

Essex Bus News

No. 654; OCTOBER 2018



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

£4

www.essexbus.org.uk



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where sold



As previously reported, First Essex 66822 and 66824 were transferred to First Eastern Counties recently. They never saw service in the Barbie livery. They went straight to Simon Morris Bodyshop at Ipswich for repaint. They are now in service at Norwich, 66824 with a lilac front (upper) and 66822 in a FEC 'Contactless' advert (lower picture).

Mark Doggett.



Front Cover Picture.

Beestons of Hadleigh ADL Enviro400MMC YX18KOH at EssexBus Rally at Barleylands on 22 July.

Paul Harvey.

Before the letters come in, your Editor is aware Beestons are based in Hadleigh, Suffolk, not the one in Essex. Beestons do creep into Essex with their 971 school service to Colchester.

EBN654fc

Essex Bus News 654

October 2018

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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 Superior,
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Using the order form available on-line at:
<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

Essex Bus News is the "house magazine" of the

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

Chair	Ian Ransom.
Secretary	Alan Osborne.
Treasurer & Membership	Richard Delahoy.
Tours Organiser	Wayne Bell.

Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

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. Contact Richard Delahoy, address below.

Membership Secretary & Data Protection

A statement of our compliance with the GDPR is available on our website or by post. For any membership or data protection issues, please contact:

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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.

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EBN654p1

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

MID-ESSEX MEETINGS by Maurice Austin.

Quaker Meeting House, corner of Parkway and Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, less than 10 minutes walk from the Bus and Rail stations; continue along Duke Street past Civic Centre and cross to far side of Parkway. Small car park on site, other public ones nearby. Tea and coffee making facilities. Members and guests welcome. £2.00 donation towards cost of room hire, please. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat and often impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145.

Thursday 25 October	Martin Weyell	slides from John Boylett collection, part 2.
Thursday 22 November	Alan Osborne	30 Years AGO & KSW – Poles Apart.
Thursday 13 December	Richard Delahoy	20 years ago.

2019 dates: 24 Jan, 28 Feb, 28 Mar, 25 Apr, 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 26 Sept, 24 Oct, 28 Nov, 12 Dec.

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

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. £3.00 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 9 November	Steve Marskell	tba
Friday 14 December	Gary Sharpe	tba

A Blast From The Past.

Owen Woodliffe.



At the EOR Reshaping & Beyond event on 9 September, no less than 9 Merlin and Swifts were assembled at North Weald Station for the Reshaping & Beyond event (even though one had to be towed there). Quite impressive as only 15 are believed to survive!
Owen Woodliffe.

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

EVENTS

Saturday 28 October

Saturday 3 November

Sunday 4 November

Saturday 17 November

Sunday 18 November

Saturday 8 December

Saturday 15 December

Friday 28 December

Halloween Event 1400 – 1900. East Anglian Transport Museum, Carlton Colville. www.eatransportmuseum.co.uk

Aldenham Transport Spectacular. Allum Hall, 2 Allum Lane, Elstree WD6 3PJ.

Lincoln Transport Museum Festival, North Hykeham.

www.lvvs.org.uk

Enfield Transport Bazaar, St Paul's Centre, Church St, Enfield.

Classic Bus & Coach. Ipswich Transport Museum.

Christmas Cracker. Ipswich Transport Museum.

Epsom & Ewell Transport Fair. Bourne Hall, Spring St Ewell KT17 1UF.

Depot Discovery Tours. Acton depot.

EBEG PUBLICATIONS

Eastern National Fleet Record Volume 1.

Eastern National and Thamesway Fleet Record (The Badgerline Years) Volume 2.

Eastern National and Thamesway Fleet Record (Reunited) Volume 3.

Eastern National and Thamesway in London.

send e-mail to Sales Officer – pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

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.



A chance meeting at the EOR Bus Reshaping Event on 9 September at Theydon Bois of Arriva's Mercedes Sprinter 1015 (BF67 WGN) on ECC route 418B with AEC Merlin MB539 recreating route 20A. Very authentic as the MB overheated on the return journey!

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN653p3

Membership renewals

Richard Delahoy.

With this issue, all paying members should find a renewal slip to continue your membership for 2019. We are delighted to announce that subs have been held at £21 for another year and we hope you'll agree that this represents excellent value for 12 copies of our 36-page magazine with its mix of current news and historical features, delivered direct to your door. This year we are again offering the option to pay by BACS and we hope many members will find this useful, as well as being easier for us!

You can renew by paying £21 in one of four ways:

- 1) Return the slip with your payment by cheque or postal order payable to EBEG;
- 2) Pay by direct bank transfer (BACS) to Santander a/c 09-06-66, 42118196 - please quote your full name as a reference;
- 3) Pay by PayPal to admin@signal-training.com;
- 4) Pay in cash at one of our meetings.

To clarify the bank option (2), this can only be done through on-line or app access to your account, you cannot go into a branch of Santander to make the payment.

Overseas members are asked to e-mail to check the appropriate price.

We do hope you'll continue to support the Group and look forward to receiving your renewal! But if for any reason you do not plan to renew, could you please let the membership secretary know (details on page 1) so we don't waste time sending reminders.

Thanks



Panther Travel started new service 14 Harwich - Clacton via Clacton Factory Shopping Village on 20 August. BIG 9248 (S303 JUA) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer in Station Road, Clacton, on 27 September, working 09.25 service 14 from Harwich.

Robert Appleton.

Our latest book is out!

Richard Delahoy.

Just published is Volume 3 of our Fleet Record series. The biggest book yet in this series, Volume 3 covers a turbulent 8-year period, from the reunification of the Eastern National and Thamesway fleets in 1996 through to the start of the First Group corporate numbering scheme (the so-called "Sema" renumbering) in 2004. This was a time of great change and the book lists almost 1,000 different buses and coaches and also spans the move from local liveries to Barbie and later Barbie 2, plus the interim "Barbie 1½", all illustrated in colour – the front and back cover pictures nicely encapsulate those changes. In all the book runs to 98 pages, A4 perfect bound, with over 50 colour photos.

ESSEX BUSES FLEET RECORD

Volume 3: 1996 - 2004

Eastern National & Thamesway Reunited

Adam Kelleher



ESSEX BUS ENTHUSIASTS GROUP

The scene is set in ten pages of introductory text, including a list of depots and an explanation of the various livery changes. Listings then start with details of every vehicle, including hires in and vehicles acquired but not operated. Five "Snapshots in Time" summarise the fleet at key dates. The photos cover a wide variety of vehicles from the numerous types such as Dennis Darts and Mercedes minibuses through Bristol VRs, Leyland Nationals, Lynx and Olympians, Scania L94s and so on, to the truly obscure like a Van Hool bodied Volvo B10M coach in light blue (for the Braintree to London commuter service), Bedford YMT coaches used as driver trainers and the buses leased from Phoenix Student Travel.

