

Local Coach Operators:-

Whitwell, Southend.

The ex. Western Welsh AEC Regent V is now used as a store shed in a yard in Southchurch Avenue.

Acquired vehicle GNY.620J Seddon Pen 48351 Plaxton C51F ex.?

Heather Coaches, Hadleigh.

Sold LAW.105F Bedford VAL Duple

Acquired 1347LG Bedford VAL14 ? Plaxton C49F EX ?

Channel Coachways, Southend Airport.

Sold 486.DVY Bedford VAL14 Plaxton C49F

Current Fleet 1/74

VWN.16 AEC Reliance 2MU3RV2693 Harrington C37F

WHN.189 AEC Reliance 2MU3RV3081 Harrington C41F

8627DT AEC Reliance 2MU3RV3718 ROE B45F

FTM.723E Ford R226 ? Duple C53F

Stephenson, Hullbridge.

Current Fleet

COM.777C Ford 676E L80D439366 Plaxton C52F ex. Conroy, Benfleet.

Grosvenor, Westcliff.

Current Fleet

UNK.606E AEC Reliance 6MU7P6718 Plaxton C40F ex. Plaza, London, W.1.

Reliance, Benfleet.

Current Fleet

SEL.677H Ford R192 BCO458463 Plaxton C41F ex. Maitland, Lymington.

ONK.260H Bedford VAM70 475673 Duple C45F ex. Spanish Speaking Services, London, WC1.

Harris of Grays who recently acquired Nicholls of Southend have transferred two coaches from Grays to Southend, notably OVW.688D & THK.602E

Jones, 53, Maldon Road, Southend has acquired from Cook of Westcliff

XOO.80 Bedford SB3 88979 Duple C41F.

Lesney, Rochford.

The current fleet based at the Rochford factory appears to be:-

ex. London Transport RT's

LYR.527 LYR.737 LYR.995 KXW.340 MLL.675 KXW.488 all owned by Lesney.

and the following owned PV3/Ensign

2 JXN.238 AEC Regent RT Weyman H56R ex. RT860

71 VHE.195 Ley PD3A/1 NCME H73F ex. VTC700

73 VHE.202 Ley PD3A/1 NCME H73F ex. 707

74 VHE.203 Ley PD3A/1 NCME H73F ex. 708

75 LCK.745 Ley PD3/4 B'ham FH72F ex. Ribble 1582

76 LCK.766 Ley OD3/4 B'ham FH72F " 1603

94 TNG.237 Bristol LD5G ECW H58RD ex. ECOC LKD237

OTT.4 Bristol LD6B ECW H58RD ex. WNOG 1865

OTT.9 Bristol LD6B ECW H58RD " 1870

Southend Corporation

On 18.10.73. a number of double deckers (reported to be 11) were on private hire work in London. 339/42/70 were seen returning to Southend with on hire to Grey Green stickers. To cover stage work in Southend, three vehicles were hired by SCT for the day as follows:-

YJG.808 Bridgmaster, Park Royal H72F of Osbornes of Tollesbury (No.6) Worked two man on the 3A in the evening peak on at least one return journey from Southend to Canvey.

TRO.711E Bedford VAL, Duple C52F, of Brightways. Operated 2 man on at least one duplicate journey on the 29.

FTM723E Ford R226, Duple C52F of Channel Coachways. Reported to have worked duplicates on the 4/5/7.

Based on SCT depot since November, 1973 (first seen 15.11.73. has been STP.996 Leyland PD3/6, Weymann H38/32R ex. Portsmouth CT, and owned by Ensign Bus Sales, to be used for schools work on behalf of SCT. Until this vehicle was ready for use Osbornes

YJG.808 was again on hire to SCT for schools work from about mid-November until early December, 1973. During December Brightways TRO.711E & EMH.821B both Bedford VAL, Duple C52F were often on hire to SCT for schools work.

On 18.12.73. 380 was now operating on private hire with Avroco's Stanford coaches stickers, and later with a Shell sticker also.

On 24.12.73. 218 was noted on hire to Grey Green.

Various Lowlanders have been hired to Broadway Coaches, Wickford for school contracts.

