

Chapter 110: Transport in the Early 1970s

At the start of this period, mum and dad had a Vauxhall Viva Estate which they had bought in February 1968.¹ Because accounts of this period are dependent on grandad's diaries only, there is relatively little about how mum and dad used the car except where it directly affected grandma and grandad, for example where they gave grandma² and grandad³ lifts. On odd occasions, grandad did note the car being used for other activities, for example, in June 1970, for canvassing when dad stood for election to parliament.⁴ On one occasion, in May 1970, dad went out in the car while mum, Robin and the rest of us went to grandma and grandad's for tea.⁵ On another, in July 1973, dad had the car to go to Kirkby.⁶ In February 1972, mum and dad had a new car, a Simca.⁷ After they got it, mum took the new car to grandma and grandad's for them to have a look at.⁸

Simca 1100 in Belgium in 2015



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¹ See [Chapter 95](#).

² For example, in March 1970, dad picked grandma up to take her to the bus station to catch the bus to Bedford. Later that month, mum picked grandma up from Norwich bus station when she got back from Bedford (see [Chapter 106](#)). Also, in May 1970, mum picked grandma up to bring her to ours to help with some painting (see [Chapter 109](#)). In June 1971, dad brought grandma and Auntie Dolly home from ours. The next year, in April 1972, on Easter Sunday, grandad noted that mum, dad and the four of us came for tea in our (car) and Robin Harrison also brought his car. He noted that we took grandma and Auntie Dolly to Park Lane Methodist Church (see [Chapter 107](#)). The following month, in May 1972, mum took grandma to the Post Office to collect the pensions (see [Chapter 104](#)) and then into Norwich with the Roberts radio which had "gone wonky" (see [Chapter 108](#)). Grandma came home by bus. That same year, in September 1972, mum took grandma and Mrs Davis to Lowestoft for a week's holiday (see [Chapter 106](#)).

³ In June 1970, dad took grandad to Gaywood Corner to buy a ladder. Dad also went back later to pick it up but grandad decided it was not long enough so they ordered a longer one for him which they later delivered (see [Chapter 108](#)).

⁴ See [Chapter 112](#). I recall dad attaching loudspeakers to the car and he used to sing as part of his canvassing! All highly embarrassing.

⁵ See [Chapter 106](#).

⁶ This may have been noteworthy as it was after the date that mum and dad split up (see [Chapter 99](#))

⁷ Grandad noted "made in" but did not complete the sentence. Had he intended to note when it was made or perhaps where? [Simca](#) was a French car manufacturer, established in 1934 by Fiat. In 1970, it became a brand of Chrysler and the brand was phased out in 1978. Models in production in 1971 included 1000 (and coupe), 1100, 1200, 1300/1301 and 1500/1501. I recall that we had a Simca and believe it was probably a Simca 1100.

⁸ Grandad noted that it cost £1,025 or near that and they gave us £100 towards it.

SIMCA

SIMCA 1100



Simca 1100 Brochure



Scale model of Simca 1100

Grandad occasionally noted other people using cars. For example, in September 1973, he noted Linda Bell going by car with a friend to London for a new job. The next year, in September 1974, Amy came to visit but Tom was not well enough to come.⁹ Amy got a lift with her nephew Ewart.¹⁰

In addition to getting lifts with mum and/or dad, grandma got lifts with different people including Miss Garrod¹¹, Mrs Pointer¹², Mrs Skipper's son¹³, Miss Walker¹⁴, Mr Beckett¹⁵, Robin Harrison¹⁶, Mrs LeFever¹⁷, Ron Douglas¹⁸, Barbara Carpenter¹⁹, Mr Newsome²⁰, David Johnson²¹ and Ken Bell.²² In April 1971, grandma got a lift home from Mile Cross Methodist Church in a visitor's car.²³ In March 1974, grandma went with Mrs Davis to Surrey Chapel in a friend's car.²⁴ In November 1972, grandma and Miss Cooke went by car to Mile Cross Methodist Church and, on in January 1974, grandma was given a lift to and from a joint service at Drayton Church of England.²⁵ Sometimes, grandad got a lift with someone, including Ron Douglas²⁶ and Jack Attwood.²⁷

During this period, grandma and grandad did do some trips out with Tom and Amy in their car.¹⁰ In September 1970, grandad made a tray to fit in Tom's car.²⁸ In December 1970, dad brought grandad his binoculars and stick. Dad had brought them from Tom and Amy when he visited Kirkby. Grandad had left them in their car. Grandma and grandad also went out with other visitors who came by car, including, in May 1972, Jack and Phyllis Attwood.¹⁰

In September 1971, grandad noted that his driving licence was due for renewal. He decided not to renew it. He had had his first licence in 1920²⁹ but they had not owned a car since September 1963³⁰ and grandad had not driven since the late 1950s.³¹



Front cover of 1920s London driving licence

⁹ See [Chapter 100](#).

¹⁰ See [Chapter 106](#).

¹¹ For example in March 1970 to a circuit meeting at Rosebery Road (see [Chapter 107](#)).

¹² In July 1971, grandma went with Mrs Pointer and Miss Cooke in Mrs Pointer's car to Shotesham (see [Chapter 107](#)).

¹³ In July 1971, grandma was planning to take the bus into Norwich to get the bus to Bedford to visit Auntie Dolly. But, Mrs Skipper's son saw her at the bus stop and gave her a lift.

¹⁴ She took her to Sheringham in October 1971 and, in October 1974, she brought her home from Mile Cross Ladies' meeting (see [Chapter 107](#)). In November 1974, Miss Walker brought grandma and grandad home once mum had been discharged from hospital.

¹⁵ In August 1972, he took grandma and Auntie Dolly into Norwich and they then came to ours (see [Chapter 108](#)).

¹⁶ For more information about transport provided by Robin, see [Chapter 99](#). In August 1972, Robin took grandma and Auntie Dolly home and brought my bike back. Also, he picked grandma up from the bus station, when she returned from Bedford, in October 1972 (see [Chapter 106](#)).

¹⁷ In January 1973, she took grandma to Drayton Methodist Church (see [Chapter 107](#)).

¹⁸ In February 1973, Ron took grandma to get some penicillin tablets for Barbara Carpenter (see [Chapter 100](#)). Grandma came home by bus.

¹⁹ In April 1973, Barbara Carpenter went in her car to Drayton to vote. She took grandma and grandad (see [Chapter 112](#)). In November 1973, grandma went by bus to Mansfield for Auntie Bertha's 90th birthday. Barbara Carpenter took her into Norwich (see [Chapter 106](#)).

²⁰ In June 1973, Mr Newsome and his family took grandma in their car to Mile Cross Methodist church (see [Chapter 107](#)).

²¹ He brought grandma to ours in October 1973 (see [Chapter 102](#)). On 11 November 1974, he brought grandma from ours to theirs and back again (see [Chapter 106](#)).

²² He brought grandma and grandad to ours in November 1974 to see to the house as mum was in hospital.

