

ESSEX BUS NEWS

October 2004

Issue 486



First London's Trident/Plaxton President TN33128 passes The Chequers, Billericay on 19 September en route for Wickford. Buses replaced trains between Shenfield and Wickford on that day. *Chris Stewart*

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Join this scheme to receive Essex County Council timetable books and updates, plus a copy of the Thurrock Council book. Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or visit

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PHOTO SALES

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

Peter Snell, 6 Mandeville Way,
Benfleet, SS7 4LH

YOUR REPORTS AND OBSERVATIONS

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

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

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

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

ESSEX BUS NEWS

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Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

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

- ▶ Tuesday 9 November - "**Trent Barton since privatisation**", *Keith Shayshutt*, Head of Development, *trentbarton*.
- ▶ Tuesday 14 December - "**20 years ago**" slide show, *Richard Delahoy*.

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

The November meeting will be in the upstairs 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 are nearby. At the November meeting we ask for a donation of 50p towards the room hire costs. From the December meeting we will be using the larger downstairs room where we must ask for a £1.00 donation.

The first meeting, featuring Alan Osborne's 'Fondest Memories' attracted good numbers and bookings have now been made through 2005. These are for: 14 Jan, 11 Feb, 11 Mar, 8 Apr, 9 Sep, 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 Dec 2005. If you would like to present a slide-show or give a talk etc., please contact **Dave Arnold**, 01621 857509, david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

- ▶ Friday 12 November - "**Gone But Not Forgotten**", *Trevor Brookes*
- ▶ Friday 10 December - tba
- ▶ Friday 14 January 2005 - tba

INDOOR EVENT OF THE YEAR

- ▶ Saturday 30 October - **LOTS Annual Transport Spectacular**. Goresbrook Leisure Centre, Rippel Road, Dagenham. #
Peter Snell and the EBEG stall will be at LOTS.

Preservation Notebook

SOUTHEND FLEETLINES FOR SALE: An excellent opportunity to obtain a "W" (very late) or "Q" (unique to Southend) reg Fleetline! MRJ 231/5W and Q475 MEV are all bodily complete and driveable but require some mechanical work. Ideal preservation candidates. A little work and you could have one ready for the 2005 rally season.

With recent influx of new stock (see page 17), we really do NEED the space, otherwise the scrapyards looms for these fine buses! So, if anyone is interested, these are VERY reasonably priced! Call Stephenson's of Essex on:

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

EASTERN NATIONAL 302: A recent posting on the Essex Buses Y-Group concerned 302 (EJN 638), a 1952 Bristol LS6G coach that has fallen on hard times. It is stored in Essex and must be removed from the site quickly as the landowner is owed a lot of back rent. The LS is partly stripped for renovation but is probably towable and might even move under its own power.

Serious enquiries only to Mark Brandon on 07887 777980.

David Harman

Essex Service Changes

An extended report to catch up on two months-worth of news. The main changes:

Centra abruptly ceased the former Locallinks routes from **27 September**.

The new, First Essex depot at Westway is due to open on **20 October** with closure of Duke Street Bus Station (and depot) on **23 October**. Terminals will be dispersed to nearby streets. We hope to have a map showing these next month.

- | | | |
|--------|------------------|---|
| 14 Jun | 251 | <i>Regal Busways</i> Ongar - Waltham Cross
Daytime commercial service withdrawn. |
| 28 Jun | 14/15/15A | <i>Regal Busways</i> Wickford - Chelmsford
Minor changes to early morning journeys. |
| 29 Jun | 750 | <i>Carters Coach Services/ Ipswich Buses</i> Ipswich - Colchester
Carters Tuesday and Thursday journeys revised to operate between Capel St. Mary and Colchester only and to revised route. |
| 9 Jul | 222 | <i>First Stansted Coach Link</i>
Renumbered X22 and re-routed via the new A120, not via Blake End.
(Note: Due to the A120 not opening until 9 July this change was delayed until then - see EBN 481). |
| 19 Jul | X21 | <i>Stephensons of Essex</i> Southend Airport - Lakeside
Withdrawn. |
| 20 Jul | 741 | <i>Olympian Coaches</i> Braintree - London
Timetable revised. |
| 26 Jul | 3 | <i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Harlow - Staple Tye
Minor changes to the timetable. |
| | 4 | <i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Harlow - Latton Bush
Monday to Friday timetable revised with daytime service reduced to eight buses per hour. |
| | 4/4A | <i>Arriva Southend</i> Southend - Foulness Island/Shoeburyness
M-Sa times revised. |
| | 5 | <i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Pinnacles - Potter Street
Minor changes to timetable. |
| | 7/8/8A | <i>First Clacton</i> - Walton
Summer timetable introduced for school holidays with most Service 8 journeys operating as Service 8A. |
| | 14 | <i>Arriva Southend</i> Southend - Shoeburyness
Revised timetable. |
| | 32 | <i>Whippet Coaches</i> Saffron Walden - Cambridge
Revised timetable and change of operator to <i>Burtens Coaches</i> . |
| | 333 | <i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Harlow - Bishops Stortford
Revised route and timetable. Service extended in Harlow to and from Princess Alexandra Hospital. |
| | B6 | <i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Harlow - Latton Bush
Revised route and timetable. Most off-peak journeys now terminate at Sainsburys. |
| 2 Aug | 25A/25B | <i>First Shotgate/Runwell</i> - Langdon Hills
Minor changes to timetable due to closure of Hatterills. |
| | R1/R11 | |
| | R21/R31 | <i>Olympian Coaches</i> Old Harlow - Katherines
Revised timetable. Service R31 journeys renumbered R1. |

