

# Essex Bus News

**No. 619  
November  
2015**



**Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**  
**[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)**

**£4**  
where sold



Left: Once-a-day school-time 827 with TransBus Trident/ALX400 (LK53 EYV) in London Road, Leigh-on-Sea.  
 "Owing to a lack of school bods around the windows I snapped a shot."

**John G. Lidstone.**



above: I encountered Scania L113CRL/Wright Axxess Ultralow 60135 (R177 GSX) on the A130 yesterday and thought how tidy it looks. Taken from a car, closing speed of circa 100mph so I didn't do too badly perhaps!

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Front Cover Picture.

32480 on route 70 in the fog at Colchester Bus Station on Monday 2 November.

**Adam Kelleher.**

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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.

### **Welcome to new members:**

Please see page 4.

## **Subscriptions**

### **Held for yet another year**

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.

For the rest of the year, our 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 18 November**

South-West and Wales 2014 events. Owen Woodliffe

**Wednesday 16 December**

Xmas Social and 20 years ago slide show.

## New Year, New Venue by Maurice Austin.

2016 meetings will be held at the Quaker Meeting House in Rainsford Road, Chelmsford on the fourth Thursday, close to the Bus and Rail stations. This avoids clashes with the OS, LOTS, the fish man and several other activities important to our members. We have booked the main hall and use of the kitchen for non-alcoholic refreshments. For those who must have, there are plenty of excellent pubs and eating establishments nearby. Bookings have been made for **Thursdays 28 January**, (Julian Elliot, Network Manager, First Essex and Alvin Parker, Deputy General Manager, First Essex), **25 February** (Alan Osborne, "It's All About Today!") and **24 March** (tba). If members like the venue, we will book for the remainder of the year. The format will be more or less the same as now; we will attempt to get a few "new" presenters (not an easy task!) but we will not ignore old favourites! Further details in next month's EBN.

## 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 Jan, 12 Feb, 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 8 July, 12 August, 9 Sept, 14 Oct, 11 Nov, 9 December.**

# A Blast From The Past in the Present!

Colchester Corporation 4 (OHK 432) - 1949 Daimler CVD6, Roberts double deck.



One of five Roberts bodied Daimlers delivered to Colchester — an unusual choice of bus body builder, Roberts were more commonly associated with railway vehicles and occasional trams. Withdrawn in 1968, this bus passed through the hands of number of preservationists prior to restoration at the LVVS in 1998-9, seen at this months Lincoln Vintage Running Day on lay over from City shuttle duties.

**Paul Harvey.**

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

## EVENTS

**Saturday 14 November**

**Sunday 15 November**

**Saturday 5 December**

**Saturday 12 December**

LOTS Autumn Spectacular. RAF Museum, Colindale NW9

Ipswich Transport Museum. Special event to celebrate 50 years.

Ensignbus Vintage Running Day. [www.ensignbus.co.uk](http://www.ensignbus.co.uk)

Transport Bazaar, St Paul's Centre, Church Street, Enfield.

Dates for your **2016** diary:

**Saturday 2 April**

**Sunday 10 July**

South East Bus Festival at Detling

Basildon Bus Rally at Barleylands, Billericay.

[www.basildonbusrally.com](http://www.basildonbusrally.com)

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.

## Meeting Donation

Your committee have decided, after consultation, to increase the donation requested from members towards the hire of premises for our monthly meetings to £2 each meeting with effect from January 2016. No-one likes to pay more but the group does try to balance the costs of the meetings with income. It is felt that this increase would be preferable to an increase in subscriptions (which our Treasurer has always tried (successfully) to balance with the costs of producing EBN.

The revised donation will apply to both North Essex meetings in Colchester and "south" Essex meetings in Chelmsford.

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Only taken a few years ago but already recent history, DT32849 turning from Queen Street in to the now closed Queen Street bus station in Colchester. **Robert Appleton.**



# Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group (EBEG)

## Welcome to new members

Following a lull in activity, we are delighted to welcome no fewer than five new members this month:

|                      |             |         |
|----------------------|-------------|---------|
| <b>Martin Jarvis</b> | Bexleyheath | - 1090  |
| <b>Gareth Jones</b>  | Maldon      | - 1091  |
| <b>M Cayton</b>      | Clacton     | -1092   |
| <b>Colin Berry</b>   | Hockley     | - 1093  |
| <b>Peter Barwick</b> | Harlow      | - 1094. |

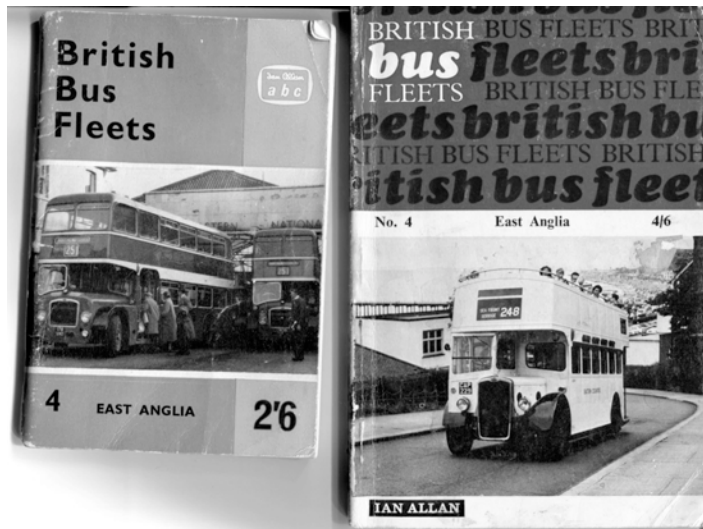
On a much sadder note, we have to record the death of member **Paul Dipper** on 28 October after a long illness. Latterly with Tower Transit, Paul had worked for Southend Transport as a traffic clerk, subsequently with London Pride, Capital Citybus and First London at Dagenham. His funeral was due to take place on 16 November in Brentwood. We offer our condolences to his family and friends.

## Membership renewals

We have been delighted with the flood of membership renewals received after last month's magazine was published; indeed, the first PayPal payment was received before the Royal Mail had even delivered my copy! Well done to member 57 from Stanford Le Hope for your immediate response. In the first fortnight more than 120 members had renewed – thank you all. If you have not done so yet, please use the slip enclosed with the October EBN, or if that is not to hand, either:

- post a cheque for £21 payable to EBEG to 272 Shoebury Road, Southend on Sea, SS1 3TT; or
- remit £21.90 by PayPal to [admin@signal-training.com](mailto:admin@signal-training.com), ref EBEG subs (the extra 90p is towards the fee that PayPal deduct).

## For sale



### British Bus Fleets No 4 – East Anglia.

The classic Ian Allan spotters books from the 1960s, we have one copy of the **1962** edition (smaller format) and one of **1967** (larger format). Covering all the major Essex operators and East Anglia. Both in fair condition, minor underlining.

Also one copy of **BBF 3**, South Central (Bournemouth to Reading/Oxford/Swindon), 1965. All £5 each incl. P&P. E-mail [richard@signal-training.com](mailto:richard@signal-training.com) if interested, there is only one copy of each.

## Personal Collections.

Your committee considered a request from a member to “look after” his large collection of model buses, including a pre-war EN garage and hundreds of bus pictures, books and so on. This particular collection includes one of every “class” of bus ever operated by EN. The owner quite understandably wishes his collection to go to a good home when his own need for it has passed. The fear is that the collection will end up in a skip!

Regrettably, we do not have the facilities to care for such a collection.

This particular collection could probably be an asset to a museum but we are not aware of one that would accept custody.

Does any member have any advice? Contact Maurice Austin who will forward any useful suggestions to the member concerned.



# Can You Help?

By Fred Lawrance on behalf of Chris Pearce.



Following the acquisition of MHJ 347F, (which now starts and moves), Chris Pearce of Worthing has now taken possession of former Southend Corporation Transport 341, reg. CIN 441C, Leyland PD3/6 with Massey H38/32R body dating from 1965. The vehicle runs well and comes with Class VI MOT and shortly will be subject to an article in B&CP along with other vehicles in his collection.

Chris is seeking assistance from EBEG members in relation to previous history and in particular a set of destination blinds, he can be contacted by email on [southdownqueenmary@ntlworld.com](mailto:southdownqueenmary@ntlworld.com) or telephone 01903 520286 or 07917 752053.

Both pictures by **Fred Lawrance**, taken on Monday 12 October 2015.



# Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

## Braddell Ltd (Stansted Citylink)

|           |     |   |                                                            |
|-----------|-----|---|------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 Oct 15 | 767 | D | London St. Pancras to Stansted Airport: new coach service. |
|-----------|-----|---|------------------------------------------------------------|

## Blueline Travel

|           |     |     |                                                         |
|-----------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 Dec 15 | 888 | Sch | Laindon Link to Shenfield High Sch: new school service. |
|-----------|-----|-----|---------------------------------------------------------|

## Coggeshall Community Bus

|           |      |     |                                                        |
|-----------|------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|
| 17 Nov 15 | COG1 | M-F | Coggeshall to Kelvedon Shuttle: revision to timetable. |
|-----------|------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------|

## Ensign Bus

|           |     |     |                                                                                              |
|-----------|-----|-----|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2 Nov 15  | 44  | D   | Lakeside to Grays: revised timetable and route to operate via Lakeside Tesco.                |
|           | X80 | M-S | Chafford Hundred to Bluewater:<br>revised timetable and route to operate via Lakeside Tesco. |
| 15 Nov 15 | 22A | Sun | Aveley to Tilbury: increased frequency between Aveley & Lakeside.                            |
|           | 44  | D   | Lakeside to Grays: revised Sunday timetable.                                                 |
|           | 73A | D   | Tilbury to Lakeside: increased frequency on Sundays.                                         |



The latest addition to the Ensignbus heritage fleet, although they have had it since new. It was delivered new to Ensignbus for London Buses tendered work, upon withdrawal it never left. Metrobus 192 on route 252 in Upper Rainham Road, Elm Park, taking part in the Romford Iconic bus running day on 24 Oct 15. **Russell Young.**

The picture of OFJ Connections former Network Colchester Optare Olympus 105, YT59 NZN in EBN618orc was taken by **Russell Young** And the Breaking News on EBN618p29 should have been credited to **Owen Woodliffe.**  
The Editor apologises to both gentlemen.



|              |      |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|--------------|------|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>First</b> |      |     |                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 1 Nov 15     | 61   | D   | Colchester to University: revised route and timetable, now terminates at Wivenhoe instead of University and extended from North Station to Highwoods. No changes to Sunday timetable (updated information). |
|              | 75   | M-S | Colchester University to Maldon: revised peak time timetable with more journeys extended to Maldon in the afternoons (updated information).                                                                 |
|              | 100  | D   | Lakeside to Chelmsford: revision to timetable to improve punctuality (updated info).                                                                                                                        |
| 2 Nov 15     | 47   | M-S | Chelmsford to Broomfield Hospital: new contract service not serving Beeleigh Link and only operates between Chelmsford & Springfield Sainsbury on Saturdays.                                                |
|              | 71B  | M-F | Chelmsford to Chelmer Village: new service providing peak hour journeys (updated info).                                                                                                                     |
| 16 Nov 15    | 73   | M-S | Chelmsford to Maldon: new contract service replacing Stephenson's of Essex.                                                                                                                                 |
| 30 Nov 15    | CP&R | M-F | Chelmer Valley P&R to Broomfield Hospital: new shuttle service.                                                                                                                                             |



No single deckers are allocated to Braintree outstation, so from Monday 2 November, Monday to Saturday and all day Sunday ECC contract service 21 (which has a low bridge on the route) is operated from Chelmsford depot. The first vehicle from CF to operate the route was 44549 seen at Braintree Bus Park.

**Adam Kelleher.**

**Galleon Travel (Trustybus)**

|           |       |     |                                                              |
|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| 25 Dec 15 | 392/3 | M-S | Harlow to Hoddesdon: some late afternoon journeys withdrawn. |
|-----------|-------|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------|

**National Express**

|           |     |   |                                                                                                |
|-----------|-----|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11 Oct 15 | A5  | D | Stansted Airport to London Golders Green/Baker Street: new coach service - see note *** below. |
|           | A6  | D | Stansted Airport to London Victoria: coach service withdrawn – see note *** below.             |
|           | A7  | D | Stansted Airport to London Victoria: new coach service – see note *** below.                   |
|           | *** |   | The above changes have been deferred until further notice.                                     |
| 16 Nov 15 | 737 | D | Oxford to Stansted Airport: revision to route and timetable.                                   |

# Service Changes, concluded; by Paul Harvey.

|                              |     |     |                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------|-----|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>New Horizon Travel</b>    |     |     |                                                                                                     |
| 20 Dec 15                    | 77  | M-F | Colchester to Aingers Green: service withdrawn.                                                     |
| <b>NIBS</b>                  |     |     |                                                                                                     |
| 14 Dec 15                    | 106 | M-F | Great Berry to Laindon Stn: revision to timetable to connect with train service at Laindon Station. |
| <b>Swallow Coaches (EOS)</b> |     |     |                                                                                                     |
| 2 Nov 15                     | 66  | D   | Debden to Waltham Cross: revision to timetable.                                                     |



EOS have given Plaxton Promo KX58 LJA all-over advertising, except for an orange front, for Epping Forest College. It is at Vere Road Debden on 15 October awaiting time for a 66 school duty from Debden Park School. **Owen Woodliffe.**

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

## We Are Still Looking For A Bus Service Changes Sub-Editor!!!

This popular column needs a new sub-editor!  
Chairman Paul Harvey has to find time to carry out other important tasks for the group.  
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? Training will be given!  
Are you interested in bus service changes and willing to compile a monthly report for EBN?  
If you think you are the right person for the job, please contact Paul Harvey, details on page 1.

# 25 Years Ago; Sunday Saver Trip to Mildenhall & Back. John Rugg.

In EBN612, we showed a picture of RF401 on Sunday service 612 which John had taken whilst on a day trip with Robin Staines of Clintona Coaches fame and his wife on Sunday 10 June 1990. John has now given me the schedule for that momentous day. It will be noted that the ride on the 612 was at the end of the day rather than first thing as previously implied!

|      |             |                               |      |          |                                            |               |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------|------|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 0839 | EN152       | Basildon – Chelmsford         | 0925 | 1422     | F422 MJN                                   | Leyland Lynx  |
| 0932 | EN451       | Chelmsford – Braintree        | 1009 | 1426     | F426 MJN                                   | Leyland Lynx  |
| 1015 | EN170       | Braintree – Colchester        | 1058 | 1125     | A694 OHJ                                   | Leyland Tiger |
| 1100 | Carters 135 | Colchester – Ipswich          | 1159 | SAH 851M | Bristol Plaxton (ex-Eastern Counties)      |               |
| 1200 | Carters 140 | Ipswich – Bury St. Edmunds    | 1334 | AUD 460R | Bristol VR (ex-South Midland)              |               |
| 1335 | Carters 144 | Bury St. Edmunds – Mildenhall | 1411 | ECK 202Y | Bedford Plaxton (ex-Robinson, Gt. Harwood) |               |

## Time to look round Mildenhall

|      |             |                        |      |          |                                            |               |
|------|-------------|------------------------|------|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------|
| 1544 | Carters 144 | Mildenhall – Ipswich   | 1754 | ECK 202Y | Bedford Plaxton (ex-Robinson, Gt. Harwood) |               |
| 1800 | Carters 135 | Ipswich – Colchester   | 1859 | SAH 851M | Bristol Plaxton (ex-Eastern Counties)      |               |
| 1905 | EN170       | Colchester – Braintree | 1945 | 1125     | A694 OHJ                                   | Leyland Tiger |
| 1958 | Essex 612   | Braintree – Romford    | 2134 | MXX 289  | Blue Triangle. RF401 (ex-London Transport) |               |

Lift home in car via Brentwood by my wife. Looking back, they were interesting days, weren't they! Incidentally, the price of the Saver Ticket has recently been increased from £2.80 to £4.00 to keep up with 20+ years of inflation and its validity reduced just to cover Essex.



John Rugg travelled on Carters' RELH6G/Plaxton SAH 851M, one of three such coaches owned by them in succession between 1985 and 1991. This had replaced LWC 981J, one time Eastern National 430, seen here at Cattawade on 7 July 1987. **Robert Appleton.** EBN619p9

# **Eastern National at Harwich:**

## **Part Eight: From Badgerline to First Group** by Robert Appleton.

1992 and 1993 were a period of stability at Harwich, but in July 1994 the minibus allocation changed. Ford Transit DT0750 was reallocated to Braintree for temporary use on the Country Car service. DT0751 - 0754 were withdrawn and stored at Clacton, they were replaced by five Mercedes minibuses:

213/214/215 (C213/214/215 HJN) Mercedes L608D Reeve Burgess B20F, these had been new to Clacton depot in 1986 for the CoastLine minibus network.  
252 (C230 HCV) Mercedes L608D 1986 Robin Hood B20F ex Western National, another Badgerline company.  
656 (L656 MEV) Mercedes 709D 1994 Plaxton Beaver B23F.

By October 1995 DT213/214/215 were replaced by another three Mercedes L608D from Western National, 241/245 (C688/700 ECV) with Reeve Burgess B20F bodywork, and 250 (C232 HCV) with Robin Hood B20F bodywork.

