

Issue 489
January 2005



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

serving Essex since 1964

www.essexbus.org.uk

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group - Directory

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Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@hotmail.com

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

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

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► Please note: all orders for Publications/ photos should be sent to the Chairman,
Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven
Kings, ILFORD, Essex. IG3 8LT

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Magazine Editor

David Harman, 24 Frankfield Rise
Tunbridge Wells, TN2 5LF
ebn@casuarina.org.uk

First in Essex

Chris Stewart, 10 Crossways,
Shenfield, CM15 8QX
chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Arriva Southend / Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge, 19 Bull Lane,
Rayleigh, Essex, SS6 8JE
petemans_1@hotmail.com

Arriva Harlow & Ware

Mark Garrett, 36 High Street,
Chrishall, Royston, SG8 8RP
deganw@waitrose.com

Hedingham / Small operators & Tours Organiser

Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase,
Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Essex Small Operators

Ian Ransom, 34 Donald Way,
Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
ianandSally@bigfoot.com

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild

For the time being, please send
contributions to David Harman

Problems with your subscription, missing, defective or damaged EBN, or need back numbers? Contact the Membership Officer:

Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers',
Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, C016 9JJ
derekstebbing@hotmail.com

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Printed by Paterson Printing Ltd,
www.patersons.com

Design  www.casuarina.org.uk

Cover: 47252 (M450 VWW) in Tilling green/cream on the 32 at Ongar,
"Two Brewers". Chris Stewart

Dates for your diary

ROCHFORD MEETINGS

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

Spring 2005 programme:

- ▶ Tuesday **February 8** - talk and slide show on **Grey Green Coaches**, by Owen Woodliffe (author of the books on Grey Green).
- ▶ Tuesday **March 8** - AGM and slide show by Alan Osborne - "**Arctic Cruise**".
- ▶ Tuesday **April 12** - Members photos.

COLCHESTER MEETINGS

The downstairs room at the **Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester**, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. 20.00 to 22.00 (doors open at 19.30). All members and guests are welcome. £1 donation towards room hire please.

Spring 2005 programme:

- ▶ Friday **11 February** - tba
- ▶ Friday **11 March** - slide show by Richard Delahoy - "**20 years ago part 2 - summer and autumn 1984**"
- ▶ Friday **8 April** - slide show by Alan Osborne - "**Malta over the years**"

From the Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *Essex Bus News* for 2005. A belated thank-you to the many contributors to EBN in 2004 who submitted news, photos, articles etc., and to the Sub Editors who did all the donkey work in preparing the drafts. Also, many thanks to Stephenson's of Essex for 'sponsoring' the back page, which enables EBN to expand to 28 pages every so often.

2004 was eventful; will 2005 be the same? Who knows, but YOUR contributions will help us record it.

David Harman

EBN 2004 ~ on CD

Short of space on your bookshelf? Here's a space saver ...

- ▶ All twelve 2004 issues of EBN on one handy CD.
- ▶ View pages on your PC screen and/or print as desired.
- ▶ From October (EBN486), photos are mostly in **full-colour**.

Send cheque/postal order for **£5.00** (inc. post and packing) payable to "Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group", to the EBN Editor:

24 Frankfield Rise, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 5LF

Note: Requires Adobe Reader software (free download from the web) and PC with CD-ROM drive; Win98SE/2000/XP.

FIRST ESSEX

People

Director of Engineering Gordon Cheek is to take early retirement in April, his place being taken by former Fleet Engineer Steve Little, who moved to Scotland in June but who is to return in February. Gordon will have completed an enviable 40 years with the Company and its predecessors, and the Group would like to record its sincere thanks for his assistance during this time as well as wishing him well in his retirement. Similarly we wish Steve every success in his new post.

Congratulations are also due to Divisional Director (*First in South Essex*) Chris McCormick, who has been awarded the MBE in the New Year's Honours list for his work encouraging workplace learning. Chris is also Manager of Firstgroup plc's UK Learning Centres, a project backed personally by Moir Lockhead (Chairman and Chief Executive of Firstgroup plc) along with John McLeish, Human Resources Director. Locally, successes include four drivers from First in South Essex achieving good grades in GCSE English Language. Chris commented, "I greatly appreciate the work Colin Riches, Marketing Manager for *First Essex* and Margaret Eade, my PA at Basildon have put into the workplace learning projects and for their advice and guidance in producing the *FirstCourses* magazines for both *First Essex* and *London*."

Rail replacements

Continuing rail replacements from Chelmsford to Shenfield on Sundays, from 9th January to 3rd April, were preceded by two more days on Bank Holiday Monday 27th and Tuesday 28th December. *First London* vehicles had been drafted in to cover some of the duties previously subcontracted to NIBS, but buses from *Fourways* and *Chambers* were still evident. Most notable was that *Fourways* Bristol VR LBD923V appeared on both days (your sub-Editor receiving multiple - and very welcome - reports about its whereabouts!), working all day and evening on the Tuesday.

A few vehicles reported:

27th Dec: 34314 34816 *Fourways* G981FVX *Chambers* W91HRT W124JDX

28th Dec: 34018 34301 34302 34305 34314 34816 *Fourways* LBD923V G937FVX
G981FVX H691PTW *Chambers* S784XNF W81HRT W91HRT W124HRT

Vehicles in

Mercedes/Plaxton 'Cheetah' C29F new 12.04, in *First* group coach livery (branded for the X30, except so far for 56009). Chassis numbers are prefixed with 'WDB6703742N' and body numbers with '048.5MAE'. All entered service at CF during December, dates on the VED discs being 17th (56005), 22nd (56004/6/8/9) and 29th (56007).

56004	EY54BPX	chassis	116190	body	5850
56005	EY54BPZ		116313		5849
56006	EY54BRF		116314		5851
56007	EY54BRV		116604		5854
56008	EY54BRX		116606		5852
56009	EY54BRZ		116607		5853

Member Alan Timms has kindly provided further information about the Scania/Irizars which were on loan for the start of the X30. From his observations we can now add the

Solo 53130 passes boarded-up Duke Street Bus Station. In the background is privately-owned Leyland-National ULO379R which took up temporary residence in December.



*Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary*

above: Clearance work begins inside.

right: Two Dart SLFs on the Coval Lane stands.

10/10 to First for comprehensive timetable information on the stops but a pity the Council haven't been able to provide shelters.



following details:

23016	YN54APO	YS2K4X20001848549	Body No: 96528
23017	YN54APU	YS2K4X20001848556	Body No: 96529
23018	YN54APV	YS2K4X20001848532	Body No: 96530
23019	YN54APX	YS2K4X20001848542	Body No: 96531

All were taxed on 2.12.2004. They are 12 ft 1 1/4 inch high (3.69m), seat 49 and have an unladen weight of 13120kg. According to the plates, chassis type is K114 B4X2NB 340.

These four impressive vehicles have, as expected, moved away to become a kind of itinerant band of rail replacement coaches; on Boxing Day 26th December they were working Heathrow-Victoria, the day after they were all running King's Cross-Grantham for Hull Trains and shortly afterwards they were headed for Manchester. 23016/7/9 were seen in use by Robert Appleton on 30th and 31st December, this time between Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport. 23019 curiously carried two slightly confused sets of legal lettering - "First North West, Wall Shaw Street, Oldham" and "First Essex Buses Ltd, Westway, Oldham".

Vehicles on order

Six Alexander Dennis Darts are on order for February delivery. These are intended to be allocated to Chelmsford for service 42, displacing the existing V-registered Darts (43739-44) which are currently expected to be transferred to CR.

Dart **46169** (N969 CPU) in Barbie 2 livery with "Super-square" advertisement.

Chris Stewart





*Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary*

LIVERY STYLES

47221 (M221 MWW) in 'Barbie 3' in Coval Lane.

In between the Scania/Irizars departing and delivery of the Cheetahs, Volvo/Plaxton **20102** (N602 NPU) has made some appearances on the X30. Barbie coach variant.



