

Essex Bus News

No. 659; MARCH 2019



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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www.essexbus.org.uk



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where sold



Upper picture

Chambers 802 (YN55 PZD) Scania/East Lancs Omnidekka in Head Street, Colchester on 3 March on service 754 to Sudbury. **Ken Coldwell.**

Lower picture Rare working on 25 February by very smart non-Rochford Scania N94UD/Optare Olympus 510 (YN08 OAM) ex-Centrebus on usually E400-operated service 17 (Leigh Station-Southend Travel Centre), at Chalkwell Station. **John G. Lidstone.**



Front Cover Picture.

Not bad for 80! Both Bristol K AJN 825 and member John Rugg celebrate their 80th birthdays around the end of March 2019. Both have special celebrations arranged – we shall report at least one of these in EBN660. Also see p11 this issue.

Richard Delahoy.

EBN659 inner front cover

Essex Bus News 659

March 2019

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<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

Welcome to new Members

Peter Langstone	Manningtree 1139
Norman Vines	Ware 1140.

Essex Bus News is the "house magazine" of the...

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Chair	Ian Ransom
Secretary	Alan Osborne
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Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

Subscriptions

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

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

Membership Secretary & Data Protection

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

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Reports and observations

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

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

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

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EBN659p1

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

MID-ESSEX MEETINGS by Maurice Austin.

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

Thursday 28 March **Note change of date** **Dave Tomlin**, District Bus and members slides co-ordinated by **Richard Delahoy**.

Thursday 25 April **Alan Osborne** "Brentwood - Red, Green, Blue and Brown".

Thursday 23 May **Robert Appleton** **Greater Manchester Part II 1994 to 2010**.

Other 2019 dates: 27 June, 25 July, 26 September, 24 October, 28 November, 12 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 April.

Group AGM with

Alan Osborne afterwards.

Friday 10 May

Andy Baker,

Lincolnshire.

Other 2019 dates: 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.

A Blast From The Past.

Paul Harvey.



Southend Transport JTD 386P Daimler Fleetline Northern Counties 386 seen at Southend Central Bus Station on Boxing Day 1978 operating Eastern National service 400 to London Kings Cross.

Paul Harvey.

EBN659p2

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

EVENTS

Sunday 24 March 2019
Saturday 30 March 2019
Sunday 31 March 2019

RF Running Day at Kingston.
RT 80 Event, Barking.
Oxford Bus Museum Running Day.

Saturday 6 April 2019
Sunday 7 April 2019
Sat/Sun 13/14 April

SE Bus Festival, Kent County Showground, Detling.
Spring Gathering. London Bus Museum, Brooklands.
Wellingborough Bus Day at Museum.

Sunday 21 April
Sunday 28 April
Sunday 28 April

Transport Show Ministry of Power Maldon.
East Grinstead Country Bus Running Day.
Amberley Spring Bus Show.

Sunday 5 May
Sunday 19 May
Saturday 27 July
Sunday 8 Sept

Ipswich to Felixstowe Historia Vehicle Run.
Fenland BusFest at Whittlesey Bus connection from Peterborough.
Essex Bus Rally, Barleylands, Billericay. *** **note changed date** ***
Lodges Bedford Coach Day ilnked to EOR's 'London's 60's Scene' event

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.



Recently acquired by Acme is BMC Condor schoolbus YK55 AUF, formerly with First West Yorkshire; it is seen here during half term at the Acme depot in Molehill Green on 23 February.

Ian Ransom.



Like Owen Woodliffe (see photo of Flying Scotsman in EBN658p3), Richard Delahoy's interests extend beyond buses to railways (but not real ale!) and include exploring closed railways. One such line is the former Braintree to Bishops Stortford route, now largely open as a footpath the Flitch Way and well worth exploring. On 13 January, Richard and his wife parked at the old Rayne station, now restored and housing a good café and exhibition about the line, for a walk westwards. The next "station" was Bannister Green Halt, where the low cinder platform has been restored along with a station sign, seen just getting into shot on the left. The line from Witham to Braintree remains open but onwards to Bishops Stortford was closed to passengers as long ago as March 1952 (so pre-dating by a decade the Beeching cuts).

Wikipedia records that "Passenger numbers were at decent levels when the line first opened, but increasing competition from bus and road transport meant trains were running almost empty near the end of its serving life" and as if to emphasise the point, Richard's picture shows a bus on route 133 crossing the line. The 133 exactly parallels the line from Braintree through Rayne, Felsted and Dunmow to Stansted. The bus is an Arriva Colchester 38xx series Volvo B7RLE with Wrights bodywork. Had the line remained open it would today provide a valuable east-west link to Stansted Airport, but who could have foreseen that in 1952?

Grey-Green and contemporaries, Book 2, 1961 to the Arriva Years.

Richard Delahoy.

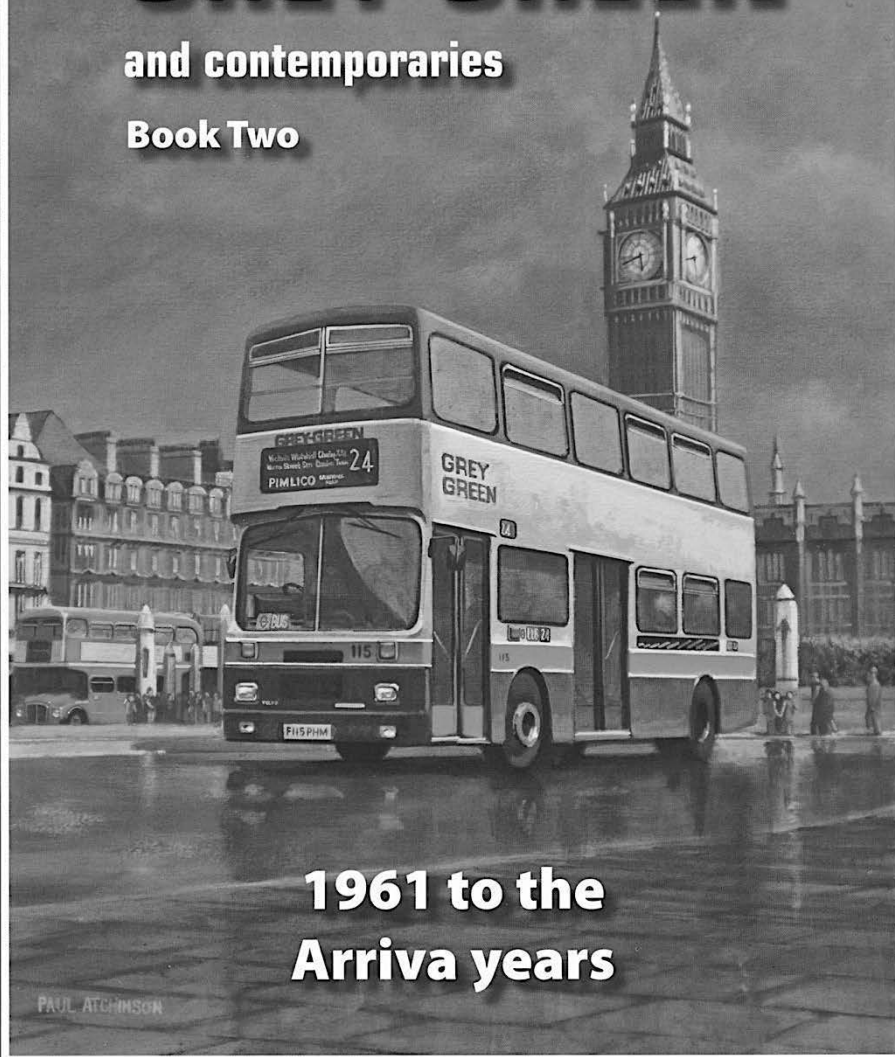
The Group has a small stock of this newly published book. The late Tom McLachlan, GG's former General Manager, continues the story of this iconic London coach operator from 1961, with expansion into motor dealerships that attracted an unwelcome takeover and the traumas following the family business becoming part of a large corporation, through the gradual decline of seasonal coach services, into the London bus tendering market, and up the mid-1990s and the end of Grey-Green proper. Sadly, Tom died in January, just before publication of this lavish and well-produced book that was produced by John Card and Stuart Bell. Hardback, stitch-bound with 184 pages all in full colour, the book is very well illustrated with photos and ephemera and a painting of a Volvo Citybus on London route 24 adorns the cover. The cover price is £33. As a special, time-limited offer to members, it is available post-free from Owen Woodliffe (details on page 1) or at the reduced price of £30 at Chelmsford meetings and at our AGM in Colchester on April 12.

