

ESSEX BUS NEWS

MAY 1994

The monthly magazine of the ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

(Formerly the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group)

361.



BOREHAM HOUSEWIVES RETURN FROM A SHOPPING TRIP TO CHELMSFORD
ON BADGERLINE 3019 KHT117P, ON LOAN TO EASTERN NATIONAL.

C SIGSTON 10.1.94.

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COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Paul Harvey has resigned from the committee, since his new employment has necessitated his moving away from the area. Our grateful thanks to Paul for all his help, in various capacities, over many years.

VACANCY FOR COMMITTEE MEMBER

Following the resignation of Paul Harvey there is now a vacancy on the main Group committee. We are anxious to recruit some "new blood" to both share the work load and to bring forward some new ideas for the running of the Group. A younger member would therefore be an ideal choice. Duties of committee membership are to attend (expenses paid) three committee meetings per year (generally on Sundays in Ilford, Chelmsford and Southend) and to assist in other duties according to talents or preferences. No prior experience is needed, just a willingness to help, and training can be provided. Advantages are free membership (after one year), discount on Group publications and tours and early entry into events such as the LOTS sale.

Could you be the person we are looking for ? If so, please apply to : Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex IG3 8LT. We look forward to hearing from you.

Membership Renewals - June 1994

Members whose subscription expires in June 1994 will find a yellow Membership Renewal Form included with this month's magazine. Whilst there has been a slight increase in subscription rates, to reflect increased postage and printing charges, we believe that our magazine and other Group services represent excellent value for money. We hope that Members will renew their subscriptions for 1994/95 - simply return the Membership Renewal Form to Derek Stebbing (Membership Secretary), and don't forget to enclose your cheque or Postal Order !

BOURNE MOUTH TOUR Sat 18th JUNE

There are still a few seats left on this tour - book now to take part in what should be a most enjoyable day..

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EASTERN NATIONAL FLEET RECORD

The Eastern National Fleet Record 1964-1990 is a new book published by the Group and compiled by group member Bob Palmer. This A4 book features 48 pages and an illustrated cover and lists every vehicle owned by Eastern National between 1964 (the renumbering) and 1990 (the split).

The book is priced at £4.50 and can be purchased post free from Andy Meadows (cheques to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group). The book will be launched at the Essex Bus and Transport Show on 5th June and members purchasing the book there can claim a 50p discount and purchase the book for just £4.

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MEETINGS.

JUNE 21st Southend Transport. Meet outside at 17-00hrs London Rd.

JULY 5th Harris Bus West Thurrock 17-00 hrs,

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G Toon 30 Wavell Ave Colchester CO2 7HR., has asked for the following offer to be published in the EBN.

I have been offered by SCC a bulk supply of Sunday timetables/system maps but to send these out with the magazine would mean postage at the 400g rate. Should any members experience difficulties in getting copies if they send me a large SAE stamped to this rate I can get copies sent to them.

Suffolk County Council will be keeping me updated on their Bus Event, and we have consent to reproduce any items of their publicity material in the magazine. Interestingly in the introduction to the timetable they mention their customers in this order day-trippers, tourists, holiday-makers, bus enthusiasts or local travellers. They obviously appreciate bus enthusiasts. I hope that we can give them some publicity as Essex operators are involved.

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Acknowledgements for this issue. Essex County Council. Suffolk County Council. Eastern National. Southend Transport. Thamesway. Colchester Borough Transport. County Bus & Coach. G Toon R Dennis M Weyell. I Burton. and J Bath I missed from last month, sorry Jim!

VEHICLES

THAMESWAY

206	C957 GAF	Mercedes L608D, Reeve Burgess B20F new 1986
207	C699 ECV	Mercedes L608D, Reeve Burgess B20F new 1985
208		Mercedes L608D

Acquired from Western National (114 and 84) in 4.94. Details of 208 not yet available. Allocated to Hadleigh.

A City Saver coach (which one?) was involved in an accident in 4.94. Whilst being repaired, the following vehicle has been loaned from Western National.

2202 FDZ 284 Leyland TRCTL11/3R, Duple Goldliner C51F new 1982
This coach was originally Grey-Green OHM 831Y and carries a white livery.

Leyland National 1849 is withdrawn and stored at Hadleigh.

Contrary to earlier reports, 9005 (OWC 295K) has NOT been cannibalised and remains in store and in tact at Brentwood.

Another low-floor bus has been inspected. K930 EWG is the Neoplan N4016 owned by SJ Carlton and wearing the yellow and grey livery for Liverpool's "Smart" services on which the vehicle had been operating.

