

Essex Bus News

**No. 632
December
2016**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk

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Top picture:
In the pleasant AirCoach livery
20802 (YN08 OWP) picks up a
full load of mostly OAPs on the
last weekday of coach-only X30
operation at Chelmsford which
would exceed the seating
capacity of the Enviro200.
John G. Lidstone.

Lower picture:
Ensign used their ex- East Kent
1951 Leyland Royal Tiger with
centre-entrance coach body,
on their running day on 3
December. Full caption on
EBN632p26
Richard Delahoy.



Front Cover Picture.
The new order on the X30, First Essex 67166 on the bridge over the River Chelmer, in the centre of Chelmsford, normally a traffic-free route as
part of the public introduction of the new fleet on 24 November. **John G. Lidstone.**

Essex Bus News 632

December 2016

Editor & Sub-Editors

Magazine Editor

Maurice Austin
Tindal Lodge, 11 Valletta Close
CHELMSFORD CM1 2PT
maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop

First in Essex

Regal/Amber/Trustybus/EOS

Adam Kelleher
74 Park Road
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk

Ensignbus/Heddingham/Chambers

Mark Lloyd
448 Ipswich Road
COLCHESTER CO4 4EY mark.lloyd@asgb.co.uk

Arriva including Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge petemans_1@hotmail.com

Stephensons of Essex

Richard Delahoy, details opposite.

Panther Travel

Ian Ransom ianandsallyr@googlemail.com

Smaller Operators

Roger A Smith
3 Station Mews
Station Road
WITHAM CM8 2FP

Service Changes

Paul Harvey
3 Orangewood Close, Gonerby Hill Foot
GRANTHAM NG31 8QW pw.harvey@ntlworld.com

Social Secretary; meetings, events, tours Distribution Officer; missing/defective EBN's Publication Sales; orders for publications

Owen Woodliffe
196 Sinclair Road
CHINGFORD E4 8PT
pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com
*Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos;
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Black & White Photo Sales

Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickinghall, DISS, IP22 1EN,
Using the order form available on-line at:
<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

Welcome to New Member

Peter Newbury of Rochford – 1109.

We are sorry to announce the death last month of member **Alan Ramage** of Great Leighs and offer our condolences to his family and friends.

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.

Data Protection Act

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

Richard Delahoy,
272 Shoebury Road,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS1 3TT
richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk

Printed by Directcds Ltd

Unit 2, Gentlemans Field, Westmill Road
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Reports and observations

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

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

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

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

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The Running Card (Dates For Your Diary) 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. There is a small car park on site, other public ones nearby.

Tea and coffee making facilities. For those who need other refreshment, there are plenty of excellent pubs and eating establishments nearby. 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 15 December

Richard Delahoy presents our customary slide show "20 Years Ago" with Christmas nibbles!

Dates for 2017:

19 January, 23 February, 23 March, 27 April, 25 May, 22 June, 27 July, 28 September, 26 October, 23 November, 21 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.

£2.00 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Dates for 2017:

13 January, 10 February, 10 March, none in April, 12 May, 9 June, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December.

A Blast From The Past!



Westcliff –on-Sea YPU 139 at Tylers Avenue. **Brian Ashley.**

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

EVENTS

Friday and Saturday 27/28 January	LT Museum Discovery Tours, Acton.
Saturday 11 February — —	Enfield Transport Bazaar. St Pauls Centre, 102 Church Street, Enfield.
Saturday 25 February ...	London's Transport Collectables, Croydon Park Hotel, Croydon.
Saturday 1 April	South East Bus Festival, Detling.
Sunday 9 April	Ipswich Running Day. Ipswich Transport Museum/Colne Estuary Preservation Group.
STOP PRESSSat 23 December***	Hedingham tribute to the Olympian, see EBN632p19

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.

FOR SALE

Olympian Commemorative Booklet.

An illustrated history of the Leyland/Volvo Olympians the have operated in the Stephenson fleet. Price £1 (post free for EBEG members) cheques/po payable to EBEG from Publication Officer, 196 Sinclair Road, London E4 8PT.

Something Different At Kings Coaches, Stanway.



On loan from Arriva Bus & Coach, Wellingborough, 30 November to 9 December — Van Hool EX 16H, registration YJ 16 EPX. seen in King's depot. Basically all-white with blue and black/grey "signwriting". **Peter Mobbs.**

Service 123 Clacton – Ipswich; Part 2 1970 -72. By Robert Appleton.

From 17 May 1970, a revised timetable eliminated the crew changes at Freston (Boot); now each company's staff drove their own buses:

Mon – Sat	Operator	EN	EN	EN	EC	EN	EC		EN	EN	EC	EN	EC	EN
Clacton bus stn dep		0845	1000	1430	1630	1815	2015	Ipswich OCM dep	1045	1245	1430	1630	1815	2030
Ipswich OCM arr		1030	1145	1615	1815	2000	2200	Clacton bus stn arr	1230	1430	1615	1815	2000	2215

The Cattawade – Clacton journeys were unchanged.

Of the EN journeys, 0845 ex Clacton & return at 1045 ex Ipswich, and 1815 ex Clacton & return at 2030 ex Ipswich were O.M.O, using any one of the three new Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F allocated to Clacton: 1505 (EPU 186G)1520/1521 (HTW 178/179H). The ENEG News Sheet 79 August 1970 recorded that 1600 (BNO 101B) Bristol RELH6G 1964 ECW DP45F and 3003 (CPU 982G) Bristol VRT/SL6G 1969 ECW H39/31F also worked on service 123.

1000 ex Clacton & return at 1245 ex Ipswich remained a Bristol MW5G/ECW B45F or DP41F working, buses seen on this working included 1303 (1865 F) 1317 (212 MHK) and 1400/1401 (215/216 MHK). By March1971 Clacton had received further new Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F 1522/1523 (KHK 414/415I) and 1526/1527 (LPU 451/452I) so these journeys became Bristol RELL6G operated as well.

The 1430 ex Clacton & return at 1630 ex Ipswich remained crew operated using a Bristol FLF, examples noted were FLF6B 2800 (BVX 676B) 2808 (FWC 426B) and FLF6G 2849 (NTW 942C) 2864 (RVW 390D).

The EC journeys at 1430 ex Ipswich & return at 1630 ex Clacton, and 1815 ex Ipswich & return at 2015 ex Clacton were O.M.O. using Bristol RELL6G/ECW B53F such as RL679/680 (RAH 679/680F) RL501 (APW 501I) RL506 (BVF 822I) or RLE869 (WPW 869H) Bristol RELL6G/ECW DP50F. These buses had Gardner 6HLX engines and 5 speed semi-automatic gearboxes, the same as the EN Bristol RELL6G. I do not recollect the LH class (Bristol LH6P/ECW B45F) working on service 123.