[cover illustration shown next page. >>>>>>]

GREY-GREEN

and contemporaries

Book Two



1961 to the
Arriva years

Tom McLachlan

Yet Another Rail Replacement Weekend!

Ian Ransom.

Rail users are getting fed up with significantly extended journey times for trips from Essex to London at weekends but some of us are thrilled at the extensive use of PCVs in our area! Ian Ransom has a penchant for such services and has been out noting the colourful activity.

Observations on Greater Anglia/TFL Rail Replacement Services at Harold Wood, Gubbins Lane 1000 – 1200 on Saturday 23 February, saw over 100 vehicles from almost 40 operators. It is not a complete list, as vehicles from Redwing, Croydon and Trustybus, Roydon were seen on the A12, but not identified.

To save space, it has not been possible to provide details, although Ensign and Stephensons provided double deck buses, the Trustybus vehicle was a Wright saloon, everyone else used coaches.

Greater Anglia (Newbury Park – Southend/Chelmsford/Witham)

Acme, Bammers Green	MB04 TCY and MB04 TCZ
Advance, Rochford	YT60 YZK and YR61 RWF
Andrews Foxton	P22 MBC
APT, Rayleigh	PT04 APT and YR61 RWJ
Bus 62, Wickford	XAZ 807 and E5 BST
Chariot, Isleworth	BF67 WFO and BF67 WFP
City Circle, Hayes	YN17 OWB
Coach Hire Link, Hounslow	V15 GTC
Dans Waltham Abbey	FJ07 ADX, YN07 KGZ, BK11 CNX
Dons, Gt Dunmow	DH04 DON
Ensign	Fleetnumbers 115 116 126 128
Felixstowe Travel	M30 FXO, M50 FXO, M60 FXO and NH11 STH
Flagfinders, Braintree	GB04 FLG, S015 UBS
Galloway, Mendlesham	5048 PP, 6399 PP
Gardner, Rettendon	GRZ 1301, T287 CGU and YN55 PXW
Golden Boy, Hoddesdon	GB15 BOY, WO16 BOY, VO18 BOY and XO18 BOY
Goldline, Manor Park	BT15 KMA, BU16 HBY, YP17 FLB, YN18 ZNU and YN18 ZNV
lCoaches, Hounslow	BX14 OMT and BG15 UCN
John James, Romford	E6 JJT, PO59 OML, YX14 SFK, YJ17 CXA
Kelleys, Thornwood	IJZ 1447, IJZ 3644, BP62 PHF and AY15 HCL
Kevenly, Shotgate	K18 DYS and K800 DYS
Kirby, Rayleigh	K9 BYS
L&R, Shotgate	K20 LNR and T9 LNR
Lodge Coaches, High Easter	46 AEW and EU14 EXR
M&M Cooksmill Green	MM10 BUS and MM68 BUS
Marc 1, Orsett	M15 TVL
Mil-ken, Littleport	MIL 1024
Neals, Isleham	OIG 6925
Panther, Harwich	AB53 PAN
Peter Godward, Basildon	YN08 OCE and CC18 PGC
South East Coaches, Shotgate	GRZ 2450, RL62 RSL, YN18 ZNY and YS68 FHM
Stephensons	Fleetnumbers 503 512 602 606 607
Suffolk Norse, Ipswich	YX15 OUL and YK16 NWT
Swallow, Rainham	PIW 833, SN09 AZU and YX60 BZU
Tendring Travel, Thorpe	RY57 ZKK, YJ57 BSY and AM62 MXW
Thorns, Benfleet	L80 PCC
VV Link, Hayes	M15 VVL
Unknown operators	BX64 WHT and BF15 XPY

TFL Rail (Newbury Park – Shenfield)

Sullivan, South Mimms	Fleetnumbers DS 51/53/54/56/57/58/59/60/61/62 and E 42/47/51
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Top Stephensons of Essex 512 (YN08 OAP) and Abellio London LT699 (LTZ 1699) are seen at Southend Victoria station before departure to Newbury Park station on rail replacement work on the 23 February 2019. **Andrew Mead.**

Bottom Lodge's Coaches of High Easter Setra EU14 GXR is seen at Newbury Park station just before the 1015 departure to Witham on the 23 February 2019. **Andrew Mead.**



Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

14 January 19

Go Ahead Chambers & Heddingham "O" licence cancelled from this date.

9 February 19

397 Debden to Crooked Billet (D) CT Pus CIC – revised timetable.

25 February 19

16 Old Health to Colchester St Helena School (Sch) Go Ahead KonectBus – revision to timetable.

16A Colchester Canwick Grove to Colchester St Helena School (Sch) Go Ahead KonectBus – revision to timetable.

3 March 19

9 Harlow to Epping (M-S) Arriva Kent Thameside – revised timetable with section of route between Potter Street & Epping withdrawn.

86 Harlow to Waltham Cross (M-F) Arriva Kent Thameside – the 0650 from Harlow on schooldays will depart at 0635 and operate 15 mins earlier with revised timing to improve reliability.

11 March 19

Z4 Tilbury Amazon to Laindon Station (D) Ensign Bus – revision to route & timetable.



Friday 22 February was the last weekday of temporarily Ensignbus-operated Amazon service Z3 (Southend Victoria-Tilbury Amazon). The 1655 and 1725 departures were both operated by the Enviro200s usually used on cruise-ship shuttles. Dual-door buses haven't been seen in Southend in a while, so Ensignbus 790 (LJ56 ONN) on the 1725 Amazon Z3 makes an unusual sight at the London Road/Thames Drive junction in Leigh, with thanks to driver Paul Almeroth for kindly slowing to assist photography.

John G. Lidstone.

Essex County Council Ongoing Bus Service Consultations

Ongoing consultations

Supported Bus Services Consultation

19 December 2018

Closing Date

22 March 2019

Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on

- 1 Supported evening and Sunday local bus services
- 2 Getting the right type of service
- 3 Proposals around devolution of local bus services

ECC is reviewing all evening and Sunday Services that are paid for by the tax payer. Please take the opportunity to comment on the future of your evening and Sunday bus services.

