

ESSEX BUS NEWS

September 2004

Issue 485



The first bus in the new blue and white **Network Colchester** livery is Olympian 347 (H47 MJN), formerly Arriva 5407, and new to Colchester Borough Transport as no.47. It is seen here at Highwoods shopping centre. *Richard Delahoy*

► **Network Colchester launched - see p.17**

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write with requirements to:

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way,
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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

Members reports, quality photos (prints or slides) and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub-Editor.

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station). **19.30** onwards. Autumn programme:

- ▶ **Tuesday October 12** - **Presidential Address**, *Stephen Smith*, General Manager, First Essex.
- ▶ **Tuesday November 9** - **"Trent Barton since privatisation"**, *Keith Shayshutt*, Head of Development, *trentbarton*.
- ▶ **Tuesday December 14** - **"20 years ago"** slide show, *Richard Delahoy*.

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, (behind the Mercury Theatre). **20.00 to 22.00** (doors open at **19.30**). Please come along and support this new venture. A slide projector has been obtained and slide shows have now been arranged by Dave Arnold as follows:

- ▶ **Friday October 8** - **"Odd and Unusual"**, *Gary Sharpe*
- ▶ **Friday November 12** - **"Gone But Not Forgotten"**, *Trevor Brookes*
- ▶ **Friday December 10** - TBA

For the first and second meetings, it is suggested that you bring their own refreshments.

RALLIES, OPEN DAYS etc.

- ▶ **Sunday September 26** - **Showbus, Duxford**. See *www.showbus.com*
- ▶ **Sunday October 10** - **Castle Point Transport Museum: 25th Anniversary Show**, Canvey Island. #
- ▶ **Saturday October 30** - **LOTS Annual Transport Spectacular**. Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Ripple Road, Dagenham. #
Peter Snell and the EBEG stall will be at these events.

Preservation Notebook

SOUTHEND FLEETLINES FOR SALE: Stephenson's of Essex have three ex-Southend Fleetlines in stock, which are ideal for preservation: MRJ 231/5W and Q475 MEV are all bodily complete and are driveable but have some mechanical problems. If anyone is interested, the prices on them won't be too frightening!

Phone **01702 541511**, fax: **01702 549461**
or e-mail: sales@stephensonsofexsex.com

First VR News - page 11.

Southend Fleetline heads stateside - page 14.

From the Editor ...

EBN 484 - August

The photograph of Matador 0101 on page 24 was taken in Newland Street, Witham facing the Chelmsford direction. The two photos on page 12 were taken in Newquay, not Truro. Thanks to *Keith Shayshutt* for correcting these.

Arriva Southend/Network Colchester News

Peter Mansbridge goes up to university this month. Ordinary mail may still be sent to his home in Rayleigh, but please note his new email address:

petemans_1@hotmail.com

As Peter will be out of the area during term time, he really does NEED news from members. If you live in or visit the Southend and/or Colchester areas, please let him have your contributions. This is particularly important at the present time, when numerous interesting changes seem to be occurring.

David Harman



First Essex's last TfL routes are transferred to First London this month (see page 10). Dart/Marshall 46854 (N854 CPU) in TfL Mobility Bus colours (and still bearing the Thamesway name) stands at Newbury Park in August. *Chris Stewart*

FIRST

Ipswich tunnel rail replacement

This operation continued as planned until Sunday 5th September, when the tunnel successfully re-opened on time. Initially the *First London* fleet remained on standby at Manningtree. VNW32415 and 34221 were back in West London by 11th August; other *First London* in use during August were VDN34341/2 (N241CMP, P242HMD). Further double-deckers have been *Talisman* Olympians H643PTW and H859PTW (labelled as on hire from *Sauter Dexter*), *Chambers* Olympian H542JBj & Scania W124JDX and (on 15th August) *NIBS* G607KTX.

First Essex vehicles seen on Sunday 15th August were 34056, 34280/2 and 34307. On 22nd, 34056 was working again along with 34284 and 34817 (with 51780 acting as driver shuttle).

Additional coaches reported as follows:

Galloways	1754PP, 3367PP, 5611PP, 5946PP
Talisman	S351SET
Supreme	R863SDT
Three Cs	WSV418
Fargo	T719JHE
Stephenson's	A16SOE, N45ARC, N144ARC

The *First* coaches are T7xxJLD (not T2xxJLD as given last month), and 20201/5 (T701/5JLD) have also been seen in use.

An additional working, not previously reported, has been a dedicated coach for BT staff at Martlesham to/from Manningtree.

