

No. 26 - SEPTEMBER 2024



Moor Lane Bus Station, Bolton is the setting for this busy view as Ribble coaches and double deckers stand by and load up. In front is Leyland LZ2 Cheetah 1587 (RN 7843) with Brush coach body which was new in 1936 and still looks smart more than ten years later. An early postwar Burlingham bodied Leyland Tiger PS1 from the associated Standerwick fleet lies beyond.

(Photographer, John Fielder, copyright The Bus Archive).

INTHIS ISSUE

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- New buses for Oxford in 'the good old days'
- An Interesting Donation of Reading material
- English Electric in all its glory More donations
 - Regular Facebook and Publicity Highlights

Publicity Corner

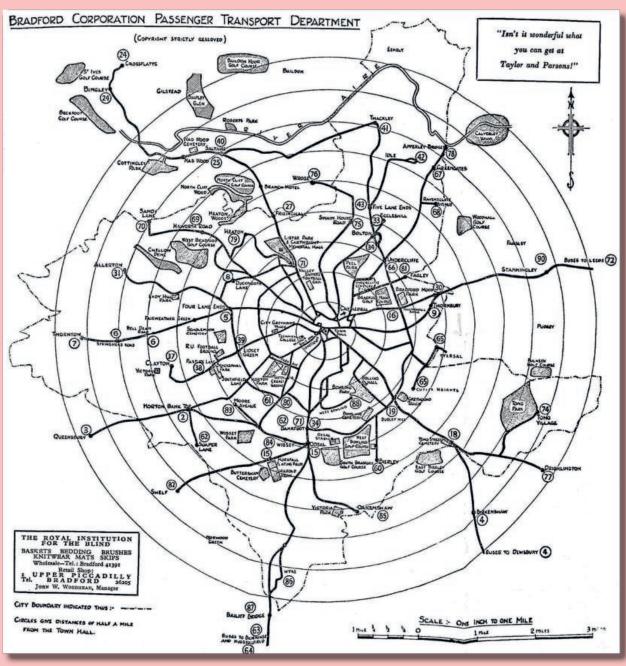
Bradford

This splendid timetable booklet is from Bradford Corporation, with currency between December 1948 and May 1949. One of our researchers likened it to a painting in a children's book!

Brown, Muff's "Yorkshire's Leading Store" (established 1814) also appeared to offer an overnight funeral telephone service...

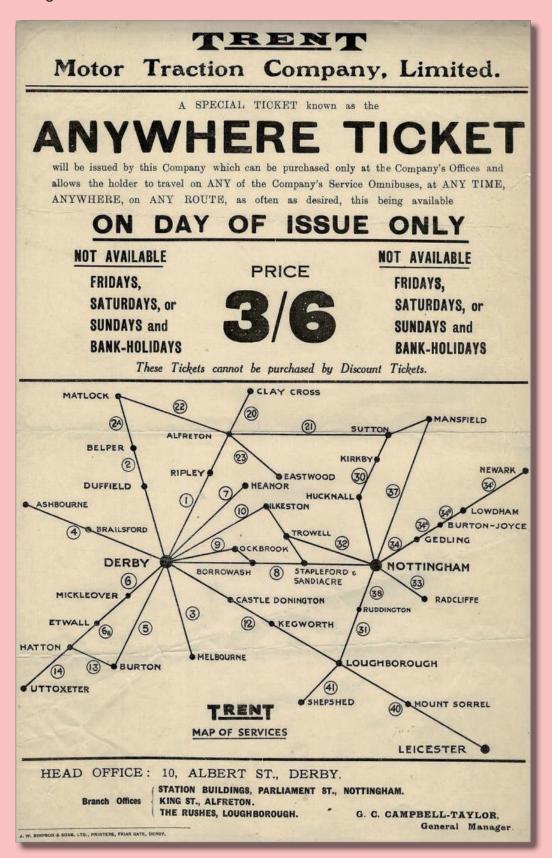
The radial map doesn't differentiate between trolleybuses and buses, and trams don't even get a mention, although they would run until May 1950.





