

Essex Bus News

**No. 605
SEPTEMBER
2014**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk



Top picture, this page: John G. Lidstone stumbled across Ross Newman's wife Lorraine taking her daughters to the bakers last Monday 18 August.....an interesting contrast with 'real' buses and Ensign's miniature double-decker, based on a 1963 Mini, MRM1 (BNK 217A).



Bottom picture, this page: Southend Airport's little-seen and rarely commented-upon BMC Falcon, is used for airside shuttles only within the airport perimeters and consequently carries the 'London Southend Airport' registration series mark 'LSA 076' as it never leaves the tarmac. It was formerly Chester 93 (BU53 PNO). Here, FlyBe's ATR 72-500 EI-REM taxis to take-off and seemingly almost skims the roof of the bus with its wingtip - but the photo makes it look rather closer than it was! John G. Lidstone.

Front cover: Swallow Coach X158FBB at Loughton on new route 66/66A. More info. Inside! Owen Woodliffe.

Essex Bus News 654; September 2014

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Owen Woodliffe as above;

*who also stocks a wide range of colour photos;
Send SAE with your requirements.*

Black & White Photo Sales

We are sorry that this service is temporarily
suspended until further notice.

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Welcome to new Member

Terry Walsh of Middleborough -
1082

Subscriptions

A calendar year subscription is £21,
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Your reports and observations

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS.

The Winter dates are all Wednesdays at **Wickford Cricket Club**, off Swan Lane, five minutes walk from Wickford Railway Station and five minutes drive from A130 and A127. In Wickford Town Centre, turn right into Swan Lane (pub on corner) and in 100 yards turn right, signed Wickford Tennis Club. This is a private road. Free parking in front and a cash bar is available.

Doors open at 1930 for informal chat and usually an impromptu slide show with main show from 2000 to 2145/2200. Members and guests welcome - £1.50 donation towards cost of room, please.

Wednesday 17 September.

More Welsh Wanderings by **Richard Delahoy**.

Wednesday 22 October.

Jersey & Guernsey, 1990's to present by **Dave Arnold**.

Wednesday 19 November.

Speaker tba.

Wednesday 17 December.

Xmas Social & 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 an informal chat, and often impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 10 October.

Steve Maskell.

Friday 14 November.

Fred Lawrance. Tour of Essex Operators; from Grays in the '40's to Colchester in the '60's.

Friday 12 December.

Gary Sharpe. Christmas Special.



A Blast From the Past.

Ex Eastern
National 1058
TJN 981S
Bedford YMQ
Wadham
Stringer seen
with Grahams of
Kelvedon during
1993.

Paul Harvey.

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

EVENTS.

Sunday 21 September.

Showbus at Duxford. www.showbus.com.

Saturday 4 October.

Transport Enthusiasts Bazaar. Theydon Bois Village Hall.

Sunday 5 October.

Classic Vehicles Day, Ipswich Transport Museum.
www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk

Sunday 12 October.

Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day.

*** The Group Stall will be at this event ***

Saturday 18 October.

"Wheels by Lamplight", Ipswich Transport Museum (1900-2100hrs)

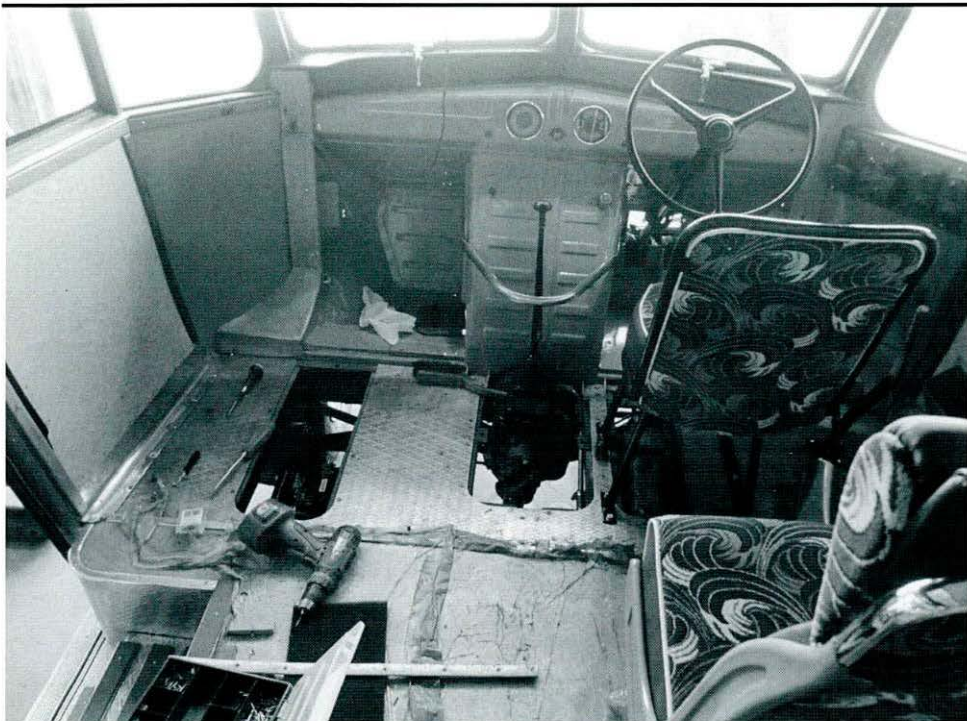
Sunday 19 October.

Transport Fest. London Bus Museum, Brooklands.

Sunday 2 November.

Open Day, Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum.
www.lvvs.org.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 altered.



John Salmon recently made another visit to the Brentwood Coaches depot in Little Waltham. It was hoped the restoration of the Bedford OB SEV 277 would be complete "in about 3 weeks", ie about the time this EBN is published. He managed to get a couple of internal photos of the newly restored seats (restored to an amazingly high standard) and the latest underfloor work, shown above.

V Festival August 2014 by Adam Kelleher.

Vehicles observed on the shuttle service between Coval Lane and Hylands Park were as follows. These observations have come from a number of people but it is possible that not every vehicle used was noted. Since First no longer has any involvement in London tendered services, for the first time for many years (if not the first time ever) no First red London vehicles were used. (Last year, as well as First Dagenham vehicles, some ex First London vehicles with Tower Transit were also used).

Friday 15 August

First Essex 20463, 32475, 32654, 34305 (20463 had "X30 Sorry Not in Service" on its blinds)
Fourways E856 DPN, G981 FVX, H691 PTW, H699 PTW

Saturday 16 August

First Essex 20463, 32475, 32654, 32631, 32640, 32864, 33095, 33133, 33190, 33232, 34305, 66808
Fourways E852 DPN, G310 FWC, G981 FVX, H699 PTW, J267 SPR, P167 BTW (P167 PTV remains in Stephensons white and green livery)
Panther BIG 7758, BIG 7596, J114 KCW

Sunday 17 August

The following list of 35 vehicles is a complete list of the vehicles used on the mass exodus from the festival after 22.00

First Essex 20463, 32475, 32476, 32477, 32480, 32483, 32631, 32640, 32654, 32864, 33044, 33045, 33078, 33088, 33132, 33136, 33184, 33186, 33189, 34305, 65668, 65680, 65681
Fourways E856 DPN, G937 FVX, G981 FVX, H691 PTW, H699 PTW, P167 BTW
Stephensons 506 (YN07 LHD), 638 (YN55 NJF), 643 (YN55 NKE)
NIBS BIL 9406, YN04 YJR, EU05 ECV

Earlier in the day **Fourways** E852 DPN, G310 FWC and J267 SPR had been in use but did not appear on the late night duty. Between 17.30 and 19.30 the vehicles noted were all from **First**, 32654, 33044, 33088 and 33184.