²³ No details are given of who the visitor was.

²⁴ See [Chapter 107](#).

²⁵ No details are given of whose car it was on either occasion. For more details of joint services between Drayton Methodist Church and Drayton Parish Church, see [Chapter 107](#).

²⁶ For example, in May 1971, he went with Ron Douglas to the Post Office to collect the pensions and Ron's children's allowances. In September 1971, Ron took grandad and his fret saw to Arthur Elsegood's (see [Chapter 109](#)).

²⁷ In May 1972, Jack Attwood, who was visiting, took grandad to a barber in Hellesdon for a haircut.

²⁸ See [Chapter 109](#).

²⁹ See [Chapter 18](#).

³⁰ See [Chapter 80](#).

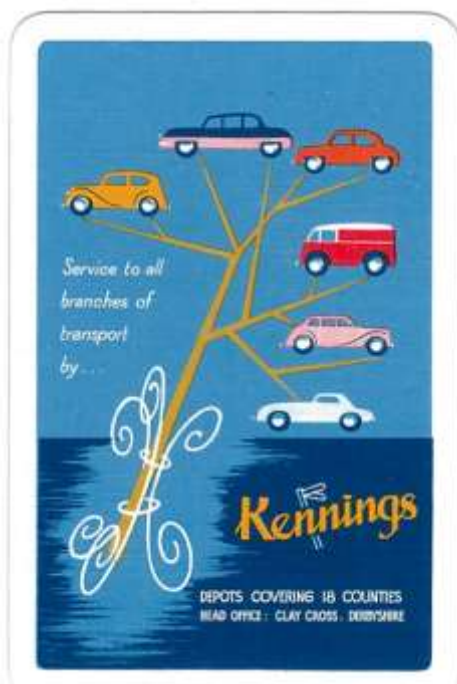
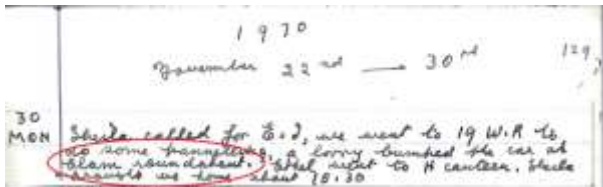
³¹ See [Chapter 63](#).



Left – Art Deco driving licence and insurance holder from Skegness circa 1920s
Above – inside of 1920s London driving licence

Sometimes, problems with a car disrupted plans. For example, in February 1974, mum was unable to go for tea at grandma and grandad's as her car battery was flat.³²

In January 1972, Barbara Carpenter locked herself out of the car with all her keys inside.³³ Grandma and grandad helped her get into the bungalow. She then phoned the garage in Drayton and they cut a new car key for her and she was able to get in. She may have had spare car keys in the bungalow but she could not find them.



Top – grandad's diary entry for 30 November 1970 which records the lorry bumping into our car at what looks like Elam roundabout
Above – playing card advertising Kennings

There were some road accidents during this period. In November 1970, Mrs Skipper was knocked down by a car. She had got off a bus from Norwich.³⁴ That same month, a few days later, a lorry bumped the car at "Elam" roundabout.³⁵ On 4 January 1971, grandad noted that there had been several road accidents because of the bad frost. In December 1971, Grandma went with Tom and Amy to Kennings³⁶ in Norwich to have a new windscreen fitted.³⁷ Theirs had shattered after having been hit by a stone thrown up by a lorry at [Attlebridge](#). In June 1972, Linda Bell went in her car to Kelvedon near Colchester to visit friends. The car suddenly turned over.³⁸ Apparently, a passing ambulance took her to hospital. She only had "bruises and shock" and grandad considered her very lucky. In April 1974, Rev Hayman had an accident on his moped. He was told he had to have three days complete rest. In October 1974, Linda Bell and her friend Peter were involved in a crash at Royston. Someone brought them to Drayton.³⁹

During this period, grandad's barber received a parking ticket at a cost of £15. This was for parking on the High Road when he visited grandad to ask about making a circular saw.⁴⁰

³² See [Chapter 106](#).

³³ This was the second time grandma and grandad had helped Barbara when she was locked out. The first time, in June 1970, she had lost her front door key (see [Chapter 109](#))

³⁴ I don't think she was badly injured. A few days later, grandma and Amy went to visit her and I believe this was in her home as had she been in hospital I think they would have noted that.

³⁵ I don't know precisely where this is. I thought it might be "Etam" but that would not make any more sense! Given that they were going from grandma and grandad's to our new house in Waverley Road, I wonder if he meant the [Earlham Road roundabout](#) on the ring road. It is possible that the word is Erlam and he was spelling it phonetically.

³⁶ Kennings was a nationwide car dealership based on a business established by [George Kenning](#) in [Clay Cross](#) in 1908 hiring out bicycles and horses – although [some histories](#) trace the origins of the business back to his father Frank's hardware store in 1878. The first dealership was established in Chesterfield in 1928. In the 1950s and 1960s, there were 300 depots nationwide and Kennings also ran a number of motorway service stations. In 1986/7, the business was taken over but part of it continued as GK Group including a focus on leasing vehicles. There is a [Facebook group](#) for stories and photos about Kenning Motor Group.

³⁷ Grandad noted that this cost a total of £10.40 which was £6.20 for the windscreen and £3.20 labour. However, these numbers do not add up

³⁸ This doesn't sound very plausible as the whole story!

³⁹ For more details of both accidents that Linda Bell was involved in, see [Chapter 100](#).

⁴⁰ See [Chapter 109](#).

Kenning Car Mart for the new Austin 1800/2200 and Wolseley Six



Austin 1800



Wolseley Six



Austin 2200

You are invited to see and try this exciting new range of cars.

Buy your new car from Kennings and get the backing of Britain's biggest Austin — Morris distributor network.



**KENNING
CAR MART**

1973

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1973 advert for Kennings



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Public domain image provided by Stephen Weblin

1969 advert for Kenning car hire



Kenning Motor Group letter opener (above) and pen knife (close up left)

Very occasionally, grandma used taxis. For example, in May 1972, grandma and Auntie Dolly had a taxi to the bus station. I think dad had been supposed to collect them but he had had a puncture. They were going by bus to see Doris in Hastings.⁴¹ In May 1974, grandma and Auntie Dolly had a taxi home. Auntie Dolly had come by bus from Bedford but the bus had been delayed.⁴¹

Grandma often went by bus into Norwich.⁴² Reasons for these trips were varied and included taking in grandad's tax returns⁴³, to work as a volunteer in the hospital canteen⁴⁴, to attend church-related meetings⁴⁵, for various kinds of shopping⁴⁶, to sort out an insurance policy⁴³, to visit people in hospital⁴⁴, to go to the theatre⁴¹ and to pay various kinds of bills.⁴⁷ Often, she went by herself but sometimes she went with other people including Auntie Dolly, Mrs Smith and Mrs Davis. Sometimes, the bus dropped her in one place and she had to walk to where she was going. For example, in May 1971, she dropped off at Wensum Park and walked to Rosebery Road Methodist Church.⁴⁸ Sometimes, she might get a lift one way, e.g. with mum, and then get the bus back. On one occasion, grandma and Auntie Dolly had gone to Eaton Park but they missed the bus connection and had to ring for mum to fetch them. Grandad went much less often on the bus to Norwich but he did occasionally.⁴⁹