On **Sundays** there were just four journeys in each direction:

Operator	EN	EC	EN	EC	Operator	EC	EN	EC	EN
Clacton bus stn dep	1000	1230	1815	2015	Ipswich OCM dep	1010	1345	1815	2030
Ipswich OCM arr	1145	1415	2000	2200	Clacton bus stn arr	1155	1530	2000	2215



The EN journeys were O.M.O. The EC worked 1010 ex Ipswich and 1230 ex Clacton were crew operated using an LFS Lodekka, but in the winter of 1970/71 these became O.M.O. The 1815 ex Ipswich and 2015 ex Clacton were O.M.O as well.

From 30 April 1972 there were major service revisions for bus services in the area between Harwich, Clacton, Colchester and Ipswich which included:

Service 207 Ipswich – Colchester was no longer a joint Eastern National/Eastern Counties service, Eastern Counties operated all journeys. Eastern Counties ceased to operate Mistley – Colchester on service 221, instead there was a revised route in East Bergholt for service 209 which was extended to Mistley. Eastern Counties services 209/221 had revised timetables which gave a combined hourly frequency between Ipswich and Mistley.

Service 123 Clacton – Ipswich was revised to operate Clacton – Manningtree Rail Station, every two hours. All journeys were operated by Eastern National. All journeys were O.M.O. using 1200 series Bristol LS5G/ECW B45F, 1300 series Bristol MW5G/ECW B45F, or 1400 series Bristol MW5G/ECW DP41F. Service 123 connected with Eastern Counties service 209 at Manningtree. Later, service 123 was extended from Manningtree via Colchester Road to terminate at Lawford Place instead of Manningtree Rail Station.

These changes seemed to mean the end of Eastern National operating stage carriage services to Ipswich. However, it turned out not to be the end, because joint service 123 operated again from 1981 to 1986, which will be the subject of parts three and four.

Acknowledgements:

Essex Bus Archive (Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group) *Eastern National Omnibus Co. Ltd Fleet Record 1964 – 1990 (Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group)*
Eastern National's Lodekkas by Chris Stewart (Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group)
Eastern Counties Omnibus Company Ltd Fleet History 2PF1 (The PSV Circle/The Omnibus Society/Eastern Counties Omnibus Society)
Terminus magazines (Eastern Counties Omnibus Society) *Eastern Counties timetables.*



above: Contrasting with the picture in EBN631p17 it is winter time with FLF457 (JPW 457D) working 1430 Clacton – Ipswich 123 in Harwich Rd, Mistley in February 1970.

previous page: RL679 (RAH 679F) working 1815 Ipswich – Clacton 123 in Harwich Rd, Mistley in May 1970.

Both **Robert Appleton** from scanned colour slides.

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Ensign Bus

30 Oct 16	27	Sch	Sockets Heath to Hassenbrook Academy: <i>(updated information)</i> . revision to timetable with afternoon journey departing at 1500 every day.
17 Nov 16	23	Sch	Belhus to Palmers College: school service withdrawn.
	24	Sch	Aveley to Palmers College: morning journey operates 5 mins earlier.
12 Dec 16	44	D	Lakeside to Grays: additional M-F early morning and evening journeys introduced.
	66	M-S	Lakeside to Chadwell: additional M-F early morning journeys introduced.
	73	M-S	Lakeside to Tilbury: revised morning timetable.
	83	M-S	Lakeside to Chadwell: revised morning timetable.
	12	M-F	Aveley Village to Lakeside: revision to timetable.
	21	M-S	Warley to Ongar: additional M-F peak hour journeys introduced.
3 Jan 17			



Ensignbus's annual vintage running day, held on 3 December 2016, saw ex Eastern National Bristol MW / ECW coach 331 on new for this year route X21 from Upminster to Ongar (a replacement and extension - from Brentwood to Ongar - for previous years' X55) in Brentwood High Street. **Adam Kelleher.**

Essex & Suffolk Dart (Arrow Taxis)

3 Jan 17	Dart29	Tue	Saffron Walden Circular via Linton: new flexible service.	EBN632p6
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First Essex

4 Dec 16	41	D	Galleywood to Chelmsford: service extended from Chelmsford City Centre to Chignal Estate replacing service 51.
	51	D	Galleywood to Chignall Estate: withdrawn between Chelmsford & Chignall Estate and instead extended from Chelmsford to Channels Estate.
	71B	M-S	Chelmsford to Chelmer Village: minor change to morning peak journeys with 0748 to Chelmsford departing at 0745. The 0804 journey from Chelmsford withdrawn.

Galleon Travel (Trustybus)

2 Jan 17	410/A/X	D	Harlow to Holdbrook Estate: revised M-F timetable, revision to Sat timetable and Sunday service withdrawn. 410X variation withdrawn.
3 Jan 17	505	M-S	Harlow to Chingford: M-F service withdrawn but introduction of new Saturday service.
	418-420	D	Harlow to Epping/Ongar/Loughton: revised route & timetable.
	392	M-F	Harlow to Rye Park: service withdrawn.



David Grimmett has been too busy driving for Buses of Somerset to be able to make any comment on the East Anglia - North Devon service as mentioned in EBN631 so he has sent the only photo he has of an Essex operator on that service. Hedingham Omnibuses L100 UNQ, 100W Bd YNT / Pn C53F on Minehead seafront, before Seaward Way was built and all traffic to Butlins had to go through the town. By the time this was taken the service would, he thinks have been numbered 115 in the National Express series. He has no record of seeing another vehicle that day operating on the service so presumably this was on hire as the Service Coach not as a Relief.

Go Ahead (Chambers & Hedingham)

8 Jan 17	34/A	M-S	Bocking to Great Notley: service withdrawn.
	83/84/A	M-S	Colchester to Sudbury: revised timetable with service 83 withdrawn, all journeys to operate as 84 on reduced frequency.
	89/A	M-S	Great Yeldham to Braintree: section of route via Bocking as 89A withdrawn. 2010 journey from Braintree withdrawn.

Service Changes, continued by Paul Harvey.

London Bus Company

2 Oct 16	381	SSu	North Weald to Epping: last day of 2016 operation.
26 Oct 16	339	SSu	North Weald to Shenfield: last day of 2016 operation, although special service will operate over the Christmas period between North Weald & Epping.
20 Jan 17	339	SSu	North Weald to Shenfield: special service withdrawn.
	381	SSu	North Weald to Epping: special service withdrawn.

NIBS

5 Dec 16	475	Sch	High Ongar to Brentwood: new school service.
	478	Sch	Willingale to Brentwood: new school service.
	481-86	Sch	St Martins School Hutton services: services changed from school services to normal stopping services.



