

News

2014



www.essexbus.org.uk



Left:

First 03 plate Cadet at Southend, now Arriva Kent Thameside, which he still thinks of as 'Arriva in Southend'! Pictured on its first day in service today, 19 March 2014.

John G. Lidstone.



Bottom picture this page: Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer 2 43735 (S735 TWC) from Hadleigh was noted working from Clacton on 1 April and 4 April. Here it is on 4 April in Pier Avenue, Clacton, on service 7X Clacton to Walton on the Naze.

Robert Appleton.

Front cover: A real Essex lady! See story on pp 4 & 5 of this issue. AJN825, 1939 Bristol K5G.

John G. Lidstone.

Essex Bus News 600; April 2014

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Send SAE with your requirements.*

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We are sorry that this service is temporarily
suspended until further notice.

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Your reports and observations

Members reports, quality photos, prints,
slides or JPGs to about 5"x4" size and
300dpi resolution and original articles are
always welcome.

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.

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The Running Card (Dates For Your Diary) by Owen Woodliffe.

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS.

The Spring session moves to **Freight House, Rochford** for meetings. This is the former Goods Shed of Rochford Railway Station and meetings are held in an upstairs room, entry by far right as you face the building. Ample free parking in front and a cash bar is available. Doors open at 1930 for informal chat with main show from 2000 to 2145/2200. A cash bar is available. Members and guests welcome - £1.50 donation towards cost of room, please.

Wednesday 21 May. Welsh Wanderings in the 1970s and 1980s, slides by Richard Delahoy.

Wednesday 18 June. Dave Arnold and Richard Delahoy. Jersey and Guernsey 1975 onwards.

Wednesday 16 July There should be an outside visit on (tbc), no meeting in August.

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

Venue: 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. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, and often impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 9 May. Richard Delahoy. 20 years ago, part 2.

Friday 13 June. Gary Sharpe. Slides of some sort!

Friday 11 July. Alan Osborne. DMS in London & beyond.

Friday 8 Aug. Chris Stewart.

Friday 12 Sept. Russell Young.

Friday 10 Oct. Steve Maskell.

Friday 14 Nov. Fred Lawrance. Tour of Essex Operators from 1940's to 1960's in Colchester.

Friday 12 Dec. Gary Sharpe. Christmas Special.



A Blast from the Past!

Eastern National
Bristol VRT
ECW 3226
DWU298T
seen parked in Basildon Depot during 1999.
Paul Harvey.

The Running Card (Dates For Your Diary), cont. by Owen Woodliffe.

GROUP TOURS.

Saturday 24 May 2014. "The Delaine Crusader".

Join us for this day tour visiting some very interesting operators.

Our morning visits will be to Greys of Ely, Emblings/Judds of Guyhirn and Decker Bus of Whittlesey. After a lunch break in Peterborough Town Centre we will spend the afternoon with Delaine at Bourne. Departure from Colchester North Station at 0800/Return 1850 and Dunmow High Street at 0840/Return 1815. Fare £20. To book, please send cheque payable to E.B.E.G. and S.A.E. to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5BE. Please state choice of pick up point.

Tuesday 24 June 2014. Evening tour from Colchester. Pick up Colchester North Station at 1900. The cost is £10 (payable on bus) which will be donated to Essex Air Ambulance.

EVENTS.

Sunday 4 May 2014. Ipswich to Felixstowe Run. www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk

Sunday 4 May 2014. Harlow Running Day. www.amershammotorbussociety.co.uk.

Sat/Sun 10/11 May 2014. Suffolk Day at East Anglia Transport Museum.
www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk

Saturday 10 May 2014. Transport Enthusiasts Bazaar, Theydon Bois CM16 7ER.

Sunday 18 May 2014. Yeldham Transport Museum Open Day.

The Group stall will be at this event. Group publications, pre-owned books, large selection of 1990's Essex CC timetables and photos for sale.

Monday 26 May. Ipswich Transport Museum. Bristol Commercial Vehicles event.
Website as above.

Sunday 1 June 2014. Clacton Bus Rally. *The Group stall will be at this event.*

Sunday 6 July. Cambridge Omnibus Society have a trip to Wirksworth Classic Bus Rally in conjunction with the Ecclesbourne Valley Railway. Travel by ex OK Tiger, pick up at Sawston at 0800. Contact Owen Woodliffe as above for further details.

Information is published in good faith and members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers, as the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.



Not surprisingly, the Marshall Capital Darts Trustybus acquired for Loughton local routes 541/2/3 are already being replaced. BX58 BEY is one of a pair of Enviro 200 Darts acquired from Hanson of Stourbridge.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN600p3

75 years an (Essex) Lady by John G. Lidstone.

Extracts from a personal celebration to a very special Bristol K5G. The full text appears in "Bus & Coach Preservation".

These days, if you say Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services, I'd expect many of you would identify straight away with the most magnificent surviving double-decker that was new to its fleet – the 1939 K5G AJN 825. That this bus has survived in such original condition is nothing short of a miracle, for which we should all be truly grateful!

AJN was one of the earlier manifestations of Tillings' takeover of the formerly independent Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services. Where AECs previously prevailed, ECV-bodied Bristols became the enforced choice from the late 1930s, AJN being one of three K5Gs (AJN 823-5), accompanied by a lone early L5G (AJN 826). The earliest K5Gs were rebodied by ECW, but the AJN trio retained all original features including the rather intimidating 'high' prewar radiator, towering over short drivers like me to remind them of who is boss!

Eastern National took over Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services in 1954 and so much then changed, not least by our stalwart AJN changing hues from Tilling red to Tilling green (and happily, with radiator surround now silver as well as the grille); the bus was numbered 1269 and found itself drafted away from its home Southend area to Basildon.

AJN became an ideal candidate for the (then) far-sighted British Transport Commission's museum at Clapham after withdrawal in 1960 but AJN remained unrestored. She then went back to storage with Eastern National in 1969, first at Chelmsford Central Works and by 1971, at its Canvey (Island) depot.

Meanwhile, the Eastern National Preservation Group had formed from a nucleus of drivers from Basildon depot, who had adopted and cherished open-top Bristol KSW5G 2380 (WNO 478), then in use as a driver trainer.



On 11 March 2014, AJN825 sits proudly outside HH depot. We shall soon find out why!

John G. Lidstone .

EBN600p4

After a complicated existence, AJN 825 made what could well have been her last move – to the 'wilds' of Walton in North Essex, where, on 14 December 1996, she escaped being burnt out by the narrowest of margins when vandals set buses alight right next to it in the yard. For a second time cheating her end, AJN survived – but only just.

Quickly moved to Clacton depot for assessment, nearside panelling was removed, which graphically showed how close she'd come to catching light. AJN then made the saddest journey of her life, with no nearside panelling, from Clacton to Chelmsford in May 1997 for formal assessment, no doubt causing consternation to corporate accountants (which, several years later, would see the bus sold off).

A new saviour for AJN now came into play, this being Martin Farmer who worked with the-now First Essex at Chelmsford. Without his involvement, it is perhaps fair to say we might not have AJN with us today (Martin leads the '825 Group' which continues to care for it).

