Essex Bus News

No. 608
DECEMBER
2014



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk





Top picture this page:
In July 2008, 56006 and 9 received branding to advertise the upcoming re-launch of the X30 with new coaches (Volvo B9R / Plaxton Panthers 20801-5), which they carried for a couple of months. 56006 is seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 13 July 2008.
Adam Kelleher.

Bottom picture, this page:
53008 (W806 PAF) came from First Devon & Cornwall for spares recovery, but we are told it was found in such good condition that it was placed in service and is seen here in Chelmsford a few weeks back. Quite a surprise!

John G. Lidstone.

Front Cover picture:

As mentioned in EBN 606, Bristol RELL 1546 (SVW 274K) has been bought for preservation and repainted in late 1970s NBC livery. Seen here at the Railway Tavern, High Street, Kelvedon, Autumn 2014. Photo taken by **Richard Walker** with thanks to Luke Deal.

Robert Appleton has sent a photo of the bus operating on the 53A for Carters Coach services in 1994. I am saving this for a treat in the New Year!

Essex Bus News 608; December 2014.

Editors & Other Officers

First in Essex
Adam Kelleher,
74 Park Road,
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk

Arriva Southend/Network Colchester/ Network Harlow
Peter Mansbridge petemans_1@hotmail.com

Ensignbus/Hedingham/Chambers
Mark Lloyd,
448 Ipswich Road,
COLCHESTER CO4 4EY mark.lloyd@asgb.co.uk

Regal/Amber/Townlink/Trustybus/EOS
Adam Kelleher,
74 Park Road,
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk

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

Social Secretary; meetings, events, tours
Owen Woodliffe,
196 Sinclair Road,
CHINGFORD E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com

Distribution Officer; missing/defective EBN's
Owen Woodliffe as above.

Publication Sales; orders for publications
Owen Woodliffe as above;
who also stocks a wide range of colour photos;
Send SAE with your requirements.

Black & White Photo Sales
We are sorry that this service is temporarily suspended until further notice.

Smaller Operators
Roger A Smith,
67 The Street,
Little Waltham,
CHELMSFORD CM3 3NT

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

Welcome to new Member:
Ian Godfrey, London SW6 – 1085

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

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

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

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

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

Your reports and observations
Members reports, quality photos, prints, slides or JPGs to about 5"x4" size and 300dpi resolution and original articles are always welcome.
The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.
Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors published.
Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Group.

©2014 Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS.

The Winter dates are all Wednesdays at **Wickford Cricket Club**, off Swan Lane, five minutes walk from Wickford Railway Station and five minutes drive from A130 and A127. In Wickford Town Centre, turn right into Swan Lane (pub on corner) and in 100 yards turn right, signed Wickford Tennis Club, this is a private road. Free parking in front and a cash bar is available. Doors open at 1930 for informal chat and usually an impromptu slide show with main show from 2000 to 2145/2200. Members and guests welcome - £1.50 donation towards cost of room, please.

Wednesday 17 December 2014.	Xmas Social & 20 years ago.
Wednesday 21 January 2015.	Slide show "Scottish Islands" by **Ian Barlex.**
Wednesday 18 February 2015.	Speaker tba.
Wednesday 18 March 2015.	**AGM** starts **1945 sharp** then slide show "50 years AGO", by **Alan Osborne**.

Your advice wanted!!!

From record high attendances earlier in the year, recent Wickford meetings have been much more poorly attended. It may simply be that a number of people had other commitments, but it would help us to understand if there are particular issues we need to address. Therefore if you have not attended recently, or don't attend for a particular reason, could you please give us feedback on:

- the venue itself
- car parking arrangements
- day of the week (currently we meet on Wednesdays)
- choice of speakers/topics.
-

Please e-mail Richard Delahoy at richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk with your comments (and note change of e-mail address). Thanks!

A Blast From The Past! **Paul Harvey.**



Eastern National Leyland Tiger Alexander 1118 HHJ 379Y seen in HH depot ready for performing National Express duties on service 133 from Southend to Great Yarmouth during the summer of 1985. **Paul Harvey.**

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

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

Venue: downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat, and often impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 12 December 2014.	Christmas Special by **Gary Sharpe**.
Friday 9 January 2015.	**Fred Lawrance.**
Friday 13 February 2015.	tba.
Friday 13 March 2015.	**Gary Sharpe/Trevor Brooks.**
Friday 10 April.	**Owen Woodliffe.**
Friday 8 May and **Friday 12 June.**	tba.

EVENTS.

Saturdays 20 December.	**Ensignbus Xmas Specials** to Winter Wonderland (Hyde Park) and Xmas Lights.
Saturday 3 January.	Chiswick Rail & Bus Fair. Chiswick Town Hall.
Fri/Sat 30/31January.	Guided Tours of LT Acton Depot
Saturday 14 February.	Barnet Transport Fair. Christ Church Hall, St Albans Road, Barnet
Saturday 28 March.	SE Bus Festival, Kent Showground, Detling near Maidstone.

With its roots in the 2011 'M&D 100' event that marked the centenary of the Maidstone & District bus company, this is the fifth event of its type organised by the same three-man team which includes Richard Lewis, Regional Publicity Manager, Arriva Southern Counties, Arriva The Shires and TGM Group East. The existing popular format will be continued with lots of buses, lots of sales-stands, talks by guest speakers, slide shows, the very popular frequent free bus rides around the showground and the Reunion Tea Room for former bus company staff. As in previous years, Arriva is pleased to help publicise the event and full details are shown on its website at arrivabus.co.uk/south-east-bus-festival. The information will be updated over the months ahead and includes details of the vehicles that are entered. Nine entries have already been received at this early stage. There is also a Facebook page at facebook.com/southeastbusfestival.

Information is published in good faith and members are strongly advised to check details with the organisers, as the Group can accept no liability if events are cancelled or altered.



Part of last year's Detling lineup; even better in multi-colour! **Richard Lewis.**

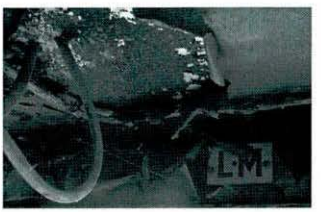
Southend 326 survives in Canada by Paul Bateson.

I asked the ferry attendant, "Do you know where Wild Thyme Coffee House is located, please?" "Oh! You mean the double-decker bus!" was the immediate response. "It's parked up the hill, on the left hand side." With a broad smile and a big thank you, I headed away from the ferry. The hill was almost like going up the side of a mountain as it seemed so steep. I huffed and puffed up that hill!

Aleah immediately noticed me and as she approached, she said, "You must be Paul. Welcome to Saturna Island!" I felt very honoured to be so warmly received and, of course, I expressed my excitement at being re-united with 326.

Over a welcome pot of tea, we sat on the upper deck and talked extensively about 326. I could relate the days of my involvement with the bus during my SCT days and Aleah told me of the trials and tribulations of buying the bus and installing it in its new home.





Above: The emergency door acts as another entrance into the kitchen whilst the former rear destination blind area has been opened. **Paul Bateson.**

Left: The appropriate SCT garage parking lanes (L-M) are still displayed in the driver's cab. **Paul Bateson.**

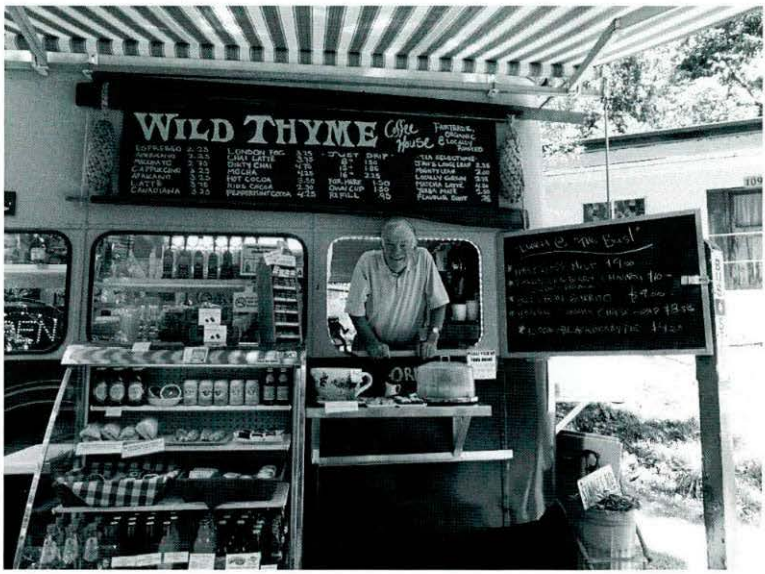
Aleah wanted to retain as much of the atmosphere of the bus as possible on the top deck and this involved a considerable amount of work. The upstairs still had the full set of forward facing seats when the bus was purchased. These were all removed and completely stripped down. The floor was replaced and the roof panels were strengthened. The seat frames were sanded, painted, new plywood backing was installed and the seats were re-upholstered to Aleah's liking. Seat extensions were designed by Aleah's business partner at his metal fabrication company and shipped to the site. The installation was completed by fitting the extensions to the seat frames, building six tables and reinstating the seats around the tables. The seating capacity is 25.