First Essex last Northern Counties Olympian 34305 in Coval Lane, Chelmsford on the Coval Lane - Hylands Park 'V Shuttle' on 16 August 2014. **Russell Young.**



Top picture: Another Northern Counties Olympian on the Chelmsford, Coval Lane - Hylands Park 'V Shuttle' on 16 August 2014 in Coval Lane, Chelmsford. Fourways P167 BTY (which retains Stephenson's green and white livery). **Russell Young.**



Bottom: 61/62 branded First 32475 and friends on 15 August. **Adam Kelleher.**

EBN605p5

V Festival August 2014, continued, by Adam Kelleher.



61/62 branded First 32475 on 15 August, alternative angle! **Adam Kelleher.**



Panther J114 KCW on 16 August. **Adam Kelleher.**

EBN605p6



Above: First "aircoach" 20463 on 15 August, quite unusual as Adam* has never seen a First coach used on the service before. Again, in Coval Lane. **Adam Kelleher.**

Editor's note. * Neither have I, although I did drive a yellow school bus on the Monday service several years ago in the pouring rain! Does any member have a record of any other unusual buses operating previous "V"s?

Monday 18 August

First

34305, plus an unidentified 61/62 route branded Trident

Fourways

E852 DPN

Summary of First Essex Vehicles Used Over the Four Days

From BE: 33044, 33078, 33088, 33184, 33186, 33190 (total 6)

From BN: 32631, 32640, 32864 (total 3)

From CF: 20463, 34305, 66808 (total 3)

From CR: 32475, 32476, 32477, 32480, 32483, 32654, 65668, 65680, 65681 (total 9)

From HH: 33095, 33132, 33133, 33136, 33189, 33232 (total 6)

Overall total 27, comprising 22 double deckers, 4 single deckers and 1 coach.

With thanks to Gerald Butler, Jonathan Cush, Ian Ransom and Colin Sigston especially for the mass exodus report.

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Amber Coaches

4 Sept 14	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: revision to timetable.
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Arriva

31 Aug 14	251	M-S	Upshire to Hammond Street: revised timetable.
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Beestons

30 Aug 14	247	M-S	Colchester to Dedham: service withdrawn.
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Beestons AD Enviro 200 (KX58 GUU) on service 247 to Dedham at Osborne Street, Colchester on 11 August 2014.

Ken Coldwell.

Carters

31 Aug 14	94	M-S	Hadleigh to Colchester: service withdrawn.
1 Sept 14	92	M-S	Ipswich to East Bergholt: off peak journeys extended to/from Manningtree with revised timetable.
	93	M-S	Ipswich to Colchester: revised route and timetable with introduction of service 94 via Wherstead & Tattingstone.
	194	Sch	Langham to East Bergholt: new school service.

Centrebuses

1 Sept 14	386	Th	Royston to Bishop Stortford: new service.
6 Sept 14	10	Sat	Chrishall to Bishop Stortford: new service.

Community Link

1 Sept 14	17	TF	Little Sampford to Saffron Walden: new service.
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De Vere Travel

1 Sept 14	323	Th	Greenstead Green to Sudbury: new service.
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Ensign Bus

1 Sept 14	23	Coll	Belhus to Palmers College: revised route and timetable.
	24	Coll	Aveley to Palmers College: afternoon timing revisions.
	25	Sch	Lakeside to Stifford Clays: afternoon route and timetable revisions.
	26	Coll	Corbets Tey to Palmers College: afternoon timing revisions.



Probably not to be seen very often on the Ensign routes referred to above (unless you know otherwise!); Ensignbus M1 in Nethermayne, Basildon on the 18 May 2014 C2C rail replacement which featured vehicles slightly older than normally provided. **Russell Young.**

First

31 Aug 14	83/A	M-S	Colne Engaine/Mount Bures to Colchester: new service.
	302	Sch	Bishop Stortford to Saffron Walden: school service withdrawn.

Go Ahead (Chambers)

1 Sept 14	84	M-S	Sudbury to Colchester: revised route and timetable to serve Tesco store at Sudbury. Bus gate not ready until 22 September therefore temporary diversion in place (updated information).
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Service Changes, continued by Paul Harvey.

Grahams Coaches

1 Sept 14	383	Sch	New Rickstone's Academy Witham: afternoon school service withdrawn. (see pic. page 2 this issue).
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Regal Busways

4 Sept 14	380-3	Sch	Ongar to Harlow: revision to route.
	500	Sch	North Weald to Epping: new school service.
	504	Sch	Abridge to Epping: revision to timetable.
	505	Sch	Beeleigh Link to Chelmsford: revision to route and timetable.
	507	Sch	Writtle to Chelmsford: revision to route and timetable.
	508	Sch	Chelmsford Kings Road to Chelmsford: school service withdrawn.
4 Oct 14	1/1A	M-S	Canvey to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.
	3	M-S	Oxney Green to Southend: revision to timetable.
6 Oct 14	7	M-S	Epping to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.



Doubling up as Regal 605 for EBN 605! New to Mitcham Belle, acquired from Metroline (DP33) via Ensign in October 2010. Seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 3 May 2012 repainted into a simplified version of Regal livery (without the chevrons and stripes). **Adam Kelleher.**

Richmonds

31 Aug 14	10	Sat	Chrishall to Bishop Stortford: service withdrawn.
	386	Th	Royston to Bishop Stortford: service withdrawn.

Stephensons of Essex

1 Sept 14	80	M-F	Fordham to Boxted: new service.
	247	M-S	Colchester to Dedham: new service.

TGM (Network Colchester)

1 Sept 14	4	M-F	Colchester to Stanway Tollgate: new service.
	105	M-S	Colchester to Walton: certain journeys diverted via Broadmead Road, Bridgebrook Green & Hazelton Road.



On loan from Network Harlow Nothern Counties Olympian 5944 strayed away from it's normal operation on the 802 'Chicken Run' service' and put in an appearance on route 2 on 14 August.
Photographed in Severalls Park by **Russell Young**.

Viceroy of Essex

1 Sept 14	443	TFS	Chrishall to Saffron Walden: reduce to one round trip on Tuesdays & Fridays only including service SB13.
	SB13	TF	Clavering to Saffron Walden: service withdrawn.
4 Sept 14	34	M-S	Saffron Walden Town Service: revised route.

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

Group Governance.

Group Chairman Chris Stewart has decided to stand down from his role personal reasons, with immediate effect. Members are asked not to contact him. All Group business should be referred to other officers or sub-editors as shown on page 1 of this issue.
Richard Delahoy will be Acting Chairman until the next AGM when members will be able to make more permanent arrangements.

NIBS Fleetlist by Ian Ransom.

Ian Ransom has kindly compiled a current fleet list for NIBS, which I can't reproduce here for technical reasons and lack of space. With luck, I will publish it next month. If any member cannot wait, I shall be pleased to e-mail you a copy of Ian's spreadsheet.

NIBS Disposals courtesy Steve Nelson.