Additionally, the consultation would like to know your views on the types of service provided and how they are commissioned.

The consultation letter will be available in your local library (from January 2019), or by phoning: 0345 743 0430. It is also available online:

www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation

Chelmsford Park and Ride services

Consultation - 21 January 2019: Chelmsford Park and Ride

Essex County Council is reviewing ticket options, fares and opening days for **Chelmsford Park and Ride services**.

You can have your say by taking part in the consultation between 21 January 2019 and 22 March 2019

The consultation proposes the below;

Raise the child ticket age from 16 to 18.

A discounted ticket offer when tickets are purchased digitally through an app (12 tickets for the price of 11).

Closure of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride on Saturdays. Sandon would remain open for customers wishing to use Park and Ride and would run on a loop route around the city centre.

Remove the ticket machines on site, cash fares will be allowed to be taken on bus.

An inflationary fare increase.

To take part visit www.essex.gov.uk/Chelmsford-Park-and-Ride

Recent closed consultations

Service 63 Colchester North Rail Station - Monkwick

Operated by **Hedingham & District Omnibuses Ltd**

Closed 15 October 2018

Service 63 (Colchester North Station to Monkwick) operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC).

ECC are considering withdrawing the 0658 journey only and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

OUTCOME The consultation is being assessed.

Service 381 Harlow - Coopersale

Operated by **Community Link**

Closed 27 November 2018

Service 381 operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). ECC are considering amending the Monday - Friday timetable and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

OUTCOME

Following consideration of the consultation, the decision has been made not to make changes to the service at this stage.

Service 11 Highwoods Circular Colchester

Operated by **Arriva**

Closed: 02 January 2019

Service 11 operates Monday to Friday with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). ECC are considering amending the timetable with the aim of improving reliability and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

OUTCOME The consultation is being assessed.

Members are encouraged to participate in these consultations – silence could well be interpreted by the authorities as lack of interest

C659 LJR For EBN659

Robert Appleton.



Cedric's of Wivenhoe C659 LJR, Leyland Olympian with Cummins L10 engine and Eastern Coach Works body in Colchester bus station on 21 July 2004, working service 78X Colchester - Brightlingsea. This bus was new to Northern General in 1985.

Robert Appleton.

A rather appropriate choice considering the recent withdrawal from the Colchester/Brightlingsea route described elsewhere in this EBN. Now! Is there the scope for a history of services around Brightlingsea? Hint, hint!!! **Ed.**



Panther Travel
Pointer Dart
BIG 9856
at its
route 2
destination of
Pier Avenue,
Clacton-on-Sea
29/01/2019.
Alan Moore.

Happy 80th Birthday Wishes!

Long-standing member John Rugg celebrates his 80th birthday on 3 April, 2 days after AIN 825 celebrated its 80th anniversary of entry into service, as shown in the photo taken by **Richard Delahoy** on Saturday 27 August 2014, which appears of the outer front cover of this issue.

The question is, which one looks in the best condition after 80 years of hard work? Answers direct to John!

AIN 825, widely known as “The Essex Lady” was new to Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Ltd in 1939, was on loan to Bristol Tramways from 1941 – 1944, transferred to Eastern National when it absorbed Westcliffe, went to the British Transport Museum from 1960 -1968, came back to Eastern National who loaned it to the EN Preservation Group, back to Eastern National, Thamesway and First Essex, finally going to the 825 Preservation Group based in Essex in February 2007, where it is still loved and beautifully preserved.

Her vital statistics are:

Chassis. **Bristol K5G**, Chassis Number **47.87**, Body **ECW L237/26R**, Body number **6339**.



**825
Preservation
Group
business card
[without the
“personal bits”].
AJN idling her
time away in
an
Essex/Suffolk
border-land
field.**

1939	In service with Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Limited, Southend-on-Sea
Jan 41	On loan to Bristol Tramways & Carriage Company Limited, Bristol
Jan 44	Allocated fleet number 3718
Nov 44	Returned to Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Limited, Southend-on-Sea
Jul 54	Allocated fleet number 1269
Jan 55	Out of service with Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services Limited, Southend-on-Sea (1269)
Jan 55	In service with Eastern National Omnibus Company Limited, Chelmsford (1269)
1960	Out of service with Eastern National Omnibus Company Limited, Chelmsford (1269)
Apr 60	British Transport Commission Museum, Clapham
Dec 68	Eastern National Omnibus Company Limited, Chelmsford (1269)
1971	On loan to Eastern National Preservation Group, Basildon
Feb 87	Eastern National Limited, Chelmsford (1269)
Jul 90	Thamesway Limited, Basildon (9001)
Mar 96	Essex Buses Limited, Chelmsford
Jan 03	First Essex Buses Limited
Feb 07	825 Preservation Group, Harwich

by Adam Kelleher.

Acquired Vehicles

67735	SN62 AHL	SFD1C8AR2CGG30660	C311/25	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow
67737	SN62 AHX	SFD1C8AR2CGG30663	C311/27	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow
67738	SN62 AJU	SFD1C8AR2CGG30664	C311/28	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow
67741	SN62 AKJ	SFD1C8AR2CGG30641	C311/31	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow

Alexander Dennis E30D / Enviro 300. Acquired from First Glasgow. 67735 & 67738 were delivered to Colchester depot on an Alpha Recovery low loader on 22 & 18 February 2019 respectively. 67737 arrived at Colchester on 28 February and 67741 on 6 March. 67735 on 64 on 6 March (via Bustimes.org). 67737 was seen on route 1A on 3 March. All in Urban livery. 67737 has small "First f" fleet name above the driver's window but no depot sticker or main fleet name on offside (nearside not seen).



EBN658p12 recorded the arrival of 67736 (SN62 AHV) Alexander Dennis E30D Enviro 300 from First Glasgow. On 13 February 2019, 67736 was in Colchester Road, Manningtree, working 1030 Harwich - Colchester service 103.

Robert Appleton.

Publicity News

Owen Woodliffe.

Arriva Herts and Essex

Harlow local services (1,2,3,4,6,8,9,10)
Services 66/86/87/251

28pp A5 booklet
16pp A5 booklet

dated from 3 March 2019
dated from 3 March 2019.

Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; FG-First Group cascade (to / from another First company)

Period 11 2018/19 (27 January - 23 February)

20514 CF-CF (out of service), 32672 CF-CF (out of service), 33178 CR-CR (out of service)*, 33189 HH (out of service)-Disposal, 33558 BN-BN (out of service)*, 42519 BN-BN (out of service), 63332 CR-CR (out of service)*, 63341 CR-CR (out of service), 65672 CR (out of service)-Disposal, 65687 CR-CR (out of service)*, 66719 CF-CF (out of service)*, 66801 CR-CR (out of service)*, 66807 CR-CR (out of service)*, 66813 BN-BN (out of service), 66816 CR-CR (out of service)*, 66826 BN-BN (out of service), 67735 FG-CR (out of service), 67736 FG-CR, 67738 FG-CR (out of service)

* Out of service before Period 11 but not previously reported.

