

# **LEYLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

(Founded 1968)

Registered Charity No. 1024919

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## **AIMS**

To promote an interest in history generally and that of the Leyland area in particular

## **MEETINGS**

Held on the first Monday of each month (September to July inclusive)

at 7.30 pm

in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,  
West Paddock, Leyland**

## **SUBSCRIPTIONS**

Vice Presidents: £12.00 per annum

Members: £12.00 per annum

School Members: £1.00 per annum

Casual Visitors: £3.00 per meeting

**A MEMBER OF THE LANCASHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FEDERATION**

**THE HISTORIC SOCIETY OF LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE**

and

**THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR LOCAL HISTORY**

Visit the Leyland Historical Society's Web Site at: <http://www.leylandhistoricalsociety.co.uk>



## Editorial

Welcome to the fifty-eighth edition of the *Leyland Chronicle*. The year 2012 has been a year of celebration in our capital city, our neighbouring city of Preston and our town of Leyland. It was a year in which we celebrated our monarch's Diamond Jubilee during an extended week-end in June; then came the London 2012 Olympic and Paraplegic Games taking place in July and August. The Guild celebrations in Preston were held at the end of August and our own revamped Leyland Festival took place in September having been rescheduled from July because of wet weather conditions. The wet weather itself is making headlines as this year is being recorded as the wettest in the last one hundred years.

Congratulations to Sylvia Mayor as her contribution to the year 2011/12 *Chronicle*, 'It wasn't exactly Treasure Trove', was judged by Mr. David Hunt, curator of the Leyland Museum, to be the winner of the Historian of the Year shield. Mr. Hunt, when making the presentation, commented on each article and singled out Derek Wilkins' two well-researched articles with the thought that Derek could perhaps combine all of his research into a paper for the Historical Society.

Three of the articles in this year's *Chronicle* contain sporting themes, perhaps inspired by the wonderful London Olympics. They were written by our Treasurer and Chairman who also asks us questions about the family who brought the rubber industry to our town. Derek's article on 'Historical Fact, Fiction and Forgery' is thought-provoking as we do tend to take our antecedent's recorded statistics as gospel. His delightful article giving us a recipe for currant bread might bring a Mary Berry moment for some of us in the kitchen. I have printed it out but it does need some scaling down of the ingredients.

Again, our Chairman has put together a cracking programme for our entertainment this season, for which we thank him. We thank him too for all the hard work and the time he devotes to the Leyland Historical Society.

**Mary Longton**

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## Society Affairs 2011 - 2012

We started the forty-fourth season, our sixth in the Civic Centre, on Monday, 5th September, and kicked off with a talk by yours truly based on the book, *The Industrial Heritage of Leyland and Farington*, copies of which are still available at reasonable prices.

The talk, like the book, went through all the various industries that were to be found around Leyland from the watermills, blacksmiths and small industries to the factories of Leyland Motors, Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Company, BTR Industries, Leyland Paints and the cotton mills. Looking at some of the aerial photographs on the big screen the members discovered parts of Leyland they had not seen before. This talk is now spreading the work of the Society having been given in Buckshaw Retirement Village and also to local cub packs.

This year's Mikron Theatre production in October was titled 'Hell and High Water' and told the 250 year history of the ground-breaking Bridgewater Canal from its opening day on 17th July, 1761, through its working life until its rediscovery in the leisure age.

The story was based on the three people involved in its construction, namely, the Duke of Bridgewater played by Dan while the two other parts of John Gilbert and James Brindley were played by Adrian though, as he pointed out, not at the same time; the two actresses filled in most of the remaining roles

In November we welcomed back Colin Dickinson who talked about the history of Dick, Kerr & Co, from being tram builders to the TSR2 with some great photographs of the factories, the employees and their products, the pictures of the tram bodies in the Strand Road workshop being particular favourites. The society had a special guest that evening as the Mayor of South Ribble, Mr Jim Marsh, a former employee of Dick, Kerr & Co, attended. One omission from the talk was the famous ladies' football team which will be remedied with a talk dedicated to the Team in our 2012-13 season.

For the 5th December meeting, Lizzie Jones came back from Italy to give us her latest portrait of a famous historical figure, Mary, Queen of Scots. The story of this much maligned monarch whose life story was told by Lizzie in her usual style, without the Tudor slant on the story as told by Walsingham etc, made for a very interesting evening. I should point out here that, while we will see Lizzie in December, she is insisting it will be her last tour. The play will be her own choice, her own family history.

To start the New Year on 9th January, 2012, our own Edward Almond brought out his collection of Olympic memorabilia to educate and entertain the members with the story of the Ancient Olympic Games. Edward described events which would be out of place in London this year, though corporate sponsorship is nothing new and neither is cheating; however I was surprised at the cross-dressing.

Lancashire Folk Music again featured in February when our member Sid Calderbank and his company of musicians and actors performed the story of the Lancashire Cotton Famine from the songs, poems and writings of the day. The story began with the growth of the cotton industry and its dependence on the cotton from the southern states of the USA. When the American Civil War started and cut off the supply, the resulting poverty in the towns of Lancashire was brought to the attention of the rest of the country, especially London, by the Lancashire Lad's letters to *The Times* newspaper. This resulted in relief being granted to those who needed it, though Sid did depart from the original narrative to give an Edwin Waugh special mention of Farington and the benevolence of the mill owners there.

The songs in the production ranged from the Lancastrian 'Handloom v Power loom' to the American 'Hard Times in Dixie', the 'Sewing Class Song', 'Walking through Georgia' and

‘Alabama’. My particular favourite was Sid reciting the poem ‘God Bless Em, It Shows There’s Some Thowt’.

On 5th March, we were given a presentation by Steve Williams on the subject of the Chorley Pals, which we were all surprised to learn were a company of the more famous Accrington Pals (there not being enough volunteers in the town for a whole battalion). In the second part of the evening, Steve went over the ‘Chorley Remembers’ project which began as a statue to the Chorley Pals on the Flat Iron market in Chorley. This has now developed into a website detailing the history of the pals and later the armed forces in the Second World War. The latest plan is a for new war memorial to be erected in Astley Park with all the men listed from all conflicts since the First World War.

In April, Steven Moran arrived from Liverpool to take the members on a journey through the Williamson Tunnels under Liverpool. The tour underground was described with numerous very interesting slides and a very informative and amusing commentary. A visit to Liverpool was arranged for members on 14th July, with Steve in tow to show us round.

On Thursday 26th April, a few members joined the Railway & Canal Historical Society on their planned walking trip around Lostock Hall, Bamber Bridge and then to Preston. Your chairman met their members from the train at the new Buckshaw Parkway Station where they were given a description of the new station by one of their own members. Your Chairman described the Royal Ordnance site as we walked along to the bus stop on Central Avenue to catch the 109 service to Lostock Hall. En route, on the 109 bus to Watkin Lane in Lostock Hall, a number of the historical sites in Leyland were described to the twenty-five members of the R&CHS.

On arrival at Watkin Lane, Lostock Hall, we met a group of our own members and all walked to the bridge over the River Lostock, where the new sign for Lostock Hall and Tardy Gate depicts two steam locomotives at the Lostock Hall shed. After a short stop at Lostock Court to see where a bomb dropped on Lostock Hall in the Second World War and the memorial plaque erected by the council in honour of the twenty-four victims and their families, we walked to the site of the Lostock Hall Shed to explore the whole site finding various bits of insides of buildings including the inspection pits and the base of the turntable outside.

After a lunch stop on Lostock Hall Station, we walked in the now pouring rain along the line of the East Lancashire Railway (ELR) to the site of the carriage works and signal box at Todd Lane South. Going up Todd Lane South we turned right into Brownedge Road and walked on until we came to the bridge over the former ELR line from Liverpool into Preston along the ELR route (not to be confused with the West Coast Main Line or (North Union route).

Taking the footpath, we headed north-east until we met the route of the former ELR line from Bamber Bridge at the site of Todd Lane Station (formerly known as Preston Junction). The footpath here heads north into Preston, passing the site of the huge gasworks and accompanying railway sidings before the route meets the Walton Summit Tram road. It then forms the embankment that heads across the Ribble flood plain, with the former Southport lines going off to the left and the River Ribble being crossed on the bridge which also straddles Avenham and Miller Parks. The security fencing of girders on the left of the bridge are explained as being a safety measure to prevent passengers from falling in the river when trying to detrain from trains stopped at a signal on the bridge before entering Preston Station.

We were prevented from walking into the station direct by a security fence erected because the bridge between East Cliff and the town was deemed to be unsafe. The Bailey bridge within it however is still safe, as was found when the members used it to leave East Cliff after visiting the two parks. After a short tour around Preston Station, we thanked the organisers of the walk, Bernard Parkinson and Gerald Leach, and made our own way back to Lostock Hall.

The May trip this year was to Stratford-upon-Avon, and fifty members left at 8.30am for the trip south to the home town of Shakespeare. We arrived in the Leisure Centre car park at Stratford at 11.00am where our guide, Wendy, boarded the coach and took us first around the town pointing out the three Shakespeare sites and many other sites within the town, then directing our coach driver into the country to visit Anne Hathaway's Cottage in Shottery and Mary Arden's House in Wilmcote.

Returning to the Leisure Centre, the rest of the day was free to explore the town. Personally I made a return visit to the Stratford-upon-Avon Canal basin where it meets the River Avon adjacent to the recently rebuilt Shakespeare Memorial Theatre then, after lunch, a visit to Dr Hall's House, the New Place, as recently shown on the *Time Team* special. Afterwards, a walk to the view Shakespeare's birthplace rounded off a pleasant, but rather wet day,

After the Diamond Jubilee, our meeting on 11th June featured Dr CP Lee. Chris changed his promised talk from the 'Ealing Studios in the 1950s' to the 'History of Musical Comedy' a subject he knows well as he featured in one of the short films. Chris showed how a sense of humour with musical ability led to some wonderful performances from Spike Jones, the Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band, Les Dawson and, of course, the Albertos, but not so in the case of Florence Foster Jenkins.

The July annual general meeting went through the usual procedures including this report in shortened form and with the usual request for additional committee members being ignored.

There then followed a thought-provoking talk by Peter Watson on the relationship between war and popular culture which was met with varying degrees of acceptance, dismissal or disagreement by those present; in other words, it made people think. Patrick McGooghan would have approved! (If you want an explanation of the last comment, see your chairman).

The new season got under way with the story of the Preston Guild as told to the members by one of the newly elected Guild Burgesses of the 2012 Guild, namely, Dr Alan Crosby, who gave the talk on 3rd September, the opening Monday of the Guild. Alan went through the history of the Guild from its origins in 1179 through the various types of Guild to the Victorian Guilds where the industries took over the proceedings to the present day where it is now a community event overseen by the council.

