

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

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STOCKWOOD MOTORS Ltd. Rockingham Road (330051) CORBY

Stockwood Motors Ltd was incorporated on 22nd July 1937 with a capital of £2,500, as garage proprietors and haulage contractors. Its Directors were J J Macklin - known as Jimmy - and S S Gardner, both men also being Directors of the recently formed Corby Haulage Company Limited. Macklin resided in Stockwood Drive and Gardner in Occupation Road, Corby, both gentlemen trading jointly as hauliers prior to the formation of Corby Haulage.

Motor garage premises were set up in Rockingham Road, Corby at its junction with Stockwood Drive but it was not until the post-Second World War period that Stockwood Motors entered the coaching business. It was on 25th May 1948 that the firm advertised in the *Evening Telegraph* that they "have pleasure in announcing that they have recently purchased a twenty-six seat luxury coach, which is available for private hire". A facsimile of this advertisement features alongside.

Whether or not Stockwood Motors had acquired a secondhand coach by May 1948 is unknown, but they may have done.

STOCKWOOD MOTORS LIMITED, ROCKINGHAM ROAD, CORBY,

Have pleasure in announcing that
they have recently purchased a

26-SEATER LUXURY COACH

which is available for Private Hire.

ANY JOURNEY — ANY DISTANCE
ANY TIME

Quotations gladly given on request.

Write us or

Telephone : CORBY 3243

EC2

Bygone Buses of Northamptonshire is compiled by R M Warwick, "Torestyn" 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.