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2018 photo of a bus on the yellow line which runs from Fakenham to Norwich through Drayton and Taverham

Grandma also sometimes went places other than Norwich on the bus. For example, in September 1970, grandma went by bus to Taverham Methodist Church Harvest Festival. Rev Hayman brought her home.⁴⁵ After we moved to Waverley Road, grandma sometimes came to ours by bus.⁵⁰ Sometimes, we also went to grandma and grandad's by bus. For example, Tricia and Alan went there on the bus in July 1971. Tricia would have been 13 and Alan nine. In October 1971, the four of us came back home from grandma and grandad's by bus. In February 1973, the four of us came to and returned from grandma and grandad's by bus. Similarly, after we moved to College Road, grandma also sometimes came to ours by bus.⁵¹

⁴¹ See [Chapter 106](#).

⁴² Some details of bus stops and bus routes are in [Chapter 95](#). Currently, Drayton is served by the [yellow bus route](#) which runs from Fakenham to Norwich through Taverham and Drayton.

⁴³ See [Chapter 104](#).

⁴⁴ See [Chapter 100](#).

⁴⁵ See [Chapter 107](#).

⁴⁶ See [Chapter 108](#).

⁴⁷ See [Chapter 102](#).

⁴⁸ For details of this church, see [Chapter 79](#).

⁴⁹ For example in January 1970 to buy tundishes for the windmill and in July 1971 with grandma. They bought a digital clock from Partons (see [Chapter 108](#)).

⁵⁰ For example, she came babysitting in July 1971 after she had been to Mile Cross ladies' meeting. Initially, I was not sure about the bus routes she would have used. Now, I think you would need to get the bus from Drayton into Norwich City Centre and then either get another bus or walk from there. However, I am grateful to Greg Round and David Viner, contributors on the "[Norwich from the 1970s Onwards](#)" Facebook page, who explained to me that, in the 1970s, [Eastern Counties buses routes 525, 526 and 528](#) went along Newmarket Road from Cringleford to Drayton and Taverham (526 and 528 only). According to grandad's diary, a new bus timetable with different routes was introduced on 12 July 1971.

⁵¹ For example, in September 1973 so that she could paint a cupboard (see [Chapter 109](#)). As with getting to Waverley Road, I was initially not sure what bus routes would have been involved. Now, I think you would need to get the bus from Drayton into Norwich City Centre and then either get another bus or walk from there. From memory, I mainly recall walking from our house in College Road into Norwich

523-8 CRINGLEFORD/EATON—MILE CROSS ESTATE/DRAYTON/TAVERHAM

via Eaton Street, Newmarket Road, St. Stephen's Street, Castle Meadow, Bank Plain Westwick Street, Mile Cross Road, Drayton Road.

Every 15 mins. Evening and Sunday service hourly between Bus Station and Taverham only. Eaton and Cringleford are also served by Services 12/12C from Bus Station, Surrey Street.

- North-west bound** 523 Mile Cross Estate, Bowers Avenue.
Destinations 525 Drayton, Cator Road.
 526 Taverham Church via Sandy Lane.
 528 Taverham Church via Drayton Old Rail Station.
- South-west bound** 523 Cringleford School, Eaton, Norvic Drive.
Destinations 524 Eaton, Elcar Rise.
 525 Eaton, Elcar Rise.
 526 Bus Station, Surrey Street.
 527 Cringleford, Colney Lane, Stratford Crescent.

NORWICH CITY SERVICES
CRINGLEFORD · TAVERHAM

- Eaton - Bowers Avenue** 523
Cringleford - Drayton 525
Cringleford - Taverham (via Sandy Lane) 526
Cringleford - Taverham (via Drayton Old Rail Stn.) 528

ROUTE—Eaton Street, Inwood Road, Keswick Road, Cringleford School, A.11, Eaton Street or Norvic Drive, Bluebell Road or Elcar Rise, Greenways, Church Lane, thence Newmarket Road, St. Stephen's Road, St. Stephen's Street, Red Lion Street, Castle Meadow, Bank Plain, St. Andrews Street, Charing Cross, Westwick Street, Heigham Street, Mile Cross Road, Drayton Road, thence Bignold Road, Bowers Avenue or Sweet Briar Road, Helleston Hall Road, Low Road, Hospital Road or Drayton Road to Drayton, thence School Road/Cator Road or Fakenham Road/Sandy Lane or Taverham Low Road.

For ADDITIONAL SERVICES between Bus Station and Cringleford see Services 12, 12A, 12C and 12D.
 For ADDITIONAL SERVICES between Bus Station and the Drayton area see Services 29, 56 and 482.
 For ADDITIONAL SERVICES between City Centre and Mile Cross see Services 508 to 513, 516 and 517.

Weekdays	523	525	523	525	523	525	523	525	523	525	523	525	523	525	523	525			
CRINGLEFORD (School).....	NS		NS		NS		NS		0730		0812		0842		0917		0942		1017
Colney Lane (Stratford Crescent).....											0916		0946				0946		1001
Bluebell Estate (Norvic Drive).....									0756				0901				0931		1005
Greenways (Elcar Rise).....											0850				0905				1005
Eaton (Bluebell Road).....													0856				0935		1020
Eaton (Church Lane).....									0729		0820		0850		0920		0950		1020
Eaton (Red Lion).....									0731	0802	0822	0837	0852	0907	0922	0937	0952	1007	1022
Newmarket Road (Judge's Walk).....																			
Bus Station (Surrey Street).....	0619	0639	0656	0717	0721	0730	0732												
Castle Meadow.....	0621	0641	0700	0720	0723	0733	0735	0741	0812	0832	0847	0902	0917	0932	0947	1002	1017	1032	
Bank Plain.....	0623	0643	0702	0722	0725	0735	0737	0743	0814	0834	0849	0904	0919	0934	0949	1004	1019	1034	
Heigham Street (Black Horse Street).....	0628	0648	0707	0727	0730	0740	0744	0750	0821	0841	0856	0911	0926	0941	0956	1011	1026	1041	
Drayton Road (Farr Road).....	0633	0653	0712	0732	0735	0745	0751	0757	0828	0848	0863	0918	0933	0948	1003	1018	1033	1048	
Bowers Avenue.....	0635		0714		0737	0751			0839		0906		0936		1006		1036		
Helleston (Mill Corner).....					0739				0900				0921				1021		
Helleston (Hospital).....		0656		0742		0755	0803		0852		0924		0952		1024		1052		
Drayton (Red Lion).....		0700		0748		0801	0809		0858		0930		0958		1030		1058		
Drayton (Cator Road).....		0701		0749			0810				0931				1031				
Drayton (Old Rail Station).....							0802						0959						
Fakenham Road (Sandy Lane).....											0903								1103
TAVERHAM (Church).....							0806				0905				1053				1153

ADDITIONAL JOURNEYS—SCHOOL DAYS ONLY:
 0842 Eaton Elcar Rise to Earham Fireways via Bluebell Road, South Park Avenue, Colman Road, The Avenue and Bluebell Road arriving 0855 (Ser. 525).
 1900 Earham Fireways to Eaton, Elcar Rise following reverse of above route arriving 1913 (Ser. 525).
 1535 Colman Road Infants School (opposite Farmhouse) to Norvic Drive via South Park Avenue, Bluebell Road arriving 1540 (Ser. 525).

