

Essex Bus News

**No. 615
JULY
2015**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk

£4
where sold



Top picture:

We have said it before! This bus seems to operate everywhere except the 61/62 it is liveried for! A dramatic shot of CR32475 in Chelmsford Bus Station in the evening of Sat 4 July. Adam says it is extremely rare to see one of these 61/62 branded vehicles in CF bus station, he has never seen one before. Your Editor saw it on the 88 on Thursday 9 July.

Adam Kelleher.

Bottom picture:

20463 after repaint into driver training livery but before decals were applied. Taken in Clacton by

Stephen Barham.

Front Cover picture:

Ensign's magnificently restored ex-ST Van Hool Astromega TD824 245 (JEV 245Y) re-entered service on Wednesday 8 July with one round trip Stratford-Holborn-Stratford on route 25 as part of TfL's efforts to provide alternative transport during the Tube strike. Seen here at Bishopsgate on its second trip.

John G. Lidstone.

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Black & White Photo Sales

Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickinghall, DISS, IP22 1EN,
using the order form available on-line.

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

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Reports and observations

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

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

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

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.

For our Autumn and Winter meetings we move back to Wickford Cricket Club, off Swan Lane 5 minutes walk from Wickford Railway Station and 5 minutes drive from A130 and A127. In Wickford Town centre, turn right into Swan Lane (pub on corner) and in 100 yards turn right into private road signed Wickford Tennis Club. Free car parking in front and a cash bar is available. Doors open at 1930 for an informal chat and usually an impromptu slide show with main show from 2000 to 2145/2200 hrs. Members and guests welcome, £1.50 towards room hire, please.

Wednesday September 16

Wednesday October 21

Wednesday November 18

Wednesday December 16

Southend to Edinburgh by service bus and Scottish Bus Museum, Lathalmond.

tba.

tba.

Xmas Social and 20 years ago.

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 14 August

...

Owen Woodliffe. Ancient & Modern.

Friday 11 September

...

Russell Young.

Friday 9 October

...

Alan Osborne. 40 Years of Buses in Malta.

Friday 13 November

...

Steve Maskell.

Friday 11 December

...

Gary Sharpe.

Regal 615 for EBN615

Paul Harvey.



Regal Busways Dennis Dart SLF 615 Y258NLK seen at Southend on 19 March 2015 having just arrived on service 3E from Chelmsford. This vehicle previously operated by Metroline DLM158 and Trustybus G15.

Paul Harvey.

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

EVENTS

Fri/Sat 24/25 July	...	Guided Tours of LT Museum Acton Depot. (Pre-booked only) www.ltmuseum.co.uk
Sunday 16 August	...	Classic & Vintage Bus Day. Cambridge Museum of Technology. Hourly shuttle from City.
Sunday 23 August	...	Eastern Transport Collection Annual Rally. Old Buckenham Airfield. Free bus from Attleborough Stn. john.stewart@easterntransportcollection.org.uk
Sunday 30 August	...	5 th Colne Valley Railway Bus & Coach Rally. (unlimited train & bus rides, miniature trains, models £9 adult, £7 seniors) www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk
Sunday 20 September	...	Showbus, Woburn Abbey. www.showbus.com
Sat/Sun 26/27 September	...	East Anglian Transport Museum Autumn Gala.
Saturday 3 October	...	Ipswich Transport Museum Classic Vehicles Day
Sunday 11 October	...	Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day

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.

Little & Large on The Norfolk Flyer Group Tour by John Salmon.



<<<<<<

This little fellow was spotted at Simonds premises at Diss on the Norfolk Flyer Tour on 23 May.

- V In contrast, this three axle
- V Volvo B9TL/East
- V Lancs Nordic was seen at
- V Saunders Holt depot on the
- V same tour.



Creating a digital archive. Richard Delahoy introduces an exciting new initiative by the Group.

Since publishing our first news-sheet in 1964, we have published a substantial body of material, primarily of course our monthly journals, starting with just a double-sided duplicated foolscap sheet each month and progressing to the current 36 page magazine. We've also issued many booklets over those 50+ years. But all of this material, which is so valuable for research purposes, has remained only accessible to those who subscribed or bought what we published. Back issues of some of the magazines are held by the Essex Record Office in Chelmsford, but that requires a personal visit.

One of our objectives - as set out in our Constitution - is to encourage interest in past or present bus and coach operations and vehicles in Essex and to study and document those vehicles and operations. In furtherance of that objective, earlier this year the Committee discussed and approved an ambitious project to digitise as much of the Group's output as possible and to make this digital archive freely available. Initially, we are concentrating on our monthly publications back to news-sheet number 1 of January 1964 and a selection of other publications such as fleet lists, Fact Files and so on. Over the years, the Group has accumulated "surplus" funds, which we want to reinvest now in creating a lasting legacy of historical material charting the progress of the bus industry in Essex.

We are having the material professionally scanned and saved as pdf files. They will be available to members free of charge (all we will ask is that you send us a memory stick to load them onto - details in due course) but we want to make them available to a much wider audience, so in parallel with the digitisation project but as a separate activity, we are setting up a website to act as a repository for all manner of archive material - not just ENEG/EBEG publications but also company records, leaflets, ephemera and so on (but generally not including photographs, because of complications over copyright, file sizes, etc). In due course, we will be asking members who have suitable archive material to share it with us to add to the web site, which will be at www.essexbusarchive.net (don't look yet, it is not yet fully set up!).

More details will follow over the next few months as each stage of this exciting project progresses.

Copyright in material included in Essex Bus News will remain with the original contributors and we will make this clear on the web site. By scanning pages as pdfs, it should also prevent people from extracting and copying photographs from EBN. We hope all members and EBN contributors will welcome and support the project, but if any contributors have objections or reservations, please let us know as soon as possible. Contact me at richard@signal-training.com.

The rear page of our inaugural news-sheet contained a complete fleet allocation for Eastern National for January 1964 and is shown on the next page. Gems like this will soon be available to a wider audience through the digitisation project. Meanwhile, take a peep! >>>>>>>>



Photo:
EBEG,
Bob
Beaumont
collection,
caption
by
Richard
Delahoy.

Kelvedon had only appeared on the EN allocation list with the February 1963 take-over of Moore's. By the time that we published the January 1964 list, all of the ex Moore's' single deck buses had been replaced by Bristol L types, with 10 listed - 304/6-8/14/5/8/32/41/4. Here at Station Road in Kelvedon, 341 (SHK516, a 1951 LWL5G) works the former Moore's' service to Coggeshall and Earls Colne, numbered 71 by Eastern National - Moore's had not used route numbers. This was one of the services recreated on the 200th anniversary running day as reported elsewhere in this issue. The balance of Kelvedon's 27-strong allocation comprised 2 Commer Avenger coaches, 10 Guy Arabs and 5 Bristol K types; in addition, the 3rd Commer Avenger coach and 2 Arab deckers were in store there, delicensed.

BN615p4

Brentwood (BD) : 019/20, 336/40/9/50/81/9/92, 414/22/72/87, 518/25/6/47
550/3/5/74, 1305/76/80, 1408/15/6/8/35/99, 1503/4/13/6
1524/5/8/9/41/4/5/54/90, 1601/11/2/7-9/21-3/52/61/4.

Braintree (BE) : 355/93, 402/68/70/9, 502/5/21/3/42, 1135-7, 1281/4,
1302/14/67/72/3/9/85/91, 1407/75/94, 1512/38/50/2/64/88
1626/7/54/8.

Basildon (BN) : 303/9/30/3/7/45/52/8/9/75/6/8/9/85/7/8/96/7/9, 401/4/9
410/38/46/50/93, 527/46/9/52/4/67/71, 1293, 1306/7/10/1
1317/23/4/7/32/3/41/3/52/3/68/94, 1428/33/6/58/66-8/70
1480/8, 1515/8/40/2/6/57-62, 1608/9/35/6/44.

Bishops
Stortford (BS) : 335/42/57, 423/67/73/4, 503/6/24, 1322/51/6, 1409/91.

Chelmsford (CF) : 348/51/3/6/61/2/72/3/84/6/90, 413/9-21/8/34/9/84/95,
512/3/20/32/45/56/73, 1108, 1282/3/91/4-6, 1301/3/16/8
1335/48/54-8-62/4/6/9/74/5/7/8/83/4/8/9/90/6, 1410/1/4
1429/31/8/49-51/6/7/65/76/8/9/81/6/95, 1511/4/22/3/39/55
1563/70, 1632/4/42/8/51/60/2.

Clacton (CN) : 347, 400/8/18/27/49/51/62-5/71/5/7/8/90, 531/7/40, 1051-4
1290, 1328/39/57/65/82, 1413/24/53/4, 1535/7, 1628/31.

