

EDITORIAL

Subscription Renewals for 1985

Those members who have a membership subscription ending this December will have received a Membership Renewal Advice with this news sheet. Please mark the necessary details on the form and return the complete form to the Membership Secretary, who takes this opportunity to thank members, in advance, for their co-operation. Subscriptions have had to be raised slightly to £3.00 (2nd class postage) and £3.65 (1st class postage) to fully cover revised postage charges, and other recent increases in the cost of paper and duplicating ink. Despite these small increases, Group membership still represents excellent value for money and members are encouraged to renew their subscriptions for 1985 at their earliest convenience.

New P.S.V. Circle/Omnibus Society Fleet History - Eastern National O.C. Ltd.

The P.S.V. Circle and Omnibus Society have recently published Part 3 of the Fleet History (Ref. 2PF8) for Eastern National O.C. Ltd., and this new publication deals with the period from 1960 to 1984. Copies may be obtained from the Group's Administrative Officer (P.W. Harvey Esq.) at 563. London Road, Hadleigh, Essex. SS7 3EA. at £3.00 each (inclusive of postage).

Group Photographs

Members are reminded that two new photograph lists have been published during recent months, and which include recent additions to the Group's range of black and white and colour photographs. Details are as follows :-

Colour Photographs - Updated List.

Black and White Photographs - Part 1 : Pre-1945 vehicles. (E.C.16).

Part 2 of the black and white photograph list (Ref. E.C. 16 - Part 2), dealing with post-1945 vehicles, will be available very shortly, and copies of these three lists may be obtained by sending a large stamped addressed envelope to the Photographs Officer, Mr. P.J. Snell, 6. Mandeville Way, Benfleet, Essex. SS7 4LH.

Following the Group's recent weekend coach tour and the visit to Barnsley, members may also be interested in a range of 35mm. colour prints that are offered for sale by Mr. G.F.E. Elsworth, 38. Honeywell Street, Barnsley, South Yorkshire. S71 1PZ. The photographs cover most major operators in Yorkshire and the Midlands, and include over 800 views of Yorkshire Traction vehicles. Prices (inclusive of postage) are £1.20 for 5 prints, £2.40 for 10 prints and £3.60 for 15 prints, etc., and a full 58 page list is available for a deposit of £2.50, which is redeemable against the first order for 10 prints. Members interested in purchasing these photographs should write direct to Mr. Elsworth at the above address.

Essex County Council Publications

New timetable booklets for the Braintree/Dunmow/Witham/Halstead area (Area 3) and Brentwood/Chelmsford/South Woodham Ferrers/Maldon area (Area 4) both dated November 1984 have recently been published by Essex County Council. Copies are available from the Administrative Officer (address above) at £0.62 for the Area 3 timetable and £0.68 for the Area 4 timetable, or £1.20 for both timetables, all prices inclusive of postage and packing.

New Publication

The following new publication is now available :-

E.P.3 - Fleet List of Colchester Transport : dated October 1984

This publication is available from the Administrative Officer (address above); the price is £0.25 (inclusive of postage and packing).

'The Years Between : 1909-1969' - Vol. 2 (1929-1969)

The Oxford Publishing Company have now notified us that this book, mentioned in last month's news sheet, will not now be published until February 1985 at the earliest. Further details will be published as soon as they become available.

Southend Meeting - Wednesday, December 12th.

For the Group's December meeting we will welcome Mr. Paul Bateson, currently Traffic Manager of Grey-Green Coaches Ltd., who will present a slide show covering the period since the mid-1960's. Subjects will include the Southend Corporation strike of 1967 and buses in North America. The meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 12th commencing at 1930 hrs. (for 2000 hrs.) in the Committee Rooms, Civic Centre, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea. Members and their guests are urged to attend at what should prove to be the highlight of the year's programme of meetings.

Annual General Meeting/Southend Co-ordination Agreement Anniversary Tour/Group Social Evening - Saturday, January 12th, 1985.

A special programme of events has been arranged to coincide with the Group's Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, January 12th, 1985. Full details are contained on the enclosed booking form, and bookings for the Anniversary Tour and Social Evening should be sent to Richard Delahoy, Events Secretary, 120. Yarnacott, Thorpe Bay, Southend-on-Sea, Essex. SS3 8AW.

1984 Photographic Competition

This competition was held at the November meeting at Southend, and the standard of entries was extremely high. The winners were :-

- a) Slides -- 1st : Gareth Morgan (Sheffield PD3)  
                     Joint 2nd : Len Lennox (Underwood's Routemaster)  
                                     John Bath (Maidstone & District AEC Regul)
- b) Prints - 1st : David Arnold (Eastern National 1786)  
                     Joint 2nd : John Rugg (Bristol L at Laindon)  
                                     Les Thorington (United A.S. Bristol RE)

Report on Weekend Coach Tour to Humberside, Friday, August 24th to Monday, August 27th.

