

Sedgley Friendship Group  
with Sedgley Archives Project

**SEDGLEY PEOPLE'S ARCHIVE (TOPIC SAP\_16)**

# **TRANSPORT**

## **REMINISCENCE CAFÉ**

11am, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2019

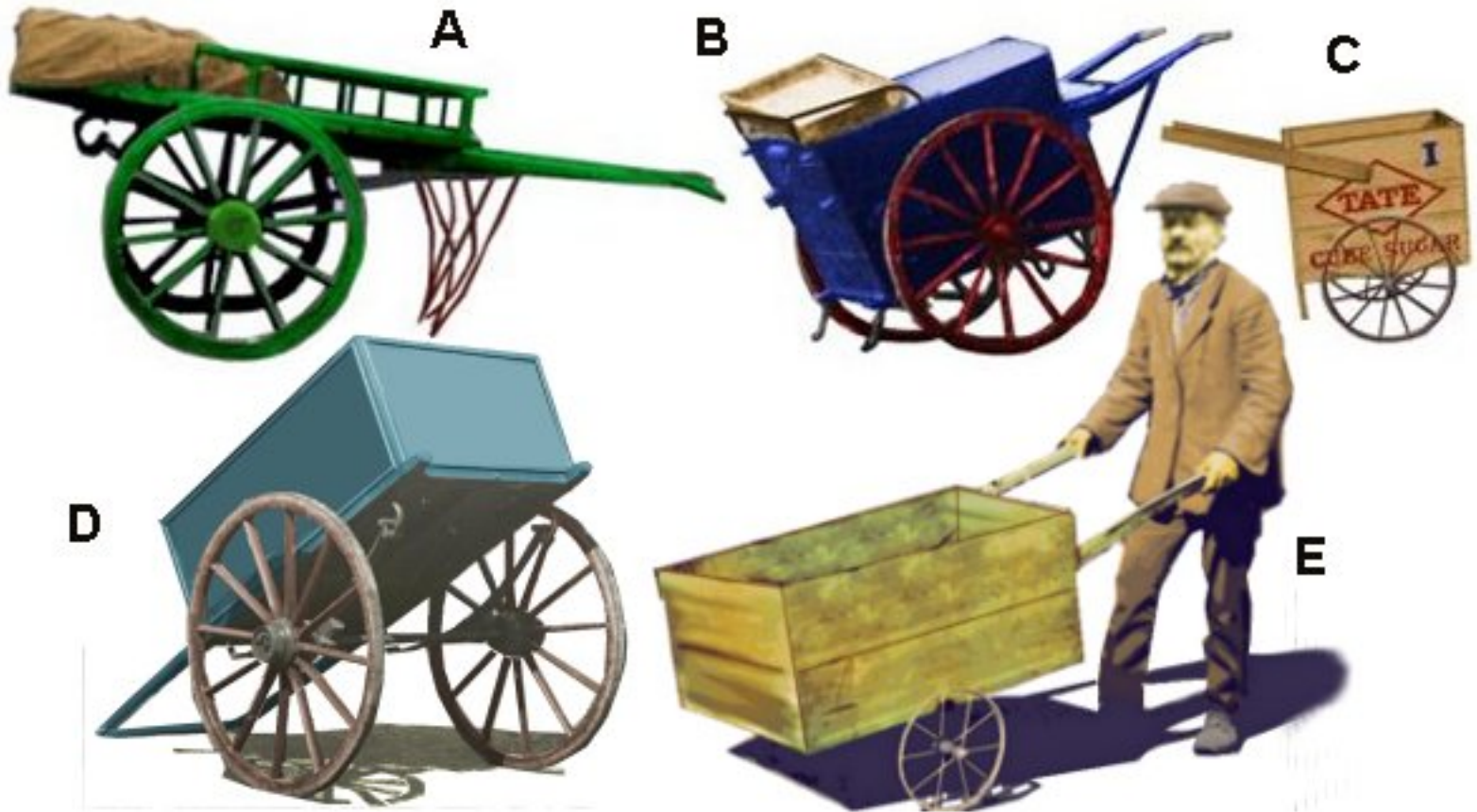
All Saints' Church, Vicar Street, Sedgley

**18TH AND 19TH CENTURY**



Ron Baker sketch of Gospel  
End Street/Bush Bank  
(drawn in 1975)

**HANDCARTS; HORSES AND CARTS**



Traders' 19<sup>th</sup> century handcarts



1922: William Harper sold tools and buckets to Midland farmers

**STAGECOACHES/TURNPIKES/TOLL  
ROADS**

# Dangerous roads

- Carriers carts and infrequent coaches
- Lonely and dangerous roads
- Numerous records of robbery and assault





The Regency period saw great improvements in coach design and road construction, leading to greater speed and comfort for passengers. For example, in 1750 it took around 2 days to travel from Cambridge to London but by 1820 the journey time had been slashed to under 7 hours.

