

S O U T H E N D B U S M A N

No 42

JAN - FEB 1981

LOCAL COACH OPERATORS

New and second hand vehicles are appearing as operators prepare for the forthcoming summer season, notably is a Volvo/Plaxton for Supreme Coaches, this is the first of this type of chassis in the area.

Fleet changes:-

P.Cox (Crown Coaches) Benfleet

UHH 45S Bedford CF Reeves-Reebur C17F

Supreme (Abridge) Hadleigh

UNO 823W Volvo B58 Plaxton C53F

XPP 415S Ford R1114 Duple C53F

S & M Coaches - Castlepoint Bus Co.

2 NJF 674P Leyland PSU5A/4R Duple C57F

10 PRO 363H Bedford VAS5 Duple C29F
JUV 542D Bedford VAM14 Duple C45F
UNK 612E AEC Reliance Plaxton C49F

Ref Newsheet 41 - MTM should read MTM4P and delete ORO 363H.

The first ex Leicester B3, GRV49D has now received the Red/Cream livery of Castlepoint Bus.

M & E Jones - Rochford.

YNK 631F Bedford VAL70 Plaxton C52F

Stevens - Southend

JNK 545N AEC Reliance Plaxton C57F

Stephensons Coaches of Hullbridge are operating a new service between Hullbridge and Romford on Wednesday and Friday - more details later.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

The 609 service has now been increased to five journey's per day, leaving Southend at 6, 9 a.m. 12 noon, 3 and 6 p.m., the 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. journeys apparently operate direct from Benfleet (Tarpots corner) to Victoria Coach Station, the same thing happening on the 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. ex Victoria.

The Holyhead service 928 has been increased by additional journey to and from Birmingham each day.

A very unusual visitor to Southend on the 609 on 31st January was a Thomas Llangadog Leyland PSU4B/4 - Plaxton C49F - FRC49L ex Trent working on hire to National Express.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

With effect from 16th February, Reading Transport suspended their share of the X1 service resulting in Southend operating to Heathrow Airport, Leyland Leopard 207 was the last St vehicle to leave Reading, with Reading Metrobus 162 the last from Southend.

X1 bus stops have appeared between Southend and Vange (Five Bells).

Nearly all vehicles are now carrying external advertising for the X1 and

Over

Leopards 201/2 and 205-8 are carrying orange broadside route details.

Double Deckers appeared on X1 on 8/1/81, 370 and 352 on 19/1/81, the first to cover for a special promotion by Reading between there and London, the double decker was needed for the extra passengers, but 352 covered for a single decker shortage.

Reading have used their two Leyland Titans 68/9 recently through to Southend.

Open-top Fleetlines have been seen on route 62 and school duplicates on route 1.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT DISPOSALS

314 (PHJ 953)	-	S. Kaye Edmonton (preservation)
333 (CJN 433C)	-	Barraclough (breaker) Carlton 11/80.
341 (CJN 441C)	-	Hagarty & Beesley Southend for preservation 10/80.

The remaining Leyland PD3 - 345 - 7 MHJ 345-7F are all currently still in service.

Ex London Transport DMS Class Fleetlines are being attended to by ST at Tickfield Road on behalf of Ensign Bus Sales, reportedly for export to Kowloon.

Local press reports state that ST are endeavouring to cut future vehicle orders and to refurbish current vehicles for a longer life.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Local Depots Fleet Changes:-

2901	HH ex CF	2983/2904	D/L ex SD
2894	HH ex SD	2909/10	D/L ex HH

VRT 3012 is now back in service at SD.

New Bristol VR 3083-5 STW27-9W are all allocated to SD.

Further work at Southend depot has been converted to OMO, the 22 group of services and certain Journeys on route 5 to Benfleet. All routes with exception of 251, are OMO on Sundays, hence the very restricted use in the Southend area of Bristol FLF.

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

No - 43
MARCH - APRIL 1981

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS

Acquired Vehicles:-

Channel Coachways - Southend Airport

VYL 851S Bedford YMT Van Hool C53F

APT - Thundersley

JKV 416S Bedford YMT Plaxton C53F
Sold VYH 495M

Whalley - Thundersley

SHJ 510W Ford Transit C11
Hallums (Ronda Coaches) - Prittlewell

WOV 20J AEC Reliance Caetano C53F
Sold ATV 50B

S & M - Castlepoint Bus Co.