Colchester (CR) : 354/98, 406/16/24/42/4/7/55/8/88/99-501/30/48/51/70/2.
1278/87, 1304/19/29/34/6/8/40/2/9/71, 1425/52/5/77/85/93,
1517/34/51/65/6, 1650.

Canvey (CY) : 1500-2/79/81, 1639/43/56.

Dovercourt (DT) : 394, 460/6/97/8, 1363/81.

Halstead (HD) : 432/52/61/9/83/91/4/6, 516/7/29/75, 1315/31, 1492, 1521
1536/67/87, 1638.

Hadleigh (HH) : 541, 1121/34/8, 1286/9/97-9, 1309/37/44/5/86/7/92/3,
1401/39-44/82/3, 1527/48/68/72/4/7/80/2-6/9, 1615/29/47
1653.

Harlow : 489/92

Kelvedon (KN) : 037/9, 304/6-8/14/5/8/32/41/4, 1024/5/7-30/4/8-50, 1292
1370/99, 1405/6.

Maldon (MN) : 310/34/8/43/66/83/91, 425/6/45/53, 504/14/22, 1257/74/85
1320/1/55, 1403/12/34/64/9, 1556, 1616/24/5/57.

Southend (SD) : 302/5/11/2/6/7/31/60/3/4, 403/5/7/11/2/5/7/40/1/3/8/54/6
476, 510/5/9/63/6/9/76, 1055/6, 1123/39, 1288, 1300/8/12
1313/25/6/30/46/7/50/95/7/8, 1400/2/4/17/9-23/6/7/30/2/7
1445-8/59-63/71-4/84/7/9/90/6-8, 1505-10/9/20/6/30-3/43
1547/9/53/69/71/3/5/6/8/91/2/8, 1602-4/6/7/14/20/30/3/7
1640/1/5/6/55/9/63/7.

Wood Green (WG) : 329/39/46/70, 539, 1593-7/9, 1600/5/13/49/65/6.

Delicensed Vehicles :

RDu : 016/7/21/42, 313/82, 482. BEu : 486.
CFu : 022, 371, 507.
CNU : 023/41, 365/74/80, 429/33/85, 508/9/34/57/8/61/2, 1111/7/30/2/3.
CYu : 377, 480, 533/43/4, 1112/3/6 HDu : 368/9.
KNU : 038, 1036/7. MNU : 1258.
SDu : 325/95, 431/57/9/81, 511/35/6/59/77, 1110/28/9/31.
PLu : 528/38/65/8, 1610. PHu : 367, 430, 560/4.
SEu : 018 CWu : 024.

CW - Central Works, Chelmsford. PH - Pier Hill Coach Station, Southend.
PL - Prittlewell. SE - Silver End.

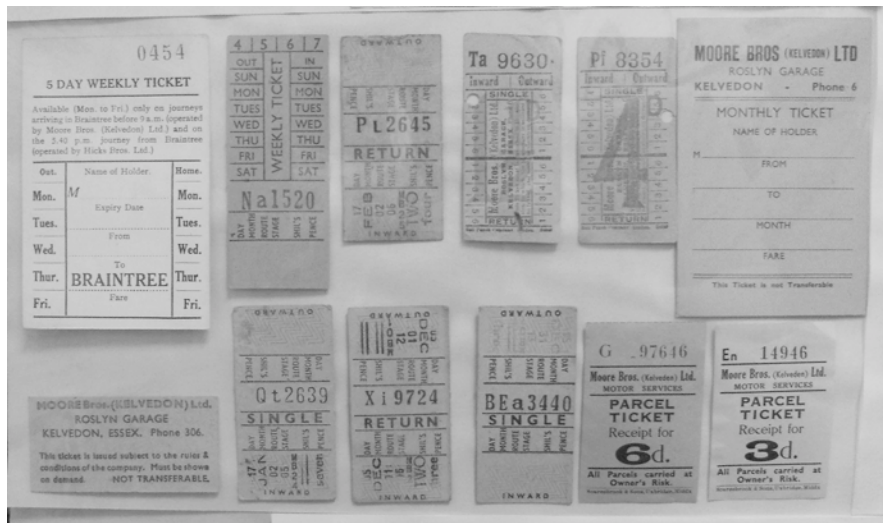
200 Years! Moore's of Feering and Kelvedon.

A Pictorial Tribute to An Early Essex Entrepreneur!!



Where it all started: Edward Moore started his carrier's business in the village of Feering in February 1815. The following year he became the landlord of The Bell Inn, where ex Eastern National 1516 (FWC439H) was posed by its proud owner, Group member Dave Edwards.

Richard Delahoy.



<<<<<

These tickets are part of the display about Moore's inside the Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum.

Richard Delahoy.



top picture: Preserved Moore's Guy Arab taking part in the bi- centenary event today in Feering Village.

Russell Young.



bottom picture: The anniversary board was displayed on all 4 buses. The "KN1" bit was the running number and identifies this sign as the one in the Guy.

Richard Delahoy.

The celebrations were based on the Feering & Kelvedon Local History Museum, see <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Feering-and-Kelvedon-Local-History-Museum/220173101477439?fref=ts> for more info.

EBN615p7

[See also inside & outside rear cover for more pictures]

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Arriva Kent Thameside (Colchester, Harlow & Southend)

9 Aug 15	1	D	Rayleigh to Shoeburyness: revised timetable to improve reliability with Sunday journeys extended to/from Shoeburyness.
	4/4A	D	Southend to Landwick/Shoeburyness: minor timetable revisions to improve reliability.
	5	M-S	Southend to Basildon: revised timetable to improve reliability.
	6A	TTh	Eastwood Belfairs to Leigh: service withdrawn.
	7/8	D	Rayleigh to Shoeburyness: revised timetable to improve reliability.
	9	D	Rayleigh to Shoeburyness: revised timetable to improve reliability.
	18	FO	Leigh to Eastwood Tesco Circular: service withdrawn.
	29	D	Eastwood Belfairs to Temple Sutton: revised timetable to improve reliability.
17 Aug 15	1	M-S	Harlow Circular via Sumners: new service.
23 Aug 15	102	Sun	Colchester to Harwich: contract service withdrawn.
	352	Sun	Chelmsford to Halstead: contract service withdrawn.
24 Aug 15	1/1A	D	Shrub End to Greenstead: minor timetable revisions on service 1A within Colchester town centre. Sunday contract service 1A withdrawn.

Ensign Bus

29 June 15	12	M-F	The Village Aveley to Lakeside: new peak hour service with support from The Village Developer.
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First

14 June 15	300	M-F	Basildon to London Gateway: re-instatement of a revised Saturday and Sunday service.
23 July 15	24	D	Southend to Southchurch: revision to route and timetable due to the closure of Central Avenue for long-term gas works. Service will operate via Southchurch Road as service 24D.

Galleon Travel (Trustybus)

27 July 15	T1	M-S	Harlow Circular via Sumners: new service.
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Go Ahead (Hedingham)

3 June 15	88	M-S	Colchester to Halstead: minor revision to timetable.
	92	M-F	Colchester to Tollesbury: minor revision to timetable.
22 July 15	417	Sch	Newport to Rayne: school contract service withdrawn.
	17	Sch	West Bergholt to Stanway School: revision to timetable to accommodate early close of school at the end of term.
26 July 15	137	D	Clacton Circular via Retail Park: revised timetable with increase in frequency.

Road Runner Buses

8 June 15	255	M-S	Debden to Waltham Cross: service ceased operation.
11 Aug 15	511	M-S	Harlow to Bishop Stortford/Thorney Park: service withdrawn

Stephensons of Essex

3 Aug 15	90	M-S	Maldon to Witham: minor tt revisions to am times and late pm jny from Witham extended to Heybridge.
12 Aug 15	10	WO	Paglesham to Rayleigh: new contract service replacing Arriva service to a revised timetable.
21 Aug 15	23	TF	Eastwood Belgrave Road to Leigh: new service part replacing withdrawn Arriva service 6A.
30 Aug 15	71C	M-S	Boreham to Chelmsford: service renumbered 73.
	73	M-S	Maldon to Chelmsford: new commercial service.
	95	M-F	Tollesbury to Maldon: late pm journey to divert on demand via Lawlins Avenue & Heybridge Basin.
	417	Sch	Rayne to Newport; new school contract service.
	418	Sch	Great Saling to Newport: morning times revised.
	419	Sch	Wethersfield to Newport: revised times and extended to Shalford.
	630	Sch	Chelmsford to Wickham Bishops: service renumbered 673.
	701	Sch	Harwich to Colchester: revised times also serving Frating.
	702	Sch	Frinton to Colchester: revised times also serving Thorington
	703	Sch	Jaywick to Colchester: school service withdrawn.
	704	Sch	Great Holland to Colchester: revised times also serving St Osyth.
	D1/D2	M-S	Maldon to Bradwell/Southminster: minor timetable revisions to 3 afternoon journeys.