This was the golden age of the stagecoach. Coaches now travelled at around 12 miles per hour, with four coaches per route, two going in each direction with two spare coaches in case of a breakdown.

# Stagecoaches

- Old coach road: Parkes Hall-Eve Lane-Upper Woodsetton-Red Lion-Wolverhampton
- **1822** 'The Royal Everlasting'  
Wolverhampton (6am) to Worcester  
(via Sedgley, Dudley, Stourbridge)
- 'The Eclipse' took same route at 3pm
- **1835** 'The Criterion': ***Dudley to Wolverhampton*** daily, called at ***Red Lion*** at 10.30am and 3pm; return journey called at 12 noon and 5.30pm



On this image you can see the gentleman at the back with the 'Yard of tin'. This is the horn, generally a yard or so long, used by the guard of a mail coach or stage coach to warn of others of their approach or departure. This postcard is a reproduction and comes from the West Yorkshire Folk Museum, Shibden Hall, Halifax. It identifies this coach as circa 1820. Stage coaches were usually pulled by at least four horses and this is where the term "Four In Hand" comes from.

# Stagecoaches to Worcester (continued)

- The 'Bang-Up' from Worcester called at Red Lion every morning at 10.45am
- The Everlasting called every evening at 7.45pm.
- Bang-up and Everlasting made return journey at 4.45pm and 7.00pm via Dudley Stourbridge and Kidderminster

# End of stagecoach era - 1850

- Stagecoaches still running to Worcester in 1850.
- 'The Miller's Coach' between Wolverhampton and Dudley ran twice a day each way calling at The Court House
- Railways – station at Deepfields. The present Coseley station opened in 1902. It replaced an earlier station, named Deepfields and Coseley, which opened in **1852** and was situated 400 yards (370 m) along the track.
- Oxford, Worcester and Wolverhampton line



**TOLL HOUSES**



Littleworth Toll House  
Woodsetton, 1975



Bunker's Hill Toll  
House, Sedgley, 1925



Toll Gates at Shaver's End, Upper  
Gornal, Bilston Street, Gospel End  
Street, Fighting Cocks.



Toll House  
Himley Road.



Toll House, Gospel End Road and Cotwall End Road.

Photos from [Mapline](#) of [post](#)

CORNER OF GOSPEL END STREET AND SANDYFIELDS ROAD. SEDGLEY

No on Survey	Occupier	Owner	Description	Qty	Annual Value	Rates
1475	Thomas Culwick	Commiss. of Roads	Toll House and Garden	1	2.00	2