New Vehicle:-

WEV 465W Bedford CF

Acquired Vehicles:-

XRW 511S Leyland PSU5C/4R Plaxton C50F
GRY 56D PD3A/1 Park Royal H74R

The chassis of ex Southend 206/7 2717/8HJ have been purchased by Horlock - Northfleet. 2717HJ has now been rebuilt and fitted with a 1969 Plaxton C41F body and reregistered OKE 791W.

Leyland PD3 CJF72C has been withdrawn after being involved in a fatal accident. GRY56D was purchased from Leicester as a replacement.

Bristol RELH/Plaxton JNK 561N has been refurbished and fitted with a current style of frontend by Plaxtons. Bedford VAM JUV 542D carries fleetnumber 13.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

Service 609 (Southend - London Vic), the 6 am & 6 pm from Southend and 9 am & 9 pm from Victoria now operate via Romford and Basildon.

The new summer services operate from 17th May (609) and Spring Bank holiday the following:-

112	Clacton - Exeter - Brixham	Fri night - Sat	EN Biss Bros & Harris
113	Southend " "	"	
114	Sudbury " "	"	
115	Southend - Minehead	Sats	EN & Grey Green
120	" - Brighton	Sats	EN
123	" - South Coast	Fri Sun	EN & Southdown
124	" - Margate - Ramsgate	Sats	EN
125	" - Colchester - Gt.Yarmouth	Sats	EN
126	" - Bournemouth	Sats	EN
127	Brentwood - South Ockendon - Basildon - Clacton/Dovercourt.	Sats	EN
128	Southend - Isle of Wight	Sats	EN & Southern Vectis
131-3	Dover/Ramsgate - Essex Coast/Yarmouth	Sats	EK & M&D
194	London - Basildon - Clacton	Daily	EN
129	Sth Ockendon - Gt.Yarmouth	Sats	EN
130	Southend - Bognor Regis - Portsmouth	Sats	EN & Southdown
119	Bury St Edmunds - Basildon	Sats	ECOC
136	Ipswich - Basildon - Dymchurch	Sats	Grey Green
207	Jarrow - Sunderland - Southend	Daily	United Auto?
928	Southend - Birmingham - Holyhead	Daily	Midland Red
134	Ramsgate - Clacton	Sats	EN
189	Southend - Bishops Stortford	Daily	Biss Bros

238 Rotherham - Southend
137 Croydon - Gt. Yarmouth
138 Croydon - Clacton/Walton

Sats
Sats
Sats

N.T(E)
Green Line
" "

National Express have competition from Southend and Basildon area this summer from Harris Coaches and Supreme Travel who are going to operate a new network of express services from early May to September, these services originate from Shoeburyness and Southend to Clacton, Walton, Lowestoft, Gt Yarmouth, Sheringham, Margate/Ramsgate, Hastings, Eastbourne, Gatwick, Bognor Regis, Southampton, Bournemouth and the Isle of Wight.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Certain fleetlines are now receiving T type offside adverts, 397 advertises Bendwick Lighting, Westcliff.

Leopard Coaches have been operating on hire to S & M Coaches for the Pullman Kellogg contract.

Disposals

206/7 - 2717/8HJ Horlock, Northfleet (chassis only).
312 PHJ951 Ensignbus (Fleet) Grays

Fleetline open-toppers have been making infrequent appearances on Southend Town services.

EASTERN NATIONAL

More new Bristol VR'S have appeared at Southend 3086-90 STW30-34W, these are operating on the 22 group of services and have appeared on route 3. Jubilee bus 3048 operated from SD during March on service 11 and it appeared at the Model Collectors Extravaganza at Rayleigh on 28th March. 3048 moved to Hadleigh for April and is seeing service on 23A. 24 & 26 (OMO) and 3.5.5A & 14 (crew). This year Sunday 5th April saw 3048 together with 3045 on railway service between Southend and Rochford.

