

Essex Bus News

No. 668; December 2019



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

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Front Cover Picture

The Ensign Running Day on Saturday 7 December produced many delights, not least this stunning shot of preserved T499 pulling away from the lay-by in Brentwood High Street with a current First Essex 47651 on the 9 to Basildon pulling in behind and a Stagecoach 'decker' on 498 in the background.

Richard Delahoy.

Upper picture

The sole DAF decker at Arriva Colchester (6259) and the Trident Wayne was driving behind (33078). Taken 18 November.

Wayne Bell.

Lower picture

Following the collapse of Yourbus, Heanor in October 2019, Ensign has taken 6 ex Yourbus Enviro 200 MMCs and is placing them into its operational fleet. One of the vehicles acquired by Ensign, YY18 THK, is seen in Ilkeston when a couple of months old in 2018.

Peter Mansbridge.

EBN668inner front cover

December 2019

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

Black & White Photo Sales

Now discontinued.

Welcome to New Members

Jan David Lewandowski	Ashford	1150
Paul Carruthers	Chelmsford	1151

We regret to have to report the death of member **Robin Staines** (1111), the proprietor of Clintona Minicoaches, and offer our condolences to his family and friends. We featured Clintona and pictured Rob on the cover of issue 581, September 2012, when Rob retired and the business was closed down.

Essex Bus News is the "house magazine" of the...

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Chair	Ian Ransom
Secretary	Alan Osborne
Treasurer & Membership	Richard Delahoy
Tours Organiser	Wayne Bell

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

Subscriptions. Please see note on p32

A calendar year subscription is £22. 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 £2.00 per month. For example, a member joining in March would pay 10 x £2.00, i.e. £20.00. Contact Richard Delahoy, address below.

Membership Secretary & Data Protection

A statement of our compliance with the GDPR is available on our website or by post. For any membership or data protection issues, please contact:

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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.

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 **but now only accessible via Parkway and Cedar Road West**, other public car parks nearby. Tea and coffee making facilities. Members and guests welcome. £2.00 donation towards cost of room hire, please.

Thursday 23 January 2020

Bob Palmer

Further Recollections.

Thursday 27 February 2020

Richard Delahoy

A Regal Retrospective.

Thursday 26 March 2020

Alan Osborne

tba

Thursday 23 April 2020

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – 1900 start [last years minutes, etc available from 1845].

Followed by. (23 April)

Andrew Mead

An illustrated talk on A Century for Lodge's of High Easter.

Further dates for 2020; 28 May, 25 June, 23 July, 24 September, 22 October, 26 November, 10 December).

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 10 January

David Moth

Buses in and around Cambridge 1993 – 2011.

Friday 14 February

Steve Maskell

Here, There and Everywhere.

Friday 13 March

tba

No meetings in April and May. Other dates for 2020: 12 June, 10 July, 14 August, 11 September, 9 October, 13 November, 11 December.

A Blast From The Past

Paul Harvey.



During 1978, Eastern National hired East Kent MFN 946F AEC Regent V Park Royal Information & Publicity Bus to launch the Basildon & District Faircard; seen here at Laindon. Customers had their photo taken on board to go with their weekly ticket.

Paul Harvey.

EBN668p2

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

EVENTS

Wednesday 1 January

Happy New Year event East Anglian Transport Museum, Carlton Colville.

Wednesday 1 January

New Year's Day Running Day. Oxford Bus Museum, Long Hanborough.

Saturday 11 January

Collectors Fair. Chiswick Town Hall.

Saturday 24 February

50 Years of London Country Bus Services. Epping-Ongar Railway.

Saturday 4 April

South East Bus Festival. Kent showground, Detling.

LODGES MUSEUM PUBLIC OPEN DAYS at The Garage at High Easter from **Andrew Mead**.

26 December 2019,

22 March 2020,

10 May 2020,

23 August 2020,

18 October 2020

As well as the Museum being open to the public on these days there will be classic car shows. On the 10 May there is also a display of military vehicles.

The big event will be held on the 23 August when the Company will celebrate its **100th Anniversary** with a bus and coach rally at The Garage in High Easter.

Please remember that the Heritage Fleet and Museum can only be viewed when open to the public on certain days of the year.

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.



Swallow no longer operate Forest School, Snaresbrook contract, Davian of Enfield now appear to have 4 coaches this term with at least two other operators on the 8 routes. RWL Travel (Evangdon Ltd) of Peckham, SE15 have been using this Setra, which is still in Kirby's livery.

Owen Woodliffe.

More on Dunmow;

Peter Carr.

I greatly enjoyed Alan Tebbit's piece on the Dunmow outstation.

Dunmow Dick, like me, is an old Newportonian, that is to say we are both old boys of Newport Grammar School. Strange how a Grammar School education led us both, highly unusually, into the bus-crewing world. I believe Dick originated from the village of Broxted, which lies between Takeley and Thaxted and which during my time on Eastern National was the terminus of the 317, a route inherited from Hicks.

Alan's article gives the impression of Dick ceasing conducting in 1968*. However, I joined EN in January 1970, and remember seeing him as a conductor in the upstairs canteen at Chelmsford, with his cash-bag worn diagonally, in the customary position.

There was a pinball table in the canteen then, and he and his driver would play the table as a crew, standing on either side of the table and having control of one flipper each! This would be in the early 1970s, the upstairs canteen having replaced the cavernous old one behind the garage when the bus-station and attendant buildings were remodelled/rebuilt in 1970/71 (I know that the new canteen can date from no earlier than then as I remember, in my first year, using the old one during the occasional meal-break at Chelmsford that the Bishops Stortford crews were scheduled.).

A photo that I took in Spring 1974 of the Dunmow outstation bus, then 2850 is shown below.. I also find that in Summer 1973, I had photographed a BE(Braintree)-allocated FLF starting out from Chelmsford on the 33 to Dunmow. Interestingly, this bus shows 'Dunmow - Church End' as the destination, whereas I remember the Dunmow outstation bus as always showing just 'Dunmow'. This photo is shown on the page opposite.



As described in the text above.

Peter Carr.

- Eds note, Alan has previously told me he never kept notes but relies on his (prodigious) memory when he writes his stories. That may explain the timeline discrepancy but it certainly doesn't distract from the interest.



See text previous page for details.

Peter Carr.

Engineering Circular No. 2— Editor, Essex Bus News.

1942 pre-Utility bodied Maurice Austin was unexpectedly towed back from the London depot to Central Works in Chelmsford on the evening of Tuesday 26 November where he remains on very light duties!

The ever-attentive mechanics (known as doctors and nurses!) had filled Maurice with chemo drugs, anti-biotics and loads of blood transfusions and had decided that his "blood-lines" seemed remarkably stable.

He has been towed back and forth to the out-patients clinic for further tests to see how successful the chemo drugs were in eradicating the cancer cells. The result of these tests will be known about the same time as this EBN is printed.

The heartening news is that there was a 90-year old woman from Hackney depot receiving day treatment for the same condition — she looked in remarkable condition and had a great head of hair — Maurice's paintwork has diminished somewhat but that can be restored!

Maurice was overwhelmed with the number of personal "get-well" messages; they will all be replied to in due course but as you may expect, administration has taken a back seat recently! To get so many nice comments was humbling and quite emotional!

Interestingly, one of our members and photographic contributor played an important part in building the new part of Barts hospital where Maurice was temporarily housed. Thanks to him for helping to build a superb depot that the staff are proud to work in.