V2004

This year's services to and from the Chelmsford V2004 event on 21st/22nd August were again provided by *First Essex*, with support from *First London*, *Fourways* and *NIBS*. Some sightings are available from Saturday, with a much more extensive listing for Sunday:

Saturday:	<i>First Essex</i> 31375 34013 34284 34301 34304 34311 34660 34808 34809 34817 <i>First London</i> TN32843/51 (T843/51LLC) TN32875 (T875KLF) VDA32414 (S214LLO) VDA34234 (P234MPU) <i>Fourways</i> G981FVX H691PTW H699PTW <i>NIBS</i> G603KTX and two other Scania
Sunday:	31375 34012 34013 34014 34018 34056 34280 34282 34284 34288 34290 34301 34302 34303 34304 34307 34308 34309 34311 34660 34807 34808 34812 34813 34816 34817 34819 Driver shuttle: 51474 <i>First London</i> TN32804/36/51 (T804/36/51LLC) TNL33008 (LK51UZF) TN32886 (V886HBY) VDN34209/14/6 (S209/14/6LLO) VDN34103/6 (T903/6KLF) <i>Fourways</i> G937FVX G981FVX H691PTW H699PTW
Monday:	Several vehicles were in use until about lunchtime, including 34807/12/8/9.

PHOTO FEATURE - 1

Ipswich Tunnel Rail Replacement



General view of the parking area with various First London vehicles and a Galloways coach visible.

First London
Trident/Plaxton
President
TN33004
(LK51 UZT)
waits at the
rather swish
bus shelters.



Galloways of
Mendlesham
5048 PP, a 1987
DAF SB320 /
Van Hool.
Alizee.





Exotica in the form of **First Berkshire** Volvo B12T/Plaxton Excabur tri-axle 20207 (T707 JLD), and **Talisman Coach Lines** ex-London Central Olympian/Alexander Royale M85 MYM.

All pictures ~ Chris Stewart





V2004 - Hylands Park, Chelmsford



Who needs Dido when you have these beauties to listen to (and photograph) ?

The annual V Festival at Hylands Park involves the major logistical exercise of transporting large numbers of visitors between Chelmsford bus station and the Festival site.

First, as in the past, rose to the occasion, drafting in buses and drivers from around the fleet, with some assistance from First London and local firms.

Chris Stewart was on hand on 22 August to take these pictures.





*Opposite page -
top:*
Chelmsford Bus
Station with
34809 and
'Yorkshire'
34302 leading.

centre:
34814 in
Fairfield Road.



bottom:
'Glasgow' **34288**
at the rear of the
depot.

*This page -
top:*
First London
Olympian /
Northern
Counties
VDN34214 on -
(showing my
age - DRH) - the
service 30 stand.

centre:
VDN34209,
another First
London
Olympian /
Northern
Counties leaves
for Hylands
Park.



bottom:
First London
Trident/
Plaxton
TNL330008.

Rail replacements September/October

At the time of writing, the 'One' railway website showed the following rail replacement services for engineering works. These are all believed to be *First Essex* contracts, although with some assistance likely from *First London* on the first two dates:

12th & 19th September	Ingatstone-Witham and Shenfield-Wickford
26th Sept & 3rd October	Billericay-Rayleigh and Wickford-Southminster

FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes (period ending 22 August 2004)

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

(A)=acquired, (R)=reserve, (Sp)=spare; (D)=disposal

31377 FGC-HH; 34699 HH-(D); 43800 BN-RD; 51462 HH-BN; 51463 BN-(D); 51473 BN-(D); 51779 BN-HH; 51802 RD-BN; 62408 FGC-CR; 62515 Sp-BN; 62517 HH-BN; 62519 HH-(D)

Red-liveried 46852-4 and 53101-11 are to pass to *First London* along with Romford depot as expected on 18th September, together on a temporary basis with 43800 (see above).

Romford's route 193 (County Park Estate-Romford Station) is the last remnant of many post-1986 Deregulation incursions into the Greater London area, having been worked originally by Bristol VRs from Brentwood depot. Romford was also the last EN/Thamesway/First Essex depot in the Greater London area, the history of which includes Ponders End, Walthamstow, Wood Green and Kings Cross (Tillings).

Repaints

46145 and 46825 have both been noted in 'Barbie 3', the new standard group bus livery. Basically 'Barbie 1' with smaller willow leaves to leave room for adverts, neither of these buses yet has any of the patterns or logos. Meanwhile an Alexander-bodied Dart is expected to appear soon in traditional Tilling green and cream with gold fleetnames, ready for the 75th anniversary of the Eastern National Omnibus Company Limited.



'Barbie 3' makes its (or her) debut: 46145 in unfinished form is seen in August.

