

Essex Bus News

**No. 612
APRIL
2015**



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group
www.essexbus.org.uk



Colchester has been a bonanza for bus enthusiasts recently! The first of the eighteen refurbished ex Metrobus Scania Omnidiekkas for Hedingham, entered normal service on the morning of Tuesday 31 March 2015. They feature the revised 'standard' livery for the combined Hedingham/Chambers fleet. 1519 was on route 87 in Boundary Road at the University of Essex. **Russell Young.**



In the first Essex hybrid livery (see last month's EBN) in Osborne Street, Colchester on 16 March is 66809, Volvo B7RLE/Wright (MX05 CDE) originally of First Manchester. **Ken Coldwell.**

Front Cover picture

Carters Dennis Trident/Alexander ALX 400 (LG02 FCA), new to London United in 2002, at the top of East Hill, Colchester, on arrival from Ipswich on 16 March. It looks as though the blinds have been changed for the return service. **Ken Coldwell.**

Essex Bus News 612

April 2015

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

Black & White Photo Sales

NEW, see p3 of this EBN
Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickinghall, DISS, IP22 1EN,
using the order form available on-line.

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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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.

We move to our new venue in **HOCKLEY** from April for the spring/summer season:

Wednesday 15 April A mixed presentation; covering a recent visit to the Thames Valley & Great Western Omnibus Trust's collection of 70 + preserved buses and slides from the 1960s from the Boxall collection.

Wednesday 20 May Illustrated talk by Group member Anthony Spindler on his fascinating career from 1964 to 1992 with Eastern National and, latterly, Thamesway.

Wednesday 17 June Photos from the Bob Beaumont collection – a tribute to our former member, with photos mainly from the 1960s.

Wednesday 15 July To be advised.

These meetings will be held at The Old Fire Station, Southend Road, Hockley SS5 4QH, adjacent to the Spa pub in the centre of Hockley. Arriva/Stephensons bus 7 from Southend, Rochford & Rayleigh stops near-by. Hockley rail station is about a 6-7 minute walk. We will meet in the Ground Floor Pump Room, with access to the kitchen to make our own tea/coffee/soft drinks; toilet facilities (incl. disabled). The venue is wheelchair accessible. There is very limited parking on the forecourt, better to use the public car park directly opposite, behind the library – which is free from 1900 onwards and has ample room.

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 8 May 2015. Richard Delahoy.

Friday 12 June 2015. Dave Arnold.

Also Fridays 10 July, 14 August, 11 Sept, 9 Oct, 13 Nov and 11 Dec 2015.

A Blast From The Past!

Paul Harvey.



Ex-Eastern National 1759, MAR 781P Leyland National seen in Maidstone in the ownership of Maidstone & District during 1993.

Paul Harvey.

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

GROUP TOURS

Saturday 23 May **“The Norfolk Flyer”** Departing Colchester North Station at 0830 we will be visiting a selection of operators including Galloway at Mendlesham, Sanders at Holt, Easton's at Stratton Strawless and, by popular request, a return visit to Simonds at Diss on the way home. Lunch stop will be at Sheringham and we suggest you bring food with you. Return to Colchester approx. 1830. Fare is £20.00. To book, please send cheque for £20.00 payable to E.B.E.G together with S.A.E. to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk CO8 5BE. (*Note: High Vis. Tops are required for this trip*)

Tuesday 23 June **Talisman Evening Tour**, details to follow.

EVENTS

Sat/Sun 18/19April

Sunday 19 April

Sat/Sun 25/26 April

Sunday 26 April

Colne Valley Railway Vintage Vehicle Weekend. www.colnevalleyrailway.co.uk

Spring Gathering, London Bus Museum, Brooklands.

1940's Weekend, Dover Transport Museum.

Delaine Buses Heritage Running Day. Heritage vehicles boost Delaine Buses normal Sunday service between Peterborough and Bourne, operating alongside modern vehicles providing a 20 min frequency on service 101. Full details are available at www.delainebuses.com or 01778 422866.

King Alfred Gala Weekend. Winchester.

Open Day. Great Yeldham Transport Museum, info@yeldhamtransportmuseum.co.uk. *The Group Stall will be at this event.*

Clacton Bus Rally. Clacton Factory Outlet. *The Group Stall will be at this event.*

'Classic London' at National Tramway Museum, Crich. Joint with Brooklands Museum, whose buses will operate alongside London Trams and other preserved vehicles. www.tramway.co.uk.

Special event in Kelvedon to commemorate 200 years of Moores. See p10 for details.

Sunday/Monday 3/4 May

Sunday 17 May

Sunday 31 May

Sat/Sun 13/14 June

Sunday 28 June

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.

AGM and Committee

Paul Harvey, Chairman.

28 members attended the Group's 50th AGM on 18 March. The Acting Chairman Richard Delahoy presented the Annual Report, which is available for members to read at www.essexbus.org (go to the Latest News page); and also presented the annual accounts. Copies of both the report and accounts are available from Richard, contact details on page 1 (please send an SAE). Maurice Austin, the Editor thanked the sub-editors, photographers and other contributors, without them, EBN would be a much poorer publication. He received approximately twice as many photographs and articles as were needed but these were all appreciated as it enabled a good variety to be selected. He referred to the errors which occur; they come from three sources, i.e. contributors, the computer systems used and the Editor himself. Nevertheless, Maurice accepted full responsibility for anything appearing that is wrong and did appreciate advice of such incidents as it was important they be corrected.

I was elected to take on the role of Chairman; thanks were expressed to Chris Stewart for his years in that post until last autumn and to Richard Delahoy for covering the role until the AGM. The Committee was re-elected and comprises: Paul Harvey (Chairman), Alan Osborne (Secretary), Richard Delahoy (Treasurer/Membership Secretary), Owen Woodliffe (Sales Officer), Keith Woods (Tours Officer) and Maurice Austin (EBN Editor). One key role continues to be unfilled – that of Publicity Officer. This need not be a committee post but we really do need someone to organise listings for the Group in magazines, leaflets to distribute on the sales stand and at museums, etc. Could you help? If so, please contact me directly (contact details on page 1 – service changes sub-editor heading).

Group photographic service

Richard Delahoy.

We are pleased to advise that our service offering black and white prints from the Group's negative collection is open for business again. There is no change to the range of photos available, all the lists were in earlier issues of EBN and are available on our web-site www.essexbus.org.uk, along with an order form. Prints are only made to order, not from stock, so allow sufficient time after submitting orders, which should be sent to: Robin Jenkinson, 23 Wheatfields, Rickingham, DISS, IP22 1EN, using the order form available on-line. Prints will cost £1.50 each plus postage (£2.50 for up to 21 shots, £3.50 for larger orders). We are sorry for this price increase but it is increasingly difficult to find a printer able to produce good quality prints from our negatives of varying ages, formats and quality. These are individually printed photos on photographic paper, not print kiosk imitations.

Recreating the past.

Richard Delahoy.

The tour on Sunday 12 April using the 1939 Westcliff Motor Services Bristol K5G, AIN825, sought to recreate some old scenes. Here as a taster is how the terminus at Grays War Memorial looked on 2 January, 1952 when **Alan Cross** photographed post-war K, CJN326, ready to depart for Southend on service 2, with a London Transport TF approaching behind on London Road. AIN is seen there 63 years later but the buildings in the background are relatively unchanged, even if the classic tubular metal bus shelter is no more! More then and now scenes to follow next month.



NIBS Fleet List

Ian Ransom

with thanks to Steve Nelson

Since NIBS fleet list was published in EBN 606 (Oct 2014), the only changes are former West Midlands Scania N113 DRB /Alexander H226 LOM was withdrawn 3/15 and sister H228 LOM in 1/15. Fleet numbers weren't published before, not all are physically carried.

Fleet No	Reg No	Fleet No	Reg No	Fleet No	Reg No
05	EU05 ECV	81	LX08 ECD	86	LX08 ECT additional from 1.3.15
008	YN08 OCR	82	LX08 ECE	87	LX08 ECV
55	NK55 KBU	83	LX08 ECF	88	LX08 ECW
058	EU58 BLJ	84	LX08 ECJ	104	YN04 YJR
059	EU59 BFK	85	LX08 ECN	154	PO54 ADV
rem = Removed from Company records from these dates.					
204	BIL 7894	404	BIL 9406	808	MX08 UZK
226	H226 LOM rem 13.3.15	434	V434 KGF	4419	BIL 4419
228	H228 LOM rem 26.1.15	551	SN55 DVR	4539	BIL 4539
254	PO54 OOD	601	G601 KTX	6538	BIL 6538
304	BIL 4710	603	G603 KTX		



STOP PRESS! Just as I am about to Dropbox this issue to the printers, this pops into my in-tray. I know it's not a NIBS but it is nice! A fairly rare appearance of one of Regal Busways acquired E200s on the Sunday ECC Sunday 71C. 652 on Balcerne Hill, Colchester on 12 April 2015. **Russell Young**



This would be ideal for the “xxx for EBN611 page” last month but it came into my possession after I had gone to press! I now have a nice collection of a dozen or so period pictures from Philip Wallis and hope to use them in due course.

Eastern National DHJ 611, ex Westcliff 1949 Bristol K6B/ECW L55R taken at Southend Central Station in September 1962.
Philip Wallis

Service Changes by Paul Harvey.