The '825 Group' regard rallying as important and, coincidentally, a now-regular call at the Isle of Wight autumn Running Day started from an initial enquiry to Dave Moore there, about tyres. An immediate affinity was born; owing to Southern Vectis twin K5Gs 702/3 (CDL 899, DDL 50) from 1940.

Other events AJN usually attends are at Sheringham (its 1940s weekend), Carlton Colville special events, the Ipswich-Felixtowe run and the Castlepoint Open Day. This year, AJN will also support the Bus & Coach Preservation event at St Albans on 29 June. She also attended the recent rally in Detling, Kent.

My warmest thanks go to the '825 Group', Martin and Keith especially, for their help with regard to this future and also for allowing me the huge privilege of a whole day at the wheel on AJN's 'first big day out' of 2014, visiting First Hadleigh and other locations ahead of her 75th birthday celebrations this year, and of 100 years of Westcliff-on-Sea.

© John G. Lidstone 2014



John indulges himself outside his own home! And wouldn't we all the same if we had the chance! He also took this picture.

“Eastern National’s Lodekkas” a Review by Philip Wallis

Chris Stewart's book contains much more than just the story of Eastern National's Lodekkas for the he has succeeded in encapsulating the complete development of the Bristol Lodekka from the 1949 prototype up to the last FLFs built in 1968. Much specification detail of this mould-breaking Eastern Coach Works-bodied bus design is incorporated into the text.

The volume is more than simply a treatise on the technicalities of the Lodekka. Comprehensive information is included about routes operated by Eastern National's Lodekkas across its most diverse operating territory which ranged from urban service into London and environs to distinctly rural routes in Essex.

No aspect of the Lodekkas' life with Eastern National has been overlooked. Coach-specification models, open-top conversions and driver training vehicles are all described and illustrated in the text. Interesting expositions include the background of Professor Cave-Browne-Cave who developed a heating system used quite extensively by the Tilling group on Bristol Lodekkas as well as account of Eastern National's background involvement with the television series *On The Buses*.

The book is very well written and beautifully presented. Photographic content is well balanced, matches appropriate sections of text and has been reproduced to a high standard. A colour section highlights both Eastern National Lodekkas in service and the afterlife of some Lodekkas following disposal by the company. Appendices are a Lodekka Fleet List and a listing of all known surviving former EN Lodekkas.

This book is highly recommended for content and quality.



See next page for caption.

Philip Wallis.

EBN600p6

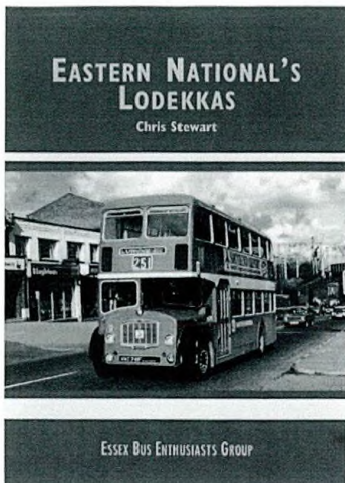
The "Magnificent Machine" Controversy Continues!

More support has flooded in from those who had a favourable opinion of the Lodekka, including reinforcements from across the pond!

Michael Parsons, now in Canada, drove from Wood Green and thought they were a fine bus to drive and conduct.

His favourites were WG 1489 and BD 1541 which were really good for the busy 1730 ex WG.

John Booroff drove from SD and BN and liked 2826 and 2845.



Don't Miss Out!

Chris Stewart's book is selling so well you may well miss out if you don't order a copy soon.

Only £15 and each member is entitled to one copy, post free, at this bargain price.

Available from Owen Woodliffe (see page 1),
at EBEG meetings
or from Chris himself.

Chris Stewart is Appealing!

If anyone has a Brentwood (BD) Eastern National depot plate they no longer require, Chris Stewart is seeking one, or preferably two (for reasons, which will hopefully become clear later this year). Please phone 07973 509459 or e-mail shenfield252@gmail.com if you can help.

Caption for picture on previous page.

Fifty years ago, on 19 April 1964 there were major route changes in South Essex, prompted by the continued growth of Basildon New Town. From that date, several major new links were created and amongst these was the 151, a variation on the established former City Coach Co. 251 with every other journey now running from London to/from Southend via Basildon, Benfleet and Hadleigh. From July 1964 the Southend terminus was moved to Seaway, but in June 1961 one of the first batch of FLFs, 1573 (2702) heads away from Wood Green to the former City destination of Tyler's Avenue. It also carries 'route branding' as applied to a number of Lodekkas allocated to the route. (**Philip Wallis**, to whom the Group is grateful for making available a number of early 1960s photographs, which will appear over time in EBN).

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Amber Coaches

1 April 14	11	M-S	Purfleet to Basildon: new service.
	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: new service.

First

16 March 14	42/A	D	Galleywood to Broomfield Hospital/Stansted Airport: revised route & timetable due to completion of road works at Parkway, Chelmsford.
	351	D	Chelmsford to Brentwood: revised route and timetable due to completion of road works at Parkway Chelmsford.
	CVPR	M-S	Chelmer Valley Park & Ride: revised route and timetable due to completion of road works at Parkway Chelmsford.
	100	D	Lakeside to Chelmsford: revised route and timetable due to completion of road works at Parkway Chelmsford.
	140	Sun	Chelmsford to Basildon: revised route and timetable due to completion of road works at Parkway Chelmsford.
6 April 14	201	Sun	Lakeside to Basildon: new Sunday service.
15 April 14	72	M-F	Chelmsford to Chelmer Village: revision to route.
20 April 14	8/8A	D	Pitsea to Laindon: improved Sunday timetable introduced and to serve Laindon Station during the day.
	15A	M-S	Langdon Hills to Wickford: service to operate only between Basildon and Langdon Hills during the day.
	20	D	Southend to Hullbridge: the 1538 schoolday journey from Bournes Green will start from Southend at 1555.
	21/A	D	Southend to Canvey Newlands: revised route and timetable. Service will operate via Hadleigh Road instead of Thames Drive and Leigh Station.
			No change to evenings or Sunday Service.



First's 'finest' ex Manchester Scania 60810, now allocated to Chelmsford, on the 1720 31B journey to Burnham in Chelmsford Bus Station on 4 April 2014.

Russell Young.

