

ESSEX BUS NEWS

No. 563
March 2011



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP
www.essexbus.org.uk



Not Arriva serving Colchester: 3483, a recent transfer to **Network Colchester** from Harlow. Seen in Osborne Street on 12th February. *Russell Young*

Yet another revision of TWH's Loughton to Harlow service occurred in January with a split of the route with 255 becoming Debden to Waltham Cross section. Former **RM909** is seen at Loughton, about a week before its despatch, along with RM1018 to Ensign.

Owen Woodliffe



Essex Bus News

Magazine Editor

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos (prints, slides or JPGs) and original articles are always welcome.

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.

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

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

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Dates for your diary

■ PRESS DATES

EBN dated

April

May

reports to Editors by

2nd April

30th April

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 be obtained from the Distribution Secretary (see Group Directory).

■ SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS

Venue: **Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane, Wickford** - five minutes walk from Wickford Station and five minutes drive from the A130 and A127. Doors open at **1930** for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from **2000 to 2145/2200**; a cash bar is available. Members and guests welcome. £1.50 donation please towards the hire of the room.

Front cover:

Pretty in pink: C. Hunn (**Travel with Hunny**) started their X5 service between Harlow and Romford via Epping and Debden on 14 February (the timetable included a love-heart!) and first rounder was worked by Dart SJ53 AXB in Mecca Bingo livery. The contravision on all windows gave the feeling of travelling through mist, although this was probably better than having to look at the ghastly exterior colours on the journey.

Owen Woodliffe

A special celebration



M&D 100

Celebrating the centenary of the formation of The Maidstone & District Motor Services Ltd.

**Celebrate the centenary of the formation of
The Maidstone & District Motor Services Ltd**

Saturday 9th April 2011

at

Kent Showground

on the A249 at Delling, near Maidstone

10am to 4pm

- Admission ticket £5 per person
- Children under 12 years of age admitted free
- Ticket includes entry to 'M&D 100' and the Heritage Transport Show and Auction, plus unlimited free bus rides
- Get-together for former M&D vehicles
- Free bus rides around the showground
- Reunion for former M&D employees
- Guest speakers
- Sales-stands and displays

For full details visit
www.arrivabus.co.uk/MD100/

Don't forget to tell your friends about 'M&D 100'!



THE M&D AND EAST KENT BUS CLUB

2011 programme

- ▶ **Monday March 28** - AGM followed by slide show by Alan Osborne, "40+ years AGO"
- ▶ **Monday April 11** - another dip into Martin Weyell's slide presentation "an A-Z of Essex area operators".
- ▶ (outdoor meetings/visits in May/June/July, to be advised nearer to the time)
- ▶ **Monday September 26** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday October 24** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday November 28** - to be announced
- ▶ **Monday December 19** - Christmas Social and "20 years ago" slide show by Richard Delahoy.

Richard Delahoy

■ **NORTH ESSEX 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. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2200. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Dave Arnold

2011 programme ~ slide shows

- ▶ **Friday March 11th** - slide show by Alan Osborne (correcting EBN562)
- ▶ **Friday April 8th** - slide show by Owen Woodliffe (correcting EBN562)
- ▶ **Friday May 13th** - slide show by Richard Delahoy ~ "20 years ago"
- ▶ **Friday June 10th** - slide show by Steven Hughes
- ▶ **Friday July 8th** - slide show by Paul Smith
- ▶ **Friday August 12th** - slide show by Dave Arnold
- ▶ **Friday September 9th** - slide show by Gary Sharpe
- ▶ **Friday October 14th** - *see it, buy it!* Slides from the Group's sales stock will be shown by Owen Woodliffe – if you like one, buy it there and then!
- ▶ **Friday November 11th** - slide show by Trevor Brookes
- ▶ **Friday December 9th** - Xmas social & slide show by Gary Sharpe & Dave Arnold

■ **TOURS**

- ▶ **Wednesday June 22nd**: Evening visit to Talisman Coachlines. Pick up at North Station 19.00; fare £5; phone **01621 857509** to book.

■ **EVENTS**

- ▶ **Weekend March 12/13th**: London Transport Museum, **Open Weekend at Acton Depot**. London's Transport in miniature / talks by Christian Wolmar: Engines of war: How wars were won and lost on the railways; Subterranean Railway: The fantastic achievements of the London Underground's pioneers.
- ▶ **Weekend March 12/13th**: North Norfolk Railway, **Celebration Spring Steam Gala** with free classic bus services. All buses welcome!
- ▶ **Sunday March 20th**: Ipswich Transport Museum, **Museum Re-awakening Day**.
- ▶ **Saturday April 9th**: M&D 100, **Centenary of Maidstone & District Motor Services**, Kent Showground, Detling. Bus entries from Essex or further afield are especially welcome, as are sales and display stalls. Over 50 M&D, predecessor and successor vehicles ranging from a 1912 Hallford to a 1998 DAF/Plaxton, are already entered. See opposite page or visit www.arrivabus.co.uk/MD100/
- ▶ **Weekend April 9th/10th**: North Norfolk Railway **Train & Bus Weekend**, with rally on the Sunday. All buses welcome!
- ▶ **Sunday April 10th**: "Cobham" (except that it's **not** at Cobham) **Annual Spring Bus & Coach Gathering & RF60**, London Bus Preservation Trust, Dunsfold Aerodrome, Surrey (bus service from Guildford station). Please note: Museum **not** open.

- ▶ **Weekend April 16/17th:** East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft, **Classic & Vintage Weekend**. Free vintage bus service from Lowestoft station.
- ▶ **Friday/Saturday March 29/30th:** London Transport Museum, **Open Weekend at Acton Depot**.