The vehicle used for this tour was Southend Transport Leyland Leopard 219 (SPN669X). The outward journey on Friday evening to Newark was delayed by an extensive fire in a warehouse at Cricklewood. The first visit on Saturday was to Newark Bus Station where former Eastern National Bristol RELL 1523, now with Lincolnshire and sporting "East Notts" fleetnames was photographed as were several vehicles from the Gash fleet. Then it was off to Lincoln where the sun broke through and continued to shine for the rest of the weekend. Vehicles photographed at the Lincolnshire garage included a second-hand Leyland National from Northern General, at the nearly empty Lincoln City Transport garage attention was focused upon overall advertising Bristol RE's. The visit to the City Bus Station then realised most of the Lincoln fleet, including several Bristol VRT's. Then it was away across the county to Grimsby to see their collection of former London Transport DMS's, some of which are painted in the liveries of constituent Companies. Some members of the party were lucky enough to catch a glimpse of the other ex-Eastern National Bristol RELL with Lincolnshire (1527), which had earlier suffered some accident damage (see NS245) but which has been returned to service. Independent interest was provided by Hornsby of Ashby with their attractive fleet of blue and grey double deckers including an old Burnley Leyland PD2. Last visit of the day was to Lincolnshire at Scunthorpe where a National Travelworld Bristol VRT and an acquired Leyland National from East Yorkshire were presented for the cameras. Then over the Humber Bridge to our hotel in Hull. Many of the party later assembled at Ferensway Coach Station to witness the mass "Le Mans" style departure since the last bus on every Hull route is scheduled to leave at 2300 hrs.

In the morning we were treated to a record number of vehicles moved at the Central garage of Hull City Transport, double deckers, many in overall advertising livery, coaches - they all came out. Much the same at the East Yorkshire garage too, where the "old" was a Daimler Fleetline with the Deverley Bar profile whilst the "new" was a B-registered Leyland Tiger. At Bridlington the Bus Station was closed and so a rapid change of plans found us at the Coach Station where several of the open-toppers made extra unofficial stops for photography. Our last port of call was Scarborough, where members' attention at the Corner Cafe terminus was divided between the very frequent United open-top service and the giant waves crashing over the sea wall. Visits to the garage and Bus Station followed and then the ride to our hotel in York.

On Sunday, visits were made to the prestigious independent York Pullman, also to Leeds Central Bus Station to observe West Yorkshire P.T.E., and to various N.B.C. garages where we were made most welcome. At Dewsbury (Yorkshire Woollen) the Ridings Travel Bristol VRT was the main attraction whilst at Wakefield (West Riding) it was the "80 Years of West Riding" Daimler Fleetline which was extricated from the very back of the yard after shunting about 15 other vehicles out of the way. The climax was perhaps the Leyland Tiger TS7 preserved by Yorkshire Traction which was posed for the cameras at Barnsley. Then back down the M1 and home again. This was a very successful tour and was thoroughly enjoyed by all who came - will YOU be with us next year ?

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#### EASTERN NATIONAL OMNIBUS CO. LTD.

##### New Vehicles

At the time of writing, MCW Metroliner coach 1602 (B459WHJ) remained at Kent Engineering (NDC) Ltd., Canterbury for accident repairs. Similar vehicle 1603 (B460WHJ) has now returned to the Company after the recent Motor Show, and it was noted at Chelmsford Bus Station on November 9th returning from a National Holiday tour. This vehicle also carries a revised style of 'Eastern National' fleetname.

##### Withdrawn Vehicles

NIL

##### Vehicles On Order

Further to the information published in NS243/5/6, it is now reported that the two Leyland Tiger coaches that are currently on order will carry Plaxton Paramount 3500 coachwork. The chassis designation of these vehicles will be Leyland Tiger TRC/TL11/3RH, and it is not yet possible to publish a revised delivery date for these coaches.

##### Acquired Vehicles

Two of the recently acquired Leyland Leopard coaches (1308/9) have now entered service at Braintree (BE) depot, and they are being operated mainly on commuter services to/from London. Similar vehicle 1310 (ANA 94Y) has not yet been delivered to the Company and it remains at Eastern Coach Works Ltd., Lowestoft for accident damage repairs. As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, these vehicles were transferred from National Travel West (North) Ltd. to Ribble Motor Services Ltd. on May 20th, 1984.

Ten of the Leyland National single-deck vehicles recently acquired from the Thames Valley & Aldershot Omnibus Co. Ltd. (Alder Valley) have now entered service. 1660 (KCG618L) will be the last vehicle of this batch to be repainted, and this vehicle was still at Central Works at the time of writing.