The website continues to grow and since its inception in December 1999 there have been 54,000 enquiries, some requiring the committee's attention.

At the end of the season we had 218 members, the successful postal renewal system again being used in the month of August.

I would just like to thank all the committee members for their assistance in the last nineteen years and I hope they will continue to carry on in the future, especially Michael who besides being Secretary has now taken over the planning applications from Elizabeth, and Mary who continues to edit the Chronicle. If anyone else would like to join the committee, its only ten meetings a year and we are friendly. Please see any of the current members of the committee at any time for more information.

**Peter Houghton**  
**Chairman**

## Historical fact, fiction and forgery

*Derek Wilkins*

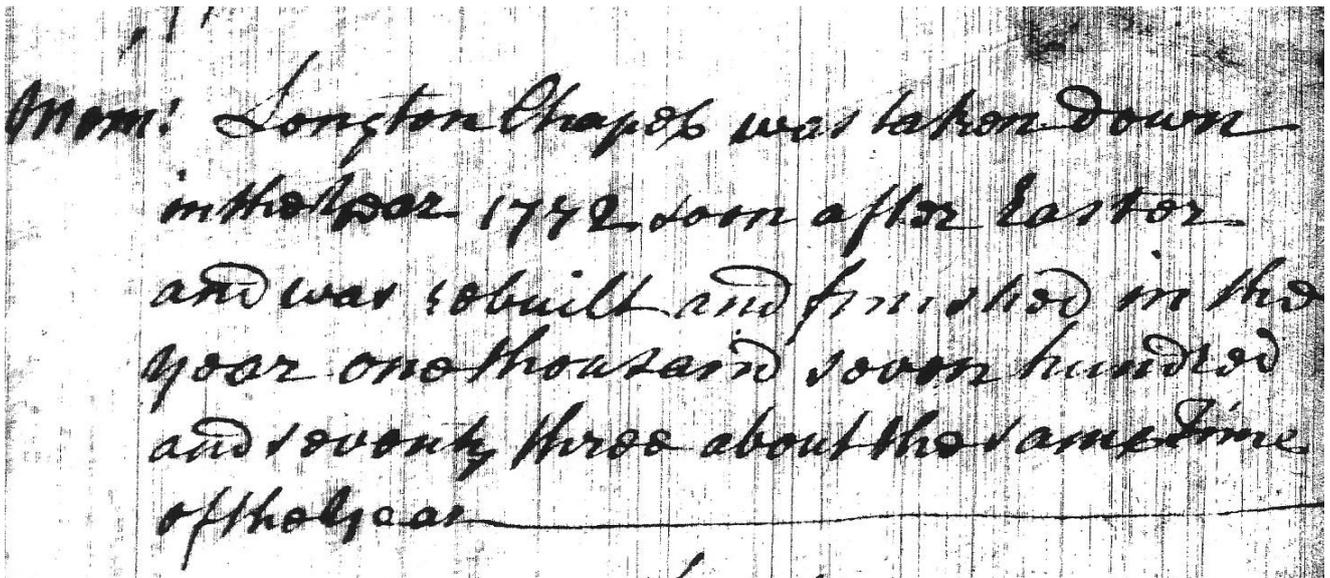
John Cotterall is a well-known local historian who has given several interesting talks to the Society over the years. Among his published work is *North Meols to South Ribble* published in 1985. It is a potpourri of fascinating historical information about the various villages between Southport and Preston.

In the section on Longton he states that ‘... in 1770 the dilapidated church was rebuilt’. The church he is referring to is Longton Chapel which, at the time, was a chapel of ease to St. Mary’s, Penwortham.

Three years later Marjorie Searson, another local historian of note, wrote in her book *Longton. A village history*: ‘...by 1773 the new chapel was completed’.

Why this variation in dates? Is one incorrect or did it take three years to complete the rebuilding? Neither author gives a reference and we are therefore unable to check their sources.

However, it would appear from information in the parish registers of St. Mary’s that the later date is correct. Following the last marriage entry for 1772/73 on 19th April 1773 is the following memorandum:



Mem. Longton Chapel was taken down in the year 1742 soon after Easter and was rebuilt and finished in the year one thousand seven hundred and seventy three about the same time of the year

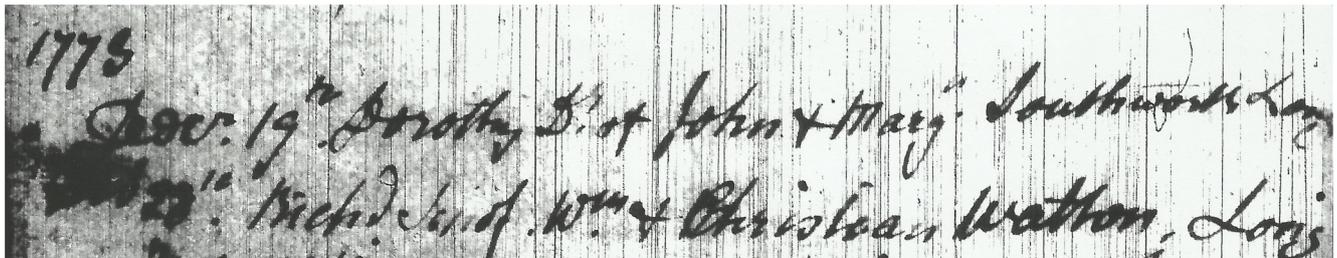
Why should John Cotterall seemingly have used the incorrect date? Although he doesn’t give a reference, it may well have been from no less an authority than the *Victoria County History*, published in 1911. Under the section on Longton in volume six is the statement: ‘The old chapel was rebuilt in 1770...’

So it would appear that in order to be sure of factual accuracy we should rely on ‘primary’ sources rather than secondary ones that may contain errors. But can we in fact rely on them?

In 1856 the vestry of St. Mary’s was destroyed by fire and with it the entire parish records. The memo above is actually taken from a copy of the register made by the priest at the end of the year, and sent to the Diocesan Registry - a so-called ‘Bishop’s transcript’. It seems probable that the memo was added for the benefit of the Diocesan officials as a means of informing them of the rebuilding (which they had probably helped to pay for) and is almost certainly accurate. However, the

transcripts as a whole certainly do contain inaccuracies, most of them probably minor and of little consequence, but there is at least one instance of forgery.

When I was researching my family history, I had reached the stage where I knew that my great-great-grandfather was Richard Wilkins, a farmer in Longton. He died in 1855 aged eighty-three but there was no record of his baptism in 1772 or 1773. I spent a great deal of time looking in records of other parishes without any success, but I did discover from other sources that he was the son of William and Christian Wilkins. Some considerable time later, and purely by chance, I spotted the following entry in the 1773 baptisms:



Christian's maiden name was Walton and the priest had clearly used this, rather than her married name. In later years, as a widow, she rented a farm from the Hesketh family of Rufford and their steward invariably used Walton in the rentals, sometimes going one better than the priest by referring to her as Catherine Walton!

The original Bishop's transcripts are now in Lancashire Archives, but in 1915 they were transcribed, printed and published by the Lancashire Parish Register Society. (Vol 52)

The eagle-eyed transcriber, W. H. Price, spotted that something was amiss. Following the burial entries for 1639 are those for 1650 - or at least that's what they appear to be at first sight. Close inspection reveals that the '5' is in a different hand to the rest of the entries, indicating that these burials actually took place in 1640 - the next sequence of burials being those for 1641.

Immediately after the 1650 (or 1640) burials are five 'Christenings in December 1650' in which the '5' is in the same hand as the altered one. (See next page)

(The fact that the burials did take place in 1640 is confirmed by the fact that John Sudell of Longton, buried on 24th May, left a will that was proved at Chester in 1640).

Mr W. H. Price comments: 'At the end of the burials are appended the following entries, and thereby hangs a tale of forgery.'

Just who the forger was and what his motives were is something of a mystery. Since the transcripts were (or should have been) sent yearly to the Diocesan registry, the forgery presumably took place there, sometime after 1650. Whatever the reason, the date indicates that it was almost certainly connected with the turmoil of the Civil War and the Commonwealth of Cromwell. Between 1645 and the Restoration in 1660, many people, in protest at the changes to sacred rites, did not have their children christened. (In 1653 responsibility for registration was transferred from the clergy to lay Parish Registers).

Of course, we may well ask ourselves if, in the overall scheme of things, the above errors, except perhaps the forgery, are of any consequence. My old history teacher Mr. C. S. Hilditch, writing in an early *Chronicle* article (What is History? - *Chronicle* 2/4), commented that dates are of only minor consequence in themselves and are only important in the sequencing of events. Whether Longton chapel was rebuilt in 1770 or 1773 makes little, if any, difference to the history of Longton and using someone's maiden name in place of their married one is only a minor inconvenience to an amateur Genealogist.

5 →

Burials in the church of *St. Andrew*  
 1650

John Widdings of Hutton buried Martch ye 26<sup>th</sup>  
 John Rickson wife of Hutton buried Martch ye 27<sup>th</sup>  
 Margrett da. of John Fourkison of Long. buried Martch ye 28<sup>th</sup>  
 Thurstan Widdings of Long. buried Martch ye 30<sup>th</sup>  
 Richard Widdings in propria terribili die bu. April ye 1<sup>st</sup>  
 William Deam of Longton buried April ye 1<sup>st</sup>  
 Elizabeth da. of William Widdard of Midle. bu. April ye 2<sup>nd</sup>  
 Thomas son of John Deam of Long. bu. April ye 4<sup>th</sup>  
 Ralph son of John Fourkison of Long. bu. April ye 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Margery wife of John Calyon of Midle. bu. April ye 5<sup>th</sup>  
 Margery wife of Thurstan Widdings of Long. bu. April ye 5<sup>th</sup>

→

5 →

M<sup>r</sup>. Q<sup>ueen</sup> rad than clerke minister of *St. Andrew* bu. Martch  
 ye 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Margrett da. of John Whidifor of Long. bu. Martch ye 11<sup>th</sup>  
 Elizabeth da. of James Glans of Hutton bu. Martch ye 22<sup>nd</sup>  
 Robert son of Richard Widdings of Hutton ye 22<sup>nd</sup> Martch  
 1650

Burials in *St. Andrew* 1650

James da. of John Dymfrie of Longton larg<sup>e</sup> ye 3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Mary da. of James Short of Hutton larg<sup>e</sup> ye 6<sup>th</sup>  
 Thobolt da. of Mary Houghton larg<sup>e</sup> ye 12<sup>th</sup>  
 Elizabeth da. of John Houghton larg<sup>e</sup> ye 13<sup>th</sup>  
 Richard son of Robt Houghton larg<sup>e</sup> ye 16<sup>th</sup>

1650

We would do well to remember, however, that throughout the ages claiming something to be a 'historical fact' has had profound consequences, and nowhere is this more apparent than in religion.

