

Essex Bus News

**No. 611
MARCH
2015**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk



Stephensons 204, The ADL E200 demonstrator that's currently on loan in Chelmsford, Duke Street on Sat 28 Feb 2015. **Russell Young.**



Hedingham 480, the solo Chambers livery style repaint in the Hedingham fleet in Stanway, Halstead Road, also on Sat 28 Feb. 2015.

Russell Young.

Front Cover picture:

The first 15 reg. bus in Essex – at least, no-one else has told your Editor about any others! Congratulations to Stephensons of Essex on yet another initiative. Brand new Stephensons of Essex EU15 AZT pre-launch, with grateful thanks to Lee of Stephensons. This was so new, it hadn't had its post-delivery checks. Taken in the depot on 23 February 2015. **John G. Lidstone.**

EBN611fc

Essex Bus News 611

March 2015

Editors & Sub-Editors

Magazine Editor

Maurice Austin
Tindal Lodge, 11 Valletta Close
CHELMSFORD CM1 2PT
maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop

First in Essex

Regal/Amber/Townlink/Trustybus/EOS

Adam Kelleher
74 Park Road
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk

Ensignbus/Hedingham/Chambers

Mark Lloyd
448 Ipswich Road
COLCHESTER CO4 4EY mark.lloyd@asqb.co.uk

Arriva including Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge petemans_1@hotmail.com

Stephensons of Essex

Richard Delahoy, details opposite.

Panther Travel

Ian Ransom ianandsallyr@googlemail.com

Smaller Operators

Roger A Smith
3 Station Mews
Station Road
WITHAM CM8 2FP

Service Changes

Paul Harvey
3 Orangewood Close, Gonerby Hill Foot
GRANTHAM NG31 8QW pw.harvey@ntlworld.com

Social Secretary; meetings, events, tours Distribution Officer; missing/defective EBN's Publication Sales; orders for publications

Owen Woodliffe
196 Sinclair Road
CHINGFORD E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com
*Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos;
Send SAE with your requirements*

Black & White Photo Sales

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

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:

Richard Delahoy,
272 Shoebury Road,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS1 3TT
richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk

Printed by DirectCDs Ltd

Unit 9 Swaines Mill, Crane Mead,
WARE, Herts SG12 9PY
01920 465023
www.directcds.co.uk

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.

© 2015 Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

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

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Richard Delahoy.

Wednesday 18 March AGM starts 1945 sharp then slide show "50 Years AGO" by Alan Osborne — at our usual **WICKFORD** venue.

Then we move to a new venue in **HOCKLEY** from April for the spring/summer season:

Wednesday 15 April A mixed presentation, covering a recent visit to the Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust's collection of 70-odd preserved buses and slides from the 1960s from the Boxall collection.

Wednesday 20 May Illustrated talk by Group member Anthony Spindler on his fascinating career from 1964 to 1992 with Eastern National and, latterly, Thamesway..

Wednesday 17 June Photos from the Bob Beaumont collection — a tribute to our former member, with photos mainly from the 1960s.

Wednesday 15 July To be advised.

These meetings will be held at The Old Fire Station, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4QH, adjacent to the Spa pub in the centre of Hockley. Arriva/Stephensons bus 7 from Southend, Rochford & Rayleigh stop very near-by. Hockley rail station is about a 6-7 minute walk. We will meet in the Ground Floor Pump Room, with access to the kitchen to make our own tea/coffee/soft drinks; toilet facilities (incl. disabled). The venue is wheelchair accessible. There is very limited parking on the forecourt, better to use the public car park directly opposite, behind the library — which is free from 1900 onwards and has ample room.

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 13 March 2015. Gary Sharpe/Trevor Brooks. Osbornes of Tollesbury — part 2.

Friday 10 April 2015. Owen Woodliffe. Bus Rallies, Wales and South-west 2014.

Friday 8 May 2015. Richard Delahoy.

Friday 12 June 2015. Dave Arnold.

Also Fridays 10 July, 14 August, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 13 Nov and 11 Dec 2015.

A Blast From The Past!

Paul Harvey.



Eastern National 454 RPU 869M Bristol RELH ECW seen in Sheffield operating with Northern Bus in 1992. On day of delivery (5/74) to EN vehicle was transferred to National Travel (South East); EN fleet number was never carried. **Paul Harvey.**

EBN611p2

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

GROUP TOURS

Saturday 28 March

SE Bus Festival, Kent Showground, Detling near Maidstone.

A Talisman vehicle will leave Colchester North Station at 0800 for this event. Contact Dave Arnold.

Sunday 12 April

"Return To Romford" The AJN 825 Group are organising a further study tour over former

Westcliff MS routes, this time concentrating on the western (London fringes) end of the network, visiting the Upminster/Romford/Grays area on Sunday 12 April. Pick up points at Rayleigh Station (0940) and Tarpoons Corner (1000); other points en-route possible, please enquire. Note that the tour will now include a visit to the Ensign Bus museum collection. Anyone interested in participating should contact Richard Delahoy, richard@signal-training.com or by post to 272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT (enclosing 2 SAE's — one for initial confirmation, the other for final details).

Saturday 23 May

"The Norfolk Flyer" Departing Colchester North Station at 0830 we will be visiting a selection of operators including Galloway at Mendlesham, Sanders at Holt, Easton's at Stratton Strawless and, by popular request, a return visit to Simonds at Diss on the way home. Lunch stop will be at Sheringham and we suggest you bring food with you. Return to Colchester approx. 1830. Fare is £20.00. To book, please send cheque for £20.00 payable to E.B.E.G together with S.A.E. to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5BE. (Note: High Vis. Tops are required for this trip)

Tuesday 23 June

Talisman Evening Tour, details to follow.

EVENTS

Sat/Sun 5/6April.

Medway Festival of Steam and Transport. Chatham Dockyard.

Sat/Sun 18/19April.

Colne Valley Railway Vintage Vehicle Weekend. www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk

Sunday 19 April

Spring Gathering, London Bus Museum, Brooklands.

Sat/Sun 25/26 April

1940's Weekend, Dover Transport Museum.

Sunday 26 April

Delaine Buses Heritage Running Day.

Four heritage vehicles will boost Delaine Buses normal Sunday service between Peterborough and Bourne, operating alongside modern low floor vehicles providing a 20 min frequency on service 101. Full details available at www.delainebuses.com or 01778 422866.

Sunday/Monday 3/4 May

King Alfred Gala Weekend. Winchester.

Sunday 17 May

Open Day. Great Yeldham Transport Museum, info@yeldhamtransportmuseum.co.uk. *The Group Stall will be at this event.*

Sunday 31 May

Clacton Bus Rally. Clacton Factory Outlet.

Sat/Sun 13/14 June.

'Classic London' at National Tramway Museum, Crich. Joint with Brooklands Museum, whose buses will operate alongside London Trams and other preserved vehicles. www.tramway.co.uk.

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.



In EBN No 609, we showed some photos during the floods. The first one shows a rear view Southend 337 (CJN 437C), which was withdrawn prematurely following a head-on shunt. Brian has a photo of this vehicle after its withdrawal waiting to be scrapped at Tickfield Avenue yard; unfortunately he can't lay his hands on it at the moment! However, he thought you might be interested in another shot of it at the Eastwood terminal of route 29. Some members may recognise the conductor (Brian doesn't), but doubts very much if they would know the lady walking by!

Brian Ashley collection.

NVX 170 by Chris Stewart.