With the arrival of more VR'S at Southend the numbers of the Bristol FLF were thinned, with five being withdrawn from SD. Southend's remaining FLF'S are now generally allocated to route 251 until June when WG depot closes and the 251 becomes fully OMO. This service will then operate Southend, Walthamstow. Brentwood have also lost their FLF'S being replaced by VR's. Hadleigh still have a sizeable fleet of FLF's being used on services 3.5.5A.

The HIGHWAYMAN services 800-7 are operated by PL & DT, PL supplying white coaches without N.Exp banners and DT using a Bedford DP.

Allocations

3020 - HH to HD

3025 - HD to SD

3048 - SD to HH

3086-90 - D/L to SD

2892/2903/ - SD to D/L

21/7/9

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

N O 44

May - June 1981

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS

Acquired Vehicles

P. C. Cox (Crown Co's) Benfleet.

MHP 14V Bedford YMT Plaxton C53F

Sold MPB21P

FROST & HEATH - LEIGH

YHJ 104J Ford R226 Plaxton C53F

ex Cook - Westcliff

STEPHENSON - HULLBRIDGE

SGS505W Bedford YMT Duple C53F

NEW

UMBH - SOUTHEND

VNK 918J Ford R226 Duple C53F

FFG 982V Bedford VAS5 Duple C29F

CHANNEL COACHWAYS - SOUTHEND AIRPORT

MFU 196F Bedford VAL70 Duple C53F

INDEPENDENT SERVICE IN THE JOINT AREA

Stephenson Coaches of Hullbridge are now running a Wednesday only service from Lower Hockley - Hullbridge - Rayleigh to Romford (Market), consisting of one return journey, leaving Dome Caravan Site at 09.00 hrs, returning from Romford at 1400 hrs.

STEPHENSON CURRENT FLEET

LKJ 478P Bedford YRT Duple C53F

ex A.C. Travel - Northfleet.

RCG 698M Bedford YRT Duple C53F

ex Button - Titchfield Common

SGS 505W Bedford YMT Duple C53F

NATIONAL EXPRESS

EN (PL) vehicles are used on the 609 Southend - London with South Wales drivers. PL 1405/11 and Southdown RUF 819H are the regular vehicles on this service. EN (PL) drivers operate the 1100 SD - London and the 1400 London - Swansea (service 660) and return following day at 0930 Swansea. LDN and the 1600 LDN - SD (609).

S & M Coaches operate the 126 SD - Bournemouth and 120 SD - Brighton on Saturdays for EN. Heddingham Omnibuses operate 115 SD - Minehead.

Prittlewell depot now stables vehicles from Midland Red, Southern Vectis, Southdown, United Auto and South Wales, on lay over from Express services.

United Auto vehicles used on the 207 Jarrow - Southend are Leyland Leopard/Plaxton 10XX class.

NATIONAL HOLIDAYS

Towns originating from Southend, are operated by vehicles from Eastern Counties, Alder Valley, United Auto with Maidstone and District supplying tour feeders.

/over....

EASTERN NATIONAL

With the service revisions taking place on the 14th June, the ranks of the Bristol FLF vehicles was drastically reduced. Only five are now licensed at Hadleigh for service 3. The new VR's at HH are basically for service 5. Southend VR's now appear on the 402 SD - London (Victoria) via Dartford on weekends.

AREA TRANSFERS

3045	HH	to	Cf	3024	SD	to	HH
1537	HH	to	CN	3057	WG	to	SD
1538	HH	to	CR	3075	WG	to	SD
1735	SD	to	HH				
2894/9/2900/1/24	HH	to	DL				
2918/20/3/7/30/1/46	SD	to	D/L				

All Open-Toppers were licensed for Derby Day only, KSW O/T 2382 is allocated to SD for rallying.

Unusual Working:-

1/5	WG	2914	Rte 5	1/5	HH	2894	Rte 152
13/6	SD	3072	Rte 402				

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

The new Fleetlines have started to be delivered, although at present none have appeared in service.

During the recent industrial dispute at Reading Transport, ST operated journeys on X1 to Heathrow Airport only, through timings were resumed on the 16th June when Reading re-started working normally.

Sea-front services at Southend this year have been altered with ST working on the 68 Shoebury - Leigh with Fleetline open -toppers and the 67 this year terminating at Southend Pier from Cluny Square, normal service cars being used on this route.