NIBS Wright StreetLite WF 11 (MX11 CZR), a minority in a predominantly double-deck fleet, unusually not in Nelson's bright yellow and red livery, departing Chelmsford for Ongar.

John G. Lidstone.

Regal Busways

9 Jan 17	1/A/X	M-F	Canvey Island to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.
	3/A/B	M-S	Southend to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.

Stagecoach Cambridge

1 Jan 17	7	M-S	Cambridge to Saffron Walden: revision to timetable.
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Stephensons of Essex

21 Nov 16	444	Sch	Barley to Saffron Walden: revision to route to serve Littlebury & Littlebury Green with revision to timetable.
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A little bit of Suffolk in Essex! Victoria Road South, Chelmsford. Stephensons 461 EU60CBF in Suffolk Rider Livery on service 32 on the morning of 23 November. **Dave Arnold.** Interestingly, Stephensons do operate a service 16 from Chelmsford to Wethersfield, Ed.

Swallow Coaches/Vigar Travel (EOS)

19 Dec 16	87	D	Harlow to Epping/Waltham Cross: revised M-S timetable with reduced frequency and Sunday service to Waltham Cross withdrawn (<i>updated information</i>).
	287	M-F	Harlow to Katherineines: introduction of new Harlow Town service M-F off peaks only.
2 Jan 17	86	M-S	Harlow to Waltham Cross: revision to route and timetable.

Viceroy of Essex

29 Nov 16	34	TTh	Saffron Walden Town Service: new contract service.
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(acknowledgements to LOTS, Essex, Hertfordshire & Suffolk County Councils, Omnibus Society (Essex Branch), HarlowBuses info & Richard Delahoy).

Preservation Progress by Richard Delahoy.

A visit to the Lincolnshire Vintage Vehicle Society's museum open day on 6 November revealed that good progress is being made in the restoration of ONO59, their 1949 ex-Eastern National Bristol K/ECW that undertook a world tour in 1967 after withdrawal by EN. The thoroughness of the work can be seen in Richard's shots of the bus alongside the 1940 United Auto Bristol L/ECW that has been another LVVS long-term restoration but is now very close to completion. Let's hope that by the time of the 2017 November event we might be able to ride on the completed ONO59, restored to EN livery and carrying fleet number 1327 in the 1954-1964 numbering series – the museum has recently had new fleet and registration number plates made up in readiness. Fingers crossed!



More About Bus Inspectors from Ted Miles.

Charlie Gunn was at Pier Hill. I think he was an Ex Westcliff man. He took bookings for the tours and Excursions from Pier Hill as well as seeing to the departures, etc. from there. During the summer months, he worked 7 days a week from the first departure until the end of the day's departures. The office opened from Easter until mid-October. He loved the job, was very easy to get on with, and deserved a well-earned rest during the winter months.

Now for No 2, who is Bob Smith from Basildon depot, made up from driver at BN. One day whilst working a 244 to Laindon Station, who should board but Bob Smith to check the tickets etc., with a cigarette and not putting it out, and started to check. Well I threatened to put him off at the next stop (Knares) unless he put the cigarette out. He did put the cigarette out! I reported him to Mr Cox, the depot superintendent, I do not know what happened, however I had to be very careful as Mr Smith did not like me from then on, to say the least !

Next Inspector. Bill Lawrence at Kings Cross. Well what a character, never hardly had his jacket on. Hat worn the wrong way around; running around like a lunatic, he was under enormous pressure seeing to all the departures for Southend Airport. There were only 4-bays and at times more vehicles waiting to get into the Coach station for the Airport plus there were the Express services. Another one that smoked, could forgive him as he was always helpful. We operated the 1730 X10 from Victoria to Southend and at peak times, Bill would have the Kings Cross passengers for us outside the Coach Station at the LT bus stop in Pentonville Road. This was good as it saved time getting in and out of the Coach station on what was a very busy journey.

Hope this is of interest and well done to all that make the Essex Bus News so interesting. Kind Regards.



Well! It's not Kings Cross and it is not the X10 referred to by Ted but it is a nice topical picture!

Shiny new 67162 on route X10 with 32651 and 43847 alongside at Chelmsford Bus Station on 24 November 2016.

Adam Kelleher.

New Vehicles

67160	YY66 OZV	SFDDLABR8GGYA5855	AD G246/1	B36F	11/16
67161	YY66 OZW	SFDDLABR8GGYA5856	AD G246/2	B36F	11/16
67162	YY66 OZX	SFDDLABR8GGYA5868	AD G246/3	B36F	11/16
67163	YY66 PAO	SFDDLABR8GGYA5870	AD G246/4	B36F	11/16
67164	YY66 PBF	SFDDLABR8GGYA5869	AD G246/5	B36F	11/16
67165	YY66 PBO	SFDDLABR8GGYA5871	AD G246/6	B36F	11/16
67166	YY66 PBU	SFDDLABR8GGYA5872	AD G246/7	B36F	11/16
67167	YY66 PBV	SFDDLABR8GGYA5873	AD G246/8	B36F	11/16
67168	YY66 PBX	SFDDLABR8GGYA5874	AD G246/9	B36F	11/16
67169	YY66 PBZ	SFDDLABR8GGYA5875	AD G246/10	B36F	11/16
67170	YY66 PCF	SFDDLABR8GGYA5882	AD G246/11	B36F	11/16
67171	YY66 PCO	SFDDLABR8GGYA5883	AD G246/12	B36F	11/16

Alexander Dennis Enviro 20D / Enviro 200 MMC (Major Model Change) 11.5m. Chassis numbers prefixed by AD E20D.

67160 and 67166 featured in a launch event at Stansted Airport on 21 November. Then on the 24th, 67166 was on display in Chelmsford High Street. First day of service on route X10 was 21 November and on the X30 a week later. 67161-4 were seen on route X10 on the first day, with 67160 noted on 23rd. 67168 and 67169 were reported on route X30 on 28th, 67166, 67169 & 67170 on 29th.

These buses have luggage racks over the front offside wheel arch and opposite the wheelchair area. They have 28 high backed seats, 5 thin, low back seats at the rear and 3 tip ups in the wheelchair area giving a total of 36. They have USB charging points in the back of the seats plus free Wi Fi. They are in a new livery of silver and "another colour" separated on the sides by a silver and blue flash. The "other colour" has been described as both dark blue and dark green, depending on the light! The colours were inspired by the livery of Greyhound Coaches. 67160-4 have branding for X10, "From Here to Air" on lower side panels, the rest have branding for X30, "From Pier to Air". On the cover panels they have information about luggage racks, leather seats, USB charging and free Wi Fi, plus a list of places served and First f Essex fleet names towards the front (in white). They have depot sticker both sides.