A Leyland National returned to Harwich in 1994 when 1832 (VAR 898S) was allocated for use on a new school service journey, 0725 Harwich - Manningtree High School 104. Much more unusual and interesting was the Bristol KSW5G/ECW open-topper 2383 (WNO 479), which was garaged at Harwich depot; it was still owned by Eastern National, but maintained and looked after by an Eastern National KSW Preservation Group.

During 1995, the 0725 Harwich - Manningtree High School 104 needed double-deck capacity, so 3225 (AYG 850S) was allocated to Harwich. This was a Bristol VRT/SL3/6LXB 1978 ECW H43/31F, one of several Bristol VRTs transferred from Yorkshire Rider (another Badgerline company) to Colchester after the Colchester depot fire on 26 December 1994. 3225 had been repainted out of Yorkshire Rider livery into Badgerline style yellow/green livery and it looked very smart. Fleetnumbers were now transfers, but the two letter depot allocation plates were no longer carried.

After a few months 3225 returned to Colchester, replaced at Harwich by Eastern National's own 3078 (STW 22W). Leyland Tiger/Alexander 1123 (A692 OHI) also left Harwich, it became TA531 in the Eastern Counties fleet. In 1995, Badgerline Group merged with Grampian Regional Transport Bus Group to form FirstBus Plc, so Eastern National and Eastern Counties were now in the same ownership.

Initially this merger had little effect on the travelling public. The badger emblem disappeared, to be replaced by a new style fleetname in red, Eastern National plus the First logo, but the Badgerline style yellow and green livery continued. Later the First name and First logo became the main fleetname, and eventually local fleetnames such as Eastern National disappeared, so you had to look at the legal lettering on a First bus to find out which First company operated it.

Three new minibuses arrived at Harwich in 1996, reflecting Badgerline's new vehicle policy, they were Mercedes 709D with Plaxton Beaver B23F bodies, 2680/2681/2682 (P680/681/682 HPU). They replaced the four oldest minibuses at Harwich: 241/245/250 and 252.

At the beginning of 1997 two Leyland Nationals were allocated to Harwich:

1833 (VAR 899S) and 1870 (YEV 328S), one to replace 1832 (VAR 898S), the other to act as a float whilst three of Harwich's Bristol VRTs were refurbished by Marshalls of Cambridge, the three were 3072/3076 (KOO 790/794V) and 3078 (STW 22W). The refurbishment work involved new seats on both decks, upper deck seating increased from 39 to 43, new floors on both decks, green stanchions and DiPTAC bell pushes on the lower deck to assist elderly and partially sighted passengers, and the chassis behind the rear axle was repaired and strengthened.

During 1997 two new Dennis Lance single-deckers were allocated to Harwich: 1512/1513 (P512/513 MNO). The Dennis Lance was favoured by Badgerline Group, with Badgerline and Yorkshire Rider buying Dennis Lances with Plaxton Verde bodywork, but the thirteen for Eastern National had Northern Counties Paladin bodywork with 49 seats, the same seating capacity as the Leyland Nationals. Both Dennis Lances settled down on services 103/104 on duties that did not require double-deck capacity.

To be continued.



upper picture: DT3225 AYG850S has arrived at Manningtree High School in Lawford on 0725 service 104 ex Harwich on 14 July 1995. Twenty years ago no one took any notice of me photographing such a scene, but I would not do this today. Taking photographs that include schoolchildren is just too risky today. **Robert Appleton.**

lower picture: DT213 C213HJN at Harwich depot 15 July 1994. DT213 is parked alongside the fuelling point. To the right is the enquiry office. In front of DT213 is DT4007 C407HJN over the pit in the maintenance bay. **Robert Appleton.**

## Acquired Vehicles

Further to EBN 618, Urban liveried 42555 arrived with small First names and f symbol above the entrance doors and driver's cab. It has now had Clacton depot stickers added, but does not have main fleet names. It was first noted in service on the 10/11/12 group of routes on 16 October. Correction to EBN 618, 42561 was new in May, not March 2005. It has now been repainted (see below) and was first seen in service on 23 October, also on routes 10/11/12.

## 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) - additional to EBN 618

60304 CF(DS)-sold

### Period 7 (27 September - 24 October)

20501 CN(out of service)-FEC, 32481 CR-CF, 32482 CR-CF, 32856 BE-BN, 33045 BE-CR, 34305 CF-CF(out of service), 41762 HH-sold, 42488 BE-HH, 42933 BN-CF, 43356 CF-CF(out of service), 43480 BN-CF, 43679 BE-BE(out of service), 43734 CF-CF(out of service), 62139 BE-CR, 66165 BE-BE(out of service)-CN(out of service), 66168 BE-CR, 66169 BE-CR, 68552 CF-FG

The exodus from Braintree has begun. To note are the first Volvo / ALX400s to Chelmsford (although for use from Braintree outstation; 32481 was seen on type training duties at Chelmsford on 23 October) and confirmation of the first Trident / President to Colchester. 43480 is also confirmed as moving from Basildon to Chelmsford (see EBN 618). 66165 was being stripped for spares at Braintree before moving to Clacton where it was seen on 23 October. Although not shown as such on the company list, CF42486 has been out of service for a few months and is currently being stripped down and rebuilt with a new engine at Westway before being repainted.



Another refugee from Braintree has found it's way to Colchester; Aberdeen 'heritage' liveried 62139, on route 65 in Mill Road on 19 Oct15.

**Russell Young.**



## Disposals

**September 2015** 60304 (note, official disposal information was not available in September, but in August this vehicle was awaiting a scrap notice so it is assumed that it went to Alpha Recovery for scrap)

Updating EBN618, 68534 also went to First Buses of Somerset in September 2015 (alongside 68521 and 68555)

**October 2015** To First Eastern Counties at Great Yarmouth, 20501. Seen on the Bernard Matthews contract on 2 November.  
To First Bristol, 68552 To Alpha Recovery for scrap, 41762

## Repaints

Further to EBN 618, CF23020 has had small First (with f symbol) fleet names added each side to its all white livery, plus a small f symbol only on rear. It also has Chelmsford depot stickers each side. Like 20501 (see EBN 617), the shade of white is akin to that used in Barbie livery, not that of the newer Urban livery.

To Urban livery:

HH42482, seen on route 28 on 15 October (its first day in service after repaint)

CN42561, seen on routes 10/11/12 on 23 October

CF53128 repaired (see EBN 618) and repainted, seen on route 40 on 31 October

All have small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides and main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels both sides. The repainting of 42482 means that Hadleigh is once again an all Urban liveried depot (see EBN618), with the exception of heritage Westcliff liveried 33191 (42488/9 will not enter service at HH before being repainted from Barbie, indeed 42488 was seen on the A12 heading to Clacton for repaint on 5 November).



picture: On Bonfire day, First Hadleigh TransBus Dart/Pointer 42488 (SN53 KJX) after extensive bodywork renovation (all silver areas, new panelling; new bumpers, fog lamps removed, new LED indicators and side/rear lights, new headlamps) is seen leaving its home depot for the long journey to Clacton for repainting into new livery. The quality of work by Hadleigh Engineering is apparent here, to upgrade the bus from a rather jaded condition in which it arrived, in Barbie livery.

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Other Vehicle News and Workings

### *Olympian*

34305 was out of service by the week ending 24 October (last recorded sighting in use was on King Edward Grammar School work on 7 October).

## Other Vehicle News and Workings, continued.

### ***R & S registered Darts***

43480 is confirmed as a transfer from BN to CF (see above). It was seen on 73 / 351 on 10 October, 36 on 24th, 54 on 31st and new route 72 on 3 & 5 November. 43483 was on 70 on 22 October and 132 on 28th & 31st. 43485 was also on 132 on 28 October and on driver shuttles at BE on 31st. 43483 and 43485 were driven to Clacton on Sunday 1 November for use if required. 43679 was seen off road at BE on 10 October and again on 18th and later in the month it moved to CN. 43731 has been on loan from Chelmsford to Braintree and was seen on 132 on 19, 22, 28 & 31 October. It was back at CF on 54 & 56 on 2 November and on 72 on 6th.

### ***Greater Anglia Rail Replacement***

Colchester to Chelmsford: CR32651 on 11 October

Colchester to Witham: CR32481 on 18 October.

