

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Issue 505
May 2006



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

12 month subscriptions are £19.50 by First Class post, £18.50 by Second Class, renewable in January or July.

Data Protection Act: Members' names, addresses, subscription renewal dates and postal rates are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ

Missing, defective or damaged EBN?
Write to the Membership Secretary for a replacement.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

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

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:
Owen Woodliffe
196 Sinclair Road Chingford
London E4 8PT

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

B/W PHOTO SALES

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS ~ Editors

Magazine Editor

David Harman, 24 Frankfield Rise
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LF
ebn@casuarina.org.uk

First in Essex

Chris Stewart, 10 Crossways,
Shenfield, CM15 8QX
chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Arriva Southend / Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge, 19 Bull Lane,
Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8JE
petemans_1@hotmail.com

Arriva Harlow & Ware

Mark Garrett, 36 High Street,
Chrishall, Royston, SG8 8RP
deganwy@waitrose.com

Hedingham / Tours Organiser

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase,
Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Essex Small Operators / Publicity

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way,
Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
ianandSally@bigfoot.com

Essex Service Changes

David Tomlin, 11 The Greenway,
Wickford, SS11 7NU
drawdiveltd@blueyonder.co.uk

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

David Harman - as above

Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

For inclusion in EBN dated: reports should reach Editors by: planned despatch date:

June	10 June	16 June
July	5 July	14 July
August	2 August	11 August

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

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station; Arriva 7/8 pass nearby). 19.30 onwards. Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. *Richard Delahoy*

Spring/Summer 2006 season:

- ▶ **Tuesday 13 June** - *Peter Carr* will talk about his experiences working for Eastern National at Bishops Stortford in the 1970s. In the Committee Room.
- ▶ **Tuesday 11 July** - informal social evening - bring along your photos and models to display and be ready for a gossip!

Autumn season dates will be

September 12, October 10, November 7 and December 12, 2006.

One of the autumn meetings will be devoted to a look back to the start of **bus deregulation** 20 years ago this October. If any members can contribute slides, video or memories of the events of that first traumatic year, please contact Richard Delahoy: richard@signal-training.com or phone 01702 588590 (not after 2100 please).

■ 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). Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. We can now show prints, slides or digital photos. *Dave Arnold*

2006 programme:

- ▶ **Friday 9 June** - *Geoff Dodson*: 'A Lifetime on the Buses'.
- ▶ **Friday 8 September** - *Graham Belfall*: 'Picture show on Wales'
- ▶ **Friday 13 October** - *Keith Woods*: 'East Anglian Buses ~ a Personal View'
- ▶ **Friday 10 November** - *Fred Lawrence*: 'On the Company's Expenses' !
- ▶ **Friday 9 December** - *Michael Yelton*, practising lawyer (author of "Trams, Trolleybuses and Buses and the Law") and *bus enthusiast* - topic to be advised.

■ 2006 TOUR PROGRAMME

- ▶ **Tuesday 6 June** - **The Evening Talisman** - meet at 1900hrs (for 1915hrs) at Colchester North Station (bus stop side), where a vehicle of interest from **Talisman Coachlines**

Cover: **Crusader Holidays EU06 JBV** - one of two new tri-axle Setra S416GTHD's, seen at Thurrock Services. *Dave Arnold*

will convey members and guests to the depot for an extended photographic session. A different vehicle will then be used for a mini-tour to Harwich. Finally, a third vehicle will return everyone to North Station. Atlanteans, 4 and 6-wheel Olympians, and a Routemaster will feature. Fare: £5 - pay on the day, but please phone Dave Arnold on 01621 857509 to book your seat.

- ▶ **Saturday 24 June - The 3 Counties Tour** - Departing from Redbridge in a luxury coach of **Genial Travel**, thence via normal pickup points to **Emblings** of Guyhirn (Cambridgeshire), **Norfolk Green** at Kings Lynn (Norfolk), lunch at **Kings Lynn** bus station, **Fowlers** of Holbeach Drove (Lincolnshire), and finally, a stop for afternoon tea at **Peterborough** bus station. Fare: £20. A booking form was in EBN504, or download from our website www.essexbus.org.uk
- ▶ **Saturday 2 September - Essex area tour** - details to be finalised.

Dave Arnold

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS ETC.

- ▶ **Saturday/Sunday 20-21 ~ London's Transport Museum - Acton Depot Open Weekend.** "150 years of the London General Omnibus Company": 11:00 - 17:00. Opposite Acton Town tube station (District Line). Opposite Acton Town tube station (District Line). Adults £6.95; Concessions: £4.95. Book tickets on 020 7379 6344 or email to bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk. www.ltmuseum.co.uk
- ▶ **Sunday 20 May: Vintage Bus Display & Running Day with Transport Enthusiasts Bazaar**, Theydon Bois Village Hall. [@btinternet.com/nlts.htm?](http://uk.geocities.com/royjohnson_nlts)
- ▶ **Sunday 4 June: Southend Bus & Transport Show**, Southchurch Park East, Lifstan Way, Southend. The Group stall with photographs, books, latest ECC timetables etc. will be attending.
- ▶ **Sunday 18 June: "Nostalgia Day"**, a country bus running event for Father's day, London Bus Preservation Trust, Cobham, Surrey. www.lbpt.org/events.html

■ BLUE TRIANGLE ESSEX SUNDAY (and BANK HOLIDAY) ROUTES

- ▶ **Sunday 28 May, Monday 29 May, Sundays 18 June, 16 July.** See EBN504 for details

Magazines, fleet plates etc. for sale/exchange

Richard Delahoy has a number of items for sale, some with a local connection. Heavier items would need to be collected or delivered to a suitable location, smaller items can be posted. If you are interested, ring Richard on 01702 588590 (not after 2100 please) or e-mail richard@signal-training.com. All are used and their condition varies - these are not generally pristine copies. Discounts for bulk purchases! 10% commission goes to the Group on anything sold via EBN.

ENEG monthly news-sheets (duplicated, foolscap or A4 size):

Issues 1 (1/64) to 11 (11/64)	£ 2
Issues 43 to 153 (August 1966 to December 1976)	£10
Various odd copies - July 1979, Feb 1980 to December 1981	£ 2

Bristol Passenger (A5 size booklets)

- complete run from issue 61 (1/88) to 132 (11/99)	£10
--	-----

Bus Times magazine - 6 issues (thought to be the complete run)

	£ 2
--	-----

Classic Bus magazine - 31 issues, being 21, 29-36, 40-50, 53-58, 64-68

	£10
--	-----

Buses Extra magazine , 45 copies in the range 1 to 76	£10
Buses magazine:	
Complete year sets, 1964 to 1991 (some damaged covers etc)	£ 5 per year or £100 the lot
Other years: 2000 - all 12	£ 5
2001, missing April	£ 4
2002 just Jan/Feb/Mar	£ 1
The London Bus (LOTS monthly newsletter - A4, duplicated/printed)	
- 67 copies in total, being: 1982: Jan/Mar/May/Jun, 1983: May/Sept/Nov/Dec,	
1984 - 1986: complete years, 1987: complete except Nov, 1988: complete year	£10
Timetables:	
G W Osborne & Sons, timetable booklet, 15/5/78	£ 1
Premier Travel, express service timetable booklet, summer 1972	£ 1
Southend Transport, set of TT leaflets for May 1996 etc	£ 1
National - Britain's Express Coach Guide, Summer 1973	£ 2
National Express - Summer 1975 guide	£ 2
ENOC Fleet number plates (red embossed 1964 style)	
I have a large number, available initially for exchange for the depot plates I need to complete my collection. I WANT the following depot plates: BS, DT and KN, plus fleet number plates for 2447 and 2453. I have the following to sell/exchange:	
206, 308, 347, 350, 410, 429, 431, 447, 451, 500, 1000, 1100, 1130, 1200, 1219, 1309, 1402, 1407, 1449, 1500, 1549, 1601, 1609, 1703, 1783, 2352, 2422, 2503, 2769, 2862, 2910, 2934, 2941, 3005, 3083, 9362, 9404*, 9404, 9411**, 9413, 9417, 9420, 9423, 9430*, 9440, 9445, 9453*, 9600, 9703* and 9707.	
* = yellow transfers on red plate (not embossed); ** = embossed 411 with 9 painted on.	

