

# Essex Bus News

**No. 616  
AUGUST  
2015**



**Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**  
**[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)**

**£4**  
where sold



Left: An extremely rare appearance of a Citaro other than on route 724 occurred on Saturday 18 July when 3896 (BU06 HSK) operated on Harlow local 10 to Church Langley. **Owen Woodliffe.**

See also **Robert Appleton's** letter and other comments on bus liveries on The Letters Page, EBN616p31.

## Front Cover Picture.

### Tube Strike Extras.

Essex based operators seemed to provide the "Lions share" of queue busting additional services during the July tube strike. It is all happening again as this EBN is being prepared so this scene may well be repeated again! Trustybus TP425 in Camomile Street, near Liverpool Street on route 8 (working shorts between Old Ford and Liverpool Street on 8 July 2015.

**Russell Young.**



above: Gold RML2296 outside Firstsite in Colchester was moved to a position much easier for photography, taken early July 2015.

**Russell Young.** [In your Editor's experience, the number of passengers on the bus probably matched the number of visitors in the gallery!]

EBN616ffc

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*Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos;  
Send SAE with your requirements*

### **Black & White Photo Sales**

Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickinghall, DISS, IP22 1EN,  
using the order form available on-line.

## **Subscriptions**

A calendar year subscription is £21. New members may join from any month, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses.

Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.80 per month. For example, a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.80, i.e. £18.00.

## **Data Protection Act**

Members' details are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to:

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## **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 by Richard Delahoy.**

For our Autumn and Winter meetings we move back to Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane 5 minutes walk from Wickford Railway Station and 5 minutes drive from A130 and A127. In Wickford Town centre, turn right into Swan Lane (pub on corner) and in 100 yards turn right into private road signed Wickford Tennis Club. Free car parking in front and a cash bar is available. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat and usually an impromptu slide show with main show from 2000 to 2145/2200 hrs. Members and guests welcome, £1.50 towards room hire, please.

**Wednesday 16 September**

Southend to Edinburgh by service bus and Scottish Bus Museum, Lathalmond. Richard Delahoy.

**Wednesday 21 October**

"Here & There in the 1980s", slides by Colin Paynter.

**Wednesday 18 November**

tba.

**Wednesday 16 December**

Xmas Social and 20years ago.

## **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 informal chat, and often an 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 14 August** ... Owen Woodliffe. Ancient & Modern.

**Friday 11 September** ... Russell Young.

**Friday 9 October** ... Alan Osborne. 40 Years of Buses in Malta.

**Friday 13 November** ... Steve Maskell.

**Friday 11 December** ... Gary Sharpe.

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## A Blast From The Past.

**Paul Harvey.**



Eastern National 2940, KNO 949C Bristol FLF ECW seen at Southend Central Bus Station on local service 29A. This vehicle was previously 2608 and was converted from Bristol FLF Coach to bus specification July 1976. It had operated for Tillings as 9608 from February 1971 until January 1973.

**Paul Harvey.**

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

## EVENTS

**Sun 16 August**

**Sun 23 August**

**Sunday 30 August**

**Sunday 20 September**

**Sat/Sun 26/7 Sept**

**Saturday 3 October**

**Saturday 3 October**

**Sunday 11 October**

**Saturday 24 October**

**Sunday 1 November**

Classic & Vintage Bus Day. Cambridge Museum of Technology. Hourly shuttle from City.

Eastern Transport Collection Annual Rally. Old Buckenham Airfield. Free bus from Attleborough Station.

john.stewart@eastertransportcollection.org.uk

5<sup>th</sup> Colne Valley Railway Bus & Coach Rally.

(unlimited train & bus rides, miniature trains, models £9 adult, £7 seniors) www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk.

Showbus, Woburn Abbey. www.showbus.com

East Anglian Transport Museum Autumn Gala.

Ipswich Transport Museum Classic Vehicles Day.

NLTS Transport Fair, Theydon Bois.

Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day.

Romford area Running Day.

Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum Open Day.

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.



Owing to an RTA on London Road/A13, Leigh-on-sea, some buses were diverted for half an hour, heading west, along Western Road and up Thames Drive. Western Road has never been a bus route other than just briefly after deregulation when the then Stephensons Coaches (pre Bill Hiron era) ran a scruffy bashed-up old Leopard (and later Reliance) on a short-lived 'fresh air' service along the road. To see a double-decker along there was amazing (and only one ran that way). For about 90mins, all - and then some - London Road services were diverted via Thames Drive on Monday 27 July 2015. This led to several most unusual sights - such as 5 buses in the road at one time (not seen since the Olympic Mountain Biking event at Hadleigh with shuttles to Leigh Station) and, for the first time ever, one bus of all 3 operators usually found on London Road (Arriva + First Essex + Regal) in a little line, all in service, all diverted! Other rarities included Arriva's veteran reinstated Dart 3191 (P191 LKJ), which interestingly turned up on diverted 5 - the oldest bus in the fleet on the longest route!

**John G. Lidstone.**

John has made a new Flickr set for the diversion fun: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157656444569291>

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# NEW GROUP PUBLICATION IN PROGRESS. Alan Osborne.

The Group has embarked on two new publications featuring Eastern National and Thamesway operations in the London area. These will essentially be photograph albums with a short text.

Volume 1 will feature London tendered operations whilst volume 2 will cover Essex services into London.

Although I have my own extensive colour slide collection there are some London routes that I cannot illustrate and I am therefore seeking help to see if anybody can fill the gaps. Those needed for volume 1 are:

|     |                                                 |                                      |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 235 | Leytonstone - Woodford Wells (schooldays only); | EN 4/3/89, T 29/7/90 until 7/3/92    |
| 345 | Chingford - Goodmayes (schooldays only);        | EN 6/9/88 until 2/9/89 (I have 145A) |
| 389 | Barnet - Western Way;                           | TY 6/4/96 until 26/9/98              |
| 399 | Barnet - Hadley Wood - Barnet;                  | TY 6/4/96 until 26/9/98              |
| W17 | Walthamstow circular;                           | TY 14/2/98 until 26/9/98             |

In addition, my coverage of the mobility bus services is rather thin, since most routes only ran on one day per week.

Views of the 950, 951, 952, 954, 956, 957, 958, and 959 would also be helpful. I have multiple views of the 953 and 955 in the Ilford area.

If you are able to help with original colour slides of any of the above then please contact Alan Osborne.

7, Farley Drive, Seven Kings, ILFORD, Essex, 020 8590 2021 or [dimequin@bushinternet.com](mailto:dimequin@bushinternet.com)



Picture: The dark green and yellow livery complete with Citybus is well displayed on Bristol VRT 3075 (K00 793V). Note the London skyline emblem and London Regional Transport reference and LT roundel. The location is Manor House, the terminal of route 359. **Alan Osborne.**

# MEMORIES OF MOORE'S by Alan R. Tebbit, BEM.

The coverage of the Moore's bi-centenary celebrations brought back many memories. Being a Chelmsfordian, I was familiar with the smart Guy buses in town but, because my Dad worked for Eastern National, we never travelled by Moore's. When I was about 13 years old, I went on a school exchange trip to Paris. Our transport for the day included Southern Region electric train from London, Victoria, British Railways steam ship Newhaven to Dieppe, SNCF steam train to Paris and an Autocar Chausson to our digs. But the best part was on one of Moore's Arab II, Strachans L55R 'deckers to Victoria. This was one of the GYL batch. On our return to Victoria on a Sunday evening, we were met by a gleaming new 19 PVX, a Massey L67R Arab IV.

On Saturday 2 February 1963, my school mates Alex Scholier and Roger A. Smith and I travelled on as many Moore's routes as we could (if EBN had been around in 1963, Moore's would have been too big for Roger's column!). In the evening, I cycled through the snow to witness Moore's final departures from Coval Lane at 2245. The following morning I was at the bus station to welcome 032 (KGT 379) Arab III Strachans C35F from Maldon and 1044 (8963 NO) Arab IV Massey L67R from Colchester. They carried ENOC legal lettering, the crews were in Tilling uniform and the conductors were using Setright Speed machines, but they were still essentially Moore's.

By the time I transferred from Head Office to Duke Street as a conductor in August 1966, the ex-Moore's Colchester – Chelmsford service had been incorporated into the 53/153 Clacton/Wivenhoe to Tilbury Ferry route. A union resolution precluded us from using the unpopular Arabs with their 5 cylinder Gardner engines on through journeys. We were allowed to use them on short workings, and we had one duty where we did. We started from CF with an FLF bound for Clacton on service 53 but, at Kelvedon, we would hand over to a KN crew. We would walk into the depot, where our steed, always 2010 or 2011 (2834/5 F) would be ticking over, courtesy of the Clacton bound driver.

