Essex Bus News

No. 650;
JUNE 2018



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group **£4**

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<< Upper picture
Adam hasn't been able to get many photos of the old and new Route 100 liveries together, this is the best he has managed to achieve, 69914 in front of 69910 at Chelmsford Bus Station on 24 May 2018.

Adam Kelleher.



Lower picture This is a NIBS driver we know! - NIBS outstation six buses for schools services at Brentwood Coaches garage in Hutton. East Lancs Volvo B7, once London United VLE44, leaves the garage for its afternoon journey on 25 May driven by Group member Chris Hatley. **Owen Woodliffe.**

Front Cover Picture.

With thanks to lead Go-Ahead London '68' driver Marcin Ptak, I was able to know this Volvo B9TL/Wright Gemini 2 WVN24 (BG59 FXA) making a one-off visit to Southend to give two new '68 panel' drivers route training today. Due to traffic and other issues, it made just one round trip. The approach to Leigh Station can look remarkably rural if caught at the right angle, as Go-Ahead London Volvo B9TL/Wright Gemini 2 WVN24 (BG59 FXA) completes its outward leg of service 68 from Southend, Kursaal via the Pier to Leigh Station. **John G. Lidstone.**

Essex Bus News 650 June 2018

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Essex Bus News is the "house magazine" of the **Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.**

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

Subscriptions
A calendar year subscription is £21. New members may join from any month, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses.
Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.80 per month. For example, a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.80, i.e. £18.00. Contact Richard Delahoy, address below.

Membership Secretary & Data Protection
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Reports and observations
Members reports, quality photos, prints, slides or JPGs to about 5"x4" size and 300dpi resolution and original articles are always welcome.
The Editors exercise the normal discretion to publish contributions in full, in part or not at all and cannot guarantee publication in any particular month.
Every effort is made to ensure accuracy but the Group cannot accept responsibility for any errors published.

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

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

Thursday 28 June	**Ian Thompson**	My 70 year obsession!
Thursday 26 July	**Robert Appleton**	Greater Manchester before & After Deregulation.
Thursday 27 September	**David Moth**	Former NBC companies in the 1990s.
Thursday 25 October	**Martin Weyell**	slides from John Boylett collection, part 2.
Thursday 22 November	**Alan Osborne**	30 Years AGO.
Thursday 13 December	**Richard Delahoy**	20 years ago.

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.
Downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1915 for informal chat, and often an impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from **1945** to 2145. **£3.00** donation towards room hire, please.
Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 13 July	**David Moth**	Buses in northern England since 1994.
also Fridays 10 August,	**Gary Sharpe**	

14 September, 12 October, 9 November (Steve Marskell), 14 December (Gary Sharpe).

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



Ex-Eastern National 2737 Bristol FLF ECW EOO 579 seen at 1978 Southend Bus Rally with Hedingham & District. **Paul Harvey.**
EBN650p2

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

EVENTS

Friday 15 June	Royal Blue/Associated Motorways Coach Run. Starts 10.30 Victoria Coach Stn
Saturday 23 June	Ipswich Transport Museum. Transport & Model Festival.
Sunday 24 June	London Bus Musem, Brooklands. 60 Years of Routemaster.
Sunday 24 June	Classic Car & Retro Show. The Lawn Rochford SS4 1PJ
Sat/Sun 30 June/1 July	North Norfolk Railway Transport Festival.. Holt Station. NR25 6AJ
Sunday 1 July	Eastbourne Vintage Bus Running Day.
Sat/Sun 7/8 July.	East Anglia Transport Musem Electric Dreams Weekend. Carlton Colville NR33 8BL www.eatransportmuseum.co.uk
Sun 8 July	Peterborough Bus & Commercial Vehicle Rally. Sacrewelll Farm PE8 6HJ (A47/A1 junc) www.busrally.co.uk
Sunday 15 July	Alton Bus Rally & Running Day. Anstey Park GU34 2NB www.altonbusrally.org.uk
Sunday 22 July	Essex BusRally. Barleylands, Billericay. www.essexbusrally.com.
	NB. The Basildon Rally on 24 June is cancelled – this event, now combined with 'The Londoner in the Country', replaces it. **Group Stall at this event.**

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



David Grimmett.

Last Month's Puzzle!

WNO 480, former EN2384 Bristol KSW5G seen on
Sunday 13 May 2018 photographed by David Grimmett, "The Hairy Busdriver".
First correct answer from Robert Appleton;
see letters page (EBN650p31) for further details.

Go Ahead London Southend Seafront service

Richard Delahoy.

Go-Ahead London are again running commercial seafront open top bus service 68 in Southend this summer, following the success of the inaugural venture last year. It is again operated from Northumberland Park depot, with the bus(es) running dead to/from Southend each day.

The service commenced on 26 May for the Bank Holiday weekend, then runs daily from 9 June to 1 September. In the low season it is a one-bus operation, hourly with an early afternoon 30 minute drop back to give the driver a meal break. For the high season in the summer school holidays (21 July to 1September, except on 27 August) it will be stepped up to 2 buses to give a generally half-hourly headway, again with in-built meal breaks for both drivers. Last year meal cover at weekends was provided by the driver of the excursion routes that ran to Southend from Harlow and Sutton, but it appears these are not running this year, hence the 68 has to be self-contained for resourcing.
There is no change to the route, from Southend Pier via Western Esplanade, Chalkwell, Old Leigh, Leigh Station and Broadway, back through Chalkwell etc, past the Pier to the Kursaal, turn on the roundabout in Southchurch Avenue and back to the Pier. As a tourist service, ENCTS passes are not accepted but fares are very reasonable with a flat £2 single and £4 all day ticket and concession pass holders & children can travel at half fare.

Initial operation was by the regular bus that ran in 2017, part open top PVL224, Y824TGH, a Plaxton bodied Volvo B7TL. However on Bank Holiday Monday (28 May) it failed and was replaced by a closed top E400 from Go-Ahead's commercial fleet, single door E281 (YX14RTV).

[Eds note, see EBN650 front and rear covers for further shots of this enterprising service.]



First day of the summer service with a well-known contributor to EBN on the top-deck! **Richard Delahoy**

County Durham Coincidence

Robin Jenkinson.

In 1988, when I packed up my business in Essex as a self-employed signwriter, coachpainter and freelance bus-driver, I moved to County Durham where I found there were several operators running former Essex vehicles. When I first moved "up North", I did some part-time driving for OK of Bishop Auckland, who owned ex-Colchester PD2 OVX 143D. For a long time, it was used on the town-service driven by Mr Emmerson, the owner of OK and consequently, it was in superb condition.

When I later became a self-employed bus inspector, two of the companies that I inspected operated former Essex buses. Classic Buses of Stanley ran ex-Eastern National Leyland Nationals and Bells of Spennymoor ran two ex-Southend Leyland Tigers on their Durham to Sunderland service. In addition, Busways the former Newcastle area PTE had several ex-Colchester Bristol REs, some of them in the livery of Blue Bus Services, their low cost anti-competition

However, there were two other Essex connections which were the most amazing co-incidence. For the first one, I have to go back to 1959. After I tried unsuccessfully to preserve a pre-war ENOC double-decker which ended up with ENOC donating AJN 825 to Clapham Museum instead of them selling it to me, I decided to see if I could find a second-hand pre-war ENOC bus with a later owner.

