

Essex Bus Magazine

Current news and historical features

Issue 723 July 2024



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

www.essexbus.org.uk



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723 for EBM 723



Two photos of Eastern National Leyland National 2 1927 (MHJ 723V). **Above** at Colchester bus station on 8 March 1986 in NBC livery, with depot (MN - Maldon) and fleet number plates, on route 119 to its home town. **Below** in Colchester High Street on route 53 from Chelmsford on 5 April 1994, now reallocated to Colchester, in privatisation livery, depot and fleet number plates removed, the latter replaced by transfers. Both **Robert Appleton**





Above: An X30 departure at 2035, an X20 at 2040 and an X10 at 2045 gives an unusual opportunity to see all three First Essex Airlink routes together at Stansted Airport. In the background, a Scania N250UD / ADL Enviro 400 MMC on the X30, in front of that Enviro 200 MMC 67195 (SN66 WKS) on the X10 and in the foreground recently repainted ADL E40D / Enviro 400 MMC 34422 (SN17 MTU) on the X20. Photo taken on 4 June 2024 by 34422's driver **David Edwards**.

Front Cover: Not only the first two 24-registered buses to feature in EBM (a 24-registered electric coach was in EBM 720) but also a potential 74 registered bus. New E40D / Enviro 400 MMCs at Stephenson's Rochford depot on 20 June 2024. On the right are EU24 LWT/V, delivered the previous day, but nearest the camera is an example delivered on 20th unregistered, and which is not due to be registered until September. More details on page 20. More photos of 24 registered buses on page 22.

Right: The unregistered one just delivered. Both: **John G Lidstone**



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copies sent by e-mail. New members may join from
any month, but subscriptions will always run to
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EBM Extra

EBM is published monthly. In addition, we aim to
publish two Extras each year full of historical features.
These are supplied to members free of charge, subject
to funding.

Membership Records & 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
Richard Delahoy, address above.

Reports, Articles & Photographs

Members' reports, articles and photos (prints, slides or
preferably jpgs) are always welcome. Please send to
the Editor or relevant Sub-Editor. The editors exercise
discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not
at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular
month.

Target Dates for EBM 724

Reports to Sub-Editors	20 July
Sub-Editor drafts to Editor	26 July
Dispatch by Printers on or before	3 August

The last two dates are fixed, but late news can be sent
up to 27th and will be included if possible, if not it will
be held over to the next month.

Views expressed in EBM do not necessarily reflect the
opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group or
officers. Every effort is made to ensure accuracy, but
the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors
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Group Notices

Welcome to New Member

Jeremy Hanson, Lowestoft - 1228 (rejoined)

Group Meetings

For 2024, meetings have moved to **Saturday afternoons**. These are being held at **The Quaker Meeting House**, Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, CM1 2QL, which is a five-ten minute walk from Chelmsford Bus & Railway Stations. Doors open at 1400 for a 1430 start, ending at 1630. There is very limited on-site parking, accessed via Cedar Avenue West, we would ask that you leave these for those less able to walk.

There are no meetings in July or August.

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| 14 September | Alan Osborne - Picturesque Transport. A varied selection of views of buses, trolleybuses and trams in scenic locations (no garage yard shots). Old and new, near and far, Essex and beyond. |
| 12 October | Tony Francis - Reflections of LT Country Area and LCBS. |
| 9 November | Robert Appleton - North Wales, Cheshire and Merseyside. |
| 14 December | Richard Delahoy - 20 years ago. |

Meetings are being held jointly with our good friends at The Omnibus Society, Eastern & Southern Branch, who are very generously paying for the room hire so entrance is FREE.

The Running Card

Owen Woodliffe

The following events have been advertised.

Saturday 6-Sunday 7 July: Vintage Transport Weekend, North Norfolk Railway, Holt.

Sunday 7 July: Eastbourne Classic Bus Running Day based at the Railway Station.

Saturday 13-Sunday 14 July: British Bus Fleets East Anglia, East Anglian Transport Museum, Carlton Colville.

Saturday 20-Sunday 21 July: Routemaster 70th Anniversary event at the former Chiswick Works.

Sunday 21 July: Alton Bus Rally and Running Day. New venue at Alton College, Old Odiam Road.

Sunday 28 July: Classic buses in Windsor.

Sunday 28 July: Worthing Seafront Gathering.

Sunday 4 August: Gosport Bus Rally, Stokes Bay.

Sunday 11 August: Big Bus Show, Stonham Barns IP14 6AT. Free bus service from Stowmarket Station.

Monday 26 August: Bus theme at Ipswich Transport Museum to celebrate 60 years of ADX 63B.

Sunday 1 September: Key Publishing Show Bus. Sywell Aerodrome, Northants NN6 OBN. £15 adult admission.

Saturday 14 September: Delaine Museum Open Day, Bourne. Noon-1600. £2.50 includes heritage bus ride.

Sunday 22 September: Amberley Museum, Sussex. Bus Show and Running Day.

Saturday 28-Sunday 29 September: Trolleybus Weekend, East Anglia Transport Museum, Carlton Colville. Twilight running on Saturday evening.

Sunday 29 September: Showbus. Buckinghamshire Railway Centre, Quainton HP22 4BY.

Events are published in good faith. However, the Group cannot be responsible for any changes due to future circumstances. Please check before travelling.

Omnibus Society Visit Sunday 20 October 2024

Heritage vehicle tour to Guildford to visit Safeguard Coaches (100 years old this year) and Go-Coach at Swanley. Time will be available to visit Guildford City Centre. Pick-ups at Colchester Station 0830, Chelmsford Station 0915, Shenfield Station 0945, Swanley (Go-Coach garage, ex LT country SJ - London Road) 1045. You will be able to join the tour for the visit of Safeguard Coaches only by making your own way to their garage. To join the tour email andrewgipson@btinternet.com or telephone 01206 827987 by 6 October. All OS members and non-members equally welcome with a suggested donation of £12 to cover costs. We will travel on ex ENOC Bristol RE 1516 (FWC 439H) by kind permission of owner David Edwards.

As reported last month, the Vectare name is being dropped in favour of Central Connect. For services continuing beyond 28 July, the Central Connect name is used in the following listings. Some of these services were previously operated by Vectare. Some Vectare registrations have been cancelled and replaced by new Central Connect ones.

Commercial Services

2 June 2024

87U (Saturdays) Great Horkesley, Malvern Way - University of Essex **First Essex**. Additional information to EBM 721 is that these short journeys of service **87** were extended to Brightlingsea Victoria Place, to increase the Saturday daytime frequency from hourly to every 30 minutes over the whole route. U suffix thus no longer required and all journeys now numbered 87.

724 (Daily) Harlow Bus Station - Heathrow Central Bus Station **Arriva**. Minor correction to EBM 721, the additional stop is at Shepherds Road, Watford, not Shepherds Lane.

28 July

1 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Sumners, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

1 (Daily) Southend Travel Centre - Rayleigh Railway Station **Arriva**. Revised timetable to assist punctuality.

2/3 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

2 (Daily) Southend Travel Centre - Shoeburyness, The Renown **Arriva**. Revised timetable, with M-F daytime frequency increased to every 10 minutes.

4 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Latton Bush, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

6 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Little Parndon, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

6 (Daily) Southend Travel Centre - Southchurch McDonalds **Arriva**. Revised timetable, extended from Southchurch to Garon Park Leisure Centre.

7/8 (Daily) Rayleigh Railway Station - Shoeburyness, The Renown / Great Wakering, Landwick Cottages **Arriva**. Revised route and timetable, withdrawn between North Shoebury Asda and Great Wakering, Landwick Cottages; those journeys now terminate at Shoeburyness, The Renown in line with the rest of the service. See also service **9A**.

7A (M-S Eve) Rayleigh - Hadleigh **First Essex**. Details under 'Essex County Council Supported Services', route **7**, below.

8 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

9/A (Daily) Rayleigh Railway Station - Shoeburyness East Beach **Arriva**. Revised timetable to improve reliability. M-F service will operate every 15 minutes between Rayleigh and North Shoebury Asda, with service **9** operating every 30 minutes to Shoeburyness East Beach and new variation **9A** every 30 minutes to Wakering and Great Wakering, Landwick Cottages. Saturday frequency increased up to every 15 minutes between Rayleigh and Shoeburyness Asda with service **9** operating every 30 minutes to Shoeburyness East Beach and service **9A** every 30 minutes to Great Wakering, Landwick Cottages. Sunday service remains entirely to East Beach.

10 (M-S daytime) Harlow Bus Station - Church Langley, circular **Arriva**. Minor timetable changes to assist punctuality.