These were Arab IVs with Northern Counties L64R bodies. We would work the 0811 trip back to Chelmsford. At CF, we had 100% Bristol/ECW buses, all with standard height seat frames. We conductors were all practised at placing the base of the spine against top rail, with just the correct bending of the knees to balance whilst collecting fares from the opposite side of the gangway. 2010/11 had much lower seat backs and, inevitably, one would slide along the top of the seat when negotiating bends, accompanied by a high pitched, gurgled scream and tears in the eyes!

On one occasion, driver Don Howe and conductress Jeanne Cuniffe were due to take over the 1712 hours service 153 to Tilbury Ferry. Due to some failure down the line, the bus that came in from Wivenhoe was an Arab IV. Don was a bit of a lad and relished the challenge of one of our busiest runs in an old Guy so, in defiance of the union, they set off. As the 5LW Arab was no match to a 6 cylinder FLF in acceleration, or straight-line speed, the only way to keep to time was some "grand prix" cornering. This, combined with low seat backs meant that Jeanne returned battered and bruised. The crew of the 2045 hours to Wivenhoe (a CF crew) were persuaded to take the Guy, on the promise of an FLF being available at KN.

By the time I was driving, an LD operated the 0811 KN to CF, so I thought that I would never drive a Guy. However, one evening, another Arab/Massey had found its way onto the main road. This was 2019 (582 AOO) that had been ordered by Moore's, but delivered to ENOC after the take over. It had Tilling T type destination indicators. On arrival at CF the Basildon driver taking over refused it point blank. A CF FLF was rolled out and all was well. However, next morning, we had a stranger in the camp, which no one wanted to drive. 2019 was offered to the crew of the 0715 to Clacton, in the hope that they would hand it over at KN and we would be rid of it.

The driver pointed out that it was a "through" journey and quoted the union resolution. The only bus left in the depot was an FLF allocated to the 0725 service 32A to Blackmore. This was hurriedly reallocated to the Clacton run. The output driver went into the regulators office to see who was on the 0725 Blackmore and was relieved to read Tebbit A with Mohammed Hanif on the sign on sheet. Would I take 2019? You bet I would! However, I was just driving along Duke Street, when I received a cascade of bells; and they were loud on the Massey/Guys. What could be wrong? I stopped at the cathedral stop and Hanif's very bewildered face appeared over the bonnet top. He had never seen a bus with the lowbridge type bodywork. "This is a very strange bus, Chief", he said. "The top deck is all beds!"

The only other time that I drove a Guy was when I took JVX 555, a utility bodied Arab II, which central works had neatly rebuilt as a mobile uniform store, to Canvey depot for storage pending disposal.

The pictures of "Joburg" Arab IV 373 WPU at Kelvedon reminded me of the late Joe Long, one of the pioneers of bus preservation, who initially bought WPU from ENOC. He was a gentleman, a true busman, and I am honoured to say, a good friend. RIP Joe, and Moore's.

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## More of John G. Lidstone's Flickr pics.

His 'My bus stop' album is now on 845 photos?! (Probably nearing 1k by now! Ed).

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157656149914991>

# Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

## Amber Coaches

|           |       |     |                                                              |
|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 7 Sept 15 | S1    | Sch | Boreham to Sandon School: contract service withdrawn.        |
|           | S2    | Sch | Chelmer Village to Sandon Sch: contract service withdrawn.   |
|           | S3    | Sch | Little Baddow to Sandon Sch: contract service withdrawn.     |
|           | S4/S5 | Sch | Danbury to Sandon Sch: contract services withdrawn.          |
|           | S6    | Sch | South Woodham to Sandon Sch: contract service withdrawn      |
|           | S7    | Sch | West Hanningfield to Sandon Sch: contract service withdrawn. |
|           | S8    | Sch | Rettendon to Sandon Sch: contract service withdrawn.         |

## C Myall & Sons

|           |     |     |                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 Aug 15 | 386 | NTh | Puckeridge to Bishop Stortford: service withdrawn.                                                                                          |
| 1 Sept 15 | 20  | M-S | Anstey to Bishop Stortford: service revised to provide school journeys only plus shopping service on TThF only. Saturday service withdrawn. |
|           | 27  | WO  | Bishop Stortford to Royston: new shopping contract service.                                                                                 |
|           | 28  | MO  | Bishop Stortford to Buntingford: new shopping contract service.                                                                             |
|           | 386 | TTh | Braughing to Bishop Stortford: new contract service.                                                                                        |

## Carters

|           |     |     |                                                    |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3 Sept 15 | 192 | Sch | East Bergholt to Tattingstone: new school service. |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------|



Carters Coach Services, Capel St Mary. Too early for new route 192 but quite close! Carters latest acquisition is 351 (NK51 ZSR) Volvo B10M/Caetano C53F from Dawson Rentals, to be used on school private hire work. However, on Tuesday 23 June 2015, it worked 0818 Ardleigh - East Bergholt High School service 193. Seen here in New Road, Mistley. **Robert Appleton.**

## Centrebus

|           |     |     |                                                            |
|-----------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 Aug 15 | 386 | Th  | Royston to Bishop Stortford: contract service withdrawn.   |
|           | 700 | D   | Stevenage to Stansted Airport: contract service withdrawn. |
| 31 Aug 15 | 10  | Sat | Chrishall to Bishop Stortford: contract service withdrawn. |



|              |       |     |                                                                                                                                              |
|--------------|-------|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First</b> |       |     |                                                                                                                                              |
| 15 April 14  | 21C   | M-F | Canvey to Benfleet: revision to route and timetable.                                                                                         |
| 14 June 15   | 300   | M-F | Basildon to London Gateway: minor timetable revisions affecting weekday service to better suit start and finish times (updated information). |
| 30 Aug 15    | 1A    | M-S | Greenstead to Ambrose Ave: introduction of Sunday contract service.                                                                          |
|              | 3/4   | D   | Harwich to Clacton: minor timetable revisions to running times.                                                                              |
|              | 14/15 | M-S | Wickford to Chelmsford: minor timing revisions.                                                                                              |
|              | 31/X  | D   | Chelmsford to Burnham: revised timetable with frequency reduction on 31X to hourly.                                                          |
|              | 62/A  | D   | Colchester to Wivenhoe: minor timing revisions.                                                                                              |
|              | 66A   | M-S | Colchester to Old Heath: minor timing revisions.                                                                                             |
|              | 73    | M-S | Chelmsford to Maldon: contract service withdrawn.                                                                                            |
|              | 88C   | Sat | Colchester to Aldham: service to operate 10 mins earlier on all journeys.                                                                    |
|              | 103/4 | M-S | Colchester to Harwich: introduction of Sunday contract service as 102.                                                                       |
| 2 Sept 15    | 352   | M-S | Chelmsford to Halstead: revision to weekday timetable and introduction of Sunday contract service.                                           |
|              | 826   | Sch | Billericay to Shenfield: new school service.                                                                                                 |
|              | 512   | Sch | Chelmsford to Prittlewell Sch: revision to timetable.                                                                                        |



Ex First Leicester Volvo B7TL/Alexander ALX400 32087 approaching Southend Central Bus Station on route 25A on Saturday 1 August 2015.  
**Russell Young.**

**Flagfinders**

|           |        |     |                                                                  |
|-----------|--------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 Sept 15 | 716A   | Sch | Halstead to Colchester: school service withdrawn.                |
| 3 Sept 15 | 223    | Sch | Braintree to Sible Hedingham Sch: revised route and timetable.   |
|           | 716    | Sch | Castle Hedingham to Colchester Sch: revised route and timetable. |
|           | HONYB1 | Sch | Braintree to Honeywood Comm Sch: new school service.             |
|           | HELENA | Sch | Braintree to Parsonage Down Helena Sch: new school service.      |

# Service Changes by Paul Harvey, continued.

## Fourways Coaches

|           |        |     |                                                           |
|-----------|--------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Sept 15 | 476    | Sch | Stanford Rivers to Brentwood: contract service withdrawn. |
|           | 505    | Sch | Danbury to Colchester: school service withdrawn.          |
| 7 Sept 15 | FWC001 | Sch | Wickham Bishops to Sandon Sch: new contract service.      |
|           | FWC002 | Sch | Little Baddow to Sandon Sch: new contract service.        |
|           | FWC003 | Sch | Witham to Sandon Sch: new contract service.               |
|           | FWC005 | Sch | Chelmer Village to Sandon Sch: new contract service.      |
|           | FWC006 | Sch | Rettendon to Sandon Sch: new contract service.            |
|           | FWC007 | Sch | South Woodham to Sandon Sch: new contract service.        |

