

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:

Owen Woodliffe
196 Sinclair Road Chingford
London E4 8PT

Owen also stocks a wide range of colour

photos - send SAE with your requirements.

B/W PHOTO SALES

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

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

Prints of specific EN (and predecessor) vehicles can also be supplied - send SAE with your requirements.

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David Harman - as above

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Venue: **Pullman Suite, Freight House, Rochford**, (adjacent to Rochford station). 19.30 onwards. Refreshments available. All members and guests are very welcome.

£1 donation towards room hire please. *Richard Delahoy*

Autumn 2005 season:

- ▶ **Tuesday 13 December** - *Richard Delahoy* presents his annual Christmas slide show, '20 years ago', plus Chris Stewart's ENOC 75th Anniversary Running Day photos.

Winter 2005-Spring 2006 season: There will be Rochford meetings on **Tuesdays Jan 10, Feb 14, March 14, April 11 and May 9**. Details of topics to follow. If anyone would like to volunteer to contribute a talk or slide show, either a full evening or half an evening, please ask them to contact me by e-mail or post. *Richard Delahoy*

272 Shoenbury Road, Southend-on-Sea, Essex, SS1 3TT,

richard@signal-training.com

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Venue: Downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please. We can now show prints, slides or digital photos. *Dave Arnold*

Autumn 2005/Winter 2005-2006 programme:

- ▶ **Friday 9 December** - *Dave Arnold*: 'Around the UK in 2005' and 'Rail Replacement'.
- ▶ **2006 - Friday 13 January** - *John Podgorski*: 'Across the Pond' pictures from the USA, Norway and Switzerland.
- ▶ Other 2006 dates are: **Fridays February 10, March 10, April 7, May 12, June 9, September 8, October 13, November 10, December 8**.

ENSIGNBUS X80 RUNNING DAYS

- ▶ **Saturdays 10 and 17 December** - Ensignbus will be having two running days on service X80/372. Additional trips will operate hourly from 1115-1715 ex **Lakeside** and 1200-1700 ex **Gravesend Station**. Buses will not serve Swanscombe village (due to speed bumps) or Valley Drive. The service will be operated by a selection from the following: RCL2220, RML2405, RT4421, RT1431, RT3232, RLH61, RMA58, plus two additional buses which are due to appear on two of the remaining Last RM Days. Their identity will remain secret for now!

Blue Triangle are also planning to run some specials on their 372's. These are due to arrive at Lakeside on the hour, so they should "meet up" with departing X80's. It may even be that a Blue Triangle vehicle will work an X80 and an Ensign a 372.

It is also hoped that towards the end of the day, **RLH61** will run dead to Cranham and perform one round trip on a 248, which of course was a "real" RLH route. Details are still to be worked out for this, which is subject to TfL approval at the moment. Although it will run dead, if there are lots of enthusiasts who need a lift ... *something* may be arranged ...

Fares ... standard X80 fares will apply; please note no passes of any kind are valid. A special £5 all-day enthusiast fare will be available. On the 372 and 248 journeys

TfL passes etc. will of course be valid.

We are hoping that this venture will prove to be a commercial success, and if so, it could be repeated and improved upon in the future. So, if you fancy a day out riding these buses, whilst keeping the wife happy (she can Christmas shop in Lakeside AND Bluewater!) please come along. Comments welcome !!!

Ross Newman
ensignross@yahoo.com

IPSWICH & DISTRICT HISTORICAL TRANSPORT SOCIETY

Group members are cordially invited to the I&DHTS meetings, held on the second Tuesday of each month (Sept-Jun inclusive) at **The Ascension Hall, Larchcroft Road, Ipswich**. Doors open at 19.00 for 19.30 start. £1 charge includes refreshments. The venue is three minutes walk from Congreve Road/Fircroft Road roundabout (Ipswich Buses service 10 from Tower Ramparts). There is ample car parking available.

- 2006 - Tuesday 10 January - Geoff Dodson: 'My Life on the Buses'.

From the editor ...

Photo Sales: Enclosed with this EBN is the third photo list, covering EN Bristol KSWs, open-toppers and a supplementary FLF list. Our thanks go to Lyn Watson for organising these lists and arranging the supply of prints. Lyn is also able to provide bespoke prints (at a higher price) of Eastern National and predecessors (Westcliff, City, etc.). Send an SAE to him (address in the Directory) stating requirements. If negs of the vehicles you require exist in the EBEG Collection, prints will be made.

2006 Subscriptions: The Committee has reluctantly agreed a modest increase in 2006: The new rates are £19.50 for first class; £18.50 for second class. Despite this increase, we hope members feel the Group still offers good value for money and will continue their membership into 2006 and beyond.

David Harman

Kickstart Bus Challenge funds for Essex

On November 1, Transport Minister, Karen Buck announced the award of £20m worth of Government money to support and encourage public transport. 43 schemes across England share the funds, with the largest sum (£2.4m) going to Cambridgeshire. The Kickstart scheme, piloted in 2003, allows partnerships of local authorities and operators to bid for funding for new improved bus services.