19/A (M-F) Chelmsford Bus Station - Harlow Bus Station via North Weald and Epping **First Essex**. NEW SERVICE, three journeys each way.

29 (Daily) Southend Travel Centre - Belfairs, Belgrave Road **Arriva**. Revised timetable, with additional evening journeys on M-S.

59 (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Harlow Bus Station **Arriva**. Revised timetable, off peak service between Chelmsford Bus Station and Anglia Ruskin University withdrawn. Additional M-F journeys at 1930 from Harlow Bus Station and 2023 from Chelmsford Bus Station.

62 (M-S) Chelmsford Army and Navy - Blackmore Bus Terminal **Vectare**. Service withdrawn. This was a feeder service for route **61** (Blackmore - Brentwood). As the ECC contract for route 61 has been lost (see below) this service is no longer required.

300 (Daily) Basildon Bus Station - Chelmsford Bus Station **First Essex**. Revised timetable.

508/509/510 (Daily) Harlow Bus Station - Stansted Airport Bus Station **Arriva**. Revised timetable on services 508, 509, 510 to assist punctuality. Of these routes, only 510 currently runs on Sundays, but some Sunday journeys will

operate instead as 508, providing a service to Takeley. Certain school day journeys will operate via the new Bishop's Stortford High School as **508A, 509A, 510A**.

724 (Daily) Harlow Bus Station - Heathrow Airport Central Bus Station **Arriva**. Revised route and timetable, the service will now operate via Panshanger (Elizabeth House and Watchlytes) in Welwyn Garden City.

S5 (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Greenstead Library via Harwich Road **First Essex**. NEW SERVICE. Operates via the existing Arriva route 1 between the city centre and Greenstead.

The improvements to Arriva services 6 (extension to Garon Park), 9/A (increase in Saturday frequency) and 29 (additional evening journeys) have been made possible by BSIP+ funding from the UK Government via Southend-on-Sea City Council.

Central Connect are making further changes to their network in the Harlow and Epping areas, further details will be given next month

Essex County Council Supported Services - Changes from Sunday 28 July 2024

The following is a summary of operator changes from 28 July. Some changes are as a result of decisions made following a period of consultation on supported bus services, as reported in EBM 718. Information on any possible timetable or route changes wasn't available as we went to press. In the space available, it isn't possible to provide full details. For example only some early morning and late evening journeys may be funded, or part funded, by Essex County Council.

1 (M-S Eve and Su) Harlow Bus Station - Sumners, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

1A (M-S Eve and Su) Greenstead, Elm Crescent - Colchester, Ambrose Avenue. No change remains with **First Essex**.

1A (S only) Basildon Bus Station - Pitsea Tesco. No change remains with **First Essex**.

2 (M-S Eve and Su) Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

2A (M-S Eve and Su) Highwoods Square - Great Horkesley, Malvern Way. No change remains with **First Essex**.

2/A (M-S) Clacton, Pier Avenue - Mistley, Rigby Avenue. No change remains with **Hedingham**.

2 (M-S) Harwich Circular. Renumbered **22**. Operation passes from **Panther Travel** to **Hedingham**.

3 (M-S Eve and Su) Harlow Bus Station - Staple Tye, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

3 (M-S) Southend Travel Centre - Chelmsford Bus Station. No change remains with **First Essex**.

4 (M-S Eve) Harlow Bus Station - Latton Bush, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **First Essex**.

4 (Su) Harlow Bus Station - Latton Bush, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

4 (M-S Eve) Jaywick, Martello Beach - Clacton, Gorse Lane. Renumbered **136A**, remains with **Hedingham**.

4 (M-S) Stanway Sainsburys - Hythe Tesco. Renumbered **14**, operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.

4A (Su Only) Southend Travel Centre - Great Wakering, Landwick Cottages. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **First Essex**.

5 (M-S) Harlow Bus Station - Sumners Farm. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **Central Connect**.

6 (Su) Harlow Bus Station - Little Parndon, circular. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

6 (M-S Eve) Harlow Bus Station - Little Parndon, circular. Renumbered **407/417** with an enhanced service.

Operation passes from **Arriva** to **First Essex**.

6A/B (M-S Eve) Clacton, Pier Avenue - Point Clear. No change remains with **Hedingham**.

7 (M-S Eve) Rayleigh Railway Station - Hockley Spa / Southend Travel Centre. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **First Essex**. Hockley to Southend section withdrawn, but some journeys extended commercially from Rayleigh to Hadleigh as **7A**.

7/A (M-S) Bishop's Stortford Interchange - Stansted Airport Bus Station. No change remains with **Stephensons**.

8 (M-S Eve and Su) Harlow Bus Station - Old Harlow, circular. Renumbered **28**, operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

9/A (M-F) Blake End, Sailing Oak / Great Bardfield, Alienor Avenue - Great Notley Tesco. Service operated by **Central Connect** withdrawn, replaced by **ECC DigiGo** demand responsive service.

10 (M-S) Temple Grove Caravan Park - Pleshey, Back Lane. No change remains with **Arrow Taxis**.

10 (M-S Eve and Su) Harlow Bus Station - Church Langley, circular. Renumbered **23**, operation passes from **Arriva** to **Central Connect**.

11 (M-S) Highwoods Square - Colchester Railway Station. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.

12 (M-S) Wickford, The Swan - Billericay Arlington Way. No change remains with **Arrow Taxis**.

- 13 (M-S) Waltham Cross Bus Station - Epping Hospital. No change remains with **Central Connect**.
- 13/13A/14 (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Wickford Tesco. Renumbered **13/A/B**, remains with **First Essex**.
- 14 (M-F peak) Wickford Railway Station - Wickford Tesco. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **NIBS**.
- 14 (M-S) Harlow Bus Station - Pinnacles, Merring Way. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **First Essex**.
- 14 (M-S) Southend Travel Centre - Shoeburyness East Beach / Foulness, Courtsend. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 15 (M-S) Marks Tey Railway Station - Shrub End, Leather Bottle, circular. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 16 (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Wethersfield, The Green. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 16A (Sch only) Colchester, Napier Road - Colchester, St Helena School. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 16C (Su only) Waltham Cross Bus Station - Loughton, circular. Operation remains with **Central Connect**.
- 17/18 (T, Th, F, S only) The Great Dunmow High Street - Good Easter section (the service continues commercially to Chelmsford Railway Station). No change remains with **Lodge Coaches**.
- 17 (Sch Only) West Bergholt, Hall Road - Stanway School. Renumbered **907**. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 19 (Sch Only) Rowhedge - Monkwick School. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 21 (M-S) Basildon Bus Station - North Benfleet Pound Lane. Operation of tendered journeys (including the complete Saturday service) passes from **First Essex** to **NIBS** who already operate the commercial journeys on the route.
- 21 (S only) Brentwood Railway Station - Ongar Four Wantz. No change remains with **NIBS**.
- 21 (M-S Eve) Southend Travel Centre - Canvey Newlands. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 21 (M-S) Black Notley, Bulford Lane - Braintree Bus Interchange. Early morning and evening service operated by **Stephensons** withdrawn and replaced by **ECC DigiGo** demand responsive service. (As reported in EBM 720, the previous Sunday service operated by **Hedingham** was replaced by **ECC DigiGo** demand responsive service on 17 March this year).
- 21C (M-F) Hadleigh Morrisons - Canvey, Seaview Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 22 (M-S Eve and Su) Basildon Bus Station - Pitsea Broadway. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 25 (Su Only) The Basildon Bus Station - Wickford, The Swan section (the service continues commercially to Southend Travel Centre). No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 30 (M-S) Braintree, Beckers Green - Marks Farm. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 31 (M-S Eve) Chelmsford Bus Station - Maldon, Milton Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 31 (M-S) Harlow Bus Station - Coopersale Piazza. No change remains with **Central Connect**.
- 31/332 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Burnham Clock Tower. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 32 (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Ongar Two Brewers. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 34 (T, Th only) Saffron Walden circular. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 37 (Su Only) Warley Eagle Way - Pilgrims Hatch. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 40 (M, W, S only) Witham, Owers Road - Witham, Ebenezer Close. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 42A (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Bishop's Stortford Interchange. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 45 (M-S) NEW SERVICE South Woodham Ferrers - Bradwell Waterside. Awarded to **Arrow Taxis**, this replaces the existing **D4** between Burnham Clock Tower and Bradwell Waterside and **D5** between Burnham Clock Tower and South Woodham Ferrers, Tropical Wings, both operated by **Arrow Taxis**.
- 46 (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Ongar Two Brewers. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 47 (M-S) Old Moulsham, Oaklands Park - Broomfield Hospital. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 50/A (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Tollesbury Square. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 50B (M Only) Colchester Bus - Great Wigborough Kings Head, circular. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 59 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Harlow Bus Station. Operation passes from **Arriva** to **First Essex**.
- 59/590 (M-S) Audley End Railway Station - Saffron Walden Elizabeth Way. Operation passes to **Stephensons** (who were operating under a short term contract), it was also being operated by **Central Connect** (who had not surrendered their existing contract).
- 60/A (M-S) Southend Travel Centre - Paglesham, The Plough and Sail. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 61 (M-S) Blackmore Bus Terminus - Brentwood High Street. Operation passes from **Vectare** to **NIBS**.