Thanks to all readers and contributors for their help and support during this difficult time. Incidentally, Maurice intends to continue editing EBN for as long as he can so please do continue to send your photographs, articles and letters to the address on the front page.

EBN668p5

Another Delve into the Archives;

Richard Delahoy.

At our November Chelmsford meeting, Philip Kirk from The Bus Archive entertained us with an excellent presentation covering not only the work of the Archive – a joint venture of the Omnibus Society and the Kithead Trust (PSV Circle) – but also his career in the bus industry, culminating in his role as Managing Director of the Oxford Bus Company (aka City of Oxford Motor Services). We enjoyed some fascinating photos and examples of archive documents, including items related to Eastern National, some being official company photos. From those we've selected two to share here from the property files. The first should be well-known to most readers, showing Basildon depot, probably taken soon after the opening in 1961 of the then new but still current premises in Cherrydown, then a two-way street and now called Cherrydown East. By way of a contrast, Richard Delahoy's shot from 2012 shows how the depot looks today, with the covered parking area reduced in size and the vehicle entrance moved.



Picture left
First Essex
Basildon depot at
Cherrydown about 1961.
The Bus Archive.

Lower picture
The same place in 2012.
Richard Delahoy.



Perhaps less familiar will be this shot of the interior of Southend depot. The FLF coach has just come through the entrance at 33/35 London Road and is about to pass through the bus wash. This entrance was a few doors up London Road from the enquiry/booking office and vehicle exit at the more familiar address of 17/21 London Road. The age of the FLF - one of the F/G registered ones - and the Ford Transit service van (YHK965F) places the shot as probably taken at the end of the 1960s/early 1970s. Just visible to the left of the bus wash is AEC Matador recovery vehicle 0102 with its body built from ECW parts.



The Bus Archive.

The list of material held in the archive can be searched on-line at <http://www.busarchive.org.uk/search.shtml> and Philip also offered to provide a catalogue of Eastern National material for us, please ask Richard Delahoy for more details. Both historic photos are reproduced courtesy of The Bus Archive.

At the meeting, the Group also passed over to the Bus Archive our collection of black & white negatives, to be added to the Omnibus Society collection. As explained in our June magazine, over time these will be scanned in and copies offered for sale, adding to the very extensive collections already available at <https://theomnibussociety.zenfolio.com/>.

The Campaign For Better Transport is lobbying for a National Bus Strategy. Its recent report, [The future of the bus](#), looked at what policy and fiscal measures should be included in a national strategy in order to help local authorities and bus operators increase ridership, integrate buses with other modes and set a path to zero emissions. These include:

- A bus manufacturing sector deal to make the UK a world leader in zero emission buses
- A deadline of 2025 for a zero-emission bus fleet facilitated by a fleet and depot overhaul programme
- Smart ticketing and mobility credits to reduce the cost of travel
- Support for local authorities both in terms of local multi-year funding and capacity building
- National innovation and integration funding to ensure buses are part of the transport network of the future.

Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

25 November 19

- | | | |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 9 | Walton to Great Holland (M-F) | Stephensons of Essex |
| One afternoon journey is retimed. | | |
| 105/7 | Colchester to Walton (M-S) | Stephensons of Essex |
| One afternoon journey is retimed. | | |
| 115 | Weeley to Thorpe le Soken (Sch) | Stephensons of Essex |
| Afternoon journey amended to meet the requirements of Tendring College. | | |



Ensign buses are regularly to be found on rail replacement. Here the location should be obvious, as 718, YX60 EOT, an Enviro 200, waits to leave Upminster on c2c Rail work to Grays via Rainham and Purfleet on 7 December, 2019. In an earlier life it had been a dual door bus used on airport car park shuttles.

Richard Delahoy.

2 December 19

- | | | |
|--|--|------------------|
| 22 /X | Aveley to Grays (D) | Ensignbus |
| Additional Mon to Sat late evening buses to/from Lakeside introduced. Last bus from Lakeside at 00.30 (M-F) & 00.45 (Sat). On Sundays most journeys will operate 4 mins later to improve connections at Grays. | | |
| 29 | North Stifford to Purfleet Station (Sch) | Ensignbus |
| Route extended to/from Socketts Heath operating via Stifford Clays, North Ockendon, Belhus & Aveley. | | |
| 33 | Grays to Lakeside (M-S) | Ensignbus |
| Revised timings to connect with trains at Chafford Hundred Station. | | |
| 44 | Lakeside to Grays (D) | Ensignbus |
| Additional Mon to Sat late evening buses to/from Lakeside with last bus from Lakeside at 00.05. | | |
| 66 | Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary (D) | Ensignbus |
| On Sundays the 17.37 from Grays to Tilbury retimed to operate at 17.41. | | |
| 73A | Tilbury to Lakeside (D) | Ensignbus |
| On Mon to Fri new journeys introduced at 23.48 from Tilbury to Lakeside. Also new journey on Mon to Thur at 00.45 from Lakeside to Chadwell St Mary & Tilbury. | | |
| 88A | Socketts Heath to Lakeside (M-F) | Ensignbus |
| The 08.02 journey from Socketts Heath to Lakeside withdrawn. | | |

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9 December 2019

LCY2 Barking Station to Tilbury Amazon (D)

Kings Ferry

New service operating until 5 January 20 for Amazon workers operating via Rainham Tesco. This is a non-registered service (updated information).

IRS Ilford Station to Tilbury Amazon (D)

Kings Ferry

New service operating until 5 January 20 for Amazon workers operating via Romford Victoria Road. This is a non-registered service.

19 December 2019

137 Clacton Circular via Factory Outlet Village (D)

Go-Ahead Konectbus (Hedingham)

Revision to timetable with additional evening journeys on the 19 December only for late night shopping. Special service to operate on 26 December 19 & 1 January 20 every 30 minutes.

20 December 2019

X15 Colchester to Harwich (M-S)

Panther Travel

Saturday service withdrawn.

5 January 2020

5 Pitsea to Langdon Hills/Basildon Hospital (D)

First Essex

The journeys that terminate at Basildon Hospital are extended to Grays via service 200 route as service 5A & 5B every 30 mins Mon to Sat. Service 5B will operate via Orsett Hospital. The 200X journey will be renumbered 5X. There are earlier buses on Saturday mornings from Felmores to Basildon & Grays.

8/8A Pitsea to Laindon (D)

First Essex

Revised Mon to Fri morning peak timetable.

9 Basildon to Warley (M-S)

First Essex

The section of route from Brentwood Station to Warley withdrawn, being replaced by revised services 37 & 351.

13/13A/14 Chelmsford to Wickford (M-S)

First Essex

Revised timetable to improve reliability.



First Essex Buses 67741 (SN62 AKJ) Alexander Dennis E30D Enviro 300 in Halstead Rd, Kirby-le-Soken on 19 November 2019 working service 98 from Walton-on-the-Naze to Clacton and Colchester.

Robert Appleton.

EBN668p9

Service Revisions, continued.

by Paul Harvey.

