

# Essex Bus News

**No. 644; DECEMBER 2017**



**Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**

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<<< Upper picture

First Essex 69912, BV13 ZBT in the new livery at Lakeside on 2 December.

Sparkling clean when it left the depot, it doesn't take long for the road grime to gather in the gloomy winter weather!

**Dave Arnold.**



lower picture

"I received my copy of EBN643 yesterday and noticed the comment in the EOS news that PN02 ULY was "last seen in service on 20 October, the first reported sighting of it in service since 24 January". I was sure I had photographed it in May and find that was the case - see attached picture at Loughton on 10 May 2017. I was principally there to capture the 677 school operation on which Stagecoach 10315 was in use as seen. The original plan also included the proposed run over route 38A by RTs as part of the 3RT3 70th anniversary commemoration. It was a pity that was aborted because the road markings had been removed from a long section of the High Road approaching Loughton, which would have been more in keeping with 1947."

**Andrew Colebourne.**

## Front Cover Picture.

On Sunday 26 November, NIBS provided a bus link from The Wick estate to and from Wickford (Swan) for the town's Christmas Market. Scania YN08 OCR was in suitably festive mood (driven by the photographer!).

**Chris Stewart.**

EBN644ifc

# Essex Bus News 644

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

Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickinghall, DISS, IP22 1EN,  
Using the order form available on-line at:  
<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

# December 2017

## **Welcome to new member:**

**Dr Tom Deakin**      Worksop      1124

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        | vacant.          |

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

## **Subscriptions held for yet another year!**

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.

## **Data Protection Act**

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

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## **Reports and observations**

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

The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.

Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors published.

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# 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. There is a small car park on site, other public ones nearby.

Tea and coffee making facilities. For those who need other refreshment, there are plenty of excellent pubs and eating establishments nearby. 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 21 December Richard Delahoy** Slide show "Twenty Years Ago" and mince pies!

**Thursday 25 January 2018 Martin Weyell** Colour slides from the John Boylett collection.

Also, 22 February, 22 March, 26 April, 24 May, 28 June, 26 July, 27 September, 25 October, 22 November, 13 December.

## 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 12 January 2018 Fred Lawrance** The North East.

**Friday 9 February 2018 Tony Melia** Illustrated talk 'My time at Crossley Motors'.

**Friday 9 March 2018 Alan Osborne**

**Friday 13 April 2018 Owen Woodliffe**

Also for 2018: 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October, 9 November, 14 December.

## A Blast From The Past

Paul Harvey.



Eastern National 3048 Bristol VRT ECW JNO 189N seen at the 1980 Ipswich Transport Rally in the 50 years of Eastern National livery.

Paul Harvey.

EBN644p2

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

## EVENTS

**Saturday 30 December**  
**Saturday 6 January 2018**  
**Friday 26 January**  
**Saturday 17 February**  
**Saturday 7 April**

20 years of Nu-Venture, Rochester Coach Park.  
Chiswick Collectors Fair, Chiswick Town Hall, High Rd. W4  
Depot Discovery Tours, Acton. [bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk](mailto:bookings@ltmuseum.co.uk)  
Enfield Transport Bazaar, St Pauls Centre, Church St.  
SE Bus Festival, Kent Showground, Detling.

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 or altered.

## Membership subscriptions – Richard Delahoy.

As we went to press, the vast majority of members have already renewed for 2018 – thank you! If however you are one of the few who has yet to do so, this will be your LAST copy of EBN, if we don't receive your subscription by the year-end. You can still renew in one of four ways:

- 1) Return the slip enclosed in October's EBN with your payment by cheque or postal order for £21 payable to EBEG (address on page 1);
- 2) Pay by direct bank transfer (BACS) to Santander a/c 09-06-66, 42118196, £21 – please quote your full name as a reference;
- 3) Pay £21.90 by PayPal (the extra 90p is to cover the fee that PayPal deducts) to [admin@signal-training.com](mailto:admin@signal-training.com);
- 4) Pay in cash at one of our meetings.

However, if you don't plan to renew, we'd appreciate a brief e-mail or letter to advise us – contact the membership secretary, details on page 1.



Essex C. C. route 381 has been altered since their Community Link took over from Regal. Mercedes WR58 LJJ, on its first day in service on the route and apparently now to be the regular bus, waits to depart at midday from Coopersale on 30 November.

**Owen Woodliffe.**

EBN644p3

# NDL 652R's ticket to Ryde;

Chris Stewart.

Southern Vectis (SVOC) amassed a fleet of 96 Lodekkas between 1954 and 1967, following on from which they were fairly quick to buy a pair of Bristol VRs in 1969 (622/3: NDL 490/1G). Three VRs due in 1970 were instead diverted to City of Oxford so the next arrivals were Series II flat front examples, SVOC going on to operate 83 VRs in total. 652 was the first of a batch of five such buses (652-6: NDL 652-6R) which arrived in 1976, but along with 653/4 it wasn't licensed until 1 January 1977. Initially allocated to Shanklin, a three way move in 1979 saw 652 move to Newport where it stayed (Shanklin depot closing in 1984). On second repaint in 1986 652 gained the mint green and green beige livery adopted in the run-up to a management buy-out that year and it is this livery to which it has recently been restored.

Following withdrawal, 652 left the Isle of Wight on the 1100 ferry on 5 March 1990 along with 650/651 for PVS, Carlton (dealers). 652 passed from them to Cambus, Cambridge but records suggest it wasn't used there, passing to Clark (dealer) of Barnsley and then Glynne Pegg of Rotherham in April 1990. 652 was working for Rotherham and District by May 1990 and Yorkshire Terrier, Sheffield by November. Passing to Wigley (dealer) of Carlton, 652 then headed for Essex having been acquired by W H Nelson (Coaches) Ltd of Wickford, better known as NIBS, on 19 March 1991. First repainted all-over yellow, 652 later gained the half yellow/half white livery which it retained until withdrawal by NIBS in December 2005 (having spent almost exactly as long with NIBS as it had with SVOC). 652 had last been used in March or April 2005, followed by a short period on loan to Stansted Transit and retention as a spare bus, this and LFJ 855W being the last of several VRs operated by NIBS.

Steve Nelson of NIBS kindly facilitated purchase by John and Chris Stewart after withdrawal. 652 was kept at Denyer Bros' yard in Standon Massey near Ongar, Essex for five years and taken to events (including Canvey) in 'as withdrawn' condition. Eventually John and Chris decided to bite the bullet and 652 moved to Norfolk for initial restoration work by John Ives in 2010. Much work was done there, including re-panelling and glass fibre repair, but this stalled in 2015, by which time all the windows had been removed preparatory to a repaint.

Eventually, 652 was moved (under tow) to Yorkshire in August 2016, where considerable further body preparation work was undertaken by Ashley Blackman prior to a full repaint (brush painted - like EN, Southern Vectis never spray painted vehicles) and the application of vinyls produced by Impact Signs of Colchester. With an MOT obtained successfully in December 2016, 652 moved back down south for further restoration, initially to Norfolk and then Essex. The annual 'Beer, Buses and Walks' weekend on 14/15 October 2017 became the target to get the bus ready and we were largely successful in keeping the repaint a surprise. The weekend was not without its difficulties (mainly overheating problems) but 652 made it back to the Island via the Fishbourne ferry on 12 October 2017, for the first time in 27 years, and undertook several well-laden trips as well as a private visit to Shanklin Esplanade and 'Bus Station' (outside the site of the old depot).



Outside Chelmsford station on 28 April 2002 in the company of First Essex 3219 (VTH 941T), 652 waits on rail replacement duty between Chelmsford and Romford. Not only was I driving 652 and subsequently became part owner, but also for some years I had a share in the ownership of 3219 (which is now with a preservationist in Gloucestershire).

Chris Stewart.

EBN644p4



top picture Back on the Isle of Wight after an absence of 27 years, 652 is seen on Shanklin Esplanade with the iconic cliff lift in the background on 13 October. **Chris Stewart.**

Lower picture Working hard on the 'Beer, Buses and Walks' weekend, 652 loads at the Sun Inn at Hulverstone whilst performing a circular trip from Newport to Yarmouth and back. **Chris Stewart.**



## SCT Memories - The 1967 Bus Strike: Part Two, by Paul Bateson.

Another of my memories is that I regularly drove Service 3 to and from Canvey, ensuring that I picked up all waiting passengers. This resulted in a Lowlander full of standing passengers on both decks as I went along Benfleet Road. The Union complained to the Police and in turn I was instructed not to carry standing passengers on the upper deck. The next day I did leave passengers behind as a result. As this bothered me, the following day I seem to recall that I crammed everyone on board but with the polite and jovial instruction, "Please do not stand on the top deck. Sit on someone's knee and be friendly. I want to get you all on board!" As it was still dark on this morning trip, I also made sure the interior lights were switched off each time I passed the Police Station! This seemed to work. Leaving Canvey, I caught the school traffic and I actually carried over 100 school children by the time I reached Canvey, Haystack. With no power steering, it was quite an effort making turns!