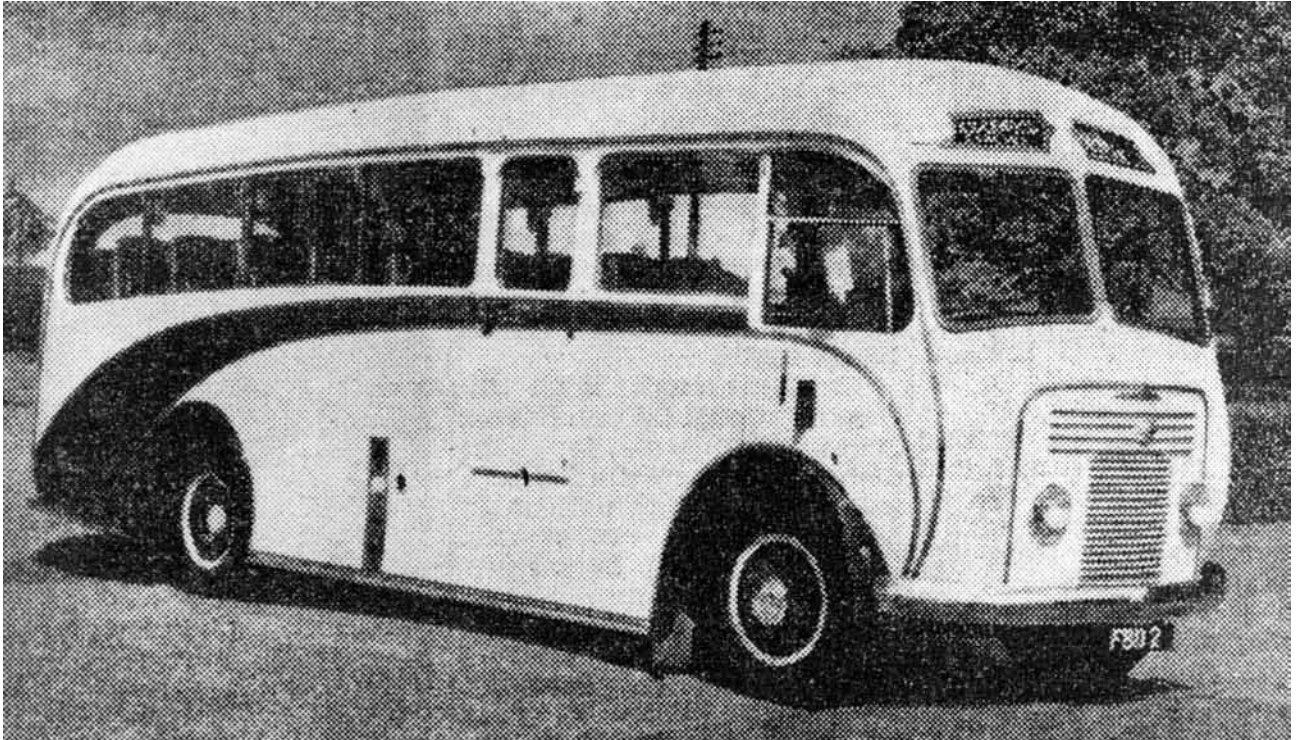
STOCKWOOD MOTORS Ltd. - CORBY

However, within a few weeks of the announcement in the *Evening Telegraph* a brand new Bedford OB equipped with coachwork by the Northampton builder Hasker, of Semilong Road, was registered as EBD 856 on 10th June 1948 to Stockwood Motors Ltd. It is unlikely that Stockwood Motors would advertise in May that they had recently acquired a luxury coach if they hadn't actually taken possession of it. Consequently the previously mentioned secondhand purchase is possible or the registration date of 10th June 1948 has been transcribed incorrectly on EBD 856's vehicle registration card.



Fortunately a photograph of Stockwood Motors' Bedford OB registered EBD 856 has survived and shows one of very few post-War Hasker coach bodies built. The location of the photograph was probably the White Hart PH at Corby.

In February 1949 Stockwood Motors again advertised in the *Evening Telegraph*, indicating that it had 26-seater luxury coaches for hire. This seems to suggest that the firm really did have at least two machines at this time, although this is not conclusive proof that they did. In any case, within a month or two the firm bought a second-hand thirty-three seat coach, details of which are again unrecorded. What is quite certain, however, is that Stockwood bought a new thirty-two seat Commer Avenger in May 1949, this being supplied by Messrs Blanchflowers of Kettering and mounted with a Plaxton body. FBD 2 was the registration allotted to it and it was first licensed on 1st June 1949.



Stockwood Motors' brand new Plaxton bodied Commer Avenger FBD 2.

The acquisition of FBD 2 was accompanied by suitable publicity in the *Evening Telegraph* which read as follows:-

“Something New & Luxurious. The Commer “Avenger” Passenger Coach.

Our photograph shows the new Commer “Avenger” Coach supplied by Blanchflowers, “The Motor People”, Kettering, to Stockwood Motors, Ltd., Corby, who are to operate this last word in luxury travel from Corby. Completed as recently as Monday of this week, the coach is the first of its kind to be put into service.

By virtue of the fact that the Commer “Avenger” has its smooth running six-cylinder engine, developing 109 B.H.P., situated neatly under the floor, 22 ft. of body space is available on a wheelbase of only 15 ft. 9 ins.

The generous seating accommodation thus provided will undoubtedly be appreciated by the passengers who are lucky enough to travel in this delightful vehicle for their holidays or outings.

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Travel pleasure is further enhanced by the H.M.V. radio with speakers situated front and rear. A microphone is provided for making announcements, and Clayton heating and demisting system is installed.

A luxury coach in every sense of the word of which both the operators and the suppliers can justly be proud."

In addition, Stockwood's contemporary advertisement, reproduced below, confirms that at least three coaches were in the fleet at June 1949, seating 26, 32 and 33 passengers. However, by November 1949, similar advertisements show that the thirty-three seater coach had left the fleet and, almost certainly, just EBD 856 and FBD 2 were now in operation.

WHY NOT BOOK
ONE OF OUR
LUXURY COACHES

for YOUR Next Outing?