On 22nd April, Mercedes Minibus 378 operated service 154 all day!

261	D764 RWT	Chassis no 668063-20-766017, body no 90002 new in 10.88 as a Mercedes Demonstrator.
508	MKH 89A	Duple body no 8370/0173
509	MKH 893A	Duple body no 335/5352
510	MKH 62A	Duple body no 8370/0170

BADGERLINE GROUP

The acquisition of Rider Holdings was completed towards the end of April. This now makes the Badgerline Group bigger than the Stagecoach Group with over 4,000 vehicles.

COLCHESTER BOROUGH TRANSPORT



Lynxes 33 to 39 were transferred to Crosville Wales on 24.4.94. National no 19 entered service in mid-April 1994. Olympian 48 was repainted in a dark blue and white livery in the same month.

A new traffic management scheme in High Street, Colchester, is delaying services by about 15 minutes during shopping hours.

New Vehicles

803	L803 OPU	Dennis Dart 9SDL 3034/1825	Plaxton 94 9.2 2520	B34F
805	L805 OPU	Dennis Dart 9SDL 3034/1832	Plaxton 94 9.2 2522	B34F
807	L807 OPU	Dennis Dart 9SDL 3034/1834	Plaxton 94 9.2 2524	B34F
812	L812 OPU	Dennis Dart 9SDL 3034/1864	Plaxton 94 9.2 2529	B34F

All were delivered during April and entered service during May.

Vehicles on Loan

Badgerline Leyland Nationals 3017 (JHW 105P) and 3019 (KHT 117P) were returned to Badgerline in late April. This is a result of the Dennis Darts entering service at Haven Road.

Bristol VR RHW 201V remains on loan at Colchester from Bristol Cityline and retains full Cityline livery.

Allocations

4/94 212/7 HN -CN; 213 -15/46 HN - POOL; 703 CF - D/L(D); 1841 CF - D/L(D)
1873 CF - D/L(D)

5/94 803/5/7 NEW - HN

The above changes mean that 700 is the last ex Badgerline Transit in service. A farewell tour is NOT planned!

Repaints

4/94 655, 1125, 4511

655 is an overall advert for Carlton Garage.

Service

- 13** Withdrawn after operation on 13.5.94.
- 21/A** Slight revisions to Monday to Friday timetable from 3.5.94.
- 49/A** Slight timetable revisions from 3.5.94.
- 58/A** Slight timetable revisions from 3.5.94.
- 59** Slight timetable revisions from 3.5.94.
- 100** Re-introduced from 29.5.94. operating between Clacton and St Osyth, daily.
- 101** Re-introduced from 29.5.94. operating between Clacton and Highfields, daily.
- 102** Extended on Sundays to Harwich Quay from 22.5.94.
- 301** Timetable revisions and re-routed via Rye Street from 3.5.94.
- 307** NEW SERVICE. Bishops Stortford Town Centre - Ward Crescent. Monday to Saturday with three journeys. Introduced from 3.5.94.
- 308** Revised timetable introduced from 3.5.94.

- 309** Revised timetable and extended to Gt Hadham development (when roads are suitable) from 3.5.94.
- 333** Revised to serve Stansted Village and no longer serves Stansted Airport. In addition a revised timetable was introduced, from 3.5.94.
- 433** Service withdrawn after 30.4.94.
- Services 49/A, 59 and 333 will serve the new Sainsbury store in Harlow, when it opens (expected date 21.6.94).
- In addition Summer services will be introduced on Clacton area services 1/A/B, 2, 12, 13 and 14 from 31.5.94.

Vehicle News

The Leyland Lynx fleet is being fitted with some Diptac features, these include a nearside routenumber box and green handrails. Certain vehicles have been fitted with a larger luggage pen reducing the seating capacity to 47 and details will be published, when the information becomes available.

Leyland Olympian 4511 has now been fitted with manual blinds.

Publicity

Timetable booklet for town services in Colchester dated 24.4.94.

Timetable booklet for services in Bishops Stortford, Harlow and District dated 1.5.94 and priced 10p.

That's The Ticket leaflet, undated, giving details of types of ticket available.

Colchester Borough Card leaflet, giving revised details from 25.4.94.