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

CODE

NS—Not Sats.



Extract from 1971 Eastern Counties booklet (left) about bus services in Norwich including description of the bus services 523-8 (top) and an extract of the timetable (above).

and I do not recall getting buses from there. From the information on [Eastern Counties buses routes 525, 526 and 528](#), I think it may have been possible to get the bus from the ring road and then walk from there.

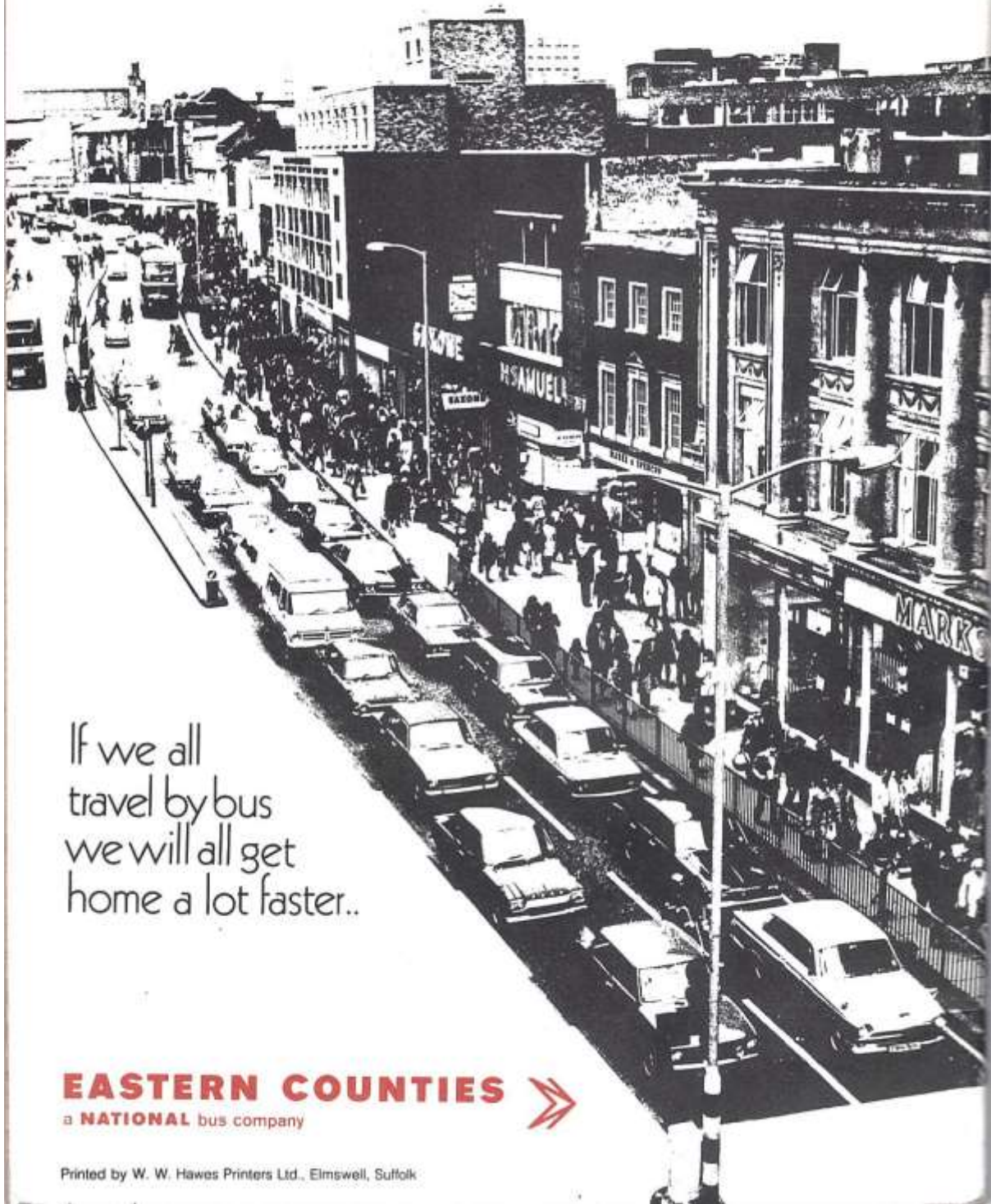


**Solve Your Parking
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Printed by W. W. Hawes, Elmswell, Suffolk, England

1974 Eastern Counties advert

Jam making again tonight?



