

Essex Bus News

No. 636

April 2017



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group.

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Top picture:

First Essex routes 57/A (Chelmsford to Beaulieu) commenced from 2 April. The weekend earlier, CF44659-62 received super rear ads for the route. On Tuesday 28 March, five days before the start of the new services, 44660 is seen in Brentwood High Street showing off its new ad whilst operating route 37. **Adam Kelleher.**



lower picture: After Essex! First West of England (Buses of Somerset) 32818 (T818 LLC) in Taunton 31/08/15. This was with First Essex between 2010 and 2015 first at Harwich and then at Basildon. **Peter Mansbridge.**

Front Cover Picture.

This is no April Fool Joke! Line up of brand new and pre-registration Ensign BCIs in the Purfleet Depot on 1 April. **John G. Lidstone.**

EBN636fc

Editor & Sub-Editors

Magazine Editor

Maurice Austin
Tindal Lodge, 11 Valletta Close
CHELMSFORD CM1 2PT
maurice.austin@phonecoop.coop

First in Essex

Regal/Amber/Trustybus/EOS

Adam Kelleher
74 Park Road
BRENTWOOD CM14 4TU adamxxxx4@yahoo.co.uk

Ensignbus/Heddingham/Chambers

Mark Lloyd
448 Ipswich Road
COLCHESTER CO4 4EY mark.lloyd@asgb.co.uk

Arriva including Network Colchester

Peter Mansbridge petemans_1@hotmail.com

Stephensons of Essex

Richard Delahoy, details opposite.

Panther Travel

Ian Ransom 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

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
*Owen also stocks a wide range of colour photos;
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Using the order form available on-line at:
<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

Welcome to New Members

Bruce Swain of Ilford – 1114

Subscriptions

Held for yet another year!

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

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

Contact Richard Delahoy, address below.

Data Protection Act

Members' details are held on computer for the purpose of administration. If you object to your information being held in this way, please write to:

Richard Delahoy,
272 Shoebury Road,
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA SS1 3TT
richard.delahoy@blueyonder.co.uk

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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) compiled by Owen Woodliffe.

MID-ESSEX MEETINGS by Maurice Austin.

Quaker Meeting House, corner of Parkway and Rainsford Road, Chelmsford, less than 10 minutes walk from the Bus and Rail stations; continue along Duke Street past Civic Centre and cross to far side of Parkway. There is a small car park on site, other public ones nearby. Tea and coffee making facilities. For those who need other refreshment, there are plenty of excellent pubs and eating establishments nearby. Members and guests welcome. £2.00 donation towards cost of room hire, please.

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

Thursday 27 April John Card. 30 Years with Grey-Green. *****First Essex Fleetbook available at this event.*****

Thursday 25 May Richard Delahoy, "Broken down in Merthyr, some (illustrated) experiences of a bus user new and old".

Thursday 22 June Presentation by Suzy Scott MD, "Here to There" Publishing.

Other dates for 2017 **Thursdays 27 July, 28 September, 26 October, 23 November, 21 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. £2.00 donation towards room hire, please.

Slides/digital photos are preferred, but prints can also be shown. Members and guests welcome. **No meeting in April.**

Friday 12 May Richard Delahoy, 20 Years Ago. Same title as Chelmsford May event. Not the same slides – generally!

Friday 9 June Owen Woodliffe, "Rallies & Running Days".

Other dates for 2017 **all Fridays, 14 July, 11 August, 8 September, 13 October, 10 November, 8 December.**

A Blast From The Past!



Former Southend Transport 341 Leyland PD3 Massey CJN441C seen with Luton & District as their driver training vehicle 1042 during 1992. The vehicle was sold for preservation 10/80 then became a driver trainer 99 with Lincoln City Transport 11/87 then moved to Luton in 06/92. In 03/93 moved to Lincolnshire Road Car as 3099 then finally to Fowler & Sons of Holbeach for preservation 09/93. **Paul Harvey.**

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

EVENTS

Sunday 16 April		Transport Festival, Lincolnshire Road Transport Museum. www.lvvs.org.uk
Sun/Mon 16/17 April	..	Medway Festival of Steam& Transport. Chatham Dockyard.
Friday 21 April		OS (PHRG) David Grimmett on East Anglian Coach Pools. 1930 at St Augustines Church Hall, Bucklesham Road, Ipswich IP3 8TH
Sunday 23 April		Mid Norfolk Railway Vintage Bus Day. www.mnr.org.uk
Sun 7 May	-	47 th Ipswich-Felixstowe Run. Depart Christchurch Park at 1130. www.ipswichtransportmuseum.co.uk
Sun 7 May		HCVC Run leaves Crystal Palace 07.00-08.00
Wed 10 May		70 th Anniversary of RT's. Commemorative Run from Victoria (10.45) to Abridge (12.45)
Monday 29 May	...	Bus Rally, Bucks Railway Centre, Quainton
Sunday 4 June		Hertford Running Day
Sunday 25 June	...	Basildon Bus Rally at Barleylands, Billericay.
Sat/Sun 8/9 July	-	ECW 30 th Anniversary Weekend. East Anglian Transport Museum, Carlton Colville.

GROUP TOUR

Saturday 27 May

Tour of Essex Operators. Fare is £20.

Pick up at Colchester North Station at 0830 and opposite Chelmsford Railway station at 0915, we will be visiting a selection of Essex operators including Dons of Dunmow, Acme Bus Co, Lodge of High Easter and Regal Busways. Return to Chelmsford approx 1730 and Colchester 1830. To book, please send a cheque payable to E.B.E.G together with a S.A.E. to Keith Woods, 34 Normandie Way, Bures, Suffolk, CO8 5BE and state desired pick up point. Hi-Viz tops are required for this trip.

Coach trip to Brighton

Matthew Evans is organising a trip from Southend to Brighton on Sunday 28 May 28, using an Arriva (New Enterprise) coach. Departing Southend Travel Centre 0915 and returning from Brighton at about 1730. Local pick-ups can be arranged, fare £10. To book, please contact Matthew direct on 07746 779 414 and leave a message.

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.



Ensignbus in Kent; taken in Maidstone High Street on Friday, 3 March, while on hire to Nu-Venture of Aylesford.
(also see Ensign notes and inner rear cover, this issue.)

Richard Lewis.
EBN636p3

First Essex Fleetbook 2017.

Owen Woodliffe.

This 24-page A5 booklet, compiled by Adam Kelleher, contains a comprehensive fleetlist of the First Essex fleet as at 18 February 2017. Details of make/model, fleet number, livery, allocated depot and former history are included in a clear layout. A table in registration order is added for easy reference.

There are also 20 varied colour photos of vehicles at work throughout the area, each with informative captions on good quality gloss paper.

Cost is £4.99 and postage is free for EBEG members. Cheques should be payable to EBEG. Available from Publications Officer, 196 Sinclair Road, Chingford, E4 8PT

First Essex Fleet Book 2017



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

Sew What!?! Eastern National Ephemera

An interesting item to come the way of EBEG life member **Bob Palmer**, courtesy of Dave Stewart (Managing Editor of "The London Bus" seems at first glance to be a book of matches but turns out to be an emergency sewing kit consisting of black & white thread, two darning needles and a couple of spare buttons.