On the 9th June 365 was operating on hire to Lesney - Rochford for staff transport.

Disposals - 311 PHJ 950 Melody Inns London 5/81
346 MHJ 346F Training School North Weald 5/81

ODDS AND ENDS

26th May as industrial dispute on the Shoebury - Fenchurch Street line of British Rail, resulted in bus services operating to stations on the Southend-Liverpool Street line ST supplied many vehicles, helped out by two ex Western SMT Fleetlines DSD 750/2D of Lewingtons.

United Counties Bristol VR 942 noted in Southend on 17th May on private hire duties.

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

No.45

July - August 1981

Southend Coach Operators:-

Two outstanding vehicles have appeared in the area, notable of which is Kirbys of Rayleigh magnificent Setra that was exhibited at the 1980 Motor Show at Birmingham, the other is another first, a DAF/ Van Hool of Thornes of Rayleigh.

Acquired vehicles

Channel Coachways - Southend Airport
HNK156G Leyland PSV3A/4R Plaxton C51F
ex Four Seasons (Stevens) Southend.

New Vehicles

Kirbys, Rayleigh
WNO 115W Kassbohrer S215HD Kassbohrer C47DT

Thornes, Rayleigh
WVW63W DAF MB200 DTK Van Hool C53F

Sold Vehicles

UMBH Southend
GNL709D Bedford VASI Plaxton C29F

Four Seasons, Southend.
HNK156G Leyland PSV3A/4R Plaxton C51F

EASTERN NATIONAL

Bristol FLF's finally made their bow from the Southend area on Saturday 1st August when HH2944 worked on route 3 all day, and was well supported by Group Members on the final journey.

Increase loadings on the 402 Southend - London (Victoria) has resulted in D/P Bristol VRT's appearing, and similarly on the 400, duplicates have been used, supplied by SD. BD and BN using normal VRT's and LN's.

Vehicle movements:-

3102/3/7/9 new to HH	2897/2925/43 HH to D/L (D)
3007 SD to HH	1300 new coach to SD
3104/5 new to SD.	
1939 SD to CF.	
3036 BS to SD.	

Prittlewell depot closed on 8th August and all coaches transferred to Southend (London Road) 1404 was the final duty coach, and carried a sticker on the windscreen to this effect.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

Service 114 (Sudbury - Brixham) is operated by HD depot
Service 129 (South Cokendon - Great Yarmouth) is operated by Greenline from Grays depot.
Service 609 (Southend - London) is now operated solely by E.N. from SD, South Wales Transport are not now involved. The Southdown vehicle RUF819H is a regular coach on the 609, and from 29/7 to 1/8 due to a shortage of coaches at SD, LN2's 1937/8 were seen.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Leopard 200 was hired to Reliance Coaches, Benfleet on 21st June for school contract work.

Fleetline 379 was on hire to Lesney, Rochford on 10th August.

PD3. 347 MHJ347F finally saw service on Friday 31st July operating on routes 4 - 6 and lastly 1 to Rayleigh Station.

The General Manager has reported in the local press that service X1 is now profitable, and in fact duplicate vehicles have been required on certain timeings.

S & M COACHES CASTLEPOINT BUS CO.

The Leyland PD3 involved in the fatal accident reported in Newsheet 43 was 75c not 72C

Double Deckers withdrawn include the following:-

DAV442C

BRR241C

BRR242C

LRN52J

and all the ex. Nottingham Fleetlines

Ex E.N. Bristol FLF 183XNO was noted near Wethersfield on 15th August being converted into what appeared to be a mobile caravan.

Southend Busman is now offering a free advertising service for group members, so if anybody wishes to sell off thier wives, girlfriends mother-in-laws let us know, seriously though if you wish to dispose of any paraphanalialia or have special want in photos for example send full details to us at

6, Mandeville Way,
Benfleet,
Essex SS7 4LH

Advert 14

RAILWAY MAGAZINE JUNE 1970 - APRIL 1981 (inclusive)
offers to P.J. Snell (Address above)

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

NO. 46

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER, 1981

Southend Coach Operators

Stephensons, Hullbridge are now operating thier second stage service, operating Monday - Friday, from Basildon (Whitmore Way) - Town Centre - to Hockley (Eldon Way) with one return journey per day.