C51CHM	Leyland Olympian	20.09.12	to Wigleys
C70CHM	Leyland Olympian	20.09.12	Wigleys
G604KTX	Scania N113DRB	24.02.14	Wigleys
G605KTX	Scania N113DRB	5.08.14	Wigleys
G607KTX	Scania N113DRB	18.07.14	Abacus School to become a library
H229LOM	Scania N113DRB	11.06.14	Wigleys
H243LOM	Scania N113DRB	5.08.14	Wigleys
H245LOM	Scania N113DRB	18.07.14	Wigleys
H258MFX	Dennis Dominator	29.05.13	Wigleys
H264MFX	Dennis Dominator	11.06.13	Wigleys
M833SDA	Scania N113DRB	17.02.14	Wigleys



During the ASLEF strike involving the Central Line on 22 August TfL provided a bus service from Chingford Greater Anglia Station to stations on the Epping Branch. Sullivan Buses provided these and their EVL5 is passing the famous Queen Elizabeth Hunting Lodge. **Owen Woodliffe.**

Correction Corner. Richard Delahoy points out the 2009 seafront running day in Southend was organised by the Castle Point Transport Museum Society, not him. Also, there was a minor error in his tram centenary article – the offending railway bridge in Thorpe Hall Avenue of course takes the tramway under the railway, not over. Slip of the keyboard! The commercial postcard illustrated appears to have been taken from somewhere on the bridge or railway embankment.

Panther Travel by Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham.

Fleet Update

Former Heddingham Dennis Dart/Plaxton X346 YGU is now in paint for Panther.

Former Heddingham Dennis Lance/Wright M211 WHJ is being prepped mechanically for service for Panther.

Leyland Olympian/Leyland J114 KCW is now operational in fleet colours and trim also now registered BIG 9249.

Volvo B6/Plaxton M832 CVG is now registered BIG 9248 and is still on loan to Regal with Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton SIL 6719 (P508 RYM).

Volvo B7R/Plaxton BIG 6002 (T105 JBC) and Volvo B10M/Plaxton BIG 611 (S314 SRL) have been on loan to Purple Parking at Gatwick but the later has returned over the weekend of 23/24 August.

Volvo B12B/Plaxton LK53 KWF has been purchased from National Express.



Ex Go-Ahead Heddingham 286 X346YGU Dennis Dart MPD Plaxton Pointer 2 released from the fleet last month to A.Barham in a dealer capacity, has been repainted in Panther Travel livery for use on local schools work by the operational fleet. Ex Heddingham Dennis Lance Wright Pathfinder 212 M211WHJ is also being prepared for further use. Caption **Mark Lloyd**. Pic by **Stephen Barham**.

Stop Press! So much going on at Panthers! Courtesy Adam Barham.

Reregistrations

M832 is BIG 9248 J114 is BIG 9249

The latest Dart and the new solo will be re-registered in due course

"Odds & Ends"

Also Purchased is LK53KWF Volvo B12B Plaxton Panther from National Express Direct. It was a training Coach but we will convert back.

V203 is being MOT prepared for operational purposes

M211 is being picked up from Mardens on 4 September in Panther Colours

Bob Beaumont FCILT; A Celebration of Life.

It is with great regret we have to report the death of Bob Beaumont, EBEG member no.3, just a while after he re-joined us after a short "forgetful" break (reported in EBN602).

Bob was instrumental in paving the way for the formation of EBEG during 1963. He joined the group at the outset in January 1964. He retired from Eastern National many years ago and there was a long gap before he joined Suffolk County Council. His latest "transport project" was as Chairman of the Hadleigh Community Transport Group Ltd. and his report on its latest activities appeared in EBN604.

Alan Osborne has written:

I was very saddened to hear of the recent passing of Bob Beaumont (member number 3). My friend, Brian Barrett, took an appointment in the Traffic Office where he met his mentor, Bob Beaumont. Brian, together with myself and Laurie Murphy, was involved in the foundation of the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group and during this time Bob acted as our Head Office contact and was able to set up key meetings to get things started. I last met Bob when I have a slide show presentation to the Ipswich Transport Society; Bob acted as the host in his usual genial manner as the perfect English gentleman. All present members of the present EBEG should appreciate the tremendous debt that they owe to Bob.

Alan Tebbit MBE:

Yesterday (27 August) we were pleased and privileged to attend his funeral in a beautiful old Suffolk church (St Peter's & St Mary's Church, Barham, Nr Ipswich). The full attendance was testament to the man. There were representatives of the Morris register, of which Bob was National President, from all over the country, as well as representatives from Suffolk Community Transport. In addition there were many former colleagues from ENOC of the 50's and 60's, and I was particularly pleased to meet up with Bob's sister who I have not seen for over 40 years.





Richard Delahoy:

Working at Head Office in New Writtle Street, Bob was ideally placed to see and photograph the comings and goings of new and acquired buses, sometimes allowing him to record things that people outside the company never got to see. Here is one example, Bristol K CAP131. The PSV Circle fleet history of EN records it as being acquired in 10/60 and fitted by EN on acquisition with a PV2 radiator, which is what it appears to be carrying here. The bus had been new to Brighton Hove & District in July 1940 as a covered top bus, modified in 1953 to a convertible open top. The PSVC has it recorded only as an open top when with EN but clearly it arrived from Brighton with its roof on, and I'd guess that Bob photographed it soon after it was delivered to New Writtle Street.

It was then numbered as bus 1023 and was listed in the operational fleet until withdrawal in 1962, but I have never seen a picture of it in service with EN. Does anyone have one? Presumably it was allocated to Clacton for the 1961 and 1962 summer seasons. What is known is that in autumn 1962 it was converted to a tree lopper and Bob's other photograph (on previous page) shows it in use as such, somewhere in EN's territory. It lasted until 1968 when it went to Sid Twell, the Lincolnshire based dealer who took much of EN's redundant stock at this time, and was presumably scrapped.

Terry Challis:

I am not sure exactly which year he joined ENOC. I started at New Writtle Street in 1956 and I think that Bob Beaumont joined ENOC a year later. We both worked in the Traffic Office and I believe that Bob was in the Traffic Assistant's section. I worked in the Schedules Section. We were great friends at ENOC and I feel privileged to have known him and am glad that I have been able to keep in touch with him since I left ENOC in 1959. Bob worked for Eastern National for many years in different roles. Later he worked for Suffolk County Council. In his younger years he was a very keen cyclist. He was one of life's gentlemen, in the best possible sense. An example of his thoughtfulness and kindness is that Bob recently sent me an old Clacton Garage plate (a light blue triangle). He also took the photo of me with a KSW5G Open top at Jaywick, which was printed in EBN549. With his passing the world, and the transport community in particular, is a poorer place. He was a very human and dedicated transport professional with a good sense of humour and wide sympathies.

Thanks also to **Ian Sharpe** for his contribution.

New Vehicles

Buses magazine reports that the 20 StreetLites on order (see EBN 600), which were originally thought due this spring, will not now be delivered until the New Year.