### ***Braintree Depot Closure***

BE42931 was on route 30 on the last day of First's operation of the route, 17 October. On the same date, BE42489 and BE42936 were on route 21 on the last day of First's commercial operation of the route (First continues to operate the Monday to Saturday evening and all day Sunday ECC contract for this service). Although Braintree depot officially closed after service on 31 October, it was due to be in use for a week or so afterwards as an outstation of Chelmsford, whilst work continued to clear the site. After this, buses will use the nearby yard that was used as an outstation between April 2005 and February 2011. On 31 October, 33044, 33080, 33086, 33184 and 33186 were on route 70 and 42489, 42930, 42932, 43483, 43731 and 62195 were on route 132 on the last day of this route. During the next day various transfers took place between Chelmsford, Colchester and Braintree, which will be fully reported next month, but the main change was Trident / Presidents moving to Colchester and low height Volvo B7TL / ALX400s going to Braintree. 32485, 32652 (both ex CR), 33044, 33196, 62195 and 62197 were seen parked at BE on Sunday 1 November at 1300; later, at 2100, 32480, 32483, 32484, 32485, 32651, 32652 (all ex CR), 33088 and CF53137 were seen. Observations on the first weekday of the new set up, Monday 2 November, were as follows. Ex CR 32480, 32483, 32484, 32651 and 32652, CF32481 and CF32482, plus 33044, CR65654, CR66801, CR69434 and CF66812 on route 70 (of these, 32482, 32651, 66801 and 66812 did not have blinds programmed for the route and had a hand written route number (no destination) on a piece of paper in the windscreen, but 32480, 32483, 32484 and 33044 had fully programmed blinds). So 33044 was in use on route 70 on both the last day of the old arrangements and the first day of the new ones. 32651 then moved from the 70 on to the evening ECC 352. From 2 November, ECC route 21 is worked directly from Chelmsford since there are no single deckers left at Braintree (single deckers are needed on the route as there is a low bridge); CF44549 and CF53126 were in use on the first day of Chelmsford working.



32651 on  
route 352 in the  
fog at Braintree  
Bus Park on  
Monday 2  
November.

**Adam Kelleher.**

### **Braintree Allocation**

As at Period 6 2015/16, Braintree operated the following: Trident / Presidents 32810, 32856, 33044, 33045, 33078, 33080, 33086, 33087, 33088, 33184, 33186, 33190, 33195 and 33196; Darts 42488, 42489, 42930, 42931, 42932, 42936, 43483, 43485 and 43679; Volvo B10BLE / Renowns 62139, 62195, 62197, 66165, 66168 and 66169. After 31 October the Tridents were due to move to Colchester (33045 did so in P7) with the exception of 32810/56 to Basildon (32856 did so in P7, 32810 was still at BE on 31 October). This concentrates all the early T/V/W reg Tridents at BN (with the exception of driver trainer 32806 at CF). In turn, 33001/2 have moved from Basildon to Colchester. 33001 was in BE depot on 31 October then moved to CR the next day, 33002 was seen on route 75 at Colchester on 29 October and 75A on 31st. Trident sightings in Colchester on 2 November were 33001 parked at the Bus Station, 33087 on 62, 33184 on 75 and 33196 on 61. Re the Darts, 42488 moved to Hadleigh in P7 with 42489 joining it by 3 November. 42930-2/6 have moved back to Chelmsford. 42930 was on 352 on 1 November and 45 the next day, 42931 was on 72 on 2 November, 42932 was on 36 on 2 November and 42936 was on 42 on 30 October, 73 / 351 the next day and 72 on 2 November. As noted above, the three R reg Darts, 43483/5/679 have moved to Clacton. As for the Volvos, 62139, 66168 and 66169 were P7 transfers to Colchester, with 66165 out of service at Clacton, leaving 62195 and 62197 to be accounted for.

### **Chelmsford and Braintree - General**

As reported in EBN 615, CF53112 has had its seats reupholstered in e Leather. However, the two tip ups were not done. Seen on the first day of new route 72 (details below), 2 November, were CF42485, CF42935, CF53113, and ex BE 42931 and 42936. See below for some more sightings during the first week. Route 47 was due to end on 31 October, but it received a late reprieve, with Essex County Council putting the route out to tender (with a slightly revised route and a revised timetable) which FE won. CF53113 was on the route on the last day of the commercial service with CF42487 (route number in windscreen) and CF43848 (LEDs programmed) on the first day of the tendered service, 2 November. Buses seen on route X30 (all CF): 65031 (11 October), 65030 (24th), 65028 and 44547 (4 November)

12 Oct CF43801 on 46; an MPD, rather than Solo, now appears to be the usual allocation to this route (but see 21 October and 2 November entries below)  
15 CF42933 (recent transfer from BN) on 42 (and on 36 on 24th)  
19 CF67903 on 71/A  
20 CF44544 on 71/A  
21 CF44900 on 46, CF67902 on 31X / 36, CF69532/3 on successive 42 journeys  
22 CF44900 on 71/A  
31 CF23020 on X30 (and again the next day), CF43845 on 46, CF44541 on 42A  
1 Nov CF42930 and CF44542 on 352  
2 CF42483 on 42A, CF42933 on 46 (a rather long bus for the route), CF65030 on driver shuttles, CF66797 on 41  
3 CF42930, CF42936, CF43480 and CF43801 on 72, CF43847 on 70 (a rather short bus for the route)  
4 CF42483, CF42484, CF42935 and CF53127 on 72, CF66796 on 71B, CR69431 on 71C  
5 CF42485, CF42930, CF43480 and CF44550 on 72  
6 CF42935, CF43731, CF53117 and CF53137 on 72



“Good to see ex-HH Dart SLF 43731 (S731 TWC) at work still in Braintree today (23 October 2015). I suspect it may well be withdrawn within a week with many vehicle movements coming up from Nov 1. I gather 43734 is now at CR, these being the last two ex-HH Darts still at work elsewhere in FE.

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Clacton and Colchester

Observations of Clacton's three double deckers during October: 30887 unusual on routes 5/A (23rd); 30902 also unusual on routes 5/A (9th) and 30A & 2 (21st) and extremely unusual on the 10/11/12 group (23rd); 30903 still out of service at the back of the garage (23rd). Both 30887 and 30902 were on their more usual route, 76, on 24th & 31st. Double deckers seen on routes 103/4 during October (both CR): 32475 (6th & 7th) and 32482 (8th). 43854/6/7 have been regulars on routes 10/11/12, but 43855 has not been noted in service during October. The fourth bus on these routes has often been 42555 since 16 October, but on 2 November it was very unusually an Enviro 200, 44597. 43360 and 53008, which moved from Chelmsford when Quayside depot opened, are used on driver shuttles to the Bus Station, via Whitehall Road, Old Heath Road and Military Road. There have been no reports of them being used in service. Some southbound 64s now show Hazell Avenue as their ultimate destination rather than Shrub End.

|        |                                                                                                                                                                           |    |                     |
|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|---------------------|
| 5 Oct  | CN42923 on 10/11/12                                                                                                                                                       | 9  | CN42927 on 10/11/12 |
| 12 Oct | CR47658 on 88                                                                                                                                                             | 13 | CR65627 on 75       |
| 15     | CR33045 on 65                                                                                                                                                             | 16 | CR65574 on 1/A      |
| 20     | CR62139 (in heritage Aberdeen livery, recent transfer from BE) on 65 (and on 62 on 21st & 22nd)                                                                           |    |                     |
| 21     | CR47658 on 65 (and again the next two days)                                                                                                                               |    |                     |
| 22     | CR66168 (recent transfer from BE) on 64                                                                                                                                   |    |                     |
| 24     | CR32480 on 65                                                                                                                                                             |    |                     |
| 26     | CR66169 (recent transfer from BE) on 67 (and on 75 on 28th)                                                                                                               |    |                     |
| 27     | CR32483 on 88 with 61/62 branding removed                                                                                                                                 |    |                     |
| 28     | CR32484 on 75 with 61/62 branding partly removed                                                                                                                          |    |                     |
| 30     | CR32480 on 75 with 61/62 branding removed                                                                                                                                 |    |                     |
| 31     | CR32483 on 61 (its last day of service at CR), CR47657 on 64                                                                                                              |    |                     |
| 2 Nov  | CR47658 on 66A                                                                                                                                                            |    |                     |
| 3      | CR33002 on 70                                                                                                                                                             |    |                     |
| 4      | CR33078 on twice a day (each way) Monday, Wednesday, Thursday & Saturday only 83 (Colchester to Colne Engaine), extremely rare for a double decker to operate this route. |    |                     |
| 5      | Ex Braintree Tridents seen in service at Colchester were 33044 on 61, 33080 on 75, 33086 on 88 and 33087 on 70, 32484 and CR69429 were also on 70, CR66169 on 71          |    |                     |



EBN618p4 gives details of the three Dart SLF that have come to First Essex Buses at Clacton from First West of England at Bath. Here is 42555 in Pier Avenue Clacton on 16 Oct on 23 Oct. Sorry that this photo is not very bright, but they reflect the dull, cloudy weather that we have had recently.

**Robert Appleton.**

EBN619p16

### **Basildon and Hadleigh**

BN69906 and BN69916 have both had their super rear adverts for Essex Fire Service removed (and so now have no vinlys on the rear). In EBNs 616 & 617 it was reported that Chelmsford's Hybrid Enviro350s had received commercial advertising for the first time, on the nearside. Basildon's Hybrid Volvos are following suit, recently seen with nearside adverts have been 69904 (a Halloween event), 69906 & 69908 (Palmers College) and 69910 (Safer Essex Roads Partnership).