My uncle, Leslie Thorpe, had operated the Reliance Bus Service running from West Mersea to Colchester and had sold out to ENOC in 1937. I discovered that his best vehicle, a 1935 AEC Regal coach DYW 242 had ended up with Cosy Coaches of Meadowfield, so I thought I would contact them. Unfortunately, there were not the road maps on computers then and I just could not trace where Meadowfield was located so I had to abandon the idea.

Fast forward to County Durham in 1988 when I was doing part-time driving for OK. They put me on a private hire to pick-up at a place n ear Durham called Brandon. When I got there, I looked at my waybill to see who I had to pick up and, to my amazement, I read "Hirer: Cosy Coaches of Meadowfield"! Mystery solved, Meadowfield was part of Brandon. One of my passengers was the former owner of Cosy Coaches who well remembered DTW and told me it was their front line coach for many years but eventually was used on miners contracts and was scrapped when the mines closed.

The second coincidence was even more amazing. After most of the little bus companies that I inspected went out of business due to deregulation, I decided to start my own bus company doing a route from Consett to Bishop Auckland. I bought a couple of ex-Northumbria Metroriders and when preparing one of them for service, I found some Colchester tickets and timetables under the dashboard. How could this be – Northumbria had owned it since new? Only one thing to do – phone Geoff Mills the Colchester expert. He told me that in 1988, MCW had many orders for the Metrorider but were having industrial trouble. Colchester had five on order which they needed by 3 October when their new minibus service was due to commence so, pending delivery of their own Metroriders, MCW lent Colchester three demonstrators plus two others in Northumbria's extremely colourful livery, and one of these was my E824 BTN, hence the Colchester items! What a small world!!

Colchester only ran their minibus service for 10 months before abandoning it and selling off all five Metroriders.



E824 BTN on route 1B to Longridge Park in 1988 outside the Hippodrome in Colchester High Street. **Geoff R Mills.**

Colchester 4 - Preservation Progress



Repairs to the radiator have been completed, it has been refitted and the bus was driven at its storage area in Lincolnshire for testing. Colchester 4, OHK 432, is a rare Daimler CVD6 with Roberts body that was new in 1949. Thanks to joint owner **Tom Deakin** for sharing these pictures taken on 2 June 2. It is hoped that number 4, which celebrates 50 years in preservation this year, will be back on the road shortly. Text by Richard Delahoy.



See note previous page. **Tom Deakin.**



This bland 'dealer stock white'-painted MAN mini-coach PO15 GVG of Ultimate Minibuses of Billericay. Seen in Thames Drive, Leigh-on-Sea on 31 May. **John G. Lidstone.**

EBN650p7

Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

Highlights/Lowlights of the Period:

On/off changes by Ensign Bus around Brentwood.
Clacton – First largely pulling out, Hedingham partial replacements but some retrenchment.
First's long-standing 826 school service to Upminster to be withdrawn.

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30 April 18

21 Warley to Ongar (M-S) Ensign Bus –
additional Mon to Fri journeys introduced from Brentwood at 1022 and from Ongar at 1050 replacing service X21 journeys.
X21 Lakeside to Ongar (M-F) Ensign Bus –
the 0948 from Lakeside and the 1050 from Ongar withdrawn and replaced by service 21 journeys.
81 Brentwood to Hutton (M-S) Ensign Bus – minor timetable revisions.
X81 Lakeside to Hutton (M-F) Ensign Bus –
minor timetable revisions with journeys from Lakeside not serving South Ockendon Royal Oak.

*** **It appears the above service changes haven't been introduced by Ensign Bus but were recorded on Traveline.** ***

13 May 18

9 Rayleigh to Shoeburyness (D) Arriva Kent Thameside – no changes introduced from this date – **correction**.

21 May 18

25 Purfleet to Stifford Clays (Sch) Ensign Bus – due to road closure until October buses from Purfleet to Grays diverted via St Clements Way & Oliver Road. No change of route from Grays to Purfleet.
44 Lakeside to Grays (D) Ensign Bus –diversion as above for service 25.
66A Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary (M-F) Ensign Bus – due to road closure until October will operate via Motherwell Way & Eastern Avenue both directions, buses not able to serve Weston Avenue.

26 May 18

1 Clacton to St Osyth Beach (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham –
new summer service operating until 29 September, this replacing First Essex summer only service 19.



Picture. As mentioned in Peter's report on EBN650p24, 294, OU57 FGZ, Enviro 200 on the first day of service 1 at Pier Avenue, Clacton about to depart for St Osyth beach on 26 May 2018. **Robert Appleton.**

29 May 18

22	Aveley to Grays (D) Ensign Bus – on Sundays the short journeys between Aveley & Lakeside are withdrawn.
44	Lakeside to Grays (D) Ensign Bus – on Mon to Fri the 0525 from Uplands Estate to Grays will operate 5 minutes earlier. There will be additional journeys from Grays to Purfleet at 1800, 1900 & 1925.
66/66A	Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary (D) Ensign Bus – on Mon to Fri the 0728 from Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary will now depart at 0715 to improve reliability.
73	Tilbury to Lakeside (D) Ensign Bus – on Mon to Fri the 0530 from Tilbury will operate 5 minutes earlier.
88A	Socketts Heath to Lakeside (M-F) Ensign Bus – the 1400 departure from Lakeside will depart at 1350. Additional journey introduced from Socketts Heath to Lakeside at 1418.
X81	Lakeside to Hutton (M-F) Ensign Bus – additional journey introduced at 0610 from Lakeside. The 0820 from Brentwood to Lakeside will operate at 0847. The 1450 & 1510 journeys from Lakeside will operate 10 minutes later and the 1947 from Brentwood to Lakeside will operate at 1954.

4 June 18

Z2	Tilbury Amazon to Barking/Canning Town (D) Ensign Bus – service extended to Canning Town weekdays so whole service to operate Daily to/from Canning Town.

23 June 18

397	Highams Park to Debden (D) CT Plus – revised timetable.



Picture

Ensignbus BCI FBC6108ZR1 'Ensign Excellence' 144, LX17 DZE on c2c Basildon-Shoeburyness with First Hadleigh's Westcliff Trident 'rally pilot' James Johnson at the wheel, "most kindly slowing for my camera to assist my photo". Seen in Thames Drive, Leigh-on-Sea on Sunday 20 May.

John G. Lidstone.

Service Revisions concluded. Paul Harvey.