Opposite top: Vectare Enviro 200 MMC 319 (SN16 OVO) on route 61 at Blackmore on 18 June 2024.
Chris Stewart



- 63 (W,F only) Great Wakering Police Lodge - Rayleigh High Street. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 63/A (M-S) West Mersea High Street - Colchester, Jump Street. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 67 (Th only) Colchester Bus Station - East Mersea, Ivy Lane. NEW SERVICE, operated by **First Essex**.
- 68 (M-S Eve) Highwoods Square - West Mersea High Street. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 69/A (Tu Only) Colchester Bus Station - East Mersea, Ivy Lane. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 71 (Su Eve only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Springfield Sainsburys. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 71/72 (M-S) Brentwood High Street - Stondon Massey, Soames Mead Lane. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **NIBS**.
- 73/A/B (M-S) Chelmsford Bus Station - Maldon Cherry Gardens. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 74B (M-S Eve) Clacton Pier Avenue - Colchester Bus Station. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 75 (Su Only) Colchester Bus Station - Maldon Leisure Centre. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 76 (Su Only) Clacton Pier Avenue - Colchester Bus Station. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 77/A (M-F) St Osyth Beach - Colchester Apprentice Drive. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 79 (F only) Colchester Bus Station - Tiptree, New Times. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 80/A/81/A (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Boxted / Manningtree. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 80A/C (Su Only) Brentwood Railway Station - Hutton, circular. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 82/A/B (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Colne Engaine, The Green. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 83 (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Bures Church. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 83B (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Fordham, circular. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Hedingham**.
- 84B (Th Only) Colchester Bus Station - Little Horkesley, The Beehive **Hedingham**. Service withdrawn.
- 85/92 (W Only) Colchester Bus Station - Layer Breton, Lower Road. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.
- 86 (Su Only) Colchester, Jump Street - West Mersea High Street. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 88/A (M-S Eve and Su) Colchester Bus Station - Halstead, White Horse Avenue. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 90 (M-S) Witham, Redwood Close - Maldon Tesco. No change remains with **Stephensons**.
- 91 (M-S) Tollesbury Square - Witham Morrisons. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 92 (M-S) Tollesbury Square - Colchester City Centre. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 94 (Su Only) South Woodham Ferrers Town Service **First Essex**. Service withdrawn.
- 94/A/B (M-S) Basildon Bus Station - South Woodham Ferrers Asda. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **NIBS**.

- 95 (M-S) Tollesbury Square - Maldon Morrisons. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 97/A/98/A (M-S Eve) Walton-on-the-Naze - Clacton, Pier Avenue. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 99 (M-S Eve) Walton-on-the-Naze - Clacton, Pier Avenue **Hedingham**. Service withdrawn.
- 99A (M-F) Broomfield Hospital - Maldon Tesco. No change remains with **Arrow Taxis**.
- 101 (Sch Only) Point Clear - Brightlingsea Colne School. Renumbered **C3**, operation passes from **Hedingham** to **Stephensons**.
- 102 (M-S Eve and Su) Colchester Bus Station - Harwich Railway Station. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 104 (M-S) The Harwich Railway Station - Bradfield Village Maid section (the service continues commercially to Colchester Bus Station). No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 104/106 (M-F) Basildon Bus Station - Langdon Hills Tesco. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **NIBS**.
- 105/107 (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Walton-on-the-Naze. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 115 (Sch Only) Weeley Black Boy - Tendring College. No change remains with **Hedingham**.
- 118 (Sch Only) Parkeston, Uno Road - Ramsey Church. Operation passes from **Panther Travel** to **Hedingham**.
- 132 (Su Only) Saffron Walden High Street - Cambridge, Drummer Street. No change remains with **C G Myall**.
- 170/370 (M-S Eve and Su) Chelmsford Bus Station / City Centre - Halstead, Ramsey School. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 174/175 (M-S) Colchester Bus Station - Fingringhoe, circular. Operation passes from **First Essex** to **Stephensons**.

Below: First Essex StreetLite 47666 (SN15 ACJ), still in Southampton City Red livery but with shuttles branding added, at Fingringhoe on route 175, with Group Member David Edwards driving, on 14 June 2024. **Daniel Pretty**



- 211 (M-S) Waltham Cross Bus Station - Waltham Abbey, Breach Barns. No change remains with **Epping Forest CT**.
- 212 (M-S) Waltham Cross Bus Station - Waltham Abbey, Roundhills, circular. No change remains with **Epping Forest CT**.
- 251 (Su Only) Warley Eagle Way - Wickford, The Swan. No change remains with **First Essex**.
- 256 (T, Th, S Only) Ramsden Heath, White Horse - Basildon Bus Station **First Essex**. Service withdrawn.
- 269 (M-S) Grays Bus Station - Brentwood High Street. No change remains with **NIBS**.
- 301 (M-S) Bishop's Stortford Interchange - Saffron Walden, Mortimers Gate. Operation passes from **A2B / Stephensons** (short term contract) to **Stephensons**.
- 305 (M-S) Bishop's Stortford Interchange - Stansted Airport. No change remains with **Central Connect**.

306 (Sch Only) Wicken Bonhunt Coach & Horses - Bishop's Stortford Schools. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **Flagfinders**.

313/314 (M-S) Great Dunmow, David Wright Close - Saffron Walden, Mortimers Gate. No change remains with **Stephensons**.

315 (M-S) Bishop's Stortford - Great Hallingbury, circular. No change remains with **Central Connect**.

316/318 (M-S) Saffron Walden Tesco - Stansted Airport Bus Station. Operation passes from **A2B / Stephensons** (short term contract) to **Stephensons**.

319/320/321 (M-S) Audley End Railway Station - Haverhill Bus Station. No change remains with **Stephensons** (who were operating under a short term contract).

325 (M-S) Bishop's Stortford - Little Hallingbury, circular. No change remains with **Central Connect**.

336 (M-S Eve and Su) Chelmsford Bus Station - South Woodham Ferrers Asda. No change remains with **First Essex**.

345 (W only) Fuller Street Square and Compasses - Braintree Village Shopping Centre. Service operated by **First Essex** withdrawn, replaced by **ECC DigiGo** demand responsive service.

351 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Brentwood Railway Station. No change remains with **First Essex**.

371 (M-S Eve) Colchester Bus Station - Chelmsford Bus Station. No change remains with **First Essex**.

418 (M-S Eve) Loughton Station - Epping Hospital. Renumbered **18**. Operation remains with **Central Connect**.

505 (M-S) Harlow Tesco - Waltham Cross Bus Station. No change remains with **Central Connect**.

542/A (M-S) Loughton Station - Debden Station, circular. Renumbered **17/A**, operation remains with **Central Connect**.

552 (M-F Only) Ramsden Heath, White Horse - Billericay Railway Station **First Essex**. Service withdrawn.

565 (M-S) Brentwood High Street - Bulphan Church. No change remains with **NIBS**.

694 (Sch Only) Langham, Birchwood Road - East Bergholt School. Operation passes from **Hedingham** to **First Essex**.

804 (Sch Only) Debden Broadway - Chigwell West Hatch School **NIBS**. Service withdrawn.

B1/B2 (M-S Eve and Su) Basildon Bus Station - Laindon, Fenton Way. No change remains with **First Essex**.

B4 (M-S Eve and Su) Basildon Bus Station - Pitsea Tesco. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C1 (M-S Eve) Great Waltham, Warners Farm - Galleywood, Barnard Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C2 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Broomfield Hospital. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C3 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - North Melbourne, Wickfield Ash. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C4/C5 (M-S Eve) Writtle, Lodge Road - Moulsham, Lodge Heath Drive. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C7 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Galleywood, Watchouse Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C7/C57 (M-S Eve) Chelmsford Bus Station - Galleywood, Watchouse Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.

C56 (Su Only) Chelmsford Bus Station - Galleywood, Watchouse Road **First Essex**. Service withdrawn.

D1 (M-S) Bradwell Bate, Dudley Drive - Maldon Tesco. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **Hedingham**.

D2 (M-S) Southminster Railway Station - Maldon Tesco. Operation passes from **Stephensons** to **Hedingham**.