Chris Stewart

Vehicle workings

Unusual sightings:

August 10th	HH31376 on 26 CF34812 on Diamond (12.40 CF-SD and 14.00 SD-CF) CR34014 on 67/A, CR67005 & 67009 on X22 HH46109 and HH46147 on 2/25
11th	CF43729 on 42, CF47219 & 47223 both on 351, CF47229 on 352
13th	CR34018 on 67, CR67009 on 64
16th	CR20110 on 71 (06.40 CR-CF and 08.05 CF-CR) and then onto X22 20102 on 14.35 CR-CF 71 (required for private hire at CF), return working CF34816 which then did 18.05 CR-BE and return 70, 21.00 and 23.00 CR-MN and 22.00 MN-CR 75.
17th	CR47102 on late 64s
19th	CR65679 on 70, CF47223 on Diamond
20th	BN62518 on 100, BN65665 on 751 and BN65675 on 22
23rd	BN31373 on 12 CR62408 and CR65679 both on X22
25th	BN62515 on 100
26th	CF43733 on 42, BN43712/3 both on 100 and BE34818 on 351
31st	CR65679 on X22
September 2nd	CF34807 and CF34815 both on Diamond CF65680 on 351 (07.10 ex CF and return)
3rd	CF52584 on 48, CR65679 and CR65690 on X22
9th	20102 and CR20110 both on X22

VR-watch

38790 (KOO790V) returned from PCV test on 11th August, being noted by several members on the forecourt of Chelmsford Bus Station that afternoon. At the time of writing (10th Sept) it was away for repaint into Badgerline-style yellow and green livery, with blue wheels and blue diamond/red fleetnames. Meanwhile 38644 (VTH941T) left Clacton on 9th September for a new life in preservation, still based in Essex.

Other news

The 'dolly stop' (EBN484) is far from dead! The fixed poles in Brentwood were in fact installed at the request of *First*, to be used again during temporary closures of the High Street at Christmas (and other occasional events). A number of new corporate-coloured 'dolly stops' (constructed in the time-honoured manner using old wheel centres with a pole welded on) have been reported at Chelmsford, whilst older ones remain in use elsewhere.

Chelmsford Bus Station and Depot are expected to close with effect from 25th October, with vehicles transferred to the new Westway depot and services altered to terminate either in Coval Lane or at the Railway Station.

The decline of the Lynx continues, with BN62514 noted at CN (believed to be upon PCV expiry) on 9th September. As well as the sightings on the 100 recorded above, on 10th August HH62509 on 20 all day, with HH62520/3/4 on the 2/25. Only 9 remain in service now.

First Essex report EBN485

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to M Austin, J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, N Field, R Huggins, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, S Simister, P Snell, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, LOTS, *First Essex*, PSV Circle, *Terminus* and several of the controllers on V2004. *Chris Stewart*

Arrivederci Arriva Colchester !



Pictures taken in the week before the formal transfer to Burtons Coaches on August 29:

above: Magdalen Street No.2 Garage with Tiger 4305, Scania 4353 and Olympian E5398 in the gloom..

left: Olympian E5397 passes All Saints Church.

below: Former Clydeside Volvo B6 / Alexander Dash E3246 in a wet High Street.





above left:
No.1 Garage with
the last addition to
the operational
fleet just visible -
516, a former
London & Country
Volvo B6/Plaxton.

centre:
Also ex-London &
Country is Dart/
East Lincs **DS004**,
loading in Osborne
Street for Ambrose
Avenue.

left:
Laying over prior
to an afternoon
outing to Dedham
on tendered route
247, is ex- County
Bus Lynx **E3342**.

David Harman

ARRIVA SOUTHERN COUNTIES LIMITED

SOUTHEND

Vehicles in

908 (F578 SMG) Leyland Olympian/Alexander RL H47/32F from Horsham
3603/5/8 (L803/5/8 EKM) Volvo B6 /Plaxton B40F, 3603 from Colchester, 3608 from Tunbridge Wells.

The fleet number./registration correlation for the Mercedes/Koch vehicles is:-
1751-6 DE52 OKV/W/X/Z/OLM/N.

This corrects EBN466/22 for 1751-4. 1755/6 are correct as given.

Vehicles out

3381/2/3 Dennis Lance SLF/Wright Pathfinder (M761-3 JPA) to Arriva North West & Wales

5417/9 (N707/9 TPK) Volvo Olympian/NC to Arriva North West and Wales

5434 (W434 XKX) Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX400 to Maidstone (Arriva Kent & Sussex Ltd.)

Other Vehicle News

Volvo Olympian 5419 had returned to Southend after its brief loan to Colchester, by 10th August, but has since left for Arriva North West and Wales.

The following vehicles are now with Arriva North West and Wales.

Lances 3381/2/3 - Arriva NW&W Fleetnumber 2395-7

Volvo Olympian/NC 5415-9 - Arriva NW&W Fleetnumber 3350-4

Dennis Dominator DD16 - Arriva NW&W Fleetnumber 3837.

The vehicles have gained pool status and are currently stored at Bootle.

The Volvo B6 situation is now as follows:

3601/2/8 have entered service as Lance replacements.

3603/5 and YDT208 are to be used as driver trainers.

Toby Prescott reports that ex-Southend Transport Fleetline 212 (JTD392P) is heading off to the USA along with a Routemaster, having been purchased from dealer Mike Nash.