2 Aug	R2/R3	<i>Olympian Coaches</i> Old Harlow - Staple Tye Revised routes and timetables.
	R7/R8	<i>Olympian Coaches</i> Harlow - Old Harlow New Monday to Friday circular services via Town Station.
15 Aug	133	<i>Stansted Transit</i> Braintree - Stansted Airport Revised timetable with reduced running time.
	228	<i>First</i> Maldon Town Service Withdrawn.
28 Aug	97	<i>Clintona Minicoaches</i> Temple Grove - North Springfield Withdrawn. Temple Grove now served by a revised Service 52 operated by <i>Regal Busways</i> .
31 Aug	1/1A	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> Greenstead - Ambrose 0838 Greenstead to Osborne Street MF journey withdrawn.
	4	<i>NIBS</i> Little Baddow - Maldon Tuesday service withdrawn after 24 August.
	5	<i>Arriva Southend</i> Southend - Basildon Minor change to timetable. 31/08/2004
	7/8	<i>Arriva Southend</i> Shoeburyness - Hockley/Rayleigh Minor change to timetable.
	11	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> Highwoods - North Station Change of operator to <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
	15	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> Shrub End - North Station Change of operator to <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
	10	<i>Trustline</i> Abridge - Loughton Revised route and timetable. Service operates via Debden Broadway.
	27/27A	<i>First</i> Temple Sutton - Canvey Service 27A journeys from Canvey renumbered 27 and no longer operates via Thundersley, Woodmans Arms.
	34/34A	<i>Stansted Transit</i> Kings Park - Great Notley Minor changes to timetable.
	52/52A52B	<i>Regal Busways</i> Pleshey - Chelmsford Revised route and timetable. Route 52A/52B variations withdrawn. Service 52 extended to Temple Grove to partly replace Service 97.
	213	<i>Regal Busways</i> Epping - Waltham Cross Minor changes to timetable.
	211/212	<i>Regal Busways</i> Breach Barns - Waltham Cross Revised early morning timetable.
	214/215 219/220	<i>Clintona Minicoaches</i> Debden - Loughton Change of operator to <i>Imperial Bus Company</i> .
1 Sep	2	<i>NIBS</i> Wickford - Ingatestone Revised timetable. Service operates between Wickford and Billericay only.
	16	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> Old Heath - St. Helena School Change of operator to <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
	16A	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> Barnhall - St. Helena School Change of operator to <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
	17	<i>Arriva Colchester</i> West Bergholt - Stanway Secondary School Change of operator to <i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> .
	28	<i>First</i> Canvey - South Benfleet 1525 (Schooldays) journey from South Benfleet operates 30 minutes earlier at 1455.

- 1 Sep **30A** *First* Harwich - Manningtree
This Schoolday service withdrawn.
- 41-46/50** *NIBS* Wickford /Basildon/ Billericay /Brentwood School Services
Minor changes to timetables. Service 43 journey withdrawn.
- 67** *NIBS* North Fambridge - Ingatestone
Service now start from Ostend, not North Fambridge, and re-routed to serve Stock.
- 118** *Heddingham Omnibuses* Great Yeldham - Newport
Change of operator to *Stansted Transit*.
- 172** *Arriva Colchester* Messing - Colchester
Change of operator to *Heddingham Omnibuses*.
- 247** *Arriva Colchester* Dedham Heath - Colchester
Schooldays journeys re-routed via Higham.
- 316** *Excel* Molehill Green - Stansted Mountfitchet School
New Schooldays service.
- 501** *Stephensons of Essex* Chelmsford - Southend High School for Girls
Revised timetable. Service starts from Little Waltham, in place of Service 513, and also serves Westcliff High Schools and Southend High School for boys.
- 503** *Stephensons of Essex* Althorne - Southend High Schools
Revised timetable.
- 504** *Stephensons of Essex* Wickham Bishops - Southend High Schools
Revised timetable.
- 506** *Stephensons of Essex* Rochford - Southend
Withdrawn.
- 510** *Stephensons of Essex* Ostend - Chelmsford School
Revised route and timetable. Service starts from Southminster and operates via Latchingdon. North Fambridge no longer served.
- 513** *Stephensons of Essex* Little Waltham - Southend High Schools
Revised route and timetable. Section of route between Little Waltham and Chelmsford withdrawn and replaced by Service 501. Also, service operates via Chelmer Village in place of 514.
- 514** *Stephensons of Essex* Hatfield Peverel - Westcliff High Schools
Revised route and timetable. Service no longer serves Chelmer Village, see Service 513, and re-routed in Danbury via Eves Corner.
- 515** *Stephensons of Essex* Maldon - Chelmsford Schools:
New schooldays service via Heybridge, Great Totham, Wickham Bishops and Witham.
- 820** *First* Lower Hockley - Sweyne School
Afternoon journeys operate 5 minutes later.
- 4 Sep **77/78/78A/78X** *First* Colchester - Wivenhoe /Brightlingsea
Service 78X journeys withdrawn.
- 502** *Centra* Loughton - Romford
Change of operator to *Imperial Bus Company* and revised timetable, reduced to one return journey, Saturdays only.
- 506** *Regal Busways* Harlow - Waltham Cross
Route in Waltham Abbey revised to serve Meridian Park. Minor changes to timetable.
- 571** *First* St. Osyth - Clacton County High School
Withdrawn.
- 240/250** *Arriva the Shires & Essex* Debden - Waltham Cross

		Minor changes to timetable. All journeys from Waltham Cross operate 4 minutes later.
5 Sep	335	<i>First</i> Braintree - Maldon This Sunday service withdrawn after Bank Holiday Monday, 30 Aug.
6 Sep	7/8/8A	<i>First</i> Clacton - Walton Reversion to the normal timetable from Summer timetable.
	76	<i>First</i> Colchester - Clacton Minor changes to Monday to Friday timetable.
	91	<i>Hedingham Omnibuses</i> Tollesbury - Witham: All journeys now operate via Tolleshunt Knights Village Hall.
	288	<i>First</i> Maldon Town Service New service to replace the withdrawn Service 228.
	757	<i>National Express</i> Stansted Airport - Oxford Revised timetable.
	800	<i>Stephensons of Essex</i> Southend - Grays New College days service via Canvey.
	801	<i>Stephensons of Essex</i> Hockley - Grays New College days service via Basildon.
7 Sep	504	<i>Stephensons of Essex</i> Wickham Bishops - Southend High Schools Section of route via South Woodham withdrawn.
12 Sep	214/X14	<i>Regal Busways</i> Waltham Cross - Ongar/Lakeside New Sunday services. One return journey on each service.
13 Sep	505	<i>Arriva the Shires & Essex</i> Old Harlow - Chingford Timetable revised with evening journeys withdrawn.