Initial Disposals

- | | | |
|------------|------------|---|
| 701 | (B463 WTC) | Lancashire Bus & Coach, Newton -le- Willows |
| 705 | (B472 WTC) | As 701. |
| 719 | (C457 BHY) | As 701. |
| 720 | (B454 WTC) | As 701. |
| 721 | (B464 WTC) | As 701. |

HEDINGHAM OMNIBUSES



Services

- X15** Introduced on Fridays only from 27.5.94. to 23.9.94 from Fordham to Cambridge with one journey each way.
- 80** Revised timetable introduced from 3.5.94.
- 84** Revised timetable introduced from 3.5.94.
- 88A** Introduced on Sundays only, with two journeys each way between Colchester and Great Yeldham from 22.5.94. to 25.9.94.
- 102/3** Operation of the Sunday services passes to Cambus from 22.5.94.

OTHER OPERATORS - REST OF ESSEX

CLINTONA A slight route revision was introduced on service E32 from 20.4.94.

IPSWICH BUSES Service 93 operated by this and other operators will be revised from 29.5.94. on Sundays only.

LONDON CENTRAL Service 702 will be extended from Lakeside to Basildon with effect from 28.5.94.

SPEEDLINK Service 747 from Stansted to Heathrow will be withdrawn after 16.5.94.

WESTS Service 249 will in the main be operated commercially from 23.5.94.

ESSEX SUMMER SUNDAY SERVICES

Further to last months magazine the following information is now available. All services commence from 22.5.94. :-

- 600** Ongar to Romford at 0834 and every two hours to 2034. Depart Romford at 0934 and every two hours to 2134.
- 601** Saffron Walden to Colchester at 0845, 1310 and 1710. Depart Colchester at 1107, 1507 and 1907.
- 606** Colchester to Walton at 1115, returning at 1750.
- 606** Walton to Harwich at 1250, returning at 1700.
- 622** Harlow to Braintree at 0850, 1250 and 1915. Departs Braintree at 1010, 1810 and 2010.
- 631** Burnham to Saffron Walden at 0818, 1011 and two hourly to 1811. Departs Saffron Walden at 0908 then two hourly to 1708 and 1900.
- 698** Maylandsea to Burnham at 1035, Bradwell to Burnham at 1258, 1458 and 1658. Burnham to Bradwell at 1230, 1430 and 1630 then Burnham to Maylandsea at 1730.

Services 600, 601, 622 and 631 are operated by Harris Bus.

Services 605 and 606 are operated by Hedingham.

Service 698 is operated by Eastern National.

Further details can be obtained from the new Summer Sunday Saver timetable.

COUNTY BUS & COACH - LeaValley Thameside Townlink

Repairs

2/94	SN 227	from Ray Powell colorbus to CB livery
3/94	M78/80	from Newport to CB livery
4/94	MB 54	from Stephen Oates colorbus to CB livery
	MB 918	from Physical Potential colorbus to all white

Allocation Changes for 1 May 1994

LD 552	Delicensed to Ware	MB 929	Edmonton to
Harlow			
MB 918	Harlow to Edmonton	SN 215	Ware to Harlow

General

BTL 6/10 are shortly to receive 'cherished' registrations.

A new Dennis Dart 9.8/ Marshall B40F demonstrator registered L416 PAR is to be 'launched' at the Brighton Coach Rally. It is in full County Bus Livery but is not planned to be purchased at the present time.

Application has been made to renew the 'O' licence PF 6042 - 180 vehicles - from 1 June 1994. 'O' licence PK 1761 has recently been increased to 50 vehicles.

Members may be interested to know that in August, Corgi will be producing a Corgi Plaxton Coach in the new Green Line livery. It will be a limited edition of 5,000 models. Two different destination blinds and coach registration numbers are available. These are 711 HARLOW B275 KPF or 758 HEMEL HEMPSTEAD A101 EPA. The cost is around £8.99.

SERVICES

5 April	655	New lunchtime shuttle service between HCC offices at Goldings and County Hall, Hertford (operated by Sampson Coaches).
6 June	856	Withdrawn from Tripton Road, Tendring Road and Tillwicks Road, re-routed in Church Langley in line with 817/818 and new terminal at Tesco, Edinburgh Way in lieu of Harlow Mill Station.
11 June	392	Certain journeys extended beyond Harlow Bus Station to new Sainsbury store off Fifth Avenue, Harlow.
	807	Extended from Harlow Bus Station to Harlow Town Station via new Sainsbury store off Fifth Avenue, Harlow.

