

LONDON GENERAL IN BEDFORD

Timetables

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The London General Omnibus Company Limited obtained an interest in Bedford more or less by accident following the acquisition of an undertaking operating mainly in Central London. This was The New Central Omnibus Company which ran a service of Leyland buses between Chalk Farm and Elephant, later to Camberwell Green. In view of an agreement with the L.G.O.C. whereby New Central undertook not to open new routes within ten miles of Charing Cross, this concern turned its attention to the Kingston area, but then looked at developing a business in the Bedford area. Thus, in May 1912 the garage and business of the Bedford Motor Omnibus Company was purchased and by the end of the year a fleet of 15 vehicles were in operation. These were lettered A to O instead of using numbers to identify the fleet.

From 1st January 1913 the whole undertaking was leased to the L.G.O.C. for a period of 20 years but this arrangement did not prove satisfactory to the New Central directors, so in October 1913 the business was sold outright to the Underground Group. Operation continued under the name of "Central" and additional services were provided in the Bedford area following the transfer of Leyland buses which were surplus to the London fleet. All vehicles were allocated type letter "L". A new garage was built in St. John Street, Bedford. Finally, on 30th June 1914 the company was transferred to the L.G.O.C. when the buses were repainted in General livery.

During 1914, General issued a pocket timetable of their Bedford services and the details of the respective routes are given in these notes. Although service numbers were shown on the buses, no information was included in the timetable, so the full list is not known.

In addition to the bus routes, a number of "circular trips" were offered, weather permitting, which left Bedford, St. Peters at 1430. On Mondays, for example, there was a circular trip via Turvey, Chellington, Harrold, Odell, Sharnbrook, Milton, Ernest and Clapham. The bus was scheduled to wait at Sharnbrook for one hour. This whole tour was priced at 2/6p per passenger. Other trips which ran on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays were in the same price range and covered other parts of the surrounding countryside.

With the outbreak of war, the Bedford garage was taken over by the Government in November 1914 and part of the fleet of buses, which at that time stood at 30, was pressed into war service, the remainder being transferred to London and used on Route 11. In 1919 the L.G.O.C. sold the garage to the National Steam Car Company who recommenced operations in Bedford upon giving up their services in London. It became the National Omnibus & Transport Company in 1920 and in due course the garage and services passed to Eastern National and in more recent times to United Counties.

Any queries should be addressed to the address shown on the cover and the publishers would welcome any additional information that is known to readers on this interesting aspect of omnibus history. The publishers would wish to acknowledge the very kind assistance of Mr G. Robbins in compiling these notes.

LONDON GENERAL OMNIBUS COMPANYIN BEDFORDTimetablesLocal Services

Monday to Saturday only  
No Sunday or Bank Holiday Service

BROMHAM ROAD (Shakespeare Road) and SOUTHEND

Via Dame Alice Street, High Street and Ampthill Road

DEPARTURES FROM  
BROMHAM ROAD

0815, 0845 and every 30 minutes until  
1315 then 1415, 1445 and every 30 minutes  
until 1745 then 1845, 1915, 1945, 2015,  
2045, 2115.

DEPARTURES FROM  
SOUTHEND

0800, 0830 and every 30 minutes until  
1300 then 1400, 1430 and every 30 minutes  
until 1730 then 1830, 1900, 1930, 2000  
2030 and 2100.

KIMBOLTON ROAD and BEVERLEY CRESCENT

Via High Street, Silver Street and Queen's Park

DEPARTURE FROM  
KIMBOLTON ROAD

0805\*, 0830, 0900 and every 30 minutes  
until 1130 then 1205, 1235, 1305, 1405,  
1440, 1510, 1545, 1615 and every 30  
minutes until 2015 then 2100, 2130 and  
2155.

DEPARTURES FROM  
BEVERLEY CRESCENT

0845, 0915 and every 30 minutes until  
1145 then 1220, 1250, 1350, 1420, 1455,  
1525, 1600, 1630 and every 30 minutes  
until 2000 then 2045, 2115, 2145, 2210.

\* Starts from Midland Stn



Local Services (Cont'd)MIDLAND STATION and GEORGE STREETDEPARTURES FROM  
MIDLAND STATION

0905, 0925, 0945, 1005, 1025, 1045,  
 1110, 1130, 1150, 1220, 1240, 1300,  
 1325, 1400, 1420, 1440, 1510, 1530,  
 1555, 1620, 1650, 1725, 1745, 1810,  
 1830, 1850, 1930, 2000, 2055, 2115,  
 2135, 2200.