Adam Kelleher has gathered together an impressive level of detail and the book is a must for anyone interested in Eastern National/Essex Buses. It costs £14.99 plus £2 p&p and is available from our Sales Officer (see page 1) and also from our EBay page – but we'd prefer you to order direct, as that avoids the fees EBay and PayPal charge

us! It will also be on sale at our Chelmsford meetings. Volumes 1 and 2 and also still available, Volume 1 covers 1964-1990 and costs £9.99, Volume 2 runs from 1990 to 1996 and is £11.99. Buy all 3 together and get them post free. And with Christmas fast approaching, why not put some or all of these books (and our London tendered services one) on your wish list!

EBN654p5

ASGB – Suffolk Dragoman – Update.

Mark Lloyd.

Early October saw “Florence” the completed Dragoman tour bus return to ASGB to enable photos to be taken and to share build notes potentially for more bodies.

Florence has been treated to a full repaint and vinyls and has had finishing touches applied such as the fridge inside, hand rails and the finishing of the cab to body interface provided by a canvas duct protected by fairings on the cab and the body – to allow the cab to bounce independently of the body.



Dragoman “Florence” at ASGB on 5 October with stowage lockers open. Tanks and stowage cages now fitted.

Nearside view with door fitted offering steps up into the interior. The fairing protecting the cab to body canvas link can be seen in this view. From inside the effect is good allowing a straight ahead view of the road through the cab windscreen. The glass panel above the cant rail also allows a lot of natural light into the front of the vehicle.

Both pictures by **Mark Lloyd.**

Eds note: the cab and lower half of the body are finished in a fetching orange.

EBN654p6

EASTERN NATIONAL

OMNIBUS COMPANY LTD.

The following services operate throughout the Chelmsford Rural District Area

- 11 Chelmsford—East Hanningfield—Southend
- 19 Clacton—Colchester—Maldon—Danbury—Southend
- 19a Clacton—Colchester—Maldon—Cold Norton—Southend
- 30 Chelmsford—Brentwood—Romford—Ilford—London (Bow)
- 30b Chelmsford—Fryerning—Mill Green
- 31 Chelmsford—Danbury—Maldon
- 31a Chelmsford—Danbury—Woodham Walter
- 31b Chelmsford—Danbury—Little Baddow
- 32 Chelmsford—Writtle—Ongar
- 32a Chelmsford—Writtle—Blackmore
- 33 Chelmsford—Gt. Waltham—Dunmow
- 33a Dunmow—Ongar—Brentwood
- 34 Chelmsford—Billericay—Wickford—Pitsea
- 35 Chelmsford—West Hanningfield—South Hanningfield
- 36 Chelmsford—Danbury—South Woodham
- 37 Chelmsford—Little Baddow—Maldon
- 39 Chelmsford—Danbury—Burnham-on-Crouch
- 40 Chelmsford—Brentwood—Tilbury Ferry
- 41 Chelmsford (Queensland Crescent)—Beehive Lane—Galleywood
- 42 Chelmsford (Chignall Estate)—Gt. Baddow
- 43 Broomfield—Chelmsford—Oxney Green
- 44c Springfield—Moulsham Schools (Chelmsford)
- 45 Chelmsford (Woodhall Estate)—Wood Street—Galleywood
- 46 Chelmsford—Willingdale—Matching Green—Harlow
- 48 Chelmsford—Hatfield Peverel—Mill Beach
- 50 Chelmsford—Hatfield Peverel—Terling—Fairstead—Braintree
- 50a Chelmsford—Russell Green—Flacks Green
- 51 Tilbury Ferry—Chelmsford—Colchester—Harwich
- 52 Chelmsford—Great Waltham—Pleshey
- 53 Tilbury Ferry—Chelmsford—Colchester—Clacton
- 54 Chelmsford—Sandon—Danbury Common
- 58 Chelmsford—Leaden Roding—Bishop's Stortford
- 58c Chelmsford—Chignalls—Good Easter
- 311 Chelmsford—Lt. Waltham—Braintree
- 316 Chelmsford—Felsted—Stebbing

Time Tables and Full Information from

Head Office – New Writtle Street
Phone **Chelmsford 3431**

This Month's Puzzle.

Non-bus enthusiast
Michael Smith, a friend of
the Editor
(yes, it's true!)
worked for a Chelmsford
Estate Agent in the late
1950s/early 1960s;
this route list was on the
back of a town map.

Unfortunately, the
document was undated.
Your challenge is to work
out the date of the
advert.

Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

Highlights/Lowlights of the Period:

Many school service changes, including some First services being opened up to the “general public”

All-change to Colchester stopping arrangements.

Stagecoach Cambridge creeps into another part of north Essex

13 August 18

- SB02 Dobbs Weir to Brookfield Centre (FO) Epping Forest Community Transport – service withdrawn.
- SB03 Nazeing Hydemead House to Epping (MO) Epping Forest Community Transport – service withdrawn.
- SB07 High Beach to Epping Hospital (MO) Epping Forest Community Transport – service withdrawn.

28 August 18

- 236 Haverhill to Clare (M-F) Beestons – s
ervice will only operate between Sudbury & Clare, the extension to Sturmer & Haverhill withdrawn.

1 September 18

- 13 Epping to Waltham Cross (M-S) Swallow Buses – revision to timetable with certain journeys withdrawn.

2 September 18

- 18 Haverhill to Clare (M-F) Big Green Bus Co – new service operating via Sturmer.
- 79 Brightlingsea to Colchester (M-F) Go Ride –
withdrawal of schoolday only journeys and removal of diversion via Clacton Coastal Academy.

4 September 18

- 508 Great Dunmow to Colchester (Sch) First Essex – new school service.)
- 509 Little Dunmow to Colchester (Sch) First Essex – new school service.) *These First Essex school services*
- 525 Chelmsford to Colchester (Sch) First Essex – new school service.) *were operated as closed contracts*
- 620 Epping to Ingatestone (Sch) First Essex – new school service.) *but now registered as local bus services*
- 689 Debden to Ingatestone (Sch) First Essex – new school service.) *(Updated Information).*
- YM0008 High Easter to Great Dunmow (Sch) Dons of Dunmow – revision to route and timetable.



Changes to First Essex’s school services have seen the replacement by double deckers of some yellow school buses. However, some yellow buses remain. The new and old are seen outside Colchester’s Essex County Hospital, waiting to take up pm service on 4 October 2018: 32483, 32484, 68531 and 68510.
Adam Kelleher.

15 September 18

- 91 Tollesbury to Witham (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – due to completion of road works service reverts to original route and timetable.

24 September 18

Z2 Canning Town to Tilbury Amazon (D) Ensign Bus –
revision to route to operate via Bridge Road & New Road instead of Ferry Lane & Thames Gateway.

4 October 18

SB07 Sewardstone Elms Caravan Site to Loughton (MO) Epping Forest Community Transport – new service.

6 September 18

X13 Cambridge Addenbrooks Hospital to Clare (Sch) Stagecoach Cambridge –
school day service diverted to serve Sturmer between Haverhill & Clare.

21 October 18

Revised bus stopping arrangements are introduced affecting **all** bus services in Colchester Town Centre from this date.

62/A/B Colchester to Brightlingsea (D) First Essex – introduction of weekday evening and Sunday service to Brightlingsea replacing Go Ahead Hedingham service and revised stopping arrangements in Colchester Town Centre (updated information).

78/A/C Brightlingsea to Colchester (Sch) New Horizon Travel –
revised stopping arrangements in Colchester Town Centre.

93/94 Colchester to Ipswich (M-S) Ipswich Buses –
revised stopping arrangements in Colchester Town Centre.

X15 Colchester to Harwich (M-S) Panther Travel –
revised timetable with reduced frequency and revised stopping arrangements in Colchester Town Centre.



Panther Travel DC62 PAN (YX62 FCA) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 arrives at Harwich Station Approach on 18 September, working 1430 Colchester - Harwich service X15. This service has a revised timetable wef 22 October 2018.

Robert Appleton.

Service Revisions **concluded.**

Paul Harvey.

28 October 18

- 7/8 Rayleigh to Landwick (D) Arriva Kent Thameside – revision to Mon to Fri peak hour timetable to improve reliability.
57 Galleywood to Beaulieu Park (D) First Essex – revised timetable to improve reliability.

29 October 18

- 105 Southminster to Burnham (Sch) Fords Coaches – revised route in Southminster resulting in increased running times.
FC03 Southminster to South Woodham (Sch) Fords Coaches – revised timetable with service extended to serve North Fambridge replacing service FC04.
FC04 Southminster to Burnham (Sch) Fords Coaches – school service withdrawn.

5 November 18

- 20 Bishop Stortford to Great Hormead (FO) Myall – revision to timetable.



Further to the First Essex article in EBN648, Ensignbus decided, after all, to introduce a route 31 between Brentwood Station and Bishops Hall Estate, competing directly with First's 37, and started this service on 1 October 2018. On the next day the routes are seen together in Brentwood High Street with 44551 being followed by 604.

Adam Kelleher.

Reminder!!!

Don't forget to renew your unchanged subscriptions for 2019!
Now even better value as inflation creeps up but we have held subs for about five years!
Renewal notice included as a loose insert, formal notice on EBN654p16.

And please do submit articles, pictures and "snippets". One or two-liners always useful.
Do not forget the ordinary, everyday services and buses. The "exotic" gets a huge coverage, the routine can be forgotten!

Essex County Council Bus Service Consultations.

Paul Harvey.

Ongoing consultations

Service 63

Colchester North Rail Station - Monkwick

Operated by

Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd

Closing Date 15 October 2018

Service 63 (Colchester North Station to Monkwick) operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). ECC are considering withdrawing the 0658 journey only and is carrying out a public consultation regarding this proposal.



First Essex 37136 SN57 HCU seen in Colchester Road, Heybridge on service 75 to Colchester on Sunday 16.09.2018. **Dave Arnold.**

Campaign For Better Transport.

“How can the Bus Services Act help your campaign?”

EBEG members may be interested in this new advice from CBT.

Local authorities now have new powers to improve buses thanks to the Bus Services Act. But take-up of these powers has been slow, leading several local bus campaigners to ask: 'How can we get our local authority to use these new powers to improve services and protect threatened routes?'

CBT have produced a free guide to using the Bus Services Act, which highlights new ways of working for bus operators and local authorities. It allows them to partner together to provide the services people want and the guide is full of examples of how this has driven up patronage. We really hope the guide will help your campaign. Do have a read, tell us what you think, and share it with your local authority.

Allocation Changes BE-Braintree (used for stored vehicles); BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh

Period 6 2018/19 (26 August - 29 September)

41493 CF-Disposal, 65748 CR (out of service)-CR-Disposal, 68510 BE (out of service)-CF

As noted in EBN593, 65748 was back in service in September but has since returned to Scotland. 68510 is temporarily back in service whilst 20514 is being prepared.

Further to EBN593, the Geminis transferred to Chelmsford from Colchester and Great Yarmouth have been seen almost exclusively on route 70 and most school bus duties have been worked by ALX400s (see Chelmsford notes below for some observations). ALX400 workings on route 70 are far fewer than they were a month or so ago. Of the Chelmsford allocation, only 32651 has been noted on the 70 recently, none of 32482-5 have been seen.

Disposals

41493 removed on a low loader to Alpha Recovery on 18 September 2018.

65748 to First Scotland East September 2018.

Repaints

44539, seen on route 37 on 1 October.

44540, seen on route 37 on 9 October.

Both have small "First Essex" with f symbol above the driver's cab and the doors, main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels both sides and depot stickers both sides, small fleet numbers all round. The main "Essex" fleet names replace the previous "Chelmsford City" ones. The area around the window on the offside emergency exit has been painted white, previously it was black. These are the first of the 13-reg Enviro 200s to be repainted.

69910 to new Route 100 livery, seen on route 100 on 10 October. This leaves only 69905, 69915 and 69917 to be done; 69905 & 69917 were both seen on route 100 on 10 October in original livery.



Reinstated 65748 (SN55 JVO) Scania L94UB/Wright Solar in Pier Avenue, Clacton, on 14 Sept 2018, working on service 97 Walton-on-the-Naze - Colchester. See notes above.

Robert Appleton.

EBN654p12

Other Vehicle News and Workings - Colchester

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CR)

Further to EBN653, 65692 was seen on route 98 on 18 September with its 74/76 route branding removed (it retains its rear advert for Clacton to Colchester season tickets).

Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during September: 32087 (11th & 13th), 32475 (12th), 32478 (14th), 32480 (27th), 33086 (5th & 28th), 33195 (13th & 18th), 37009 (20th), 37015 & 37016 (on successive workings on 17th), Route 62 branded 37133 (10th), plus 33196 on 4 October. StreetLite 63328 on 20th plus 63335 on 4 October.