Essex was awarded cash for two schemes:

£548,681 for a new 'quality, branded' service providing a direct link between Canvey Island and Chelmsford, via Benfleet station.

£245,000 to launch an hourly bus service linking the 'economically deprived' town of Jaywick with Clacton town centre.

No details about the awards on the Essex County Council website as yet.

David Harman

www.dft.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2005_0109

The South Essex KSW Experience ...

Town & Country, Purfleet, and Fourways, Highwood ~ 8 October



22 members and friends met at Shenfield Station for this tour on Town & Country's recently restored WNO 480, the former Eastern National KSW5G open-topper.

After much snapping of the cameras, we proceeded by way of Brentwood and North Ockendon for a photo halt at Ockendon Station. Here we were fortunate to also see

N853 CPU, First former Mobility Bus on route 347, shortly before the route transferred to Blue Triangle. Our journey past the scenic (?) landfill sites of Aveley and crossing over the A13 ensured a good view of the new Channel Tunnel Rail Link.

Town & Country's new depot is in Botany Way on the Beacon Hill Industrial

above: Please remain seated! KSW480 sets off for Ockendon under the LNER girder work of Shenfield Station bridge. David Harman

below: Veronica at anchor in Botany Way. Iain Stewart





Excel 106 (P323 KAR) returning from WAGN rail replacement work.

We rarely illustrate service vehicles, but here is T&C's Fiesta crew van P669 YRU.

Burton Coaches Volvo T600 BCL, one of three in Harris Coaches livery stabled at T&C's depot.

Iain Stewart





Optare Alero LF06 (YN54 LKU) of Hackney Community Transport lays over at Lakeside.

Chris Stewart

Estate at Purfleet and the company moved there in July of this year. we were warmly welcomed by Bernie Walters, Managing Director, who was also our driver for the day. He advised that they now operate seven stage routes as well as a significant number of school and rail replacement services. The double-deck fleet primarily comprises former London Leyland Olympians, but additional interest was provided by 210 (SDX 34R) "Veronica", a former Ipswich Leyland

Atlantean. Much of the single-deck fleet was out on rail-replacement work, but Optare Excel 106 (P323 KAR) arrived prior to our departure.

A TGM Group Volvo B10, T600 BCL was present, maintaining the old "Harris Coaches" name.

After leaving Town & Country's premises, we took an hour's break at Lakeside Bus Station to either view the various operations there or partake of the

Ingatestone Market Place. Chris Stewart



catering delights of a large national department store (which were found satisfactory!)

leaving Lakeside, we proceeded along the new A13, then via the A128 for a photo halt by Bulphan Church. Continuing via Brentwood and the old A12 with a further halt at Ingatestone Market Place, we used the Writtle by-pass to access the small village of Highwood, where Fourways are based.

Fourways has a fleet of former Dublin Bus Olympians and there was considerable interest in their recently acquired Dennis Condor, G310 FWC (the former China Motor Bus/New World First DL1). Their last Bristol VRT, LBD 923V was also present, as well as two examples of the coach fleet, a Volvo and a Leyland Royal Tiger.

Our return journey to Shenfield was via Ongar and short visit to the station to view several stored former London vehicles (including two AEC Swifts) and an array of steam/diesel locomotives and rolling stock belonging to the Epping Ongar Railway. The Society operate a diesel multiple unit service every Sunday in conjunction with a vintage bus service from Epping Station and is well worth a visit if you are in the area.

The day was much enjoyed by all present, aided by good weather, and our thanks go to Alan Osborne for organisation, Fourways of Highwood, and Town & Country Travel, in particular Bernie Walters. The condition and performance of WNO480 was a credit to all involved in its restoration.

Richard Huggins

Bulphan [Church] is little changed since the days when closed-top KSWs could be seen on the 265. An LT type bus stop pole still in situ, although timetables for the 265 and 374 are now displayed inside the shelter.

Chris Stewart





*Fourways:
The last VR LBD 923V
with ex-Dublin
Olympian
G937 FVX.*

*Now, where's that door
button? Royal Tiger
Doyen E317 OMG*

*It's that Condor
moment! G310 FWC
Iain Stewart*



FIRST ESSEX

New/Cascaded Vehicles

Scania 65632 (V832FSC) completes the batch of these from *First Beeline*.

30560 (P190TGD), one of three remaining vehicles from this batch of Volvo Olympians with *First Mainline* (the others are 30558/9: P181/3TGD) was first seen at CR on 3 December.

Plaxton Primo demonstrator YX55DSE (in gold livery with blue interior) arrived at Harwich from Coach & Bus Live 2005 Show at the NEC, working briefly on 20th October and then for longer on 21st/22nd. It seemed to create a favourable impression, albeit with a few early technical problems which are possibly not surprising for a prototype.

Allocation changes

Period 7: 25 Sept to 23 Oct 2005

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another *First* fleet (A)=acquired; Anc=Ancillary fleet; RES=spare/reserve (licensed); D/L(RES)=spare/reserve (delicensed);

D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal; DS=Driving School

46118 RES-D/L(D); 51889 RES-D/L(D); 65629 FGC- RES; 65630 FGC-RES; 65632 FGC-RES

Thamesway liveried 46118 was still in use from BN (again often at Brentwood) until at least the end of September.

