Essex Bus News

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2015



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
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Top picture:
Further to EBN612p22, former Regal 202 now with First Devon & Cornwall at Truro Bus Station on 21 February before operating the 1525 service 46 to Redruth. Taken with his Mobile by **Robin Wheatcroft.**

Bottom picture:
Arriva withdrew their Harlow-Chingford 505 service and Solos 1458 and 1466 performed on the last day, 9 May. 1458 is approaching Waltham Abbey, having just passed over the M25 on its penultimate rounder.
Owen Woodliffe.

Front Cover picture:
AJN825 and Morris Minor LOT585F in Hornchurch on Sunday 12 April. See pp 4&5 this issue for a report of the "Return to Romford". Your Editor pompously wonders whether the "Morrie" got a ticket for parking on the pavement! Chris Stewart.

Essex Bus News 613

May 2015

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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.

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

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

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Richard Delahoy.

We have moved to our new venue in **HOCKLEY** for the spring/summer season:

Wednesday 20 May	Illustrated talk by Group member Anthony Spindler on his fascinating career from 1964 to 1992 with Eastern National and, latterly, Thamesway.
Wednesday 17 June	Photos from the Bob Beaumont collection – a tribute to our former member, with photos mainly from the 1960s.
Wednesday 15 July	To be advised.

These meetings will be held at The Old Fire Station, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4QH, adjacent to the Spa pub in the centre of Hockley. Arriva/Stephensons bus 7 from Southend, Rochford & Rayleigh stops near-by. Hockley rail station is about a 6-7 minute walk. We will meet in the Ground Floor Pump Room, with access to the kitchen to make our own tea/coffee/soft drinks; toilet facilities (incl. disabled). The venue is wheelchair accessible. There is very limited parking on the forecourt, better to use the public car park directly opposite, behind the library – which is free from 1900 onwards and has ample room.
Members and guests welcome, £1.50 towards room hire, please. Meetings start at 2000hrs.

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 informal chat, and often an 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 June 2015. Dave Arnold.
Also Fridays 10 July, 14 August, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 13 Nov (Steve Maskell) and 11 Dec 2015.

A Blast From The Past! Paul Harvey.



Was Anthony Spindler involved in scheduling these? Come along to Hockley on 20 May to find out! Thamesway 502 D590MVR Leyland Tiger Plaxton 3200 seen at Central Bus Station Southend operating CitySaver service from Southend to London during 1993. **Paul Harvey.**

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

GROUP TOURS

Saturday 23 May **"The Norfolk Flyer"** Departing Colchester North Station at 0830 we will be visiting a selection of operators including Galloway at Mendlesham, Sanders at Holt, Easton's at Stratton Strawless and, by popular request, a return visit to Simonds at Diss on the way home. Lunch stop will be at Sheringham and we suggest you bring food with you. Return to Colchester approx. 1830. Fare is £20.00. To book, please send cheque for £20.00 payable to E.B.E.G together with S.A.E. to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5BE. *(Note: High Vis. Tops are required for this trip)*

Tuesday 23 June **Talisman Evening Tour**, details to follow.

EVENTS

Sunday 17 May	Open Day. Great Yeldham Transport Museum, info@yeldhamtransportmuseum.co.uk. *The Group Stall will be at this event.*
Sunday 31 May	Clacton Bus Rally. Clacton Factory Outlet. *The Group Stall will be at this event.*
Sat/Sun 13/14 June	'Classic London' at National Tramway Museum, Crich. Joint with Brooklands Museum, whose buses will operate alongside London Trams and other preserved vehicles. www.tramway.co.uk.
Sunday 21 June	North Weald Bus&Coach Rally. £10 admission includes bus to/ from Epping Station. www.northwealdbusrally.net.
Sunday 27 June	Ipswich Transport Museum Transport&Model Fair. www.ipswichtransportmusem.co.uk
Sunday 28 June	Special event in Kelvedon to commemorate 200 years of Moores. See EBN612p10 for details.
Sat/Sun 4/5 July	East Anglian Transport Museum 50th Anniversary on Site. www.eatm.org.uk
Sunday 12 July	Ipswich Transport Museum.'What's in Store'guided tour of behind the scenes and bus trip to off-site store. www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk

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.



As reported last month, Astromega JEV245Y (ex 820 KPO) has been sold to Ensign for preservation as part of their museum collection.
John G. Lidstone.

Return to Romford – AJN 825 on Tour by Richard Delahoy

Last month we included a brief mention of the tour organised by EBEG and the AJN825 Group. The aim, as with the similar outings in 2011 & 2014, was to recreate some of the routes that Westcliff buses had operated, visiting locations that have changed relatively little over the years, as exemplified by the then & now shots at Grays War Memorial published in EBN 612. The 2015 tour took in route 2A to Romford, stopping off at the Alma factory in Childerditch Lane (a regular short working point), Upminster Station, routes 2/2B at Grays, Orsett, Stanford le Hope, Corringham and Pitsea.



But the undoubted highlight was to go right into Romford Market Place, erstwhile terminus of the 2A from Southend. There's no market on a Sunday but instead it is used as a car park. Somehow our expert driver, Martin Farmer, squeezed us in and we parked up alongside St Edwards Church and with Lloyds Bank in the background, both buildings little changed since the 1940s & 1950s. The actual terminus was a few yards away from our temporary parking spot but we were close enough and created a stir amid the chaos of what seemed like somewhat random parking. In the "good old days", Westcliff buses shared the Market Place with City Coach Company on the Southend to Wood Green service, Eastern National's route to Bow, many LT services and long distance coach routes.



Thanks are due to all in the AJN825 Group but especially to Martin for a superb day out. Richard Delahoy's photo above shows the bus in Romford Market Place, whilst on the facing page we have another then & now recreation, at Lampits Hill in Corringham, his modern shot of AJN contrasting with Alan Cross's early 1950s view of 1937 Bristol K JN9544, carrying the same style of ECW lowbridge bodywork as AJN still does. Today this stop is served by Volvo hybrids on the 100, Lakeside to Chelmsford.


2
JN 9544
CAPSTAN
STAR


SOUTHEND
2 via PITSEA
HADLEIGH
WHITBREAD'S
ALE & STOUT
AJN 825
Wilson's
Local
banking on
demand.
You can

EBN613p5

Service Changes by Paul Harvey

Acme Bus Co

18 July 15	L	Sch	Little Laver to Sawbridgeworth: school service withdrawn.
	R	Sch	Great Hallingbury to Sawbridgeworth: school service withdrawn.
23 July 15	A/E	Sch	Takeley to Bishop Stortford: school services withdrawn.
	G	Sch	Great Dunmow to Bishop Stortford: school service withdrawn.

Arriva Kent Thameside

13 April 15	CP&R	M-S	Colchester Park & Ride: revised introduction date (updated information).



The new Essex County Council Colchester park and ride seen whilst on a visit to his home town on Friday 1 May 2015 by **Roger Tuke.** Arriva Colchester 4074 SK15 GXU, ADL Enviro 200 in North Station Road.

Services 314, 315, 346 & 446 recorded as withdrawn have been sub contracted to Panther Travel from 10 May 15.

11 May 15	CP&R	M-S	Colchester Park & Ride: revision to timetable.

Ensign Bus

1 April 15	12	M-F	Aveley The Village to Ockendon Station: new service supported by developer funding at peak times – introduction deferred (updated information).
	Service changes for services 22, 33, 44 & 73 were introduced from 13 April 15 not as previously recorded.		
13 April 15	25	Sch	Lakeside to Stifford Clay: morning journey to start at Purfleet before serving Lakeside.

First

3 May 15	300	D	Basildon to London Gateway Port: revised timetable with Saturday & Sunday service withdrawn.

Galleon Travel (Trustybus)

18 May 15*	392	M-S	Harlow to Hoddesden Rye Park: revised to operate as a circular service via Broxbourne, Hoddesdon, Rye Park & Stansted Abbotts to Harlow. New service 393 will operate via Stansted Abbotts, Rye Park, Hoddesdon, & Broxbourne to Harlow. Both services operate hourly.
	410/A/X	M-S	Harlow to Waltham Cross: revised timetable.
	505	M-S	Harlow to Chingford: new service to include Saturday service (updated information).

