

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-KI2  
Page 1

## KINGSTON. Sydney Charles Cattle End, SILVERSTONE

Sydney Charles Kingston bought his first bus in May 1922 when he acquired a second-hand first World War Sunbeam ambulance from which he removed the stretcher frames and substituted side seats to carry six passengers longitudinally each side. This vehicle was registered BD 6623 on 31st May 1922. At an early date the Sunbeam was fitted with pneumatic tyres and was one of the very first in the area to be so equipped.

Syd Kingston immediately commenced a bus service from Silverstone via the A43 road, Towcester and Blisworth to Northampton and extended it, at an unknown date, in a westerly direction to start from Syresham. In Northampton the route terminated at Cattle Market Road. In October 1922 Kingston applied to Northampton Borough Council for permission to stand his Sunbeam on the Market Square to operate circular tours. Syd Kingston would also have liked to have run to race meetings but the Watch Committee did not favour operators who were not based within the Borough, presumably because they were not contributing to the Rate Fund, and consideration of the matter was deferred. By March 1923 Syd Kingston had again applied to the Council for permission to convey passengers from Northampton to Towcester Races on Easter Monday, but this was refused.

The former Sunbeam ambulance proved to be successful and this led to Syd Kingston buying another vehicle of Sunbeam manufacture, but this time a charabanc. It carried the registration number NH 4334 and probably dated from late 1922. The two Sunbeams satisfied Kingston's needs for a number of years until, in 1927, he was able to trade in his original vehicle to Messrs Allchin & Sons of Kingsthorpe Grove, Northampton in part exchange for a brand new REO, which was registered RP 3900 on 25th March of that year. The manufacturer of the body fitted to this machine is not known.

A couple of years later Syd Kingston purchased another new vehicle and selected a model B Guy chassis which became registered RP 7278 on 31st May 1929. It was supplied by Grose Ltd and Ben Hasker of Semilong Road, Northampton was commissioned to build a twenty-seat body for fitment to the Guy chassis.

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.

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

**NN-KI2**

Page 2

**KINGSTON, Sydney C - SILVERSTONE**



*Syd Kingston stands alongside RP3900, his 1927 REO.*

At some time during the 1920s Syd Kingston commenced a Silverstone to Banbury service on Thursday market days and this was routed via Syresham, Helmdon, Sulgrave and Thorpe Mandeville. By 1930 Kingston's Syresham to Northampton bus service was providing workmen's services to the County Town on Mondays to Fridays with a couple of shopper's market day journeys on Wednesdays. The Saturday timetable comprised eight return trips and the Sunday timetable provided two return journeys. One bus was sufficient to operate the Sunday to Friday timetable but two were required on Saturdays.

