

Essex Bus News

No. 658; FEBRUARY 2019



Essex Bus Enthusiasts Group

£4

www.essexbus.org.uk



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where sold



<<< Upper picture

The bus lay-by in Lexden Road, Colchester, near the recently closed Essex County Hospital, is the starting point for afternoon school departures. On 28 January, Volvo B7TL/Transbus ALX400 32485 (AU53 HKC) prior to working 1550 service 525 to Chelmsford. Behind is sister 32484 (AU53 HKB) ready for the 1550 service 509 to Little Dunmow.

Robert Appleton.



Lower picture

The sophisticated black livery of Essex County Council sponsored Park & Ride services in Chelmsford has been sacrificed for the revenue to be earned from advertising! The near-side now looking a little cluttered, in your Editor's opinion! Seen here in at the Duke Street/Victoria Road roundabout on 19 January. Compare with the rear view on EBN658p13.

Dave Arnold.

Front Cover Picture.

Route 575 is a one return journey Monday to Friday service and London General WVL 272 is departing at 1300hrs from Brewery Bus Station, Romford for Harlow on 24 January.

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN658 inner front cover

Essex Bus News 658

February 2019

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<http://www.signal-training.com/ebeg/Photo%20order%20form.pdf>.

Welcome to new Members

Michael Oxley	Newquay	1137
Alan Moore	Walton on Naze	1138
Brian Lynch	Leyton	987 (rejoined)

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:

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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.

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EBN653p1

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 28 February 2019

Bob Palmer Recollections.

Thursday 28 March **Note change of date** **Dave Tomlin**, District Bus and members slides co-ordinated by **Richard Delahoy**.

Thursday 25 April **Alan Osborne** "Brentwood - Red, Green, Blue and Brown".

Thursday 23 May **Robert Appleton** **Greater Manchester Part II 1994 to 2010.**

Other 2019 dates: 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 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.



Eastern National 3109 Bristol VRT ECW UAR 599W seen on service 5A at Benfleet Station during 1981. This vehicle and 3085 was based at HH depot and were fitted with tachographs to enable private hires to be operated.

Paul Harvey.

EBN658p2

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

EVENTS

Sunday 24 February 2019

Saturday 16 March 2019

Sunday 17 March 2019

Sunday 24 March 2019

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.

Saturday 30 March 2019

Sunday 31 March 2019

Saturday 6 April 2019

Sunday 7 April 2019

RT 80 Event, Barking.

Oxford Bus Museum Running Day.

SE Bus Festival, Kent County Showground, Detling.

Spring Gathering. London Bus Museum, Brooklands.

Sat/Sun 13/14 April

Sunday 21 April

Sunday 28 April

Wellingborough Bus Day at Museum.

Transport Show Ministry of Power Maldon.

East Grinstead Country Bus Running Day.

Sunday 28 April

Saturday 27 July

Amberley Spring Bus Show.

Essex Bus Rally, Barleylands, Billericay. *** note changed date ***

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.



Just to demonstrate that Owen does have interests other than buses and real ale! An interesting hat collection – and Flying Scotsman on 11 January for a memorial trip for Sir William McAlpine to York - a grand day!

Owen Woodliffe.

EBN658p3

My Travel To Work - Eastern National Service 123 in Ipswich.

Ted Miles.

On leaving school in 1952, I worked for Mummery and Harris Ltd at Connaught Avenue in Frinton. In 1953, they opened a House Furnishing store at Princes Street in Ipswich. I started work at the Ipswich branch in August 1953. The travel arrangements were a slow train from Kirby Cross to Colchester North, a slow journey which went via St Botolphs in Colchester in the days of steam, also this train waited at Wivenhoe for the Brightlingsea connection. A fast train from Colchester to Ipswich. Now for the fun. Trolleybuses and other operators to whet the appetite!

On walking along Princes Street, Eastern National single decker on a 123 Relief to Clacton RHK 133, and behind this another Relief which was 3945, an MPU6 and full few minutes later here comes ONO 68 (4047) this was August Bank Holiday week which, in those days, was the first Monday in August. From the second week of August there was only one relief on the 10 o'clock ex Ipswich and everyday was 3945, MPU6, and the service car was ONO 68 all the time. The bus that seemed to operate the 1030am ex-Clacton was either MPU14, (3953) or ONO 72(4051). Sometimes on a Saturday, instead of the train from Ipswich, I caught the 6.30pm 123 Clacton and changed at Thorpe Memorial to the 105 ex-Colchester to Kirby Cross. Every time I used the 6.30pm ex-Ipswich it was full, and always the same crew. I wonder whether was an Eastern National crew based in Ipswich as on a Tuesday, which must have been this crew's rest day, it seemed to be an Eastern Counties crew which covered this day's work? From November until Easter, the 123 was single deck operated using mainly TTW 571(4167) or TTW 575(4171) TNO 666, 4129 appeared to be the spare vehicle in the winter months. I thoroughly enjoyed the Ipswich experience it was an Enthusiasts dream to get paid as well!

These notes are from an old spotters' book recently found in the loft. Hope notes of interest as the Clacton - Ipswich service never fails to find something interesting. Sorry about the delay in sending this report, just discharged from a 8-week stint in hospital.

Kind Regards keep up the good work.

Eds note no problems about any delay, we are just delighted you are OK.



CN1241 (437 FEV) Bristol LS5G/ECW B45F, new in 1956, at Mistley Heath in June 1970.

Robert Appleton.

Your Editor asked whether our Tending area expert had any relevant photographs to illustrate Ted's recollections. He replied "I was born in 1954. My father was a keen amateur photographer. In 1969 he bought a second-hand Exacta 35mm camera for me, so by 1970 I was taking some decent bus photos. As colour slide film was expensive, I took black and white photos also. So, attached are three of my oldest photos."

EBN658p4



Above DT1400 (215 MHK) at Ipswich Old Cattle Market in February 1971, after working 1000 Clacton - Ipswich 123. Next to DT1400 is Eastern Counties LFS54 (54 CPW) a Bristol Lodekka FS5G. Good to see an Eastern National bus at the Ipswich terminus of service 123!

Below Another view of DT1400 (215 MHK) Bristol MW5G/ECW DP41F new in 1959, at Mistley Heath in April 1970, working 1815 Clacton - Ipswich 123. Harwich bus on loan to Clacton. Both pictures by **Robert Appleton** who comments:

I am sorry that I have nothing before 1970. But these photos do show Eastern National buses on service 123, and they are in Tilling green livery, before National Bus Company green was introduced.



The ... For EBN658 Page.

Give EBEG members a challenge and they rise to it! Your Editor has been swamped with 658s for... ! Well done all who participated and thanks for your efforts and creativity.



Above Here is one that is not all it seems! Scania 65668 alongside Volvo 60319 at Basildon depot on a wintry 24 March 2013. 65668 was acquired from First Edinburgh in July 2002 and was numbered **658**, it received its Sema number in March 2004. It was sold for scrap in June 2018.

Adam Kelleher.



The Pride of Osborne's on Tollesbury Square just after delivery in January 1965. An AEC Reliance 24, I it was bought from the motor show and was in a blue and off-white livery, having only 42 reclining seats, the company flagship in those times.
G. Sharpe Collection.