First 78X journeys were discontinued in September. Mercedes 51889 (P689 HND), new to Proctors (Dales & District) of Bedale, and competing Cedrics ex-Go-North East Olympian C559 LJR, wait under threatening skies in August. *David Harman*

- 14 Sep **47/146/147** *Centra* Ongar/Toot Hill - Harlow/Hatfield Heath
Revised route and timetable to serve Magdalen Laver.
- 19 Sep **351** *First* Chelmsford - Romford
Additional Sunday journey: 0735 Chelmsford to Romford.
- 20 Sep **7** *First* Bentfield Green - Bishops Stortford
Minor timing changes and service re-routed in Elsenham via the Industrial Estate.
- 14/15/15A** *Regal Busways* Wickford - Chelmsford
Revised route in South & West Hanningfield and minor timing changes. Chelmsford terminal changed to Railway Street.
- 16** *Heddingham Omnibuses* Wethersfield - Chelmsford
Revised timetable and Chelmsford terminal changed to Retail Market.
- 333** *Excel* Stansted - Epping
Minor re-routing in Harlow Town Centre. Buses from Epping now arrive 3 minutes earlier at Harlow Bus Station.
- 28 Sep **1** *Centra* Takeley - Saffron Walden
Change of operator to *Excel*.
- 47/146/147** *Centra* Ongar/Toot Hill - Harlow
Change of operator to *Regal Busways*.
- 319** *Centra* Great Dunmow - Bishops Stortford
Change of operator to *Arriva the Shires & Essex*.
- 347** *Centra* Hatfield Broad Oak - Harlow
Change of operator to *Arriva the Shires & Essex*.
- 29 Sep **11/12/13** *Beestons* Sudbury - Halstead/Gosfield
Last three journeys now terminate/start from Halstead, High Street instead of Butler Road.
- 30 Sep **19** *Centra* Farnham Green - Bishops Stortford
Change of operator to *Excel*.
- 3 Oct **200/201/203** *Centra* Harlow/Ongar - Buckhurst Hill/Debden
Change of operator. 200/201 will pass to *Regal Busways* and 203 to *Stansted Transit*.
- 605** *First* Colchester - Walton }
- 606** *First* Walton - Harwich }
- Summer Sunday service withdrawn for the winter.
- 4 Oct **820** *First* Lower Hockley - Sweyne School. Afternoon journeys changed back to operate 5 minutes earlier.
- 17 Oct **133** *Stansted Transit* Braintree - Stansted Airport
Revised timetable.
- 23 Oct **Closure** of **Chelmsford Bus Station** at end of service for the day.
- 24 Oct Change of terminal from Bus Station to Coval Lane:
- 11A** *First* Sutton - Chelmsford
- 31/B/C/X** *Arriva Southend/First* Chelmsford - Maldon/Burnham-on-Crouch
- 36** *First* South Woodham - Chelmsford
- 71/71C** *First* Colchester - Chelmsford
- 140** *First* Chelmsford - Basildon
- 351** *First* Chelmsford - Romford (also, minor changes to M-F pm peak jnys).
Revised route and change of terminal from Bus Station. Now operate via Rectory Lane, New Street, Victoria Road to terminate opposite Rail Station:
- 33** *First* Chelmsford - Stansted Airport
- 352** *First* Halstead - Chelmsford (also, minor changes to timetable).

- 24 Oct Cross-town routes, formerly using the Bus Station:
- 41/51** *First* Galleywood - Chignall Estate
Minor changes to Monday to Friday morning peak journeys.
 - 45/45A** *First* Moulsham Lodge - Oxney Green
Minor changes to timetable.
 - 54/A/C/56/A** *First* North Melbourne - Beaulieu Park
Minor changes to Monday to Friday morning peak journeys.
- 25 Oct Change of terminal from Bus Station to Coval Lane:
- 31A** *First* Woodham Walter - Chelmsford
 - 32** *First* Chelmsford - Ongar (also, minor changes to timetable).
 - 40/50** *First* Chelmsford - Great Baddow
 - 44** *First* Chelmsford - Chignall Estate
 - 46** *Imperial* Ongar - Chelmsford
 - 48/A/B/C** *First* Chelmsford - Chelmer Village (also, revised M-F am peak jnys).
 - 59** *Arriva the Shires & Essex* Chelmsford - Harlow
 - 73/73A** *First/Heddingham Omnibuses* Maldon - Chelmsford
 - 100** *First* Chelmsford - Lakeside (also, minor changes to timetable).
 - 512** *First* Chelmsford - Southend Schools (also, revised timetable).
 - 525** *First* Chelmsford - Colchester Schools
 - ◆ *First* Chelmsford - Southend (also, ?955 from Chelmsford to Rettendon School extended to Rettendon, Turnpike Corner).
- Cross-town route, formerly using the Bus Station:
- 561/562** *First* Basildon/Billericay - Chelmsford Schools
Re-routed in Chelmsford via Coval Lane.
- Change of terminal from Bus Station to new First Depot, Westway:
- 43** *First* Chelmsford - Oaklands Park. (also, revised route and timetable).
 - 72/72A** *First* Braintree - Chelmsford. (also, minor changes to the timetable).
- 25 Oct
- 1** *Stansted Transit* Great Dunmow - Bishops Stortford
New Monday to Friday service via Stansted Airport.
 - 37** *First* Braintree - Beckers Green
Minor change to Monday to Friday timetable. Re-routed in Stubbs Lane via Chelmer Road in both directions.
 - 42** *First* Broomfield Hospital - Galleywood
Revised Monday to Friday morning peak timetable and other minor changes.
 - 47** *First* Broomfield Hospital - Chelmer Village
Revised timetable.
- 1 Nov
- 4A** *Arriva Southend* Southend - Foulness Island/Shoeburyness
Additional M-F journeys (under contract to Essex County Council):
2000 Southend to Shoeburyness and 2030 Shoeburyness to Southend
- 7 Nov
- 66/66A** *First* West Bergholt - Rowhedge
Timetable corrected to match daytime number and routing of Service 66 (currently shown as 66/66A).
- 8 Nov
- Arriva Colchester* There will be changes to the commercial service network (1/1A, 2/2A, 3, 4, 5, 8/8A/8B, 9) but not to the tendered Essex CC routes (50/92, 83, 87/87A, 247 - except for a minor retiming on 247). Full details next month.
- 21 Nov
- 410** *Centra* Harlow - Old Harlow
School days service withdrawn.