Information is published in good faith and members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers, as the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.

■ C-BUS (COLCHESTER BUS USERS SUPPORT GROUP)

A meeting of the Group will be held on **Monday March 21st:** at which **Linda McCord** of the national rail and bus watchdog **Passenger Focus** will give a talk on their work. 14:00 to 16:00 at the James Parnell Room, Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester. Group members very welcome.

Membership Changes

We extend a warm welcome to new members:

Chris Argent of Canewdon, 1026
Mark Doggett of Stratford upon Avon, 1027
Nick Stewart of Ashingdon, 943 (rejoined)

Richard Delahoy

Group Directory

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £20, renewable in January.

New members may join from any month during the year, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses. Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.70 per month. E.g., a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.70; i.e. £17.

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

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road
Southend-on-Sea SS1 3TT
richard@signal-training.com

MISSING / DEFECTIVE EBNs

For replacements, contact the Distribution Officer:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive the Essex County Council timetable book and bus map. Send your details and a cheque for £12 to

Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road,
Southend on Sea SS1 3TT.

Subscriptions can start with any issue of the book (usually three a year) and will be renewable annually at the same time as your Group membership subscription is due.

PUBLICATION SALES

Send orders for publications to:

Owen Woodliffe, 196 Sinclair Road,
Chingford, London E4 8PT

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

BLACK & WHITE PHOTO SALES

Lyn Watson, Willow Tree Cottage,
11 Roman Bank, Gedney Dyke,
Lincolnshire, PE12 0AR

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

Publicity News

Recent items of publicity include

Essex County Council standard format leaflet for Zip1 dated 01/08/10.

Arriva leaflets for services 6 and 7, both dated 7/02/11. One older item not mentioned before, is Arriva timetable leaflet for service 333 dated 09/03/09.

Centrebus timetable leaflet, including a line route diagram for services C3 and 311 dated 30/08/10.

First standard format timetables for 351 dated 09/01/11.

First multifold leaflets for services 40/50; 41/A/51; 47/A; 54/55/56 all dated 09/01/11.

First Braintree Area Bus Guide, a 30 page booklet plus line route diagram dated 04/10/10.

Network Harlow A4 folded timetable leaflets, including route map for services 1/A; 2/3; 4; 10 all dated 7/02/11.

Roadrunner produced a leaflet for service R3 (Waltham Abbey – Harlow) dated 06/09/10, although the service has now been withdrawn.

Ian Ransom

Service changes

Arriva Southend

27 Mar 11	1 D	Shoeburyness to Rayleigh: revised route and timetable
	4/4A D	Southend to Landwick/Shoeburyness: revised timetable.
	6A M-F	Belfairs to Leigh Station: revised timetable
	7/8 D	Shoeburyness to Rayleigh: revised timetable.
	9 D	Shoeburyness to Rayleigh: revised timetable.
	13 M-S	Southend to Temple Sutton: service withdrawn.
	17 Th	Southend to Eastwood Tesco: service withdrawn.
	29 D	Southend to Belfairs: revised timetable and route extended to Temple Sutton replacing service 13.

Beestons (formally registered to Constable Coaches)

4 Apr 11	971 Sch	Hadleigh to Colchester: new schoolday service.
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Carters

3 Apr 11	92 M-S	Stratford St Mary to Ipswich: revision to timetable and route
	93 M-S	Colchester to Ipswich: revision to timetable and route.

Centrebus

25 Mar 11	700 D	Stevenage to Stansted Airport: service withdrawn.
3 Apr 11	392 M-S	Hertford to Harlow: new service

Clintona Minicoaches

2 Apr 11	11 M-S	Purfleet to Basildon: service withdrawn.
	374 M-S	West Horndon to Grays: service withdrawn.

Colchester Community Volunteer Services

23 Mar 11	SB31 Wed	Layr Breton to Colchester Leisure World: new service.
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Ensignbus

4 Apr 11	20	M-F	Grays to Orsett Hospital: service extended to Lakeside and Horndon on the Hill with introduction of Saturday service.
	22	D	Grays to Aveley: minor timetable revisions.
	33	M-S	Grays to Lakeside: revised timetable.
	44	M-S	Grays to Lakeside: withdrawn between Lakeside Bus Station and Tesco's.
	66	M-S	Lakeside to Chadwell: additional evening journeys introduced with minor route change.
	73	M-S	Lakeside to Tilbury: additional early morning journey introduced.
	73C	D	Lakeside to Tilbury: revised evening timetable.
	83	M-S	Lakeside to Chadwell: revised evening timetable.
	373	M-S	Grays to Stanford-le-Hope: new service
	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: new service
18 Apr 11	81	M-S	Brentwood to Hutton Circular: revision to timetable.

First

7 Mar 11	36	D	Chelmsford to South Woodham Ferrers: minor timetable change to the 0630 journey from South Woodham.
	42/A	D	Galleywood to Stansted Airport: minor timetable changes.
	48	M-S	Chelmsford to North Springfield: revised timetable.
	70	D	Colchester to Chelmsford via Braintree: revised timetable.
	71	M-S	Chelmsford to Colchester: minor timetable changes.
	88/A	M-S	Colchester to Halstead: revised timetable.
	131/2	M-S	Braintree to Witham: revised timetable.
	318	Thur	Thaxted to Saffron Walden: revised route and timetable.
	X32	M-F	Braintree to Stansted Airport: revised timetable.