Trent

Trent's "Anywhere Ticket" was introduced on 1st July 1923. It was only available from company offices and was only valid on Mondays to Thursdays (presumably weekends and Bank Holidays were busier times and there was more profit to be made!). It was withdrawn in 1929 after an increase on petrol duty forced the company to think again about its discounts.



VIP visitor

Praveen Kumar is an enthusiast who lives in India and works with Volvo. He was in the UK recently to visit a number of museums and archives in pursuit of his hobby. Praveen writes: "The opportunity to visit the Bus Archive was a remarkable achievement in my journey. The extensive collections, artefacts, and exhibits were awe-inspiring, and I am eager to delve deeper into the insights and inspiration they offer. I also hope that I am the first person from India to visit your prestigious Bus Archive". You are indeed, Praveen!





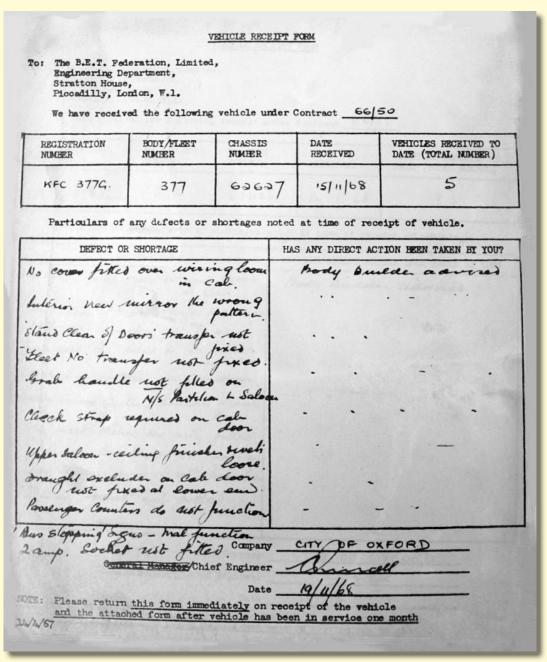
New vehicle defects, delays and price rises

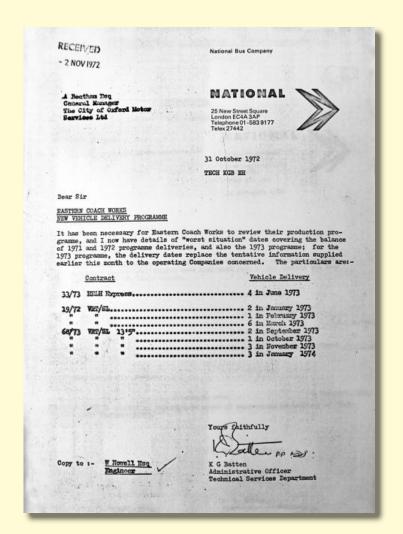
Documents from City of Oxford Motor Services in the 1960s and 1970s highlight issues of concern over buses newly delivered or whose delivery had just been delayed.

There were so many "fix" items identified on the Northern Counties body on a new Daimler Fleetline that they didn't all fit into the space available on a standard form it sent to the BET Federation's engineering department in London.

These include missing transfers, an exposed wiring loom in the cab, loose rivets in the upper saloon ceiling and malfunctioning 'bus stopping' sign and passenger counter. These complaints had already been conveyed to the bodybuilder.

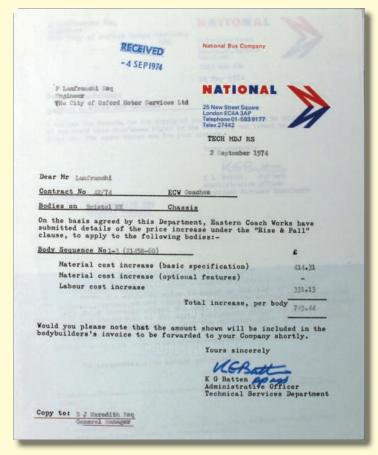






A letter from National Bus Company headquarters in October 1972 advises that Eastern Coach Works — jointly owned by NBC and Leyland — was reviewing its production programme and had details of "worst situation" dates for completing the balance of its 1971/72 deliveries and of the 1973 programme. Bristol VRTs due in 1972 would now come in the first quarter of 1973 and of nine in the 1973 programme, three would extend into January 1974. This was before the miners' strike and three-day week brought added disruption to British industry.