After a few days of the strike special cards were displayed on hired vehicles showing the service number and terminals. These were yellow with black lettering. Until the strike, it was considered that normal high-bridge buses could not be safely operated under the High Street railway bridge in Southend. In the turmoil, a Broadway RT was allocated to service 29 and almost immediately Super Coaches commenced operating ex-London Transport double-deckers under the bridge.



picture The Thatched House Group provided VDY 466, a Duple Firefly-bodied Bedford. It was seen boarding passengers at the London Road (South) bus stop in Southend on 29 November 1967. **Paul Bateson.**

### The following operators provided vehicles for stage work:

**Brightways, Southend.** This operator had recently taken over the business of Caten and owned three coaches. It generally provided two coaches. (8.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Broadway, Wickford** provided its three ex-London Transport double-deckers. An RT (brown and cream), RTL (ex-London red) and RTW (brown and cream). A coach was also operated on the first day. (7.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Button, Hadleigh (Daws Heath)** was a one coach operator. (14.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Cook, Leigh-on-Sea (Highways)** was another one-coach operator. (10.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Dover, Brentwood** (Midas) usually operated an ex-Silver Star Leyland Atlantean in red livery on Service 3 and two coaches, one regularly on Service 23. (7.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Essex Coachways, Stratford** provided two coaches reinforced on Saturdays by an ex-Wilts and Dorset Bristol KS still in red livery. (8.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Kirby, Rayleigh** operated up to four coaches. (16.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Leighton, Barking and Ellis, Barking (Thatched House Group)** provided eight coaches, six of which operated regularly on Service 3 and two on Service 8. Occasionally vehicles were sub-hired from other east London coach operators. (22.11.67 – 16.12.67).



picture Former Tyneside GTY 170 is shown on the forecourt at Southend, Central Station on 25 November 1967. That's Malcolm Morgan, SCT Traffic Clerk, alighting after a spell as a Conductor. **Paul Bateson.**

**Parsons, Wood Green (A.1)** generally provided one coach. (11.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Pathfinder, Chadwell Heath** supplied two coaches, regularly used on Service 6A. (27.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Reliance, South Benfleet** generally provided one of its coaches. (7.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Snow, Great Wakering (Cheldon)** provided one coach on the first day only. (7.11.67).

**Super, Upminster** generally concentrated on its own service (17) but appeared on Service 23 on the first day. (7.11.67).

**Thorn, Rayleigh** generally operated three coaches, one sub-hired from Stock, Hockley (Rayleigh Grey). (14.11.67 – 16.12.67).

# SCT Memories - The 1967 Bus Strike: Part Two concluded, by Paul Bateson.

**Wells, Hatfield Peverel** provided two double-deckers on Saturdays, an ex-Aldershot and District Dennis Lance and an ex-Tyneside Leyland PD2, both in original livery. It also provided coaches on occasions. (25.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Weston, Wickford** generally provided one of its two coaches but on occasions both. (22.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Westways, Maldon** was a vehicle dealer that appeared to commence operation in order to provide Southend Corporation with an ex-Eastern Counties Bristol K which operated on Service 4B. Later a front-entrance AEC Regent III, ex-Creamline, Borden came on the scene. (20.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Whitwell, Southend** provided its two coaches, but generally only one. (9.11.67 – 16.12.67).

**Young, Newbury Park (Redbridge)** provided one coach but ceased operation before the termination of the strike. (8.11.67 – 2.12.67).

During the strike school contracts were generally sub-contracted to Channel Airways, Southend; Cook, Westcliff; Supreme, Hadleigh and Broadway, Wickford.

**Gilbert, Stanford-le-Hope (Avro)** replaced Victoria, Leigh-on-Sea on a school contract when this operator gave these up in favour of Royal Mail work sub-contracted by Eastern National. Gilbert operated on stage work on one evening only. (12.12.67).

The strike came to an end on Saturday 16 December 1967 and normal services resumed on Sunday 17 December 1967. My seven weeks out on the road came to an end and I had to resume my regular duties in the Traffic Office.



Kirby, Rayleigh operated 5710 WX, a Plaxton Embassy-bodied Ford Thames. It was pictured on layover at the SCT garage on London Road on 9 December 2017. **Paul Bateson.**

EBN644p8

## More on ONO 59; An Appeal and a Recollection.

Tom Deakin of the Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society wonders if any members can help with a point of detail for the restoration of ex-Eastern National Bristol K, ONO 59. One side is to feature an advert for Trueman's Beer, but establishing the correct colours is proving somewhat difficult. We have been able to supply the LVVS with one poor colour shot but wonder if there are any members out there with colour pictures that show how the advert was applied to a Tilling green bus? There are some colour shots of LT buses with the advert matched to the LT red livery, but no good ones of it on a green bus. From the one poor shot we have, we deduce that the background to the advert is black and the TRUEMAN'S and BEER! are off-white or a very light cream but really need confirmation.

The picture shows what it looked like in black & white, as applied to an Eastern National KSW. Can you help colour it in?

Tom and a fellow LVVS member also own Colchester 4, the Roberts bodied Daimler CVD6, OHK 432 and he asks if anyone has any shots of nearside adverts too (apart from Colchester Express one's), as they are going to fit some for her re-entry into museum service next year. Please contact Tom direct by e-mail at [tom.deakin@gmail.com](mailto:tom.deakin@gmail.com) or by post via the Editor and/or Richard Delahoy.



## Terry Challis from Blackpool writes:

I was very interested to read the Progress Report about ONO 59. This was partly because it was possibly the bus on which I worked on my first journey 'on the road' as a seasonal conductor at Clacton Garage in 1965.

Having spent a week learning about the Setright ticket machine and waybills I was sent out 'on the road' with an experienced conductor, Reg Turner. Reg with his driver Mr. Old were one of the senior crews at Clacton and they took their work very seriously. Our first journey was on service 106 from Clacton to Beaumont Works. The return was from either Beaumont "The Oak" or Great Oakley: I cannot remember which.

Reg kept a close eye on what I did as I was using his ticket machine. In the end, any cash discrepancy would have been his responsibility. This journey was on a Monday morning so that a number of high-value weekly tickets were sold. Interestingly, when I was a conductor on Crosville at Rock Ferry garage in 1967, I was given three days training and then sent out route learning for a couple of days. I was then on my own!

The ONO batch of K5Gs differed between the earlier members of this batch and the later ones. If my memory serves me well, ONO 59 had aluminium-framed seats similar those on the London Transport RTs while the earlier members of the batch had the older type of seats with wooden handrails on the top of the downstairs seats.

I have fond memories of ONO 52 (2247) which was also a Clacton bus. I remember it because it was virtually rattle-free. The only regular rattle was the front destination equipment which, like many vehicles of those days, was a regular source of rattles. ONO 52 (2247) was the regular performer on service 110 (Holland-on-Sea to Jaywick Sands via Clacton Bus Station and Clacton Hospital). This was one of the all-year round Town Services and was a busy route.

This bus [ONO 52] was also one of the ENOC K5Gs lent to London Transport at Catford Garage (TL) when it was new. This is of interest to me as I often travel on buses from Catford Garage when I make family visits to South Norwood.

# Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

## Highlights/Lowlights of the Period:

**Yet more cuts by Regal.**

**Ensign operates Boxing Day X10 again.**

### 26 November 17

Chelmsford Park & Ride Sandon to Chelmer Valley (M-S) First Essex – introduction of Sunday service for Christmas shopping on 26 November, 3, 10 & 17 December only using the Sandon P&R site only. First journey from Sandon on Monday to Friday at 0640 to depart at 0641 (*Updated information*).

### 20 December 17

- 13 Waltham Cross to Epping (M-S) EOS – additional Monday to Friday evening journeys introduced, revised Saturday timetable and service no longer serving Ivy Chimneys.
- 66 Waltham Cross to Loughton/Debden Circular (M-S) EOS – service no longer serving Upshire Road and frequency reduced to every half hour.
- 86 Harlow to Waltham Cross (M-S) EOS – Monday to Friday off peak service reduced to every 90 minutes.
- 87 Harlow to Epping (M-S) EOS – revision to timetable with revised route between Harlow & Sumners Farm.

### 22 December 17

- 507 Cooksmill Green to Hylands School Chelmsford (Sch) Regal Busways – school service withdrawn.
- 509 Silver End to Witham (Sch) Regal Busways – school service withdrawn.



As reported in EBN643 and in this issue, EOS have repainted Enviro 200 GX07 AGZ into fleet colours and re-registered it to EOS 711. It gleams in the afternoon sun at Debden Broadway on 1 November.

**Owen Woodliffe.**

## 23 December 17

104/106 Langdon Hills to Laindon/Basildon (M-F) Regal Busways – contract service withdrawn.

## 26 December 17

X10 Lakeside to Southend (Boxing day) Ensign Bus – this special service will again operate on this day only.  
418 Harlow to Loughton (M-S) Trustybus – special timetable for Christmas week from 27 December.  
419 Harlow to Epping (D) Trustybus – special timetable for Christmas week from 27 December.  
420 Harlow to Ongar (M-S) Trustybus – special timetable for Christmas week from 27 December.

