

Essex Bus News

**No. 618
OCTOBER
2015**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk

£4
where sold



Left:

Another transfer in to "Arriva Colchester" is Arriva Southern Counties Volvo 3815 from Northfleet. It retains Kent Fasttrack livery. Photographed on route 133 in Godmans Lane, Marks Tey on Monday 5 October 2015; its first day of service north of the Thames.

Russell Young.



above: CF34305 had a rare outing in public service, and even more rarely on coach route X30, on the morning of Wednesday 9 September. By chance, **Nigel Clark** was on his way to London when the bus came round the corner at Rayleigh station and he managed to capture this photo. It's looking quite neat and tidy; but has it been fitted with leather seats and wi-fi? Ed.

Front Cover Picture.

On accompanying Astromega 245 back to base after the X1 run on Sunday 4 October, John was struck by the striking contrast of Ensign's smart fleet against the deepest colour of the last light of day in the night sky. **John G. Lidstone.**

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

Black & White Photo Sales

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

Subscriptions Held for yet another year; see note ENB618p4.

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.

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:

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Reports and observations

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

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

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

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

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

SOUTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Richard Delahoy.

*** **SEE IMPORTANT NOTICE ON EBN618p4.** ***

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

Wednesday 21 October

1980 and earlier slides from the Peter Snell collection. Richard Delahoy.

Wednesday 18 November

South-West & Wales 2014 Rally Round-up. Exeter, Winkleigh, Kingsbridge, WSM, Barry & Llandudno. Owen Woodliffe.

Wednesday 16 December

Xmas Social and 20 years ago slide show.

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

Venue: downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1915 for informal chat, and often an impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £1.50 donation towards room hire, please. Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 13 November ...

Steve Maskell.

Friday 11 December ...

Gary Sharpe.

2016 dates are 8 January, 12 February, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 September, 14 October, 11 Nov, 9 Dec.

A Blast From The Past.

Paul Harvey.



Eastern National 1925 MHJ 721V Leyland National Mk2 seen on service 24 at Rayleigh Weir during 1980. **Paul Harvey.**

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

EVENTS

Saturday 24 October

Sunday 1 November

Romford area Running Day.

Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum Open Day.

Saturday 14 November

Sunday 15 November

Saturday 5 December

LOTS Autumn Spectacular. RAF Museum, Colindale NW9

Ipswich Transport Museum. Special event to celebrate 50 years.

Ensignbus vintage Running Day.

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

South Essex meetings. Paul Harvey.

The organiser of our monthly meetings at Wickford/Hockley, Richard Delahoy, has decided to stand down from that post at the end of this year, after probably over 20 years in the role. Attendances have been variable of late and the committee will be discussing the future of the meetings, but there can only be a future if we can find a volunteer to take on the job. It involves setting the dates, booking the venues, identifying and booking speakers and running the meetings. The organiser would be expected to look after the Group's slide projector, stand and screen and take these to the meetings.

Could you take on this role? If so, please contact the Chairman, Paul Harvey, contacts details on EBN618p1.



EOS parent, Swallow Coach Co have gained the exclusive Forest School, Snaresbrook contract after some 30 years operation by Wests and their successor, Dan's Travel and two Scania/ Caetano Levante have been obtained. All-white FJ59 AOV is ex Transdev Bournemouth Transport 328 with National Express branding removed.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN618p3

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Membership Renewals

Your committee is delighted to announce that subscriptions have again been frozen for 2016 and hence remain at £21 for UK members (air mail rates will be notified separately). We believe that this continues to represent good value for money with an excellent 36-page magazine published every month. A renewal form is enclosed with this issue, please return this with payment to ensure your membership will continue uninterrupted. Payment can also be made at the Wickford or Colchester meetings.

The Essex Bus Archive

In July we announced the start of an ongoing project to create a lasting and accessible digital archive of Group and operator records. The first stage has now been completed, with the digitisation of almost 700 documents spanning around 10,000 pages! The core comprises all of our news-sheets and magazines from issue 1 in 1964 through to the end of 2014. We've also digitised many of the old Group publications, including the EN Fleet Record 1964-1982, Fact File booklets, the Essex operator fleet books we published in 1989 & 1991, Southend Transport fleet lists, route working lists, etc – the list is almost endless.

All of the documents are in pdf format and are available to members free of charge as a complete set of files on a memory stick. All we ask is you to cover the cost of the memory stick and postage. To obtain the complete set so far, please send a cheque for £5 (payable to EBEG) to Richard Delahoy, 272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT or send the payment via PayPal to admin@signal-training.com, remembering to quote your address.

In due course all of the material will be available on a dedicated web site, but that part of the project is a way off yet. We also plan to digitise many of the old company records that we hold, although the size and format of some poses some interesting challenges, eg for EN's monthly allocation cards! If you have bus operator records (as opposed to enthusiast publications) for Essex bus and coach companies - such as fleet lists, letterheads, vehicle records and the like - that you could lend for copying, please get in touch. Generally we will not be digitising timetable books or service leaflets, due to the huge page counts, but may do so on a selective basis with items of particular interest or significance.

Marketing/Publicity Officer

Do you have the skills and knowledge to become our Publicity Officer? We are looking for someone who can organise and prepare adverts and listings for the group in magazines, arrange membership leaflets to distribute on the sales stand, at museums, etc. and be proactive to marketing the group and it's activities to secure new members.

Bus Service Changes Sub-Editor

Are you interested in bus service changes and willing to compile a monthly report for EBN?

Do you have the Investigation skills required to obtain information from VOSA and review bus operator, Traveline and other transport websites to gather the relevant information and present in a format suitable for EBN?

South Essex meetings – so important we show it twice!

Richard Delahoy, the organiser of our monthly meetings at Wickford/Hockley, Richard Delahoy, has decided to stand down from that post at the end of this year, after probably over 20 years in the role. Attendances have been variable of late and the committee will be discussing the future of the meetings, but there can only be a future if we can find a volunteer to take on the job. It involves setting the dates, booking the venues, identifying and booking speakers and running the meetings. The organiser would be expected to look after the Group's slide projector, stand and screen and take these to the meetings. Could **you** take on any of these roles? If so, please contact the Chairman:

3 Orangewood Close, Gonerby Hill Foot, GRANTHAM NG31 8QW

pw.harvey@ntlworld.com

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your local connection across Essex and beyond

NETWORK
COLCHESTER

CHELMSFORD and EPPING TOWN.

The Lion Motor Services Time-Table.

MONDAY TO SATURDAY.

Chelmsford Station	Depart	7-35	9-3	...	1-30	3-50	4-55	7-25	8-10	10-30
Cherry Tree	Arrive	7-39	9-8	...	1-35	3-55	5-0	7-28	8-15	10-35
Writtle, Rose & Crown	...	7-45	9-15	...	1-42	4-4	5-7	7-36	8-22	10-45
Oxney Green	...	7-50	9-18	...	1-45	4-7	5-10	7-40	8-25	10-50
Writtle, Fox & Goose	...	7-55	9-22	...	1-49	...	5-14	...	8-29	10-55
Norton Heath	...	...	9-26	...	1-53	...	5-18	...	8-33	10-59
High Ongar	...	...	9-30	...	1-57	...	5-22	...	8-37	11-5
Ongar, King's Head	...	...	9-38	...	2-5	...	5-30	...	8-45	11-15
" " "	Depart	...	9-41	10-50	2-10	...	5-35	...	8-47	...
Blake Hall Lane	Arrive	...	9-47	10-56	2-16	...	5-41	...	8-53	...
Tylers Green	...	...	9-53	11-2	2-22	...	5-47	...	8-59	...
N. Weald, Queen's Head	...	...	9-57	11-6	2-26	...	5-51	...	9-2	...
Epping Town, Cock Hotel	...	...	10-5	11-15	2-35	...	6-0	...	9-10	...

Epping Town, Cock Hotel	Depart	...	...	10-15	11-30	2-40	...	6-10	...	9-15
N. Weald, Queen's Head	"	...	...	10-24	11-38	2-49	...	6-18	...	9-23
Tyler's Green	...	...	...	10-28	11-42	2-53	...	6-21	...	9-26
Blake Hall Lane	...	...	...	10-34	11-47	2-59	...	6-27	...	9-32
Ongar Kings Head	Arrive	...	...	10-40	11-53	3-5	...	6-33	...	9-38
" " "	Depart	6-45	...	11-53	3-10	...	...	6-35	...	9-40
High Ongar	...	6-53	...	12-6	3-18	...	...	6-43	...	9-48
Norton Heath	...	7-1	...	12-12	3-22	...	...	6-47	...	9-52
Writtle, Fox & Goose	...	7-5	8-5	...	12-16	3-26	...	6-51	...	9-56
Oxney Green	...	7-10	8-15	...	12-20	3-30	4-23	6-55	7-45	10-0
Writtle, Rose & Crown	...	7-13	8-18	...	12-23	3-33	4-25	6-58	7-48	10-3
Cherry Tree	...	7-23	8-25	...	12-30	3-40	4-34	7-5	7-57	10-10
Chelmsford Station	Arrive	7-30	8-30	...	12-35	3-45	4-40	7-10	8-2	10-15

SUNDAYS.