**SILVERSTONE AND SYRESHAM BUS SERVICE.**

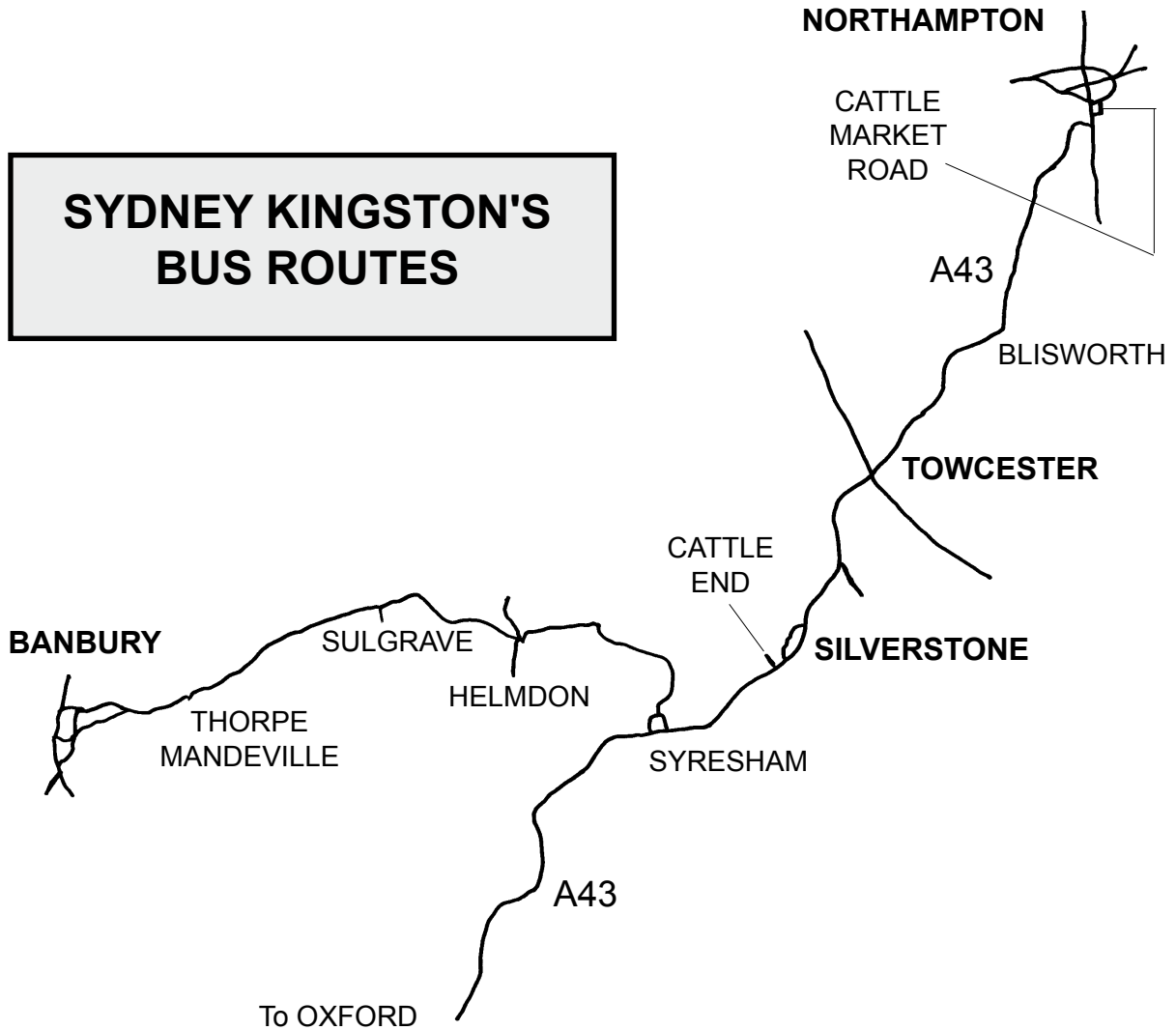
Proprietor—S. C. Kingston, Silverstone.

Leave	Mon., Tu. Thurs., Fri.		Wed.			Sunc.		
	A.M.	P.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Syresham .....	6 5	4 30	...	9 30	12 15	4 15	9 30	7 30
Silverstone .....	6 20	4 45	6 20	9 45	12 30	4 30	9 45	7 45
Towcester .....	6 30	5 0	6 30	10 0	12 40	4 45	10 0	8 0
Northampton.....	7 0	5 30	7 0	10 30	1 10	5 15	10 30	8 30
Northampton..... (Plough Hotel)	7 10	5 30	7 10	11 15	3 15	5 30	10 45	8 30
Towcester .....	7 40	6 0	7 40	11 45	3 45	6 0	11 15	9 0
Silverstone .....	7 55	6 10	7 55	12 0	4 0	6 10	11 30	9 15
Syresham .....	8 10	6 20	8 10	12 15	4 15	6 20	11 45	9 30
<b>Saturdays.</b>								
Leave	A.M.	A.M.	A.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.	P.M.
Syresham .....	...	9 30	11 35	1 45	4 30	...	7 0	9 45
Silverstone .....	6 20	9 45	11 50	2 0	4 45	6 55	7 15	10 0
Towcester .....	6 30	10 0	12 0	2 15	5 0	7 10	7 30	10 15
Northampton.....	7 0	10 30	12 30	2 45	5 30	7 40	8 0	10 45
Northampton..... (Plough Hotel)	7 10	10 35	12 0	2 30	5 30	6 0	8 40	10 55
Towcester .....	7 40	11 0	12 30	1 0	4 0	6 30	9 10	11 25
Silverstone .....	7 55	11 15	12 45	1 15	4 15	6 45	9 25	11 40
Syresham .....	8 10	11 30	...	1 30	4 30	7 0	9 40	11 55

