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February 2008

ESSEX BUS NEWS



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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272 Shoebury Road
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richard@signal-training.com

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',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
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PUBLICATION SALES

All orders for publications should be sent to:

Owen Woodliffe,
196 Sinclair Road, Chingford,
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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,
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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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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 11 March** - AGM followed by slide show by *Alan Osborne*, "North to Brentwood"
- ▶ **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. *Dave Arnold*

- ▶ **Friday 14 March** - slide show by *Alan Osborne*, "40 Years AGO"
 - ▶ **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
 - ▶ **Friday 11 July** * - slide show by *Dave Arnold*, "2007"
 - ▶ **Friday 8 August** * - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 12 September** - to be advised
 - ▶ **Friday 10 October** - to be advised
- * in upstairs room

cover: 27 December 2007: Under grey skies, **Hedingham Dart L344** (P104 OLX) operating the Thursday only 1020 hrs 342 from Witham to Black Notley, passing through White Notley. *Keith Shayshutt*

- ▶ **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/
- ▶ Note correction to the above events as shown in EBN525 - the Ipswich event is on **Easter Monday**, and Cobham is on a **Sunday**. Sorry for any confusion.

■ TOURS

- ▶ **Tuesday July 15** - evening study tour of the **Kent Fastrack** system, between Gravesend and Dartford, using a dedicated bus and including an explanatory talk from **Arriva Southern Counties**. Joint event with the **Omnibus Society Essex & South Suffolk Group**. This is a free event but pre-booking is essential. Fuller details will be published nearer to the time.

Welcome to new members

We are delighted to welcome the following new members who have joined the Group in recent months:

- 967 **Peter Guest**, Brentwood
- 968 **Christopher Hatley**, Woodford Green
- 969 **M G Hart**, Chelmsford.

As you can see, membership numbers are edging towards the magic 1,000. Can you help recruit that person? If you enjoy Essex Bus News and the benefits of Group membership, tell your friends and encourage them to join!

Incidentally, there are still six members in the Group with membership numbers under 100, and another 11 with numbers in the 100-199 range.

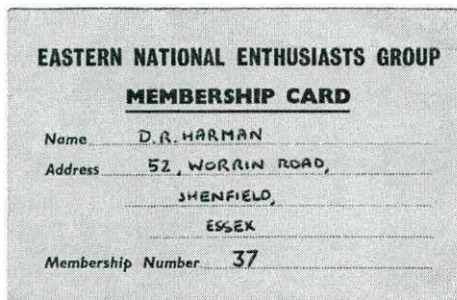
Richard Delahoy

From the Archives

The Group, in its earlier guise as the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group, used to issue membership cards. As one of the six old fogies still in circulation with two-digit membership numbers, here is my one.

We have to move with the times, and membership cards were withdrawn from service years ago (probably when the original supply ran out).

David Harman



Group Matters

SERVICE CHANGES

We are delighted to announce that **Paul Harvey** has now volunteered to edit and compile Service Changes. Many members will know Paul from his many years service on the Committee. Whilst he lives outside the county, he is professionally involved in the transport industry and thus has a wealth of useful contacts. He would still welcome timetable leaflets etc for the smaller operators, and local information on service changes that may escape the official channels. Contact Paul at:

3 Orangewood Close, Gonerby Hill Foot, Grantham, Lincs NG31 8QW

pw.harvey@ntlworld.com

RAIL REPLACEMENT

At the suggestion of Chris Stewart, a new role of Rail Replacement Editor has been created. Given the frequent nature of this work and great variety of operators/vehicles used, it was felt that members would welcome regular reports. Again, we are pleased that a member, **Michael Springett** has kindly offered to take this on. Reports will be welcomed by Michael at:

132 Rosebank Avenue, Elm Park, Hornchurch, Essex RM2 5QS

michael@springett37.orangehome.co.uk

Please support the two new Editors by sending them your contributions!

David Harman

Publicity News

New items include:

Essex County Council leaflets for services 14 and 347 both dated 5.3.07. The 14 is of note as it only has one journey 0640 Staple Tye-Templefields. Timetable booklet for services H1/541 dated 17.11.07

Herts County Council items available are Network Map dated Winter 200/08; Your guide to Explorer dated November 2007 and service changes in Bishops Stortford, Buntingford & Royston dated January 2008

Add unlimited bus travel to your train ticket – A **PlusBus** leaflet dated August 2007

First corporate style folded A4 leaflets for services 5/6/5A dated 23.7.07, 7/8/8A dated 3.9.07, 74/B;75;76;102/3/4 all dated 6.1.08

The following items issued in the last year were available at Harlow Bus Station in late January:-

Arriva timetable booklets for 2&3 dated 13.8.07; 4 dated 13.8.07; 6 dated 15.1.07; 8 dated 13.8.07; 10 dated 13.8.07; 333 dated 13.8.07; 500/1 dated 29.4.07; 505 dated 13.8.07; 510 dated 6.1.08 and **Green Line** 724 dated 19.11.07.

To complete the Arriva area services, no timetable was available for services 1; 10 or 12. A leaflet for the 7 dated 11.4.05 was available. A one page A4 leaflet for services to North Weald Market (521/522/523) dated 5.8.00 was also available. Does this hold a record for the service with the longest period without a timetable change in the county?

Leaflet for **Stansted Shuttle**, giving details of this new service linking Essex with Stansted Airport using Ford Transit minibuses. This is being operated by a new operator The Web Dept Ltd. t/a Sky Transfers based in Basildon.

Ian Ransom

New bus stop flags have been installed along Stephenson's service 61 in Southend. The previous temporary type is illustrated right; this last example is outside B&Q, Southchurch.