Chelmsford Station	Depart	...	1-30	4-10	5-5	8-10	10-30	...
Cherry Tree	"	...	1-35	4-16	5-10	8-15	10-35	...
Writtle, Rose & Crown	...	...	1-42	4-25	5-17	8-22	10-45	...
Oxney Green	...	...	1-45	4-28	5-20	8-25	10-50	...
Writtle, Fox & Goose	...	...	1-49	...	5-24	8-34	10-53	...
Norton Heath	...	...	1-53	...	5-28	8-38	10-59	...
High Ongar	...	...	1-57	...	5-32	8-42	11-3	...
Ongar, King's Head	Arrive	...	2-5	...	5-40	8-50	11-10	...
" " "	Depart	...	2-7	...	5-45	8-52	...	...
Blake Hall Lane	...	...	2-13	...	5-51	8-58	...	...
Tylers Green	...	...	2-19	...	5-57	9-4	...	...
N. Weald, Queen's Head	...	...	2-22	...	6-1	9-6	...	...
Epping Town, Cock Hotel	Arrive	...	2-30	...	6-10	9-15	...	...

Epping Town, Cock Hotel	Depart	...	2-40	...	6-25	9-20	...
N. Weald, Queen's Head	"	...	2-49	...	6-34	9-28	...
Tylers Green	...	...	2-53	...	6-38	9-31	...
Blake Hall Lane	...	...	2-59	...	6-44	9-37	...
Ongar, Kings Head	Arrive	...	3-5	...	6-50	9-43	...
" " "	Depart	12-30	3-10	...	6-53	9-45	...
High Ongar	...	12-40	3-18	...	7-1	9-53	...
Norton Heath	...	12-46	3-22	...	7-5	9-57	...
Writtle, Fox & Goose	...	12-50	3-26	...	7-8	10-1	...
Oxney Green	...	12-55	3-30	4-38	7-12	10-5	...
Writtle, Rose & Crown	...	12-58	3-33	4-41	7-15	10-8	...
Cherry Tree	...	1-8	3-40	4-50	7-22	10-15	...
Chelmsford Station	Arrive	1-15	3-45	4-56	7-25	10-20	...

Please forward any inquiries or suggestions to:— The LION
MOTOR SERVICES, 25 Albert Avenue, South Chingford, Essex.
Telephone: CHINGFORD 108.

**The
6-18pm
for
EBN618!**

Just for a change;
the Lion Bus at 6-
18pm (1818
hours!) at North
Weald, Queen's
Head gives an
opportunity to
share this undated
timetable from a
long-gone bus
company.

Readers are invited
to supply further
information about
the possible date
and the operator.

The reproduction is
not very good as I
have printed this
from a many times
photocopied
original.

I can't recall who I
got this and a late
bundle of other late
1920 – early
1930s timetables
from. Perhaps the
kind donor will
"own up" and I can
give the correct
recognition in a
future issue of
EBN.

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Arriva Kent Thameside

1 Sept 15	301	M-S	Stansted Airport to Saffron Walden: revision to timetable and route in Saffron Walden (see EBN616p15) also withdrawn between Bishop Stortford & Stansted Airport (updated info).
17 Oct 15	347	M-S	Romford to Ockendon: new contract service.
11 Nov 15	1	M-S	Harlow Circular: revision to route and timetable.



Spotted undertaking driver training duties in Shoeburyness on Saturday 1 August was Arriva Dart 3098, R298CMV, in the dedicated cream training livery. Southend Corporation, Westcliff & Eastern National buses used to terminate here when the area was named after the (long-demolished) Cambridge Hotel, on the ground to the side of the Morrisons store, itself built on the site of the former Palace Cinema.

Richard Delahoy.

Arrow Taxis

1 Sept 15	DART99	M-F	Tillingham to Chelmsford: revised route and timetable for DRT service.
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Brentwood Community Transport

1 Nov 15	808	M-F	Brentwood Community Hospital circular: revised route.
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Ensign Bus

1 Sept 15	26	Coll	Corbets Tey to Palmers College: revision to timetable.
	24	Coll	Aveley to Palmers College: revision to timetable.
7 Sept 15	27	Sch	Sockets Heath to Hassenbrook Academy: revision to route and timetable.

Essex County Council (Community Link)

5 Sept 15	10	Sat	Chrishall to Bishop Stortford: new contract service.
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First 4 Oct 15	5	D	Basildon to Pitsea: minor timetable changes.
	20	D	Southend to Hullbridge: minor timetable changes especially in the peak periods.
	21/A	D	Southend to Canvey: revised timetable with service 21A commercial journeys to be withdrawn from Manchester Drive and operate via 21 route. Supported service 21B will continue to serve Manchester Drive evenings.
19 Oct 15	23	M-F	Southend to Southchurch: service withdrawn
	25/A	D	Southend to Basildon: minor timetable revisions to morning peak service.
	27	D	Canvey to Temple Sutton: minor timetable changes to the early morning peak timetable.
	21	D	Black Notley to Deanery Gardens: day time commercial service withdrawn. No change to the Evening & Sunday contract service.
1 Nov 15	30	M-S	Beckers Green to Marks Farm: service withdrawn.
	61/A	D	Colchester to University: revised route and timetable, now terminates at Wivenhoe instead of University and extended from North Station to Highwoods. Revised Sunday 61A t'table.
	62	D	Colchester to Wivenhoe: revised timetable.
	65	D	Stanway to Highwoods: revised timetable.
	66	M-S	West Bergholt to Rowhedge: minor early morning timing changes.
	67	M-S	Colchester to West Mersea: revised timetable and route, now terminates in Town Centre instead of Hospital.
	75	M-S	Colchester University to Maldon: revised peak time timetable with more journeys extended to Maldon.
	88/A	M-S	Colchester to Great Yeldham: revised morning peak timetable.
	100	D	Lakeside to Chelmsford: revision to timetable.
	102-104	D	Colchester to Harwich: revised morning peak timetable.
	106	M-S	Colchester to Harwich: service withdrawn.
	47	M-S	Chelmsford to Broomfield Hospital: service withdrawn.
	70	M-S	Chelmsford to Colchester via Braintree: revised Mon to Fri timetable with journeys re-timed at peak times.
2 Nov 15	71/A/C/X	M-S	Colchester to Chelmsford: revised timetable with most journeys operating as 71 via Main Road Boreham & calling at Sainburys Stanway instead of Tollgate Retail Park. The existing Mon to Fri peak time journeys between Chelmsford and New Dukes Way will be renumbered 71B (see below).
	71B	M-F	Chelmsford to Chelmer Village: new service providing 12 return journeys.
	72	M-F	Chelmsford to Chelmer Village: service withdrawn.
	72	M-S	Chelmsford to Witham Conrad Road: new service.
	131/2	M-S	Witham to Halstead: services withdrawn.



First Essex took over operation of Sunday and Bank Holiday ECC tendered services 1/1A, 102 and 352 from Network Colchester on 30 August. On the first day, CR62407 on the 102 illustrating its relatively rare Colchester fleet names.
Adam Kelleher.

Services Changes by Paul Harvey, continued.

Galleon Travel (Trustybus)			
13 Sept 15	410/A/X	M-S	Harlow to Waltham Cross: introduction of Sunday service with a revision to weekday timetable. It is understood the Sunday service commenced 23 August 15 (updated info).
16 Nov 15	419/420	M-S	Harlow to Epping/Ongar: new services.
Go Ahead (Blue Triangle)			
17 Oct 15	347	M-S	Romford to Ockendon: contract service withdrawn
Go Ahead (Chambers)			
30 Nov 15	83/84	M-S	Colchester to Sudbury: minor change to timetable.



Chambers 568 (W458 WGH), Volvo/Plaxton President in the original version of the new livery without the lower front panel in light red, in Colchester High Street inbound from Sudbury on 8 September. **Ken Coldwell.**

Hadleigh Community Transport			
3 Sept 15	745	TWSSu	Manningtree to Dedham: summer service withdrawn.
	796	TWSSu	Manningtree to Hadleigh: summer Sunday service withdrawn.

