

# Essex Bus News

**No. 657; JANUARY 2019**



**Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**

**£4**

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



[fb.me/essexbus](https://fb.me/essexbus)

where sold



<<< Upper picture  
Anti-social behaviour by youths intimidating drivers waiting to take over their buses heading west at Hadleigh, Waggon & Horses, has led to buses now go 'around the block' so that westbound buses hand over/take over outside Hadleigh Depot. This leads to the unusual sight of buses heading west to Canvey parked up heading in the opposite direction, such as Wright StreetLite 47644 (SN15 AFA).

**John G. Lidstone.**



Lower picture Synchronised buses! A remarkably well-spaced Trident trio, all from First Hadleigh, near Southend Victoria Station on 4 January, led by TransBus Tridents 33373 (LK53 EYR) with 33384 (LK53 EZD) behind it and President-bodied 33186 (LT52 WVB) to complete the set.

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Front Cover Picture.

An exceptionally rare event on 29 Dec at 1940 when Abellio London's immaculate New Routemaster LT712 (LTZ 1712) came to the seaside! Here, it has just arrived at Southend Victoria Station forecourt all the way from Newbury Park, in exactly the same place where Eastern National buses used to depart 50 years ago for Clacton on route 19! Having dropped its last passengers, the equally smart driver kindly paused a moment to assist my photography.

**John G. Lidstone.**

# Essex Bus News 657

January 2019

## Editor & Sub-Editors

### **Magazine Editor**

Maurice Austin  
Tindal Lodge  
11 Valletta Close  
CHELMSFORD CM1 2PT [maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop](mailto:maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop)

### **First in Essex/Trustybus**

Adam Kelleher  
74 Park Road  
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU [adamxxx4@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:adamxxx4@yahoo.co.uk)

### **Ensignbus/Hedingham/Chambers**

Mark Lloyd  
448 Ipswich Road  
COLCHESTER CO4 4EY [Lloydhousehold448@gmail.com](mailto:Lloydhousehold448@gmail.com)

### **Arriva including Network Colchester**

Peter Mansbridge [petemans\\_1@hotmail.com](mailto:petemans_1@hotmail.com)

### **Stephensons of Essex**

Richard Delahoy, details opposite.

### **Panther Travel & Publicity**

Ian Ransom [ianandsallyr@googlemail.com](mailto:ianandsallyr@googlemail.com)

### **Smaller Operators**

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

### **Service Changes**

Paul Harvey  
3 Orangewood Close, Gonerby Hill Foot  
GRANTHAM NG31 8QW [pw.harvey@ntlworld.com](mailto:pw.harvey@ntlworld.com)

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

Owen Woodliffe  
196 Sinclair Road  
CHINGFORD E4 8PT  
[pat\\_woodliffe@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com)

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

### **Black & White Photo Sales**

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

**Essex Bus News** is the "house magazine" of the...

### **Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group**

|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| Chair                  | Ian Ransom      |
| Secretary              | Alan Osborne    |
| Treasurer & Membership | Richard Delahoy |
| Tours Organiser        | Wayne Bell      |

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. Contact Richard Delahoy, address below.

### **Membership Secretary & Data Protection**

A statement of our compliance with the GDPR is available on our website or by post. For any membership or data protection issues, please contact:

Richard Delahoy  
272 Shoebury Road  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS1 3TT  
[richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk)

### **Printed by** Directcds Ltd

Unit 2, Gentlemans Field, Westmill Road  
WARE, Herts SG12 0EF  
01920 465023  
[www.directcds.co.uk](http://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.

# 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. Small car park on site, other public ones nearby.

Tea and coffee making facilities. 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 24 January 2019** **Rachel Perkins** reviews her "Austerity, Mobility & Buses in Essex" project.

Followed by **Richard Delahoy**, slide show "Southend to Imber by Bus".

**28 February 2019** **Bob Palmer** Recollections.

Other 2019 dates: 28 March, 25 April (Dave Tomlin), 23 May, 27 June, 25 July, 26 September, 24 October, 28 November, 12 December.

## NORTH ESSEX MEETINGS by Dave Arnold.

Downstairs room at the Friends Meeting House, Church Street, Colchester, just south of "Jumbo" (the water tower) and behind the Mercury Theatre. Town centre bus stops and parking are nearby. Doors open at 1915 for informal chat, and often an impromptu slide show, with the main talk or show from 1945 to 2145. £3.00 donation towards room hire, please.

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

**Friday 8 February 2019** **Dave Arnold** tba.

**Friday 8 March.** **Owen Woodliffe** Essex Operators, Past & Present.

**Friday 12 April.** **Group AGM** with **Alan Osborne** afterwards.

Other 2019 dates: 10 May, 14 June, 12 July, 9 August, 13 September, 11 October, 8 November, 13 December.

## A Blast From The Past.

**Paul Harvey.**



Southend Transport JEH 179K Bristol RELL ECW 303 acquired from City of Oxford 11/84 seen on service 23 at Leigh Church heading for Eastwood during 1986.

**Paul Harvey.**



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

## EVENTS

**Saturday 16 February 2019**

**Saturday 23 February 2019**

**Sunday 24 February 2019**

**Saturday 16 March 2019**

**Sunday 17 March 2019**

**Sunday 24 March 2019**

**Saturday 30 March 2019**

**Sunday 31 March 2019**

**Saturday 6 April 2019**

**Sunday 7 April 2019**

**Sunday 23 June 2019**

Enfield Transport Fair. St Pauls Centre, Church St, Enfield.

LT Collectables Auction. Croydon Park Hotel Altyre Rd, Croydon.

Green Line Running Day. Epping Ongar Railway, North Weald.

Transport Collectors Market. Chiswick Town Hall.

Ipswich Transport Museum. Reopening Day.

RF Running Day at Kingston.

RT 80 Event, Barking.

Oxford Bus Museum Running Day.

SE Bus Festival, Kent County Showground, Detling.

Spring Gathering. London Bus Museum, Brooklands.

Essex Bus Rally, Barleylands, Billericay.

## EBEG PUBLICATIONS

Eastern National and Thamesway in London. (LT Tendered Services. £12.99

send e-mail to Sales Officer — [pat\\_woodliffe@hotmail.com](mailto:pat_woodliffe@hotmail.com) or post to 196 Sinclair Road, LONDON E4 8PT

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



Following the Editor's request for pictures of the everyday and ordinary, here is TfL route 549, is a cross-border one from South Woodford to Loughton. A one-bus operation, it has 12 journeys Monday to Saturday at a frequency that varies between 1 hour 7 minutes and 1 hour 20 minutes; Stagecoach London Enviro E20D 36371 (LX59 EDF) is about to leave Essex at Buckhurst Hill.

**Owen Woodliffe.**

# Clandestine Operations.

**Alan Tebbit BEM.**

## **Further Recollections of a Former Chelmsford Bus Man.**

When I worked in the traffic department of Eastern Nationals' head office, the Traffic Manager was a Mr. Robert Hanley. For some reason he had a sort of vendetta against one of the small local operators, namely Sorrell and Wells of Hatfield Peveral. They were a fairly low budget outfit, their depot being the unmade car park of "The Swan" public house. One of their claims to fame was that they were once prosecuted by The Essex Rivers Authority for "illegal extraction of water", as they would park their vehicles in the ford at Terling, in order to wash them. They re-invented themselves in early 1965 as Wells Continental Tours, with a brace of Ford Thames with Duple Trooper bodies, in different liveries. At that time, I was the junior clerk in the road service licencing department, under the Traffic Assistant, Eric Farage, and his number two, F. R. (Bob) Beaumont.

One morning, one of the schedules clerks, Ray Boreham, entered our office, with a copy of the local paper, The Essex Chronicle. An avid football fan, Ray had read the match report from Chelmsford City's last game, but what caught his eye was the last paragraph. It gave details of an important match coming up, away to Yeovil Town, and stated that the supporters club were running a coach to the match, and gave details of the departure time, and fare. This surely constituted an advertisement for an unlicensed operation. Obviously, the supporters club were hiring in a coach, and if they had advertised it on club premises, for club members only, it would be all right, but in a newspaper, available to the general public, that was another matter entirely!