Adding to concern was galloping inflation, and nearly a year later, engineer Peter Lanfranchi was being advised that labour and material costs were adding nearly £750 to the cost of each of three new ECW coaches bodies on new Bristol REs – under the terms of so-called "rise and fall" clauses in which prices seldom if ever fell.



Dedication of 'The Millington Room'

On 14th June, the secure search room at Droitwich was formally named 'The Millington Room' in memory of Neil Millington.



Neil spent his working life in the motor trade, eventually as owner of Autosound Services of Bradford which supplied and fitted entertainment and video systems for coaches and buses.

Coaches became a hobby on his retirement as he built up a fleet of vintage bus and coaches with a core of Wallace Arnold vehicles.



Neil named his organisation Classic Connections and, whilst based in Bradford, they were regularly to be seen at rallies and heritage events up and down the country. Classic had its own enthusiastic and motivated volunteer group who helped Neil over many years. The particularly long and extensive restoration of a WA Leyland Tiger Cub coach was their crowning glory. His other motoring passions were Land Rover events and clubs, military vehicles, all of them large, and particularly Alvis cars, a marque he was heavily involved with as a trustee of the Alvis Archive Trust, whilst owning his own TF21 for over twenty years.

Neil Millington left a generous legacy to the National Association of Road Transport Museums (www.nartm.org.uk) and they, in turn, made an equally generous donation towards the refit of the new building. NARTM Chairman Dennis Talbot said: "It is remarkable to see what the team has achieved. The state of the art 'pod', humidity controls, storage, search and study facilities are truly impressive."

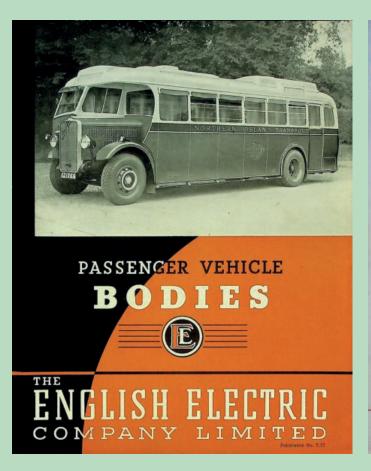
Bus Archive trustee Giles Fearnley (left) thanks Dennis Talbot as they unveil The Millington Room.

English Electric

The English Electric Company was created in 1918 to bring together four manufacturers which had prospered during The Great War but recognised that peace would mean very different prospects for its business. The Dick, Kerr & Company Ltd. of Preston was one of the constituents and it was at its Preston base that construction of bus, tram and railway equipment continued.

This 20-page brochure was produced around 1936 and shows the range of bodies which English Electric could build on almost any chassis; indeed, it emphasises that body work is constructed at the Dick, Kerr & Co. Preston factory.

We are able only to show a few pages here but the full brochure can be seen on our Flickr page at https://www.flickr.com/photos/145880868@N07/albums/72177720319562470/.





Passenger Vehicle Bodies

In presenting this new publication on "English Electric" vehicle bodywork the opportunity is taken to remind passenger transport operators of the considerable experience of The English Electric Company in the construction of bodies for passenger vehicles.

passenger venicies.

"English Electric" passenger vehicle bodies are built at the Company's Rolling Stock Works, Preston. These Works have for over forty years been one of the premier body-building Works in the country, and they are laid out specially for the building of modern omnibus and coach bodies and for bodies for trolleybuses and tramcars. Bodies of "Composite" or "All-Metal" construction can be supplied to suit best the operating conditions, and it is interesting to note that the trend of modern design is in the use of the "Composite" body for single-deck public service vehicles and coaches, and "All-Metal" body for double-deck omnibuses and trolleybuses.

