

ESSEX BUS NEWS

Everything you need to know about Buses in Essex

Dec 2003 www.essexbus.org.uk Issue 476



Essex Bus
Enthusiasts Group
Serving Essex Since 1964

Essex Bus News

Everything you need to know

Subscription Information

How to contact us

The current rates for a 12 month subscription are £16 First Class, £15 Second Class post.

Subscriptions are renewable in January or July.

1998 Data Protection Act -Members names & addresses, subscription renewal dates & postal rates are held on a computer database for the purpose of administering member services.

If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to the Membership Secretary.

Acting Magazine Editor Peter Mansbridge
19 Bull Lane, Rayleigh, SS6 8JE
E-mail essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Advisory Editor/Arriva Sean Menzies
32 Clarence Road, Brentwood, CM15 9PB
E-mail essexbusnews@hotmail.com

Service changes Adrian Lancer
E-mail : ebegscditor@aol.com

First in Essex Chris Stewart,
10 Crossways, Shenfield, CM15 8QX
E-mail: chris@stewartcsi.freemove.co.uk

Arriva Harlow & Ware Mark Garrett
36 High Street, Chishall, Royston, SG8 8RP
E-mail: deganwy@waitrose.com

Essex Small Operators Ian Ransom,
34 Donald Way, Chelmsford, CM2 9JE
E-mail: lanandSally@bigfoot.com

Hedingham/ Small operators & Tours
Organiser Dave Arnold, 21 Cedar Chase,
Heybridge, Maldon, CM9 4NR
E-mail: david@arnold1.fsnet.co.uk

Eastern National Enthusiasts Guild/Photos
and Southend area news -Peter Snell,
6 Mandeville Way, Benfleet, SS7 4LH

Problems with your subscription, need back issues or your magazine has pages missing? contact **Membership officer** Derek Stebbing, 'Conifers', Thorpe Road, Weeley, Clacton, CO16 9JJ E- mail derekstebbing@hotmail.com

Timetable subscriptions

Members of the scheme receive the Essex county council timetable books and updates plus a copy of the Thurrock council book.

Please contact Derek Stebbing for information or see www.essexbus.org.uk

Photo sales

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

Your reports & observations

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

Any views expressed in articles are those of the articles author alone and they do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the group.

We reserve the right to defer items to allow time for confirmation or achieve page layouts.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the group cannot accept responsibility for any error of fact subsequently discovered.

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

Essex Bus News is designed by Sean Menzies & printed by Kithead Ltd, De Salis Drive, Hampton Lovett, Droitwich, Worcs WR9 0QE

© 2003 Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Welcome Aboard!

Buses in the News/ Page 4

Arriva

Service Changes Page 5

First Page 7

ESSEX BUS NEWS

1964 - 2004: 40 years of local bus news

www.essexbus.org.uk

Editorial

**Happy Christmas
and a
prosperous 2004
from all the team**

Cover

The 222 has recently been upgraded with Plaxton Cheetahs. First Essex 608 (now in reserve) represents the old order last summer (Chris Stewart)

Photo

Buses in the news

The latest news from the bus world

Free bus travel in Thurrock

Free bus travel for the over-60s and disabled is to be introduced into Thurrock. The new scheme called Travel Thurrock will come into force from 16th February 2004. Application forms will soon be available so that those who qualify can claim their passes. Thurrock is the first council in the Eastern Region to offer free travel to the over 60s.

Phoenix replacement service folds

Scenic Travel has withdrawn services 559 and 560 as from Friday 28th November. The service provided pupils living in Basildon and Thurrock a link to selective schools in Southend. The news comes just two months after Scenic Travel stepped in to run the service following the financial collapse of Phoenix Student Travel.

ARRIVA EAST HERTS AND ESSEX

Vehicles in

from Arriva the Shires 3414 10/03

New 3414 P334 HVX Ds Dt SFD212 BR5TGD13496 Pn 969.2HWN5784

B34F 10/96

Allocations

10/03: 3414, 3818.HA

Vehicles out

2108 (M38 WUR): Arriva the Shires 2108 11/03

Essex service changes

Changes are now split into two sections to avoid some changes appearing more than once. Changes to "regular" services appear first, with changes to school services at the end. All changes are subject to change, so please check with the operator or Traveline before travelling.