# **PERSONAL TRANSPORT**

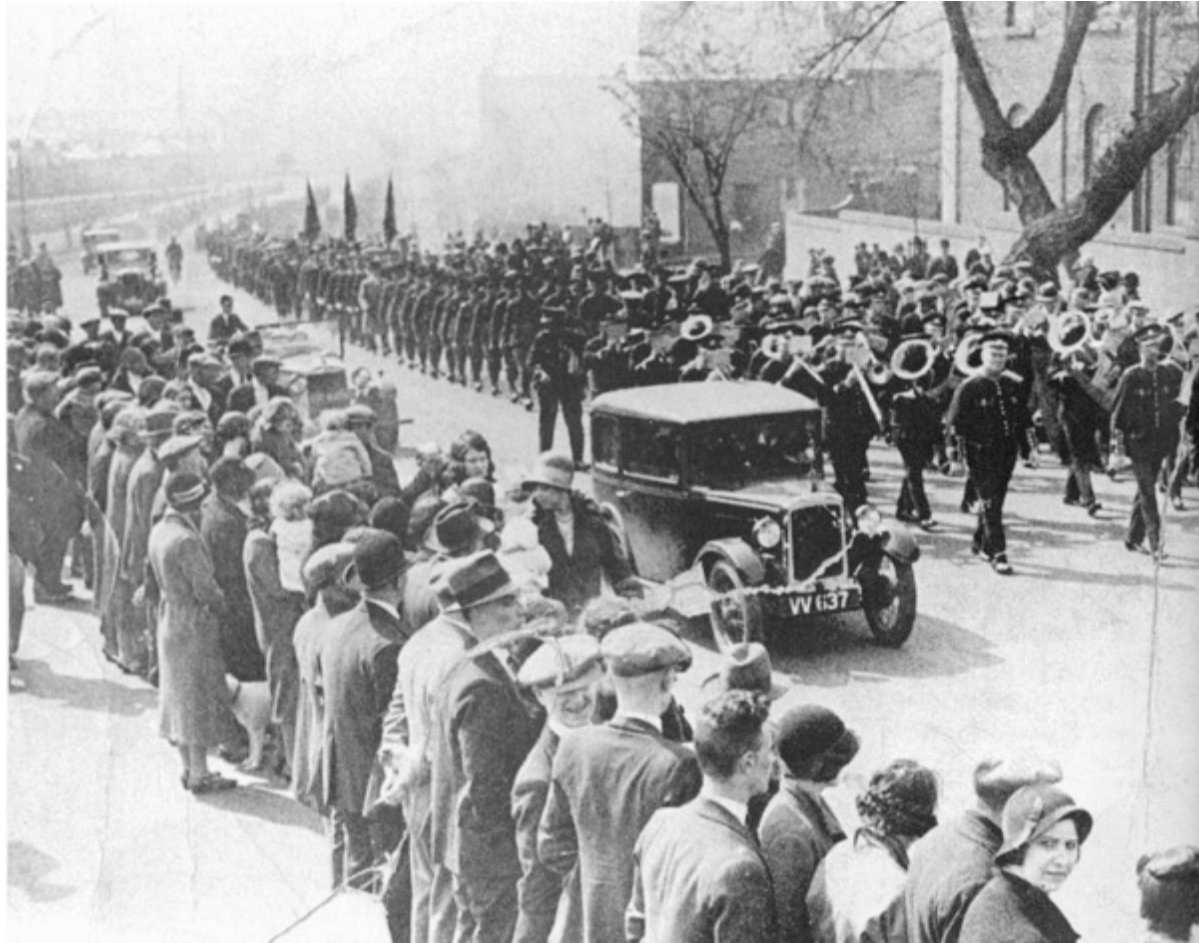
**BICYCLES**



Tony Hart in 1957  
with his bike.

**PRIVATE CARS**

# **INTER-WAR YEARS**



Visit of the  
Prince of Wales  
to open  
Birmingham  
New Road,  
1927.



This is my Maternal Grandfather William Yates's **1926 Morris Cowley "Bullnose"** my Grandmother driving. My mother, Connie is the little girl with her older sister Freda on the running board. They lived in Rock Street, Upper Gornal.

Grandad was the local Undertaker with his business in Badger Street. He was also a Church Warden at St Peter's for many years.







**Christine Wilkes:** My grandfather **Mr Dan Field the Butcher** in the middle. **Mr Allen of Deepdale Lane Industrial Fabricators.** Can't remember the name of the other one - but know he was a businessman on Deepdale.



**Dan Field** with Alfred Allen and ?, 1930s. Is that an old AA Badge?



Unidentified  
person with  
unidentified  
car!



**Cissy Field** with  
her brothers  
Arthur and  
Major, and sister  
Ivy Fellows



**Christine Wilkes:**

My mother in the driving seat, Cissy Field. My father standing by. Think it is a **Morris minor saloon 1928-1930.**



**Carl Higgs:** a wedding party from 1930, in front of a very nice looking old car, with **Irene Powney** as a bridesmaid (2nd from left) in the second one. These were clearly taken in **Mill Bank**.



**Carl Higgs:**

There are also two of Janet's (Williams) dad Tom Hall (my granddad's younger brother, pictured on the right) out for a jaunt with a pal of his in about 1939, with what appears to be a **Morris 8E series**. This model was introduced in 1938 which dates the photo nicely.



**1950S -70S**





**Chris Egginton**, son of the Bull Ring Chemist **Walter Egginton**, as a young man in his Lagonda V-12 drophead coupe in the 1950s. According to Google this model first appeared in 1939.



**Carl Higgs:** My mum's cousin Janet Williams, who taught at Queen Victoria School, so sadly passed away in 2004, aged just 59.

Janet herself is at the wheel of her presumably 'new' **Morris Minor 1000** in about 1965. She lived with her parents in **Catholic Lane** at this time and presumably needed a car to get backwards and forwards to teacher training college.