COLCHESTER

The fleet as acquired by Burtons is understood to be:

317	516	L516 CPJ	Volvo B6-50	Plaxton Pointer	B41F	2/94
333	613	G613 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lances	H49/39F	9/89
334	614	G614 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lances	H49/39F	10/89
337	617	G617 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lances	H49/39F	10/89
374	E2174	R174 VBM	Mercedes-Benz 0810	Plaxton Beaver 2	B27F	8/97
377	2196	J27 UNY	Leyland TRCL10/3ARZ	Plaxton 321	C53F	8/85
373	E2243	R763 DUB	Mercedes-Benz 0810	Plaxton Beaver 2	B27F	9/97
318	E3241	M841 DDS	Volvo B6-50	Alexander Dash	B37F	8/94
319	E3246	M846 DDS	Volvo B6-50	Alexander Dash	B40F	8/94
351	E3341	H251 GEV	Leyland Lynx Mk1	Leyland	B49F	8/90
352	E3342	H252 GEV	Leyland Lynx Mk1	Leyland	B49F	8/90
353	E3343	H253 GEV	Leyland Lynx Mk1	Leyland	B49F	8/90

356	E3346	H256 GEV	Leyland Lynx Mk1	Leyland	B49F	8/90
357	E3347	H257 GEV	Leyland Lynx Mk1	Leyland	B49F	8/90
358	E3406	P326 HVX	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B34F	8/96
358	E4335	J56 GCX	DAF SB220LC550	Ikarus Citibus	B48F	7/92
3927	E4337	J927 CYL	DAF SB220LC550	Ikarus Citibus	B48F	3/92
359	E4339	K124 TCP	DAF SB220LC550	Ikarus Citibus	B48F	8/92
1752	E4352	M52 AWW	Scania K113CRB	Van Hool Alizee	C49F	7/95
1753	E4353	M53 AWW	Scania K113CRB	Van Hool Alizee	C49F	7/95
371	E5389	C41 HHJ	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H47/31F	9/85
375	E5397	F245 MTW	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29F	9/88
376	E5398	F246 MTW	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29F	9/88
377	E5407	H47 MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	DPH43/29F	3/91
378	E5408	H48 MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	H47/31F	3/91
379	E5409	H49 MJN	Leyland Olympian	Leyland	H47/31F	3/91
335	7615	G615 BPH	Volvo Citybus B10M-50	East Lancs	H49/39F	10/89
306	DS004	L506 CPJ	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	5/94
308	DS006	L508 CPJ	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	5/94
309	DS15	M526 MPM	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	6/95
310	DS20	N540 TPF	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	11/95
311	DS21	N541 TPF	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	11/95
313	DS23	N543 TPK	Dennis Dart	East Lancs EL2000	B40F	2/96

Service vehicle:

1151 YVW 979L Mattbro forklift truck



A 'one-off' in the Arriva Colchester fleet was 5643, a Volvo Citybus with Northern Counties body, part of a batch new to London & Country for LRT tendered work. They have since gravitated to Arriva Medway Towns, and more recently some have moved to Arriva Yorkshire. The odd one at Colchester, still with AMT fleetname, is not expected to stay long in the Network Colchester fleet. Here it is in early August.

Roger Duke

The following were not acquired by Burtons but remain on loan after the takeover date. They have not received Network Colchester fleetnames.

Mercedes Vario:	2372/2382 (R942/52 VPU)	E2382
DAF/Ikarus	E4336 (J926 CYL)	E4336
Volvo B10M/Northern Counties	7643 (G643 BPH)	
Volvo B6/Northern Counties	V201 (L201 YCU)	V201

In addition, whilst the following are part of the transferred fleet as listed earlier, they are expected to be returned to Arriva in the near future:

Tiger coach	2196 (J27 UNY)	J27
Scania coaches	E4352/3 M52/3 AWW)	M52 M53
DAK/Ikarus bus	E4337 (J927 CYL)	

Dart/Plaxton 3168 (J468 OKP) was transferred away shortly before the sale was effective; Tiger coach E4305 (BAZ 7384), which has body corrosion, was also excluded from the sale and was noted heading south out of Colchester on 1 September.

Volvo B6/Plaxton E3603 (L603 EKM) had been recently transferred to Colchester as a trainer, replacing Lynx YDT47 (F47 ENF), but was moved to Southend before the sale.

Vauxhall Vitaro service van YVAN22 (WP52 FAA) was not included and appears to have been replaced by a Ford Transit van, N611 LMR, ex-Arriva Southern Counties. This was in evidence (with Arriva fleetnames removed) on 6 September.

Other News

Former Colchester Lynxes still active with Arriva North West & Wales (Arriva Merseyside Ltd. / Arriva Cymru Ltd.) are:

1750 (H150 LPU), 1757 (K27 EWC) - Aberystwyth
T8184 (H28MJN) - trainer at Bootle.