Lynne Truss, in her book *Eats, Shoots & Leaves*, points out that ancient texts were largely unpunctuated. When later scribes copied a text they may well have added 'helpful' punctuation to guide the reader. Thus the concept of Purgatory may stand or fall on the location of a comma: 'Verily I say unto thee this day, Thou shalt be with me in Paradise' or, 'Verily, I say unto thee, This day thou shalt be with me in Paradise'.

Other, more contentious, issues such as the Virgin birth or the responsibility for the Crucifixion are perhaps better left to be dealt with on theological, rather than historical grounds.

### **Acknowledgement**

The above extracts are from Lancashire Archives DRB 2/157,  
courtesy of Archive Services Manager.



## John Stanning and the Boat Race of 1863

*Edward Almond*

Growing up in the 1950s there were three sporting events which were eagerly awaited and listened to on the wireless or watched on television. These were the Boat Race (Oxford versus Cambridge), rowed on the River Thames; the Grand National Steeplechase, raced at Aintree and the F.A. Cup Final which was held at Wembley Stadium.

My family never had any connection, either as participants or spectators, with any of these three sports but it seemed to be part of the national psyche to watch or listen to these national treasures from afar. I cannot remember any of the winners of the Boat Race, or the Grand National, but I remember the memorable 1953 Cup Final between Blackpool and Bolton.

In later years I learned that a familiar and well-known figure in Leyland in the late nineteenth century, Mr John Stanning, had taken part in the Boat Race while at Cambridge University in 1863. This was before he became associated with Leyland.

As we approach the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of his participation, I thought it appropriate that the race of March, 1863, should be revisited.

John Stanning, from Halliwell, near Bolton, attended Rugby Public School and went on to Cambridge, studying at Trinity College. There he was a member of the 1st Trinity boat team. He only competed in the Boat Race on one occasion and had only been selected at the last hour. This may have been because the president or Captain of the Cambridge crew was W. C. Smyly who belonged to the same College as Stanning. Smyly and the Cox, F. H. Archer, had rowed the previous year.

The crew members in March, 1863 were:

<b>Bow</b>	<b>J. C. Hawkins</b>	<b>11st 0lb</b>	<b>Trinity (Westminster)</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>W. H. Smyly</b>	<b>11st 4lb</b>	<b>Trinity (Harrow)</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>R. H. Morgan</b>	<b>11st 3lb</b>	<b>Emmanuel (Llandovery)</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>J. B. Wilson</b>	<b>11st 10lb</b>	<b>Pembroke (Giggleswick)</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>C. H. La Mothe*</b>	<b>12st 3lb</b>	<b>St John's (King William)</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>R. A. Kingslake</b>	<b>12st 0lb</b>	<b>Trinity (Eton)</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>J. G. Chambers</b>	<b>11st 6lb</b>	<b>Trinity (Eton)</b>
<b>Stroke</b>	<b>J. Stanning</b>	<b>10st 6lb</b>	<b>Trinity (Rugby)</b>
<b>Cox</b>	<b>F. H. Archer</b>	<b>5st 9½lb</b>	<b>Corpus Christi (Canterbury)</b>

**\* Mothe has also been identified as belonging to Lady Margaret**

Stanning was the lightest of the oarsmen but he had been given the important position of Stroke. Stroke had considerable responsibility in determining tactics. As Gordon Ross states in his book, *The Boat Race. The First Hundred Races*: 'The man most likely to catch it when the race is lost is either the Cox or the Stroke.' He further describes their roles: 'The Cox, in addition to steering, is the Stroke's mouthpiece, he alone can see where the crew is going, eight chaps tugging hopefully at oars have to be content with knowing where they have been'.

Ross further states that the Stroke 'directs the rating and the rhythm' and 'Stroke's cardinal virtue is to know exactly when to spurt, better still, when to launch the sort of long, relentless spurt that has

in the long years turned a score of defeats into victories'. Also, 'The state of the crew in arrears can only decide when to spurt if he knows the exact whereabouts of his opponents. In this he has to rely on his Cox'. Finally, 'the Stroke must know the merits and weaknesses of his rivals'. In this respect I think that Ross is referring to latter-day races. At the time of the 1863 race, it is unlikely that 'spies' were watching their opponents' efforts in training and if Stanning was brought in at the last minute he would not have been collecting information on the Oxford crew prior to the race.

The race was scheduled for March 28th, a Saturday, and the course to be used was from Mortlake to Putney which was being rowed only for the third time since its inception in 1829. The other occasions were in 1846 and 1856 (when the race became an annual event). The course used in the other races was the more familiar Putney to Mortlake and measured 4 miles, 374 yards.

Oxford won the toss and chose the Middlesex station which was the more favourable. Of the two crews, Oxford was the heaviest.

The start was marred by the attendance of steamers wishing to follow the race, all jockeying for position to allow their passengers the best view. Thirty minutes were wasted in attempting to keep the steamers behind the umpire and the competing crews. Naturally, the crews refused to race under such conditions, however, when the tide began to fall in the river, the steamers finally obeyed and the race could start.

Oxford immediately took the lead and held it to the finish. The winning time was 23 minutes, 6 seconds, with Cambridge 45 seconds, or 200 yards, in arrears. The finish of the race at *The Star and Garter*, Putney, came just in time for the Cambridge crew for as they approached the landing stage their boat was in danger of sinking.

Was it bad luck in losing the toss, poor judgment by the Stroke, or the lack of proficiency which lost Cambridge the race? Ross states that: 'Rowing at Cambridge was alleged to be in a bad state from want of good coaching and also from the condition of the Cam which had got very shallow and sluggish and much needed the attention which was paid to its banks and to its channels a few years later.' Whatever the reason, 1861 to 1869 was a period of dominance of the race by Oxford.

In addition to rowing, Oxford and Cambridge held competitions at cricket (first held in 1827), rackets (1855), tennis (1859), billiards (1860), shooting (1862) and steeple chasing (1863).

John Stanning left Cambridge with a Master's degree and joined his father, also called John, who worked for a bleaching company, Richard Ainsworth and Sons and Co, in Halliwell. In 1871, John Stanning senior took over the bleach works at Shrugs which lay alongside Cow Lane (leading from Towngate) and Mill Lane (leading from Leyland Lane). It was a successful venture and the firm prospered under John junior's leadership after his father's death in 1874.

John became involved in public life and his love of cricket continued in that he employed ex-professional cricketers as groundsmen at the cricket ground in Fox Lane and in the gardens of his estate at Broadfield House.

However, in the early nineteen hundreds, a heart condition, possibly caused by his rowing exertions in his earlier years, led to serious health problems and doctors recommended a complete rest. In early 1904, accompanied by his son, Duncan, he travelled to Egypt for a holiday during which he contracted malarial fever, followed by pneumonia, which led to his death on March 5th in that year. It was not until the following year that his remains were returned to Leyland to be buried in St Andrew's Parish Church cemetery.

Was rowing really to blame for his late ill health? We know that sportsmen in the mid-nineteenth century did not train on a regular basis, or as vigorously as our modern-day athletes and Olympians. A gentleman amateur indulged in sport and took exercise on a limited basis.

There were concerns early on and in Gordon Ross's book there is a chapter entitled 'Is Rowing A Strain?' It is stated that 'Charles Wordsworth, the originator of the Boat Race in 1829, has left it on record that "in those days we used to be told that no man in a racing boat could expect to live to the age of thirty"'.

In 1873, research into the after-health of the Oxford and Cambridge crews between 1829 and 1859 was conducted by Dr. J. E. Morgan of Manchester Royal Infirmary. His report showed that 'in the majority of cases no ill effects had been suffered'. Assuming the boat crew oarsmen were all in their early twenties at the time of competing in the boat races, they would have then been around the ages of sixty-four and thirty-four. John Stanning's problems became worse in his sixties.

As far as I am aware, no other person connected with Leyland has competed in the Oxford versus Cambridge Boat Race.

**Acknowledgements**

Gordon Ross, *The Boat Race: First Hundred Years* (1954)

Harold Maurice Abrahams & John Bruce-Kerr, *Oxford versus Cambridge:*

A Record of the Inter-university Contests from 1827-1930 (1931)

Michael Park, 'John Stanning, Esq., M.A., J.P.', *Leyland Chronicle*

No. 38 (1992)



## The Rubber Family of Leyland

*Peter Houghton*

When you walk down Hough Lane from the Chapel Brow roundabout towards Towngate, you pass, on the right hand side, three side-streets of terraced houses, which were built in the 1860s and 1870s by a manufacturer to house his workforce. The factory owner was James Quin, his company was James Quin & Co., and the streets were named Herbert, Newsome and Quin which, coincidentally, was the name given to the only son of James and his wife, Sarah; i.e. Herbert Newsome Quin.

What else is there today to remind us of the huge rubber industry in the centre of Leyland? This is a subject where there are more questions than answers but I will go through what we know so far.

### The Early Quins

The Quin family, as we know them, arrived in Lancashire back in the early 1800s, when Hugh Quin, born around 1795 and from County Down in Ireland, arrived, met and married Margaret from Mellor, near Blackburn; Margaret was born around 1802. There is no record to be found of their marriage which suggests that it may have been in a Roman Catholic church.

By the time of the census taken in 1841, the couple had eight children and all the family were living in Lancaster Road, Preston where Hugh Quin was described as a labourer, The children were: Ann (born in 1827), James (5 February 1829), Hugh (1830), John (1831), Thomas (1832), Margaret (1834), Mary (1837), William (1839). Two further children were born after the census date: Sarah (1843) and Edward (1847).

Here we have the first mystery. Having checked all variations of the name Quin, the whole family seem to disappear - no trace of them can be found in the 1851 census. By the next census taken in 1861, shown below, much has changed in the Quin family as they are living at No 1 Trinity Place, Preston.

No	Name	Age	Occupation	Place of Birth
1	James Quin	37	Cement Manufacturer	Ireland
2	Hugh Quin	66	Cement Maker	Ireland
3	Margaret Quin	59	House Keeper	Lancashire
4	Ann Quin	18	Carder	Ireland
5	Edward Quin	14	Basket Maker	Ireland

The head of the house is now James Quin, aged 37, still unmarried and his occupation is given as Cement Manufacturer. Other occupants of the dwelling are his father Hugh, also listed as Cement Maker, aged 66; his mother Margaret, 59, house keeper; his sister Ann, 18, a carder and his brother Edward, 14, a basket maker. Things are on the move, however, as the year 1862 is when everything changes for James Quin. On 2nd June 1862 he married Sarah Ann Smith at St John's Church in Preston and is described on the marriage certificate as a mill furnisher along with his father Hugh. We will now backtrack and see why this was a turning point.