** It is understood that these changes will be introduced on 11 May 15 although official registrations state 18 May 15.*

Go Ahead Hedingham

1 June 15 2 M-S Clacton to Mistley: revised timetable and route to serve Clacton Highfield Morrison's Supermarket.

Panther Travel

The new services 314, 315, 346 & 446 recorded last month have been sub contracted from Arriva Kent Thameside from 10 May 15.



Are we likely to see this smart Panther Volvo B7R/Plaxton coach BIG 6002 (formerly T105 JBC) on the sub-contracted routes? Probably not but let's wait and see! At the end of April it was still on loan to Purple Parking at Gatwick. **Stephen Barham.**

Regal Busways

5 May 15 213 M-S Epping to Waltham Cross: minor timetable revisions.

Colchester Town Centre Bus Stop Allocation – bus stop allocation was changed over the weekend of 12/13 April 15 affecting minor revision to timetables affecting most bus services:

Essex County Council have published the list of supported routes receiving extensions from 1 September this year, plus those which have been put out to tender. Far too many to list here, but details can be found at http://www.essexhighways.org/Transport-and-Roads/Getting-Around/Bus/Services/Supported-bus-services.aspx

Note that for both the extensions and new tenders, these are only for seven months rather than a year to tie in with the results of the Council's "Getting Around in Essex" review (details of which were on Page 28 of EBN 611).

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

WANTED Marketing/Publicity Officer - do you have the skills and knowledge to become our Publicity Officer? We are looking for someone who can organise and prepare adverts and listings for the group in magazines, arrange membership leaflets to distribute on the sales stand, at museums etc. and be proactive to marketing the group and it's activities to secure new members. Could you help? If so please contact Paul Harvey direct (contact details on page 1 - service changes sub-editor heading).

The Blind Spot by Bob Williamson.



We are pleased to provide another set of Eastern National Omnibus Company blinds, this time for the former Brentwood depot (BD). This feature is always very popular and produces an appreciative postbag for your Editor!



<<< Note 1:- *"251" has been blacked out from here.*

The picture above, from the P Oughton collection was taken by J F Higham, its copyright is held by **Alan Cross** who kindly allows EBEG permission to use his photographs.
Richard Delahoy has provided the following brief history:
New 7/55 as 1463. LD6B, 60-seater. Used as seen here on 251, probably from brand new, as the Bristol engined ones were put on the 251. Certainly allocated to Tylers Avenue by 1957, probably from new. [the depot allocation plate is unclear in a "blown up" version of the picture]. Can anyone identify its location?
Photo probably shows the bus in original condition, note the equal height fleet name, not the later underlined style.
Renumbered 2432 in the 8/64 series, withdrawn 9/71

<<< Note 2 :- in line above, *'A' of '30A' blacked out.*

<<< Note 3 :- *Service 264 section added to white blank by EN.*

Bus Stop Trivia in West Horndon by Chris Stewart



Two former Westcliff stop poles (identifiable by the top clasp) remain in St Mary's Lane, between Cranham and West Horndon on the old 2A route. Unless anyone knows differently, I believe these haven't been served for 15 years or so – the Eastern National 26 (Canvey-Basildon-Romford) ran along there, as did the post Deregulation 226 (Brentwoood-West Horndon-Romford) and 403 (Basildon-West Horndon-Romford, although this was limited stop). After the 226 was withdrawn, NIBS ran ECC contracted routes 271/272/273 (Basildon-Romford) along this road but these were withdrawn in about 1999 without replacement.



Regal Roundabout by John Salmon









John Salmon has solved a little puzzle for me! I have long wondered how the 52 turned in Little Waltham and have been too idle to find out!

John writes "Regal vehicles on the 52 have to do a 3-point turn at St Martin's Church junction in Little Waltham. These photos show Regal 650 at 0915 in the morning of Tuesday 21 April, on the 0900 journey from Pleshey to Chelmsford and West Hanningfield, Temple Grove."

The London to Brighton HCVS Run, 3 May 2015 by John G. Lidstone





John braved the (unscreened) upper deck of Southern Vectis/BH&D 1940 Bristol K5G CAP 234 from London to Brighton on the LB Run. He found SCT PD3/6 336 (CJN 436C) lurking at Old Steine whilst 1947 EN PD1/1 2102 (LEV 917) ran the run. His shots show 336 about to depart Old Steine (he should have hitched a lift as he got back 4hrs later by train) - and 2102 arriving at Madeira Drive by the famous arches, ironically parking next to CAP 234 (close relative to EN's 0131 tree lopper, CAP 131) on which he travelled to Brighton.

By Adam Kelleher.

New Vehicles

47649	SN15 AEL	SA9DSRXXX15141975	Wt AL526	B37F	04/15	)	Wrightbus
47650	SN15 AEM	SA9DSRXXX15141976	Wt AL527	B37F	04/15	)	StreeLite
47651	SN15 AEO	SA9DSRXXX15141977	Wt AL528	B37F	04/15	)	DF
47653	SN15 AET	SA9DSRXXX15141979	Wt AL530	B37F	04/15	)	Micro
47657	SN15 AEX	SA9DSRXXX151419nn	Wt AL5nn	B37F	05/15	)	Hybrids

John G. Lidstone's picture of47649 is shown in colour on the inner rear cover.

47649, despite being numerically the last, was the first of the seven SLs for Hadleigh to be delivered, on 21 April. It was firt noted in service on route 26 on 26th. 47650 is the first of a further batch of seven (47650-6) for Basildon intended primarily for route 9. It was delivered on 24 April and is initially being used for driver familiarisation. 47651 was seen on route 511 on 1 May. 47653 was seen on routes 9 and 9A on 30 April and then on 251 on Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday 3 and 4 May. 47657 was delivered to Colchester on 7 May. Full chassis and body numbers for this vehicle to follow. It is not known how many StreeLites are on order for Colchester, but number 47661 is at First Cymru.

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 >>>>>

Obituary – the late Bob Sharpe **by Gary Sharpe with thanks to Chris Sampson**

Bob was a man of many interests, his early bus career started driving RTs for London Transport, however he let his licence lapse and went to work for Caterpillar on heavy plant as he was a qualified mechanic and auto-electrician. Unfortunately, ill health put a stop to heavy work, so a spell with Peugeot on cars followed plus the retaking of his PSV and part time driving for Talisman.

He actively supported the RNLI with collections and the East Anglian Railway Museum as a volunteer, he was also a "radio ham", building them out of bits acquired here and there.

A regular attendee of the Colchester meetings he freely gave his time and experience to several local preservationists at great benefit to their vehicles, and I got to know him well through this, as neither of us could keep our hands to ourselves when there was a problem to sort. That was the main thing about Bob, if you annoyed him woe betide you, but to his friends he was very generous with his time, despite worsening health, had a great sense of humour and never sought anything in return. We had some great laughs about things mechanical and our time in "the trade", he was always good company, even if he could talk the hind legs of a donkey at times!

Bob passed away peacefully in his sleep, he, and his skills, will be missed by many.

Adam Kelleher responds to Doug Brown's letter

on p31 of this issue.

What Doug must have been referring to is the elderly / disabled persons notice which indeed, on a number of buses, is in Welsh as well as English. There is no logical reason for this, as no Essex Darts have spent time in Wales.

At the end of the 2014-5 year (end of March), First Essex had 70 Darts in stock, 1 new to First Bristol, 4 Connex Jersey, 4 First Hampshire & Dorset, 10 First Devon & Cornwall, 10 First Eastern Counties, 19 First London and 22 bought new, but none from First Cymru. BN42934 itself was new to First D&C in April 2005 and acquired by First Essex in November 2008.