This was presumably issued on extended coach tours. The coach depicted is one of the Duple bodied Bristol REs bought in the mid-sixties.

Does anyone know if other extended tour operators issued such an item?



Alan Cross sent this magnificent picture of EN Bristol L5G coach 3970, MPU 32 which I suppose was not quite "posh" enough to issue sewing kits. I love the driver's pose!

EBN636p5

COACH SERVICES



EASTERN NATIONAL

PRINCIPAL OFFICES

BASILDON Bus Station	23411
B. STORTFORD South Street	2478
BRAINTREE Fairfield Road	21415
BRENTWOOD 3 High Street	387
CHELMSFORD Duke Street	53104
CLACTON Jackson Road	21151
COLCHESTER 31 Queen Street	71451
HADLEIGH 35 London Road Southend	558421
HALSTEAD High Street	2487
HARLOW 73 High Street, Old Harlow	27284
HARWICH Bus Station	2866
KELVEDON High Street	306
LONDON 250 Pentonville Rd., N.1. 01-278 6902	
725 Lordship Lane, N.22. 01-883 4218	
MALDON High Street	4265
SOUTHEND 17-21 London Road	43411
WALTON High Street	Frinton 5569

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The Trials of an Elder Tebbit.

Alan Tebbit BEM.

My father was an Eastern National bus driver, and my greatest pleasure as a child, was to go out on his bus. One afternoon, when I was nine, he took me with him, while he did 4 hours' overtime on the pump. He didn't fill the buses, but drove them to the pump, then parked them again after the garage man had put diesel in. To keep me out of harms' way, he put me in the cab of a brand new, as yet unlicensed, bus. I was mystified by this vehicle. All recent deliveries of saloons had been underfloor engined LS models, but here was a new bus with the engine at the front, but where the bonnet and wings should be, there was a mirror image cab. It was a Bristol SC4LK, 35-seater, and Dad told me it was destined to be a one-man bus, whatever that might be. There were two Bristol SC4LKs at CF. ie 436/9 (606/9 JPU) with 447 (9572 F) as back up. I soon found out that it meant that the driver would also take the fares, without a conductor on the bus. Having four children to feed and clothe, Dad was always willing to boost his earnings, in between shifts he would go out window cleaning, and he now had a chance to increase his wages, because driving a one-man bus meant an increment of 15%. Alf Attwood, Francis Wilkinson, Ivan Hatley and Robin Tebbit all put their names forward.



Alan hasn't got a picture of an SC with ENOC, but here is 448 (9573 F) with Thomas Brothers in Lampeter, still in company livery.

Alan Tebbit.

The Transport & General Workers Union were vehemently opposed to the new buses, taking away jobs. This was an illogical argument, as the company were short of staff, and had recruitment difficulties, so no one would be made redundant. It was not until years later that I discovered the extent of verbal abuse, and threats of violence, that those first four OMO drivers were subjected to. In addition, the union made sure that the OMO drivers did not enjoy good working practises. If an OMO driver was on his two-week holiday, he would only receive crew wages. If one of them went sick, the shift would be offered to a crew, rather than allow the OMO men to split that duty into two overtime pieces. OMO drivers could only be offered additional duties (rest day or overtime) after all the crews had been accommodated.

CF depot was on a 6-day week at that time (6 x 6hr 40min duties), and the 4 line OMO rota contained 4 x Mon-Fri, 3 x Sat and 1 x Sunday duties, so little chance of overtime if crews took all that was available. The union insisted that they should be confined to lightly trafficked routes, (with only 35 seats that was obvious), and would not be allowed on town services. It was not until the early 70s, with the arrival of the Leyland Nationals, that OMO (or OPO as it now was), got a foothold on town routes.

Their main road was the 46 to Harlow New Town, meandering through Roxwell, Willingale, Fyfield, Moreton, and the Matchings (Green & Tye). Duty 1 consisted of a 50B to Terling, and then the 0915 to Harlow, returning from there at 1230. Duty 3 operated the 1440 as far as Matching Green, then changed over with a BS driver, duty 4 did the 1805, with a similar changeover. BS operated one full length journey in the morning, returning about mid-day. Shorts to Willingale or Fyfield were operated in the peaks by crew buses, with 2230 to Willingale on Saturdays. The other OMO routes were 32/A to Ongar or Blackmore, 35 to West & South Hanningfield, 50/A/B Flacks Green & Terling, 54 to Danbury Common, and a 58 to Leaden Roding, continuing to Dunmow as a 33A, with a dinner times works from Marconis to Woodhall Estate, and an odd little route 38 to Mill Beach via Hatfield Peverel.

EBN636p6

The 46 was Dads favourite road, he soon made many friends among his passengers. The editor of the Harlow Citizen newspaper travelled the route one day, and wrote in his column, "he was more than a driver, he was a friend, light porter, agony uncle, baby sitter and tour guide". I was with him one Saturday when he stopped outside of a cottage near High Laver, and made me get off to retrieve a shopping bag from the gatepost. It contained a shopping list and some cash. The resident had broken her leg, and could not get out. We did the shopping in Harlow, and there was a slight delay on the return trip, whilst Dad put the shopping away, and made a cup of tea for the patient.

The stockman at Elms Farm, between Roxwell and Shellow Bowells, would bring his cows in for milking just as the 0928 bus was due, and would stand on the bus steps while Dad slowly drove the animals along the road, occasionally putting his head out of the cab door, to chivvy a slowcoach along. At Christmas time the nearside cab door would often open, and some produce would be left as a thank you. There always seemed time to spare.

Nowadays OPO is universally accepted, very few passengers remember the good old clippies, the inevitable march of progress. I suppose there are still some old militants out there who will condemn those original one man drivers for taking jobs away, but would the industry have survived under the old ways? Who knows!

SJN 636 for EBN636.

Paul Bateson.



Two AEC Bridgemasters with SJN registration numbers were purchased by SCT. This view of 317 (SJN 636) was taken at Rayleigh Station on 5 September 1970. **Paul Bateson.**

Service Revisions by Paul Harvey.

Amber Buses

4 April 17	11	M-F	Purfleet to Basildon: service ceased operation.
	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: service ceased operation.
8 May 17	11	M-F	Purfleet to Basildon: revision to timetable.



picture: The first and only time John saw Leyland Olympian/Northern Counties F899 DKK, at Eastwood, Coombes Corner was on 20 February. This bus was, he feels, is of much interest locally, as, following the departure of similar F895/7 BKK (for example) from Arriva Southend some time before, this reintroduced the type and batch in town, albeit briefly. Interestingly, two of those are now undertaking sightseeing in Melbourne, having been converted to open-top in Malta and unused there.

John G. Lidstone.

Basildon Community Transport

1 May 17	BFB	M-F	Basildon Town Service: new flexible service.
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Brentwood Community Transport

1 May 17	BF	M-F	Brentwood Town Service: new flexible service.
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Ensign Bus

4 April 17	11	M-F	Purfleet to Basildon: new emergency contract service replacing Amber Buses.
	374	M-S	Grays to Basildon: new emergency contract service replacing Amber Buses.
14 May 17	22A	Sun	Aveley to Tilbury: revision to timetable and route.
27 May 17	FS	SSu	Grays to Damyns Hall Aerodrom: special festival shuttle service on 27 and 28 May only.