## 27 December 17

71/71C/72 Stondon Massey to Brentwood (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – new contract service replacing Regal Busways to slightly revised timetable, it is understood that the 71C variation will not be introduced until further notice.  
104/106 Langdon Hills to Laindon/Basildon (M-F) NIBS – new contract service replacing Regal Busways.  
339 Epping Station to Shenfield Station (selective dates) London Vintage Bus Hire – service re-introduced on the following dates: 27, 28, 30 & 31 December 17, 1 January, 10, 11, 14, 17 & 18 February 18 and 31 March 18.

## 30 December 17

10 Pleshey to West Hanningfield (M-F) Regal Busways – contract service withdrawn.

## 2 January 18

40 Harlow to Church Langley Circular (M-F) Trustybus – new service.  
X15 Colchester to Harwich (M-S) Panther Travel – revision to timetable.  
418 Harlow to Loughton (M-S) Trustybus – daytime service between Harlow & Epping withdrawn, no change to evening contract service 418B (*correction*).  
419 Harlow to Epping (D) Trustybus – service withdrawn (*correction*).  
420 Harlow to Ongar (M-S) Trustybus – revised timetable (*correction*).  
424 Harlow to Hertford (M-F) Trustybus – revised timetable.  
515 Rochford to Rayleigh Swayne School (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revision to timetable.



Panther Travel  
DC52 PAN, DAF  
DB250 with East  
Lancs Lowlander  
body (13ft 9in  
high), new to Arriva  
Midlands,  
registered PN52  
XBH.

At the Ipswich Bus  
Rally site in  
Portman road,  
Ipswich, on 9 April  
2017. Various free  
bus services  
operated. Robert  
rode on DC52 PAN  
on a route over the  
Orwell Bridge and  
back, great views  
over the River  
Orwell!

**Robert  
Appleton.**

# Service Revisions by Paul Harvey, continued.

## 7 January 18

- 9 Basildon to Warley (M-S) First Essex – the Monday to Friday 0800 departure from Warley will start 5 minutes earlier at 0755.
- 10 Basildon Hospital to Shotgate (M-S) First Essex – revised timetable on this contract service to improve reliability.
- 11 Basildon to Purfleet (M-F) First Essex – revised timetable on this contract service to improve reliability.
- 17/18 Clacton to Point Clear (D) First Essex – revised timetable to improve reliability on intermediate running times.
- 21/21A Southend to Canvey (D) First Essex – revised Monday to Friday peak hour timetable with the extra New Thundersley to Benfleet journeys withdrawn. Additional 21A journeys introduced between Canvey Town Centre & Benfleet replacing withdrawn service 21X.
- 21X Canvey to Benfleet (M-F) First Essex – commuter service withdrawn some journeys replaced by additional 21A journeys.
- 24 Southend to Southchurch (M-S) First Essex – the 0700 journey from Southend to Southchurch withdrawn on Mondays to Fridays.
- 25/25A Southend to Basildon (D) First Essex – the 2010 Monday to Friday departure from Basildon to Shotgate will operate to revised intermediate running times to improve reliability.
- 26 Hadleigh to Southend (M-S) First Essex – minor changes to intermediate running times to improve reliability.
- 27 Temple Sutton to Canvey (D) First Essex – the 0734 Monday to Friday departure from Canvey to Temple Sutton will operate to revised running times to improve reliability.
- 27X Canvey to Benfleet (M-F) First Essex – minor timetable revisions, with 0810 & 0820 departures from Canvey extended from Benfleet to Hadleigh. The 0850 & 0900 from Canvey and 1700 from Benfleet withdrawn.
- 32 Chelmsford to Ongar (M-S) First Essex – revised timetable to improve reliability of the first two morning journeys on this contract service.
- 137 Clacton Circular (D) Go-Ahead Hedingham – Sunday service withdrawn.
- 174/175 Colchester to Fingringhoe Circular (M-S) First Essex – the 0736 schoolday departure from Colchester on service 175 will depart 5 minutes earlier at 0731 on this contract service.
- 374 Basildon to Grays (M-S) First Essex – revised timetable on this contract service to improve reliability.
- 565 Brentwood to Bulphan/West Horndon (M-S) First Essex – minor route changes at Herongate and Bulphan. The afternoon schoolday journey starting point will be Highland Road.
- 822 Canvey to Southend (Sch) First Essex – the afternoon school journey will depart from Southend High School for Boys at 1540.
- 827 Canvey to St Thomas More School (Sch) First Essex – the morning journey will be revised to start from Canvey 5 minutes earlier to arrive at school at 0820.



On Tuesday 5 December, Adam went to Rayleigh as it has his favourite Christmas Lights, old fashioned coloured bulbs. Whilst there, he snapped First Essex 33558 on Route 25.

**Adam Kelleher.**

## 22 January 18

339 Epping to Shenfield Station (selective dates) London Bus Company Ltd – special vintage service withdrawn.  
381/396 North Weald to Epping (selective dates) London Bus Company Ltd – special vintage services withdrawn.

## 26 January 18

900 Braintree to Freeport (M-S) Regal Busways – service withdrawn.

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

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# Eastern National Coaches in Summer 1966 - Richard Delahoy.

Following the letters in last month's EBN from Alan Tebbit and Rob Webb, plus my contribution there - all following up the coach allocation that David Grimmett supplied for the October issue - it's clear there is interest in EN's coach fleet but also some confusion, so I thought it might help to list exactly what vehicles were in use as coaches in summer 1966, based on the official company allocation list. Of course, there is always the possibility that what happened on the ground wasn't exactly what Head Office intended (that's still true today!), but here is how the coach fleet was reported for August 1966:

### Vehicles allocated to extended tour work (23)

|              |   |                                                                                 |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Central Pool | 9 | Bristol LS 318, Bristol MWs 354, 355, 360, 361, 362, 363, 385, Bristol RELH 406 |
| Brentwood    | 2 | MWs 348, 359                                                                    |
| Halstead     | 4 | MWs 347, 351, 353, 357                                                          |
| Clacton      | 3 | MWs 328, 356, 386                                                               |
| Southend     | 5 | LS 320, MWs 352, 358, RELHs 403, 404                                            |

### For general coach duties (60 plus 9 double deck dual purpose)

|                   |        |                                                                                                               |
|-------------------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Chelmsford        | 2      | MWs 339, 366                                                                                                  |
| Bishops Stortford | 4      | LS 326, MWs 335, 336, Bedford 500                                                                             |
| Maldon            | 2      | MWs 380, 381                                                                                                  |
| Brentwood         | 3      | LSs 319, 327, MW 334                                                                                          |
| Braintree         | 5      | LS 323, MWs 329, 338, 1403, 1404                                                                              |
| Kelvedon          | 1      | MW 1425                                                                                                       |
| Colchester        | 4      | LS 324, MW 331, Bedfords 503, 506                                                                             |
| Halstead          | 1      | MW 383                                                                                                        |
| Clacton           | 13     | Commer Avenger 102, LSs 321, 325, MWs 330, 337, 340, 341, 344, 367, RELHs 401, 405, Bedfords 504, 505         |
| Southend          | 11 + 3 | MWs 342, 343, 364, 365, 382, 384, RELHs 400, 1600, 1601, 1606, Bedford 507 + FLFs 2604, 2605, 2608            |
| Hadleigh          | 2 + 1  | MWs 333, 345 + FLF 2607                                                                                       |
| Basildon          | 12 + 3 | LS 322, MWs 332, 346, 349, 350, 1417, 1422, RELHs 402, 1604, 1605, Bedfords 501, 502 + FLFs 2603, 2606, 2609. |

The 7 FLF coaches allocated as such at SD, HH and BN were shown as "DD DP" and would have been used on service X10. In addition, FLFs 2601, 2602 were allocated to BN as "works contract" vehicles.

### Tillings Transport (25)

MWs 300-13, 1480, 1481, RELHs 440, 1640, 1641, 1642, Bedfords 540, 541, 542, 543, FLF 2600.

Including Tillings, that's a grand total of 117 coaches! Only Wood Green and Canvey had no formal coach allocation.

Both Alan and Rob also mentioned Halstead's operation of 3 vehicles on the X14. On this allocation list, MW DPs 1410, 1432, 1433 were allocated to HD but appear as "saloons" rather than coaches; 1434 which Rob mentioned was at CF at this date.

For full details of all these vehicles, I can do no more than give another plug for our recent publication

### **EN Fleet Record Volume 1, 1964 to 1990,**

still available from our sales officer for £9.99 + £2 p&p - a treasure trove of information!

Ensign Running Day, Saturday 2 December 2017.

John Rugg.

