the travel shop. That in itself could not be done, but people from the Canvey Island Bus Museum came to save a number of artefacts. They arrived in the Daimler open topper FOP 929 and a vintage lorry. Amongst the things they took were the large notice warning of the slope (a cheer went up when they got it detached from the wall) and an ancient grease gun machine from the pit - this looked as old as the garage. A couple of other preserved buses came and got the cameras clicking- Bristol RE 1516 (FWC 439H) which used to be based at Silver End (also a former Hicks depot, closed 1988) and VR 38790 (KOO 790V), which was twice based at Braintree - from around 1990-92 and then again a few years ago, being the last VR to be withdrawn by First Essex in March 2004. The Canvey Island people removed quite a lot of old signs, but unfortunately on a few of the others, the screws had seized solid and so they were impossible to remove. Some people showed interest in the company name sign on the pediment, but of course it would not have been practical or safe to remove it that day because of Darts on town services regularly passing underneath.

Apparently under the *First* sign is the *National Bus Company Eastern National* sign, with the double-N scrubbed off. Originally the "Hicks Bros" name was mounted in raised golden letters in the recess in the brickwork, but when Eastern National took over, they had their name placed in the recess instead, in raised gold letters. It is possible that these might still exist, hidden under the later signs- the Hicks lettering definitely doesn't.

I got a chance to look in some of the backrooms (with permission of course) and there I saw floor tiles and portions of roof

truss that were still blue - Hicks Bros had a livery of special "Hicks Blue" with yellow markings. I saw a thick wooden door at the far end of the workshop, that was a wartime blast door. One of the basements was converted into an air raid shelter in the War - however, the garage never got damaged by bombing. By mid-afternoon, the Canvey Island people had got all they could, and so FOP left the garage, and soon after that, the lorry. An end to what someone I was talking to called a "very sad day."

"Exodus" - 3rd of April 2005

At 7.45 on Sunday morning, the garage doors were open and the shed was alive with the drone of Darts ticking over. The first buses to leave were 46812 (L812 OPU), 46827 (N827 APU) and 46821 (L821 OPU). One of the "breadvans", 51808 (P408 HPU) went on each journey to ferry the drivers back from the new site. The Darts were moved, mostly three at a time, 12 in all. And so 46826 (N826 APU) became the last Dart to leave Braintree, a driver closing the shed doors behind it - one of the last few times that those great metal doors would be moved. Later that morning, preserved Bristol K VNO 859 would come to the garage to be photographed. Sadly I did not get to see it. The new "depot" is a tiny rail-ing-enclosed compound, with the portacabin that was once allocated to Maldon. One of Braintree's fitters will come in the mornings to help start up vehicles and do "running repairs".

The Day After

On the Monday and Tuesday Braintree's two fitters and a few other First staff members were there to clear a few more items from the shed, and on Wednesday the place was sealed. The workshop windows were boarded, a businesslike metal door replaced the original workshop door, and



Preserved KSW 1407 posed on the frontage of Braintree depot on 3 April 2005. Aside from the First facade and boarded-up windows, a scene that could have been captured at any time in the 1950s or early 1960s. *Chris Stewart*

large concrete boulders, of the sort used to keep travellers out, were placed around the forecourt and staff car park.

In the local papers, there has been nothing at all about the closure of the garage, despite all the changes for Braintree's bus users. Some First services now depart from the Bus Park in Victoria Street, with passengers here having to cram into one bus shelter - the waiting room is locked, although the last time I went in it, it smelt disgusting. The Bus Park is gradually being refurbished.

So, what next?

I believe demolition will take place around June. The County Council will not do an archaeological dig as there were never any Roman buildings on the site, and probably not any medieval ones, although the cottage with the scrapyards that once stood at the top of the site looked very old. One of

Braintree's fitters is actually the grandson of the scrapman. Although very sad, it will be interesting to see what lies beneath the floors - I have heard it suggested that the chassis of a 1920s bus is buried in the hard-standing under the workshop floor. One small consolation is that the three houses attached to the garage will probably be kept. The houses belonged to the Hicks family and not to the bus company, so when Hicks passed to Eastern National, the houses remained in separate ownership.

Dart departures, 3rd April

46812 (L812 OPU), 46827 (L827 OPU), 46821 (L821 OPU), 46828 (N828 APU), 46143 (M943 TEV), 46823 (N823 APU), and finally 47220 (M220 VWW), 46826 (N826 APU).

£10m FLATS BID AT BUS SITE

by ROGER BROWN

A £10 MILLION development is set to transform the site of the old bus garage in Braintree into flats and shops.

Portman Investment and Development Ltd, based in Welwyn Garden City, has submitted a full planning application to Braintree Council to demolish the Fairfield Road garage and build 42 flats and three shops.