First Essex

31 March 17	102-4	D	Harwich to Colchester: revision to route upon completion of road works between Wix & Bradfield.
16 April 17	200/X	M-S	Basildon to Grays: revision to 200X timetable (updated information).
7 May 17	100	D	Chelmsford to Lakeside: increased frequency on Sundays and all journeys daily to operate via Pipp's Hill Retail Park.

Go Ahead (Chambers)

21 May 17	111	M-F	Braintree to Sudbury: service withdrawn.
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Swallow Coaches/Vigar Travel (EOS)

3 April 17	66	D	Waltham Cross Circular: minor timetable changes (updated information).
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Trusty Bus

10 April 17	424	M-S	Harlow to Hertford: revision to timetable and new service on Sunday (updated information).
1 May 17	410/A	M-S	Harlow to Holdbrook Estate: 410A journeys withdrawn and replaced by new 410 journeys.



picture: Trustybus had Mercedes Citaro demonstrator BT66 TZE in service, according to LOTS from 21 February to 8 March. It operated mainly on route 410 (Harlow - Waltham Cross) and is at Brookfield Centre, Turnford on 2 March.

Owen Woodliffe.

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

RTs in Brentwood, Chris Stewart.

Alan Cross has sent us this fine photo of RT 4782, a 14 seat Chevrolet LO new in July 1928 to Peck of Great Wenham (north of East Bergholt in Suffolk, hence the registration). Acquired by Henderson of Brentwood in 1930, it changed hands again less than a year later when (as seen here) it became part of E A Curtis' Ongar & District fleet and served with them for four years. Curtis operated between Brentwood and Ongar via Blackmore but sold out to the City Coach Company in 1945. Henderson had run to Doddinghurst and Hook End until 1940 when City stepped in to take over after he abandoned the service. Our Chevrolet, meanwhile, moved to Gloucestershire in 1935 with Rouse of Blockley after which the trail goes cold.



Of course, much more familiar RTs in Brentwood were those of London Transport and, latterly, London Country. Red versions came on the various permutations of the 86, 87, 247 and 287 with those on the 247 lasting until April 1976. Green Line examples ran on the 721 to Aldgate from 1950 until replaced by Routemaster RCLs in 1965 while green Country bus RTs held sway on the 339 to Ongar via the main road until hired Southend Transport PD3s displaced them in 1976.

Photos next page:

Top On 14 February 1976, RT4650 (NXP 903) pulls into the same stop in Brentwood High Street (outside the White Horse, now KFC) as the Chevrolet is serving. Note the EN travel office at 3 High Street, opened by Westcliff after the City takeover in 1952. **Chris Stewart.**

Lower Round the corner in Ingrave Road, at a much earlier date, we find Green Line RT3253 (LLU 612) waiting to head for London with a red STL behind about to follow much of the same route on an 86. **EBEG.**

The Group has recently been given a collection of City Coach Company items including duty cards from 1951 and timetables back as far as 1929, including this one of Henderson's bus service from 1937. We are very grateful to David Lewis for passing on these items which had been kept by his late father Stanley, who worked for City, Westcliff and ENOC. Some items from this collection and a short piece written by Stanley will appear in a future EBN.



Bus**Brentwood - Doddinghurst - Hook End****Henderson****MONDAY to FRIDAY****SATURDAY**

	8.50	11.0	1.45	4.40	7.5	8.20	F0		9.0	11.10	1.15	2.20		9.30			
Brentwood	8.50	11.0	1.45	4.40	7.5	8.20			9.0	11.10	1.15	2.20	Then	9.30			
Canterbury Tye	8.55	11.5	1.50	4.45	7.10	8.25			9.5	11.15	1.20	2.25	every	9.35			
Blue House	9.0	11.10	1.55	4.50	7.15	8.30			9.10	11.20	1.25	2.40	60	9.40			
Pear Tree Green	9.5	11.15	2.0	4.55	7.20	8.35			9.15	11.25	1.30	2.45	minutes	9.45			
Hook End	9.10	11.20	2.5	5.0	7.25	8.40			9.20	11.30	1.35	2.50	until	9.50			
Hook End	7.50	9.15	11.40	2.15	5.10	7.25			7.45	9.25	11.55	1.55	2.55	Then	8.55		
Pear Tree Green	8.55	9.20	11.45	2.20	5.15	7.30			7.50	9.30	12.0	2.0	3.0	every	9.0		
Blue House	9.30	9.25	11.50	2.25	5.20	7.35			7.55	9.35	12.5	2.5	3.5	40	9.5		
Canterbury Tye	9.35	9.30	11.55	2.30	5.25	7.38			8.0	9.40	12.10	2.10	3.10	minutes	9.10		
Brentwood	9.40	9.35	12.0	2.35	5.30	7.45			8.5	9.45	12.15	2.15	3.15	until	9.15		
Brentwood Station	9.45								8.10								

SUNDAY

	9.10	10.10	11.10	3.30	4.45	5.55	6.35	8.15									
Brentwood	9.10	10.10	11.10	3.30	4.45	5.55	6.35	8.15									
Canterbury Tye	9.15	10.15	11.15	3.35	4.50	6.0	7.0	8.20									
Blue House	9.20	10.20	11.20	3.40	4.55	6.5	7.5	8.25									
Pear Tree Green	9.25	10.25	11.25	3.45	5.0	6.10	7.10	8.30									
Hook End	9.30	10.30	11.30	3.50	5.5	6.15	7.15	8.35									
Hook End	9.30	10.35	11.35	3.50	5.25	6.25	7.25	8.55									
Pear Tree Green	9.35	10.40	11.40	3.55	5.30	6.30	7.30	9.0									
Blue House	9.40	10.45	11.45	4.0	5.35	6.35	7.35	9.5									
Canterbury Tye	9.45	10.50	11.50	4.5	5.40	6.40	7.40	9.10									
Brentwood	9.50	10.55	11.55	4.10	5.45	6.45	7.45	9.15									

FARES

Brentwood	
1 Kimpton Avenue	
2 1 Canterbury Tye	
3 2 1 Blue House	
4 3 2 1 Pear Tree Green	
5 4 3 2 2 Hook End	
Children under 13 years, half fare.	

F0—Friday only.

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Henderson's Garage**Ongar Road, Brentwood****Telephone Brentwood 191**

**HENDERSON'S
BUS SERVICE**

**Brentwood—Doddinghurst—
Hook End**

Official Timetable

**February 1st, 1937
until further notice**

Price 1d

Printed by Index Publishers (Dunstable) Ltd., Dunstable, Beds.

Buses in Transit!

Top picture Where have all the First Essex buses gone? After they arrived with Buses of Somerset, they were sat in the garage doing nothing but the first two Ex – Essex Enviro's ventured onto the streets of Taunton on 22 March 2017.
So, which is the Essex Enviro parked up in the bus station? [Answer below]. Shot taken from the staff room.

David Grimmett.



Lower picture Southampton Docks on a misty day! New Ensign 'Deckers seen at Southampton Docks on the morning of 24 March 2017.

Dave Arnold.

Answer, it's the one with the "eyebrows"!

