



A celebration of a bus depot on
Eaves Lane, Chorley for over a century.
1910-2015

RIBBLE

**VEHICLE PRESERVATION
TRUST LTD**

The history of Eaves Lane garage starts with George Daniel Parsons who lived in Ashfield Road, Chorley. He was an engineer formerly employed at Leyland Motors Ltd. In 1908 he pioneered some of the earliest bus routes in Lancashire and formed Parsons' Motor Service. Parson was also an Undertaker and claimed to have the first motor hearse in the area.

In November 1909 Chorley Borough Council approved plans for the erection of a new motor garage at 105 Eaves Lane and in March 1910 hackney carriage licenses were granted for two motor buses. In addition to operating services from Chorley he also ran charabanc trips and outings as far afield as London.

A haulage service was also provided and some of the vehicles were of lorry/chara construction i.e. the vehicles could be converted overnight from a lorry to a charabanc, or vice versa. On one such trip from Chorley to Blackpool via Longridge on Tuesday 10th June 1919 a party of 28 ladies suffered shock and slight injury when the Parsons charabanc they were travelling on tried to pass under the narrow railway bridge in Lytham Road, Preston.

Parsons' Motor Services was acquired by the Chorley Auto Company in March 1921.

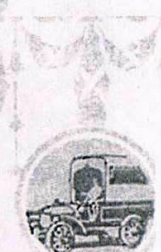
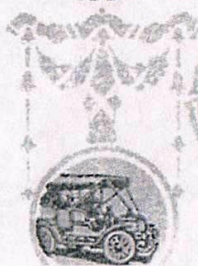
CONSIGN GOODS TO
DEPOT GARAGE, EAVES LANE



ADVERTISE COMMUNICATIONS
TO --
OFFICES, WRIST ST., CHORLEY.

TELEPHONE
155

GARAGE:-
EAVES LANE

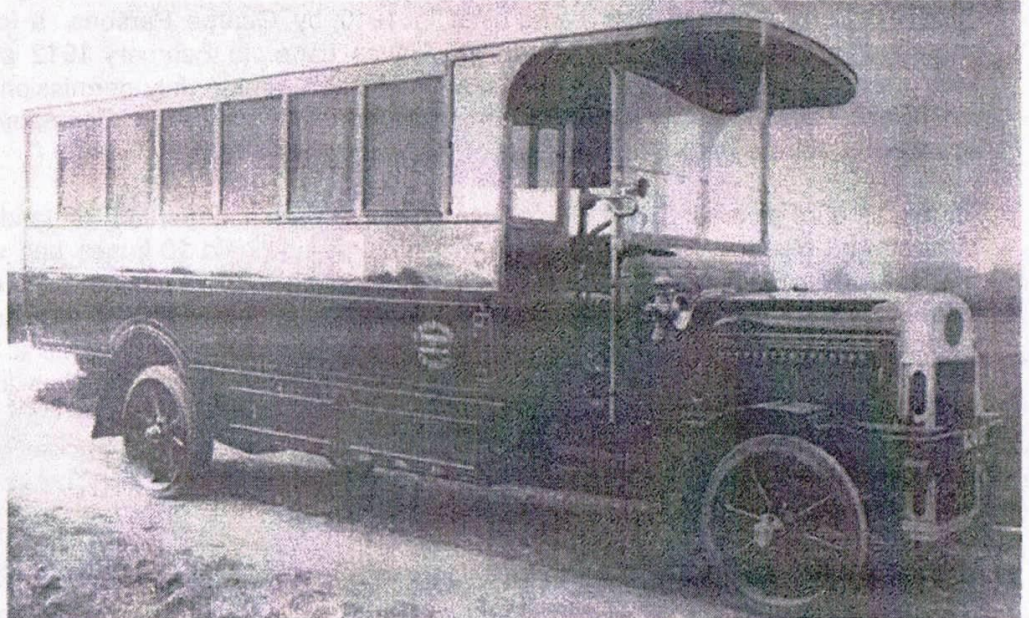


Offices:-
WEST STREET
CHORLEY

Official notepaper as used by Parsons' Motor Service.

B 2407 was a Leyland 'X' Type operated by Parsons'. It went to Chorley Auto Company in 3/21.

Photo:
REC collection



The Chorley Auto Company Ltd. motor dealers, had premises in Bolton Street. The first four passenger carrying vehicles they operated were of the convertible lorry/chara type. In March 1921 they purchased the Parsons' business, together with the office in West Street and the garage in Eaves Lane. The existing hackney carriage licenses were issued by Chorley Borough Council in respect of the former Parsons' vehicles.

Early in 1925 the company approached Ribble with a view to the latter taking over the business, including the garage and four vehicles. Following discussions Ribble completed arrangements for the Agreement for Sale of the Chorley Auto Co. Ltd. from 9th April 1925, the actual take over taking place on 15th April.

The purchase price was £7,000 cash with the remainder being satisfied in shares, 325 being issued as part consideration of the purchase price and allocated to shareholders as nominated by the Chorley Auto Company. One of these shareholders was the Secretary of the Chorley Auto, Joseph Hart of Brook Street, Chorley, who transferred to Ribble as Superintendent and later became Assistant Traffic Manager, until he retired in 1962.

PROPERTY DETAILS

CHORLEY (EAVES LANE)

TENURE: Freehold

OWNER: Ribble M.S. Ltd.

ACQUIRED: From Chorley Auto Co. Ltd., June 1925

USAGE: Garage. Adjoining cottage (51 Eaves Lane) purchased 1941.

COVERED AREA: 1500 sq.yds.

ACCOMMODATION: 36

UNCOVERED AREA: 550 sq.yds.

