

Essex Bus News

No. 640; AUGUST 2017



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

£4

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where sold



<<< Upper picture
Brand new SBC
Leisure of Southend
Scania/irizar HM17
SBC in Victoria
Avenue, Southend on
6 July - new maroon
'corporate travel'
livery also.
Very impressive - as
usual for SBC
Leisure's excellent
fleet.

John G. Lidstone.



lower picture: Ipswich Buses 26 (LR52 KWH) Dennis Trident/Plaxton President in Colchester Road, Manningtree, departing on 1120 service 92 to Ipswich on 5 July. 26 is one of the buses acquired with the Carters Coach Services business in May 2016. Carters fleet names removed, replaced by Ipswich Buses fleet names, but Carters livery retained.

Robert Appleton.

Front Cover Picture.

New Go-Ahead London service 68 seems to be carrying fair loads, especially on poor weather days! After the last run, the driver has a 10-min comfort break before the long empty trek back to Northumberland Park depot. PVL224 is seen here on 3 August waiting near Southend Pier.

John G. Lidstone.

EBN640ifc

Essex Bus News 640

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August 2017

Essex Bus News is the "house magazine" of the

Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

Chair	Ian Ransom.
Secretary	Alan Osborne.
Treasurer & Membership	Richard Delahoy.
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Views expressed in EBN do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

Subscriptions

A calendar year subscription is £21. New members may join from any month, but subscriptions will always run to December, from whichever month the member chooses.

Those joining from February to December inclusive will pay a pro-rata subscription calculated at £1.80 per month. For example, a member joining in March would pay 10 x £1.80, i.e. £18.00.

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Data Protection Act

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Printed by Directcds Ltd

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WARE, Herts SG12 0EF
01920 465023
www.directcds.co.uk

Reports and observations

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

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

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

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

MID-ESSEX MEETINGS by Maurice Austin.

Quaker Meeting House, corner of Parkway and Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, less than 10 minutes walk from the Bus and Rail stations; continue along Duke Street past Civic Centre and cross to far side of Parkway. There is a small car park on site, other public ones nearby.

Tea and coffee making facilities. For those who need other refreshment, there are plenty of excellent pubs and eating establishments nearby. Members and guests welcome. £2.00 donation towards cost of room hire, please.

Doors open at 1915 for an informal chat and often impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145.

Thursday 28 September Matthew Arnold, Commercial Director, Stagecoach South East; "Wings and Wheels - a career in public transport".

Thursday 26 October Julian Elliot, Network Manager, First Essex; Business analysis (routes and technology) and fleet update.

Thursday 23 November David Harman; Setright ticket machine, history and audience participation.

Thursday 21 December Richard Delahoy, slide show "Twenty Years Ago" and mince pies!

NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

Downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1915 for informal chat, and often an impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £2.00 donation towards room hire, please.

Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome.

Friday 8 September John Card, Illustrated talk; 30 years at Grey-Green.

Friday 13 October Fred Lawrance. Colourful London 1980s and 1990s.

Friday 10 November Steve Maskell.

Friday 8 December Gary Sharpe.

A Blast From The Past

Adam Kelleher.



A 1974 photo of former Eastern National 2453, an LD6B withdrawn 11/75, at Canvey Island garage; a certain Mr Chris Stewart, whom Adam didn't know at the time, is thought to have been responsible for the blind!

EBN640p2

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

EVENTS

Sunday 13 August

Sunday 20 August

Sunday 27 August

Saturday 9 September

Sunday 10 September

Norwich Running Day.

Buses 2017 Festival. Heritage Motor Centre, Gaydon. www.busesfestival.com

Colne Valley Railway, Bus and Commercial Rally. Castle Hedingham.

Royal Forest Hotel, Chingford. Bus display and vintage bus rides.

Epping-Ongar Railway 'Red & Green Rover' Running Day. www.eorailway.co.uk

Sunday 17 September

Sat/Sun 23/24 September

Sunday 24 September

Sunday 1 October

Sunday 8 October

Showbus. Donnington Park. www.showbus.com

East Anglian Transport Museum Trolleybus weekend.

Amberley Museum Busshow & Running Day. www.amberleymuseum.co.uk

Amersham & High Wycombe Running Day. www.amershammotorbussociety.co.uk

Castle Point Transport Museum Open Day. *** **Group Stall at this event.** ***

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

The Epping Blues.



Stranger in Town! It is some while since blue buses were seen in Epping, although there will be a partial return when Arriva assume the Sunday 418 later this month. Arriva London North training bus DLA 175 is on an 'awayday' into the countryside on 20 July.

Owen Woodliffe.

33424-5 / 33504-74*

Alexander Dennis Trident 2 / Enviro 400 (H41/26F except where stated below)

33424	VT59 JPT	10/09	BN	A	33567	SN58 CGK	11/08	BN	C
33425	SN58 AWW	09/09	BN	B	33568	SN58 CGO	11/08	BN	C
33504	LK08 FLX	05/08	BN	C	33569	SN58 CGU	11/08	BN	C
33507	LK08 FK2	05/08	BN	C	33561	SN58 CGX	11/08	BN	C
33544	SN58 CFK	10/08	BN	C	33562	SN58 CGY	11/08	BN	C
33545	SN58 CFL	10/08	BN	C	33563	SN58 CGZ	11/08	BN	C
33546	SN58 CFM	10/08	BN	C	33567	SN58 CHG	11/08	BN	C
33548	SN58 CFF	10/08	BN	C	33568	SN58 CHH	11/08	BN	C
33549	SN58 CFU	10/08	BN	C	33570	SN58 CHK	11/08	BN	C
33551	SN58 CFX	10/08	BN	C	33572	SN58 CHO	11/08	BN	C
33552	SN58 CFY	10/08	BN	C	33573	SN58 ENR	11/08	BN	C
33553	SN58 CFZ	10/08	BN	C	33574	SN58 ENT	11/08	BN	C
33555	SN58 CGF	11/08	BN	C					

33424 is H47/33F and 33425 is H41/29F. 33424 is 10.8m long, the others are 10.1m. 33425 has bonded glazing, the rest have gasket.

A: New to JP Travel, Manchester. Acquired from Ensignbus (from their operational fleet) 07/13. Non-standard interior.

B: New as an Alexander Dennis demonstrator before being acquired by Ensignbus. Acquired from Ensignbus (from their operational fleet) 09/13. Non-standard interior.

C: New to First London, H41/26D. Acquired from First Leicester 04/16.

41513-44* / 42519 Transbus Dart / Caetano (B33F or B36F)

41513	LK03 NGF	07/03	BN	D	41539	LK53 FDY	10/03	BN	D
41523	LK03 LFA	08/03	BN	A	41541	LK53 FEF	10/03	BN	C
41524	LK03 UFB	08/03	BN	B	41542	LK53 FEG	11/03	BN	A
41525	LK03 UFG	08/03	BN	A	41543	LK53 FEH	11/03	BN	B
41527	LK53 FDD	09/03	BN	B	41544	LK53 FEJ	11/03	BN	A
41536	LK53 FDX	10/03	BN	D	42519	LK03 NKN	07/03	BN	D, E

New to First London as B29D. Acquired from First London.

A: Acquired 12/11, B33F.

B: Acquired 02/12, B33F.

C: Acquired 03/12, B33F.

D: Acquired 02/14, B36F.

E: Originally given the more logical Sema Number 41519 whilst with First London but this was discovered to clash with First Southampton's Dart R419 WPX and so this vehicle was renumbered to 42519.

41730 & 41735 Dennis Dart / Marshall Capital (B33F)

41730	X503 JLO	09/00	HH	A	41735	X735 HLF	09/00	HH	A
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New to First London as B28D. Acquired from First London.

A: Acquired 08/10.

Group News

First Essex Fleetbook Summer Sale!

We can now offer the 2017 First Fleet List at a price to members of just £3 (post free). Details include fleet numbers, livery, previous history and a block grid of allocations, together with 20 illustrations of buses in their working environment.

From the Sales Officer, 196 Sinclair Road, London E4 9PT. Cheques payable to EBEG, please.

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see sample page of this high quality publication.



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

Acquired Vehicles

YN05 WKH, Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar, B43F, new to First PMT (65739) 08/05

YN05 WKJ, Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar, B43F, new to First PMT (65740) 08/05

YN05 WKK, Scania L94UB / WrightBus Solar, B43F, new to First PMT (65741) 08/05

From Stagecoach Merseyside (numbers 28551-3), via Ensigns, July 2017. WKH and K were seen at Mardens on 27 July.