67164 Route X10 Chelmsford Bus Station 24 November 2016. **Adam Kelleher.**

Allocation Changes

3N-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; CF(DS)-Driving School (based at Chelmsford); Sh-Driver Shuttle; 3E(out of service)-withdrawn vehicles stored at Braintree

Period 8 (23 October - 19 November)

50206 CN(out of service)-Disposal, 67160 New-BN, 67161 New-BN, 67162 New-BN, 67163 New-BN, 67164 New-BN

Out of service 32864 was moved from Chelmsford back to Braintree outstation in early November (joining 32856). Both were still there on 3 December.

The four shorter Enviro 200 MMCs, which had been temporarily used on route X10 whilst waiting for the delivery of the new vehicles listed above, have all moved from BN to their intended depot of CF. 44659 was on route 45 on 29 & 30 November and 37/351 on 1 & 2 December. 44660 was in Chelmsford Bus Station on 29 November and on route 70 on 1 December and 37/351 on 3rd. 44661 was on route 13A on 28 November and 37/351 on 2 December. 44662 was on 37/351 on 6 December. (These are Period 9 transfers.)

Disposal November 2016

60206 to Alpha Recovery for scrap.

Repaints

CF53117, seen on 16 November

3N66819, seen on 100 on 15 November

3N66827, seen on the A12 near Marks Tey on 1 November, presumably on the way back to Basildon from Clacton

All to Urban livery with small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides and main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides (66819/27) or lower panels both sides (53117).

The repainting of 53117, the first Solo to be repainted since February, leaves 53132 as the only Solo still in Barbie livery, seen thus at Chelmsford Bus Station on 24 November.

XVW 632L for EBN632



Eastern National SD1407 (XVW 632L) Bristol RELH6G with Plaxton body at the Southend Bus Rally on 6 June 1982.

Robert Appleton.

EBN632p13

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Colchester and Clacton

Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 (all CR): 33196 (31 October), 33186 (2 November), 32068 (3rd & 8th), 32475 (4th), 32476, 32631 & 32640 (9th), 32477 & 32478 (10th), 32628 (11th), 32087 (14th, this vehicle seen on 75 later in the day), 32640 & 32641 (17th), 33087 (24th), 32477 & 32640 (25th), 32476 & 33196 (29th), 33080 (30th) and 33087 on 2 December, plus one observation of a StreetLite, 63333 on 8 November.

In Clacton services 3/4 are usually worked by Darts, but a Scania operates one return journey. On services 7/8 Clacton-Walton, after 1700 the frequency reduces from every 15 minutes to every half hour. Consequently, the Scania on 1628 Walton-Clacton 7 does not have a 1715 Clacton-Walton 8 to work and instead the vehicle operates the 1715 Clacton-Harwich 3 and 1815 Harwich-Clacton 3. These journeys were worked by 65666 on 18 November and 65667 on 25th. Sightings of Enviro 200s at Clacton working away from their normal routes 7/8 were: 44596 on 5/5A Clacton-Flatford Drive instead of a Dart on 25 November and 44599 on 1430 Clacton- Mistley 2 instead of 9.4 long Dart on 29th.

3 Nov CR33080 on 65, green CR66816 on 70

14 CN44598 on 76*, CR32641 on 66 with label in windscreen

15 CN42937 on 76*

16 CN44597 on 76*, CR66804 on 174

21 CR32642 on 61 with route number on card in windscreen but destination display showing "Sorry Not in Service", meaning the driver had to stop at all stops to check if anyone wanted a 61

24 CR65673 & CF69430 on 75, leading to a complaint to First Essex on Twitter that the use of single deckers on the route was leading to school children being left behind at Tiptree

2 Dec CR32628 on 1A, double deckers on evening 1A are becoming more common

* all seen on 1730 departure from Colchester



32631 (KP54 KBF) in Manningtree at 0740 hours on 20 Sept 2016 working 0655 Harwich – Colchester 103. The clock on the building to the right has stopped working!!

Robert Appleton.

Other Vehicle News and Workings, cont.

Chelmsford (including Braintree Outstation)

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.)

66829 has e leather seats.

Buses seen on X30 (before the introduction of the new vehicles): 66829 (6 November), 66817 (15th), 43845 replacing 20804 at Chelmsford (21st), 66812 & 69429 (24th)

5 Nov 32481 and 32485 on Witham to Shenfield Greater Anglia rail replacement

6 66794 and 69532 at Braintree outstation (the latter seen on route 70 the next day)

8 67901 on 71

11 43846 on 71

14 53114 on 70, 69420 on Chelmer Valley-Broomfield Hospital P&R

24 65028 on 71A

28 32485 on evening Sandon P&R extra, 69420 again on Chelmer Valley-Broomfield Hospital P&R, the last week of First Essex operation of the route

3 Dec 42484 & 69434 at Braintree outstation (the former seen on route 70 the next day, plus it was also parked overnight at BE on night of 4th-5th)

Basildon and Hadleigh

Non-hybrids on route 100 (all BN, all November except where stated): 66819 (15th, 29th & 5 December), 66825 & 66827 (16th), 47657 (24th), 66821 & 66826 (28th)

24 Nov BN33555 on 502, BN33572 on 561



YY660ZW 67161 taken in Victoria Road South, Chelmsford on the morning of 23 November. **Dave Arnold.**

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, N Clark, T Clark, D Lund-Conlon, J Podgorski, K Smith, G Toon, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, Terminus, Flickr and Bus Lists on the Web

EBN632p15

Modelling Corner by Richard Delahoy.



The recent Shoeburyness Model Railway Club's exhibition in Southend featured a number of superb bus models in 4mm scale (00 gauge), including George Bentley's brilliant model of the City Coach Company Brentwood depot and works, complete with buses in various states of repair as well as in service. Alongside that layout, EBEG member **David Bicknell** displayed another selection of his fabulous Southend Corporation models, the latest including the unique Gloster trolleybus 122 and two models representing the post-war versions of the AEC Regals 203 & 204.



David's picture shows 203 as heavily rebuilt by SCT post-war but before conversion to one-man operation. This 1931-built bus eventually became a driver trainer and was not withdrawn until 1966, being scrapped in 1968.

On the Creekleigh diorama produced by Brian Higgs were further City models including HJ8034 illustrated here in **Richard Delahoy's** photo – this was one of 14 Dennis E type saloons that were new to Westcliff in 1928-31 but sold to City in 1935 along with Westcliff's operations on the Southend to Wood Green service (which Westcliff had numbered 16); that service of course returned to the Westcliff empire when City sold out in 1952. Brian's model, partly scratchbuilt on a much modified donor model, depicts HJ8034 as City D5, complete with starting handle protruding through the radiator.