Myall & Sons			
30 Aug 15	101	Tue	Saffron Walden to Whittlesford: revision to route in Saffron Walden (see EBN616p15).
	132	Sun	Cambridge to Saffron Walden: revision to route in Saffron Walden (see EBN616p15).

National Express

11 Oct 15	A5	D	Stansted Airport to London Golders Green/Baker Street: new coach service.
	A6	D	Stansted Airport to London Victoria: coach service withdrawn.
	A7	D	Stansted Airport to London Victoria: new coach service.
12 Oct 15	350	D	Liverpool to Southend: revision to route and timetable not serving Stockbridge or Chesterfield.
	370	D	Runcorn to Clacton: new coach service.

NIBS

1 Nov 15	478	Sch	Willingale to Brentwood: revision to route and timetable.
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Olympian Coaches

14 Sept 15	741A	M-F	Harlow to Bishop Stortford: coach service withdrawn.
15 Sept 15	741	M-F	Harlow to London Victoria: revised timetable with service reduced to two return journeys.

Panther Travel

19 Oct 15	30	M-S	Beckers Green to Marks Farm: new contract service replacing First's service 30 operating to a revised route and timetable.
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Regal Busways

5 Oct 15	1	M-F	Canvey to Chelmsford: revised running times for two early morning journeys with the first journey from Canvey to operate as express from Tarpots to Chelmsford as 1X.
	322	Sch	Old Harlow to Saffron Walden: revision to route in Saffron Walden (see EBN616 p15).



Regal's 702 and 652 parked at Chelmsford Bus Station on 21 August show the difference in rear bodywork between an Enviro 200 on a MAN chassis (702) and on an Enviro 200 Dart chassis (652).

Adam Kelleher.

Stephensons of Essex

1 Sept 15	418/19	Sch	Great Saling/Shalford to Newport: further revision to timetable.
	417	Sch	Rayne to Newport: further revision to timetable.
19 Oct 15	21	M-S	Braintree to Black Notley: new day time service.
	38A	M-S	Braintree to Stubbs Lane: new interim service until 31 October 15.
1 Nov 15	40	M-S	Witham Town Service: new town service serving Ebenezer Close replacing part of service 38 which will be operated by Arrow Taxi's on behalf of Stephensons.
2 Nov 15	38/A	M-S	Halstead to Witham Allectus Way via Bocking: new services with 38 via Freeport and 38A via Stubbs Lane.
16 Nov 15	73	M-S	Maldon to Chelmsford: most journeys withdrawn.
14 Dec 15	6A	M-F	Leigh to Eastwood: revised timetable to co-ordinate with train service at Leigh Station.



It's good that Stephensons of Essex fills in when the 'big boys' drop work as non-commercial. Here, smart Stephensons Alexander Dennis Enviro200 Dart 424 (EU15 AZT) pauses at Southend Victoria interchange on 26 September. **John G. Lidstone.**

Townlink Buses

6 Sept 15 The only services that Townlink continue to operate are 19/20/21, 524 & T1 see EBN617p27.

Viceroy of Essex

1 Sept 15 59/590 M-F Audley End to Saffron Walden: revision to route in Saffron Walden (see EBN616p15).

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

The Things One Sees When Out & About!



Top picture:

Whilst on his way back from the local shops, this little creature flew past John along London Road, Leigh, which he thought rather contrasted with Ensign's Mini Routemaster MRM1 we pictured last year!

This was apparently built by Brijan Tours and is based on a Ford Transit. The L100 BJT registration he supposes is a clue!

John G. Lidstone.

Left:

Interestingly in Dedham, there remains an example of an original ENOC bus stop plate from the 1970s, still in use in early October 2015 and hanging from a building. Keith can't think of anywhere else in Essex that one of these plates remains in use. Can you?

Keith Shayshutt.

A Very Early Bus Map by Alan Osborne, concluded.

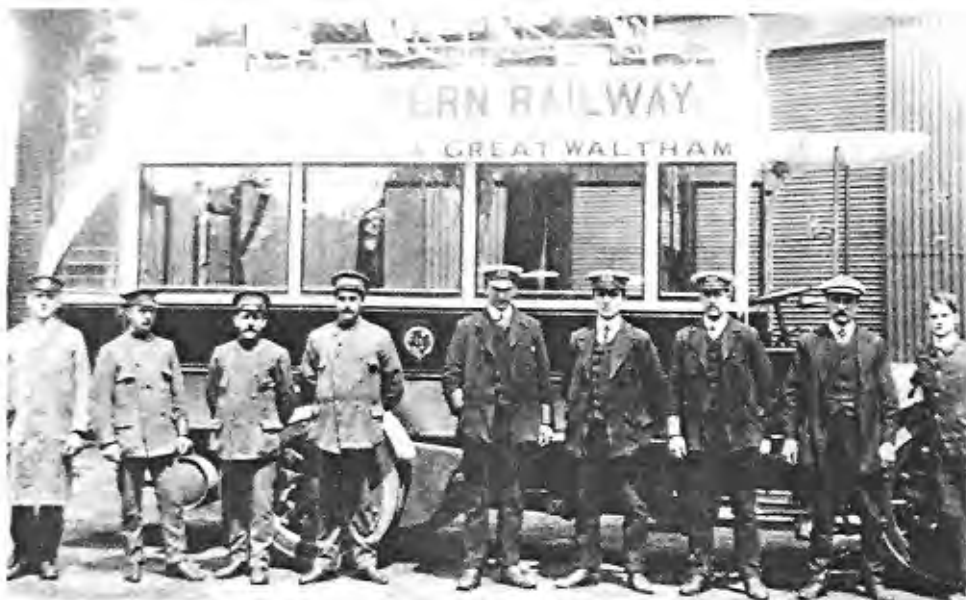


Part 1 of this article produced several complimentary comments from members so many thanks to Alan Osborne for his efforts.

We undertook to show you the 1911 map issued by the London General Omnibus Co. Ltd., which showed its services in east London and west Essex. Here it is on the right. In common with other material in this article, the reproduction is a little hazy but this is to be expected in originals nearly 105 years of age!

The last G.E.R. omnibus journeys ran on 19 July 1913, following which the services passed to the National Steam Car Company Ltd. On the next page, we show a timetable for the LNER routes. It is interesting to compare the service levels with those operating today. Writtle now has a 12 minute frequency for much of the day on the First Essex 45, Danbury has a 15 minute frequency on First Essex 31 group and 36 whilst Broomfield has some 20 buses an hour, mainly on First Essex 42/42A and 70 as well as other operators. Mind you, the population and housing density is somewhat greater in each case!

To finish, the lower picture on this page is of a Great Eastern bus and staff running the routes that this very early Essex (Country) bus map shows.



MOTOR OMNIBUS SERVICES.

CHELMSFORD STATION AND WRITTLE.

WEEK DAYS ONLY.

		mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even			mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even
Chelmsford Station	dep.	8 30	1 45			5 10	6 30	Writtle (Orney Green)	dep.	8 30	1 45			5 10	6 30
Writtle Rd. (Cherry Tree Inn)	arr.	8 37	1 53			5 17	6 37	Writtle (Rose and Crown)	dep.	8 37	1 53			5 17	6 37
Writtle		8 48	2 03			5 28	6 48	Writtle Rd. (Cherry Tree Inn)	arr.	8 48	2 03			5 28	6 48
Writtle		8 53	2 08			5 33	6 53	Chelmsford Station	arr.	8 53	2 08			5 33	6 53

CHELMSFORD STATION, GREAT BADDOW, AND DANBURY.

WEEK DAYS ONLY.

		mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even			mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even
Chelmsford Station	dep.	8 10	1 45			5 10	6 30	Writtle (Orney Green)	dep.	8 10	1 45			5 10	6 30
Bee Hive	arr.	8 18	1 53			5 18	6 38	Writtle (Rose and Crown)	dep.	8 18	1 53			5 18	6 38
Great Baddow		8 28	2 03			5 28	6 48	Writtle Rd. (Cherry Tree Inn)	arr.	8 28	2 03			5 28	6 48
Graces Cross and Sandon Road		8 38	2 08			5 38	6 58	Chelmsford Station	arr.	8 38	2 08			5 38	6 58
Danbury	arr.	8 50	2 20			5 50	7 10								

CHELMSFORD STATION, BROOMFIELD, AND GREAT WALTHAM.