Repaint

Scania N94UB / Scania YN53 RXV was seen on 12 July repainted into fleet livery, ex all red.

With thanks to John Card, Ross Newman, Bus Lists on the Web and Flickr.

The Overflow Letters Snippet!

David Grimmett from Minehead

Extract from an email exchange about county council contracting

Back in the 1980s when I was trying to run some bus services in Somerset I made the point to them that they send out a tender for a Tuesday bus service then, a fortnight later, after the tender had closed they would send out a tender for a Wednesday bus service. Or they would send out a tender for a school contract then a month later send out a tender for a bus service that would work in between the school. It was declared too complicated to co-ordinate tender dates and even now it still is. Seems Essex are more organized.

Well Done Essex CC!

More on WNO 475

Richard Delahoy.

Here's another shot of the former Eastern National KSW open topper which we illustrated last month (EBN639p32). WNO 475 was new to Westcliff Motor Services in 1953 as a standard closed top, lowbridge Bristol KSW5G/ECW L27/28R. It was numbered 1422 in the EN series in July 1954, being absorbed into the EN fleet in January 1955 and renumbered 2379 (not 2372 as erroneously stated last month) in the August 1964 scheme. It led a fairly humdrum existence until being selected as one of ten to be rebuilt to open top (highbridge) layout, 2379's conversion being the first to be undertaken at Central Works in March 1966. Running for the first few seasons at Clacton on seafront services, it later worked from Southend.



It was taken out of service in mid-season 1978 but not sold until September 1980 – to a member of the Eastern National Preservation Group, but it soon moved on to Prins Classic Transport in Holland for special charter work, later passing to two other owners in Holland before returning to Prins in 2011. Somewhat unusually, it later became one of the few British buses in Holland to return to the UK, being acquired by Stephen Leckie, CEO of Crieff Hydro Ltd, Perthshire in April 2015. It was driven back across Holland by Bart Prins and then from Newcastle-upon-Tyne to Crieff. At first it was kept at the Crieff Hydro hotel but has since been transferred to the Park Hotel, Peebles (about 80 miles away but part of the same Group) and is now fitted with the canopy and platform doors seen when **Terry Wiffen** photographed it on 18 May this year. Back-to-back seating and tables were installed while with Bart Prins, and these have been retained – the bus appears to only be a static addition to the 'retro' attractions of the hotel and is used as an eating place or as a backdrop to wedding photographs. It is currently notified as "SORN" on the DVLA database.

The story of the 10 open toppers (and the rest of the WNO batch of KSWs) was told by John G. Lidstone in *Bus & Coach Preservation*, May & June issues, 2015. To summarise, the fate of the 10 open toppers is: preserved - WNO 478/9/80/2/4; scrapped - WNO474/85; burnt out in PL depot fire - WNO 483; extant but derelict in Tenerife - WNO 481; in Scotland - WNO 475.

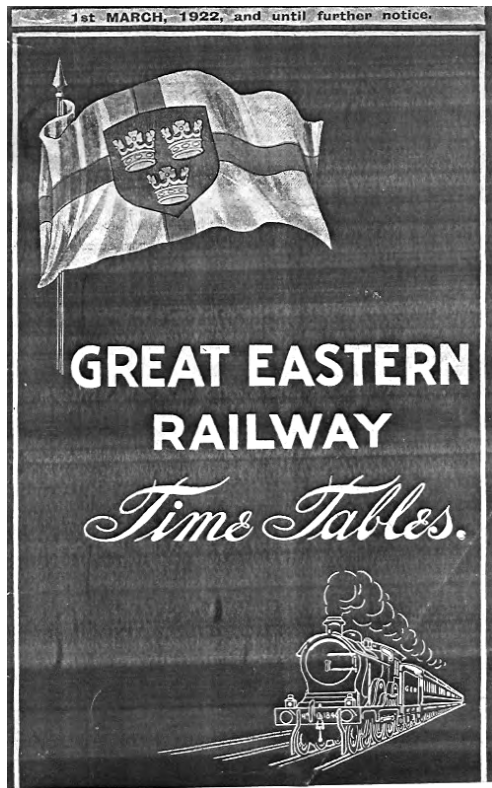
Thanks to Chris Stewart for his help with this short article and to John G. Lidstone for information from his articles.

Chris Stewart also photographed WNO 475 whilst in Holland and we shall show this in a future EBN.

Early Harwich Timetables.

Alan Osborne.

I was very interested to see the pictures of Great Eastern Railway buses in Harwich presented by Robert Appleton in EBN637 and thought readers might be interested in seeing some timetables for the services and some details of the operation. The early example comes from my Great Eastern Railway timetable dated 1 March 1922 (cover pictured below), and was probably the last one issued.



The service started on 1 April 1914 and replaced a former horse bus. It ran from Harwich Pier to Upper Dovercourt (Pounds Farm). Pounds Farm was on the Main Road almost opposite the Fronks Road turn. The service ran alternately via High Street and Main Road or via Marine Parade and Fronks Road, diverting to call at Dovercourt Railway Station in each direction. Although the GER did have a fleet of buses, they chose not to run the route and instead contracted it out to Thomas Tilling of Peckham. Initially Tilling Stevens TTA1 petrol-electric double deckers were used, later replaced by TS3 saloons as illustrated by Robert in EBN637. The vehicles were garaged in West Street, Harwich.

For more details about railway bus services I can recommend "Railway Motor Buses and Bus Services in the British Isles, 1902-1933", by John Cummings, Vol.1, Oxford Publishing Co., 1978.

The service remained essentially unaltered until taken over by the London & North Eastern Railway on 1 January 1923. When the Tilling contract expired on 30 September 1923 the garage and route passed to a local Dovercourt independent G. E. Starling and Sons. Two Guy BA 20-seat saloons (PU 712 and PU 1274) were used. In 1926, the Starling operations were sold to the Silver Queen Motor Services Ltd. of Clacton. However, the Guys passed to the Enterprise Bus Co. (Clacton) Ltd., being numbered G1 and G2. For their expanded operation at Harwich, Silver Queen opened a new garage in Kingsway, Dovercourt.

The Enterprise business was then acquired by Silver Queen (which had been re-named from the Clacton & District Motor Services Ltd. in June 1926) shortly before the combined businesses were acquired by Eastern National on 10 July 1931.

The Silver Queen services were generally re-numbered by the addition of 100 to their original numbers. The Harwich local service which had become 19/A in the Enterprise series accordingly became EN 119/A.

The first Eastern National timetable to include the new service appeared in January 1932 and is illustrated on the next page.

The White Horse public house, a prominent local landmark, was at 489, Main Road a short distance from the Fronks Road junction. In effect, the two services were interworked as a circular to and from Harwich.

For the record, the two Guy saloons that took over the GER service became nos. 3211 and 3212 in the Eastern National fleet, although they did not survive for very long.

The Silver Queen garage was later coded DT by Eastern National, this designation being retained for the new garage at Harwich.

SERVICE No. 119 Harwich Quay & Dovercourt (White Horse) — via Marine Parade

WEEKDAYS

	Harwich Quay	Harwich Fountain	Dovercourt Group	Dovercourt White Horse					
dep	7:00	7:05	7:10	7:15	Then every 30 minutes	untill	8:45	8:50	8:55
arr	7:05	7:10	7:15	7:20			9:00	9:05	9:10
dep	7:25	7:30	7:35	7:40			9:15	9:20	9:25
arr	7:30	7:35	7:40	7:45			9:25	9:30	9:35
dep	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05			9:35	9:40	9:45
arr	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10			9:45	9:50	9:55
dep	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:25			9:55	10:00	10:05
arr	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:30			10:05	10:10	10:15

SUNDAYS

	Harwich Quay	Harwich Fountain	Dovercourt Group	Dovercourt White Horse					
dep	10:00	10:05	10:10	10:15	Then every 30 minutes	untill	10:45	10:50	10:55
arr	10:05	10:10	10:15	10:20			11:00	11:05	11:10
dep	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35			11:15	11:20	11:25
arr	10:25	10:30	10:35	10:40			11:25	11:30	11:35
dep	10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55			11:35	11:40	11:45
arr	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:00			11:45	11:50	11:55
dep	11:00	11:05	11:10	11:15			11:55	12:00	12:05
arr	11:05	11:10	11:15	11:20			12:05	12:10	12:15

PARCEL TRAFFIC.