Townlink Buses

10 June 15	255	M-S	Debden to Waltham Cross: new service.
28 July 15	511	M-S	Harlow to Bishop Stortford/Thorney Park: new service.
	R1	M-S	Harlow Circular via Sumners: new service.

Uno

30 Aug 15	5	Sat	South End to Harlow: contract service withdrawn.
	354	Sat	Buntingford to Harlow: contract service withdrawn.

Viceroy of Essex

13 Aug 15	62	Th	Elmdon to Bishop Stortford; revision to route and timetable.
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(Acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex, Hertfordshire & Suffolk County Councils, Omnibus Society (Essex Branch), Richard Delahoy & Harlowride).



**New buses
in
Brentwood**

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First time on the 81 for
Ensign's 714 (YN62 AOH).



<<<<<<<

First day in service for
Stagecoach ADL
E400/MMC 10301 (YY15
OYS) from North Street
garage, which went back
to Stagecoach at the end
of June.

P.S. Thanks to Glyn
Matthews for information
on his whereabouts driving
714
and
to the NS driver for the
cheerful acknowledgement.

Chris Stewart.

Southend 347 - MHJ 347F - Request for help. From Fred Lawrance.

Chris Pearce of Worthing has just acquired Southend 347 from Ensign; it is his intention to return the vehicle to serviceable condition. He is hoping that group members may be able to assist him with the relevant history of the vehicle, photographs in its earlier life and assistance in finding a suitable destination blind. The bus was at North Weald Rally in 1996. Chris can be contacted on 01903 520286 - 07917 752053 - email southdownqueenmary@ntlworld.com - any costs involved will be refunded.

Here we see it photographed outside its new home in West Sussex. **Fred Lawrance.**



John G. Lidstone writes "When in SCT/ST service, it was always a popular bus. I drove it extensively between summer 1977 and summer 1981 and was one of the last drivers to drive it on its farewell tour. It was one of two PD3s I particularly liked to drive. It had a good engine back then (goodness knows what's happened since in neglect with Greyhound in Cornwall). It was lovely to drive - ironically 345 was a 'cow' of a bus which most drivers hated. 346 suffered - a fire in the top deck, was 'lost' when on loan to London Transport and ended up being stolen from a driving school after being sold and was never recovered. 345 was cannibalised by ST and sold for scrap straight out of service. John's picture [left] was taken in Southend Central Bus Station on 26 April 1981 during the "Southend PD3 farewell Tour"

FRN615n10

From new member David Grimmatt 1088

Was the bus scene more interesting 50 years ago? It was certainly a lot simpler. Whichever way you journeyed out from London across Essex everything unfolded in such an orderly fashion. Until you got to Romford or Waltham Abbey buses were London Transport Red. Then for some reason that a primary school boy couldn't quite understand, the same buses – still with London Transport on the side – became green. Then as you moved further out the dark green got lighter and the buses belonged to Eastern National all the way to the coast. The family moved to Nazeing and Saturday shopping visits with Mum on the 393 to Harlow confused this little lad. This was London Transport territory but occasionally an Eastern National bus would arrive; where from? The next move was into buying timetables and then things got really exciting. Of course my treasured BBF prepared for the two oddities in Southend and Colchester, what's a corporation? Trips were made to Southend for "the lights" but THE place to visit was Colchester bus station. It was here that I learned my BBF only scratched the surface. Where did all these other buses come from – Hedingham and District, Osborne, Norfolk, Chambers, Vines, Wents...the place was a veritable Pandoras box. And then every now and again a strange thing would occur, a bus, looking for all the world like Eastern National would appear, but it was red – not London Transport red – and it had Eastern Counties on the side and my BBF told me they came from Norwich, certainly not an Essex operator!

Thurgoods were always special, I know Ware is in Hertfordshire, but they were as good as a local body builder. Their offering here is 554 DNK a Bedford SB1 then operated by Norfolk's Nayland, seen passing GBC 199D a Marshall bodied AEC Reliance Colchester Corporation having recently been acquired from Leicester. Around the time they acquired several second hand single deck buses and hired in even more.

[illegible]

This little bus is frequently seen around Chelmsford on driver training duties. Does any one know who operates it?

John Salmon.

By Adam Kelleher.

New Vehicles

The 17 additional Micro Hybrids due this year (see EBN 614) are confirmed by First Group as StreetLite Max DFs for Colchester, to be numbered 63328-44 (subject to any changes of plan). CR47657, the only one of the 16 reported last month that had not yet been noted in service, was seen on route 65 on 11 June, although it is quite possible that it entered service in the few days prior to this date. To clarify EBN 614, 47525 (see General notes below), 47643 and 47648 are the only StreetLites that have been seen with main 'Essex' fleet names on the offside.



Picture above: Two of the intended batch of new Wright Streetlites for First in Colchester are now in service. Russell wonders whether these are these the first new buses for CR since 1999? 47657 in Colchester Road, West Bergholt on route 66 on 25 June 2015. **Russell Young.**

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-Basilidon; BE-Braintree; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School

Period 2 (26 April - 23 May) The transfers, based on observations, reported in EBN 614 are confirmed as correct.

Period 3 (24 May - 27 June)

20463 Reserve-DS(CF), 43359 CN(out of service)-sold, 43448 BE(out of service)-sold, 43480 CR-CF, 43717 CN(out of service)-sold, 43719 CN(out of service)-sold, 43733 BN-BN(out of service), 47657 CR*-CR, 47658 CR*-CR, 65652 CN(out of service)-sold. * being prepared for service.

Disposals

To Alpha Recovery for scrap, June 2015: 43359, 43448, 43717, 43719, 65652

43448 was the last low floor Dart with original style Pointer bodywork in stock (although it wasn't the last in service as it had been out of use since October last year and 42439 had worked at Hadleigh until February this year). It was also the last normal service bus with scroll (roller) blinds (the BMC school buses have these, as did coach 20463, although this vehicle has now been converted to a driver trainer). 65652 is the first of the five Scania L94UB / Wright Access Fjolines, bought in April 1999 to replace Dennis Super Pointer Darts on Colchester's route 65 (which was branded "Centurion 65" at the time), to be sold. These five, (65)650-4, are also the only buses of this chassis / bodywork combination bought new by (First) Essex Buses (although FE has since acquired a further 18 second hand ones).

EBN615p12

Repaints

To Urban livery:

BN42934 was being repainted at Clacton on 15 June and was back in service at Basildon on 17th. It has small "First Essex" name with f symbol above driver's cab and entrance doors and main "Essex" fleet name on lower side panels on both sides, but no depot stickers

CN65666, seen on 74 on 1 July, it has small "First Essex" name above the entrance door but only "Essex" above driver's cab, depot stickers both sides, main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides. As reported in EBN 613, this had been the only Scania / Wrightbus Solar at CN in Barbie livery, all others there have been repainted into Urban livery.

BN66806 was being prepped for repaint at Hadleigh on 18 June before moving to Clacton for repaint and was seen back in Basildon garage on 2 July. It has small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door plus depot sticker and main "Essex" fleet name on cove panels on nearside (offside not seen).

CF66811, which was reported as being in Clacton paint shop on 4 June in EBN 614, was back at Chelmsford by 7th

CF66812, seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 12 June

CF66814, seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 26 June

CF66815 was seen repainted at Clacton on 18 June and noted on the X30 in Chelmsford on 4 July

All of 66811/2/4/5 have small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides, main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides.

Most repaints also have an f symbol on the front and rear, with a small "Essex" on the rear only. On the rear, these are either on the bodywork or window.

To Driver Trainer livery:

CF20463 had left Clacton by 15 June, and was seen in Westway on 23rd. Since the report in EBN 614, it has had large red L on white squares (with purple shading to the squares) added to the back and nearside (on the nearside this continues over the windows) and main side "fleet name" of "Driver Training" applied (front and offside not seen). It also has lettering on the nearside "Be a bus driver" (together with website details) above the "fleet name", plus yellow lettering on the rear "You've not missed your bus! I'm being trained". [See picture inner front cover]



Ex Regal Busways Optare Solo YJ56AOT seen with First Kernow in Penzance Bus Station early June this year. It carries First fleetnumber 53504.

Paul Harvey.