Allocation changes (period ending 26 December 2004)

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

(A)=acquired, RES=spare / reserve (licensed); D /L(RES)=spare / reserve (delicensed);

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

34812 CF-BN; 34814 CF-BN; 46813 DT-CF; 46817 DT-CF; 51469 CF-D /L(D);

51470 CF-BN; 51471 CF-D /L(D); 53138 new-DT; 53139 new-DT

Repaints:

12.04 46817, 47220, 47221, 47226, 47227 all to corporate standard livery

VEHICLE WORKINGS

Worsening driver supply at Chelmsford meant a series of advertised cancellations on routes 33, 36, 48, 288, 351 and 352 with effect from Saturday 18th December. A number of changes were expected in January which should help to alleviate the problems, including the transfer of Village Link 5 & 7 to Stansted Transit from 24th January along with Varios 52580-5 (which are understood to be leased from Essex CC). Route 32 (Chelmsford-Ongar) was also due to pass to Imperial. BN depot are now also working schools service 506 and 512, the Olympian from the former laying over at Westway during the day while the driver works a duty on the 351 with a saloon.

Unusual sightings:

As a result of an incident involving spillage of hazardous chemicals on the evening of 21st December, service 351 was diverted that evening and the following morning via Lower Road, Wash Road, Rayleigh Road and Shenfield Station.

December:

- 8th: CR20102 on X30, CF47252 on 32 and CF67037 on 48
- 9th: CF34808 on 44 (normally a Mercedes 709)
- 13th: 20110 on X22
- 15th: 20110 and CR67003 on X22
- 16th: 20110 on X22, BN34660 on 502 and CF47224 on 352
- 18th: BN34813 on 751
- 20th: CF47252 on 351
- 21st: HH40777 on Diamond (showing 'D1A'), HH40778 & HH46149 on 24/24A, HH46109 on 2/25, along with Lynx HH62522/3 (plus 62524 on 20) CF56005 on X30 (first 'Cheetah' sighted), CF42488 on 'D1A'
- 28th: 20110 on X30, CF34808 on 36, CF51474 on 33
DT46813 on 103/104 (including 09.30 ex CR, 10.50 ex DT and 12.05 ex CR)
- 30th: HH40778 on Diamond

January:

- 3rd: HH46148 on Diamond
- 4th: BN43712 on daytime (Hutton) 81/82
CR34018 on X22
- 5th: BN34814 on 351 (covering failed Lance)
- 6th: BN43712 on 351, plus BN41012 seen in New London Road, Chelmsford although not in service

Other News

'Tilling' green liveried Dart 47252 has gained traditional style fleetnumber plates and 'CF' depot code, i.e. small red plates with silver lettering, on both front and rear. Full marks to First Essex for this extra touch.

Former Essex vehicles

With reference to the 'Bristol' Olympian/ECW at Ipswich, all three of these buses are still operating there with *First Eastern Counties* as 34535-7 (XHK235-7X). All are in 'Barbie 2' livery. Meanwhile in Bristol, time may be running out for the former EN VRs operated by *ABus* - six Olympian/Alexander have been supplied by *Stephenson's*.

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

First Essex Allocation by number - January 2005

Coach			34810	BE	C410HJN	42486	CF	SN03WLX	46119	CN	M919TEV				
Volvo			34811	RES	C711GEV	42487	CF	SN03WLE	46120	BN	M920TEV				
			34812	BN	C412HJN	42488	CF	SN53KJX	46121	CN	M921TEV				
	20069	BN	4750WY	34813	BN	C413HJN	42489	CF	SN53KJY	46122	CN	M922TEV			
	20102	RES	N602APU	34814	BN	C414HJN	42852	HH	P852VUS	46124	CN	M924TEV			
	20110	CR	N610APU	34815	CF	C415HJN	42853	HH	P853VUS	46125	CN	M925TEV			
Double-deck			34816	CF	C416HJN	42854	HH	P854VUS	46126	CN	M926TEV				
			34817	BE	C417HJN	42855	HH	P855VUS	46127	BN	M927TEV				
			34818	CF	C418HJN	42856	HH	P857VUS	46128	HH	M928TEV				
			34819	CF	C419HJN	43712	BN	R712DJN	46129	BN	M929TEV				
Olympian						43713	BN	R713DJN	46130	BN	M930TEV				
			31198	BN	L163UNS				43714	BN	R714DJN	46131	BN	M931TEV	
			31373	BN	L160UNS	Bristol VR			43715	CR	R715DJN	46132	BN	M932TEV	
			31374	BN	L161UNS	38790	Her	KOO790V	43716	CR	R716DJN	46133	BN	M933TEV	
			31375	BN	L162UNS				43717	HH	R717DJN	46134	BN	M934TEV	
Midibus						43718	HH	R718DJN	46135	HH	M935TEV				
			31376	HH	L164UNS				43719	HH	R719DJN	46136	HH	M936TEV	
			31377	HH	L165UNS				43720	HH	R720DJN	46137	HH	M937TEV	
			34011	CR	P551EFL	Dennis Dart			43721	HH	R721DJN	46138	HH	M938TEV	
			34012	CR	P552EFL	40777	HH	P856VUS	43729	CF	S729TWC	46139	HH	M939TEV	
			40778	HH	P858VUS	43730	CF	S730TWC	46140	HH	M940TEV				
			34013	CR	P553EFL	40779	HH	P859VUS	43731	HH	S731TWC	46141	HH	M941TEV	
			34014	CR	P554EFL	41005	HH	R705VLA	43732	HH	S732TWC	46142	HH	M942TEV	
			34018	CR	P546EFL	41006	HH	R706VLA	43733	CF	S733TWC	46143	BE	M943TEV	
			34056	CR	P556EFL	41007	HH	R707VLA	43734	BN	S734TWC	46144	BE	N944CPU	
			34280	DT	P180TGD	41008	HH	R708VLA	43735	BN	S735TWC	46145	BN	N945CPU	
			34282	DT	P182TGD	41009	HH	R709VLA	43736	BN	S736TWC	46146	HH	N946CPU	
			34284	DT	P184TGD	41010	HH	R710VLA	43737	BN	S737TWC	46147	HH	N947CPU	
			34285	DT	P185TGD	41011	HH	R711VLA	43738	BN	S738TWC	46148	HH	N948CPU	
			34286	DT	P186TGD	41012	HH	R712VLA	43739	CF	V739GPU	46149	HH	N949CPU	
			34288	DT	P188TGD	41013	HH	R713VLA	43740	CF	V740GPU	46150	HH	N950CPU	
			34290	DT	P191TGD	41014	HH	R714VLA	43741	CF	V741GPU	46151	HH	N951CPU	
			34301	CR	L301PWR	41015	HH	R715VLA	43742	CF	V742GPU	46152	HH	N952CPU	
			34302	CR	L302PWR	41016	HH	R716VLA	43743	CF	V743GPU	46153	HH	N953CPU	
			34303	CR	L303PWR	41640	BN	R640VLX	43744	CF	V744GPU	46154	HH	N954CPU	
			34304	CR	L304PWR	41642	BN	R642TLM	43800	BN	S979JLM	46155	HH	N955CPU	
			34305	CR	L305PWR	41644	BN	R644TLM	46107	HH	K907CVW	46156	HH	N956CPU	
			34307	CR	L307PWR	41645	BN	R645TLM	46108	HH	K908CVW	46157	HH	N957CPU	
			34308	CR	L308PWR	41647	BN	R647TLM	46109	HH	K909CVW	46158	HH	N958CPU	
			34309	CR	L309PWR	41650	BN	R650TLM	46110	HH	K910CVW	46167	BN	N967CPU	
			34310	CR	L310PWR	41651	BN	R651TLM	46111	HH	K911CVW	46168	BN	N968CPU	
			34311	CN	L311PWR	41653	BN	R653TLM	46112	BN	K912CVW	46169	BN	N969CPU	
			34314	CN	L314PWR	42482	CF	SN03WLD	46113	HH	K913CVW	46170	BN	N970CPU	
			34315	CR	L315PWR	42483	CF	SN03WLK	46114	BN	K914CVW	46171	BN	N971CPU	
			34660	BN	B960WRN	42484	CF	SN03WLW	46116	BN	K916CVW	46172	BN	N972CPU	
			34698	HH	B698BPU	42485	CF	SN03WLM	46118	BN	M918TEV	46173	BN	N973EHJ	
			34699	(D)	B699BPU										
			34808	CF	C408HJN										
			34809	HH	C409HJN										



*Chris
Stewart's
First
photo diary*

VANISHING TYPES

Lynx 62521 (F421 MJN) at Hullbridge in December 2004.
Romford-based Mercedes 51778 (P678 HPU) on diversion in
Kimpton Avenue during sewer work in Brentwood High Street;
August 2004.