FRAGILE packages or furniture, glass, china, liquids in glass or earthenware vessels, musical instruments and suchlike articles are conveyed at Owners risk only Under no circumstances will they be carried at Company's risk.

SERVICE No. 119a—Harwich Quay & Dovercourt (White Horse)—via Main Road

WEEKDAYS

	Harwich Quay	Harwich Fountain	Dovercourt Group	Dovercourt White Horse					
dep	7:00	7:05	7:10	7:15	Then every 30 minutes	untill	8:45	8:50	8:55
arr	7:05	7:10	7:15	7:20			9:00	9:05	9:10
dep	7:25	7:30	7:35	7:40			9:15	9:20	9:25
arr	7:30	7:35	7:40	7:45			9:25	9:30	9:35
dep	7:50	7:55	8:00	8:05			9:35	9:40	9:45
arr	7:55	8:00	8:05	8:10			9:45	9:50	9:55
dep	8:10	8:15	8:20	8:25			9:55	10:00	10:05
arr	8:15	8:20	8:25	8:30			10:05	10:10	10:15

SUNDAYS

	Harwich Quay	Harwich Fountain	Dovercourt Group	Dovercourt White Horse					
dep	10:00	10:05	10:10	10:15	Then every 30 minutes	untill	10:45	10:50	10:55
arr	10:05	10:10	10:15	10:20			11:00	11:05	11:10
dep	10:20	10:25	10:30	10:35			11:15	11:20	11:25
arr	10:25	10:30	10:35	10:40			11:25	11:30	11:35
dep	10:40	10:45	10:50	10:55			11:35	11:40	11:45
arr	10:45	10:50	10:55	11:00			11:45	11:50	11:55
dep	11:00	11:05	11:10	11:15			11:55	12:00	12:05
arr	11:05	11:10	11:15	11:20			12:05	12:10	12:15

URGENT ?

Express

Delivery.

Send it by

EASTERN NATIONAL
Parcels Services.

Low

Rates.

Service Revisions by Paul Harvey.

3 July 17 CM7/9/77 Chelmsford/Braintree/Maldon DRT (M-F) Chelmsford Community Transport – new flexible DRT service although no information available on operator or Traveline website.

17 July 17 A6 London Paddington to Stansted Airport (D) National Express – timetable changes introduced.
A7 London Victoria to Stansted Airport via Waterloo (D) National Express – timetable changes introduced.

22 July 17 61 Blackmore to Brentwood (M-S) EOS – new contract service replacing Ensign Bus.



picture EOS 759 taken on 25 July 2017 in Brentwood High Street as described above and in the EOS report on p25 this issue.

Adam Kelleher.

23 July 17 7 Cambridge to Saffron Walden (M-S) Stagecoach Cambridge – revised route and timetable.

28 July 17 898 Brentwood to Blackmore (M-F) Brentwood Community Transport – service withdrawn.

31 July 17 808 Brentwood to Warley (M-F) Brentwood Community Transport – revised route and timetable.
C392 Sumners to Rye Park (M-F) Epping Forest Community Transport – revised route and timetable with introduction of Saturday service.

5 Aug 17 347 Hatfield Broadoak to Harlow (M-S) Epping Forest Community Transport – Saturday service reduced to one round trip.

20 Aug 17 7/8 Clacton to Walton (D) First Essex – additional journey at 1605 from Clacton & return at 1825 on 24 & 25 August only for Clacton Air Show.
74 Clacton to Colchester (D) First Essex – additional journey at 1705 from Clacton & return at 1805 on 24 & 25 August only for Clacton Air Show.

- 26 Aug 17** 13 Waltham Cross to Epping (M-S) EOS – new contract service operating every 90 mins replacing Regal Busways contract service 213/214.
 31A Chelmsford to Maldon (M-F) Arrow Taxi's – new contract service operating Monday to Friday replacing Regal Busways.
 47/147 Ongar to Harlow (M-S) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service replacing Regal Busways.
 66A Waltham Cross to Loughton/Debden Circular (Sun) EOS - new contract service operating one way loop via Debden & Loughton on an hourly basis replacing Regal Busways Sunday contract service 240/250.
 146 Ongar to Hatfield Heath (TTh) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service replacing Regal Busways.
 211/212 Waltham Cross to Waltham Abbey (M-S) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service replacing Regal Busways to a reduced timetable.
- 27 Aug 17** A large number of Essex County Council tendered services have been retendered to commence from this weekend. Full details available from the Essex CC Transport website. Stephensons of Essex and Regal Busways have lost number of contract services with First Essex and Go Ahead Hedingham securing new contracts. A big loss is for Regal Busways who had 38 services (both commercial and tendered) before 27 August 17 and after will only have 6 services.
 2 Harwich Town Service (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – contract service withdrawn and replaced by Panther Travel.
 2A Highwoods to Horkesley Heath (D) First Essex – the Sunday service will be revised to improve reliability.
 17 West Bergholt to Stanway School (Sch) First Essex – revised afternoon timetable to improve reliability.
 31/B/X Chelmsford to Burnham on Crouch (M-S) First Essex – improved Monday to Friday morning peak timetable.
 32 Chelmsford to Ongar (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – contract service withdrawn and replaced by First Essex to existing t'tbl.
 34 Saffron Walden Town Service (TThur) Viceroy of Essex – contract service withdrawn.
 41 Galleywood to Chignal (D) First Essex – minor changes to Monday to Friday evening peak timetable to improve reliability.
 42/A/B Galleywood to Broomfield Hospital/Stansted Airport (D) First Essex – minor changes to the Monday to Friday timetable with one morning peak 42B and two 42B evening peak journeys to operate as 42A from/to Galleywood.
 45 Moulsham Lodge to Writtle (D) First Essex – Monday to Friday service restored to every 12 mins with improvements to the Monday to Friday peak timetable. The Monday to Saturday late evening contract service operated by Regal Busways withdrawn and replaced by First Essex.
 46 Chelmsford to Ongar (M-S) NIBS – contract service withdrawn and replaced by First Essex to a revised timetable.
 55 Beaulieu Park to Chelmsford (M-F) First Essex – the 0740 & 0820 journeys from Beaulieu Park withdrawn.
 59 Haverhill to Audley End/Clavering (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – minor timetable revisions with some journeys withdrawn and Saturday section between Audley End & Clavering withdrawn on this contract service.
 60 Haverhill to Audley End (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – revision to Saturday timetable on this contract service.
 61 Highwoods to Wivenhoe (D) First Essex – minor timetable changes.



63333 (SK65 PXP) (Wright Streetlite Max) passes the Co-op bus stop in The Avenue, Wivenhoe, on service 61 Colchester Highwoods - Wivenhoe Rail Station on 18 July. **Robert Appleton.** EBN640p9

Service Revisions by Paul Harvey.

- 27 Aug 17** 62/A/B Colchester to Brightlingsea (D) First Essex – revised timetable, 62A journeys extended to and terminate at Wivenhoe Station and no longer serve Wivenhoe Cemetery. The daily evening journeys which operate one way loop via Rectory Road & Belle Vue Road to operate as 62B.
- 66/A West Bergholt to Rowhedge/Old Heath (D) First Essex – revised timetable combining 66 & 66A to operate as 66 between West Bergholt & Rowhedge every 20 mins Monday to Saturday. The 66A journeys and section of route via Speedwell Road, Abbots Road and Barnhall withdrawn. The Sunday contract journeys between Colchester & West Bergholt will operate to a revised timetable to improve reliability.
- 71/A/C/X Colchester to Chelmsford (M-S) First Essex – the Sunday contract service 71C operated via Regal Busways replaced by First Essex. Additional Monday to Friday morning peak journey introduced from Witham at 0608.
- 71B Chelmer Valley to Chelmsford (M-F) First Essex – the 0631 journey from Chelmer Village withdrawn and replaced by additional journey on service 71.
- 72 Chelmsford to Witham (M-S) First Essex – revised early morning and late afternoon Saturday timetable with a number of journeys withdrawn.
- 75/A Colchester Univ. of Essex to Maldon (D) First Essex – revised early evening timetable.
- 80A/C Brentwood to Hutton Circular (Sun) First Essex – minor changes to the contract timetable.
- 88/A/B Colchester to Halstead (M-S) First Essex – revised Monday to Friday timetable with 0640 Great Yeldham to Colchester, 1625 Colchester to Halstead & 1738 Halstead to Colchester withdrawn. Sunday contract service operated by Regal Busways withdrawn and replaced by First Essex with a revised timetable as service 88A.
- 90 Witham to Maldon (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – revised timetable with Saturday frequency reduced to hourly.
- 102/103/104/106 Colchester to Harwich (D) First Essex – revised Monday to Friday morning peak timetable.
- 104 Tillingham to Burnham (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – school journey on service D4 renumbered and to operate a revised timetable.
- 565 Brentwood to West Horndon (M-S) Regal Busways – contract service withdrawn and replaced by First Essex.



picture Panther Travel BIG9856 on hire to Regal Busways on route 565 (the destination display was faulty) on 2 August at Brentwood Station. **Robert Downton.** EBN640p10

673 Wickham Bishop to Chelmsford (Sch) Stephenson's of Essex – the early morning journey from Boreham to Chelmsford Monday to Saturdays as service 73 withdrawn.
 SB46 Matching Green to Epping (Mon) Community Link (ECC) – contract svc w'drawn, replaced by new services SB11 & SB12.