EBN636p13

Acquired Vehicle

62242 Y939 CSF Vo B10BLE YV3R4A5101A008129 Wright E266 B44F 08/01 Midland Bluebird 1225
 From First South West at Taunton. In Barbie livery with "Become a Bus Driver with First" adverts on cove panels both sides. PSVAR compliant and had been used in service until recently, but to become a Driver Trainer with First Essex. Unusually it has a flip dot front blind but an LED side blind. It was exchanged with 44078/9 at Fleet Services on 30 March (see Disposals below).

Allocation Changes

BN-Basildon; CF-Chelmsford; CN-Clacton; CR-Colchester; HH-Hadleigh; CF(DS)-Driving School (based at Chelmsford); Sh-Driver Shuttle; BE(out of service)-withdrawn vehicles stored at Braintree; FG=to/from another First Group company

Period 12 (19 February - 25 March)

44076 HH-FG, 44077 HH-FG, 62191 FG-CF(DS), 69512 CF-FG, 69513 CF-FG, 69514 CF-FG, 69515 CF-HH, 69516 CF-HH, 69518 CF-HH, 69519 CF-HH



picture HH69515 was pictured on Page 16 of EBN635 illustrating the new branding for routes 22 & 28. Since then, 69516/7/9 have also gained this branding. This photo shows the branding from the rear, on 69517 and 69516 at Basildon Bus Station on 28 March. 69517 still has some work to be done to remove the final traces of its Park & Ride branding, plus a rear fleet number is still to be added. As previously reported, buses based at Hadleigh which display "Not In Service" alternate every few seconds between orange on black and black on orange displays, and by chance this photo has captured both types of display together. **Adam Kelleher.**

Disposals

March 2017: 44078, 44079 to First South West at Taunton (30th).
 April 2017: 32864 to Alpha Commercials, removed on an Alpha wrecker on 1st.

Repaints

CF66818, seen on route 71B on 23 March.

To Urban livery with small "First Essex" names with f symbol above entrance door and driver's cab, depot stickers both sides and main "Essex" fleet names on cove panels both sides.

New Branding / Super Rear Adverts

HH69516, HH69517 & HH69519 have received the new Route 22/28 branding (see EBN635 for details). CR33184 has received a super rear advert for Co-op Funeral care. Over the weekend of 25 & 26 March, CF44659-62 had blue based (with white writing) super rear adverts applied for new routes 57/A, which started on 2 April, although the route numbers are not included in the advertising. 66829 has had its super rear advert for Essex Fire & Rescue service removed (by mid-March).



New First Essex 44659 outside Chelmsford Bus Station at 1455 hours on Thursday 6 April before continuing to Westway. The inquisitive young man on the step may well be a future group member! **Maurice Austin.**

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Colchester and Clacton

Double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 (all CR, all March): 32475 (7th & 14th), 33080 (7th), 32641 (9th), 33078 (15th & 20th), 33186 (16th), 33086 (20th), 32068 (21st), 32640 (24th & 29th), 32087, 32477, 33087 & 33195 (30th). Clacton's Enviro 200s noted on routes other than their normal 7/8 during March: 44596 on 3 (16th), 5/A (17th); 44597 on 74A (19th); 44598 on 76 (11th); 44599 on 10/11/12 (31st). CR32631 and CR32640 were on route 62 on 3 April, the first day of its extension to Brightlingsea. A snapshot of vehicles seen on the revised 61/62/62A at Wivenhoe on the morning of 5 April was as follows (all CR):

61 Colchester Highwoods-Wivenhoe Rail Station: 33195, 63329, 65681, 65682, 65688

62 Colchester North Station-Brightlingsea: 32477, 32631, 32640, 32642

62A Colchester North Station-Wivenhoe: 33080, 66798, 69431 (33080 was showing "First Colchester" on front blind with route number in windscreen).

9 March CR69431 on Driver Shuttles

19 CR32641 on 75 (unusual double deck working on a Sunday)

27 Green CR66798 on 70 (on a working that is usually double deck)

28 CR63340 on 71, CR65687 on 70 (also on a working that is usually double deck)

31 CN42557 on 5/A (instead of a standard-length Dart).

Other Vehicle News and Workings (cont).

Chelmsford (including Braintree Outstation)

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.)

32856 was still at Braintree outstation on 2 April, but, as reported above, 32864 had been towed away the previous day. 32480, 32481 & 32483 have had their flip dot number / destination screens replaced by LEDs.

5 March	66814 & 66817 at Braintree outstation
6	DS66179 on training in Langford
8	65032 on 70
9	42935 on 70, 53112 on 42, 53115 on 73
11	53138 on 42 & 70
14	65029 on Park & Ride
16	44900 on 71
17	44539 & 65031 on BE workings on 70
18	44548 on 70
20	43802 on 71
21	53125 on 71
24	67194 on driver route learning for new routes 57/A (which started on 2 April)
26	65028 & 66830 at Braintree outstation
28	44542 on 70, 44661, 53114 & 67903 on 71, 67166 & 67171 on Park & Ride (former on Sandon peak hour extra, latter on normal service)
29	DS62197 on training in Colchester
2 April	66814 on 352
3	44661 & 44662 on 57A on first day of this new route (the associated 57 had started the day before).



First Essex Buses 43480 (R680 DPW) ex First Eastern Counties Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton Pointer leaving Chelmsford bus station on driver shuttle service between the bus station and Westway depot on 28 March 2017.

Robert Appleton.

EBN636p16

Other Vehicle News and Workings (cont).

Basildon and Hadleigh

Some StreetLites at Hadleigh have has the black inserts around their rear registration plates repainted purple to match the bumper.

28 March BN41525 on 94, HH69519 on 22 & 28 (its first day in service at Hadleigh)

2 April 33424, 33504, 33549, 33552 & 33563 (all BN) on Wickford-Newbury Park Rail Replacement

5 BN47657 on 100



picture: Volvo B7RLE/Wright Eclipse Urban 2 69518 (BJ11 ECT) attached, taken on its first day in service at HH on 6/4/17, at Benfleet station. As at time of going to print, 69515-9 now at work, 69520 still at CF. **John G. Lidstone.**

Ex First Essex Vehicles

First EBN635, 69513, now with First South Yorkshire, has gained a red based overall advert for Doncaster Rovers FC, although it retains its Chelmsford P&R black front. Preserved former First Essex Dart SLF / Pointer 731 / 43731 (S731 TWC), which was in Barbie livery for all its service life, has been repainted by Mardens into an Eastern National Dual Purpose privatisation livery (similar to that carried by Alexander TE bodied Leyland Tigers and Wheelchair Passenger Vehicle Leyland National 2200).

Sources: own observations, and with thanks to S Austin, R Appleton, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, T Clark, I Hardie, J Lidstone, D Lund Conlon, C Paynter, J Podgorski, J Salmon, R West, First Essex, Essex Buses Google group, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr and Terminus.

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

Withdrawn Dart SLF 3314 (S312 JUA) (EBN633) was towed from **Colchester** to Southend on 13 March prior to its disposal.