This was the subject of a short article (entitled 'The Gnu that wasn't') a long time ago by Alan Osborne in the ENEG Newsletter. It was new as City Coach Co G7 in 1949 with a Heaver B39C body, but being a 30ft long Leyland PS2/11 it had a second front axle to comply with Construction and Use Regulations. When these were relaxed in 1950 allowing two axle 30ft single deckers the additional axle was removed. G7 passed to Westcliff on Sea Motor Services in 1952 with the rest of the City business and then to ENOC (fleet number 132). On disposal by EN in 1958 it passed via a dealer to Barton of Chilwell, who fitted a new NCME FL70F body in 1959 and re-registered it 794 ARR. It was later sold to Monty Moreton of Nuneaton in 1975.



Top Picture:

Official body builders photo at Heaver.

Bottom picture:

Outside Wood Green 'Coach Station' but with the second axle removed and carrying the later City livery, with blinds set for Wickford
Alan Cross.





Top picture: In green and cream Westcliff livery but still with City fleet number G7, in Ingrave Road, Brentwood outside Wilson's department store and Green's music shop. **Alan Cross.**

Bottom picture: In rebodied form with Barton. **R H G Simpson.**



Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Arriva Kent Thameside			
8 March 15	308/309	D	Bishop Park to Stansted Airport: minor timetable revisions to the 1620 & 1720 Mon to Fri departures from the Airport.
	724	D	Harlow to Heathrow Airport: minor timetable revisions to the 1130 & 1250 Mon to Fri departures from Harlow.
	801/2	M-S	Ipswich to Witham: minor timetable revisions.
15 March 15	724	D	Harlow to Heathrow Airport: revised route in St Albans and revised t'table throughout.
7 April 15	CP&R	M-S	Colchester Park & Ride: new service
11 May 15	505	M-S	Harlow to Chingford: service withdrawn.

Centrebuses			
29 March 15	700	D	Stevenage to Stansted Airport: new contract service.

First			
3 March 15	121/122	MDO	Colchester to Football Stadium: minor revision to timetable.

Flagfinders			
23 Feb 15	64	Sch	Halstead to Boreham: revised timetable and stopping places service commencing/terminating at Sible Hedingham.

NIBS			
13 April 14	48	Sch	Laindon to Wickford: school service withdrawn.
13 May 15	SS	SDO	Grays to Orsett Show: shuttle service withdrawn.



Smart Alexander Dennis/Pointer Dart 551 (SN55 DVR) formerly London United DPS723, shown on John's listings as numbered 055 but now clearly 551. Seen at Basildon Bus Station on Tuesday 3 March 2015.

John G. Lidstone. EBN611p6

Regal Busways
17 March 15 5 Th East Hanningfield to Maldon: revised timetable.



Picture above: A brace of Regal Busways Enviro 200's at Chelmsford Bus Station on 20th January 2015. Nearest the camera is 702 (EU10 DJE) and behind 650 (YX09 HZA).

Ken Coldwell.

TGM (Network Colchester)			
1 Feb 15	66	Sun	Colchester to Rowhedge: minor route and timetable change within Colchester Town Centre.
	67B	Sun	West Bergholt to West Mersea: minor route and timetable change within Colchester Town Centre.
Townlink Buses			
9 March 15	19A	M-F	Harlow to Loughton: revision to timetable including introduction of Saturday & Sunday service (updated Information).
Uno			
29 March 15	700	D	Baldock to Stansted Airport: contract service withdrawn.

(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex, Hertfordshire & Suffolk County Councils, Omnibus Society (Essex Branch), Richard Delahoy & Harlowride).

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

Farrington (South East Coaches), South Woodham Ferrers
Further to last month's report, Bova Futura C49FT, reg. T322 KNN it is now confirmed that this vehicle is now with Blueline, Canewdon.
Haddy, Stanford-le-Hope
This operator has an additional fleetname, ie "Webbways Travel".

Linkfast, Benfleet
It is reported that Mercedes-Benz Touro C49FT, reg. no BU04 UTF, formerly with this operator, is now with M. Lewis, Coventry, West Midlands

Another Southend Survivor by Richard Delahoy.

Following hard on the heels of Paul Bateson's pictures and story about the ex Southend Transport Lowlander in Canada, we have news of another survivor overseas. Fleetline 348 (WIN348J) – numerically the first of the batch of 26 that transformed Southend's operations in 1971 – was withdrawn by ST in 1983 and then ran for a while with Rochford District Council as the Rochford Leisure Bus before being acquired by Frank Spence for preservation. It was later with a school in north London, then S&M Coaches/Linkfast locally, before being exported to New Zealand in 1992. Over 20 years later, it is still active there with The Thirsty Whale bar and restaurant, www.thirstywhale.co.nz.

Checking on its status as part of the revision to the PSV Circle Fleet History of ST, I contacted the bar and the owners kindly sent me this recent photo of it looking immaculate. Not bad for a 43 year old bus! The upper deck front/side windows show signs of rebuilding; the single door conversion happened whilst in the UK.

And that PSV Circle Fleet History was published in February, updating the much earlier versions and taking the story forward to June 1993, when ST was sold to the British Bus Group and hence covers the era of Routemasters, Leyland Nationals and Bristol VRs, as well as all other buses, trams & trolleybuses owned/operated since 1901. The illustrated history costs £12 and can be ordered from the Circle at <http://www.psv-circle.org.uk/PF13.htm>.



Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

Essex County Council Bus and Train Map dated January 2015

Arriva Southern Counties (Harlow)

Green Line 724 Harlow to London Heathrow Airport wef 15 March 2015

Similar level of service but some buses up to 25 mins earlier or later.

(advised by **Richard Lewis**, Marketing Manager)

More Recollections from Robin Jenkinson.



*** In EBN603, Terry Challis mentions that at least one of the batch of open-toppers C05G's (JN 8570 – 72) ran at Clacton. Robin confirms this as he photographed 1245, reg. no JN 8571, running there, probably in 1957.

The article “75 Years A Lady” has reminded Robin of a great disappointment in his life. The piece refers to the BTC Museum being “far-sighted” in preserving AJN 825. In fact, this is incorrect as Robin is responsible for its preservation. The full story is in EBN March 2010. Robin tried to purchase a pre-war Bristol K from ENOC in 1959 but they would not sell him one, so he contacted the BTC Museum to use their influence to get ENOC to change its mind. To Robin’s everlasting disappointment, they donated AJN 825 to the museum instead of selling it to him! Robin admits that even to this day, every time he sees a picture of her, he cannot help thinking “that magnificent vehicle should be mine!” A bitter pill to swallow!

An appeal. Robin is writing a history of his uncle’s bus company “**Reliance**” but is unable to trace a fleet-list. Does any member have one, or know where to get one, please.

* In EBN602p29, June 2015, Maurice Doggett mentions the C05G’s rebodied by ECW. The picture, top left, shows the straight dashboard as opposed to the sloping dash fitted on the new post-war K chassis. 1225, reg. no. JN 6892, is seen coming out of Prittwell on 24 July 1958.

Robin Jenkinson.

** In EBN605, we reported on the sad death of Bob Beaumont and showed a picture of EN 1023, reg. CAP 131, as a tree-lopper. Robin is pretty certain that the low PV2 radiator had already been fitted by BH&D so was there on acquisition. His picture of similar vehicle CAP 230 (mid-left), bought from BH&D by Best of Great Bromley who ran a service to Colchester, shows it has also been fitted with a low PV2 radiator. Robin also has a photograph of CAP 131 being used as a stand for painters decorating Clacton depot on 14 July 1963 and it had not then been converted to a tree-lopper. It still had the 1023 fleet no. plate, and Eastern National fleet name on the side; the only alteration was a part of the top windscreen having been removed. So it was not truly converted in Autumn 1962 but at the earliest, August 1963.

Robin Jenkinson.