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group Southend Branch No.2 Feb/Mar '74.
Local coach operators are getting "new" vehicles for the coming season, most interesting being in the fleet of S.&M. Coaches, Benfleet.

Acquired MCP225 Leyland FD2/37 M/Cammell M36/28F ex. Calderdale 225	1/74
HHF9 " PDR1 M/ " M43/33F ex. Merseyside 209	2/74
JAX223L Bedford YRT 477337 Plaxton C53F ex. Davies Tredegar	2/74

APT TRAVEL (P. Thorn) Thundersley
BAR824F Bedford VAM70 452120 Plaxton C45F ex. Davies 16
sold 904WKJ 1/74

LEPAGE, Southend
ANW831B Bedford SB5 93398 Plaxton C41F ex. Conroy Benfleet.
sold VBC420 Conroy Benfleet.

Channel Coachways, Southend
200BJJ Ford 570E 54781 Duple C41F ex. Bantam, Ipswich 2/74
WCJ210 Ford 570E 39684 Duple C41F ex. Johnson, Wisbech 2/74

COOKS, Westcliff
YK0948J Ford P226 BC0446315 Duple C53F ex. Smith, Sittingbourne 2/74
CJT407J Bedford SB5 Duple C41F ex. Rendell, Parkstone 3/74

WATTS, Benfleet
BNJ183D Ford BC0416210 Duple C52F ex. Harris, Grays orig.
Nicholls, Southend

The yard in Southchurch Avenue opposite the Kursaal is now used by Upson who now uses the fleet name "UPON" Upson Mini-Bus Hire and besides operating a fleet of small vehicles has purchased a Willowbrook bodied vehicle PHJ272M chassis type unknown.

Kirbys, Rayleigh are the owners of two rather unusual vehicles in this part of the country JHL670 is an Atkinson Plaxton C41C and OTW16K a Setra thought to be the only one of its type in the country, so at least we have something different in this area.

Jones, Southend now trades under the name of M.&E. Coaches and is now using a brown and cream livery similar to the old Gt. Western.

SOUTHEAST CORPORATION

Leyland PD3 KCK879 has appeared at Tickfield Road in SCT livery,; the legal owners are Ensign Bus Co. Hornchurch. It is not yet in service.

Also seen in Tickfield Road on 1.3.74. was 10ATO Leyland PD2/40 M/Cammell H65R ex: Nottingham Corporation.

The following have been seen in London Road at various times, all believed to be owned by Ensign:-

ANW10c AEC Reliance ROE C37F	ex. Leeds Corporation.10.
88XY AEC Reliance Plaxton C45F	ex. Midland Red 2169 orig.Green Bus 7
YR179 Bristol L56G ECW B45F	ex. Midland Red 2160 orig. Green Bus 18

Corporation vehicles are now appearing with SOUTHEAST TRANSPORT fleet names. So far seen 209 218 313 347

The traffic wardens at the junction of Whitehouse Road and Snakes Lane on route 9 have had to be removed due to awkward turn for buses on the diverted route.

Corporation's aids of all work at the present time are:-

BN578K Austin taxi used for staff transport
JM22 AEC breakdown crane fleet number 010
JM48D Landrover breakdown truck fleet number 007

EASTERN NATIONAL

Unusual route workings:-

15/4 BN3010 route 6	21/3 CY3044 route 24
15/4 BN3044 route 400	23/3 CF3042 route 400

New Bristol VRT 3038 PWC513 is at HH and has been seen on route 24. This has resulted in 3045/6 being operated on late evening turns on route 5.

The Bristol KS opentoppers to be on the road again this summer, it was thought that they were to be replaced this year but they are now at Prittlewell being repainted National White and Green.

VINTAGE CORNER No.1.

Recently found at Hockley is NH9189 a Guy FOX ex. Northampton Corporation. It is now an immobile caravan.

The Eastern National Preservation Group are restoring to its former glory.

PTW110 Bristol 16B 81.139 W FO31P new to EN in 1950 as number 4107 later re-numbered 328 in 7/54. It is hoped to have the vehicle ready for this years London/Brighton Run.

"THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN"

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group (Southend Branch)
No.3 April/May 1974

The centre of interest in the area is now concentrated at S.&M. Coaches, Hadleigh who have now formed a subsidiary company, namely, Castlepoint Bus Co. All doubledecker at present operated by S.&M. are to be transferred to the new company.

Leyland PD2 MCP225 has been on hire to Alder Valley in late April, and on return has been operated by Southend Corporation on school contracts.

S.&M. or Castlepoint have acquired Leyland PD2/12 RAL333/4 and Leyland H58RD ex. Barton 731/732 and these also have been on hire to SCT. They were seen at Hadleigh on 16.5.74. with blinds showing 3A & 23. Did anyone see them in service?

Also associated with S.&M. is MENDABUS LTD. thought to be a partnership with ENSIGN BUS CO. and the following vehicles have been seen at Hadleigh:-

KRE625B	Ford	570E	Duple	C41F	ex. Green Bus & BMMO
1375VC	Ford	570E	Duple	C41F	" " "
YHY81	Bristol	LS5G	ECW	B45F	" " "
MAX107	Bristol	LS6G	ECW	B45F	" " "
*RTM435	Bristol	LD6B	ECW	H58R	" " "
*504BRM	Bristol	FSF6B	ECW	H60F	" " "
LKG670	AEC	Regent V	P. Royal	H61RD	Lesney Bus
VHE195	Leyland	PD3A/1	NCME	H73F	Lesney Bus
**VVO735	Leyland	PS1/B	Willowbrook	L61RD	ex Barton 735
**JVO739	Leyland	PS1/B	Willowbrook	L61RD	ex Barton 739
901LRR	Barton	BTD2	NCME	FL70F	ex Barton 901
852FNN	AEC	Regent V	P. Royal	H70F	ex Barton 852 now G.G. Wickford
UNF11	AEC	Regent V	P.R.V.	H73R	ex Mayne M'cr
UNF12	AEC	Regent V	P.R.V.	H73R	ex Mayne M'cr
**HHF14	Leyland	PDR1/1	M.C	H-/-F	ex Merseyside now converted to mobile showroom being repainted as S.C.T.319
KCK920	Leyland	PD3/4	B'ham	FH72F	ex Ribble
**LCK746	Leyland	PD3/4	B'ham	FH72F	ex Ribble
*OTT9	Bristol	LD6B	ECW	H58RD	Lesney Bus
*TNG237	Bristol	LD5G	ECW	H58RD	Lesney Bus
**YLJ141	Leyland	PD3	Weymann	H62D	Bournemouth

* Repainted red possibly for export.

** Currently at Hadleigh.

Other Operators:-

Whitwell, Southend, now carries fleetname 'SOUTHEND COACHES'

Supreme Travel, Hadleigh

New 2/74 RNO919M Ford R1014 Plaxton C45F

Heather Coaches, Hadleigh.

Sold WXC346 & 1347LG

Acquired: 3/74 EJU133C Bedford VAL14 Plaxton C49F ex Chequered Flag, Gwyneth, Glam

Upton (UMBH), Southend.

Acquired: 3/74 XUM123J Bedford VAS Plaxton C29F ex?

Cooks, Westcliff.

CORRECTION TO LAST NEWSHEET. CJT407J should read OJT407J.

Eastern National

Unusual Vehicle Workings.

Correction to last newsheet.

15/1 BN3044 route 400 should be ~~EY~~3044

CY2942 Route 400 3/4/73 O.M.O.
WG2911 Route 2 18/5/74

An unpublished timetable working is made on such times that greyhound meetings are held at Southend Stadium, it runs from Benfleet and has been seen showing route working 3M & 3G.

SOUTHEND CORPORATION.

Corporation maid of all work.

Austin Taxi is registered BHJ884K not 878.

Currently being used by S.C.T. is :-

901 LRR. Barton BTD2 NCME FL70F
ex Barton 901 now owned by Ensign.

The ex Ribble PD3 317 has so far been seen on routes 3A 29 62.

Current Fleetlists.