- 14 Sep Three 51-reg Scania were seen within a couple of minutes of each other in Colchester,
65672 on 66, 65675 on 71 and 65677 on 103
- 17 65672 on 104 (and on 75 on 20th)
- 24 65677 on 70
- 25 65681 & 66802 on 70
- 28 32481, 33078 & 65673 on 62, Route 62/A/B branded 37134 on 70, 65677 on 97
- 29 32087 on 62, 62407 & 65675 on 75, 65032, 65673 & 65677 on 103/104.
- 30 63339 & 66828 on 8 (Clacton-Walton)
- 1 Oct Route 62/A/B branded 37133 on 67/C, 63328 on 70, 63335 on 174/175, 63336 on 75, 65688 on 68
(usually a double-decker)
- 2 63330 on 70
- 3 66828 on 70
- 10 37139 was due to return to Colchester from Hadleigh depot where it had had some repair work done.



Someone was out very late one evening!

"A Scania on the seafront at Walton-on-the Naze." About 2130 hours on 10 October. **Wayne Bell.**

Eds note, this picture is stunning in colour with a blue, pink and white sky (red sky at night ...?). If space permits a companion photo might just appear in another EBN!

First Essex - Other Vehicle News and Workings – Chelmsford

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF)

Further to EBN653, recently acquired 32672 & 32676 had been on loan to Borders Buses following their takeover of First's Border operations in March 2017. They returned in December 2017 and then moved on to First Eastern Counties. Sometime between 9 and 16 September, 68510 returned to Chelmsford from Braintree, but 68508, 68509 & 68532 were still at BE on 23rd. Recent transfers have resulted in three Caetano bodied Darts still at Chelmsford, 41494, 41521 & 41522.

9 Sep	Sunday. 42933 on 45A, 44542 & 66795 on 70, 69421 on 42A, 69431 & 69533 on 71C.
10	32484 seen running light on A12 past Feering at 0856, off 509 or 525 Colchester school service
11	32631 seen running light on A12 at Lexden at 0915, off 509 or 525 Colchester school service, 44543 on 70
12	32483 & 32485 seen running light on A12 at Marks Tey at 0915, off 509 & 525 Colchester school services, 42557 on 71
17	32484 on a school service in Witham
21	66730 on 70
1 Oct	69432 on 70
2	42557 on 71
3	32483 & 68510 on school services in Witham
4	32483 on 525, 32484 on 509, 68531 on 508, plus 68510 also on school service in Colchester
5	42968 on 71, 66795 on 70



Single and double deckers in contrasting liveries on route 62 in Brightonlingsea on 28 September 2018, 65673 still in Barbie and 37138 in Urban 2.

Adam Kelleher.

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Basildon & Hadleigh

(All vehicles listed below allocated to BN except where stated)

In EBN640, it was reported under Colchester & Clacton notes that "StreetLites are having their nearside mirrors amended, so that they protrude less and therefore are less likely to hit objects and swing back and smash the glass above the doors." Not previously reported is that Basildon & Hadleigh StreetLites have been similarly amended (over a period of time). Further to EBN653, 66822, now at Norwich, has been repainted in a dark blue overall advert livery for m-Tickets.

10 Sep	33567 on 9
15	69912 on X10
16	69904 & 69909 on X10
18	Route X10 branded 67160 on 100 and again on 3 October.
19	33424 on evening 9
26	33192 on evening 9
1 Oct	41524, 41542 & 42519 on 9
2	33545 & 33548 on evening 9
10	33047 & 33548 on 561, 33567 on evening 9, 41527, HH44004 & 69912 on 25, 47652 on 100, 47653 on 374, 47655 & 47657 on 11

Sources own observations, and with thanks to M Allen, R Appleton, S Austin, S Barham, D Ballantyne, D Bell, T Clark, D Disbury, D Lund-Conlon, W Morrison, J Podgorski, D Pretty, S Quay, J Salmon, C Stewart, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, Flickr and Terminus.



65673 (SN51 UYG) Scania L94UB/Wright Solar at Victoria Place, Brightlingsea on 28 September, working service 62 from/to Colchester North Station, 65673 still in original First corporate livery.

Robert Appleton.

EBN654p15

Membership renewals

Richard Delahoy.

With this issue, all paying members should find a renewal slip to continue your membership for 2019. We are delighted to announce that subs have been held at £21 for yet another year and we hope you'll agree that this represents excellent value for 12 copies of our 36-page magazine with its mix of current news and historical features, delivered direct to your door. This year we are again offering the option to pay by BACS and we hope many members will find this useful, as well as being easier for us!

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Thanks!



Off the road for several years for an engine rebuild, 1947 Beadle bodied AEC Regal 'Daisy' made a return in time for the EOR/CAMRA Real Ale Festival on 21 July. It had three trips on route 381 via Toot Hill when the open-top was much appreciated in the unusual summer heat.

Owen Woodliffe.



Richard Delahoy.

***** A further consolidation of the bus industry in Essex took place on 8 October when Stephensons purchased Wickford-based NIBS. *****

NIBS operates a mixture of commercial and tendered local bus and school services, from a main depot in Wickford and an outstation near Brentwood. The red and yellow buses and familiar NIBS identity will remain. There will be no immediate changes to routes, times or fares.

Twenty nine buses and two service vehicles were acquired, the bus fleet at the date of sale comprising:

328	MX08 UZK	Optare Solo
341	MX11 CZR	Wright Streetlite WF
342	MX61 BCE	Wright Streetlite WF
418	SK07 HLN	ADL E200
419	SK07 HLV	ADL E200
451	NK55 KBU	Dennis Dart/Plaxton
452	SN55 DVR	Dennis Dart/Plaxton
513	YN08 OCR	Scania/East Lancs Olympus
514	EU58 BLJ	Scania/East Lancs Olympus
515	EU59 BFK	Scania/East Lancs Olympus
521	LX08 ECD	Scania Omnicity
522	LX08 ECE	Scania Omnicity
523	LX08 ECF	Scania Omnicity
524	LX08 ECJ	Scania Omnicity
525	LX08 ECN	Scania Omnicity
526	LX08 ECT	Scania Omnicity
527	LX08 ECV	Scania Omnicity
528	LX08 ECW	Scania Omnicity
626	YN04 YJR	Scania Omnidekka
627	BIL7894	Scania Omnidekka
628	BIL4710	Scania Omnidekka
629	BIL9406	Scania Omnidekka
630	EU05 ECV	Scania Omnidekka
701	PA04 CYK	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs
702	PG04 WHU	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs
703	PO54 ACX	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs
704	PO54 ACY	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs
705	PO54 ADV	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs
706	PO54 OOD	Volvo B7TL/East Lancs.

The photo overleaf shows former owner Steve Nelson with Bill Hiron of Stephensons (photo courtesy of **Bill Hiron**) taken on the day the sale completed.

Stephensons fleet news.