# BMW Isetta 'bubble car'



**Carl Higgs:** Not Sedgley, but Wombourne (White's Wood) in May 1970. One of my dad's 'projects', his **BMW Isetta 'bubble car'**, which I do remember riding in all the way to Willenhall to visit some of his friends (too small to see out of the windows at the time). I think he must have set this photo up deliberately like this - no way it could have towed our caravan! It would be worth a lot today... Just had to remember not to forward park it too far into the garage or facing too close to a wall...

**Paul Matchett:** Yep' my Dad owned a Bubble car mid sixties colour yellow and white with sun roof, used to go fishing in it, and would have the rods poking through the roof, and that great smell of fumes, can anyone remember the parking lights that used to clip on the top of the windows?



**Carl Higgs:**  
a photo of a family  
outing for my  
grandparents Harold  
and Eva Hall of Beacon  
Rise on **27 Jul. 1969**,  
with my mum Marion  
and yours truly (don't  
laugh! 😊) enjoying a  
picnic by the river at  
Stourport-on-Severn.

***Can you identify the cars parked – Blue Ford Poplar; White Ford Cortina;  
Red Hillman Husky; Green Volvo?***



**Carl Higgs:** ‘...sitting on the lawn at White's Wood, Wombourne, in front of my dad's **Rover 90**, August 1970. He bought it after I was born in 1968 as he felt the **Wolsley 1500** he owned at the time was a bit on the small side! Dad worked in the drawing offices at Coseley Buildings so his daily route to work took him up through Gospel End and Sedgley. It could also often be seen parked in front of the Red Lion on a Saturday morning while one or both of us went into Mr Croydon's for a haircut, or in front of my grandparents at 4 Beacon Rise on a Sunday afternoon/evening.’



**Christine Wilkes:**  
**Hillman Avenger** in  
road opposite  
Wallpaper  
Warehouse and  
The Leopard -  
1980s?

Lotus Esprit outside the Clifton, late 80's?



**Scott Bunch:** The Lotus looks like an "A" registration which would mean 1983 or later. The **Clifton extension** is an amusement arcade at this point, and the Clifton is a Bingo Hall.

**MOTORCYCLES**





## Mischa Welsh

Here's me with my Dads **Sunbeam S8**. Built in Wolverhampton (and at Sunbeam in Reditch) between 49 and 56.  
Photo is in Ladies Walk, probably around 1990.

**BICYCLES**



**Carl Higgs:**

It's a very fuzzy image unfortunately, but I'm fairly sure this photo shows a group of **Baggeridge Brick girls** on their bikes in **1938**, and must have been taken somewhere in the locale by my **great aunt Irene Powney** who lived in **Mill Bank** before she **married**, and who we think also worked at **Baggeridge** as a **cashier**.



Carl Higgs:  
..And then of course there's this  
one of my uncle **Roger Hall** on  
his trike in the back garden of **4  
Beacon Rise, circa 1946-48**. Note  
the bent mudguard...

# PUBLIC TRANSPORT SYSTEMS

# Evolution of public transport

- Stagecoaches till c1850
- Trains from 1830s (caught at Deepfields)
- Horse-drawn trams, c1880
- Steam-powered trams c1890
- Electric trams c1901
- Trolleybuses c1927
- Diesel buses c1967

**STEAM TRAMS**



The Ancient Mariner of Seaford

## Trams

Locomotive No.2 Built by Wilson & Co. with Car No.4 Built by Starbuck & Co. taken in Dudley Street, Seaford circa ...