I can be e-mailed at EBEGSCEDITOR@AOL.COM

W/C Saturday 1st November 2003

8, 8A, 8B, 10, 15, 17, 118, 199, 299, 399, A6, A7, H1 As in previous issues.

Saturday 8th November 2003

600 As in previous issues.

W/C Saturday 29th November 2003

2, 15A, 15B, 15C, 16, 22, 34, 34A, 54C, 56, 101, 102, 551, 700, 750, 751 As in previous issues.

115 (*Hedingham Omnibuses*) (Weeley & Thorpe-le-Soken)
Terminal point altered in Weeley to the Black Boy from 1st December.

W/C Saturday 6th December 2003

38, 59 As in previous issues.

38 (*Localink*) (Witham Forest Drive & Allectus Way circular)
New service from 8th December, partly replacing First's 38.

39 (*Localink*) (Witham Safeway & Powers Hall End circular)
New service from 8th December via Humber Road and Chipping Hill, partly replacing First's 38.

59 (*Arriva*) (Chelmsford & Harlow) In addition to previous issues, all journeys will be operated by Arriva the Shires & Essex, running hourly Mondays to Fridays and 2 hourly on Saturdays. The service will no longer serve Hatfield Broad Oak.

89, 89B (*Hedingham Omnibuses*) (Braintree & Haverhill) Most Saturday journeys withdrawn after service on 6th December. (See also 13th December)

Saturday 13th December 2003

552 As in previous issues.

Page 6

- 89** (*Stansted Transit*) (Braintree & Great Yeldham) New Saturday service replacing the withdrawn Hedingham Omnibuses service.

W/C Saturday 9th January 2004

- 4** (*Arriva*) (Harlow & Latton Bush) Monday to Friday frequency increased to 10bph from 12th January.
6 (*Arriva*) (Harlow & Potter Street) Withdrawn from 10th January.

Sunday 17th January 2004

- X80** (*Ensign*) (Lakeside & Strood) New service, running hourly Monday to Saturdays between Lakeside and Bluewater, with some journeys extended to Strood, and an irregular service on Sundays.
X90 (*Ensign*) (Lakeside & Bluewater) New service via Dartford, running hourly Monday to Saturdays (but with some 2-3 hour gaps at certain times)

School Services and SDO variations

Unknown date

- 508** (*Stephensons*) (Rochford & St. Thomas More School) This service no longer operates. Services 60 and 560 provide an alternative service.

Monday 3rd November 2003

- 301** As in previous issues.
67 (*NIBS*) (Ostend & Ingatestone) In addition to previous issues, the service was extended to start from North Fambridge.

Monday 10th November 2003

- 391** As in previous issues.

Friday 17th December 2003

- 521X** (*Cedric Coaches*) (Holland On Sea & Colchester) New service via Clacton, St. Osyth and Thorrington.

Tuesday 5th January 2004

- 49** (*NIBS*) (Laindon & Wickford) Withdrawn after end of school summer term.

First Essex

Vehicles into the fleet

- 11.03 450 YN53VBT Mercedes 0814D 110880 Plaxton Cheetah C33F 5296
451 YN53VBU Mercedes 0814D 110881 Plaxton Cheetah C33F 5297
452 YN53VBV Mercedes 0814D 110882 Plaxton Cheetah C33F 5298
Chassis numbers are prefixed WDB6703742N
These vehicles entered service in 'Barbie' coach livery on 1.12.03

Apologies - Olympian 4037 (31373) is L160UNS, while 4038 (31198) is L163UNS and not as given last month.

Darts 775-780 have body numbers 3017/3-7. The two remaining Darts from this order (chassis nos. 87253/4, body nos. 3017/1-2) were diverted to *First Cymru* for an urgent Park & Ride contract, becoming their 753/4 (CU03BHV/W). The two replacement Darts have also been diverted, presumably only temporarily, to *First PMT* - these are numbered in the national series as 42488/9 (SN53KJX/Y), have chassis numbers 87468/9 and body numbers 3058/1-2. 42489 carries *F-PMT* local number 613.