5 January 2020, continued

- 16 Wickford Station to St Lukes Runwell (D) **First Essex**
Minor timetable revisions to Mon to Fri evening peak service to improve reliability.
- 20 Southend to Hullbridge (D) **First Essex**
Minor changes to Mon to Fri afternoon & evening timetable.
- 21/21B Southend to Canvey Newlands (D) **First Essex**
Revised Mon to Fri timetable.
- 24 Southend to Southchurch Newington Avenue (M-S) **First Essex**
Service withdrawn. **Stephensons of Essex** will provide a replacement service.
- 25 Southend to Basildon (D) **First Essex**
Revised Mon to Fri morning and afternoon/evening peak timetable.
- 26 Hadleigh to Southchurch (M-S) **First Essex**
Revised timetable to operate up to every 15 minutes Mon to Fri and every 20 Minutes on Saturday with an improved Saturday afternoon & early evening timetable.
- 27/A Southchurch to Canvey Leigh Beck (D) **First Essex**
Revised Mon to Fri evening timetable with section of route between Southend & Southchurch withdrawn. Evening service improved to operate every 30 minutes.
- 27X Canvey Leigh Beck to Benfleet Station (M-F) **First Essex**
The evening timetable revised.
- 28 Southend to Basildon (D) **First Essex**
Minor timetable revisions to the Mon to Fri morning peak time journeys.
- 31/B/C/X Chelmsford to Burnham-on-Crouch (M-S) **First Essex**
Minor timetable changes to the Mon to Fri peak journeys. The 06.50 service 31 from Maldon will operate as service 31X.
- 36/A/B Chelmsford to South Woodham Ferrers (D) **First Essex**
Minor timetable changes to the Mon to Fri peak journeys.
- 37 Brentwood to Bishop Hall Estate (D) **First Essex**
Revised timetable operating up to every 15 mins Mon to Fri with the service extended to/from Warley at peak times. On Saturdays, service operates every 20 mins.
- 40 Broomfield Hospital to Boreham (M-S) **First Essex**
Service revised to operate between Channels & Boreham via Broomfield Road, Chelmsford & Chelmer Village.
- 42/A/B Galleywood to Broomfield Hospital/Stansted Airport/Braintree (D) **First Essex**
Minor changes to the Mon to Fri timetable. An additional 42B journey will operate from Braintree replacing an early morning service 70 journey.
- 45 Moulsham Lodge to Oxney Green (D) **First Essex**
Minor changes to the Mon to Fri timetable. Improved Sunday service introduced operating every 30 mins during Sunday daytime. The Chelmer Village service will be into two variations, 45A and 45C each providing hourly service to either Chelmer Village or Beeleigh Link.
- 51 Channels to Great Baddow Maltings Estate (M-S) **First Essex**
Service revised to operate Chelmsford to Great Baddow Maltings Estate only. Service to operate hourly during the off-peak period only.
- 54/A/56/A Beaulieu Park to North Melbourne (D) **First Essex**
Revised route and timetable with some journeys extending to Broomfield Hospital on Mon to Sat via Woodhall Estate. Wicklow Avenue will not be served on service 54 except for Sunday evening supported journeys. Service 56 is re-routed via Swiss Avenue & Langton Avenue.
- 57/A/B/C Beaulieu to Galleywood (D) **First Essex**
Revised daily timetable. Sunday daytime service will operate as service 57 providing improved service for Meadgate Avenue every 30 mins.
- 61 Highwoods to Wivenhoe (D) **First Essex**
Revised Sunday daytime timetable operating the full length of route every 20 mins.
- 62/A/B Colchester North Stn to Brightlingsea (D) **First Essex**
Revised timetable with buses operating every 10 mins between North Station & Wivenhoe with three buses per hour continuing to Brightlingsea during the day Mon to Sat. Between University of Essex & Colchester 62/A will operate via East Hill while 62B/C via Hythe Hill & Magdalen Street. An additional Sunday service 62C will operate hourly between Colchester & University of Essex.
- 64/64A Greenstead to Shrub End/St Michaels (D) **First Essex**
Revised Mon to Fri timetable with service operating every 8/9 mins. Minor timetable revisions to the Saturday & Sunday timetable.
- 65 Highwoods to Stanway (D) **First Essex**
Revised daily timetable. The Sunday service will operate every 20 mins during the daytime.

5 January 2020, continued.

65 Highwoods to Stanway (D)

First Essex

Revised daily timetable. The Sunday service will operate every 20 mins during the daytime.

70 Chelmsford to Colchester via Braintree (D)

First Essex

Revised Mon to Fri peak time timetable. The first journey at 06.46 from Braintree to operate as service 42B.

71/A/B/C/X Colchester to Chelmsford (D)

First Essex

Minor timetable revisions to Mon to Fri timetable. The 09.40 service 91X withdrawn. The 71B journeys which extend to/from Witham are re-numbered 71D.

74 Colchester to Clacton (D)

Go-Ahead Konectbus (Hedingham)

New service replacing part of First Essex service 97 & 98.

75B Colchester to University of Essex (M-S)

First Essex

Service withdrawn.

88/A/B Colchester to Halstead/Great Yeldham (D)

First Essex

The section between Halstead & Great Yeldham withdrawn. Minor timing revisions to the Saturday timetable.

97/98 Colchester to Walton via Clacton (D)

First Essex

Services withdrawn. **Go-Ahead Konectbus (Hedingham)** will provide a replacement service. There are no changes to the supported services.



First Essex Buses 67736 (SN62 AHV) Alexander Dennis E30D Enviro 300 passes under the Kirby Cross railway bridge on 11 November 2019, working service 97 from Walton-on-the-Naze to Clacton and Colchester.

Robert Appleton.

7/8/100 (Clacton to Walton) & 74B/76 (Colchester to Clacton).

97/98 Clacton to Walton (D)

Go-Ahead Konectbus (Hedingham)

New service replacing part First Essex services 97 & 98.

100/100X Chelmsford to Lakeside (D)

First Essex

New Mon to Sat evening journeys introduced at 23.03 (M-F) 23.04 (Sat) from Basildon to Lakeside and 00.20 from Lakeside to Basildon. The morning 100X journey to Palmers College revised and renumbered 5X.

200 Basildon to Grays (M-S)

First Essex

Service withdrawn replaced by changes to service 5.

Service Revisions, continued.

by Paul Harvey.

5 January 2020, continued

200X Wickford to Grays (Col)

First Essex

The morning journey to Palmers College is revised and renumbered 5X.

201 Basildon to Lakeside (Sun)

First Essex

Service withdrawn.

351 Chelmsford to Brentwood (D)

First Essex

Revised Mon to Sat timetable, with service extended to/from Warley during Mon to Fri off peak and all-day Saturday.

508 Great Dunmow to Colchester Schools (Sch)

First Essex

Service withdrawn replaced by new 570.

509 Little Dunmow to Colchester Schools (Sch)

First Essex

Service withdrawn replaced by new 570.

561 Basildon to Chelmsford Schools (Sch)

First Essex

Revised afternoon timetable, the journeys which commence/finish at Billericay renumbered 561A.

570 Great Dunmow to Colchester Schools (Sch)

First Essex

New school service replacing services 508 & 509. Stebbing & Rayne will no longer be served. Service to operate non-stop between Coggeshall & Colchester Schools.

6 January 2020

24 Southend to Southchurch Newington Avenue (M-S)

Stephensons of Essex

New service replacing First Essex service 24.

311 Bishop Stortford Town Service Stortford Fields to Interchange (M-S)

Arriva Kent Thameside

New service operating via Hadham Road, Interchange & Riverside approx.. every 30 mins. One journey per hour to serve Tesco's during Mon to Fri peaks & all-day Saturday.