EBN658p6

Top And another from the Osborne fleet! U00 658L, Ford Willowbrook taken on 29 August 1975. Driven, photographed and sign-written by our Black and White Photo Editor, **Robin Jenkinson**. He recalls this bus had a 6-speed gear box and was turbocharged. It has an Essex registration but started life as a Ford demonstrator. It is operating the Colchester – Layer service.



Below Top marks for lateral thinking goes to **Owen Woodliffe** who has loaned his picture of Grey-Green's Leyland Tiger Cub/Harrington VGT 328, one of six that entered service on 6/58. These were regularly allocated to Grey-Green's London – Chelmsford – Colchester – Yarmouth service, where it is seen at their coach station in Apsley Road. **The late Wilf Rowley, Owen Woodliffe collection.**



Service Revisions

by Paul Harvey.

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

14 January 19

50 Shotgate to Ingatestone School (Sch) NIBS – revised timetable and route to improve reliability.

28 January 19

44 Lakeside to Grays (D) Ensign Bus – additional journeys introduced at 1905 & 2045 from Lakeside to Purfleet on Mon to Fri.
73A Lakeside to Tilbury (D) Ensign Bus – the Mon to Fri 2355 from Lakeside to depart 5 mins later and extend from Tilbury Civic Square to Tilbury Asda via Tilbury Town Station on request. The 0045 from Lakeside on Fri & Sat will also be extended to Tilbury Asda on request.

X21/X31/X81 Lakeside/Grays to Brentwood (M-F) Ensign Bus – additional journeys introduced Mon to Fri and new Saturday service introduced.

COG 1 Coggeshall to Kelvedon Station (M-F) Coggeshall Community Bus – timetable revisions.

3 February 19

32 Chelmsford to Ongar (M-S) First Essex – revised contract timetable to improve reliability.

37 Brentwood to Bishop Hall Estate (D) First Essex – revised Sunday contract timetable to improve reliability.

46 Chelmsford to Ongar (M-S) First Essex – revised contract timetable to improve reliability.

47 Chelmsford Oaklands Park to Broomfield Hospital (M-S) First Essex – 0628 Mon to Fri from Pump Lane will depart at 0615.

80A/80C Brentwood to Hutton Circular (Sun) First Essex – revised contract timetable to improve reliability.

565 Brentwood to Bulphan (M-S) First Essex – revised contract timetable to improve reliability.

18 February 19

X21/X31/X81 Lakeside/Grays to Brentwood (M-S) Ensign Bus – services withdrawn.

X90 Lakeside/Grays to Brentwood (M-S) Ensign Bus – new service replacing services X21/X31/X81.

24 February 19

72 Clacton to Colchester (MWF) Go Ride – service withdrawn

73 Clacton to Colchester (MF) Go Ride – service withdrawn

79 Brightlingsea to Clacton (M-F) Go Ride – service withdrawn including Brightlingsea Circular service 78A.



Keeping buses clean is a challenge in winter, especially on long rural routes like the 31X, Chelmsford to Burnham-on-Crouch. Chelmsford-allocated 66802, a Wright bodied Volvo B7RLE, shows signs of road dirt as it stands at Burnham Clock Tower ready for the 1230 back to Chelmsford on Saturday 26 January.

Richard Delahoy.

Richard was one of only a few members who responded to my appeal for “routine” pictures. Thanks to him and the others. Don't forget that the ordinary today will become a historical memory before long!!!

EBN658p8

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

Chelmsford Park and Ride services

Consultation - 21 January 2019: Chelmsford Park and Ride

Essex County Council is reviewing ticket options, fares and opening days for **Chelmsford Park and Ride services**.

You can have your say by taking part in the consultation between 21 January 2019 and 22 March 2019

The consultation proposes the below;

Raise the child ticket age from 16 to 18.

A discounted ticket offer when tickets are purchased digitally through an app (12 tickets for the price of 11).

Closure of Chelmer Valley Park and Ride on Saturdays. Sandon would remain open for customers wishing to use Park and Ride and would run on a loop route around the city centre.

Remove the ticket machines on site, cash fares will be allowed to be taken on bus.

An inflationary fare increase.

To take part visit www.essex.gov.uk/Chelmsford-Park-and-Ride

Recent closed consultations

Service 63 Colchester North Rail Station - Monkwick

Operated by **Hedingham & 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.

Members are encouraged to participate in these consultations – silence could well be interpreted by the authorities as lack of interest

Hedingham and Chambers Liveries

Mark Lloyd.

As will be seen in Mark’s report on pp28 & 29, there has been another addition of yet another vehicle in non-standard livery so he thought it time to look at the fleet livery statistics of Hedingham alone and the Hedingham/Chambers group as a whole.

Hedingham only

Livery Style	Fleet Numbers	Totals	Fleet Percentage
Hedingham Original	5/8/253-60/62-5/291-3/470/615-6/737-8	22	26.5
New Go Ahead Hedingham	261/266/289-90/295-6/511-14/561/3//5/9/71/73-81/800/812-20/910-1	36	43.4
Blue Star (blue)	285/86	2	2.4
Hedingham App (white)	294	1	1.2
Anglian (yellow & blue)	456/850/852	3	3.6
Plymouth (red & white)	505	1	1.2
Konect (dark blue & yellow)	510/721-2/6-7	5	6.0
Go Ahead London red	517/20-1/3-5/7-8/584/9016-7	11	13.3
Brighton & Hove(red & cream)	701-2	2	2.4
	Fleet Total	83	

Chambers/Hedingham Group

Livery Style		Totals	Overall Fleet Percentage
Hedingham Original	5/8/9/10/253-60/62-5/291-3/470/615-6/737-8	24	21.8
New Go Ahead Hedingham	261/266-8/289-90/295-6/511-14/561-81/800-3/5-20/910-11	55	50.0
Chambers Original	1-2	2	1.8
Blue Star (blue)	285/86	2	1.8
Hedingham App (white)	294	1	0.9
Anglian (yellow & blue)	456/804/850/852	4	3.6
Plymouth (red & white)	505	1	0.9
Konect (dark blue & yellow)	510/721-2/5-7	6	5.6
Go Ahead London red	517/20-5/7-8/584/9016-7	12	10.9
Brighton & Hove(red & cream)	701-2	2	1.8
Chambers Transit silver	9011	1	0.9
	Fleet Total	110	

Does not include imminent Scania/Olympus deliveries.

This exercise indicates that exactly half the group fleet is in the new livery – but indicates a quarter of the fleet is running as acquired. This probably strengthens the case for a shared Go-Ahead East Anglia livery to allow easier intercompany transfer. The percentage of London red is growing! The original Darts are running as acquired in 2012 and the Volvo B7TLs 561-581 are now extremely scruffy if viewed close up. I certainly hope the Scania/Olympus batch receive group livery – whether it is an improvement on the traditional Hedingham or Chambers lined out livery – that can still be debated. Whether you prefer traditional or new, it is sad to see such previously smart and tidy fleets running as a rag-bag collection of colours.

This Month's Brainteaser.

Bob Williamson.