The Chelmsford City ground was directly opposite head office, so, having acquired the fare from petty cash, I walked out of the back gate, and around the block, so no one would know that I had come out of the offices. I went into the football club office and paid for the trip to Yeovil. I was not a supporters' club member, nor ever have been. The receptionist gave me a receipt for the fare and told me to show it to the steward on the coach on the morning of the match. What I now held in my hand was effectively a "ticket for travel". Back in the office, around the block, and in through the back gate, it was decided that as I bought the ticket, then I should travel to Yeovil on the following Saturday. It would be a nice day out for me, but I would not be paid, so that there could be no suggestion that I was connected with Eastern National. However, I would be expected to submit a full report, on drivers' hours etc, on my return. On no condition was I to enter the Yeovil Town football club premises, and not watch the match from any other vantage point. And so, on the following Saturday morning, I joined the football fans, boarding one of Wells' Fords for the away trip.

As soon as we got to Yeovil, I slipped away from the crowd, to enjoy the delights of the Somerset town, mingling back with the others, as they made their way back to the coach. Thus, I had used the journey as an Express Service passenger, paying a fare less than the accumulated Eastern National and Royal Blue licensed services between the two points. I had not travelled to the venue that the coach was hired for, and I was not a bona-fide member of the club that had hired the vehicle. We had Wells bang to rights!

Another episode involving Wells' operations turned out to be quite amusing, at least for some of us. The TM, Bob Hanley, lived on the Baddow Road, on the outskirts of town. Back then, before the construction of the Baddow by-pass, the A130 trunk road passed Bobs' door. Every morning, as he had breakfast, a lightly loaded Wells' coach would go past. Thinking that they were running an illegal bus service, we arranged observation. We had two minivans in use by our mobile inspectors KEV 656/7C. They had been delivered in BMC grey, but, for some obscure reason, 657 had been painted black. This is a factor in the story. One morning, the infamous mobile inspector, Jim Holt, and his driver, sat in the black van, outside of the Hanley home, and set off in pursuit of Wells' vehicle. They went for mile after mile towards Southend, and the fact that, despite many chances, they failed to overtake, aroused the suspicion of one of the passengers.

At Rawreth, Bedloes Corner, our little convoy turned off on quieter roads towards Rochford. A short while later the minivan driver was aware of a large black car approaching from the rear, with its' lights flashing. All police vehicles were black back then, and our heroes pulled over to let the boys in blue pass. Suddenly they were forced to a halt, with one cop car in front, and one behind, the van doors were wrenched open, and the pair dragged from within. It turned out that Wells had a contract with Her Majesty's Prison, Chelmsford, to transport trustee prisoners to work at the vast Hawkwell Nurseries. A warder on the coach had used his "walkie talkie radio" to report that they were being tailed by a van, "disguised as a police vehicle", the passenger wearing an imitation police uniform. He feared that they intended to assist one, or more, of the prisoners to escape! Luckily, with legal lettering on the van, and "Holy" in a recognisable bus company uniform, his explanation was accepted by the officers, and released without charge.

In October 1984, Wells Continental Tours sold out to Fords of Althorne, and I wondered, did I play a part in their demise? I do hope not, because I am sure that they meant no harm!

**Eds** note, also see Alan's letter on p31, this issue.



# YEovil TOWN

SOUTHERN LEAGUE WESTERN LEAGUE

DORSET COMBINATION

## FOOTBALL CLUB

Southern League Champions  
1923-24 ; 1931-32 Western Section) 1954-55  
Southern League Cup Winners  
1948-49 ; 1954-55 ; 1960-61  
Southern League Inter-Zone Winners 1958-59  
F.A. Cup 5th Round Appearance 1948-49  
F.A. Cup 3rd Round Appearances  
1934-35 ; 1937-38 ; 1938-39 ; 1949-50 ; 1957-58  
Western League Division I. Champions  
1922-23 ; 1929-30 ; 1958-59  
Western League Division II. Champions 1954-55  
Western League Professional Cup Winners 1958-59  
Somerset Professional Cup Winners  
1929-30 ; 1930-31 ; 1931-32 ; 1937-38 ; 1947-48 ; 1949-50 ; 1950-51 ;  
1953-54 ; 1954-55 ; 1955-56 ; 1956-57 (Joint) ; 1961-62

No. 16 Saturday, 22nd December, 1962

### CHELMSFORD CITY

Southern League Kick-off 3 p.m.

Next Home Match Boxing Day, 26th December, 1962

### BEDFORD TOWN

Southern League Kick-off 3 p.m.

## OFFICIAL PROGRAMME

Issued by the

YEovil TOWN FOOTBALL SUPPORTERS' CLUB

(Affiliated to the National Federation of Football Supporters' Clubs)

6<sup>p</sup>

Relevant Pictures to illustrate Alan Tebbit's Tale are in rather short supply!

The only one I have of a First service vehicle is this rather shaky view of SM17 HPE in Chelmsford bus station on 30 May 2018. Not much chance of that one being mistaken for a police car!

**Maurice Austin.**

However! **Chris Stewart** has discovered this programme; Alan's experience was in 1965/66 but one suspects it is very similar to the one Alan could have purchased if circumstances permitted!

See EBN657p6 for a couple of pics of Wells Continental coaches.



Both photos by **Dave Arnold**. Top: KUR 314P Bedford YMT Duple Dominant new to Wells in 1975 at the Maldon operating centre.  
Lower: ONR 79R Bedford YRQ Plaxton Elite 3 at Maldon operating centre.





# LJN 657P for EBN657

Robert Appleton.



Eastern  
National 3062  
(LJN 657P)  
Bristol  
VRT/SL3/0501  
with Eastern  
Coach Works  
body at  
Brimsdown on a  
very wet 30  
December  
1986, working  
London  
Regional  
Transport  
service 307  
from Barnet to  
Brimsdown  
Station. **Robert  
Appleton.**

## A challenge from Robert!

(I know we had LJN 656P for EBN656, but this VR has a different livery, and a very different location. I have photos for future issues of EBN659, 660, 662, 663, 664, but regret nothing for EBN658, 661. Perhaps other members can help).

**Eds note** Most past "XXX for EBNXXX's" have matched registration, fleet or route numbers. I am sure there must be other sources of the matching number - perhaps part of the chassis number, number of times used or - put your creative thinking caps on!

Also, don't leave it all to Robert; much as his research for us is valued, there must be other relevant pics out there somewhere!



Not Victoria  
Street  
Westminster,  
but Victoria  
Street  
Bristol. The  
Applegates (of  
Newport,  
Gloucs)  
B7TL/ALX400  
even has a  
Chelmsford  
reg - because  
it's ex-Dublin  
AV58 (00-D-  
40058) via ...  
Ensignbus  
(and initially  
repainted all  
over green at  
Mardens in  
Benfleet).

Allan MacFarlane, early Nov 2018

EBN657p7

# Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

## Highlights and Lowlights suspended this month!

### 19 December 18

Go Ahead Chambers & Heddingham bus service registrations cancelled and registered from the same date under Go Ahead KonectBus licence.

### 22 December 18

STSS Bishop Stortford Town Service (SO) Bishop Stortford Community Transport – new Saturday service providing 3 journeys on a circular route including the Hospital & Thorley Park. This is a different routing compared to the separate Monday to Friday service.

### 4 February 19

21 Basildon to North Benfleet (M-F) NIBS – revision to route and timetable.

---

## Essex County Council Ongoing Bus Service Consultations

### Ongoing consultations

Supported Bus Services Consultation - 19 December 2018

**Closing Date** 22 March 2019

Essex County Council (ECC) is consulting on

Supported evening and Sunday local bus services

Getting the right type of service

Proposals around devolution of local bus services

ECC is reviewing all evening and Sunday Services that are paid for by the tax payer. Please take the opportunity to comment on the future of your evening and Sunday bus services.

Additionally, the consultation would like to know your views on the types of service provided and how they are commissioned.

The consultation letter will be available in your local library (from January 2019), or by phoning: 0345 743 0430. It is also available online:

[www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation](http://www.essex.gov.uk/local-bus-consultation)

### Recent closed consultations

**Service 63** Colchester North Rail Station - Monkwick

Operated by **Heddingham & District Omnibuses Ltd**

Closed 15 October 2018

Service 63 (Colchester North Station to Monkwick) operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC).