Darts 412 (SK02 XGP) & 455 (EG02 NZD) have returned from hire to Galloway. 412 was then hired briefly to Arrow Taxis but has since returned.

Of the E200s acquired from Abellio as dealer stock, YX10 FFD has been sold to Hornsby Travel, Lincs and YX10 FFH to Baines Driving School, London.



Upper picture Steve Nelson and Bill Hiron; caption on previous page.

Bill Hiron.

Lower picture Since Chris Stewart took his photo of Stephenson's 301 which featured on the rear cover of EBN 653, the vehicle has had a green skirt added which greatly enhances its appearance. Seen in Brentwood High Street on 2 October 2018 on route 71C which was introduced earlier this year. Also see outer rear cover, this EBN.

Adam Kelleher.





Upper picture Stephensons of Essex 425 (MX62 APK) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 leaving Walton-on-the-Naze Columbine Centre on 27 September, working 1519 service 105 to Colchester.

Robert Appleton.

Lower picture Stephensons of Essex 467 (SN66 WKF) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 acquired from Stephensons of Easingwold earlier this year, on Princes Esplanade in Walton-on-the-Naze on 27 September, working 1545 service 9 from Walton-on-the-Naze Columbine Centre to Great Holland.

Robert Appleton.



Trustybus (

Galleon Travel 2009, Roydon, Essex, bus operations)

by Adam Kelleher

Acquired Vehicle

Further to EBN649, partial open top Dennis Trident / Alexander ALX400 X336 NNO has been repainted all black with branding for a "Gangster Tour" of East London, starting at Liverpool Street station and touring the Bethnal Green and Whitechapel areas. It was due to begin on 11 September operating on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays.

Vehicles on Loan / Demonstration

Two StreetLite WrightBus demonstrators (Door Forward) have been on loan recently.

Micro Hybrid SK17 HHL, B45F, was first seen on 18 September 2018, on route 420. It is in all white livery, with grey and red "criss-crosses" all over (including over the windows). Earlier in the month it had been seen at Bournemouth Airport.

Brand new, shorter, SK68 TNF, B33F, was first seen on 30 September, on Greater Anglia rail replacement work between Chelmsford and Colchester, then on route 420 on 2 October and on Greater Anglia rail replacement work between Broxbourne and Stansted Airport on 7th. It is all white.

Central Line Strike

YN05 WKD, with fully programmed LED blinds, was an extra vehicle on TfL route 167 on 5 October during a Central Line drivers' strike.

With thanks to Simon Austin, Dale Bell, John Card, Jonathan Cush, Thomas Drake, John Podgorski, LOTS, Bus Lists on the Web and Flickr.



Wrightbus Micro Hybrid Demonstrator currently on loan to Wrightbus Harlow.

Wrightbus Demonstrator (on hire to Trustybus) SK17HHL at Two Brewers, Ongar 20/9/18

2017 Wright Streetlite Micro-Hybrid B45F

Robert Downton



Arriva Southend / Harlow / Colchester.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Card and Harlowride.co.uk.

Optare Versa 2990 (YJ09 MKD) has transferred into **Harlow**. It was last recorded with Arriva Midlands at Hinckley.

The transfer of service 66 to Ware (see last month) has enabled the loan vehicles listed in EBN652 to leave **Harlow**.

To clarify, the new arrivals listed last month in EBN653 (Enviro 200 MMC 3106, Mercedes-Benz Citaro 3909 and Mercedes — Benz Sprinter 45 1010) were not loans and have joined the allocation at **Harlow**.

The two Mercedes Sprinter Minibuses 1010 and 1015 are usually both allocated to service 9 with working destination displays, although on 10 September 1015 worked service 2.

Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3815 (GN07 AVB) worked service 59 to Chelmsford on 29 September. Route 508/9/10 branded Enviro 200 MMCs 4080/1 saw use on ex EOS route 87 on 19 and 26 September respectively.



Picture
Arriva Kent Thameside/Volvo Demonstrator LF67 EVV at Marsh Road Dartford Kent 23/4/18, a 2017 Volvo 7900E/Volvo B35F Battery/Electric Bus. Robert says "I know the Arriva Kent pics are across the river but I thought they might be of interest. Who knows it could end up in Essex sometime!"

Robert Downton.

Go-Ahead London

by Richard Delahoy.

Operation of Southend seafront service 68 has now finished for this year. For the final three days (30/31 Aug & 1 Sept) open-top RML2318 was one of the two buses used and on the final day it was fitted with appropriate blinds. After the last public trip on that day it ran a special private journey on to the traditional Thames Drive (Sutherland Boulevard) terminus of the 68 service from Southend Transport and Eastern National days.

On August 29, the service had been operated by closed top PVL392 due to the unavailability of open toppers, although as it rained heavily for part of that, this may have been no bad thing!

The service appears to have enjoyed a reasonably good season (its second as a commercial venture by Go-Ahead) although it is understood that there were a number of days in the low season when the service didn't run due to breakdowns on the long dead run to Southend. It is to be hoped that it will return for 2019.

A "now and then" contrast at the Leigh Thames Drive (Sutherland Boulevard) terminus of the traditional Southend seafront routes.

First we see former City Coach Company Beadle-bodied Leyland PD1, LEV 919. It was converted to open top by Eastern National in 1959 as fleet number 1110 and renumbered 2100 in 1964. It is in its final season, 1965, and has just arrived from Hamstel Road on the 67 variant of the seafront service, that ran via Chalkwell Park rather than Leigh Broadway. In later years, 67 was diverted to run to Eastwood, Kent Elms Corner rather than Leigh, Thames Drive. Photo by the late **Derek Rudland**, copyright held by Richard Delahoy.



Coming up to date, look at the outer rear cover where RML2318 stands in the same spot and displaying the same destination, on the evening of 1 September, 2018. An interesting thought is that both buses would have been familiar in parts of London when they still had roofs on! Eds note – this article was submitted in good time for EBN653 but was held over due to space constraints.

Richard Delahoy.

EBN654p22

Ensign Operational Museum Vehicles at 1 October 2018.

Group Chair Ian Ransom recently asked Ensign for details of the company's "museum vehicles". True to form, a speedy response was received from Paul Dickson from, Customer Services Manager, giving details of the entire fleet. Paul's list is too large to be included in this EBN but members wishing to have a copy can get an electronic version by contacting Ian Ransom on the email address shown on p1 of this EBN. Those wishing to receive a paper copy can do so by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the Editor whose details are also on page 1.