Essex Publicity News

Hertfordshire County Council have issued an April 2006 edition of their timetable book for the Bishops Stortford, Buntingford and Royston areas which contains many services which cross into Essex.

A 2006 timetable leaflet has been issued jointly by Essex and Suffolk County Councils for the **Harwich Harbour Ferry**. It includes details of bus connections from Harwich Bus Station, Shotley Gate and Felixstowe Dock.

Essex CC have issued a Harlow Passport to Travel dated March 2006.

Ensignbus have slimline leaflets dated 8th April 2006 for routes 64 and X80.

Regal Busways have a new-look website at www.regalbusways.com

Ian Ransom

With many thanks to Ian Taylor for this months contribution

Essex Service Changes

This month's report is held over until June. A clarification to EBN503/9:

Arriva East Herts & Essex: It is the evening contracted service on the 10 (Harlow Town Station - Church Langley circular) that has been increased to half-hourly. The commercial daytime service is currently every 15 minutes, and increases to every 12 minutes off-peak from 5th June 2006. As stated it appears that the whole service is only half-hourly.

Simon Archer, Arriva the Shires & Essex

Chelmsford Park and Ride



The County's first purpose-built Park & Ride facility opened on 31 March at Chelmsford. The site is located just outside Sandon at Junction 18 on the A12/A414/A1060. Buses (operated by First) depart every 10 minutes between 7am and 7pm, Monday to Saturday for the town centre. They use the new Baddow By-pass bus lane down the A1114. Just short of the Army & Navy roundabout, the bus lane ends at a set of traffic lights. On-board telematics enable these to switch to green so that the bus can 'jump the queue' here. The map (overleaf) shows the clockwise town centre circuit, with five stops serving the shopping and business areas. All stops have TRIPS displays giving real-time information about the next three buses, again driven by the on-bus telematics kit.

The purpose built structure at Sandon is an attractive structure of contemporary design, with grey and tan cladding and a gently-curved, sea-green roof. Facilities comprise a waiting room with refreshment machine, disabled-compliant toilets, nappy-changing, shower facilities (the latter, primarily for cyclists), and live information terminals. CCTV is used to monitor the site, which has already been awarded the Essex Police "Secured Car Park" accreditation - important if you wish to tempt motorists to leave their cars at a relatively remote spot. Staff are on hand, both for security purposes, and to resolve mini-dramas like customers losing their car keys, forgetting where they left their car, flat batteries etc. There is nearly always a black liveried Scania on the stand outside, and usually one spare at Sandon during the daytime.

Publicity has included leaflets headed 'Stress Free' and 'Hassle Free' incorporating a map, times of alternative service 31 and 36 journeys available after the P&R finishes at 19.00 and contact information (08456 000110 or www.essexcc.gov.uk/parkandride).

Chris Stewart paid a visit on Monday 24 April, which was the first day fares were charged - £1.50 return, £30 monthly. The P&R had been running at virtually full capacity for the first three weeks, when travel was free. On the 24th, over 90% of the 600 car spaces were filled by mid morning, suggesting a mix of all-day commuters, shoppers and part time workers.

The site is operated by Essex County Council in partnership with Chelmsford Borough Council; Essex CC's Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation, County Cllr Rodney Bass, welcomed the popularity of the site, saying

"We are extremely pleased with the take up of the service. One of the main goals of the Park and Ride is to ease congestion and to encourage people to look at

alternative transport. I believe it is fulfilling this role with more than 500 cars a day being parked at the Park and Ride site in Sandon."

"If the site at Sandon continues to operate at capacity then we will accelerate plans to extend the car parking from 600 to 900 spaces. I am delighted the Chelmsford Park and Ride has got off to a flying start and the figures so far are extremely promising, and show that there may be demand for extra sites in Chelmsford in the future."

As reported in EBN504, the Scania's carry names which correspond with the four individuals after whom are named the Houses at Chelmsford's King Edward VI Grammar School (KEGS), Rodney Bass's old school. Each bus carries its name on the door (there are of course only 4 names and 5 buses) together with a brief history of the person concerned. The waiting room at Sandon has a display showing all four histories.

Philemon Holland (1551-1637), whose father was Rector at Dunmow Magna, was educated at KEGS and Trinity, Cambridge, before going on to study medicine. At the age of 76 he was appointed Headmaster of Coventry Free School. He translated many of the classics into English.

Sir Walter Mildmay (c.1520-1589) was a pupil of the Grammar School which became KEGS, and was later one of its first Governors. His father owned the Manor of Moulsham. Sir Walter lived through the reigns of King Henry VIII, Edward VI, Queen

Mary and Elizabeth; he was a member of the Court which tried Mary Queen of Scots. He also founded Emmanuel College, Cambridge. The name Mildmay appears in several places in Chelmsford, including Mildmay Road in Old Moulsham.

Joseph Strutt (1749-1802) came from a family of corn millers at Springfield Mill. After leaving KEGS, he was apprenticed to an engraver and was amongst the first winners of the gold and silver medals at the Royal Academy. He wrote many books including 'The Chronicle of England' while the Strutt name is well known in Chelmsford through farming, country house and commercial property agents Strutt & Parker.

Nicholas Conyngham Tindal (1776-1846) was born in a small house in Moulsham, but the family later moved to Coval Hall near the present school. After KEGS and Trinity, Cambridge, he studied law – becoming Chief Justice and the Solicitor General, as well as MP for Harwich. Tindal Square and Tindal House are two of many reminders in Chelmsford.





Monday 24 April - first day of fares. 65682 (*above*) and 65683 (*below*) at Sandon.

previous page: Mildmay (65681) parked up as spare.

Chris Stewart



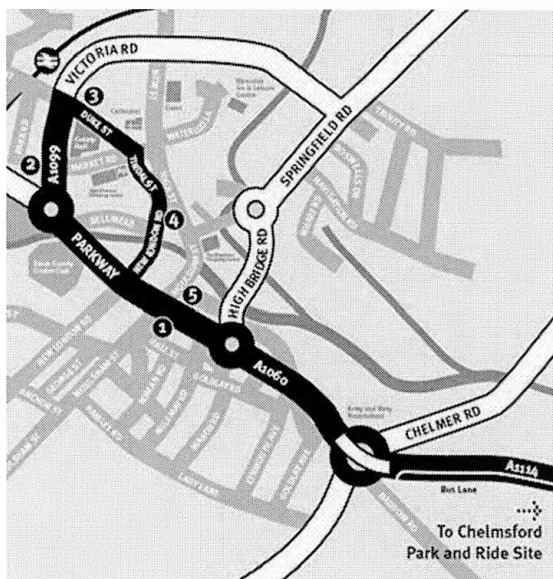
Road-testing the P&R

DRH chose Easter Saturday to road-test the P&R. How did he fare?

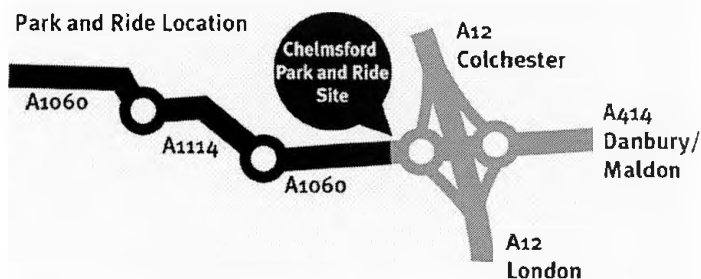
Road signage from the Chelmer Road direction was absent; presumably yet to be erected, but nonetheless, I found the site easily enough. Any car park will struggle to be a thing of beauty, but Sandon is carefully landscaped, with grassed areas and saplings planted which will help it blend in with the surrounding countryside. Parking bays and lanes are clearly marked. Zone letters help motorists remember where they left their car. Cyclists are not overlooked and there is a covered cycle rack.