WEEK DAYS ONLY.

		mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even			mon	even	Not on Saturdays		even	even
Chelmsford Station	dep.	8 22	1 57			5 22	6 57	Great Waltham	dep.	8 22	1 57			5 22	6 57
Clock House	arr.	8 29	2 02			5 29	7 02	Little Waltham	dep.	8 29	2 02			5 29	7 02
Broomfield Green		8 39	2 12			5 39	7 12	Broomfield Green	arr.	8 39	2 12			5 39	7 12
Little Waltham		8 49	2 22			5 49	7 22	Clock House	dep.	8 49	2 22			5 49	7 22
Great Waltham	arr.	8 59	2 32			5 59	7 32	Chelmsford Station	arr.	8 59	2 32			5 59	7 32



Well, it does operate along the Broomfield/Little Waltham corridor!

First Essex took over operation of Sunday and Bank Holiday ECC tendered services 1/1A, 102 and 352 from Network Colchester on 30 August. CF43846 on the 352 at Braintree Bus Park on the first day.

Adam Kelleher.

EBN18p13

Acquired Vehicles

42555	WX05 UAM	Ds Dt SLF SFD1BACR44GW18191	Ar 4227/4	B31F	03/05
42556	WX05 UAN	Ds Dt SLF SFD1BACR44GW18183	Ar 4227/5	B31F	03/05
42561	SN05 DZX	Ds Dt SLF SFD1BACR45GW18215	Ar 4243/4	B31F	03/05

42555/6 were new to First Somerset & Avon, 42561 to First Devon & Cornwall (same fleet numbers). They were collected from Bath (First West of England) by Clacton drivers on 22 September. They are the first 9.4m Dart SLFs to be owned by First Essex. 42555 had been repainted into Urban livery before acquisition; the latest photos of 42556/61 on Flickr (September and July 2015 respectively) show them still in former First corporate livery (Barbie).

Allocation Changes *These are, and always have been, taken from the Company's allocation sheet. For operational reasons there may sometimes be discrepancies with the actual situation on the ground.*

FEC=First Eastern Counties; FG=to/from another First Group company (both involving change of legal ownership);

The following traditional depot codes are used in EBN, although no longer by the company:

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

Period 6 (23 August - 26 September)

41737 HH-HH(out of service), 42482 CF-HH, 42555 FG-CN, 42556 FG-CN, 42561 FG-CN, 43357 CN(out of service)-sold, 43360 CF-CR, 43847 BN-CF, 43848 BN-CF, 53008 CF-CR, 53128 CF-CN(out of service), 61057 CN(out of service)-sold, 65527 CN-CN(out of service)-sold, 65573 CR-CR(out of service), 65576 CR(out of service)-sold, 65653 CR(out of service)-sold, 65669 CR-CN, 68508 BE-CF, 68520 BE-CF, 68521 CF-FG, 68534 CF-FG, 68555 CF-FG

41737 is out of service with snapped body pillars, which are not viable for repair (like 41762, see EBN 617, it had only been repainted into Urban livery in April). The transfer of 42482 re-introduces Barbie livery and a Plaxton bodied Dart to Hadleigh (see EBN 614). Since its transfer it has been fitted with side and rear LED blinds, the latter as illustrated in the inside front cover of EBN 617 (it had been fitted with a front LED blind earlier this year, see EBN 612). Similarly, the transfer of 65669 re-introduces Barbie livery to Clacton (see EBN 617). 53128 was seen at the back of Clacton depot on 27 August with rear accident damage. It was still there on 26 September but it is reported that it will be repaired. 65527 last ran in service on 9 September prior to the expiry of its MOT. On its last day it was unusual on route 3, Clacton to Harwich.



First Essex took over operation of Sunday and Bank Holiday ECC tendered services 1/1A, 102 and 352 from Network Colchester on 30 August. BE43485, one of the oldest vehicles in the fleet, at Chelmsford Bus Station. **Adam Kelleher.** EBN618p14

65573 was involved in a serious RTC on Mersea Island on the morning of 23 September whilst working route 67 from Mersea to Colchester General Hospital. A low loader, which was carrying a static steam traction engine from a show in Suffolk back to its home on the island, collided with it. Sadly, the steam engine broke loose and crushed the bus's cab, severely injuring the driver, Michael Birch, who had to be cut free and flown to the Royal London Hospital. The latest update is that Michael remains in hospital in a stable condition. The Group wishes him and his family well. A Crowd Funding page has been set up to help support Michael and his family, details:

<https://crowdfunding.justgiving.com/dan-hammett>.

There were 34 passengers on the bus, six suffered serious, but non-life threatening, injuries and a further 16 suffered minor injuries. The injured passengers were taken to Broomfield and Colchester General hospitals. The driver of the low loader was arrested on suspicion of causing serious injury by dangerous driving. The road was closed for most of the day, with the vehicles finally being removed in the evening to a secure location (Boyton Cross Recovery, Braintree) for DVSA inspection. Given the condition of the bus after the RTC plus its age (S reg), it is likely to then go for scrap.

Disposals

To a private buyer, September 2015: 61057

To a private buyer in Preston, via Ensign, September 2015: 65527. This is the first time expired vehicle in Urban livery to be sold.

To First Buses of Somerset, September 2015: 68521, 68555. 68521 had been reported still out of service in September 2014 in EBN606 following an RTC in Epping in December 2013 (see EBN596) but it was back in use by at least February this year. It was illustrated in service in Minehead on the inside front cover of EBN 617.

Full details of disposals were not available from the company this month, but the following no longer appear on the fleet list and are thus assumed to have gone to Alpha Recovery for scrap in September 2015: 43357, 65576, 65653.

68534 is also not on the September fleet list, so is assumed to have gone to another First company.

Repaints

To Urban livery:

CF53113, seen in Chelmsford Bus Station on 23 September

CF53115, seen in Chelmsford Bus Station on 8 October

CF53130, seen in Chelmsford Bus Station on 21 September

CF53135, seen in Clacton paint shop on 22 September and back in service at Chelmsford on 27th

All four have small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides, main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels both sides.



Stephen admits this may not be one of his best pictures but it is of historical interest. 65527 in Great Oakley Road Harwich, on 1810 service 3 to Clacton on Wednesday 9 September, this is its very last trip, "mot run out tonight, and scrap", see notes above. **Stephen Barham.**

EBN618p15

To All Over White

CF23020, seen repainted at Clacton on 3 September (without any logos), then at Braintree on 8th. It was still at BE on 17th, but was back at Westway by the end of the month.

To All Over Yellow

CF68508, seen at Chelmsford on 7 October, small fleet numbers, no logos

To Driver Trainer livery

Further to EBNs 614/5, the front and offside of repainted 20463 have now been seen. The nearside is the same as the offside, with a large red L on white square towards the rear, which continues over the windows, and a main "fleet name" of "Driver Training" with lettering "Be a bus driver" (together with website details) above this. The front is, like the rear, painted in large pink and purple chevrons and has small red on white L signs on the nearside below the windscreen and either side of the destination display. The destination display has not been panelled over and retains scroll blinds; when seen the numbers were turned to black blank and the destination to "First (with f symbol)". It has small "First Essex" name (with f symbol) above entrance door and driver's cab and depot stickers on both sides.

Depots

Further to EBN617, by 6 September 65576 had finally been removed from outside Queen Street depot after having been parked in the same place since last November. 65653 has also now gone from outside the old Haven Road depot. On 7 September, the old Queen Street travel office (illustrated in EBN616) was seen boarded up with "Hutton Builders' notices affixed and on the 9th the depot itself was seen boarded up. Norman Hume, Chairman of Essex County Council, officially opened Quayside Depot on 30 September.



First Essex 32482 has lost its dedicated route 61/62 branding and been repainted into the new refreshed livery. Pictured here in Brinkley Lane, Highwoods, Colchester on route 65, bringing a bit of welcome increased capacity to the service on 2 Sept 15. **Russell Young.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Olympian

Following its appearance on service X30 on 6 July (see EBN 615), 34305 was again very unusual on the route on 9 September, this time noted on a morning journey in Rayleigh (at lunchtime it was seen back at Westway). It was also seen in the Southend area on 13th, on rail replacement in Rochford. It was on driver shuttles on 16th and 28th and on the King Edward Grammar School sports contract on 7 October.

R & S registered Darts

R reg 43483, 43485 and Marshall bodied 43679 remain in service at Braintree, but with the impending service cuts and closure of the depot plus the new StreetLites due for Colchester, their days appear to be numbered. September observations have been: 43483 on 70 (14th), 132 (17th); 43485 on 70 (7th, 11th & 16th); 43679 on 132 (17th) and 70 (18th, 22nd & 25th). Although still officially allocated to BN, R reg 43480 was back at CF in September and was seen on 73 / 351 on 15th, 26th & 30th, 45 on 17th and 41 on 25th. S reg 43731 was seen on 70 (10 September) and 36 (16th).

