

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-WH1
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WHITBY Bros. Albert E & Thomas 6 Fitzwilliam Street RUSHDEN

Not a great deal is known by the Author about the Whitby family but it seems that Thomas Whitby probably started running lorries soon after the first World War and originally traded as T Whitby & Sons from 6 Fitzwilliam Street, Rushden. It is also probable that his first motor vehicle was a K.R.I.T (American) van registered NH 715 which could have dated from 1912.

In February 1920 Thomas Whitby bought a used Thornycroft J-type charabanc from Harry Scroxtton of Rushden. He also purchased a new Austin lorry at the same time and this, too, was used for the carriage of passengers. The Thornycroft was registered BD 1220 whilst the Austin was BD 4105. By 1921 Thomas Whitby & Sons classed themselves as Engineers, Machinery Dealers, Motor Carriers and Haulage Contractors.



Thornycroft J-type charabanc BD 1220 was photographed at Odell, The Bell whilst still in Harry Scroxtton's ownership.

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Forestyn" 101 Broadway East, Northampton NN3 2PP, who would be pleased to be advised of any additional information relating to the above operator. The records of the PSV Circle and the Omnibus Society have been consulted extensively for this series and acknowledgement and thanks are due to these organisations.

WHITBY Bros. A. E. & T - RUSHDEN

Early in January 1922 Thomas Whitby & Sons took over the Rushden to Leicester carrier's service from Harry Scroxton of Rushden (NN-SC1) and thereafter traded from both Fitzwilliam Street and Scroxton's former yard in Portland Road, Rushden. At some time between January 1922 and April 1924 Thomas Whitby's sons appear to have departed from the business and Thomas's brother Bert joined it, after which time the firm traded as Whitby Bros. It is interesting that Bert Whitby is remembered as a tiny man who had to stand up to drive. As a bus approached passengers, everything looked normal, but on closer inspection it was anything but!

In July 1923 Whitby Bros bought a new Crossley lorry-cum-bus which is recorded as seating fourteen passengers. This machine was registered BD 8118. The Whitby Brothers are also known to have acquired a used Crossley lorry registered NH 2815 and a Manchester lorry registered RP 7128 when bought new in March 1929. It is unlikely that either of these latter vehicles were used on passenger carrying duties.

By 1924 the Rushden to Leicester service seems to have been curtailed at Kettering and operated on a daily basis to the Angle Hotel yard. It is impossible to say when passengers private hires ceased but it would have been at some time in the mid to late 1920s. Bert Whitby also continued to stand to drive his lorries!

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
							New	S/H	W/D			
NH 715	K.R.I.T.	?	?	?	Van	—	-/12?	c-/19?	6/31	?	No further owner	
BD 1220	Thornycroft	J	?	?	Ch23	—	6/19	2/20	by-/30	C H Scroxton, Rushden	?	1
BD 4105	Austin	22 - 25hp		?	Lorry/ Bus	—	2/20	—	by-/28	—	?	2
BD 8118	Crossley	?	10677	?	Lorry/ B14	—	7/23	—	by12/26	—	?	3
NH 2815	Crossley	?	?	?	Lorry	—	5/20	?	2/28	?	No further owner	
RP 7128	Manchester	?	11711	?	Lorry	—	3/29	—	by12/35	Supp Central Mtr. Co. Kettering	?	4

- Notes:** 1 - BD 1220 last owned by H Munns, Chertsey and last licensed 12/30.
 2 - BD 4105 last owned by F Rey, Bedford and last licensed 6/28.
 3 - BD 8118 last owned by Wall Nurseries Ltd., Bournemouth and last licensed 1/27.
 4 - RP 7128 last owned by J Bland & Sons, Stanwick and last licensed 12/35.