Gemma Travel (Townlynx)

4 Feb 11	355	M-F	Waltham Cross to Harlow: service withdrawn due to TfL not allowing the service to access the bus station at Waltham Cross.
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Heddingham Omnibuses

14 Mar 11	50A/C	M-F	Tollesbury to Colchester: the 1630 Tollesbury to Colchester and 1745 Colchester to Tollesbury withdrawn.
4 Apr 11	131	M-F	Jaywick to Clacton Circular: revised timetable.
	136	M-F	Jaywick to Brook Retail Park: service withdrawn.

Imperial Bus

4 Apr 11	11	M-S	Purfleet to Longhouse Road: new service.
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New Horizon Travel

28 Feb 11	177	Sch	West Mersea to Colchester Shrub End: new schoolday service.
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Regal Busways

3 Apr 11	H1	Sat	Loughton to Harlow: service withdrawn.
4 Apr 11	7/A/B	M-F	Ivy Chimneys to Chelmsford via Epping: revised timetable.
	211/12	M-S	Breach Barns to Waltham Cross: revised timetable
	213	M-S	Epping to Waltham Cross: revised timetable.
	251	D	Waltham Cross to Upshire: revised timetable.
	322	Sch	Old Harlow to Saffron Walden: revised schoolday timetable.
	565	M-S	Brentwood to Bulphan: revised timetable with

Service extended to Grays.

Roadrunner

13 Feb 11 7/7A M-S Bishop Stortford to Stansted Airport: new service.
4 Apr 11 392 M-S Rye Park to Harlow: revised timetable and route.

Stagecoach London

14 Feb 11 608 Sch Ilford to Shenfield: revised timetable.

Stephensons

3 Apr 11 260 WFSch South Woodham to Maldon: service withdrawn.
4 Apr 11 1/1A M-F Basildon to Pitsea: revision to timetable with all journeys operating as service 1.
220 MThFSch Burnham to Basildon: service withdrawn.
250 Tu South Woodham to Southend: service renumbered 201.
288 M-S Maldon Tesco to Blackwater Leisure Centre: revision to timetable and route with some journeys extended to Heybridge Approach.

Uno

28 Mar 11 700 D Hatfield to Stansted Airport: new service with Saturday and Sunday service terminating at Stevenage.

Paul Harvey
(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex & Hertfordshire County Council,
Richard Delahoy, Harlowride & First)

First

■ FIRST ESSEX BUSES LTD

New/acquired vehicles

Nine new Volvo B7RLE/Wright are due for Chelmsford Park & Ride services, four for the new Chelmer Valley site which begins operation on 4th April, four for the existing Sandon site and one spare. All are to carry black livery. The existing Scania's are expected to be displaced elsewhere following repaint to fleet livery.

The reported arrival (in EBN562) of a further ex FEC Dart at CN was premature, although Ipswich's 42431 (P431ORL) had gained an overall rear advert for Lifehouse, a health spa in Thorpe le Soken, by late February suggesting it is probably due for early transfer. CN's 65684 has also gained a similar advert.

First Bristol Dennis Lance/Plaxton Verde 60949 (M411VWW, new to Yorkshire Rider) was in Chelmsford depot for component recovery during February but was due to be collected by Erith Commercials for disposal by 5th March.

Allocation changes

End of Period 11: list dated 20th February 2011

These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from any other First fleet; (A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=reserve (spare/retained, licensed); D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for

disposal; DS=Driving School; PH=Private Hire; PS=Paint Spare

43436 FEC-CN; 43484 FEC-CF; 43737 D/L(D)-sold; 46154 CF-sold; 47104 D/L(D)-sold; 47228 D/L(D)-sold; 47229 D/L(D)-sold

Correction to EBN562: 20351/2/3 CN-RES (not CR)

Disposals:

Period 11:

43737 46154 47104 47228 47229 all to Erith Commercials (scrap)

Vehicle authorisations:

Following the details taken from recent Notices & Proceedings and published in EBN562, the following variations were granted in N&P for 7th February:

Coastline House, Telford Road, Gorse Lane Ind Est, Clacton-on-Sea CO15 4LP (45)
31 Queen Street, Colchester, CO1 2PQ (50)
Cherrydown, Basildon, SS16 5AG (85)
London Road, Hadleigh, Benfleet SS7 2QL(70)
Westway, Chelmsford, CM1 3AR (120)
Magdalen Street, Colchester, CO1 2LD (20)
Haven Road, Unit 3, Whitehall Ind Estate, Colchester, CO2 8HT (8)
Unit 15, Springwood Drive, Braintree, CM7 2YN (30)

Members are reminded that First depots are private property and that written permission from Head Office is required to enter them.

First Essex have since announced it will cease parking buses overnight in Colchester Bus Station from early March for security reasons and will relocate them to an unspecified site.

Area News - workings and sightings

Pointers and Dashes – Step entrance Darts

The remaining Alexander-bodied step entrance Dart at CF, 47101, remained in regular use at the time of writing. It worked the Colchester 70 on 9th Feb, the 41 on 21st Feb, route 54 on 18th & 25th Feb, Broomfield 42 on 24th and the 40/50 on 28th. Clacton's 47223 was noted meanwhile on service 13 in place of the more normal Primo on 1st Feb.

Also at CN 46183 worked all day 74s on 15th Feb; both this and 46182 remained in continuous use. 46158 worked intermittently from BE (for example route 30 on 25th Feb).

At HH, 46145/69 were noted still in service on 12th Feb (service 26) with 46169 having worked on 27s the previous day. 46177 was running 21s on 12th Feb and 24s on 1st Mar. At BN, 46151 performed a schools duty and then the 25 & 551 on 18th Feb; it was again on the 351/551 on 26th Feb. By the beginning of March 46828 was reported to have been stood down but BN46153 was still in use on the 551 on 4th Mar.