EBN600p8

20 April 2014, cont.

22	D	Canvey to Basildon: the 1935 departure from Canvey will operate 6 minutes later.
23/A/B	M-S	Southend to Temple Sutton: revised timetable with service 23 operating Monday to Friday day time only. Services 23A and 23B withdrawn.
24/A	D	Southend to Temple Sutton: Sunday service 24 re-routed along full length of Newington Avenue instead of Archer Avenue.
25/A/B	D	Southend to Basildon: revised timetable with most service 25A journeys extend from Rayleigh to/from Basildon. The schoolday afternoon service 25B from Hadleigh will depart at 1612.
26	M-F	Southend to Hadleigh: revised timetable and route, will operate via Leigh Station and Thames Drive instead of Hadleigh Road with all journeys extended to Hadleigh. Introduction of Saturday service.
27	D	Southend to Canvey: on Mondays to Saturdays service extended to/from Temple Sutton with revised timetable.
28	D	Southend to Basildon: minor timetable revisions.
61C	FS	Colchester to University: service withdrawn.
62/A	D	Colchester to Wivenhoe: additional Friday and Saturday late evening/night journeys introduced.
75/A	M-S	University to Maldon: revised timetable with most journeys on service 75A extended to/from Maldon.
88	M-S	Colchester to Halstead: early morning and mid evening journeys to operate via Aldham Village.
200	M-S	Basildon to Grays: minor timetable revision to morning journey from Grays.
300	M-F	Basildon to London Gateway Port: introduction of Saturday and Sunday service with revised timetable. This change has also been reported for introduction on 14 March and 6 April.



First took over Thurrock Council route 201, Basildon to Grays, from Arriva from 6 April. 41541 is seen outside Basildon garage on the first day.

Adam Kelleher.
EBN600p9

Services Changes, cont. by Paul Harvey.

Imperial Buses

31 March 14	11	M-S	Purfleet to Basildon: service withdrawn.
	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: service withdrawn.



The end of Imperial! Imperial's last day of operation of Thurrock Council routes 11 and 374 was 31st March. X319 KRX is seen on the 374 and W138 ULR is seen on the 11 at Basildon Bus Station on the last day.

Adam Kelleher.

London Bus Company

15 April 14	339	SSu	Epping to Ongar: some journeys extended to Shenfield from Ongar as part of the summer timetable.
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Nelsons (NIBS)

6 May 14	478	Sch	Willingale to Brentwood: revision to timetable.
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Regal Busways

22 April 14	552	M-F	Ramsden Heath to Billericay: revision to route.
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Stephensons of Essex

10 May 14	71C	M-S	Witham to Chelmsford: minor revision to the one journey from Witham which will commence at Boreham.
2 June 14	61	D	Southend to Fossetts Park: first 3 journeys Mon to Fri will operate via Temple Farm Industrial Estate.

TGM Group (Harlow)

6 May 14	2/3	M-S
	7/A	M-S
	8/A	M-S
	10	D
	505	M-S

Harlow to Staples Tye Circular: revision to route and timetable.
Harlow to Mark Hall Circular: revision to route and timetable.
Harlow to Old Harlow Circular: revision to timetable.
Harlow to Church Langley Circular: revision to route and timetable.
Harlow to Chingford: revision to route and timetable.

Townlink Buses

21 May 14	T15	M-S
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Harlow Circular: revision to route and timetable.



Former Stagecoach London Dart SLF ALX200 LX51FFW seen in Hertford last month with Townlink Buses.

Paul Harvey.

(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex, Hertfordshire & Suffolk County Councils, Omnibus Society (Essex Branch), Richard Delahoy, Paul Robinson & Harlowwide)

Your Committee.

At the Group's AGM on 19 March, the existing officers and committee were voted back in for the coming year. For the benefit of members, they are:- Chris Stewart (Chairman), Alan Osborne (Hon. Secretary), Richard Delahoy (Hon. Treasurer and Membership Secretary), Owen Woodliffe (Sales Officer), Keith Woods (Tours Organiser) and Maurice Austin (EBN Editor).

A Double For for you!

L600BUS for EBN600 by Richard Delahoy.

This picture nicely illustrates an interesting period of Essex bus history. L600BUS was an Optare Metrorider, B31F, new to Lucketts of Watford (trading as "Luckybus") in August 1995 and carrying this special registration from new (they also took L700BUS and L800BUS the following year). Lucketts' bus operations were taken over by Arriva the Shires in January 1997 and this bus continued to run at Watford. By 18 December, 2001, it had migrated to Grays depot when Richard Delahoy photographed it at Lakeside shopping centre.

Grays was then still under the control of Arriva the Shires, moving to Arriva Southern Counties the following month. L600BUS had been numbered 2102 by AtS (as seen here) but became ASC 1850 and subsequently worked from Northfleet.

The route also has an interesting history. 324 was set up by Capital Citybus, then transferred to Ensign, who then sold it to Town & Country Travel (Bernie Waters), who in turn sold the route to Arriva in October 2000. It ran from Romford (latterly just Hornchurch) to Bluewater via Lakeside. Arriva continued the service until November 2002 and today the Bluewater end of the service is back in Ensign's hands as X80, whilst the Lakeside to Hornchurch part is now TfL route 372, operated by Stagecoach from Rainham garage.

(With thanks to Richard Lewis of Arriva for confirming some details, and to various internet sites for piecing together the story).





C600NPU for EBN600 by Richard Delahoy.

Eastern National acquired a batch of 5 Carlyle bodied Ford Transits, 0600-0604, in 1986 for use on London Regional Transport contracted route 193. Interestingly, the buses were actually new to East Midland Motor Services the previous year but were unused and passed to EN, arriving in green and white but repainted into EN livery before entering service. They replaced the VRs which had started the 193 service after EN won the tender in July 1985, the Transits being used to allow the service to be extended to Romford from 2 August, 1986. They were, in turn, displaced from the 193 by Reeve Burgess and Dormobile bodied Mercedes L608Ds later in 1986, part of a batch that also introduced minibus operation to the Brentwood town services.

Thus by 8 February, 1987, Richard Delahoy found 0600 working from the newly opened Ponders End depot as a staff shuttle and photographed it ferrying a driver to take over VR 3213, CBD901T (ex Milton Keynes City Bus) on service 359, Manor House to Hammond Street. Terry Challis wrote about these Ponders End operations in our November 2011 edition. The Transit was still branded as the "Hornchurch Hoppla". This small batch only lasted just over a year with EN, 0600 being sold in September 1987 to Colin Blackwell Minibuses of Abbess Roding where it ran for over 10 years but by July 1999 it was with T J Walsh (Halifax Bus), re-registered B10TJW. It was scrapped by early 2003. Secondhand ex London taxis replaced the Transits on crew transfers.

(Thanks to Chris Stewart and Colin Sigston for additional info).

Chastisement from Terry Challis!

EBN598p27, Ensignbus disposals, claims that Archway Travel is based at Blackpool. It is actually in Poulton-le-Fylde. It probably seems a small point in Essex but it is important to those who live there!

Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

Southend Borough Council. Southend and District Bus and Rail map 2014. Has a map of the old co-ordination area, frequency guide and smaller maps of where to board your bus in Southend town centre, Benfleet, Leigh-on-Sea, Rochford and Rayleigh. Produced by FWT. *With thanks to Richard Delahoy.*

Arriva Southend services.

1 dated 17.11.13; 4/A dated 17.11.13; 5 dated 5.5.13; 6A dated 19.2.12; 7/8 dated 17.11.13; 9 dated 5.5.13; 18 dated 19.2.12; and 29 dated 5.5.13.

Smaller Operators by Roger A. Smith. With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Goldings (Turners of Essex), Little Maplestead.