The photo shows the interior of 43848, illustrating the notice.



Period 1 (29 March - 25 April)
23020 CF*-CF, 30903 BE-CN, 32810 CN-BE, 43732 BN-HH(out of service), 43733 HH-BN, 43736 HH-HH(out of service), 47649 New-HH, 47650 New-BN*, 66798 CF-CR * being prepared for service
The transfers of 30903 and 32810 mean that CN's double deckers are now all Volvo B7TL / Alexander ALX 400s and BE's are now all Dennis Trident / Plaxton Presidents. 32810 received a new engine, fitted by Cummings of Thurrock, before its move to BE. Out of service 65651/2 have been moved from Colchester to Clacton (seen there on 26 April).



Seven Plaxton Darts remained at Hadleigh at the end of March 2015 but seven StreetLites are in the process of delivery to replace them. By the end of March the total was down to five. Two of those left, including the final one from the R and S registered batches, are seen at the garage on 26 April 2015. 43721 in Barbie livery contrasts with 42938 in Urban livery. In the background, in between them, can be seen recently withdrawn from service 43736. **Adam Kelleher.**

Repaints To Urban Livery:
HH41730, seen on route 26 on 11 April, small "First Essex" names with f symbol above driver's cab and entrance door, "Essex" fleet names and depot stickers both sides (rear not seen). Whereas some of the other vehicles in this batch have lost their Marshall wings on repaint or had them over painted, this bus did not have wings before repaint but has regained them, presumably one taken from one of its sisters.
HH41762, also seen on route 26 on 11 April, small "First Essex" names with f symbol above driver's cab and depot sticker but unusually for these Darts no main fleet name on offside (nearside and rear not seen)
HH41737, its last day of service in Barbie livery was 7 April, it then went to Clacton for repaint and was back at Hadleigh on 15th. Small "First Essex" names with f symbol above driver's cab and entrance door, "Essex" fleet names and depot stickers both sides, and small f and "Essex" in rear window. It also unusually has its rear fleet number in the window. Marshall wings retained, and not over painted.
These three repaints complete the batch of X registered Marshall Darts at HH and indeed the whole HH garage repaint programme, with 43721 (see below) being the only vehicle currently at HH remaining in Barbie livery.

Other Vehicle News and Workings - General
In EBN 604 it was reported that BE33195 was seen on route 70 on 14 July 2014 fitted with a tree deflector, but by 26 July this had gone. This vehicle has now had a protective film fitted to the front upper deck windows. 65538 was reported in EBN 609 as being sold in December 2014 but remaining at Clacton whilst paper work was being completed. However, it was still at CN (out of service) in April, seen there on 26th. Further to EBN 612, BN43480 has also had a side LED display fitted (route number only). Also updating EBN 612, CF69533 has now had both its side adverts, plus the Ipswich fleet names that were underneath, removed. HH47522 is the only StreetLite with a full size front fleet number.

Continued, by Mark Kelleher

Other Vehicle News and Workings - Olympian

There have been no reported sightings of 34305 in service during April, although it has been seen regularly parked at Westway.
It is possible it is still being used on the King Edward Grammar School contract as reported in EBN 612.
Editor's note: I saw this bus late afternoon, last Friday 1 May heading into CF City Centre with "SNIS" blinds. It was driven by a driver rather than an engineer so I assume it was heading to start a school day only service.

Hadleigh's 20 R-DJN & S-TWC Darts

The transfer of 43712-4 from BN in November / December 2008, 43715/6 from CR in February 2009, 43729-31 from CF the same month, plus 43732-5 from BN and 43736-8 from CN the following month to join 43717-21 which had been there since new (they were new for the Canvey Clipper route), meant that by March 2009 all 20 of the earliest low floor Darts new to First Essex which were still owned were together at Hadleigh, these being 43712-21 (R712 DJN, etc.) and 43729-38 (S729 TWC, etc.). The R regs were First Essex's first Pointer 2 bodied Darts plus the first delivered in the then new First corporate livery. These 20 vehicles stayed together at HH for the best part of five years, except for 43737 which was sold in February 2011 following accident damage and 43736/8 which moved to BN in April that year, but returned to HH in March 2012. Inroads into the batches began in January last year. 43730 was sold that month, with 43716/8 following the next month. A summary since January 2014 is as follows (all dates 2014 except where stated otherwise):

43712 to CN March, out of service January 2015, sold for scrap February 2015
43713 to CN February, out of service March, sold for scrap April
43714 to CN March where it remains in service (seen (unusually) on route 74 on 24 April 2015)
43715 to CF (reserve) November, to BN December, to BE for store February 2015 where it remains in a withdrawn condition having recently donated its gearbox to 43480
43716 to out of service January and sold for scrap February
43717 to BN November where it remains in service (seen on route 22 on 26 April 2015 and 9 on 27th and 1 May)
43718 sold for scrap February following rear axle tube damage (and so spent its whole life at HH)
43719 to CN December where it remains in service
43720 sold for scrap November following a blown engine (and so spent its whole life at HH)
43721 still in service at HH (seen on 21 on 27 April 2015, and has so far spent its whole life at HH)
43729 sold for scrap April
43730 sold for scrap January
43731 to CF October where it remains in service (seen on 73 / 351 on 14 April 2015)
43732 to CF November then to BN February 2015 and back to HH April 2015 where it is being cannibalised
43733 to BN April 2015 where it remains in service (seen on route 140 on 26 April 2015, 8A on 27th, 9 on 30th & 1 May)
43734 to BE November then to CF March 2015 where it remains in service (seen on 73 / 351 on 1 May 2015)
43735 to CN March where it remains in service (seen on route 3 on 30 April 2015 (which is usually an Enviro 200 working) and on 2 on 2 May)
43736 remains at HH, but was withdrawn after service on 14 April 2015 and is being cannibalised with its gearbox going to 41735 (seen in HH depot on 26 April 2015)
43737 had been sold for scrap in February 2011
43738 to out of service March and sold for scrap April

So of these 20 vehicles, just one remains in service at HH, 43721, which until last year's StreeLites, was the last new vehicle delivered to HH for 17 years, so it is fitting that it is the last survivor there. Three others are in service at CN (43714/9/35), two at BN (43717/33) and two at CF (43731/4). Three others are withdrawn but remain in stock, 43715 at BE and 43732/6 at HH. All those sold for scrap went to Alpha, except 43737, which went to Erith Commercials.



A recent transfer from
Hadleigh to Basildon
is 43733,
seen in Chelmsford Bus Station
on Sunday / Bank Holiday
route 140
on 26 April 2015.
Adam Kelleher

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

5 April	HH33072 (confirming EBN 612), HH33090 and HH33192 on Newbury Park to Wickford
6	HH33090, HH33095 and HH33189 on Newbury Park to Wickford
19	CR32475/7/80/5, CR32651/2/4 and BE33080 on Colchester to Clacton
26	CR32475/84, CR32651, BE32856 and BE33195 on Colchester to Clacton

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

65576, which has been parked between the bus garage and the old Colchester bus station since at least 21 November last year, was still there on 26 April. As well as losing its front dash panel (see EBN 610) it has now lost its two lower rear corner panels. From Monday 6 April, route 63 became a fully funded ECC contract service (Mondays to Saturdays), reduced to hourly but converted to double deckers. 32651 (13th, 15th and 23rd) 32652 (14th, 17th, 18th, 20th, 22nd and 25th) and 32654 (7th, 16th and 21st) have been seen on the route. From 30 March to 11 April, some bus stops were temporarily suspended in Colchester Head Street whilst new shelters were installed in conjunction with the new Colchester Park & Ride. One double decker has been seen on 103/4 in April, CR32482 on 4th and again on 25th. Examples of Colchester Hybrid liveried Volvos seen working out of town have been 66801 on 103 on 25 April and 75 on 2 May, 66803 on 71/A on 2 May and 66809 on 106 on 25 April. Route 2 and linked school service 30A continued to be operated by Enviro 200s or Darts during April, no double deckers or Scania saloons were seen. Two of CN's three double deckers, 30887 and 30902 continued to work on route 76, whilst the third, 32810, was off road before moving to BE during the month with 30903 being received in exchange. Unusual workings have been CN43855 on 30A on 30 April instead of the usual 37-seater Dart SLF or Enviro 200, and CN43854 on 9 on 1 May instead of the usual CN42918, CN42937 or Enviro 200. It is very rare for these ex Jersey Dennis Dart / Caetano Nimbus to stray away from their normal routes 10/11/12 to Jaywick.