The new ones incorporate a "move easy" logo, about which nothing is known - there is nothing at all on the web, plus the SMS text code for the stop. Unfortunately, the code, "soadjdpj" doesn't appear on Traveline as the code for Sutton Cemetery on service 61 (or 60). The nearest is "soadgmwd". Not very impressive!

(photos: Ian Banks)

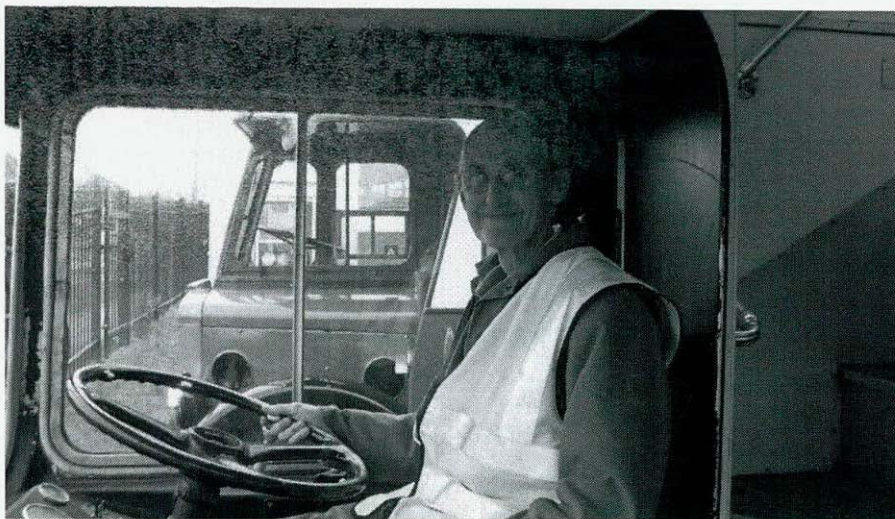
Pictured in January 2008, is an Eastern National bus stop flag that has survived the ravages of time. It is still in situ outside the Marlborough Head Hotel, Mill Lane, Dedham.

The Marlborough Head was once famous as being the location of an ENOC outstation. This is quoted as Marlborough Road in the PSV Circle Fleet History for ENOC 1930-1945 (2PF4). Is this an error?

Keith Shayshutt



Concessionary bus fares from 1 April



"Excuse me, Driver - am I too early?"

From 1 April, the new **English National Concessionary Travel Scheme** takes effect, replacing the current scheme which has been running since 1 April 2006. The major change is that Essex passholders will be able to travel free on buses not just within the county, but throughout England, between 09.30 and 23.00 hrs, Monday-Friday, and at any time on other days.

Buses in London are included but travel by London Underground, Overground, DLR, Tramlink and River Services is not. There is no entitlement to free travel in Wales or Scotland (or in Northern Ireland, the IOM and the Channel Islands), except where local arrangements for 'cross-border' travel have been made.

The statutory entitlement applies to "Local Bus Services" only, with other exclusions as at present: community bus services and express coach services (except where these are registered in part or in full as Local Bus Services), contract buses, tram, light rail and metro systems, the National Rail network, ferries and taxis.

As now, local authorities may offer 'enhanced' schemes to include any of the above exclusions, but only their 'own' passholders

will be entitled to the enhanced concession, and only within the specific local authority area. Any such enhancements must be funded from local, as opposed to central Government funds.

Currently, all the Essex local authorities work together with the County Council and with Southend-on-Sea Borough Council (unitary authority) to offer an enhanced scheme. This allows free travel between 09:00 and midnight, Monday Friday (and at any time on other days) across the county, except in Thurrock. Thurrock Council (unitary) has its own scheme with the same time limits, but free travel is restricted to the Thurrock area only.

So far, none of the Essex local authorities have said whether they will continue (and, therefore fund) 09.00 to midnight travel, M-F.

Elsewhere, it is a mixed picture. Some local authorities have dropped enhancements; others are committed to continuing them. A factor in this appears to be that the Government is refusing to grant extra cash to overcome any funding shortfall under the present concessionary regime if the local authority concerned is offering anything above the statutory entitlement.

David Harman

Service Changes

Arriva Southend

30 March 08	5	M-S	Southend to Basildon: revised route and timetable.
	7/8	D	Shoeburyness to Rayleigh: revised route and timetable.
	13	M-S	Southend to Temple Sutton: revised timetable.

First

2 Mar 08	61	D	Colchester to Wivenhoe: new Sunday service introduced.
	62	D	Colchester to Wivenhoe: revised Sunday timetable with afternoon journeys starting and terminating at Head Street.
	65	D	Highwoods to Stanway: revised Monday to Friday timetable.
	66/A	D	West Bergholt to Rowhedge: revised Monday to Friday Timetable on 66A

National Express

3 Mar 08	305	D	Southend to Birmingham and Liverpool: revision of bank and public holiday operations.
	481	D	Felixstowe to London: revised timetable.
	484	D	Walton-on-Naze to London: revised timetable
	717	D	Cambridge Madingley to Brighton via Stansted Airport: revised timetable.
	727	D	Norwich to Gatwick Airport via Stansted Airport: revised timetable.
	737	D	Stansted Airport to Oxford: revised route and timetable.
	767	D	Stansted Airport to Nottingham: revision to bank and public holiday operations.
	777	D	Stansted Airport to Wolverhampton via Birmingham: revised timetable.
	797	D	Cambridge to Gatwick Airport via Stansted Airport: revised timetable.
27 Mar 08	717	D	Cambridge Madingley to Brighton via Stansted Airport
	727	D	Norwich to Gatwick Airport via Stansted Airport
	797	D	Cambridge to Gatwick Airport via Stansted Airport 717/727/797 withdrawn from Heathrow Airport Terminal 4 and now operate via Terminal 5.