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

Southend Victoria to Billericay:

13 Sep BN32864, BE33086, HH33095, HH33098, HH33191

20 BN32804, HH33095, BN33194, CF66794

Southend Victoria to Wickford:

27 BE32810, BE33080, BN33424



A star performer on Greater Anglia Rail Replacement (Southend-Wickford) on 26 September was First Essex/Hadleigh TransBus Trident 33191 (LT52 XAB), seen at the end of its last trip before heading back to depot. Note "clash" of dates with Adam's notes. Ed. **John G. Lidstone.**





Braintree buses did, very rarely, appear on Southend's streets in EN days (usually after repaint at PL works) - but this was a very rare appearance of a Braintree Dennis Trident/Plaxton President. 33086 (LN51 GMG) rounds Warner's Bridge roundabout at speed on Sunday 13 September.

John G. Lidstone.

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

33045 moved from Braintree to Colchester on 1 October, in advance of further transfers once BE is demoted to outstation status at the end of the month. It is the first Trident and believed to be the first full height (high bridge) double decker to be allocated to CR. (Now that Queen Street has closed and Quayside has opened there are no longer height restrictions.) It was on route 62 the next day, route 88 on 3rd and route 65 on 9th. During the week ending 26 September, some buses on route 65 were seen showing Tollgate Retail Park as the destination instead of Stanway Sainsbury's or Stanway Tollgate as hitherto. 23019, which has yet to enter service since its acquisition last December, has been at Adderley Green depot, Stoke, for work on its air conditioning system, but was seen parked at the back of Clacton depot on 22 September. Also there were 20501, 30903, which has still not entered service at CN, 62406, 65556 and 65651. During September, Enviro 200s have been more prevalent on routes 7/8, for example, CN44596/7/9 were operating on 25th, with CN44597 on route 9 on the same day. In turn this has led to more Darts on routes 2, 3/4 and 30A, although the 1710 Clacton to Harwich and 1810 return on route 3 is often a Scania / Wright saloon. CNs other two double deckers, 30887/92, when noted have been seen exclusively on route 76 during September. 65669, recently transferred from Colchester to Clacton, was operating route 17A on 16 September and routes 7/8 on 24th. Double deckers (and a StreetLite) seen on routes 103/4 during September (all CR): 47658 (14th), 32480 (16th), 32477 (17th & 23rd), 32481 & 32651 (22nd), and 32475 & 32478 (25th). In the early hours of 5 October a water main burst on the roundabout at the junction of Southway and Maldon Road in Colchester. Maldon Road and the westbound part of Southway beyond Butt Road were closed. This led to severe disruption to all bus routes serving Colchester town centre, which was compounded by an RTC on North Station Road. Parts of Arriva 1/A, 4, 133; First 63, 64/A, 65, 70, 71/A, 83, 88; Hedingham 88, 92; National Express 250, 481/4; New Horizon 77 (school journey), 78, 177; Stephenson's 80, plus all other school routes which serve Lexden Road and Norman Way, were all on diversion. The bus station during late morning was chaotic. First and Arriva buses were everywhere, with several First buses "dumped" in the wrong stops / laybys. (If only the old Queen Street bus station was still open!) For example, CR65681 off the 65 was in the Chambers / Carters bay, while CR65685 off 71/A was on the 105/7/9, 133 and National Express stand. CR66807 was parked in the bus stop layby outside Colchester Town station. Away from the bus station, the town centre seemed to be devoid of buses.

16 CR65587 on 71/A
 17 CR65630 on 71C
 18 CR65677 on 71/A, CR69430 on 63
 25 CR60206 on 71C
 26 CR66802 on 92

Reports relating to First Group may be sent by e-mail to adamxxx4@yahoo.co.uk or by conventional post. Many thanks to all those who do so.

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Buses seen on route X30 (all CF): 65030 (13 & 27 September), 66818 (27th) and 65028 (29th)

9 Sep	CF67904 on 71/A	21	CF44541 on 71/A
30	CF68531 on 525 (and again on 2 October) - this is the vehicle with Cranbrook School (Ilford) lettering and sticker over front destination blind (see EBNs 600 & 606)	1 Oct	CF44540 on 71/A

Bus Driver of the Year

Congratulations to Group member Paul Ashman, this report from the Braintree & Witham Times: "A Braintree bus driver who goes the extra mile for his passengers has been crowned Bus Driver Of The Year. Paul Ashman, who drives First Essex buses in Braintree, Chelmsford and Brentwood, walked away with top honours at the First Bus Excellence Award Event held in Reading. The award was given for Paul's unswerving focus on customer service and contribution to the company since he started with First just over a year ago. He is now the top driver in the south region of the UK." Before joining First, Paul had driven for Ensignbus, and had been a regular driver plus route controller on the 81 in Brentwood after Ensignbus took over the route from First in May 2010. He had previously been featured in the Brentwood Gazette praising his customer service when he drove on the 81.



First Essex Dart 42488 taken at Braintree Bus Park on 2 October 2015 on the 1015 21 Bocking to Black Notley. This route had only weeks to run and would shortly be taken over by Stephenson's as First Essex wind down the Braintree operations ahead of the depot closure on 2 November. Seems a fair load of passengers for a doomed route! Ed.

Keith Shayshutt.

PU Postscript PPS / Corrections

Correcting both EBN608 and 617, 3000 (CPU 979G) is of course a Bristol VR not a Leyland Olympian! On page 13 of EBN617, the lower photo is of 33376, not 32810.

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to M Allen, R Appleton, M Austin, S Barham, D Bell, N Clark, T Clark, J Clayton, L Cornwell, R Delahoy, D Edwards, D Grimmett, D Lund-Conlon, C Paynter, J Podgorski, K Smith, C Stewart, A Tebbitt, G Toon, R West, A Williams, the Essex yahoo! group, Essex Buses Google group, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr, First Essex, Braintree & Witham Times, East Anglian Daily Times and Terminus.

EBN618p19

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

DAF / Wright Cadets 3937 (GK52 YVB) and 3941 (GK52 YVF) have arrived at Southend from Guildford. 3937 entered service on 2 October replacing Dart SLF 3280 (T280 JKM) withdrawn the previous day. 3937 was briefly used in service at Colchester on Sat 26 September.

Kent Fastrack liveried Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3815 (GN07 AVB) entered service from Colchester on 5 October, working service 133 on the first day. Volvo B10BLE / Alexander 3830 (W901 UJM) has been withdrawn as a result.

Further to EBN617, DAF / Wright Cadets 3502/6 returned to Southend ex loan to Colchester – 3502 on 13 Sept and 3506 on 18 Sept. In their place at Colchester are Dart SLFs 3324 (T824 NMJ) and 3277 (T277 JKM) on loan from Southend and providing cover for Colchester DAF / Wright Cadet 3529 which is at Maidstone for repairs. 3280 (T280 JKM) was loaned to Colchester on 24 September and had been replaced by 3322 (T822 NMJ) from Southend by 26 Sept.

Colchester based Dart SLF/ Caetano 3406 (HX51 LSN) has had an Aquamarine blue skirt applied and carries Arriva fleetnames. Dart SLFs 1558 (KX56 HCP) and 3815 (SN54 HXC) have received LED destination displays ex roller blind.



More “goings on” here, with the partial repaint of Caetano Dart 3406 with an Arriva aquamarine skirt and the addition of Arriva fleetnames. Photographed on route 8 at Colchester General Hospital on 5 September 15. **Russell Young.**

STOP PRESS!

Richard Lewis, Marketing Manager Mid-Kent and Essex, Arriva Southern Counties has kindly provided the following update on the Southend ex-Fastrack buses:

3823 and 3824 are nearing completion of their refurb/repaint at Payne’s at Aylesford, Kent.

3820 is now in process at Payne’s, 3821 goes in tomorrow and 3816 next week, with completion dates for the end of October.

These will all come out of Paynes’s in MAX livery and with MAX vinyls applied. They will, however, receive route branding before going into service.

3922 is currently being painted into Arriva livery at Maidstone Paint Shop, with the seats being retrimmed at Gillingham.

3815 will be following 3822 in this way. Both will re-enter service at Southend.

Please note that there has been a change in the identities of the MAX vehicles, with 3816 taking the place of 3822.

EBN618p20

Acquired

1507	YN55 PJZ	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	Acq to SY – entered service 30 September.
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Further remaining Scania

1503	YN55 PZE	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	for Chambers
1520	YN06 JYE	Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka	H45/29F	for Hedingham

Fleet movements

Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown 485 (R232 HCD) was withdrawn at CN in late September following an RTA and the repair was deemed unviable.

Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President 574 (W506 WGH) was on loan from Chambers in late September and early October and was used on schools duties. Volvo B7TLs sporting Hedingham vinyls at CN are 575/76/78/80/81 (W516/7/9/27, 956 WGH) and at HD are 573/9 (W491/526 WGH). 574 will sport Hedingham vinyls in due course; 572/577 (W489/518 WGH) will also transfer from Chambers to Hedingham.

The Volvo B7TLs transferred from Sudbury occasionally appear on service 87 from CN, but now more often on services 88 and 89 from HD.

Service news

Braintree town services 34/34A and evening/Sunday journeys on service 87 began operating commercially on 1 September, formerly operated with financial support from Essex County Council.

Chambers service 755 (Colchester Norman Way – town centre – Bures – Sudbury – Great Waldingfield), previously run with a duplicate vehicle, was recast from 1 September as services 755 and 756. Both buses operate the same route between Long Melford and Colchester; the 755 serves Great Waldingfield and Lavenham to the east of the corridor, whilst the new 756 serves Glemsford and Clare to the west.

Withdrawn

281	V250 BNV	Dennis Dart MPD	– stored at CN
482	R227 HCD	Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown	– has joined 481/3 in store at Beccles.
485	R232 HCD	Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown	– stored at CN

484 (R231 HCD) continues in service into October 2015.

Previously owned vehicle news

Former Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties Palatine 65 (L109 LHL) has now arrived at Hollymount Primary School in Wimbledon and is to be used for the basis of their reading bus project, involving creating a library and a quiet reading space instead of using school corridors. The school spent a lot of time clearing the space and creating a hard standing base for the bus to be permanently situated. An appeal has now started for local businesses to help strip the inside and finish as necessary. A previous example completed by another school is referenced by the school blog site and looks to be an ex-LT MCW Metrobus.

Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

First	timetable booklet for 31/B/C/X dated 30.8.15	Braintree area booklet dated 30.8.15
	Harwich area booklet dated 30.8.15	
ECC	timetable booklet for 14/15/15A dated 30.8.15	34/A dated 30.8.15
	88/A/B/C dated 30.8.15	251 dated 3.5.15
Stephensons	leaflets for 14/15 (Haverhill - Bury St Edmunds) dated September 2013	
	16 (Bury St Edmunds - Newmarket) dated May 2014	73/673 dated 1.9.15;
	90 dated 3.8.15	
Regal	leaflets for 1/A/X dated 1.9.15	3/A/B/C/D/E dated 1.9.15
National Express	leaflets for 727 (Norwich - Brighton) dated 4/13	
	737 (Oxford - Stansted) dated 12/14	777 (Birmingham - Stansted) dated 6/14
	A6/8/9 (Stansted - London) dated 12/14	
Lodges Coaches	Oct 2015 - April 2016 (includes details of Vintage Coach trips)	

Eastern National at Harwich: Part Seven: Into Badgerline ownership.

By Robert Appleton

The late 1980s saw a period of stability, with services 103/104 continuing to operate with a mixture of Leyland Nationals, Bristol VRTs, and Leyland Olympians. Repaints in to the yellow and dark green livery continued, the National Bus Company leaf green livery was gradually eliminated.

The Harwich - Dovercourt Long Meadows 22A/22B Circulars were operated by an interesting selection of smaller buses, as this service was not suitable for 11.3 metre long Leyland Nationals. Ford Transit DT0601 was replaced by Bedford YMQS/Wadham Stringer DP33F DT1054 (TJN 977W). This was then replaced in 1988 by Mercedes L709D/Reeve Burgess B23F DT0245 (F245 MW). In 1990, DT0245 was replaced by Leyland National DT1500 (PJT 255R) a 10.3m long Leyland National with B41F seating, one of four acquired in 1986 for service 341 Hertford - Hatfield - St Albans that Eastern National operated under contract to Hertfordshire County Council from deregulation day 26 October 1986. If a smaller bus was not available, then a Bristol VRT would work services 22A/22B.

Another type of bus allocated to Harwich was the Leyland Tiger with Alexander TE dual-purpose body; by 29 September 1990 the Harwich allocation was: Leyland Tiger/Alexander DT1123 (A692 OHJ), Leyland Nationals DT1500 (PJT 255R), DT1754 (LJN 662P), DT1790 (PEV 702R), DT1885 (BNO 675T), Bristol VRT/ECW DT3050 (JNO 191N), DT3061 (LJN 656P), DT3202 (HBD 163N), Leyland Olympian/ECW DT4007/4008/4014 (C407/408/414 HJN). DT3202 brought another Bristol VRT/ECW variation to Harwich, a series 2 model with 74 seats (H43/31F), it was one of 19 acquired from Milton Keynes Citybus in 1986, but new to United Counties.

In 1991 DT4014 was replaced by DT4006 (C712 GEV) a Leyland Olympian/ECW with 77 bus seats (H45/32F), and painted in the bus version of the yellow and dark green livery.

In 1990 Eastern National became part of the Badgerline Group, and in 1991, Bristol VRT/SL3/0501 with ECW body 3219 (VTH 941T) was allocated to Harwich, one of four acquired from South Wales Transport, also part of the Badgerline Group. The other three went to Clacton. DT3219 was Leyland engined, and it was recognisable by having no opening windows at the front of the upper deck. The fleet number was a black transfer at the front and a white transfer at the back. DT depot plates were still carried. DT3219 was allocated to Harwich for a Harwich to Colchester school contract; as part of this duty it worked 1420 Harwich - Colchester 103 on a regular basis.

Minibuses returned to Harwich on 2 September 1991. Service 120 Harwich - Dovercourt - Parkeston Quay was converted to minibus operation, renumbered 20 with its frequency increased from every 30 min to every 15 min. Services 22A/22B also reverted to minibus operation, with their frequency increased from every 30 min to every 15 min. Five minibuses were required; four for these services, one spare. The five minibuses were 0750 - 0754 (D750 - 754 RWC) Ford Transit VE6/ Dormobile B16F with "Little Green Buses" branding.

Eastern National was successful in obtaining Suffolk County Council contracts for weekday evening services in the Ipswich area from 2 September 1991, much to the surprise of the local Eastern Counties management. However, the National Bus Company was now history, Eastern Counties was part of Grampian Regional Transport Holdings, and Eastern National was part of the Badgerline Group.

For these weekday evening services, Clacton depot used two Mercedes minibuses on services 93 Ipswich - Colchester, 95 Ipswich - Brantham, 97 Ipswich - Shotley. Braintree depot used a Ford Transit minibus on service 90 Sudbury - Ipswich, and Harwich depot used one of their Ford Transits after working services 22A/22B on:

1650 Harwich - Colchester 1800 104	1805 Colchester - Mistley 1836 104	Light to Ipswich	1934 Ipswich - Stowupland 2029 86
2029 Stowupland - Ipswich 2116 86	2145 Ipswich - Kesgrave 2202 83	2202 Kesgrave - Ipswich 2215 83	
2215 Ipswich - Stowupland 2303 86	2303 Stowupland - Ipswich 2355 86	Light to Harwich.	

At the other end of the day the the Leyland Tiger at Harwich, DT1123, had a regular duty: 0754 Harwich - Ramsey 103, 0815 Ramsey - Harwich 103, 0920 Harwich - Colchester 103, 1030 Colchester - Harwich 104. In addition, DT1123 worked the Harwich - Brantham works contract for shift workers at Storey Bros (previously British Xylonite Plastics) factory.

On 29 November 1991 the Harwich allocation was: Ford Transit/Dormobile DT0750 - 0754 (D7520 - 754 RWC), Leyland Tiger/Alexander DT1123 (A692 OHJ), Bristol VRT/ECW DT3072/3076 (KOO 790/794V) DT3109 (UAR 599W), Leyland Olympian/ECW DT4007/4008/4019 (C407/408/419 HJN). Thus the Leyland Nationals had been replaced by Ford Transits. The Bristol VRT/ECW allocation was three series 3 models, all with Gardner 6LXB engines, DT3072/3076 had H39/31F seating, DT3109 was H43/31F. The Leyland Olympian/ECW allocation was back to three examples with the comfortable DPH42/30F seating.

As part of the Badgerline Group, the livery was changed to a lighter green and yellow, complete with the smiling badger emblem displayed behind the rear wheels.
(To be continued). EN618p22



Top Picture DT0753 at Harwich on 14 September 1991 with Little Green Bus branding, on service 20 to Parkeston Quay.

Bottom Picture DT1123 at Harwich on 21 July 1990 with its blinds set for the Harwich - Branham works contract.

Both as mentioned in the text and both by Robert Appleton.