10 April	CR66798 on 62 (recent transfer from CF)
11	CR65666 on 71/A
15	61/2 branded CR32482 unusual on evening 15
28-30	CR65666 on Clacton routes 7/8. This may be a loan or a Period 2 transfer, confirmation next month. It is easy to spot at CN as it is in Barbie livery and all other Scania / Wrightbus Solars there have been repainted into Urban livery.
2 May	CR66804 seen at Volvo, Ipswich
5	CN61057 on 4



The 10 ex-First Hadleigh Volvo B7RLEs now work from Colchester. All but this one, 66798 (MX05 CCA), are now in new livery and with the dayglo green 'hybrid' bands. This one has a better shine, with its Hadleigh cared-for old livery, than the repaints! Here it's on the 66 rather than the 62 reported above, being followed by new Arriva Kent Thameside (Colchester) Enviro200 Dart 4073, SK15 GXV **John G. Lidstone.**

Continued, by Adam Kelleher

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

7 April CF43846 on 42A
8 BE42932 on 352 (and again on 15th)
12 CF44900 on 80A/C, CF65030 on X30
14 CF66811 on 542
16 BN33425 on 1710 Sandon P&R extra
17 CF42487 on 542
21 CF42484 on 42A, CF44548 on 73 (Chelmsford-Maldon version)
22 BN32631 on 1710 Sandon P&R extra
26 Three Enviro 200s in service in Brentwood, CF44543 on 73 / 351 and CF44548/9 both on 80A/C
28 BE43679 on 70
29 BE32856 on 509, CF43845 & CF53135 on 71/A, CF44542 on 73 (CF-MN), ex P&R liveried CF65032 on Sandon P&R
30 CF43356 on 46 (normally Solo operated)
1 May CF42936 on 73 (CF-MN)

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

Volvo Hybrids are now being used on routes 8/A on Sundays. On 26 April, 69916/7 were on the 8 and 69901/12 on the 8A. Non-Hybrids reported on 100 have been (all BN) 42934 on 13 April, 66822 on 22nd, 66805 on 23rd, 66813 on 24th and 41544 on 29th.

26 April BN41524 on 300, BN66805 and BN69910 on 251
27 BN32818/50 both on 561, BN69918 on 5
30 BN32883 on 561, BN33194 on 512, BN33424 on 100X

Service Vehicles Updating EBN 612, other Ford Transit vans are ST62 JMV at CN and ST62 PLJ at HH.



41737 on arrival at Hadleigh depot on Thursday 16 April, prior to re-entering service. Note the uncommonly seen 'Vehicle On Road Test' LED display (not set specially, it was showing it after pre-service tests/cleaning). **John G. Lidstone.**

Other News

Congratulations to First Essex Managing Director Adrian Jones who has been appointed to the newly created role of First UK Bus Operations Director. He will be responsible for "driving improvements in operational and safety performance" across its portfolio of bus businesses. According to Regional Managing Director Neil Barker, the new position has been created to "underpin our commitment to efficient and sustainable service delivery, supporting growth across our local businesses". The Group wishes Mr Jones every success in his new post. Alex Jones, Operations Director at First Essex, has been appointed FE Interim Managing Director.

The First Travel shop in Queen Street closed at noon on Wednesday 22 April and moved to 26 St Botolphs Street, reopening at 10 the following morning.

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, P Barker, J Benee, P Best, L Cornwell, N Clark, T Clark, J Lidstone, J Long, D Lund-Conlon, G Norris, J Podgorski, S Quy, J Salmon, C Stewart, G Toon, R West, E Wilkinson, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, First Essex, Flickr, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle, *Route One* 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.





May Day at the new CR depot at Haven Road! Expected opening date this coming September. **John G. Lidstone**

Panther Travel by Ian Ransom



YU 04 XFC seen on 14 April, will have been repainted by the time see this! **Stephen Barham.**

Acquired is YU04 XFC a Volvo B12B/Plaxton
Plaxton Primo YX07 GVD was reregistered SB07 PAN during April 2015
Volvo B7R/Plaxton BIG 6002 (T105 JBC) is on loan to Purple Parking at Gatwick
On 26 April a Rail Replacement between Manningtree and Harwich Town was in operation using Optare Solo BIG 7006 (S627 JRU), Dennis Javelin/UVG BIG 8796 (P653 ORV), Dennis Dart/Alexander BIG 8843 (P390 LPS) and Volvo B10M/Van Hool VLT 177 (P521 PRL)

Ambus (Amber Coaches' bus operations) by Adam Kelleher

Vehicle on Loan From Ensignbus, to cover for another Dart involved in an RTA: NA52 AWO, Transbus Mini Pointer Dart, B25F, new to Go Wear Buses (529), 12/02
This bus operated for Western Greyhound (206) before that company ceased trading on 13 March. It was acquired by Ensignbus, but temporarily remained in the South West on hire to First Kernow on WG replacement services before moving to Purfleet on 8 April. It is still in Western Greyhound overall green. In its short time working for First it received their fleet names and f symbol but unfortunately these have been crudely removed taking some of the paintwork with them. Seen on route 265 on 23 April and in Basildon on 27th. Dot matrix destination display with full width rear display, but the latter was not in use when seen.

Workings Y172 NLK an unusual double deck working on 269 on 1 May.

Disposals Former Go North East MPDs X506 WRG, X512 WRG and X595 FBB, which were acquired in March 2014, to Ensignbus, March 2015, with X506 and X595 subsequently on to Axe Valley, Seaton, Devon the same month. (Incidentally, between June and October last year, X506 received a white front on its all lime green livery.)

With thanks to Alan & Stephen Hughes, Ross Newman and Bus Lists on the Web



NA52 AWO, former Western Greyhound Dart still in their livery, is on loan from Ensginbus to Amber to cover for one of their own Darts which was damaged in an RTA as reported above. Seen here in Brentwood High Street on route 269 on 23 April 2015. **Adam Kelleher.**

Arriva Southend / Harlow / Network Colchester by Peter Mansbridge

Dart SLF/Plaxton 3281 (T281JKM) was on loan to Network Colchester from 16 to 22 April. Dart SLF/Plaxton 3322 (T822 NMJ) went on loan to Colchester following the return of 3281 to Southend.
Southend VDL SB 200 / Wright 3756 (YJ08 DZF) was on loan to Harlow in March / April and had returned to Southend by mid April.

Subsequent Disposals:
Astromega 245, JEV245Y, with Fords of Althorne since 1990, has passed to Ensign Bus for preservation and is expected to be returned to Southend's yellow & blue coach livery.

Leyland PD3 347, MHJ347F, Southend's last new half-cab bus, has also passed to Ensign following the collapse of its previous owner, Western Greyhound. It was recovered to Purfleet by low-loader on April 22/23 and is in quite a poor condition after many years of outside storage.
Happier news is that Daimler CWA6 263, GLX913, is nearing completion of a full restoration by Ensign Bus and should appear on the road some time during 2015. *with thanks to Richard Delahoy, Keith Sadler.*



With just two new-to-Southend Darts remaining at Southend, John was surprised to find 3322 (T822 NMJ) in Colchester on Thursday 30 April, echoing SCT/ST loans to CBT of old. He had to wait 2 hours or so for this to come around, having seen it on his way into Colchester.



By coincidence, the last time John saw 3324 (T824 NMJ), the other T-NMJ remaining in service from Southend, it was also on route 8 – but, of course, in Southend!