## Galleon Travel (Trustybus)

|           |     |     |                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5 Sept 15 | 351 | M-S | Hertford to Bishop Stortford: Saturday afternoon service reduced and the 0803 ex Hadham Ford school journey to start at Hunsdon. |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## Go Ahead (Chambers & Hedingham)

|           |       |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------|-------|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 30 Aug 15 | 34/A  | M-S | Bocking to Great Notley: revision to route and timetable.                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | 84    | M-S | Sudbury to Colchester: section between Sudbury Tesco and Bus Station withdrawn.<br>New M-F hourly off peak service between Sudbury & Leavenheath introduced as 83.<br>New limited stop X84 journey introduced to Colchester from Great Waldingfield. |
|           | 87    | D   | Brightlingsea to Colchester: revisions to timetable with all journeys operating around the Brightlingsea loop once instead of twice.<br>New school journey 87C Weeley to Brightlingsea Colne School.                                                 |
|           | 88    | M-S | Halstead to Colchester: additional M-F journey 0659 from Sible Hedingham to Colchester.                                                                                                                                                              |
|           | 89/A  | M-S | Great Yeldham to Braintree: the 1738 ex Great Yeldham to operate at 1740.                                                                                                                                                                            |
|           | 753-5 | M-S | Bury St Edmunds to Colchester via Sudbury: revision to timetable to improve reliability and routing revision in Bury St Edmunds.                                                                                                                     |



Refurbished ex Metrobus Scania Omnidekkas are now moving into the Chambers fleet, displacing the ex Go Ahead London 'PVLs' to Hedingham at Clacton. 575 in Capon Road, Colchester, approaching the University of Essex on 20 July 15.

**Russell Young.**

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|                      |     |     |                                                                                                             |
|----------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NIBS</b>          |     |     |                                                                                                             |
| 30 Aug 15            | 225 | M-F | Shotgate to Wickford: service withdrawn.                                                                    |
| <b>Regal Busways</b> |     |     |                                                                                                             |
| 1 Sept 15            | 1   | M-S | Canvey to Chelmsford: revised timetable with most journeys withdrawn on M-F and Saturday service withdrawn. |
|                      | 3   | M-S | Oxney to Southend: revised timetable with reduced frequency on M-F.                                         |



How bizarre is it that ex Western Greyhound Dart NA52 AWM is now running to Southend on Regal service 3, whilst ex Regal Busways early Solos are now working ex Greyhound routes in Penzance in First Kernow/green...?! Amazing coincidence. This WG-liveried Dart has been running with "FIST" fleet names on 3 sides for several weeks now. Seen at Hadleigh on 20 July. **John G. Lidstone.**

|                          |     |     |                                                      |
|--------------------------|-----|-----|------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Richmonds Coaches</b> |     |     |                                                      |
| 1 Sept 15                | 386 | M-S | Stevenage to Bishop Stortford: new contract service. |

|                              |     |     |                                                        |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Stephenson's of Essex</b> |     |     |                                                        |
| 6 Sept 15                    | 505 | Sch | Danbury to Colchester Sch: new school service.         |
| 13 Sept 15                   | 94  | Sch | Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden: revision to timetable. |

|                              |     |     |                                                                                                                                  |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Swallow Coaches (EOS)</b> |     |     |                                                                                                                                  |
| 1 Sept 15                    | 66  | M-S | Debden to Waltham Cross: variation to routings in the Debden & Loughton area not serving Upshire. New Sunday service introduced. |
|                              | 66A | M-S | Harlow to Waltham Abbey: revision to timetable.                                                                                  |

|                       |     |     |                                                                                                       |
|-----------------------|-----|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Townlink Buses</b> |     |     |                                                                                                       |
| 10 June 15            | 255 | M-S | Debden to Waltham Cross: new service — it appears this service never commenced (updated information). |
| 20 Aug 15             | 511 | M-S | Harlow to Bishop Stortford/Thorney Park: service withdrawn.                                           |

## SVW 274K; Bristol RELL formerly Eastern National 1546.

After my mini-moan last month about having no separate pictures of Luke Deal's lovely Bristol, RELL **Adam Kelleher** has kindly sent these:  
Top; leaving KN depot at the end of the 28 June commemoration event; Bottom; in contrast, 1546 is seen with previous owner Carters at the New Year's Day Southend Running Day, 1 January 2012, in darker green and with cream band, and with Viv Carter himself at the wheel.



# First Essex Colchester Travel Centres.

Whilst in Colchester on 31 July 2015, **Robert Appleton** photographed the old and now closed travel shop in Queen Street, and the new travel centre in St Botolphs Street, near the junction with Osborne Street. He thought it would be good to have a record of these premises!



## 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; HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School.

## Period 4 (28 June - 25 July)

43480 CF-BN, 43714 CN(out of service)-sold, 43733 BN(out of service)-sold.

## Disposals

To Alpha Recovery for scrap, July 2015: 43714, 43733.

To Truck & Plant, July 2015: 65538. N.B. this was reported in EBN 609 as being sold during December 2014 but remaining at Clacton whilst paper work was being completed. It finally left Clacton in July.

## Other Vehicle News and Workings

### *Olympian*

34305 was seen parked at Chelmsford Bus Station on 22 July and on rail replacement on 2 August (see below).

### *R-DIN & S-TWC Pointer 2 Darts*

As noted above, 43714/33 have now been sold, leaving just three from these two batches still in stock. (43714 was the last of the R-DINs.)

43735 is in a withdrawn state at Hadleigh, but 43731/4 continue in service at Chelmsford. Recent sightings have been as follows:

43731 on 36 on 7 July, on 42 & 42A on 15th, on 31X on 22nd, on driver shuttles on 27<sup>th</sup>,

43734 on 42 on 7 July, on 38 on 8th, on 31X on 15th, on 73 / 351 on 13th, 20th, 22nd & 27<sup>th</sup>.



43714 R714DJN still at work on 22 May, in Station Road, Clacton working service 5 Flatford Drive - Clacton. **Robert Appleton.**



## Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

5 July CR32476, CR32651/2 and BE33196 on Chelmsford to Colchester (32651/2 on planned work, other two on emergency work).  
2 Aug CR32485, CF34305 and CR62407 on Witham to Shenfield.

## Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

The new Colchester garage at Haven Road is due to open over the Bank Holiday weekend, 29-31 August. Queen Street depot will consequently close. This building dates back to National Omnibus & Transport Company days; it was opened in March 1921 on the site of the former Theatre Royal. It was extended eastwards at a later stage. It is the last remaining depot from the National / start of Eastern National era still in use by First (Hadleigh garage was Benfleet & District, then Westcliff, only becoming part of Eastern National in 1955).

30902 re-entered service at Clacton during July (see EBN 615), and it and 30887 have been in regular use on route 76. One exception noted was 30887 unusually working routes 5/A on 24th. However, the third CN double decker, 30903, has still not entered service at CN since its move from Braintree and repaint. Double deck workings on routes 103/4 noted during July have been (all CR), 32485 on 8th, 32475 on 24th, 32652 on 27th and 32477 on 30th.

6 July CR62409 on a double decker duty on 88 (there is a regular saloon duty on 88 M-F pm peaks)  
7 CR65677 on 67E  
8 CR66179 on 71C  
9 On loan from CN, 61057 on Colchester 65 (and on 64 on 10th & 11th)  
10 CR32654 on 65  
15 CR65627 on 71/A  
17 CR65626 on 71C  
20 CR32654 on 65  
24 CN42923 on 19 (LED blinds not in use), CF66829 arrived on tow at CN with minor offside rear damage  
27 CR62407 on 71/A  
28 CR32477 on 65, CR65586 on 71/A  
29 CR66828 on 62A & 71C



First Essex Buses at Clacton received four Alexander Dennis Dart SLF/Pointer from Hadleigh depot: 42922 42923 42927 42928 to replace the older Dart SLFs. 42923, EU05AUP in Pier Avenue Clacton on 26 May, loading up to work 1605 service 4 to Harwich.

**Robert Appleton.**

EBN616p13

### Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

CF67901/2/3 have nearside adverts for "Safer Essex Roads Partnership", the first adverts carried by these hybrids (CF67904 does not have an advert).

Buses seen on route X30 (all CF): 66818 on 8 & 24 July, CF65030 on 9th and CF65031 on 17th

6 July CF53131 on 71/A  
7 CF43845 on 71/A  
15 CF66830 on 41 (one journey on this normally Solo route, the 1525 ex Readers Corner (schools), is diagrammed for a "big bus")  
20 CF53117 on 56  
24 CF53121 on 42  
25-26 CF66799 seen at BE depot\*  
28 CF44537 on Sandon Park & Ride  
30 CF42487 on 14/15/A  
1-2 Aug CF66837 seen at BE depot\* [\*on some weekends a Volvo saloon has been at BE to cover for a BE Trident on loan to CF for rail replacement work.]

### Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

43480 has returned to Basildon after brief spells at Colchester and Chelmsford, although there have been no reports of it in service since its return. On 29 July it was seen receiving attention in the garage. It was last reported in service at CF on route 72 on 26 June. Non-Hybrids seen on route 100 (all BN): 41527 on 8, 21 & 30 July, 41513 also on 21st, 66806 on 27th and 47656 also on 30th

15 July BN33912 on 561  
24 BN66806 on 9  
30 BN33192, BN33424 and BN42934 on 8/A (these routes are predominantly worked by Volvo B7RLEs), BN33801 on predominantly Dart operated 15/A, HH47530 and BN47652 on 25/A

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, G Butler, T Clark, L Cornwell, J Cush, R Delahoy, D Lund-Conlon, C Paynter, J Podgorski, I Ransom, Stewart, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, Essex Buses Google group, First Essex and Terminus.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by e-mail to [adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk) or by conventional post. Many thanks to all those who do so.



This issue seems more buildings than buses but the hardware has to be kept safe somewhere! Richard Delahoy took this picture of a nearly new Braintree depot on Sunday 15/5/2011, hence it was very quiet. He can't guarantee that it hasn't changed as he has not been back there since. Certainly some of the buses seen are no longer there!

**Richard Delahoy.**

# V Festival 2015

## V Festival 2015 comes to Hylands Park, Chelmsford on Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August 2015.

First Buses will operate a shuttle service between Chelmsford Rail Station and Hylands Park for **£5 return**. Buses run from Coval Lane, exit from the front of the rail station and turn left into Fairfield Road. The shuttle service from V Festival will run from the bus station near yellow campsite.

**Friday 21 August** Chelmsford to V Festival: **0830 - 1900**

**Saturday 22 & Sunday 23 August**

Chelmsford to V Festival **0930 – 1900**;

V Festival to Chelmsford **1900 - 0100**

**Monday 24 August** V Festival to Chelmsford: **0600 – 1200 noon**

The usual 30mph speed limits will be in operation along Three Mile Hill, along the south side of Hylands Park so, it is assumed, First Essex service 351 Chelmsford to Brentwood will be diverted along the Chelmsford by-pass (A12) as usual.

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## Wendens Road, Saffron Walden - Road Closure

Due to construction works along **Wendens Road**, buses will not be able to use this road in either direction between **Monday 10 August – Friday 28 August 2015**.

**With effect from Friday 28 August 2015** buses will use **Wendens Road** in the **Northbound direction only** and will operate via Newport Road for **Southbound journeys**.

Services affected by this road closure are as follows:

**Viceroy of Essex** - Services 59, 444, 445, 590

**Arriva Harlow** - Service 301

**Stephensons of Essex** - Services 59, 418, 419, 18

**Regal Busways Ltd** - Service 322

**Panther Travel** - Services 302, 446

**Heddingham Omnibus** - Services 118, 417

**Acme Travel** - Services 1, 11



7 interesting operators! 16 services.  
Your Editor invites keen photographers to  
make a site visit and submit reports and  
pictures!

Please contact your operator for exact diversion and timetable information.

Both sets of information taken from the Essex County Council Transport & Travel Update for August 2015. With thanks.

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## The Editor Regrets!

I always regret not taking photographs of buses and coaches serving the schools in Maltese Road, Chelmsford, just a few paces from my home. Over the years, there has been a huge variety of vehicles of all sizes, from Boons of Boreham, First, Taxibus, private coaches and many more. The schools have now closed! So I was delighted to hear that **John G. Lidstone**, great friend of the Group, has started building an album of photos of buses and coaches 'outside' his home in Leigh-on-sea (for security reasons, he has deliberately included buses in both directions) - some 450 views already!

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157656149914991>

Some lovely variety, from RT to RM, ML and RMC, KSW/tree lopper/carnival, K, L, LD, LDL, FS, FLF bus/coach, MW, LH, RE, Trident, B9TL, Scania N230, Olympian bus/coach, Dart, StreetLite, Tiger coach, Astromega, Enviro 200/400, Leyland National, Lowlander, Versa, B10MA bendi-coach, Metrobus, Metropolitan, Mini Routemaster - not bad for starters!

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## The Editor Apologises.

EBN615p3 included a "Little & Large" feature which was wrongly attributed to John Salmon and not **Ken Coldwell** as it should have been. Sincere apologies to both gentlemen but especially to Ken for being so nice about my silly mistake.

DAF SB120 / Wright Cadets 3529 (LF02 PNI) and 3534(LF02 PNU) have transferred from Arriva Kent & Surrey to Colchester and have now entered service.



photo above: Recent transfers into Colchester include Dart/Plaxton 3228 (P228MKL) and DAF SB120/Wrights Cadet 3534 (LF02PNU), both seen amidst the traffic chaos in Colchester Osborne Street (we hesitate to glorify it by describing it as a "bus station"! ) on an unseasonably wet and cold Friday 24 July by **Richard Delahoy**.

Correcting the stop press section last month the replacement for withdrawn Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 3829 is Dart SLF / Plaxton 3228 (P228 MKL). Cadet 3530 (LF02 PNK) is on loan from Southend to Colchester.

Dart SLF 3413 (SN54 HWY) has returned to Harlow following loan to Colchester.

Route 9 Wave branded Versa 4203 has returned to Southend following loan to Harlow. Wave branded Versa 4204 (YJ61 CHZ) went to Harlow in its place but had returned to Southend by 5 August.

Harlow allocated Green Line Citaro 3896 (BU06 HSK) worked local route 10 to Church Langley on 18, 28 and 29 July. It is very unusual for the Green Line Citaros to stray from route 724. (see photo inner front cover, this issue).

*with thanks to Richard Delahoy, Chris Hatley, Keith Sadler, Owen Woodliffe.*

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## **ARRIVA Timetable Changes Designed To Improve Reliability As Well As Giving Extra Buses To Shoeburyness On Sundays. Extracts from Press Release dated 27 July 2015.**

Arriva will be making changes to most of its services in the Southend, Rayleigh, Rochford, Castle Point and Basildon areas from 9 August, the most significant change being the extension of its 'One' service on Sundays to run between Southend and Shoeburyness.

Arriva Marketing Manager Richard Lewis said "We are pleased to be able to bring an extra Sunday service to the Shoeburyness, Thorpe Bay and Southchurch area and hope that our customers will find this useful. We already run a ten-minute service over the route from Rayleigh to Shoeburyness on weekdays and the number of people using buses on Sundays is increasing, so the extension of the *One* to Shoeburyness will fill a gap in our Sunday network.

# History in the Making!



These shots show the last 18 departure, 1355 hours on 7 August with Cadet 3502 (KE51 PUA) and very helpful driver Mike at the helm.

Prophetically, as Arriva left Leigh Station for the very last time ever - thereby breaking decades of service by SCT/ST/Cowie/Arriva - Stephenson's arrived with its 2nd newest double decker 607 (EU64 CVP) on route 17. Both pictures by **John G. Lidstone**.

EBN616p17

## More Arriva in Pictures.

Top picture: The replacement of the S JUA Darts and ex 'route 726' W - UJM Volvo's has begun, with the arrival DAF SB120 Cadets from Gillingham. 3529 on route 1, in Maldon Road, Colchester on 4 August 2015. **Russell Young.**



Bottom Picture: Caetano Dart 3411 on route 2 in St Christopher Road, St John's on 4 August 2015, illustrating the dark blue skirt being applied to these vehicles. **Russell Young.**





The new batch of 20 Arriva Southern Counties Wrightbus StreetLite Max DFs is now nearly delivered to Southend for storage prior to entry into service. It is understood these are to receive 65 registration marks and so will never be seen in service with their 15 marks. So this picture is a true "scoop"!

4308/19/20/16 (GN15 CXE/S/T/O) are seen in full FasTrack livery with fleetnames/fleetnumbers/branding/registrations in the lower shot and 4317 with just fleet numbers as delivered by contrast.