The very long experience of the Company in the construction of all types of bodies for Railway Rolling Stock and Road Transport vehicles ensures to Customers that the very latest practices are incorporated to give light weight coupled with very robust construction in all the components and so render the vehicles particularly serviceable when operated under normal conditions.

Considerable thought has been given to the pleasing external and internal appearance and to afford every comfort to the passengers in the planning of more comfortable

THE ENGLISH ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED

Page Two

PASSENGER VEHICLE BODIES

seating, better entrance and exit arrangements, and a higher standard of lighting and ventilation.

The size and power of vehicles and seating capacities tend steadily to increase and it is no small schievement, particularly in the case of double-deck passenger vehicles and trolleybuses, to have constructed substantial, spacious and highly-finished vehicles within the limitations imposed by official regulations.

within the limitations imposed by official regulations.

The following pages illustrate some of the recent bodywork built by The English Electric Company. It will be appreciated, however, that it is not possible to illustrate in a small publication all the vehicle bodies which have been manufactured recently but those shown afford good examples of the various classes of bodies for Petrol and Compression-Ignition Buses, Trolleybuses and Tramcars. It may be of interest to remark that The English Electric Company builds not only the bodies for trolleybuses and tramcars but also the complete electrical equipment. Trolleybuses embodying "English Electric" bodies and equipment are mounted on the chassis and tested on a special teet track in our Preston Works before despatch. In the case of tramcars the Company also manufacture the trucks so that they are able to supply the complete vehicle, which is an advantage from the operator's point of view in that responsibility is vested in one Contractor.

A large staff of Traction Specialists is maintained who deal with the various classes of

A large staff of Traction Specialists is maintained who deal with the various classes of work, and the services of these experts are always available to the Company's Clients, who are also invited to make an inspection of the Rolling Stock Works at Preston, and Electrical Equipment Works at Bradford, where at all times many types of vehicles or equipment are in course of manufacture.

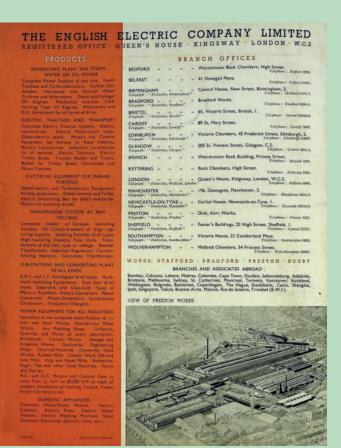


English Electric









Facebook highlights



A contrast in Grantham Bus Station. On the left is 133 FUP, a Plaxton Highway bodied AEC Reliance of Simmons (Reliance), Great Gonerby which had been new to Atkinson (General, Chester-le-Street in 1960. Two years older was Lincolnshire Road Car 2612 (RFU 690) on the right, an ECW coach seated Bristol SC4LK.

(Photographer John Fielder, ref. JF01/50640).



The Windover Kingsway was perhaps typical of coach bodies produced by small manufacturers on early underfloor engined chassis. The BET group were quite keen purchasers and here is Yorkshire Traction 974 (EHE 921) a 1953 Leyland Royal Tiger. It spent a full life with YTC, being withdrawn in 1965 and passing to Leeds General Taxis.

(Photographer J Wilkins, ref. JW02/00184).

The changing of the guard can be seen at Jersey Motor Transport in this early 1970s view of Weighbridge Bus Station in St. Helier. J 8853 was originally RTL485 (KLB 704) in the London Transport fleet, bought by IMT in 1959.

Passing behind is an example of the 'new order' with the change of JMT ownership to the Lewis family and the transfer of ten Plaxton Derwent bodied Ford R192s from their Trimdon Motor Services fleet.

(Photographer Peter Yeomans, ref. PY01/10104).



A tribute to Pennine Motor Services which closed down ten years ago in May 2014. In much earlier times we see ATE 801 a Leyland TS7 with Metro Cammell body which had been new to Lancashire United in 1936 and served Pennine for five years from 1951. Closely behind is Leyland bodied Leyland Royal Tiger LWY 702 and in the distance Ribble 1250 (DCK 221) a 'White Lady' Leyland PD2 with East Lancs coach body.