Amber Coaches

18 April 15	11	M-S	Purfleet to Basildon: revision to timetable with Saturday service withdrawn.
5 May 15	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: revised timetable and route, less Saturday journeys.
			Withdrawn from Horndon-on-the-Hill.



Amber Bus Enviro200 Dart SK07 HLN, also caught in Basildon on 17 December 2014 (but it looks like summer, Ed! **John G. Lidstone.**

Arriva Kent Thameside

13 April 15	5	M-S	Harlow Sumners Farm Circular: revised timetable.
	CP&R	M-S	Colchester Park & Ride: revised route and timetable. See back cover for pictures.
10 May 15	314	WS	Great Dunmow to Braintree: service withdrawn.
	315	Th	Stebbing Green to Great Dunmow: service withdrawn.
	346	Th	Great Dunmow to Leaden Roding: service withdrawn.
	446	Sch	Manuden to Saffron Walden: revised to operate Clavering to Newport only.

De Vere

5 May 15	330	Sch	Sible Hedingham to Belchamp St Paul:
			withdrawn between Great Yeldham and Sible Hedingham and revised timetable.
	333	M-F	Great Yeldham to Sudbury: new service.

Ensign Bus

1 April 15	12	M-F	Aveley The Village to Ockendon Stn: new service supported by developer funding at peak times.
18 April 15	22	M-S	Aveley to Grays: new additional journey at 2200 from Grays to Aveley.
	33	M-S	Grays to Lakeside: revised Sat t'table and the am journey to Palmers College will terminate at Grays.
	44	D	Lakeside to Grays: minor t'table revisions to morning timetable and increase frequency on Saturdays.
	73	M-S	Tilbury to Lakeside: minor timetable revisions.
8 May 15	FSTVL	SS	Aveley to Damyns Hall: shuttle service withdrawn.
30 May 15	WAFS	SS	Aveley/Grays to Damyns Hall Shuttle: new shuttle service operating on 30 and 31 May only.

First			
5 April 15	15	M-F	Lexden to Colchester: revised afternoon timetable.
	63	M-S	Tuffel Way to Roman Way: revised timetable to operate hourly under contract to Essex County Council.
	64/A	D	Greenstead to Shrub End/St Michaels: minor timetable revisions to Colchester town centre timings.
	66/A	M-S	West Bergholt to Rowhedge: service 66A rerouted via Roberts Road.
	71/A	M-S	Chelmsford to Colchester: minor timetable revisions.
3 May 15	75/A	M-S	University of Essex to Maldon: minor timing revisions to Colchester town centre timings and revision to evening journeys from Maldon.
	103/4	M-S	Harwich to Colchester: revised timetable and route within Colchester.
	561	Sch	Basildon to Chelmsford; minor route and timetable change within Chelmsford.
	251	Sun	Warley to Southend: revised timetable with increased running times.



In October 2013, **Robert Appleton** “snapped” Wright bodied Scania First Essex 65574 in Mistley, then recently transferred in from Northampton to Harwich (DT) depot. It still had an offside advert for London Midland, 3 trains per hour from Northampton to London! It is still in the fleet.

Freedom Travel

1 April 15	18	M-S	Haverhill to Newport: service withdrawn; for further information see Stephenson’s report.
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Galleon Travel (Trustybus)

18 May 15	392	M-S	Harlow to Hoddesden Rye Park: revised to operate as a circular service via Broxbourne, Hoddesdon, Rye Park to Stansted Abbots to Harlow. New service 393 will operate via Stansted Abbots, Rye Park, Hoddesdon, & Broxbourne to Harlow. Both services operate hourly.
	410/A/X	M-S	Harlow to Waltham Cross: revised timetable.
	505	M-F	Harlow to Chingford: new service.

Service Revisions, continued.

By Paul Harvey.

Go Ahead Hedingham

13 April 15	89	M-S	Braintree to Great Yeldham: additional journey introduced at 2003 from Braintree (M-F) and minor timetable revision to 1933 from Braintree.
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London Bus Company

3 April 15	339	SSu	Epping to Shenfield: reintroduction of summer service operating weekends plus certain weekdays.
23 May 15	381	SSu	North Weald to Epping: reintroduction of summer service operating weekends plus certain weekdays.

New Horizon

11 May 15	78	Sch	Brightlingsea to Colchester: short journeys between University and Brightlingsea withdrawn.
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Panther Travel

11 May 15	446	Sch	Manuden to Saffron Walden: new school service.
13 May 15	314	WS	Braintree to Great Dunmow: new contract service.
14 May 15	315	Th	Stebbing Green to Great Dunmow: new contract service.
	346	Th	Leadon Roding to Great Dunmow: new contract service.



A very smart Primo out in service on Monday 30 March. Painted and with tinted windows but still awaiting trimming.

Adam Barham.

Stephensons of Essex

1 April 15	18	M-S	Haverhill to Newport: new contract service, for further information see Stephenson's report.
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Swallow Coaches (EOS)

1 May 15	HC1	Coll	Harlow College Circular: service withdrawn.
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Townlink Buses

15 April 1519-2119AD

Harlow to Warley: revision to timetable.
Harlow to Loughton: service withdrawn.



Owen Woodliffe kindly interrupted his journey to the North Essex EBEG slide show in Colchester on Friday 10 April to “catch” this topical picture of Townlink operating the 21 in Ongar. Former Stagecoach Cambridge 33461, Dennis Dart SLF/Alexander ALX200.

Trans-Vol

5 May 15265M-S

West Horndon to Grays: revised timetable and routed via Horndon-on-the-Hill,
with Saturday timetable withdrawn.

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

The Perils of Being An Omnibologist, 1.

Maurice Austin.

You Editor spent a pleasant lunch break in the Rose and Crown, Writtle recently and very rudely noted the passing buses, no doubt annoying his guest! Excellent food and a good view from the window but not the place and behaviour to win friends and influence people!

Time seen	Time due*	Route	Destination	Operator	Bus
1209	1203	45	Oxney Green	First	44538
1210	1215	45	Oxney Green	First	44540
1223	1227	45	Oxney Green	First	44543
1238	1239	45	Oxney Green	First	44541
1247	1251	45	Oxney Green	First	44547
1259	1303	45	Oxney Green	First	44548
1313	1315	45	Oxney Green	First	44545
1323	1327	45	Oxney Green	First	44538
1325	1321	32	Ongar	Stephensons	466
1333	1339	45	Oxney Green	First	44540
1346	1352	45	Oxney Green	First	44543

*
Timing points for
First 45 are Oxney Green arrival
approx. 3 mins ahead.

Stephensons 32 is Writtle Green
approx.1 min earlier.

More Moores!

EBN 610 referred to the Bi-centenary of Moore's of Kelvedon. **David Edwards** (EBEG member 309 and owner of 1516 (FWC 439H) advises that Kelvedon and Feering Local History Museum have put together a display on Moore Bro's (Kelvedon) Ltd. The Museum is based in Kelvedon Library, itself situated in the old school building in Maldon Road, Kelvedon. The Museum is open on Mondays (excluding Bank Holidays) 1400 to 1700 and Saturday mornings 0930 to 1230.

On **Sunday 28 June 2015** a special event is planned at the Museum. Between 1100 and 1700, three preserved buses, former Moore's Guy Arab 373 WPU, ex Eastern National Bristol RE FWC 439H and Bristol KSW VNO 859 will be present and operate trips to Feering "Bell Inn" (where Edward Moore first operated from), Tiptree and Coggeshall. It is also hoped that visit(s) can be made with the buses to the site of the former Moore's and EN Depot in Kelvedon (Roselyn Garage), part of which is still in use by Hedingham Omnibuses.

Coincidentally on the same day Kelvedon and District Rotary Club have organised a classic car rally starting in Feering which will see a good selection (up to 50) old cars (pre-1985) running through the villages which could make for some interesting photographic opportunities.



Don't get me wrong, but I do like a nice Guy!

John Lidstone and I both took similar photographs of this beautiful Guy Arab at the South East Bus Festival at Detling on Saturday 28 March 2015. Here is John's picture, which is so much better than mine!

Preserved ex-Moores Johannesburg-fronted Guy Arab MkIV/Massey 373 WPU has now sprouted pre-1964 fleet number plates front and rear, along with KN depot plates (the latter not quite in correct font and size, looking a fraction too 'tall' - allocation plates were not deeper than fleet number plates above which they were mounted).

Despite that "historical niggle", it has to be said that 373 WPU looked and sounded so good!

John G. Lidstone.