Both pics by **John G. Lidstone.**



## Acquired

|      |          |                           |         |           |
|------|----------|---------------------------|---------|-----------|
| 1508 | YN55 PZL | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | Chambers  |
| 1514 | YN55 PZV | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | Hedingham |
| 1515 | YN55 PZW | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | Hedingham |

## Near Completion at H&D Trim

|      |          |                           |         |                            |
|------|----------|---------------------------|---------|----------------------------|
| 1503 | YN55 PZE | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | Early July Chambers livery |
| 1505 | YN55 PZG | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | Late July Chambers livery  |

## Fleet Movements

|     |          |         |      |          |                   |      |          |          |
|-----|----------|---------|------|----------|-------------------|------|----------|----------|
| 86  | M294 UKN | CN — TY | 576. | W517 WGH | SY — CN           | 729. | W829 NNJ | CN — TY. |
| 734 | W834 NNJ | CN — TY | 907. | YT51 EBF | SY to Anglianbus. |      |          |          |

## Fleet Loan

|     |          |                                                |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|----------|------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 484 | R216 HCD | To Chambers early/mid July seen on Service 84. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|-----|----------|------------------------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|

## Withdrawn

To update last month's news, 63 and **94** were towed away from Tollesbury by Alpha Recovery for scrap on 6 July and 202 (T789 XV0) Optare Excel finally went for scrap to the same company a little later in July.

To clarify EBN615

|    |          |                                  |                            |
|----|----------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 94 | R259 LGH | Volvo Olympian/N CountiesH47/31F | TY to Alpha Recovery scrap |
| 93 | R273 LGH | continues in service.            |                            |

|    |          |                                             |                   |
|----|----------|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| 66 | P602 CAY | Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties Palatine I | H47/29F w/d at TY |
| 80 | J838 TSC | Leyland Olympian/Alexander RH               | H51/34F w/d at TY |

During July, 84 M276 UKN went to Anglianbus to be used as storage. 81 M144 UKN and 85 M282 UKN were later towed to Anglianbus from CN for the same use in mid July. On 29 July, 82 M146 UKN was withdrawn from TY and driven to Anglianbus so now 81,82,84 & 85 are used by Anglianbus as storage. 83, M273 UKN thought to be providing the same at KN has surprisingly been taxed again. Thus 83 and 86 M294 UKN still remain active with Hedingham, having been re-allocated from Clacton to Tollesbury.

|     |          |                  |      |                       |
|-----|----------|------------------|------|-----------------------|
| 907 | YT51 EBF | Optare Solo M850 | B28F | SY to Anglian 28 July |
|-----|----------|------------------|------|-----------------------|

## Previously Owned Vehicle News

|      |          |                                                                            |                                                        |
|------|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| L242 | J734 CWT | Volvo B10M/Excalibur moved from Regal to Panther some time ago.            |                                                        |
| L342 | L108 HHV | Dennis Dart/N Counties has passed on to Stanways Coaches in Staffordshire. |                                                        |
| 282  | W339 VGX | has been painted white by A Barham.                                        | 287 X347 YGU has been stripped by A Barham for spares. |

## Publicity News from Ian Ransom.

Recent items include the following:

|                             |                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First Essex</b> ...      | timetable booklets for 42/A; 45; 54/C/56; 64/A/B; 70; Braintree area; Brentwood area - all dated 5.7.15; Harwich area booklet dated 5.4.15 |
| <b>EOS</b> ...              | leaflet for 66A dated 11.5.15;                                                                                                             |
| <b>Essex County Council</b> | leaflet for 91/A dated 23.2.15                                                                                                             |

**Essex County Council** have reissued a number of their leaflets, in the most recent format, but as there are no timetable changes/change of operator, they will not be included within this column

# Hedingham Liveries Now and Then!



Top picture: Demonstrating the new “minimalist” livery on about 16 July are L to R are 1517/13/16/19/18. [see Letters for clarification of the tart comment!] **Jeff Clayton.**



Bottom picture: Awaiting its turn on the 88 service to Halstead in Osborne Street, Colchester on 30 July is Hedingham ex Brighton and Hove Volvo B10/Wright (R229 HCD). Your Editor wonders whether this will this ever see the new livery? **Ken Coldwell.**

# Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - July 2015. Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

## Vehicles In

|                          |                                                     |            |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------|
| Airport Parking          | YJ61CKE-G                                           | Solo's     |
| Dublin Bus               | 01-D10189/94/8/<br>01-D10200-4/7/9/10<br>00-D-90041 |            |
| Hamilton Grey Coaches    | W677 PTD                                            | Scania     |
| Holloways Coaches        | X635/9/48/54/9/63 LLX                               | Volvo      |
| B7TL's                   |                                                     |            |
| Mayfair Search Group     | SN51 SXZ                                            | Darts      |
|                          | SF04 RHU                                            |            |
| Metroline                | Y184 NLK                                            | Volvo B7TL |
| Perrymans                | MX56 AAN                                            | Solo       |
| Stagecoach West Scotland | H987 RKG                                            | Olympians  |
|                          | H627 LNA                                            |            |

## Vehicles Out

|                                      |                    |            |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| 2 Way Travel, Scunthorpe             | X663 LLX           | Volvo B7TL |
| Bay Travel, Cowdenbeath              | LK03 NKC/D/F/Z     | Tridents   |
| Berwyn Coaches, Caernarfon           | MX56 AAN           | Solo       |
| A and P Brown, Ely                   | P151 KWI/R145 EVX  | Olympians  |
| Fourways Coaches, Chelmsford         | LN51KYC/G/D/W      | Tridents   |
| GHA Coaches, Wrexham                 | X635/39/57 LLX     | Volvo      |
| B7TL's                               |                    |            |
| Hamilton Grey Coaches, Exeter        | Y233 NLK           | Volvo B7TL |
|                                      | V536 ESC           | Trident    |
| Happy Al's Coaches, Liverpool        | LK03 CFZ/GHV/GKD   | Tridents   |
|                                      | LT52 XAD           |            |
| London by Night, Rainham, Essex      | T808 RFG           | Trident    |
| Moffatt and Williamson, Fife         | LK03 NKX           | Trident    |
| New Adventure Travel, Cardiff        | LF52 UTE/UTH       | Volvo      |
| B7TL's                               |                    |            |
| Rodgers Coaches, Northampton         | S273 CCD           | Olympian   |
| Sleafordian Coaches, Sleaford, Lincs | LX03 BFA           | Trident    |
| Swallow Coaches, Rainham             | KX03 HZW           | Dart       |
| Travelmasters, Sheerness             | LF02 PTY/PVI/E/PTX | Volvo      |
| B7TL's                               |                    |            |
| Wealden PSV, Tunbridge               | W677 PTD           | Scania     |
| Yeoman's Coaches, Hereford           | MX54 KXY/YJ06FZM   | Solo's     |

## Other Movements

|                                           |                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Leyland PD3 MHJ 347F                      | Chris Pearce, Worthing.                           |
| Trident V535 ESC                          | Alantricity Electrical Professionals, Cork, Eire. |
| Olympian R143 EVX                         | Tom Busby and Son, Stafford.                      |
| Dart HV02 PCX ...                         | Mayfair Search Group, London W1.                  |
| RML2737 ---                               | Bus and Us, Melton Constable, Norfolk.            |
| Dart X822 FBB ...                         | St Edmunds Catholic Primary School, Whitton.      |
| Enviro 200 YX59 BXW                       | City Direct, Galway, Eire.                        |
| Trident LK03 UFJ                          | Cranfield School, Romford.                        |
| Dublin B7TL 01-D10209                     | Dublin Deckers Ltd.                               |
| Tridents LN51KXT / Y524 NHK Dart SN5 1SXZ | MC Tractors, Ely, for scrap                       |

## Southend Transport

### X1 –

## 35th anniversary run – Sunday 4 October

The mould-breaking Southend to London/Reading X1 coach service started on October 6th, 1980, the very first day of the first stage of deregulation. To mark the 35th anniversary, a tour is being organised over the route from Southend to Green Park using the former Southend Transport Van Hool Astromega coach 245 (see pics elsewhere in this issue and last month's EBN), with the kind co-operation of Ensign Bus.

The tour is on Sunday 4 October and will leave Southend Travel Centre at 0930, with pick-ups along the route (excepting Stanford Le Hope). There will be a break in central London, before returning to Southend. Fare £10 payable in advance to secure your seat. To book, please contact Matthew Evans on 07746 779 414, evenings after 2000, stating number of passengers and preferred pick up point.

[Please note that EBEG is *not* involved in the running of this tour].

**Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman**

## Acquisitions

301 LK03 GHY Transbus Trident Plaxton President ex Ace Travel, Aintree

## Fleet News

301 LK03 GHY reregistered FFY401.  
604 FN04 FSE Volvo B12M/Caetano Enigma has been reregistered 864DYE.  
109 UJF182 has been reregistered to original plate T87KLD  
156 WLT 916 was LX04 FXR  
158 WLT 428 was LX04 FXT – plates released from sold Olympians.  
603 YN54 DCY Volvo B7R/Plaxton Panther has been reregistered to ULL 933.  
784 784 EYB Dart SLF/Caetano Nimbus has reverted to HV52 WTJ.

## Heritage Fleet

Astromega JEV 245Y operational in Heritage fleet as Southend 245.