1 July 18

2	Harwich Town Service (M-S) Panther Travel – minor revision to timetable.
X76	Jaywick to Colchester via Clacton (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – revised timetable with reduced frequency and replacing town service 130.
87	Colchester to Brightlingsea (D) Go Ahead Hedingham – revised timetable with reduced frequency weekdays and a new revised Sunday timetable introduced.
88	Colchester to Halstead (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – minor timetable revisions with the 1704 Colchester to Halstead extended to Sible Hedingham, the 1804 Colchester to Great Yeldham will terminate at Sible Hedingham and the 1808 Halstead to Colchester withdrawn.
89	Braintree to Great Yeldham (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – the 1937 Braintree to Great Yeldham withdrawn.
130	Jaywick to Brook Retail Park (M-F) Go Ahead Hedingham – service withdrawn and replaced by X76.
137	Clacton Circular via Burrs Road & Factory Outlet (D) Go Ahead Hedingham – revised timetable service will operate every 20 minutes after 0900 weekdays and will serve Asda. Operation will be slightly less in peaks hours.

29 July 18

10A	Great Clacton to Jaywick Sands Circular (M-S) First Essex - evening contract service withdrawn.
17/18	Clacton to Point Clear (M-S) First Essex – evening contract service withdrawn.

1 September 18

826	Upminster to Billericay (Sch) First Essex – service withdrawn.

3 September 18

7A/7B	Grays to Hassenbrook School Stanford (Sch) Kevin John Mortlock – revision to route and timetable.



Panther Travel BIG 9210 (N592 BRH) Volvo Olympian/Alexander Royale outside Manningtree High School in Colchester Road, Lawford, waiting to work closed school contract 30A to Harwich on 22 February. **Robert Appleton.**

Essex County Council Ongoing Bus Service Consultations

Ongoing consultations

No current consultations

Recent closed consultations

Consultation **Service 10 Wickford – Basildon and Services 13,13a and 14 Chelmsford -Wickford**
Operated by First Essex Buses Closed: 08 May 2018
Commercial First Essex Bus 15 service was withdrawn, this left Church End Lane and parts of Alderney Gardens Wickford without a service. It is proposed that service 10 will operate around Church End Lane instead of Guernsey Gardens. It is also proposed for services 13/13a/14 to operate in both directions along Alderney Gardens instead of Swan Lane. Wantz Corner will no longer be served.
OUTCOME **Currently being assessed.**

Consultation **Service 59/60 Audley End Station - Haverhill**
Operated by Stephenson's of Essex Closed 25 April 2018
Essex County Council has received a request to amend the journey times Mon - Fri to coincide with train arrivals from London. ECC propose that the 1127, 1227, 1327,1427 and 1533 bus departures from Audley End are adjusted to 1135, 1235, 1335, 1435 and 1541
OUTCOME **Currently being assessed.**

Consultation **Service 441 Currently Old Harlow Post Office – Saffron Walden HS (Monday – Friday, schooldays only)**
Operated by Stephenson's of Essex Closed 28 March 2018
As the ECC funded section of the route is not well used, it is proposed that the section will be removed & the commercial 441 service will revert back to previous timetable (ie Takeley to Saffron Walden High School)
OUTCOME **The ECC funded section of the route (Old Harlow - Little Hallingbury) will be withdrawn from 31 July 2018.**

Consultation **Service 41 Evening Services (Chelmsford – Galleywood)**
Operated by First Essex Buses Closed 28 February 2018
First Essex Buses are making changes to their day time commercial Service 41 and ECC would like to mirror these changes on our evening journeys (renumbered service 57) . It is proposed thatthe service will no longer serve the whole of Baddow Road. Instead it will travel down Meadgate Avenue, Longmead Avenue and re-join the current route at Vineyards in Gt Baddow.
OUTCOME **Currently being assessed.**



Picture
First Essex Buses 44900 (AY08 EKT) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 (8.9m long), new to Carters Coach Services in 2008, acquired by First Essex Buses in 2013, seen in Duke Street, Chelmsford, on 22 May 2018. **Robert Appleton.**
EBN650p11

LJN 650P for EBN650



Eastern National 3055 (LJN 650P) allocated to Silver End depot, leaving Colchester bus station on 13 March 1982, working service 53 to Chelmsford. This Bristol VRT/SL3 with Leyland 501 engine and Eastern Coach Works body was new in 1975. **Robert Appleton.**

Publicity news

Ian Ransom with thanks to Richard Delahoy.

Arriva - Southend Local Services booklet dated 13 May 2018, the first book to cover all services issued since 1994, from that date individual leaflets for each route were produced

Arriva Your services are improving for the better leaflet dated 13 May 2018

Arriva Harlow booklets for Harlow local services dated 11.3.18 and 724 also dated 11.3.18

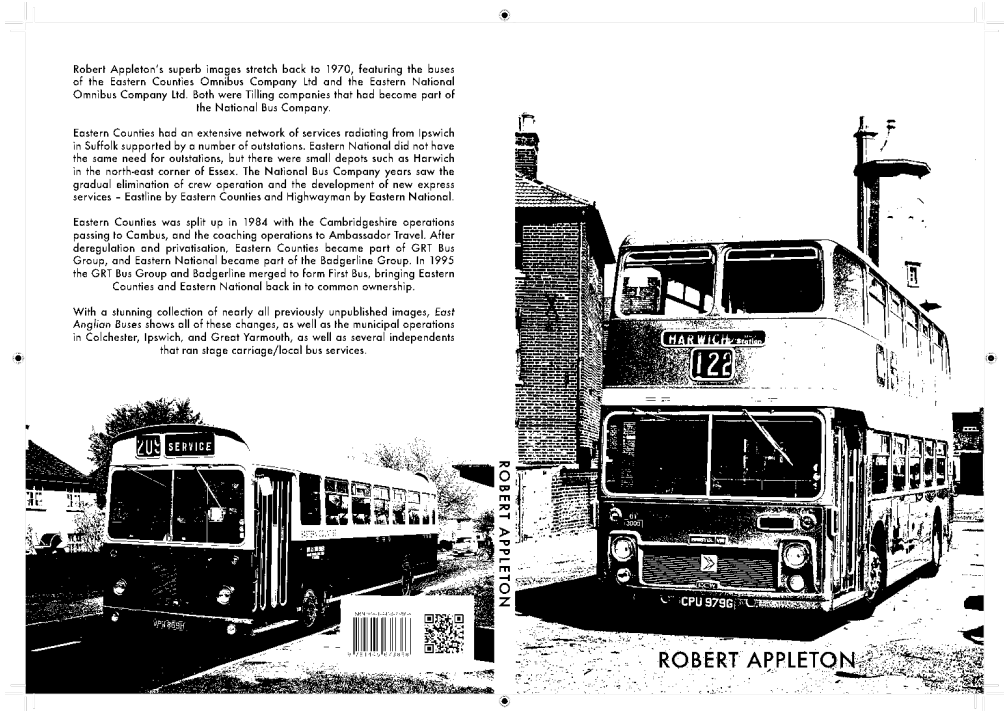
GoAhead London - Leaflet for Southend Open Top service 68 dated 26 May to 27 August

Panther

Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham.