##### Vehicles On Hire

The mobile publicity vehicle (TDV217J) currently on hire from Western National Ltd., Plymouth was also still at Central Works during mid-November, prior to being used at Colchester Bus Station during the forthcoming redevelopment of the Company's travel office. This vehicle carries Western National fleet number 9415 above its fuel filler cap, and does not appear to carry fleet number L8 (see NS247).

##### Allocations & Transfers

11.84 1110 DE-SD, 1112 CR-SD, 1113 DT-SD, 1127 BN-BS, 1300 CN-SD, 1307 CN-CF, 1308 LWA-BE, 1309 LWA-BE, 1407 SD-MN, 1409 SE-D/L (D), 1410 SD-D/L (D), 1413 SD-D/L (D), 1414 MN-D/L (D), 1415 CN-D/L (D), 1416 SD-D/L (D), 1419 DT-SD, 1539 SE-D/L (P), 1541 BS (P)-D/L (P), 1544 DE-D/L (P), 1547 CR-D/L (P), 1548 PL (P)-D/L (P), 1549 CF-D/L (P), 1553 CN-D/L (P), 1651 D/L-CN, 1653 D/L-DT, 1657 D/L-CF, 1659 D/L-SE, 3045 DT-D/L (D), 3047 PL (P)-DT.

Six Bristol RELH coaches (1409/10/3-6) have been delicensed for disposal (D/L (D)), although it is understood that 1409 (X00878L) will be retained by the Company for conversion into a disabled persons' bus. These six coaches are all currently stored at Maldon (MN), and it is expected that 1410/3-6 will be sold in the near future.

Bristol VRTSL6G 3045 (NAG583G) has also been delicensed for disposal following an electrical fire on October 18th. This vehicle is currently at Central Works following repairs to the fire damage, and is also expected to be sold in the near future.

1119 BE, 1125 BS and 1127 BS are not attached to the Coaching Department in the Company's latest vehicle allocation list. The full list of vehicles now attached to the Coaching Department is 1110/2-5/20/1/3/6 and 1308/9 in addition to the coach fleet (1300-7, 1404/6/7/11/2/7-9, 1600-3). The current list of vehicles which are classified as Private Hire vehicles is 1542 BE, 3000 BN and 3047 DT.

Some of the delicensed Bristol RELL6G's are currently being stored at Walton-on-Naze (WN) depot, and 1534/9/52/4 were noted there on November 11th. It is expected that further vehicles will be stored at that depot in due course, and that they will be moved to/from Clacton (CN) for regular maintenance requirements.

### Service Vehicles

It is reported that the Ford D0710 stores lorry BAR316T, which was sold during August (see NS246), was purchased by a private owner in the Rugby area.

The Bristol FLF6G engineering training chassis 2755 (JWC 715) (see also NS168/9/71) has also been sold recently. Latterly the chassis has been stored at Central Works, and at the time of writing it had not been collected by its new owner. This chassis represented the last example of the large Bristol FLF fleet (247 vehicles) still in the Company's ownership.

### Vehicle Repaints

The Company has again kindly given the Group details of vehicles repainted during recent weeks, and this continues from the information published in NS247 :-

October : w/e 20.10.84 - 1056 at CN.

w/e 27.10.84 - 1659 at CW, 1718 at CW, 1808 at CW.

November : w/e 3.11.84 - No vehicles repainted.

w/e 10.11.84 - 3035 at CW, 3102 at CW/PL (overall advertisement livery for Photo-Copying Group PLC (Crompton Close, Basildon) and Electronic Office Equipment Ltd. (Basildon, Southend-on-Sea and Bury St. Edmunds) - base livery painted at Central Works (CW) (see NS247) and signwriting painted at Prittlewell (PL), 3129 at CW/PL ('UniBus' advertisement for Laidlaw (Essex) Ltd.) - white base painted at CW (during w/e 27.10.84), signwriting painted at PL.

w/e 17.11.84 - 1651 at CW.

3102 (UAR592W) and 3129 (XHK233X) have now entered service in their advertising liveries, and the correct advertising details for 3102 are as listed above. Three further vehicles are currently being prepared for new overall advertising liveries. Leyland National 1830 (VNO732S) is at Central Works, and is receiving a white and blue livery for SMAC Continental Ltd., Southend-on-Sea. Bristol VRTSL6G 3095 (UAR585W) is at Prittlewell, and is receiving a silver and blue livery for Neeps of Colchester and Anglian Autos.; the silver base on this vehicle was painted at Prittlewell during w/e 10.11.84 and, at the time of writing, the signwriting was being completed. Bristol VRTSL6G 3112 (XHK217X) is also at Central Works, and is receiving a silver-grey, red and black livery with white, yellow and blue stripes for D.W. Jones (t/a Jones of Chelmsford), Chelmsford.

At the time of writing, 1057 BS is being repainted at Clacton (CN) depot, whilst 1660, 1787, 1830 and 3112 are in the paintshops at Central Works.