Repaints:

Period 7: 34301 46155 46158 46175 46176 46179 46183 52585

Period 8: 52580 46801 46806 41653 43721 43731 43736 47101 43732 43737

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Unusual sightings:

October

- 2nd BE46816 on 71C.
- 3rd CR67008 on 61.
- 4th CR34309 on 66, DT46802 on 20/A (usually Merc 709D).
- 5th CR34309 on 67A (usually Lance), CN46806 on 85 (usually 709D) and CR65679 on X22.
- 6th BE46824 on CF525 (usually BMC school bus).
- 7th CR43741 on 70, CN46119 on DT103.
- 8th CR34301 and CR34014 on 61 (usually Dart), CR34305 on 78 all day (usually 340xx) and CR34315 on P&R service (owing to increased loadings with pre Christmas shopping)
- 9th HH43717/8 (27 branded) both on 11A.
- 10th CR34305 on 64 (10.18 ex Osborne Street), CR67006 on 65
- 12th CR43715 (61 branded) on 66A.
- 13th CN46120 on DT103, CN46120 on 103/4 (09.40 ex CR) and later on CR 77, DT46802 on 103, CR67004 on 65, CR67007 on 105 (usually Dart)
- 14th CN46126 on CR88 (to Gt Yeldham)
- 17th CR67003 (67 branded) on 88.
- 18th CR34018 (77/78 branded) on 71, CF34816 on 31 and CF47220 on 31X (usually Scania), CF42485 (352 branded) on 42, CF43729 and BE46144 on 352 (usually branded SLF), BE46826 on 33, CR67003 (67 branded) on 70 and CR67004 on 65



Plaxton Primo demonstrator YX55 DSE at on the 22A/B Harwich town service: above, with the High Lighthouse in West Street; and, below with Harwich Town rail station in the background. The Primo is a 7.9m long, 2.4m wide 28-seater, with Cummins ISBe Euro 3 engine and Allison gearbox. The chassis is built by EBL in Hungary and the body at Scarborough. An unusual feature is the pivoted, single-leaf, coach-style door. *Fred Lawrance*



- 19th CR34309 on 67 / A (usually Lance), CR47103 on 70, CR47104 on 61, CR43739 on 64A.
- 21st (RES)46122 on 48, CF34818 working at CN on 74/75/76, BN43800 on 551 (usually Olympian or Dart)
- 22nd CR65408 on X22.
- 24th CR34309 on 64A, CF34815 on 31X, CN46178 on 75/76 (09.00 from CN diagram) Dart/Marshall BN41645 and Scania BN65631 on 81/82 (usually Plaxton Dart)
- 25th CR34013 (77/78 branded) on 61, CF43733 on 72 (usually Plaxton Dart), CR46829 on 66 (usually 43739-44, 47101-6), Scania CR65408 and Lance CR67008 on X22 (substituting for Cheetahs)
- 26th CR34012 & 34303 on 61.
- 27th BE46826 on 33
- 28th CN67011 on 5, (RES)46122 on 8 at CN, (RES)46118 on 82
- 30th CR43715 (61 branded) on 1, CF43733 being used by BE on 352

November

- 1st Scania CR65679 on 88 (11.45 ex HD), CR34013 on 75 (21.00 ex CR) and CR67006 on X22

OTHER NEWS

TfL route 498 - Irish Irizars - Thurrock ticketing - Cypriot 709s

The Brentwood-Romford section of the 351/551 has indeed been put out to tender by TfL as route 498, the specification calling for low floor single decker buses not more than 10.2m long, with dual doors and maximum capacity of 55 (with at least 28 of those seated).

To amplify recent EBN reports, the *First Essex* involvement with National Express services 305 and 350 is understood to be the provision of drivers between Clacton and Cambridge on the 350, and from Southend to Bedford and back on the 305. Aircoach 23017 (04 D 72883) was again noted on the 350 on 3rd October.

Dr Mike Walker from Wells was in Northern Cyprus recently, and observed a number of former *First Group* Mercedes 709 minibuses in use for student transport to/from the American University at Girne (Kyrenia). Locally registered HG397-9, 402/3 were identified as former *First Essex* 51466/58, 51468/71/69 (M166, 658/68/71, 669VJN) whilst L647/56MEV and M674VJN were also noted (not yet in use).

Member Bill White reports that recent presentation of his Thurrock free travel pass on service 100 resulted in his being issued with a Wayfarer ticket marked '£0.00 THK CON FREE JN', rather than simply being recorded electronically on the machine.

First Essex report EBN499

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, A Kelleher, J Podgorski, C Sigston, D Stewart, Dr M Walker, R Webb, W White, R Whitley, *Essex Bus* and *South West* y-groups, *Real Bus News* group, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Vehicles in from Arriva Kent & Sussex, Maidstone:

3181 P181 LKL Dennis Dart SLF SFD322BR1TGW10539

Plaxton Pointer 9610.6HLZ6146 B40F 2/97

This vehicle was working from Grays at the end of October.