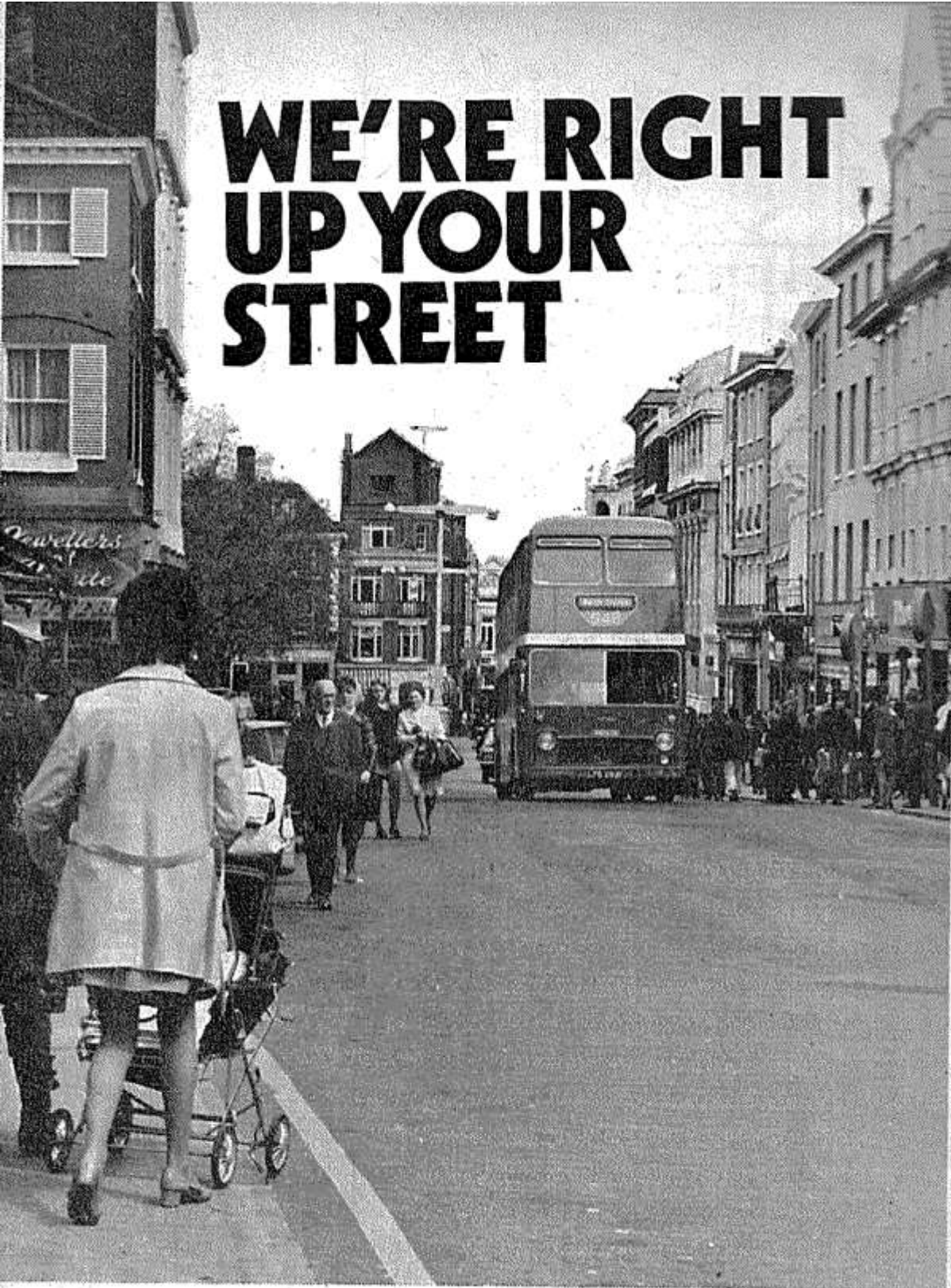
If we all
travel by bus
we will all get
home a lot faster..

EASTERN COUNTIES 
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Printed by W. W. Hawes Printers Ltd., Elmswell, Suffolk

1977 Eastern Counties advert which shows the bottom of St Stephen's

WE'RE RIGHT UP YOUR STREET



EASTERN COUNTIES
a NATIONAL bus company



1977 Eastern Counties advert showing Gentleman's Walk

EASTERN COUNTIES

Head Office:
79 Thorpe Road, Norwich NOR 81A
Telephone 60421

Travel Offices:
Bus Station, Surrey Street, Norwich NOR 85B
Telephone 20491

Bus Station, Prince of Wales Road, Cromer
Telephone 2347

Bus Station, Wellington Road, Yarmouth
Telephone 2341



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	12p	24p	36p

31

Details of the kind of services available from Eastern Counties in 1974

EASTERN COUNTIES

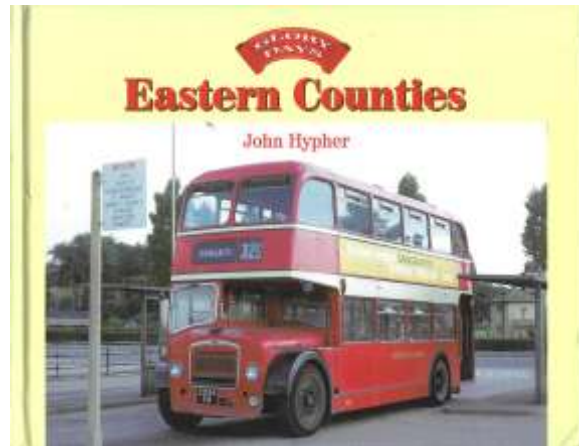
Head Office:—79 THORPE ROAD, NORWICH, NOR 81A. Tel.: NORWICH 60421
Enquiries:—Tel.: NORWICH 20491

TRAVEL OFFICES WITH HOURS OF OPENING

	Tele- phone	Weekdays	Sundays
BURY ST. EDMUNDS 24, Brentgoval Street IP33 1EG	4200	0830-1730	Closed
CAMBRIDGE—Area Office 112-114, Hills Road CB2 1LP	53418	0845-1300 } 1415-1715 } Mons. to Fris. 0845-1230 Sats. only	Closed
CAMBRIDGE Drummer Street	53418	†0800-1730 Mons. to Thurs. †0800-1745 Fris. and Sats. †0830 during Winter	Summer { 0800-1315 1415-1800 Winter—Closed
CROMER Bus Station, Prince of Wales Road	2347	1015-1230 } 1330-1630 } Mons. Tues. Thurs. 1000-1245 Weds. only	Closed
ELY 25, Market Street, CB7 4LZ	2445	0815-1730	Closed
FELIXSTOWE Bus Station, Langer Road IP11 8BU	2747	0945-1230 1345-1645 (close 1230 Weds.) Winter 0930-1230	Summer 0900-1730 Winter—Closed
HUNSTANTON Travel Office, Westgate, PE36 5AL	2118	Summer 0930-1230 Mons. to Fris. 0900-1500 Sats.	Closed
IPSWICH—Area Office Dog's Head Street IP4 1AP	53734	0830-1800	Summer 0900-1800 Winter—Closed
KING'S LYNN Vancouver Centre PE30 1DS	2343	0845-1730	Closed
LOWESTOFT Bus Station, London Road North	5406	0830-1800 (1730 during Winter)	Closed
MARCH Darthill Road	2120	0930-1230† 1400-1700 (close on Tues.)	Closed
MARKET DEEPING Horse-gate, Deeping St. James PE6 8EW	3348	0900-1200 Mons. To Thurs. and Sats. 1130-1600 Fris.	Closed
NEWMARKET Fordham Road CB8 7AA	2009	0845-1315 1415-1700	Closed
NORWICH—Area Office Bus Station, Surrey Street	20491	0800-1800	Summer 0920-1200 1315-1700 Winter—Closed
PETERBOROUGH—Area Office 351, Lincoln Road PE1 2PG	54571-2	0900-1715	Closed
PETERBOROUGH Bus Station, Bishop's Road	62845	0845-1745	Closed
SAXMUNDHAM High Street IP7 1AN	2037	0900-1215† 1315-1700 †Close 1100 on Thurs.	Closed
WISBECH 9, Market Street PE13 1EX	3369	0900-1230† 1400-1730 †Close 1300 on Weds.	Closed
YARMOUTH Bus Station, Wellington Road	2341	0830-1730	Summer 0800-1800 Winter—Closed

LONDON — Enquiries may be made about the Company's Services at Victoria Coach Station
(National Travel (NBC) Ltd.) Tel: 01-730 0202.