M & E Coaches (F.Jones) Malden Rd., Southend.

119GNM	Bedford	VASI	1051	Duple	C29F
DEF217D	Bedford	SB5	618807	Duple	C41F
FGL381F	Morris	250JU	1814	Morris	B12
XO080	Bedford	SB3	88979	Duple	C41F

S & P Coaches Gt. Wakering.

AHJ831B	Bedford	SB5	93398	Plaxton	C41F
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Belfairs Coaches Leigh.

URW29J	Ford	R226 BC04	59758	Plaxton	C53F
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Cheldon Coaches Gt. Wakering.

EEXI	Bedford	SB3	81348	Duple	C41F
1209MG	Bedford	SB5	89484	Duple	C41F

Rayleigh Greys Rayleigh.

VBU50	Ford	570E	39852	Plaxton	C41F
JUV522D	Bedford	VAM14	6832091	Duple	C45F

Lay Hullbridge (Hullbridge Coach Service)

4010AW	Bedford	SB5	91758	Duple	C41F
SYG899F	Bedford	VAM14	7826784	Weymann	C45F

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group (Southend) No.4. June/July 1974.

Vehicles acquired by local operators:

Mann (Island Coaches) Canvey.

DYA927J Bedford CPL 812022 Dormobile 12.

Channel Coachways Southend Airport.

RJN122M AEC Reliance 24249 Caetano C51F.

SOLD

200 BJJ Ford 570E Duple CHIF
FTM 723E Ford R226 Duple C53F

NEALE GT. WAKERING.

NPU 842M Ford Transit Ford 12.

CONROY (TARPOTS TOURS) BENFLEET.

AAR 346F Bedford VASJ 451070 Plaxton C29F.

S & M COACHES HADLEIGH. BENFLEET.

As we stated in Newsheet No.3 S & M'S double deckers are now operated by Castle Point Co. the present fleet consists of:-

VTX 443 OHY935 WHF9 RAL333

SOLD VEHICLES

RAL334 Leyland PD2/12 Leyland HJ8RD
CHD606 AEC RegentV M.Cammell H70F

VEHICLES CURRENTLY AT S & M'S YARD

YLJ141	Ley PD3	Weymann H62D
HHF14	Ley PDR1	M.Cammell (Mobile Exhibition)
KRE625B	Ford 570E	Duple C-F (Minus Seats)
DRN277	Ley PD2/12	L - RD
STP996	Ley PD3/12	Weymann H70R
1856VC	Ford 570E	Duple C41F

KRE625B and 1856VC are ex Midland Red (Green Bus)

DRN277 is derelict.

STP996 has been repainted blue/white.

UPSON - SOUTHEND

PHJ272M has a Ford 1014 Chassis and seats 45.

XUM123J was ex Creswell Church Gresley.

Also in Upson's Yard are the two vehicles of Heather Coaches, Hadleigh, namely WCJ210 and EJUL33C.

The ex Nottingham PD2 ATO is being converted to a playbus for us in Shoebury, exterior work appears to have been done by Southend Transport, including fitting of platform doors and the interior work is being done by Southend College of Technology.

CURRENT FLEETLISTS:

Watts, 20 Weston Rd., Southend.

119AUL Ford 570E 510E 51178 Duple C41F.

BRIGHTWAYS, 27 Cokefield Ave., Southend.

EMH821B	Bedford VAL14	1293	Duple	C52F
TRO711E	Bedford VAL70	6874364	Duple	C52F

KERR & WEST, 7 South Parade, Canvey.

JAX634D	Bedford VAL14	6812844	Plaxton	C52F
JXD547D	Bedford VAL14	6832188	Duple	C52F

FROST & HEATH, 14 Chalfont Close, Leigh.

JNK244C	AEC Reliance		Duple	C51F
NFA163G	Ford R226	BC04552269	Plaxton	C53F

COOK (HIGHWAYS), 87 Danescroft Drive, Leigh.

471JHO	Bedford SB5	93054	Plaxton	C41F
VKR538J	Bedford VAL70	477128	Duple	C53F

HALLUMS, 65 Hornby Ave., Pritttlewell.