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements -April 2015

by Mark Lloyd. **Page 20**

With thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Dawson Rentals	KX03HZP/HZW/HZN	Darts
	KM02HFL	
	HV02PCX	
Fords Coaches	JEV245Y	Astromega
Lothian Buses	SK52OHY/Z/OJA/B/D	Darts
Metrobus	Y359/62/4/6/71/4HMY	Darts
Metroline	LK03GKD/NKF/P/T/X	Tridents
	LK03UFG/J/R/W	
PCV NE	S160KNK	Olympian
Rotala	EK51XXC-G/L/M	Darts
Rubicon Classic Travel	P757SWC	Olympian
	P773SWC	
Stagecarriage	R257LGH	Olympian
Stagecoach East Kent	P533ESA	Volvo B10M's
	M650BCD	
	K789DAO	
Stagecoach London	YJ08PGO	Optare Tempo's
	LX09BGK/U/V/F	
Western Greyhound	KX51UDE	Darts
	PJ02RGZ	
	YT51DZZ	
	YT51EAJ	
	KW02CVS	
	KN52NFP	
	K15WGH	
	T461HNH	
	W578DGU	Volvo B7TL
	Y447NHK/ UWR498	Tridents
	499YMK/WK51CAL	
	YG52DHL	Solo's
	ULL933	
	YJ06FZL/M	
	MK56NLU	
	62CLT	Routemaster
	MHJ347F	Leyland PD3
	724UXW	Atlantean
	MLL528	RF
	RML2737	

Vehicles Out

Avondale Coaches, Glasgow	EK51XXD/XXM	Darts
Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx	Y806TGH	Dart
Brylaine Coaches, Boston, Lincs		
	LX03BVT/U/V/BWZ	Tridents
WB Chambers, Maidstone	T461HNH	Dart
Crosville, Weston-Super-Mare	SN57EXE	Primo
DA Coaches, Coatbridge	K15WGH	Dart
Dawson Rentals	TUI4844	Volvo B12M
	UAS430	RM
Fords Coaches, Althorne, Essex	S818BWC	Trident
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex	KX51UDG	Dart
International Coachlines, Thornton Heath		
	V140MEV	Trident
Keane Travel, Orsett, Essex	LX51XGG	Volvo B7TL
London City Tours	Y187/91NLK	Volvo B7TL's
PCV NE, Middlesborough	WK53EUT	Merc 814 Vario's
	WK04CUC	
	WK54BHP	
Rubicon Classic, Bristol	LN51KXZ/KYR	
Tridents converted to open top		
Seaford and District	P198OSE	Volvo B10MA
See-London-by-Night, Rainham, Essex		
	T818RFG	Trident
Rambler Coaches, Hastings		
	MV54BLU/MW54BLU	Darts
Rotala	NX55FFO/MX56NLU	Solo's
	KP54BYJ/M/Z	Darts
Stagecarriage, Middlesborough		
	FJ54ZDT	DAF SB120
Sussex Coaches, Horsham	W401WGH	Volvo B7TL
Uno, Hertford	Y847GCD	Trident
	KP54BYK	Dart
AC Williams Coaches, Grantham, Lincs		
	S754DRP	Olympian

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL W578DGU : BVT Ltd, Newquay.
Dart NFZ6606 / SNZ7296 Scania RIL7205 : Mike Lawrenson , Preston.
Olympian D238FYM : Guy Loisseau , Belgium.
DAF SB120 LF52TJV Darts PJ02RGZ / MA02BLU Olympian S659NUG B7TL W513WGH : MC Tractors, Ely for scrap.
Olympian S848DGX : Big Bus Promotions, Farnham, Surrey.

Marketing/Publicity Officer

— no apologies for reminding you we are looking for someone who can organise and prepare adverts and listings for the group in magazines, arrange membership leaflets to distribute on the sales stand, at museums etc. and be proactive to marketing the group and it's activities to secure new members. Could you help? If so please contact Paul Harvey direct (contact details on page 1 - service changes sub-editor heading).

Ensign Fleet News – April 2015 by Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Addition T808RFG Dennis Trident East Lancs Lolyne 047/31F Ex Brighton & Hove 808

In full Ensign fleet colours and has been used promotionally for the Conservative candidate for the local elections, Jackie Doyle-Price. It is uncertain if this vehicle will actually be taken into stock.

The final registration for Volvo B9TL Wright Gemini 2 fleet number 131 is confirmed as LX15GVE.



Fresh out in service, brand new Volvo B9TL / Wright Gemini 2 129 (LX15 GOU) seen at Lakeside on 27 April. **John G. Lidstone.**



Two recent additions to Ensignbus are Alexander Dennis Enviro200 Dart 704 (SN11 FFT) ex-Salisbury Park & Ride and similar 713 (PX12 BSZ) ex Reays of Wigton seen on Sunday service 44 workings, previously operated by Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend). **John G. Lidstone.**

hedingham and chambers

By Mark Lloyd

Acquired

1500	YN53 RYP	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	Ex-Metrobus 480, to SY

This is the oldest of the refurbished Scanias due, but is the first to have Chambers decals applied. Chambers 1509 (YN55 PZM) was undergoing its refurbishment in late April; Hedingham 1513 (YN55 PZU) was seen outside H&D Trim on 4 May looking complete.

The arrival at Anglianbus of similar 554-6 (YN55 PZF/R/C; originally to have been 1504/12/01) will allow the cascade of the final Tridents in the Anglianbus fleet to move to Hedingham.

712	T812 RFG	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	Ex Anglianbus, to CN
722	W822 NNJ	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	Ex Anglianbus, to CN
725	W825 NNJ	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	Ex Anglianbus, to CN

712 sports Anglianbus' yellow and blue wavy livery; 722 and 725 had previously been with Konectbus and so sport dark blue livery with yellow and grey skirting. All were new to Brighton & Hove.

Other allocation changes

702	T802 RFG	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	CN – TY
743	X386 NNO	Dennis Trident/Ar ALX400	H47/33F	CN – TY

These were released from CN with the arrival of the first two Scanias, 1518 and 1519 (YN06 JYC/D).

Withdrawn

63	K107 JWJ	Volvo Olympian/N Counties	H47/29F	TY – withdrawn
81	M144 UKN	Volvo Olympian/Ar (B) RH	H47/31F	CN – withdrawn
94	R259 LGH	Volvo Olympian/NC Palatine 1	H47/31F	TY – withdrawn

63 and 94 were delicenced at TY following the arrival of 702 and 743 from CN; 81 was replaced by 712.

Fleet news

TY Dennis Trident/Alexander 737 (T107 DBW) is out of service at CN, awaiting a replacement engine.

Optare Excel 202 (T789 XVO) and Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne 730 (W83 NNJ) are sources of spares. Former Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties 65 (L109 LHL) is to be converted into a static library based in a school. It will have all running units removed before being the subject of a television makeover programme.

Service news

Essex CC supported service 2 (Clacton – Manningtree – Mistley) will be revised from Monday 1 June with several changes agreed by Hedingham and Essex CC. It will now call into the grounds of the Morrisons superstore at Little Clacton, following requests from residents along the route, which will make use of some recovery time at termini. The timetable has also been revised by up to seven minutes either way throughout the day, to align all of the journeys on a common headway, improve weekday peak train connections at Manningtree, and also provide more connections in Little Clacton with bus services 3 & 4 to/from Harwich.

with thanks to Jeff Clayton & Essex-Buses yahoo group

With the arrival of the ex Metrobus Omnidekkas, the Olympians are now probably on borrowed time. There are still a few scheduled service journeys with them on Monday to Friday though. Here is 71 in Tollesbury Road, working the 1655 Tollesbury - Colchester service, on Tuesday 14 Apr 2015. **Russell Young.**



EBN613p22

Ex Brighton & Hove East Lancs Lolyne bodied Dennis Tridents – where are they now?