Bob Williamson found this evocative picture in a house clearance; it has no identifying marks as to ownership. It is clearly Eastern National LPU 6112, KN2006, a 1947 Guy Arab III, which was originally with Moores of Kelvedon and rebodied in 1960 with a Massey L57R body. It is next to EN 1850 F, 2505 formerly 1536, a Bristol LD5G with ECW H33/27R body which was withdrawn in 1976. It looks to your Editor that it could have been taken in Kelvedon depo (KN).

Bob Williamson collection.

The challenge to our learned membership is where, when, why, who and any other relevant information!

District Bus

There has been a good response to our request for District Bus pics. Richard Delahoy has kindly agreed to create a slide-show to complement Dave Tomlins talk which will now be held on **28 March** at Chelmsford. Thanks to all who have contributed but don't let this be a reason not to send something in if you were thinking about it!



Meanwhile,
new member
Alan Moore
has sent this
picture of
District Bus
Iveco
F 995 XOV,
taken in St
Edwards Way,
Romford on
the
05/01/1992.

EBN658p11

Acquired Vehicles

67736	SN62 AHV	SFD1C8AR2CGG30661	C311/26	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow
67750	SN62 AOG	SFD1C8AR2CGG30675	C311/40	B41F	11/12	First Glasgow
Alexander Dennis E30D / Enviro 300. Acquired from First Glasgow. 67750 delivered to Colchester depot on 15 January 2019 on an Alpha Recovery low loader. The low loader then took 65675 for scrap. 67750 first seen in service on route 65 on 17th. 67736 reportedly departed Scotland on 28 January, although it was a few days later before it turned up at Colchester. According to Bustimes.org (see below) it was on route 65 on 3 February. Both in Urban livery, both have small "First Essex f" fleet name above the doors and a depot sticker on the nearside, with small "First f" fleet name above the driver's window on offside but neither has main fleet names.						
37027	YJ06 XKS	YV3S2G6226A112601	K784	H45/29F	05/06	First West Yorkshire
37036	YJ06 XLB	YV3S2G6226A113201	K793	H45/29F	05/06	First West Yorkshire
37037	YJ06 XLC	YV3S2G6246A113202	K794	H45/29F	05/06	First West Yorkshire
37042	YJ06 XLH	YV3S2G6216A113206	K799	H45/29F	05/06	First West Yorkshire
Volvo B7TL / Wrightbus Eclipse Gemini. Collected by Colchester drivers from Leeds (Hunslet Park) on 21 January 2019. All in Urban livery. All have small "First" fleet name with large f symbol above driver's window, 37027 & 37037 have small "First Essex" fleet name with large f symbol above doors, none have main fleet names on the sides and only 37037 (nearside only) and 37042 (offside) have depot stickers (37036/42 nearsides not yet seen). 37027 retains a "Contactless Payments" advert across the top of its upstairs front window. 37037 entered service on school route 17 on the morning of 23rd then went onto route 103 (via Bustimes.org). The other three were all first reported in service the next day, 37027 on route 70, 37036 on route 75 (via Bustimes.org) and 37042 on route 62 (via Bustimes.org).						



Picture 37042 (YJ06 XLH) Volvo B7TL with Wright Eclipse Gemini body, in Stanwell Street, Colchester on 28 January, prior to working 13.55 Colchester - Harwich service 103.

Robert Appleton.

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

Period 10 2018/19 (30 December - 26 January)

37009 CR-CR (out of service), 37027 FG-CR, 37036 FG-CR, 37037 FG-CR, 37042 FG-CR, 65675 CR (out of service)-Disposal, 66803 CR-BN, 67750 FG-CR

37009 caught fire (electrical fault) in North Station Road, Colchester at approximately 1220 on 13 January. There were no reports of any injuries. It is deemed repairable. 66803 is at Basildon to cover Enviro 400s which are having engine modifications to bring them up to Euro VI level. It was seen on route 100 on 22 January (and again on 26th & 27th), it had still been at Colchester on 19th.

Disposal

As above, 65675 to Alpha Recovery, 15 January 2019.

Adverts

Further to EBN657: 66812 had its Secret Santa advertising removed in early January (by 12th); partial correction, 65691 & 65692, as well as 65690, still have the 74/76 route branding on rear engine cover, it is only 65688 that has had this removed.

In January, the black Park & Ride Enviro 200 MMCs (67189-97) had external advertising applied for the first time. Side advert frames were fitted. The advertising is exclusively for Kendrick's Kingdom in Chelmsford, an indoor soft play facility, and includes super rear ads with a number of different designs. [And jolly ugly it is! At least it brings in an income!! **Ed.**]



67193 on Park & Ride in Duke Street, 6 February 2019, showing its new advertising. The boarded area to the left is where the famous Dukes Nightclub and, much earlier and more importantly, the Primrose London coach depot stood until demolition last year, the area is now a temporary car park. **Adam Kelleher.**

Bustimes.org

This website tracks vehicles on routes in real time. It works via GPS linked to the ticket machine on a vehicle. To obtain information on buses running on a particular route, click "South East", then "First Essex", then the route details next to the number. Then click on each rectangle to get details of the individual bus. Alternatively, near the foot of the "First Essex" page is a link "An incomplete First Essex fleet list", which gives the route(s) each bus is working on that day (the last couple of days can also be selected but only against each individual vehicle, so this is a laborious process.) This website is useful for enthusiasts in identifying unusual workings and to plan photo and bus ride opportunities. However, there can be errors when a vehicle is running with a different bus's ticket machine. For example, 65672 was recorded on routes 174/5 on New Year's Eve, even though it had been out of use being stripped for spares since early December. Similarly, 37009 was erroneously reported in service after its engine fire (it is thought that newly acquired 67750 was temporarily using its ticket machine). Despite these blips, the website is likely to be correct most of the time. For example, on 6 February it was showing 41522, 42557, 42934 and 44900 as working on route 40 and these were all confirmed by sightings. As such workings have not been physically seen, they will not usually be recorded in EBN.

EBN658p13

Other Vehicle News and Workings

Colchester

(All vehicles listed below allocated to CR).

Route 62/A/B branded Volvos seen working on other routes during January: 37133 on 66 (7th), on 75 (11th); 37134 on 64A (28th); 37136 on 103 (16th), on 64A (30th); 37139 on 75 (22nd & 25th) plus on 64A on 1 February.

Other double deckers seen operating on routes 103/4 during January: 32475 (25th); 32476 (3rd); 32477 (9th); 32478 (31st); 32480 (9th & 10th); 33080 (8th); 37015 (14th); 37016 (31st); 37017 (23rd); 37020 (14th); recently acquired 37042 (28th). Also, StreetLite 63332 on 103/4 on 11th.

Some sightings of Barbie liveried Scania L94UB / Wrightbus Solars during January: 65677 on 71 (11th & 29th), on 103/4 (22nd) plus on 97 on 7 February; 65679 on 98 (7th & 23rd) plus on 104 on 1 February; 65682 on 103 (25th), on 64A (28th), on 104 (31st); 65684 on 97A (7th), on 66 (28th); 65685 on 97A (23rd), on 67 (28th), plus on 97 on 1 February.