Acquired Vehicles

43489	R689 DPW	Ds Dt SLF SFD322BR1WGW12200	Pn 9810.7HLB8668 B37F 06/98	Eastern Counties 489
60135	R177 GSX	Scania L113CRL 1831064	Wt Y441 B40F 02/98	Strathclyde SS77
69532	PL05 UBR	Vo B7RLE YV3R6G7215A102660	Wt J331 B43F 08/05	Tyrer, Nelson
69533	PL05 UBS	Vo B7RLE YV3R6G7245A102572	Wt J329 B43F 08/05	Tyrer, Nelson

43489 was acquired 26 August 2014 from First Eastern Counties at Lowestoft in exchange for 44516 which has moved to Ipswich (see below). In Barbie livery with dot matrix destination equipment.

60135 was acquired from First PMT at Newcastle under Lyme, 1 August 2014. In Barbie livery, it has the front blind panelled over with white "Driver Training" lettering applied. Seen on training duties at Chelmsford on 20 August.

69532 was seen on route 36 on 1 September and both it and 69533 were seen on routes 71/A on 2nd. They were acquired from First Eastern Counties in exchange for 66985/6 (see below). In new First corporate livery with small "First Ipswich" fleet names above the doors and with LED destination equipment. They had been acquired by Transdev (fleet numbers 1851/2) from Tyrer before moving on to First Eastern Counties (via Ensign) in 2013.

Correction to EBN 603: 65690-2 are B44F not B43F. EBN 604: For further news on 53008 please see "Other Vehicle News and Workings" below.

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; Sh-Shuttle Bus (non PCV)



First Essex Optaire Solo 53139 unusually on Route 71A at Lexden on 30 August 2014. **Russell Young.** EBN605p16

Period 5 (28 July - 24 August) 41239 CF(store)-sold, 43356 CF-BE, 60135 FG(DS)-CF(DS), 60809 CF(reserve)-CN(store), 60865 CR(out of use)-CN(store), 66165 BN-BE
 66165 arrived at BE on 14 August but by the end of the month had not been used because of lighting and chassis faults. There were further transfers at the end of August in relation to service changes (including new Essex County Council contracts) from the 31st. These will be reported fully next month, but vehicles seen operating from different garages (first sightings of each only) were BE30902 at CN on new Harwich town route 2 on 1 September, BE42483 at CF on 45 on 28 August, BE42485 at CF on 73/351 on 30 August, CF42931 at BE on 132 on 29 August, CF42932 at BE on 132 on 30 August, BE43679 out of service at Chelmsford Bus Station on 3 September, BN43846 at CF on 14 on 5 September and CF69434 at CR on 67 on 30 August. (Note; some of these may be temporary loans rather than transfers.)

Disposals August 2014: 41239 to Alpha Recovery, 44516, 66985 and 66986 to First Eastern Counties
 41239 was the last S reg Dart (although there is one R reg, 43679, still in service at BE, plus the 7 X regs at HH). 44516 was the last of the quartet 44516-9 to move to Ipswich. It had been in service from CN on route 8 on 26 August but moved to Ipswich later that day, with 43489 being received in exchange (see above). 44516 was seen on Ipswich town service 60 (Tower Ramparts to Gainsborough) the next day. 66985 moved to Ipswich on 28 August and was in service on route 76 to Felixstowe the next day. 66986 followed a day or two later. Both of these were exchanged for 69532/3 (see above). All three of 44516, 66985/6 soon moved on to Rotherham for refurbishment. 44517 and 44518 have (like 44519) been refurbished at Rotherham and repainted into the new First Ipswich livery. 68000, which was sold to First Aberdeen in July (see EBN 604), has been repainted from all yellow to a training version of First's livery. A photo is available on Flickr, search for registration Q275LBA.

Repaints All to new First corporate livery. This "new" livery is now over two years old and there have been various newer First liveries at other companies since it was introduced, therefore it will now be referred to as "Urban" which is what it is called internally by First.



Recently repainted CF53127 shows off its unusual magenta fleet numbers whilst on route 45 at Chelmsford Bus Station on 20 August 2014. As can be seen, it does not have a fleet name on the offside but does have "Essex" on the nearside. **Adam Kelleher.**

There are inconsistencies in the decals applied to repainted vehicles, some have garage stickers, others do not; some have local fleet names, others do not or only have them on one side; some carry small "First" fleet names at the front of the side cove panels, others do not or only have them on one side; some have all round "f" symbols, others have less. Because of the complexities of the various different combinations only the main points will be reported (also, not all repaints have been observed in detail).

CF53127 (seen on 45 on 20 August) - has unusual magenta coloured fleet names on front and sides, white at rear. "Essex" fleet name on nearside lower panel, but not on offside.

CN65692 (seen on 7/8 on 14 August) - "Essex" fleet name on both nearside and offside cove panels; this completes the trio of Scania recently re-acquired from First Eastern Counties (65690-2).

BE66165 (delivered to BE on 14 August) - does not have fleet numbers. Has "Essex" fleet name on nearside cove panel (offside not noted). This vehicle went directly from BN to CN for repaint then on to BE

CF66817 (seen on 71/A on 14 August) - it originally did not have fleet numbers, but had received front and rear ones only by 3 September. Has "Essex" fleet name on nearside cove panel only.

CR66979 (seen on 61 on 9 August) - apart from a small "First" has no fleet name on offside (nearside not seen).

Note that the two CF vehicles carry "Essex" fleet names (albeit each on the nearside only). Up until now all CF vehicles in Urban livery have had "Chelmsford City" fleet names (with the exception of the four Enviro 350s which have "Essex" names but which are in a hybrid version of standard livery). 65692, 66165 and 66817 were repainted at Clacton garage; it is assumed that 53127 and 66979 were done there as well.

Other Vehicle News and Workings

General It was reported in EBNs 600 and 603 that 40008 is being prepared for a school contract at Hereford and was awaiting a new rear axle. It has now been towed from BE to CF and parts will be exchanged between itself and 53008 (which was acquired in July, see EBN 604) to form one complete vehicle. It therefore seems unlikely that 53008 will enter service with First Essex.

CR66977 is another vehicle to have had the "W" mouldings on its front dash painted magenta.

Olympian The last Olympian, 34305, remains in service from CF, noted on 71/A on 8, 13, 20 and 21 August plus 1 and 2 September, and the V shuttle 15-18 August inclusive.

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR) It was reported in EBN 604 that CR65631 had been stolen from Magdalen Street depot on 14 July. Around 0400 on Saturday 23 August CR66177 was also stolen from the depot after first being driven round the yard and smashing into other vehicles. Police using an immobiliser stopped it 20 minutes later in Avon Way. A 19 year old man has been charged with aggravated vehicle taking, drink driving and having no insurance or driving licence. It is not known how significant any damage is to vehicles involved in the incident. Then around 2230 on the Saturday evening another bus was stolen, this time from Haven Road workshops. It was driven a few yards down the road before it went up a grass verge and was abandoned.

The Clacton Airshow was held on 21 and 22 August. To help move the crowds, Colchester's 32476, 32483 (both with 61/62 route branding) and 32485 were loaned to CN to operate the 74 and 76. In exchange CN61054 and CN65532 were seen on Colchester routes 63 and 66 respectively on 22nd plus CN61057 was also seen operating in Colchester. CN61054 was then on Colchester's 75 on 23rd. (Talisman's former Eastern National Bristol KSW open topper WNO 480 (ex EN 2384) made a welcome return to Clacton seafront as part of the Park & Ride service for the event.)