Perhaps one day I will get round to completing my Westcliff Motor Services fantasy fleet – showing in 4mm scale how Westcliff might have looked had it remained separate rather than being absorbed into EN. Tilling RED & cream LDs, FLF & REs in Southend, anyone?

Over The Border.



Ipswich Buses 20, a Trident with Alexander body at the former Carters bay at the Old Cattle Market bus station, Ipswich on 9 November before leaving on the 94 service to Colchester via Tattingstone.

Ken Coldwell.



"When I have been out and about early looking at First Essex services 103/104, I have often seen a Beestons coach coming through Manningtree. The OC4 notice in the windscreen enabled me to discover this working. 229 LRB (YN04 ANV) Scania K114 with Van Hool body in Manningtree on 8

229 LRB was working contract OC4 from Harwich to Easton & Otley Agricultural College at Otley, near Ipswich. The registration number 229 LRB was originally on a Chesterfield Corporation Leyland Titan PD2."

Robert Appleton.

Dart 438 (LX51FGM) is **withdrawn**.

Olympian 809 (M809RVU) is **temporarily reinstated** to the operational fleet.



Picture EBN631p19 had John Lidstone's photo of Stephensons 440 on its first day in service. Here is my photo of its sister 441 (SN16 ORU) at Walton-on-the-Naze, Columbine Centre, on 17 November 2016, waiting to work 1015 Walton – Colchester 107. The main Walton to Colchester service is 105, but two journeys each way on Mondays to Fridays operate as service 107 via Kirby-le-Soken. **Robert Appleton.**

Group Membership – Richard Delahoy.

Most members had renewed their membership for 2017 by the time that this issue went to press – thank you! But if you are one of the few people that have not yet sent in their subscription, this will be your LAST copy of Essex Bus News. We'd hate to lose you, so please renew now - use the form enclosed with the October magazine or, if that's not to hand, simply send a cheque for £21 (payable to EBEG) to the Membership Secretary, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT. You can also use PayPal, in which case please remit £21.90 (to include the fee that they will deduct before we receive the money) to admin@signal-training.com. If for any reason you are not renewing, please let us know.

Obituary: Alan R. Ramage 1943 – 2016 by Nigel Turner.

Sadly, I have to report the unexpected passing of Alan Ramage on 6 November 2016 at Broomfield Hospital. A member for some years, he had been a regular at Colchester meetings and on Group tours.

Alan's childhood was spent in North London and he particularly remembered the operators whose London services passed that way in the 1950s including Jennings, Hicks/ Eastern National, Premier Travel and Whippet. It was therefore particularly appropriate that, in his retirement, he was frequently a passenger on preserved ex ENOC 1407 (VNO 859) which had been bought new for the Braintree - London service. His working life was spent on the railways, mostly as a driver on the East Coast main line and latterly as a foreman with GNER. He was particularly proud of a period in the 1960s when he drove 4472 "Flying Scotsman".

Away from work, Alan was deeply interested in Swiss railways and was, at one time, editor of a UK magazine devoted to that subject.

Your Editor is particularly saddened at this news. Alan, Nigel and I had had lunch together in Woodbridge on this year's group tour and had chatted about our ailments but this was the last thing I expected. Alan had given me some excellent advice on producing EBN, given in a discrete and kindly manner. I think all members will have benefitted from this advice. In addition, Alan and I shared some railway contacts, particularly another East Coast man who became a leading Labour councillor in Southend and the Essex County Council.

The Group offers sincere condolences to Alan's family and friends.

Group Photo service; Richard Delahoy.

Three more lists of b/w prints have recently been added:

List 29 - Tillings & ENOC ex Moores of Kelvedon

List 30 - ENOC LS & MW types, plus Colchester CT

List 31 - ENOC K types, UCOC ex ENOC buses, Ipswich CT.

All current lists are available on the Group's web-site or write to the Membership Secretary to obtain copies (please enclose a large letter stamp for return postage).

Late News; Hedingham's Tribute to the Olympian.

Extract from the Hedingham web-site from Mark Lloyd.

"On **Friday 23 December 2016** a Volvo Olympian will operate relief journeys on service 87 between Brightlingsea and Colchester <https://www.hedingham.co.uk/timetables/87>. Fares taken on the Olympian will be given to a local charity.

The Olympian bus type has served Hedingham buses well since the first one was bought new in 1990. Since then Olympians (both Leyland and Volvo) have been operated with various body types, engines and gearboxes. At the time of writing there are 10 in service with the company which will be withdrawn at the end of the year due to PSVAR regulations.

The following 87 journeys will be duplicated:

0902 from Brightlingsea	1005 from Colchester
1102 from Brightlingsea	1305 from Colchester
1402 from Brightlingsea	1505 from Colchester
1602 from Brightlingsea	

Standard fares will apply including the Hedingham Anywhere Day ticket at £7."

Mark comments that the 87 seems an odd choice when the 88 is a very long standing Hedingham route. He wonders it is intended to use S300 XHK (if this is still available)? Your Editor wonders whether the fact that the 88 is sort of jointly operated with First Essex would have created a problem or two by running "extras".

EBN632p19

Peter Mansbridge with thanks to John Card, Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski and Keith Sadler.

Colchester has lost its double deck allocation, following cessation of contract services to Grampian Country Foods at Witham (Services 801/2/3 Ipswich / Harwich – Witham withdrawn from 23 October). Scania Omnidekkas 5372 (AY55 DKA) and 5373 (YN06 TFZ) had departed by 2 November and are at Gillingham. Volvo B7TL/Wright 6131 (LF02 PLO) transferred to Tunbridge Wells on 9 November. The remaining 'deckers Volvo B7TL/ Wrights 6130/2 (LF02 PLN / LJ03 MHV) were stood down week beginning 14 November but did not leave Colchester for Tunbridge Wells until the following week. 6132 was reinstated on 16 November and used on service 8 due to a vehicle shortage.

Further Alexander Dennis Enviro 200s at Colchester ex Guildford are 4011/2 (GN58 BTO/U). Further to last month Enviro 200 4017 entered service from Colchester carrying full Guildford Route 91 branding.



Picture above Former Guildford based E200 4017 has entered service at Colchester still with its branding for route 91 (Woking - Goldsmith Park - Knaphill). Photographed on route 8 in Mill Road, Highwoods on 8 November 16. **Russell Young.**

Dart SLFs 3330 (X522 GGO) and 3333 (W465 KXK) have been withdrawn at **Colchester** and are now in store at **Southend**. Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3819 (GN07 AVF) is a further vehicle to lose SX Connect colours (service 133) for Arriva livery.

