

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-LU3

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## LUSTY. Albert Edward t/a KILSBY MOTOR SERVICES Lees House KILSBY

It is not thought that Albert Edward Lusty was a native of Kilsby but at some time during the 1930s he and his wife Evelyn May Lusty established a motor repair garage on the site of a farm yard adjacent to The Green at Kilsby.

It was not until after the second World War that Albert Lusty ventured into coach operation at a time when the War-weary population of this Country was anxious to get out and about once again, to enjoy the countryside and visit the coast. In July 1947 Lusty acquired a used Bedford WLB coach that was some thirteen years old and seated twenty passengers in its Duple body. Its registration number was AXM 536.



*In this illustration Bedford WLB - AXM 536 - was in the ownership of P Crouch & Son Ltd (Blue Bus Services) of Guildford and is seen during a War-time operation bound for Worplesdon. Lusty bought it in 1947 and retained it for three years.*

*(Photo courtesy Omnibus Society).*

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.

#### LUSTY. Albert Edward - KILSBY

Records show that AXM 536 was withdrawn by July 1950 and that Albert Lusty's replacement coach - FJW 102 - a Bedford OB with Mulliner twenty-eight seat bodywork was not acquired until October 1950. This would leave a three or four month gap during which Lusty would not have had a coach at his disposal, so it seems likely that the dates recorded for either AXM 536 or FJW 102 may be suspect.

Albert Lusty must have been reasonably successful with his coach operations as he was able to buy a brand new Bedford SB coach in June 1951 registered GNV 642. It carried the usual Duple thirty-three seat coachwork associated with this model.



*Albert Lusty's GNV 642 was photographed at Wembley on a visit there in the early 1950s and looking immaculate as one would expect for a new Bedford/Duple coach.*

*(Photo courtesy ATPH/Hustwitt).*

In the following year in June 1952 Albert Lusty added a second new Bedford SB to his fleet carrying the registration plate JBC 159 and replacing the older Bedford OB FJW 102. The work carried out by Lusty was mainly private hires although it seems likely that he may have had a contract to carry workmen to the British Thomson-Houston factory at Rugby. Indeed, in October 1952 Lusty applied to the Traffic Commissioners for a Road Service Licence to convey passengers from Welford Village Hall, picking up at Husbands Bosworth The Green, North Kilworth The Swan and South Kilworth to the B.T.H. Factory at Rugby. The application may well have been objected to by Midland Red and was refused by the Traffic Commissioners in February 1953. At this time Lusty sold his Bedford JBC 159 and retained just the one coach - GNV 642. Whether or not the sale of JBC 159 was connected with the refusal to grant the Welford to Rugby Licence is not known.

### LUSTY. Albert Edward - KILSBY

The Author has not discovered exactly when Albert Lusty ceased coach operations but it is believed to have been in the Spring of 1954.

Local Kilsby historian Gren Hatton, in one of his books which detailed the memories of some of the older inhabitants of the village, quoted from a interview with Mr Ernest Emery in 1992 who said "Albert Lusty was one of the best-tempered chaps I've ever met. But he had one big failing - he wasn't a businessman. He never could get the money out of folk who owed him anything, and he was always in the red because of that". This may have been the reason for the quick sale of JBC 159 and the demise of Albert Lusty's coach operations in circa 1954.



*A view from The Green, Kilsby showing Albert Lusty's garage and outbuildings together with one of his Duple Vega bodied Bedford SB coaches and his Buick car.*

*The Author is grateful to Gren Hatton for his general assistance and the photograph of Lusty's Garage.*

#### Rolling Stock:

REGN. NO.	CHASSIS			BODY			DATES			PREVIOUS OWNER	INITIAL DISPOSAL	NOTES
	MAKE	TYPE	NO.	MAKE	TYPE/ SEATS	NO.	NEW	S/H	W/D			
AXM 536	Bedford	WLB	109387	Duple	C20F	4031	2/34	7/47	7/50	P Crouch & Son Ltd, Guildford Worthington Mtr Tours, W'pton	No further owner	1
FJW 102	Bedford	OB	58623	Mulliner	C28F	T104	1/48	10/50	7/52			
GNV 642	Bedford	SB	2206	Duple Vega	C33F	56887	6/51	—	5/54	—	H G Graveling, Corby Apps, Bearsted	
JBC 159	Bedford	SB	7449	Duple Vega	C33F	1016/2	6/52	—	1/53	—	A E O'Brien, Sheffield	

**Notes:** 1 - GNV 642 last licensed in West Sussex by 6/75.