Prior to their recent re-allocation to Southend (SD), Leyland Tiger dual-purpose vehicles 1110/2/3 received National Express labels at Central Works on October 23rd (1110), October 24th (1112) and October 26th (1113).

### Temporary Loans

Colchester (CR) vehicles which worked on temporary loan to Harwich (DT) during August, September and October were 1710, 3001/23 (August); 1053, 1536/48/52, 1710, 3023 together with 1050 CN (September); and 1053, 1536, 1793, 3022/3/30/2/66 together with 1050 CN and 1127 BN (October).

Service Developments

The Company has applied for a number of service revisions, and brief details of these proposed changes are as follows :-

- 74 - Mondays to Fridays : two minor timetable changes.
- 110 - Weekdays : one minor timetable change.
- 137 - NEW SERVICE to operate on Mondays to Fridays, with one journey from Runwell (Church) to Basildon (Bus Station) via A132, A127, Gardiners Lane South, Paycocke Road and Eastmayne.
- 156 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.
- 157 - Revised route between Horndon-on-the-Hill and Stanford-le-Hope, and revised timetable.
- 234 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.
- 237 - Mondays to Fridays : one journey to be withdrawn.
- 260 - Mondays to Fridays : three minor timetable changes, and one journey to operate via Navestockside on Schooldays.  
Schooldays : one additional journey to be introduced from Headley Walter School to Stondon Massey (Tipps Cross) via Coxtie Green and Navestockside.  
Sundays : one additional journey to be introduced.
- 261 - Turning point at Stondon Massey to be deleted, and revised timetable.
- 305 - An application has been made for a full licence for this service (see also NS235/9).
- 319 - Weekdays : the application for two minor timetable changes, as listed in NS247, has been withdrawn.
- 321 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.
- 335 - Mondays to Fridays : one journey from Great Totham (Prince of Wales P.H.) to Witham (Rail Station) to start from Great Totham (Mountains Road); one additional journey to be introduced from Maldon to Witham (Rail Station); one journey from Braintree to Great Totham to be extended to Maldon.
- 338 - Mondays to Fridays : one journey from Forest Road to Silver End (E.N. Depot) to start from Witham (Rail Station), together with other minor timetable changes.
- 353 - Mondays to Fridays : one additional journey to be introduced.
- 405 - Revised route between Stanford-le-Hope and Horndon-on-the-Hill, and revised timetable.
- 437 - Revised route via A132, Wickford, Basildon, A176, A127 and A118 to Romford (St. Edwards Way) (see also NS246).
- 507 - Mondays to Fridays : one minor timetable change.  
Saturdays : one minor timetable change including a minor route revision.
- 795 - Minor route revisions to be introduced at Basildon and Grays.

The Company has also applied for certain revisions to services operated jointly with Grey-Green Coaches Ltd., and details are as follows :-

- 137 (Catford-Great Yarmouth) - revised route between Catford and Brentwood, with revised picking up points at Eltham, Welling, Bexleyheath, Crayford and Dartford (outward), and at Dartford, Slade Green, Erith, Upper Belvedere, Bostall Heath, Plumstead, Woolwich, Charlton and Blackheath (inward).
- 194 (Tiptree-London) - minor route revision at Galleywood.

An application has also been made to increase the maximum length of vehicles to be operated on excursions and tours, Highwayman services, National Express services and commuter services to not exceed 12 metres.

From September 3rd, Eastern Counties O.C. Ltd. re-numbered the former service 221 journeys via Holbrook as part of service 123 (Clacton-Ipswich).

Eight Eastern National coaches and seven Grey-Green coaches are now required to operate the revised commuter services (190-9) to/from London (see NS246). The current pattern of operation is as follows :-

- 190 (West Mersea-Stanway) - Eastern National Bedford YMQS dual-purpose vehicle from Colchester (CR) depot.

- 191 (Colchester-London) - Eastern National coach from Colchester (CR) or Clacton (CN) depot.
- 192 (Little Waltham-London) - Eastern National coach from Chelmsford (CF) depot.
- 193 (Silver End-London) - Eastern National coach from Silver End (SE) depot.
- 194 (Tiptree-London) - Two Grey-Green coaches.
- 195 (Braintree, White Courts Estate-London) - Two Eastern National coaches from Braintree (BE) depot.
- 195 (Braintree, Mountbatten Road-London) - Eastern National coach from Braintree (BE) depot.
- 195 (Tye Green-London) - Eastern National coach from Braintree (BE) depot.
- 196 (Silver End-London) - Grey-Green coach.
- 197 (Fordham Heath-London) - Grey-Green coach.
- 198 (Great Cornard-London) - Two Grey-Green coaches.
- 199 (South Woodham Ferrers-London) - Grey-Green coach.

