

CLASSIC COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

Malcolm Ranieri

There was a time not too long ago when if you were to stand by a busy main road in Britain the majority of the commercial vehicles at work, whether they be vans, pick-ups, lorries of all types and emergency vehicles would all have been manufactured in this country.

That day has sadly now passed, but dedicated enthusiasts, companies, museums and groups have preserved many of these vehicles for display and use in the last six decades.

This superb large-format book is illustrated with images of preserved commercial vehicles, buses and a few emergency vehicles, drawn only from the ranks of the British manufacturers, and all more than twenty-five years old, though most examples are considerably older than that and a few date back to the First World War.

Together they re-create a picture of a vanished Britain when makes such as AEC, Albion, Bedford, Foden, Guy, Leyland, Scammell and Sentinel were the kings of the road. Through this fantastic collection of more than 140 images of classic vehicles you can almost smell the oil and hear the roar of their proudly British engines.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Malcolm Edward Ranieri was born in December, 1945 to an Italian father and English mother, and lived until his late teens at Haselor, a

Warwickshire village. He still lives in his favourite county at Ettington, near Stratford upon Avon. He entered local government in 1962 and took early retirement in 1997, as Audit Manager at Warwick District Council.

Photography has been an all consuming interest for over 40 years, especially steam railways all over the world, though his interests encompass all forms of classic transport, and photography in general. Malcolm gained the Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society in 1998, and also the Masters award of the Photographic Alliance of Great Britain in 2000, and regularly exhibits in photographic exhibitions all over the country.

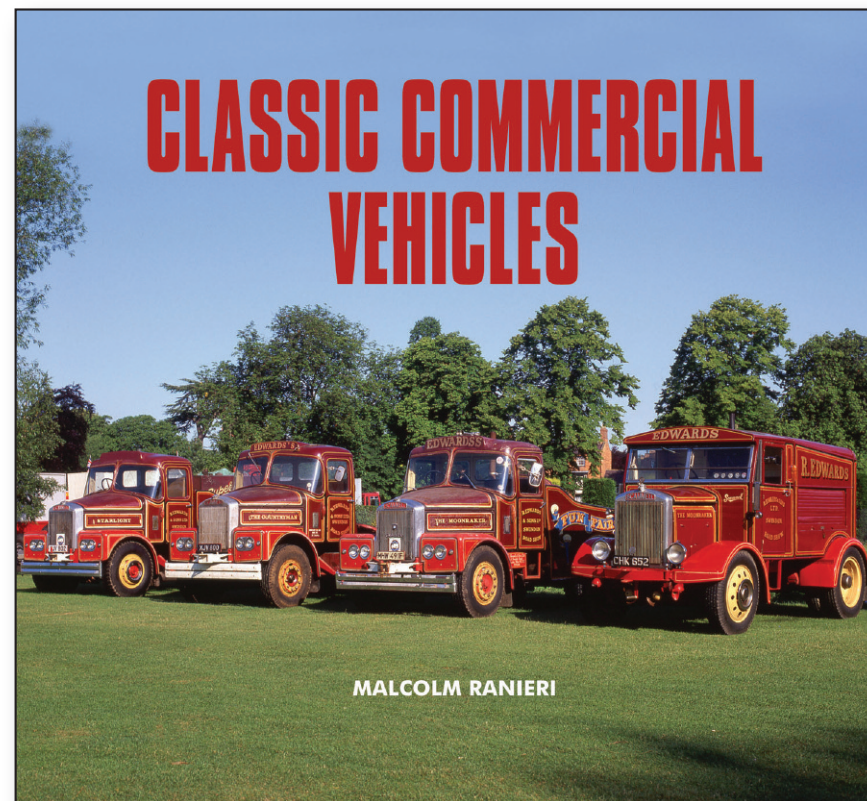
Since retiring Malcolm has taken up photojournalism, reporting for magazines such as *Old Glory*. He has been a volunteer on the Gloucestershire Warwickshire Railway for over 15 years and is currently a Duty Stationmaster.

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Ryelands Business Park,
Bagley Road, Wellington,
Somerset TA21 9PZ
Tel: 01823 653777
Fax: 01823 216796
www.halsgrove.com
e-mail: sales@halsgrove.com

HALSGROVE TITLE INFORMATION



Format: Hardback, 144 pages, 238x258 mm
profusely illustrated in colour throughout.
Price: £19.99
ISBN: 978 0 85704 093 0
Imprint: Halsgrove
Published: July 2011



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GARRETT 1926 class QL Steam Waggon. This Leiston, Suffolk-built vehicle, is photographed with Shuttleworth House in the background, at the Bedfordshire Steam Rally.



DAIMLER 1939 COG5-40, Willowbrook body, original company Tailby & George, Willington number DR5, photographed in Somerset next to an original Somerset County Council road sign.



MORRIS 1960 Mini Van, operated by Post Office Telephones. The Mini was a revolutionary design in the 1950s and was adapted for all sorts of commercial requirements including Police Patrol Vans.



FODEN 1925 Steam Waggon called "Superior" with a Sentinel Tar Sprayer behind, taking part in a road run at Edgerley in Shropshire, passing Rookery Farm. Fodens were manufactured at Sandbach, Cheshire.



BEDFORD 1950 OB Type Coach, the iconic people carrier of the '40s and '50s, here in IOM Coaches light blue livery (note registration number), alongside the Manx Electric Railway Toastrack Tramcar number 33, and photographed above Douglas, Isle of Man.



AEC 1951 November 1953 lorry, originally British Army as Transport GS 10 ton Standard Artillery Artillery Artillery, featured in 1948 and was used as a transport vehicle for 400 tons of equipment, later assigned by a farmer for general duties, entered preservation in 1960 and rebuilt in custom style. The Modelors were all originally from the vehicle, but their original build made them ideal general purpose vehicles when released from service. Photographed on the Historic Commercial Vehicle Society (HCVS), South Midlands, Ridgeway Run at Quenton Road, Buckinghamshire.

Opposite: AEC 1954 Armstrong Major 18 Tonne Lorry photographed on the Ridgeway Run at Quenton Road. The bridge carries the road over the railway line and the station terminus of the Buckinghamshire Railway Centre. This vehicle left the AEC Works as a six-wheeler, but was later converted by the factory to an eight-wheeler, converted from new by WJ King of Bishops Cleeve, Somerset, the road alone operation. It was in its derelict condition when found.



Example of a double-page spread.



JOWETT 1947 Bradford Light Lorry, photographed at Crich Tram Museum, Derbyshire. Behind is Liverpool Corporation Tram number 869 built in 1936, and a selection of British-built cars, MG, Morris, etc. Jowett Cars Ltd were built at Bradford, Yorkshire, hence the model name.