Regal Busways

4 Jan 08	3/A	M-F	Southend to Oxney Green via Chelmsford: revised timetable.
4 Feb 08	502	M-F	Ongar to Harlow: revised timetable.

Richmond Coaches

2 Jan 08	26	Th	Revised to operate between Berden, Manuden and Bishops Stortford under contract to Essex County Council
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Stephensons of Essex

11 Mar 08	504	Sch	Wickham Bishops to Southend High School: amended Route and timetable.
	514	Sch	Hatfield Peverel to Westcliff High School: amended timetable.

Paul Harvey

Rail Replacement

6th January One: Billericay to Laindon

Covered by Ensignbus, using: Metrobuses (173,175 noted) Spectras (104 noted). There was also a replacement service running from Billericay through to Brentwood, I believe, again by Ensignbus, using various Volvo Olympians and Spectras

20th January c2c: Barking to Grays, Upminster to Pitsea, via Grays

Covered by Ensignbus, using: Spectras (102, 103, 104, 106 noted of which 102 and 104 still in Reading Transport DayTrack / Night Track livery) Volvo Olympian / Alexander Royale (127 noted in service, 129 duplicated Spectra 102 on an early morning trip from Barking as a route learning vehicle.) Metrobus (175 noted) Dart / Marshall 723 was at Upminster, (parked, not on the 73) but did not appear to be in service.

Forthcoming Rail Replacement Services:

Sat 9th - Sun 10th Feb	one	Wickford - Southend Victoria
Sat 9th - Sun 10th Feb	one	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze
Sun 10th Feb	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham
	c2c	Upminster - Pitsea via Ockendon
	one	Between Brentwood, Shenfield and Southend Victoria
	one	Between Billericay and Chelmsford
	one	Between Romford and Chelmsford
	one	Chelmsford - Shenfield
Sat 16th - Sun 17th Feb	one	Colchester - Liverpool Street (Direct)
	c2c	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze
	c2c	Upminster - Leigh-on-Sea
Sat 23rd - Sun 24th Feb	one	Stanford-Le-Hope - Leigh-on-Sea
	c2c	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze
Sun 24th Feb	one	Upminster - Pitsea (via Basildon)
		Cheshunt and Hertford East - Stansted Airport
Sun 2nd March	one	Marks Tey and Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 8th - Sun 9th Feb	c2c	Barking - Pitsea via Laindon
Sat 8th - Sun 9th Feb	c2c	Leigh-on-Sea to Shoeburyness
Sun 9th March	one	Marks Tey and Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 15th - Sun 16th Feb	c2c	Barking - Pitsea via Laindon
	c2c	Leigh-on-Sea to Shoeburyness
Sun 16th March	one	Marks Tey and Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Fri 21st - Sun 23rd (Easter)	one	Ingatstone - Romford
	one	Ingatstone - Shenfield - Gidea Park
Sun 23rd March	one	Colchester - Clacton / Walton-on-Naze
	one	Ingatstone - Newbury Park
Sat 29th - Sun 30th March	LU District Line	East Ham - Upminster
Sun 30th March	one	Witham - Shenfield
	one	Colchester - Liverpool Street (Direct)
	one	Chingford - Liverpool Street
	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	one	Marks Tey and Colchester / Clacton / Manningtree / Ipswich
Sat 12th - Sun 13th April	c2c	Barking - Grays via Rainham
	c2c	Chafford Hundrea and Pitsea via Tilbury
	one	Wickford - Southminster
Sat 19h - Sun 20th April	LU District Line	Barking - Upminster
Sat 26h - Sun 27th April	LU District Line	Dagenham East - Upminster
Sat 10h - Sun 11th May	LU District Line	Barking - Upminster
Sat 17h - Sun 18th May	LU District Line	Barking - Upminster
Sat 31st - Sun 1st June	LU District Line	Barking - Upminster
Sun 22nd June	LU Central Line	Woodford - Hainault / Loughton

Michael Springett



■ FIRST ESSEX

Allocation changes

Period 10: 31 December 2007 to 27 January 2008

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

(A)=acquired, including vehicles on loan; Anc=Ancillary fleet; (S)=spare/retained (licensed);

D/L(S)=spare/retained (delicensed); D/L(D)=delicensed for disposal;

DS=Driving School; PS=Paint Spare

34311 CN-CR; 34314 CN-CR; 53138 DT-CN

Note that Clacton no longer has any double deckers allocated, quite possibly for the first time in its history.

Correction to Allocation List in EBN525:

Delete reference to 46186 and 51804/5/7 under BN; 46186 correctly shown at CN.

Repaints (Period 10):

65685 53128 41015 41016 65686 53129

Other Vehicle News:

43717/9/20 now have LED destination screens.

The loaned Primo was returned on 24th January, both 57001/2 now having received chassis modifications at Plaxtons.