ECC are considering withdrawing the 0658 journey only and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

**OUTCOME** The consultation is being assessed.

**Service 381** Harlow - Coopersale

Operated by **Community Link**

Closed 27 November 2018

Service 381 operates Monday to Saturdays with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). ECC are considering amending the Monday - Friday timetable and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

**OUTCOME** The consultation is being assessed.

**Service 11** Highwoods Circular Colchester

Operated by **Arriva**

Closed: 02 January 2019

Service 11 operates Monday to Friday with financial support from Essex County Council (ECC). ECC are considering amending the timetable with the aim of improving reliability and a public consultation was carried out regarding this proposal.

**OUTCOME** The consultation is being assessed.

# South East Bus Festival Launches New Website As Entries Roll In For 6 April 2019 Event.

Richard Lewis.

## Bringing together buses and coaches, old and new, from across the South East and beyond.

The ninth in a series of popular annual bus events at Kent Showground (Maidstone, Kent ME143JF) brought to you by the same organising team since 2011.

The organisers of the popular South East Bus Festival have launched a new website ahead of the 2019 event that will be held at Kent Showground on Saturday 6 April.

The new site can be found by visiting <https://southeastbusfestival.wixsite.com/sebf> and it complements the event's Facebook page that is used to keep in touch with an ever-growing band of followers.

The website contains a wealth of information, including a list of buses and coaches entered not only for 2019 but also those that have attended the previous eight events to show the huge number of different vehicles that have taken part over the years.

The 2018 bus festival was attended by 150 buses and coaches, ranging from a Leyland Lioness coach built in 1929 right up to an Optare Metrocity and a Scania/ADL Enviro 400 that went into service with Go-Coach Hire and Southdown Buses respectively just a few weeks before the event.

Co-organiser Richard Lewis said "We always aim to have a good mix of vehicle types representing the bus and coach industry from the early years of the 20th century through to the latest high-tech vehicles of today.

"The event really offers something for everyone and around forty of the entrants provide a frequent free service around the showground to give people the chance to ride on vehicles that they might not otherwise get to enjoy."

The bus festival is part of Kent Showground's own Heritage Transport Show which also has a huge following, which has attracted around 800 cars, commercials, military vehicles, motorbikes and tractors over the past couple of years.

In addition to the buses and coaches, the South East Bus Festival activities include **three talks by guest speakers, live slide shows and a continuous slide show, lots of sales-stands and model bus displays**, all accommodated under cover in the showground's conference centre, plus the free bus rides around the site which can also be used to get between different parts of the showground.

Vehicle entries are already rolling in and the organisers look forward to receiving many more over the weeks ahead both from private preservationists and current bus and coach operators.

The main theme of the 2019 event will be the **fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the National Bus Company** and it is hoped to have a good display of buses representing the NBC years. A secondary theme will celebrate the **80th anniversary of the London Transport RT class**.

As well as vehicle displays, these two themes will be covered in the talks and slide shows and in the free glossy souvenir programme. To keep up to date with the latest entries and other news, or to ask questions about the event, people can visit the Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival](http://www.facebook.com/southeastbusfestival) and click the 'Like' button to receive notifications of new postings.

Information about the Heritage Transport Show can be found at [www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show](http://www.kentshowground.co.uk/heritage-transport-show).



A few of the 2016 entries.  
**Maurice Austin.**

EBN657p9

## Out & About!



A TfL route into Essex is the 20 from Walthamstow to Debden, at a much frequency of every 15 minutes for much of the day. Go Ahead London Volvo B9/Wright Gemini 2 WVL467, LJ61 NVA, pauses at the impressive St John's Church, Buckhurst Hill. **Owen Woodliffe.**



This is Norman Way, Colchester on the last day of operation of New Horizon registered schools service 177 to West Mersea. Volvo B7RLE HF 54 HMG awaits the afternoon departure. Behind is NHT B7TL/Gemini BX 55 XLW on the 78X. This had earlier run the pm route 19 from Thomas Lord Audley School to Rowhedge, on behalf of Heddingham, as TLA finished early on its last day of term. Meanwhile, Panther Travel ADL/E200 DC 62 PAN awaits departure on the school days extension of route 81 to Dedham.

Note the gates behind are already closed, as the Norman Way schools had already broken up!

**John Podgorski.**

EBN657p10



Roman Coaches of Colchester ex National Holidays Setra S416 NH11 STH at St Botholphs Circus, Colchester on 30/11/18. **John Podgorski.**



Commendably smart RSM Dennis Dart/Plaxton Pointer N28 RSM in Chelmsford on 8 December 2018 (the LED display was blank). **John G Lidstone.**

# Adam's Annual First Essex Fleet & Allocation Summary - January 2019

**This information is up to date to the end of Period 9 2018/19 (29 December 2018).**

## Changes during 2018

Plus: 20514, 30894, 32672, 32676, 37009, 37010, 37015, 37016, 37017, 37020, 37985, 37986, 67755, 67756, 67779, 67805.  
Minus: 32652, 32654, 41493, 41520, 41730, 53112, 53113, 53114, 53115, 53116, 53117, 53121, 53123, 53125, 53126, 53127, 53128, 53129, 53130, 53131, 53132, 53133, 53134, 53136, 53137, 53138, 53139, 53209, 61230, 62195\*, 62197\*, 65665, 65666, 65667, 65668, 65669, 65670, 65671, 65673, 65674, 65676, 65678, 65680, 65683, 65686, 65742, 65743, 65745, 65746, 65748, 65750, 66809, 66822, 66824, 68508, 68509, 68532, 68535, 68551.

\* These were permanent driver trainers.

New types introduced during the year were Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini 2 bodied Volvo B9TLs (37985/6) and Alexander Dennis E30D / Enviro 300s (67755/6/79/805). A type re-introduced was the Volvo B12M / Plaxton Paragon (20514), although only for school work.

Types that left the fleet during the year were: Marshall bodied Dennis Darts (41730), although this bus had been out of service at the end of 2017, Optare Solo M920 (53112-7/21/3/5-34/6-7) and Optare Solo M950 (53138-9/209).

## Fleet List

*The fleet list is summarised under main types. Figures / letters in brackets are registration periods.*

Volvo B12M / Plaxton Paragon: 20514(02) A permanent school vehicle in purple / gold livery.

Volvo B7TL / ALX400: 30894 (X), 32068/87(51), 32475-8/80-85(53), 32651(05)

The X and 51 regs have Alexander bodywork, the 53s Transbus bodywork and the 05 Alexander Dennis bodywork.

Volvo B7TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini: 32628/31/40-2(54), 32672/6(55), 37009-10/5-7/20(55)

Volvo B9TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini: 37133-6/8-40(57), 37985/6 (11)

The 57 regs have Eclipse Gemini bodywork, the 11 regs have Eclipse Gemini 2 bodywork.

Transbus Trident / Transbus President: 33044/7/72-4/7-8/80-1/86-8/90/5/8(51), 33133-4/6/78/84(02), 33186/8-92/4-6/229/32(52)

The 52 reg are 9.9m, as are 33044/7 and 33178/84, the rest are 10.5m. 33229/32 have gasket glazing, the rest bonded.

Transbus Trident / Transbus ALX 400: 33373/6/83-5(53)

Alexander Dennis Trident 2 / Enviro 400: 33424/5(59), 33504/7(08), 33544-6/8-9/51-3/5/7-9/61-3/7-8/70/2-4(58)

33424 is 10.8m long, the rest are 10.1m. 33425 has bonded glazing, the rest have gasket.

Transbus Dart / Caetano Nimbus: 41494/512-4/21-5(03), 41527/38-44(53), 42519(03)

Dart / Pointer 10.7m: 42482-7(03), 42488-9(53), 42895/900/18/22-3/7-8/30-7/9(05), 42968(06)

Dart / Pointer 9.3m: 42555-7/61(05)

Mini Pointer Dart 8.8m: 43845-8(55)

The Pointer Darts are a mixture of Dennis, Plaxton, Transbus and Alexander Dennis build, but all to the same basic Pointer 2 design.

Alexander Dennis Enviro 200: 44001-6(57), 44080-81(58), 44537-51(13), 44596(60), 44597(58), 44598(57), 44599(08), 44900(08)

The 57, 08 & 58 reg are Enviro 200 Dart chassis, the rest are E20Ds. 44001-6 & 44080-81 are 10.2m, 44537-51 are 10.9m, 44596-9 are 10.8m and 44900 is 9.6m.