417-419 Rayne/Great Sailing/Shalford to Newport Academy (Sch)

Stephensons of Essex

Revised timetable and route with service 418 withdrawn and service 419 extended to/from Great Sailing.

LODGE'S

Andrew Mead with thanks to Andrew, Robert and Chris Lodge.

Withdrawal

V936 VUB Optare Excel B39F was withdrawn in July 2019. It is currently for sale.

Museum Public Open Days at The Garage at High Easter

26 December 2019

22 March 2020

10 May 2020

23 August 2020

18 October 2020

As well as the Museum being open to the public on these days there will be classic car shows. On the 10 May there is also a display of military vehicles. The big event will be held on the 23 August when the Company will celebrate its 100th Anniversary with a bus and coach rally at The Garage in High Easter.

Please remember that the Heritage Fleet and Museum can only be viewed when open to the public on certain days of the year.

Heritage fleet

SV 6936 the Ford T is almost finished. It has been named 'Lucy' after Lucy Mead, the mother of Joe Lodge and carries all over blue livery. The vehicle will be used for publicity and advertising for the Company.

BXM 568 the Bedford WTL remains in store. Work is planned to slowly restore this vehicle in the new year as time permits.

EBN668p12

Chelmsford Park & Ride Consultation January 2019

Closed 22 March 2019

Essex County Council is reviewing the ticketing options and fares offered and days of opening for the Chelmsford Park and Ride Services.

OUTCOME The consultation is being assessed.

Consultation on proposals for a review of Essex County Council's supported Evening and Sunday local bus services - Consultation December 2018

Closed 22 March 2019

Essex County Council (ECC) is reviewing the way it supports local bus services which operate on evenings and Sundays and carried out a public consultation. The consultation also included proposals regarding delivering ECC services differently and devolving ECC funded local bus services to communities.

OUTCOME The consultation has been assessed.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/local-bus-consultation-2019/>:

<https://essexhighways.org/getting-around/bus/bus-service-changes.aspx>

Park & Ride Concessionary Bus Pass Consultation May 2019

Closed 31 July 2019

Consultation on changes to the use of Concessionary Bus Passes on Essex County Council run Park and Ride services only from April 2020.

OUTCOME The consultation has been assessed.

Ongoing Consultations

Consultation on route change on Bus 4/4A Jaywick Circular operated by Hedingham Omnibuses

09 September 2019 - 18 October 2019

The evening journeys which are funded by ECC currently operate via Gorse Lane in Clacton and Broadway in Jaywick. It is proposed to operate these journeys as the same commercial daytime journeys, via Stephenson Road West in Clacton and Via Meadow Way (for journeys towards Tower Camp) in Jaywick. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/rci/consultation-bus-service-4-4a>.

The consultation is being assessed.

Consultation on service 115, Weeley - Tendring Technology College, Schooldays only, operated by Stephenson's

23 September 2019 - 20 October 2019

Due to a change in Tendring Technology College finishing time it is proposed that the timing of the afternoon journey is amended to reflect the change.

Outcome: The timetable was amended 25 November 2019.

Consultation on service 9, Walton on the Naze - Great Holland, Mon – Fri's, operated by Stephenson's 23

September 2019 - 20 October 2019 Due to proposed changes to the network following a revision of college time it is proposed that the timing of one afternoon journey is amended. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/service-9>

The timetable was amended 25 November.

Consultation on service 105, Colchester - Walton on the Naze, Monday - Saturdays operated by Stephenson's

23 September 2019 - 20 October 2019

Due to proposed changes to the network following a revision of college time it is proposed that the timing of one afternoon journey Monday to Friday only, is amended. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/service-105>

The timetable was amended 25 November.

Consultation on ECC supported journeys only Witham Town Service 39, Monday - Saturday operated by Stephenson's

23 September 2019 - 04 November 2019

Although service 39 is operated by Stephenson's on a commercial basis, ECC provides financial support for some journeys. These journeys are failing our cost per passenger journey support, therefore ECC is considering withdrawing these journeys with effect from 25 July 2020. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/service-39>

The consultation is being assessed.

Consultation on service 313/313A Great Dunmow - Saffron Walden operated by Stephenson's

23 September 2019 - 04 November 2019

Service 313/313A operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from ECC. The contract is due to expire on 25 July 2020. The service is failing our cost per passenger journey support, therefore ECC is considering withdrawing this service with effect from 25 July 2020. <https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/service-313-313a>

The consultation is being assessed.

Consultation on Service 63 – West Mersea to Colchester operated by Hedingham Omnibuses Ltd

04 November 2019 – 13 December 2019

Service 63 operates Monday to Saturday with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). Due to low passenger usage between West Mersea and Berechurch, it is proposed that some journeys start and finish at Berechurch, William Harris Way.

<https://consultations.essex.gov.uk/iptu/service-63>

Vehicles on Loan

67638	VX54 MPZ	SFD113AR14GG10191	4301/8	B44F	01/05	First Midland Red
67640	VX54 MRU	SFD113AR14GG10183	4301/10	B44F	01/05	First Midland Red
67641	VX54 MRV	SFD113AR14GG10184	4301/11	B44F	01/05	First Midland Red

Alexander Dennis Enviro 300. They have the original Enviro 300 bodywork design, unlike the existing ones at Colchester which have the later design. On loan from First Potteries, they moved to Colchester over the weekend 23-24 November. In Urban 2 livery with pink fronts. Potteries fleet names and most branding removed, although ghosting remains. 67638 and 67640 both entered service on Monday 25th, the former on route 67 and the latter on 104. By the beginning of December, 67641 had yet to enter service.

Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; DS-Driving School; FG-First Group cascade (to / from another First company); oos-out of service.

Period 8 2019/20 (27 October - 23 November)

33178 CR-CR (oos), 33546 BN-BN (oos), 33561 BN (oos)-BN, 37138 CR-CR (oos), 41523 BN (oos)-HH (oos), 42483 CF-CR-FG, 42488 BN-CR-CR (oos), 42555 CF-CF (oos), 65682 CR-CR (oos), 66795 CF-CF (oos), 66802 CF-CF (oos), 66807 CR-CR (oos), 66861 BN-BN (oos), 69430 CF (oos)-CF, 69518 HH-CR, 69519 CR-HH, 69911 BN-BN (oos)

41523 was moved from Basildon to Hadleigh (seen there on 22 November) so that it could donate its gearbox to 41522. 42488's last day of service was 14 November. It is now withdrawn after its MOT expired. 42555 and 65682 are also out of service for disposal. 66795 was seen in the Panther Travel workshop at Weeley for major floor and front suspension repairs on 14 November, it was still there on 28th. 66802 was seen at MC Trucks, Witham on 2 December. 69430 was seen at MC Trucks, Witham on 11 November, it has had some repairs done to its rear. 69518 has replaced 69519 at Colchester with the latter returning to Hadleigh.



First Essex Buses 69518 (BJ11 ECT) Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse 2 on loan from Hadleigh to Colchester. In Jackson Road, Clacton, on 26 November 2019, working 10.10 Walton-on-the-Naze - Colchester 97. The St George's flag is flying from the Clacton outdoor market which uses part of Jackson Road car park on Tuesdays, the site of the much missed Eastern National bus station.

Robert Appleton.

EBN668p14

Disposal

42483 to First Eastern Counties, 10 November 2019. Like 42484-6 (see EBN667), it is indirectly for increased Bernard Matthews contract work in the run up to Christmas, it is for normal service but will release other vehicles for the contract.