Sampson Summer Services - this year's programme is as follows:-

930	Hertford to Southend via 'A10 corridor' and Waltham Cross. Wednesdays only from 18th May to 7th September.
931	Old Harlow to Southend via Harlow, Epping, Upshire and Waltham Cross. Thursdays only from 19th May to 8th September.
932	Edmonton Green to Southend via Ponders End, Enfield Highway and Waltham Cross. Wednesdays from only 18th May to 7th September.
940	Hertford to Thorpe Park - pick up as route 930. Tuesdays 5th April, 31st May and Tuesdays in August.

- | | |
|-----|---|
| 941 | Old Harlow to Thorpe Park - pick up as route 931. Days of operation as 940. |
| 942 | Edmonton Green to Thorpe Park - pick up as route 932. Days of operation as 940. |

Publicity

Current County Bus publicity is as follows:

Lea Valley, Thameside and Townlink (Harlow Town Services) booklets dated 26th March 1994.

Townlink timetable booklet dated 1st August 1993 with update leaflet dated 1st November 1993.

Green Line Days Out 1994/5.

County Bus & Coach Gazetteer and Travellers' Service Guide, September 1993.

Leaflets for services 711 and 724 both dated 10th January 1994.

Leaflets for services 510 and 517 both dated 26th March 1994.

Leaflet for Sarnspon Coaches Summer Services 1994.

Season Ticket leaflet, undated.

Faresaver leaflet, undated.

A booklet for Townlink (other services) is due during the late Spring as is the second edition of the route map/ information guide.

OTHER GROUP COMPANIES

Airport Coaches Limited

Recently acquired Ford Transit G995 VEU is a PSV - H140 WMR is an NPSV.

C140 SPB and C393 UPC were repainted in the new livery 3/94 leaving D526/7 MJO to complete the programme. C128 PPE, C140 SPB and C393 UPC are shortly to receive 'cherished' registrations.

Biss Brothers Coaches Limited

An application has been made for an 'O' licence for 15 vehicles - PF 1393.

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747 Airport Link operated by Speedlink, Sovereign and Luton & District service change in Hertfordshire/ Essex

16th May	747	Stansted Airport - Heathrow Airport - Gatwick Airport. The section between Stansted Airport and Stevenage is withdrawn from this date with some associated timetable revisions.
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915 Operated by Luton & District service change in Hertfordshire/ Essex

28th May	915	Aylesbury/ Hemel Hempstead - Lakeside & Southend (Saturdays only). The 915 will operate every Saturday from 28th May to 24th September inclusive, picking up at all Green Line stops between Aylesbury and Hemel Hempstead Bus Station.
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NORTH ESSEX NOTES

With the end of the Colchester "Bus War" the benefits to the public are mixed, while all areas continue to be served and most have a higher frequency than enjoyed prior to last October. Those who continue to enjoy the services of CBT appear to have fared considerably better than those left to travel by mini-bus. An unusual phenomena, common in the past, has been noted, the sight of buses with full standing loads. Although the frequency on the 64 and 66 groups of services has been doubled the number of seats available per hour are reduced by up to 50% on those provided by CBT prior to October 1993. Dennis Darts have been noted on both 64 and 65.

EN used press advertising to inform their customers of the changes with CBT using posters in the buses. Both produced timetable booklets, EN in their usual style with a line map showing roads along which the services operate but with the large number of journeys per hour the style is rather cramped in places. The CBT booklet uses glossy paper for the cover. The timetables themselves are in a new style and use the 24 hour clock, spacing of timetable banks and larger type face makes easier reading than the rival publication. A computer drawn route map shows all major roads irrespective of their being served by CBT buses or indeed a bus service at all and although showing their evening contracted routes only the timetable for the 19 is included.

The opening page of the EN timetable has a heading "Minibuses and New Buses in Colchester", did buses refer to routes or vehicles? Possibly the latter as during the first week of operation of the new schedules a Dart has been seen on the 64/A and 65/A. Issue of both EN Castle Card and CBT Centurion Card ceased from 24th April and the former Colchester Inner Area Travelcard returns as an Inner Zone Borough Card. Both Inner and Outer Zone Borough Cards are valid on CBT, Easter Counties, EN and Hedingham. Existing Borough and Castle Cards are now valid on these operators services. EN return fares are gradually raising the cost of off peak returns with the introduction of their "Spring Fayre" offer of "Go Home for 15p". Pricebuster returns were advertised as "Save 25% off the cost of two singles" but are now "Save up to 20p off the cost of two singles".

Legal letting on some CBT buses has been noted as showing their address as Lesborne Road, Reigate, Surrey. CBT 48 has been noted in service with a blue/white paint scheme with the X1 lettering having been removed.