The interior is painted in a light blue that I associate with Southend buses. It had been carefully chosen by Aleah and fooled me as I thought it was the original blue!

The lower deck has been transformed into a fully-equipped kitchen and at the time of my visit it was fully stocked. The outside of the bus is painted in a very pleasant two-tone green livery. The colour scheme fits in very well with the wooded surroundings and seating is provided outside.

I could not resist sitting in the driver's cab. Although work was still required to clean up this area, I was amused that the designated parking lanes for the Lowlanders in the SCT Garage were still clearly displayed above the windscreen. Just for the record - lanes "L-M", see picture previous page.

The warm welcome and hospitality that I received from Aleah, her staff and several of the guests, was very much appreciated. This will ensure that I pay a return visit to what is becoming a well-known attraction on the island.





The 1978 tax disc for 326 (7090 HJ) has been well preserved.

Paul Bateson.

picture above: Welcome to the *Wild Thyme Coffee House*. Paul Bateson shows his delight at finding 326 in this view taken at the serving window on the rear nearside.

(This is an edited version of an article that was first published in the December 2013 issue of the British Buses Abroad magazine, published by Buses Worldwide, and reproduced by permission of the Author).

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Carters Coach Services

5 Jan 15	92	M-S	Manningtree to Ipswich: revised timetable.
	93/94	M-S	Colchester to Ipswich: revised timetable.



One of Carters more recent Tridents, 451. Whilst it has a neat near side single door conversion, the rest of the bus is still in Stagecoach London red as withdrawn. In fact one can easily read Stagecoach on the nearside and rear from the residue of sticky stuff where the names have been peeled off and enough of the Stageccach fleet number 17421 can still be read on the offside. Note also the "Southend" registration FJN! **Roger Tuke.**

Ensign Bus

8 Nov 14	22	M-S	Aveley to Grays: minor timing adjustment.
	23	Coll	Belhus to Palmers College: service extended to/from Aveley.
	73/A	D	Tilbury to Lakeside: minor timing adjustment.
	83	M-S	Chadwell to Lakeside: minor timing adjustment.
28 Nov 14	23	Coll	Aveley to Palmers College: minor revision to timetable.
1 Dec 14	22X	M-S	Lakeside to Purfleet: reintroduction of one late journey until 23 Dec 14.
6 Dec 14	X86	Sat	Brentwood to Upminster: new service operating on first Saturday in December only.
22 Dec 14	27	Sch	Grays to Stanford: revision to timetable.
26 Dec 14	X10	Fri	Lakeside to Southend: revised timetable for this Boxing Day only service.

First

17 Nov 14	200/X	M-S	Grays to Basildon: minor timetable adjustment.
7 Dec 14	CVP&R	M-S	Chelmer Valley Park & Ride: special Sunday services 'til 21 December 14.
	SP&R	M-S	Sandon Park & Ride: special Sunday services until 21 December 14.
4 Jan 15	31/C/X	D	Chelmsford to Burnham: revised route and timetable.
	351	D	Chelmsford to Brentwood: revised timetable.

Flagfinders

3 Nov 14	64	Sch	Halstead to Boreham: revised route and timetable.

Fourways

4 Jan 15	476	Sch	Stanford Rivers to Brentwood: revision to timetable with service no longer available to the public.
	3	Sch	Hatfield Peverel to Sandon: contract service open to the public.

Go Ahead (Hedingham)

1 Dec 14	34	M-S	Bocking to Great Notley: minor timetable adjustment.
	88	M-S	Braintree to Colchester: revised route and timetable with section between Halstead and Braintree withdrawn.
	X88	M-F	Colchester to Great Yeldham: service withdrawn.
	89/A	M-S	Great Yeldham to Braintree: revised timetable.
18 Dec 14	137	D	Clacton to Shopping Village Circular: additional evening journeys to operate on 18 Dec 14 plus daytime service on 26 Dec 14 and 1 Jan 15.
	87/A	M-S	Colchester to Brightlingsea: minor timetable revision.
5 Jan 15	87/A	M-S	Colchester to Brightlingsea: revised timetable.

Go Ride

1 Dec 14	79	M-S	Clacton to Brightlingsea: weekend service withdrawn.
	7	Sun	Clacton to Holland: service withdrawn, though it is unclear when this service actually commenced.
	78A	D	Brightlingsea Circular: Saturday and Sunday service withdrawn.

Go Ride's Sunday services may have been withdrawn during September.



Epping Forest Community Transport took over the thrice-daily Mon-Sat 347 (Harlow to Hatfield Broad Oak) from First and 16 seat Fiat Ducato HX61 HYL is at Hatfield Heath on 29 November. It has no ticket machine so no fares are currently being charged. **Owen Woodliffe.**

Service Changes, cont. by Paul Harvey.

Myall & Son

2 Dec 14	101	Tue	Whittlesford to Saffron Walden: reinstatement of contract service.



The Tuesday market service 101 ceased on 30 November and earlier this year Myall's Marshall SLF Dart R404 XFL is seen leaving Saffron Walden for return to Whittlesford. **Owen Woodliffe.**

New Horizon

21 Dec 14 at	78	M-S	Brightlingsea to Colchester: revised timetable to operate school days only school times.
4 Jan 15	77	M-S	Aingers Green to Colchester: revised route and timetable.

NIBS

4 Dec 14	481	Sch	West Horndon to Hutton: new school contract service.
	482-6	Sch	Ongar to Hutton: new school contract services.
4 Jan 15	236	M-S	Wickford to Basildon: service withdrawn.
	237	M-S	South Woodham to Basildon: revised route and timetable.

Regal Busways

20 Oct 14	3	M-S	Oxney Green to Southend: minor timing adjustment.
3 Nov 14	500	Sch	North Weald to Epping St Johns: revision to timetable.
	501	Sch	Fyfield to Epping St Johns: revision to timetable.
	503	Sch	High Ongar to Epping St Johns: revision to timetable.
	505	Sch	Beeleigh Link to Chelmsford Hyland Sch: revision to timetable.
	507	Sch	Chelmsford Wyson Rd to Hyland School: revision to timetable.
8 Nov 14	380-383	M-S	Harlow to Ongar: revised timetable to overcome late arrival of school jnys.

Richmonds

The group of Hertfordshire County Council rural contracts that were awarded to Centrebus from 1 September were not cancelled by Richmonds until 30 November which created duplication of services.

Stephensons of Essex

3 Nov 14	3	M-F	Colchester to The Hythe: new contract service.

Swallow Coaches (EOS)

18 Oct 14	66/A	M-S	Harlow to Loughton: additional journeys introduced on Saturdays between Harlow and North Weald Market.
20 Oct 14	16	Coll	Debden to Harlow: new service with one journey serving Debden other off peak journeys operate Harlow to Waltham Cross.

TGM Group (Network Colchester)

1 Dec 14	105/7/9	M-S	Colchester to Walton: revised route and timetable reverting to timetable and route pre 1 Sept 14.



Network Colchester has three Caetano Darts from Classic (originally Link Line). The fourth 1562 RX07KPG having gone straight to Arriva New Enterprise on loan without entering service in Essex. So 1563 RX07KPJ (shown here) and 1564 HX04HUH are in Classic blue and white without any fleet names and 1565 HX04HUK in Nexus red and grey, with a large new style Network Colchester fleet name on the front. Someone must have thought without it the passengers may not realise that this is a NC bus! **Roger Tuke.**

Townlink Buses

7 Nov 14	16	M-F	Harlow to Waltham Abbey: new service (updated information).
26 Nov 14	19A	M-F	Harlow to Loughton: new service.

Trans-Vol Community Transport

1 Dec 14	265	M-S	Grays to West Horndon: new contract service.

Wyvern Community Transport

17 Dec 14	SB72	WF	Great Wakering to Rayleigh: revised route not serving Clements Hall Sports Centre and Tesco anymore.

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

Arriva Southend; Christmas and New Year Services. From Richard Lewis.

Wednesday 24th December (Christmas Eve)	Normal Wednesday services will run but with early finishes (please see below).
Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day)	No services will run.
Friday 26th December (Boxing Day)	No services will run, ***Except: Ensign Bus Service X10*** will run a half-hourly Service (Southend – Westcliff – Leigh – Hadleigh – Benfleet – Pitsea – Basildon – Lakeside)
Saturday 27th December	Normal Saturday services will run.
Sunday 28th December	Normal Sunday services will run.
Monday 29th December	Saturdays services will run.
Tuesday 30th December	Saturdays services will run.
Wednesday 31st December (New Year's Eve)	Saturday services will run but with early finishes (please see next page). ***Service 10*** will run a normal Wednesday service.
Thursday 1st January (New Year's Day)	No services will run.
Friday 2nd January	Normal services are resumed.