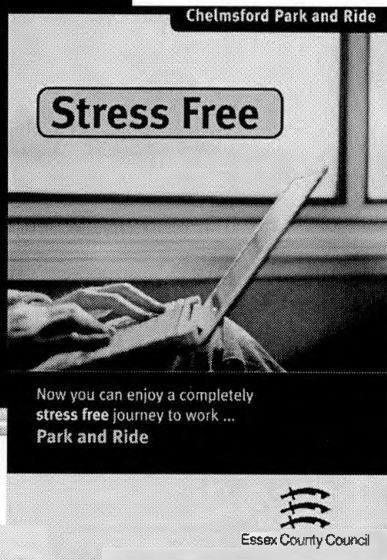
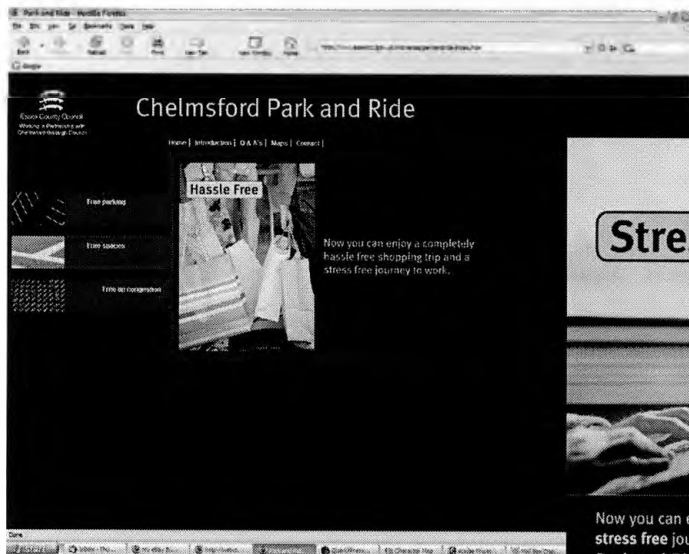
Bus routes were running bang on time when I visited, and I took *Mildmay* (65681) on the 11.40 departure. The dedicated Scania's are due shortly, but in the meantime, the route 31/31X Scania's are deputising. These are certainly distinctive in their black and silver livery, although the dealer stock red seating seems a tad old-fashioned. (it is understood that the new ones will have *leather* seats).

Drivers have state-of-the-art Almex Optima ticket machines (which may replace the Wayfarer 3 equipment generally on First). However, after the initial free period, customers will normally buy tickets from an AXTEQ self-service machine located in the P&R waiting room.



It takes a few minutes to reach the Baddow Road, after which the Scania whizzes down the bus lane before pulling in ahead of other traffic at the A&N roundabout. The roundabout was no problem on a Saturday, but I suspect it must be its usual hold-up at peak times. Then, round the Parkway and to the town centre stops. A good ride with a pleasant and helpful driver. The return trip on one of the *Tindalls* was just as smooth. And the Editorial verdict? Top marks for the Sandon site, which seems to incorporate P&R 'best practice'. My occasional P&R patronage elsewhere embraces Oxford, Maidstone, Coventry (South) and Norwich (usually





Chelmsford Park&Ride
 Issued subject to published
 ECC Terms and Conditions



H:700 J:28 R:65601 F:£0.00 Tkt: 2529 M:5233 D:464/
P+R Return £0.00
Sat 15/04/06 11:36

*P&R website,
 brochure;
 Almex Optima ticket*

Harford). Most make do with simple bus shelters, although Norwich (Postwick and Airport) have terminal buildings with enhanced facilities. All have CCTV, and most have on-site staff.

On price, Sandon compares favourably: Oxford is £2; Maidstone: £1.80 peak/£1.40 off-peak; Coventry: £1.50; Norwich: £3/£1.50 after midday.

9/10 for the buses (I've booked a return visit to sample the dedicated Scania's). Last but not least, full marks to both P&R and First staff for a friendly and professional service. Overall, highly recommended.

Finally, P&R's don't come cheap; Sandon has cost over £6m, and it will take more than a few £1.50's to recoup that. But, there are other, non-financial benefits, including helping to make the County town a more pleasant place for shoppers, workers and visitors alike. There may even be potential benefits for bus operators in general. The die-hard motorist may be surprised to discover that travel by bus can be civilised and stress-free. Who knows, he may even be tempted to try using an ordinary bus.

*David Harman and Chris Stewart
 with thanks to the ECC staff at Sandon,
 and to Ian Ransom*

■ FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes

Period 1: 2 Apr to 26 Apr 2006

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another *First* fleet

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/retained (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School

46183 CF-BN; 51475 DS-RES; 51780 DT-DS; 51803 BN-DT; 60102 CN-CF; 62524 DS-RES.

Correction: Period 12 - 51479 (sold) should read 51476, also D/L(D)-sold were 34819, 62521/2. Apologies for the errors.

46118 is to become a mobile learning centre for First; it is currently at CN yard.

Note that the Leyland Lynx is now represented solely by Driving Trainer 90244 (F427MJN, ex 1427).

Repaints (all to Group Standard livery)

Period 12 (2005/6):

42854 42857 42852 43719

The Mercedes 711's cling on ... 51807 (P407 HPU) surrounded by 'Chelsea tractors' at Wilsons Corner, Brentwood. *Chris Stewart*



Period 1 (2006/7):

42855 42853 34285 43720 46182 46150 46178 46153 46154 46142 65670 46152 46826

Disposals:

Period 12: The list in EBN504 should include 34819, 62521/2 to Erith Commercials (dealer), Dartford, Kent (and 51479 should read 51476). Scrap vehicles are generally collected from Clacton by PVS (Barnsley) to whom they have been re-sold by Erith.

Other Vehicle News

'Mega' rear adverts noted:

46804, 53112 – Willow Windows of Crays Hill

34816 – Liberty Shopping Centre, Romford (pink and white striped background)

34301/7 have gained LED destination displays. Also at Colchester, LED rear light clusters are now fitted to all of 20102, 34301/3/5/10, 47101-4/6 and 67012.

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Unusual sightings:

The logistics of vehicle parking at Magdalen Street and the new 'temporary bus station' arrangements have caused enormous difficulties at Colchester, with vehicle run-out frequently at odds with route branding and low-floor provision (as will be seen below). Olympians have appeared regularly on 61 and 64/A throughout April, together with step entrance Darts on the 61. Many thanks are due to my two regular CR correspondents for their information.

April

2nd Route 61 CR43716 on 1.

3rd Route 77/78 CR34014 on 61; Route 66 CR43744 on 67A (day); CR47106 on 65.

4th CR34310 on 64; CR47106 on 65; Route 67 CR67001 on 70; CR67005 on 66; CR67008 on 65.

5th CR34308 on 175 (usually Lance); BN30558 on 551.

6th CR34012 on 64; CF34816 on daytime 36; CR46829 on 64A; Route 67 CR67003 on 71 & 88.

7th Olympian CR34307 on loan to CN.

10th Lance CR67008 on 66.

11th CR34309 on 64A; CR34310 on 64; CR46829 on 66; CR67005 on 65; BN51808 on 551.

12th CR30560 on 66; 78-branded CR34011 on 71; CR34307 returned from loan to CN, CR43744 on 64/64A and CR67002 on 16.20 88B; BN43713/4 both on 100; green; CF47252 on 71.

13th CR34056 on 64/64A, Scania CF65730 on 48.

15th CR34303 on 66A; Dart CN46120 at CR ex 88B (probably failed earlier and then used by CR).