My Day Out.

|      |                     |                                                                                          |      |
|------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| 0910 | c2c                 | <b>Laindon- Upminster</b>                                                                | 0920 |
| 0922 | X21                 | <b>Upminster – Ongar</b>                                                                 | 1005 |
|      |                     | JCK 892, Ex-Ribble and Jones of Flint coach (guest vehicle)                              |      |
| 1007 | X21                 | <b>Ongar – Brentwood</b>                                                                 | 1033 |
|      |                     | (1984) 250, A250 SVW, Leyland Tiger Duple Caribbean (Originally with Southend Transport) |      |
| 1057 | X81                 | <b>Brentwood – Tilbury Ferry</b>                                                         | 1200 |
|      |                     | (1967) RMA50, NMY 634E, AEC Routemaster Park Royal                                       |      |
| 1212 | <b>Ferry</b>        | <b>Tilbury – Gravesend</b>                                                               | 1219 |
| 1226 | X55                 | <b>Gravesend – Lakeside</b>                                                              | 1322 |
|      |                     | (1976) MD60, KJD 260P, Scania MCW Metropolitan                                           |      |
| 1352 | X55                 | <b>Lakeside – Upminster</b>                                                              | 1417 |
|      |                     | (1948) RT3232, KYY 961, AEC Regent 3 Weymann                                             |      |
| 1422 | X21                 | <b>Upminster – Brentwood</b>                                                             | 1441 |
|      |                     | (1938) T499, ELP 223, AEC Regal LPTB                                                     |      |
| 1510 | 9                   | <b>Brentwood – Laindon</b>                                                               | 1558 |
|      | [First Essex] 47653 | SN15 AET Wrightbus StreetLite DF Hybrid                                                  |      |

Ensign Day Ticket      £10.00



A welcome change to the established route pattern was the extension of the X81 service on to terminate at Tilbury Ferry, offering passengers the chance to use the ferry to cross directly to Gravesend to connect with the X55 there. Where Green Line RTs and RCLs once stood on the 723, along with EN buses on the 40 & 53, RTW467 waits to return to Shenfield, although the road layout and background here have changed considerably in recent years.

**Richard Delahoy.**

## **Sadly, We Shan't Be Seeing This Sight Much More!**



Despite it showing neither fleet name nor route number, intending passengers have worked out that Regal busways Dart, 617, KPO2 PVD is working the Braintree Freeport shuttle service.

Seen in Braintree Bus Park in November 2016, this anonymous bus came from the Armchair fleet in 2014 and retains dual doors. **Keith Woods.**

---

## **Retirement of Tours Organiser.**

At a recent EBEG committee meeting, Keith Woods announced his intention to retire from his honorary position of Tours Organiser. This means that we will not be having any group tours in 2018 UNLESS someone volunteers to take over the role. Keith is willing to work with a new Tours Organiser to help him or her “bed-in”.

Keith has built up a faithful collection of enthusiasts, not all whom are EBEG members, who support his tours.

He obviously has a wealth of experience of contacting operators large and small but he is willing to pass as much of this knowledge on as is possible.

Anyone willing to consider taking on this interesting role is encouraged to talk to Keith, Ian, our Chair, or any other committee member in confidence.

The Group is enormously grateful to Keith for the work he has done on our behalf and wishes him well in his “retirement”, we do hope we see him at future Group events.

There are also vacancies for Group Publicity Officer and organiser for the Mid-Essex group meetings.

## Acquired Vehicles

|       |          |                   |        |      |       |                       |
|-------|----------|-------------------|--------|------|-------|-----------------------|
| 42895 | WX05 RUW | SFD3CACR44GW18065 | 4226/1 | B37F | 03/05 | First Somerset & Avon |
| 42900 | WX05 RVF | SFD3CACR44GW18070 | 4226/6 | B37F | 03/05 | First Somerset & Avon |
| 42939 | WX05 SVE | SFD3CACR45GW18223 | 4245/2 | B37F | 03/05 | First Bristol         |

Alexander Dennis Dart / Pointer. New with the same fleet numbers. Acquired from First West of England, seen in Westway on 25 November 2017. 42939 is in Barbie livery, the other two in Urban. Both 42895 and 42900 have Chelmsford depot stickers both sides but neither has any fleet names. They both have e-leather seats, with "First f" embossed into the e-leather backs. (Interior of 42939 not yet seen.) 42895 was first noted in service on route 72 on 30 November, with 42900 first noted in use on routes 351/37 on 5 December. 42900 retains an offside advert for Haynes Motor Museum which "breaks out" from the advert frame onto the lower part of a couple of side windows.

## Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; CF(DS)-Driving School (based at Chelmsford)

## Period 8 (22 October - 18 November 2017)

41730 CF-CF(out of service)

This is the last Marshall bodied Dart and was seen parked at Westway with its destination equipment removed on 25 November.

## Repaints

CR32640 at Mardens into Urban livery, it returned to Colchester on 28 November. It has a small "First" with f symbol above the driver's cab and small "First Essex" with f symbol above the doors and depot stickers both sides, but no main fleet names. It does have magenta lining. There are now no double deckers in Barbie livery.

CR62409, seen on route 62 on 14 November, to Urban livery. It has a small "First Essex" with f symbol above the driver's cab and the doors, main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides and depot stickers both sides.



picture 62409 (YS03 ZKD) Scania L94UB/Wright Solar repainted in to Urban livery. In St Johns Street, Colchester, on 16 November 2017, working 1130 Colchester - Harwich 104. **Robert Appleton.** EBN644p16

BN66825 to Urban livery, between May and October 2017, exact date not known, but first reported as repainted on 8 October.

BN69912 was returned to Basildon depot on 23 November, repainted into a new livery for route 100 at TVS, Laindon. The style is similar to the Volvo B9TLs in Urban 2 livery, with three main colours split diagonally, but at a steeper angle than on the double deckers. The front is in the same shade of green, but the other colours are different. The second colour is dark blue and the rear colour is light blue. Towards the rear of the dark blue is a diagonal purple stripe, which is a different shade and thicker than the similar on the B9TLs. On the dark blue cove panels both sides in small writing are list of places served (in capitals): Chelmsford, Billericay, Basildon Centre & Hospital, Grays, Intu Lakeside. On the light blue and green (nearside) and light blue only (offside) (again in capitals) is "Every 15 Mins" above "Mon-Fri". On the dark blue lower panels both sides (again in capitals) is "City" above "Country" above "Connections" in white, but with the second digit as numerals to give "100" reading down, with the 1 in light blue, the first zero in green and the second zero in purple. There is a multi-coloured underline beneath this branding. There is a large white "First f" fleet name above the driver's cab and doors, plus, both sides, an oversized white f symbol on the light blue, which also continues over the lower part of a window. The light blue continues to the sides and roof line of the rear, but the main colour on the rear is dark blue, with a dark blue based super rear ad for the Journey Planner app (using white, light blue, green and purple writing), but, perhaps surprisingly, there is no mention of route 100 on the advert. There is a large fleet number on the advert, plus a small one on the nearside at the rear, but not one on front or offside. Interestingly, whilst the Urban 2 liveried B9TLs carry a newly designed "Essex" fleet name and have minimal First branding, on 69912 there is prominent First branding but no Essex branding at all. See picture this issue, inner front cover.

BN69903 became the second vehicle in new Route 100 livery, returned to Basildon depot on 7 December. This does have a front fleet number, a large one at the nearside at registration number level. The nearside branding and fleet names / symbols are the same as on 69912, except it does not have the "City Country Connections" branding. (The offside has not yet been seen.) It has a different super rear ad from 69912, this time (in capitals, in the same colours): "Frequent Quick Catch This Bus Every 15 Minutes\*", with a small, lower case "\*\*Mon-Sat, daytime. 30 mins Sunday" underneath. (The "Frequent" reads across with the "Quick" reading down, sharing the Q.) 69903 also has a small nearside fleet number at the rear and a large rear fleet number, applied slightly higher than on 69912, in line with the bottom of the rear number blind.



By way of contrast to the "now" picture on BN644p16, here we see 62409 (YS03 ZKD) in Manningtree High Street on 27 October 2017, working 1030 Colchester - Harwich 104. At that time 62409 was still in original First corporate livery. **Robert Appleton.**

EBN644p17

## Other Vehicle News and Workings

### Colchester and Clacton

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CR except where stated.)

Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during later November (correspondents were away in the earlier part of the month): 32641 (16th), 32642 (30th), 33044 (14th & 21st), 33088 (28th), 33184 (17th), 33195 (29th), plus 32628 & 33087 on 1 December. On 24 November, 66828 worked the 0915 Mistley-Colchester 103 instead of a double-decker. Only one sighting of a StreetLite this month, 63332 on 8 November.

Some months ago, the double decker on 0915 Mistley-Colchester 103 used to continue on 1000, 1300 & 1605 Colchester-Harwich 103 and 1130, 1430 & 1735 return journeys from Harwich, but this no longer occurs. On 16 November, 32641 arrived in Colchester on the 0915 103 from Mistley, then departed not in service, towards Colchester depot. 65672 arrived at 0946 on 0850 Colchester-Fingringhoe-Colchester 174, then worked 1000 Colchester-Harwich 103. 61230 worked these 174 / 103 journeys on 29 November.