David Harman with acknowledgements to Essex CC 'Bus Passenger News'

FIRST

Scheduled 'One' railway replacements

All First contracts, the Shenfield-Wickford service was exclusively operated by red *First London* double deckers, mostly Dennis Trident/Plaxton President but with some older Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties and one Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini. *Network Colchester* vehicles have also been much in evidence. Chelmsford-Shenfield Sunday replacements continue until 4th December, with coaches working Witham-London for main line passengers.

Vehicles reported

12th September

Ingatstone-Witham:

First Essex 34012 34282 34284 34301 34307 62509 67036 67038 67039
Fourways H691PTW H699PTW G937FVX G981FVX *Chambers* W87HRT *NIBS*
G603KTX *Talisman* M85MYM M87MYM H859PTW *Network Colchester*
H49MJN F245MTW F246MTW *Carters* C664LJR

Shenfield-Wickford:

First London 32407 32802 32812 32849 32978 33006 33007 33074 33078 34234

19th September

Ingatstone-Witham:

First Essex 31374 34818 34818 67038 67039
NIBS G605KTX, *Fourways* H691PTW, *Stephenson's* C106CHM, *Chambers* W87HRT
W124JDX

Shenfield-Wickford:

First London 32845 32867 32873 32977 32979 33007 33022 33120 33128 34207 34213
34234 34241

3rd October

Shenfield-Chelmsford:

First Essex 34018 34304 34314 34816
Fourways G981FVX G937FVX H699PTW *Chambers* W89HRT

Billericay-Rayleigh:

Network Colchester C41HHJ H47MJN H48MJN H49MJN G643BPH
Regal B203DTU

FIRST ESSEX

First Essex - winners at the the 2004 UK Bus Driver of the Year Competition

Congratulations are due to Michael Wilson of Colchester depot, who beat 106 other contestants at the finals of this competition in Blackpool to be awarded '2004 UK Bus Driver of the Year'. 41 out of the 107 entrants were from the First group, and First Essex were also awarded the Len Higgins Memorial Trophy.

Showbus 2004

The annual showcase for the bus industry and preservation alike was attended by a selection of First Essex vehicles old and new. Driver Nick Field of Chelmsford collected the award for Best post 1990 First Group vehicle with Dart SLF 42488 (SN53LJX).



Showbus 2004
Smart turn-out!
Chelmsford depot's Nick
Field, with trophy, poses
in front of Dart 42488
(SN53 LJX).

*Below: 42488 with fellow
prize-winner, First South
Yorkshire B7TL/Wright
31799 (YN53 EFU).*

*Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary*



Romford (RD): "Sorry - Not In Service" - at least as a First Essex depot.
The premises and operations were transferred to First London in
September. Dart 46804 manoeuvres on the last day (17th).

Allocation changes (period ending 25 September 2004)

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

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

34280 CN-DT; 34282 CN-DT; 34284 CN-DT; 34285 CN-DT; 34286 CN-DT; 34290 CN-DT; 34308 CT-CR; 34310 DT-CR; 34311 DT-CN; 34314 DT-CN; 34707 (D)-sold; 34809 DT-(R); 34813 DT-(R); 46112 RD-BN; 46114 RD-BN; 46116 RD-BN; 46136 BN-HH; 46137 BN-HH; 46176 (R)-CN; 46804 RD-BN; 51249 (D)-sold; 51254 (D)-sold; 51260 (D)-sold; 51458 HH-BN; 51465 (D)-sold; 51466 CF-(D); 51475 BE-CF; 51778 RD-CF; 51779 HH-BN; 51779 RD-BN; 51801 RD-BN; 62502 (D)-sold; 62503 (D)-sold; 62512 (D)-sold; 62514 (D)-sold; 62515 BN-(R); 62517 BN-(R); 62525 (D)-sold; 90242 DVT-(D)

Romford depot

As predicted, Romford depot and 53101-11 were transferred to *First London* with effect from 18th September, along with 46852-4 from BN to Rainham. 43800 went on loan to *First London* (at RD) as a spare vehicle, but had returned by 9th October. The possible transfer of two Lynx for the 646 did not take place, but two Lynx Mark 2 have moved from *First Devon & Cornwall* for possible use at Rainham - 62666 (J916WVC) and 62671 (K11BMS). The last BN operated 646 noted was 46175, whilst DM41234/65 and ES64001 operated the first *London* duty on Monday 20th. DMS-class Darts have appeared on the 193 as cover for Solos.

Disposals

To 25.9.04	62502/3/12/4/25	Hardwick, Barnsley (scrap)
	38644	Private owners (preservation)
	34707, 51249/54/60, 51465	confirmation to follow

Repaints (by observation)

38790 to yellow/green 'Eastern National'
46120, 46822 to Group standard livery
47252 to green/cream 'Eastern National' in traditional style

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Unusual sightings:

September:

13th	HH43717 on 2/25, HH46158 on 27, HH62522 on 22, HH51810 on peak p.m. 20
15th	CR65679 on 61 (19.08 ex CR), CR46810 on 74B HH46109 on 26
16th	BN65675 on 561/562
17th	CF34815, CF42484 and CF43744 on Diamond 62515 on 562
19th	CF43733 on 352, CR62408 on X22
20th	CF34815 on Diamond, BE46823 on 54/56
21st	CF34807 on morning peak 42, CF52580 on 31A and CF47221 on Diamond
22nd	CF34812 on 42, BE46143 on 47/351, CF47219 on Diamond & BN65671 on 81. also Diamond, 31, 36, 41 and 51 diverted via Wood Street/Moulsham Lodge because of an accident at the Army & Navy
23rd	CF34807 and CF43733 on Diamond
24th	CF34817 on Diamond

October:

6th	BN65670 on 750, BN65674 on 751
9th	BN43800 on Brentwood local 73

Big Cat Diary - catch them while you can!

The position during the week ending 1st October was as follows:

In service: BN62509/18/20
HH62521-4
Driving School: (Chemsford) 90244/5 (ex 1427/8), BN 62511
Departed Clacton for scrap: 62502-5/10/2/6/25/6
Awaiting disposal (at CN): 62506/14/5/7/9/29/33, 90242 (ex 1413)

Other News

Unfortunately some of the information previously given in this column about the RMLs stored at Clacton has been contradictory. With thanks to Keith Nason and Dave Stewart of LOTS, the following is the correct summary:

The first six arrivals were RML2291, 2369, 2374, 2378, 2379 and 2476

RML2374 subsequently went to *First Devon & Cornwall*

RML2378, 2379 and 2476 were all labelled for Slovakia, but 2476 never made it (although removed from CN)

RML2352 arrived in July ex Northumberland Park, and as at 1st October was still there along with 2291 and 2369.