April 7th 1994: EN 3017 noted on Service 66/66A.

April 13th 1994: EN 3111 noted on Service 69 while the first sighting of CBT 19 was made, operating Service 1/1A.

April 14th 1994: The Evening Gazette (EG) reports that Colchester Institute has struck a deal with EN which will allow full time students up to the age of 19 to travel either free or for £1 per day. The "Ticket To Choice" scheme will start in September and will apply to those students who do not qualify for a county council travel award

April 15th 1994: A park and ride scheme aimed at workers rather than shoppers is reported by the Essex County Standard (ECS). People will be enticed out of their cars and onto trains and buses with cheap rates and priority bus lanes for quicker journeys. (A strange state of affairs when a council can provide cheap bus journeys for car owners yet are unable to subsidise the fares of regular bus travellers). The story of cheap travel for students is carried an important part of the story appears to have been omitted from the EG version; Colchester Institute is funding the scheme.

April 20th 1994: The EG carries details of an out of court settlement by British Bus in respect of a claim for unfair dismissal by a CBT employee not retained after the takeover. The figure was not revealed but was a "substantial sum" at least three times the normal redundancy rate. EN have a half page advert detailing forthcoming changes to their services. CBT 45 was seen on Services 6/6A.

April 21st 1994: Passengers fear that with the revised services the fare offers introduced in October will now be withdrawn according to the EG. CBT Managing Director, Ray Giles said that fares would not rise but EN had gradually been phasing out its "return free" offer. In another story the paper states that schoolchildren and the elderly would suffer as the result of the revised services. According to the paper the CBT 5A from Tollgate currently served the Shops at Prettygate (it did not) but from May 25th would instead turn into Ambrose Avenue. Referring no doubt to the 9A Ray Giles said the service was being changed as it was not viable as it was.

April 22nd 1994: The EG carries a photo of CBT82 which had broken down the previous day on North Hill because of a fuel blockage. The queue of traffic behind the bus was more likely to have been caused by the new road layout in the High Street than the ailing AN.

April 25th 1994. The afternoon Service 68 journey was operated by 801.

April 27th 1994: "We are asked to believe that both these companies are operating in the public interest, providing services when and where they are most needed at the lowest possible fares...." In a lengthy EG article Alan Brown questions the "arrangement" made by "competing" bus companies. He believes that the reality is that they have carved out a monopoly between them. Both companies insist they are in competition over a number of routes and the public interest has been safeguarded and point to maintenance of fares and increase in frequency on the most popular routes. The Office of Fair Trading supported them, having found that no agreement or fixing of routes had taken place. It viewed the changes as an "arrangement", not a permanent, binding agreement. A former member of the councils transport committee said at least the Corporation monopoly had been benevolent, other companies operated with our blessing because our only interest was the public one. Graeme Torrance of British Bus said "We have to make a profit, but the people we rely on to make this possible are the travelling public. If we don't meet their requirements they will reject us and we will go out of business". He acknowledged they were not obliged to operate unprofitable rural services, that was the county councils responsibility and these were put out to tender. CBT had just tendered for Sunday routes. Described as Badgerline managing director, Robin Orbell of Eastern National said the revisions would guarantee three objectives, Increased frequency, cheaper fares and encourage more people to travel.



Suffolk County Council

Spend the day travelling on some of the rarest vehicles in the country.

Suffolk

INTERESTING VEHICLE DAY

- A flat-screen open-top Bristol VR,
- A 1953 Bristol KSW open top,
- An AEC Swift with ECW bodywork,
- A DiPTAC equipped Bristol RE,
- A 1929 Dennis coach,
- An open top Metro-Scanian,
- An English Bristol B21,
- An Irish Leyland B21,

Leyland

Bristol



- A refurbished National Greenway
- Dennis Lance & Dennis Javelin Buses
- A Massey bodied AEC Regent V
- A Bristol/ECW FLF Lodekka

For more information, please write to:

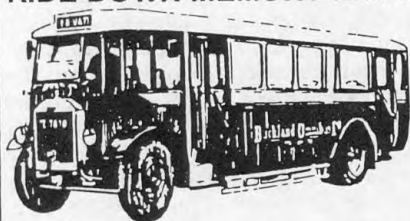
Public Transport Team,
Highways Department,
Suffolk County Council,
St Edmund House, County Hall, Ipswich, Suffolk IP4 1LZ.

**SUNDAY 28th
AUGUST 1994**

Please clearly mark your letter 'Interesting Vehicle Day'

vehicles will appear subject to availability

RIDE DOWN MEMORY LANE



The star of the Sunday Network, Buckland's 1929 Dennis Motor Coach will be operating on route 641* this year.