Vehicle workings and sightings:

Rail Replacements

Planned work over the weekend of 9th and 10th February was due to see the following:

Saturday 9th Clacton to Colchester: 3 x Olympian (2 DT, one CR)

Colchester North to Colchester Town: 1 x Volvo B12T

Sunday 10th Romford/Shenfield to Chelmsford & Billericay to Ingatestone: 8 x Olympian (2 HH, 2 BN & 4 CR), 6 x Scania (2 BN, 2 CF, 2 CR) and 6 x Dart (2 HH, 4 CF)

Clacton to Thorpe le Soken: 3 x Lance (CN)

Chelmsford & Braintree

January	5th	Green CF47252 and CF60103 on 352
	14th	CF42919 on 618, CF53129 on 351 (07.27 from BD Station)
	21st	CF43730 and CF43731 on 42, 47-branded CF53133 on 45, CF46179 on 352
	23rd	Olympian CF34807 on 36
	24th	CF34815 on afternoon 352 (inbound and then 14.45 to Halstead)
	25th	CF43729 on 37
	26th	CF43729 on 30, BE46824 on 47
	28th	CF46116 on 352
	29th	CF34807 on lunchtime 352
	30th	CF42923 on p.m. 36 (still with confused destination display for 42 Galleywood), CF42485 on 33 and CF43729 on 42
February	2nd	CF53137 on 31 (22.15 ex CD)

Colchester, Clacton & Harwich

Members have kindly provided more detailed information on the Clacton depot low floor ECC workings. On Mondays to Fridays, an unbranded 02/03-reg CR Scania takes over from a CN Lance on the 17.05 CR-CN, works the 19.00 and 21.00 CN-CR North Station 74Bs and returns to CN. The Lance stays in CR overnight and is swapped over when the 06.30 CN-CR 74 arrives. On Saturdays, the Scania works all day on the 74 starting with the 06.45 CN-CR and finishing with the 17.35 CR-CN, after which it works the two 74Bs mentioned above. On Sundays it works all day on the 76, returning to CR Monday morning.

With reference to EBN525, CN no longer work through to Maldon on the 75 - thus severing an arrangement which possibly goes back to the 1970s, when CN, CR, MN and SD all worked the 19 (CN-SD). CR depot now work all of the 75 except the 16.30 and 17.40 CR-Tiptree and return, which is a CN vehicle running in dead off the 15.35 Bishops Hall Park-Jaywick school service 10. CN operate all service 76 journeys (not CR).

De-branded ex 64/A T-SSF Scania 65650-4 continue to appear daily on 64/A (except Suns/hols), but will often be seen on other routes (especially 65, some 70 peak workings, and 88B). De-branded ex 66 V-GPU SLF/ALXs 43739-44 continue to appear daily on 66/A (except Suns/hols), and also often appear on 61, 64/A, 65, 67C, 70 peak workings). The debranded ex 64/A & 65 02/03-reg Scania Solars now intermix daily on 64/A and 65, the latter alongside those still 65 branded.

All 02/03-reg Scania/Solars are used on all Sun/hol routes from CR (under ECC contract).

De-branded ex 61 SLF/Pointers 43715/6 now appear on a wide variety of routes from CR.

The appearance of step entrance Darts and Lances on 64/A, 65 and 66/A is now noticeably less, since many LFs have been de-branded, but they still appear quite often. However, it is now unusual to see 'deckers' on 64/A, 65 or 66/A.

January	2nd	CF34815 on CR88 (covering for failed CR34310)
	10th	CR46820 on CN75 CR-TE shorts (one day loan)
	18th	DT43800 on 10/11, BN46183 on 103/104
	19th	DT43800 again on 10/11 (DT spare for Village Link 3 & 4)
	27th	CR62408 on X22 (replacing failed CR60031)
	28th	DT60102 on CN76
	29th	CR34290 on DT103/104 (p.m.)
	30th	CN67013 on DT104 (p.m.), CR65687 on 17.35 CR-CD 71

Other News

Correction to EBN525: The *First London* Trident borrowed by *First Essex* was mistakenly given as 33022 whereas it was in fact 33122 (LT02NVL).

First Group Bluebird Yellow School Bus publicity/demonstration vehicle 68000 (Q275LBA) was in Colchester High Street on 22nd January as part of a nationwide tour (www.firstgroup.com/YSB/index.html) to promote the concept further and seek feedback.

Former Essex 'short' Dart 46103 (K913CVW) was reported still active in mid-January with

First in Worcester.

VR 3112 (XIL2154, XHK217X), latterly with Flagfinders, has gone to *Totally Transport* of Blackpool for possible open-top conversion (and appears to have reverted to its original registration). Much older 2717 (97TVX), one of the first batch of FLFs delivered in 1960, was photographed recently in a derelict state in PVS' scrapyards at Carlton (see <http://bcv.robbsly.com/97tvx.html>) having last been used by a Church Group in Yorkshire. It went to Eastern Counties from EN and was converted to become their Driving Trainer X67.

First Aircoach 23016 (04-D-74479, YN54APO), one of the Scania coaches used briefly on the X30 when the route was introduced, suffered serious damage on 31st January after skidding off the road at Michelstown between Dublin and Cork.

Ex EN Mercedes 709s H390OHK, L643GVX and L655MEV have now left the Jobserve fleet. Latterly stored at Kelvedon, L655MEV is thought to have been sold for further use and the others for scrap.

Sources: Own observations, with many thanks to *First Essex* and to A Bird, T Clark, J Clayton, D Edwards, M Farmer, I Hardie, K Mead, G Norris, J Podgorski, D Pretty, J Salmon, 'Solo', 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* (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

In addition to major disruption to travel (and loads of replacement buses) from planned works outside Liverpool Street and on the route out to Shenfield over the whole of Christmas and New Year, a signal failure between Chelmsford and Witham on 28th December meant emergency rail replacements were needed by 'One' railway. Amongst them was First Essex VR 38790 (KOO790V), displaying 1 (One - get it?) at Shenfield Station at 16:40. *Chris Stewart*



■ ARRIVA SOUTHEND LIMITED

Dennis Lance 3379 (M269 VPU) has been withdrawn following fire damage (see EBN525). This leaves just one Lance left in the fleet at Southend – 3384 (M764 JPA) new to Southend Transport in January 1995.