28 Aug 17 12 Wickford to Billericay (M-S) NIBS – contract service withdrawn and replaced by Stephenson's of Essex.
 46A/C-G Ongar/Epping Shoppers (M-S) NIBS – these contract shopper services withdrawn and replaced by Community Link contract services SB10 to SB13.
 269 Grays to Blackmore (M-S) NIBS – revised route and timetable for this contract service with section between Brentwood & Blackmore withdrawn.



picture NIBS Buses NK55BKU on Route 269 by Brentwood Station on 2 August.

Robert Downton.

29 Aug 17 1/A/B/X Chelmsford to Canvey (M-F) Regal Busways – revised route in Rettendon and revised timetable with additional journeys.
 1A Pitsea to Basildon (Sat) Regal Busways – contract service withdrawn and replaced by NIBS.
 3/A/B/C/D Chelmsford to Southend (M-S) Regal Busways – revised route and timetable with additional later journeys.
 10/A West Hanningfield to Pleshey (M-F) Regal Busways – new contract service replacing contract service 52/A. Service 10A will not serve Little Waltham.
 71/72 Warley to Stondon Massey (M-S) Regal Busways – new contract service replacing Stephenson's of Essex.
 91 Witham to Tollesbury (M-F) Go Ahead Hedingham – revised Monday to Friday timetable and new Saturday contract service introduced replacing Stephenson's of Essex.
 92 Tollesbury to Colchester (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – minor changes to timetable.
 95 Tollesbury to Maldon (M-F) Go Ahead Hedingham – introduction of new Saturday contract service replacing Regal Busways.
 104/6 Langdon Hills to Basildon (M-F) Regal Busways – new contract services replacing NIBS.
 345 Fuller Street to Braintree (Wed) Go Ahead Hedingham – new contract service replacing Regal Busways.
 381 Coopersale to Harlow (M-S) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service replacing Regal Busways contract services 380-384.
 552/3 Ramsden Heath to Billericay (M-F) Regal Busways – contract service withdrawn and replaced by NIBS.
 B2 Southchurch to Basildon (M-F) Regal Busways – revised timetable and withdrawn from Basildon Hospital.
 D1/D2 Burnham/Southminster to Maldon (M-S) Go Ahead Hedingham – new contract service replacing Stephenson's of Essex.
 DaRT3 North East Braintree (M-S) Arrow Taxis – revised service to include Regal Busways contract services 11, 12 & 13 on a flexible two hourly basis.

EBN640p11

Service Revisions by Paul Harvey.

29 Aug 17 DaRT4 North East Dengie DRT (M-S) Arrow Taxis – new flexible DRT service replacing Stephensons of Essex contract service concluded. D4.

DaRT5 Burham/SouthWoodham DRT (M-S) Arrow Taxis – revised timetable.

SB10 Moreton to Epping (MTh) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service one return journey.

SB11 Matching Green to Epping (MTh) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service one return journey.

SB12 Toot Hill to Harlow (WF) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service one return journey.

SB13 Epping to Little End (MTh) Community Link (ECC) – new contract service one return journey.

1 Sept 17 51 Chafford Hundred to Southend High School (Sch) NIBS – new school service.

66 Loughton/Debden to Waltham Cross Circular (D) EOS – revised timetable to operate generally every 20 mins Mon to Fri with a spur working to Upshire introduced. Sunday service withdrawn but see 66A 26 August 17.

86/A Harlow to Waltham Cross (M-S) EOS – revised timetable and route to operate one way loop via Waltham Abbey, Waltham Cross, Waltham Abbey & Upshire. Service 86A withdrawn.

87 Harlow to Epping (M-S) EOS – revision to timetable.

3 Sept 17 414 Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revision to timetable.

441 Takeley to Saffron Walden (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revision to timetable.

509 Bournes Green to Westcliff (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revision to timetable.

560 Temple Sutton to Westcliff (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revision to timetable.

704 Great Holland to Colchester (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – school service withdrawn.

4 Sept 17 X15 Colchester to Harwich (M-S) Panther Travel – new express bus service.

93/94 Colchester to Ipswich (M-S) Ipswich Buses – revised timetable no longer serving Great Wenham & Holton St Mary villages.

133 Abridge to Loughton Station (Sch) EOS – new school service.

313/A/413 Great Dunmow to Saffron Walden (M-S) Stephensons of Essex – school day service 413 withdrawn.

471/473/474 Fyfield/Norton Heath/Doddingtonhurst to Brentwood (Sch) NIBS – revision to routes and timetables, service 471 withdrawn and 473 operating to/from Ongar.

475 High Ongar to Brentwood (Sch) NIBS – school service withdrawn.

478 Willingale to Brentwood (Sch) NIBS – school service withdrawn.

483-486 Doddingtonhurst/Ongar/Blackmore/Stondon Massey to Hutton (Sch) NIBS – revision to routes and timetables although exact details not available on the operator or TraveLine websites.

702 Frinton to Colchester (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – revised route and timetable to include part of withdrawn service 704.

704 Great Holland to Colchester (Sch) Stephensons of Essex – school service withdrawn.

HALCON2 White Horse Avenue to Coggeshall (Sch) Flagfinders – revision to school timetable.

HELENA1 Braintree to Dunmow (Sch) Flagfinders – revision to route and school timetable.

HONYB1 Braintree to Coggeshall (Sch) Flagfinders – revision to school timetable.

HOOONE1 Colne to Coggeshall (Sch) Flagfinders – revision to school timetable.

6 Sept 17 84/A Sudbury to Colchester (M-S) Go Ahead Chambers – 1630 journey from Sudbury to operate at 1640. Service 84A will serve different stops per school requirement.

753/754 Bury St Edmunds to Colchester (M-S) Go Ahead Chambers – minor revision to timetable.

755/756 Clare/Gt Waldingfield to Colchester (Sch) Go Ahead Chambers – revised afternoon timetable.

7 Sept 17 64 Halstead to Coggeshall (Sch) Flagfinders – revision to route and school timetable.

8 Sept 17 431 Blackmore to Shenfield (Sch) Fourways Coaches – school service withdrawn.

484 Ongar to Hutton (Sch) Fourways Coaches – school service withdrawn.

FWC004 Maldon to Brentwood (Sch) Fourways Coaches – school service withdrawn.

24 Sept 17 19 Clacton to St Osyth Beach (M-S) First Essex – summer service withdrawn for the winter period.

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

Farewell to the 11A,

Richard Delahoy.

As reported in Service Revisions over the past couple of months, Regal have lost a significant number of Essex CC contracts in the tender round that takes effect at the end of August, with some routes passing to other operators and other ceasing as they no longer meet ECC's criteria for supported services. More than 30 Regal services will cease, including the long-standing Sunday Southend to Chelmsford 11A which Regal have run since 2006. Here we see KP02 PUH, a dual door Dennis Dart acquired in June 2014 but still in white with no fleetnames three years later, in Hamlet Court Road, Westcliff, on Sunday 6 August. Route information is by paper notices in the windscreen.

Hamlet Court Road was once a busy shopping area and was on the line of Westcliff Motor Services first route; even in the 1960s & 1970s it enjoyed a 15-minute headway on the 6/6A but today is only served by a Stephenson's school service. There is no replacement for the 11A, with Southend and Chelmsford only being connected by the premium fare, limited stop X30 on Sundays from September.



Readers will note that the withdrawal of the 11A is not in this month's mammoth list (for which we thank Paul). It was recorded in last month's EBN as were all Regal cancellations. Paul has only mentioned certain routes again where the new operator has registered the replacement service. That is the downside in changing the way news is presented but it should work out easier as time progresses and may even save space as well.