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - September 2015.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Alpha Recovery	MRJ 241W	Fleetline
APH Parking	YJ10 MGG/O	Solo's
Arriva London	WLT 807	DAF
	LF52 UOW	Volvo B7TL
Brighton and Hove	YN08 JAU	Scania's
	YN05 GZS	
	YN04 ANG	
	GX03 SVK	(Bridge victim for scrap)
First Essex	R147 GSF	Scania
From Go-Ahead Metrobus	YV03 PZJ/RBF/PZZ/PZX	Scania's
	YU52 XVR	
	YN53 RXF/RXK/RXJ/RXH	
	YN53 RXP/RXY/RXV/RXL	
	YN53 RXM/RXT/RXX/RXO	
Go-Ahead NE	NA52 AWY/Z/AXB/C/F	Darts
	V533/4 GDS	Volvo B10BLE's
	W806/61 PNL	Tridents
	W177 PCU	
	R842 PRG	Volvo B10BLE's
	T813 CBW	
Go-Ahead South Coast	V661 DFX	Solo's
	V680/6 FEL	
Howard Snaith Coaches	NK09 FKR	Enviro 200's
	YX60 DXV	
Landmark Coaches	YN03 WRP	Scania
Metroline	LN51 KYV / LR02BBN	Tridents
Monmouthshire CC	Y248 YBM	Javelin
Wilts and Dorset	T742/4 JPO	Tridents
	V679 FEL	Solo

Vehicles Returned Off Hire

Geldards Coaches	V364 OWC	Tridents
	PK02 RDO	
	T87 KLD	
	V192/4 MEV	
	V364 OWC	
	T748 JPO	
	T819/20 RFG	
Tower Transit	LX04 FYB	Trident

Vehicles Out

AOT Coaches, Nottingham	T87 KLD	Trident
Barway Services, Ely, Cambs	R155 SSN	Volvo B10M
	V216/20 ERG	Darts
Beestons Coaches, Hadleigh, Suffolk	YN03 DFE	Scania
Borderbus, Bungay, Suffolk	LK51 XGH	Volvo B7TL
Coast to Coast Travel, Ardrossan	L162 JNH	Volvo B10M
CT Plus, Leeds	LK03 NKS	Trident
Faresaver, Chippenham	NK09 FKR	Enviro 200's
	YX60 DXV	
Fourways Coaches, Chelmsford	LN51 KYK	Trident

Galleon Travel, Frating, Essex	V679 FEL	Solo
Grant Palmer, Flitwick, Beds	KX51 UDE, NA52 AWJ	Darts
Heyfordian, Bicester	LW51 ZMY/ZMX/ZMZ	Ex Dublin B7TL's 01-D-10198 / 203 / 207
Landmark, Bedford	YG52 DHL	Solo
M Travel, Castleford	LHZ 6354, T820 RFG and	T748 JPO Tridents
Rambler, Hastings	EK51 XXC	Dart
Red Route Buses, Northfleet, Kent	YG52 CLV	DAF SB120
Rotala PLC	YV03 PZJ/RBF	Scania's
Seafood and District	YG52 CEJ	DAF
Stagecarriage, Middlesbrough	R833 OVN	Olympian
Sullivan Buses, South Mimms	LF52 UOW	Volvo B7TL
Swanbrook, Cheltenham	X717 PFE	Ex Dublin B7TL 00-D-40041
Thandhi Coaches, Birmingham	P168-71 KBD	Volvo B10M's
UK Coachways, Bolton	WLT 807	DAF DB250(Arriva to retain reg number)
West Kent Buses, Sevenoaks	T746 JPO	Trident

Other Movements

Scania's YN08 JAU / YN05 GZS / YN04 ANG Javelin Y248 YBM	...	Bob Vale Coach Sales, Andover.
Olympian M744 HDL Scania's R1475SF RUI 6683	...	Mike Lawrenson, Preston.
Olympian H987 RKG		David Fowler , Calderwood, for preservation.
Olympian R839 OVN		PCV NE, Middlesbrough.
Solo's V652 / 653 / 661DFX V680 / 686 FEL	...	Geoff Ripley, Barnsley.
Trident LK03 NKT		Sussex Police.
Olympian T569 EGD		Tanamont Nigeria Ltd, Lagos, Nigeria.
Solo' s YJ61CKE / CKF / CKG		Dumfries and Galloway Council



Fresh from being rather bogged down at Showbus (hence muddy tyres) - an addition to the open-top fleet at Ensign is Dennis Trident / Plaxton President 301, which has been given the registration from another open-topper, FFY 401, a Southport Corporation Transport all-Leyland PD2, one of 3 recently bought in dealer stock capacity. **John G. Lidstone** EBN618p25

Fleet News – September 2015

Volvo B7TL LG52DDA now single door, in service as 101, re-registered PIJ 601.

T87KLD has returned to the dealership from Geldard's Coaches and has been sold to AOT Coaches, Nottingham.

It ADSA Be Seen To Be Believed!

David Harman.

Photo by **Richard Rosa**.

Ensignbus

Rail Replacement Buses? - been there and done 'em, got the tee-shirts AND the fridge-magnets!

Underground Replacement Buses? – done plenty! *DLR* Replacement Buses? – no probs! *Ferry* Replacement Buses? – Yep, even done that – see EBN518. But, an *Escalator* Replacement Bus – now **THAT** is a new one!

To explain: the ASDA superstore in Gravesend is at the bottom of an old quarry and an escalator connects Overcliffe with the store for the convenience of customers. The escalator was taken out of service for overhaul in September and Ensignbus provided a free replacement bus from Overcliffe round the streets down to and from the store entrance. The bus used was former Grant Palmer Enviro 200 YX11 HPU drawn from sales stock.

Older members will remember Overcliffe as being where the Maidstone & District enquiry office and depot used to stand. The bus stops on Overcliffe included that for the marathon (68 miles, 4 hours) 122 to Brighton worked jointly with Southdown. Buses were parked in a yard at the rear (known as "The Island") with an entrance in Stuart Road.



Vehicles

Olympian 831 (N960 FKK) has returned to service, ex reserve fleet.

Heritage Olympian 1511 (D511PPU) has been sold to Panther Travel, as reported under their heading last month.

Enviro 200 demonstrator 205 (YY15 NJO) remains with the company and two further ADL demonstrators are expected at the beginning of November, for use at Rochford depot. Both will be of particular interest – more details next month!

The ex-Stagecoach Dart T593 CGT, reported in our July issue as acquired for spares, may see short-term use in the fleet in November.

On order: 5 further ADL Enviro 200 are on order, delivery is expected late November or early December.

Operations

A new outstation is being established in Braintree. It will operate new service 21 (Braintree to Black Notley) and temporary service 38A (Braintree local) from 19 October, and then from 2 November also the extended 38, which will run Witham Allectus Way – Witham – Silver End – Freeport (38)/Stubbs Lane (38A) – Braintree – Queens Road – Deanery Gardens – Bocking – Gosfield – Halstead – Colne Road, replacing withdrawn First 131/2 and the northern end of 21. In Witham, the service 38 trips which served Ebenezer Close will be renumbered 40 as a shuttle to/from Collingwood Road and will be operated by another operator on hire to Stephensons.

Service 73, Maldon – Heybridge Basin – Hatfield Peverel – Chelmsford has been deregistered from 15 November and will be replaced by an Essex CC contract by a different operator.

Panther Travel by Ian Ranson with thanks to Adam Barham.



Former Eastern National Leyland Olympian/ECW coach D511 PPU recently acquired from Stephensons, now has a full MoT and may well appear on schools, as well as private hire work Sister BIG 4005 (B693 BPU) also shares this status Leyland Olympian/ECW BIG 9210 (CWR 512Y) has been withdrawn and is to become a storage shed Plaxton midibus SB07 PAN (YX07 GVD) and Dennis Javelin/Plaxton BIG 8856 (G210 UAS) are in the process of being retrimmed, continuing the well turned out appearance of this fleet.

Taken on its way back from gaining a class 6 mot this morning (3 October). Just deciding what livery to paint it in!!!

Adam Barham.

Your Editor assumes the decision has now been taken and actioned! We will find out and publish in due course!

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

With thanks to Owen Woodliffe.

Vehicles on Loan

Dennis Dart / Plaxton Pointer BX54 DKF (ex Abellio 8304, new to Travel London as DP104) was seen on route 66 on 18 September, still in overall red and with dual doors. (Similar BX54 DKK had been on loan in July, see EBNs 615/7.) Further to EBN617, ex loan vehicle PK02 RDO has returned from Geldards to Ensign following the cessation of Geldards' services. Another Ensign, ex Geldards, ex Brighton & Hove vehicle, convertible East Lancs bodied Dennis Trident T819 RFG, in Geldards overall dark blue, was on the Debden Park School contract on 8 October. On 24 September, CN07 BAA, a Volvo tri-axle B12B / Plaxton, in blue Stagecoach Megabus livery (ex Stagecoach 54003), worked this contract - this had no fleet names, but had an O License and legal address of Vigar Travel, 1 Barlow Way, Rainham, which is the address of Swallow.