Non-Hybrids seen on route 100 (both BN): 41513 (11 October) and 41539 (31st)

12 Oct BN69916 on 826, 21 BN69913 on 8A, 1 Nov BN47650 on 140.

### **Service Vehicles**

Braintree's crew ferry car, Vauxhall Zafira FG14 WUV (silver with white fleet names / f symbols) was seen in Braintree Bus Park on 31 October but was parked in Chelmsford Bus Station the next day. However, the following evening it was back at Braintree, doing a single driver transfer for route 352. Another silver car (but without any decals), registered FG14 XHY, was on driver shuttles at Chelmsford Bus Station on 2 November.

### **Routes 71/2 Group**

*Note: the following applies on Mondays to Saturdays except where stated.* In the timetable which ended on 31 October, route 71 between Chelmsford and Colchester continued along Main Road in Boreham and served Tollgate Retail Park, whereas route 71A diverted off Main Road to serve Boreham Church but did not serve Tollgate Retail Park, instead going direct, stopping outside Sainsbury's at Stanway. In the new timetable from 2 November, both the Tollgate Retail Park (71) and Boreham Church (71A) sections are withdrawn, the reason for this being to make the timetable more robust. There is thus now no need for different route numbers and so the A suffix has been dropped and the 71 number is used for all of the (basically half hourly) daytime service. (The existing evening 71C journeys and the early morning and evening 71X journeys are unchanged.) Tollgate continues to be served by route 70 and Boreham Church is now served by new (basically half hourly daytime) service 72, Chelmsford to Witham (this route also covers part of the withdrawn 131/2 in Witham). There is therefore now a basic four buses an hour daytime service between Chelmsford and Witham on the 71 and 72. The existing route 72, Chelmsford Bus Station to Chelmer Village, New Dukes Way, peak hours Monday to Friday, has been renumbered 71B (with a slight timetable change including one fewer evening journey from the bus station). Thus First Essex now operates route numbers 71, 71B, 71C and 71X, but not a 71A. By co-incidence, on the Chelmsford - Maldon - Burnham-on-Crouch routes, they operate a 31, 31B, 31C and 31X but not a 31A (although there is an ECC contract 31A from Chelmsford to Little Baddow / Woodham Walter / Maldon, operated by Regal).



Saturday 31 October was the last day of full depot status for Braintree, plus also the last day of route 71A operation. 33186, operating from Braintree is seen on route 70, with Chelmsford's 69533 on the 71A, at Chelmsford Bus Station.

Adam Kelleher.

EBN619p17

## Other News

Very good news is that Michael Birch, the driver critically injured in the RTC on Mersea Island on 23 September (see EBN 618), is now back home. Whilst in hospital, Michael underwent seven operations and still has a long recovery ahead but his ultimate goal is to get back to driving buses. He was interviewed on BBC1's Look East on 30 October. (The bus he was driving, 65573, has been returned from DVSA inspection and is now parked at Braintree depot.) mTickets (for pre-purchase on mobile phones) have been introduced for North & Mid Essex, joining South Essex (see EBN 604), therefore All Essex mTickets are now available. Former Eastern National Leyland Olympian coach 4511 (D511 PPU) has been acquired by Panther Travel from Stephenson's. It joins former EN 4505 there. It is allocated to Parkeston. It attended the Canvey open day on 11 October. Since then it has been repainted into full Panther livery. It was used on TfL route 474 on 3 November as a peak extra running between London City Airport and Canning Town during a Docklands Light Railway strike.

## Essex Bus Archive

Full details of this initiative were given on Page 4 of EBN618. A quick glance at a random old issue of EBN, 417 from January 1999, co-incidentally found news on two vehicles that feature in this issue. Brand new Dart 731 (now 43731), normally used on the Diamond route or Bishop's Stortford services, was unusual on route 350 on 11 December 1998, providing one of the first appearances of the new corporate First livery (Barbie) in Brentwood and Romford. Seventeen years later, this bus is the oldest native vehicle still in service with First Essex. The disposal of 4511 from First Eastern National was recorded (to Fargo, Rayne, December 1998). Also, on 7 December 1998, Bristol VR 3109 was on service 100, on "Chelmsford Pensioners' Free Day". At the time, this bus was 17 years and six months old, so an older vehicle on the route than both 43480 and 43717 (see EBN 617).



Former EN4511, Fargo and Stephenson's of Essex mentioned in Adam's report is now in the smart livery of Panther Travel, solving the riddle we reported last month. I had seemingly identical pictures of this operating on DLR cover on 3 November from

**Russell Young and Stephen Barham**, so I credit them both!

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, G Bessey, T Clark, L Cornwell, J Cush, R Delahoy, T Hews, J Lidstone, D Lund-Conlon, G Norris, F Parker, J Podgorski, I Ransom, D Smith, G Toon, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, Essex Buses Google group, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr, First Essex, BBC East, and Terminus.

*Reports relating to First Group may be sent by e-mail to [adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk) or by conventional post. Many thanks to all those who do so.*

- First** ... leaflets for 24/A dated 4.10.15  
66/A dated 30.8.15  
70 dated 1.11.15  
71/B/C/X/72/73 dated 1.11.15 (73 from 16.11.15)  
75/A dated 1.11.15  
88/A dated 1.11.15  
100/200 undated, but with changes from 1.11.15  
Harwich area (services 2, 3, 4, 102, 103 and 104) dated 1.11.15
- First (Essex CC)** Photocopied sheet for 14/15/15A (Chelmsford - Wickford) dated 14.10.15  
47 (Chelmsford - Broomfield Hospital), not dated, but for revision from 2.11.15.
- Stephensons** Leaflets for 21 dated 19.10.15  
Interim 38A (Braintree to Stubbs Lane) dated 19.10.15 to 31.10.15  
38/A dated 2.11.15

From Harlow Bus Station (Owen Woodliffe)

**Arriva** ... timetable booklet for Harlow Town Services from 11.11.15

**Galleon** ... leaflet for day trips and short breaks Oct - Dec 15.

Lodge Coaches of Good Easter  
Children in Need/Brighton run. Chris Stewart.

The Brentwood Gazette reported one of Lodge Coaches special contracts. They entered the London to Brighton run to support the BBC Children in Need campaign. They didn't seem to know that presenter Alex Jones took a PCV test especially for this as well as Chris Evans. Our Chris says "I'm sure they were both familiarising themselves with the OBs and SBI". DJ Ken Bruce was driver no. 3. Unfortunately, I can't reproduce the Gazette pictures without permission but for those with access to the web can get details on:

<<http://www.brentwoodgazette.co.uk/Essex-did-s-Chris-Evans-Alex-Jones-visit-Children/story-28071337-detail/story.html>>



The Atkinson Mark 2 "Black Knight" EN tow truck 0102 at Canvey Rally in October.

**John G. Lidstone.**

**Peter Mansbridge** with thanks to John Card, Richard Delahoy, John Podgorski, Keith Sadler, Owen Woodliffe.

DAF / Wright Cadets 3940/1 (GK52 YVE/F) have entered service at Colchester having arrived from Guildford. As a result Dart SLF / Caetano 3408 (HX51 LRK) has been withdrawn.

Further to last month DAF / Wright Cadet 3935 is back in service at Colchester following repairs at Maidstone.

Volvo B7RLE / Wright 3815 (GN07 AVB) is understood to be a loan at Colchester.

Further to EBN617, Dart SLF / Caetano 1562 (RX07 KPG) has returned to service at Colchester following accident repairs.

Regular transfer of Dart SLFs / Plaxton between Southend and Colchester continued throughout October. 3277 returned to Southend, its place taken at Colchester by 3191. By the end of the month 3277 was back at Colchester allowing 3324 to return to Southend.

Correcting last month, the fleet number for Dart SLF SN54 HXC is 3416.

At Harlow, Dart SLF 3413 (SN54 HWY) has received Arriva livery ex TGM colours.



Driver type training on newly acquired Volvo B7RLEs started today in Southend using newly refurbished MAX 3823 (GN07 AVL). This is a 2007 B7RLE with Wright Eclipse Urban B43F bodywork, previously allocated to Northfleet when on FastTrack work.

It is seen within hours of starting its career in Southend - also this being the first Volvo B7RLE to work for the fleet. 3824 (GN07 AVM) was visible in The Yard freshly outshopped. This is also the first MAX liveried vehicle to work at Southend. **John G. Lidstone.**





## Arriva Contrast on the 5.

Top: On 23 October, there were only 2 Darts new to Southend still around in Arriva, both 3322 and 3324 having been on loan to Network Colchester. 3324 (T824 NMJ) is just back. 3191 (P191 LKJ), the last Pointer 1 here, has gone to CR (permanently) to replace it there.