EBN615p13

Other Vehicle News and Workings - General

Recently repainted CF53112 has had its seats reupholstered in e Leather. Between March and May this year HH47525 had a main "Essex" fleet name applied on its offside lower panels (the nearside has an advert). BN69918 has had most of its super rear advert extolling its hybrid virtues removed but still retains the part to the side of and over the window. CF43846 has lost its front "First" fleet name and f symbol and has had its (large) front fleet number re-applied just nearside of centre, above its "Plaxton" badge (this does quite alter its appearance). Vehicles seen on the shuttle between Coval Lane and Hylands Park for the Fling festival on Saturday 4 July were 61/62 branded CR32475, BE32856, BE33044 and CF34305 (not necessarily an exhaustive list, although this year only First buses were noted, last year Fourways were also involved).



Olympian 34305 was seen in service on the morning of 19 June, possibly on route 42. It was seen at Chelmer Valley P&R site on the afternoon of 25th. As noted and pictured above with 32856 (**Adam Kelleher**), it was used on the Fling shuttle on 4 July. On 6 July it was extremely unusual on route X30 (seen on the 2142 arrival to and 2200 departure from Southend). It was in Colchester on 8th, deputising for a yellow school bus on route 525.

R-DIN & S-TWC Pointer 2 Darts

Further to EBNs 613 & 614, in the last month 43717 & 9 have been sold for scrap and 43733 has been withdrawn from service, leaving just two remaining in use, 43731 & 4, both at CF. Sightings during June and early July have been as follows:

43731 on 73 / 351 on 6, 8 & 11 June, on other 73 on 18th, on 71/A on 25th & 1 July, on 31X on 3 July and on 42 on 4th

43733 seen at Basildon garage on 17 June with LED destination equipment and back bumper removed

43734 on 54 on 10 June, on 73 / 351 on 12th, on 71/A on 24th and on 45 on 3 July.

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

31 May CR32481/2 on Colchester to Witham

9 CR32475 on Colchester to Witham (evening)

10 June CR32481/651 on Colchester to Witham (evening).

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

Clacton summer services 16 Clacton / Bockings Elm circular and 19 Clacton - St Osyth Beach recommenced on 29 June. The 16 was worked by CN61057 on 1 July and CN65527 on 3rd and the 19 by CN42923 on 1st and CN42922 on 3rd. In EBN 614, it was reported that all three Clacton double deckers were off road, but 30887 was seen back in service on route 76 on 1 July. It was also reported that CN42937 was parked at the back of Clacton garage since at least 8 May awaiting a new engine. It was still there on 9 June, but was seen parked on the forecourt of the garage on 3 July and back in service on route 3 on 7th. Colchester hybrid liveried vehicles seen on routes 103/4 have been 66807 on 10 June, 66803 on 16th & 17th and 66798 on 18th, plus two double deckers have been seen on the routes in June, CR32483 on 23rd and CR32481 on 30th.

9 June CR47658 on 1/A
12 CR65630 on 71C
15 CR47657 on one-bus route 63 (and again on 16th, 17th, 18th & 22nd, but sister CR47658 on this service on 19th & 24th)
24 CR47657 on 66 (and again on 1 July), CR65631 on 71C
8 July Due to vandals smashing the windows on four buses at Magdalen Street depot, CN61057 was on loan to Colchester and was seen on route 64A

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Following the resurfacing of Duke Street near / under the railway bridge (see EBN 614), the bus stops outside the station (towards the Town Centre) re-opened on / by 10 June. There are two new shelters (which have been in place since early March), which carry the name "Station Square", but no bus stop flags. The stop opposite is also back in use (but also without a flag).

Editor's note: *The bus stand outside the Co-op in Duke Street which was used as the temporary bus stop is still being used by some First drivers as a handover point and some Regal buses are using it again for layovers. Whilst the bridge and carriageway works seem to have been completed, refurbishment works at the railway station continue, somewhat marring the view of the south facing side of the bridge. Hopefully this work will soon be finished – I can then make good my long-standing commitment to Robert Appleton to show one of his historical pictures on a before and after basis!*

Buses seen on route X30 (all CF): 66815 on 9 June and again on 4 July (but now repainted), 66817 on 16 June, 65032 on 26th, 44545 on 27th, 66818 on 3 July, 66799 on 4th and 34305 on 6th

43480, a recent transfer from Colchester to Chelmsford, was seen in Braintree garage on 18 June, then in service at CF on route 45 on 22 June, on 73 / 351 on 24th and on 72 on 26th

8 June CF43360 on 73 (Chelmsford-Maldon), CF67901 on 71/A
9 CF43846 on 71/A (and again on 16th & 17th)
10 CF43845 & CF53115 on 71/A, 90413 (YD05 AFN), Ford Transit publicity van, seen in Chelmsford Bus Station (as reported in EBN at the time, this was acquired circa June 2009)
15 CF67902 on Sandon P&R (first sighting of an Enviro Hybrid on this service)
18 CF44537 on 15A, "First" on LED display, number in windscreen
19 CF53138 on 71/A/X
26 CF44900 on 71/A
1 July CF67902 on 71/A
2 R reg Darts BE43483 and BE43679 both on 70
3 CF43360 on 42A

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

Non-Hybrids seen on route 100 (all BN): 41525 on 10 June, 41524 & 66819 on 17th, 47655 on 23rd and 41539 & 42934 on 26th

17 June BN32847 on 300, BN47652 on 21
19 BN32849 on 9
27 BN42934 on 9

Service Vehicle

SP13 OYK is another white Ford Transit publicity van, seen in Chelmsford on 24 June when First Essex had a stall in the High Street for the following week's "Catch A Bus" promotion. Checking on Flickr, this van has been with First Essex since at least July 2014.

Sources: own observations, and with thanks R Appleton, P Ashton, S Barham, D Bell, P Best, T Clark, D Edwards, S Hughes, J Lidstone, D Lund-Conlon, C Paynter, J Podgorski, K Reynolds, K Smith, C Stewart, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, First Essex, Flickr, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, 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.

New Bus Station for Braintree!

Text by Maurice Austin from emails by Richard Delahoy.

The Aviva Women's Cycle Tour started in Braintree Market Place on Thursday 18 June 2015 at 1000 hours. In order for the event to assemble, Manor Street, Market Place and High Street was closed to all traffic from 0400 until about 1400 that day. There was no access to Braintree Bus Park during the closure. A temporary bus station was situated in Station Approach Braintree for the duration of the closure. Obviously, for such a short period of time the arrangements were of a very temporary nature, just using barriers and A frame boards. First arranged for notices to be placed at all bus stops affected and in the bus park, plus simple lists of Service numbers/Destinations for each of the A frame notices at the temporary stands. When the race started and as it progressed, there were short-term closures of the route itself, via a rolling road-block. We are not aware of any other special arrangements along the route, which ended in Clacton.



Top picture: Bus/Rail interchange! First Essex Trident/President 33044 on its way to Chelmsford. The permanent hardware demonstrates a few buses still serve this spot on a regular basis. Photo by **Adam Kelleher**.

Bottom picture: Still in Aberdeen heritage livery, First Essex Volvo/Wright 62139 is being prepared for its trip to Colchester. **Adam Kelleher**.



Whilst We Are in Braintree! **Nigel Turner.**

While it wasn't too hard to identify the location of the mystery photo in the June EBN, I thought members might be interested in a little detail. The dental surgery in the centre of the photo is on the site of Nos. 8 & 10, Fairfield Road. Braintree. The building on the right was part of the Ship Inn in the nineteenth century. Joseph Attwod was the landlord in the mid 1800s, but by 1874 he had been replaced by Thomas Gray who in 1881 described himself as a Beer Retailer and Marine Store Dealer, the latter designation being a polite term for scrap dealer. On 3 March 1886 his son Charles Henry Gray acquired houses in Fairfield Road, which I believe to have been Nos. 8 & 10.

Certainly by 1918, Charles H. Gray and family were living at No.8 while Claude Sidney Gray and family were at No.10. Charles was still in the scrap business as can be confirmed by going to www.britainfromabove.org.uk and searching for Braintree 1920. The photo of the Market Place area clearly shows the heap of junk in the back gardens.

The Essex Chronicle of 2 March 1928 reported a court case where Hicks Bros. applied for an ejectment order against Claude Sidney Gray of 10, Fairfield Road. It was stated that the local authority had made a closing order and that Hicks intended to demolish the building to make a second entrance to the garage, which would enable the firm standing their vehicles on the highway. An eviction order was made by the magistrates which is not surprising when you see that their number included E. C. Hicks J.P. who was the senior partner in E. C. & A. R. Hicks trading as Hicks Bros.!

No.8 survived a little longer as it was not until 26 April 1932 that Charles H. Gray sold it to Hicks Bros. Things moved rapidly thereafter and a new garage was soon being erected which lasted until 2005, latterly with First Essex. Nigel Turner.