Peter Mansbridge, Dave Arnold, David Harman, Colin Sigston



**Colchester
Corporation
Transport**





The Arriva Colchester fleet passed to Burton's Coaches Ltd. on 29 August.

Vehicles have gained legal vinyls (in Arriva colours) for Burton's Coaches Limited t/a Network Colchester, Duddery Hill, Haverhill, CB9 8DR. They also display yellow "On hire to Arriva Colchester Ltd." labels in the side or front windows, as the service registrations remain in the name of Arriva Colchester Ltd for the time being. A new fleetname in red/yellow, in the same general style as the Burton and Premier logos, has been applied to most, but not all of the vehicles.

The map on the Arriva website (www.arriva.co.uk) still shows Colchester but the timetables appear to have been taken down. However, these are still available via the Traveline South East site: www.traveline-southeast.org.uk. Tickets continue to be issued from Wayfarer 3 machines on Arriva rolls whilst stocks are used up.

The depot, at 38 Magdalen Street, Colchester, Essex, CO1 2LD, has been added to Burton's Operator's Licence as an operat-



DAF/Ikarus E4335 (J56 GCX) displays the new fleetname. *David Harman*

ing centre with authorisation for 50 vehicles. It is understood that the lease on this continues until sometime in 2005. The Arriva fascia above garage no.1 was removed over the Bank Holiday weekend.

The reduction in fleet numbers compared to the pre-sale position is as a result of the loss of various Essex CC tendered services (mainly schools services) to Heddingham upon re-tender (routes 11, 15, 16/A, 17 & 172).

The fleet will be renumbered into a 3xx series shortly but final details were not available when we went to press; repainted Olympian E5407 (H47 MJN) has been noted carrying new number 347, and the Olympians are believed to have been allocated numbers 341-9 (C41 HHJ, F245/6 MTW, H47-9 MJN). Most other buses have had their Arriva numbers removed.

E5407 (347) was painted at Rainham into Burtons blue and white scheme and entered service without fleetnames on 31 August. It was noted fully lettered up on September 6, as illustrated on the front cover. It was due to have taken part in an official launch ceremony on 3 September. Can anyone provide details?

The two Varios 2372/2382 (R942/52 VPU) are understood to have already departed.

A replacement for Tiger E4305 has come from the main Burtons fleet, and retains Burtons fleetname: T200 BCL Volvo B10M-62 / Plaxton Premiere 350 C49FT, new 1989.

Peter Mansbridge, Dave Arnold, David Harman, Colin Sigston



Talsiman Coach Lines: The two ex-Colchester Borough Transport Atlanteans await custom at the Castle in August. *Roger Duke*

LATEST VEHICLE MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN from

Arriva London	RM295/311/384/432/664/719/732/1330
London General	RML 2364
Go Ahead North East	Metrobis A645BCN

VEHICLES OUT

	to
RM1003	Non-Foods, Hanover, Germany
RML2696	Black Horse Pub, Gt Burnford, Wilts
RML2687	"Biltema" Shopping Centre, Brevik, Norway
RML2327	Halifax Joint Committee for preservation
M1219, M1252	Linkast (S and M), Benfleet, Essex
Olympian C637LFT	Bennetts, Gloucester
Bristol VR NFB115R	Pearce Enterprises, Swansea.
M853	PVS for scrap.
M1402	Golden Eagle Coaches, Glasgow.
Dart K985CBO	Halifax Joint Committee
Volvo B6 M105PVN	Northern Blue (Accrington Transport), Burnley
Olympians C658/61LJR	Nightingale Coaches, Co Durham
T1099	A and P Brown, Ely, Cambs
Dart DP309	Transit Group, Stansted
Metrobis A645BCN	Walker Enterprises, Witney, Oxon

The following are on loan to Centra to cover Mitcham Belle services (acquired by Centra on 27 August): L4/L255, Volvo B6's L662/7MSF, Darts LDP19 and J637KCU. Of these, all but LDP19 and L4 were loaned to Sullivans the previous week for use on a *Silverlink* rail job. RCL2220 and RT4421 were used on the last day of crew-workings on TfL route 73 on Friday 3rd September.

Dave Arnold, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus

BURTON'S

Potted history

Before the war, Reginald and Horace Richardson had been involved in road haulage, and it was only in 1948 that they began operating coaches under the 'Burton Coaches' name. There was no "Mr Burton" - the name derives from an area of Haverhill, the registered office being for many years at 9 Burton End.

The business became a limited company, Burton Coaches (Haverhill) Ltd. in August 1953. In the 1960's, control of Nicholls (Clare) Ltd. was gained, and this was eventually absorbed.

In April 1998, a new company, Burton's

Coaches Ltd. was registered, with a minority interest held by Tellings-Golden Miller Ltd. In May 1999, the remaining coach operations and goodwill of Premier Travel Services were purchased. T-GM plc gained full control in December 2003, with the aim of using Burtons as "basis for expanding the Group's bus operations in East Anglia".