Rail Replacement continues!

I was pleasantly surprised at the level of interest in the rail replacement news in EBN610. The renewal of the Great Eastern line continues at weekends until 22 March 2015, providing much of interest to bus enthusiasts and photographers; additional vehicle utilisation for the operators (bringing out some buses not usually seen away from their normal haunts!) and loads of lovely overtime for the drivers!

Ian Ransom has produced another snapshot list of vehicles on the massive Billericay/Chelmsford/Colchester based operations he saw on 7 February 2015 on a trip from Chelmsford to Colchester and about 90 minutes in Colchester. There are a number of "new" operators not reported last month, notably First Eastern Counties, Regal and London United.

Stephenson Scania 601 605 639 (all on CF-BY) **First Essex** 32484,32654, 33191 (CF-CR all stations) Solo 53125 (CF-Ingatstone)
Regal Neoplan OV63 XCN and DAF/Van Hool YN03 PKK (both CF-BE fast via Witham), Solo YJ60 KBZ (Witham-BE all stations), DAF/Van Hool YN03 PGZ (Witham spare) **London United** Volvo Olympian/Alexander N139 YRW (Chelmsford spare)
Panther Volvo/Plaxton AB53 PAN, Volvo/Plaxton BIG 6002, (both on CR-BY) Dennis Lance/Wright BIG 7793 (Marks Tey to Sudbury)

Then seen in **Colchester** (1230-1400)

Talisman, Gt Bromley Van Hool integral DSK 107, Scania/Irizar YR10 BEO and YT10 WLH, Leyland Olympian/ECW H47 MJN, Setra TSU 182, VSU 803 and OK08 ULM, Dennis Trident W567 RSG

Yongs of Cambridge DAF/Van Hool B15 YCC **Flagfinders, Braintree** Dennis Javelin/Neoplan XIL 1254

Godward, Basildon Irizar integral YN62 SLX, CC62 PGC and CC64 PGC, Iveco/Beulas FE51 RGZ

Blueline, Rochford Bova T322 KNN

Galloway of Mendlesham Van Hool TX15 YJ13 GXG, DAF/Van Hool 5048 PP, Setra BN12 E00, Volvo B13 BX13 BZA

APT, Rayleigh Scania/Irizar PT05 APT

Kevendy, Shotgate Neoplan K50 DYS

Kirby, Rayleigh Setra K30 BYS and K50 BYS

Corbell, London Setra BN08 OOC

Ford, Althorne Scania/Berkhof YN07 LKJ and YN07 LKK, Scania/Van Hool V863 PPU

Chenery, Dickleburgh Setra BNG 444Y

Turner, Little Maplestead Setra LSU 113 and LSU 788

New Horizon, Frating Volvo/Ionckhree R179 SUT and W864 AAY, Scania/Irizar SK07 NKN

Lodge, High Easter MAN/Marco Polo MB04 TCY **First Eastern Counties** Volvo/Plaxton 20514

SBC, Wickford Scania/Irizar T377 JWA

South East Coaches, Bicknacre DAF/Van Hool GRZ 2451

Galleon, Roydon Bova WA09 HTO

Barkerbus, Roydon Setra LEZ 1795



The following week, on 14 February, we see Panther Travel on the Sudbury line, both Solos, VB08 PAN going to Marks Tey and BIG 7006 going to Sudbury, at 0848 at Bures. **Stephen Barham.**

Billericay 15 February 2015 (1600-1645)

Stephenson 501 504 512 602 607 632 plus Dart 422 on driver shuttle

APT, Rayleigh Iveco/Beulas PT03 APT, Scania/Irizar PT05 APT, Scania/Berkhof PT06 APT

Ford, Althorne Scania/Berkhof YN07 LKK, Scania/Van Hool V863 PPU

Talisman, Gt Bromley Scania/Irizar YT10 WLH and YT13 HLA, Setra TSU 182 , VSU 803, UL11 ULM and BU14 SYE

Amber, Rayleigh Setra VDJ 660, KIG 1321 and YJ08 NSO, Volvo/Caetano OJB 3514

Simmonds of Bottesdale MAN/Plaxton MX10 DDZ

Kings Ferry, Gillingham Volvo/Caetano FJ12 GBU, FJ12 GBV, FJ13 EBN, FJ13 EBX, FJ13 ECD, FJ13 EXH and FJ61 EXE, Mercedes/Caetano FJ10 EZL

Barkerbus, Roydon Setra LEZ 1795

Kevenly, Shotgate MAN/Noge K16 DYS, Neoplan K50 DYS

Kellys, Harlow Setra IIZ 3644 and XII 7902

Redwing, London Mercedes Benz BJ59 OJA, BJ59 OJB, BJ59 OJF

BlueLine, Rochford Bova T322 KNN

First Eastern Counties Volvo/Plaxton 20515

New Horizon, Frating Volvo/Jonckhree W864 AAY, Scania/Irizar YN04 GGV

Reliance, Gravesend Scania/Irizar YP12 NUGF, YP12 NUH, YP12 NUK, YP12 NUM and YP12 NUV

Richmond, Barley Bova 424 KPP

Turner, Little Maplestead Volvo/Plaxton YN54 WWT

Belle, Lowestoft Scania/Van Hool SIL 9043

First Essex 32478, 32480, 32481, 32654 (CF-Witham-CR) 33086 (CF spare) 53114 (CF-Ingatstone) all seen in Chelmsford



Talisman ex-Lothian Buses Dennis Trident W567 RSG, working a Colchester - Billericay rail replacement service, on behalf of Abellio Greater Anglia in Colne Bank Avenue, Colchester on Sunday 8 February 2015.

Russell Young.

61579 (S692 BFS)

Further to EBN 610, member David Edwards has kindly supplied additional information. 61579 arrived in Colchester on a low loader in October (by 9th) and was deposited between the old bus station and the garage. Upon inspection by the Engineering department it was condemned as unsuitable; it would have needed too much money spent on it to bring it up to standard. A further five similar vehicles were also due to come from Scotland and this order was cancelled. However, it was realised that 61579 would be able to be used as a source of spare parts and so it was cannibalised. Incidentally, as there are two First Glasgow operating companies, vehicles belonging to each carry a number (1 or 2) on the nearside rear corner. 61579's n/s/r corner panel complete with rear light unit was fitted to 65565, which now carries the number 2 above its rear light!

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 11 (25 January - 21 February)

42439 HH-Yeldham Transport Collection, 42486 BE-CF, 42930 CF-BE, 43357 HH-BN, 43712 CN(out of service)-sold, 43715 BN-BE(out of service), 43732 CF-BN, 65551 CN(out of service)-sold

43715 was seen at BE on 24 January, it is reported that its gearbox is destined for 43480 which has not been in use for a few months.



As reported above, "The Oracle" resting in Yeldham with an old friend! James Johnson kindly posed it next to Bristol VR 3107, which was good to see as this bus was new to (and still carries old-style depot allocation plates) for the same Hadleigh depot. A rather pleasant meeting across the generations.

John G. Lidstone.

Disposals

To Alpha Recovery for scrap February 2015: 43712

To Truck & Plant Asset (auction sale) February 2015: 65551

Repaints

To Urban Livery:

HH41735, seen on 21A on 12 February, Essex fleet name and depot sticker on lower panels on offside (nearside not seen), small f and Essex in rear window (n.b. this vehicle lost its front dash Marshall wings before it joined Essex from London)

Update on 41761: this has Essex fleet names and depot stickers on both sides on lower panels

To Hybrid Livery (Colchester version):

This livery is the same as Urban livery, but with green stripes replacing the light purple ones, to highlight the fact that the vehicle has had "green" modifications (see below). It is very similar to that carried by hybrid vehicles 67901-4 and 69901-19 but not exactly the same; it retains the Urban livery magenta pin stripe at skirt level which those hybrids do not have, but does not have the small sky blue areas at the rear which those hybrids do have. Also, so far, there are no green credential decals or adverts on the Colchester vehicles.