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement Shenfield to Ipswich

Ian Ransom

The final Saturday, 28 March 2015, produced the following:

Billerica (0945-1130)

First Essex Optare Solo 53135 (Chelmsford-Ingatstone); Volvo B7TL/Wright 32641 Dennis Trident/Plaxton 32850 33072 33133

First Eastern Counties Volvo B12M/Plaxton 20514 20515

Stephensons Scania 506 510 603 606 607 608

Talisman Volvo B12/Plaxton SP07 CAV; Leyland Olympian/Leyland H47/48MJN; Dennis Trident/Plaxton W567 RSG; Setra S415 OK08 ULM; Setra S315 VSU 803

Galloway, Mendlesham DAF SB2300/Van Hool 5048 PP; Volvo B10M/Van Hool NJI 9244

Peter Godward Scania K340/Irizar YN07 LJE/LJF; Scania K114/Irizar T123 PGC; Iveco 391E/Beulas FE51 RGZ; MAN 24.480/Beulas P060 HZH

Ensign Volvo B9TL/Optare 122 123 124; Volvo B7R/Plaxton 603

Amber Bova Futura HIB 660 and WA06 LZK

Ford Scania L94/Van Hool V863 PPU; Scania K340/Berkhof YN07 LKJ/LKK

Reliance, Gravesend Scania/Irizar YP12 NUF/NUO/NUV; Setra S415 HD BX07 NLF; Mercedes Benz Tourismo BJ59 OJD BK11 GKC

Belle, Lowestoft Scania/Berkhof SIL 9044

APT Coaches Scania/Irizar YS03 ZKZ PT05 APT; Irisbus/Beulas PT03 APT

Kings Ferry, Gillingham Volvo B9R/Caetano FJ13 EBX FJ13 ECE

Turners of Essex Volvo B12/Plaxton YN54 WWT; Setra S415 MY53 TRA

New Horizon Scania K114/Irizar YN51 MHO YN04 GGV; Volvo B10M/Jonckhree R179 SUT;

L&R Scania K113/Van Hool A19 LNR; Volvo B10M/Van Hool A20 LNR

Kellys Setra S315 IJZ 3655 W213 UGX

South East Coaches Setra S415 GRZ 2450

Blueline Bova Futura T322 KNN

Redwing, London Mercedes Benz Tourismo BJ59 OHX/OHZ/OJB/OJC BK11 GKA BN12 CMV/CMY/CNI

Richmond, Barley VDL SB400/Van Hool 577 HTX; Van Hool TX 753 LNU; Bova Futura 424 KPP

Lodge Mercedes Benz Tourismo BG58 OLO

Panther Volvo B12B/Plaxton AB53 PAN LK53 KWF

Kevendy Neoplan N316 K18 DYS; Neoplan N516 K50 DYS

Simonds, Bottesdale Volvo B12B/Van Hool 378 BNG, TCF 496, YVF 158; MAN 18.360/Van Hool EM10 GSM

Klarners Coaches Setra S315 T55 KCL

Then seen on **Chelmsford/Witham - Braintree**

Regal Solo 207 and 211 on Witham-Braintree stopping and Neoplan MX10 DFK, OV63 XCN plus VDL SB4000/Van Hool YJ03 PGZ YJ03 PKK on Chelmsford – Braintree. Then home on **First** 32483 on 1353 Witham to Chelmsford, expertly driven by group member Driver Edwards!



Your Editor could have filled this issue with Rail Replacement photo's! Essex buses have been serving far and wide; the furthest I am aware of being the Regal contribution to the Chiltern landslip reported in the Regal section. Just as a taster, Owen Woodliffe submitted this shot which almost made the front cover!

On 31 January, a landslip closed the rail line between Banbury and Leamington Spa and amongst many operators hired by Chiltern Mainline, Regal seems to have been furthest away. On 10 March, two days before remedial work was completed Regal's MAN Neoplan OV63 XCN, with vinyls for Sunrise Holidays, is at Banbury Station.

Fire Rescue

Note: This report was intended for EBN 611 but was accidentally omitted.

A man was trapped in a second floor flat above the Emergency Night Shelter Café in Braintree High Street when a fire broke out during the evening of 11 February around 7.30pm. Driver Andy Waterman was on his way back to Braintree depot in BE32856, having just finished service on route 70, when passers by flagged him down. Andy drove his bus alongside the burning building so that the trapped man, Mitch Cook, could jump down 10 feet onto the roof. He then drove slowly away from danger and Mr Cook was rescued from the bus's roof when the Fire Brigade arrived. Mr Cook was taken to Broomfield Hospital and treated for the effects of smoke inhalation and later discharged. Buses were on diversion for the next three weeks whilst the High Street remained closed. The Acting Chief Fire Officer of Essex presented Andy with a commendation on 26 February at a ceremony at Braintree depot, where he was re-united with Mr Cook, and which included 32856 and a fire appliance (EU03 BVH). This was featured on BBC *Look East* as well as local radio and press. A BBC website report on the rescue, with photos, is available here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-essex-31439736>. Further reports and photos are available on the *Braintree and Witham Times* website. A 19 year old man has been charged with arson in relation to the incident.

New Vehicles

Seven further StreetLites, to be numbered 47643-9, are on order to replace Hadleigh's remaining seven Plaxton bodied Darts.

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); Acq=acquired from a non First company

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



In EBN 611 it was mentioned that as there are two First Glasgow companies, vehicles belonging to each carry a number (1 or 2) on the nearside rear corner, and that the n/s/r corner panel of ex FG 61579, complete with the Number 2, had been fitted to Colchester's 65565. This is illustrated in this photo taken at Chelmsford Bus Station on 9 March 2015. **Adam Kelleher.**

Period 11 (25 January - 21 February)

Additional to EBN 611: 60767 CR(out of service)-sold

Period 12 (22 February - 28 March)

34305 CF-BE-CF, 42447 BE(out of service)-sold, 43356 BE-CF, 43474 BE(out of service)-sold, 43480 BE-CF-BN, 43734 BE-CF, 53701 CF-CF, 61054 CN(out of service)-sold, 65554 CN-sold, 65569 CR(out of service)-sold, 65570 CR(out of service)-sold, 66169 CR-BE, 68509 BE-CF

34305 officially moved to BE on 26 February and back to CF on 16th, although it was seen at Westway on 12th. 43480 (which, as reported in EBN 611, had been off road for four months or so, but has been repaired and has received the gearbox from 43715) officially moved from BE to CF on 24 February but only stayed there for two days before moving on to Basildon (seen on 8A on 3 March).

Disposals

To Alpha Recovery for scrap February 2015: 60767, 61054

To Alpha Recovery for scrap March 2015: 42447, 43474, 65554, 65569, 65570. 65554/69/70 are the first of the ex First Northampton (new to First Eastern Counties) Scania's that were acquired in 2013 to be withdrawn.

To First Kernow (Cornwall) March 2015: 53701. First Kernow took over some services when Western Greyhound ceased operation in March and various First companies have supplied vehicles to supplement their fleet. 53701, which was First Essex's only M780 type Optare Solo, was First Essex's contribution.

Repaints To Urban Livery:

HH41732, seen on 21 on 30 March, its first day back in service after repaint, Essex fleet name and depot sticker on lower panels on nearside (offside not seen), small f and Essex in rear window (Marshall wings on front over painted white)

CR65686 (by 14 March) Essex fleet name on cove panels and depot sticker on offside (nearside not seen)

CN65665 seen on the forecourt of CN depot on 14 March, then on 7/8 on 16th

CN65670 seen on 7/8 on 25 March

CN65676 seen on 7/8 on 7 March

The above three all have small First Essex fleet names above the entrance and drivers cab window, Essex fleet names on cove panels, small magenta Essex fleet name on rear, and depot stickers. 65676 has no front fleet number, 65665 and 65670 have small light grey front fleet numbers, but on 65670 the rear nearside, rear offside, and rear fleet numbers are magenta.



65665 (SN51 UXX) Scania L94UB/Wright Solar allocated to Clacton, photographed in Pier Avenue, Clacton on 21 March, working on service 8 to Walton on the Naze. **Robert Appleton.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings

General BN43480 still had flip dot destinations when seen in service on 3 March at BN, but by 15th LEDs had been fitted, including (unusually for a non Hadleigh pre 2005 Dart) at rear. CF53121 has had LED side and rear blinds fitted, replacing flip dots, the first of the 02 Solos to be so retrofitted (LED blinds were fitted at the front in July / August 2008). CF42482 has received a front LED blind, replacing flip dots, seen on 71 on 9 April. Most of BE's and BN's Presidents in Urban livery do not carry main fleet names (one exception is BE32856 which came from Clacton, although on nearside only), but BE33080 returned from having a new engine fitted with Essex fleet names on both sides, first noted on 7 March. BN42933 retains its original Essex Fire & Rescue super rear ad from September 2013; all the other vehicles which carried this ad have either been repainted (CN42918) or received an updated version last Autumn. CF69533 has had its offside advert removed to reveal an Ipswich fleet name.

Olympian 34305 was again on route 70 on 2, 4, 9 and 11 March, but returned to Westway on 12th. It is understood that it will be used to work a King Edward Grammar (Chelmsford) school contract and that future public use will be limited. Indeed, on 9 April it was seen parked in the front corner at Westway, which suggests that it may not be being used in the school holidays.

Rail Replacement Amongst vehicles from many operators working weekend Greater Anglia RRP during March, the following First Essex vehicles have been noted: 7 March: CR32485 and BN32804, 8th: CR32478 21 & 22: CR32476, CR32483, CR32651, HH33072, HH33191, CF53125 and CF53136 seen on both days, CF53134 also seen on 21st. HH33072 and another Trident were seen at Westway on 4 April, possibly ready for use on Newbury Park to Wickford / Ingatestone Rail Replacement on 5th and 6th (Easter Sunday and Monday)



Not previously illustrated in EBN is the temporary bus stop outside the Co-op store in Duke Street, Chelmsford, opposite the Bus Station, which has been used for the last few months whilst work progresses at the Railway Station. CF42482 is seen waiting there on 9 March 2015.

Adam Kelleher.

EBN612p14

Clacton (CN) and Colchester (CR)

Further updates on the new Haven Road garage: a visit on 13 March saw work progressing on the office / staff building and a further visit on 29th saw a steel framed garage / workshop building under construction on the west side.

Sightings on route 2 and associated school route 30A during March have all been Darts or Enviro 200s, no Scania's or double deckers have been seen. Noted on the routes (all CN): 43719 (6th); 42918 (7th); 44597 (12th); 42937 (13th); 44596 (19th); 43735 (26th) and 43714 (27th). Further to the report in EBN 610 about the cuts to route 2, the Harwich & Manningtree Standard of 27 March reported that the petition organised by the two women against the cuts had received more than 1,600 signatures. Harwich Town Councillor Charlie Powell has now handed the petition to Essex County Council. There are hopes that ECC will fund additional journeys to fill in the gaps in the current service, although any improvements would not be implemented until September.

Chelmsford (CF) and Braintree (BE)

Acquired coach 23020 is officially still being prepared for service but it was noted in use on early morning 31X on 5 March then on X30 on 7th. It is in all white livery without fleet names, destination equipment not working or not programmed, route number on A4 paper in windscreen. BE30903 has been noted as a regular vehicle on King Edward Grammar School service, seen on 11 and 12 March alongside a yellow school bus. It was also seen on route 70 on 9th. The only journey on the 31 group of routes that terminates at Steeple is the Monday to Friday 1600 service 31C from Chelmsford. Up until the end of August 2014 this journey was numbered 31D. The 31C serves Maldon but not Purleigh and Cold Norton whereas the 31D did the opposite and arrived at Steeple eight minutes earlier. Although the 31D has not run for over six months, on 18 March CF66829 on the 1600 departure from CF was displaying 31D all round! Route 55, which in the 1980s was the main route between Springfield and Chelmsford Bus Station, now only operates four journeys a day on Monday to Friday morning peaks, all in one direction from North Springfield to the Railway Station. To achieve the timetable two vehicles are required, one of which is a CF vehicle in between journeys on route 71/A. However, on 30 March, CR69433 operated on the 55, presumably it was covering for a CF vehicle that had failed on the 71/A in Colchester.

Cont/

More on the City Coach Company.



Peter Oughton of Billericay

has sent these pictures of the front and back of the City/New Empress Saloon Coaches timetable 9F dated 1936, although it advertises the service which started on 1 January 1935. This nicely adds to Alan Osborne's list in EBN607.

Note the Southend terminal has moved to Tylers Avenue, High Street.

The timetable shows Brentwood to Southend departures marked (A) and Brentwood to London as (B) and the times when connecting services from Laindon and Hutton (Bracken Bank) were operated by Brentwood & District Motor Services.

Publicity News by Ian Ransom.

First Essex ...

undated and photocopied leaflets for 300 and 351

Braintree area timetable booklet dated 17.11.14 and Harwich area booklet dated 2.2.15

Regal ---

Traveline format and photocopied leaflet for 1/1A dated 3.11.14 and 3/A/B/C/D/E dated 3.11.14

TGM Colchester

133 dated 11.8.14

Essex County Council

booklet for 88/A/B X88 dated 1.12.14; 91/A dated 23.2.15 and 95/A dated 1.6.11

Hedingham Omnibuses

leaflet - Buses from Tollesbury and Tolleshunt D'Arcy (50, 91, 92, 95) dated 23.2.15

Stephensons of Essex

leaflet for 247 dated 1.9.14

CF & BE cont.

3 March	CF20500 on early morning 31X
7	BE43483 on driver shuttles
9	CF65032 on 71A, front destination display correct, but side and rear showing 31
11	CF43360 on 71/A
12	CF42935 on 42A
17	CF66837 on 542, CF67904 on 71/A
18	CF43846 and CF53126 on 42, CF67901 on 71/A
25	CF43360 on 42
26	CF66802 on X30
27	A very full CF53127 on 31X
28	CF44550 unusual on Chelmer Valley Park & Ride
7 April	CF43801 also unusual on Chelmer Valley Park & Ride

Basildon (BN) and Hadleigh (HH)

Updating EBN 611, various other stands in Basildon Bus Station have been closed as repair work continues. As an example, on 18 March all of stands L-S were closed.

9 March	BN41513 on 100
12	HH's remaining R and S registered Darts were all seen in service, 43721 on 23 & 26 and 43733 and 43736 both on 28
13	BN32818 on 100X
18	BN32859 and BN43357 on 100X, BN66822 and BN66826 on 100
25	BN41538 on 100
26	BN41544 and BN66827 on 100



It's good to see pioneer low-floor decker 32801 (T801 LLC) back on the road at Basildon on 3 March 2015. As First's first low-floor double-decker, this historically quite significant bus is seemingly eking out its last days at Basildon rather insignificantly - having recently been a little unwell.

John G. Lidstone.

Service Vehicles

KP11 NWG was seen at Chelmsford Bus Station on 18 March and again on the 26th and is pictured below. This is a Vauxhall Combo van. It is in white livery with a fluorescent yellow stripe on the sides, a magenta f symbol on the bonnet and white First name and f symbol (on the white livery!) on the sides. Further investigation shows that this van has been with First Essex since at least April 2012. ST62 PEO, a Ford Transit SWB van, was also seen on 18 March, at Basildon Bus Station. Similar ST62 PKC was reported as at CR in March 2013 and ST62 LFH was reported as at CF in April 2013, so it is likely that this was bought around the same time. A photo of it on Flickr dated June 2013 supports this. None of these vans carry fleet numbers. (Ancillary vehicles were numbered in the 9xxxx series by First, these no longer appear to be applied to new / acquired vehicles. It is not known if they are still used for internal purposes or whether such vehicles are now just referred to by registration numbers.)

Former Eastern National Vehicles

Former Eastern National and Thamesway Bristol VR 3086 (STW 30W), which was latterly with Hedingham, has recently received attention at Reliance Bus Works, Stoke on Trent, and has been repainted out of Hedingham livery into "London Transport" livery of red with white band and Indian red wheels. Ex Eastern National and First Essex Leyland Olympian / ECW 4012 / 34812 (C412 HJN), which moved to First Devon & Cornwall in February 2006, was acquired for preservation by the Plymouth City Transport Preservation Group in November 2014. At the time, it was in an all black livery, including painted over destination screen. In 1973, as part of the NBC-SBG Bristol FLF-VR swap, Eastern National received three former Western SMT VRs (via Eastern Counties), NAG 583/6G and OCS576H, which became 3045-7. (These were notable for having pink ceilings and, for the time, unusual black window rubbers.) Although none of the three survive, the next in registration order after OCS 576H, OCS 577H, appeared at the Kirkby Stephen rally on Easter Sunday (5 April) looking resplendent, recently restored to Western livery more than forty years after being sold. (OCS 577H was not involved in the NBC-SBG swap and was sold on the open market in 1973. The next vehicle in sequence, OCS 578H, also went to, but remained with, Eastern Counties and is illustrated elsewhere in this edition of EBN.)

Sources: Own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, M Austin, S Barham, S Burden, N Clark, T Clark, J Cush, R Delahoy, J Lidstone, D Lund-Conlon, J Podgorski, S Quay, I Ransom, J Salmon, S Simister, K Smith, C Stewart, R West, the Essex yahoo! group, *Essex Buses Google group*, First Essex, Braintree and Witham Times, Flickr, www.buslistsontheweb.co.uk, *Real Bus News*, LOTS, PSV Circle and *Terminus*.

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



As described above. Note the white fleet name on the white side panels!

Adam Kelleher.

The ADL Enviro 200 demonstrator YX14 RXB remains in use at the time of writing, from Boreham depot.

One disposal omitted from last month's list is Olympian 952, H552 VAT to Walters Coaches, Forest Hill, Oxford.

The outstationing of a bus at Beestons' depot in Hadleigh has ceased and the 247 service bus is now outbased at Ipswich Buses.

A further service taken on at Haverhill depot is ECC contract 18, Haverhill - Saffron Walden - Newport, which was due to commence on 1 April (yes, a Wednesday) following the revocation of the O Licence of the previous operator, Freedom Travel after 31 March, but in practice it started on 31 March, no service having been provided by Freedom Travel the previous day.



The Dengie Connections routes D1/2 from Maldon to Bradwell and Southminster are normally operated by Solos but see occasional appearances by deckers; here Scania 644, YN55NKG is in Maldon depot yard being cleaned after one such duty on 30 March 2015.

Richard Delahoy.

Townlink Buses by Adam Kelleher

With thanks to LOTS.

Acquired Vehicles

S467 BWC, Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander ALX200 10.2m, B33F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 67) 11/98

S472 BWC, Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander ALX200 10.2m, B33F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 72) 11/98

S473 BWC, Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander ALX200 10.2m, B33F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 73) 11/98

Above three acquired October 2014, ex Stagecoach South West, 34067/72/3. LED blinds fitted after acquisition (ex flip dot). In fleet livery.