(Photographer Derek Giles, ref. DG02/03247).



Facebook highlights

A quite dramatic photograph of a Leyland Tiger Cub with Alexander body working for the W Alexander & Sons operating company, taken on 11th September 1958 near Killin at the western end of Loch Tay. PD17 (FMS 734) was new in July 1954 and remained with the Midland company as MPD17 when in 1961 split of the huge Alexander business into three geographic parts -Northern, Midland and Fife. (Photographer Ted Gadsby, ref. TG03/01074).





A very nice photo of Caerphilly 47 (JTG 478) a Strachans bodied Guy Arab III new in 1949. It was taken quite a long way from Caerphilly – outside The Paget Arms in Wolverhampton by Robin Hannay who was a Guy Motors employee at that time. (ref. RH03/00095).

Reading matters

Archive documents from Reading Corporation Tramways offer insights into daily life that sometimes show how little things have changed over the past 120 years, even if electronic keyboards have taken the place of copperplate handwriting and manual typewriters.

The request for a former employer's reference for the applicant for a conductor's job assures the tramways office that Ernest Redworth, formerly a fish fryer, is honest, has "temperate habits" and "most decidedly" is a suitable man to collect fares and otherwise regulate the operation of a tramcar.

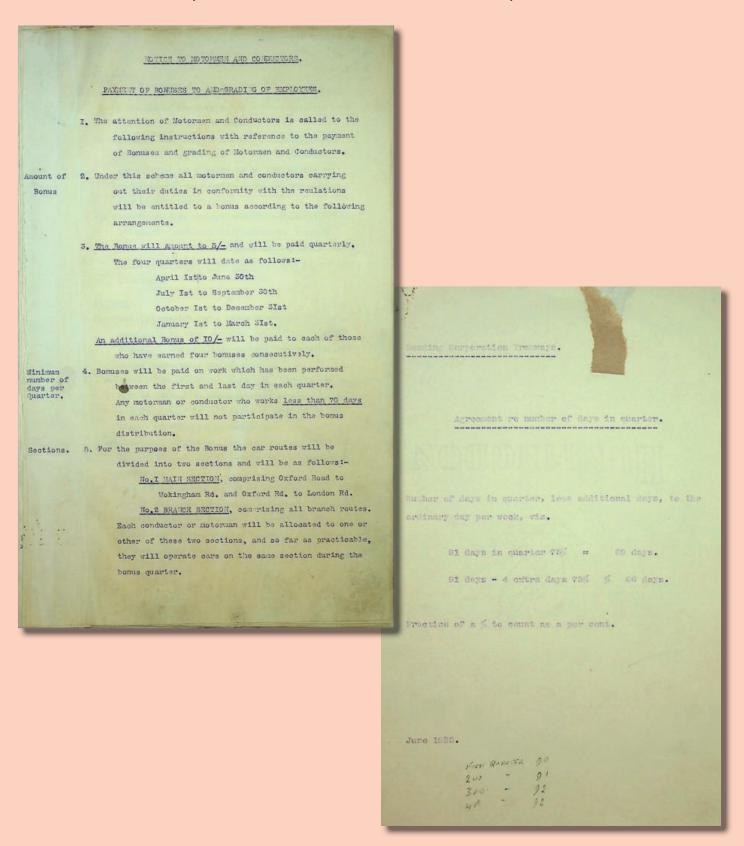
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be g	his Service, and has give glad if you will kindly Form to me at you	devorth of 15 Cholmeley Road francis Readin on as Conductor on your name as a former employer. I shall, therefore, y answer, in confidence, the questions below, and return or earliest convenience. The Applicant states he was
emp	doyed by you as US	Yours truly.
	Mr Robey M Oxfor d	Roa Mendsor
Ho In	w long was Applicant	in your Service? 2 years or wine.
		Business Changey hands st yes shonest? yes
ls	he, in your opinion, a s	suitable man for the position for which he applies? Must decides
895		Signature W Robey