A modern bus and coach fleet is operated, including Darts, Mercedes minis, Volvo Citybuses, Volvo and Dennis coaches. A recent, notable acquisition is a Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX400. This is route-branded for the 32, Cambridge-Saffron Walden service, taken over on re-tender from Whippet Coaches on 26 July.

David Harman

Essex Small Operator News

ASHES TRAVEL Cressing Mercedes 709D/PMT E795 CGA has gone to Moores, Crewe.

BASILDON TRAVEL Basildon Recently acquired is Scania K92/Duple WIB 4393 (F90 CWG).

CHARIOTS Corringham Recently acquired is DAF SB3000/Caetano H403 CJF from Amos, Eydun.

COLCHESTER COACHES Clacton Bova K295 GDT has been reregistered C18 OVA. Leyland Leopard/Plaxton VAS 589T (new as VWS 976T) has been sold.

EXCEL Stansted Volvo/Plaxton 5796 MX passed to Stagecoach South as a driver trainer, although the plate went to a private owner in Walsall. Two Leyland Olympian/ECW have joined the fleet, they are A888/90 PKR.

FARGO Rayne S331 SET a Scania/Irizar has been sold.

FORD Althorne Withdrawn are Leyland Fleetline/N Counties MRJ 239W, Bedford YMT/ Plaxton EYH 693 V and Bedford YMT/Willowbrook (rebody) LJ1 477 (XNM 830S)

GBN Pitsea This employemeny agency is using Ford Transit R87 FUB on a PSV licence.

KELLYS TRAVEL Harlow Mercedes 0303 SIW 6253 (new as D356 CBC) is reported by the PSV Circle as joining Excel, Stansted Airport., with whom it is on rail replacment work at Manningtree.

LINKFAST Thundersley Acquired from A&M Coaches is JUI 9570 (K770 JRA) a Toyota/Caetano

NCS Newport Acquired from a variety of owners are Ford Transits J344 TFA, K368 XBA and M596 GTT, Iveco minibus K701 UTT, Peugeot Boxer M833 JPJ and LDV Convoy W627 CUA.

OLYMPIAN Harlow Further to a previous report Setra MJI 7857 (B267 XHK) has not been sold and remains here. Iveco/Marshall M728/9 UTW have been stripped for spares, with the remains sold for scrap.

PDQ Colchester LDV 400 N206 DME has passed to a private owner.

RUFFLE Castle Hedingham Volvo/Jonckhree G167 RBD was reregistered XIB 2453, but has now passed to Brown, Barway.

SEYMOUR Harlow Acquired from an unknown source is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton F701 ENE.

SM TRAVEL Harlow Iveco/Beulas T936 HTR is a recent arrival, while Iveco/Mellor L699 NWX previously reported as sold, is still here.

STB COACHES Chadwell St Mary This new operator has former Amber, Rayleigh KEG 689Y (new as 687 DEW) a Bova Europa.

STEPHENSON Rochford Leyland Olympian/ECW TSO 15X has been sold. This is the last 'real' TSO in the fleet as TSO 29X was new as OFS 693Y. By coincidence TSO 31X has arrived for dealer stock. As a reminder, some stock vehicles are used on a temporary basis, one such being Olympian/ECW A234 GHN.

TOWN & COUNTRY Grays Another former London Olympian/ECW here is C104 CHM.

*Ian Ransom;
acknowledgements to
PSV Circle, Lyn Watson,
Dave Arnold and Colin Sigston*



One of **Regal Busways'** new Transbus Darts, 601 (YN04 PZY) poses for the camera. Above the windows is the blue route 14/15 branding strip; below, the Essex County Council multi-coloured *Village Link* vinyl. *Photo courtesy Regal Busways Ltd.*

REGAL BUSWAYS – Fleet List – September 2004

<i>No</i>	<i>Registration</i>	<i>Chassis</i>	<i>Body</i>	<i>Seats</i>	<i>New to</i>
460	L660 MFL	Volvo B6	Marshall C32	B32F	Cambus
464	L664 MFL	Volvo B6	Marshall C32	B32F	Cambus
465	L665 MFL	Volvo B6	Marshall C32	B32F	Cambus
469	L669 MFL	Volvo B6	Marshall C32	B32F	Cambus
504	J104 DUV	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B24F	London United
505	J105 DUV	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B24F	London United
532	J132 DUV	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B24F	London United
540	J140 DUV	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B24F	London United
601	YN04 PZY	Transbus Dart	Transbus MPD	B29F	(New)
602	YN04 PZZ	Transbus Dart	Transbus MPD	B29F	(New)
1140	BYX 140V	MCW Metrobus	MCW	H71D	London Buses
1203	B203 DTU	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H69F	Crosville Wales
1205	SJR 617Y	Leyland Olympian	ECW	H78F	Northern General
1557	SHE 557S	Leyland Fleetline	Alexander AL	H78F	South Yorkshire PTE

601/2 arrived in late August and are branded for services 14/15 (Chelmsford to Wickford). For some reason on 17th August, Nelsons VR NDL 652R appeared on a service 14/15 working. Website: www.regalbusways.co.uk

40-plus years of Group Tours

Group weekend tours are now a thing of the past and the reason is simple. With Sunday services thin on the ground and few depots open, let alone staffed on that day, there would be little to see or photograph.