### The Berrys and the Smiths

James Quin's wife, Sarah Ann Smith, was born in 1822 in Chorley to Joseph and Mary Berry (formerly Barns). She was baptised on 21st November, 1824, in the same church, the Parish Church

of St. Mary in Prestwich, where her parents were married on 16th April, 1815. Sarah Ann's parents were from Shepley in Yorkshire and Darlington, County Durham and by the census of 1841 they were living in Penwortham where Joseph Berry was employed as an Overlooker (a supervisor in a cotton mill).

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF MARRIAGE**      GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number: COL484232

1866. Marriage solemnized at <i>the Parish Church</i> in the Parish of <i>Leyland</i> in the County of <i>Lancaster</i>								
No.	When Solem.	Name and Surname	Age	Condition	Rank or Profession	Residence at the Time of Marriage	Father's Name and Surname	Rank or Profession of Father
247	January 8 1846	<i>William Smith</i> <i>Sarah Berry</i>	<i>of full age</i>	<i>Bachelor</i> <i>Spinster</i>	<i>Farmer</i> <i>---</i>	<i>Leyland</i> <i>Darlington</i>	<i>John Smith</i> <i>Joseph Berry</i>	<i>Farmer</i> <i>Spinning Master</i>

Married in the *Parish Church*, according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church, *by certificate* by us,

This Marriage was solemnized between us, *William Smith* and *Sarah Berry nee Hancock* in the Presence of us, *James Gispin Morris* and *Wm. Smith*

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a register of Marriages in the Registration District of **Chorley**  
Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the **17th** day of **October** 2007

**MXD 461281**

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WARNING: A CERTIFICATE IS NOT EVIDENCE OF IDENTITY.

**Copy of Certificate of Marriage of William Smith and Sarah Berry**

On 8th January, 1846, Sarah Ann married William Smith, a farmer from Tarleton, whose father, John Smith, was also a farmer. Sarah Ann's father was now described as a spinning master. Five years later, the 1851 census shows that there was now a family living on Golden Hill: William Smith (31) was the head of the house and described as a Waterproof Manufacturer, William's wife Sarah Ann (29) their children Mary Ann (3) and John Berry (4 months). Their eldest daughter Isabella died within the first year of her life in 1847. One further child, Isabella, given the same name (just to be confusing) was born in 1854.

However, William was not going to enjoy the fruits of his labour as on 1st June 1859, he died of heart failure aged just thirty-nine, leaving his wife and their three children. Two years later the 1861 census shows Sarah as the head of the household with the three children all living at 22 Golden Hill Lane and described as a Hose Pipe Manufacturer,

### 1862 – The Year of Change

It had previously been thought that when James Quin brought the new rubber industry to Leyland in 1862, he had purchased a small factory in East Street; however, it would seem that he married into the business which was already established at the factory on the site that later became the Palace Cinema and the Co op warehouse.

**CERTIFIED COPY OF AN ENTRY OF DEATH**

GIVEN AT THE GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE

Application Number COL524339

REGISTRATION DISTRICT		Chorley							
1859 DEATH in the Sub-district of		Leyland		in the County of Lancaster					

Columns--	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
No.	When and where died	Name and surname	Sex	Age	Occupation	Cause of death	Signature, description and residence of informant	When registered	Signature of registrar
	2nd June 1859 Golden Hill Leyland	William Smith	Male	39 years	Manufacturer of water proof cloth	Scopsy not Certified	Robert Carmichael In attendance Golden Hill Leyland	2nd June 1859	Robert Carmichael Registrar

Heart <sup>measuring</sup> ~~measuring~~

CERTIFIED to be a true copy of an entry in the certified copy of a Register of Deaths in the District above mentioned.

Given at the GENERAL REGISTER OFFICE, under the Seal of the said Office, the 2nd day of November 2007

**DYB 837982** See note overleaf

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**Copy of William Smith's Death Certificate**

It would therefore seem logical that James would learn the developing business from a recognised pioneer. Thomas Hancock of London had developed vulcanisation in 1844 and was beginning to discover the benefits of additives such as carbon black and fillers. James Quin learned these techniques from Hancock's nephew and successor, James Lyne Hancock. The company, James Lyne Hancock, manufacturers of vulcanised India Rubber goods, was formed in 1842 at 266 Goswell Road, London, when Thomas Hancock's part of the business was split from Charles Macintosh and Co., later of Manchester, and sold to his nephew, James Lyne Hancock. The result was that Hancock's employees were sent to Leyland to pass on their skills to the Leyland workforce.

On the personal front, there was a birth in the family as it states in the Parish Records:

**Baptism: 15th May, 1864, St Andrew, Leyland, Lancashire, England**  
**Herbert Newsome Quin - Son of James Quin & Sarah. Abode: Leyland**  
**Occupation: Manufacturer,**

**Baptised by: Kinton Jacques Curate**  
**Register: Baptisms 1854 - 1875, Page 194, Entry 1552.**

In 1868 the expanding business moved to their new site on Golden Hill Lane taking over the site of the workhouse.

### **James Quin & Co Limited**

In the next census taken in 1871, the family were now found to be living at 'Laburnum Cottage' on Water Street, now known as Towngate, This was the only property at that time between what is now 'The Gables' and King Street. When the terrace of houses was built in the twentieth century the houses were built smaller in size on either side of the already existing 'Laburnum Cottage'.

The census denotes James Quin, aged 42, as head of the family, his occupation reads in full as



Laburnum Cottage, Leyland

‘India Rubber Manufacturer, employs 82 men, 5 boys and 26 women’. As well as wife Sarah, who did not have an occupation listed, Sarah’s children, Mary Smith, John Berry Smith and Isabella Smith were all living with their mother and stepfather together with James and Sarah’s son, Herbert Newsome Quin. John (20) was listed as the manager of the Hose Pipe Department.

64	Laburnum Ct	1	James Quin	Head	Man	42	1	India Rubber Manufacture (sup)	do	Preston
			Sarah	Wife	Wom		49	82 Men. 5 Boys. 26 Women!	do	Charley
			Mary Smith	S. Dau	Wom		23		do	Preston
			John B	do	S. Son	Man	20	Manager of Hose pipe Dept	do	Leyland
			Isabella	do	S. Dau	Wom	16	Schooler	do	do
			Herbert N. Quin	Son			7	Schooler	do	do
65	1 Water St	1	Richard Sumner	Head	Man	42		Blacksmith	do	Leyland
			Alice	Wife	Wom		38		do	do
			James	do	Son	Man	11		do	do

1871 Census entries showing the Quin family in Laburnum Cottage and Richard Sumner at No. 1 Water Street

It should be noted that their next door neighbour at No 1 Water Street was Richard Sumner, whose son, James, would go onto to greater things in his father’s smithy across the road.

In 1871, John Berry Smith, reached 21 and a very lavish event was held in his honour in the new warehouse on Golden Hill Lane, (see following page)

Back at the business. Following the increase in orders the firm became a public company in 1873 as Mr Quin's Indian Rubber & Hosepipe Works.

James Quin & Co Ltd., were described as ‘manufacturers of all kinds of India rubber articles, valves, sheets, buffers, washers, rings, cylinders, steam packing, hose tubing, India rubber machinery, belting, woven linen hose pipes for agricultural, fire brigade and mill purposes, and all India rubber

way DOARA suggest.

**MAJORITY CELEBRATION AT LEYLAND.**—On Saturday evening the workpeople employed by Mr. James Quin, proprietor of the rubber works, Leyland, partook of an excellent dinner given by that gentleman, to celebrate the majority of Mr. J. B. Smith, his stepson. The number dining, which included some of Mr. Quin's personal friends, reached nearly three hundred persons. The tables were laid out in one of the rooms of the new warehouse. After dinner was over the chair was occupied by Mr. James Quin, and the vice-chair by Mr. George Howarth. The usual loyal toasts having been drunk, Mr. Howarth proposed "Prosperity to the Golden Hill Rubber Works," which was responded to by Mr. James Berry, the manager. The Vice-Chairman gave "The health of Mr. and Mrs. Quin and family," which, after being supported by a humorous speech from Mr. Robert Banister, was cordially acknowledged by Mr. Quin. The Vice-Chairman then gave the toast of the evening,—"The health of Mr. J. B. Smith," who responded in a suitable manner. Mr. James Berry then rose to present to Mr. Smith, on behalf the workpeople, with a handsome travelling bag, walnut writing desk, carved meerschaum pipe, and pouch. He referred to the kind feelings entertained towards him (Mr. Smith) by the workpeople, and hoped that nothing would ever occur to cause any estrangement between them, and in presenting him with the tangible evidences of their affection and esteem hoped he might long be spared to use and enjoy them. Mr. Smith feelingly thanked them for their kindness, and said he should ever value the beautiful articles they had given him, not only for their intrinsic value, but for the feelings which prompted them in making the presentation. At intervals during the evening several songs were given by vocalists of excellent local reputation, and Mr. Best, of Preston, amused and interested the audience by his display of ventriloquism and legerdemain. A display of fireworks concluded the proceedings.

Partying 1871 style - John Berry Smith's twenty-first birthday party



articles used for engineering purposes, elastic steam rope, round or square, with core in the centre, and all kinds of water proof covers made to order, also water proof horse cloths etc'.

With the building of the workers houses in Herbert Street, Newsome Street and Quin Street, the Quin family also moved with their home being entered in the 1881 census as Golden Hill House. This house would, in the twentieth century, find itself to be part of the fabric of the other Rubber Company in Leyland as it was used as the offices for the British Tyre and Rubber Company off Golden Hill Lane.

James Quin, now aged 52, is listed as an India Rubber Manufacturer employing 300 hands, who, with his wife, Sarah, 59, lives with step-daughter, Isabella Smith (26), Herbert N Quin (17), India Rubber Worker and granddaughter Amy Berry (3).

Golden Hill House	1	James Quin	Head	52	India Rubber Manufacturer	4	Wales
		Sarah	Wife	59	Employed hands	4	Yorkshire
		Isabella Smith	Step-daughter	26		1	Lancashire
		Herbert N Quin	Son	17	India Rubber Worker	1	do
		Amy Berry	Granddaughter	3		1	do

Extract from the 1881 Census form - James and Sarah at Golden Hill House

Amy was the second daughter of Richard Berry and Mary Ann Smith (Sarah's elder daughter with her first husband). The couple were married on 15th May 1875 at St Andrew's in Southport, and Sarah Isabel was born on 8th February 1876, Amy Elizabeth on 31st July 1877 and Richard Herbert on 17th February 1879. However, husband Richard passed away on 17th November 1879, which



British Tyre & Rubber Company offices  
Formerly Golden Hill House

could explain why Richard junior was born at Golden Hill House. By the 1881 census, widow Mary Ann Berry is living at 19 Newsome Street with her own two children, Sarah Isabel and Richard Herbert, both under five years of age; her occupation is described as grocer and general shopkeeper. Mary Ann's second daughter, Amy Elizabeth Berry, would go on to live until the ripe old age of 93, only dying in 1970.

