

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Issue 527
March 2008



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

SUBSCRIPTIONS

A calendar year subscription is £19.50 by First Class post, renewable in January.

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

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

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Replacements for missing or defective EBNs are available from Richard.

TIMETABLE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates. Please contact:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
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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, SS9 2HN

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

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.

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Ensign / Hedingham / NatEx

- David Harman - see above

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Rail Replacement

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Dates for your diary

■ EBN PRESS DATES

<i>For inclusion in EBN dated</i>	<i>reports should reach Editors by</i>	<i>planned despatch date</i>
March	1 March	20 March
April	29 March	17 April
May	3 May	22 May

Please note that the planned despatch date may change for all sorts of reasons. The actual despatch day is posted to the website as soon as it is known. Please allow reasonable time for postal delays (at least seven working days) before claiming non-receipt. Replacements can only be obtained from the Membership Secretary (address opposite).

■ ROCHFORD MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the **Committee Room** (upstairs), **Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford** (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large free car park and *one Great Eastern trains & Arriva Southend services 7/8 stop nearby*. Doors open at 19:15 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 20:00 to 21:45. Drinks are normally available. All members and guests are very welcome. £1 donation towards room hire, please. Prints, slides and digital photographs can all be shown. *Richard Delahoy*

- ▶ **Tuesday 8 April** - *Paul Harvey* will present an illustrated talk "**Lincolnshire's successful InterConnect strategy**" followed by a current look at buses in Lincolnshire
- ▶ **Tuesday 13 May** - *Chris Stewart* will present the second part of his illustrated review of EN's depots & bus stations
- ▶ **Tuesday 10 June** - to be advised
- ▶ **Tuesday 15 July** - in place of a meeting, there will be an evening study tour of the Kent Fastrack system.

■ COLCHESTER MEETINGS

Meetings take place in the downstairs room (except as indicated) at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 19:30 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 20:00 to 22:00. £1 donation towards room hire, please. Slides or digital photos are preferable, but prints can also be shown. The print projector has now been repaired after the bulb blowing at the December meeting. We have also acquired an unused Novamat slide projector to supplement the current one which has been repaired after recent problems. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 11 April** * - to be advised
- ▶ **Friday 9 May** - slide show by *Richard Delahoy*, "**20 years ago Part 2**"
- ▶ **Friday 13 June** - to be advised
- ▶ **Tuesday 24 June** - evening visit to **Talisman Coachlines** - see overleaf
- ▶ **Friday 11 July** * - slide show by *Dave Arnold*, "**2007**"
- ▶ **Wednesday 23 July** - visit to see the Crossleys at Worminford.
- ▶ **Friday 8 August** * - *Andy Baker* (of the Cambridge Omnibus Society) ~ a photo talk on the history of **Barton** of Chilwell.

* in upstairs room

cover: **Talisman** Megga Dekka disembarks from the MV Hollandica. More on this next month. *Paul Smith*

- ▶ **Friday 12 September** - to be advised
- ▶ **Friday 10 October** - TBA by *Fred Lawrance*.
- ▶ **Friday 14 November** - slide show by *Chris Stewart*.
- ▶ **Friday 12 December** - slide show by *Gary Sharpe*.

■ RALLIES, OPEN DAYS, ETC

- ▶ **Easter Monday 24 March ~ Eastern Counties Double Deck Day**, Ipswich Transport Museum, Suffolk. www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk
- ▶ **Sunday 6 April ~ Annual Open Day and Bus & Coach Gathering**, London Bus Preservation Trust, back this year at **Wisley Airfield**, with bus services to **Cobham Museum**. www.lbpt.org/

■ TOURS

- ▶ **Saturday 21 June ~ The Long(est) Day Out ~ Stephensons / Excel Depot Tour**
See booking form opposite ~ please photocopy, complete and return to
Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE, or by e-mail to
Ianandsally@bigfoot.com.

- ▶ **Tuesday 24 June ~ Talisman Evening Visit**

We are once again pleased to be able to run an evening visit to Talisman, with our sincere thanks to them for making this possible. The evening will commence at Colchester North Station (1900) from where a vehicle from the Talisman fleet will depart for a visit to this operators premises in Great Bromley. After a depot visit including an opportunity for photographs, we will depart for a short tour of rural Essex, before returning to Colchester North Station (before 2200). The fare for this tour is £5 and will once again be in support of Essex Air Ambulance. If you wish to book, please send notification to

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE, or by e-mail to
Ianandsally@bigfoot.com.

Please note there is **no** booking form for this tour - please pay on the night

- ▶ **Tuesday July 15 ~ evening study tour of the Kent Fastrack system**. This is a free event **but pre-booking is essential**. Please photocopy, complete and return the booking form overleaf.

LARGE PRINT VERSION OF ESSEX BUS NEWS

We are conscious that producing Essex Bus News as an A5 magazine involves something of a compromise in font sizes. We know that most members find the present A5 size convenient and easy to store and we do not plan to change this. However, for members who find the typeface too small to read, we are considering whether it is feasible to additionally offer a large print version, produced to A4 size rather than A5. This could only be done on a limited basis and might involve a higher postage charge (as the weight will double).