However, the Group ran a series of successful Bank Holiday weekend tours in the 1980's. The 1983 South Wales tour was typical. We left on Friday evening in a Southend Transport coach. The surfeit of spare X1 coaches at weekends meant we could hire one at advantageous rates, especially since several drivers, including the late Andy Meadows, provided their services free.

Our destination and base was Cardiff, from whence we visited operators ranging from Brewers to West Wales Motors. Particular targets, vehicle-wise, were two ex-ENOC buses with South Wales Transport.

SWT had bought KSW 2386 (WNO 484) for the summer Gower Peninsular *Sky Rider* service, and this is seen below in Richard Delahoy's inspired shot. I have to say that,

whilst a KSW is a marvellous thing, poppy red and the, then trendy "branding" didn't really suit it. (Sky Riders 2-4, incidentally, were native SWT convertible open-top VRs).

The other bus we were interested in was one of the 'jumbos' - the long VRs that ENOC had acquired from Eastern Scottish in 1973, as part of the great FLF-for-VR swap. In 1981, jumbo 3042 (LFS 287F) had passed to SWT (no.899), for school work. It was based out in the sticks at Pontardawe, near Ammanford. When we reached Pontardawe (say Pont-ah-dow-ee), we found that, despite having made prior arrangements, there was no-one to greet us or to move vehicles. It got worse. 899 was blocked-in by rows of other VRs. Well, we *did* have permission to visit for the purposes of taking photographs, and it can now safely be revealed that a person or persons unknown *did* cause said VRs to be shifted out of the way. I'll see if I can dig out the neg for next month.

David Harman



On tour ~ 1983

Former Eastern National KSW 2386 as South Wales Transport 500 - *Sky Rider 1*, at Ravenhill Works, Swansea. Various EBEG personages may be identified on the top-deck. The gent trying to attract the photographer's attention is Bob Palmer. *Richard Delahoy*



On tour ~ 2004 Two more shots from the July North Norfolk Tour:
above: Former Eastern National vehicles are still keenly sought after on Group Tours.
 Here is ... ah ... pure nostalgia! ... Leyland-National 1707 (WNO 556L) under restoration at **Konect Bus**. Ex-Hants & Dorset UFX 852S on the left is still active. The Konect Bus yard is unusually surfaced in shingle, possibly from the Norfolk coast.

below: Advantageous coach hire rates and enthusiast drivers still help to make the tours a success: A better shot than my ham-fisted effort on page 20 of EBN484, of **Genial Travel's** DAF/Van Hool H140 AFV. *both: Iain Stewart*



Much has been written about the City Coach Company LT class Leyland TS7D/T's and the unusual six-wheel, twin-steer Leyland Gnus, but there were other Leyland coaches in the fleet.

T1 - 6 were acquired in September 1937 from Sheffield Corporation Transport, where they were numbered 117-121 /116: T1 (WJ 1916) was a Leyland TS1 and T2 - 6 (WJ 518/520/519/521/520) were Leyland TS3's with Leyland B30R bodywork. However, T1-3 were rebodied by Duple with C32F bodies before entering service. T1 -5 were withdrawn in 1939-1941. T1 was sold to Brimblecombe Bros., Wokingham, T2 to Mascot Coaches (Votier), Norwich, T3, 4 and 6 to Coventry Corporation, and T5 to Williamsons of Bridlington.

T7 - 12 were added to the City fleet in 1938, registered (EXF 69-74). They were Leyland TS8's with Duple FC32F bodies. T7/8/10/11/12 were requisitioned by the Ministry of War Transport in 1940 - 1943. T9 (EXF 71) survived until 1947 and later passed to Banfields Coaches by 1953.

T14 (DXT 595) was acquired secondhand in September 1938 from Luxury Landcruisers of London W.1. T14 is thought to have had a Strachan C20F body, later possibly resealed to C28F. It was withdrawn in 1947, and passed to Valliant Direct Coaches. It, too, later saw service with Banfields Coaches by 1953.

TS1 and TS2 were Leyland TS4's added to City stock in 1946. TS1 (HD 4678), with a Weymann C30F body was new to



Having just been rebodied, T3 (WJ 520) poses for an official photograph outside the Duple Coachworks at Hendon.