Volvo B12B/Plaxton YN54 WWT has been reregistered DB54 PAN
Dennis Javelin/Plaxton BIG 9895 (N320 NHY) has been sold to Maya Travel, Wolverhampton
The following have been offered for sale BIG 4005 (B693 BPU) a former Eastern National Leyland Olympian/ECW coach; BIG 9249 (J114 KCW) a Leyland Olympian/ECW; Mercedes Benz Sprinter/Koch BX56 VTE and Volvo B10M/Plaxton BIG 611 (S314 SRL)

East Anglian Buses 1970 to 1995 **Robert Appleton.**



Member and regular contributor Robert Appleton has just had his first book published by Amberley. www.amberley-books.com

The book is in standard Amberley format of an introduction, then 180 images (176 in colour, 4 in black and white) with captions.
Start date is 1970 the year that he started to take colour slides. End date is 1995 the year that Badgerline and GRT merged to form First Bus. Robert wanted to have a historical perspective, rather than the current scene.

Main content is 72 of Eastern Counties, 22 of Cambus/Viscount, 38 of Eastern National. Other operators included are Gt Yarmouth BT, Ipswich BT, Colchester BT,
Lincolnshire RCC, United Counties, Ambassador Travel, Premier Travel, Delaine of Bourne, Bickers of Coddenham, Norfolk's of Nayland, Chambers of Bures, Hedingham & District, and Carters Coach Services.

Geographical area from Norwich in the north to Clacton in the south, Harwich and Lowestoft in the east to Cambridge and Peterborough in the west.

Robert does not have enough colour slides to do justice to the whole of Essex, but Eastern National in North East Essex images cover Tilling, NBC, Privatisation and Badgerline liveries.

Pictured are the rear and front covers of his new book shown above is black and white although the real ones are in colour.

We hope to be able to publish a review of the book in a future EBN.

Robert has a well-deserved reputation as a fine photographer, a meticulous and conscientious record keeper with a fine eye for detail and the unusual so your Editor is certain the new book will be a great addition to EBEG members bookshelves.

First

by Adam Kelleher.

Allocation Changes

BE-Braintree (outstation of Chelmsford), BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh

Period 2 2018/19 (29 April - 26 May)

62407 CR (out of service)-CN (out of service), 65668 CN-CN (out of service), 65676 CN-CN (out of service).
Further to EBN649, 62407 was seen parked at the back of Clacton depot on 30 May.



Picture. Withdrawn at Clacton depot 27 May but put aside for preservation. We wonder who the new loving owner will be! **Wayne Bell.**
Wayne also submitted a picture of a line-up of withdrawn vehicles but unfortunately, the sunlight was in the wrong position! He reports that the 6566# Scania's are all withdrawn at Clacton and 65674 is actually going into Preservation.

Repaints

CF43847 to Urban livery, first seen 14 May.
CF42930 to Urban livery, first seen on route 45 on 22 May.
CF42931 to Urban livery, first seen on route 56 on 31 May.
All have a small "First Essex" with f symbol above the driver's cab and the doors, main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels both sides and depot stickers both sides.
BN69908 to new Route 100 livery, first seen 16 May.

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Clacton

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CN.)
It has been confirmed that Clacton depot will close after service on Saturday 28 July.
42557 was still parked out of use at the back of Clacton depot on 30 May.
Only two SN51 reg Scanias remained in service at Clacton during May 65671 & 65675. Some sightings: 65671 on 3 (18th), on 7/8 (21st), on 74 (24th), on 6 (30th); 65675 on 7/8 (18th & 21st), on 6 (30th).
Further to the news of Hedingham taking over First Essex routes in Clacton, they introduced service 1 to St Osyth's Beach on 26 May, this is a replacement for First Essex summer route 19. On the first day, Enviro 200 294, OU57 FGZ (in overall mainly white advertising livery for tickets on smartphones), was in use.

11 May	42927 on 7/8 instead of a Scania
24	Route 74/76 branded 65690 on 8, similar 65692 on 6
26	42927 & 42928 on 6, usually Scania operated (N. B. one Dart is unusual, this is the first sighting of both buses on the route being Darts.)
30	Route 74/76 branded 65688 on 3
31	Route 74/76 branded 65692 on 17
1 June	42928 on 6 instead of a Scania



74/76 branded 65692 on the 17 terminus at Point Clear on 31 May, as reported above! Driven and photographed by **Wayne Bell.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings — Colchester

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CR.)

During May, 32068 had been parked at the back of Clacton depot alongside withdrawn Scanias, minus a prop shaft. However, by the 27th, it was in the Clacton workshop being repaired.

Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during May: 32475 (8th), 32476 (10th), 32628 (30th), 32640 (17th), 32642 (17th), 33044 (10th), 33086 (31st), 33195 (30th), 37009 (8th), 37015 (21st & 24th), 37020 (9th), Route 62 branded 37134 (25th). Also, a couple of StreetLites, 63334 (30th) and 63335 (24th).

All three Colchester allocated SN51 reg Scanias were still in service during May, some sightings: 65672 on 75 (6th), on 71 (23rd) plus on 75 on 2 June; 65673 on 102 (6th), on 75 (7th & 16th) on 71 (24th); 65677 on 65 (13th), on 71 (23rd), on 65 (27th), on 75 (31st). The sole 02 reg Scania, 65678, also remains in use, seen on route 64A on 20th & 27th, 71 on 25th and 104 on 30th.

7 May Bank Holiday Monday. 63336 & 63339 on 65, 63340 on 1A, 63342 on 64, 65682 on 1A.

9 65682 on 62A

13 65679 on 102

14 Route 62/A branded 37138 on 17 pm, then on 65 pm peak

16 Route 62/A branded 37138 on 75

18 Route 62/A branded 37135 on 61 and similar 37136 on 70

19 33078 on 68, 65685 on 1A

20 32628 on 64 (very unusual on a Sunday), 37009 on 65, 37015 on 88A, 37016 on 64A (very unusual on a Sunday), 37017 on 1A (unusual on a Sunday), Route 62/A branded 37135 on 65 (very unusual indeed on a Sunday), 63328 on 65, 65679 on 75, 65687 on 66 & 102, 66798 on 65. The reason for so many odd workings was the fitting of new ticket machines (see below), which on the day limited what buses were available.

22 65687 on 62A (and on 75 on 24th)

25 63339 on 71

26 32475 on 62A, 32480 on 65, 32481 on 61, Route 62/A branded 37134 on 65, similar 37139 on 70

27 Route 62/A branded 37136 & 63334 on 1A

28 Bank Holiday Monday. 37017 on 75, 63337 on 65, 65685 on 64A, 66798 on 1.

30 32478 & 32480 on 62A, 33078 & 33196 on 62, 33195 on 64, 65687 on 71X



First Essex 32628 (KP54 KAU) a Volvo B7TL/Wright Gemini Carefully descending Market Hill, Maldon on 6 June on service 75 to Colchester.