Stephenson new vehicle

AN0240X Bedford YNT Duple Dominant III

Supreme Coaches Hadleigh

Demonstrator on loan 9/81

JSJ434W Volvo Blom. 61 Plaxton C51F

Stevens (Four Seasons) Southend

Acquired ex Channel Coachways Southend VYL851S Bedford YMT. Van Hool C53F

Island Coaches Canvey Island

RLY478R Bedford YRT Plaxton C53F ex Fox - Hayes

S & M Coaches - Castlepoint Bus Co.

A wholesale clear out of withdrawn stock has resulted in the demise of all the ex Nottingham Fleetlines & DAV442C the ex Nottingham Atlantean and the two Renowns together with the long withdran Bristol VRELL LRN 52J. The double deck fleet now consists of ex Leicester PD3 and ex GMPTE ABN208B.

Eastern National

Area Transfers

3116/7 new to H H 3042/4 SD to D/L

3119/21/2 new to S D 3063 BN to S D

3007 H H to C R 3006/9 D/L

3014 H H to S D to D/L 3010 D/L

More O-M-O conversion have taken place at S D with route 27 and many town workings. At H H all service 5 except one round trip and other peak hour workings being converted. Crews at H H are confined to 3 (gv) and S D on 3 and 5. Railway engineering work on recent weekends between Southend (Victoria) and Rayleigh has resulted in EN/ST, VR's and Fleetlines respectively covering for the trains.

Unusual workings recently have seen HH 3109/16/7 on Private Hire to St. Albans on 3/10/81. HH 3102 attended the Norwich Bus Rally.

On 17th October Highwayman 804 failed at Colchester on the return journey and was replaced by Colchester RELL - 1512

Unusual Workings

13/9 SD3071 Rte. 61 62

BD1839 Rte. 251

3/10 BN1550 Rte 400

HH3097 Rte. 404

4/10 SD3072 Rte. 27

Continental Southend

Continental bodywork has over the years produced a variety of shapes and designs in the Southend area. Kirbys Rayleigh their Kassehohrer bodies probably the most unusual. Mercedes have been represented by only one vehicle namely YXD386H with Whitwell. S & M Coaches purchased an unusual Ayats body on Leyland PSU5/1R OEV771P but due to difficulties obtaining a Certificate was sold to an operator in Eire.

Caetano bodies have been in the fleets of Watts - Leigh WOV20J an A.E.C. Reliance, purchased from Brewer St Albans this is now operated by Hallams (Ronda Co's) Prittlewell. Another A.E.C. Reliance RJN122M was purchased by Channel Coachways in 1974 but sold after a few months to an operator in Luton. Thorns of Rayleigh operate two 53 seat Ford R1114 RVW88M. FRO289R, the former of which is now sold. UMBH had Bedford VAS5 FUT518L with 29 seats and S & M Coaches operated Bedford YRT. JKM441L and Bedford VAS HWW242J and finally Channel had Bedford YRT KBM35N.

Van Hool bodywork has to date only produced four vehicles, Stevens (Four Seasons) has VYL851S a Bedford YMT exchanged recently with Channel Coachways HNK156G. Thorns of Rayleigh have Ford R1114 OEV950T = FHK496T the former built in Ireland by Van Hool. McCardle and Thorn's newest vehicle DAF VVV63W.

National Express

The summer timetable having now been suspended resulting in a reduced 609 service (109 from 1.11.81). The afternoon journey on service 928 (0800Hrs. Birmingham - Southend and 1500 Hrs return) is withdrawn. Service 207 Southend - Jarrow is still operating.

ADVERT

NEGATIVES (1" Square KODAK VP127 B/W FILMS) of buses and coaches NBC. SBG and few independents and municipals for sale 5p each. S.A.E. for list and negatives supplied on approval.