Following the transfer of the final Trident/East Lancs deckers from Anglianbus and Konectbus to Hedingham, **Mark Lloyd** has tried to trace all 40 vehicles and it is surprising how many are in East Anglia, especially Essex. Our thanks to Mark for this excellent piece of diligent research.

Registration	Previously owned	Current Owner	Fleetnumber	Notes
T801 RFG		Hedingham	701	B&H livery, HO vinyls
T802 RFG		Hedingham	702	B&H livery, HO vinyls
T803 RFG	Premiere, Notts	Goldsmiths		Goldsmiths livery
T804 RFG	Premiere, Notts	VIP Contracts Ltd		VIP livery, Now PAN 58R
T805 RFG		Abus	805	Has been VJF 581
T806 RFG	Thames Travel	UK Coachways		
T807 RFG	Thames Travel	Axe Valley	916	Still in Thames Travel livery
T808 RFG		Ensign		Ensign fleet livery
T809 RFG	Thames Travel	UK Coachways		
T810 RFG		Abus	810	Livery North Somerset
T811 RFG	Anglianbus	Mile Oak School		Withdrawn by Anglian Apr15
T812 RFG	Anglianbus	Hedingham	712	Anglianbus livery
T813 RFG	Anglianbus	Withdrawn		May 14
T814 RFG		Hedingham	714	B&H livery, HO vinyls
T815 RFG	Anglianbus	Withdrawn		July 14
T816 RFG	Premiere, Notts	VIP Contracts Ltd		VIP livery
T817 RFG		Hedingham	717	B&H livery, HO vinyls
T818 RFG	Premiere/ACE	See London by Ni		Partial open top
T819 RFG		Ensign dealership		Open top March 15 acquired
T820 RFG		Brighton & Hove		Open top withdrawn 23/4/15
W821NNJ	Anglianbus	Hedingham	721	Konectbus livery
W822 NNJ	Anglianbus	Hedingham	722	Konectbus livery
W823 NNJ	Anglianbus	Hedingham	723	Konectbus livery
W824 NNJ	Konectbus	Hedingham	724	Konectbus livery
W825 NNJ	Anglianbus	Hedingham	725	Konectbus livery
W826 NNJ	Konectbus	Hedingham	726	Konectbus livery
W827 NNJ	Konectbus	Hedingham	727	Konectbus livery
W828 NNJ		Hedingham	728	B&H livery, HO vinyls
W829 NNJ		Hedingham	729	B&H livery, HO vinyls
W83 NNJ		Hedingham	730	B&H livery, HO vinyls (w/d)
W831 NNJ		Dews		
W832 NNJ	Cardinal Buses	Havering Council		Loaned to EOS Oct 14
W833 NNJ		Fords		Now W80 BUS
W834 NNJ		Hedingham	734	B&H livery, HO vinyls
W835 NNJ		Country Lion		Now E7 CLN
W836 NNJ		Fords		Now W90 BUS
W837 NNJ		Fowlers		Blown off road Dec 2013
W838 NNJ		Fowlers		B&H livery, Fowlers vinyls
W839 NNJ		Fowlers		B&H livery, Fowlers vinyls
W840 NNJ		Fowlers		B&H livery, Fowlers vinyls

EOS London.com (Swallow Coaches, Rainham, Essex) by Adam Kelleher.

Acquired Vehicle YJ08 PJX, Optare Solo, B21F, new to Europcar, Heathrow, 6/08
Previously with Little Jim's (seen still working with them in Hemel Hempstead in March this year).
Entered service with EOS on Monday 27 April in all white with no fleet names. LED blinds but these were not programmed so was showing "Service" with "66 Loughton-Waltham Cross" on a board in the windscreen.

Workings Noted on route 66 on 28 April were Dart 776, Primo 662, Enviro 200 901 and the above Solo - four different vehicle types in three different liveries (776 fleet livery, 901 all yellow, other two all white).

With thanks to Owen Woodliffe, Flickr and Bus Lists on the Web.



top picture: After just three months EOS have withdrawn route HC1. Dart 776 leaves Harlow College in the afternoon of 20 April bound for Epping with a solitary student aboard. **Owen Woodliffe.**



bottom picture: Yet another type of vehicle has appeared on EOS route 66 in the form of Optare Solo YJ08 PJX. It passes The Woodbine (a pleasant place to wait for it) also on 20 April, Woodridden Hill near Waltham Abbey en route from Loughton. **Owen Woodliffe.**

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

Acquired Vehicle

KX51 UDG, Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer, B37F, new to Central Parking Heathrow, 9/01
From Ensignbus April 2015, seen with Trustybus in Harlow on 14th.
This vehicle also worked for Centra and Countryliner before moving to Pennine Motor Services. After PMS ceased to trade in May last year this bus later moved on to Velvet (working in Southampton) and then worked briefly for Western Greyhound before that company also ceased trading, in March this year. It was repainted from PMS orange / black / grey into Velvet's all over shocking-pink livery at Mardens in November 2014. It retains this livery and Velvet fleet number 285. It has LED blinds.

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

Regal 613 for EBN613





Resplendent in its green with blue waist band, ex Transdev Burnley & Pendle, livery (although in a Regal maroon rear bumper has been fitted). Duke Street Chelmsford 26 March 2014. (The rear lists all the places easily accessible by bus from Chelmsford!).
Adam Kelleher.

Eastern National at Harwich, parts 2 and 3 by Robert Appleton.

Further to my confession in EBN611p20, I have summarised parts 2 and 3 of Robert's history of EN in Harwich, which first appeared in EBN 583, October 2012 and EBN584, December 2012. Robert has now bought the story up to date – I have parts up to 10! These will all be published in due course. No doubt, by the time we get round to part 10, Robert will have had to produce parts 11 and maybe even12! My thanks, and apologies, to Robert for his efforts on our behalf.

In the late 1960's, Bristol FLF6G Lodekkas were allocated to Harwich (DT) depot. With Gardner 6LW engines and 5-speed gearboxes, performance was much improved over the Bristol LD5G. For example, the "old" buses would struggle in 3rd gear on Mistley hill whilst the new FLF6G's would climb at maximum speed in 3rd gear. The crews welcomed the FLF's and were really determined to keep to time.
At some point, the Harwich to Colchester section of service 70 became self-contained, passengers having to change at Colchester for traverl to Braintree and Bishops Stortford.
On Mondays to Fridays, the 0740 ex Harwich was duplicated by another FLF which operated as 70A via the B1352 between Bradfield, Church and Mistley, Rigby Avenue, thus putting it 3 minutes ahead of the service bus and allowing it to keep to time. Also, on M-Fs, a 0910 Mistley, Rigby Avenue to Colchester 0940 70 was worked by Colchester using a Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F coming off a Colchester – Bexford, Brantham works service. This works service did not operate on Saturdays, so the FLF that worked the 0740 Harwich to Colchester 0845 70 ran light to Mistley and worked an 0912 Mistley, Towers to Colchester 0940 70 trip, then resumed its normal duty on 0945 Colchester to Harwich 1050.
Harwich also had an allocation of Bristol MW5G/ECW buses for the 80 to Colchester, the 106 to Clacton, the212 to Ipswich (joint with Eastern Counties (EC)) and local services to Parkeston and Dovercourt.



It must have been a hot day in April 1976 because DT1434 has both its roof vents open. DT1434 repainted in to NBC livery but it retains its comfortable dual-purpose seats. Compare the livery with my earlier slide of DT1434 inside rear cover of EBN583, November 2012.
Robert Appleton.

On 30 April 1972, major changes affecting EC and Eastern National services between Ipswich, Clacton, Colchester and Harwich took place. Joint 212 Harwich to Ipswich had been withdrawn in 1971. Joint 207, Ipswich to Capel-St-Mary- Stratford St Mary to Colchester became an EC only operation. Joint 123 Clacton to Ipswich became EN only and operated Clacton to Manningtree, Rail Station, only. Connections could be made at Manningtree with revised EC Ipswich services 221 (via Holbrook and Stutton) and 209 (via Tattingstone and Mistley). These gave an hourly frequency Ipswich to Mistley but EC 221 no longer operated between Mistley and Colchester.