On 20 August Robert Appleton did a survey in Clacton (am) and Harwich (pm) to record which buses worked which routes and he noted the following (all CN allocated):

3/4 Clacton - Harwich and Harwich local services 20/A, 22A/B: 44516, 44596, 44597 and 44598

5/5A Clacton - Flatford Drive: 65538

7/8 Clacton - Walton on the Naze: 42918, 42937, 43714, 43735, 65527 and 65556. During the morning 44599 replaced 43714.

10/11 Clacton Shopping Village - Clacton - Jaywick and 12 Clacton - Jaywick: 43854, 43855, 43856 and 43857

16 Clacton-Bockings Elm (circular): 32810

17/17A/18 Clacton - St Osyth-Point Clear: 61054 and 65554

19 Clacton - St Osyth Beach: 43712

74 Clacton - Colchester: 65690 and 65692

76 Clacton - Colchester: 61057 and 65551

Saturday 30 August was the last day of Harwich local routes 20/A and 22A/B. These were replaced from 1 September with a new single route numbered 2. On the last day, CN44597 was seen on the 20 and 20A with CN44598 on the 22A and 22B. On the first day of the 2 CN42937, CN44597 and 30902 were seen.

Other sightings:

- 4 August CR60767 on 103/4
- 19 CR32654 on 103/4 (and again on 20th and 21st)
- 22 CN43735 on 19
- 23 CR32475, CR32477 and BE33190 on Colchester United shuttle services
- 24 32476, 32478, 32480, 32482, 32483 and 32484 (all CR) on Colchester-Ipswich-Stowmarket rail replacement
- 25 32478, 32480, 32482, 32483, 32485, 65684 and 66980 (all CR) plus 33078, 33190, 33195 and 33196 (all BE) on Colchester-Ipswich-Stowmarket rail replacement (Bank Holiday Monday)
- 1 Sep CR65677 on 71

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Please see separate article for details of buses used on this year's V Festival Shuttle.

CF43801 is off road having suffered front nearside damage in a collision on 20 August in Chelmsford Bus Station (it was blinded for service 351 at the time). From 31 August, route X30 was split into two sections, Stansted Airport to Chelmsford and Chelmsford to Southend. Each section of the route has a separate registration to meet the specific rules that allow connecting services to be run under Domestic Hours rules rather than European Union ones (the split also avoids the requirement for tachograph fitted vehicles to be used). However, this is only an administrative change and the on the road service still runs from Stansted through to Southend (and vice versa). Coaches with LED displays now show "Chelmsford" with "continues to Stansted Apt" or "continues to Southend" underneath and then when they arrive at Chelmsford Bus Station the display is changed to "Stansted Airport" or "Southend" (so no longer any scrolling via points; also the route number has been changed from the offside to nearside in line with the vast majority of CF based vehicles.)



First Essex 20805 (YN08 OWV) a Volvo B9R/Plaxton on Southend-Stansted Airport "aircoach" service X30 at Chelmsford bus station on 13th August. **Ken Coldwell.**

- 15 August CF44540 on 46, CF53114 on 31 and 36

17 both "Chelmsford City" Solos together in Brentwood, 53136 on 73/351, 53137 on 80A/C

19 CF43356 on 71/A

30 CF53139 on 71

31 CF66802 on X30 (showing new destination display as described above and an example of a vehicle without a tachograph operating the route)

1 Sep 42483 on 542, CF43802 on 42A, CF44900 and CF53138 on first day of ECC contract 14/15/A Chelmsford to Wickford (taken over from Hedingham), CF65032 on the first 1600 31C from Chelmsford to Steeple (up to the previous week this one M-F journey that terminates at Steeple had been a 31D)

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Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

13 August BN69905 and BN69913 both on 25, the latter also seen on 25A (the use of Volvo Hybrids on these routes is very rare, so exceptional to see two on the same day)

15 BN41541 on 100
 16 BN32642 on 300
 17 BN69901 on 251
 29 BN69905 again on 25
 31 BN69914 on 251
 1 Sep BN66820 on 100

Other News New signage, in First's new corporate colours, has appeared on bus stop bays at Basildon Bus Station. Former Thamesway 609 (N609 APU), which moved to First Eastern Counties in November 2001 (and was later renumbered 20109 in the Sema scheme), and which has latterly been a driver trainer at Great Yarmouth, was sold to Alpha Recovery in August. Former First Essex 32860 (V860 HBY) was acquired by Buses Excetera, Mertsam, Surrey from Ensign in June. On 30 August, former 32857 (V857 HBY) and 32884 (T884 KLF), both ex Diamond Bus, were seen at Ensign in dark red Bus Stop livery.

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, J Bale, I Banks, S Barham, G Butler, N Clark, T Clark, L Cornwell, J Cush, R Delahoy, M Evans, D Flatman, I Hardie, A Hughes, J Long, D Lund-Conlon, C Nixon & Ipswich Bus Blog, D Pretty, I Ransom, C Sigston, K Smith, C Stewart, G Toon, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, Essex Buses Google group, Flickr, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, Real Bus News, LOTS, PSV Circle and 'Terminus'.

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by e-mail to adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk (please note amended E Mail address) or by conventional post. Many thanks to all those who do so.



65692 has been repainted in to the new First corporate livery as well, seen here on 1035 Colchester - Clacton 74 arriving in Clacton on 20 Aug, blind already changed for the next journey 1135 Clacton - Cochester 74. Note that 65692 has the local ESSEX fleetname. **Robert Appleton.**

Amber Coaches by Adam Kelleher.

Acquired Vehicles

SK07 HLN Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 B26F new May 2007 National Car Parks (Challenger) ADS 02
SK07 HLV Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 B26F new May 2007 National Car Parks (Challenger) ADS 07
Acquired from London United (SDE 12/17), via Ensign, July 2014

Both repainted into all off white fleet livery at Mardens. Both retain scroll blinds.

HLN seen on 374 on 1 August.

(Incidentally SK07 HLR from the same batch has been acquired by Trustybus.)

Services Amber took over Essex County Council contract route 37, South Woodham circular, from Hedingham on 1 September

With thanks to Ross Newman and Kevin Smith.

Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher.

Disposal 608 has been sold.

Other Vehicle News

In EBN 597 it was reported that 606, 608, PO1 and PO3 were all off road. As reported above, 608 has now been disposed of, 606 is likely to go after donating its gearbox to 602 and PO1 and PO3 remain out of use. PO2 has also been off road for over two weeks. 601 has finally had its 14/15/A route branding removed.