Picture: ST Astro 245 departing Leigh Station at 0655 on the morning of 4 August on all-stations Leigh-Southend Central. **John G. Lidstone.**

## Disposals

Dart 783 MA02 BLU has been sold to Galleon Travel, Essex.  
Dennis Trident East Lancs Lolyne open topper T808 RFG had been initially reported renumbered and reregistered by Ensign but as per the dealership notes has been sold to London by Night.

Ex Nottingham Scania decker YN53 CFU has been numbered 902; details of the rest of the batch will follow next month.

New Belfairs to Leigh service 23 commences on Tuesday 21 August when there will be a formal launch at Leigh Station at 1345 with Leigh MP Sir David Amess and local councillors.

A new outstation of Haverhill depot, on the Moreton Hall Industrial Estate in Bury St Edmunds, is expected to start operating from 24 August, initially with 4 buses.



picture above: Stephenson's Enviro 200 (U60 CBF) at Bury St Edmunds bus station on 30 July laying over in dedicated Suffolkrider livery for the Newmarket- Bury service 16. **Ken Coldwell.**

## Panther

**by Ian Ransom.**

**Acquired vehicle** Dennis Javelin/Plaxton G210 UAS has been purchased from Pat's Coaches of Wrexham for a source of spares initially but has now gone out on hire to Turners of Essex. Due to it's yellow livery, it has been nicknamed the bumble bee  
Volvo B10M/Plaxton J734 CWT has been acquired from Regal. It is to be repaired with parts from the former SIL 2172, acquired from Regal a couple of years ago (note SIL 2172 is now on a Mercedes Vario)

### Reregistrations

Volvo B10M/Plaxton YU04XFC has been re-registered DC04PAN

Volvo B12B/Plaxton LK53KWF has been re-registered DC53PAN

### Disposal

Volvo B10M/Plaxton W3TRU has been sold to Cavendish Coaches, South Wales

### Repaint

Volvo B10M/Plaxton Y5TRU has been repainted Black at Mardens

### Loans

Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG7596 (F639 LMJ) has been on hire to ACME but now returned

### Other news

Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG7758 (F640 LMJ) and BIG7596 (F639 LMJ) have been used on TFL work on 8-9/7/15 due to the underground strike, 8/7 both on 25 and 9/7 both on the 205.

# EOS London.com (Swallow Coaches, Rainham, Essex) by Adam Kelleher

## Acquired Vehicles

|                                                                                                |   |                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|---------------------|
| HV02 PCY, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B31D, new to Docklands Minibus, South Woodford 3/02       | ) |                     |
| Seen on route 66, 24 July 2015.                                                                | ) | all                 |
| HV02 OZX, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B31D, new to Docklands Minibus, South Woodford 3/02       | ) | HV02s               |
| Seen on route 66, 13 July 2015.                                                                | ) | from                |
| HV02 PDO, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B31D, new to Docklands Minibus, South Woodford 3/02       | ) | Ensign.             |
| Seen on route 66, 16 July 2015.                                                                |   |                     |
| KX03 HZW, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B32D, new to Ealing Community Transport, Acton (107) 4/03 |   | from Dawson Rentals |
| Seen on route 66, 24 July 2015.                                                                |   |                     |

KX03 was seen at Ensign on 9 July in an all red livery, but all four have been repainted into fleet livery, basically orange with grey window surrounds (and around the front lights, following the bodywork lines) and black cove panels / roof / bumpers. KX03 also has a deep black panel below the windscreen with an orange fleet name and fleet number, 754, applied. It also has orange fleet names on the cove panels. All four have working LED blinds and retain dual doors. When with Docklands Minibus, the HV02s worked on route 167, which serves Loughton Station and Debden, as does EOS's route 66, so they are back on familiar ground.

YN51 MKZ, Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar, B43F, new to Yarrantons of Eardiston, 1/02

This has also previously worked for York Pullman and Transdev (who acquired Pullman's stage carriage services) and latterly with Wave of Stirling until they ceased operating. It was seen heading south on the M74 on trade plates on 27 July. It is in all over white with LED blinds. It was first seen with EOS on 4 August and noted on route 66 on 5th.

Correction to EBN 613: Solo YJ08 PJX (902) is B28F not B21F

Update to EBN 615: Dart SK52 OKE has been given fleet number 752 (presumably to match its registration)

## Other Vehicle News

BX54 DKK, a Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2 (B27D), new to Travel London (DP106) in September 2004, was seen on route 21A on 10 July, still in all red livery with dual doors. (This vehicle later passed to Abellio London (8306) and then was on loan to Go Ahead London for a while when they took over TfL route 100 from Abellio.) It is not yet known if it has been acquired or was on loan.

## Special Workings

On 5 August route 66A was operated by Ensignbus open top 393 (P493 MBY, an Alexander bodied Volvo Olympian, new to Metroline). To celebrate a year of EOS operation and to also mark the introduction of a Sunday service on route 66 on 6 September, Ensignbus RT 3251 was due to operate the route on this day, subject to availability (all journeys except 1352 from Loughton and 1421 from Waltham Cross - lunchtime crew relief).

*With thanks to Chris Hatley, David Heath, David Oakley, Chris Stewart, Owen Woodliffe, EOS London, LOTS, Bus Lists on the Web and Flickr.*



EOS have acquired a trio of Caetano Darts that operated in Essex on TfL route 167 when new to Docklands Buses. HV02 OZX is at Waltham Abbey on 16 July. **Owen Woodliffe.** EBN616p25

# Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher.

## Fleet Numbering

Darts KU02 PUH / PVD have been given fleet numbers 616 / 7, although these are only displayed in the cab, not externally. Darts NA52 AWF / M have received temporary numbers EN1 / 2, although it is intended to give them numbers in the 600 series. Trident T697 KPU is 1501, although this is not displayed on the vehicle.

## Disposals

N320 NHY, a Dennis Javelin / Plaxton Premiere, which was acquired from Panther Travel in June 2012 (see EBN 580), had returned to Panther by April 2014. (Panther then up-seated it from C49Ft to C57F and re-registered it BIG 9895.)

Darts 604, 605 and 606 had all gone for scrap by July 2015 (possibly earlier). 604 was last reported in service in October 2014, 605 in September 2014 and 606 in November 2013. (In EBN 605 it was reported that 606 was likely to be disposed of after donating its gearbox to 602.)

Further to the report in EBN 615 that Volvo B10M / Plaxton Excalibur SIL 2172 had been sold by April 2015, it had previously been reported in EBN 596 that this coach had sustained bad rear accident damage on 16 October 2013. There are no reports that it was used after this date, and indeed its registration was transferred to Panther Travel Mercedes Benz / Plaxton minibus W577 JVV by May 2014.

## Other Vehicle News, Workings and Observations

All dates July 2015 unless stated.

### **Greater Anglia Rail Replacement, Colchester to Chelmsford**

702 (seen on 15th), 802 (14th), YJ03 PGZ (5th, 13th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 21st, 22nd and 23rd), YJ03 PKK (5th, 12th, 21st, 22nd).

### **Underground Strikes, evening of 8 July and all day 9th, evening of 5 August and all day 6th**

As illustrated on Page 22 of EBN 615, 802 and 1404 worked as extras on Transport for London route 8 during the first strike. On 6 August 1302 and 1501 were on TfL route 205.

## Solos

204 is off road and in bits and is unlikely to run again, it was last reported in service in April 2013; 205 on 3 (15th); 206 on 381 (22nd); 208 on 1 (22nd); 209 had been off road but under rebuild (it had last been seen in use in January this year) but was back in service on route 565 on 30th; 210 on 52 (3rd).

## Darts

601 on 31A (20th), First Data shuttle (21st); 602 is off road with gearbox problems (despite receiving 606's gearbox as noted above), it was last reported in service in September 2014; 607 is off road, it was seen being towed away from Sudbury Bus Park on 7 May this year; 613 on 75 (9th); 614 on 344 (3rd), 88 (12th); 615 on 88 (17th), 75 (31st); 616 on 52 (3rd), 47 & 146 (28th); 617 on 3 (3rd & 20th), 1 (4th & 27th); NA52 AWF on 3 (10th), 88 (12th), 11 (Gosfield - Sudbury, 31st); NA52 AWM on 213 (13th), 71C (19th), 31A (20th). V132 GBY, ex Metroline, which was acquired in March 2012 for spares and given fleet number 609 "on paper", is still on site at the main Cooksmill depot and is being used as a store. (To clarify the caption on Page 2 of EBN615, 615 was acquired by Regal from Metroline via Ensign in January 2013 and was on loan to Trustybus in Autumn 2013, but has never been owned by Trustybus.)

