

ARCHER. Arthur Cyril GREATWORTH

During the first World War, John Archer of Greatworth purchased a carrier's business in order that his son – Arthur Cyril Archer – would have employment when he was demobilised from his ambulance driving duties in the Army. Cyril Archer was born in 1897 and was thus in his early twenties when he returned to civilian life in 1919 or 1920.

The carriers business he inherited comprised a horse and cart, whilst the routes operated ran from Greatworth via Marston St Lawrence and Middleton Cheney to Banbury and from Greatworth to Brackley. Presumably each service operated on market days and perhaps on one other day each week, whilst on vacant days it is likely other carrying work would have been undertaken.

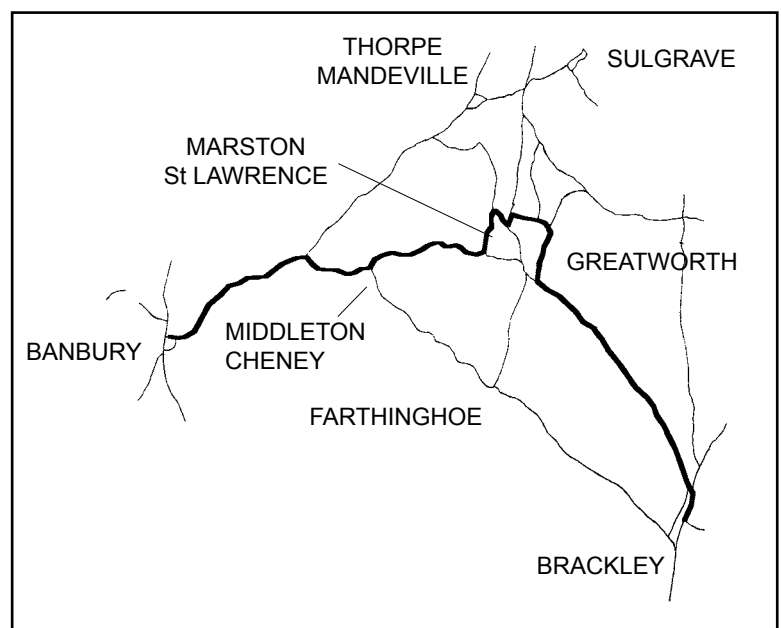
In 1921 Cyril Archer mechanised his business by buying a Ford T fourteen seater motor bus and this was registered B D3592 on 8th August of that year. Cyril continued to operate his two routes from Greatworth to Banbury and Brackley. The Ford T was last licensed to Cyril Archer in March 1928 and it is believed that this is when his service finished. The business was never particularly profitable and after it was abandoned in 1928 Cyril Archer drove motor vehicles for other Banbury based businesses. Arthur Basford of Greens Norton probably took on the Thursday operation for a short time after Cyril Archer ceased trading.

Rolling Stock:

BD 3592 - Ford T - 4396231 - B14F
- New 8/8/21 - Last licensed 3/28.

Right: A diagram of Cyril Archer's two bus routes.

*Greatworth - Marston St Lawrence
- Middleton Cheney - Banbury and
Greatworth - Brackley*



Bygone Buses

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Cyril Archer's Ford T-BD 3592. The lady standing at the front of the bus was Emily Weston, Cyril Archer's cousin. It is not known who built the body of this vehicle but the presence of a makers' transfer adjacent to the door and under the licence holder suggests it was a recognised coachbuilder rather than a local maker.