Repaint

CF67904, seen on route 42B on 20 November, repainted from hybrid Urban livery to standard Urban livery. Small "First Essex" with f symbol above the driver's cab & doors, main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels and depot stickers both sides. (The repaints of the Enviro 350Hs includes the removal of the super rear adverts extolling their green credentials, so for the first time their rear windows are exposed.)

Preservation News

Information received by the Group from Mr Tom Jennings:

"On 20 October 2019 I completed the purchase of 1953 Bristol KSW / ECW open-top double-decker registration number WNO 481. You may know it as the bus that Paul McCartney took on his first tour after the break-up of The Beatles. The 1972 Wings Over Europe Tour, 25 concerts, 25 cities, 9 countries. She is in need of a lot of attention and I am so grateful for the help and enthusiasm already received as we try to get her back up and running."

WNO 481 was fleet number 2385 in the 1964 numbering scheme. It was converted to open top in May 1966 but sold to Eastern Counties as early as January 1968 before moving on to Tricentrol. After use on the Wings tour it ended up in Tenerife for many years. More details plus a couple of photos and a link to its story are on Page 32 and the inside rear cover of EBN 645. There are also more photos on Flickr including a rare photo of it in closed top form.



We have seen this before in colour but older shots of WNO 481 (2385) with EN are very rare so it is worth seeing again! It was converted to open top in April 1966 and only operated for EN as an open topper (at Clacton) for the 1966 & 1967 seasons before being withdrawn and sold to Eastern Counties in 1968. The only shot I know of is the attached one that former founder member **Lawrence Murphy** posted on our Facebook page a few days ago, showing it on a private hire to Epsom racecourse on Derby Day. The picture must have been taken in either 1966 or 1967.

Research and caption by **Richard Delahoy**.

Area News and Workings – Colchester (All vehicles listed below allocated to CR except where stated)

BN66813 was in service at Colchester on routes 104 and 102 on Friday 22 November but then moved on to Chelmsford over the weekend (on 36 & 31B/X on Monday 25th).

37016 suffered a major oil leak on 4 November whilst working on route 75. On 6th it was towed to Volvo, Ipswich for engine repairs. It was back in service on 24th.

As reported in EBN 666, the existing 14.35 Colchester-Harwich 104 covers the withdrawn Panther Travel 15.10 30A from Manningtree High School. On 13 November 32478 worked this journey and on 18th it was worked by 33078. On 19th 33196 was seen on the 17.35 Colchester-Harwich 104 so is also likely to have operated the 14.35 journey. However, 69519 was on the 14.35 on 19th, 63328 on 20th, 63341 on 21st and 65689 on 26th leading to many schoolchildren having to stand.

Some sightings of the three remaining Barbie liveried Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solars in service during November: 65679 on 65 (6th, 12th, 15th, 18th & 22nd), 103/104 (11th, 14th, 20th, 28th & 29th), 71 (14th), 175 (19th), 75 (26th), 174 (27th); 65681 on 65 (4th & 18th), 67 (5th & 12th), 1A (Sunday 10th), 103/104 (13th), 64 (14th & 21st), 102 (Sunday 17th), 175 (25th); 65682 on 67 (4th, its last day in service).

5	67736 on 71 (and again on 19 th)	7	33196 on 62
9	42483 on 61, 42488 on 98		
11	69519 on 97/98 (and again on 12 th , 13 th & 21 st)	12	65690 on 62
13	33044 on 67/C am (and again on 15 th), 33088 on 17 then 65 pm peak, 37037 on 175, 63333 on 70		
17	69519 on 1A		
18	Route 62 liveried 37139 on 17 then 65 pm peak		
19	33078 on 65, 66828 & 67779 on 62		
20	63336, 63337, 66807 & 67750 all on 61 (Presidents are normally the mainstay on this route), 63331 on 62, 67755 on 75, 67779 on 70		
23	33196 & Route 62 liveried 37136 on 65		
25	Route 62 liveried 37135 on 70, similar 37136 on 17 then 65 pm peak		
26	32476 on 174, 33044 on 17 then 65 pm peak, 37140 on 67, 69518 on 97/98		
28	Newly on-loan 67638 on 174 (and on 61 the next day)		



Volvo B7TL 32628 (KP54 KAU) has also been repainted into Urban livery. Photographed in Colchester High Street on 21 September.
Robert Appleton.

Area News and Workings

Chelmsford (All vehicles listed below allocated to CF)

5 Nov	42483 on 71	11	X30 liveried 67171 on 71
15	67903 on 351	20	X30 liveried 67170 on 71A
21	66815 on 71X	30	66794 on X30

Basildon & Hadleigh (All vehicles listed below allocated to BN)

Remembrance Day: some Hadleigh vehicles received poppy stickers on the front.
44908 has received Essex fleet names on lower panels both sides, plus a small "Essex" name behind "First" above the doors, also black headlight surrounds. This work was undertaken at Hadleigh depot.
69908 was seen on 21 November with the part of its super rear advert / branding covering the window removed (making the remaining part meaningless).

10 Nov	41541 on 100	2 Dec	X10 liveried 67162 on 1003	41524 on 9 (and again on 5th)
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Blind display Trustybus was showing during run up to Remembrance Day and for a short while after. YN56 NNE. **Robert Downton.**

hedingham

and

chambers

Mark Lloyd

With thanks, J. Podgorski & to Essex-buses yahoo group.

Withdrawn

8	R453 FWT	Volvo B10M	Plaxton Premiere	Collected by Alpha 19 October
289	EJ02 KYY	Dart MPD	Plaxton Pointer	To Alpha for scrap see below
290	EX02 RYR	Dart MPD	Plaxton Pointer	To Alpha for scrap see below

Significant Allocation changes

257	CN to KN	1 November
257	KN to CN	5 November
261	KN to HD	15 November
289	HD(w) to CN(w)	by 13 November
290	KN(w) to CN(w)	
523	KN to CN	15 November
615	HD to CN	by 9 November (assumed engineering prep before repaint)

Fleet news

8 R453 FWT the last Hedingham Coach (except Chambers Mercedes at SY) was removed from CN depot by Alpha Recovery on 19 October. R453 FWT although withdrawn actually outlasted native S290/1TW and it is a shame that neither of the original Hedingham B10M Plaxton Premieres were not saved. (Of course, ex -L347 W649 FUM happily has been saved and is a regular at local rally events). The two native pioneer Dennis Dart MPDs 289 EJ02 KYY and 290 EX02 RYR have both been withdrawn. 290 was withdrawn at Kelvedon and towed a week later to Clacton to donate its engine to 254. 289 withdrawn earlier at Hedingham was also towed to Clacton and has now been removed for scrap by Alpha Recovery. 289 donating its engine to 257.



Hedingham Dart in its heyday, High Street, Maldon.

Dave Arnold.

EBN668p18

L325 & L326 MPDs Remembered

I am recognising this month the withdrawal of the pioneer Dennis Dart MPDs owned by Hedingham even though the last B10M Premiere also departed, these had their send off and I have written about these vehicles in previous editions. Therefore this section celebrates the two pioneer MPDs, Hedingham's first standard low floor buses after the initial Dennis Lance Pathfinder models sponsored by Essex CC. L325 EX02 RYR was primarily based at Hedingham depot and was an ideal size vehicle for the narrow lanes of services to market towns such as Halstead and Braintree, also seeing work on service 89 and later on schools. L326 EJ02 KYW was allocated to Clacton and was a dedicated bus to the Mistley-Clacton service and wore a near full advert for Village Link. It had the main villages and termini above the side windows and the Village Link adverts covered the coves, side panels and boot with standard livery to the front dash and door.