Braintree (BE) depot shortly after closure. Both pictures by **Ian Banks**.

Editors note: no-one has sent me recent pictures of the new Braintree depot in Springwood Drive; it would be nice to have some to complete our set of BE depots. I know one cannot take a bus there now but ... !

Several vehicles are currently on loan to Harlow comprising Route 9 Wave Branded Versas 4203 / 4210 from Southend, VDL SB200/Wright Pulsar 2 3755 (YJ08 DZE) from Guildford, Mini Pointer Darts T47 WUT and V425 DGT, both last recorded with Wardle Transport, Wright Streeelite DF 4288 (GN14 DYH) from Medway, Enviro 200 3995 (GN07 DMU) from Kent Thameside and Medway Mainline branded Enviro 200 4058 (GN09 AXM). 4058 worked to Heathrow on Greenline service 724 on 1 July.



Two Arriva Southend Optare Versas normally on route 9 "The wave" in Southend have gone on loan to Harlow depot, as illustrated in this picture of 4210 (YJ61CJX) laying over in Harlow Bus Station on 1 July. **Matthew Evans.**

Further to last month, Trident 5443 returned to Harlow from Colchester at the start of June allowing Dart SLF 3322 to return from Harlow to Southend. Harlow allocated Dart SLF 3413 remains on loan to Colchester.

Volvo B10BLE/ Alexander 3829 (W903 UJM) has been withdrawn for disposal at Colchester and is currently parked out of use at Southend. Dart SLF 3316 (S314 JUA) has been withdrawn following accident damage.

Harlow Solo 1474 (YJ56 ATZ) has received Arriva corporate livery vice Network Harlow blue livery.

Grays allocated red Wright Cadets 3971/2/3 (YE06 HPX/Y/Z) arrived at Maidstone in convoy on 1 July and are to be transferred into the training fleet and are due to receive training livery.

Former Southend Transport Leyland PD3/East Lancs 347 (MHJ 347F) has now passed from the care of Ensign Bus to Chris Pearce of Worthing. It had been with Western Greyhound (unrestored) for some years. Leyland Olympian 263/5403 (H263 GEV) which was latterly with Regal Busways is reported as having gone for scrap by May this year; Regal had run it in "as withdrawn" Arriva livery since acquiring it in August 2010. Former Southend Astromega 245, has joined Ensign's heritage fleet, and was repainted at Mardens into Southend yellow/blue coach livery in June,

Essex CC supported Wednesdays only service 10 (Paglesham – Rayleigh) ceases from 5 August. A correspondent rode the service on 3 June into Rayleigh and reports that no other passengers boarded until Lower Hockley 'The Dome'. About 9 passengers got on there and around 3 or 4 more boarded along the 20 route between Hullbridge and Rayleigh (a 20 was right behind). The Dome is now served by Wyvern CT on a few days a week. The Arriva driver on the 10 said they had probably taken a few punters away. He also said that every 2-3 weeks 1-2 people boarded between Paglesham & Lower Hockley.

STOP PRESS: CR3829 withdrawn 10/7, probable replacement 3288 from SD; CR3316 in rta 10/7, prob. replacement Cadet from Maidstone.

Arriva Folk Are a Big Handed Lot!



EBN has missed the annual Catch the Bus Week (29 June to 5 July) but I thought you might like to think about member Richard Lewis's comment "There is a famous saying that love makes the world go round, but we at Arriva think it's actually buses that make the world go around, especially as they play such a pivotal role in our daily lives, often going un-noticed and un-appreciated." Don't show this to "the other half"!



The middle shot shows the once-a-day schooldays-only service 7 with 'Greensward School' destination, here on DAF SB120 / Wright Cadet 3935 (GX52 YUY).

When the Arriva long wheelbase V1170 Optare Versas came into service, they were 'banned' from route 7 owing to tight turns on the route.



John had heard of odd instances of them appearing, and on Friday 26 June saw one himself, 4259 (KX13 AVF) and with a friendly wave from the cab (just after I took this zoom shot on approach to the Southend Travel Centre).

Both buses carry 'Revised Fares' windscreen stickers - something dating back to Southend Corporation Transport practice.

Both pics
John G. Lidstone.

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - June 2015.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Abellio London	BX54 DKA/D-F/J-K	Darts
Arriva London	LF02 PSX/Y	Volvo B7TL's
	LF02 PTU/X/Y	
	LF02 PVE/J-L/N/O	
	LF52 UTC/E/USE/UTG-I/L/M	
	LF52 USM-O/S/T/W-Y	
	LF52 UPL/M/V	
Dublin Bus	LJ03 MWO	DAF
Go Goodwins	01-D10188	Volvo B7TL
	MX08 ZPA	Enviro 200's
	YX59 BXW	
Little's Transport	YN62 ADD	Enviro 200's
	YN62 AOV	
	YN62 AOH	
London by Night	J345 BSH	Olympian
Metroline	LT52 XAD	Tridents
	LK03 NKG/S/U/Z	
	LK03 NLA/C	
Stagecoach East Midlands	LK51 XGH	Volvo B7TL
	R143/5 EVX	Olympians
	P151 KWI	
Stagecoach Western	R688 MFE	Olympians
	J988 HMC	
	H806 LNA	

Vehicles Out

A2B , Luton	R688 MFE	Olympian
Access Travel, Motherwell	SF06 FSG	Mercedes Vario
Big Green Bus Co, Haverhill	R271 LGH	Olympian
Bryans Coaches of Enfield	FPT 590C	Routemaster
Brylaine Coaches, Boston,		
Lincs	LX03 BWW	Trident
Cardinal Buses, Staines	KV03 HZP	Dart
Carters Coaches,		
Great Addington, Northants	R274 LGH	Olympian
Coastal Liner, Wolverhampton	BIG 8751	Olympian
	TNZ 1186	Dart
Coach Style, Chippenham	KU52 RXV	Dart
Edward Thomas and Son,		
Epsom	R258 KRG	Volvo B10BLE
Grant Palmer, Dunstable	SK52 OJB/C	Darts
Hornsby Coaches, Scunthorpe	LX03 BWY	Trident
Littles Transport, Ilkeston	YK04 KVV	Solo
London City Tours	Y207/9 NLK	Volvo B7TL's
Moffat and Williamson, Fife	LK03 UPW	Trident
New Adventure Travel, Cardiff	LV52 HDY/HFK	Tridents
	LY02 OBB	
Nightingale Transport ,		
Stanley, Co Durham	LF02 PSX/Y/PTU	Volvo B7TL's
	LF02 PVK/L/O	
Nu-Venture , Maidstone	NA52 AWO/N/U	Darts

Rambler Coaches,

St Leonards on Sea	SN53 AUW	Dart
Regal Busways, Chelmsford	NA52 AWM/F	Darts
Rossendale Transport	LF52 UTL / UTM	Volvo B7TL's
	LF52 USM/N/O/S/T/W/X/Y	
Select Bus, Stafford	SK520 HX	Dart
St Ives Bus Company	WK56 PEN	Solo
Sleafordian Coaches, Sleaford	SK520 HY	Dart
Stagecarriage, Middlesbrough	J938 HMC	Olympians
	H606 LNA	
Sullivan Buses, South Mimms	LF52 UPV/L/M	Volvo B7TL's
Viking Coaches, Heywood,		
Manchester	VX51 RCO	Dart
West Kent Buses,		
West Kingsdown, Kent	T749 JPO	Trident
Xelabus, Eastleigh, Hants	Y852/66 GCD	Tridents

Other Movements

From Arriva London Volvo B7TL's LF02 PVO and LF52 URA both acquired for scrap. DAF LJ03 MWP also for scrap.
Enviro 200's YN62 ADD / AOV: City Direct, Galway, Eire.
Mercedes Vario WK56 SUN: OS bus and Coach Services, Cork, Eire.
AEC RF MLL 528: Mr M Biddell, Wisbech, Cambs.
Trident Y522 NHK Volvo B7TL's W905WGH / LF52 UKA: MC Tractors, Ely for scrap.
DAF SB120 FJ54 ZDP: Wexford Bus, Eire.
Enviro 400 SN56 AWW: Cummins LTD, Middlesbrough.
Dart RN52 ERU: Mayfair Search Group, London.
Trident Y447 NHK: Hshama Development, Dubai.