Publicity News, **Ian Ransom** with thanks to Owen Woodliffe.

Arriva

59 (Harlow - Chelmsford) revised leaflet for Anglia Ruskin University extension from 4 June;
timetable booklet for Harlow local buses from 4 June

Go-Ahead London

Route 575 for Seaside, Summer 2017 with Southend Seafront Service 68.

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

DAF SB120 / Wright Cadet 3504 (KE51 PUH) was withdrawn at **Southend** upon MoT expiry on 11 July. It has been replaced by similar 3516 (LF52 USZ) transferred from **Colchester**.

E400 6516 returned to **Southend** from loan to Maidstone on 14 July allowing the withdrawal of DAF DB250 / East Lancs 6258 (FD02 UKN).

Correcting last month, it was DAF DB250/East Lancs 6256/61 which had previously been withdrawn following the earlier return of E400s 6500/11 from Kent. DAF SB120 / Wright 3528 (LF02 PNE) returned from loan to Stevenage to allow withdrawal of DAF DB250 / East Lancs 6255 (FD02 UKK) on 15 July.



Top picture <<<

6258 was withdrawn on Friday 14/7 — seen here at Southchurch on 14 July. Of note is route 29 going to Newington Ave, which ceased on 24 July. 6516 back from loan to Kent replaces 6258, but will be used on route 1 as usual, not 29.

John G. Lidstone.



Lower picture <<<

6255 was expected to be withdrawn also on 14/7, hence photo in Prittlewell on the afternoon 'odd' short working on 29 to Southend Travel Centre. As reported above, it was retired on 15/7 with 3528's return from loan to Stevenage replacing it.

John G. Lidstone.



London Bus Company RTW75 (KGK575) in High Street Epping on EOR Railway Service (Epping/Ongar Steam Railway) on 26 July.
Robert Downing.



New Arriva route 6 started in Southend-on-Sea Monday 24th July 2017. 3514 (LJ03 MZE) is seen here departing Southend Travel Centre for Newington Avenue. It replaces the eastern section of route 29 between Southend Travel Centre and Temple Sutton and Newington Avenue.
Alex Cranfield.

Acme in Pictures. The Pink Page. Both pictures by Thomas Lloyd.



Both taken in the Acme yard at Bambers Green on the EBEG trip on 27 May.

Top, V153 MEV Dennis Trident/Alexandra H47/27F;

Bottom, MB04 TCZ, MAN 18.310/Marco Polo C53F.

A little reminder that the company did provide a fleet list to which Ian Ransom has added further information. This is available by email or post (sae please) from the Editor, for address see EBN640p1.

ENB640p16

Acme in Pictures. The White Page. Both pictures by Owen Woodliffe.



A couple of pictures of Acme before their pink phase; their early days of route 7 taken at Stansted Mountfitchet. Top, Dennis Dart SLF – Plaxton Pointer KN52 NFV formerly Abellio Travel Surrey and lower, KX58 GTF, Dennis Enviro 200 formerly with Stagecoach East Kent and for a time with Trustybus.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN640p17

Acquired

PN08 SWJ ADL Trident East Lancs H43/27F

(converted to single door) ex CT Plus (via Ensign, dealer) acquired in 7/17

It is fitted with a ticket machine and is likely to see some use on new service X15 (Harwich to Colchester)

In sales stock for some time Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton S303 JUA is now in use, in the operational fleet

Re-registered

Primo MX55 WDT to DC04 PAN

Vehicle status changes

Dennis Javelin/UVG BIG 8796 (P653 ORV) withdrawn

Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton BIG 8843 (P390 LPS) withdrawn

Greater Anglia Northumberland Park Contract

With the closure of the level crossing on 1 July until December 2018 at Northumberland Park Station in Tottenham, Panther Travel have been contracted by Greater Anglia to provide a 20 minute service to and from the east and west sides vi a Leaside Road Bridge, scheduled to take 10 minutes. Primo SB56 PAN and Dart DC56 PAN have been noted on service, although passengers have been few and far between as it is quicker for able bodied to use the footbridge. Vehicles are parked overnight in Station yard (see picture below).

Rail Replacement

6.6.17 Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton BIG 7006 (Y182 CFS), Dennis Javelin/Plaxton BIG 8856 (G210 UAS) and Alexander Dart SLF DC56 PAN (RX56 BWE) on emergency rail Manningtree - Harwich (electrical supply problem).

9.7.17 Dennis Javeli/Plaxto BIG 9895 (N320 NHY) on GA Ipswich – Cambridge.



With the closure of the level crossing at Northumberland Park Station in Tottenham, Greater Anglia have contracted Panther Travel to provide a 20-minute service from one side of the station to the other via Leaside Road bridge that is scheduled to take 10 minutes. Dart DC56 PAN (new as RX56 BWE) waits in vain for custom on the east side of the railway on 27 July.

Owen Woodliffe.

Acquired Vehicles

41512	LK03 NGE	SFD2BACR32GW16539	4417/03	B29D	06/03	First London DHL512
41514	LK03 NGG	SFD2BACR32GW16549	4419/03	B29D	07/03	First London DHL514

Transbus Dart SLFs with Caetano bodywork. Their body numbers are prefixed SCC. From First Potteries, 7 July 2017. Converted to single door after London service. In Urban livery. 41512 entered service by 10 July with small "First" name with f symbol above the driver's cab and small "First Potteries" name with f symbol above the entrance door, with main "Potteries" fleet names on cove panels both sides. (It was still like this when seen on 1 August.) 41514 had the same but all Potteries names were removed, although the ghosting of these remains. These vehicles are for additional contract work at Basildon. First Essex already owns 41513.

Correction to EBN 639, the references to June 2016 should of course have been June 2017!

Vehicle on Loan

20515, WV02 EUR, Volvo B12M / Plaxton Paragon, on loan from First Eastern Counties at Norwich to Colchester for driver training, seen in Witham and Chelmsford on 19 July. Still at Colchester on 27th.

Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; CF(DS)-Driving School (based at Chelmsford); FG=to/from another First Group company

Period 4 (25 June - 22 July 2017)

41512 FG-BN, 41514 FG-BN



No-one has yet sent me pictures of the buses reported by Adam so here is one of mine taken at Westway on 28 June. It is 62191, reg. X685 ADK, a Volvo B10BLE/Wright Renown. The dramatic livery cannot be missed and is something I failed to achieve when I worked for First Essex! See EBN635p15 for the same bus on delivery from Buses in Somerset.

Maurice Austin.

Repaints

CR32478 was at Mardens for repaint on 19 July and had been repainted into Urban livery by 4 August. It was back in service, on route 61, on 7th. It has small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and small "First" name with f symbol above driver's cab and depot stickers both sides, but it does not have main fleet names or magenta lining.

CF42932, seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 1 August, to Urban livery with small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides and main "Essex" fleet names on lower panels both sides.



picture As reported by Adam, here is 42932, Alexander Dennis Dart 42932 (SN05 EAP). Looking resplendent in the summer sun during a 3-hour visit on 5 August.

John G. Lidstone.

CN65688, seen on route 74 on 4 August, to Urban livery, with small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides and main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides.

CF(DS)66179, seen at Duke Street Bus Station on 8 July, and CF(DS)62139, seen in Chelmsford on 11th, both to Driver Training livery (including large magenta and purple chevrons on front and rear). 62139 is the vehicle that was in Aberdeen Heritage livery. The recently repainted Driver Training vehicles have had their front destination screens covered, with "Training" in the middle and red on white L paints each side.

BN66826, seen in Basildon on 16 July, to Urban livery, with small "First" name with f symbol above driver's cab, depot sticker and main "Essex" fleet name on cove panels on offside (nearside not seen).

CF68509 was at Mardens for repaint on 26 July and was completed by 9 August. It remains in yellow school bus livery with black lettering, but with magenta f symbols replaced by black ones and "First f Student" side fleet names replaced with "First f ESSEX" fleet names further forward. One idiosyncrasy on the back is that a "First f" fleet name in black has been added immediately below the same in white, which remains in the rear offside window.