John Berry Smith, the son of William and Sarah (now Quin) Smith, in the census 1881, is shown as living with his wife Elizabeth and his son William at 1 Hough Lane where he was described as the Manager of the India Rubber Works. However, things did not go well with John Berry Smith as on 21st October, 1882, there was a creditors' meeting with Mr Smith owing £2702. 6s. 1d: roughly £273,000 in today's money:

MEETING OF CREDITORS.—A meeting of the creditors of Mr. John Berry Smith, hose pipe, &c. manufacturer, of Leyland, was held yesterday at the Railway Inn, Leyland. The chair was occupied by Mr. Shield, of Watson and Shield, Dundee. Various creditors were represented by Mr. Edwin Dean and Mr. J. W. Higson, solicitors, Preston; and Messrs. Boot and Egan, solicitors, Manchester. The statement of affairs showed: unsecured creditors, £1,862 6s 1d; secured creditors, £780; preferential creditors, £60. The assets were given at £544 18s. A composition of 5s in the pound was agreed to be accepted, payable, by equal instalments, in 3, 6, 9, and 12 months. Mr. Henry Davies, accountant, of Preston, was appointed trustee to distribute the composition and obtain the security; and Mr. J. W. Higson, solicitor, of Preston, was entrusted with the registration of the resolutions.

By the next census taken in 1891, John had moved to Thornton Cleveleys where he continued to live until his death in 1936, John Street that runs behind Herbert, Newsome and Quin Street and parallels Hough Lane was named after him.

**What happened to the Quins?**

The final chapter of the Quin story in Leyland begins with the death of James Quin on 16th February 1886. The family interest in the company was then bought out as the company then became the 'Leyland Rubber Company'. When the amalgamation with the Birmingham India Rubber Company and Stanley Morrison and Co was registered on 18th May 1898, the company we now know as 'The Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Company' was established.

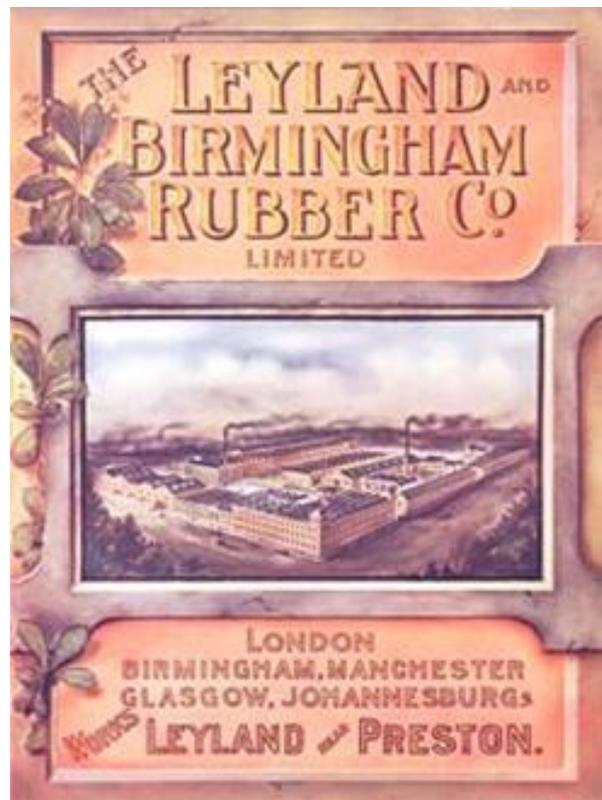
From the census returns of 1891, 1901 and 1911, we can follow the remaining family: Isabel Smith moved to 205 Brunswick Street, Chorlton upon Medlock where she ran a boarding house with her mother Sarah Quin and her niece, Amy Berry. As this was close to Manchester University, it would explain why the list of boarders included two Professors of Music and one foreign correspondent. Sarah died on 19th May 1897 with her granddaughter Amy in attendance.

The question I am left with is: what happened to Herbert Newsome Quin? Herbert would have been twenty-two when his father passed away and there is no sign of him after the 1881 census in any census, marriage or death records. It would seem that he must have either changed his name or, more probably, decided to emigrate to the developing industrial countries of the Empire or the U.S.A.

I shall continue to investigate.



Mr. & Mrs. JAMES QUINN



## Currant-Bread

*Derek Wilkins*

In 1872 Anthony Hewitson, the Preston journalist, wrote a series of articles entitled 'Our Country Churches and Chapels'. He found Leyland to be '...the Elysium of currant-cake eaters on Sundays. There is no place under God's blue sky ...where so much currant-bread is destroyed on the Sabbath...' and went on to say: 'We rather like Leyland for its dogged, persistent faith in currant cakes...'

The efforts of a Leyland grocer of the time to meet the demands of his customer's appetite for this delicacy have turned up in a rather unexpected place.

In the 1870s Humphrey Miller was running a grocery business on Leyland Lane. It was at the opposite the end of Dunkirk Lane and for several years was occupied by Leyland Shoes.

Humphrey was the son of Thomas Miller, a farmer of Ulnes Walton. The Miller family had been closely involved for many years with various aspects of local administration, including highways and the poor law. Thomas Miller was the last of the 'Surveyors of the Highways' for Ulnes Walton and, when the Highway Act of 1835 placed responsibility on parishes rather than individual townships, the ledger in which he and his ancestors had meticulously accounted for items of income and expenditure on the roads of Ulnes Walton became obsolete. (The same was true of the poor law ledger, following the Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834)

When Thomas Miller died in 1870 the ledgers came into the possession of Humphrey. The highways ledger had around one hundred pages still unused and Humphrey decided to 'recycle' by using them for the accounts of his grocery business.

These accounts, running from 1871 to 1878, give us a fascinating insight into the shopping habits of Leyland folk of the time.

He had around twenty-five, presumably select, clients to whom he gave a month's credit. Each month's shopping was carefully itemised and the date of payment noted. In a few instances he also provided a Victorian version of 'cash-back' by advancing money, usually just a few pence, evidently on an interest-free basis.

He was selling a wide range of foodstuffs as well as household goods, including:

*Bread (4½d), Tea (6d), Sugar (8d), Ginger (1½d), Currants (5d), Lard (5d); Pepper (1d), Vin[egar] (1½d)*

*Soap (2d), W[ashing] powder (2d), Quilt wash (6d), Lamp Oil (4d),*

*K. Needles (1½d), Braid (3½d); 10 yds trimming (1s 3d), Red Flannel (1s 6d)*

Mr. T. Walker of nearby Crawshaw Mill also bought *Curr. Bread (6d)*, as did Alice Ainscough of Leyland Lane: (*Currt. Bread (7½d)*)

Humphrey's currant-bread sales were evidently sufficient to justify in-house production of substantial quantities and he carefully wrote out his '*Reciept*' in the ledger. (He clearly hadn't learned the 'i before e' rule)

Reading the ingredients evokes the mouth-watering smell of freshly baked currant-bread and it is perhaps not surprising that Leylanders were so fond of it.

Fortunately, Humphrey did not destroy these ledgers, and some years ago one of his descendants deposited them in Lancashire Archives. Here, in addition to this glimpse into Leyland life, they also form an important archive for the study of local township administration over two centuries.

114

$$\begin{array}{r} 80 \\ 2 \\ \hline 160 \\ 53 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 52 \\ 2 \\ \hline 64 \\ 21 \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Receipt for Currant bread  


---

 15  $\text{Lbs}$  of Flour 5  $\text{Lbs}$  of Sugar  $\frac{1}{4}$   $\text{Lb}$  of  
 Carraway Seeds mix together & sponge  
 to be kept warm 2  $\text{Lbs}$  of Butter melted  
 in the Oven 20 eggs well beaten  
 $\frac{1}{2}$   $\text{Lb}$  of Candied Lemon 1 oz of Nutmegs  
 6  $\text{Lbs}$  of Currants well washed & picked  
 knead without water and let rise  
 then weigh & put on tins until they  
 rise - ready for the Oven, then mix  
 a little butter & three eggs and with  
 a small soft brush give the buns a  
 light touch with with it, and spread  
 powdered sugar over them - the dough  
 you have left will serve for ~~bread~~  
 bun loaves to bake from 5 to 7 minutes

#### Humphrey's Currant Bread Recipe

15 lbs of Flour 5 lbs Sugar  $\frac{1}{4}$  lb of Carraway Seed mix together and sponge to be kept warm 2 lbs of butter melted in the oven, 20 eggs well beaten  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb Candied Lemon 1 oz of nutmegs 6 lbs of Currants well washed and picked knead without water and let rise then weigh and put on tins until they rise ready for the oven, then mix a little butter and three eggs and with a small soft brush give the buns a light touch with with it and spread powdered sugar over them the dough you have left will serve for bun loaves to bake from 5 to 7 minutes.

## Leyland Motors' Athletic Section

### Part One: The First Twenty-five Years

*Edward Almond*

Leyland does not appear to have had any athletic tradition in the nineteenth century. There was no Harrier or running club but several Leyland athletes were known to have competed in Preston between 1879 and 1890. Those pioneers were T. Sumner, J. Ainsworth, J. Berry, Thomas Whalley and H. Walsh.

There was, obviously, an interest in athletics in Leyland but it seems the interest was not sufficient to form an athletics club. Preston Harriers and Athletic Club was the nearest club.

When it was mooted to form a Social and Athletic Club at Leyland Motors in November, 1919, there was a promise to purchase thirteen acres for playing fields and to build a pavilion. An article entitled 'Getting Up Steam' by W. Elkington in the December 1919 issue of *Leyland Torque* was aimed at the apprentices at the new school. Mr Elkington wrote:

**This does not mean giving up all pleasure, the L.M.S.A.C. will see to the recreational side. Sectional Committees are to be formed, subject to the General Committee's approval, to deal with all branches of sport such as cricket, football, boxing, harriers, hockey, bowls and tennis - as a matter of fact, any sport or pastime which the employees care to take up.**

Here is a clear indication that a harrier (running) section could be formed if there was enough interest. The challenge was not taken up. By 1921, sections had been formed only for cricket, football, bowls, tennis, swimming, orchestral and physical culture. There was no opposition to athletics, for in July, 1921, Leyland Motors had their first Sports Day which included open races for members of local athletics clubs. One participant in the Works and Open events was Jack Higginson who worked in the Foundry at Leyland Motors and lived in Wellington Avenue. Jack was also a member of Preston Harriers.

