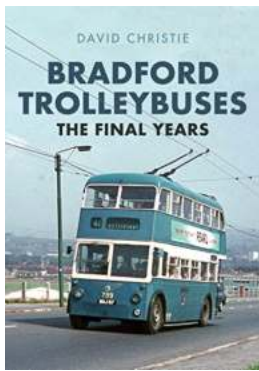


# Bradford Trolleybuses: The Final Years

As the 1960s came to an end, so did an era of transportation in the city of Bradford, England. The streets that were once bustling with the hum of trolleybuses soon fell silent, marking the end of a unique and iconic mode of transport. These electric vehicles, also known as trolleycoaches, were an integral part of the city's public transport system for several decades.



Bradford's embrace of trolleybuses can be traced back to the early 20th century when the city was experiencing rapid industrial growth. Unlike traditional tramways that required expensive infrastructure, trolleybuses offered a more flexible and cost-effective alternative. They were powered by overhead wires, which provided electricity to the buses through two poles attached to their roof.



## Bradford Trolleybuses: The Final Years

by Svetlana Quindt (Kindle Edition)

★★★★☆ 4.9 out of 5

Language : English  
File size : 93210 KB  
Text-to-Speech : Enabled  
Enhanced typesetting : Enabled  
Word Wise : Enabled  
Screen Reader : Supported  
Print length : 63 pages



The trolleybus network in Bradford expanded rapidly in the 1920s and 1930s, reaching its peak in the post-war years. At its height, the city boasted one of the largest trolleybus systems in the United Kingdom, with over 30 routes and a fleet of more than 300 vehicles. These trolleybuses became a familiar sight for Bradfordians, navigating through the streets with their distinctive electric whine and sparking poles.

### Efficiency and Sustainability

One of the main reasons for the popularity of trolleybuses in Bradford was their efficiency and sustainability. Unlike traditional diesel buses, which required frequent refueling and emitted harmful pollutants, trolleybuses produced zero emissions at the point of use. The electricity used to power the buses was generated in Bradford's own power station, ensuring a cleaner and more environmentally friendly form of transportation.

Additionally, trolleybuses were known for their smooth and quiet operation, providing passengers with a comfortable and enjoyable ride. The absence of an

internal combustion engine meant reduced noise levels and vibrations, contributing to a more pleasant and peaceful commuting experience.

## **The Decline**

Despite their many benefits, the trolleybuses in Bradford faced an uncertain future by the late 1960s. The rise of the automobile and the development of suburban areas led to a decline in public transport usage. The city council was also facing financial constraints, and maintaining the aging trolleybus network became increasingly costly.



The trolleybuses were also facing competition from new diesel buses, which were seen as more modern and versatile. The lack of flexibility in the trolleybus network, limited by the presence of overhead wires, became a significant disadvantage as the city's transport needs evolved.

With these challenges, the decision was made to phase out trolleybuses gradually. The final years of the trolleybus era were marked by a sense of nostalgia and fondness from the public, who recognized the historical and cultural significance of these electric vehicles.

## **The End of an Era**

In March 1972, the last trolleybus made its final journey through the streets of Bradford. This event marked the end of an era and left behind a void that would only be filled by memories and photographs. The distinct sound of the electric whine faded away, and the sparking poles disappeared from the city's skyline.

Today, the legacy of the trolleybuses can still be seen in Bradford. The Bradford Trolleybus Association, formed by enthusiasts and former employees, works tirelessly to preserve the memory of these unique vehicles. They organize exhibitions, maintain a collection of trolleybus artifacts, and promote awareness of their historical significance.

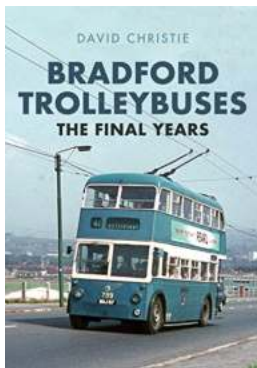
The trolleybus may be gone, but it remains an important icon in Bradford's history. It represents a time when public transport was at its peak, and the city's streets were alive with the buzz of electric vehicles. The final years of the Bradford trolleybuses may have been bittersweet, but they will forever be remembered as an essential part of the city's heritage.

## **The Legacy Lives On**

The trolleybus was more than just a means of transport. It embodied the spirit of progress, innovation, and sustainability that defined an era. Its impact on the environment was ahead of its time, and its contribution to the development of public transport cannot be underestimated.

Bringing the story of the Bradford trolleybuses to the present, the lessons learned from this unique mode of transport can still inspire today's efforts towards a greener and more sustainable future. The legacy of the trolleybuses lives on, reminding us of the importance of embracing innovative and eco-friendly solutions in transportation.

The final years of the Bradford trolleybuses remain a testament to the resilience and adaptability of public transport systems. Although they may have eventually faded away, their memory will forever be etched in the hearts and minds of those who witnessed their electric charm.



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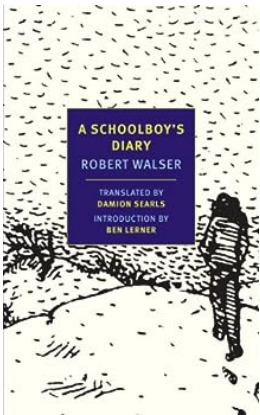
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Bradford had the distinction of running its trolleybus system for over sixty years, being, along with Leeds, the first to operate in Britain. Both systems started in 1911 and Bradford went on to become the last Trolleybus operator in Britain, closing in 1972.

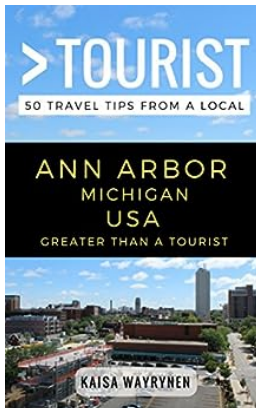
This book is a collection of photographs recorded from 1969 to 1972. For system complexity, and scenically, Bradford was ideally suited to trolleybus operation with

its long gradients on its routes out of the city centre. The fleet numbered some 100 vehicles in 1969, mostly re-bodied wartime chassis however, there were also three classes retaining their original bodies, which have been recorded within. Some twenty or so have been saved for preservation, mostly at the Sandtoft Museum near Doncaster.



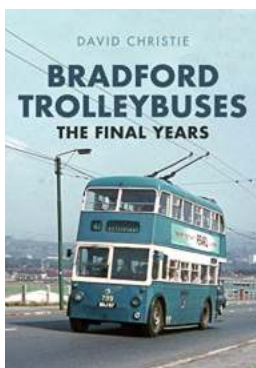
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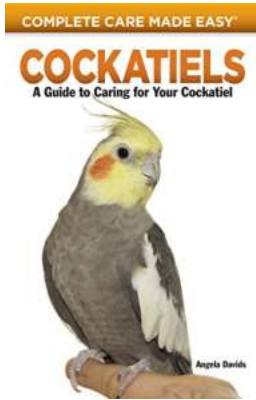
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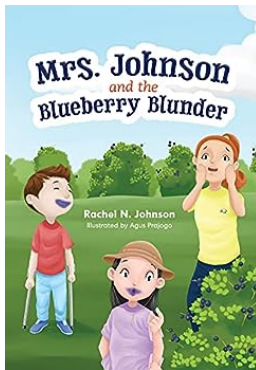
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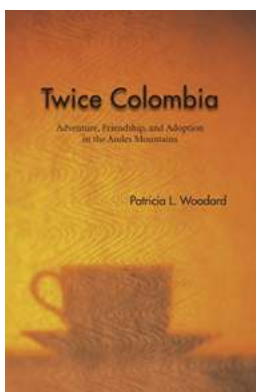
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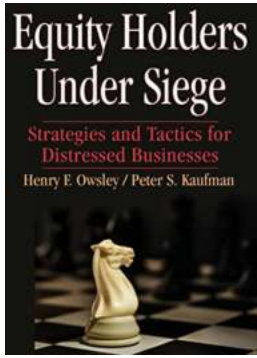
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