20514 is parked out of use at the front of Westway, observed a few times in the same place during February. Its destination equipment has been removed. 65687 was involved in an RTC whilst on route 98 between Wivenhoe and Alresford on the afternoon of Friday 18 January. Unfortunately, the damage was severe enough to warrant it uneconomical to repair so it was cannibalised for spares and has now been sold. 66719 has not been seen in service for a while, no reports of it in use this year. It has coolant issues and has moved from Westway, possibly to Volvo Ipswich. 66816 has gone to Volvo Ipswich for a new engine.

Disposals

Following 33189 being severely damaged when it collided with the low bridge in Hambro Hill, Rayleigh on 29 November 2018 (see EBN656), it was towed to Alpha Recovery from Hadleigh on 6 February 2019, with its complete upper deck missing although its upstairs seats were all still in place. (Sub editor comment: It does appear to have been a wasted opportunity not to have converted this to an open topper.) 65672 & 65687 to Alpha Recovery, February 2019.



Picture

The Southend open-topper that never was! Owing to the nature of its damage, the entire upper deck windows and roof had to be removed in order for 33189 to undertake its 270-mile journey for scrapping. It appeared 'on street' in the Southend area for less than 10 minutes as an 'open-topper' before speeding away up the A127. Here, it has a last meeting with a Hadleigh stablemate as it was towed away for scrapping - with Dennis Trident 33134 (LT02 ZCF) pausing at Victoria House Corner roundabout to let its disabled sister pass by.

John G. Lidstone.

Other Vehicle News and Workings Colchester

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CR).

Further to EBN658, 37009 has been dispatched to Wrightbus to have a new rear fitted.

Although the recently acquired Enviro 300s can and do appear on a variety of routes from Colchester, they are now mainly allocated to the Colchester-Clacton-Walton 97/97A/98 services.

Route 62/A/B branded Volvos seen working on other routes during February: 37133 on 75 (4th), on 103 (5th); 37136 on 65 pm peak (8th), plus on 88A on 1 March; 37138 on 103/4 (11th), on 17 pm & 65 pm peak (12th); 37139 on 70 (5th), on 61 (18th), plus on 103/4 on 1 March

Other double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during February: 32068 (13th); 32477 (27th); 32480 (23rd, rare sighting of a double decker on a Saturday), plus on 1 March; 33078 (15th); 33195 (25th); 37016 (19th); 37020 (15th); 37036 (18th); 37037 (19th). Also, StreetLites on 103/4: 63336 on 18th & 63342 on 25th.

Some sightings of Barbie liveried Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solars during February: 65677 on 98 (7th), on 71 (19th & 21st), on 64A (26th), on 67 (27th); 65681 on 1A (8th), on 104 (12th plus 1 March), on 62 (19th); on 97A (26th); 65684 on 98 (19th); 65685 on 1A (3rd), on 97A (8th & 28th), on 97 (25th).

4 Feb 65028 on 70

5 32481 & 33088 on 62, 66808 on 70

6 62408 on 70

7 67755 on last evening Colchester to Maldon 75 and return

12 67750 on 62 (possibly the first Enviro 300 on this route)

15 32478 & 32480 on 62

18 33088 on 62

19 65028 on 62

22 Chelmsford was unable to cover one of its late workings on 71A, so it was worked from Colchester with 63333 driven by Group member David Edwards. The workings involved were 2045 Chelmsford to Colchester, 2205 Colchester to Kelvedon and return, 2315 Colchester to Witham, then dead back to Colchester.

26 63336 on 70

28 37010 on 174

1 March 32480 on 65 all day, 33088 on 174, 37036 on 175, 37042 on 67/C, 63336 on 67, 65030 on 70



First Essex
63334
(SK65 PXR)
Wright
StreetLite
entering
Colchester
High Street
from North
Hill on
3 March on
service 65 to
Tollgate
Retail Park.
**Ken
Coldwell.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Chelmsford

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF).

Further to EBN649, 66829 is still out of service at Westway, parked in a corner of the workshop. Its engine has been repaired but a lot of parts were "borrowed" for other vehicles and it is taking a while to put it back together.

15 Feb 42937 failed on 71 at Kelvedon One Stop at 1625 and replaced by 44551, DS62242 on training in Colchester

21 42934 on Park & Ride

24 66799 & 69434 on 33

1 March Route 37 branded 44539 on 73.

EBN658 Photo Captions

To expand on and clarify.

p 13 It was Dukes Nightclub that was demolished last year, not the Primrose London coach depot, they were not the same building.

p15 The reason 69533 was in Market Road was because Tindal Street was closed for resurfacing from 28 January until 22 February and buses were diverted via Market Road, Victoria Road South and Parkway to line of route.

p15 There are four school buses from Chelmsford that commence afternoon services from outside the now closed Essex County Hospital in Colchester, but Chelmsford depot also operates school services to other areas, so it operates more than four in total.

p16 The depot illustrated was Hadleigh.



The 'Grand Old Lady' of First Essex (not to be confused with 'The Essex Lady, AIN 825) has remained in service at First Hadleigh much longer than expected, as it is a 'Trident' depot and does not operate Volvo B7TL double-deckers. Ex-First Manchester (Oldham) 30894 (X749 VUA) remains a very popular bus with drivers.

John G. Lidstone.

EBN659p15

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Basildon & Hadleigh

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

Further to EBN658, CF69421 continued to be on loan at Basildon, working on various routes. It was last seen at BN on 19 February, on route 100, the next day it was back at Chelmsford on 71B and 70.

14 Feb Once again Ensignbus stepped in when the last First Essex 100 from Lakeside to Basildon did not operate, using 149 (LX17 DZK)

24 69908 on 251

27 X10 liveried 67162 on 100. HH69517 on 8 (one-day loan to Basildon, back at Hadleigh on 22 & 28 the next day)

2 March 69910 on 25



Picture Whilst X30 branded Enviro MMCs on other routes are everyday occurrences, X10 branded ones are still rare. 67162 on route 100 in Chelmsford Bus Station on 27 February 2019.

Adam Kelleher.

Service Vehicles

Chelmsford has a new driver shuttle car, a silver Mercedes Vito with three rows of seats, KP18 GWZ. It was first seen on 15 February.

mTickets

On Wednesday 27 February First Essex made some minor changes to the way they display tickets within the First Bus mTickets App. The previous Essex Park & Ride, Essex Students, North & Mid Essex and South Essex areas were replaced with Basildon, Brentwood, Chelmsford, Clacton & Walton, Colchester, Essex Network, Essex X10 & X30, Southend Metro and Thurrock.

Seating Capacities

Some corrections to previously reported seating capacities.

In EBN566, it was stated that the company listing showed Volvo B7RLE / Wrightbus Eclipse Urban 2 69512-20, purchased for Chelmsford Park & Ride services, as B45F. They are in fact B44F, with 8 rows of double seats each side, 5 at the rear, one single each side at the front over the wheel arches, three tip ups in the wheelchair area, and two single facing seats on the offside opposite the wheelchair area. (69512-4 have since been sold.)

In EBN605, Volvo B7RLE / Wrightbus Eclipse Urban 69532-3 were reported as B43F. They are also B44F, the same layout as 69512-20 except no single seat at the front nearside over the wheel arch, the offside one faces sideways and three tip ups on the offside opposite the wheelchair area (so six tip ups in total).

In EBN589, Enviro 350H 67901-4 were reported as B38F. They are in fact B41F.