Any members who might be interested are asked to contact the Membership Secretary by letter or e-mail so that we can assess the potential demand:

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Errors & Omissions

EBN 525

- p.5: The photograph of the Colchester Atlantean passing the Routemaster was by Chris Stewart, not as shown.

EBN526

- p.2: **Membership cards** are still in operational use, and the one reserved for member No.1000 is illustrated.
- p.4: **Southend area stops:** The SMS code on the stop flag at Sutton Cemetery applies to service 60, not 61, which serves the opposite direction. "move easy" appears to be some sort of travel partnership between the Council and local employers

Richard Delahoy

ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

Name

Address

.....

Memb No.

MEMBERSHIP CARD

ENOC Outstation - Dedham

The address of Dedham outstation should read Marlborough Head, because there is no Marlborough Road (or, indeed, Avenue, Close, Court, Drive, Gardens, Place, Street, Terrace, Way or Walk, in Dedham!).

The garage, which goes back to days pre-ENOC, was in the public house yard at the side of the Marlborough Head with the entrance off Mill Lane; indeed, the pub entrance is in Mill Lane. The structure of the building was removed several years ago and the car park extended. The bus stop plate shown is actually hanging from a decorative cast-iron bracket fixed to the wall of Gould House, a private property in Brook Street. When I was Commercial/Marketing Manager at EN and responsible for bus stops, from time to time when memory triggered, I asked my roadside staff to replace it, but somehow it kept getting overlooked - possibly because of the need to approach the house owner, who I seem to recall was a little abrasive! (I have to add that this was before Martin Farmer's time in the area!). *Geoff Dodson*

The stop flag is in fact on Gould House, a Grade II (i.e. of regional importance) Listed 18th century building. The Marlborough Inn is next door but one. To remove or replace it would require Listed Building Consent, although it is now in the wrong place (as indeed discussed by Dedham Parish Council in January 2006, according to an internet search).

Chris Stewart

- p.23: The review of *Great British Bus Journeys* was by Owen Woodliffe.

- p.26: 1406 was photographed in Greenway, Outwood Common, not as shown.

David Harman

Publicity News

Suffolk County Council have produced Issue 3 of Area timetable booklet 2 (Ipswich South) dated February 2008.

Ensignbus has produced a slimline flyer for service 55 (Ockendon – Grays) dated 12.1.07 (although this should be 08!).

Trustline have an A5 leaflet for Harlow area services 22 and 33. Like the buses used, these are branded Trustybus and are dated 5.1.08

Stephensons have issued a single sided A5 leaflet on green paper dated 1-08 entitled "Shopper Bus 260 from South Woodham to Maldon". There is also an A5 folded leaflet on lemon coloured paper entitled "Shopper Buses for the Dengie Peninsula from January 2008.

Changes to Buses 200/210." Details of service 250 are also included.

Ian Ransom, with thanks to LOTS and Ian Taylor

Rail Replacement

Sat 9th Feb 'one' - Colchester - Clacton / Walton

Bus services: Colchester to Clacton direct ; Colchester to Wivenhoe direct ; Colchester to Clacton stopping at all stations ; Colchester to Walton

Vehicles used included: Network Colchester: DAF DB250 / Plaxton: T133 AUA (Wiltax livery), Trident/Alexander: 157 (V337 DBD), Trident / East Lancs: 156 (T406 SMV); Chambers, Bures: Volvo Olympian / NC: P901 RYO, Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S851 DGX, Volvo / Plaxton coach: R361 GDG; Talisman, Great Bromley: ex H.K. Olympian 3axle / Alexander: J534 CEV; First Essex: Volvo B12 3axle / Plaxton Excalibur: 20202 (J702 JLD) (Not sure if 20202 was used in service, noted out of service at Colchester North and parked up at Colchester Town Stations), Volvo Olympian / NC: 34013 (P553 EFL); Cedrics, Wivenhoe: all-Leyland Olympian: H548 GKX + at least 1 other unidentified.

Sat 9th Feb 'one' - Wickford - Southend Victoria

Bus services: Wickford, Rayleigh then fast to Southend Victoria; Wickford - Southend Victoria stopping at all stations

Vehicles used included: Ensign, Purfleet: Metrobus: 175 (F775 EKM) + at least one other unidentified Spectras: 104 (YN54 ZVL) in Reading DayTrack / NightTrack livery, 107(YN51 ZVO) in blue / silver; Greenhill Transport, Southend: Metrobus: B269 WUL - Supreme livery. (noted broken down at Wickford Station, but believed to have re-entered service early afternoon); NIBS, Wickford: Scania N113 / Alexander: H229 LOM + at least 1 other unidentified First London: Olympian / NC: LDN34340 (H140 FLX) Trident / Plaxton: TN33044 (LN51 DVH); Godward, South Woodham Ferrers: Olympian / Optare: E915, 917 DRD.