At **Southend**, DAF SB120/ Wright 3501 (KE51 PTZ) and 3530 (LF02 PNK) are withdrawn and in store. Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3815 (GN07 AVB) is back at Southend from Harlow.

Harlow allocated Citaro 3897 (BU06 HSL) has received Arriva colours ex Green Line livery.



Russell couldn't get to the E200 that was out on Saturday 5 November, as he wasn't in Colchester and they didn't put one out on Sunday when he was! So he popped out on Wednesday 7 and photographed 4011 in Turner Road this morning on the 8 (pic attached). It was received just too late for EBN631 but he thought it but may be useful for this issue just as a reminder of him! **Russell Young.**

Arriva in Herts and Essex Christmas and New Year Services.

Saturday 24th December (Christmas Eve)

Saturday services will run but with early finishes.

Sunday 25th December (Christmas Day)

No services will run, except: Services 133, 309 and 510 will run special timetables.

Monday 26th December (Boxing Day)

No services will run, except: Services 133, 309 and 510 will run special timetables. Ensign Bus Service X10 will run a half-hourly Service between Southend, Basildon and Lakeside.

Tuesday 27th December

Sunday services will run.

Wednesday 28th, Thursday 29th and Friday 30th December

Monday to Friday services will run, except: Southend Services 1, 7/8, 9 and 29 will run Saturday services.

Saturday 31st December (New Year's Eve)

Saturday services will run but with early finishes.

Sunday 1st January (New Year's Day)

No services will run, except: Services 133, 309 and 510 will run special timetables.

Monday 2nd January

Sunday services will run.

· See more at: <https://www.arrivabus.co.uk/herts-and-essex/floating/christmas-and-new-year-bus-services-2016-2017/#sthash.MWvDB6M2.dpuf>



Ensignbus

Dealing Stock Movements

November 2016.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

From private preservation RF213

Abellio London	YN51 KVP	Tridents
	LG52 XWE	
	YN51 KVZ	
Go-Ahead London	BX04 AZW/U/BKL/K	Volvo B7TL's
	LG02 KHU	
	LB02 YXN / YXJ	
	LF52 ZRC/ZPW/ZTR/ZSO/ZRT	
	ZRZ/ZRC/ZPW/ZTR/ZPM/ZRU	
	/ZTO/THG/THN	
	LX53 AZR / BDO	
	LX05 FBU/EZJ/FAM/FAO/FBU/ EZJ/CFA	
Metroline	PJ52 LWH/LWK-N/S/U/X	
	LK05 GHG / GGX / GGV / GGY	Tridents
	LK03 GKF	Volvo B7TL
Rotala	YN06 RVP	Merc Cheetah
Stagecoach Lincolnshire	X793 GHG	Trident
Stagecoach Merseyside	LY02 OAZ	Trident
	PX55 EDJ/F/L/O/K	Darts
	S825/6/8/9/32 BWC	Tridents
Stagecoach North East	V167 /168/169 DFT	Tridents
Stagecoach Yorkshire	S807 BWC	Tridents
	LV52 HDO/LV52 HFA/LX03 BWD	
	YK05 CCV	Solo

Vehicles Out

Avondale Coaches, Glasgow	PN06 UYU	Dart
Carters Coaches, Northants	YN03 ZXC	Solo's
	YS02 WWA	
Compass Travel, Worthing	YX09 FKV	Enviro 200
D and E Coaches, Inverness	LW51 ZGU	
Dublin	B7TL was 01-D-10214	
Faresaver, Chippenham	YI15 AYE / AYH	Solos
First Bus Stop, Gravesend	LX04 FYH / FYP	Tridents
Fords Coaches, Althorne, Essex		
	T650 KPU	Tridents
	S804 BWC	
Grant Palmer, Dunstable	LX04 FTD	Trident
Imperial Coaches, Slough	R698 DNH	Olympians
	P160 KAK	
Lloyds Coaches, Machynlleth, Powys		
	SN15 ETF / ETE / ETD	Scania's
Marshalls Coaches, Sutton-on-Trent, Notts		
	LX53 JZL/JZU JZR JYN	Tridents
	LX03 OSE/V	
Mulleys, Bury-St-Edmonds	LW51 ZHI	
Dublin	B7TL was 01-D-10215	
Oak Coaches, Kingswood, Surrey		
	LG02 KHU	Volvo B7TL
Red Route Buses, Northfleet, Kent		
	LK05 GHG / GGX	Tridents
Sleafordian Coaches, Sleaford, Lincs		
	BX04 BAA / BAU / BAV	Volvo B7TL's
Sullivan Buses, South Mimms		
	LJ09 OKZ/OKB/OJZ/OKG/T	
		Enviro 400's
Swanbrook, Cheltenham	V159 / 166 DFT	Tridents
Tanat Valley, Oswestry, Shropshire		
	YJ57 YCB / YJ58 CEK	Versa's
YMS Travel, Canterbury	YG52 CLO	DAF



Ensignbus
omnibus suppliers to the world

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements

November 2016, continued.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL PG04 WHR : Killarney Executive Tour Co, Killarney,

Eire.

MAN YR52 YSY Mike Lawrenson, Preston.

Tridents LR02 LZE / LR02 BBU / W181 SCU

DAF LF52 TKT MC Tractors for scrap.

Trident LK03 UFD Broadheath Primary School, Coventry.



Ensignbus
omnibus suppliers to the world

Ensign Fleet – November 2016

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Trident 195 GVV 205 East Lancs Lolyne purchased from Helms
in 2011 (W5 ACL) has been sold to Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx.



Ensignbus
omnibus suppliers to the world

Overflowing Letters Page!

**David Grimmert (The Hairy Bus Driver)
from Minehead.**

The Power of the Press!

Just getting ready to do my bus driving and thought you might find this amusing:

I was driving the 28 (Minehead to Taunton) yesterday and picked up someone at Taunton railway station with a rail ticket from Frinton to Minehead, not a common journey.

"Didn't I see your picture in the Essex Bus News?" enquired the traveller.

"Well, yes", I replied somewhat taken aback.

I've never been identified from EBN before!

I didn't get the chap's surname but there can't be too many Peregrine's from Frinton in the EBEG ranks.

**From a renewal slip via Richard Delahoy. Well
done to the Editorial Team.**

"As ever, a special thanks to you and the team for providing such a little gem as the Essex Bus News and the team's dedication and enthusiasm". And as a bonus, he has signed up a new member for us as well!

**Alan Cross of Wigan
A Cautionary Tale!**

Many thanks for EBN631. Yours is the only magazine issued by any of the societies I belong to where interesting personal reminiscences are shared with members.