Details of Eastern Counties offices in 1974



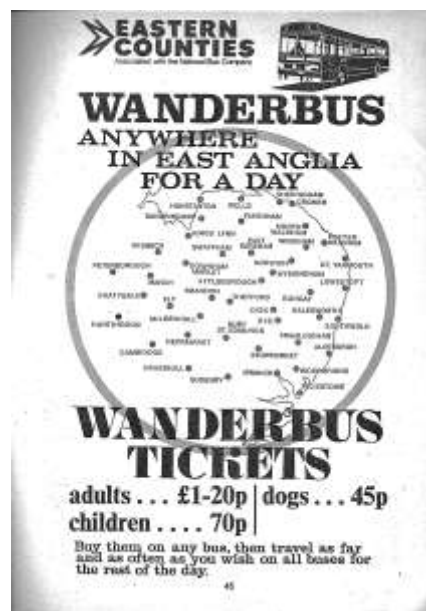
*Top - model of Eastern Counties bus with button inlaid
Far left - book about Eastern Counties buses by John Hypher - there is a photo of the 525 bus in 1975 on p72 of this book
Left - Eastern Counties badge*

Grandma also made longer journeys by bus including to Bedford, Nottingham⁵² and Hastings.⁵³ Other people used to come by bus to visit and stay with grandma and grandad. One of the most regular visitors was Auntie Dolly and she always came by bus from Bedford.⁵³ Others included Arthur and Jessie Lofthouse, Ray Cirket, Jim and Renie Seville, Florrie Booth.⁵³ Visitors, such as Arthur and Jessie Lofthouse, also sometimes used the bus to explore Norfolk and East Anglia including to Cromer, Felixstowe, Hunstanton, Lowestoft, Sandringham, Southwold, Wroxham and Yarmouth.⁵³

Grandad sometimes noted details of special bus tickets that grandma purchased. These included tickets which allowed them to go anywhere on Eastern Counties buses⁵⁴ which grandma bought both with Auntie Dolly, in August 1970, and Alan, in July 1971. He also noted details of 50p tickets that grandma and Auntie Dolly bought, in August 1973, to go to Blakeney, Holt and Cromer.⁵³



Selection of Eastern Counties adverts for daily "Wanderbus" tickets.
Top left – advert from 1974 showing price was 60p for adults and 35p for children
Top right – advert from 1977 showing that price had gone up to £1.05 for adults and 60p for children. The asterisks showed that prices were likely to go up again. There was also a price of 40p for dogs
Bottom shows two adverts also from 1977. These show that prices had gone up, within the year, to £1.20 for adults and 70p for children. The advert bottom right shows the increased price of 45p for dogs.



⁵² For Kirkby and Mansfield.

⁵³ See [Chapter 106](#).

⁵⁴ The [Eastern Counties Omnibus Company](#) was founded in 1931 and operated until January 1970 when it was merged into the [National Bus Company](#). However, it continued to operate as a brand/regional subsidiary and, in 1985, merged with [Badgerline](#) to form [First Bus](#). This means that, at this time, buses were operating under the Eastern Counties name as a regional subsidiary of the National Bus Company.

TRAVEL ANYWHERE BUS TICKETS

5-DAY	Adult	£2.20
	Child	£ 1.10
WEEKEND	Adult	90p
	Child	45p

Available for travel on
any of the company's
'bus services

Tickets from 'Eastern Counties'
travel office, Bus Station, Surrey St.
Telephone 20491

In addition to daily "Wanderbus" tickets, Eastern Counties offered five-day and weekend tickets as shown in this October 1971 booklet. Grandma and Auntie Dolly purchased five-day tickets in August 1970 and, at that point, they cost £2 each. In July 1971, grandma and Alan bought weekend tickets for £1 and 50p respectively. This is odd as this is more than the price quoted here (see [Chapter 106](#)).

PAY NOW - SAVE LATER

FIVE WAYS TO SAVE

1. TEN TRIP TICKETS

If you buy 5 days travel in advance you save 10p in the £1*. A 10 trip ticket costs you 90p. Paying single fares on the bus costs you £1*. Tickets are available from all offices and selected agents for journeys costing from 4p to 16p single at 9 times the single fare.

2. CITYWIDE TICKETS

These tickets give unlimited travel in specified areas in Norwich, Peterborough and Cambridge.

3. 'WANDERBUS' DAY TICKETS

Adults 60p — Children 35p
You can buy them on any bus — then travel as far and as often as you wish on all buses for the rest of the day of issue.



4. RETURN TICKETS

Single Fares	Return Fares	SAVING
4p to 6p	6p to 10p	2p
7p to 8p	11p to 13p	3p
9p to 16p	13p to 27p	5p
17p to 20p	29p to 35p	5p
21p to 27p	33p to 47p	7p
28p to 36p	48p to 64p*	8p
38p to 44p	66p to 78p*	10p
46p to 48p	81p to 85p*	11p
50p to 58p	87p to 103p*	13p
59p and over	104p and over*	15p

AVAILABLE BETWEEN 0915 AND 1529 ON MONDAYS TO FRIDAYS AND ALL DAY SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS.

*REMEMBER THAT IF YOUR RETURN JOURNEY IS MADE IN A DAY, 60p 'WANDERBUS' TICKETS ARE CHEAPER ON ALL JOURNEYS OVER 34p SINGLE, 60p RETURN.

Return tickets are valid during the month of issue and the following month for one outward and one return journey, NOT two journeys in the same direction.

5. SEASON TICKETS

If you buy a month's travel in advance you save 25p or more in the £1. A 10p monthly season costs you £3*. Paying single fares on the bus twice daily 22 days per month would cost £4.40*.

A season ticket also gives **UNLIMITED** travel between the points specified or intermediately — saving you even more. If you buy 3 months travel in advance you save 2½ per cent. more compared with 3 separate monthly tickets.

*Equivalent savings exist from 4p single for 10 trip tickets and from 7p single on season tickets. If your journey involves a change of bus the saving may be even greater with a season ticket.

EASTERN COUNTIES A		41906 FEMALE
POINTS OF TRAVEL		
1		
-6 JAN 1974		Service Net.
Miss		
Mrs		
Signature		

7

Information on special types of tickets available in 1974 on Eastern Counties buses

FARES FOR CHILDREN

CHILDREN UNDER 3

One child under 3 may accompany each passenger paying an adult fare FREE at any time provided the child does not occupy a seat. Extra children count as over 3.

CHILDREN 3 AND UNDER 14

Mondays to Fridays up to 0914 and from 1530 to 1814 hours excluding August – half fares are not available. Adult fares will be charged—(Single, return, 10 trip, season or Citywide tickets may be used).

Mondays to Fridays 0915 to 1529 and after 1815 hours ALL DAY SATURDAYS, SUNDAYS, BANK HOLIDAYS and DAILY DURING AUGUST. Half the adult single fare. (Fractions of 1p count as 1p).

No child return tickets are issued.