Sun 10th Feb 'one' - Romford - Chelmsford

Bus services: Romford - Chelmsford direct (until 14:00) ; Romford - Chelmsford, via Ingatestone & Shenfield (until 14:00) ; Billericay - Chelmsford (until 14:00)

Vehicles used included: First Essex: Volvo Olympian / Alexander: 31462 (N973 SOS), 31374 (L161 UNS), 31376 (L164 UNS), Volvo Olympian / NC: 34011, 34012, 34013 (P551-3 EFL), Leyland Olympian / ECW: 34807 (C407 HJN), Dart SLF / Plaxton: 42920, 42923 (EU05 AUP), 43720 (R720 DJN) (42923 failed at Chelmsford Station - not sure as to whether this re-entered service), Volvo B12 3axle / Plaxton Excalibur: 20202 (J702 JLD) (Not sure if 20202 was used in service); First London: Trident / Plaxton: TNL33086 (LN51 GMG), TNL33088 (LN51 GMU); Beestons, Hadleigh: Volvo Olympian / Alexander: N597 BRH Network Colchester: DAF DB250 / Plaxton: T133AUA (Wiltax livery), Trident / Alexander: 157 (V337 DBD), Trident / East Lancs: 155, 156 (T405, 406 SMV), Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: 101 (AY55 DKA), Volvo Citybus / Alexander: 219 (G619 OTV); Burtons, Haverhill: Volvo Citybus / East Lancs: H683 GPF; Chambers, Bures: Volvo Olympian / NC: P901, 902 RYO; P549 WGT; Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S851, 856 DGX

Sun 10th Feb 'one' - Shenfield - Chelmsford (from 14:00)

Vehicles used included:

First Essex: Volvo Olympian / NC: 34013 (P553 EFL), 34018 (P546 EFL), 34310 (L310 PWR)

Chambers, Bures: Volvo Olympian / East Lancs: S856 DGX

Network Colchester: Scania Omnidekka / East Lancs: 101 (AY55 DKA)

Sun 10th Feb 'one' - Colchester - Liverpool Street (direct)

Vehicles used included: coaches from Corbel of London; Galloway, Mendlesham; Talisman, Great Bromley; Roadways Travel; Grahams, Kelvedon; Lodges, High Easter.

Sun 10th Feb 'one' - Wickford - Southend Victoria

Vehicles used included: Greenhill Transport, Southend Metrobuses: B184 WUL, B269 WUL, C343 BUV (all in Supreme livery), NIBS, Wickford Scania N113 / Alexander: H241 LOM, Arriva Southend Olympian / Alexander: 5396 (F576 SMG), all-Leyland Olympian: 5403 (H263 GEV)

Sun 17th Feb c2c - Upminster - Leigh on Sea

Bus services: Upminster - Leigh On Sea

Vehicles used included: Ensign, Purfleet: Spectra: 104 (YN54 ZVL) in Reading DayTrack / NightTrack livery; First London Trident / Plaxton: TNL33031 (LN51 UYN).

In addition the following Essex-based vehicles were used on London Underground Replacement work on the District and Hammersmith & City Lines between Barking and Plaistow, on Saturday 23rd February:, alongside vehicles from First London (West) and Travel London: First London Trident / Plaxton: TNL33029, TNL33036 (LN51 UYL, UYE), TN33039 (LN51 DWD), TNL33094 (LN51 NRK) Leyland Olympian / NC: LDN34329 (H129 FLX); Blue Triangle Trident / East Lancs: TL903, TL906 (V903, 906 FEC), Trident / Plaxton: TPL924 (VLT 110), Volvo Olympian / NC: NV111, NV116, NV117 (P911 RYO etc.), NV139 (R339 LGH) (NV116 in London General red livery, the rest in London Central / General blue training livery with fleetnames and branding removed); Ensign, Purfleet Metrobus: 192 (F292 NHJ)

Forthcoming Rail Replacement Services (March / April):

Sat 8th - Sun 9th March c2c
Sun 9th March NXEA

Barking - Pitsea via Rainham
Marks Tey - Colchester / Colchester

Sat 15th - Sun 16th March	c2c	Town / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 15th - Sun 16th March	c2c	Barking - Pitsea via Laindon
Sun 16th March	NXEA	Leigh-on-Sea - Shoeburyness
		Marks Tey - Colchester / Colchester Town
		/ Manningtree / Ipswich
Fri 21st - Mon 24th March (Easter)	NXEA	Ingatstone - Romford / Newbury Park
Sun 23rd March (Easter)	NXEA	Colchester - Clacton-on-Sea / Walton-on-Naze
Sat 29th - Sun 30th March	LU District Line	East Ham - Upminster
Sun 30th March	NXEA	Witham - Shenfield
		(InterCity services between Colchester and Liverpool Street, Direct)
Sun 30th March	c2c	Barking - Upminster
Mon 31st March - Thurs 3rd April	c2c	Upminster - Pitsea via Laindon (22:40 - 05:00 only)
Sat 5th - Sun 6th April	LU District Line	East Ham - Upminster
Sun 6th April	NXEA	Marks Tey - Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 12th - Sun 13th April	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham
Sat 12th - Sun 13th April	c2c	Chafford Hundred and Pitsea via Tilbury
Sat 12th - Sun 13th April	NXEA	Wickford - Southminster
Sat 12th - Sun 13th April	NXEA	Marks Tey - Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 19th - Sun 20th April	c2c	Pitsea - Shoeburyness
Sat 19th - Sun 20th April	c2c	Pitsea - Chafford Hundred (From 15:30 Saturday and all-day Sunday)
Sat 19th - Sun 20th April	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham (From 15:30 Saturday and all-day Sunday)
Sat 19th - Sun 20th April	NXEA	Wickford - Southminster
Sat 19th - Sun 20th April	LU District Line	Barking - Upminster
Sat 26th - Sun 27th April	LU District Line	Dagenham East - Upminster
Sat 26th - Sun 27th April	NXEA	Wickford - Southminster
Sat 26th - Sun 27th April	c2c	Pitsea - Shoeburyness
Sun 27th April	c2c	Stanford-le-Hope - Southend Central / Shoeburyness
Sun 27th April	NXEA	Witham - Colchester / Manningtree
		(InterCity services from Witham - Ipswich)