Leyland Olympian C412 HJN

Further to EBN612, preserved former Eastern National & First Essex Leyland Olympian / ECW 4012 / 34812 (C412 HJN) has been repainted from all black into 1993 EN Badgerline style livery, complete with E symbol and badger logos at "Car to Coach" Plymouth. It is owned by Laurence Mayhew and is part of the Plymouth City Transport Preservation Group.

Sources own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, T Clark, L Cornwell, D Disbury, D Edwards, D Furzey, J Norris, J Podgorski, D Pretty, K Smith, First Essex, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr, Essex Buses Google group and Terminus.



Picture 67805 (SN13 CPE) Alexander Dennis E30D/Enviro 300 in Pier Avenue, Clacton on 28 February 2019, on Walton-on-the-Naze - Colchester 97. **Robert Appleton.**

EBN659p17

General News

K738 ODL Volvo Olympian / NC

The sale of this bus fell through and it therefore has to be reinstated into the fleet. However, it remains 'withdrawn'.



Work is underway on a replacement play bus for 'Buffy Playbus' at Saffon Walden. Scania / Optare Olypus PN09 EKR is a former Go-Ahead London (Docklands Buses) fleet number 870 which was acquired from Ensign Bus by the charity. Pictured left,

Andrew Mead.

Work continues on SMK 722F, AEC Routemaster / PRV, for Wilkin & Son, Tiptree.

Restoration on Bedford OB / Burlingham FFS 867 nears completion and is hoped to have the vehicle on the road by May 2019. Meanwhile restoration work has commenced on Ford Model T SV6936. It is planned to have this ready for the Company's centenary celebrations next year.

A Bedford Coach Rally will take place at The Garage in High Easter on the 8 September 2019. Bookings for vehicle entries must be made prior to the event through the Company's office. The Rally will be held in conjunction with the Epping - Ongar Railway with a bus service operating between the two sites.



Complete Vehicle Fleet List at 1 February 2019

Fleet total 53 vehicles with registration numbers, owned & on loan

Buses and Coaches

V936 VUB	Optare Excel acq c12/08 ex Meteor Parking, Heathrow
JW10 DGE	Setra new 3/10
BN58 AHZ	Setra acq 3/23 ex Redwing, London (297)
YAZ 8827	Dennis Trident / EL acq 3/13 ex Kimes, Folkingham
K738 ODL	Leyland Olympian / NC acq 1/14 ex Go South Coast (4738)
EU14 GXR	Setra new 3/14
DU09 MBY	Ford Transit minibus acq 6/14 ex Ryder Rental, Colchester
DU09 MDX	Ford Transit minibus acq 6/14 ex Ryder Rental, Colchester
V434 DRA	Dennis Trident/EL acq 8/14 ex Weavaway, Didcot
V435 DRA	Dennis Trident/EL acq 8/14 ex Weavaway, Didcot
AL15 DGE	Mercedes-Benz Tourismo new 3/15
46 AEW	Setra acq 5/15 ex Kavanagh, Urlingford
T270 BPR	Dennis Trident / EL acq 10/15 ex Bournemouth (270)
T273 BPR	Dennis Trident / EL acq 10/15 ex Bournemouth (273)
T274 BPR	Dennis Trident / EL acq 10/15 ex Bournemouth (274)
T277 BPR	Dennis Trident / EL acq 10/15 ex Bournemouth (277)
V428 DRA	Dennis Trident / EL acq 10/15 ex Bournemouth (285)
F20 DGE	DAF / Wright acq 12/15 ex Fishwick, Leyland (42)
YG52 CLY	DAF / Wright acq 6/16 ex Go South Coast (3410)
AL16 DGE	Mercedes-Benz Tourismo new 6/16
T278 BPR	Dennis Trident / EL acq 11/16 ex Bournemouth (278)
AL17 DGE	Mercedes-Benz Tourismo new 3/17
E20 DGE	Toyota / Optimo acq 4/17 ex Silverline, Solihull
E14 BTS	Dennis Trident/EL acq 12/17 ex Blackpool (347)
E15 BTS	Dennis Trident / EL acq 12/17 ex Blackpool (348)

BU18 YUB Mercedes-Benz Tourismo new 4/18
PN06 UBK MAN / Beaulas Cygnus acq 8/18
Reynolds, Caister

Former registration numbers

JW10 DGE	previously	BV10 ZIX
YAZ 8827	previously	T405 BNN
AL15 DGE	previously	BF15 XOY
46 AEW	previously	08-KE-1; KE08 YFK
F20 DGE	previously	JY03 PFF
E20 DGE	previously	BU08 EIF
E14 BTS	previously	EMN 52Y
E15 BTS	previously	EMN 49Y

Heritage

YMJ 555S	Bedford YMT / Duple	new 6/78
MJB 481	Bedford SBG / Duple	acq -/89
TMY 700	Bedford OB / Duple	acq 11/06
BXM 568	Bedford WTL / Duple	acq -/08
UNO 318	Bedford OL lorry	acq 6/10
LTA 752	Bedford OB / Duple	acq 12/10
ES 8640	Chevrolet X ...	acq 4/13
120 YUH	Ford U. S. Army jeep	acq -/13
EDD 685C	Bedford SB / Duple	acq 12/13
DJL 126D	Bedford VAM / Duple	acq 12/13
SV 6936	Ford T ...	acq 10/14
AHK 111A	Vanden Plus car	acq 1/16
EWK 959	Daimler car ...	acq 3/16
CFV 851	Bedford OB / Duple	acq 9/16
FFS 867	Bedford OB / Burlingham	acq 2/17
864 AYG	Rolls Royce car	acq 10/17
772 YUJ	Ford 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang' car	2/18 (on long term loan)
CJJ 95	Austin taxi ...	acq 4/18

In store for spare donations

HDL 255E	Bedford VAM / Duple	acq 8/15
HTC 577	Bedford OB / Duple	acq 8/18

Support

Y633 GTC	JCB tractor	acq 6/07
K512 XBD	Leyland-DAF low-loader	acq 2/12
H862 ELX	Mercedes-Benz low-loader	acq -/14
Y791 NHJ	Mazda pick-up truck	acq 1/16
LS07 PKU	Ford Ranger van	acq 1/17

Miscellaneous

SMK 722F	AEC Routemaster / PRV	acq 9/18 for Wilkin & Sons Ltd
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J. W. Lodge & Sons Ltd

Andrew Mead with thanks to Andrew Lodge.

EBN659p19

Arriva Southend / Harlow / Colchester.

Acquired at **Southend** is 4459 (MX61 AXW) VDL DB300 Wright Gemini (low height version) H43/27F. Transferred from Maidstone but new to Arriva North West. It was noted in service at Southend on 15 February. It has replaced DAF DB250 / East Lancs Lowlander 6255 (FD02 UKK) which was withdrawn after service on 16 February, having been on route 29 on its last day.



Picture The ex-Arriva Maidstone 4459, new to Arriva North West & Wales VDL DB300 with low-height (13ft 11ins) Wright Gemini 2 bodywork seen on route 29 at Westcliff High Schools. The Southend Enviro400 MMCs at Southend are also low-height (13ft 10ins) but unlike the squashed roofline on the Wright product, the ADL product conceals its lesser height cleverly by maintaining the proportions of the standard product.

John G. Lidstone.