26, 32, and 33 SEATERS
Including Our Latest
"COMMER" AVENGER

Let us Quote You

STOCKWOOD MOTORS
LTD.,

Rockingham Road, Corby

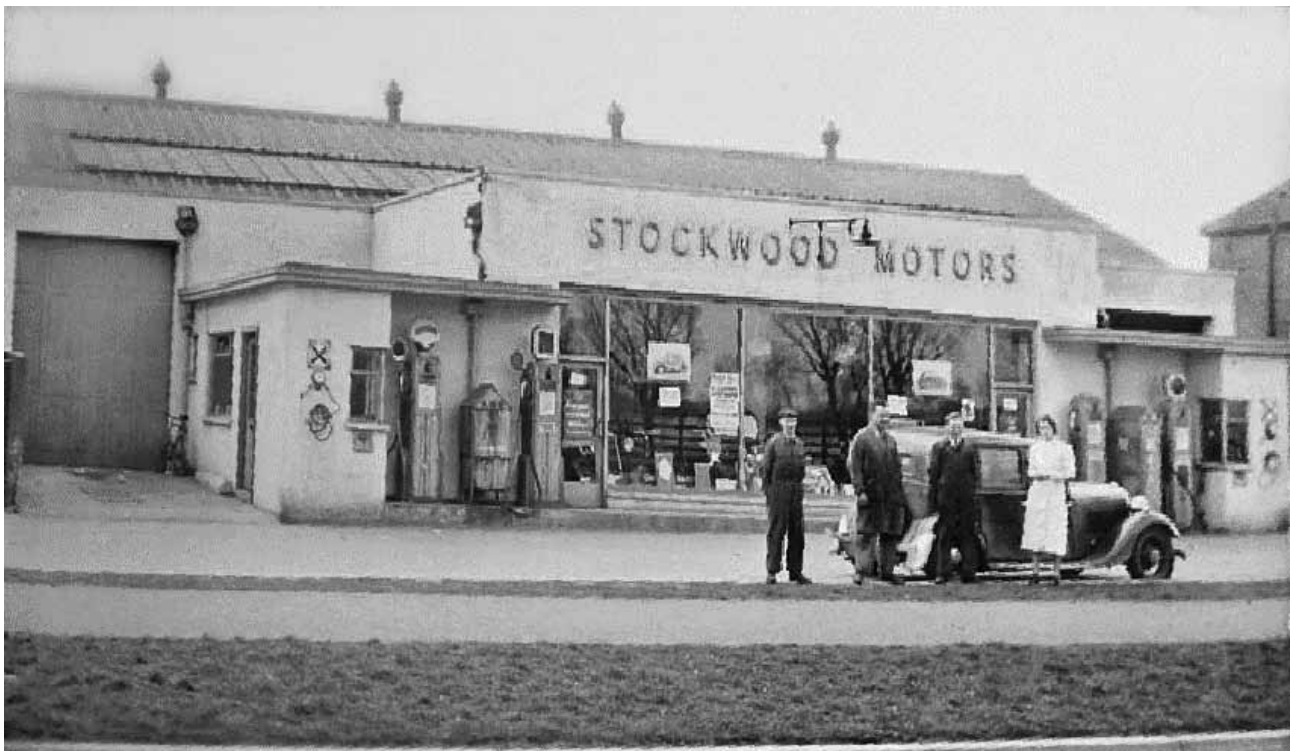
Telephone: CORBY 3243

In May 1949 Stockwood Motors applied to the Traffic Commissioners for an Excursions & Tours licence to permit the operation of two coaches, starting from Rockingham Road, Corby. Nine day tours, three afternoon tours, three evening and three mystery tours were specified. Almost inevitably the application drew objections from United Counties, Eastern Counties, Midland Red and the London Midland Region of British Railways, with the end result being that the Traffic Commissioners refused the application in November 1949.

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Stockwood Motors did, for a numbers of years, provide transport for Corby Town Football Club taking the team to away matches.

Thereafter Stockwood Motors continued to operate only private hires with their two coaches and as a sideline to the Company's main garage and car retail business. By 1953 Messrs Macklin and Gardner decided to dispense with their coaches and arrangements were made for Gerry Dilks of Desborough (NN-DI3) to take over the Goodwill of the private hire business, including the conveyance of Corby Town Football Club to away fixtures, along with Bedford EBD 856 and Commer FBD 2. Incidentally, Stockwood Motors Ltd was dissolved on 12th May 1992.



Stockwood Motors' Depot in Rockingham Road, Corby

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Notes
						New	S/H	W/D			
?	?	?	?	?	C26	?	c5/48	by 11/49	?	?	
EBD 856	Bedford	OB	44129	Hasker	C26F	6/48	—	-/53	—	T G Dilks, Desborough	
?	?	?	?	?	C33	?	by 6/49	by 11/49	?	?	
FBD 2	Commer	Avenger	23A0004	Plaxton Q2	C32F	5/49	—	-/53	Supp Blanchflowers, Kettering	T G Dilks, Desborough	

Notes: