

Januray 1979.

A BELATED HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALLSOUTHEND COACH OPERATORSS & M Coaches - Castlepoint Bus Co.

S & M provide the bulk of the latest news again.

Just delivered is a new Plaxton Viewmaster bodied Leyland Leopard on the chassis of MED 270F, this is as yet unregistered.

Another acquisition is a new chassis type to S & M KYV 842K Seddon IV Plaxton C53F this carries the name Kennyland School on the boot.

Also TXJ 537K Leyland PSU5 Plaxton C57F ex GMPTE (Charterplan) No 50.

Castlepoint fleet has been expanded by the acquisition on no less 11 ex Nottingham Fleetlines:-

49 NAU	76 RTO	89 RTO	92 RTO
52 NAU	79 RTO	90 RTO	94 RTO
59 NAU(a)	84 RTO	93 RTO	

some of these have been noted in previous Newsheets, remainder new to the fleet.

- (a) 59 NAU's is being cannabalised for spares, the engine have been fitted to RCM 509 the ex Merseyside Fleetline. Deleted 77 RTO N/S 30.

Leyland PD2106 UTU ex GMPTE has been deroofed and is now withdrawn.

Leyland PDRI ABN 207B ex GMPTE was not used very long with Castlepoint, and is now being cannabalised.

Also withdrawn is ex Ribble Leyland PSU3/Plaxton ARN 787C.

Leyland LL 2717/8HJ have been loaned to Southend Transport (9v), therefore they have returned home, their former Fleet Numbers 206 are chalked on the paintwork near the entrance.

Channel Coachways.Acquired:-

HBW 874N	Bedford YRT	Plaxton	C53F
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Supreme Coaches

UPU 304R	now seats 37 plus tables.
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EASTERN NATIONAL

New vehicles at SD & HH

HH 1890

Transfers In

2825 HH ex D/L (D)	
2928 HH ex D/L (D)	
	2928 operating without fleetnumber
2922 HH ex BN	

HH Vehicles in works	1518, 1725, 3060, 2909 PL
	1817, 2896, 2907 - CW

On loan to HH CF2857, SD1552, 1770, 2850, 3006.

Transfers Out

3047BS ex HH
2801 O/L (L)

The bad weather over the New Year period caused problems, all services were suspended and late afternoon on 31/12/78 at BN. SD & HH (not Southend Transport). A skeleton service was operated on 1/1/79, due to defective buses, frozen-up & non-starters.

Unusual route workings.

18/12/78	BN 2886	R5
1/1/79	CF 1509	R400
7/1/79	WG 2911	R25A
13/1/79	BD 1500	R251 (2 man)
13/1/79	SD 2884	R4B
24/1/79	SD 2892	R400

FLF 2863 at PL being converted to OT.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

S.T. are still regularly covering EN (SD) mileage on routes 3, 5, 22, 22C also certain HH duties.

Due to a severe shortage of vehicles some interesting hirings have appeared from Reading Transport:-

288/9 NPD288/9G Bristol RELL Pennine
B36D + 35 - 289 later replaced by 292 NPD292G, after 289 broke down.
288 was also defective having caught fire at Fambridge.
Reading 284 was coming to Southend but never made it.
From Ensign have come ex Nottingham, Leyland, Atlanteans, ETO 464/70C with Metro Cammell H45/27D, these carry fleetnumbers 321/22, more are expected.
Stop Press 324 is ETO465C.

Route 27 continues to operate a variety of vehicles PD3, CRL, 206/7 (Castlepoint 11) Reading and open top PD3.

11/1/79 for instance had 2PD3 1CRL 1 Castlepoint and 1 Reading.

12/1/79 2PD3, 2 Reading, 1 MJN Saloon.

PD3 now appear regularly on route 1.

Unusual Route Workings:

5/12	216	R24	1/1	33/4	R4A
16/12	389	R5	6/1	201	R22A
	378	R3		203	R25A
9/12	Kemps DJ0630C	25.25A		204	R6A, 25A, 251
	Crew:		8/1	DJG630C	R1 OMO
23/12	" "	16 OMO	16/1	312	R2 Extrapots
			18/1	314	R2 "

PD3 Opentops 311 has reappeared from Tickfield Rd. freshly repainted.