## Enviro 200s

601 on 565 (13th & 15th), 11A (19th); 651 on 45 (4th), 565 (27th)

## MANs

702 on 381 (10th), 71C (12th), 75(23rd, 24th & 27th); 801 is off road but being repaired, it was last seen in service in January this year; 802 on 1 (15th), 3 (27th), 565 (1 & 3 August)

## Tempos

P 02 on 71C (19th & 26th). In EBN 615 it was noted that P 03 had been reported as being at Great Yeldham (along with P 01), but was not seen on the open day on 17 May. However, there is a photo of it on Flickr, taken on 2 June at Yeldham, outside MCV Engineering.

## Tridents

Additional to EBN 612: 1404 was unusual on route 565 on 7 March 2015.

1403 is off road with engine problems. This vehicle was acquired in August 2013 and was seen on route 3 on 3 September 2013 but it has not been reported in service since! Due to a shortage of single deckers, 1501 was on route 47 on 29 & 31 July, on 47 & 146 on 2 August and on 381 instead of a Solo on 3rd, it can fit under the bridge at Coopersale with 2" to spare. (It is a low height Trident, but even so, considering what happened to 1301 and 1303 (see EBNs 590 and 606), perhaps Regal shouldn't be taking the chance!)

*With thanks to Terry Clark, Simon Cooper, Conner George, Chris Hatley, David Heath, John Lidstone, John Podgorski, Richard Thomas, Robert West, Owen Woodliffe and Flickr.*



# Trustybus (Galleon Travel 2009, Roydon, Essex bus operations).

By Adam Kelleher

## Acquired Vehicles

MA02 BLU, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B37F, new to Dunstan, Middleton (21), 7/02

Seen at Harlow Bus Station on 15 July and on route 410 on 17th. From Ensignbus, remains in their blue and silver livery, fleet names removed but retain Ensign fleet number 783.

X427 FGP, DAF DB250LF/ Alexander ALX400, H43/20D, new to Arriva London North (DLA 227), 12/00

Still in all over red livery with London Buses roundels, but Arriva fleet names and numbers removed. LED blind fitted at the front but still displayed Arriva London South route 415 on rear scroll blind when seen on route 392 in early August.

Trident LX03 BVW (see EBN 615) was seen on route 392 on 29 July.

*With thanks to Chris Hatley, Owen Woodliffe and Bus Lists on the Web.*

In EBN615p11, David Grimmett commented "I'll have to study my Essex Bus News before I venture east or it seems I might be waiting a long time at Nazeing Crossroads for an RT on the 327". Owen Woodliffe says 'It's the 393, David - but not as we know it'. Now operated as a Harlow circular via Stanstead Abbots and Hoddesdon by Trustybus, the bus can be black or white or anything in between, but here at Nazeing Crossroads it is blue, being ex Metrobus, Crawley. **Owen Woodliffe**



I had hoped to include a small article on the Wythall Transport Museum where Group member Bob Williamson spends a lot of his time. He says "The only tenuous vehicle connection to Essex is LT RCL 2219 which ran as a coach from Romford (RE). We do however have on site two ECOC s/dk LH 525 and GCL 349N (RE) both of which are owned by members of Wythall, not the Trust. If a group wanted to visit Wythall they would be made most welcome – prior notice would mean I could give them a 'private' tour. We do have however a wide range of photographs from all the major operators and Corporations in East Anglia with many 'small' operators as well (black & white and colour) – there are, in total, c.10,000 photos in the shop. There also timetables, books etc. so there should be something for everyone! More to follow when space permits, meanwhile is this food for thought for our Visits Officer? Editor.

# Eastern National at Harwich; part 5, Highwayman, Minibuses and Olympians by Robert Appleton.

Eastern National launched the Highwayman cross-country coach services on 23 March 1981. Harwich depot was involved, using Bedford YMT/Duple Dominant II DP53F vehicles. On 16 April 1981, I noted DT1214 (BNO 700T) at Hertford on service 806 Harwich to Milton Keynes. On 24 July 1982, I noted DT1213 (BNO 699T) at Ipswich on service 814 Harwich to Norwich and Cromer.

Also in 1981, Eastern National received ten Bedford YMQs with Wadham Springer DP33F bodies. 1056 (TJN 979W) was allocated to Harwich, where it became a frequent performer on the Harwich to Brantham works contract instead of a Bristol RELL6G. DT1056 also frequently appeared on the Sunday Harwich - Colchester service 103 journeys.

By 1984, Harwich depot had received a couple of the Leyland Tiger/Alexander TE DP53F vehicles to replace the Bedford YMTs. On 11 March 1984, I noted DT1113 (HHJ 374Y) on Sunday services 0935 Harwich - Colchester 103 and 1145 Colchester - Harwich 103. On Saturday 22 December 1984, I noted DT1117 (HHJ 378Y) at Ipswich on the shoppers service 423 Harwich to Ipswich. This service operated on Tuesdays only (Ipswich market day) with one journey in each direction. The route was Harwich - Dovercourt - Little Oakley - Great Oakley - Wix - Bradfield, then non-stop to Ipswich. On Tuesdays, a Leyland National was often used, which spent its layover at Eastern Counties' Foundation Street depot. In December 1984, service 423 also operated on Saturdays for Christmas shopping.

During 1984, two second-hand buses were allocated to Harwich. One was ex Alder Valley Leyland National 1653 (KCG 610L). The other was ex Western SMT Bristol VRT/SL6G/ECW H39/31F 3047 (OCS 576H). 3047 had been with Eastern National since 1973. It was allocated to Harwich for a school contract to Colchester, but it still appeared on services 103/104 Harwich to Colchester on Saturdays.

The Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F allocation at Harwich also saw changes as the older Bristol RELs were withdrawn. On 6 August 1985, I noted DT1536 (OHK 226K) and DT 1552 (WNO 541L) both in service at Harwich.

Another contract working that involved Harwich depot was rail replacement services. During 1984, the Manningtree to Harwich railway line was often closed for engineering work on Sundays, and a Harwich allocated Leyland National usually provided the replacement bus service.

1986 dawned with thoughts of the Transport Act 1985 and bus deregulation but, before this, Eastern National took delivery of 15 Leyland Olympian ONLXB/IR with ECW DPH42/30F bodies. The chassis were built at Leyland, not Bristol, but at least the Olympian had been designed at Bristol, and the bodies were built at ECW at Lowestoft. Harwich depot received 4007/4008 (C407/408 HJN). They were well suited to the demands of services 103/104 Harwich - Colchester due to

- a) Gardner 6LXB engine for good acceleration and hill climbing ability
- b) five speed gearboxes to give a good top speed
- c) air suspension to cope with some poor road surfaces,
- d) comfortable seats.

4007 and 4008 settled down at Harwich and went on to accumulate very high mileage on services 103/104. They were painted in the dual-purpose version of the new Eastern National livery, yellow and dark green, and looked very smart.

Bus deregulation came early to North Essex, with CharterCoach registering commercial bus services 10 Harwich - Colchester and 30 Harwich - Parkeston under the Coastal Red name. These service started on 1 September 1986. To help fight the competition, Eastern National hired in United Counties Leyland National 483 (RNV 483M) which was allocated to Harwich. On 30 August 1986, two days before the Coastal Red services started, I recorded the Harwich allocation as:

Leyland Tiger/Alexander TE DP53F, DT1117 (HHJ 378Y)  
Leyland National/B49F, UC483 (RNV 483M), DT1653 (KCG 610L), DT1750 (JNO 199N), DT1901 (DAR 123T), DT1920 (JHI 146V)  
Bristol VRT/SL2/6LX/ECW H39/31F, DT3020 (OWC 293K)  
Bristol VRT/SL3/501/ECW H39/31F, DT3061 (LJN 656P)  
Leyland Olympian/ECW DPH42/30F, DT4007/4008 (C407/408 HJN)

Remarkably for a small depot, Harwich depot survived deregulation, competition, privatisation, Badgerline and First ownership. Until very recently, Harwich depot still provided buses for the Harwich - Mistley - Colchester service, which was the inspiration for this series of articles as well as a number of other services.



Ex Alder Valley DT1653 KCG610L parked up at Harwich on 30 August 1986. **Robert Appleton.**



DT4008 (C408 HJN) arrives at Harwich on service 104 from Colchester on 4 October 1986. Competition with Coastal Red is ongoing, note "Low prices on this bus " and "Regular and reliable that's us " advertising. **Robert Appleton.**

# Smaller Operators by Roger A. Smith, with thanks to the PSV Circle.

## APT Coaches, Rayleigh

Recently acquired is YR61 RWJ, an Iriza bodied Scania C49FT, previously with Taylor, St. Ippolyts, Herts.