Acquired at **Colchester** from Guildford are 4019 – 22 (GN58 BUF/H/J/O) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 B38F. 4019 was noted in service by 16 February and the others shortly thereafter. These have replaced DAF SB120 / Wright Cadets with 3520 (LJ03 MZL), 3521 (LJ03MYJ), 3527 (LF02PMY), 3529 (LF02PNI) and 3534 (LF02PNU) all withdrawn and moved to Southend for storage by Monday 18 February, eliminating the type at Colchester.

DAF SB120 / Wright Cadets 3520 and 3521 have since moved to **Harlow**, joined there by 4536 (LJ03 MYM) from Hemel Hempstead. It is understood that all 3 have joined the allocation at Harlow. Were allocated Optare Solo 2485 (YK07 BEU) and Dennis Dart SLF / Mini Pointer Dart 1594 (LF02 UOP) were loaned to Harlow during February prior to the arrival of the DAF SB120 / Wrights (as was Enviro 200 3986 listed last month).

The 3 Wright Streetlites at **Southend**, 4224, 4261/2 (GN62HMY, GN64DXR/S) were transferred to Colchester on the night of 2 March, with Volvo B7RLEs 3818/9/26 (GN07AVE/F/P) moving to Southend. However, 3819 was returned to Colchester for repairs without entering service at Southend, with 3825 expected to come to Southend in its place. Once repaired, 3819 is expected to transfer to Southend along with 3817 with 2 deckers going the other way. This is to concentrate types at garages, with Colchester having all the Streetlites and Southend all the Volvos, plus giving Colchester two deckers that could be used on rail replacement work. Colchester's fleet has been all single deck since November 2016.

A particularly unusual working at **Southend** on 16 February was Enviro 400 MMC 6501 on service 6.

A new bus wash was installed at **Colchester** depot in mid-February.



Above With thick fog settling in, Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend) Optare Versa V1170 4259 (KX13 AVF) heads to Rayleigh on Enviro400 MMC service 1 on A13 at Leigh on 24 February. **John G. Lidstone.**

Below The record-breaking high temperatures at the end of February came to an end on the last day of the month, cooler weather interspersed with heavy showers, as seen in Southend Bus Station, Arriva 6514 on route 1 on 28 February 2019. **Adam Kelleher.**





Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus

Dealing Stock Movements

February 2019

Vehicles in

Dublin Bus	05D-70001/2/3/4/5/6/10/12/13/ 14/15/16/17/20.	Volvo B9TLs
Go-Ahead East Yorkshire	FN62 CEA/FN62 CEU YY63 OEK	Volvo B9Rs
Go Ahead London	LT52 WUM LX10 AUW / AVC PN09 EKV YT59 DYB/G/M/N YN56 FEF	Dart E200s Scania's
Go-Ahead South Coast	PE55 WPP	Dart
Goodwins Coaches	YX66 WLH	E400 MMC
Lothian Buses	SN04 AEJ	Trident
Metroline	LK55 KMF LK56 FHF / FHP / FHT	Dart E400s
RATP London	FJ11 MMF / GLF.	Volvo B9Rs
RATP Yellow Buses	SN55 DVG	Dart
Richardson Travel	PN05 SYF/PN52 XBP	Volvo B7TLs

Vehicles Out

A and P Travel, Barway, Cambs	SN04 ADU	Trident
Abbey Travel, Erith, Kent	LX06 ECE	Volvo B7TL
Aintree Coaches	LK55 KLU	Dart
Coach Hire Surrey, Kingswood, Surrey	FJ11 GLF	Volvo B9R

Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex

SN55 DVG / PE55 WPP Darts

Goodwins Coaches, Manchester

YN55 NKX Scania

Hilton Coaches, Newton-le-Willows, Merseyside.

(Hilton's are registering in UK)

05-D70003/13. Dublin B9TL's

These are being registered by the operator so I do not have UK IDs.

Lewis Coaches, Blackheath PF610XF / LF610XF Scania

Lothian Buses LX11 CWP/R Volvo B9TLs

LX60 DXK

FJ11 MMF Volvo B9R

Priory Coaches, Leicester LX06 DZS Volvo B7TL

Redfern Travel, Mansfield YN55 NLP / NLR Scania's

Richardsons Coaches, Midhurst, West Sussex

W449 / 454 BCW Volvo B7TL's

SN51 SYO Trident

Seaford and District FJ11 MME / FJ61 EYL Volvo B9Rs

Skills Coaches, Nottingham SN04 ABX / ABZ / AEL / AEK /

ADX / ACU / ABV / AEA Tridents

Solus Coaches, Stafford FJ58 AJV Scania

Sussex Coaches, Steyning LW55 AJU Dublin B9TL 05-D-70007

Travelmasters, Sheerness LW55 AHZ Dublin B9TL 05-D-70009

LW55 AJX Dublin B9TL 05-D-70011

LW55 AJV Dublin B9TL 05-D-70020

York Pullman YN56 FEF Scania

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL LG02 KHT **HOPE Charity**, Blackwood, Gwent.

Volvo B7TL LG02 KJA **Eydetic Ltd**, London SW11.

Scania PN09 EKR **Uttlesford Playbus**,
Saffron Walden, Essex.

Tridents LX03 BXU / SN53 KHV

WB Chambers, Maidstone.

Trident LX06 AGO **Google**, London W1.

Ensignbus

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Richard Delahoy.

Ensign Fleet February 2019

132 YX66 WLH ADL400 MMC

H49/37F Ex Goodwins Coaches.

YX66 WLH was new to Goodwins January 2017 along with sister vehicle YX66 WLJ.



Above Interior view of Ensignbus dual-door Enviro200 790, adapted for Tilbury cruise ship shuttles with appropriate racking for luggage with thanks to driver Paul Almeroth.

John G. Lidstone.

Below Not Victoria Street Westminster, but Victoria Street Bristol! Ensign 907, LJ54 BFL on rail replacement duties in early 2018.

Allan MacFarlane.

EBN659p23

hedingham and chambers

Mark Lloyd

With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, J. Podgorski, Robert Appleton & Heddingham buses website.

Vehicles Withdrawn

5 N664 THO Volvo B10M Plaxton Premiere Alpha Recovery for scrap 23 February.

Significant Allocations

261	EY57 FZE	HD to KN	28 February	721	W821 NNJ	HD to SY	by 3 March
726	W826 NNJ	CN to SY	by 3 March	911	SF04 SKE	CN to SY	23 to 28 February

Fleet News

517 LX05 EZR returned to HD depot fresh from single door conversion and re-certification on 13 February. 527 LX06 EAK is now being converted to single door. 528 LX06 EAM remains the only ex-London Eclipse still in 2 door format currently at CN. (526 LX 06EAI is in 2 door form on loan to Konect). Ford Transit BU14 YNT from Robertson's Van Hire is still on hire at CN for a Manningtree School contract.

Services

Service 754 Sudbury – Colchester operated to a temporary timetable on Monday 25 February to Wednesday 27 February due to a road closure in Little Cornard.

Monday 25 February, Heddingham took over Go Ride's service 79 Brightlingsea to Clacton via St Osyth and renumbered it service 7 to fit in with their Clacton town network. Route 7 runs M-F and has departures from Brightlingsea at 0915, 1050 and 1325 and returns from Clacton at 1015, 1220 and 1625. This sees Heddingham buses return regularly to Brightlingsea after the withdrawal of the 87 routes. **Robert Appleton** has supplied a photo of 294 0U57 FGZ operating the first round trip, seen in Jackson Road Clacton about to return to Brightlingsea on the 1015 journey on 25 February.