Early Finishes (Wednesday 24th December Christmas Eve)

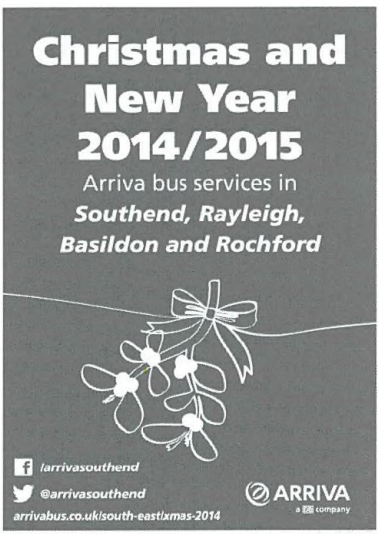
Wednesday services with last buses running as follows:

Service	From	To	Departs
1	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2018
	Rayleigh	Shoeburyness	2046
The 2058 Shoeburyness to Rayleigh bus will ***only run as far as Southend Travel Centre***			
The 2126 Rayleigh to Shoeburyness bus will ***only run as far as Southend Victoria Rail Station***			
7	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2000
	Hockley (Stephensons)	Rayleigh	2129
	Rayleigh	Southend	2015
	Rayleigh (Stephensons)	Little Wakering Corner	2148
The 2100 Hockley to Shoeburyness and 2030 Shoeburyness to Hockley buses will **only run as far as Southend Travel Centre,** connecting with a Stephensons bus on to Hockley & Rayleigh			
9	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2030
	Rayleigh	Southend	2100
The 2130 Shoeburyness to Rayleigh bus will **only run as far as Southend Travel Centre**			
The 2130 Rayleigh to Shoeburyness bus will **only run as far as Southend Victoria Rail Station**			

Early Finishes (Tuesday 31st December New Year's Eve)

Saturday services with last buses running as follows:

Service	From	To	Departs
1	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2018
	Rayleigh	Shoeburyness	2046
The 2058 Shoeburyness to Rayleigh bus will ***only run as far as Southend Travel Centre***			
The 2126 Rayleigh to Shoeburyness bus will ***only run as far as Southend Victoria Rail Station***			
7	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2000
	Hockley (Stephensons)	Rayleigh	2129
	Rayleigh	Southend	2015
	Rayleigh (Stephensons)	Little Wakering Corner	2148
The 2100 Hockley to Shoeburyness and 2030 Shoeburyness to Hockley buses will **only run as far as Southend Travel Centre,** connecting with a Stephensons bus on to Hockley & Rayleigh			
9	Shoeburyness	Rayleigh	2030
	Rayleigh	Southend	2100
The 2130 Shoeburyness to Rayleigh bus will **only run as far as Southend Travel Centre**			
The 2130 Rayleigh to Shoeburyness bus will **only run as far as Southend Victoria Rail Station**			



This very attractive leaflet is in a lovely bright red; your Editor is not sure whether it is available in paper form or just as a pdf. He is also not sure how the leaflet will appear in print so this is something of an experiment!

There seems to be a bit of competition brewing in the south of our area as the Ensign leaflets for their holiday services and their "specials" are even more colourful. We haven't sought permission to publish them.

We now know that First Essex have decided not do anything different from their usual no service on the three Bank Holidays apart from the X30. Several other First companies are running special Boxing Day services, for example First Berkshire are running routes 71, 75 and 78 on Boxing Day and a Sunday service on New Year's Day, First Bristol operate on most services on Boxing Day and First Wessex operate on their Weymouth routes 1 and 10 on Boxing Day. There may well be others!

At the time of preparing this piece, the Essex County Council public transport team has just issued its latest Bus Passenger News that, instead of including a summary of holiday services, suggests a look at Traveline, whose holiday coverage is superb. Fine for those with computer access!

It is hoped the public supports all these initiatives!

Text by **Maurice Austin**.

A Magic Morning on Cascaded First Essex Buses;

Remembrance Day Thursday 11 November 2014. By John Rugg.

0934	**8A**	**Laindon (Victoria Road) – Basildon (Bus Station)**				**0955**
		32863	V863 HBY	Dennis Trident Plaxton	H39/21F	
		ex- First Capital then First Eastern Counties (2/10)				
1020	**256**	**Basildon (Bus Station) – Billericay (High Street)**				**1052**
		41513	LK03 NGF	Transbus Dart SLF Caetano Nimbus	B33F	
		ex- First Capital (1/14)				

Unplanned pause at Billericay (War Memorial) for 2 minutes silence.

1105	**9**	**Billericay (High Street) – Brentwood (High Street)**				**1132**
		41525	LK03 UFC	Transbus Dart SLF Caetano Nimbus	B33F	
		ex- Centrewest (12/11)				
1200	**351**	**Brentwood (High Street) – Chelmsford (Bus Station)**				**1237**
		53008	W808 PAF	Optare Solo	B27F	
		ex- First Western National then First Hants & Dorset (7/14)				
1255	**14**	**Chelmsford (Bus Station) – Wickford (High Street)**				**1329**
		44900	AY08 EKT	AD Dart Alexander Dennis	B29F	
		ex-Carters, Wherstead, Ipswich (7/13)				
1335	**25**	**Wickford (High Street) – Basildon (Bus Station)**				**1358**
		33178	LR02 LYX	Dennis Trident/President	H39/24F	
		ex- Centrewest (2/13)				
1407	**8**	**Basildon (Bus Station) – Laindon (Victoria Road)**				**1423**
		66826	MX05 CFA	Volvo B7 Wright	B43F	
		ex- First Manchester (12/08)				

It was a beautiful morning travelling through rural countryside most of the time and completely free!



John Rugg missed this one! Optare Solo 53701 (LK05 DYO) looks nice and tidy, if a tad small..... In Chelmsford Bus Station on 19 November from First Scotland East, Larbert Depot. **John G. Lidstone.**

By Adam Kelleher.

New Vehicles

Chassis and Body numbers of the StreetLites delivered in October and November are as follows.

47521	SN64 CMV	SA9DSRXXX14141823	Wt AK829	B37F	10/14
47522	SN64 CMX	SA9DSRXXX14141824	Wt AK830	B37F	10/14
47523	SN64 CMY	SA9DSRXXX14141825	Wt AK831	B37F	10/14
47524	SN64 CMZ	SA9DSRXXX14141826	Wt AK832	B37F	10/14
47525	SN64 CNA	SA9DSRXXX14141827	Wt AK833	B37F	10/14
47526	SN64 CNC	SA9DSRXXX14141828	Wt AK834	B37F	10/14
47527	SN64 CNE	SA9DSRXXX14141829	Wt AK835	B37F	11/14
47528	SN64 CNF	SA9DSRXXX14141830	Wt AK836	B37F	11/14
47529	SN64 CNJ	SA9DSRXXX14141831	Wt AK837	B37F	11/14
47530	SN64 CNK	SA9DSRXXX14141832	Wt AK838	B37F	11/14

More information is available re the dates given in EBN 607. 47529 was delivered to HH on 4 November and 47528/30 on the 5th. 47528-30 had been delivered to Heysham Docks on 1 November. 47527 was delivered to Hadleigh on the 17th. Prior to this it was at Great Yarmouth depot, presumably to familiarise staff there with the type prior to them receiving their own batch of StreetLites, hence its delay in arriving at Hadleigh (Incidentally, the Yarmouth batch is 47501-6, SN64 CPU/V/X/Y/Z/CRF, so lower fleet numbers but later registration numbers).

47530 has a half super rear ad, i.e. top half only, for free Wi Fi.

The StreelLite Maxes, 63161-70, are mainly used on routes 22 and 28. The daytime pattern of operation is a 28 from Southend to Basildon, then a round trip on the 22 to Canvey Leigh Beck and return, then back to Southend as a 28 (on Sundays both routes are extended to Basildon Hospital and are not inter-worked). The shorter 47521-30 operate on any route from HH. These have slightly different seats to the Maxes, with curved plastic rails atop rather than solid semi high-backed seats.



That's it, the biggest allocation of full-size new buses ever in the 80-year history of Hadleigh Depot, and appropriately, the last one to enter service, 47528, seen outside the Depot. **John G Lidstone.**



As reported by Adam, First Essex Buses at Braintree have received two more Volvo B10BLE Wright Renown from First Aberdeen in addition to 62139 illustrated and mentioned in EBN607. These two are 62195 and 62197. **Robert Appleton** had a smooth and comfortable ride on 62195 from Braintree to Witham on 21 November.

Acquired Vehicles

23020	YN54 APK	Sca K114IB YS2K4X20001848608	Ir 96527	C49F	03/05	First Coaches 23020
62195	X689 ADK	Vo B10BLE YV3R4A513Y1006675	Wt D68	B43F	10/00	First Manchester 689
62197	X692 ADK	Vo B10BLE YV3R4A51XY1006687	Wt D71	B43F	11/00	First Manchester 692
65675	SN51 UYJ	Sca L94UB 1840624	Wt E508	B43F	11/01	First Edinburgh 546
69431	AU58 FFT	Vo B7RLE YV3R6K6289A131518	Wt AC594	B44F	01/09	First E Counties 69431

23020 is a Scania / Irizar Century and was acquired in October. It has previously operated in National Express and Bristol International Airport Express Link liveries. It is being prepared for service at Westway. Co-incidentally, similar 23016-9 (YN54 APO/U/V/X) were on loan from First Manchester when brand new exactly 10 years ago this month to help launch service X30 (see separate article in this month's EBN). They were with First Essex from 2 December 2004 but had all gone by Boxing Day. (A photo of 23016 was in EBN 488.)
62195/7 from First Aberdeen was seen at Braintree depot on 12 November. 62195 noted on route 70 the next day. 62197 was seen on driver shuttles at BE on 21st. They are in old First livery (Barbie) with dot matrix blinds. Before arriving at Braintree they were seen at HB Commercials, Ipswich on 23 October, having been towed from Scotland as they were out of MOT, before being prepared for service at First Eastern Counties Ipswich depot. 62195 (at least) mistakenly received First Eastern Counties legal lettering (albeit the legal address is the same as First Essex at Westway).

