

Bygone Buses

of
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-LU2

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LUCK & ANDREW Ltd

Champion Works

Wellington Street

KETTERING

If you lived in Kettering during the first quarter of the twentieth century and you required packing cases, boot racks or other prefabricated timber products, you would almost certainly have approached Messrs Luck & Andrew Ltd of Wellington Street.

On 8th November 1919 Luck & Andrew purchased a 30 horsepower Lacre lorry which was registered BD 3871 and at this time advertised that they were now able to carry consignments of goods, any weight up to two tons, for any distance by means of motor lorry transport. Evidently Luck & Andrew found BD 3871 was being kept very busy as only two months later they added a 30 horsepower Daimler truck to their fleet, this being registered BD 3966 on 5th January 1920.

There is little doubt that the experiences gained from operating a pair of motor lorries during 1920 gave encouragement to Messrs Luck & Andrew to venture into charabanc operation during 1921. In fact this firm, on 6th June 1921, now describing themselves as "Chara-a-banc and Motor Haulage Contractors", advertised a trip to Bedford on Saturday 11th June 1921, intimating that parties of 29 passengers could be catered for. In the following week Luck & Andrew ran a Sunday Country Trip and a few days later operated to Apethorpe Park Garden Fete.

The issue now has to be addressed of what vehicles Luck & Andrew used for their trips. On 30th June 1921 a Thornycroft J-type charabanc was licensed to this operator as BD 951 but the first excursion advertised was for a date over a fortnight earlier than BD 951 apparently took to the road. Did Luck & Andrew therefore hire a charabanc for the first couple of weeks pending the arrival of their Thornycroft or did they fit out one of their lorries for passenger carrying duties? Being timber merchants would certainly have given them the expertise necessary to carry out such a conversion quite quickly.

RUN OF THE SEASON.
The Victory Char-a-banc
Will run
TWO CIRCULAR TOURS
On **SUNDAY NEXT**
From **Dalkeith Place.**
2.30, via **Thrapston, Gundle, and Banfield.**
5.30, **Desborough, Middleton, and the Wel-**
land Valley.
THE TRIP OF COMFORT.
2a. **bd. Return.**
LUCK & ANDREW, Ltd.
WELLINGTON STREET, KETTERING.

A facsimile of a Luck & Andrew advertisement for Circular Tours operating on Sunday 26th June 1921.

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.

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The advertisement illustrated at the bottom of the previous page indicates that the Thornycroft charabanc BD 951 was named "Victory" and in all probability it carried this name of its sides and/or rear panels.

On 7th July 1921 Messrs Luck & Andrew took delivery of a second charabanc which this time was of Leyland manufacture and it took the registration BD 2284. Initially it seems to have accommodated 25 passengers as its owners now claimed to be able to cater for parties of 54 - i.e. 29 + 25, but within a couple of weeks the total was increased to 56 suggesting that BD 2284 probably now seated 27 people. This second charabanc was named "Triumph".

THE WELLAND VALLEY.

SPECIAL CHAR-A-BANC TOUR ON
SUNDAY NEXT.

The Popular "VICTORY" and the New
"TRIUMPH" will make the journeys, seating
56 Passengers.

2.30, DALKEITH PLACE, also Evening at
6 o'clock.

Book Early to avoid disappointment.
Cheap Comfortable Ride. 'Nuff said!

LUCK & ANDREW, Ltd.

CHAR-A-BANC PROPRIETORS,
WELLINGTON STREET, KETTERING.
'Phone 111.

A facsimile of the Luck & Andrew advertisement appearing in the Kettering Evening Telegraph of 14th July 1921 and making reference to both "Victory" and "Triumph".

This Luck & Andrew advertisement of 26th July 1921 is included for its trip to Cambridge Mammoth Show and for its plea to the firm's Yarmouth passengers reading "Will all our Yarmouth Passengers bring luggage etc., Friday Afternoon? Our Chara-a-banc will leave Wellington-street on Saturday 6 o'clock PROMPT". A later advertisement for a Skegness trip stated "A Cold Lunch provided on the road".

LUCK & ANDREW'S

NOTED CHAR-A-BANCOS
WILL LEAVE DALKEITH PLACE:
COUNTRY TRIP, TUESDAY, 6.30.
BRIGSTOCK FLOWER SHOW, THURSDAY,
2 and 3 o'clock.

Our Usual SUNDAY TRIPS, 2 and 6 o'clock.
On MONDAY, Aug. 1st, our Char-a-bancs will
run to CAMBRIDGE MAMMOTH SHOW, 9.30.