TIMETABLES mainly NBC, please state operator(s) you are interested in S.A.E. please

To: D. Blumson Esq.,
6, Wolves Lane,
Palmer's Green,
London N13 6DR

RJS10/81/200

SOUTHEND BUSMAN

NO.47

NOV - DEC 1981

Southend Coach Operators

The proprietor of Blue Bird Coaches of Hadleigh, George Parsons has decided to retire, the one vehicle is reported to have been sold to Reliance Coaches, Benfleet. The Parsons family have been associated with local transport for many years. Mr Parsons' father Philip was owner of the Royal Blue Car Company with a garage at 1A, Tylers Avenue, Southend running charabancs, buses and taxis. Together with two partners Hall & Keen arranged to run a daily bus service between Southend and London (Stepney), under the title of London and Southend Central Motor Services. In December 1924 they licensed a Daimler 'Y' 042RO XW5644, later joined by similar vehicle HJ4671.

Operations began in 1925, the service numbered 359 by the Metropolitan Police. Trouble was encountered at the Southend end of the route resulting in a minimum fare being charged inside the Borough boundary. The route followed basically the A13 to Barking, where most journeys terminated on weekdays. The fate of the service is not known, but disappeared in 1926 the two Daimlers were transferred to Royal Blue Car duties. This business later sold out to Westcliff-on-Sea, Mr Parsons and the secretary of Central, W.E. Prine started the business of Victoria Coaches of Leigh, who will be remembered for their very varied fleet throughout the years.

M & E Coaches Rochford.

Acquired

HNK 164G Leyland PSU3 Plaxton C53F

S & M Coaches - Castlepoint Bus Co.

One further double decker recently disposed of is ex Leicester PD3 CJF75C this was the vehicle involved in the fatal accident at Runwell. JNK547N Leyland PSU5A/4R Duple C53F was recently stolen from the parking area at Corringham and abandoned at East Tilbury, when it burst into flames. The vehicle was a complete write off.

In newsheet 46 it stated that all the ex Nottingham Fleetlines had been withdrawn however 94RTO is still in service.

M & P Hire, Thundersley

SHJ510W Ford Transit ex Whalley Thundersley

Snow, Gt Wakering

LEV102P Bedford YRT Duple C53F ex Ford Althorne 8/81

In the article in newsheet 46 on continental bodied vehicles KBM35N is now owned by Four Seasons Coaches, and VYL851S is still owned by Channel Coachways.

Southend Transport

Disposals

374 CJN434C currently parked at garage on Bread and Cheese Hill, Thundersley. 12/81
200 2718HJ Thomas West Ewell being prepared for service fitted with Plaxton body (728980) from WLO692

SHEET 2

Eastern National

Area Transfers

1530	SD	to	CN	3010	SD	to	D/L
1541	HH	to	CF	3014	HH	to	SD
1552	SD	to	D/L				
1720	SD	to	HH				
1721	SD	to	BN				
1857	BE	to	HH				

Hadleigh depot scheduled duplicated journeys

SER 1	1249	Hadleigh (Vic. House Corner) - Rayleigh (High St.) (Wed)
SER 3	0735	Canvey Leigh Beck - Canvey Ind. Est.
SER 3	0759	Canvey Ind. Est. - Southend (Vic. Cir.)
SER 3	0819	Hadleigh Church - Bournes Green
SER 3	1230	Furtherwick Pk. Sch. - King Canute, Canvey
SER 3	1515	Wm. Reed Sch. - Leigh Beck
SER 3	1525	Wm. Reed Sch. - Leigh Beck
SER 3	1540	Canvey Ind. Est. - Leigh Beck (Fridays Only)
SER 3	1555	Furtherwick Pk. Sch. - King Canute
SER 3	1557	Hadleigh (Waggon & Horses) - Benfleet Station.
SER 5	0749	Tarpots Corner - Bournes Green
SER 24	1535	Thundersley, Woodmans - Hadleigh Church
SER 24	1550	Thundersley Woodmans - Hadleigh Church

Current Fleet

Snow Gt. Wakering

NPU 842M	Ford Transit	12
OJT 407J	Bedford SB5	Duple C41F
LEV 102P	Bedford YRT	Duple C53F

Whitwell Southend

CNY 620J	Seddon 1V	Plaxton C51F
YXD 386H	Mercedes O302	M.B C47F
APT 416B	Bedford J25210	Plaxton C20F

PJS /12/81