ESSEX BUS NEWS

Aug 2002 www.essexbus.org.uk Issue 460



Essex Bus

Enthusiasts Group

Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

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Subscriptions are renewable in January or July.
1998 Data Protection Act -Members Names & Addresses, Subscription renewal dates & postal rates are held on a computer Database for the purpose of administering member services.
If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Timetable Subscriptions

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and updates plus a copy of the Thurrock council book.
Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or see www.essexbus.org.uk

Photo Sales

We have photos of most operators and vehicles in Essex both past and present. Please write to Peter Snell with details of what you're looking for and he'll be pleased to help you.

Your Reports & Observations

Members reports, quality photos and original articles are always welcome. Please send them direct to the relevant Sub –Editor.
Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group.
We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts.
Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

Essex Bus News is designed by Sean Menzies & printed by Kithead Ltd, De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 OQE

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Contributions & Closing Dates

Thank you to the many contributors for their valuable news and information.

Please send your Contributions for the next issue of Essex Bus News to the Sub-editors by **Wednesday 4th Sept** and to the Managing editor by **Saturday 7th Sept.**
The magazine is expected to be posted on **Thursday 19th September 2002.**

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Welcome Aboard!

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Essex Bus News

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www.essexbus.org.uk - It's All About Buses In Essex

This month we launch our new book 'The Campbell Fact File'. Alan Osborne has spent many years researching this South Essex independent and the book is a comprehensive account of their long history. See the back page to place your order.

Looking ahead to the Autumn, we've got a great series of group meetings kicking off with An evening with Bill Hiron who's now a Director of Stephensons but previously worked for First Thamesway. For details of this and other events, see page 5.

Finally, the annual Showbus rally is almost upon us and thanks to Richard Delahoy and Stephenson's of Essex, we're pleased to make your journey there trouble free. See overleaf for the Special day out on September 22nd. (Let's hope for a dry day!)

Cover Photo

1516 FWC 439H Bristol RELL6G/ECW

Group member Dave Edwards preserved RE was one of the visitors to this years North Weald rally in July. One of a batch of 54 RELL6G's which entered service with Eastern National in the late 60's and early 70's, 1516 was new in Nov 69 and was withdrawn in 1982.

Buses in the News

The Latest News from the Bus World

First for family value this summer
-Half price family travel around Essex -

The sun has certainly been shinning for Essex families this summer as First have been offering a special value Bus ranger ticket which gives unlimited travel around Essex for a whole day.

From 21 July until 7th September, two adults and two children or one adult and three children can buy the £6 Family Bus Ranger ticket from their bus driver to enjoy travelling around the county by bus to visit the many attractions.

First say that this half price offer is a thank you to customers for their loyalty. They also hope that it will encourage people who have not used First to give them a try and use buses in the future.

Top quality for First service 100
-First and Thurrock join forces-

Customers using the popular First service 100 which runs between Chelmsford, Billericay, Basildon, Grays & Lakeside, are set to benefit from a first class service.

Bus operator First in Essex and Thurrock council have signed a Quality bus partnership to boost bus use and improve journey times.

As part of the five year deal, a fleet of 13 easy access buses is already running. These state of the art Scania vehicles with Wright bodies (fleet no's 655 –667) feature a driver operated ramp and 'next stop' display.

Common sense

The 100 has also been chosen to pilot the bus telematics programme in Thurrock next year. This system uses satellite technology to monitor the position of each bus, comparing it with its timetabled Position.

When running late, electronic messages are sent to traffic lights further along the route—improving timekeeping and reliability. It also provides the latest information at selected bus stops.

Other common sense initiatives to provide viable alternatives to the use of the car include waiting time restrictions, raised kerbs & new bus shelters.

Essex Bus Diary

Your Guide to Forthcoming Events

Sunday 1st September Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group Hedingham Shed Bash – Sold out , no more bookings please.

Saturday 7th September Transport Sale and London Bus Display
Transport sale at St Pauls centre, Enfield Town and display of 1940-1960's buses at Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford. Free rides between the sites.

