

THE SOUTHEND BUSMAN

JAN - FEB 1980

NO 37

SOUTHEND & DISTRICT

The winter months have brought a quiet time on the local transport scene, with only one purchase to note.

National type bus stop signs are now appearing in the Joint area, and the Leigh area of London Rd. appears to be the first to change.

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS

Channel Coachways, Southend Airport acquired:-

1/80	KBM 33N	Bedford YRT	Moseley	C53F
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Supreme Coaches - Hadleigh

Ford Plaxton Coach GHJ 773T carries Executive Travel fleetname and is fitted with tables.

S & M - CASTLEPOINT.

A gradual sorting out of the fleet appears to be going on at present, with disposal of some of the cannabalised wrecks at Hadleigh, gone are:-

RCM 509	Daimler	CRG 6LX	Weymann	H77F
ARN 787C	Leyland	PDB1/3RT	Plaxton	C49F
currently in pieces are:-				
ARN207/8B	Leyland	BRI/1	East Lancs	H78F

Two coaches recently sold to dealers were:-

REW 987K	Leyland	PSU5/4R	Plaxton	C57F
ARN 786C	Leyland	PSU3/3RT	Plaxton	C49F

Still dormant at the Springfield Cafe is Bristol VRLR LRN 52J, this has now been so for nearly twelve months.

AEC Reliance Duple FVA 626K has now regained its former name "Roadrunner".

EASTERN NATIONAL

New D/P Bristol VRT's are now operating on the 400 regularly, with occasional back up by older types.

Hadleigh garage is now operated by semi-automatic vehicles since the New Year, the last non semi vehicle 2849 was sent to Southend.

An HH based VR is now required for service 28 in the mornings in place of a Bristol RELL due to over-loading, the reason given for this is that it is cheaper between Canvey Leigh Beck and Benfleet on service 28 than service 3.

Area Transfers

1553	HH - CF
1733	CR - HH
1864	MN - HH
304/54	BN - SD
272/74/90/5/7	SD - D/L(D)
286/23	SD - PLDS
on loan	HH - 2/80

CF1752
CF2926

Still at EL is - Bristol MW 1423 202 YVX

Unusual Workings

3/2	1210	Route	251
2/2	3053	"	6A
5/2	3061	"	3(Crew)
6/2	3020	"	25(Crew)
	3045	"	151(Crew)
8/2	3053	"	19
	3025	"	3(Crew)

Sunday crew duties at Hadleigh now use RELL's in place of FLF and Leyland National are for OMO work.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Leyland PD3 open topper 314 PHJ was licensed on 2nd Feb. for use as a free ride bus by Texas Homecare on opening of their new store in Southend.

ST have been using Kamps AEC Reliance on service 27 due to non availability of Leyland PD3's, in fact, ST are still covering EN mileage from SD and HH due to continued staff shortages, on the 15th Feb., Fleetliners were covering HH duties on routes 5A and 24.

Currently parked in London Rd. garage is ex Western Scottish Bristol FLF B24 ONG 355F now the property of Ensign.

ODDS AND ENDS

Unusual visitor seen on National route 609 London - Southend has been P and O liveried Leyland Plaxton 196 AFH 196T of National Travel (South West).

SOUTHEND BUSMAN

NO 38

MARCH - MAY 1980

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS

The local coachmen have been busy sorting out their fleets recently, and with the new and secondhand vehicles we have a magnificent Leyland/Plaston with S & M and another new chassis in the area a Bristol LHS.

A.F.T - Benfleet

Sold - CTA 376L.

Acquired 3/80 CRW 514T Bedford YMT Plaxton C53F
Channel Coachways - Southend

Sold - NEK 14K, LTD 425K

Acquired 3/80 CNP 83N Bedford YRT Plaxton C53F

Kirbys - Rayleigh

Acquired RFX 747R AEC Reliance Plaxton C53F
6UZR.

Supreme Coaches - Hadleigh

Acquired BKJ 462T Bristol LHS Plaxton C53F

Cox - Benfleet

Acquired NXD 442K Ford Transit 12

Cook - Westcliff

Acquired MRO 149L Bedford YRT Plaxton C53F

Simien Travel - Canvey Island

Acquired RSE 79M Bedford CFL 12

S & M COACHES - CASTLEPOINT BUS CO.

