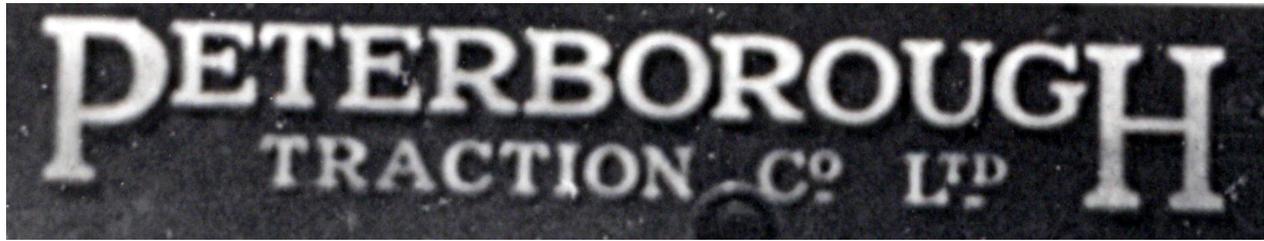


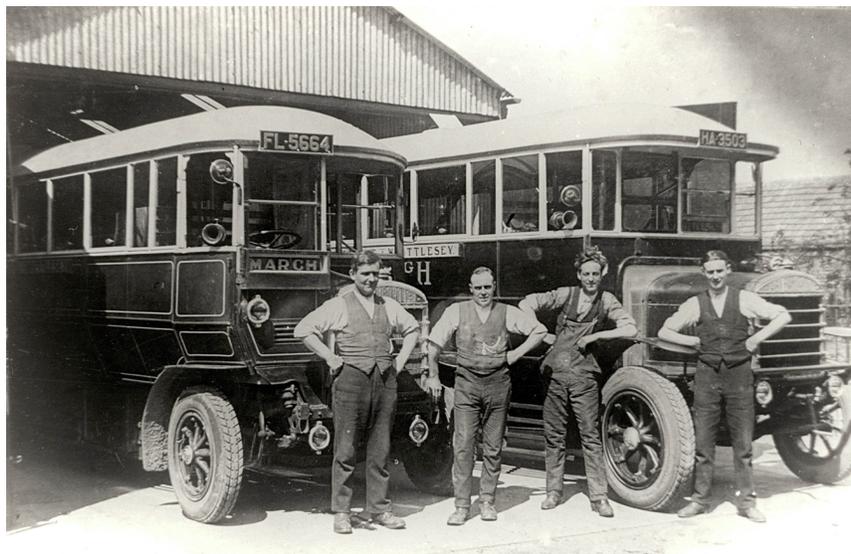
A brief history of . . .



(courtesy of 'Eastern Counties: The First 50 Years by Maurice Doggett)

There is a record of a form of public transport in Peterborough going back to the eighteenth century, when Sedan chairs were used to carry passengers from point to point; but public transport was modernised by the introduction of horse drawn tramcars in September 1878. This was two years before a similar means of conveyance was seen on the streets of Cambridge and Ipswich.

It was recognised that the electric tramcar was a logical development and the Peterborough Electric Traction Company Ltd was incorporated on the 5th August 1902, with the first electric tram running on the 23rd January of the following year.



This Company, the oldest of the four constituents of Eastern Counties, was a subsidiary of the British Electric Traction Company Ltd (BAT), which was itself formed in October 1896 to promote the introduction of electric traction in various parts of the UK.

The Peterborough tramway system was a comparatively small one. There were only fourteen tramcars in the fleet and these lasted until the trams were finally withdrawn on the 15th November 1930.

In the meantime, and as early as 1913, the motor bus was introduced into the fleet with four Straker Squire vehicles, two saloons and two charabancs, mainly employed on feeder services to the trams.

After the First World War, further buses were purchased and services to outlying districts started.

By 1925 the bus fleet consisted of only nine vehicles, but from then on considerable expansion took place with new vehicles entering service each year. These were mainly of Leyland and SOS manufacture (SOS being the chassis type manufactured by the Birmingham and Midland Motor Omnibus Company Ltd (BMMO) primarily for their own

use but also supplied to various other operators including Ortona Motor Company Ltd) but a number of vehicles of other makes, mainly small capacity, were added to the fleet with the purchase of the businesses of other small operators.

After twenty-seven years of trams, the bus was now the sole passenger carrying vehicle in Peterborough and the surrounding district, but a change of ownership was not far off as PET was to disappear with the formation of the Eastern Counties Omnibus Company Ltd. Peterborough Electric Traction Company Ltd contributed 77 vehicles to the new fleet.