Workings and Observations

6 August	607 on 565, 201 on 3C, 205 on 52, KP02 PUH on 3
11	611 on 565 (and again on 13th, 28th and 30th)
12	206 on First Data shuttle, KP02 PUH on 1 (like KP02 PVD, a full set of scrolls has been fitted at the front)
13	201 on 3
15	607 on 381/2, 613 on 565 (and again on 16th), 1302 on 391 and 47, possibly the first use of a double decker on the 47 but it was unable to serve Matching Green triangle, 1303 on 7
17	KP02 PVD on 11
18	1401 on First Data shuttle
21	515 on 146, 47 and 390
22	207 on 47
24	611 on 71C
25	611 again and KP02 PUH on 71C (Bank Holiday)
27	613 on 1
30	601 on 343, 802 on Braintree Freeport shuttle
1 September	202 on rail replacement standby duty at Witham, 206 on B2, 515 on 52 and 3, 611 on 3 and 31A, 613 on 1, KP02 PVD on 1, Panther Dart / Plaxton SIL 6719 on 3
2	515 again on 52
3	Panther Dart / Plaxton BIG 9248 on 31A, SIL 6719 on 1
4	206 on First Data shuttle, 601 on Rickstones school contract, 1302 on 3

With thanks to Terry Clark, Chris Hatley, Dominic Lund-Conlon, John Podgorski, Robert West and Owen Woodliffe

Acquisitions 743 X386NNO Dennis Trident Alexander ALX400 H43/24F Ex Anglianbus

1449	Y731TGH	Volvo B7TL	Plaxton President	H41/20D	Ex Plymouth 449
1450	X507EGK	Volvo B7TL	Plaxton President	H41/20D	Ex Plymouth 450

Allocations

9 CN-SY 81 CN-TY 82 CN-TY 84 CN-TY 251 TY-HD 281 TY-CN 291 TY-HD 292 TY-CN
 615 CN-HD 616 CN-HD 726 SY-CN 727 SY-CN 737 HD-CN 740 CN-TY 907 TY-SY
 1449 Plymouth (unused since London) – SY, 1450 Plymouth (unused since London) – SY.

Volvo B7TLs 1449 and 1450 have had Brightech LED destination units fitted at the front; their allocation and fleet numbering is currently temporary.

Chambers Volvo B7TL 574 (W506 WGH) was briefly on loan to HD in late August whilst Heddingham 560 (EU53 MVZ) underwent MOT prep.

H80F/Dennis Trident 743 (X386 NNO) had arrived from Beccles in August and was prepared for service from September. Sister 740 (V161 MEV) then transferred from CN to TY to provide spare coverage for high capacity school contracts. Volvo B10BLE 485 (R232 HCD) also was loaned from CN to TY in the first week of September.

Heddingham Dennis Trident 737 (T107 DBW) has moved from HD to CN to convert one of the vehicle workings on service 87 to double deck.

Fleet changes 743 X386NNO Being prepared for service.

1540 X507EGK Running at SY ex Plymouth 450 was originally Go Ahead London ex PVL207.
 Y731TGH Running at SY ex Plymouth 449 was originally Go Ahead London ex PVL231.
 Both come from the dedicated Plymouth Citybus school decker fleet.

Disposals Dennis Dart MPD X346 YGU (former 286) has been repainted into Panther Travel livery for use on schools at the start of the new term. It was released last month to A.Barham (dealer) who also acquired and has prepared Dennis Lance SLF M211 WHJ (former 212) for further use with Panther Travel.

Other news All buses with Hanover LED destination equipment (around half the fleet) have new displays for all Heddingham and Chambers services. To meet accessibility requirements, the use of capital letters has been discontinued.

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

Ensign Fleet, August 2014 by Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

650 DK09OBH Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B29F ex Lloyds Coaches SDC09 originally registered LL09WYN when new.

705 YX10ECA Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B38F ex Hatts W1

706 SN11FFJ Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S01

707 SN11FFK Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S02

708 SN11FFL Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S03

709 SN11FFM Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S04

710 SN11FFO Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S05

711 SN11FFP Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S06

712 SN11FFR Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S07

713 SN11FFT Enviro 200 Alexander Dennis B39F ex Hatts S08

New into the fleet will be Enviro 200's SN11FFJ/FFK/FFL/FFM/FFO/FFP/FFR/FFT and YX10ECA. These vehicles will be used to gradually replace the Y reg Alexander Darts currently in use.

SN11FFJ etc were ex Hatts (Hillier of Foxham) working the Salisbury Park & Ride, all B39F. YX10ECA was an ex ADL demonstrator B38F which had spent time at York Pullman before also arriving at Hatts as W1.

Enviro 200 650 DK09OBH replaces 649 on the Tilbury Ferry 99, which is therefore withdrawn and will be sold.

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Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - August 2014. Mark Lloyd

Vehicles In

with thanks to Ross Newman

APCOA Parking	AE09DHX/Y/Z	MAN's
Arriva Kent and Surrey	GO03CLA	Scania
Arriva TGM	TUI4842/YJ57BTU	DAF's
	YN54DCY	Volvo B7R
	UK05BCL/GB05BCL	Volvo B12B's
Galleon Travel	NFZ3255	Darts
	GRZ4522	
From Go Ahead NE	V220ERG	Darts
	XZ28FBB	
	S826OFT	Olympian
Hatts Travel	SN11FFJ/K/L/M/O/P/R/T	
	YX10ECAYX09HZA	Enviro 200's
Jim Hughes Coaches	RL51ZKR/S	Darts
London General	W401/512-3WGH	Volvo B7TL's
Plymouth Citybus	X547EGK	Volvo B7TL's
	X152-3/67-9FBB	
	Y703/34/7-8 /826TGH	
Stagecoach Wales	V154 / 155MVX	Darts
	W215DNO	
	V973DRM	
	T604DAX	
	R149HHK	Olympian
Stephensons of Essex	KYV633X	
Metrobus	FPT590C	Routemaster
Torquay Riviera Tours	P915RYO	Olympian
	BYX304V	Metrobus
Velvet Bus	R242-3/9/58KRG	Volvo B10BLE's

Vehicles Out

Aintree Coaches	X929YCC	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-70102
Arthur's Coaches, Coatbridge	V973DRM	Darts
	T604DAX	
ASD Coaches, Strood	Y12ASD	Volvo B7TL ex LK51XGP
	Y13ASD	Volvo B7TL ex LK51XGS
	Y14ASD	Volvo B7TL ex LK51XGU
	Y15ASD	Volvo B7TL ex LK51XGW
	Y16ASD	Volvo B7TL ex LK51XGZ
Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx	KP02PVN	Dart
BordaBus, Bungay, Suffolk	X644/52LLX	Volvo B7TL's
Carters Coaches,		
Capel-St-Mary, Suffolk	P915RYO	Olympian

Ensignbus Dealer Stock, August 2014, Vehicles Out, cont.

Carters Travel, Great Addington, Northants	KP51UFL	Dart
DA Coaches, Coatbridge	V154/5MVX	Darts
Fowlers Coaches, Holbeach Drove, Lincs	LK03CFM	Trident
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex	LK03GCF/GJZ/GKA/C	Tridents
GHA Coaches, Wrexham	R838-9/48PRG	Volvo B10BLE's
Grey's Coaches, Ely	R269LGH	Olympian
JD Travel, Airdrie	R149HHK	Olympian
Jim Hughes Coaches, Sunderland	KU52RYF/M	Darts
Langston and Tasker, Steeple Claydon, Bucks	Y144/6/69/77/94/ Y196/234NLK	Volvo B7TL's
Mil-ken Travel, Ely, Cambs	Y853/65GCD	Tridents
Mulleys Coaches, Bury-St-Edmunds	X56XAW	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-70107
New Adventure, Cardiff	TUI4842 / YJ57BTU	DAF's
Next Bus, Chippenham	YJ10MGX	Solo
Richardson Coaches, Midhurst, W Sussex	X104UAO	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40007
Riviera Tours, Torquay	KYV633X	Metrolbus
Rossendale Transport	LK03NJJ/N/Z/NKA	Volvo B7TL's
Round and About, Horsham	KN52NFM/RYG	Darts
Shorey's Transport, Maulden, Beds	R242KRG	Volvo B10BLE
South West Coaches, Wincanton, Somerset	RL51ZKR/S	Darts
Stanley Travel, Co Durham	LK03NJE	Volvo B7TL
Swallow Coaches, Rainham, Essex	W943/7-8ETW	Darts
Swanbrook Coaches, Cheltenham	V167MEV	Trident
Travel Wright, Newark	X664LLX	Volvo B7TL
Wheeler's Travel, Southampton	L10XF/P10XF	Solo's
	T671KPU	Trident
Whippet Coaches, Swavesey, Camb	X57XAW	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-70104
	X945YCC	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40076
Xelabus, Eastleigh	Y851/4/6/9GCD	Tridents

Other Movements

Scania GO03CLA ...	Bob Vale Coach Sales, Andover.
RML2520 ...	CERN, Geneva, Switzerland.
RML2732 ...	London Retro Bus Hire, Lee, London.
MAN's AE09DHX / DHY / DHZ	Associated Coach Sales, New Zealand.
Volvo B7TL X152FBB ...	Crowlands Primary School, Romford.
Volvo B10BLE R258KRG ...	Clockhouse Farm, Maidstone.