Lower: One of the latest two DAF SB120/Wright Cadets to arrive at Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend), my first sighting of 3937 (GK52 YVB) at London Road Leigh on route 5, which will soon be the preserve of MAX-branded refurbished Volvo B7RLEs rather than Cadets.

**John G. Lidstone.**

### Acquired

|      |          |                           |         |                   |
|------|----------|---------------------------|---------|-------------------|
| 1503 | YN55 PZE | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | for Chambers, SY  |
| 1520 | YN06 JYE | Scania N94UD/EL OmniDekka | H45/29F | for Hedingham, CN |

1503 arrived on 15 October and 1520 on 23 October, thus completing the influx of Scania double deckers.

### Fleet news

TransBus Pointer-bodied Dart SLF 252 (EU03 BZK) has been repainted from old Hedingham livery into the new red livery with Chambers fleet names. It was transferred from CN to SY in the last week of August, to replace ex-Anglianbus Optare Solo 907 (YT51 EBF) which returned to Beccles. 252 is used on certain workings of services 84 (Sudbury – Colchester), 111 (Braintree – Halstead – Sudbury) and 374 (Clare – Bury St. Edmunds) from Monday to Saturday around a dedicated school contract in Suffolk. It was repainted in-house at HD and outshopped on 19 October. Dennis Dart MPD 290 (EX02 RYR) will follow into the paint shop next.

701/2 T801/2RFG have lost their rear Brighton branding.

### Withdrawn

|     |          |                             |                             |
|-----|----------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 4   | M571 XKY | Volvo B10M/Plaxton Premiere | — stored at CN              |
| 7   | P530 CLJ | Volvo B10M/Plaxton Premiere | — stored at CN              |
| 283 | W791 VMV | Dennis Dart MPD             | — stored at HD              |
| 484 | R231 HCD | Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown  | — moved from HD to Beccles  |
| 486 | R233 HCD | Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown  | — moved from CN to Beccles. |

All six of the Wright-bodied B10BLEs (481-6) are now withdrawn; 484 was the last example at HD and was driven to Beccles on 15 October; 486 went from CN to Beccles on 23 October.

### Service news

Forthcoming minor alterations to services comprise:

**Chambers service 84**, from Monday 30 November: The 0930 journey from Sudbury to Colchester will be retimed to operate at 0915 and run 15 minutes earlier throughout, following requests from customers travelling to college in Colchester attending mid-morning classes.

**Clacton town service 137** will operate for an additional two hours on Thursday 17 December (until 2045) for late night Christmas shopping at Clacton Factory Outlet.

**Hedingham services 88 & 89**, from Monday 4 January 2016: The 0810 88 from Colchester to Halstead will be retimed to operate at 0820 and run 10 minutes later throughout, to address intermittent punctuality issues on the inbound journey. In turn, the 0838 89 from Great Yeldham to Braintree will be retimed to operate at 0845 and run 7 minutes later throughout from the same date, so as to maintain the connection for Braintree off the incoming 88 bus in Halstead High Street.

### Previously Owned Vehicles

60 H160HJN Leyland Olympian/Alexander (ex L160) has been sold by J Beanee to Nash in dealer capacity in return for ex L208 L208RNO Volvo B6/Alexander Dash.

### Service Diversions Due To Maldon Road Incident

On 5 October there was a major incident at Maldon Road junction with Lexden Road, caused by a water way collapse. Diversions were quickly put into place with 16C, 88 and 92 affected. Services were severely disrupted due to the traffic congestion and the diversion routes as follows:-

**88 Halstead bound** – Crouch Street, back onto Southway, Headgate, Head Street, North Hill, Middleborough, Westway, Cymbeline Way, London Road and then normal route.

**92 Tollesbury bound** – Crouch Street, back onto Southway, St botolph's Circus, Mersea Road, Napier Road, Circular Road North, Butt Road, Drury Road, Shrub End Road and then normal route.

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

# Hedingham Clacton Depot Focus.     Mark Lloyd.

A snap shot of the colourful Clacton depot output on a typical school day between 0700 hours and 0800 hours taken on 18 September 2015.

| Time                                                                    | Registration | Fleet Number | Ex   | Livery & Notes     |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|------|--------------------|
| 07.05                                                                   | EU56 FLM     | 257          | L351 | Original Hedingham |
| 07.09                                                                   | YN55 PZW     | 1515         |      | New Hedingham      |
| 07.17                                                                   | W821 NNJ     | 721          |      | Konect             |
| 07.19                                                                   | W516 WGH     | 575          | L433 | New Hedingham      |
| 07.20                                                                   | EU05 AUR     | 254          | L339 | Original Hedingham |
| 07.22                                                                   | W827 NNJ     | 727          |      | Konect             |
| 07.27                                                                   | N667 THO     | 6            | L298 | Original Hedingham |
| 07.28                                                                   | W517 WGH     | 576          | L434 | New Hedingham      |
| 07.30                                                                   | W822 NNJ     | 722          |      | Konect             |
| 07.31                                                                   | EU04 BVF     | 253          | L396 | Original Hedingham |
| 07.39                                                                   | YN55 PZU     | 1513         |      | New Hedingham      |
| 07.41                                                                   | W823 NNJ     | 723          |      | Konect             |
| 07.41                                                                   | W527 WGH     | 580          | L437 | New Hedingham      |
| 07.46                                                                   | W506 WGH     | 574          | L423 | Chambers           |
| 07.48                                                                   | T817 RFG     | 717          | L413 | Brighton & Hove    |
| 07.48                                                                   | W956 WGH     | 581          | L438 | New Hedingham      |
| 07.56                                                                   | R453 FWT     | 8            | L309 | Original Hedingham |
| 07.56                                                                   | W826 NNJ     | 726          |      | Konect             |
| 07.58                                                                   | W649 FUM     | 11           | L347 | Original Hedingham |
|                                                                         |              |              |      |                    |
| All assumed on schools except 1513 which was taking up the 137 service. |              |              |      |                    |
|                                                                         |              |              |      |                    |



Not one of the buses seen by Mark Lloyd but a close relation to several of them!  
On the occasion of the Clacton rally in May, Hedingham allocated one of the newly acquired ex Metrobus Scania Omnidekkas to route 137 instead of the usual E200. 1517 at the Brook Retail Park in Great Clacton.     **Russell Young.**

# Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - October 2015.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

## Vehicles In

|                      |                                                                                                                      |                                                                     |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arriva London        | LF02 PSZ<br>LF52 UOS/T<br>LG52 DDF/DDC<br>LJ03 MHY/MJV/MGX/Y<br>LJ03 MVX<br>LJ53 BFY/NHN/P/T/V<br>LJ04 LDK           | Volvo B7TL's (scrap)<br><br><br><br><br><br>DAF DB250's             |
| Garnetts Coaches     | HVX 771T<br>CUB 69Y                                                                                                  | Titan<br>Olympian                                                   |
| Go-Ahead London      | YV03 PZE/F/H/L/M<br>YV03 PZX/Y/Z<br>YV03 RAX / RCY<br>YN03 DFC<br>YU53 XVR<br>YN53 RXR/RXU<br>AJ58 WBE/F<br>AE09 DHN | Scania Omnidekkas<br><br><br><br><br><br>Scania Omnicities<br>MAN's |
| Go-Ahead NE          | T811/2/5 CBW<br>V531/2/6 GDS<br>R846/7 PRG                                                                           | Volvo B10BLE's                                                      |
| Go-Ahead South Coast | V801/2 EBR<br>K839 ODL<br>W162 RFX<br>T641 AJT<br>V654 DFX<br>V682/83 FEL                                            | Tridents<br>Olympian<br>Spectra<br>Solo's                           |

## Vehicles Out

|                                             |                                         |                                   |
|---------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Beestons Coaches, Hadleigh, Suffolk         | YV03 PZY/PZL/PZM                        | Scania's                          |
| Carters Coaches, Capel-St-Mary, Suffolk     | LX04 FYB<br>K739 ODL                    | Trident<br>Olympian               |
| Crosville Motor Services, Weston-super-Mare | KU02 YTY                                | Dart                              |
| Faresaver, Chippenham                       | LG52 DDE                                | Volvo B7TL                        |
| First South West                            | SK52 OJF/OKD/OKF<br>KN52 NFU<br>K50 WGH | Darts<br><br>Solo                 |
| Garnetts Coaches, Bishop Auckland           | LW51 ZNK/ZNL/ZGD                        | Ex Dublin B7TL's 01-D-10195/205/8 |
| New Adventure Travel, Cardiff               | KU02 YTZ<br>YN03 DFD/G                  | Dart<br>Scania's                  |
| Rotala PLC                                  | YU52 XVR<br>YV03 PZZ<br>YV03 PZX        | Scania's                          |
| Royal Buses, St Ives                        | NA52 AWW                                | Dart                              |
| Solus Coaches, Tamworth                     | T107/8 JBC                              | Volvo B7R's                       |
| Southern Transit , Brighton                 | YN53 RXL                                | Scania                            |
| Stagecarriage, Middlesbrough                | R843 PRG                                | Volvo B10BLE                      |
| Stephensons of Essex                        | LK03 NLG                                | Dart                              |
| Sullivan Buses, South Mimms                 | LF52 UOS/T                              | Volvo B7TL                        |