Of the Volvo B9TLs mentioned in EBN 639, 37139 was seen with route 62/A/B branding on 10 July, 37136 was seen with route 62/A/B branding on 14 July, 37133 was seen repainted into green-front Urban 2 livery with route 62/A/B branding on route 62 on 20 July and 37135 was seen repainted into green-front Urban 2 livery with route 62/A/B branding on route 62A on 20 July. To summarise, of the seven acquired, 37133-6/8-9 are all now in green-front Urban 2 livery with route 62/A/B branding and 37140 remains in Barbie livery

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Colchester and Clacton

CR65677 has received side and rear LED blinds (it already had them at the front). CN65692 has received a rear only LED blind. In EBN638 it was stated that CR65678 has unusually gained a rear LED route number whilst the front and side remain flip dot. In fact, 65678 originally gained a rear LED route number c November 2008 but this was panelled over c November 2014. It has now been re-instated. CR66816 has had its seats re-upholstered in e-leather, date unknown (possibly when it was repainted in January 2015). Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 (all CR, all July, except where stated): 32068 (7th & 21st), 32087 (13th, 19th, 20th & 4th August), 32631 (4th & 13th), 33080 (2nd August), 33088 (14th & 17th), 33190 (21st), 33195 (3rd August) plus 33044 on 22nd, particularly unusual for a double decker to be working the routes on a Saturday. StreetLites are having their nearside mirrors amended, so that they protrude less and therefore are less likely to hit objects and swing back and smash the glass above the doors. This has enabled them to resume working on country routes, and the following have been noted on routes 103/4 (all CR, all July except where stated): 63332 (19th), 63333 & 63343 (21st), 63334 (19th & 31st), 63337 (2 August), 63340 (4 August). In addition, 63330 & 63342 worked route 102 on Sunday 23 July. Clacton's 65690, 65691 & 65692 have received branding for routes 74 and 76 on their cove panels and 65691 & 65692 have also received a large rear advert for fare deals between Colchester & Clacton. This is in response to Hedingham's recently introduced service X76 between the two towns. The branding on the nearside reads (from front to back) "74 Colchester Town Centre Wivenhoe Clacton-on-sea 76 Colchester Town Centre Weeley Clacton-on-sea" with the same on the offside except Colchester and Clacton positions reversed (so reading left to right, Colchester always comes first). 65690 was first seen thus on 11 July, but ironically on route 7. 65691 was seen on route 76 on 13th and 65692 was seen on routes 74 & 76 on 4 August. 65692 had its "Essex" main fleet names removed from its cove panels (seen thus on 20 July) before the application of the branding, 65690 & 65691 had never received these after being repainted into Urban livery. Clacton Enviro 200s away from their normal routes 7/8: 44596 on 10/11/12 (13 July), 44597 on 5/5A (27 July & 4 August), 44598 on 3 (6 July), 44599 on 10/11/12 (7 July), 5/A (20th) and unusual on 19 (4 August).

12 July	CR63331 on 75	13	CN42556 on 3
18	CN44599 on 74, CN65665 on 3, CR65684 on 62A	24	62 branded CR37135 on 65
28	CR63341 on 62A. Osborne Street was closed due to a burst water main at the junction with Arthur Street. As a result, Colchester Bus Station was closed apart from stops on Stanwell Street.	31	74/76 branded CN65691 on 7/8
30	CN42556 on 74A	3	62 branded CR37134 on 61, CR63337 on 67
2 August	62 branded CR37136 on 75, CR63339 unusual on 62	10	62 branded CR37139 on 88
7	CN42918 on 76		



Scania L94UB 65692 (YS03 ZKM) has received route branding for services 74/76 Clacton - Colchester like her sisters 65690/65691. Rear view of 65692 in Jackson Road, Clacton on 4 August, also showing rear advert promoting fares on services 74/76.

Robert Appleton.
EBN640p21

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Chelmsford (including Braintree Outstation)

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.)

During July 53116 was fitted with all round LED blinds, replacing flip dots. 69429 has had its front dash panel "W" repainted from black (which was unusual, most are in white) to purple (a unique variation). X30 branded Enviro's continue to be used on route 42, seen during July and early August have been 67166 (11 & 27 July), 67168 (19 July and 4, 7 & 10 August), 67170 (4 August) and 67171 (7 August). More unusual have been 67165 on 72 (26 July), 67167 on 36 (12 July), 67168 on 36 (3 August), 67169 on 42B (26 July) and 67171 on 71 (11 July).

4 July 53121 on 70, DS62191 on driver training in Colchester

5 53112 on 71

10 32480 & 32481 on late evening Greater Anglia rail replacement between Shenfield and Wickford (possibly also to Southend Victoria), 53133 on 71. 65028 was on route 351, which is even more unusual than the report of 66811 last month, this is the first reported sighting of a Scania OmniCity on the route. It was covering for failed Solo 53128 on the 1805 from Chelmsford. Newly repainted DS66179 on driver training in Hutton.

12 53115 on 36 (and on 71 on 31st)

21 53137 on 71

22 66812 at Braintree outstation

27 DS62195 at Colchester depot

28 53117 on 71

4 August 67904 on 57



picture First Essex StreetLite Max 63335 on 71, with cheery driver, seen leaving New London Road by the "bus gate" onto Parkway on 10 August. **Maurice Austin.** EBN640p22

Basildon and Hadleigh

Bits of the Leicester route branding (see EBN625) have re-appeared on Enviro 400s at Basildon as adverts have been removed, the branding is still within the frames. 33544 & 33573 (yellow) and 33545 & 33572 (blue) have recently been seen. On 27 July, Basildon's 41524 and 41538 were operating on recently won contract routes, the former on 11, the latter on 374.



<<< Picture left
Bus stop flags (with route numbers) have been put up inside Basildon bus station as has branding for route X10.

Adam Kelleher.

Service Vehicles

Further to EBNs 637 & 638, SN17 NWV/X/Z are other new Ford Transit engineering vans, based at Hadleigh, Basildon and Clacton respectively. NWZ has Clacton depot stickers and the fleet number 90560. ST62 JMV / LFH / PEO / PKC / PLJ have all returned off lease.



Mention of a new batch of Ford Transits for First Engineering brings to mind that it's nearly half a century since Eastern National first took some - in 1968, YHK 965-9F were delivered (replacing BMC J4 vans) and CWC 986G arrived the following year. Thankfully someone thought to photograph YHK 966F, when new, inside Southend depot.

It lasted until 1976, still wearing the pale green and cream ancillary fleet livery seen here although later sisters OVW 337/8M and RWV 978M arrived in National white. Today's Transits are a much more sophisticated vehicle than these Mark Is, but even they represented a huge advance over the Thames 400E which preceded them. And, of course there were eventually large numbers of Transit minibuses in the EN/TW fleets. EBEG collection, courtesy Chris Stewart.

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to M Austin, S Austin, R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, J Benee, T Clark, M Farmer, W Laird, D Latus, D Lund-Conlon, J Podgorski, I Ransom, K Smith, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr and Terminus. EBN640p23

Richard Delahoy.

Vehicle sold

Dennis Dart MPD 410 (KV51 KZK) has been sold to Panther Travel.

Demonstrator on loan

a Mercedes Benz Sprinter DF66 AEC with Mellor Strata B21F bodywork was on loan from about Friday 14 July until Tuesday 18 July, being used from Rochford depot on service 61, after which it moved on to Arrow Taxis at Maldon.



picture On its first day in service with Stephensons of Essex, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter/Mellor Coachcraft Strata minibus DF66 AEC at Southchurch - note the 'AEC' on the registration plate! It is currently being advertised for sale at just £88,500 by Mellor Coachcraft, whose demonstration livery it carries.

John G. Lidstone.



Stephensons 456 (GU52 HJX) new in 2002 to Jenkins, Newick laying over in Braintree bus station on 22 February.

Ken Coldwell.

EOS London.com

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

Acquired Vehicles 740 KM02 HGE, Dart / Pointer, B30D, new to Armchair (DP 1047) 08/02
741 KP02 PUK, Dart / Pointer, B30D, new to Armchair (DP 1023) 06/02

Acquired from Abellio London. 740 was seen on route 87 on 15 July and 741 on route 66 on 20th. Both retain dual doors and have number only scrolls in the front destination blind. They have been repainted into a simpler version of fleet livery of all orange with black skirt and bumpers. 741 re-uses a fleet number previously carried by Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solar YN51 MKZ, which was withdrawn in Feb. 2016. KX06 LXG, Dart / Pointer, BxxF, new to Apcoa, Sunbury 06/06

Seen at North Weald on 18 June and then on route 66 on 23rd, all white livery, fully programmed LED blinds. When new, it was used for parking shuttles at Gatwick Airport and had luggage racks in part of the front section. It has also worked at Luton Airport.