*S C Kingston's Syresham to Northampton service in December 1930.*

**KINGSTON, Sydney C - SILVERSTONE**

**SYDNEY KINGSTON'S  
BUS ROUTES**



*A route diagram of Syd Kingston's services.*

Syd Kingston bought his last vehicle in 1931 when a fine new Gilford 168SD model entered his fleet on 31st July, on which date it was registered NV530. It was supplied by Petty Bros of Hitchin who also fitted a body of their own manufacture. The Gruss air springs on Gilford chassis were always an impressive feature.

Following the introduction of the 1930 Road Traffic Act, Syd Kingston applied for and was granted Road Service Licences to allow him to continue his Syresham — Northampton and Silverstone — Banbury services together with excursions and tours from Silverstone. A couple of years later Kingston was successful in adding a Syresham group of excursions to his licence portfolio.

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-KI2

Page 4

KINGSTON, Sydney C - SILVERSTONE



*Driver George Lovell stands alongside Syd Kingston's bus which in this instance was NV530, a Petty bodied Gilford 168SD. Standing on the step is Fred Mortimer who acted as a conductor and later a driver. Mrs Kingston also frequently conducted the services. It will be seen that Fred Mortimer is equipped with a "Bell Punch" ticket machine, showing that this operator used ticket equipment produced by this manufacturer.*

By 1933 United Counties was negotiating with W A Nightingale of Northampton for the acquisition of that Company's Road Service Licences which included routes from Northampton to Towcester and Silverstone. It was in United Counties' interests additionally to acquire Syd Kingston's Syresham route and, on 21st October 1933, agreement was reached for the sale and purchase of Kingston's business.

The goodwill of the licences was valued at £1200 and Kingston's Guy and Gilford buses, with spares, were purchased by United Counties for a further £1100, with the effective date of sale being 5th February 1934. United Counties applied to the Traffic Commissioners to operate the Syresham — Northampton but not the Silverstone — Banbury route as this latter town was in Midland Red's territory. This latter Company took over the Banbury service from 22nd February 1934.

Syd Kingston and Fred Mortimer joined United Counties who opened a Silverstone outstation using Kingston's shed as a base. Both men continued in employment with United Counties until they retired and, indeed, Mrs Kingston acted as conductress on market days. United Counties eventually ceased using the Silverstone base in 1975.

KINGSTON, Sydney C - SILVERSTONE



Another view of NV 530, Syd Kingston's substantial Gilford 168SD with Petty twenty-six seat coachwork, new in July 1931.

### Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
BD6623	Sunbeam		10547		B14R		?	5/22	3/27	War Department	Allchin, N'pton and scrap	
NH4334	Sunbeam				Chara		-/22	c-/23	5/32		No further owner	
RP3900	REO		142572		B16?F		3/27	—	2/34	Allchin, Northampton	Last owner J Lester London 6/36	
RP7278	Guy	B	9075	Hasker	B20F		5/29	—	2/34	Grose, Northampton	United Counties 364	
NV530	Gilford	168SD	11672	Petty	C26F		7/31	—	2/34	Petty, Hitchin	United Counties 363	

Notes: A Ford T registered BD2744, chassis number 386855, was registered on 6/7/21 to Kingston Bros of Caldecote, Towcester and was described as "a touring van". This vehicle is recorded as being last licensed to S C Kingston in December 1925. It is not thought this vehicle was used as a public conveyance.