6 Jan	63343 on 74A, 67805 on 102
7	63337 on 71
9	33044 on 62
10	33086 on 174/5
11	33088 on 174/5, 67779 on 75
12	32480 & 66810 on 62
14	33088, 63330 & 63333 on 67, 65029 on 70
15	63329 on 74B, 65689 on 103/4
16	33178 on 62
17	33196 on 174/5, 67805 on 70
18	66798 on 70
21	33044 & 33178 on 67/C
22	66818 on 70
25	33184 on 62
27	37027 on 88
28	37027 on 88A & 174/5, 37037 on 62
31	33078 unusual President working on 70 on a normally single deck working, 33184, 63339 & 65691 on driver shuttles, 37020 on 62
1 Feb	32068 & 33916 on 62, 32476 on 65 pm peak
2	63330 on last evening Colchester to Maldon 75 and return
5	63342 on 71



First Essex
Alexander
Dennis
Enviro 300
67756
(SN62 ASU),
recently
transferred
from First
Scotland
East, leaving
Elm Tree
Avenue,
Frinton on 1
February on
service 97 to
Colchester.
**Ken
Coldwell.**

EBN658p14

Other Vehicle News and Working. Chelmsford.

All vehicles listed below allocated to CF.

Buses of Somerset Scania 65760 was seen parked at Westway on 17 & 18 January, gone by 21st and seen back at Bridgwater on 25th. It is not known why it was there, it was possibly on its way to / from ADL Harlow.

10 Jan	42968 on 70
11	67165, recently repainted out of X30 livery (see EBN657), on X30!
18	42557 on 71 (and again on 28th)
23	44661 on 14, 67161 on 16, both unusual.
25	X30 liveried 66170 on 70
28	32484 on 509, 32485 on 525 (and again the next day), 43847 on 57, DS62139 on driver training in Kelvedon, 68531 on 508 (and again on 31st)
1 Feb	32640 on 525, 41522 on 71
4	44547 unusual on X30
5	32672 on 525



First Essex 69533 on route 42, with 69902 on route 100 behind, at one of the two temporary bus stops in Market Road, 6 February 2019.

Adam Kelleher.



As well as working in to Colchester on services 70 and 71, First Essex Buses Chelmsford depot also have four buses on school services. The bus lay-by in Lexden Road, Colchester, near the recently closed Essex County Hospital, is the starting point for the afternoon departures where we see BMC 1100FE 68520 (KP54 AZU) on 28 January which displaying no route number nor destination, so possibly was on a closed school contract. Sister bus 68531 is in front of 68520.

Robert Appleton.

Other Vehicle News and Workings - Basildon & Hadleigh

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

24 Jan 33570 on 9, X10 liveried 67160 on 100
 27 69915 on 251
 28 33553 unusual on morning 9

31 A unique operation.

The last 100 from Lakeside to Basildon (due at 2315) did not turn up. Waiting passengers made enquiries about it at the Ensignbus office in the bus station. Ensignbus then ran the service themselves using Olympus 126, with correct blind displays, to ensure no-one was left stranded on this particularly cold and snowy night. As this service is not registered by Ensignbus, no fares were taken. A superb effort by Ensignbus, many congratulations to them for doing this.

2 Feb 41514 on 25
 5 X10 liveried 67161 unusual on 200X, CF69421 on 25 (and on 100 on 7th and again on 25 on 8th)
 6 66819 on 100, 66823 on 512



As the last traditional Eastern National depot still in use, it was good to see First Essex investing in major work in the Depot yard before Christmas to cure hazards caused where concrete blocks in the yard had sunk and become broken over the years. The whole centre of the yard was dug up and appropriate quality concrete relaid and allowed to cure, as can be seen in this photo in mid-afternoon. The work took three weeks to complete, causing a temporary major reorganisation of bus parking, whilst local churches and a supermarket came to the aid of staff parking.

John G. Lidstone.

Sources

own observations, and with thanks to R Appleton, S Austin, S Barham, D Bell, W Bell, R Hannah, G Lark, D Lund-Conlon, J Marquis, W Morrison, R Newman, J Podgorski, I Ransom, J Salmon, K Smith, G Toon, R West, First Essex, Bus Lists on the Web, Flickr, Essex Buses Google group and Terminus.





66750, Colchester's latest E300 at Harwich Railway Station on 18 January.

Wayne Bell.



Ex-First Essex 66822 is now with First Eastern Counties and was seen in Norwich on 3/2/19.

John Podgorski.



Above Examples of the new Caetano Levante 3 body are now appearing in Essex. BF68 LCM is a Scania K410, C59FLt, new to Galloway, Mendlesham in January this year, seen on route 481 at Chelmsford Bus Station on 6 February 2019. **Adam Kelleher.**

Below Cooks of Westcliff Bova WA11 FNL at Norwich Castle, on a day trip on 3/2/19. **John Podgorski.**



Trustybus (Galleon Travel 2009, Roydon, Essex, bus operations)

by Adam Kelleher.

With thanks to John Card, Andrew Colebourne, Ross Newman, John Podgorski, Owen Woodliffe, Bus Lists on the Web and Flickr.

Acquired Vehicles

YN04 GMV, Scania CN94UB OmniCity, B32F, new to Nottingham (776) 05/04

YN04 GMX, Scania CN94UB OmniCity, B32F, new to Nottingham (777) 05/04

Acquired from Harrogate Coach Travel, North Yorkshire, via Ensign, January 2019.

YN04 GMV first reported in service on 21 January and YN04 GMX the next day.

Both were new in Skylink livery for service to East Midlands Airport. They were sold to D&G Bus in 2012 and also worked for the associated Midland and South Lancs Travel companies, then to Diamond North West (Rotala) before being purchased by Harrogate Coach Travel (Connexions Buses) in 2015. YN04 GMV is in National Bus Company poppy red heritage livery (many of HCT's routes had West Yorkshire Road Car Company origins) with "West Yorkshire" fleet names and red / blue on white NBC symbol. It was repainted thus in August 2015, re-registered 5480 WY in October 2015 and named Brian Horner in January 2016. (The late Brian Horner was a former General Manager of West Yorkshire Road Car in Harrogate and later a Deputy Traffic Commissioner for the North-East Traffic area, who died in September 2015, aged 80.) YN04 GMX is in HCT livery of white with a green skirt which sweeps up over the windows at the rear, with green and blue "The Harrogate Bus Company!" fleet names on the front of its side cove panels, and blue "connexionsbuses" names on its lower side panels. It had been re-registered URH 806 in October 2015. Both regained their original registrations before sale by HCT. They retain large luggage pens in the middle from their time on Skylink service, hence the low seating capacity for this type of vehicle. Both still have Harrogate Coach Travel legal lettering on the front nearside skirt panels with Trustybus legal lettering on a sheet of paper in the first nearside window.



Picture This is the red one! YN04 GMV in NBC West Yorkshire livery on route 420A at Epping Station on 26 January. No destinations are shown! **Andrew Colebourne.** Andrew wonders whether any real West Yorkshire vehicles ran in Essex; did they have any express services serving the county? There have been some second-hand ones - for example Heddingham and District L66 - 73 were ex-West Yorkshire Bristol LS and MW saloons and Wicks of Braintree had Bristol LD OWX 175).