Service revisions introduced during recent weeks have been as follows :- 31A - 5.11.84 (NS246); 33 - 5.11.84 (NS246); 37 - 5.11.84 (NS247); 37A - 5.11.84 (NS246 - see under service 237); 70 - 5.11.84 (NS246); 74 - 26.11.84 (NS248); 82 - 5.11.84 (two minor timetable changes on Weekdays); 87 - 5.11.84 (two minor timetable changes on Weekdays); 88A - 5.11.84 (NS247); 95/A, 96/A, 97/A/X, 98X - 5.11.84 (NS246); 110 - 26.11.84 (NS248); 239 - 5.11.84 (NS247); 260 - 4.11.84 (NS247/8); 261 - 5.11.84 (NS247/8); 262 - 5.11.84 (NS247); 270 - 5.11.84 (NS247); 300 - 29.10.84 (NS246); 301 - 29.10.84 (NS247); 303 - 29.10.84 (one additional journey and one minor timetable change on Mondays to Fridays); 305 - 30.10.84 (revised route and terminal in Safron Walden - see also service 301 in NS247); 307 - 1.11.84 (NS247); 308 - 29.10.84 (NS247); 309 - 29.10.84 (NS247); 311 - 5.11.84 (one minor timetable change on Mondays to Fridays); 312 - 19.11.84 (one journey re-numbered 311 on Schooldays with a minor route revision); 315 - 8.11.84 (two minor timetable changes on Thursdays only); 317 - 29.10.84 (NS247); 321 - 5.11.84 (one additional journey on Mondays to Fridays, and one minor timetable change on Schooldays); 335 - 4.11.84 (NS246); 338 - 5.11.84 (NS246); 347 - 5.11.84 (one minor timetable change on Mondays to Fridays); 353 - 5.11.84 (NS246); 361 - 5.11.84 (NS247); 373 - 9.11.84 (one minor timetable change on Fridays only); 437 - 7.11.84 (NS246 - see under service 431, and NS248); 461 - 7.11.84 (one minor timetable change on Wednesdays and Saturdays only); 471 - 6.11.84 (one minor timetable change on the first Tuesday in each month); 472 - 20.11.84 (one minor timetable change on the third Tuesday in each month); 473 - Limited Stop Christmas shopping service re-introduced between Colchester and Romford from 26.10.84, and will operate on 26.10, 9/23.11 and 7.12.

From Monday, November 19th, Colchester Borough Transport services 5A, 8, 9/9A and 19/19A and Eastern National services 74/A and 78 were extended to serve the new Colchester General Hospital (see also NS242).

A number of service revisions were also introduced in the Basildon area from Monday, November 19th. These involved the introduction of new service 137 and timetable revisions to services 229/34/7, 503/4/6/7/20/1/4/47 (see also NS245/6/8).

The new commuter service 712 (jointly licensed with London Country Bus Services Ltd.) between Bishop's Stortford (Heath Row East) and London (Victoria) was introduced as planned from Monday, October 29th. Similarly, new commuter service 190 (West Mersea-Stanway) commenced on Monday, November 5th (see above). Fares from Little Waltham, Broomfield and North Melbourne on commuter service 192 were reduced from Monday, October 15th, and all fares from these areas are now similar to fares from Chelmsford and Writtle.

Services 98, 98A and 334 were withdrawn after operation on November 2nd (98 and 334) and November 3rd (98A) (see NS246).

#### Publicity News

New publicity material published during recent weeks has been as follows :- General leaflets - a leaflet outlining the Company's travel facilities in the Basildon area (dated Autumn 1984).

- Timetable leaflets - new timetable leaflets for services 239/60/1/70/1 (one leaflet) (dated November 4th), 437 (dated November 7th), 471/2 (dated November 6th), 473 (dated October 26th) and 712 (dated October 29th).
- a leaflet listing service revisions in the Basildon area (137, 229/34/7, 503/4/6/7/20/1/4/47) (dated November 19th).
  - a timetable booklet containing details of the revised services (95/A, 96/A, 97/A, 97X, 98X, 437) in the Dengie Hundred area (dated November 4th).
- Excursion leaflets - further booklets containing details of the Company's programme of excursions for the Winter period (October-April) are now available for the Basildon and District, Chelmsford and District, Clacton and Walton/Brightlingsea/Colchester and Southend and District areas.
- National Express leaflets - a leaflet (dated October 28th) with details of 'Bocatering' fares from Chelmsford.