Christmas Day operation on 400 to Kings Cross was operated by CRL and Boxing Day traffic to London necessitated 2 CRL on each timing probably a unique sight was a Boxing Day bus showing RELIEF.

Leopard 216/8 are out of service with defective engines.

PD3 344 is now withdrawn O/T PD3 is now in Tickfield Rd. with accident damage received at Wakering.

During the icy roads on 23/1 vehicles were unable to climb Crown Hill, Rayleigh, consequently buses on R1 were diverted via Carpenters Arms & Rayleigh.

Spur to regain their route at the Weir.

SOUTHEND BUSMAN

No 32

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS.

March '79.

New & secondhand vehicles are appearing for the forth coming season, noteable is the second Van Hool bodied Ford for Thorpe's Rayleigh.

A.P.T. BENFLEET.

Acquired:-

CTA 376L	Ford	R226	Plaxton	C53F
Sold: OEL 886G	Ford	R192	"	C49F
Current Fleet	VYH 495M	CTA 376L		

ISLAND Co'S - CANVEY.

Sold: NXD 257E	Bedford	VAS5	Plaxton	C29F
Current Fleet.	DYA 927J.	WVB 265G.	KJN 822E.	

THORPES - RAYLEIGH.

New 2/79

FHK 496T	Ford	R1114	Van Hool	C53F
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S & M COACHES - CASTLEPOINT BUS CO.

The rebodied Leyland Leopard is registered EHJ 76T - so good to see an old Southend registration on a local PSV.

An interesting article on S & M appeared in the Commercial Motor - 9/3/78.

Two more ex Grey Green vehicles have been acquired.

PGW 635/7L	Bedford YRQ	Plaxton	C45F
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Leyland Leopards 2717/8HJ are back from hire with Southend transport and have resumed school contracts from the Springfield cafe outstation. Vehicles are now also parked at a cafe near Carpenters Arms, Rayleigh.

Daimler CRG 52 NAU sold for scrap ex Merseyside Daimler RCM 509 is withdrawn.

Sold: Leylands UTU 105/6 and Leopard/Plaxton PJH 453H.

WATTS - LEIGH.

Acquired:

WOV 20J	AEC Reliance	Caetano	C53F
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Sold: FPT 661G

COOK - WESTCLIFF.

Sold: NSP 850H	AEC Reliance	Plaxton	C53F
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Current Fleet - FMG 985B	NRO 149D
YHJ 104J	OJT 407J
TKL 459N	TKL 460N
SNM 73R	

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Currently on ST premises are one or two noteable strangers.

In London Rd. are Brighton Transport Leyland's 32/5 LCD132/5F awaiting conversion to open-top for Brighton, and in Tickfield Rd. is 80 HBC Leyland PD3 ex Leicester 80 this is thought to be awaiting conversion to a play bus, along with Blackpool Leyland PD3 YFR 351.

ST are still covering duties of EN garages at Southend & Hadleigh.

Leyland PD3 335 - rear indicates painted over.

Unusual Route Workings

17/2	376	R3	2 man
23/2	346	R1	

/over...

Stranger noted in S & M paintshop on 10/5 was Eastern National Bristol VRT - 3053 LJN 648P being prepared for an overall Advert for Phillips.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT.

Unusual Route Workings:-

1/4	335	R5A	unusual appearance of PD3 on Sunday.
16/4	203	R5A	
3/5	389	R5	2 man
	357	R3	2 man
8/5	321	R5A	

Leopard 218 MJN 218F has reappeared in service again, but 216/7 are still delicensed at Tickfield Rd., together with accident damaged Fleetlines 363/6.

Local press reports state that the bridges in Thorpe Hall Avenue, Hall Rd., Hawkwell and Hockley Spa Rd. will have to have the roads lowered before the forthcoming Leyland Titans can be operated on the routes concerned.