Thanks to Nigel Turner for his letter in EBN631p31 thanking me for visiting Braintree in Spring 1950. However, I must own up that the photos were taken by a close friend, the late Allen T Smith. In 1947, he introduced me into the art of taking bus photos and between us, we tried to photograph every pre-war London bus, which were being withdrawn in ever greater numbers. I tended to concentrate on London but in the early '50s, Allen started recording provincial buses as well, hence the Hicks ones which were taken on Sunday 30 April 1950, along with a number of Eastern National ones as well.

Sadly, Allen became obsessed with recording anything (transport related) which moved and by the late 1960s it so affected his marriage that his wife left him. He became a recluse and eventually it became too much for him and in 1969 he fell under a train at Clapham Junction. His estranged wife promptly set to and started to put his records and ephemera into skips. The negatives taken between 1946 and early April 1949 went that way. Fortunately, a friend realised what she was doing and rescued many thousands of negatives taken from April 1949 until his demise. By a blessed miracle, this friend contacted me and I took them on with open arms. I estimated there were about 40,000 uncatalogued negs, often with no information of operator or date. I still have to catalogue many of these 47 years on! The task was so time consuming, I concentrated on the oldest and most interesting, leaving the monotonous RT family.

EBN632p23

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, Essex County Standard & John Podgorski.

Allocations

92	P910 RYO	CN to KN	31/10	
701	T801 RFG	CN		Following DDA conversion at H&D Trim. Had been at SY.
714	T814 RFG	CN		Reinstated – to be confirmed if DDA modified.
723	W823 NNJ	CN		Reinstated but towed to H&D Trim for DDA modifications.
726	W826 NNJ	CN		Reinstated – to be confirmed if DDA modified.

Arrivals

513 LB02 YXE Volvo B7TL Wright Gemini H43/29F Ex Anglianbus via Konect
(Arrived in Hedingham livery). Reported to be YXA and YXF following.

These were originally VWL class with Go Ahead London and were converted from 2 door to single door and were on loan from Konect to Anglianbus.

Ford Transit M16 YT12 DBZ is being used again from Robertson's vehicle hire.

Withdrawals

70	P612 CAY	14/11 withdrawn on MOT expiry.
74	R702 DNH	9/11 withdrawn at HD depot.
84	M276 UKN	November withdrawn at HD depot.
90	N427 JBV	Withdrawn 24/11 after use on schools on MOT expiry.

84 had been previously withdrawn in July 2015 and reinstated to cover other vehicle breakdowns and withdrawals, having been in store at Beccles.

Modifications

702	T802 RFG	At H&D Trim November 2016 for DDA modifications.
729	W829 NNJ	At H&D Trim as above.

Services

Service 2 Harwich circular was back in the hands of Hedingham buses and drivers by 14 November, it had been operated on Hedingham's behalf by Panther Travel.

General

Hedingham's Twitter account has offered Olympians for sale at the end of the year. Applications were requested to be supplied before 1 December.

Trident 743 now has red Hedingham fleet names on its Anglianbus colours.

With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group & John Podgorski.

Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

First Essex ECC

leaflets for 15/A/B/25/A/B; 20; 21/B/X; 22/28; 26/27/X all dated 28.8.16
leaflets for 13/13A/14/94/94A/94B/94C dated 2.10.16; 47 dated 6.11.16
and Bus and Train Map for Essex dated September 2016

NIBS Buses Regal Buses

leaflet for 50 (Shotgate - Ingatestone Anglo European) dated 1.9.16 (on their website)
leaflet for 52 dated 3.10.16

GoRide

leaflet for 79 dated 31.10.16

Inconsiderate Parking Is Not A New Phenomenon!

John Rugg.



John Rugg has “dug out” these two pictures, taken in Orsett in 1991. They show Harris Bus D301 PEV operating on 552 (Thurrock – Basildon) Sunday only service. The left-hand picture shows the problem facing the driver, “how do I get the bus through that gap?”. The enterprising driver had an answer! He asked the male passengers to get off and “bounce” one of the cars aside so he could squeeze the bus through.

A Very Happy Christmas and Healthy and Successful New Year

to all EBN readers and Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group members.

Every edition of EBN this year has dispatched earlier than programmed and has been a full 36 pages. Much of the undoubted success of EBN and the group is due to its contributors and photographers and I wish to sincerely thank everyone who has submitted something for publication. Not everything can be published and some of you will have been disappointed that their effort seems to have been wasted. Reasons for not using an item or picture include quality, decency and the fact that when something new or interesting happens, quite a few of our members turn out to record the event. I often get a three or four similar [or sometimes seemingly identical] pictures from eager omnibologists. Despite this, please do continue to record, report and submit. And don't forget the ordinary and humdrum; even these become valuable in the fullness of time.

I don't normally discard anything until it is used so you may find something you sent a while ago appearing, especially when routine news is a bit limited.

Special thanks are also due to our printers who have served us extremely well during the year. Martin, Phil and the design and production staff have (seemingly) effortlessly turned my art work into something really rather good, even when they had to move premises. That was so well organised, we hardly noticed any change! Thank you Directcds.

The Ensign Running Day;

Richard Delahoy and Chris Stewart.



The Ensign Running Day on 3 December followed a similar pattern to recent years but with the Upminster to Brentwood service extended on to Ongar over the route that Ensign run commercially as the 21, and hence was renumbered X21. That number just happened to look exactly right on their former Southend Transport Leyland Tiger/Duple Caribbean coach 250, as X21 was used by ST for the Shoeburyness to London commuter service. Here 250 has just turned on the Four Wantz roundabout at the north end of Ongar ready to return to Upminster. **Richard Delahoy.**



Also on the new X21 Upminster-Brentwood-Ongar route, was one of the vehicles on which was former Eastern National MW6G coach 331 (7017HK) of 1958. This has been in preservation with various owners since withdrawal in 1970 and has undergone a complete engine rebuild whilst with Ensign. Driver Paul Ashman was surprised to be joined at Ongar (Four Wantz) by your correspondent and owner David Bateman in David's Red & White MW6G JAX117E, which was not in public use but shadowed the coach back to Brentwood.