CR66800, seen on 65 on 7 February, Essex fleet name on cove panels and depot stickers on both sides, small f and Essex fleet name in rear window

CR66809, seen on 12 February, Essex fleet name on cove panels and depot stickers on off side (nearside not seen)

Additionally, during February, the following vehicles, which had already been repainted into Urban livery, had their light purple stripes replaced by green: 66801 (first noted 18th), 66803 (21st), 66804 (13th), 66807 (26th), 66810 (26th), 66816 (19th) and 66828 (16th). So all nine of Colchester's MX05 reg Volvo B7RLEs are now in Hybrid livery.

Other updates: 66803, 66804, 66807 and 66816 have Essex fleet names on cove panels and depot stickers on both sides, but 66801 still only has an Essex fleet name on cove panels on the nearside and has no depot stickers.



Illustrating the revised livery described by Adam is First Essex 66828 taken on the morning of Sunday 1 March 15 in Eastwood Drive, Highwoods, Colchester. Nice to see the sun shining following a difficult period for photographers!

Russell Young.

EBN611p13

Other Vehicle News and Workings

General

BE42488 has received front and rear LED backlights for its dot matrix (flip dot) destination and number blinds, which greatly enhance visibility of the screens. Other buses are due to follow. BN43359 unusually has its front fleet number on a magenta background.

Olympian

34305 was again on route 70 on 3 February, then was seen at Westway between 4th and 6th, but was back at BE on 7th and seen again on the 70 on 10th, 11th, 23rd, 24th and 27th. It remains officially allocated to CF.

Colchester Low Emission Bus Project

The Department for Transport has provided £194,000 from their Clean Vehicle Technology Funding scheme for the Colchester Borough Council Clean bus project. This involves fitting selective catalytic technology to ten buses to reduce oxides of nitrogen emissions by over 80%, the fitting of a particulate trap to eliminate most of the harmful particulate matter emissions plus an electronic cooling fan to improve fuel efficiency and thus further reduce emissions. Four Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) have been identified as follows:

- 1) Central corridors - High Street, Head Street, North Hill, Queen Street, St Botolph's Street, St Botolph's Circus, Osborne Street, Military Road, Magdalen Street, Mersea Road, Brook Street and East Street;
- 2) East Street and the adjoining lower end of Ipswich Road;
- 3) Harwich Road / St Andrews Avenue junction;
- 4) Lucy Lane North, Stanway

Thus the 61, 62, 64 and 66 would be the most suitable routes for their use. Nine vehicles have received Hybrid livery (see above).



First Essex refreshed livery Dart 42935 making a fairly unusual appearance on the 71 at Chelmsford Bus Station on Saturday 28 February 2015. **Russell Young.**

Rail Replacement

Amongst vehicles from many operators working weekend Greater Anglia RRP during February and into March, the following First Essex vehicles have been noted:

Chelmsford to Billericay (7th) HH33081, BN33188, HH33191 plus BN32640 on late standby at Billericay

Chelmsford to Colchester (7th) CR32484 (and again on 8th), CR32654

Chelmsford to Ingatestone (7th) CF53125

Chelmsford to Ingatestone (14th) CF53134

Also seen on 14th: BN32849, BN32859, HH33074, BE33086, HH33134, HH33376 and CR62408. Further sightings have been: CR32483 and CR32654 (15th), CR32482, HH33074, BN33192, HH33384, CF53117 and CF53121 (22nd), CR32477 at Witham (28th) and CR32480/1/2 and CF53134 (1 March). *Also see Ian Ransom's report on pages 28 and 29 of this EBN.*

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

Magdalen Street depot, which is owned by Colchester Borough Council, has been put up for sale. As at the middle of February progress on the new Haven Road depot was advanced, the area where the timber sheds used to be has been cleared and concreted as a future parking area. From 5 January to "Spring 2015", due to road works around North Station, Colchester, linked to the forthcoming Park & Ride, the southbound stop on Station Way outside Wickes has been temporarily moved to half way along North Station Road between Clarendon Way and Cowdray Avenue, services 2C, 8C, 15, 61/A, 62/A, 63 and 65 are affected. CR (out of service) 65569 is being cannibalised at Magdalen Street "Number 2" shed. CR (out of service) 65576 was still parked between Queen Street garage and the old bus station on 22 February. CR65630, CR69429 and CR69432, all acquired in Autumn last year, have had their Ipswich fleet names removed (by January) - 69432 still carries an advert on the nearside lower panels, and has had "Colchester" added behind the f and "First" above the entrance.

Double deckers noted on services 103/4 during February were CR32480 on 5th & 25th and CR32476 on 18th. The revised Harwich local service 2 (incorporating school route 30A on Mondays to Fridays) duly commenced on 2 February. A single decker has sufficient seating capacity and the following have been noted (all CN): 44596 (2nd, 5th pm), 44598 (3rd), 43714 (5th am, 7th), 43719 (12th), 42937 (25th) and 44599 (27th). 43714 also operated on 11th but broke down and was replaced by 43719. The two ALX400s at CN, 30887/92, have mainly operated on route 76 and peak hour interworking on route 74 during February. The third double decker, President 32810, has been off road.



Robert was pleased to see 42937 from Clacton depot operating service 2 Harwich - Dovercourt - Parkeston, because 42937 used to be allocated to Harwich for several years before the closure of Harwich depot. Photographed turning out of Kingsway in Dovercourt, on Wednesday 25 February 2015.

Robert Appleton.

EBN611p15

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Between 2 and 22 February, Duke Street was closed at the station overnight from 2200 to allow bridge cleaning to take place, with consequent diversions. See page 32, this EBN for further "bridge news".

Updating EBNs 609 and 610, 42486 has now officially moved from BE to CF, with 42930 moving the other way

3 Feb	CF53008 on 70		
4	CF66798 on loan to BE on 70, back at CF by 10th when seen on 71/A		
5	CF20805 on Colchester schools work		
6	CF43485 on 42A with scrolling symbols as destination, ex P&R CF65030 back on Sandon P&R		
9	CF53130 on 71/A		
11	Ex Sandon P&R CF65032 on Chelmer Valley Park & Ride		
13	CF43731 on 71/A, ex P&R CF65029 back on Sandon P&R, showing correct destination displays		
14	CF53127 on 71A		
17	CF53127 on 42, ex Sandon P&R CF65031 on Chelmer Valley Park & Ride		
19	CF42485 on 42A	20	CF43360 on 71/A
27	CF43731 on driver shuttle	4 Mar	BE43356 on 351

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

From 10 February to 5 April, there are road works taking place at Basildon Bus Station; stands C, D and E are closed with their services moving to stands J, S and U respectively, with the services from these stands, routes 5, 8 and 8A, moving to temporary stops on Southernhay.

5 Feb	BN42934 on 100	14	BN66813 on 100
15	BN43357 (recent transfer from HH) on 140	17	BN41524 on 100
18	BN66823 and BN66825 on 100, BN69914 on 25A	20	BN69902 on 25
25	BN66805 on 100		



22 times 2! 44006 and 63169 at Basildon Bus Station on Wednesday 18 February 2015 showing the different rear ends of an Enviro 200 and a Streetlite.

Adam Kelleher.