46174	BN	N974EHJ	Minibus	53130	CF	EO02NFM	65670	BN	SN51UYC	
46175	CN	N975EHJ		53131	CF	EO02NFN	65671	BN	SN51UYD	
46176	CN	N976EHJ		53132	CF	EO02NFP	65672	BN	SN51UYE	
46177	BN	N977EHJ	<i>Mercedes - bus</i>	53133	CF	EO02NFR	65673	BN	SN51UYG	
46178	CR	N978EHJ	51252 (D)	L652MEV	53134	CF	EO02NFT	65674	BN	SN51UYH
46179	CR	N979EHJ	51458 (D)	M658VJN	53135	CF	EO02NFU	65675	BN	SN51UYJ
46180	CR	N980EHJ	51463 (D)	M663VJN	53136	CF	EO02NFV	65676	BN	SN51UYK
46181	CR	N981EHJ	51464 (D)	M664VJN	53137	CF	EO02NFX	65677	BN	SN51UYL
46182	CR	N982EHJ	51466 (D)	M166VJN	53138	DT	EU54BNJ	65678	CR	YP02ABN
46183	BN	N983EHJ	51468 BN	M668VJN	53139	DT	EU54BNK	65679	CR	YR52VEH
46184	BN	N984EHJ	51469 (D)	M669VJN				65680	CF	YR52VEK
46185	BN	N985EHJ	51470 BN	M670VJN	<i>Mercedes - coach</i>			65681	CF	YR52VEL
46186	BN	N986EHJ	51471 (D)	M671VJN	56001	CR	YN53VBT	65682	CF	YR52VEP
46187	BN	N987EHJ	51472 (D)	M672VJN	56002	CR	YN53VBU	65683	CF	YR52VEU
46801	CN	L801MEV	51473 (D)	M673VJN	56003	CR	YN53VBV	65684	CF	YR52VEY
46802	DT	L802MEV	51474 CF	M674VJN	56004	CF	EY54BPX	65685	CR	YR52VFO
46803	HH	L803OPU	51475 CF	M675VJN	56005	CF	EY54BPZ	65686	CR	Y503ZKC
46804	BN	L804OPU	51476 BE	M676VJN	56006	CF	EY54BRF	65687	CR	Y503ZKG
46805	CN	L805OPU	51778 CF	P678HPU	56007	CF	EY54BRV	65688	CR	Y503ZKH
46806	CN	L806OPU	51779 BN	P679HPU	56008	CF	EY54BRX	65689	CR	Y503ZKJ
46808	BE	L808OPU	51780 BE	P680HPU	56009	CF	EY54BRZ	65690	CR	Y503ZKK
46809	CN	L809OPU	51781 DT	P681HPU				65691	CR	Y503ZKL
46810	CN	L810OPU	51782 DT	P682HPU	Single-deck			65692	CR	Y503ZKM
46811	BE	L811OPU	51801 BN	P401HPU	<i>Dennis Lance</i>					
46812	BE	L812OPU	51802 BN	P402HPU	60102	HH	P868MBF	67001	CR	P501MNO
46813	CF	L813OPU	51803 HH	P403HPU				67002	CR	P502MNO
46814	HH	L814OPU	51804 BN	P404HPU	<i>Scania</i>			67003	CR	P503MNO
46815	HH	L815OPU	51805 BN	P405HPU	62406	CR	YS03ZKA	67004	CR	P504MNO
46816	BE	L816OPU	51806 HH	P406HPU	62407	CR	YS03ZKB	67005	CR	P505MNO
46817	CF	L817OPU	51807 HH	P407HPU	62408	CR	YS03ZKE	67006	CR	P506MNO
46818	HH	L818OPU	51808 HH	P408HPU	62409	CR	YS03ZKD	67007	CR	P507MNO
46819	CN	L819OPU	51809 HH	P409HPU	62410	CR	YS03ZKF	67008	CR	P508MNO
46820	CN	L820OPU	51810 HH	P410HPU				67009	CR	P509MNO
46821	BE	L821OPU	51889 CN	P689HND	<i>Lynx</i>			67010	CN	P510MNO
46822	CF	L822OPU	52580 CF	V430GTW	62506	(D)	F406LTW	67011	CN	P511MNO
46823	BE	N823APU	52581 CF	V431GTW	62509	BN	F409LTW	67012	CN	P512MNO
46824	BE	N824APU	52582 CF	V432GTW	62511	DS	F411MNO	67013	CN	P513MNO
46825	BN	N825APU	52583 CF	V433GTW	62515	RES	F415MWC	67036	CF	K736JAH
46826	BE	N826APU	52584 CF	V434GTW	62517	RES	F417MWC	67037	CF	K737JAH
46827	BE	N827APU	52585 CF	V435GTW	62518	(D)	F418MWC	67038	BN	K738JAH
46828	BE	N828APU			62519	(D)	F419MWC	67039	BN	K739JAH
46829	CR	N829APU	<i>Optare Solo</i>		62520	DS	F420MJN	67040	CF	K740JAH
46830	CR	N830APU	53112 CF	EO02NDX	62521	HH	F421MJN			
47101	CR	N201VSA	53113 CF	EO02NDY	62522	HH	F422MJN	Ancillary vehicles		
47102	CR	N202VSA	53114 CF	EO02NDZ	62523	HH	F423MJN	90229	BN	D756DLO
47103	CR	N203VSA	53115 CF	EO02NEF	62524	HH	F424MJN	90230	Her	WNO479
47104	CR	N204VSA	53116 CF	EO02NEJ	62529	(D)	F429MJN	90231	Her	AJN825
47105	CR	N205VSA	53117 CF	EO02NEN				90236	CN	H397OHK
47106	CR	N206VSA	53118 CF	EO02NEU	<i>Scania</i>			90237	HO	H606OVW
47219	CF	M219VWW	53119 CF	EO02NEY	65650	CR	T650SSF	90241	CF	H315LJN
47220	CF	M220VWW	53120 CF	EO02NFA	65651	CR	T651SSF	90242	DS	F413MNO
47221	CF	M221VWW	53121 CF	EO02NFC	65652	CR	T652SSF	90243	HH	S935RBE
47223	CF	M223VWW	53122 CF	EO02NFD	65653	CR	T653SSF	90244	DS	F427MJN
47224	CF	M224VWW	53123 CF	EO02NFE	65654	CR	T654SSF	90245	DS	F428MJN
47225	CF	M225VWW	53124 CF	EO02NFF	65665	BN	SN51UXX	90246	CR	L656MEV
47226	CF	M226VWW	53125 CF	EO02NFG	65666	BN	SN51UXY	90277	CF	S936RBE
47227	CF	M227VWW	53126 CF	EO02NFH	65667	BN	SN51UXZ			
47228	CF	M228VWW	53127 CF	EO02NFJ	65668	BN	SN51UYA			
47229	CF	M229VWW	53128 CF	EO02NFK	65669	BN	SN51UYB			
47252	CF	M450VWW	53129 CF	EO02NFL						