65675 from First Eastern Counties at Ipswich on 25 November in exchange for 66976. Seen on route 75 at Colchester the same day. It was previously with First Essex from July 2002 until September 2011, originally at Basildon, then to Colchester in February 2009. It was new as dealer stock and has a non-corporate interior. It has dot matrix blinds and is in old First livery (Barbie) with Ipswich fleet names on the cove panels on both sides.
69431 from First Eastern Counties at Ipswich on 10 November in exchange for 66980. Seen on route 61 at Colchester on the 12th. in Urban livery with Ipswich fleet names and depot stickers on lower side panels both sides plus all round LED blinds. It had been new in pink Ipswich Park & Ride livery.

Continued, by Adam Kelleher.

Allocation Changes

These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FG=to/from another First Group company (both involving change of legal ownership); Acq=acquired from a non First company

The following traditional depot codes are used in EBN, although no longer by the company:
BN-Basildon; BE-Braintree; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School

Period 7 (28 September - 25 October) - Additional to EBN 607 23020 FG-CF* (*being prepared for service)

Period 8 (26 October - 22 November)

30887 BE-CN, 32856 CN-BE, 42551 BN-HH(out of service), 43359 HH-BN, 43715 HH-CF(res), 43717 HH-BN, 43720 HH-sold, 43732 HH-CF(res), 43734 HH-BE, 47521 New-HH, 47522 New-HH, 47524 New-HH, 47525 New-HH, 47526 New-HH, 47527 New-HH, 47528 New-HH, 47529 New-HH, 47530 New-HH, 62195 FG-BE, 62197 FG-BE, 65532 CN-CN(out of service), 65538 CN-CN(res), 65569 CR-CN(out of service), 65668 CR-CN, 66798 HH-CR, 66801 CF-CR, 66804 CF-CR, 66980 CR-FEC, 69431 FEC-CR

Although shown officially as being transferred to CF as a spare vehicle, 43715 has been seen in service at BN, e.g. on route 9 on 21 November. In EBN 607 it was stated that "although shown officially as being transferred to CF, 66804 has been seen in service at CR, e.g. on the 65 on 2 November". It has indeed moved to CR, as shown above, but it did work briefly at CF, e.g. it was seen on route 36 on 29 October. It is thought that 42551 has moved to HH for cannibalisation and donated its gearbox to 43736.

Disposals

November 2014: 43720 to Alpha Recovery; 66976 and 66980 to First Eastern Counties at Ipswich (25th and 10th respectively) and both on to Rotherham for refurbishment. 66976 was the vehicle in all over Co-op livery (except front). All the ex First Midland Red KX05 registered Volvo B7RLEs 66976-80/82-6 which were acquired in March last year have now moved from Colchester to Ipswich (66981/7 went there directly last year).



Probably soon to be in the Disposal list, HH's superbly kept SLF Dart, 43721, has just passed its MOT. A whole-life Hadleigh depot bus, it is a credit to its depot. Seen on 20 November by **John G Lidstone.**

Repaints to Urban livery:
CN30887, repainted following its move from BE to CN, although not currently in service, awaiting engine repairs.
CN42918, seen on route 9 on 2 December, Essex fleet names both sides, small Essex fleet name on rear (and so has lost its super rear ad for Essex Fire Service that was applied in September last year).
CF43801, seen on route 351 on 25 November, Essex fleet name and depot sticker on lower panels on nearside (offside not seen); this vehicle had been off road after having suffered front nearside damage in a collision on 20 August in Chelmsford Bus Station (see EBN 605) and was seen repaired at ADL Harlow on 1 November.
CF53133, seen on route 351 on 17 November, Essex fleet name on lower panels on both sides, small Essex fleet name on rear, no depot stickers.

Other Vehicle News and Workings

General
Recently repainted CF53133 and CF66817 have had their seats reupholstered with e-leather. CR65678 has had its rear route number display panelled over. CR69429, acquired in October from First Eastern Counties at Ipswich (see EBN 607), has a super rear ad for Ipswich Co-op Funeral Service. CR32654 has had "Colchester" added to its small "First" name above the entrance door, plus has also received depot stickers but does not carry a main fleet name.

Olympian
The last Olympian, 34305, was seen on 36 & 71/A on 6 November, and unusually on Colchester school services on 11th.

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)
During November, service 2, Harwich-Parkeston, was worked mainly by the oldest Darts at CN, with 43712, 43714 and 43735 all noted. The second bus on the 2 on Mondays to Fridays (which also works school contract C30 (30A) Harwich-Manningtree High School) is no longer CN30902; it was CN61054 on 7 November, CN32810 on 18th and CN61057 on 21st. CN30902 has moved on to service 76, Clacton-Colchester, and was noted working this route on most weekdays during November. School route C30, Harwich-Manningtree High School, has reverted back to number 30A (see EBN 606) and the timetable is once again on the First Essex website (the current timetable is valid from 02/11/14 to 20/12/14). CN65527, the oldest vehicle in Urban livery, spent most weekdays during November working services 7/8, Clacton-Walton on the Naze.

28 Nov	66828 on 65 and 71C (transfer from HH)
29	65671 parked on the forecourt at CN depot, a possible transfer from CR
2 Dec	43719 on 4 (transfer from HH)

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

6 Nov	BE33087 on King Edward Grammar School, Chelmsford, service
11	CF53125 on 71/A, CF66802 on X30
12	CF20500 on early morning 31X
13	BE42931 on 352, BN69912 on 1710 Sandon Park & Ride extra
14	BN69907 on 1710 Sandon Park & Ride extra
15	BE42932 on 352, CF53131 on 36
16	CF66795 and CF69532 both on X30, the former correctly blinded, but the latter showing "Special" as the destination, with the route number on a card in the windscreen
18	CF(res)43732 on 56
19	BE32856 (transfer from CN) on 70, CF42935 on 46 (usually Solo operated), CF66818 on X30
20	CF66830 failed on 42A at Little Waltham, passengers were transferred to CF69533
21	CF65031 and CF66811 on X30
24	CF65032 on 73 (Chelmsford)
26	CF20801 on Anglo European school service
27	CF20802 on early morning 31X
3 Dec	CF53121 on 42A

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

7 Nov	HH47530 on 26 (its first day in service)
10	HH47528 on 26 (its first day in service)
18	BN69915 on 25A
21	BN41525 on 100

Adam has pointed out that the description on the inside front cover of EBN607 that 42439 is the oldest bus in the First Essex fleet is not true. It is the oldest single decker and the oldest bus at HH but Olympian 34305 is the oldest bus.

First transforming travel

Concluded, by Adam Kelleher.

Other News

Former Thamesway 608 / 20108 (N608 APU) did not stay long with Blueline Travel, Rochford (see EBN 606); it has been sold to Worthen Motors, Shrewsbury.



Passing by Hadleigh Depot on 20 November, was ex-Thamesway Volvo B10M-62/Plaxton Premiere 608 (N608 APU). See notes in Smaller Operators and this page. How many liveries has this vehicle had? **John G Lidstone.**

PU Postscript

As mentioned above, one of the Great Yarmouth batch of new StreeLites is 47501, registered SN64 CPU. In a way, it is a shame that this registration wasn't used on one of the new Essex vehicles, as PU is an old (pre 2001) Essex mark and was allocated many times to Eastern National vehicles. For example, a quick scan through Bob Palmer's "ENOC Fleet Record 1964-1990" shows the following types carrying PU registrations amongst their number: Bristol SCs; Bristol LS buses and coaches; Bristol MW coaches (not buses or original DPs); Bedford SB coaches; Bristol RE buses; Guy Arabs; Leyland Titan; Bristol Ks and KSs (but not KSWs); Bristol LDs; both Bristol FSs; Bristol FLFs; Bristol VRs; Leyland Olympian buses plus all the Leyland Olympian coaches; Mercedes minibuses and Ford Transits. Perhaps surprisingly, Leyland Nationals, the second largest type of vehicles in this period after Bristol Lodekkas, didn't have any PU registrations. After 1990, PU was also allocated to some Dennis Darts (both EN and Thamesway) and to all the Thamesway Volvo commuter coaches. The three-letter combination CPU itself was fairly rare and was only allocated in the period covered to the first five Bristol VRs and two batches of Thamesway Darts (851-4 and 944-972). However, despite its rarity, two preserved Eastern National / Thamesway vehicles carry this mark, Olympian 3000, CPU 979G and Dart 952, N952 CPU. Another preserved PU is Leyland Titan 2106, MPU 52.

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, N Clark, T Clark, D Flatman, A Hughes, A Jones, J Lidstone, J Long, D Lund-Conlon, C Nixon & Ipswich Bus Blog, J Podgorski, S Quy, I Ransom, J Sadd, D Smith, K Smith, C Stewart, G Toon, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, Flickr, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle and *'Terminus'*.