Alexander Dennis E20D / Enviro 200 MMC: 44659-62(66), 67160-71(66), 67189-97(66)

44659-62 are 10.5m, 67160-71 are 11.6m and 67189-97 are 11.8m. 67160-71 have luggage racks for use on routes X10 & X30 (67165 was repainted from X30 livery into standard livery in December 2018 but retained its luggage racks), 67189-97 are dedicated Park & Ride vehicles in Essex County Council all black livery.

Wrightbus StreetLite DF: 47521-30(64), 47643-58(15), 63161-70(64), 63328-44(65) The 63 series are StreetLite DF Max and are 11.5/6m in length, the 47 series are 10.9m.

Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solar: 62407-10(03), 65672/5/7(51), 65679/81-2/4-5(52), 65687-92(03)

Scania OmniCity CN94UB / Scania: 65028-32(06)

Volvo B10BLE / Wright Renown: 62139/91 (X), 62242(Y), 66179(W) These are permanent driver trainers.

Volvo B7RLE / Wrightbus Eclipse Urban: 66719/30 (54), 66794-804/6-8/10-9/21/3/5-30/7(05), 69421/29-34(58), 69515-20(11), 69532-3(05) 69515-20 are Eclipse Urban 2.

Alexander Dennis E30D / Enviro 300: 67755/6/79(62), 67805(13)

Alexander Dennis E35H (Hybrid) / Enviro 350: 67901-4(13)

BMC1100FE School bus: 68510/20/31(54)

Volvo 7900 Hybrid / Volvo: 69901-19(13)



# Summary of Numbers of Types

*Figures in brackets are change during the year.*

|                                           |             |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------|
| B12M / Paragon (School coach):            | 1 (+1)      |
| B7TL / ALX400:                            | 14 (+1, -2) |
| B7TL / Eclipse Gemini:                    | 13 (+8)     |
| B9TL / Eclipse Gemini:                    | 7           |
| B9TL / Eclipse Gemini 2:                  | 2 (+2)      |
| Trident / President 9.9m:                 | 15          |
| Trident / President 10.5m:                | 16          |
| Trident / ALX 400: 5                      |             |
| Enviro 400 10.1m: 24                      |             |
| Enviro 400 10.8m: 1                       |             |
| Dart / Capital: 0 (-1)                    |             |
| Dart / Nimbus: 18 (-2)                    |             |
| Mini Pointer Dart 8.8m: 4                 |             |
| Dart / Pointer 9.3m: 4                    |             |
| Dart / Pointer 10.7m: 25                  |             |
| Enviro 200 9.6m: 1                        |             |
| Enviro 200 10.2m: 8                       |             |
| Enviro 200 10.8/9m: 19                    |             |
| Enviro 200 MMC 10.5m: 4                   |             |
| Enviro 200 MMC 11.6/8m: 21                |             |
| Enviro 300: 4 (+4)                        |             |
| Enviro 350H: 4                            |             |
| StreetLite 10.9m: 26                      |             |
| StreetLite Max 11.5/6m: 27                |             |
| Solo M920: 0 (-20)                        |             |
| Solo M950: 0 (-3)                         |             |
| L94UB / Solar: 18 (-21)                   |             |
| OmniCity: 5                               |             |
| B7RLE / Eclipse Urban: 44 (-3)            |             |
| B7RLE / Eclipse Urban2: 6                 |             |
| 7900 Hybrid: 19                           |             |
| BMC1100FE School bus: 3 (-5)              |             |
| B10BLE / Renown (Driver Trainers): 4 (-2) |             |
| Total: 362 (405, +16, -59)                |             |

## Allocations

**Basildon** 33047/77/188/92/4, 33424-5/504/7/44-6/8-9/51-3/5/7-9/61-3/7-8/70/2-4, 41512-4/23-5/7/38-44, 42519, 47650-8, 66806/13/9/21/3/5-7, 67160-4, 69901-19

**Chelmsford** 20514, 32482-5 32628/31/40-2, 32651, 32672/6, 37985-6, 41494/521/2, 42555-7/61, 42895/900/18/22-3/7-8/30-7/9/68, 43845-8, 44537-51/96-99/659-62/900, 66719/30/94-7/9/802/8/11-2/4-5/7-8/30/7, 67165-71/89-97, 67901-4, 68520/31, 69421/9-34/532-3

**Colchester** 32068/87/475-8/80-1, 33044/78/80/6-8/178/84/95-6, 37009-10/5-7/20, 37133-6/8-40, 62407-10, 63328-44, 65028-32, 65677/9/81-2/4-5/7-92, 66798/800-1/3-4/7/10/6/28, 67755-6/79/805

**Hadleigh** 30894, 33072-4/81/90/5/8/133-4/6/86/90-91/229/32, 33373/6/83-5, 42482-9, 44001-6/80-1, 47521-30/643-9, 63161-70, 69515-20

**Driver Trainers (at Chelmsford)** 62139/91/242, 66179

**Out of Service / Stored** 66829 & 68510 (at Chelmsford), 65672 & 65675 (at Colchester), 33189 (at Hadleigh)

**Total 362** vehicles including driver trainers, school buses and vehicles unlikely to see further service. (Note: the net reduction of 43 vehicles during the year was mainly due to the closure of Clacton depot and the connected reduction in operating some local Clacton services plus the fact that the 2017 total was artificially high as it included both recently acquired vehicles and those that were to be replaced by them. Braintree, an outstation of Chelmsford, also closed during the year.)

## Acquired Vehicles

Further to EBN656, by 11 December, 30894 had lost its main "First Greater Manchester" fleet names, although it still retained the small one above the entrance door. Correction to EBN655, 67805 has 41 seats, the same as the other Enviro 300s. This includes three tip ups on the offside and two on the nearside, plus a row of three inward facing seats over the offside front wheel arch.

## Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; FG-First Group cascade (to / from another First company)

### Period 9 2018/19 (25 November - 29 December)

30894 FG-HH, 33189 HH-HH (out of service), 65672 CR-CR (out of service)

33189 is out of service following its collision with a low bridge in Rayleigh (see EBN 656). 65672 was seen VOR at Colchester depot on 6 December and by 1 January both it and 65675 had been stripped for spares; 65679 and 65688 have recently both had accident damage repaired using body parts from them (65679 after an RTC on route 103 on 7 December, it was seen back in service on 31st).

## Disposal

Further to EBN655, 68509 has moved on to Harris Travel of Blackburn.



The replacement for unfortunate TransBus Trident 33189, which recently lost its roof at Hambro Hill railway bridge is former First Manchester (Oldham)'s oldest bus, Volvo B7TL/Alexander ALX400 30894 (X749 VUA). By repute a popular and good bus, despite being the oldest at Oldham, it ran faultlessly down to Essex in atrocious weather conditions and so has perhaps well earned a stay in the good care of First Essex (Hadleigh) depot with its high standards. The bus entered service on 17 December. In theory, the bus was delivered to Hadleigh as an expedient stop after a very long day for Hadleigh Engineering staff, who drove up and collected it on one day, complete with a named storm brewing, as it should be allocated to Colchester, with a Colchester Trident due to transfer to Hadleigh to replace 33189. It is likely to be running from Hadleigh for 1-2 weeks. 17 December. Seen here on its first day of service, 17 December.

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Repaints, Livery Amendments & Adverts

67165, seen on routes 42/A on 21 December, from X30 livery to Urban livery. "Essex" main fleet names and depot stickers on lower deck panels both sides. X30 branding on cove panels and on rear removed (also the large "First f Essex" fleet names at front of cove panels replaced by standard cove panel size "First Essex" names with f symbol), but "Luggage Racks, Leather Seats, USB Charging, Free WiFi" lettering retained (the black areas around the windows have not been repainted). The luggage racks remain in place. The repaint is because there were already spare buses for the X30, even before the acquisition of the two Volvo B9s, and as reported in earlier EBNs, many X30 liveried buses have been used on normal routes, which somewhat devalued the brand.

67779 has had its blue First Midland Bluebird livery amended to an overall advert for Contactless Payments. Vinyls have been applied on the sides. There are also vinyls on the rear lower (within the advert frame) and over the rear window. The front "bumper" has been repainted the same colour as the rest of the vehicle, which, together with the side vinyls, means it no longer has a darker blue skirt.

20514 has had its side and rear large "Eastern Counties" and "Bus Hire" vinyls removed, with a large "f" plus "www.firstgroup.com" remaining on the sides.