Former Essex vehicles

Bristol VR STW25W (ex 3081 and NIBS) has finally been withdrawn by *Castle Point Bus Company*, their last operational VR, and is currently the subject of a possible preservation bid.

With thanks to Simon Coates, this list of one-time Essex vehicles with First Devon & Cornwall may be of interest (allocations are as at 1st September):

20108	(N608APU)	PH = Plymouth)
20191	(M291FAE)	PH (R = reserve)
38785	(KOO785V)	CE = Camborne
38888	(UAR588W)	PHu (at St Austell minus engine and gearbox)
38895	(UAR595W)	PH (DTV)
38897	(UAR597W)	CEu (\$ = stored off Company premises)
38923	(XHK223X)	CE
46101	(K901CVW)	CE (R) (\$)
46102	(K902CVW)	CE (R)
46105	(K905CVW)	CE (R) (at PH with severe accident damage)
46159-61/6	(N959-61/6CPU)	CE
46162/3/5	(N962/3/5CPU)	CE (R) (\$)
46164	(N964CPU)	BE = Barnstaple
52591/2/9	(R411/2/9VPU)	CE (St Austell outstation)

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, N Field, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, K Nason, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, S Simister, P Snell, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, TBL174M, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, LOTS, *First Essex*, PSV Circle, *Terminus*.

Chris Stewart



**RAIL
REPLACEMENT**
Ingatstone-Witham
12 September
photos by
Chris Stewart



above:
Talisman
Coachline's
newly-acquired ex-Dublin Olympian
H859 PTW in
Station Lane,
Ingatstone.



left:
Also ex-Dublin:
G937 FVX of
Fourways
leaves Ingatstone
Station.

Carters' ex-Go-
North East
Olympian
C864 LJR, with a
First Lynx (62509)
standing behind.



ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX

LOTS report that the first few (of a planned six) Tridents transferred from Southend are now in service on routes 310/311 (Hertford-Enfield).

ARRIVA SOUTHEND

Vehicles in

- 907 (F577 SMG) Leyland Olympian/Alexander RL H47/32F from Horsham
- 5881/5882 (E225/8 CFC) Leyland Olympian/Alexander RH H47/26D (note these vehicles have been renumbered. When at the Shires they were numbered 5825 and 5828)
- 5897 (F897 DKK) Volvo Olympian/NCME H45/30F

Vehicles Out

Tridents 5436/9/45 (W436/9/45 XKX) 5436/9 to Maidstone, 5445 to Harlow

Other vehicle news

Volvo Olympian/NC 5417 (N707 TPK) due to depart for Arriva North West and Wales is still in Southend as of 1st October.

Former Southend Volvo Olympian/NC 5415 (N705 TPK), transferred to Arriva North West and Wales in July, is currently on loan to Arriva Yorkshire at Heckmondwike depot.

Peter Mansfield



The new order on Arriva Southend route 1: 5882 (E228 CFC) in pristine condition at Thorpedene Library on September 18. New in 1988 to the Oxford Bus Company as their no.228, it was transferred to the Wycombe Bus Company unit and passed with that operation to Arriva the Shires in December 2000. *Richard Delahoy*

We understand that there are ten new Darts on order for the Burtons operation. Eight of these are due for Colchester, the other two being intended for Haverhill. The Colchester ones are due for service 1/1A Greenstead – Ambrose Ave.

Olympian 47 was present at this year's Showbus at Duxford on 26th September.

Peter Mansfield

BURTON'S

Potted history - a follow-up

Nigel Turner has kindly provided more information on and corrections to the early history. On 19 July 1948, Horace Edwin Richardson and Leslie John Rowlinson (t/a Burton Coaches) applied for a Clare - Castle Camps works service, and it seems likely that they were the original proprietors. The limited company was formed on July 18th 1953 but it may well be that it did not take over the partnership until August 1953. Reginald Richardson, who may have been a son, seems to have become a director by 1958.

The Nicholls business was founded by Albert Edward Nicholls in the 1920's, it was at 8 Ashen Road by at least 1931. Burton acquired control in November 1952 when the limited company, Nicholls (Clare) Ltd., was formed. The Clare address was still being quoted in 1953 but by 1966 the registered office was at Burton's. Nicholls licences were transferred to Burton in March 1970 and the vehicles in July 1970.

Nicholls operations were concentrated on RAF Stradishall, the stage services to Sudbury, Haverhill and Bury St. Edmunds all served it and there were forces leave services to London, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Manchester. Latterly, vehicles had carried the Burton fleetname and livery.

Finally, TGM is Tellings Golden Miller Group plc, not as quoted. An editorial reminder was provided at Showbus (see below). TGM acquired Frank Harris (Coaches) Ltd. of Grays in March this year. On 1 October, the acquisition of Classic Coaches Continental Ltd. of Annfield Plain, Co. Durham was announced.

David Harman



Essex Small Operator News

APT, Rayleigh Recent additions are R466 GUA a Bova Futura (by 7.04) ex Reading Buses 274 and E339 EVH DAF/Plaxton is in (by 7.04)

AMBER, Rayleigh IAZ 9564 was acquired by 7.04, but no further details are known. KCZ 4754 (ex A958 SYB, RFP 6, A958 SYB) DAF/Plaxton Paramount 3500 in by 8.04 - ex Hill & Dilliway (New Century), Sittingbourne, Kent.

M609 UCX ? / Caetano Algarve II is in (by 8.04) - has fleet no. 7, but this is probably from the previous operator.

Registration YNJ 214 is on a Bova Futura (by 8.04), it was previously on a Bova Europa.

BASILDON TRAVEL, Basildon Re. EBN483/12:- C718NHJ has a Van Hool body (not Plaxton). Also this vehicle was seen, still in use on 31.7.04 and 7.8.04 with 'Basildon Travel' fleetnames.