Two Setra S315's, reg. LSU113 (ex. W10TGM) and LSU788 (ex. W2SET) along with Setra S415, reg. MY53TRA, all C49FT, have been acquired from Talisman, Great Bromley.

Graham's Coaches, Kelvedon.

Mercedes Benz 711D (C24F), reg. P2BST (ex. P484TGA) was formerly with Ellis of Kelvedon.

Lodge, High Easter.

Leyland/Northern Counties H47/29F, reg. K738ODL, has been acquired from Wilts & Dorset.

New Horizon, Frating.

Iriza bodied Scania reg. YN54AKK, previously with Maney, St. Albans, Herts. Is understood to have been withdrawn following an accident.

Talisman, Great Bromley.

Setra S415GT-HD, previously reg. BJ08KNM has been re-registered as OK08ULM.



As mentioned in EBN598p7, New Horizon Travel have withdrawn their services 13 Walton on the Naze to Frinton on Sea, and 15 Walton on the Naze to Clacton, the last day of operation was Saturday 8 March. RX51 FNS Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer at the Frinton terminus of service 13 on Frinton on Sea Esplanade on 4 March, with the North Sea in the background.

Robert Appleton.

Has John G. Lidstone Got a New Sideline?



The wedding party used TMY 700 – 1949, LTA 752 – 1950 and one of the rare 4 open-sider convertible toast rack OBs for Skegness by Lincolnshire MJB481 – 1956.

Not really! As he was waiting to photograph the last of 12 Enviro200 refurbis to arrive at First HH on Friday 14 March, Lodge's gave him a coach running day to enjoy. See his Flickr Southend Jan-Mar set for more!

EBN600p15

The Arriva Centrepages Spread!



Left: To conclude the story of the end of 83 years of transport history, with the ceasing of operations under the licence number first allocated to Southend Corporation Transport in 1931 (F.93), **Richard Delahoy** was out on the night of Monday 10 March 10 to photograph the last bus to run under PF0000093 as Arriva Southend. At precisely midnight, 4245 waits on the deserted forecourt of Rayleigh Station to work the 0006 to Southend Victoria. From the next morning, operations looked exactly the same to passengers and staff, but were conducted under the Arriva Kent Thameside Ltd licence.



Pictures, this page: Dennis Dart 3218, T218NMJ, was the first new bus delivered to Southend in Arriva livery, back in 1999. After a pretty full career in Southend, it has gravitated south of the river and has been repainted to celebrate the gold medal won by Lizzy Yarnold in the recent winter Olympics. **Richard Delahoy's** shot of the then new bus at Asda in Shoeburyness, route branded for service 9, was taken on 31 July, 1999 and contrasts with **Richard Lewis's** recent shot at West Kingsdown, Lizzy's home village.



Top picture, previous page: Arriva's bus named *The Pride of Rayleigh* was officially launched by the local Member of Parliament and the Chairman of Rayleigh Town Council following the fitting to its rear of an aerial view of the town. Left to right are Kevin Hawkins (Regional Commercial Director, Arriva Southern Counties), Mark Francois MP (Member of Parliament for Rayleigh and Wickford) and Councillor Ian Ward (Chairman, Rayleigh Town Council) **Richard Lewis.**

More 600's for EBN600!

DOUBLE DECKER SPECIALS

Hedingham have introduced low-cost services to towns such as Ipswich, Bury, Southend, Ilford and Basildon giving Clacto people the opportunity to visit these excellent shopping town at very competitive prices.

Look out for details of future trips.

The EBEG team of researchers has been beavering away finding bus artefacts with a 600 title!

Hedingham Omnibuses introduced a M-F service 600 from the Holland & Clacton areas to Colchester wef 1 November 1993. An extract of the colourful leaflet is shown on the left.

Geoff Toon and Alan Osborne

Keith Woods took the lower photo of Stansted Transit MCW Metrobus POG600Y he saw on layover in Dunmow in July 2006 before taking up the service to Bishops Stortford. This bus was new to West Midlands PTE as its 2600 in 1983.

Thank you to everyone else who found items I haven't got space to reproduce.



**New Vehicles**

The new StreetLites for Hadleigh will reportedly be 47519-28 (10.8m length, 37 seats) and 63161-70 (11.5m length, 41 seats). The extra 0.7m length pushes the 41 seaters into the normal size single deckers category within First's numbering system, whereas the 10.8m vehicles are classified as midibuses.

Acquired Vehicles

44002	LK57 EJE	AD E200 SFD511AR17GY10493	AD 7220/2	B29D	12/07	F-Cap East DML44002
44005	LK57 EJJ	AD E200 SFD511AR17GY10496	AD 7220/5	B29D	12/07	F-Cap East DML44005
44077	YX58 HVG	AD E200 SFD551AR28GY11023	AD 8237/7	B29D	2/09	F-Cap East DML44077
44079	YX58 HVJ	AD E200 SFD551AR28GY11025	AD 8237/9	B29D	2/09	F-Cap East DML44079

44077 and 44079 were delivered to HH on 7 March. The former was seen on route 21 on the 11th and the latter on route 25 on the 14th. 44002 and 44005 were delivered to HH on 14 March; the former was in service on 17th. These four deliveries complete the 12 ex *First London* Enviro 200s. These vehicles have white side window surrounds; previous Enviro 200s have black. 33189/91, which had been on loan at BE for a couple of weeks last August (see EBN 593 and 594), are due at HH from *First London* at Dagenham. They have been converted to single door layout and are being repainted at Mardens, Benfleet. 33189 was complete by 7 March, excluding magenta lining and fleet names. At that time it also retained scroll blinds. 33191 will be outshopped in *Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services* red and cream as part of the centenary celebrations of that company.

The recently acquired Caetano bodied Darts are B36F. These have three tip ups in the wheelchair area. Those acquired in 2011/2 do not have these and are B33F. Also, the 2011/2 batch have one single side facing seat after the offside wheel arch, followed by one single forward facing seat; on the latest batch these two seats are both side facing.

Vehicles on Loan

66168 remained on loan during March, being noted on route 70 on the 18th. 61533 was delicensed by March 6, out of MOT with repairs not considered viable.

Allocation Changes

These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FG=to/from another First Group company (both involving change of legal ownership); Acq=acquired from a non First company

The following traditional depot codes are used in EBN, although no longer by the company:

BN-Basildon; BE-Braintree; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; DT-Harwich (outstation of CR); HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School; (D)-Disposal, RES=reserve; Sh=shuttle bus (non PCV)

Period 12 (23 February-29 March)

20500 BE(Res)-CF; 32809 HH-BN; 32850 HH-BN; 41011 HH-sold; 41238 BN-sold; 41240 BN-sold; 41241 BN-sold; 43712 HH-CN; 43713 CN-CN(store); 43714 HH-CN; 43735 HH-CN; 43738 HH-HH(out of use); 43742 CN-CN(store); 44001 FG-HH; 44002 FG-HH; 44005 FG-HH; 44077 FG-HH; 44079 FG-HH; 44081 FG-HH; 60809 CF-Reserve; 60811 BN-CN(store); 60863 BN-CN(store).