S461 CVV, Dennis Dart SLF / Alexander ALX200 10.8m, B37F, new to Stagecoach United Counties (461) 10/98

Acquired December 2014. LED blinds fitted after acquisition (ex flip dot). In fleet livery.

Arriva Southend

DAF/Wright Cadet 3935, (GK52YUY) (ex Guildford) entered service around about 12 March.

Versa 4245 has received side and rear vinyls promoting Southend – Alternate City of Culture

Arriva Southend has started once again to display running number cards on buses, this time in the first nearside window next to the door. This began about the second week in February.



DDA deadline approaches: whilst the Arriva Southend fleet has been 100% low-floor for some time now, the oldest buses are not fully DDA compliant (eg they do not have ramps) and will need to be replaced before the next compliance deadline of 1/1/16. So time is running out for Darts like 3322, T822NMJ, seen here in Rochford on 28 March. At the time of writing, there were 7 Darts and 5 DAF SB220s in the Southend fleet that will need replacement before the year-end.

Richard Delahoy.

Network Colchester

New vehicles for Colchester Park and Ride launching on 13 April are 4071 – 5 (SK15 GXR/S/T/U/V).

Correcting EBN610, these are ADL Enviro 200s. They are in the ECC black P&R livery as used for the Chelmsford P&R.

Dart SLF 3313 (S311 JUA) was withdrawn on 27 Feb upon MOT expiry.

Arriva liveried Dart SLF / Plaxton S701 VKM, 3710, is currently on loan from Harlow.



The latest loan Dart from Harlow to Colchester is 3701. Seen in Colchester High Street on 28 March 2015. **Russell Young.**

EBN612p19

Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements - March 2015. Mark Lloyd, with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Arriva the Shires	YL55WSV/W/X/Y/Z	DAF SB4000's
Brighton and Hove	Y847GCD	Tridents
	T808/819RFG	
Dartline Coaches	RLZ1667	Merc 609's
	K775UTT	
E Sussex Disability Association	SF06FSG	Merc 814
Lothian Buses	SK520JA	Dart
Metroline	LK03GHD/GHN/GJF	Tridents
Mr M Rayner, Uxbridge	RM597	
Stagecoach East	S754DRP	Olympian
Stagecoach London	LX03BTZ/BUA/BUE	Tridents
	BVT/BVW/BWZ/BVU/BVV/BTT/BTV/BTY/BTU	
Stagecoach Manchester	MX04AXR Darts	
	Y806TGH	
	VX51RCO	
	MD02BLU	
	MX54BLU	
	MV54BLU	
	MW54BLU	
Stagecoach South	Y243FJN	Dart
Western Greyhound	NA52AWF/J/M/N/O/U	Darts
	KN52NFT/U	
	YT51EAK	
	WK55BUS/YJ55WGN	Solo's
	PL06TFY/PL06TFX	
	WK56PEN	
	MX56NLU	
	MX54KXV	

Vehicles Out

Amber Coaches, Rayleigh, Essex	YJ57XWD/F/G	Versa's
Axe Valley, Seaton, Devon	X503WRG	Darts
	X595FBB	
Brylaine Travel, Boston, Lincs	LX03BUA/E	Tridents
WB Chambers and Son, Maidstone	N211GHH	Merc
Clyde Minibuses, Barton-le-Clay, Beds	Y848/61GCD	Tridents
Dartline, Exeter	MX06ONV/W	Merc 814's
Galleon Travel , Roydon, Essex	Y243FJN	Dart
London Borough of Havering	LX04FXK	Trident
London City Tours	Y148/85/92NLK	Volvo B7TL's
Mulley Motorways, Bury-St-Edmunds	YJ57YDB	Solo
New Adventure Travel, Cardiff	YI10MGV	Versa
Nu-Venture, Maidstone	KX53SDU	Dart
Prentice Westwood, West Lothian	SK520JA	Dart
Red Route Buses, Northfleet	X653LLX	Volvo B7TL
Renown Coaches, Bexhill	SN53AVC/F/L/AUY	Darts
Richardson Travel, Midhurst	R789DHB	Volvo B10M
Rotala	MX55WDM/L/N	Solo's
	AE07GNX and	MX54KXV
Seaford and District	LX05BWL	Neoplan
South Gloucester Bus and Coach, Bristol	YL55WSV/W/X/Y/Z	DAF SB4000's
Sussex Coaches, Horsham	RHZ4535	Volvo B10M
Uno, Hatfield	KU02YUJ	Dart

Vehicles on Hire

To First Devon and Cornwall

Darts SK520JF / OKB / OKZ YT51EAK NA52AWJ / AWM / AWN / AWO / AWU

Solo's WK55BUS / PL06TFX / TFY WK56PEN K50WGH.

To Tower Transit

Tridents LX03BTV / BTY / BTF / BTU.

Other Movements

Volvo B7TL X169FBB

Dart Pleasure Craft, Totnes.

Scania K114's YN04YHY / YHZ

Dawson Rentals.

Merc 814 WK040TA WK04CCC

Mr G Seery, Edenberry, Eire.

MerCs RLZ1667 / K775UTT / WK02SAT

Mike Lawrenson, Preston.

Trident LX51FKR

Golden Coast Sporting Villas, Woolacombe.

Solo's WK11APY / AOZ

Drew Wilson Coach Sales, Glasgow.

Volvo B7TL W497WGH

BAM Nuttall, Camberley.

Dart KM02HDI

Bus and Truck Driving School, London N13.

Ensign Fleet – March 2015

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Additions

There are soon to be 5 new B9TL's entering service as follows:-

127	LX15GOK	Volvo B9TL	Wright Gemini 2	H45/28F
128	LX15GOP	Volvo B9TL	Wright Gemini 2	H45/28F
129	LX15GOU	Volvo B9TL	Wright Gemini 2	H45/28F
130	LX15GPY	Volvo B9TL	Wright Gemini 2	H45/28F
131	TBA	Volvo B9TL	Wright Gemini 2	H45/28F

Withdrawals

602	S662ISE	Volvo B10M Jonckheere C51F sold to Dews Coaches, Somersham
401	P671LWB	Volvo B10MA Plaxton Premiere AC71F sold to Reliant Coaches, Coalville, Leics.
402	P563MSX	Volvo B10MA Plaxton Premiere AC71F sold to Seaford and District.
828	WLT428	Olympian Alexander Royale sold to AC Williams, Lincs.
192	392MBF	Trident ALX400 sold to Renown Coaches, Bexhill

The Ensign Memorial Project

LOTS reports in TLB607, March 2015:

"As part of remembering the Great War 1914-18, Ensignbus is to name 25 of its buses after the 25 soldiers commemorated on the Purfleet War Memorial. Inside each bus will be a notice to tell the story of each man. On 4 May 2015, 100 years to the day when the first soldier from Purfleet was killed, one of the buses, plus the LT Museum's 'Battle Bus' B-type, will enact a launch ceremony at the Purfleet Heritage Centre. Afterwards, the 25 buses will be on normal service around Thurrock, the intention being to keep the project going until Armistice Day 11 November 2018. There is a section on the Ensign website that deals with a little of the history and reasons for the namings."

Steve Newman advises "In terms of the vehicles themselves, our named buses will consist of the five new double decks Volvo/Wrights, all the single deck Enviros and the balance made up of the most recently repainted B9s.

I think the first bus will certainly be one of the new Volvos, as it will make a great comparison of buses 100 years apart. Afraid I can't give you the full list of names and fleet numbers until next week as I'm currently away on holiday. However I hope that helps a bit."

Ensign is rightly renowned for their excellent community initiatives; even so, this memorial project must be one of the nicest carried out by any company and they are to be congratulated for it. It is a wonderful way of encouraging the whole population of Thurrock to think of the sacrifices made by all those who gave their lives for us.

Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher

Acquired Vehicles

YJ03 PKK, DAF SB4000 / Van Hool Alizee C49Ft, new 6/03 to Birmingham Coach, Tividale for use on National Express services. It later moved to Aztecbird, Guiseley and to South Gloucestershire Bus and Coach. Whilst with SGB&C it received registration L66 SGB but reverted to its original mark before being sold to Regal. The exact date of acquisition by Regal is unknown, but it is likely to have been in April 2014 at the same time as sister YJ03 PGZ (see EBN 601). It was seen with Regal at Ipswich on 11 May 2014. It is in all white livery without fleet names.

MX10 DFK, Neoplan Tourliner, C49Ft, new 4/10 to City Circle, Hayes (29)

From City Circle, in all white livery. Again, the exact date of acquisition is unknown but by February 2015.

Disposals 201-3, which are now with First Devon & Cornwall (see EBN 609), have been painted into two-tone green with cream relief livery and numbered 53503-5 (53503/4 have a small "First Kernow" fleet name above the entrance, 53505 just has "First").

Other Vehicle News, Workings and Observations Rounding-up some news and observations from the first quarter of 2015.

Greater Anglia Rail Replacement 7 February: OV63 XCN and YJ03 PKK (Chelmsford to Braintree via Witham), 208 (Witham to Braintree stopping), YJ03 PGZ (Witham spare), 210 also seen.

21 & 22 February: Blueline Travel, Rochford's ex-South East Coaches, South Woodham Ferrers (and new to Skills, Nottingham) Bova T322 KNN was on hire to Regal to operate an evening journey both days Billericay to Ipswich.

22 February: 208, 802 and YJ03 PGZ 8 March: YJ03 PKK 22 March: YJ03 PKK & MX10 DFK

Coaches During February, up to four coaches (including YJ03 PKK and MX10 DFK) worked on long-term emergency rail replacement service between Banbury and Leamington Spa while a landslip was being cleared and the ground stabilised. OV63 NCN has received Sunrise Holidays vinyls (seen 16 March).

Solos There is still no sign of 204 in service (see EBN 608) but the remaining Solos have all been noted:

205 on route 1 on 7 January and the evening 45 on 18 February; 206 in Braintree on 6 January; 207 on 1 on 9 January and 12 & 13 (Halstead and Sudbury routes) on 14 February; 208 on Greater Anglia rail replacement on 7 and 22 February (as noted above) and 52 on 31 March; 209 in Colchester on 18 January; 210 on Greater Anglia rail replacement on 7 February (as noted above) and 52 on 25 March and 211 on 3 on 13 January, on First Data shuttle on 9 February and 52 on 27 March.

Darts The final step entrance Dart, 515, remains in service. It has been noted on 3 on 7 January, 70 on 30th, 11A on 7 & 17 February, B2 on 9th & 10th, 75 on 5 March and 52 on 13th. Other Dart sightings: 601 on 70 (11 February); 607 on 88 (15 February) and 52 (27 March); 611 on 3 (5 February), First Data shuttle (9 February), 52 (20 March) and 2 (26 March); 613 on 565 on 19 February; 614 on B2 (27 February & 18 March) and 1 (27 March); 615 on 52 (11 March); KP02 PUH on 3 (12 & 13 March); KP02 PVD on the Braintree Freeport shuttle on 10 & 15 January and on the Thursday only 5 (East Hanningfield to Maldon) on 2 April.

Enviro 200s The LED blinds on 650 and 652 are now working (see EBN 609). 651 was on 565 on 5 February and on 75 on 20 February & 10 March. 652 was on 31A on 30 January & 5 February and on 565 on 2 April

MANs 702 on 565 on 7 & 20 February, 3B on 13 February, 52 on 4 March and 31A on 19 March; 801 on 1 on 21 January and 802 on 71C on 29 March.

Tempos P 02 remains the only one of the three Tempos in service. Seen on 71C on 15 February and 8, 15 and 22 March, 553 on 18 March, 3 on 19 March and 1 on 28 March. Also on 52 on 19 March, where it missed out The Street in Little Waltham as it too long to turn left at the White Hart junction.

Olympians 1206 on 7 on 23 January & 18 March, 503 on 12 March and 391 on 27 March. This vehicle remains in Preston two tone blue and cream livery, but has a nearside panel below the windscreen in Regal maroon, plus last year it gained offside lower panels at front and rear in Arriva aquamarine (including yellow pinstripe and at the rear red "withdrawn" stripe) from 1204, which suggests 1204 is no longer in service. (Indeed, 1204 was last reported in service on route 7 on 12 February 2014, as illustrated in the photo on EBN 599p10, although it was reported in EBN 601 as being parked at the First Data car park bus stop on 16 April 2014.) This would make 1206 Regal's final Olympian. Panther Olympian BIG 7596 (ex F639 LMI) on 7 on 4 February.

Tridents 1401 on Braintree Freeport shuttle on 22 January and again on 23rd and 26th, on 7 on 9 February and 70 on 10th (n.b. between April and June last year this vehicle's blue Metroliner skirt was over-painted in Regal dark red); 1404 on Braintree Freeport shuttle on 24 January; T697 KPU (still with "usBus" fleet names and no destination equipment) on 7 on 16 February, Braintree Freeport shuttle on 7 March and unusual double deck workings on 565 on 21st.

With thanks to Daniel Acott, Maurice Austin, Terry Clark, Jonathon Cush, Chris Hatley, Alan Hughes, Stephen Hughes, John Podgorski, Ian Ransom, James Sadd, John Salmon, Kevin Smith, David Warren, Robert West and Owen Woodliffe

Acquisitions

1517	YN06 JYB	Scania N94UD/East Lancs OmniDekka	H45/29F	Metrobus 917, to CN
1518	YN06 JYC	Scania N94UD/East Lancs OmniDekka	H45/29F	Metrobus 918, to CN
1519	YN06 JYD	Scania N94UD/East Lancs OmniDekka	H45/29F	Metrobus 919, to CN

Renumbered

1449	Y731 TGH	Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President	H41/23D	to 583
1450	X507 EGK	Volvo B7TL/Plaxton President	H41/23D	to 582

Withdrawn

282	W339 VGX	Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer MPD	B29F	to A. Barham (dealer)
962	MX58 XDB	Optare Solo M880 Slimline	DP27F	Accident damage.

Fleet – Scania arrivals

The first of the refurbished Scania OmniDekkas in the batch coming from Metrobus has entered service with Hedingham. 21 are due altogether for Go East Anglia and are arriving at the rate of one per week. Three are for Anglianbus and of the 18 for Hedingham & Chambers, it is expected that no fewer than six will go to CN and 10 to SY, with final allocations subject to other fleet changes.

Hants & Dorset Trim Ltd are refurbishing all of the Scantias, converting them to single door, installing LED displays, re-trimming all passenger seats and the driver's cab seat, fitting new off-white grab rails and applying a full repaint. 1519 (YN06 JYD) arrived in CN on Thursday 12 March and was initially confined to a local school contract with one regular driver, so as to facilitate other drivers' type training in the daytimes.

1518 (YN06 JYC) arrived in CN on Monday 23 March; Anglianbus 1504 (YN55 PZF) arrived in Beccles the day after and was in mainline service to/from Norwich on Wednesday 25th. 1517 (YN06 JYB) arrived in CN on Friday 27th. 1519 ventured onto route 87 first thing on Monday 30th, followed by 1518 the day after.

Anglianbus' examples will have orange Mobitec LED displays, whilst those arriving locally are receiving white Hanovers. The Anglianbus livery has been simplified with a straight blue skirt against the yellow, rather than the historic wavy pattern. The two-tone red livery seen so far on the Volvo B7TLs in SY is now a standard rollout in Hedingham & Chambers, with just a slight thinning of the interdeck white relief swoop.

Fleet – other news

The two dual door Volvo B7TL/Plaxton Presidents at SY, 1449 (Y731 TGH) and 1450 (X507 EGK) have been renumbered 583 and 582 respectively. They still sport Go-Ahead London red livery and saw service as school buses in Plymouth in 2014 before arriving in Suffolk last August.

Also at SY, ADL Enviro200 261 (EY57 FZE) is now licensed as a Chambers vehicle. This replaces Optare Solo 962 (MX58 XDB), which was withdrawn during the winter with accident damage.

Services

From Monday 13 April, an additional 89A journey will operate on weeknights from Braintree bus park (2003) to Halstead (2030) and Great Yeldham (2050), following requests from students at Braintree College. A revised copy of Hedingham's combined leaflet for services 34/A, 88 and 89/A is now available.

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

The Harwich Story

There has been so much regular information submitted this month, I regret it is necessary to defer Robert Appleton's continuing story of the Harwich area yet again. My apologies, especially after Robert has been kind enough to produce several additional "chapters" together with supporting photographs. As soon as space permits, I will publish the next part of this interesting story. Ed.

The 612 Page. Route 612 for EBN612.



One of John Rugg's marathon day trips. On Sunday 10 June 1990, John left Romford at about 0930 on a long trip to Colchester around beautiful north Essex. He returned late afternoon after a short round trip from Colchester to Braintree via Finchingfield and back. Here we see RF401, reg. MXX 289, in a busy (for a Sunday) Braintree Bus Park, still owned by Roger Wright of The London Bus Co. **John Rugg.**

FVX 612H for EBN612.



Harwich depot in July 1982 showing Leyland Nationals 1920 (JHJ 146V) and 1803 (TJN 502R), RELL 1510 (FVX 612H), a Bedford YMT/Duple dual purpose, a Bedford YMQS midibus and a Bristol VR. Both LNs went on to work for Thamesway and 1803 was one of the last in service, by then carrying pink sash livery. **EBEG collection with thanks to Chris Stewart.**

EBN612p24

Amber Coaches by Adam Kelleher

With thanks to Jack Bennee, Matthew Evans, Alan Hughes, Ross Newman and Chris Stewart

Acquired Vehicles

Y157 XWD Optare Versa, B37F, new to Burnley & Pendle (266), 2/08

Y157 XWF Optare Versa, B37F, new to Burnley & Pendle (268), 2/08

Y157 XWG Optare Versa, B37F, new to Burnley & Pendle (269), 2/08

Acquired March 2015 via Ensign. First reported sightings in service were XWD on route 269 on 5 March, XWF on route 374 on 23 March and XWG on the same route on 21st. All three were used by Ensignbus on TfL route 521 on 5 February, the day of a bus drivers' strike. They retain Transdev B&P livery of basically top half and just below the windows orange / bottom half amber, but in a wavy design to match the bodywork, but the fleet names "Starship" and four white pin stripes on the amber have been removed. No Amber (Ambus) fleet names have yet been applied.