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

Preservation Progress – ONO 59;

An update by Richard Delahoy.

A year ago we reported on the on-going restoration of ONO59, the 1949 Bristol K5G formerly EN 4038, then 1327 and finally 2255. Visiting the Museum on 2 November for their open day, I was delighted to see ONO outside and in use as the information/control bus, as illustrated below. Steve Milner of the LVVS brings us up to date:

"We are delighted to say the fund raising for ONO`s restoration has now topped £11,500 thanks to another generous donation on the Open Day. ONO 59 has been fully serviced and is Class 5 tested, and I must say it drives very nicely indeed.

Recent donations to the cause have included the correct type of front wheels, radiator grill and material for the interior lining panels. Correct style moquette and metal seat frames are now in stock but the seats have to be made from scratch at a cost of £4,000 or so.

We need £30,000 plus to do the complete bus, including a lower deck re-panel, new window rubbers, floor covering, repairs to the body frame, seats, painting, etc - and to have some of this work professionally undertaken to speed up the restoration somewhat, so that folk who remember this type in service can ride on it sooner than later! Maybe someone also has an authentic destination blind or four too?!".

To offer help or make a donation, please get in touch via the LVVS, info@lvvs.org.uk or by post at Whisby Road, North Hykeham, Lincoln, LN6 3QT. More on the history of the bus is on the LVVS website www.lvvs.org.uk .

And if you are in Leigh on Sea, pop into the Elms pub on the London Road to see the display about the round-the-world trip that ONO undertook in 1967-69 and which started from that very pub.



And here she is! Your Editor loves the description "Tender vehicle"! **Richard Delahoy.**

Arriva Southend by Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Richard Delahoy.

A third VDL SB200/Wright has now arrived, 3760 (YJ08 DZL) but is not yet in service; 3761(YJ08 DZM) is expected to follow soon.

Dart SLF / Plaxton 3326 T826NMJ is now withdrawn.

Only Dart SLFs 3278 and 3281 remain fitted with roller blinds, every other bus having electronic displays.



The older version of the Arriva livery with a predominately cream front is now only carried by the remaining 10 Darts in the Arriva Southend fleet, as displayed here by 3281, T281JKM, outside the Victoria Plaza on service 7 on 15 November 15, with Christmas decorations already up. Even rarer than the livery is the use of roller blinds, only 3278/81 remain so fitted at the front, every other bus having electronic displays. **Richard Delahoy.**

Boo-boo Corner.

1 Adam Kelleher has pointed out the caption on page 2 of EBN607 saying the photo of 4501 was taken in 1984 is wrong as the bus wasn't delivered until February 1985! Paul Harvey, whose picture it was says "I think the year is late 1985 because they are operating coach services under deregulation few years later 4501 was repainted into the EN livery rather then the special 400 livery."

2 Several eagle-eyed members, including Richard Delahoy and Adam Kelleher were quick to point out my error in Philosophy Page where I seemed to referred to Bristol RE 1546 as Bristol VR 1406! My fault, the original version was too long, so I edited it down – by cutting the wrong bits out! Sorry for that but the point I was trying to make seemed to be picked up by members, restore to exact original state or "just" get it back into a working condition. Restore or preserve?

TGM Essex; Network Colchester by Peter Mansbridge

With thanks to Richard Delahoy and Keith Sadler.

Volvo Olympian 5944 (R614 MNU) and Dart SLF 3311(S313 JUA) have both been withdrawn.
Dart SLF 1555 (V231 HBH) returned to Harlow in late November with Dart SLF 1559 (EU56 GVG) moving from Harlow in return.



Roger Tuke took this picture of Network Colchester 3314 to prove it is alive and well, still in service, contrary to the report in EBN 607! It is 3312 S310JUA and 3315 S313JUA that have been withdrawn to date. 3313,3314 & 3316 were all out in use on 21/11/14 and he was reliably informed by a driver he knows well that 3311 was still there and in the garage yard on that day, although it sported a blue "Network Harlow" front lower dash panel, presumably since receiving attention for a mishap. Well, would someone please check for us.

Maltese/Essex link .. by Owen Woodliffe.



Former Arriva Southend F893 BKK was seen regularly working Sightseeing Malta hop on/off South service and in bright November sunshine it climbs away from the harbourside of one of the ancient cities of Valletta.
Owen Woodliffe.

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements October and November 2014.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

VEHICLES IN

Airparks	AE61EWK/L/M/N	MAN's
Arriva TGM	FN04FSE	Volvo B12B
Carousel Buses	PN02XCS	Volvo B7TL
Dawson Rentals	KU02YUJ	Darts
	KM02HGD	
	KX53SDU	
	KW02PRO	Enviro 300's
	KV03ZFJ	
	KX54NKE	
	KM02HDJ/HGD/YUJ	Darts
	KP54BYL	
Epsom Buses	PE56UFH/J/K	Enviro 200's
Galleon Travel	SHZ2046 / TNZ1186	Darts
Go-Ahead NE	S815/7FVK	Olympians
Go South Coast	T745/7-9JPO	Tridents
	P955DNR	DAF SB3000's
	P124RWR	
	N68FWU	
	W503WGH	Volvo B7TL
London General	R370 / 371LGH	Volvo Olympians
	Y987TGH	Dart
Metroline	LK03GHY	Trident
	YX09FLP/W/Z	Enviro 200's
	YX09FMU/V/FLW	
Nottingham Coaches	M407BFG/N584XSA	Volvo B10M's
Regal Buses	YJ06YSK/YJ56AOT	Solo's
Stagecoach London	LX04FXJ-M/P-/U	Tridents
	Y529NHK	
	LX51FKR/FMZ/FNL	
	LY02OBB/F/G/M/	
	LY02OAB/W	
	LV52HDY/HFK/HFJ	
Stagecoach Scotland	SV54ELJ	Neoplan Skyliner's
	YN05WEF/K	
	N211UNH	Merc 709
Velvet Buses	NX55FFO	Solo

Membership renewals:

Around 75 members who received a renewal form with their October magazine had not returned them with their 2015 subscription by the end of November. We hope you have enjoyed your membership of the Group and the last 12 issues of the magazine. Please renew now, otherwise this will be your last issue of Essex Bus News!

Richard Delahoy, Acting Chairman

VEHICLES OUT

Ace Travel, Liverpool	LK03CGU/GFY/GHA	Tridents
Avondale Coaches, Glasgow	Y987TGH	Dart
Barkerbus, Roydon, Essex	YN05WEF	Neoplan
Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx	T683KPU	Trident
	R482NPR	Dart
Brylaine, Boston, Lincs	LX04FYA	Trident
Carters Coaches, Northants	GB05BCL	Volvo B12B
Crosville M.S, Weston-Super-Mare	LJ09KRG/K/N	Wrights Hybrids
Dawson Rentals	AB07OXF/JB07OXF	Volvo B12B's
First Cornwall	MX59AVP	Solo
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex	E56UFH/J/K	E200's
	KP54BYL	Dart
GHA Coaches, Wrexham	R234HCD	Volvo B10BLE
Grant Palmer, Dunstable	SN03DZY	Dart
Herberts Travel, Shefford, Beds	YN05WEK/SV54ELJ	Neoplan's
Heritage Travel, Brighton	KW02DRO	Enviro 300's
	KV03ZFJ/K/KX54NKE	
Jan's Coaches, Ely, Cambs	SV54ELO	Neoplan
Lodge Coaches, High Easter, Essex	FY52PMU/V	MAN's
Nottingham Coaches	X224/7/32FBB	Darts
Redbridge Transport	PN02XCA/K/T	Volvo B7TL's
Redline Buses, Aylesbury	KB07OXF	Volvo B12B
	W495/6WGH	Volvo B7TL's
Regal Busways, Chelmsford	YX09HZA	Enviro 200's
	MX10DXO	
	SN10CAU	
Simonds Coaches, Botesdale, Norfolk.	WA09FHJ	Enviro 200
Southern Transit, Brighton	R370LGH	Olympian
Stagecarriage, Middlesborough	N703LTN	Olympian
	M407BFG	Volvo B10M's
	N584XSA	
Swanbrook Transport, Cheltenham	MX09AOT	Solo
	T747JPO	Trident
Tanat Valley, Oswestry	HMN221A	Trident ex LW05PJO
Velvet Buses, Eastleigh, Hants	SHZ2046	Dart
	KX51UDG	Dart
	W401WGH	Volvo B7TL

OTHER MOVEMENTS

MAN's AE61EWK / EWL / EWM / EWN : Associated Coach Sales, New Zealand.
Olympians S815 / 817FVK N731LTN : PCV NE, Stockton-on-Tees.
RM2065 : Coolen Investeringen, Heythuysen, Holland.
RML2455 : Planet Ltd, Cosby, Leics.
Volvo B7TL W468WGH : Travel and Transport Ltd, Newry, Co Down, Eire.
Dart SNZ3869 MAN's FY52PLX / PLZ : Mike Lawrenson, Preston.
Olympian R371LGH : South East Bus Supplies, Bromley
Dart KM02HFK : Johns School of Motoring, Edmonton.
Merc 709 N660VSS : WB Chambers and Son, Maidstone.