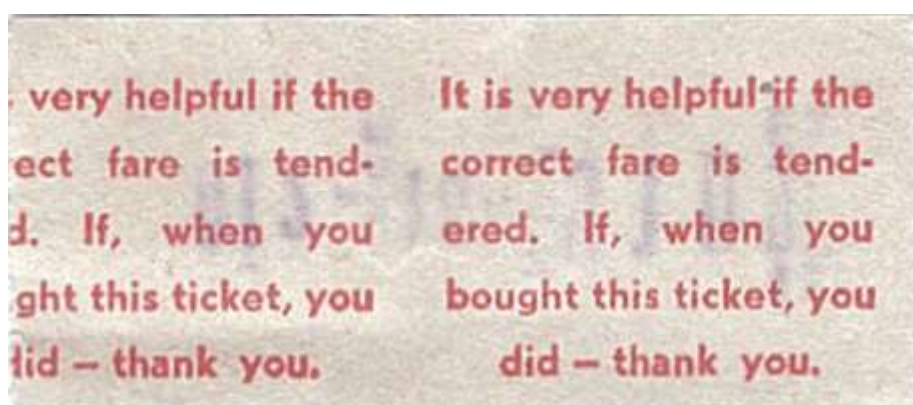
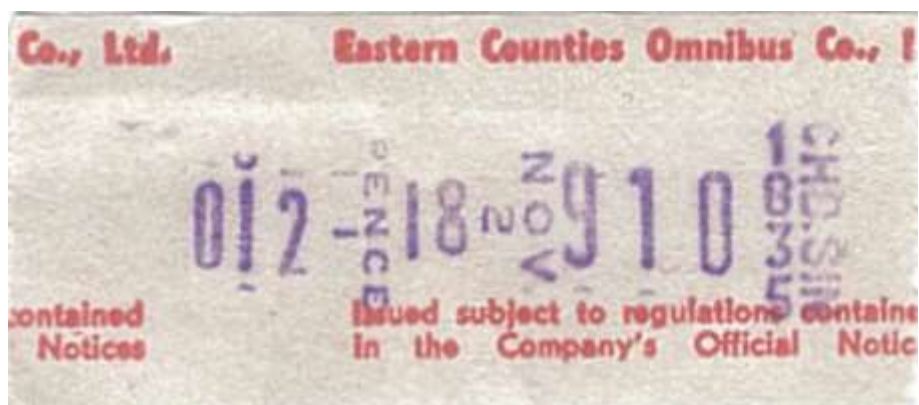
Termly tickets give a substantial saving on journeys to and from school.

Wanderbus tickets costing only 35p give unlimited travel at all times on all buses on the day of issue.

CHILDREN 14 AND OVER

Full adult fare is payable at all times, except that Termly tickets are available for journeys to and from school.





Example Eastern Counties child single ticket showing front (top) and reverse (above) of ticket

Grandma and Auntie Dolly went to other places by bus without grandad noting details of their tickets. These places included Cromer, Holkham Hall, Mundesley and round the Norfolk coast.⁵³

Outings, including those from chapel⁵⁵, often went by bus. Places grandma went on bus day outings⁵⁶ during this period included Cambridge, Clacton-on-Sea, Cromer, Diss, Felixstowe, Framingham Earl, Framlingham, Hethersett, Ipswich, Shotesham, Weybourne and Windsor Safari Park.⁵³ Grandma sometimes took people that were visiting her on these outings including Auntie Dolly, Phyllis Attwood and Florrie Booth. On at least one occasion, she went with mum. Longer outings, trips or holidays were made during this period to Devon and the Isle of Wight.⁵³

When mum, Tricia and grandma went to Oberammergau in 1970⁵³, they went by Mascot coach.⁵⁷ Grandad also noted that they went to various places on their trip by coach⁵⁸ including to Innsbruck on 9 August. They also used other forms of transport on that trip including a cable train⁵⁹ on the 10th and a cable car on the 11th.

⁵⁵ See [Chapter 107](#).

⁵⁶ Including on at least one occasion a minibus.

⁵⁷ Jill Howard (nee Votier) has written a history of Mascot coaches and the Votier family. Mascot coaches was formed based on a business started by Leonard Votier in 1924 although it only acquired the Mascot name in 1931, initially known as Mascot Comfort Coaches. It traded until 1975 when it merged with Eastern Counties.

⁵⁸ Initially I assumed this was the coach they went in but pictures taken in Ostend seem to show a different coach (see [Chapter 106](#)).

⁵⁹ I think this probably refers to the [funicular railway](#) that goes to the Nordkette mountains.

Trip to Oberammergau 1970



Top – mum and Tricia posing in front of the Mascot Allways Continental coach for their Oberammergau trip in 1970

Above – Mascot Allways coach 1959

MASCOT COACHES

FOR LUXURY TRAVEL



CONSULT US FOR ALL YOUR REQUIREMENTS
PERSONAL ATTENTION OUR SPECIALITY



L. VOTIER

68 CROMER ROAD

NORWICH

Phone 24812 or write

Advert for Mascot coaches

MASCOT COACHES



The story of
Mascot Coaches
and

THE VOTIER FAMILY

By Jill Howard
(formerly Votier)

Book by Jill Howard nee Votier about Mascot coaches and the Votier family



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Top – 1994 photo of the Hungerburgbahn funicular which is part of the Nordkette project
Above – photo of Rofan Seilbahn which goes to the Erfurter Hut

*Vintage postcard of the Rofan
Seilbahn*



10767
ROFAN - SEILBAHN MAURACH ACHENSEE ERFLUGERHUTTE 1894 - TIROL

Grandad occasionally recorded people other than grandma using buses. In April 1973, dad, Alan and I went on a bus trip to London to see Norwich play at Wembley in the final of the League Cup.⁶⁰ In March 1972, Irene Bell went by bus with members of the WI in Taverham to the Daily Mail's Ideal Homes Exhibition in London.⁶⁰ In September 1973, grandad noted that Arthur and Rose Elsegood had been on an eight-day coach tour of the Scottish lakes.⁶¹

On 21 February 1971, grandad noted that the bus company started using decimal money instead of £ s d. This was a few days after decimalisation⁶², so initially I did not know if they had delayed the changeover or grandad was just delayed recording it. However, according to an [article](#) a day before the changeover, entitled “*geared up for bus D-day*”, the reason for the delay was that they wanted to do it on a Sunday as that was a relatively “*slack*” day. In preparation, they had converted 1,000 ticket machines and trained 1,200 staff to deal with decimal money, In the previous week, they had continued to operate in old money although the correct decimal money was accepted. The article noted that Eastern Counties were making conversion cards available to the public.

The image shows a 'Shoppers Conversion Table' with columns for old currency (£, s, d) and new decimal currency (£, p). The table lists various amounts and their equivalents, such as 10s = 50p, 20s = 100p, etc.