The Sports Field was used by Preston Harriers to hold their club championships for 100yds and one mile events in 1924. That occasion also included events for employees of Leyland Motors and they were able to participate in the 220yds, 880yds, high jump, 100yds (youths), 80yds (ladies), the javelin and a seven miles road walk. The instigators were undoubtedly Jack Higginson and W. Elkington (who was the vice-president of Preston Harriers).

Jack had won the AAA Championship hop, step and jump in 1924 and competed in the Paris Olympics, finishing thirteenth. He repeated his AAA victory in 1926.

There was still no Leyland Motors' Athletics Section but at the Sports Day in 1927, N. Butterworth is mentioned as competing for Leyland Motors Athletic Club. Less than a month later, an inter-club match was held against Preston Harriers; the *Leyland Guardian* reported: '...the Leyland club put up a plucky fight considering they had not for long been giving serious attention to athletics'.

**A.A.A. CHAMPIONSHIP  
PRESTON MAN WINS  
THE HOP, SKIP AND JUMP**



**J. Higginson**

The first secretary of the section is recorded as Jack Higginson.

Cross country training was introduced and one session was reported as being led by J. Higginson with William Kinsella acting as whip. The whip followed behind the runners to encourage and help the slower members. Kinsella had been an international cross-country runner representing Ireland at the International Cross Country race at Hampden Park, Glasgow, in 1922 where he finished seventeenth.

Over the next three years, Cross Country (CC) competitions were held against Preston Harriers, Lancaster Harriers, Pilkingtons (St Helens), Horwich R.M.I. Harriers, Clayton-le-Moors, Lancaster Primrose, Lancaster Freehold and Chorley. Leading runners in the nineteen-twenties were Adam Blogg and R. C. Stansfield.

Blogg had learnt his apprenticeship at running with Whittle-le-Woods Harriers before the first World War where he had challenged William West and Lee Taylor for top honours. Both William West and Lee Taylor lost their lives in the war.

Blogg joined Bolton Harriers after Whittle-le-Woods Harriers disbanded in the early 1920s. In 1926 he had been a member of the running team in the East Lancs CC Championship.



Adam Blogg

In February, 1929, Leyland Motors played host to the West Lancashire CC Championship, quite an achievement for such a young club. The course was at Farington over a lap consisting of ploughed and pasture land and held in wretched weather so that the *Lancashire Evening Post* reported: ‘...it was ‘a severe test of the runners’ stamina, and the rain made the ploughed land very sticky, and grassland offered very little advantage owing to the fact that it was soon churned up’.

In the youths’ race, Andrew Berry finished eighteenth while in the senior race over ten miles, Adam Blogg finished thirteenth.

The one track success was in the Northern County Track Championships in 1928 when Jack Higginson completed his sixth victory in the hop, step and jump, with a new championship record. Jack competed in the colours of Leyland Motors.

Between 1927 and 1929 I have found twenty-seven employees of Leyland Motors taking part in track and field and county championships. At this time the club was ‘closed’; i.e. only employees of Leyland Motors could be members and they paid a weekly subscription out of their wages which entitled them to use the club’s facilities. There was no permanent athletics track, no jumping pits or throwing areas, just a grass track marked on either the football or cricket pitches. In spite of this, the athletics section thrived during the next decade. They had a large base for potential recruits, including the apprentices who attended the Motors’ School, which had physical education on the curriculum.

The first success in the 1930s in championship events was achieved by J. F. Sumner at the West Lancashire CC held at Newton-le-Willows. In the youths’ three miles event he placed third and won a medal for the first runner of an unplaced team (only the first and second individuals were awarded medals). The youths’ team finished fourth. The leading senior runner was Adam Blogg with wins against Chorley Athletic Club, Lancaster Freehold and Clayton-le-Moors Harriers.

June, 1931, saw the emergence of Jack Higginson junior. Aged seventeen, he won the Northern

Area youths' long jump title. This heralded a period when Leyland Motors' younger athletes were dominant in jumping events.

Jack junior was second in the hop, step and jump at the Northern Championships in 1932. He won the title in 1933 and 1934. At the AAA Championships (1934) he was second and chosen to represent England in the Empire Games at the White City where he finished fifth. He repeated his second place in the AAA in 1935 when he again won the Northern Area Championships. In 1936 he won his fifth Northern title and was the top ranked Briton in his speciality. The following year he left Leyland Motors and enlisted in the RAF.

Another jumper, Stan Oldham, was lost to the club in 1936 when he joined the police force. As a high jumper, he won the Northern Youths' title in 1932; finished second in the senior high jump in 1933 and won the title in the years 1934 and 1935.

Also in 1932, Les Watkinson won the youths' long jump at the Northern Area. Bob Bannister (who died in the Summer of 2011) was another high jumper. Bob also dabbled in shot putting as did the club's coach, Paddy Quinn.

Track and field meetings were held on a regular basis with competitions against Preston Harriers, the Kingston Works, Fulwood Garrison, Blackpool and Fylde, Horwich RMI, Wigan Highfield Harriers, Lancaster Harriers, the East Lancashire Regiment Depot, Radcliffe Harriers and Bolton. Leyland Motors competed in the Preston and District Track and Field League.

Cross country running dominated the winter months and a new league was formed in 1932 called the 'Mid Lancs'. This league is still going strong in 2012 and using Worden Park as its venue.

In December of 1932, the West Lancashire CC Novice Team Race was held at Widnes where Len Robinson, coming in fourth place, gained the medal for the first runner home of an unplaced team. J. Milnes was proving to be the leading senior runner and he managed a highly creditable eighth place in the senior West Lancashire CC at Newton-le-Willows in 1933. However, in 1937, the club, after a dismal performance in the Mid-Lancs league, faced the indignity of having to reapply to compete in the next season. Fortunately they were re-elected.

This did not deter Leyland from being asked to host the West Lancashire and Northern Championships a fortnight apart in February/March of 1939. The same course was used for both events which were held at Farington Works.



J. Higginson Jnr.



J. S. Oldham



Mid-Lancs, January 1932.

Winner No. 25, J. Milnes (Leyland) Leyland Runners Nos. 22-30. Included are Berry, Blogg, Robinson, Spero, Sumner and Rodwell (next to No. 23

The course consisted of two laps of one mile and two laps of two miles: each lap included 400yds of ploughed field and three streams. In 1938 and 1939, Leyland won the Fattorini Shield in inter-club competitions.

The political situation in Europe was critical with war being declared on 1st September, 1939. A report in the *Chorley Guardian* stated: 'It is not expected that the ban on sports meetings will have effect on winter activities and it is hoped that cross-country running will go on as usual'.

Cross-country events were held that winter with Leyland finishing runners-up in the Mid Lancashire League. At the end of 1939, at least sixty athletes had represented the club during the 1930s.

In March, 1940, Leyland competed in the West Lancs. Novice CC Championship over four miles. The club met with considerable success. Out of 117 runners and 15 teams, T. Webster finished second with H. Hartley third, F. Brown thirteenth, Joe Billington fourteenth, L. Snape eighteenth, and Jack Burns twenty-eighth. The club also won the team race. Later, the junior team finished fourth in the West Lancashire CC.

Track and field were not neglected for in July, 1943, the Leyland Home Guard Sports Gala was held on the cricket field. Invitations were sent to H. M. Forces Cadets, the National Fire Service, the Civil Defence and other organisations. Joe Billington, who was proving to be a leading runner, (he was still competing in the 1970s) won the two miles and was second in the one mile.

**Winners of Preston and District Track League - Fattorini Shield  
West Lancashire Novices Championship  
Runners-up Mid Lancashire Cross Country League  
4th West Lancashire Junior Championship**



**Front: Left to right: L. Snape, T. Webster, R. Rodwell, H. Hartley, F. Brown  
Standing: H. Burns, J. Billington, T. H. Burns, A. Scott, R. Cookson, S. Lowe, J. Burns**



**1939 Winners of the Fattorini Shield  
Front row: J. Billington, R. Rodwell  
2nd Row: unknown, J. Walmsley, unknown, unknown, unknown, L. Snape, H. Hartley  
3rd row: unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, A. Scott, S. Lowe, unknown  
4th row: unknown, H. Burns, unknown, unknown, unknown, unknown, A. Riding**



**FIRST THREE MEN HOME** Mr. J. Higginson, National Harriers' president, congratulates the first three men home in the 'Monster Meet' of mid-Lancashire Harrier clubs at Hothersall Hall Camp, Ribchester. Left to right: Mr Higginson, E Casey (Lancaster Harriers), second; M Dean (Leyland Motors A.C.), winner and K. Shorrocks (Blackpool and Fylde Harriers), third.

The inter-club track competition between Kingston and Leyland was revived with Leyland winning by 28 points to 22. Unfortunately, it was the last one held in Leyland.

1948 produced two surprises. At the Annual General Meeting, Henry Spurrier announced: 'the probability of providing new additional playing fields and dressing room accommodation adjacent to the Leyland factories at Farington'. The scheme was either too ambitious or too costly as the proposals never materialised. The other surprise was the announcement that Jack Higginson had been chosen as a judge for the forthcoming Olympic Games at Wembley Stadium. This was in recognition of his official roles as vice-President of the Northern Counties Athletic Association and President of the West Lancashire CC Association.

In 1949, a new local talent emerged in the county in the form of seventeen years' old Maurice Dean (a member of our Historical Society). who won a five and a half mile race. Jack Higginson, writing in the *Lancashire Evening Post* reported that he 'displayed speed and stamina that surprised his older opponents'.

A Swede, Karl Ericson, who was studying working practices at Leyland Motors, turned out for the Club in 1949. He won the Lancaster Monster Meet in October and led home the winning team along with Walter Berry and Dick Ditchfield. (Dick died in July this year (2012)). Walter would later become one of the best steeplechasers over two miles on the track. He represented his country in this event but by this time was competing for Bolton. Dick Ditchfield would enjoy greater success in long distance walking in the 1950s as would George Lamb who competed in track events during the 1940s. At least thirty-one athletes represented the Club between 1940 and 1949.

The 1950s opened with a surprise development. Jack Higginson, for so long the driving force of Leyland Motors, and still a member of Preston Harriers, had a disagreement with the Preston



**May, 1946, Starting practice under the supervision of R. Cookson  
J. Higginson (second from right) taking an interest**

committee. He decided to resign and form a new club: the Preston Athletic Club. Other Leyland athletes left to join Preston Harriers, but Joe Billington and Fred Yates followed Jack Higginson.

A few hardy members remained at Leyland and they helped with the staging of several walking races: a seven mile race in August 1951 and the Lancashire County 10 mile Championship in March, 1952.