Vehicles on Loan / Demonstration

Further to EBN654, there were no further reported sightings of StreetLite SK17 HHL. Shorter StreetLite SK68 TNF was last reported in service on 16 October 2018.

Partial Repaint

Pointer Dart SN03 YBS has had a yellow (top) & blue (bottom) skirt (bumpers are blue) added to its all red Metrobus livery (by 19 October 2018). The bands kink up slightly at the very rear. "Trustybus" fleet names have been added to the front and to the front of the nearside cove panel.

EBN658p19

Arriva Southend / Harlow / Colchester.

At **Southend**, DAF DB250 / East Lancs 6260 (FD02 UKS) was withdrawn on 8 December but then reinstated for further service on 21 January.

At **Colchester**, DAF SB120 / Wright 3528 (LF02 PNE) was withdrawn on 31 January (after its brief reinstatement in January) and moved to Southend for storage. Accident damaged Dart SLF 3421 (AY54 FPZ) was due to re-enter service early in February.

At **Harlow**, the sole remaining vehicle in Network Harlow colours, Solo 1454 (YJ06 FXT) was off the road for several weeks at the turn of the year but was seen back in service on 14 January. Ware allocated Alexander Dennis Enviro 200 3986 (GN07 DLO) was seen working service 724 on 28 January, presumed to be a short-term loan to Harlow.

Southend and Colchester depots converted to Ticketer ticket machines from Sunday 27 January, replacing Wayfarer TGX200 machines which have been in use since June 2012 at Southend (we are not sure when Colchester had started with TGX200). The new machines introduce contactless payment and feature scanners that read the QR codes printed on multi-journey tickets and on smartphone tickets (m-tickets). At the same time, they ceased to issue paper tickets to concession pass users. **Harlow** depot was due to convert to Ticketer on 10 February.

The former **Colchester Corporation** depot on Magdalen Street was demolished at the end of 2018. John Podgorski reported in mid-January that the site has been cleared and levelled, with only some boundary walls and the frontage of the old power station (on Military Road), remaining as a street front structure. It is understood that housing will go up on the site. The depot dated back to the start of municipal trams in Colchester in 1904. It had been occupied by Colchester Corporation Transport, Colchester Borough Transport, Arriva and then Network Colchester (under TGM Group ownership) until 2008 when it was closed and the operations moved to the current depot in Grange Way, on the Whitehall Road industrial estate in Old Heath. Part of the site was later used by First to park buses.



Above. Magdalen Street depot in Colchester immediately after Network Colchester vacated the site, taken on 5 April 2008. **Richard Delahoy.**

Left. Sample of the new tickets issued on Arriva Southend, showing the QR code which is read by the machine to validate multi-journey tickets, in this case a return. **Richard Delahoy.**

EBN658p20





The Arriva Southend fleet includes 7 VDL SB200 single deckers with Wrights bodies to two different styles (Pulsar and Commander). Here, 3963 (GN04 UGA), one of three with the Commander style body, enters the "shared space" outside Southend Victoria Station, with rail replacement deckers in the background. The heavily loaded bus had been delayed on its journey from Rayleigh and was running 10 minutes late en route to Shoebury and Wakering; the 8 in front of it was curtailed to Southend, also due to late running. Saturday 2 February, 2019. **Richard Delahoy.**



In store at Arriva's Southend base on 11 January, brand new Arriva Kent Thameside Wright StreetLite DF SK68 TWW, TWY, TWX in base Sapphire livery as delivered, but now fitted with bright wheel nut markers.

John G. Lidstone.

EBN658p21



Mark Lloyd with thanks to Ross Newman.

Ensignbus

Dealing Stock Movements

January 2019

Vehicles in

City of Oxford	OF61 OXF	Scania K360s
	PF61 OXF	
	LF61 OXF	
	MF61 OXF	
Connexions Buses	YN04 GMV / GMX	Scania's
Go-Ahead London	LG02 KIA	Volvo B7TL
	Y748 TGH	
	LX10 AUT/U/Y/AVB/D	E200s
Go-Ahead South Coast Lothian Buses	HF06 FTP/T/U/V/Y	Citaro's
	SN04 ABV/X/Z/ACU/	Tridents
	ADX/AEA/Y/Z	
	JSJ 747 / 749.	Routemasters
Metroline	YX10 BFP/V/BGK/O/BCU	
		Enviro 200s
RATP London	SN51 SYA/C/G/H/O	Tridents
	W449 / 454BCW.	Volvo B7TL's
	FJ11 GLY/MOA/MME /	Volvo B9Rs
	MMK / MMU / MLY	
	FJ61 EYK / EYL	
	FJ58 AJU / AJV	Scania K340s
	FJ09 DXP / DXR	
	FJ59 APX / APY	
	YN55 NHT/U/Y/Z/NKD/F/I/PS	Scania's

Vehicles Out

Aintree Coaches	SN04 AEY	Trident
Bear Buses, Feltham, Middx		

	SN51 SYA / SYC	Tridents
Connexions Buses, Harrogate		
	YN53 RYK	Scania
Galleon Travel, Roydon, Herts		
	YN04 GMX / GMV	Scania's
Gloucester Minibus Ltd	LX53 KBF	Trident
Kent Coach Tours, Ashford		
	LW55 AHE	
	Dublin B9TL 00-D-70016	
Lanes Coaches, Dunstable, Beds		
	GN06 EVL	Volvo B7RLE
London Borough of Havering		
	LX60 DXF / DXJ	Volvo B9TLs
Lothian Buses	LX11 CWA/O/T/CVL/R	Volvo B9TLs
	FJ11 GLY/MLY/MMK/U/MOA	
		Volvo B9Rs
Nu-Venture, Maidstone	LK55 KLM / KLP / KLX	Darts
Panther Travel, Harwich, Essex		
	YX10 BFP/V/BGK/O/U	Enviro 200s
	OF61 OXF	Scania
Red RM, Brentford	LX06 EZJ / EZK	Darts
Skills Coaches, Nottingham	SN04 ACV / ACY	Tridents
Solus Coaches, Tamworth	FJ59 APX	Scanias
	FJ09 DXR	
Sullivan Buses, South Mimms		
	LX10 AUT/U/Y/AVB/D	E200s
Surrey Coach Hire, Kingswood, Surrey		RML2556
	LX06 DZF	Volvo B7TL
	FJ58 AJU	Scania
Travelmasters , Sheerness	LW55 AHF	
	Dublin B9TL 00-D70008	
	FJ11 EYL	Volvo B9R
York Pullman	YN56 FDK / FEG	Scania's
	FJ59 APY	
	FJ09 DXP	
		EBN658p22

Other Movements

Citaro's

HF06 FTU / FTT / FTP / FTV / FTY

Kapnos and Sons Transport Ltd, Larnaca, Cyprus.

RML2445

Chestnut Farm, South Ockendon, Essex.

Trident

V140 MEV

J Gallery Catering Ltd, Newbury, Berks.

Trident

LX53 KAE

Crown Christian Heritage Centre, Droitwich.

All of the following to Shelton Motors for scrap

Volvo B7TL's

LK04 UXC / UXF / UXH

W536 / 7 WGH

Y748 TGH

LK04 HXD

PJ53 SOU

Darts

LK55 KLF / KMJ / KMM / KLO

SN03 LFI

LG02 FHH

BT04 BUS.