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

With thanks to Chris Hatley, Chris Stewart, Owen Woodliffe and LOTS

Acquired Vehicles

100 LT02 ZZV, Dennis Trident / Plaxton President, H39/21D, new to Metroline (TP314) 8/02. Acquired from Dawson Rentals, January 2015. Converted to H45/28F (including three tip ups) and fitted with new seats, including seat belts. Painted into fleet livery (orange with black roof / upper deck window surrounds). LED blinds fitted, front, side and rear. Seen on route 66 on 29 January.

662 KX58 LJA, Plaxton Primo, B28F, new 2008. Acquired from Dawson Rentals, February 2015, all white livery with EOS fleet names. Previously with Central Connect, Birmingham and NCP at Heathrow. Seen on route 21A on 24 March.

901 KX58 GVC, E200Dart / Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 8.9m, B29F, new to Guidissue, Biddulph (Bakerbus) (222)1/09. Acquired from Dawson Rentals, February 2015, all yellow livery (when with Bakerbus it also had a wavy blue skirt on the yellow livery). Seen on route 66 on 17 February, as illustrated on the inside rear cover of EBN 611

Optare Excels JFZ 8261/2 (see EBNs 610/609) have been given fleet numbers 761/2. 761 at least has received orange EOS fleet names on its white / blue skirt livery.

Vehicles on Loan

Former Brighton & Hove Dennis Trident / East Lancs W832 NNJ which had been on loan from Ensign (see EBN 607) has not been noted since last October so is assumed returned. Former Select Buses, Neath Dennis Dart SLF / Marshall R876 MCE which was reported as acquired in October 2014 in EBN 609 is no longer in the fleet and is thought to have been on loan rather than acquired.

Other Vehicle News

Swallow Primo BU08 ACV has recently been given fleet number 661. It has a Swallow fleet name on its lower side panels, plus a large Swallow motif on the centre windows. In EBN 610 it was reported that newly acquired Optare Excel R300 PAR had yet to be seen in use. Although this vehicle has been given fleet number 700, it was probably only acquired as a source of spare parts.



On 1 September 2014, Dart W947 ETW shows the, since altered, convoluted route 66 from Harlow to Deben via North Weald and Waltham Abbey. **Owen Woodliffe.**

EBN612p25

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

With thanks to Ross Newman, John Podgorski, Owen Woodliffe, BBC and LOTS

Acquired Vehicles

M765 RAX, Volvo B10M-55, Alexander PS, B63F (ex DP48F), new to Red & White, 6/95 (765), from Stagecoach South Wales (20365), via Ensign, January 2015. In amended Stagecoach livery (most of the orange and red has been over-painted dark blue). No blinds fitted. Seen at Harlow on 6 February in between school bus duties.

Y239 FJN, Dennis Dart / Alexander ALX200 8.9m, B28F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 239), 6/01, from Stagecoach South (Fleet Buzz) (34239), via Ensign, February 2015. Remains in Fleet Buzz livery of yellow lower half, black upper half. LED blinds.

Y243 FJN, Dennis Dart / Alexander ALX200 8.9m, B28F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 243), 6/01, from Stagecoach South (Fleet Buzz) (34243), via Ensign, March 2015. Remains in Fleet Buzz livery of yellow lower half, black upper half. LED blinds.

Y253 FJN, Dennis Dart / Alexander ALX200 8.9m, B28F, new to Stagecoach Selkent (SLD 253), 7/01, from Stagecoach South (Fleet Buzz) (34253), via Ensign, March 2015. This operated for Fleet Buzz in all over white, which it retains. LED blinds.



Recently acquired as described above and still in Fleet Buzz distinctive bright yellow and very dark green livery, seen at Epping UG Station on 10 April 2015. **Owen Woodliffe.**

Vehicle on Loan London United VA 8 (N138 YRW), a Volvo Olympian / Alexander, was on loan for approximately three weeks in February. It was seen on route 410 on 12, 17 and 20 February with its front LED blinds fully programmed, as illustrated on the inside rear cover of EBN 611. (Back with London United, it was seen on Greater Anglia Rail Replacement from Newbury Park to Ingatstone on 5 April.)

Re-Registration Vario MP6 from W996 JNF to RHZ 9964

Other Vehicle News Former Metroline Volvo B7TL / Plaxton President G11 GTL (ex VP149, X649 LLX), in red and gold livery of parent company Galleon, was de-roofed under a low railway bridge on Chertsey Lane about two miles from its destination, Thorpe Park, Staines, Surrey at approx. 10am on 27 March. It had been carrying 76 pupils from St. John's School in Epping on an end of term trip to Thorpe Park. Eleven people were taken to hospital but thankfully no one was reported to be seriously injured. Despite being in Galleon livery, this bus had also been used on Trustybus stage service as well as contract work. A BBC report with photos is available at <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-surrey-32088386>

Disposals Correction to EBN 609: SPD 10 to Ensign in week of 15-19 December 2014, not November.

Rail Replacement EDL 37 (SN61 CYY) and KP54 BYY were amongst the vehicles from many operators seen on Greater Anglia Liverpool Street to Stansted rail replacement services on 18 January.

Just Passing Through!

Both pictures by Trevor Brookes

Your Editor had intended doing a short article about the excellent South East Bus Festival held recently at Detling. That will have to wait for space but, in the meanwhile, here are a couple of magnificent coaches seen in Thurrock Services on the way home.

Top The Van Hool DD carries Redfern green livery rather than Johnsons usual blue - Johnsons bought out Redfern of Mansfield many years ago. Presentation is immaculate, as always.

Bottom JG Coaches is based at Cross in Hand, East Sussex. Chassis is MAN 19-360 with Beulas Spica C body.



30 Years Ago; Day Explorer Trip to Cambridge & Back, £2.75.

Easter Saturday, 6 April 1985, by John Rugg. Picture research by Chris Stewart.

				<u>Normal fare.</u>
0812	EN 403	Laindon – Romford	0855	£1.45
		1721 NEV 678M Leyland National		
0904	London Country 500	Romford – Bishop's Stortford	1038	£2.45
		SNB90 Leyland National		
1105	EN 70	Bishop's Stortford – Dunmow	1130	£1.35
		1865 YEV 323S Leyland National		
1147	EN 33	Dunmow – Saffron Walden	1248	£1.50
		1657 KCG 614L Leyland National		
1248	Cambus 112	Saffron Walden – Cambridge	1345	£1.20
		300 Leyland National Mk. 2		
FIVE MINUTES IN CAMBRIDGE!				
1350	Cambus 112	Cambridge – Saffron Walden	1445	£1.20
		504 OCS 578H Bristol VR		
1512	EN 301	Saffron Walden – Bishop's Stortford	1600	£1.50
		1705 WNO 554L Leyland National		
1635	EN 58	Bishop's Stortford – Chelmsford	1728	£1.60
		1546 SVW 274K Bristol RE		
1733	EN 11A	Chelmsford – Southend	1852	£1.70
		3081 STW 25W Bristol VR		
1900	EN 400	Southend – Laindon	1952	£1.45
		4504 B692 BPU Leyland Olympian		

An interesting day out. Wasn't it good before deregulation!

SAVING IN FARES £12.65

£15.40



Cambus VR 504 (OCS 578H) was Eastern Counties VR318 prior to the split of ECOC in the Autumn of 1984, and is seen here working the Saffron Walden service 112 probably in about 1983 (with thanks to photographer **Richard Haughey**).

Interestingly, of the vehicles mentioned, Bristol RE 1546 is now preserved by Luke Deal having worked for Carter's Coach Services while VR 3081 spent more years with NIBS, Wickford than it had with EN and Thamesway (having been acquired when just 10 years old as a substitute for another bus NIBS should have had). Two of the Leyland Nationals, 1657 and 1705, both went on to operate together for Williams of Deiniolen. The Cambus VR, 504 (OCS 578H), was a former Western SMT example, which had arrived in 1973 as part of the SBG/NBC swap, which saw FLFs go north of the border. Sister OCS 576H was moved straight on from ECOC to Eastern National as 3047, while OCS 577H has just been restored to Western SMT livery by Neil Halliday of Shipley. This was one of three SBG VRs offered on the open market at the time, passing to Richardson's of Oldbury as a non-PSV. The other two, NAG 588G and OCS 581H, were quickly snapped up by Osborne's of Tollesbury. We might take a closer look at some of the Essex connections with the Western SMT VRs in a future EBN, space permitting.



Above: EN acquired 11 Leyland Nationals from Alder Valley in 1984, ten of these becoming 1650-9 (LMO 225L, KCG 608-15/7L). What would have been 1660 (KCG 618L) entered service as mobility bus 2201. 1654 is seen here in Chelmsford Bus Station.

Steve Simister collection.



Left:

The 58A variant of the Chelmsford-Dunmow-Bishop's Stortford route was, by 1985, one journey each way via Roxwell village timed to serve New Street works in Chelmsford. Bristol RELL 1541, PEV 503K, has arrived at the Bishop's Stortford terminus on 21 June 1983.

Robert Appleton.

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

Bone (Tendring Travel), Thorpe-le-Soken

Recently acquired is Autabus bodied Mercedes-Benz 0814D C27F from Spratt, Wreningham, Norfolk, reg. PIL 4883 (originally FY02 OUC).