Tuesday 10th September – Group Meeting, Rochford
Talk by Bill Hiron, Stephensons of Essex
Our first meeting for the autumn season and it should be an interesting evening. Group meetings take place in the Committee Room, Freight House, Bradley Way, Rochford (the old railway goods shed, adjacent to Rochford station). There is a large car park and Great Eastern trains and Arriva services 7/8 stop nearby. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat, with the main talk or show from 2000 to 2145

Saturday 21st September Mid Essex Model Railway Exhibition ,
Shenfield High School—Many layouts and sales stands selling Bus and train models, books and collectors items. Also featuring Chris Stewart's local bus photo display. There will hopefully be a bus link from Shenfield Rail Stn and a couple of tours provided by Blue Triangle

Sunday 22nd September Showbus, Duxford

The 'big one' held annually at the Duxford Airfield. 100's of buses and sales stands and hopefully dry weather.

Get there with Stephensons

Stephensons of Essex will be entering a coach in the Showbus rally - probably Tiger/Duple B100XTW,recently acquired from Arriva Colchester but new as Southend Transport 251 -and are happy to take enthusiasts who would like to go from south/mid Essex.
The fare will be £10, including (discounted) admission.
Pick ups will be fitted around the passengers (within reason!).
If you are interested, please e-mail Richard Delahoy at richard@signal-training.com with a note of your preferred pick up point (preferably on a main road or in a town centre somewhere in a sort of line from Southend towards the M11).

Essex Bus Diary

Your Guide to Forthcoming Events

Tuesday 8th October Group Meeting , Rochford
Slide show by Chris Stewart - "Brentwood Connections"
Other Group meetings on Tuesday 12th Nov & 10th Dec

Thursday 10th October Toy & Train Collectors Fair, Bishops Stortford -The Mitre Suite ,Bishops Stortford Football Club, Woodside Road, Dunmow Rd, Bishops Stortford.— From 1900 –2100 About 50 stalls selling bus and train models and toys. John Webb 01526 398198 -Further event on 5/12

Sunday 13th October Castle Point Transport Museum open day and Bus Rally. Canvey Island. Open from 10 till 5

Saturday 26th October LOTS Annual Transport Spectacular
Being held at Goresbrook Leisure centre, Dagenham. Frequent Bus links from local rail Stns. See their website for details www.lots.org.uk

ESSEX BUS NEWS Serving Essex since 1964

This Month ....
- The Campbell Fact File—The long awaited brand new book is here
- Order your copy—see page 24

Coming this Autumn ....
- Essex Publicity Review 2002-Part 1
- VR Memories—A free pullout paying tribute to the life of EN's VR's

Don't Miss The Bus!
www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Service Changes

This new section is intended as an at a glance guide to recent & forthcoming changes to bus services.
All information is given for guidance only and details of forthcoming changes are subject to alteration. Please refer to printed timetables , Journey planners and National traveline for the latest situation.

W/C 24th JUNE

300 (JWS Travel) Grays –Basildon—Withdrawn from 30/6

W/C 1st July

66C (First) Colchester—Finringhoe , Mon –Sat—Minor timing changes to improve timekeeping.

W/C 22nd July 2002

502 Ongar –Epping Station via North Weald (Regal Busways)
New Monday to Friday limited stop service registered.

Cancelled from end of school year
506 (First) South Woodham -Chelmsford
603 (First) Chelmer Village - Ingatestone
900 (Richmonds Coaches) Saffron Walden –Chishill

W/C 29th July

224 (NIBS) Nevendon—Rayleigh (Tue/Fri/Sat)
Withdrawn after operation on 3/8

W/C 5th August

VillageLink 11/12/13 (Beestons) Sudbury –Halstead,Mon –Sat
Minor timing changes from 5th August.
13 (Hedingham) Hadleigh –Clacton (Sats)
Withdrawn after operation on 10/8
60 /560 Southend –Canewdon -ECC have awarded a contract to Stephensons for 1 AM & 2 PM peak trips on M-F and about every 2 hours on Sat. On schooldays the morning trip & first PM trip are numbered 560 And are extentions or back projections of existing Thomas More sch jnys.
172 (Hedingham) Messing –Colchester(Weds)—ECC contract to Arriva Colchester from 7/8
318 (Hedingham) Thaxted –Bishops Stortford (Thurs)
ECC oontract to London Transit

Essex Service Changes

19th August

228 Maldon Tesco—Maldon Leisure Centre (First) New service via Maldon High Street running every 30 mins between about 0930 –1530 Monday to Saturday.