Open Top 313 was used by Billericay F.C. when they went on a Victory Tour after winning the F.A. Vase again!!

PD3 340 was used on a private excursion to the Brighton Coach Rally.

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2/3	DJG 630C	R3A	
	324	R24	2 man
4/3	384	R3	2 man (a rare 2 man seven day working).

EASTERN NATIONAL

New vehicles in the area are:-

LN'S	1893/4/5	SD
	1900	HH

1900 replaced FLF 2928 now D/L (d)

It is reported that an LH worked a late night journey on the 400 recently, if anyone could confirm this would they please let me have the details (address below).

Unusual Route Workings

5/2	HHL890	R5	2 man
3/3	BN1852	R24	
11/3	SD1814	R400	
	BN1808	R400	
17/3	BD1508	R251	2 man

Newly converted open topper 2301 RHK 348D is now complete and has joined 2300 in the coach garage at Prittlewell.

P.J. SNELL,
6 MANDEVILLE WAY,
BENFLEET,
ESSEX.

Tele. No. South Benfleet 53491.

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

July 1979

No. 34

Southend Coach operators have been busy acquiring vehicles and a very interesting selection have appeared.

COOK'S COACHES, WESTCLIFF.

Acquired	-	RYL 710R	Bedford YMT ex Grey Green.	Duple	C53F
		KJN 821E	Ford R226 ex Stevens (Four Seasons) Southend.	Duple	C53F
Sold	-	OJT 407J			

UMBH, SOUTHEND.

Acquired	-	LHE 499P 4/79	AEC Reliance ex Randall Enterprises London 17.	Plaxton	C57F
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COOK (HIGEWAY CO'S) LEIGH.

Acquired	-	SNO 777K	Ford R226 ex Wiffen Finchingfield.	Plaxton	C53F
Sold	-	OJU 366F			

MANN (ISLAND CO'S) CANVEY ISLAND.

Acquired	-	PGW 649L	Bedford YRQ Grey Green.	Plaxton	C45F
Sold	-	KJN 822E			

THORN COACHES, RAYLEIGH.

Sold	-	KJN 821E			
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STEVENS (FOUR SEASONS) SOUTHEND

Acquired	-	EUR 314K	Ford R226	Plaxton	C53F
Sold	-	KJN 821E			

BUTTON - HADLEIGH.

Acquired	-	OJU 366F	Bedford VAL70 ex Highways, Leigh	Plaxton	C52F
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RUNNYMEDE SWIMMING CLUB, BENFLEET.

JHF 822	Leyland PDRI	Weymann	H75F
Orig	ex Merseyside PTE, but acquired from Lodge High, Easter.		

SNOW, GT. WAKERING.

Acquired	-	OJT 407J	Bedford SB5 ex Cook, Westcliff.	Duple	C41F
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FROST & HEATH, LEIGH.

Acquired	-	HRO 654C	Bedford SB13 ex Whitwell, Southend.	Duple	C41F
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S & M, CASTLEPOINT.

Acquired 6/79	PGW 657L	Leyland PSU3B/4R ex Grey Green 6/79.	Plaxton	C49F
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SOUTHEND BUSMAN

No. 33

MAY 1979.

Southend Coach Operators latest news, P. Cox (Crown of Benfleet)

Benfleet acquired MPB 21P Bedford YMT Plaxton C53F.

Sold GME 981J - Channel Coachways.

CHANNEL COACHWAYS - SOUTHEND AIRPORT.

Acquired:- EME 981J Bristol LHL6G

Sold NEK20K British Air Ferries.

STEPHENSON - HULLBRIDGE.

Acquired:- RCG 698M Bedford YRT Duple C53F

THORN'S COACHES - RAYLEIGH.

New 3/79 PHK 496T Ford R1114 Van Hool C53F

FROST & HEATH - LEIGH.

Acquired:- OEF 136K Ford R226 Plaxton C53F

UMBH - SOUTHEND.

Sold: OVW 780P Ford AO609 Tricentrol C52F
OWC 169P

APT - THUNDERSLEY.