Mention must be made of S & M Coaches success at the Blackpool Coach Rally with their new vehicle:

NEV 606V Leyland PSU5B Plaxton C57F

The fleet has also seen an influx of secondhand vehicles:-

RGS 92R	Leyland PSU5B	Plaxton	C57F
XNP 870M	Leyland PSU3B/4R	Duple	C57F
WWP 818	Leyland PSU5B/4R	Duple	C57F
JNK 547W	Leyland PSU3B	Duple	C53F
JNK 548H	Leyland PSU3B	Duple	C53F

Also on loan during April was KAO 344L Ford R1114 Moseley C49F

Vehicles sold recently include MUL 632L, REW 987K.

The Castlepoint fleet is still mainly consisting of ex Nottingham Daimler Fleetlines, also still operating (only just) are the two ex Southend Leopards 277/8HJ.

On hire was TAN 264F Bristol FL6G ECW H70F ex Western SMT from Ensign bus during March.

A former S&M Vehicle has returned to the area again namely VDB 935 Leyland PSU3/Alexander C49F. It has been purchased by Swannette Majorettes from Western SMT via Ensign.

EASTERN NATIONAL

Hadleigh has received EN's first National 2 - 1925 - MHJ 921V. This vehicle is at present restricted to joint routes only as it is too long for the Metropolitan Traffic Area.

Transfers:

1599 from HH to GN.

Since the recent service revisions Hadleigh depot has covered all their own mileage and also helped SD & WG by operating certain of their hournies, and on one occasion helped Southend transport out when due to a failure on a Fleetline did their journey on route one. HH & CF have been covering Railway emergency services during weekends in March/April.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

New vehicles to arrive are 205/6 BTE 205/6V.

Leyland PSU3/4RT Duple Dominant 11 DP51F

Five speed gearbox fully automatic, sliding windows, extra grab-rails, and smaller seats to allow for 18 standing. These are not yet in service.

Fleetlines 355/65 have been fitted with ex London Transport DMS class Leyland engines.

270/344 were removed by scrap-dealers on 25th April.

Engines from 333/8 have been fitted to 346/45 respectively.
338/8 now cannabilised.

Southend Transport Duties (M-F).

SER 1 - Entire service except certain PM peak journeys.

SER 3 - 1 early a.m. peak short journey.

SER 4/4A - Entire service except 1 short journey.

SER 4B - All journeys before 9.30.

SER 5 - 1 early a.m. peak short.

SER 6 - Certain short journeys.

SER 7/7A/7B/7C/8/8A/9/9B/10/A/B/12/13/16/18/ entire service.

SER 21 - 1 bus all day.

SER 22 - 1 dup journey.

SER 22A - Peak journeys only.

SER 23 - Entire service except one a.m. journey.

SER 23A - Peak journeys only.

SER 24 - " " "

SER 27 - All journey's except a.m. & p.m. peaks.

SER 29/29A - Entire service.

SER 61 - One early morning journey.

SER 61A - One lunch time journey.

SER 62/65/68 - Entire service.

SER 69 - One evening peak journey.

It is possible that certain Leyland PD3 open toppers will see the start of the sea-front service as some of the Fleetline open-toppers will not be ready.

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

N O 3 9

J U N E - J U L Y 1 9 8 0

Hot spot of the month is the fire at the premises of S & M Coaches at Hadleigh resulting in five vehicles being wrecked, the list is:-

ABN 207B	-	Leyland PDRI/1
2717 HJ	-	" LI Weymann B41D
2718 HJ	-	Leyland LI Weymann B41D
JKM 441L	-	Bedford YRT Caetano
MAH 990L	-	" SB5 Duple

Local readers will of course recognise the two ex Southend vehicles 206. 207.

ABN 208B Leyland PDRI/1 East Lancs H78F has been reinstated for service after standing idle for at least 12 months.

BRR 242C AEC Renowr East Lancs H74F has been withdrawn.

Leyland PSU5/4R Plaxton C57F - REW 987K sold in December '79 is now in Northern Ireland as Ulsterbus 567.

Ronda Coaches - Prittlewell

UJH 842	Bedford J2	Duple	C21F
Roy Hayden - Gt. Wakering.			
NXD 257E	Bedford VAS5	Plaxton	C29F
Stevens (Four Seasons) Southend.			
UNK 612E	AEC Reliance	Plaxton	C49F

On the 18th May a very unusual visitor to Southend was Crosville 294 BFM 294L Bristol REL66L Plaxton C47F on National Tour 069 from North Wales, apparently covering for a defective vehicle.