Of the above, 43713, 43742, 60811 and 60863 were seen stored at the back of Clacton on 30 March, as was 60865, which is still officially allocated to CF. HH43729 was reported in service at CF on 4 and 5 March in EBN 599 but this was just a temporary loan; by 9 April it was parked at the back of CN depot with its LED blinds removed. 32806 remains officially allocated to CF (Driver Trainer) but has been back at BN for the last month or so. In this period it has been parked at the back of the depot next to 32807 (also a trainer) and neither appears to have been used. By 9 April, 32807 had been moved to the back of CN depot. Also there on that date was 65576 (ex CR, *First Essex's* only T reg. Scania) but 43713 had gone. It has been reported that 40008 has been withdrawn from service at BE and is being prepared for a school contract at Hereford.

**Repaint**

62407, which had been off road with accident damage incurred at Ardleigh whilst on route 104 circa last November (see EBN 596), has been repaired and repainted into new livery with Colchester fleet names. It returned to service on 4 April.

Disposals

To Alpha Recovery, Cramlington for scrap, March 2014: 41011, 41238, 41240 and 41241.

Correction to EBN 599: 41644 seems to have gone to Alpha in early April rather than February after spending a period of time stored at the back of Clacton depot (seen there on 30 March but gone by 9 April).

Other Vehicle News and Workings**General**

BN32628 has had its all over side / rear vinyls for First "We believe that buses are the future" removed. However, 32631 was acquired with just a super rear ad for the same and it currently retains it. BN66805 is another Volvo to have received a super rear ad for BMW cars / Fairfield, Leigh on Sea. BN69901 is another hybrid to have the vinyl removed from the rear window, whilst, somewhat strangely, BN69909 has had its rear route number covered by magenta masking. HH66804, out of use since 22 October 2013 after suffering fire damage in Leigh, was back in service by 13 March.

Vehicles with LED displays normally display "Bus Reversing" when so doing, switching every few seconds between normal orange on black and black on orange. However, Hadleigh's have been reprogrammed to switch every few seconds between the normal orange on black "Bus Reversing" and "Stand Clear!!!" (also orange on black).

Olympians

The two remaining Olympians continued in service during March and into April. 34014 seems to have found a permanent home on route 75, seen thus on 11, 12, 14, 20 & 24 March and 2, 3 & 4 April. Prior to this it was on 61/62 on 10 March. 34305 was on 71/A (10, 18, 19 & 21 March), 542 (6th) and Marks Tey - Manningtree Greater Anglia rail replacement (16th), plus on 42 on 1 and 9 April and on both 42A and 42 on 8th.

Older Darts

Despite a number of native R and S reg Darts being displaced from Hadleigh by the arrival of the 12 Enviro 200s, ex *First Devon & Cornwall* P reg Dart 42439 remains in service there and in February received a new MOT. It was noted in use on route 24 on 17 March and 21 on 3 April. This is one of two Pointers (as opposed to Pointer 2s) and one of two P reg Darts remaining in service, the other is ex *First Eastern Counties* 43448 at Braintree. The sale of 41238/40/41 leaves 41239 as the last remaining Marshall bodied Dart at Basildon (this is an S reg.). It was seen on route 9 on 1 April. One R reg. Marshall (43739) is still in service at Braintree together with seven X regs at Hadleigh. The withdrawal from service of 43742 leaves 43741 at Clacton as the last remaining Alexander bodied Dart in use (seen in service on April 9).

Pre Sema

It is 10 years since the *First Essex* fleet was renumbered into the national "Sema" scheme. Only 74 vehicles remain which carried pre Sema numbers. These are: Solos 512-7, 521, 525-37 (Sema 53112, etc.); Scania L94UB / Wright Access Fioline 650-4 (65650-4); Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar 656-9, 661-3, 666, 668-75, 678, 682-4 (65676/665/668/671/677/666/669/667/678-689); Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2 712-15, 717, 719-21, 729, 731-36, 738 (43712, etc.); Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander ALX200 741-2 (43741-2); Transbus Dart / Pointer 775-782 (42482-4/487/485-6/488-9) and Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties 4305 / 4318 (34305 / 34014). In addition, 62406-10 (Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar) had been allocated fleet numbers 676/77/80/79/81 but these entered service with *First Hampshire & Dorset* and by the time they arrived in Essex (May 2004) the Sema numbering was already in use. The fact that they received Sema numbers in the 62xxx series rather than 65xxx like their sisters was because they were renumbered whilst with FH&D.

Other News

Former *First Essex* 1550 (M290 FAE), a Plaxton bodied Dennis Javelin, was seen in Chelmsford on 11 March and again on 31st. This vehicle is now owned by *Ace Training* of Sawbridgeworth, having been acquired from *Lodge's* last year, and remains in *Lodge's* blue and cream livery but with *Ace Training* fleet names. Whilst with *Lodge's* it was re-registered F20 DGE but regained its original registration when sold to *Ace*. It had been acquired by *First Essex* in August 2002 from *First Devon and Cornwall* (it had been new to *Badgerline*) and originally operated in National Express livery (minus logos), but was repainted into First coach livery in January 2003. It was based at the Airport Buses and Coaches division at Stansted. When this closed down in July 2003 it moved on to *First Beeline*.

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR) (including Harwich (DT) outstation)

Vehicles in use from Harwich during March (all CR allocated) have been five buses for services 103/104 and school service 30A plus Sunday service 3 with no spare; the number of double-deckers has varied between nil and three.

2 March	32478, 32484, 32651, 60206 and 69430*
4	32478, 32484, 32654, 60206 and 69430
9	32475, 32478, 32651, 65569 and 65685*
16	65627*, 65652, 65654, 65671 and 65679
19	32475, 65654, 65676, 65679 and 65687
23	32484, 62408*, 65681, 66982 and 69421
26	32475, 32484, 62408, 65574 and 69421
30	32476, 32483, 62408, 62410 and 65569*

*These buses worked Sunday route 3, the others on these dates were parked up ready for service the next day.

The four CN buses used on services 3/4 Clacton-Harwich and Harwich local services 20/20A/22A/22B have included:

4 March	44516, 44517, 44518 and 44597
19	44518, 44519, 44597 and 44599

Other observations:

23 March	CR32480/5 plus at least two other ALXs on Ipswich to Felixstowe / Stowmarket rail replacement
26	CN43712, recently transferred from HH, on 4
28	CN43714, also recently transferred from HH, on 7

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

From around 5 March Mayes Lane in Danbury was closed for two weeks or so due to road subsidence. Consequently route 36 was on diversion via Wells Lane, meaning that at Eves Corner or Danbury Church the 15 minute daytime service to Chelmsford was reduced to a 30 minute one with heavy loadings noted on the 31.