Michael Springett

Service Changes

Arriva East Herts & Essex

25 March 08 724 D Harlow to Heathrow extended from Central Bus Station to Terminal 4 via Terminal 5. Minor routing changes in St Albans.

Arriva Southend

- 30 March 08 5 M-S Southend to Basildon service extended to Lakeside via Grays (updated information).
- 7 D Shoeburyness to Rayleigh Mon - Sat evening journeys extended to Great Wakering (updated information).
- 13 M-S Southend to Temple Sutton revision to morning journey times (updated information).

	373	M-S	Grays to Upminster service withdrawn.
	383	M-S	Basildon to Ockendon service withdrawn.
Ensign			
29 March 08	33	M-S	Grays to Lakeside revised timetable
	55	M-S	Grays to Ockendon Station revised route and timetable
	66	M-S	Aveley to Tilbury Civic Square revised timetable and route.
Excel			
3 May 08	X5	D	Stansted Airport to Ipswich new limited stop service.
31 July 08	802	Sch	Blocks Corner(A106) to Bishop Stortford Birchwood School service withdrawn.
	803	Sch	Hatfield Broad Oak to Bishop Stortford St Marys School service withdrawn.
First			
7 April 08	1/A	M-S	Basildon to Pitsea revised timetable and withdrawn from Southcote Crescent.
14 April 08	36	D	Chelmsford to South Woodham revised Mon to
Fri peak hour timetable.			
	72/A	M-S	Chelmsford to Braintree minor timetable alteration to the 1502 departure from Chelmsford.
	351	D	Chelmsford to Brentwood 0745 ex Chelmsford and 0856 ex Brentwood to operate 5 mins earlier.
	506	Sch	South Woodham to Chelmsford Schools service withdrawn.
	507	Sch	Woodham Ferris to Chelmsford Schools service withdrawn.
	509	Sch	Great Dunmow to Colchester Schools service withdrawn from Great Dunmow and now terminates at Braintree.
Imperial Bus Company			
22 March 08	H1	M-S	Loughton to Harlow revised timetable.
Regal Busways			
7 April 08	7/A	M-F	Ivy Chimneys to Chelmsford revised route to incorporate withdrawn 502.
	31A	M-S	Maldon to Chelmsford revised Saturday timetable.
	52	M-S	Pleshey to Temple Grove improved timetable with revised route to cover withdrawn 44. Service 52A withdrawn.
	502	M-F	Ongar to Harlow via Epping service withdrawn.
SM Coaches			
24 April 08	M1/31	M-S	Harlow Town Service revised route and timetable.
Stephensons of Essex			
8 April 08	44	TTh	Chelmsford to Chignall Estate service withdrawn
Trustline			
31 March 08	C3	M-S	Harlow to Holbrook Estate minor timetable alterations.

Paul Harvey (acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex County Council and First)

■ FIRST ESSEX

Acquired vehicles

2.08 20463 X13HFB Volvo B10M-62 52283 Plaxton 0012VUP3122 C44Ft
New to Wessex as 6193 in 10/2000, later with *First Coaches* but last used by *First West Yorkshire* in York

Allocation changes

Period 11: 28 January 2008 to 24 February 2008

None, although 30702 is known to have been removed by Erith Commercial for scrap on 11th February.

Repaints (Period 11):

41008 65687 53131 41009 65688 53130 41010 53132 65689 41012 53133

With the repainting of 65687-9 above, the last 'Overground' branded buses at CR are 65691/2.

Also noted: 90247 (X846KAN), Ford Transit engineers' van, is now plain white with no *First* branding except on the roof-mounted amber flashing light bar.

Area News - workings and sightings:

Rail Replacements (February)

2nd CF34818 on CR-CN

10th BE46822 on c2c RRS control at Grays, BE51803 seen on A130 at Rayleigh en route to RRS control. CF34807 working Shenfield-Chelmsford

Clacton & Harwich

At Clacton, CR46183 remained on loan in February covering CN46828 which sustained collision damage at Jaywick. Solo DT53138 was off the road for a week from 15th February during which time services 3 & 4 were covered by 46186 (15th), 47227 (18th), 47106 (19th), 46176 (20th) and 47105 (21st).

The practice of a Scania working all day 74 on Saturdays has been discontinued, and the changeover with a Lance takes place on the 06.40 ex CN and the 17.34 ex CR (74).