At **Harlow**, VDL / Wright 3784 (MX61 AVZ) was seen working service 508 on 31 March. It is unclear if this Stevenage vehicle is a loan or a transfer. Citaro 3898 (BX58 URL), the one Citaro which has not been noted as repainted into Arriva colours, has been VOR for some months having sustained accident damage.

See also EBN636p27.



John Salmon visited Colchester General Hospital on a murky Sunday 26 February (hopefully for nothing medical!) and spotted Arriva ADL 200 GN58 BTO 4011.

Panther Travel by Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam & Stephen Barham.

Acquired

Plaxton Primo MX55 WDT and YX55 DSE from Scraggs, Stoke on Trent.

Vehicle Sold

Leyland Olympian/Leyland BIG 9248 registered back to G296 UYK to Wards, Alresford.

Volvo B12B/Plaxton AB07 PAN registered back to SF07 YTP and sold to Harlequin, Edinburgh.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton BIG 9807 (N611 APU) and Dennis Dart/Alexander BIG 8843 (P390 LPS) are also for sale.

Vehicles on Loan

To Regal 3/17 Dennis Dart/Plaxton S303 JUA (now DDA compliant) and Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton BIG 9856 (X346 YGU).

Richard Delahoy.

The Mercedes minibus demonstrator BV66GYJ was returned to Evobus on 22 March as planned.

A further demonstrator received on 28 March was a Wright Streetlite DF model, SK65 PWV, in a silver livery. It entered service the same day on service 14 (Southend to Shoebury/Foulness) and was expected to be here for 2 weeks.



picture: Wright StreetLite WF demonstrator SK65 PWV is seen at Southchurch, White Horse on the last service 14 of the day, which goes to Foulness Island. **John G. Lidstone.**

Dennis Dart MPD 413 (EU03 CFX) was loaned to NIBS/Amber for 4 weeks in February/March.

Volvo coach 200 (X400 MTT) has been withdrawn and sold to Galloway Travel Group.

Enthusiasts (Extract from Stephensons website)

Enthusiasts are welcome at our depots but please contact us in advance to arrange a suitable time. Please note that visits are only possible during working hours, Mondays to Fridays, and visitors must comply with Health & Safety requirements at all times.



Ensignbus Dealing Stock Movements March 2017.

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Vehicles In

Arriva London	LJ04 LGN	DAF
	LJ55 BSO/U /BSV/X/Y/Z	Volvo B7TL's
	BVP/BVR	
Bristol Sightseeing	T75 KLD	Trident
Go-Ahead London	LG02 KGX / KHH	Volvo B7TL's
	LF52 ZPP	
	LX05 FBV	
	LX53 AYV	
	AE56 OUM	Dart
Metroline	LK03 GKX/Y/GLY/Z/GNN	Volvo B7TL's
	YX09 AEU	Enviro 200

Vehicles Out

Aintree Coaches	SP06 FVF	Volvo B7R
Bristol Sightseeing	LK51 UYE	Trident
Brylaine Coaches, Boston, Lincs	LX04 FTF / FYG	Tridents
Buses Etc, Merstham, Surrey	PX55 EDO / EDJ / EDL	Darts
Chalkwell Coaches, Sittingbourne	PX55 EDF / EFK	Darts
Crosskeys Coaches, Folkestone	LF52 THZ	Volvo B7TL
D and E Coaches, Inverness	LW51 ZWM	Volvo B7TL
	01-D-10222	
First Bus Stop, Gravesend	LX0FZA / FYW	Tridents
Mullaney's, Watford	LX06 EZW	Dart
Rotala PLC	YY63 OTA	Cheetah
Shiel Buses, Argyll, Scotland	LX05 FAO/FBA	Volvo B7TL's
	F52 THN/THV/THX	
Thandhi Coaches, Smethwick	SN03 WLL / WLF	Darts
UK Coachways, Bolton	LF52 ZPY / ZRV / ZST	Volvo B7TL's
	KX06 TYF	
	Solo	
	LX06EZV	Dart
AC Williams, Grantham	LX53 BDY	Volvo B7TL

York Pullman LF52 ZPN/ZRX/ZRP/ZPV Volvo B7TL's
BX04 BKK
Youngs Coaches, Haddenham, Cambs
LX03 BWD
Trident

Other Movements

Volvo B10M R932 XVM
Mr Masimba Sibanda, Harare, Zimbabwe.

Volvo B7TL X569 EGK
Hambledon Wineries, Hambledon, Hampshire.

RM1062
Dawson Rentals.

Tridents YN51 KVP / KVZ NK51 UCM LK03 UFJ
MC Tractors for scrap.



Ensignbus

Ensign Fleet – March 2017

Dart 785 has been on loan to Nu-Venture, Maidstone (see picture inner rear cover).

The 10 new 10.8m BCI double deckers for fleet use arrived at Southampton this week and all are now at Purfleet awaiting certification and registration. See picture outer front cover and above by **Brian Parkinson** which was taken at Southampton Docks on 30 March, sent via Robert Downton. They should enter service late April / early May.

There is also a demonstration vehicle in green livery to be used for sales

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman

hedingham and chambers

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Essex-buses yahoo group & John Podgorski.

Allocations

510	LB02 YWX	Engine repaired and sent back to Konect (still in Konect livery).
1513	YN55 PZU	CN to KN 28 March – still at KN w/e 31 March.

Modifications

The Scania Omnidiekkas at CN for the 87 service had green “Mad March Fares” advertising added to their upper windscreens.

Services

13 March onwards. Service 92 was affected by works in Birch and Layer Breton and was diverted via Kingsford and Layer. A minibus shuttle has been laid on between Leather bottle and Birch/Layer Breton and the closure has recently been extended to 2 May. ATS minibuses of Brentwood ran the shuttle in March with Mercedes Sprinter YN53 CVO having been spotted in use.



picture

By way of a reminder of past times, here we see Hedingham Alexandra Dennis Enviro 200, L370 EU58 JCI at Showbus on 5 July 2009.

John Salmon.

EOS London.com

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

Vehicle on Loan The Mercedes Benz City demonstrator BV66 GYI that has recently been on loan to Stephensons (see EBN635p20 and inside rear cover) has moved on to EOS and was seen on route 542 on 31 March (see picture inner rear cover this issue).

With thanks to John Card and Owen Woodliffe

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

Routes & PVR Further to EBN635, route 424 is due to be increased to a half hourly service on Mondays to Saturdays (hourly service on Sundays) from 10 April, so the PVR will increase by one to 25.

Vehicles Further to EBN635, Scania N94UB / East Lancs YR52 VFL, which had been on loan to Barkerbus during February, is now untaxed. However, sister YR52 VFN was back in service during March. Also, back in service by 17 March, was Scania N94UB / Scania YN53 RXU following its RTC on 18 January (see EBN634).

Repaint Scania N94UB / Scania YN53 RXO has been repainted at Mardens from all red to fleet livery (between 3 and 20 March) and has had front LED destination equipment fitted.

Vehicle on Loan Further to EBN635, the Mercedes Citaro K demonstrator, BT66 TZE, was on loan from 21 February to 8 March, normally working on route 410.

With thanks to John Card, LOTS and Flickr

Publicity News. Ian Ransom. With thanks to Here to There Publishing.