Other News

A sign of the times - buses are receiving new interior No Smoking stickers, which read "No Smoking on the Bus including e-cigarettes, Thank You". Former First Essex Solos 53118-20/22-4 have moved from First Eastern Counties at Norwich to First Midlands' Adderley Green depot, Stoke on Trent. Preserved former Moore's and Eastern National Guy Arab 373 WPU has received front depot (KN, for Kelvedon) and fleet number (1048) plates (silver on black background). When EN took over Moore's in 1963, depot and fleet number plates were quickly applied and before the Moore's fleet names were removed, so this combination of EN depot / fleet number plates with Moore's fleet names is historically correct, if only for a short period.

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, I Banks, S Barham, J Benee, S Burden, N Clark, T Clark, L Cornwell, J Cush, D Edwards, S Hughes, J Lidstone, D Lund-Conlon, J Podgorski, I Ransom, J Salmon, C Stewart, G Toon, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, First Essex, Braintree & Witham Times, Flickr, www.bustlistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

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



This bus nicely duplicates the information in Adam's news above and was one of those used by John Rugg on his tour of Essex described elsewhere in this EBN. As reported in the article (under Basildon and Hadleigh notes), routes 5, 8 and 8A have been displaced from Basildon Bus Station to Southernhay whilst repairs take place at the Bus Station. BN33178 is seen on route 8A at its temporary stop on Southernhay on Wednesday 18 February.

Adam Kelleher.

Russell Young kindly sent full details of the £5M grant from the Department of Transport referred to by Adam in his report. A wide range of innovative technologies is being funded in experiments to reduce emissions. Colchester is the only local beneficiary, apart from London where 1 fire engine and 400 buses are to be fitted with selective catalytic converter kit. Nationally, some 563 buses, 193 taxi's, 30 taxi -mini buses, 10 coaches, 18 vans and 175 ambulances are to be fitted with technologies including flywheels, catalytic converters, thermal management (exhausts), LPG and solar roof panels (on the ambulances).

New 424, EU15 AZT is a further ADL Enviro 200 B29F, it entered service on 2 March on the 61 at Rochford, see photo's below and front cover. ADL demonstrator YX14RXB remains on loan.

Olympian disposals

864, J564 HAT & 869, J569 HAT — to MacPhersons Coaches, Swadlincote.

949, H549 VAT & 951, H551 VAT — to Xelabus, Eastleigh.

953, L953 MSC — to Maldon Primary School, Maldon.

947, H547 VAT, previously in the reserve fleet was reinstated mid-February for a new contract at Haverhill depot. Of the ex-Dublin Olympians, 828 (N828 FKK) is off the road and 830/1 (N959/60 FKK) are stored, in the reserve fleet.

This reduces the ranks of operational Olympians to just:

724, J624 GCR — at Haverhill

808-10, M408-10 RVU — Maldon/Boreham

827/9, N827/81 FKK — Haverhill

862/3, J562/3 HAT — Haverhill (Cambridge Regional College contracts)

947, H547 VAT — Haverhill (Linton College contract)

955/62, K885/90 CSF — Boreham (Gt Baddow High contracts).

Fleet allocation we don't routinely record allocations and the position can be quite fluid but Richard thought members might be interested in a snapshot view as at Sunday 1 March.

Boreham (with outstations at Clacton, Hadleigh (Suffolk), Highwood (Chelmsford)) ... 29

Solo 323

Dart/Enviro 412/3/6/23/59/64/65/66 & demonstrator YX14 RXB

Scania DD 501/2/3/6/10/1, 636-41/3/5

Olympian 809/30/1, 955/62

Maldon 14

Solo: 321/2/4

Dart/Enviro 431/3/4/54

Scania DD 504/5/9, 642/4

Olympian 808/10

Rochford 16

Coach 200

Dart/Enviro 417/21/2/4

Scania DD 507/8/12, 601-8

Haverhill (with outstation Gt Dunmow) 36

Coach: 203

Volvo B10M 233

Solo 325-7

Dart/Enviro 410/1/4/35-9/53/5-8/60-3

Scania DD 631-5/46/7

Olympian 724, 827/8/9/62/3, 947

ADL, Harlow (warranty repairs) ...

Enviro 432

A full fleet list is available at <http://www.stephensonsofsex.com/enthusiasts.php>



New Enviro 200 424, EU15AZT at Fossetts Park on its first day in service.

Richard Delahoy.

EBN611p18



Top picture: Hatfield Heath is rather a bleak spot in winter, here Stephensons' Solo 325 (EU08WND) pauses on the last day of February whilst on the long service 5/6 from Saffron Walden to Bishops Stortford via Stansted Airport, a 100 minute journey. Rural roads on wet winter days are not conducive to keeping buses clean!

Richard Delahoy.



Lower picture: The furthest west that Stephensons buses reach on scheduled service is the village of Clavering, only 1.5 miles from the Hertfordshire border. Dart 457 (GU52HJY) will pass through Essex and Cambridgeshire to end up in Suffolk at Haverhill, on Essex CC contract route 59. It was seen on Saturday February 28 at the M&M Supermarket terminus, served twice daily Mondays to Fridays; on Saturdays the 2 journeys nominally terminate just up the road at Brent Pelham Corner but need to continue on to the shop to turn. **Richard Delahoy.**

EBN611p19

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - February 2015.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Aintree Coaches	KN52 NFD	Dart
Go South Coast	P126 PWR	DAF SB3000
Impact Group	M407 BLC	Volvo B10M
	N615 FLA	Mercedes 709
Lothian Buses	SK52 OJC/F/G/I/	Darts
	OKE/F/D	
	SN53 AUW/Y/AVC/F/L	
	V532/3/5-7/9 ESC	Tridents
Metroline	Y232 NLK	Volvo B7TL
Peterborough Council	MX55 WDL/M/N	Solo's
	AE07 GNV	
	YI57 YDB	
Stagecoach East	S755 DRP	Olympian
Stagecoach South	Y239/253 FJN	Darts
Stagecoach SE	T458/61 HNH	Darts
	W671 TNV	
Stagecoach Wales	M762 LAX	Volvo B10M
Tates Travel	MX54 KKO/MX54 KXY/	Solo's
	MX05 OTN/MX05 OTP	
Travelsure	SN57 EXE	Primo
Watts Coaches	YX12 FRD/YX12 GGV	Enviro 200's
Western Greyhound	WK51 AVP	Merc 814 Vario
	WK11 AOZ/ WK11 APX	Optare Solo's

South East Bus Festival Kent Showground, Detling Saturday 28 March 2015

Richard Lewis has advised that this year's speakers will be Roger Davies of Cardiff, Trent, Ribble and elsewhere, David Burrows of Beeston Coaches, Hadleigh, Suffolk and John Bishop, the authority on buses in Sussex who will be marking the centenary of Southdown.

Vehicles bookings are up on last year, including many from London, Kent and Arriva but also from Ipswich, Talisman and many others.

See EBN611p3 for details.

Eastern National at Harwich. The Editor Confesses!

The article by Robert Appleton in last month's EBN produced rather a good response. Several of you said how much you enjoyed the article and I had a couple of interesting additional contributions. Odd really, as the article and the following parts 2 and 3 had already been published in EBN by my predecessor! I spotted the mistake just before EBN610 popped through our letter-boxes. I just had time to alert Robert Appleton who was very kind about the matter. I fully expected a flurry of emails and letters about this as my usual errors provoke quite a few of you to draw my attention to the misdemeanour! Most of these comments are done in a pleasant manner although I have had the odd "snooty" comment. Actually, I do welcome comments whether positive or negative, so keep them coming! I will do my best to keep boo-boo's to a minimum.