Allocation changes (period ending 22 November 2003)

FGC=First Group cascade, i.e. transfer to/from another First fleet
(A)=acquired, (R)=reserve, (Sp)=spare; (D)=disposal

602 CR-(R); 608 CR-(R); 1400 (D)-sold; 1405 BN-(R); 1430 (D)-sold;
1431 (D)-sold; 2825 (R)-BN; 3092 (D)-sold; 3101 (D)-sold; 3103
(D)-sold; 3113 (D)-sold; 4028 (D)-sold; 4030 (D)-sold; 4034 BN-CF;
4038 FGC-BN

Repaints

11.03 4304 to 'Barbie 2'

Disposals

by 22.11.03 1400 1430 1431 3092 3101 3103 3113 4028 4030
to Houston Ramm (dealer), mostly removed by Hardwicks (for scrap)

by 30.11.03 1408 2644 2651 9020 to Houston Ramm (dealer)

2643 2646 2648 2655 9026 9029 9035 to Jobserve, Colchester

VEHICLE WORKINGS

First Essex operated rail replacements from Shenfield to Wickford on Sundays 16th, 23rd, 30th November and 7th December. Vehicles noted include:

16.11.03	4013 4014 4025 4305 4314 4321 4325
	NIBS H228LOM Stephensons 6007 6011 TSO13X TSO15X
23.11.03	4012 4017 4301 4315 4323
	NIBS G607KTX Stephensons 6006 TSO12X
30.11.03	1414 1511 4012 4017 4018 4024 4025
	NIBS G601KTX G604KTX H241LOM
6.12.03	3219 4007 4010 4013 4014 4017 4018 4025 4301 4307
	4311 4323 4325 4326
	NIBS G603KTX G607KTX Stephensons TSO12X C959LWJ

Unusual sightings include:

12.11.03 1407 and 1415 on loan to *First PMT*
withdrawn 1402 at CF, towed to CN 18.11.03

17.11.03 CF2658 on 36

20.11.03 1432 on 33 (in use at CF, seen on 351 several times)

22.11.03 CF435 on 43

26.11.03 HH768 on 20/20C, HH747 on 20

1.12.03 HH766 on 20, 4xx Mercedes on 20
BN4038 on 751

2.12.03 HH774 on 20, HH949 on 26

3.12.03 CF2824 on Diamond

5.12.03 CF730 and CF1414 both on 31X

VR-watch

3219 continued in use at Chelmsford until 18th November, when it was towed away - for repair at RTF Commercials in Braintree. It is understood that 3112's back axle has been fitted, and 3219 reappeared in service on the 33 to Stansted on Friday 5th December after which it worked Shenfield-Wickford rail replacements on Sunday 7th December. 3072 worked the 70X and associated one round of Witham town service 38 (14.45 from Redwood Drive) on 11th November, rather than its more usual 509 (Dunmow-Colchester). With the withdrawal of First's 38 service on 7th December, however, this unusual double-deck working can no longer occur.

Other News

Braintree depot is now being advertised for sale as a redevelopment site through agents Taylor & Co (Chartered Surveyors) of Chelmsford. The particulars indicate that First will vacate the site in Autumn 2004.



New this summer were a batch of Transbus Darts for the upgrading of service 352. Fleetnumber 775 (SN03 WLD) has not received branding and so operates on other routes. It is seen here passing through Shenfield on 04/09/03 while on the 351. (Chris Stewart)