Ken Coldwell

EBN650p16

Other Vehicle News and Workings
Chelmsford (including Braintree Outstation)

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.)
37985 & 32986 have high backed leather (not e-leather) seats. They only have a small luggage rack behind the staircase which may be problematical if there are a lot of passengers and if the wheelchair area is occupied. The second double seat on the offside downstairs and the first double seat behind the staircase upstairs are reversed, with a table between them and the facing seats.
X30 branded Enviros seen on other routes during May: 67165 on 36 (8th), on 42 (15th), on 71 (18th, 21st & 25th); 67166 on 31X & 36 (22nd), on 42 (30th); 67167 on 42A (24th); 67169 on 42 (15th & 24th), on 71 (18th); 67170 on 42 (12th), on 71 (14th & 17th). As sightings of these vehicles on routes other than the X30 are now a daily occurrence, and even more so since the two double deckers were acquired for the X30, these will no longer be reported unless on a less common route.

8 May	44537 on 31X
10	42934 on 71
13	44545 & 44546 interworking on 351, 37 & 80A/C
15	42936 on 31X
16	42931 on 31X
18	42900 & 44596 on 31X
20	44599 on 71C, usually a Volvo B7RLE / WrightBus
22	41512 on 42
23	44900 on 71
27	32483, 32485, 32654 & 66802 at Braintree outstation
28	Bank Holiday Monday. 69429 on 71C.
30	66815 on 71X
1 June	67902 unusual on 351



Routes 71A & 71B together, 44548 on the former and 66795 on the latter, Chelmsford Bus Station, 24 May 2018.
Adam Kelleher.

Other Vehicle News & Workings

Basildon & Hadleigh

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

HH44002 has had 'Essex" main fleet names added to its cove panels (Enviro 200s normally have main fleet names on lower panels).
Since the two double deckers were introduced onto Chelmsford's route X30, all journeys are now diverted away from Duke Street's low railway bridge. Even though the X10 is operated from a different depot (Basildon) and has no double deckers allocated to it, it seems to now do the same.

13 May 41541 & 47657 on 251
23 32651 on 525

New Ticket Machines

New "Ticketer" ticket machines were introduced at Clacton on 19 May and at other depots the next day. Tickets valid for more than one journey (including mTickets) now include a QR code and rather than showing the ticket to the driver, the passenger now places it under a scanner. Contactless payments were introduced two weeks later, from Monday 4 June.



Sources own observations, and with thanks to M Allen, R Appleton, S Austin, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, T Clark, L Cornwell, I Hardie, D Lund-Conlon, J Podgorski, C Stewart, G Toon, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group and Terminus.



Above A scene soon to pass into history - Marks & Spencer in Pier Avenue Clacton is due to close next year, with most First Essex local routes in Clacton, including the 4, due to end after 28 July this year. 43845 on route 4, 24 May 2018. **Adam Kelleher.**

Below First Essex Buses 67171 (YY60 PCO) Alexander Dennis Enviro 200MMC bound for Stansted Airport on service 42A instead of service X30, in Duke Street, Chelmsford, on 22 May 2018. **Robert Appleton.**



Arriva Southend / Harlow / Colchester.

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Card, Richard Delahoy and Owen Woodliffe.

DAF SB120/Wright B39F 3960 (GN04 UFX) has transferred into **Southend**. At present this is an extra bus for Southend and nothing has been withdrawn. It was first used in service at Southend on 10 May.

Volvo B7RLE /Wright 3820 (GN07 AVG) transferred to **Harlow** from Gillingham at the start of April. It carries Arriva MAX livery, unique at Harlow. The vehicle was at Southend for use on service 5 in 2015/6.

Current loans to **Harlow** comprise TransBus Dart SLF B29F 1614 (GN04 UDH) from Stevenage and Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 45 B17F 1015 (BF67 WGN) from Hemel Hempstead. The Sprinter has seen use on interworked Harlow town routes 6 & 8 and service 9 to Epping.

As illustrated last month, the **Colchester** Park & Ride Enviro 200s have received coloured route branding for the service. The branding on 4071/4 is orange, green on 4072, purple on 4073 and blue on 4075.



With the revision of Arriva Southend local service 6 from 13 May 2018 it actually runs to the destination displayed Garon Park Leisure Centre between 0906 and 1604 Monday - Saturday and all day Sunday instead of terminating at Temple Sutton, Cokefield Avenue. The photograph shows 6259 (FD02UKO) DAF DB250 East Lancs awaiting the 1022 return journey to Southend Travel Centre. I was the only passenger beyond Cokefield Avenue to and from Garon Park Leisure Centre. In the past, the 6 and its predecessor the 29 displayed Garon Park Leisure Centre as the destination but terminated at Temple Sutton, Cokefield Avenue.

Alex Cranfield.

With thanks to Richard Delahoy, the current fleet at Southend comprises:

DAF SB120: 3514/31/2, 3935/7/60
DAF SB200: 3756/9/60/1/3/4/5
Volvo B7RLE: 3815/6/22
Optare Versa: 4225/6/35, 4245-60
Wright Streetlite: 4224, 4261/2
DAF DB250: 6255/9/60/2
ADL E40D: 6499-516. … **Total 60.**

Following service revisions in Southend on 13 May, the PVR (peak vehicle requirement) appears to have remained at **53**, now made up as follows:
1: 20 (running numbers 301-20)
6: 2 (101/2)
7/8: 14 (351-64)
9: 13 (371-83)
29: 4 (321-4, of which 322/4 are single deck workings).

This represents an increase of two on service 1 where the off-peak frequency has been increased, covered by a reduction of two on service 6 which has been curtailed to just Travel Centre to Temple Sutton via Cluny Square.
Running number 324 comes off the 29 in the early afternoon on schooldays to cover a trip on the 7 (1422 Ashingdon to Southend) before resuming on 29 with the 1513 to Westcliff High Schools. R/No 364 operates an afternoon school trip on 7 only.



Following accident repairs, two Versas have changed appearance. Seemingly unlucky 4245 (KX13 AUM) is now without decorative front dash strip, no Optare name and no fleet name on the front, as well as having its fleet number applied to the black area rather than turquoise below and a slanted yellow sticker 'screen wash' applied.
Meanwhile, 4248 (KX13 AUP), pictured, has no front fleet name, a rather overly spaced front fleet number, no Optare name, no front fleetname and has the yellow luminous strip neatly extended across its dash, which is usually absent from that panel.
Both represent quite a change from the norm since delivery. **John G. Lidstone.**

Stephensons

Richard Delahoy.

There are no fleet changes to report, but the first of the ex Abellio London ADL E200s (acquired for dealer stock and fleet use) to be converted to single door and upseated, prior to sale, is YX10 FFD. [pic attached]

Stephensons' MD, Bill Hiron, has been elected Chairman of ALBUM, the Association of Local Bus Managers, succeeding Mark Fowles of Nottingham City Transport in that role. Commenting on his appointment, Bill commented: 'Now, more than ever, the non-aligned bus sector needs to have a strong voice with central and local government, suppliers, the Traffic Commissioners and other stakeholders. Not only is the detailed guidance to the Bus Services Act still being formulated, but we face the multiple challenges of clean-air zones, increasing congestion, new technology, local authority budget constraints, and a reduced high street footfall which create the 'double whammy' of increased costs alongside reduced income. ALBUM is a respected industry voice, and aside from responding to formal government consultations that affect our sector and indeed the bus industry more widely, and sharing best practice, we need to maintain our profile as the professional voice of the SME's'.