Ensignbus
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Ensignbus

Mark Lloyd with thanks to Richard Delahoy.

Ensign Fleet

January 2019

Further to last month's EBN Richard Delahoy has updated my notes, there were actually two separate Ensign routes on Boxing Day (only):

X10 Southend Travel Centre – Basildon – Lakeside ran half-hourly all day long (0600 to 2330) as it has done for a number of years now. It served all stops between Southend and Basildon Hospital, then fast to Lakeside.

New this year was X1, Southend Airport to Upminster Station (for the District Line on to London), non-stop, with 10 journeys from Southend and 7 from Upminster, timed around flight arrivals and departures.

Both ran as neither rail line to Southend operates on 26 December.



Ensignbus has been temporarily operating Amazon service Z3 to Southend during January. Because of an accident on London Road, the service was diverted along Western Road, this exceptionally rare diversion to this section of road having never occurred previously (of any service). The bus is shown making the thereby unique turn into Thames Drive from Western Road. Alexander Dennis Enviro200 703 (PX12 BSY) is operating service Z3, dropping-off only; because of Ensign's temporary operation, buses show 'Not In Service'.

John G. Lidstone.

EBN658p23

Other Operators.

Roger A. Smith.

With thanks to the PSV Circle.

A1 Taxi (Tony Glew), Colchester

BX10 DNU, a Volvo B9R with Sunsundegui C53F body is here, previously with Atlas, Harrow, Greater London.

Advance Minibuses, Southend-on-Sea

Iriza C49FT bodied Scania K941Bs, reg. no. FN04 BSX and FN04 OSY have gone from here to Central Travel, Darnall, South Yorkshire.

Barker, Roydon

R486 UFP, a MAN 11.220 with C35F body by Caetano is here from Speldhurst, Shefford, Bedfordshire.

Gone from here are SIB 3277 (ex-L347 MKU),

a Plaxton Lorraine C51FT, W1W 4749 (ex-G39 YJA),

an all Mercedes Benz O303, C53FT, R690 RGM,

a Mercedes Benz O404 with Hispano Carrocera C51FT body, T46 BBW, a MAN 24.350 with Jonkheere CH68FT body and

T680 LHN, a Crest C24F bodied Mercedes Benz 614D.

Bourne & Cantwell, Basildon

L40 GNA, a Plaxton C49FT bodied Dennis Javelin and L975 OWY, a Volvo B10M with Plaxton C49FT body have both gone from here.

Jones, Braintree

YX18 KOD, an Alexander Dennis E20D (B29F) is now here, previously with Flying Scot, Paisley, Scotland West.

Mortlock, Muckingford

Neoplan C53F, reg. YN03 AWY has gone from here.

New Horizon, Frating

BX55 XMU, a Wright H45/24D bodied Volvo B7TL, formerly fleet number 9044 in the Abellio London fleet is now here.



A former Lodge coach now with Acme Bus Company is MB04 TCY, a MAN / Marcopolo, waits at Ingatestone station before operating a rail replacement service to Newbury Park on the 29 December 2018. The pink skirt and stripes were painted on to the Lodge livery by Andrew Lodge.

Andrew Mead.

EBN658p24



Ian Ransom with thanks to Adam Barham

Acquired

Scania K360/Plaxton OF61 OXF new to City of Oxford and acquired via Ensign (dealer) 1/19.

Disposals

Dennis Dart SLF/Plaxton KV51 KZK to A2B Travel, Cambridgeshire 12/18.

Mercedes Benz 616CDI/Koch BX56 VTE exported to Africa 2/19.

Leyland National Greenway (store shed) GUM 452W to Takeley Metals 1/19.

Volvo B6 RLE/Wright (store shed) V259 HBH to Takeley Metals 1/19.

Leyland Olympian/ECW C73 CHM (store shed) to Takeley Metals 1/19.

Volvo B10M/Plaxton Y5 TRU was expected to be sold in late 1/19.

The Olympian, was new to London Buses, went to Selkent when London Buses was split up, was then bought by Isle of Man Transport, then came to Essex with NIBS and Regal, before ending up at Panther (c 7/11).

Other News

Leyland National JHJ 150V is being used as an office/rest room at Weeley, although it is hoped to restore it, in the future.

The workshop at White Roding and storage area at Matching Airfield are being cleared of vehicles, all engineering work is now undertaken at Weeley.

Panther are providing two round trips between Stansted and Victoria on behalf of Airport Bus Express

A further 5 ex-Metroline (new to First) Enviro 200, have been acquired for dealer stock, they are YX10 BCU/BFP/BFV/BGK/BGO. Four will be converted to single door, the other one, being used for spares.

Service 2 will be revised later this year, as the gap on the A120, near Little Bentley, is being closed for safety reasons. Consultation with ECC is underway.

Errata

PSV Circle's new G725 shows BIG 7758 as off the road it has been on the road since late 2016/early 2017.



Andrew Mead with thanks to Andrew Lodge.

Vehicles sold - not previously reported

Dennis Trident / East Lancs Lolyne

T271 BPR and T275 BPR sold 3/17 or just after to Swanbrook Transport Limited, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.

T276 BPR sold 2/17 or there-about's to a private owner at North Weald, Essex to be converted into a bar.

Vehicle sold

AL06 DGE re-registered back to YJ07 JFK before sale.

AL06 DGE has been retained for further use at some stage.

DAF SB4000 / Van Hool

Sold 1/19 to Lee's Coaches Limited, Durham, County Durham.

Other news

Since just before Christmas the Company have been operating rail replacement services most weekends between Ingatestone and Newbury Park.

STEPHENSONS

Incorporating NIBS news

Richard Delahoy.

One of the former Abellio E200s acquired as dealer stock some while ago has now been added to the fleet. It is YX10 FFC, fleet number 446, allocated to Rochford depot. It was illustrated in EBN655p18 before entering service. It has a new style fleetname, as shown in the heading to these notes. (Incidentally, a new NIBS logo is also due to be introduced, more details in next month's EBN).

To clarify the corporate structure, both Stephensons and NIBS are now owned by Eastern Transport Holdings (ETH) as a holding company.

In other news, in early January the directors of Stephensons acquired a majority stake in Galloway European Coachlines Ltd of Mendlesham and its holding company (held directly, not through ETH). Apart from the operation of National Express services 250, 481 & 484 through Essex, Galloway have no scheduled operations in Essex and as their base is in Suffolk, we do not plan to report on their activities in Essex Bus News, except where vehicles pass between Galloway and the Essex fleets of Stephensons and NIBS.



Stephensons acquired a batch of Alexander Dennis Enviro200s from Abellio London late in 2018. First not sold, to enter fleet stock, is 446 (YX10 FFC), also treated to a revised, much bolder style of fleetname without the familiar logo. With grateful thanks to Stephensons and driver Chris Staley for arranging a photo-shoot opportunity the day before the bus entered service.

John G. Lidstone.

EBN658p26



Above Stephenson's 465 (EU62 FBO) AD Enviro 200 at Frinton rail crossing on 1 February on service 9 to Walton Columbine Centre.
Ken Coldwell.