First Essex Allocation by depot ~ January 2005

34810	BE	46129	BN	34816	CF	53119	CF	46810	CN	65650	CR	41009	HH	46814	HH
34817	BE	46130	BN	34818	CF	53120	CF	46819	CN	65651	CR	41010	HH	46815	HH
46143	BE	46131	BN	34819	CF	53121	CF	46820	CN	65652	CR	41011	HH	46818	HH
46144	BE	46132	BN	42482	CF	53122	CF	51889	CN	65653	CR	41012	HH	51803	HH
46808	BE	46133	BN	42483	CF	53123	CF	67010	CN	65654	CR	41013	HH	51806	HH
46811	BE	46134	BN	42484	CF	53124	CF	67011	CN	65678	CR	41014	HH	51807	HH
46812	BE	46145	BN	42485	CF	53125	CF	67012	CN	65679	CR	41015	HH	51808	HH
46816	BE	46167	BN	42486	CF	53126	CF	67013	CN	65685	CR	41016	HH	51809	HH
46821	BE	46168	BN	42487	CF	53127	CF	90236	CN	65686	CR	41017	HH	51810	HH
46823	BE	46169	BN	42488	CF	53128	CF	-----	-----	65687	CR	42852	HH	60102	HH
46824	BE	46170	BN	42489	CF	53129	CF	20110	CR	65688	CR	42853	HH	62521	HH
46826	BE	46171	BN	43729	CF	53130	CF	34011	CR	65689	CR	42854	HH	62522	HH
46827	BE	46172	BN	43730	CF	53131	CF	34012	CR	65690	CR	42855	HH	62523	HH
46828	BE	46173	BN	43733	CF	53132	CF	34013	CR	65691	CR	42856	HH	62524	HH
51476	BE	46174	BN	43739	CF	53133	CF	34014	CR	65692	CR	43717	HH	90243	HH
51780	BE	46177	BN	43740	CF	53134	CF	34018	CR	67001	CR	43718	HH	-----	-----
-----	-----	46183	BN	43741	CF	53135	CF	34056	CR	67002	CR	43719	HH	90237	HO
20069	BN	46184	BN	43742	CF	53136	CF	34301	CR	67003	CR	43720	HH	-----	-----
31198	BN	46185	BN	43743	CF	53137	CF	34302	CR	67004	CR	43721	HH	20102	RES
31373	BN	46186	BN	43744	CF	56004	CF	34303	CR	67005	CR	43731	HH	34811	RES
31374	BN	46187	BN	46813	CF	56005	CF	34304	CR	67006	CR	43732	HH	62515	RES
31375	BN	46804	BN	46817	CF	56006	CF	34305	CR	67007	CR	46107	HH	62517	RES
34660	BN	46825	BN	46822	CF	56007	CF	34307	CR	67008	CR	46108	HH	-----	-----
34812	BN	51468	BN	47219	CF	56008	CF	34308	CR	67009	CR	46109	HH	62511	DS
34813	BN	51470	BN	47220	CF	56009	CF	34309	CR	90246	CR	46110	HH	62520	DS
34814	BN	51779	BN	47221	CF	65680	CF	34310	CR	-----	-----	46111	HH	90242	DS
41637	BN	51801	BN	47223	CF	65681	CF	34315	CR	34280	DT	46113	HH	90244	DS
41640	BN	51802	BN	47224	CF	65682	CF	43715	CR	34282	DT	46128	HH	90245	DS
41642	BN	51804	BN	47225	CF	65683	CF	43716	CR	34284	DT	46135	HH	-----	-----
41644	BN	51805	BN	47226	CF	65684	CF	46178	CR	34285	DT	46136	HH	34699	(D)
41645	BN	62509	BN	47227	CF	67036	CF	46179	CR	34286	DT	46137	HH	51252	(D)
41647	BN	65665	BN	47228	CF	67037	CF	46180	CR	34288	DT	46138	HH	51458	(D)
41650	BN	65666	BN	47229	CF	67040	CF	46181	CR	34290	DT	46139	HH	51462	(D)
41651	BN	65667	BN	47252	CF	90241	CF	46182	CR	46802	DT	46140	HH	51463	(D)
41653	BN	65668	BN	51474	CF	90277	CF	46829	CR	51781	DT	46141	HH	51464	(D)
43712	BN	65669	BN	51475	CF	-----	-----	46830	CR	51782	DT	46142	HH	51466	(D)
43713	BN	65670	BN	51778	CF	34311	CN	47101	CR	53138	DT	46146	HH	51469	(D)
43714	BN	65671	BN	52580	CF	34314	CN	47102	CR	53139	DT	46147	HH	51471	(D)
43734	BN	65672	BN	52581	CF	46119	CN	47103	CR	-----	-----	46148	HH	51472	(D)
43735	BN	65673	BN	52582	CF	46121	CN	47104	CR	31376	HH	46149	HH	51473	(D)
43736	BN	65674	BN	52583	CF	46122	CN	47105	CR	31377	HH	46150	HH	62506	(D)
43737	BN	65675	BN	52584	CF	46124	CN	47106	CR	34698	HH	46151	HH	62518	(D)
43738	BN	65676	BN	52585	CF	46125	CN	56001	CR	34809	HH	46152	HH	62519	(D)
43800	BN	65677	BN	53112	CF	46126	CN	56002	CR	40777	HH	46153	HH	62529	(D)
46112	BN	67038	BN	53113	CF	46175	CN	56003	CR	40778	HH	46154	HH	-----	-----
46114	BN	67039	BN	53114	CF	46176	CN	62406	CR	40779	HH	46155	HH	38790	Her
46116	BN	90229	BN	53115	CF	46801	CN	62407	CR	41005	HH	46156	HH	90230	Her
46118	BN	-----	-----	53116	CF	46805	CN	62408	CR	41006	HH	46157	HH	90231	Her
46120	BN	34808	CF	53117	CF	46806	CN	62409	CR	41007	HH	46158	HH	-----	-----
46127	BN	34815	CF	53118	CF	46809	CN	62410	CR	41008	HH	46803	HH	-----	-----

BE Braintree
BN Basildon
CF Chelmsford
CN Clacton
CR Colchester
DT Harwich

HH Hadleigh
HO Head Office
RES Reserve fleet
(licensed)
DS Driving School
(Westway)

(D) Delicensed
Her Heritage
Ancillary fleet shows
former PCVs only

ARRIVA EAST HERTS & ESSEX LTD.

New vehicles

2459 KE54 OSU	Optare Solo M920 -?-	Optare	B33F	12/04
2460 KE54 OSV	Optare Solo M920 SAB19000000001640	Optare	B33F	12/04
3860 KE54 HHF	Volvo B7RLE 101085	Wright H966	B43F	12/04

Vehicles in

From *Arriva Southend* 5447 12/04

5447 W447 XKX Dennis Trident 321BR1YGX20940
Alexander ALX400 9950/24 H47/31F new 7/00

Allocations

12/04: 2125.w; 2459/60.HA; 3817.w; 3860.HA; 5447.WE

Vehicles out

2125 (N195 EMJ): parked up at Arriva the Shires Stevenage depot 1/05
3091 (H922 LOX): Arriva the Shires (Luton) 12/04
3096 (H243 MUK): Arriva the Shires (Aylesbury) 12/04
3817 (H367 XGC): Arriva the Shires (Stevenage) 12/04
5836 (WLT 916 ex C816 BYY): gone 12/04



3252 (V252 HBH) Volvo B10/Wright Crusader climbs Queen Street, Brentwood, bound for home on the 501 in August 2004. *Chris Stewart*



BEFORE THEY WERE FAMOUS ~ 1

The new buses in the Arriva Southend fleet ... when they really *were* new (or newish).

above **Maidstone & District 5891** (E891 AKN), Olympian/Northern Counties leaves Maidstone Bus Station; 5 May 1990.

below **Oxford Bus Co. 228** (E228 CFC) Olympian/Alexander on the Park & Ride service, loads in St Aldates; 13 July 1990. Now Arriva Southend 5881.

both Martin Weyell



General

3856-60 are in Arriva livery and have route branding for service 510 (Harlow-Bishops Stortford-Stansted Airport)

2459/60 are in Arriva livery without fleet names and are specifically for service 59 (Harlow-Chelmsford)

3357/9 (K407/9 FHJ) are in new livery of dark green with white roofs for a new Park & Ride service at Bishops Stortford sponsored by MD Developments and Inter County Estate Agents. Indicator blinds have been removed and the glass area painted advertising the service

Although not in Essex it is thought useful to point out that 5447 is the third Trident from Arriva Southend; Three more, 5442./3/51 are due shortly with another 9 from the batch in service at Luton coming in late Summer when they are due to be replaced at Luton with new Volvo B7RLEs similar to those at Harlow. This will mean that the ex-London Leyland Olympians at present at Ware for the 310 will be totally replaced.

Mark Garrett

ARRIVA SOUTHEND LTD

Correction to EBN485: 3603/5/8, Volvo B6/Plaxton are L603/5/8 EKM.

Vehicles in

5089	F639 LMJ	Leyland Olympian ONCL10/1RZ	Alexander RL	H47/32F 1988
5893	F893 BKK	Leyland Olympian ONLXB/1RH	NCME	H45/30F 1988

Vehicles out

5441 W441 XKX Dennis Trident to *Arriva Kent & Sussex*, Maidstone.
5447 W447 XKX Dennis Trident to *Arriva serving the Shires*.

Trident Update

With the latest vehicle movements just four Tridents remain with Arriva Southend; these being 5438/42/43/51. Reports suggest that at least former Arriva Southend Tridents 5445/6/7, are now at Ware for service 310 (Hertford- Enfield).

Vehicle Workings Update

The gradual loss of the Tridents means that route 7/8 is now predominately Olympian operated. The two remaining Lances, 3379 and 3384, which have lost their 7/8 route branding, are now to be found on service 9, alongside Dart SLF's.