ENSIGNBUS - OPERATIONAL MUSEUM VEHICLES OCTOBER 2018

1179	DUF179	Leyland Tiger TS7	Harrington	MD60	KJD260P	Scania Metropolitan	MCW	RML2734	SMK734F	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal
192	F292NHJ	MCW Metrobus	MCW	RCL2226	CUV226C	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RT8	FXT183	AEC Regent III	LPTB
204	KTI204C	Leyland PD2	East Lancs	RF319	MLL956	AEC Regal IV	MCW	RT191	HLW178	AEC Regent III	Weymann
233	MRJ233W	Leyland Fleetline	Northern Counties	RLH61	MXX261	AEC Regent III	Weymann	RT1431	JXC194	AEC Regent III	Cravens
245	JEV245Y	Mercedes TD824	Van Hool	RM25	VLT25	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RT1499	KGK758	AEC Regent III	Cravens
250	A250SVW	Leyland Tiger	Duple Carribean	RM54	LDS279A	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RT3232	KYY961	AEC Regent III	Weymann
263	GLX913	Daimler CWA6	Massey	RM371	WLT371	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RT3251	LLU610	AEC Regent III	Weymann
280	5280NW	Leyland Titan PD3/5	Roe	RM1361	VYJ808	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RT4421	NXP775	AEC Regent III	Weymann
331	7017HK	Bristol MW6G	ECW	RM1843	843DYE	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RTL453	KLB648	Leyland PD2	Park Royal
333	EGP33J	Daimler Fleetline	Park Royal	RM2203	CUV203C	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RTL1014	KYY712	Leyland PD2	Park Royal
451	FFN451	Leyland Royal Tiger	Park Royal	RMA50	NMY634E	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	RTW335	KXW435	Leyland PD2	Leyland
599	EYE599	Bedford WTB	Duple	RMC1485	485CLT	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	T499	ELP223	AEC 10T10	LPTB
B1439	946WAE	Bedford VAM	E.L.Farrar, Cornwall	RMC1513	513CLT	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	T986	A986SYE	Leyland Titan	Leyland
C4	BXD628	Leyland Cub	Short Bros	ER882	WLT882	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	TRM1	L100BJT	Ford Transit 190D LWB	Miniature
DM264 6	THX646S	Leyland Fleetline	Park Royal	RML2405	JJD405D	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	MRM1	BNK217A	Morris Mini	Sandhill Miniature
M1	THX101S	MCW Metrobus	MCW	RML2588	JJD588D	AEC Routemaster	Park Royal	892	JCK892	Leyland Tiger Cub	Burlingham Seagull



NON OPERATIONAL MUSEUM VEHICLES OCTOBER 2018

D7	BDJ807	AEC Regent III	Park Royal
RT624	JXC432	AEC Regent III	Weymann
RT1239	KGK708	AEC Regent III	Saunders
STL175	AGX517	AEC Regent I	Chalmers
SP665	KR8385	Leyland Tiger TS2	Burlingham

Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

Chambers Ensign

Timetable leaflet for
Timetable booklet for
timetable leaflet for
Timetable leaflet for
Timetable leaflet for
Timetable leaflet for

751/2/3/4/6
Thurrock area (number 32)
31/X31
79 (Clacton – Brightlingsea)
090
13/A/C/X13 (Cambridge – Clare)

dated 5.9.18
dated 5.9.18;
dated 1.10.18
dated 3.9.18
dated 10.9.18
dated 2.9.18

GoRide National Express Stagecoach

[One journey on the Stagecoach service runs via Sturmer, (which is in Essex) on schooldays only].



First Essex 37136 SN57 HCU seen in Colchester Road Heybridge on service 75 to Colchester on Sunday 16.09.2018.

Dave Arnold.
EBN654p24

Mark Lloyd

With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, Robert Appleton, John Podgorski & Hedingham buses website.

Vehicles Withdrawn

723	W823 NNJ	Scrapped – departed from HD by 15 September.
729	W829 NNJ	Withdrawn – to Ensign, then Shelton Motors Ely for scrap.

Vehicle On Hire

BU14 YNT	Ford Transit	Robertsons – for use from CN on Manningtree school run.
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Allocations

512	LB02 YWY	KN to HD	3 September				
572	W489 WGH	SY to KN	14 September	572	W489 WGH	KN to SY	by 1 October
724	W824 NNJ	SY to CN	Start of school term.	802	YN55 PZD	SY to KN	4 October
805	YN55 PZG	SY to KN	14 September	805	YN55 PZG	KN to SY	4 October
806	YN55 PZH	CN to KN	6 September, returned to SY then back to KN by 4 October				
810	YN55 PZO	SY to KN	4 September	810	YN55 PZO	KN to SY	4 October
812	YN55 PZR	CN to KN	2 September	812	YN55 PZR	KN to CN	by 1 October
813	YN55 PZU	CN to KN	2 September	814	YN55 PZV	CN to KN	11 September
817	YN06 JYB	KN to CN	2 September				
819	YN06 JYD	CN to KN	4 September	819	YN06 JYD	KN to CN	6 September

Fleet News

265 EU10 AOX had returned from Konect by 13 September but 524 LX05 EZG and 526 LX06 EAJ had gone the other way to join 525 LX05 EZH. 520/1/3 LX05 EZC/D/F have been converted to single door at CN but are not yet in service. 527/8 LX06 EAK/M are next in line – 527 is underway and 528 awaits conversion. 911 SF04 SKE has arrived at CN depot – spotted by Robert Appleton on 22 September. Despite the cessation of service 87 the X76 service between Colchester and Clacton still sees a variety of stock on duty including short Enviro 200s, Anglian Omnicity Deckers, older SLFs and still the ex-London General B7TL. Competition is fierce with First running within a few minutes of Hedingham. Of interest is the Clacton to Colchester journeys during the central part of the day where Hedingham are timed 1 minute ahead of First. Many times, rival buses have been seen following each other and in either order depending on previous pickups. First generally using Scania Wright/Scania East Lincs & Wright Streetlites in competition on the 97/97A.



Hedingham 819, YN06 JYB at Point Clear whilst operating the 1045 6 from Point Clear to Clacton on 14 August. It was picking up a good load.
Keith Shayshutt

Services

September 14 service 91 returned to normal following the bridge repair works at Inworth.