Route 74/76 branded Scania on routes 7/8: CN65688 (15 November), CN65692 (15th & 24th November)

|       |                                                                                                                                                                 |       |                                      |
|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|
| 8 Nov | 66801 on 62A                                                                                                                                                    |       |                                      |
| 9     | 33078 & 33080 on 62, CN44597 on 3 (instead of a Dart), 65689 & 66811 on 70                                                                                      |       |                                      |
| 10    | CN42937 on 10 (instead of a medium-length Dart), 65689 & 65750 on 70                                                                                            |       |                                      |
| 11    | 32087 on 62A, 33186 on 65                                                                                                                                       |       |                                      |
| 14    | 62409's appearance on route 62 (see Repaints above) was a rare working of a Scania on the route. It was on the 1455 school day only service from Brightlingsea. |       |                                      |
|       |                                                                                                                                                                 | 18    | CN44596 on 18 (instead of a Scania). |
| 21    | 63330 on 71                                                                                                                                                     | 23    | 62 branded 37133 on 65               |
| 27    | 32475 & 33044 on 65                                                                                                                                             | 1 Dec | 62 branded 37133 & 37134 both on 17  |



Recently repainted 32631 (KP54 KBF) Volvo B7TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini in Osborne Street, Colchester, on 16 November 2017, working service 75 University of Essex - Maldon.

**Robert Appleton.**



picture 37140 (SN57 HCZ) Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini, leaving Osborne Street bus station in Colchester on 16 November 2017 working service 62 Brightlingsea - Colchester North Station. As per EBN643p15 37140 does not have magenta lining. **Robert Appleton.**

### ***Chelmsford (including Braintree Outstation)***

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.)

X30 branded Enviro seen on other routes during November: 67165 on 57 (21st) plus on 42 on 6 December; 67167 on 42 (17th), on 57 (21st); 67168 on 72 (14th); 67170 on 42 (13th), on 72 (23rd), on 71 (25th); 67171 on 72 (14th), on 31X (21st) plus on 351 on 5 December (the first reported sighting of an X30 branded vehicle on this route).

|       |                                                                                                  |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 6 Nov | 42933 on 71                                                                                      |
| 10    | 44539 on 71                                                                                      |
| 20    | 53128 on 71A                                                                                     |
| 21    | 44659 on 51 and either 44660 or 44662 on 45, whilst two X30 branded Enviro were on 57, see above |
| 24    | 53139 on 71                                                                                      |
| 29    | 42931 on 71                                                                                      |
| 3 Dec | 43847 on 80A/C                                                                                   |

### ***Basildon & Hadleigh***

(All vehicles listed below allocated to BN.)

|        |                                                             |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 Nov | 47650 & 47652 on 100                                        |
| 1 Dec  | 47657 on 100                                                |
| 3      | 41512 on 251                                                |
| 5      | 33567 & 41543 on 9, 47650 on 15, 66823 on 100, 69915 on 825 |

**Sources** own observations, and with thanks to M Allen, M Austin, S Austin, R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, J Bence, T Clark, D Edwards, J Mulley, J Podgorski, D Pretty, S Quay, C Stewart, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr and Terminus.

EBN644p19

# The Blind Spot.

**Robin Williamson.**

This is your Editor's favourite, regrettably "pushed out" in recent months by a surfeit of exciting news!!

This magnificent set of Southend Corporation "end blinds" are proudly worn on the picture of xxx shown on the next page.

One has to admit that the modern digital electronic things can be excellent but they don't compare with a properly set of printed blinds. And they can't be twiddled!

RAYLEIGH - KAWRETH LANE  
KAWRETH - CARPENTERS ARMS  
RAWRETH - BEDLOES CORNER

RAWRETH - BEDLOES CORNER  
PRINTED BY J.L. RAYLEIGH  
FRANCIS & CO.

**EXCURSION**  
WESTLEIGH SCHOOLS  
HADLEIGH CHURCH  
HADLEIGH - VICTORIA HOUSE  
THUNDERSLEY - KENNETH ROAD  
THUNDERSLEY - WOODMANS ARMS  
RAYLEIGH - WEIR HOTEL  
SOUTHCHURCH - WHITE HORSE  
BOURNES GREEN  
THORPE BAY STATION  
TARPOTS CORNER  
CANVEY - WINTER GARDENS  
CANVEY - HAYSTACK  
CANVEY - POINT ROAD  
**PRIVATE**  
SHOEBURYNNESS - BLACKGATE ROAD  
SOUTH BENFLEET - STATION  
CANVEY - LEIGH BECK FARM  
SHOEBURYNNESS - CAMBRIDGE HOTEL  
SHOEBURYNNESS STATION  
SOUTHEND - VICTORIA CIRCUS  
**LANDWICK**  
LITTLE WAKERING - CORONATION CL.  
NORTH SHOEBURY  
LITTLE WAKERING CORNER  
GREAT WAKERING CHURCH  
FOULNESS - COURT END  
SUTTON SCHOOLS  
WESTCLIFF - GENERAL HOSPITAL  
**PRITTLEWELL - PRIORY PARK**  
PRITTLEWELL - CUCKOO CORNER  
PRITTLEWELL - WARNERS BRIDGE  
ROCHFORD - MARKET SQUARE  
ROCHFORD STATION  
SOUTHEND AIRPORT  
ASHINGDON - VICTORY INN  
HAWKSWELL - NURSERY CORNER  
HOCKLEY STATION  
HOCKLEY - BULL INN  
HOCKLEY ROAD - HAMBO HILL  
**PRIVATE**  
ASHINGDON SCHOOLS  
GOLDEN CROSS - RECTORY ROAD  
HOCKLEY - SPA HOTEL  
RAYLEIGH - HIGH STREET  
SOUTHEND - VICTORIA CIRCUS  
SHOEBURY COMMON  
THORPE BAY CORNER

SHOEBURYNNESS - CAMBRIDGE HOTEL  
EASTWOODBURY - WILLSON ROAD  
SOUTHEND - CENTRAL STATION  
SOUTHCHURCH - NEWINGTON AVENUE  
EASTWOOD - KENT LHM CORNER  
TEMPLE SUTTON SCHOOLS  
EASTWOOD - WOODCUTTERS ARMS  
CHALKWELL PARK - SOUTHBOURNE GVL  
PRITTLEWELL - BELL HOTEL  
**LEIGH STATION**  
EASTWOOD - BELGRAVE ROAD  
SOUTHEND - PIER HILL  
RAYLEIGH STATION  
SOUTHEND - VICTORIA CIRCUS  
HULLBRIDGE - ANCHOR INN  
HULLBRIDGE - COVENTRY CORNER  
HIGHLANDS - WOODLANDS PARK  
SOUTHCHURCH - LIPSTAN WAY  
**LEIGH CHURCH**  
SOUTHCHURCH - EASTERN AVENUE  
SOUTHCHURCH - NORTH AVENUE  
CHALKWELL - EASTWOOD BVD.  
WESTCLIFF HIGH SCHOOLS  
EASTWOOD - COOMES CORNER  
CHALKWELL PARK - SCHOOLS  
PRITTLEWELL - FKCO WORKS  
SUTTON CEMETERY  
SOUTHEND - CENTRAL STATION  
WESTCLIFF - PLOUGH HOTEL  
HIGHLANDS - THAMES DRIVE  
SHOEBURYNNESS - EAST BEACH  
**SOUTHEND - KURSAAL**  
**LEIGH - ELM HOTEL**  
**PRIVATE**  
CANVEY - EASTERN ESPLANADE  
**BALLARDS GORE**  
PAGLESHAM - EAST END  
SOUTHEND - VICTORIA CIRCUS  
CAREWOOD - LOFTMANS CORNER  
WALLASEA BAY - YACHT STN.  
SOUTH FAMBURGE - ANCHOR INN  
CHALKWELL STATION  
PRITTLEWELL CHS (SOUTHBOURNE GVL)  
**CIRCULAR**  
CHALKWELL SHELTER  
SOUTHEND PIER  
LONDON - VICTORIA  
LONDON - KINGS CROSS  
ROOTS HALL  
SOUTHEND - SEAWAY  
EASTWOOD - ROCHFORD CORNER  
**EASTWOOD RISE**



upper picture

Southend Corporation 298, LHJ 400, a Leyland PD2/12 with Massey L27/28R body, new in December 1955 using the blind illustrated on the previous page.

**R J Williamson.**

Lower picture By way of contrast and echoing past municipal borrowings to cover short term vehicle shortages between Southend CT and Colchester CT on Sat 18 November two Arriva Kent Thameside (Colchester) Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban 2s were on loan, for one day only, 3817 (GN07 AVD) and 3819. This was due to 6 Enviro400 MMCs being sent on Billericay-Newbury Park rail replacement work. Both only worked service 6. Here is 3817 at Southchurch.

**John G. Lidstone.**



EBN644p21

**Peter Mansbridge** with thanks to Richard Delahoy and John Card.

Optare Versa B36F 4235 (KX13 DHE) has transferred from Maidstone to **Southend**, entering service from Southend late October. Similar 4243, KX13 DHN, also arrived at Southend in mid-October but is in store and it is not known yet if it will enter service here. 4235 has replaced DAF SB120 / Wright 3516 (LF52 USZ) which was withdrawn at Southend in late October.

**Colchester** Volvo B7RLE's /Wright 3817/9 (GN07 AVD/F) were loaned to Southend for one day on Saturday 18 November, to help to free up 6 of Southend's E400 deckers for rail replacement work (the other 4 came from the lower peak vehicle requirement on Saturdays). The Volvos were used on service 6. [See this issue outer rear cover].