I believe both vehicles were delivered in dealer white and were painted locally into fleet red and cream. L326 was seen at Clacton prior to the Village Link decals being added and had a very nonstandard small Hedingham fleetname on the nearside, probably temporary until the Village Link decals were added. L325 certainly arrived in white, had roller blinds all round including side and rear. L325 had Dennis and Plaxton badges on the front bumper, future deliveries spanned into the Transbus and ADL takeovers and were devoid of badges, except early vinyls indicating the Pointer model name. L325 entered service April 2002 and L326 August 2002. L326 after the purchase of L292/293 tended to drop onto general Clacton routes after 2009, with the Enviro 200 MPDs on the Mistley route.

Service 2 passed to First as the Go-Ahead years followed, L325 was renumbered 290 and L326 was renumbered 289. Both were regulars on the short-lived service 34 in Braintree serving Gt. Notley and after this ceased in January 2017 the buses could be seen and allocated more or less anywhere in the operation. Both were treated to repaints into the new livery and then use on the newly contracted D1 Maldon service and finally were regular performers on the 82/83 diagram of country routes and the linked 15 commuter service to Marks Tey Railway Station operated from Kelvedon.

These vehicles were workhorses for the company and lead to a newer purchase of similar vehicle L346 EU06 KCX in 2006 and the Enviro 200 MPDs discussed above. They have been replaced effectively by slightly newer examples brought in from South Coast Buses and Konect, fleet numbers 285/286/287/288. There were several other examples in the fleet during the early Go-Ahead years including L394/5/403/4/5/6/7 but L325/6 outlasted these all possibly due to their early route use and good maintenance during the early Hedingham years. And still their engines work on by all accounts....

Service news

The end of October and early November saw an increase in W registered B7TLs operating the X76 route. Firstbus have announced that the services 97 and 98 Colchester to Clacton & Walton will cease and Hedingham will take over the routes from 5 January 2020. As the 5th is a Sunday, the first day of operation would be the Sunday service between Walton to Clacton then Colchester. The 97 and 98 routes offer the A133 (97) and the Thorington/St Osyth (98) routes into Clacton and route variations in Walton. As the existing X76 competes with the 97 services over the A133 and operate very closely to the running times it remains to be seen how Hedingham will approach the change. There are issues such as the inter-linking of Jaywick services to the X76 and Walton to the 97/98 plus Hedingham fleet is currently geared up to be predominantly double deck during the day on the X76, whereas the low railway bridge at Thorpe prevents modern deckers from running the route to Walton from Clacton. Hedingham will in practice only have the route to themselves from Elmstead Market/Wivenhoe to the coast as First have announced improvements to the 62 service, increasing frequency between the town and the University with both East Hill and Magdalen Street being used.

The ECC Sunday 74B and 76 is assumed to be continuing unchanged and these are worked around the Sunday 97/98 workings.

It sounds as if Hedingham's share of passengers from the University into Colchester may drop further as the First group services and ticket incentives will make First travel across Colchester more convenient and better inter-linked than Hedingham's services. More news as the changes and services are announced.

Konect bus have registered from 05/01/2020
Route 74 Clacton to Colchester
routes 97 & 98 Clacton to Walton
and a Variation to route X76

Other News

561 is slowly being restored to PVL1 condition, with mechanical work already progressing and the original London destination equipment has been sourced.

See pictures on previous page and outer rear cover, this issue.

Richard Delahoy, with thanks Mark Lloyd, Jeff Clayton and John Podgorski for additional info this month.

Fleet

Acquired: 330, MX59 AWF, Optare Solo B28F, transferred from associated fleet Galloway European Travel.

The ex-Uno Solo reported last month, YJ58 PHO, is numbered 325 (taking the number of vehicle it has replaced, EU08 WND).

The ex-Yourbus E200s are numbered 438/9 (YY67 USC/D, 34 seats) and 469/70 (SN66 SLL/O, 37 seats). 439 has already been noted in use at Braintree on routes 9/9A.



Picture

Dart recently purchased from Ensign and still in Yourbus livery. When photographed it was on 21 from Brentwood and had broken down in Ongar. I believe this is one of the 4 reported in last month's EBN but the reg was shown as SN66 SLO. NIBS Buses 470 (SN66 WLO) at Budworth Hall, Ongar. 3 December 2019, 2016 ADL Dart E20D/ADL Enviro 200 B37F ex Yourbus Heanor 1406. **Robert Downton.**

E200 423 (EU64 CVT) suffered significant damage in an accident in Braintree in November and is currently in store pending an engineering assessment.

Operations

On 28 November, Maldon High Street was closed from mid-afternoon for a Christmas market and Stephensons operated a park and ride shuttle to/from the Power Museum at Langford.

At Southend, Stephensons plan to run a replacement for the withdrawn First service 24 to Temple Sutton, every 20 minutes M-S (PVR 2), from 6 January subject to Traffic Commissioner approval.



Stephensons Buses 427 (YY15 NJO) at Rail Station, Brentwood, Essex 17 June 2019, 2015 ADL Dart E20D/ADL Enviro 200 B29F ex-Holmeswood Coaches Lancashire **Robert Downton.**



Under the watchful eyes of one of Southend's many CCTV cameras, Stephensons 511, a Scania with East Lincs body, unloads at Warrior Square on local service 61 from Fossetts Park (which may, one day, be the home to Southend United if the plans for a new stadium ever materialise). The blinds are already set for the next trip. **Richard Delahoy.** EBN668p21

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to Lee Burvill-Eckett, John Card, Richard Delahoy, Keith Sadler, Harlowride.co.uk.

A second Arriva heritage-liveried bus emerged on Saturday 16 November. Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3816 (GN07 AVC) has been repainted into the final Southend Transport blue/white (with red relief) and Southend Transport fleetnames alongside Arriva names. It was unveiled in a display in **Southend** High Street as part of the Christmas lights switch on, being used as a base for visiting buskers. The livery is sponsored by Southend BID (Business Improvement District) in support of the *Visit Southend* campaign. It was previously the last bus in the local fleet in the Arriva "Max" livery. 3816 will normally be used on services 7/8, although in addition it so far has also seen use in heritage livery on services 6, 9 and 29. Its first day in service in Southend Transport colours was on service 29 on 18 November.



It's been four decades since Southend Corporation Transport buses ran in Southend High Street. The launch of Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend)'s second heritage livery repaint, Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban 2 3816 (GN07 AVC) enabled a return to the now pedestrianised street. This Southend Transport livery was introduced in 1988.
John G. Lidsone.

Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3826 (GN07 AVP) has been withdrawn from **Southend** and transferred to Hemel Hempstead in mid-November. Minibus 1007 BF67 WGA, a Mercedes-Benz Sprinter B17F, was transferred from Hemel to **Southend** and was used very briefly on service 6 in w/c 18 November but was deemed unsuitable due to its low capacity and has since been noted on staff shuttles between the garage and travel centre.

More **Southend** allocated buses have gained imitation moustaches in various colours for the "Movember" men's health campaign. Those seen are: White: Versa 4248; Red: E400 6503; Black: VDL / Wright 3759, Versa 4245.