EN 70 Harwich to Colchester was revised to have an hourly off-peak frequency to connect with 123, 209 and 221 at Manningtree. The service was renumbered 103 with several journeys a day operating via the Oakleys and Wix as 104. Running time was increased from 65 to 70 minutes (72 on the 104), some trips becoming one person operated.

To compensate for the loss of EC 221 between Mistley and Colchester, Colchester depot gained some one-person-operated peak-hour trips on 103. The 0800 Mistley to Colchester was worked by a Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F. The 1715 Colchester to Bradfield was worked by a Bristol MW5G/ECW B45F, with another MW5G duplicating, as far as Manningtree or Mistley.

Most 103/104 Harwich/Colchester journeys were still crew operated with the capable Bristol FLF Lodekkas, but the spread of one-person-operation would be inescapable during the 1970's.

However, Harwich depot was not overrun with Leyland Nationals, there was a variety of buses to be seen, remarkable for such a small depot. At this time, Harwich (DT) operated as a sub depot to Clacton (CN) and there were frequent exchanges of buses between the two. Two actual allocations are:

4 Feb 1978: CN1438(OO 9546), CN1520(HTW 178H), CN1527(LPU 452J), DT1761(MAR 783P), DT1781(PEV 693R), DT1783(PEV 695R) CN1791(PEV 703R), DT2754(JWC 714), DT2772(VWC 52), DT2842(MVX 879C)

2 Sep 1978: DT1200(BNO 686T), CN1505(EPU 186G), DT1521(HTW 179H), DT1755(LJN 663P), DT1761(MAR 783P), CN1768(MAR 790P) DT1781(PEV 693R), DT2754(JWC 714), DT2842(MVX 879C), DT3027(NPU 974M)



top picture: DT2772, reg. VWC 52: the British Rail coaches in the background in Harwich station formed the Prins Ferries Harwich - Liverpool Street boat train. Harwich & Dovercourt coaches operated a shuttle service between Navyard Wharf at Harwich and Harwich Station to take passengers from the Prins Ferry ship to the train. Part of a Harwich & Dovercourt Harrington bodied coach is just visible.



The 4 Feb 1978 allocation was typical of 1977 and early 1978, with a Bristol MW6G/ECW coach converted to one-person-operation for bus work, two Bristol RELL6G/ECW B35F, four Leyland Nationals with B49F seating and three Bristol FLF6G/ECW H38/32F. All buses were in NBC leaf green with white relief livery. By 2 September 1978, 1200, one of the Bedford YMT/Duple Dominant II DP53F saloons was on the allocation, but more significant was the arrival of the first Bristol VRT at Harwich, 3027. More in part 4.

Picture left:
DT1755 LJN663P on service 103 Harwich - Colchester in Mistley May 1977, note the white band does not continue below the windscreen.

EBN613p27



Belt and Braces at Arriva!

Adam Kelleher was amused to spot this cautious approach to the legal lettering requirement on Arriva 3416 in Colchester on 12 April 2015!

Puzzle Corner **by Bob (R A) Williamson**

Bob, **R A Williamson**, sent me this cut-down postcard, photographer unknown some while ago and wonders whether members can shed any light on the location, or any other details.

We do know it is a dual-door Westcliff-on-Sea Bristol LS saloon with a narrow blind showing WICKFORD, instead of the more usual 48" destination blind; the 'via' box is another narrow destination showing WICKFORD again, just to make sure, there is a paper bill or a board showing WICKFORD yet again! Any views, suggestions or comments would be of interest.



Information from **Alan Osborne's** book "Westcliff-on-Sea" gives the following:
FJN 162; ENOC fleet number in 1954 378, Chassis Bristol LS5G, date new 1953, Chassis no. 93.088, Body ECW, ENOC fleet number in 1964 1204; Seating DP41D

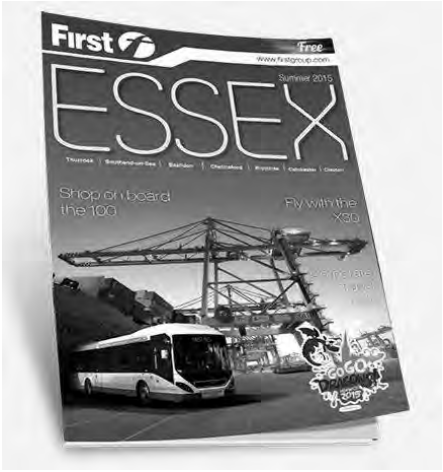
Publicity News

by Ian Ransom

With thanks to Paul Harvey and Here to There publishing

For clarification the routes are shown, where the same route number is used more than once in Essex

Arriva timetable leaflets for Colchester services 2 dated 1.2.15 and 8 dated 1.3.15
Cambridgeshire County Council 101 (Whittlesford - Saffron Walden) dated 3.12.14
Epping Ongar Railway Summer 2015 - including their bus services 339 (Epping - Shenfield) and 381 (Epping - North Weald)
Essex County Council 11 (Saffron Walden - Chrishall) dated 1.4.12; 17 (Little Sampford - Saffron Walden) dated 2.9.14; 23 (Braintree - Steeple Bumpstead) dated 3.9.14; 34 (Saffron Walden town service) dated 6.9.14; 59/590 dated 31.8.14; 88/A/B dated 1.12.14; 301/2 dated 31.8.14; 445 dated 26.8.12; 446 dated 29.8.10; SB13 dated 4.11.14
National Express timetable leaflet dated 6/14 for service 250 (Ipswich-Stansted-Heathrow)
Stagecoach citi7 Cambridge – Saffron Walden, 1/3 A5 pocket, September 2013 and new version dated 29.3.15 (no change to times only fares); citi route map dated 29.3.15 (includes 7 to Saffron Walden)
Whippet timetable leaflet with map, for their network (service 31 passes into North West Essex) dated February 2015



Here to There publishing also raised a Freedom of Information request on Essex County Council for PDF's of their timetables, use the link below and enter ECC-051626-14 in the title/subject box:
http://www.essex.gov.uk/Your-Council/Your-Right-Know/Pages/Freedom-of-Information-search2.aspx

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<<<<< First Essex Summer 2015 magazine due out "soon" **<<<<<**

Fords Coaches have produced an 85th anniversary Winter and Spring 2015 programme of "Excursions and Theatres" which includes a tiny note:

"Bus Services. Burnham start 0920 – Chelmsford (Fridays) Fortnightly
Tillingham start 0915 – Chelmsford (Fridays) Fortnightly

Found by your Editor in Maldon Tourist Information Centre.



<<<<< Trustybus have produced an attractive set of professionally produced timetables for routes 392/393, 410/410A/410X and 505 all dated 11 May 2015. They re A4 folded in full colour with mainly yellow/red and blue covers.
With thanks to Owen Woodliffe.

John G. Lidstone has produced the following Flickr albums:

AJN tour (AJN pix, Ensign loaded separately) - https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157651910810972/
My 2nd 2015 'Southend Bus Update' album from April to July https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157651296181907/
This follows the 1st SBU set at: https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157650091034245/
bus naming at Purfleet, some other buses named and a visit of relatives to one of them here:
https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/

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

Acme Transport Services with thanks to Richard Delahoy
Updating the caption to the "Saffron Shuttle" picture in last month's EBN (inside rear cover), there are actually *two* free shuttles running as a result of the redevelopment of the Waitrose store in Saffron Walden. The Acme Dart photographed by Richard Delahoy was on a shuttle from the County High School to the High Street, which runs on Saturdays only, arranged by the District Council (we think) to compensate for the closure of a town centre car park where the new shop is being built. The main Waitrose shuttle bus organised by the store itself runs 7 days a week and is operated by Richmond's Coaches of Barley (Herts) with a dedicated Solo in Waitrose livery, linking Swan Meadow car park with the temporary Waitrose shop in the town. This is expected to run until August.