Example of shoppers conversion table from £ s d to decimal currency – from Collins National Decimal Reckoner

Some journeys were made by train. For example, mum went by train to London in December 1971. In April 1973, I went on a school trip to Rouen and we went by boat and rail.⁶³ Two months later, in June 1973, grandma came home from Lowestoft by train.⁶⁰ In August 1973, dad, Liz and I came back from Butlins in Clacton by train.⁶⁰ In August 1974, mum met me at Thorpe which implies I had been somewhere by train.⁶⁴

Although travelling by air was becoming more common, it was still relatively uncommon among our family and friends although there were some examples during this period.⁶⁵ In July 1972, Tricia flew to Yugoslavia for an exchange visit organised through her school. Apparently, she went with the girl from Yugoslavia who had been staying with us at Waverley Road.⁶³ By this point, there was an airport in Norwich⁶⁶ as David Bell had his 21st birthday party there in September 1972.⁶⁷ In November 1972, Mrs Douglas went to Australia by air. Tricia flew again in April 1973. This time it was to Lille in France and again this was a school trip.⁶³ In October 1973, Barbara Carpenter went by air to Portugal from Luton. The day after Tricia flew to Lille on 9 April 1973, grandad noted that there had been a big air crash in Basle in Switzerland and that over 100 people⁶⁸ had been killed.⁶⁹

⁶⁰ See [Chapter 106](#).

⁶¹ Mum's holidays in Scotland and Wales were also coach trips (see [Chapter 106](#)).

⁶² Monday February 15 1971 (see [Chapter 112](#)).

⁶³ See [Chapter 103](#).

⁶⁴ I think I had been in London presumably to see dad (see [Chapter 106](#)).

⁶⁵ The first time I flew was in 1981 when I went to India for my medical elective.

⁶⁶ Although I am fairly sure Tricia did not fly from here. Grandad did not note which airport Tricia flew from.

⁶⁷ See [Chapter 106](#). Apparently, there was an airport in Mousehold from 1933, but it moved to the current location in St Faiths in 1967. Grandad noted in his diary that it opened on 30 May 1970. The current terminal building opened in 1988.

⁶⁸ His initial entry was 101 killed but he later revised this to 108.

⁶⁹ This crash was of Invicta International Airlines Flight 435 which was en route to Basel-Mulhouse from Bristol Lulsgate (see [Chapter 112](#))

16
 April 7th - 12th

7 SAT Watched Boat Race, Cambridge v Oxford, Cambridge won by 13 lengths

8 SUN Ethel & Amy went to D.M.C. both services, after tea they went to M.C.M. Church S.R. & Fam; came for tea wind very cold

9 MON Ethel & Amy went to Hospital canteen at Goswick. Tom took them.

~~10~~ Patricia went with some girls from her school to Lille in France (by air)

10 TUE In the afternoon we (T.A.E.1) went to Arthur's. weather very cold. Big air crash at Basle (Switzerland) from Bristol. people killed ~~to~~ approx later 108

11 WED Roger went to Rouen (France) with his school mates by boat & rail.

12 THU We four went to Divions for paraffin etc. Barbara, Ethel & I went in Barbara's car to Drayton to vote. Amy & Ethel went to D.L.M. weather very cold wind. I helped Roy fix loud speakers on his car. He was a candidate. He did not get elected.

Grandad's diary entries for 7-13 April 1973 which feature Tricia flying to Lille on a school trip on the 9th, the Basle air crash on 10 April 1973 and me going on a school trip to Rouen on 11 April 1973.

In June 1971, grandad noted that a balloon passed over Drayton at about 6.06pm.⁷⁰

Sometimes, but not often, grandad used his bike⁷¹ to go places including to Dixons⁷², the barbers⁷³, the bank⁷⁴, to ours⁷⁵ and to visit Arthur Elsegood⁷⁶. In February 1973, he went out on his bike for the first time since December. He went to Hurn Road shops. We also had bikes and grandad often did repairs for us.⁷⁷ Sometimes, we biked to grandma and grandad's. For example, Liz and Alan biked to grandma's in April 1970 with Tricia running along beside them.⁷⁸ In November 1973, I cycled



The four of us – Tricia, me, Alan and Liz – on our bikes in grandma and grandad's back garden

from College Road to grandma and grandad's to collect a book. In August 1974, mum took Auntie Bertha home. We went to grandma and grandad's. Tricia and I went on our bikes.⁷⁹

The diaries sometimes noted people walking places. For example, grandma sometimes walked to visit friends, e.g. the Hodgsons and to Mrs Collins. She also often walked to Drayton Methodist Church, although grandad rarely noted this explicitly.⁸⁰ In January 1974, grandad noted that grandma managed to walk to the hairdresser's. Grandad was not able to walk much but, in February 1974, he noted having a walk in the garden. That same month, a week later, he walked to Irene Bell's which was the first time that year. In June 1974, grandma noted that Auntie Bertha managed to walk round the garden three times and, in August 1974, she walked to the pillar box. Sometimes, we walked to grandma's from Middletons Lane, for example, Tricia walked there in January 1970 and Tricia, Kathryn Leach and I walked there in April 1970.⁸¹ Visitors also sometimes went for a walk from grandma and grandad's. For example, on separate days in July 1970, Arthur and Jessie Lofthouse walked to Taverham and Costessey. Grandma sometimes walked with visitors. For example, in July 1970, she went with Arthur and Jessie Lofthouse to the caravan site in Drayton.⁸² The following month, in August 1970, she walked with Auntie Dolly to Mile Cross. In June 1973, grandma and Florrie Booth walked into Drayton.

⁷⁰ I don't know what this was, perhaps some kind of hot air balloon.

⁷¹ I am not entirely sure which bike this was but it could have been the Raleigh RSW16 which he got in January 1966 (see [Chapter 95](#)). I know it came to me at some point in the 70s but perhaps it was 1973 or 1974 when grandad considered he could no longer ride it. I don't think it was as late as 1975, when grandad died, as I think I had my own bike then and, in 1977, I got a motorbike.

⁷² For example, in March 1970 to order wood for a job for Drayton Methodist Church. He also cycled there in June 1970 to look for a ladder and in November 1970 to order paraffin (see [Chapter 109](#)).

⁷³ In March 1970, grandad went to both the barbers and Dixons on the bike.

⁷⁴ At least, I have assumed it was the bank. He referred to it as "the B", in July 1970, so I suppose it could have been "the barbers".

⁷⁵ When we still lived in Middletons Lane, e.g. in July 1970.

⁷⁶ In April 1971 to see about making a one-stringed fiddle (see [Chapter 109](#)).

⁷⁷ See [Chapter 109](#).

⁷⁸ Robin and mum came later in the car. Dad and I had gone to Kirkby. At this point, Tricia was 11, Alan was seven and Liz just turned five. We were still living in Hellesdon at this point.

⁷⁹ Again from College Road.

⁸⁰ He did on 11 January 1973 as she had been unwell and unable to walk to church (see [Chapter 100](#)).

⁸¹ Tricia was 11 at this point and I was nine. Kathryn would have been seven.

⁸² See [Chapter 91](#).