

GRAY. Arthur Samuel

Royal George Hotel,

GEDDINGTON

Arthur Gray kept the Royal George Hotel at Geddington which was, apparently, an establishment noted for its sporting associations and frequented by people with sporting interests.

With the Royal George being a meeting place for people with similar interests, Arthur Gray was well placed to provide transport for the various sporting trips that were organised, either by individuals, local clubs or by the Royal George. For this purpose Gray must have bought a used charabanc about which no details are known. However, it has been learnt that Arthur Gray was in trouble with Kettering Urban District Council in June or July 1921 for plying for hire with a motor charabanc which was not licensed by the Council.

Despite this setback, in the following Spring Arthur Gray purchased a replacement Ford T charabanc which became registered as BD 6408, in April 1922, its principal use being for the conveyance of the Geddington cricket and football teams as well as for other outings.

Clearly, BD 6408 was not intensively used for sporting outings and Arthur Gray diversified by carrying coal from Geddington station for delivery to local residents in the area. Pulleys were fixed to the beams in the eaves at the yard of the Royal George and the charabanc body from BD 6408 was hoisted up to hang on the wall when the vehicle was not required for passenger use. A flat lorry body replaced the charabanc body to enable the Ford to be used for coal delivery purposes.

There is no clear indication how long Arthur Gray operated his Ford T but possibly he ceased operation in the 1926-8 period.

Vehicles:

Unidentified charabanc acquired by June 1921 - probably a Ford T.
BD 6408 - Ford T - Charabanc - First registered April 1922.

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When the photograph for this postcard was taken it was fortunate that Arthur Gray's Ford T charabanc BD 6408 was parked in the right place at the right time.

'BUS COLLISION.

A COLOURED MAN IN ACCIDENT ON GEDDINGTON ROAD.

Accidents have been unpleasantly frequent on the Kettering to Geddington road lately, and on Saturday night about 10.45 another mishap was added to the list, two Geddington 'buses, owned by Mr. Gray and Mr. Dainty, coming into collision near the Kettering New Estate.

Mr. Frederick A. Clipston, of Bath-road, Kettering, who was sitting in front of Mr. Dainty's vehicle, had to have a stitch inserted in his cheek, which was severely cut by broken glass, while Mrs. Edith Sanders, a widowed lady, living on the New Estate, who was also in front, injured her knee and arm.

The only other casualty was a coloured man, Mr. Charles Herbert Lloyd, who was inside and sustained nothing worse than bruises.

Arthur Gray's Ford T was involved in an accident with fellow Geddington operator John Dainty's bus in July 1923, as reported in the Kettering Evening Telegraph.