Correction: CTA 376 is R1114 not R226

CONROY (TARPOTS CO's) - BENFLEET.

Sold: GJU 774D Bedford VASI Duple C29F

Current Fleet: KKK 364G

CURRENT FLEETS.

M & E Coaches - Southend.

DEF 217D	Bedford SB5	Duple	C41F
CUW 562C	AEC Reliance	Harrington	C41F
OHH 977G	Bedford J2SZ	Plaxton	C21F
SNM 244J	Ford R192	Willowbrook.	DP45F

WHITWELL (SOUTHEND COACHES) SOUTHEND.

CNY 620J	Seddon IV	Plaxton	C51F
HRO 654C	Bedford SB13	Duple	C41F

FROST & HEATH - LEIGH.

NFA 163G	Ford R226	Plaxton	C52F
OEF 145K	Ford R226	Plaxton	C53F
OEF 136K	Ford R226	Plaxton	C53F
AMC 731A	Bedford SB8	Plaxton	C41F

CASTLEPOINT & S & M COACHES.

EHJ 76T & JNK 561N were at Brighton Coach Rally.

Leyland PSU5 TXJ 537K carries Fleetnumber No 4.

Acquired:- TXJ 538K Leyland PSU5 Plaxton C53F
ex Charterplan (GMPTE) 51.

Carries Fleet number 2.

Leyland PSU3 Leopard PJH 453H which was sold recently has been acquired by East Staffordshire District Council, which incidently is their first Coach.

Vehicle sold - FCU 829 Daimler/Roe H63RD

The following are used as sources of spares:-

ARN 787C	Leyland/Plaxton
ABN 207B	Leyland PDRI/1/East Lancs.
RCM 409	Daimler CRG6LX/Weymann.

AEC Regent 6972 ND acquired from Mayre of Manchester and subsequently sold by Castlepoint is still giving yeoman service with the Vintage Bus Service, London, now drastically rebuilt with open staircase bodywork.

Leyland PD2105UTU has returned to its homeland and is being restored to its former glory with Thameside Railway Club.

Bedford YRQ PGW 635L has now been returned ex loan from dealers, and Bedford SB5 Duple C45F TPR 205L has been used, again only on loan.

Grey Green Group, regular visitors to the 'seaside' with excursions from various parts of London, has provided local fleets with a good source of secondhand vehicles. In recent years we have seen Leyland L2/Harrington 434 FXX with Conroy - Benfleet and sister vehicle 432 FXX which had a short spell with Southend Transport, Stock of Hockley bought Bedford VAM/Duple JUV 522D in 1971. Recent acquisitions have brought Bedford YMT RYL 710R to Cooks at Westcliff and Mann (Island Coaches) on Canvey have Bedford YRQ PGW 649L. Finally S & M Coaches has Bedford VAS/Duple MUV 632L, YRQ PGW 637L and Leyland Leopard JRK 623K currently in service and was recently using YRQ PGW 635L on loan, and as I write this article yet another "GG" - Leyland Leopard PGW 657L is on school contract work.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

At long last the fleetlines are appearing albeit not in service yet, first was 221 XTE 221V. Daimler Northern Counties bodywork.

One of the Open-toppers was at Goodwood for the British Grand Prix, being used on an advertising campaign, 312 is thought to be the vehicle concerned.

Unusual Route Workings:-

27/5	347	R1	15/7	2D1	R5A	2 man
6/6	357	R5				

With effect from 22nd July the four EN Bristol FLF open-toppers are on hire to Southend Transport to maintain route 67.

ODDS & ENDS.

Western National (Royal Blue) vehicles now work the 115 service to Ilfracombe from Southend on Saturdays, it is presumed the vehicle works dead from London on Friday evening coaches seen 3519 YDV 189S and 3527 AFJ 695T.

On 29/6 Alder Valley 78, MPM 388P was seen working into Southend on a National holiday tour.

July 1st saw LT National LSL27 on an excursion to Southend, "well it makes a change from an RM or DMS".

An interesting Midland Red Vehicle on the Saturday - National service to Birmingham is ex Haiper Bros Leyland 2255 MRF 420L Duple C45F.