First Essex	booklet for 54/A, 54C, 55, 56/A	dated 2.4.17	} new style with blurred 'decker } passing municipal building which } could be Glasgow or Aberdeen!
	booklet for new 57/A	dated 2.4.17	
	booklet for 71/B/C, 72, 73	dated 2.4.17	
	marketing sheet for new 57/A	dated 2.4.17	
Regal	A4 sheets for services 1/1B	dated 9.1.17	
	3/3A/3B/3E	dated 9.1.17	
Stagecoach Cambridge Stephensons	leaflet for service 7 (Saffron Walden – Cambridge)	dated 19.2.17	
	A4 sheet for 9/9A	dated 9.1.17;	
	leaflet for 16 (Bury-Newmarket)	dated 16.1.17;	
EOS	90	dated 16.1.17;	
	leaflet for 66;		
	booklet for 86	dated 3.4.17	
Chambers Hedingham	87	dated 8.3.17	
	leaflet for 84/A	dated 9.1.17	
	leaflets for 87	dated 19.10.16;	
	89	dated 9.1.17;	
Thurrock Council Arriva (Green Line)	95/A	dated 3.10.16	
	timetable leaflet for 374	dated 28.12.16	
	booklet for 724	dated 12.3.17	

Publicity available at Harlow, with thanks to Owen Woodliffe.

Arriva Harlow	timetable for enhanced 724	dated 12.3.17
EOS	timetable for 66/86	w.e.f. 3.4.17
	timetable for 86/87	w.e.f. 8.3.17(87), 3.4.17(86)

Regal Busways by Adam Kelleher.

Vehicles on Loan

S303 JUA (Dart / Pointer, ex Network Colchester) and BIG 9856 (MPD) have been on loan from Panther Travel, the former from sales stock, the latter from the operational fleet. S303 (which had been upgraded to PSVAR standard) was seen on the Braintree Freeport Shuttle on 15 March. BIG 9856, which has been on loan previously (see EBN629), was on 322 on 15 March, 341 on 16th and Friday only 344 on 17th.

Repaint

802 has been repainted at Mardens (by 16 March), the first vehicle to gain a second repaint into new livery.

With thanks to Dale Bell, Terry Clark, Ian Hardie, Alex Hazell, Robert West, John Podgorski and Flickr.



Upper picture
Regal
Busways Dart
615 (Y258
NLK) is
smartly in a
much better
two-tone red
livery with no
zig-zags over
window
glazing but
carries just a
card with 3D
on it by way of
indicator
display.



Lower picture
Regal
Busways Dart
MPD 618
(NA52 AWF)
still runs in
Western
Greyhound
green, here
on route 31
apparently!

Both pictures
taken in
London Road,
Leigh-on-Sea
on 13 March.
**John G.
Lidstone.**

Stagecoach London in Essex by Adam Kelleher

Route 498

In Summer 2016, a new batch of Hybrid Enviro 400 MMCs were delivered to Plumstead for route 53. This indirectly led to a batch of 11-registered Enviro 400s being displaced to North Street, Romford, primarily for route 86. There have been a few sightings of one of these on route 498, Brentwood to Romford Queen's Hospital, although these have been very rare. 19736 was the first reported sighting on 23 August last year, and 19750 was seen in Brentwood High Street on 28 March 2017, as illustrated on the outer rear cover of this issue.

With thanks to LOTS

Before and After Essex; Or round and about with Stagecoach!

Peter Mansbridge.



Before Essex - EBN last month reported the arrival of Trident S807 BWC at Fords of Althorne ex Stagecoach Yorkshire. Peter's photo of S807 BWC taken 13/08/16 at Chesterfield Royal Hospital when numbered 17007 with Stagecoach Yorkshire (Chesterfield). New to Stagecoach East London January 1999 as TA7, it passed to Stagecoach Cambridge for Park & Ride duties and then saw service with Stagecoach Devon before arriving at Chesterfield in 2013 primarily for use on newly won Chesterfield College contracts. It received cherished registration 1737 HE whilst at Chesterfield (as shown in photo) but was re-registered back to S807 BWC prior to being sold by Stagecoach.

Peter Mansbridge.

Eds note, see Peter's "After Essex" picture this issue, inner front cover.

Ambus (Amber Coaches' bus operations, owned by NIBS) by Adam Kelleher.

Closure

Ambus operations ceased after Monday 3 April. From the next day, parent company NIBS took over the full running of routes 12 & 269 whilst routes 11 & 374 were covered by Ensignbus on an emergency contract.

NIBS Olympus EU59 BFK was on route 269 on 4 April with Scania / East Lancs 304 BIL 4710 operating on the 5th. Ensignbus Enviro 200 711 was on route 11 on the 4th, with Enviro 200 706 on route 374. Also on the 374 was mini Enviro 200 GX09 AGZ, ex Compass Bus of Worthing and part of Ensign's sales fleet, in Compass livery of white with dark red skirt and with Ensignbus fleet names.

Other Observations

NIBS vehicles noted on Ambus route 12 prior to the closedown of Ambus: Olympus EU59 BFK on 25 March, Solo 808 MX08 UZK on 27 March, OmniCity 88 LX08 ECW on 28 March. Stephenson's MPD 413 was on route 11 on 28 March.

With thanks to Chris Stewart, Facebook and Twitter



Just a reminder of the convolutions Ambus services have been through in recent months!

Thurrock Council tendered route 14 was due to cease on 14 December 2016 after just a year. It was introduced to replace a section of 374 diverted away six months previously from Fobbing, where the White Hart records the role of the village in the Peasants Revolt of 1381. Ambus Dart/Caetano M52 WTG powers up Lion Hill past the White Hart towards Basildon on 14 October 2016.

Owen Woodliffe.

Victoria Coach Station 85th Anniversary.

Chris Stewart.



It has been several decades since an Eastern National FLF was in Victoria Coach Station at the same time as a Thames Valley example, but during the 85th anniversary celebrations on Saturday 11 March Paul Harrison's preserved 2614 (AVX 975G) and Richard Rampton's D40 (GRX 140D) were there at the same time and with a bit of creative photography (not to mention patience) both are visible in this shot. D40 is a standard bus-seated version, although Thames Valley had coach-seated LDs and earlier FLFs (albeit without the extra luggage space of EN's).

Shopping With Arriva!



picture: Arriva Kent Thameside Optare Versa 4232 (KX62 JWG) at Chelmsford bus station on 28 March 2017. Note that she still carries route branding for service 333 Faversham – Sittingbourne – Maidstone. Shopping in Maidstone or Chelmsford? **Robert Appleton.**

Arising from Robert’s quip about shopping I wondered just how long a shopping trip would take. Robert duly obliged!

“Had a look at bus timetables on first Essex, Ensignbus, Arriva Kent and Surrey websites:
Mondays to Fridays:

First Essex service 100

Depart Chelmsford bus station	0900	Arrive Lakeside bus station	1057
(could depart on X80 at	1105, but I have allowed a refreshment/comfort break)		

Ensignbus service X80

Depart Lakeside bus station	1205	Arrive Bluewater bus station	1225
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Arriva Kent & Surrey service 700

Depart Bluewater bus station	1243	Arrive Chatham Waterfront bus station	1321
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Arriva Kent & Surrey service 101

Depart Chatham Waterfront bus station	1333	Arrive Maidstone Town Centre Pudding Lane	1402.
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Realise your question below was a bit tongue in cheek, but I do like a challenge!”