Ensignbus

Ensign Fleet – June 2015

Acquisitions

714	YN62 AOH	Enviro 200	Ex Littles, PR1 ex Park & Ride, Derby.
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Withdrawals

783	MA02 BLU	Dennis Dart SLF	
	Caetano	B37F	(This was ex Bluebird).

Disposals

105	V115 MEV	Dennis Trident	Alexander ALX400
	H47/29F to Buses Etc,	Merstham	
143	X343 NNO	Dennis Trident	Alexander ALX400
	H47/29F to Buses Etc,	Merstham	
192	T192 CLO	Dennis Trident	Alexander ALX400
	H45/26F to LB Havering.		
194	T194 CLO	Dennis Trident	Alexander ALX400
	H45/26F to Bear Buses,	Feltham	

T192/4 CLO were 392 MBF and 864 DYE respectively at Ensign before sale. The cherished plates were kept by Ensign and the vehicles re-registered to their original plates before sale.

Off To Town With Ensign! Tube Strike Specials on the TfL 25.



John G. Lidstone spent some time in London during the recent Tube Strike.

Top picture:

DMS-class DM 2646 (THX 646S)



Middle picture:

Cravens RT 1431 (JXC 194)



Bottom picture:

RML 2405 (JJD 405D)

Off To Town With Others! Tube Strike Specials.



John G. Lidstone spent some time in London during the recent Tube Strike.

Top picture:
Immaculate as always
Panther Alexander BLG 7798
on 25 at Bishopsgate.



Middle picture:
Less immaculate Regal
Busways Wright 802 (WX08
DFN) seen at Liverpool
Street looking sad, with bare
panels.



Bottom picture:
Looking better, Regal
Busways President 1404
(V764 HBY) at Aldgate.

Acquired

1506	YN55 PZH	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	SY, ex-Metrobus 906
1510	YN55 PZO	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	SY, ex-Metrobus 910
1516	YN55 PZX	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	CN, ex-Metrobus 916

Nearing Completion at Hants & Dorset Trim

1508	YN55 PZL	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	Chambers
1514	YN55 PZV	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	Hedingham
1515	YN55 PZW	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	Hedingham

Fleet Movements

90	N427 JBV	Volvo Olympian/N Counties	H47/30F	CN to TY
91	N540 LHG	Volvo Olympian/N Counties	H48/32F	CN to TY
575	W516 WGH	Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President	H45/25F	SY to CN
578	W519 WGH	Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President	H45/25F	SY to CN
580	W527 WGH	Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President	H45/25F	SY to CN
701	T801 RFG	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	CN to TY
702	T802 RFG	Dennis Trident/EL Lolyne	H47/31F	CN to TY

>>> Report continued on EBN615p28 >>>

578 was first spotted in service with Hedingham decals on 11 June; 575 followed on 17 June. Ten B7TLs are transferring from Chambers to Hedingham at CN for local school contracts, but will appear occasionally on service 87 (Colchester-Brightlingsea) alongside the Scania OmniDekkas. Here we see it operating on the ECC contract for Tendring Technical College, Thorpe-le-Soken. Note the red panel on the front dash with the Hedingham fleet name; the Chambers route map for Colchester - Sudbury - Bury St. Edmunds has also been removed from between the decks. Picture taken in Frinton Road, Frinton-on-Sea by **Robert Appleton**.



Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher.

Acquired Vehicles

EK51 XXC, Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer MPD, B29F, new to Bus Eireann, DPC109 (02-D-18253)

From Ensign May 2015, ex South Lancs Travel. This vehicle had previously moved from Bus Eireann (via Ensign) to Strawberry Bus, which was later incorporated into SLT. It is in SLT livery of white upper half, dark yellow below windows, dark blue deep skirt, and retains SLT fleet number 14. It has a dot matrix (flip dot) destination. It was first noted with Regal on 18 May and first seen in service on route 3 on 21 May, with "Regal Busways" on the blind. However, it was returned to Ensign the week ending 29 May with overheating problems and was replaced by NA52 AWF. (This bus was illustrated on Page 22 of EBN 614.)

NA52 AWF, Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer MPD, B25F, new to Go Wear Buses (523) 12/02

NA52 AWM, Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer MPD, B25F, new to Go Wear Buses (527) 12/02

From Ensign May 2015, ex Western Greyhound. They retain WG overall light green livery (AWF has a light blue front nearside bumper) with dot matrix (flip dot) destination displays (including full width rear, although these are not used). After WG ceased trading on 13 March this year, AWM worked temporarily for First Kernow on WG replacement services and retains partially removed First fleet names; AWF retains partially removed WG fleet names. Both retain WG fleet numbers; AWF was 201 (although only "20" is shown on rear) and AWM 204. AWM was first reported with Regal on 18 May, it was on route 211 on 21 May, seen in service at Chelmsford on 29 May, and on route 213 on 4 June, all times with route number in the windscreen. As noted above, AWF was a replacement for EK51 XXC and was first seen on 29 May on route 3, with "Regal Busways" on front blinds and route number in windscreen. It was seen on the Braintree Freeport shuttle the next day, with "Special Service" on blinds. (*Sister vehicle NA52 AWO has recently been on loan to Ambus.*)



As reported above, ex-Western Greyhound Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer MPD NA52 NWF in Kelvedon last Sunday, snapped in much haste from the platform of Moores Guy 373 WPU. **John G. Lidstone.**

Vehicle on Loan

Y253 FJN, Dennis Dart / Alexander ALX200 8.9m, in all white livery, was on loan from Trustybus from 2 June for a few days and was seen on routes 146 and 322. (Please see Trustybus article in EBN 612 for more details about this vehicle.)

Services

Route B2 is now registered as a public service.

Regal Busways, continued

Disposals

EK51 XXC - see Acquired Vehicles above

1204 gone for scrap by May 2015. (As noted in EBN 612, 1204 was last reported in service on route 7 on 12 February 2014, as illustrated in the photo on page 10 of EBN 599, although it was reported in EBN 601 as being parked at the First Data car park bus stop on 16 April 2014.) This leaves 1206 as Regal's final Olympian.

Volvo B10M / Plaxton Excalibur SIL 2172 sold by April 2015.

Other Vehicle News, Workings and Observations

Rounding up some news and observations from the second quarter of 2015.

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

5 April: 211, 802 and YJ03 PKK on Newbury Park to Shenfield / Ingatestone (802 also seen on 6th)

3 May: YJ03 PGZ / PKK, OV63 XCN on Newbury Park to Ingatestone / Wickford, 205 on Ingatestone cross platform shuttle

4 May: YJ03 PGZ / PKK on Newbury Park to Ingatestone / Wickford, 651 on Ingatestone cross platform shuttle

24 May: KU02 PVD and YJ03 PKK on Colchester to Witham

17 May: MV12 ODR on Colchester to Witham

31 May: YJ03 PGZ / PKK on Colchester to Witham

10 June: J734 CWT, YJ03 PGZ on Colchester to Witham

14 June: YJ03 PGZ on Colchester to Witham

Various Regal vehicles were seen on standby duty for Greater Anglia at Billericay and Wickford during the hot days at the end of June and early July.

Coaches

Seen on bus routes: YJ03 PGZ on 7 (23 April) and on 3 (20 May), J734 CWT on 3B (29 May)

Solos

205 on 381 (29 April); 206 on 552 (15 & 20 April), on 52 (1 May); 207 on 11A (26 April), on 3B (27 April), on 552 (20 May); 208 on 52 (9 May); 210 on 88 (12 April), on First Data Shuttle (1 May)

Darts

By May, the final step entrance Dart, 515, was parked up out of service and had had its ticket machine and baseplate removed. The last reported sighting of it in service was on route 75 on 10 April. 615 now has a maroon skirt at the front but the rest of the vehicle retains its Metroliner blue skirt. 614 also retains a Metroliner blue skirt but has a maroon rear bumper. Dart sightings have been as follows:

April: 601 on 75 (17th); 607 on 52 (12th), 75 (27th); 611 on 75 (8th & 22nd), 71C (12th), 52 (15th & 23rd), 3 (30th), 31A (1 May); 613 on 75 (10th); 615 on 75 (7th); KP02 PUH on 3 (9th)

May: 601 on 52 (18th); 611 on 31A (1st), 3 (11th & 13th, both times with LED not working and route number in windscreen), 75 (18th), 71C (31st); 613 on 344 (29th); KP02 PUH on 3 (20th), 52 (22nd); KP02 PVD on 52, blinds turned to yellow blank, route number in windscreen (11th), 3 with blinds in use (14th), Braintree Freeport Shuttle (displaying route number 1 with yellow blank destination), both its doors were in use (17th), Braintree Freeport shuttle again (29th)

June: 601 unusual on 565 (8th), on 3B(18th), 70 (24th); 615 on 75(11th), 1 (18th); KP02 PVD on 45 (26th); NA52 AWF on 71C (28th)

Enviro 200s

650 on 11A (26 April); 651 on 565 (6, 9, 11 & 14 April, 1 May and 18 June), 71C (7 & 14 June), 553 (17 June); 652 on 71C (12 April & 17 May), 565 (14 & 15 April), 75 (5 May), 52 (7, 14 & 29 May), 11A (31 May), First Data shuttle (4 June)

MANs

702 on 52 (27 April); 802 on 70 (12 May), 52 (13 May), 553 (29 May), 71C (31 May), 75 (17 June)

Tempcos

P 01 was seen at the Yeldham Transport Collection at Great Yeldham on its open day, 17 May. It was parked just outside the main hangar in a withdrawn state. It has been reported that it may have been there since late 2013 and that it is to be repaired, although no work seems to have taken place. It is also reported that P 03 is also at Great Yeldham but it was not on public view. Meanwhile, P 02 continues in service and on 17 May was on route 71C. It has also been noted on 3 on 9 April, 71C on 26 April, First Data Shuttle on 11 & 13 May, B2 on 12 May, Braintree Freeport shuttle on 18 June

Olympian

The final Olympian, 1206, was parked outside Brentwood station on 19 May.