### Unusual Workings

Details of unusual workings which have been supplied by members during recent weeks are as follows :-

- 16.10-Southend Transport 315 noted on service 7A at Rochford.
- 17.10-1306 SE observed on commuter service 193; Southend Transport 371 noted on service 8.
- 18.10-3068 LN noted at Heybridge.
- 19.10-1653 DT noted at Colchester, without depot allocation plates and displaying service 78A; Southend Transport 368 noted on service 1 - this vehicle's last day in service (see below).
- 21.10-3109 HH operated a rail replacement service between Pitsea and Laindon, whilst 3054/65/86 (all SD), 3097 HH, 3104/5/19/22 (all SD), 3111/25 (both CF) and Southend Transport 228/39, 380/5/97 operated a similar service between Southend (Victoria) and Wickford, and 3083 CF, 3093 BD, 3106 CF, 3113 CF and 3125 CF were also noted on rail replacement work between Chelmsford and Shenfield.
- 22.10-Rail services on the Fenchurch Street-Shoeburyness line were severely disrupted, and Southend Transport operated shuttle services between Benfleet and Rayleigh, Leigh and Rayleigh, Pitsea and Wickford, Basildon and Wickford and between Laindon and Billericay using 208/13/24/31/3/5/7/42, 381/5/8-91/4/5. Other buses were provided by Ensign Bus Co., London Pride Sightseeing (Emma Heath Ltd.) and W.H. Nelson Coaches, Wickford, and these operators also provided vehicles for similar services on November 6th (see below); Southend Transport 371 noted at Rochford on service 9B, with similar vehicle 372 at Bourne Green.
- 23.10-Colchester Borough Transport 71 noted on rail replacement work; Southend Transport 327 and 371 noted at Rochford on services 7A and 10 respectively.
- 24.10-1418 SD, 1728 MN, 1841 CF, 2200 CF, 3014 PL (P), 3030 CR, 3047 PL (P), 3063 DE, 3083 CF, 3110 CF and Colchester Borough Transport 68 and 71 were noted on rail replacement services between Shenfield and Colchester.
- 28.10-3097, 3103/7/9 (all HH) noted on a rail replacement service between Shoeburyness and Leigh; 3083, 3113/25/6 (all CF) operated a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield; Colchester Borough Transport 81 and 83 operated a rail replacement service from Colchester to Norwich, following the cancellation of the 2030 hrs. rail service from Liverpool Street.
- 29.10-Southend Transport 390 observed on driver training duties at Thorpe Bay.
- 30.10-3117 BN noted on service 233.
- 31.10-1110 SD observed on service 795 to Brighton; Southend Transport 301 (with crew operation) noted on service 1.
- 2.11-Southend Transport 250 noted on a private hire journey at Rochford.
- 4.11-3116 LN noted on service 400; 3085/99, 3109 (all HH) operated a rail replacement service between Shoeburyness and Leigh; 3111 CF and Colchester Borough Transport 77 and 81 operated a rail replacement service between Colchester and Shenfield.
- 6.11-Rail services on the Liverpool Street-Southend (Victoria) line were disrupted, and Southend Transport operated shuttle services between Rayleigh and Benfleet, Wickford and Pitsea, Rayleigh/Hockley and Southend and between Wickford and Southminster using 221/3/7/8/32/3/4/6/7/9/40, 378/80/5/92 and Colchester

Borough Transport 101 (which is believed to have been on hire to Southend Transport for that day only); 3069 BN noted on service 151; Southend Transport 370 observed on service 29, with similar vehicle 373 being noted at Bournes Green on service 66.

7.11-1540 MN noted on service 353.

8.11-1924 DE noted on service 353 (and also on 9.11 and 10.11).

9.11-3079 MN noted on an ASDA working at Rayleigh; Southend Transport 371 observed on service 63.

11.11-3026/91, 3100 (all BD) and 3080/3, 3111/3/25/6 (all CF) noted on a rail replacement service between Chelmsford and Shenfield.

12.11-1924 DE observed on service 53.

13.11-3047 DT noted in Colchester on a private hire schools journey.

### General

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Leyland Olympian's 4000 (XHK235X) and 4002 (XHK237X) have now been modified to incorporate new upper deck front windows similar to those fitted to Bristol VRT vehicles. The work was carried out at Central Works, with 4000 being completed during mid-November and 4002 being completed in late-October.

Recent press reports in the Essex County Standard (October 26th) and The Thurrock Independent (November 9th) have indicated that Essex County Council's Public Transport Sub-Committee have approved proposals to meet half the cost of converting two buses to carry disabled passengers. It is planned that the buses will operate in the Clacton and Basildon or Grays areas. The three local Councils (Tendring, Basildon and Thurrock) have now been approached to meet the other half of the conversion costs, and it is understood that, subject to agreement, Bristol RELH6G coach 1409 (X00878L) (see above) will be converted by Eastern National. Further details regarding these proposals will be published as soon as they become available.

Former London Transport Routemaster RM675 (WLT 675) was converted at Central Works during July and August into a playbus for the Southwark Women's Action Group, London S.E.15.