18th CR34056 on 64A; CR34309 on 64; CR43716 on 66; CR47104 on 65, CR62406 on 71. Olympian/ECW CF34816 on 16.55 CF-SWF 36 and then 31; Solo CF53113 back from loan to DT; Scania CF65730 on 48.

19th CR34305 on 61; CR34307 on 66; Dart CN46132 on Maldon 75 (usually DD); CR46829 on 67/67A; CR47105 on 67/67A (replacing 67002); CR47106 on 67A (usually Lance) & 65 (exchanged later for CR34308); Lance CR67006 on 64A; CR67007 on 66A.

20th CR34011 on Harwich 103; CR34302 on 64. CF43730 on 31X, CF43729 on 42; CF65727 on 351.

21st Route 78 CR34018 on 193; CR34310 on 64; CR43739 on 65; DT46802 on 103; CR46830 on 64; DT51803 on 17.40 CR-CN 74, CR67008 on 65.



Solo 53113 (EO02 NDY) was an unusual visitor to the 351 on 5 May: working the 07:45 Chelmsford to Brentwood Chris Stewart

- Olympian/ECW CF34815 on Southend 35; CF43730/1 on 352; CF53136 on X30.
- 22nd CR34056 on 71; CR34308/10 on 65; CR43744 on 88B; DT43800 on 15.05 CR-Harwich 103 and 17.35 104; CR46830 on 66; CR47101/4 on 64; CR62406 on 17.45 CR-HD 88; CR67008 on 61.
- 23rd Route 61 CR43716 on 1; DT using both 51780 and 51803.
- 24th CR34011 on 16.20 88B/17.45 88; CR34017 on 17.45 88B; CR46829 on 66A; CR67004 on 65; CR67007 on 64. CF34818 on 15.02 SD-CF 35. CF43730 and BE46116 on 352.
- 25th CR34012 on 65; CR67002 on 14.35 CR-CF 71, 18.05 CR-BE 70 and 21.00/23.00 CR-MN 75; CR67003 on 65; BE46821 on 352.
- 26th CR34012 on 71, CR34018 on 70 (09.05 ex CR); CR34304 on 66A; CR34301, CR43716 and CR47105 on 64/64A; CR43715 on 66/66A; CR47102 on 65; CR67008 on Waltons. CF34807 on 351 (09.51 and 12.51 ex BD), CF34816 on 35 (12.50 ex CF).
- 27th Route 78 CR34013 on 66A; CR34012 on 65; Route 78 CR34014 on 193; CR34301 on 64A; CR34302/5/9 all on 78; Route 61 CR43715 on 64; CR65679 on 67; CR67006 on 65. CF34807 on daytime 33, CF34815 and CF60103 on 352 (Olympian on 13.00 ex CF) also CF60103, CF53113 on 351 (08.51 ex BD).
- 28th CR30560 on 65; CR34304 on 66; Route 66 CR43743 on 61; CR67004 on 64; CR67005 on 65. Olympian on 18.15 CF-Stansted 33 (either 34816 or 34818), CF43729 on 352.
- 29th DT34290, CR34301, CR47106, CR67005/7 all on 65; CR43740 on 61; CR43739 on 66A (later exchanged for CR47105); CR43743 on 64A. BE46821 on 352.
- 30th CR67002 on 75s all day

May

3rd Solo CF53114 on 352 (19.05 from BE old depot)

4th CR34056 on 61, CR34308 on 65.

5th CF43730, BE46821 and CF60103 on 352, CF53113 on 351 (07.45 ex CF).

OTHER NEWS

Ridgewood Demolition, a local firm, had started demolishing Braintree depot on 3rd April; parts of the roof structure were noted being removed. By 5th May, the whole of the roof had been removed from the garage area and much of it had been taken down from above the workshops. The main entrance façade remained, however, complete with concertina doors.

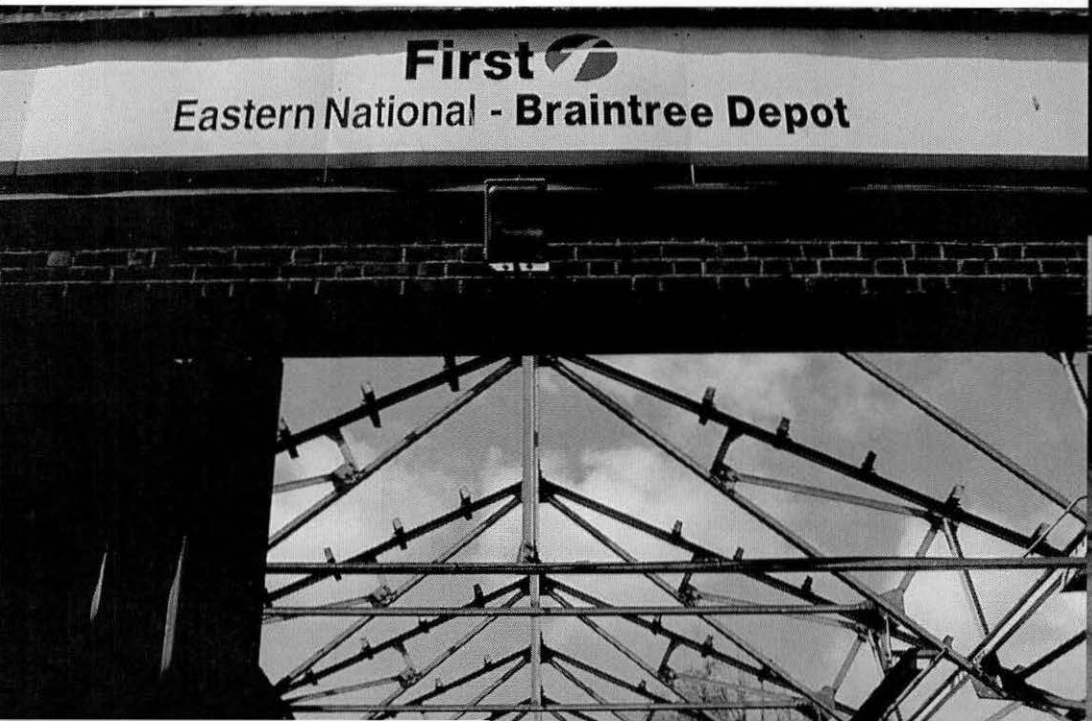
At King's Lynn on 30th April, former EN/Thamesway Olympians 34535-7 and 34698 (ex 4000-3) were parked in a line with only 34536 seemingly out of use.

In the West Country, First Devon & Cornwall's one remaining ex EN VR in public use, 38298 (XHK228X), was seen a number of times on the 07.15 Padstow - Truro College schools service 995 during April and early May, whilst it worked in service from Newquay on 23rd April (service 28 Newquay - St Austell) and 25th April (ser 21 Newquay - Indian Queens). Former ABus, Bristol KO0792V has become a mobile bar in the Reading area while KOO793V has passed from David Hoare at Chepstow to a Yorkshire scrap dealer after cannibalisation.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to First Essex and to A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, A Kelleher, P Mansbridge, J Podgorski, J Salmon, C Sigston, J Stewart, A Toms, G Toon, R Webb, K Smith, A Spindler, R Whitley, J Wilson, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle, Terminus.