Peter Mansbridge



Vehicles out:

More Arriva vehicles which were on short term loan to Network Colchester have been returned to Arriva. Details are as follows:

Leyland Tiger/Plaxton 321 Coach (Arriva Fleetnumber **2196**),(J27 UNY), has been moved to Arriva Southend for storage.

DAF/Ikarus (Arriva Fleetnumber **4336**), (J926 CYL) has now gone back to Southern Counties at Dartford, apparently as a driver trainer.

Mercedes-Benz 0810 Vario (Arriva Fleetnumber **2382**), (R953 VPU) has gone to Northfleet.

Peter Mansbridge

Southend Bus Station Re-development

The first phase of changes, to move buses out of the existing site to allow it to be redeveloped, take effect from Sunday 9 January.

All stops within the existing bus station itself will be taken out of use, except for stop L.

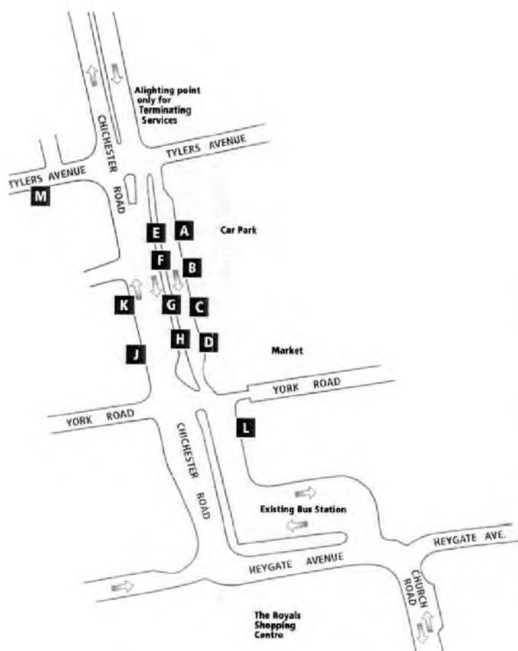
L. Replacement stops comprise:

- In Chichester Road southbound, alongside Tylers Avenue car park - 4 stops (A-D) in a new layby cut into the edge of the car park, with a further 3 stops (F,G,H) alongside on an island in Chichester Road itself.
- In Chichester Road northbound (along the side of Marks & Spencers) - stops E, K and J.
- In Tylers Avenue, between Chichester Road and the High Street - stop M.

There will be a small layover area in Chichester Road southbound, under the railway bridge, where the stops before the bus station are located now. It is difficult to see how this will be of much use for terminating buses, unless passengers are required to alight there. Layovers will be severely restricted to a maximum of five minutes. There will also be some timetable changes affecting Arriva through services booked to have longer than five minute layovers, although details are not yet to hand.

There will be restrictions on cars using part of Chichester Road and Heygate Avenue - if these restrictions are ignored as frequently as the Chelmsford Duke Street restriction, they will not help a lot!

Richard Delahoy



A	Services via London Road 1 5 5A 17C
B	Services via London Road 2 26 26B
C	Services via Victoria Avenue 15 16 21 21B 29
D	Services via Victoria Avenue 20 25
E	Services via Southchurch Road 1 4 4A 14 26 64
F	Out of area services X1 X10 X30 Diamond and National Express
G	Services via Eastern Esplanade 9
H	Services via Woodgrange Drive 7 8 27 27B 408
J	Services via Cuckoo Corner 9 69 222 560 Services via London Road 3 27 27B
K	Services via Victoria Avenue 7 8
L	Services via Sutton Road 11A 13 19A 24 24A 25E 60 61 65 (stop subject to movement during works)
M	Services via Cliffs Pavilion 6 11A 24 24A 25E

Essex Small Operator News

24x7, Elsenham Acquired from an unknown source, is DAF SB2300/Duple F860 YJX.

ACME TRANSPORT, Stansted Yet another version of this company has started, this time with Ford Transit T158 MKK.

A&D MINICOACHES, Benfleet Ford Transit/Dormobile L689 KNO was sold to Creswell, Castleford in 2001, but has only just been reported.

ADTAX, Saffron Walden New here and not previously reported are LDV Convoy EO02 EPD and Ford Transit AF53 OSM, the latter is Non-PSV.

AMBER, Rayleigh Further to EBN 486, IAZ 9564 (KIB 545, G416 WPA) is a Volvo B10M/Berkhof, while M609 UCX is somewhat unusual for a coach, in that it has a Volvo B6 chassis, under its Caetano bodywork. Further to EBN 486, acquired from Wilfreda Beehive, Adwick-le-Street is N71 EAK a Bova Futura, which is now YNJ 214 with Amber.

Acquired from the new Bordacoach operations (being run by the son of Geoff Stubbington) is Leyland Tiger/Plaxton HIL 8917 (A203 OCW).

DAF/Van Hool H524 YCX passed to Betts, Tydd St Giles, in early 2004.

An update on some older vehicles has become available, Bova Europa 227 ASV went back to it's original SMY 627X, before being sold for scrap, similar RJI 4670, became DJN 932X, before it also went (presumed for scrap).

APT, Rayleigh DAF MB230/Plaxton E339 EVH is now registered A12 APT. A12 APT was previously on a Bova Futura, which has been re-registered G962 FVX and has passed to Fitzpatrick, Shaw. Former Reading Bova Futura R466 GUA, didn't stay long and is now with Coachways, Rawtenstall. Also sold are V20 YAL (CNZ 3818, V77 CCH), now with Pavillion Travel, Brighton, UIL 4721 (new as G841 AOW) a Setra,

which passed to an unknown owner and J23 HRH a Scania K113/Berkhof, now with Cass, Hartburn.

Two recent additions are E609 YJO a Volvo B10M/Plaxton, from Brown, Crawley (now re-registered APT42S) and H574 GBC (now re-registered H2 APT) a Toyota/Caetano, from an unknown source. However, the Toyota was soon re-registered to an unknown plate and has been sold.

The former APT 42S a Volvo B10M/Plaxton has been re-registered, its new registration is not yet known.

BARKER, Roydon Acquired from Gale, Harlow is K709 FNO an Iveco/Dormobile.

BASILDON TRAVEL, Basildon Volvo B58/Duple NFS 362T has gone to a private owner.

BENFLEET BUS, Benfleet The only vehicle here, freight Rover E965 VKY, has been sold.

BROOMSTICKS COACHES, Finchingfield Acquired from Yellowline, Braintree is Toyota/Caetano G964 VBC.

BROWRING, Westcliff Acquired from Liverpool Leisure Services is Renault Master P936 PBX, it replaces Freight Rover F352 CNG.

CATTON, Hatfield Heath Ford Transit L3 LYN, has been re-registered to it's original L420 KVX.

CHARIOTS, Corringham DAF SB3000/Van Hool K509 RJX, has arrived here from Royds, Rochdale. Former Villagelink Mercedes Vario/Marshall VIL 4057/8 (S642/3 MGA) are now with Perry, Bromyard.

CHRIS EARL, Harlow Has ceased operations, the only vehicle here Mercedes 407D/Devon Conversions, has been sold.

CLINTONA, Brentwood Iveco/Marshall R419 XFL has been sold to Alansway/Heathfield.

COLCHESTER COACHES, Clacton Leyland Atlantean/Park Royal



P432 JDT a Dennis Javelin/Plaxton Prima of **Don's of Dunmow** rests in Fairfield Road, Chelmsford with demolition work going on in the background. *Chris Stewart*

XPG 182T has passed to Talisman, Great Bromley for spares.

COUNTY COACHES, Brentwood Bristol VR/ECW GGM 104W has gone to Massey, Orsett.

DAVES MINIBUSES, Dovercourt Recent additions are R253 UJM a Mercedes 410D and non-PSV Ford Transit T474 JHK. The Mercedes has now been re-registered as H5 GUV.

DONS, Dunmow Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs CBV 306S is now with Brown, Soham.

EXCELLENT CONNECTIONS, Stansted Ford Transits EY03 NCX and EY03 WRG have gone to the sister company at Bristol Airport, while sister EJ03 WRT is now with Fargo, Rayne. Recent additions are six Ford Transits EY54 NXU/NYN/NYL/NXH/NXV/NYC.

FARGO, Rayne New here in June, but not previously reported in this column, are LDV Convoy minibuses EU03

VPJ/K/L/M/P, similar X804 ATD is a used addition. Acquired from Brandon, Blackmore End are Bova Futuras ESK 912 (F770 DWR) and IIL 2257 (G57 SBA). Scania L94/Van Hool T718 JHE has passed to Horton, Shareshill. LDV Convoys sold are R547 CUX and S433 RBC.