BJS, Gt. Wakering NIL 4223 (ex G828 YJF) Bova Futura was burnt out 7.04. on the M25

COLCHESTER COACHES, Clacton Leyland Atlantean XPG 184T has gone to Talisman, Gt.Bromley (by 9.04)

COOK, Westcliff-on-Sea WWC 820 Bova / Duple was reregistered B91FNO on 14.5.04. This vehicle has gone to Saint Cloud, Southend-on-Sea (by 9.04).

CRUSADER HOLIDAYS Clacton Have placed an order for five Setra S315 6T HD, 48 seat coaches. These are a first here, in that AS Tronic (Automatic) transmission has been specified. This means that several older coaches will go and with the end of the main season Setra R124 HEV has gone to Kiddles Coaches, Kings Lynn, while similar T110 LTW has gone to Kardan Travel, Newport, Isle of Wight.

DANNY'S, Canvey Island L16 ATS a Renault Master was seen 3.7.04 with the name "George's" and a Canvey Island legal address. We do not know if this is a different operator or a new trading name for Fisher (who

previously traded as Danny's).

EXCEL, Stansted Airport Volvo/Plaxton H640 UWR has gone to Stagecoach South, as a driver trainer.

FLAGFINDERS, Braintree XIL 8427 (ex 436 VVT, N139 YMS) Scania/Van Hool is in (by 7.04) ex Lodge, High Easter. (Not sure whether the latest reregistration was done by Lodge or Flagfinders.)

FUN 4 U, Tiptree F818 OJF Toyota/Caetano is in (by 7.04) ex Sunbeam, Hevingham, Norfolk.

TONY GLEW, Great Tey N837 LGA Mercedes Benz/Wadham Stringer is in (by 9.04) ex Clintona, Brentwood T732 JHE Scania/Van Hool is in (by 9.04) ex Smith, Rayne

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford 7 vehicles have an overall advert (including contravision on the windows) for 'O2 Happy Hour' (8.04). They are Ford Transits EO03 UUF/G, EY03 NFT, ET53 VHZ/VJC/E, EO04 VPY. These have lost their fleet numbers (either removed or covered by the adverts).

New Ford Transit (9.04) are:- EY54 NXA/B/D/F/J/L/T/W/NYA/B/D/K - fleet nos. (same order) are:- 36, 48, 51, 46, 44, 45, 41, 47, 49, 37, 39, 43.

Note that some of these fleet numbers duplicate vehicles already in the fleet including some which recently received O2 adverts. It is thought that some of the advert vehicles (and possibly others) may have been dispersed to associated companies in the Taxibus group.

EO04 VPY has had its O2 advert removed (between 19th and 26th September)

R408 EOS (ex LSK 845, LSK 555) Volvo/ Van Hool is in (by 9.04) ex Dereham Coachways, Norfolk.

X369THK Ford Transit (was 33 in this fleet) seen 7.8.04 lettered for 'Practical Car and Van Rental'. Obviously no longer with Taxibus.

JACKSONS, BICKNACRE ~ FLEET LIST, SEPTEMBER 2004

3	L738 NWU	Mercedes Benz 609D	Autobus	C23F
(4)	T59 AUA	DAF	Van Hool	C??F
(5)	T322 KNN	Bova Futura	Bova	C49FT
6	MJI 2550	Dennis Javelin	Plaxton	C53F
7	X839 HEE	Mercedes 1223L	Optare Solera	C39F
(8)	MJI 5031	DAF	Van Hool	C48FT
9	T639 JWB	Mercedes Benz 0814D	Plaxton	C29F
10	MJI 3084	DAF	Van Hool	C51FT
(11)	M502 XWC	DAF	Van Hool	C49FT

Nos. 5, 8 & 11 do not currently carry their fleet number.

MJI 2550 (ex F78 VWK, MIW 3791, F868 RFP)

MJI 5031 (ex K96 GEV)

MJI 3084 (ex J811 KHD, 5516 PP, J811 KHD)

M502 XWC (ex 1245 FH, M502 XWC)

T59 AUA (collected 3.9.04) ex Bennett, Gloucester

MJI 1306 (ex G300 XAC) Neoplan Skyliner has gone (8.04) - we understand to an operator is Devon.

All the fleet is now single deck.

KELLYS TRAVEL, Harlow Further to EBN 485, the Mercedes 0303 SIW 6253, is still owned by this operator. It is on loan to Excel and is in their colours, which is what I suspect has confused the issue.

LEMON COACHES, Tilbury MXI 704 (ex C743 TPE) LAG Panoramic has been parked in the Woodham Ferrers yard (top of hill - maintenance for various operators is done here) for some time and appears to be out of use. Recently the front number plate has been removed. (Has this registration been transferred to another vehicle?)

RICHARDS, Gt Baddow GX02 AOC Scania / Irizar is in (by 9.04) ex Pavilion, Brighton, E.Sussex. This is being parked at Boreham Services.

RS TRAVEL, Braintree S309 VAW LDV Convoy (high-roof) with fleet no. 10 and N516FRV LDV 400 / LDV (low-roof) with fleet no. 11 both seen 1.10.04 lettered for 'RS Travel Services (a division of CD Travel Services)' and with blue discs. N516FRV was new to West Sussex County Council and was offered at Chelmsford auction in 9.03.

STAN'S, Gt.Totham Bedford YNV/Plaxton OIA 419 (ex E245 FLD)

is now VIB4645 (changed on 7.9.04).

Volvo/Van Hool G40 SAV is now OIA 419 (changed on 7.9.04).

Mercedes/Autobus 160 EBK (ex R307 PTE, WLT 852, R307 PTF) is named "Master Kieran".

Bova Futura VWH 836 (ex R927 JYG) is named "Miss Susan".

STANSTED BUS, Stansted RXI 5540 (ex B272 AMG) Ld Tiger/Wright is in (by 8.04) ex 24x7, Elsenham.

STEPHENSONS, Rochford Ex Phoenix Olympians C86/108 CHM and C811 BYY, are being used for spares. When component recovery is complete, they will depart for scrap.

A large batch of Olympians have been acquired from Stagecoach North West, some will enter the fleet whilst others will become dealer stock. Several are already operational. Likely to be kept are C 174/6 ECK, ECW dual purpose and most of C 382/3 SAO and D 380/1/4 XAO, all lowheight Alexanders. B 892/3/5/6/9 UAS may see occasional use, but will be sold as customers arrive

NIL 2450 a Leyland Tiger/Plaxton Paramount 3200 from 1988 vintage has entered the fleet as the reserve coach,

newly retrimmed with 57 seats. It arrived here from First Cymru The company are trying to achieve a completely automatic coach fleet at Rochford as the X1s knock out clutches on manuals at an alarming rate, and this Tiger is automatic which is the reason it has been retained it.