27 Feb	CF20500 on X30 (and again on 28th). Although the dot matrix screen has been repaired, on 27th it was set to blank and on 28th to "First 0".
16 March	53121, 53128, 53134, 53135 and 53139 (all CF) on <i>Greater Anglia</i> rail replacement at Ipswich (some were used on shorts to Manningtree) - this is the first reported sighting of FE Solos on such work at Ipswich since May 2008. CR32477 and BE33088 also on GA RRP.
17	BE42447 on 70X (and again on 18th)
18	BE42488 on 70X
23	53113, 53121, 53127 and 53132 (all CF) on <i>Greater Anglia</i> Rail replacement at Ipswich
26	CF20500 on X30, front and rear number displayed but destination blank. CF66794 also on X30 (the other bus which sometimes covers the X30, which has leather seats, 65032, was on the 42).
28	CF60810 on 71/X
1 April	CF44550 on 70
4	BN66820 on the 1710 Sandon P&R extra with "First" on blind, all previous reported sightings of this journey have been a double decker.
6	CF44539 on 80A/C
8	The elusive 68531 on driver shuttle at Chelmsford. This bus had previously only been reported as being seen twice in the seven months since it was acquired. It retains lettering for Cranbrook School (Ilford). It does not have a three track number box in the rear window (but does have a side destination box) and the front destination is papered over with "School Bus" with red and yellow circles each side. It carries fleet number "GB68531"; the class code is from its days in London. It was then seen again on driver shuttles the next day! BE42483 on 42, CF65032 on X30 (LEDs not working, number and destination in windscreen) - incidentally although this bus has "Chelmsford City" fleet names it does not carry any "First" fleet names or logo. 65031, on 71A on 8th, still has no fleet names at all.



Three of Basildon's four Marshall bodied Darts were sold to Alpha in March, leaving 41239 as the sole S registered example in service. Seen on route 9 in Brentwood High Street on 1 April 2014.

Adam Kelleher.

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

First Essex took over Thurrock Council Sunday and Bank Holiday service 201 between Basildon and Grays from Arriva from 6 April. On the first day 41539 and 41541 were seen in service on the 201 plus 41544 was observed in Basildon depot blinded for the route so may also have been used.

13 March BN32628 on 9
 15 BN32905 on 9
 17 BN33077 on 502, BN66822 on 512, BN66823 on 100X
 31 BN32809/50, both recent transfers from HH, on 25, BN32905 on 9, BN41527 on 100, BN66805 on 100, BN66820 on 100X, BN66916 on 300
 1 April BN33424 and BN69911 on 100X, CF driver trainer 60305 on training at Basildon, BN66820 and BN66822 on 100, BN69919 on 200X
 3 BN32631 on 9
 6 BN33424 and BN66822 on 251, BN60766 and BN60767 on 22
 9 BN32863 on 9, failed in Brentwood High Street

Depot News. By 30 March, First's Dagenham depot yard was clear of vehicles.

Corrections to photo captions in EBN 599: page 9 is on loan 66168 (not 66186) and page 16 is 44006 (not 44066).

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, J Bennee, G Butler, N Clark, T Clark, L Cornwell, A Hughes, J Lidstone, J Long, D Lund-Conlon, K Mead, J Podgorski, S Quay, I Ransom, A Spindler, R Webb, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by text on 07973 509459, by e-mail to shenfield252@gmail.com or by conventional post. Many thanks to all those who do so.



First Dart/Plaxton (SN03 WLW) at the foot of Mount Hill, Halstead on service 132 having arrived from Witham via Braintree on service 132 on March 24th. **Ken Coldwell.** EBN600p22

Sun/ BH operation by Arriva of Thurrock contract routes 44 (Grays – Purfleet) and 201 (Basildon – Grays) ended on 30 March, ending operation by Southend depot in Thurrock. In recent weeks these services had been Versa operated rather than DAF / Wright Cadets.

with thanks to John Podgorski



A lesser known operation by Arriva Southend was of two Thurrock Council Sunday contracts, 44 (Grays to Purfleet) and 201 (Basildon to Lakeside). The contracts were up for re-tender and Ensign have taken on the 44 commercially, with First winning the 201. Under Arriva they were usually operated by Darts but in the last few weeks, Versas became more common. Here 4205 with route branding for service 9 "the wave" pauses at Stifford Clays for Matthew Evans' camera on the last day of operation by Arriva, 30 March 30. Perhaps the wave being advertised was to be found on Grays Beach? (And yes, there is one in Grays – a beach that it is!).

Richard Delahoy.

TGM Essex - Network Harlow by Peter Mansbridge.

SX Connect liveried Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3873/4 were observed working Heathrow Greenline service 724 on 27 March and 2 April.

Dennis Dart SLFs S304 JUA (in full Network Harlow livery) and P221 MKL (Arriva livery with Network Harlow fleetnames) were observed working in Harlow on 2 April after a long absence.

Volvo Olympian 5944 is a regular performer on routes 10 and 20 in addition to its regular duty on school service 901. More unusually 5944 worked service 3 on 2 April.

with thanks to Owen Woodliffe

Allocations

February

64 K357 DWJ Volvo Olympian/Northern CountiesTY – HD (loan, returned in March)

March

480 S376 MVP Volvo B10BLE/ALX300

HD – TY (loan, and returned)

907 YT51 EBF Optare Solo M850

SY – TY

Sold

280 Y347 FJN Dennis Dart SLF/ALX200 short

Sold to Panther Travel 3/14

Fleet

It is reported that once the ex-London Wright Gemini deckers are installed at Konectbus, their six ex-Brighton & Hove East Lancs Tridents will be moving south to Hedingham to re-unite with 721 acquired last month. 721 is working from CN depot still in Konectbus livery less vinyls. Its Mobitec destination display is programmed for CN area services.

Alexander-bodied Leyland Olympians BIG 7596 and F640 LMJ had both returned to A Barham off loan from TY during March. With the arrival of 721 at CN, Alexander Belfast-bodied Volvo Olympian 83 (M273 UKN) moved from CN to TY enabling the release then of one of the Panther Olympians.

907 worked services 50 and 92 from Tollesbury depot w/c 10 March; the following week it appeared on the morning peak route 15 at Colchester North Station. It wears Anglianbus blue/yellow base livery with white HO legal lettering on red vinyl at skirt level.

Volvo B10BLE/Wright 485 (R232 HCD) was initially loaned from HD to TY but is now a transfer.

Chambers fleet names have been removed from KN-based Volvo Olympian 89 (N529 LHG).

Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton MPD 286 (X346 YGU) has returned to service following accident damage and sports a simplified version of its B&H livery – a similar swoop between red and cream but with new style lowercase fleet names applied in black on the front and sides.



EBN599 p24 records that Hedingham have acquired 721 W821NNJ from Anglianbus. This photo shows 721 in service with Hedingham in Clacton on 7 March working service 137 Clacton Town Centre - Brook Retail Park Circular. Note that 721 has a correct destination blind. "Quite a surprise to see a bus in Konectbus livery in service in Clacton", says

Robert Appleton.

EBN600p24

Stephensons of Essex by Richard Delahoy.

Further ex London Sovereign Scania deckers to enter service are 638 & 643 (details last month), both allocated to Witham – which will shortly become Boreham, as the Witham depot lease is expiring and a new depot is being established in Boreham as a permanent replacement. This will house the company's main overhaul facilities.

Olympians now withdrawn are:

January – 855, 856, 859, 866

February – 972

March – 974, 990.