Below Stephenson's 903 (YN53 CVF), one of their long-wheelbase 53-plate Scania 'deckers' covering on a 38/38A working.
 See letters p31. **Jonathan Cush.**



hedingham and chambers

Mark Lloyd

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

Vehicles Acquired

456	AN61 BUS	Scania	Omnalink	B46F	Ex Konect (Anglian)
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Vehicles Withdrawn

251	PI02 RHE	Dennis Dart SLF	Plaxton Pointer 2	B37F	Alpha Recovery for scrap
743	X386 NNO	Dennis Trident	ALX400	H45/26F	Alpha Recovery for scrap

Significant Allocations

456	AN61 BUS	u to HD	Arrived early January – to service late January
286	HW54 BTY	HD to SY	18 January
286	HW54 BTY	SY to KN	22 January

Fleet News

Scania Olympus 873, PN09 EMK converted to single door but still in Go Ahead London red arrived at HD week commencing 31 December. It moved to CN during 12 to 19 January and then by 24 January was route testing with Chambers at SY. It is still reported that these vehicles will be repainted into full Chambers livery before entering service.

456, AN61 BUS a Scania Omnilink new to Anglian but from Konect has arrived at HD, it is being used in Anglian livery with Hedingham fleet names applied, appearing on schools services in the last week of January. The chassis is a K23 OUB new to Anglian in October 2011 and originally their original fleet number 440.



Further to EBN657 here is ex Go-Ahead London Scania N230UD/Olympus 873 at Hedingham Omnibuses Sible Hedingham depot on 3 January 2019. **John Podgorski.**

EBN658p28

Other News

578, W519 WGH suffered a collision on service X76 as soon as leaving Jackson Road in Clacton on 26 January. Damage to the nearside lower panels just ahead of the rear wheel. It was back in service on 28 January and transferred to KN.

Mercedes Benz Vito crew bus R006 TUU has been withdrawn due to accident damage.

Vauxhall Combo Fleet service vans have been numbered in the ancillary fleet. W761 TRE becoming 9004 and FN54 SXC becoming 9003.

297, SN10 CCZ initially with 295/6 at Hedingham is now in full fleet livery with Konect.



Hedingham sisters 521 (LX05 EZD) and 525 (LX05 EZH), Volvo B7TL/Wright /Gemini Eclipse at Pier Avenue, Clacton on 1 February, both ex Go-Ahead London.
Ken Coldwell.

With the addition of yet another vehicle in non-standard livery, Mark thought it time to look at the fleet livery statistics of Hedingham alone and the Hedingham/Chambers group as a whole. This analysis is shown on p10 of this issue.

Publicity News

Ian Ransom.

Ensign	73/A	dated 28.1.19	photocopied leaflet
	X1 (Southend Airport — Upminster)	26.12.18 only,	leaflet
National Express	481	dated 14.1.19	
	484	dated 14.1.19	
Trustybus	418/B	dated 21.1.19	leaflet
	420/A	dated 21.1.19	leaflet

Letters - 1

Last month's EBN reproduced letters which had appeared in the previous issue. Only Roger A. Smith's letter was a "new" one. This was probably caused by careless "cutting and pasting" by your Editor. This page covers those letters you were meant to see! Apologies to those who had taken the bother to write; your musings are much appreciated by the membership – seemingly minor comments or recollections are valuable in a historical context. Even slightly hazy memories can spark other people's brain cells into action to help create an accurate record. "New" letters are on page 31 of this issue.

Alan Tebbit, Our man in the South-West

Seasons' greetings to everyone. Many thanks to Chris Stewart for providing the pictures for my last article, the one of RE coach 428 being more apt than Chris probably realised. I doubt that when Andy Meadows took that shot, he didn't think that 40 plus years later, it would accompany a piece written by the (then) young man behind the wheel! The FLF bound for Dunmow was probably 2848 (MVX 885C) the Dunmow outstation car for many years, between LD 2508, and VR 3027. I can still see the DW conductor, Chris Cracknell, a giant of a man, standing on the road, and changing the front blind.

Richard Delahoy's article on Royal Mail buses brought back some memories. In my first year as a junior clerk at Head Office, I had on my desk a list of buses and coaches for which goods vehicle "B" licences had been applied. These were necessary for carrying parcels, but in those days holders of PSV drivers were entitled to drive rigid goods vehicles. I recall four drivers, "Jock" Cameron, "Taffy" Morris, Ernie Mills and Fred Jennings, operating from the GPO sorting office, in Waterloo Lane, Chelmsford.

Doug Brown from Hutton [DB from DB].

Commenting on Chris Stewart's observation that he'd seen Midas of Brentwood's ex-Ribble PD1 CCK 651 being used for GPO work, Doug Brown writes "I can confirm that Ted Dover of Midas did not remove any seats for the mail deliveries".

Rob McCaffery, Gloucester

I have sad news regarding Southend 341 (CIN 441C). A report on the Scottish Vintage Bus Museum Facebook page today shows her being taken north on the A9 in Scotland to a new home in the far north, near Elgin.

Further enquiries confirm that she has been acquired (from Chris Pearce in Sussex, I think) by West Beach Caravan Park at Hopeman, near Elgin, just along the Moray coast from Lossiemouth. Nicknamed 'Dory', their Facebook page confirms that she is to be converted for use by the site's 'Bothy Bistro'. She's still in the cream and red livery applied by Fowler's of Holbeach Drove in Lincolnshire. They say that she will be restored to her original blue, thus suggesting that they are at least knowledgeable about vintage buses. Indeed, their photo section also includes a view of a Macbrayne's coach.

Views of her in Fowler's livery at Showbus in 1992, plus one at the 1987 Barking Rally were shown on EBN657orc.

This was later added to the SVBM Facebook page: [Peter Findlay] Apart from turning round a few seats and adding tables it will be kept in original condition, used as a seating area with no appliances etc being fitted. The few seats being removed are being kept in safe storage so that it can be returned to original condition at any time in the future.

Suzy Scott

Following the cessation of Here To There Publishing Ltd, Suzy continues to do the bus-related stuff under the names of SuzyScot.com and ScotBus.com. This will allow the tying up of some loose ends.

Subject to health and other commitments it is intended to do 4-6 publications a year (if that). Some of the projects will to be complete major works that had been in progress. These will only be sold via my new Lulu.com storefront (this is currently only a work in progress), as well as by mail order (cheque/postal order etc.) to my new Dundee address.

Eds note: it looks as though Suzy will be concentrating on Scottish bus timetables and fleet information in the near future. If she announces any London or Eastern activity, I will endeavour to advise EBEG members.

"Loose pages"

One of the casualties of the Editorial boo-boo mentioned above was a note that the two pages in EBN656 that had included printing errors would be reprinted and issued with EBN657. So, for those of you who wondered why you had a couple of loose-sheets, it is because our printer kindly agreed to reprint. Your Editor's originals had been fine, and they transmitted well. For some odd reason, the "obituary box" on EBN656p1 didn't include the names of two recently passed members and EBN656p32 slipped off the page and lost the Father Christmas hat! So, on that occasion, not your Editor's fault but a rare printing error!

Recollections and More on Royal Mail Buses.

More on the Royal Mail.

Re: Report on Southend 341.

The Future after "Here To There".