Tridents

1302 on Braintree Freeport shuttle (displaying route number 900) on 11 May

With thanks to Dale Bell, Terry Clark, Chris Hatley, Ian Hardie, Adam Hughes, Colin Paynter, John Podgorski, John Salmon, Geoff Toon, Robert West, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS

Ambus (Amber Coaches' bus operations) by Adam Kelleher.

Vehicle on Loan Correction to EBN 613: NA52 AWO was seen on route 269 on 23 April, Ambus no longer operate route 265. This vehicle was last seen in service with Ambus on 22 May. In June Ensign sold it to Nu Venture, Maidstone, where it retains its Western Greyhound light green livery but has had a dark green skirt and red fleet names applied. It has been numbered 521. *(Sister vehicles NA52 AWF/M have been acquired by Regal Busways.)*

Other Vehicle News The "Healthcare" lettering on both 4 and HV52 WTG (see EBN 608) had been removed by 20 May. Versa YJ57 XWG was unusual on route 261 on 24 June.

With thanks to Alan & Stephen Hughes and Ross Newman

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

Acquired Vehicles SK52 OKE, Dennis Dart SLF / Plaxton Pointer 2, B42F, new to Lothian (84) 12/02
It remains in Lothian madder / white livery but its fleet names have been removed. Seen on 25 June with "66A Express" on scroll blinds (and again with same on 26 / 27 June and 1 July).
Updating EBN 613, Solo YJ08 PIX now has a fully programmed front LED display and is numbered 902.

Vehicles on Loan PK02 RDO, Dennis Trident / Plaxton President, H47/31F, new to Brighton & Hove (866) 4/01
From Ensign. This vehicle operated temporarily for Ensignbus as fleet number 912 with Ensignbus fleet names. It retains these number and names on its B&H livery. It also retains its name "Alan Weeks", below the windscreen, from its time with B&H. It is on loan to replace 101 (see below). Seen on Debden Park school contract on 4 June. (This vehicle was illustrated on Page 25 of EBN 614.)
YJ59 NNM, Optare Solo, B29F, new to Heyfordian, Bicester, 12/09
(This vehicle has also had loan spells with Nottingham City Council, Arriva Yorkshire and Webber Bus.) All white livery. Seen on route 66A on 6 July, LED not programmed, route details in windscreen. It is possibly a temporary replacement for Solo YX08 PIX, which broke down on Woodridden Hill in early June and has not been seen in service since.

Disposals 101 (X158 FBB) lost its roof when it collided with the low (11'9") Central Line railway bridge in Roding Road, Loughton on 15 April whilst on crew transfer duty. By early June it was at Barkerbus's premises at Roydon.
The three Optare Excels, which were only acquired in November last year, 761/2 and R300 PAR (see EBNs 609/10/2), had gone for scrap by May 2015. R300 was never used, it was only acquired for spare parts, and the other two only ran intermittently. 762 had been noted out of service in January (see EBN 610) and is not thought to have been used since, and 761 is not thought to have run since March.

With thanks to Ian Hardie, Owen Woodliffe, LOTS and Bus Lists on the Web.



Thurrock Council route 265 is now operated by community organisation Trans-Vol of Grays. The route has recently been revised to operate via Horndon-on-the-Hill and Iveco GN11 DZK is at West Horndon. It has no ticket machine - passenger record is by issue of a raffle ticket!!

Owen Woodliffe.

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

With thanks to Adam Jones, Ian Ransom, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS.

Acquired Vehicles

LX03 BWV, Transbus Trident / Transbus ALX400, 10.5m, new to Stagecoach London (17784) 3/03

Acquired on 1 May 2015, via Ensign, converted from H45/22D to H47/33F and seat belts fitted. All red livery. This replaces de-roofed G11 GTL (see EBN 612).

Y364 HMY, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B38F, new to Metrobus (364) 4/01

Y366 HMY, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B38F, new to Metrobus (366) 4/01

Y374 HMY, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B38F, new to Metrobus (374) 4/01

Acquired May 2015. They retain Metrobus two-tone blue livery and have front LED blinds. It is reported that Y366 has been down seated at some time to B37F.

Updating EBN 608, Dart / Plaxton KP54 BYL remains in Premiere Travel, Nottingham all red livery with front LED blinds and Enviro Dart / East Lancs PE56 UFH/J/K have had front LED blind displays fitted.

Vehicle on Loan

Dart / Alexander Y253 FJN was on loan to Regal Busways for a few days from 2 June.

Re-Registration

Correction to EBN 612: Vario MP6 was re-registered from W996 JNF to RHZ 9644, not RHZ 9964.

Disposals

MP6 was seen withdrawn from service but was still on site in April 2015. It has since been sold to a private buyer in Scotland.

Galleon Travel Volvo Olympian / Alexander RH (Belfast) T570 EGD was sold by April 2015.

Other Vehicle News

Vario EIG 1357, Dart MPD VIZ 3283 and Dart / Pointer R744 BMY had also been withdrawn from service but remained on site in April.

Services

After Arriva withdrew its Harlow to Chingford route 505, Trustybus introduced a replacement service with the same number on 11 May, but only using one bus for a reduced service of six return journeys Monday to Friday (with the final journey from Chingford terminating at Nazeing Crossroads). There is also a Saturday service. KP54 BYL was used on the first day, but the route is normally worked by one of the recently acquired Caetano Darts, although PE56 UFH was noted on 29 June.



**In
the
same
area!**

Owen Woodliffe writes "By chance, this photo was taken only a few days before RoadRunner suddenly surrendered its services to Townlink, who promptly abandoned the 255. Y542XAG is at Loughton on 4 July, still with dual doors from its time with London United as DPS 542".

EBN615p27

The Publicity Page by Ian Ransom with a little help from Maurice Austin and Here to There publishing.

First Essex

Timetable booklet for Brentwood Area dated 5.7.2015, 25 pages.
Timetable booklet for Clacton Area dated 28.6.2015, it runs to 50 pages with a foldout map at the rear.
Timetable booklet for 42/42A dated 5.7.2015, 22 + pages with foldout map at the rear.
Timetable booklet for 45 dated 5.7.2015, a mere 10 pages plus foldout map.
Timetable booklet for 54/4C/56 dated 5.7.2015, 26 pages plus map.
Timetable booklet for 61/62/62A dated 31.8.2014, reprinted September 2014, 22 pages plus map.
Timetable booklet for 70 dated 7.7.2015, 16 pages.
Timetable booklet for 71/71A/71C/72 dated 5.7.2015, 16 pages.
Flyer "Is this bus First Rate. We want to what you know about the cleanliness of this bus. Undated but collected July 2015.

IS THIS BUS FIRST RATE

We want to know what you think about the cleanliness of the buses you use.

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Let us know what you think you at:
www.firstgroup.com/ukbus/essex/



Trustybus

Three new leaflets in A5 by AHA Consulting 11th May 2015 for Trustybus – 392/393, 410/410A/410X, 505.

Essex County Council

Leaflet Bus Times 251 dated 3.5.2015 [purple].

Hedingham/Chambers, continued from page 23.

Olympians 67 (P605 CAY), 71 (R626 MNU), 73 (R643 MNU), 74 (R702 DNH) and 75 (S300 XHK) all remained in very active route service during the last month from Tollesbury. Meanwhile, the influx of the Scania's and transfer of the Volvo B7TLs are thinning the ranks of the Olympian fleet as can be seen below. 83 (M273 UKN) the first of the ex Dublin Olympians withdrawn at CN last month, has moved to KN in withdrawn status for use as a store. Interestingly 84 (M276 UKN) has travelled to Anglianbus in the same capacity.