D4 (M-S) Burnham Clock Tower - Bradwell Waterside **Arrow Taxis**. Service withdrawn, replaced by new service 45.

D5 (M-S) Burnham Clock Tower - South Woodham Ferrers, Tropical Wings **Arrow Taxis**. Service withdrawn, replaced by new service 45.

DaRT 3 (M-S) Braintree Area Demand Responsive Service. Operation remains with **Arrow Taxis**.

DaRT 7 (Tu, Th Only) Epping Forest Demand Responsive Service. Operation remains with **Epping Forest CT**.

DaRT 29 (Tu Only) Saffron Walden Circular via Linton deregistered by **Arrow Taxis** but no information in ECC tender update, further news next month.

DaRT 299 (M-S) Uttlesford Area Demand Responsive Service. Operation passes from **Arrow Taxis** to **Flagfinders**.

F315 (M-S) Sudbury Bus Station - Halstead High Street. Service operated by **Arrow Taxis** withdrawn, replaced by existing **DaRT 3** demand responsive service, operated by **Arrow Taxis**.

HSB01 (W, F Only) Toot Hill Hillcrest Road - Harlow Bus Station. Operation remains with **Epping Forest CT**.

S3 (M-S Eve and Su) Colchester Bus Station - West Bergholt, Queens Head. No change remains with **First Essex**.

S9 (Su Only) Colchester City Centre - Rowhedge Heath Road. No change remains with **First Essex**.

SB21 (M only) Fuller Street, Square and Compasses - Braintree Village Shopping Centre. Service operated by **Arrow Taxis** withdrawn, replaced by **ECC DigiGo** demand responsive service.

SB28 (W Only) Stisted - Braintree Village Shopping Centre. No change remains with **Braintree CT**.

X20 (Su Only) The Colchester Bus Station - Braintree Bus Interchange section (the service continues commercially to Stansted Airport Bus Station). No change remains with **First Essex**.

With thanks to David Edwards and the Omnibus Society.

Adam Kelleher

Acquired Vehicles

33697 SN12 AHC SFD4DSBRFCGX36771 B450/42 H45/30F 06/12 First Games Transport

Alexander Dennis E40D / Enviro 400. Acquired from First Leicester, collected on 28 June 2024 and driven to Chelmsford. This is another vehicle which was part of the batch of 100 Enviro 400s purchased by First Bus as shuttles for the 2012 Olympic Games. After the Games it moved to First Manchester. It was temporarily loaned to Diamond Bus North West in 2019 after their purchase of First's Bolton depot. When it returned to First in May 2020 it moved to First Leicester and received three-tone orange 'Frequent Fourteens' livery. It is planned to be used in service in this livery for a week or so covering for a newer vehicle going to Silverstone to work at the British Grand Prix on 7 July before going for repainting into the new corporate livery.

Further to last month, 33733 entered service after repaint into new corporate livery on 24 June. This bus has (retrofitted) moquette seats.

47461 entered service from Hadleigh on 3 June, the day after its long drive down from Glasgow. However, 47462 failed on the way and remained in Scotland. Its current status is unknown.

47630 and 47633 entered service with First Essex in the week beginning 3 June.

Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School; FG-First Group cascade (to / from another First company); oos-out of service.

Period 2 2024/25 (28 April - 25 May) - additional to EBM 722

32676 CR (oos)-Disposal, 37053 CR (oos)-Disposal

Apologies that these were not reported last month, we didn't get news of these in time before publication.

Period 3 2024/25 (26 May - 29 June)

32526 CR-CR (oos), 32530 CR (oos)-Disposal, 33656 CF (oos)-CF, 33678 CR-CR (oos), 33697 FG-CF (oos), 33718 FG-CR, 33728 FG-CR (oos), 33733 FG-CR, 36216 HH (oos)-HH, 37005 CR (oos)-Disposal, 37010 CR (oos)-Disposal, 37036 CR-CR (oos), 44659 CF (oos)-CF, 47461 FG-HH, 47625 CF-HH, 47630 HH (oos)-HH, 47633 HH (oos)-HH, 63341 CR (oos)-CR, 63381 BN (oos)-BN, 63464 HH-HH (oos), 67192 CR-BN, 67194 BN (oos)-BN, 67197 BN-CR

63341 returned to service on 26 June after being off road since 8 January.

63381 finally entered service with First Essex on 6 June after being acquired from First Hampshire & Dorset on 18 March 2023.

67192 and 67197 swapped depots on 16 June. The former is in Airlink livery, and now that the X20 has the three ex-Norwich Enviro 400 MMCs in this livery, it is no longer required at Colchester so has gone to Basildon for the X10. It has luggage racks, 67197 does not have these. 67197 remains in black ex Chelmsford Park & Ride livery, so may cause some confusion in Colchester with the similar Enviro 200 MMCs used by Arriva on P&R!

Disposals

May 2024: 32676, 37053

5 June 2024: 37005 towed away from Quayside Depot, Colchester by a Trevor Wrigley wrecker.

Also June 2024: 32530, 37010.

Repaints

A correction to EBM 722, 33984 and 33987 were repainted at TVS, Laindon not Mardens.

47630 and 47633 were repainted at Mardens.

33728 and 33733 were repainted at Full Circle, Banham, Norfolk.

Revenue Protection Officers

First Essex (re)introduced Revenue Protection Officers on buses on 17 June 2024.

Around the Depots

(All vehicles listed below allocated to relevant depot except where stated. All dates June 2024.)

Colchester

Further to last month, the reason that 32676 and 37053 were not seen on the scrap line on 30 May was they had been sold (see above). Also now sold are 32530, 37005 and 37010 (also see above). 32672, noted added to the line on 1 June, was back in service two days later. 32547 and 37036 were both added to the line on 8 June, but the former was only temporary and it was back in service three days later. 33689 was moved into the workshop on 13th. 63341 is now finally back in service (see above). It was towed to Great Yarmouth depot to have engine and other work completed as they have spare capacity to carry this work out. 33678 has also been at Great Yarmouth for a new engine. Still on the scrap line on 27 June were 32526, 32532, 32628, 32642, 32669, 37020, 37027, 37035 and 37036.

News of the Harwich routes (1-28 June).

The 102/104 timetable did not change on 2 June, but changes to other services affected the buses allocated to 102/104. The 0830 Colchester - Harwich 104 & 1008 return had been worked by a double-decker off service 88. From 3 June these journeys are now worked by a single-decker off service 86. Also there is much more interworking with other services now. On Mondays to Fridays the buses on 102/104 also work on 71/371, 81A, 83B, 86, 174/175, S4, S6, S7, S8 and S10.

Double-deckers still make a few appearances on 102/104:

One vehicle duty from 0710 Colchester - Harwich 104 to 1645 Colchester - Harwich 104: 37134 (12th), 33669 (13th), 33684 (14th). Another duty is a bus off 320, then working 1725 Colchester - Harwich 104 & 1900 Harwich - Colchester 102: 33713 (3rd, 14th), 33670 (5th), 37613 (12th), 33686 (13th), 33718 (18th), 33663 (28th). Plus 37062 on 2335 Colchester - Harwich 102 (Saturday 1st). 2035 Colchester - Harwich 102 worked by 37062 (19th) 37016 (25th). On 7th, 37007 worked from 1135 Colchester - Harwich 104 to 1615 Harwich - Colchester 104. Lastly, 1552 Colchester Norman Way - Harwich 104 & 1740 return to Bus Station worked by 37054 (26th), 33668 (27th), 33713 (28th).

However, on most days 102/104 are completely single deck operated, with eight buses required on Monday-Friday schooldays. A couple of examples:

20th: 47666, 63328, 63336, 63337, 67197, 69516, 69519, 69520.

21st: 47421, 47430, 47667, 63328, 63330, 63331, 63335, 69517.

Airlink liveried Enviro 200 MMC 67192 worked on 102/104 on 6th, 11th & 12th before its transfer to Basildon. Then its replacement from Basildon, similar but black liveried 67197, worked on 104 on 20th, 25th, 26th.

Clacton routes.

Reported on route 74B this period have been: 32547 (14th), 32672 (13th), 33663 (3rd, 7th), 33668 (20th), 33687 (4th), 33713 (12th), new liveried 33733 (25th), 37016 (21st, 28th), 37036 (7th, its last journeys in service), 37062 (29th), 37134 (22nd), 37135 (26th), 37139 (15th), 47430 (19th), 47669 (6th), 47696 (17th), black 67197 (18th, 24th), 69515 (5th).

Route 76: 47667 (9th), 37613 & 47680 (16th), black 67197 (23rd & 30th).