FOURWAYS, Highwood Leyland Leopard/Duple MNK 429V is now with Macey, Luton.

GALE, Harlow LBZ 4329 (E125 LAD) a Duple 425, reported has being sold some time ago, is in fact still with this operator.

GBN, Pitsea A further Ford Transit for this employment agency is R875 CGX.

GLEW, Great Tey Leyland CUB/Reeve Burgess D694 FDH has been withdrawn.

GOODWIN, Braintree Bedford YMQ/Duple FOU 999W has been sold, to a private owner.

GROUP TAXIBUS, Chelmsford DAF MB200/Van Hool RJI 6621, has lost this registration, to recently acquired Volvo/Van Hool R408 EOS. The new plate for the DAF is not known, in addition to which it may well have been sold. A FURTHER NEW ford Tansit here is EY54 NXM (number 53). Ford Transit EO03 UUE is now with Bashir & Ajaz, Reading.

HARWOOD, Gt Waking Mercedes 814D/Crystals H186 FPD has been sold to Davis, Minchinhampton

HEDINGHAM COACH, Kelvedon Now, pay attention. This operator is Robert MacGregor of Heddinghams, and has one international disc. The vehicle operating is V399 SVV a Mercedes Benz Vario/Plaxton. Please note, this is separate from the main Heddingham business.

LEMON COACHES, Grays Acquired from BJS, Great Waking is BJS 98Y (F983 HGE) a Volvo B10M/Plaxton.

LINKFAST, Benfleet Further MCW Metrobuses have arrived, they are, ex Amber, Rayleigh (new to West Midlands) BOK 40V and ex Arriva London B219/52 WUL. These have seen the following withdrawn Bristol VR's VCA 458W and STW 25W and MCW Metrobus GYE 363W. Vehicles previously sold are MCW Metrobuses WYW 34T and OJD 888Y, plus Leyland Leopard/Plaxton LUA 288V.

LODGE, High Easter Scania/Van Hool V20 DGE (CNZ 3825, V3 CCH) has gone to Hearn, Harrow Weald. Further to EBN 488, T484 RFS has a Dennis Javelin chassis.

MASTER TRAVEL, Brentwood HSK 844 (F919 YNV) a Volvo B10M(short-ened)/Jonckhree has been sold to Milligan, Mauchline.

M&E, Rochford The last Ford with this operator a Ford R1114/Plaxton MBT 674T, went to a private owner in July 2004.

METEOR, Stansted Ford Transits L211 UHF and N601 DOR have been sold to an unknown owners.

MILESTONE, Canvey Island Dennis Javelin/Duple H758 HJF has passed to Thomas, Pencader.

NCS, Newport An interesting addition, to this mainly minibus fleet is J949 MFT a Dennis Dart/Wright. A further addition is J141 KPX an Iveco/Marshall. Ford Transit H949 KVX has been sold to an unknown owner in Ipswich.

NEED A BUS, Bowers Gifford Ford Transit G821 WEV has been sold.

NEW HORIZONS, Alresford A new Mercedes Benz Vario/Plaxton is YN04 WSV.

OLYMPIAN, Stansted Airport Most of the fleet has transferred here. What are thought to be the first new coaches for this operator are four MAN18.350/Noge, YN54 JUE/JUF/JSU/JSV.

This has led to a clear out of older stock, with Leyland Tiger/Plaxton URH 657 (BRY 1Y) passing to Gerry, Harrow; Leyland Leopard/Plaxton DCA 31S to a private owner; Volvo B10M/Plaxton K20 CCL (K500 CAP) to Mentor, Rotherham (dealer) and Iveco/Marshall M154/8 RBH for scrap.

Iveco/Marshall M731 AOO, reported as sold, is in fact still here. Setra MJI 7857 (B215 XNK) is being used for spares.

P&M Coaches, Shotgate L571 GKO a LDAF 400 has been withdrawn.

RAYLEIGH ROADWAYS, Shotgate Have withdrawn BEA 344Y a Ford R1114/Plaxton. The last Ford here.

RED CAR, Pilgrims Hatch Bedford YMT/Plaxton ONO 12V has gone, thought to be for scrap.

RONDA COACHES, Rochford Ford Transit UKK 419X has been withdrawn. F303 RMH a Mercedes L307/Reeve Burgess has gone to Hewlett, Bath. The last recorded Bedford with this operator DHE 699V, went to Thorpes HGV Driving School, Morley in mid-2003.

RS TRAVEL, Cressing Recent additions are EH2 9339 (H103 HDV) a Mercedes 811D/Carlyle, N811 JGT an LDV 400



CHRISTMAS SHOPPER EXCURSIONS

With Lakeside on their doorstep, a popular destination for Essex shoppers is of course ... Bluewater! Laying over at the coach park there on 14 December, were two vehicles from Essex firms: **K19 BYS**, a Setra S230 integral of **Kirby's** of Rayleigh, and **7947 RU** of **County Coaches** of Brentwood, a Scania K113CRB with Van Hool body. The strange shape in the background is a giant festive reindeer. *David Harman*



minibus and N186 URJ a LDV 400/Leicester Carriage Builders. Volvo B10M/Plaxton K19 FTG has gone to Burke&Allen, Undercliffe.

RUFFLE, Castle Hedingham The last Bedfords with this operator IAZ 6448 (YRS 94Y) and APH 520T, both with Plaxton bodies, have been sold.

SAINT CLOUD, Rochford Bedford YMT/Plaxton JKV 423V has been sold to a private owner.

SM TRAVEL, Harlow Acquired from Walsh, Middleton is Optare Solo W7 JPT. It is also reported that MCW Metrobus KYV 677X is still here. Iveco minibuses sold for scrap are K707/8 FNO and L699 NWX. Also gone are LUI 5579 (A319 HFP) a Bova Europa and M159 RBH an Iveco/Marshall, the latter is now with Olympian.

STANSTED BUS, Stansted To correct EBN 486, Tiger/Wright RXI 5540, remains with 24x7, Elsenham.

STANWAY TRAVEL, Layer-de-la-Haye Ford Transit P843 NWC has been sold.

STB COACHES, Chadwell St Mary Acquired from Amber, Rayleigh, is Bova Europa A806 JAY (YNJ 214).

STERLING EUROPEAN, Southend M256 TAK a Scania K114/Irizar has been sold to Chaplen, Hartlington. LDV Convoy EO02 OZT, has gone to Linkline, Harlesden.

STEVES, Stanford-Le-Hope Have ceased PSV operations and the only vehicle P768 JKL an Iveco minibus has been sold.

SUPREME, Southend Leyland National 2's BVP 810V and EON 825V, are being used for spares. Leyland Atlantean/East Lancs XRF 25S was stripped for spares, with the remains going for scrap.

VICEROY, Saffron Walden A clearout of vehicles here, has seen the departure of Neoplan IUI 6718 (C791 PEM), MAN10.180/Caetano JIL 3125 (H397 CJF), Leyland Atlantean/Alexander AVK 157V, Ford Transit C435 WRT, Talbot Express F172 DKP and Dennis Dart/Plaxton W669 TNV (CAP 6).

Acquired from Hailstone Travel,

Basildon is N387 VPB a Mercedes 312/Stanford conversion. While, acquired from an unknown operator is T811 PNV a Mercedes 0404 integral.

A not previously reported addition is Volvo B58/Duple PBC 459W, which has now been sold

WEST, Woodford Green Further to EBN 486, Transbus Javelin EU03 DKD is now A15 BUS. The new registration for the former A15 BUS, a Bova/Duple is A689 GFF and this vehicle has now been sold.

WICKS, Braintree Have also sold a number of vehicles, these are, the Ford/Duple TXI 8748 (XPP 421S) – the last Ford here, Bedfords XRW 518S (with Plaxton body) and FNJ 993V, XAR 554X (both Duple), plus WRK 17X a DAF/Jonckhree.

YELLOWLINE, Braintree Vehicles sold to unknown owners are Ford Transits H546 KHK and L413 LMS, plus CVE Omni F294 WPY.

YOUNGS, Shotgate Acquired from an unknown source is rare ACE/Van Hool D164 TCX and a more common Leyland Tiger/Plaxton IIL 9170 (new as E511 RFU)

Your sub-editor's records show only one Volvo B58 is left as a PSV in the county. This is Plaxton bodied BHJ 369S (new as OJY 579S) with Phillips Coaches, South Woodham Ferrers.