 British Tramway Company Buttons and Badges

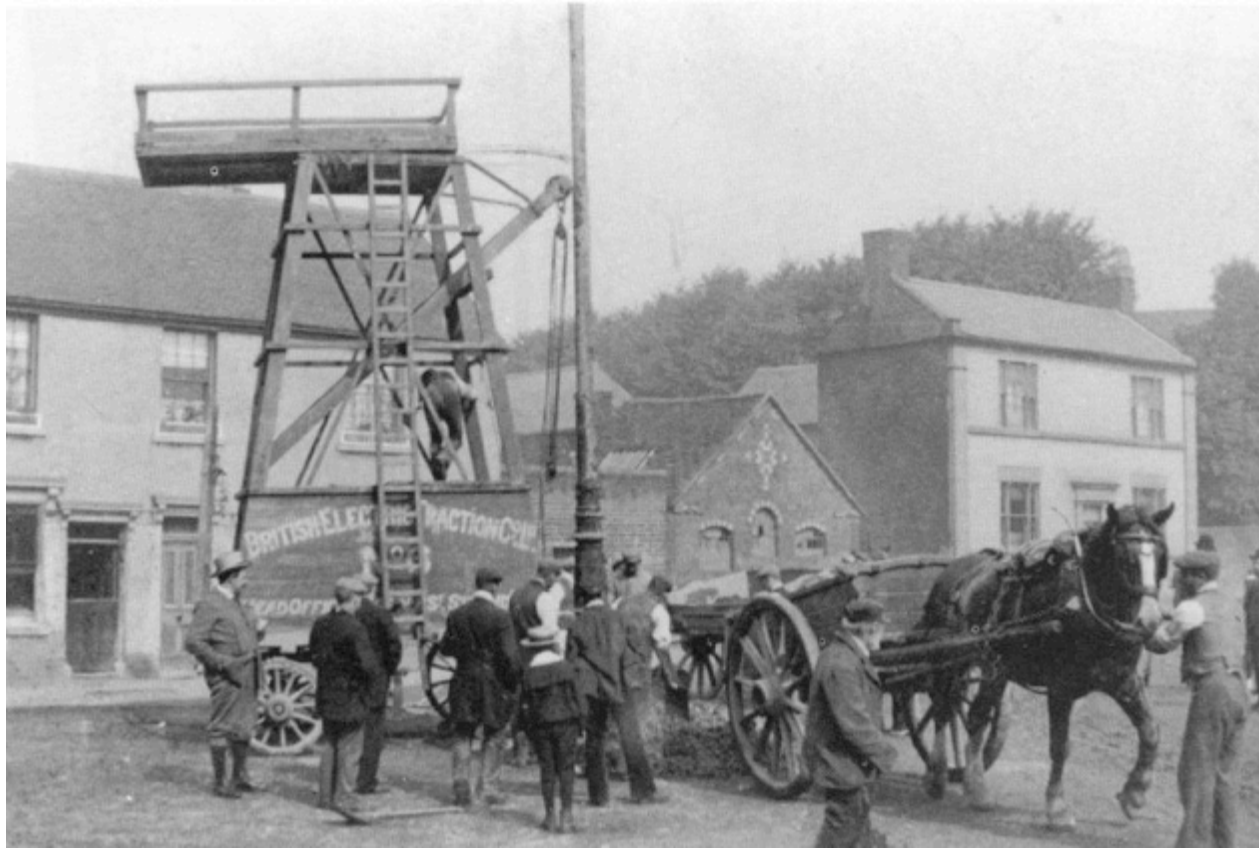


Dudley, Sedgley and Wolverhampton Tramways uniform | British ...



Steam Tram No 3 and Trailer No 4 (yet again) in the Springhead loop between Sedgley and Fighting Cocks - photo undated, but almost certainly taken in the mid-to-late 1890s (the crest is that of the 'Dudley and Wolverhampton Tramways Company'). By this time, the top deck sides of Trailer No 4 had been enclosed. The driver, who is just visible in the engine cab, is supposedly a Mr Thomas Horton. Photo courtesy of the Tramways and Light Railway Society, with thanks to David Voice.