DEPARTURES FROM  
GEORGE STREET

0915, 0935, 0955, 1015, 1035, 1055,  
 1120, 1140, 1200, 1230, 1250, 1310,  
 1335, 1410, 1430, 1450, 1520, 1540,  
 1605, 1630, 1700, 1735, 1755, 1820,  
 1840, 1900, 1940, 2010, 2045, 2105,  
 2125, 2145, 2210.

COUNTRY SERVICES (Timing Point at Bedford is St. Peters)BEDFORD and STONY STRATFORDMondays to Saturdays

Bedford	0500				0920	0930			
Turvey						1010			
Olney						1032			
Astwood	0645				1000				
Newport Pagnell	0715				1032	1102	1110		
Stantonbury	0730	0810	0850	0930	1050		1125	1205	1253
Stony Stratford	0750	0830	0910	0950	1110		1145	1228	1315
Bedford	1130								
Turvey									
Olney									
Astwood	1208								
Newport Pagnell	1240								
Stantonbury	1255	1310	1350	1402	1420	1440	1500	1520	1540
Stony Stratford	1318	1330	1410	1420	1440	1500	1520	1540	1600
Bedford	1430						1830	1910	
Turvey	1510						1910		
Olney	1532						1932		
Astwood								1945	
Newport Pagnell		1602	1640				2002	2018	2020
Stantonbury	1620		1655	1725	1805	1845			2037
Stony Stratford	1640		1715	1745	1825	1905			2055

STONY STRATFORD and BEDFORDMondays to Saturdays

Stony Stratford	0750	0830	0910	0950	1030		1145	1225	1250	1330
Stantonbury	0810	0850	0930	1010	1050		1205	1245	1310	1350
Newport Pagnell					1105	1110				
Astwood										
Olney							1140			
Turvey							1205			
Bedford							1245			
Stony Stratford	1345	1410	1420	1440	1500	1520	1540		1600	1650
Stantonbury	1405	1430	1440	1500	1520	1540	1600		1620	1710
Newport Pagnell		1445					1615	1650		
Astwood		1520								
Olney								1720		
Turvey								1745		
Bedford		1600						1825		
Stony Stratford	1715	1745	1828	1925			2055			
Stantonbury	1735	1805	1848	1945			2115			
Newport Pagnell	1752			2000	2010	2020	2130			
Astwood	1825					2050	2205			
Olney					2040					
Turvey					2105					
Bedford	1905				2145	2130	2245			

BEDFORD and STONY STRATFORD

<u>Sundays</u>	S	T	S				T	S	
Bedford	1345	1430	1500				1800	1900	
Newport Pagnell	1500	1615	1615	1640	1740	1845	1945	2015	2025
Stony Stratford	1530			1516	1810	1915			2055
	S	T					T	S	S
Stony Stratford	1533		1710	1810	1915				2055
Newport Pagnell	*1600	1645	1740	1840	1945	2000	2015	2125	
Bedford	1735	1830				2145	2030	2245	

S Via Stagsden

T Via Turvey

\* Departs 15 mins later

BEDFORD and CLAPHAM FOLLYDailyDEPARTURES FROM  
ST. PETERS0825, 0920, 1015, 1115, 1215, 1345,  
1445, 1545, 1645, 1815, 1915, 2145.DEPARTURES FROM  
CLAPHAM FOLLY0840, 0935, 1030, 1130, 1230, 1400,  
1500, 1600, 1700, 1830, 2030, 2200.BEDFORD and GOLDINGTON GREENDailyDEPARTURES FROM  
ST. PETERS0800, 0855, 0950, 1045, 1145, 1315,  
1415, 1515, 1615, 1745, 1845, 1945,  
2045, 2215.DEPARTURES FROM  
GOLDINGTON GREEN0815, 0910, 1005, 1100, 1200, 1330,  
1430, 1530, 1630, 1800, 1900, 2000,  
2100, 2225.BEDFORD and HITCHIN