Swanbrook, Cheltenham  
Travel Wright, Newark  
Trustybus, Frating, Essex

LW51 ZFN  
LW51 ZLY  
KX03 HZG  
YN53 RXJ

Viceroy Coaches, Saffron Walden, Essex  
Yeomans Canyon Travel, Hereford

R154 SSN  
L156 JNH

Ex Dublin B7TL 01-D-10210  
Ex Dublin B7TL 01-D-10206  
Dart  
Scania  
Volvo B10M  
Volvo B10M

### Other Movements

DAF DB250 LJ03 MVX  
Bristol LD ACA 603A  
Volvo B7TL LF02 PTO / X153 FBB  
V533 GDS  
Volvo B7TL X159 FBB  
Olympian CUB 69Y  
Titan HVX 771T  
Trident LN51 KYV

Mike Lawrenson, Preston.  
Blakey's Bus Café, Mulbarton, Norfolk.  
MC Tractors, Ely for scrap.  
Martin Leydon Coaches, Cavan, Eire.  
Shred and Butter Ltd, Oxshott.  
Shelley Primary School, Ongar, Essex.  
Mr M Cole, Hornchurch for preservation.  
XLP Ltd, London EC2.

## Ensignbus

**ENSIGN FLEET – October 2015; Mark Lloyd** with thanks to Ross Newman.

### Fleet News

784

HV52 WTJ Dennis Dart SLF/Caetano Nimbus – sold to Trustybus.



At Ensign (in near darkness) on Sunday 4 October, freshly arrived, was ex-ST Leyland Fleetline/Northern Counties 241 (MRJ 241W). It is looking rather dejected but your Editor bets it won't be like this for long!

**John G. Lidstone.**

**Acquired** is Alexander Dennis MPD RX56 BWE, this came from Stanley Travel, County Durham and is named Stanley!



above: Illustrating the Dart recently acquired from Stanley Travel which is the regular bus allocated the Braintree local route 30. RX56 BWE 'Stanley' in Deerleap Way, Kings Park on a very misty and murky 2 November 2015.

Both pics by **Russell Young**.

On **DLR strike day** Leyland Olympian coach D511 PPU was used on TfL service 474 (Canning Town - London City Airport) (see picture on page 18), while Leyland Olympian/Alexander BIG 7596 (F639 LMJ) was on service 473 (Stratford - London City Airport), illustrated below.



## Vehicles

### On loan

Two demonstrators are expected from ADL shortly and will be based at Rochford. Both are hybrids, one E40H and one E20H, currently with Go South Coast. More details next month.

### Acquired from Ensign Bus

LK03 NLG, Dennis Dart/Wadham Stringer, ex Metroline (orig. First Capital). This will be operating temporarily in LT red on service 39 in Witham for a short period and will then become a dedicated trainer bus.

And the ex Stagecoach Dart T593 CGT (as reported previously) has been put into service short term in fleet livery, based at Haverhill. It is expected to be withdrawn in mid-December.

These vehicles are all providing cover until the 5 new Enviro 200s are delivered (plus a 6th which is due next February).

## Operations

Following an incident on Tuesday 27 October when a lorry hit the building at the side of the bridge in the centre of Finchingfield (the only route through the centre of the village), Stephensons' services 9/10 (Gt Notley to Gt Bardfield via Braintree) were forced to terminate in Finchingfield on the east side of the obstruction, with no service onwards to Gt Bardfield. Likewise, the 419 to Saffron Walden and Newport started from the west side and did not serve Shalford and Wethersfield. The Saturday Regal operation on 9 and Heddingham's M-S service 16 were similarly affected. Essex County Council put temporary shuttles in place from Saturday 31 October, operated by 24/7 Taxis and Flagfinders. The bridge reopened again on the afternoon of 4 November.

Ironically, the accident and closure occurred on the same day that operators received an e-mail inviting them to a meeting to discuss the planned 4-month closure of this crucial bridge next summer for strengthening! The bridge and its tight clearances featured on the cover of EBN567 (July 2011).



Stephenson's Scania Omnidiekk 646 on Wednesday-only route 10 to Cornish Hall End - representing a fairly rare example of double-deck operation on a market day service. **Jonathan Cush.**

Finally, a correction to the caption in last month's magazine of Enviro 424 on the late evening service 7 in Southend. This is an Essex CC gross-cost contract that Stephensons took on in 2010, won in open tendering where any other operator (including the 'big boys') could bid; it is not a commercial fill in as was implied.

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

## Acquired Vehicles

V679 FEL, Optare Solo M850, B30F, new to Wilts & Dorset (2679) 12/99

From Wilts & Dorset, via Ensign, September 2015, still in W&D livery, LED blinds. Seen on route 410 on 17 September, although it is reported that it was primarily acquired for a short term Park & Ride contract for County Hall, Hertford.

KX03 HZG, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B32D, new to Ealing Community Transport, Acton (112) 4/03

From Ensign, October 2015. Repainted at Mardens into Trustybus livery. *Note: sister vehicle KX03 HZW is with EOS (see EBN616).*

HV52 WTJ, Dennis Dart SLF / Caetano, B31D, new to Mitcham Belle (082) 12/02

From Ensign, October 2015. This bus was part of the Ensignbus operational fleet, number 784. For part of its time with Ensignbus it was registered 784 EYB (this registration is now on a Prentice Westwood Mercedes-Benz Touro coach, new as BF52 SYP). It has also operated for Countryliner, Guildford and Centra, London. Single door with LED blinds. Repainted at Mardens into Trustybus livery. *Note: sister vehicles HV52 WTA, HV52 WTG and HV52 WTK are with Amber (see EBNs 600 and 608).*

YN53 RXJ, Scania N94UB / Scania, B37D, new to Metrobus (517) 12/03

From Go Ahead London, via Ensign, October 2015. Seen at Mardens on 15 October still in all red. When with Metrobus / Go Ahead it was mainly allocated to Transport for London route 358.

**Livery** KX03 HZG and HV52 WTJ are in a slightly revised livery. The blue, red and yellow are to the same layout, but they are divided by straight angled lines rather than curves.

## Docklands Light Railway Strike 3 & 4 November 2015

Three Trustybus double deckers were scheduled to work as extras at peak hours on TfL route 147 on these days (East Ham to Canning Town only).

*With thanks to Ross Newman, Owen Woodliffe, LOTS, Flickr and Bus Lists on the Web.*



Trustybus took over Arriva route 505 on 11 May but only using one bus for a reduced service of six return journeys. Plaxton Dart KP54 BYL is at Kings Head Hill, Chingford in the afternoon of the first day. **Owen Woodliffe.**

## Townlink Owen Woodliffe.

Townlink were called to a Public Inquiry recently and the "usual reasons" were made for non-operation of the services. However the serious issue is that Townlink have been operating without a Transport Manager since March 2014 and RoadRunner since March 2015. A decision is expected within 28 days.

EBN619p28



by Adam Kelleher.

*With thanks to Terry Clark, Adam Jones, Dominic Lund-Conlon, Jonathan Cush, John Podgorski, David Warren and Robert West.*

**Workings and Observations** All dates October 2015 unless stated.

**Greater Anglia Rail Replacement**

Colchester to Chelmsford: 617, OV63 NCN, YJ03 PKK (11th)

Colchester to Witham: 1302, P 03 (18th)

Witham to Braintree: 211, P 03 (21st)

Cambridge to Downham Market / Ely / Peterborough (25th): MX10 DFK, MV12 ODR

**Docklands Light Railway Strike 3-4 November**

Extra buses from various operators were running on some TfL services in the Docklands area on these dates. On 3rd, 1404 and P 02 were seen on route 474. On 4th, Regal single decker(s) switched to route 108.