The company wants to start work on the site in the summer and estimates that the development will take about a year to complete.

First buses sold the site in July 2003 to Portman for an undisclosed amount.

Barry Cole, company director, said the development would be in keeping with the surrounding buildings.

He said: "The flats will be affordable, mainly one and two bedroom apartments."

"We think the development will be good for the town and tidy up the appearance of the road."

We will also be providing three new shops and the development is going to join up the gap between shops where the bus garage currently stands."



All change – old bus garage at Fairfield Road

The Fairfield Road garage has been used as the base for services operating in Braintree since 1985 when bus services were deregulated.

Before then, services operated out of the old Victoria Street bus park.

In December 2004 Braintree Council's area committee looked at a feasibility study recommending that a redeveloped £1 million Victoria Street bus park become the site of the new Braintree bus station.

The redevelopment would include the creation of a new island layout of bus platforms with shelters, waiting facilities and better disabled access.

Sue Burdon enquired of the Department of Culture, Media & Sport, whether Braintree Bus Depot would be included in the list of "Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest". Perhaps unsurprisingly, the reply indicated that

English Heritage had recommended against 'listing'.

However, the Inspector's report contained some interesting comments:

HISTORY: The first part of the depot was built in 1922 by a Mr. Hicks on land which belonged to a mid-C19 house [still standing and which Ernest Hicks took as his own house] and which had previously been the site of a shoe factory. In 1926 the depot extended north to include a forecourt with a facade in dark brick with Portland stone dressings and a travel office, waiting room and barbershop. Further extensions included houses for the chief fitter and foreman and a cafe.

DESCRIPTION: The main facade is in a vestigial classic language with plum Flemish bond brick with Portland stone dressings. There is a pedimental gable over the garage doors and a two story block projecting at left of this to house the travel office etc. The style is similar to the Town Hall by Vincent Harris of similar date and the former Constitutional Club. The rest of the building is determinedly functional with plain red brick and corrugated iron walls and a corrugated iron and glazed roof.

ASSESSMENT: The history of the building

and its adaptation is interesting and has been fully and helpfully researched by the applicant. ... The criteria governing selection of industrial buildings of this date are stringent and within the national context this building is not sufficiently complete or sufficiently quality to merit inclusion on the list.



Correcting the earlier article on BE (EBN481), there *were* some major changes made to the structure. The central part of the garage including the 'slope' was built last of all. The gabled portion had to be drastically altered with the roof being raised to accommodate this, and the vertical pillars on the left side being removed to make it easier for buses to manoeuvre. A photograph showing this exists in the Braintree Museum, with 1931 Dennis GL VX 9898 nearest the camera. A sign on the frontage reads "Constructional Structural steelwork by Norton Bros. of Ilford". Perry, or Perry & Sargeant, a local building firm played a part in the building work.

Sue Burdon

The Clacton Bus Caravans



In the early 1950s when my mother was in her early teens, she went to a holiday camp in Clacton (owned by a Mr Thuragood) where accommodation was in one of about six old double deck buses converted into caravans. It was quite common back then.

In our photo album, there are a couple of photos of her outside the "bus caravan" and also one inside which shows it as a sunken gangway vehicle. There were no registrations etc. left on, of course. Does anyone, perhaps with the PSV Circle Newsheets for the period, know which vehicles these were?

Ian Taylor



In my misspent youth, I and two chums thought it would be a spiffing idea to preserve a bus. Nothing so simple, you understand, as buying a just-out-of-service Bristol KSW or LS. No, it had to be something rescued from a field that hadn't turned a wheel in decades. The practicalities of money, storage and our total lack of mechanical skills didn't come into it. We worked through the PSV Circle's Fleet History of Essex & Suffolk Independent Stage Carriage Operators (PF6), and made a list of possibilities and their locations. Then, full of youthful optimism, we set off one sunny Saturday, to track them down and talk turkey with their owners.

Alas, we found that all the likely candidates had long since rusted away or had made the one-way trip to Barnsley. The greatest disappointment was at Hooks of Gt.Oakley. Their ex-City Coach Dodge/Thurgood D07 (MJ 6031) and Commer Centaur C2 (CBU 2), both listed in PF6 as still in use as storesheds, had in fact departed years ago.

We ended up at Clacton, where we did find a caravan park full of converted buses. This may have been the one referred to by Ian. We wandered round and concluded (probably wrongly) that these were ex-London. All lacked running gear and had heavily modified bodies. Not a problem for an expert like Mike Sutcliffe, who would have had one restored and on the rally field in a matter of months. But, for us, it was the turning point. We came away, cured of the preservation bug, and devoted our pocket money to Cliff Richard 45's and Red Rovers instead. I've successfully resisted the bug ever since.

David Harman



PCV HOLDER ?

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