Ensignbus **Fleet News Nov. 2014. Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.**

Additions

603	YN54DCY	Volvo B7R Plaxton Panther (originally new as C49FT with Courtesy, Chadderton).	C53F	Ex Arriva New Enterprise

Withdrawals

601	S808BTT	Volvo B10M	Jonckheere	C51F
781	LX51FGD	Dennis Dart SLF	ALX200	B34F
782	LX51FGA	Dennis Dart SLF	ALX200	B34F
734	Y334FJN	Dennis Dart SLF	ALX200	B37F
739	Y339FJN	Dennis Dart SLF	ALX200	B37F
742	Y342FJN	Dennis Dart SLF	ALX200	B37F

Subsequent Use

Darts 781/2 sold to Avondale Coaches, Glasgow.
Dart 739 sold to Manor Training, Benfleet, Essex.
Darts 734 and 742 sold to Henshaw's Coaches, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucs.
Volvo B10M 601 sold to Aintree Coaches.

"Special" Bus Services; **News from Richard Delahoy.**

Tilbury Ferry Replacement. **Thurrock Council** has arranged a free hourly bus service with **Arriva** to take passengers between **Tilbury and Gravesend** when the ferry service is forced to stop next month. Extra-large cruise ships docking at the London Cruise Terminal will make it impossible for the usual Tilbury-Gravesend ferry to moor at the Tilbury ferry terminal.

The bus service will run on Thursday, Friday, Saturday 11, 12, 13, December, Monday, 15 December and Thursday and Friday 18 and 19 December.

The bus is expected to take 40 minutes to travel between the two towns – without stopping in between – but the service will be subject to congestion. Buses are expected to leave both Tilbury ferry terminal and Gravesend, West Street, Town Pier on the hour from 0600 until 1700.

265 Replacement. In addition the council has been able to find an alternative local bus service for the **265** that Amber will be stopping at the end of November because it became financially unviable. **Trans-Vol** won a competition to run the reduced service allowing residents of Bulphan and West Horndon access to Orsett Hospital and Grays town centre.

The service will operate until the end of March next year when it will be reviewed.
The new service will run between Monday, 1 December until Tuesday, 31 March from Monday to Saturdays - excluding Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.
Start times from West Horndon station are 9am, noon and 3pm, and return journeys from Grays - bus station bay 8 – at 1130, 1430 and 1630. All pass holders will still be able to travel free of charge.

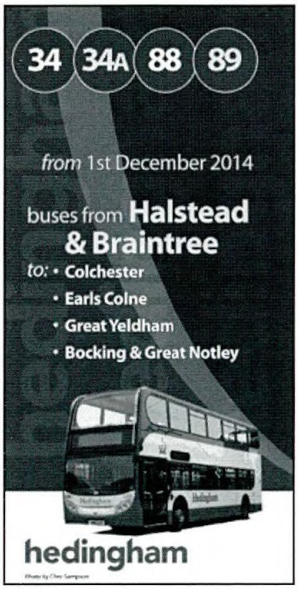
http://www.thurrockgazette.co.uk/news/11624926._/

The 202 service between Ipswich and Shotley. Operates four times a day every Sunday, was launched in August and Suffolk County Council has now extended the service until at least the end of March 2015.

Two additional journeys – also launched in August – on the Hadleigh to Ipswich 90 route to link up with the new service have also been extended over the same period. Buses from Ipswich to Shotley will run at 0900, 1100, 1330 and 1600. It is managed by **Hadleigh Community Transport Group**, which already runs the 90 route.

http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/extension_for_popular_sunday_bus_service_linking_ipswich_and_shotley_1_3861731

Hedingham and Chambers. Mark Lloyd.



Service changes and publicity, December 2014.

Following a three-month experiment, service 88 reverted to operate between Colchester and Halstead from 1 December; morning and evening journeys continue to/from Great Yeldham.

Both the 88 and 89 saw minor timing alterations from this date, so as to allow connections with one another in Halstead High Street. Through ticketing is now available on single, return, day, week and month options across the two services.

A new timetable leaflet has also been produced for the 34/34A, 88 and 89/89A, combining timetable information with sample fares. Chambers service 111 is also mentioned as an additional journey option between Braintree and Halstead, on which Hedingham tickets are honoured.

Also from 1 December, the 1920 service 34 from Braintree rail station to Great Notley was retimed to depart ten minutes later, so as to better connect with the 1919 train arriving from London.

Service changes, January 2015

Service 87 will be enhanced from Monday 5 January to run up to every 20 minutes in the daytime, from every 30 minutes currently. There will be no change to Clacton depot's PVR.

From the same date, morning journeys on services 84, 84A and 754 from Colchester to Sudbury via Thomas Gainsborough School will be retimed to address delays arising from North Station roadworks.

Subsequent operation and use

**Volvo Olympian 88 left Tollesbury on tow, after sale to a private owner at a farm in West Hanningfield.
Elder Leyland Olympian 60 (H160 HJN) has been sold to Mr. J. Benee, owner of GVS 948Y.
**Of the Hedingham vehicles acquired by Panther Travel, Dennis Dart/MPD X346 YGU is now BIG 9856, Dennis Lance SLF M211 WHJ is now BIG 7793, and Optare Excel V203 ENU is now BIG 9861.
**Former Hedingham Dennis Dart/Alexander Dash L198 (K198 EVW) and Volvo B10B/Alexander Strider L354 (M604 TTV) are for sale on an online bidding website, Malcolm Harrison, whilst former L255, Bristol VR STW 30W was recently sold by auction locally.

with thanks to Jeff Clayton & Essex-Buses yahoo group.



Picture left:

Just arrived from Braintree on 23 September is Hedingham Volvo B10/Alexander (S376 MVP) on experimentally extended 88 service via Halstead.

Ken Coldwell.

by Adam Kelleher

Regal Busways

With thanks to Maurice Austin, Nigel Clark, Terry Clark, Chris Hatley, Dominic Lund-Conlon, Ross Newman, John Podgorski, Ian Ransom, John Salmon, Kevin Smith and Owen Woodliffe.

Acquired Vehicles

650 YX09 HZA Enviro 200 Dart / Enviro 200 B29F new 7/09 to Dunn Line (Veolia) (0901)
651 SN10 CAU Enviro 200 Dart / Enviro 200 B29F new 4/10 to Henderson, Hamilton (110)
652 MX10 DXO Enviro 200 Dart / Enviro 200 B29F new 6/10 to Henderson, Hamilton (210)
Acquired from Ensign, November 2014. 650 was latterly with Wiltshire Buses. They have been repainted into Regal livery (650 at least was done at Mardens). They are the first Enviro 200 Darts in the fleet (702 has an Enviro 200 body on a MAN chassis) and start a new number series following on from Dart SLFs in the 601+ series.
650 was first noted in service on 28 November on route 3, although with its LED blinds not in use and the route number in the windscreen. 651 was seen on the 565 on 1 December with its LED blinds in use. 652 was seen on route 31A on 3 December with its LED blinds not in use and the route number in the windscreen.

Disposals

Solos 201 and 202 to Ensign, November 2014
Not previously reported is that Dart 612 (R507 SJM) was scrapped some time ago. It was ex NIBS and had retained NIBS livery. It was last reported in service in June 2012 having only been acquired circa January that year.

Other Vehicle News

203 has been decommissioned for sale. 204 has been off road for over eighteen months.

Workings and Observations

10 October 613 on First Data shuttle, PO2 on 52 (and again on 26th and 27th)

21	PO2 on 3 (and again on 24th)	30	...	Step entrance 515 on 52
3 November	205 on B2 (and again on 5th)	5		802 on 3
6	207 on 52	7		614 on 3
11	Panther BIG 9807 on 52	16	...	702 on 71C (and again on 23rd)
21	Panther BIG 9248 on 52 (and again on 26th)			
23	614 on 88	29		650 on 381
30	PO2 on 71C			
2 December	650 on 3	3		601 on 1



Solos 201 and 202 have been withdrawn and sold to Ensign. Here we show 201 when shiny and brand new passing Chelmsford Railway Station on 29 August 2006.

Adam Kelleher.

Amber Coaches by Adam Kelleher. *With thanks to John G Lidstone*

Acquired Vehicle
HT52 WTG Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano B31D new December 2002 Mitcham Belle 081.
It is not known exactly when this vehicle was acquired but it was seen in service on 25 October 2014. It joins 1-6 as ex Mitcham Belle Dart / Caetanos in the fleet. It has also operated with Stagecoach, Huntingdon & District, Go North East and KJB and since leaving Mitcham Belle it has been converted to single door and a front LED blind display has been fitted. It is in fleet livery but with a new style Amber fleet name on the front. On the cove panels each side it carries lettering "Connecting to Healthcare" and "11 and 374 are your bus routes to health" (both routes serve Basildon University Hospital). On the lower panels each side is lettering "Operated by Ambus, part of Amber Coaches" and below this "thurrock.gov.uk" and "Travel Thurrock". 4 has also received this branding and the new style fleet name.