Departures from Ipswich are at 0907 to Diss, 1207 to Banham Zoo and 1807 to Diss returning at 1035 from Diss, 1607 from Banham Zoo and 1935 from Diss.

You can also change at Diss to connect with services to Norwich, Cambridge or the coast.

The bus wends its way through the heart of Suffolk, passing through picturesque villages on the way. You could travel out to one of these, such as Debenham, for an afternoon, pausing to take in the village atmosphere. Maybe take a short walk before catching the bus as it returns later in the afternoon.

* Historic vehicle operates subject to availability.

Suffolk County Council has published its Summer Bus Book for 1994, an excellent publication with a full colour fold out cover containing more than twenty colour photographs of buses. A network map showing weekday and Sunday services has also been published. These are available throughout Suffolk and from some tourist information and bus operators in the north of Essex.

The August Bank Holiday weekend sees what is possibly the most widespread bus event on record. In addition to the events detailed above consideration is being given to duplicating certain journeys together with static displays in Ipswich. A short town circular using some of the exhibits may be operated.

Anyone wishing to exhibit a vehicle should contact Mr. R Walker of Suffolk County Council Highways on Ipswich (0473) 265676

Readers are advised that because problems over landing rights neither the Felixstowe/Harwich nor Felixstowe/Bawdsey ferry services may be operating this summer. Plan your journey accordingly.

April 29th 1994: "No More Bus Jobs Will Go" is the heading to an ECS story which states that CBT had cut its fleet and driver numbers following the service revisions. Seven of CBT's newer single-decker Lynx buses left Colchester for Wales on Sunday and six drivers had been made redundant from the following day. While union representatives forecast further cuts and job losses management said the worst was over and the company would prosper. Graeme Torrance, Director/General Manager of CBT told the paper he believed the company had shed all surplus jobs. In the long term they would survive and eventually possibly expand and take on more staff. If that happened they would look to those they had made redundant before taking on outsiders. The seven buses had gone to another British Bus company as they were no longer needed. They wanted to keep double deckers in Colchester as they carried more passengers and had local advertising contracts. They were trying to keep costs down and put off the evil day when fares may have to rise. The TGWU representative stated that the union was supporting ten former CBT employees in industrial tribunals over their dismissal. He said EN had made nobody redundant as a result of the service revisions but some drivers had been transferred to Clacton.

LOOKING BACK

MAY 1964: Among the vehicles withdrawn by Eastern National was the last Leyland TD4 1108 (ENO937). Some 36 saloons were reported to be surplus to requirements following a major reallocation exercise involving around 100 vehicles and were expected to be sold. Kelvedon lost three of its Guys to Maldon and gained three Lodekkas including a FLF, their first underfloor engined vehicle. The Canvey allocation was now entirely FLF 70 seaters. Colchester Corporation hoped to place three new Titans into service on 1st June, 36-8 (CWC 36-8B)

MAY 1974: The remaining EN Bristol MW coaches (344-8/50/86) were placed on the disposal list. Chelmsford Bus Station commenced using the saw toothed stands inside the garage from April 7th and Southend Central Bus Station was due to open on May 16th. Southend Transport loaned 206/7 (2717/8 HJ) and 325/6 (7089/90 HJ) to Alder Valley during April as well as a Leyland PD3/6 STP996 which they had on load from Ensign.

MAY 1984: The two Bristol VRTSL6G's (3018/47) which had been on hire to Eastern Counties returned to EN on May 11th. Following the failure of South Wales Transport 180 (TCY180M) at Harwich on April 6th CN1415 was loaned to SWT until the 8th when it was replaced until the 14th by DT1113. Revised services were introduced in the Colchester area by CBT and EN. Southend Transport acquired further coaches in the form of 302 a Bristol RELL6G and 333 -340, all Leyland Leopards, from a variety of sources.

BRISTOL RE



The most popular and successful of the 'first generation' of rear-engined single deckers is the Bristol RE. Few now remain in service in England, as the last were bought here in 1976.

Carters Coach Services have 'rescued' a Gardner-engined example, and refurbished it to current standards, including the fitment of DPTAC equipment (green handrails, bright destination display, step edge nosings, non slip floor and palm-operated bellpushes) and the vehicle will operate this year

Carters Coach Service will be operating their RE (subject to availability) on Sundays from May 29th to September 25th.