Olympians C28 CHM has been repainted white (ex Phoenix livery) by 9.04, while C81 CHM has an overall livery for 'ASDA' (by 9.04).

Transbus Dart SK02 XGO has 'Witham Link 39' branding (by 9.04).

SWT, South Woodham Ferrers L991 RWC (a reregistration) Renault Traffic Prima / Rt - Holdsworth was offered at Chelmsford auction on 5.7.04. This vehicle has a plate with 'Contract No. FVE22B/1043 3C' and appears to have been new to the R.A.F. (It has RAF followed by numbers etched on several windows.)

TALISMAN, Gt.Bromley H859 PTW (ex 90-D-1048) Leyland Olympian / Alexander Belfast is in (collected

4.8.04) ex Courtney, Bracknell, Berks.

CBV 2S Bristol VR/ECW O../..F is in (8.04) ex Mulley, Ixworth, Suffolk. This was previously with Phoenix, Witham. It was not used by Phoenix or Mulley. The seating is not complete and it is not in use yet with Talisman.

WIL 3636 (ex L564 FND) Scania / Van Hool is in (9.04) ex Aldershot Coaches, Aldershot, Hants. via Vale (dealer), Gt.Kingshill.

THORNS OF RAYLEIGH Rayleigh

FYX 816W is in (by 9.04). This is a Leyland Leopard rebodied by Plaxton. (New to Grey-Green with a Duple body which was burnt out.)

WEST Woodford Green Registration A15 BUS is no longer on the Bova / Duple - the vehicle it is currently on (by 9.04) is thought to be a ? / Plaxton Prima.

Thanks to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston, PSV Circle, Lyn Watson (Stephenson's) and Geoffrey Clarkson (Crusader)

Ian Ransom



Still in the livery of Leisure Travel (Jackson, Baguley), former First Essex Buses 2605 (H605 OVW) was seen by *Keith Shayshutt* in Ballina, Co. Mayo, Eire on 15 September. It is parked outside its driver's house and just about to go off on to afternoon schools. No legal lettering or identity, in typical Irish fashion!

LATEST VEHICLE MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN from

Aintree Coachlines:	<i>Olympian</i> F303JTY, G305UYK.
Arriva Kent Thameside:	<i>Volvo D10M</i> G641CHE, G659DTJ.
Arriva London:	<i>Routemaster</i> RM385/467/531/676/970/1003/1361/ 1398/1593/1734/1801/1811/1822/1872/1978/ 2179/2185/2261/67/2323/30/40/73/80/91/ 2394/2504/18/89/95/2611/17/28/32/35/60/ 66/2708/47.
	<i>Olympian</i> L17/66/217/228/237. <i>Dart</i> DP302.
Arriva Midlands:	<i>Olympian</i> A502/3/4/12EJF. <i>Tiger</i> C141SPB.
	<i>Volvo B10M</i> HJ13652. <i>Volvo D10M</i> A129/33DTO, B134GAU.
Beestons, Hadleigh:	<i>Metrobus</i> M436.
First London:	<i>Routemaster</i> RML2278/2357/2405/2428/2467/ 2490/2498/2501/2506/2522/2530/2542/2559/ 2602/2664/2724.
Go Ahead North East:	<i>Metrobus</i> UTN502Y, A619/20/41/5BCN, C756OCN.
	<i>Olympian</i> B734/43/6-8GCN, C649/50/55LJR, G675/9TCN.
London Central / General:	<i>Metrobus</i> M1220 [last M in the fleet].
	<i>Dennis Dart</i> LDP21.
Stagecoach Darlington:	<i>Volvo B6</i> L103PHN, M104/6PVN, L238CCW, L242/4-6/50/4CCK.
Stagecoach Devon:	<i>Volvo B6</i> M343NOD.
Stagecoach East Midlands:	<i>Olympian</i> A71HEE, A321YWJ, C334HWJ, E915KYR.
	<i>Volvo B6</i> L239CCW, L436LWA. <i>Dominator</i> F75/6TFU.
Stagecoach North East:	<i>Lynx</i> F113YVK. <i>Scania</i> G922TCU, <i>Titan</i> A840SUL.
Stagecoach North West:	<i>Volvo B6</i> L252CCK.

VEHICLES OUT to

Aintree Coachlines:	<i>Routemaster</i> RM1978. <i>Olympian</i> NV19.
BBC, London:	<i>Routemaster</i> RML2513 [This is to be used as a interview area for special guests on the Top Gear TV show].
Beestons, Hadleigh:	<i>Olympian</i> G305UYK.
Bellargio Auto Design, Peterborough:	<i>Routemaster</i> RM1811.
Mr P Betts, Framlingham, Suffolk:	<i>Routemaster</i> RM664.
Blackburn Transport:	<i>Olympian</i> L153/236/248/253/256.
Bluebird, Dublin:	<i>Olympian</i> NV35/8.
Brean and Barrow, Somerset:	<i>Titan</i> CUL83V.
Brent Community Transport:	<i>Volvo B6</i> L239CCW.
Cedrics Coaches, Wivenhoe:	<i>Olympian</i> B748GCN.
Centra Passenger Services, Heathrow:	<i>Olympian</i> L4. <i>Routemaster</i> RM432.
Coastal Liner, Wolverhampton:	<i>Metrobus</i> A620BCN.
Mark Cole, Upminster:	<i>Routemaster</i> RML2589.
Confidence, Leicester:	<i>Olympian</i> A502EJF.