Robert has agreed to my suggestion that he brings the story up to date and has already started work on this. Thank you, Robert. He has already submitted parts 4 and 5. I intend to publish a précis of parts 2 and 3 next month and follow that up with the unpublished chapters thereafter, subject to the volume of routine news.

With apologies for the error and thanks to those who responded so positively.

Vehicles Out

Aintree Coaches	EDJ 248J	AEC Swift
	YX12 GGV/YX12FRD	Enviro 200's
Buses ETC, Merstham	KX03 HZU/HZE	Darts
Carters Coaches, Northants	NA52 AWP	Dart
DA Coaches, Coatbridge	KN52 NFD	Dart
Deckerbus, Whittlesey, Cambs	P125/6 RWR	DAF SB3000's
	S755 DRP	Olympian
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex	Y239 FJN	Dart
GHA Coaches, Wrexham	M407 BLC	Volvo B10M
London City Tours, Heathrow	Y143/64/71 NLK	Volvo B7TL's
Next Bus, Chippenham, Wilts	WK11 APV/WK11 APX	Solo's
Randalls Travel, Bridgwater, Somerset	N615 VLA	Merc 709
Redbridge Transport	LX51 XGR/LX51 XGM	Volvo B7TL's
Renown Coaches, Bexhill	V132 MVX	Dart
South West Coaches,		
Wincanton, Somerset	WK11 APO/APU	Solo's
Travelsure Coaches, Belford,		
Northumberland	SP60 CLP	Solo
Western Greyhound	LF52 TJX	DAF SB120
	T458/61 HNH	Darts
	W671 TNV	
	TNZ 1252	
	H871 PWW	Olympian
	T818 RFG	Trident

Other Movements

Tridents Y454 NHK / LK03 GGU Volvo B7TL W512 WGH		Geoff Ripley, Barnsley for scrap.
Mercedes 814's WK05 CFD / AOX	...	Moon and Benney, Bodmin, Cornwall.
Metrobus UAR 250Y		Vintage Even Catering, Bournemouth.
Merc 814's WK02 BUS / WK03 BUS	...	Dealgan Coachcraft, Dundalk, Eire.
Volvo B10M M762 LAX Dart R476 NPR		Mike Lawrenson, Preston.
Olympian CFZ 6594	...	Raccoon London Ltd, Edenbridge, Kent.
Tridents LX51 FNL / FMZ		Golden Coast Sporting Villas, Woolacombe, Devon.
Merc 814 WK04 KUO	...	R Scrimshaw and Sons, Heston, Cornwall.
Dart KX53 SDV		Elite Truck Training, Upminster.
RML2455	...	Rent-a-Routemaster Ltd, Ruislip, Middx.



Former Hadleigh Depot driver Lenny Lennox, an enthusiast too, sadly passed away just recently.

With grateful thanks to Dave Nash, I was able to dash down 'off shore' to The Island to see Adam Barham's late EN Leyland National 1924 (JH1 150V) before it departed Canvey, Eastern Esplanade. As it headed a funeral cortege for Len, I decided not to photograph the bus in motion out of respect for the funeral party, so very kindly Nick Field, who drove the National, moved it just a tad into a nice spot of sun for my cameras. Here it is on the way home on Monday 23 February 2015. **John G. Lidstone .**

Panther Travel

by Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham.

Former TGM Colchester Dennis Dart/Plaxton S303 JUA is now in the fleet temporarily still in TGM colours. Despite this, a LED blind has been fitted.

Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG 7596 (F639 LMJ) is still on hire to Regal.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton Y5 TRU has been at Terravision, Stansted for most of February.

Mercedes Benz Sprinter RX54 RRU is now AB52 PAN.

As a result of a road closure in Hempstead, Panther are operating a shuttle service on behalf of Essex County Council, (see extract from Traveline below).

In addition, operation of service 446 (Manuden - Saffron Walden), formerly with Arriva Harlow, will commence from Monday 9 March.

"Due to a road closure, services 18/118 will be unable to serve Hempstead High Street between Monday 2 March and Friday 10 April.

As a result a shuttle bus will operate in its place between Hempstead and Saffron Walden Including all stops to Saffron Walden High School and Joyce Franklin Academy along this section of the route. Panther Travel will operate the shuttle. For more information please contact the company on 01279 877771.

*For those living north of the closure between Hempstead and Steeple Bumpstead, a school timed shuttle bus will run as close as possible to the usual school times to Saffron Walden County High School and Joyce Franklin Academy. This will be run by **Cloakdene (t/a Yelo Taxis)** 01376 334455."*



Former Metrobus 346, Brighton & Hove 246, Hedingham L394 and now Panther Travel BIG 9856, working an Abellio Greater Anglia Sudbury - Marks Tey rail replacement service in Chappel on 14 February 2015.

Russell Young.

Phoenix School Transport **Dominic Lund-Conlon** has kindly advised the model referred to in EBN610 was probably First Essex 5003 but it may have been a "custom job". He has given the following references:

<http://www.showbus.com/p1/phoenix02.JPG>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/fwc439h/sets/72157636375911625/comments/>

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/128819974@N02/16157455839/in/photolist-c1Gx35-qro3Zo-qBMbGP-kdX86n-cvMLCy-9BxhV2-bu1iG4-9wtQbD-gvEvQB-gvDQpw-9wtQ3c-gvDR85>

Many thanks to Dominic for his research. If anyone out there has additional information, please send it in!

EBN611p22

The Big Rail Replacement continues!



Former Heddingham Dennis Lance/Wright M211 WHJ, now BIG 7793 at Sudbury on RRS on Saturday 28 February 2015. **Ian Ransom.**



At Sudbury also on Saturday 28 February 2015 is former Preston all Leyland Olympian J114 KCW, now BIG 9249. **Ian Ransom.**

Your Editor had a very positive response to the Rail Replacement article in EBN610. It seems that he is not the only one interested in this use for buses. A typical comment was from Ian Ransom who said "the public may not like rail replacement buses but I do!". Your Editor recalls driving a Shenfield to Wickford service when he had to return to depot due to a light bulb failure. One young city type was so annoyed that he gave the front near-side tyre a very hard kick. His leg bounced back so hard that he fell over backwards. The driver left promptly!

Further reports and/or pictures of any rail replacement service with an Essex connection will be most welcome.

Even More Rail Replacement! Text and pics by Robert Appleton.



EBN610 p29 mentions the rail replacement services operating every Sat/Sun 31 Jan to 22 March whilst the Great Eastern Main Line is closed between Shenfield and Manningtree. I called in at Manningtree Station on Sunday 15 Feb to see the rail replacement services and photo'ed Amber Coaches VDL Bova Futura YJ08NSO loading up to operate a Manningtree - Colchester - Billericay rail replacement service. [Top picture.] RATP London United VB1 HF030BH Volvo B1B/Plaxton Paragon was on stand by at Manningtree [top picture]. I understand that RATP London United have a small number of private hire coaches based at Fulwell garage, so HF030BH was a long way from home.

Also seen at Manningtree were Regal Busways YJ03PGZ DAF SB4000/Van Hool Alizee, and Belle Coaches, Lowestoft, Setra coaches LIL9715 and SIL9043

EBN611p24



Grey-Green for EBN611 To take advantage of Bus Grant allowances, Ewers applied for the London to Great Yarmouth service to be operated as local stage carriage. On grant a pair of Leyland Leopard with Plaxton coachwork fitted with wide doors to conform to Bus Grant specification were purchased in May 1971. Grey-Green 611 displaying the specially made route boards for the service, was photographed by the late **Wilf Rowley** at Hatfield Peveral. With thanks to **Owen Woodliffe**.