Letters -2

Wayne Bell, EBEG Tours Organiser

Hope everyone is keeping well and had a good Christmas and New Year. Would members kindly let me know what they want to do and see for the Tours for 2019, I need some time to plan them and make contact with Operators and make the necessary arrangements. I am working on organising a First Essex Depot tour but that will take time to organise, it will be possibly a Sunday visit as more Buses will be in the Depots. Perhaps members can let me know how they feel about that. My email address is lynxrnli79@googlemail.com

Possible Tour Suggestions, please.

Martin Farmer, Harwich

Thought I would mention that on 31 March 2019, it will be 80-years to the day that AIN 825 was delivered to Westcliff on Sea Motor Services. It was 49 years ago that I first saw AIN in the corner of Canvey Depot when I was route learning having just joined EN from LT. and it was 1971 when, as one of the founder members of the ENPG, we started the first restoration of AIN. Little did I think that one day I would be a part owner of AIN. Fast forward to 2019, the 825-preservation group has owned AIN for 12 years, purchased from First Essex Buses in February 2007 and spent those years on the continued restoration, AIN will come out of winter storage, [this is when we do our maintenance and any other jobs that want doing] in April and we look forward to another rally season with AIN.

A Fine Essex Lady.

Eds note. This is a great achievement and the preservation group are to be congratulated. As it happens, a page has already been prepared for EBN660, but members anecdotes and stories would be welcomed to add to the coverage.

Martin Weyell, London

Referring to the two photos of CJN 441C in the latest mag and the not published letter, [but see p30, this EBN!, **Ed**] I see from the January PSV circle Scottish area new sheet that this bus has been sold out of preservation to West Beach Caravan Park, in Hopeman, Morayshire, for use as additional seating for the parks café. Hopeman is on the coast of Morayshire in between Lossiemouth and Burghhead. The site website makes no mention of a café but does say that the park is partly on the site of the railway station, which closed to passengers as long ago as September 1931.

CJN 441C, Southend 341

The previous owner lived in Worthing - I wonder if the bus was driven from Sussex all the way up to Northern Scotland under its own power?

Jonathan Cush, Braintree

I happened to be out and about locally today [29 January] at the end of a couple of weeks off work, using up the remnants of my leave from last year as the final couple of months of 2018 became too hectic to use any of it up in the end!

Anyway, I attach a couple of shots of the recently-delivered Arriva Streetlites on route 133 - I'm sure you've been inundated with these for February already as they've come into service since the last issue came out, but just in case I attach one of each vehicle; nearside and offside. The other shot was a particularly rare working (as far as I'm concerned from my own observations) of Stephenson's 903, [see p27] one of their long-wheelbase 53-plate Scania 'deckers' covering on a 38/38A working. As such I had a ride on it to Witham where I took the picture, with the (very long) top deck all to myself! Whilst it's not uncommon at all for a 'decker' to appear on the routes in place of a branded E200, it's normally one of the 5xx or 6xx-numbered standard-length Scania's and I don't recall ever seeing one of the longer 9xx-numbered variants out on the routes before. They are however a common sight in Braintree bus park during the day, often on lay-over between their more typical school work.

Day-Off Musings.

PSV Circle Publications

Roger A. Smith.

Our friends in the PSV Circle have produced a couple of their G-Lists which are of particular relevance to Essex enthusiasts, they cover their current fleet lists of bus and coach operators in Essex

G724 covers operators A to K whilst **G725** covers operators L to Z plus non-PSVs. These publications are very comprehensive and contain lots of information and excellent colour photographs. They cost £9.00 each (£6.75 each for PSV members) and can be ordered from:

Sales Team, PSV Circle,
4th floor, Crown House,
Linton Road,
BARKING,
IG11 8HG

Or via the website at www.psvcircle.org.uk



The pictures of Wells' buses of Hatfield Peverel in EBN657 prompted **Robin Jenkinson** to send this pic of KTD 255, in his view the most spectacular vehicle they operated. He recalls it was a Crossley. Originally, it was a ½-cab with what looks like a Duple body, which has been superbly rebuilt to full-front with a Burlingham Seagull front. It is has a red and cream livery, near Victoria Embankment, London on 2 Sept 1961.



On Friday 18 January, Arriva Southern Counties Wright StreetLite 4333 (SK68 TXE) was in 'pole position' at the head of the yard at Short Street depot in Southend and had just been given its fleet names, fleet numbers and route branding for services 480/490 but has yet to receive the standard wheel nut markers. Behind is SK68 TXL, numbered 4338, although advance listings show this bus would be numbered 4339.

John G. Lidstone.

Target Dates for EBN659 (March 2019).

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

Stansted Airport – all pictures & captions by Andrew Colebourne.

Andrew spent a short time observing operations at the Stansted Airport Coach Station on 13 January 2019. As it happened there were no trains running to London because track renewal work had closed all lines between Hackney Downs and Hertford East / Bishops Stortford all day. Hence a Stansted Airport - Liverpool Street Rail Replacement service was in operation for Abellio Greater Anglia but both National Express and Airport Bus Express also had additional vehicles running on their services.



"During the brief period I was there, I photographed Redwing Mercedes BT15 KLP on the rail replacement service, BM Coaches short Van Hool on National Express A6 (a number of their vehicles were present) and Panther AB53 PAN ("Suzanne Geraldine") came in on an Airport Bus Express extra.



National Express has given its four services identification colours on its website (<https://www.nationalexpress.com/en/airports/london-to-stansted>), timetables and signage (but not on vehicles); I'm not sure whether this is new but I picked up a timetable leaflet dated November 2018 for the A6. The colours are purple (it is described thus in the timetable, but I would call it mauve) for the A6 (to Paddington and Marble Arch via Golders Green), magenta for the A7 (Victoria Coach Station via Waterloo), light green for the A8 (Kings Cross via Liverpool Street) and light blue for the A9 (Stratford). There is a queuing system with banners on the barriers showing the service number in white on a circle of the relevant colour.

The Airport Bus Express livery and timetables already used colours for its two services - red for the A20 (Victoria via Baker Street) and light green for the A21 (Liverpool Street via Stratford).

I have also attached a picture of National Express Scania K410 Caetano Levante III SH253 on the A8 because I don't think the body style or route has been illustrated in EBN yet."

Meanwhile, In Colchester.



Ipswich Buses 156 (AY60 BVD), the ex-Carters VDL/MCV Evolution, now in the latest version of the Ipswich livery at Osborne Street, Colchester and feeling at home on service 93 to Ipswich on January 8. **Ken Coldwell.** EBN658irc



Arriva Kent in Essex

By John G. Lidstone.

Top picture

Arriva Kent StreetLites have been stored & prepared in Short Street depot, Southend

Middle picture

The new Kent StreetLites have full rear LED displays rather than just the numeral display as shown on Southend area examples. Mint 4332 (SK68 TXD) heads off to start its career in Kent.

Lower picture

New for old! (if you can call 64-plate StreetLites 'old'). Kent's displaced 4265 (GN64 DXF) moves to tag on the end of the fuelling and washing queue, whilst new 4325 (SK68 TWW) prepares to depart straight back to Kent.

www.essexbus.org.uk 
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EBN658 outer rear cover