Leyland Historical Society News

Issue 82 Spring 2016 11th April 2016

Tonight

Welcome to this extra meeting of the Leyland Historical Society which is devoted to one subject, the Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Company Limited.

Though when I say one subject, the fact that it is taking myself to tell the background history, Ron Christopher to talk about the factory, its layout, departments and its products and the three students from UCLAN to talk about the workforce, their activities both within the working environment and outside together with the global aspect of the business makes for a busy evening.

We welcome all the visitors tonight who either worked for or are related to former employees. It can be said and will be proved tonight that this was a family firm with sons following fathers into the same jobs in the same departments. If you have not been interviewed and would like to add to the factory’s history, please complete the questionnaire and hand it in.

To research the Owd Rubber, we have checked archives at Preston, Manchester, Burton upon Trent and of course Leyland Museum, discovered many interesting facts and dispelled a few myths. The story of the Leyland Rubber Industry is well overdue being told, that other company with Leyland in its title overshadowed its once larger predecessor. In fact if you add up the workforce of the L & B with the other rubber factories in the town namely B T R and Baxter’s they were probably on a par for much of the 20th Century after their start in the 1850s / 1860s.

It was quite amusing to note that the few books or websites about the rubber industry carefully repeated what the Historical Society had previously stated about the firm’s history, some of which we now have had cause to change. My favourite, however, shows that you need to know more than one subject as one book stated that Leyland was near Birmingham, good on history, not geography.

So I hope you will enjoy this evening and I would like to thank Alix Green and her students from UCLAN for doing this project and Peter Ostenfeld from Nufox Limited for making tonight possible. Nufox are still carrying on the name of the Leyland & Birmingham Rubber Co Limited but in Manchester.

If you would like to come along to more of our meetings, bring this newsletter along to any future meeting detailed to the right and you can join for £15.00 which will include meetings until June 2017 (I ran out of space).

For the June lecture, we welcome back Peter Cunliffe who will describe the battle of Agincourt using weapons, videos and eye witness reports but no photographs were taken that day.

As you will notice for all the local visitors, there are two lectures in the early part of the next season all about Leyland too, the first a pictorial journey around Leyland with the information and pictures collected by our late member, Peter Barrow. The second is a special event as one of our members who attended our meetings since the age of nine and has now achieved his doctorate in history is coming back to his roots to talk about Leyland in the Tudor and Stuart’s era.

Hope to see you again soon.

Peter Houghton, Chairman

Meetings

**Meetings held in the Shield Room, Banqueting Suite, Civic Centre, West Paddock at 7.30 pm**

**All meetings marked \* are free to members though visitors have to pay £10.00 rather than usual visitors entrance fee of £5.00.**

**The membership fee of £15.00 per year includes all 9 meetings and the Lailand Chronicle at a discount price of only £1.00, usual price £3.00.**

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**48th Season**

Monday 2nd May

**11th Annual Historical Society Trip – Lake District**

Monday 6th June

**“Agincourt 1415”**

Peter Cunliffe

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**49th Season**

Monday 5th September 2016

**“Leyland – The Peter Barrow Legacy”**

Peter Houghton

Monday 3rd October\*

**“The Canary Girls” –**

**The Home Front in the First World War**

Mikron Theatre Company

Monday 7th November

**“From Reformation to Civil War:**

**Leyland 1530 - 1660”**

Dr James Mawdesley

Monday 5th December

**“Margaret Paston –**

**A Medieval Life”**

Lizzie Jones

Monday 9th January 2017

**“Recent Excavations”**

Chris Wild

Monday 6th February

**“An Evening with Edwin Waugh”**

Sid Calderbank

Monday 6th March

**“Optical Entertainments before the Movies”**

Andrew Gill