Re EBN526, the double decker is not yet totally finished at Clacton - DT34285 was on loan working services 17/18 on Saturday 2nd February and the following Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday (4th-6th).

Member Robert Appleton was in North Essex again from 3rd-6th March. During that time, DT Olympians 34280/2/5/6 appeared frequently on services 103/104, but they were joined by: Dart SLF 43800 on the 11.50 DT-CR service 104 on 5th; Olympian CR34013 on loan - (3rd) 09.20 DT-CR 103; (4th) 07.30 DT-CR 103, (6th) 07.00 DT-CR 103, light to Mistley then 08.54 Mistley-CR 103; and Lance 60102 (which had up until then been mostly at CN) working 06.10 DT-CR 104, 07.20 CR-DT 104, 08.50 DT-CR 104 and 10.05 CR-DT 103 on both 3rd and 4th March. It worked the 11.20 DT-CR 103 and 12.30 return 104 on 6th, and Robert reports it to be a comfortable vehicle with plenty of leg room.

Colchester

Regarding the temporary closure of Mersea Road, Colchester (southbound) referred to in EBN525, another route diverted is 8C (Suns/hols only). This operates via Southway, Maldon Road, Salisbury Avenue, Butt Road, Circular Road West, Circular Road South, Berechurch Road and back to normal route (running non stop through the diversion). The main route affected, the 67, operates from St Botolph's roundabout via Military Road (using stop D), and then via the 66 route non stop along Old Heath Road, Barn Hall Avenue, Churchill Way, Stalin Road, Normandy Avenue and back to Mersea Road. The closure took effect from 29th January and was expected to last about 10 weeks.

On 13th February, Colchester bound 74/75 & 103/4s had to be diverted because of a fault with East Gates level crossing. 74/75 ran Harwich Road, St Andrew's Avenue and Ipswich Road while 103/4 ran St Andrew's Avenue and Ipswich Road.

On 17th & 24th February, East Bay and East Street, Colchester closed for planned resurfacing. Diversions in force were:

Colchester bound 74, 76 & 78 - Hythe Station Road, Hythe Hill, Barrack Street, Magdalen Street, St Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, St John's Street, Head Street then 74 & 78 to normal route, 76 down High Street and Queen Street to bus station.

Clacton/Brightlingsea bound 74, 76 & 78 - Barrack Street, Hythe, Hill, Hythe Station Road and then to normal route.

Highwoods bound 2C - Queen Street, St Botolph's Street, St Botolph's Circus, Magdalen Street, Barrack Street, Hythe Hill, Hythe Station Road, Greenstead Road, St Andrew's Avenue and then back to normal route on Ipswich Road. Horkesley bound 2C diverted in reverse, to normal route at Osborne Street.

February

4th CR30560 on 62 (showing 63 on destination).

14th CR34311 on 65 (ex CN bus - first recording on this route, which is now virtually 100% saloon).

15th CR34014 on 64 (first 'decker noted for some time)

17th (Sun): CR65651 on 64; CR65653 on 75

19th CR30558 & 34014 on 64; CR65651/4 on 66A

26th CR34282 on 64 (paper route number), destination set to "First"

28th CR62410 on 71

29th CR47103 on 75

Chelmsford & Braintree

Member Terry Clark has, for some considerable time, made a record of Braintree's actual allocation on the first Sunday of the month. This often differs considerably from the official 'paper' listing, as maintenance work is all carried out at CF with vehicles exchanged as necessary. As an example of this, on 2nd March the vehicles present were CF43730/1, 'CF'46116, BE46144, BE46811/7/21/7, CF47219/28/9/52 (the green one) and 'BE'51803. This meant BE46143 and BE46812/3/6/22/3/4/6 were all presumably at CF.

February

16th CF34807 and 34818 both on 351 (34807 on 10.05 ex CF, 34818 on 09.51 ex Brentwood Station)

20th CF34807 on 351 (08.01 and 09.56 ex Brentwood Stn)

23rd CF34818 on p.m. 351

28th CF60103 on 33, but taken off for 352 and exchanged for CF42919

29th CF34815 on 351 (12.52 and probably 14.52 ex Brentwood Stn)

March

1st CF42486/8 on 42, CF60103 on 351 (10.05 ex CF) with CF34807 on 11.05

6th Cheeta CF56003 on 72 (14.02 ex CF), CF47221 on 47, BE46143 on 41/51, BE46813 on 48 and CF46116 on 351

Basildon & Hadleigh

A regular double deck working on 25B has been Olympian 34011 which operates the 09.10 Langdon Hills to Runwell and 10.20 Runwell to Basildon after a schools service.

February

23rd BN31373, BN41640, BN46185, BN61057 and Lance BN67036 all on 100

29th BN46804 on 22 & HH46818 on 21 (L-OPU Darts rarely seen on Canvey), disruption caused by a collision on Canvey Way – 21-branded Darts 41014 & 46148 were on 27.