Continued <<<<

cont. from above right Thought to be the last MW bus to enter service in the country (in 1967, hence the 'E' suffix), there were only two more MW buses with higher chassis and body numbers - Western National FTA239/40D, of which FTA240D also had an Essex connection as it ran for Golden Boy of Roydon from 1979-82. **Chris Stewart.**

Caption for lower picture on inner front cover The Ensign running day offers some opportunities for "what might have beens". The long-lamented City Coach Company of Brentwood had a batch of six Leyland Royal Tigers with centre-entrance coach bodies on order when they were taken over by Westcliff and they materialised as Burlingham bodied FJN 208-212/218. Sadly, none have survived, but Ensign do have this ex- East Kent 1951 Leyland Royal Tiger with centre-entrance coach body, built by Park Royal to a less flamboyant style than City's Burlingham examples. It thus looked completely at home in the former City territory! Richard Delahoy rode it from Upminster to Ongar and then caught it in the winter sun at Ongar Two Brewers, on the bridge over Crispsey Brook, a tributary of the River Roding, heading back towards Brentwood and Upminster – pity the crew had forgotten to change the specially prepared destination blind!

EBN632p26



More on the Ensign Running Day

upper picture First public appearance for 1938 Bedford WTB/Duple EYE 599 new to Underwood of Orsett. **John G. Lidstone.**

Lower picture 1932 Leyland Titan TD2/Leyland 25 (J 6332) new to JMT, now amazingly re-registered 6332 J in UK! Engine not yet back from engineering, so the bus was brought on tow for display - how excellent! **John G. Lidstone.**



Thorpe Hall Avenue Bridge ... by John G. Lidstone.



There you go, tram and
Enviro400 MMC interest
in one article!

All pictures this and next
page by
John G. Lidstone.



... is the reason why Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend) had to have low-height Enviro400 MMCs. These are cab-'plated' as 13ft 10ins. The bridge has differing heights - northbound at 14ft 9ins and southbound at a challenging 14ft 0ins.

The centre span is where the toast rack circular tour trams once ran and, when waiting for 6512 (SN66 WJJ) to come up and 'shoot' the bridge, I was interested to see the tramway overhead 'hangers' are still extant - and in good condition - under the centre span [lower picture].



Smaller Operators

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

Blueline, Canewdon

Further to last month's photo of SA09 ASH, a Van Hool of Coach Innovations, it should be noted that this vehicle bore a sticker in the front windscreen stating "on hire to Blueline".

Bourne & Cantwell (L&R), Basildon

Recently arrived here is YN07 EBO, a Neoplan C49FT, previously with Huyton Mini Coaches, Widnes, Cheshire.

Falconrise (Roman), Colchester

Bova Futura FHD 127, C53FT, reg. YJ11 ANU is here from Travelstar, Walsall, West Midlands.

Lodge, High Easter

Setra S416 GT-HD has reverted to its original registration of BV55 FPN from 46 AEW and is now with Ffoshelig, Carmarthen, South Wales whilst similar KE08 YFX (ex O8-KE-1, an Irish reg.) has been re-registered with the 46 AEW plate. Meanwhile, BX06 OAU, a BMC 850 C35F is now with Croxford (Graham Hire Services), Stansted Airport.

London Bus Company/Epping Ongar Railway

"Preservation Corner" by Paul Robinson.

The following vehicles, and possibly others, have been used during the 2016 season:

Double deckers on route 339 have included green RT1700, RT3228, RT3238 along with red RT3871, RT3933, RTL1076, RTW75, RM1933 and RM1996. Single decks RF180 and new for this year RF636 have been on the 381 and have, no doubt, appeared on the 339 occasionally.



My stock of LBC pictures has disappeared into the ether due to a hard-drive failure (both of the computer and the Editor!) so I am including the closest I have got! More of interest from the Ensignbus Vintage Fleet running day so still topical. LT AEC Regal IV RF319 (MLL 956) working the last X21, at Upminster.

John G. Lidstone.

The Letters Page

Andrew Colebourne by email.

Robert Appleton has produced another interesting article about route 123. I didn't know that the operation of VR375 was a one off; I had previously found a picture of it taken in Clacton bus station in the Eric Thompson Memorial Collection on the SCT61 website (see <http://www.sct61.org.uk/gallery/etm/ecvr375>). The caption gives the date as July 1969, but I assume that is an error and should be June as noted in Robert's article.

Route 123, Essex Coast Express, Kino Road, etc.

I noted Dave Grimmett's query on the use of Eastern National double deckers on the Essex Coast Express services in EBN628 and I see no-one has answered it. I never saw such workings but a related matter is the use of coach-FLFs on services to North East Essex. I recall seeing one from a distance in Walton once but was not close enough to see if it was in service. However, eventually I did track down two photographs of such vehicles on route X27 to Clacton and Walton, these being SD2601 and SD2603, both taken in Clacton but displaying the "Clacton & Walton" destination. The picture of SD2603 is in the Group's collection and I assume is the one listed on the FLF order form (I bought mine at a rally). Was the X27 regularly worked by these vehicles?

Of perhaps more relevance to the question is another photograph I purchased somewhere which shows 2608 with CN allocation plates at Harwich garage and showing the destination X80 Harwich. I know that the Harwich section of the service was sometimes operated as a connection from Colchester - was that the case here? What was the purpose of allocating 2608 to Clacton? I have attached a scan of the picture as there is no copyright statement or photographer's name on the original.



A double deck working I think I saw passing Walton garage one day was of National Travel South East's AEC Regent open topper PFN 879 presumably deputising for a failed coach. Can anyone confirm that did happen?

I would like to ask a question regarding the Kino Road premises that older members may be able to answer. I'd like to know the internal colour scheme of the garage building before it was repainted in NBC days. The one picture I have found giving a clue is on the SCT61 site (<http://www.sct61.org.uk/en2363>) and appears to show that the internal brickwork was unpainted except below window sill level; what was the colour used? Was the inside colour of the doors the same? Externally I believe the doors were yellowish-green and the rainwater goods similar, but confirmation would be welcome. I would be interested to see any pictures of the building from the pre-NBC period, particularly any showing the interior and any colour ones (the group does have a colour picture of Commer Avenger 102 at Walton, but that is the only pre-NBC colour one I know of).

EBN632p31



Ensign Running Day

Top picture

Amongst several 'firsts', seen at the Ensign Running Day was Colin Thorne's recently restored Northern Counties-bodied Olympian H105GEV, new to County Bus at Grays for the Rainham-Romford 103 but which subsequently worked for Grey Green, Arriva North West and a couple of independents before being bought this year from the liquidators of GHA Coaches. It was seen in Brentwood ahead of former Eastern National MW6G 7017HK as Southend Transport Tiger 250 passed the other way towards Ongar.

Chris Stewart.



Centre picture

Also at Ensignbus's annual vintage running day, held on 3 December 2016, again, in Brentwood High Street: RT3232 on route X81 from Grays to Shenfield.

Adam Kelleher.



Lower picture

LT Scania-engined AEC Routemaster RM1361 (VYJ 808, orig 361 CLT) about to depart Upminster.

John G. Lidstone.