	<u>Mondays to Saturdays</u>		<u>Sundays</u>
Bedford	0900	1530	1430
Ampthill	0946	1616	1516
Shefford	1027	1657	1557
Baldock	1115	1745	1645
Hitchin	1145	1815	1715
Hitchin	1215	1845	1845
Baldock	1245	1915	1915
Shefford	1333	2003	2003
Ampthill	1414	2004	2044
Bedford	1500	2130	2130

BEDFORD and KEMPSTONDailyDEPARTURES FROM  
ST. PETERS

0820, 0838, 0856, 0914, 0932, 0950, 1008,  
 1026, 1044, 1102, 1120, 1138, 1156, 1214,  
 1232, 1250, 1308, 1326, 1344, 1402, 1420,  
 1438, 1456, 1514, 1532, 1550, 1608, 1626,  
 1644, 1702, 1720, 1738, 1756, 1814, 1832,  
 1850, 1908, 1926, 1944, 2002, 2020, 2038,  
 2056, 2114, 2132, 2150, 2208, 2226, 2242\*,  
 2300\*, 2318\*.

DEPARTURES FROM  
KEMPSTON

0751, 0811, 0829, 0847, 0905, 0923, 0941,  
 0959, 1017, 1035, 1053, 1111, 1129, 1147,  
 1205, 1223, 1241, 1259, 1317, 1335, 1353,  
 1411, 1429, 1447, 1505, 1523, 1541, 1559,  
 1617, 1635, 1653, 1711, 1729, 1747, 1805,  
 1823, 1841, 1859, 1917, 1935, 1953, 2011,  
 2029, 2047, 2105, 2123, 2141, 2159, 2217,  
 2235, 2253, 2309\*, 2325\*, 2343\*.

\* Saturdays only

BEDFORD and BIGGLESWADEMondays to FridaysDEPARTURES FROM  
BEDFORD

0830, 0930, 1050, 1150, 1310, 1410, 1530,  
 1630, 1750, 1850, 2010, 2110.

DEPARTURES FROM  
BIGGLESWADE

0940, 1040, 1200, 1300, 1420, 1520, 1640,  
 1740, 1900, 2000, 2120, 2220.

SaturdaysDEPARTURES FROM  
BEDFORD

0800, 0845, 0930, 1015, 1100, 1145, 1230,  
 1315, 1400, 1445, 1530, 1615, 1700, 1745,  
 1830, 1916, 2000, 2045, 2130, 2215, 2300.

DEPARTURES FROM  
BIGGLESWADE

0905, 0950, 1035, 1120, 1205, 1250, 1335,  
 1420, 1505, 1550, 1635, 1720, 1805, 1850,  
 1935, 2020, 2105, 2150, 2235, 2320, 2359.

SundaysDEPARTURES FROM  
BEDFORD

1415, 1445, 1630, 1710, 1840, 2000, 2100.

DEPARTURES FROM  
BIGGLESWADE

1520, 1600, 1735, 1815, 1950, 2105, 2205.



BEDFORD and CRANFIELDMondays to SaturdaysDEPARTURES FROM  
BEDFORD0830, 1030, 1230, 1430, 1630, 1830, 2030,  
2230\*.DEPARTURES FROM  
CRANFIELD0930, 1130, 1330, 1530, 1730, 1930, 2130,  
2330\*.

\* Saturdays only

SundaysDEPARTURES FROM  
BEDFORD1430, 1530, 1630, 1730, 1830, 1930, 2030,  
2130.DEPARTURES FROM  
CRANFIELD1530, 1630, 1730, 1830, 1930, 2030, 2130,  
2230.BEDFORD and WOBURNDaily

NSu

Bedford	0845	1400	1830
Amphill	0930	1445	1915
Ridgmont	0955	1510	1940
Woburn Sands	1018	1533	2003
Woburn	1030	1545	2015
Woburn	2235	1550	2015
Woburn Sands	2247	1602	2027
Ridgmont	2310	1625	2050
Amphill	2335	1650	2115
Bedford	0020	1735	2200

NSu: Not Sundays



BEDFORD and ST. NEOTS

## Daily

	NSu			Sa
Bedford	0930	1400	1800	2100
Great Barford	1000	1430	1830	2130
St. Neots	1040	1510	1910	2210

	NSu			Sa
St. Neots	1100	1515	1930	2215
Great Barford	1140	1555	2010	2255
Bedford	1210	1625	2040	2325

NSu: Not Sundays

Sa: Saturdays only