County Coaches, Stockport:
 Chris Cunningham, Camberley:
 Darren Lavery, Slough:
 Dickson Buses, Paisley:
 EMI/Mute records, London:
 Expression Executive Travel,
 Lapley, Staffs:

Mr Eyemi, Sochi, Russia:
 First Group Plc:

Freight Media, Oxon:
 Geldards Coaches, Leeds:
 Gillingham Football Club:
 Halifax Joint Committee:
 Harpurs Coaches, Derby:
 Heavy Load Training, Cockfosters:
 Home Entertainment PLC,
 Peterborough:

Hornsby's Travel, Scunthorpe:
 Imperial, Rainham:
 Mr Jacobs, Harrow:
 Kent Metro Ltd, Rochester:
 Kimes Coaches, Folkingham:
 Mr P Leggitt, Dijon, France:
 "L'ethiket bus", Paris:
 Marshalls Coaches, Leighton Buzzard:
 Matthew Probis, Reading:
 Mediabus, Canning Town:
 Midvent Ltd, Halesowen:
 Mullaney's Coaches, Watford:
 Mute Records, London NW10:
 Mr P Nash, Macclesfield:
 Northern Blue, Burnley:
 Pauls Travel, Huddersfield:
 Toby Prescott, Rochford:
 PVS for scrap:
 Rallybeam Ltd, Suffolk:
 Regal Coaches, Edgware:
 Routemaster Hamar,

Jorn Kolsrad, Norway:
 Royal Jersey Laundry Ltd, London E10:
 Shake it on Ltd, Great Dunmow, Essex:
 Sundial Group, Creaton, Northants:
 Southern Transit, Brighton:
 Southern Vectis, Isle of Wight:

Mr C Steel, London:
 Town and Country, Grays, Essex:

Volvo B6 L242/54CCK.
 Routemaster RML2712.
 Routemaster RM1593.
 Volvo B6 L238CCW, L245CCK.
 Routemaster RML2542.

Routemaster RML2411.
 Routemaster RML2601
 Olympian NV1-7/12, N123UHP,
 N127/9/30YRW.
 Titan T41.
 Metrobus F809/14/24/5YLV.
 Routemaster RML2498/2530.
 Routemaster RML2327.
 Metrobus C756OCN.
 Metrobus M1392.

Routemaster RML2497 [This has been re-
 painted in traditional LT red with fleet-
 numbers and is to be used to promote the
 Disney shops]

Olympian C334HWJ.
 Metrobus M436.
 Metrorider J943JJR.
 Volvo B10M HJ13652.
 Olympian G675/9TCN.
 Routemaster RM676.
 Metrobus M34.
 Volvo D10M H657GPF.
 Routemaster RML2529.
 Metrobus M1059 [for spares].
 Routemaster RML2733.
 Routemaster RML2743.
 Routemaster RML2542.
 Routemaster RM467.
 Volvo B6 L244/9/50/2CCK.
 Dart LDP20.
 Routemaster RML2364.
 Metrobus M684.
 Olympian A683KDV.
 Volvo B6 L256CCK.

Routemaster RML2610.
 Routemaster RML2541.
 Routemaster RM970.
 Routemaster RML2300.
 Metrobus F807YLV.
 Olympian NV11, NV13 [ex-Ensignbus 113]
 NV39.
 Routemaster RM2185.
 Volvo B6 L103GHN, M104/6PVN.

Transit Group, Stansted:

Dart DP302/4/6/8, K370RTY.

Trustline Buses, Essex:

Olympian A503EJF

Western Greyhound, Newquay:

Routemaster RM1822.

Wiltax Buses, Surrey:

Olympian N124YRW.

Olympian L164.

ENSIGNBUS OPERATING FLEET

Bath Bus Co, Bath:

Olympian NV37 [now open top], NV48 [now part open top / fleet no 248].

Cambridge Blue, Cambridge:

Metrobus A646BCN [fleet no 146]

Dave Arnold, with thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus



Ensign have supplied **Town & Country** with three Volvo B6/Plaxton Pointers from the Stagecoach North East fleet. **109** (L103 GHN) lays over at in Grays Town Centre, with the Morrisons Supermarket old world clock-tower in the background. The T&C diagonal style livery is also carried by the former Harris Bus Optare Excels.

The area is much improved, now that the decrepit bus station has been demolished. Bus passengers are served by on-street stands in what was the ring road, now bus/taxi-only. As this is next to Grays rail station, there is easy interchange between travel modes. Bravo, highways and transport planners!

David Harman

From the archives ...



In early postwar years, demand for new buses and coaches outstripped supply, and many new firms were tempted into the market, particularly bodybuilders. If they were bodying vertical-engined chassis, there were plenty of older examples already on the road from which to take design cues. However, when confronted with the first underfloor-engined types, like the Leyland Royal Tiger or the AEC Regal IV, well, some pretty strange shapes resulted.

Rose Bros. of Chelmsford (Primrose Coaches) had ordered a Leyland Royal Tiger with coach body by Thurgood of Ware. This combination entered service in 1951 as No.3 in the Primrose fleet, with registration SEV 814. The Thurgood body was not as ungainly as some, but the shallow windscreen with awkward quarter-pieces (all made of flat glass) and raked front cannot have endeared it much to drivers. The sliding entrance door at

the extreme front, the asymmetric access hatch bearing the registration plate and large trafficators are interesting features.

After Rose Bros. sold out to Eastern National in 1958, No.3 became 015 in the "acquired single-deck" series. It lasted until October 1963, before taking the well-worn path to dealer, Sid Twell's yard at Ingham in Lincolnshire. It subsequently passed locally to Shepardson's of Barton-on-Humber. Curiously, the ex-Westcliff (ordered by City Coach Co.) 1952 Royal Tigers were withdrawn *en masse* slightly earlier. These were on identical chassis but had far more handsome Burlingham Seagull bodies (133-8). Perhaps, someone in the Chief Engineer's department at New Writtle Street had a soft spot for 015.

The photographer is unknown, but the location appears to be Magdalen Street, Colchester, with the Corporation bus garage in the background.

David Harman



PCV HOLDER ?

Full and Part-Time Drivers Required

Stephensons of Essex and our associated company, Excel Passenger Logistics are expanding fast and we have vacancies for drivers at our Rochford, Maldon and Stansted depots.

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services and weekend rail replacement, together with scheduled service work and private hires.

If you're over 25 and have held a PCV Licence for two years or more, we'd like to hear from you.

We offer attractive rates of pay, varied work, and a friendly working environment.

Planning and Schedules Officer required at our Excel Stansted head office.

An exciting opportunity exists for the right person. Whilst we would ideally like someone who can demonstrate experience in these areas, we will also consider anyone who shows the drive and enthusiasm to learn these skills with a view to progression within the group

For more details contact:

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