Dennis Dominator K37 XNE is now with Ace Travel, Liverpool.

Service changes from 30th March will see Grays routes 373 (Grays – Upminster) and 383 (Ockendon – Basildon) withdrawn. Service 5 (currently Southend – Basildon) will be extended hourly via the 383 route to Lakeside as a partial replacement. Two Dart SLFs will be transferred from Grays to Southend to meet the increased PVR at Southend as a result of the extension of the 5. Also from this date, operation of Sundays only routes 44 and 150 will pass from Grays to Southend depot.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Matthew Arnold, David Harman and John Podgorski, and the Crosville Enthusiasts Club Review.



Three of these Alexander Dennis Enviro E200s were ordered for the 498, but with a change of operator to First London from this Summer their use on it will be short-lived. **Arriva Southern Counties 3998** is seen in Brentwood High Street (the old 'White Horse' stop, now KFC) on 5th January. *Chris Stewart*

Vehicles Out

To Haverhill

219 (G619 OTV) Volvo Citybus/ Alexander

346 (F246 MTW) Leyland Olympian.

As mentioned last month 346 was the last remaining bus which had originated in the Colchester Borough Transport fleet.

Vehicle Workings

Dart SLFs have been regularly appearing on 83/175 instead of the usual Solos.

Ex Wiltax DAFs 131/3 were initially used only on schools, rail replacement and private charters. 133 was first seen in stage service on 26th January when it operated 2s all day complete with fully programmed destinations displays and was subsequently seen working on the 2 on the 31st January and the 8A on the 1st February.

Unusual Sightings

Jan 22nd 309 on 83

31st 387 on 1 and 528 on 83/175

Correction to Unusual Sightings in EBN525: Dec 7th should read 302 on 83 not 303.

Other News

Further to EBN525, the closure of Mersea Road between St Botholphs Circus and Napier Road, is southbound only, and will be in force from 28th January to 20th March 2008.

Dart SLF 367 is currently 'off the road' with accident damage.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Podgorski and Essex Bus y-group.



Heddingham

Vehicle update

The last two ex Dublin Olympians together with the ex Lothian Olympian are being converted to single door operation.

L362 has already been completed in the workshops at Sible Heddingham. L363 is halfway through its conversion and full repaint.

L357, the ex Lothian Olympian was converted in Sudbury workshops and is about to be fully repainted into fleet livery at Sible Heddingham.

On 21/22 January, Heddingham Road, Halstead was closed to traffic in the vicinity of Haistead Hospital whilst contractors relaid the road surface. Journeys on Service 89 were diverted via Gosfield corner to gain access to the High Street. As they entered the town from the wrong direction it was necessary for buses to operate via Fenn Road and Colchester Road before resuming the normal route. This added some five minutes to the journey time. Attached photograph shows the first ex Dublin converted to single door in our own workshops at Sible Heddingham.

Disposals

Bedford / Plaxton bus L136 D136XVW is now registered DBY 451 on Malta. (Photo courtesy Kevin Smith)

With thanks to D R MacGregor of Heddingham Omnibuses and Kevin Smith



■ DEALER STOCK MOVEMENTS

Vehicles in

from

Brighton and Hove: Dart J980 JNJ.
Galleon Travel, Harlow: Volvo B10M's J894/5 CEV.
Goomies Travel: Lances L404/5 BFX.
Imperial Buses: T214.
Metroline: M1.
Stagecoach South East: Dart K580 NHC.
Travel with Hunny: Olympian F41 XCS.

Vehicles out

to:

Darts S517/9 KFL: **A2Z Travel**, Walsall.
Lances L404/5BFX: **Geoff Amos Coaches**, Eydon, Northants.
Olympian S130 RLE: **Atbus**, Ashford, Middx.
Darts J53 EDM, K56 LLG, M165 XMA: **Best Bus**, Crewe, Cheshire.
L173: **Blackpool Transport**, converted to open top.
Olympian E916 DRD: **Eastonways**, Ramsgate, Kent.
Dart K59 LLG: **Galleon Travel**, Harlow, Essex.
Mercedes 709 N661 SS and Metrobuses F761/2 EKM: **Hardy Miles**, Southend, Essex.
Dublin Olympian 91-D-1068 now H760PVW with
Holloway, Scunthorpe, Lincs.
Dart R710 MEW: **Imperial**, Rainham, Essex.



Former Ensignbus Metrobuses **E761/2 EKM** (new to East Kent Road Car) are now in the fleet of **Hardy Miles**. They were photographed in a new yard in Aviation Way, behind Southend Airport. It seems that this may replace the other premises in Purdys Way in due course.

Ian Banks

M1437: **Over The Top Travel**, Faversham, Kent.
 Olympian C615LFT and T214: **P & M Coaches**, Wickford, Essex.
 Darts K414 FHJ, M69 CYJ: **Regal Busways**, Chelmsford.
 Mercedes 811's R107/10 NTA: **S & A Coaches**, Renfrew.
 Olympian G183 JHG: **Stephensons**, Rochford, Essex.
 Volvo B10M's J894/5CEV: **Travelmasters**, Sheerness.
 Volvo D10M F306 MYJ: **Travel With Hunny**, Ipswich.

 Olympian G554VBB: **Croydon Council**.
 Olympian J842 TSC: **Prospect Education Technology Trust**, Putney.

■ ENSIGN BUS Co., Purfleet

Acquired vehicles

Darts R864/76 MCE have been converted to single door, painted into fleet livery, numbered 764/776 and are now in service.