My records show only 4 Leyland Leopards left in PSV use, in Essex, these are as follows:-

KB Coaches, Wickford
EWW 207T PSU3E/4R/Plaxton C49F

Fargo, Rayne
KBH 860V PSU5C/4R/Plaxton C53F

Don, Dunmow
A62 OJX PSU5/2L/Plaxton C57F
Thorn, Rayleigh

FYX 816W PSU5C/4R/Plaxton C53F

The chassis of A62 OJX has been rebodied, the chassis being rebuilt to PSU5C/4R FYX 816W was rebodied in 1986.

Ian Ransom

LATEST VEHICLE MOVEMENTS

VEHICLES IN from

2 Travel Group:

Arriva Southern Counties:

Ayrways, Scotland:

Go Ahead London:

London United:

Metrobus:

National Express:

Stagecoach South East:

Stagecoach Wales:

Darts K981/4/8/9/92/6/7CBO K861PCN

Metroriders K966/7HUB

Volvo D10M G848EKA

National 2's UPT660/1/4/70/80/3V

TJR715/21Y

RM1400 RM1797

RML891/2721

Darts K831/2SFT K621PGO H904PGT

Olympians N112/3UHP

Darts K107XHG K554NHC

B6's L661/9MSF

VEHICLES OUT

open top Atlantean TRN467V:

L20 L255:

B6 L246CCK:

RML2708:

National 2's UPT660/1/4/83 TJR721Y

M230:

Darts K991/6CBO K621PGO:

National TJR715Y:

RM311:

to

Boydar Ltd, Sofia, Bulgaria

Centra Buses, Heathrow

Glenvale Transport, Liverpool

Alan Gregory, Croydon

Mr Kemal Hassan, Northern Cyprus

Alec Head, Peterborough

McKindless Buses, Scotland

Red Route Buses, Northfleet

Schwarschild Ltd, London. This has been completely restored to original condition, lights, seats etc. and sent to Spain to act as a promotional unit for British fabrics. Once finished with in Spain it will return to the UK and hopefully be rallied.

Darts K981/4/8/9/92/7 CBO K861PCN

Metroriders K966/7HUB:

RM345:

Darts K831/2SFT LDP28:

Shamrock Coaches Group, South Wales

TFC Leisure Ltd, London

Trustline, Hoddeson, Herts

The Grand Ensign Bus Routemaster Raffle

To mark Ensign's 32nd year, 5 December saw 32 out of 400 bidders pick an RM number out of the hat and drive away in that bus. The 32 RMs with new preservationist owners are:

RM 541	Mr P Heaps, Bradford, West Yorkshire.
RM 736	Keighley Museum, Keighley, West Yorkshire.
RM1872	South Devon Railway, Buckfastleigh, Devon.
RML 883	Mr C Billette, Caldercruix, North Lanarkshire.
RML 2261	Mr R Ducker, St. Neots, Cambs.
RML 2267	Mr A Maslin, Swansea.
RML 2270	Mr B Birks, Eastbourne, East Sussex.
RML 2271	Mr G Laurie, Glasgow.
RML 2273	Mr G Sinclair, Chingford, London E.
RML 2275	Mr M Murphy, Wolverhampton, West Midlands.
RML 2276	Mr D Colin, Chesterfield, Derbyshire.

RML 2302	Mr B Jennings, Northallerton, North Yorks.
RML 2335	Mr E Rowson, Truro, Cornwall.
RML 2380	Mr G Evans, Walton-on-Thames, Surrey
RML 2396	Mr M Ricketts, Andover, Hampshire.
RML 2400	Mr K Platt, Swinton, Manchester.
RML 2418	Mr S Morris, Shrewsbury, Shropshire.
RML 2454	Mr S Rorke, Ramsgate, Kent.
RML 2469	Mr A Goddard, West Ewell, Surrey.
RML 2474	Moseleys Museum, Pontefract, West Yorkshire.
RML 2499	Mr M Dexter, Erith, Kent
RML 2515	Mr G Meadows, Crewe, Cheshire.
RML 2539	Mr R Thear, Manningtree, Essex.
RML 2551	Mr S Griffin, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.
RML 2554	Mr W Robson, Berwick-upon-Tweed, Northumberland.
RML 2583	Welsh Museum of Transport, Swansea.
RML 2584	Mr B Field, Poole, Dorset.
RML 2596	Mr A Gaddie, Rye, East Sussex.
RML 2613	Mr B Carter, Worcester.
RML 2683	Mr S Crane, Chilwell, Notts.
RML 2711	Wimbledon Area Signalling Preservation Society, Woking.
RML 2714	Mr D Turner and Mr T Beber, Purfleet, Essex.

With thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Ensignbus

NV60 is now 161 in the Ensignbus operating fleet and has been repainted into green/cream X80 livery in the same style as now-sold 113. The Strood Tunnel rail replacement service is due to end on 16 January, but the X80 will continue, albeit truncated to run Lakeside - Valley Drive, Gravesend only. The present mix of Darts/Volvo B6's will be replaced by ex-London General Dart SLFs.

Ex-Metrobus Dart H904PGT has been transferred to the Stratford Blue operation.

With thanks to Ross Newman of Ensignbus

Preservation Notebook

Southend Fleetlines for sale: Stephenson's still have two "W" (very late) or "Q" (unique to Southend) reg Fleetlines available. MRJ 231/5W and Q475 MEV are bodily complete and driveable but require a little mechanical work. These are VERY reasonably priced and really **do** have to go - ideally for preservation rather than scrap.

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

Former Green Line 10T10 AEC Regal T499 (ELP 223) has been acquired from Australia for restoration and eventual display in the Ensign bus museum. New in May 1938, it was allocated to Grays garage (GY) for routes Z1 (Tilbury-Grays-Aldgate) and Z2 (Grays-Aldgate). Withdrawn on 1st September 1939 when Green Line services were suspended for the war, it was converted to an ambulance. It returned to passenger service in August 1945, before passing to dealers, W North of Leeds.

This particular vehicle is believed to be the only one of its class sold to Australia, leaving in April 1954. It was purchased by Tony Creasey and used as a school bus in Kendenup - Mt. Barker. In 1959 it passed to a Mr Ted Collins again for school bus use. In

1962 it was withdrawn and bought by John Thompson who intended to convert it to a mobile home. This conversion was never completed, although the engine was changed from an 8.8 litre to a 7.7 litre. The subsequent history of the vehicle is unclear until its discovery in 1997 by Ian Kerr on a farm in Western Australia. If anyone can add any further information, please contact Ensign Bus - info@ensign-museum.com. *Ensignbus*

Former EN Bristol FLF6G 2841 (MVX878C), latterly with Hedingham and still carrying their livery, has been owned by Hampshire preservationist Terry Hussey for some years. Other projects have prevented much progress being made, but Terry is keen to see this change. He does not wish to sell the bus outright, but would welcome serious approaches from anyone who has the time and money available to work with him in getting another Eastern National Lodekka back on the road. Initial enquiries to me please.

Chris Stewart

EASTERN NATIONAL

Enthusiast's Guild

See also corrections &
additional info in issue
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THE 1954 AND 1964 RENUMBERINGS

Chris Stewart reminds us of two historic events that we *really* ought to have marked - the renumberings which occurred in 1954, and ten years later, in 1964. Curiously, exactly forty years on, in 2004, the fleet was renumbered again. What price a renumbering in, say 2014 or 2024? That's for the future. Here we are concerned with the past, so let us firstly return to the 1920s, to examine the original National scheme.

The National system

The National Steam Car Co.'s vehicles were numbered in a simple series from 1 to 201. A new series from 2001 upwards for motor buses was started, shortly before the company was renamed National Omnibus & Transport Co. Ltd. in 1920. Numbers were mostly displayed on cast brass plates with ornate numerals. When the National O&T was split into three (Eastern, Southern and Western National) in 1929, the common numbering scheme was continued, irrespective of ownership. However, in 1933, (after bus no.3394 had been delivered), separate systems were instigated. Western and Southern National continued from 3395, but for acquired vehicles only. New vehicles were numbered from 100 upwards; certain subsequent acquired vehicles were numbered from 10 upwards, and the ex-Great Western Railway Road Motors retained their original numbers (all below 2001).