Repaint

Plaxton Primo 602 was seen on 24 September repainted from all over white into an all over advert for Epping Forest College, all over dark pink base but with the front in orange fleet livery.

Unusual Working

On 24 September, an all white mini coach, registration EOS 711, worked route 21A. If anyone has any more information about this vehicle, please contact the sub editor. Looking on Flickr, this registration was on an EOS bodied half deck coach in 2003.

Terry Challis sent this picture of Swallow Coaches' Volvo 9700 EU58 PVF in the Gynn Square Coach Park at North Shore Blackpool. It could be entitled 'Swallow at Sunset' but there's not much point in black and white!



by Adam Kelleher.

With thanks to Bryan Andrews, Terry Clark, Dominic Lund-Conlon, John Podgorski, Kevin Smith, Robert West and LOTS

Disposal Solo 205 to Ensign (for Ensign to sell on Regal's behalf) by August 2015. It had last been reported in service on route 3 on 15 July. It was the last active Solo in original livery.

Workings and Observations All dates September 2015 unless stated.

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement

Witham / Chelmsford to Shenfield: YJ03 PGZ, MX10 DFK (6th)
Southend Airport to Stratford: YJ03 PKK (13th), YJ03 PGZ (20th)
Southend Victoria to Billericay: 702 (20th)
Southend Victoria to Wickford: 702, YJ03 PGZ (27th).

Coaches YJ03 PKK unusual on route 7 (5 October).

Solos 206 on 31A (2 October); 207 on 3 (30th), B1 (2 October); 208 on 344 (2 October); 210 on 1 (30th).

Darts 601 on 565 (30th); 602 back in service on 75 (17th), 565 (26th), 70 (30th) (as reported in EBN 616 this bus had been off road with gearbox problems and had last been reported in service in September 2014); 611 on 71C (6th); 613 on 70 (2 October); 619 on 70 (8th).

Enviro 200s 651 on 565 (9th & 8 October); 652 on 71C (13th).

Tempos P 03, which was being repaired at MCV Engineering, Great Yeldham (see EBN616) was seen back in service on 7 October and on route 3A the next day. Prior to this, it had last been recorded in service on route 3 on 10 April 2013. Correction to EBN 617: the photo on the lower rear cover is indeed of YJ56 WVC, but this is P 02, not P 03.

Tridents 1302 seen broken down in Writtle (2 October); 1404 on standby for the Chappel Beer Festival (9th).



Greater Anglia Rail Replacement on 13 September. Regal Busways MAN 802 (WX08 DFN) with a rather unusual and novel rear 'numeral' display, at Warner's Bridge. **John G. Lidstone.**

BREAKING NEWS! W/e 10 October, X263 NNO Ds Trident/Alex 400 on loan from Ensign in livery of Kynaston College, Camden NW1, new to Stagecoach. Thanks to Owen Kelleher.

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

Barker, Roydon

BAZ 7912 (ex. T646 DGD), an Iveco with Beulas C49FT body is here from Davies, Caernarfon, North Wales.

Brailey, Canvey Island

Irisbus/Beulas C53FT, reg. YN05 ATO has gone to Provence, St. Albans, Herts.

Fourways, Highwoods [from Richard Delahoy]

A fifth ex London Trident is LN51KYK, taking the fleet strength to 13.

Golding (Turners of Essex), Little Maplestead

This operator has assumed control of JSM (Wicks), Braintree.

Kevendy, Wickford

YN06 FTT, a Neoplan C48FT is here from Hutchinson, Easingwold, North Yorkshire.

Kings Coaches, Stanway

KC10 ABC, a Bova Futura C53FT is understood to now be with Edwards, Hailsham, East Sussex.

Klarners, Colchester

GB15 KCL, a Mercedes Benz Tourismo was new here in July.

LCB Travel, Harlow

L878 VHT, a Plaxton bodied Mercedes Benz 709D B23F has gone from here.

Thorns of Rayleigh, Benfleet

A DAF/Van Hool C55F, reg. SIL 1514 (ex. G220 HCP) has been acquired from Wheeler, Kendal, Cumbria.



Roger A. Smith took a trip out over the weekend of 26/27 September on a 'Travelstyle' outing to Kent, from Witham. On this occasion, the coach was provided by Spratts of Wreningham, Norfolk and is a Van Hool Integral wheelchair accessible C49FT, reg. WH11 CHR which was originally with Wickson, Walsall Wood, West Midlands.

The Letters Page.

Alan R. Tebbit, BEM of Truro

May I point out a small error in "PU postscript PS in EBN617. I can well remember 3000 (CPU 979G) being delivered to CN depot in 1969 for the 111 service. Although VR eventually evolved into the Olympian, 3000 was definitely a Bristol product!"

Robert Appleton of Kirby Cross

I have reread PU postscript in EBN608p16. It must have been a genuine mistake, Adam's notes are usually 100% accurate. He does refer to "the first five Bristol VRs" in the same article.

Re Eastern National's first five Bristol VRTs 3000 - 3004 (CPU979 - 983G). I never saw the ones in cream/green livery for service X10 Southend - London Kings Cross, but there is a lovely photo of 3002 (CPU 981G) in that livery at Basildon on page 94 of "Glory Days Eastern National" by Richard Delahoy, that photo is by Bill Canswick. One of my pictures of 3000 is shown below.

DT3000 (CPU 979G) on 0845 Harwich - Colchester 103 picking up at Mistley, Rigby Avenue on 24 January 1981.

Robert Appleton.

Both Adam and I have worn sackcloth and ashes ever since this boo-boo crept through! **Ed.**



Alan Tebbit, BEM of Truro (again!)

I hope you find my recollections interesting and you find space for them in EBN sometime. When I eventually retire, I will get down to writing my autobiography! Every month, EBN jogs some memory.

I was interested to see the picture of ex-EN1129 on the Lizard. I meet up with her quite often. Her regular driver is so proud of her; just don't get him talking or you will be there all day! I wish I had known Keith Shayshutt was in Cornwall, we could have met up for a pint and a catch up.

Eds notes:

- 1 Whilst not wishing to set up a "dating agency", it would be nice to find some way of facilitating the catch-ups referred to by Alan. It would obviously not be appropriate for me to publish addresses but ... well, have a think about it!
- 2 I will be sharing Alan's fascinating and charming tales with you over the coming months.



"A route I've been meaning to have a pop at for a while, not easy on the 'country' sections, is the Mon - Fri off peak 80 Boxted - Fordham service. Worth a look on Schooldays as it's double deck. Former London Sovereign SLE33 (now Stephensons 641 in Boxted Road, Myland on 23 Sept 15." **Russell Young.**

Have you given serious thought to taking on one of the important roles advertised in this issue of EBN? Your Officers, Editors and Sub-Editors work hard on your behalf but they can't do everything!

Target dates for EBN619 (November 2015).

By	...	Saturday 31 October 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	Saturday 7 November 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	Monday 16 November 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Outer Top "I gave chase to Ensign's immaculate RML2588 (JJD 588D) today (11 September) when I saw it head past a road I was in - only to find it overtaking BlueLine's RML2613 (NML 613E) in King's Road, Westcliff. A remarkable sight. RML2613 is seen here outside the Parish Church of St Saviours, making a rather nice background, I thought." **John G. Lidstone.**

Outer Lower Something a little different, but with an Essex connection! OFJ Connections , the successor to TGM have recently repainted former Network Colchester Optare Olympuses 105 and 106 (YT59 NZN/M) in a revised livery for the Kingston University Student shuttle service they run between Roehampton Vale and Seething Wells campuses. YT59 NZN in the A3 at Roehampton Vale on 30 Sept 15.

EBN618p32



Our Chairman At Showbus.

Your Editor has been told the event should have been renamed "Showerbus" because of the inclement weather! Paul has managed to avoid any precipitation and the resulting mud!

Top picture:

Stagecoach London 10301 AD Enviro 400 (MMC) YY15 OYS seen at the recent Showbus Rally held at Woburn Abbey last month. This vehicle is normally used on TfL service 498 between Romford and Brentwood.

Paul Harvey.



Middle picture:

Lodge's of High Easter entered their Bedford SB13 Duple Bella Vega EDD 685C.

Paul Harvey.



Bottom picture:

Previously First Essex 43721, Dennis Dart SLF Plaxton R721 DJN. The vehicle is now owned by Great Yeldham Transport Collection as displayed on the destination.

Paul Harvey.



www.essexbus.org.uk