Picture Can you see the join? Thought not – this was a two-door bus when in the Abellio fleet in London but is now converted to single door for provincial service. **Stephensons of Essex.**





Picture above EBN649p22 reported that 455 (EG02 NZD) Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer is on loan to Galloway. On 25 May 455 was on layover at the Old Cattle Market bus station in Ipswich, later she departed on 0945 Ipswich - Framlingham service 119. The notice on the nearside window by the entrance door read "On loan to Galloway European Coachlines", and the legal lettering read Galloway European Coachlines with their Mendlesham, Suffolk, address. **Robert Appleton.**

Picture beow Stephensons 478 (EU66 AVC), an AD Enviro 200 descending Market Hill, Maldon on 6 June on service 90 to Witham Morrisons in Blackwater Link livery. **Ken Coldwell.**



EBN650p23

hedingham and chambers

by Mark Lloyd

With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, Hedingham website, Robert Appleton & Dave Arnold.

Allocations All week commencing 28 May

291	KN-HD	565	KN-CN	576	KN-HD
578	CN-KN	580	KN-CN	581	CN-KN
738	KN-HD	814	KN-CN	818	CN-KN

Fleet News

On 20 May, 570 was loaned from SY to KN to cover 563 which suffered a tree strike two days earlier.

The Scania Omnidekka fleet have been renumbered from 1500-1520 to 800-820. As at 28 May, only 1518 appeared to be wearing the old fleet numbering (this was changed on 1/6). Scania Omnicity double decks 1550/1552 from Anglian have also been renumbered 850/852 respectively. 801 YN55 PRC is painted in Chambers livery – leaving only 804 YN55 PZF the only Omnidekka in ex Anglian colours in the Chambers fleet. On 31 May 811 YN55 PZP was seen wearing brown upper window vinyls advertising the new Chambers timetables and fares and Go Anywhere tickets. (In a similar way that the Seasiders ticket offers are advertised on the Hedingham Omnidekkas at Clacton). See below.

Services

On 16 May service 89X was operated by Volvo/Premiere 10 S291 TVW – report from Dave Arnold.

*Hedingham commenced the replacement service 1 for Clacton Pier Avenue to St Osyth Beach on 26 May. The service runs Monday to Saturday mid peaks and for the first week of operation (school half term holiday week) the fare was £1. The first day the service was operated by 294 OU57 FGZ the Enviro 200 in the "App" all over advertisement. Thanks to Robert Appleton for the report and the photo of the first day of Hedingham service shown on EBN650p8.

29 May saw the new timetable and additional journeys start on Chambers 753/4 and 84 routes – plus minor changes to route 374 and school buses 751/2/5/& 6. 5-19 year olds can get on board with £1 singles – no ID required. There is also a new Anywhere Family Day ticket at £12 for family combinations off peak.

Service 84 has additional journeys M-S to create a near hourly timetable during the core of the day. Route 374 will divert in Bury St Edmunds via Vinery Road and Out Westgate between West Suffolk Hospital and the town centre – stops in Hardwick Lane, Wilks Road and Cullum Road no longer served due to congestion issues in peak time traffic.

Route 752 has a working dropped but is still covered by the 751/3 according to your position on the route. Route 754 Sudbury-Colchester gets a timetable revamp – with buses every half hour between the towns, Additional peak time journeys have been added. New times apply on the 753 Bury – Sudbury section with an additional commuter journey ex 1742 from Bury. The extension from Bury bus station to the railway station has ceased due to traffic congestion and low usage.

Route 755 Clare – Sudbury and 756 Sudbury – Norman Way Schools has been merged into one route, the 756 which starts slightly earlier in Clare.

Jeremy Cooper MD of Go East Anglia appeared on BBC Essex Dave Monk Show along with First and Union Representatives to give a balanced article, confirming Hedingham will register and operate services 3, 4, 5 & 6 but there may be reductions in the services at peak school times due to existing school commitments. He stated Hedingham are looking at employing some drivers possibly from First and that they already had a secure depot set up for other ECC contract work which would be able to provide the extra bus operation at a reduced cost.

Other News

ECC appear to have placed new bus stops along Kings Parade in Clacton for use on service 134 Clacton – Holland Haven Circular.



Picture above Chambers 803, YN55 PXE, a Scania N94UD/East Lancs at Stanwell Sreet, Colchester on 6 June on Service 754 to Sudbury. Note upper front window strap and lower side panels advertising Go Anywhere and Family Anywhere tickets respectively. **Ken Coldwell.**

Picture below Hedingham & District 1519 (YN06 JYD) Scania N94UD/East Lancs Omnidekka in Jackson Road, Clacton, on 24 February, working the Saturday extension of service X76 (Colchester - Clacton) to Jaywick. **Robert Appleton.**



Ensignbus

Ensign Fleet – May 2018

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman

Temporarily into fleet due to a large volume of emergency rail work associated with new timetables are Scanias YN53 RYB / RYV / RYW.



One of the most remarkable RT-family developments of recent years has been the transformation by Ensignbus craftsman Lee Hitchcock of Saunders-bodied AEC Regent III RT4686 (NXP 971) into a lookalike pre-war RT as RT8 (FXT 183) for some film work - happily, as it had explosive devices placed inside it to blow out all the windows and, literally 'raise the roof'. The bus is shown when completed, two days before its journey by low-loader to Cardiff (with the real RT8) for filming, and all that lovely paintwork to be rather spoilt. With most grateful thanks to Ensignbus. This bus has been dubbed RT8b by some! **John G. Lidstone.**



Although delivered to Stevenage, Arriva's Mercedes Sprinter 1015 (BF67 WGN) was passed onto Hemel Hempstead then to Ware and is now (mid-May)on loan to Harlow! In use on interworked Town routes 6 and 8, is is seen on 17 May opposite the Small Copper Public House in Mombles Road on the latter route.
Owen Woodliffe.



Ensignbus
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Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus

Dealing Stock Movements May 2018.

Vehicles in

Arriva Southern Counties	YJ58 FFW/FHY	DAFs
Go-Ahead London	SN56 AYD	Darts
	EU53 PYB/D/F/H/O/PXY	
	LX60 DXD/DXE	Volvo B9TL's
	LX11 CWC-E/G/J-L/CVO/U	
	W475/76 WGH	Volvo B7TL's
	X172 FBB	
	LX03 EEB/EEH	
	LX06 DZA/C/F/K/M/ DYU-V	
	YM55 SWU-V/X-Y/SXA-B /D-F/H	Scania's
	YN06 JXR/JXS	
	LX07 BYM	E200
Longleat Safari Park	LJ54 BFK / BCZ	Volvo B7TLs
Metrobus	YN53 RYA-B/D/V/W	Scanias
Metroline	LK04 UWM	Volvo B7TL
	BF60 UTZ/UUD.	Volvo B9TLs
RATP London	LG02 FBO/SN53 EUJ	Tridents
	YN55 NKS/T/W/X	Scania's
	NLA/C-E/J-L/O/R	