DCW837C	Bedford CALZ30	6304603	Martin Walker ll.
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SOUTHEND CORPORATION.

206/207 have both returned from Alder Valley.

318/319 have still not appeared in service, in fact 319 was seen at Mendabus Ltd, Hadleigh on 11th July on trade plates 638VK.

Ensign Bus Co. 901LRR is still currently based at London Rd. Depot.

360 has appeared in service carrying the VIDEAMAT signs as seen at the South East Essex Vintage Bus Rally.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Unusual Vehicle Workings.

SD2503 R61 30-6-74.

This was a very rare appearance of an LD in service on a Sunday.

CF3002 Route 26 30-5-74.

WG2914 Route 2 14-7-74.

CF1728 Route 27 15-7-74.

National Travel (SE)

Prittplewell Garage is now once again being used by National Travel. The Eastern National stock has been cleared out, some has been moved to Canvey Depot and the rest is parked outside Prittplewell Works. Several ex Timpson AEC Reliance's are now parked in Prittplewell. On the 7th July N.T. hired East Kent OJGL35F for an excursion to Stanway Zoo, it carried stickers on hire to E.N.

"THE SOUTHEAST BUSMAN"

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group Southend
Branch No 7 Aug/Sept 74.

Local Coach Operators

S & M Coaches - Mendabus - Castlepoint Bus.

SOLD

MCI 225 - Cunningham Paisley.

901 LRR the ex Barton Leyland owned by Ensign but based at Hadleigh has just returned from a trip to Rome, after being used by Robinson Barley Water at the European Games. It was painted by Mendabus in a dark blue livery with Union Jacks painted on the side.

Currently parked at S & M Yard Sept 74 are:-

VV0737 ex Barton.
YLJ141 ex Bournemouth
949HTF ex Devon General
LCK920 Southend Transport 319

Many of the ex Midland Red D9 & S15 purchased by Ensign Bus Co. have passed through Hadleigh, some for repainting into LESNEY livery and some for a South Wales operator, reported to be Morris Pencold Swansea.

D9.	6303HA	2966 HA.	6336HA
	3026HA	2976 HA.	922KHA
	3004HA	2972 HA	
	4989HA		
S15	5100HA	(for Lesney)	

Ex Merseyside PTE Leyland PDRI HHFIO was observed at Hadleigh with trade plates 555CE, it is thought to have gone to Burwell & District at Cambridge.

Brightways Coaches acquired 8/74.

GND 113 Bedford V8 14 7810430 Plaxton C52F ex Blue Line Upminster.

CURRENT FLEETLISTS

A.F. Jones (Sapphire Coaches) Ruskin Ave., Southend.

200BJJ Ford 570F 54781 Duple C41F ex Channel Coachways.
119AUL Ford 570F 51178 Duple C41F ex Jones Southend.

Parsons (Blue Bird Coaches) Hadleigh.

OEL890C Ford R19 53314 Plaxton C41F.

Cooks Coaches - Westcliff

FMG985E Bedford 93976 Duple C41F
NR0149D Bedford 6838833 Duple C45F
EMK389E Bedford 93939 Duple C41F
YHJ104J Ford 6 BC0457773 Plaxton C53F
OJT407J Bedford Duple C41F
YK0948J Ford 6 BC0446315 Duple C53F

Watts, London Rd., Benfleet.

LNN598G Ford 6 BC0459570 Plaxton C53F
FPT661G Ford 6 BC0459570 Plaxton C45F
HNJ183D Ford 6 BC0416210 Duple C52F

Roadliner, Benfleet.

DWT637H Bristol LHL6L Plaxton C44F

SOUTHEAST TRANSPORT

Ex Ribble 318 has at last appeared in service, 319 is currently at S & M's at Hadleigh for attention to its front springs.

347 has been repaired and fitted with reflective number plates.

360 - the Videmat signs have been painted over.

