

19th Century Post Office "Penny-four-farthings"



Royal Mail "Quad-cart""



A Post Office Tricycle (circa 1920)



A Morris Minor van at Rickmansworth (1934)

Source: Cross Post 2014



A Morris 'C' type with streamlined body to publicise the Air Mail service



A Morris 'J2' 7-seater Postbus near Honiton in 1967

In 1997 in the Ferndown area the Royal Mail trialled a new type of delivery vehicle – called the 'BROX'.

The four-wheeled vehicle was capable of carrying up to a quarter of a ton of mail. It had seven gears, hydraulic disc brakes and independent suspension. It was designed to go up hills and steps with ease. It was pedalled like a bicycle but it could also be converted to a trolley in pedestrianised areas.

It was the only vehicle of its kind in use by Royal Mail. It was trialled for only a very short period and the concept rejected.



The 'BROX' at Ferndown (Oct. 1997)

Source: Pauline Luscombe, Royal Mail Bournemouth

1967 – The Royal Mail Postbus

In the UK, postbus services operated by Royal Mail began in 1967 to replace rapidly declining local bus and rail services in rural areas and provide a community service.

In 2006, more than 200 services were operated by Royal Mail, often only once or twice a day but in some areas they were the only available form of public transport.

In April 2009, the Royal Mail ended its postbus services in much of the Scottish Highlands and Islands region. From April 2016, the only postbus remaining in operation is Route 134 in the Highlands region.





Royal Mail Postcard of a Post Bus - 1995 era

Source: Royal Mail & Wikipedia

Mobile Post Offices

During the last 10 years, over 3000 post offices have closed. This has left many rural areas without any service. However, this shortfall is being filled in some rural areas through the introduction of 'mobile post offices'. On-line transactions are made via a cable that connects to a telegraph pole. 14 such vehicles are planned for the 2nd half of 2016.





Mobile Post Office Timetable

Below is the timetable for the Evesham Mobile Post Office service which started in 2014.



OUTREACH SERVICES

EVESHAM MOBILE OUTREACH SERVICE

| MONDAY | Wilmcote Claverdon Bretforton | 09:30 - 11:30 12:15 - 14:15 15:00 - 16:30 |
|-----------|-------------------------------|---|
| | | × |
| TUESDAY | Elmey Castle Forthampton | |
| | Ashton U Hill | |
| | Wilmcote | 14:00 - 16:00 |
| WEDNESDAY | Wilmcote | 09:30 - 11:30 |
| | | 12:15 - 14:15 |
| | Bretforton | 15:00 - 16:30 |
| THURSDAY | Elmey Castle | 09:00 - 10:00 |
| | | 10:30 - 11:30 |
| | Ashton U Hill | 12:30 - 13:30 |
| | Wilmcote | 14:00 - 16:00 |
| FRIDAY | Wilmcote | 09:30 - 11:30 |
| | Willersey | 12:45 - 14:45 |
| | Bretforton | 15:00 - 16:30 |

Source: Royal Mail Outreach Services

Mobile Post Office - Philatelic Items

Below is a certificate of posting from the Evesham Mobile Post Office. Horizon labels with branch codes ending in '444' identify these offices.



