

Public Transport in Grayshott

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With the advent of subsequent expansion of the tourist trade in the Hindhead area in the 1890s there was good scope for the carriage of goods and passengers to and from Haslemere station etc.

During the early period of commercial expansion in Grayshott (1895/1910) there were at least three carriers in business, Edmead Bros.; J. Sandell; and W. Funnell, together with 3 livery and bait stables offering horse drawn vehicles for hire, B. Chandler; H.S. Winchester and A.J. Moore. Also M Larbey from Haslemere was offering a general carriers service between Haslemere, Hindhead and Grayshott.

J. Sandell began his carrier service around 1901. Many years later in 1931, he sold out to the Aldershot & District Traction Company following the introduction of the Road Traffic Act. This Act gave immense commercial power to the major transport operators who were substantially owned by the railway companies. In turn these railway companies operated large fleets of motor lorries for the carriage of local goods. There was little room for the small operator.

Ben Chandler's Commer bus in service between Haslemere and Grayshott, followed by the London & South Western Railway Co. Thornycroft bus in service between Haslemere and Farnham. Photographed outside the Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead in 1910.

The Aldershot and District Traction Company soon established themselves in the area taking over garage premises at Clay Hill, Haslemere in 1914. Expansion of military camps in the area brought prosperous times for the company both with the carriage of passengers and haulage work for the military authorities. In 1931 a new garage to hold some 45 vehicles was opened at Hindhead. The Company was affectionately referred to locally as the 'Tracco' and was a major employer in the area. It continued under the A & D brand name until 1971. Aldershot & District Traction Co. Daimler omnibus waiting to depart for Haslemere from outside the Fox & Pelican public house, Grayshott, 1914. Seen in the background is the unusual pub sign painted by the well-known Victorian artist and socialist, Walter Crane 1845-1915, see Smith J H (1978), Chapter 7 for more details

During the 1920's Grayshott became well served with buses. The central village stops were outside the 'Fox and Pelican' and a little further down on the opposite side of the road.

There was an hourly service No.24 to Guildford and Petersfield, and a half hourly service No. 18 to Haslemere and Bordon. During the 1930's with the introduction of the new lightweight 20 seat Dennis buses service No. 17 operated to Farnham, these small 'buses being known as 'whippets'. All this continued little changed until the 1970's, by which time bus travel was well in decline owing to private car ownership and the local services were reorganised under National Bus Company ownership.

Motoring had become well established in the 1920's and two Grayshott garage owners (G.Hopcraft and; A.G.Abbott.) also owned small 14 seat charabancs for private hire.

In 1954, Sidney Jefferys came to Grayshott from Haslemere and took over an existing garage business in Headley Road. Soon he started a private hire operation using a 28 seat Guy coach. This was followed by second-hand wartime Daimler double-decker for use on contract work. Sidney Jeffrey moved his bus business across the road to 'Rose Cottage' and expanded it with the addition of local school contract and private hire work. Paul Jeffreys took over the business on his father's retirement in the early 1970s and moved it to Bordon. Rose Cottage, across from the Royal

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British Legion Club was then pulled down and replaced with 'Headley House', a block of modern offices. At the present time (2007), service No.18 is operated through the village by Stagecoach Ltd. This service connects Guildford with Haslemere, Hindhead, Grayshott, Bordon, Farnham and Aldershot.

The following pictures further illustrate the development of public transport in Grayshott.

Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead : proprietor, Ben Chandler. He ran his stables and motor garage from here. Later, he established a garage at the top of the hill which at 2007 is the Barrons BMW agency opposite the Punch Bowl Hotel on the A3.

B Chandlers's horse drawn omnibus on the Grayshott to Hindhead and Haslemere service together with the London & South West Railway charabanc outside the Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead. 1906. Chandler sold his motor bus operation to the Aldershot & District Traction Company in 1913.

Haslemere Station yard. London & South West Railway omnibus in the front of the station entrance. B Chandler's Haslemere to Hindhead and Grayshott omnibus is in the centre. 1910.

B Chandler's charabanc at the White Horse Hotel, Haslemere preparing for an outing. 1912.

An advert from B Chandler together with a schedule of the fares charged on his omnibuses

B Chandler's Commer omnibus on the Grayshott to Hindhead and Haslemere service at the Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead. 1909.

B Chandler's Commer omnibus on the Grayshott to Hindhead and Haslemere service at the Royal Huts Hotel, Hindhead. 1909.

London & South West Railway Farnham to Haslemere omnibus timetable. 1910

London & South West Railway Farnham to Haslemere omnibus fare table. 1910 .

M Larbey's van at Haslemere station, 1914. Built in Guildford by Dennis, this van was based at Clay Hill, Haslemere. Larby sold out to Aldershot & District Traction Company in September 1915.

Oak Cottage has since been redeveloped. It stood behind the old cycle shop in Headley Road, Grayshott (in 2007 the old cycle shop is a photographer's studio). 1915 advert.

The Gables was situated behind the old cycle shop in Headley Road, Grayshott. 1915 advert.

Funnell & Furlonger based their carrier business on 'Ash Villa', Headley Road, Grayshott. Ash Villa is next to the flats that were built on the site of the iron Methodist church. 1915 advert.

Rose Cottage bus depot, on Headley Rd. Grayshott home to Grayshott Coaches run by Sidney Jeffrey. The site was subsequently developed as an office block.

Above: 1965 - S Jefferys, Grayshott Coaches - 1959 Dennis 'Lancet' with Plaxton coach work, then the

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pride of the Jeffrey's fleet in Headley Road, Grayshott.

Service No.18 operated by Stagecoach Ltd threads its way down Headley Road, Grayshott. This service connects Guildford with Haslemere, Hindhead, Grayshott, Bordon, Farnham and Aldershot. 2006.

Headley House offices, Headley Road, Grayshott (across from the Royal British Legion Club) built on the site of Rose Cottage from where Sidney Jefferys ran his bus business. Paul Jeffreys took over on his father's retirement in the early 1970s and moved the business to Bordon.

Richard Peskett
Grayshott Village Archive

References and suggested further reading

Aldershot's Buses - the history of the Aldershot and District Traction Co. by Peter Holmes. 1992. ISBN 0 946184 70 4.
Aldershot & District Fleet History 2PK3 published by PSV Circle (2000)
Homeland Handbook No. 28 (1903) Haslemere and Hindhead pg. 48-50
Smith J.H. (1978), Grayshott. The story of a Hampshire village published by Westwood of Petersfield.