Unusual Vehicle Workings:-

328 Route 67 7/9
218 Route 67 24/8
217 Route 6 19/7

On recent Sundays approximately 18 Fleetlines have been working a rail replacement service between Hackney Downs and Enfield. This has resulted in some very rare sights in Southend. On 1/9/74 closed - top PD3 were used on route 1 & 66 - 206 was used on Route 62 - 2 man operated. On 15/9/74 - 215/7/8 were operating route 1. Southend Transport have been covering the 23-15 journey of route 2 between Southend and Basildon, due to EN'S inability to cover the journey. Fleetline 379 was observed 13/9.

Lowlanders 325/6/31/2 are still with Alder Valley.

On 28/8 - Fleetline 385 was on hire to AVRO Coaches - Corringham.

On 7/9/74 the 67 route was suspended in the afternoon and evening, and the crews used in rail emergency services between Southend and Wickford.

EASTERN NATIONAL

1608 has had a reflective number plate fitted on the front end only.

1431 a Southend MV is fitted with a towing bar, placed inside the luggage boot.

Unusual Vehicle Workings:

17/7	CF2700	FLF	R22
29/7	WG3044	VR	R4B
30/7	SD2539	LD	R4
5/9	SD1533	RELL	R400
7/9	BN1605	RELH	R251 (2 man operated)
10/9	CF2737	FLF	R151
15/9	SD1497	LD	R61 Unusual Sunday Working.

The ex Ribble PD3's in the Southend Area are as follows:-

KCK863	Lesney (now being used for spares)
KCK879	Southend 317
LCK739	Southend 318
LCK745	Lesney
LCK746	Tom Caxton Beer Bus (currently in Southend Transport Garage).
LCK766	Lesney
LCK920	Southend 319

Oct-Dec 1974

Published by the Eastern National Enthusiasts Group (Southend Branch)

This issue of Southend Busman is one month late. We must apologise for this, next years issues will commence in January and every other month.

We would like to wish all our readers a Very Happy Christmas and New Year.

PSV operations in the Southend Joint Transport area are still very busy and many secondhand Vehicles are being purchased for School and Works Contracts, notable amongst these are:-

Hullbridge Coaches	Hullbridge
308TR Leyland PD2/37	Park Royal H66R
ex Southampton Corporation 308	
S & P Coaches	Great Wakering
MAX 107 Bristol LS6G	ECM B45F
ex Midland Red 2161	orig. Green Bus Rugeley

Channel Coachways	Southend Airport
BNW636C Bedford VAL14	Plaxton C49F
ex Travelway Luton	
CUW 561C AEC Reliance	Harrington C41F
CUW 562C AEC Reliance	Harrington C41F
ex National Travel (South East)	
275KTA Bristol SUL4A	ECW C33F
ex Western National 1225	
Sold RJN122M Travelway Luton.	
VWN16	M & E Coaches Southend

Cook (Highways) Leigh	
OJU 366F Bedford VAL70	Plaxton CJ2F
ex Southland Bromley	

M & E Coaches - Southend

8966VW AEC Reliance	Harrington C41F
ex Harris Grays	
VWN16 AEC Reliance	Harrington C41F
ex Channel Coachways	

Brightways Coaches - Southend

NRF 887L Seddan 6	Willowbrook C47F
ex Midland Red 2156	

Thorns Coaches Rayleigh.

RVW 88M Ford R1114	Caetano C53F
S & M Coaches Castlepoint Bus Co	Mendabus Ltd.

Acquired:

CKV 890D Bedford VAL 14	Duple C52F
ex Dew Somersham	
SWP 734F Bedford VAL 70	Plaxton C52F
ex ?	
EUG 618D Bedford VAL14	Plaxton C52F
Orig Wallace Arnold ex ?	
NJN 68F Bedford VAL70	Duple C52F
ex Thomas, Rhooose - Cardiff	
Sold JAX223L Bedford YRT	Plaxton C53F
VVO 737 Leyland PS1/1	Willowbrook L6IRD
ex Barton 737	
VVO737 carried a fleet number 320 when hired to Southend Transport.	