An unusual visitor to Southend on 22/7 was Vintage Bus Co. - London XRY 201, an open staircase veteran style Leyland PD.

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

September 1979

No. 35

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS:

Supreme - Hadleigh

Acquired	SEL 132R	Ford	R1114	Plaxton	C53F
		ex A.C.	Bournemouth.		
New	GHJ 773T	Ford	R1114	Plaxton	C37F + Tables

This vehicle is used by Southend United F.C. as Team Coach.

Bedford VAL - BNW 636C appeared in the Southend Area in 1974 and since then has had several owners, Channel Coachways, M & E Jones, Debnam, Canvey and finally is now currently with Wiggins (Builder) Thundersley for Staff Transport.

Correction to Newsheet 34 - Thorn, Rayleigh sold vehicle is NPU 922P.

"That other bus route", the only route in the area not operated by the big 2. The route in question Southend Airport - Rochford Stn, maintained by Channel Coachways is still being operated by ex Western National, Bristol SUL/ECW, B33F 275 KTA which incidently still carries the original WN Fleetnumber plate 1225. Occasionally other Channel Vehicles can be seen on the road and also some strangers notable have been Southend Transport 215 & Frost - Leigh Bedford SE AMC 731A.

S & M - Castlepoint Bus Co.

Acquired:MAH 990L	Bedford SB5	Duple	C45F
	carries Fleetnumber 10		
FVA 626K	AEC Reliance	Duple	C53F
	this was previously with S & M.		
Leopard TXJ 538K carries Fleetnumber 9.			

Current Fleet Lists.

CONROY (Tarpots Co's) Benfleet

KNK 364G	Bedford VAS5	Duple	C29F
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Watts - Leigh

WOV 20J	AEC Reliance	Caetano	C53F
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Kemp - Rochford.

CJG 630C	AEC Reliance	Park Royal	C49F
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Whitwell Co's - Southend.

CNY 620J	Seddon IV	Plaxton	C51F
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Stevens (4 Seasons) - Southend.

HNK 156G	Leyland PSU3/4R	Plaxton	C51F
EUR 314K	Ford R226	Plaxton	C53F

National Express Services have been operated this year as follows:-

- 115. Royal Blue.
- 125. Heddingham Omnibuses (H.O.).
- 126. EN or S & M Co's.
- 124. S & M or H.O. (Sats) EN F.S.U.M.
- 120. EN & S & M.
- 113. Harris Grays or EN.
- 127/9 EN
- 128. EN & Southern Vectis

/over....

- 130. EN
- 130. (Bognor) S & M.
- 122. Grey Green.
- 136. EN (1200 Class).
- 134. EN
- 119. Orange Co's.
- 609. N.T (SW).
- 599. Midland Red.

Alder Valley usually operate the National Holiday feeder and excursions are usually operated by EN, S & M and Southend Transport.

SOUTH ND TRANSPORT

With the arrival of the ten new Leylands 221 - 230 XTE 221-30V, the withdrawal took place, of the four ex Nottingham vehicles and PD3'S 333/5/8/41/3/4 leaving 334/40/2/5-7 to soldier on, 340 was on hire to Auro Co's, Stanford on 13/9.

Unusual Route Workings:-

15/7 201 R5A 2 man 9/9 311 R67

It is reported that the 12 Leyland Titans on order have been cancelled, and in place 12 Fleetlines, which will not be bodied until 1981.

Leopard 217 is now back in service.

EASTERN NATIONAL

With a shortage of OMO vehicles at Hadleigh Crew FLF have been operating on 21.23A.24.25.

Semi FLF are being overhauled and repainted, latest dealt with 2924 & 2944.

Tesco OOA. 2927 is scheduled for routes 2 & 151, but has also operated on 3 & 5. This vehicle was in the Basildon Carnival on Bank Holiday, Monday.

Recent loans at HH have included SD1807, SD, 2725, SD2825, CF1728.