Clacton (CN) & Harwich (DT)

Member Robert Appleton called in at Harwich on 27th Feb, noting four buses were parked outside: Trident CN32852 still on loan together with Scania CR61054 plus 'native' DT42937 and DT44519.

On 28th, there were enough Dennis Tridents to cover the service 103/104 duties although two were CN vehicles: DT32801 on 08.57 Mistley - Colchester 103 and 0935 Colchester - Harwich 104

DT32804 on 08.50 Harwich - Colchester 103

DT32810 on 09.05 Colchester - Harwich 103

CN32852 on 09.20 Harwich - Colchester 103

CN32854 on 08.35 Colchester - Harwich 104

Robert apologises for not getting up early enough to see service 193 Ardleigh - East Bergholt this time!

January

30th CR65651 on 15.20 CR-CN ser 74 (replacing 43741)

31st CR65651 all day 74

February

1st CN43740 on ser 13 (normally Primo)

6th CN32854 on 11.55 CN-DT

16th CN41644 on ser 13 (normally Primo)

17th CN34610 all day 76

22nd CN41644 on 76

March

2nd CN43739 on 76 (replacing CN32847)

Colchester (CR)

Since most of the Lances have moved away from CR, a considerable number of low floor Scania workings have been noted on the 67 group.

On 7th Feb, Head Street and Headgate, Colchester were closed due to a fatal accident. Town centre diversions applied to routes 61, 62, 63, 64/A, 65, 66/A, 67 group, 68, 70, 71/A, 75, 83, 88, and 175. Roads reopened at 12.00.

On 18th, the A12 was closed due at Marks Tey interchange (northbound) well into evening, with tailbacks to Witham. 70/X, 71/A and 509 were all affected, with 71/As noted turning short at Colchester, Essex County Hospital.

31st CR30560 on 68

2nd CR67003 on 65

3rd CR34315 on 65, CR61054 on 1 (usually Solar)

12th CR67005 on 70

17th CR34305 on 65

18th CR34303 on 64A

22nd CR34309 on 64, CR65537 on 62, CR65672 replaced defective CR65683 on 66 (pm), CR65521 & CR65689 on 70

23rd CR34315 on 68, CR60206 on 76, CR65650 on 71A (usually Volvo Olympian)

24th CR34014 on 64, CR34302 on 70, CR34305 on 66, CR34315 on 68, CR62406 on 61

Chelmsford (CF) & Braintree (BE)

Braintree is due to take over CR's duties on route 70 from 7th March, when 3 more Volvo/Wright and two Olympians are due to be transferred in, bringing the allocation to 30 buses.

Duties will then encompass services 21, 30, 70, 132, 302, 306, 317, 318 and 509 together with the 15.00 CR-Tiptree relief 75 and one late 48C Chelmer Village. Vehicle swaps with CF will cease to be a normal occurrence once BE is operating full maintenance facilities.

Volvo CF69434 now has an all over rear advert for Adult Skills at Clacton College.

January

31st BE66818 on 36X (07.27 SW- CD), CF66829 on BE70

February

1st CF53133 on 36 (14.39 SW- CD), CF66808/11 on BE70

3rd CF66828/9 on BE70

4th CF60102 on 36, CF66811 on BE70
 7th CF42489 & CF42932 on 41/51
 9th CF66818 on BE70
 10th CF42920 on 73, CF67011 on 42, CF66828/9 on BE70, CF66837 on BE132
 11th CF42920 on X30
 14th CF66829 on BE70
 18th CF66798 on BE70.
 19th CF66828 on BE132
 21st CF42922 & CF67006 on 42, CF66798 on BE70
 22nd PH20501 on X30, CF34284 on 36, CF42918 on 31X, CF43484 on 542, CF53113 on 48,
 CF67007 on 36 (07.24 SW- CD), CF34355 & CF66802 on BE70
 23rd CF66797/66810 on BE70
 24th CF66797/8 on BE70
 25th BE34613 & CF66798 on 70, CF42918 on 71A
 28th BE66815 on 21
 March
 1st CF53135 on 70

Basildon (BN) & Hadleigh (HH)

February
 7th HH32857 and HH42857 both on 27 (with HH32887 and HH33001), HH32885 back
 in service, HH32905 on 21 and HH32883 on 21A
 11th HH41737/41 and HH42439 on 24, HH32859/84/7 & 46169 on 27, 46145 running
 out of service
 12th BN66806 on 256 in Billericay
 14th HH42439 on 24
 16th HH32905/33002 on 21
 18th BN65665 on 8, HH32859 on 27
 22nd BN41240, BN65629/68 all on 100
 25th HH32863 on 21, HH32877/33001 on 27
 March
 1st BN67009 on 100
 2nd BN65626 on 100

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to R Appleton, S Austin, A
 Bird, N Clark, T Clark, J Collins, D Edwards, M Farmer, K Mead, J Podgorski, D Pretty, I
 Ransom, J Salmon, 'Solo', D Southwood, TBL177M, J Waite, R West, the *Essex, East Anglia,*
South West and British Buses Abroad in North America yahoo! groups, *Essex and East Anglia*
 Google groups, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, 'Terminus'
 and *Bristol VR South West Bus News* ([http:// ndl642m.blogspot.com](http://ndl642m.blogspot.com)).

*Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail to
 shenfield252@gmail.com or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.*
 Chris Stewart

Arriva

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD.