Chris Stewart

First **Eastern National - Braintree Depot**





Goodbye BE

Demolition started one year and two days after the garage closed. The demolition boss seemed quite interested in the legend that there's a 1920's bus chassis buried beneath the floor of the workshop, and let me take these pictures. The floors will be broken up, so it will be possible, after around 80 years, to see whether this story is true or not (the workshop was built c.1926). Above, Olympian 34301 (L301 PWR) can be seen on route 70; this is not a bus that was ever allocated to BE. To the right of the concertina doors, a blue-painted wall was exposed, probably dating back to Hicks days. *Sue Burden*



■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LIMITED

New vehicles

2453	YJ 06 FXS	Optare	M950	SAB19000000002380	Optare	B33F	3/06
2454	YJ 06 FXT	Optare	M950	SAB19000000002381	Optare	B33F	3/06
2455	YJ 06 FXU	Optare	M950	SAB19000000002382	Optare	B33F	4/06
2456	YJ 06 FXV	Optare	M950	SAB19000000002383	Optare	B33F	3/06

Allocations

3/06: 2453/4/6.HA; 5845/6.w
4/06: 2158/9.u. 2455.HA

Vehicles out

2116 (N186 EMJ), 2128 (N908 ETM): Arriva the Shires 2116/28 3/06
2159 (N367 JGS): Arriva the Shires 2159 4/06
3818 (H368 XGC): : Arriva the Shires 2116/28, 3818 3/06
5837 (D187 FYM), 5841 (D203 FYM): Arriva Durham County 7214/23 4/06
5845 (D231 FYM), 5846 (D240 FYM), 5850 C 59 CHM): Arriva "North East" group 4/06

General

On order for Summer 2006 delivery are nine Mercedes Benz Citaros for "Green Line" service 724 (Harlow-Heathrow Airport). They will replace the DAF SB220s currently working the service and these are expected to be transferred to work services Arriva the Shires service 500 (Watford-Aylesbury).

Although a year has elapsed since **Arriva London North** inherited Arriva East Herts & Essex's T/I routes and buses, a number remain in the azure livery. Dart/Alexander 3478 (to become ADL78) outside The Crown & Crooked Billet, Woodford Bridge *Owen Woodliffe*



Low-floor 'deckers return to Shore Street depot!

Arriva London South DAF/Alexanders lined -up in April. *Ian Banks*



■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicles out

5386 (C32 CHM) Leyland Olympian

This vehicle was withdrawn during the afternoon of Wednesday 12th April. It last appeared in service on the 29 during the morning of the 12th. Replacement Dart 3132 had already entered service at this point. (Note: 3132 is the replacement vehicle for 5386 not 5387 as stated in EBN504. The replacement vehicle for 5387 was Dart/East Lancs 3004.)

Vehicle Workings

Good Friday and Easter Monday saw Sunday timetables in operation but with weekday vehicle to route allocations. For instance the 1 on Good Friday was worked by two 'G reg' Dominators whilst Olympian 5882 (E228 CFC) worked 29s.

The week commencing 17th April unusually saw Grays Depot use a spare DAF DB250/ALX400, normally found on route 498, on the 370D every day that week.

Other News

Thirteen DAF DB250/Alexander ALX400s (DLA257-69) are currently being stored at Short Street, Southend. These are destined for TfL route 160 (Sidcup Station – Catford) this September. They will gradually move to Pickering's of Thurmaston for refurbishment before eventually being allocated to *Arriva Kent Thameside* Dartford Depot for the 160. The DAFs arrived in two batches on 26 April.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, Ian Banks, Richard Delahoy

■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Acquired vehicle

from *Classic Buses, Anfield Plain, Co.Durham:*

-?- HX51 LSN Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1XGW13814 SCC 4093/2000 B40F
new: 9/2001

Vehicles out

Hadleigh outstation Vario 0814D (S551 BNV) returned to Burton's late in 2005.
Ford Transit van (R304 WPU) has returned to Supreme Holidays group, ex loan.

Other Vehicle News

Previously unreported in this section is the acquisition by TGM of vehicles from Arriva, from whom they had previously been leased.

Dart/East Lancs	309-11
B10M/East Lancs	333-5/7
Olympian	347-9
DAF/Ikarus	358/9
Vario	373/4

358/9 will be withdrawn in the near future.

Vehicle Workings

One of 373/4/8 (Varios) now works from Hadleigh on Suffolk County Council services 730/1, 90C.

Route 8 Dart/East Lancs 309-11 now frequently appear on other routes, mainly being 5, 83, 87, 93, 247. Route 8 Dart/Pointers 302/3 tend to stray less from their dedicated route.

Branded low floor buses generally stay on their allocated routes, although the route 1 SLFs go further a field in the evening and on Sundays on County Council contracts.

Unusual Sightings

April 1st	333 on 8E;
3rd	387 (2 branded) on 93.
5th	108 (2 branded) on 8; TVE 804 on 5 showing "805".
7th and 11th	108 (2 branded) on 93.
14th	333 on 83.
19th	361 (1 branded) on 2 (day).
27th	TVE 804 on 5.
28th	373 on 8A.

Repaints.

4/06 SLF 108 is now branded for Network Colchester and green route 2.
SLF 107 to Network Colchester branding, ex Burton's.

Vario 373 should be the next vehicle to get TGM colours. Burton's B10M/Alexander (G619 OTV) was present at Magdalen Street in mid April for repaint.

Coaches

Burton's B10M/Caetano GB53 BCL was present on 11th April. Ex-TGM B10M/Plaxton Premiere T20 TGM was also noted on 11th April. Both had moved on within a week. B10M/Plaxton Premiere T200BCL and B10M/Caetano Enigma FH02 RXA had both gone from Colchester by the end of April.

Other News

Further to last month Magdalen St tram shed was occupied by First from 7th April. It is used for overnight bus parking, and for staff car parking by day.

The A&O Travel Agents, run by an ex CBT/Arriva Colchester employee closed during April. Timetables are now sold at the Colchester Tourist Office (opposite the castle).

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski

The latest addition to the **Network Colchester** fleet is a long Dennis Dart with Cataeno bodywork, transferred from the Classic fleet. Registered **HX51LSN**, the fleetnumber is not yet known. Two more are expected. Here it is seen on May 5th at the Grange Way maintenance base acquired with the former Supreme Coaches Colchester operations, receiving a deep clean as part of its preparation for service.

Richard Delahoy



Essex Small Operator News

APT, Rayleigh Acquired from Weavaway Travel, Newbury is Bova Futura RG02 NMM (0002 TEN)

BLUE DIAMOND, Harlow Mercedes Benz 709D/Dormobile K543 OGA has been sold for scrap.

BRENTWOOD COACHES New here is BC06 BWC a Volvo B12B/? first noted in late April. This is the first new coach for this operator for some years.

BROMLEY PRIVATE HIRE, Elmstead Market The PSV Circle reports that the fleetname here is now BPH Travel.

C&D LIMOUSINES, Notley Garden Limo S135 YNO operates on a restricted disc.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe A further ex Metrobus Leyland Olympian/Leyland is K814 HMV.

DONS, Dunmow Dennis Javelin/Neoplan N425 FDH (new as N570 AWJ) has gone to Mentor, Hellaby (dealer)

FARGO, Rayne Not previously reported here, is Ford Transit EA02 VLH. Leyland Swift/Elme F353 VRN has been acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus. MCW Metrobus KYV 764X has been sold, to an unknown buyer. Daimler Fleetline/Northern Counties (rebody) Q554 MEV (GHJ 376L) has gone to PVS, Carlton (dealer), the other ex Southend Fleetline MRJ 233W has been sold to Stephensons, Rochford, who according to Richard Delahoy "may" operate it.

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree It is reported that Bristol VR VPF 288S has been sold for preservation.

FORD, Althorne Dennis Javelin/SC Coachbuilders W386 WPX has gone to Grey, Witchford.

FST COACHES, Basildon Ford Transit S548 WKY has been here for some time, but has not been reported

GARDNER, Boreham DAF400 minibus L417 DVR has been sold.

GLEW, Gt Tey Recently acquired is Toyota/Caetano L480 NUD.

GODWARD, Shotgate FDZ 792 (new as A590 XRP) a Volvo B10M/Jonckheere has gone to CD Travel, Kelvedon.

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford News of

Ford Transits are new deliveries of EX 06 CEA/CEF/CEJ numbered 34, 32, 33 (3.06)

Nos. 64 - 67 (EF 05

OLX/OMC/OMB/OLV) have been renumbered 40, 42, 57, 58 (by 3.06)

The previous holders of nos. 32, 33, 40, 42, 57, 58 (ET53 VJA /VHY, EX53 URW, EO04 VPY, ET53 VHJ/VJD) are assumed gone - none seen recently. No. 35 ET53VJE has probably also gone.