Eastern National simply carried on from 3395 and this system prevailed, with two minor exceptions, until 1954. The last vehicle numbered in the National system was 4233. The two exceptions were:

101-108 - a separate series was started in 1951-3 for open-top vehicles acquired from Brighton, Hove & District.

L121-L129 - a separate series was applied to coaches acquired from Queens Park Coaches Ltd. of Halton, Bucks. in 1951. These were not carried by the vehicles and their significance has never been satisfactorily explained.



Reproduction fleetnumber plate in the original style fitted to preserved 1944 Bristol K5G JVW 430. Later renumbered 1274 (1954) and 2201 (1964).

The 1954 scheme

By 1954, things had become complicated. Eastern National was by then also managing Hicks Bros Ltd. (from 1st January 1950), and Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd., (transferred to ENOC control in mid-1952). Hicks had their own, straightforward numbering scheme, (except that three vehicles ordered by Hicks, Maudslay coach PTW 623, Guy Arabs PTW 624-5, but delivered post-takeover, were numbered in the National scheme as 4108-4110, despite being legally owned by Hicks). Westcliff did not use fleet-numbers, but the fleet included the City Coach Company Ltd. vehicles acquired in 1952, which retained their City letter-prefix numbers. However, a few Westcliff-owned vehicles were allocated numbers in the old National scheme.

This rather unsatisfactory situation was resolved on Sunday 18 July 1954 when all three fleets were numbered into a common system:

001-100	Post-1954 acquired single-deck
101-1000	New single-deck
1001-1100	Post-1954 acquired double-deck
1101-2000	New double-deck

Within each series, vehicles were grouped by chassis types with Bristols last, and generally in chassis number order, although there were exceptions.

The numbers were shown externally by means of pressed alloy plates with a black background. Plates fitted to coaches and open-toppers mostly had a cream background with green borders and numbers.



*Preserved Bristol KSW5G 1407
(VNO 859); later renumbered 2364*

The 1964 scheme

In 1963, Mr L.R.Kydd joined ENOC as Chief Engineer from Lincolnshire Road Car and subsequently the fleet was renumbered based on the LRCC system. This took place on Sunday 9th August 1964. Vehicles were grouped in blocks by chassis type as follows:

<i>Coaches</i>	1500	intended for Bristol RE buses, either contemplated or ordered and cancelled.
100 Commer TS3	1600	Bristol RE dual-purpose
200 Bristol LL		
300 Bristol LS and MW		
400 Bristol RE		
500 Bedford		
<i>Single-decks</i>	<i>Double-decks</i>	
1000 Bristol SC (but these were sold before being renumbered)	2000 Guy	
1100 Bristol L, LL and LWL	2100 Leyland	
1200 Bristol LS	2200 Bristol K	
1300 Bristol MW bus	2300 Bristol LS and KSW	
1400 Bristol MW dual-purpose	2400 Bristol LD	
	2500 Bristol LD, LDLX and FS	
	2600 Bristol FLF coach	
	2700 Bristol FLF	
	2800 Bristol FLF	

The same type of alloy fleetnumber plate as applied in the 1954 renumbering was used, but with a deep red background (another LRCC idiosyncrasy). In theory, some of the 1954 plates could have been redeployed in the new system. However, whether they were actually unscrewed, painted red, shuffled around to the right depot and re-affixed, all on the same Sunday, is unlikely.

There were numerous additions and re-allocations of blocks as shown on the following page, and over the years, much of the logic of the original system somehow became lost. Nevertheless, it survived deregulation and privatisation, the division of

operations between Eastern National and Thamesway in 1990, and subsequent reunification under Essex Buses Ltd. in 1996. Minor changes included the later omission of the '0' prefix for single-deckers and the gradual phasing-out of the fleetnumber plates. These were replaced by black vinyl numbers.



*Preserved Leyland-National
1850 (YEV 308S).*

00	Miscellaneous acquired vehicles	1400	Bristol RE coach
0000	Service vehicles and some driver training vehicles	1500	later Leyland Lynx Bristol RE bus
100	Mercedes-Benz - minicoach		later short Leyland-National later Dennis Lance
110	Toyota - minicoach	1550	Dennis Javelin coach
(0)200	Mercedes-Benz minibus	1600	MCW - coach
(0)300	Mercedes-Benz minibus		later Volvo B6/B10 bus
400	Mercedes-Benz minibus	1700	Leyland National
430	Mercedes-Benz Vario bus	1800	Leyland-National
450	Mercedes-Benz Vario coach	1900	Leyland-National
500	Leyland Leopard/Tiger coach later Optare Solo	2200	vehicles rebuilt with wheelchair ramps and space
0600	Ford Transit minibus		later Mercedes-Benz minibus - acquired
600	Volvo B6 bus later Volvo B10 coach	2300	Bristol KSW, FLF open-top
630	Volvo B10 bus	2600	Mercedes-Benz minibus
650	Scania bus	2800	Dennis Dart
(0)700	Ford Transit minibus	2900	Bristol FLF
700	Dennis Dart low-floor		later Dennis Dart - acquired
(0)800	Mercedes-Benz minibus	3000	Bristol VR
850	Dennis Dart	3100	Bristol VR
900	Dennis Dart	3200	Bristol VR - acquired
1000	Leyland PSUC later Ford R1014 bus later Leyland Olympian (highbridge) later Leyland Tiger bus	3500	Bristol VR open-top
1050	Bedford YMQS dual-purpose	4000	Leyland Olympian bus
1100	Bristol LH later Leyland Tiger d-p	4100	Leyland Olympian bus (highbridge)
1200	Bedford YMT dual-purpose	4300	Leyland Olympian bus - acquired
1300	Leyland Leopard coach	4500	Leyland Olympian coach
		5000	Phoenix Student Travel vehicles
		9000	Driver training vehicles later all engineering vehicles

2004 and SEMA Voyager

As reported in EBN480, the First Essex fleet was officially renumbered into the 'SEMA Voyager' computer system on 17 March 2004. Voyager records engineering data for each vehicle and a common system applies to the whole of First Group's UK fleet. This brings obvious benefits when vehicles are transferred within the Group, since their engineering history can accompany them.

It is of interest to note that from this date, the Eastern, Western and Southern National fleets (or at least those of their descendants) are once again numbered in a single *national* series. Who says history doesn't repeat itself?

*David Harman
acknowledgments to Chris Stewart*

Thurrock Council Publications

Following Thurrock Council's recent decision to replace this current series of their Bus & Ferry Timetable books with individual leaflets, I feel that now would be a good time to publish a check list of publicity issued so far.



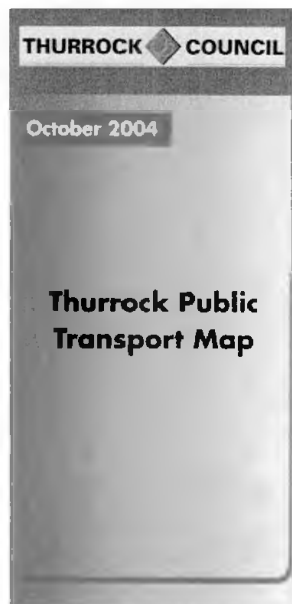
TIMETABLE BOOKS

Dates shown are cover dates, edition numbers were referred to in the text on page one. All books were A5 size.

1st Edition	Summer 1998
2nd Edition	Winter/Spring 1998/1999
3rd Edition	4th April 1999
4th Edition	January 2000
5th Edition	August 2000
6th Edition	January 2001
7th Edition	May 2001
8th Edition	October 2001
9th Edition	August 2002
10th Edition	March 2003
11th Edition	January 2004

PUBLIC TRANSPORT MAPS

Printed in full colour, these maps fold to 210mm x 100mm. All were produced by FWT, the list below gives cover date and print date. Note that production of maps did not start until one year after the appearance of the timetable books. Editions 3 to 10 of the books were issued with a copy of the map inserted into the inside back cover, which was specially extended and folded to accommodate them. The October 2004 map was issued as a standalone publication.



April 1999	FWT 13.5.99
January 2000	FWT 14.1.00
August 2000	FWT 1.8.00
January 2001	FWT 18.12.00
May 2001	FWT 9.5.01
October 2001	FWT 30.10.01
August 2002	FWT 13.8.02
March 2003	FWT 24.3.03
January 2004	FWT 9.1.04
April 2004	FWY 11.3.04
October 2004	FWT 7.10.04

Ian Taylor



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.

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Full and Part-Time PCV Fitters

at our Maldon and Rochford depots.

For more details contact:

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



Stephensons