The HH FLF 2849 which is in immaculate condition, a credit to the staff concerned, has attended various rallies this year, notable of which have been Enfield, Southend, Maidstone, London and Hillingden.

Unusual Route Workings:-

21/7	BN 3051	R22	16/9	SD3042	R5	2 man
	BD 1506	R251				
22/8	CF 3018	R400				

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

November 1979

No 36.

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS.

A new operator in the area has revived a famous name in local coaching circles, I refer to Victoria Coaches, older readers will recall the large contract fleet once based at the Elms Hotel, now occupied by Supreme Coaches, with ex London Transport STL'S Leeds Corporation Regents with the unique domed roofs and Ribble Cheetahs and various rebodied Leyland TD type coaches, in later days Victoria started a London commuter service, but alas this was shortlived. The new operator, albeit with only one vehicle at present, which is usually parked at Southend Airport has GME 981J Bristol LHL6L Plaxton C53F purchased from Channel Coachways.

This Newsheet also records the first Mercedes coach and the first 'V reg' in the area.

SUPREME COACHES - HADLEIGH.

Some vehicles are now being garaged in Guildford Rd., Southend, in the old Nicholls Coaches later Harris - Grays premises.

New Vehicle.

LHK 644V Ford RL114 Plaxton C53F

M & E Jones - Rochford.

Acquired:-

UNK 606E AEC Reliance Plaxton C40F
ex Cheldan Coaches, Great Wakering.

WHITWELL COACHES - SOUTHEND.

Acquired:-

YXD 386H Mercedes 0302 Mercedes C47F
APT 416B Bedford J25210 Plaxton C20F

S & M COACHES - CASTLEPOINT BUS CO.

Acquired:-

RAR 680J Leyland Plaxton C53F
PSU3A/4R

Vehicle Sold.

RCM 509 (AAG 312B) Daimler CRGBLX Massey H74F also out of use at the Springfield Cafe is Bristol VRL - ECW LRN 52J and delicensed at Hadleigh is ABN 208B Leyland PDRL/1 East Lancs H78F.

"8966 VW" an AEC Reliance with Harrington C41F is now the oldest coach in the area, in daily use on school contracts, currently operated by Rodney Hallums it dates from 1960. Purchased new by Harris, Grays was operated by them until 1974 when it was sold to M & E Jones, Rochford who used it on all types of work until sold to its present owner in January of this year.

Odds & Ends.

Unusual visitor seen in EN London Rd. Garage was Midland Red Leyland Leopard 219 JHA219L on 29th October.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Hadleigh Transfers.

2817 HH to Hd
2913 BN to HH
1515 HH to SE
1207 PL to HH
1553 D/L to HH with towing bracket equipment.
1506 MN on loan to HH.

Bedford 1207 was on loan to HH for one day on Thursday 13th Sept and operated routes 21, 23A, 24 and one round on route 3, 1207 was then transferred on 2nd

November and its first journey was on route 1.

HH 1737. 1546. 3045 all D/L at CW & PL and 1533, 1710, 1801 are on loan to HH.

The transfer of RELL. 1515 from BS to HH was only temporary, later moving on to SE.

AEC Matador recovery 7198 RO is out of use at HH due to lack of spares.

On Sunday 14th October the Leyland National on service 402 broke down at Grays and was replaced by London Country LN. SNB 223.

Chelmsford depot Bristol FLF's are operating Rail Replacement at weekends from Leigh to Pitsea.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT.

Fleetlines 370-3 are to be converted to open-top for the 1980 season.

Leyland PD3's have returned to route 27 while the Fleetlines are at Darlington.

The 'V reg' Fleetlines appear now on all routes and also accompany EN FLF's on weekend rail replacement.

Southend Transport are still covering EN Southend and District mileage on routes 2, 3, 5, 5A, 22, 22C, 24, 25, 25A, 27, 151, 251, the journeys on 2 and 151 to Tarpots and 251 to Rayleigh (Carpenters Arms).

Unusual Route Working.

201 - R5 2 man - 0659 ex Shobury, this journey always arrives at Benfleet Station with a standing load on a decker, "heavens knows what happened this day".