Regal 611 for EBN611 611 is currently in an all over advert for Braintree Freeport (except front) but when it was acquired by Regal it operated for a while in previous operator Central Parking Service's silver livery as seen here at Chelmsford on 16 June 2007. **Adam Kelleher**.

Fleet moves

723 W823 NNJ Dennis Trident E Lancs Lolyne From Anglian for operation

Allocations

723 Anglian to CN

Other fleet news

Despite reports elsewhere Trident East Lancs 711 didn't come to Hedingham but went direct to Brighton and Hove to be cannibalised for spares.

However, similar 712/722/725 are due from Anglian when the three replacement ex Metrobus Scania's arrive there and have been prepared for service.

Ex Metrobus Scania Omnidekkas 480/901 to 919 and 934 will become 1500 to 1520 respectively in the fleet with three going to Anglian first. Two of these are confirmed as 1501/1504 with the 3rd to be confirmed. The remainder will be split between Hedingham and Chambers and will wear the new livery in a style similar to 480 (S376 MVP). They are being converted to single-door, they are having bodywork repairs as needed and are being fully repainted and overhauled currently at Hants & Dorset Trim Ltd.

With thanks to Nick Field & Essex-Buses yahoo group.



EBN610 p23 reported that short AD Enviro 200 293, EU59 AFJ, has been fitted with white LED destination displays. Here we see 293 at Manningtree Station on 23 Feb 2015 operating 1240 Clacton - Mistley service 2, the white LED destination display is very clear.

Robert Appleton.



Occasional contributor to EBN, Arriva driver Matthew Evans was making a rare working on the evening of Thursday 26 February 2015, with one of the two StreetLite Max DF micro-hybrids (such a catchy little name!) on service 5 with 4262 (GN64 DXS). **John G. Lidstone.**

Bus Drivers In The News.



Bus drivers are pretty fundamental to the operation of the business we have adopted as our hobby. Adam Kelleher has already described the heroism of **First Essex's Andy Waterman** in the Braintree "jump on a bus roof incident". Andy has rightly been highly praised for his clear thinking and ability to keep a clear head which, undoubtedly, saved the person who jumped from serious injury, if not death.



During the run-up to Christmas, **Arriva Southend driver Mark Ewens** collected for the Special Care Baby Unit at Southend Hospital. In the run-up to Mark drove his bus dressed as Father Christmas in order to raise money for the hospital's charity and collected a total of £820. Impressed by Mark's efforts, Arriva bosses topped up the donation to £1,000. Mark said "I feel it went really well and was surprised at the generosity of the public that travelled on my bus. I would also like to mention two other drivers, Ray Ambrose and Phil Parkins, who covered on my days off."



A bus driver has married a former passenger after she proposed to him at a bus stop. **First Essex driver Michael Willson**, 44, met Denise Ashby about nine years ago, when she stepped aboard his Chelmsford park and ride bus.

They spoke to each other and became friends. But after two years riding on his bus, Denise moved to Basildon. When they met again last year, Mr Willson told her how much he had missed her. Mr Willson, who now drives the X30 Southend to Stansted service, said while he had conversations with most of his customers "there was something different about Denise". Michael was national winner of the Bus Driver of the Year competition several years ago.

Constable Country. Would he recognise the scene?



The new order on the 247 Dedham-Colchester service, which until last year had been operated by Beeston of Hadleigh (Suffolk). Seen here in Dedham High Street and about to return to Colchester on the 1306 service on Tuesday 3 March is Stephensons 459 (GU52 HKD) a Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer. **Ken Coldwell.**

“Getting Around in Essex” consultation.

Essex County Council launched its bus strategy and consultation on 6 February. The consultation will help the council to get views from stakeholders including residents, commuters and representative groups about how we could improve the county's bus and passenger transport network. The consultation runs until 31 March 2015.

Buses help get people to work, education/training opportunities, the shops, leisure/sport activities as well as social activities and to see friends and family. The questionnaire will help the council and its partners to review the bus service currently delivered across the county to shape the service to deliver greater economic and social benefits for the people who travel around and work in Essex.

The consultation focuses on eight areas:

- Better partnership working
- Measures to grow passenger numbers
- Better information for customers
- Integrated and smart ticketing
- A clearer commitment to quality
- Better targeted support for those services that are taxpayer funded
- Services that are better tailored to local needs
- Focused local planning

You can read the strategy by visiting www.essex.gov.uk. If you would like to answer the survey questions please visit: <http://surveys.essexinsight.org.uk> and follow links to the Getting around in Essex consultation.

Alternatively, contact Healthwatch on 01376 572829 between 10am and 2pm, Monday to Friday except for public holidays to complete the survey over the telephone. Hard copies of the strategy will be available at local libraries or to request copy of the summary, which includes a paper copy of the survey for you to complete, please call 0845 743 0430 or email contact@essex.gov.uk.

The team who are running this are known to listen carefully to views, so it is recommended that if you have suggestions, please put them in.

My First Regal Roundabout Day Out. Tuesday 3 February 2015, by John Rugg.

0934	8A	Laindon (Victoria Road) – Basildon (Bus Station)	0955
First 33178	LR02 LYX	Dennis Trident Plaxton H39/24F	ex-Centrewest 2/13
1004	22	Basildon (Bus Station) – Benfleet (Rail Station)	1031
First 63161	SN64 CHX	Wright StreetLite	Max B41F new in 10/14
1055	1	Benfleet (Rail Station) – Chelmsford (Bus Station)	1134
Regal 211	YI60 KHC	Optare Solo	B27F new in 1/11
1145	3	Chelmsford (Bus Station) – Southend (Travel Centre)	1315
Regal 802	WX08 DFN	MAN Wright	B44F ex-Whitelaw, Stonehouse, South Lanarkshire, 9/09
Lunch at The Last Post, a Wetherspoons pub – other pubs are available! It was Steak Club Day, sirloin steak and a pint of beer £7.85! Then pleasant walk along sea-front – high tide 1139.			
1444	20	Southend (Travel Centre) – Rayleigh (Rail Station)	1527
First 44005	LK57 EJJ	AD Dart Alexander Dennis	B32F ex-First Capital 3/14
1531	25A	Rayleigh (Rail Station) – Basildon (Bus Station)	1623
First 32850	T850 LLC	Dennis Trident Plaxton H39/21F	ex-Centrewest, then First Eastern Counties, 4/10
1647	8	Basildon (Bus Station) – Laindon (Victoria Road)	1703
First 32883	T883 KLF	Dennis Trident Plaxton H39/21F	ex-First Capital then First Eastern Counties 5/10

A very interesting day out if you like Dennis Trident ‘Deckers but it was free, after all!



Ex First London E200 44005 departs from Southend on route 28 on Saturday 29 March 2014 when new to Hadleigh. **Russell Young.**

EBN611p29

More Recollections from Robin Jenkinson.



*** In EBN603, Terry Challis mentions that at least one of the batch of open-toppers C05G's (JN 8570 – 72) ran at Clacton. Robin confirms this as he photographed 1245, reg. no JN 8571, running there, probably in 1957.

The article "75 Years A Lady" has reminded Robin of a great disappointment in his life. The piece refers to the BTC Museum being "far-sighted" in preserving AJN 825. In fact, this is incorrect as Robin is responsible for its preservation. The full story is in EBN March 2010. Robin tried to purchase a pre-war Bristol K from ENOC in 1959 but they would not sell him one, so he contacted the BTC Museum to use their influence to get ENOC to change its mind. To Robin's everlasting disappointment, they donated AJN 825 to the museum instead of selling it to him! Robin admits that even to this day, every time he sees a picture of her, he cannot help thinking "that magnificent vehicle should be mine!" A bitter pill to swallow!