W/C 29th August

724 (Arriva) Harlow –Heathrow Airport—New timetable.

W/C 2nd September

8 (NIBS) Southminster—Burnham on Crouch (Schooldays)
84 (Chambers) SUDBURY BUS STATION and COLCHESTER NORMAN WAY SCHOOL -New timetable
115 Weeley—Tendering Via Little Clacton (Hedingham) Schooldays only—ECC contract formally operated by First
401 (Phoenix) Extended to Burnham/Ostend, via Southminster
514 (Phoenix) Extended to Hatfield Peverel and revised route - via old A130, not Danbury
515 (Phoenix) New service, Woodham Walter to Southend schools via Woodham Ferrers and Wickford
605 (Phoenix) New service (replacing one operated by Florida Coaches), Earls Colne - Anglo European school, via Kelvedon, Witham, Chelmsford
608 (Phoenix) Withdrawn between Gt Dunmow and North End; diverted in Chelmsford via Springfield
701 (Phoenix) New service, Capel St Mary to Colchester college, via East Bergholt.
812 Ingatestone – Harold Wood, Campion School (Schooldays) (First) Application for London service permit for one journey in each direction 0756 Ingatestone to Campion School ,1555 Campion School to Ingatestone
All the above start Weds 4/9 (New school term)

Vacancy—Service changes section editor

As part of the continuing expansion of Essex Bus News ,I need someone to edit our new service changes section.
You will compile the section from information supplied and I'll need the completed pages in Word/works or MS Publisher format, which you can either email or send on disk each month.
Accuracy is important and although this is an unpaid position, you will receive a free copy of EBN after a qualifying period, together with many other benefits. Write or email me -
Sean Menzies , 32 Clarence Rd Brentwood Essex CM15 9PB
(EMAIL - seamnz@aol.com)

Essex Service Changes

First have registered changes to the following routes from 1st Sept.
2 Basildon Bus St and Southend Central Bus St .
7/8 Clacton and Walton-on-the-Naze .
10/11 Telford Road and Jaywick
20/20B/20C SOUTHEND CENTRAL BUS STATION and HULLBRIDGE THE ANCHOR .
24/24A/24B/24C RAWRETH CARPENTERS ARMS and SOUTHCHURCH NEWINGTON AVENUE .
25/232/25A/25B/25C/25D/25E Southend Central Bus St and Basildon Hospital
31 Chelmsford and Burnham .
36 CHELMSFORD BUS STATION and SOUTH WOODHAM BANCROFTS ROAD.
59 CHELMFORD BUS STATION and ESSEX HARLOW PRINCESS ALEXANDRA HOSPITAL .
64/64A GREENSTEAD LIBRARY and LAYER DE LA HAYE .
67/67A Colchester and West Mersea
70X Braintree –Colchester(sch days only) New direct service
72/72A BRAINTREE FAIRFIELD ROAD and CHELMSFORD BUS STATION
73 MALDON TESCO STORE and CHELMSFORD BUS STATION .
76 CLACTON JACKSON ROAD and COLCHESTER BUS STATION
88/88A/88B/88C COLCHESTER NORTH STATION and GREAT YELDHAM THE GREEN

The Campbell Fact File

Order your copy
See the back page for details of this exciting new book

We need your news!
Each Editor prepares their own section and would welcome your contributions. See our contacts list on Page 2

First in Essex

Scania Lowdown

Full details of the Scanias 655-667 are given below (with thanks to Colin Sigston and the PSV Circle). These buses are Scania L94UB/Wright B43F and were new 11.01 to First Edinburgh. Chassis numbers are prefixed YS4L4X2000...