In addition, Olympian 953 is in the reserve fleet.

Amber Coaches by Adam Kelleher.

Acquired Vehicles

5 HV52 WTA Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano B31D new December 2002 Mitcham Belle 080.

6 HV52 WTK Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano B31D new December 2002 Mitcham Belle 083.

It is not known when these were acquired, but 5 was first seen on route 269 on 8 April and 6 was first seen on route 374 on 1 April. Both are in fleet livery, 6 has LEDs but 5 retains scrolls.

G723 XDL Leyland Olympian / Leyland CH43/29F new May 1990 Southern Vectis 723

Via Ensign, ex Wilts & Dorset. Seen on 13 March on Sandon School contract service.

X595 FBB Dennis Dart / Plaxton MPD 8.8m B25F new January 2001 Go Wear Buses 505.

X506 WRG Dennis Dart / Plaxton MPD 8.8m B25F new January 2001 Go Wear Buses 506.

X512 WRG Dennis Dart / Plaxton MPD 8.8m B25F new January 2001 Go Wear Buses 512.

Above three Darts from Ensign March 2014. They have flip dot destination displays (including route and destination at rear) and retain Go North East all over lime green livery with Ambus fleet names.

Vehicle on Loan

N210 NNJ (see EBN 599) was seen on 265 on 13 March and 269 on 15th but has not been noted since so is assumed to have returned off loan to Ensign.

Other Vehicle News

KX58 BGY, an Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 new to Courtney, Bracknell, was seen on route 261 on 3 and 4 April. In overall white (not fleet livery creamy white) without fleet names, LEDs not working / not programmed, route number in windscreen. It is not known if this is acquired or on loan. Incidentally, similar KX08 HMD (see EBN 594), also new to Courtney, has not been reported in service since last September.

Services

From 1 April Thurrock Council contracts for routes 11 (Basildon to Purfleet) and 374 (Basildon to Grays) were taken over from Imperial. The 11 is every 90 minutes Monday to Friday and 3 hourly on Saturdays. The 374 is reduced from hourly Monday to Friday to every 90 minutes and is also every 90 minutes on Saturdays.

Workings

On 1 April, the first day of the new contracts, X506 and X512 WRG were on route 11 with 6, X595 FBB and President Y202 NLK on route 374. The X reg Darts had fully programmed destinations but 6 had paper route number and destinations in the windscreen and Y202 displayed "265" at both front and rear with the driver calling out to passengers that it was really on the 374. Incidentally, on Imperial's last day, 31 March, W138 ULR and X312 KRX were seen on route 11 and R446 LGH and X319 KRX were seen on route 374 (all Dart / Pointers). X595 FBB was on route 269 on 3 and 4 April.

With thanks to Terry Clark, Dominic Lund-Conlon, Ross Newman and Chris Stewart

EBN600p25

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements for March 2014.

Mark Lloyd, with thanks to Ross Newman.

VEHICLES IN

Airparks, Birmingham	AE60GRZ	MAN
Brighton & Hove	Y8612/29GCD	Dennis Trident Plax President
	PK02RCZ/RDX	Dennis Trident Plax President
	R223HCD	Volvo B10BLE Wright Renown
	T677KPU	Dennis Trident ALX400
First Group	W901/2/29VLN	Dennis Trident
	X963HLT	
Landmark Travel	KM51BFN	Dart
Metrobus	Y373/6HMY	Dart Caetano
Metroline	LK03GGV/CGG/GJY/	Tridents
	CGF/CGV/GFX/GGU/GHH/GHG/GJZ	
	LK51XGW/XGZ/XGP	Volvo B7TL
	Y234NLK	
Stagecoach E Scotland	R979DRD	Volvo B10M
	S303CCD	Olympian
	SP07CAA/CAE	Volvo B12BT
Stagecoach NW	P262VPN	Olympian
Thames Travel	OU04FMV	Dart
	AE05EUX/EUZ	MAN
	T807RFG	Trident E Lancs
	CB54BUS	DAF

VEHICLES OUT

Amber Coaches, Rayleigh	X506/12WRG	Dart MPD
	X595FBB	Dart MPD
Avondale Coaches, Glasgow	NK51MJU/K/MKC/A	Dart MPD
Belfast City Sightseeing	YK55ATN/ATX	Volvo B7TL
Buses Etc	YK55ATV	Volvo B7TL
Buzzlines, Kent	X398NNO	Trident
Dews Coaches, Somersham	L528YDL	Volvo B10B
Freedom Travel, Ely	T697KPU	Trident
Hawkes Tours, Derby	R845MFR	Olympian E Lancs
Inverness Airport	AE60GRZ	MAN
Landmark, Beds	YN03WRP	Scania
Lloyds Coaches, Powys	KT04BUS	Citaro
New Adventure, Cardiff	SP07CAA/CAE	Volvo B12BT
Nextbus, Chippenham	AE05EUX/X	MAN
Red Eagle, Aylesbury	NK51MJX	Dart MPD
Red Kite, Beds	P262VPN	Olympian
Redline, Aylesbury	Y158NLK/Y558KUX	Dart
Renown Coaches, Bexhill	T675KPU	Trident ALX400
Skyway Travel, Bradford	CN05FVX	Neoplan
Southern Transit, Brighton	Y386NHK	Trident
Travel Express, Wolverhampton	Y248FJN	Dart ALX
	NK51MKE	Dart MPD
Victoria Coaches, Newhaven	X197UAO	B7TL ex Dublin 00-D-40010
	X102HKY	B7TL ex Dublin 00-D-40011
	P890PWW	DAF SB3000
	R223HCD	Volvo B10BLE Wright Renown
Weaveaway, Newbury	BF/CF/DF/EF53OXF	Scania K114
Xelabus, Eastleigh	X514WRG	Dart MPD
	W796VMV	Dart MPD
	X954VAP	Dart SLF

OTHER MOVEMENTS:

S827OFT/S811FVK PCV North East, Stockton-on-Tees
R841MFR Aveley Primary School
V758HBY South East Coachworks, Faversham, Kent.
G717WDL Bournemouth Collegiate School
V759HBY, LN51DVR/DXL MC Tractors, Ely for scrap
W461/494WGH Film Polska Productions, Krakow, Poland
S820OFT Qualiti Conversions, Southampton
S307CCD Drew Wilson Coach Sales, Glasgow
R832MFR Branston Ltd, Branston Lincs.

Ensignbus **ENSIGN FLEET** for April 2014. Mark Lloyd.

In conjunction with c2c Ensign are planning to operate a few vintage buses on the rail replacement scheduled for Sunday 18 May.

As it will be based around Southend, the ex Southend Tiger is scheduled to cover the runs on Shoeburyness to Basildon ex Shoeburyness 1050 and 1320, with the Southend Fleetline allocated to Southend – Basildon ex Southend 1130 and 1330. In addition it is also planned to allocate vintage buses to Southend – Basildon 12.30 and 1430 and Shoeburyness – Basildon ex Shoeburyness at 1150 and 1420, but they will be decided on the day and could be anything! There is also the likelihood of one or two buses from other operators making surprise appearances as well, but these will be “on the day” allocations.

with thanks to Ross Newman

Editor's Note,

Ross and Mark have kindly supplied a detailed working timetable for the services described above, which I regret cannot be reproduced here in a readable form.

