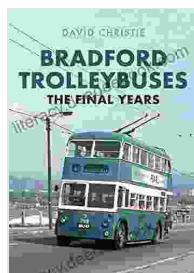


Bradford Trolleybuses: The Final Years



Bradford Trolleybuses: The Final Years by Svetlana Quindt

★★★★☆ 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 Bradford trolleybus system was one of the largest and most successful in the United Kingdom. At its peak in the 1950s, it operated a fleet of over 200 trolleybuses on 15 routes, serving a population of over half a million people. However, the system began to decline in the 1960s as diesel buses became more popular and trolleybuses were seen as outdated and inflexible.

In 1972, Bradford City Council announced that the trolleybus system would be phased out and replaced by diesel buses. The last trolleybus ran on 30 June 1973, marking the end of an era in Bradford's transport history.

The Last Day of Operation

On the last day of operation, a special commemorative service was held. The Lord Mayor of Bradford, Councillor Joseph Hinchliffe, rode on the last trolleybus, which was driven by Alderman Jack Hargreaves, the chairman of the Transport Committee. The trolleybus left City Hall at 10:30am and

travelled along a route that included some of the most famous landmarks in Bradford, such as the Alhambra Theatre and the Wool Exchange.

The trolleybus arrived at Thornton Road depot at 11:30am, where it was met by a crowd of well-wishers. Alderman Hargreaves gave a short speech, in which he thanked the staff of the Transport Department for their hard work and dedication over the years. He also expressed his hope that the trolleybus system would be remembered as a symbol of Bradford's proud industrial heritage.

The Scrapping of the Fleet

After the last trolleybus had been withdrawn from service, the fleet was sold to a scrap metal dealer. The trolleybuses were taken to a scrapyards in Sheffield, where they were dismantled and their parts were recycled.

Only a handful of Bradford trolleybuses have survived to the present day. One of these is preserved at the Bradford Industrial Museum, where it is displayed in the transport gallery. Another is preserved at the Trolleybus Museum at Sandtoft in Lincolnshire.

The Legacy of the Bradford Trolleybus System

The Bradford trolleybus system was a significant part of the city's history for over 40 years. It played a vital role in the development of Bradford's public transport network, and it helped to shape the city's identity.

The trolleybus system is fondly remembered by many Bradford residents, who have shared their memories of riding on the trolleybuses on social media and in local newspapers. The trolleybuses are seen as a symbol of a simpler time, when life was less hectic and community spirit was stronger.

The Bradford trolleybus system may be gone, but its legacy lives on. The system helped to lay the foundations for the modern public transport network in Bradford, and it continues to inspire nostalgia and affection in the hearts of many people.

Image Gallery

Here is a selection of images of Bradford trolleybuses from the final years of operation:







Further Reading

- Bradford Trolleybuses - a comprehensive website about the Bradford trolleybus system
- Bradford Trolleybuses - a website about the Bradford trolleybus system from the Society for the Conductors of Trolleybuses
- Bradford trolleybuses: The final years - an article about the final years of the Bradford trolleybus system from the Yorkshire Evening Post

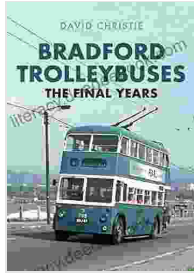
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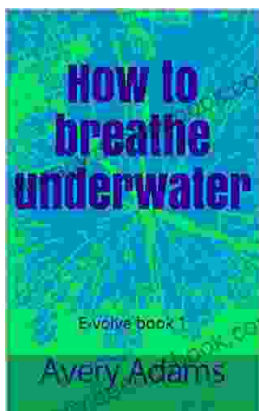


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