First Essex fleet allocation - 22 November 2003

Braintree (BE)	778-80, 943/4, 2663/6/71/5/80, 2808/11/2/6/21/6/7, 2909-11, 3072, 3219
Basildon (BN)	404/5, 655-67, 712-4/34-8/53-61, 852-5, 918/20/7/9-34/6/7/45, 967-73/83-6, 1403/6/10, 2825, 4035-8
Chelmsford (CF)	430-5, 512-37, 729-33/9-44/75-7, 1414/5, 1516-20, 2658/65/7-70/3/4/6/8/9, 2822-4/8, 2901-8, 4007/10/2/4, 4024/5/33/4
Clacton (CN)	919/21/2/4-6, 1510-3, 2662, 2801/5/6/9/10/9/20, 4015-9
Colchester (CR)	450-2, 610, 650-4/68/9/75/8/82-7, 715/6, 975-82, 1501-9, 2683, 2829/30, 2921-6, 4301-5/7/9/15/20-6
Hadleigh (HH)	403/6-10, 717-21/45-50/62-74, 907-11/3/28/35/8-42/6-58/74/87, 1406/7/9/11/2/7-24, 2803/14/5/8, 4003-5
Harwich (DT)	2681/2, 2802/13/7, 4008/9/13, 4308/10/1/4
Romford (RD)	401/2, 501-11, 912/4/6, 2804
Heritage	2383, 9001 (AJN825)
Spare	2655/64
Reserve	602/8, 1405/7/11*/29
Disposal	1401/2/4/8/16/25/6/32*, 2643/4/6/8-51/4/72, 3112, 4026/7, 9002/3/20/6
Driver Training	35, 1433 (BN); 9039/41/3/4 (Driving School at Head Office)
Ancillary vehicles	(note that some of these details are by members' observation only) BN: 9030, 9308; CF: 9008/38/42; CN: 2111, 9028; CR: 9033; HH: 9035/40; HO: 9004/10; (D) 9029

The following buses are currently fitted with tachographs:
852-4, 1404/5/32/3, 2829/30, 4013/5/6/9, 4311/5

***1411 remains in use at HH, 1432 at CF**

First Essex report EBN476 12.03

Sources: Own observations plus many thanks to M Austin, J Clayton, S Coates, D Edwards, M Farmer, M Garrett, M Jameson, P Mansbridge, S Menzies, A Rook, P Rowden, C Sigston, J Salmon, P Snell, D Stebbing, D Stewart, A Toms, R Webb, R Whitley, A Williams, Essex Bus and South West y-groups, *First Essex*, PSV Circle

Depot requirements and vehicle allocations

This information is given for guidance only, and may be subject to change for operational reasons.

	BE	BN	CF and (mini)	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	TOTAL BY TYPE
OPERAT'L REQ'T									
Minibus	4	2	14 (1)	1	1	2	5	1	31
Midibus	14	38	44 (3)	12	16	2	53	4	186
SD	0	15	9 (3)	4	22	0	8	0	61
DD	2	3	7	4	14	6	2	0	38
Mobility (Midi)	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Route 193 (Midi)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	10
Coach	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
Total operational requirement	20	61	74 (7)	21	57	10	68	15	333
ENG SPARE									
Minibus	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	1	5
Midibus	1	3	5	1	2	0	2	0	14
SD	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	5
DD	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	6
Mobility (Midi)	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
TOTAL ALLOC									
Minibus	5	2	15 (2)	1	1	2	6	2	36
Midibus	15	41	49 (3)	13	18	3	52	4	198
SD	0	16	9 (3)	4	24	0	13	0	69
DD	2	5	7	5	15	7	3	0	44
Mobility (Midi)	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
Route 193 (Mini)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	11
Coach	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4
TOTALS	BE	BN	CF	CN	CR	DT	HH	RD	FLEET TOTAL
	22	67	81 (8)	23	62	12	74	17	366

JENNINGS OF ASHEN

FACT FILE 5

The complete history of B. K. Jennings Coaches of Ashen, near Sudbury

The long awaited story of this well respected rural bus operator serving Sudbury, Haverhill, Braintree and Halstead, taken over by Hedingham Omnibuses in 1984.

This full history details the complete bus and coach fleet from 1924 and also includes comprehensive details of their London express service and the Kings Cross terminals that they used.

- Complete fleet list
- Full local route history
- Details of London service and Kings Cross terminals
- 9 historic black & white photos
- 2 route maps
- 6 illustrations of timetables and tickets

Order your copy of the 28 page Jennings Fact File by sending a cheque or postal order for £3.50 payable to Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group to :

Alan Osborne, 7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex IG3 8LT

GENUINE JENNINGS SOUVENIRS

To go with the Jennings of Ashen Fact File you may also be interested in purchasing a genuine Jennings souvenir. Member Ian Taylor made available for sale six copies only of the timetable leaflet for their London service (see Fact File back page) dated 1st August 1959. They are printed on green paper and are in MINT condition. This is a one-off offer and it will be a case of first come, first served. They are available from Alan Osborne (address above).

Prices - £5.00 each (post free if ordered with Fact File)

- £5.50 each (postage included if purchased alone)