In case readers had thought that this operator had disappeared within the TGM Group, it continues to be very much alive. The position with regard to Harlow operations was in mid-February as follows

The "Network Harlow" local services (1-4 & 10) were being worked by 3417/39/40 (Red No1), 3250/1/3-6 (Blue No 2/3) 401/0404/5 (Yellow route 4) and 402/0403 (Lime Green route 10). These are regarded as TGM vehicles although all except 3254/5 carry licence discs and legal lettering for Arriva East Herts & Essex Ltd!

The remaining services operated from Harlow were being worked by vehicles in full Arriva national livery with AEH&E discs and legal lettering.

The Greenline Citaros are also AEH&E vehicles (3901-6 at Ware) , (3907-10) at Harlow.

All vehicles and services operating from Ware are also working under AEH&E auspices.

Following the surrender of the 500 group of services several further vehicles have been transferred away - Volvo B6LE 3241/9 and Dart SLF 3416/35 to Arriva Scotland, with Dart SLF 3414 stored.

The "official" fleet list of Arriva The Shires & Essex gives the operational fleet at Harlow on 25/2/11 as:

Optare Versa: 2406/7

Optare Solo: 2453-60/5-7/73/4

Dennis Dart SLF: 401/2, 0403-5, 3229-31, 3417/39/40, 3828

Volvo B6LE: 3250/1/3-7

Volvo B7RLE: 3856-60/73/4

MB Citaro: 3907-10

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD.

Service 5 was withdrawn between Basildon and Lakeside after 5th February. Route 5 branded Dart SLF 3322 (T822 NMJ) worked the last return trip with 'Last Lakeside' board in the windscreen. Route branding has subsequently been removed from all route 5 branded Dart SLFs.

Dart SLF 3401 (R311 NGM) has been transferred to Guildford.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, Essex Bus y-group.

TGM Group

■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Dennis Dart SLFs 411-4 (S311-4 JUA) have arrived at Colchester from Network Harlow. Dennis Dart SLFs 360/3-6 (SN54 HWY/HXB-E) have left Colchester for TGM Stansted.

On 18th February Scania/East Lancs 869 (N169 PUT) (loan vehicle to Colchester) was exchanged for similar 870 (N430 XRC).

Dennis Dart SLF/Caetano 354/5 (Y40/50 TGM) have been parked up out of use, with 355 moving to Stansted for store.

Dennis Dart SLF MPD 3483 (W483 YGS) was only briefly used at Colchester, temporarily reintroducing Arriva livery to the town. It is now in store at Stansted.

Rail Replacement:

Saturday 12th February, Barking to Limehouse, buses used 103-106.

Sunday 13th February, Mile End to Barking, buses used 102-5.

Saturday 19th February, Newbury Park to Walthamstow Central, buses used 102/3/4/6.

Sundays 20th and 27th February, Colchester to Walton on Naze, buses used 101-6.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Keith Sadler.

■ TGM STANSTED

It is reported that Classic Coaches Scania/Berkhof YN54 AJO was on loan and used on service X22 on 10th February. Dart SLF 552 (KP51 UFL) was used on the X22 on 13th February.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski

Ensignbus

■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

	<i>from</i>	
	London General:	Olympian R365 LGH
	Metroline:	Darts T47/51/6 KLD, Y151/251/3/4/6/7/9 NLK, Tridents V313/5/7 GLB, T185/95/8 CLO
	Stagecoach London:	Tridents V138/155 MEV
	Stagecoach Manchester:	Volvo B10Ms R950/61/3/76/85/6 XVM
	Stagecoach Midlands:	Olympian R179 VPU
	Thamesdown Transport:	Olympian K886 CSF

Vehicles out

	<i>to</i>
Olympians F626/32 MSL:	Alpine Coaches , Llandudno
Dart P455 DCW:	Carters Coaches , Ipswich
Volvo B10M R976 XVM:	Cotswold Green , Nailsworth, Glos.
Volvo D10M XIL 5260:	Decker Bus , Whittlesey, Cambs.
Olympian E312 MSG:	Discover Dorset , Bournemouth
Tridents T183/4 CLO:	Doyles Coaches , Alfreton, Derbys.
Volvo B10M M874 UEJ:	Foundry Coach Hire , Sheffield
Olympian R365 LGH:	Green Bus , Birmingham
Dennis Dragon M687 TDB:	Greys Coaches , Ely, Cambs.
Dart Y151 NLK:	Herberts Coaches , Shefford, Beds.
Volvo B10B's M549 WTJ/M526 WHF:	Holloways Coaches , Scunthorpe, Lincs.
Dart Y251 NLK:	Imperial , Hornchurch, Essex
Tridents T186/204 CLO:	McGills , Glasgow
Dublin B7LA 00-D-65007	now X958 CNO with Peoplesbus , Liverpool
Olympians L934/41 SNO:	Red Route Buses , Northfleet, Kent
Dublin B6 00-D-70040	now X959 CNO with Tates Travel , Barnsley
Dart R711 YWC, Olympian K893 CSF:	Xelabus , Southampton
Trident X608 EGK:	Yourbus , Nottingham

RM909: **London Truck and Bus**, Northfleet, Kent
Metrobus BIG 8745: **South East Coachworks**, Faversham, Kent

Titan WYV 64T: **Ashcroft High School**, Luton
Olympian L899 SNO and B10B L31 HHN: **Swinton School Project**, West Yorks.

