

# HOWARD. George Thomas

## Weldon Road

### UPPER BENEFIELD

George Howard's principal business was that of a baker and apparently he was known locally as "Daddy" Howard.

How he came to start operating bus services is a bit of a mystery but at some stage during the mid-1920s he bought a bus, the identity of which has so far not been revealed, and inaugurated three local services. On Wednesdays he ran from Upper Benefield to Peterborough via Oundle but not then via the main road, instead calling at Glapthorn, Cotterstock, Tansor and Elton. On Thursdays he ran just as far as Oundle and on Fridays he journeyed to Kettering via Weldon, Geddington and Weekley.

Following the introduction of the Road Traffic Act, 1930 George Howard was required to apply to the Traffic Commissioners for authority to continue the services he had previously been supplying. This he did in September 1931 when the Friday Kettering service in due course took the Commissioners' reference TER 846/1; the Wednesday Peterborough route became TER 846/2 and the Thursday Oundle operation became TER 846/3. In addition a group of seven, day and half-day tours from Upper Benefield was granted as TER 846/4.

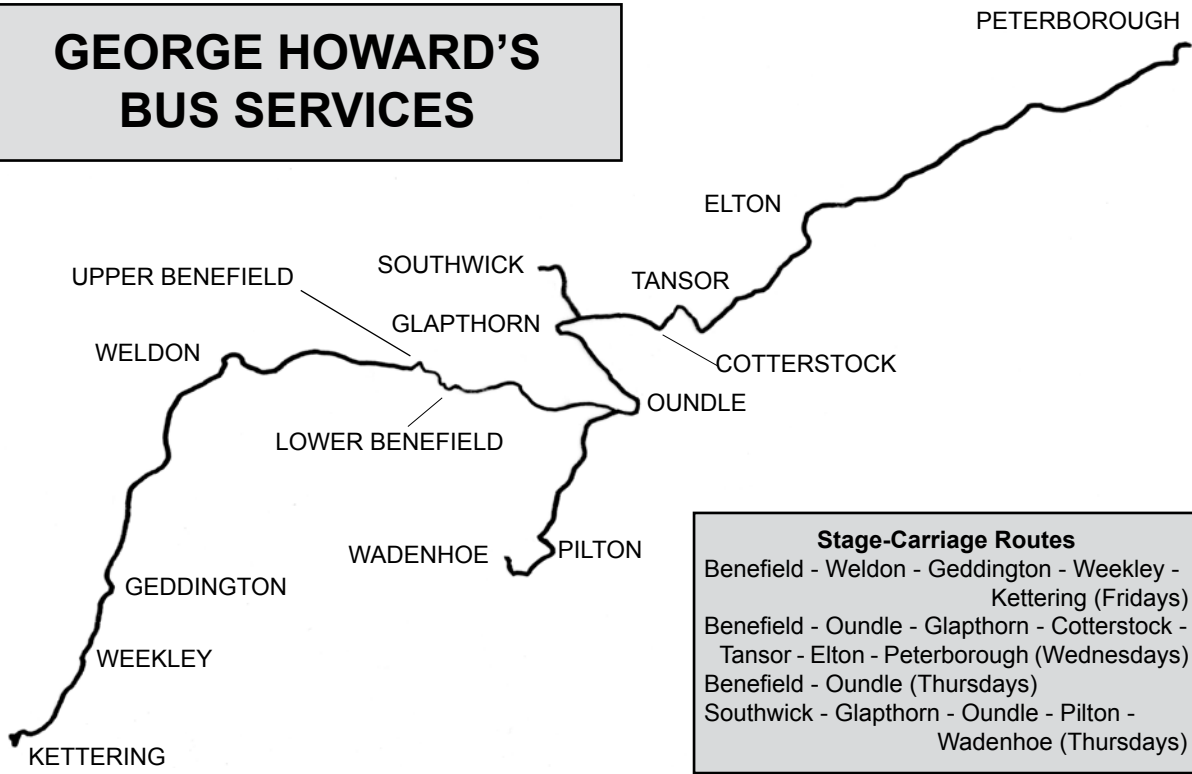
Shortly afterwards, in May 1932, George Howard applied to take over the Southwick to Wadenhoe service previously granted to Eastern Counties and this became Howard's licence reference TER 846/5. The timetable for this latter service was as follows:-

Thursdays Only							
Southwick	1.35pm	4.15pm	Wadenhoe	----	2.15pm	----	4.50pm
Glapthorn	1.45pm	4.25pm	Pilton	----	2.20pm	----	4.55pm
Oundle	1.55pm	4.35pm	Oundle	1.15pm	2.30pm	4.00pm	5.00pm
Pilton	2.10pm	4.45pm	Glapthorn	1.25pm	---	4.10pm	----
Wadenhoe	2.15pm	4.50pm	Southwick	1.35pm	----	4.15pm	----

At this point George Howard obviously decided that he needed a new bus with which to operate his services and to comply with the more exacting standards of maintenance imposed by the Road Traffic Act. For this purpose he patronised the Central Motor

HOWARD George T - U. BENEFIELD

**GEORGE HOWARD'S  
BUS SERVICES**



**Stage-Carriage Routes**  
 Benefield - Weldon - Geddington - Weekley - Kettering (Fridays)  
 Benefield - Oundle - Glaphorn - Cotterstock - Tansor - Elton - Peterborough (Wednesdays)  
 Benefield - Oundle (Thursdays)  
 Southwick - Glaphorn - Oundle - Pilton - Wadenhoe (Thursdays)

Company of Dalkeith Place, Kettering which firm supplied him with a Bedford WLB chassis onto which was mounted a twenty-seat body by Waveney. The resulting vehicle was registered NV 1182, being first licensed on 23rd March 1932 but unfortunately an illustration of it has not been found.

From this time onwards George Howard continued to operate with one bus, modifying his services only very slightly right up until the second World War. It is believed that George Howard reached the retirement age of 65 years in 1943 and at this point sold his business to Frank Crick whose story is continued in paper NN-CR5. The precise date of transfer between Howard and Crick has still to be determined.

**Rolling Stock:**

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	3/32	?	?	1
NV 1182	Bedford	WLB	108434	Waveney	B20F	?	3/32	—	-/43?	Supp Central Mtr Co., Kettering	F E Crick, U.Benefield	2

Notes: 1 - The identity of Howard's first bus acquired in the mid-1920s is unknown.  
 2 - NV 1182 last owned by R Wilson, Carnwath and last licensed 12/49.