

Memories of 'Eastern Counties' bus service 44 and 44B

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Pictures appear courtesy of 'Fakenham Heritage Group', D G Bell and ['andysbusblog'](#).

60 years ago, this red and cream Eastern Counties Bristol LL5G was a familiar sight along the Kings Lynn to Fakenham bus route via Massingham, Rougham, Weasenham, Raynham and Toftrees.

Service 44 'Kings Lynn to Fakenham' and 44B 'Massingham to Fakenham only' operated both am and pm services on Thursdays for market day shoppers in Fakenham, and on Saturdays a pm service only.

On Tuesdays, a market-day service from Fakenham to Kings Lynn was timetabled, this I believe to was an am service only; returning to Fakenham in the afternoon.

On Friday and Saturday evenings a service known locally as the 'picture bus' was popular amongst Fakenham cinema goers' and patrons of other social activities. Drivers Charlie Webb and Jack Knapp regularly worked the 44s in the 1950s! Another busman's name that comes to mind is Jack Howes from Fakenham he may also have worked the 44s.

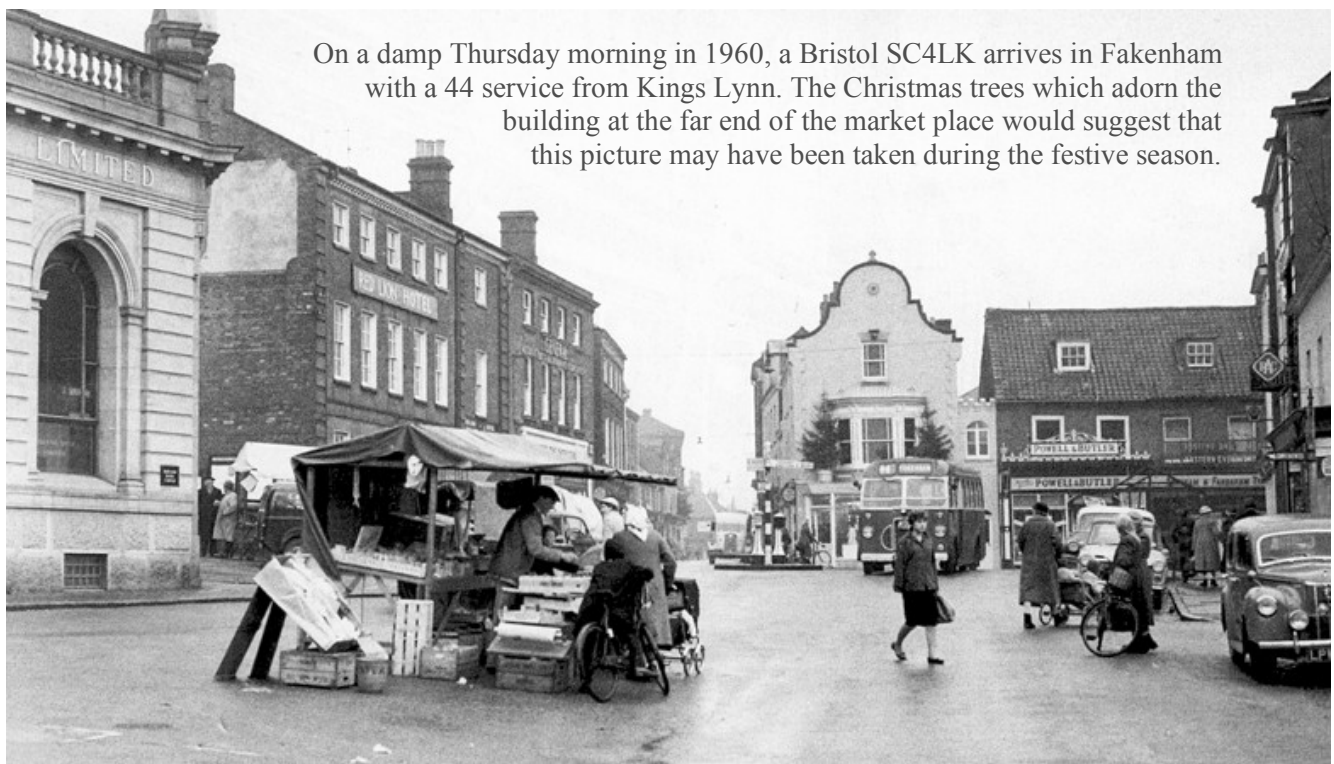
In 1959 the Bristol SC4LK 'pay on entry' vehicles were introduced over the route; signalling the end of both the old half cab LL5s and the long-established driver and conductor working. I believe Charlie Webb and another driver; Reggie Bunkle from Massingham continued as diver/conductors on this route well into the 1960s.

Fakenham Community Archive would be interested to hear from anyone who remembers travelling on the 44/44B or can recall when this service was withdrawn.



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KNG 722 is pictured with the 44 service at the Millfleet bus terminus in Kings in the 1950s



On a damp Thursday morning in 1960, a Bristol SC4LK arrives in Fakenham with a 44 service from Kings Lynn. The Christmas trees which adorn the building at the far end of the market place would suggest that this picture may have been taken during the festive season.