Arriva Colchester DAF SB120/Cadet 3521 on diversion on Southway on 9/11/17. It has just passed the closed junction of its normal route down Maldon Road. The section of diversion via Beverley Road and Cambridge Road was only used by Arriva routes 1 and 4 as these only use single deckers, and overhanging trees discouraged the passage of double-deckers. Hence First 75 and Hedingham 92 went through the old garrison.  
**John Podgorski.**

## Publicity News

**Ian Ransom with thanks to Bob Palmer.**

**Arriva Harlow**  
**Arriva (Southend)**  
**First Essex**

timetable leaflet for 9  
timetable leaflets for 1; 6; 7/8; 9; 29.  
Clacton Area timetable booklet

dated 11.12.17 (service extended to Epping).  
all dated 23.7.17.  
dated 24.9.17.

**Herts County Council**

Bus Guide Autumn/winter 2017

(shows some services running into Essex).

EBN644p22



**Panther Travel** by Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham.

### **Fleet News**

DAF DB250/East Lancs AB02 PAN has been sold in early December to Reading Buses, and entered service there in full Panther livery. The number plate will come back to Panther, but in the meantime, it will be retained.

Enviro Dart DC62 PAN (YX62 FCA) has been painted into Panther livery.

Dart SLF/Plaxton S303 JUA has now become BIG 7006, the former BIG 7006 (Y182 CFS) also a Dart SLF/Plaxton has gone for scrap, following accident damage.

Former Hedingham Optare Excel R835 FNG which had been stored for some time at Harwich, has also gone for scrap.

Dennis Dart/Alexander BIG 8843 (P390 LPS) has become a store-bus at Harwich.

All Leyland Olympian BIG 9249 (J114 KCW) has gone back into fleet.



Panther's Primo SB07 PAN (ex Plaxton demonstrator as YX07 GVD) has appeared regularly on the Northumberland Park Level Crossing Shuttle, seen here in November. Work to double the railway line can be seen at the rear.

**Owen Woodliffe.**



Buses are now starting to receive stickers like the attached example, see notes below.

**Richard Delahoy.**

## Awards

We are delighted to report that Stephensons were recognised at the UK Bus Awards in November, winning the trophy for *Top Independent Operator* and the bronze (third place) award in the overall *UK Bus Operator of the Year* category. Ensignbus also took the bronze in the *Top Independent Operator* category. Hearty congratulations to both companies and their staff!

## Fleet

The last remaining Olympian, 808 (M408 RVU) has been withdrawn and transferred to the Galloway fleet, thus ending 20 years of operation of the type.

MPD Dart 411 (SK02 XGO) is being decommissioned prior to sale and 412 (SK02 XGP) is withdrawn and for sale. They are significant as they were the first two service buses bought new by the company, in 2002.

## Services

Brentwood services 71/72 which were lost to Regal on Essex CC retender in August are being taken back from December 27. A plan to add M-F peak-hours trips in Brentwood as service 71C (for which an additional bus would be acquired) are under discussion with ECC.



Picture previous page.      Accepting the award for *Top Independent Operator* at the UK Bus Awards on 21 November are Lee Shuttleworth (left) and Dean Robbie (centre) from Stephenson's. On the right is David Sidebottom, Director of Transport Focus, who announced the winners. © **UK Bus Awards 2017**.



Picture above    Stephenson's E200s with the Three Rivers branding are normally to be found on services 38/38A, Witham-Braintree-Halstead, but unusually 473 was on the Southend to Canewdon/Wallasea/Paglesham services 60/60A on 9 November. With that route linking the Rivers Thames, Roach and Crouch, the branding was not entirely spurious, even if it's not the Brain, Blackwater and Pant as intended! **Matthew Evans** photographed 473 in Chichester Road, Southend. And in a link to the awards story above, the bus is being driven by Trevor Owen, winner of the *Top National Bus Driver* award at the UK Bus Awards back in 2011.



## Buses on Diversion

To complement the picture on p22, this issue here we see First Essex StreetLite 63344 on diversion at Napier Road, in the old Colchester Garrison, on 10/11/17.

**John Podgorski.**



**Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.**

## Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements

**November 2017.**

### Vehicles in

|                  |                         |              |
|------------------|-------------------------|--------------|
| Aintree Coaches  | YN03 DFA                | Scania       |
| Airparks         | KX10 DVA-C              | MAN's        |
| Arriva London    | LF02 POH                | DAF's        |
|                  | LF52 UNW-Z              | Volvo B7TL's |
|                  | LF52 UOA /C/D           | ditto        |
|                  | LJ03 MYS/T/V/Z/MYB/F    | ditto        |
|                  | LJ53 NHY                | DAF          |
| Courtney Coaches | YJ10 MBV/X              | Solo's       |
| Go-Ahead London  | W523/532/533 WGH        | Volvo B7TL's |
|                  | LX53 BFK                |              |
|                  | X616 EGK                |              |
|                  | Y744 TGH                |              |
|                  | PIJ53 NKM/NKU           |              |
|                  | PN02 XBW                |              |
|                  | PIJ02 RFK/O/X/Y/Z/L/N/Z |              |
|                  | PIJ02 RGO/U/V           |              |
|                  | PIJ02 TVN/P/O/T/U       |              |
|                  | PIJ52 LVR-V             |              |
|                  | PIJ52 LWF/LWG           |              |
|                  | PIJ53 SPX/SPZ           |              |
|                  | SN03 YBR/G/S/K          | Darts        |
|                  | SN03 WLX/Z/WMF          |              |
|                  | SN51 UAS/UAW            |              |
|                  | SN54 GPY/GRF/GPZ        |              |
|                  | YX58 DXB/DXD            | MAN's        |
|                  | AE09 DHM                |              |
|                  | AJ58 WBD                |              |
| Go-Ahead NE      | PN02 XCF                | Volvo B7TL's |
|                  | PIJ02 PZF/PZK           |              |
|                  | V306/11-3/29/38 LGC     |              |
| Go-South Coast   | HF03 HIJ/HIZ/HKA        | Excels       |
|                  | HW54 BUO/BUV            | Darts        |
|                  | M746/749 HDL            | Olympians    |
|                  | N413 JBV                |              |
|                  | R783 XRV                |              |
|                  | N983 FWT                | DAF's        |
|                  | T217 REL                |              |
|                  | N89 FWU and M580 RCP    |              |
| HCT              | YJ60 LRY                | Solo         |
| Metroline        | BF60 UUC/E/I/H          | Volvo B9TL's |
| Mike De Courcy   | YJ62 FSE                | Versa        |
| NippyBus         | Y110 MDX                | Solo         |
| Private owner    | RML2722                 |              |
| RATP London      | SN51 SYX/SYT            | Tridents     |
|                  | SN03 DZP                |              |

### Vehicles Out

|                                      |                |              |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| Aintree Coaches                      | SN51 SZU       | Tridents     |
|                                      | LX03 BXV/BXZ   |              |
| Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx           | SA52 DVT       | Volvo B7TL   |
| Bristol Sightseeing                  | LG02 FBV       | Trident      |
| Compass Travel, Durrington, W Sussex | LJ04 LGN       | DAF          |
| Country Bus, Newton Abbott, Devon    | LX05FAU        | Volvo B7TL   |
| D and E Coaches, Inverness           | BX55 XMG/E/XLU | Volvo B7TL's |
| EOS Buses, Rainham, Essex            | PIJ02 PZF      | Volvo B7TL   |
| Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex        | NM02 DNU       | Solo         |
|                                      | SN03 YBK/YBS   | Darts        |
| Nu-Venture, Maidstone                | SN54 GRF/GPY/Z | Darts        |
|                                      | SN03 YBG/R     |              |
| Richardsons, Wadhurst, Sussex        | LJ03 MXL       | Volvo B7TL   |
| Rotala PLC                           | YJ60 LRY       | Solo's       |
|                                      | YJ10 MDX       |              |
|                                      | YJ10 MBV       |              |
|                                      | YJ10 MBX       |              |
| Seaford and District                 | YX09 FLK       | Enviro 200's |
|                                      | WK56 ABZ       |              |
| Stagecarriage, Middlesbrough         | YU52 XVN       | Scania's     |
|                                      | YN03 DFP       |              |
| York Pullman                         | Y744 TGH       | Volvo B7TL's |
|                                      | PIJ53 SPX      |              |

### Other Movements

|              |                                  |
|--------------|----------------------------------|
| Volvo B7TL's | PIJ02 RFK/RFL/RGO/TVN/RFN        |
|              | PIJ53 NKT/NKU/NKX/NLD/NKN        |
|              | LJ03 MYS/MYT/MXV/MXZ/MYB/MYF     |
| DAF          | LJ53 NHY                         |
| DAF's        | LF02 POH                         |
|              | LF52 UNW/UNX/UNY/UNZ/UOA/UOC/UOD |
| Darts        | SN51 UAU/UAW                     |
|              | SN54 GPX                         |
|              | SN03 YBC/YBZ/WLX/WLZ/WMF         |
| Excels       | HF03 HIJ/HIZ/HKA                 |