**Coaches**

YJ03 PGZ unusual on route 3 (23rd)

**Solos**

208 on 31A (2 November); 209 on 343 (31st); 210 on 11A (1 November), First Data shuttle (4 November)

**Darts**

601 on 75 (5th); 602 on 45 (4 November); 611 on 71C (11th & 25th), 3 (2 November); 613 on 75 (19th); 616 on Braintree Freeport shuttle (31st), 52 (2 November); 619 on 343 (24th), on Wednesday only 345 (28th)

**Enviro 200s**

650 on 11A (1 November), 3 (2 November); 651 on 565 (29th); 652 on 88 (18th), 45 (4 November)

**MANs**

802 on 52 (15th), Braintree Freeport Shuttle (26th & 27th and 2 November)

**Tempos**

P 02 on 322 (15th), Braintree Freeport shuttle (14th & 24th); P 03 on 3 (12th), Braintree Freeport Shuttle (28th), 565 (31st)



Optare Tempo P03 on the 108, in a very wet North Greenwich yesterday morning, near the Dome/02 complex.

**Russell Young.**

EBN619p29

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

## **Acme Bus, Molehill Green**

SIL 2172 (ex. W577 JVV), a Mercedes Benz 0814D with Plaxton B33F body is here from Panther, Parkeston.

## **APT Coaches, Rayleigh**

Recently arrived here is KX04 HTD, a Transbus bodied Volvo B12B C49FT, previously with Nichols, Carlton, South Yorkshire whilst R917 ULA, a Volvo B10M with Berkof C49FT body is now with Southgate, Southend-on-Sea.



YN08 OWZ of APT Coaches, Rayleigh, a Plaxton bodied Irisbus (formerly) with Collier, Earith, Cambridgeshire) whilst "resting" on rail replacement duties.

**Roger A. Smith.**

## **Barker, Roydon**

A recent arrival is LUI 2244 (ex. WA04 EWM, a Bova Futura C59FT, formerly with Eastville, Bristol. Reported as having gone from are RIL 5087, a Duple C54FT; RUI 6686, Neoplan CH77CT; SIB 3277, a Plaxton/Lorraine C51FT and F902 BLS, a Plaxton bodied Dennis Javelin C35F.

## **Cook, Westcliff-on-Sea**

YN13 BXG, an Iriza i6 C57FT is here from Gibson Direct, Renfrew, Scotland.

## **Flavin Consulting, Stanford-le-Hope**

Van Hool bodied DAF SB3000 C49FT, reg. JIG 8905 (ex. T58 AUA) is here from Nash DJ, South Mimms, Hertfordshire. YN53 EHU, a Mercedes Benz 0814D with Plaxton C29F body is understood to have gone to Vale, Thruxton (Dealers).

## **Ford, Althorne**

C118 CHM, an ECW bodied Leyland Olympian H72F has gone from here, as has D66 ONS, a Bedford/Duple C57F, which has gone to Bishops, Hastings, East Sussex.

## **Golding (Turners of Essex), Little Maplestead**

Plaxton bodied DP36F Dennis Dart reg. N978RCD has gone from here whilst East Lancs. bodied Dennis Dart B40F, reg. M462 LLJ was acquired from Flagfinders, Braintree by May.

## **Merriday (Fourways), Highwood**

J 267 SPR, an East Lancs bodied H80F Dennis Dominator has gone from here, along with N910 NAP, a Mercedes Benz 709D with Alexander B31F body. Recently acquired ex. Metroline, London Plaxton bodied from dual door to single door and is now H43/31F (was H43/24D).

## **New Horixon, Frating**

Gone is Y152 NLK, a Dennis Dart/Plaxton B30D, along with Y661 NLO, Y663 NLC and RX51 FNV, all Dennis Darts with Plaxton B37F bodies.

## **Viceroy, Saffron Walden**

Recent arrivals here are FG03 JDU, a Beaulas C49FT bodied Irisbus from South Dorset/Swanage Taxis, Swanage, Dorset; SN56 AXF, an Alexander Dennis Dart B37F, from Clynnog and Trevor, Trefor, North Wales and KX57 FMF, an Alexander Dennis B29F from Scarlet Band, Cornforth, County Durham.

# The Letters Page.

**Adam Kelleher of Brentwood.**

**Thank you.**

I would just like to take the opportunity to say a huge thank you to Richard Delahoy and others involved in digitizing the Essex Bus Archive. It is a tremendous achievement and a fantastic resource and I can envisage many hours spent over the coming winter months poring through it. Many thanks also of course to Alan Osborne for starting the whole thing off in the first place and to all the many contributors to the News Sheet, Essex Bus News and the various ENEG / EBEG publications over the last 51 years, some of whom are sadly no longer with us, but their work lives on in the Archive.

**Alan R Tebbit, BEM of Truro.**

**Those “horrible” old buses.**

I enjoy receiving EBN every month down here in Cornwall, and keeping me in touch with my roots (and routes!) and I follow the adventures of DB from BD. I am, however, of the opposite camp from him in that I loved those old buses and I regret the day that the well-balanced FLFs were ruined with a semi-automatic box. I never felt entirely comfortable with nothing to rest my left hand on, and my left foot dangling in mid-air.

One year, I had a week's temporary transfer to SD (London Road) depot, when my ex-wife was running her sisters guesthouse as holiday cover. The traffic office decided to put me on the main road (251) to avoid intensive route learning on locals. CF operated 11s and 351s, so I was familiar with most of the 251. I was pleased one day when the vehicle waiting for me was CF2706 on Central Works docking loan. I had a pleasant run up to Wood Green, and left 2706 on the forecourt for the next departure. I was surprised after my meal break to find 2706 waiting for me on my return. Someone had run it “round the block” and taken the semi that was next in line (could it have been DB from BD?). That driver probably thought that he had got one over on me, but had played nicely into my hands!



EN2706  
down  
Memory  
Lane  
disguised  
as the old  
Chelmsford  
Bus  
Station.

**Chris  
Stewart.**

In the days when the TGWU insisted that Leyland Nationals or Lynxes were to be used on the 152/3/4 group of routes, Basildon drivers knew instinctively who was driving the 1950 hours Chelmsford to Grays and return when an MW hove into sight. This was usually at the end of an 11-hour day, (unlike DB, I worked every possible hour) and all that gear changing kept me awake!

One of our coach workings on Saturdays was the X2 (later National Express 82) the ex-Moores service to Yarmouth via the “back road” i.e. Sudbury, Bury, Beccles, Bungay, etc. For some time, our regular vehicle was 1608, a semi-auto RE dual-purpose, a wonderful bus to drive but it was reallocated to CR. If we could not “borrow” a coach from NTSE at KN, our inspectors would allocate 1509, a flat fronted RE bus, to ease the driving on this 235 mile duty. I refused to take it, on the grounds of passenger comfort!



above:

Perhaps the gent is pondering what a bus that appears to be from Burnley is doing in a Suffolk town. Still in Transdev livery and (faded) identification this is Regal 613, Dart SLF/Plaxton (W701 BFV)) in Sudbury bus station on service 12 to Halstead on 14 October. **Ken Coldwell.**



Temporary route 38A (Braintree - Stubbs Lane) which only runs for two weeks in this form, before being becoming a Halstead - Witham - Braintree through service , to cover the withdrawal by First Essex of route 132. Stephensons Dart 457 in Chelmer Road. **Russell Young.**

## Target dates for EBN620 (December 2015).

|    |     |                           |     |                              |
|----|-----|---------------------------|-----|------------------------------|
| By | ... | Saturday 28 November 2015 | ... | Reports to Sub-Editors.      |
| By | ... | Saturday 5 December 2015  | ... | Sub-Editor drafts to Editor. |
| By | ... | Monday 14 December 2015   | ... | Dispatch by Printers.        |

## Back Cover Photos.

**Outer Top**  
**Outer Lower**

252 (EU03 BZK) in the new red livery, HD depot, 19 October.

Colchester's 66801 on route 70 at Chelmsford Bus Station on Monday 2 November. **Adam Kelleher.**

**HO&C management.**

EBN619p32

## Rally Roundup

### Top picture:

The Canvey open day on 11 October saw Leyland PD1/1 2102 (LEV 917) arrive from its current home in Kent. Seen here the day before leaving Leigh Beck with First Hadleigh 47523 (SN64 CMY) following behind.

**John G. Lidstone.**



### Middle picture:

Since June 2011, First Essex have acquired six Volvo B7TL / Alexander 400s, new to Yorkshire Rider in 2000, from First Eastern Counties; three have since returned to FEC. 30887/902/3 are currently allocated to Clacton. 30888 was acquired in December 2011 and returned to FEC in August 2013. Whilst with Essex it was allocated to Braintree. FEC have recently repainted it into Lowestoft Corporation heritage livery, and it is seen on Park & Ride duties outside the East Anglia Transport Museum at Carlton Colville on their open day on 26 September.

**Adam Kelleher.**



### Bottom picture:

The annual shuttle from Shenfield Station to the Model Railway Exhibition at Shenfield School was this year worked by an LS and MW on 19 September. Ex-Eastern National Bristol LS / ECW 1237 at Shenfield Station.

**Adam Kelleher.**







[www.essexbus.org.uk](http://www.essexbus.org.uk)