## Barker, Roydon

Further to last month's report regarding M155 HST, an Auwaerter Neoplan twin deck coach, named "Lady Ann", additional research shows that this vehicle was originally registered as YN51 XMW and was with McDonald, Dundee, Scotland.

## Ford, Althorne

Two East Lancs bodied Scania N94UDs are recent arrivals. The first, a H47/33F, reg. YN06 JWL is here from Reading Buses, Berkshire whilst YN53 CFA (H51/39F) was previously with Stephenson, Rochford.

## Tony Clew, Colchester

C38FT Berkof bodied Dennis Javelin, reg. M684 LRU is understood to be here from Three Star, Luton, Beds.

## Lodge, High Easter

A recent arrival here is KE08 YFX (ex 08-KE-1), a Setra S416GT-HD C51FT, formerly with JJ Kavanagh, Urlingford, Eire, whilst TL07 DGE, a Setra S415GT C49FT has gone to Moon & Benney, Bodmin, Cornwall.

## Truck & Bus, Rettendon

BU53 AXH, a Mercedes Benz MB1836 RL C49FT is understood to have gone to Eclipse, Melbourn, Cambridgeshire.

## Woods, Leigh-on Sea

C17 WDS, a Salvador Caetano bodied DAF SB3000 has reverted to its original registration of K696 RNR.



Picture: Setra S315 GT-HD C49FT, operated on behalf of R W Chenery of Dickleborough, near Diss, Norfolk. It is registered XBL 333 and was originally W408 HOB and was formerly an Evobus demonstrator. The picture was taken over the weekend of 27/28 June, picking up passengers in Colchester, Witham, Basildon and Romford before heading towards the Black Country and Derbyshire.

**Roger A. Smith.**  
EBN616p30

# The Letters Page.

## Alan R Tebbit, BEM of Truro

## Nothing new about PR “spin”!

A recent EBN included details of fairly major cuts to services in the Harwich area, referred to as “minor revisions” on the First website. It reminded me of a day in the late 1970’s. I was on spare duty at CF and, as all work was covered, the duty inspector handed me a pot of paste, a brush and bundles of traffic notices to be put up in every bus in the depot. At that time, the off-peak service between Chelmsford and Ongar was out at 0905, 1105, 1305 and 1505, returning at 1000, 1200, 1400 and 1600, all 32A’s via Blackmore. There was an additional 32 journey, via the A414 (it was a “B” road then) at 1205 returning at 1255. This journey was “economically unviable”, so had to go.

The company were reluctant to admit they were reducing the service, so the traffic notice read thus:

1) The 1205 Chelmsford to Ongar (32) will be advanced to 1105 and renumbered 32A

2) The 1255 Ongar to Chelmsford (32) will be retarded to 1400 and renumbered 32A.

So, no reduction in service then!!!

## Doug Brown of Hutton [DB from BN]

## More on the late Eddie Kirby.

I was saddened to read in EBN614 of the passing of Eddie Kirby. OTW was actually Eddie’s second coach. His first one was a left hand drive Setra, an old one imported from Germany. The front was shaped like the old VW Beetle and had those awful recessed front headlights. This vehicle caused Eddie many problems with the Public Carriage Office who were unhappy with passengers loading from the offside and with him putting suitcases in the side lockers. But he did eventually get an “O” licence and it was registered with a B number-plate, which was 1964. I was on the buses at the time and while me and my conductor were waiting to take over the 251, Eddie came in with this coach. I asked him why an imported coach. He said he was fed up with the British coaches; as soon as you put in anti-freeze, the blighters leaked causing him many breakdowns. Setra’s have air-cooled engines so he did not have this problem. When I left the buses for coach work in 1968, Eddie was still a one-man coach company and seemed to work night and day and, when he bought his new coach, he became King Kirby in the coach parks. In his mind, there was nothing like his new Setra. And there really wasn’t!

## Ken Coldwell

## Bus liveries.

Regarding the new Hedingham/Chambers livery I have a personal gripe. It seems a shame that Chambers livery, which was probably expensively (and successfully) designed by someone like Best Impressions, has now been adopted for the combined fleet - but, in the case of Chambers without the classy route map, now used as advertising between decks, and the totally incongruous light red panel at front lower which spoils a very good coordinated effect.

Co-incidentally, your Editor had commented to Robert Appleton that, in his opinion, the front part of the new livery was drab although when seen as a whole was rather smart. Robert responded:

## Robert Appleton of Mistley

## Bus liveries.

Yes I do like the Chambers/Hedingham livery, maroon/red; a good combination. I take your point about it being drab at the front, but not as drab as the First livery for Ipswich allocated buses, a dark grey front, very drab. A pity that First Eastern Counties at Ipswich livery does not have a red front instead of dark grey, to keep a link with the Tilling red/NBC poppy red/privatised post office red of Eastern Counties years ago. Also the maroon/red livery seems to be wearing well so far on Chambers V/W reg. Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President double-deckers. One other point about liveries; years ago, if the main colour was dark, e.g. dark green or maroon, then usually it was relieved by cream or white stripes, to avoid too much drabness.

## Robert Appleton of Mistley

## Hedingham and Bus liveries.

In EBN612 inside front cover, there was an excellent photo of Hedingham & District 1519 on service 87 Brightlingsea to Colchester. I was in Colchester on 21 July pm, and I spotted 1517, 1518, and 1519 on this service.

Colchester has become a meeting place for these ex Metrobus refurbished Scania N94UD/East Lancs Omnidekka, because Chambers, Sudbury are using their buses of this type on services 753/754 Bury St Edmunds - Sudbury - Colchester.

On another subject, the colour photos in EBN615 illustrated four shades of green: i) London Transport country area green on RCL 2229/2233.

ii) Moores green on Guy Arab IV 373 WPU. iii) Tilling Green on Bristol KSW VNO 859 and Bristol RELL FWC 439H. iv) NBC leaf green on Bristol RELL SVW 274K.

Which made me think that very few bus operators have green liveries these days. Go-Ahead Southern Vectis have a two-tone green livery; First Buses of Somerset also have a two-tone green livery. In Kings Lynn and West Norfolk, Stagecoach is replacing the Norfolk Green livery with their corporate livery. At least in Essex we are lucky that Stephenson’s have light green in their livery (and the smart Green Line colours as shown on EBN616 inner front cover! Ed.)



As usual, John was first off the mark with pictures of Essex buses at work 'up in the smoke' coming to the rescue of peak time passengers during the latest Tube Strike. Here is Imperial of Rainham Leyland Titan PD2 7RT RTL1256 (LYR 788) on route 8 at Liverpool Street. Hopefully, more to come next EBN! **John G. Lidstone.**

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Well!!!! Your Editor had hoped for a quiet month to help clear the back log which is becoming enormous! As well as JGL's latest Tube Strike file, I have a fabulous new series of blinds, lots of pictures of First's Colchester property portfolio, some pre-war depot pictures and much more! Some hopes but it does give a good start for future months. It is a nice problem to have so please do keep sending in pictures, reports and comments. **Maurice Austin.**

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## Target dates for EBN617 (September 2015).

|    |     |                            |     |                              |
|----|-----|----------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| By | ... | Saturday 5 September 2015  | ... | Reports to Sub-Editors.      |
| By | ... | Saturday 12 September 2015 | ... | Sub-Editor drafts to Editor. |
| By | ... | Monday 21 September 2015   | ... | Dispatch by Printers.        |

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## Back Cover Photos.

- Outer Top**

As reported on EBN616p25, P4994 MBY is at Ninefields, Upshire on 5 August. Owen took his grandchildren for a trip. Lucky little folk! **Owen Woodliffe.**
- Outer Lower**

In EBN 614 it was reported that First Essex Tridents 32818 / 59 / 83 had been sold to First Devon & Cornwall in May. Here is 32883 on 3 July 2015 in Weston Super Mare. **Allan MacFarlane.**



## What a Striking Trio!

Ensign managed special services to partially cover during the Tube strike on Wednesday 8 and Thursday 9 July. Amongst the 100 or so non-TfL buses in operation were:

*Top picture:*

Blueline Travel of Rochford, worked route 205 shorts between Paddington and Old Street on route 205 on 9 July.

**Russell Young.**



*Middle picture:*

Panther Travel Olympian BIG 7758 on route 205 in Euston Road, passing St Pancras Station, working shorts between Warren Street and Old Street on 9 July.

**Russell Young.**



*Bottom picture:*

Ensignbus JEV 245Y which undertook on round trip on route 25 between Stratford and Holborn on Route 25 during the evening of 8 July, in Whitechapel Road. And is that a Craven RT just behind?

**Russell Young.**

It might just all be happening again as we put this EBN to bed. Any Essex related news will have to wait until next month!





[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)