Other News

Ex-London Olympian 5387 (D172 FYM) has received major accident damage and is currently out of service.

From 6 November Arriva ceased to serve the communities of Barling, Little Wakering and Foulness with the transfer of service 14 to *Stephensons* (under contract to Essex County Council). The revised service 14 incorporates the former Foulness extensions to Arriva service 4.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Bill White

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

New vehicles

2461 KE 55 FDG Optare Solo

Optare B??F 10/05

2462 KE 55 FDF Optare Solo

Optare B??F 10/05

Vehicles in

From Arriva the Shires (Hitchin) 2139 9/05

2139 N369 JGS MB 709D 669003-2N-036864 Plaxton 957.6MHV4547 B27F 4/96

Former Southend 335 (CJN 435C) at the Worthing Rally in July. Dave Arnold



From Arriva the Shires (Luton) 5427 10/05

5427 W427 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20923 Alexander 9950/7 H47/31F 7/00

Allocations

9/05: 2139 HA

10/05: 2138 u; 2461/2, 5427 WE

Vehicles out

2140 (N370 JGS): Pickford, Chippenham 7/05

2417 (N177 DWM): Arriva the Shires (Stevenage) 2417 9/05

3603/4 (KE55 FBY/X): Arriva the Shires (Luton) 3603/4 10/05

5838 (C38 CHM): gone 9/05

Subsequent histories

2063 (H 35 DGD): Autowater,, Bathgate 6/05 ex Chalmers, Whitburn

2099 (M159 RBH): SM Coaches, Harlow by 12/04 ex Olympian, Harlow

2111 (M 41 WUR): Thomas, Neath 7/05 ex Pickford, Chippenham

3355 (K405 FHJ): gone from Arriva the Shires (Aylesbury) 3355 10/05

5355 (GBU 5V): SBC Engineering, Leigh-on-Sea 6/05 ex Hutchison, Thorpe Bay

5844 (D211 FYM): gone from Arriva the Shires (Watford) 5844 9/05

General

At least four more Dennis Tridents were transferred from Luton to Ware in early November.
Full details in next issue.

Mark Garrett



■ NETWORK COLCHESTER

Vehicles in

from TGM (via Travel London who did not use it)

??? S108 HGX Mercedes-Benz Vario 0814D WDB6703732N077527

Plaxton Beaver 2 987.8MWV0332 B29F

New to Crystals, Dartford. It will be for use on new routes 730/1.

Burton's Vario S550 BNV has also been noted in use.

Unusual sightings

October 1st 306 on 8E

3rd 302 on 2

7th 316 on 2, 359 on 87

10th 316 on 2

12th 309 (8 branded) on 5

13th 311 (8 branded) on 2 & 93, 316 on 2, 356 on 1

15th 309 on 8E

19th 349 on 5

21th and 26th 358 on 5

27th 335 on 247

28th 302 on 1, 340 on 2

29th 373 on 93E

31th 316 on 1.

Other News

Dart 302 (see EBN498) came from Burtons. It was used by Stephenson's at Maldon prior to its arrival at Colchester.

■ COLCHESTER COACHWAYS

The ex Supreme depot is 'officially' for use by Colchester Coachways, which is run separately from Network Colchester.

Vehicles in

from Burton main fleet at Haverhill

T200 BCL Volvo B10M-62 50187 Plaxton Premiere 9912VUP0466 C51Ft 3/99

W700 BCL Volvo B10M-62 61315 Plaxton Premiere 9912VUP1233 C53F 3/00

W700 BCL is in Travelsphere livery.

Reregistration

W654 SJF has become W30 BCL.

Unusual sightings

On 31st October, B10M T300 BCL failed at Thorington while returning from a morning Brightlingsea school contract. In the afternoon, it was replaced by DAF SB220/Ikarus bus 358 from Network Colchester.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski

Hedingham

New vehicle:

L343 EU55 BWC ADL Dart SLF SFD3CACR45GW18392 / ADL 5220/2 B37F
Allocated to Clacton. It was delivered on 26 October but will enter service in November.

Acquired vehicle:

L108 HHV is confirmed as **L342** (EBN 497), and is allocated to Kelvedon.

Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

VEHICLES IN from

Arriva London: RML884/2457/2742 (all in bits); RML2350/2588/2684 L548/9
Arriva the Shires: Olympians D167/8/9/211FYM
Arriva TOLST: Dominator VVN202Y
Imperial Buses: Dart K822NKH
London United: RML2734/44

VEHICLES OUT:

to
Dart J317 XVX: **Autopoint Coaches**, Hailsham, East Sussex.
Scania F904 JRG: **Hugh Brennan**, Sevenoaks, Kent for preservation.
RML2618: **British School in Kuwait**, Kuwait City.
L530/4: **Carousel Buses**, High Wycombe, Bucks.
Dart P693 RWU: **Carters Coaches**, Ipswich, Suffolk.
RML2615: **Concours Cars**, Colchester.
RM1324: **Dave Cooper**, Worthing, West Sussex.
Condor EN275, now G324 FWC: **Country Lion**, Northampton.
M770: **Cwmbran Christian Centre**, South Wales.
NV36/47/77/108/120/121/126/130/146: **FirstGroup Plc**.
RML882: **Mike Fuller**, Bedford.