Disposals

Metrobus 157 to PVS for scrap
 Metrobuses 161 and 162 to Hardy Miles, Southend.

General

Almex A90 ticket equipment was replaced by the Wayfarer TGX150 system late last year.

■ ENSIGN MUSEUM., Purfleet

M1, London's first Metrobus has been acquired for restoration.

David Harman, with thanks to Ross Newman, Ensignbus



Dennis Dart/Plaxton J304 WHJ has been withdrawn.

Ian Ransom



Liveries

Some of the latest Levantes are running in plain white, prior to application of the new Nat Ex livery.

General

Coaches are now receiving branding on their front bodysides, showing the logos of Wembley Stadium and the England Football Team. Nat Ex is their Official Travel Partner.
 (This only seems to apply to those vehicles directly operated by Nat Ex Ops, ie not contractors).

Traffic

On the evening of 25/1/08, a lorry fire on the northbound A12 at Ferring caused tailbacks back to Boreham. There were severe delays to Felixstowe bound 481 and Walton bound 484s.

John Podgorski

■ **STEPHENSONS OF ESSEX LTD., Rochford**

Newly acquired via Ensign is Leyland Olympian / Alexander G183 JHG, ex-Stagecoach Devon, but new to Stagecoach Ribble.

■ **EXCEL PASSENGER LOGISTICS LTD., Stansted**

Former Lincoln Leyland Olympian KTL 43Y was reacquired last year.

■ **EXCEL GATWICK LTD., Gatwick**

The Neoplan Skyliner acquired from Silver Coachlines is now in stock. Further details next month.

Ian Ransom with thanks to Lyn Watson

Following the purchase of Fargo, an increasing number of Excel/SoE vehicles are appearing on school contract work in North Chelmsford. Stephenson's Olympian 905 (G305 UYK) laying over between duties opposite John Salmon's home in Little Waltham is typical of vehicles now in use for Chelmer Valley High School and John Payne Catholic School services. *John Salmon*



Imperial Bus Company

Metroline DMS10 (R710MEW) Dennis Dart SLF/Marshall now with Imperial (via Ensign) in their light (almost NBC leaf) green with cream band, first seen on 269 in late January.

From Dave Stewart of LOTS: the original DMS10 (EGP10J), Daimler Fleetline CRG6LXB, also went to Ensign - and was soon sent off for scrap, being scrapped 10/82. Unlike some DMSs, though, it did have a fairly long service life with LT- almost 11 years, from 1/71 when it was one of the first ones on the 220, until withdrawn finally (from Merton) in 11/81.

Chris Stewart

Trustline Buses / Galleon Travel

Fleet list as at 21 January

<i>no.</i>	<i>reg. no.</i>	<i>chassis</i>	<i>body</i>	<i>seats</i>	<i>livery</i>
DPL1	LN03 AYL	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton Pointer	B37F	TL
DPL2	LN03 AYM	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton Pointer	B37F	TL
DPS3	EU04 BZY	ADL Dart SLF	Plaxton Pointer	B29F	TL
DML4	AE55 MVL	ADL Dart SLF	MCV Evolution	B40F	TL
DML5	AE55 VGD	ADL Dart SLF	MCV Evolution	B40F	TL
DMA7	AE06 HBU	ADL Dart SLF	MCV Evolution	DP33F	TL
DMA8	AE06 HBX	ADL Dart SLF	MCV Evolution	DP33F	TL
DES9	LK07GTF	ADL Dart SLF	Enviro 200	B29F	TL
51	J51 EDM	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
58	K58 LLG	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
59	K59 LLG	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
61	L61 PDM	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
63	L63 SFM	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
64	L64 SFM	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
92	K92 BNY	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B35F	TL
123	H123 MOB	Dennis Dart	Carlyle	B28F	TL
133	H133 MOB	Dennis Dart	Carlyle	B28F	TL
150	M150 HPL	Dennis Dart	Plaxton Pointer	B40F	TL
159	N159 MTG	Mercedes 709D	UVG	B27F	TL
721	H721 PVW	Leyland Olympian	Aleander	H78F	TL
764	H764 PVW	Leyland Olympian	Aleander	H78F	TL
820	J820 CEV	Leyland Olympian	Aleander	H78F	TL

Coach Fleet

CKY	YN06 CKY	Scania	Irizar PB	C49F	b
CEX	YN53 CEX	Scania 114	Irizar Cenury	C49F	b
GHH	YN53 GHH	Scania 114	Berkhof Axial	C74F	w
LFT	YN07 LFT	Scania 114	Irizar Century	C49F	b
NFY	WX05 NFY	MAN	Ayats Bravo	C76F	w

Withdrawn / stored

10	P10 TLS	MAN 11.190	Optare Vecta	B39F	TL	awaiting engine
125	TPD 125X	Leyland Olympian	Roe	B72F	aa	stored, serviceable
452	GUW 452W	Leyland National	East Lancs Greenway	B26D	AP	stored, serviceable
505	GUW 505W	Leyland National	East Lancs Greenway	B26D	AP	stored, serviceable
844	P844 KOT	Dennis Dart SLF	UVG	B39F	TL	awaiting MOT
EXO	481 EXO	Neoplan Skyliner	Neoplan		w	for sale (Bob Vale)

livery: TL = Trustline Buses
AP = Airport
w = white
b = burgundy
aa = as acquired

Ian Ransom, with thanks to Stephen Stapleton

Small Operator News

ACME TRANSPORT Molehill Green

Acquired from St Margarets Minibus, Ware is T950 TUM a Mercedes Benz 614D/Crest

AJS MINIBUS Harlow

Here from new, but only just reported is MV53 GRZ a Mercedes Benz Sprinter

AMBER Rayleigh

Leyland Royal Tiger PJJ 3531 (D162 HML) and Leyland Tiger/Plaxton OIB 3513 (A454 HPY) have been withdrawn. LDV 400 N741 FKX is back in use. Mercedes Benz 609D/Made to Measure J606 KGB has been sold.