Trustybus (Galleon Travel 2009, Roydon, Essex bus operations)

by Adam Kelleher. *With thanks to Ross Newman, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS.*

Acquired Vehicles
PE56 UFH/J/K Enviro 200 Dart / East Lancs Esteem 9.5m new as B25D to Quality Line, Epsom (SD43-5) 2/07 acquired from Ensign October 2014
These are in all over red.
KP54 BYL Alexander Dennis Dart / Pointer B37F new to Central Parking (32403) 1/05
Later it operated for Premiere Travel, Nottingham (3387). Acquired from Ensign November 2014.

Disposals
MDS 13/15/16 all gone from the fleet by October 2014
PDS 17, 18 and PDS 32 to Ensign, October 2014

Other Vehicle News
Correction to EBN 605: PDS 32 was re-registered from T312 SMV to SHZ 2046, not 2246. This vehicle has now been sold (see above). EDS 23 (BX58 BEY) has been named Niamh Brooke and EDL 35 (LY58 PFX) has been named Little Hannah. Vario MP 5 (EIG 1357) was unusual on route 410 in November.

Publicity News by Ian Ransom and Owen Woodliffe.

EOS leaflets for service 16 (Harlow-Waltham Abbey/Debden) dated 20.10.14; 66/A (Harlow-Debden); North Weald market A5 size leaflet flyer for 66 dated 18.10.14 and timetable leaflet for 66/66A w.e.f 16.9.14.
ECC timetable leaflet for 380/1/2/3 w.e.f. 3.11.14. **First Essex** Braintree Area Timetable Booklet dated 17.11.14

Across the River. Extract from a Press Release from Richard Lewis.

Arriva Southern Counties is running an autumn tourist bus for Medway Council that takes locals and visitors to see some of the places around the Rochester area that were so loved by author Charles Dickens.

The gold and purple single-deck bus took to the road on Saturday 15 November and will run twice daily on Saturdays and Sundays until 21 December but once a day over the weekend of the Christmas Dickensian Festival. The bus being used on the tour is a Dennis Dart SLF that previously wore a gold livery to celebrate local Olympian Lizzie Yarnold's success at the 2014 Winter Olympics. The gold base livery has been retained but overlaid with purple graphics promoting the tour and also adorned with seasonal decorations in vinyl.

The inside of the bus features depictions of characters from Dickens' novels and there are quotations from his books on the backs of the seats.
The £10 fare for the tour (£7.50 for children and concessions) includes a wine and mince pie reception at the Guildhall Museum before the tour sets off.

The Wickford Floods!

The picture from Lyn Watson on EBN607p22 bought a torrent of response from the membership, including:

Alan Osborne wrote:
The Osborne family purchased a plot of land in the 'plot land' area of Wickford, off Castledon Road, in 1936 and built a bungalow with a verandah on it.
We used it as a holiday home and weekend retreat and travelled down from Romford on City route 1, sampling GNUs, Tigers, Leylands etc.
There was a major flood in Wickford on 5 September 1958 (when the Rover Crouch burst its banks). Later the river was completely dug out and a new course installed.
Outside the Swan Hotel close to where the Wickford meetings are now held the water was very deep.
I think the Lodekka on the 251 is turning from The Broadway into London Road, with Runwell Road going straight on.
I looked on the Wickford History website (www.wickfordhistory.org.uk) where there are more details and several other pictures of an LD taken at the same spot.
The photographer certainly was not me!

Followed up by:
Looking at the Wickford history website in more detail, the location is as I thought, this area was also known as Halls Corner. The backgrounds of the photos on the website match.
There were fifteen passengers on the LD and they were stranded upstairs until an Army landing craft could rescue them.
I cycled into Wickford and witnessed the scene. Bill Morrison will probably have some memories of this too.

Adam Kelleher wrote in response to some scans from Chris Stewart:
All these years I did not realise there were two different LDs pictured in Wickford in the floods, I always assumed it was the same bus. I should have looked more carefully!
To clarify, the photos in Chris's scans show 1463 (566 CTW, renumbered 2432 in 1964). This is NOT the bus in the photo in EBN 607. Chris's scans are from Saturday 6 September 1958 after the flood of the day before.
The photo in EBN 607 was taken two and a half weeks later on Wednesday 24 September 1958. I attach the front page of the (London) Evening News from that date which includes the exact same picture unfortunately no photographer credit. As Chris says, this is a different bus from that of 6 September - although it has got the same Bass advert it is applied in a slightly different place plus the round corner panel advert is different (therefore, as Chris deduces, it is one of 1459-62 (562-5 CTW)). The text of the Evening News article includes: "The worst spot was Wickford, Essex, where at one time part of the town was under eight feet of water. It was the second time in three weeks that Wickford people had to leave their homes through floods" (i.e. referring to the 5 September floods). It goes on to say: "Civil Defence volunteers waded with police through the streets to warn people of the danger. A bridge was swept away, the River Crouch overflowed and the village of Runwell was inundated with water".
Co-incidentally both photos were taken at the same place, at the junction of London Road, High Street and Nevedon Road. (This is at the opposite end of Wickford High Street to where the EBEG meetings are held. Incidentally, buses can no longer go straight on or turn right here, they have to turn left and double back at the next roundabout - the houses on the left have long since been knocked down.)
On a personal note, my parents were brought up in West London but moved from Uxbridge to Wickford in August 1958, as property was so much cheaper in Essex. They couldn't have anticipated what would hit them the next month with the floods! Luckily we lived slightly up the hill on the road to Rayleigh so our house didn't get badly flooded. They have kept this Evening News front page ever since. Little did they know at the time that their then seven month old baby son would become a bus enthusiast whose favourite ever type is the Bristol / ECW LD! From 1963 to 1966 he would also travel to school from Wickford to Brentwood on the 251. Incidentally work was then carried out on the River Crouch with concrete walls being built either side to prevent the river bursting its banks.

Other contributors included **Les Thorrington** and **Richard Delahoy.**

Your Editor writes: I have received quite a few excellent photos which I cannot publish until I have obtained agreement from the copyright holders. In simple terms, copyright lasts for 70 years (subject to some quite complex rules) and I don't think it is in the interest of EBEG members for me to take a chance and publish just because it is unlikely we will be pursued for costs. I will continue to try to obtain permission and publish in due course. I have also had some superb photos of other Essex floods taken by the late **Charles F. Harrod** and John G Lidstone has kindly obtained permission from Les Harrod, Charles' son for me to use them in EBN. I plan to use them in EBN609.

Incidentally, some respondents say that a staff photographer of a now defunct Southend based newspaper probably took Lyn's picture. Unfortunately, copyright will still apply!

Panther Travel by Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham.

The Head Office moved to Stansted House, Stansted Airport on Monday 1 December, the engineering base at Matching Tye, remains in use. Vehicles are now based at First Avenue Stansted Airport (the former area used by TGM); Iconfield Park, Harwich (industrial area, to rear of Somerfield store); 2 vehicles at Dons depot in Great Dunmow and one vehicle at First Clacton depot.

Acquired Vehicle YX54 HBB a VDL SB120/Wright was acquired from K Line, Huddersfield. It arrived in withdrawn condition, but requires too much work to put it back on the road, so it has been stripped for spares and the remains scrapped. RX54 RUU a Mercedes Benz Sprinter 16 seater.

Reregistrations Optare Solo MX08 DHM is now VB08 PAN, while similar S627 JRU is now BIG 7006.
Optare Excel V203 ENU is now BIG 9861.

Vehicles on hire Volvo B6BLE/Wright BIG 9807 (V259 HBH), Volvo B6/Paxton BIG 9248 (M832 CVG), Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG 7596 (F639 LMJ) and Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton SIL 6719 (P508 RYM) are all remain on hire to Regal. BIG 9807 returned to Panther in late November.
Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton BIG 9856 (X346 YGU) is on hire to OFJ Connections, Heathrow.
Dennis Javelin/UVG BIG 8796 (P653 ORV) has returned from 3c;s, Nedging, but has since gone out on loan to Wicks Coaches, Braintree.

General Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG 7758 (F640 LMJ), Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton BIG 9856 (X346 YGU) and Dennis Lance/Wright BIG 7793 (M211 WHJ) have been retrimmed The Lance has also received front, side and rear Hanover displays and tinted windows.
Wednesday 19 November saw Volvo B12B/Plaxton AB53 PAN, AB07 PAN; Volvo B10M/Plaxton Y5 TRU; Dennis Lance/Wright BIG 7793 (M211 WHJ); on emergency rail service between Cambridge and Ely, after animals were struck on the line. Volvo B12B/Plaxton LK53 KWF has been refurbished internally and is being repainted in early December.



Well, that's the back of that! Taken at the beginning of September before it was renumbered, former Hedingham Dart. **Adam Barham.**

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

Alder & Ward, Clacton on Sea.

L887 VHT, Plaxton bodied Mercedes Benz 709D B23F has gone to A1 Car and Truck, Clacton (Dealers).

Blueline, Canewden.

H705 PTW (ex. 90-D-1038 Eire registration) has gone to Munden, Bristol. This vehicle is a Leyland Olympian B80F. N608 APU, a Volvo B10M with Plaxton C53F body has been acquired from First Devon & Cornwall. It has seen previous service at Thamesway and First Essex, see elsewhere this EBN.

Don's, Great Dunmow.

A Plaxton bodied Leyland C53F of 1982 vintage; reg. BEV 105X is here from Benee, Stondon Massey. Evidentially, this vehicle is to be used for spares.