VEHICLES OUT

L522/527/535/544/545:
 Olympian H589EGU (formerly DMN19R): **Go-Ahead North East.**
 RML2290: **Grahams Training Services**, London.
 RML884: **Imperial, Rainham** for restoration.
 RML2568: **Liverpool Bus and Coach Rental.**
 M1254: **Red Route Buses**, Northfleet, Kent.
 Olympians D167/8/9/211 FYM: **Renown Coaches**, Bexhill, East Sussex.
 RML2680: **Nick Rose**, Poole, Dorset.
 RML2475: **SE Coachworks**, Faversham. (for a French client)
 Dart J309 WHJ:
 Metroriders M810/975 WWR: **Stansted Transit.**
 RML2575: **The 2575 Group**, Dublin.
 Tiger WPH 139Y: **Trustline**, Stansted.
 Dart K822 NKH: **Hams Travel**, Fimwell, East Sussex.
 Atlantean GFS 448N: **Imperial, Rainham.**
 Atlantean GRC 890N: **Chris Hunn**, Norfolk.
 M469/714/721/752/772/773: **McKindless**, Wishaw.
 M880, Dominator VVN 202Y: **PVS** for scrap.
 RM1002: **Ivor Vaughan**, Channel Islands. (bus based in Nottingham)
 RM687: **Brian Wells**, Nottingham.
With thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Essex Small Operator News

ADTAX, Saffron Walden Toyota Caetano E240 FJU has been sold.

AMBER, Rayleigh DAF/Plaxton B884 AJX was sold in 2004, but has not previously been reported.

APT, Rayleigh Further to EBN 497, APT 42S was acquired from Bakers Coaches, Biddulph, and was previously N790 SJU a Volvo B10M/Caetano. The previous APT 42S a Volvo B10M/Plaxton (new as E609 YJO) is now SIB 3259 and this was sold to Kingswinford Coaches, West Midlands in May.

Also acquired is Mercedes 0303/Plaxton J396 UBM ex Tates, Markyate, first seen in August, with Dennis Javelin/Wadham Stringer K453 PHU, moving the other way. The previous identity of R6 APT (EBN 497 refers) is R189 SUT

ARROW, Maldon P623/4 NOO Ford Transit are both in (by 9.05) - these passed through Chelmsford auction in 11.04 (623) & 8.04 (624). They were quoted as from a "public authority" - this is thought to mean a police force.

ASHES, Cressing An Iveco/? (van conversion) is in (by 10.05) - reg. is H...FEW (possibly 922)

B&C MINIBUSES, Loughton Ford Transit EA03 NYY, was new here in July 2003, but has only just been reported.

BARKERS, Roydon Leyland Tiger/Plaxton SJI 9334 (B47 DWE) has gone to KJB, North Hykeham.

BJS, Gt Wakering Mercedes Benz 614D/Crest S217 TKR (S6 SET) arrived in August 2004 from Streamline, West Malling, but has not previously been reported. It was sold on to Littlebus, Longfield in May 2005.

BRADAMOUR TOURS, Rochford A second LDV Convoy R982 JHJ was acquired by July, from a private owner.

BRENTWOOD, COACHES Preserved Guy Arab NUR 659 had been sold, by April. 510 PML Bedford/Plaxton is in (by 10.05) - genuine registration, vintage vehicle
 Volvo B10M/Caetano 610 KWC (ex M577 JBC) was reregistered to M577 JBC on 27.9.05

Two P-reg. Volvo B10M/Jonckheere are in ex Richmond (Epsom Coaches), Surrey - they are thought to be from P708/9/10/806/7DPA (by 10.05)

C&M, Laindon This taxi operator, has also operated a number of minicoaches over

the years, however their operators licence was surrendered from August.

CEDRIC, Wivenhoe News of Leyland Olympians, is that ARP 614X is back in use, but B748 GCN has been withdrawn.

CF TRANSPORT, Hadleigh Talbot Express H210 GRK had been sold to an unknown owner by July.

CHARIOTS, Standford-le-Hope LAG Panoramic NIL 2449 (new as C846 TPA) was sold last year and has been exported, while sister NIL 4810 (new as C623 UPG) was sold before August.

CHELMSFORD LIMOS, Chelmsford This recently established operator has HX05 CEN a Ford limo seen 9.05 – no surprise there then!

ENSIGN, Purfleet Have been granted an operating centre at Stock Road, Southend for 18 licenses.

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Former 24/7 Scania K113/Van Hool J111 SAS was sold to a Merseyside operator in May.

EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS, Stansted Airport Ford Transit EF03 NWE has been sold.

FORDS COACHES, Althorne Former London Leyland Olympian/ECW C118 CHM arrived in August. It was previously with Sanders, Holt, but came via Lodges, High Easter. Two unusual additions are Scania N113/Alexander G50 FKG from Newport Transport and Y8 CCL an Ayats coach from Courtney Coaches, Bracknell. Both arrived during the summer months.