Fleet No.	Registration	Chassis no.	Body no.	First Edinburgh
655	SN51UYG	1839979	E191	536
656	SN51UYK	1839982	E192	537
657	SN51UXX	1840473	E238	538 *
658	SN51UYA	1840476	E239	539
659	SN51UYD	1840478	E240	540
660	SN51UYH	1840494	E241	541 *
661	SN51UYL	1840504	E242	542 *
662	SN51UXY	1840531	E243	543 *
663	SN51UYB	1840565	E244	544 *
664	SN51UYE	1840568	E245	545 *
665	SN51UYJ	1840624	E508	546 *
666	SN51UXZ	1840627	E509	547 *
667	SN51UYC	1840629	E510	548 *

* These vehicles were transferred to Midland Bluebird in 4.02 although 538 was transferred back to First Edinburgh the same month.

4033 GFM109X Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1 ON349 ECW H45/32F 25251
4034 KFM113Y Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1 ON384 ECW H45/32F 25255

These were ex First PMT 767/770 in 7.02, new 1982 to Crosville as DOG109/113 and transferred to First PMT in 1990.

Service van update

Another service vehicle not previously reported is **9008** M186PNP, a Vauxhall van.

Allocations (period ending 30 June 2002)

102 AB-AC; **107** AC-sold; **625** DVT-Disp; **2641** float-CF; **2683** CN-AB; **3092** BE-Disp; **3103** float-Disp; **3109** BN-float; **3112** BN-BE; **4033** Acq-CF; **4034** Acq-CF; **5002** float-CF

625 has been repainted in 'Barbie 2' livery ready for cascading elsewhere within First Group, along with 621-4/6 from CR. Their replacements at CR were expected to be 977-981 from BN, 978/81 being noted in service on 5th August.

Disposals

7.02 107 to RTF Commercials
313 317 318 320 2609 2626 2631 2635 2637 all to Houston Ramm

Repaints/Refurbishments (* in 'Barbie 1', otherwise to 'Barbie 2')

7.02

735* (back from repair)
650* 651* 1502 4012 (rfb)
4033/4 arrived in full 'Barbie 2' livery
4010 has gained a Mega rear advert for 'East of England Space for Ideas'

Quality for Thurrock

The official launch of the low floor Premier 100 took place in Thurrock on 22nd July (at which two of the Scanias were present), with the vehicles entering service on 5th August. They carry turquoise route branding, and as part of the five year Quality Bus Partnership between Thurrock Borough Council and First there will be real time information and bus priority measures in Thurrock. The buses do not have corporate interiors, being a batch believed to have been bought from dealer stock during the Edinburgh bus 'war'.

GOOD NEWS ABOUT AJN

At the opposite end of the age range, 1939 K5G AJN825 passed its MOT on 19th July and is scheduled to appear at the Barleylands Steam Rally (within the trade area) on 14th/15th September, Showbus at Duxford and the Canvey Museum Open/Running Day on 13th October. It is currently housed at the Driving School in Chelmsford.

V2002 and rail work

By the time you read this, First will have once again provided buses for V2002 at Chelmsford on 17th/18th August. First Great Eastern rail replacement buses operate between Witham and Braintree on Sundays 8th, 15th and 22nd September as well as the afternoon of Saturday 21st, although the intended operator was not known at the time of writing.



3109 UAR 599W Bristol VR/ECW –One of the final Bristol's still in service, Chris Stewart snapped 3109 at Shenfield Stn on 16th July on Phoenix Service 502 to Southend.



4030 FUM 500Y Leyland Olympian/ECW –Pictured at Fyfield departing on a journey on service 864 on 16th July. The route ran for the last time at the end of the school term. (Chris Stewart)



Former 609 N609 APU Volvo B10/Plaxton – Pictured at this years North Weald rally in full First livery, this former Thamesway Green Line coach is now with First in Norfolk & Suffolk



522 E002 NFD Optare Solo – One of the batch of vehicles that has revolutionised travel in Chelmsford. Seen at Oxney Green on 13th May. (Both photos Chris Stewart)

Unusual workings

Hadleigh Volvo's

Of the Volvos allocated to Hadleigh, 631 has seen little (if any) use. 632 was a very unusual sight on now-withdrawn Shenfield School-Doddinghurst service 860 on 19th July rather than the usual Olympian.