DAF DB250 / East Lancs 6259 (FD02 UKO) has transferred from **Colchester** to Tunbridge Wells.

Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 B38F 3986 (GN07 DLO) has entered service at **Colchester**. New to Arriva London, this vehicle was last recorded at Ware.

Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3889 (BG59 FWP) has transferred from Hemel Hempstead to **Harlow**. It was first sent to **Southend** but did not enter service there.

Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3863 (KE05 GOH), last recorded at Aylesbury, was seen working from **Harlow** depot on service 9 on 27 November. **Harlow** allocated Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 1010 continues to see regular use on services 6/8 and 87 and strayed onto service 3 on 14 November and service 4 on the 16th.



'Deckers return to Arriva Colchester! 4459 MX61 AXW in Middleborough on 18 October.

Roger Tuke.



Arriva 1562 (RX07 KPG) Dart/Caetano in Osborne Street, Colchester on service 2 to Horkesley Heath on 12 September.

Ken Coldwell.

EBN668p23



Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements – November 2019

Vehicles in

A2B Buses	LJ56 VSX	E200
Arriva London	LJ55 BTE / BTF	Volvo B7TL's
	LJ05 BHN	DAF DB250
Buses ETC	PX55 EDJ / EDO	Darts
	SN56 AXF	
	KX03 HZU / HZE	
	HV02 PCZ	
	X578 E GK	Volvo B7TL
	LN51 KXP	Trident
Go-Ahead London	LK53 K VY / KWE	Volvo B12Bs
Kenzies Coaches	AE12 FGM	Volvo B7RLE
Metroline	LK03 GMU / GLF / GKN	
		Volvo B7TLs
	LK04 UWP/CVI/UWJ/GNJ	
	LK54 FWM	
	LK57 AXR / AXY	E400s
	LK55 KJX / KJY	
	YX10 BCV / BCY	E200's
RATP London	YJ11 EH G/H/O/S/W	Optare Tempo's
Symphony Coaches	LX05 FCC	Volvo B7TL
	RN52 FZA / FYO	Darts
Vehicles Out		
Atlantic Travel, Bolton	YT59 OZV / OZW	Scania's
First Bus Stop, Gravesend	LJ53 BDU	Volvo B7TL's
Fords Coaches, Althorne, Essex		
	LK55 KKF	E400

Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex

YJ11 EH G/H/O/S/W

Optare Tempo's

Go-Goodwins, Manchester

YT59 OZS / OZU

Scania's

Souls Coaches, Olney, Ox

YN07 EYH

Scania

Stephensons of Essex

SN66 WLL

E200

Transdev

YX10BDO / BFE / BGE / BD

E200's

York Pullman

LX06 DZT

Volvo B7TL

Other Movements

Trident LX04 FWY

Leverton Primary School, Waltham Abbey.

E400

LW10 CVK

City Direct, Galway, Eire.

Scania's

LX09 AFE / LX58 CFL

The Bus Business, Witney, Ox.

Volvo B12Bs

LK53 K VY / KWE

Mike Lawrenson, Preston.

DAFs LJ54 BFY / BFZ / LJ05 BJZ : Hardwicks, Barnsley.

Sold to Shelton Motors for scrap

Darts HV02PCZ / KX06JYU / KX03HZU / KX56KGU /

KX540PC E200 : PN07KRG Tridents LX04FWW /

V902FEC Scania's W302 / 303MKY Volvo B7TL's

LJ05GSO / GRU / LK03GMU / LK03GLF / LK54FWM / LK04CVJ /

LK04UWJ Volvo B7L Y722CJW.

The following are on hire to First for use in Bristol

YN08 MSO / MSU / MSV / MSX / MLV / MLX / YT09 YHN / YHW.

EBN668p24

SOUTHEND C.I.

X90	8 ^A	22 ^B	66
X91	9	23	67
1	9 ^A	23 ^A	68
2	9 ^B	24	69
3 ^B	10	24 ^A	151
3	10 ^A	25	251
3 ^A	10 ^B	25 ^A	400
4	11	26	404
4 ^A	12	27	405
4 ^B	13	27 ^A	
5	14	28	AC. LINE
27	15	29	NO DATE
5 ^A	1	29 ^A	'N14' STAMPED
6	16	29 ^B	ON END.
6 ^A	17		(c.1977)
6 ^B	17 ^A	31	
6 ^C	18	60	
7	19	61	
7 ^A	20	61 ^A	
7 ^B	21	62	
7 ^C	22	63	
8	22 ^A	64	
		65	

The Blind Spot!

Another of **Bob Williamson's** fascinating collection of bus blinds.

This month we have a Southend Corporation Transport number blind dating from 1977.

I imagine some of our members will recall every single route mentioned!

EBN668p25

© R.J. WILLIAMSON
35 ALBURY ROAD
STUDLEY
WARWICKSHIRE
B80 7LV

8/16

ONO 88, a Recollection by Robin Jenkinson.

When I saw Richard Delahoy's picture of Lodges open sided Bedford OB LTA 752 in an earlier EBN, I wondered how many members realised there was a tenuous Eastern National connection. The previous operator was Lincolnshire Road car Co. who ran four open-sided Bedford OBs on the Skegness sea-front. LTA 752 and HUO 962 were from Southern National, but the other two, ONO 88 and ONO 89 were from Eastern National (fleet numbers 194 and 195). The photos below show ONO 88 at Clacton with EN and at Skegness with Lincolnshire (fleet number 2092) which I took in 1964. For some reason, LTA was open-sided on both sides whilst ONO 88 was only open on the nearside. It was a 50/50 chance that Lodges OB could have come from EN, which not quite come off!



Above
In Clacton
(note the
Colchester Co-op!).

Lower
In Skegness.

Both pictures by
**Robin
Jenkinson.**

EBN668p26

First Essex 668 for EBN668

Robert Appleton.



First Essex Buses 668 (YR02 ABN) Scania L94UB/Wright Solar in Colchester bus station on 20 September 2003, with route branding for service 65 Highwoods - Stanway Tollgate. When new in 2002 this bus was a demonstrator, acquired by First Essex Buses in June 2003.
Robert Appleton.



Kings Tours Irizar i6 KC65ABC which was recently made into a 1/76 scale code 3 model departs Harwich on 10 October.

Paul Smith.
EBN668p27

More On ALR 453B

Owen Woodliffe

Further to John Salmon's piece on p6 of EBN666, there seems to be a lot of mis-information in circulation. Battens of East Ham sold out to George Ewer Group in January 1964. Their two oldest coaches, Strachan bodied AECs, were replaced by VAL14/Harrington Legionnaire ALR 453B and Leopard/Cavalier 454 both licensed new to Battens N16 (Ewer HQ) in April 1964 with Battens fleetname but in the grey/maroon livery of the Fallowfield & Britten subsidiary. 453 would have regularly appeared on the A12 as Batten's services, which included Clacton and Gt. Yarmouth, were initially operated as acquired.

The 1966 takeover of United Services Transport and the opening of the Dartford Tunnel caused five of the Ewer subsidiary companies names to disappear with all operations merged and licensed to either Grey-Green or Orange and 453 briefly acquired a Grey-Green fleetname. After only two and a bit years, 453 and sister 451 (probably acquired as one of JH Ewer's bargain deals) went to dealer Arlington's who hired 453 to the film company making The Italian Job. After its use, it was converted back for psv use and I photographed it in Liverpool with Birch who traded as Wendy's Coaches in 1972 (On The Harrington Appreciation Society website this photo –copied without my knowledge from another website- the caption states it was taken a few weeks before scrapping in 1990, which is complete rubbish). It then went to Scotland, where much later ironically it ended its days as a stock car transporter and was sadly scrapped in 1990.