EBN659p24

The irony is that Hedingham have recently stuck additional stickers for the West Mersea 63 service over the top of the old Brighlingsea 87 service on the seaisiders adverts that adorn the sides of the Omnidekkas. Also below is the example of the Seaisiders advertising amendment supplied also by **Robert Appleton**.



Other News

The Toppesfield school contract worked from Hedingham depot with a hired minibus passed to Star Travel for the 2018/19 terms.

Out of interest – a registration website is offering AN61 LAN for £3500 and AN61 BUS for £2500, as far as I am aware the Go-Ahead vehicles are still registered and wearing these plates.

Late news is that Unite union members at Clacton depot are threatening to strike on 18 March. The website has indicated that attempts will be made to run all services by drafting in drivers from elsewhere in the Go-Ahead empire. Hedingham state that the dispute is over union recognition and driver time off duties, and the company were hoping for a formal legal engagement to the issues to allow constructive discussions to take place.

Campaign For Better Transport: How can major roads be made better for buses?

We want the road network to be better, not bigger. Better for cyclists and pedestrians, for nearby communities and for the environment - and crucially, better for buses. A fully loaded double decker bus can take 75 cars off the road!

Highways England manages the strategic road network of motorways and major trunk roads, including some used by important bus routes. They don't control the bus services but can have a big impact on issues from how safe it is to cross the road at bus stops, to how traffic information is shared with bus operators. So, when Highways England asked us to look at how major roads could be made better for buses, we jumped at the chance.

We've been looking in particular at bus facilities on the M32 near Bristol and the A27 in East Sussex, including visiting bus stops, bus bays and villages along the routes. The findings should be applicable much more broadly, however; they'll be released later this year.

[Interested in buses? Sign up to our Save Our Buses newsletter](#)

Fleet

Added to the fleet, from the batch of ex-Abellio E200s acquired some while ago in a dealer capacity:

444 YX10 FEV	445 YX10 FFA	446 YX10 FFC (as reported last month)
447 YX10 FFE	450 YX10 FFL	451 YX10 FFM

Allocations are: Haverhill 445, Rochford 446, NIBS 444/7/50/1 (the latter 4 are for the take up of the new Thurrock Council contracts from 1 April, as reported last month).

Stephensons' Darts 412 and 455 are on loan to Galloway.

News of a former fleet vehicle is that Volvo B10M/Alexander M233 TBV, latterly with Galloway but previously Stephensons, has been sold to South West Coaches.

Operations

the narrow bridge over Finchingfield Brook in the centre of Finchingfield was closed from February 18 to 22 for repairs, affecting services 9/9A & 16. The 9/9A terminated on the east side, and 16 on the south side at Great Bardfield. Flagfinders operated a shuttle service linking from the south/west side of the bridge to Great Bardfield (with peak extensions to Blake End) and from the north/east side to Wethersfield.

Haverhill depot is shortly to convert to the latest version of Ticketer machines with the capability to read QR codes on tickets.

Following on from the new logo for Stephensons, illustrated last month, a new logo for NIBS is being introduced as shown above. The colour version of it uses red for the NIBS part and orange for the buses part and the dot over the i in NIBS.



Stephensons 641 (YN55 NKA) Scania N94/East Lancs Omnidekka at Bury St Edmunds bus station on service 2 to Westley Estate on 21 February.

Ken Coldwell.

EBN658p26



Top Stephensons acquired a batch of Alexander Dennis Enviro200s from Abellio London late in 2018. First not sold, to enter fleet stock, is 446 (YX10 FFC), also treated to a revised, much bolder style of fleetname without the familiar logo. With thanks to Stephensons and driver Chris Staley for arranging a photo-shoot opportunity the day before the bus entered service. **John G. Lidstone.**

Lower Stephensons 434 (EU10 NVT) an Alexander Dennis Enviro 300 leaving Bury St Edmunds bus station on service 1 to Howard Estate on 21 February. **Ken Coldwell.**





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

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

Acquired Vehicles

PE55 WPP, Alexander Dennis Dart / East Lancs, B29D, new to Accord Southern, Southampton (39) 01/06.

SN55 HSG, Alexander Dennis Dart / Alexander Dennis, B28F, new to Manchester Airport 12/05.

PE55 acquired from Go Ahead South Coast, SN55 from RATP Yellow Buses, both via Ensign.

PE55 is in white & red livery for Go Ahead South Coast's Quay Connect service (branding removed, apart from a grey / black / red vessel design on both sides). It retains dual doors. It was seen on route 351 on 14 February 2019.

SN55 is mainly yellow with silver relief and was seen on route 351 on 12 February. It is a standard-length Dart, its low seating capacity when new was because of luggage racks fitted for airport services. It is not known if it has been up-seated since.



A pair of Dennis Darts have entered service with Trustybus, both in their former liveries. The Plaxton bodied one, SN55 HSG, is in yellow/grey colours of Yellow Buses, Bournemouth and is seen during a downpour on 28 February, departing from Bishops Stortford at 1330 on the 7A for Stansted Airport. **Owen Woodliffe.**

Then and Now

Richard Delahoy.

A one-day diversion due to resurfacing in Church Road, Shoeburyness took Arriva Southend service 9 along Shoebury Common Road, not served by buses for many years now apart from Stephenson's morning schoolday bus on the 814, presented an opportunity for a "then and now" combination.



"Then" was taken on 28 May, 1979 and shows Southend Transport 334, a Massey bodied Leyland PD3 on the 66, a summer Sunday/Bank Holiday only shuttle service from Southend Victoria Circus to Shoebury Common. These short workings had been numbered 66 after the main service on route 7 had been diverted away from this part of the seafront to serve Church Road instead.



"Now" captures Arriva Southend Versa 4255 at the same location on 5 March. Trees have been planted in the intervening years, preventing the photographer from capturing exactly the same angle, even if the lamppost is unchanged, but we think this is close enough!

Both photos by **Richard Delahoy**.

EBN659p29

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Anita, Stansted Airport

YT15 AUX, a Scania K410EB6 with Iriza C53FT body is reported as being here from City Circle, Hayes, Greater London and has been re-registered as VV15 ERN.

Bone, (Tendring Travel), Thorpe-le-Soken

Recent arrivals here are X598 USC, a Dennis Trident with Plaxton H47/28F body, previously with Tyrer, Adlington, Lancashire and YJ57 BSY, a Tempa Safari C51FT, ex. Richards, Cardigan, West Wales.

Jackson, Bicknacre

Marco Polo C70F bodied MAN A91, registration no. PN09 CWP is now with Solus, Tamworth, Staffordshire.

New Horizon, Frating

W964 AAY, a Volvo B10M with Jonkheere C51FT body has gone to Stainthorpe, Skelton, Cleveland.



As reported on EBN659p6, Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 February saw coaches on rail replacement duties from Witham station. One such was YN55 PXD, a Scania K114EB with Iriza PB C49FT body, operated by Gardner Travel, Chelmsford.

Roger A. Smith.

See that page for Ian Ransom's comprehensive list of vehicles operating rail replacement that weekend.