Volvo D10M XIL 3492: **Paul Paske**, Chelmsford, for preservation

RM1018 RML2336/2651: **Ambassatours**, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada
Volvo B10M W385 PRC: **Tony Devine Coaches**, Co. Meath, Eire
Volvo B10B M556 WTJ: **Michael Healy**, Galway, Eire
Mercedes 814D T943 BWO: **Uslugi Transport**, Przewoz Osob, Poland

Olympians R179 VPU, J827 CEV,
Volvo B10M H662 GPF,
Metroliners B115 ORU, C906 GUD: **Geoff Ripley** for scrap

■ ENSIGNBUS CO. LTD

Acquired vehicles

via Ensign dealing stock

653 Y253 NLK Dennis Dart SLF SFD612AR11GW15641 / Plaxton 018.8GKB4003 B29F
654 Y254 NLK Dennis Dart SLF SFD612AR11GW15642 / Plaxton 018.8GKB4004 B29F
656 Y256 NLK Dennis Dart SLF SFD612AR11GW15644 / Plaxton 018.8GKB4006 B29F
657 Y257 NLK Dennis Dart SLF SFD612AR11GW15645 / Plaxton 018.8GKB4007 B29F
659 Y259 NLK Dennis Dart SLF SFD612AR11GW15652 / Plaxton 018.8GKB4009 B29F
new to Metroliner Travel DLM153-4/6/7/9 in 4/2001.

These are for use on the Thurrock Council contracts (373/4), to be taken up from 4th April.

■ CITY SIGHTSEEING

Dublin Olympian 97-D-329 is now P767 SWC, converted to half open-top, numbered 267 with City Sightseeing Cardiff (Bath Bus Co. Ltd.)

Ensignbus-owned **Bath Bus Co. Ltd.** was sold to RATP Dev UK Ltd. on 28th February. This is the newly-formed UK arm of the RATP Group (who operate the Paris transport network and are involved in many other transport operations worldwide). RATP Dev UK was established to extract the RATP interests arising from the recent merger of the Veolia and Transdev groups. The UK Transdev and Veolia operations passed to the now merged group ("Veolia-Transdev"), except for Transdev London United and Transdev Yellow Buses (Bournemouth) which form the RATP Dev UK share.

The BBC open-toppers allocated to City Sightseeing Windsor, Bath and Cardiff have passed to RATP. The BBC Eastbourne fleet was sold over the winter and is being replaced with ex-Dublin Olympians, details to follow. RML2665 at Bath also passes to RATP. RM25 at Cardiff is being retained by Ensignbus, but will be exchanged with RM1978 recently acquired from Helms Coaches, Aintree.

David Harman with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus Co.

Olympus / Roadrunner / SM Coaches

Irisbus Scolabus FD54 EOP has been sold to Holmeswood Coaches, Lancashire

Ian Ransom

Corrections: EBN562: the picture of SM Coaches P830 BUD: this is not a one-off; SM also have P831BUD. Also, the registration numbers of these two vehicles are shown incorrectly in the fleetlist in EBN558 which lists them as PUD instead of BUD.

Andrew Colebourne

Regal Busways

Long withdrawn Dennis Dart/Plaxton 507 (K877 UDB) and 532 (J132 DUV), plus Leyland Olympian/ECW 1205 (SJR 617Y) have gone from the Cooksmill Green depot, and are assumed to have been sold for scrap. Dennis Dart/Plaxton 509 (M69 CYJ) has been withdrawn

Ian Ransom

Other operators

ACCESS ANYONE, Southend Airport

Acquired from a private owner is EJ51 KFY a Vauxhall Movano.

APT TRAVEL, Rayleigh Another vehicle acquired from the former Hardy Miles fleet, is BIG 8743 (N251 XKR) a Mercedes Benz 609D/Robin Hood.

CM3 CARS, South Woodham Ferrers LDV Pilot R447 SLY has been sold.

CRUSADER, Clacton-On-Sea Recently acquired for tours feeder work, is Ford Transit AY60 YBM.

ESSEX LIMOS, Rayne Optare Alero YS02 UBZ has been acquired. If this is for conversion to a "party bus", or for spares, is not clear.

FARGOLINK, Rayne Two further Ford Transits are WN52 HLR and NL56 ORH.

FARNHAM HIRE SERVICES, Farnham Acquired is a Mercedes based, Sitcar Beluga YF02 VXV.

LONGTAIL CARRIAGE COMPANY, Orsett Acquired from a private owner is LDV Convoy YJ55 JXF.

RUFFLE, Sible Hedingham Vehicles

withdrawn are Dennis Javelin/Neoplan M917 OVR and LDV Convoys P176 RFL and AF03 BVE.

SAINT CLOUD, Southend-On-Sea LDV Convoy T780 MBV has been sold.

SINNOTT, Molehill Green Acquired from Lodge, High Easter is R710 SLU an Iveco 59-12/Marshall.

TURNERS, Little Maplestead Acquired last year, but not mentioned in this column is Volvo B10M/Plaxton P186 NAK.

TWH, Waltham Abbey A further ex SM Travel, Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton is P681 RWU. Like the other two mentioned last month, the blue skirt has been painted red and no fleetnames are carried. Also acquired is former Arriva (and one time Harlow based) Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton R187 DNM.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Acquired is Dennis R/Plaxton KP51 UER.

Ian Ransom with thanks to the PSV Circle

Roundabout to Wickford

I have been interested in John Ruggs's reported voyages with his Freedom Pass in EBN and now as a member of the 'time and plenty club' I followed his example to plan a journey to the February meeting at Wickford by various routes. Starting from my home at South Chingford, I boarded ADL 74 of Arriva London North on TfL route 444 at the end of my road at 12 minutes past midday. Having previously driven this route, I was reminded of how cold these buses are with draughts coming seemingly from everywhere and was grateful that it was only a 15 minute trip to North Chingford. Here I joined Plaxton Dart 3230, now with TGM Harlow / AEH&E in Arriva inter-urban livery, operating route 505, which was worked regularly by Darts acquired with West's of Woodford Green until late last year when the coach seated example was withdrawn.

