

# Bygone Buses

of  
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

NN-GI1

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## GIBBINS. Frank Clarke 16 Badby Road DAVENTRY

Frank Gibbins was born in Northampton in 1887 and at some time emigrated to Canada where he became a lumberjack. He returned to England just prior to the First World War, during which time he served with the Northamptonshire Yeomanry.

In 1923 he married Constance Ethel Band from Newnham and later resided at 16 Badby Road, Daventry. In due course, Frank and Constance Gibbins were to have three children, a daughter named Rosamund and two sons - Roy and Guy.

In the mid 1920s Frank Gibbins purchased Horace Wakeford's share in the transport business run jointly by William Franklin and Horace Wakeford from 23 New Street, Daventry. (See NN-FR1). By early 1932 Frank Gibbins and William Franklin decided to go their separate ways and in March of that year they divided the business between them. William Franklin continued in road haulage whilst Frank Gibbins took the three buses then being operated and a couple of tipper lorries.



The buses in question were RP 2357 and RP 3963 – both Thornycrofts, and RP 7167 – a Chevrolet. Initially Frank Gibbins garaged his fleet at the Red Lion yard in Brook Street, Daventry until he constructed a purpose built garage on land he acquired in Badby Road West, Daventry circa 1934.

Left - Hall Lewis bodied Thornycroft A2 - RP 3963.

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.

**GIBBINS. Frank C. - DAVENTRY**

The services inherited from his former partner - William Franklin - and continued by Frank Gibbins comprised the local service from Staverton to Daventry and the workers' service from Staverton via Daventry, Kilsby and Hillmorton to Rugby B.T-H Works, together with excursions and tours from Daventry, picking up and setting down at places

### F. C. GIBBINS, Daventry.

#### 'BUS SERVICE. DAVENTRY, BADBY, CHARWELTON, BYFIELD AND WOODFORD.

Revised Time Table commencing April 2nd, 1932.

Leave	SATURDAYS.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
DAVENTRY (Market Square)		9.30	1. 0	3.30	8.30	10.45
BADBY .. .. .		9.40	1.10	3.40	8.40	10.55
CHARWELTON .. .. .		9.50	1.20	3.50	8.50	
BYFIELD (arrive New Inn) ..		10. 0	1.30	4. 0	9. 0	
BYFIELD (depart New Inn) ..		10. 5		4. 5	9. 5	
WOODFORD (arrive White Hart)		10.15		4.15	9.15	

Leave	SATURDAYS.	a.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
WOODFORD (White Hart)		10.15		4.30	9.15	
BYFIELD (arrive New Inn) ..		10.25		4.40	9.25	
BYFIELD (depart New Inn) ..		10.30	1.30	4.45	9.30	
CHARWELTON .. .. .		10.40	1.40	4.55	9.40	
BADBY .. .. .		10.50	1.50	5. 5	9.50	11. 0
DAVENTRY (arr. Market Square)		11. 0	2. 0	5.15	10. 0	11.10

Leave	SUNDAYS.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
DAVENTRY (Market Square)		1.45	5.30	7.45
BADBY .. .. .		1.55	5.40	7.55
CHARWELTON .. .. .		2. 5	5.50	8. 5
BYFIELD (arrive New Inn) ..		2.15	6. 0	8.15
BYFIELD (depart New Inn) ..		2.20	6. 5	8.20
WOODFORD (arrive White Hart)		2.30	6.15	8.30

Leave	SUNDAYS.	p.m.	p.m.	p.m.
WOODFORD (White Hart) ..		2.30	6.15	8.30
BYFIELD (arrive New Inn) ..		2.40	6.25	8.40
BYFIELD (depart New Inn) ..		2.45	6.30	8.45
CHARWELTON .. .. .		2.55	6.40	8.55
BADBY .. .. .		3. 5	6.50	9. 5
DAVENTRY (arrive Market Square)		3.15	7. 0	9.15

PRIVATE PARTIES CATERED FOR.

Walter Adams, Printer, 8, Sheaf Street, Daventry.

Facsimile of F C Gibbins' timetable for the Daventry - Woodford service, dated 2nd April 1932