No. 29 EU03 EWP has lost its O2 advert (by 3.06).

EJ03 WSE (Excellent, Manchester) and EY54 NYL (Excellent, Stansted) were parked at the Chelmsford operating centre late 3.06/early 4.06 with markings removed and were probably awaiting disposal.

HAWAII FIVE-O, Colchester Ford Transit S804 TNA has been here for some time, but has not been reported

KINGS, Stanway One of the few Bova Magiq coaches in the UK is KC06 ABC. It replaces Bova Futura R777 ABC, which has been sold to Moseley (dealer).

MARINA CARS, Chelmsford LDV Convoy M642 MBC has gone to a private owner.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island Acquired from Translinc, Lincoln is Iveco 49-10/Translinc N469 MFE. LDV Convoy P261 CCH has been sold.

PDQ, Colchester Ford Transit EK02 OWZ has been here for some time, but has not been reported.

REGAL, Highwood Dennis Darts acquired for use on service 1/A/B (Chelmsford - Canvey Island) are Plaxton bodied W772 URP and X211 ONH, plus Evolution bodied AE55 EHM. According to a radio report, new vehicles are expected in December.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Please delete any reference to Bova Futura W197 EJO, which was reported as being here in error.

STANSTED HOTEL SPRINTER, Stansted This business is now trading as London Hoppa, A further Mercedes Benz Vario/Autobus is SF51 PVZ.

STANSTED TRANSIT Stansted Member

Andrew Toms reports a sighting of Leyland Olympian/ECW D219 FYM on service 73A (Chelmsford-Maldon via Heybridge) on 30th March, it is still in Arriva London livery.

STB COACHES, Chadwell St Mary Setra S215HD B350 XOW has been sold.

SUPREME, Southend The following from

the original Supreme operation are now here, having been with Ensigs in the interim. MCW Metrobus LOA 434X, B184/269 WUL, C343/352/361/374 BUV, C439 BUV, Scania L94/Van Hool R863 SDT and Scania K124/Irizar T375 JWA.

SWIFT CARS, Chelmsford This operator has a new operating centre (by 3.06) at

**Crusader
Holidays**

CRUSADER HOLIDAYS LTD, Clacton ~ Current Fleet

1-4	EU03 OJG/H/J/K	Setra S315GTHD
5-6	V105/6 OJN	Setra S315GTHD
7-8	EU06 JBO/V	Setra S416GTHD
9-11	EU06 JBX/Y/Z	Setra S415GTHD
12	EK51 KYX	Setra S315GTHD
13-14	W113/4 BHJ	Setra S315GTHD
15-19	EU05 AVP/R/T/V/W	Setra S315GTHD
20-23	EK51 KYY/Z/KZA/B	Setra S315GTHD
24-27	EK51 KZC/D/E/F	Setra S315GTHD

The other new **Crusader Holidays** Setra S416GTHD EU06 JBO, at Thurrock Services. *Dave Arnold*



Powers Farm, Cranham Road, Little Waltham, CM3 3NB (map ref. TL724128) - it is not known if the Shakesstones Farm site is still being used.

SWT, South Woodham Ferrers EF55 GYA is a new Ford Transit.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley WIL 3636 (ex L564 FND) a Scania K113/Van Hool went to All You Need Ltd., Hackney Wick, London E9 on 31.3.06 (as reported to us by Talisman - PSV Circle records "All You Need" with "Lindel" of the same address.)

Hong Kong 306 finally arrived on 3.4.06 as J605 CEV (This had been collected by Talisman in 3.06, sent away for repainting and for seat belts to be fitted; then returned to Ensign (dealer) to

be certified and allocated a British registration.)

TOWNCARS, Clacton A further Ford Transit to report is DS02 VMO.

TURNERS, Wickham St Paul Acquired from Marathon Travel, Camberley is Mercedes Vario/Plaxton T630 JWB.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Acquired from Central Parking, Heathrow are Dennis Javelin/Neoplan M913/4 OVR

YELLOW, Braintree Ford Transit N962 VEG has been withdrawn.

Thanks to Colin Sigston, Dave Arnold, PSV Circle, Crusader Holidays and Stephenson's for this months notes.
Ian Ransom



EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS LTD. - Current Fleet

Registration	Chassis	Body	Seats
K397 GHJ	Mercedes 709	Plaxton Beaver	B19F
K398 GHJ	Mercedes 709	Plaxton Beaver	B18F
L313 YDU	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B23F
L314 YDU	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B23F
L315 YDU	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B23F
L316 YDU	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B23F
L319 YDU	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B23F
L687 CDD	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B25F
L688 CDD	Mercedes 709	Alexander	B25F
N70 TGM	Mercedes 709	Plaxton Beaver	B23F
X802 HNV	Mercedes Sprinter		B16F
J420 HDS	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Excalibur	C53F
M453 VCV	Volvo B10M	Alexander PS	B48F
M231 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander PS	B48F
M232 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander PS	B48F
J226 HGY	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F
K708 KGU	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F
R128 XWF	Dennis Javelin	Plaxton	C49F
XL04 EXL	Scania	Irizar	C53F
RL04 EXL	Scania	Irizar	C53F
YN53 GDV	Scania	Irizar	C49F
KTL 43Y	Leyland Olympian	East Lincs	H85F
KTL 44Y	Leyland Olympian	East Lincs	H85F
A890 PKR	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H69F
A888 PKR	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H69F
B204 DTU	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H69F
C122 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H68D
D126 FYM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H71D

**Stephensons****STEPHENSONS OF ESSEX LTD.***Current Fleet*

<i>Registration</i>	<i>Chassis</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Seats</i>
UAR 219Y	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H83D
B248 NVN	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H77F
B752 GSC	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H83D
C28 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C62 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C64 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C77 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C81 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C82 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C92 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C94 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C106 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C109 CHM	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C174 ECK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72F
C176 ECK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H77F
C807 BYY	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H72D
C382 SAO	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H77F
C383 SAO	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	H77F
F303 JTY	Leyland Olympian	Alexander	CH81F
G305 UYK	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H79F
A14 SOE	Leyland Tiger	Plaxton	C57F
A16 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49FT
A17 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49FT
A18 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49FT
A19 SOE	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C53F
N23 RTN	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C53F
N70 SLK	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49FT
N746 BAU	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	C49FT
EU05 CZA	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B37F
EU03 CFY	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B29F
EU03 CFX	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B29F
SK02 XGO	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B29F
SK02 XGP	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B29F
K108 SAG	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F
K716 KGU	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B35F
P749 HND	Dennis Dart	Plaxton	B40F
M233 TBV	Volvo B10M	Alexander PS	B48F
424 DCD	Leyland PD3	Northern Counties	H69F

Ensignbus*Omnibus suppliers to the World***DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS**

VEHICLES IN

*from:***Arriva London:** L536/7/9/41/2/3.**Arriva Southend:** Olympian C32 CHM**Chambers, Bures:** Olympian H538 JBJ**Go-Ahead North East:** Metrobus C751 OCN**Shamrock Travel:** Iveco's L775 GNM, L957 JGS

Stagecoach Merseyside: Darts L120HHV, K870 LGN, K988 SCU
B6's L453 YAC, L833 CDG.

Wilsons Coaches: Darts P691/7 RWU, WIL 9217

VEHICLES OUT:

to:

Dominator H803 AHA: **A & P Brown**, Ely, Cambs.

Olympian K816 HMY: **Cedrics Coaches**, Wivenhoe.

Olympian P475 MBY: **Chambers**, Bures, Suffolk.

Atlantean VPA 152S

and Tiger F902 JBB: **Fowlers Coaches**, Holbeach Drove.

Lance WIL 9214: **London Borough of Lewisham**.

DL85: **McKindless**, Wishaw.

Hong Kong Volvo B10M FC9565 now 530M UY with **Minibus Executive Travel**, Watford.