National Express Services South Essex Area this year have been drastically altered, which has brought one or two interesting car workings with it.

Eastern Counties, Alder Valley, Southern Vectis, NT (London) NT (East) and EN operate the holidays from Southend Area.

Excursions being operated by EN and S & M Coaches National Express.

113	SD	Brixham (F/S)	EN(PL)	Harris Coaches
115	SD	Minehead (S)	EN	
119	Ipswich - BN (S) ECOC			
120	SD/BN	Brighton (S)	EN & EC	
123	SD	South Coast (FSUM)	EN and Southdown (S/D)	
Fri	EN	from SD	S/D from Portsmouth	
Sun	EN	" " " "	" " " "	
Mon	S/D	from SD	EN " "	
124	SD/BN	Ramsgate (S)	EN (PL)	
125	SD	Gt.Yarmouth (S)	EN (MN)	
126	SD	Bournemouth (S)	EN (PL) and S & M	
127	Sth Ockerdon - Harwich (S) EN (BD)			
128	SE	I.O.W (S)	EN from SD	SVOC from I.O.W
129	Sth Ockerdon (S) S & M Coaches			
130	SD	Bognor Regis & Portsmouth	S/D from SD	EN from Portsmouth
131	Sittingbourne/Maldstone - Gt. Yarmouth (S) M & D			

132 Dover - Walton/Clacton (S) East Kent
 134 Ramsgate - Walton and Clacton (S) East Kent
 136 Ipswich - Dymchurch (S) Grey Green
 137 Croydon - Gt. Yarmouth (S) Green Line
 138 " - Clacton/Walton (S.SUN) Green Line
 189 SD Bishops Stortford (D) Biss Bros
 238 SD Rotherham (S) N.T (E)
 311 BN-BD Sheffield (D) West Yorks
 429 SD Nottingham (S) Trent/Barton/Skills
 609 SD London Victoria (D) Royal Blue
 928 Grays - BD - Birmingham - Holyhead, Midland Red

EASTERN NATIONAL

Historical Notes:

FEB 1961 Allocation for HH.
 281 KNO 608 Bristol L 1501 817HNO Bristol LD6B
 1114/8 MPU44/9 Leyland PDI 1517/27 75JNO/1841F Bristol LD5G/6B
 1218 NVX173 Daimler CVD6 1540/2 1854/5F Bristol LD5G
 1264 AHJ402 Bristol K5G 1548 355LPU Bristol LD5G
 1286 CHJ 250 " " 1568 6OPPU " "
 1289 CHJ 252 " "
 1290 CHJ 253 " " D/L at HH 1248 ANJ831
 1292 CHJ 254 " " Bristol G05G
 1297 MPU22 Bristol K6B
 1309-11 CJN324-6 Bristol K5G
 1344/5 DJN556/7 Bristol KS5G
 1386/7/92/3 FJN156/7/8/9 Bristol KSW5G
 1415/6 YNO867/8 Bristol KSW5G
 1428 WNO481 Bristol KSW5G
 1439-43 XUX23-5/30/1 Bristol LD6B
 1444 205BPU " "
 1466/8 970/2 DHK " LD5G
 1483 35 ENO " LD6B

Southend Depot are still short of crews, resulting in Hadleigh helping them out on 251 & 400

26/6/80 HE 3014 251 (OMO) HH 3060/61 on 251 & 400
 WG 3075 24-24A 26(OMO)
 WG 3075 5-27 (Crew)
 27/6/80 HH 3014 251 (OMO)
 WG 3075 23A.24.26.27.28 (Crew)
 4/7/80 HH 3945 1 Covering failure of Southend 334 which was towed to HH & parked there for 4 days.
 3075 was at HH due to a breakdown whilst on R400, which was replaced by an HH VRT.

Unusual Working

SD 1533 R67 30/6

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Fleetline open-toppers 370/1/3 are now in service, 371/3 have been working Route 67 which is EN usual working.

PD3 312-4 are now all D/L at Tickfield Rd. leaving 311 to carry - but on 14th July 311 made its final journey on the 19.00 hrs departure from the Kursaal. An appropriate blind was made by Richard Delahoy, which stated that it was the final open-top PD3. A small number of local enthusiasts turned out to mark another piece of local transport history. Our thanks to John Lidstone the driver who stopped at all the best photographic venues, all that remains now is to see if the Fleetlines enjoy a long life like the PD3's.

New Duple bodied Leopard saloons 205-8 BTL 205-8V are now all in service.

Unusual Workings

371 R67 30/6

PD3 347 MHJ 347F appeared at the Green Line Jubilee celebrations on 13th July, complete with London Country blinds and HA plates and on hire to London Country, thus remembering their stay at Harlow.

SOUTHEND BUSMAN

NO. 40

AUG - SEPT 1980

EASTERN NATIONAL

Local Depot Changes:-

2896	HH	to	CF	1538	BN	to	HH
2884/8	SD	to	CF	1739	SE	to	HH
2945	SD	to	CF	1514	BN	to	PLDS
3011	SD	to	CR	3008/	BN	to	SD
				10/16			
1533	SD	to	BS				

With the changes in services on 7th Sept, service 2 now curtailed at Basildon Hospital, is operated by SD & HH, with SD duties now OMO. Sunday operation on Service 19 is withdrawn for winter months.

Rally vehicles 2382, 2849 have appeared at many rallies this year, including Southend, Southsea, Green Line Rally, London Bus Rally, Weald of Kent and the Showbus at Thorpe Park.

2849 saw service on route 5 on 2nd & 4th September due to vehicle shortage at HH.

The Bristol VRT's specially painted for service 400 are also regularly seen on services 2 and 251.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

More journeys are to be introduced on 609 London (Victoria) - Southend to connect with new departure system, similar to Cheltenham - Sheffield etc.

Service 928 is to terminate at Southend instead of Chatham.

On July 29th the 18-45 hrs 609 ex London broke down at Romford and was replaced by BD Bedford YMT, the Royal Blue Vehicle was towed to Brentwood.

26th August saw Royal Blue 2439 on the 609 complete with Western Venturer service boards.

SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Vehicle on Hire.

WRN 413V Leyland National 2, fitted with electronic indicator blinds, used on routes 6.23.23A.29.29A.

It is hoped that the withdrawn Leyland PD3 open-topper will see further service with preservation societies.

Southend Transport are still covering some of EN Southend working, resulting in ST Vehicles appearing on routes 3.5.5A (evenings) 251 (Rayleigh only).

Southend have announced a new express service, joint with Reading Transport, between Southend & Reading, via Central London and Heathrow Airport. This is due to start on 6th October. Reading will use double-deckers and Southend, Leopards 205-8.

Fares quoted are Southend - Reading £4.60 return, £3.00 single and the return fare to London will be £2.60.

LOCAL COACH OPERATORS

S & M Coaches.

Vehicles on loan 9/80

/over.....

UGO 716M	Bedford YRT	Plaxton	C53F
	ex Tricentral Group		
UHA 942/ 966H	BMMO 523	BMMO	B51F
	ex Midland Red	5942/66	

S & M Coaches have been appearing at rallies this year, with their Leyland/Plaxton NEV 806V and have taken many prizes, in fact, at the recent Show-bus, they carried off three awards, all credit must be given to S & M for the way this vehicle is maintained.

Whilst talking recently to Mr B. Smith of S & M Coaches, he told us, that many people say that NEV 806V is kept in this immaculate condition because it is in the garage all the time. You can rest assured this is not true, when not being used on National Express services to Bournemouth, Minehead or Gt. Yarmouth, or a day excursion somewhere is used as a school bus, and on the vast Pullman - Kellogg contract from Coryton.

COOKS COACHES - Westcliff

Correction to N/S 38 - Vehicle acquired is registered MRO 185L.

STEVENS (Four Seasons) SOUTHEND

Acquired:-

PEK 417L	Seddon		
	Pennine VI	Plaxton	C53F
	Sold EUR 314K		

JENNINGS & CATEN (Channel Coachways) Southend

Acquired:-

YNK631F	Bedford VAL 70	Plaxton	C52F
	ex Stephenson - Hullbridge		
	Sold LXD 425K		

UMBH - SOUTHEND

Acquired:-

FUT 518L	Bedford VAS 5	Caetano	C29F
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UMBH have announced a new "Commuter Express" between Shoebury & London to commence after the 6th October.

ODDS & ENDS

On the 31st August London Transport RMA 36 was seen in Southend on LT staff outing, this is thought to be the first appearance of this type of RM.

Rare visitor to EN Halleligh garage on the 5th August was London Country AN 236 on driver training duties.

United Counties Leyland National 516 was seen in Southend on 24th August on a private excursion.

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

N O 41

O C T - D E C 1980

SOUTHEND COACH OPERATORS

Surprise acquisition in the area has been by S & M Coaches (Castlepoint Bus) of ex Leicester Corporation Leyland PD3A's.

GRY 47D	Leyland	PD3A/1	MCW	H74R
GRY 48D	"	"	"	"
GRY 49D	"	"	"	"
GRY 50D	"	"	"	"
CJF 69C	"	PD3A/1	East Lanes	H74R
CJF 72C	"	"	" "	"
CJF 75C	"	"	" "	"

also acquired are:-

MTM	Ford R1014	Duple	C45F
UGO 716M	Bedford YRQ	"	"
THN 264F	Bristol FLF6G	ECW	H70F
ORO 363H	Bedford VAS2	Duple	C29F

The vehicles involved in the fire except MAH 990L have now all been disposed of - 2717/8HJ - ABN 207B were scrapped on the premises.

Vehicles now withdrawn are 49 NAU - BRR 242C.

Also sold are:- UGO 716M (9.V) and Bristol THN 264F.

A recent advert shows that the two AEC Renowns - Bristol FLF 183NXO - Bristol VRLH LFN52J and all the remaining Fleetlines are for sale, 2 Leopard Coaches and the Bristol RELH coach JNK 561N are also to be disposed of. LFN52J has been at the Springfield Cafe at Corringham for at least 18 months.

Double Deckers are now appearing with fleetnumber plates (EN style), so far seen have been 49.DAU442C. 21 94 RTO.

WATTS - LEIGH

UGO 716M	Bedford YRQ	Duple	C45F
	ex S & M Coaches - Benfleet.		

KEMP - ROCHFORD

WHA 234H	Leyland	PSU3A/4R	Plaxton C49F
	ex Midland Red	6234.	

CURRENT FLEET LISTS - CANVEY ISLAND

ISLAND COACHES (MANN)

DYA 927J	Bedford CFL	Dormobile	12
WVB 265G	Bristol LHL6L	Plaxton	C53F
PGW 649L	Bedford YRQ	"	C45F

SIMIEN COACHES (O'BRIEN)

RSE 79M	Bedford CF	Dormobile	12
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SOUTHEND TRANSPORT

Leopard 201-4 are to be repainted into dual-purpose livery as 205-8, 201-2 reserved for service X1, while 203/4 are reserved for PRIVATE hire.

Fleetline 393 is now in an all-over advert for BEEVES JEANS of Southend, basically white - red and denim blue.

- 2 -

Coaches operating on service X1 are now operating with side adverts of the route.

NATIONAL EXPRESS

The two National Express services currently operating out of Southend during the winter months are 609 (London) operated by National Travel (South West) with three return journeys per day and 928 to Holyhead, operated by Midland Red, this leaves Southend Victoria Bus Station at 08.00 hrs.

An assortment of coaches operate on the 609 from Swansea and Bournemouth Units, including Leyland Leopards with Plaxton, Duple and Willowbrook "Spacecar" bodywork. However, on East Kent Vehicle was noted on 928 - 31/10/80.

New Commuter services starting 6th October were:-

UMBH Co's - Southend

Shoebury - Southend - London Tower Hill - Rayleigh Coachways.

Rayleigh (Stn & High St.) - Tower Hill.

Ansan Co's - Hackney E.8.

Canvey Island - Aldgate.

Int. Coach Lines.

Rayleigh - Wickford - Tower Hill.

Canvey Island - Tower Hill.

Shoeburyness - Southend - Leigh - Tower Hill.

Not all of these are still operating due to lack of support.

EASTERN NATIONAL

PL 1416 was hired to S & M Coaches on 24/09/80 for the Pullman Kellogg contract from Coryton.

VR 3062 has received a revised Phillips livery in broad-band fashion.

Jubilee VR 3048 has now reached Southend depot and is being used on route 11 to Chelmsford.

Bedford YMT - CR 1213 had to be towed from Alder Valley's High Wycombe depot to Hadleigh by the breakdown on the 14th September and then towed to CR depot on the 15th September, the vehicle having failed near High Wycombe.

Hadleigh depot has been operating railway replacement services on Sundays since September, from Pitsea - Tilbury - Wickford - Shenfield - Leigh - Southend Central using VR's - 3014/20/45/60/1 and FLF 2910/22/4.

Unusual Route Workings:-

16/10	CF 3018	RTE 400
17/10	HH 1541	RTE 400
	BN 1822	RTE 400
28/09	SD 1773	RTE 404
24/09	SD 1747	RTE 153