So, with a quick turnaround, a return trip would be a bit of a slog but wouldn’t cost much if bus passes were used! Anyone up for an unofficial Group tour? Ed.

Silver End Schedule October 1974 - WM FCA and SO. Chris Stewart.

The bus (or 'car') graph for Silver End in EBN635 makes interesting reading. I still have the Brentwood equivalents from about this time, having made good friends with the late Ken Taylor there. Keith ask what the codes FCA and SO represented - I found my way of 1975 terminal code leaflets (which I will scan in due course for the EBEG archive) with which I was issued in Summer 1975 when I did passenger loadings for the late Bob Beaumont at Head Office and have scanned the one containing the SE depot codes. David Smith, Silver End resident, driver/conductor at SE and then BE (where he was latterly in charge of the First Essex depot) has kindly added some background.

FCA was Film Corporation of America, who opened a small factory in Braintree (Railway Street) on the site now occupied by Majestic Wine. Business grew quickly with advertising in national newspapers offering free film. Prints were developed with one large picture (4" x 4") and two small copies (each 2" x 2") printed on a 6" x 4" sheet at a competitive price compared to going to the chemists, as was the norm then, and you got the free film. Business expanded rapidly and FCA took a new factory at the junction of Freebournes Road and Colchester Road in Witham. It was quite a hi-tech site (now occupied by Crittall Windows although the FCA building has been demolished and replaced). They recruited lots of new staff and transferred about 90% of existing staff from Braintree to Witham, hence the need for buses to transport them for which ENOC got the contract. FCA undoubtedly gained further business because of the long running industrial disputes at Grunwick (operating as Bonusprint) in Willesden. David also says "SO was indeed Saling Oak but, in reality, we never actually went there! The first girl (called Libby) got on in Rayne at The Welsh Princess (formerly the Cherry Tree). We did a reverse turn into Medley Road."

Duties must have changed quite a bit at some point from October 1974 as David recalls SE doing the early morning FCA run in, BE covering a lunch time MW duty for part timers bus each way, and SE doing the evening return trips with an FLF and later an MW. His memory is that it was duty 2 - "05:30 Dead to SO, FCA contract, Dead to Witham Forest Road, 07:07 to Colchester, arriving about 08:00. Time for tea there before returning dead to SE depot for the 09:30 ASDA Contract. Off Duty at ASDA before returning to SE to finish at about 12:30. He says the Setright ticket machine only came out of the box for about 30 minutes as bus was generally full by Kelvedon, and full of kids too - ideal crew duty in those halcyon days!"



picture above Apart from the summer I worked for EN and on ENEG tours, two of us visited SE several times in the run up to withdrawal of the last two Guys in 1975. A week before withdrawal, 2019 (582 AOO) rests up at the rear of the depot on 14 March that year. The FLF alongside - 2751 or 2788 - is of similar vintage and shows how anachronistic lowbridge rear entrance deckers had become by 1963. The MW ('tram' in EN crews' parlance, a term originally used for dual door LSs with a central front foglight) is withdrawn prototype 1300 (1858 F). EBN636p28



EASTERN NATIONAL

Associated with the National Bus Company

Terminal Code Abbreviations SILVER END Depot.

AW	Witham, Allectus Way
BE	Braintree
C	Witham, Cypress Road
CD	Chelmsford
CG	Coggeshall, Church Green
CHC	Chipping Hill Church
CL	Coggeshall
CPS	Copford Schools
CR	Colchester
EBC	Witham, Ebenezer Close
EC	Earls Colne
FCA	Film Corporation of America
FGN	Flacks Green
FR	Witham, Forest Road
GTS	Great Totham School
HBE	Witham, Howbridge Estate
HBS	Witham, Howbridge School
HP	Hatfield Peverel
KN	Kelvedon
LN.NW	Lexden, Norman Way School
MN	Maldon
MTY	Marks Tey
NSW	Chelmsford, New Street Works
PHE	Powers Hall End
RGN	Russell Green
RIV	Rivenhall
SA	Station Approach
SCL	Colchester, Sir Charles Lucas School
SE	Silver End
SIE	Braintree, Springwood Industrial Estate
SO	Blake End, Saling Oak
TEC	Tiptree, Co-op Corner
TEF	Tiptree, Factory Corner
TES	Tiptree, Ship
TG	Terling
TK	Tolleshunt Knights
WBS	Wickham Bishops, Snows Corner
WBM	Wickham Bishops, The Mitre
WIV	Wivenhoe, Rail Station
WM.M	Witham, Mansells
WM.CR	Witham, Collingwood Road
WM.CW	Witham, Crittalls Works
WM.G	Witham, George
WM.RS	Witham, Rail Station
WM.SS	Witham, Senior School
WM.TS	Witham, Templars School

Editor's note:

It is interesting to see the code CD used for Chelmsford, contrasting with the CF used in Keith Shaysutt's article and Alan Tebbitt's recent letter in EBN633p31.

Chris comments that sometimes codes used by Engineering departments did occasionally differ from those used by "Traffic", e.g. BE and BTE spring to mind.

And knit-picking, why do some codes, e.g. LN.NW and the Witham codes have a ".", whereas other codes such as WIV, Wivenhoe, Rail Station do not?



Keith Shayshutt kindly sent this picture of SE 1536 at Allectus Way in Witham on service 337 which ties with the original article. He says it is not a brilliant photo, but the best he has of that time. It looks fine to your Editor although that bulky wall in shadow does attract the eye! And he fears it is undated too, but certainly from the era of the article.

Also see Keith's letter on EBN636p31.

Smaller Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

Roger writes:

"Following on from last month's EBN where I mentioned about going away for a "Mystery Weekend" with Diamond Holidays based in Leicestershire, it was noted in the national press that this company has gone into liquidation – I am not having a lot of luck with coach breaks!"

Airport Bus, Great Hallingbury

This operator has acquired YN64 AMO and YN64 AMU, a pair of Iriza C63FL bodied Scania K360EB6s ex. Terravision, Stansted Airport.

Barker, Royden

Setra S250 has reverted to its original registration of N117 FHK from 6884 YG.

Blueline, Canewden

Recently arrived here are five Volvo B7TLs with Plaxton H45/29F bodies. V423 MOA, V431 MOA and V499 MOA are ex. National Express, West Midlands whilst V42 MOA and V45 MOA are ex. Tayside Buses, Scotland East (a National Express company).



picture: Newly-acquired on 16 February by Blue Line Travel of Rochford, Volvo B7TL/Plaxton Presidents V42, V45 MOA from National Express West Midlands (ex 4042/5). They are seen on 16 February with as-yet unused and not quite finished open-top conversion RML2591 (JJD 591D). John is advised by Blue Line Travel's Jimmy Sadd that Volvo Olympian/Northern Counties R283 LGH is being retained, even though 3 more NXWM B7TLs are due shortly, for private hire work.

John G. Lidstone.

New Horizon, Frating

BX04 AZW and BX04 BBJ, a pair of Volvo B7TLs with Wright H43/?? Bodies (were H43/23D) are here ex. London General whilst Volvo Olympian H78F, reg. R549 LGH has gone.