One might have thought the club was thriving for in May, 1952, the AAA National Coach, Dennis Watts, instructed several athletes in basic athletic skills - starting practice for sprinting, and shot putting. Rather surprisingly, it was aimed at males and females; a feature of Leyland Motors athletics section is that no lady ever competed for the club in open competitions. In March, 1952, it was reported at the Annual General Meeting of the Leyland Motors Social and Athletic Club that 'efforts in the athletic field had struck a dismal note' and that the club was hoping for a complete reorganisation of the section on sounder lines very shortly.

Was the invitation to Dennis Watts part of the reorganisation? The situation was getting worse, a decline after twenty-five years.

Part Two on what happened following the complete reorganisation of the Club I hope to record in the next *Chronicle*.

## When the Paralympics were held in Leyland

*Peter Houghton*

With all the attention the media has provided for this year's Paralympics in London it may come as a surprise to members (who weren't at the September meeting) to discover that an early Paraplegic event was established in Leyland back in 1973, nearly forty years ago.

Back then, the Southport Spinal Unit, then based at the Promenade Hospital, was looking to establish a sports event for their patients to take part in and to which they could invite patients from other hospital spinal units. A group of interested volunteers from the hospital met with members of the Fox Lane Sports and Social Club and a small committee of approximately ten people took on the organisation of the Leyland Fox Lane Paraplegic Games.

From the beginning it was conceived as a weekend event as opposed to the sports day that most other hospital spinal units arranged. This, of course, meant that in addition to the sports venue the committee had to find accommodation for what turned out to be a regular influx of 150 paraplegic sports persons and their partners, able-bodied assistants, coaches and the judges and officials. This was provided by Weeton Army Camp between Kirkham and Blackpool where the wooden huts were hardly ideal but were home for the first three meetings. The transport to and from Leyland was provided by the Lancashire County Council bus drivers for the infirm.

The Games themselves were scheduled to take place at the end of the cricket season as the cricket pitch would provide a home for the numerous tents and marquees required to conduct the various sports. Within these marquees the games included table tennis, fencing, snooker and weight lifting, while on the tennis courts the most exciting event held there was the wheelchair basketball. Other outside events included the panel bowls which were played across the crown green bowling green and the field events (javelin, discus and shot) taking part out of flight space in the corner of the cricket field. There was also the archery which was in another corner of the field and the slalom which was usually slotted in between basketball games on the tennis court. If this wasn't enough, for the first few years swimming was also included at Leyland Leisure Centre on the Friday night the competitors arrived. This was later discontinued due to the amount of time involved.

In case you are wondering how I came to be involved as the treasurer, it should be pointed out that one of the first people approached to help get the Paraplegic Games started was Peter Jackson, a business man from Chorley who persuaded the manager of Williams & Glyns Bank, Don Girling, to be the first treasurer. Don moved on after the first games so the job was then passed to the assistant manager, Frank Walsh; who then moved on after two years.

So, in 1976, the fourth year of the games, I was persuaded by my colleague Paul Taylor to ring the secretary of the committee, Cynthia Price, to get the low down on the job.



**Fencing**



**Slalom**

Paul Taylor also later got me into Rotaract and ultimately, I suppose, any future official position I have ever taken. He's also responsible for me being Chairman of the Historical Society (you know who to blame now).

During my call I was informed that as Weeton Army Camp had reluctantly had to withdraw their accommodation it looked like there would be no games that year, ...so, I thought, an easy job to start then! I should point out that I had been to the Games in 1974 working the full weekend in our Mobile Branch cashing cheques, taking money in and serving drinks, so I did not see much of the actual Games, just some of the diverse committee members who needed a quick drink as the rain poured down all weekend.

Attending the first meeting at Fox Lane Sports & Social Club with the account books, I was surprised, as I was introduced to the rest of the committee, that there was a mention of a Mr Finney. This was not, however, the famous footballer but the commandant of the Fire Brigade Training Centre at Washington Hall, Euxton. I should here name the rest of the committee as you will understand that the whole event happened because of these people and their many family members, friends and contacts.

Besides myself as Treasurer, there was only one other established officer, the already mentioned Cynthia Price, Secretary, who for her day job was the Bursar at Wellfield High School. The position of Chairman was passed around the rest of the committee at two yearly intervals. The committee members from the Leyland end were Keith Appleton (if anything needed sorting that was him), Chris Maddison (if anything needed purchasing or acquired at a reasonable price that was him), Trevor Kidd (was one of the main committee members at the Fox Lane Sports Club and did all the liaising between the Club and the Games committee) and Cyril Scott (whose work in the international department of British Leyland enabled the committee to recover the trophy silverware from anywhere in the world it ended up).

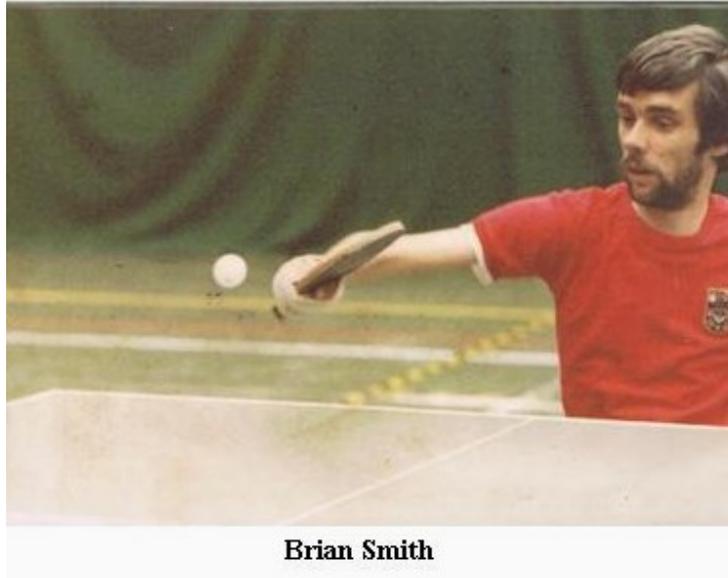
The paraplegic end of the committee was headed up by Dave Halpin, social worker and main speaker for the committee who while in a wheelchair was not deterred in the slightest from any project that he planned. (Years later, I would discover this to my cost when Chorley Rotaract took on an Access Guide for the Disabled, but that's another story). Then there was Barbara Hoole who worked at Southport Hospital and was able to plan from both the competitor and helper view.

The last two were Brian Smith, (see picture on next page playing table tennis), also wheelchair bound but not letting that bother him as he ran and still does run a printing firm in Rufford and Joan Cross, now Smith, who was also at Southport Hospital and thereby assisted Barbara.

The committee was later joined by John Naylor and Frank McDade as first Trevor Kidd (when the Games left Leyland) and Chris Maddison (when work got too busy) had to leave.

At this point I should point out that for the first few years on the committee I treated it as a bank appointed job in which I turned up at the committee meetings and at the Games week-end itself, dealt with the finances and that was it. I can remember turning up at Fox Lane at 9.30am on the Saturday of the Games and being told by Keith and Chris that I was a part timer as they had been hard at work for two hours already. As I got to know the rest of the committee and the Games I got more and more involved though my credentials for judging either the field events, or the bowls at least, were down to the use of a tape measure.

Following the loss of the accommodation at the Weeton army camp, accommodation for the games was found at Washington Hall thus giving the Games a new lease of life. However, the use of the Fox Lane site for the Games was creating more problems. The main problem was that as the Games were held at the end of the cricket season, i.e. September, when the weather could on many occasions (like this year) be very unkind for a mainly outdoor event. Together with this problem was



**Brian Smith**

the matter of security: an expensive snooker table in a tent in the centre of a cricket field does not look well on an insurance cover request (this was another of my jobs - don't get me started on Eagle Star). One year, we actually got a volunteer to sleep on the snooker table for the weekend as a security measure. A third problem was the escalating costs of the marquees which used to be brought over from Yorkshire making the costs of the Games go beyond our fund raising skills.

It was then that we contacted Fulwood Leisure Centre which, as it was attached to Fulwood High School would prove to be a more all inclusive venue than the usual leisure centre - and the school canteen managing to feed everyone at both Saturday and Sunday lunchtimes was a bonus.

So the Games moved from Leyland to Fulwood in 1978, causing a few changes to take place. The first was the name as the 'Leyland Fox Lane Paraplegic Games' became the 'North West Paraplegic Games', which led to more letters to the Charity Commission as the Games was now a registered charity. (Yes, me again).

The only outdoor events were now the archery, the field events and the bowls (using the school's cricket square as I remember it) until it too came indoors with the use of a bowls' carpet. The wheelchair basketball benefited from being indoors, together with the other sports having a room to themselves. To coordinate these events, the committee needed a centre of operations, so it was welcome to the first aid room. Here, each year, Jon Foley tapped into the centre's PA system with microphone and outside speakers so that some volunteer could announce events, request competitors to attend events, announce food, find children and coordinate the results that came into that little room. You may have guessed, yes, that became my job too.

So, with the accommodation at Washington Hall in Euxton, there was the daily transporting of athletes to the Fulwood Leisure Centre which, although the travelling distance was almost all achievable by motorway, it was realised that this could not last forever. After a number of years, Mr Finney, the Commandant of the Fire Service Training Centre, retired, and while we weren't exactly told to go by the new Commandant, we were not very high on his agenda and the little extras that the good Mr Finney and his staff provided slowly disappeared until they 'could not provide a weekend for the following year's Games'.

At the next committee meeting it was the usual 'what are we going to do' and I innocently said 'well we've been with the fire service, why don't we try the police'. We then found ourselves being accommodated by the police at their Hutton Headquarters. Here we would stay until the last Games



**Judging the Bowling Competition**

were held in 1987 and the only reason that the Games ceased to be was due to new procedures, which meant that the police could only give us two months notice of which week-end would be available; much too short to organise the Games.

The Games venue had a final change as in 1985, due to redevelopment at Fulwood Leisure Centre, that venue was unavailable and we had therefore to take the Games back to South Ribble and into the Penwortham Leisure Centre for a week-end. For the final three years, we actually had the most local Games as the accommodation at Hutton was just down the A59 from Penwortham Leisure Centre and it was at Penwortham in 1987 that we were asked if a group of competitors could demonstrate a new sport called 'Murderball' which is now known as 'wheelchair rugby'; it did make basketball seem very tame.

Now you might be wondering how the committee managed to fund the Games... so did we, every year! We tried most things with stalls at Leyland Festival and Chorley Carnival and my favourite was the one we ran at the Chorley Carnival. It was a hot dog stall and a game of chance stall combined, one minute we were shouting 'Prize every time, every one a winner' and next 'Get your hot dogs here'. It didn't last long as for once the weather worked in our favour: lovely sunny weather until everyone was on the park, then it threw it down and everyone, feeling cold and getting very wet, wanted a hot dog. We sold out our 200 hot dogs in an hour. We also very kindly got donations from the Co-operative, care of the local director. The problem of course was having to explain what the Games were. Eventually we produced a guide to the Games, which I still have, to show to any prospective donor.