As promised, Robert Appleton returned to Clacton on a school day, 27 September, 0930 -1115 and noted the following on town services:

Clacton - St Osyth Beach 1 ADL Dart 256 (EU55 BWC)

Clacton - Harwich 3 ADL Enviro 200 265 (EU10 AOX) 266 (OU57 FKB)

Jaywick - Clacton - Burrsville/Bockings Elm 4/4A AD Enviro 200 264 (EU59 AYP), Scania Omnidckkas 815 (YN55 PZW) 818 (YN06 JYC) and Scania Omnicity 850 (A057 EZM)

Clacton - Flatford Drive 5/5A ADL Enviro 200 294 (OU57 FGZ)

Clacton - Point Clear 6ADL Darts 253 (EU04 BVF) 257 (EU56 FLM)

Clacton - Holland Haven Circular 134 Volvo B7TL 565 (W425 WGH)

Clacton - Great Clacton Circular 135 Scania Omnidckka 820 (YN06 JYE)

Clacton - Factory Outlet Circular 137 Dennis Trident 734 (W834 NNJ), Optare Solo 910 (SF04 SKD)

Colchester - Clacton - Jaywick X76 ADL Darts 254 (EU05 AUR) 260 (EU56 FLR), Volvo B7TL 561 (V301 LGC), Scania Omnidckkas 816 (YN55 PZX) 817 (YN06 JYB), and Scania Omnicity 852 (A057 HCD).

During the afternoon of 27 Sept, Scania Omnidckka 820 off service 135 was seen turning in to Tendring Technology College Upper School at Frinton, and Scania Omnidckka 817 off service X76 was seen at Walton-on-the Naze on a school contract from Tendring Technology College Lower School at Thorpe-le-Soken.

Re Robert's previous submitted report for 3 September, the reason he states that he only spotted three buses on 4/4A is that inbound 4A buses from Bockings Elm terminate in Pier Avenue at xx15 and xx45. Then after a short layover with "Sorry not in service" displayed, they run round to Station Rd via Rosemary Rd to work xx27 and xx57 departures on 4 to Burrsville. So, on 3 September he did not record any buses showing "Sorry not in service", and thus missed the fourth bus on 4/4A. Robert brings attention to a mistake for not studying the 4/4A timetable enough – but we are very grateful for his determination and for the information gained.



Heddingham 684 (PJ02 REV) Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President in Osborne Street, Colchester on 15 August on Brightlingsea service 87 - still in Go Ahead London livery. **Ken Coldwell.** EBN654p26

Hedingham and Chambers concluded.

Mark Lloyd.

Other News

Dugard House office closed after work hours on 28 September and the office has moved within the Clacton depot. Clacton has been remodelled in terms of office layout, with the staff room and new traffic office combined. The old traffic office is now the new head office and administration office and the cold store from the dairy days has been converted into a meeting/training room. There is also a new cashing up facility.

Post closure the legal lettering for both Hedingham & Chambers has changed to 5-7 John Goshawk Road, Dereham, Norfolk.



Hedingham 253, EU04 BVF at St Osyth Beach whilst operating the 1136 service 1 on 14 August from there to Clacton.

Keith Shayshutt.



by Ian Ransom with thanks to Stephen Barham.

Fleet News

Enviro 200 YX09 FLA has been acquired, this is the vehicle expected to be used for spares.

Buses For Sale

Panther are offering the following vehicles for sale, if you would like to make a serious offer to preserve one, please contact the company direct on 01255 554974.

BIG 4005	Leyland ON	ECW – New to Eastern National as B693 BPU
BIG 7793	Dennis Lance	Wright – New to Hedingham as M211 WHJ

Also for sale, but probably of less interest is

BIG 8856	Dennis Javelin	Plaxton – New as G210 UAS.
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EBN654p27



Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus

Dealing Stock Movements

September 2018.

Vehicles in

Bear Buses	SA52 DVT	Volvo B7L
Go-Ahead London	LX60 DWY/DXF/G/J/R	Volvo B9TL's
	W404/408/435 WGH	Volvo B7TL's
	PN02 XBO/PI02 RCF	
	PI53 SRU /LX05 EZE	
	LX06 EYT/EYW/FBB/E/FAA/F	Darts
Hedingham	W829 NNJ	Trident
Johns School of Motoring	KM51 BFX	Dart
Metroline	LK04 UXG/CVN	Volvo B7TL's
	LK53 LXV	
Nottingham City Transport	YN07 EYZ	Scania
WB Chambers	T461 HNH/R747 FGX	Darts
Yellow Buses Bournemouth		
	YN08 NKH/NLG/J	Volvo B7RLE's

Vehicles Out

A2B buses, Cambridge	SN03 WMP	Dart
Aintree Coaches	YM55 SXE	Scania
Cambridge Coach Services	SA52 DVT	Volvo B7L
Country Lion, Northampton		
	LF55 CZA/BX55 XML	Volvo B7TL's
Hornsby's, Scunthorpe, Lincs		
	YN53 RYV/RZF	Scania's
Moffat and Williamson, Glenrothes		
	OU08AYF	E200
	LX06 DZI/DZK	Volvo B7TLs

Red Route Buses, Northfleet, Kent		
	LX06 EYT	Dart
Selwyns, Runcorn	LX06 DZB/DYY	Volvo B7TL's
Sleafordian Coaches, Sleaford, Lincs		
	YN07 EYZ	Scania
Sullivan Buses, South Mimms		
	SN11 BNX/BNV	E400s
Tyrers Coaches, Adlington, Lancs		
	YN08 NKH/NLG/NLJ	Volvo B7RLE's
United Borders, Harlesden	LX06 DZA	Volvo B7TL

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL	LK04 HXD
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Bromley Bus Preservation Group.

Scania	HF08 UHT
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Bruen Coaches, Dublin.

Volvo B7TL	Y192 NLK
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Ruxley Nursery, Sidcup, Kent.

Volvo B7TL	LF52 ZNJ
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Brandcruiser Ltd, Glasgow.

Volvo B7TL	LJ54 BFK
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London Park, Bean, Kent (bus located in Naples, Italy)

The following have all gone to **Shelton Motors for scrap**

Volvo B7TLs	LK53 LXV/LK04 CVN/LK04 UXG
	LF52 ZPW/LF52 ZNL/LX53 BFK/BX54 DHZ
Darts	Y331 FJN/R747 FGX/
	KM51 BFX/AE06 HCG
Tridents	W829 NNJ / LG02 FAF / LG02 FBK
Enviro 200	YX09 34FLG

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicle News

BCI Enterprise 401 LX66 GXC has been scrapped following accident damage sustained earlier in the year.



Further to the First Essex article in EBN648, Ensignbus decided, after all, to introduce a route 31 between Brentwood Station and Bishops Hall Estate, competing directly with First's 37, and started this service on 1 October 2018. On the next day the routes are seen together in Brentwood High Street with 44551 being followed by 604.

Adam Kelleher.

We saw this beautifully preserved bus which exchanges its registration plates between LLU 610 and WLB 991 in EBNB654p29.

Quite an explosive mixture!

All will be revealed next issue!

Here, the cast of 'Summer Holiday' make audience member Victoria welcome in front of RT3251 at the Cliffs Pavilion.

John G. Lidstone.