Publicity News from Ian Ransom.

First leaflets for 65 dated 25.6.14 and 31/C/X; 41/51; 54/C/56; 100/200; X30 dated 31.8.14.

ECC leaflet for 14/15/A dated 1.9.14

ECC - latest version of Bus and Train map dated July 2014.

Stephensons leaflet for 32 dated 22.10.13 and 90 dated 8.4.13.

Stephensons of Essex notes by Richard Delahoy.

New vehicles

Scania/Enviro 400 'deckers 607/8 should have been delivered and be in service by the time this issue appears; registration numbers are 607 - EU64 CVP, 608 - EU64 CVR.

Also due is a further ADL Enviro 200 (short), 423, EU64 CVT, again, it should be in service by the time this issue is published.

On the day of the Central Line Underground drivers' strike, Friday 22 August, three buses were operated on TfL service 94 as short workings, Oxford Circus to Shepherd's Bush – Scania DDs 510, 601, 602.

New Essex contract wins include the 2-bus Monday to Friday operation of services 9/10 at Braintree (Enviros/Darts), the M-F daytime off-peak 80 (Fordham-Colchester-Boxted, worked normally by the double decker off service 676) and the M-S 247, Colchester to Dedham (previously operated by Beestons, whose regular bus was illustrated in last month's EBN), plus various one day a week shopper buses into Braintree, Haverhill, Sudbury and Colchester. One bus is being outstationed at Beestons' depot near Hadleigh (Suffolk) to work the 247 on Mondays to Fridays; on Saturdays it is operated by a Boreham based bus.

From 28 July, a free circular shuttle bus was operated in Tiptree, 75S, under contract to ECC whilst a road closure north of Tiptree caused the First (M-S)/Regal (Su) 75 to be diverted. The shuttle ran 7 days a week and was operated by Stephensons directly until Friday 15 August, after that operation was by Arrow Taxis with a minibus, reflecting the relatively low passenger numbers per trip.



On the first day of operation by Stephensons of the 176 from East and West Mersea, former London Sovereign Scania/East Lancs 636, YN55NHV, stands at Highwoods in Colchester. **Richard Delahoy.**

Incidentally! To supplement "Page 605 for EBN605" on p21 this issue, and for those desperate for a Stephensons 605 fix, look back at EBN602p22!

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

Acquired Vehicles

SK07 HLR Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 8.9m B26F new May 2007 National Car Parks (Challenger) ADS 05, acquired from London United (SDE 15), via Ensign, July 2014
(Incidentally SK07 HLN/V from the same batch have been acquired by Amber Coaches.)
LK03 CGF Dennis Trident / Transbus H39/20D new April 2003 Metroliner TP 425
LK03 GJZ Dennis Trident / Transbus H39/20D new July 2003 Metroliner TP 462
LK03 GKA Dennis Trident / Transbus H39/20D new June 2003 Metroliner TP 463
LK03 GKC Dennis Trident / Transbus H39/20D new July 2003 Metroliner TP 464
From Ensign, August 2014. GKC seen in Harlow, still in Metroliner red / blue skirt / white pinstripe livery, fleet names removed, fleet numbers retained, on 29 August

Re-registrations and Numbering

T312 SMV to SHZ 2246 (and numbered PDS 32), T313 SMV to SHZ 2691 (and numbered PDS 33).

Repaint

PDS 33 seen repainted into new livery on route 541 on 21 August

Disposals

SPD 2 (GRZ 4522, ex X503 ADF) and SPD 4 (NFZ 3255, ex X502 ADF) to Ensign, August 2014

Services

From 12 July, the Saturday operations on route 410 were renumbered 412. This left the 410, like the 411, a M-F only service.

With thanks to Adam Jones, Ross Newman, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS.

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

Services

Swallow Coaches started two services on 1 September trading as EOS London.com. Route 66 is basically an hourly service from Harlow to Debden, via Potter Street, North Weald, Epping, Upshire, Waltham Abbey and Loughton. Two school day journeys (one morning, one afternoon) are extended to and from Debden Park School. The Saturday service does not serve Debden and ends at Loughton Station. There is no Sunday service. Route 66A is a circular service, again basically hourly, between Debden and Waltham Abbey via Loughton and Upshire. One afternoon journey starts from Debden Park School. The 66A operates on Mondays to Fridays only. These services are reminiscent of services previously operated by Travel With Hunny, the 66 in particular is similar to TWH's 55 and 555 routes, although it does not serve Waltham Cross.

Vehicles

Swallow has acquired five vehicles to operate the 66 and 66A. Three Plaxton bodied Darts are W943/7/8 ETW, which have been given fleet numbers 774, 777 and 776 respectively. These were previously owned by Pennine Motor Services of Skipton, North Yorkshire (which recently closed down) and were acquired from Ensign. Swallow have retained Pennine livery, of orange with grey round the windows and a black roof, and added EOS London.com fleet names plus branding for route 66 on the cove panels including the number and a list of places served: Harlow North Weald Epping Upshire Waltham Abbey Loughton Debden. The Darts have dot matrix destination equipment. The other two acquired vehicles are ex Go Ahead London Volvo B7TL / Plaxton Presidents, X158/9 FBB (VP7/8), which were new in February 2000 to Durham Travel Services as VP158/9 (but for operation on Transport for London route 185 with "London Easylink" fleet names). They have been painted at Mardens into orange with black round the windows and black roofs (plus black wheels) to match the livery of the Darts (although without any grey) and numbered 101/2 respectively. They retain dual doors and scroll blinds - new blinds have been made which include via points.

With thanks to Peter Horrex, Ross Newman, Robert Quade, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS

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

Acme Bus, Molehill Green

VMH561 (ex T25SJP) a Bova Futura C49FT was previously with Porter, Great Totham.

Blueline, Canewdon

Park Royal bodied Routemaster RML2613, reg. NML613E has been acquired from RML2613 Group, Royston, Herts.

Bourne & Cantwell, Basildon

Van Hool bodied Scania C49FT, reg. WIL3636 (ex. L564FND) is now with Abbot Coach Travel, Newton Abbot, Devon.