Instead of continuing to Harlow, I alighted at Waltham Abbey to sample TWH's 555 route, perhaps foolishly, as there was a half hour wait in a cold wind. On time at 13.22 Alexander Dash/Dart P103 HNH arrived and whilst painted rather crudely in all-over red it still displayed several interior notices of Stagecoach (East). The comfort of just 40 coach seats was appreciated and with a sparse load travelling through countryside we arrived at Harlow with 10 minutes to spare for my connection with TGM route 510 at 13.55. However, no information was displayed on the Bus Station screens and it was 14.05 before Wright/Volvo 3860 appeared unannounced.

I had previously pondered taking route 301 at Bishops Stortford and change at Stansted Montfitchet, although trying to work out the route of 7 there from the Essex timetable book was unclear. At Stortford, Dart BU05 HDO, one of a pair still with Abellio names

acquired by Roadrunner to work the 7 since its recent abandonment by Centrebus, arrived after a few minutes. A crew change took place from a parked Volvo coach of Olympian. I remembered my friend's oft-quoted advice that 'a bus in the hand is worth two in the timetable' and took refuge aboard and although the electronic screen displayed 7, this journey was a 7A which does a figure of eight in Stansted Montfitchet. At two places the bus travels the same stretch of road in both directions so I was relieved that I took the easy option as a change here is confusing without prior knowledge. After here I was the only passenger until two more joined at Elsenham for the last stage into Stansted Airport.

The 16.00 departure of X30 was already on an adjacent stand and this was not one of the aircoaches but Volvo/Wright 66794, although the half hour run to Chelmsford was not unduly uncomfortable and lack of wi-fi was not missed by me. With a 45 minute wait for my next connection at the most windswept end of the Bus Station, I crossed the road to The Plough, where I knew from the CAMRA Good Beer Guide that an open fire would be welcoming. On my return I was surprised when an Optare Essex Pullman of Regal (PO3), normally on route 1/1A, reversed out of the parking area to take up duty on the 3A. So, I had a ride in comfort on a leather seat after all. At Rayleigh I had planned a pit stop at Wetherspoon's before my final journey to Wickford at 19.01 which was aboard another Wright bodied Volvo of First, 66806.

So, a rather long way to reach Wickford but much more interesting than a boring train ride through dreary suburbs from Liverpool Street and also for free!

Owen Woodliffe

Preservation Notebook



2255 (ONO 59)

Courtesy of *John Lidstone*, here are some photos of former Eastern National 4038 (later renumbered 1327 and subsequently 2255) by local enthusiast, *John Ward*. These were taken in Perth, WA, during the course of the world tour undertaken by a group of students from south Essex in 1967 (see EBN515).

The photo above shows 2255 surrounded by a fine selection of period vehicles, including a Metropolitan (Perth) Transport Trust bus. Note the trolleybus wires (trolleys ceased in Perth in 1969). Below: rear view showing the neat, but non-original platform doors.

2255 has been with the Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society at Lincoln for many years, used as the Society's tender vehicle. Some restoration work is now taking place, and in connection with this, the LVVS seek suitable blinds (2255 is understood to have been allocated to CF, BN and CN), and also the original pressed alloy front registration plate. See www.lvvs.org.uk/

David Harman



Years gone by

This article looks back at events, as recorded by Eastern National Enthusiasts Group, or later, The Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group in the monthly news sheet, or magazine.

March 1968

Eastern National had just received new Bristol coaches: ECW-bodied RELH6G 407-12 (YHK 724-29) and Duple-bodied RESH6G 413-16 (YTW 537-40F), although none had entered service. In a reverse of current (2011) events, a number of vehicles had passed to Eastern Counties. They were Bristol LS/ECW 319 and 325 (OBD 901/2), which had been acquired from United Counties in 1962, plus open-top Bristol KSW/ECW 2381/5 (WNO 482/1).

Service revisions recorded that the

interavailability of tickets, between Chelmsford and Southend on service 11/A and British Rail, was to be withdrawn.

Fares were to be revised, with a 0.5 mile journey now costing 3d (1.25p), with a 4 mile journey costing 1s 4d (6.67p), every additional mile would cost 2d (0.83p)

Southend Transport had just received Leyland Leopard/East Lancs 216 (MJN 216F)

March 1978

No fewer than 40 vehicles were reported as being withdrawn, comprising 22 Bristol MW's, five dual purpose Bristol RE's and 13 Bristol FLF's.

Bristol FLF 2755 (JWC 715) had its body



416 (YTW 540F) was the last of four Bristol RESH/Duple (Northern) delivered in 1968 and is seen here displaying the 'CP' (Central Pool) allocation code introduced about two years beforehand. Only eleven RESH chassis were built, nine of them bodied by Duple (for Hants & Dorset, Eastern National and Southern Vectis, whose sole example KDL 885F is preserved). Two more had ECW bus shell dual-purpose bodies for Midland General. The EN quartet marked a dramatic move from ECW bodywork on Bristol chassis, although Duple coaches were not unfamiliar in the fleet over the years. All four passed to Tillings Travel (NBC) Ltd and then National Travel (South East) and 416 operated further for Cheek (Elm Tree Transport) but none survive now. *Chris Stewart Collection*



Stripped to its bare chassis, FLF 2755 (JWC715 but now running on trade plates) was part of the EN display at the Bus Driver of the Year heat held at Widford, Chelmsford on June 18th, 1978. Behind is 2849, Hadleigh's showbus, along with KSWs in open and closed top form and preserved Lodekka 2400. *Richard Delahoy*

removed, so the chassis could be used, for Engineering Training at Chelmsford Central Works.