An appeal. Robin is writing a history of his uncle's bus company "**Reliance**" but is unable to trace a fleet-list. Does any member have one, or know where to get one, please?

* In EBN602p29, June 2015, Maurice Doggett mentions the C05G's rebodied by ECW. The picture, top left, shows the straight dashboard as opposed to the sloping dash fitted on the new post-war K chassis. 1225, reg. no. JN 6892, is seen coming out of Prittwell on 24 July 1958.

Robin Jenkinson.

** In EBN605, we reported on the sad death of Bob Beaumont and showed a picture of EN 1023, reg. CAP 131, as a tree-lopper. Robin is pretty certain that the low PV2 radiator had already been fitted by BH&D so was there on acquisition. His picture of similar vehicle CAP 230 (mid-left), bought from BH&D by Best of Great Bromley who ran a service to Colchester, shows it has also been fitted with a low PV2 radiator. Robin also has a photograph of CAP 131 being used as a stand for painters decorating Clacton depot on 14 July 1963 and it had not then been converted to a tree-lopper. It still had the 1023 fleet no. plate, and Eastern National fleet name on the side; the only alteration was a part of the top windscreen having been removed. So it was not truly converted in Autumn 1962 but at the earliest, August 1963.

Robin Jenkinson.

The Letters Page

Terry Challis of Blackpool

It was good to see a photo of Royal Tiger/Burlingham Seagull EN (Westcliff) 133. I first saw a Westcliff Seagull when they were brand new in 1952. It was in the procession of Westcliff coaches, which passed through Hadleigh at about 9am in the mornings in the summer. They were on their way from Southend to various excursion destinations. Some of them picked up passengers at Hadleigh Church. I went on one such excursion myself to Hastings (via Tilbury Ferry), albeit in a Bedford OB.

My first re-action was of disbelief: where had Westcliff obtained such fine vehicles? They were, along with the Bristol LS6G coaches, which appeared at the same time just to confuse me, the beginning of a new era! Surely the Burlingham Seagull was one of the most attractive coach bodies ever built. I wonder if anyone else heard the rumour that I heard many years ago? Someone told me that the City Coach Company ordered the Royal tigers as buses and that Westcliff changed the order to one for coaches.

Richard Delahoy responds

I've never heard it suggested that they were intended as buses and my contact whose father was a driver on City at that time didn't think it was so either. City did have a small fleet of proper coaches and these were probably intended to upgrade/modernise that fleet for private hire etc. Whilst Burlingham did make bus bodies, it seems unlikely they were ever intended as buses for City.

Alan Osborne responds

I have not heard this one, researching through the Westcliff minutes I certainly did not come across anything to the contrary which would have drawn me to it.

Doug Brown, [DB from BD] of Hutton

When I first came to Brentwood in the late '50's, I got a job as a taxi driver. My aim was to learn London without getting lost as, then, there was no M25 or Dartford crossing so all journeys S, W and N had to be via Blackwall Tunnel or other crossing of the Thames. After I had learnt London I decided I wanted to be a private hire driver because, at that time, EN did holiday tours. But I had to become a bus driver first. So I called and saw the LTS Brentwood who informed me that to become a bus driver, I would first have to be a conductor for two years. As I am 6'3" tall this would have been out of the question so I had to give up on it. However, after a few years with the Bishops Hall estate, the East Ham estate and Harold Hill more buses were needed so this conductor requirement was cancelled so we got a job. But what I did not realise there was a "them and us" situation. LTS and all the office staff, mechanics, canteen staff, cashiers and the private hire were all ex-City men and us outsiders were going to stay that way. I did try to get on the private hire but LTS said I had no chance and he was right! At that time, a lot of drivers and conductors came off the Board. This was known as London Transport and the carrot was if they worked for EN for 2 years, they would get a council house or Drum as the Board boys called it*. Obviously, coming off the Board meant a drop in wages. Then when the London weighting came in we refused this even though it covered Brentwood High Street into London on 251 to WG and 30 to Bow. This caused one of the many strikes that took place at that time. I found these City men were so set in the past nothing would change them. I became a union steward hoping this would get me on private hire but eventually this was taken over by National Express and their depot at Felixstowe, putting my ambition in tatters. But a coach operator bought a Bedford VAL into the depot as they had need of a pit for the MOT. I got chatting to this operator and when I told him I had a good knowledge of London, he offered me a job. But I did not take it at first only doing London Theatres but eventually, when I saw how EN was being broken up it was time to leave. They say in the job you are either a bus driver or a coach driver. As a coach driver, I only worked the season April till October. Then I did fitting a school run or a day trip but come March I wanted to take the coaches out again. So I assume I am a coachman!

Ed's note: Why was this called the Drum?

Ken Coldwell [one of those nice corrections mentioned on p20!]

Re EBN 610p6, this caption should be Heddingham's Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX400 (T107 DBW) new to City of Oxford leaving Tollesbury Depot on a school service on 20 January showing the new style name but not yet in the new livery described in EBN 609.

[The caption on page 23 is correct].

Apologies, Ed.

Sally Halls, Events Organiser, CVR via Richard Delahoy

Advance notice of the 5th Colne Valley Railway Bus & Coach Rally

Sunday 30 August 2015

Unlimited train rides, bus rides around local area, trade stands, miniature trains, models, shop

£9 adult, £7 seniors

further details www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk or 01787 461174.



A period Great Eastern signal box (now disused), partially hidden by Lodge's FY52 PMV, a MAN 14.220/East Lancs, on layover at the rear of Chelmsford station on Thursday 19.2.15. Lodge operate Essex County Council contract routes 18 on Tuesdays and Thursdays and 17 on Fridays and Saturdays between Great Dunmow and Chelmsford via the Rodings, the Easters and the Chignalls; laying over here from 1015 until 1300. **Ian Ransom.**

This photo was taken in black and white mode on a mobile phone. Although Ian did submit a very nice colour pic of the same bus a couple of weeks later, I chose to use the b&w version as it shows what a magnificent medium that can be in the right circumstances. There is a special sharpness to the picture that I find rather attractive. I hope you do too. **Ed.**

Target dates for EBN612 (April 2015).

By	...	Saturday	4 April 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	Saturday	11 April 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	Monday	20 April 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

The Duke Street railway bridge in the centre of Chelmsford is well known, with clearance for double deckers only possible by keeping to the middle of the road – and even then, only low-heights can pass. During roadworks to widen the pavements here in two phases (12 to 30 Jan and 23 Feb to 6 March), traffic was pushed over to one side and hence 'deckers could not pass at all. With warning signs prominent, First Essex hybrid 69911 (BV13ZBR) heads towards the bus station, blinds already set for the return trip to Lakeside, whilst Selwyns of Runcorn's YN11AYB is seen from the eastern side, on its long trip from Southend to Liverpool on NX service 350. If the road is resurfaced once the pavement works are finished, one wonders if this will further restrict the headroom? Taken on Saturday 28 February. **Richard Delahoy.**



Owen Woodliffe had an interesting trip to pick up spare EBNs on 17 February and saw the following - not a white in sight!.

Variety on Trustybus route 410.

The appearance of Mercedes Vario EIG 1357 at Hoddesdon. [New to Trent, it is in the blue livery of former owners, Beestons],



was in contrast to Alexander Volvo Olympian N138 YRW, which is still in red and grey livery of London United and has its fleetname and number (VA8). Seen at Harlow.



Variety on EOS route 66. Just 4 months after commencement EOS has drastically altered the route, which now terminates at Waltham Cross where this was taken. Another type of bus has appeared, this being an Enviro 200, KX58 GVC still in yellow livery of erstwhile Bakerbus of Cheshire.



www.essexbus.org