Panther, Parkestone

T2TRU, a Plaxton bodied Volvo B10M C49FT has gone to Whincop, Peasenhall, Suffolk whilst Y347FJN, a Dennis Dart with Alexander B7F bodywork is now with Freedom Travel, Horseheath, Cambridgeshire. Recently acquired here are all Leyland Olympian CH43/29F, reg. J114KCW, from White Rose, West Yorkshire and SF07YTP, a Plaxton bodied Volvo B12B, C65FT, previously with Shaw, Carnforth, Lancs.

Stop Press!!! See inner rear cover for one of Panther's latest acquisitions.



Panther's Dennis Dart on emergency rail at Sudbury rail station Monday evening 1 September.

Adam Barham.

Talisman, Great Bromley

Recently acquired is Plaxton bodied Bristol C33F, reg. ESU815X, from Batchelor, Darwen, Lancs. This vehicle dates from 1982.

EBN605p27



EBN586 recorded Hedingham withdrawing former Jennings Thursday only service 1 Ashen to Sudbury dating from 1931 from 17/2/2013. Stephenson's operated this from Haverhill depot under a short term ECC tender. First day operation (21/2) was by Dennis Dart 436 LX51FGF seen here passing Foxearth with a good load. The "Breeze" livery is used by Stephenson for Bury St. Edmunds town services. EBN604 records the same thing happening again! **Keith Woods.**



One consequence of Go-Ahead's take-over of Chambers and Hedingham was long established Wednesday market day service X16 passed internally to Chambers. Here, Volvo P515UUG passes through Coggeshall in late February 2013. This bus was new to Keighley & District. EBN604 records the withdrawal of this service. **Keith Woods.**

EBN605p28

The Letters Page.

Doug Brown of Hutton

'I am of the opinion that EBN is now top heavy with pictures rather than stories of the good old days! Of buses with no power steering, crash gearboxes, poor brakes, a hothouse cab and a hard seat. And that's only the FLF's. I feel the younger generation should know we bus drivers of yesteryear did not drive buses. We fought them and after 8 hours behind a wheel were exhausted. Today's bus driver has an easy life. But it is not a job I would consider today; hours regulations, speed cameras, the CPC to name a few things.'

Editor's note: *This letter has been abbreviated and slightly modified. Views of other members would be welcomed.*

Bob Williamson of Studley

'Re Bob Palmer's letter in EBN604 about Brentwood blinds. The following is offered as additional information: point a). This is correct and similar arrangements of wording were used at several other EN depots, e.g. Chelmsford and Clacton.

Points b) - e). There is probably no particular or fixed reason for this as similar instances of non-alphabetical order occurs at other depots. It is possible that 'new employee' responsible for listings was told 'put all the displays in order - all the A's together and so on, not perhaps instructing that a strict alphabetical order should be listed. As Mr Palmer was a compiler for London Buses he would be used to a strict alphabetical order as this high standard had been used for decades. Very few instances are known of London blinds of non-alphabetical order (unless deliberate for convenience of winding).

INGATESTONE Not known on Brentwood blinds but did appear on Chelmsford depot blinds for many years.

Alan Watkins's letter also in EBN604.

A 1958 printing had three 48" x 11" displays for service 310:

(via) TAKELEY/DUNMOW, (via) DUNMOW ROAD/TAKELEY and (via) DUNMOW ROAD.

Perhaps someone with local knowledge can identify precisely what the destinations were used for.'

THE WESTCLIFF-ON-SEA MOTOR SERVICES LIMITED

A Company History
By Peter F. Clark



THE OMNIBUS SOCIETY

PROVINCIAL HISTORICAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Westcliff-On-Sea Motor Services Ltd - a Company History

Just published in the company's centenary year by the Omnibus Society's Provincial Historical Research Group is Peter Clark's book charting the development of Westcliff. The book focuses particularly on the company and its services rather than vehicles (these are to be detailed in a forthcoming PSV Circle fleet history). A5, softback. 130 pages with around 40 illustrations, many by the late Derek Giles, reproductions of timetables, etc. A full review will follow in a future EBN.

Cover price £14.95, available at Wickford meetings for £12.50 or post-free at £14.95 from the sales officer Owen Woodliffe (address on page 1). We will also have stocks on our stand at the Canvey Island Transport Museum on 12 October.

The First Westcliff Tour on Saturday 23 August.

Well, it was actually the second tour of the Westcliff liveried Dennis Trident 33191 accompanying AJN825 around its home territory, but so be it!

First Essex had very generously agreed to make available the Westcliff liveried Dennis Trident for a tour of some former Westcliff Motor Services routes, in the company of Bristol K, AJN825, courtesy of the 825 Preservation Group. The tour took in a number of 1950s routes with many photo opportunities with both the Trident and the K, for some "then and now" contrasts.

The tour commenced at Southend Travel Centre, the closest modern day equivalent to the hub of Westcliff's operations, at 1000 on Saturday 23 August. It was organized by the AJN825 Group and I believe Richard Delahoy had a role in planning the routes and other details. Unfortunately, your Editor was abroad and so not able to attend.

Our intrepid friend, John G. Lidstone took an enormous number of photographs and I am pleased to reproduce a few of them here, albeit in black & white. You can see 129 of them on John's Flickr account:

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46986413@N07/sets/72157646786782035/> I believe there are more to follow!

A more detailed report will hopefully be published in EBN606, meanwhile, sincere thanks to First Essex, especially MD Adrian Jones, Depot Manager Andy Spicer and last, but not least, Driver James Johnson who drove the Trident on his day off.



Arriva overtaking First. Some eyebrows may be raised at this but no symbolism intended! The pair of Westcliff's in Oaken Grange Drive with Arriva Optare Versa V1110 working route 9. **John G. Lidstone.**



Left: the two Westcliff's leaving
Hullbridge.

Bottom: heading into Rochford in
typical narrow streets, route 8

(both taken from AJN).

Both pictures
by John G. Lidstone.

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Swallow Coaches trading as EOS.com started their new 66/66A (Debden - Loughston - Waltham Abbey - Harlow) service on 1 September, using ex Pennine Darts, which retain Pennine orange/black livery, but with new branding, plus a couple of ex Go Ahead Plaxton Volvo double decks similarly painted. Dart 774 in Quaker Lane, Waltham Abbey on 2 Sept 14. **Russell Young.**

Target dates for EBN606 (October 2014).

By	...	4 October 2014	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	11 October 2014	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	20 October 2014	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Inside Top: Panther's latest acquisition was purchased Thursday 28 August in Glasgow. It was painted over the weekend and smartened up and Adam operated his first registered bus service with it on Monday! The 0800 Harwich bus station to Ramsey, picture taken outside Harwich. Purchased from Gibson travel MX08DHM is called John Patrick. An Optare Solo B33F with 20 standing and Mercedes 904 engine.

Adam Barham.

Inside Bottom: The first of the four Caetano Darts expected from Classic Bus (Anfield Plain) seen on 30 August, first day of service on route 8. Network Colchester's HX04 HUH on route 8 at Highwoods, Tesco.

Russell Young.

Outside Top: First Squeezy at Hullbridge (seen during the Westcliff tour on 23 August) - the last of the first batch (44006) and last of second batch (44081) passing at a very narrow point - both buses in exemplary smart condition, typical of First Hadleigh depot.

John G. Lidstone.

Outside bottom: RF518 owned and driven by Toby Prescott shuttling to and from Southend Carnival on 16 August for the council. The destination blind was made especially for the day, a nice touch.

Ian Banks.





www.essexbus.org