The following Vehicles have been seen at Hadleigh on behalf of Ensign Bus Sales:-

NRF 887L	Seddin 6	Willowbrook	C47F
RRE 862L	Seddin 6	Willowbrook	C53F
FRF 762K	Seddin 4	Seddin	D42F
	Ex Midland Red.		
BBVN	AEC Regent V	Willowbrook	H70F
	orig South Wales Transport		
VWN963	AEC Regent V	Willowbrook	H70F
	ex Barwell & District orig. South Wales Transport		
1680WA	Leyland LI ECW	DP41F	
	ex Sheffield Transport		
WAL 783A	)		
VI788	) Leyland PSI/IB Northern Counties	L61Rd	
VY0790	) ex Barton 783-788-790		
KAG858	Leyland PD2/20	Alexander	L59RD
	ex Western SMT	JD1377	
LCS961	Leyland PD3/3	Northern Counties	L67RD
	ex Western SMT	KD1426	

The ex WSMT have been repainted in London Transport livery for export.
6366HA Dimmo D9 for spares only.

Ensign Bus Company Vehicles seen at Hadleigh have been:-

LRV994	Leyland PD2/12	Metro-Cammell	H59R
103 284DWN	AEC Regent V	Roe	B37F
LCK745	Leyland PD3/4	Durlingham	FH72F
VHE197	Leyland PD34/3	Northern Counties	H73F
RFM407	Bristol LD	ECW	LD58RD

Ensign have now adopted a new livery for their vehicles, namely blue & cream, so far seen painted have been STP996, 901LRR & XV0787.

STP996 which has been on hire to Alder Valley was seen at Hadleigh with AV blinds showing "London Victoria"!!!

Wiggins (Building Contractor) Thundersley acquired:-

CVW928E	Bedford VAL14	Harrington	C49F
	ex Conroy (Tarpots Tours) Denfleet.		

The VAL Purchased by S & M, PJN68F is rather interesting because this Vehicle has returned to its homeland, have originally been purchased new by the now defunct operator Victoria Coaches Leigh.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

On a recent visit to the Alder Valley Garage at Bracknell, Southend's Lowlander Lane. Three Lowlanders were 'on shed' all apparently out of order, and according to employees of Alder Valley they are not very popular. Leyland 206 also on hire had we heard a 'blow-up' engine.

Recent Sunday rail replacement contracts include Southend - Wickford - Southend - Shoebury - Barking - Leyton - Walthamstow.

Several Lowlanders returned to Southend early in December, resulting in Castlepoints KSW being returned.

The Lowlanders have reappeared on several routes.

The all over advert Fleetline 358 has now had extra adverts added, 354 is currently being used for spares.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Unusual route workings.

23/11	CF1422	R24
3/12	PN3007	R26 2 man operated
4/12	HH1450	R3A 2 man operated
6/12	WG1632	R25
	SD1347	R61 2 man operated
	SD1353	R29A 2 man operated
14/12	SD2773	R3A

15/12

WG1612
WG1612
CF2716

R61
R22
R2

"901 IRR"

901 IRR is a double decker bus owned by Ensign Bus Co. of Hornchurch that is having a very colourful career in the Southend Area. Originally owned by Barton Transport of Nottingham who constructed the chassis in their own workshops in 1961, and then fitted with a 70 Seater Body by Northern Counties. During its 13 year service with Barton it worked at sometime or another on most of their stage carriage routes, with the exception of those requiring to negotiate Lawley Railway Bridge at Long Eaton.

The vehicle was purchased from Barton Transport by Ensign on the 26th April 1974, and soon appeared at Southend Transport Garage still in Barton livery and used by them for school contracts. It was later repainted in a yellow and Maroon livery and occasionally was seen on stage routes.

After a few weeks with Southend Transport, 901 was taken to Mendabus at Radleigh and was repainted in a dark blue livery with large Union Jacks emblazoned on the sides, and carrying the ~~legend~~ Robinson Barley Water European Games 1974 and the indicator blinds read ROME. The vehicle then made the trip to Italy for the games via Ostend. On returning it was stored back at Southend and again used on various school contracts still in the Robinson livery, but at the beginning of November went to Mendabus once more and another livery painted on, namely blue & cream which now appears to be the standard livery for the Ensign Bus Co., the bus is now working on local contracts and one wonders where it will go to next.