# **ELECTRIC TRAMS C1901**

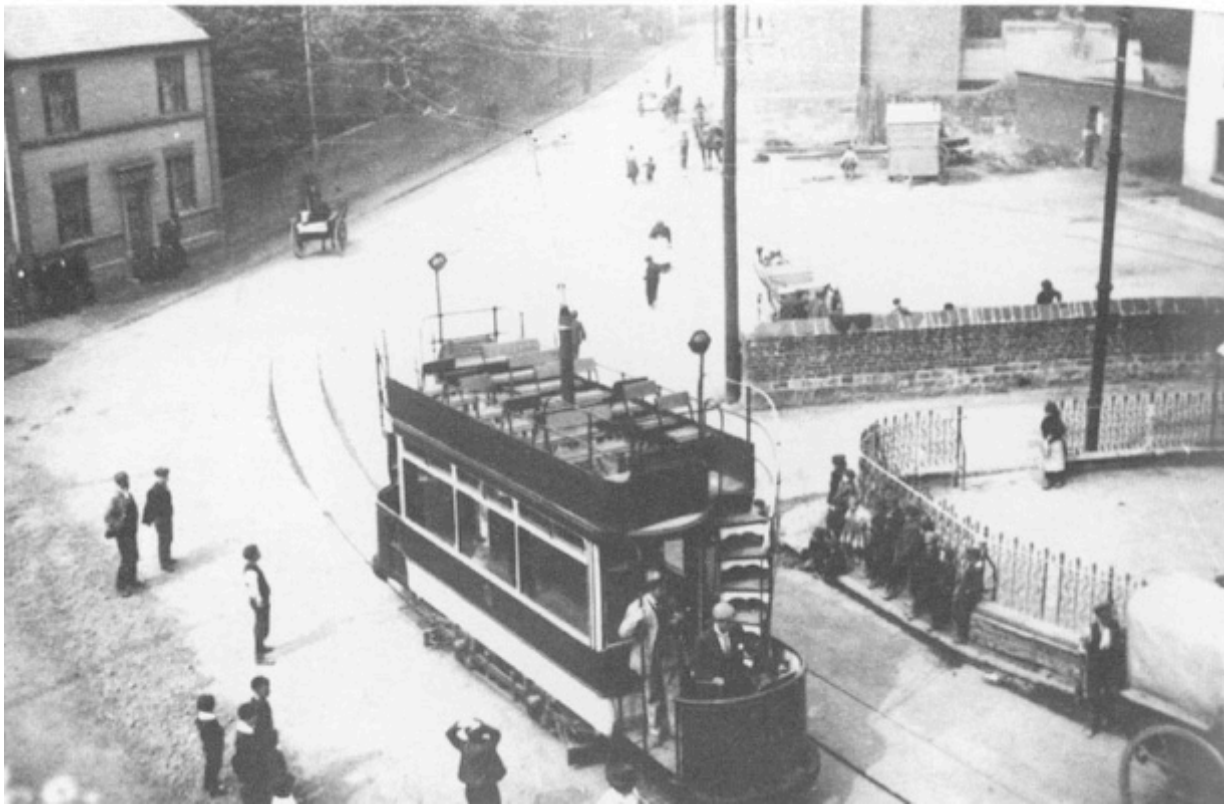


Erection of tram poles in the Bull Ring, c 1900  
The poles were later used to suspend the trolleybus wires from the 1920s



### **Judy Clements**

People gathering to watch the first electric tram to arrive in the Bull Ring, ... August 1901. Previously they had been pulled by a steam tram engine.



One of the early trams in the Bull Ring in 1901. Taken from the top of John Tertius Egginton's shop.



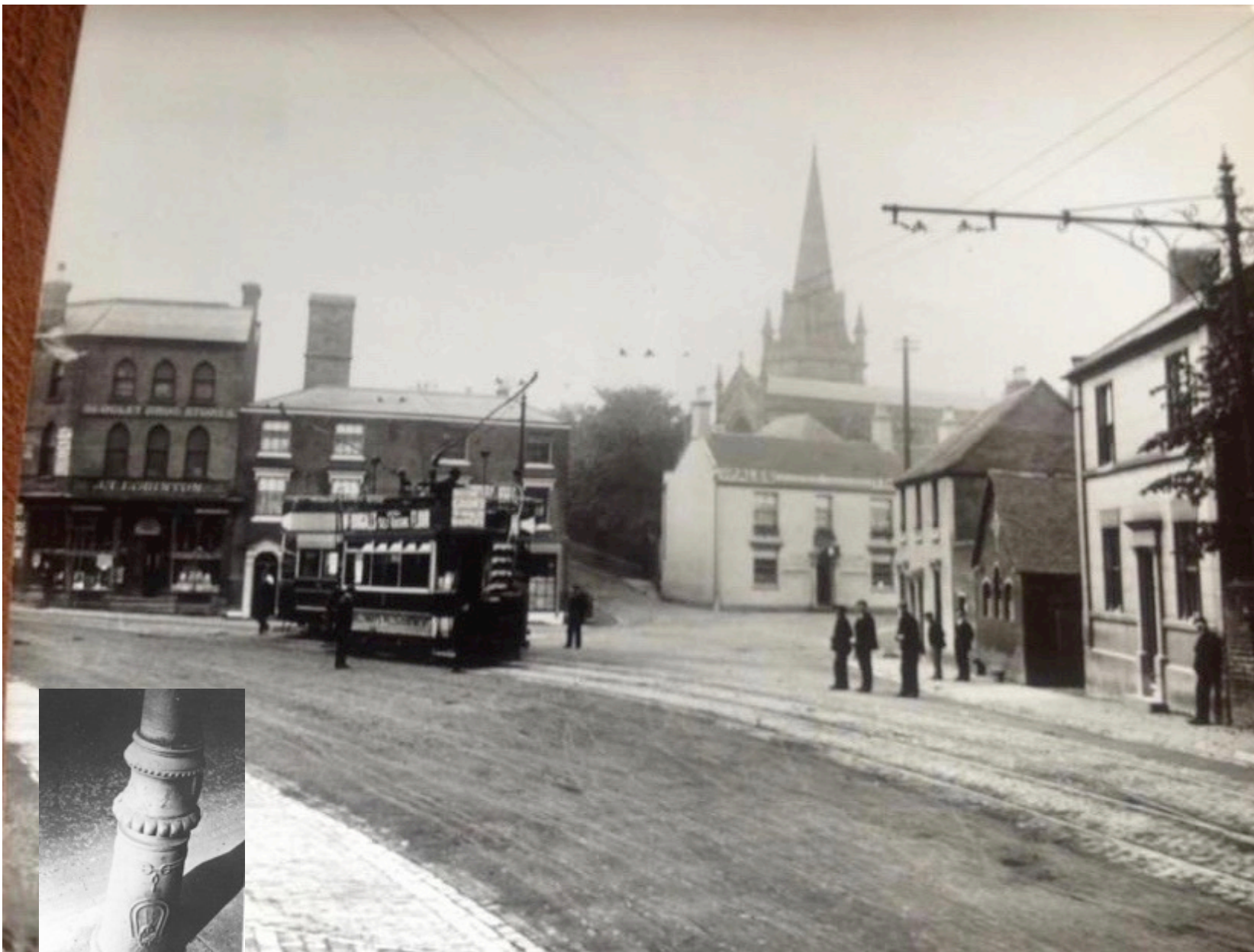


Photo showing electric tram pole - and tram pole posts



**Carl Higgs:** Electric trams, roughly Edwardian I'd say c1905-1914. Pictured outside the Red Lion in the Bull Ring.

**TROLLEYBUSES**



**Judy Clements photo -**

**Carl Higgs comment:** This has to be pre-1937, as the Clifton cinema hadn't been built where **Carmi Fox's house and butchers shop** is seen on the right



**Carl Higgs:**

Trolley bus in the Bull Ring pre-1937, passing Carmi Fox's butcher's shop and Hilton's house (in front of his builders' yard) on the right.

**Judy Clements picture:** you can just make out the name board on the grocery store by Egginton 'JA Sproson Vinrace'. (John Vinrace). This will have been taken after the Coop moved from this site to a purpose built store in High Street (1922) - and before Vinrace themselves moved across the road to ground floor premises in the Clifton complex - the cinema was built in 1937. The Wolverhampton trolleybus network began in 1923 (Wikipedia) so this photo is probably some time after that date. It looks as though the buses weren't on tracks at this time so it's a trolleybus rather than a tram



Claire Pendrous

Trolleybus No445 was on a tour of the system with enthusiasts aboard, circa 1965, hence no destination blinds showing, and the card in the window.



**Trolleybus wires** leading up Dudley Street to the Grand Junction, c1930.



## Trolleybuses Dudley Street 1967

Note the bus ad for **Billingham's** - a Ford Dealer

Repairwell Dry Cleaners on the right of the photo.



**BUSES**



**Diesel bus** passing through the Bull Ring in the 1970s.

**BUS ROUTES AND TRIPS  
REMEMBERED**

# Bus trips remembered

## Bob Adams

272 from Bramford to Sedgley and return every day from side of the Clifton to attend **Dormston School. 1966 to 1971** - the last year I did on a motorcycle. No fare on bus - had a pass.

## Sallyann Dickens

I used to catch the **58 bus** on the Wolverhampton Road, by the bottom of **Gibbons hill Rd**, to work at **Marks and Spencer**. Can't remember the bus fare sorry.

## Judy Clements

I used to catch the **58 to Dudley** and then the **74 to Horseley Heath** or the **272 to Horseley Heath** depending on what time i needed to be there.

## **Kennedy Slater**

1954, I caught the **58 where Montys now stands**, tuppence halfpenny return to the **Colesium cinema** about three stops from **Snowhill**.

## Lin Wheate

I used to catch **the 58** to Wolverhampton by **Townsend Avenue**

## Malcolm Semple

We used the **272 from outside the Clifton and Vinrace's** to go to **Horsley Heath** and Sunday school at St Pauls Methodist church.

**Sue Allen** I got the **58 bus to Sedgley** when I was very young -it was a **penny halfpenny from Gibbons Hill & twopence from Springhead** (old money) - when older I got same bus to catch the one down the Straits from Sedgley as I was a trainee nursery nurse at Straits infant school - can't remember the fare then.....

# **HEAVY HAULAGE**



A John Thompson boiler being transported through the Bull Ring, year unknown. It's being pulled by a steam **Traction Engine**. Probably c1900.