L48: **Scrapheap Challenge TV**, London .

Metrobus C751 OCN: **Shoreline Suncruisers**, Scarborough.

Bristol VRT NUM 341V: **Standby95 Ltd**, Rotterdam, Holland

Hong Kong Olympian FC7431 now J605 CEV with **Talisman Coaches**, Colchester.

Dublin Olympian 92-D-127 now J619 CEV with **TM Travel**, Chesterfield.

L24/49/79/185: **Truronian**, Truro.

Dart J463 MKL: **Wealden PSV**, Five Oak Green, Kent.

Routemasters RM1797: **R Duker**, St Neots, Cambs.

RML2304: **Millwall FC**, south east London.

RML2361: **Hitmania Ltd**, London.

RML2363: **Lima International Shipping**, Cranbourne, Kent

RML2406: **Mr J Skeete**, London.

RML2483: **Too-Good Property Ltd**, Salisbury, Wilts.

RML2545: **Trading Overseas Marketing and Retail Ltd**, London E1.

RML2570: **Hitmania Ltd**, London.

RML2655: **Eric Gormand**, Lyon, France.

RML2750: **D Muirhead**, Hythe, Kent.

RML2753: **Concept Ltd**, Metrin, Switzerland.

RML2759: **S Briscoe**, London N6.

■ **ENSIGNBUS**, Purfleet

Dart 777 has been withdrawn after suffering severe rear-end damage in an accident on the QE2 bridge. Ex-Wilsons WIL 9217 to be the likely replacement.

Service changes

The Gravesend (Valley Drive) and Bluewater section of the X80 will be withdrawn after 30 June. Since the introduction of *Fastrack* service B on 26 March, the section has become severely over-bussed as route B runs at a 10 minute frequency serving the same points. The X80 will continue to run between Bluewater and Lakeside / Chafford Hundred Station Mondays-Fridays, with extensions to Grays on Saturdays, and to Chadwell St Mary and Tilbury on Sundays.

■ **ENSIGNBUS TRANSPORT MUSEUM**

"Prewar" (actually wartime) RT, RT8 (FXT 183) arrived back from the USA on 2 April. Although in need of some major work, it will be returned to PCV status and is presently in the workshops.

With thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Preservation Notebook

A History and Details of
Preserved Leyland Bus
Registration No. LEV 917

John Shearman and John Martin



Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group

In October 1965, the Springhill Vehicle Preservation Group purchased former City Coach Company 1946 Leyland PD1, LEV 917, straight out of service from Eastern National. It had latterly been used on the Southend seafront service, having been converted to open-top in 1957.

Forty years on, the SVPG still own the bus, and quite unusually for a preservation group, they have written a book all about it. The aim was to ensure that when the time comes to pass the bus onto a new owner (for they, like all of us, are not getting any younger), its full history, both in service and in preservation, will have been fully recorded.

This nicely-produced, short-run, 64-page book details all that is known about City LD1 (LEV 917) (later to become EN 1112, and subsequently 2102) - its three service owners, City, Westcliff and EN, its liveries, the routes it worked on and the long process of renovating it. It is copiously illustrated in black and white and in colour

This is not your average 'bus book', and it will not appeal to everyone. Moreover, the book is **not** actually for sale. However, the SVPG have kindly let the Group have a small number of copies and these are offered to members in return for a *donation* towards the continued preservation of LEV 917. If you would like a copy, please send a donation (a minimum of £10 is suggested, but greater sums are of course, very welcome), plus £2 postage and packing (in a board-backed envelope), payable to "Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group", to:

EBN Editor, 24 Frankfield Rise, Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LF



LEV 917 as LD1 in
City Coach Co.
livery in 1952.
Location: Wood
Green

Warning - low bridge !

When John Shearman of the Springhill Vehicle Preservation (who also happens to live in Tunbridge Wells) called round one evening with the LEV 917 books, we got to talking about City Coach and other matters.

One of the topics was low bridges, for LEV 917 (LD1) and sister, LEV 918 (LD2) were both 'highbridge', and use of them must have been problematic in City days. One uncertainty was whether they ever went under the bridge in Wickford High Street. The consensus seems to be that they were too high, but this raises another question: if they ran 'shorts' from Wood Green or Brentwood to Wickford, how did they turn round - which roads did they use? And, could they/did they get under Rayleigh station bridge? This seemed more likely, but the road layout with a sharp bend on a steep gradient was not exactly ideal.

This set me thinking more generally about low bridges in the EN area. Both Chris Stewart and I thought members might like to contribute their wisdom on the subject.

Height restrictions have, of course, varied over the years. For example, the limit at Chelmsford Railway Station bridge was 14'0" when Bob Mack photographed KSW 1360 (see opposite). When VR 3072 passed underneath in 2004 (see cover of **EBN481**), the headroom had somehow shrunk to 13' 6". Successive bouts of road resurfacing and the addition of layers of tarmac may be to blame for this. Conversely, the 'boys from the black stuff', sometimes strip the accumulated surface down to the foundations before resurfacing, which must *increase* the potential headroom. Do the highways authority 'recalibrate' the bridge after each resurfacing? Probably not.

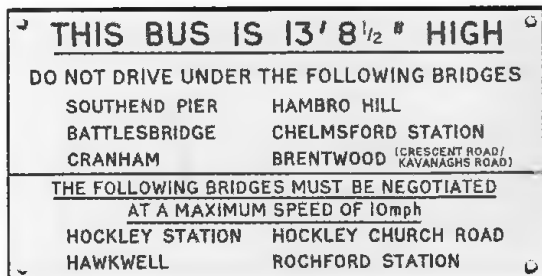
Anyhow, the following is a list of Essex bridges that come to mind: It's certainly not complete, and members will doubtless add to it. It would also be interesting to know what headroom applied at different times, and what could (and what occasionally failed to!) get under each bridge.

Battlesbridge
Brentwood ~ Kavanaghs Road
Brentwood ~ Crescent Road
Chelmsford ~ Station
Cranham
Hawkwell
Hockley ~ Church Road

Hockley ~ Station
Rayleigh ~ Hambro Hill
Rayleigh ~ Station
Shotgate ~ Blue Brick bridge
Southend Pier
Wickford ~ High Street

David Harman

*from the driver's cab of a
Southend Corporation
Daimler Fleetline*





1360 (SHK 529) passing under Chelmsford Station bridge; date uncertain but pre-August 1964. *Robert F. Mack, courtesy Chris Stewart*

The City sign at Hill Avenue, Wickford, warning drivers not to attempt to pass under Blue Brick bridge at Shotgate. *Frank Church, courtesy Chris Stewart*



Blind Spot

"JOHNSTON" BLINDS

(EBN504/13) Use of the Johnston font on Southend blinds is not something new!

Illustrated below is an RM front/rear destination (code "NN") blind from 1988/89.

Opposite is a coach blind, again in Johnston font, which was actually printed by L.T.'s Aldenham Works.

Bob Williamson

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT
HIGHLANDS THAMES DRIVE
HADLEIGH CHURCH
HADLEIGH VICTORIA HOUSE
THUNDERSLEY WICKHAMMS AVENUE
RAYLEIGH STATION
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STN
CANVEY NEWLANDS CROSS ROAD
CANVEY LEIGH BECK
CANVEY CIRCULAR
STH BENFLEET STN
LT WAKERING CORPORATION CLOSE
GT WAKERING CHURCH
SHOEBURYNNESS CENTREY
SHOEBURYNNESS EAST BEACH
RAYLEIGH STATION
SOUTHCHURCH WHITE HORSE
BOURNES GREEN
ASHINGDON SCHOOLS
HOCKLEY
GOLDEN CROSS
ROCHFORD

CHALKWELL STN
FOULNESS COURT END
LEIGH ELMS
HIGHLANDS WOODLANDS PARK
LEIGH STATION
EASTWOOD DELSHAYE ROAD
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STN
TEMPLE SUTTON
EASTWOOD RISE
DAWS HEATH HAYES OVR
BELFAIRS WOODCOTTERS
SOUTHCHURCH NEWINGTON AVENUE
SUTTON CEMETERY
PRIVATE
SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STN
LONDON, ALD GATE
LONDON PIPER PARK
LONDON, VICTORIA
HEATHROW ALL TERMINALS
GATWICK AIRPORT ALL TERMINALS
GRAYS
BASILDON
BRIGHTON VIA GATWICK
WICKFORD

SOUTHMINSTER
STH WOODHAM FERRERS
PITSEA
LAINDON
UPMINSTER
BILLERICAY
SHENFIELD
STANFORD-LE-HOPE
TILBURY
CHELMSFORD
SOUTHEND GENERAL HOSPITAL
CANVEY
RAYLEIGH
LANDWICK
RAWRETH
HULLBRIDGE
SOUTHCHURCH PK
PAGLESHAM
LEIGH CHURCH

RM NN
TYVEK n.d.
c.1988/89
BLIND NO T15

black
on
yellow

BLIND NO. CT15

22.3.84

PRIVATE HIRE SERVICE

GATWICK AIRPORT

CRAWLEY VIA GATWICK

BRIGHTON GATWICK

LONDON HEATHROW

SOUTHEND VIA BASILDON

LONDON GREEN PARK

SOUTHEND DIRECT

BASILDON

STANFORD-LE-HOPE

GRAYS SUGGILL'S HEATH

SHOEBURYNESSE

HAMMERSMITH

LONDON ALDORATE

**PRIVATE
SOUTHEND AIRPORT**

black
on
yellow

LONDON
CANVEY
SOUTHEND
GREAT WAKERING
LITTLE WAKERING
PRITTLEWELL
ROCHFORD
ASHINGDON
RAYLEIGH
PAGLESHAM
CANEWDON
WALLASEA ISLAND
CHALKWELL
EASTWOOD
LEIGH
HULLBRIDGE

Southend Transport Tiger /
Paramount 558 (B84 SWX)
displays black-on-yellow

LONDON VICTORIA

on Elizabeth Bridge, Victoria.
Perhaps this is a later version
of the coach blind shown here?

Jack London



From the Archives



John Rugg (via The Southend Busman) supplies this wonderfully atmospheric view of Westcliff-on-Sea MS Dainler **HJ 4920** in Rayleigh High Street, on service 1 to Southend Victoria Circus. By the trees in leaf, I guess this to be a scene in spring or summer.

The slip board in the window reads:
"Connection by this bus at Chalkwell Avenue for Leas, Swimming Baths, Southend Pier & Kursaal".

Competing entertainment on offer each side of the destination board comprise *"The Lie"* at the Ambassadors, and *"Alf's Button"* at the Palace Theatre.

The driver and conductor look very smart in their long white dustcoats, pinned-collar shirts and tie and white-topped caps. The conductor wears leather boots or gaiters; the driver has a 'Woodie' (?) between his lips, but this was a time when

smoking, far from being thought harmful, was actually considered beneficial to health! Note the 'Essex gel' and her young man, dressed to the nines, by the platform.

Now to the bus: *John Taylor* kindly consulted his records on this. HJ 4920 was one of a batch of four delivered as follows:

HJ 4877	delivered	24 Jul 1925
HJ 4882	delivered	25 Jul 1925
HJ 4920	delivered	1 Aug 1925
HJ 4921	delivered	1 Aug 1925

The driver appears to be Harold Sidwell, who in postwar days was one of two Westcliff regulators at Victoria Circus. He always had a droopy moustache. He died about twenty years ago in his late-90s (so, smoking couldn't have been *that* bad for him! - DRH). The photograph was probably taken in 1925 or 1926. John doesn't know whose copyright it is, but has had a copy of it himself for more than fifty years!

John Taylor also mentioned the death on 26 April 2006, of Gerald Nevill. Born on 7 May 1925, Gerald joined The Westcliff-on-Sea MS as a traffic assistant in 1946, transferring to Eastern National in due course. He was latterly Area Traffic Superintendent - Southend, and then Area Manager - Basildon. He was a widower and had no children. His wife, Evelyn had worked for John in HM Customs & Excise at Southend.

WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA

MOTOR SERVICES LIMITED

Leave	N	N	N	N	N	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	
SOUTHERN, Vic. Circus	6	06	30	07	07	30	8	08	30	9	09	30	10	10	30	0
Elms, Leigh	6	12	42	12	42	12	8	12	42	9	12	42	10	12	42	12
Canvey Road	6	15	45	15	45	15	8	15	45	9	15	45	10	15	45	15
Thames Dr. Cnr. L. Rd.	6	17	47	17	47	17	8	17	47	9	17	47	10	17	47	17
Hadleigh Church	6	21	51	21	51	21	8	21	51	9	21	51	10	21	51	21
Bread & Cheese Hill	6	26	56	26	56	26	8	26	56	9	26	56	10	26	56	26
Woodmans Arms	6	33	03	33	03	33	8	33	03	9	33	03	10	33	03	33
RAYLEIGH	6	40	10	40	10	40	8	40	10	9	40	10	10	40	10	40
Leave	N	N	N	N	N	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	
SOUTHERN, Vic. Circus	2	30	5	30	4	0	30	5	30	6	30	7	0	30	10	0
Elms, Leigh	4	12	42	12	42	12	8	12	42	9	12	42	10	12	42	12
Canvey Road	6	45	15	45	15	4	45	15	45	16	45	15	45	15	45	15
Thames Dr. Cnr. L. Rd.	6	47	17	47	17	4	47	17	47	18	47	17	47	17	47	17
Hadleigh Church	2	51	21	51	21	4	51	21	51	22	51	21	51	21	51	21
Bread & Cheese Hill	2	56	26	56	26	4	56	26	56	27	56	26	56	26	56	26
Woodmans Arms	3	33	34	33	3	33	33	34	33	3	33	34	33	33	33	33
RAYLEIGH	3	10	40	10	4	10	40	10	40	10	40	10	40	10	40	10
Leave	N	N	N	N	N	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	
RAYLEIGH	6	42	12	42	12	8	42	12	42	9	42	12	10	42	12	12
Woodmans Arms	6	50	20	50	20	8	50	20	50	21	50	20	10	50	20	20
Bread & Cheese Hill	6	57	27	57	27	8	57	27	57	28	57	27	10	57	27	27
Hadleigh	7	32	8	32	8	9	32	10	32	11	32	10	11	32	10	10
Thames Dr. Cnr. L. Rd.	7	36	8	36	8	9	36	10	36	11	36	10	11	36	10	10
Canvey Road	7	38	8	38	8	9	38	10	38	11	38	10	11	38	10	10
Elms, Leigh	7	11	41	11	41	9	11	41	11	10	11	41	11	11	41	11
SOUTHERN, Vic. Circus	7	23	53	23	53	9	23	53	11	23	53	12	23	53	12	12
Leave	N	N	N	N	N	am	am	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	
RAYLEIGH	3	42	12	42	12	9	42	12	42	12	9	42	12	11	42	12
Woodmans Arms	3	50	20	50	20	9	50	20	50	20	9	50	20	10	50	20
Bread & Cheese Hill	3	57	27	57	27	9	57	27	57	27	9	57	27	10	57	27
Hadleigh	4	23	25	23	25	6	23	27	23	28	27	29	32	23	29	32
Thames Dr. Cnr. L. Rd.	4	24	26	24	26	6	24	27	24	28	27	29	32	24	29	32
Canvey Road	4	38	5	38	5	6	38	6	38							

For Fare Table see Page 82.

PCV HOLDER ?

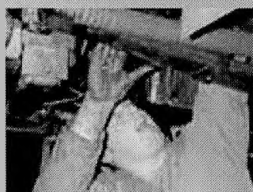
⇒ Full and Part-Time Drivers required

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