Vehicles Out

Aintree Coachlines	YM55 SWY	Scania
WB Chambers, Maidstone	YN53 VBT	
	EY54 BPX	Merc Cheetahs
Harrogate Coach Travel	YM55 SWX	Scania
JD Travel, Oxford	LG02 KHY/LX53 BGE	Volvo B7TLs
London City Tours	LX60 DXE/DWZ	Volvo B9TLs
Lothian Buses	BF60 UTZ/UUD	Volvo B9TLs
Mayday Travel, Croydon	LX03 OSM/NFT	Tridents
Meritrule, Kingswood, Surrey		
	A002 RBZ	Volvo B12M
	YJ58 FFW/FHY	DAFs
Grant Palmer, Flitwick, Beds	LX06 EAW	Volvo B7TL
Renown Coaches, Bexhill	YM55 SXF	Scania
Sander Coaches, Holt, Norfolk.	YN07 EYX/EYY	Scanias
Seaford and District.	LB02 YXL/LF52 TGO	Volvo B7TLs
Travelmasters, Sheerness	LX60 DXA/DXB	Volvo B9TLs

Other Movements

Volvo B7TLs
X172 FBB/LJ03 MSU
Scania
YM55 SXD
Volvo B7TL
LJ03 MSU
Scania
YM55 SXD
Hardwicks, Barnsley

Scania YN55 NLG
Zura Dalakishvili Atskuri No 58, Tbilisi
Javelin
N765 PAE
Merc Cheetah
YN53 VBU
Mike Lawrenson, Preston

Volvo B7TL
LF52 ZNS
Bus Party Co, Ashford
E200s
LX07 BYJ/BYM/BYS
National Driving Centre, Croydon

Dart
SN55 DVH
S and A Produce, Hereford

E400s
SN12 AVT/AVR
City Direct, Galway, Eire

Volvo B7TL
LF52 ZMO
Smart Moving Media, Croydon

Tridents Y36/37/133/4 HWB, V329 KGW,
B7TL's LX03 EXU/LF52 ZRN/HU02 HFE/H, W475/6 WGH,
Darts SN51 UAJ, SN03 YBT, SN56 AYD,
EU53 PXY/PYF/PYD/PYO,
Tridents SN53 EUJ/K, LG02 FBN/O &
Scania YN03 UWS
all to Shelton Motors for scrap.



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It's been a long time since buses used Pier Hill in Southend, pedestrianisation of the High Street caused their diversion to Southchurch Avenue and Queensway; the last day of normal services via Pier Hill was as long ago as 2 November, 1985. On Saturday 2 June, Ensign's immaculately turned out RML2734 was caught by **Matthew Evans** in perfect light, with the Royals shopping centre and the impressive Palace Hotel behind, one of Southend's enduring landmarks. Captio, Richard Delahoy.



c2c Stanford-le-Hope-Leigh rail replacement on Sunday 20 May produced a very pleasant surprise in Thames Drive,Leigh-on-Sea - most appropriately also lettered for c2c - was the special Ensign Tilbury Ferry shuttle bus Alexander Dennis Enviro200 601, CX65 BUF. Very pleasingly its destination was showing its usual work. **John G. Lidstone.**

EBN650p28

EOS London.com

(Swallow Coaches, Rainham, Essex & Vigar Travel Ltd, a subsidiary of Swallow)
by Adam Kelleher

Acquired Vehicles

Further to EBNs 644 and 645, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter City 45 BG63 VUV/W have been reported as B13F, although they may have additional tip up seats. VUV has now been sold (see below).

Disposal

Mercedes-Benz Sprinter City 45 BG63 VUV to Go Coachhire and repainted into their yellow / blue skirt livery by May 2018.

Services

LX07 BYT was in use on route S1, Harlow to Stratford City, on the first day of the route, 4 June. On 5th, the vehicle on route 61 was involved in an early morning RTC and was replaced by LX07 BYL, the first sighting of an MCV bodied Enviro 200 on the route. The next day 740 was operating the 61.

With thanks to Chris Stewart, LOTS and Flickr.

Regal Lives On.



Ex. Regal Busways 210, Optare Solo, YJ60 KHB, now with Diamond, Tividale seen on 5 June at Stratford-upon-Avon (Coach Park).
Mark Doggett.

Robert Appleton Rebukes!!!

I am afraid that a gremlin has struck on EBN649ifc.
37017 (WX55 VJE) is a Volvo B7TL and does not have a green front. Is this 37139 (SN57 HCY) which is a Volvo B9TL with green front?
Indeed! Editorial carelessness! My apologies. **Ed**

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith. With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Kirby's Coaches, Rayleigh Recently acquired is BX64 JZV, a Mercedes Benz Tourismo C49FT, previously with Solus, Tamworth, Staffs. Setra S250, K19 BYS has been re-registered as R958 AEU and is now with **Kevendy, Wickford**, whilst similar K100 BYS has been re-registered as 761 UAR and is now with Stainton, Crooklands, Cumbria.

South East Coaches, Wickford New here is YN18 ZNY, an Iriza i6s integral C53FT (Vin:VS916 AD00H1016963), whilst RL62 RSL, a Volvo B9R with Plaxton C53F body has gone to Lawman, Kettering, Northants.

Viceroy, Saffron Walden S102 SET, a Neoplan CH76CT, has been acquired from Cozy, Bassingbourne, Cambridgeshire and has been re-registered as TUI 9810.

Lodge, High Easter **Andrew Mead** has kindly offered to produce a regular Lodge report so, depending on availability of space, this may well be the last Lodge report on the Other Operators page. Please do continue to submit reports, picture and snippets about this popular operator and many thanks to Roger A. Smith for keeping us up-to-date on happenings at Lodge,

Operations On 28 February due to the 'Beast from the East' bringing a very heavy snow fall, vehicles were unable to leave the garage.

Vehicles In

DU09 MBY and DU09 MDX Ford Transit Tourneo 8 seater minibus. New 3/09. Acquired 6/14 for schools use only.

SV 6936 Ford Model T. New 1919. Acquired from private owner 10/14 and under restoration for PCV use.

592 PUR Bedford VAL14 / Duple Vega Major. New 4/63 to Premier, Watford. Acquired 8/16 from private owner, Layer Marney, Essex for spares. Chassis sold by 10/16 to Johnson Bros (Tours) Ltd, Worksop.

AHK 111A Vanden Plas Princess (Wedding Car), new 12/63. Acquired from private owner 1/16

EWK 959 Daimler EL24. (Wedding Car), new 2/40. Acquired from private owner 3/16

LS07 PKU Ford Ranger van. New 7/07, acquired 1/17 for use as engineers van and recovery vehicle.

864 AYG Rolls Royce Silver Spirit (Wedding Car), new 8/83. Acquired from private owner 10/17.

YJ07 JFK DAF / Van Hool Alizee, new 4/07 to Westbus, Hounslow (125). Acquired from Westbus 12/17 and Re-registered to AL06 DGE.