[John Nicklin My dad worked for John Thompson - so did I my first job apprentice marker plater working on pressure vessels 1978](#)



My Dad was **David Hamilton** he married Maureen Porter. My Dad worked for T Baker. Here he is outside 5 Sedgley Hall Avenue.

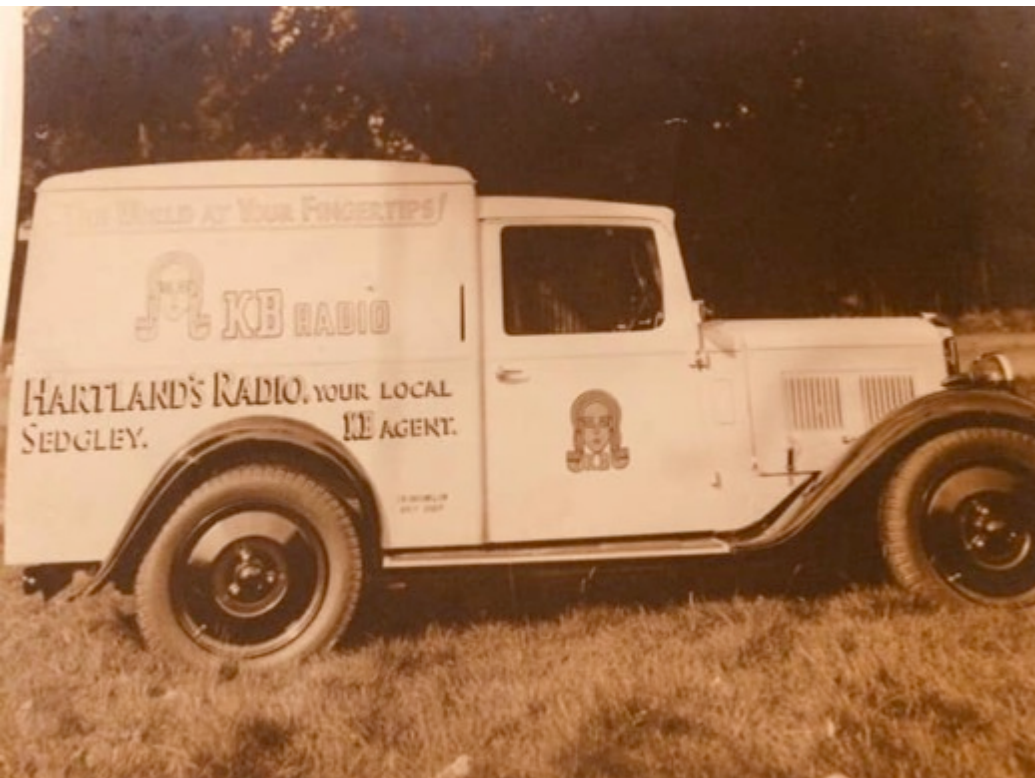
A '2 stroke Commer'



**David Hamilton of T Baker and Sons Hauliers, 1960s**



**DELIVERY/TRADERS' VANS**



**This is an amazing find by Barbara Bolt. Wikipedia says 'KB' (Kolster-Brandes Ltd) was an American owned, British manufacturer of radio and television sets based in [Foots Cray, Sidcup, Kent. This shot looks like it's a delivery vehicle of Sedgley Hartland Radio from the 1930s.](#)**



**Carolyn Skitt:**  
A **Ford Thames** van on the car park  
of the **Severn Stars**. It's 1961 I think.

# **COACH TRANSPORT**



John Slater: Morgans were on the bend by Cotwall End and did have a coal business as well. High Arcal Grammar School used them to transport rugby teams on Saturday mornings in the late 60s and early 70s. The seats were always very dusty as they were used to transport local workers. High Arcal also had a 1930s ambulance which was converted to a mini bus. Some ex pupils might have photos of this vehicle as it was used for all sorts of field trips.

Mary Watts Simon Johnson If the coach went uphill the front door would slide open

Gerry Parker They took us from Tudor School to Coseley Baths in the mid 60's. We would bash the seats just before we got there, coal dust would go everywhere and we looked as though we hadn't washed for a week when we went in. Happy days lol.



Morgans' coach-driver is Richard Green' who drove for Morgans from 1974-1985.

Could this be the car park at Bingley Hall Birmingham?

Sedgley Friendship Group  
with Sedgley Archives Project

**NEXT TIME!**



**REMINISCENCE CAFÉ**

11am, Friday 30th August 2019

All Saints' Church, Vicar Street, Sedgley



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