32476 has had its super rear advert for CT-1 removed (probably around August 2018), but 32475 retains its similar advert.

Further to EBN653, 65688, 65691 and 65692 have lost the remainder of their 74/76 route branding (on rear engine cover), but 65690 was seen on route 1A on 3 January still carrying this branding on the rear.

In December 66812 received an unusual cove panel advert on both sides for Secret Santa, in aid of the Action for Children charity. It also had a supporting advert on offside lower panels (but not on nearside). It was decorated inside with tinsel.

Also, in December, some Chelmsford vehicles received a small "star" sticker on the front dash (similar size to the disability stickers) with an outline drawing of a Gemini & some buildings and "Merry Christmas and Happy New Year f First Essex" wording. (No Colchester vehicles received these and it is not known if any Basildon or Hadleigh ones did).



The "Star Sticker" as mentioned by Adam ,the bus is 69532 and the photo was taken on 21 December in Chelmsford Bus Station.

**Adam Kelleher.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings **Colchester** (All vehicles listed below allocated to CR).

On some acquired vehicles (including B7TLs, B9TLs and Enviro 300s) the rear destination display is not linked to the front & side and has to be set separately. This can lead to incorrect rear destinations being carried, for example on 21 December, 67779 was on 174/5 all afternoon displaying 64 on rear blind.

Route 62/A/B branded Volvos seen working on other routes during December: 37133 on 75 (6th), on 70 (14th), on 17 (18th) plus on 75 on 4 January; 37134 on 65 pm peak (3rd); 37135 on 75 (19th); 37136 on 88 (21st) plus on 64 on 2 January; 37139 on 2A (Sunday 9th), on 75 (Sunday 23rd).

Double-deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during December: 32477 (6th), 33044 (19th & 21st), 33078 (15th & 21st), 33080 (11th), 33088 (6th), 37020 (13th), 37140 (24th).

Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solars. The recent withdrawal from service of 65672 and 65675 (see above) leaves only 16 of these in use, and only one SN51 registered one, 65677. This, plus all the remaining YR52 reg ones (65679, 81-2 & 84-5) remain in Barbie livery and have dealer stock (with red seats and yellow handrails) interiors. All the remaining YS03 regs (62407-10 & 65687-92) are in Urban livery with corporate interiors. Some sightings of the Barbie liveried ones in December: 65677 on 64A (6th), on 103 (22nd); 65681 on 98 (6th), on 97 (31st); 65682 on 97 (7th), on 104 (14th), on 70 (18th); 65685 on 70 (11th), on 97A (24th), on 75 (29th).

|       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |       |                                        |
|-------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|----------------------------------------|
| 3 Dec | 67755, back from loan at Basildon, on 75. 67805 also on 75.                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 4 Dec | 32478 on 62                            |
| 5     | 66804, reported in EBN 655 as being at Volvo Bury St Edmunds for the last couple of months awaiting a new engine, seen back in service, on 71                                                                                                                                        |       |                                        |
| 6     | A snapshot of double-deckers seen in service in Colchester between 1030 & 1130: 33044, 33087, 33178 & 37009 on 61, 37017 on 62, 33086 (unusual Trident) on 70, 37133 on 75. Between the same period, three of the four Enviro 300s were seen: 67755 on 65, 67779 on 61, 67805 on 67. |       |                                        |
| 8     | 65690, back from loan at Basildon, on 1A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9     | 33080 & 33086 on 62A                   |
| 12    | 32480 on 62, 67755 on 97 and later on 62, LED blinds not working, route number in windscreen                                                                                                                                                                                         |       |                                        |
| 13    | 33088 on 70, also unusual for a Trident these days, on a journey normally single deck worked                                                                                                                                                                                         |       |                                        |
| 16    | [Sunday.] 32478 on 62A, 32642 on 70, 33195 on 61                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 17    | 33078, 33178 & 65029 on 67             |
| 18    | 32475 & 33086 on 67, 33044 on 62, 63331 on 70                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 19    | 33080 on 174/5, 65031 & 65032 on 103/4 |
| 20    | 33080, 33178 & 33196 on 67                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |       |                                        |
| 21    | 32480 on 62                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |                                        |
| 28    | 32068 (which had also been on 24th), 33178 & 67756 on 62                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |       |                                        |
| 29    | 33196 on 62                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |                                        |
| 30    | 62409 on 62A, 65687 on 102, 66804 on 2A, 67779 on 1A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |       |                                        |
| 31    | 66810 on 62                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 2 Jan | 63342 on 75                            |
| 5     | 33086 on 62                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |       |                                        |



First Essex Buses 67779 (SN62 AXZ) Alexander Dennis E30D Enviro 300 still in First Midland Bluebird livery, was at Highwoods on 6 December 2018 working on service 61.  
**Robert Appleton.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings. Chelmsford.

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF).

Route 45 normally operates a circular service around Writtle, except when buses terminate there. An interesting destination was seen on 44547 on 21 December which hadn't been noted before, the first line was "Writtle - Loves Walk" with the second line "Terminating Service".

3 Dec DS62242 on driver training in Colchester

32484 on 70

One of the 57 route branded Enviro 200 MMCs unusual on early morning 70

The three remaining yellow school buses parked in line at the front of Westway

44661 on X30, very unusual, especially as X30 branded buses were parked in the depot. (Only the X10 and X30 ran on this day.)

32484 very unusual double decker on 31X (approaching Chelmsford Bus Station, it turned right into Victoria Road to avoid the railway bridge)

42555 on 71

Route 37 branded 44539 on 45, 44544 on 351



44539 & 44540 have been repainted and had branding added for Brentwood local route 37, which now faces competition from Ensignbus route 31. They have also had their fleet names changed from Chelmsford City to Essex. But on 10 January, 44539 was operating on route 45, seen at Chelmsford Bus Station.

Adam Kelleher.

AIRCOACH



How the X  
service liveries  
have changed!

## Other Vehicle News and Workings - Basildon & Hadleigh

(All vehicles listed below allocated to BN except where stated)

Further to EBN656, after the reintroduction of two Volvo 7900Hs on 1 December, things soon returned to normal on route 100 and the buses loaned to Basildon returned to their home depots (see above for details of a couple of sightings of returnees).

|        |              |        |              |
|--------|--------------|--------|--------------|
| 16 Dec | 47654 on 251 | 17     | 66823 on 100 |
| 24     | 69916 on X10 | 10 Jan | 47655 on 100 |



Leigh Christmas lights from a western perspective with First Wright StreetLite 47524 (SN64 CMZ) on 17 December. **John G. Lidstone.**

### Service Vehicles

Former Clacton based Ford Transit Engineering Van 90650 (SN17 NWZ), which moved to Colchester when Clacton closed, has now transferred to First West of England at Bath. (Note, correction to EBN640, this is numbered 90650 not 90560.)

**Sources** own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, T Clark, L Cornwell, R Delahoy, D Lund-Conlon, W Morrison, J Norris, J Podgorski, D Pretty, J Salmon, G Toon, T Wilson, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, and Terminus.

## EN 3002

Your Editor recently attended a talk on "Police Photography. One of the sample pictures showed was of Eastern National 3002, CPU 981G, Bristol VR/ECW sitting on the pavement outside "The Hospital Arms", opposite the Colchester General hospital after the driver had lost control due to illness. Richard Delahoy has advised This came up as a query in the Eastern National Facebook group recently. As I noted then: N/S 204/4: (April 1981)

"Bristol VRTSL6G 3002 (CPU 981G), allocated to Chelmsford (CF), was involved in a serious accident at Colchester on 12 March. The vehicle was extensively damaged, it is currently at Central Works". Then a later report says it was subject to a lengthy rebuild, not being repainted until September 1981 (and presumably re-entering service then or soon after). The query arose because it had been fitted with a reflective front number plate, not something it had when new, and my guess is that's how the reflective plate came to be fitted. EBN657p18



In EBN655p11, we reported that ex-Metroline Alexander Dennis 200 YX09 FLE had been re-registered SB09 PAN. This is the third of the ex-Metroline Enviro 200s that Panther Travel have put in to service. Here, SB09 PAN is leaving Harwich on 14 November 2018, working service 2 Harwich - Parkeston Circular.