Fords of Althorne (with thanks to Richard Delahoy)

The former Southend Transport Van Hool Astromega, 820 KPO, was delicensed in January on expiry of its MoT and has reverted to its original identity of JEV 245Y. It has served with Fords for 25 of its 32 years!

Godward, South Woodham Ferrers

A recent acquisition is CC64 PGC, an Iriza C59FT.

Jackson, Bicknacre

AY53 KRO, a Van Hool bodied DAF C49FT has been re-registered as MJJ 3084.

Lodge, High Easter

This operator is now running day trips and excursions from the Witham, Tiptree, Totham and Maldon areas following the cessation of such operations by Stan's of Braxted.



Picture above: Lodge of High Easter TL07 DGE, a Setra C49FT, S415GT named "Terence Walter". In Witham Rail Station car park, just a short walk from Roger's new home! Not on one of the new day trips but waiting its turn on the recent rail replacement service.

Roger A. Smith.

Viceroy, Saffron Walden

It is understood that former Hedingham Dennis Dart X509 WRG with Plaxton B25F bodywork has been here since the beginning of the year.

The Letters Page

Terry Challis of Blackpool

Writes about Rebodyed G05Gs

"Thank you for EBN611. I was interested in the photo on page 9(or30!) of JN 6890, one of the Westcliff ECW rebodied G05Gs. I have long wondered why they were fitted with straight dashboards. Was it because the radiator (and engine?) was set lower on the rebuilt G05Gs? Or how else did they get the low-bridge body to the same height as the post-war Ks?

Incidentally these vehicles were put into front-line use soon after they were rebuilt. I remember that DEV 480 (3644/1240) was a regular performer on the EN 70 (Southend to Grays) and in 'The Heyday of the Bus: the Postwar Years' by C. Carter there is a photo of ENO 932 (3654/1250) at Southend Victoria Station on the 19 trunk route from Southend to Clacton.

In the 1950s Hadleigh Garage had two of the Westcliff examples as part of the allocation on Service 22 (Hullbridge to Leigh Station) as 7 foot 6 inch wide vehicles were thought to be better on the roads between Hadleigh and Thundersley Woodman's Arms as the roads through Daws Heath were rather narrow. Later, two KS5Gs of the DIN batch became part of that allocation.

Some time ago someone asked which EN garage worked the 33A from Ongar to Dunmow; it was Bishop's Stortford. The vehicles ran on a short service 58 journey to Hatfield Heath and then to Dunmow on a short 33A working. It then took up it's service to Ongar. It got back to Bishop's Stortford by operating the reversal of this working. I believe that it was usually worked by SC4LK one person operated vehicles although I am sure that crew operated L5Gs some times deputised."

Doug Brown, [DB from BD] of Hutton

Continues his reminisces of City – and County Coaches.

"One of the elite drivers, an ex-City man who used to do the holiday tours fell out with LTS and bought his own coach. His name was Harry Pratt. I assume he thought he could operate extended tours cheaper than the "opposition". He called his company County Coaches. Now, I am all for a rebel Harry and I became good friends and me being a man of many parts and pubs, soon got Harry work. I got him many away darts matches along with the "Beanos" during the summer. I did a London theatre for him one Saturday and one of the old City guard and his wife were among my passengers. I then knew in my own mind that this conductor would grass about me driving for Harry and sure enough, on the Monday, the LTS had me in his office wanting to know what I was doing driving for Harry. I told him to mind his own business and it was nothing to do with him what I did off duty. He threatened me with dismissal and I said that if he did so, I would be round the Gazette office and possibly call a strike. I then knew I would never get a private hire or holiday tour! LTS gave Harry a hard time and when Harry got a few school contracts, he left and bought another coach, the sister one to his original coach. Brian Barratt, a founder member of EGEG was my conductor for a few years and got me as driver on all their outings as Brian knew that me being a mechanic could get all the old buses we saw on our depot visits started up. I knew where the excess fuel button was situated and I drove them "round the block". I can honestly say I have never driven so many old bangers on them trips. The vibration was such that at high revs, it felt as though ones teeth were being drilled and everything was in 3D!" Doug has kindly supplied a photo of County's first coach, JEF 325, which I shall show when space is available.

John Salmon from Great Leighs

The Perils of being An Omnibologist 2!

John usually restricts himself to taking pictures of buses using the layby near his home (but with notable exceptions which we have published from time to time!). He recently treated Mrs S to a weekend away at Ipswich Quayside Premier Inn and was allocated room 105 which just happened to overlook the First "Eastern Counties" Ipswich depot. It is understood Mrs S was not amused! I mentioned this to Mrs A, who muttered about a divorce if I were to do such a thing! Just to stir things up a bit, the view from room 105 is shown on p32!

Robin Jenkinson from Diss

A man of many colours!

The last two months EBNs featured Robin's Recollections (so good in EBN611, we showed it twice! Sorry, Ed.) As Robin is mentioned on page 1 of this issue in respect of the black & white photo service, I thought it might be interesting to show another part of Robin's letter which demonstrates he is a bus man "through and through".

"I drove, coachpainted and did sign-writing for Colchester Borough Council, Osbornes, Grahams, C&R, Hedingham, Norfolks, Cornwell of Stanway, Suttons, Kelvedon Coaches, Partridges, Fargo, Center Travel of Halstead, National South East, Wents and others, so I have a few tales to tell if you ever get short of material!" Yes please, Ed.

Richard Delahoy

GROUP ADVERTISEMENT

EN timetables for sale: the Group has the following TT books for sale –

if interested, please e-mail richard@signal-training.com to check availability and prices:

EN whole company books: 5/67, 5/68, 5/69, 1/71, 9/71, 5/72. Area books: North East 6/74, 6/75, 6/76, 6/77; Central 6/74, 3/76, 1/77; South West 6/74, 1/77. Thamesway Southend/Castle Point 8/91, 2/92, 7/92. Essex CC, Southend area book 6/81.

Also: Southend & District faretable books for 7/70, 2/71, 9/74, 2/75, 7/75, 10/75, 3/76, 10/76, 3/77, 1/78, 1/79, 7/79, 12/79, 6/80, 6/81, 1/84. Mostly in reasonable condition, complete but some covers dirty or marked.



Well, don't you think this is the ideal venue for a romantic get-away? First Eastern Counties Ipswich depot viewed from room 105 of the Ipswich Quayside Premier Inn on the first weekend of March. See Letters Page. **John Salmon.**

Target dates for EBN613 (May 2015).

By	...	Saturday 2 May 2015	...	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	...	Saturday 9 May 2015	...	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	...	Monday 18 May 2015	...	Dispatch by Printers.

Black Cover Photos.

As Peter Mansbridge reported in his Arriva page, the Colchester Park & Ride service started on Monday 13 April, after this EBN had been prepared. Arriva has been awarded the contract. An official "launch" took place on the morning of Friday 10 April and we show a picture of the entire fleet and one of 4073 taken at the new P&R site. We are grateful to **Richard Lewis** for these pictures.

The service will be operated with E200s fitted with air-conditioning, next-stop screens (visual only - not with audio announcements) and e-leather seats which are now standard for new Arriva deliveries. Their capacity is shown inside as being 'Maximum seated 36, maximum standing 32 and maximum wheelchairs 01'. They are to be named after famous people and your Editor understands that the vinyls with the names on have been delivered to Colchester Depot, though at least one is too long to fit on the door glass which is their intended position (Arriva did tell ECC the width of the glass!). I don't yet have the list to hand of which names are being used but I know that one is Queen Boadicea (or possibly the other spelling - Boudica).

The site was still in course of being completed as I type this and there is absolutely no signage on the A12 to publicise the facility (at least from the south). It appears that the service will run free for the first couple of weeks as the fares haven't yet been finalised!

Two of the buses did some circuits of the town on the launch morning during the peak period to promote the service and one of them again appeared in the town after the photo shoot on driver route learning.

The service will run to a fifteen-minute off-peak frequency with a ten-minute service during the morning peak and a twelve-minute frequency in the afternoon peak period. It will require four buses at peak times and three off-peak, with one spare. The timetable is shown on Traveline's website.



Saffron Shuttle
Acme Transport Services of Takeley run various Essex CC routes and school services, but since mid-January have also provided a free shuttle in Saffron Walden whilst the local Waitrose store is rebuilt, causing the closure of a town centre car park. Dennis Dart KN52 NFY was nicely blinded up for service from "SWCHS" - Saffron Walden County High School.

Saffron Contrasts

Solo, CL52 CCL, looking suitably anonymous but actually operated by Viceroy Coaches, on town service 34, passes Stephenson's Dart 410 (KV51KZK) waiting to depart on the 1200 service 313 to Gt. Dunmow, an ECC contract that Viceroy held until August 2013. The "CCL" registration on the Solo dates to its service with Courtney Coaches Ltd in Maidenhead.



Saffron Surprise

This is NOT what you expect to see in Saffron Walden High Street on a cold and wet February day! Former Crosville open top Bristol FSF, 882 VFM, has been owned by estate agents, Lloyd-Williams of Epping since at least 1993 but they have been taken over by Mullucks Wells, who were using it for promotional work. It was certainly turning heads!

All photographed by **Richard Delahoy** on Saturday 28 February.





www.essexbus.org.uk