Eds note: If you get the opportunity, could anyone have a check on seating capacity, please.

The Letters Page.

Doug Brown from Hutton [DB from BD].

The "Just A Minute" article (EBN635p23) on Driver Shortages in 1968 reminded me that I was one of the Drivers who left Eastern National; it was in turmoil, being taken over by Badgerline, more OMOs were coming in and we drivers were given the ultimatum "go OMO or be sacked". I told them I had no intention of putting my conductor on the dole so I left after 6 years plus 18 years on coaches. Eventually, due to bureaucracy, I had to get out of this. If I were a bus or coach driver today, the red tape would be too much for my health!

Eds note: I realise some members will have their own opinions on Doug's comments but he reminds us that the bus industry is a "people business" and drivers and other employees do need to be considered in business changes. A bus or coach is not a paying business stuck in a garage!

Keith Shayshutt

In my article on Silver End in EBN635 I posed the question of the contract bus to 'FCA' in Witham and 'SO' at BE. I have had two replies from members who can recall what this contract did.

It operated on behalf of the Film Corporation of America who were based on the Freebournes Road Industrial Estate at Witham. They were a massive film processing company trading as TriFCA. All gone now of course with the advent of digital photography. The contract bus operated to here from BE SO which turns out to be Blake End Saling Oak. Braintree depot, as I suspected, did the other workings on this contract. So, thanks to EBEG members for solving this mystery.

Eds note: also see Chris Stewart's article on EBN636pp28 & 29.

Robert Appleton from Kirby Cross

Part of a response to an email from your Editor was:

"I went to Wivenhoe on Weds 5 April to see First Essex new service 62 Colchester – Brightlingsea, but it was worked by four Volvo B7TL from the existing Colchester allocation: 32477 32631 32640 32642. All of these are still in original First corporate livery, not yet repainted in to Urban area, so I did not photograph them.

There are rumours that up to seven double-deckers are coming from other parts of First Group for services 62/62A, so I am waiting to see what happens." We await the news with great interest! Ed.

Richard Lewis from Maidstone

Your Editor had a family commitment, so was unable to attend the Detling Bus Festival this year. Richard Lewis has advised:

"It was another good day and the weather was kind to us. The number of buses and coaches was 139, up from 126 last year. Of the total, 77 had not been to our previous six events."

There was a Reason For High Staff Turnover!

Silver End Codes. Thanks to Members.

New Buses For Brightlingsea?

Detling Bus Festival

RT3251, part of Ensign's heritage fleet loading for an enthusiasts tour at Lakeside Bus Station at about 0900 hours on Saturday 25 March 2017.

Maurice Austin.



GEORGE DIGBY

West Bergholt to Colchester Bus Service

DEPART WEST BERGHOLT WHITE HART

	am	am	am	am	am	noon	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
MON.	8 0	9 0	10 0	—	11 20	12 0	12 40	1 45	—	2 30	3 25	4 20	—	5 50	—	—
TUES.	8 0	9 0	10 0	—	11 20	12 0	12 40	1 45	—	2 30	3 25	4 20	—	5 50	—	—
WED.	8 0	9 0	10*0	—	11 20	12 0	12 40	1 45	1*55	2 30	3*25	4 20	—	5 50	—	—
THUR.	8 0	9 0	10 0	—	11 20	—	—	1 45	—	—	3 25	4 20	—	5 50	—	—
FRI.	8 0	9 0	10 0	—	11 20	12 0	12 40	1 45	1 55	2 30	3 25	4 20	—	5 50	—	9 50
SAT.	8 0	9 0	10 0	10 30	11 20	—	—	1 45	1*55	2 30	3*25	4 20	5 5	5 50	7*0	—

DEPART COLCHESTER BUS PARK

	am	am	am	am	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm	pm
MON.	8 30	9 30	10 45	11 40	—	12 35	1 5	2 50	—	4 0	4 45	5 30	6 30	—	—	—
TUES.	8 30	9 30	10 45	11 40	—	12 35	1 5	2 50	—	4 0	4 45	5 30	6 30	—	—	—
WED.	8 30	9*30	10 45	11 40	—	12*35	1 5	2*50	—	4 0	4 45	5 30	6*30	—	—	—
THUR.	8 30	9 30	10 45	—	—	12 35	—	2 50	—	4 0	4 45	—	6 30	—	—	—
FRI.	8 30	9 30	10 45	11 40	—	12 35	1 5	2 50	—	4 0	4 45	5 30	6 30	—	—	10 20
SAT.	8 30	9*30	10 45	11 40	12*20	—	—	2*50	3 45	—	4 45	5 30	6*30	7 30	—	—

All services call at West Bergholt Treble Tile except those marked *

WESTWOOD PARK SERVICE VIA WEST BERGHOLT

(Wednesday and Saturday only)

DEPART WESTWOOD PARK

WEDNESDAY	am	pm	pm	pm
SATURDAY	9 55	1 50	3 20	—
	9 55	1 50	3 20	6 55

DEPART COLCHESTER BUS PARK

WEDNESDAY	am	pm	pm	pm
SATURDAY	9 30	12 35	2 50	6 30
	9 30	12 20	2 50	6 30

Coaches and Cars available for private hire at moderate terms. Phone Fordham 352 for quotations.

Cullingford & Co. Ltd., Colchester

By way of a change, a timetable instead of a picture! Your Editor knows nothing about George Digby. Do you?
I think the timetable comes from Alan Osborne's fantastic collection but there are no notes on it!

Target Dates for EBN637 (May 2017).

By	Saturday	29 April 2017	Reports to Sub-Editors.
By	Saturday	6 May 2017	Sub-Editor drafts to Editor.
By	Monday	15 May 2017	Dispatch by Printers.

Back Cover Photos.

Sorry if My Reds Clash!

Outer Top

EBN635p30 reported the disastrous arson attack on the Ward's of Alresford fleet. Here we see Volvos B7TL X651/656 LLX new to Metrolina as VPL 151/6, taken at Alresford on 5 June 2016.

Keith Woods.

Outer Lower

Stagecoach London 19750 was a rare visitor in Brentwood High Street on 28 March 2017. See Adam's report on EBN636p?? for details.

Adam Kelleher

EBN636p32

Editor's Pick of the Month.

Top picture: Ensignbus vehicles being used on Brentwood - Shenfield rail replacement.

On this day, 7 March, the service was running from outside Brentwood Station as a hole had appeared in Gresham road (the normal route out). Your Editor was entranced at the colour combination of the red brick and Ensign red. Robert says this always happens when the sun goes down on Brentwood Station.
Robert Downton.

Middle picture: Ensign 785 at Barming (Bull Inn) on Friday 31 March, while on hire to Nu-Venture of Aylesford. An interesting contrast to the crowded street scene on EBN636p3.

Richard Lewis.

Lower picture:

What a snout!

This magnificent view of the Mercedes-Benz City 45 demonstrator BV66 GYJ that was with Stephenson's in early March (EBN635) ended the month with EOS. Seen on 31st on the ECC Debden local service 542 at Oakwood Hill.

And, yes, the seats are hard on the backside!

Owen Woodliffe.