FOURWAYS, Highwood In recently from Ensign (dealer), Purfleet is former Hong Kong, Dennis Condor G310 FWC (EM 8539) (see page 8).

FREEDOM 2 TRAVEL, Thundersley Another operator to be re-born, this time out of Harris Coaches. A base at Armstrong Road, with 32 licences has been approved. The only vehicle recorded so far HSK 860 a Mercedes 412D, has been re-registered S808 RKU and sold.

GALE MOTORS, Harlow The previous report of 278 EPX as being here, was reported in error.

GARDNERS, Boreham Bedford YMT/Van Hool NIL 7951 (new as JGV 319V) as gone to a private owner, by December 2004.

GREENHILL TRANSPORT, Southend John Bridge, who was formerly with Supreme, has set up this operation with 20 licences, based in Stock Road and trading as Supreme Coaches

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford B405 CMC Ld Tiger/Plaxton is in (9.05) ex APT, Rayleigh

HAILSTONE, Basildon AE54 FLG is a Mercedes Benz / Euro named "Twister" - seen 10.05 but first registered 11.04 according to web.

HARDY MILES, Southend This operator has recently acquired RML 2466 and RML 2564. In addition MCW Metrobus B80 WUL has been acquired. To date, only minibuses have been operated, so this is an interesting development.

INGATESTONE COACHES, Ingatestone Following the passing away of the owner, Bedford YMT/Plaxton NCZ 8070 (GVW894T) and UNO 100W, were sold to Hudson, Bosham.

KB COACHES, Wickford Leyland Leopard/Plaxton EWW 207T was sold to a private owner, by July.

KINGS, Stanway A Dennis R/ Plaxton Paragon demonstrator RX05 XRT was on loan from 9.9.05 to 19.9.05. It departed 19.9.05 to Lodge, High Easter.

LOUDWATER TRAVEL, Basildon This recently established operator, has Volvo B10M/Plaxton L533 XUT.

MIKES COACHES, Crays Hill What is thought to be the last vehicle here, PIW4795 (new as WPB 77M) was sold to a private owner in May.

NATIONAL EXPRESS In response to a query, there is a depot located at Stansted Distribution Centre, Stansted, where licences are held for 55 vehicles. It is not our intention to record vehicles here, as there are other depots outside of our area.

NCS, Widdington Vehicles sold in recent months are LDV 400 N162 OYE, Ford Transits J344 TFA, K368 XBA and M596 GTT, Fiat K701 UTT and LDV Convoy W627 CUA

NEED A BUS, Basildon Van Hool T815 SIB 6176 (new as FKX 238Y) has been sold.

NEW CENTURY TRAVEL, Bowers Gifford Acquired are Leyland Tiger/Van Hool NIW 2309 (new as A383 ROU) and Mercedes 709D minibus E758 OWY.

NEW HORIZON, Alresford New by February and not previously reported is Ford Transit EY54 NYV. LDV Convoy P801 MTR was been sold to TN Travel, Colchester, last November.

OLYMPIAN, Harlow Vehicles withdrawn by July are NIL 2993 (E444 MMM) a Van Hool T815, E882 YKY a Leyland



YN54 JSV: one of six MAN/Noge Catalans in the **Olympian Coaches**, Harlow fleet. Livery is metallic blue/orange/grey. At Lakeside on 8 October.

Stansted Transit: T223 SAS, a Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton, acquired from Rapson's of Inverness, is seen in Saffron Walden High Street.

David Harman



Tiger/Plaxton and M732 AOO an Iveco/Marshall. Vehicles sold to Mulley, Ixworth are Setra S215HD MJI 7857 (B215 XNK), Leyland Tiger/Plaxton NIW 4810 (A943 XDW) and Leyland Tiger/Berkhof B589 HFE (new as B123 KPF). Scania K93/Plaxton AHZ 7344 (K777 GSM) has gone to an unknown buyer. Mercedes 811D/Alexander G120 PGT has gone for scrap, after being used for spares.

PETER GODWARD, Basildon FDZ 792 (new as A590 XRP) a Volvo B10M/Jonckheere, was acquired from Ray's Travel, Shotgate in February.

REGAL, Highwood A Volvo B6/Marshall was seen on tow heading north on 1.10.05 (doubtless Barnsley bound) - believed to be L660MFL.

RS TRAVEL, Witham This operator, that recently built up a small fleet of double deckers, coaches and minibuses, surrendered its operators licence in July.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Not previously reported is that M159 RBH an Iveco/Carlyle was acquired from Olympian, Harlow, in December 2004.

SBC ENGINEERING, Southend Ian Bridge, who was formerly with Supreme, has set up this operation with 4 licences, based in Stock Road. GBU 5V a MCW Metrobus arrived from Presidential, Shoeburyness in June.