**Robert Appleton.**



Lodge's AL15 DGE,  
Mercedes  
Tourismo on  
private hire duty  
for the Royal  
British Legion in  
Chelmsford on  
31 August 2017.

**Maurice Austin.**

EBN657p19





**Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.**

## Ensignbus

### Dealing Stock Movements

**December 2018**

#### Vehicles in

|                       |                               |              |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|
| Dublin Bus            | 05-D-70007 / 8 / 9 /          | Volvo B9TLs  |
|                       | 11 / 16 / 20                  |              |
| Go-Ahead London       | YX60 FUD                      | E200         |
|                       | W534/536/537 WGH              | Volvo B7TL's |
|                       | LX06 EZJ / EZK                | Darts        |
| Grant Palmer          | T885 KLF                      | Trident      |
| Lothian Buses         | JSJ 746 / 748                 | Routemasters |
|                       | SN04 AAV/ACZ/AEC/AEF          | Trident's    |
|                       | / ABV / ABZ / ABX / ACV / ACY |              |
| Metroline             | LK5 5KLZ / KLE / KLU / KLM /  | Darts        |
|                       | KLO / KLP / KLX / KME / KMG   |              |
| RATP London           | LG02 FHH / SN03 LFS           | Darts        |
| Southern Transit      | YN03 WRL                      | Scania       |
| Stagecoach Merseyside | Y526 NHK                      | Trident      |

#### Vehicles Out

|                                     |                       |             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|
| Axe Valley, Seaton, Devon           | T685 KPU              | Trident     |
| Aintree Coaches                     | SN04 AAV/ACZ/AEC/AEF. | Trident's   |
|                                     | SN53 KHZ              |             |
|                                     | LK55 KLE / KLZ        | Darts       |
| Bullocks Coaches, Manchester        |                       |             |
|                                     | P059 KFY / KFW        | Scania's    |
| Centrewest Buses Ltd, Ashford,Middx |                       |             |
|                                     | LK55 KLL / KLI        | Darts       |
| Fourways Coaches, Chelmsford        |                       |             |
|                                     | GN06 EVH              | Volvo B7RLE |

|                                  |                        |             |
|----------------------------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Lothian Buses                    | LX11 CVM / CVS         | Volvo B9TLs |
|                                  | LX60 DWY / DXG         |             |
| Midland Classic, Burton-on-Trent |                        |             |
|                                  | SN11 BNE / BMZ / BNL / | E400s       |
|                                  | BMV / BND / BNA / BMU  |             |
| Nu-Venture, Maidstone            | LK55 KMG               | Darts       |
|                                  | LX06 FBE               |             |

### Other Movements

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Volvo B7TL | LX53 AZJ |
|------------|----------|

#### Northcote School, Walton, Merseyside

RML2596

#### Ghostbus Tours, London WC1

|        |          |
|--------|----------|
| Scania | YN53 RYB |
|--------|----------|

#### Xquisite PR Ltd, Leatherhead, Surrey

|              |                           |
|--------------|---------------------------|
| Volvo B7TL's | LK04 HXJ / LX05 EYM / FDF |
|--------------|---------------------------|

#### Blue Sky Transfers, Limassol, Cyprus

|          |                           |
|----------|---------------------------|
| Scania's | YM54 AHV / AHU / YN03 WRL |
|----------|---------------------------|

#### Valero Energy, Pembroke Dock

|            |          |
|------------|----------|
| Volvo B7TL | LG02 KHX |
|------------|----------|

#### Brandcruiser Ltd, Glasgow

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Trident | LX03 BWN |
|---------|----------|

#### FDC Traiteur Ltd, St Genis Laval, France

|         |          |
|---------|----------|
| Trident | LX55 ERJ |
|---------|----------|

#### MC Tractors for scrap



EBN657p20

# Ensignbus

**Mark Lloyd** with thanks to Ross Newman.

## Ensign Fleet **December 2018**

On Boxing day Ensign ran the Boxing Day only service X1 from Upminster Station to Southend Airport. The C2C and Greater Anglia lines were not running but this service gave an operational link between the District Line and Southend Airport non-stop. 117 P058 NPV acted as ticket sales bus on Upminster Station Forecourt with 403/4 LX66 GXE/F running in service.



A healthy queue is capably marshalled by Lee and the Ensign Chairman at Southend Airport past green BCI 150 (the control/ticket bus) and onto BCI tri-axle 404 loading behind it for Upminster.

**John G. Lidstone**

EBN657p21

# Lincoln Rally/Museum Open Day.

We promised to show some more of Dave Arnold's pictures taken on 4 November 2018.



Above Formerly with Chambers, an immaculate Volvo Olympian East Lancs Pioneer, now with Harpur's Coaches.  
Below Bolton Corporation 54, WH 1533, 1929 Leyland Titan TD1 which went onto Hicks, Braintree as its No. 53.

**Dave Arnold.**  
**Dave Arnold.**



# District Bus Pictures Wanted.

**Maurice Austin.**

Members will see on The Letters Page [EBN657p31] that Dave Tomlin, formerly “top man” at District Bus has kindly agreed to give a short talk to members at one of the Chelmsford meeting on 18 April.

Dave has some photos and “bits and pieces” but not a huge collection like some of us!

What we have agreed is that we will invite members to look out their District photos or slides, bring them along to the meeting so we can have a slightly different format from the usual slide-shows. We would also like a few anecdotes of your District Bus experiences.

I am sure that many of you have some District bus pics we could use. Please do let me know whether you would be able to participate and, if so, what format your pics are in. We may have to scan some and put them on the computer for electronic projection.

Please do help with what should be a very interesting session. I know that most of us thoroughly enjoy talking and listening to bus people; but your material could change an excellent meeting into a superb one!

Shall we go for a target date of the end of January to get a note to me [Maurice Austin] to help with planning. Many thanks.



Upper picture  
E509 TOV  
Freight Rover Sherpa,  
Carlyle Works body.  
Basildon Bus Station 7  
June 1988.  
**Richard Delahoy.**

lower picture  
G148 GOL  
Iveco Daily,  
Carlyle Works body.  
Basildon Bus Station  
2 July 1991.  
**Richard Delahoy.**

Both are on the  
services to Laindon.

**Eds note** look at the  
speech bubble from  
the lady at the end of  
that nice queue, what  
is she saying?



There are no **fleet changes** to report but of the ex-Uno Darts in dealer stock, KE04 UMD has been sold to Stagecarriage, Middlesbrough and KE03 TWA to Eastbourne Coachways, Bexhill.



Upper picture

A very gloomy day sees the two Uno Darts waiting their fate in Stephensons Braintree yard on 15 December.

**John Podgorsky.**

**Service** news is that NIBS have won the Thurrock Council tenders for services 11, 265 & 374 from April. Further details to come in a subsequent issue.



Stephensons 414,  
EU03 CFY  
2003 Dennis  
Dart/Plaxton  
B29F at  
Thaxted,  
Essex on  
route 6  
Saffron  
Walden 8  
March 2014  
**Robert Downton.**

EBN657p24



Stephensons' double deckers continue to be seen regularly on rail replacement on both the Greater Anglia and c2c lines. Here Scania N230/Enviro 400 607, EU64 CVP, approaches Shenfield station on 28 December 2017, passing two Ensign deckers parked there on standby for the all stations Shenfield-Chadwell Heath then on to Newbury Park service they ran for TfL Rail (Overground).

**Richard Delahoy.**



Stephensons DIB 5401 at Hylands Country Park Chelmsford Essex on 21 May 1997, it is a Leyland Tiger/Doyen original registration DAD 272Y.

**Robert Downton.**

EBN657p25

## Arriva Southend / Harlow / Colchester.

**Peter Mansbridge** with thanks to John Card and Richard Delahoy.

The two new Streetlites for **Colchester** (4323/4) reported last month entered service on 18 December. Branding for service 133 has been applied. Seating capacity is reported as B44F.

DAF Cadet 3528 (LF02 PNE) has been reinstated at **Colchester**, probably as short-term cover for Dart SLF 3421 (AY54 FPZ) which is off the road with accident damage sustained on 29 December.

At **Harlow**, Mercedes-Benz Sprinter 1010 (BF67 WGE) was used on service 10 on 2 and 3 January and 508/509/510 branded Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 MMC 4085 (YX17 NHC) reached Chelmsford on service 59 on 29 December.