**All to Hardwick, Barnsley for scrap.**

Continued next page>>>





**Ensignbus**  
omnibus suppliers to the world

**Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.**

## Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements

**November 2017, continued.**

### Other Movements, continued.

Volvo B7TL's LG02 KJE/KHH/KHA/KHK  
PJ53 NKM/NKG/NKZ/NLA/NLE  
W399/486/523/532/533/997 WGH  
PJ02 TVP/TVT/TVU  
PJ52 LVR/LVS/LVT/LVU  
/LVV/LWF/LWG/RFO/RFX/RFY  
PN02 XBW  
LJ03 MMX  
LK04 HZP  
Dart SN51 UAS  
AE56 OUL  
Volvo B10M N976 UPR  
MAN AJ58 WBD  
Olympians R755 GDL  
R373 LGH  
N413 JBV  
Tridents LK03 CEU  
LK03 UFU  
SN51 SYX/SYT  
SN03 DZT/DZW/DZP

**All to Shelton Motors, Ramsey, Cambs for scrap.**

Olympian M746 HDL

**Mr Michael Cole, Colchester for preservation.**

MAN's KX10 DVA/DVB/DVC  
AE09 DHM

**Associated Coach Sales, New Zealand.**

Volvo B7TL LX05 FBI  
**Symphony Chauffeurs, Heathrow.**

Volvo B7TL LK04 JCV  
**Ghost Bus, London WC1.**



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omnibus suppliers to the world

# Ensignbus

## Ensign Fleet – November 2017

**Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.**

B7TL 902 sold to Go Goodwins, Manchester.

B7TL 904 sold to Kent Coach Tours, Ashford, Kent.

Trident 157 sold to Aintree Coaches.

### Vehicles On Hire

On long term hire to First South West are the following B7TL's:-

PN02 XCF PJ02PZE/PZK

V306/308/311/312/329/336/338 LGC



Ensign Vintage Bus Running Day, 2 December, also p14 & irc.  
Ensign's former Southend Corporation Daimler CWA6 only managed a Bluewater-Lakeside-Upminster-Lakeside trip before being subbed by RT3232. Here 263, immaculate as ever, is seen at Upminster Station as passengers disembark under the watchful eyes of the clippie. The rear view shows the graceful curves of the Massey body.

**Richard Delahoy.**



Immaculate Ensignbus Vintage Fleet AEC Routemaster ('Dartmaster')/Park Royal coach RMC1485 (485 CLT) in Thames Drive, Leigh on 25 November, operating a private charter and parking up out of harm's way at Sutherland Boulevard in Leigh in between. **John G. Lidstone.**

EBN644p27

With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, buslists on the web & John Podgorski.

Vehicles Acquired

|     |          |                                                                            |
|-----|----------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 296 | SN10 CCY | completed repaint yet to be reported.                                      |
| 294 | OU57 FGZ | wears Carousel/Thames Travel white based advert with Hedingham fleetnames. |

Vehicles Withdrawn/Disposal

Volvo Olympian / Northern Counties N427 JBV, ex fleet number 90 has reportedly been donated to a school. This reported 27/11 – the last confirmed sighting I had was still at CN depot on 18/11.

The Volvo B10M/Plaxton Premieres withdrawn at Clacton left the depot w/c 20/11 along with Olympians 84 and 93.

Allocations

|     |          |                |                            |
|-----|----------|----------------|----------------------------|
| 251 | PJ02 RHE | HD to KN       | 8/11                       |
| 252 | EU03 BZK | SY to scrapped | Scrapped at CN for spares. |
| 563 | V307 LGC | HD to KN       | 13/11                      |
| 565 | W425 WGH | KN to CN       | 22/11                      |
| 573 | W491 WGH | KN to HD       | 13/11                      |
| 738 | T108 DBW | HD to KN       | 13/11                      |

Fleet News

A driver training school is being developed within the Hedingham organisation using a Volvo B10M Plaxton Premiere as the training vehicle.

Drivers are currently on loan to SY and CN from other Go-Ahead areas, with drivers reported from Southern Vectis (Go-Ahead South Coast).

Services

According to Essex County Council’s website the closed consultation on Service 15 Lexden to Marks Tey Station is being assessed. Consultation on the 87 Sunday service also continues via the social media sites.

On 11/11 Maldon Road was closed in Colchester as part of ongoing works – service 63 diverted via Southway, St Botolph’s Circus, Napier Road and Circular Road North. Service 79/92 the same plus Circular Road West, Butt Road and Drury Road. Inbound 79/92 were diverted via Salisbury Avenue and Butt Road.

Other News

9001, EX61 MZL is a Ford Transit SWB van at CN ex Go-Ahead London.



Hedingham 294  
(OU57 FGZ)  
Alexander  
Dennis Dart  
MPD/Enviro  
200, on layover  
in Osborne  
Street,  
Colchester, on  
29 November  
2017. Still  
displaying  
Thames Travel  
fleetnumber  
504.

Robert  
Appleton.

# EOS London.com

**(Swallow Coaches, Rainham, Essex & Vigar Travel Ltd, a subsidiary of Swallow) by Adam Kelleher**

## Acquired Vehicle

BG63 VUV, Mercedes Minibus, previously with Avis, working at Heathrow Airport, in a red and blue livery with white lining. First seen on 30 November 2017 on route 87 with programmed LED blinds (showing destination but not number) and now all white.

Further to EBN643, Volvo B7TL / East Lancs Vyking, PJ02 PZF, was acquired from Go Ahead North East via Ensignbus.

## Other Vehicle News

Further to EBN643, 104, PN03 ULY, has now been reported as being seen in service between January and October, noted in Loughton on 10 May and Waltham Cross on 3 June. This was reported as repainted to fleet livery in EBN628. It received an unusual grey skirt, which it still had in June, but by September this had been overpainted in the more usual black. **[Eds note - see colour picture inner front cover, this issue.]**

*With thanks to John Card, Andrew Colebourne, Ross Newman and Flickr.*

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# Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher

## Cessation of Services

Regal are to withdraw their stage services at the end of December.

The last days are as follows: Route 1/A/B/X, Canvey Island-Chelmsford, Friday 22nd; B2, Shoeburyness-Basilidon Festival Park, Friday 22nd; 3/A/B/D Southend-Chelmsford/Oxney Green, Saturday 23rd; 10/A, Pleshey-West Hanningfield, Friday 29th; 71/2, Stondon Massey-Warley, Saturday 23rd; 104/6 Langdon Hills-Basilidon, Friday 22nd; 322, Old Harlow-Saffron Walden (school days only), Wednesday 22nd. However, according to Regal's website, the Rayleigh, Swayne Park school journeys (one each way per day) on routes 3A/D will continue as school services. Routes 71/2 return to Stephenson's, who only lost these ECC services to Regal in late August this year, and 104/6 are taken over by NIBS.

Regal are also ceasing to operate the Braintree Freeport shuttle with the last day being 25 January 2018.

*With thanks to Geoff Toon.*

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

## Acquired Vehicles

SN03 YBS, Transbus Mini Pointer Dart, B27F, new to Metrobus (278) 08/03

SN03 YBK, Transbus Mini Pointer Dart, B27F, new to Metrobus (276) 08/03

Acquired from Metrobus via Ensignbus. YBK was seen at Bishop's Stortford on 18 November 2017. In all red, still with Metrobus fleet names and fleet numbers, although the front fleet name partially covered by a Trustybus sticker. YBS, also in all red, was still at Ensignbus on 2 December.

NM02 DNU, Optare Solo M850, B29F, new to Scott of Stanley (4402) 07/02

Acquired from Go South Coast (Southern Vectis) via Ensignbus. In all dark blue livery with LED blinds. It was new as ON02 STX. It was sold to Go Ahead North East and was re-registered NM02 DNU, with its original registration being retained by Scott. It later worked for Go Ahead companies Plymouth Citybus and Damory Coaches (Dorset). Seen on route 7 in Bishop's Stortford on 8 November.

Further to EBN643, YN04 GMG had LED blinds fitted between 8 and 13 November. A correction to EBN643: when YN05 WKC entered service, it did not have LED blinds (the front blind box was empty), but these were fitted between 9 and 14 November.

*With thanks to John Card, Ross Newman, Bus Lists on the Web and Flickr.*

## Other Operators.

**Roger A. Smith.**

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

### **APT Coaches, Rayleigh**

T545 EUB, a Plaxton C48FT bodied Volvo B10M-62 arrived here from Brown, Crawley, West Sussex in the summer.

### **Lodge, High Easter**

Mercedes Benz Tourismo MB, C53FT, reg. BG58 OLO has gone from here.

### **Roman Cars (Falconrise), Colchester**

YN67 VDD, the Iriza i6 reported last month as being new here is named "Aurora".



picture above This Daimler Fleetline, DMS1304 (MLH 304L) was converted to open-top for Windsorian some 3 decades ago, now owned by RedRoute Buses of Northfleet, Kent and appearing at Southend Carnival on 19 August 2017.