APT Rayleigh

Setra S215H USU 487 (C313 UPC), Bova Futura L336 PWX and Scania K94/Van Hool V20 YAL have all been sold recently

BLUE DIAMOND Harlow

Mercedes Benz 709D/Dormobile K543 OGA has been withdrawn

CATTON TRAVEL Harlow

Ford Transits M696 SKP and T61 MAW have been sold

CHELMSFORD TAXIBUS

Vehicles sold are Fiat Ducato EU03 EFS and Ford Transit EY54 NXE

EAGLES TRAVEL Harlow

Ford Transit N161 JLD has been acquired from Catton, Harlow

FARGO Rayne

A further non-PSV Ford Transit acquired recently is DU55 DWV

FLAGFINDERS Braintree

It is believed that XIL 1254 (XHK 217X) has gone to Totally Transport and will be converted to open top for a commercial project. Mercedes Benz Sprinter/Stamford GK03 JUC has been acquired from R&A Minibus, Gillingham, Kent

FST COACHES Basildon

Now rare Ford R1114/Plaxton WVM 101S has been withdrawn

KINGS Stanway

Bova Futura FHD12-340 T222 ABC has been sold to Moseley (dealer), Taunton

LINKFAST Thundersley

Mercedes Benz 709D/Alexander N316 XRP has been withdrawn

LODGE High Easter

Volvo B10M/Plaxton LUI 9295 (L82 YBB) has been acquired from JLA Travel, Enfield. Setra S210H 743 RUR (M412 MPD) has gone to JC Coaches, Newark

LOGIC Nazeing

NIW 8795 (A655 UGD) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton previously reported as sold, is still here. Acquired from Readybus, Ruislip is DX04 WKV a BMC 850. Dennis Javelin/Berkhof P898 FMO has been reregistered JOE 44L.

M&E Rochford

Bristol VR/ECW GTX 750W has been withdrawn

MILESTONE Canvey Island

Scania K113/Berkhof J735 JKO (J5 KFC) has been sold to Global Travel, Kidsgrove.

NCS Widdington

Sold are Renault Traffic M341 AJN and Peugeot Boxer N134 OBO

OLYMPUS Harlow

Dennis Javelin/Duple F683 CYC has been reregistered FIG 2843. Dennis Dart/Plaxton K714 KGU is back in use. Iveco 59-12/Marshall L723 PHK and M731 AOO have been sold

PROMPT CARS Maylandsea

Please delete the reference to VW Transporter minibus YR02 WLC as being acquired.

STANSTED COACH & CARRIAGE Duck End

LDV Convoy S797 JPR was acquired last year, but has now been withdrawn

SUPREME Southend

Acquired from the former Crown fleet is LUI 5561 (P564 XNW) a Bova Futura 12-340. Also acquired is LDV Convoy P499 GOL

THORNS OF ESSEX Rayleigh

Rare ACE Puma/Van Hool D164 TCX has been withdrawn

TOWNCARS Clacton-on-Sea

Renault Master HX05 HDO has been sold

VICEROY Saffron Walden

W368 EOL a Mercedes 0404/Hispano previously reported as sold, is still here

WICKFORD COACHES Rayleigh

Acquired from Basildon Travel, Rayleigh is D279 RBV a Bedford YMP/Plaxton

YELLO Braintree

Ford Transit N962 VEG has been withdrawn

Ian Ransom

Thanks to Dave Arnold, Colin Sigston, Chris Stewart, PSV Circle and Essex Bus y-group

Buses on Foulness



A private tour to Foulness was arranged on 9th December 2007, using preserved Southend Transport National 713 (LPB 218P), which was new to London Country. Pictures by Chris Stewart, show 713 at the George & Dragon, Foulness, with a nice row of stone mushrooms (above), a once familiar sight - the Leyland-National rear; Rayleigh Station (below), and Battlesbridge (overleaf).





The George & Dragon closed on 6 January, which means that the method of getting permission to go onto the Island (by phoning up the landlord and asking to visit the pub) is no longer feasible. To mark the occasion, Stephenson's put ex-United Counties Olympian/Alexander 721 (F621 MSL) on service 14 on the 5th, in place on the usual Dart (MPD). The day was supported by about 20 enthusiasts, plus several members of the Campaign for Real Ale (Camra).





opposite: Stephenson 721 passes through Foulness Church End with the 11.15 Foulness (Court End) to Southend above: The terminus of route 14 at Foulness Court End, about to depart with the 14.17 to Southend. (photos: Peter Mansbridge)

below: a reminder of past days on service 18: a Westcliff JO5G in Southend. (Roy Marshall)



Preservation Notebook



Just over 30 years since withdrawal from Eastern National service, and after several years' intensive work at Canvey by Craig Mara (latterly assisted by Ian Mahoney), the unique prototype LDL6G 2510 (236LNO) passed its MOT on 5th January 2008. Seen here passing through its 'home' territory of Brentwood, where it spent 14 years of its working life, there are some bodywork items outstanding but, with the main mechanical rebuild complete, the plan is probably for a quick repaint while Craig concentrates on his other major project, 'Queen Mary' L6B coach PTW110.