ACCOMMODATION: 6

CONSTRUCTION: Brick; asbestos; steel; concrete.

ORIGINAL COST: 4/6/25- £4,304/12/6d (£4304.62)

RV: 105 pa

DEPOT SYMBOL/CODE: Dark Green Square/AR/ [CH]

REMARKS: The garage was being used in 1910 by George Parsons, a local motor bus and charabanc proprietor and situated at 105 Eaves Lane. In February 1912 planning permission was given to Parson to build lavatories at the garage, and in July permission was gained for an extension. Parsons business was acquired by the Chorley Auto Company in 1921 and was acquired by Ribble upon the purchase of that company in 1925.

At the time of purchase by Ribble the garage was on a portion of land at the corner of Windermere Road and Eaves Lane. The original garage held 10 buses and was first renovated in 1930 after part of the roof had fallen in necessitating the replacement and renewal of the roof beams and the reconstruction was finally completed in January 1931 at a cost of £4,908/1/7d (£4908.08p). The renovation had taken longer than originally planned due to the fact the all the work was carried out whilst the garage was in daily use. The garage was further extended in 1937, with the work being completed in November 1937 at a cost of £3,906, by which time it could accommodate 50 vehicles. Additional extensions such as mess room and lavatories were constructed in 1941 at a cost of £508.

An area of land fronting Eaves Lane (360 sq.yds.) was purchased from Chorley & District Advertising & Billposting Company In May 1937 for £200 with that company still allowed to use the area for advertising. This agreement ceased on 13/5/44 with Ribble prepared to let the billposting company have continued use of the land on a short term tenancy from 1/6/44 at 2/6d (13p) per quarter. A three month notice to terminate the agreement was issued by Ribble from 30/3/48 as the land was needed for alterations. The adjoining cottage (no.51 Eaves Lane) was purchased 12/9/41 for £375 and let at a rental of 10/6d (53p) per week to Driver A. Thompson until 23/1/55 when he vacated and the tenant became driver E. Moss, who was still in occupation in June 1958.

This and the adjoining property was later demolished and the land used for additional open air parking, a brick perimeter wall with a door and a footpath crossing being built at a cost of £191. In March 1945 the garage stores had been enlarged by merging the original stores and tyre bay area at a cost of £300, whilst in May 1954 structural alterations, including the extension of the inspection pits and modernisation of the stores, was authorised at a cost of £1,670.

In January 1959 the garage was completely re-painted in Ribble red from the previous colour of green, whilst November 1959 saw authorisation given to spend £2,200 on the provision of a new heating installation at the garage by means of space heaters. This scheme was amended in March 1960 when it was found that the previous scheme would result in a reduced vehicle capacity, instead it was decided to build a boiler house on land adjacent to the garage at a cost of £2,678 thereby preserving vehicle parking space.

A new inspection pit was authorised to be built in May 1963 at a cost of £1,262. However, upon excavation it was found that this was 'filled in' land, a further £470 being needed to carry out piling work.

Cottage property adjacent to the garage (no.53) became available for purchase in October 1964 and its acquisition was felt necessary in order to expand the vehicle parking area. It was eventually purchased in December for £1,150. In September 1967 the property at 55 Eaves Lane also became available and its purchase was agreed at a price not exceeding £1,000. In June 1985 the property was valued at £90,000 and by December 1986 had a written down value of £88,200.

The garage was transferred to Stagecoach in 1989 when Ribble was acquired by the former and it remains in use until October 2015, when it officially closes.



The two views on this page show the exterior of the garage fronting on to Eaves lane. The one above was taken c1962 and the lowbridge Atlantean just visible is 1660 NRN 560. The original garage is the small building on the left whilst the large building is the 1931 extension. The lower view was taken in 1983 and shows the 1931 extension again, together with the parking ground, formerly the cottages site.

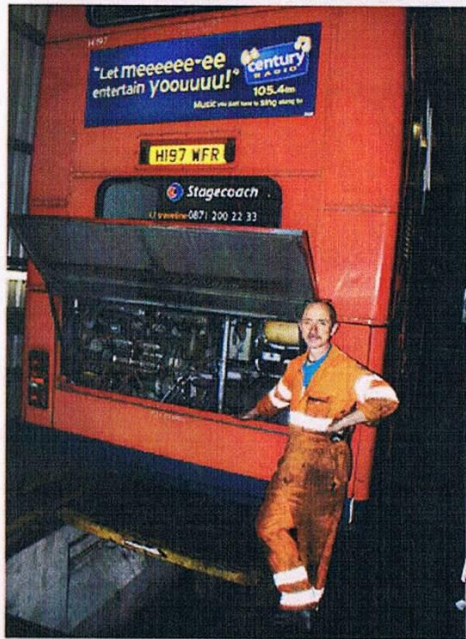




The view above is similar to the top view on the previous page. It was taken in 1988, after the privatisation of Ribble. The only major visible change is the fitting of a roller-shutter door to the original garage.

The bottom photo shows the garage entrance on Silverdale Road, at the rear of the 1931 extension alongside of which is parked Leyland National 400 PTF 746L. The building to the rear of the bus is the 1937 extension.





The future.....

Whilst the depot facility in Eaves Lane is closing down in October 2015, there will still be Stagecoach buses running in Chorley. As part of the ongoing investment in services in the area 24 new Scania E400 vehicles in Stagecoach Gold livery will come into service on 16th November 2015. These vehicles are the pinnacle of bus travel with luxury leather seating, free WiFi, USB charging points and state of the art low emission engines.



Special thanks go to Bernard Ashcroft, Douglas Bailey & John Dickinson for their help into putting this together.