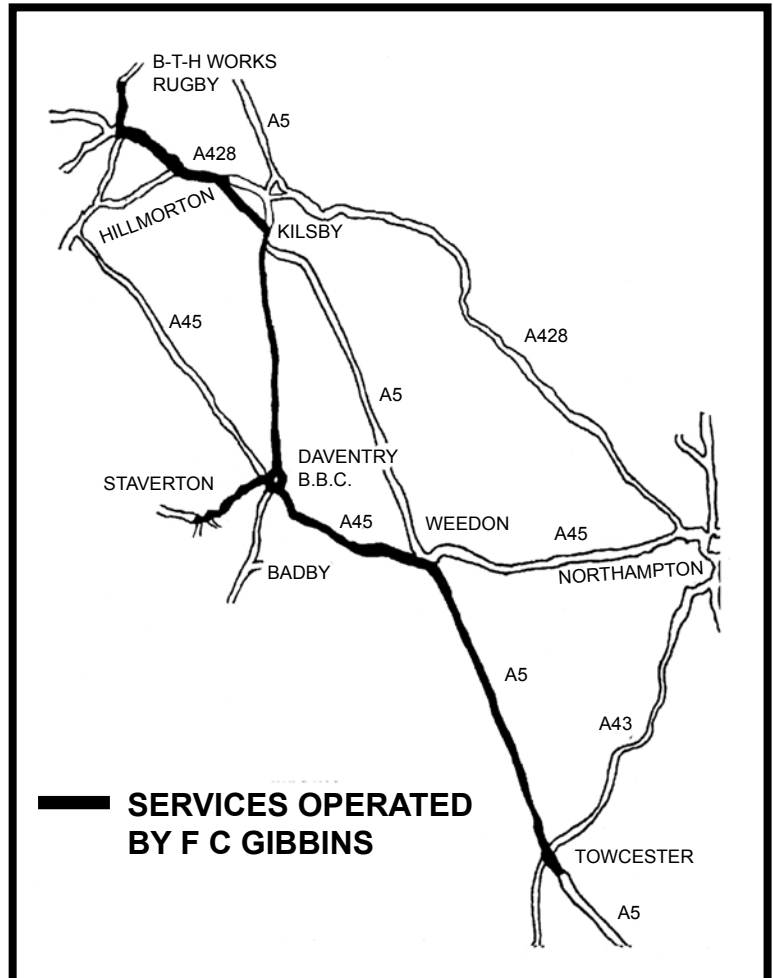
**GIBBINS. Frank C. - DAVENTRY**

within the vicinity of the town. Almost immediately that Frank Gibbins commenced operating in his own right, the Traffic Commissioners granted him a licence for a stage-carriage service to operate between Daventry - Badby - Charwelton - Byfield and Woodford Halse on Saturdays and Sundays. This service had previously been provided by C W Page of Drayton (See NN-PA3) with whom arrangements had been made for William Franklin to apply for the route in January 1932, but by the time the licence was granted, Frank Gibbins was the sole proprietor of the bus operating section of the former Franklin business.

In December 1934 Frank Gibbins applied for, and was granted, a licence for a service which operated between Daventry, Weedon and the A5 to Towcester on Wednesdays and Sundays. These days of were later varied from time to time to include Saturday journeys. At different times during the 1930s Frank Gibbins provided a service to convey people from Daventry Market Square to the local swimming pool which at that time was apparently the reservoir at Ashby Road, Daventry but it is difficult to believe that such a service could have ever provided profitable operation. Attempts to establish a Daventry to Northampton service in 1936 as well as a facility to convey B.B.C. staff from Daventry to the Wireless Station on Borough Hill proved fruitless as United Counties' service between Northampton and Daventry meant that the Traffic Commissioners would not grant licences for others to pick-up and set-down on the A45 road.

The tickets issued on all the stage-carriage services provided by Frank Gibbins were of the punch type.

Whilst details of the three buses taken over from Franklin are known, subsequent acquisitions and sales by Frank Gibbins are extremely sketchy. In fact the only other vehicle known to be acquired and for which details are available, was a Tilling-Stevens registered RP 8139 which was new in December 1929 to Clarke Bros. of Weedon (See NN-CL5). Frank Gibbins purchased this thirty-two seat saloon circa 1933 and its final licence,





#### GIBBINS. Frank C. – DAVENTRY

issued in Gibbins' name, expired in March 1937. A photograph of RP 8139 in its original owners possession can be seen below Clearly Frank Gibbins must have operated several vehicles of which details are still to be discovered.



*Tilling-Stevens RP 8139, seen here with Clarke Bros of Weedon, was bought by Frank Gibbins in 1933.*

It is extremely doubtful that Frank Gibbins' passenger carrying activities were earning sufficient return to justify the time and effort put into their operation. In 1936 circumstances arose which led to Frank Gibbins selling the bus side of his business to KW Services Ltd of Blakesley in January 1937. After handing over the reins to KW Services, Frank Gibbins continued to operate lorries until about 1940 when he ceased to trade and went to work for Westbourne Engineering of Oxford Street, Daventry. Whilst employed there he became engaged in transporting that firms goods around the Daventry district and this in turn led to him being granted, circa 1944, two "A" licences which permitted him to operate lorries within a twenty-five mile radius of Daventry.

Having re-entered the haulage business Frank Gibbins formed a limited company entitled "F C Gibbins Ltd" in 1955 and Frank continued to run this outfit until his death in August 1958 at the age of 72. Thereafter his sons and daughter ran and expanded the business until it was sold in 1979 to Fastline Ltd. of High Wycombe. Even after this date the name of "F C Gibbins" continued to appear on the sides of lorries until approximately 1990.

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 : GIBBINS. Frank C. – DAVENTRY :  
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**ROLLING STOCK:**

Registration Number	Chassis Make	Chassis Number	Body Make	Body Type & Seats	Dates			Acquired From	Notes
					New	S/H	W/D		
RP2357	Thornycroft A1	12405	Goodwin	B20	3/26	3/32	12/33	W Franklin	
RP3963	Thornycroft A2	14098	Hall Lewis	B20F	3/27	3/32	9/36	W Franklin	
RP7167	Chevrolet LO	50422	?	C14F	3/29	3/32	9/35	W Franklin	
RP8139	Tilling-Stevens	6592	?	B32F	12/29	c-/33	3/37	Clarke Bros. Weedon	

*Thanks are due to Mr Roy Gibbins for supplying some of the information contained in this account.*