Private hires

Over the weekend of 26th/27th July, there were a number of temporary vehicle exchanges thought to have been in connection with a private hire requirement at CF. Those noted were 2830 (with tacho) CR-CF, 4007/25 CF-CR, 4307 CR-DT and 4310 DT-CF. Tachograph-fitted 4310/5 had been noted at CF on 21st July, and 4310 was noted on the 351 on both Friday 25th and Saturday 26th. 4007 worked the 71 on 25th and Monday 29th. Meanwhile on Friday 26th BE3219 was at work on service 72, and at Chelmsford CF3072 and CF4025 both worked service 48 during the afternoon. On Monday 28th CF1425 was on the morning peak service 51.

DT4314 suffered severe accident damage when a skip lorry collided with it at Little Oakley on 26th July, its remaining duties being covered initially by CR2922 and then by Lance CR1505. This also worked the 13.05 service 103 from Colchester and then covered further DT duties.

VR watch

BN3109 in fact continued in service until 19th July, the end of term for the Brentwood schools served by Basildon vehicles. During the last week of term for those schools involved, it worked duties on all of the 502, 860, 861 and 864 routes. On the morning of Friday 19th July it moved to Clacton and then, very surprisingly, went to Harwich (DT) the following day for service and has been a regular performer on services 22A/B (Harwich-Dovercourt).

Work on 3092 was abandoned when its true condition became apparent, 3112 being transferred instead to BE from BN although it was still at the latter depot on 1st August. A second VR is required for new schooldays only service 70X (Braintree-Colchester direct) which starts in September.

CF3072 has continued to be used on the 36 and 351, as well as the 48 mentioned above. 3078 has still been in use at Colchester on a variety of workings.

We welcome your contributions

Chris Stewart is the Editor of our First in Essex section. To contact him, please see the contacts section on page 2 this month.

First in Essex fleet allocation 28 July 2002

Airport Buses	100/1/12, 432/4/5, 917/43, 602/8/10, 2640/9/50/83, 2802/13-5/22/5/8
Airport Coaches	102/3/11, 397/8
Braintree (BE)	944, 2648/56/63/4/75/9/80, 2804/8/11/2/6-8/21/6/7, 2910/1, 3112, 3219, 5000
Basildon (BN)	404-8, 711-4/34-8, 852-5, 913-5/8-22/4-34/45/59-73/7-86, 1400/4/10/32, 2647, 3113, 4026/30, 5005
Chelmsford (CF)	430/1/3, 512-37, 729-33/9-44, 1401-3/7/8/13-6/25-8, 1516-20, 2641/67/8/70-4/6-8, 2901-9, 3072, 4007/10/2/24/5/33/4, 5001-4/6
Clacton (CN)	907/12/6, 1510-3, 2654/65, 2801/3/5/6/9/10/9/20/3/4, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	621-4/6, 650-4, 715/6, 908-11/74-6, 1501-9, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4014, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-5
Hadleigh (HH)	409/10, 630-4, 701-10/7-21, 809/11, 935-42/6-58/87, 1405/6/9/11/2/7-24, 2652/3/7-62, 4003-5/27
Harwich (DT)	2655/66/9/81/2, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401-3, 501-11, 805/6/10
Heritage	2383, 9001
Spare	314, 1429, 2642-6, 3109
Disposal	324-6/46/55/68/74-6/80, 807/8, 1430/1, 2602/3/5/7/8/19, 2621/8/30/2/6/8/9/51, 3069/76-9/83/4/92/4, 3101/3, 4028, 9021
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 1924, 9002/3/20/6 (HO)
Ancillary vehicles	BN: 9028-30, 9308; CF: 9034; CN: 2111; CR: 9033; HH: 9035; HO: 9004/10

Colour Bus (C)/Mega Rear (M) Contracts

Vehicle	Depot	Type	Contract	Expiry Date
1511	CN	C	Dream Radio	15.07.02
2658	HH	C	'The Brewery'	31.08.02
4010	CF	M	East of England Space for Ideas	TBC

NEW BOOK

THE CAMPBELL FACT FILE

Order your copy – Details on the back page

First Airport

	AIRPORT BUSES	AIRPORT COACHES
TRAFFIC REQUIREMENT		
Minibus	8	3
Midibus	8	0
Coach	4	1
SPARES		
Minibus	1	1
Midibus	1	0
Coach	0	0
TOTAL ALLOCATION		
Minibus	9	4
Midibus	9	0
Coach	4	1
TOTAL	22	5

Hedingham

The new Dennis Dart/Transbus is **EJ02KYY**, fleet no. **L326** (not L327 as we previously thought)
Leyland Lynx **J41GGB** will be numbered **L327** but is not yet in service.

Out of the fleet

L153 D345WPE Fd Tt/Do-Ce has been sold, without seats, to a private owner (7.02)

Phoenix Student Travel

Into the fleet

5015 F74DCW Leyland Lynx is in (7.02) ex Lancashire United 698 via Ensign (q)
Note:- **F294AWW** will not now be 5015 - it is still not in service.

Service changes

For all the latest Phoenix changes and comprehensive coverage of all recent and forthcoming changes, see our new section starting on page.

First garage requirements and vehicle allocations

For operational reasons this information may be subject to change, and is given for guidance only

	BE	BN	CF and (MN)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	*TOTAL*
TRAFFIC REQ'T									
Minibus	6	5	10 (3)	1	0	4	11	5	45
Midibus	12	49	42	12	20	0	34	0	169
SD	0	4	11 (5)	4	11	0	16	0	51
DD	2	2	6 (1)	4	15	6	3	0	39
Phoenix DD	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	5
Phoenix SD/Midi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	7
Midibus	1	5	4	1	2	0	3	0	16
SD	0	0	2	0	3	0	2	0	7
DD	0	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	5
Phoenix DD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Phoenix SD/Midi	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL ALLOC									
Minibus	7	6	11 (3)	2	0	5	12	6	**52**
Midibus	13	54	46	13	22	0	37	0	**185**
SD	0	4	13 (5)	4	14	0	18	0	**58**
DD	2	3	7 (1)	5	15	7	4	0	**44**
Phoenix DD	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	**6**
Phoenix SD/Midi	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	**1**
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	**4**
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	**11**
TOTALS	**23**	**72**	**82 (9)**	**24**	**51**	**12**	**71**	**17**	**361**

Vacancy – SERVICE CHANGES EDITOR

See page 8 for information

ARRIVA
Colchester, Grays & Southend

Into the fleets

To Grays
M615 KYO 615X MCW Metrobus (Transferred from Cranleigh)

Out of the fleets

Out from Colchester
E2384 R952 VPU Mercedes Vario/Plaxton
This bus was involved in an accident on the A120 whilst working service 133 on Saturday 13 July. It was towed to Southend on the 16th.

E5365 BYX 263V MCW Metrobus

Out from Grays
E5385 B183 BLG Leyland Olympian/ECW

Revised Fares in Thurrock & Southend

Fares in the Thurrock area were revised from 7th July. Some single fares increased by 5p or 10p. Some return fares also increased but others were reduced or unchanged.
In Southend, fares were revised from 28th July. Most single and returns were increased but there was no change to the £1.20 Adult single fare or to the return Child/Senior fare based on that rare.
Child peak tickets were repriced to slightly more then Adult peak prices but the off peak fares remained at half price.
Other changes led to an increase in the price of the Southend/Basildon Rover but prices of Silvercards, Clippers, Explorer, Diamond Rovers and off peak Southend Rovers were unchanged. The Gold card is no longer issued.

Silver Card -Buy it on the bus

Arriva customers in Southend can now buy a monthly Silvercard from their bus driver. The card gives a whole months unlimited travel in the Southend, Rochford & Castlepoint areas for £35.

New timetables

New timetable leaflets were issued for Southend services 6/6A,7/8,9,10/60 following the August service changes. A new leaflet was issued for Grays service 370/373 in July.

ARRIVA Datafile

This section gives you the latest information on the fleets controlled by Arriva Southern Counties. It is updated to early August and although given in good faith, some late changes might not be shown.
PVR's for Southend have changed since the service revisions and an estimated total is shown. The Dengie contract has a seperate PVR.

Southend	**PVR Approx 60**		**Allocation**		**75**
Double Deck	**PVR**		**Allocation**		**37**
Dennis Dominator	E5273	E5274	E5275	E5276	E5278
	E5286	E5287	E5288		
Dennis Trident	E5434	E5435	E5436	E5437	E5438
	E5439	E5441	E5442	E5443	E5445
	E5446	E5547	E5548	E5549	E5451
Leyland Olympian	E5392	E5393T	E5394	E5395	E5396
	E5399	E5402	E5404T	E5405T	
Volvo Olympian	E5415T	E5416T	E5417T	E5418T	E5419T
Single Deck	**PVR**		**Allocation**		**20**
Dennis Dart SLF	E3218	E3220	E3221	E3222	E3223
	E3224	E3225	E3226	E3391	E3392
	E3393	E3394	E3395	E3396	E3397
Dennis Lance SLF	E3379	E3381	E3382	E3383	E3384
Midi Bus	**PVR**		**Allocation**		**17**
Dennis Dart	DS004	DS006	DS007	DS008	DS009
	DS014	E3092	E3349	E3350	E3370
	E3397				
Mercedes 709	E2110T				
Mercedes 810	E2188	E2191	E2192	E2193	E2372
Dengie Contract	**PVR 4**		**Allocation 5**		
Renault Master T35	E0329	E0331	E0332	E0333	E0334
Coach	**PVR 0**		**Allocation**		**1**
	E4310T				
Training School Buses					
Leyland Lynx	E3065	E3066	E3338		
Shuttles	E1253	R580LVL			

Colchester	**PVR 42**		**Allocation 52**		
Double Deck	**PVR 11**		**Allocation 14**		
Leyland Olympian	E5389T	E5390T	E5397T	E5398T	
	E5403	E5407T	E5408T	E5409T	
MCW Metrobus	E5361				
Volvo D10M	610	613	614	617	
Single Deck	**PVR 16**		**Allocation 16**		
DAF SB220	E4335	E4336	E4337	E4339	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3419	E3420	E3422	E3430T	
Leyland Lynx	E3341	E3342	E3343	E3346	E3347
Volvo B6	E3241	E3245	E3246		
Midi Bus	**PVR 11**		**Allocation 18**		
Dennis Dart	DS015	DS019	DS020	DS021	DS023
	DS024	3168			
Mercedes 709	E2115				
Mercedes 711	E2388	E2391	E2392		
Mercedes 810	E2174	E2243	E2382	E2383	
Mercedes 811	1461	1462			
Coach	**PVR 4**		**Allocation 4**		
Scania k113	E4352T	E4353T			
Leyland Tiger	E4505T	2196			

Grays	**PVR 38**		**Allocation 45**		
Double Deck	**PVR 1**		**Allocation**		1
MCW Metrobus	M615				
Single Deck	**PVR 27**		**Allocation 31**		
DAF SB120	E4500	E4501	E4502	E4503	E4504
	E4505	E4506	E4507	E4508	E4509
	E4510	E4511	E4512	E4513	
Dennis Dart SLF	E3387	E3388	E3389	E3390	E3400
	E3401	E3402	E3403	E3421	E3423
	E3424	E3425	E3426	E3427	E3428
	E3429	E3431			
Midi Bus	**PVR 10**		**Allocation 13**		
Dennis Dart	E3404	E3405	E3406	E3407	E3408
	E3409	E3410	E3411	E3412	
Mercedes 709	E2130	E2134	E2135	E2137	
Ferry Bus 609	YFB58	YFB86			

Evening at Lodge's

On the 14th May the group paid an evening visit to local operator Lodge's of High Easter using their preserved Bedford SBG, MJB481, for travel to and from Chelmsford. Richard Huggins takes up the story.

The commencement of Chelmsford's new town ('Overground') network of services using Optare Solos the previous day had already added interest to the evening as 25 group members gathered at the railway station for the journey to High Easter. Our driver for the evening was Andrew Lodge, and the outward journey via Chignal Smealy followed Lodge's long established stage route, now running just twice a week.

Upon arrival at High Easter, we were able to admire the operator's spacious modern premises on the edge of the village.
Lodge's front-line coach fleet is now entirely Scania/Van Hool, used on British and European tour work. The company also operates three older Bedford coaches and several minibuses/coaches for local and schools work. Contract work for recertification purposes is also carried out, together with high-quality spray painting for a number of local operators.

Andrew Lodge, assisted by Jim, kindly moved a number of vehicles for photography including W20DGE in the metallic blue '80 year' livery, nicely catching the last of the evening sunshine.
The most unusual vehicle present was Leyland National OJD888R, new to London Transport and believed to be destined as a mobile commentary box. Several Scania dealer stock coaches were also parked on site, this being another part of Lodge's operations.

Our return journey was by way of Pleshey and Great Waltham. Our thanks go to the company for their hospitality (including the welcome tea and biscuits), and in particular to Andrew and Jim. Also thanks to Dave Arnold for organising the visit.

Find out more

For the complete story of this long-serving operator you can obtain the highly recommended book by Geoff Mills, published by Lodge's and available at £5.95 from MW Transport Publications, 12 Saxon Close, Lexden, Colchester CO3 4LH. All profits from the book go to the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Essex Dealer Report

The latest vehicle movements at Ensignbus

Vehicles in

From Blazefield Holdings. Lynxes E113RBO E114SDW F74DCW E60WDT E61WDT.
From Armchair,Brentford. Mark 2 Metrobuses E748SKR F772EKM.
From Isle of Man Transport. Olympians EMN203U EMN210U EMN207U EMN211U EMN213U MAN44U.
From Arriva the Shires. Tiger E881YKY.
From Kingstons,Benfleet Metrobus JIL8213
From Halls Coaches,Fife Optare Delta J318BVO
From Dublin Bus Olympian RH 56 90-D-1056 (First of a batch of 43)

Vehicles Out

Metrobuses MRJ45W ORJ77W M78 M542 PVS for scrap.
Lynxes F167SMT F168SMT Kent County Council,Ayelsford.
Dennis Condor DL19 EG2545 now G755CVX with Kinch,Wilts.
M246,M226 Johns School of Motoring,Hackney.
L76 Town and Country,Purfleet.
M244 Bar n Bus,Southend
Tiger WPH139Y and DT88 Transferred to Stratford Blue.
Olympians EMN207U MAN44U Fords Coaches,Althorne.
M753 ASD Coaches,Strood.
M47,Metrobus MRJ41W PVS,Barnsley.
Metrobus JIL8213 Eastonways,Ramsgate.
DR20 Eastonways,Ramsgate.
Olympian OFV20X Country Hoppers,Ibstock.
M621 Dave Wilkinson,Staines.
Lynx F74DCW Phoenix Student Travel,Maldon.
Olympian EMN211U (L71) Confidence,Leicester.
Lynx E60WDT Town and Country,Purfleet.
Atlantean KPJ240W "Travellers" in Great Yarmouth.
Lynx E113RBO Halls Coaches,Fife.
M836 Glenvale Transport,Liverpool.

For the latest stock surf www.ensignbus.com

Disposals and subsequent history of London based vehicles are covered in more detail by London Omnibus Traction Society (LOTS) See their web page www.lots.org.uk for details on joining the group. Disposals from London operators are usually referred to by their fleet number. For registrations see 'London Bus & Tram Fleetbook 2002' published by LOTS

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Essex Bus News Through The Years

August 1983 A month of repaints

A large number of the unpopular EN Bedford YMT/Duple dual purpose vehicles had been withdrawn, these being 1200-11 (BNO 686-97T), those remaining in service were due to be replaced by a further batch of Leyland Tiger/Alexander.

The first of the Bristol VR's (3067) in white/green dual purpose livery for service 400, had been repainted in a mainly light green and black livery, with white roof, also for service 400.

Colchester had repainted Atlantean/ECW 86 (MEV 86V) into a special livery to celebrate 100 years of municipal transport in Great Britain. It was sponsored by Broseley Homes. Sister vehicle 84 had also received a special livery to advertise Townsend Thoresen. This vehicle and open top 48 (YWC 648F), has appeared in the towns carnival.

Southend were expanding operation of London services, two Leyland Tiger/Duple 213/4 (LAK 303W and XGS 770X) having been acquired. Leicester had loaned Leopard/Willowbrook 12-15 (PJF 12-15R). Also from this operator Dominator/East Lancs TBC 49X had been loaned, as Southend looked for a Fleetline replacement

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The Campbell Fact File

New for August

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The long awaited story of one of the most enterprising South Essex independents can now be told.
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