Gardner, Chelmsford.

Note change of operating centre to Main Road, Rettendon CM3 8DZ.

Grahams Coaches, Kelvedon.

Lahden bodied Scania C55F, reg. YT09 FLF is here from Bull, Pytchley, Norfolk.

Phillips, South Woodham Ferrers.

Recently acquired is YJ08 NTE, a Bova Futura C53F, from Johnsons, Henley-in-Arden, Warwickshire

Truck & Bus (Coachstop), Rettendon.

KC02 EEX, a Volvo B12M with Berkoff C50FT body is here from DWB, Watford, Hertfordshire.



Roger A. Smith, Smaller Operators Sub-editor, took that picture of Lodge's 1926 "Chevvy" shown last month. Which was why I used it on "his" page! My apologies to Roger for not giving him the proper credit. I am not sure whether to blame the flu that plagued me whilst I prepared EBN607 or just sheer incompetence. I will let you decide! Incidentally, the vehicle is affectionately known as "Bessie". As compensation (not to be taken as a precedent!), here is Lodge's 1953 Bedford Duple, also taken at Duxford by **Roger A. Smith.**

5 December 2004

First
transforming travel

X30

Southend - Stansted Airport

New service every hour - 7 days a week (from 0200hrs - 2400hrs)

X30 is operated in partnership with BAA & Essex County Council



Southend
Bus Station
Southend
Victoria Circus
Eastwood
Kent Elms Corner
Rayleigh
Rail Station
Chelmsford
Rail Station
Barnston
Church School
Stansted Airport



Happy Tenth Birthday X30!!

I write this on the tenth birthday of the X30, a route I have driven on night and day services and which I have ridden on numerous times since retiring. For a while, it attracted continuously increasing passenger numbers and bigger and nicer coaches have regularly appeared. Then it seemed that "the economy" intervened and passenger numbers decreased. It still carries huge loads on 0900 journeys, especially when the sunny weather attracts visitors to Southend-on-Sea. Some of the vehicles currently used are superbly comfortable although, it has to be said, some substitute vehicles do not match the standard expected from a relatively high cost, prestige service.

Adam Kelleher has written " ... from my notes, brand new First Manchester 23016-9, Scania / Irizar Century (YN54 APO/U/V/X) were on loan to First Essex from 2 December 2004 for the start of the X30 on the 5th but had all gone by Boxing Day (presumably the Mercedes mini coaches were by then ready to enter service). By sheer co-incidence First Essex have just acquired (nearly 10 years later) the next coach in numerical sequence, same type 23020 (YN54 APK) which was new to First Coaches!!

Left: The first X30 leaflet with thanks to **Chris Stewart.**

Below: From 31 August 2014, the X30 was split into two sections, Stansted Airport to Chelmsford and Chelmsford to Southend but this was only an administrative change and the on the road through service remains the same (see First Essex column in EBN 605 for more details). Buses occasionally substitute for coaches and since this admin change any bus can be operated, but prior to it only one fitted with a tachograph could be used on the full route. One such bus was 66794 which is seen here at Chelmsford Bus Station alongside coach 20803 on 22 August 2010. **Adam Kelleher.**





20500 and 1 are Volvo B12M / Plaxton Paragons acquired in January 2009 from First Eastern Counties. They are not primarily allocated to the X30 but occasionally operate on the route. In December 2013, 20500 received the new more colourful Aircoach livery. It is seen here at Chelmsford Bus Station on 26 March 2014. **Adam Kelleher.**



451-3 were Mercedes 0814D / Plaxton Cheetahs new in December 2003 for route X22. The following year they were renumbered 56001-3 in the Sema system and were joined in the First Essex fleet by 56004-9 in December 2004, which were bought for new route X30.

In January 2007, 56001 was withdrawn from service (and sold a few months later) but 56002 and 3 moved to Chelmsford to work on the X30. 56003 from the original batch and 56009 from the second batch are seen together at Chelmsford Bus Station on 27 July 2008.

Adam Kelleher.

UK BUS AWARDS from Richard Delahoy.

Top Independent Operator sponsored by Scania. Gold Award Winner: **Ensignbus.**

UK Bus Operator of the Year sponsored by Arthur J Gallagher and QBE Insurance.
Gold Award Winner: Nottingham City Transport, Silver Award Winner: Reading Buses.
Bronze Award Winner: **Ensignbus.**

routeOne **Awards for operator excellence**:
Shortlisted for Manager of the Year – Small/medium-sized operators: **Bill Hiron, Stephensons of Essex.**
Shortlisted for Engineer of the Year – Small/medium-sized operators: **Eddie Cross, London Borough of Redbridge.**
Shortlisted for Bus Operator of the Year – Medium-sized operators: **Ensignbus, Stephensons of Essex.**

Ed's note:
Many congratulations to all award winners and those shortlisted. As they say on BBC Essex, "Essex and proud"!!!

The Letters Page.

Jim Swan from Kensington.
Jim loved the picture of the "First Aberdeen" operating in Chelmsford recently. He points out that only the last ten Aberdeen trams were in this livery. Earlier ones were in a smart darker olive green with ivory white trim. The "network" operated was Bridge of Don to the Bridge of Dee. Jim suspects his comment may banish him to Pedant's Corner!

Doug Brown from Hutton (DB from BD). Extract, more next time.
"City also ran two Leyland GNUs. These were single deck full size cab with a 4 wheel steer like the later Bedford VAL but I have no doubt with out the power steering. I think the reg. nos. were HVW 518/9."
Note link with Alan Osborne's recollections on EBN608p26.

Ted Miles.
"Keep up the good work – magazine excellent, your efforts appreciated"!

Terry Challis from (near!) Blackpool
With regard to your philosophical comments I agree with you. As a (not very active member) of the Lancastrian Transport Trust, I have some idea of the work and money that goes into the preservation and maintenance of veteran buses. I believe that transport enthusiasts should be grateful that we have such a wonderful collection of preserved buses, trams, commercial vehicles and heritage railways. If preserved buses are not in exactly the right livery we should not be churlish about it. We should just be glad that the vehicle has been preserved and is here to admire and appreciate.
As a declared pedant, I could be critical of the preserved Bristol LD5G XVX19 as it is often photographed with 251 on the destination screen. As this was a Chelmsford vehicle, I doubt if it ever worked regularly, if ever, on the 251. However the important point is that such a significant Eastern National bus is now preserved, well cared for and here for us to see.
With regard to " 'Strange Vehicles' and vehicle workings", with privatisation the old adage 'if it can run it does run' seems to be truer than ever. Here in Blackpool, it is not unusual to see a Solo on what is usually a double-deck service or a Trident or DAF250 on a minibus service. Neither is it unusual to see a Preston bus on the 61 or 68 (both Preston to Blackpool) branded for a Preston 'Citi' (sic) service.

Robert Appleton by email. Extract, more to follow.

"As regards strange visitors and vehicle workings, I am interested in this. For me this goes back years when I used to spend a lot of time observing the outstation workings of Eastern Counties' Ipswich depot. Unfortunately I cannot pursue this now because First withdrew from most of the rural routes in the Ipswich area, and closed all the Ipswich area outstations! As Eastern National's Harwich depot was a small depot, that became an interest as well, so I did observe a lot of the Harwich depot, later outstation workings, up to the closure of Harwich outstation."



RWC 608 for EBN608. When I were a Lad !(of 25).

John writes: "I never liked EN FLF 2300 (RWC 608), whereas the other 3 were vastly nicer to drive. 2300 had a ghastly loud bell in the cab, in a box. It rang hugely loudly (and long) and the time-honoured cure of a blob of chewing gum attached, was impossible, as the bell was in a box with small holes around it. The trouble was that there was a new-style palm-push bell at the top of the stairs which just about everyone bumped as they walked past. It was very annoying indeed. **John G Lidstone.**

Once again, lots of news items and articles have had to be held over. I am so grateful to each and everyone who contributes and most of what is sent will be used when space permits. It is the traditional time of year to thank everyone involved in the production of Essex Bus News and to wish all members and their families a very happy Christmas (or Winter Solstice for the Pagans amongst us!) and a successful and prosperous 2015. Editor.

Target dates for EBN609 (January 2015).

By	...	3 January 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	10 January 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	19 January 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Inside Top: John had to wait two hours to catch 47527 (SN64 CNE) seen here at 1616 hours on its first day in service and yet only its 2nd trip into Southend - at dusk! **John G Lidstone.**

Inside Bottom: On 22 November, P191LKJ at Rayleigh Station. "I believe this Dart has been recently reinstated with Arriva Southend to cover for one of the withdrawn Plaxton Prestige's/DAF SB220". **Lewis Brownlow.**

Outside Top: 62319, the ex-First Aberdeen B10BLE Wright/Renown surrounded by HH based buses after its successful MOT at HH depot. **John G. Lidstone.**

Outside bottom: Two heritage buses meet up for a chat at HH on 28 November! You know what they are!! Don't they look smart!!! **John G. Lidstone.**


28 Southend Bus Stn
BROOM HOUSE
SN64 CNE


Hockley
Rayleigh Station
6
ARRIVA
ARRIVA
P191 LKJ



www.essexbus.org