March

4th BN41642 and BN61057 on 100

Other News – old VRs never die

Former EN/Thamesway VR 3116 (XHKK221X) has been repainted by *Abus* of Bristol into a variation of their two tone cream livery incorporating their original blue rather than maroon, in time to celebrate the Centenary of the first motorbus chassis to leave the Bristol factory on 12th May 1908 (an event which will be marked on the day, at the Harbourside Rally on 18th and by other events during the year) - Bristol Tramways' livery was also blue and white until World War II. Meanwhile Chepstow Classic Buses' STW32W (3088) has been repainted red and has been seen parked nearby in part of a second *Abus*/Munden yard which is rented by David Hoare of Chepstow.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to M Allen, R Appleton, A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, K Mead, A MacFarlane, N Mansfield, TBL177M, P Parker, J Podgorski, D Pretty, J Salmon, R Sly, 'Solo', A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, the *Essex Bus*, *South West*, *First Group Fans* and *British Buses Abroad* in North America y-groups, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Bristol VR South West Bus News* (<http://www.geocities.com/ndl642m>).

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by fax on 01277 216745, by e-mail or by conventional post. Many thanks to all who do so.

Chris Stewart



■ EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS LTD., Stansted

Two new Scania coaches are on order for the new X5 Ipswich-Stansted service, funded by BAA. They will be to a high specification and feature leather seats, wifi and the ability to book tickets via the internet. It is scheduled to start on Saturday 5th May and will run two hourly.

Bova Futura YJ03 GXL has joined its sister (GXS) with Silver Coach Lines, Edinburgh. A Scania/Irizar is expected to replace it.

The outstation for one vehicle at Anso Corner Farm, Hempstead has closed. It was the base for the vehicle used on the ECC Saffron Walden-Haverhill service

■ STEPHENSONS Further to EBN 525, the three Merobuses sold were A634/5/8 BCN.

Dennis Dart/Alexander K96 AAX, has been stripped for spares and the remains went for scrap. Also sold are former Fargo's Bova Futuras E664 JNR and F26 EKR.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson

■ ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX Limited

Allocations

12/07: 5451.u

2/08: 3371.x (for school project); 5451.w (fire victim)

Subsequent histories

2097 (M157 RBH), 2353 (M733 AOO): LHE Ventura, Longfield (dealer) ex Olympus, Harlow
2117 (N187 EMJ): Pickford, Chippenham by 11/07 ex Paul James, Hugglescote, Leicester; re-registered FIG 4531 11/07

2163 (P438 HKN): Pickford, Chippenham 11/07 ex Arriva The Shires 2163

2243 (R763 DUB): Classic, Annfield Plain, Durham 11/07 ex Linkline, Harlesden

3364 (K414 FHJ): Regal, Great Wakering 1/08 via Ensign, Purfleet (dealer) ex Arriva The Shires 3364

5377 (TPD 107X): Hewitt Solicitors, Bishop Auckland, Durham 6/05 ex Andrews, Tideswell, Derbyshire

Mark Garrett

■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND Limited

Vehicle News

The fire damaged Dennis Lance SLF 3379 (M269 VPU) was removed from Short Street on 3rd March by Erith Commercials presumably for scrap.

In addition to the Dart SLFs due at Southend from Grays for the increased pvr of route 5 (see EBN526), Dart SLFs are due as replacements for 3379 and to bolster the allocation for route 9 to ensure full low floor run out on that route.

Vehicle Workings

Services 4/4A (Southend – Landwick) are to be converted to SLF operation from the end of March.

Other News

Route 29, upgraded last autumn with low floor buses, has its own dedicated website at www.thetwenty-nine.co.uk. It includes a timetable, route map and a wider Southend area network map.

Former Arriva Southend Mercedes Sprinter 1756 (DE52 OLN) is now with ASD of Strood, Kent. It is a regular performer on route 783 Wigmore and Parkwood to Rainham Station.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold and Richard Delahoy

Regal Busways

A further Dennis Dart/Plaxton is former Stagecoach Yorkshire L4 YTB. It retains Yorkshire Traction livery, from its previous owner. Also acquired is Leyland Olympian/ECW OUI 6274 (JTY 401X). *Ian Ransom*

Vehicle News

Dennis Trident/Alexander 157 (V337 DBD) was destroyed by fire at Ardleigh (A12/A120 interchange), in the early hours of 16th February, while on a Grampian Country Foods staff contract. An engine fault was the cause.

Dennis Dart SLF/Caetano 107 has been physically renumbered to 513. The vehicle has been repainted, fitted with an LED destination display and now carries green route 2 branding with Network Colchester.com fleetnames.

Vehicle Workings

Dart SLFs frequently appear on route 5 alongside Solos whilst step entrance darts frequently appear on the 83 alongside Dart SLFs.

Further to Solos appearing on service 2 (EBN525) this is usually as part of a diagram which includes routes 2 in the am and pm peaks, 83 and 175.

Unusual Sightings

Feb 18th 101 on 1.
21st 513 on 1.
28th 337 on 83

Other News

A website for Network Colchester was launched at the beginning of March at www.networkcolchester.co.uk. As well as timetables and maps, the site includes an up to date illustrated fleetlist.

On 13th February, routes 1 and 105/107 had to be diverted via Ipswich Road and St Andrews Avenue as East Street was closed to traffic due to defective level crossing barriers.