As John mentions, the tribute 'ALR 453B' since May 2018 is registered as RCA 501B but, whatever this was, it was certainly not in the Ewer consecutive registration number system of the time. To complicate matters further, John Wakefield, a renowned authority on Bedfords, states that it started life as FYG 663J with Wigmore of Dinnington and, as is clear, has its original Willowbrook body.

During summer of 2012, there was an Italian Job event at the De la Warr Pavilion in Bexhill and a mock-up in wood/metal was balanced on the roof edge. John Wakefield told me that Cyril Kenzie had been approached to loan his immaculate (and only surviving operational) VAL/Legionnaire for the purpose but he unsurprisingly refused, although he did drive it there for the Mini day on 19 August. Incidentally, in my photo of the mock-up it had the incorrect reg ARL 453B.

Finally, to add to the confusion, in the Corgi mode set of the Italian Job the coach has a Plaxton Panorama body!



In Liverpool as described in paragraph 2 above.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN668p28



See paragraph 4 of Owen's article, previous page.

Owen Woodliffe.



Heddingham bright red training vehicle, 9016 YU02 GHA in Middleborough, Colchester on 18 October.

Roger Tuke.

EBN668p29

Letters

Richard Delahoy, Thorpe Bay

Southend demonstrators

Sorry to comment again on Paul Bateson's excellent pictures from the late 1960s, but Leyland Atlantean demonstrator MTF 665G on service 61A was actually taken in Southchurch Road, just east of the Warrior Square/Milton Street junction, not in the High Street outside the Odeon as stated in EBN667 page 30. The confusion may have arisen as Paul had photographed MTF at The Odeon on service 9A on 5 November 1968 and then again in Southchurch Road on 13 November 13 on the 61A, the latter being the shot used last month. Incidentally, although this bus was demonstrated to Southend Transport in November 1968, it appears we failed to record it in our news-sheets at the time, so we are pleased to correct that omission 51 years later! It was on loan from Leyland Motors Ltd and was a PDR2/1 model with Park Royal H47/32D body. It was given fleetnumber E10 whilst at Southend. It was perhaps an odd choice to send to Southend – the PDR2 model was the 33' long version of the Atlantean but was never offered with the drop centre rear axle that Southend would have needed to cope with the various low bridges in the area. It had been pitted against Coventry's KWK 26F, a Fleetline demonstrated by Daimler in the same month (and correctly reported in our news-sheet at the time). Perhaps the interest was to trial a dual door, 33' long double decker. In the end, Southend opted for the Daimler product, ordering (initially) 26 Fleetlines with 33' long dual door, low-height bodies and Leyland 0.680 engines.

Paul's superb photos can be viewed on his Flickr page, featuring photos he took in the UK from 1957 (initially black and white, progressing to colour from 1964 onwards through to 1973). The site is highly recommended but beware, it becomes quite addictive! See <https://www.flickr.com/photos/buses-international/collections/72157626515751153/>.

Jim Swan, Kensington

Spare Southend Tramcars

Referring to Mr Delahoy's article on Southend pre-war, the large number of trams in stock (apart from redundant vehicles due to be withdrawn) would possibly include the "toasttracks" awaiting their last trip on the Thorpe Bay and, possibly, the list includes the pier trams which were then owned by Southend Corporation (same gauge as city routes – 3'6" (metre gauge). There may be some confirmatory information in the Oakwood press book published some while ago.



Eastern National 383 (1 BXB) at Victoria Coach Station London, June 1967 1962 Bristol MW6G/ECW C39F ex Tilling Transport.

Robert Downton.

EBN668p30

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Dan's, Waltham Abbey

SH15 WWX, a Volvo B11R with C53FT body by Jonkheere is here from Southgate & Finchley, Friern Barnet, Greater London whilst Johnkeere bodied Volvo B10Ms (C53F) with registrations Y138 CDS and Y139 CDS have gone to Travelsafe, Swiland, Suffolk.

Flagfinders, Braintree

Irizar i6 C61FT, registration YN15 YTP is here from Galleon 2009, Roydon.

Keane Travel, Orsett

Alexander bodied Volvo B7TL has been re-registered as KIG 1261 from SJ02 ANH (originally registered 02-D-10245 in Eire).

Klarners, Colchester

Brand new here is Scania K410EB6 with Higer C59 body, registration YN69 XWM. Meanwhile, EVM bodied Mercedes Benz 516CDI has been re-registered as T16 KCL from VUI 8238.

Peter Godward, Basildon

T88 PGC (ex-LJ05 GKY), a Wright H43/29F bodied VDL DE02PSDB250 is here from McGill, South West Scotland.

Swallow, North Weald

Scania B42F, registration YR10 AZO has been transferred here from the EOS Buses fleet.

Picture



Dons Coaches Dunmow Essex DN10 DON at The Borough Car Park, Ongar, Essex 15 November 2019, 2010 Van Hool Astromega TD927 CH87Dt ex-Watts Coaches Cardiff original reg WA10 CGE.

Robert Downton.



Scania Wright Floline S574 TPW operated with First Essex from September 2013 to March 2015 in between spells with First Eastern Counties before ending up with Harrogate Coach Travel (EBN643). Now acquired for preservation, it was at East Anglian Transport Museum 50th Anniversary event in July shortly before repainting into First Blue Bus livery (EBN667).

Owen Woodliffe.

Membership renewals – final reminder.

Richard Delahoy.

I'm delighted to say that most members had already renewed for 2020 by the time this magazine went to press. If however you are one of the 60 or so who have yet to pay, this will be your LAST copy of Essex Bus News. We do hope that you will renew and continue to enjoy our monthly magazine. Could you please pay by 31 December at the very latest, to avoid any interruption to your supply of the magazine.

Target Dates for EBN669 (January 2020).

Before ...	Saturday	4 January 2020	Reports to Sub-Editors.
Before ---	Friday	10 January 2020	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
On or before	Monday	20 January 2020	Dispatch by Printers.

**A Very Happy Christmas to all our readers and contributors,
thank you for your support during 2019.
Our best wishes for a bus-full 2020!**



Picture left
Star of the day for many was the inaugural appearance of St Helens Corporation BDJ807, which made a relatively brief appearance during the afternoon, following a very thorough restoration in Ensign's workshops. Looking to all intents and purposes like a "real" London RT (and mischievously carrying fake bonnet number RT4826), this bus was one of 40 which were bought new by St Helens in 1950/52.

Richard Delahoy.



Lower picture

Cravens' bodied AEC Regent RT1431 is a regular performer on these running days. Here the bus stands at the Tilbury Ferry terminus, having arrived from Brentwood – perhaps recalling days of the old EN service 40, albeit that followed a very different route between the two terminals.

Richard Delahoy.

EBN668irc



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**Hedingham's Last
Darts
L325 & L326 MPDs
Remembered**
– see Mark Lloyd's article on p19.

Top picture
L289 by **John Podgorski**.

Centre picture
L290 by **John Podgorski**.

Lower picture
L326 in Village Livery by **Dave Arnold**.

EBN668 outer rear cover