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### COLCHESTER TRANSPORT

#### Acquired Vehicles

Former Tyne & Wear P.T.E. Leyland Atlantean 53 (MVK548R), which carries exterior advertising for the Colchester Evening Gazette (Essex County Newspapers), now regularly operates on service 8, together with similar vehicle 51 and the Southend Transport Leyland Fleetline.

The other former Tyne & Wear P.T.E. Leyland Atlantean, 52 (MVK546R), remained out of service during early-November. It had returned to the Magdalen Street depot by October 27th after repairs (see NS247), and it now carries exterior advertising for the Essex County Standard (Essex County Newspapers), in a similar style to the advertising carried by Leyland Atlantean 53.

#### Vehicles On Hire

Leyland Leopard coach 102 (DHK102T) remains on hire to Southend Transport, and the replacement vehicle at Colchester is now Leyland Fleetline 241 (MRJ241W), which replaced similar vehicle 234 (MRJ234W) on or about October 17th.

### General

As noted above (under Eastern National), services 5A, 8, 9/9A and 19/19A were extended to serve the new Colchester General Hospital from Monday, November 19th.

Publicity leaflets are currently being distributed to homes in the Colchester area to promote the circular 9/9A and 19/19A services. The leaflets contain timetable and fare details, and encourage passengers to use the services for direct links between areas such as St. John's, Magdalen Wood, Shrub End, Prettygate, Home Farm and Lexden and the new General Hospital and North Station.

Leyland Atlantean's 83-88 (MEV 83-7V, RVW 88W) are believed to have all passed to Ipswich Borough Transport for M.O.T. preparation during recent weeks. 85 (MEV 85V)

was noted at the Constantine Road depot of Ipswich Borough Transport on October 19th, and 83/4/7 (MEV 83V etc.) have all subsequently been noted back at Colchester, either in service or at the Magdalen Street depot.

Leyland Atlantean's 49 and 50 appear to have been used more frequently during the past month. 49 (YWC649F) was noted on services 4 (October 30th and November 9th), 4A (November 9th), 5A (October 25th) and 10 (October 30th), whilst 50 (AVX 50G) was also noted on services 4 (October 28th and November 6th) and 4A (November 6th). Leyland Atlantean 55 (JHK495N) remains out of service (see NS247), and similar vehicle 59 (JHK499N) has recently been repainted in the new livery incorporating black window surrounds.

Further to the information published in last month's news sheet, Bristol RELL6L 16 (YWC 16L) had returned to service by October 18th, but similar vehicles 18 (YWC 18L) and 28 (SWC 28K) were out of service at the Magdalen Street depot at the time of writing.

Leyland Atlantean 82 (YNO 82S), which is painted in an overall advertisement livery for British Telecom, was first noted back in service on services 7/7A on November 2nd, and it was in regular use by November 10th (see also NS247).

### SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

#### Acquired Vehicles

Two vehicles have been acquired recently, and details are as follows :-

|     |         |                 |          |         |              |              |          |
|-----|---------|-----------------|----------|---------|--------------|--------------|----------|
| 347 | XWX184S | Leyland Leopard | PSU3E/4R | 7800778 | Duple C53F   | 833/5180     | New -/78 |
| 354 | UDW140S | Leyland Leopard | PSU3E/4R | 7705332 | Plaxton C53F | 7811/LXM/626 | New -/78 |

347 was new to Wallace Arnold Tours Ltd., Leeds, and was delivered to Southend on October 31st. It is in a white livery with brown and orange stripes, and entered service on November 2nd. 354 was new to Hills (Tredegar) Ltd., Tredegar, and was delivered to Southend on November 2nd; it has subsequently been noted at the Tickfield Avenue works painted in the yellow and blue coach livery, but had not entered service at the time of writing.

As a correction to the information published in last month's news sheet, it should be noted that the correct delivery dates for 343-6 are as follows :- 343 - September 19th, 344 - September 19th, 345 - October 1st, 346 - October 1st. The correct dates of entry into service for these vehicles are as follows :- 343 - September 20th, 344 - September 20th, 345 - October 9th, 346 - October 2nd.

As supplementary information to previously published details, 331 (XWX166S) and 344 (XWX161S) were both withdrawn by Wallace Arnold Tours (Devon) Ltd., Paignton in November 1983. 352 (DAX452V) has been recorded by the P.S.V. Circle as passing to Priory, North Shields, by 6/84, ex. Hills (Tredegar) Ltd., and prior to acquisition by Southend Transport. 353 (CPT822S) has also been recorded by the P.S.V. Circle as being noted in the West Wales Motors Ltd. yard at Tycroes in late-June. It is believed to have left within a few days, without being operated.

#### Withdrawn Vehicles

Daimler Fleetline 368 (WJN368J) was withdrawn from service on October 19th (correction to NS247), and this vehicle was sold during early-November to City of Oxford Motor Services Ltd., and it was noted at Wickford on November 6th on delivery to Oxford.