Peter Snell / Ribble Enthusiasts Club



T11 (EXF 73) receiving attention at the old Kentish Town depot. **T10** (EXF 73) is alongside. Both look brand-new.

Arthur Ingram

Yorkshire Woollen District Transport of Dewsbury and came to City via the War Department, it was withdrawn in 1947. TS2 (NG 2273) had an E.C.O.C C30F body and was new in 1932. This also came via the War Department and was formerly United Automobile Services LT62. It saw service until 1947. Both saloons were sold for contract work to Wrights (Grey Saloon Coaches) of Southend, a regular buyer of ex-City stock.

L1 (HE 5226) was a Leyland LT2 with East Lincs B31R body, acquired in 1945 from L.Bleazard of Bolton-by-Bowland, and originally Yorkshire Traction Co. 342. It was fitted with a Leyland B30F body when new. It was withdrawn in 1946 and later operated with Hooks of Great Oakley in the Clacton area. Remarkably, it survived until 1966 before going for scrap.

The T and L class letters had been used before: "T" for Leyland TD1's and "L" for Leyland PLSC's, but these are another story. Finally, the LS class were the postwar Leyland PS1 /Duple class.

Peter Snell



5002

Blind Spot

The first of an occasional series looking at Eastern National (and other) destination blinds.

This ultimate destination blind is for Clacton [CN] and Dovercourt [DT] depots and was printed by King & Flack, London N.7. There is no date stamped on it, but it is from c.1958. Most EN destination blinds had 4" lettering, but this one has 3½" lettering.

The first and final four displays were added to white blank sections by EN. 'CROFT ROAD' was originally added for the expanding estate at Jaywick. As new roads were extended, routes 115 and 117 were extended to Wargrave Road and most blinds were amended as per the first

display. Other blinds had the additions at the end of the blind, where more white blanks had been provided. In either case, a lot of winding was needed at the end of every journey on route 115 (Jaywick Sands) and route 117 (Fernwood Avenue) !

Bob Williamson



A bus probably fitted with the blind opposite: Clacton's 1327 (ONO 59), a 1949 K5G on a short working of the 106. This was delivered as 4038, becoming 1327 in the 1954 renumbering and 2255 in 1964. It was withdrawn two years later. *P. Ycomans*

WARGRAVE ROAD
 EASTERN NATIONAL
 PRIVATE
 RELIEF
 SCHOOL SERVICE
 WORKS SERVICE
 DOVERCOURT (HIGHWAY)
 DOVERCOURT (RAILWAY STATION)
 GREAT OAKLEY
 LITTLE OAKLEY
 LOW ROAD CAMP
 PARKESTON QUAY
 TOLLGATE
 TRANSIT CAMP
 WIX
 WRABNESS
 HARWICH
 COLCHESTER
 CHELMSFORD
 CLACTON
 WALTON
 WALTON (THE MAZE)
 TILBURY FERRY
 MALDON
 SOUTHEND
 ALRESFORD
 BEAUMONT
 BLACK NOTLEY
 BRIGHTLINGSEA
 BURRSVILLE PARK
 CASTLE HILL
 CLACTON
 CLACTON (RAILWAY STATION)
 CHESTER CAMP
 EAST BERGHOLT
 ELMSTEAD
 FRINTON

GREAT HOLLAND
 HIGHFIELD PARK
 HIGHLANDS CAMP
 HOLIDAY CAMP
 HOLLAND-ON-SEA (BRISTOL ROAD)
 HOLLAND-ON-SEA (FEEDING APLURE)
 HOLLAND-ON-SEA (HUMPS AVENUE)
 HOLLAND-ON-SEA (YORK ROAD)
 HOLLAND-ON-SEA (SEAS)
 IPSWICH
 JAYWICK SANDS
 KIRBY-LE-SOKEN
 LAYER ROAD
 LITTLE CLACTON
 MAGDALEN GREEN
 MANNINGTREE
 MEADOWVIEW CAMP
 POINT CLEAR
 SACKETTS GROVE
 ST. OSYTH
 SHANGRI LA CAMP
 ST. OSYTH BEACH
 TENDRING
 THORPE GREEN
 VALLEY FARM
 WEELEY
 WIVENHOE
 BURES
 DEDHAM
 LONDON (EUSTON)
 LONDON (VICTORIA)
 MILE END
 SOUTH WOODHAM
 CROFT ROAD
 GRAYS
 LAINDON

Destinations seem to be shown in the order:

1. Dovercourt routes
2. Trunk routes
(19/19a/53/53a)
3. Clacton routes.

Bob Williamson has assembled substantial photographic records of the destination blinds of Eastern National, its predecessors, and London Transport over many years.

He is always interested in recording examples not in his collection. If members have any actual blinds or listings of blind contents - the earlier, the better - he would be pleased to hear from you:

R J Williamson,
 35 Albury Road,
 Studley, Warwicks,
 B80 7LW
 01527 852975

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Stephensons