East Bergholt	0910	Ipswich	0955
Ipswich	1005	Colchester	1051
Colchester	1106	Ipswich	1155
Ipswich	1205	Sizewell	1416
Sizewell	1546	Ipswich	1755
Ipswich	1805	Colchester	1851
Colchester	1906	Ipswich	1955
Ipswich	2005	East Bergholt	2052

SCC advise that due to engine problems appearance of the RE may be delayed.

BBC ESSEX PHONE IN

BBC Essex featured another bus phone-in at the end of April with Robin Orbell of EN and Peter Edwards of Thamesway appearing on Dave Monks programme. In opening Robin explained the changes to the Colchester services and stated that 20 new buses would be arriving in four to five weeks time at Bishops Stortford, Colchester and Clacton, Peter said they would also be getting new buses later in the year, the same as these but longer.

The first caller wanted to know if a coach service was available to Clacton from Boreham Wood in Hertfordshire. A Brentwood caller was unhappy at curtailment of services in Brentwood and that Hanging Hill Lane was now only served two hourly and not at all on Sundays. Lack of demand was the explanation and provision of Sunday services was up to Essex County Council. Direct services from Saffron Walden to the Herts and Essex Hospital at Bishops Stortford was the subject of the next call and it was explained that it was impossible to run to everywhere from everywhere.

The withdrawal of the disabled persons buses by EN was the concern of a Chelmsford caller. It was explained that EN had donated the buses and the conversion work had been funded by a charity. They were more than twenty years old and it was no longer to maintain them. They had tried to get funding for replacement but nobody was interested. Dave said that it appeared strange that funds could not be found as Badgerline Directors found it difficult to walk as their pockets were so full of money! Mention was then made of the EasyBus services provided by the County and the disabled persons vehicles operated by Chambers of Buses.

A Canvey caller complained that at school times minibuses were unable to cope. It was explained that it was not viable to but big buses on for just one journey, but recent service changes should help. Another Canvey call was annoyed that the fares from Clacton to Walton were raised every year and why were fares higher in summer than in winter. It was explained the the winter fare was a special offer directed at local residents. The caller claimed that last time he asked this question he was told it was because there were more buses in summer. The journey from Basildon to Clacton was detailed for a caller and the advantage of a Ranger Ticket explained. A Clacton caller asked why services were reduced in winter. It was explained that loadings were lower and the higher frequency could not be justified but the lower fare reflected this. It had to be remembered that the reduced service was still higher that operated prior to the introduction of minibuses seven years ago.

The subject of the late running of Service 78 in the evening peak was discussed and put down to "too many cars". Why not use a spare seat on a bus, not your car.

Malcolm Alder from Clacton who is a new group member, is also Hedingham Omnibus Leading Driver at Clacton Depot.

Malcolm organises excursions using a Bristol V R T, the fares are very cheap and he is offering even cheaper fares to group members, e g £2.00 return from Walton to North Weald.

Excursions arranged are:-

SOUTHEND RALLY - CANVEY - June 5th

Colchester Bus Stn Stand 4 - 9.30 a.m.

Chelmsford Tesco, Springfield Rd - 10.00 a.m.

Fare £2.00 to Group Members

NORTH WEALD - June 26th

Walton 8.30 a.m.

Clacton 9.00 a.m.

St Osyth 9.15 a.m.

Colchester 9.40 a.m.

Fare £2.00 to Group Members

BRESSINGHAM - July 17th

Clacton 9.00 a.m.

St Osyth 9.20 a.m.

Gt Bently 9.30 a.m.

Colchester 9.50 a.m.

Ipswich (cattle mkt) 10.15 a.m.

Fare £2.00 to Group Members

Group members who intend to take advantage of these great offers should phone Malcolm on 0255 428590 - 7.00 p.m. - 9.30 p.m.

PAY ON BUS - Please have your membership cards to show.

Also available on H.O. Services is the special rates subject to seats being available.

X20 - Walton - Southend via Clacton - Colchester - Basildon. (Sats) check dates.

X21 - Walton - Stratford via Clacton - Colchester - Chelmsford - Brentford - Romford.
(Sats) check dates.

£2.00 Rtn to Group Members, but you must book - 0255 428590 (must show group I.D.)