On one occasion when we were really short of money, our old home in Fox Lane provided a very successful evening when Phil Cool's new comedy night invited Jasper Carrott. The funds from the raffle that night kept the Games going. Another year we got a brewery on board, they had pub games nights to raise funds all around the area, I remember the first one in the Lancs. & Yorks pub in Bamber Bridge and another one in the Roebuck in Leyland.

A major aid to the committee and the Games were the helpers we as a committee could muster: Brian with his extended family and friends not only provided the fresh produce for the meals but also



Guide to the Games

the helpers to prepare it. Any relation of the committee was pressed into service: I managed to get bank staff, my own family and later Rotaract involved.

### The Games

As I said, the teams were usually formed from patients at a hospital with a spinal unit, Southport being the home team with the largest number of competitors. This was handy as they usually won a lot of the major trophies so we did not have to employ Cyril to recover them. The other teams included, and I cannot remember them all: Ponteland, based at Newcastle Spinal Unit; Pinderfields, Wakefield; Leosowe, Wirral; Lodge Moor, Sheffield; Oswestry, Hexham, a Scottish team and the team from Stoke Mandeville which had various names over the years including SPAC. From the start, there was an international presence as teams flew in from Sweden, Switzerland, France, Holland and, the most consistent foreign visitors, from Dublin in Ireland.

The cause of our only disagreement with the paraplegic hierarchy at Stoke Mandeville was when they discovered one year that we had called our event the 'Leyland International Paraplegic Games'. They complained that their's was the only 'international' event: our response, if some teams were from another country the event was international, anyway, the posters had been printed and distributed so it was too late to change.

After the first few years, the little trophies we gave to the winners of the various classes, while being well received, were not proving to be as popular their being 'just something else to dust'. The committee then came up with each year presenting different useful items which could be engraved with 'North West Games 19xx 1st' or '2nd') as we provided trophies for both. These included mugs, cups, beer glasses and wine glasses.

To give you a flavour of the Games Weekend, I'll go through a typical Games from the Friday to the Monday from my perspective, believe me everyone else on the committee was as busy if not busier than me.

Friday evening saw most of the committee either at the venue setting up or at the accommodation managing the arrival of the competitors etc and allocating rooms.

Saturday morning started early for John Naylor and I as we headed for Adlington to pick up 500 pork pies and 500 sausage rolls for the two lunch time menus from Leylands confectioners. So with those in the back of John's estate we made our way to the Games venue, and I still have visions of going over the level crossing at Bamber Bridge on the way to Penwortham.

The competitors would have had breakfast at the accommodation and then made their way to the Games venue under their own steam or using the Lancashire County buses. When the competitors arrived, they had details of their event with time and place, each room with its game details at its entry point. Personally, that was when I retired to the First Aid Room or 'Control' to undertake the duties of announcer, collator and of course treasurer, with a quick break for lunch.

At the end of the afternoon it was back to the accommodation for dinner which always included the dessert of Angel Delight and Dream Topping or so it seemed. I meanwhile went home, counted and balanced the money in and out for the day, had some tea then headed out to the accommodation for the high point of the weekend for the competitors... THE DISCO.

This was my responsibility as when I booked John Foley for the PA he also provided the disc jockey for the Saturday night. I can't remember who started this tradition but John and I never told the DJ what sort of event they were coming to. I think this worked as there were no preconceptions, only a question 'What do I play?' to which I always replied 'Whatever they want'. To be honest it was a female DJ who loved the event and asked John to book her on it each year until she moved away.

This event has three particular memories for me:

- 1) You want to talk about wheelchair dexterity, watch a wheelchair user doing the twist on their two back wheels with a girl sat on their lap.
- 2) Never try and out-drink someone in a wheelchair, when they have had enough they don't need to stand up but you do. I saw this happen to a senior fireman, it was not pretty.

Finally,

- 3) how do you round the night off? Well if you are in a wheelchair with the largest team being from Southport, though a lot of them came originally from Liverpool or its environs, there was only one song 'You'll never walk alone' but the Para's being the Para's the last word was changed to 'Again'.

As I said, this was my event to sort, being the youngest on the committee (I started at age 20 and at the last games I was 31 - history does repeat itself), so it was usual for the rest of the committee to slope off to get some rest and leaving John Naylor and I to carry on to the end.

The following morning was the repeat of the previous day though some of the teams that had socialised too vigorously the previous evening saw their sporting potential diminish as the lack of rest and hangover took over. The prime example of this was the Dublin team who came over for a number of years and at the end of each Saturday's competitions were usually neck and neck with Southport, the following day however their spirit was willing but the flesh was knackered.



At this point I think I should mention Bryan from Dublin, one lad I got on well with. We had the same mad sense of humour, see the photograph above where he is aiming that javelin at me. One year, Bryan, had a few too many drinks at Dublin airport and had to be carried onto the plane (nowadays they would refuse to take him or, on a *Ryan Air* flight, they would probably charge him for the excess alcohol), but no one thought to mention that he needed the wheelchair when he wasn't drinking, it was therefore left behind at Dublin Airport. So he got to the Games without one, having to borrow one, i.e. tip someone out of their own chair when he needed to compete in an event, that was Bryan. I worry about what he is doing now, however, having just written this I just did a google search for Bryan and found an Irish MEP who is a wheelchair user called Bryan who updated the mobility issues at Dublin Airport – Ho, Hum).

Meanwhile, back to the Games. The various events gradually came to a conclusion, the table tennis always over running due to the large number of competitors. The high point was always the final of the wheelchair basketball which was usually Southport verses another team. This was followed by the presentation of the major trophies with the sponsors usually on hand to do the presentation and the committee chairman for that year officiating over the proceedings. The best bit was when Mr Krishnan from the Southport Hospital used to thank the organisers and the helpers on behalf of the competitors.



**The Wheelchair Basketball final**



**Presentation of the prizes**

There only remained then for us to clear everything away for another year, head home, count the money, then head out again to the committee meal which usually included members of the foreign teams, as they would only be flying out the following day, and various members of the Southport team who had assisted over the weekend. One of these, to take this article back to the introduction, was the captain of the Southport basketball team, one Phil Craven, who could be seen at the opening of the Paralympics next to the Queen. He is now Sir Philip Craven, the President of the International Paralympics Committee.

After that weekend I used to go back to work on the following day, Monday, and, having paid the money into the account, rest at my desk, which was allowed as it was a bank appointed job I had been on all of the weekend.

Although this is just my own personal version of the story of the Games it does not end there as, since the September meeting and my appearance on *Radio Lancashire*, I have managed to contact the rest of the committee who are still around and I hope, with the help of Dave, Barbara, Cyril, John, and anyone else I can find, to be able to write the full history of the North West Paraplegic Games. So if any members remember those days, please let me know.

**2012** was  
the year when the  
**Historical Society**  
visited  
**Stratford-on-Avon...**



**Anne Hathaway's Cottage**  
viewed from the coach



**Mary Arden's Farm**

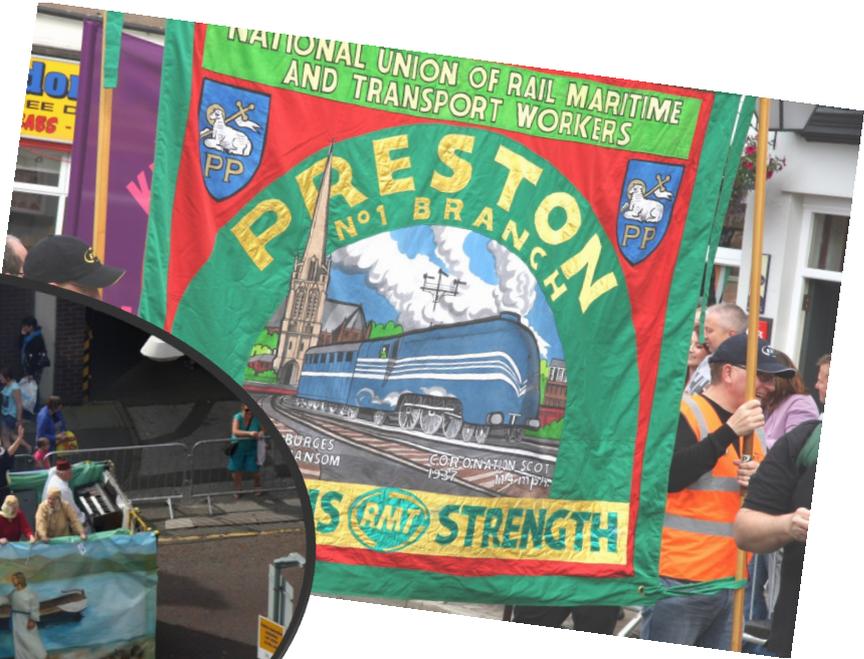


**Holy Trinity Church**



**Archaeological Dig – Nash's House**

**...and the year of the Preston Guild**



**...the Leyland Festival**



**...and when the Farington Shuttle was unveiled,**



# **Leyland Historical Society**

## **Programme 2012 - 2013**

Meetings to be held in

**The Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre,**

**West Paddock, Leyland**

at 7.30 pm

### **2012**

Monday, 3 September

**The Preston Guild**

Dr. Alan Crosby

Monday, 1 October\*

**'Can You Keep a Secret'**

**The Rise & Fall of the Yorkshire Luddites**

**Mikron Theatre Company**

Monday, 5 November

**Underground Manchester**

Keith Warrender

Monday, 3 December\*

**A Long Way Home**

Lizzie Jones

### **2013**

Monday, 7 January

**Samlesbury and the Lancashire Witches of  
1612**

Robert Poole

Monday, 4 February

**The Poets & Poetry of Victorian Blackburn**

Sid Calderbank

### **2013 (cont'd)**

Monday, 4 March\*

**4000 Years of Keeping Secrets**

**The History of Cryptography**

Dr. Mark Baldwin

Monday, 8 April

**Watermills of Central Lancashire**

Colin Dickinson

Monday, 6 May

***Eighth Annual Historical  
Society Trip***

*to*

***Saltaire, Bradford  
and the Film and Media  
Museum***

Monday, 3 June

**Dick, Kerr Ladies' FC 1917 - 1965**

Gail J. Newsham

Monday, 1 July

**Annual General Meeting**

**Story of Stephen Simpsons's**

**Gold Thread Works**

Linda Barton

**\*Meetings free to members – visitors £6.00**