S&M, Thundersley To correct a previous report JUI 9570 (K770 JRA) a Toyota HDB 30R/Caetano is not here. It was with A&M Couriers who used the same depot, but who no longer have an operators licence. A further MCW Metrobus, BYX 268V, arrived in June. Similar, but ex West Midlands BOK 40V has been withdrawn. The report of Olympian ARP 605X as being here, was an error. Vehicles sold for scrap are Leyland Fleetline OJD 136R, Bristol VR/ECW OBR 775T and MCW Metrobus WYW 39T and GYE 363W.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow A second Scolabus here is FD54 EOP.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS, Southend Iveco 49-10 minibus N525 BJA has been acquired from Manchester City Council.

STEPHENSONS, Rochford Volvo B10M/Plaxton coaches re-registered are N45 ARC and N144 ARC to A17/16 SOE.

SUPREME, Southend Leyland Fleetline/ECW ULS 662T and Leyland National 2 BVP 812V were sold for scrap to PVS, Carlton by June. Leyland

National 2 EON 829V had gone to Vals Classic Coaches, Chase Terrace. Scania L94/Van Hool R862 SDT, was sold by August, to an unknown buyer.

TALISMAN, Gt Bromley Setra S228DT F559 UDX was reregistered to LSU 113 on 10.10.05.

Setra S250 WSU 225 (ex M858 YVW) was reregistered to M858 YVW on 12.10.05 and Setra S315GT W4 FWS was reregistered to WSU 225 on 12.10.05

The vehicle which went to Alder was K634 GVX (not K633 GVX - that remains with Talisman as an auxiliary vehicle).

TOWNCARS, Clacton Acquired recently from Chesterfield Community Transport, is Mercedes 609D M543 TET.

TOWN & COUNTRY, Purfleet Burtons Coaches of Haverhill, have recently been granted 4 licences for a base at this operators depot.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden Volvo B10M/Duple F464 SJD has gone to 2nd Cuddington Scouts, Epsom.

WALDEN TRAVEL/FOUR COUNTIES, Saffron Walden Former McGregor Mercedes Benz 0814D/Plaxton V399 SVV, mentioned a couple of months ago, is now here.

WEBB, Highwood Volvo B10M/Jonckheere NAG 463A (A333 JDT) had been sold by July.

WESTS, Woodford Green Have vacated their depot here and moved to an unknown location in Metropolitan London. As a result, we will no longer cover them here.

In response to a recent query, a number of Routemasters have recently been sold to individuals in Essex. These are normally kept on private premises and it is not our intention, to publish locations in EBN. The identity of vehicles involved, has already been published in Ensign disposal notes.

ESSEX - Non-PSV Operators
Anglia Polytechnic University
HY55HAA seen 9.05

Miscellaneous

JSF775T Bd YLQ / Du Dominant, which has been at 265 Chelmsford Road, Shenfield since 'by 11.03', departed from that address in 10.05

*Ian Ranson,
with thanks to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston*

The Essex Bus ~ in print

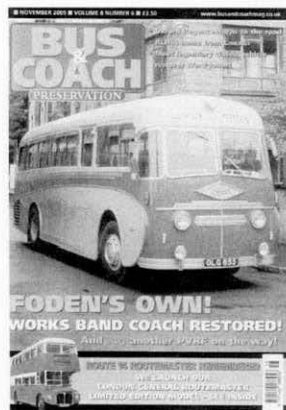


Declaring Independents by Ian Taylor in **London Bus Magazine** No.133 (Autumn 2005), LOTS (£4); Order from LOTS, Unit N305, Westminster Business Square, 1-45 Durham Street, London SE11 5JH.

Once again, Ian has turned his pen to the world of the independent operators in the outer fringes of London. There was a surprising number of small firms who sought to run routes in the gaps between the major operators, although for many it was a precarious and often, short existence. The account starts in the north-east and works anti-clockwise round to the south-east. Routes covered include those operated by Anitas Coaches, Vantage Coach Hire, CJ Blackwell, Ongar Coaches, Clintonia, GF Ward, Lee-Roy, RS Travel, Golden Boy, Bonners Coaches, Bernard's Coaches and Lacey's Coaches - and that's just the Essex ones! A definitive record, aided by a good mix of photos. Recommended.



Mind the Doors! by John G.Lidstone and Philip Lamb, **Return Journey - Osborne's of Tollesbury** by John G.Lidstone in **Bus & Coach Preservation** Vol 8. No.4 (September 2005) ~ Ian Allan (£3.50). Two articles on Osborne's of Tollesbury. In the first JGL and PL team up to describe the gradual restoration of Osborne's RT no.39 (RT2827 as was). Purchased in 1972, the bus has been restored in a leisurely fashion over 30-odd years and is none the worse for that., as those who saw it at the Southend rally will testify. A good story. The second is a mainly photographic review of Osborne's double-deckers with pictures supplied by Geoff Mills. The Daimler CVD, Regent III, RTs, RTW, Bridgemasters, Renown and ex-EN FLF all feature.