2510 currently carries the front cowl from a later Lodekka, installed very near the end of its time with EN (and with the fleetnumber plate exactly as it is now, not quite square!). Photographs suggest it has carried at least 3 different front cowls - no doubt necessitated by accident damage. And, although not visible here, the rear destination blinds were panelled over and will be reinstated in due course, along with other missing 1959 features.

photo by Chris Stewart, with thanks to Craig Mara and Ian Mahoney

Opposite: Another Canvey resident: VR 3000, standing outside the depot.

Ian Banks (see also page 4).



The Essex bus ... in print

Great British Bus Journeys ~ Travels through unfamous places

David McKie Atlantic Books (www.groveatlantic.co.uk)

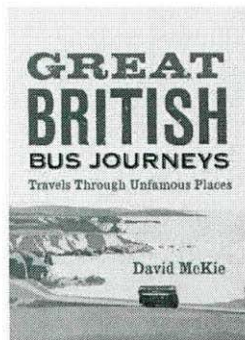
ISBN 1 84354 132 7

Chapter 4 describes his journeys in the footsteps of Attila the Hun which includes his amusing experiences travelling on **Heddingham** route 59 from Haverhill to Audley End via Helions Bumpstead.

In Chapter 5, his travels to Bradwell from South Woodham foundered due to **Fords** of Althorne's fortnightly service being on the wrong week, so the bus took him to Burnham instead. But he reached his objective, the 7th Century church of St Peter on the Wall, thanks to **Arriva's** driver of Village Link B, whom he praises as 'a prince amongst bus drivers' due to his outstanding assistance.

There are 23 other fascinating tales and observations on routes to unlikely locations, including Lincolnshire's feeder routes - topical in view of April's speaker. This book is also a cautionary lesson for any bus driver - you never know who may be on board and a momentary deed (or misdeed) could well be recorded for posterity.

This is a very different type of bus book (not a photo of a bus in sight), but one I would recommend for your wish list if you enjoy a good, unusual read that keeps you in anticipation of what is on the next page.





ROOF MOUNTED LUGGAGE RACKS

Roof mounted luggage racks – a throwback to the horse drawn stage coach – were a common enough feature of coaches and single deck buses (Eastern National's included) during the 1930s but after the Second World War it was really only Royal Blue which perpetuated the practice in any numbers, up until their 1953 Bristol LS6Gs (OTT registrations). One EN MW5G 'luxury' (to use the proper ECW terminology), though, was fitted with an outside rack in 1960 for Coach/Air work to and from Southend Airport; 490 (1254EV) had been delivered new in September 1959 and entered service from the coach/contract depot at Prittlewell (PL) the following month, staying there until at least July 1961 and later working from Southend (SD). There is, however, some doubt whether the rack was ever used, and indeed this rear shot indicates there were no external steps fitted. The advent of the 36'

RELH coaches in 1964, with their large underfloor lockers, probably rendered the whole concept redundant anyway.

Renumbered as 1406 in 1964, 1254EV had moved to Clacton by then and from there went on loan to Tillings Transport at King's Cross for a month in May 1965. It moved again to Brentwood (BD) in June and then on to Chelmsford in October 1966, where it stayed for most or all of its remaining life. The roof luggage rack was removed in August 1967, simply redundant, damaged or problematical, perhaps with water leakage. Now indistinguishable from its sisters, 1406 eventually gained NBC green (occasionally being seen again in BD on loan covering vehicles in works) before withdrawal in 1976 and eventual disposal in February 1978.

CS with thanks to Terry Clark, DRH



Chapel Street, Billericay - 5th September 1976. Chris Stewart

— The —
National Omnibus & Transport
 Company, Limited.

HEAD OFFICE: 206, BROMPTON ROAD, S.W.3.

**GENERAL RULES AND
 REGULATIONS**

FOR

Drivers and Conductors

OPERATING

PROVINCIAL SERVICES

Private Hire Work, etc.

The Company reserve full power to alter, or amend
 these Rules from time to time.

For List of Depots see pages 55 and 56.

dated 1st August 1927

22. Penalties.—The attention of employees is directed to the following legal penalties in connection with the rules of the road :—

- (1) When meeting other vehicles; not keeping to the left or near side of the roadway. Penalty £10.
- (2) Wilfully preventing other vehicles or persons from passing, or by negligence or misbehaviour preventing free passage of other vehicles, and not keeping to the near side to allow such passage. Penalty £10.
- (3) By loitering or wilful misbehaviour causing obstruction, or stopping the omnibuses opposite to the end of any street or any place where foot passengers usually walk, except in cases of accident or other unavoidable necessity. Penalty £1.
- (4) Wilfully interrupting any public crossing or causing obstruction. Penalty £2.
- (5) Wilfully obstructing any tramcar. Penalty £5.
- (6) Failing to stop in case of any accident to any person, horse or vehicle owing to presence of omnibus. Penalty, first offence, £10; second offence, £20; subsequent offence, £20, or one month's imprisonment.
- (7) Not stopping at request of constable in uniform, or on his putting up his hand in signal to stop, or at request of any person in charge of a horse and/or cattle. Penalty £17.

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 Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

NEW!!! > Driver vacancies at our new Witham Depot - Full and Part time

Full and Part time drivers are needed for school services, weekend rail replacement, together with 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.

> **FULL AND PART-TIME PCV FITTERS**

We also have vacancies for experienced fitters at our Maldon, Rochford and Stansted depots.

> **RAIL CONTROLLERS / CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS**

Part-time vacancies exist at Excel for station-based staff on weekends and occasionally evenings, so even if you haven't got a PCV licence, you can still help ensure the smooth running of our rail replacement services.

For more details of any of the above vacancies, contact

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