Further to the temporary closure of Mersea Road southbound (EBN 525/6), another route diverted is service 50 (Colchester-Layer De La Haye), which Network Colchester runs on Saturdays only. The closure took effect from 29th January for approximately ten weeks. The route taken is not as shown in EBN525, but a sfollows from St Botolphs Circus: Southway, Maldon Road, Salisbury Avenue, Butt Road, Circular Road West, Circular Road South, Berechurch Road and back onto Mersea Road. This affects routes 8/8a and 175 (First 8c on Sundays). Hedingham 50 (m-F) and Network Colchester 50 (Sats) take the same routeing, although jounreys which stop in Crouch Street enter Southway at Maldon Road roundabout instead of St Botolphs Circus.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Michael Allen and John Podgorski.



Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton P689 RWU and T223 SAS have gone to Dawsonrentals, Milton Keynes, as has similar but Caetano bodied T401 LGP. Dennis Dart MPD KV03 ZGP has lost its service 133 branding and is now in plain white. *Ian Ransom*



Unusual sighting:

February 13th: Selwyns DAF SB3000/VH YJ 53 VDN on 350 (usually one of the Y-HUA batch).
February 28th: Stagecoach corporate liveried coach (B10M/Pn R115 OPS ??) on 484.

Traffic

Disruption to 481 and 484 on 13th February, due to A12 being closed Boreham-Hatfield Peveral due to a road traffic accident.

On 17 and 24th February, 484 diverted in Colchester London bound, due to planned resurfacing of East Bay and East Street. Diverted via Haven Bridge, Haven Quay, Hythe Hill, Barrack St, Magdalen St, St Botholphs Circus, Southway, Headgate, Head St, High St, Queen St, bus station.

John Podgorski

Ensignbus

Omnibus suppliers to the World

DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Chambers, Bures: DAF P318 KTW
Dublin Bus: Olympians 96-D-307/8/11/12/13.
Metroline: DMS 11/20/26/28 DML 1/2/3/18/41/43.
EDR 27/32/34/35/38/43
Nottingham C.T: Dart P514 CVO
Stagecoach Bluebird: Olympian B356 LSO.

Vehicles out

to:

Dart K580 NHC: **ACL Travel**, Hewish, Somerset.
Darts P286/308/15 MLD: **A2Z Travel**, Walsall.
Dart K57 LLG: **Bankfoot Buses**, Perth.
Mercedes Vario R112 NTA:
Olympian S131 RLE: **Chambers, Bures**, Suffolk.
DAF P318 KTW: **Crown Coaches**, Benfleet.
Darts R711MEW S528 KFL: **Galleon Travel**, Stansted.
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1082 now H792 PVW with **Holloway Coaches**, Scunthorpe
Olympians J846/9 TSC: **P&M Coaches**, Wickford, Essex.
Dart P319 MLD: **Red Route Buses**, Northfleet, Kent.
Mercedes Vario R113 NTA: **Swanbrook Coaches**, Cheltenham.
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1089: now H784 PVW with **TM Travel**, Chesterfield.

Dublin Olympian 91-D-10116: **AMC Online Ltd**, Dublin.
RML2361: **Andyspain SL**, Tarragona, Spain.
DAF W177 CDN: **Furtherwick Park School**, Canvey, Essex.
Darts R682/3 MEW: **Servisair**, Dublin.
RM1361: **TFC Leisure**, London.

ENSIGN BUS Co., Purfleet

Metrobus 149 has been sold to Halifax Joint Committee.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus

Small Operator News

A&J Rochford A third ex-Essex County Council, Ford Transit/Steerdrive is H950 KVVX. Ford Transit D28 WVVW, G90 XFP and H829 DRY have been sold

AMBER Rayleigh Acquired from Happy Days, Stafford is YR02 ZZL a Scania K114/ Van Hool. Sold to Basildon Travel, Rayleigh are J833 WDC an Iveco 315/ Lorraine and N741 FKX a LDV 400.

APT COACHES Rayleigh DAF SB2305/ Van Hool E605 LVH has been sold to Laser Cabs, Porth

BJS Gt Waking Acquired from Chelmsford Taxibus is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton B405 CMC

BUS 2 BUS Shoeburyness Acquired is Ford Transit/Chassis Developments R266 AKY

CEDRICS Wivenhoe Former Stagecoach East Midland Leyland Olympian/ECW K360 DWJ has been acquired. The registered name of this operator changed recently from Cedrics (Garages) Ltd to Cedrics Coaches Ltd. Leyland Olympian K815 HMV now has an LED destination display.

Buses magazine reports that the fleet has been renumbered as follows Leyland Olympian C669 LJR (1), H552 GKX (2), G756 UYT (3), K814-6 HMV (4-6), H547/8 GKX (7/8) G285 UMJ (9). Coaches are Scania/Irizar YN51 MHO (11), DAF/Van Hool YN02 RCO (12), Bova Futura FSK 868 (14), OUI 8418 (18), Y658 HWY (19) Volvo/Jonckheere R15 CED (15), Toyota/Caetano P960 RNR (16), Volvo/Van Hool YIL 7758 (17), Volvo/Berkhof R20 CED (20). Volvo Citybus/ East Lincs G618 BPH is thought to still be here, but its new number is not known. Mercedes Benz Touro BW04 ZGU has gone to Vale (dealer) Gt Kingshill

CEEFA COACHES Basingstoke Acquired from Alec Leonard, Basingstoke is KJI 6029 (F380 CHE) a Scania K112/ Van Hool.