#### Vehicles On Hire

The current situation is that Burnley & Pendle Transport 13 (WRN 13R) and Colchester Borough Transport 102 (DHK102T) are on hire to Southend Transport, but the Burnley & Pendle vehicle remains out of service with accident damage. As reported above, Leyland Fleetline 241 (MRJ241W) is currently on hire to Colchester Borough Transport.

#### Re-built Vehicles

The new body number for Daimler Fleetline 374 (GHJ374L) is 2635 (additional information to NS247). It is not yet possible to confirm the new fleet and registration numbers for this batch of vehicles.

Leyland Leopard 219 (SPN669X) was fitted with a Volvo engine by Ensign Bus Co., Purfleet during early-November.

### General

A new timetable leaflet for services X1/X11 has been published (dated October 9th). There are no changes to the previous edition other than the inclusion of the seven service X31 journeys. The timetable does not list many of the duplicate journeys which are now operated on a regular basis.

As will have been noted under Unusual Workings above, the open-top Daimler Fleetline's 370-3 (WJN370J etc.) have been frequently used on town services during recent weeks, particularly at peak periods on Mondays to Fridays.

Van Hool Astromega's 243-5 (JEV243Y etc.) have now had all their X1 signwriting removed (see also NS245/6), and 243 has recently been fitted with a luggage pen over the nearside front wheel arch, in place of lockers.

Daimler Fleetline 314 (GHV 29N) has now been painted into blue and cream livery by Ensign Bus Co., and this vehicle returned to Southend on October 29th. Similar vehicle 319 (KUC949P) has had its upper deck repainted during October, and this vehicle has now been fully repainted in blue and cream livery.

Leyland Leopard coach 343 (XWX193S) is fitted with a Leyland 690 turbo engine.

Leyland Leopard coaches 204 (UTD204T) and 322 (CMJ450T) are the latest vehicles to be repainted in the yellow and blue coach livery (204 in November, 322 in mid-October). 324 (WRO434S) entered service on November 3rd, and has also been repainted in the yellow and blue coach livery, whilst 353 (CPT822S) is now in white and yellow livery, having had its mustard band repainted yellow during mid-October. Finally, Leyland Leopard coach 326 (XHU 326) has been repaired (see NS247), and it entered service on October 26th.

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### EASTERN NATIONAL DISPOSALS

- 412 (YHK729F) - Now reported as dealer, Carlton, 12/83, ex. Compass, Wakefield. (see also NS242).
- 9434 (PWC341K) - Cleverly, Cwmbran, 5/84, ex. Morris, Swansea. Current seating capacity is C49F.
- 9435 (PWC342K) - Cleverly, Cwmbran, 5/84, ex. Morris, Swansea. Current seating capacity is C49F.
- 9436 (PWC343K) - Cleverly, Cwmbran, 5/84, ex. Morris, Swansea. Current seating capacity is C53F.
- It is thought that the Morris fleetname will continue to be used.
- 1201 (BNO687T)/1211 (BNO697T) - It is now reported that BNO697T is the vehicle with Gray, Church Village, ex. Seward, Dalwood. Confirmation awaited. (see also NS241/6).
- 1216 (BNO702T) - Goldenport, London, S.W.16, 5/84. Delete disposal to Limebourne, both BNO701/2T went to Goldenport. (correction to NS245).
- 2358 (VNO 855) - Dealer, Carlton, by 2/84, ex. Marshall, Ulceby Skitter (N-PSV).
- 2720 (801 WWV) - Dealer, Carlton, by 1/84, ex. Maw, West Butterwick (N-PSV).
- 2812 (GN0788B) - Was acquired by Michelmersh Brick Co. in 3/83, and it is an exhibition unit (additional information to NS244).
- 2816 (HEV994B) - Went to Whitbread, London, E.C.1 (N-PSV), in 6/83. (see also NS233).
- 2878 (SVX277D) - Was acquired by Burmah-Castrol, Ellesmere Port (N-PSV) in 5/80. (additional information to NS219).
- 2883 (UEV221E) - Dealer, Barnsley, 8/84, ex. Alexander (Northern) NRD 5.

REMAINDER HELD OVER TO NEXT MONTH (NS249)

### News Sheet Contributions

Contributions to this news sheet were received from A.G. Osborne (C&F), R. Delahoy (M180), A.W. Meadows (M209), P.W. Harvey (M219), S.D. Barham (M313), W. White (M320), D. Arnold (M379), J.G. Collins (M405), I. Ransom (M421), G.G. Toon (M452), C.D. Sigston (M523), R.A. Dennis (M535), F.G. Spence (M545), G. Huggins (AM1) and the P.S.V. Circle. The deadline for the December news sheet is December 12th.