Cedric, Ardleigh
This operator has a new address, namely Unit 3, Lufkins Farm, Great Bentley Road, Frating CO7 7HN

Chariots, Stanford-le-Hope
L19 PCC (ex L970 KDT) a Volvo/Van Hool B10M C51FT and L20 PCC, a Volvo/Van Hool B10M C46FT (ex N717 UVR) are now with Truck & Bus, Rettendon.

Farouk, Abridge
A 422 CUJ, a Bova Futura C49FT is understood to have gone from here, current whereabouts unknown.

Fords Coaches with thanks to Richard Delahoy
Acquired - another Trident, ex Stagecoach S818 BWC, via Ensign Bus.
Astromega JEV245Y (ex 820 KPO) has been sold to Ensign for preservation as part of their museum collection (see photo p3, this issue).

Kings Coaches, Colchester with thanks to Peter Mobbs
Bova Futura FHD 127.365PR, reg. KC10 ABC has gone to Moseley, South Elmsall, West Yorkshire and has been replaced by KC15 ABC, a VDL Bova Futura FHD2 129.370 MX11, Vin no. XNL501E100D004328.
The rest of the current fleet is:

KC08 ABC	Bova Magiq MHD 131.460MX, new 3/08	KC11 ABC	Van Hool Astron T916, new 5/11
KC12 ABC	Van Hool Alicron TX16, new 5/12	KC14 ABC	Van Hool Alicron TX16, new 3/14
KC57 ABC	Bova Futura FHD 104.365PR, new 12/07	KC60 ABC	Van Hool Alicron TX16, new 3/13

Registration numbers are of interest KC stands for **Kings Coaches** and ABC for proprietor **Andrew Barry Cousins.**



Typical of Kings' smart fleet is Van Hool Acron T916, KC11 ABC on excursion, seen here when almost new, in Swaffham for a coffee stop en route for Boston and Skegness, 12 August 2011.

Trevor Brooks

NIBS, Wickford
H226 LOM and H228 LOM, both Alexander bodied Scania H80F have gone from here.

Viceroy, Saffron Waldon
KX51 UCU, previously here is now with Diamond, Garforth, West Yorkshire. This vehicle is an Optare B29F.

WHM (Brentwood Coaches), Hutton
Recently acquired from Lloyd, Bagillt, North Wales are YN57 ADX and YN57 ADZ, both MAN/Plaxton C49FT which have been re-registered as 1023 RU and 5189 RU, respectively.

The Letters Page

Ian Ransom of Chelmsford Dressing up – or dressing down!
"Not sure if a policy change, but most drivers now seem to be in shirt and tie and driving without high viz, wonder how long it will last".
Your Editor responded: "Ian, If true, great! When I was there, driving in a hi-viz was regarded as a safety hazard - reflection in the windscreen!" It had all collapsed several days later, a return trip on 31X produced one smart driver and another in a hi-viz!

Robin Wheatcroft of Carnon Downs
"Greetings from the far west - where we still have some bus companies!
Re this months EBN, page 22 and the 3 Regal's that came to First Devon and Cornwall.
Attached is a photo of what I take to have been Regal 202 (shown on the inner front cover) and confirmed by Richard Delahoy to, indeed, be 202, taken at Truro Bus Station on 21 February before operating the 1525 Service 46 to Redruth. Taken with my Mobile. Just happened to be there to catch my bus back home to Carnon Downs! Oh for an Essex type network with some competition. No Sunday evening buses here at all! Hope you are keeping well and thanks to all for EBN."
Member Robin will be fondly remembered for his time in Essex, especially as "Top Bus Man" for Essex County Council – Ed.

Doug Brown, [DB from BD] of Hutton
"I am not a bus anorak but I have no doubt many of your members are. I was on a 9 bus (First Essex Warley – Basildon, Ed) and I kept thinking where do First keep getting these clapped out old Dennis Darts from as if I go to Chelmsford, Basildon or Southend I never see a dDart, only nearly new buses. But Brentwood has all Darts on every First service. But the 9 I was on gave me the answer. I was looking at the public notices on the bus and found they were in English and Cymru. So that's where First get these bangers buses from. They are out of the valleys boyo. So I expect the valleys get new ones and we get their rubbish. The bus was 42934, its in the trust of the Basildon Depot Team." Eds note: see First report for details of brand new buses for Basildon depot.

Adam Kelleher's response is on p12 of this issue.

Terry Challis of Blackpool A scheduling query for the membership!
"Thank you for EBN612. The photo of DHJ 611 on page 5 brought back good memories for me. I can remember travelling on DHJ 611 when it was brand new. As a nine year old I was very impressed to be travelling on a lovely brand new bus (remember this was just after the War) that seemed to run so smoothly compared to most other Westcliff buses. This was, of course, because it had a Bristol 6cylinder AVW engine. Unlike most Westcliff buses which were powered by Gardner 5LWs. And it did not rattle, unlike many new buses today!
Looking back, I am surprised that such a new bus had been allocated to Service 24 (Rayleigh to Leigh Station via Rayleigh Road and Thames Drive), which was not a busy route except at commuter peak hours. Perhaps, in railway terms, it was a "running in" turn!
It is a pity that you did not have a photo of DHJ612 for EBN612!" True! Anyone got a pic of DHJ 614? **Ed.**



JN9540, a Bristol K5G,
ECW L27/28R
1937 new to Westcliff-on-Sea Motor Services, transferred 1/1955 to Eastern National until 1960 when it went to W North (dealer), Leeds.
Photographer not known.
EBEG collection.



Many thanks to everyone who sent in photos of the new Colchester Park & Ride service (including one that was big enough to paper my study wall!). They will all be saved for possible future use.

This one, of 4071, SK15 GXR is by

Robert Appleton,
who reports:

"Further to EBN612, I drove to Colchester and used the new park and ride service on Friday 17 April. There are temporary signs on the A12 now, directing motorists to use Junction 28 for the park and ride service. It was free on 17 April and running to time with no problems, but this was in the off-peak.
The buses have Arriva Kent Thameside legal lettering, Arriva fleetnames, and the drivers wear Arriva uniforms, so no mention of Network Colchester.
Note "free to use" on the destination displays.

Target dates for EBN614 (June 2015).

By	...	Sunday 31 May 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	Saturday 6 June 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	Monday 15 June 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Outer Top Eastern National 2102 (LEV 917) on the HCVS London-Brighton Run on 4 May.
Owner John Shearman indicated some time ago that as the chaps who've faithfully looked after 2102 since withdrawal in September 1965 are now a few years older, that this year will be a finale to its activities to some extent, with lesser activity in future years. So, John was very pleased to take this view at Crystal Palace, and others shown in page 11 of this issue. **John G. Lidstone.**

Outer Lower Ensignbus naming ceremony at Purfleet Heritage Centre for new Volvo B9TL/Wright Gemini 2 128 (LX15 GOP) with Battle Bus 1914 LGOC B-type B2737 (LH 8186). **John G. Lidstone.**







Out & About With John G. Lidstone

Top: 4 ex-Nottingham City Transport Scania N230UD/East Lancs OmniDekkas arrived at Stephensons Rochford depot on 22 April for fleet stock. These are for Boreham (and possibly Haverhill) so won't be seen around much more in Southend.

Middle: StreetLite Max 4261 (GN64 DXR) works the shopper service 18 on 24 April. With grateful thanks to the very helpful Arriva driver, who, as he's done before, most kindly slowed his bus, making the photographer's job so much easier. Well done nice driver. John still thinks the number18 should belong to the Foulness service!

Bottom: It appears as though Wright are supplying buses 47649 upwards initially, with 47643-8 following in a week or so. Pristine 47649, first of HH's 3rd batch of StreetLite DF Micro-Hybrids, seen in service on 24 April.

Thanks to the very helpful driver of this bus too, who slowed his bus and greatly assisted the photo being taken.

EBN613irc





www.essexbus.org.uk