CLINTONA Brentwood Acquired from Lecks Travel, Haverthwaite is Mercedes Benz 0814D/ Autobus FX03 GJU.

COOKS Rochford Unusual in this normally Bova fleet is N11 CHN a Sca K113/Irizar from First Choice, Stanley. Also acquired is Ford Transit LT52 DFY a Ford Transit. LDV Convoy T384 VKE has been sold.

COUNTY COACHES Brentwood Mercedes

Benz 0814D/Plaxton V771 GCS has been acquired.

CREST Rochford Acquired from an unknown source is Mercedes Benz 609D/Devon Conversions M937 XKA.

EDS MINIBUS HIRE East Tilbury Acquired from Tydd Travel, Tydd St Giles is P164 ANR a Toyota/Caetano, it has been re-registered B3 EDS. The previous B3 EDS a MAN 10.180/Caetano was re-registered to it's original G442 WFC and sold.

FLORIDA Halstead MAN/Reeve Burgess C122 BTP has been advertised for sale on E-bay

HARDY MILES Southend Volvo Citybus/ Alexander BIG 8746 (F254 OFP) is back in use.

KIRBY COACHES Rayleigh New is Setra S415HD BX07 NLR. Setra S215HD F993 MTW and G636 CAF, are for sale.

KIRBYS OF ESSEX Rayleigh B81 RLO (7639 MW) a Setra S215HD has been sold

LODGE High Easter Sold to Norwich School are Dennis Javelin/Plaxton F459 NDV and J13 WSB

OLYMPIAN Harlow Iveco 59-12/Marshall M733 AOO and M157 RBH have been sold to LHE Ventura, Lingfield. Acquired is former Arriva Dennis Dart/Wright H368 XGC

PETER GODWARD Southend To correct previous reports YN07 LJE/F are Scania K340's rather than K114.

RONDA Southend Acquired from BJS, Gt Waking is KUI 8146 (E744 YMW) a Mercedes Benz 709D/Reeve Burgess. DAF MB200/Plaxton RIB 7910 (new as XAD 727X) has been sold for scrap.

SBC Wickford The PSV Circle reports that the depot is now located at Dollymans Farm, Doublegate Lane, Wickford. It had previously been at Stock Road, Southend.

SIMONS BUS Wickford Recently added to this fleet is S346 UEW a LDV Convoy.

S&M Thundersley MCW Metrobus BOK 40V and Leyland Olympian/ECW C205 GTU, have been sold. The Metrobus went for scrap.

SM TRAVEL Harlow Bova Futura HIL 2923 (A398 VML) has been sold to Vale (dealer), Great Kingshill.

SOUTHEND RADIO CARS Southend

Acquired from BJS, Gt Wakering is Mercedes Benz 0814D/Onyx X476 DAB

STANS Gt Totham Dennis Javelin/Plaxton B3 CEC (J718 KBC) is named Miss Judy.

SUPREME Southend Ford Transit R308 WPU is now in use as a service vehicle.

Reported as acquired is G65 SNN a Mercedes Benz 709D/Carlyle G65 SNN, although it appears to be a store. Former Crown Iveco 59-12/UVG, N418 UWN is withdrawn here. Acquired is P215 VTY a LDV Convoy. Former Crown H994 FTT a Mercedes Benz 811D/Carlyle has been sold.

TALISMAN Gt Bromley Two new Setra S416GT are due. They will be registered

EU08 NEU and OK08 ULM. Mercedes Benz 709D/Plaxton K633 GVX is on loan to Malcolms Blue Bus, Gt Bromley. Former Badgerline Volvo/Van Hool D610 GHY passed to Dews Coaches, Cambs; it left on 5 March.

TN TRAVEL Colchester Ford Transit N804 HVX appears to be back in use

TURNERS Little Maplestead ODJ 588W one of the few remaining Ford R1114/Duple left in PSV service has been withdrawn

WICKS Braintree Acquired from Bassi, Huddersfield is Toyota/Caetano S760 DOX

With thanks to Lyn Watson, Richard Delahoy, PSV Circle, John Podgorski, Colin Sigston and Dave Arnold



During the week ending 15th February, this Dart (**R507SJM**) was the last of three to arrive at **NIBS** of Wickford from Travel London. Of the others, R510SJM had already been out on the 21, with R506SJM on the 37 until 14th (both with printed paper blinds) but then entered the workshops to have LED destination displays fitted. 507 had a 'Surrey Advertiser' mega rear advert when it arrived and all initially retained red and white livery.

Scania saloons P653/5VWX went gone to Southdown PSV in part exchange. P654VWX was due to go to Jonathan Lloyd Commercial Salvage Ltd of Hixon, Staffs after being written off when a van hit it in Pitsea. *Chris Stewart*

PCV HOLDER ?



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Stephensons:	Bill Hiron	01702 541511
Excel:	Graham Hayden	01279 681800