Withdrawn

63	K107 JWJ	Volvo Olympian/N CountiesH47/29F	TY to sold (scrap)
81	M144 UKN	Volvo Olympian/Alexander(B)	H47/31F CN (store)
83	M273 UKN	Volvo Olympian/Alexander(B)	H47/31F CN to KN (store)
84	M276 UKN	Volvo Olympian/Alexander(B)	H47/31F CN to Beccles (store)
93	R259 LGH	Volvo Olympian/N CountiesH47/31F	TY to sold (scrap)

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

Acquired

425, 426 – MX62 APK, MX62 APO, ADL Enviro 200, B29F – acquired at the end of June from Go Goodwins of Eccles, Manchester.

Re the ex Nottingham Scania's, we are not yet able to confirm how many will go on fleet, but one – YN53 CFU – entered service on 9 July on London Underground strike replacement work, one of four Stephensons' deckers working on LT route 25. CFU has not yet been allocated a fleet number, but they are expected to form a group in the 90x series, where the first digit identifies 90 seater vehicles; existing 507/8 are expected to be renumbered into that series as well. And to clarify last month's report, YN53 CFA is on long term loan to Fords, not sold to them.

Enviro demonstrator 204, YX14 RXB, was returned to ADL having been last used in mid-May; it is now operating for Go-Coachhire in Kent, re-registered to GO14 BUS. It was however replaced at Stephensons on 2 July by a white Enviro 200, YY15 NJO, fleet number 205, also on loan from ADL. At the time of writing, it was in use from Maldon depot on service 90; it is expected to remain with Stephensons until the end of the year.

Not previously reported was the loan of 3 ex Dublin Olympians, 827/30/31, to Uno Buses during March.

A Stagecoach South Dart, T593 CGT (33020) has been acquired, likely for spares only.

Services

new Leigh service 23 will start on 21 August, replacing the previous Arriva 6A shopper bus. The new 23 (which revives a more traditional number for this corridor) will run Tuesdays & Fridays and is extended beyond the Woodcutters to Belgrave Road, with 4 trips each way. Also replacing Arriva, the Essex CC Wednesday only contract service 10, Paglesham/Canewdon to Rayleigh, is being taken over from 10 August 10, to a slightly revised timetable. And from 1 September, Stephensons will be operating service 73 (Chelmsford-Hatfield Peverel-Nounsley-Heybridge Basin-Maldon) commercially, replacing the existing First ECC contract, to a revised timetable and incorporating schooldays only 630, which becomes 673 (to/from Wickham Bishops) and the solitary morning trip as 71C from Boreham to Chelmsford.



Notorious Highwayman Dick Turpin is reputed to have been born in the Rose & Crown, Hempstead in 1705. Now named Bluebell Inn, the friendly Stephenson's driver waits for my photo on service 18 from Saffron Walden to Haverhill, taken over late last year following the demise of Freedom Travel.

Owen Woodliffe.

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

Acme Bus, Molehill Green

Alexander bodied Dennis H47/27F, reg. V130 MEV is here ex Weaver, Newbury, Berkshire.

Barker, Roydon

From my own observations, it would appear that a recent arrival here is M155 HST, an Auwaerter Neoplan twin deck coach, seating capacity and previous owner currently unknown. This vehicle is named "Lady Ann".



Picture: Lady Ann described above at the North Weald rally on Sunday 21 June 2015. **Roger A. Smith.**

Chariots, Stanford-le-Hope

This operator is understood to be in administration although operations are continuing on the licence of Flavin Consulting, registered at the same address.

Executive Minibuses, Aveley

Recently arrived here is Stanford bodied Mercedes Benz M16, previously with Amersham & Windsor, Woburn Green, Berks.

Jones, Baintree

YX15 XMO, an Alexander Dennis Dart is understood to be white with "Premier Inn" logos.

SBC Engineering, Leigh-on-Sea

YN64 XPP, Higer bodied Scania C56FT demonstrator has been here, following a stint with Ford's of Althorne.

Tube Strike Specials

John G. Lidstone's Flickr site, an album of 150 photos of 8 July's Tube strike specials can be seen at:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/albums>

Talisman Mystery Tour by Owen Woodliffe.

After a cloudy day, the sun came out and it turned out a perfect evening for the Talisman tour. Due to congestion on the forecourt of Colchester North Station we just glimpsed and had to guess our transport as it disappeared around the roundabouts to kill time before it reappeared when a number of layover buses, including one driven by member David Edwards, had departed. Leyland Titan OHV 747Y, originally T747, is now resplendent back in gold livery with between decks 'Leyland - Builders of London's Buses for over 50 years' that it had when repainted by LT in 1983 to celebrate their golden jubilee since formation in 1933. Talisman acquired this Titan in late 2012 (along with two others) from Sullivan of Potters Bar, who had restored it to this condition and it now has the number T1983.

Our trip was a slow one, due to Essex County Council's annual summer exercise of peppering the road with stone chips that seem to end up anywhere other than where they are supposed to be. At Wormingford, we had a sizeable reception committee in the form of the AJN 825 friends and the ever-welcoming John Jackson, now proud to show us the almost finished Roe bodied Crossley, VV 9146. Was this the same vehicle we saw as a basket case over 6 years ago? Then John and Tony Melia had completed the restoration of Sunderland Crossley, a real challenge itself but to take on an even more daunting restoration was a great act of faith. We were invited to a trip on this and two other farm residents, AJN and Bristol KSW VNO 859. Capably driven by Gary Sharpe, the Crossley headed the convoy to West Bergholt where all three were posed for photographs in the evening sunshine. The quaint destination of Midsummer Meadow displayed on the Northampton Crossley brought back memories of the similarly named murder mystery series on TV a while back – luckily there were no mishaps on this trip!

On return to the farm, John had lined up other vehicles of his collection, ex Army vehicles including a Crossley mobile command unit, an AFS fire engine and of, course the Sunderland Crossley. In another shed, John is ever willing to give a talk on his 3.7inch restored ant-aircraft gun carrier, made at Royal Ordnance, Nottingham to a Vickers-Armstrong design.

The ladies had, as usual, prepared refreshments including a selection of home made cakes. Keith Woods (nice to see him back after a recent overhaul) gave thanks on behalf of the Group for their hospitality. In reply, John paid tribute to the generosity of the Tufnell family for allowing these projects to happen. We should also thank Talisman and our driver Paul Smith. It is pleasing to report that £200 is to be donated to the Essex Air Ambulance as a result of this trip.



Northampton Roe bodied Crossley VV9146 basks in the evening sunshine at West Bergholt. **Owen Woodliffe.**



Kings new VDL Coach taken in the Kings depot on Sunday 7 June 2015. **Dave Arnold.**

Target dates for EBN616 (August 2015).

By	...	Saturday 1 August 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	Saturday 8 August 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	Monday 17 August 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Outer Top

Tuesday 2 June saw the 50th anniversary of the introduction of RCL double deck coaches on to Green Line route 721 (Aldgate to Brentwood), with the vehicles operated from Romford (RE) Garage. On Saturday 6 June, RCL 2229, owned by the London Transport Museum, accompanied by privately owned RCL 2233, made a commemorative trip from Aldgate to Brentwood. The picture shows the buses parked on arrival in Brentwood at St George's Church, the closest practical point to the original London Hospital Annex bus stand. **Ian Barlex.**

Outer Lower

Moore's 200 year commemoration on Sunday 28 June 2015; the final line-up after much rearrangement and before buses left for the last time. Bristol RE FWC 439H, Guy Arab 373 WPU, Bristol KSW5G VNO 859 and Luke Deal's Bristol RE SVW 247K (unfortunately, no-one sent any solo pictures of this gorgeous vehicle). **John G. Lidstone.**
Your Editor gathers this part of old Kelvedon (KN) depot is now condemned and under threat of demolition, so this is probably the last appearance of green buses in here!



Yet More Moore's!

The 200th anniversary of Moore's is such an important milestone it deserves a lot of attention! And it got it!! Many of the pictures I received were half full of photographers!!!

Top picture: former Eastern national 1516, Bristol RE, FWC439H near Coggeshall Hamlet. That's your Editor between the ladies in red and pink!

Russell Young.



Middle picture: dating from 1953 and withdrawn in 1970, Bristol KSW5G/ECW L27/28R, VNO 859 in Kelvedon High Street heading towards its former depot.

Adam Kelleher.



Bottom picture: ex-Moore's Guy Arab IV/Massey lowbridge 373 WPU, EN1049 leaving its former Moore's, Eastern National, Travel South-East Kelvedon and Hedingham depot.

Adam Kelleher.



www.essexbus.org.uk