THURROCK District

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PF0943/N	2	Gallant	Archer Coaches	? ceased ?	Corringham	W.../..	TQ.....
PF5088/N	4	Willett	Eagle Line	34 Church Lane	Bulphan	W177/F4	TQ638856
PF6053	3	Diss	Highfield	Burrow Farm, Brentwood Road	Bulphan	W178/A4	TQ645851
PF6206	3	Walkers Car Hire	Walkers	r/o "King's Head", King St.	Stanford-le-Hope	W179/E1	TQ684825
PF1290/N	2	Rogers	Rods Mini Bus S.	10 Farnaby Way	Stanford-le-Hope	W179/E2	TQ683833
PF6194	2	Williamson	Travelux	Northlands Chase	Stanford-le-Hope	W179/F4	TQ693850
PF6240	2	Houghton	Ray's Travel	One Tree Hill	Corringham	W179/F4	TQ700856
PF6065/N		Flavin	Priory/Chariots	One Tree Hill	Corringham	W179/F4	TQ700856
PF6046	8	Cunningham	Cunningham Carr.	Fobbing Lane	Corringham	W180/A2	TQ709835
PF6145	4	Salmons	RS Travel	Rackets Cty.Club,Southend Rd.	Corringham	W180/A3	TQ702846
PF0451		Linkfast Ltd.	Castle Point B.	Springfield Cafe,Southend Rd.	Corringham	W180/A4	TQ701856
PF6143	2	Roomes	Avro	Springfield Cafe,Southend Rd.	Corringham	W180/A4	TQ701856
PF6153/I	2	Shippin	MAB Transport	"Ma Clair", High Road	Fobbing	W180/B3	TQ717843
PF1203/I	2	Dhanioia	B & C Travel	Rosina Cafe, London Road(A13)	Aveley	W183/D2	TQ552797
PF1188/I		Hardiman	SJH Travel	Criton Works, Stanford Road	Orsett	W186/C4	TQ661814
PF1001/I	4	Ridgeon	Ridgeon Coaches	Criton Ind.Est.Stanford Road	Orsett	W186/C4	TQ661814
PF1279/R	2	Sammons, E	Ed's M.-B. Hire	257 Princess Margaret Road	East Tilury	W187/D1	TQ677789

(Application)

PF1340/I	2	Sammons, S	Sammons	Coverall Servs.,Burnley Road	West Thurrock	W191/D4	TQ58.77.
			(Application)				
PF6188	1	Watts	Thurock Coaches	c/o Harris, Manor Road	West Thurrock	W191/E4	TQ591776
PF6088	31	Harris Bus Co.Ltd.	Harris Bus	Manor Road	West Thurrock	W191/E4	TQ591776
PF6089	20	Harris F. Cs. Ltd.	Harris	Manor Road	West Thurrock	W191/E4	TQ591776
PF6042		County Bus & Coach	Thameside	Magnet Estate, London Road	West Thurrock	W191/E4	TQ595780
\\\\\\\\\\\\	\\\\	\\ Grays Bus Stn.	\\ Grays Bus Stn.	Crown Road	Grays	W192/A4	TQ513779
PK2304	7	Viking Bland Ltd.	Watson Enterpr.	c/o Hut.Com, Thurrock Pk.Way	Tilbury	W192/B4	TQ628772
PF6234/T		. Bennett S.R.	Tilbury Taxis	132 Dock Road	Tilbury	W192/C3	TQ637763

Non-Essex (Operators based outside Essex but who operate in Essex)

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PK2322	13	Wright R.L.	Blue Triangle	Unit 3C, Denver I.E,Ferry La.	Rainham	-----	TQ516817
PK1959	2	Flower & Richards	Amberline	35 Felstead Road,Collier Row	Romford	W155/E2	TQ502915
PK1959		Flower & Richards	Amberline	3 The Drive, Collier Row	Romford	W155/E2	TQ504910
PK2022	4	Hopkins	Vantage C. Hire	201 North Street	Romford	W164/B4	TQ507895
PF0599		Eastern National	Eastern Nat.(BS)	111 South Street	Bishops Stortford	W 67/F3	TL489208
PF0437		Carter	Carter/Essexbus	Heath Road	East Bergholt	-----	TM078353
PF0024	20	Beeston	Beeston	Station Road	Long Melford	E 7/D3	TL859442
PF0050		Heddingham & Dist.	Heddingham (...)	Meekings Road, Chilton Ind.E.	Sudbury	E 13/D4	TL88.41.
PF1073/I	10	Chambers HC & Son	Chambers	High Street	Bures	E 19/F1	TL907340
PF0050		Heddingham & Dist.	Heddingham (ND)	Perry Farm, Bear Street	Nayland	E 20/A1	TL974344
PF1089/I	4	West Coast Busins.	West Coast	??	??	?	?