To comply with EEC legislation, service 251 was split into two licensed services from Wood Green – Brentwood and Brentwood – Southend, although in practice, vehicles continued to operate the entire route, with no change of vehicle.

Service 40 (Brentwood-Grays) was renumbered 269, to fit in with Brentwood area route numbers.

Colchester Borough Transport had placed an order for eight Leyland Atlanteans and two coaches

Southend Transport had withdrawn Leyland Leopards 206/7 (2717/18 HJ) and Leyland Titans 315, 336, 339 and 344 (PHJ 954, CJN 436/39/44C). Sister 338 (CJN 438C) had just returned to service, following overhaul. Albion Lowlander 328 (7092 HJ) had been overhauled, but had not returned to service

March 1988

Eastern National confirmed that an order had been placed for 30 Leyland Lynx. Details of the 17 vehicles acquired from Coastal Red, Great Oakley were also given. This takeover, included the depot at Telford Road, to which the EN allocation would move in the future.

Colchester Borough Transport had put Leyland Lynx 35 and 36 into service, while 37 had just been delivered. A formal handover in front of the press, of the five vehicles (33-37) in this batch, had taken place at Norman Way Schools. Bristol REs 20 and 25, had been sold to Newcastle Busways, with 16 and 18 expected to follow. This left two REs in service (22 & 23), which were expected to be withdrawn, on delivery of two Leyland Olympians.

Events at Southend Transport, had taken a turn for the worse, with considerable press comment about a "crisis". This was put down to the bad winter of 1986/87, traffic congestion, taxi bus operators TVT and Southend Radio Cars, poor use of evening



Southend Transport 313 has lost part of its registration number - GHV 106N - as it rounds the Anchor Corner in Canewdon on service 12 from Wallasea Bay to Southend on April 25, 1987. A Park Royal bodied ex London DMS Fleetline, it was withdrawn just over a year later. *Richard Delahoy*



Shortly after its sale and still in CBT colours, ex Colchester 23, OWC 723M, was caught in Byker works on May 7th, 1988, being prepared for service in Busways' low cost unit, another RE to its left and a standard Newcastle Atlantean to the right. *Richard Delahoy*

opposite top: ~ March 1988 - Coastal Red takeover

As **Colchester** Leyland Tiger/Duple 104 (**OWE 280X**, ex West Riding) passes a **Coastal Red** Leyland National, former West Midlands PTE VR/MCW **JOV7 20P** pulls away on their Clacton circular. Coastal Red operated four such VRs, one of which (**GOG 632N**) saw a couple of months use as a driving trainer with EN but otherwise they were not used after takeover. *P J Snell*

and Sunday commercial services and perhaps the biggest factor, loss of custom on the X1 London group of services. As a result ten former London DMS vehicles had been withdrawn, together with 18 coaches. The three open top Fleetlines (371-3) were also not expected to see further service. On the staff front, Derek Giles retired as Operations Director and Engineering Director Chris Hilditch, had accepted a role with Midland Red North.

East Midlands Frontrunner operations in the Brentwood area, had seen Bristol REs starting to be replaced by early series Leyland Nationals.

A Nelsons fleetlist, recorded the current fleet of nine Daimler Fleetlines, eight Bristol REs, four Leyland Leopards, three Ford coaches and an AEC Reliance

March 1998

First Eastern National had taken delivery of Dennis Dart/Plaxton 712-716 (R712-6 DJN), which entered service at Chelmsford on the Diamond service (Southend-Stansted) in First livery. Volvo/Northern Counties 4304 (L304 PWR) had been acquired.

First Thamesway had the other part of the batch 717-721 (R717-21 DJN). They were based at Hadleigh and were in Canvey Clipper (the former service 3C) livery. In London, operation of LRT service 214 had been transferred to MTL, with Dennis Dart/Plaxton 901-17 (K901-17 CVW), being transferred to operate the service.

Not a lot was going on at Arriva Southend: Tiger coaches 557-9 (B83-5 SWX) were converted from 57 to 53 seats, while Fleetline 211 (JTD 391P) had gone to Ripley, Carlton for scrap.

Arriva Colchester had acquired a second Metrobus M301 (BYX 301V).

Harris Bus also had new vehicles: these were R361-72 DJN Volvo Olympian/East Lancs for Lewisham area LRT service 180. These were based at the new Belvedere depot.

Heddingham had repainted Leyland Tigers L268 (XGS 767X) and L270 (CPU 125X) into fleet livery. They were the last vehicles in Osbornes colours.

Ian Ransom

rear cover:

Like elephants, old First buses tend to go to obscure places like Erith to die, but here are two that lived to fight another day ...

Now with **Blueworks Taxis** of Backbarrow, Cumbria is former (**First**) **Thamesway** Mercedes-Benz 709D/Reeve Burgess, new in 1991 as **364** (H375 OHK). Blueworks bought it for school bus work from Mackie of Dundee last year. *John Weeks*

Former Greater Manchester Buses and **First Manchester** Dominator/Northern Counties **15036** (H136 GVM) has been converted recently to a publicity unit for the 2011 Census (Office for National Statistics) by Busworks at Blackpool. Rivalling TWH's Mecca Bingo bus for the award for most/least attractive use of contravision, it is seen in downtown Southend on 4th March. *Ian Banks*



On the final day of Coastal Red operations, February 27, 1988, Richard Delahoy visited the depot in Telford Road, Clacton to photograph the remaining vehicles, including ex West Midlands Fleetline/Park Royal EOF 246L, one of those that passed to Eastern National but not numbered or operated by EN. By way of contrast, the depot was taken over by EN to replace the existing premises in Clacton and remains in use today.