I am happy to email a copy to any member who wishes to have one. maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop

Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher.

Vehicle on Loan Former 512 (P390 LPS), owned by Panther, (see EBN 598) was seen in Chelmsford on 1 April with “Regal Busways” on the front blind.

Other Vehicle News In EBN 598 it was noted that 1204 had not been reported in service since July last year although it was seen in First Essex's Basildon garage on 29 November 2013. However, it was seen in service on route 7 on 12 February, as illustrated in the photo on page 10 of EBN 599.

Workings and Observations

2 March	605 on 71C
11	207 on First Data shuttle (and again on 13th)
13	Coach J734 CWT unusual on 7
16	611 on 71C (and again on 23rd and 30th)
20	202 on morning 1 (a small vehicle for this journey and seen fully loaded at Tarpots at 10.30)
26	1204 on 7
27	208 on First Data shuttle (and again on 3 April)
2 April	613 on 3
3	601 on B2
4	801 on 565
5	802 on Braintree Freeport shuttle

With thanks to Terry Clark and John Podgorski

Townlink Buses by Adam Kelleher.

Rebranding / Public Inquiry

Further to the notes in EBN 598, the Traffic Commissioner's written report into the Public Inquiry that took place last December was issued in early March. The document is 35 pages long but the major decisions are as follows:

SM Coaches Ltd - licence revoked with effect from 23.59 15 May 2014. Disqualified from holding or obtaining an O licence for 3 years;

Roadrunner Coaches Ltd - licence revoked with effect from 23.59 15 May 2014. Fined £2,500;

Roadrunner Buses Ltd - licence curtailed from 15 to eight vehicles for five consecutive days before 16 June 2014 plus £3,750 fine;

Olympus Bus & Coach Ltd - licence suspended for seven consecutive days prior to 16 June 2014, two specific undertakings to be adopted plus £4,200 fine;

Roadrunner Buses and Olympus Bus & Coach to be subject to inspection by a Traffic Examiner and a Vehicle Examiner within six months to report on the compliance of each operator.

Also two Traffic Managers have been given final written warnings and a former SM director is disqualified for three years from holding any type of operator's licence in any traffic area.

As was stated in EBN 598, 20 December 2013 was the formal date of the registration change from SM Coaches to Townlink Buses Ltd plus O Licence discs and legal lettering were also changed to Townlink Buses Ltd. Therefore it is not thought that the Traffic Commissioner's decision re SM Coaches will affect the services Townlink operate.

With thanks to Richard Delahoy and Owen Woodliffe

Trustybus.



Another recent addition to the Trustybus fleet, Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer S93 ECK, has been repainted but has yet to gain a fleet number. It is at Hoddesdon working the Herts. tendered route 392 to Harlow in March.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN600p28

Trustybus (Galleon Travel 2009, Roydon, Essex bus operations) by Adam Kelleher.

With thanks to Owen Woodliffe.

Repaints

SPD 8, SPD 10 and S93 EGK into new livery.

Re-Registration

Trident X649 LLX to G11 GTL.

Workings

G11 GTL was an unusual working on route 392 on 10 March.



Top picture: Former Stagecoach South Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton SNZ 7259 (X964VAP) seen in Hertford with Trustybus (fleet number SPD1) last month.

Paul Harvey.

Bottom picture: As we go to press, this picture of Network Colchester Mini Pointer Dart 1559 on the 102 Colchester - Harwich service in Magdalen Street, taken on Sunday 13 April pops in the in-tray!

Russell Young.



EBN600p29

Look what they've done to my bus!



On Saturday 15 March, Essex Fire & Rescue undertook a training exercise at Gunners Park in Shoeburyness, simulating a major road traffic accident involving a number of cars and an overturned bus, the latter being former First London DM41435 (LN51DVW, a Marshall bodied Dennis Dart).

Top picture:

Back on all 4 wheels after the exercise, DM41435 is ready to be removed from the scene.

Bottom picture:

Steady she goes! Righting the bus.



Matthew Evans

was there to record the action.

The sun sets – where? A note from Richard Delahoy.

a big prize if you spotted the inconsistency in the picture on the back cover of the March issue of route One branded Versa 4259. The bus proclaims the view as "Sunset on Sea" but check the picture – on the left it shows the shoreline at Leigh with the Essex Yacht Club's floating clubhouse "Wilton", a former minesweeper in the distance, with the sea on the right – so the photographer is looking east. And of course, the sun RISES in the east and sets in the west, so Sunset on Sea is really Sunrise on Sea!!

EBN600p30



Top picture:
Newly repainted in full Badgerline Thamesway livery is the Blackwater Preservation Group's Dart 909 (K909 CVW).

Chris Stewart.



Bottom picture:
Ensign's magnificent FFB451, Leyland Royal Tiger PSU1/13 in East Kent livery, as seen in EBN596p33.

Chris Stewart.

The South East Bus Festival at Detling, Kent.

Some 5,000 attendees!

121 buses entered, up 30% on last year!

51 trade stands.

Bus Rides every five minutes, talks by top industry members and much, much more!

More pictures in the May EBN. Meanwhile, look at www.facebook.com/southeastfestival

Next year's event will be on **Saturday 28 March 2015.**



Hedingham E400 616 made a very unusual Sunday double deck appearance on route 87 (Colchester General Hospital - Brightlingsea) on 16 March 2014. Photographed in Turner Road, Colchester by **Russell Young**.

An apology from the Editor; well, two apologies!

There have been so many excellent contributions recently that I have had to leave a lot out! Sorry if your piece or picture has not appeared, it is just that I have a lot of material to share with you but limited space! Nothing will be wasted!!

You wait for a Wards Coaches vehicle for ages then, when two come along together, one gets "subbed"! My promise on EBN599p30 went unfulfilled when the fabulous Chambers pic appeared in my in-box. I made a number of last minute changes but forgot to alter the text on p30. Hopefully, it will get in this time! Specific apologies to Robert Appleton.

Target dates for EBN601 (May 2014).

By	...	9 May 2014	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.	Note:
By	...	12 May 2014	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.	More time than
By	...	19 May 2014	...	Dispatch by Printers.	Original schedule!

Back Cover Photos.

Inside Top: The last day of Imperial on route 374. Saturday 29 March 2014. R446 LGH in Nethermayne, Basildon
Russell Young.

Inside Bottom: On Sunday 12 April 2014, a bright and sunny day, the first repaint into refreshed livery with 'Colchester' fleetnames, was just waiting to be "snapped". 62407 in Turner Road.
Russell Young.

Outside Top : Hedingham 286 (ex L394) pictured at Tollesbury after returning from having accident repairs carried out by Full Circle and a part repaint.
Dave Arnold.

Outside bottom: The missing Wards Coaches X651LLX Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President ex Metroline VPL151 in Lawford on 4 March.
Robert Appleton.





www.essexbus.org