WEDNESDAY, Aug. 3rd, to STRATFORD-
ON-AVON, 8.30.

Also Trip to HUNSTANTON, start 6 o'clock.
Guaranteed 7 hours at the seaside.

THURSDAY, Aug. 4th, DEENE HALL
GARDEN FETE.

FRIDAY, Aug. 5th, Open Date for Two Char-
a-bancs Parties up to 56. Taken anywhere.

SATURDAY, Aug. 6th, One Char-a-banc Open.

SATURDAY, Aug. 6th, Special Terms for
YARMOUTH, Outward Journey only.

SPECIAL TERMS for Mid-week Parties.
Book Early to Save Disappointment.
Prices on Application.

Booking—
WESTON VILLA, ROCKINGHAM ROAD,
and WELLINGTON STREET.

Will all our Yarmouth Passengers bring luggage,
etc., Friday Afternoon? Our Char-a-banc will
leave Wellington-street on Saturday 6 o'clock
PROMPT.

'Phone 111

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Messrs Luck & Andrew continued with their two charabancs throughout the summer of 1921 but then in October made a surprise purchase of a fine Leyland G7 fitted with the prototype Dodson Charabus body that had been exhibited at the Olympia Commercial Vehicle Exhibition from 14th to 22nd October 1921. This vehicle could be used as both an enclosed saloon bus or as an open-sided and open-roofed charabanc type conveyance. A full description of this type of patented bodywork has been included in paper NN-WO2 detailing the history of Henry Woolley & Son of Northampton. The Luck & Andrew Charabus took the registration BD 209 on its arrival in Northamptonshire.

TO-MORROW (SUNDAY), OCTOBER 30th
SPECIAL COUNTRY TRIP
WITH
OUR NEW CHARA-BUS,
RETURN FARE, 2/6.
Leaving ~~Dulkeith-place~~ at 2.30 p.m.
Bookings at WESTON VILLA and WELLING-
TON STREET, KETTERING.
LUCK & ANDREW,
Phone 111. Ltd.

Luck & Andrew quickly put their new Charabus to good use on 30th October 1921 as can be seen from this Evening Telegraph advertisement.



No pictures of Leyland G7 - BD 209 - whilst in the ownership of Luck & Andrew have come to light but the Charabus would have looked exactly as it did in the following photographs whilst with United Counties who never repainted it from its exhibition livery of Eau-de-Nil.

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A side view of BD 209 taken at United Counties' Irthlingborough Depot.

The frontal aspect of BD 209.



Fortunately the original Dodson Charabus body survived and Mike Sutcliffe made a magnificent job of restoring it to its former glory as can be seen in this rear view of BD 209.

LUCK & ANDREW Ltd - KETTERING

Operations of private hire and excursions were continued by Messrs Luck & Andrew, at least until the end of December 1921. The Author has seen no evidence of activity during the first few months of 1922 but in April of that year BD 209 was sold to United Counties Omnibus & Road Transport Co Ltd; the Thornycroft charabanc BD 951 passed to William Parker of Kettering and Leyland Charabanc BD 2284 was acquired by Percy Kerr of Kettering.

Whilst the foray of Luck & Andrew into the passengers carrying business lasted for less than a year, it was certainly a very active and interesting period. Afterwards Luck & Andrew reverted to their core business in the timber trade.

Rolling Stock:

Regn. No.	Chassis	Type	Chassis No.	Body	Seats	No.	Dates			Former Owner	Disposal	Nts
							New	S/H	W/D			
BD 3871	Lacre	30hp	234/94	?	Lorry	—	11/19	—	by 7/25	—		1
BD 3966	Daimler	30hp	?	?	Lorry	—	1/20	—	?	—		2
BD 951	Thornycroft	J	5470	?	Ch29	—	6/21	—	3/22	—	W A Parker, Kettering	3
BD 2284	Leyland	?	21650?	?	Ch27	—	7/21	—	by 4/22	—	P W Kerr, Kettering	4
BD 209	Leyland	G7	12301	Dodson	B32R	6500	10/21	—	4/22	—	United Counties O & R T Co Ltd (B15)	

- Notes:** 1 - BD 3871 - Last owned by D Voxley, Gt. Yarmouth and last licensed 7/25.
 2 - BD 3966 - Last owned by W Provest, Peterborough and last licensed 12/37.
 3 - BD 951 - Named "Victory". Last licensed to Bagshaw & Sons, Kettering 10/31.
 4 - BD 2284 - Named "Triumph". Last owned by W Senior & Son, Pendleton and last licensed 7/30.