READING CORPORATION TRAMWAYS. ACCIDENT REPORT Passenger refusing to pay for passel. DATE of Accident Leptenber 9 4 19 4. CONDUCTOR, " " Attleal 35
5. PLACE Accident cocurred Barracks to Alo Wohingham Rd 6. TIME Accident occurred..... 7. TERMINUS Car going to..... 8. SPEED of Tramear (* fine at) M.P.H ... 9. DESCRIPTION of Vehicle..... FULL, NAME. 10. INJURED Person M. & B. bouch bo Buckam Rd Heading 11. OWNER of Vehicle... 12. DRIVER of Vehicle Witnesses (1) (2) .. (5) . (6) .. FULL STATEMENT OF WHAT HAPPENED. Is I was getting my faces in at the Barracks the above passenger got on. When I went to get his fare he refused to pay for his suit case the reason he said was because he had told are in pector about me charging him for it and he said the inspector said that if it was so little as he made out he abould not have to that he said was take call round the bepot. SHWeal

In September 1921, conductor Weal completed an accident report form related to what appears to have been more in the nature of an incident in which a Mr Couch refused to pay for his suitcase, claiming that an inspector had told him the charge was so small that he had no need to pay it, and had given the conductor his card and would call round at the depot.

Reading matters

A typewritten notice to all motormen and conductors sets out the quarterly bonuses paid to all crews for carrying out their duties in conformity with then regulations — five shillings for everybody, plus ten shillings for those who have earned four consecutive bonuses. They must work at least 70 days in a quarter — a separate notice dated June 1922 shows that the quarters are of 90, 91 or 92 days — and "as far as practicable" a crew will work exclusively either on the main inner section of the tramway or on its branch routes.



Donations

We have received the following donations in the last quarter. As ever, we are very grateful to everyone on this list:

Donor	Content						
Dennis Bury	Photograph collection of the late William Stanley Wolfe						
Vernon Morgan	Timetables and publicity						
Nigel Tarrant	Mixed collection of original bus operator records						
Tony Francis	Books, timetables and publicity, tickets, single photograph and press extracts						
Colin May	Books, timetables and publicity, photograph						
Brian King	Mixed collection						
Colin Martin	Personal collection (Digital)						
Fred Ward	Duple ledgers 1930s						
The family of the late Martin Eastall	Book collection						
Thomas WW Knowles	Mixed collection including that of the late Edwin Marsh						
Tim Mason	Collection of the late Frank Michael Allen						
Chris Turner	Timetables						
Derek Roy	Books, Timetables and publicity						
The Estate of Francis David Potter	Books and timetables						
Graham Westcott	Mixed collection						
Bill Potter	Manufacturer brochures and press releases						

The late Bob Gray, whose family donated a large part of his collection to us earlier in the year, was a keen enthusiast for Southdown although he spent much of his career with Hants & Dorset Trim and its precursors.

As we sorted through Bob's collection, it became clear that he collected official material not only from his own time in the industry but long before that. For example, on the next page is a chart – today we would call it a spreadsheet – which compares the fuel consumption between Hants & Dorset vehicle types and also between depots and outstations. Quite how long it would take someone to calculate all of this we can only imagine, but we hope the chart was useful!

Donations

HANTS AND DORSET MOTOR SERVICES LIMITED.													Parley	Form 1	2 55	
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EASTERN AREA																
BODY, CHASSIS and ENGINE TYPE														BC	DY.	
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		South	Winche ster	Bestleigh	Fereban	Weelston	Lymington	Bere	11690	Area	Bournemouth	Poole	Purkstone	Ringwood		

This illustrates that we are continually grateful to those who collect this valuable official information as they go, as an alternative to it being thrown in the skip!



A photo taken from a 1971 edition of the Bristol Commercial Vehicles Limited magazine. Would anyone like to suggest a witty caption?

How to access our collection

We have three Research Centres, each holding unique material:

- Droitwich, for original records
- Walsall, for publicity items and publications
- Acton, for London Transport records and timetables
 Search our online catalogue at www.busarchive.org.uk.



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