Fleet Numbering Scania OmniCities YR10 AZO and YR10 AZV have been given fleet numbers 701 and 700 respectively. 700 re-uses a fleet number previously carried by Optare Excel R300 PAR, which was withdrawn by May 2015. Dart KU52 YKO has been given fleet number 744.

Demonstrator New 8.9m Enviro 200 MMC demonstrator YX17 NXA, in Alexander Dennis demonstrator livery of grey with a green fade to yellow band, was on route 87 on 20 July and new route 61 on 22nd. **Adam Kelleher's** picture of it in Brentwood High Street is shown below. By 25th it had moved on to Faresaver, Chippenham.



Disposal

Transbus Trident / Transbus President LK03 CEU was seen at Ensign's in December 2016.

Route 61

EOS took over operation of Brentwood to Blackmore route 61 from Ensignbus on Saturday 22 July. As noted above, on the first day, passengers were treated to new Enviro 200 MMC demonstrator YX17 NXA, with fully programmed blinds. However, on Monday 24th, the more usual standard of EOS presentation was on the route, Dart 759, with route number and lazy (Brentwood & Blackmore) destinations on paper in the windscreen & first side window and paper route number only in rear window. 759 has been the regular vehicle on the route; there have been two or three sightings a week of the 61 since, and each time 759 was in use.

With thanks to John Card, Chris Stewart, Owen Woodliffe, Bus List on the Web and Flickr

EBN640p25



Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements July 2017.

Vehicles in

Arriva London	LI53 BDF/BBX	Volvo B7TL's
Crosville M.S	MX08 ZFM	Enviro 200
Go-Ahead London	W464/531/469/482 WGH	Volvo B7TL's
	PJ53 NKT	
	LG02 KHA	
	LX53 AYN	
	LX03 EXV	
	LF52 ZRY	
	SN54 GPV/X	Darts
	SN03 YBC/H	
	BX04 BXL	DAFs
	FJ54 ZVA	
	YJ56 WVF	Solo
Metroline	LK07 BDU/BEY	Enviro's
Reays Coaches	PX12 CNZ/COH/S/U	Enviro 200s
Stagecoach Merseyside	PX55 EFL/M/N	Darts
	YN05 WKC/H-K	Scania's
	YN04 GMG/U	

Vehicles Out

Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx	EJ52 WXF	Dart
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Essex	YN05 WKH-K	Scania's
Grant Palmer, Dunstable	LX06 DZU	Volvo B7TL
Hulleys of Baslow, Derbyshire	TT57 BLU	E200

NIBS Buses, Wickford, Essex

	PG04 WHU	Volvo B7TL's
	PA04 CYK	
Panther Travel, Dunmow, Essex	PN08 SWJ	E400
Seaford and District	YX09 FNI/FKT	E200's
South West Coaches, Wincanton, Somerset	YJ56 AOV	Solo
	LK07 BDY	E200's
	PX12 CNZ/COU	
UK Coachways, Bolton	LK07 BDU / ELJ	E200's
Watts Coaches, Cardiff	LI53 BFL / BDY	Volvo B7TL's
York Pullman	LG02 KHV	Volvo B7TL

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL's PJ52 LWV / LWW PJ53 NKR

South East Coachworks, Faversham.

Volvo B7TL PJ53 NKP

The DD Bus, London W5.

Volvo B7TL LG02 KGX

Vapouround Orange Fox Media, Derby.

Volvo B10M R969 XVM

Paul French, St Annes, Lancs.

Volvo B7TL's LI53 BCZ / BEO

Bruen Coaches, Dublin.

Volvo B7TL's PL51 LGK / LGJ

Boss Transport (NZ Coach services), New Zealand.

Scrap to MC Tractors

Dart CX52 VRK Trident X793 JHG Volvo B7TL's LG02 KGY / W464 WGH.

Ensignbus

Ensign Fleet – July 2017

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman

Withdrawn

799 KU02 YTX Dart SLF Plaxton to First Great Western. This was a temporary fleet member in white livery ex NCP London Luton AP1.



picture above. This is probably the biggest bus ever to use First Essex Hadleigh garage. A legitimate business call with ex-First James Johnson of Westcliff Trident fame at the wheel. Ensignbus 404 Tri-axle squeezing through an always crowded yard on 11 July. **John G. Lidstone.**



<<< Lower picture.

He carries a lot on his shoulders!

Ensignbus Vintage Fleet drivers have special uniforms, rather nicely, depicting Cravens AEC Regent III RT1431.

Epaulette close-ups, courtesy of James Johnson.

John G. Lidstone.

Services

The Silver-End to Alec Hunter Academy school contract ceased from 21 July and is not being renewed. Also ceased from the same date was the Stanway School – Shrub End – St Michaels service sub-contracted to Stans Coaches. This will be replaced with a revised Stanway School – Layer route from September term. From 24 July Clacton Town Service 135 served the new Asda store in the town.

From 28 August Hedingham will operate the D1 Bradwell – Maldon and the D2 Southminster – Maldon M-S service currently operated by Stephenson's. Hedingham have retained their current ECC contracted 91, 92 and 95/A services, the ECC website suggests Saturday operation on 95 and Regal Busways have lost the Saturday ECC contract – but this to be confirmed as it is not 100% clear.

The Harwich Town Service which was taken over by Panther Travel on 3 Jun (after assisting Hedingham in times of driver shortage earlier this year) was won on re-tender from 28 August 2017.

From 6 September Chambers are making minor revisions to several routes, 84A will serve some different bus stops to reflect the County Council school contract. The 1630 SY departure will move to 1640. Service 374 is retimed to be more reflective of traffic conditions. School services 752 from Bures to Bury St Edmunds will start 10 minutes earlier and depart West Suffolk College earlier pm. School services 755 Gt Waldringfield – Colchester Schools and 756 Clare to Colchester Schools are altered pm to better reflect traffic conditions. Service 753 and 754 Colchester – Sudbury – Bury St Edmunds also have minor alterations.

General School Services operated by Chambers as from 6 September are tabled below – information from their website.

Service	From	To	Departs	Arrives	Return Departure	Return Arrival	Notes	Public Service
374	Clare	Bury Schools	0730	0835	1545 1545	1641 1704	Two bus departures – different routes	Yes
374	Hartest Green	Bury Schools	0753	0829	1545 1545	1616 1640	Two bus departures – different routes	Yes
751	Gt Cornard	Bury Schools	0730	0839	1505 1555 1705	1550 1659 1759		Yes
752	Bures	Bury Schools	0728	0845	1545	1658	Duplicated from Sudbury 0745	Yes
755	Gt Waldringfield	Norman Way Schools	0640	0825	1554	1720		Yes
756	Clare	Norman Way Schools	0640	0830	1555	1747		Yes
SC702	Glemsford	Stour Valley HS (Clare)	0752	0810	1505	1523		Yes*
SC707	Gt Waldringfield	Ormiston Academy Sudbury	0810	0835	1520	1545		Yes*
SC716	Chelsworth	Thomas Gainsborough Cornard	0805	0840	1520	1555		No*
SC718	Kettlebaston	Thomas Gainsborough Cornard	0800	0840	1520	1600		No*
SC725	Leavenheath	Nayland Primary	0853	0905	1525	1545		No*

(*) As indicated by chambers website.

The Hedingham & Chambers websites now have school services listed, with Hedingham providing services to Manningtree High, Honeywood Coggeshall, Plume Maldon, Stanway Secondary, Tending Lower and Upper Schools, Samuel Ward Academy Haverhill & Ramsey School Halstead – totalling over 30 services.

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



Top Chambers 261 (EY57 FZE) an AD Enviro 200 laying over at Sudbury bus station on 13 July.

Ken Coldwell.

Lower Chambers 562 (V303 LGC) a Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President returning from Sudbury in Colchester High Street with "Jumbo" looming behind, on 13 July. New in 2000 to London General.

Ken Coldwell.



EBN640p29

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Cook, Westcliff-on-Sea

YN08 NSO, a Bova Futura FHD 127, C53FT is here, previously with Amber, Rayleigh.

Don, Great Dunmow

New here is DN17 DON, a Volvo B8R C72F.



picture: **CPT "Ride & Drive" event.**

Each year the bus/coach industry trade body CPT-UK organises an event for members at North Weald airfield where manufacturers and dealers bring along demonstrators for trial runs around the private roads of the airfield. The weather for 2017's event on 28 July was hardly summer-like, overcast, cold and with some rain, but that didn't stop the fun. One vehicle present was this appropriately registered new Volvo B8R for Dons of Dunmow, DN17 DON. The 72-seat body by Sunundegui features 3+2 seating for school groups and is seen here being test driven by Group member and Essex CC Public Transport Officer Dominic Lund-Conlon. **Richard Delahoy.**

Hardiman, Canvey Island

Plaxton bodied Mercedes Benz 0814D (C25F) has gone to Parnell, Honiton, Devon.