**John G. Lidstone.**



## **Christmas Vintage Bus Run at Saffron Walden**

On Saturdays 2, 9 and 16 December, **Lodge of High Easter** operated a free shuttle service from Audley End Village to Saffron Walden High Street & return on behalf of Saffron Walden Town Team. Two Bedford Duple OB vintage buses (1950s Charabanc style coaches, will run at 20 minute intervals from 1030 until 1730 hours from Audley End village to the High Street beside the Temeraire. The round trip could be started at either pick up point. Hopefully, pictures next issue!

# Letters

## From Alan Tebbit BEM from Cornwall

Just a couple of points arising from the latest EBN. On page 5, the caption to Paul Harvey's picture of the Ford R1014, suggests that I was rude about these buses. Nothing could be further from the truth, I quite liked them and once got in trouble with the union for taking one to Saffron Walden and back on the 1345 hrs service 33, without vehicle familiarisation. The branch chairman was unaware that I had previously been given overtime delivering a couple of these from Central Works to BS. The rude comment in my article referred to the Transits, the infamous bread vans, that I never accepted as buses. **Ed's note, my fault, nothing to do with Paul, apologies.**

Paul Bateson's article on the Southend strike brought back memories of a freezing cold Saturday afternoon. My driver, Fred Smith, and I were operating a service 11 from CD to VSN (Chelmsford to Southend Victoria), with a Bristol LD5G. We had reversed into the lane alongside The Barge pub at Battlesbridge, the Southend area boundary, and awaited our return time. An open-back bus is not the best place to while away an hour or so, when the thermometer reads minus!

NB, although vehicles carried CF plates, the code on duties for Chelmsford bus station was CD, and, strangely, when the London Road bus station at Southend was opened, it still carried the Victoria Station code.

## John Podgorski from Colchester

## Hedingham L100.

Re the back-cover photos in EBN643 of Bedford YMT/Plaxton Supreme UNO 100W, the bottom one (by Gary Sharpe), was taken on Sunday 16 May 1982, on the 100th PSV Circle tour from Colchester. The itinerary was as follows:-

Depart Colchester bus station at 0900 and also pick up at Colchester North railway station, then: Hedingham Omnibuses at Sible Hedingham, including a ride on Bristol FLF 378 RNN to Halstead and back, Burtons Coaches at Haverhill - including the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company outstation that was there, Premier Travel at Haverhill, Drummer Street bus station, Cambridge, Youngs Coaches at Rampton, Greys of Ely, including a peek around the back of the adjacent ECOC depot, where there were two withdrawn RS Class Bristol RESLs and a Bristol FLF. Then to Morleys of West Row and finally Goldsmiths of Sicklesmere. In the picture, I could well be the figure sat in the 3rd row of seats on the offside. I was 16 years of age at the time. Hope that info. is of help and interest. **Ed's note, excellent record keeping!**

## Richard Delahoy from Thorpe Bay

As a footnote to part 2 of Paul Bateson's article on the 1967 strike, we also covered it in the April 2008 issue, EBN528 with an 8-page article (which incidentally was the first issue to have a colour cover – featuring another strike view).

The coach fleet list for Southend Transport that David Grimmett supplied (EBN643p21) shows an interesting stage in the massive growth of the Southend fleet as the London commuter service grew exponentially. Subsequently, the coach fleet doubled from the 36 listed there, with the peak of the coach operations and fleet coming in Jan/Feb 1987 at 71 coaches (including the hired Cardiff Olympians). This list is also a little confusing in that it includes REs 301/2 which, so far as I know, *never* regularly covered coach work, and Leopards 211/2 which were only used relatively briefly before being demoted to local bus work. But nevertheless, an interesting snapshot of the fleet.

*Also see Richard's article this issue p13.*

## Charles Phillips from Stock

The earliest bus timetables in Essex were those for horse buses that were included in the timetables of the Great Eastern Railway and its ancestors during the 19th century. The Great Eastern Railway Society has reprinted Truscott's Timetables for the Eastern Counties, Norfolk, Newmarket, East Anglian and Eastern Union Railways for 1 January 1853 which includes list of what are described as branch coaches, i.e. short stage coaches. The earliest timetables for motor buses in Essex were those of the Great Eastern Railway that were included in its public timetables from the late 1900s. I can't remember the exact date but I think it was about 1908 or a bit earlier or a bit later. The Great Eastern did not include the times of the buses when they first started running in 1905. After the National Steam Car Company took over the Chelmsford area services in 1913, the Great Eastern included details of all services in the Chelmsford area run by the National from its April 1914 timetable. Earlier timetables for late 1913 and early 1914 had the Chelmsford area services shown as being run by the Great Eastern. Both the Essex Chronicle and the Essex Weekly News also sometimes published bus timetables. I know that when the National started expanding its services these two newspapers included timetables for all the Chelmsford area services. Copies of the motor bus service timetables from the Great Eastern's public timetables for April and July 1914 have been in EBN before. These give full details of the routes as at that time, I hope that you can reproduce them in the next Essex Bus News.\* When the National started running in competition with the Great Eastern the timetables did show the full routes but only to the part of the route which was not served by the railway for example the Chelmsford to Maldon route would not be shown beyond Danbury and the Chelmsford to Billericay route would not be shown beyond Stock.

**Eds note:** *The timetables are printed in a small type face and will not reproduce well. Nevertheless, I am happy to email a copy to any member upon request.*

On the subject of the National Steam Car Company and the National Omnibus and Travel Company prior to the formation of Eastern National, Southern National and Western National does anyone know what happened to its records as these would show some light on the early days of bus operation in Essex including the dates that the routes first reached different places in the county.



**Fred Lawrance** writes: "Further to the recent article in EBN643pp4&5 regarding 2 x Timpson's Ford - Duple's on hire to Eastern National to cover a Ford Motor Company contact, I enclose a photograph from my collection of 533 CYU taken in Central Works, Chelmsford – note the on hire to Eastern National Stickers in the window. Prior to that article I had no idea of why it was in that location with on hire stickers in the window."

**D. G. Savage Collection (believed to be T M Smith).**

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## Target Dates for EBN645 (January 2018).

|    |          |                 |                              |
|----|----------|-----------------|------------------------------|
| By | Saturday | 6 January 2018  | Reports to Sub-Editors.      |
| By | Saturday | 13 January 2018 | Sub-Editor drafts to Editor. |
| By | Monday   | 22 January 2018 | Dispatch by Printers.        |

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## Back Cover Photos.

**Top picture** A recent transfer into Southend is a further short Versa, 4235, KX13 DHE, replacing DAF 3516. 4235 was photographed at the short-working terminal point at Ashingdon Schools on service 7 on 16 November about to run the 1417 to Wakering/Landwick, one of two extra buses deployed on services 7/8 on schoolday afternoons.

**Matthew Evans.**

**Middle picture** The extensive Greater Anglia rail replacement services continue every weekend running between Newbury Park and Ingatestone/Billericay. Arriva Southend E400s are increasingly common on this work but more unusual were some in the Sapphire livery from Arriva Southern Counties Hemel Hempstead depot on 18 November. 6522 is seen at Billericay [in company with Arriva Southend 6500]. There is a major blockade of the same section over Xmas, from Saturday 23 December 2017 to Monday 1 January 2018 inclusive, offering plenty of opportunities for photos!

**Matthew Evans.**

**Bottom picture** To free up E400s for rail replacement on Saturday 18 November, Arriva Southend borrowed two Volvo B7 saloons from Colchester for use on local services on that day. Both were used on service 6 and 3819 & 3817 are seen here at the end of the day awaiting their return to Colchester. Southend have three similar buses in their fleet.

**Matthew Evans.**

# Ensign Running Day:

All pictures taken in Brentwood High Street by  
**Adam Kelleher.**



top picture left side      London Transport Museum MA1 on  
Route X21 with Stagecoach's ex-East Kent MFN 946F on X81.



middle picture left side      LT's MA1 on its own.



lower left picture      T499 on Route X21 with  
RMC1461 on Route X81.

# Saturday 2 December 2017



top picture right side      Low bridge Bristol KSWs operated in  
Brentwood from the 1950s to the early 1970s, but this is  
probably the first time a highbridge version has done so.  
Seaford & District's former Brighton & Hove HAP 985 (still  
in B&H livery).

## **Richard Delahoy writes:**

*A surprise guest vehicle at the Running Day was this former Brighton Hove & District Bristol KSW, now with Seaford & District. In Eastern National days, KSWs were no strangers to Brentwood High Street but in lowbridge form, rather than the highbridge layout of the ECW body on HAP985. Note the impressive 6-line intermediate blind display specially created for the day.*

Ensign's annual running day was very popular with EBEG members, many thanks to all who send pictures. Please see EBN644p14 for John Rugg's itinerary of a fine day out.

lower picture right side      Whilst in the area, Adam Kelleher took this picture of EOS Enviro 200 GX09 AGZ which was reported in EBN643 as being repainted from all-white to fleet livery and re-registered to EOS 711.



EBN644 inner rear cover



# A Rail Initiative From Arriva.

All pictures:  
**Matthew Evans.**

Captions inside  
at page 32.



# Essex Bus News

**December  
2017**