The Secret RLH by John G.Lidstone in **Bus & Coach Preservation** Vol 8. No.6 (November 2005) ~ Ian Allan (£3.50). Ross and Steve Newman obviously like a challenge, and when the question of a 65th birthday present for their father, Ensignbus founder, Peter Newman arose well bringing a dilapidated RLH back from Canada AND restoring it (in secret) probably *seemed* like a good idea at the time

But, they did it, with the help of Paul Bateson in Canada and Elite Engineering of Rettendon. And, those who saw a sparkling RLH61 on the last day of the 22's will know what a good job they made of it. If you didn't make that day, don't miss the X80 Running Days (see page 3) and a chance to see (and ride on) RLH61 then.

JGL provides a fascinating account of the hush-hush restoration of a fine addition to the operational Ensignbus Museum. What can be next?

David Harman



Canvey Open Day ~ 2005

Fine October weather and three examples of the finest bus marque ~ Bristol (of course):
EN Bristol L5G 309 (ONO 49) with Bristol Greyhound MW coach 2148 (FHW 154D).

EN Lodekka 2400 (XVX 19). Nowadays, bus travellers (and drivers) are used to sweltering in hot weather in modern, non-aircon buses. Here we have ECW's solution to this problem developed many years ago - opening windows.

Photos: Chris Stewart





Ensignbus HLJ 44 at Victoria ... Chris Stewart

The Bristol K in London

The recent spectacular appearance of Ensignbus Bristol K6A HLJ44 in Central London on the last day of Routemaster operation over route 38 (Clapton Pond-Victoria) recalls a very interesting period in 1948-50 when 190 Tilling group Bristol Ks were loaned to the London Transport Executive before entering service with their intended operators. Although HLJ44 (Hants & Dorset TD895) operated from Amersham on Country Area routes 336 and 353, several others from the same batch ran from Barking garage (BK) in places which were still then part of the County of Essex, as did other K5Gs and K6As at Upton Park (U), Palmers Green (AD), Leyton (T), Victoria (GM) and West Green (WG). 13 Eastern National lowbridge K5Gs and 3 red Westcliff versions also ran in London at the same time, from Holloway (J), Catford (TL), Nunhead (AH), Norwood (N), Camberwell (Q) and Riverside (R) - including WMS CJN324 which ran on the 38 from February 1949 until January 1950 (alongside Western National 883-7, United Counties 657 and London LTs).

The first of these 190 Ks to enter service were EN's 4000-2 (NNO100-2) at Q on 13 December 1948, working on the cross-London 137 (Crystal Palace-Highgate) alongside London STLs, STDs, two United Counties and two Southern National Ks. 4003/4 (NNO103/4) went to AH (with Southern Vectis 730) to work the 63 from Kings Cross to Honor Oak, being joined in June by 4033/4 (ONO54/5). 4005-7 (NNO105-7) went to Norwood in March 1949 (along with three United Auto buses), working the 2 from Crystal Palace to Golders Green and occasionally the 68A from Chalk Farm Station to Norwood. All of these buses had moved on to EN by November 1949.

In May 1949, 4030-2 (ONO51-3) arrived at the former Thomas Tilling garage at Catford (TL) for the 36 (West Kilburn-Hither Green) and 75 (Woolwich-West Croydon), operating

alongside United BDO97-9 and native STLs for about a year. Westcliff's CJN324 has already been mentioned, sister vehicles CJN325/6 going straight from ECW to Holloway in March 1949 to work on the 19 (Finsbury Park/Highbury Barns-Upper Tooting). They moved on to Riverside in January 1950, working route 11 (Shepherd's Bush-Liverpool Street) until March of the same year.

Aside from the EN and WMS vehicles, Hants & Dorset TD880-6 worked the 62 (Little Heath-Barking-Chadwell Heath/Chigwell Row) and 87 (Rainham-Barking-Romford-Gidea Park), while West Green's H&D TD901-7/9, Crosville MB329-31/5-8 and Western National 895 reached Ilford Station on the 144 until RTWs replaced them - long before the London Boroughs of Redbridge, Havering and Barking & Dagenham took most of these areas from Essex. Meanwhile Eastern Counties highbridge K5Gs LKH94/6/7, 126/34/5 ran from AD on the 102 to Chingford, while LKH111-5 worked from GM on the 10 out to Abridge.

Some of the EN buses found it hard to keep away from London, though - several of them were to be seen on the 10 from Chelmsford to Bow, but of course without the LT radiator badge or running number holders. 4000-3/34 were transferred to United Counties in 1952 with the Midland Area, but even then no doubt encountered LT vehicles in Luton, Hitchin and elsewhere. Westcliff CJN324-6 moved to EN as 1309-11 and finally 2237-9 under the 1964 renumbering. 4004-7/30-3 became 1314/7/5/6/8-21 and then 2242/5/3/4/6-9. Sadly none of them survive today, although sister bus ONO59 does at the Lincoln museum.

Buses Illustrated (issue 99, June 1963) contained a comprehensive article by GJ Robbins, entitled 'When the Bristols came to town'. There is also much more information and a great array of photographs in *London Bus Magazine* 109 (Autumn 1999), an article by Malcolm Papes in that issue also covering the EN Grays area transfer of 1951.

Chris Stewart

... and at Hackney. John G.Lidstone



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