Traditionally Leigh Christmas lights have been around the town centre, south of London Road (Broadway/Rectory Grove areas) but in the last year or two, lights have extended along the A13 close to Thames Drive, here seen with Arriva Alexander Dennis Enviro400 MMC 6516 (SN66 WJO) with this pleasant seasonal backdrop, looking east, on 17 December.

**John G. Lidstone.**

---

## From Across The Pond - Talisman/Colchester

Paul Bateson reports in British Buses Abroad that Leyland Olympian/ECW H47 MJN (new as Colchester CT 47) was seen in September 2018 in USA, destination unknown.

**Owen Woodliffe.**





Only 11 years old and yet lightly cannibalised! Arriva East Herts & Essex Optare Solo 2475 (Y107 VPW) at Southend for reasons unknown.  
**John G. Lidstone.** *This and the shot of two old deckers on the previous page were both mega-zoom shots from off-site using Rex2).*



Looking 'as new' with no nearside advert, Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend) Alexander Dennis Enviro400 MMC 6516 (SN66 WJO) on an evening peak short working on service 1 as far as Hadleigh instead of Rayleigh, on 19 December.

**Eds note** we usually try to avoid picturing the same bus twice in an EBN, but this shot gives more details of the bus than the one on the facing page.

**Mark Lloyd**

*With thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group, & Hedingham buses website.*

## Vehicles Acquired

|     |          |               |                |         |                        |
|-----|----------|---------------|----------------|---------|------------------------|
| 870 | PN09 ELO | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 877 |
| 871 | PN09 ELU | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 878 |
| 872 | PN09 EMF | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 882 |
| 873 | PN09 EMK | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 883 |
| 874 | PN09 EMV | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 884 |
| 875 | PN09 ENC | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 886 |
| 876 | PN09 ENE | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 887 |
| 877 | PN09 ENF | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 888 |
| 878 | PN09 ENO | Scania N230UD | Optare Olympus | H45/23D | Ex Go Ahead London 893 |

These vehicles are going to be converted to single door, up-seated and used to cascade the remaining B7TLs from Chambers to Hedingham. The vehicles are having their centre doors removed and being repainted into Chambers livery before delivery. Unlike the B7TL/Wrights at Clacton these are not being done in-house.

The vehicles were part of a batch of Scania N230UD Optare Olympus bodies supplied to Metrobus in July/August 2009, initially numbered 870 to 893. The buses have served with Blue Triangle, London General and Docklands Buses garages as needed. 873 reportedly arrived at Hedingham early January.

## Vehicle Returned Off Hire

BU14 YNT Ford Transit M13 Returned to Robertson's at end of Autumn term.

## Significant Allocations

|     |          |          |             |
|-----|----------|----------|-------------|
| 286 | HW54 BTY | HD to KN | 6 December  |
| 801 | YN55 PZC | KN to SY | 20 December |
| 803 | YN55 PZE | KN to SY | 3 December  |

## Fleet News

287 HW54 BUE Dennis Dart MPD Alexander Dennis was at Sible Hedingham in early December but both this vehicle and sister 288 HW54 BUF have been transferred to Konect. Chambers 809/810 YN55 PZM/O spent time working from Kelvedon in early December, Kelvedon Scania deckers are maintained by Sudbury depot so exchanges will commonly occur. Kelvedon 813 YN55 PZU travelled the other way operating for Chambers. Christmas Eve saw the use of single door converted Wright Gemini 524 LX05 EZG on service X76 followed closely by 525 LX05 EZH on 28 December. (Wright Eclipse Gemini approx. into service dates 30 Nov 520, 25 Oct 521, 7 Nov 523 – 517/527/528 await conversion completion and certification). 526 LX06 EAJ has been transferred to Konect with sisters 516/8/9 LX05 EZL/W/Z whilst 515 LX05 EZK is the withdrawn vehicle used as a source of spares. The Wright/Eclipses have the same Go Ahead moquette, seat tops and flooring as the Scania and B7TLs and they still have their above stairs air conditioning units in place. (Not known if operational).

Contrary to reports elsewhere 285 SN03 EBV was still working at Clacton on 5 January on town service 5/5A.

## Services

Service 87C was de-registered from 31 December due to decline in use. Due to the early finishing time of Thomas Lord Audley School the final term homeward bound route 19 was operated by New Horizon for Hedingham.

## Other News

As reported elsewhere last month, Konect have absorbed the Hedingham and Chambers 'O' licences into its O Licence. The legal lettering shows the Konect Dereham address on vehicles.

## Trident Watch

701 – CN    702 – CN    721 – HD    722 – CN    725 – SY    726-CN  
727 – CN    737 – KN    738 – KN

712        w/d 11/18 to Ensign dealer  
714        w/d 10/17 was still at CN 7/18.  
717        w/d 6/18 used for spares 9/18 To Alpha Recovery.  
723        w/d 7/18 used for spares and scrapped to Alpha 9/18  
724        w/d 11/18 Ensign dealer  
728        w/d 5/16 to Anglian then disposal.  
729        w/d then to Ensign dealer – to Shelton Motors for scrap 9/18  
730        w/d April 15 cannibalised – finally scrapped 6/16.  
734        w/d 11/18 donated to Harwich School  
739        w/d 1/18 engine failure, cannibalised, to Alpha scrap 7/18  
740        w/d 4/16 to Anglian and w/d Anglian by 12/16.  
743        w/d 7/18 but still stored, cannibalised for parts and awaiting collection for scrap.

## Holiday Service Levels

Heddingham ran a Sunday service on 137 on Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Routes were generally operated as normal on the Thursday, Friday and Monday between Christmas and the New Year. However, the 0655 service 4 Clacton Pier Avenue to Jaywick, the service 4 0711 Jaywick to Clacton Factory Outlet, the 0650 service 4 Stephenson Road to Jaywick and the 0726 Service 4A Jaywick to Clacton Pier did not operate on these days. Neither did the 0702 service 6 from Point Clear to Clacton Pier Avenue. Chambers operated a normal timetable except Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.



Interior shot of 285 SN03 EBV on service 5 Clacton Circular to Flatford Drive at 1430 on 5 January 2019. **Mark Lloyd.**

EBN657p29

# Other Operators.

**Roger A. Smith.**

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

## **Acme Bus, Molehill Green**

Former London United East Lancs H45/26D Scania N94UDs, registrations YN55 NKS, YN55 NKU, YN55 NLA and YN55 NLK are now here.

## **Bone, (Tendring Travel), Thorpe-le-Soken**

YN08 NYB, a Mercedes Benz 0816D with Plaxton C29F body is here from Purdie, Carluke, Scotland West.

## **Bourne & Cantwell, Basildon**

Van Hool C51FT bodied Volvo B12M, registration FT52 WGT, is now with Carline, Hitchin, Hertfordshire.

## **Hallums, Southend-on-Sea**

P478 PLO (ex-MCH 98, P488 ADO), a Mercedes Benz 0814D with Autobus C29Fbody has gone from here.

## **New Horizon, Frating**

N661 JNO (ex-Eire registration 96-D-280), an Alexander Belfast bodied H78F Volvo YN is now with Shoreline Suncruisers, Scarborough, North Yorkshire.

## **Talisman, Great Bromley**

Setra S416 GT (C53FT), previously with this now defunct operator, is now with Angus Coaches, Needham Market, Suffolk.



Once again, in 2018, Lodge's Coaches ran a free vintage festive park and ride shuttle from Audley End Village to Saffron Walden on Saturdays from 17 November to 22 December. This picture is of Bedford OB TMY7 00. The open-sided OB, LTA 752 was also used for the official launch on 17 November and was noted on other dates with the side panels refitted, more appropriate for the weather, along with CFV 851.

**Kevin Smith**, caption by Richard Delahoy.

# Letters

## Ian Ransom, Group Chair

Further to Roger A Smith's request for information in EBN655, NH11 STH is with Falconrise, Colchester (t/a Roman Cars) based in Grange Way unless it has been sold very recently!

## NH11 STH - Query Corner Response.

## Dave Tomlin, formerly District Bus Supremo

## Memories!

When I saw the photograph "A Blast From The Past" of the first bus purchased by District Bus I had a lump in my throat. Amazing to think that I set up District Bus thirty years ago.