E14 BTS and E15 BTS. Dennis Trident / East Lancs Lolyne, new to Isle of Man Transport. Acquired 12/17 from Blackpool Transport

Vehicles out

AL06 DGE, Setra was named: 'Anthony Charles' after one of the founders twin sons and the last coach to carry the 90th anniversary insignia. Sold 8/17 and exported to Cyprus with the same operator who purchased BG58 OLO in 2/17 which was re-registered to MTH 095 (correction).

BN58 AJU Setra, sold 12/17 to Southern Star Coaches Ltd, Harlow.

YJ04 PFG, a Wright bodied DAF SB200, B44F is no longer here (**RAS**).

Other news

FFS 867 Bedford OB / Burlingham. Restoration continues steadily and is hoped to be completed by late summer.

In March 2018 the combined company fleet of owned vehicles comprising of buses, Coaches, heritage and service vehicles stood at 50.

With grateful thanks to Andrew Lodge and Chris Lodge.



Lodge AL15 DGE (BF15 XOV) seen in Carriage Road South in Battersea Park on 25 May laying over while passengers visit Chelsea Flower Show.
Andrew Mead.

Letters

Peter Carr from Bishops Stortford **KTW 241**

Hi, Maurice. Interesting photo of JN 2744 in EBN649. Interesting because it has to be post-July 1954 but shows it beside Bedford OB KTW 241, which was new to City (fleet no. B28), then taken over by Westcliff in February 1952. But the PSV Circle/Omnibus Society City fleet history records it as going to Hipperson, a Dagenham contractor, circa August 1952. But the photo shows it as surviving at least to the EN renumbering of July 1954 (JN 2744 carries its July 1954 fleet number-plate, 1168).
Anyone got any ideas?

Martin Weyell from the Metropolis **West Leigh Coaches**

Hello. JN 983 - new 3/31 with an Economy C20F body. After two further operators it ended its days with Letch the predecessor of Hedingham Omnibuses last licenced 6/42
JN7409 - new 5/36 with a Waveney C26C body -requisitioned by the military 1041 -t hen two operators ending with Coach Services of Thetford, withdrawn 7/51 still derelict in their yard 5/56 ,scrap date unknown.

Andrew Colebourne **Miscellany!**

I received EBN649 today; thanks for printing my picture of EOS ED27. I wasn't expecting the news about First in Clacton! Robert Appleton's picture of Hedingham 514 prompted me to finish some rather anoraky research that I started in Edinburgh at Easter - see attached. I've just spent several hours doing it when I should have been working…
I didn't get the location of WNO480 straight away but knowing it is now with Quantock and their ex-Standerwick AEC Regal is in the background it didn't take too long to find out it is at Minehead station, presumably during the Quantock running day last year.* The bus stop isn't positioned ideally for a rear loader! I guess the photographer was David Grimmett. I haven't been to Minehead since I was small; I remember it didn't have many buses (Western National) but the model village had two (model) Bristol K-types - I wonder what happened to them?
Regarding Richard Delahoy's item on twin-steer 6 wheelers, I think you should Garry Luck (northernblue109) to do Bustech CDi in City colours - https://flic.kr/p/qGXfFE (he doesn't seem to have done one retaining the Chinese six configuration).
* Eds note see Richard's letter below.

Robert Appleton from Kirby Cross **Last Month's Puzzle EBN649p3.**

I have read that WNO 480 is now with Quantock Heritage Motor Services of Taunton.
The bus stop flag looks like Buses of Somerset.
Buses Magazine May 2018 Rally Calendar Update listed "13 May Minehead/Porlock/Lynmouth Quantock Heritage frequent service on scenic route". So I think WNO 480 was running at this event at Minehead?

Eds note Robert is correct and was the first member to respond. As a prize, we have given him a "free advert" for his new book, please see this edition p13. Richard [see below] was a close second; as his prize, we might just ask him to review Robert's new book!
Thanks to all members who responded and especially those who took the time to research the issue.

Richard Delahoy from Thorpe Bay **Last month's Puzzle**

Re the picture of WNO 480, I would guess it was taken by David Grimmett (aka "the hairy busman", member 1088) at the Minehead running day on 13 May 13. This particular open-top KSW has had something of a varied (some might say chequered) recent history, which can be summarised as:
Eastern National/First Essex until 10/98
Ken Larking, Leigh on Sea (1998 to 2005)
Town & Country, Grays (2005-06)
Ken Larking, Leigh on Sea (2006 to 2010)
Talisman Coachlines (2010 to 2016)
Xelabus, Eastleigh, 2016
Crosville Motor Services, Weston Super Mare, 2016
English Riviera Sightseeing Tours, Torquay (very briefly), 2018
And now Quantock Heritage, Wiveliscombe. .
I don't have a full history of the dates of changes of ownership, unfortunately, but have given some info above.

[corrected list]



Talisman Coachlines

Richard Delahoy.

It has sadly been confirmed by various good sources that Talisman Coachlines ceased trading on 6 June. This colourful operator was "headed up" by EBEG member, Paul Smith to whom we send our condolences and personal best wishes.

As a tribute to Talisman's here is BU13 ZUA seen in Carriage Road South in Battersea Park on 25 May laying over while passengers visit Chelsea Flower Show. **Andrew Mead.**



Following Lynn Tait's sad passing from cancer, her souvenir and art emporium in Leigh was shut a few months back.

The pier car was lowered in before the building was completed, the roof being finished afterwards. So it will either be a centrepiece for the new suggested restaurant or will doubtless be cut up otherwise as the only way out is by crane through the roof. **John G. Lidstone.**

Target Dates for EBN651 (July 2018).

By	Saturday	7 July 2018	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	Saturday	14 July 2018	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	Monday	23 July 2018	Dispatch by Printers.

Group Tour to Reading, Saturday 28 May 2018.



top picture left side. 803 , YN54 AEU Scania Omnidekka N94UD Easr Lancs body in generic livery on the high frequency football service. **Owen Woodliffe.**



middle left side. 757, YX64 VRT AD Enviro 400 in brand new livery for the Royal Wedding. **Owen Woodliffe.**

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left lower W568 RSG originally with Lothian as its 568. **Owen Woodliffe.**



top picture right side Yet another livery! **Owen Woodliffe.**



middle left side General depot scene, most buses out at work on the busy football servicers. **Owen Woodliffe.**



lower picture right side Just a reminder of the source of fuel for the new 'deckers in Reading. Although it will be some time before diesel is fully eliminated, Reading Buses claim to be "one of the greenest bus fleets". **Owen Woodliffe.**







Southend Seafront Service Returns

Upper picture
First day of the Bank Holiday service, cruising the seafront just beyond "The Arches" cafes.
Richard Delahoy.

Centre picture
Never mind the scenery, have a look at the bus! At Leigh Station on the last trip of the day (Saturday 26 May).
John G. Lidstone.

Lower picture
Sometimes things don't go to plan! On BH Monday, E281 "subs" for the open-topper; on its last trip of the day from Southend at 1630, at Chalkwell Shelter.
John G. Lidstone.

Essex Bus News

June 2018

www.essexbus.org.uk

fb.me/essexbus

EBN650outerrearcover