

## ASBERY. Arthur Exchange Hotel, 14 Market Square, WELLINGBOROUGH

This account should be read in conjunction with the notes regarding the Rushden & Wellingborough Motor Car & Charabanc Co. Ltd. - NN-RU1.

It seems probable that Arthur Asbery, who kept the Exchange Hotel on the Market Square at Wellingborough, first acquired a motor vehicle as early as November 1909 and it is believed he used it to convey patrons between his hotel and the town's two railway stations.

A few years later Asbery would have been aware of the activities of W. B. Richardson who, after preliminary operations in the Wellingborough area in 1912/13, was instrumental in forming the Wellingborough Motor Omnibus Company Limited in May 1913. The W.M.O.C. buses terminated at the Market Square and without doubt both crews and passengers frequented the Exchange Hotel and Asbery would have been well aware of the popularity of the buses and their potential profitability.

In collaboration with a David Nicholson - motor engineer - of Rushden, Arthur Asbery acquired a charabanc complete, and a second chassis prior to launching the Rushden & Wellingborough Motor Car and Charabanc Co. Ltd. in May 1913. Despite its grand title very little activity seems to have occurred and trading ceased in 1914. Whilst Asbery would have observed Richardson's preliminary bus trials, he would have been unaware of the impact the W.M.O.C. was to make and it can be assumed that Asbery under-estimated this factor.

Asbery, however, was not deterred and later ventured into transport again when in 1917 he acquired a secondhand Wolseley landaulette which he possibly used for taxi or private hire work. Then, in 1918, he bought an Alldays lorry from Coleman Bros. of Bozeat (See NN-CO4). Northamptonshire registration records do not record this vehicle as being used as a public conveyance at this time, but it is understood that Asbery transported private parties from his hotel to various local functions and events.

In June 1920 Asbery bought a 35hp Maudslay lorry which may or may not have been adapted to carry passengers.

ASBERY. Arthur - Wellingborough

#### Vehicles

**LD 2568** - Make unknown - Registered 18/9/09 and transferred to Asbery 5/11/09 being used as a public conveyance.

**LB 6079 - Wolseley** 14hp - yellow landaulette - Registered 25/11/14 and transferred to Asbery 6/6/17.

**OA 4881 - Alldays** 25/30hp motor cart - Registered to Coleman Bros., Bozeat 10/10/14 and used as a public conveyance. Passed to Asbery 21/3/18 by which time it was described as an Alldays lorry.

**BD 4653 - Maudslay** 35hp - motor lorry - painted green and registered 12/6/20. Not known whether this vehicle was used for conveyance of passengers.