There should be fewer standard double-deckers on route X20 now that the newly acquired ex-Norwich Enviro 400 MMCs have all been repainted and are all in service, but there are still one or more most days. Noted have been Enviro 400s 33663 (5th-9th, 19th, 21st, 29th), 33668 (5th), 33669 (8th-9th, 11th, 16th, 23rd-24th), 33671 (10th), 33680 (12th, 14th-16th, 21st), 33684 (18th), 33692 (22nd), 33713 (10th-11th, 25th-26th) and new liveried 33733 (24th, 27th) plus Volvo B9TL / Geminis 37140 (16th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 30th) and 37613 (23rd, 26th-27th, 30th).

Single-deckers on route 320: 47666 (23rd), 47697 (24th), 63330 (21st), 67189 (6th), 67190 (28th). 33688 on 82 (11th). 47697 on new route S10 on its first day, 3 June.

On 7 June, Norwich's Wrightbus StreetDeck Electroliner 36580 (BK73 AKU) visited Quayside Depot and was then at the nearby University of Essex, Colchester for filming and publicity work.

Chelmsford

Due to a shortage of serviceable double-deckers, Basildon's 33987, in new livery, was on loan from 5-24 June inclusive. In return, 47604 went on loan to Basildon from the same date, but it was still there on 28th.

Despite the arrival of the three ex Norwich Enviro 400 MMCs, which are principally used on route X30 (see photos opposite), standard examples of the type remain in use on the route, noted have been 33987 (in new livery, on loan from BN, 6th-10th, 12th-13th, 17th-20th), 33994 (6th, 17th, 22nd, 25th), 33995 (10th-11th), 33996 (7th-8th, 21st, 25th-27th), 33997 (3rd-4th, 6th-8th, 11th, 18th, 24th, 27th) and 33998 (8th, 12th-15th, 20th). Also, one Enviro 400, 33714, on 17th.

63335 (11th), 67750 (10th) and 69518 (11th) single-deckers on 372.

44081 (22nd) and 44900 (11th) small and smaller vehicles on 351. 44914 on 332 (9th).

Although the short journeys on route X30 between Chelmsford, Wolsey Park and Rayleigh have now been replaced by an increased through service between Southend and Stansted, some single-deckers have continued to be used at times, mainly from the original batch of X10 and X30 Enviro 200 MMCs. Just a few examples: 67161 (8th), 67162 (5th-6th, 10th), 67163 (8th) and 67164 (15th). More unusual have been 44544 (15th), 69432 (7th, see photo on page 17) and 67737 (22nd).

Basildon

33416, 33574, 44080, 44909, 47649, 47652, 63167, 63343 and 63383 operated on new route B5 on its first day, 3 June. Although the B5 has taken over most of the short journeys on route X10 to Janus House and Festival Leisure Park, there are still some peak hour shorts on the X10 between Basildon and Runwell, and a few just between Wickford Station and Runwell. These can be operated by any vehicles, not just the Enviro 200 MMCs normally allocated to the full route. One rare example was a double-decker, 33549, on 19th.

Airlink liveried vehicles have been appearing on routes 104 & 106 during June, just some examples being 67191 (3rd), 67192 (6th & 21st) and 67193 (4th & 5th). This won't continue for much longer as First Essex have lost these ECC routes from 28 July.

44001 & 44909 (9th) and 44080 (16th) on 251. 44001 on 9 (25th). 44080 on 22 (5th) and 9 (22nd). 67197 on 625 (14th).

With thanks to Robert Appleton, Stephen Barham, Ian Dann, David Edwards, Gareth Norris, John Podgorski, Derek Stebbing, Bustimes, Bus Lists on the Web, Facebook, Essex Buses Google group and Terminus.

Below: On loan from Chelmsford, StreetLite 47604 (SN14 FFJ) on route B2 at the Westley Road turnaround in Langdon Hills on 18 June 2024. This is only the second bus in red shuttles livery to work from Basildon (albeit with Chelmsford logos), following short lived refurbished Volvo 7900 hybrid 69905 (although that never received the yellow lines or branding). **Nick Street**



First Essex News in Pictures

Urban 2 livery Enviro 400 MMCs

Here's an interesting new display seen on white fronted 33996 (SN65 OGM) on route X30 at Southend Travel Centre on 5 June 2024, following the service revisions of 2nd. 'Direct' is hardly correct for Southend to Stansted when it goes through Eastwood, Rayleigh and Chelmsford! This may be the new standard for the slightly faster journeys (i.e. those omitting Broomfield & Dunmow).

Richard Delahoy



As reported last month, lilac fronted 34426 (SN17 MTZ) has lost most of its 'Norwich Network' branding and gained a 'normal' offside advert (replacing the Costessey Park & Ride one). It is seen leaving Chelmsford Bus Station on 29 May 2024.

Robert Appleton

34425 (SN17 MTY), still with full Network Norwich branding and Park & Ride adverts, seen four days previously, also at Chelmsford Bus Station, on route 170.

William Morrison

Both 34424 and 34425 have also since had most of their Norwich branding and the P&R adverts removed.



Whilst Chelmsford's three ex-First Eastern Counties Enviro 400 MMCs (34424-6) remain in as acquired 'Network Norwich' livery, the three at Colchester (34421-3) have all been repainted into Essex Airlink livery for route X20. 34423 (SN17 MTV) was illustrated before repaint at Colchester Station in last month's issue, here are front & rear views of it after repaint, in Colchester High Street on the 1235 Colchester Station - Stansted Airport X20 on 4 June 2024. The X20 uses the Park & Ride bus stop in Colchester High Street.

First Bus's current policy is to repaint cascaded buses if they are in a local livery of the previous operator, but not to repaint them if they are in any type of corporate livery. Thus, of the three Enviro 400s acquired from First Leicester in May reported last month, 33728 and 33733 went for repaint before entering service with First Essex as they were in three-tone orange 'Frequent Fourteens' livery, whereas 33718 was not repainted as it is in Urban livery. This makes sense in reducing the variety of liveries in the fleet, but the downside is that smart, recently repainted vehicles are being repainted again, whereas scruffy vehicles which have never had a repaint in their lives remain un-repainted. 33718 (SN12 AGK), by no means one of the worst examples, illustrates this on route 75 at Colchester Bus Station, also on 4 June.

All this page

Robert Appleton



Enviro 200 MMC 67196 (SN66 WKT) on route X10 turning into Basildon Bus Station on 20 March 2024, already blinded for the return journey to Stansted. Sister 67197, the only other one still in Chelmsford Park & Ride livery, has since transferred from Basildon to Colchester, as reported on page 10.

Tony Gaze



The last day of the very short period of First Essex operation back into Sutherland Boulevard, Leigh (see 'Service Revisions' in EBM 722 for more details). "Leigh, Thames Drive" (thought to last have been shown on Eastern National Leyland PD1 open toppers) is now no longer part of the destination display. 47625 (SN14 DZH) standing on the southbound Sutherland Boulevard stop on 1 June 2024. A photo of this bus when working from Chelmsford was in EBM 721.

John G Lidstone



The StreetLite that did make it down from Glasgow on 2 June! (See page 10.) 47461 (SK63 KKY) is seen on route 27 in London Road, Leigh, the next day. At first sight the StreetLites in these two photos look identical, but compare the roof pods.

John G Lidstone





Two StreetLites in the new livery. 63343 (SM65 EFB) **above** on route B1 in Durham Road, Laindon, on 1 June 2024, still awaiting stripes and fleet names. This was repainted at ADL and the purple below the windscreen fills more of the panel than on 47630 (SN15 ADU) (**below** on route 28 turning into Basildon Bus Station on 5 June) which was repainted at Mardens and the purple is more curved at the bottom. On 47630, black vinyl has been applied to the bottom of the windscreen to facilitate the placing of a white 'f' symbol, but, as can be seen in the photo of 63343, part of the panelling behind the windscreen is also black, and so it gives the impression that the vinyl hasn't been applied straight. It needs to be slightly higher to eliminate this problem.

Both **Nick Street**. A photo of 47630 in Manchester Bee Network yellow and black was in last month's issue.





Above: The same two StreetLites in Basildon Bus Station on 5 June, providing a good comparison of the darker shade of purple in the new livery compared to that on Urban and Urban 2, and also the green that has been superseded. The photo also provides a comparison of small and large "W" vents on the rear of StreetLites and no vents at all. From left to right, 63343 (SM65 EFB), unknown (in Urban livery), 47595 (SN14 FEU), 47630 (SN15 ADU), 63064 (SK63 KKE), Enviro 400 MMC 33981 (SN65 OFW) in Urban 2 livery, 63170 (SN64 CJX), then two unknown Enviro 400s, the first in Urban livery. **Nick Street**

Below: Further to page 13, another Urban 2 liveried vehicle on route X30, and another ex-First Eastern Counties vehicle, but an unusual Volvo B7RLE / WrightBus Eclipse Urban, 69432 (AU58 FFV). Passing Southend Victoria Station on 7 June 2024. **Matthew Evans.**



Acquired Vehicles

831 YN57 FJY Scania N270UD / East Lancs OmniDekka H47/28F Ex Brighton & Hove 678

Named "Jack Howe". This brings the total of these vehicles received from B&H in the last three months to eight (see also EBM's 721 and 722). However, it has been reported that on inspection one or two of these have been rejected for use due to their condition and have been returned to B&H. As of 27 June, those in regular service were 825 (this is now known to be the fleet number for YN07 UOG, see photo on opposite page), 826, 828, 830, 831 and 832.

Vehicles Withdrawn - status update

287 HW54 BUE at rear of HD yard - appears now out of use although still complete.
 510 LB02 YWX at rear of HD yard - complete and mobile but does not appear to be in use.
 511 LB02 YWY in main depot but does not appear to be in use.
 512 LB02 YXA at rear of HD yard - blocked in by 287 & 510, does not appear to be in use.
 517 LX05 EZR in depot at HD but seemingly not used in service since early 2024.
 525 LX05 EZH as reported in EBM 722, withdrawn - being cannibalised for parts.

287/510/512/517/525 did not have ticket machines fitted, 511 could not be verified.

Then on the morning of 26 June, Scania N230UD / Optare Olympus 876 (PN09 ENF) was destroyed by fire on the A14 west of Bury St Edmunds whilst on a school service. Appliances from Newmarket and Bury St Edmunds attended but the bus was completely burnt out. The children on the bus were evacuated to safety and a replacement bus was sent to complete the journey.

Significant Allocations

520 CN - KN by 16 May (at HD by 16 June but not in service until 28th)
 521 CN - KN by 17 May until 21 May, replaced in use by 528
 528 CN - KN by 22 May, returned to CN by 8 June
 533 KN - CN by 8 June
 535 CN - KN by 8 June
 825 SYu - CN working on service 76 by 4 June
 831 acq - CN working on services 76X & 74 on 26 June

Fleet News

Vehicles long-term off-road June 2024: 258/276/287/457/458/510/511/512/517/521/524/875.
 The aim appears to be to gradually remove the 02 and 05 plate Wrightbus Gemini B7TLs from service.

Like last year (see photo in EBM 711) open top Volvo B7TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 502 (LF52 ZNE) was on loan to Konectbus for a couple of days for use on the special X4 service from Norwich Bus Station to Norfolk Showground for the Royal Norfolk Show, first seen on 26 June.

Other News

Go East Anglia Managing Director Gavin Smith left the role on Friday 14 June to take on leading the Kent Fastrack operations. Gavin had joined Go Ahead East Anglia in July 2022 and was well respected. He is being replaced by Rupert Cox who is currently working in Business Development in Go Ahead East Anglia and becomes interim MD. See <https://tinyurl.com/2j6fsr9c> for more info.

With thanks to Dave Arnold, John Podgorski & the Hedingham website.

Right: The Group organised a tour to the Sible Hedingham depot on 16 June, a report is on pages 30-31. The livery of ADL Dart 259 (EU56 FLP) is a link to Donald MacGregor's days, although it is expected to be withdrawn soon as more ADL Enviro 200s arrive. **Mark Lloyd**



Below: Hedingham 825 (YN07 UOG) in Colchester High Street on 4 June 2024 working Colchester - Clacton 76X. Still in Brighton & Hove livery, and retaining its 'John Constable' name.

The famous artist John Constable was born in East Bergholt in 1776 and grew up there. Later, whilst living in Hampstead, London, he returned regularly to the Dedham Vale area of East Bergholt, Flatford, and Dedham, this area was the inspiration for his landscape paintings. He married Maria Bicknell in 1816. In 1824 he moved his family to Brighton for the sake of Maria's health. Sadly Maria died of tuberculosis in 1828 and John Constable and his young family moved back to Hampstead. So this explains the Brighton connection, 1824 to 1828, for John Constable. It would be good if one day 825 worked school contract 694, Langham - East Bergholt High School!

Robert Appleton



Congratulations!

We are delighted to congratulate Bill Hiron, Chairman of Stephensons, NIBS and Galloway, on being awarded an MBE in the King’s Birthday Honours, for services to Passenger Transport. He is also Chairman of ALBUM (the Association of Local Bus Managers) and a past-president of the overall trade body CPT.

New Vehicles

The first two of the order for five ADL E40D / Enviro 400 MMC double-deckers arrived on 19 June 2024, they are registered EU24 LWT/V (maintaining the Stephensons’ tradition of having Essex marks on new buses). A further one arrived the next day, but this is expected to be stored until receiving a 74 registration in September. The final pair are due in August. Photos on front cover and page 1.

Acquired Vehicles

Further to EBM’s 720 & 722, the first of the three Scania N230UD / ADL Enviro 400s acquired from Lloyds of Machynlleth, 612 (SN15 ETE), entered service from Rochford depot on 17 June. It has not been repainted and retains Traws Cymru livery, comprising green below the lower deck windows (very similar to Stephensons’ green) and white above, with Traws Cymru route branding removed (although there is still some “ghosting”). The upstairs rear window retains symbols indicating connections between walking, buses, trains and aircraft from its days in Wales. It is seen **opposite** in Chichester Road, Southend, on route 24 (unfortunately the blind did not come out in the photo) on its first day of service.

Optare Solos

Updating previous notes, 325/7 are not withdrawn but continue in service, as does 326, previously reported as being in the reserve fleet. However 324 (EU07 FVO) is now withdrawn.

Operations

The expected peak vehicle requirement from September onwards, reflecting contract changes, is as follows:

Depot	Double-deckers	Single-deckers	Total	Depot/area total
Rochford	6	4	10	
spares	2		2	12
Boreham	9	12	21	
Braintree	6	4	10	
Maldon	6	5	11	
Frating	9	1	10	
spares	6	5	11	63
Haverhill	8	11	19	
spares	2	3	5	24
Ely (incl. spares)	2	5	7	7
NIBS	12	11	23	
spares	2	2	4	27
Total PVR	70	63	133	133
Reserves	2	2	4	4
Grand totals	72	65	137	137

Double-deckers comprise Scania’s and ADL Enviro 400s (plus one Volvo); single-deckers comprise ADL Enviro 200s and Optare Solos plus one Volvo coach (at Boreham).

Ticketing

Not previously reported, Stephensons Haverhill depot was converted to TransMach ETMs last year, joining the NIBS operations in using these machines; the rest of Stephensons operations remain on Ticketer.

With thanks to Matthew Evans and the companies.



Stephensons Scania N230UD / ADL Enviro 400s with Welsh Connections

Above: 612 on 17 June in Southend. **Matthew Evans.** Details on previous page.

Below: Scania N230UD / Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 609 (CY12 EMS) on route 11 in Drummer Street, Cambridge on 6 June 2024. One of a pair bought from Express Motors, Penygroes in 2018. **Terry Torch**



Company Name

Further to last month, 'Central Connect Essex and Hertfordshire' will cover those two counties (uniting the existing Central Connect operation based at Harlow and Stansted with the Vectare Rettendon depot) with 'Central Connect East of England' serving Cambridgeshire, Rutland, Norfolk and Peterborough while 'Central Connect East Midlands' will cover Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire and Leicestershire. A name that started out a few years ago as route branding on a few buses from Ongar to Harlow **connecting** with the **Central** line at Epping has spread far beyond its modest introduction!

New Vehicles

357-371 (YY24 HBA/B/C/D/E/F/G/H/J/K/L/N/O/P/U), ADL E20D / Enviro 200 MMC 8.9m, June 2024

They are in the new Central Connect livery. They have initially been delivered to Simonds, Diss as they have the facilities to process them, but the majority of the fifteen are for Essex operations (there won't be a fixed allocation as all vehicles work across all depots from time to time). **Below:** left to right - not clear, 369, 371, 368, 370.

Bottom: 357, 358, 359. Both photos at Simonds, both **Omar Atiallah**.



The first two entered service on 25 July, 370 on Nottingham Hospital Shuttles and 371 on 35 group (Bishop's Stortford-Hertford).

Two double-deckers are due in July, these are conversions from ADL retail stock. Another nine are due in January 2025 which will be bespoke builds for the company.

Some notable features on the new buses (both single and double deck) include USB-C charging sockets (in addition to USB-A), flat cab doors with no running card holder or bottle holder (as they become full of litter!), large litter bins (on both decks of the double-deckers) and standard upgraded interior with high back seats, wood effect floors, etc. All will also have driver air conditioning, a substantial extra expense, but something the company believes to be very worthwhile from a colleague wellbeing perspective.

Disposals

Further to the reports of Enviro 200 MMCs 331-340 in EBM's 721 & 722, 331, 332, 334, 336 (YX22 OKA/B/D, YX72 ONA) to Red Rose Travel, Aylesbury.

Other Vehicle News

Accident victim Enviro 200 MMC 320 (SN16 OVP) has been repaired and has returned to service.

Services

From 28 July, many Vectare services are being deregistered and reregistered under the Central Connect name. Contract changes from that date are listed under 'Service Revisions' above.

With thanks to Omar Atiallah, Peter Nathanail and LOTS.

Below: The decision to rebrand as Central Connect is not likely to affect the local authority operations such as Novus Direct in Leicestershire that have their own branding. Pictured at the huge housing development at New Lubberthorpe is Mercedes-Benz Sprinter / EVM Cityline 211 (RF68 FMC) ready to return to Leicester City Centre on route ND on 3 June 2024. Although this particular bus has not operated in Essex, similar ones in the batch 200-223 have. **Owen Woodliffe**





Ian Ransom

Mercedes-Benz Sprinter SN05 FCF, previously DB54 PAN, has been scrapped by Whip Street Motors, Ipswich.

Dennis Dart / Alexander Dash P390 LPS, at one time BIG 8843, and previously with former Essex operator Regal Busways, has been sold to Shelton Motors for scrap.

Former Eastern National Leyland Olympian / ECW coach D511 PPU has been sold to a private buyer.

Former Central Connect Enviro 200 LJ57 USU has been re panelled and sprayed white, it now has an MoT and awaits sale.

With thanks to Adam Barham.



Richard Delahoy

Corporate News

The planned acquisition of the whole of the Arriva Group from Deutsche Bahn by I Squared Capital, a leading independent global infrastructure investor, was completed on 3 June 2024. I Squared has stated that it "commits to provide significant long-term capital to support growth and decarbonisation". No immediate changes are expected to Arriva's bus operations in the UK as a consequence of the takeover.

Southend & Colchester

VDL SB200 / Wrightbus Pulsar 2 3779 returned from Colchester to Southend on 22 June.

Harlow

Further to the note last month of Optare Solo 2482 (YJ07 VRF), which moved from Harlow to Ware last July, being disposed of, it went to Shelton Motors for scrap in April 2024.

Other Operators

Roger A Smith

A2B, Cambridge

Enviro 200 MMC YX68 UJT was completely destroyed by fire on the B1383 Cambridge Road, Quendon, whilst on route 301 to Bishop's Stortford on the afternoon of 25 June 2024. Thankfully, those on board got off safely. Ironically, A2B are ceasing their temporary part operation of this route from the ECC contract changes of 28 July.

Opposite Page

Top: A surprise sighting at the BP filling station in South Woodham Ferrers on 10 June 2024 was this Volvo B5TL / Wrightbus part open topper, 232 (SJ16 CTU) in the Edinburgh Bus Tours fleet. We are unsure what it is doing in Essex but most likely for conversion to electric propulsion by Kleanbus, a company based at Stud Farm, Mundon Road, Maldon, which converts diesel buses into electric-powered vehicles using a prefabricated drive train. More information would be welcomed! **Bill Hiron**

Bottom: Transport of Essex W26 WWW, a MAN TGL 12.250 MOBIPeople Midi Explorer, C41F, at Tesco at the Brookfield Centre, Cheshunt on 19 March 2024. Previously with Clarke's Minibuses, Biddenden, but new in April 2015 to short-lived Jersey operator Centurion Coaches of St Clement as J124143 in an all-black livery. **Allan White**



Disposal

Further to EBM 721, open top Dennis Trident / Alexander ALX 400 339 (32721, TSU 639) was sold to Xquisite Productions, Redhill, Surrey in April 2024. It is expected that it will revert to its original registration of T678 KPU with its current registration returning to Ensignbus.

Repaints

In EBM 721 it was reported that Volvo B9TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 2 128 (36317, LX15 GOP) was currently SORN, and was last used in service on 8 March 2023. It returned to service at the end of May 2024 having been repainted at Mardens into the revised livery of blue and grey with black wheels.

Open top Volvo B9TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 366 (37408, MX58 DXV) has now received route 99 'Bubblegum Beachcomber' blue and cream livery (also at Mardens; a different shade from Ensignbus's normal blue) and entered service on route 99 on 22 June. See photos on rear cover.

Other News

Red and cream 99 branded open top 364 has been a regular on route 68 on weekends during June, its red livery partly matches the normal buses used on the route. More unusual was green and cream 365 on 68 for the first time on 22nd.

The Newman Family's RT8 was used on Londoner Buses commercial route T15 on the weekend of 18-19 May.

With thanks to John Lidstone, LOTS and Mardens.

Below: A convoy of Newman Family vehicles, consisting of 543 CLT, MRJ 233W, JXC 194, DUF 179, J6332, BDJ 807 and VLT 25, left Purfleet for the last time on Sunday 23 June on their way to storage. They are seen below on the A13 at Bowers Gifford. This was followed by further moves during the week with the majority of Newman vehicles all due to be gone from Purfleet by the end of June. **John G Lidstone**



This month marks the 120th anniversary of the start of municipal passenger transport in Colchester. Like many municipalities, Colchester started with trams, with a system of four routes that commenced on 28 July 1904. Radiating from the High Street, the routes served Lexden, North Station, East Gates and Hythe; a fifth route to the Recreation Ground started on 24 January 1906. There were a total of 16 double deck trams for the 3' 6" gauge system but it was a relatively early casualty, being closed between May 1928 and December 1929. Interestingly, Colchester had obtained powers to operate trolleybuses for tram replacement but in the event went straight to motor buses.

Right: This poster announced the first tram replacement bus services, in place of (and extending) the East Gates tram route from 21 May 1928.
Courtesy **David Reynolds**

The initial fleet of motor buses new in 1928/9 were all by Dennis, a mix of E, EV, G, H & HS models, bodied by Strachan & Brown (the final two by Strachans). Seven were double-deckers, the rest saloons, a mix of small 20-seaters and dual-door 32-seaters. From 1933 until the early post-war period, there were seven bus routes, most extending beyond the former tram termini. As the town expanded so routes were extended, and from December 1966 extended beyond the Borough boundary to Stanway (Five Ways Estate).

COLCHESTER CORPORATION OMNIBUS SERVICES.

PROVISIONAL TIME TABLE.

COMMENCING MAY 21st. 1928.

Weekdays.		Weekdays.		FARES AND STAGES.		Sundays.		Sundays.	
Parsons Heath to Shrub End (Via MALDON ROAD)		Greenstead Road (Hythe Station Road) to Drury Hotel (Via BUTT ROAD)		Parsons Heath to Shrub End (Via MALDON ROAD)		Greenstead Road (Hythe Station Road) to Drury Hotel (Via BUTT ROAD)		Parsons Heath to Shrub End (Via MALDON ROAD)	
Parsons Heath	Shrub End	Greenstead Road	Drury Hotel	Parsons Heath	Shrub End	Greenstead Road	Drury Hotel	Parsons Heath	Shrub End
8.00	8.15	8.00	8.15	8.00	8.15	8.00	8.15	8.00	8.15
8.30	8.45	8.30	8.45	8.30	8.45	8.30	8.45	8.30	8.45
9.00	9.15	9.00	9.15	9.00	9.15	9.00	9.15	9.00	9.15
9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45
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10.30	10.45	10.30	10.45	10.30	10.45	10.30	10.45	10.30	10.45
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2.00	2.15	2.00	2.15	2.00	2.15	2.00	2.15	2.00	2.15
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4.30	4.45	4.30	4.45	4.30	4.45	4.30	4.45	4.30	4.45
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6.30	6.45	6.30	6.45	6.30	6.45	6.30	6.45	6.30	6.45
7.00	7.15	7.00	7.15	7.00	7.15	7.00	7.15	7.00	7.15
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9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45	9.30	9.45
10.00	10.15	10.00	10.15	10.00	10.15	10.00	10.15	10.00	10.1

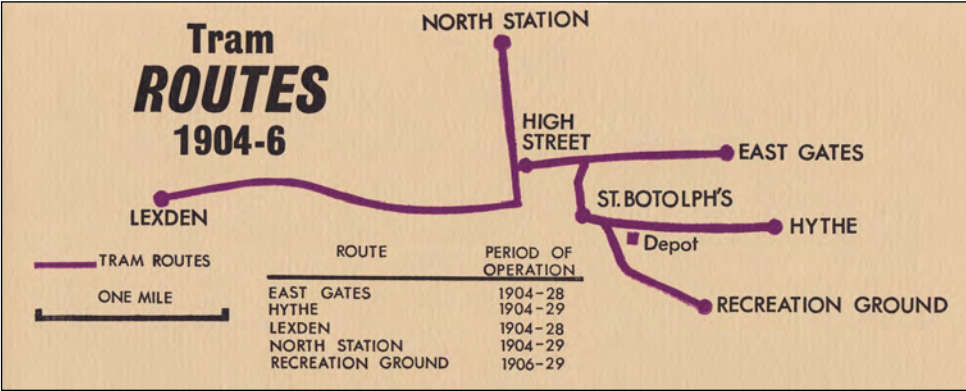
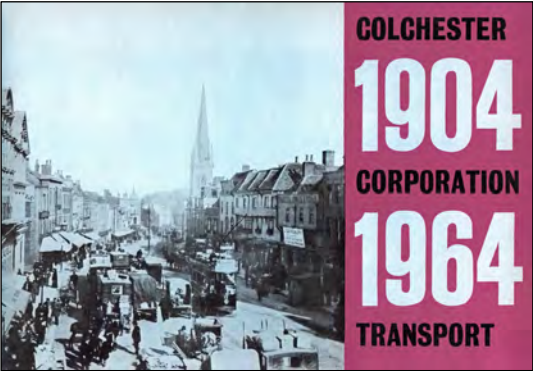


A number of anniversary dates have been celebrated over the years.

1954 - Golden Jubilee. All Crossley DD42 number 9 (TVX 497) was specially liveried / decorated as seen **above**, on route 7 in Head Street on 14 May 1956. **Frank Church**

1964 - 60th anniversary, with an exhibition, commemorative booklet and specially decorated AEC Regent 22 (see EBM Extra 5, January 2024). **Right:** Booklet cover.

Below: Tram routes as illustrated in the Golden Jubilee booklet.



1979 - Leyland Atlantean / ECW 75 in a special livery to mark the 75th anniversary (see photo below).

Sadly, it seems very unlikely that the 120th anniversary will be marked other than here in Essex Bus Magazine.



Above: Recalling one of the original tram routes, Bristol K6A / Duple 48 (KEV 625) on route 1 to Layer Road in decidedly rural looking surroundings. **EBEG collection**

Below: 75 (TPU 75R) leaving Colchester Bus Station on route 2, another route that has its origins in the original tram network, in this case the North Station route. **EBEG collection**



A small group of EBEG members enjoyed a visit to the original depot of Hedingham & District (later Hedingham Omnibuses) in Sible Hedingham on 16 June 2024. Hosted by Robert MacGregor, the visit celebrated what would have been his late father Donald MacGregor's 94th birthday, appropriately on Fathers' Day. "Mr Mac" as he was affectionately known, had bought the business of a small independent bus operator, Aubrey Letch, on 4 June 1960, paying £3,000 for the business which had operated from the site on the outskirts of Sible Hedingham since around 1947. The purchase was funded by a loan from the Westminster Bank, with Donald's grandfather standing as guarantor.

We'll be telling the story of the Letch business in EBM Extra 7, due out this autumn, and will follow up next year with more on the early days of Hedingham & District.

Robert explained how Aubrey Letch had acquired the depot site, which had originally been Longthorne's brickworks and subsequently a poultry farm (Nathan's Farm). The site had a small building which had been built around 1919/20 but was rebuilt in 1947 by Letch, where maintenance could be carried out, and included a substantial house, in which Mr Mac established his original office. The house was sold in 1965 and in 1970 a new office was built at the entrance to the depot site; we were able to go inside and learn something of the history of the business. At the same time a substantial garage building was erected and is still in use today. Mr Mac's thinking had obviously moved on since he had been interviewed by *Bus & Coach* magazine in their November 1961 issue, the author, John Aldridge, remarking that "Although he would like to build premises which could take a couple of buses under cover for servicing, painting, etc, he does not believe in the extravagance of covered accommodation for all vehicles!"

We are very grateful to Robert MacGregor and to engineer Paul Clarke, who has 41 years of service with the business, much of it at Sible Hedingham, but today at the Sudbury depot, for inviting us to the depot to mark where the Hedingham & District business began. Thanks also to Nigel Turner for some historical material.

Above Right: part of the original building with HO logo in the brickwork.

Below: Close up of Hedingham name in the brickwork at the entrance.





Above: The entrance to the depot, showing the office building at the front.

Below: The original part of garage, which can only accommodate single-deckers (with roof partly demolished by a double-decker that tried to use this area!). Former Go South West Enviro 200s 236 (YY64 TXR) and 234 (YY64 TXO), still in all red Transport for Cornwall livery. All photos **Richard Delahoy**



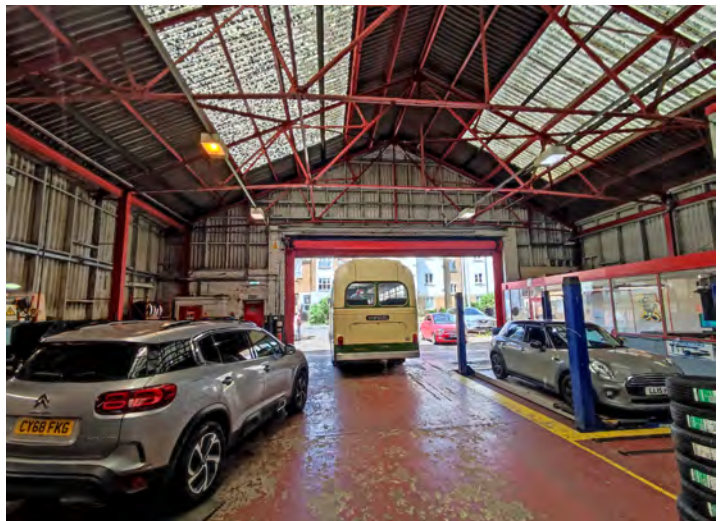
EN Bishop's Stortford Garage Reunion Colin Hodgin



A small reunion of staff from the old Eastern National Bishop's Stortford garage in South Street was held on 18 June 2024. This year also marks 50 years since I joined ENOC as a conductor. Many thanks to Craig, the manager of 'National Tyres and Autocar' who now occupy the building, for allowing us to park up and take photos of our old work place. Huge thanks also to Nigel Furness for letting me borrow his 1966 Bristol / ECW MW HHW 452D, ex Bristol Omnibus Company, for the occasion.

Above: in front of the MW and the garage, left to right: myself, Sue Kelly, Mick Saban, Brian Kelly, Chris Bell, Jane Kail, Paul Stavrou, Peter Carr, Phil Covington, Phil Wood and Sandra Saban. Ex Bishop's Stortford staff and their wives along with Phil Covington and Chris Bell ex Chelmsford. Kindly taken by a passerby with my camera.

Right: An MW, albeit not an Eastern National one, back inside the former garage.
Colin Hodgin



More Ensignbus Open Toppers

Following on from photos in the last two issues.

Right: As reported last month, Volvo B7L / Ayats 370 (EU05 VBL) was repainted at Mardens in May, changes include the new grey instead of silver, and black wheels instead of red. The Volvo badge beneath the windscreen remains, but the Ayats badge below that has been removed and replaced with an Ensignbus fleet name. It no longer has a small white fleet name above the windscreen or the super rear advert for route 68. Seen on its delivery run back to Purfleet on 15 May 2024. Photos of 370 in its previous livery were in EBN 684 (April 2021) with a rear view in EBM 689 (September 2021).



Below: As reported on page 26, route 99 branded 364 (MX58 DXS) has been used on route 68 during June. It is seen on the cliffs above Chalkwell, with the pier and estuary as a backdrop, on the last trip of the day on 22nd. The 'Sutherland Boulevard' destination is only displayed on this last, extended, trip.

Rear Cover: As also reported on page 26, the third of the ex-First Eastern Counties open top Volvo B9TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini, 366 (MX58 DXV), has now received route 99 'Bubblegum Beachcomber' blue and cream livery and entered service on route 99 on 22 June.

Top: 366 just as it was nearing completion at Mardens on 10 June (no fleet numbers or wheel trims, still with orange LED blinds and with some minor adjustments to be made). Displaying 'Great Yarmouth' from its former owner on the blinds, although it was not an open topper at FEC, being converted after acquisition by Ensignbus.

Bottom: 366, now with white LED blinds, on route 99 on its first day of service, at Maplin Way on the seafront at Thorpe Bay. All **John G Lidstone**





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