Lodge, High Easter

Caetano C22F bodied Toyota, reg. BU08 EJF is here from Dobbs, Speen, Bucks; whilst Wright bodied DAF SB200 has reverted to its original registration of YJ03 PFG from E20 DGE, which is now carried by the Toyota above.

New Horizon, Frating

The reference to former National Holidays Setra S415GT-HD, reg. NH09 NRH should have been NH09 MRH.

One Executive, Billericay

RJ15 KSZ, a Mercedes Benz 516CDI with EVM C16F body is a recent arrival from Trimmer, Wickford.

Viceroy, Saffron Walden

Caetano bodied Volvo B12B has reverted to its original registration of SF07 DLY from UTR 705.

The Letters Page.

Terry Challis from Blackpool

More on ENOC KSW5Gs – and a Pat on the Back for HH!

Thank you for EBN 639. I was interested to read Doug Brown's comments on the ENOC KSW5Gs. I, too passed my PSV test on one (TNO 685/2331) in 1968 and I always enjoyed driving them from Clacton Garage during the 1968 season. We also had one of the VNO 858 - 860 batch (2363 - 2365) which were built with platform doors for use on the ex-Hlcks Braintree to London service (322). Interestingly, these vehicles also had staggered seating upstairs. I believe that by 1968 they had all been fitted with heaters.

I also believe that these three buses were unique in the Eastern National fleet as they were the only rear entrance double-deckers to have platform doors. When thinking about their performance, it must be remembered that the platform doors made them about half of a ton heavier than the normal KSWs. They 'weighed in' at about eight tons as against the seven and a half tons of the normal KSWs.

I was interested to read in the book "London's Utility Buses by Ken Blacker (published by Capital Transport)" that the Bristol K5G utilities allocated to the London Transport Hanwell Garage in 1942 built up a grudging and lasting respect and were sometimes described as a busman's bus. This was because "They benefited from Bristol's traditionally light but positive steering, the smooth clutch and very reliable brakes. Gear-changing was not difficult to master and, thanks to Gardner's excellent low speed torque characteristics, was not required quite as frequently as the small capacity of the engine might suggest since the vehicle would chug away happily down to 12mph in top gear." (Page 18) I know that all this happened in 1942 and soon after but that was only ten years or so before the KSWs were delivered. Along with the Eastern Counties LD5Gs, this batch of KSWs must have been some of the heaviest double-deckers built using Gardner 5LW engines. I believe that the performance of ENOC buses differed according to which garage they were allocated. I was told, on good authority, that in the 1950s and 1960s Hadleigh Garage 'tuned' its buses to help them to keep time on the busy routes with which they had to cope. I was once told that AHJ 402, a partially re-built pre-war K5G was an especially lively bus.

Eds note: and still some 65 or so years on, Hadleigh depot still has a well-deserved reputation for engineering excellence!

Alan Tebbit BEM from Truro

Another Pat on the Back.

I have received and perused my copy of the Fleet Record 1964-1990, and what an excellent publication it is. Many congratulations, and thanks, to those who contributed to it. I was particularly interested in the picture on page 28, of Leyland National CF 2200, parked on the forecourt at Duke Street. I drove this bus many thousands of miles, as one of the drivers privileged to be part of the wheelchair coach (DAB) rota. This photo must have been taken immediately after it had been outshopped from its conversion, the paintwork being testament to that. I was surprised to see it with its original bus seats in the rear saloon. Before entry into service, these were replaced by Plaxton E type coach seats, in a red, orange and black moquette, the rear bench, and the 3 seater over the front wheelarch, being similarly covered. There was also a double seat at the rear of the forward saloon for an attendant to sit on, and observe the wheelchair bound passengers. The collapsible ramp could be used on either doorway, and I cannot recall ever using the centre doorway for wheelchairs, this being the ideal entrance for the walking wounded to access the rear saloon. One day I will write an account of life on the DABs, which spanned 11 years.

Doug Brown (DH from BD).

A tale of a bus driver in the '80s.

Jim and I did a trip to Blackmore on the 260. We only had about 5-minutes stand time so I changed the front and back blinds and went into the lower saloon to chat to Jim. It was soon time to leave but no passengers got on. I got in the cab, started the engine and checked the nearside mirror for runners. The first three passengers got on at Dines Corner about 1½ miles from Blackmore but I did not get the two bells starting signal and looking through the glass screen could not see Jim either. I got out of the cab and asked the ladies if they had seen a conductor. They had not. I told them I will have to go back to Blackmore as Jim may have fallen off the platform and may be lying in the road.

I was about to get in the cab when I heard a siren. I thought I had better let it go first then I saw the blue lights of a police car but it did not pass but pulled in behind the bus. The driver beckoned me over to his window and said, "excuse me Sir, bit do you know the man in the back of the police car?" It was Jim complete with Setright and cash bag. I looked at Jim long and hard and the police began to giggle. I then went to the offside passenger window and looked at Jim and then round to the nearside window for another look. I then went to the police driver and said "no officer, I have had a good look at him, but I have never seen him in my life; is he a wanted man, he looks an evil swine. I suggest you take him down the nick and lock him up". By now, the police were under the dashboard with mirth. I shouted at Jim "what are you doing in this police car when you are supposed to be in the back of that bus? Jim got out of the police car and said when I got into the cab, he decided to put a new ticket roll in his Setright but he dropped the ticket roll and it went on to the footpath and he got off the bus to retrieve it when I drove off; he was about to go into the pub until I returned for him but saw the police car and stopped it. I told Jim "next time you decide to abandon ship, its four bells or more. For many weeks after when I was walking to or from the garage, a police car would pull up and the observer would shout "Bus Driver, lost any conductors lately?" It was always thumbs down causing much laughter and a blast on the blues and twos siren. We certainly made their day!



Recent issues of EBN638/639 featured Kings Coaches oldest and newest coaches, Trevor photographed them together at Sheringham Station on 7 June. **Trevor Yeldham.**

Due to a misunderstanding by the printer, the inner covers of EBN639 were in black & white rather than the usual full colour. Although b&w can be a very artistic medium, the pictures were specially chosen because of their attractive colour scheme. Your Editor has apologized to the photographers and will "recompense" them both and to readers when the opportunity arises.

Target Dates for EBN641 (September 2017).

By	Saturday	2 September 2017	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	Saturday	9 September 2017	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	Monday	18 September 2017	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Outer Top

Go-Ahead London E281 Alexander Dennis Enviro 400 on summer holiday service 575 Harlow to Southend-on-Sea at Southend Travel Centre on 25 July. This was the first photo your Editor had seen of this service; three others were received the same week! **Dave Arnold.**

Outer Lower

"My local route Ensign 21 Ongar - Brentwood today 12 July had one of the new BCI 'Deckers running on it all day", here it is in High Street Ongar. "We do get deckers on the 21 on occasions, but normally ex London Tridents/Volvos. The BCI's are something else. These have been built with thought for the operator and driver". Robert Downton.

Captions for both rear cover photos shown last month omitted to credit the photographer. The top one was by **Maurice Austin** and the magnificent "art deco set" was by **Richard Delahoy.**

First Essex 'Decker' Liveries.

The Volvo B9TL/Wright Eclipse Gemini double-deckers allocated to Colchester are now appearing on their intended route 62/62A/62B Colchester - Wivenhoe – Brightlingsea.

Top picture:
Rear view of Volvo B7TL 32640 (KP54 AZB) on service 62A Wivenhoe - Colchester passing Volvo B9TL 37140 (SN57 HCZ) on service 62 Colchester - Brightlingsea in The Avenue, Wivenhoe, on 18 July.

Robert Appleton.

Middle picture:
Volvo B9TL 37136 (SN57 HCU) passes the Wivenhoe Co-op bus stop in The Avenue, Wivenhoe, working service 62 Colchester - Brightlingsea on 18 July.

Robert Appleton.

Lower picture:
EBN639 front cover photo was 37134. Here is a rear view of Volvo B9TL 37134 (SN57 HDJ) working service 62 Brightlingsea - Colchester in The Avenue, Wivenhoe, on 18 July.

Robert Appleton.





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