Letters

Last Month's Brainteaser on EBN658p2 (house clearance picture from Bob Williamson.)

This certainly produced a flurry of assistance from our ever helpful and knowledgeable membership. Here are a few of the responses, all suggesting the Editor's guess that the picture was taken in Kelvedon was wrong! Thanks!

Roy Webb (227)

I think the picture is somewhere around Colchester Bus Station/Depot in view of the [7]6 and 88 in the shot. The vehicles are 2 deep (at least) behind which is a row at right angles - look through the middle LD! The L/H vehicle is a K judging by the central route number in the blind so the picture would date to around 1964-6 only.

David Reynolds

I think you will find it is Colchester Bus Station at the rear garage wall by the exit to Queen Street. Next to the original CCT bus stops.

David Edwards.

I can give you the following information on the photo from Bob Williamson in EBN658.

The picture was taken inside the former EN Colchester depot yard with the vehicles backed up against the depot wall, the buses which can be seen parked across the back are over the other side of the wall and are parked in the bottom corner of the old Lewis Gardens Bus Station. (In later years that area of the Bus Station was referred to by staff as "The Triangle"). NB, as an aside an additional piece of information, when the Bus Station first opened in 1961 it was known as Lewis Gardens Bus Station presumably to differentiate it from the St. Johns St. Bus Park. When I was employed as a Traffic Clerk at Head Office in the Licensing dept. during the late 1970's the entries for licence applications to the Traffic Commissioners were made in a ledger and Excursions and Tours from Colchester were entitled "E&T From Colchester, Lewis Gardens Bus Station". I am sure group member Anthony Spindler who at that time was Traffic Assistant (Licensing) will confirm this.

Anyway, to continue with the photograph, the Guy and the LD are flanked by two Bristol K's, the one next to 2006 is very likely one of the ONO registered batch. 2505 was a Halstead (HD) allocated bus and was unique in the fleet in having longer bench seats for 5 passengers over the rear wheel arches (see Chris Stewart's Lodekka book). The Guy and LD were obviously on lay-over between peak hour duties in Colchester as was the custom at the time with the crews travelling to/from their home depot's as passengers on a service bus thus saving dead mileage. To work out an approximate date it would be obviously post August 1964 following the fleet renumbering but before the ONO Bristol K and Guy 2006 were withdrawn and the LD transferred to Basildon. So, I would suggest a date of between August 1964 and October 1966.

Owen Woodliffe

What Might Have Been! - Wells

Alan Tebbitt mentions that Wells sold out to Fords in October 1984, although prior to that Grey-Green were interested in acquiring the business as in 1983 they had commenced a network of commuter services from north Essex to London jointly with Eastern National. Coaches were parked at various locations near their driver's homes overnight with maintenance being done on layover in London at Stamford Hill, but they were considering establishing a depot in Essex. However, nothing came of the negotiations and no depot was acquired before the Essex commuter routes were disposed of in 1998. It is perhaps interesting to speculate what may have occurred in Essex had this happened as their Kent depot operated a number of bus routes in addition to commuter routes.

Roger A. Smith

More on route 123 – but in the West!

I read with interest Ted Miles' article about Eastern National route 123 as I have childhood recollections of a route 123 that operated at the opposite end of Essex, namely, London Transport route 123. For about four years, during the mid to late nineteen fifties, my father, who was a police sergeant, was stationed at Hornchurch Police Station and we lived, as a family, in Coronation Drive, Elm Park, a settlement on the District Line between Dagenham East and Hornchurch. At that time, what is now the London Borough of Havering was very much part of Essex. The 123 operated by RTs started from outside the RAF base at South Hornchurch and proceeded along Coronation Drive, through Elm Park, along Rainham Road and round Roneo Corner into Romford. I believe the RTs were based at Romford, North Street garage. I can remember using this route to travel to the Saturday morning pictures in Romford. Sometimes, a friend and I would go to the South Hornchurch terminus and chat to the crew. If we were lucky, we were allowed to ring the bell and "hitch" a ride along Coronation Drive to the stop near where I lived. Whilst we were living in Elm Park, the 123 became the 252 which still serves Elm Park to this day. The present 123 runs from Ilford to Wood Green via Walthamstow and Tottenham.

Martin White, AJN 825 Preservation Group

Sets This Month's Puzzle.

Preservation Group publicity claims that AJN 825 is "thought to be the third oldest K in existence." It carries the oldest known double deck body by ECW of Lowestoft.

What and where are the two older Ks? Martin knows; but do you?

No prize except we will publish your answer!



Ever alert to the unusual, **John G. Lidstone** brings us this enormous coach in its snow and blue livery; he asks (tongue in cheek?) ... "Is this the longest route from Southend....? 'Megasnowcoach'? Snowexpress.co.uk Van Hool Astromega TDX27 YJ18 AIS promising a cheap ride to the French Alps from Southend area, at Hadleigh where once Southend Transport Astromega TD824s passed daily."



As an interesting contrast, in almost complete black, Milestone Coaches impressive Neoplan Skyliner SF 56 TYT takes a break in High Street, Colchester 31/01/2019. **Alan Moore.**

Target Dates for EBN660 (April 2019).

Before	...	Saturday	30 March 2019	Reports to Sub-Editors.
Before	---	Friday	5 April 2019	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
On or before		Monday	15 April 2019	Dispatch by Printers.



On Sunday 24 February, glorious spring-like weather graced the special Green Line coach event hosted by the **Epping Ongar Railway** at North Weald. Quite a few EBEG members sampled rides in a variety of classic Green Line vehicles including examples of the RT, RMC, RCL, RF, RP, SMA and T classes, with a special guest appearance by the London Transport Museum's TF. An interloper was Daimler Fleetline XF1, not a Green Line vehicle as such but very popular on the day.

upper picture

Star of the day, but not in public service, was 1939-built TF77c. This was a revolutionary underfloor-engined design from Leyland, the Tiger FEC, with LT body built at Chiswick Works. The TF posed for well over a hundred cameras at Toot Hill!

Centre picture

Newest bus in service was one of the attractive Alexander bodied AEC Swifts diverted from South Wales Transport to ease the dire vehicle shortages at LCBS in the early 1970s. SMA8 was a popular performer on the day.

Lower picture

One of 8 Daimler Fleetlines bought by LT in 1965 for experimental service, XF1 has been restored in London Country livery seen here loading at North Weald on the regular service to Epping Station.

All pictures by **Richard Delahoy.**



Around & About

Top picture

The oldest vehicle in this always smart fleet is KC60 ABC, a Van Hool TX16 seen at the operators Stanway base on 23 February.

Ian Ransom.

Middle picture

Scania N94/East Lancs was new to Metrobus, it is now in the fleet of Flagfinders, Braintree and on 23 February is seen at the depot in Coggeshall Road, with blinds set for school service 223 (Braintree to Hedingham School).

Ian Ransom.



Lower picture

Temporary storage of ex-Northfleet Sapphire Wright StreetLites displaced by new StreetLites from services 480/490 brought Sapphire spec 4272 (GN64 DXO) to Southend. On 25 February, John noticed new-to-Southend standard-spec 4261 (GN64 DXR) was present, thanks to Lee Burvill-Eckett, the two were posed together probably for the first time since they left the Wrightbus factory.

John G. Lidstone.

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EBN659 outer rear cover