EBNB654p29

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Bone (Tendring Travel), Thorpe-le-Soken

Berkhoff C53FT bodied Scania K40EB4, reg. 8466 PH has been acquired ex. Hodge, Berkshire and is re-registered as RY57 ZKK whilst similar 6691 PH is re-registered as RY57 ZKJ. Also acquired recently is YJ08 EFT, a Temsa Opalin C53F, previously with Wiffin, Redhill, Surrey.

New Horizon, Frating

Two Volvo B11Rs with Plaxton K40FT bodywork are here from Logan's, Dunley, Northern Ireland, registration marks being MX15 KET and MX15 KLC. Berkhoff bodied Volvo B12M has reverted to its original registration of FJ03 AAZ from S25 NHT.

Vigar, North Weald

Following on from the news of this operator ceasing trading, commercially operated services were taken over Arriva Kent Thameside whilst services operated under contract are now operated by Vigar's parent company Swallow Coaches of Rainham, using the "Swallowbus" name.



Picture Viceroy Coaches, Saffron Walden, Essex TUI 9840 (orig reg YN06 FTU) at Coach Park Hunstanton Norfolk, a 2006 Neoplan N316/Neoplan Auwerter C61Ft ex Shamrock Coaches, Pontypridd, South Wales.

Robert Downton.

Just in – The Stephensons' Story

We have just received supplies of a new book by Geoff Mills, heavily illustrated, 84 pages, A4 size, telling the story of Stephensons of Essex over the last 45 years from the early days of John Stephenson up to today's 100+ vehicle operation.

Fuller details next month, but meanwhile copies are available now from our Sales Officer, price £16.95 plus £2 p&p. With copies bought through the Group you will also get a free fleet list correct to 12 October, showing the combined Stephensons/NIBS fleet.

Letters

Sue Burden from Braintree.

The Sun had an article on Monday 17 September about a new settlement in Missouri built a few years ago called Uranus, presently a collection of retail outlets. The centre page article showed the self-styled mayor of this place, and behind him was Scottish VR LFS 298 F, formerly a training bus with Eastern National. It is a static exhibit, painted red (of course) and has the notice in the windscreen "Caution; student driver." It can be seen on Rob Sly's VR website. This Uranus is actually a shopping mall with clusters of houses nearby. The VR can actually be seen set back from the road on Google Streetview.

EN VR on Another Planet!

Martin Weyell

VX 5343 -- Chevrolet U - Economy C14F - new 1930 to J A Lloyd, Thundersley - moved to Southend 4/36 - withdrawn 8/39 - when the war started - then there is a gap until 5/46, presume it was in store somewhere - when it was acquired by West Leigh Coaches, to W C Leach, Hornchurch, 10/51, use unknown, last licenced 6/52 -- .

More on West Leigh Coaches!

Mike Allen

Thanks very much for the latest EBN with interesting varied contents.

With regard to page 16, First workings from Colchester clarification is needed regarding blinds for routes 97/97a/98, as vehicles with alternating points rather than scrolling points show Walton The Naze as destination instead of Walton on the Naze. This is evident in the photo of 65691 on page 32 of EBN653 and photos I have taken myself. This still applies to 65691 seen this afternoon on route 97a, 1400 ex Stanwell Street.

Secondly regarding the comment on page 27 with regard to taking photos at Colchester Bus Station, the place to be is at the west end of Bus Station in Osborne St when buses leave, especially in the afternoon when the sun is out and shines directly on the vehicles. Photos can also be taken at the east end from midday before the buses hit the shadows of the buildings.

Walton & Colchester Bus Station picture spot.

Paul Harvey

Further to EBN653p7, it looks like WNO 480, Bristol KSW/ECW former EN4215/2384, has found another owner according to the message below:

"I can now confirm this vehicle has left the West Midlands and the new owners are the Aire Valley Transport Group t/a yesteryear coaches".

WNO 480 Moves Again!

Museum of Power, Langford

Your Editor has been asked by the Museum of Power to draw members attention to the following bus related events.

Transport Fest 21 April 2019

Old Tyme Rally 21 July 2019

Restored vehicles would be very much welcomed at these events. The contact details for the museum are:

Museum of Power, Langford, Essex CM9 6QA

Tel: +44 (0) 1621 843183

Restored/Preserved Buses Wanted!



Panther Travel
DC56 PAN (RX56
BWE) Alexander
Dennis Mini Pointer
Dart leaving
Harwich Rail Station
on 16.05 Harwich -
Parkeston Circular
service 2 on 18
September.

Robert Appleton.



Normally there isn't anything from Essex that attends Showbus since it moved to Donnington Park near East Midlands Airport but I was surprise to see something this year. It was Eastern National 1327 Bristol K5G ECW ONO 59 which has been worked on by LVVS Museum at Lincoln. The vehicle also won the Best Bus in Show award. Well done and congratulations to LVVS team.

Paul Harvey.



Target Dates for EBN655 (November 2018).

Before ...	Saturday	3 November 2018	Reports to Sub-Editors.
Before ---	Saturday	10 November 2018	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
On or before ...	Monday	19 November 2018	Dispatch by Printers.

EssexBus Rally at Barleylands on 22 July.



top left side.
Southend Transport 122 AEC Routemaster Park Royal VLT 44.
Paul Harvey.



middle left side.
First Essex 32477 Volvo B7TL ALX400 AU53HJN.
Paul Harvey.



Lower left side.
Eastern National 1546 Bristol RELL ECW SWW 274K.
Paul Harvey.



top picture right side.
Stagecoach London 10301 ADL Enviro400 MMC YY15DYS.
Paul Harvey.



middle picture right side.
Brentwood Coaches SEV 77 Bedford OB Duple Vista.
Paul Harvey.



Lower right side
First Essex 67164 ADL Enviro200MMC YY66PBF used on
Airbus X10 from BN.
Paul Harvey.

EBN654inner rear cover

Essex Bus News October 2018

Top picture

End of Season

RML2318 stands at the traditional Thames Drive (Sutherland Boulevard) terminus on the evening of 1 September, 2018. See article EBN654p22.

Richard Delahoy.

Middle picture

End of Operations - Last Heddingham 87 journey

Omnidekka 814 on the very last Heddingham 87 journey, the 2301 ex Colchester North Station to Brightlingsea, Saturday 1/9/18 at Osborne Street, Colchester.

John Podgorski.

Lower picture

End of Plain Livery!

Since Chris Stewart took his photo of Stephenson's 301 (rear cover of EBN653), the vehicle has had a green skirt added, greatly enhancing its appearance. Seen in Brentwood High Street on 2 October 2018 on route 71C introduced earlier this year.

Adam Kelleher.

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EBN654outerrearcover