**Eds note.** Dave has kindly agreed to talk to the Chelmsford EBEG group later in the year. Watch the programme page!

## Sue Burden

## VR spotted at North Weald.

Recently I saw at North Weald airfield, parked with a row of lorries, ex-Crosville VR MDM 285P. It is used by the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and has "The Mozzie Buzz" overall wrap.

## Terry Challis, our man in the North-West

## ONO 59

Thank you for EBN655 and especially for the item about ONO 59.

I am pretty sure that this is the bus on which I first acted as a conductor at ENOC Clacton garage in the Summer of 1965.

I was doing my 'on the job' training having spent a week learning about way-bills and Setright Speed ticket machines.

On the Monday of that week our first journey was a works service, at about 0730 to a works in the Great Oakley area. We then ran light (dead) to Great Oakley and worked the 0806 Monday to Friday service 106 to Clacton. I was supervised by Reg Turner who was a senior conductor at Clacton garage. The driver was his regular driver Reg Old.

I never worked on ONO 59 again as seasonal conductors worked a different rota to the regular crews. Much of our work was on the PDI Open-toppers on the sea-front service. I think that ONO 59 spent most of its time on country services such as the 104 and 106.

## Suzy Scott, Founder, Here To There Publishing Ltd Apologies and news of closure of business.

*Heavily edited summary of email to Here To There customers.*

"For those who didn't know, I split up with my business and life partner at the end of July and moved to in my home city of Dundee. When it was decided to close the company, agreement was reached that Caroline would be happy to do one more big mailout of the orders received for several weeks. Health issues kept delaying this, and we got to the point in last month of being told C has given notice on our Welwyn Garden City premises late last month. This follows ongoing health concerns. I was still taking orders, because I was genuinely under the impression that we would be able to satisfy them.

While in an ideal world, those who ordered first would be refunded first – sadly PayPal and other card payment systems don't work like that. Now, we are in the situation that everyone will be refunded, but I only have limited means to fall back on. This may mean that the majority of customers cannot get everything overnight – much as I would like to do so, and I will try and contact you all to arrange some kind of recompense. However long it takes, I will personally ensure all customers will be refunded, and C will (hopefully) be seeing to the trade accounts.

Our company telephone service will be ending at the end of the year. If you need to reach me in the longer term, my new address is Suzy Scott, 2 Wolseley Street, Dundee DD3 7QD. We aren't doing any more publications at the moment, but I'm voluntarily assisting Dundee CC with public transport information in the new year. The online fleetlists and Forums etc all continue unaffected, but the company sites will be closed. If you require any more help in the future, please email [suzyscott1983@gmail.com](mailto:suzyscott1983@gmail.com) and I will do my best to reply to you as soon as humanely possible.

Profuse apologies for the delays with service and communications towards the end - I did intend to give you all good service, but sadly, circumstances ultimately got in the way.

*Suzy has given another update which will be reproduced in part in the next EBN.*

## Ted Miles, our man in The Emerald Isle.

## Strokes the Editorial Team and "Promises"!

All your work much appreciated and magazine best it's ever been

Will write a short article on my experiences working in Ipswich in 1953/54 On route 123 based on notes from my diary.

## Roger A Smith, our man in Witham.

## Bus Awards.

Good to see an Essex based operator doing well, again, in the UK Bus Awards 2018. Ensignbus being winners of the Independent Operator Of The Year. The same award was won by Stephensons in 2017. Ensignbus was also Bronze winner, overall in the 2018 awards, being beaten only by Nottingham City Transport (Silver) and Go-South Coast (Gold).



The days of the (second generation) Lowlander at Southend are drawing to a close, as the East Lancs Mylenium Lowlander-bodied DAF DB250s are slowly withdrawn. These two, at Southend, are of added interest as neither operated in Southend and afford a contrast between the original and later Arriva liveries. On the left is 6261 and, on the right, 6253, both awaiting the attention of the scrap man before long.

**John G. Lidstone.**

## Vintage Roadscene Archive On The Buses, volume 1

**Robert Appleton.**

I discovered this magazine recently, price £7.95, from W.H. Smith.

Printed on high quality paper, the black and white photographs have reproduced very well. The articles feature buses and coaches in the 1930s, 1950s and 1960s. There are two articles of interest featuring Essex Buses:

1] Busy in Bedford features United Counties buses in 1959, including ex Eastern National Bristol KS5G, KSW5G, and LWL5G buses, transferred to United Counties with the midland area of Eastern National in 1952.

2] Osborne's of Tollesbury has photos of Osborne's Bedford OB, SBG, SB1, SB8, ex London Transport RF and RT, AEC Reliance and AEC Bridgemaster vehicles in 1965. Plus Eastern National Bristol KSW5G, LS5G, Beadle-Bedford integral, Moore's of Kelvedon Guy Arab II, Colchester Corporation AEC Regent and Crossley buses.

Further afield in East Anglia, Market Day Congestion features numerous independent operators' buses and coaches in Bury St Edmunds, plus some Eastern Counties buses in 1966. The Blues in Yarmouth features the variety in the Great Yarmouth Corporation fleet in the 1960s.

Not directly connected with Essex, Showtime features the 1964 Commercial Motor Show, with a Lancashire United Guy Arab V, North Western AEC Renown, and Northern General Routemaster, contrasting with rear-engined Leyland Atlanteans and Daimler Fleetlines.

Highly recommended!

## Target Dates for EBN658 (February 2019).

|              |     |     |          |                  |                              |
|--------------|-----|-----|----------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Before       | ... | ... | Saturday | 2 February 2019  | Reports to Sub-Editors.      |
| Before       | --- | --- | Friday   | 8 February 2019  | Sub-Editor drafts to Editor. |
| On or before | ... | ... | Monday   | 18 February 2019 | Dispatch by Printers.        |

# Holiday Excitement in Southend – all pictures & captions by John G. Lidstone.



A very short stretch of London Road in Leigh now has Christmas lights, so it seemed appropriate to capture an Ensign X10 (Southend-Lakeside) with them as a backdrop, here with most helpful driver Ben Welsh enabling this shot with his kind thoughtfulness with BCI 145 (LX17 DZF) on its last X10 journey of the day. On arrival in Southend, 145 was diverted to Southend Airport, where 250 passengers were queuing for service X1, and it then ran a full capacity load to Upminster.



The only double-deckers usually at the Airport on ordinary bus work are the two First Essex X30 Volvos, which do not usually appear together. Here, 37985 (BX11 EGY) is in company with Ensign tri-axle BCIs 402/4 (LX66 GXD/F) and the green demonstrator 150 (LX17 GKL). 150 was acting as the 'control' bus and ticket-issue bus, to enable easier boarding of the 'service buses' behind.

Top, next column Green or blue? BCI BRZ1 demonstrator 150 (LX17 GKL) contrasts with blue tri-axle BRZ2 402 (LX66 GXD) at Southend Airport.



New Year's Day was bad for Borismonsters on rail replacement duties, with one breaking down before even reaching Southend, LT674 breaking down on arrival in Southend and having to go back with a recovery van behind it, one arriving with batteries overheating and one later on nearly being de-roofed at Hall Road bridge (passengers stopped the driver just in time, who then tried a turn and got the back end stuck on a grass bank).... ooops! The centre picture, this side shows Sovereign to the rescue. Attempts under way to diagnose 'the fault' which brought LT674 down to a 5mph 'limp mode' crawl after arrival from Newbury Park.



At speed at night, Arriva Kent Thameside (Southend) acquired Optare Versa V1110 4235 (KX13 DHE) on service 7 to Woking, entering Southend's controversial 'shared space' at 'Victoria Gateway'.





## Ancient & Modern

Top picture

As referred to on the Letters page, this issue p31, former Southend Transport 341, Leyland PD3/6 Massey; H38/32R in Fowler's livery at Showbus in 1992.

**Rob McCaffery**



Middle picture

Former Southend Transport 341 at the 1987 Barking Rally.

**Rob McCaffery**



Lower picture

We showed this picture in EBN656p3 in black & white, unfortunately, it reproduced very poorly so let us see it again, in colour. Beestons of Hadleigh, Suffolk, operate in Essex on service OC4 from Harwich to the Otley Campus of Easton & Otley College. This is the morning journey, departing Harwich at 0720. Beestons YN54 OBB Scania N94UD/East Lancs Omnidekka seen in Manningtree High Street.

**Robert Appleton.**

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



**[fb.me/essexbus](https://fb.me/essexbus)**